

Sunni Arabs demonstrate
Rally denounces constitution as Shiite,
Kurdish document. — International, 8A



High school kicks off
Class AAA champion Central Arkansas
Christian knocks off Vilonia. — Sports, 1C, 6C

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

ARKANSAS' NEWSPAPER

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In the news

■ **The Rev. Jesse Jackson** met with Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez and said beforehand that President Bush needed to strongly condemn Pat Robertson's call to assassinate Chavez and that Washington needs to cool down the rhetoric against the South American nation.

■ **Donald Rumsfeld**, U.S. defense secretary, said during a White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation in St. Louis that procedures designed to protect the environment can sometimes jeopardize U.S. troops and should be balanced against military needs.

■ **Jack Abramoff**, the prominent GOP lobbyist, entered through his lawyer an innocent plea in a Miami court to a six-count federal fraud and conspiracy indictment arising from his role in the 2000 purchase of the SunCruz Casinos fleet of gambling boats.

■ **Michael Graham**, a conservative radio host for a Washington radio station, was fired after he refused to apologize for remarks in July calling Islam "a terrorist organization."

■ **Gen. Pervez Musharraf**, Pakistan's president, praised madrassas, or Islamic schools, for helping educate about 1 million of the poorest children in Pakistan, but warned the Islamic seminaries against sheltering terrorists.

■ **Michael Lohan**, 45, isn't entitled to money earned by his celebrity daughter, Lindsay, a Long Island judge ruled, adding that "for all of defendant's professed interest in his children, his criminal ping-pong back and forth between cases reflect extraordinary selfishness and gimmicky schemes to sell the adverse publicity he creates."

■ **Bill Dana**, one of three civilian NASA pilots who flew the X-15 rocket plane to the edge of space in the 1960s, received his astronaut wings at Edwards Air Force Base, Calif., along with John Jack McKay and Joe Walker, who were honored posthumously.

■ **Jarrett B. Maupin**, 43, who was driving the Rev. Al Sharpton to Dallas-Fort Worth International Airport after Sharpton visited anti-war activist Cindy Sheehan at her camp in Crawford, was arrested, accused of leading sheriff's deputies on a nine-mile chase at speeds up to 110 mph before state troopers stopped his vehicle.

■ **Jacques Chirac**, president of France, urged Iran to cooperate in nuclear talks or risk having the issue sent to the U.N. Security Council for possible sanctions.

■ **John Brogden**, a senior leader in Australian Prime Minister John Howard's Liberal Party, resigned and apologized for calling the Malaysian-born wife of a former political rival a "mail-order bride," and said it would make him angry if someone directed a similar comment at his wife.

WEATHER

LITTLE ROCK
Today Partly sunny, slight chance of showers.

High Upper 80s,
north winds at 10
to 15 mph.

Tonight Mostly
clear and cool.

Low Mid-60s.



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Home delivery
378-3456
Outside Pulaski County
1-800-482-1121



Katrina belts Gulf Coast



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/STEPHEN B. THORNTON

Lester Thomas, 12, of New Orleans steps through rubble of a building on Terpsichore Street that was destroyed Monday by Hurricane Katrina. He said he rode out the storm in a small house next door with his grandmother and 13 other relatives.

Stoppers put in oil, gas pipes

Stricken area site of wells, refineries

FROM STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Hurricane Katrina struck a blow at a major part of the U.S. oil and natural gas industry as the storm rolled across the Gulf of Mexico and made landfall Monday, spiking energy prices.

The effects of the huge storm on oil production will stretch out as refineries along the coast lost power to operate.

"In a lot of these areas of Louisiana and elsewhere that were hit, it will take at least a few days if not longer to restore electric service," said Petral Worldwide Inc. analyst Daniel Lippe.

Meanwhile, the extent of damage to the industry's infrastructure, which could significantly prolong the disruption, may not become apparent for days.

"The real impact isn't going to be known until we've got some more information," said James Williams, an energy economist with Arkansas-based WTRG Economics.

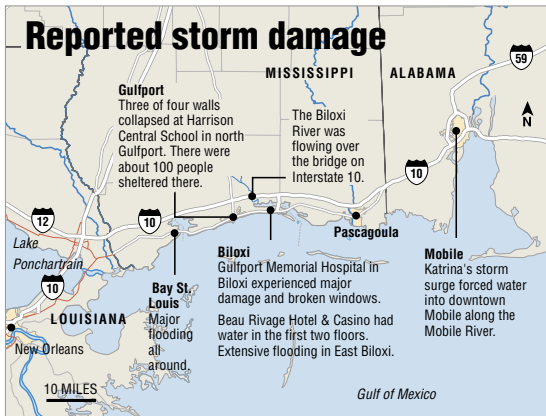
By the end of the day, personnel had evacuated more than 700 offshore platforms and rigs, two rigs had drifted away, and authorities in Alabama had to close a bridge over the Mobile River after a runaway platform ran into the span.

Oil futures briefly climbed above \$70 a barrel for the first time.

The average price for regular gasoline reached about \$2.60 for a gallon, AAA reported Monday. The price could hit \$2.75 by week's end, said Tom Kloza of the Wall, N.J.-based Oil Price Information Service.

"Unfortunately, I don't think

See **OIL**, Page 4A



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

ON THE INSIDE



RELIEF TEAMS, volunteers mobilize in Arkansas to prepare to help storm victims. Page 5A.

WAL-MART command center gears up to respond. Page 1D.

BUSINESS WORLD battered by storm as railroads, insurers deal with headaches. Page 1D.

KATRINA, HIGH OIL prices deliver airlines a one-two punch. Page 1D.



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/MICHELLE POSEY

Floodwaters in downtown Mobile, Ala., engulf a car near an Interstate 10 entrance ramp close to City Hall.

Storm followed in Camille's footsteps

THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

BILOXI, Miss. — You could call it ground zero, but there was precious little ground to be had.

Much of Biloxi was underwater Monday night, including the town's waterfront casinos.

The same scene played out in varying degrees all along the Gulf Coast — from New Orleans to Pensacola, Fla. — after Hurri-

cane Katrina stormed ashore with 140 mph winds Monday.

But no place appeared any harder hit than Biloxi and nearby Gulfport, Miss., towns that 36 years ago endured another horrific hurricane named Camille, which assaulted Mississippi in nearly the exact same place.

"I had no idea it would be this bad," said Greg Bankston, 27, of

Biloxi, who owns a paint store. "My parents, who were here for Camille, said Camille was not this bad."

Biloxi police said they knew of fatalities along the beach but weren't sure of how many. Officers in scuba gear were searching the bay for victims.

Police said those who didn't

See **SCENE**, Page 5A

Early toll 55; Biloxi devastated

Editor's note: Reporter Amy Upshaw prepared this report with information from staff reporters Michelle Hillen in New Orleans and Jill Zeman in Mobile, Ala.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

NEW ORLEANS — A strong Category 4 Hurricane Katrina slammed the Gulf Coast early Monday morning, drowning neighborhoods from south Louisiana to the Florida Panhandle, killing at least 55 people, knocking out power for hundreds of thousands more and leaving billions of dollars in damage in its wake.

Katrina's final toll is not yet known, in part because little information has come in from the hard-hit areas of Slidell, La., and Bay St. Louis, Miss., and because the considerably weaker storm continued Monday night marching inland across Mississippi, Alabama and Tennessee.

Katrina was downgraded to a tropical storm Monday night as it passed through eastern Mississippi, having spent most of a day as an inland hurricane. Winds still blew at a dangerous 65 mph.

Gulf Coast officials are waiting to see what kind of destruction the murky floodwater is hiding.

The Mississippi coastline took the brunt of the massive storm, saving the below-sea-level city of New Orleans from a direct hit with the strongest winds and highest storm surge, which forecasters said would have laid waste to the historic city.

Katrina made landfall at 7 a.m. at the Louisiana bayou town of Buras, southeast of New Orleans, packing sustained winds of 140-145 mph, according to the National Weather Service.

A Category 5 storm until very early Monday, Katrina would have been the first hurricane to target New Orleans in 40 years. Only three Category 5 storms have ever hit the United States.

"God once again has spared the Big Easy," said John Cican Jr., standing outside his French Quarter home on Burgundy Street, where downed trees blocked roads and some roofs had caved in.

Most of the centuries-old buildings near Cican's, however, appeared to have sustained little damage.

"It looks awesome for what it could have been," he said.

Still, Katrina again proved

See **KATRINA**, Page 4A



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Panel's lack of specifics on base at Jacksonville puzzles state delegates

BY C.S. MURPHY

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Three days after the federal Base Realignment and Closure Commission adjourned, Arkansas leaders remain frustrated with the lack of specifics coming out of Washington, D.C., about how the group's decisions will affect Little Rock Air Force Base

in Jacksonville.

Under the proposal announced in May by the Department of Defense, the base stood to gain dozens of planes and thousands of personnel. However, a vote last week to keep open Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota assured the base that it would not receive some

planes that it expected. And, the commission's deliberations and votes on other bases left the overall impact on the Arkansas base up in the air.

"We don't even have a broad outline of some of these things, and when we don't have that, it makes you apprehensive about did they have all these ramifications

at the time that they voted," U.S. Rep. Vic Snyder, D-Ark., said Monday afternoon.

Snyder visited the base earlier in the day and said that the personnel he talked to were also in the dark.

"[The committee] made some complicated decisions, and I assume they're trying to

put together information about exactly what the ramifications are," Snyder said. "These are like falling dominos and the dominos can fall in different ways."

The realignment and closure process began in the 1980s to transform the military by cutting excess facilities and combining

See **BASE**, Page 2A

Katrina

• Continued from Page 1A

deadly. A weaker version of the storm hit Florida on Thursday, killing at least seven people, before churning in the Gulf of Mexico and growing into the vicious storm that hit Monday.

Jim Pollard, spokesman for the Harrison County emergency operations center, said 50 people were killed by Katrina in his county, with the bulk of the deaths at an apartment complex in Biloxi. Three other people were killed by falling trees in Mississippi and two died in a traffic accident in Alabama, according to The Associated Press.

And an untold number of other people were feared dead in flooded neighborhoods, many of which rescuers could not reach because of high water.

"Some of them, it was their last night on earth," Terry Ebbert, chief of homeland security for New Orleans, said of people who ignored orders to evacuate the city of 480,000 over the weekend. "That's a hard way to learn a lesson."

"We pray that the loss of life is very limited, but we fear that is not the case," Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco said in an Associated Press report.

POUNDING LOUISIANA

Louisiana towns were littered with debris from the wrath of Hurricane Katrina, but in the aftermath Monday afternoon the familiar refrain from downtown locals was, "It could have been worse."

Eighty percent of New Orleans' residents evacuated at the urging of the city's mayor Sunday. Thousands of others stayed at the Superdome, the city's shelter of last resort.

The dome's roof leaked as Katrina passed, and part of its waterproof covering was ripped away. Large holes were torn in the roof.

The morning had a terrifying start.

By 6 a.m. the power was off in most buildings downtown, and huge gusts of wind shook the walls of the sturdiest buildings and broke windows in high-rise hotels where many police, fire and emergency crews took shelter to wait out the storm.

About 9 a.m., Lt. Sandra Simpson of the New Orleans Police Department pounded on doors up and down the fifth and sixth floors of the AmeriHost Inn & Suites on Canal Street.

Like a dorm mother, Simpson yelled down the halls rousing the more than 30 officers to get out of their rooms and take refuge in hallways away from windows where glass was shattering.

"The worst is yet to come," Simpson warned.

Officers slept on hallway floors in the knowledge they would need their rest to handle the long days and nights to come.

A few blocks east of Canal Street, the scene was one of overwhelming destruction by flooding.

Water nearly covered the first floors of some homes and buildings.

A man carrying a plastic bag of his belongings over his head walked through neck-high water to find higher ground. Others floated on coolers. Cars in the parking lot of a used car dealership were submerged to their roofs.

Blanco told The Associated Press that her office had reports of as many as 20 building collapses in New Orleans and scores of residents stranded in attics or on rooftops.

"I'm not doing too good right now," Chris Robinson said by cell phone from his home east of the city's downtown, according to The Associated Press. "The water's rising pretty fast. I got a hammer and an ax and a crow bar, but I'm holding off on breaking through the roof until the last



People take refuge on balconies in a housing project in the Treme district of New Orleans on Monday as others waded past flooded cars.



James Smith (left photo) wades past a hurricane-damaged building in Gulfport, Miss., on Monday. At right, rescue personnel just outside Pascagoula, Miss., struggle to reach a family trapped in a flooded hotel.



Associated Press



Pedestrians dodge a downed palm tree Monday on Canal Street in New Orleans.

minute. Tell someone to come get me, please. I want to live."

The National Weather Service reported that rising waters breached one of the city's levees, built to help keep the bowl-shaped city dry.

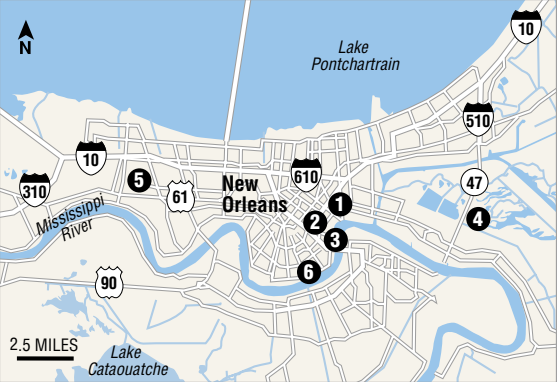
In a neighborhood near Lake Pontchartrain, two people were stranded on the roof as water lapped at the gutters, according to The Associated Press.

"Get us a boat!" a man in a black rain slicker shouted over the howling winds.

Entrance ramps to Interstate 10 became boat ramps, where emergency crews launched Wave Runners and rowboats to rescue those stranded in flooded houses.

"The firemen came and rescued us, thank God," said a shaken and wet Kim Moore. Moore said her Eighth Ward house was surrounded by 10 feet of water.

New Orleans damage



- 1 - Charity Hospital, 1541 Tulane Ave., five floors of glass windows blown out.
- 2 - Cover blown off Superdome, holes in roof.
- 3 - Many windows shattered in high rise buildings near the Superdome.
- 4 - Eastern Orleans Parish and St. Bernard Parish, 6 to 8 feet of floodwater and residents on

- rooftops. Chalmette High School windows out and Civic Auditorium roof is blown off. Water is 10 feet deep in some places north of George Perez Drive.
- 5 - Jefferson Parish [Kenner] and most of St. Charles Parish reporting severe flooding.
- 6 - Building collapse reported in Garden District at Laurel Street near Washington Avenue.

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

Five feet of water rushed in, flooding the interior.

"We lost everything but our lives."

On Jackson Square two massive oak trees outside the 278-year-old St. Louis Cathedral came out by the roots, ripping out a 30-foot section of ornamental iron fence and straddling a marble statue of Jesus Christ, snapping off only the thumb and forefinger of his outstretched hand, The Associated Press reported.

In the city's Garden District,

known for its stately homes and expansive gardens, downed trees piled up in the streets but most of the homes appeared unscathed.

On Terpischoe Street on the edge of the district, Maradell Thomas said she and her family spent the morning praying.

"I had them all on their knees," Thomas said, referring to the 13 children and grandchildren who waited out the storm in her tiny house.

Thomas pointed next door, where an abandoned warehouse had fallen into rubble with thou-

sands of bricks in a heaping mess.

"God protected this house," she said. "God is so good."

MISSISSIPPI'S LASHING

Coastal towns in Mississippi faced the same wretched conditions as those in Louisiana.

Katrina produced a storm surge of more than 20 feet there. Windows of a major hospital were blown out and billboards were ripped into shreds.

"Let me tell you something, folks: I've been out there. It's complete devastation," Gulfport, Miss., Fire Chief Pat Sullivan told The Associated Press.

Emergency officials could not reach some of the hardest-hit areas but were standing ready with rescue teams and needed supplies of water, ice and food for hurricane victims.

The state's floating casinos also took a beating. The Beau Rivage Hotel and Casino, one of the premier gambling spots in Biloxi, was flooded, and other casinos had apparently suffered the same misfortune.

A Mississippi newspaper, the *Sun Herald*, reported on its Internet site that Biloxi saw significant flooding with water flowing over the I-10 bridge.

Three of four walls of a school in nearby Gulfport collapsed, and at least three firehouses sustained significant damage.

In Harrison County virtually all shelters were damaged, had broken windows or leaky roofs, though no injuries were reported. Several businesses in Hattiesburg farther north also were damaged.

Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour was keeping a close eye on the damage and potential for more trouble.

"This is not a small storm. We have catastrophic damage on all levels," he told the *Sun-Herald*.

Barbour and other officials had a harsh warning for those thinking of looting.

"I've urged the highway patrol and National Guard to treat looters ruthlessly," Barbour told the *Biloxi* daily. "The rules of engagement will be as ruthless as the law allows."

ALABAMA ALSO TAKES A HIT

As the hurricane began to quiet down Sunday afternoon, firefighters in Mobile slogged through waist-deep water in the historic downtown. In front of the Mobile County Courthouse, four feet of brown water flowed, covering parking meters and stop signs.

Street lights dangled low over intersections, and portions of metal roofs flew through the air. Except for emergency workers and reporters, the area was deserted.

The storm knocked down trees, power lines and signs throughout Mobile. However, the area sustained little severe structural damage from Katrina's powerful winds.

The hurricane uprooted massive oak and magnolia trees along Government Street, but left the area's antebellum homes largely untouched.

Near her home on Government Street, Sallye Irvine surveyed the damage, minimal apart from the downed trees and power lines.

"They've been here too long," she said, referring to her 107-year-old house and the neighboring homes.

Irvine, her husband and their four children rode out the storm in their house, less than a mile from Mobile Bay. During Hurricane Ivan in September 2004, the Irvines had evacuated north and faced power failures and heavy rainfall.

"It was way worse up there," Sallye Irvine said. "We came back here and had power. We figured we'd be just fine here this time."

In a news conference Monday afternoon, state officials urged Alabama residents to stay indoors and resist the urge to go sightseeing.

A curfew was in effect in Mobile, and residents were warned they could be arrested if they violated it.

State health officials said Monday that deaths and injuries typically happen after a hurricane hits.

They cited four reasons: The use of generators, which can lead to carbon monoxide poisoning; the consumption of spoiled food; chain saw mishaps; and fallen power lines, which can cause electrocution.

Thousands of people huddled in shelters statewide, Alabama Gov. Bob Riley said.

"There's probably more people in shelters tonight than there was last night," he said.

As of Monday afternoon, the state had two reported deaths from a car wreck. Riley said it wasn't known whether the hurricane played a role in the accident.

Officials also made rescues in low-lying coastal areas, including Bayou La Batre.

Katrina packed a powerful punch in Mobile, where residents have hunkered down for three hurricanes in the past year. Last month's Hurricane Dennis jogged east to hit the Florida Panhandle. Last year's Ivan, projected to shoot up the Mobile Bay as a Category 4 storm, also shifted east, slamming coastal Gulf Shores, Ala.

Katrina is the largest storm to strike the Gulf Coast since 1969's Hurricane Camille. Two other hurricanes — 1973's Frederic and 1998's Georges — also hit the Mobile area.

"It was just our turn to get hit," said a Mobile police officer, who did not give his name. "This is the worst storm since Camille. Frederic was windy, Georges was wet."

"Katrina had both."

Oil

• Continued from Page 1A

\$3 a gallon is a hyperbolic number in some markets anymore," he said.

Roughly 92 percent of the Gulf of Mexico oil output, responsible for some 30 percent of U.S. production, came to a halt, according to the Minerals Management Service.

The Bush administration said it would consider lending oil from the nation's emergency stockpile to refiners that request it, and the president of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries said he will propose a production increase of 500,000 barrels a day at the cartel's meeting next month. The Energy Department lent some oil to refiners last year after Hurricane Ivan disrupted their supply.

Katrina also stopped about 83 percent of the natural-gas pro-

duction from the Gulf of Mexico, the service said. The Gulf produces about 24 percent of the nation's gas output.

Michael Right, a spokesman for AAA, said the storm created more anxiety in a jittery gasoline market. When asked if consumers should forget the idea of lower gasoline prices for now, Right said they should and added that he's "forgotten it."

In Arkansas the average price of regular gasoline was \$2.516 a gallon, AAA reported Monday. The former American Automobile Association said the average had risen 34.3 cents higher than a month ago and stood 1.8 cents below the state record of \$2.534 a gallon from Aug. 22.

The Louisiana Offshore Oil Port, the largest oil import terminal in the United States, has evacuated workers and quit unloading ships. The terminal, which lies 20 miles off the coast, handles about 1 million barrels of

crude oil a day, or 11 percent of U.S. imports.

Meanwhile, the hurricane forced the shutdown of at least eight oil refineries near the coast in Louisiana and Mississippi. Combined, the plants have a daily crude-oil processing capacity of about 1.79 million barrels, or 10.5 percent of U.S. capacity.

Mindy West, a spokesman for El Dorado-based Murphy Oil Corp., said the company did not know the extent of the damage at its Meraux, La., refinery, which was idled by the storm. The refinery processes about 125,000 barrels of oil a day.

Also, nothing clearly indicated the effect of the hurricane at the company's disrupted production facilities in the Gulf of Mexico known as Front Runner and Medusa, West said.

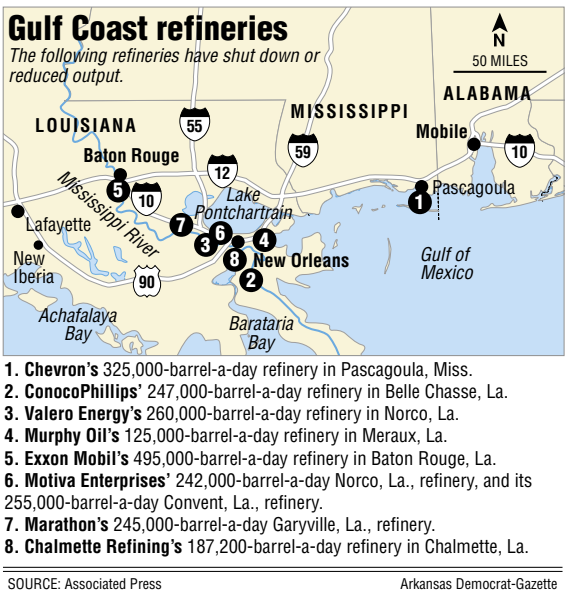
Meanwhile, Chevron Corp.'s Sabine Pipe Line LLC restarted natural-gas operations at the Henry Hub in Louisiana, where

New York futures are delivered. The hub, shut down before the hurricane as a precaution, apparently avoided significant damage from the storm, Sabine said on its Web site. The Henry Hub sets the benchmark for wholesale natural-gas prices.

The United States filled its Strategic Petroleum Reserve, the nation's emergency stockpile of crude oil, to the 700-million-barrel level ordered by President Bush after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

U.S. crude-oil supplies jumped 1.9 million barrels in the week that ended Aug. 19, the fourth-straight increase, to 322.9 million, according to an Energy Department report on Aug. 24. Stockpiles are more than 10 percent higher than a year ago.

Information for this article was contributed by Edward Klump of the Arkansas Democrat Gazette staff and by Bloomberg News and The Associated Press.



- 1. Chevron's 325,000-barrel-a-day refinery in Pascagoula, Miss.
- 2. ConocoPhillips' 247,000-barrel-a-day refinery in Belle Chasse, La.
- 3. Valero Energy's 260,000-barrel-a-day refinery in Norco, La.
- 4. Murphy Oil's 125,000-barrel-a-day refinery in Meraux, La.
- 5. Exxon Mobil's 495,000-barrel-a-day refinery in Baton Rouge, La.
- 6. Motiva Enterprises' 242,000-barrel-a-day Norco, La., refinery, and its 255,000-barrel-a-day Convent, La., refinery.
- 7. Marathon's 245,000-barrel-a-day Garyville, La., refinery.
- 8. Chalmette Refining's 187,200-barrel-a-day refinery in Chalmette, La.

SOURCE: Associated Press

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/MICHELLE POSEY

A downed traffic light blocks an intersection near downtown Mobile, Ala., on Monday. Mobile's stately old oak trees and many buildings were damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

Scene

• Continued from Page 1A
flee might have paid with their lives.

"The problem is that a lot of people were complacent," said Windy Swetman Jr., police chief of nearby D'Iberville. "Older people don't want to leave their homes, and younger people were complacent."

Some who fled the rising water had to endure the storm outside. Late Monday 15 to 20 people huddled on their own rooftops still waiting rescue, police said.

Tom Banish, 40, his wife, Theresa, 42, and mother-in-law, Angie DeFeo, 68, and their four dogs stayed on the roof of their house from 7 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. until the water finally receded.

"I'm a die-hard, hard-core guy who always wanted to ride it out," Banish said. "I know now that it's best to heed the advice of police. The wind is one thing, but I never knew that water was such a destructive force."

Sean Hebert, 37, said he awoke to find water up to his couch. He escaped with some friends, including a woman who couldn't swim very well, so they tied an ice chest to her to help her float.

Together they reached a bridge at Interstate 110 and hid underneath it for hours before Hebert made a break for D'Iberville High. What happened to his friends was unknown late Monday. "I should have stayed," he said.

Storefront windows in town were blown out, merchandise lay strewn in the streets. Already came reports of looters. Trees and power lines scattered.

Some buildings seemed virtually untouched, while others nearby had seemingly exploded. The storm surge, estimated at 20 feet, devastated houses and businesses along the Gulf Coast.

The first two floors of the Beau Rivage Resort & Casino were swamped, officials reported.

A shrimp boat had run aground against a drawbridge across Biloxi Bay, which was impassable. A flock of pelicans spread their wings to dry them nearby.

Farther east several trees lay along Palafox Street, the main artery in downtown Pensacola. Water apparently had flooded some businesses before receding.

Across Pensacola Bay, Blaine Willis could only peer through binoculars and worry about the condition of his home in Santa Rosa County's Navarre Beach.

"I suspect that some houses damaged first by Hurricane Ivan and then by Dennis are going to be gone," Willis said, citing storms last year and in July, which pounded Florida's Panhandle coast. "I can only hope that the house is still standing."

Deputies blocked bridge access to the barrier island throughout the day Monday as wind gusts reaching 59 mph continued to make driving treacherous.

About 117,000 Gulf Power customers lacked electricity in Escambia and Santa Rosa counties, but many area residents said they felt Katrina had delivered only a glancing blow to a community still struggling to rebuild.

Along U.S. 98, the gulf-front highway where both luxury houses and beach businesses sit, hollowed shells of structures dot the coast like driftwood. Although much of the destruction preceded Katrina's arrival, some residents said the latest storm might render many buildings beyond repair.

"This area will come back," said Brenda Hoover, 40, a real estate marketer from Navarre, watching the bay waters roil from the shelter of her truck. "But it gets a little harder each time."

The water didn't creep under the doors. It raged and swirled, rising quickly.

Information for this article was contributed by Wes Smith, Erin Ailworth and John Kennedy of The Orlando Sentinel.

State a hub for responders, haven for refugees

BY MONICA LEAS
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Arkansas became a staging area of sorts Monday — a starting point for military, emergency workers and volunteers who will mobilize in its wake of Hurricane Katrina.

It also became a refuge for those fleeing Katrina's wrath.

Thousands evacuated ahead of the hurricane from points along the Gulf Coast and throughout Louisiana and Mississippi. By Monday, most hotels in southern Arkansas were filled and refugees sought lodging as far north as Jacksonville and Cabot.

Meanwhile, 350 Arkansas National Guardsmen were activated from units across the state. As many as 200 Red Cross volunteers are using the Little Rock Hilton as a staging area while more than 200 Entergy linemen gear up to repair downed power lines in what the company calls the worst disaster in its history.

Gov. Mike Huckabee, who cut short his stay at the Southern Governors Association meeting in Georgia to return to Arkansas, said Monday that he expects thousands of refugees to flock to the state and urged Arkansans to help them in any way that they can.

"If you happen to be at a filling station and see a car with Mississippi or Louisiana plates and you see people who are obvious refugees from the storm, you might go and offer to put \$20 worth of gas in their vehicle or provide them a meal," he said during a news conference Monday.

Members of the Dermott Baptist Church, about 40 miles north of Louisiana, did a little more than that.

Nineteen people, a dog and two ferrets spent the night at the church Sunday, said member Linda Ferguson. The last to arrive were a couple and their three small children, whom Ferguson's husband, Buddy, had found at a convenience store about 3 a.m. Monday. "We sent him out to patrol," she said.

Buddy Ferguson cooked breakfast for the travelers Monday and a local nursing home provided lunch. The church, which has about 60 members, was prepared to take in more refugees and shelter them as long as necessary, Linda Ferguson said.

In Little Rock, those who couldn't find private hospitality landed in hotel rooms. The Convention and Visitors Bureau started a hot line that will provide information on hotel availability for the next several days: 1-800-844-4781. The city also announced a series of free and discounted tourist activities for stranded visitors.

On Monday afternoon, some who endured 12-hour car rides on jammed highways lingered outside the River Market Hall during a lunchtime drizzle.

"My husband said, 'We're getting out of the house,'" said



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/STATON BREIDENTHAL

David Auck of Arkadelphia works on the door latch of an American Red Cross vehicle Monday morning at the Little Rock Hilton hotel. The hotel was a staging area for volunteers preparing to travel to areas damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

Rosalie Laudery, who arrived in a five-car caravan of 19 relatives from Thibodaux, La., late Sunday night. "We're going to try to go back tomorrow."

Waiting for a shuttle to her downtown Little Rock hotel, Laudery stood in the rain with five generations of her family — from her 8-month-old great-granddaughter to her elderly mother. Monday afternoon, the parish where the family lives about 60 miles southwest of New Orleans said refugees could return.

For a Mississippi family who found lodging at the Royal Arkansas Inn and Suites in Pine Bluff, Monday afternoon was a time to be thankful they were alive.

"I think it'll be in pieces," said Barbara Pooler, referring to her house in Pass Christian, Miss. "We bought plywood, covered the windows and thought about staying ... but at 9 p.m. we put the bare essentials in the car and rolled out."

Charles Baier, a resident of the New Orleans suburb of Covington, fled to Pine Bluff with his wife, daughter and her boyfriend about noon Sunday.

"They were saying on the news 'Category 5' and we didn't want any part of that," Baier said.

Brothers Lee and Frank Crothers had similar thoughts when they left their New Orleans homes for Little Rock on Sunday morning and were slightly relieved when the hurricane made landfall further east than expected.

"Everybody prays it'll jog off, and it did," Frank Crothers said. Still, the brothers — Lee, who lives near the Mississippi River, and Frank, who lives a few blocks from Lake Pontchartrain — feared for what they might find when they return later this week.

"We're waiting to find out," said Frank Crothers, who has relatives in Little Rock. "You don't know what you might find — or not find."

With years of experience wading through soggy coastal storms, the Crothers planned to stay in town for at least several more days.

"I leave because of the aftermath," Frank Crothers said before seeking out lunch downtown. "There's no power, no air conditioning. You're eating canned beans."

Church communities and other aide organizations are working to give residents of the decimated towns in Katrina's path more than canned beans.

More than 180 Baptist volunteers will leave Arkansas for the storm-damaged region Wednesday morning, along with several tractor-trailers and three portable kitchens that can prepare up to 10,000 meals a day. The convoy will also carry food for 60,000 meals, said Darwin Bacon, team leader for missions ministries at the Arkansas State Baptist Convention who is organizing volunteers from Arkansas.

Years ago, when Southern Baptists first began to work with the Red Cross and the Federal Emergency Management Agency, they looked at what needs they could fill. "It turned out Baptists could feed people almost better than anything else," Bacon said.

Volunteers have been trained and pay their own way, often leaving their jobs for week-long stints, Bacon said. Some take chain saws to clear debris; others are experts at getting mud out of houses.

In Little Rock, Rev. Hezekiah Stewart, director of the non-profit group Watershed, said he planned

to gather donations of clothing, medical supplies, flashlights, chain saws and other items to bring to affected areas.

"We feel a kinship to people who are in crisis," Stewart said. "It's just the right thing to do and the neighborly thing to do."

The Salvation Army in Little Rock dispatched its food service canteen to Shreveport, La., on Sunday and will serve hurricane victims for the next two weeks.

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc., which closed dozens of stores near the Gulf of Mexico as the hurricane approached, donated \$1 million to the Salvation Army to assist with disaster relief efforts in the region, The Associated Press reported.

Help from the American Red Cross will also roll through Little Rock with as many as 100 red and white vehicles — along with about a dozen supply trucks loaded with cots and blankets — are expected to stop at one of the organization's main staging areas at the Hilton on University Avenue.

In the Hilton lobby, volunteers from Iowa, Missouri, West Virginia and Arizona, most of them hurricane veterans, said they were preparing for what could be the worst disaster they've seen yet. Dan Decker, 52, of Parkersburg, W.Va., said just getting to the affected areas is likely to be a challenge.

"So many of the areas we need to service are going to be under water," Decker said.

The vehicles, which distribute food and cleaning supplies and serve as mobile offices for case-workers, began trickling into Little Rock on Friday afternoon, when the vehicles were inspected while their volunteer crews awaited instructions, said Alan Gibson, a spokesman for the organization's

Greater Arkansas chapter.

Gibson said the Red Cross had received several calls from people wanting to donate items, but the agency's main need is for cash. Those who want to donate money should call 1-800-435-7669.

As volunteers prepare for one of their greatest challenges, Entergy linemen are preparing to recover from the worst storm in the company's history, spokesman James Thompson said. By Monday evening, about 990,000 customers in Louisiana and Mississippi were without power.

About 200 linemen, more than half of the number who work in Arkansas, are en route to damaged parts of the neighboring states for what could be weeks of rebuilding efforts. Another 100 linemen from the Electric Cooperatives of Arkansas were also dispatched Monday, a news release said.

The state government has also offered its own manpower to help in storm-ravaged areas.

All of the more than 500 commissioned Arkansas State Police personnel have been placed on "stand-by" status and may be sent to Louisiana or Mississippi if help is requested, spokesman Bill Sadler said. Dozens of state troopers are already assisting with refugees in southern Arkansas.

At the direction of the governor, the Arkansas National Guard called 350 troops to active duty to assist with relief efforts in Mississippi on Monday. They will deploy largely from Jonesboro, West Memphis and Marked Tree today to an initial staging area near Hattiesburg, Miss.

Capt. Kristine Munn said the support from Guard in Arkansas is expected to cost at least \$50,000 — a tab that will be picked up by Mississippi or the federal government.

With all the help sent outside the state, some will stay in Arkansas, where refugees anxiously await a return trip home.

The Pine Bluff Convention Center has been established as a refugee site, and there are other such sites in Dumas, El Dorado, Junction City, McGehee, and Texarkana. The state has provided cots and blankets in Lake Village and Monticello.

For those who prefer more of the comforts of home, there is one option that is still available.

Virgil Smith, a Eudora man who has offered his home up to strangers when disasters strike, has had no takers this time around. He and his wife have two guest bedrooms, a fold-out couch and a camper trailer. He told the clerk at the local gas station to send weary travelers his way.

"We'd be glad to fill it up," Smith said. "We're glad to help out because you never know when you might be in that shape. You never know."

Information for this report was contributed by Laura Brown, Andy Davis, Richard Massey and Michael Wickline of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.

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State poverty rate falls
Arkansans still among poorest in nation. — National, 3A



Return of the LR Nine
Their place in history recognized in two special ways. — Arkansas, 1B

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

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Gulf devastation emerges



Associated Press

New Orleans lies flooded and torn Tuesday in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, with burst levees fast filling the city with water from Lake Pontchartrain.

Coastal death toll tops 100

Editor's note: Reporters Amy Upshaw and C.S. Murphy prepared this report with information from Michelle Hillen in New Orleans, Jill Zeman in Biloxi, Miss., The Associated Press and Knight Ridder Newspapers.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

NEW ORLEANS — A day after slamming into the Gulf Coast, the extent of Hurricane Katrina's fury emerged in the rising floodwaters that swamped much of the city, the frantic attempt to rescue the trapped and a death toll exceeding 100 in the region.

"At first light, the devastation is greater than our worst fears. It's just totally overwhelming," Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco said the morning after Katrina howled ashore with winds of 145 mph and engulfed thousands of homes in one of the most punishing storms on record in the United States.

Bill Lokey, an official with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, called Katrina "the most significant natural disaster to hit the United States."

It was clear the death toll would rise sharply, with one survivor after another telling

See **KATRINA**, Page 4A

ON THE INSIDE



PICTURES OF damage inflicted by Katrina. Pages 6-7A.

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SURVIVORS FACE lingering health threats. Page 8A.

SERVICE STATIONS across state begin running out of gasoline; hurricane blamed. Page 9A.

ENERGY PRICES soar to new highs as petroleum companies assess damage. Page 10A.

INSURANCE CLAIMS could hit \$25 billion. Page 1D.

REFUGEES BUYING supplies in Arkansas. Page 1D.

WEATHER

LITTLE ROCK
Today Partly cloudy, hot and humid.
High Mid-90s, light northeast winds.
Tonight Mostly clear.
Low Upper 60s.



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Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/STEPHEN B. THORNTON

Looters slog down Canal Street in New Orleans on Tuesday with armloads of merchandise taken from a nearby shop.

2 Big Easy levees burst

Debris flows in streets as looters get to work

BY MICHELLE HILLEN
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

NEW ORLEANS — Residents who thought they had escaped the deadly winds of Hurricane Katrina fled into the streets in droves Tuesday, seeking shelter on higher ground.

Most of this historic city, spared the worst of Hurricane Katrina's fury, flooded Tuesday when two levees failed, overwhelming the pumping system.

"We heard the water was going to get up to 20 feet," said Laura Fox, trudging through knee-deep water toward the Superdome with four children in tow.

"We walked about two miles to get here. ... We had nowhere else to go."

Canal Street, home to New Orleans' department stores, was nearly dry Monday. It flooded early Tuesday morning, with water continuing to rise, inches

each hour.

The water in the streets had an oily sheen and the air carried the scent of burning motor oil. Dead rats and debris floated in the streets, and cars abandoned on Canal Street were submerged. In some places in the central business district, the water was knee-high Tuesday afternoon; in others waist deep.

Looters broke into stores up and down Canal Street, carrying

See **LEVEES**, Page 5A

Mississippi coastal cities shattered

Katrina razed U.S. 90 businesses, flung huge barge casino ashore

BY JILL ZEMAN
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

BILOXI, Miss. — Mississippi National Guard units set up makeshift morgues Tuesday as bodies floated ashore on the Gulf Coast after the landfall of Hurricane Katrina.

Along the Mississippi coast, from Pascagoula west to Gulfport, there is devastation.

In Biloxi about 200 yards from the beach, Charles Harless and his stepbrother, David Magee, came to Biloxi from Indiana about four months ago. As Katrina roared through, the motel's walls rattled, windows shattered and debris flew through the air.

"We wanted to get out of the snow," Harless said, when asked why he moved from Indiana. "And I'll be damned if we didn't do that," Magee added.

In nearby Gulfport, debris filled the streets and covered parts of U.S. 90 where it runs along the coast. The barge supporting the massive Copa Casino, which was held in place by chains, was lifted by Katrina and flung 500 feet. It smashed into a two-story Chiquita banana building.

"I'm devastated," casino owner Rick Carter said early Tuesday as he trudged through debris to survey the ravaged salmon-colored barge. "This is far worse than I would ever imagine. It's a total loss."

first floor was gutted, leaving only a few toilets and bathtubs exposed to the open air.

Lonnie Fountain, driving his pickup in Biloxi, told The Associated Press that the gambling industry on the Mississippi

See **BILOXI**, Page 10A



Associated Press

An aerial view taken Tuesday just north of U.S. 90 shows the massive destruction in Biloxi, Miss., from Hurricane Katrina. Fallen power lines, trees and bits of shattered concrete in the streets kept rescue crews from reaching victims along the state's coast.

Arkansas shelters snowball

Long-term stays seen for refugees

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Emergency shelters, hotels and hospitals are bracing for potential long-term stays by thousands of people seeking refuge in Arkansas from areas devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Dozens of shelters operated around the state Tuesday, and officials say it's uncertain how long Arkansas will have to harbor those made homeless by the hurricane that mauled the Mississippi, Louisiana and Alabama coast. Shelters opened as far north as Springdale, where Red Cross officials reported 38 people sought refuge.

"We've got to take it one step at a time right now," said Kelly Robinson, a spokesman for the state Department of Emergency Management. "Right now, [the shelters] are just going to remain open as they are until they can get some help in their home states."

While state emergency management officials say they have no idea how many hurricane refugees are in Arkansas

See **SHELTERS**, Page 5A

Katrina

• Continued from Page 1A
of friends and loved ones who floated off or disappeared as the floodwaters rose around them.
The massive storm, which finally lost most of its steam Tuesday, is estimated to have caused more than \$20 billion in damage. Experts issued dire predictions for the health and economy of the Gulf Coast.

Katrina, the 11th named storm of a busy hurricane season, is the worst storm to hit the Gulf Coast since Hurricane Camille hit Louisiana and Mississippi in 1969, killing 256 people.

It also knocked out power to more than 2 million customers from Louisiana to Florida.

Teams in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida were continuing Tuesday to survey the destruction but state officials placed a higher priority on rescue efforts.

“Oh my God, it was hell,” said Kioka Williams, who had to hack through the ceiling of the beauty shop where she worked as floodwaters rose in New Orleans’ low-lying 9th Ward. “We were screaming, hollering, flashing lights.”

“It was complete chaos.”

Those who were rescued crammed into already crowded shelters, where conditions were deteriorating because of a lack of air conditioning, running water and functioning bathrooms.

All along the coast, officials were trying to find a long-term solution to help people displaced by Katrina. In the meantime, thousands of refugees had fled to neighboring states and are awaiting a chance to return home, or what is left of their homes.

Across the country, church groups and relief organizations were preparing to aid the ravaged Gulf Coast. Leaders of the cities pounded by the Category 4 storm welcomed assistance — most overcome by the tasks ahead of them.

“This,” Biloxi Mayor A.J. Holway said, “is our tsunami.”

RIISING WATERS

Spared the worst of Katrina’s winds when the eye moved slightly east, New Orleans residents who did not evacuate ahead of the storm are now in a panic after two levees burst Tuesday. In one of the breaks, floodwater created a 26-foot-deep, 500-foot-wide breach in the 17th Street Canal.

Water is rapidly filling the bowl-shaped city, the governor said.

The Big Easy lies mostly below sea level and was protected by a network of pumps, canals and levees. Officials began using helicopters to drop 3,000-pound sandbags onto one of the levees, hoping to close the breach.

“We’ve lost our city,” said Marc Morial, a former mayor of New Orleans, now serving as president of the National Urban League.

Floodwater is 20-feet deep in some places. The rising water prompted the staff of New Orleans’ *Times-Picayune* newspaper to abandon its offices, authorities said.

Mayor C. Ray Nagin told city workers to flee for their lives as officials were trying to figure out how to save the people who remained despite a mandatory evacuation order issued Monday.

Downtown streets that were relatively clear in the hours after the storm were filled with 1 to 1½ feet of water Tuesday morning and rose all day.

Eighty percent of the city’s 480,000 residents left, Nagin has said. But with hundreds, if not thousands, of people still stranded in flooded houses, attics and rooftops across the city, rescue boats were bypassing the dead to reach the living.

All day, rescuers used helicopters to drop lifelines to victims and pluck them from the roofs of houses. The U.S. Coast Guard said it rescued some 1,200 people using 40 aircraft and 30 boats.

“We’re not even dealing with dead bodies,” Nagin said. “They’re just pushing them on the side.”

Authorities feared some victims may have been washed away, never to be found.

Frank Mills was in a boardinghouse in the 9th Ward when water swirled toward the ceiling and he fled to the roof. Two elderly residents never made it out, and a third was washed away trying to climb onto the roof.

“He was kind of on the edge of the roof, catching his breath,” Mills said. “Next thing I knew, he came floating past me.”

Refugees and patients from a local hospital continued to arrive at the Superdome on Tuesday as officials worked on a plan to move them out of the city.

“Another more permanent alternative will need to be found,” said Ed Bush, a public affairs officer with the Louisiana National Guard.



A fire burns close to downtown New Orleans as rescuers on Interstate 10 prepare to evacuate residents Tuesday.



A New Orleans resident walks through floodwaters coated with a sheen of oil in the downtown area Tuesday.

“It’s a short-term fix. Everybody knows it,” he said. “We’re trying to decide now, where is the best place to move them. It’s going to be a statewide effort.”

The bathrooms at the Superdome were filthy and barrels overflowed with trash. With the air conditioning off since power went out Monday morning, the bricks were slick with condensation. Desperate for fresh air, dozens of refugees slept on the walkway. The city’s water also is not safe to drink.

At least two people died at the arena blew out and its backup showed signs of faltering, officials told the *Los Angeles Times*.

One person died after plunging from an upper level of the stadium, said Terry Ebbert, New Orleans’ homeland security chief. He said the person probably jumped.

Late Tuesday, a generator at the arena blew out and its backup showed signs of faltering, officials told the *Los Angeles Times*.

Water was knee-deep around the Superdome. Water lapped at the edge of the French Quarter. Clumps of red ants floated in the gasoline-fouled waters in the central business district.

Looting broke out in Biloxi and in New Orleans, in some cases in full view of police and National Guardsmen. On New Orleans’ Canal Street, the main thoroughfare in the central business district, looters sloshed through hip-deep water and ripped open the steel gates on the front of several clothing and jewelry stores.

One police officer was shot in the head by a looter in New Orleans but was expected to recover, Sgt. Paul Accardo, a police spokesman, said.

Deputy Police Chief Warren Riley said that in one case, a looter shot and wounded another looter.

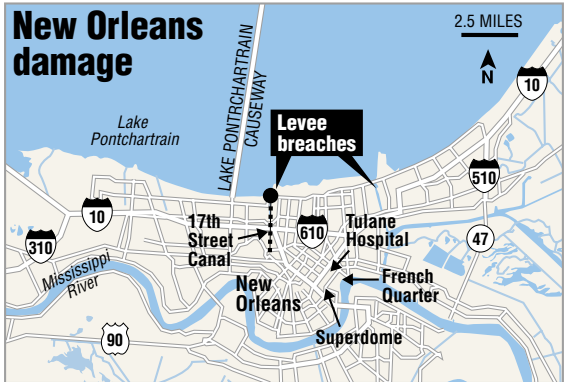
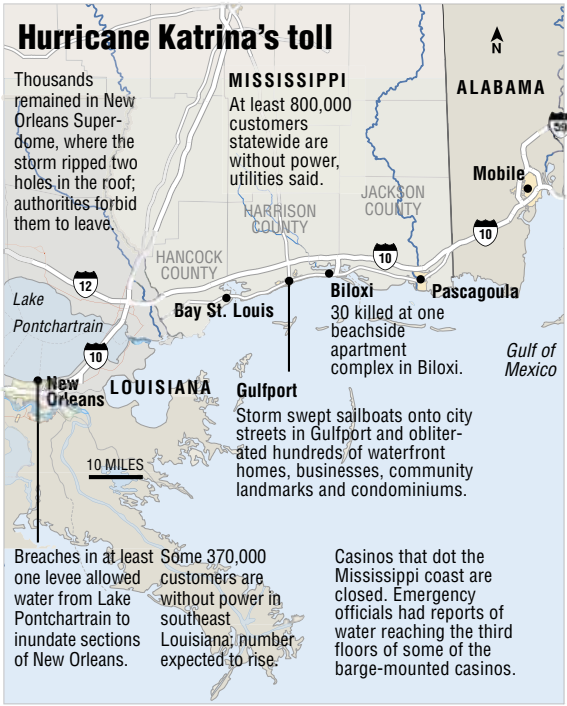
Meanwhile an estimated 370,000 customers were without power in southeast Louisiana, and the number was expected to rise.

Elsewhere in Louisiana, police and National Guard troops in Jefferson Parish, a county of 500,000 people west and south of New Orleans, have rescued at least 300 people, said Jackie Bauer, a parish spokesman. The National Guard likely will prevent people from returning to their homes until Sept. 5.

Four deaths have been blamed



A New Orleans police officer tries to keep people away from a drugstore in a flooded area downtown Tuesday. Looting was rampant in the city.



on Katrina in Louisiana, said Mark Smith, a spokesman for the Louisiana Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness. Three patients at a New Orleans hospital died during evacuation and another person had a heart attack, Smith said.

The Louisiana State Penitentiary in Angola, 60 miles northwest of Baton Rouge, on Tuesday was trying to find room for 2,000

more inmates from New Orleans, officials said. Assistant Warden Cathy Fontenot said inmates started arriving about 1 a.m.

“Some of them haven’t had anything to eat or drink in two days,” Fontenot said of the inmates. “It’s just devastating. It’s straining the whole infrastructure of corrections.”

Already, 400 women have arrived in Angola, the first female

inmates at Angola since 1961. An additional 330 male prisoners were being processed Tuesday afternoon, she said.

State police and Department of Public Safety and Corrections officers were escorting about 6,000 prisoners from the hurricane-affected areas across the storm-ravaged state to secure facilities.

Inmates at Angola, one of the nation’s toughest prisons, have been helpful, building makeshift mattresses and making room in their cells, she said.

“About 60 percent of our inmates are from the New Orleans area, and they have been very concerned. They see what’s happening on TV,” she said.

DAMAGE IN MISSISSIPPI

Along the Mississippi coast, fallen power lines, trees and chunks of broken concrete in the streets prevented rescuers from reaching victims.

Swirling water in many areas contained hidden dangers. Crews worked to clear highways. Along one Mississippi highway, motorists used chain saws to remove trees blocking the road.

Mississippi officials have not yet confirmed the number of deaths caused by Katrina, but Gov. Haley Barbour said Tuesday that he expects the number will continue to rise.

An emergency management official confirmed Tuesday that more than 100 were dead in the Biloxi-Gulfport area of Mississippi.

Barbour said there were unconfirmed reports of up to 80 deaths in Harrison County — which includes devastated Gulfport and Biloxi — and the number was likely to rise.

The biggest known cluster of deaths was at the Quiet Water Beach apartments in Biloxi, a red-brick beachfront complex of about 100 units. Harrison County, Miss., emergency operations center spokesman Jim Pollard said about 30 people died there.

Many perished on Point Cadet, at the southeastern tip of Biloxi’s peninsula, officials said. Bodies were being recovered late into the night, and a portable morgue was being brought in to handle the dead.

Officials warned people against trying to return to their

homes, saying that would only interfere with the rescue and recovery efforts.

Ronald Gaddis, who delivered bananas and pineapples for Chiquita, arrived at Gulfport on Tuesday to find his employer’s building gone — along with his tractor-trailer.

“It looks like a bomb went off,” Gaddis said. “I’ve never seen anything like it before.”

The nearby Dole building also was destroyed.

Before the storm, all of the Chiquita drivers emptied their trucks of cargo, and lined them up, five deep, in front of the Chiquita building. After Katrina struck, the building was gone, and the 150 to 200 trucks and trailers were scattered throughout Gulfport, some blocks away.

Harrah’s Entertainment Inc., the world’s largest casino company, said the riverboat Grand Casino Biloxi separated from its moorings, Chief Executive Gary Loveman said in an interview.

“We believe our Biloxi casino was separated from its moorings and taken literally across the street and plopped down about a block or so away from where it normally sits,” Loveman said. “I suspect it’s a complete loss, although I don’t know for certain.”

In many counties, emergency operations centers crumbled or were swamped.

In Harrison County, Miss., 35 people swam out of their emergency operations center with life jackets on. “We haven’t heard from them,” said Christopher Cirillo, the county’s emergency medical services director.

FINANCING THE EMERGENCY

By midday Tuesday, Katrina was downgraded to a tropical depression, with winds about 35 mph. It was moving northeast through Tennessee at 21 mph.

Forecasters said that as the storm moves north over the next few days, it could swamp the Tennessee and Ohio valleys with a potentially calamitous 8 inches or more of rain. On Monday, Katrina’s remnants spun off tornadoes and other storms in Georgia that smashed dozens of buildings and were blamed for at least one death.

FEMA has \$2.5 billion in funds available for immediate assistance such as emergency shelters, food, and medical care, said Scott Milburn, spokesman for the White House budget office. But longer-term assistance, such as help in removing wreckage, rebuilding homes, and repairing highways and federal facilities will require a major infusion of cash provided by Congress.

“This is going to be the most expensive natural disaster that’s hit the United States in history. It’s really quite phenomenal,” Mississippi Sen. Thad Cochran said.

It will take at least a few days for FEMA to come up with a preliminary cost estimate and even then it is subject to being revised upward with new information or in case of additional storms.

The four separate hurricanes that pummeled Florida last year prompted Congress to pass a total of \$13.6 billion via two separate bills, including a \$2 billion measure that was sent to President Bush the very day lawmakers returned from their summer recess. Katrina could well cost more.

“It’s truly been a catastrophic event,” FEMA Deputy Director Patrick Rhode said.

HEALTH DANGERS

Health officials say that people who escaped the hurricane could now face weeks or months of new dangers including unsafe drinking water, infection of minor injuries, carbon monoxide poisoning from generators and residential fires caused by gas leaks.

The scope of the most serious hazards — caused by failures in the water and sewer system — has not been determined.

“We don’t know all the impact of this hurricane at this point,” said Von Roebuck, spokesman for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. “Even getting back to some of the areas is quite difficult at this point with the high waters.”

Flooding experts warned that Louisiana’s frequent summer rains or even another hurricane could add to flooding — and health hazards. The sitting water could collect more contaminants from homes and industries, and mosquitoes could amplify the danger of disease.

With so many dangers lurking for residents, Gulf Coast officials are just trying to cope — and are asking for prayers.

“That would be the best thing to calm our spirits and thank our Lord that we are survivors,” Louisiana’s Gov. Blanco said. “Slowly, gradually, we will recover; we will survive; we will rebuild.”

Information for this report was contributed by Nell Smith and Charlie Frago of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.

Shelters

• Continued from Page 1A

sas, Gov. Mike Huckabee said Tuesday that "thousands" were now in the state. The American Red Cross has reported 40,000 people in 200 shelters across the region affected by the hurricane, and Huckabee said shelters had been set up in about 40 counties statewide.

"If there was ever a time when the Golden Rule applies, it's right now," Huckabee said. "It's going to be a long time before it gets better."

Tens of thousands of people will need shelter for weeks if not months, Mike Brown, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, told The Associated Press. And once the floodwaters recede, "it's going to be incredibly dangerous" because of structural damage to homes, diseases spread by animal carcasses, and chemicals leaching from homes, businesses and industries, he said.

