



New Orleans under siege



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A New Orleans police officer guards a drugstore Tuesday in a flooded area of downtown New Orleans. Looting had been reported nearby.

■ Two levees broke Tuesday, forcing further evacuations and swamping 80 percent of a city already without power or drinking water.

GULFPORT, Miss. (AP) — New Orleans slipped deeper into crisis Tuesday as water began rising in the streets because of levee breaks caused by Hurricane Katrina. Rescuers in boats and helicopters struggled to reach hundreds of victims all along the Gulf Coast.

One Mississippi county said its death toll was at least 100, and officials are “very, very worried that this is going to go a lot higher,” said Joe Spraggins, civil defense director for Harrison County, home to Biloxi and Gulfport.

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

Water began rising in the streets of New Orleans on Tuesday morning, swamping an estimated 80 percent of the city and prompting the evacuation of hotels and hospitals.

“At first light, the devastation is greater than our worst fears,” Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco said. “It’s just totally overwhelming.”

The flooding in New Orleans grew worse by the minute, prompting an audacious plan to drop huge sandbags from helicopters to close up one of two breached levees. At the same time, looting broke out in some neighborhoods, the sweltering city of 480,000 had no drinkable water, and the officials said the electricity could be out for weeks.

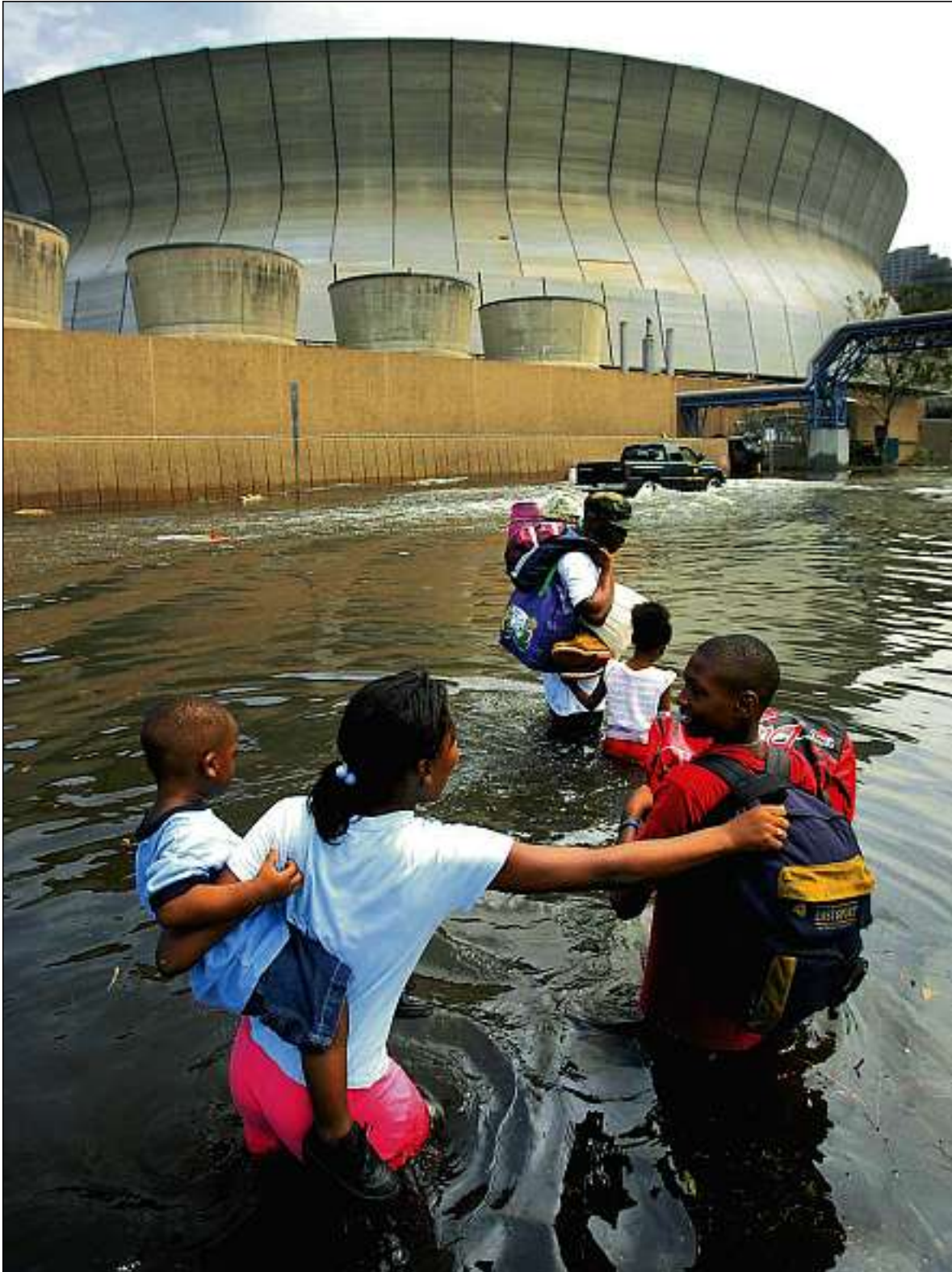
Water was rising perilously inside the Louisiana Superdome, and Blanco said the tens of thousands of refugees huddled there and in other New Orleans shelters would have to be evacuated.

She asked residents to spend today in prayer.

“That would be the best thing to calm our spirits and thank our Lord that we are survivors,” she said. “Slowly, gradually, we will recover. We will survive. We will rebuild.”

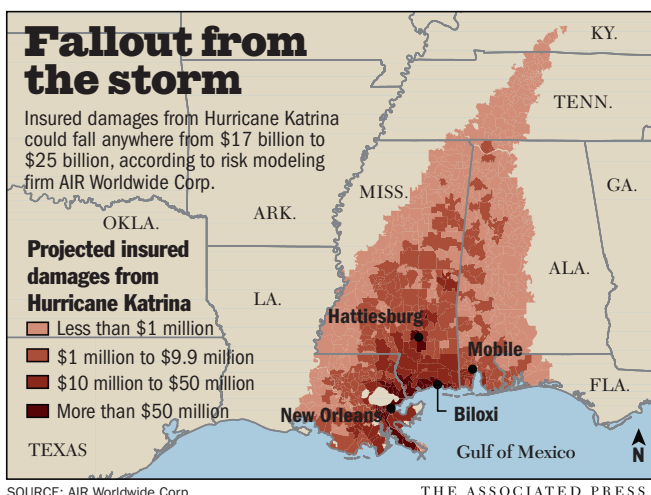
Downtown streets that were relatively clear in

See *Katrina*: Page 2



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

People make their way Tuesday to the Superdome in downtown New Orleans after hotels and hospitals were evacuated.



Health dangers still lie in wait

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

BATON ROUGE, La. — Authorities along the Gulf Coast faced the collapse of the public health system Tuesday with water supplies sporadic, electricity shut off, hospitals closing and the threat of more injuries and infectious diseases in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Officials warned of a variety of imminent problems, including encounters with snakes, alligators and other wildlife displaced by the flooding, and the need to minister to the mental health of survivors who have lost nearly all their worldly possessions.

The biggest problem they face is that modern medicine requires a lot of electricity, and very little was available Tuesday — and for the foreseeable future.

At least 10 hospitals in New Orleans were using generator-supplied electricity, and several others were closed.

Louisiana health authorities have been transporting critically ill patients out of New Orleans by boat, helicopter and bus, said Dr. Jimmy Guidry, the state health official.

See *Health*: Page 2

Gasoline signpost up ahead — the \$3 zone

BY MICHAEL O'CONNOR
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

A \$3 gallon of gas used to be a problem in distant states like California, but now Nebraskans could feel the sting.

Some individual stations in Omaha were edging close Tuesday, reaching as high as \$2.90 for a gallon of regular unleaded gasoline.

AAA Nebraska reported Tuesday that “severe” price spikes of 30 cents or more were

possible overnight Tuesday and later this week.

The latest price increases in the Midwest and nationally are tied to damage from Hurricane Katrina, which has disrupted oil production in the Gulf Coast.

But the hurricane alone isn't the reason that prices are pushing toward \$3. Increases in crude oil prices this summer and increased demand for fuel set the stage for price spikes.

AAA Nebraska spokesman

See *Gasoline*: Page 2

More Iowa schools not up to standards

■ The federal No Child Left Behind law has led to tougher student achievement criteria.

BY MICHAELA SAUNDERS
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

For the second year in a row, the Council Bluffs Community School District has been designated by the state as “in need of assistance.”

Four of its schools — Abraham Lincoln High, Thomas Jefferson High, Kirn Junior High and Woodrow Wilson Junior High — also did not meet student performance targets this year.

Lewis Central Middle School — in the Bluffs but in a separate school district — also was on the list.

Statewide, the number of schools that failed to meet federal achievement standards grew this year, state education officials said.

The state identified 94 public schools and 14 school districts that failed to meet the standards, up from 66 schools and nine dis-

tricts last year. Twelve of the schools face sanctions.

Six schools in Sioux City and two in Storm Lake also were on the list.

Nebraska will release a similar report in November, with the State of the Schools Report following in December.

The Iowa increase was caused, in part, by tougher standards set by the state under No Child Left Behind, the three-year-old federal accountability program.

“The targets got tougher,” said Tom Deeter, assessment consultant for the Iowa Department of Education. “For the first couple

of years of implementation, the targets were the same. . . . 2005 was that first big step, so they had to have more kids proficient in their groups.”

Richard Christie, superintendent of the Council Bluffs district, said Tuesday that the district is focusing on improving the scores of special-education and low-income students. Students in specific subgroups must reach targets for the district to meet them.

“We believe we can close the achievement gap,” he said. “We are focused on that whether we

See *Schools*: Page 2

Iowa weather

Clouds and sunshine.
High 80; low 55

The merger of two Omaha bakeries is a match made in pastry heaven. **Business**

Get in touch with your inner griller. **Living**

HUSKER WEDNESDAY

Sophomores Tierre Green and Cortney Grixby will be the starters at corner. **Sports, Page 8**

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Digest

MAIN NEWS

Bush: U.S. must protect oil in Iraq

President Bush on Tuesday answered anti-war protests with another reason for American troops to continue fighting in Iraq: protection of vast oil fields that he said would otherwise fall under the control of terrorists. The president, against a backdrop of the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan, said, "We will build a free Iraq that will fight terrorists instead of giving them aid and sanctuary." He spoke at the Naval Air Station North Island at Coronado, Calif., to commemorate the anniversary of the Allies' World War II victory over Japan. **Page 3**

Egyptian woman champions polygamy

A debate in Egypt over polygamy illustrates the tug of war between the forces of old and new in a country that is both brimming with Western ideas and becoming more Islamic. A 42-year-old journalist is urging her husband — and the rest of Egypt — to embrace polygamy, saying her work keeps her so busy that her husband needs a second wife. Furthermore, she believes traditional polygamy — Islam allows a man up to four wives — is the answer to many of Egypt's social problems. Critics say the campaign makes Egypt look as archaic as Saudi Arabia and is bad for women. **Page 10**

MIDLANDS

Bluegrass fans flock to Missouri Valley

The RVs, trucks, cars, sport utility vehicles and vans parked at the Harrison County Fairgrounds bring loads of music fans to Missouri Valley, Iowa, every year, and local businesses are sharing the good times. For the third year in a row, the National Old Time Country and Bluegrass Festival is back on Missouri Valley's western edge. The festival, during the week before Labor Day, usually draws between 35,000 and 45,000 visitors. It started Monday and runs through Sunday. The festival features 600 performers on 10 stages and includes a Pioneer Ag Expo, craft vendors and music workshops. The Chamber of Commerce says the event is a big boost for businesses. **Page 1**

Statutory rape cases not tracked

Attorney General Jon Bruning said Tuesday he would consider filing criminal charges any time his office learns about an adult having sex with a child younger than 16. The trick is learning about such cases, which Bruning said "just are not brought forward very often." His comments came on the same day that Matthew Koso, 22, of Falls City, Neb., pleaded not guilty to a charge of first-degree sexual assault filed by Bruning's office in July. Koso had a relationship with an underage girl whom he impregnated and later married in Kansas when she was 14. The couple had a baby girl last week. **Page 3**

BUSINESS

Montclair center to get renovation

Montclair Shopping Center is going to get a new look and a new name. A major exterior renovation is scheduled for completion by next summer, and the 33-year-old shopping center on the southeast corner of 132nd Street and West Center Road will take the name Montclair on Center. The new

name better describes the location, said Randy Lenhoff, president and chief executive officer of the Seldin Co., which owns the property. **Page 1**

Chappell banker gets prison time

Chappell, Neb., banker Richard Carlson was sentenced to 48 months in a federal prison camp and five years' probation Tuesday for illegal and improper loans that gutted a bank that had been in his family for seven decades. He also was ordered to pay restitution of \$1.8 million. Carlson, 63, former president of the Deuel County State Bank in Chappell, pleaded guilty to bank fraud in April. One of Carlson's attorneys, Alan Stoler, blamed Carlson's actions on a "money pit" caused by construction of a new luxury home, plus losses from investments, commodities and drought. Assistant U.S. Attorney Alan Everett said letters from former friends, customers and family members spoke of betrayal, deceit and greed exhibited by Carlson. **Page 2**

SPORTS

Will Texas Tech QB continue the magic?

Coach Mike Leach is handing the Texas Tech starting quarterback job to another fifth-year senior, Cody Hodges, who has played in just seven games over three seasons with only 12 passing attempts. Still, opponents shouldn't underestimate him. Over the past three seasons, three different Tech quarterbacks have produced the Nos. 1, 4 and 6 all-time passing yardage seasons in NCAA history. About the only thing in common among those three quarterbacks — Kliff Kingsbury, B.J. Symons and Sonny Cumbie — is that all produced those numbers as fifth-year seniors. Leach denies having any secret recipe for producing great fifth-year quarterbacks: "We compare guys and do the best we can to identify the guy we think can win us the most games. Then he is going to get a lot of reps, and the other guy is going to get one-third as many. Then we go from there." **Page 1**

LIVING

Stamps' positions are code language

For most people, the front of an envelope is simply a place for addresses and postage, and a crooked stamp indicates little more than the sender was in a hurry. But for others, it's home to a coded language that has been passed down for more than a century. It's a code that is renewed in the face of war, distance, parental disapproval and anything else that might get in the way of people's connection to each other. Thus a woman whose husband is deployed in Afghanistan places her stamps upside down and diagonally on the letters as a way to say, "I miss you." **Page 1**

LOTTERIES

POWERBALL
■ **Saturday, Aug. 27: 8-22-31-39-44.** Powerball: **11.** Power Play: **5.** No jackpot winner. Jackpot for Wednesday, Aug. 31: \$44 million.
NEBRASKA
■ **Pick 5 — Tuesday, Aug. 30: 4-16-18-20-21.** No jackpot winner. Jackpot for Wednesday, Aug. 31: \$214,000.
■ **2by2 — Tuesday, Aug. 30: red 7-20; white 4-22.**
■ **Pick 3 — Tuesday, Aug. 30: 5-5-1.**
IOWA
■ **Cash Game — Tuesday, Aug. 30: 11-18-25-27-30.**
■ **Hot Lotto — Saturday, Aug. 27: 2-12-26-30-37.** Hot Ball: **3.**
■ **Pick 3 — Tuesday, Aug. 30: midday 4-7-9; evening 9-7-1.**
■ **Pick 4 — Tuesday, Aug. 30: midday 5-8-8-1; evening 3-8-1-5.**
Lottery results from other states are at Omaha.com.

Katrina: Looting reported in Biloxi, New Orleans

Continued from Page 1

the hours after the storm were filled with 1 to 1½ feet of water Tuesday morning. Water was knee-deep around the Superdome. Canal Street was literally a canal. Water lapped at the edge of the French Quarter. Clumps of red ants floated in the gasoline-fouled waters downtown.

All day long, rescuers in boats and helicopters pulled out shell-shocked and bedraggled flood refugees from rooftops and attics. The Coast Guard said it had rescued 1,200 people by boat and air, some placed shivering and wet into helicopter baskets.

The rescued were brought by the truckload into shelters, some in wheelchairs and some carrying babies. They told stories of how they survived — and how others didn't.

New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said hundreds, if not thousands, of people may still be stuck on roofs and in attics, so rescue boats were bypassing the dead.

"We're not even dealing with dead bodies," he said. "They're just pushing them on the side."

It was clear that the death toll would rise sharply, with one survivor after another telling of friends and loved ones who floated off or disappeared as the floodwaters rose.

"I talked with paramedics that are on the scene, and the devastation is so great that they won't quit counting (bodies) for a while," said Mark Williams, operations supervisor for an ambulance service along the Mississippi coast.

At the Superdome, someone died after plunging from an upper level of the stadium, authorities said.

Along the coast, tree trunks, downed power lines and 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.

Tens of thousands of people will need shelter for weeks, if not months, said FEMA Director Mike Brown. Once the floodwaters go down, "it's going to be incredibly dangerous" because of structural damage to homes, diseases from animal carcasses and chemicals in homes, he said.

An estimated 40,000 people were in American Red Cross shelters along the Gulf Coast.

Officials warned people against trying to return to their homes, saying that would only interfere with the rescue and recovery efforts.

Looting broke out in Biloxi, Miss., and 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 clothing and jewelry stores.

"The looting is out of control. The French Quarter has been attacked," Councilwoman Jackie Clarkson said. "We're using exhausted, scarce police to control looting when they should be used for search and rescue while we still have people on rooftops."

More than 1,600 Mississippi National Guardsmen were activated to help with the recovery. The Alabama Guard sent 800 of its soldiers to Mississippi as well.

"This is our tsunami," Biloxi Mayor A.J. Holloway told the Biloxi Sun Herald.

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 emergency operations center spokesman Jim Pollard said about 30 people died there.

This report includes material from Bloomberg News.

Health: Survivors still face numerous dangers

Continued from Page 1

About 2,500 patients were not initially evacuated because they were so ill that moving them might have killed them. Now they must be moved. About 500 high-risk patients — some breathing with ventilators — also must be evacuated.

Tulane University Medical Center said Tuesday that its emergency generator was in danger of being drowned by the rising floodwaters. All its remaining patients were transferred to the Superdome, which is already housing at least 10,000 tourists and homeless.

Four people — three of them hospital patients — died Monday night at the Superdome, Guidry said.

"Right now, our concern is with the living," he said. "We know people are fragile. We're doing everything we can, but we're going to lose some people."

Charity Hospital and Baptist Hospital in the heart of New Orleans were heavily damaged and

have been closed, perhaps permanently. The New Orleans Times-Picayune reported that medical workers at Charity had to manually ventilate patients after backup generators failed.

Beyond the immediate problems are a host of impending problems, said Dr. Jeffrey Goldhagen, director of the Duval County Health Department in Florida and a veteran of hurricane planning.

In a city of 500,000, like New Orleans, there are probably 5,000 people who require kidney dialysis twice a week, he said.

"Where will they get it? Where will 2-month-olds get their immunizations? Where will people get their pharmaceuticals for the next three to six months?"

Doctors at the University of Alabama Medical Center in Birmingham were warned late Tuesday to expect infants from neonatal intensive care units in Jefferson Parish that have been shut down by the flooding.

The principal water main supplying New Orleans broke during

the storm, and reservoirs have been contaminated by overflowing sea water and sewage. Officials estimate that it will be weeks before the water supply is restored and probably about as long for electricity to return.

Some officials are worried that the contaminated water could spread diseases, such as cholera, dysentery and other gastrointestinal infections.

Fears of such outbreaks in the wake of flooding are always present, but officials said such worries are generally overblown. As long as fresh water is provided, such outbreaks are very unlikely, Guidry said.

Federal and National Guard troops are trucking in bottled water, ice and food — especially military MREs, or meals ready to eat — and are prepared to continue as long as necessary.

The national Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Tuesday sent five truckloads of medical supplies to Louisiana, including cots, blankets, pharmaceuticals, towels and surgical

masks. The agency also has sent in 38 physicians, said spokesman Tom Skinner.

Doctors have begun to see a second wave of injuries — those sustained during the cleanup, such as people falling off roofs, suffering electrical shocks from downed power lines, cutting limbs with chainsaws and asphyxiating themselves with gas-powered generators.

Already, Skinner said, there have been two deaths and 12 hospitalizations in New Orleans from carbon monoxide poisoning caused by running generators in poorly ventilated buildings.

Floodwaters have poured over the countryside as well as the city, impinging on a variety of wildlife. Poisonous water snakes, lethal fire ants and even alligators have been forced out of their homes and into close proximity with human refugees.

Pools left behind as the water recedes will provide breeding grounds for mosquitoes, which carry West Nile virus and a host of other infectious diseases.

Gasoline: Midlanders' \$3 fears may become reality

Continued from Page 1

woman Rose White urged drivers to resist panic buying of gasoline. Drivers should follow their normal buying habits. Drivers who continually top off their tanks will place more strain on fuel supplies, she said.

As of Tuesday, the average price for regular unleaded gasoline was \$2.65 in Nebraska. In Iowa, where prices are typically lower because of a lower state gas tax, the average price was \$2.56 per gallon.

But those averages are sure to head higher.

In Kearney, prices increased as much as 30 cents between Monday and Tuesday, with some

stations at \$2.85 and one near Interstate 80 at \$2.96.

In a typical year, prices begin to decline in September as demand for gas drops. But the high prices will probably continue into the fall because of tight fuel supplies nationally and problems caused by the hurricane, White said.

Stations in California already have topped \$3. Prices there tend to be higher than in other parts of the country because of air quality standards that require additional processing of fuel.

Analysts with the U.S. Energy Information Administration said there were no signs yet of fuel shortages.

In Nebraska, the availability of

fuel remains steady, said Tim Keigher, executive director of the Nebraska Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association.

But he said that outlook could change if inspections were to reveal severe damage to Gulf Coast refineries. Most energy companies still have not been able to visit their facilities and are relying on aerial surveillance for preliminary examinations.

Keigher said some station owners might not be able to afford to purchase as much fuel as they did in the past because of sharp increases in wholesale costs, which could affect some stations' supplies. But he said he didn't expect that to become a

widespread problem.

The shutdown of oil platforms, refineries and pipelines along the Gulf Coast caused oil prices to briefly jump above \$70 a barrel Tuesday.

