

The Augusta Chronicle

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WEATHER



60 percent chance of thunderstorms
High: 90 Low: 74
More weather on Page 4D

INSIDE TODAY



KAMILLE BOSTICK/STAFF

Dance squad helps build sisterhood

Out in the stands and in front of the fans, area dance squads liven up football games with their precision routines and their energy. Behind the scenes, the girls say they have a sisterhood built by dance.

XTREME, 9A

Suspects arrested in shooting death

Aiken County authorities have arrested two men and are seeking two others in the shooting death of an *Aiken Standard* carrier early Saturday. Authorities say the carrier and another employee who was with her were mistaken for rival drug dealers.

METRO, 1B

Gum chewers get something extra

If you thought gum was just a way to keep your mouth busy, think again. More manufacturers are adding everything from caffeine to chocolate to chewing gums in an effort to give a little boost to your bubble.

YOUR LIFE, 1D

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ONLINE

For more news coverage, visit augustachronicle.com.

DEATHS

- Mr. William Bessent Gough
- Mr. Timothy Brinson Wrightsville
- Mrs. Tina O. Carter-Williams Augusta
- Mr. George Coleman Sr. Swainsboro
- Miss Catrina Evans Augusta
- Mr. Augustus Farmer Jr. Augusta
- Mrs. Jesse Gant Thomson
- Mr. Willie Lee Augusta
- Mr. James Milton Aiken
- Mrs. Mary O'Bryan Sardinia
- Ms. Ethel Reed Wrightsville
- Mrs. Evette Roberts Davisboro
- Mrs. Dora Shipman Augusta
- Mrs. Odebell Williams Trenton

In Katrina's wake

New Orleans is spared worst hit Some are rescued from rooftops, attics About 50 killed in Mississippi



ERIC GAY/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Two people walk down a flooded street as the storm hits, causing flooding in their New Orleans neighborhood. Many stayed despite a mandatory evacuation.

Oil prices climb as output is disrupted

By Brad Foss
Associated Press

Hurricane Katrina disrupted Gulf Coast petroleum output and rattled energy markets Monday, sending oil and natural gas prices soaring and setting the stage for a spike in the retail cost of gasoline.

By the end of the day, more than 700 offshore platforms and rigs had been evacuated, two rigs had drifted away, and authorities in Alabama were forced to close a bridge over the Mobile River after it was struck by a runaway platform. Oil futures briefly climbed above \$70 a barrel for the first time.

The powerful hurricane roiled the industry at a time when producers worldwide were already struggling to keep up with strong demand, and it threatened to constrain the supply of home heating fuels this winter. The rise in energy prices has already slowed the U.S. economy's growth rate, though domestic fuel consumption is still rising.

The Bush administration said it would consider lending oil from the nation's emergency stockpile to refiners that request it — Citgo Petroleum Corp. asked for 250,000 to 500,000 barrels to ensure its Lake Charles, La., refinery does not run out — and the president of OPEC said he will propose a production increase of 500,000 barrels a day at the cartel's meeting next month. Analysts nervously awaited details on the extent of the damage to the region's platforms, pipelines, refineries and electric grid.

"We're losing a lot of crude oil and also a lot of natural gas," said Lawrence J. Goldstein, the president of the New York-based nonprofit Petroleum Industry Research Foundation. Mr. Goldstein estimated that total refinery production of gasoline, heating oil, diesel and other fuels could fall by as much as 20 million barrels during the next 60 days.

MORE ON THE HURRICANE



At top, Shante Gruld carries Janeka Garner, 5, to safety after they were rescued from their flooded home in New Orleans. Above, Bryan Vernon and Dorothy Bell take refuge on their roof in New Orleans. Officials called for a mandatory evacuation, but many remained in the city Monday.

- MISSISSIPPI:** 53 dead
- LOUISIANA:** No deaths reported. About 200 people have been rescued in boats from rooftops and attics, Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco said.
- ALABAMA:** Two dead
- FLORIDA:** 11 dead
- ▶ More photos from damaged areas/7A
- ▶ In the French Quarter, people remain mostly in high spirits/7A
- ▶ Those who fled to the Superdome are safe and a little wet/7A
- ▶ Hurricane causes more problems for airlines/7C

PROJECTED PATH: The National Hurricane Center projected Katrina would head north and turn toward the northeast, carrying its center through Tennessee, Kentucky and Ohio, then Ontario and possibly western New York state.

Wind, rain devastate Gulf Coast

By Allen G. Breed
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Hurricane Katrina was not the apocalyptic storm that New Orleans has been dreading all these years. But it was fast approaching that level in nearby Gulf Coast towns in Mississippi.

The early death toll from the storm was at least 55, including an estimated 50 people killed in one Mississippi county alone, said Jim Pollard, a spokesman for the Harrison County emergency operations center.

The deaths were accompanied by widespread destruction: Floodwaters gushed into Mississippi's flashy beachfront casinos. Sailboats were flung across a highway like toys. Dozens of people had to be rescued from rooftops and attics as the water rose through their homes. Some neighborhoods in the Big Easy were submerged up to their roofs.

LOCAL WEATHER

Emergency authorities in Georgia say Katrina's impact here will be minimal. Counties in the east Georgia and Augusta areas could expect a quarter-inch to a half-inch of scattered rainfall today, according to Columbia County Emergency Services Director Pam Tucker.

The death toll is only expected to go up as authorities reach more flood-ravaged homes along the Gulf Coast.

"Some of them, it was their last night on Earth," Terry Ebbert, the chief of homeland security for New Orleans, said of people who ignored orders to evacuate.

Katrina barreled into the Gulf Coast just outside New Orleans around daybreak Monday as a monstrous, 145-mph storm, making a right turn at the last minute to spare the Big Easy. Had Katrina not shifted, hurricane waters could have spilled over levees and swamped the saucer-shaped city in a toxic soup of refinery chemicals, sewage and human bodies.

Three other people were killed by falling

Please see **HURRICANE** on PAGE 8A

Man charged with cruelty after dog found in oven

Associated Press

SAVANNAH, Ga. — A man was charged with felony animal cruelty after police found a resident's missing dog burned to death in an oven that had been set to 400 degrees.

The dog's owner, Angela DeLette, noticed an open back door, items missing

and a kitchen sink overflowing with water when she returned home last Thursday. She found one of her dogs safe, but the other, a 1-year-old rat terrier, was missing.

Police later found the dog dead in the oven.

Police arrested Alexander Davis, 19, based on an anonymous tip. In addition to cruelty, he was charged with burglarizing

Ms. DeLette's home and another house in the area.

Another person was charged with theft by receiving stolen property.

"This is just sick. This is just very, very strange," said Melanie Higgins, a prosecutor who handles most of the county's animal-abuse cases.

No bond was set for Mr. Davis, and he

remained in the Chatham County jail. A court hearing was scheduled, and attempts to learn whether he had an attorney were not successful.

Ms. DeLette, a high school teacher, said she did not know the suspects or why anyone would want to harm her.

"To rob someone is one thing," she said, "but why hurt such a little animal?"