Hotels throughout south and central Arkansas began filling up as more people filed into the state Tuesday, Robinson said. Rooms remained available in the Little Rock area but were being claimed as more people found fewer vacancies elsewhere.

Paul Gunn, 56, who lives in a suburb west of New Orleans, was staying at the Holiday Inn Presidential in downtown Little Rock.

On Tuesday afternoon, he used a hotel computer to scour the Internet for information about water levels and road conditions. He was considering driving back to Louisiana today and staying at a shelter until he can return home.

"I've got to do something," Gunn said. "I can't afford to stay here that long."

Gabe Rivera, 52, of Marrero just outside New Orleans, who was also staying at the Holiday Inn, said he was considering taking his wife and three children to a relative's house in Pennsylvania. His children were supposed to have started school Monday, he said.

"We'll just sign them up for school up there — a public school somewhere," Rivera said.

Hospitals predicted an influx of patients after the closing of medical facilities in New Orleans and other areas affected by the storm. Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock was awaiting two patients from Tulane Hospital in New Orleans, but the head of the Little Rock hospital said his facility expects more.

"If the city is out of commission for the next two months, what's going to happen to all those patients?" said John Bates, the president and CEO of Children's Hospital. "We're trying to scratch our heads and imagine what may be coming in the long term."

In Hot Springs, the Red Cross opened a shelter in the city's Summit Arena after hotel rooms began selling out and convention officials faced the busy Labor Day weekend. Throughout the state, officials said that some refugees now in hotels will have to move for pre-booked vacationers.

At least 100 people were expected to stay in the 6,000-seat arena Tuesday night in Hot Springs, said Steve Arrison, executive director of the city's convention and visitors bureau. The shelter will be open for at least a week, Arrison said.

"The big chain hotels are already filling up here," Arrison said.

"Opening a shelter here should ease some of that, but it's scary that people are coming from that far away and already hitting Hot Springs."

Red Cross officials in Jonesboro expect at least 100 Gulf Coast evacuees to crowd into the Jonesboro First Baptist Church when a Red Cross shelter opens there Thursday.

Mark Massey, community ser-



Evacuees relax in an emergency shelter set up by the American Red Cross at the Farm and Ranch Building at the Arkansas State Fairgrounds in Little Rock on Tuesday.

Volunteers feed refugees at NLR center

BY VAN JENSEN
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

For a couple of hours Tuesday afternoon, 133 refugees pulled themselves away from following Hurricane Katrina's destruction on hotel TVs to sit down around a dozen tables at the Patrick Henry Hays Senior Center in North Little Rock and eat a free lunch of sandwiches, pickles and homemade desserts.

The conversation was predictable. Were their homes still standing? When would the power return? How much longer would they have to stay in hotels?

Negel Quintal of New Orleans said his house sits next to a levee, but the flooding may have claimed it.

"There's a glimmer of hope," he said. "I always told my wife I wanted waterfront property. I don't want it like that."

Volunteers from nearby Gardner Memorial United Methodist Church made sure that, at the least, the refugees didn't have to worry about where to find lunch.

In less than a day, the organizers bought food, selected a site and posted fliers at area hotels, said Brenda Glover, assistant director of the senior



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/KAREN E. SEGRAVE

Mark Englade (left) and his wife, Alba, of Gretna, La., along with her uncle, Paul Vallejos, of Metairie, La., eat lunch Tuesday at North Little Rock's Patrick Henry Hays Senior Center, which was providing free meals to evacuees.

center and a member of the church.

"You realize all the hotels are full," she said, and church members felt they needed to "do something."

They didn't know how many refugees would show up and were pleased with the crowd that filled the center's activity room.

Glover said the center's activities went on as normal throughout the lunch, which began at noon and lasted almost

two hours. That meant center members had an impromptu audience for their regular Tuesday Karaoke Corner.

"It seemed to take the edge off," Glover said.

A free lunch of spaghetti will be offered at noon today, Glover said. The menu hasn't been set, but she said the center at 401 W. Pershing will also serve lunch Thursday and maybe for more days.

Most of Tuesday's crowd came from Louisiana, only 13

coming from Mississippi. Families as large as 13 and a few people by themselves — with just the shirt on their backs, Glover said — stopped in.

Quintal and his brothers-in-law, Reginald and Russel Lombard, were among the last to leave.

With a Louisiana inflection, they described fleeing their homes in east New Orleans, closely watching for news reports that might show what was happening to their neighborhoods and playing "hotel hopscotch" as they struggled to find rooms for all 18 family members they traveled north with.

They've been on the road since Sunday morning, leaving only after putting valuables into storage containers in a car parked on an upper level of a parking garage and moving family photos from downstairs walls to higher ground.

"Right now we don't even know if our house is standing," Reginald Lombard said.

Since leaving, they've had mostly sleepless nights, they said. Now all they can do is wait in the hotel for word that New Orleans has been reopened.

"The worst is over," Quintal said. "Now you get to deal with the insurance companies."

vices director for the Jonesboro Red Cross chapter, anticipated opening several more shelters in area churches and other facilities as more people arrive.

"We will keep them open as long as needed," he said.

Shelters seemed to open in nearly every corner of the state Tuesday, including in Searcy, Monticello, West Memphis and Lake Village.

The Red Cross quickly filled one shelter at the State Fairgrounds in Little Rock with 70 people Tuesday, and opened another capable of holding 200 more, said Debbie Turley, a disaster team coordinator with the Red Cross.

Turley said she expects that shelter to be filled tomorrow, and that more can be opened if needed.

Lulav, a downtown Little Rock restaurant, and the Days Inn & Suites near Little Rock National Airport, Adams Field, have been providing meals for the displaced people, Aleen Valli, the hotel's general manager said.

"I do this because this is how you live life," said James Botwright, executive chef and

owner of Lulav, as he sliced cantaloupe.

Hundreds of miles from her New Orleans home, Judy Hemphill fought tears as she stood outside the relief center at the fairgrounds Tuesday.

"It's been horrible," she said. "It's been horrifying."

Red Cross volunteers waited at a table inside the fairground's Farm and Ranch building, welcoming those who made the long trek from areas hit by the hurricane.

Ethel Mae Nelson traveled to Little Rock with her cousin Earl Ducre and sister Delores Green. They were lying on the makeshift beds, trying to pass the time. Nelson hasn't heard much about what is going on back at her Slidell, La., home.

"All I know is people can't get to and from there," she said.

At the Comfort Inn and Suites in Bryant, hotel officials called on community groups and businesses to help those pushed into Arkansas by the hurricane. As of Tuesday, the hotel's 78 rooms were filled, mostly with evacuees.

"Some have come here be-

cause they've stayed with us before, but for a lot of them this is the first vacancy they've seen" since leaving home, said Jean Gerbine, the hotel's assistant general manager.

An emergency shelter operated by the Texarkana chapter of the Red Cross opened Saturday, but it didn't begin seeing an influx of refugees until early Tuesday. The organization has already opened a second shelter and is housing about 75 people in all, Executive Director Nedra Turney said.

"This is unlike anything we've ever seen before," Turney said. "The average evacuation is about a week or so. We're expecting to shelter people on a much more long-term basis."

Turney said the group has already asked two more Texarkana sites to be on standby in case more shelter space is needed.

"It's been tough," she said. "Earlier, we had a family come in today. Even the adults were crying they were so hungry. That just about killed us."

As money dwindles for families who have evacuated their homes, emergency shelters are

likely to become their homes for the coming days and weeks.

In the parking lot of the Motel 6 on Interstate 30 and Scott Hamilton Drive in Little Rock, Andrew Carr and his wife, Jennifer, used a small charcoal grill to cook hot dogs, barbecue ribs and beans for their family.

About a dozen family members, including three children, left New Orleans on Sunday morning in a convoy of six cars, taking three dogs with them.

Judging from television news coverage, Carr said he assumed his home in the Gentry neighborhood is underwater. He said the family might stay with other relatives in Mississippi.

Standing nearby, Carr's sister-in-law, Eloinease McClup, 53, said the floodwaters destroyed her home and submerged the bakery where she works and the plant where her husband Charles works.

The couple can afford to stay at the motel only a few days longer, she said.

"We don't know what to do," McCulp said. "We don't know when we'll be able to get back home or what we'll do when we

How to help

The following information is for those wishing to donate to hurricane relief efforts and for those seeking information about shelters for evacuees.

TO DONATE

American Red Cross

1 (800) HELP-NOW

www.redcross.org

Salvation Army

1 (800) SAL-ARMY

www.salvationarmy.org

St. James United Methodist Church

321 Pleasant Valley Drive

(501) 225-7372

Episcopal Diocese of Arkansas

P.O. Box 164668

Little Rock, AR 72216

Accepting monetary donations to be sent to churches in Mississippi and Louisiana.

The Watershed

(501) 378-0176

3701 Springer Blvd., Little Rock

Accepting donations of clothing and other items.

Lonoke County sheriff's office

(501) 676-3000

Accepting donations of nonperishable food.

Griffin Leggett Funeral Homes

(501) 661-9111

Locations in Little Rock, North Little Rock, Conway and Alexander

Accepting donations of toiletries, food and water between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Clear Channel Little Rock

(501) 217-4300

Accepting donations of food and water for Feed the Children in conjunction with Arkansas Rice Depot between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. at the Clear Channel Metroplex on Colonel Glenn Road in Little Rock at least through this weekend.

Citadel Broadcasting Co.

Accepting donations of water, blankets and money at the east side of War Memorial Stadium today and Thursday between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Triple FM Radio Group and KAIT-TV in Jonesboro

Accepting donations of water between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. Thursday at Indian Mall in Jonesboro.

The Banner-News

130 S. Washington St.

Magnolia, AR 71753

Accepting monetary donations for local Red Cross chapter.

SHELTERS

Ashley County: Crossett Readiness Center

Conway: Meadowlake Baptist Church, 2105 Meadowlake Road

El Dorado: Family Life Center, (870) 862-1552. West Side Baptist Church, (870) 863-4113

Texarkana: Emergency Preparedness Center, 821 Spruce St. (903) 793-5602; Southwest Center 3233 West Seventh St. (903) 223-3298

Pine Bluff: Pine Bluff Convention Center

Little Rock: State Fairgrounds

Hot Springs: Summit Arena, (501) 623-9321

Mena: First Baptist Church, (479) 394-2541

Chicot County: Chicot County Fairgrounds in Eudora, Lake Village High School

Dumas: First United Methodist Church

McGehee: First Baptist Church, 312 Seamans Drive, First United Methodist Church, Boys and Girls Club, McGehee Christian Center

Monticello: The Armory; the Presbyterian Home

Union County: Community Center and City Hall at Junction City; Junction City Baptist Church

West Memphis: First Baptist Church

White County: Searcy Readiness Center

More information on Arkansas hotels and emergency shelters at www.arkansas.com

Information about hotel availability in Little Rock, at 1 (800) 844-4781

For emergency information: 1 (866) GET INFO

The Red Cross is accepting calls on this number only from people who have emergencies concerning immediate family members.

get home."

Jennifer Carr was more optimistic.

"We're going to stick together," she said. "We're going to find a way."

Information for this report was contributed by Andrew DeMillo, Andy Davis, Ken Heard, Jake Bleed and Rainer Sabin of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.

Levees

• Continued from Page 1A

off all they could hold or push in carts.

Outside the Superdome, boats, military vehicles and U.S. Coast Guard helicopters delivered a steady stream of victims, many pulled from the roofs of their houses in the eastern half of the city.

"We had 10,000 here on Saturday, and we are getting easily 500 plus coming every day," said Ed Bush, a public affairs officer with the Louisiana National Guard. He said he expects the number to increase. "Ninety percent of them are rescued and brought here by us."

Quintina Green and several family members came in Tuesday afternoon on a military cargo truck.

"I was just rescued from my

house in the 8th Ward," said Green, holding her son's asthma medication. "We were in the attic and then on the roof, just standing there. They came by boat."

James Williams stood by the giant sports facility's entrance, waiting for other family members to arrive by rescue vehicle, glad to be someplace safe.

"We just sat there watching it rise, hoping it didn't rise too far," Williams said of the water in his 8th Ward home.

"My children were scared. We were trying to keep them calm."

Rescuers arrived by boat and dropped passengers off at the Superdome, where evacuees begged for information and asked when they could return to their homes.

"We're our own little microcosm here," Bush said. "[People] want to know what is happen-

ing in their district, where their house is. ... The biggest challenge is to get them not to leave."

Inside the shelter, the field where the NFL's New Orleans Saints usually play became a playground for children. Older children played touch football in the end zones, while younger children wrestled and played tag.

Adults sat in stadium seats and people hunkered down on blankets, creating their own little corners on the wide circular concourse.

Refugees are given water and two military "meals ready to eat" a day, but the biggest problem is the lack of toilet facilities. Much of the concourse smelled of urine from overflowing restrooms, and people complained about the inability to bathe.

"We've been here since Saturday morning. I stink, I need a bath," said Yvonne Carter, sit-

ting on a blanket with her three young children. "It's miserable. I just want to get home, but I don't know what I am going home to."

As guardsmen and emergency crews were busy rescuing people from flooded homes, looters took to the streets.

At a Walgreens pharmacy at Tulane and Elk streets, two blocks from City Hall, people forced open doors and helped themselves to everything from food to a Vidal Sassoon hair-dryer.

They hauled away shopping carts filled with electronics and curling irons — all neatly bagged in plastic sacks.

On Canal Street, hundreds of looters worked as a team to break windows and doors of fashion stores and pawnshops, grabbing everything they could carry.

Some were loaded down

with jeans and shirts on hangers while others tried on shoes they had stolen from the Foot Locker.

One man sloshed down the street in a new fur coat and a hat with a security tag hanging off it.

Merchandise that fell from their arms floated down the street: a wig made of real human hair, T-shirts, jeans and a damaged plastic cash register.

"It's a damn shame," said James Daniels, riding down Canal Street on his orange bicycle, pointing to a group of people bursting through a window of a pawnshop. "I've never seen anything like this."

Andy Zhang, owner of the China Wall, watched helplessly as people grabbed things from his restaurant.

"They stole everything," Zhang said. "Everything is gone."



Associated Press

A man makes off with a bucket of beer, and one in the pocket, after looting a grocery store Tuesday in New Orleans.



Floodwaters from Hurricane Katrina flow over a levee along the Inner Harbor Navigational Canal near downtown New Orleans on Tuesday.

Associated Press



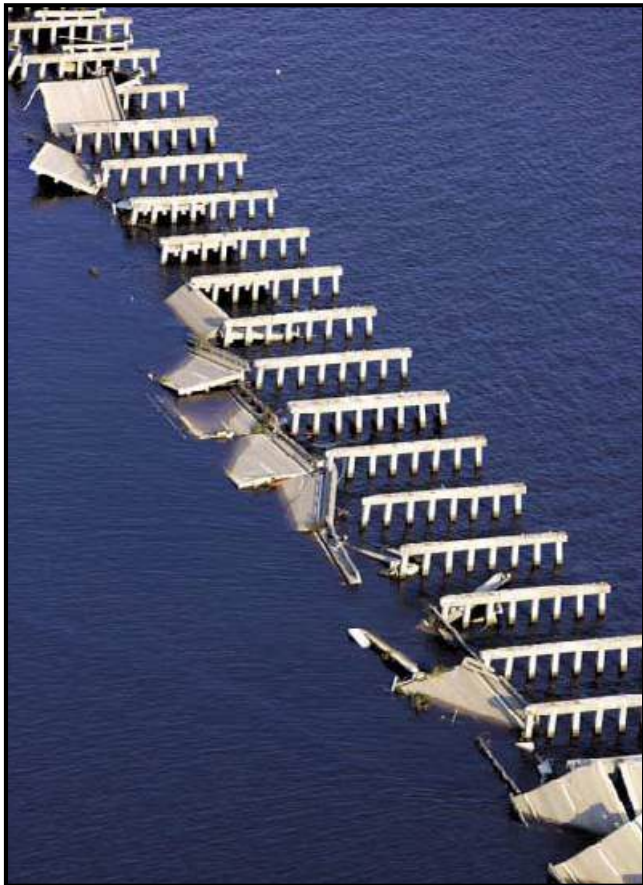
A New Orleans resident is rescued from the roof of a home by the U.S. Coast Guard on Tuesday as floodwaters from Hurricane Katrina cover the streets.

Associated Press



Evelyn Turner cries near the body of her common-law husband, Xavier Bowie, after he died in New Orleans on Tuesday. Bowie and Turner had decided to ride out Hurricane Katrina when they could not find a way to leave the city, but Bowie, who had lung cancer, died when he ran out of oxygen.

Associated Press



The remnants of the U.S. 90 bridge stand between Bay Saint Louis and Pass Christian, Miss., on Tuesday after Hurricane Katrina struck the area west of Gulfport.

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/BENJAMIN KRAIN



Sunlight streaks through the roof of the Louisiana Superdome on Tuesday in New Orleans. More than 10,000 people have taken shelter in the Superdome, which is without power and running water.

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/STEPHEN B. THORNTON

Albert Brogan (left) and **Eddie Smith** walk along U.S. 90 looking at damage from Hurricane Katrina on Tuesday in Gulfport, Miss.



Bloomberg News



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/BENJAMIN KRAIN

A residential area Tuesday lies in ruins left by Hurricane Katrina in Gulfport, Miss.



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/MICHELLE POSEY



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/STEPHEN B. THORNTON

People walk along a broken and sand-covered stretch of U.S. 90 (above) on Tuesday in Biloxi, Miss. Hurricane Katrina made most of the beachfront sections of the road impassable.

Two men paddle a canoe (left) along a flooded New Orleans street on Tuesday afternoon.



Associated Press

A car lies amid the rubble of all that remains of the Bombay Bicycle Club in Biloxi, Miss., on Tuesday. The Beau Rivage casino is seen in the background.

Stampede claims lives

Hundreds of pilgrims on way to Iraq shrine killed in chaotic scene. — International, 2A



DuMond found dead

Murderer, rapist discovered in his Missouri prison cell. — Arkansas, 1B

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

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50¢

New Orleans going under



Abandon Big Easy, folks told

Editor's note: Reporter C.S. Murphy prepared this report with information from Katherine Marks in Gulfport, Miss., The Associated Press and Bloomberg News Services.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Conditions in New Orleans, sodden with filthy floodwaters and increasingly dangerous, only worsened Wednesday, three days after Hurricane Katrina pummeled the city.

Gangs of gun-toting looters pillaged soggy treasures as drenched and defeated residents emerged from their houses to begin a weary search for food, water and rescue.

Mayor Ray Nagin ordered 1,500 police to leave their search-and-rescue mission Wednesday night and return to the streets of New Orleans to stop the looting that has turned increasingly hostile.

"They are starting to get closer to heavily populated areas — hotels, hospitals, and we're going to stop it right now," Nagin said in a statement.



Nagin

The major American city all but disintegrated Wednesday, and the expected death toll from Hurricane Katrina mushroomed.

"At some point in time the dead bodies are going to start to create a serious disease issue," Nagin said.

"We know there is a significant number of dead bodies in the water" and other people dead in attics, Nagin said. Asked how many, he said: "Minimum, hundreds. Most likely, thousands."

The frightening estimate came as U.S. Army engineers struggled to plug New Orleans' breached levees with giant sandbags and concrete barriers, while authorities drew up plans to clear out the tens of thousands of people remaining in New Orleans and all but abandon the flooded city.

There will be a "total evacuation of the city. We have to. The city will not be functional for two or three months," Nagin said.

Nagin estimated 50,000 to 100,000 people remained in New Orleans on Wednesday.

See **KATRINA**, Page 6A

Volunteer rescuer Mickey Monceaux (standing) guides his boat Wednesday while towing another loaded with residents of a flooded neighborhood on the east side of New Orleans.

Associated Press

ON THE INSIDE



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GAS PRICES skyrocket in some places, bringing charges of price-gouging. Page 8A.

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CONGRESSMEN ready to vote for emergency aid. Page 11A.

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CHURCHES EAGER to step in and help. Page 5B.

STORM SENDS ripples through the economy. Page 1D.

Along coast, lost lives and lost cities

BY JILL ZEMAN

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

BILOXI, Miss. — A fluorescent orange X spray-painted on doors or walls marks where death passed over a house searched by members of the Florida Urban Search and Rescue team.

A single diagonal line, sometimes paired with a question mark, points out the houses where Hurricane Katrina left bodies in the rubble.

On Wednesday, searchers clambered over and picked through piles of what were once houses and businesses, joined by residents who continued to look for their neighbors and loved ones.

Hearse drivers roamed the destroyed city, watching for the solitary line denoting death.

"We're going to search this one real good," team member Les Rydl of St. Petersburg said, mentioning a suspect mound of rubble as he tapped his nose.



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/MICHELLE POSEY

An urban search-and-rescue team from St. Petersburg, Fla., marks a house Wednesday in Biloxi, Miss., to let other crews know that no bodies were found inside.

In Wednesday's sweltering, muggy heat, the smell of death became much more pungent.

The house Rydl pinpointed — a salmon-colored, one-story

structure a few blocks from the coast — turned out to be a false alarm. The searchers' noses were tripped by a dead pig on the front lawn under a pile of debris.

But at other locations in this coastal town, the searchers — including firefighters, police officers and Mississippi Wildlife Fisheries and Parks officials — found more human bodies, quickly increasing the death toll that has already surpassed 100 in Mississippi alone.

At one spot on U.S. 90, Hurricane Katrina flattened brick houses where the residents apparently tried to ride out the storm.

As rescuers dug through debris, they found multiple bodies and left a mark for the hearsees to find.

Residents packed the streets, especially after a Salvation Army aid station arrived. One woman, who did not give her name, came to stock up on water and supplies.

"This is unbelievable," she said. Her neighbor's mother and son drowned in the hurricane.

See **SEARCH**, Page 9A

Evacuee influx has state scrambling for housing

BY ANDREW DEMILLO

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Federal, state and local officials assessed options ranging from military bases to campgrounds Wednesday as long-term housing solutions for the stream of refugees landing in Arkansas because of the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

Refugees from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama continued to fill emergency shelters, hotels, state parks and other sites as cleanup efforts

continued from Monday's hurricane.

State officials couldn't give a total figure of refugees in Arkansas, but more than 1,200 people slept Tuesday night in 27 shelters around the state, said Dave Maxwell, deputy director of the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management. Countless other evacuees spent the night in hotels and other locations.

Even as they directed evacuees to shelters from West Memphis, they directed evacuees to shelters from West Memphis.

See **SHELTERS**, Page 9A

Flood protection contentious

DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE PRESS SERVICES

The 17th Street levee that gave way and led to the flooding of New Orleans formed part of an intricate, aging system of barriers and pumps so chronically underfinanced that senior regional officials of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers complained about it publicly for years.

Often leading the chorus was Alfred C. Naomi, a senior project manager for the Corps and a 30-year veteran of efforts to waterproof a city built on slowly sinking mud, surrounded by water and periodically a target of great storms.

Naomi grew particularly

See **SYSTEM**, Page 8A



Associated Press

A swimming pool is surrounded Wednesday by the debris of a neighborhood in Long Beach, Miss., that was obliterated.

WEATHER

LITTLE ROCK

Today Partly cloudy and hot.
High Mid-90s, north winds at 5 to 10 mph.
Tonight Partly cloudy with milder conditions.
Low Upper 60s.



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Home delivery

378-3456

Outside Pulaski County
1-800-482-1121



6 38333 00050 5

Katrina

• Continued from Page 1A

Plans were under way to bus at least 25,000 refugees to Houston to be sheltered at the 40-year-old Astrodome, which is no longer used for professional sporting events. On Wednesday cots and blankets were being spread across the floor of the 50,000-seat arena.

"Our hearts go out to people, our brothers and sisters, along the Gulf Coast," Houston Mayor Bill White said at a news conference.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency arranged 500 buses to transport refugees, and the first caravan was expected to arrive late Wednesday night. About 20 buses left Little Rock about 2 p.m. to join the convoy in Louisiana. The Astrodome will house only people who were stranded at the dank, sweltering Superdome, where the water was rising, the air conditioning was off and toilets were broken.

As floodwaters continued to climb, so did the tempers of stranded New Orleans residents who complained that authorities were not moving quickly enough.

Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco defended her state's emergency management operations and the evacuations that preceded Hurricane Katrina.

"No region is prepared for the dimensions that we dealt with," Blanco said at a news conference.

Blanco also vowed to restore law and order to New Orleans and other parts of the state.

"We will do what it takes to bring law and order to our region," Blanco said.

A giant new Wal-Mart in New Orleans was looted, and the gun collection was stolen, *The Times-Picayune* reported. Also, looters tried to break into Children's Hospital, the governor's office said.

"There are gangs of armed men in the city moving around the city," said New Orleans' homeland security chief, Terry Ebbert.

Across Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, more than 1 million residents remained without electricity, some without clean drinking water. Officials said it could be weeks, if not months, before most evacuees will be able to return.

"I worry that we had a little hurricane fatigue," said Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour. "People boarded up for Ivan, evacuated and nothing happened. Then they boarded up for Dennis, evacuated and nothing happened. I think until very, very late, a lot of people thought, 'Ah, I'm not going to do that again.'"

Defying the storm's devastation, some longtime coastal residents displaced by Katrina were already making plans to rebuild or find new beach property.

"I've never seen such catastrophic damage in my entire life," said Teresa Rochester in Gulfport, Miss. She said she "used to live" at The Sands, a now-leveled beachfront property.

Now she and two friends are staying at a hotel, owned by one of the friend's brothers, rationing peanut-butter sandwiches and sleeping in a third-floor room. All her belongings now fit in a duffel bag, Rochester said.

She was in a friend's home when the water started rising. They climbed to the attic where another friend rescued them two hours later.

Sitting in what was once the lobby of the Best Western, Rochester said she planned to live on the beach again. Inland, she said, there are more crime and mosquitoes.

HELP ON THE WAY

The Pentagon on Wednesday began mounting one of the largest search-and-rescue operations in U.S. history, sending four U.S. Navy ships to the Gulf Coast with drinking water and other emergency supplies, along with the hospital ship USNS Comfort, search helicopters and elite SEAL water-rescue teams. American Red Cross workers from across the country converged on the devastated region in the agency's biggest-ever relief operation.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers said it planned to use heavy-duty Chinook helicopters to drop 3,000-pound sandbags Wednesday into the 500-foot gap in the failed flood wall. But the agency said it was having trouble getting the sandbags and dozens of 15-foot highway barriers to the site because the city's waterways were blocked by loose barges, boats and large debris.

Officials said they were also looking at a more audacious plan: Finding a barge to plug the 500-foot hole.

Once the levees are fixed, Maj. Gen. Don Riley of the Corps of Engineers said, it could take close to a month to get the water out of the city. If the water rises



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/STEPHEN B. THORNTON

People walk up a ramp to get out of waist-deep water and take shelter in the Superdome on Wednesday in New Orleans.



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/STATON BREIDENTHAL

Marsha Sowders (background) goes back to her room Wednesday at the Beach View Best Western in Gulfport. She said she rode out the storm on an upper floor of the hotel.

a few feet higher, it could also wipe out the water system for the whole city, Ebbert said.

Louisiana Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu said 3,000 people have been rescued by boat and air, some placed shivering and wet into helicopter baskets. They were taken by the truckload to shelters, some in wheelchairs and some carrying babies, with stories of survival and of those who didn't make it.

FEMA was considering putting people on cruise ships, in tent cities, mobile home parks, and so-called floating dormitories — boats the agency uses to house its employees.

Carnival Cruise Lines said Wednesday that the federal government has asked whether its cruise ships could be used as emergency shelters or help Hurricane Katrina relief efforts in some other way.

The world's largest cruise line said that although "to undertake such an endeavor would involve many complicated issues, we are actively taking a look at it."

U.S. Deputy Education Secretary Ray Simon said it will take months to rebuild schools in Mississippi and Louisiana that were destroyed or damaged by Hurricane Katrina.

"In some communities local schools may not be operational for months," Simon said at a press conference in Washington.

The first, tiny signs of progress could be spotted in Louisiana on Wednesday. State offices reopened in the Iberville, Iberia, Pointe Coupee, St. Martin, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana parishes. Offices in 20 other parishes, however, remained closed.

RELIEF AID

U.S. companies, charitable groups, sports leagues and others offered money, food, clothing and services to help victims.

The American Red Cross said donations for Katrina relief total about \$21 million so far from individuals and corporations. The Red Cross will send almost 2,000 volunteers to the affected region in the next few days to add to those already at the scene.

"This is the largest mobilization that we have seen in American Red Cross history" for a single U.S. disaster, said spokesman Stephanie Millian.

The volunteers will provide food and water and other aid, including "shoulders to lean on, mental health counseling," Millian said.



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/STATON BREIDENTHAL

Sandra Cates sits on her porch Wednesday in downtown Gulfport, Miss., next to a message she hopes will get to her daughter Amy Rupert in Washington state.



Associated Press

Jamie Joyce bows her head at First United Methodist Church in Shreveport, after Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco called for a day of prayer Wednesday.



Democrat-Gazette/MICHELLE POSEY

A woman pauses to rest Wednesday in Biloxi after washing her family's clothing in water from a store's broken waterline.

The Salvation Army had received \$1.8 million in donations, said spokesman Theresa Whitfield. The army has dispatched 72 canteens that can

feed 400,000 people a day and two mobile kitchens that can feed 20,000 a day.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc. has donated \$1 million to the Salvation Army for Katrina relief and has set up centers in its stores for customers to leave cash or other donations.

Lowe's Cos. also has established cash-donation sites and said it will match as much as \$1 million in donations from customers in its stores. The company said Monday that it had hundreds of truckloads of emergency supplies ready for relief operations.

Drug maker Eli Lilly & Co. "will match any employee gift to the American Red Cross disaster relief fund, dollar for dollar," said spokesman Ed Sagebiel in a telephone interview.

LIGHTS STILL OUT

Entergy Corp., Southern Co. and Cleco Corp. said about 1.5 million customers from Louisiana to the Florida Panhandle remained without power Wednesday, down from as many as 2.1 million.



Associated Press

President Bush views the devastation in New Orleans from the window of Air Force One on Wednesday as he heads to Washington.

Utilities owned by Atlanta-based Southern Co. reported on their Web sites that 516,302 customers were without power at midday, including 310,047 in Alabama, 195,000 in Mississippi and 11,255 in the Florida panhandle. More than 960,000 Southern Co. customers lost power as the storm moved inland Monday.

Southern said it will take about four weeks to restore power to the hardest-hit areas in Mississippi. Utility crews from Texas, New York, the Carolinas, Maryland and Kentucky were arriving along the Gulf Coast to assist in restoring service.

DTE Energy Co., Michigan's largest utility, dispatched about 100 trucks to Mississippi and Louisiana on Sunday and Monday, company spokesman Scott Simons said. About 75 tree trimmers were also sent to the flooded states.

Electric-line workers are expected to work 16-hour days in both states as they attempt to restore power. Other DTE crews, now providing assistance in Florida, will move to Mississippi and Louisiana once power is restored, Simons said. The workers volunteer to make the trip and are paid by the respective state's utility, Simons said.

WASHINGTON RESPONDS

On his way back to Washington, President Bush's plane, Air Force One, descended to an altitude of about 5,000 feet to allow Bush to view some of the worst hurricane damage.

"This is a major catastrophe," White House spokesman Scott McClellan had said earlier. "We are certainly going to do everything from the standpoint of the federal government to make sure the needs are met."

McClellan said the government was declaring the hurricane an "incident of national significance," a designation that triggers a recently developed national emergency plan for the first time and will allow better coordination among government agencies. McClellan said he expects the administration to request a supplemental appropriation to pay for disaster relief and recovery efforts.

Under the national response plan, which was finalized in January, the federal government intervenes only when emergencies exceed what state and local capabilities can handle. Though state and local officials have not formally declared that they can no longer manage the disaster on their own, that is the case, said Homeland Security spokesman Russ Knocks.

Bush was expected to visit the ravaged region by week's end,

but details on that trip were in flux as the White House worked to make sure a presidential tour would not disrupt the relief and response efforts.

Also, the Bush administration decided to release crude oil from federal petroleum reserves to help refiners whose supply was disrupted by Katrina. The announcement helped push oil prices lower.

ARKANSAS LENDS SUPPORT

"Arkansas is a great state that knows how to lend a hand during times of need," said Arkansas' U.S. Rep. Marion Berry. "I call on individuals and businesses throughout Arkansas to come together during this time and find a way to provide relief to our neighbors who have lost everything."

Gov. Mike Huckabee authorized \$75,000 for the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management to use at shelters in Ashley, Chicot, Clark, Cross, Craighead, Crittenden, Desha, Drew, Faulkner, Garland, Mississippi, Miller, Pulaski and Union counties.

Another 500 Arkansas National Guardsmen are preparing to deploy to New Orleans to assist the Louisiana National Guard. They'll join 350 Arkansas troops already mobilized on state active-duty orders for hurricane relief efforts. Parts of Task Force Razorback arrived at Camp Shelby, Miss., on Tuesday with the rest of the task force expected to arrive Wednesday. Arkansas National Guard readiness centers in Crossett, Monticello and Searcy are open as shelters for hurricane refugees, and hundreds of cots and blankets continue to be sent to shelters throughout the state.

STATES STRUGGLE TO REACT

The search-and-recovery effort along the Mississippi coast continued Wednesday. Teams of searchers in and around Biloxi located more hurricane victims, marking the piles of debris were they found bodies.

According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there were 363,988 people living in the three Mississippi Gulf Coast counties in 2000. The 10 Louisiana parishes on Lake Pontchartrain and in and around New Orleans held another 1,600,726 people. An untold number of them fled before Hurricane Katrina made landfall and may have no home to return to. And those population numbers do not include inland counties and parishes that also suffered severe damage.

Beyond the Gulf Coast, communities in central and southern Mississippi, including Hattiesburg, Jackson and much of the Meridian area remained without power Wednesday. Jackson and Hattiesburg residents were advised to boil their water, and about 40 percent of Hattiesburg residents had no running water at all.

Two lanes of traffic on the Cochrane-Africatown U.S.A. Bridge in Mobile reopened Wednesday. The span closed Monday after it was struck by a 13,000-ton oil platform during the storm.

Alabama Gov. Bob Riley's office established an Internet site for Alabamians who want to volunteer for disaster relief efforts.

"The caring and compassionate spirit of Alabamians is truly awe-inspiring," Riley said Wednesday.

GENERAL SERVICES STALLED

Because the New Orleans Passport Agency will be closed indefinitely, the U.S. State Department is advising those who applied for passports before Aug. 25 and who plan to travel in the next four weeks to contact the National Passport Information Center toll-free, at (877) 487-2778.

The New Orleans office processes passport requests made in 18 states, including Arkansas.

The New Orleans mail processing and distribution center suspended all operations at noon Sunday, according to a U.S. Postal Service release.

Nearly 100 ZIP codes in Mississippi won't be receiving mail for the foreseeable future, with another 100 getting limited mail. Mail delivery was shut off to and from about a dozen Alabama ZIP codes.

The Social Security Administration said Wednesday that it was developing plans to ensure that thousands of displaced elderly and disabled residents still will have access to their monthly checks, which begin to go out today and Friday.

Mark Hinkle, a spokesman for the agency, said it would continue to send monthly payments through the regular routes — either by direct deposit or by mail.

"But if they have any problems, they can go to any Social Security office and request an emergency payment," Hinkle said.

Information for this article was contributed by Andy Davis and Andrew DeMillo of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.



Segments of the U.S. 90 bridge lie in the Mississippi Sound between Biloxi and Ocean Springs on Wednesday.

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/MICHELLE POSEY



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/BENJAMIN KRAIN

Debris litters the coast near Gulfport, Miss., on Tuesday.



Associated Press

A boat lies amid cargo containers Wednesday that were washed ashore in Gulfport, Miss.



Associated Press

Cynthia Scott sits with her grandchildren, Dwayne Alphonse and 3-month-old twins Eric and Erin Alphonse, on an overpass near the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans on Wednesday.

Some gas tops \$3 a gallon, raises cry of price-gouging

BY EDWARD KLUMP
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Gasoline prices at some Arkansas stations spiked to above \$3 a gallon Wednesday, and suppliers were placing limits on how much fuel they were distributing in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Those developments came a day after some stations around the state reported being out of fuel.

But consumers were assured that supplies would be sufficient as long as the public did not turn to panic buying.

Nevertheless, allegations of price-gouging unsettled state government officials, who took steps Wednesday to curb such profiteering.

Ann Hines, executive vice president of the Arkansas Oil Marketers Association, warned motorists not to create "a self-fulfilling prophecy."

"If they normally fill their car up once a week, that's what they need to do," she said.

The nation's oil and gas industry has been battered by Katrina, which struck the Gulf of Mexico as well as the key energy states of Louisiana and Mississippi. Concerns remain about pipelines, refineries and offshore production facilities.

Big price increases are sprouting across the nation and Arkansas.

The Sunny Super Stop in the 6800 block of Colonel Glenn Road in Little Rock was selling regular at \$3.19 a gallon on Wednesday, while regular at the Harvest Foods at Maumelle was \$3.14 a gallon.

The average price for regular gasoline in Arkansas reported Wednesday by AAA was about \$2.54 a gallon. But Michael Right, a AAA spokesman, called the average "irrelevant at this point." He said he had heard reports of increasing prices as well as shortages of gasoline.

"What may be occurring is that normal distribution systems are going to be interrupted as they try to spread as much of the product evenly as they possibly can," he said.

Meanwhile, Hines said some oil companies are limiting how much gasoline a wholesaler can purchase in a day, although the level is revisited nightly.

Complaints of price-gouging surfaced Wednesday, prompting Arkansas Attorney General Mike Beebe to say in a news release that he plans to investigate such reports in a 14-county area.

Beebe said an emergency declaration by Gov. Mike Huckabee on Wednesday allows his investigators to use a state "statute while investigating claims of price-gouging in those counties. I intend to investigate reports of egregious pricing practices in any county, including the 61 where an emergency has not been declared."



Traffic moves along Asher Avenue, where a Coastal station advertised \$3-plus gasoline Wednesday afternoon.

State law 4-88-303 prohibits the raising of prices more than 10 percent than charged immediately before an emergency proclamation unless the increase is merely "attributable to additional costs."

The governor's declaration targets Ashley, Chicot, Clark, Cross, Craighead, Crittenden, Desha, Drew, Faulkner, Garland, Mississippi, Miller, Pulaski and Union counties.

Beebe called "on service stations to show reasonable restraint" and said some large increases seem "inappropriate and unfair." He also said consumers should "keep a level head and not rush to the pumps."

Cashier Sean Kessler said he raised prices twice at the Shiloh General Store at Lowell. He said a gallon of regular sold for \$2.76 when he arrived for the day shift and that around 11 a.m. his boss told him to raise it to \$2.88. Less than two hours later he got orders to change the price to \$2.99, where it remained by late afternoon.

Customers have been less than thrilled, and Kessler said one patron after another has complained about "price-gouging" — some using statistics to support their arguments.

"Everyone who comes in here feels a need to talk about it. I've heard everything," Kessler said. He said he didn't arrive at work ready to counter elaborate arguments and conspiracy theories. "I just go out there and change the sign. I pay the same price as everyone else."

Much of Arkansas' gasoline, including that for the Little Rock area, is delivered using a pipeline system from Teppco Partners of Houston. That system — which starts in Texas, crosses northwest Louisiana and enters Arkansas — was not damaged by the hurricane,

according to Don Thomas, director of refined products services at Teppco.

Once the gasoline arrives at terminals, it is transported by truck to stations. Thomas said supply in the system was tight before Katrina occurred and that no major shift as happened yet.

"None of the refineries that we [receive] product from have been impacted by the storm," Thomas said, but he added that "many of the refineries are owned by the same companies that have refineries" in affected areas.

That means, he said, that companies must decide "where they take their barrels from the refineries that are operating." The decisions on where to send gasoline are not made by Teppco, Thomas said, and could increase or decrease the amount of gasoline that passes through Arkansas. Thomas noted that the Teppco pipeline system serves the Cincinnati, Chicago and Indianapolis areas after it leaves Arkansas.

"Each company is going to look at its customer base, and it's going to allocate the barrels it's got in that batch it gave us in the way it thinks is most fair to its customer base," he said.

Supply was pretty good at Magellan Midstream Partners' two terminals at North Little Rock as well as at a Fort Smith terminal, said Todd Frazee, a spokesman for the Tulsa-based company.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency did waive federal clean-air fuel standards for all states through at least Sept. 15 because of supply disruptions caused by the hurricane. The agency cited extreme circumstances that would prevent compliance with the Clean Air Act. The waiver allows refiners, importers, distributors and retailers

to sell gasoline that meets lower standards for emissions.

With pump prices on the rise, AAA's Right has a suggestion.

"The most prudent thing is to reduce your consumption," he said.

Bill Sisk drives between his Hot Springs Village home and Little Rock daily. If he fills his Acura sport utility vehicle with regular gasoline at \$2.73 per gallon, the 113-mile round-trip commute costs about \$16 per day. That's \$2 more than it cost on Monday.

Isolated prices have exceeded the inflation-adjusted national record for the average price of a gallon of regular. That was \$3.11 and set in March 1981, according to Arkansas-based WTRG Economics.

But that might not console some motorists.

"It feels like they're gouging you, doesn't it?" Sisk said after topping off his tank at the Sixth Street Exxon in Little Rock.

He said he isn't ready to trade in his vehicle for a more fuel-efficient car. But he does want someone — anyone — to take steps to lower prices. "I think the White House needs to get more involved," he said.

At the next pump over, Carolyn Smith filled the front tire of her Nissan Sentra and expressed a similar call to action.

"What are they going to do about it?" she asked.

She said her car gets "good gas mileage," but that she is considering alternatives to driving.

"I'm thinking about taking the bus," she said. "And I think more people should carpool."

Information for this article was contributed by Brian Baskin, Amber Eaton and Christopher Leonard of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette and by Bloomberg News.

Oil price falls under \$69 on reserve, industry news

BY BRAD FOSS
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

While gasoline prices spiked Wednesday, crude oil prices quietly slipped below \$69 a barrel after the federal government said it would loan oil reserves to refiners and some petroleum operations in south Louisiana limped back life for the first time since Hurricane Katrina swept the area.

Just where oil prices go from here — and how bad the situation will become for motorists — depends on how quickly electricity can be restored to Gulf Coast pipelines and refineries, analysts said. Flooding may have left some important refinery equipment submerged and it will be days before a full damage assessment is completed, industry officials and analysts said.

Some rays of hope emerged Wednesday.

The Colonial Pipeline Co., operator of the world's biggest network of petroleum-product pipelines, said it would restore partial service with help from diesel generators that will allow it to begin shipping gasoline, heating oil and jet fuel from Houston to markets up and down the East Coast.

Similarly, the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port, through which more than 10 percent of all U.S. oil imports flow, said generators would enable it to gradually resume partial service.

"A tanker may dock this afternoon and possibly offload by this evening," Mark Bugg, a manager at the port, said Wednesday afternoon.

Crude for October delivery fell 87 cents a barrel Wednesday on the New York Mercantile Exchange to settle at \$68.94, down from an overnight high of \$70.65. A day earlier, oil futures settled at \$69.81. That was the highest closing price on the Nymex since trading began in 1983, although still below the inflation-adjusted high of about \$90 a barrel that was set in 1980.

The U.S. Minerals Management Service said Wednesday that 91 percent of the Gulf of Mexico's oil output was out of service — slightly less than a day earlier — with more than 6 million barrels of production lost since Friday. The agency said 83 percent of natural gas output was shut down.

European nations are also considering the release of their own government-controlled stockpiles of gasoline and heat-

ing oil, according to officials at the Paris-based International Energy Agency. The officials demanded anonymity because the consultations were confidential.

While the loss of oil is significant, analyst Tom Wallin of Energyintel said Katrina would likely have a more serious impact on the nation's supply of natural gas.

"Crude oil production could be replaced by a release of barrels from the U.S. strategic reserve," he said. "There is no such safety valve for natural gas."

Natural gas futures fell 35.9 cents to \$11.30 per 1,000 cubic feet on the Nymex, but that is almost double the price from a year earlier.

Though much remains uncertain, energy companies and industry analysts gained a clearer picture Wednesday of the damage done by Katrina:

■ Eight Gulf refineries remained out of service, and will be for days if not weeks, according to analysts, though most of their owners have not yet publicly announced the extent of any damage.

Valero Energy Corp. estimated that its refinery in St. Charles, La., will resume operations in one to two weeks. The refinery has capacity to process 245,000 barrels of crude a day. ■ Based on a preliminary look, one of El Dorado, Ark.-based Murphy Oil Corp.'s offshore rigs appeared to be in good shape while the other suffered minimal damage, company spokesman Mindy West said. There was no estimate on when the facilities might restart.

West added that a flyover of Murphy's Meraux, La., refinery revealed that flooding wasn't "as bad as we feared" and that the facility didn't appear to have suffered much damage.

"Based on everything that we know at this time, we consider ourselves very lucky," she said.

■ Kerr-McGee Corp. said that most of its facilities avoided serious damage and some production had been restored.

■ BP Plc said seven of its oil platforms in the Gulf of Mexico were toppled by Katrina, though between them they were only producing a few thousand barrels a day.

Information for this article was contributed by Edward Klump of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, and by Matthew Leising and Mark Shenk of Bloomberg News.

System

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frustrated this year as the Gulf Coast braced for an intense hurricane season forecasters said was coming. Also, a nearly simultaneous \$71 million cut was announced in the New Orleans district budget to guard against such storms.

He called the cut drastic in an article in *New Orleans City Business*.

In an interview Wednesday night, Naomi said the cuts had made it impossible to complete contracts for vital upgrades in the long-term plan to renovate the system.

This week, amid news of the widening breach in the 17th Street Canal, he realized that the decades-long string of near misses had ended. "A breach under these conditions was ultimately not surprising," he said. "I had hoped that we had overdesigned it to a point that it would not fail. But you can overdesign only so much, and then a failure has to come."

Shea Penland, director of the Pontchartrain Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of New Orleans, said the breach came as a particular surprise because it occurred "along a section [of levee] that was just upgraded. It did not have an earthen levee. It had a vertical concrete wall several feet thick."

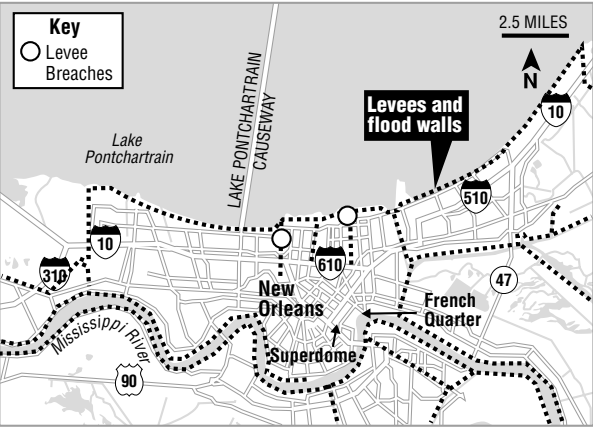
Now the Corps is scrambling. After failing to close a 300-foot break in the canal through which most of the floodwaters were pouring into New Orleans, federal engineers decided to take the battle with Lake Pontchartrain to the lakefront.

Starting today, they will prepare to drive corrugated vertical steel plates, called sheet pile, into the mud near where the narrow canal meets the lake to seal it off so that the big breach farther in can be more methodically attacked, Naomi said.

The decision came after a day

When levees are breached

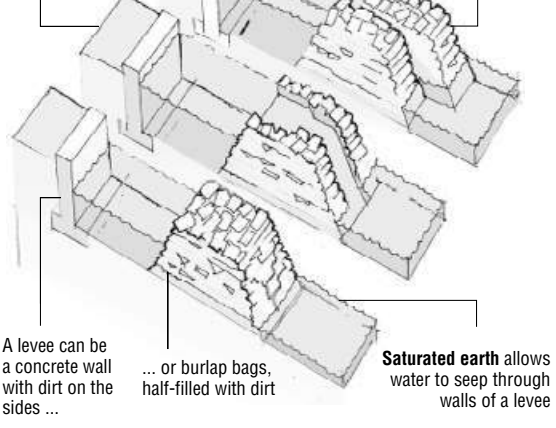
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers says it is too soon to know just how the levee walls were breached in New Orleans or even if there was any water flowing over them before the breach.



SOURCE: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Associated Press

Water overflows the banks and erodes a rift into a gaping hole

Weakened section of a levee can be pushed out by the force of the water



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

of fruitless efforts to figure out how to drop concrete highway barriers or huge sandbags into the torrent. For the most part, the water between the lake and the filled bowl of the city balanced out as of Wednesday night, officials said.

Weaknesses in the levee system were foreshadowed in a May report on the New Orleans-area hurricane protection plan and budget gap. The district headquarters concluded that the "current funding shortfall in fiscal year 2005 and fiscal year 2006 will prevent the Corps from addressing these pressing needs."

They also meant that they had far too little money to conduct a thorough study of how to upgrade the city's protections from the existing standard, sufficient to deter a hurricane at Category 3 on the five-step intensity scale, to a level of ruggedness sufficient to withstand floods and winds from a Category 5 storm.

Hurricane Katrina was on the

high end of Category 4.

Since 2001, Louisiana's congressional delegation had been pushing for far more money for storm protection than the Bush administration would agree to.

Even this summer Louisiana lawmakers wanted a provision in the massive federal energy bill that would give Louisiana a share of profits from offshore oil drilling. The plan would have poured an estimated \$1 billion a year into the state's treasury, money it would use to build up its natural barriers against floodwaters from a hurricane — a project lawmakers estimate would cost up to \$14 billion over 10 years.

But the idea was slashed from the energy bill, a measure criticized for being packed with pork projects. Previous attempts to get federal funds for the Louisiana coastal project had been rejected over decades.

Now, lawmakers and disaster planning specialists say, Con-

gress will pay dearly to rebuild the region after Katrina, and rebuilding could cost at least \$25 billion.

"We have long warned that we've got a choice of pay now or pay later," Rep. Bobby Jindal, R-La., said in a phone interview after taking an aerial tour of his devastated congressional district. "I said, 'If we don't invest in this now, we'll be paying a lot higher cost'" in disaster relief, said Jindal, who still does not know the condition of his own home in the New Orleans area. "We certainly didn't want to be proven right."

In 2001, the Federal Emergency Management Agency concluded that a catastrophic hurricane in New Orleans was "among the three likeliest ... disasters facing this country."

In the years that followed, however, instead of receiving a mandate to marshal the resources needed to handle such a mammoth disaster, FEMA saw

its standing within the federal government downgraded sharply and its mission pushed lower on the priority as the Bush administration concentrated on the threat of terrorism.

Previously a Cabinet-level agency reporting directly to the president, FEMA was folded into the vast bureaucracy of the newly created Department of Homeland Security. Both resources and energy devoted to preparing for natural disasters were reduced, giving way to the bureaucratic demands of organizing the home front in the war on terrorism.

It's not that terrorism does not pose a serious threat, said experts such as Mark Ghilar-ducci, a former official in the California Office of Emergency Management. They said the federal government needs to balance its approach. "We're losing sight of the fact that we've got earthquakes, fires, floods, and hurricanes" occurring continu-

ally, he said.

Similarly, over the past three years, as the White House gave top priority to spending on defense and national security, the Corps of Engineers saw its funding requests for flood control along the Louisiana coast slashed. In particular, a major program to strengthen and increase the New Orleans levee system — the failure of which left most of the city underwater — all but ground to a halt in 2004 because of budget constraints.

Now, Naomi said, all the quibbling over the region's storm budget or even over taking New Orleans to full Category 5 protection, which would cost several billion dollars, seemed tragically absurd.

"It would take \$2.5 billion to build a Category 5 protection system, and we're talking about tens of billions in losses, all that lost productivity, and so many lost lives and injuries and personal trauma you'll never get over," Naomi said. "People will be scarred for life by this event."

Around the country some officials said the emphasis on terrorism had bitten into the time and resources they could devote to prepare for threats they considered more likely to occur. Eric Holdeman, director of the King County Office of Emergency Management in Washington state, said his staff now spends most of its time trying to sort through the paperwork Homeland Security generates.

"Prior to 9/11 we were spending 75 percent of our time planning, training and exercising for natural hazards," mostly earthquakes, he said. "Today that's down to 25 percent. The rest of the time is spent administering homeland-security grants. If we had that type of event here, we wouldn't be nearly ready."

Information for this article was contributed by Andrew C. Revkin, Christopher Drew and Cornelia Dean of The New York Times and Nicole Gaoquette of the Los Angeles Times and Susan Milligan of The Boston Globe.

Shelters

• Continued from Page 1A

phis to Springdale, Arkansas officials began looking at places to house people during the cleanup that is expected to last for months in storm-damaged areas.

"Those decisions are as much as two weeks away," Maxwell said. "We've got to get a handle on what infrastructure we've got available here for that kind of housing."

Long-term housing options include establishing makeshift tent cities or using modular housing, Maxwell said. But, he added that the state is also considering using existing campgrounds for refugee housing.

Another option may be using two military posts: Camp Robinson in North Little Rock and Fort Chaffee in Northwest Arkansas. Capt. Kristine Munn of the Arkansas National Guard said federal officials have asked the Guard to study the possibility of housing as many as 50,000 refugees at the two sites.

"We have not received anything official," Munn said. "But we have been asked to look into that possibility."

At Fort Chaffee, the Guard has several World War II-era barracks, typically used during training, that could be used for refugee housing. Camp Robinson has some hotel-style accommodations that could also be used, Munn said.

While officials with the state and the American Red Cross said their top priority is finding immediate shelter for those displaced by the hurricane and flooding, former Federal Emergency Management Agency Director James Lee Witt said finding long-term housing will be a challenge for at least several months.

"They've just got a lot of serious housing needs that need to be addressed," said Witt, who lives in Arkansas. "Housing is going to be a premier issue here, and this is not a matter of days we're looking at."

People continued to flow into the shelters that have been set up by the state, the Red Cross, churches and other groups around the state Wednesday.

Gov. Mike Huckabee signed an emergency proclamation Wednesday authorizing \$75,000 for shelters housing refugees in Ashley, Chicot, Clark, Cross, Craighead, Crittenden, Desha, Drew, Faulkner, Garland, Mississippi, Miller, Pulaski and Union counties.

"Given the flooding, especially in the New Orleans area, many of these evacuees will be here for weeks, maybe even months," Huckabee said. "We want to do everything in our power to make life easier for these people."

Two buildings are open at the Arkansas State Fairgrounds in Little Rock, where more than 100 people spent Wednesday night, and another 200 to 300 people are coming every day for food, Red Cross officials said.