The trading frenzy on futures markets reflected uncertainty and fear about the full extent of the damage the hurricane inflicted on energy production.

Analysts said that even if Katrina did less harm than feared, its effects would nevertheless tighten the availability of already scarce refined products, such as heating oil and gasoline.

This report includes material from the Associated Press and Kearney Hub staff writer Todd Gottula.

Schools: More fail to meet achievement standards

Continued from Page 1

are on a list or not."

Data released by the Iowa Department of Education show that the Council Bluffs district needs to improve its scores in reading and math.

A districtwide designation of needing assistance means students in each of the tested grades — 4, 8 and 11 — missed their performance targets in the problem area, said Kathi Slaughter, spokeswoman for the State Education Department. The district reached its targets in graduation rates, attendance and student participation in the tests.

Abraham Lincoln High and Woodrow Wilson Junior High missed the target scores in both reading and math. Thomas Jefferson High was short in reading, and Kirn was short in math.

Lewis Central Middle School did not meet the goal in math. David Black, a district administra-

tor who focuses on school improvement, said the school's low-income students did not reach the target score. Lewis Central is developing a plan now.

Schools that fail to meet the goals for two consecutive years are placed on a list of schools in need of assistance. Districts can be placed on the list if they fail to meet attendance or graduation rates for two straight years.

Schools that fail to meet goals for one year are placed on a separate "watch list," which will be released next month.

Failing to reach the standards can affect federal Title I funding, which helps districts with a high percentage of poor students.

Slaughter said that because the Council Bluffs-area schools on the list do not receive federal money designated for programs for low-income students, they are not subject to the sanctions of the No Child Left Behind law.

But, she said, they will have to follow Iowa's guidelines.

"Iowa has its own rules," Slaughter said. "They have to meet what Iowa has in place."

That includes developing a school improvement plan and specific goals.

The number of schools on the list is expected to grow with the continued rise in expectations, officials said.

Pam Pfizenmaier, an Iowa Department of Education administrator, said the law makes schools pay closer attention to how groups of students are doing.

"To the extent that No Child Left Behind has encouraged us to look at subpopulations . . . I think that's been a benefit," she said. "It's really caused us to dig down and take corrective action."

This report contains material from the Associated Press.

On the list

Schools that fail to meet the goals for two consecutive years are placed on a list of schools in need of assistance. Schools in western Iowa on the list include:

Council Bluffs: Abraham Lincoln High School, Thomas Jefferson High School, Kirn Junior High School, Woodrow Wilson Junior High School, Lewis Central Middle School.

Fort Dodge: Fort Dodge High School, Phillips Middle School, Fair Oaks Middle School.

Sioux City: East High School, North High School, West High School, East Middle School, West Middle School, Hunt Elementary School.

Storm Lake: Storm Lake High School, Storm Lake Middle School.

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Terrible Katrina toll feared



An elderly patient is moved to the head of a line of refugees from Hurricane Katrina waiting for evacuation Wednesday on Interstate 10 in Metairie, La.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

New Orleans dead expected to be in the thousands

Inside

New Orleans calls its police off rescue missions and sends them after looters. **Page 6**

President Bush says it "will take years" to rebuild the Gulf Coast. **Page 6**

The Salvation Army calls up its bell ringers to raise money for hurricane relief. **Page 7**

Will Katrina shock us into conservation? **Michael Kelly, Midlands**

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW ORLEANS — Chaos gripped New Orleans on Wednesday as looters ran wild, food and water supplies dwindled, bodies floated in the floodwaters and officials said there was no choice but to abandon the city devastated by Hurricane Katrina, perhaps for months.

Mayor Ray Nagin said the hurricane may have killed thousands in his city alone.

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

If the mayor's estimate is correct, Katrina would be the nation's deadliest natural disaster since the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire, which killed as many as 6,000.

As survivors struggled with a disaster that left damage estimated as high as \$25 billion, a gargantuan relief effort got under way.

Ships, planes, helicopters and convoys of supplies and rescue teams converged on the Gulf Coast. Pentagon officials said 30,000 National Guard and active-duty troops would be deployed

by the weekend in the largest domestic relief effort by the military in the nation's history.

At the White House, President Bush pledged vast assistance but acknowledged: "This recovery will take years."

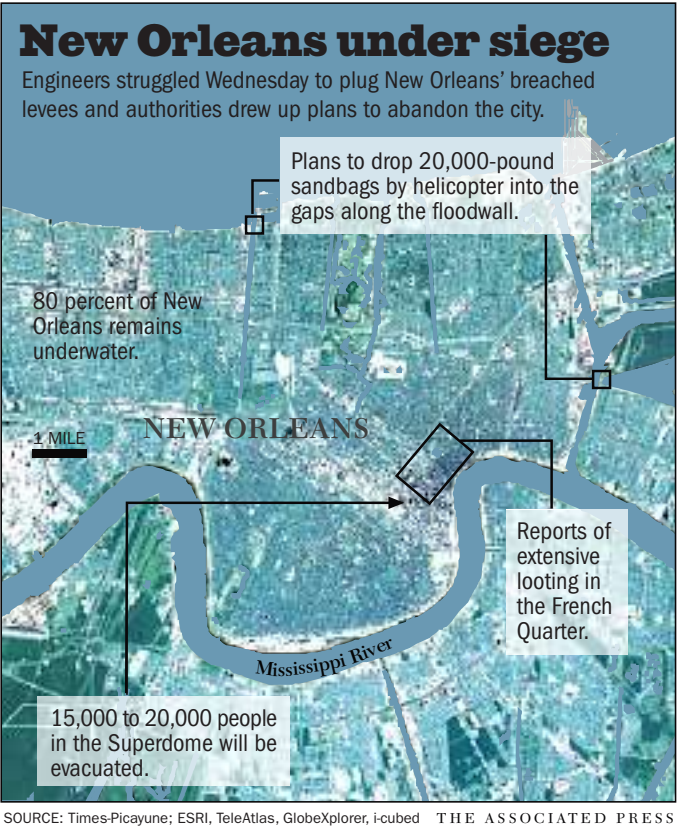
With police officers and National Guard troops giving priority to saving lives, looters ransacked stores for food, clothing, television sets, computers, jewelry and guns, often in full view of law enforcement officials. Dozens of carjackings, apparently by survivors desperate to escape, were reported, as were a number of shootings.

Wednesday night, Nagin ordered 1,500 police officers to turn from search efforts to stopping the looting. "They are starting to get closer to the heavily populated areas — hotels, hospitals — and we're going to stop it right now," he said of the looters.

Nagin and Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco said the city would be empty for months as officials began the long task of pumping out floodwater and assessing the damage. "The city will not be functional for two or three months," the mayor said.

Total recovery appeared to be far more remote. Officials of the U.S.

See Katrina: Page 2



SHUTTING DOWN:

Authorities draw up plans to clear out the tens of thousands of people left in New Orleans and turn out the lights on the below-sea-level city. The mayor calls for a "total evacuation of the city. We have to. The city will not be functional for two or three months."

HISTORIC DISASTER:

Katrina probably killed thousands of people in New Orleans alone. If that estimate is accurate, Katrina would be the nation's deadliest natural disaster since the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, blamed for anywhere from 500 to 6,000 deaths.

\$3 GAS:

Crude oil will be released from the federal petroleum reserves after Katrina knocked out 95 percent of the Gulf of Mexico's output. Gasoline prices have surged above \$3 a gallon across the country.

Ex-Omahan, her cats wait for rescue

BY KEVIN COLE
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

A former Omahan stranded in New Orleans said she is getting by only by keeping her mind on the little things.

"It is a matter of survival," Susan Turnquist said by telephone Wednesday night. "Katrina was a witch, but my situation could be worse. Right now, I am just concentrating on what I need to do."

Turnquist, 50, said she had filled every available container with water before the taps dried up.

She carries her trash away from the old carriage house that she lives in at 2805 Carondelet, keeps her apartment as clean as possible, and stays in contact with her mother and two brothers in Omaha.

A graphite artist, Turnquist graduated from Westside High School in 1973. She moved to New Orleans in 1986.

She isn't alone. A man in his early 70s lives in an apartment below her, and a woman friend lives about a block away.

All three want to leave, but not without their pets.

"What we need is a Noah's Ark," Turnquist said. "I am not leaving without my cats. The man below has a dog and my friend has two dogs."

Turnquist said she hasn't been able to get local authorities on her land-line telephone.

"I call and call, and all I get are recorded messages saying that all circuits are busy," Turnquist said.

Her family has been trying to

See Stranded: Page 2



Susan Turnquist, shown six years ago with niece Katelyn, is stuck in her New Orleans apartment. "The water hasn't reached my house, but it is surrounding it."

Gasoline price bumps felt beyond the pump

BY JEFFREY ROBB
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Maybe you are rediscovering what it's like to walk to the grocery store. Or you are staying home this holiday weekend.

You are taking a shine to that hybrid Honda Insight with — holy smokes! — 66 miles per gallon. Or you are taking a hit to your wallet, and you are not even sure why.

Welcome to the world of sky-rocketing gas prices.

You might have thought you were here before. But this week, with Hurricane Katrina's devastation, gas prices locally are pushing higher and higher — \$2.75 a gallon . . . \$2.85 . . . \$2.99 . . . \$3-plus . . .

With that spike come count-

less, ever-increasing effects on businesses and consumers.

Said Ernie Goss, an economist at Creighton University, "People say that's not fair, but . . . businesses across the region and nation are really taking it on the chin."

Goss said the impact will be felt in businesses across Nebraska — from major industries such as farming, railroads and trucking to small stores that deliver, such as florists. Businesses and consumers already were thinking about gas prices, but \$3 gas will draw even more attention.

The effects just might come up in ways you haven't considered.

Maybe you are paying more

See Gas: Page 2

Omaha weather



Mostly sunny and pleasant.
High 84; low 58

Get ready for Septemberfest. **GO!**
Pages 9-16



Now is the time to rearrange your garden. **Living**

Coming Saturday in Sports

Game Day returns with a new look and a complete preview of the Nebraska-Maine game.



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64 PAGES



Digest

MAIN NEWS

FDA official quits in pill controversy

A high-ranking Food and Drug Administration official resigned Wednesday in protest of the agency's refusal to allow over-the-counter sales of emergency contraception. Susan Wood, director of the FDA's Office of Women's Health, announced her resignation in an e-mail to colleagues: "The recent decision announced by the Commissioner about emergency contraception, which continues to limit women's access to a product that would reduce unintended pregnancies and reduce abortions, is contrary to my core commitment to improving and advancing women's health." **Page 3**

Stampede in Iraq kills more than 950

Trampled, crushed against barricades or plunged into the Tigris River, 953 Iraqis died Wednesday when a group of Shiite pilgrims crossing a Baghdad bridge stampeded in panic at the rumor of a suicide bomber among them. Reports said the dead were among about 1 million people gathering near a shrine to a ninth century Shiite saint. More than 800 were injured. It was the single biggest confirmed loss of life in Iraq since the U.S. invasion in March 2003. **Page 8**

Sheehan takes war protest on road

After a 26-day vigil, Cindy Sheehan took her anti-war protest on the road Wednesday, while a handful of veterans pledged to continue camping off the road leading to President Bush's Texas ranch until the war in Iraq ends. The mother of a 24-year-old soldier killed in Iraq boarded one of three buses heading out to spread her message. The buses will stop in 25 states in the next three weeks, converging in the nation's capital for a Sept. 24 anti-war march. **Page 10**

MIDLANDS

School merger foes now wait for word

Backers of Nebraska's elementary-only school districts might not know until mid-October whether their work has paid off. Volunteers with Nebraska's Local Schools turned in more than 70,000 petition signatures Wednesday seeking to repeal the new state law merging Class I school districts with K-12 districts. That should be enough to meet the \$58,000-signature threshold for putting the question to the people. But the group won't know for sure until county officials check the signatures against voter lists. **Page 1**

BUSINESS

Legislator: Make ethanol mandatory

Soaring gasoline prices make this an opportune time to require 10 percent ethanol in all gasoline sold in Nebraska, a state senator said Wednesday. Speaking in advance of a public hearing, Sen. Matt Connealy of Decatur said requiring ethanol-blended gas would reduce the use of oil, build the state's ethanol manufacturing industry, provide markets for Nebraska crops and help reduce pollution. Opponents say consumers should be allowed to decide whether to buy ethanol. **Page 1**

SPORTS

Maine coach full of praise for NU

If Maine has high hopes of -

upsetting Nebraska on Saturday, Black Bears coach Jack Cosgrove isn't letting on. The season football opener for both teams is scheduled for 6 p.m. at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln. Maine upset Mississippi State 9-7 last season. Cosgrove said, "It's an entirely different animal" to face the Huskers. "I think (Nebraska) is one of the premier, elite programs in the history of college football. It's going to take everything in our power to go out there and be successful." **Page 1**

LIVING

September great time for planting

Spring gets all the glory, but fall is a gardener's best-kept secret. September is as good as May, and many gardeners say better, for planting and transplanting perennials, grasses, shrubs and trees. Starts have little trouble adapting. The soil is not too hot and not too cold. Plants can put energy into root production rather than flowers and leaves. "I keep preaching that September is for planting," said Phyllis Randall, an owner of Oakcrest Gardens Perennial Nursery in Glenwood, Iowa. "It's a wonderful time for almost anything." **Page 1**

GO!

State Fair pace lively in final days

The Nebraska State Fair does everything but slow down in its final days. Big-name open-air concerts, livestock competitions, a demolition derby and scores of exhibits are going strong as the fair heads into its last weekend. Nashville singer Jo Dee Messina has the stage at 7 tonight, performing in support of her latest album, "Delicious Surprise." The album's title track is Messina's 16th Country Top 40 single. Sytch, a classic rock sensation in the 1970s and '80s, entertains at 6 p.m. Monday with such standards as "Come Sail Away" and "Mr. Roboto." Kids will assemble for talent competitions Saturday and Sunday. **Page 3**

Septemberfest set for 5-day run

Septemberfest, Omaha's annual salute to working men and women, runs today through Monday on the grounds of the Qwest Center Omaha. The event features live music, carnival rides, auto shows, food and a petting zoo. There will be fireworks at dusk Saturday, a Christian rock music festival Sunday, a weekend paintball tournament and a two-hour downtown parade at 10 a.m. Monday. **Pages 9-16**

FOR THE RECORD

Parents: Jo Ella Adelung is the daughter of Perry and Jo Dee Adelung. Her parents' last name was incorrectly listed in Sunday's World-Herald.

LOTTERIES

POWERBALL
■ **Wednesday, Aug. 31: 13-17-19-41-50. Powerball: 13. Power Play: 2. No jackpot winner. Jackpot for Saturday, Sept. 3: \$53 million.**

NEBRASKA
■ **Pick 5 — Wednesday, Aug. 31: 16-22-27-32-36. No jackpot winner. Jackpot for Thursday, Sept. 1: \$218,000.**

■ **2by2 — Wednesday, Aug. 31: red 21-25; white 10-14.**

■ **Pick 3 — Wednesday, Aug. 31: 8-0-4.**

IOWA

■ **Cash Game — Wednesday, Aug. 31: 1-6-10-18-31.**

■ **Hot Lotto — Wednesday, Aug. 31: 18-25-28-29-34. Hot Ball: 7.**

■ **Pick 3 — Wednesday, Aug. 31: mid-day 6-7-1; evening 9-9-5.**

■ **Pick 4 — Wednesday, Aug. 31: mid-day 2-3-7-0; evening 1-2-9-8.**

Lottery results from other states are at Omaha.com.

Stranded: In the morning, she heard gunshots

Continued from Page 1
figure out how they can help get her back to Omaha.

They've been in contact with the Red Cross, the Louisiana State Patrol and a group that specializes in animal rescue, all to no avail.

"I know that I can't just drive into New Orleans and get her," said her brother Scott Turnquist of Omaha.

"I just want them to know that she needs help, and to tell me where I can go to pick her up. If they tell me to drive to Baton

Rouge, La., or Jackson, Miss., I'll do it.

"Just tell me where to go. I'm not hearing in the media reports where they are taking people, other than those they are taking to Houston from the Superdome."

Susan Turnquist said she didn't leave the city before Katrina hit because she has no car and didn't want to abandon her three cats.

She said she felt pretty good about her situation after riding out the hurricane. Then two levees broke.

"We're in a part of town called Uptown that is supposed to be flood-proof," she said. "The water hasn't reached my house, but it is surrounding it."

Power went out at 4:30 a.m. Monday and the tap water stopped running Wednesday morning.

"I have a little command post here by the phone with candles and a flashlight," Turnquist said. "I'm making sure that I drink water, but I really have no appetite."

Gunshots from a block away startled Turnquist on Tuesday morning.

"I heard two gunshots down at this little corner grocery store and then banging and banging," she said. "There was a group of people trying to break in. It took them about 20 minutes."

Her woman friend waded through floodwater Wednesday to see if Turnquist was all right.

"That was very strange, because I heard someone calling my name from below, but I couldn't think who it could be," Turnquist said.

"It was very surreal. Then I realized who it was. We were very glad to see each other."

Katrina: 'This recovery will take years,' Bush says

Continued from Page 1

Army Corps of Engineers said that it would be weeks or months before the city could be pumped dry and that it would take years to rebuild its thousands of homes and businesses, its streets, highways and other infrastructure.

As floods ravaged a city already 80 percent under water, Army engineers tried to plug breached levees that had allowed water to surge in from Lake Pontchartrain, struggling around the clock to move sandbags and concrete barriers into gaping holes.

The existence of a third gap of 100 feet was disclosed Wednesday, and officials called the repair task an engineering nightmare.

But in an otherwise dismal picture of wreckage and despair, Col. Terry Ebbert, director of homeland security for New Orleans, offered a glimmer of hope. He said the city's flooding seemed to be stabilizing: "The water isn't going to get higher."

With the level of Pontchartrain down several feet, the lake and its feeder canals had reached a point of equilibrium with the water in the city, he said.

For thousands of refugees trapped in New Orleans, that was little consolation, however. Hundreds were still huddled on rooftops or isolated on patches of ground, where they have awaited rescue since Monday without food or water. An armada of small boats rescued many from flooded areas in the poorest sections of New Orleans.

Other refugees wandered aimlessly, pushing shopping carts of belongings. Some perched on sections of Interstate 10 that were still standing, although much of the highway has collapsed.

American Red Cross workers from across the nation were converging on the region in what the agency said was its biggest relief operation.

The exodus from the Louisiana Superdome began Wednesday as the first of about 15,000 people left the miserable surroundings of the football stadium to be transported in a caravan of buses to the Astrodome in Houston, 350 miles away.

The conditions in the Superdome had become horrendous: There was no air conditioning, the toilets were backed up, and the stench was so bad that medical workers wore masks.

"It's becoming untenable,"



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

With 80 percent of New Orleans flooded, firefighters pump floodwater onto a downtown blaze Wednesday.

Blanco said. "There's no power. It's getting more difficult to get food and water supplies in, just basic essentials."

Texas Gov. Rick Perry, besides offering the use of the Astrodome and other shelters in Houston, said that school-aged children of the refugees would be promptly admitted to Texas public schools and given textbooks, lunches and transportation.

"In the face of such tragic circumstances," Perry said, "we know we're neighbors and we're going to pull together so that these families can find as much normalcy as they can. We realize that by the grace of God we could be the ones that have this extraordinary need."

In Mississippi, at least 110 people were dead, hundreds of waterfront homes and businesses were destroyed, and nearly a million homes were without power.

In Biloxi, Miss., looters rifled casino slot machines for coins and ransacked businesses. Biloxi was heavily damaged and the adjacent city of Gulfport was almost destroyed.

Tempers were beginning to flare. Police said a man fatally shot his sister in the head over a bag of ice in Hattiesburg, Miss.

Returning to Washington from a Texas vacation, President Bush flew over the stricken Gulf Coast for a firsthand look at the destruction. Later he said his administration was committed to

Elsewhere

MISSISSIPPI

■ **Bodies were starting** to pile up at the morgue in Mississippi's Harrison County, with 40 corpses having been brought in. Authorities have said the final death toll in the county will end up well above 100.

■ **About 235,000 homes** and businesses were without power, and hundreds of waterfront houses, businesses, landmarks and condominiums were obliterated.

■ **Casinos built on barges** along the coast were damaged or destroyed; some floated across the beach onto land. A dozen casinos had employed about 14,000 people, generating \$2.7 billion in annual revenue.

ALABAMA

■ **At least two were dead** and about 325,000 homes and businesses were without power. Flooding reached 11 feet in Mobile, matching the record set in 1917, according to National Weather Service.

FLORIDA

■ **At least 11 were dead**, and 80,700 homes and businesses were still without power.

the relief and recovery effort.

"We are dealing with one of the worst natural disasters in our nation's history," Bush said. The response would be commensurate, he said, but added a note of caution: "This recovery will take a long time. This recovery will take years."

Bush formally declared a major disaster in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida as the government and a host of state, local and private agencies began what was expected to be a search, rescue and relief task rivaling those of a nation under enemy attack.

In the Gulf of Mexico, five off-

shore oil rigs were reported destroyed and two more were said to be adrift.

Oil production in the Gulf had largely been shut down during the hurricane. With the resulting drop in production, gasoline shortages developed in some areas of the country, and prices surged above \$3 a gallon.

In response, the Department of Energy said it would release oil from the nation's strategic reserve to offset the production losses. The announcement helped to push oil prices lower.

This report includes material from the Associated Press and the Chicago Tribune.

Gas: Surging fuel prices felt beyond the pump

Continued from Page 1

for doughnuts. Or maybe your neighborhood convenience store isn't carrying your favorites anymore.

Mark Pettit, owner of Pettit's Pastry in Omaha, said his business has imposed a delivery surcharge for the last three months and will have to increase it. The added cost, he said, already had caused some gas stations and convenience stores to stop taking orders.

But Pettit said he has no choice.

A major sugar delivery, he said, recently included a \$200 surcharge. Every repairman coming to the business near downtown has a transportation charge. One of his suppliers of plastic — a petroleum-based product — has imposed six price increases this year.

That's all aside from the gas his company buys for its own deliveries.

"It's hitting everybody in a lot of places people may not think," he said.

Here are others:

Car sales

Fuel efficiency is cool.

