

# 10 PAGES OF HURRICANE COVERAGE

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\*TUESDAY, AUGUST 30, 2005

# Catastrophic

## Gulf Coast awash in misery of Hurricane Katrina



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### Tell us your story

Send The Times your Hurricane Katrina stories by e-mailing dturmer@gannett.com or by calling (318) 459-3233.

### Shelters near capacity

As area shelters neared capacity Monday, many evacuees wondered what happened to the houses they left behind and the friends and family who stayed behind to wait out the storm, 6A.



Jessica Leigh/The Times

### Military aids in relief

The Louisiana Army National Guard this week is tackling its other primary mission, disaster relief, 2A.

### Cooking up a storm



Jim Hudelson/The Times

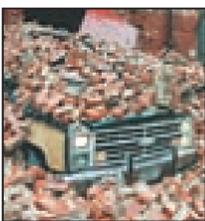
Lori Babin (left) was one refugee who brought her own food, 1B

### At least 55 dead

Hurricane Katrina devastated parts of the Gulf Coast on Monday. At least 55 deaths have been reported, and more are feared dead, 8A, 9A.

### Costliest hurricane?

Insurance claims could top \$25 billion if estimates are correct, which would make Katrina one of the costliest storms in U.S. history, 5B.



AP



AP

Dozens of residents move to higher ground Monday in New Orleans as rising waters flood neighborhoods off North Claiborne Avenue in Orleans Parish as a result of Hurricane Katrina.



AP

Bryan Vernon and Dorothy Bell of New Orleans are rescued from their rooftop after Hurricane Katrina hit, causing flooding in their neighborhood Monday. Officials called for a mandatory evacuation of New Orleans, but many residents remained in the city.

By John Hill  
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BATON ROUGE — Just hours after Hurricane Katrina reduced much of the New Orleans area to waterlogged ruins, disaster officials across the heart of the South were busy counting lives — those saved and those lost.

Calculating the financial losses will come soon enough.

At least 55 people — the majority from one apartment complex in Mississippi — died at the hand of Katrina. The number of dead in Louisiana remained in question late Monday as reports of bodies floating in storm-swollen streets tricked in while authorities worked to pluck stranded survivors from rooftops.

The storm left in its wake a broad swath of power outages, strewn debris, areas with too much undrinkable and too little drinkable water, and thousands of homes, businesses and lives to rebuild.

"There is going to be an amazing amount," said Loren Scott, a retired LSU economist. "It is hard to measure the cost of business disruption or the cost of being out of your home."

The BBC, citing insurance sources in England, estimated the insured losses alone could be up to \$25 billion, far more than the estimated \$14 billion of insured losses caused by Hurricane Ivan that hit the Florida and Alabama coast last year.

While it wasn't the direct hit officials had feared, there was widespread destruction in St. Bernard Parish, where New Orleans Mayor

Ray Nagin's office said there had been reports of bodies floating. The entire parish was under 7 to 8 feet of water, said state Agriculture Commissioner Bob Odom.

Spans of Interstate 10 east are down, which will cripple the commute from Slidell and block one of the three major routes in and out of the city.

New Orleans' tourism business will go to zero for quite a while and officials estimated it would be weeks before power was fully restored in the area.

"I think a month would be a very quick restoration for New Orleans," said Bill Benedetto of Entergy. In Baton Rouge, where 75 percent of the residents were estimated to be without power, restoration is scheduled to begin Wednesday.

Scott said history shows that other Louisiana cities have weathered crisis well. "In Monroe in the 1980s, they had an ice storm and a tornado and employment actually rose," Scott said.

Employment and the flood of insurance money and government relief spending will help the economy somewhat, Scott said.

■ See COST 2A

## 'I've never been hurt like this'

By Don Walker  
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SLIDELL — The long-winded wrath of Hurricane Katrina turned the Trosclair family into the brothers grim on Monday.

Four brothers. Four homes. Four tragedies.

"I've been flooded out before, but I have never been hurt like this," said Steve Trosclair.

All the brothers accompanied one another on Tuesday as they surveyed the widespread damage of downed trees and power lines, flooded neighborhoods and streets, and devastation left in the wake of Hurricane Katrina. The hurricane made landfall about daybreak, then turned to the east

where it took a heavy swipe at Covington and Slidell before moving northeast into Mississippi.

"I'm hoping my dog's all right," said James Trosclair. The mixed breed named "Prissy" was fine, but after wading through waist-deep water, James Trosclair found a giant pine smashed through his roof.

A similar fate awaited brother David, whose home was flooded. Another brother, Dan, lives on higher ground. Though his home was mostly spared, "my street is devastated," he said. "Power lines are down, trees are on houses all up and down the street."

Downed trees littered the shoulders of Interstates 12 and 55, from Hammond into southwest Missis-

sippi. Power outages were widespread, and phone service was virtually extinct.

Businesses along the routes were wind-whipped, their facades mangled, their lots under water and their doors locked for business. The harsh winds of Hurricane Katrina, which started with blustery breezes Sunday afternoon, turned fierce after midnight and violently shook roadside pine trees well into late evening Monday.

Sheets of spearing rain fueled by hurricane-force winds swept the air as the hurricane moved inland. Mangled debris from office signs to business canopies cluttered the landscape.

■ See STORM 2A



Shane Bevel/The Times

Brothers James and Steve Trosclair return from their homes in a subdivision of Slidell after riding out Hurricane Katrina on Monday.

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### NATION

#### Texas gunman kills 4 people and himself after standoff

A gunman killed four people near a small-town church, then killed himself early Monday after a nine-hour standoff with police, authorities said. PAGE 10A

#### Lawmakers ask Pentagon to investigate critic's demotion

The Pentagon has been asked to look into the demotion of Bunnatine H. Greenhouse, saying the action violated an earlier agreement. PAGE 10A

### Weather

High: 95 Low: 71  
Details: 2A

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