After two nights at a Motel 6, Jayna Young of Marrero, La., found her way to the fairgrounds shelter — along with her mother, an uncle, her husband, their two children and two dogs. Short on



Charley Welch, a bus driver for Little Rock Tours, Wednesday helps load up a bus with drinking water and food for the Hurricane Katrina relief effort.



Beverly Emery (right) and her mother-in-law Mary Parker talk Wednesday at a Red Cross shelter at Summit Arena in Hot Springs.

cash and maxed out on their credit cards, the Young family discovered that the emergency shelter was their last hope.

"This is the only place in town," she said.

Young hoped to return to her home outside New Orleans as early as next week — if just to retrieve clothing and supplies — but several others at the shelter expected to stay longer.

"We'll probably be kept out [of our homes] for a month," said Bernadette Johnson of Slidell, La., who contacted her local sheriff's office last night. "They told us if we're somewhere where we're comfortable, don't come back."

Debbie Turley, a Red Cross disaster team coordinator for Pulaski, Saline and Lonoke counties, said she planned to keep the shelter open as long as necessary.

"We'll be here until they don't need us anymore," she said.

Refugees also filled state parks in south Arkansas, where officials have said they may begin denying spots to people with reservations to provide space for the hurricane evacuees.

"We made the decision to accommodate those who cannot get back to their homes right now,"

said Greg Butts, director of Arkansas State Parks. "We've asked everybody to put themselves in the shoes of the evacuees."

Little Rock Mayor Jim Dailey and City Manager Bruce Moore are to meet with local and state emergency management officials today to map out the city's response to the disaster. Dailey said the city has been trying to keep track of the number of refugees staying in Little Rock area hotels.

"We've quite frankly never had anything like this before," Dailey said. "We know these people are going to be here for quite some time. We've got to coordinate and look at the different options we have available for them."

Moore said Little Rock officials are looking at several options for housing refugees, including possibly using vacant properties from the Little Rock Housing Authority.

"We'll make contact with other multifamily properties and look at all the housing options we have available," Moore said. "At this point, we just don't know what the overall need would be."

In Magnolia, Columbia Coun-

ty officials are concerned about what will happen if the hundreds of Gulf Coast evacuees staying in motels run out of money but can't go home. Roughly 600 people are already housed in local motels or are staying with relatives.

Sandra Matheney, executive director of the south Arkansas chapter of the American Red Cross in El Dorado, said emergency officials expect refugees in motels and shelters throughout south Arkansas to start trying to return to their homes over the next few days only to find they can't.

"They will start coming back this way and trying to find a place to stay. So it may be we have to open a shelter in Magnolia." The Red Cross has two shelters in the area: West Side Baptist Church on Hillsboro Street in El Dorado and First United Methodist Church on Harrison Street in Camden.

Columbia County Judge John Blair said Tuesday that if Columbia County opened a shelter, it would not qualify for reimbursement of its operating costs unless it is first authorized by the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management.

The state agency bases such authorization, in part, on the documented number of people needing emergency shelter. But there haven't been enough people coming through Columbia County seeking emergency shelter, and shelters elsewhere in south Arkansas haven't been filled.

In Conway, more than 200 hurricane refugees were staying in motels, said Jamie Gates, an aide to Conway Mayor Tab Townsell.

Gates said the city will provide shelter later on for any hurricane victims treated and released from the Conway hospital. Some hurricane victims whose injuries are not critical were being transported to hospitals in central Arkansas.

"Everyone in the regional health network is going to pitch

in to take care of them," Gates said. "When Conway's share is discharged, it's going to be up to us to provide shelter."

On Wednesday, the Red Cross of Faulkner County opened a shelter at Meadowlake Baptist Church in Conway. Gates said officials estimate the church can house about 30 people.

As of late Wednesday afternoon, Glenn Schenk, a Red Cross volunteer and the shelter manager at Meadowlake, said no one had taken up temporary residence at the shelter. But, Gates predicted, "Once word gets out, it will fill up instantly."

Gates said the Don Owens Sports Complex in Conway also was opening a shelter for hurricane refugees. Although it will take a day to get a full meal schedule worked out at that location, Gates said refugees would be provided food, clothing, shelter and skeleton medical services such as help getting prescription medicine refills.

More than 100 people spent the night Tuesday at the Summit Arena in Hot Springs, which is being used as an emergency shelter by the Red Cross. Hot Springs Convention and Visitors Bureau Executive Director Steve Arrison said another 100 were expected to move to the shelter from Arkadelphia.

About 40 people were staying in shelters in Washington County in Northwest Arkansas and that county's director of emergency management, John C. Luther, said many others are staying in area hotels.

Luther, president of the Arkansas Emergency Management Association — which met Wednesday for its annual conference in Little Rock — said Washington County and other areas are looking to the federal government for guidance regarding the influx of evacuees.

"What we don't know right now is the variable of time," Luther said. "How long do they need to be sheltered? For some areas, these shelters may be enough. In other jurisdictions, we may have to find something else."

As of noon Wednesday, about 125 people were staying at a Red Cross shelter in Pine Bluff's convention center, and city officials said they were preparing for more people from the Gulf Coast area.

With a heavy emphasis on keeping volunteer efforts and donations focused at the local level, church leaders, elected officials and representatives of banks and social-service agencies convened at the convention center Wednesday morning.

Encompassing 90,000 square feet, the convention center could easily house about 1,000 people, said Greg Gustek, director of the Pine Bluff Convention and Visitors Bureau.

"We are being asked as a city, as a community and as a people to step up and do something we didn't know we would have to do," Mayor Carl Redus said. "Let's give them some home-grown help."

Information for this article was contributed by Arkansas Democrat-Gazette staff writers Monica Leas, Richard Massey, Debra Hale-Shelton and the Magnolia Banner-News.

How to help

The following information is for those wishing to donate to hurricane relief efforts and for those seeking information about shelters for evacuees.

TO DONATE

American Red Cross

1 (800) HELP-NOW
www.redcross.org

Salvation Army

1 (800) SAL-ARMY
www.salvationarmy.org

Arkansas Foodbank Network

www.arkansasfoodbank.org
(501) 565-8121

Accepting monetary donations, non-perishable food, paper supplies and toiletries at 8121 Distribution Drive in Little Rock between 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or at the Fellowship Bible Church on Napa Valley Drive this Sunday between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

St. James United Methodist Church

321 Pleasant Valley Drive
(501) 225-7372

Episcopal Diocese of Arkansas

P.O. Box 164668
Little Rock, Ark. 72216

Accepting monetary donations to be sent to churches in Mississippi and Louisiana.

The Watershed

(501) 378-0176

3701 Springer Blvd., Little Rock

Accepting donations of clothing and other items.

Lonoke County sheriff's office

(501) 676-3000

Accepting donations of nonperishable food.

Griffin Leggett Funeral Homes

(501) 661-9111

Locations in Little Rock, North Little Rock, Conway and Alexander

Accepting donations of toiletries, food and water between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Clear Channel Little Rock

(501) 217-4300

Accepting donations of food and water for Feed the Children in conjunction with Arkansas Rice Depot between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. at the Clear Channel Metroplex on Colonel Glenn Road in Little Rock at least through this weekend.

Citadel Broadcasting Co.

Accepting donations of water, blankets and money at the east side of War Memorial Stadium today between 6 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Triple FM Radio Group and KAIT-TV in Jonesboro

Accepting donations of water between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. today at Indian Mall in Jonesboro.

The Banner-News

130 S. Washington St.

Magnolia, Ark. 71753

Accepting monetary donations for local Red Cross chapter.

SHELTERS

Ashley County: Crossett Readiness Center

Conway: Meadowlake Baptist Church, 2105 Meadowlake Road
El Dorado: West Side Baptist Church, (870) 863-4113

Texarkana: Emergency Preparedness Center, 821 Spruce St. (903) 793-5602; Southwest Center, 3233 West Seventh St. (903) 223-3298
Pine Bluff: Pine Bluff Convention Center

Little Rock: State Fairgrounds
Hot Springs: Summit Arena, (501) 623-9321

Chicot County: Chicot County Fairgrounds in Eudora, Lake Village High School

Dumas: First United Methodist Church
McGehee: First Baptist Church, 312 Seamans Drive, First United Methodist Church, Boys and Girls Club, McGehee Christian Center
Monticello: The Armory; the Presbyterian Home

Union County: Community Center and City Hall at Junction City; Junction City Baptist Church

West Memphis: First Baptist Church
White County: Searcy Readiness Center

More information on Arkansas hotels and emergency shelters at www.arkansas.com/special-announcements/default.asp?ID=5

Information about hotel availability in Little Rock, at 1 (800) 844-4781

For emergency information: 1 (866) GET INFO

The Red Cross is accepting calls on this number only from people who have emergencies concerning immediate family members.

Officials wondering if shelter will be needed for evacuees in Magnolia

BANNER-NEWS

MAGNOLIA — Columbia County officials are concerned about what will happen if the hundreds of Gulf Coast evacuees staying in local motels run out of money but can't go home.

Also, the government-ordered evacuation of New Orleans could send a second wave of evacuees to or through Magnolia, where roughly 600 were housed in motels or staying with relatives.

Meantime, callers to the *Banner-News* have asked about the absence of an emergency shelter

in Magnolia.

Sandra Matheney, executive director of the south Arkansas chapter of the American Red Cross in El Dorado, said emergency officials expect refugees in motels and shelters throughout south Arkansas will start trying to return to their homes in the next few days only to find they won't be able to do so.

"They will start coming back this way and trying to find a place to stay. So it may be we have to open a shelter in Magnolia. We aren't yet."

The Red Cross has two shelters in the area: West Side Baptist Church on Hillsboro Street in El Dorado and First United Methodist Church on Harrison Street in Camden.

Columbia County Judge John Blair said Tuesday that if Columbia County opened a shelter, it would not qualify for reimbursement of its operating costs unless it is first authorized by the state Department of Emergency Management.

The state agency bases such authorization, in part, on the

documented number of people who need emergency shelter. But there haven't been enough people coming through Columbia County seeking emergency shelter, and shelters elsewhere in south Arkansas haven't been filled.

Blair invited people who need emergency shelter — or people who know of others who need shelter as a result of Hurricane Katrina — to call his office at (870) 234-2542. A sufficient number of calls from people who need shelter could help Blair convince state officials

that a shelter should be opened in Magnolia.

Meantime, church and civic leaders have begun serving evening meals for refugees. Wednesday's meal was set for 6 p.m. at Union Street Station, 406 W. Union. Central Baptist Church will host a meal in its fellowship hall, West Union at North Vine, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. today. First United Methodist Church, if needed, will host a meal in its fellowship hall, West Main at North Jefferson, from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. Friday.

Search

• Continued from Page 1A

"It is total hell here. I can't see how Mother Nature can be so mean."

Early Wednesday, Biloxi's streets were eerily quiet. Except for a few busy utility workers, no one could be heard. Dogs, apparently separated from their owners, ran freely around the city and drank floodwater.

In a residential area near Biloxi's waterfront, several emerald tinted dogs ran by. Before Katrina, a nearby shop sold fishing nets that were dyed green. Once Katrina struck, the vats of dye colored the water, causing the strange hue seen on a few pit bulls and Rottweilers.

Brothers Will and Robby Champagne, who drove all the way to Florida on Tuesday to get ice, stopped by to see the remnants of the U.S. 90 bridge that once connected Biloxi and Ocean Springs.

Ice and gasoline are hot commodities. Few southern Missis-

sippi gas stations have re-opened and lines at Alabama service stations stretched for miles.

The Champagne brothers stocked up on about 90 gallons of gasoline before Katrina made landfall. Clean clothes, on the other hand, are hard to find.

"I'm wearing my brother's clothes and I have been for days," Robby Champagne said.

Some of Biloxi's old mansions have been damaged, others destroyed.

Beauvoir, the final home of Jefferson Davis, president of the Confederacy, was heavily damaged.

Built in 1854, the house was a pile of rubble with some of the frame still standing.

Darrin Noble spent much of Tuesday and Wednesday picking through the rubble of what was once his mother's home.

On Oak Street, a block from the space where Biloxi's casinos operated, Phyllis Brown's house was the oldest on the block and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

Even though looters targeted

In a residential area near Biloxi's waterfront, several emerald tinted dogs ran by. Before Katrina, a nearby shop sold fishing nets that were dyed green. Once Katrina struck, the vats of dye colored the water, causing the strange hue seen on a few pit bulls and Rottweilers.

the hard-hit areas of Biloxi and Gulfport, Noble said he wasn't concerned about losing precious items.

"There ain't nothing here worth picking over," Noble

said. "The only stuff here is the sentimental stuff that I want to find."

Noble found one truckload of items — old soda bottles that were bottled in Biloxi decades ago, the top of a 100-year-old chandelier and a mud-filled toolbox. He planned to return until he was certain nothing else remained.

"You figure that this home was built in 1885. It's been through like 20 storms," Noble said. "It takes one like this to wipe us out. We've got nothing."

GULFPORT RAVAGED

Just west from Biloxi on the coast, past the "Welcome to Gulfport" sign is a leveled gas station. Debris lines the median of U.S. 49, the southern route into town. There are holes in McDonald's golden arches. The Home Depot may need a new roof.

A pristine row of new 10-gallon hats still lines the wall at Rodeos Boot Outlet. The front of the store is in shreds.

Katrina tore most traffic lights in town off their cables

and those that remain aren't working. Police officers directed traffic Wednesday.

The downtown and beachfront areas were ravaged by the storm. Scraps of wood and metal are everywhere; fence boards, doors and signs are all shredded.

The town smells of sewage and rot and saltwater. Close to the shore, few buildings are unscathed.

Near the railroad tracks blocks away from the shore an upside down boat came to rest against a powerline, worse for the wear but still emblazoned with "Endorphin, Long Beach MS."

Another boat is wedged into the first floor of the Best Western Beach View Inn.

Marsha Sowders, 54, said that she stayed in a third-floor room of a friend's hotel as the hurricane pummeled Gulfport. "All I saw was the cars washing by," Sowders said.

Information for this article was contributed by Katherine Marks of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/MICHELLE POSEY

Jason Davis carries an American flag he found Wednesday in the debris in Biloxi, Miss.

Katrina set loose medical problems Shelter at fairgrounds expands for evacuees

BY NELL SMITH
AND CHARLOTTE TUBBS
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Three days before New Orleans resident Joyce Soublet was scheduled to deliver her fourth child, she and her family found themselves driving 16½ hours to escape the coming hurricane.

Without her medical records or the blood the 39-year-old had stored for her planned Caesar-section, the family passed each highway exit wondering if they should stop. Soublet suffers from gestational diabetes and fibroids make removing her uterus necessary, she said. Her condition, coupled with her age, makes her pregnancy high-risk.

Hotel rooms were scarce on the road if available at all, and Soublet didn't know where the south Arkansas hospitals were. She could only hope they would make it to Pine Bluff, where some of her family live.

"What if I went into labor?" she said she thought. "I'm in the middle of nowhere, and we didn't know how far was far enough."

Luckily, Soublet said, she and her family arrived in Pine Bluff safely and she is scheduled for a C-section Friday at Jefferson Regional Medical Center.

Health-care providers across the state have only begun to see people like Soublet — those who have fled Louisiana and Mississippi and now need medical help. Cancer patients need radiation treatment, hospital officials say. People with kidney failure need dialysis. And those with chronic ailments like diabetes and heart disease need prescriptions filled.

Hospital officials from Little Rock to El Dorado said Wednesday that they have seen few evacuees, but they expect to see more the longer Louisiana resi-

dents stay away from home and their usual health-care providers. Hospitals were also preparing to possibly admit patients from New Orleans hospitals that had shut down.

Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock accepted two patients from a New Orleans hospital and expected to receive more. The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Medical Center and the Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System also geared up to accept patients.

The National Disaster Medical System activated 16 hospitals nationwide, said UAMS spokesman Leslie Taylor. Now those hospitals can receive patients from facilities in the disaster areas. None of the activated hospitals was in Arkansas, she said.

St. Vincent Infirmary Medical Center in Little Rock agreed to accept 46 patients from Toro Infirmary in New Orleans, which was encountering flooding on patient floors and dwindling power. But about an hour later St. Vincent officials learned those patients were being taken to a closer hospital instead.

The Arkansas Hospital Association and the state Division of Health began assessing the availability of beds in hospitals across the state. The Arkansas Medical Society, the industry group for doctors, told physicians to do their best to treat evacuees who arrive in their offices.

More patients could strain clinics in rural Arkansas, where doctors already run busy practices, said David Wroten, the Medical Society's executive vice president.

"Their offices are already full," he said. "And this is going to add to it."

On Wednesday afternoon Gov. Mike Huckabee issued an

emergency proclamation allowing Arkansas pharmacists to refill prescriptions for one month for hurricane evacuees.

State code 17-92-102 allows pharmacists who cannot obtain authorization from the prescriber to refill prescriptions for 72 hours. It also states the pharmacist should use professional judgment to determine if the interruption of drug therapy could cause "undesirable health consequences or may cause physical or mental discomfort."

The Arkansas Board of Pharmacy began receiving calls Monday from Arkadelphia, Hot Springs and Texarkana pharmacists needing to refill prescriptions for evacuees. On Wednesday the board was receiving calls from concerned pharmacists across the state, said John Kirtley, assistant director of the board.

"We've just got to get the word out to the pharmacists," Kirtley said after Huckabee's proclamation.

Lorri Taylor, a pharmacist at the North Little Rock Wal-Mart on East McCain Boulevard, said about 50 out-of-state patients since Monday afternoon have sought refills at the pharmacy. Wal-Mart's prescription network allowed her to refill the prescriptions of those patients with Wal-Mart prescriptions. But Huckabee's proclamation came as a relief for out-of-state patients who do not have their prescriptions with the retailer.

"We've had some people really concerned about the issue — people with seizures, people with heart conditions who really need to be on their medication daily and not miss any doses," Taylor said.

Randy Wyatt, executive director of the Arkansas Healthcare Association, said he was check-

ing for vacancies at the state's nursing homes Wednesday. Although the association had not received any requests to accept patients from states affected by the hurricane, Wyatt and nursing home staff are making preparations.

As of July the state had 3,000 to 4,000 vacant nursing home beds. If an influx of nursing home patients arrives in Arkansas, nursing home staff members will be asked to work extra shifts and more staff may be recruited, Wyatt said.

Other agencies are working to address refugees' other needs. The state Department of Health and Human Services was trying to help Louisiana food stamp recipients use their benefits in Arkansas. The agency was also trying to organize a group of its employees — doctors and nurses — to volunteer with hurricane relief in the devastated areas.

Some Arkansas health-care workers headed south to aid the hurricane victims.

On Tuesday six crewmen of two Arkansas helicopter ambulances left for the Gulf Coast.

Air Evac Lifeteam, a rural air ambulance provider based in West Plains, Mo., sent crew from its Arkansas bases in Marianna and Vilonia as well as from five other company bases in other states.

The crews — pilots, nurses and medics — will assist state emergency officials with evacuating the injured, the sick or others who require evacuation. Crewmen will serve on a rotating basis, said Julie Heavrin, public relations manager for the Air Evac Lifeteam.

Hundreds of crewmen have volunteered to help with evacuations in the devastated area, Heavrin said.

Red Cross opens 3 buildings for refugees

BY MONICA LEAS
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

They are not hungry for food — the spaghetti lunches do just fine for that.

They are hungry for information — the whereabouts of loved ones, the condition of the homes they left behind, the clearance to turn around and head back.

Many of the more than 100 hurricane refugees at the Red Cross shelter at the State Fairgrounds in Little Rock spent Wednesday resting, chatting and waiting for word.

"We're trying to get in touch with the people we left behind," said Bernadette Johnson, who came from Slidell, La., with 27 family members. "We've been in contact with a few of them, but there are others we haven't reached."

The group has set up a makeshift office, with a laptop computer and printer at the end of a row of cots and mattresses. They are keeping a list of relatives they have heard from, another for those who are missing. Shelter newcomers add names of their own loved ones.

A steady flow of new arrivals walked through the door of the Farm and Ranch building on Wednesday afternoon. Many had run out of money for hotel rooms and were settling in for stays of at least several more days.

The shelter expanded Wednesday to the Arts and Crafts building next door. Together with the Hall of Industry, the buildings will house about 300 people, said Debbie Turley, a disaster team coordinator with the Red Cross.

"They are running out of money quickly," Turley said of the refugees. "And they're coming here quite quickly."

As some Red Cross volunteers signed in new evacuees, others spoke with Arkansans who wanted to help the evacuees.

Massage therapist Chris Carden, a stay-at-home dad from Shannon Hills, showed up Wednesday with his own table and gave free massages to about a dozen folks.

"You can give money, you can give food, but if you have a skill, you can give that too," he said

before leaving to pick up his children at school.

One man who owned a sausage company wanted to donate sausages, another wanted to cook a meal at the shelter. Three Sam's Club employees showed up with a pickup full of diapers and asked what else was needed.

Sean and Tricia Wallace of Jacksonville arrived with their 1½-month-old son Alex. They wanted to offer one stranded family a spare room in their home.

"I know how this is," said Sean Wallace, an Air Force staff sergeant who said the concrete floors and rows of cots reminded him of time spent in the barracks. "It's cramped with no privacy."

Turley said monetary donations to the Red Cross are the best way to help the relief efforts. Still, crates of Vienna sausages, saltines and water piled up at the entrance where newcomers checked in.

Despite squeals of babies and the quiet buzz of teenagers playing video games, the vibe of the shelter was calm and cordial Wednesday afternoon. Some children had just returned from a trip to a local recreation center. Other refugees were en route to visit a clinic that had offered a free visit and medication samples.

Nathaniel Vaughn of New Orleans had returned from the Baptist Health Medical Center on Wednesday morning, where he was treated for a knee injury. He checked into the shelter after running out of money for a hotel.

"I ran out of cash," he said, sitting at the edge of his designated cot, his leg outstretched. He has no car, no way to get home. In fact, he has no home to return to, he said.

"It's not there anymore," he said of the four-bedroom home that had belonged to his grandparents. He learned it had either crumbled in the storm or floated away.

With an appreciation for Arkansas after his first-ever visit, Vaughn considered another option — staying put.

"I kind of like it out here," he said. "The air is better up here."

Ham radio operators listen to, aid rescue efforts

BY VAN JENSEN
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The words spilled out of the small speaker, some a garble of static, others clear as day.

"Canal Street ... trapped in a building ... one person with a wheelchair ..."

Dale Temple sat at his command center in his North Little Rock home, listening to the constant stream of emergency messages coming from the Louisiana and Mississippi coasts. Two small boxes rested on his desk, one a radio receiver, the other a tuner to capture a broad range of radio waves, both wired to an antenna that reaches 20 feet above his house's eaves.

Temple serves as president of the Central Arkansas Radio Emergency Net and, more casually, is known as an amateur or ham radio operator.

The advent of cellular phones, the Internet, e-mail and text mes-



Democrat-Gazette/KAREN E. SEGRAVE
Dale Temple of North Little Rock monitors broadcasts Wednesday from other ham radio operators in Louisiana and Mississippi.

and who they need to coordinate with," he said to a caller from Children's Hospital. "I can tell them what they're getting into. ... The floodwater continues to rise. It's contaminated with sewage, gasoline, chemicals and dead bodies. Not necessarily in that order."

Temple then picked up his radio microphone.

"What's the status of the Tulane Hospital? Over."

"All hospitals are being evacuated," a voice answered.

"We have a hospital here sending an aircraft down to get patients," Temple said.

"Thank you, Dale."

Some three million people

worldwide count ham radio as a hobby, according to the online encyclopedia Wikipedia. That includes some three thousand Arkansans, according to Temple.

One of them, North Little Rock ham Don Gephardt, had planned to accompany a Southern Baptist group taking supplies to refugees in Mississippi on Tuesday. But, because of a family matter, he stayed behind, instead turning to his radio to help however he could.

In his basement, surrounded by old board games and exercise equipment, Gephardt rolled a tuning knob with his right index finger, surfing between broadcasts of ongoing rescue missions and relief teams trying to decide where to take water, ice and tents.

Usually, there's not too much traffic on the ham wavelengths, said Gephardt, who has had a radio since 1976. But the past few days have been as busy as he's ever heard it.

"They will move people from the New Orleans Astrodome to the Houston Astrodome," a voice crackled from the speaker as Gephardt leaned forward, listening closely.

"That's going to be quite an undertaking," a voice answered.

Gephardt planned to stay tuned throughout Wednesday, waiting for a message from a

ham operator who went with the Southern Baptist group. Gephardt will relay messages to the state's emergency-response office.

It's been at least 50 years since ham radios have seen so much use, Temple said. No one had foreseen the need.

"This is something we need to work on for the future," he said. "But we're into this damn thing now."

As he listened, Temple jotted information on a pad, in case his services were needed.

sages had long rendered obsolete ham radio, which consists of individuals using small radios and powerful antennas to talk over long distances.

But when Hurricane Katrina crashed ashore, bowling over cell towers, knocking out power and wreaking havoc on every communication network, ham radio once again became the best way to relay information.

Tuesday, Temple listened in as President Bush — yes, the president, himself — radioed New Orleans. However, Mayor Ray Nagin wasn't available.


The first transmissions from the Gulf began to reach Arkansas late Monday. Many counties in Louisiana and Mississippi have ham equipment in their emergency-operations centers. Temple started tuning in Tuesday afternoon, and stayed at it until 10 p.m. He was back at the radio by 5 a.m. Wednesday, spending most of the day at his desk.

Beyond just listening in, ham operators far from the scene can assist rescue and relief teams. An operator in Arkansas can sometimes relay messages between two radio operators who otherwise could not reach one another.

As he listened, Temple jotted information on a pad, in case his services were needed.

He then spent almost 30 minutes trying to coordinate an effort by Arkansas Children's Hospital to fly to New Orleans to rescue patients from Tulane Hospital.

"We need to know what authority they're going down on




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Arkansans in Congress to back aid for storm-torn states

BY PAUL BARTON
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

WASHINGTON — Arkansans members of Congress said Wednesday that they would support an emergency financial-aid package for Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, the states that bore the brunt of Hurricane Katrina.

Also, they are hearing from constituents who want to help, the lawmakers said, and they are staying in touch with congressmen who represent the stricken states.

"They know we are there to give any help that we can," Democratic Sen. Blanche Lincoln said in an interview.

Lincoln said her heart goes out to the whole region. "My thoughts and prayers are certainly with the families that have lost loved ones and have loved ones unaccounted for. The unknown

is just awful."

Trips to New Orleans, she said, were a special part of growing up in the Arkansas part of the Mississippi Delta. Many Arkansans feel a strong bond with the devastated area, she added.

"That's a comfort to know that the people of Arkansas feel a part of the mid-South family and the American family," Lincoln said.

Constituents were calling her offices all day Tuesday, she said, with questions and suggestions about how to help.

Arkansas' senior senator also said there is no question that coping with the hurricane will be high on the agenda when Congress returns next week.

"If it's not the first thing out of the gates, I don't know what would be," Lincoln said.

Rep. Marion Berry, also a Democrat, said in an interview

that he had constituents offering use of trucks and generators. One man called and said he could offer 60 construction jobs to hurricane victims.

"We've not faced anything like this before," the 1st Congressional District representative said. "The outpouring of a willingness to help from all communities is something that warms your heart and makes you proud."

When Congress is back in session, he said, members should put partisanship aside to address hurricane relief.

"Every American and a lot of people outside this country are going to feel the impact of this storm," Berry said.

Others had similar comments.

"First and foremost, we need to pray, pray for the people of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama," Democratic Rep. Mike

Ross said in an interview. "This will clearly go down as one of the worst natural disasters in our nation's history."

Sen. Mark Pryor, in a statement, expressed similar sentiments.

"My thoughts and prayers are with the hundreds of thousands of Americans that are in harm's way along the Gulf Coast and those displaced by Hurricane Katrina," the first-term Democrat said.

"In the past two days, I have talked with Senators in the affected states and asked what they need and how I could help. I assured them that when Congress returned next week, I would stand with them to make certain their states receive the resources they need to rebuild and recover from the tragedy."

Rep. Vic Snyder, a Democrat, said he, too, would support con-

gressional action.

"At some point, there will be a need for a very large emergency appropriation to help these states, and it may well be soon," Snyder said in an interview, adding that he can only imagine the "levels of frustration" affecting officials and residents of the devastated areas.

said in an interview that he, too, thinks Congress will rush to put together an aid package. "I think that's just a given."

Boozman and Berry both released a list of charitable organizations that people could call to offer assistance. Those wanting the names of the organizations can call their offices. Berry's number is (202) 225-4076 Boozman's is (202) 225-4301.

Gas, water, electricity short for inland Mississippi

BY ANDY DAVIS
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The power in Hattiesburg, Miss., was still out Wednesday, and drinking water, for those who had it, had to be boiled. Gasoline and ice were precious commodities.

With damaged buildings, looted businesses and trees strewn across roads, Mayor Johnny DuPree said the city of about 44,000 looked like "a war zone."

"You name it, and we have the problem," DuPree said. "We have 100 percent without power. We were 100 percent without water until early this morning."

After Hurricane Katrina ravaged New Orleans and the Gulf Coast, it left a swath of destruction across central and southern Mississippi.

Residents in cities such as Hattiesburg, Jackson and Meridian struggled Wednesday without electricity, and repairs to power lines were expected to take weeks.

Residents in some cities were without water or under boil advisories. The lack of electricity also put many gas stations out of com-

mission, leading to long lines and shortages at the ones that stayed open with generators.

On top of that, the cities struggled to deal with evacuees from the coast.

"It's just really tough right now," said Maureen Lofton, an assistant for governmental affairs in Meridian. "We're not the Gulf Coast — and we're counting our blessings for that — but there's no doubt whatsoever that we have been impacted by this storm."

All 195,000 customers of Mississippi Power, which serves the coast as well as Hattiesburg and Meridian, lost electricity during the storm. By Wednesday, electricity had been restored to only about 5,000 customers, primarily in the Meridian area.

More than 220,000 of Entergy Mississippi's 410,000 customers also remained without electricity Wednesday, spokesman Checky Herrington said.

"It is unimaginable," said Herrington, whose company serves customers in western Mississippi, including Jackson. "We were preparing for the worst and hoping for the best, but no scenario [was]

as bad as we're experiencing. It's much worse than we feared."

In Hattiesburg, about 70 miles from the coast, the storm damaged several buildings and killed seven people, DuPree said. Because of the lack of electricity and broken waterlines, more than half of the city was without running water Wednesday, and those who had it were under a boil advisory.

With no working traffic signals, police struggled to direct traffic, prevent looting and keep order as long lines formed at the few gas stations that operated on generators, he said.

The city also was sheltering about 800 evacuees from the coast in a multipurpose building, he said.

"You have long lines for gasoline. You have long lines for ice, and you have to have police staff those to keep those moving," DuPree said.

In Jackson, a city of about 180,000, the storm tore the roof off Scott Stringer's downtown furniture store and also ripped off the roof of a building across the street. Several other buildings were damaged.

The Clarion Ledger of Jackson reported that electricity was restored to the city's water treatment plant late Tuesday, but residents were being advised to boil water at least until the weekend.

Stringer said much of the area remained without electricity Wednesday, and most of the gas stations were closed.

"Power and gas, that's the main thing," Stringer said. "We're back to camping."

In Meridian, a city of about 40,000 near the state's eastern boundary, the storm damaged hundreds of houses and several businesses, and one man was killed after a tree fell on him, Lofton said.

The city, already hosting about 1,000 evacuees, learned Wednesday afternoon that it would become a "regional evacuation center," Lofton said.

"A lot of these smaller cities around us have simply run out of resources," Lofton said. "They don't have water, they don't have food, they don't have baby food, they don't have anything. So they're starting to send a lot of their evacuees to us."

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A city beyond desperation

DJs air trapped victims' despair

BY AMY UPSHAW
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

BATON ROUGE — The voices are thick with resignation and frustration.

"How can we get food?" one woman sighed Thursday morning as she explained that she and her family, including six children, were stuck in their home on First Street in New Orleans and hadn't eaten in two days.

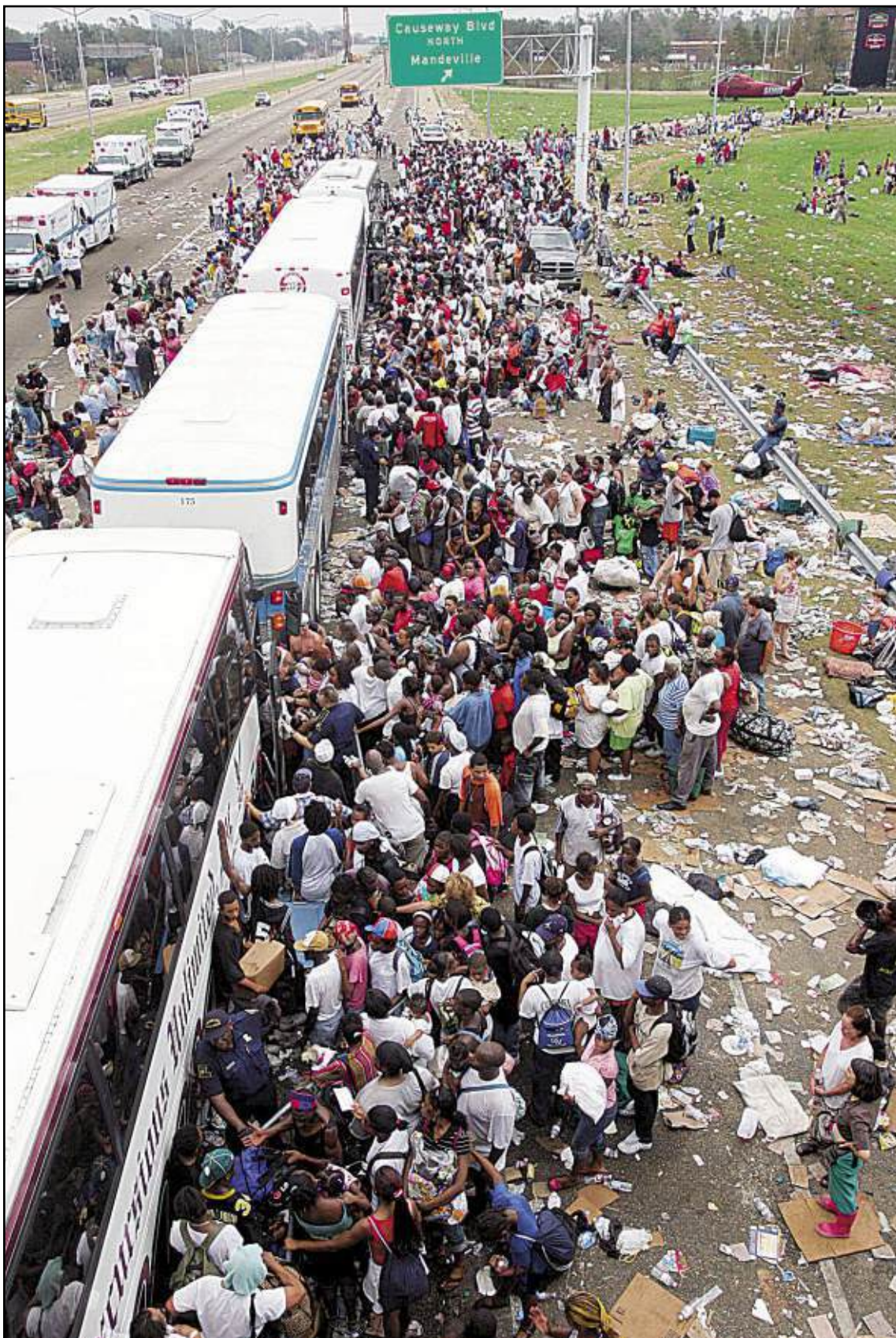
"We've been trying to get the rescue squad to come and get us."

But no one, she said, had stopped. As she waited to be rescued, red ants crawled up her stairs and were "eating us alive."

The woman was among hundreds of people calling a group of southern Louisiana radio stations that have consolidated their operations in an effort to stay on the air despite the damage Hurricane Katrina inflicted on the region.

Some telephone lines remain in operation around New Orleans. Cellular phone connections were spotty or unavailable along the coast in Louisiana and Mississippi.

The broadcast companies
See **DESPAIR**, Page 8A



Associated Press

New Orleans residents trying to get out of the devastated city crowd buses Thursday at an evacuation area on Interstate 10 at Metairie, La.



Associated Press

A mother comes to tears Thursday outside the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans as she waits with others for a way out after orders for evacuation.

Help slow in coming, chaotic, say small-town Gulf Coast residents

BY KATHERINE MARKS
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

BAY ST. LOUIS, Miss. — The concrete pathways circling the gymnasium and auditorium at Bay High School are covered with small encampments.

Laundry washed in plastic bins hangs from makeshift clotheslines. And many at the school being used for an emergency shelter in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina said Thursday that they were still waiting for hot food, medicine and relief that is painfully slow in coming.

Shelter volunteers are doing the best they can to care for those who are sick or injured, said Tony Barlow, 42, formerly of 306 Peron St., in neighboring Waveland.

"It's really a lack of organization," Barlow said. "It's catch as catch can."

People at the shelter need gasoline so that those with cars can get to relatives, he said. They need medicine such as insulin and high blood pressure drugs. And that's not all.

"We need all the antibiotics

we can get," said Barlow. "Everyone has scratches and everyone was in that sewer water."

Bay St. Louis is one of dozens of Gulf Coast communities inundated Monday when Hurricane Katrina came ashore as a Category 4 hurricane. The storm killed more than 125 people in Mississippi and injured many more. While many fled before the storm struck, some stayed behind and tried to weather its fury.

Paula Manning, 47; her husband
See **COAST**, Page 11A

Police no match for angry streets

Editor's note: Reporter C.S. Murphy prepared this report with information from staff members, The Associated Press, The Times-Picayune of New Orleans and The Washington Post.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

NEW ORLEANS — Pandemonium continued to reign in New Orleans on Thursday.

Storm victims were raped and beaten, fights and fires broke out, corpses lay exposed to the sultry air, and rescue helicopters and law enforcement officers were shot at as the flooded city descended into anarchy.

"This is a desperate SOS," Mayor Ray Nagin said.

Anger mounted across the ruined city, with thousands of storm victims growing hungry, desperate and tired of waiting for buses to take them out.

An estimated 15,000 to 20,000 people who had taken shelter at the Superdome and the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center to await buses grew increasingly hostile. Police Chief Eddie Compass III said he sent in 88 officers to quell the situation in the building, but they were quickly beaten back by an angry mob.

"We have individuals who are getting raped, we have individuals who are getting beaten," Compass said. "Tourists are walking in that direction, and they are getting preyed upon."

Watching the slow procession from the Superdome, an angry Terry Ebbert, head of New Orleans' emergency operations, said the Federal Emergency Management Agency response was inadequate.

"This is a national disgrace. FEMA has been here three days, yet there is no command and



Associated Press

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff announces plans Thursday in Washington to send 1,400 more National Guardsmen into New Orleans.

control," Ebbert said. "We can send massive amounts of aid to tsunami victims, but we can't bail out the city of New Orleans. We have got a mayor who has been pushing and asking, but we're not getting supplies."

He said the evacuation was almost entirely a Louisiana operation. "This is not a FEMA operation. I haven't seen a single FEMA guy."

FEMA chief Michael Brown defended the government's response to Hurricane Katrina as "unprecedented," saying workers are doing everything possible to quicken the relief effort.

"They are doing every single thing they can and meeting every single request," Brown told reporters at a televised news conference in Baton Rouge.
See **KATRINA**, Page 8A

Arkansas takes on good-neighbor role

Groups, individuals pitching in

BY JAKE BLEED
AND ANDREW DEMILLO
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Arkansas allotted \$10 million to help refugees of Hurricane Katrina on Thursday and launched a registry to track the growing number of people who have fled into the state from Louisiana and Mississippi.

State and local officials are struggling to determine exactly how many people have fled to Arkansas as housing and employment needs grow for the refugees of Hurricane Katrina.

Gov. Mike Huckabee said the \$10 million would come from a disaster-relief fund and he expected federal emergency officials to airlift people from Louisiana and Mississippi into the state as early as Thursday night.

"Right now we don't know how many people from Louisiana or Mississippi might be in the state," Huckabee told reporters. "We don't know how many folks have come here. We've got to get a handle on that. We've got to be able to start thinking about their needs on a long-term basis."

To that end, Huckabee also announced an effort to register the thousands who have already arrived in Arkansas.

As of Thursday more than 1,400 people are staying at 64 shelters around the state, according to figures released by the state Department of Emergency Management. That figure doesn't include countless others who are staying in such places

See **RELIEF**, Page 10A



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/MICHELLE POSEY

Dot Miazza of Gulfport, Miss., takes a handgun from her neighbor, Chris Schrantz, who loaded it for her, as another neighbor, Steve Meade (left), talks about looters in the neighborhood on Thursday.

ON THE INSIDE



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WEATHER

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D.C. call to meet over Katrina crisis pleases delegation

BY PAUL BARTON
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

WASHINGTON — U.S. House and Senate leaders on Thursday called for an emergency session of Congress to pass a \$10.5 billion emergency appropriation to help victims of Hurricane Katrina.

The Senate approved the emergency measure Thursday night, and the House will convene at noon today to speed it to President Bush's desk.

The move met with immediate approval from members of the Arkansas delegation, some of whom said in interviews that they regard Katrina as being on the same scale as 9/11 in terms of shaking the national psyche.

The package will be approved

by voice vote, a step that eliminates the need for all 535 members to rush back to Washington. Congressional officials said \$10 billion in relief aid would go to FEMA, the government's first-line defender in case of natural disasters. The remainder is designated for the Pentagon, which has dispatched ships and other assistance to aid in the relief effort.

Passing the aid package, Rep. Mike Ross said, "sends a message to the American people that we are united behind the victims of this terrible disaster. This is America. In times of need, we come together."

"I was fully prepared to fly back to Washington for that vote," said Ross, a Democrat.

But Rep. Vic Snyder, also a Democrat, said the aid package is so noncontroversial that there was no reason "to spend tax dollars to fly back for a vote that no one is going to object to."

Meanwhile, Arkansas members continued to be jolted by developments along the battered Gulf Coast.

"You almost want to cry when you see the human suffering that is taking place," said Rep. John Boozman, the delegation's only Republican.

Boozman said he has tried to assess whether his staff could help if it traveled to the affected areas. So far, he said, he's learned there is little they could do.

The images continue to be

"horrific," said Sen. Blanche Lincoln, a Democrat.

The aid package that Congress approves will only be a down payment on what is eventually needed, Arkansas members said.

"It is going to be phenomenal," Lincoln said.

Snyder said, "It is very clear there is going to be a need for tens of billions of additional appropriations."

Ross said it will be weeks before Congress knows everything that needs to be done to help the region. "This is the beginning of a very long process," he said.

Similarly, Rep. Marion Berry said it would be "premature" for Congress to pass an all-encompassing aid package now. New

issues will continue to surface related to Katrina's aftermath.

Said Sen. Mark Pryor, a Democrat, "I want to make sure the federal government is doing everything it can do."

As with 9/11, "We all hurt and we all want to do our part," Ross said.

Boozman agreed: "As far as disrupting the country, this along with 9/11 are probably the two instances that have affected our country on our home ground as anything since the Civil War."

Lincoln, too, said the hurricane will rank with 9/11. "As we begin to see what has happened in terms of fatalities, I think it will be," she said.

However, Snyder said: "They are so completely different, I don't think there is a point in comparing them. One of them is an act of war ... the other is an act of nature."

But Pryor said he could see comparisons. "I think this is a very traumatic event," he said. "The future of New Orleans is very uncertain right now."

Information for this article was contributed by The Associated Press.

Battered Biloxi



The photo at left, taken Sunday, shows Biloxi, Miss., before Hurricane Katrina hit. At right, the same area of Biloxi, photographed Wednesday, shows the magnitude of destruction delivered by the storm.

Devastation stuns residents of Slidell area

BY JIM BROOKS
AND AMY UPSHAW
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

SLIDELL, La. — Robert White walked in calf-high water out of the neighborhood he had lived in for 35 years on Thursday wearing only Velcro tennis shoes with no socks and dingy pants rolled up to his knees.

He was finally leaving after spending three days in his attic, dodging the floodwaters that Hurricane Katrina sent down his street and into his home.

"That water came up within 15 minutes," White, 76, said, slogging through the water that smelled of oil and moldy clothes. "It had so much power it broke my back door in half."

White's neighbor Phyllis Anderson returned home Tuesday after the storm to find the destruction.

"Thirty-four years of scrimping and saving," she said.



Jesse Galloway searches through debris Thursday for remnants of his mobile home southeast of Slidell, La., on Lake Pontchartrain at the intersection of Louisiana 433 and U.S. 90.

Several smaller boats littered the levee surrounding The Moorings, an upscale housing development severely damaged by Katrina.

In a nearby development, a stray American flag was entangled in a tree. Across the street, a black bra hung from a branch.

The most horrific landscape, however, revealed a broad expanse of lumber from what use to be houses, some of the fragments reduced to the size of matchsticks. The everyday articles of life, including a basketball in the familiar purple and yellow colors of the Louisiana State University Tigers, lay next to an empty bird cage.

Carl Quinn has lived in Slidell for 18 years, and the former U.S. Marine takes pride in weathering a number of the area's past hurricanes.

He remained in his home as Katrina pounded ashore with 145 mph winds and a 25-foot storm surge.

"The wind blew from the east and then stopped, so I went outside and started raking up the debris and the wind shifted to the west," he said. Because his home is on the city's north side, it escaped the damage of the deadly storm surge.

Quinn said the hurricane tore only three shingles from

his roof.

East of the city, Richard and Leslie Capdebos stood in the sun, selling produce from the building housing the grocery store and farmer's market they operated before Katrina ripped away its walls.

Instead of letting the food go to waste, the couple, who lost their own home, tried to make what little money they could.

"Commerce has all but stopped in this part of the state. People are so appreciative," Richard Capdebos said as his wife took \$5 for a bag of fresh fruit. "I have to pay for all this stuff anyway."

He had two looters, including one who filled a shopping cart with goods, grabbed the price signs and began walking away.

"I told him to put it back," Richard Capdebos said. "He lunged at me and I had to pull a pistol." A nearby police officer arrested the looter and took him to jail, he said.

The worst damage in the Slidell area appeared to be in the Treasure Island community and Rigolets Marina, less than 10 miles southeast of the city. None of the hundred or so homes that ringed the lake appeared salvageable.

On a utility pole still standing amid debris piled at least 10

feet high, a red and white sign advertised, "Waterfront property for sale."

There was nothing but shattered bits from flattened homes on the available property.

The community of Rigolets Marina, at the intersection of Louisiana 433 and U.S. 90, was obliterated.

"Pretty unreal," said Whit Brown, who two weeks ago finished building a retirement home 10 miles farther west. He doubts it survived.

Before the hurricane, the Treasure Island community was a lush marsh with nice camps, lots of fishing and beautiful sunset, Brown said.

"I was just easing into semi-retirement," the entomologist said.

Now he describes the Treasure Island neighborhood as a "paradise lost."



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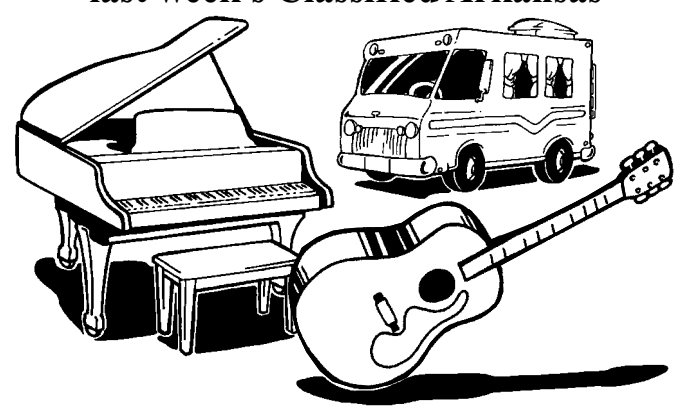
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Post office makes plans for disaster-area mail

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The post office set up locations Thursday for residents of the area devastated by Hurricane Katrina to pick up their first-of-the-month checks, and said it is no longer accepting magazines or bulk mail for delivery to the damaged area.

Dozens of post offices were closed and mail service was suspended in parts of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. But officials said they are working to get mail to people.

"We realize how important it is to get this mail through," Deputy Postmaster General

Patrick Donahoe said in a telephone interview.

Vital mail includes such things as Social Security and pension checks, paychecks, insurance forms and medicine shipped by mail.

Thousands of people have been evacuated from their homes and Donahoe urged them to contact the post office with their new address, even if it is temporary.

"Change your address, the mail will follow you," he said.

First-class mail for New Orleans is currently being held in Dallas and will be forwarded from there, Donahoe said.

Meanwhile, the agency has set up temporary centers where people can pick up their Social Security checks and public assistance checks.

Postal officials estimated about 30,000 such checks were affected, 10,000 in New Orleans and 20,000 in other affected areas.

Pickup centers have been set up in Escatawpa, Biloxi and Gulfport, Miss., and in Louisiana at Hammond, Covington, LaPlace and Des Allemands. Plans for a pickup center in Alabama were dropped after officials said they expected to be able to resume deliveries there.

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Bus trips out of New Orleans an exercise in confusion

BY BROOKE ANDERSON
AND RAINER SABIN
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

It will only get better from here, a National Guardsman said Thursday as he herded hurricane victims onto a bus as they evacuated the Superdome in the heart of flooded New Orleans.

It could hardly get worse for this busload of refugees. Most had only the clothes on their backs and many had lost their shoes from wading through the flooded streets.

The bus was one of hundreds used Thursday to evacuate the thousands of people who took shelter at the Superdome as a result of Hurricane Katrina. But despite what the guardsman said, it didn't get better for the evacuees who were filled with optimism as they rode off.

On the trip to Baton Rouge, refugees recalled the horrors of leaving their homes behind in the wake of the hurricane. They also shared horror stories from the time they spent in the Superdome.

"This is the best thing to happen to us in four days," said Carla Brumfield of the trip to Baton Rouge. She said she had decided to stay in New Orleans because previous storms never turned out as bad as authorities had predicted.

Five hours later, the bus arrived in Baton Rouge, a 70-mile drive, and took the passengers to the city's convention center.

There, confusion began. Some people at the convention center said it was filled to capacity with refugees, while others said space would be made for the new busload of refugees. The weary group of hurricane victims found it hard to fight back tears.

Many families became separated in the confusion, and many were herded onto different buses for a trip to Lafayette, La.

This was only one of literally hundreds of stories surrounding the evacuation of thousands of refugees in New Orleans.

Lenwyn Hollins and his family managed to escape from a mostly destroyed public housing project in New Orleans on Wednesday. Rescue workers took him by boat to a staging area, where he and his family were put on a bus to Houston. The journey was "uncomfortable," he said, but Hollins said he plans to relocate to the area.

"It looks like we've found a new home, here in Houston," Hollins said. "It seems like a nice city and it's funny, we had talked about coming down here sometime to look around, but just not under circumstances like this."

Hollins said he and his family are looking into employment opportunities and hope to earn enough money to find their own place.

"It's funny how the Lord helps you out sometimes," he said.

Gina Martin, a co-owner of Little Rock Tours, said her company endured a frustrating experience as it attempted to send three of its buses to the Superdome to help evacuate refugees temporarily housed there.

Martin was hoping that food loaded in the luggage-storage compartments of the buses before departure from Little Rock would be distributed to the victims. However, authorities outside the Superdome ordered the drivers not to distribute any of the supplies when they arrived.

"There are people all around and babies starving," Martin said. "I don't know who was in charge, but the food was not to be unloaded in the Superdome because of rioting fears. The most heartbreaking thing is that we were at the Superdome with supplies, and we were told they were not to be unloaded. It's unbelievable."

But Martin said the situation got worse after refugees boarded the bus. Originally routed to Fort Polk, La., the drivers were then told to head to the Houston Astrodome, before being directed to go to Baton Rouge. The buses sat in bumper-to-bumper traffic before arriving at a shelter in the Louisiana capital that was full. At that point, the drivers were ordered to go to Lafayette. As of 4:45 p.m. Thursday, eight hours after the refugees were loaded on, the buses were still on the road.

"My drivers have been driving for almost 27 hours," Martin said. "It's a safety issue. We offered to bring [the victims] up to the Pine Bluff Convention Center. But they wanted to stay close to their homes in New Orleans."

Martin, who is coordinating the movements of 14 other buses owned by three other Arkansas companies, said she has lost

contact with most of them and they may have faced similar difficulties.

"It's a lack of communication," she said. "There are too many chiefs and not enough Indians."

Slowly but surely, evacuees from New Orleans wound their way to the Astrodome in Houston on Thursday, by charter bus and school bus, one by one or as part of large caravans.

Weary from their journey, men and women and children waved, smiled and flashed the peace sign, appearing happy to have arrived.

"It's been like hell on earth," shouted one man. "I'm looking forward to a nice, hot shower and a place to rest."

Others commented on the friendliness they had encountered along the way.

"Welcome Big Easy," said

one sign, hanging on a building at the state line. "Our thoughts and prayers are with you," said another sign, at the entrance to Beaumont, Texas.

By 4:30 p.m. between 2,000 and 3,000 evacuees had arrived, and more were expected by the hour, said Capt. Dwayne Ready of the Houston Police Department.

Some evacuees were searching for relatives.

Kelvin Henry and Charles Gresham arrived in Houston from New Orleans on Wednesday by car and were at the Astrodome on Thursday looking for their wives and children, from whom they were separated after the hurricane.

"It's fine," said Gresham, speaking of the situation inside the Astrodome. "But it's just tough getting information."

The two heard the rest of

their families were being held at the convention center in New Orleans. They hope they will wind up in Houston, but the men have heard reports that they may wind up in Dallas or even San Antonio.

"It's not nice at all without your family," Gresham said.

Information for this article was contributed by Michelle Hillen of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.

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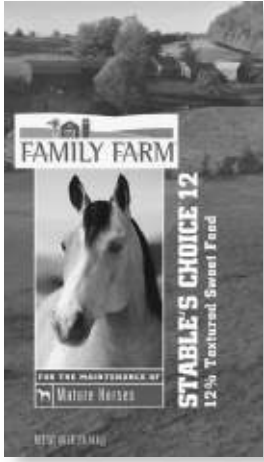


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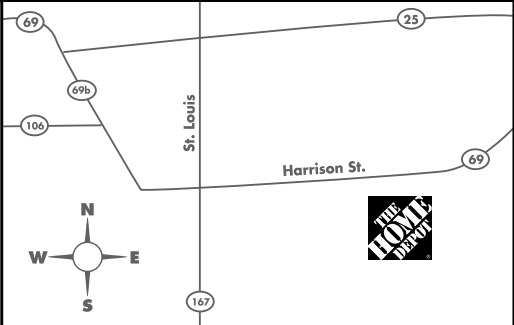
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Katrina

• Continued from Page 1A
Louisiana's state capital. "It's an ongoing disaster," and "everyone in the country needs to take a collective breath."