Car-buying consumers are turning away from gas-guzzling SUVs and turning to fuel-efficient cars and gas-electric hybrids, some car dealers say.

Greg Melvin, a salesman at Honda Cars of Bellevue, said August will be a record sales month at the dealership, thanks to people buying cars that get higher gas mileage.

"We have people who are trading in their big old trucks and SUVs," he said, pointing out that

mega-SUVs can cost \$100 to fill up. "People just aren't willing to pay that right now."

Not all dealerships are witnessing a shift on their sale floors.

Dana Livingston, sales manager at McMullen Ford in Council Bluffs, said some prospective buyers are holding off because of the gas price uncertainty.

The bus

Is a bus more your style?

Some Omaha buses already were attracting more riders this summer because of high gas prices, but the number probably will rise more now, said Curt Simon, Metro Area Transit executive director.

MAT is considering adding more express route trips from downtown to west Omaha for evening commuters because of the likely increase in ridership.

Ridership on certain routes, such as one between southwest Omaha and downtown, has increased this summer. That route hit 17,000 passenger trips for the first seven months of this year, up about 40 percent from the same period in 2004.

Trucking

Nance Harris, vice president of the Nebraska Trucking Association, called the effect of fuel price increases on the trucking industry "really, really scary."

"Before Katrina, the industry was forecast to spend \$80 billion on fuel this year," she said. "That's \$18 billion more than last year."

Trucking companies levy fuel surcharges based on a weekly fuel price index but generally

are not able to recover all of the increased cost, Harris said.

"It just softens the blow. There's no question (fuel prices) are going to have a larger and larger effect on the economy."

Eighty percent of the merchandise in supermarkets arrives there by truck, she said.

Groceries

No Frills Supermarket chief executive Rich Juro said his company has not increased prices because of fuel surcharges tacked on by trucking companies. But those price increases may be coming, he said.

"It's not something we're doing now, but we may have to," said Juro, whose company has 15 stores in the Omaha area.

Determining when to increase prices and by how much will depend on how high fuel prices go up and how long they stay high, Juro said.

Construction

Time will tell whether the hurricane and the rebuilding effort that follows will lead to higher prices for building materials and, ultimately, new homes.

CBSHome Realtor Ralph Marasco said that, given past experience and the average home's reliance on petroleum-based products, he would expect prices to be affected.

"We're not seeing anything yet," he said. "But when (Hurricane) Hugo hit (in 1989), we couldn't get a four-by-eight sheet of wood to save our lives."

Gasoline prices already were affecting construction prices, he said, "and this is just going to amplify it."

A weekend away

People wanting to get away this Labor Day weekend can either cancel or pay the price.

Jim Fuller, an administrator for the Nebraska Game and Parks Commission, said high gas probably won't make a big difference in park attendance.

But people who were planning a trip to a park far from home, such as a trek from Omaha to Lake McConaughy, might think twice, he said.

Fuller also said there might be fewer boats on state lakes because of the high price of filling their tanks with gas.

Flower delivery

Several florists said they are doing their best to hold back a price increase.

The owner of Piccolo's Florist, Ali Pendley, said she was discussing whether to increase a \$7.95 delivery charge.

"It's a hard situation," she said. "We don't want to raise our rate if we don't have to. We will first work on adjusting our routes so that we are more efficient."

World-Herald staff writers Karen Sloan, Michael O'Connor, Stacie Hamel, Joe Ruff, Deborah Shanahan and Kevin Cole contributed to this report.

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Katrina among worst storms ever recorded

On Sunday, the central pressure of Katrina dropped to 902 millibars, sustained winds were 175 mph, and gusts reached 215 mph.

That made Katrina the fourth-worst hurricane to occur in the Atlantic Basin, just ahead of devastating Camille, which struck in 1969.

The most intense storm ever to hit the United States was the Labor Day storm in 1935. Although more powerful, the worst of Gilbert (1988) was experienced well south of the United States in the Caribbean.

Source: AccuWeather Inc.

Worst weather disasters of the last 115 years

Pennsylvania's Johnstown Flood, 1889: After a large rain storm, the South Fork Dam failed. As a result, 2,209 people died, thousands were homeless, and four square miles of downtown Johnstown, Pennsylvania were destroyed.

Galveston Hurricane, 1900: The hurricane, believed to be a Category 4, killed 8,000 people after a 20-foot storm surge swept over Galveston Island. It is considered the deadliest natural disaster in U.S. history.

San Francisco earthquake, 1906: The earthquake, calculated at a magnitude of 7.8, released about 30 times more energy than the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. More than 3,000 deaths were caused directly or indirectly by the quake, with more than 225,000 out of a population of 400,000 left homeless. More than 28,000 buildings were lost to the fire that followed.

Tristate tornado, 1925: Killed 695 in Missouri, Illinois and Indiana.

Great Okeechobee flood and hurricane, 1928: Killed 1,836 in southern Florida. A Category 4 storm.

Dust Bowl of the 1930s: Drought swept the Great Plains and plunged thousands into poverty as farmers abandoned their land to seek better lives elsewhere.

Florida Keys Hurricane, 1935: Also known as the Labor Day Hurricane, killed more than 400.

New England hurricane, 1938: With 600 fatalities and millions in damage from New York to Boston.

Storm of the Century, 1950: Brought snow and hurricane-force winds to 22 states and claimed 383 lives.

Hurricane Camille, 1969: Claimed 256 lives.

Tornado outbreak, 1974: 148 tornadoes swept through the country from the Great Lakes to Alabama and Mississippi and killed 315 people.

New England blizzard of 1978: Paralyzed New England for a week.

El Nino episodes of 1982-83 and 1997-98: Caused storms that battered the West Coast and set rainfall records in the Southeast.

Hurricane Andrew, 1992: Caused 23 deaths and \$25 billion in damage in Florida and Louisiana.

Great Midwest Flood, 1993: The costliest flood in U.S. history, claimed 48 lives and caused \$18 billion in damage.

Winter superstorm of 1993: Battered the eastern seaboard and claimed 79 lives.

Oklahoma-Kansas tornado outbreak of 1999: With 42 dead.

Hurricane Ivan, 2004: A Category 3 hurricane, it hit Gulf Shores, Ala., killing 25 people and causing \$14.2 billion in property damage.

Compiled by World-Herald researcher Michelle Gullett from MSNBC, The Associated Press, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

All U.S. will feel blow, Bush says

Promising federal help, he says damage to gasoline capacity means "a difficult road."

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bush said Wednesday that his administration was moving quickly to save lives and provide sustenance to victims of Hurricane Katrina. But he said recovery from the storm that laid waste to the Gulf Coast "will take years."

"We're dealing with one of the worst national disasters in our nation's history," he told a press conference hours after touring the area by air.

"This is going to be a difficult road," he added, making clear that the effects would extend well past the four states along the battered coast. "Our citizens must understand this storm has disrupted the capacity to make gasoline and to distribute gasoline."

Standing with top members of

his administration, Bush ran down a list of actions already taken to help storm victims.

He said, for example, that buses were on the way to help carry thousands of survivors from the overwhelmed Superdome in New Orleans to the Astrodome in Houston.

Medical teams also have been deployed, along with urban search-and-rescue teams, he said. The Coast Guard already has rescued nearly 2,000 people, he added.

Bush said the Pentagon, too, was contributing to rescue and relief operations. And he said he had instructed Energy Secretary Sam Bodman to work with refineries to "alleviate any shortage through loans."

Bush encouraged private cash donations to supplement the gov-

ernment's recovery efforts.

While not minimizing the storm's destruction, the president offered words of encouragement to those who have lost their homes, possessions and employment.

"I'm confident that with time you'll get your life back in order, new communities will flourish, the great city of New Orleans will get back on its feet and America will be a stronger place for it," he said.

Meanwhile, Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff outlined other forms of help on the way.

"Truckloads of water, ice, meals, medical supplies, generators, tents and tarpaulins" are loaded aboard 1,700 semi-trailer trucks in an initial response, he said.

He pledged a "full range of federal resources" to come — a list that ran from bridge inspections to communications repair



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Recovery from Hurricane Katrina "will take years," said President Bush, who viewed the stricken Gulf Coast by air Wednesday.

to mosquito control in a region with vast stretches of inundated land.

At the same time, officials warned of continuing hardships.

Michael Leavitt, secretary of Health and Human Services, announced that he had declared a

public health emergency from Louisiana to Florida.

"We are gravely concerned about the potential for cholera, typhoid and dehydrating diseases that could come as a result of the stagnant water and the conditions," he said.

IN KATRINA'S WAKE



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Top, volunteer Sarah Roberts carries young flood victims to safety Wednesday after their rescue by boat from an eastern New Orleans neighborhood. Above, Los Angeles County Fire Department urban search and rescue workers pack up to head to the area hit by Hurricane Katrina. Left, Katrina ripped a bridge's deck from its support piers in Bay St. Louis, Miss.

Looters run wild as police save lives

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — With police and National Guardsmen concentrating on saving lives, looters around the city spent another day Wednesday brazenly ransacking stores for food, clothing, appliances and guns.

Thieves commandeered a forklift and used it to push up the storm shutters and break the glass of a pharmacy. Looters carried out so much ice, water and food that they dropped them from their arms as they ran. The street was littered with packages of ramen noodles and other items.

Looters also chased down a state police truck full of food. New Orleans' police chief ran off looters while city officials themselves were commandeering equipment from a looted Office Depot store. During a state of emergency, authorities have broad powers to take private supplies and buildings for their use.

Officials tried to balance security needs with saving lives.

"We're multitasking right now," said Police Capt. Marlon Defillo. "Rescue, recovery, stabilization of looting, we're trying to feed the hungry."

Louisiana 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.

New Orleans' homeland security chief, Terry Ebbert, said looters were stealing guns and gangs of armed men were moving around the city. The Times-Picayune newspaper reported that the gun section at a new Wal-Mart had been cleaned out.

At one point, officers stranded on the roof of a hotel were fired at by people in the street.

Authorities said an officer was shot in the head and a looter was wounded in a shootout. The officer was expected to survive.

On New Orleans' Canal Street, dozens of looters ripped open the steel gates on clothing and jewelry stores and grabbed merchandise. In Biloxi, Miss., people picked through casino slot machines for coins and ransacked other businesses. In some cases, the looting was in full view of police and National Guardsmen.

The Superdome: hot, humid haven

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Aaron Williams carefully stowed the wooden door he'd used to ferry his tiny plastic crate of belongings — a few canned goods, half a bottle of water, a pack of cigarettes and a soggy Bible — and trudged up the ramp to the Louisiana Superdome.

"This is one beautiful sight," Williams said of the vast building that was turned into a haven for Hurricane Katrina refugees. "I don't know what we'd do without it."

Williams, 37, clung to the roof of his home for 15 hours, watching as two neighbors were swept away by the storm, then waded through rising water for four more hours to reach the Superdome.

He was among an estimated 15,000 people who had taken shelter in the stadium by Wednesday morning.

Authorities were making plans to move thousands of people out of New Orleans, including those in the Superdome, to Houston and that city's 40-year-old Astrodome. But in the meantime, refugees still were arriving as rescuers plucked them from roofs around the city.

After the power went off during the storm, the Superdome had no air condi-

tioning and only limited lights, kept operating by an emergency generator. National Guardsmen sandbagged a small area around the generator, but rising water prevented them from refilling its fuel tank.

National Guard mechanics and engineers managed to bypass that fuel tank and run fuel to the generator from a truck on the Superdome's exterior concourse.

"We were down to an hour-and-a-half of fuel," said Doug Thornton, a regional vice president for SMG, which manages the Superdome.

The medical operation at the dome was transferred to the New Orleans Arena, where the New Orleans Hornets play. Medical personnel had been working in an area of the Superdome with poor lighting, leaking ceilings and soggy carpet.

However, during the move, thieves stole the medical center's water supplies and many of the cots used for patients.

There had been three deaths at the Superdome, two elderly patients and a man who committed suicide by jumping from an upper ramp.

Water pressure was falling, and many

of the Superdome's toilets were clogged. That, combined with the lack of air conditioning, contributed to rising heat, humidity and stench.

Many of the refugees moved their bedding to the exterior concourse, preferring to take their chances with the scorching sun and mosquitoes.

"People are trying to keep things clean," said Terry Broussard, 47. "But it's getting worse and worse."

Despite the conditions, people inside the stadium remained remarkably calm and cooperative.

A National Guard chaplain conducted daily services, and he and a dozen others tried to keep the crowd informed on what was happening around the city.

Anthony "Bud" Williams, 32, of Brisbane, Australia, and two companions took it upon themselves to round up foreigners in the crowd.

They found people from 63 countries, made a list and hoped someone could contact embassies so families could be notified they were safe.

"Except all the people from Australia request their embassy to send beer," he said.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A hole in the roof of the Louisiana Superdome provides light for children playing on the field. An estimated 15,000 people had taken shelter in the stadium by Wednesday morning.



Natural gas prices bode ill for winter

September rate is MUD's highest ever

Katrina not sole cause

By NANCY GAARDER
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

The one-two punch of Hurricane Katrina and already-high oil prices is driving the cost of natural gas to unheard of levels for September.

Most Nebraskans will be paying about 63 percent more for natural gas this month than they did at the same time a year ago.

September prices, which are constant for the entire month, were released Thursday. They set an all-time record for the Metropolitan Utilities District — higher even than the prices charged in the depths of the coldest winters.

For Aquila Inc., which serves most of eastern Nebraska and most of Iowa, September prices are just under the record set in January 2001.

Natural gas prices are notoriously volatile, and monthly prices can vary widely, so no one knows whether prices will remain this high through the winter. At the current price, the average January heating bill, based on normal weather in Omaha, would exceed \$215.

"My advice is you have to prepare for high prices," said Scott Keep, MUD senior vice president.

Even before Katrina hit the Gulf of Mexico, site of one-fourth of U.S. natural gas production, MUD was anticipating that September prices would hit extraordinary levels, Keep said.

Damage assessment continues in the gulf, said Mark Stultz, See Gas: Page 2

Rising prices

September natural gas prices, per therm *

Metropolitan Utilities District — \$1.0586

Aquila — Omaha area: \$1.10262

Aquila — Lincoln: \$1.13950

Aquila — Eastern Nebraska (outside of Lincoln and Omaha metro areas): \$1.19126

Aquila-Iowa — \$1.19433

* A therm is a measure of gas. Under typical weather conditions, an Omaha residence uses an average of 19 therms in September. In January, usage rises to an average of 192 therms.

City spiraling downward



A military helicopter carrying relief supplies hovers near the New Orleans convention center Thursday as crew members toss relief supplies overboard. The chopper had made several attempts to land but was driven back by a rushing crowd.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Angry, weary refugees seek food, water — and a way out

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — New Orleans descended into anarchy Thursday, as corpses lay abandoned in street medians, fights and fires broke out, and storm survivors battled for seats on the buses that would carry them away from the chaos. The tired and hungry seethed, saying they had been forsaken.

"I'm not sure I'm going to get out of here alive," said Canadian tourist Larry Mitzel, who handed a reporter his business card in case he goes missing. "I'm scared of riots. I'm scared of the locals. We might get caught in the crossfire."

Four days after Hurricane Katrina roared in with a devastating blow that inflicted potentially thousands of deaths, the frustration, fear and anger mounted, despite the promise of 1,400 National Guardsmen a day to stop the looting and a government relief effort that President Bush called the biggest in U.S. history.

By the end of the day, the American Red Cross announced that its hurricane shelters in seven states were full, with an estimated 76,000 refugees at facilities in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Texas and Arkansas. The official death toll in Mississippi climbed above 100, while



A SWAT team drives past flood victims near New Orleans' convention center. Many residents remain stranded in the city despite an evacuation order.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

officials in Louisiana repeated warnings that thousands could be dead in New Orleans alone.

After accepting more than 11,000 refugees, officials said Thursday night that the Houston Astrodome was full and began sending buses to other shelters in the area.

"We've actually reached capacity for the safety and comfort of the people inside there," American Red Cross spokeswoman Dana Allen said. The to-

tal of 11,375 inside the Astrodome was less than half the estimated 23,000 people who were expected to arrive by bus from New Orleans.

About 15,000 to 20,000 people who had taken shelter at New Orleans convention center grew increasingly hostile after waiting for buses for days amid the filth and the dead.

"We have individuals who are getting raped, we have individuals who

See Chaos: Page 2

Daunting scale of task unleashes flood of doubts

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — First they have to pump the flooded city dry, and that will take a minimum of 30 days. Then they will have to flush the drinking water system, making sure they don't recycle the contaminants. Figure another month for that.

The electricians will have to watch out for snakes in the water, wild animals and feral dogs. It will be a good idea to wear hip boots and take care of cuts and scrapes before the toxic slush turns them into festering sores. The power grid might be up in a few weeks, but many months will elapse before everybody's lights come back on.

By that time, a lot of people won't care because they will have taken the insurance money and moved away — forever. Home rebuilding, as opposed to repairs, won't start for a year and will last for years after that.

Even then, there may be nothing normal about New Orleans, because the floodwater, spiked with tons of contaminants ranging from heavy metals and hydrocarbons to industrial waste, human feces and the decayed remains of humans and animals, will linger nearby in the Gulf of Mexico for a decade.

"This is the worst case," Hugh Kauf-

See Rebuild: Page 2

Nebraska Guard units join relief effort

■ Soldiers will bolster security and air crews will deliver food and fuel to hard-hit areas.

By MARTHA STODDARD
WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

LINCOLN — By land and air, two contingents of Nebraska National Guard troops are heading south to help with hurricane rescue and relief efforts, Gov. Dave Heineman said Thursday.

Forty-five Army National

Guard soldiers, mostly military police from the 192nd Law and Order Detachment, are scheduled to report today and depart this afternoon to help with security.

Heineman said they probably will be assigned to Louisiana, where looters have become a serious threat.

That group will travel in a convoy of Humvees, said Lt. Col. Bob Vrana, public affairs officer for the Nebraska Guard. They should arrive at their destination late Sunday.

Nebraska Air National Guard crews from the 155th Air Refueling Wing, meanwhile, were to fly food and aircraft fuel to the area hit by Hurricane Katrina using their KC-135 Stratotankers.

Two flights took off Thursday afternoon, and Vrana said two

more were planned for today. The timing of the flights depended on when and where the aircraft can land. He said the most likely site would be the Naval Air Station in New Orleans.

Those flights will deliver a total of 66,000 MRE — meals ready to eat — from the Nebraska Guard stockpiles, officials said. The Nebraskans also have been asked to bring aircraft fuel and

See Guard: Page 2



Master Sgt. Kim Davila, left, and Staff Sgt. Joe Rodriguez of the Nebraska Air National Guard in Lincoln help load pallets of military meals that are being transported to New Orleans in aid in hurricane relief efforts.

NEBRASKA NATIONAL GUARD

Omaha weather



Several hours of sunshine.
High 86; low 62.



Coming Saturday

A number of new Nebraska laws go on the books Sunday, including an anti-meth measure that restricts cold tablet purchases.



DINNER & A MOVIE

The new Italian restaurant Faro's has many of the dishes that once made Raphael's popular.

The time-travel movie "A Sound of Thunder" has its flaws, but it's passable entertainment.

Living



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Advice	4&5&8E
Comics	6&7E
Deaths	4B
Editorials	6&7B
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Movies	4&5E
TV	4&8E
Weather	5B

46 PAGES



Digest

MAIN NEWS

Passport plan is still a go

The U.S. government upheld plans Thursday to require travelers from Canada, Mexico and other allied nations to show passports or other secure documents to enter the country. The State Department and Department of Homeland Security said they expect to officially adopt the policy — which has drawn complaints from travelers, the affected nations and even President Bush — by year's end. But they pushed back by a year the date when travelers would have to comply with the requirements. **Page 4**

Shiites bury stampede victims

Shiites on Thursday buried the nearly 1,000 victims of a bridge stampede while politicians and ordinary Iraqis demanded that the government address whether botched security controls may have played a part in the tragedy. Tension and confusion persisted one day after the biggest loss of life in a single event in Iraq since the 2003 U.S. invasion. Gunfire erupted Thursday at the bridge during a protest march, killing a girl and wounding four other people. **Page 12**

MIDLANDS

There's cheap fun at the fair

If you're looking for fun at the Nebraska State Fair on a limited budget, there's good news. Once inside the gates, many of the best attractions are free. Within seconds of entering the Livestock Birthing Pavilion, most kids are clamoring to pet the newborn piglets or cradle baby chicks. The birthing area is free, as is the petting zoo next door. Adults looking for affordable fun can take a walk through the Stars of Country Music Museum. **Page 1**

Sex offender law in effect in Iowa

Certain sex offenders living within about four blocks of any Iowa school or child care center are now in violation of the law. The Iowa Legislature passed the legislation in 2003, but court battles prevented it from going into effect until Thursday. Pottawattamie County Attorney Matt Wilber and Chief Deputy Sheriff Jim Matthai plan to aggressively enforce the law but promised an even-handed approach. They said they will give offenders who are in violation of the 2,000-foot rule 30 days to move before criminal charges are filed. **Page 3**

SPORTS

Goals are high for Longhorns

Any time a Texas football player gets distracted about his mission for the 2005 season, he can look at his burnt orange wristband. "Take Dead Aim," it says. That motto, coach Mack Brown said, signals what's ahead after making some history in 2004. The Longhorns posted their best record in 21 years, qualified for the Bowl Championship Series for the first time and won their first major bowl game in 23 years with a 38-37 decision over Michigan in the Rose Bowl. This year, Texas is talking national championship. **Page 1**

A great guy, a great athlete

Dennis Claridge says Mick-

Tingelhoff was a great guy to have as a teammate on the 1961 Nebraska Cornhuskers. And Claridge was grateful to be taking snaps from Tingelhoff instead of lining up across from him. Tingelhoff, a farm boy from Lexington, Neb., lettered for the Huskers from 1959 to 1961, a bleak period in which NU won a combined 11 games. He's on The World-Herald's list of the top 100 Nebraska athletes. **Pages 1**

BUSINESS

ConAgra's new chief lauded

ConAgra Foods Inc. was looking for a strong leader as its new president and chief executive, and it found him in former PepsiCo executive Gary Rodkin, the head of ConAgra's search committee said Thursday. He listens well, said Steven Goldstone, a ConAgra board member. Rodkin gives employees responsibility and respects them but also holds them accountable for results, Goldstone said. **Page 1**

Hiring shows signs of slowing

Supply managers fear that rising energy prices and growing inflationary pressures will curb growth by year's end, although the Midwest economic expansion continued in August. The month's regional manufacturing report said hiring already had slowed in manufacturing sectors such as vehicles, computers, electronics and food processing, although it remained strong in durable goods. **Page 2**

LIVING

A bit of Italy in northwest Omaha

Paul Pellerito, former owner of Raphael's, has teamed up with his wife, Erin, to open Faro's, a new Italian restaurant in the former home of Farucci's in northwest Omaha. Named after Pellerito's grandfather, Faro's offers traditional Italian fare, including some dishes that diners will recognize from Raphael's. In fact, Pellerito estimates that about 80 percent of the menu is from the first restaurant. **Page 1**

Hero saves 'Beautiful Country'

"The Beautiful Country," an ambitious international epic of displacement and refugee yearning, presents us with a young man who is nothing at the start but who slowly grows in stature. By the final scenes, he's a hero more real and more touching than any you may encounter at the movies this year — big enough to just overcome the sickness of the film that surrounds him. **Page 2**

LOTTERIES

POWERBALL
■ **Wednesday, Aug. 31: 13-17-19-41-50. Powerball: 13. Power Play: 2. No jackpot winner. Jackpot for Friday, Sept. 2: \$222,000.**
■ **2by2 — Thursday, Sept. 1: red 2-9; white 11-26.**
■ **Pick 3 — Thursday, Sept. 1: 0-0-5.**
IOWA
■ **Cash Game — Thursday, Sept. 1: 6-7-10-26-35.**
■ **Hot Lotto — Wednesday, Aug. 31: 18-25-28-29-34. Hot Ball: 7.**
■ **Pick 3 — Thursday, Sept. 1: midday 0-7-1; evening 0-6-1.**
■ **Pick 4 — Thursday, Sept. 1: midday 7-7-3-2; evening 1-8-9-5.**

Lottery results from other states are at Omaha.com.



