

TUESDAY
August 30, 2005

Oakland Tribune



BULLIES GO HIGH-TECH

Harassment of teens spreads to online world **LIVING**

MONEY TO BURN

Natural gas costs turn up heat for winter **BUSINESS inside Cityside**

POWER SUPPLY

A's hit two homers in 12th to beat O's **SPORTS**

oaklandtribune.com

Serving Oakland for 131 years

50 cents



Katrina tears path of destruction

Oil costs another casualty of storm

Production in the Gulf is reduced to a trickle, a possible harbinger of still higher prices at the pump

By **Jad Mouawad and Simon Romero**
NEW YORK TIMES

The region that produces and refines a major portion of the nation's oil and natural gas was largely shut down by Hurricane Katrina on Monday, further tightening strained energy markets and sending prices to new highs.

As oil companies evacuated offshore facilities throughout the Gulf of Mexico, oil production in that region was reduced by 92 percent, and gas output was cut by 83 percent.

The latest interruptions in oil supplies are likely to send retail gasoline prices even higher than the current average of \$2.60 a gallon. They have prompted the Bush administration to say it would release emergency oil stocks if needed.

"We are still in the soap-opera phase where everyone is still wondering what is going on," said Dan Pickering, president of Pickering Energy Partners, a Houston-based energy research firm. "The next 24 to 48 hours, as the companies get out to see if there has been any damage, are really going to determine how significant this is."

Halfway through the hurricane season, the storm hit at an especially bad time for consumers, who have seen gasoline prices climb to their highest level in a generation, and adds to worries that oil prices may be hurting the American economy.

Hurricane Katrina could result in insured damage of more than \$10 billion, making it perhaps the costliest storm since Hurricane Andrew in 1992, according to Risk Management Solutions, which assesses catastrophes and is based in Newark. The storm has disrupted maritime traffic and trade and caused losses at port and shipping facilities.

Crude oil prices on the New York Mercantile Exchange

Please see **OIL**, News 7



Dozens dead as Gulf Coast flooded

Hurricane ranks among most costly ever to touch down in United States

By **Joseph B. Treaster and Kate Zernike**
NEW YORK TIMES

NEW ORLEANS — Hurricane Katrina pounded the Gulf Coast with devastating force at day-break Monday, sparing New Orleans the catastrophic hit that had been feared but inundating parts of the city and heaping damage on neighboring Mississippi, where it killed dozens, ripped away roofs and left coastal roads impassable.

Packing 145 mph winds as it made landfall, Katrina left more than a million people in three states without power and submerged highways even hundreds of miles from the center of the storm.

Officials reported at least 55 deaths, with 50 alone in Harrison County, Miss., which includes Gulfport and Biloxi. Emergency workers feared that they would find more dead among people believed to be trapped underwater and in collapsed buildings.

Please see **STORM**, News 7



BILL HABER — Associated Press

Gulfport disaster

Damage widespread for Mississippi city. **News 7**

Price pinch

Airlines suffer a punch from jet fuel prices. **Business**

Forced to leave

The New Orleans Saints practice in San Jose. **Sports**

Look online for more photos of Katrina's wrath. oaklandtribune.com

Katrina's flood waters slice through families

By **Scott Gold**
LOS ANGELES TIMES

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

Medley, her husband and her 3-year-old daughter sought shelter from Hurricane Katrina at a downtown hotel Monday. 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. Like about 50,000 other residents of the city, they had ignored the mayor's mandatory evacuation order and elected to ride out the storm at the family home in the Eighth Ward, a neighborhood of shotgun houses, railroad tracks and industrial canals on the city's east side.

"She said: 'I love you.' And then she said, 'We're going to die.' " Then the line went dead.

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

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

Please see **KATRINA**, News 7



A RED CROSS TRUCK (top) and other vehicles sit flooded in front of a hotel just off Interstate 10 in Pascagoula, Miss., as Hurricane Katrina batters the area Monday. Dozens of residents (above) move to higher ground in New Orleans as rising waters flood neighborhoods. A woman (left) fills her SUV on Monday afternoon at a gas station in Oakland that is sporting some high prices. Area gas prices could climb even higher as a result of Katrina's destruction.

Photos by **MICHAEL SPOONEYBARGER** — (top) Tampa Tribune, **DOUGLAS R. CLIFFORD** — (above) St. Petersburg Times and **D. ROSS CAMERON** — Staff (left)

State law would mandate following e-vote paper trail

Bill on governor's desk requires touch-screen recounts to use printouts

By **Ian Hoffman**
STAFF WRITER

California is on the verge of turning away from electrons and toward paper as the ultimate arbiter of democratic choice, with final passage Monday of a bill requiring the use of paper trails for recounting votes.

California already was among 26 states requiring electronic voting machines to produce a backup paper record for voters

to see and confirm their electronic votes.

If the governor signs the bill, the state will join a dozen of those states where elections officials also plan to use those printouts for any automatic recount or an election challenge. California is close on the heels of New York, West Virginia and other states that passed similar laws within the last two months, according to researchers at Electionline.org, a nonpartisan clearinghouse for voting-reform information.

Please see **PAPER**, News 4

INSIDE

- Lottery News 2
- Movies Living 4
- Obituaries Cityside 4
- Opinion Cityside 5
- Legals Class 4
- Wonderword Class 4
- Business Inside Cityside

Forecast

Clear
Highs: lower 80s
Lows: mid-50s

Details on **Living 8**



After summer of shake-ups, first day of school a breeze

City teacher vacancies down, materials in, facilities ready to go

By **Alex Katz**
STAFF WRITER

OAKLAND — On the first day of school Monday, city schools State Administrator Randolph Ward greeted a line of children walking in the hall at Explore, a new middle school in East Oakland.

The children wore uniforms, with neckties, in a part of town known more for T-shirts and low-slung jeans.

"They're going to work," Ward said while shaking hands.

"It's called learning work. Looking good,

guys. Nice ties. Excellent."

Ward said the opening of school this year was one of the smoothest in memory. Permanent teachers were assigned to almost 99 percent of the district's 2,600 or so classrooms, books had arrived, and no major problems with facilities were reported, district and school officials said.

That's not bad for a district that has had several dozen teacher vacancies on the first day of school in past years, and often has classes taught by substitutes for

Please see **SCHOOL**, News 4

INSIDE: Buses cut for disabled students

Cityside