Despite reports of civilians shooting at rescue helicopters and a throng of angry refugees rushing police at the Superdome, Brown called security "pretty darn good."

Brown said food is on the way to the 5,000 people at that site. People who took shelter there were being moved to the Astrodome in Houston.

After accepting more than 11,000 refugees, officials in Houston said the Astrodome was full and began sending buses to other shelters in the area Thursday night.

"We've actually reached capacity for the safety and comfort of the people inside there," American Red Cross spokesman Dana Allen said.

The Red Cross announced late Thursday that its hurricane shelters in seven states were full, with an estimated 76,000 refugees in facilities in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Texas and Arkansas.

Gov. Kathleen Blanco said she has asked the White House to send more people to help with evacuations and rescues, thereby freeing up National Guardsmen to stop looters.

An additional 10,000 National Guard troops from across the country began pouring into the Gulf Coast on Wednesday to shore up security, rescue and relief operations. The new units brought the number of troops dedicated to the effort to more than 28,000, in what may be the largest military response to a natural disaster.

"We will restore law and order," Blanco said. "What angers me the most is that disasters like this often bring out the worst in people. I will not tolerate this kind of behavior."

Heavily armed state policemen stood watch Thursday as tense, exhausted and angry crowds struggled onto buses that would deliver them from the Superdome.

As buses that arrived hours late were being loaded for the trip to the Houston arena, a crowd broke through a line of National Guardsmen and rushed the glass doors into the Hyatt Regency complex that adjoins the Superdome.

They were stopped by 19 heavily armed state troopers in Kevlar vests.

Outside the convention center, the sidewalks were packed with people without food, water or medical care.

The displaced had lined up for the first buses, some inching along in wheelchairs, some carrying babies. Almost everyone carried a plastic bag or bundled bedspread holding the few possessions they had left. Many had no idea where they were bound. "We tried to find out. We're pretty much adrift right now," said Cyril Ellisworth, 46. "We're pretty much adrift in life. They tell us to line up and go, and we just line up and go."

At least seven bodies were outside the Superdome, and hungry people broke through steel doors to a food service entrance and began pushing out pallets of water and juice and whatever else they could find.

An old man in a chaise lounge lay dead in a grassy median as hungry babies wailed around him. Around the corner, an elderly woman lay dead in her wheelchair, covered by a blanket, and another body lay beside her wrapped in a sheet.

"I don't treat my dog like that," 47-year-old Daniel Edwards said as he pointed at the woman in the wheelchair. "I buried my dog."

He added, "You can do everything for other countries but you can't do nothing for your own people. You can go overseas with the military but you can't get them down here."

CRITICISM FLIES, CONFUSION RULES

FEMA is no stranger to criticism.

After Hurricane Andrew killed 18 people and caused more than \$26 billion in damage in 1992, FEMA came under heavy criticism for delayed and ineffective relief. President Clinton overhauled the agency, appointing James Lee Witt as director. Witt stressed quick response and ready supplies.

In 2004, FEMA won early praise for its speedy response to the four hurricanes — Ivan, Jeanne, Charley and Frances — that slammed into Florida. But critics later pointed to overpayments and unnecessary waste by the agency, including paying for more than 200 funerals not caused by the storms.

This spring, FEMA's inspector general blasted the agency for its performance, and a Sen-



A man covers the body Thursday of a flood victim as others mill around him at the convention center in New Orleans.

Despair

• Continued from Page 1A
are airing coverage this week 24 hours a day on several stations, including AM-870, as the United Radio Broadcasters from New Orleans.

The decision to do so was part of a "cooperative recovery and release effort," one disc jockey told his listeners.

DJs are urging people who can't get out of their homes or who are looking for relatives to call in so their pleas for help can be broadcast.

Emergency officials, the DJs explained, are monitoring the calls.

What they are discovering is bleak.

"We have one more day of rations," said a woman named Rosalee from Algiers, just across the Mississippi River from New Orleans.

Rosalee, along with some of her neighbors, survived the hurricane Monday and the subsequent flooding, she said. Since their homes remained in "good standing," she called the radio station asking for rations and a generator.

Like many other callers, Rosalee wanted someone — anyone — to bring her supplies so she would not have to evacuate to the Superdome.

Reports of looters and armed people frantic to leave the below-sea-level city had many concerned about heading to the Superdome for evacuation.

Early Thursday morning, the evacuation was halted after someone with a gun fired a shot at rescue helicopters near the dome.

Throughout the day, crime was at the center of many of the radio conversations being broadcast.

"We're at war," one DJ said in a booming voice. "I truly think looters should be shot."

The other DJ said: "If you shoot one of them, chances are the rest of them are going to go away."

Then the radio employees resumed answering calls, some from people asking for help or searching for relatives.

"They're running out of everything," a woman named Lisa said about the New Orleans Peace Lake Tower nursing home, where her mother was trapped.

Lisa begged rescuers to evacuate those residents.

The DJs tried to comfort her, saying nursing homes and hospitals were a top priority.

Later, the DJ read a message from another family.

"Any children of Richard

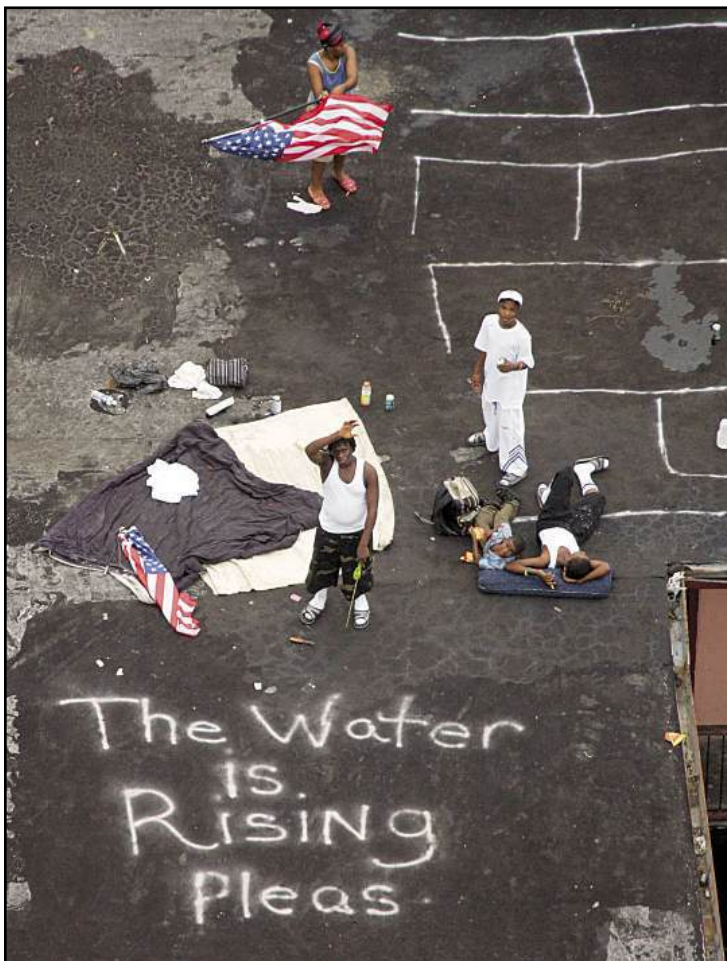
ate committee issued a demand for changes to tighten payment and contract procedures.

Brown defended his agency's performance at the Baton Rouge news conference.

"It's been a very quick response under these circumstances," Brown said. "Security is very good. It seems to me that every time there's a bad person that wants to scream and cause a problem there's a camera there to stick in their face."

Critics have also said a shift from natural disaster to fighting terrorism has slowed the agency's response to Katrina.

Not true, said Russ Knocke, a FEMA spokesman. "We're an all-



Residents surrounded by floodwaters wait on a rooftop Thursday in New Orleans, where people grew desperate after several hot, humid days trapped as food and water ran out.



A military helicopter that a rushing crowd prevented from landing drops food and water at the New Orleans convention center.

Green — call your dad," the DJ said and then gave a telephone number.

One man used his four or five minutes on the air to plead for fellow military veterans to help him save his neighborhood.

"We're not desperate yet," the Vietnam veteran named Jim from Terrytown, southeast of New Orleans, told the DJs.

"If we wait on the govern-

ment, we're going to get desperate. Call me. I have a little plan."

One of the DJs urged Jim to "give the government a little more time."

"We've been waiting for days. We have not seen one truck. National Guard. Red Cross. Nothing. By Sunday, we'll be out of water here. We have to do something for ourselves."

Tourists remaining in New Orleans were having as much trouble getting out of the city as locals.

Five days after Susan Dewey arrived in New Orleans to celebrate her birthday, she was so desperate to get out that she banded with hundreds of other tourists to hire 10 buses for \$25,000 to rescue them.

After waiting hours, they learned government officials had commandeered their buses to evacuate others.

"We're the forgotten about," Dewey told The Associated Press in a telephone interview Thursday. "The Louisiana officials are trying to get their people out. They don't care about us."

Dewey, 23, is one of countless tourists trapped in the city.

Lauren Helvie, 25, said she parked her Toyota 4Runner in the garage at the Ritz Carlton hotel in the French Quarter during the storm and returned to retrieve

lots because the only available light is from the sun.

Most Hurricane Katrina relief efforts are focused on the living, many of whom are struggling to get enough food, water, shelter, power and medical attention. The dead are a lower priority, and many bodies have been putrefying since Monday.

The official death toll was 126 and rising Thursday as search-and-rescue teams and dogs went through the ruins of neighborhoods washed away by the huge storm surge.

Most of the bodies in Jackson County — where the beach towns of Pascagoula, Gautier and Ocean Springs were swamped — have

been taken to the Heritage Funeral Home in Moss Point. The business has no water, power or phone service, making the job of storing and identifying the dead difficult for County Coroner Vicki Broadus and a forensic pathologist working with her.

A refrigerated truck in the parking lot Thursday held 10 bodies. Six could not be identified. Broadus said most of the victims drowned or suffered severe injuries when buildings collapsed around them. Their identification and clothes were swept away, and many bodies had drifted miles from home.

"We are looking for any scars, tattoos, dental work. I'm doing DNA, fingerprinting and photos," she said Thursday. "It's not easy. This isn't like looking at James standing there and telling what he looks like. These people really are not identifiable right now."

CHAOS CONTINUES

Back in New Orleans on Thursday, looters spent another day threatening survivors and ransacking stores. Some were desperate for food — others just wanted beer and TVs.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff said the government is sending in 1,400 National Guardsmen to help stop looting and other lawlessness in New Orleans. Already, 2,800 guardsmen are in the city, he said.

But across the city, the rescuers themselves came under attack from storm victims who are hungry, desperate and tired of waiting.

"Hospitals are trying to evacuate," said Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Cheri Ben-Ilesan, spokesman at the city emergency operations center. "At every one of them, there are reports that as the helicopters come in, people are shooting at them."

Some FEMA rescue operations were suspended in areas where gunfire has broken out, FEMA spokesman Knocke said. "In areas where our employees have been determined to potentially be in danger, we have pulled back."

The ambulance service in charge of taking the sick and injured from the Superdome suspended flights after a shot at the military helicopter was reported. Richard Zuschlag, chief of Acadian Ambulance, said it was too dangerous for his pilots.

Managers at the Covenant Home nursing center were prepared to cope with power failures and supply shortages after Hurricane Katrina. They weren't ready for looters.

The nursing home lost its bus after the driver surrendered it to carjackers. Groups of people then drove by the center, shouting to residents, "Get out."

On Wednesday, 80 residents, most of them in wheelchairs, were evacuated to other nursing homes in the state.

"We had excellent plans. We had enough food for 10 days," said Peggy Hoffman, the home's executive director. "Now we'll have to equip our department heads with guns and teach them how to shoot."

Some outside a Rite-Aid pharmacy on Thursday were anxious to show they needed what they were taking. A gray-haired man who would not give his name pulled up his T-shirt to show a surgery scar and explained that he needs pads for incontinence.

"I'm a Christian. I feel bad going in there," he said.

Ebbert said looters were breaking into stores all over town and stealing guns. He said gangs of armed men were moving around the city. At one point, officers stranded on the roof of a hotel were fired at by people on the street.

Looters also chased down a state police truck full of food. The police chief ran off looters while city officials themselves were commandeering equipment from a looted Office Depot. During a state of emergency, authorities have broad powers to take private supplies and buildings for their use.

Tourists remaining in New Orleans were having as much trouble getting out of the city as locals.

Five days after Susan Dewey arrived in New Orleans to celebrate her birthday, she was so desperate to get out that she banded with hundreds of other tourists to hire 10 buses for \$25,000 to rescue them.

After waiting hours, they learned government officials had commandeered their buses to evacuate others.

"We're the forgotten about," Dewey told The Associated Press in a telephone interview Thursday. "The Louisiana officials are trying to get their people out. They don't care about us."

Dewey, 23, is one of countless tourists trapped in the city.

Lauren Helvie, 25, said she parked her Toyota 4Runner in the garage at the Ritz Carlton hotel in the French Quarter during the storm and returned to retrieve



Milvertha Hendricks, 84, waits in the rain Thursday outside the convention center in New Orleans.

it Thursday. But police told her she wouldn't be getting her car because they had confiscated it.

"They said, 'What kind of car is it? A 4Runner? Then for sure you're not getting it back,'" Helvie said.

The hotel manager told her police were using her car and others like it to evacuate elderly and ill.

Dewey said the hotel staff encouraged guests to loot a nearby store for food, so that's what Dewey and her boyfriend did.

"I had Power Bars. I had nuts because there were a couple [hotel] rooms open, and we raided their mini bars," Dewey said.

LEEVE WORK SLOW

At least one critical breach in the New Orleans levee system was to be repaired by the end of the day Thursday, but a second section will take longer because workers are having trouble getting equipment and material to that part of the swamped city, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, commander of the Corps, told reporters that a large breach in the 17th Street Canal levee should have been filled in Thursday, the first in what will be a long and costly effort to repair the city's levee system.

"Once we seal those two places, that should stop the water from going in," said Strock. "Our real focus right now is getting the flow stopped so we can get in and drain the city."

Walter Baumy, chief of the Corps' engineering division for the New Orleans district, said contractors were close to repairing the 17th Street Canal breach.

However, he said, engineers were still unable to get to the levee break at Industrial Canal.

Baumy said they were trying to get pumping stations working so they could move material and workers to the breaches.

The *Times-Picayune* announced Thursday that it would resume printing a newspaper using printing facilities at the *Houma Courier*. Since Monday, the paper had published only electronic editions on its affiliated Web site, **nola.com**.

The newspaper hoped to print about 50,000 copies Thursday night for distribution today in Baton Rouge and accessible New Orleans metro areas.

The New Orleans Museum of Art survived the hurricane without significant damage, but towering modernist sculpture by Kenneth Snelson was reduced to a twisted mess in the Sydney and Walda Besthoff Sculpture Garden.

Museum employees struggled Thursday to determine whether it was safe to leave the collection unguarded.

Six security and maintenance employees remained on duty during the hurricane and were joined with 30 evacuees, including the families of some families.

New Orleans officials tried to come to grips Thursday with the possible collapse of the city's criminal justice system.

The Police Department's basement evidence and property room was flooded, and evidence and records in hundreds of criminal cases were believed lost, police spokesman Marlon Defillo said.

Floodwaters also inundated the basement of the city's criminal court building.

"We're in serious trouble," Defillo said.

Defillo's sentiment seemed to echo throughout the Gulf Coast.

Louisiana Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu, who toured the stricken areas Wednesday and Thursday, said rescued people begged him to pass information to their families. His pocket was full of scraps of paper on which he had scribbled down their phone numbers.

When he got a working phone in the early morning hours Thursday, he contacted a woman whose father had been rescued and told her, "Your daddy's alive, and he said to tell you he loves you."

"She just started crying. She said, 'I thought he was dead.'"

Information for this article was contributed by Charlie Frago of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.



Associated Press

A woman and her child wait with hundreds of other Hurricane Katrina survivors Thursday at the Convention Center in New Orleans.



Associated Press

Residents wait Thursday to be evacuated from the Superdome in New Orleans



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/STATON BREIDENTHAL

Rachel Cuevas, 17, collects belongings Thursday from her grandfather's house in Pass Christian, Miss. Her grandfather died when Katrina destroyed the house.



A sign warns away looters Thursday in an upscale neighborhood of Gulfport, Miss.

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/MICHELLE POSEY



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/MICHELLE POSEY

Exhausted from the heat and from helping relatives check on their house, Joseph Freeman of Gulfport, Miss., rests in his car Thursday. "There's no power, no water," he said. "It's ugly."



A man floats on a piece of wood as he awaits rescue Thursday from the New Orleans floodwaters.

Associated Press

How to help

The following information is for those wishing to donate to hurricane relief efforts and for those seeking information about shelters for evacuees.

- TO DONATE**
- American Red Cross**
1 (800) HELP-NOW
www.redcross.org
- Salvation Army**
1 (800) SAL-ARMY
www.salvationarmy.org
- Arkansas Foodbank Network**
www.arkansasfoodbank.org
(501) 565-8121
- Accepting monetary donations, nonperishable food, paper supplies and toiletries at 8121 Distribution Drive in Little Rock between 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or at the Fellowship Bible Church on Napa Valley Drive this Sunday between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.
- St. James United Methodist Church**
321 Pleasant Valley Drive
(501) 225-7372
- Episcopal Diocese of Arkansas**
P.O. Box 164668
Little Rock, Ark. 72216
- Accepting monetary donations to be sent to churches in Mississippi and Louisiana.
- The Watershed**
(501) 378-0176
3701 Springer Blvd., Little Rock
- Accepting donations of clothing and other items.
- Lonoke County sheriff's office**
(501) 676-3000
- Accepting donations of nonperishable food and clothing to be sent to local shelters.
- Griffin Leggett Funeral Homes**
(501) 661-9111
- Locations in Little Rock, North Little Rock, Conway and Alexander
- Accepting donations of toiletries, food and water between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. until Friday Sept. 9.
- Clear Channel Little Rock**
(501) 217-4300
- Accepting donations of food and water for Feed the Children in conjunction with Arkansas Rice Depot between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. at the Clear Channel Metroplex on Colonel Glenn Road in Little Rock at least through this weekend.
- The Banner-News**
130 S. Washington St. Magnolia, Ark. 71753
- Accepting monetary donations for local Red Cross chapter.
- Sutherlands**
1209 Military Road, Benton, Ark. 1925 W. Main St., Jacksonville, Ark.
- Lonoke County sheriff's office**
(501)676-3003
- 301 Court St. Lonoke, Ark. 72086
- Camp Desoto Donations**
(870) 863-5166
- 118 Peach St., El Dorado.
- Regions Banks**
- Regions Banks are accepting donations, for American Red Cross Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.
(800)734-4667
- City of North Little Rock**
- Relief items can be taken to the City Services Building parking lot and all North Little Rock Fire Stations from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.
- Shell Oil Company**
- Shell has implemented a toll-free number of (866) 745-5489 for employees. Any Shell employee affected by Hurricane Katrina should call for assistance for themselves and their families.
- Postal Service**
- The Postal Service has an toll-free number of (877) 477-3273 for its employees. Postal employees are encouraged to call the "PostalEase" number so they can receive important job-related information and, if they receive paper payroll checks rather than electronic deposits, so they can be paid.
- Kids for Katrina**
- Holy Souls School children and local grade-school children will be collecting checks and cash for the American Red Cross today at Cantrell and River Ridge roads.
- UCA Collection**
- Sophomore Year Experience (SYE) students in cooperation with the President's Office will be coordinating a UCA campus-wide collection of several items needed for the local hurricane relief efforts at the Don Owens Center. The school has been collecting the following items: towels and washcloths; twin sheets for army cots; pillows and pillowcases; laundry detergent and flip flops or house shoes in all sizes.
- Arkansas Educational Telecommunications Network**
- The network will host a live telethon Thursday, Sept. 8, from 6:30-8 p.m. with proceeds going to the American Red Cross for Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.
- SHELTERS**
- Ashley County: Crossett Readiness Center
- Chicot County: Chicot County Fairgrounds in Eudora, Lake Village High School
- Conway: Meadowlake Baptist Church, 2105 Meadowlake Road
- Dumas: First United Methodist Church
- El Dorado: West Side Baptist Church, (870) 863-4113, Boy Scout Camp DeSoto
- Hazen: The Armory at 956 Front St.
- Hot Springs: Summit Arena, (501) 620-5057
- Little Rock: State Fairgrounds
- McGehee: First Baptist Church, 312 Seamans Drive, First United Methodist Church, Boys and Girls Club, McGehee Christian Center
- Monticello: The Armory; the Presbyterian Home
- Pine Bluff: Pine Bluff Convention Center
- Texarkana: Emergency Preparedness Center, 821 Spruce St. (903) 793-2255; Southwest Center, 3222 W. Seventh St. (903) 223-3298
- Union County: Community Center and City Hall at Junction City; Junction City Baptist Church
- West Memphis: First Baptist Church
- White County: Searcy Readiness Center
- More information on Arkansas hotels and emergency shelters at www.arkansas.com/special-announcements/default.asp?ID=5**
- Information about hotel availability in Little Rock, at 1 (800) 844-4781
- For emergency information: 1 (866) GET INFO**
- The Red Cross is accepting calls on this number only from people who have emergencies concerning immediate family members.

Arkansans open homes to storm's victims

BY ANDY DAVIS
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Tracy Krannichfeld's furnished cabin on Lake Ouachita normally rents for \$75 a night, but he's offering it for free to anyone displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

He hadn't had any takers Thursday, but he was hoping someone would call.

"I could just send a check to the Red Cross, but I'd rather do something now," Krannichfeld said. "It'd be just like if they lived in their own house but didn't pay any bills."

While authorities develop plans to house the thousands of evacuees who have filled motel rooms and shelters in Arkansas, many Arkansans are opening the doors to their own homes.

An online classified service, **www.craigslist.org**, had five postings Thursday by Arkansans

offering free housing to those displaced by the hurricane. Hundreds of postings from people in other states across the country also offer free or discounted lodging for evacuees.

Debbie Turley, a disaster team coordinator for the American Red Cross' Greater Arkansas chapter, said her group has received "probably hundreds of calls from people offering their homes to residents," but she didn't know of any evacuee who had accepted an offer.

She said Red Cross workers plan to post information about the offers in the shelters at the State Fairgrounds in Little Rock. It's up to the evacuees and those making the offers to decide if the arrangements are appropriate, she said.

"What we tell them is that we don't know our clients and our

clients don't know the people who are offering their homes," Turley said. "That is why we don't want to be involved in any way whatsoever."

Charles Herbert, 47, of Mar-rero, La., said he and 14 of his relatives — including 10 adults and four children, plus four dogs and a bird — have been staying with two hosts in Crossett.

One group of the relatives was referred to a Crossett couple — Martin and Donna Rice — by a clerk at a booked-up motel on Monday night, Herbert said.

The next day, those relatives sent word to Herbert's group, which had spent two nights at a shelter in Monroe, La., Herbert said.

Now, some of the clan are staying with the Rices and some are staying across the street, with Mike Webb, Herbert said.

"They're very, very good people down here," Herbert said. "We'll never forget them. They're feeding us and they told us to stay as long as we want."

Donna Rice, 50, said the family hasn't been any trouble.

"They've been doing all the cooking and cleaning," Rice said. "My house hasn't been this clean in five years."

"They've cooked homemade gumbo for me, and tonight we're having red beans and rice."

Elizabeth Waters, 27, added a posting on the craigslist site Thursday offering lodging at her five-bedroom house in Searcy, where she lives with her parents, husband and three children.

She said the family has two spare bedrooms available for a family with children.

She said she had called the Red Cross and Salvation Army

to find out how she could help but kept being redirected or sent to voice mail. Then she started searching the Internet and found craigslist.

"I don't have a lot of money to give, but I have a nice home to welcome somebody into at a very bad time," Waters said.

Krannichfeld, 48, an agriculture specialist with the state Department of Agriculture who lives north of Mount Ida, said he's tried to spread the word about his cabin by calling the Red Cross, churches and even county courthouses.

The 600-square-foot, one-bedroom cabin can accommodate four people, he said. It has furniture, dishes and a satellite dish for the television.

"I'm just one person with one little cabin," Krannichfeld said. "If it helps somebody else out, that's great."



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/KAREN E. SEGRAVE

Olivia Tillman from New Orleans looks through bags of donated clothes at the Red Cross shelter at the State Fairgrounds in Little Rock. Tillman and her family are staying at a Motel 6 in Little Rock but will be moving to the shelter today because they can no longer afford the motel.

Relief

• Continued from Page 1A

as hotels, campgrounds and private homes.

"One of the things we have to do and we have to find out is the number of evacuees we have in the state right now," said David Maxwell, the department's deputy director. "Outside of knocking on every hotel door in the state, it's pretty difficult to do that right now."

Refugees are being asked to register with the state so officials will know where the arrivals are and what they need, Huckabee said. The state will publish the location of registration sites in each of the state's 75 counties, and those offices will open for registration beginning Saturday.

The registration program forms part of what Huckabee called Operation K.A.R.E., or Katrina Assistance and Relief Effort. As part of that operation, the state will issue a toll-free number today that refugees can call to register for state assistance, Huckabee said.

He also said the state will start a Web site as early as today for people displaced by Katrina. That site at **http://www.kare.arkansas.gov** will include information on housing, jobs, and recreation, Huckabee said.

The state is also creating a fund for private donations that will be managed by the state Department of Finance and Administration, Huckabee said.

The registration is part of a statewide relief project that includes about 10,000 beds that the state has identified as potentially available for refugees, Huckabee said. Fort Chaffee, a former military base outside Fort Smith, can hold 4,000, Huckabee said. Church camps that have closed for the season will hold between 3,000 and 3,500, Huckabee said. The state is also looking at placing people in housing owned by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development.

The state's Disaster Relief Fund has about \$18 million now, said Richard Weiss, director of the finance department.

The registration process may address concerns voiced by local leaders and service providers, who have complained they have little information about the flow of evacuees into the state from Louisiana and Mississippi.

Little Rock city leaders, meeting with emergency officials Thursday, said they're still trying to determine how many people have fled into the city's hotels, emergency shelters and other facilities.

Mayor Jim Dailey, who said evacuees have filled hotels throughout the city, reported that the Little Rock Hilton has as many as 100 people who fled their homes in Louisiana. City officials said they are putting together information fliers to place

in hotels and emergency shelters for refugees.

"We know that we have people here for a long time who have needs ranging from food to housing to education," Dailey said.

More than 200 people have been fed each day and about 50 have been spending the night at shelters at the Arkansas State Fairgrounds, officials with the American Red Cross said.

"Right now we're just trying to get our arms around all of this," said Roger Elliott, state disaster director for the American Red Cross. "About the time the money runs out for those in the hotels, we're probably going to see thousands more in the shelters."

The Little Rock Housing Authority and other housing agencies around the state are looking at their vacant apartments and other properties as potential long-term housing solutions.

Shelly Ehenger, executive director of the Little Rock authority, said she has asked the federal government for up to 300 Section-8 subsidy vouchers for hurricane victims. In North Little Rock, the housing authority has begun accepting refugees into some vacant properties.

In Conway most of the city's more than 200 refugees have been staying in motels. The Red Cross of Faulkner County served meals to about 65 refugees at Meadowlake Baptist Church on Thursday. So far no one has stayed overnight at the church's shelter.

Russellville along Interstate 40 in west-central Arkansas, probably had close to 300 storm refugees, Mayor Raye Turner said Thursday.

"Some are in motels; some are in different locations" such as with families, Turner said.

More than 50 need shelter and will probably stay at First United Methodist Church, she said.

In Pine Bluff, Red Cross officials waited to see if more victims from New Orleans would arrive at the city's convention center, where between 125 and 150 refugees have been staying.

Estimates as to how many people the convention center can handle were lowered, however, from 1,000 to about 600 because the roof in the center's arena has a leak and that part of the facility cannot be used for shelter, said Bob Purvis, the center's executive director. However, the center still has about 60,000 square feet that can be used, if needed.

More than 600 people have been staying at area motels in Magnolia since they evacuated from the Gulf Coast. With many running out of money, Southern Arkansas University has prepared one of its dormitories with 240 beds for refugees.

In Benton, chamber of commerce officials are expected to meet today to talk about housing and jobs for refugees.

"People are just calling in here hand over fist, offering a place

to house these people in spare rooms, garage apartments, what have you," said Mark Gillis, the chamber's executive director. "We're going to try to take them straight from the motels to full-time housing."

About 100 refugees stayed at the First Baptist Church in West Memphis during Wednesday night and more arrived Thursday, Mayor Bill Johnson said.

Around the state, shelters and service providers said they were frustrated by a lack of information from federal and state officials on the numbers of refugees to expect.

"We just don't know what to expect," said Nan Young, a shelter manager with the Red Cross overseeing the organization's shelter at the Summit Arena in Hot Springs. More than 100 people stayed at the arena Thursday, and Young said the Red Cross expected more refugees as the weekend approached.

Phyllis Haynes, executive director of the Arkansas Food Bank Network, said many churches and food pantries that are assisting refugees may already be seeing supply shortages. Haynes said a more coordinated effort is needed to track the number and location of refugees and the needs of service providers.

Employment is emerging as a major need for evacuees, many of whom won't return to their homes or jobs for several months. Shelters and churches statewide said they are posting notices of temporary and contract work.

More than 200 people have contacted the state's Department of Workforce Services for unemployment insurance assistance and for help finding work, said Kimberly Friedman, a spokesman for the agency.

One evacuee, Tanya St. Pe, said she left the New Orleans subdivision of Avondale on Sunday morning and headed to stay with her sister, Pam Ashley, in Conway. Traveling with 15 family members and a neighbor, St. Pe said, she had thought they'd be gone for only a few days.

Now they aren't sure when they're going home. As a massage therapist who once made house calls in neighborhoods now flooded, St. Pe said she isn't sure if she still has a job.

St. Pe said she and one of her daughters are now looking for work cleaning houses.

Arkansas-based labor unions said they were also fielding requests for work from those stranded by the hurricane.

Tommy Fish, executive vice president of the Associated General Contractors, said his trade group of commercial builders and contractors expects to play a role in rebuilding after Katrina.

Information for this article was contributed by Rachael Myer, Rodney Bowers, Richard Massey, Debra Hale-Shelton and the Magnolia Banner-News.

Loved ones frantic in search for news

Anxious kin turn to every resource to find out what's befallen missing

BY MONICA LEAS
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

They clutch cell-phones, ring hot lines and scour the Internet for news.

Evacuees from hurricane-hit areas and families looking for loved ones who may still be stranded are doing everything imaginable to locate the missing.

Dottie Cooper, a Conway resident who grew up in Laurel, Miss., got so desperate that she connected with a ham radio operator to help in the search for her father, her sister, her brother and their families who were riding out the storm.

"I was just frantic," Cooper said. "I was just grabbing at straws. ... There needs to be more communication."

At 1 a.m. Thursday a text message came from her sister: "We're all O.K. No power. No phone. No water. ... But we were blessed." She's not sure if the radio operator relayed her message or if her sister just happened to finally get through.

Many in search of information are referred to the Red Cross information line: (866) 438-4636. A message on that line says: "Currently the phone lines are being overwhelmed. ... The best way to help us is to remain patient and keep this line open for emergencies." It suggests calling 911 or Red Cross chapters for emergency medical situations.

Gloria Loving of New Orleans, who is staying with her sister in North Little Rock, said Thursday that she's tried the phone line and every other way she could think of to reach her 59-year-old sister, Brenda Ball, who also lived in New Orleans.

"I've been pacing the floor and praying," Loving said. "I have not been able to sleep. I can't eat. I can't digest."

Some are trekking to local Red Cross shelters in hope of adding their names to a "found" list, but there are no lists there, said Debbie Turley, a disaster team coordinator with the organization. With search and rescue a top priority, welfare notification will come next.

"When people call the [800 number], that information is relayed to the local chapter in that area. They conduct the inquiry," Turley said. "That can't be done right now because there's no chapter. It's underwater. ... We know people are suffering, but our hands are absolutely tied right now. It's hard to say, 'You'll have to wait a little bit longer.'"

Like many others, Jesse Moore, a New Orleans musician, has had the most luck not with his phone but with his laptop computer.

"Thank God for the Internet," said Moore, who has checked in with all of his close friends since the storm hit. "When I opened my e-mail today, I had 44 e-mails in one account and 49 in another. New Orleans is such a community, and everybody wants to know where everybody is."

Aside from e-mail exchanges, Web sites devoted to Katrina victims have sprung up as virtual hubs for information-starved hurricane victims and their families.

Craigslist, a Web site that usually helps newcomers find jobs or roommates in cities across the nation, has developed special links for Katrina victims. One, titled "Lost and Found" at **neworleans.craigslist.org**, allows people to post names and messages for people who are missing.

One forum — **katrinaslost.com** — lists the missing by state, and another — **www.hurricanekatrinasurvivors.com** — has a "We're Alive!" column with alphabetical lists of postings from survivors.

Several newspapers from Mississippi and Louisiana have started their own lists. **nola.com** — the link to *The Times-Picayune* of New Orleans — had nearly 7,000 missing-person posts by Thursday afternoon.

One posting on the site titled "Looking for Louis Ordon" posted a telephone number and e-mail address and the message "Please contact us with any information on this elderly gentleman — his son is in Little Rock looking for him."

His son, Louis Ordon Jr., said he last heard from his father Monday morning as water was pouring in under the front door in New Orleans.

"All I can do is hope and wait to see what is going to happen," he said from a friend's house in Little Rock. "My biggest worry is if my dad's still around."

Local television affiliates also have lists: **www.wvltv.com** and **www.wdsu.com** allow survivors to post messages.

CNN has a "safe" list at **www.cnn.com/SPECIALS/2005/hurricanes/list/**.

A national next of kin registry is linked on several government sites with an option of registering personal information in case a loved one is found. The address is **pleasenotifyme.org/nok/restricted/home.htm**

2 Arkansas companies pledge up to \$16 million in storm aid

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Two Arkansas companies on Thursday pledged millions toward hurricane-relief efforts.

Bentonville-based Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world's largest retailer, pledged \$15 million to the national relief effort headed by former Presidents Bush and Clinton. And as part of its commitment, the company said it would establish mini-Wal-Mart stores in areas affected by the hurricane.

Clothing, diapers, baby wipes, food, formula, toothbrushes, bedding and water will be distributed free to those in need.

Tyson Foods Inc., the world's largest processor and marketer of chicken, beef and pork, and its employees will donate up to \$1 million in food and financial aid to relief efforts, company officials said.

Tyson, headquartered in

Springdale, is providing truckloads of precooked and shelf-stable meats and will match employee financial donations dollar for dollar. The contributions will go to assist the relief efforts of the Salvation Army and American Red Cross. The Salvation Army is reportedly preparing to serve up to 500,000 hot meals per day to affected residents and first responders, while the Red Cross has mobilized thousands of volunteers to provide assistance.

"We're saddened by the devastation left by this powerful storm and have joined others across the country in the effort to help those people whose lives have been disrupted," said John Tyson, chairman and CEO of Tyson Foods. "This disaster especially hits home to us, since those affected include thousands of Tyson team members who live in Mississippi."

Some schools see refugee enrollment pick up; LR has 30

BY CYNTHIA HOWELL
AND HILARY HILLIARD
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Schools across Arkansas played a waiting game on Thursday as administrators realized they would enroll an influx of hurricane refugees but didn't know when or how many.

Some districts in central Arkansas had already reported enrolling between 20 and 30 evacuated students. Many didn't think they'd have a grasp on the total number until next week at the earliest.

Thursday brought a swell into the Little Rock School District.

It reported 10 evacuees enrolled in city schools at a short 1:30 p.m. news conference. But that number grew to at least 30 by 4:30 p.m.

"Busy afternoon," Julie Wiedower, coordinator of student registration, said at the end of the day.

Additional evacuees may be enrolled in the district. Some people may have registered at a school instead of at the district's Student Registration Office. Those students may not yet be on the district's overall roll.

Wiedower said the district was able to find school placements for all the students, who ranged in grade level from elementary to high school.

"So far, everyone was assigned while they were here," she said.

Though students were enrolling, administrators elsewhere in the state were hesitant to project how many they would have.

"I would assume that as people begin to realize how long they're going to be away from home — as that realization hits each individual family — then we'll start to see some changes in what they'll do with their children," said James Fouse, deputy superintendent of the El Dorado School District in south Arkansas. "I'm sure many of them haven't even given a thought to tomorrow."

The district had enrolled three refugees on Thursday. The 4,500-student system could afford to take in several more, he said.

"We may have to be careful about classroom size, but I think we can accommodate," Fouse added.

States may receive advice from the U.S. Department of Education on how to handle situations such as classroom capacities being exceeded, said Julie Thompson, spokesman for the Arkansas Department of Education.

"We'll have to deal with those issues," she said. "Right now our goal is just to get these children in school and have them enrolled."

The state agency planned on Thursday to release a memorandum encouraging schools to take in refugee students and classify them as homeless.

Chief school officers in Southern states and in those as far away as Virginia and Ohio have also issued notices directing their systems to admit the children of evacuated families, using the provisions of the federal McKinney-Vento Homeless Education Assistance Act.

Under that law, homeless stu-

Who to call

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

More information about registering for schools in any of the three Pulaski County public school districts can be obtained from the following:

■ Little Rock School District student registration office: (501) 447-2950.

■ North Little Rock School District director of student affairs: (501) 771-8010.

■ Pulaski County Special School District office for equity and pupil services: (501) 490-6307.

dents can be enrolled immediately, regardless of missing birth certificates, Social Security numbers, academic transcripts or immunization records. Transportation can be provided to them, and they qualify for free school breakfasts and lunches through the federal School Lunch Program.

The Arkansas Department of Education also intended to distribute a form for districts to report how many evacuated students they had enrolled. Officials hoped that would give them a better idea of how many of these students are actually in Arkansas.

"It's so hard to predict right now," Thompson said. "We don't know if this is just the tip."

At least 170,000 students in Mississippi and Louisiana have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina. In Louisiana alone, Katrina destroyed or damaged schools in at least six parishes that served some 135,000 students.

Those who came to Little Rock had varying situations.

In one case, a general manager of a Little Rock hotel called the district asking for registration information on behalf of guests.

District officials said Thursday that they are preparing a flier about registration and available services that they will hand-deliver to evacuees.

Teachers who fled Katrina's destruction are also looking for schools.

Little Rock Deputy Superintendent Hugh Hattabaugh said at least three have called to inquire about possible jobs.

The district, which struggles to find enough teachers in subjects such as special education, math, science and foreign language, contacted the Arkansas Department of Education to see about obtaining some type of provisional credentials that would enable the evacuees to work.

In Russellville, Mayor Raye Turner said about 20 children of refugees had signed up to attend the city's schools.

In the Searcy School District, Assistant Superintendent Walton Earl looked on as a hurricane evacuee started class.

"The teacher was making sure every effort was made for the child," he said. "She buddied her up with another young lady to make sure she made it through the day fine."

Information for this article was contributed by Debra Hale-Shelton of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.

Displaced collegians are urged to act quickly

BY HILARY HILLIARD
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Administrators at schools across Arkansas urged students who had intended to register at New Orleans colleges and universities to quickly make arrangements for the fall semester.

The state's universities are providing free classes to Arkansians who had registered at several Louisiana campuses.

But as many of the institutions reach the end of the second week of classes, initial exams are looming. The students will have much to catch up on, said Amy Barnes, a spokesman for the University of Arkansas at Little Rock.

That campus, which will enter its 10th day of the semester this morning, had on Thursday registered three students under the hurricane provision. Several more students had inquired, and another campus spokesman said administrators were working to get students in a classroom the day after they call.

"They're missing a lot of their semester if we don't get them enrolled soon," Barnes said. "That's why we're trying to urge them to make the decision as soon as possible."

The University of Arkansas at Fayetteville set a Sept. 6 deadline for hurricane-affected students to

register. But they need to come in sooner if they can, said Dawn Medley, director of admissions.

"Otherwise they'll be very far behind," she said. "We want to work with them but we also want to make sure they're taken care of academically."

The state's largest campus, with more than 17,000 students, has dedicated three or four phone lines to inquires from qualifying students and they've stayed lighted up, Medley said.

The school is bringing in some New Orleans students from Tennessee and North Carolina, as well, at the in-state tuition rate.

"The students will have access to counseling support services, and we're working in conjunction with bookstores and in academic areas," Medley said.

"I think we have a pretty good plan in place."

Arkansas' private institutions also were making plans to accommodate evacuated students. Many of the colleges had arranged to accept students and possibly offer financial aid, said Kearney Dietz, president of Arkansas' Independent Colleges and Universities.

"Some started earlier than others," he said. "I know one started Aug. 15. They'll work with them even if they are behind."



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/STATON BREIDENTHAL

Rachel Saucier, 22, sends a text message on her cell phone Thursday from the edge of the Bay St. Louis Bridge, one of the few places in the city where cell phones still worked.

Coast

● Continued from Page 1A
band, Steve Rubenstein; their 17-old-son son Steve Manning; and three dogs, Blue, Scudy and Bitsy, had to be rescued from the roof of their apartment complex.

On Thursday, they sat outside the high school where the younger Steve is a senior and talked about their harrowing experience and vented their frustrations about the lack of emergency relief.

Few people want to sleep inside the sweltering shelter at Bay High School in this hurricane-ravaged town located west of Gulfport.

It smells bad, and the gymnasium's bleachers provide little comfort.

"A lot of people here are feeling like no one is coming to our rescue," said Paula Manning.

She said that the shelter, run by volunteers, lacks many basics. The school's toilets are overflowing and only two portable toilets are available for the estimated 500 people at the shelter.

Some have used the floors inside the school, where darkened corridors smell of human waste.

"We don't even have blankets," Manning said.

Rubenstein, who has high blood pressure and diabetes and lacks medicine for both, said that the elderly and sick need help.

He wonders why help has been so slow in reaching a community that sent a firetruck to New York after the Sept. 11, 2001, terror attacks and which gave money to tsunami victims in Asia last year. Emergency works seems to be focused on New Orleans, Gulfport and Biloxi, he said.

While he understands those larger communities need a lot of resources, Rubenstein wondered out loud, "How hard would it be to bring food and blankets" to Bay St. Louis?

He estimated that 20 people at the shelter are "on the verge of not making it."

Those in the worst condition are quartered in the school's auditorium, which is at least a bit cooler.

Gerty McDaniel sat in the back row on Thursday still in a hospital gown. She just had a mastectomy and her chest is bandaged.

She relies on a colostomy bag and still has tremors after the surgery. But she's rationing the few pain killers she has left, McDaniel said.

"Everybody here, we need help," said McDaniel, who lives in nearby Waveland. "We're not getting the help we need."

McDaniel was one of several patients at the shelter who were



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/STATON BREIDENTHAL

David Hilbert of Los Angeles looks over family photographs drying out Thursday at his mother's home in Bay Saint Louis, Miss.

evacuated from a nearby hospital damaged by the storm.

Maxine Costa, who sat in front of McDaniel, also wore a hospital robe. She said volunteers are doing the best they can.

"We could use beds instead of hard chairs or the floor," said Costa, who declined to give her age. The Pass Christian resident was hospitalized for low blood pressure.

On Wednesday, a woman went into a diabetic coma and a man had an epileptic seizure, volunteer Lane Shaw said.

"We had to take care of it ourselves," said Shaw, a 65-year-old Bay St. Louis resident. She sported a splint and cast on her right forearm — a compound fracture caused when her roof fell on her during the storm.

Shaw, who has a bone disease that makes her more susceptible to such breaks, is also blind in one eye.

But the woman who stayed behind to help an elderly neighbor is worried more about the plight of those at the shelter. "We need medical help so badly," she said.

As Gwendolyn Stevenson, 40, of Bay St. Louis, who is coordi-

nating volunteer efforts at the shelter, spoke about the situation, military trucks carrying ice pulled up and an announcement was made that food was being served in the back. A limited amount of water and prepackaged meals were dropped off after the storm passed.

She expected the first Red Cross support would come later in the afternoon.

"It's getting a lot better now," Stevenson said, whose home was destroyed by the hurricane. "Today is the first day I can say it's getting better."

Many callers to local radio stations complained about the lack of food, water and gas. A list of distribution sites for water and ice was broadcast routinely as was a list of stores that would be opening.

A line outside a gas station in Gulfport stretched for a mile shortly after 8 a.m. A Wal-Mart that reopened in Hattiesburg put a limit on the number of people it allowed into the store, according to a local radio report.

Long lines outside Wal-Mart's and local pharmacies were common across much of the southern part of the state — at least areas lucky enough

to have power restored.

Telephones are still down in much of the state and cellular service is spotty.

Near one end of the Bay Bridge in Bay St. Louis, dozens of people congregated at the one spot in town where at least some cell phones worked. Pillars are all that remain of the bridge itself.

Many of the luxury homes in the gated beachfront community of Chapel Hill were washed away, leaving granite countertops, stainless steel stoves and family china lying among the ruins.

Sitting in a lawn chair in her gutted garage, Elise Hilbert, 65, said she wasn't sure what she would have done if her 45-year-old son David hadn't flown in from Los Angeles to help.

On Thursday, he had laid out family photos of a young Elise and childhood shots of he and his siblings. Some people had already nosed through some of the scattered belongings in the neighborhood, he said.

"We're anxiously awaiting more security," he said, although he said there hadn't been as many curiosity seekers driving through town as there had after previous storms.

Elise Hilbert said she had enough water and food and felt safe enough to stay in her house for a short time.

"Family is everything, I don't know what you'd do if family didn't fly into help you," she said.

Residents of other coastal towns devastated by Katrina have similar concerns about looting.

Polly Cuevas and several members of her extended family picked through the ruins of her father's home in Pass Christian Thursday afternoon. Cuevas, 45, said her 78-year-old father refused to evacuate and drowned in the storm.

Few homes were left on the street, where downed trees and power lines still make travel treacherous.

Cuevas and her 17-year-old daughter and other families members combed through the remains of the home, retrieving silver, guns and family photos.

A block away, Sarah Pucheu, 44, was returning to her friend's home to siphon gas and retrieve a hairbrush before returning to the Red Cross shelter at Lizana Elementary School.

She said that the environment there was almost like a camp. "Everyone's helping each other."

But it was a bit rough earlier in the week, she said. On Wednesday, the 75 or so people staying at the Pass Christian shelter got their first hot meal, she said.

"They did overlook us until yesterday," Cuevas said.

VA system at LR to take in 33 New Orleans patients

BY NELL SMITH
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System agreed to accept 33 patients from the hurricane-hit VA Medical Center in New Orleans, a spokesman for the Little Rock hospital said Thursday.

Officials expect the patients to arrive by today, probably by bus. They were airlifted to Alexandria, La., where they awaited the drive to Little Rock. Spokesman Derenda Summerlin did not know exactly how those patients would be cared for on the trip or whether the bus would accommodate lying patients.

"We're going to get the most stable patients because they're

coming the furthest from New Orleans," Summerlin said.

The Little Rock hospital has sufficient staff to care for the arriving patients, she said, because officials began discharging patients Monday who were well enough to leave.

Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock was also expecting to receive seven newborns Thursday from St. Luke's Hospital in New Orleans. Children's Hospital officials said the babies would be arriving in Little Rock by a fix-wing plane. The babies were expected to arrive in caregivers' arms because nursery isolettes were not available. Officials believed the babies would not be in as critical condition as

their regular patients in the neonatal intensive care unit.

Arkansas Children's Hospital had already accepted two patients from another New Orleans hospital earlier this week.

Other Arkansas hospitals were continuing to see hurricane evacuees in their emergency departments. Richard Goddard, chief executive of Drew Memorial Hospital in Monticello, said his hospital had seen 10 or 11 evacuees in the emergency room. The University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences Medical Center in Little Rock has also treated a handful of patients.

Most of the patients showing up in Arkansas emergency rooms need treatment for chron-

ic disease or prescriptions refilled. Some dialysis centers are also beginning to see displaced patients.

The National Disaster Medical System, part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, is orchestrating the transfer of most hospital patients out of coastal areas affected by the hurricane. Although about 20 Arkansas hospitals participate in the system, according to Paul Cunningham, senior vice president of the Arkansas Hospital Association, none have been activated to begin accepting patients. Cunningham said most patients were being transferred to major metropolitan areas with large numbers of available beds.

Sugar heir who fled New Orleans confronts uncertainty in LR

BY SCOTT A. JOHNSON
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

A week before Hurricane Katrina slammed into coastal areas of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, Leon Godchaux and his wife, Marion, ate at Galatoire's, the famed New Orleans restaurant that features a dish named in honor of their family.

On Tuesday, the couple arrived in Little Rock, unsure when, if ever, they would be able to order a Godchaux Salad again.

The Godchauxes, both in their late 80s, joined countless refugees pouring into Arkansas from the storm-ravaged region. The couple fled to the Heights home of Marion Kahn Godchaux's sister, Jane Moses. The Louisianians brought with them a story steeped in their state's history.

Leon Godchaux's great-great-grandfather, also Leon Godchaux, arrived in Louisiana in the 1840s. A French immigrant of Jewish descent, he began selling needles, thread and other notions to plantation women, but went on to build what once was the state's largest sugar company.

The Godchaux family name also is widely associated with Godchaux's Department Stores. At its peak, the now defunct chain boasted seven stores, most located in New Orleans. Its flagship was on the city's central Canal Street.

Also known as Pee Wee, Leon Godchaux retired in the early 1980s as president of Godchaux Sugars Inc. He said he and his wife had initially planned to ride out Hurricane Katrina in their condominium in a 12-story building on the Mississippi River

in the city's Uptown district. But when the mandatory order to evacuate was issued Sunday, they fled the home near Audubon Park in about 45 minutes.

It took the couple about four hours to reach the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport and another four hours to get to Gonzales, La., where they found a room for the night. They spent the next night in Monroe, La., before arriving

Tuesday afternoon in Little Rock to be greeted by uncertainty.

"It's a big mess," Godchaux said. "We don't know how in the hell we're going to live for the next three to six months. That's an empty feeling."

He and his wife spent much of their first full day in central Arkansas getting prescriptions for medications left behind in the hurry. They also fielded calls from a daughter, also a New

Orleans resident, who had fled to Jackson, Miss., to stay with relatives there. The strain was evident.

"He's made out of cast iron anyway, but he's a very, very caring person," Moses said of her brother-in-law. "When you think about it, you don't know what the future is for that city and when they can even get back."

Godchaux spoke of possibly renting a condominium or apart-

ment "as near as New Orleans as feasible." Baton Rouge is one possible destination, Jackson another. Things, however, remain in a holding pattern.

Godchaux had been able to speak with his housekeeper, who was still in New Orleans, but had no news about the fate of his home and belongings.

Despite the uncertainty, he took a moment to reflect on his family's past, admitting that the

opportunity to focus on something other than Hurricane Katrina was welcome. Perched above the Arkansas River, Moses' home seemed oddly serene. But the thought of another dwelling surrounded by chaos was never far away.

"I think it's getting worse, not better, but I don't know," Godchaux said. "That's the worst of it. Can't get any solid information."

Katrina.com now place to aid victims

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

RICHMOND, Va. — When Katrina Blankenship started getting phone calls about the projected path of Hurricane Katrina, she wasn't quite sure why.

But it was her Web site, **Katrina.com**, that got people's attention.

So Blankenship converted her Web design and computer consulting site into a one-stop shop for all things related to helping out the hurricane-ravaged South.

"I was really shocked. I had no idea it would turn into this," said Blankenship, who lives in Powhatan, 30 miles southwest of Richmond. "The e-mails are pouring in. I had about 1,500 come through today."

Since Sunday, the Web site has received about 350,000 hits from places all over the world. And Blankenship, who is working on a dial-up Internet connection, has expanded her bandwidth to accommodate all the traffic.

Blankenship, 37, has compiled links to other sites that provide shelter information and victim assistance and developed a forum for people to offer help and to search for missing people. The forum is filled with hundreds of posts: some from people looking for relatives, others from people offering shelter, supplies and even a man from Kabul, Afghanistan, offering to translate.

The site even has garnered the attention of people wanting to buy it — one man offered \$500,000.

She declined. "It's not for sale; it's not a monetary-type thing."

Blankenship said she will keep the Web site focused on the aftermath of the hurricane as long as it's needed before going back to its original purpose.

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Economy watchers say Katrina singular in its reach

BY DAVID WESSEL
THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Hurricanes and earthquakes, even when devastating to the places they hit, rarely cause more than a temporary shudder in the sprawling U.S. economy. But analysts say Katrina's damage has the potential to affect virtually everything in it.

Unlike destructive hurricanes of the recent past, Katrina is both destructive and disruptive. The storm has interfered with production of oil and natural gas in the Gulf of Mexico and oil refining along the coast, pushing up oil and gasoline prices that already were rising. And the storm has shut important ports that carry oil, grain and other goods in and out of the United States.

"Hurricane Andrew [in 1992] was a destructive hurricane, the most destructive of the past 30 or 40 years," said Bruce Kasman, an economist at JPMorgan Chase Bank. "But if you look at the macroeconomy, it had negligible effect. It didn't really disrupt national economic activity."

"What may make this event unique: It does have the potential to do some real damage to the flow of oil — through the ports and refinery system — and to the flow of goods up the Mississippi," he said.

How large and lasting the impact will be on the national economy turns on questions that can't yet be answered accurately: How severe is the damage, particularly to refineries? How long before some oil and gas production, refinery and port activities resume? How much higher will oil and gasoline prices go and for how long? How quickly can cargo be diverted to other ports?

The vulnerability of the nation's economy to Louisiana and Mississippi is painfully becoming evident. Together they account for only 2 percent of all the economic activity in the country, but much more of the country's oil, natural gas, food and consumer goods flow through them.

Like others who track the economy, Richard Berner of Morgan Stanley ticked off the unsettling facts: "The Gulf accounts for 30 percent of the nation's oil production, and 20



Associated Press

The area surrounding an oil refinery in southern Louisiana remains flooded Thursday.

percent of its natural-gas production." About 10 percent of the nation's refining capacity is in the Gulf, he said, while government statistics indicate that more than half of the country's grain exports flow down the Mississippi River and through New Orleans.