Members of the Nebraska Air National Guard line up to load military meals onto pallets that are being transported to New Orleans.

Guard: Nebraska troops head south

Continued from Page 1
possibly transport some support personnel from Offutt Air Force Base.

Vrana said he expected more requests for aid.

Heineman said Nebraska emergency officials have been talking with federal officials about what other resources the state could offer.

The Nebraska troops will join about 21,000 Guard members from across the country and some 7,000 active duty troops being mobilized to help in hurricane-stricken areas.

Military units are helping with rescue operations, hauling in essential supplies and helping restore law and order. They also

will help with cleanup operations.

Some retired military commanders and analysts have questioned whether the Guard could handle the additional duty, given the numbers of Guard troops already called to duty in Iraq, Afghanistan and other locations.

"The reserve component is nearly half of the deployment in Iraq, and at the same time they are taking on this critical mission," retired Army Gen. Barry McCaffrey told the Los Angeles Times. "It's an enormous strain on this dedicated military force."

Heineman acknowledged the strain on the state's resources. But he said the Nebraska Guard could manage.

"I don't think there's any ques-

tion it's difficult for all states right now," the governor said.

Vrana voiced confidence that the Nebraska Guard could handle hurricane duties.

Nearly 29 percent — or 975 — of the state's 3,400 Army Guard members are serving in Iraq or Afghanistan, he said. Small numbers of the 1,000 Air Guard members also have been called up.

"We certainly have the capability to perform our homeland defense missions as well as assist other states," Vrana said.

National defense officials also have said the Guard can handle the demands. Governors have been promised that at least 50 percent of their states' Guard members would be available for stateside duty at all times.

Gas: Big heating bills may be coming

Continued from Page 1
spokesman for the Natural Gas Supply Association. As of Thursday, about 79 percent of the gulf's natural gas production remained off line, an improvement over Wednesday, when 85 percent of production was down.

Some of the outage, Stultz said, results from the fact that gas rigs were shut down before Katrina hit. But some of it also is the result of storm damage.

No one is certain how long it will take to determine how much

damage occurred to production facilities or how long repairs will take, he said.

If the pattern that occurred after Hurricane Ivan last September is repeated, he said, most repairs could be completed in time to be ready for winter.

MUD does not get its gas from the gulf, Keep said, but is still affected by the outages. Natural gas feeding into its system comes from Kansas, Oklahoma, the Rocky Mountains and Canada.

While Katrina is contributing

to the high prices, Keep said, consumers should not underestimate the impact of high petroleum prices and tight natural gas supplies.

Oil and natural gas are different commodities, but recently, natural gas prices have followed the lead of petroleum as some industries shift between the fuels to find the lowest prices.

The prices MUD and Aquila charge are based on prices they pay wholesalers. Neither utility benefits from the higher prices, spokesmen said.

Rebuild: Tough choices are ahead

Continued from Page 1
Kaufman, a senior policy analyst at the Environmental Protection Agency, said of the toxic stew that contaminates New Orleans. "There is not enough money in the gross national product of the United States to dispose of the amount of hazardous material in the area."

Kaufman and other experts from around the country agreed Wednesday that there will be no quick fix for New Orleans. But they acknowledged that even their sobering estimates for final "recovery" may be too optimistic, for nothing in their own personal and professional experience could compare with the abuse that Hurricane Katrina heaped upon the city.

Officials in Baton Rouge, La., Wednesday painted a bleak picture of New Orleans' immediate future. Its 485,000 inhabitants are refugees or soon-to-be refugees — ordered out of town because the town is unlivable.

Electric power is gone. Drinking water is gone. Sewer service is gone. Roads are destroyed. Tens of thousands of homes are buried in contaminated floodwaters. The dead — still uncounted — float in drowned neighborhoods or lie pinned beneath debris.

"I surmise that there are people in New Orleans who will not be able to get back to their homes for months, if not forever," said Michael Brown, undersecretary of homeland security for emergency preparedness and response. "It will be a herculean undertaking."

Before anything meaningful can happen in New Orleans, engineers have to figure out how to shore up two breaches in the city's fabled levees, then pump the flooded city dry — a process that Maj. General Don Riley of the Army Corps of Engineers said will take a minimum of 30 days.

Pumping, Riley said, is a question of having electric power. The corps would provide two generators, he said, but he could not say when they would arrive. Entergy, the local power company, said its crews are working but only in "accessible" areas, of which New Orleans had few because of the flooding.

Out-of-town energy officials said Entergy, even once it gets up to speed, is likely to find that re-

doing electric power after Katrina presents far different challenges from cleanup after the devastation of a normal here-today-gone-tomorrow hurricane.

"You can throw the conventional methods of restoration out the window," said Fred N. Day IV, chief executive of Progress Energy Carolinas, which battled severe flooding in eastern North Carolina after Hurricane Floyd in 1999. "Just to get people and materials in place was so difficult we had to use helicopters."

Then there were "unusual safety issues," such as "snakes and dogs and wild animals that can't make it to higher ground," Day said. "Our employees went to a local sports shop and bought all the hip boots and flat-bottomed boats there were. It worked out good."

How long will it take New Orleans to restore power? Day wasn't about to guess.

"Our scale was big to us at the time. It was nothing compared to what they have in Louisiana."

Having electricity will also be critical to restoring drinking water and wastewater treatment. L.D. McMullen, chief executive and general manager of the Des Moines Water Works, described a "three-step process" to restore his plant. It was submerged in 1993, when the Raccoon and Des Moines Rivers overflowed their banks.

The key, he said, is to keep contaminated water out of the system. First clean the treatment plant, start it up and run it until it is producing drinkable water — at least seven days. Then flush the system, using extra chlorine and taking care to dump the water wherever you can.

Finally, McMullen said, individual families have to flush their lines. He suggested a vigorous media campaign and a phone bank staffed with plumbers to give instructions.

The whole exercise took 19 days in Des Moines, with 350,000 people and 1,000 miles of pipes.

"The general concept would work fine in New Orleans but probably would take longer because it's a bigger system," McMullen said. "There's probably a lot of broken pipes in town and broken mains, too. You'd have to repair them first."

Deciding whether to repair or simply abandon damaged homes will require a complicated triage involving not only residents but

also insurance companies and local officials who will set the rules on which houses will be allowed to stand and which will come down.

"In most hurricanes, you're talking about wind damage, lost roofs, that kind of thing," said Michael Carliner, an economist with the National Association of Homebuilders. "Flooding is much more insidious. Structures are still standing, but there are devastating effects. With the dirty water, it may never be possible to repair it. You'll have to rebuild, or at least gut it."

And then there's the whole waste issue. The EPA's Kaufman, a designer of the Superfund legislation to clean up toxic waste, said New Orleans and the Gulf Coast face "an absolute catastrophic situation" that will take years to abate.

Louisiana, a center of the oil, gas and chemical industries, "was known for its very weak enforcement regulations," Kaufman said, and there are a number of landfills and storage areas containing "thousands of tons" of hazardous material to be leaked and spread.

"On top of that, you have dead bodies that are going to start to decompose, along with the material that was in industrial and household discharge, sewage, gasoline and waste oil from gas stations," he said. "You've got a witches' brew of contaminated water."

Given New Orleans' desperate straits, recovery teams will not be able to do anything with the toxic mess except pump it into the Gulf of Mexico, ensuring that the contamination will spread to a larger area, he said. "There's just no other place for it."

Once the water is gone, environmental officials probably will undertake a "grid survey," sampling the formerly flooded areas to get soil profiles and determine how safe it is for residents to move back or rebuild.

The survey is likely to take six months. "If it were me, I wouldn't go back until there was a solid assessment of contamination of the land," Kaufman said. And even then, he said, authorities will be monitoring levels of water toxicity along the coastline for years: "There is no magic chemical that you can put in the gulf to make heavy metals or benzene go away. You're stuck with it."

Chaos: Rescuers become targets in New Orleans

Continued from Page 1
are getting beaten," Police Chief Eddie Compass said. "Tourists are walking in that direction and they are getting preyed upon."

A military helicopter tried several times to land at the convention center to drop off food and water. But the rushing crowd forced the chopper to back off. Troopers then tossed the supplies to the crowd from 10 feet off the ground and flew away.

In hopes of defusing the situation at the convention center, Mayor Ray Nagin gave the refugees permission to walk across a bridge to the city's unflooded west bank for whatever relief they could find. But the bedlam made that difficult.

"This is a desperate SOS," Nagin said in a statement. "Right now we are out of resources at the convention center and don't anticipate enough buses."

At least seven bodies were seen outside the convention center, a makeshift staging area for those rescued from rooftops, attics and highways. An old man in a chaise longue 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.

"You can do everything for other countries, but you can't do nothing for your own people," he added. "You can go overseas with the military, but you can't get them down here."

The street outside the center, above the floodwaters, smelled of urine and feces, and was choked with dirty diapers, old bottles and garbage.

"They've been teasing us with buses for four days," Edwards said. "They're telling us they're going to come get us one day, and then they don't show up."

Every so often, an armored state police vehicle cruised in front of the convention center with four or five officers in riot gear with automatic weapons. But there was no sign of help from the National Guard.

"We've got people dying out here — two babies have died, a woman died, a man died," said Helen Cheek. "We haven't had no food, we haven't had no water, we haven't had nothing. They just brought us here and dropped us."

At the hot and stinking Superdome, fistfights and fires erupted amid a seething sea of tense, suffering people who waited in a lines that stretched a half-mile to board yellow school buses.

After a traffic jam kept buses from arriving for nearly four hours, a near-riot broke out in the scramble to get on the buses that finally did show up, with a group of refugees breaking through a line of heavily armed National Guardsmen.

One military policeman was shot in the leg as he and a man scuffled for the MP's rifle, Police Capt. Ernie Demmo said. The man was arrested.

Some of those among the mostly poor crowd had been in the dome for four days without air conditioning, working toilets or a place to bathe. An ambulance service airlifted the sick and injured out of the Superdome suspended flights as too dangerous after it was reported that a bullet was fired at a military helicopter.

"If they're just taking us anywhere, just anywhere, I say praise God," said refugee John Phillip. "Nothing could be worse than what we've been through."

By Thursday evening, 11 hours after the military began evacuating the Superdome, the arena held 10,000 more people than it did at dawn. National Guard Capt. John Pollard said evacuees from around the city poured into the Superdome and swelled the crowd to about 30,000.

A day after Nagin took 1,500 police officers off search-and-rescue duty to try to restore order in the streets, there were continued reports of looting, shootings and car-jackings — and not all the crimes were driven by greed.

When some hospitals try to airlift patients, Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Cheri Ben-Iesan said, "there are people just taking potshots at police and at helicopters, telling them, 'You better come get my family.'"

U.P., BNSF rail lines get back on track

BY STACIE HAMEL
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

The nation's two largest railroads escaped the worst of Hurricane Katrina.

Union Pacific Railroad and BNSF Railway Co., whose western territories include Nebraska and Iowa, intersect in New Orleans with the nation's eastern railroads.

The Omaha-based U.P. reopened a 40-mile section of its line south of Baton Rouge, La., on Tuesday. The remaining 74 miles to New Orleans reopened Wednesday after a high-voltage power line that had sagged over the track was removed, said spokesman Mark Davis.

An engineer inspected the Huey P. Long Bridge, the world's longest rail bridge, and pronounced it structurally sound, Davis said Thursday. The U.P. uses the five-mile-long bridge to cross the Mississippi River at New Orleans.

"What that means is once the water recedes and the eastern railroads get their areas open on the east side, that whole area will be open again," Davis said.

BNSF expected to reopen its New Orleans-to-Houston line late Thursday, once repairs were completed to a bridge over Bayou Boeuf. The bridge was hit by a barge that came loose from its moorings during the storm.

Otherwise, the storm mostly left debris on the tracks and downed trees, U.P. and BNSF spokesmen said. Crews also were working to restore signals and crossing gates.

The railroads detoured traffic through St. Louis, Chicago and Memphis, Tenn., and embargoed traffic to the New Orleans area to cut down on rail congestion.

U.P. was checking with customers to determine which plants were ready to begin operations again, he said.

Throughout the week, U.P. has tried to account for all of its 250 employees who live in Jefferson Parish, La., Davis said. Many had to evacuate.

"We're trying to find out how those employees are," Davis said. "Because communications are so poor right now, it's difficult for employees to make contact to let the railroad know where they are."

BNSF, which operates just four daily trains in the area, has fewer employees there, said spokesman Steve Forsberg. Both railroads, though, planned to relieve employees who live in the affected area to allow them to take care of their families and homes.

"We've learned over the years following natural disasters that it's very difficult for employees to have to worry about personal matters and also work," U.P.'s Davis said. "We've tried to help in their time of need."

What kind of help the company might offer still was under discussion, Davis said. Previously, the company has provided low-interest loans and temporary housing.

Agent: No word from Fats Domino

NEW YORK (AP) — Fats Domino was missing Thursday, days after Hurricane Katrina devastated New Orleans, said his long-time agent, Al Embry.

Embry said that he hadn't been able to contact Domino since talking to him Sunday evening by phone.

The 77-year-old music legend, whose real name is Antoine Domino, told Embry that he planned to stay at his New Orleans house with his wife, Rosemary, and their daughter.

"I hope somebody turns him up, but as of right now, we haven't got anybody that knows where he's at," said Embry, who has worked with Domino for 28 years. "I would think he might be safe because somebody said he was on top of the balcony."

Checquoline Davis, Domino's niece, posted a message on Craigslist.com Thursday pleading for information. Davis wrote that Domino, his wife, their children and grandchildren "didn't get out" of the second floor.

Domino, who has rarely appeared in public in recent years, has a home in a low-lying area of the flooded city.

"People will be scarred for life by this event."

Alfred C. Naomi, a senior project manager for the Army Corps of Engineers

City's hurricane threat was recognized in 2001



Hurricane Katrina caused the two levee breaches shown Tuesday. Failure of the levee system resulting from the storm left much of New Orleans under water.

Focus on terrorism kept levees unimproved

THE LOS ANGELES TIMES

WASHINGTON — 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 priorities list as the Bush administration focused on the threat of terrorism.

Previously a Cabinet-level agency reporting directly to the president, FEMA was folded

slashed. In particular, a major program to strengthen and increase the New Orleans levee system — the failure of which left most of the city under water — all but ground to a halt in 2004 because of budget constraints.

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

It also said there was 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.

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

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, 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 local officials said the emphasis on terrorism had bitten into the time and resources they could devote to preparing for threats they considered more likely to occur.

This report includes material from the New York Times.

As chaos reigns, doctors plead: 'Please help us'

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Doctors at two desperately crippled hospitals in New Orleans called the Associated Press Thursday morning pleading for rescue, saying they were nearly out of food and power and had been forced to move patients to higher floors to escape looters.

"We have been trying to call the Mayor's Office, we have been trying to call the Governor's Office . . . we have tried to use any inside pressure we can. We are turning to you. Please help us," said Dr. Norman McSwain, chief of trauma surgery at Charity Hospital, the largest of two public hospitals.

Charity is across the street from Tulane University Medical Center, a private facility that has almost completed evacuating more than 1,000 patients and family members, he said.

No such public resources are available for Charity, which has about 250 patients, or University Hospital, several blocks away, which has about 110 patients.

"We need coordinated help from the government," McSwain said.

He described horrific conditions.

"There is no food in Charity Hospital. They're eating fruit bowl punch, and that's all they've got to eat. There's minimal water," McSwain said.

"Most of their power is out.

Much of the hospital is dark. The ICU (intensive care unit) is on the 12th floor, so the physicians and nurses are having to walk up floors to see the patients."

Dr. Lee Hamm, chairman of medicine at Tulane University, said he took a canoe from there to the two public hospitals, where he also works, to check conditions.

"The physicians and nurses are doing an incredible job, but there are patients laying on stretchers on the floor, the halls were dark, the stairwells are dark. Of course, there's no elevators. There's no communication with the outside world," he said.

"We're afraid that somehow these two hospitals have been left off . . . that somehow somebody has either forgotten it or ignored it or something, because there is no evidence anything is being done."

Richard Zuschlag, president of Acadian Ambulance Service Inc., described the chaos at a suburban hospital.

"We tried to airlift supplies into Kenner Memorial Hospital late last evening and were confronted by an unruly crowd with guns, and the pilots refused to land," he said.

"My medics were crying, screaming for help. When we tried to land at Kenner, my pilots got scared because 100 people were on the helipad and some of them had guns. He was frightened and would not land."



An airboat pulls up to Memorial Medical Center in New Orleans to help evacuate patients and staff.

Travel aid available for cancer patients

BY NICHOLE AKSAMIT

WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Those fortunate enough to have good health can conserve gas by riding a bike, walking or driving less.

But for patients who must travel long distances to see specialists and those who require frequent lifesaving treatments, high gas prices are impossible to avoid and difficult to bear. Patients in rural areas and those getting dialysis or cancer treatments are among the hardest hit.

"One cancer patient requiring radiation therapy could need anywhere from 20 to 30 trips to treatment in six weeks," said Stacie Sarasio, spokeswoman for the American Cancer Society in Nebraska. "A patient receiving chemotherapy might report for treatment weekly for up to a year."

That's one reason the society provides \$50 gasoline gift cards once a year to patients who live 50 miles or more away from a cancer treatment center and are currently in treatment.

But with gas rising to more than \$3 a gallon in some places, \$50 doesn't get patients very far.

Phyllis Jones, a 34-year-old northwest Missouri woman diagnosed with breast cancer in May, drives 170 miles every three weeks to get to and from chemotherapy treatments in Lincoln.

This fall, she'll travel 64 miles every day to get back and forth from radiation treatments in Shenandoah, Iowa.

A single mother of 3- and 8-year-old boys, Jones said she's already skimping.

"Me and the kids won't go to movies, and I'll put off buying some school clothes. It's still warm out, so they can wear summer clothes," she said. "I've got to put a few things aside just so I can afford gas to go to my chemo treatments. That's important. I have to go."

Jones said it cost her \$36 to fill her Chevy Blazer Wednesday morning, when gas near her home in Rock Port, Mo., was still \$2.62 a gallon. She's applied for a gas gift card from the cancer society, which could cover gas costs for two to three trips, depending on the going rate.

Cathy Jesus, care coordination director at Creighton University Medical Center, said she and other hospital social workers also look to churches, friends and family members to help patients get to and from treatment — especially when gas costs are high.

Sometimes hospital foundations step in. The Methodist Hospital Foundation, for example, provides financial assistance to patients in "genuine need." The assistance can include help with gas costs.

The Veterans Administration health system runs daily shuttles for VA facilities in Omaha, Lincoln and Grand Island and coordinates volunteer drivers to bring veterans from outlying areas to and from treatment.

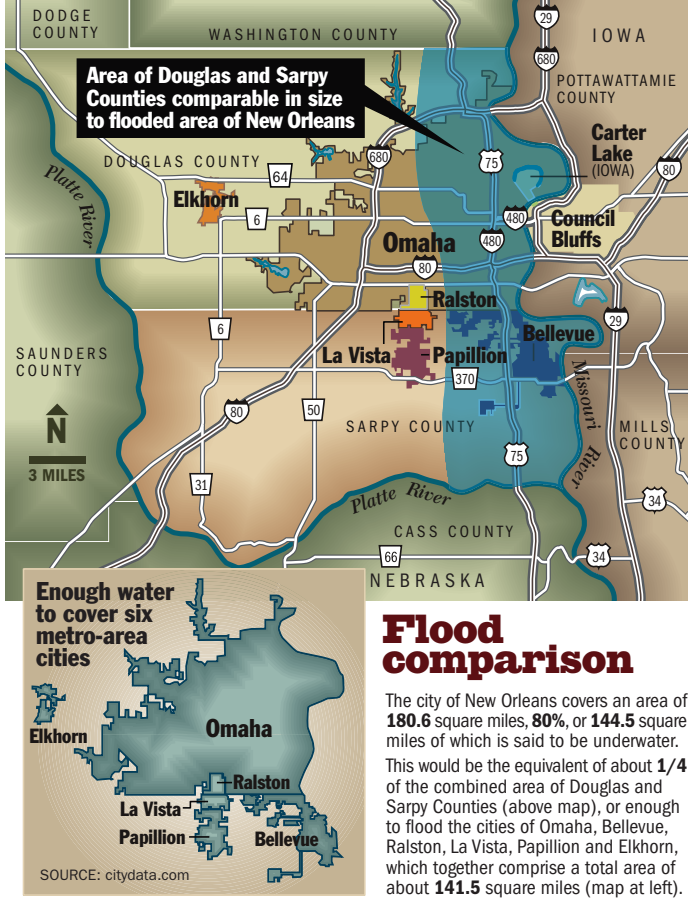
A spokeswoman said it was too early to say whether those programs will be affected by increasing gas prices.

