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Bush Pledges Border Control



KAREN TAPIA-ANDERSEN L.A. Times
ARRIVAL: President Bush and wife Laura after landing at Ontario International Airport.

The president, in a rare Southland visit, treads the middle ground in immigration furor.

By PETER WALLSTEN AND MARK Z. BARABAK
Times Staff Writers

With increasingly fierce debates over border security exposing divisions in the Republican Party, President Bush on Monday endorsed a policy of strict border enforcement.

His comments during appearances in California and Arizona were an apparent response to some state officials and conservatives in his own party who say the administration has failed to adequately address human trafficking from Mexico into the United States.

Officials in the two states have struggled to balance the need to guard against waves of illegal immigration with the demands of agriculture and other industries that rely on migrant labor. They also have been mindful of the growing importance of Latino voters, many of whom are sympathetic to looser enforcement.

The president did not mention the emergency declarations, signed two weeks ago by Democratic Govs. Janet Napolitano of Arizona and Bill Richardson of New Mexico, that require the federal government to spend millions more combating human

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COLUMN ONE

Ancestry in a Drop of Blood

■ Tribes and would-be members are turning to DNA tests. But the hunt for genetic truth has some asking: What does it mean to be Indian?

By KAREN KAPLAN
Times Staff Writer

TAHLEQUAH, Okla. — Marilyn Vann can trace her Cherokee roots back more than 200 years through generations of Native Americans and the descendants of black slaves who lived among them.

She has mountains of paper — birth certificates, tribal enrollment cards, land deeds, affidavits, yellowing photographs — documenting her family's life within the tribe.

But when the engineer from Oklahoma City asked to join the 250,000-strong Cherokee Nation four years ago, she was rejected by tribal officials here who declared her black, not Indian.

The truth, she believes, is in her blood.

Vann turned to a technology that is roiling Indian tribes nationwide — DNA testing.

From California to Connecticut, tribes and would-be members are grappling with the ramifications of a science that is able to demystify someone's genes for as little as a few hundred dollars.

Modern genetic tests can detect traces of ancestors by looking for mutations that pass from generation to generation in specific racial groups.

More than half a dozen companies have sprung up in the last five years. Many report their most eager customers are people seeking to prove Indian heritage. Some tribes are welcoming the new science.

The Meskwaki Nation in Tama, Iowa, began requiring DNA testing this spring to screen out pretenders seeking to cash in on the tribe's casino profits.

"It was something we needed to be in place to protect the tribe," said tribal council member Keith Davenport. "People are looking for an easy ride."

But the DNA tests have opened fresh wounds throughout Indian country, unmasking complicated family relationships and turning the unspoken bonds

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Iraq Battle Moving Toward Ballot Box

Supporters and foes prepare to persuade voters to take their side on the constitution.

By BORZOU DARAGAH
Times Staff Writer

BAGHDAD — After battling over Iraq's draft constitution for months in the halls of government, Iraq's Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds prepared Monday to take their fight to the streets, mosques and airwaves ahead of a nationwide referendum on the document.

Up to 6 million copies of the draft are being printed for distribution to Iraqi citizens before the Oct. 15 vote. Kurdish and Shiite politicians, who finalized the text over the weekend despite the objections of Sunni Arabs, vowed to make a strong push for passage.

"We will use everything," said Jawad Maliki, a Shiite politician who helped draft the charter. "We will use mosque preachers. We will even use Christian churches. We will use everything we need to make a great campaign for this constitution."

But Sunni Arabs, bitterly opposed to a document they view as a recipe for dismembering Iraq into semiautonomous regions, vowed to oppose the constitution in the courts, through international forums, and in voting booths, even though some doubt they can beat the powerful Shiites and Kurds at the polls.

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MICHAEL SPOONEYBARGER Tampa Tribune

ON THE WAY: Fire and rescue personnel head out to save a family trapped by Hurricane Katrina in Pascagoula, Miss.

Dozens Killed, Damage Heavy as Katrina Roars In

New Orleans Is Hit Hard, but Mississippi Feels Category 4 Hurricane's Full Force

By SCOTT GOLD AND ELLEN BARRY
Times Staff Writers

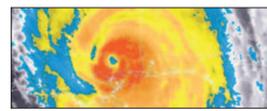
NEW ORLEANS — Whirling ashore like a destructive pinwheel, Hurricane Katrina delivered a hard but glancing blow Monday to New Orleans, then spent its full fury on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, swamping beach resorts and inland towns. At least 58 deaths were reported, most in Mississippi.

Public officials feared that deaths from Katrina would rise.

After hours of punishing rain and winds, emergency and rescue officials began maneuvering by boat and helicopter into remote stretches, looking for scores of residents reportedly stranded by floodwaters.

Katrina's last-minute wobble to the north spared New Orleans a direct hit, but the nearly deserted city still suffered through a long morning of terror as rising groundwater seeped through the ghostly French Quarter and shrieking headwinds shredded part of the roof of the Louisiana Superdome, where 10,000 refugees had sought shelter.