But so far, few economic forecasters are sounding the recession bugle.

"Slower growth for a short period is a more reasonable risk," said Goldman Sachs' Edward McKelvey, reflecting the consensus.

That's because Katrina arrived at a moment when the U.S. economy was doing reasonably well despite a surge in oil prices. It grew at an inflation-adjusted annual rate of 3.3 percent in the second quarter, the government said Wednesday, and economists had been forecasting much stronger third-quarter growth. Unemployment has been falling, and profits soaring. Low mortgage rates have kept housing prices up, in effect allowing Americans to tap home-equity lines to fill their gasoline tanks and still go to the mall.

Although there were hints that consumer spending might be cooling off before Katrina and the Federal Reserve was marking down its forecasts for 2006 economic growth, rising oil prices hadn't hurt the econ-

omy very much. The big reason: The price increases were driven by very strong global demand.

"The economy isn't going to go into the tank because demand is strong. You don't get recessions by increased demand," said Laurence Meyer, a former Federal Reserve governor.

Katrina has pushed prices still higher by curtailing supply as it interrupts oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico as well as refining of oil into gasoline, diesel and jet fuel. That makes the latest increase in oil prices a bigger economic threat. As of Thursday, 90 percent of the Gulf's oil output and 79 percent of its natural-gas production were shut down, according to the government.

Beyond petroleum, the flow of other goods could certainly add to what Americans spend for any number of products, and increase costs for businesses that export their goods.

Grains and other farm products are the largest export likely to be affected by the devastation to the ports, because they are so dependent on the river barge system.

"If this is a five- to 10-day problem, it won't significantly impact the grain markets," said David D. Lehman, managing director for commodities at the Chicago Board of Trade. If it is longer, then importers will start

switching to buying from other ports, mostly likely along the West Coast.

The Port of Houston Authority said it was receiving inquiries from carriers about possible diversions. A cargo ship laden with rubber and timber originally scheduled to make calls at New Orleans and Pascagoula, Miss., was diverted to Houston Wednesday night, the port authority said.

Tyson Foods Inc. said this week that it was shifting much of its exports to Houston and Jacksonville, Fla.

Truckers are also feeling the effects. Shipments in and out of the New Orleans region represent about \$1 million a day for Yellow Roadway, a \$10 billion trucking company, "and since commerce in the area has pretty much stopped, it will affect those revenues," said William D. Zollars, the chairman.

For the auto industry, Katrina couldn't have come at a worse time. Well before the hurricane pounded the South, creeping gas prices had caused consumers to cite fuel economy as a mounting concern. The country's two largest automakers, General Motors Inc. and Ford Motor Co., have struggled with losses this year.

"What we need to learn from what's happening right now is that we're fragile," said Lawrence D. Burns, GM's vice

president in charge of research and development and strategic planning.

So much of Katrina's economic wake will, in the end, depend on petroleum and the degree to which it affects virtually everything in the country's economy.

Investors were betting Thursday that the country's demand for beef will drop after the hurricane, driving down cattle futures prices by a penny a pound. The reason?

"Every extra dollar consumers have to spend on gasoline is one less they will have to spend elsewhere, especially on meals at restaurants," said Steve Nicholson, an economist for Doane Agricultural Services Co. in St. Louis.

The best-case scenario for the economy, says Nariman Behravesh of the economic forecasting firm Global Insight, is that oil, natural gas and gasoline supply are cut by only about 5 percent for several weeks. Oil prices rise to \$75 a barrel, and

then slip back to the low \$60s. Gasoline prices go above \$3 for a couple of months and then fall back to \$2.50 by year's end. That would shave economic growth by between half a percentage point and one full point later this year.

The worst case is that energy supply is reduced twice as much, and oil prices soar to \$100 before sliding back to \$70 by year's end, with gasoline prices averaging \$3 and \$3.50 a gallon for four to six months, he said. That would bring the economy dangerously close to recession by year's end.

"We're certainly not at the best case," Behravesh said. "There [has] been quite a bit of damage. We're creeping toward the worst case — but we're not there yet."

Information for this article was contributed by Jeffrey Ball and Neal E. Boudette of The Wall Street Journal, Alexei Barrionuevo and Claudia H. Deutsch of The New York Times, and Mark Shenk and Jeff Wilson of Bloomberg News.

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Bush appointment bypasses senators

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — President Bush used a constitutional provision to bypass the Senate and fill a top Justice Department slot in a recess appointment with an official whose nomination stalled over tactics at the Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, naval facility.

Bush on Wednesday named Alice Fisher to lead the agency's criminal division. Sen. Carl Levin, D-Mich., had blocked the nomination because he wants to talk to an agent who named Fisher in an e-mail about reportedly abusive interrogations at the U.S. military

prison camp at Guantanamo.

The agent wrote that in weekly meetings with Justice Department officials "we often discussed [Defense Department] techniques and how they were not effective or producing [intelligence] that was reliable." In the next sentence, the agent said Fisher, then the No. 2 official in the criminal division, was among Justice Department officials who attended the meetings.

Fisher has said she does not recall participating in the discussions, and Justice Department officials have said the agent did not intend to say she had. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales declined to let

senators question the agent, saying it would violate long-standing policy.

A single senator can block a nomination, but the Constitution gives the president authority to fill positions when Congress is in recess without waiting for Senate confirmation. The official then can serve until the end of that session of Congress, which in this case is January 2007.

Levin's office did not immediately comment Thursday on the appointment.

Fisher previously was a partner with the Washington office of Latham & Watkins LLP.

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In Sunday's Features Sections:

Style

New Orleans dreams

Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong's trumpet — so often the sound of good times, but he knew how to make it cry, too — has a question for everyone since the ruin that Hurricane Katrina made of The Big Easy: "Do you know what it means to miss New Orleans? And miss it each night and day?" How much is gone? How much will it hurt?

Travel

The new Amsterdam

The Dutch metropolis of Amsterdam is famous for its canals. Now Amsterdam's distinctive Eastern Docklands neighborhood is developing as a fabulously "cool" young community that has spawned some of Europe's most innovative designers and architects. In one narrow inlet, the water is spanned by modernistic bridges, no two alike.

High Profile

Paul Blair

Paul Blair, battling prostate cancer, still looks like who he is — an internationally acclaimed teacher of world-ranked swimmers. Count 'em: six Olympians, 26 Olympic qualifiers, 12 junior national champions, six national champions, 35 national age-group champs ... and on and on. He's the new associate head swimming coach for UALR.

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

Arkansas' Largest Newspaper

\$2.79 or \$3.19, area pump prices react to mix of factors

BY EDWARD KLUMP
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Gasoline prices have soared in Arkansas in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, but not across the board.

Huge disparities remained Thursday. Prices for regular gasoline in the Little Rock area vary depending on the station — one was selling a gallon for \$2.79, for example, and another had a gallon priced at \$3.19.

Why? Rapidly changing wholesale gasoline prices as well as unbranded retailers' lack of long-term gasoline contracts, experts say.

Meanwhile, state Attorney General Mike Beebe was keeping his eye on the upper end of prices — looking into allegations of retail gouging — and urging customers not to resort to panic buying.

Ann Hines, executive vice president of the Arkansas Oil Marketers Association, said that “the wholesale price is all over the map.” Hines said she had heard spreads of about 70 cents a gallon from one supplier to another.

Regarding gouging, attorney general spokesman Matt DeCample said, “Really, at this stage, it’s just going to be collecting complaints. It’s rare that you can take immediate action because you ... have to investigate.”

He noted that some retailers have complained about spiking wholesale gasoline prices and that wholesalers aren’t precluded from prosecution for price gouging.

The average price for regular gasoline in Arkansas was a record \$2.615 a gallon, AAA reported Thursday. That was up 7.7 cents from a day earlier.

Nationally, the average for regular was a record \$2.680 a gallon, AAA said Thursday. That was up 6.1 cents from a day earlier. AAA said its average prices have been lagging behind the large increases seen on the street.

Jeff Lenard, a spokesman for the Alexandria, Va.-based National Association of Convenience Stores, said the prices at stations depend on how and when stations buy gasoline. That includes the difference between branded and unbranded stations, he said.

Branded stations are those with names such as Exxon, Phillips 66 and Shell, said David Zakrzewski, chief operating officer with Coulson Oil, a North Little Rock-based wholesaler. E-Z Mart is an example of an unbranded station, and Harvest Foods is a private brand that is similar to an unbranded one, Zakrzewski said.

Unbranded gasoline is often cheaper, he said, but now that isn’t necessarily the case.

Lenard said, “Right now, the unbranded independents are at a severe ... disadvantage.” That’s because they often don’t have long-term contracts and have to depend more on spot prices, he said.

At the same time, wholesale prices have changed quickly, so all stations’ prices are subject to varying degrees of volatility, Lenard said. Because prices moved rapidly, a station could be 10 cents higher or lower be-

Legislation needed to keep court going

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Congress must pass emergency legislation so that the federal court system in New Orleans can move to a new location, a spokesman for the federal judiciary said Thursday.

Federal law does not allow U.S. District Courts to hold proceedings outside of their geographic area.

The Speedy Trial Act sets strict deadlines for the handling of criminal cases, but courts in New Orleans are closed indefinitely.

“We don’t know where they are going to try to set up shop,” said Dick Carelli, spokesman for the federal courts’ administrative office. “It may be Baton Rouge; it may be Shreveport, but first of all they need the legislation in order to move.”

The federal judiciary has asked Congress for several years for authority to operate outside its normal boundaries in emergencies, but the once-hypothetical problem has now become a reality.

More National News Every Day

Democrat-Gazette



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/STEVE KEESEE

Fuel prices are displayed at Jones Exxon at Sixth Street and Interstate 30 in Little Rock on Thursday.

“The U.S. is facing a major gasoline crisis and is starting from a nearly empty tank.”

— Barclays Capital note to investors

cause its gasoline was purchased 10 minutes before or after a competitor’s was purchased, Lenard said.

U.S. gasoline inventories declined 508,000 barrels to 194.4 million last week, according to an Energy Department report. Stockpiles have fallen for nine straight weeks and are the lowest since November 2003.

“The U.S. is facing a major gasoline crisis and is starting from a nearly empty tank,” Barclays Capital analysts including Kevin Norrish said in a note to investors. Data “would have argued for higher gasoline prices even if Katrina had not struck.”

BP Plc and Morgan Stanley are among companies that plan to ship European gasoline to the United States. As many as 10 tankers were booked this week to transport 363,000 metric tons to the United States from Europe, according to five shipbrokers. The total would equal about 130 million gallons, enough to fill the tanks of 5 million Chevrolet Tahoe trucks. Other companies hiring ships include Chevron

Gulf oil, natural-gas producers wrestle with restoring output

BY GEOFFREY SMITH
BLOOMBERG NEWS

Oil and natural-gas producers struggled Thursday to restore production from offshore platforms and refineries shut down by Hurricane Katrina. Natural-gas prices reached a record, and oil prices climbed slightly.

About 90 percent of the Gulf of Mexico’s oil output and 79 percent of its natural-gas production remained out of service Thursday, according to the U.S. Minerals Management Service, both slight improvements from a day earlier.

Oil companies such as Amerada Hess Corp. and Devon Energy Corp. began returning crews to offshore rigs and power was restored at a refinery owned by Valero Energy Corp. But even at sites with little storm damage, logistical problems continued to restrict the flow of oil and natural gas.

Corp. and ConocoPhillips, the brokers said.

“Gasoline supplies are going to be real tight for a long time,” said Michael Lynch, president of Strategic Energy and Economic Research in Winchester, Mass. “All you need is a little hoarding to cause regional shortages. This is what we went through in the 1970s when motorists rushed to filling stations and filled tanks because they feared supplies would run out.”

White House spokesman Scott McClellan declined to say whether the Bush administration is considering price caps on gasoline.

Lane Kidd, president of the Arkansas Trucking Association, said drivers employed by carriers that transport gasoline, jet fuel and diesel fuel within the United States’ southern region, which includes Arkansas, have been exempted from hours of service rules until Sept. 14. Kidd said the exemption was a good move by the government, but that he believes gasoline shortages in Arkansas have been caused by panic-buying.

Michael Right, a spokesman for AAA, said higher gasoline prices and worries about availability of fuel will have an impact on the nation’s upcoming holiday weekend.

“This is probably going to be one of the slowest Labor Day weekends that we’ve seen in years,” he said.

Information for this article was contributed by Bloomberg News.

“We’re hearing a lot about the importance of getting the power going, but that isn’t the only problem we will have reopening the refineries,” said Jason Schenker, an economist at Wachovia Corp. in Charlotte, N.C. “Homes throughout the region are destroyed, and workers need someplace to live.”

In addition, helicopters needed to get repair crews to offshore rigs “are busy saving people from rooftops,” said Adam Sieminski, chief energy economist at Deutsche Bank AG in New York.

Natural gas rose 2.5 percent to \$11.75 per million Btu on the New York Mercantile Exchange, the highest price in 15 years of trading.

Crude oil futures rose 53 cents Thursday to settle at \$69.47 a barrel on the Nymex. Oil prices would still need to reach \$90 to surpass the inflation-adjusted high set in 1980.

Eight refineries remained shut down Thursday in Katrina’s wake, with others in only limited production.

San Antonio-based Valero Energy, which became the country’s largest refiner Thursday with the close of its buyout of Premcor Inc., said power was back on at its St. Charles, La., refinery. The plant had some flood damage, but about 120 of its 550 employees had come back to work, with production expected to resume Sept. 12.

Murphy Oil Corp., based in El Dorado, Ark., said power had yet to be restored at its Meraux, La., refinery. The company said on Wednesday that the plant had probably suffered only minor damage.

Refiners are expected to start receiving oil from the country’s Strategic Petroleum Reserve as soon as today, Energy Secretary Samuel Bodman said. Exxon Mo-

bil Corp. will receive 6 million barrels, he said.

The Bush administration said earlier this week that it would let companies borrow oil from the reserve to keep refineries that are running in operation. The reserve holds about 700 million barrels of crude oil in salt caverns along the Texas and Louisiana coasts.

By late Thursday, the Louisiana Offshore Oil Port had yet to unload its first tanker since Katrina passed. Officials at the port — 20 miles south of the Louisiana coast — had said since Tuesday that they were close to resuming operations.

The port handles about 1 million barrels of crude oil a day, or 11 percent of U.S. imports.

Information for this article was contributed by Mark Shenk and Bruce Blythe of Bloomberg News and Brad Foss of The Associated Press.

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to West Memphis. — Sports, 1C



Here comes the groom
Wedding showers aren't just for
the bride anymore. — HomeStyle, 1E

Arkansas Democrat Gazette

ARKANSAS' NEWSPAPER

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110 PAGES 11 SECTIONS

50¢

Finally, help gets in to city



Associated Press

Refugee D.J. Kelly waves the U.S. flag Friday as National Guard members arrive at the convention center area of New Orleans.

20,000 refugees on way to state

Show our best, Huckabee says

BY JAKE BLEED
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Gov. Mike Huckabee said Friday that the state must prepare for a new wave of refugees fleeing hurricane-damaged New Orleans, saying as many as 20,000 more were on the way.

"They're going to be tired, hungry, thirsty, dirty, scared," Huckabee said. "If there ever was a time that we needed to show our best human side, it's going to be when these people come."

The new refugees will be in addition to those already in the state. As many as 50,000 could already be in Arkansas, said Roger Elliott, preparedness and response officer for the American Red Cross of Greater Arkansas.

Friday saw Arkansas — from major state government agencies to private residents — react to the human crisis. Church

members in Russellville opened their homes to strangers. Relief supplies piled up in Pine Bluff. Property owners gave free housing in Monticello. Donations of money and goods poured in.

"People are coming in with large check donations," said Conee Corning-Banks, interim executive director of Faulkner County's Red Cross chapter. "Some of them are bringing stamps and envelopes for people to write letters."

Huckabee said the 20,000 refugees are coming at the request of the White House and Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco. He said Arkansas also has agreed to provide transportation and security for those refugees, most of whom will come from New Orleans.

"The state of Louisiana has asked us to send a convoy of buses to actually retrieve the

See **REFUGEES**, Page 11A



Brent Lyons surveys the damage Friday at the two-story apartment building on the beach at Ocean Springs, Miss., where he lived before Hurricane Katrina.

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/STATON BREIDENTHAL

WEATHER

LITTLE ROCK
Today Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers and thunderstorms.

High 91, with light east winds.
Tonight Partly cloudy.
Low 66.



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Gasoline supply tight, expensive this holiday

State average for regular \$2.82, AAA reports

BY EDWARD KLUMP
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Arkansans started their Labor Day weekend road trips under a caution flag Friday as they faced exponential increases in gasoline prices and the threat of shortages.

Complicating matters for some travelers is the influx of tens of thousands of refugees from Hurricane Katrina who are staying in motels and seeking temporary shelter elsewhere in the state.

The Arkansas Oil Market-ers Association, meanwhile, is asking people to conserve fuel, adding that panic-buying could lead to spot shortages of gasoline in the state.

AAA reported Friday that gasoline prices a day earlier had leapt 19.5 cents, pushing

the state average for a gallon of regular to a record, \$2.819. The price has risen 30.3 cents, or about 12 percent, since the AAA report Monday, the day Katrina struck the Gulf Coast.

Nationally, the average for regular was a record \$2.867 a gallon, said AAA, formerly the American Automobile Association. That was up 16 cents from a day earlier. AAA has said its averages are lagging behind prices that motorists are seeing on the street.

The higher price of gasoline didn't deter Renee Robison of Sherwood from heading out of town for the weekend. Robison left about noon Friday with her husband, Jay, and stopped at Jonesboro to pick up her son, Zack Borchert. The family then

See **GASOLINE**, Page 12A

ON THE INSIDE



PUMPING WATER out of New Orleans likely to be long, slow. Page 6A.

ONE TOWN experiencing calm after the storm. Page 7A.

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HOW TO help. Page 10A.

ARKANSANS IN Congress pushing for aid to state to deal with refugees. Page 11A.

STATE'S DISCOUNTED attractions offer respite to refugees. Page 1B.

HURRICANE'S EFFECTS felt by Arkansas businesses. Page 1D.

Armed for trouble, Arkansas soldiers enter city in crisis

Editor's note: Staff writer Amy Schlesing spent 12 months with Arkansas' 39th Infantry Brigade in Iraq. She is reporting on the brigade's hurricane duty in Louisiana.

BY AMY SCHLESING
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

NEW ORLEANS — Arkansas National Guardsmen walked the streets of New Orleans on Friday — loaded weapons at the ready — amid a storm of criticism from city officials that help has not arrived fast enough.

Tensions among survivors had escalated in the Big Easy on Thursday as analysts asserted that city and state officials had not properly prepared for the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

City officials Friday accused federal authorities and neighboring states of not taking in aid fast enough.

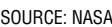
"Don't they understand we're doing everything we can," said Sgt. Mark Kellogg of Fort Worth as he drove a humvee packed with equipment for Arkansas' 39th Infantry Brigade to New Orleans.

The military is massing around the city with about 40,000 troops called to action. Naval ships are headed to the port to offer helicopter and hospital support. The American Red Cross reported having more than 237 shelters open around the city.

On Wednesday, units of the 4th Infantry Division arrived in the city. See **39TH**, Page 12A

BY LESLIE MILLER
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

“There are some older buildings compromised, their foundations shot,” Malloy said. “A couple major trucks rolling down the street can shake it loose.”



Associated Press

Publicly, Lt. Gen. Carl Strock, commander of the Army Corps

There are six pumping sta-

Strock told reporters at the Pentagon that in addition to pumps the engineers are working on a plan to make new breaches in the levees — from hundreds of feet wide to 3,000 feet — in areas where gravity can help move water from the city.

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COMING SOON TO NORTH LITTLE ROCK

Katrina

• Continued from Page 1A efforts.

“They’re talking about dropping the ball. They never had the ball,” he said.

The Guard’s first priority was delivering food and water, after which it will begin evacuating people — something that could take days.

“As fast as we can, we’ll move them out,” Army Lt. Gen. Russel Honore said. “Worse things have happened to America. We’re going to overcome this, too. It’s not our fault. The storm came and flooded the city.”

The storm, which struck Monday over a 90,000-square-mile area, left behind an unknown number of dead and thousands more injured. Mississippi officials estimate that more than 145 people died there, while Louisiana officials still hadn’t tallied their deaths.

Making already devastating matters worse, thunderstorms were expected in New Orleans on Friday night and today.

FEMA CRITICISM

But some critics called the Federal Emergency Management Agency’s handling of Katrina a replay of its response to Hurricane Andrew in 1992, which was widely criticized as slow and ineffective.

Orlando, Fla., City Commissioner Patty Sheehan called the response to Katrina an “embarrassment” and said it is the result of “horrible planning.”

“The federal government makes assumptions that everyone can buy plane tickets and get out somewhere,” Sheehan said.

That’s not possible for those living paycheck to paycheck, she said.

Under the leadership of James Lee Witt, the agency earned praise for its handling of the Midwest floods of 1993, the Northridge, Calif., earthquake of 1994 and hurricanes Ivan, Jeanne, Charley and Frances in Florida last year.

But some experts said the agency suffered from being moved into the Department of Homeland Security in 2003, a response to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

Bill Waugh, a professor of public administration at Georgia State University in Atlanta, said the move diverted money and staff from preparing for natural disasters to preparing for terrorist attacks.

“It’s not whether they responded quickly enough,” Waugh said. “It’s whether they have been so stripped of their capacity that they’re just not prepared to respond to a large event.”

The magnitude-6.7 earthquake that rocked Northridge, in greater Los Angeles, on Jan. 17, 1994, killed 60 people, left 20,000 more homeless and caused nearly \$20 billion in damage.

During that disaster, FEMA teams arrived right on the heels of firefighters and police, and promptly started distributing aid and supplies, said Los Angeles County Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, whose district covers much of the affected area.

But Yaroslavsky said it’s difficult to compare the earthquake to Katrina.

“If you took all the disasters that I’ve been involved in and put them all together, it doesn’t begin to approximate what they’re going through down there,” Yaroslavsky said. “FEMA is taking a little more heat than they deserve on this. They’re not a first-responder. They’re there to get people from disaster mode to normalcy mode. People need to remember that.”

Gerald Campbell, chief of planning for Lee County Emergency Management in Florida since January 2002, said comparisons between Katrina and most other natural disasters are misleading. Katrina developed into a worst-case scenario, with a huge storm hitting a highly populated area, he said.

“People have to understand that’s the definition of a disaster — resources are overwhelmed,” Campbell said. “It’s tragic that folks remain in those situations.”

LEFT BEHIND

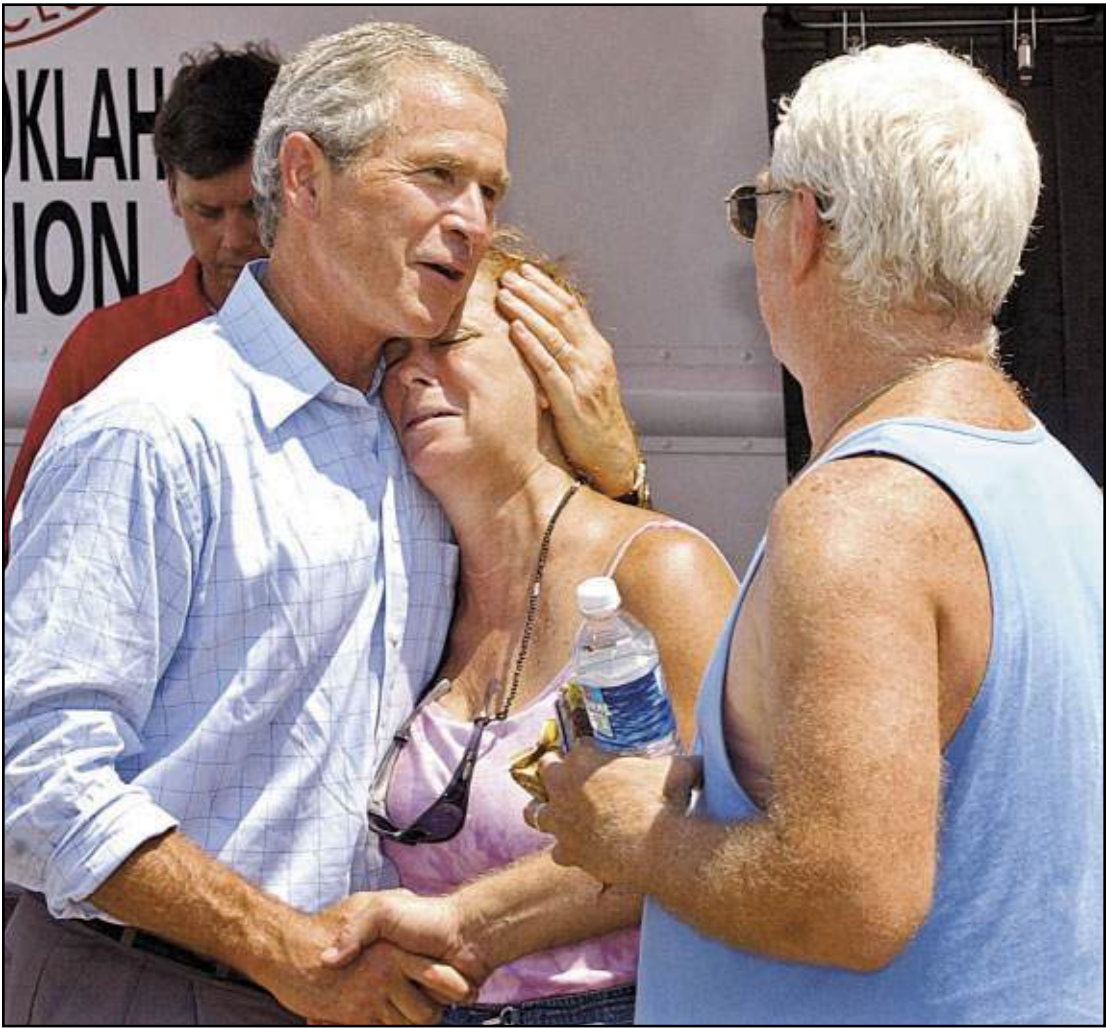
Blanco said as many as 300,000 people from the region have been evacuated. About 49,800 people are in 131 shelters in the state, which can hold 70,000 more, Blanco said. She said she didn’t know how many were left in New Orleans.

“We are receiving what I have asked for right now,” Blanco said. “But the scope and dimension are so dramatic and so large.”

The evacuation was not without its problems, though.

A bus shuttling hurricane victims out of New Orleans crashed Friday in Opelousas after one of the passengers grew agitated and ended up in a struggle with the driver, killing one person and injuring more than a dozen, a police official said.

Police Capt. Mark LeBlanc said that after the tussle, the driver lost control of the bus, sending it across a median and overturning on the other side of the highway, about 130



Associated Press

President Bush comforts Debra and Charles Foster during a Friday tour of hurricane damage in Biloxi, Miss.

miles west of New Orleans.

There were between 45 and 50 passengers on board, and 17 of them were injured, police said.

Late Thursday night, officials at the Houston Astrodome turned away three buses that arrived from the New Orleans Superdome. The drivers of the buses, which held as many as 75 people each, were told to go to another location.

A fire marshal said the Astrodome reached capacity at about 10:30 p.m. Thursday. About 8,000 people are reportedly being housed at the facility. On Friday, Houston Mayor Bill White said the city’s convention center and an exhibition hall would be opened to accept more refugees, and conventions for the coming weeks would be canceled.

The Arkansas National Guard was preparing Friday to accept up to 4,000 evacuees at Fort Chaffee near Fort Smith beginning with more than 350 people who were to arrive on buses from New Orleans sometime Friday.

The U.S. Navy also said Friday that it will send the USS Harry S. Truman aircraft carrier based in Norfolk, Va., and the USS Whidbey Island docking craft to the Gulf to serve as floating staging areas for helicopters and command communications. That brings to more than 11,000 the number of active-duty military personnel deployed for disaster relief.

Airmen with the 314th Airlift Wing out of the Little Rock Air Force Base landed at New Orleans’ Louis Armstrong International Airport on Wednesday night to install portable runway lights to help fly in additional aid and relief supplies.

Four aeromedical evacuation crews left the Jacksonville base Friday for San Antonio aboard a C-130 Hercules to provide in-flight medical care for victims of Katrina.

Still, New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin lashed out at federal officials, saying on a local radio station “they don’t have a clue what’s going on down here.” *The Times-Picayune* reported Friday.

Federal officials expressed sympathy but quickly defended themselves, saying they, too, were overwhelmed by the catastrophe that hit the Gulf Coast.

Nagin’s interview Thursday night on WWL radio came as President Bush planned a Friday visit to Gulf Coast communities battered by Katrina, a visit aimed at alleviating criticism that he engineered a too-little, too-late response.

Bush viewed the damage while flying over the region Wednesday en route to Washington after cutting short his Texas vacation by two days.

“They flew down here one time two days after the doggone event was over with TV cameras, AP reporters, all kind of ***damn — excuse my French everybody in America, but I am pissed,” Nagin said.

By nightfall Friday, the mayor’s tone had changed. Nagin returned from a meeting with Bush a picture of calm.

“I feel much better. I feel like we’ve gotten everyone’s attention, and hopefully they’ll continue to do what they’re doing,” he said, leaning against a railing in the lobby of a hotel where he has set up a temporary command post.

BUSH VISIT

Bush toured the Gulf Coast on Friday and vowed that the government will restore order in New Orleans. He said the \$10.5 billion approved by Congress was just a small down payment on disaster relief.

“It’s worse than imaginable,” the president said after walking through a battered neighborhood in Biloxi, Miss.



Associated Press

Fires burn Friday around in New Orleans.

Bush began the day at the White House where he expressed unhappiness with the efforts so far to provide food and water to hurricane victims and to stop looting and lawlessness in New Orleans. “The results are not acceptable,” he said.

Even Republicans were criticizing Bush and his administration for the sluggish relief effort.

“I think it puts into question all of the Homeland Security and Northern Command planning for the last four years, because if we can’t respond faster than this to an event we saw coming across the Gulf for days, then why do we think we’re prepared to respond to a nuclear or biological attack?” said former House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

In Biloxi, Bush encountered two weeping women on a street where a house had collapsed and towering trees were stripped of their branches. “My son needs clothes,” said Bronwynne Bassier, 23, clutching several trash bags. “I don’t have anything.”

“I understand that,” Bush said. He kissed both women on their heads and walked with his arms around them, telling them they could get help from the Salvation Army. “Hang in there,” he said.

In responding to criticism, the president rejected suggestions that the United States couldn’t afford both the war in Iraq and the hurricane cleanup. “We’ll do both. We’ve got plenty of resources to do both,” he said.

Bush got a warm reception in Mobile, Ala., from Govs. Haley Barbour of Mississippi and Bob Riley of Alabama. Both praised the federal government’s response. Still, Barbour said, “We’ve suffered a grievous blow that we won’t recover from for a long while.”

Bush was accompanied by Homeland Security Department Secretary Michael Chertoff. The department oversees FEMA.

HOSPITALS

Evacuations resumed Friday at some of New Orleans’ most troubled hospitals where desperate doctors were being forced to make tough choices about which patients got dwindling supplies of

ers from the general community needing evacuation.

Andress and others had lost emergency radio communications with that hospital.

Paula Dees of Tallahassee, Fla., said her father, Dr. Oscar Ballester, called her early Friday morning from University Hospital, where he and his wife, Dr. Gabriela Ballester, have been working since Saturday.

“They’re just begging for help,” Dees said. “They’re rationed a liter of water a day and have minimal food. He keeps saying, ‘They forgot about us.’”

Her father also is a diabetic and had only about a day’s supply of insulin left, she said.

Doctors at both Charity and University hospitals had called The Associated Press on Thursday, pleading for help.

Don Smithburg, CEO of Louisiana State University hospital system, which oversees the two public hospitals, said evacuations resumed Friday at Charity after state police stepped up their protection.

“In some areas we are out of food and water,” Smithburg said. “Some of my staff are giving each other intravenous fluids. We have to get them out of here [Friday].”

He said sick newborns and 10 healthy babies had been evacuated.

‘YOU LOOT, WE SHOOT’

About 24,000 National Guard members were to be in Louisiana and Mississippi by the end of the week to combat looting and quell gunfire that disrupted the rescue of survivors.

Chertoff said Friday at a news conference that 1,400 will go to New Orleans daily for the next three days, expanding a force of 3,000 that’s trying to maintain order in a city flooded and left without power by the storm.

“Looters are hitting food stores, they’re hitting department stores, they’re in jewelry stores and gun stores — they’re stealing guns wherever they can,” said Sgt. Frank Coates, a spokesman for the Louisiana State Police. “It’s not just to survive, they’re taking goods for personal gain.”

Looting was occurring elsewhere. Almost every store in downtown Slidell, a Louisiana community just north of Lake Pontchartrain, have been broken into and stripped. Smashed doors and bare shelves were found in convenience stores, hobby shops and pay-day lenders. In Biloxi, big signs in front of smashed homes, which were ripped in half by the storm, read, “You loot, we shoot.”

RELIEF

Contributions for Hurricane Katrina relief totaled more than \$219 million, the *Chronicle of Philanthropy* said, with some corporations boosting their donations as the historic proportions of the devastation become clear.

The pace of contributions is “unprecedented in recent American history,” the publication said.

Americans donated \$239 million within 10 days of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, and \$30 million within three days of the South Asian tsunami in December, the *Chronicle* said.

Corporate contributions for Katrina relief exceed \$100 million, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Center for Corporate Citizenship said.

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world’s largest retailer, increased its cash contribution to \$17 million. General Electric Co., which earlier pledged \$1 million to the American Red Cross, said Friday that it will give an additional \$5 million in cash and \$10 million in equipment and services to the relief effort.

WITHOUT POWER

Entergy Corp., Southern Co. and Cleco Corp. said about 1.32

million customers were still without power in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama on Friday. This includes 723,946 people in Louisiana, 389,825 in Mississippi and 206,910 in Alabama.

Insurance-industry risk analysts now estimate that the total economic loss inflicted on areas hit by the hurricane will reach \$100 billion or more, depending on how effective the government’s response to the crisis is in the next few weeks. Costs for business interruptions alone may top \$100 million a day, Risk Management Solutions Inc. said Friday.

Insurance claims are expected to total between \$20 billion and \$35 billion, Risk Management said. Much of the damage, however, probably will not be insured because homeowner’s insurance does not automatically cover flood damage. Only about one in three homes and businesses in New Orleans and about one in five in Mississippi are believed to have flood insurance.

OIL

The post-Hurricane Katrina petroleum-supply outlook improved Friday when U.S. and European governments agreed to release 2 million barrels a day of oil and refined products such as gasoline from their reserves over the next month.

Oil prices fell sharply after the agreement was announced by the International Energy Agency, dropping by \$1.90 a barrel on the New York futures market to \$67.57.

The oil and other products will come from emergency reserves across Europe, as well as the United States’ stockpile.

Retail gasoline prices weren’t immediately affected — the national average for regular unleaded remained at an all-time high \$2.87 a gallon Friday — and any petroleum from Europe will take a couple of weeks to reach the United States.

RACIAL UNREST

Black members of Congress expressed anger Friday at what they said was a slow federal response to the hurricane.

“It looks dysfunctional to me right now,” said Rep. Diane Watson, D-Calif.

Watson and other members of the Congressional Black Caucus, along with members of the Black Leadership Forum, National Urban League and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, held a news conference and said that the response was slow because those most affected are poor.

Many also are black, but the lawmakers held off on alleging racial bias.

Dale Charles, president of the Arkansas NAACP, took the government to task Friday for not helping the stranded residents of New Orleans more quickly.

Charles said “black and poor” were the main reasons the people had not been helped more quickly.

Charles said he hoped national leaders of the NAACP and the Urban League will call for an investigation of “what went wrong.”

“A congressional investigation needs to be called ... and some heads need to roll,” he said.

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, at a State Department news conference, dismissed the criticism.

Rice agreed that the black community has been heavily affected. But, she said, “nobody wants to see Americans suffer, and I think everybody understands that.”

Reporter C.S. Murphy prepared this article with information from Andy Davis, Charlie Frago, Brandon Tubbs and Debra Hale-Shelton of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette; The Associated Press; Bloomberg News Services; and The Times-Picayune.



Associated Press

Guardsmen help an injured woman on a sidewalk Friday near the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans.



Children sleep on the sidewalk Friday in front of the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans while awaiting help from authorities.

Associated Press



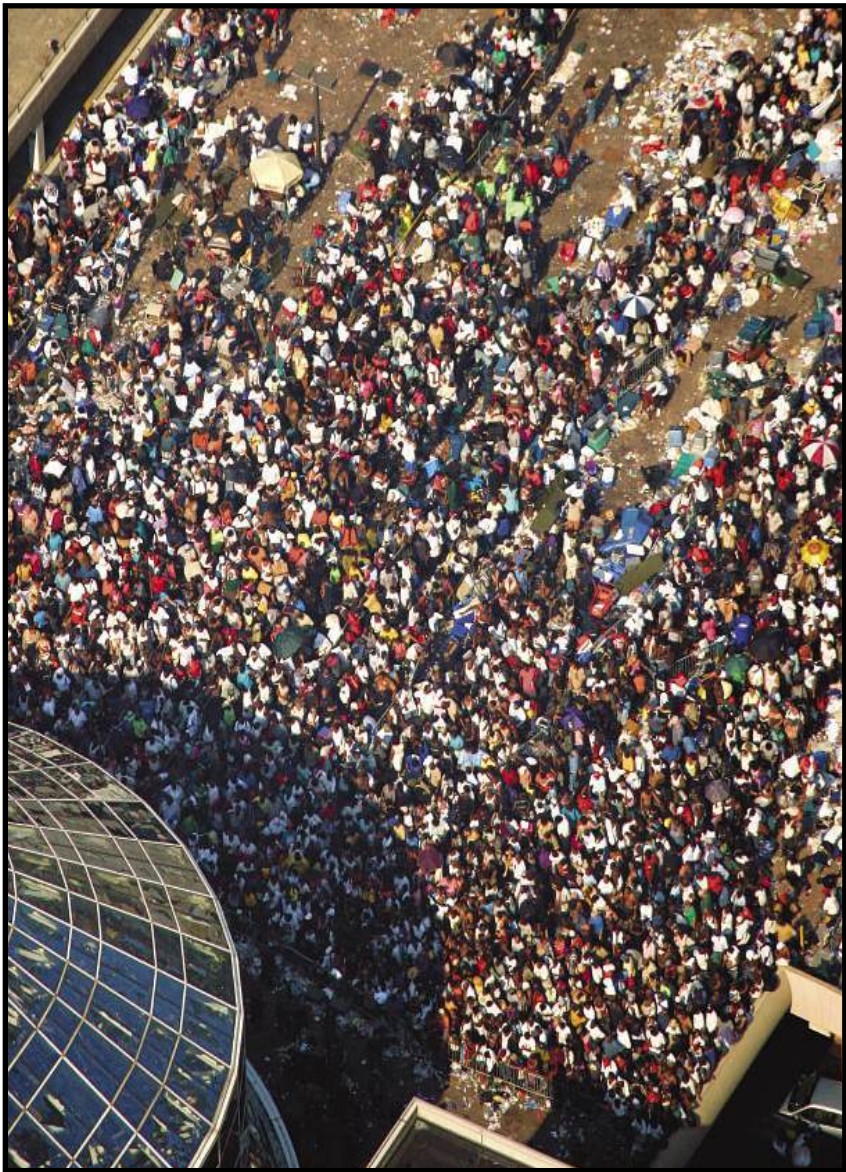
Associated Press

A fire burns Friday morning in east New Orleans. An explosion jolted residents awake and fire illuminated the pre-dawn sky before firefighters decided to let the blaze burn itself out.



Associated Press

A woman carries her child Friday into a shelter in Houston after making a day-long journey from New Orleans.



Associated Press

Thousands wait Friday outside the Louisiana Superdome to be evacuated.



Associated Press

Jay Duffard, injured while trying to ride out Hurricane Katrina in his home, tries to rest inside the wet theater of Bay St. Louis High School in Mississippi on Friday.



Associated Press

Heavily armed members of the New Orleans Police Department patrol past Harrah's Casino downtown Friday.

Locations where Hurricane Katrina refugees can register for state assistance

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Refugees from Hurricane Katrina may register at these Arkansas locations to get help from the state. Gov. Mike Huckabee said Friday. The centers will be open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

The refugees also may obtain information by calling (877) 293-5273 or by going on-line at www.kare.arkansas.gov Refugees looking for temporary driver's licenses, child support enforcement or state assistance with various other needs may call the state Department of Finance and Administration at (866) 885-4853

The registration centers, listed by county, town, and specific location for registering:

Arkansas County: Stuttgart —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, Stuttgart Municipal Airport; DeWitt —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 701 S. 16th St.

Ashley County: Crossett —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 705 N. Florida St.

Baxter County: Mountain Home —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 1640 Fuller St.

Benton County: Rogers —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 1408 S. First St.

Boone County: Harrison —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 2810 Airport Rd.

Bradley County: Warren —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 101 S. Main St.

Calhoun County: Hampton —Calhoun County Courthouse, 309 W. Main St.

Carroll County: Berryville —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 1002 S. Main St.

Chicot County: Lake Village —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 721 Park St.

Clark County: Arkadelphia —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 410

Crittenden St.

Clay County: Rector —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 600 E. Ninth St.

Cleburne County: Heber Springs —Arkansas National Guard Armory, 701 S. Seventh St.

Cleveland County: Rison —Cleveland County Courthouse, County Judge's Office, 20 Magnolia St.

Columbia County: Magnolia —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 100 W. University St.

Conway County: Morrilton —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 306 Will St.

Craighead County: Jonesboro —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 1921 Aggie Rd.

Crawford County: Van Buren —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 1820 Chestnut St.

Crittenden County: West Memphis —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 1700 N. Avalon St.

Cross County: Wynne —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 305 Helen Ave.

Dallas County: Fordyce —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 101 S. Walnut St.

Desha County: Dumas —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 901 E. Chocotaw St.

Drew County: Monticello —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 809 Jordan Drive

Faulkner County: Conway —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 300 Exchange Ave.

Franklin County: Ozark —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 1907 Commercial St.

Fulton County: Salem —Fulton County Courthouse, 123 S. Main St.

Garland County: Hot Springs —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 401 Mid-America Blvd.

Grant County: Sheridan —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 91 Grant St.

Greene County: Paragould —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 1201 Arkansas 135 North.

Hempstead County: Hope —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 194 Holiday Dr.

Hot Spring County: Malvern —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 1430 Division St.

Howard County: Nashville —Howard County Courthouse, 431 North Main St.

Independence County: Batesville —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 1690 White Dr.

Izard County: Melbourne —Izard County Courthouse, Arkansas 69.

Jackson County: Newport —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 2000 Fairgrounds Rd.

Jefferson County: Pine Bluff —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 707 Thomas Riggins Rd.

Johnson County: Clarksville —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 300 Scoggins Rd.

Lafayette County: Stamps —Stamps City Hall, 207 Antigo St.

Lawrence County: Walnut Ridge —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 1121 SE Front St.

Lee County: Marianna —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 591 Arkansas 243.

Lincoln County: Evacuées should use the Jefferson County center in Pine Bluff.

Little River County: Ashdown —Little River County Courthouse, 315 N. Second St.

Logan County: Paris —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 800 W. Grover St.

Lonoke County: Lonoke —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 2005 E. Front St.

Madison County: Huntsville —Madison

County emergency services facility, Arkansas 74 West.

Marion County: Yellville —Yellville City Hall, U.S. 62.

Miller County: Texarkana —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 4800 Airport Rd.

Mississippi County: Blytheville —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 1700 Division St.

Monroe County: Brinkley —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 628 Cypress St.

Montgomery County: Mount Ida —Montgomery County Courthouse, 105 U.S. 270 East.

Nevada County: Prescott —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 841 W. Gee St.

Newton County: Jasper —Newton County Courthouse, 100 Court St.

Ouachita County: Camden —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 1020 Gibson Ave. SE.

Perry County: Perryville —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 705 Houston Ave.

Phillips County: West Helena —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 437 Phillips 204 Rd.

Pike County: Murfreesboro —Pike County Courthouse, County Judge's Office, 1 Courthouse Square.

Poinsett County: Marked Tree —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 802 Liberty St.

Polk County: Mena —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, Morrow Ave.

Pope County: Russellville —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 217 Airport Rd.

Prairie County: Hazen —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 1523 U.S. 63 North.

Pulaski County: Little Rock —Ricks Arkansas National Guard Readiness

Center, 4700 W. Eighth St.; North Little Rock —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 2600 Poplar St.

Randolph County: Pocahontas —Randolph County Courthouse annex, County Judge's Office, 107 W. Broadway St.

St. Francis County: Forrest City —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 2001 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr.

Saline County: Benton —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 406 Fairfield Rd.

Scott County: Waldron —Scott County Courthouse, 100 W. First St., Suite 1.

Searcy County: Marshall —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, Fair St.

Sebastian County: Fort Smith —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 8400 Zero St.

Sevier County: De Queen —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 710 Lakeside Dr.

Sharp County: Ash Flat —Sharp County Courthouse, County Judge's Office, 718 Ash Flat Dr.

Stone County: Mountain View —Stone County Courthouse, County Judge's Office, 107 W. Main St.

Union County: El Dorado —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 413 Industrial Dr.

Van Buren County: Clinton —Van Buren County Courthouse annex, County Judge's Office, U.S. 65.

Washington County: Fayetteville —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 3590 S. School St.

White County: Searcy —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 3105 S. Main St.

Woodruff County: Augusta —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 500 U.S. 64.

Yell County: Dardanelle —Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, Arkansas 28.

Pursuit hot to get state refugee aid, Lincoln says

BY PAUL BARTON
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

WASHINGTON — The Arkansas congressional delegation will do all it can to get federal money to help the state deal with the influx of Hurricane Katrina refugees, Sen. Blanche Lincoln vowed Friday.

The state's senior senator, in a conference call with Arkansas reporters, said the influx is likely to place "unprecedented demands" on health-care facilities and schools, among other institutions.

The push for federal money got off to a good start Friday, when the Federal Emergency Management Agency issued an disaster-emergency declaration for all 75 Arkansas counties, making the state eligible to get federal reimbursement for Katrina-related costs.

Lincoln, a Democrat, said the delegation, besides pushing for money, will strive for the elimination of red tape that could hinder payments to the state. One example: making sure that Arkansas hospitals are reimbursed for treating Medicaid patients who are residents of other states.

Lincoln said she talked to Gov. Mike Huckabee to discuss coordination of federal aid to Arkansas. "There are lots of different types of federal assistance," she said.

Meanwhile, Lincoln blasted the Federal Emergency Management Agency for not doing a better job of helping residents of the Gulf Coast. She said the agency is suffering "under the layers of bureaucracy at [the Department of] Homeland Security."

Lincoln also criticized President Bush for not visiting the scene of the disaster earlier. "I was a little dismayed that it took him until today [Friday] to get down there, quite frankly."

But Lincoln said she continues to be proud of how Arkansans are responding to the situation.

"The calls we have been getting into our office have been phenomenal," she said, adding that "being a good neighbor" is a value that Arkansas residents take seriously.

Refugees

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people, and bring them back to Arkansas," Huckabee said. "I asked the governor of Louisiana, 'Are we talking 20 or 200 [buses]?' And the answer was '200 would be really good as a start.'"

Arkansas is now looking for buses, Huckabee said, and has asked churches to provide vehicles and drivers. It also will ask for sheriff's deputies, state troopers and National Guardsmen to provide security, the governor said.

Arkansas and Louisiana are working together under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact that Huckabee said was in place before Hurricane Katrina struck the Gulf Coast.

Katrina made landfall Monday, causing widespread destruction in Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. A surge of water caused by the storm breached some levees protecting New Orleans, flooding the city and leading to looting and lawlessness. The city has since been ordered evacuated.

Huckabee said he also has asked for federal permission to use C-130 aircraft at Little Rock Air Force Base to airlift people from Louisiana.

The governor declined to give his opinion on the federal response to the storm, but he expressed disbelief at the situation in New Orleans.

'DAYS AND DAYS'

"It's inconceivable to me that in the United States of America it's possible for us to let our citizens go days and days without food, water or decent shelter," Huckabee said, asking why people had to "trudge through sewage up to their chest just to find a place to lay down."

The governor again stressed that the state does not know the number of people who are in Arkansas because of the hurricane or the specific nature of their needs.

He asked refugees to register this weekend at offices located in every county of the state, allowing Arkansas to take a "census" of the size and scope of the problem. A list of locations where people can register is published above.

The state started Operation K.A.R.E., or Katrina Assistance and Relief Effort, Friday, posted an Internet Web site at <http://www.kare.arkansas.gov>, and opened a toll-free number at (877) 293-5273 to provide information to refugees.

State employees have volunteered to staff a call center to help answer questions, Huckabee said. Others have been ordered to work on Labor Day, which is Monday, to help register refugees, the governor said.

Huckabee said Thursday that the state has initially allotted \$10 million from an \$18 million fund dedicated to disaster relief. Mike Stormes, the state's budget director, said the state has not yet started to tap that money.

But Huckabee repeatedly told state agency heads not to worry about the cost of caring for those displaced by the hurricane. The state's costs will be reimbursed by the federal government, he said.

On Friday, President Bush declared a state of emergency in Arkansas, opening the door for federal aid to all of the state's counties.

'IN THEIR POSITION'

Housing the refugees is a major problem. Fort Chaffee is ready to take 4,000, according to the Ar-



Associated Press

Gov. Mike Huckabee (left) speaks Friday with Bill Proenza, director of the Southern Region of the National Weather Service, at a meeting of the Arkansas Emergency Management Association in Little Rock.

kansas National Guard. Huckabee said 3,500 beds in church camps around the state are being prepared and that 250 apartments belonging to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development also are being used.

Individuals held out not only helping hands but also their own homes. A meeting of the Benton Chamber of Commerce on Friday drew more than 50 people who offered homes, rooms and motor homes to refugees.

"Where did you all come from?" Mark Gillis, the chamber executive director, asked the crowd.

"All you have to do is put yourself in their position," one man responded.

The Little Rock Housing Authority hopes to have 85 vacant apartments in the Parris Towers high-rise furnished and ready by early next week, said Shelly Ehenger, the authority's executive director.

In Hope, officials were preparing a migrant housing center for use. Jacksonville Mayor Tommy Swaim said his city has been trying to move more than 400 refugees in his city from hotels and motels into apartments, private residences and other long-term housing options.

"Long term, this is going to be a problem for us, just like any other city," Swaim said. "We're looking at a number of people who are probably going to be settling with us permanently."

On Friday, the Federal Emergency Management Agency asked property owners in Arkansas, as well as other states, to consider providing unused houses or apartments for victims of Katrina.

Real estate firms throughout the state began compiling lists of potential homes or apartments for the refugees.

FOOD, DIAPERS, PETS

Others worried about meeting other needs. With between 1,000 and 1,600 refugees in Forrest City, local residents donated food, diapers, baby formula and other goods.

Cash donations at Russellville's Hughes Community Center have totaled \$250,000 in the past 24 hours, along with other supplies, said a volunteer coordinator at the shelter.

Supplies started arriving at the Pine Bluff Convention Center Friday.

"It's been incredible," said Bob Purvis, the center's executive director. "As soon as the word goes out that we need something, suddenly we have a hundred of them."

In Jonesboro, about 85 refugees had registered at the Red Cross

shelter operated by the Red Cross. Refugees sifted boxes of clothing and other supplies outside as a steady stream of cars dropping off donations and goods passed by.

'THE TOUGH PART'

Dwayne Jones moved into the shelter on Thursday after fleeing his New Orleans home and staying at a Little Rock hotel until his money ran out. A technician for a pest control firm, he said he's been trying to contact a federal agency about assistance in finding long-term housing and he hopes to get work in the Little Rock area.

"I see everything on TV, but it still hasn't really sunk in yet," Jones said. "I'm sort of the strong one in the family, but this is still pretty hard."

Lance B. DuPlessis, a school-teacher from New Orleans who weathered Hurricane Betsy when

it hit his hometown in 1965, said he knows it will be a long time before he leaves the Red Cross shelter for home.

"I've been through this before. You just have to get used to the waiting," DuPlessis said. "I know it's going to be a while."

Huckabee expressed similar sentiments.

"The tough part of this assignment is going to be that it is a long-term assignment," Huckabee said. "We have never in this country had anything of this magnitude that has displaced this many people for this long a period of time, over this broad of an area."

Information for this article was contributed by Andrew DeMillo, Brandon Tubbs, David Smith, Debra Hale-Shelton, Hilary Hilliard, Rachael Myer, Richard Massey and Rodney Bowers of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.

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39th

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ahead of the 39th, and thousands of guardsmen from across the nation are en route to provide additional relief and support.

Soldiers from Arkansas' 39th Brigade and 142nd Field Artillery Brigade hit New Orleans on Thursday within 24 hours of being called to duty. The Arkansas National Guard's 189th Airlift Wing shuttled about 300 soldiers to Callender Field, a naval air station near Belle Chasse, a 20-minute drive south-east of New Orleans.

Before leaving Arkansas, both brigades scrambled to gather equipment and begin what would be a two-day trek in humvees and large trucks to the naval air station to join the foot soldiers who arrived the day before.

To prepare for the trip, supply sergeants with the 39th dug through containers at Ricks Armory in Little Rock that had just arrived from Iraq about a month ago. The brigade itself returned from Iraq in March and was in the process of unpacking from its deployment when the new orders came down. The top of most of the boxes still have a layer of fine Iraqi dirt, something the brigade got used to living with during its year-long deployment there.

For the trip to Louisiana, the 39th had to borrow trucks and equipment. Most of the brigade's humvees and 5-ton trucks were passed on to replacement units in Baghdad.

"It was amazing how soon they got ready," said Col. Mike Ross, commander of the 39th Infantry Brigade. "A lot volunteered. They wanted to do the right thing. Our limitation is that our equipment isn't all back yet."

The 39th isn't the only Arkansas unit pulling Hurricane Katrina duty, however.

This week Arkansas activated about 1,500 guardsmen, including those of the 39th, to help with recovery efforts in Mississippi and Louisiana. Most arrived in storm-ravaged areas within 24 hours of activation. Little Rock Air Force Base has been flying supply missions throughout the region, moving supplies in and people out.

The Arkansas Air National Guard's 189th Airlift Wing flew mission after mission to Callender Field, where most of Arkansas' soldiers will be working. They deposited soldiers and supplies to the outpost from which the Army will help clear the city of the dead, the stranded and the criminal.