Tracy Wiseman, regional director of health initiatives for the Nebraska cancer society, said patient demand for the gas-cost help remains strong. The society has given out 408 gas cards in the last 11 months.

"We know the \$50 does not go far enough even when gas prices are lower," she said. "So higher gas prices just mean the burden is greater."

For those who live closer to treatment centers in Omaha, Lincoln and Kearney, the society's Road to Recovery program has 32 volunteers who provide their time, cars and gas to drive cancer patients to and from appointments.

For more information about cancer-related travel assistance or to volunteer to be a driver, call the American Cancer Society at (402) 393-5800.



DAVE CROY, DEAN WEINLAUB/THE WORLD-HERALD

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 war on terrorism.

Similarly, over the last three years, as the White House gave top priority to spending on defense and national security, the Army Corps of Engineers saw its funding requests for flood control projects along the Louisiana coast

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
At left, New Orleans residents wait to be evacuated from floodwaters on Thursday. Below, a flood victim in need of medical help is carted away from New Orleans' Morial Convention Center.



AWASH IN MISERY



Crowds of refugees looking for a way out mob buses along Interstate 10 in Metairie, La., on the eastern edge of New Orleans. More violence and looting in the wake of Hurricane Katrina were reported Thursday.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Above, people look for their belongings in the debris of Biloxi, Miss. At right, residents are pulled from the New Orleans floodwaters to the safety of a rescue helicopter.



Bush again taps his predecessors for relief drive

■ The Senate approves \$10.5 billion in aid as a New Orleans official calls the response so far a "national disgrace."

THE DALLAS MORNING NEWS
WASHINGTON — President Bush sought high-powered counsel Thursday to deal with the storm-ravaged economy and prepared to tour Hurricane Katrina's devastated path with the new fundraising support of two former presidents.

For Bush, Katrina continued to spawn a crisis at every turn, confounding relief efforts and driving up the price of gasoline. Bush conferred with Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan at a White House lunch that aides made clear dealt solely with the aftershocks of the hurricane.

Then, appearing in the Oval Office with former Presidents Bush and Clinton, he launched a national fundraising relief drive.

Despite fresh pledges of help from the president and some officials, there were stirrings of discontent from other officials over the administration's response to the storm.

"This is a national emergency. This is a national disgrace," said Terry Ebbert, the head of emergency operations for New Orleans. "FEMA has been here three days, yet there is no command and control," he said, referring to the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"We can send massive amounts of aid to tsunami victims, but we can't bail out the city of New Orleans."

Bush, who intends to visit the area today, expressed sympathy for the victims. "I know this is an agonizing time. . . . I ask their continued patience as recovery operations unfold," he said.

White House Press Secretary Scott McClellan dismissed suggestions that flood-control projects in the New Orleans area have been underfunded in recent

years because of the pressing costs of the war in Iraq. "It's been more of a design issue with the levees," McClellan said.

The Senate, meanwhile, approved \$10.5 billion in Katrina disaster aid Thursday night after returning early from a recess. The House is scheduled to take up the measure today.

Of that money, \$10 billion would go to emergency operations and \$500 million would go to the Pentagon for recovery expenditures.

One question on the table is whether it is wise for the federal government to fund the reconstruction of New Orleans, a city built mostly below sea level, on a spot that has proved so vulnerable.

Remarks to that effect by House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., brought a swift response from a Louisiana lawmaker, Rep. Charlie Melancon, a Democrat.

"The world loves New Orleans, and I assure you, that great city and the communities in southeast Louisiana will be rebuilt," Melancon said in a statement.

Bush had little to say about his meetings with Greenspan and White House economists.

But he said it was "our judgment" that the disruption in the gasoline supply was expected to be only temporary.

"Steps we're taking will help address the problem of availability, but it's not going to solve it," Bush said. "Americans should be prudent in their use of energy during the course of the next few weeks. Don't buy gas if you don't need it."

This report includes material from the Associated Press, the Los Angeles Times and Bloomberg News.

Republican candidate for governor urges fuel tax suspension

BY MARTHA STODDARD
WORLD-HERALD BUREAU

LINCOLN — Dave Nabity, Republican candidate for governor, added a temporary suspension of fuel taxes to the list of subjects he thinks should be tackled in a special session of the Nebraska Legislature.

Speaking Thursday, he called on Gov. Dave Heineman and lawmakers to act quickly in light of rapidly rising gasoline prices.

"First aid teaches the importance of treating for shock in medical emergencies," he said. "Now is the time to treat our state economy for economic shock in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina."

But Heineman, a Republican who also is seeking election next year, dismissed Nabity's call, saying that reducing the tax would jeopardize highway construction projects.

All fuel tax revenues are earmarked for state and local roads projects, which Heineman said makes Nebraska the envy of other states that pay for roadwork with other sources of revenue.

Nabity already has said the governor should call lawmakers into special session to pass a tax incentive for a proposed Cabela's store in Sarpy County and to address questions about school organization in Omaha.

He said Thursday that the fuel tax should be added to the list of special session topics.

Nabity said he wanted the tax suspended for at least a month to protect the state economy and provide relief to consumers.

A month's worth of fuel tax revenue equals about \$25 million,

of which \$18.3 million goes to the State Roads Department and \$6.7 million goes to county and municipal governments, according to roads officials.

Nabity said the state could replace that money with higher income and sales tax revenue that has been coming in this year. He said there is no better use for those funds than to provide fuel tax relief.

Heineman said the state will need to keep close watch on economic trends during the next few months. He noted that fuel prices add to the costs of government, especially for agencies such as the Nebraska State Patrol.

The current fuel tax is 25.3 cents a gallon, of which 12.5 cents is fixed. The rest is adjusted on Jan. 1 and July 1 each year based on factors set by law. The law would have to be changed to allow for a suspension of the tax.

Steve Maraman, finance administrator for the Roads Department, estimated that the average driver could save \$12.50 from a one-month suspension of fuel taxes. The amount saved would depend in part on whether retailers pass on the tax reduction at the pump.

With gas prices hitting \$3 and higher, Heineman on Wednesday called on Nebraskans to stay calm and conserve fuel as much as possible.

"Every indication is that this is a temporary situation, and my hope is that Nebraskans will use common sense to help ease the strain on fuel supplies," Heineman said.

World-Herald staff writer Michael O'Connor contributed to this report.

Gas prices could rise as supply tightens

Cars line up in Southern states

Pipeline partially back

By MICHAEL O'CONNOR
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Drivers stunned by \$3 pump prices could face a whole new wallet-buster.

Prices above \$4 have already hit parts of the country, and Nebraska and Iowa are not immune to the possibility.

That's especially true because the Midwest relies so heavily on the Gulf Coast for its gasoline supplies.

While neither Iowa nor Nebraska has seen the long lines affecting Georgia and other Southern states, gas shortages are already a reality here.

Forty stations in Nebraska, including some in Lincoln and Omaha, temporarily ran out of at least one grade of fuel this week, said Tim Keigher, executive director of the Nebraska Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association.

Some fuel storage tanks in the state also ran out of fuel for short periods of time, he said. That forced trucks, which carry the fuel to gas stations, to either wait for the tanks to be refilled or drive to another storage tank.

Keigher said panic buying is part of the problem as worried motorists top off their tanks, adding to the strain on Nebraska's fuel supplies.

AAA Nebraska says that while temporary shortages will persist at some stations, most drivers will be able to get the fuel they need.

Rose White, a spokeswoman for AAA Nebraska, said, at this point, it's unlikely prices will reach \$4 in Nebraska and Iowa.

She pointed to some positive signs Friday that could help stabilize or possibly reduce pump prices, including a pipeline that was partially back in operation. That pipeline brings crude oil to Midwestern refineries.

It has been a wild week at gas stations in Nebraska and Iowa. For example, in Omaha, prices have jumped by as much as 60 cents per gallon since Tuesday.

Nebraska's average price for regular unleaded gasoline reached \$2.97 Friday, up \$1.11 from a year ago. In Iowa, the average price was \$2.89.

See Gas: Page 2

Offutt mission

A crew from Offutt Air Force Base helps complete an aerial survey of New Orleans and other Gulf Coast areas.

Page 6

Harvest hit

High fuel prices aren't farmers' only problem — they need barges to move their crop down the Mississippi River.

Page 7

Foreign help

More than 50 countries have pledged assistance — financial and otherwise — to the United States.

Page 9

Music died?

The music community ponders the future of the places and people who make up New Orleans' creative soul.

Living

Guard arrives in force



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Military personnel assist a woman on a downtown New Orleans sidewalk. The huge military contingent that arrived Friday brought food and water for the hurricane victims.

Homeowners, OHA open hearts, homes to evacuees

By JUDITH NYGREN
AND BILL HORD
WORLD-HERALD
STAFF WRITERS

Whether they are individual homeowners or agency heads, Midlanders are offering to open their doors to the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

The Omaha Housing Authority decided Friday to open more than 100 of its housing units to evacuees who meet the government's public housing requirements. OHA is working with Nebraska's congressional delegation and federal authorities to coordinate the effort.

If all goes as planned, said OHA Executive Director Brad Ashford, a rented bus could pick up evacuees at an undetermined location sometime next week.

The People's City Mission

in Lincoln has offered to take about 50 families — up to 150 people — following a screening process that is taking place at similar homeless shelters in the South.

"We can't sit back and do nothing," said Tom Barber, executive director of the mission that currently houses 250 homeless families. "We have everything they need temporarily."

Gov. Dave Heineman said federal emergency officials have asked Nebraska about places to potentially house hurricane evacuees.

Lt. Gov. Rick Sheehy, who leads homeland security efforts for the state, said officials have some possibilities but they need to figure out transportation and other issues. He said private airlines

See Evacuees: Page 2



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A military convoy drives through the tainted floodwaters in downtown New Orleans on Friday.

Food, water brought in as evacuees flown out

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW ORLEANS — Military vehicles bearing food and supplies slogged into the drenched heart of this humbled and stricken city Friday, while commercial airplanes and cargo planes arrived to lift beleaguered hurricane survivors from the depths of a ghastly horror.

Four days after Hurricane Katrina, the chaotic scene at Louis Armstrong New Orleans Airport evoked the mix of hope and despair that grips this city. Disorder prevailed as thousands of survivors with glazed looks and nothing more than garbage bags of possessions waited in interminable lines for a chance to get out.

In an unprecedented move, federal officials mobilized

more than a dozen airlines to deliver food to New Orleans and airlift up to 25,000 evacuees from the city to Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio.

Medical workers struggled to cope with thousands of sick and frail patients who found their way to the airport's terminals. Some eventually were sent to distant hospitals, but hundreds remained on the airport floor, awaiting care and transfer.

Many died, and the airport's Concourse D — until Monday the local home of Delta Air Lines and Continental Airlines — was converted into a makeshift morgue.

Patrolmen hollered the number of available seats on each flight out, and passengers

See Katrina: Page 2

Superlatives fly as fast as footballs at two new stadiums

■ A crowd of 5,500 jams into Omaha Central's new Seemann Stadium.

By JASON KUIPER
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

For the first half, it looked like Omaha North would spoil Omaha Central's inaugural game at the new Seemann Stadium.

But the Eagle faithful weren't too worried.

"We'll catch them," said Central sophomore Jon Butler, after Ronnell Grixby jumped over the pile at the line of scrimmage and landed in the end zone for the Eagles' first touchdown at their new home. "Don't worry, I know

we're going to win."

Freshmen Brionne Johnson and Tera Hatcher were showing school spirit by waving foam fingers and cheering even before kickoff. The game wouldn't be close, Johnson said, and the new stadium was great.

"But it's still hard to find a seat," Hatcher said.

Hunched over a container of nachos, David Rainey liked what he saw on the field. He will get his chance out there soon enough. Rainey is a cornerback and

See Central: Page 2



REBECCA S. GRATZ/THE WORLD-HERALD

An overflow crowd was on hand Friday, with some watching from the fence, as Papillion-La Vista took on Papillion-La Vista South.

■ The Papillion-La Vista district pulls out all the stops in celebrating its new stadium.

By KAREN SLOAN
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

The artificial grass was a lush shade of green, the undersides of the shiny aluminum seating were unblemished by gooey wads of chewing gum and the restrooms seemed downright palatial to many of the football fans who turned out for the inaugural game at the Papillion-La Vista Stadium on Friday night.

"This is like moving to the Taj Mahal from a portable bathroom," marveled Dale Sutton,

who graduated from Papillion-La Vista High in 1969 and still supports the Monarchs.

The game wasn't too shabby, either, with the Monarchs pulling out a 23-20 overtime victory over Papillion-La Vista South.

Fans also got an eyeful and an earful at the pre-game dedication ceremony, which included marching bands, fireworks and two parachutists who landed in the midfield. The Monarchs and Titans will share the new stadium.

Even with seating for 4,500, the

See Papio-La Vista: Page 2

Omaha weather



Partly sunny.
High 88; low 66



A number of new Nebraska laws go on the books Sunday, including an anti-meth measure.
Midlands



Coming Sunday

The World-Herald's Lee Barfknecht will have coverage of the first game of the Frank Solich era at Ohio.

One Pacific Place is in the midst of its first major renovation since opening 17 years ago.
Business



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Digest

MAIN NEWS

Anti-terror message on Muslim agenda

An American Muslim group said Friday that participants at its annual meeting in Rosemont, Ill., will be asked to endorse a statement that calls terrorism the epitome of injustice because it targets innocent people. The statement, released by the Islamic Society of North America, also will be sent to mosques nationwide. The group had invited President Bush. Undersecretary of State for Public Diplomacy Karen Hughes is attending in his place. **Page 4**

Israel freezes settlement plan

Israel has frozen plans to expand its largest and most controversial West Bank settlement, and will revive the project only with U.S. consent, Vice Premier Ehud Olmert said in remarks published Friday. Expansion of the settlement, Maaleh Adumim, would cut off east Jerusalem from the West Bank. The Palestinians want the city's eastern sector, which Israel captured in the 1967 war, as their capital. The Israelis claim the whole city as their capital. **Page 10**

MIDLANDS

Pseudoephedrine? It's behind counter

Many cold, allergy and sinus medications containing pseudoephedrine will be gone from open store shelves in Nebraska Sunday as a new law aimed at battling methamphetamine takes effect. The law requires that pseudoephedrine, a key meth-making ingredient, be sold from behind the counter or kept in a locked cabinet. The law requires purchasers to be 18 or older and show government-issued photo identification to buy the medications. The law is one of several bills passed by the Legislature that take effect Sunday. **Page 1**

Many seeking Bluffs council seats

Voters will have plenty of candidates to choose from next month for the Council Bluffs City Council primary election. Only one of them is an incumbent. Eight people have filed for two of the at-large council seats that have full four-year terms. In addition, four people filed to run for one seat that will have a two-year term. The primary election will be held Oct. 11 for the officially nonpartisan five-member council. The top four finishers for the full-term seats will advance to the Nov. 8 general election, while the top two vote-getters in the race for the partial term will advance. **Page 3**

SPORTS

Newcomers a sign of new Husker era

There will be little waiting for a rash of newcomers when Nebraska opens the football season against Maine at 6:10 tonight at Memorial Stadium in Lincoln. Six true freshmen are scheduled to play for the Huskers, and at least five others have had better keep their helmets handy. In addition, three junior-college transfers are scheduled to start, and another half-dozen could reach the field. No season-opening game in the Bob Devaney-Tom Osborne-Frank Solich era ever included such an infusion of newcomers bracing to play right away. **Page 1**

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BUSINESS

One Pacific Place upgrade proceeding

One Pacific Place at 103rd and Pacific Streets is in the midst of its first major renovation since opening 17 years ago. The \$2 million project will update the shopping center's common areas to provide more features popular in today's lifestyle centers. Features will include a 20,000-square-foot open air plaza with an outdoor fireplace; new landscaping and sidewalks; new parking and lighting; stained and natural concrete; and brick and cobblestone paths. The work is scheduled for completion in early November. **Page 1**

Drug-fraud suspect awaits day in court

A Kearney, Neb., man indicted in an alleged conspiracy to distribute a counterfeit version of Lipitor, a drug for reducing high cholesterol, probably will make his first court appearance on the criminal charge late this month, his attorney said. "We anticipate entering not-guilty pleas," said J.R. Hobbs, a Kansas City, Mo., lawyer who represents Richard Rounsborg and Med-Pro Inc. of Lexington, Neb. Rounsborg and Med-Pro both were indicted on 19 counts. The company at the center of the conspiracy alleged in the indictments, Albers Medical Distributors, and owner Douglas Albers, both of Kansas City, were indicted on 53 counts. The federal charges were announced Wednesday by the U.S. Attorney's Office in Kansas City. **Page 1**

LIVING

Sundance winner is hard-hitting

Macho, competitive athletes in wheelchairs are the stuff "Murderball" is made of, according to reviewer Bob Fischbach. The best-documentary winner from the 2005 Sundance Film Festival follows the guys who compete in paraplegic rugby, shooting for the gold at the 2004 Paraplegic Olympics in Athens. Fischbach says the film serves up a giant dose of heart in the multifaceted stories of these tough guys. To begin with, there is the story in their own words of how they ended up in their chairs: car accidents, polio, falling from a deck during a fistfight, contracting a form of spinal meningitis. The movie shows how they get through everyday life. Then there's the journey from rehab to home, to finding the sport and training for the team. Just 12 players are chosen from among 500 at tryouts. A dominant dramatic thread is the rivalry between the Canadian and USA teams. Parents, girlfriends, wives, kids and classmates fill in the stories of the movie's featured players, and Fischbach says they are emotionally hard-hitting. **Page 8**

LOTTERIES

POWERBALL
■ **Wednesday, Aug. 31: 13-17-19-41-50. Powerball: 13. Power Play: 2. No jackpot winner. Jackpot for Saturday, Sept. 3: \$53 million.**
NEBRASKA
■ **Pick 5 — Friday, Sept. 2: 5-11-18-25-30. One winning jackpot ticket worth \$222,000. Jackpot for Saturday, Sept. 3: \$50,000.**
■ **2by2 — Friday, Sept. 2: red 16-17; white 17-18.**
■ **Pick 3 — Friday, Sept. 2: 0-7-1.**
IOWA
■ **Cash Game — Friday, Sept. 2: 6-7-12-19-23.**
■ **Hot Lotto — Wednesday, Aug. 31: 18-25-28-29-34. Hot Ball: 7.**
■ **Pick 3 — Friday, Sept. 2: midday 7-2-8; evening 2-9-4.**
■ **Pick 4 — Friday, Sept. 2: midday 9-3-1-2; evening 9-7-2-5.**
Lottery results from other states are at **Omaha.com**.

Evacuees: OHA offering some 100 housing units

Continued from Page 1
have offered to fly people to the state.

But it's not just government agencies stepping up to fill the housing breach left by Katrina.

Susan Eustice, a spokeswoman for the Salvation Army, said she is receiving calls from individuals who want to open their homes to the Gulf Coast evacuees. It's an unprecedented gesture of giving, she said, and has taken agencies by surprise.

Eustice had been referring callers to a national hot line for the Salvation Army. Then she learned that the hot line, overwhelmed with similar calls from across the country, was directing people back to their local Salvation Army agencies.

The Red Cross has run into a

How to help

Homeowners willing to take in evacuees can call Catholic Charities in Omaha at 554-0520. [hen: cq:] Several Web sites also are seeking willing homeowners, including: www.katrinahousing.org; www.homeflood.org; www.shareyourhome.org.

similar situation. So during a meeting scheduled for next week, Eustice said, Omaha representatives for the Red Cross and Salvation Army will talk about what, if anything, they can do to match area homeowners with hurricane evacuees.

Catholic Charities of Omaha also issued a notice Friday that it

is accepting names of people interested in providing housing for evacuees for up to three months.

An organized matching system can't come soon enough for Connie Hammitt, an Omahan who knows exactly whom she wants to take into her home. When she opened her newspaper Thursday, she was touched by a photo of a crying mother holding her 18-month-old daughter.

Hammitt knew then, she said, that she wanted to take in a family displaced by Katrina: "I don't have a whole lot of extra money, but I can put food on the table."

Hammitt spent most of Friday morning on the telephone and the Internet, looking for organizations working with homeowners and evacuees.

She found several Web sites

that seemed promising. But most sought only homeowners who lived within 300 miles of hurricane-hit areas.

Hammitt filled out forms provided on the Web sites, then continued making calls, even dialing a friend in Houston in the hope that a radio station could help get word out about her housing offer.

Hammitt, who has opened her home to many people over the years, still hadn't found a way to contact evacuees late Friday afternoon, but vowed she wouldn't give up.

"I can't believe how hard it is to find information to help somebody," she said. "We can send money, but what they need is a bed, a place to put their kids."

World-Herald staff writer Martha Stoddard contributed to this report.

Gas: Cost in Midlands could rise as supply tightens

Continued from Page 1
erage price was \$2.85 per gallon, up \$1.07 from a year ago.

Some gas station owners in Omaha expect that fuel supplies will continue to tighten at least during the next week.

Stations in other parts of the country have already experienced the problem.

Motorists waited in lines more than a mile long and drained supplies at some service stations in Georgia, North Carolina and Mississippi, forcing them to close. Gas prices reached as high as \$6 per gallon at some Georgia stations.

Rick Wagner, owner of a convenience store near 120th Street and West Center Road, said he hasn't run out of gas yet.

But he predicted he likely will run short of at least one grade of fuel in the next week or two.

He said he expects that his supplier will reduce the amount of fuel available for purchase.

"It's a lot of stress," he said.

The United States gets 60 percent of its crude oil from other countries and 40 percent from domestic sources.