"It sounded like this place was under attack," said Tyrone Brinson, 47, a native New Orleans resident who listened, un-



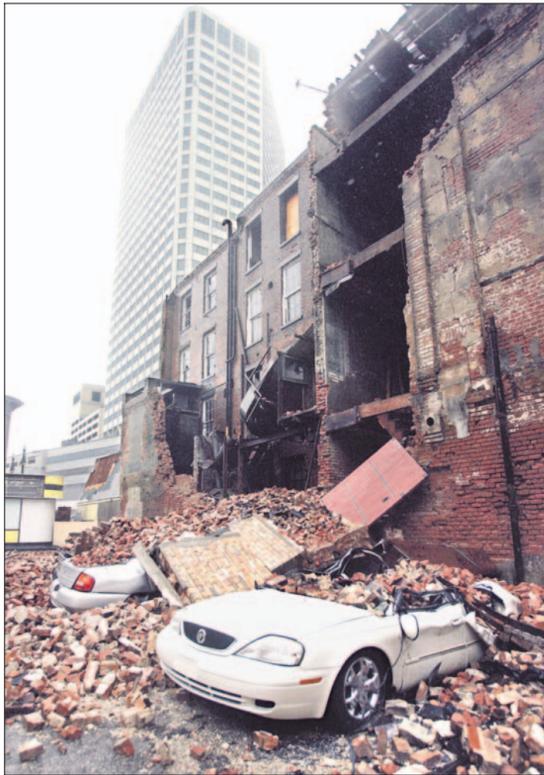
KATRINA HITS THE GULF COAST

Energy: Natural gas and gasoline futures set records. **C1**

Hollywood: Louisiana filming could be dealt a blow. **C1**

Football: Saints are in San Jose but worried about home. **D1**

Families: Southern Californians ready to help loved ones. **A15**



DAVE MARTIN Associated Press

RUBBLE: Debris from a fallen building covers a street in downtown New Orleans. More photos, **A13**.

'She Said, "I Love You. . . . We're Going to Die"'

By SCOTT GOLD
Times Staff Writer

NEW ORLEANS — The phone call lasted just long enough to break Bridgette Medley's heart.

Medley, her husband and her 3-year-old daughter had sought shelter from Hurricane Katrina at a downtown hotel. Water seeped through the ceiling and wind made the building shudder as they slept on the hard floor of a ballroom. But they were safe. Her siblings and parents were not.

ON THE WEB

For more photos and continuing coverage of the storm, visit latimes.com/katrina

By 7 a.m. Monday, the water started rising. Medley's siblings and parents pulled down the stairs to the attic and climbed up. At 7:57 a.m., Medley's 48-year-old sister, Stephany Johnson, managed to get through on her cellphone.

"She was panicking," Medley said. "The water was up to their ankles in the house and rising fast — in a house that is 5 feet off the ground to start."

"She said, 'I love you.'" Medley struggled to keep the tears from spilling out. "And then

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California Watches Hawaii's Effort to Cap Gasoline Prices

By ELIZABETH DOUGLASS
Times Staff Writer

With chronically high pump prices straining its laid-back ethos, Hawaii embarks this week on a radical experiment to cap gasoline prices, a move being keenly watched nationwide by legislators and consumer groups eager to rein in record fuel costs.

Interest will be especially high in California, a unique market that some experts liken to Hawaii's because of the high prices charged by gas stations and big profits reaped by a few

in-state refiners.

This week, state Sen. Joe Dunn (D-Santa Ana) will reintroduce legislation that would give the California Public Utilities Commission the power to regulate gasoline prices.

"Hawaii is taking the absolutely correct approach to the gasoline industry," said Dunn, a strident critic of energy companies. "The more states that follow Hawaii's lead, the sooner we'll be able to force this industry to get back to normal market behavior that benefits the con-

[See Hawaii, Page A18]



AMANDA COWAN Maui News

PAIN AT THE PUMP: Resident Roberto Anecito fills up at a Chevron station in Kahului on the island of Maui last week.

INSIDE

KPMG Avoids Potential Collapse in Tax Probe

The accounting giant will pay \$456 million to settle charges over tax shelters. Eight former executives are indicted. **C1**

Drop in Crime Not as Big as LAPD Reported

The numbers were skewed by a change in how domestic violence is measured. **B1**

Statins Decrease Heart Attack Mortality

Giving the drugs within 24 hours of onset lessens the death rate more than 50%, study finds. **A8**

A Star in His Own Right

John Dobson is a living legend when it comes to amateur astronomy. **Outdoors**

Weather

Sunny and slightly cooler today; fog near the coast. L.A. Downtown: 83/65. **B14**

News Summary **A2**
Comics **E14-16** **Obituaries** **B11**
Letters **B12** **Sudoku** **E14**
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