The 189th was going to fly throughout the night Thursday, but after flying one of its C-130 cargo planes through city airspace, commanders deemed it too dangerous to fly at night. The vicinity's airspace is cluttered with rescue and cargo aircraft with no control tower to direct them.

An airport operations team is working at New Orleans International Airport to establish a control tower to coordinate military use of airspace around the city. Until that is up and running, flight crews must rely on their own eyes to avoid colliding with other aircraft.

Arkansas units working the hurricane disaster include the 39th, the 142nd, the 875th Engineer Battalion, the 1123rd Transportation Company, the State Area Command, the 189th Airlift Wing and a military police company from West Memphis.

"They just asked me to send another battalion," Ross said Friday morning. "They want 300 more soldiers there tomorrow [Saturday]. I'm trying to fill that request now."

As he spoke, the massive convoy of soldiers and equipment from the 39th and 142nd began to leave a truck stop in El Dorado, headed for New Orleans. They carried the support materials for

hundreds of guardsmen who are already patrolling New Orleans' streets.

The convoy of more than 150 trucks left Fort Chaffee on Thursday morning as most of the soldiers began to fly into New Orleans. Late Thursday the convoy turned into the truck stop, where soldiers slept on cots next to vehicles, on the hoods of trucks and in humvees.

Moving that amount of equipment is slow. Army vehicles have no air conditioning, leaving soldiers to fight off the heat with open windows and pounding interstate winds laced with Louisiana humidity.

By the end of the day Friday, the convoy was near Arkansas' base camp at the naval air station. Luxuries are expected to be few. There are buildings to sleep in with the use of cots, but generators still must be trucked in and latrines will have to be dug in the mud. Showers and clean water are nowhere to be found.

As they drove south, soldiers talked about the news of the day, how violence in the city continued to rise. And they contemplated the prospect of being forced to shoot fellow Americans.

Ross sent a team of Army lawyers — judge advocates — ahead to New Orleans to clarify the rules of engagement for soldiers. The written rules dictate when a soldier can use lethal force.

"We've got to have good, clear rules of engagement and a clear chain of command for the soldiers," Ross said.

"We're not on federal orders this time. We're on state orders, but we're working for a different state."

At Alexandria, La., each soldier in the convoy was issued 10 bullets — far less than the 54 rounds that had been requested and expected. However, it was more than usually issued for a recovery effort. Typically, soldiers respond to recovery/relief operations without ammunition. This time, however, soldiers are armed and wrapped in body armor as they head into the city.

Reports of violence mounted Friday, with hospitals and helicopters drawing fire. A National Guard soldier was injured earlier this week.

Capt. Derald Neugebauer of Conway warned the soldiers about the violence they would face.

"Not only are we going into an area where there is a lot of looting, we also are moving into an area where the local government is very disgruntled," he said. "So you may not be greeted warmly."

He told the soldiers to watch one another's backs. "There are crazy people down there."

One soldier could be heard saying under his breath that he didn't think he'd be going back to Baghdad so soon.

For many in the 39th, it's an all too familiar chord. For those with the 142nd, it's a whole new ballgame.

"Even though we're going into a very negative environment, it's a very positive thing we're trying to do," said Lt. Daniel White of Stuttgart. "The advantage we have? We all just spent a year working together."

Maj. Mike Robbins of Junction City said the mission isn't just about duty. It's about taking care of people who aren't there to take care of their own state.

The 256th Infantry Brigade of the Louisiana National Guard deployed to Iraq shortly before the 39th came home.

"The last time I saw guys from Louisiana, we were handing Zone 52 to them [in Iraq]," Robbins said. "There are 5,000 guys still over there who live here, and their 5,000 families need our help. It's the least we can do."

"Will we have to shoot Americans? Probably," Robbins said. "Does it bother me? It probably will when it's all over."

Gasoline

• Continued from Page 1A

headed to Illinois to see her mother and father as well as to watch motorcycle racing.

"We had spent all summer waiting to go see my parents," she said.

Michael Right, a AAA spokesman, said he expects travel to slow down over the weekend.

Attendance in recent days at Silver Dollar City, a Branson theme park, has been about 30 percent below what normally would be expected, said Lisa Rau, a spokesman. She said attendance of 20,000 to 25,000 had been anticipated for today through Monday, but the fallout from Katrina makes it tough to predict the actual total.

"Under normal circumstances, gasoline prices haven't adversely affected Branson," Rau said. "However, coupling the gas prices with the tragedy of such a magnitude definitely changes travel patterns."

Joe David Rice, Arkansas' tourism director, is hopeful that the state's tourism businesses will be OK, but he conceded that "it's going to be a strange weekend ... with this mix of refugees or evacuees and travelers."

The Arkansas Department of Parks and Tourism said some refugees were at state parks, and it expected campsites and other lodging facilities to be mostly full over the weekend.

Meantime, state Attorney General Mike Beebe on Friday announced that his office has set up a hot line and e-mail account — pricewatch@arkansasag.gov — to gather reports of possible gasoline price-gouging. The number in central Arkansas is (501) 683-4853, while the toll-free statewide number is (866) 767-0801.

"We've already received hundreds of phone calls and e-mails about these gas prices and about other issues, and we encourage people to continue to give us information," Beebe said.

Beebe said he has reports of price-gouging by some hotels but that others were being generous to evacuees. All of Arkansas' 75 counties are now under the state's price-gouging statute, according to Beebe's office.

Overbuying or hoarding fuel could exacerbate spot shortages brought on by limitations of supply from some distributors.

Cat's Corner, a Shell gas station on Sunset Avenue in the Springdale area, ran out of all gasoline grades except diesel Thursday morning.

Store owner Andy Kirsch said Friday that he expects to fill up the tanks that carry 24,000 gallons of gasoline over the weekend or by early next week. Gasoline prices in Northwest Arkansas soared past \$3, with some stores posting prices as high as \$3.25 for regular.

Sonja Hubbard, chief executive of E-Z Mart Stores Inc., which owns 319 gasoline stations across Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma and Texas, said 10 percent of her stores were experiencing temporary shortages at any given moment.

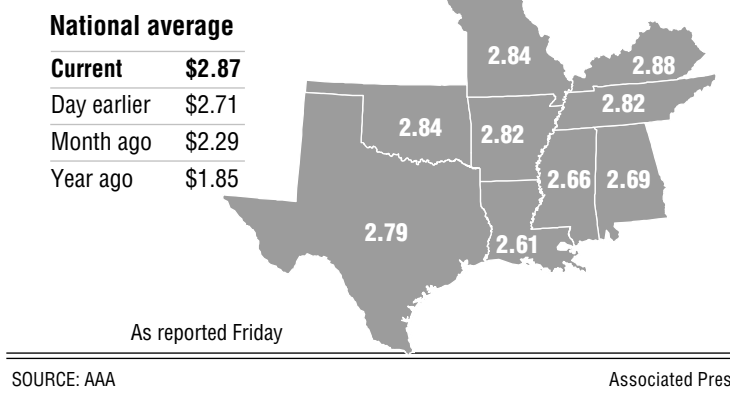
"It will be a busy weekend," said Hubbard. "My entire management team will be working."

Gov. Mike Huckabee announced Thursday that he would not seek a waiver on state motor fuel taxes, unlike his counterpart in Georgia, Gov. Sonny Perdue, who on Friday ordered a month-long moratorium, subject to legislative review the day after the holiday weekend.

Huckabee said he could not suspend the state's gasoline taxes and that such a move would require an act of the Arkansas Legislature. He also said such a

Feeling the pinch in the region

While the average price for a gallon of regular gasoline in Arkansas has risen markedly since Hurricane Katrina hit the Gulf of Mexico and paralyzed the oil industry there, prices in some other states in the region are higher.



move would attract drivers from other states, who would come to Arkansas to fill their tanks, draining the state's gasoline supply.

Some good news arrived Friday as the 26-nation International Energy Agency announced that it will bring gasoline and diesel from Europe to the U.S. market as part of a 60-million-barrel shipment that also includes crude oil.

But it will be about two weeks before the extra fuel arrives. Meanwhile, about 1.8 million barrels a day of U.S. refining capacity in the Gulf of Mexico remained shut down. The operations in that area account for about 30 percent of the nation's domestic output.

Still, an increasing amount of fuel and crude oil is being delivered from the Gulf Coast by pipelines.

"We've had some good signs. We'll just keep working at it," said John Felmy, chief economist of the American Petroleum Institute, a Washington-based trade group representing the major oil companies.

"We're still calling on consumers to be prudent in their use of gasoline," Felmy said. "It's just a complicated jigsaw puzzle we're putting back together."

Although electric provider Entergy Corp. said it was beginning to restore power to some key energy facilities in the region, eight Gulf Coast refineries and several natural gas processing plants remained out of service.

U.S. gasoline production is down by about 40 million gallons a day, or 10 percent of consumption, and it could be weeks before the region's refining capacity is back to normal, analysts said. Locating workers and getting them back on the job will also take time.

Information for this article was contributed by Jake Bleed and Crista Cody of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette and by Bloomberg News and The Associated Press.

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Arkansas Democrat Gazette

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Thousands escape city

Death toll continues to mount

BY DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE STAFF AND WIRE REPORTS

Thousands of refugees escaped New Orleans by bus, air and rail Saturday as federal officials acknowledged that the relief efforts from Hurricane Katrina have failed to quickly help areas devastated by the storm.

No one knows how many were killed by Hurricane Katrina's floods or how many more are waiting for rescue. But the bodies are everywhere: in attics, floating in the flooded city, sitting in wheelchairs, abandoned on highways.

And the displaced continue to die — some at a convention center and an airport triage center, where bodies were kept in a refrigerated truck.

Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco said Saturday that she expected the death toll to reach the thousands. And Craig Vanderwagen, rear admiral of the U.S. Public Health Service, said one morgue alone, at a St. Gabriel prison northwest of New Orleans, expected 1,000 to 2,000 bodies.

Many remained behind in the beleaguered city as President Bush — facing widespread criticism for the federal government's response — ordered more than 7,000 additional troops in the region. More than 100,000 people have received humanitarian aid, including more than 9,500 rescued by the U.S. Coast Guard, Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff said.

The newest troop deployment, today until Tuesday, will draw from active-duty forces, the president said.

Bush said 4,000 active-duty troops were already in the area and 7,000 more would arrive in the next 72 hours from the U.S. Army's 82nd Airborne Division at Fort Bragg, N.C.; 1st Cavalry Division from Fort Hood, Texas; and the Marines' 1st and 2nd Expeditionary forces from Camp Pendleton, Calif., and Camp Lejeune, N.C.

In addition to the active-duty forces, 10,000 additional National Guard troops were being sent to the Gulf, raising the number of Guard personnel in the stricken states to about 40,000.

"The enormity of the task requires more resources," the president said in a live televised appearance from the Rose Garden that substituted for his usual weekly radio address recorded the day before. "In America we do not abandon," he said.

See **KATRINA**, Page 16A

Associated Press

A family of Hurricane Katrina victims walks past a covered body Saturday in front of the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans.

39th's GIs get people out, ease the agony

BY AMY SCHLESING
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

NEW ORLEANS — Javier Rosado waved to passing soldiers from his roof along Bourbon Street in the French Quarter, famed for its all-night bars and sex clubs, and yelled, "Hey! Are you OK? Need anything?"

Rosado lives in an apartment above Big Daddy's, an establishment that boasts "Bottomless topless table top dancing at moderate prices."

He ran downstairs and handed water out to the soldiers from Arkansas' 39th Infantry Brigade, thanking them for being there.

"For a few nights there was nothing but gunshots," Rosado said. "I'm glad to see uniforms walking down this street. Things got scary around here."

Arkansas soldiers have been helping with the Hurricane Katrina rescue and recovery effort since Wednesday, with troops from the 875th Engineering Battalion working in Mississippi and members of the 39th, the 189th Airlift Wing of the Arkansas Air National Guard and the 142nd Field Artillery Brigade patrolling the

See **39TH**, Page 20A

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/CHRIS DEAN

Army National Guard members from Arkansas' 39th Infantry Brigade load an elderly woman onto a truck Saturday outside the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans.

Refugees can hardly see beyond present

Survivors take it one day at a time

BY VAN JENSEN
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

It is 4:30 a.m. on Monday, and the Williams family pulls off Shackleford Road into the Wingate Inn parking lot. Sixteen hours earlier in New Orleans, the six of them had crammed into a five-seat Honda with two days' worth of clothing and a cooler full of food in the trunk.

They have left behind their home, their jobs, their school and the city where they had lived all their lives.

Johnell Williams and Erica Preatto have been together for six years. Their daughter, Malia, is a week away from turning 1.

Williams' mother, Joyce, and his sons from an earlier relationship — Johnell Jr. and Joharri — fill the back seat.

A seventh will join them soon. Preatto is pregnant, due in early November.

As the Williamses unpack the car, Hurricane Katrina tears at the Gulf Coast. By the time they awaken, tens of thousands will be suddenly homeless. By Tuesday, New Orleans will be flooded, and hundreds of thousands more will be seeking shelter.

Within one traumatic week the number turning to Arkansas

See **REFUGEES**, Page 17A

Associated Press

Aircraft passengers Saturday see the names of hurricane survivors painted on the roof of a house in St. Bernard Parish near New Orleans.



Associated Press

Chief Justice of the United States William H. Rehnquist died Saturday at his Virginia home.

Chief justice, 80, dies

Thyroid cancer kills Rehnquist

BY GINA HOLLAND
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist died Saturday evening at his home in suburban Virginia, said Supreme Court spokesman Kathy Arberg.

A statement from the spokesman said he was surrounded by his three children when he died in Arlington.

"The chief justice battled thyroid cancer since being diagnosed last October and continued to perform his duties on the court until a precipitous decline in his health the last couple of days," she said.

Rehnquist was appointed to the Supreme Court as an associate justice in 1971 by President Nixon and took his seat on Jan. 7, 1972. He was elevated to chief justice by President Reagan in 1986.

His death ends a 33-year Supreme Court career during which Rehnquist oversaw the court's conservative shift, pre-

See **REHNQUIST**, Page 7A

Associated Press

Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist's death creates the second opening on the Supreme Court in four months.

WEATHER

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Today Sunny to partly cloudy.
High 91, with east winds at 5 to 10 mph.
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Former Arkansan is coping

He stays in home in French Quarter

BY CHARLOTTE TUBBS
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Living on alligator jerky and “Katrina bread,” life for Benton native Finis Shelnutt has been relatively good in the New Orleans French Quarter since the hurricane struck Monday.

While Shelnutt, a real estate broker, has lacked electrical power or running water for several days, he's had protection provided by French Quarter police who set up headquarters in the nearby Omni Royal Orleans hotel, and he has had plenty of food from the restaurant in his building. Since the French Quarter sits on land above sea level, it has mostly escaped the flooding that has plagued the rest of the city.

“I'm in good shape,” Shelnutt said Friday when reached by phone.

On Saturday, National Guardsmen dropped off 120 packets of ready-to-eat meals. Shelnutt enjoyed a chicken salsa meal, which satisfied his cravings for Taco Bell, he said.

Although Shelnutt was trying to get out of the city earlier in the week, by Friday he had decided to stay put and was predicting a quick recovery for the Quarter.

Shelnutt's 11,000-square-foot building on St. Louis Street between Royal and Bourbon streets houses Alex Patout's Louisiana Restaurant and a nightclub. Shelnutt lives on the third and fourth floors.

Other than needing a new roof, his building is in good condition, he said.

Shelnutt has housed about a dozen people during the week, including his handyman and some tourists from Chicago and Florida. He helped police break into the renowned Antoine's Restaurant and retrieve steaks before they spoiled. He also supplied police with gumbo, etouffee, duck, shrimp and crawfish from Alex Patout's.

On Friday, Shelnutt planned to make red beans and rice for the group. Earlier he made bread for the first time in his life. He calls the combination of pecans, eggs, sugar and salt “Katrina bread.”

Shelnutt and his staff had collected 500 gallons of tap water before the storm, and a good supply remained Friday.

The week has been punctuated with fear when the hurricane's fierce winds ripped against the building and on Thursday, when his handyman Ricky Santiago had a heart attack.

“It's the damndest thing I've ever seen,” Shelnutt said of the hurricane. “The wind was so amazing.”

At one point during the storm, Santiago and Shelnutt climbed onto the roof to prevent water damage inside by repositioning a skylight that had slipped out of place, Shelnutt said.

Shelnutt stayed in New Orleans in part because his car was not available, and he worried about his building.

“I guess I wanted to see what a larger hurricane would be like,” Shelnutt said. “Next time when they say Category 4 or 5, I'll be the first one to get out.”

At 5:30 a.m. Thursday, Shelnutt thought he was watching his handyman die from a heart attack. Shelnutt got help from a police captain, who got medication from a nearby Walgreens.

“He's doing great now,” Shelnutt said Friday.

Once the water and power returns, Shelnutt figures it will take only two days of cleanup to get the French Quarter up and running again. He said he thinks a revived French Quarter would begin to generate revenue to help with rebuilding the rest of the city.

“There will be a lot of property I'm going to hook up with and try to get involved with,” he said.

But right now the city needs federal help, assistance that arrived too slowly in Shelnutt's opinion. As of Friday afternoon, Shelnutt had not seen any troops or other relief personnel.

“I'm very disappointed in the administration,” said Shelnutt, who describes himself as a Bush supporter.

On Saturday the National Guard had posted no troops in the French Quarter, but New Orleans police officers manned the street corners, Shelnutt said.

Once life returns to the French Quarter, Shelnutt wants to continue negotiations he had started with Outback Steakhouse before the hurricane. He's hoping to attract the chain restaurant to his building.

If Shelnutt has learned anything through his Katrina experience, it's perseverance.

“I'm going to stick it out,” he said. “I've gone through so much I wouldn't dare leave now.”



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/STEPHEN B. THORNTON

Volunteer JoAnne Ford (left) helps hurricane refugees pick through donated clothing Friday afternoon at the Pete Marovich Assembly Center in Baton Rouge.

Shaky Baton Rouge struggles to absorb multitude of refugees

BY JIM BROOKS
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

BATON ROUGE, La. — Louisiana's capital city is bursting at the seams, as thousands of refugees and rescue workers strain an infrastructure already stressed by Hurricane Katrina.

Some parts of this city of nearly half-a-million residents were still without electricity on Saturday. Hotels are filled to bursting with people displaced from their homes, emergency workers providing relief to victims and media representatives dispatched to cover the catastrophe.

More than 10,000 evacuees are in city shelters, exceeding their combined capacity of about 9,500, officials with the American Red Cross said. That number doesn't include countless others who are sheltered in hotels, private homes and their own cars.

The parish's population could swell to more than 500,000 and maybe even double, local officials said. The movement of people caused Baton Rouge to become the biggest city in Louisiana almost overnight.

“The Baton Rouge we live in and grew up in is no longer,” said Mike Walker, an East Baton Rouge Parish councilman. “These people are here to stay.”

Ryan Lovace, who fears he lost his home in Plaquemines Parish south of New Orleans, sat at the counter of the Waffle House on College Drive on Thursday.

It was barely 6 a.m., but the diner was already filled with refugees, firefighters and a tree-cutting crew who gathered for a quick “carboload” before beginning another day of post-hurricane activity.

In the days leading up to Katrina's landfall last Monday, Lovace rented a room for his family at the Holiday Inn Select in Baton Rouge. But when his three-day reservation expired, he went to the front desk to ask if he could stay in the room.

“They told me I had lost the reservation,” he said. “My wife and two kids slept on the floor of the ballroom last night. I'm trying to find a room for my family, but it's hard.”

“I can't see myself going to a shelter,” Lovace said. “Once you get in the shelter, they don't let you leave.”

However, Lovace said he believes south Louisiana will recover from Katrina's wrath.

“We're going to bounce back,” he said over his breakfast of waffles and a sausage sandwich. “I never even thought of leaving.”

“That's where I live,” he said. “That's where I love.”

Another man who said he feared his home in Metairie was lost forever, stood outside the Marriott on Thursday and talked about rebuilding his life.

Wearing a T-shirt reading “Grandpa is my name — Spoiling is my game,” the man said he and his family moved out of their hotel accommodations after signing a six-month lease on a two-bedroom

apartment in Baton Rouge.

Housing isn't the only commodity in short supply in Baton Rouge.

The capital city is one of the spots farther south in the state where gasoline is readily available, and prices in Baton Rouge range upward from about \$2.45 a gallon.

Demand is so great that lines at gas stations snake from the pumps and back onto city streets already full of more traffic than usual.

At some gas stations, security guards watch over the pumps during the evening hours. At others, several cars sit at the pumps as drivers wait for a tanker truck to deliver more fuel.

Many city businesses — particularly those that sell the items necessary for hurricane relief — are doing brisk business.

At a Sam's Club in east Baton Rouge, there are no shopping carts waiting for patrons as they enter the door. Customers have to chase them down in the parking lot and sometimes people argue over the carts.

Inside the store, it's rare to see a cart that doesn't contain the ubiquitous red plastic 5-gallon gas can. Some carts contain nothing but such cans.

Portable gas-powered electrical generators are also popular items, and drinking water is sold by the case with people buying two to three cases at a time.

At a Pep Boys auto supply store on Airline Road in east Baton Rouge, a line of customers curled out the front door and around the building's side.

Overnight, large vehicles were parked in front of the building's entrance to keep people from breaking in.

Inside the auto parts store, the portable gas tanks for sale are light blue, and they are just as popular with customers as the red cans at Sam's Club.

Tempers occasionally flare, however. One Pep Boys customer, angry that a clerk walked away from the register for a few moments, yelled across the store to a manager at the automotive service desk.

“Can you operate this cash register?” the woman shouted. “Or are you too stupid to operate it?”

Other customers apologized to the manager for the woman's remarks, but he didn't respond in anger.

“We're all feeling the same pain here,” he told her. “Your pain is not any greater than mine.”

Later, the employee, who did not give his name, explained he drives 60 miles to work every morning from a neighborhood that was also damaged by Katrina.

He said that every day, when he gets home from work, he operates the gas-powered pump that provides water to his neighbors.

And, he said, the thought of charging them for it never crosses his mind.

Information for this article was contributed by Knight Ridder Newspapers.

Senator takes turn as medical volunteer

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — Bill Frist took off his senator's coat Saturday and flew for New Orleans as a medical volunteer.

But what he found among the thousands needing treatment from Hurricane Katrina was a rescue effort in chaos: patients sleeping on luggage conveyors, teams of nurses who didn't know each other's names and a total communication breakdown.

“In the airport right now there is no communication between one unit and another,” said Frist, R-Tenn., the Senate's majority leader and a surgeon.

“That's sort of the most disappointing thing. It's probably the greatest failure.”

Frist left Washington about 4:30 a.m. Saturday on his private plane. He spent most of the day helping to treat thousands of victims at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport and the New Orleans Convention Center.

Frist also said the federal government had acted too slowly in dealing with the hurricane's aftermath.

“Given the escalation of catastrophe that occurred over the first three days, absolutely I would have liked to see the federal government respond quicker, more rapidly, with better command and control centers and much improved communication,” Frist said.

LSU gives worried, ailing refugees temporary haven

BY JIM BROOKS
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

BATON ROUGE — The arena where Shaquille O'Neal dunked basketballs in his college days is now a gathering point for some of the most vulnerable victims of Hurricane Katrina.

The Pete Maravich Assembly Center on the campus of Louisiana State University has been pressed into service as a gathering site for sick and injured victims of the deadly storm that struck Monday morning.

On the concourse surrounding the lower level of the facility, one survivor's horrendous Katrina story is trumped by the next, and doctors, nurses, and emergency medical technicians from around the nation have mustered to help the victims.

Robert and Lucy McClure rested on cushions in the shade of the building. A single fan stirred the hot, humid air over them. Robert McClure's 96-year-old mother, Ruth Hogan, was inside the Maravich Center. Hogan and the McClures were evacuated from Hogan's home in the New Orleans suburb of Metairie on Tuesday. The house was not flooded but the roads leading to it were, so a military vehicle ferried them out.

“We were brought out on a dump truck,” said 73-year-old Lucy McClure.

“No, honey, it was an Army truck,” her 74-year-old husband corrected. Hogan had been in four hospitals in as many months, suffering the effects of two broken hips, so the McClures moved in with her in June. They were with her Monday when Katrina pounded ashore.

At the assembly center, hundreds of volunteers — many of them LSU students who arrived early at school before classes were set to begin this week — are swarming to help the storm victims.

A 10-minute conversation with the McClures was interrupted seven times by volunteers asking the elderly couple if they needed anything — food,

water or a cold cloth. Each time, the McClures deferred. The retired couple, who said they owned a home in Treasure Island, near Slidell, La., both wanted to stay at the Maravich Center, despite authorities' efforts to move them farther along the chain to Walker, La., a few miles down the road.

“I don't want to be split up,” Lucy said.

“We're not going to break up,” Robert replied.

Farther along the concourse, donated clothing covered several tables, allowing a change of clothes for storm victims who escaped from Katrina with only the clothes on their backs. Lucy and Robert sported matching purple LSU T-shirts.

Tom Lynch, who teaches public administration at LSU and is also a pastor at an interfaith church, said the volunteer response was enormous. “Most of the volunteers here are students,” he said. “There is one student volunteer whose mother lost her home in the storm. The mother and daughter are living in the girl's dorm room.”

Lynch said LSU is allowing students at several colleges stricken by the storm to enroll for the semester, so they can keep up their studies. “What else could we do but offer to help our neighbors?” he said.

In another building behind the center, Elaine Pierre waited for information about her daughter and her three grandchildren.

As she talked about her daughter, Aljeunna Pierre, tears

streamed down the woman's face.

“I just want to know where my daughter and grandchildren are.”

Pierre said she last saw Aljeunna the day before Katrina hit when her daughter and the three children left to buy gasoline.

“I never saw them again,” she sobbed. “I need to know what happened to them.”

After the storm Pierre was sent to the Superdome, an experience she refused to describe in detail.

“When I got there, they had lights,” she said. “When I left, there was no lights and very little water. It was really bad.”

Parked under one of the campus's beautiful live oak trees that somehow escaped destruction by Katrina's high winds, sat a bus from Shiloh Christian School in Springdale, Ark. Kevin Haggard made the 10-hour drive to Baton Rouge; by Friday afternoon he had already taken one group of refugees from the Maravich center to a shelter in Opelousas.

Haggard had returned and was waiting for his next load of passengers, his bus parked on the street between the basketball arena and Tiger Stadium, home of the LSU football team.

Other Arkansans also were present, as were ambulances from Crossett, Morrilton, Pine Bluff, Texarkana, De Queen, Hamburg and Fayetteville.

And parked behind the Maravich center sat a large blue-and-white ambulance from Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock.

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Sick, elderly crowd into airport



Arkansas Children's Hospital paramedic Bart Noland examines exhausted refugee Rodney D. Scott in an ambulance at the New Orleans airport Saturday morning.



Vicki Fiakpui comforts her 8-month-old son, Lawrence, as they lie Saturday morning on the floor at the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. Fiakpui, who spent five days at the Superdome in New Orleans, called the experience "a living hell."



Arkansas Children's Hospital Angel One team members Donny Antone (from left), Sedley Tomlinson and Bart Noland wheel a hurricane victim through a triage center in the New Orleans airport Saturday morning. The man was taken to Thibodaux, La.

Hurricane Katrina refugee Tawana Mitchell plays with her 10-month-old daughter, Tiajale, on a baggage conveyor belt behind a ticket counter at the New Orleans airport early Saturday.



Twins born in Arkansans' ambulance

BY AMY UPSHAW
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

NEW ORLEANS — Sitting on the metal steps of his ambulance across from the airport terminal, now a triage center, early Saturday morning, Sedley Tomlinson watched an elderly woman standing alone on the sidewalk.

"That lady is breaking my heart," mumbled Tomlinson, an emergency medical technician with Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock who has been helping transport the sick and wounded out of this ravaged city.

She looked lost — smiling bewilderingly, one pant leg bunched above her knee. The only thing she had was a wad of money that she pulled out and counted.

"I was playing the machines," the woman explained, apparently suffering from dementia or shock. "I don't know what happened — something happened. Somebody must have lost a lot of money."

"It's too bad. I like playing the machines." While at the "casino," she said, she lost her car keys. So she stood outside the airport about 1 a.m. Saturday — while others sat helplessly on the littered ground — in hopes of catching a ride home. If she knew about the destruction dealt by Hurricane Katrina, it was difficult to tell.

Still, the woman was better off than many at the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport. Her clothes looked clean and didn't smell of sewage. She could stand, walk and didn't need immediate medical care.

The people inside the airport, which usually sees more than 400,000 domestic airline passengers a month, were not as lucky. Many had been evacuated from nursing homes and hospitals. In one corner, more than a dozen mostly elderly people in wheelchairs were cordoned off. Many sat draped in blue blankets with their mouths agape, staring at nothing in particular.

"Get my daughter. I'm sick," a very frail woman whispered as she tugged at her hospital gown. It was unclear whether her daughter was even among the thousands of people jammed into the building on the outskirts of town.

After the flooding, state officials made the airport an evacuation center for survivors and a major hub for treating and sorting patients affected by Monday's hurricane, said Richard Pellerin, a field training officer with Acadian Ambulance Service Inc.

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, who is a surgeon, visited the airport Saturday and told Fox News that 10 people were dying there every day.

"We've got a lot of people stacking up," Frist, R-Tenn., said in the Fox interview. "We need to get them out."

Pellerin's company serves 34 parishes in Louisiana. Even with 1,900 employees, 200 ambulances, six helicopters and three fixed-wing aircraft, Pellerin said Acadian could not handle the mass of casualties.

"There's no way," he said. An unknown number of doctors, nurses and paramedics, some from as far as 30 hours away, flocked to New Orleans after the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals put out a desperate call for help. Many, like Tomlinson, have worked disasters before but have seen nothing quite like what they are seeing in New Orleans.

Judy Taylor, a paramedic from Morrilton, said more than 100 paramedics, 26 ambulances and six helicopters from Arkansas had arrived by Friday evening. They came from as far north as Fayetteville and as far south as Texarkana.

"What little we can do, we are glad to do," Taylor said as she waited for fuel in Baton Rouge. "It's inhumane what [those affected] are having to stay in."

Tomlinson of Conway and fellow crew members Bart Noland and Donny Antone left Little Rock in their ambulance, "Angel One," just before midnight Wednesday. They drove roughly 350 miles to Baton Rouge, slept for a couple of hours and then went to work.

They drove into New Orleans on Interstate 10 and picked up ailing survivors from a designated location on the roadway where thousands waited for assistance.

Unlike other rescuers, the crew from Arkansas Children's Hospital did not see any violence.

The patients have been designated into one of four color categories — black if the patient can't be saved, red if the patient is critical and needs immediate transport to a hospital, yellow if the patient is less serious, and green for the walking wounded or uninjured, Noland of Pottsville, explained.

Most of the people the trio had seen were stable. But after they dropped off a patient at the airport Thursday afternoon, a medical employee tapped on the ambulance door and asked if they would take a nearly full-term pregnant woman to Women's Hospital in Baton Rouge.

Forty miles into the 71-mile trip, Noland delivered twin boys — one in a breeched position — in the back of the ambulance as it bumped along the interstate.

But everything in New Orleans isn't as hopeful.

MEDICAL BOATS

Dwayne Aalseth, a paramedic from Pine Bluff, had been in Louisiana since Wednesday and spent some time in boats treating those being ferried out of New Orleans.

"Everything is underwater — cars floating. There were bodies in the cars, bodies in the water," Aalseth said.

Everyone, paramedics said, has been very appreciative for the care they are receiving. Rescuers have been giving away their own snacks

See **MEDICAL**, Page 22A

Katrina

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don our fellow citizens in their hour of need.”

The decision came after the president met for nearly an hour with Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld, Chertoff and others involved in planning the recovery from Hurricane Katrina.

Saturday, a source within Louisiana's emergency operations center said the Bush administration sent to Blanco before midnight Friday a proposed legal memorandum asking her to request a federal takeover of the evacuation of New Orleans.

The administration sought unified control over all local police and state National Guard units reporting to the governor. Louisiana officials rejected the request after talks throughout the night, concerned that such a move was comparable to a federal declaration of martial law.

Some officials in the state suspected a political motive behind the request. “Quite frankly, if they'd been able to pull off taking it away from the locals, they then could have blamed everything on the locals,” said the source, who does not have the authority to speak publicly.

A senior administration official said that Bush has clear legal authority to federalize National Guard units to quell civil disturbances under the Insurrection Act and will continue to try to unify chains of command split among the president, the Louisiana governor and the New Orleans mayor.

“The federal government stands ready to work with state and local officials to secure New Orleans and the state of Louisiana,” White House spokesman Dan Bartlett said. “The president will not let any form of bureaucracy get in the way of protecting the citizens of Louisiana.”

Blanco, a Democrat, made two moves Saturday that protected her independence from the federal government: She created a philanthropic fund for the state's victims and hired James Lee Witt, Federal Emergency Management Agency director in the Clinton administration, to advise her on the relief effort.

Witt, an Arkansas native, has been critical of the reorganization of the agency under Bush.

“As FEMA director, Mr. Witt was credited with turning that agency around,” Blanco said at a news conference Saturday afternoon. “His leadership is proven, his experience is extensive, and he is an asset to this recovery effort.”

The work is being done through James Lee Witt Associates LLC, a Washington, D.C.-based public safety and crisis management consulting firm that Witt established in 2001. Former NATO Supreme Allied Commander Gen. Wesley Clark and former Transportation Secretary Rodney Slater are vice chairmen and part-time senior advisers to the firm, which opened a Little Rock office last year.

EVACUATION CONTINUES

Arkansas continued to receive thousands of refugees over the weekend, and cities from Chattanooga, Tenn., to Philadelphia offered to take in those left homeless from Louisiana and Mississippi.

An early wave of evacuees arrived at Northwest Arkansas' Fort Chaffee, which is expected to host about 4,000 people and serve as an intake center for shelters statewide. State officials have said as many as 50,000 people were already in the state and another 20,000 could arrive this weekend.

Buses, military aircraft, commercial planes, and Amtrak trains carted out thousands of refugees throughout New Orleans on Saturday, but chaos remained in the city.

In Washington, Transportation Secretary Norman Mineta announced that more than 10,000 people had been flown out of New Orleans in what he called the largest airlift in history on U.S. soil. He said the flights would continue as long as needed.

Buses had evacuated most people from the Superdome by early morning. At the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center, thousands of people began pushing and dragging their belongings up the street to more than a dozen air-conditioned buses, the mood more numb than jubilant.

The convention center was “almost empty” after 4,200 people were removed, according to Marty Bahamonde, a spokesman for FEMA.

More than 50,000 people had been trapped for days at the two New Orleans sites. They suffered from lack of food, water or medical attention.

Thousands from the Superdome were taken to Texas in air-conditioned buses, and by early Saturday evening the last



Molly Weems, 6, and Larry Devone, who are not related, sleep on a bench Saturday at Mary J. Michel Seventh Grade School in Biloxi, Miss. Hurricane victims were also sleeping on the floor inside this shelter, which held about 400 people.



A National Guardsman helps a hurricane victim leave the convention center in New Orleans on Saturday.

300 refugees in the Superdome climbed aboard buses, leaving behind a darkened and stinking arena strewn with trash.

The sight of the last evacuee — an elderly man wearing a Houston Rockets cap — prompted cheers from members of the Texas National Guard who were guarding the facility.

“I feel like I've been here 40 years,” said Louis Dalmas Sr., one of the last people out. “Any bus going anywhere — that's all I want.”

Inside and outside the Superdome, including the concourse around it and a 50-yard bridge that connects it to a shopping center, was covered in trash up to 5 feet deep.

Guard members reported that the massive evacuation for the most part had gone smoothly Friday. About 20,000 people were in the dome when rescue efforts began, and that number swelled as people arrived to get a ride out of the city, Capt. John Pollard said.

While most of those people were on their way to safety, buses started arriving at the convention center Saturday morning.

Within minutes of the soldiers' arrival Friday, they set up six food and water lines. The crowd was for the most part orderly and grateful.

Diane Sylvester, 49, was the first person through the line. “Something is better than nothing,” she said of her two bottles of water and pork rib meal. “I feel great to see the military here. I know I'm saved.”

With Houston's Astrodome already full with 15,000 refugees, that city opened two more centers to accommodate an additional 10,000. Dallas and San Antonio also had agreed to take refugees.

Texas Gov. Rick Perry warned Saturday that his enormous state was running out of room, with as many as 120,000 hurricane refugees in 97 shelters across the state and another 100,000 in Texas hotels and motels. Others were in Tennessee, Indiana and Arkansas.

The soldiers' arrival in force came amid angry complaints from New Orleans officials that the federal government had bungled the relief effort and let people die in the streets for lack of food, water or medicine as the city was overtaken by looters, rapists and arsonists.

“The people of our city are holding on by a thread,” Mayor Ray Nagin warned in a statement to CNN on Friday. “Time has run out. Can we survive another night? And who can we depend on? Only God knows.”

At Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport, about 6,400 people were evacuated by Saturday afternoon, and officials expected to get another 10,000 out by air by the end of the day.

Since the soldiers arrived in New Orleans on Friday, more than 25,000 residents have been evacuated, Mike Brown, director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, said at a briefing Saturday morning in Baton Rouge.

The number of people left in the city and the death toll remained unknown because people continued to show up at evacuation sites and the dead were still being counted, Brown said.

“There are people in apartments and hotels that you didn't know were there,” Army Brig. Gen. Mark Graham said.

The grim process of identifying those who have died has begun but will probably take weeks, officials say.

“It will be a painstaking process,” said Bob Biggins, president-elect of the National Funeral Directors Association, whose volunteers will assist in the efforts. “How it will play out would be foolish to predict. We will have situations best described as unfortunate, and situations best described as heart-breaking.”

Fearing that the region's death toll may reach into the thousands, federal officials have dispatched four mobile morgues with coroners and other specialists to the area struck by the hurricane.

At the levee along Lake Pontchartrain that gave way and swamped nearly 80 percent of New Orleans, helicopters dropped 3,000-pound sandbags into the breach and pilings were being pounded into place to seal off the water. Engineers also were developing a plan to create new breaches in the levees so that a combination of gravity and pumping would drain the water out of the city, a process that could take weeks.

Dan Craig, director of recovery at FEMA, said it could take up to six months to get the water out of New Orleans, and the city would then need to dry out, which could take up to three more months.

Blanco urged patience from the survivors who want to return to their property in New Orleans and elsewhere.

“There are no fuel supplies,” Blanco said at a briefing in Baton Rouge. “You can't buy gasoline at will to get in and out. You may end up stranded on the high-

way.”

MISSISSIPPI DEATH TOLL TO RISE

Mississippi's death toll was 144, according to confirmed reports Saturday from coroners and the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. Gov. Haley Barbour had said Friday that the total was 147, but he didn't provide a county-by-county breakdown. He also said he expected the number to rise.

Crews for the first time started searching boats for corpses along the state's Gulf Coast on Saturday. Several shrimpers are believed to have died as they tried to ride out the storm aboard their boats on the Intracoastal Waterway a couple of miles inland.

In poverty-stricken North Gulfport, Grover Chapman expressed disgust that his neighborhood has received no aid from government agencies or from private groups such as the American Red Cross.

“Something should've been on this corner three days ago,” Chapman, 60, said Saturday as he fed his neighbors.

“I'm just doing what I can do,” Chapman said. “These people support me with my produce stand every day. Now it's time to pay them back.”

Keisha Moran, who has been living in a tent in a department store parking lot in Bay St. Louis with her boyfriend and three young children, was furious that it took Bush several days to tour the Mississippi coast.

She laughed bitterly when asked about his trip on Friday.

“It's how many days later? How many people are dead?” Moran asked.

She said National Guardsmen have given her water, but there had been no other aid so far. She complained that Florida received federal relief more quickly when it was hit by a string of hurricanes last year and wondered aloud whether the fact that the president's brother is governor there has anything to do with the timing.

FEMA CRITICIZED

Federal officials continued to face questions about the government's response to the catastrophe and acknowledged that they didn't react promptly to much of the emergency.

Bush acknowledged the frustration that many of the people in the affected areas are expressing and said the storm's damage has strained local and state resources.

Much of the criticism focused on whether Bush's reorganiza-

tion of FEMA by placing the former Cabinet-level department under the homeland security agency hampered relief efforts. Chertoff said the relief effort, which many have criticized as too slow, would be intensified and that the federal government would take a more prominent role than it has in responding to other natural disasters.

“This is probably the worst catastrophe or set of catastrophes certainly that I'm aware of in the history of the country,” he said, adding that military and civilian efforts were gaining momentum in New Orleans.

“The situation is improving hour by hour,” he said. “Nevertheless we are not satisfied.”

Chertoff said the federal government normally acts in support of state and local authorities. But in this case, the unprecedented nature of the disaster makes it necessary for Washington “to break the mold” and create a new model. A larger federal role frees up the National Guard to do more in law enforcement, he said.

Chertoff said the National Guard's response was not hindered by the thousands of Guard troops in Iraq. Rather, he said, it takes time to mobilize troops and identify those with the needed skills, such as those trained in law enforcement.

“That process of identifying and mobilized is taking time. But it's not a problem of not having enough Guard,” he said.

FEDERAL HELP ON WAY

Rear Adm. Joel R. Whitehead, assistant commandant of the Coast Guard for governmental and public affairs, said the Coast Guard has 29 cutters operating in the area and that 550 Coast Guard Reserve members have been called to duty. He said his agency has authority to call as many as 800 reservists.

To aid the sick and injured, the National Institutes of Health is setting up a telemedicine and triage facility that will be linked to the institutes and medical centers across the country. “This consultation will focus on the sickest of the sick,” Surgeon General Richard Carmona said.

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt announced \$27.25 million in emergency energy assistance to be provided to states affected by the hurricane. The money from the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program can be used for many things, including transportation to shelters, utility reconnection costs, repairing or

replacing furnaces and air conditioners, and insulation repair.

On another front, the Labor Department announced a \$62 million emergency grant Saturday to provide as many as 1,000 jobs to dislocated workers in the parts of Louisiana devastated by Katrina. The funding also will support projects that provide food, clothing, shelter and other assistance.

Also, the Transportation Department said it is arranging for Amtrak passenger trains to join in the effort to evacuate residents from New Orleans.

It was also announced that three luxury cruise liners — two based in Galveston, Texas, and the other docked in Mobile, Ala. — will be used as temporary housing for Katrina victims for the next six months.

The White House was planning for a return trip to the damaged area Monday, scrapping Bush's plans for a Labor Day speech in Maryland.

Clinton said he was angered by House Speaker Dennis Hastert's comments earlier this week that it doesn't make sense to rebuild New Orleans.

Hastert, R-Ill., has since backed off his comments, saying he does not want to see the city “bulldozed,” as he had told a newspaper several days ago.

Clinton was discussing New Orleans' dilemma Friday when someone described the speaker's comments to him.

Had they been together when the remarks were made, Clinton said, according to the *Washington Post*, “I'm afraid I would have assaulted him.”

ECONOMIC DISASTER FOR REGION

Though the broad economy has mostly withstood the early effects of the hurricane, economists warn that the storm's aftermath has raised the risk of a downturn. Gulf Coast residents are suffering through a disaster with few equals.

The flooding has displaced about 1 million workers in the Gulf Coast, many of whom will not be able to resume their jobs anytime soon. While some employees of large companies are still receiving paychecks, Wal-Mart stopped paying workers in the area four days after closing its stores, and McDonald's and UPS have not paid regular wages to employees since the storm hit.

The hurricane has also bottled up grain shipments on the Mississippi River, hurting farmers and grain exporters, and has saddled households with even higher energy costs.

The effect of the damage to oil rigs and refineries in the Gulf of Mexico is the greatest uncertainty. But contrary to early fears, the nation's transportation network has not become overwhelmed so far, and despite spot shortages, drivers have generally been able to buy gasoline. The price of crude oil fell 2 percent Friday — to \$67.57, up only \$1 from a week ago — as a large importing terminal off the coast of Louisiana reopened and the International Energy Agency announced that it would release emergency oil supplies.

Electricity provider Entergy Corp. has restored power to some key energy facilities, but eight Gulf Coast refineries and several natural gas processing plants remained out of service at the start of the weekend.

Reporter Andrew DeMillo prepared this article with information from The Associated Press, Bloomberg, The Times-Picayune, The New York Times, The Washington Post and Cox News Service.



People outside the Superdome in New Orleans wait to be evacuated Saturday.

How to help

The following information is for those wishing to donate to hurricane relief efforts and for those seeking information about shelters for evacuees.

TO DONATE

American Red Cross

1 (800) HELP-NOW
www.redcross.org

Salvation Army

1 (800) SAL-ARMY
www.salvationarmy.org

Levy Church of Christ

(501) 753-4860

5124 Camp Robinson Road, North Little Rock 72118

Accepting donations of bottled water, canned foods preferably with pop tops, baby supplies, toiletries, paper products and blankets.

Arkansas Foodbank Network

www.arkansasfoodbank.org

(501) 565-8121

Accepting monetary donations, nonperishable food, paper supplies and toiletries at 8121 Distribution Drive in Little Rock between 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday or at the Fellowship Bible Church on Napa Valley Drive today between 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.

St. James United Methodist Church

321 Pleasant Valley Drive

(501) 225-7372

Episcopal Diocese of Arkansas

P.O. Box 164668

Little Rock, Ark. 72216

Accepting monetary donations to be sent to churches in Mississippi and Louisiana.

The Watershed

(501) 378-0176

3701 Springer Blvd., Little Rock 72206

Accepting donations of clothing and other items.

Lonoke County Sheriff's office

(501) 676-3000

Accepting donations of nonperishable food and clothing to be sent to area shelters.

Griffin Leggett Funeral Homes

(501) 661-9111

Locations in Little Rock, North Little Rock, Conway and Alexander

Accepting donations of toiletries, food and water between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. until Friday, Sept. 9.

Clear Channel Little Rock

(501) 217-4300

Accepting donations of food and water for Feed the Children in conjunction with Arkansas Rice Depot between 6 a.m. and 8 p.m. at the Clear Channel Metroplex on Colonel Glenn Road in Little Rock.

The Banner-News

130 S. Washington St. Magnolia, Ark. 71753

Accepting monetary donations for Red Cross chapter.

Sutherlands

1209 Military Road, Benton, Ark. 72015

W. Main St., Jacksonville, Ark.

Lonoke County Sheriff's office

(501) 676-3003

301 Court St. Lonoke, Ark. 72086

Camp DeSoto Donations

(870) 863-5166

118 Peach St., El Dorado.

Regions Banks

Regions Banks are accepting donations, for American Red Cross Hurricane Katrina relief.

(800) 734-4667

North Little Rock

Relief items can be taken to the City Services Building parking lot and to all North Little Rock Fire Stations from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Shell Oil Co.

Shell has set up a toll-free number at (866) 745-5489 for employees. Any Shell employees affected by Hurricane Katrina should call for assistance for themselves and their families.

Postal Service

The Postal Service has a toll-free number of (877) 477-3273 for its employees. Postal employees are encouraged to call the "PostalEase" number so they can receive important job-related information and, if they receive paper payroll checks rather than electronic deposits, so they can be paid.

UCA Collection

Sophomore Year Experience (SYE) students in cooperation with the president's office will be coordinating a UCA campus-wide collection of items needed for hurricane relief at the Don Owens Center. The school has been collecting the following items: towels and washcloths; twin sheets for army cots; pillows and pillowcases; laundry detergent and flip-flops or house shoes in all sizes.

Arkansas Educational Telecommunications Network

The network will produce a live telethon from 6:30-8 p.m. Thursday, proceeds going to the American Red Cross for Hurricane Katrina relief.

U.S. Postal Service

Little Rock Postmasters and other Postal Managers throughout the state will visit area shelters to provide hurricane victims complete change-of-address forms to receive their mail. Customers who can should use the Postal Service's Internet or Telephone Change of Address option. Electronic change of addresses can be filed online at <http://www.usps.com/> or by telephone: (800) 275-8777. Hurricane victims without telephone service or Internet access should go to the nearest post office, complete a change-of-address form and submit it to a postal retail associate at the counter or mail the postal form free.

Central Arkansas Library System

The Central Arkansas Library System will issue temporary library cards to Katrina refugees and will allow the victims to use computers free of charge to check e-mail, print FEMA forms or check sites to find the status of loved ones. The reference department has compiled an extensive list of support

and information sites, which are listed on the library's web site, www.cals.org

Branch locations and numbers: Main Library, 100 Rock St., 918-3000; Aerospace Library, 3301 E. Roosevelt Road, 399-9401; Dee Brown Library, 6325 Baseline Road, 568-7494; Fletcher Library, 823 N. Buchanan St., 663-5457; Maumelle Library 10 Lakepoint Drive, 851-2551; McMath Library, 2100 John Barrow Road, 225-0066; William Library (Perryville), 609 Aplin Ave., (501) 889-2554; Nixon Library in Jacksonville, 308 W. Main St., 982-5533; Sanders Library in Sherwood, 31 Shelby Drive, 835-7756; Terry Library, 2015 Napa Valley Drive, 228-0129; Thompson Library, 38 Rahling Circle, 821-3060.

State Fairgrounds

The state fairgrounds shelter needs bedding supplies.

Cooperative Extension Service

Cooperative Extension Service has a list of hurricane relief centers in Arkansas on its Web site <http://survey.uaex.edu/listhurricane/relief.asp>

Catholic Charities of Arkansas (501) 664-0340

St. John Catholic Center

2500 N. Tyler St., Little Rock, and 2022 W. Sunset Ave., Springdale

Accepting monetary donations, nonperishable food, water, personal hygiene items and baby supplies 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Feline Rescue and Rehoming (FuRR)

P.O. Box 17048

Little Rock, Ark. 72222

Taking monetary (tax-deductible) donations for pet supplies. Other items may be dropped off at PetSmart in North Little Rock c/o FuRR — ask for Dave or Megan. Also PetCo in North Little Rock c/o FuRR — ask for Kamby or Tina.

Arkansans for Animals

(870) 942-3465

6674 Grant County Road 9, Sheridan, Ark. 72150

Supplies needed: Halters for horses, food and water bowls, litter pans, slip leashes or leash and collar, ice chests, large water containers and monetary donations. Also, a need exists for medication for these animals. People wanting to donate medications can contact Gary Winseck in Beebe at (501) 882-7437.

Junior League of North Little Rock

The members of the Junior League of North Little Rock are partnering with community and social-service organizations to provide volunteers to assist with hurricane relief. Efforts include providing meals to shelters for evacuees, sorting and organizing supplies and donations, as well as collecting household items for new residents. Anyone seeking trained volunteers or more information can call (501) 372-1436, visit www.jlnr.org or e-mail: jlnrofficecmgr@aol.com

North Pulaski Fire Department

The North Pulaski Fire Department on Arkansas 107 in northern Pulaski County will accept donations at the fire station from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. All donations will be forwarded to agencies providing relief.

Central Arkansas Transit Authority

The Central Arkansas Transit Authority buses and River Rail streetcars will offer free rides over the next two weeks for displaced residents of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. CATA is also coordinating church bus service to help move those living in shelters. Church bus managers may contact CATA at this e-mail address: info@cat.org

Sherwood Masons

The Masons of Sylvan Hills Lodge will collect food, dry goods, and donations for the Arkansas Food Bank Network 8 a.m.-11 a.m. today in the lodge parking lot at Arkansas 107 and Bear Paw Drive, Sherwood. Recommendations: nonperishable single-serving food items, disposable diapers and other personal hygiene items.

Calvary Baptist Church

(501) 681-2735

200 Brockington Road, Sherwood.

The church will house Katrina refugees at the church, as well as help them find employment.

SHELTERS

Ashley County: Crossett Readiness Center

Chicot County: Chicot County Fairgrounds in Eudora, Lake Village High School

Conway: Meadowlake Baptist Church, 2105 Meadowlake Road

Dumas: First United Methodist Church El Dorado: West Side Baptist Church, (870) 863-4113, Boy Scout Camp DeSoto

Hazen: The Armory at 956 Front St. Hot Springs: Summit Arena, (501) 620-5077

Little Rock: State Fairgrounds

McGehee: First Baptist Church, 312 Seamans Drive, First United Methodist Church, Boys and Girls Club, McGehee Christian Center

Monticello: The Armory; the Presbyterian Home

Pine Bluff: Pine Bluff Convention Center

Texarkana: Emergency Preparedness Center, 821 Spruce St. (903) 793-2255; Southwest Center, 3222 W. Seventh St. (903) 223-3298

Union County: Community Center and City Hall at Junction City; Junction City Baptist Church

West Memphis: First Baptist Church

White County: Searcy Readiness Center

More information on Arkansas hotels and emergency shelters at www.arkansas.com/special-announcements/default.asp?ID=5

Information about hotel availability in Little Rock at 1 (800) 844-4781

Get emergency information: 1 (866) GET-INFO

The Red Cross is accepting calls on this number only from people who have emergencies concerning immediate family members.

Refugees

• Continued from Page 1A

for refuge will swell to as many as 50,000, all uncertain of what the future holds.

They include Ricky Landry, a grocer in his early 50s who has been shepherding an extended family of 15 at the Comfort Inn near the airport. They'd packed for a three-day trip. Now they're thankful for the motel's free continental breakfast.

"You have no idea the feeling that you're torn apart inside," Landry says. "Is this what I've been reduced to? I've been in senior management for 25 years."

"It's so horrible," he says quietly. "It's humbling."

They include Kevin and Myrtala Ausbrooks and their two teenage children — Carlos and Clarisa — part of the Enter-gy Inc. contingent exiled from corporate headquarters in New Orleans. Myrtala has put in a 100-hour week since arriving at the Embassy Suites in west Little Rock. Kevin is a construction contractor who stayed behind at their home on the west bank in Jefferson Parish, hoping to ride out the storm.

Katrina stripped shingles from their roof and damaged the siding, but otherwise left the house unharmed. Tuesday, Ausbrooks drove to Little Rock to join his wife and children.

Will he go back?

"That's hard to say," Ausbrooks says. "Little Rock is doing some wonderful things here. The people have been beautiful."

"We got a lot on our plate right now," he says. "It's tough to try and eat it."