But, in the Midwest, two-thirds of the region's supply

Gas prices		
Regular unleaded price per gallon at select stations		
Glenwood, Ia.	Eddy's, Locust Street and Highway 34	\$3.10
Kearney, Neb.	Pump 'n Pantry, Second Ave.	\$3.15
Lincoln	Kabredlo's, North 16th and P Streets	\$3.29
Omaha	Sinclair, 46th and Dodge Streets	\$3.40
Omaha	BP, 72nd Street at I-80	\$3.30
Diesel Average price per gallon		
Nebraska	\$2.78	
Iowa	\$2.70	
Crude oil Price per barrel		
Closing price		\$67.57
*All prices as of Friday, Sept. 2		

SOURCE: AAA, NYME, The World-Herald survey

THE WORLD-HERALD

flows from the Gulf Coast area. The Gulf Coast's production of crude has been reduced by 91 percent because of hurricane damage.

With that stream sharply reduced, the Midwest is feeling the pinch, said Sara Banaszak, an economist with the American Petroleum Institute in Washington, D.C.

Prices are mainly the result of simple supply and demand. When the supplies are low, as they are now, and demand is high, prices will go up.

Katrina: Most at Superdome have been evacuated

Continued from Page 1
gers boarded planes not knowing where they would land, and not caring. An increasing number of cities and states across the country were offering to take them in.

The fresh wave of relief efforts came on a day when President Bush toured the ravaged Gulf Coast region by helicopter and wandered through the residue of Biloxi, Miss., before ending up in New Orleans.

There, he told survivors: "I'm going to fly out of here in a minute, but I want you to know that I'm not going to forget what I've seen."

Scores of amphibious vehicles and Humvees carrying thousands of freshly dispatched armed National Guardsmen pushed through New Orleans in a daylong parade, hoping to address the dire needs of the stranded and attempt to restore order to a city that had devolved into wantonness.

In one more sign of the boundless despair, police officials acknowledged that a number of New Orleans police officers had turned in their badges, refusing to risk their lives to try to right the city.

Officials of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, in the first attempt to gauge when New Orleans might be drained, said it would take up to six months to pump out the water and an additional three months to dry the city. State officials said that pumps would be turned on Monday.

In a city too bruised to know what to feel, many of the famished survivors applauded the arrival of the relief trucks, though others, enraged at how long their wait had been, showered them with profanities.

A critical juncture was

"I have one message for these hoodlums. These troops know how to shoot and kill, and they are more than willing to do so if necessary."

Kathleen Blanco,
Louisiana governor

reached when the overwhelmed Superdome, site of unimaginably squalid conditions, was mostly emptied by day's end. Thousands of other survivors, though, remained stranded in the putrid Ernest N. Morial Convention Center.

Other residents were said to remain perched on rooftops, even this long after the storm.

No one could convincingly say when the last of the living would be removed from the city, though state officials said they hoped to complete the process by Sunday.

More than 100,000 Americans huddled in nearly 300 shelters in nine states, according to the American Red Cross, not including the 11,000 at the Astrodome in Houston. Thousands of other people still couldn't reach shelters of any sort, and some were dying.

The supply convoy showed up just hours after New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin exploded in a radio interview on Thursday night, castigating the federal government, particularly FEMA, for what he felt was a lame and inadequate response to his damaged city's needs.

"Get off your asses and let's do something," the mayor said on WWL-AM in a rambling interview in which he cursed, yelled and ultimately burst into tears.

FEMA's director, Michael Brown, said his agency didn't learn about the situation at the convention center until Thursday, and scrambled to provide food, water and medical care and to remove the corpses.

By Friday, about 19,500 National Guard troops had arrived in Louisiana and Mississippi, and 6,500 in New Orleans itself; mostly military police, though Nagin maintained that was still not enough.

Senior Pentagon and military officials said that the National Guard commitment to the hurricane zone will grow to 30,000 in coming days, mostly in Louisiana and Mississippi, and the rest in Alabama and Florida.

The guardsmen were posted at key intersections, and Army vehicles patrolled the streets, seeking to quell the looting and unrestrained crime that has shocked the nation.

Some 300 members of the Arkansas National Guard, just back from Iraq, were among those deployed from foreign assignments specifically to bring order.

"I have one message for these hoodlums," said Louisiana Gov. Kathleen Blanco. "These troops know how to shoot and kill, and they are more than willing to do so if necessary."

Busloads continued to wheel out of the city with evacuees from the squalid Superdome and the putrid convention center — the two principal shelters for those left behind — moving them to new makeshift lives in Houston's Astrodome and other far-flung evacuation quarters, such as Reunion Arena in Dallas and a warehouse at KellyUSA, a city-owned complex in San Antonio.

One evacuation bus carrying 50 people to Texas overturned on Interstate 49, near Opelousas,

La., police said, killing one person and injuring 17 others.

The inflow to the Astrodome was halted after about 11,000 people had been accepted, fewer than half of the number planned, because officials felt it had become crowded enough.

The Army Corps of Engineers kept at the repair work on the broken levees that had allowed Lake Pontchartrain to thunder into the bowl-like city after it seemed that damage from the hurricane had ceased.

And after three days of delays, the Corps and a swelling army of private contractors slowly began to set the stage for the draining of hundreds of billions of gallons of floodwaters from the virtually submerged city.

The plan was to close the gaping holes that the storm tides had opened and break open new holes in places where the levees were holding water inside the city rather than letting it out.

In other developments Friday: ■ Congress approved \$10.5 billion in emergency hurricane relief. The development came as FEMA reported that it was spending more than \$500 million a day on the response.

■ The Paris-based International Energy Agency said it will release the equivalent of 60 million barrels of crude oil from the international reserve to ease the U.S. energy crunch. The release, to come in the form of crude oil and gasoline, is in addition to 30 million barrels of crude oil to be released from U.S. reserves.

■ Southern Co.'s Mississippi Power utility said it restored service to about 28,000 of its 195,000 customers, all of whom lost power when Hurricane Katrina struck the U.S. Gulf Coast.

This report includes material from Knight Ridder Newspapers.

Central: Stadium is packed, and the home team won, too

Continued from Page 1
kicker on the freshman team. "It's awesome," he said, proudly wearing his Central jersey. "I think it's the best stadium in Omaha."

For Central fans, most of the noise was coming from the wrong side of the stadium early on. But when the Eagles started finding the end zone, the "Eagles' Nest" came alive. The student section found plenty to cheer for as Central cruised to a 35-13 win.

The \$12.1 million stadium

holds 5,500 and was full Friday night. People had to be turned away.

"This is really a dream come true for Central," said Paul Koenig, who was working at one of the baked goods stands for Central's band. His daughters, Erika and Aimee, are band members. "We went from nothing to this."

When time expired, the band marched off the field, through the parking lot and presumably, next door to the school.

Papio-La Vista: Facility 'like moving to the Taj Mahal'

Continued from Page 1
bleachers couldn't accommodate all the blue or maroon-clad fans, who overflowed onto grassy slopes near the end zone.

For Doug Kindig, who helped lead fundraising efforts for the project three years ago, seeing the stadium finally in use was rewarding. The facility was built with \$1.3 million in donations and \$1.5 million in tax money.

"I think this is fantastic for the two communities in the school district. It's a state-of-the-art, top-notch facility," Kindig said.

Though the decision to build the new stadium next to Papillion-La Vista South instead of on a neutral site initially ruffled some feathers in the community, most agreed that it is a vast improvement over "the Pit," as Monarch Field is affectionately known.

Up in the stands, Linzie Williams, father of Titan running back Wesley Williams, couldn't resist snapping a few photos of his son on the field as the sun set behind the stadium.

"This is really great," he said. "The kids deserve this."



2ND LT. MATT MILLER/55TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

A New Orleans freeway disappears into the waters of a flooded neighborhood near the Superdome in a photo taken from a 55th Wing surveillance aircraft on Friday. The 55th is headquartered at Offutt Air Force Base.

Offutt air crew maps deadly path

By HENRY CORDES

WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

OVER NEW ORLEANS — In several mile-high passes Friday, a surveillance plane from Offutt Air Force Base captured the epic scale of the Hurricane Katrina disaster.

Trucks and cars stranded along shattered highways.

Fires burning uncontrollably along the Mississippi River.

Rooftops protruding from the water in inundated neighborhoods.

Boats trailing wakes along streets turned into canals.

"It's hard to imagine the devastation," said Airman Dave Dietze of Gretna, an airborne systems analyst for Offutt's 55th Wing. "But I know what we're doing is going to help. That's the good thing."

The Offutt crew helped complete an aerial survey of New Orleans and other Gulf Coast areas that took the brunt of Katrina.

The images captured by OC-135 aircraft cameras will be used to map the destruction, aiding the flagging federal relief ef-



2ND LT. MATT MILLER/55TH WING PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Smoke pours into the sky from fires in a New Orleans neighborhood along the Mississippi River in a photo taken Friday from a 55th Wing aircraft.

fort.

Another Offutt crew was frustrated in its mapping effort Thursday by thick clouds over New Orleans.

But the Offutt crew Friday faced just a light haze that would be easily penetrated by their plane's high-resolution cameras. Before their mission was com-

pleted Friday, they shot more than 6,000 frames that will be aggregated to produce the map.

The crew also surveyed damage to several airfields in Louisiana and Mississippi north of the coast. Federal officials hope to use them as bases of operation to airlift relief to Katrina's many victims.

Many good sports give up hotel rooms for evacuees

TUSCALOOSA, Ala. (AP) — In football-crazy towns like this one, the confrontation has loomed all week: Would Katrina evacuees be sent packing again, this time by college football fans in town for opening weekend?

The answer has been a resounding no.

Football fans around the Southeast are giving up their pre-paid rooms and even tickets to storm victims — opting to stay home and watch the game on TV.

"We were very concerned," said Jerry Hymel, who took refuge with his wife in Tuscaloosa after leaving New Orleans a week ago. His hotel warned evacuees that they might have to make way for football fans who had made reservations months ago.

"Now, we can't say enough about the hospitality here."

In Mississippi, the Attorney General's Office told hotel managers that under emergency conditions, they could not force out hurricane evacuees.

In Tallahassee, Fla., where the biggest game of the weekend — Miami-Florida State — is scheduled for Monday, rooms opened up as fans canceled plans to attend the game, primarily because of the gas shortage.

In Tuscaloosa, where "Roll Tide" signs dot area businesses, the conflict surfaced early in the week. The Tuscaloosa News reported that New Orleans resident Camp Morrison was steaming as he moved out of a hotel Wednesday.

"I think it's abysmal that evacuees are flushed out because of a football game," he said.

At Alabama and Mississippi

"We were very concerned. Now, we can't say enough about the hospitality here."

Jerry Hymel of New Orleans, who gets to keep a hotel room in Tuscaloosa, Ala., where the Crimson Tide play today

State, the schools urged fans to give up their hotel rooms, and local leaders worked with hotels to make sure there would be enough space.

Many fans not only gave up rooms but offered to pay for the evacuees to use them, said Robert Ratliff, executive director of the local convention and visitors bureau.

"This is far more important than football. I think everybody here knows that," said Ratliff, adding that he donated his four tickets to today's game to evacuees.

Some 1,100 evacuees are in Tuscaloosa hotels, Ratliff said, and 500 more are being housed on campus, with others in shelters or taken in by local churches. More are expected.

Mississippi State offered free tickets to evacuees for today's home opener with Murray State.

"Everyone understands that these people have nothing and that they have nowhere else to go," said Arma delaCruz Salazar, vice president of tourism for the Greater Starkville Development Partnership, "so we want to help them and let this be their home for as long as it takes."

Congress OKs initial assistance

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress approved a \$10.5 billion down payment Friday to cover the immediate relief efforts for victims of Hurricane Katrina's sweep across the Gulf, amid complaints that the government's response has been inadequate.

The bill passed the House by voice vote after Senate approval late Thursday. It comes as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the government's front-line responder in natural disasters, is spending more than \$500 million a day on Katrina.

The new aid averts the possibility that money might run out before Congress reconvenes on Tuesday.

"I want to thank the Congress for acting as quickly as you did," President Bush said of the \$10.5 billion measure he signed into law Friday. "But I've got to warn everybody that's just the beginning."

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Omaha hospitals join relief task

■ NU and Creighton medical centers will take in critical-care patients from hurricane-stricken areas.

By NICHOLE AKSAMIT
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Cancer patients who need chemotherapy or radiation. Transplant recipients who lack access to anti-rejection drugs. Patients who require ventilators to sustain life.

At conservative estimates, there are 500 to 700 such patients in hurricane-stricken Louisiana. The actual tally may number in the thousands.

Some of the patients are headed to Nebraska so that Loui-

siana medical staff can focus on new emergencies. Omaha's two teaching hospitals are part of a national effort begun late Thursday to send such patients to specialized medical centers.

Dr. John Gollan, dean of the University of Nebraska Medical Center's College of Medicine, said Friday that the National Institutes of Health and the Association of American Medical Colleges are coordinating the effort to get critical-care patients out of Louisiana.

Nebraska's first such patient

already has arrived — a transplant recipient who weathered the hurricane with her mother at Tulane University Medical Center in New Orleans and was transferred to Texas before flying to Omaha Thursday night.

Nebraska Medical Center transplant surgeon Dr. Wendy Grant said Friday that the patient, a child whom her staff has known for four or more years, is doing well. Grant said a second patient from the hurricane area, a transplant recipient in need of anti-rejection drugs, was coming to Omaha for outpatient care — hopefully during the weekend.

Grant estimated that the hospital had as many as 50 transplant patients living in hurricane-stricken areas but

hasn't been able to contact them.

Gollan said the director of the National Institutes of Health spoke to him and others from the nation's 125 medical colleges. The director asked them to identify their ability to provide specialized care and suggested that patients might be matched to centers with room and appropriate specialists.

It's unclear exactly when UNMC would receive patients. Military aircraft were expected to transport patients as soon as Friday or today.

In addition, the medical college association is coordinating the transfer of New Orleans-area medical students to its member colleges. UNMC officials expect to receive eight to 10 pediatric residents soon and

have already accepted two medical students by transfer. Michael Kavan, associate dean for student affairs at Creighton University School of Medicine, said Creighton could accommodate up to 25 medical students.

Gollan said UNMC will await direction from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on how it can help with the public health issues — mental health, environmental health, toxicology — that are sure to follow the disaster.

He stressed that, although many medical professionals want to help, a coordinated effort is critical.

"If we have lots of do-gooders just getting on the bus," he said, "... it may well hinder the effort."

Congress OKs initial relief aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress approved a \$10.5 billion down payment Friday to cover the immediate rescue and relief efforts for victims of Hurricane Katrina's sweep across the Gulf, amid complaints that the government's response has been inadequate.

The bill passed the House by voice vote after Senate approval late Thursday. It comes as the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the government's front-line responder in natural disasters, is spending more than \$500 million a day on Katrina.

The new aid averts the possibility that money might run out before Congress reconvenes on Tuesday.

House Majority Leader Tom DeLay, R-Texas, said the bill was only the first step toward a "comprehensive, long-term response to the Katrina disaster."

In another effort to ease some of the economic pain from the storm, the Department of Labor announced Friday that it is providing an emergency grant of up to \$50 million to create 10,000 temporary cleanup and recovery jobs for displaced workers in Mississippi.

Meanwhile, black members of Congress expressed anger Friday at what they said was a slow federal response to Hurricane Katrina.

"It looks dysfunctional to me right now," said Rep. Diane Watson, D-Calif.

She and other members of the Congressional Black Caucus, along with members of the Black Leadership Forum, the National Urban League and the NAACP, held a press conference and charged that the response was slow because those most affected are poor.

Many also are black, but the lawmakers held off on charging racism.

"The issue is not about race right now," said Rep. Stephanie Tubbs Jones, D-Ohio. "There will be another time to have issues about color."

Watson and others also took issue with the word "refugee" being used to describe hurricane victims.

"'Refugee' calls up to mind people that come from different lands and have to be taken care of. These are American citizens," Watson said.

A FEW FIND RELIEF



Omaha Picotte Elementary students, teachers and families gathered truckloads of essentials that will be delivered to Gulfport and Hattiesburg, Miss. Picotte parent Jodi Durbin tapes up boxes at the school Friday. In back is parent Michelle Mittlieder.

RUDY SMITH/THE WORLD-HERALD



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jay Duffard, above, tries to sleep Friday at a high school in Bay St. Louis, Miss. He was injured riding out the storm at his home. Below right, 20 members of the Varnado family from New Orleans arrive Thursday in Chicago, where they will stay with relatives. Meanwhile, Pernel "Poney" Davis wonders when he will be able to leave the Red Cross shelter in Tyler, Texas, and return to Harvey, La.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Other nations offer U.S. aid

WASHINGTON (AP) — In an accelerating drive, more than three dozen countries have pledged assistance in connection with the Hurricane Katrina disaster.

The offers blur political lines. Cuba and Venezuela, for instance, have offered to help despite political differences with Washington. Oil giant Saudi Arabia and such tiny countries as Dominica are among the nations making pledges.

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," he said.

More than three dozen countries have pledged assistance for the hurricane disaster.

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.

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 in tents, blankets, power generators, portable water tanks and other equipment, the Japanese Embassy said.

The United States historically has aided victims of disasters, but it is not universally recognized as providing the level of aid expected of a rich nation.

In July, President Bush resisted British Prime Minister Tony Blair's ambitious goals for assisting Africa, though Bush took steps to double U.S. aid to more than \$8.6 billion by 2010.

By Friday, offers had been received from Russia, Japan, Canada, France, Honduras, Germany, Venezuela, Jamaica, Australia, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Switzerland, Greece, Hungary, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Mexico, China, South Korea, Israel, the United Arab Emirates, New Zealand, Guatemala, Paraguay, Belgium, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Italy, Guyana, Indonesia, Saudi Arabia, Austria, Lithuania, Spain, Dominica, Norway, Cuba and Bahamas.

2 more Houston centers ease crush at Astrodome

HOUSTON (AP) — So many homeless Louisiana residents were arriving in Houston on Friday that city officials opened two more giant centers to accommodate overflow from the Astrodome.

Busers were turned away from the Astrodome, already packed with more than 15,000 people, because of safety and crowd concerns. The city is expected to receive at least 25,000 people displaced by Hurricane Katrina.

Houston Mayor Bill White said that the city's convention center and an exhibition hall at the Reliant Center would accept hurricane refugees.

"We see the tragedy which is ongoing in New Orleans, and we are doing the best we can to make sure when people get to Houston they have a decent place to stay," White said.

Evacuees could be in Houston for months, he said, and the city was devising a plan to help people over the long haul.

Despite crowding at the Astrodome, more buses were loaded Friday at the Superdome in New Orleans, where conditions had become desperate.

When the Astrodome filled, Katrina refugees who had finally arrived by bus were in limbo for more than two hours before they were redirected to the exhibition hall.

The change added to the frustration of victims such as Patricia Profit, who had relatives inside the stadium.

"Before we left New Orleans, they said everybody will be in the Astrodome," Profit said. "'Don't panic, don't worry, you'll still be with your family.' That's what they told us. Now we can't be with our family."

Briefly

More guardsmen on way to Gulf

Another 23 members of the Nebraska National Guard will leave this morning to join the thousands of National Guardsmen in the Gulf to provide hurricane relief.

Forty-two Nebraskans and Iowa from the Guard's 192nd Military Police Detachment left Friday for Louisiana.

Maj. Matt Kelly, 38, an Omaha police officer who is in charge of the detachment, said the group and its 15 vehicles will be completely self-sufficient.

Joining the effort today are eight members of the Army National Guard's Counterdrug Task Force, who will help with crowd control, law enforcement and possibly rescue operations.

Also leaving will be 15 members of the Army Guard's 24th Medical Company (Air Ambulance) based in Lincoln. They will move people who need medical care out of the New Orleans area.

The Iowa National Guard's 185th Air Refueling Wing flew several missions Friday, evacuating about 150 people to San Antonio. The 40 crew members also helped with other transportation, security and fueling needs.

Stations can charge by the half-gallon

Service stations with fuel pumps too old to raise prices above \$2.99 per gallon will be allowed to start selling gasoline and diesel fuel by the half-gallon, under an executive order signed by Gov. Dave Heineman Friday.

The order temporarily waives Nebraska Department of Agriculture weights and measures regulations.

Heineman also waived some regulations for vehicles transporting food, fuel, equipment and supplies to the disaster-stricken areas. Size and weight regulations remain in place.

Omaha firm handles calls for Red Cross

Hurricane relief donations are flooding into the American Red Cross via West Telemarketing's phone lines in Omaha.

"Since Wednesday we've been working with the Red Cross very closely," said Skip Hanson, the chief administrative officer.

The Red Cross has turned to the telemarketing firm before, most recently during the tsunami disaster in southeast Asia.

Hanson declined to estimate the number of calls being received per hour.

"It's an overwhelming situation and we're being kept very busy," Hanson said. "Our employees' response, though, has been very positive. I think they feel it's a way to help and make a difference."

Midlanders offer help for victims

Some of the efforts under way in the Midlands to support victims of Hurricane Katrina:

Black community leaders: Omaha actor John Beasley said he and some black business leaders in Omaha intend to send an 18-wheel truck filled with supplies next week, possibly to Houston. Beasley said the American Red Cross and Salvation Army would help him determine where to send the truck. Beasley said he has made two movies in Louisiana and feels for the people there.

Movie proceeds: Net proceeds from all box office receipts in Omaha, Lincoln and Bellevue for Wednesday movies will be donated to the American Red Cross. Normal ticket prices apply that day.

Railway donation: BNSF Railway Co. made a \$1 million contribution to the American Red Cross to aid hurricane victims. The company also offered help moving materials needed for recovery efforts to the governors of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

Drumming up funds: Drummers from both Bellevue West and Bellevue East High Schools will hold a drum-a-thon fundraiser from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Monday in the parking lot at the Wal-Mart near U.S. Highway 75 and Cornhusker Road. The money will go to the Salvation Army.

Benefit concert: Several local musicians have organized a benefit concert at 9 p.m. Sunday. Anchondo, Carson City Heat, Midwest Dilemma, Rebecca Wolfson and Sarah Xiong will perform at the Spotlight Club, 2101 N. 120th St. All proceeds from the cover charge — a suggested donation of \$5 — will go to the Salvation Army.

Realtors filling truck: A truck and trailer filled with toiletries, household goods, children's games and other supplies donated by CBShome employees is being sent to the Houston Astrodome. In addition, contributions to the American Red Cross made by agents and staff will be matched by the company.