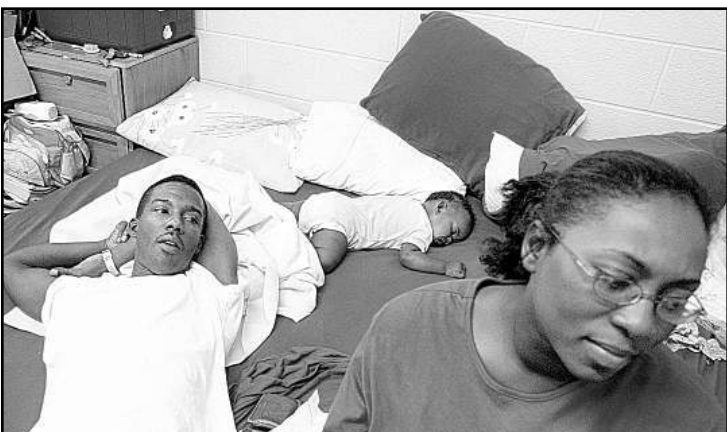
And they include Johnell Williams. The 31-year-old has the laid-back attitude of a teenager. He spends the week in T-shirt, shorts and Nike sneakers. His sons take after his carefree manner.

Johnell smiles easily, especially when looking at baby Malia or when describing the couple's three-bedroom home in Marrero, just across the Mississippi River from Tchoupitoulas Street or talking about his barbershop job. But then moments come when he stares at nothing in particular, hurt in his eyes.

Like so many, the Williamses find first refuge in their hotel room, watching the TV for the fate of their home. But they don't have money to stay. By Tuesday, Johnell finds a shelter the Red Cross has set up in the Farm and Ranch Youth Center building at the State Fairgrounds. The Williamses are among the first to arrive.

Johnell, Erica, Joyce and the baby stake out a mattress near the front door. It is large, but still a squeeze for three people. The boys take nearby cots against the white-brick walls.

Almost 40 more join them that first day, filling lines of cots along the walls and down the center of the main room. The Red Cross supplies essentials,



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/Russell Powell

A mattress in the Farm and Ranch Youth Center building at the State Fairgrounds in Little Rock has been home for Johnell Williams, Erica Preatto and Malia, who is almost 1, for a week now. They don't think they want to go back to New Orleans.

and the refugees sort through new and used clothing and bedding. The boys play with toys taken from a massive stockpile. The Red Cross promises three meals a day, local chefs volunteering to cook. Snack food and drinks fill a corner of the back room.

There are enough bathrooms, and the refugees volunteer to clean them for something to do. The days pass slowly.

'TAKING CARE OF US'

Thursday morning comes.

Joharri, 10, colors a picture of a robot with a red crayon for the legs.

"These people are taking care of us," his brother, 12-year-old Johnell Jr., says.

He doesn't miss school. Joharri does.

"Yes, I like learning," Joharri says. "We have PE every day, play basketball, play football, play freeze tag."

Their father rolls his eyes, then smiles broadly.

"It doesn't register to them what's going on," he says. "... Parents get a job to keep busy. I need to get some clippers."

Erica, 27, has a late-morning doctor's appointment, her first trip out of the shelter. She gets a clean report: The baby, a boy, is fine.

She has a bachelor of science degree from Xavier University and works as a chemist for Louisiana, specializing in water quality. By now she has learned that the building where she worked has been destroyed.

"I want a job," she says.

"We're going to need funds when we leave. If we leave."

★ ★ ★

The afternoon brings word that more refugees are on the way. Hundreds, maybe thousands. The Red Cross volunteers tell everyone to clean up, to keep only what they need.

Johnell and Erica sit at the edge of their mattress, frustration warping their faces. Around them sit eight boxes of donated things. They argue over what to do with their stuff, what to keep, what to give up. Malia sleeps behind them, face-down on the bed.

The boys' toys are scattered about. They pick them up and help Johnell carry some to the car, but most go outside to a growing pile of things awaiting

the next influx of refugees.

The flow of people who want to help is constant. One man gives Johnell a tour of the city and Erica a two-drawer dresser. She quickly fills it with the clothing she had been storing in garbage bags.

The boys spin footballs on the floor, slapping the sides to keep them going until they spin into something and sputter to a stop.

Another day drifts by.

'GO BACK?'

Friday afternoon is the fifth day of exile.

A friend, another barber, has told Johnell he's going back. Johnell scoffs.

"Go back?" he says. "They think it's going to be fixed up like ..."

He snaps his fingers. "It's going to be a long time."

Erica, the water-quality expert, knows just how long it could be. She wants to look for a home here.

The couple jot tips on scraps of paper — about people offering to host families, about vouchers to help pay rent. The scraps litter their corner. Johnell has visited a few barber shops. Erica has applied for a job with the state and filled out an application to enroll the boys in a grade school.

For now the boys are enjoying themselves. Every day volunteers take them somewhere — the zoo or an IMAX movie. This day, most of the shelter's children are at a recreation center.

Going back is less and less an option.

"I don't plan on putting myself, my kids through that," Erica says. "To live like a Cambodian?"

An interruption: "They brought some new stuff from Wal-Mart," another refugee announces.

Erica and Johnell rise and walk outside. The front of the building has become a supply depot. Plastic bags of cleaning supplies, clothes, towels and toiletries await. A crowd gathers.

Erica takes charge, sorting things out, asking newcomers what they need, then quickly providing it. She feels useful.

Eventually the crowd withers. Erica chooses a plastic tub, a comb, soap and women's de-

odorant to take back inside. She sits back down on the bed.

Joyce walks over, snatching up her purse.

"Where you going, Mama?" Erica asks.

"Nowhere."

EXHAUSTING DAYS

By Friday night more than 100 refugees sleep in the Farm and Ranch Youth Center or in the Arts and Crafts building next door. The sleepy-eyed volunteers have things more organized with tables of materials for the new people that flood in. Five thousand could be here tomorrow, according to one rumor.

Inside, Erica sits on the mattress, holding Malia. Joyce sleeps next to her.

Johnell has taken the boys next door to Barton Coliseum to watch the first night of the horse show. They sit next to the gate from which the horses emerge, riders clinging to their backs, to race around poles and barrels.

A little after 10 they call it a night.

The whole family seems as exhausted as the volunteers, some of whom have been spending 18 hours a day at the fairgrounds.

★ ★ ★

With Saturday morning comes an invitation. A North Little Rock couple have seen the Williamses on the news. They'd like to share their home. Johnell and Erica go to look it over, Erica in a new summer dress, Johnell in his shorts and wrinkled shirt.

The boys stay behind. Johnell Jr. lies down on his cot. Joharri sits down at the foot of the cot, looking over a remote-control car that needs batteries. Johnell tells him to get off. Joharri doesn't listen, so Johnell starts kicking him. In an instant, it escalates to a yelling and shoving match. Johnell throws the toy.

Joharri goes to his own cot, sitting on the edge, saying over and over, "I'm not scared." He puts a finger to his eye, damping the tears.

When Johnell and Erica return, they report that they're unsure about the house, but they have until Tuesday to decide. They have little time to discuss it, as a city bus has arrived to take people to a job fair at the Little Rock Convention Center.

Johnell and Erica hurry aboard, but many of the refugees are too young or too old for work — or too unsure of their plans. When the bus drives off, the Williamses and Malia sit at the front. They have the bus to themselves.

Johnell Jr. and Joharri watch them go, the older boy dipping into a small bag of Cool Ranch Doritos, Joharri holding a top.

More cars swarm into the parking lot, a mix of refugees looking for a new home, people wanting to leave donations and folks on their way to the horse show.

Locations where Hurricane Katrina refugees can register for state assistance

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Refugees from Hurricane Katrina may register at these Arkansas locations to get help from the state, Gov. Mike Huckabee said Friday. The centers will be open from 8 a.m. until 5 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday.

The refugees also may obtain information by calling (877) 293-5273 or by going online at www.kare.arkansas.gov

Refugees looking for temporary driver's licenses, child support enforcement or state assistance with various other needs may call the state Department of Finance and Administration at (866) 885-4853

The registration centers, listed by county, town, and specific location for registering:

Arkansas County: Stuttgart — Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, Stuttgart Municipal Airport; DeWitt — Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 701 S. 16th St.

Ashley County: Crossett — Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 705 N. Florida St.

Baxter County: Mountain Home — Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 1640 Fuller St.

Benton County: Rogers — Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 1408 S. First St.

Boone County: Harrison — Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 2810 Airport Rd.

Bradley County: Warren — Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 101 S. Main St.

Calhoun County: Hampton — Calhoun County Courthouse, 309 W. Main St.

Carroll County: Berryville — Arkansas National Guard Readiness Center, 1002 S. Main St.

A city’s worth of businesses, jobs, services also gone

BY HEATHER WECSLER
AND DAVID SMITH
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

As crowded buses rolled away from New Orleans last week, the hurricane-weary refugees left behind more than just the birthplace of jazz and an internationally renowned tourist destination. They abandoned their homes, their livelihoods, their whole way of life.

“It’s not all about the hoopla surrounding sin city,” said Noreen DeBlanc, an evacuee from nearby Slidell, who was staying in the Red Cross shelter at the State Fairgrounds in Little Rock.

Indeed, DeBlanc, who worked at the New Orleans municipal courthouse, said she never goes to the French Quarter unless she has guests from out of town. She much prefers attending festivals, Christian events and health fairs at the city’s convention center.

That was before floodwaters submerged 80 percent of New Orleans.

Now the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center is a sodden shell, its Web site offline.

The Audubon Park and Zoo is closed until further notice.

The New Orleans Saints face a vagabond football season.

The staff of the city’s NBA team the Hornets has relocated to Houston.

Government and financial offices are deserted.

Rising water has emptied malls of shoppers, classrooms of students, churches of worshippers.

For all its reputation for bourbon-soaked bliss, the Big Easy’s biggest contribution to Louisiana and the nation may have been its bustling energy as a center of population, education and commerce. With New Orleans’ mandatory evacuation, a major American city — at least temporarily — is lost.

“The thing we forget sometimes is that cities really matter,” said Sherry Appel, a spokesman for the National League of Cities, a Washington-based national advocacy organization representing municipal governments. “From street cleaning to road repair to the public health, so many things are provided by a city that when a city is effectively shut down like New Orleans and other cities along the coasts, the effects are unimaginable.”

Before Katrina, New Orleans and its surrounding suburbs had more than 1.3 million residents and was the 40th-largest metropolitan area in the United States, according to 2003 Census figures. By comparison, the Little Rock-North Little Rock metroplex is the nation’s 77th largest.

Less than two weeks ago, real estate tycoon Donald Trump and a group of Florida developers said they would build a 70-story, \$200 million building with condominiums, a hotel and retail outlets in New Orleans. It would have been the first skyscraper in the city in 25 years and the tallest building in town. Now the building will be delayed, at the very least.

The New Orleans metropolitan area represented about 40 percent of Louisiana’s population, 40 percent of personal income in the state and 40 percent of the economy, said Robert Eisenstadt, director of external affairs for the College of Business at the University of Louisiana at Monroe.

About 14 percent of the area’s 620,000 people on payrolls were employed in tourism.

Most people work in trade, transportation and utilities with 123,000 employees, about 20 percent of the metropolitan area work force. That sector, grouped together by the federal Bureau of Labor Statistics, includes retailers and shipping. The New Orleans Port is the fifth-largest in the world, handling about 15 percent of all U.S. exports.

The annual gross regional product, or all goods and services produced in the New Orleans metropolitan area, has been about \$49 billion.

Only one Fortune 500 company made its home in New Orleans — Entergy Corp., with 3,000 to 4,000 employees.

But the Crescent City also boasted the two largest banks in Louisiana — Hibernia Corp., with \$22 billion in assets, and Whitney Holding Corp., with \$9 billion in assets. Almost 20 percent of the state’s banking deposits are in Orleans Parish, where New Orleans is.

By Wednesday, people had to find other ways to access their money. *The Times-Picayune*, New Orleans’ daily newspaper, reported that people could make transactions at bank branches in south Louisiana towns where power had been restored. Chase and Regions Bank, the newspaper said, had waived their automatic teller machine fees for displaced people.

The city’s unemployment rate was 5.6 percent in July. Now, gauging an unemployment rate “is moot,” Eisenstadt said.

“There are essentially no jobs, no employment in New Orleans proper,” Eisenstadt said. “New Orleans is economically inert. Obvi-



PHOTOS: DigitalGlobe

Arkansas Democrat-Gazette

ously you’ve got to pump the water out before anybody can reopen any businesses at all.”

More than industry has been lost. In addition to Tulane and Loyola universities, the New Orleans region also boasted six public universities and colleges, including historically black Southern University at New Orleans, and a medical school, Louisiana State University Health Sciences Center. The city was home to historically black private college Dillard University. Xavier University, a Jesuit school, based in Cincinnati, also has a New Orleans campus. Now colleges and universities nationwide are scrambling

to accommodate those students.

Gone are the city’s professional sports teams — not just the Saints and the Hornets, but also a minor league baseball team, the New Orleans Zephyrs, and the champion arena-football team, the VooDoo.

The federal government was also a major employer. The New Orleans Passport Agency, a part of the U.S. State Department, handled 17 percent of the nation’s more than 8.8 million passport applications in 2004, said department spokesman Edgar Vasquez. Now, people who applied for passports before Aug. 25 and plan to travel within the next

six weeks have to call the National Passport Information Center at (877) 487-2778.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture’s National Finance Center, based in New Orleans, handled the payroll for more than half a million federal employees, but is now underwater. The center’s 1,500 workers have been evacuated to offices in Philadelphia and Dallas so federal workers can get paid as normal, Agriculture Department Ed Loyd told The Associated Press.

The 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which encompasses Texas, Mississippi and Louisiana, was based in New Orleans.

Arkansas. First-class mail for New Orleans is in Dallas, from where it is forwarded.

People can pick up vital mail — such as Social Security and pension checks, paychecks, insurance forms and medicine shipped by mail — at temporary locations. For people to receive the rest of their mail, they must fill out change-of-address forms for their present residence.

The ultimate impact of all this devastation remains largely unknown.

Evacuating a city on this scale is unprecedented, said Roby Robertson, director of the Institute of Government at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Not even San Francisco was completely evacuated after the 1906 earthquake.

“I don’t think we have a good understanding of what’s going to happen,” Robertson said. “But people can probably do more for the city if they’re out.”

It is possible that New Orleans’ economy actually could grow in the next few months because of rebuilding efforts, said Tom Tanner, an economist at the University of Georgia.

Considering only a statewide economy, “Florida never does better than when it gets hammered by hurricanes,” Tanner said.

“The problem is that a lot of the measures we use in looking at the economic impact don’t catch the fact that hurricanes wipe out a bunch of wealth,” he said. “If my house is knocked over, we don’t have any regional measure of wealth disappearing. But we do have measures like gross regional product, which will catch the house being rebuilt.”



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The people of Allstate would like to express their concern for those affected by Hurricane Katrina and let you know that their thoughts are with you.

The Allstate Catastrophe Team is working diligently to get our Mobile Response Units to the most heavily impacted areas as quickly and safely as we can.

Nothing is more important than your personal safety. So please follow the advice of local authorities and know that we are standing by ready to help.

ALLSTATE'S CATASTROPHE HOTLINE: 1-800-54-STORM





The headline from the Aug. 28 issue of *The Times-Picayune* warns of Katrina's impending danger as Arkansas Army National Guard's 39th Infantry Brigade Spc. Jess Tollett fields questions about ice Saturday from a motorist in New Orleans' French Quarter.

39th

Continued from Page 1A
streets of New Orleans.

As Rosado talked with the soldiers, officers with the federal Drug Enforcement Administration drove past. Helicopters constantly flew overhead and police officers patrolled the streets as well.

Even so, Rosado observed, "Every night it's a freakin' war zone."

When the guardsmen arrived in the city Thursday, early reports indicated some residents could be hostile because they didn't feel they got help fast enough. On Saturday, soldiers said such hostility hadn't been a problem.

The anger appears to be directed elsewhere. A door on a shop near the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center carried the message "F*** the mayor" in shaky spray paint.

Nearby, a family sat next to the door, snacking on sandwiches and drinking whiskey while they watched others line up for evacuation. A gallon-sized container of mustard sat at the head of their folding table.

Many of the people in line had beer or alcohol. Most of it was stolen from area restaurants, their windows smashed open and bars emptied. Even Emeril's, owned by the boisterous TV chef, had shattered glass and missing booze.

"Trust me," said one woman, carrying her belongings and a bottle of Johnny Walker Red Label. "We gettin' out of here. We stayed too long."

Soldiers worked to evacuate the city, blocking traffic on streets so buses could quickly load up with people and drive them out of the city. Soldiers from the 189th evacuated a nearby nursing home. At the convention center, soldiers with the 39th helped usher thousands of people to the buses, carrying babies for them and organizing a feeding station.

"There are several women I'm afraid are about to give birth at any moment," said Lt. Col. John Edwards of Little Rock.

As soldiers worked to evacuate residents to safety, they experienced the same conditions that residents have endured since the hurricane hit.

Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Parks of Searcy stood at his post, behind a looted shopping mall at the convention center, and described the scene as "Baghdad on a bad day."

His tired soldiers surrounded him, lying on thin mats and cots on the mall's loading docks and catching a bit of rest and airing out their pale, sore feet.

Portable toilets arrived at the



Arkansas guardsman Spc. Gary Dockins of the 39th Infantry Brigade directs traffic Saturday as he comforts an evacuee outside the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans.

site Saturday, but for two days before that, the soldiers had no facilities and only the food and water they carried on their backs.

They are sleeping on the ground and eating Army rations as they help evacuate a city ravaged by Hurricane Katrina nearly a week ago.

Reinforcements from the 189th Airlift Wing and the 142nd Brigade arrived in the city Saturday afternoon.

"What unit are you out of?" Parks asked as they walked past with all of their gear.

"189th," an airman yelled. "Hooah! Glad to have you here, brother," Parks said.

The rear headquarters at the naval air station south of the city has working plumbing and showers, and commanders were working on a plan that would allow soldiers to rotate back there to shower and rest every few days.

A cold shower every three days would be a luxury for these soldiers.

"This is supposed to be one of the best food-eating places in the world," said Spc. Brian McKay of Mount Ida. "But [prepackaged Army rations called Meals, Ready to Eat] just ain't cuttin' it."

The work in New Orleans has been constant. The smell of rotten meat and stagnant water was carried on a constant breeze. Some streets were worse than others, particularly in the city's looted areas.

Canal Street was strewn with trash, mannequins, rotten food and clothes, remnants left behind by looters who smashed windows and ravaged the neighborhood.

However, this area of the city along the Mississippi River was dry, including the historic French Quarter. The flooding begins just a few blocks away at the Superdome and gets worse toward the broken levy at Lake

Pontchartrain.

Up the block, several New Orleans police officers rolled by, piled into a pickup. The driver leaned out the window and said with a chuckle, "This is what Bourbon Street looks like after a Saturday night."

The bulk of the French Quarter missed major damage. Homes were intact and looting was minimal. Most of the shops and restaurants in the tiny district remained untouched.

Jackson Square lost most of its big trees, many of them pushed over, roots and all. St. Louis Cathedral was missing little more than a few roof tiles.

"I don't even see a cracked window," said Spc. Jess Tollett of De Queen. "The hand of God saved this one."

And for the most part, the Quarter was deserted.

"This is something I never thought would happen to me," Edwards said. "Walking down North Peters Street and being the only group of people on the street."

At the corner, a man worked alone, sweeping up leaves and trash in the street with a broom that was worn down to the metal straps that held the bristles together.

"I do this 365 days a year, seven days a week," he said. "I like to help the city. I like to work."

The man said he rode out the storm in the brick buildings owned by his employer and protected them from looters.

"It wasn't bad. I been through a whole lot of tragedy in my lifetime," he said.

Up the street, a woman wearing a black evening dress passed a newspaper rack belonging to *The Times-Picayune* that still held papers from Aug. 28, with headlines warning of the impending storm.

Not everyone was leaving, even though there is neither water nor electricity.

A man shaved on his French Quarter balcony and listened to the radio. Some local shops opened doors for the locals, but only with police guarding the door.

A pay phone was ripped from its metal base and pounded in an effort to get the change.

As soldiers looked at the pay phone, Cicero Smith walked up the street from Royal Carriages, which used to provide mule-drawn carriage rides to tourists around the French Quarter.

The company's 37 mules were trapped in the city, with people outside trying to get in with trailers to get them out. But no one was allowed in the city.

"Normally, we evacuate the mules to Covington, but it was supposed to be hit harder than we were," Smith said. "So we battered down the hatches."

But after a week, things were getting tough.

They spray painted "Help us save the mules" on the 100-year-old barn's roof to try to get help from rescuers.

"If we don't do something, we'll have dead mules by Tuesday," Smith said. "We'll be out of water."

Offers of assistance heard across globe

More than 50 countries pledge to help

BY BARRY SCHWEID
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — In an accelerating drive, more than 50 countries have pledged money or other assistance to help Americans recover from Hurricane Katrina.

The pledges blur political lines. Cuba and Venezuela have offered to help despite differences with Washington. Oil giant Saudi Arabia and small countries like Sri Lanka and Dominica are among the nations making pledges.

"I hope that will remind Americans that we are all part of the same community," Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said Friday as offers kept pouring in.

None has been turned down, Rice said at a news conference, disputing a report from Moscow that a Russian offer had been rejected. However, she said some offers were being taken up immediately and others "somewhat later," depending on the needs on the ground.

Rice singled out Sri Lanka for praise for making a contribution even as it struggles to recover from the tsunami and earthquake disaster of December. She said contributions from poor countries were being accepted because "it is very valuable for people being able to give to each other and to be able to do so without a sense of means."

Australia announced a donation of \$8 million to the American Red Cross. "The United States is so often at the forefront of international aid efforts to help less fortunate nations," Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said.

"So it is only fitting that Australia should contribute to the daunting task of helping the thousands of American citizens whose lives have been thrown into turmoil by this unprecedented disaster," Downer said.

Japan said it would contribute \$200,000 to the American Red Cross for its relief operations. Upon request, Japan is prepared to provide up to \$300,000 worth of tents, blankets, power generators, portable water tanks and other equipment, the Japanese Embassy said.

Canada is loading three warships and a coast guard vessel in Halifax with emergency supplies and food, and will dispatch them

to Louisiana on Tuesday, Dan McTeague, parliamentary secretary to Foreign Minister Pierre Pettigrew, said in an interview.

Up to 1,000 divers, engineers and reconstruction experts will be aboard, he said.

France, "determined to show its solidarity with the United States," offered a range of aircraft and two ships, with helicopters and planes capable of airlifting tons of supplies, a disaster unit with 20 soldiers, a civil defense detachment of 35 people and an airborne emergency unit, the French Embassy said. Italy offered two military transport planes loaded with pumps, generators, amphibious crafts and tents. Germany pledged medical supplies. NATO pledged its help, too.

The United Nations created a special task force to dispatch disaster experts, while the European Union volunteered to send water supply specialists.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who spoke with President Bush on Friday, said he believed the world body could "share our experience in dealing with major crises around the world."

In the Balkans, where the U.S. military has been deployed to keep the peace after a decade of conflict, offers were steeped in gratitude. A Bosnian television station offered to raise money. In Kosovo, a civil emergency unit made up of former ethnic Albanian rebels offered to send a team to help rebuild.

El Salvador, the only Latin American country with troops still in Iraq, offered Thursday to send soldiers to the United States to help police zones flooded by Katrina.

The French city of Orleans also rallied to help its hurricane-hit American namesake. The city south of Paris planned to donate money raised from ticket sales at local sports matches to help hurricane victims in New Orleans, a statement from City Hall said Friday. Orleans and its university also offered to take in 50 students from the University of New Orleans for the school year.

Information for this article was contributed by Danica Kirka, Karl Ritter, David McHugh, Jamey Keaten, Nicole Winfield and Mar Roman of The Associated Press.



Javier Rosado sends his mother in Cuba a text message Saturday from outside his Bourbon Street home in New Orleans. Rosado rode out the hurricane in his fifth-floor apartment so he could take care of his elderly neighbor.

Side by Side

Co-Survivor Elizabeth Mesley and Survivor Linda Calhoun (5 months)

EVERY STEP OF THE WAY.

In the fight against breast cancer, there are survivors and co-survivors.

Be it a family member, friend, doctor or colleague, a co-survivor serves as a source of support and inspiration for a breast cancer survivor through diagnosis and treatment. Breast cancer survivors can honor those who have been there for them every step of the way with the new pink and white intertwined ribbons, which symbolize this special relationship. A small symbol of thanks that means so much to those who wear it.

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CoSurvivor

strength - support - love

Photo by Nancy Nolan Photography

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The Allstate Catastrophe Team is working diligently to get our Mobile Response Units to the most heavily impacted areas as quickly and safely as we can.

Nothing is more important than your personal safety. So please follow the advice of local authorities and know that we are standing by ready to help.

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Weather report

Sunny early, then becoming partly cloudy today. High 91, with east winds at 5 to 10 mph. Skies will be mostly clear tonight. Low 64.

TODAY

Partly cloudy

HIGH: Low 90s
LOW: Mid-60s

MONDAY

Mostly sunny

HIGH: Upper 80s
LOW: Mid-60s

TUESDAY

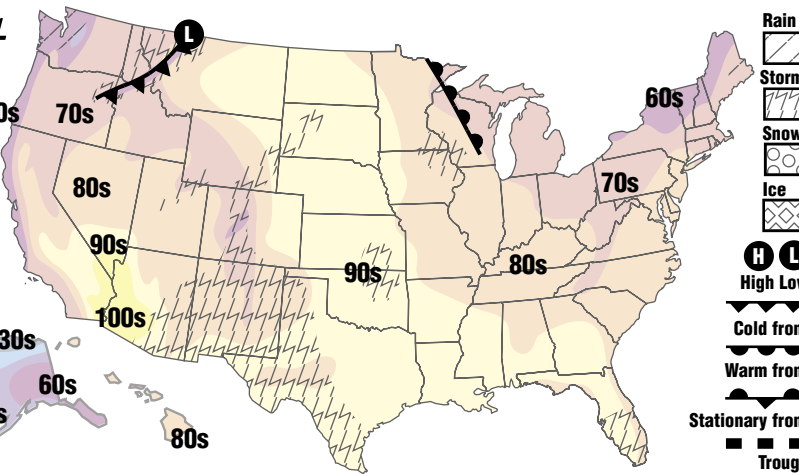
Partly cloudy

HIGH: Near 90
LOW: Mid-60s

WEDNESDAY

Partly cloudy

HIGH: Near 90
LOW: Mid-60s



Around the nation...

	SATURDAY	TODAY
	HI LO	F'CAST HI LO
Albuquerque	79 62	ts 82 63
Anchorage	58 55	sh 60 48
Asheville	80 59	cl 77 56
Atlanta	88 68	cl 87 66
Billings	93 54	pc 91 56
Bismarck	86 55	pc 91 59
Boise	89 58	pc 84 51
Boston	80 66	cl 74 58
Brownsville	92 75	ts 94 76
Buffalo	74 58	cl 69 52
Charleston, SC	90 68	cl 87 67
Charleston, WV	80 57	cl 80 54
Chicago	80 58	cl 80 60
Cincinnati	82 55	cl 81 56
Cleveland	75 58	cl 74 54
Dallas-Ft Worth	96 72	pc 94 70
Denver	93 54	pc 88 57
Des Moines	90 58	pc 88 66
Detroit	80 56	cl 76 57
El Paso	87 69	ts 92 70
Fairbanks	53 39	sh 60 44
Honolulu	89 79	pc 89 78
Houston	88 75	pc 94 69
Jackson, Miss.	90 70	cl 92 66
Jackson Hole, Wyo.	81 39	pc 76 39
Kansas City	88 69	pc 89 66
Las Vegas	102 80	cl 100 78
Los Angeles	71 62	cl 74 63
Louisville	84 63	cl 83 59
Memphis	90 70	cl 89 63
Miami Beach	91 75	ts 89 77
Mpls-St Paul	72 54	pc 86 64
Nashville	87 61	cl 85 60
New Orleans	M M	pc 92 77
New York	82 67	cl 81 62
Oklahoma City	89 68	ts 92 66
Omaha	91 63	pc 90 67
Orlando	92 77	ts 91 74
Philadelphia	82 67	cl 81 60
Phoenix	101 86	pc 104 83
Pittsburgh	75 56	cl 75 52
Portland, Ore.	73 58	pc 72 52
Raleigh	90 67	cl 83 58
Salt Lake City	91 69	pc 89 63
San Antonio	91 71	ts 92 73
San Diego	73 63	cl 75 65
San Francisco	66 55	cl 67 54
Seattle	70 53	sh 66 52
Shreveport	97 73	pc 93 65
Sioux Falls	92 61	cl 92 66
St. Louis	89 63	cl 87 64
Tulsa	92 72	ts 93 67
Washington	84 67	cl 82 58

And the world

	F'CAST	TODAY
	HI LO	HI LO
Amsterdam	pc	74 54
Athens	pc	89 70
Auckland	pc	64 46
Baghdad	cl	109 98
Bangkok	ts	94 80
Barbados	pc	89 78
Barcelona	cl	84 68
Beijing	pc	78 63
Beirut	ts	87 72
Belgrade	cl	79 61
Berlin	cl	74 55
Bermuda	sh	87 75
Brussels	cl	77 55
Budapest	cl	78 57
Buenos Aires	sh	57 42
Calgary	sh	74 46
Cancun	ts	95 76
Copenhagen	cl	71 52
Dhahran	cl	106 87
Dublin	pc	70 52
Frankfurt	cl	77 56
Geneva	pc	82 58
Harare	cl	77 56
Havana	ts	88 79
Helsinki	cl	67 46
Hong Kong	ts	87 78
Istanbul	ts	77 57
Jerusalem	pc	93 67
Johannesburg	pc	75 55
Kabul	pc	88 59
Lima	pc	67 56
Lisbon	cl	83 63
London	pc	74 54
Madrid	cl	91 65
Manila	ts	88 77
Mexico City	ts	80 58
Montreal	pc	68 52
Moscow	sh	63 45
Nairobi	pc	71 54
New Delhi	ts	96 81
Oslo	pc	64 46
Paris	cl	76 54
Rio	ts	85 72
Rome	pc	85 64
San Juan	pc	91 79
Singapore	ts	89 78
Stockholm	cl	65 49
Sydney	rn	61 46
Taipei	pc	87 76
Tel Aviv	pc	90 67
Tokyo	ts	86 70
Toronto	cl	71 53
Vancouver	sh	64 51

Little Rock Adams Field temperature and humidity

	7 p.m. Fri.	10 p.m. Sat.
TEMP/HUMID		
7 p.m.	88°/52%	
8	84°/59	
9	82°/65	
10	81°/69	
11	79°/77	
12	77°/82	
1 a.m.	77°/82	
2	76°/85	
3	76°/85	
4	75°/84	
5	75°/84	
6	74°/82	
7	73°/81	
8	75°/76	
9	78°/67	
10	81°/56	
11	86°/43	
12 p.m.	88°/38	
1	86°/43	
2	88°/38	
3	88°/38	
4	89°/37	
5	89°/38	
6	86°/40	

Arkansas highs/lows

	SAT.	TODAY	MON.
EL DORADO	95/68	93/63	92/65
FAYETTEVILLE	90/66	89/59	87/59
FORT SMITH	94/71	94/64	90/64
HARRISON	87/68	89/61	86/60
HOT SPRINGS	90/71	92/65	90/64
JONESBORO	90/67	88/61	87/63
LITTLE ROCK	89/73	91/64	89/64
N. LITTLE ROCK	90/74	91/64	89/64
PINE BLUFF	91/70	92/64	90/66

Climate data

Little Rock area, totals through Friday

HIGH/LOW
Saturday: 90/74
A year ago today: 89/71
Normal today: 88/68

RECORDS
High: 103 (2000)
Low: 57 (1984)

24-HR. PRECIPITATION
Friday (to midnight): 0 in.
TOTALS
This month: 0 in.
This year: 28.27 in.
Departure from normal: -3.53

Moon phases

First Qtr.	Full Moon	Last Qtr.	New Moon
Sept. 11	Sept. 17	Sept. 25	Oct. 3

Air quality index

TODAY	YESTERDAY
GOOD	MODERATE
MODERATE	UNHEALTHY

UV index

TODAY	YESTERDAY
LOW	MED.
MED.	HIGH
HIGH	V. HIGH

Water levels for rivers and lakes

FLOOD STAGE	HT. FT.	24-HR CHG
ARKANSAS AND TRIBUTARIES		
Van Buren	22	19.9 -0.1
Ozark L&D	357	343.3 -0.1
Dardanelle	32	10.6 0
Morrilton	30	13.7 +0.5
Toad Suck	275	256.7 +0.5
Little Rock	23	7.7 0
Pine Bluff	42	31.3 -0.6
Pendleton Bri	31	27.0 +0.1
CACHE RIVER		
Patterson	8	9.1 0
ST. FRANCIS		
St. Francis	18	5.2 -0.8
Madison	32	2.5 -0.6
MISSISSIPPI RIVER		
Cairo	40.0	23.5 +0.5
Memphis	34	4.2 +1.5
Helena	44	8.4 +2.0
Arkansas City	37	8.1 +0.4
Greenville	48	17.9 +0.5
LAKE STAGES		
7 A.M. NORM		24-HR SAT.CHANGE
Beaver	1120	1109.7 0
Norfolk	552	543.6 0
Bull Shoals	654	649.0 -0.1
Greers Ferry	461	453.8 -0.1
Blue Mtn.	387	385.2 -0.1
Nimrod	345	343.0 0
Ouachita	575	569.2 0
BUFFALO RIVER		
St. Joe	27	3.6 0
OUACHITA AND TRIBUTARIES		
Arkadelphia	17	4.1 0
Benton (Saline)	18	3.3 -0.1

Saturday's extremes

Temperatures for contiguous U.S.

WARMEST: 107, Needles, Calif.

COLDEST: 30, Stanley, Idaho

Provided exclusively for the readers of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette by

The Weather Channel

Compiled by Weather Central, Madison, Wis.

TODAY'S FORECAST

	FAYETTEVILLE 89/59	JONESBORO 88/61	HARRISON 89/61	LITTLE ROCK 91/64	WEST MEMPHIS 88/62	TEXARKANA 93/65	EL DORADO 93/63
Fort Smith	94/64						
Hot Springs	92/65						

LITTLE ROCK

Temperature

Monthly variation from normal

Precipitation

Actual vs Average

Medical

Continued from Page 15A

and drinks to those who haven't eaten in days.

Some people whom Aalseth and other crews reached refused to leave their homes, choosing instead to remain on their porches.

"I'm thinking to myself, 'Have you lost your mind?' They may not get out for two or three weeks," Aalseth said.

Others climbed aboard the boats with guns and knives in their bags. Aalseth said he found and tossed four handguns and so many knives that he had lost count.

Emergency workers have thought about the danger they face, but those thoughts don't linger, said Benise Carson, an inter-

mediate-level emergency medical technician who works with Taylor in Pine Bluff.

"Emotionally, it's very overwhelming when you see all the devastation at first," she said. "Then the EMT triggers in your mind and you just work."

No one knows when the job will be done.

Emergency medical workers are rotating in and out of Louisiana, usually working between 48- and 90-hour shifts. Ambulances run around the clock.

MORE SUPPLIES NEEDED

The Arkansas Children's Hospital crew has been so busy that they were not able to restock much-needed medical supplies until after 9 p.m. Friday — more than 12 hours after their day began.

So they went to a cavernous

warehouse in Baton Rouge partially filled with pallets of supplies.

"We're like kids in a candy store," Tomlinson laughed as he loaded a flatbed cart.

Dr. Joe Ferko stood inside wiping sweat from his brow with a towel.

The warehouse is supplying the medical efforts in all of Louisiana — 7800 patient beds and between 20,000 and 40,000 patients per day, said Ferko of Baltimore, who owns a company called EMS Innovations.

Asked whether he had all the supplies necessary, Ferko said curtly, "No. We need 10 times what we have tomorrow — now."

Paramedics described many needs at the airport. One said nursing-home patients accustomed to wearing Depends for bladder and bowel problems have been wear-

ing the same soiled adult diapers for four or five days.

Ferko estimates the additional supplies would cost \$50 million. So far, Louisiana is paying the tab, he said. Federal supplies have been promised but aren't expected for a few more days.

The Children's Hospital crew left the warehouse at 10 p.m. Friday and again headed to New Orleans. Once they arrived, Tomlinson parked the ambulance in line with almost a dozen others from Texas and Louisiana that were waiting for patients.

"Yesterday, it was a madhouse — 5,000 people were here," Antone said.

MAN SLITS HIS WRISTS

As the crew waited, a 35-year-old man took a disposable razor blade and cut his wrists at an angle.

He wanted to die. Noland, Antone and a soldier escorted the bleeding man to the triage center.

Just down from the triage center, diabetics lined up for insulin. Thousands more refugees waited to be flown to a San Antonio shelter.

Virginia Lucineo, 69, of New Orleans sat outside the airport gift shop.

"I had a terrible day," she said in a sweet voice. Lucineo rode in boats and helicopters to get to the airport. She hoped to be evacuated to another shelter but collapsed while waiting in line to leave.

She got in another line for medical attention. After two hours, "They told me they were just going to take critically ill patients," she sighed.

One of those patients was Rodney Scott, a 64-year old man from

New Orleans who couldn't breathe on his own. The Children's Hospital crew put him on a stretcher so they could take him to a hospital in Thibodaux. At 2 a.m. Scott was loaded into the ambulance. Noland took his vital signs and comforted the man with his easy bedside manner.

"We're going to take good care of you, OK," he told Scott.

"I appreciate it," Scott responded.

"That's what we're here for," Noland called back.

Then Tomlinson pulled out of the airport. Antone belted out one line of "On the Road Again" and they all fell quiet. Three hours later, Noland and Antone finally lay down on cots to sleep. Tomlinson slept in the ambulance.

Everything would start over again Saturday night.



Millions of Americans Risk Falling While Trying To Clean Their Gutters

If you or a loved one has ever cleaned your own gutters, then you know how dangerous it is to stand precariously atop a ladder, or bent over the edge of a roof trying to clean out leaves and debris.

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JAY GRELEN

Delusions of greatness miss mark

Some things, simply, are bigger than we are.

Unspoken in the torrent of words in Katrina's wake is this irrefutable fact:

Even if every government entity from the city of New Orleans to the United Nations had combined money, minds, men and women to build world-class levees to catastrophic specifications, sooner or later a hurricane would blow it all down.

And even if the new levees had been in place for Katrina, no one can say for certain that she wouldn't have knocked a hole in one with the same result.

History is replete with the human conceit of indestructibility.

There is the legendary response to the nervous inquiry regarding the seaworthiness of the Titanic. "God himself could not sink this ship," a crew member said.

More recently, the earthquake in Kobe, Japan, exposed the frailty of our efforts to tame the natural world.

"They've looked at everything — seismic waves, revolutionary building designs, even the behavior of catfish," reporter Shankar Vedantam wrote in *The Philadelphia Inquirer* in January 1995. "But seismologists and engineers admitted ... the earthquake ... had defeated all their best scientific efforts."

"Their delicate scientific measurements failed to give them warning. And the buildings the Japanese had thought were built to earthquake-proof specifications crumbled."

In the *Los Angeles Times*, David Friedman reported:

"Before the hideous scenes of a city in ruins taught otherwise, the Japanese thought they had 'solved' the problem of earthquakes ... for years the Japanese were assured ... they possessed more exacting building codes, better construction skills, safer gas lines, more sophisticated shut-off devices or higher-tolerance materials than anyone else. ... The Japanese were convinced that the devastation nature wrought in less enlightened places, like Los Angeles, simply couldn't happen to them."

"It took just 20 seconds to shatter these illusions."

The discussion that followed, as Jim Landers reported in *The Dallas Morning News*, is familiar: "Japanese and American seismologists and engineers said Kobe's tragedy was more a failure of risk management. As in [other earthquakes] ... the designs and materials were available to minimize the death and destruction."

"What was missing was a combination of imagination and political will."

Jim Carrier, a friend who moved to New Orleans a month ago, lost his house to Katrina. The slab of the new house going up next door to his was poured to a height to meet the 2005 flood-plain code.

The slab is under water.

"I was one of the ones who said Japanese architecture is strong enough to avoid a disaster like the one ... in Los Angeles," Tokyo University engineering professor Motohiko Hakuno told the Philadelphia reporter. "I feel ashamed. The disaster was a result of insufficient work. We should have made the city sturdier."

He is wrong. Man-made sturdiness is an illusion, as strong only as the weakest blow, while the conceit of humanity is as irrepressible as Category 5 winds and the 7.2 quakes. Would that conceit, or any human endeavor, could hold back the waters.

Evacuee airlift to Fort Chaffee begins



Josh Jordan, 5, of Barling holds a welcome sign Saturday as a bus full of refugees from New Orleans arrives at Fort Chaffee near Fort Smith.

State greets 1st of 20,000 to be flown in

BY MICHAEL R. WICKLINE AND DAVE HUGHES
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

FORT CHAFFEE — The first of an expected 20,000 Hurricane Katrina evacuees arrived at Fort Chaffee on Saturday, exhausted and hungry but safe.

More than 100 of the survivors evacuated from New Orleans arrived at Fort Smith Regional Airport on a C-130 military transport plane about 11 a.m. Buses shuttled them to a reception center where hundreds of volunteers and military personnel had worked all night to prepare for their arrival.

"Welcome to Arkansas. We're glad to see you," a volunteer said as the first evacuee stepped from a Fort Smith school bus at the center. Volunteers in the reception center applauded as they entered the

See **AIRLIFT**, Page 5B

Storm-torn coast sends ill, injured to area hospitals

BY NELL SMITH
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

The approximately 20 Arkansas hospitals affiliated with the National Disaster Medical System were notified Friday that they may be asked to accept patients transferred from hospitals in areas affected by the hurricane.

The activated Arkansas hospitals are in Little Rock, North Little Rock, Jacksonville, Conway and Benton.

The National Disaster Medical System, part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, is orchestrating the transfer of most hospital patients out of coastal areas affected by the hurricane.

Until Friday, only 16 metropolitan areas nationally had been activated by the system.

The Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System in Little Rock expected 47 patients from the New Orleans VA Medical Center to arrive Friday afternoon at Little Rock Air Force

Base. In the ever-changing environment that has characterized this disaster relief, the number of expected patients increased from Thursday's estimate of 33.

Tim Shea, the Little Rock medical center's director, said information about the patients was "sketchy," and hospital officials did not know the conditions of the arriving 47 patients. Friday afternoon, Shea said officials didn't have even a flight manifest.

He said the patients, the last of the 200 to get out of the New Orleans hospital, were certain to be emotionally drained. The hospital has been without lights and air conditioning since Monday.

"They were really in pretty dire straits at the point that they began evacuating patients [Thursday]," Shea said.

The patients were trucked out of the hospital by the National Guard to a New Orleans

See **HOSPITALS**, Page 4B



Brittany Alley, 13, of Denham Springs, La., is prepared for her ride to Arkansas Children's Hospital after being airlifted from Lafayette, La., on Thursday. Brittany, who suffers from a heart condition, was evacuated Tuesday from Tulane University Hospital in New Orleans.

Arkansans deliver hope to Louisiana

BY CHARLIE MORASCH
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

BATON ROUGE — The images on the television screen in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina stunned Jimmy Moler.

He watched as a television reporter touched the head of a 5-day-old baby struck with a fever in the wasteland of New Orleans.

The reporter then stood in front of a police car to force the officer to pay attention to the child.

"He acted like it was a foreign country and he didn't understand the language," said Moler, who owns the Reco Battery Depot in Lowell.

The moment so moved Moler that he used his company's advertisement time on the *Press Row* sports radio show to invite anyone willing to donate supplies to join him on a caravan trip to Louisiana with water, diapers and food.

Before Moler rolled out of town Friday afternoon, 10 volunteers had joined his caravan.

Rather than rely on government or even nonprofit organization efforts, Moler's group would hand-deliver the needed supplies to those affected by Katrina.

Moler gave his cell phone number during his first on-air interview, during which five people left messages asking how they could get involved.

In only a few days, Moler

See **HOPE**, Page 7B



Kathleen Ferguson receives clothing and supplies Saturday at a job fair for hurricane refugees in the Statehouse Convention Center in Little Rock. The New Orleans resident left one day before Katrina hit the Gulf Coast, fleeing to Arkansas with three relatives.

At job fair, refugees seek more than work

Some displaced look to start anew in state

BY CHARLOTTE TUBBS
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

There were no suits, high heels or briefcases at Saturday's job fair in Little Rock for hurricane refugees. Instead, the 150 job applicants arrived in T-shirts and shorts, filling out makeshift resumes upon arrival.

For many of them, applying for jobs was their first attempt at rebuilding their lives, which were turned upside down last week by Hurricane Katrina. Some had no idea how long they would be in Arkansas,

Schools welcome influx of students, educators in spirit of cooperation

BY CYNTHIA HOWELL
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Friday proved to be a day of waiting and preparation for school district officials in Arkansas communities targeted to take in large numbers of refugees from the hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast.

Gov. Mike Huckabee said early in the day that the Natural State could expect 20,000 refugees from Louisiana and Mississippi — including an unknown number of school-age children — in a relatively short time.

Benny Gooden, superintendent of the 13,000-student Fort Smith School District that includes part of Fort Chaffee, said Friday afternoon that his district was working with Sebastian County emergency services officials to prepare for what could be thousands of refugees.

That cooperation included making school buses available to transport the hurricane victims from the local airport to shelters, as it was possible some would arrive by plane.

"The report is they may relocate as many as 4,000 people here," Gooden said, "but we don't know how many of those are school-age children."

Asked whether the district has the classroom space to take on additional students, Gooden said the city's schools are near capacity.

"But we will do whatever we have to do," he said. "We'll do

whatever anybody needs."

While part of Fort Chaffee is in the Fort Smith district, the barracks are in the smaller, 3,250-student Greenwood School District.

Across the state in the Wynne School District, Assistant Superintendent Beth Boeckmann said the use of a Baptist youth camp as a temporary home for displaced families is expected to swell that school district's rolls over the next several days. By Friday, the district already had enrolled 15 children who had reached the area with their families from New Orleans and Ocean Springs, Miss.

The camp can handle at least 100 people. A vacant school in Hickory Ridge, near Wynne, also could be used. That school is in the Cross County School District.

"We'll be able to handle the children," Boeckmann said. "It is our privilege to take care of them. We are thankful to have a facility that will give the families some privacy, and we're trying to get the children's lives back to normal. Going to school all day helps students to focus and not worry as much about their homes and families."

Camp Couchdale, the dormitories and cabins at the state National FFA Organization camp in the Lakeside School District in Garland County, has been prepared for refugees, as well,

See **SCHOOLS**, Page 8B

Airlift

• Continued from Page 1B building.

They will spend at least 24 hours at the military camp to be processed and then will head out to civic centers and church camps around the state, said Joe Quinn with the governor's office.

Quinn said evacuees will first be bused to facilities closest to Fort Chaffee. He said it was still "up in the air" about who will actually stay at Fort Chaffee and who will be moved to other facilities.

"Our first goal is to make sure everyone gets a shower, a hot meal and some good sleep," Quinn said. "These are things they haven't had all week."

"They will bring a load of people and go back down," Quinn said. "The confusion [in New Orleans] has been somewhat massive. But we have four C-130s ready to bring people in."

Six Arkansas Air National Guard planes and a Louisiana Air National Guard plane on Saturday afternoon started flying people stranded in New Orleans to Fort Smith to be bused to Fort Chaffee in Northwest Arkansas, Gov. Mike Huckabee said Saturday at a news conference in Little Rock.

Huckabee said he expected Fort Chaffee could have about 2,000 evacuees by midnight Saturday.

The number of evacuees transported to Fort Chaffee could reach several thousand by midnight today.

Fort Chaffee can hold up to 4,000 people and will process other evacuees to 30 shelters, including church and Boy Scout camps, that the state has contracted with, he said.

These camps may hold anywhere from 130 to 600 people, and a civil administrator and law enforcement official will be assigned to each camp, he said. Off-duty law enforcement officials will provide security at the camps, he said.

Huckabee said he and U.S. Sen. Blanche Lincoln, D-Ark., hoped to visit Fort Chaffee today.

The governor said he expects the federal government to reimburse the state for its costs of aiding evacuees from other states.

VOLUNTEERS AID EVACUEES

State Rep. Frank Glidewell, R-Fort Smith, said Fort Smith residents are adjusting to having evacuees at Fort Chaffee.

"We are happy to help out in a time of crisis like this. We have a lot of volunteers and services," he said.

"I feel like we can make them feel at home. ... They may not want to go back to New Orleans; we are a pretty friendly town," Glidewell said.

As evacuees entered a large air-conditioned waiting room Saturday, Salvation Army volunteers passed out water and snacks to the weary evacuees. It was the first step in what could likely be a long-term displacement.

Almost overnight, mountains of donated supplies had accumulated at a drop-off center at Phoenix Village Mall in Fort Smith.

A section of the registration area had large mounds of supplies, from toilet paper and disposable diapers to plastic bags containing a variety of toiletries.

The people who had been deprived of food, water, sanitary conditions, baths and a bed for days filed past a forklift pallet of Krispy Kreme doughnuts that had been donated for them.

"We can appreciate their needs and we're going to do everything we can to fulfill them," Fort Chaffee commander Col. Tommy Hunt said. "We're set up here for the long haul."

One evacuee was taken off the transport plane at the airport and taken by ambulance to St. Edward Mercy Medical Center in Fort Smith with an unspecified medical problem, Fort Smith City Director Cole Goodman said.

Some of the survivors, including many senior citizens, were put in wheelchairs on their arrival and were wheeled into the reception building by volunteers.

Some of the elderly evacuees napped while waiting to register while children played inside and outside the building.

Each evacuee was asked to fill out a change-of-address form, give their home address, medical conditions or medication needs, work skills, religious affiliation in case they wanted to attend services, list of relatives and information that will allow them to gain access to their bank accounts.

Their photos were taken to make identification cards to wear while they are at Fort Chaffee.

They also were to be taken



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/
AARON SKINNER

Gloria Steele of New Orleans leads her dog, Julia, as Sebastian County Emergency Medical Service paramedic Robin Morris escorts her Saturday from a bus of New Orleans refugees that arrived at Fort Chaffee near Fort Smith.

to another building where they could pick out clothing, then on to a mess hall where they were to be fed initially with packaged military Meals Ready to Eat, or MREs.

MEAGER POSSESSIONS

While the evacuees seemed glad of the attention and the relief, many still carried the scars of the past six days. Most carried their sole possessions in a plastic bag or two. Many were sparsely dressed.

Raphael Lewis spread his arms wide as he sat at a table to show off his worldly belongings, which were the clothes on his back.

"What you see is what I have," he said.

Robert Harris, who said a helicopter fished him out of the water as he swam for higher ground, kept his partial dentures in his pants pocket because he was afraid of losing them if he kept them in his mouth.

Mollie Mayfield of the lower 9th Ward in New Orleans arrived at Fort Chaffee with only the dress she was wearing a piece of water-stained cardboard on which she had neatly written all her medications, the name of her doctor, her home address and phone number and those of her family members.

"This is all I have," she said.

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STATE A PRIORITY DESTINATION

Fort Chaffee has housed refugees twice before.

In 1975, the fort was a temporary home to Vietnamese citizens rescued during the fall of Saigon. In 1980, Cuban refugees also were processed through the fort.

"We were told that Arkansas is the destination of priority for the evacuees leaving New Orleans [Saturday], some by bus and many by air," Huckabee said at a news conference in Little Rock.

Arkansas is the priority destination for these evacuees because it's prepared to receive them and close to Louisiana, he said.

As many as 50,000 evacuees already could be in Arkansas, said Alan Gibson, a spokesman for the American Red Cross of Greater Arkansas.

Huckabee said Arkansas probably will see as many as 20,000 more evacuees.

"I am very confident that if the needs should come to the point where we feel we can't handle [them], I have contacts in other states that are ready to go," said the governor, who is chairman of the National Governors Association.

Huckabee directed the Arkansas Air National Guard's 189th Airlift Wing at Little Rock Air Force Base near Jacksonville to fly evacuees from Louisiana to Fort Smith, said Kristine Munn, a spokesman for the Arkansas National Guard. The airlift wing has 10 C-130 cargo aircraft and about 830 Guard members. The Louisiana National Guard has relinquished operational command of one of its C-130s at the base for maintenance, she said.

Each plane can hold up to 85 evacuees, she said, and two to three armed security personnel from the Arkansas Air National Guard will be on each flight.

Six of the Arkansas Air National Guard planes and the Louisiana National Guard plane

were available Saturday, Munn said.

"There are two leaving every hour, and they are rotating and they will be in a constant state of rotation through the day and evening," Huckabee said.

He said that a few days ago he submitted a request to the U.S. Department of Defense to activate the U.S. Air Force's 314th Air Wing to use 60 to 70 C-130s to fly evacuees from New Orleans to Arkansas.

"We are still trying to get that processed," Huckabee said.

PLANES PREFERRED OVER BUSES

He said state officials identified 200 buses to use to transport evacuees from Louisiana to Arkansas, but state officials would rather fly the evacuees to Arkansas.

"These are people who have been through enough as it is and have not had sleep. They have not had food and water or a decent place to lay their head. To make them do a 10-hour bus ride on a school bus is a lot to ask if we have an option. All options are being put forth before we would do that," Huckabee said.

Arkansas legislative leaders on Saturday praised Huckabee's efforts.

"We have a responsibility. We are a part of the country, and I think mobilizing our efforts is the appropriate thing to do to assist our federal government and our neighboring states," said House Speaker Bill Stovall, D-Quitman.

"They may very well end up being Arkansans if there is nothing for them to go back to," he said.

Senate President Pro Tempore Jim Argue, D-Little Rock, said state and local governments and various charitable groups have spent a lot of energy taking care of evacuees' needs.

"We are not used to our own being considered refugees, but it is mind boggling when you think about the total displacement. It

is overwhelming," he said.

In a related development, the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services announced Saturday that the department and the state Department of Education are temporarily waiving all immunization requirements for evacuees from Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi who enter Arkansas schools and child care facilities.

Health and Human Services officials said the department

could extend the waiver period depending on hurricane recovery progress in those states. They said they are making efforts to obtain computerized immunization records in these states.

The state launched Operation KARE., or Katrina Assistance and Relief Effort, on Friday. It also posted a Web site at www.kare.arkansas.gov, and opened a toll free number at (877) 293-5273 to provided information to evacuees.

MARKET RESEARCH STUDY

Field Management Specialists, Inc. will be conducting Marketing Research in the Little Rock area August 29 through September 15. If you have a child between the ages of 18 to 48 months who is currently being toilet trained and you would like to be a part of this research, call 501-666-9466 ext. 3

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Hope

● Continued from Page 1B
and others collected more than 83,000 Little Debbie oatmeal pies and 1,700 gallons of bottled water.