"Helping Hands": Gorman's customers can purchase "Helping Hands" for \$1 at the checkout, and the funds will be forwarded to the American Red Cross. The company and its employees also are making contributions.

Collecting this weekend: Bottled water, nonperishable foods and other supplies will be gathered from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. today and Sunday at the Oak View Hy-Vee Foods parking lot. Bill McCorkle, with the help of the Telephone Pioneers and a handful of area churches, has arranged for the donated goods to go to Catholic Charities in Jackson, Miss. Connectivity Solutions and Cornhusker Motor are arranging for the truck.

More ways to help: See Omaha.com.



Some of this fall's new TV shows are out of this world, Living

Omaha World-Herald

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SUNRISE EDITION
MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2005

Bracing for the body count



KENT SIEVERS/THE WORLD-HERALD

Andrew Pitcher, above, a member of the Urban Search and Rescue Task Force from Lincoln, combs the rubble Sunday near DeLisle, Miss., in search of survivors of Hurricane Katrina. Below, team members take advantage of a pocket of cell phone service on a bus outside Biloxi, Miss.

Boy, 10, organizes truckloads of supplies

BY MICHAELA SAUNDERS
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Luke Ramos said he was overwhelmed as he watched news reports of Hurricane Katrina's destruction. When the 10-year-old Omaha boy saw a stranded dog, he knew he had to pitch in.

"They lost their dog," he said Sunday, thinking of the children forced to leave their pets behind. "I wouldn't want to lose my dog."

Luke told his parents that there must be something they could do.

"I wanted to have a semi at St. Margaret Mary and fill it up," said Luke, a fifth-grader at the school near 61st and Dodge Streets. "I wanted them to take it to New Orleans, or wherever."

Tammy Ramos, Luke's mom, said the family had a conversation about how to make Luke's idea a reality.

"We told him, 'If you figure out how to load the semi, we'll figure out how to get the semi,'" she

See Drive: Page 2



Nebraska crew helping area

Members of a Lincoln-based search and rescue team are aiding in the hunt for survivors of Hurricane Katrina along the Mississippi coast.



THE WORLD-HERALD

Nebraska team finds only devastation

BY ERIN GRACE
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

DELISLE, Miss. — Thirteen Nebraskans trampled through the wreckage of a bayou-side neighborhood on Sunday, searching for anyone who possibly could still be alive nearly a week after Katrina.

But the only sign of life this rescue team out of Lincoln seemed likely to find this late, and on a street so ravaged,

would be of the four-legged variety. Or snakes.

The still-standing trees held evidence of a 28-foot-high storm surge that pushed anything in its path — homes, cars, boats, trees — miles from the shore.

It left streets, like Winding Way in this tiny town founded 297 years ago by the French, as unrecognizable forests of debris: a carpet of shingles, boards, furnishings and a ceil-

ing of hacked-up trees, their branches snagged with whatever the water and wind carried. An orange life jacket swinging from 20 feet up. A front door, its glass blown out, hanging askew as a picture frame of devastation. A quilt swaddling one of the few power lines still intact.

"This is a very tiny, little place. And there are hundreds like them," said Lincoln Deputy Fire Chief Bruce Sellon, leader

of the department's Urban Search and Rescue Team. "How do you search this whole area?"

It's an overwhelming task the Lincoln-based crew — one of many out-of-state crews here — has faced since arriving on the Gulf Coast in Mississippi on Wednesday morning to pitch in.

They have searched neighborhoods and marshes between tiny DeLisle, which is west of

See Rescue: Page 2

CHIEF JUSTICE WILLIAM REHNQUIST, 1924-2005

More coverage on Page 9:
NO DELAY

Advocacy groups on the right and left waste no time in seeking to sway the choice of Rehnquist's successor.

TOP CHIEFS

William Rehnquist may rank among the top three or four chief justices.

REFLECTION

Midlanders remember Rehnquist's impact on the court and its decisions.

Bush ponders Roberts as chief justice

THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON — The death of Chief Justice William Rehnquist just days before Senate confirmation hearings for Judge John Roberts set off a scramble in Washington on Sunday.

President Bush is considering a plan to install Roberts as chief justice rather than as associate justice replacing the retiring Sandra Day O'Connor, senior administration officials said.

With the Roberts vetting process already well advanced and his confirmation to the U.S. Supreme Court on track, such a shift could guarantee that a chief justice would be in place by the time the court begins its new term on Oct. 3.

A switch like that would be unprecedented in modern times. If the president

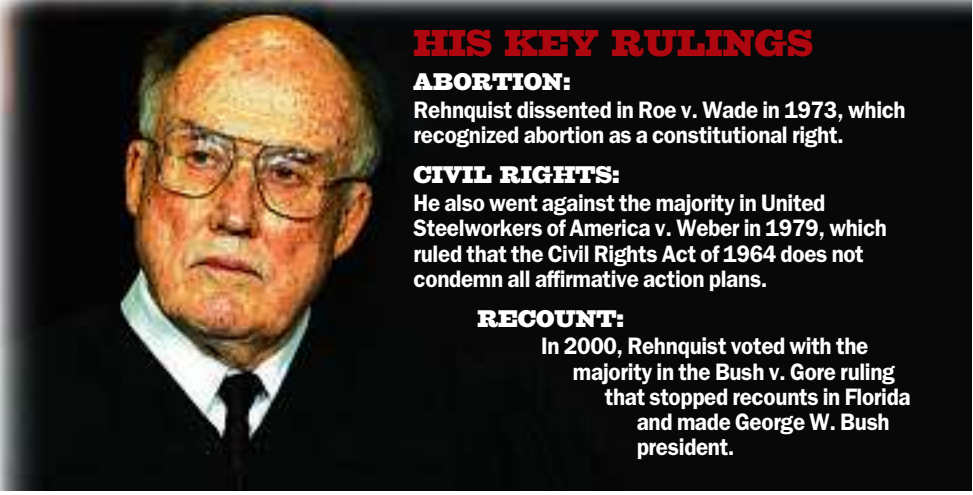
does not choose that course, officials said, he will return to the same list of potential candidates he scrutinized in picking Roberts in July.

Among those at the top of such a list would be Attorney General Alberto Gonzales, former Deputy Attorney General Larry Thompson and a handful of federal appeals judges, including Edith Hollan Jones, Edith Joy Clement, J. Harvie Wilkinson, J. Michael Luttig, Emilio Garza and Priscilla Owen.

Some conservative groups already have laid down markers, urging Bush not to appoint Gonzales, whom they consider too moderate.

Given his deteriorating health, Rehnquist's death came as no surprise. But the

See Court: Page 2



HIS KEY RULINGS

ABORTION: Rehnquist dissented in *Roe v. Wade* in 1973, which recognized abortion as a constitutional right.

CIVIL RIGHTS: He also went against the majority in *United Steelworkers of America v. Weber* in 1979, which ruled that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 does not condemn all affirmative action plans.

RECOUNT: In 2000, Rehnquist voted with the majority in the *Bush v. Gore* ruling that stopped recounts in Florida and made George W. Bush president.

Omaha weather



A shower or thunderstorm.
High 88; low 67



If Saddam Hussein is convicted at his first trial, further proceedings may be waived.
Page 10

NU's Zac Taylor says Wake Forest will be just another game to him. **Sports**



White-collar workers make up about half the long-term unemployed. **Business**



HOLIDAY PAPER

Because of the Labor Day holiday, all World-Herald subscribers are receiving a morning paper today.

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Digest

MAIN NEWS

Gadgets help parents track kids

Increasingly, parents are using high-tech methods to track everything from where their children are and how far they are driving to what they buy, what they eat and whether they've shown up for class. Often, the gadget involved is a cell phone that transmits location data. The details get delivered by e-mail, cell phone text message or the Web. There is also a debit-like card that can be used at a school lunch counter, and a device that lets parents know how far and fast their child's car is going. **Page 3**

Russian Navy leader fired

Russian President Vladimir Putin fired the head of that country's navy on Sunday, and called on the new commander to boost discipline in the fleet following a pair of submarine disasters. Putin did not give a specific reason for firing Adm. Vladimir Kuroyedov and replacing him with Adm. Vladimir Masorin. But he indicated that Kuroyedov was bearing the blame for a series of embarrassments in the navy. **Page 10**

MIDLANDS

Fair boss missed carnivals, corn dogs

What is someone like Rick Bjorklund, who ran much larger state fairs in Arizona and Wisconsin, and managed world-class arenas like the Silverdome in Detroit and Wembley Stadium in London, doing managing the Nebraska State Fair? Bjorklund, who was hired in January to take over the struggling fair, said Sunday that it's because he missed the business of carnivals and corn dogs. Plus, the story of the Nebraska State Fair — on its deathbed two years ago only to be revived by voter-approved salvation — was compelling. **Page 1**

Neighborhood starts walking tour

The area around Joslyn Castle and nearby St. Cecilia Cathedral was "the place to be in the early 1900s," says Margie Magnuson, who is the historian of the Joslyn Castle Neighborhood Association. She and several others have helped bring that history to life by creating the neighborhood association's walking tour guide. The new 16-page booklet, "Welcome to Historic 40th Street," encourages Omaha residents and visitors to take a stroll and see the sights between Dodge and Cumming Streets. **Page 1**

BUSINESS

AFL-CIO leader sees united front

AFL-CIO President John Sweeney said that the defection of three major unions — the Teamsters, Service Employees International Union and the United Food and Commercial Workers — about a month ago was "a real tragedy for working people." But he said he thinks that eventually they will return to the fold. "I think that we will see a united labor movement again," Sweeney said as he provided an update on the state of unions heading into Labor Day. "How long it takes remains to be seen." **Page 1**

Job hunt not going well for all

Some 2.7 million workers across the United States lost their jobs in the economic slowdown that began in 2001. Some still struggle to find work despite the economic recovery. White-collar workers, college graduates and mid-career employees constituted a larger percentage of those laid off in the recent economic cycle, according to studies by the Economic Policy Institute in Washington, D.C. Many have struggled to find jobs in their fields, especially those in information technology and manufacturing. **Page 1**

SPORTS

Taylor focuses on improvement

When Zac Taylor starts his second game for Nebraska, the quarterback won't be looking to the past. Taylor, who played for Wake Forest, won't be gunning for revenge or trying to prove anybody wrong when the Demon Deacons visit Lincoln on Saturday. The junior only wants to improve to 2-0, and he knows he'll have to play much better than he did against Maine to get there. **Page 1**

Roehrig wants a Final Four, too

As Kyla Roehrig watched her sister play in the Final Four of the NCAA women's basketball tournament last spring, she couldn't help dreaming about the future. Now that Roehrig is a freshman on the Minnesota-La Vista graduate has the same lofty expectations. It's not an impossible dream, either. The 6-foot-4 outside hitter hopes to help the sixth-ranked Gophers, who host Nebraska today, to their third straight appearance in the national semifinals. **Page 1**

LIVING

Aliens and TV come together

Aliens are invading prime-time network TV this fall. Every week, viewers can watch three new hourlong shows that tackle the extraterrestrial trend, with NBC kicking it off with "Surface," a show about other-worldly fish, at 7 p.m. on Mondays. On Wednesdays at 9 p.m., ABC offers up "Invasion," a series following an alien takeover masked by a hurricane and the U.S. government. CBS has "Threshold" — which follows an investigation into a UFO that landed in the ocean — at 8 p.m. Fridays. **Page 1**

LOTTERIES

POWERBALL
■ **Saturday, Sept. 3: 1-330-31-43.** Powerball: 36. Power Play: 4. No jackpot winner. Jackpot for Wednesday, Sept. 7: \$60 million.
NEBRASKA
■ **Pick 5 — Saturday, Sept. 3: 2-5-9-24-30.** No jackpot winner. Jackpot for Monday, Sept. 5: \$54,000.
■ **2by2 — Saturday, Sept. 3: red 3-4; white 21-24.**
■ **Pick 3 — Saturday, Sept. 3: 6-4-6.**
IOWA
■ **Cash Game — Saturday, Sept. 3: 13-22-23-24-29.**
■ **Hot Lotto — Saturday, Sept. 3: 12-13-15-19-27.** Hot Ball: 7.
■ **Pick 3 — Sunday, Sept. 4: evening 9-9-9.**
■ **Pick 4 — Sunday, Sept. 4: evening 4-8-2-5.**
Lottery results from other states are at omaha.com.

Court: Roberts may be in the running for top spot

Continued from Page 1

timing made the politics complex, coming in the midst of a national crisis touched off by Hurricane Katrina and just before the Roberts hearings were set to begin Tuesday.

A senior Senate Republican aide said the Roberts hearings are expected to be postponed for a week. Dan Bartlett, Bush's counselor, said he expected the Senate leadership to announce an unspecified delay in the proceedings.

Rehnquist, 80, died Saturday night of thyroid cancer. His body will lie in repose in the Great Hall of the Supreme Court on Tuesday and Wednesday. He will be buried at Arlington National Cemetery after funeral services Wednesday at the Cathedral of St. Matthew in Washington.

As they sift names, White House advisers are weighing whether it would be better to an-

nounce a nominee quickly or to wait until after the situation in the Gulf of Mexico is better in hand and the Roberts confirmation process is complete.

Bush mentioned none of that in his public comments Sunday. He instead paid tribute to Rehnquist in a brief televised appearance in the Roosevelt Room of the White House and promised to move quickly in naming a new chief justice.

"There are now two vacancies on the Supreme Court, and it will serve the best interests of the nation to fill those vacancies promptly," Bush said. "I will choose in a timely manner a highly qualified nominee to succeed Chief Justice Rehnquist."

Some Democrats suggested that Bush ask O'Connor to stay on for another term and elevate her to chief justice, a step they said would help unify the nation at a difficult time.

But on Sunday, Republicans were quick to swat down that idea.

"I don't think the president should call on her to do that," said Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, speaking on ABC's "This Week" and noting that O'Connor had cited her husband's ill health as a reason to retire.

The idea of making Roberts chief justice has natural appeal. Roberts, a former lawyer in the Reagan and George H.W. Bush administrations who now serves as a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit, was first interviewed by the White House in April — not for O'Connor's seat, but in the expectation that Rehnquist would retire or die.

As a former Rehnquist clerk, Roberts could be expected to continue in the same conservative course and, at age 50, he would have a long tenure in the top slot. After six weeks of news

media scrutiny, he is also a known commodity who has not generated strong opposition among Senate Democrats.

The mechanics of a switch would not be hard. Bush would withdraw Roberts' nomination as associate justice and simultaneously nominate him as chief justice. Bush could then take his time choosing someone to replace O'Connor, since she previously agreed to remain on the court until her successor's confirmation.

Administration officials said the option was under consideration but would not handicap how likely it is.

"Roberts is obviously qualified to be chief justice," said one top official. "The question is if there are arguments on the other side, and there are. We just have to weigh them."

This report includes material from the New York Times and the Associated Press.

Katrina: Americans told to brace for body count

Continued from Page 1

nearby Chalmette, La. A morgue at the St. Gabriel Prison near New Orleans was expecting 1,000 to 2,000 bodies. In Baton Rouge, state officials said the official Louisiana death toll stood at 59, but most said thousands was a more realistic figure. More than 125 were known dead in Mississippi.

As the effects of the crisis spread across the nation, 20 states have opened shelters, homes and schools to evacuees. But moving the population of New Orleans to other parts of America has created overcrowding and strains.

In Texas, where nearly half the refugees are jamming stadiums, civic centers and hotels, Gov. Rick Perry said the state's capacity was almost exhausted.

No quick solutions were being offered. Making New Orleans habitable again is expected to take many months, even a year, officials estimated.

There also were holdouts in New Orleans — an unknown number of people who refused to go. They were being urged to leave for their own safety. Officials warned of an impossible future in a destroyed city without food, water, power or other necessities, only the specter of cholera, typhoid or mosquitoes carrying malaria or the West Nile Virus.

Volunteer physicians are pouring in to care for the sick, but red tape is keeping hundreds of others from caring for survivors. Among the doctors stymied from

“And he said, ‘Yeah, Momma, somebody’s coming to get you. Somebody’s coming to get you on Tuesday . . . on Wednesday . . . Thursday’ . . . and she drowned Friday night. She drowned on Friday night.”

Aaron Broussard, president, Jefferson Parish, La., referring to the man who runs his building and his mother

helping out are 100 surgeons and paramedics in a state-of-the-art mobile hospital that is stuck in rural Mississippi, the Associated Press reported.

"We have tried so hard to do the right thing. It took us 30 hours to get here," said one of the surgeons, Dr. Preston "Chip" Rich of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

That government officials can't straighten out the mess and get the doctors assigned to a relief effort now that they're just a few miles away "is just mind-boggling," he said.

The events of the past week have put an enormous pressure on many police officers and firefighters, some of whom have cracked. P. Edwin Compass, the New Orleans superintendent of police, reported Saturday that about 200 of the 1,500 members of his force had walked off the job in frustration and that two had committed suicide.

Late Sunday, Mayor Ray Nagin said that his entire police force would be pulled off the streets by Tuesday and that all firefighters, paramedics and emergency dispatchers also were being side-

lined. They will be sent to Baton Rouge for evaluation and counseling, he said.

"I'm taking them out of here as quickly as I can," Nagin said. "I'm not going to sit back and let another one die."

The strain was apparent in other ways. Aaron Broussard, president of Jefferson Parish, La., dropped his head and cried on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"The guy who runs this building I'm in, emergency management, he's responsible for everything. His mother was trapped in St. Bernard nursing home, and every day she called him and said, 'Are you coming, son? Is somebody coming?'"

"And he said, 'Yeah, Momma, 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 Thursday. Somebody's coming to get you on Friday' — and she drowned Friday night. She drowned on Friday night," Broussard said.

"Nobody's coming to get her, nobody's coming to get her," Broussard said. "The secretary's

Rescue: Members say nothing compares to Katrina

Continued from Page 1

Gulfport, to devastated Biloxi and east of Ocean Springs. They have not found anyone alive.

A search and rescue dog confirmed the presence of a corpse under a house, and team members called for the coroner.

As relief efforts shifted to recovery of bodies and debris removal, demand lessened for the Lincoln unit whose focus is to find survivors. Team members learned Sunday that they would return to Nebraska today.

Leo Benes, a Lincoln fire captain, thought at one point that he had found bodies in a garage. But they turned out to be mannequins.

"You see a lot of weird stuff," Benes said.

Like water skis in the trees. Photographs lying unmarred in the muck. A package of life jackets still wrapped in plastic. Boats everywhere but the water.

The devastation is so widespread, stretching from the coast in Mississippi and at least as far north as Jackson, 170 miles away, that the Lincoln crew can't even compare it to Nebraska's worst tornadoes.

The May 22, 2004, tornado that flattened the town of Hallam, Neb., is "a pimple on a pimple compared to this," said Sellon, a 52-year-old married father of two.

"Hallam was just wind," Sellon said. "This is wind and flooding. It's almost a double disaster."

The Lincoln crew knows disasters. Formed in 1993, it has a long record of response. The task force, twice as large as a similar group in Mississippi, has sent teams nationwide to respond to acts of terrorism, nature and accident.

It helped after the World Trade Center and Oklahoma City bombings, staffed the Olympics

in Salt Lake City and Atlanta, assisted after the Columbia space shuttle disaster and traveled to other hurricane areas.

Nothing compares to Katrina. Overnight lines for gas — at the stations that are open. Power lines for miles tossed like spaghetti. Messages spray-painted on homes, like the "Nationwide 911 HELP!!!!" appearing on one Biloxi garage. Residents holding signs with their relatives' names.

The Nebraskans' task has run into its own snags. With so many out-of-state teams operating on their own, it's hard to tell whether some areas have been checked. The DeLisle neighborhood the Nebraskans spent an hour stepping through Sunday had been checked the day before by a Virginia group.

Another challenge is the spotty-at-best cell phone service. The crew relies on two satellite phones and two-way radios. But

the only time members can catch up with their families is on short bus rides between jobs — when they can get a connection.

They have escaped injury so far. Fatigue, heat sickness, cuts and puncture wounds have affected some others, prompting Federal Emergency Management Agency leaders to warn Sunday against becoming complacent. The steel-shanked boots the rescue workers wear can be no protection against stepping on a nail the wrong way. And even on a tiny street like Winding Way in DeLisle, with stacks of debris and a tiny creek of something brown and shiny, accidents loom.

"There's so much area, and it's so widespread," Sellon said. "There's not enough resources in the country to get this place back in any short order."

Drive: Trucks leave for Jackson, Miss., on Tuesday

Continued from Page 1

said. The next morning, Luke's father, Doug Ramos, called Werner Enterprises, an Omaha-based trucking company.

"From the very first phone call," Doug said, "they've come through."

Werner donated not one, but three semitrailers, along with the drivers and gas to get the supplies to Catholic Charities in Jackson, Miss. From Jackson, Catholic Charities will distribute the items to needy New Orleans families.

The trailers are being packed with only the essentials dropped off by the public. Baby care items, feminine hygiene supplies, toiletries and high-energy food items are filling the trailers parked at St. Margaret Mary, Marian High School at 7400 Military Ave. and St. John Vianney Catholic Church at 5801 Oak Hills Drive.

The donation effort has been dubbed "Operation One Spirit."

Marian High School junior Kiah Haslett said an announcement about the drive to fill the trucks was made at the school late Friday. The slots had been filled and girls still were volunteering. She planned to help load the truck at Marian today.

Many of the items brought to St. Margaret Mary are being sorted into large computer boxes. Principal Peggy Grennan said the school has purchased new computers over the last few years and something told her to keep the sturdy cardboard.

"We were in desperate need of boxes," Grennan recalled of the coordination effort Friday. "God knew why I kept them."

The trucks will leave for Jackson Tuesday afternoon.

Luke already is thinking about how the children will want toys and clothes. But for now, he said, it's more important that their basic needs are met.

"Maybe we'll be able to do that, too," he said.



PHIL JOHNSON/THE WORLD-HERALD

Luke Ramos, 10, helps fill a semitrailer truck with aid items for victims of Hurricane Katrina on Sunday. Filling a semi was Luke's idea, and the drive has expanded to three semis.

You can help

Operation One Spirit collection continues from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. today.

Items can be dropped off at the St. Margaret Mary School parking lot, 123 N. 61st St.; Marian High School faculty parking lot, 7400 Military Ave.; and St. John Vianney Catholic Church parking lot, 5801 Oak Hills Drive.