The Northwest Medical Center and Washington Regional Medical Center combined to donate six pallets of medical supplies. Donations ranged from a few dollars to pallets of supplies worth thousands of dollars, Moler said.

On Friday afternoon, Ashley Mattingly of Fayetteville dropped off 50 cans of baby formula and several boxes of baby bottles, and Susan Ball dropped off three 22-pound bags of dog food and three bags of cat food.

"I know that people are being taken care of, but I've seen a lot of people looking for lost pets and carrying animals," Ball said.

One man donated a pallet of diapers worth about \$1,500.

At 5:15 p.m. Friday, five pickups and a moving truck loaded with supplies left Northwest Arkansas for Louisiana. Cpl. Robert Jones of the Lowell Police Department stopped traffic at U.S. 71 and Arkansas 264 for the convoy to depart.

"All right guys," Moler said. "Let's go."

When the group stopped Friday night in Greenland to get gas, three men stopped to give them cash. One man quickly pulled away in his pickup after donating.

"I think he was getting emotional," said Cory Wagahoff, a member of the caravan.

7 P.M. FRIDAY

"Whoa, this is nice right here," Wagahoff said as his Chevrolet pickup pulled over a hill revealing a mountain of green trees south of the Bobby Hopper tunnel along Interstate 540. Wagahoff moved to Little Flock from Kansas less than four months ago.

Hearing of the devastation in Louisiana and Mississippi, Wagahoff said he didn't want to treat the disaster the same way he treated the tsunami.

After watching endless television coverage of the tsunami, Wagahoff said he simply wanted the depressing news coverage to go away.

Instead of merely watching from the sidelines, this time Wagahoff left his wife, Stephanie, and 10-month-old son, Seth, at home, cleared the following week of work at his home business and spent all day Friday preparing to follow Moler's caravan to help others.

"It feels good," he said.

A boy with a crew cut waved from the passenger's seat of a passing truck and Wagahoff flashed a thumbs up.

7:10 P.M. FRIDAY

"Boom!"

A tire on the caravan's rented diesel truck exploded before they reached Mountainburg, sending pieces of rubber across the interstate.

The trip was slowed by three hours as the volunteers worked to change the tire.

Robert and Kayce Anders of Fayetteville heard about Moler's trip while listening to *Press Row*. Robert Anders called Moler and asked to join the group. They had already decided to make a trip themselves before hearing about the caravan.

"I figured it's better to go with a bunch of people than go by ourselves," Robert Anders said.

With daylight long gone and a tow truck nowhere in sight after 9 p.m., the group huddled near Wagahoff's tailgate.

The group of mostly strangers began to learn more about each other.

A campfire atmosphere rose in the disappointment over the delayed start and soon they were talking about the reasons they chose to deliver supplies to Baton Rouge.

"I think the government dropped the ball on this," Moler said. "Big stuff happens all over the world, and we've got planes heading there immediately. For some reason when it happens in our own back yard, that doesn't happen."

Moler said he's been in constant contact with the Red Cross



Bobby Barron (left) and Chris Medley help load a trailer Friday afternoon at Reco-Battery Depot in Lowell. The trailer was part of a convoy of vehicles taking relief supplies to Baton Rouge, La., for Hurricane Katrina victims.

coordinator in Baton Rouge and had gotten reports from Baton Rouge police about safety in the area.

As the group talked, Joel Tittle lounged on top of a cooler. Tittle talked about watching his 1-year-old son, Caleb, learn to walk.

A loan officer at a bank in Springdale, Tittle sacrificed most of his Labor Day weekend to take the trip.

"I know Jimmy [Moler] and I brought by a donation from work," Tittle said. "The next thing I know he tells me 'You're going.'"

3:22 A.M. SATURDAY

Hotel parking lots are full or nearly full in most of the rural towns along Interstate 65 near Pine Bluff.

Some cars are loaded with furniture, bicycles and other belongings. A Baptist church in McGehee has posted a sign saying "Katrina shelter."

As the caravan made its way through the dark night, the Mississippi River was visible at times, sparkling with the lights from nearby houses.

A radio talk show featured one caller who claimed Katrina was a human experiment to see if residents could handle levees exploding.

5:40 A.M.

Near the intersection of Interstates 65 and 20, all but one gas station is out of gas and each station has lines of cars waiting for tankers of gas.

At Love's Truck Stop in Tallulah, La., a line of 25 people steadily progresses to pumps with the assistance of three people directing traffic.

Elessia Clark, assistant manager at the store, said the store has never had business as they've had in the last week.

"And I thought it was busy before," said Clark as she ushered another car forward to the pumps.

The store is allowed one load of gasoline a day, and the load they received at midnight Friday would be gone by late morning Saturday, Clark said.

As the sun rose above the gas station, Cindy and Tim Dudley left their newly purchased rec-

reational vehicle and introduced themselves to the caravan.

"We've been following you for hours," Cindy Dudley said. The couple said they left their Utah home early last week to drive to New Orleans and minister to residents displaced from their homes.

"We're going to take a family back with us," Cindy Dudley said.

James Dawson, a friend of Moler's, then told the group that the truck stop was out of diesel gas. The fuel stop would take more than an hour, and Tittle decided to take a nap on a trailer while waiting for the caravan's box truck to fill up on diesel.

6:49 A.M.

The first hint of damage could be seen just south of Tallulah — uprooted trees.

A barbecue restaurant was ravaged by fire. A marquee in front of one small business read: "Screw Iraq: Bring back troops to clean up our own back yard."

Moving into Baton Rouge, the silver-colored pipes of oil refineries fill the sky.

A New Orleans radio station fields calls from audience members displaced by the hurricane and allowed one woman to name the family members she can't find.

"I spent 10 hours with my kids in the attic," the caller said.

"God bless you," the disc jockey said. "God bless you."

10 A.M.

After coordinating with relief officials for days, Moler said he was told they couldn't drop off supplies with Red Cross.

Instead, the caravan moves to the Louisiana State University campus in Baton Rouge, where organizers of evacuation relief efforts have told Moler his donations are welcomed.

On the way into town, several small houses are divided by large plantation residences. The rhythm of crickets and the steamy presence of water fill the air.

The caravan weaves through Baton Rouge, passing few visibly damaged rooftops and uprooted trees. Driving through city streets reveals more damage.

Power lines are knocked down and have come out of the ground — one crashed into a small bungalow.

Damage was not apparent at the university campus where the Spanish architecture and monstrous football stadium drew comments from the group.

"It's not as big as Razorback Stadium," said Charlie Lombard, who works for Moler. Lombard joined the caravan with his wife, Ruth.

At evacuation headquarters on campus, the group encountered another problem. A campus police officer tells the convoy to turn around because the supplies are not wanted unless they are medical supplies.

Frustrations boiled over as the group waited.

"This is ridiculous," Moler said.

Most of the drivers on the trip had not gotten a break and many had not slept since going to work Friday morning.

The Anderses weighed driving to New Orleans themselves to make sure the hurricane victims received the supplies. The couple bought most of the water donated in the caravan.

Eventually, the Anderses were told by Louisiana Department of Social Services supervisor Floyd Roule that National Guardsmen were blocking highways and stopping volunteers from entering the city.

Roule said 43 of his employees were trapped in the Superdome for two days by 8-foot waters teeming with snakes, alligators and sewage.

He'd been told that 30,000 body bags had been ordered in the wake of the hurricane.

"What you see on TV is just a scratch on the surface," Roule said.

11:45 A.M. SATURDAY

The exhausted group settled at Picadilly's Restaurant enjoying air conditioning and cafeteria style helpings of fried chicken, steak and shrimp alfredo.

"Don't eat too much," Cindy Dudley told Robert Anders. "You'll fall asleep at the wheel with a full belly like that."

The group was served by Darlene Wells, a waitress from Ba-

ton Rouge who has been without power since Monday.

Wells said her food has gone bad and she's had to send 9-year-old son, Crayton, to stay with relatives.

"It gets so hot at night I feel like I'm going to lose it," Wells said.

Wells' mother in Mississippi had been displaced from her home.

"I've been praying 'Lord, don't ever let me go through this again,' but I know it's still hurricane season."

12:40 P.M.

The caravan pulls up to its last stop at the Victory and Power Mission, an organization nestled among aging apartment complexes in Baton Rouge.

Neighbors walked by, watching supplies being unloaded and two policeman moved from one corner to another, talking to adults.

Donald White, a volunteer for the ministry, said that 50 refu-

gees were expected to arrive at the mission Saturday night and another 150 were expected Sunday. The food bank has received other donations from Oklahoma City and Kansas City to distribute among Katrina victims.

Leftovers will go to the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank.

The ministry's local radio station will advertise the goods to help those displaced by Katrina.

After calling the Red Cross several times, Moler said he had no other choice but to find a local ministry that would take the supplies.

"But I don't know what else to do," Moler said, his voice hoarse. "I feel wrong about this, but I don't know what else to do."

After helping unload three pallets of bottled water at the food bank, Wagahoff climbed back into his truck's front seat.

After 22 hours of effort, the job is done.

"These are exactly the people we came to help," Wagahoff said.

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Saddam trial date set
Ex-dictator, 7 others accused in massacre of 143 Shiites. — International, 4A



Johnson smooth in debut
Nutt pleased with quarterback's game management. — Sports, 1C

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72 PAGES 10 SECTIONS

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In the news

■ **Ken Livingstone**, the mayor of London, faces a disciplinary hearing by the Adjudication Panel for England after the country's Standards Board found he "failed to treat others with respect and brought his authority into disrepute" when he compared a Jewish journalist to a Nazi concentration-camp guard.

■ **Lise Van Susteren**, a psychiatrist and the sister of Fox News Channel's Greta Van Susteren, announced she'll seek the Democratic nomination for a U.S. Senate seat in Maryland when Democratic Sen. Paul Sarbanes retires.

■ **Judy Woodruff**, who left a job hosting CNN's *Inside Politics* to pursue other journalism opportunities, has been named a visiting fellow for the fall semester at Harvard University's Joan Shorenstein Center on the Press, Politics and Public Policy.

■ **Jesse Ventura**, former governor of Minnesota, has become a spokesman for the offshore Internet gambling site BetUS.com, licensed in Canada and Costa Rica, which takes bets on everything from football games to trial verdicts.

■ **Alexander Davis**, 19, was charged with felony animal cruelty in Chatham County, Ga., after police found the missing rat terrier of a woman whose home was burglarized burned to death in an oven that had been set at 400 degrees.

■ **Michael Lyons**, 45, was arrested in Savannah, Ga., after police said the man, while celebrating his daughter's birthday with a group of girls, told one 13-year-old to hand a bank teller a note saying, "Give me all of your money, this is a stick up," as a joke.

■ **Yosuke Ohashi**, a 19-month-old Japanese toddler, is due to return to Japan from Miami after undergoing a six-organ transplant impossible in his home country because donated organs are not yet available for young children.

■ **Mike Easley**, governor of North Carolina, signing legislation to create a lottery, estimated that the lottery would take in \$500 million a year for education and that scratch-off tickets could be sold in six to seven months as soon as a lottery commission is appointed.

■ **Dr. Cecil Byron Knox**, a physician in Abingdon, Va., once charged with the deadly overprescription of such painkillers as OxyContin, pleaded guilty to health-care fraud and drug charges and agreed to surrender his medical license and his authority to prescribe medications.

■ **Montgomery Joe Carter**, 37, of Gerrardstown, W.Va., drew a sentence of six months in prison after pleading guilty to shoving a pregnant United Airlines flight attendant on a plane after the crew separated him and his travel companion in an altercation.

WEATHER

LITTLE ROCK

Today Mostly sunny and seasonable.

High 89, with winds east at 5 to 10 mph.

Tonight Skies will be mostly clear.

Low 65.

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Ghastly cleanup looms



Jose Valenzuela (front) is rescued from his flooded home on Palmyra Street by New Orleans police Sgt. Chuck Little (left) and civilian volunteer Melanie VanHart (right) of Alexandria, La.

Torrent of weary surprises governor State scrambling to aid thousands

BY JAKE BLEED
AND HILARY HILLIARD
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Arkansas officials spent Sunday scrambling to find accommodations for thousands of refugees from Hurricane Katrina after an overnight airlift brought between 7,500 and 10,000 of them to Fort Chaffee.

Last week, Gov. Mike Huckabee said the state would take about 20,000 people from storm-ravaged New Orleans over the next two or three days. But the size and speed of the airlift caught Arkansas off-guard.

"We've been inundated with twice as many people as we have been expecting in about a third of the frame of time that we were expecting them," Huckabee said Sunday while visiting Fort Chaffee, a National Guard base in west Arkansas.

"No one is prepared for the magnitude of it. No one

See **REFUGEES**, Page 7A



An emergency worker aids children from New Orleans after a school bus filled with evacuees arrived Sunday afternoon at Central Flying Service in Little Rock.

Bush: Will move fast to replace Rehnquist

Chief justice's death complicates prospects of filling out top court

BY PAUL BARTON
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

WASHINGTON — President Bush promised Sunday to move quickly to nominate a replacement for deceased Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist, and praise for Rehnquist's career came from both the right and the left.

Members of the Arkansas congressional delegation joined in the praise.

Meanwhile, hints emerged that the battle over his successor could prove more intense than the one over nominee John

Roberts.

Further, senators moved toward beginning Roberts' confirmation hearing Tuesday, but skipping Wednesday, the day of Rehnquist's funeral, congressional sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

However, delaying the start of hearings until Thursday remains a possibility, said the two sources, one Republican and one Democrat.

Funeral arrangements for Rehnquist, who died at his Arlington, Va., home late Saturday after a long battle with thyroid

cancer, became final Sunday.

The court announced that his body will lie in the Great Hall of the Supreme Court on Tuesday and Wednesday. The public can pay respects from 10:30 a.m. EDT until 10 p.m. Tuesday and from 10 a.m. EDT until noon Wednesday.

Funeral services will begin at 2 p.m. EDT Wednesday at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, D.C., with services open to friends and family. The burial at Arlington will be private. Rehnquist was a World War II

See **REHNQUIST**, Page 10A

Soldiers of 39th find shrouded bodies, filth at convention center

BY AMY SCHLESING
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

NEW ORLEANS — The stench coming from Ernest N. Morial Convention Center breaches the doors.

The air carried the smell of disaster, a putrid combination of death and human waste.

Soldiers with Arkansas' 39th Infantry Brigade and airmen with the Arkansas Air National Guard's 189th Airlift Wing worked to evacuate thousands of people from the center Friday and Saturday, finally emptying the massive structure Saturday night.

It was not completely empty, however.

On Sunday, two bodies rested near the employee entrance at the back of the center. One was a man in a wheelchair. The other, a teenage boy, lay beside him. Both were partially covered with white sheets.

Soldiers walked through the dark building, shining lights from their rifles on the sticky, trash-covered floor. There were clothes with price tags still on them, yanked from the shelves of the neighboring River Walk Mall.

"This is just awful," said Spc. Michael McKee of Texarkana. "This is something that will stay with you right here."

ON THE INSIDE



NEW ORLEANS mother triples patient load in Arkansas ambulance. Page 6A.

ARKANSAS CHURCHES provide meals to storm victims. Page 6A.

NAVY PUTS Halliburton subsidiary to work. Page 6A.

BATON ROUGE bursting at seams. Page 9A.

SOME ORLEANIANS won't budge from homes. Page 13A.

Farther down a hallway that leads to the convention center's kitchen, two more bodies covered with sheets were on the floor along the wall.

One was a stabbing victim who died in a fight at the convention center. In the days after

See **CENTER**, Page 10A



Associated Press

A flag outside the U.S. Supreme Court flies at half-staff Sunday in Washington.

New Orleans mom triples patients in LR ambulance

BY JIM BROOKS
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

BATON ROUGE — For New Orleans native Antoinette Hickerson, the crew of the Arkansas Children's Hospital ambulance known as Angel One lived up to its name.

The eight-month pregnant 32-year-old who spent several days in the cramped attic of her home in New Orleans' lower Ninth Ward before her rescue gave birth to twins in the back of the Arkansas-based unit.

"It went real easy," said Hickerson, who gave birth to her sons Dwayne and Dwight in the ambulance Thursday on the way from the Superdome to Baton Rouge. "I could have used an epidural."

Hickerson's joy at the apparent good health of her newborn sons is tempered by the uncertainty concerning her other children — a 7-year-old daughter named Moesha and a 1-year-old boy, also named Dwight.

"I haven't heard from my family since the hurricane," Hickerson said from her hospital bed in Woman's Hospital in Baton Rouge.

As she talked, Dwayne slept on her chest. He weighed 5 pounds, 13 ounces. His little brother, who was a breech delivery, weighed slightly less than 5 pounds.

Hickerson recounted the horror of the storm, an account that includes her family, her boyfriend and several neighbors who rode out the deadly storm in the attic of her house not far from one of the major levee breaks.

"The water was up to the first two floors," she said. "We decided to go to the attic, and they had to push me up there."

After a couple of days in the attic with no rescue, some men in the group hacked an opening in the roof and pushed Hickerson through the hole. They hoped her obvious pregnancy might attract the attention of rescuers.

Sure enough, a Coast Guard rescue team in a boat spotted Hickerson and took all of the attic's occupants to safety at the increasingly crowded Superdome.

"It was horrible in there," Hickerson said, recounting stories of shootings and rape during



Antoinette Hickerson looks at Dwight, one of her newborn sons and cradles Dwight's identical twin, Dwayne, in her left arm Saturday afternoon at the Woman's Hospital in Baton Rouge.

her brief stay at the arena that housed as many as 20,000 people before it, too, was evacuated.

When it became apparent

that the 32-year-old was about to give birth, she was separated from her boyfriend and two small children and lifted into

an air ambulance. Shortly after takeoff medical technicians realized that Hickerson was going to give birth before the helicopter

could get to Houston.

They touched down and passed Hickerson off to the Angel One crew that had arrived in Louisiana from Little Rock earlier that day.

"They said she was ready to give birth and probably wouldn't make it to the hospital," said Angel One crewman Bart Noland, of Pottsville. "They were right."

About 40 minutes outside Baton Rouge, Hickerson began to deliver her sons.

"They told me not to push, but I couldn't help," she said Saturday. "It was fairly quick."

Noland said he has assisted in dozens of births and delivered several babies himself, including one that first saw the world in an elevator.

Noland and Angel One's other crewmen, emergency technician Sedley Tomlinson and emergency medical technician intern Donny Antone, both of Conway, were happy that one of the first of many runs in the response to Hurricane Katrina had a hopeful ending.

"We left with one patient and arrived with three," Noland said.

Baptist volunteers dish out disaster relief

About 200 from Arkansas set up mobile kitchens in Katrina-stricken region

BY LAURA LYNN BROWN
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

About 100 Baptist volunteers from Arkansas are cooking as fast as they can in Laurel, Miss. They served 20,000 meals on Saturday and were expecting to serve even more Sunday, their fourth day of feeding survivors of Hurricane Katrina in a town where Red Cross supply lines are just beginning to trickle in.

The Southern Baptist Convention is the third-largest disaster relief organization in the United States after the Red Cross and the Salvation Army. The country's largest non-Catholic denomination has 30,000 trained volunteers who stand ready to pack up and go where needed.

About 200 volunteers from Arkansas left last week and set up mobile kitchens in Laurel, Kenner, La., and Gonzalez, La., said Darwin Bacon, disaster relief coordinator for the Arkansas Baptist State Convention.

The line of hungry people waiting to pick up a boxed meal in Laurel stretched for a mile Saturday, Bacon said. Some of them were residents of Laurel, where 75 percent of the town still lacked water and power. But thousands were refugees from New Orleans. Baptist volunteers served them meat, two vegetables and dessert. Many of them were eating their first warm meal in days, Bacon said.

The teams cooked in semi-trailers converted into kitchens. Chain-saw units went to cut and remove downed trees. Shower units helped the volunteers and other relief workers remove the daily sweat and grime. Chaplains went along to counsel the disaster victims.

The volunteers pay their own way and expect primitive conditions. The 60 or so volunteers in Kenner spent their first night in the city jail, Bacon said. They're cooking 10,000 to 15,000 meals a day, many of them for workers at the Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport.

When the volunteers left Arkansas, each unit took along enough food to serve 20,000 meals, as well as enough gas to run their vehicles, generators and chain saws, and enough water to cook and clean with, Bacon said.

Ordinarily, Bacon said, the Red Cross supplies the food and the Baptist teams serve it. But the Red Cross could not get food to the teams before Sunday.

Bacon has been working non-stop to procure food and water and to keep delivery trucks running between Arkansas and those three locations.

Each truck carries two drivers who take turns driving and sleeping. When they arrive, they unhook the supply-laden trailers and hook up an empty trailer



Rizan Nohsin (top), 12, and Aisha Siddiqui, 14, both members of the Islamic Center of Little Rock, bag up personal hygiene items on Sunday for distribution to hurricane victims that have been relocated to Arkansas.

from the last delivery so they can keep the trucks moving.

Bacon took some time Friday morning from the work of organizing disaster response to speak on Rush Limbaugh's radio show. The guest host that day, Roger Hedgecock, wanted to know: When people were complaining that the national charities and federal forces hadn't made it in yet, how did Arkansas Baptist volunteers manage to get in just miles from New Orleans on Wednesday night and start serving meals?

"Nothing is stronger than the heart of a volunteer," Bacon said. "We have trained our volunteers. We have prepared for disaster. All we had to do was be given a place to serve."

Throughout the day phones rang with calls from across the country, some of the callers in tears and wanting to know how to contribute. Bacon said donations can be made through a link on the denomination's state Web site, absc.org.

Churches across the state took up donations Sunday morning to aid Katrina victims. Members of First Baptist Church in De Queen donated \$19,000, Bacon said.

Arkansas' largest denomination has 1,000 trained disaster-relief volunteers, and most if not all

of them will do their parts in the coming weeks, as about 200 leave every seven to 10 days to relieve the ones now serving. Mandatory training is being waived; new volunteers will receive on-the-job training.

George Peters of North Little Rock, who attends Levy Baptist Church, trained as a volunteer in the 1990s and went on a medical mission to Guatemala in 1991. Last week he went to the state mission office and volunteered.

Peters, 70, will leave Tuesday morning with a group planning to relieve those working in Laurel. He'll wear the yellow ball cap and T-shirt that workers wear and serve as "general flunky," he said. "I will do everything from unload to assist the cooks to serve and to wash and clean all of the containers afterward."

The United Methodist Church in Arkansas is also working hard on sending aid to hurricane victims. The United Methodist Committee On Relief's Sager Brown distribution center in Baldwin, La., about 50 miles west of New Orleans, sustained no damage except a few downed trees.

Little Rock will be a staging ground for food, water and other basic items headed for Baldwin, said Billy Reeder, director of communications. He has secured a

10,000-square-foot warehouse at the Port of Little Rock to accept donations from other Methodist conferences.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has designated the Sager Brown center its main distribution point for bottled water, Reeder said.

He expected Methodists across the state and elsewhere to be asked in church Sunday morning to donate money and other needed goods, many of which are listed on its Web site, arumc.org.

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Navy puts Halliburton subsidiary to work

BY LOLITA C. BALDOR
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A Halliburton Co. subsidiary criticized for its reconstruction work in Iraq has begun tapping a \$500 million Navy contract to do emergency repairs at Gulf Coast naval and Marine facilities that were battered by Hurricane Katrina.

The subsidiary, Kellogg, Brown & Root Services Inc. of Arlington, Va., was awarded the competitive bid contract last July to provide debris removal and other emergency work associated with natural disasters.

Jan Davis, a spokesman for the Naval Facilities Engineering Command, said Sunday that KBR will receive \$12 million for work at Naval Air Station Pascagoula, Naval Station Gulfport and Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. It will receive \$4.6 million for work at two smaller Navy facilities in New Orleans and others in the South.

The company has provided similar work after major disasters in the United States and abroad for more than 15 years, including in Florida after Hurricane Andrew.

But KBR has been at the center of scrutiny for receiving a

five-year, no-bid contract to restore Iraqi oil fields shortly before the war began in 2003.

Halliburton has reported being paid \$10.7 billion for Iraq-related government work during 2003 and 2004.

The company reported its pretax profits from that work as \$163 million. Pentagon auditors have questioned tens of millions of dollars of Halliburton charges for its operations there.

Vice President Dick Cheney headed Halliburton from 1995 to 2000, and Democrats have questioned whether the company has gotten favorable treatment because of his connection.

Refugees

• Continued from Page 1A

is able to contemplate the numbers of people that are totally displaced."

The task of caring for the newcomers fell to state agencies and private citizens alike, who found themselves hustling to meet the serious needs of Katrina's victims. Facts and plans changed by the hour Sunday, and state officials were often short on answers to where refugees were going, how many and when.

"It's a real fluid situation," said John Selig, director of the Arkansas Department of Health and Human Services.

Hurricane Katrina made landfall a week ago, causing widespread devastation in southern Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama. Many of the refugees arriving in Arkansas came from New Orleans, where the storm surge burst levees and flooded much of the city.

The state couldn't say Sunday how many hurricane refugees were in Arkansas, saying only that they estimated that 50,000 were here before the weekend airlift. Texas and other states are struggling to care for tens of thousands of additional refugees.

On Sunday evening, thousands of refugees were camped out at Fort Chaffee, after being flown into Fort Smith Regional Airport.

"We are essentially trying to create infrastructure for a city of 9,000 overnight," said Joe Quinn, policy adviser to Gov. Mike Huckabee. "This is an hour-to-hour situation as we define new needs."

Another 324 refugees were at the Pine Bluff Convention Center, where they were sent after the flight was routed to Little Rock National Airport because Fort Chaffee had reached capacity. They arrived exhausted, said Bob Purvis, director of the convention center.

"You could see the look in their eyes," Purvis said.

Buses carrying as many as 600 refugees arrived in Little Rock on Sunday evening from Fort Chaffee. Volunteers at Little Rock National Airport, Adams Field, "processed" the refugees, determining their identities and needs.

Those refugees, along with others at Fort Chaffee, will be distributed to other shelters, including church camps across the state, Quinn said.

"We are about maxed out on what we can handle coming through Fort Chaffee right now and we are about maxed out on what we can handle at the church camps," Quinn said. "It would appear that pipeline is full tonight."

The last busload of refugees had left the airport by 9:30 p.m.

Huckabee said Sunday that governors in Idaho, Michigan, and Iowa had offered to take some of the refugees in Arkansas.

In Little Rock, city officials strived to find space for refugees arriving in the area.

City Manager Bruce Moore said the city was considering using venues including the Statehouse Convention Center in downtown Little Rock or North Little Rock's Alltel Arena as temporary housing. But Moore said there were no immediate plans to use those facilities.

"One of our main challenges are just cots," Moore said. "We've got to have places for



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/LORI McELROY

Shirley Cornelius of New Orleans shares information with Gov. Mike Huckabee at Fort Chaffee on Sunday, telling him her mother had died and that she needed to reach other relatives. Huckabee tried to call Cornelius' sister but couldn't get through. Cornelius is among an estimated 7,500 to 10,000 evacuees brought to Fort Chaffee in Sebastian County for temporary shelter after Hurricane Katrina. With the governor is Joe Quinn, a policy adviser.

these people to lay down."

Moore said Little Rock was getting constant updates from the state, but the federal government kept changing its information.

"To be honest, the information they're getting is constantly changing," Moore said around noon Sunday. "I think there's a lot of unknowns at this point."

State police will provide security for the refugees. With 75 troopers at Fort Chaffee and 43 serving in Louisiana and Mississippi, the agency called up a class of new recruits two weeks early to help out.

Col. Steve Dozier, director of the state police, said the security is needed to keep the transfer of refugees under control.

"When people are traumatized, and fatigued, their tempers may be a little short," Dozier said.

He said the troopers would provide security for "a few days" and that they expect to be replaced by guards hired by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA.

Little Rock area hospitals handled some of the refugees' immediate health-care needs. St. Vincent Health System treated four for minor injuries, said Margaret Preston, a spokesman for the hospital.

She added that those treated were "tired, hungry and dehydrated."

The Central Arkansas Veterans Healthcare System in Little Rock has admitted 21 patients from the New Orleans VA Medical Center, said Derenda Summerlin, the hospital's acting public affairs officer.

The health-care center also received four staff members from the Louisiana facility, as well as seven family members of patients and a cat, which was being kept in a kennel at the North Little Rock campus, Summerlin said.

The patients' relatives, including spouses and three children, have been staying in hotel-style rooms at the health care system's Mountain Park Conference Center.

"The patients are all stable and doing quite well," Summerlin said.

Other organizations across the state spent Sunday preparing for guests.

Two camps owned by the

people.

By Sunday morning, rumors had become an obstacle for organizers at several Arkansas shelters.

They couldn't gauge what supplies were needed and whether their beds were going to fill up. Over the last two days several had braced for an influx after word filtered down that more evacuees were coming.

But on Sunday, many simply waited.

"I was expecting like 275 the first day I opened the shelter because of a lot of misinformation about how many buses were coming," said Earl Simpson, a Red Cross volunteer at a shelter in Jonesboro.

United Methodist camps are expecting several hun-

dred evacuees today, said Billy Reeder, director of communications for the United Methodist Conference in Arkansas.

Methodist volunteers are preparing six camps: Shoal Creek in Logan County, Mount Eagle near Clinton, Camp Tanako in Hot Springs, Bear Creek in Marianna, Mount Sequoyah in Fayetteville and Wayland Springs near Black Rock.

Volunteers at Bear Creek Youth Camp outside Marianna were preparing for two bus loads of refugees from Fort Chaffee on Sunday, said state Sen. Steve Higginbotham, D-Marianna.

They would be in addition to about 80 refugees who arrived at the camp on Friday and Saturday. Higginbotham said

every church in his community was helping in the effort, and that the town's armory was being used as a center to process incoming refugees.

Enthusiasm was strong, but with the evacuation of New Orleans expected to last weeks or months, Higginbotham wondered how long the support would last.

"We know that we're not talking about a couple of weeks. We could be talking about literally months," Higginbotham said. "It's going to be very difficult to sustain, I think, that level of volunteerism."

Information for this article was contributed by Dave Hughes, Andrew DeMillo, Laura Lynn Brown and Van Jensen of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette.

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Population boom hits Louisiana's capital city

BY ALEX BRANCH
FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

BATON ROUGE — New Orleans residents have long considered this capital city 70 miles up the interstate a sleepy college town, good for catching a Louisiana State University football game but far removed from the eclectic revelry of the Crescent City.

Now they consider it home.

Local officials said the parish's population of about 415,000 could swell to more than 600,000, maybe even double. It became the biggest city in Louisiana almost overnight.

A local radio DJ told listeners this week "Folks, we are New Orleans." The population boom affects residents in Baton Rouge in every way, from gridlocked traffic to long lines at the supermarket. Parking lots are full, gas stations are overwhelmed and drugstores are packed.

"To suddenly have all these people without building anything new, it squeezes everything," said Christopher Brown, 40, a resident of 10 years. "It's like living the big-city life in a small city. It's always crowded."

City officials, still overseeing repairs to stoplights knocked out during the storm, have asked residents to be patient.

The shifting population also brings a shifting sensibility. The two cities have many characteristics in common, but in some fundamental ways they're very different.

The biggest gap is income. New Orleans families are more likely to be poor; 40 percent have incomes below \$25,000 a year, compared with 32 percent in Baton Rouge. The typical male worker in Baton Rouge makes \$4,000 a year more than his counterpart in New Orleans.

While both cities have a sizable percentage of people living under the federal poverty line, Baton Rouge has a more pronounced middle class. In New Orleans, it's easy to detect the two extremes: dire poverty and ostentatious wealth.

"In New Orleans, especially in the place that's really inundated with floodwater, it's dominated by rich and poor," said James Wilson Jr., the assistant director of the Center for Louisiana Studies at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette.

There are other cultural differences. As a state capital and home to Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge developed a more polished professional class than the Big Easy.

"Baton Rouge is pretty much your all-American city, or at least your all-American Southern city," Wilson said.

Now that city is changing in ways both cultural and economic. Refugees are snapping up every home or condominium on the Baton Rouge real estate market. New Orleans-based businesses, their buildings damaged or surrounded by water, are leasing empty office, industrial and warehouse space.

"They're selling property without showing it," said Deborah Johnson of Wampold Companies, a property manager. "It's crazy."

Real estate agents said the onslaught of people seeking homes or apartments began the moment Baton Rouge regained power Tuesday morning. Every apartment in a 50-mile radius was taken quickly.

Information for this article was contributed by Jeff Claassen and Jennifer Autrey of the Fort Worth Star-Telegram.

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Center

• Continued from Page 1A
the hurricane it had become a hostile place.

A set of blue latex medical gloves lay on top of the sheet covering the man. Behind him was the body of a woman who died of dehydration waiting in line for food at the distribution center secured by 39th soldiers.

Two soldiers had carried her into the convention center Friday because there was no place else to take her.

Piles of human waste lined the carpeted rooms of the center. In the kitchen, decaying raw meat lay on the counters. More bodies are believed to be stored in the kitchen's large walk-in freezer, but nobody checked.

For now, the bodies will stay where they are.

"We have to focus on the living right now," said Maj. Andy De Kunffy, operations officer for Arkansas National Guard's 39th Infantry Brigade. "I don't have any morgue bags. I don't have any place to take them. I'm ready to do it, but what do I do with them? I'm limited until I get further guidance."

Officials with the Joint Operations Center at the Superdome, which coordinates rescue operations in the city, estimated that Arkansas' soldiers and airmen helped evacuate more than 15,000 people on Saturday alone.

By Sunday, the dead and an enormous mess were all that remained.

Streets that had been filled with people toting looted mer-



Spc. Clayton Hill of the 39th Infantry Brigade helps secure the Arkansas flag to a fence at a base camp set up near the Riverwalk Mall in New Orleans.

chandise and whatever belongings they could carry remained deserted Sunday. Buses moved through the dry parts of the city, picking up stragglers who had decided to leave town.

The area patrolled by Arkansans changed drastically overnight with the complete evacuation of the Superdome and the Morial center.

Communication between Louisiana officials and the National Guard elements that have

entered the city is disjointed at best. The 39th continued watching their small area of operations Sunday despite the fact that it's deserted, giving soldiers a much needed break.

A new mission is expected by this morning.

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said Sunday that many police officers had turned in their badges. Others had deserted. He said he had no idea how many of the 1,500 police

officers remained.

Rescue workers continued to enter the city. A search and rescue team from Hope arrived at the 39th headquarters on the city's Riverwalk on Sunday.

Through the weekend, a team of 39th Support Battalion soldiers from the Arkansas National Guard helped Chief Warrant Officer Ron Angel evacuate more than 700 patients from New Orleans' Veterans Affairs hospital.

"The water was so deep at the VA we couldn't get in with anything but trucks," Angel said. "They made me so proud of being an Arkansan, and proud of being in the 39th with them. I'd ask them if they were getting tired and they'd say, 'No, Chief. Lets go get another load.'"

The team ferried the patients out in 5-ton trucks to a landing strip where C-130 cargo planes flew them to hospitals throughout the country.

Water receded in the city overnight, dropping at least 2 feet as evacuation efforts continue.

"It looks a lot better today," Lt. Col. Mark Lumpkin said as he drove to a briefing at the Joint Operations Center. A small boat that had been floating in the street the day before was beached. Waterlines on cars parked along the street showed water had once reached the passenger windows. Now it lapped at the door handles.

City officials continued to focus on rescue efforts as more and more bodies were discovered.

The 39th Brigade's 2nd Battalion is headed to Fort Chaffee to help process evacuees and secure the camp.

While the city is slowly emptying and calming down in the dry areas, Col. John Edwards said he expects trouble to break out again.

"As the floodwaters recede," he said. "I think the opportunity for trouble will increase."

City officials were spreading the word to residents that they will begin to enforce the mandatory evacuation order soon.

For one holdout in the

French Quarter, enforcement of the order may bring on a fight.

At Johnny White's Sports Bar and Grill on Bourbon Street — walking distance from the convention center — the party continued.

"This bar has never been closed in 16 years," said Marcie Ramsey, who has become manager of the pub by default with the evacuation of the bar's management.

She was bartender the night Katrina hit.

She and the bar's three customers held the French doors closed against the hurricane force winds in the wee hours of Monday morning. They've been serving drinks — everything from soda to beer and mixed drinks — ever since.

Resting on the sidewalk near the bar, Chuck Marshall explained how his house, an old taxi, is buried underwater just a few blocks away. He pulled the keys out of his dingy pocket as proof.

"I've been living in New Orleans for 43½ years," he said. "I'm kind of a street person. No family, nothing to tie me down."

He picks up aluminum cans to earn money and does some work for a neighborhood shop.

A group of three charter buses stopped in front of the bar.

No one got on.

David Benedict and Danny Huppert sat on their usual barstools.

"We're staying," Benedict said. "Once you get out, they won't let you back in."

"Yep," Huppert said. "That's our biggest fear."

Rehnquist

• Continued from Page 1A
Army veteran, and his wife, who died of ovarian cancer in 1991, is buried at Arlington.

In his comments from the White House, Bush praised Rehnquist for his devotion to and leadership of the court.

"He was extremely well respected for his powerful intellect," Bush said. "He was respected for his deep commitment to the rule of law and his profound devotion to duty. He provided superb leadership for the federal court system, improving the delivery of justice for the American people and earning the admiration of his colleagues throughout the judiciary."

Rehnquist's death follows the announced retirement of Sandra Day O'Connor from the court in June.

"There are now two vacancies on the Supreme Court, and it will serve the best interests of the nation to fill those vacancies promptly. I will choose in a timely manner a highly qualified nominee to succeed Chief Justice Rehnquist," the president said.

Rehnquist's death brings open a second position. For the first time since 1971, two vacancies on the Supreme Court have occurred at roughly the same time.

Justice John Paul Stevens, 85 and the court's senior justice, will fill the administrative role of chief justice until a new one is confirmed. However, he will not sit in Rehnquist's chair when the new term begins. It will be draped in black if a new chief justice has not been confirmed.

The court operates on a strict seniority system, so whenever the chief justice is absent, the justice with the most years on the court takes over. Stevens, named to the high court by President Ford in 1975, also filled in for Rehnquist when the chief justice was absent from the bench for several months after announcing his cancer diagnosis last October.

In interviews Sunday, justices indicated that it surprised them as much as the rest of the country to learn late Saturday night that the chief justice had died.

Justice David H. Souter said it flabbergasted him to learn of the chief justice's death.

O'Connor called his death "an earthquake for the court." Noting that she has made her retirement

contingent on the confirmation of a successor, she said she has not yet decided what she might do if the first Monday in October dawns and her seat has not been filled. It would be, she said, a "surprising dilemma."

A multitude of voices from both ends of the political spectrum joined in the praise of the former chief justice.

Sen. Orrin Hatch, Republican of Utah, said on ABC's *This Week* that Rehnquist was a "straightforward, very honest, very decent man who believed in what he did and did it with aplomb and with, I think, good grace."

Hatch said Rehnquist will go down "as one of the pillars of the chief justiceship."

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said on the same program that Rehnquist "conducted himself with dignity and honor and distinction. And I think the whole nation mourns him."

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, Democrat of Massachusetts, joined in the praise even though he voted against Rehnquist's 1986 elevation to chief justice.

"Chief Justice Rehnquist served this country with the greatest distinction, and I respected his leadership of the federal judiciary and his strong commitment to the integrity and independence of the courts," Kennedy said.

Interest groups from the right and the left weighed in as well.

"Millions of pro-life Americans mourn the death of Chief Justice Rehnquist," Douglas Johnson of National Right to Life said in a statement.

The Committee for Justice, a group that support's Bush's judicial nominations, said Rehnquist will be remembered for adhering to the Constitution in his opinions.

"This is a sad moment, as Justice Rehnquist has been a hero to constitutionalists for 33 years," C. Boyden Gray, chairman of the group, said.

Nan Aron, president of the liberal Alliance for Justice, praised Rehnquist for serving "with a unique understanding of the importance of the court in shaping this nation and knew the need for independence of the judiciary."

Arkansas members praised his service as well.

Democratic Sen. Blanche Lincoln said in a statement that Rehnquist "served our nation's highest court with honor and distinction, and in the days to

come, there will be much discussion as to how to fill this enormous void."

Democratic Sen. Mark Pryor said, "I am saddened by the death of Chief Justice William Rehnquist. My thoughts and prayers are with his family in their time of grief. Of the many admirable qualities Justice Rehnquist embodied, I was personally inspired by his tenacious fight to beat cancer so that he could continue the public service he loved so dearly. While not everyone agreed with his rulings, he was and will always be universally respected for his integrity, temperament and keen legal mind."

Democratic Rep. Vic Snyder called Rehnquist "a controversial figure in many ways, but even those who disagreed with him respected his energy and his commitment to his views as he saw them." Snyder also said, "He was a strong believer in the institution of the Supreme Court and the role of the federal courts. He put a lot of energy into trying to improve and protect the role of the courts as he saw it."

Republican Rep. John Boozman said, "Chief Justice Rehnquist will be remembered as an honest jurist, a man of remarkable integrity and intellect. He presided over some historic cases and did so in an impartial and dignified manner. His presence on the court will be missed."

A spokesman for Republican Sen. Arlen Specter, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, told *The New York Times* that some had considered postponing the Roberts hearings later this month out of respect for Rehnquist.

Schumer was one of those calling for delaying the hearings.

"We can take a few days out to mourn Justice Rehnquist. He was a towering figure in the judiciary," he said on ABC's *This Week*. "Judge Roberts was his law clerk, and Judge Rehnquist was Judge Roberts' mentor. I think it makes a good deal of sense for us to take time, catch our breath and take a few days out."

But Senate Republicans were moving toward beginning the hearing as scheduled, the two congressional sources told *The Associated Press*, allowing Roberts and Judiciary Committee senators to give their opening statements Tuesday as planned. Senators would wait until Thursday to begin questioning Rob-

erts.

Another option for Bush discussed on Sunday talk shows was asking O'Connor to stay on another year as chief justice. "She is respected by all sides," Schumer said.

Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., agreed. "Asking her to stay on, at least until January, gives the president a bit more time to think this process through, rather than trying to jam decisions," he told *Fox News Sunday*.

The new vacancy begins a new round of guessing on who Bush's next nominee will be.

Sean Rushton, spokesman for the Committee for Justice, said he expected the left to intensify its opposition to Roberts now that a second Supreme Court vacancy is also at stake.

"It raises the intensity for the whole enchilada," Rushton said in an interview, adding that Bush should pick another "strong conservative" like Roberts.

Aron, of the liberal Alliance for Justice, said in an interview, "President Bush has a choice to make, one that has broad implications for the future of the country and the judiciary. We hope senators will press the administration to name a candidate who will respect individual rights and freedom."

Debra L. Ness, president of the liberal National Partnership for Women and Families, said Bush chose an "ultraconservative" in Roberts and "must do better

with this vacancy."

But Calvin Jillson, expert on American politics at Southern Methodist University in Dallas, said a nation sobered by Hurricane Katrina is not in the mood for bitter nomination fights.

As long as Bush doesn't nomi-

nate an extreme ideologue, Jillson said, he should be able to get his nominee through "with relatively little difficulty."

Information for this article was contributed by Jennifer Loven, Jesse J. Holland and Anne Gearan of The Associated Press and Linda Greenhouse of The New York Times.

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Some Orleanians won't budge from their water-filled homes

Holdouts told police, soldiers control streets

AMY UPSHAW
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

NEW ORLEANS — Police say they have “control of the city,” but some people being rescued from their flooded houses are still worried about crime, both at home and in the shelters.

“I hope y’all aren’t taking us to the dome” a man said as he and three elderly friends settled into a flat-bottom boat Sunday afternoon minutes after being rescued.

He was referring to the Superdome, where thousands of refugees went to weather Hurricane Katrina and where chaos broke out after the flooding.

The four residents, friends for 30 years, yelled to police and rescuers in two boats that they didn’t want to leave, even though water — 8 feet deep in places — filled most of the house.

“You’re going to die here,” New Orleans police Sgt. Chuck Little yelled back.

They stood in their underwear, filthy from living without running water or electricity for seven days. One of them, a woman named Alice, said that she was worried by radio reports about the disorder in New Orleans.

“There is no trouble in the city!” one of the other rescuers screamed.

“It’s martial law!” another rescuer told them.

Melanie VanHart, a rescuer from Alexandria, La., tried to comfort the weary and stranded people.

“There’s thousands of soldiers in the city,” VanHart said.

Reluctantly, the four holdouts eventually piled into the boat.

“Other people around here are going to want to break in here — steal my pistol,” a man named Morris said.

Little tried to reassure him that no one was coming into this neighborhood to steal anything. Rescuers wondered aloud if the people who had been stuck in their homes understand the scope of the di-



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/BENJAMIN KRAIN

New Orleans resident Stephen Smith swims away from civilian volunteer Melanie VanHart as she tries to convince him to flee his flooded neighborhood on Sunday.

saster.

Stephen Smith, who climbed into a boat with his dogs Frankie B. and Albert, said he had been on the roof of a shed behind a neighbor’s house since Aug. 29.

“Our world was where we could see,” a shirtless Smith said as he took a drag off a cigarette. “We didn’t know nothing else.”

Many of his neighbors refused to leave on Sunday, yelling from their submerged porches, “We’re staying the duration.”

Smith said he had no idea the flooding was so bad. He did not know about the looting and the soldiers that moved into the city.

Earlier Sunday, before the rescuers went out for a second time, New Orleans Assistant Police Superintendent W.J. Riley said the situation had improved dramatically in the last 72 hours.

“We have control of the city,” Riley said, standing outside Harrah’s Casino, not far from the city’s convention center. “Our primary goal is to focus on the looters and those people who have stolen guns from gun shops.”

Riley said the criminal element remains “significant enough to be concerned about.” Gunfights broke out within 24 hours of Katrina’s passing. Looters also took to the streets.

Police killed five people and wounded three on Sunday, but had a “good day” on Saturday, he said.

“We have help galore,” Riley

explained.

Thousands of U.S. Army soldiers, National Guardsmen and additional police officers from across the country have come to the city to help.

Those being rescued said they had no idea.

Willie Ward, 70, told rescuers he couldn’t leave the mid-city neighborhood he lives in, just around the corner from Smith, because he is “the watchman for the block.”

“I’m 70 years old. I’ll be 71 next month,” Ward told the rescuers as he stood in thigh-high water.

“You’re not going to make it to 71 standing in this water,” rescuer Ken Cole told him, pointing out that sewage, medical waste and bodies had been floating in the dark brown water for days.

After about 20 minutes and three attempts to persuade Ward to leave, Ward relented.

He crawled over a wrought-iron fence and hopped aboard the boat.

Everyone who had been rescued was transferred from the boat to an amphibious vehicle and then supposedly taken to shelters.

But within 30 minutes, as rescuers waited at sunset in pickups for a ride back to their base of operations, Willie Ward was seen walking down Canal Street.

He was in hip-deep water and carrying a walking stick. He made it around a corner, giving his rescuers the slip, apparently wading his way back home.

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Cleanup

• Continued from Page 1A
Pontchartrain to help plug the breach in the levee on the 17th Street Canal.

New Orleans' Mayor Ray Nagin said the Police Department had already suffered two suicides within its ranks. A police spokesman said the two officers shot themselves in the head.

"I've got some firefighters and police officers that have been pretty much traumatized," Nagin said. "And we've already had a couple of suicides, so I am cycling [the officers] out as we speak. ... They need physical and psychological evaluations."

Several dozen of the city's 1,600 police haven't reported for duty, and some have turned in their badges, though police won't say exactly how many. On top of the burdens of law enforcement, officers have had to forage for food and water and even for places to relieve themselves.

"What's affected most of our officers is they don't know where their wives or kids are. They don't have homes," Deputy Police Chief W.J. Riley said. "They don't have anything."

The official Hurricane Katrina death toll reported by state officials was 235 on Sunday. The count includes deaths in five states. The official death toll in Louisiana was 59 and there were 161 confirmed deaths in Mississippi.

The worst is yet to come, everyone agreed, with Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff warning, "It is going to be about as ugly of a scene as I think you can imagine."

Soldiers with Arkansas' 39th Infantry Brigade and airmen with Arkansas Air National Guard's 189th Airlift Wing searched through the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center on Sunday. The soldiers and airmen evacuated more than 15,000 people Saturday.

"Baghdad was bad, but to see it in the U.S. is just sad," said Spc. Henry McCauley of Mena. "I never thought I'd see it like this."

SCRAMBLING FOR SHELTER

Around the country, social service agencies, businesses, volunteer groups, military bases and other refugee shelters rushed to set up procedures to help Katrina's dispossessed obtain their Social Security checks, receive their medicines, get their mail, find missing relatives and pets, and enroll their children in school.

Thousands of evacuees flowed into Arkansas on Saturday and Sunday. Officials said as many as 59,000 people are now in Arkansas, as they tried to distribute the homeless among church camps and other locations.

Overnight, 9,000 refugees were airlifted to Northwest Arkansas' Fort Chaffee, exceeding the 5,000 that had been expected. State officials spent the day trying to find shelter for the evacuees.

More than 800 were expected in the Pine Bluff area, with 324 arriving at the Pine Bluff Convention Center and another 500 expected at a church campground 20 miles north of the city. As many as 600 people arrived by bus in Little Rock, where they were being taken to 19 church camps around the state.

At the Pine Bluff Convention Center, survivor Jim Sterrett smoked cigarettes and talked about the horrors of the Superdome.

"It was something I'll never forget," he said. Sterrett, a salesman, said he doesn't plan to return to New Orleans. Instead, he hopes to collect on back vacation days, cash in his retirement account and set up in a different city.

The scramble to find shelter for the displaced in Arkansas closely mirrored the efforts in dozens of other states. Approximately 15 airlines have been flying evacuees to cities all over the country, said Jack Evans, a spokesman for the Air Transport Association.

In Texas, where nearly 250,000 evacuees were sheltered, relief centers around the state were running out of room. Gov. Rick Perry ordered emergency officials to begin preparations to airlift some of them to other states that have offered help.

The refugees will be flown to several other states, including Michigan, Utah, New York, West Virginia and Iowa after being given food, water and medical care at aid centers in Houston and Dallas. Robert Black, a spokesman for Perry, said there are no immediate plans to send the overflow refugees into Arkansas.

The first of 6,000 expected refugees began to arrive in New Mexico. Arizona agreed to accept 2,500 people.

AN UGLY SCENE

For the first time since the storm struck last week, a federal



Associated Press

In this photo released by the U.S. Navy, an Army National Guardsman surveys the flooded streets of New Orleans from a helicopter before landing near the Superdome.

official acknowledged that there may be thousands dead in the devastated area.

"I think it's evident it's in the thousands," Health and Human Services Secretary Michael Leavitt said Sunday on CNN. "It's clear to me that this has been a sickeningly difficult and profoundly tragic circumstance."

Bodies remained scattered throughout New Orleans. A woman's body lay at Jackson Avenue and Magazine Street in the city's Garden District. The body had been there since at least Wednesday, and as days passed, people covered her with blankets or plastic.

"Here lies Vera," a spray-

painted sign near her body read. "God help us."

Three babies died at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center from heat exhaustion, said Mark Kyle, a medical relief provider.

Nearly a week after the hurricane hit, crews continued rescuing people from flooded homes and neighborhoods in and around New Orleans. The U.S. Coast Guard asked people to hang brightly colored or white sheets or towels to draw attention to those who need help.

It could take weeks, if not months, to find the tens of thousands of remaining survivors in New Orleans and the Gulf Coast,

Pentagon officials said. The military is now going door-to-door, by foot or by boat, in many of the harder-to-reach sections of New Orleans and the rest of the region.

Federal officials also warned of disease and other medical dangers in the hurricane areas. Leavitt said he had received a report from Biloxi, Miss., of dysentery, a sometimes-fatal intestinal disease that causes dehydration. Diseases such as West Nile, hepatitis A, salmonella and E. coli bacteria infections are also a concern, Leavitt said.

Hundreds of federal health officers and nearly 100 tons of medical supplies and antibiotics were being sent to the Gulf Coast

to try and head off the problem. Federal authorities were also considering how to battle the growing mosquito population, including spraying the sewage-filled floodwaters.

BUSH TO RETURN

Top Cabinet members visited Louisiana and Mississippi on Sunday, partly to survey the damaged areas but also to stem criticism of the federal government's reaction to the disaster. Besides Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Chertoff, Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld and Joint Chiefs of Staff Chairman Gen. Richard Myers visited the area.

Rice, the nation's highest-ranking black official, returned to her native Alabama to attend services at a church outside Mobile and a community center. Rice disputed criticism from black leaders who have charged that race was a factor in the delayed response to the hurricane's aftermath.

"Nobody, especially the president, would have left people unattended on the basis of race," Rice said.

DONATIONS CONTINUE

Help continued to come from private companies and foreign countries to fund the largest relief effort in the nation's history.

Kuwait offered \$500 million Sunday in aid through gasoline and other goods to the areas destroyed by the hurricane. Qatar also offered the U.S. \$100 million in aid, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries said.

Rice told reporters that 70 countries have promised aid.

Lilly Endowment Inc. gave \$20 million for victims of Hurricane Katrina, the largest of at

least \$404 million in gifts.

Former Presidents Bush and Clinton announced Sunday they had formed a nonprofit fund to raise money to help the victims of the hurricane. The former presidents, who were named to head fundraising efforts for the cleanup by President Bush, also established a Web site to raise money online.

'SEND US SOMEBODY'

Aaron Broussard, president of the Jefferson County Parish, broke down on television Sunday morning as he took the federal government to task and called the days after the storm "one of the worst abandonments of Americans on American soil ever in U.S. history."

Broussard told Tim Russert about one of his employees whose mother was trapped in a St. Bernard nursing home.

"Every day she called him and said, 'Are you coming, son? Is somebody coming?'" Broussard said on NBC's *Meet the Press*. "And he said, 'Yeah, Mama, somebody's coming to get you. Somebody's coming to get you on Tuesday. Somebody's coming to get you on Wednesday. Somebody's coming to get you on Thursday. Somebody's coming to get you on Friday.' And she drowned Friday night."

"Nobody's coming to get us. The secretary has promised. Everybody's promised," Broussard said. "They've had press conferences. I'm sick of the press conferences. For God sakes, shut up and send us somebody."

Information for this article was contributed by Jake Bleed, Hilary Hilliard, Dave Hughes and Richard Massey of the Arkansas Democrat-Gazette, Bloomberg News, The Associated Press and The Times-Picayune.

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