What to bring: No loose items will be accepted. Baby care items, including diapers, wipes, formula and food, along with antibacterial soap, hand wipes, toilet paper, feminine hygiene supplies, shampoo, boxed cereal, peanut butter, crackers, energy bars and packaged T-shirts and underpants are requested.

A member of the Lincoln Fire Department's Urban Search and Rescue Task Force plucked this snapshot from the muck near DeLisle, Miss. The group is one of the nation's first 28 such task forces and is twice as large as its Mississippi counterpart. The Lincoln team has found no survivors buried in the rubble.



NEBRASKA HELPERS ARRIVE



Lois Payne waits for help Sunday in the rubble left by Hurricane Katrina in Biloxi, Miss. Bruce Sellon, leader of the Lincoln rescue crew, said the May 22, 2004, tornado that flattened the Nebraska town of Hallam is "a pimple on a pimple compared to this. Hallam was just wind. This is wind and flooding. It's almost a double disaster."



Above, heading by bus to the search site near DeLisle, Miss., are golden retriever Andy, a search and rescue dog, and his handler, Andrew Pitcher of Lincoln.



The Lincoln team has seen all kinds of things in the rubble where homes used to stand near DeLisle, Miss. Water skis in the trees. Life jackets still wrapped in plastic. Boats everywhere and anywhere but in the water. Even a mounted deer head.



The Urban Search and Rescue Task Force from Lincoln, formed in 1993, has responded to accidents, terrorism and acts of nature across the nation. Team member Keith Houfek's helmet lists the catastrophes to which he has been sent.

Photos by Kent Sievers

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TALBOTS WOMAN
TALBOTS PETITES
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WHEATFIELDS



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Chief justice nominee John Roberts walks past Justice Sandra Day O'Connor today as the casket of Chief Justice William Rehnquist is brought to the Supreme Court.

Roberts will face senators Monday

■ He helps carry the casket of William Rehnquist as the nation pays last respects to the late chief justice.

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate will begin confirmation hearings Monday for John Roberts to be Supreme Court chief justice, one week after President Bush selected him to replace the late William Rehnquist as the 17th leader of the nation's highest court.

Senate leaders made the announcement today as Rehnquist's body lay in repose across the street at the Supreme Court. Roberts, a former Rehnquist clerk, helped carry the flag-draped casket into the building for public viewing.

Roberts was supposed to begin his confirmation hearings as the replacement for the retiring Sandra Day O'Connor today, but the Senate Judiciary Committee hearings were canceled after Rehnquist's death and Bush's decision to elevate the 50-year-old Roberts to the top spot.

Senate Judiciary Chairman Arlen Specter, R-Pa., said he expects Roberts' hearings to be finished next week.

Official Washington began paying its last respects to Rehnquist today. Flags were lowered to half-staff.

Roberts and the other pallbearers bore the casket up about 40 steps of the high court to the Great Hall, where busts of the former chief justices are displayed. The doors to the court

See Court: Page 2

Washington wants answers



Water is pumped out of a flooded Metairie, La., subdivision today through a 30-inch pipe that sucks out 27,000 gallons of water per minute. Engineers have managed to plug a major levee break.

In 28 years, this is hardest

■ Lt. Col. Thomas R. Brewer has been shot in combat and served in Afghanistan and Iraq, but he's never faced anything like this.

By ERIN GRACE
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

BILOXI, Miss. — Lt. Col. Thomas R. Brewer has been in the National Guard for 28 years. Long enough to see the world, to go to Iraq, to get shot in the leg, arm and chest in Afghanistan.

Never has he experienced a mission like that in New Orleans, where the task of emptying and securing a devastated city means rescuing terribly dehydrated, sick people while fending off attackers.

"We're normally focused. We know where the enemy is, we go



Brewer

in, we take care of business and we move on," he said Monday night.

"Here you're pulling people off rooftops and buildings and reacting to looters and return fire to people who shoot at you."

Brewer, a Nebraska Army National Guardsman from Murdock, Neb., is commanding a security force that is charged

See Brewer: Page 2

INSIDE



KENT SIEVERS/THE WORLD-HERALD

From left, Amy Lepine and daughters Delaney and Destyne rode out Katrina at a relative's home north of Biloxi, Miss.

After six anxious days, Omahan Barb Thomas finally hears that her daughter and daughter's family are safe.

Page 4

Citizens rescue a stranded Omaha native.

Page 4

Gulf Coast communication requires creativity.

Page 4

Paperwork is the next obstacle for evacuees.

Page 5

A former Alma, Neb., resident

couldn't ride out the flooding in Ocean Springs, Miss.

Page 6

Omaha is ready and eager to host evacuees if needed.

Midlands, Page 1

Black Omahans reach out to victims.

Midlands, Page 1

The current oil-price shock to the global economy is far from over, an economic report warns.

Business, Page 1

Veteran's widow, still awaiting death benefit, takes insurer to court



Kathleen Wagner gets the flag after the service for her husband, John, at Arlington National Cemetery.

By TODD COOPER
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Omaha native John Wagner earned two Purple Hearts and a Bronze Star for his service in the Vietnam War.

He garnered several commendations for his work as a CIA agent in the Middle East.

And when he died in March 2004, he received a hero's funeral, complete with jets flying over, at Arlington National Cemetery in Virginia.

During that graveside service, the honor guard handed his widow, Kathleen, a tightly folded



Wagner

insurance policy.

USAA indicated to Kathleen Wagner that it won't pay her the \$250,000 proceeds because her husband missed his last payment, according to Wagner's at-

American flag that had draped his coffin.

But 18 months later, his insurance company, USAA, won't hand her the proceeds from his life insurance policy.

torney, James Martin Davis of Omaha.

But the insurance company allowed a grace period for such missed payments — a grace period that Davis said it is now ignoring.

As a result, Kathleen Wagner, of Bennington, filed a lawsuit last week in Douglas County District Court. Davis said Wagner deserves better.

"The American government will hand her a flag," he said. "But USAA won't hand her a check."

Davis said Wagner's situation

highlights the necessity of grace periods.

Many life insurance policies have clauses that allow a grace period in case an end-of-life illness prevents policyholders from making their final payments.

A timeline, according to the lawsuit and Davis:

In 1992, John Wagner opened the current term life insurance policy — a policy that would pay Kathleen Wagner, his beneficiary, \$250,000 upon Wagner's death.

Wagner made his monthly pay-

See Insurance: Page 2

Omaha weather



Low tonight 66.
High Wednesday 77.



Thanks to skyrocketing oil prices, the rich are just getting richer in the Mideast.

Business



For a dining experience to be enjoyable, pace and timing are crucial.

Living



The NFL's all-time leading receiver, Jerry Rice, hangs it up rather than languish on the Broncos' depth chart.

Sports

Index

Advice	2&3E
Comics	4&5E
Deaths	4B
Editorials	6&7B
Marketplace	3D
Movies	3E
TV	6E
Weather	5B

34 PAGES



Digest

MAIN NEWS

Preschoolers reflect habits of parents

Preschoolers pretending to shop for a Barbie doll's social evening were more likely to choose cigarettes if their parents smoked, and wine or beer if their parents drank, a study found. Researchers observing the children's play found that the ones who watched PG-13 or R-rated movies also were more likely to choose alcohol for Barbie. Co-author Madeline Dalton of Dartmouth Medical School said the report suggests that prevention efforts should target younger children. It was published Monday in the September issue of Archives of Pediatrics & Adolescent Medicine. **Page 7**

Oil-for-food effort corrupt, probe finds

A yearlong probe of the Iraq oil-for-food program has concluded that the United Nations allowed "illicit, unethical, and corrupt behavior" to overwhelm the \$64 billion operation. The Independent Inquiry Committee's final report, to be released Wednesday, says the U.N. must adopt sweeping reforms before taking on such tasks again, according to a draft forward obtained by the Associated Press. Yet the committee, which is U.N.-appointed and supported, also found that the program succeeded in providing minimal standards of nutrition and health care for millions of Iraqis trying to cope with tough U.N. sanctions imposed after Saddam Hussein's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. It also helped in the international effort to deprive Saddam of weapons of mass destruction, it said. **Page 8**

MIDLANDS

Before fair closes, Carmello wins big

A steer named after pro basketballer Carmelo Anthony showed his own star power Monday. Blake Anderson of Arapahoe, Neb., raised and showed the 1,355-pound crossbred steer named Carmello. Anderson walked away with the most prestigious prize at the Nebraska State Fair, the winner of the Parade of Champions at the 4-H Market Beef show. The naming of the top steer capped the 10-day run of the State Fair in a year that marked widespread positive reviews and possibly an increase in attendance, thanks to a huge crowd Sunday. **Page 1**

Ranchers seek change on land buys

An influential ranching group, Nebraska Cattlemen, has called for an end to the State Environmental Trust's land-purchasing partnerships with nonprofit groups. Conservationists say that would hinder preservation of natural habitat. The ranchers advocate a change in state law so that Environmental Trust funds for land purchases would be available only to government entities, said Craig Utter, a Sand Hills rancher and head of a task force studying the land practices. **Page 2**

BUSINESS

On the road from two to one

As Commercial Federal and Bank of the West work out all the details of their proposed merger, three things seem clear: The move will save the company millions of dollars, some employees will lose their jobs, and Commercial Federal's board members will get handsome payments. Savings will come from consolidating the

banks' computer systems and moving some offices to lower-cost Omaha. **Page 1**

Federal lawsuit alleges collusion

Mandatory arbitration to settle disputes is increasingly common in industries that deal with individual consumers. Last month, a group of consumers sued eight of the nation's largest credit card issuers because of that issue. The consumers, who want their case named a class-action lawsuit, allege that the firms broke anti-trust laws. The central allegation is that the defendant banks worked together to create or keep mandatory arbitration clauses to thwart class-action lawsuits and their costly payouts, if successful. **Page 2**

SPORTS

Wake Forest trip to NU unusual

It's not often that Wake Forest steps far out of its neighborhood to play regular-season football games. It's been three years since the Demon Deacons traveled to Purdue. Seven years since a visit to Air Force. But when plans fell through to play a nearby university in 2005, Wake Forest made an exception to its usual scheduling philosophy. Deacons coach Jim Grobe said, "When you're in need of a game, and you can get a home-and-home and bring somebody like Nebraska here to Winston-Salem, you have to do it." Wake Forest plays Saturday night at NU. The current deal includes Nebraska playing at Wake Forest in 2007. **Page 1**

NU volleyball team wins close one

John Cook, Nebraska's volleyball coach, knew Monday's match had the potential to be the Huskers' toughest yet. He was right. NU's No. 1-ranked volleyball team improved to 5-0 by outlasting fifth-ranked Minnesota 30-27, 30-25, 26-30, 25-30, 15-12. It was the first time this year the Huskers didn't sweep their way to victory, even though they opened the season playing No. 3 Stanford, fourth-ranked Hawaii and No. 12 Ohio State. **Page 5**

LIVING

Nebraska native spices up DJ job

How does a Nebraska farm girl end up in Miami working for a major radio station? The answer is



Randolph native Carolina Korth's own fish-out-of-water story. The DJ, just 24 years old, is on the front edge of new rural format HURBAN, Hispanic Urban. Her music includes reggaeton, a fusion of reggae, hip-hop and other Latino music. **Page 1**

LOTTERIES

POWERBALL
■ **Saturday, Sept. 3: 1-3-30-31-43.** Powerball: 36. Power Play: 4. No jackpot winner. Jackpot for Wednesday, Sept. 7: \$60 million.
NEBRASKA
■ **Pick 5 — Monday, Sept. 5: 10-11-15-27-31.** No jackpot winner. Jackpot for Tuesday, Sept. 6: \$58,000.
■ **2by2 — Monday, Sept. 5: red 7-26; white 1-16.**
■ **Pick 3 — Monday, Sept. 5: 9-5-9.**
IOWA
■ **Cash Game — Monday, Sept. 5: 15-27-31-32-35.**
■ **Hot Lotto — Saturday, Sept. 3: 12-13-15-19-27. Hot Ball: 16.**
■ **Pick 3 — Monday, Sept. 5: midday 6-5-9, evening 1-7-6.**
■ **Pick 4 — Monday, Sept. 5: midday 5-7-2-3, evening 8-7-0-1.**
Lottery results from other states are at [Omaha.com](#).

Insurance: Veteran's widow still waiting for funds

Continued from Page 1
ment was due. (2004 was a leap year.)

On both April 1 and 19 of 2004, Kathleen Wagner presented a death certificate and requested proceeds from USAA.

USAA has declined to pay.

On Friday, the insurer declined to comment. The San Antonio-based company is one of the largest insurance companies serving current and past military members and their families.

"We have just received the lawsuit and are currently reviewing it," said Roger Wildermuth, a USAA spokesman. "We are committed to doing the right thing for our members."

Davis questioned that commitment.

"For a company like USAA, which says it represents the military, this is the ultimate indignity," Davis said. "Basically, this is a 'gotcha' by an insurance com-

pany. 'You didn't make a payment and we gotcha.'

"Well, you can't do gotchas when you have a grace period."

Davis said Wagner's family — the couple have three adult daughters and two adult sons — sacrificed much as Wagner's career took him far from home.

Born in New Mexico, Wagner grew up in the Omaha area and attended St. John's Seminary, now known as Elkhorn Mount Michael, graduating in 1963. He graduated from Creighton University in 1968, the same year he and the former Kathleen Walz married.

He spent much of his military and civilian career serving his country overseas. A captain in the U.S. Army, Wagner was wounded in Vietnam, losing his left kneecap.

In 1974, he joined the Central Intelligence Agency. Over his ca-

Court: D.C. starts paying last respects to Rehnquist

Continued from Page 1
chamber, where Rehnquist had served for 33 years, were open at the east end of the hall.

Rehnquist's casket was placed on the Lincoln Catafalque, the structure on which President Lincoln's coffin rested in the Rotunda of the Capitol a century and a half earlier.

Several of the six justices who were present were teary as they stood around Rehnquist's casket, including O'Connor. She announced her plans to retire in July.

The Rev. George Evans Jr., the Rehnquist family pastor at the Lutheran Church of the Redeemer in Virginia, offered a prayer as the justices, former clerks, court staff and family surrounded the casket.

After the brief ceremony, a long line formed outside, and people began walking inside past the coffin of the chief justice, who died Saturday night at age 80. Public viewing was to take place until 10 tonight and from 10 a.m. until noon Wednesday.

On Wednesday, funeral services will be at 2 p.m. at St. Matthew's Cathedral in Washington, open to friends and family.

Rehnquist was Lutheran. Susan Gibbs, spokeswoman for the Catholic Archdiocese of Washington, said Rehnquist's family had requested use of the Catholic church primarily because of space. She said church rules allow a Catholic church to be used

for other Christian services if there is a need.

Rehnquist's burial at Arlington National Cemetery will be private.

Looking ahead to next week, Specter said senators on the Judiciary panel would begin their opening statements at noon Monday. Roberts would be likely to make his opening statement late that afternoon after being introduced by Sens. Richard Lugar and Evan Bayh, both of Indiana,

and by Sen. John Warner of Virginia.

Roberts is likely to begin facing questions from senators the next day.

"It is our expectation that we will be able to complete the hearings that week," Specter said.

Bush urged senators today to confirm Roberts before the court session resumes Oct. 3 and said he is considering many candidates for filling a second vacancy. "The list is wide open,"

reer, he was assigned to China, Iran, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Turkey.

He rose to the level of deputy division chief of the Middle East and received several commendations — one for his work during the first Persian Gulf War. A photo from CIA headquarters shows Wagner over former President Bush's shoulder as the president shook hands with CIA staff.

In his office last week, Davis, also a Vietnam veteran, watched video clips of Wagner's funeral service in Arlington.

"Only the best of the best get that honor," he said.

Now, Wagner's widow simply wants the insurance company to honor their policy.

"This guy served his country, was wounded in war, gave 20 years of his life to the CIA and this is what his family gets," Davis said. "They deserve better."

Bush said at the White House.

With the hearings pushed back a week, Democrats aren't guaranteeing when the full Senate will give Roberts a final vote. As for the opening of the hearings, Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid of Nevada said, "We all agree that Monday should be the day."

Even with the delay, Republicans say they will conclude Roberts' confirmation before Oct. 3.

Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist, R-Tenn., said he expects the committee to finish its vote on Sept. 22. He said he plans to bring the nomination to the Senate floor Sept. 26 and wrap up the Senate vote before Sept. 30.

Republicans say Roberts is the same judge who seemed to be headed for confirmation as an associate justice before Rehnquist died.

"The fact that he's now been elevated to chief justice shouldn't slow us down at all," said Sen. John Cornyn, R-Texas, a member of the Judiciary Committee.

Democrats, however, said bumping Roberts up to chief justice instead of having him replace O'Connor means tougher scrutiny of Roberts.

"Before the Senate acts on John Roberts' new nomination, we should know even more about his record, and we should know whom the president intends to propose to nominate as a replacement for Sandra Day O'Connor," said Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass.

for other Christian services if there is a need.

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Katrina: Washington to probe what went wrong

Continued from Page 1
him, "Brownie, you're doing a heck of a job."

The president said that he and his Cabinet members were focused on planning in several areas of immediate need — restoring basic services to affected areas, draining the water from New Orleans, removing debris, assessing public health and safety threats and housing for those displaced by the storm.

"Most importantly," Bush said, officials are trying to determine how to get Social Security checks to people scattered across the country in private homes, churches and shelters.

"This administration is not going to rest until every life is saved, until every family is reconnected, until the recovery is complete," he said.

Meanwhile, with a major levee break finally plugged, engineers struggled to pump out flooded New Orleans today as authorities braced for the horrors that the receding water will reveal.

"It's going to be awful," said Mayor Ray Nagin, "and it's going to wake the nation up again."

Nagin said it would take three weeks to remove the water and another few weeks to clear the debris. It could also take up to

eight weeks to restore the electricity.

"I've gone from anger to despair to seeing us turn the corner," he said on NBC's "Today."

Still, he warned that what awaits authorities below the toxic muck would be gruesome. A day earlier, he said the death toll in New Orleans could reach 10,000.

The Pentagon, meanwhile, began sending paratroopers from the Army's 82nd Airborne Division to New Orleans to use small boats to launch a new search-and-rescue effort in flooded sections of the city.

Maj. Gen. William B. Caldwell IV, division commander, said about 5,000 paratroopers would be in place by the end of the day.

The Army Corps of Engineers began pumping the water out after closing a major gap in a key levee that burst during Hurricane Katrina and swamped 80 percent of the bowl-shaped, below-sea-level city.

Efforts to evacuate holdouts were stepped up, with boat rescue crews and a caravan of law enforcement vehicles from around the country searching for people to rescue.

The Air Force late Monday concluded its huge airlift of elderly and serious ill patients from

New Orleans' major airport. A total of 9,788 patients and other evacuees were evacuated by air from the New Orleans area.

Meanwhile, local officials continued to express frustration with the federal government's sluggish response.

"Bureaucracy has murdered people in the greater New Orleans area. And bureaucracy needs to stand trial before Congress today," Aaron Broussard, president of Jefferson Parish, said on CBS' "The Early Show."

"So I'm asking Congress, please investigate this now," he said. "Take whatever idiot they have at the top of whatever agency and give me a better idiot. Give me a caring idiot. Give me a sensitive idiot. Just don't give me the same idiot."

In addition to help from other Louisiana and Alabama departments, a Canadian task force of firefighters and police arrived four days after the storm, St. Bernard Fire Chief Thomas Stone said.

"If you can get a Canadian team here in four days, U.S. teams should be here faster than that," Stone said. Pointing to two large oil refineries, he said: "When they're paying \$5 to \$6 a gallon for gas, they're going to

realize what this place means to America."

The scope of the misery inflicted by Katrina was evident Monday as Bush visited Baton Rouge and Poplarville, Miss., his second inspection by ground.

While in Louisiana, Bush tried to repair tattered relations with the state's Democratic governor, Kathleen Blanco, while also praising relief workers. Blanco played down any tension.

"We'd like to stop the voices out there trying to create a divide. There is no divide," she said. "Every leader in this nation wants to see this problem solved."

Meanwhile, former Presidents Bush and Clinton got smiles, hugs and requests for autographs when they met with evacuees from Katrina.

The two former presidents, who teamed up during a fund-raising effort for victims of last year's Asian tsunami, announced the creation of the Bush-Clinton Katrina Fund.

"We're most anxious to roll up our sleeves and get to work," said former President Bush. "It will take all of us working together to accomplish our goal. This job is too big for any one group."

Brewer: Katrina mission will weigh on him always

Continued from Page 1
with helping New Orleans police and rescuers. The force of 24 includes eight Nebraskans and eight light armored vehicles — the only armored vehicles currently in the city.

The task has stretched the group. Brewer, who arrived Wednesday, has asked — and is receiving — more troops and more vehicles. His guardsmen will end up going down every New Orleans street to save anyone they can and to root out criminals.

Security changed drastically in the previous 24 hours, he said, as the military increased its forces.

"It's totally changed everything," Brewer said. "The sheer number of military personnel arriving has given the New Orleans

"Here you're pulling people off rooftops and buildings and reacting to looters and return fire to people who shoot at you."

Lt. Col. Thomas R. Brewer, Nebraska Army National Guard

Police Department a chance to rest. The task force is growing pretty much by the hour."

There has been little sleep the past three days at the Harrah's Casino in downtown New Orleans, where Brewer is based. His people sleep atop their light armored vehicles — or LAVs.

"We're starting to wear down, but you don't want to stop because time is our enemy," he said. "If we stop and they (those needing rescue) aren't able to be taken care of quickly enough,

they won't survive to be taken anywhere else."

Brewer said some New Orleans residents — including parents with sick children — have refused to leave, despite a warning that this is their last chance. He calls it his biggest heartbreak.

"We can't make them leave," he said. "I don't believe they'll survive."

Despite the recent buildup, Brewer said the scope of the task is "so huge you can't envision an

end to it." He expects to reach a point at which his task force has every LAV in the nation.

Sweeping the city, he said, will take a long time.

So far, his group has provided support for SWAT teams, other police requests and rescue efforts — including the securing of an area where a civilian medical helicopter crashed.

He remembers many details about the 2003 ambush and two-hour firefight outside Kabul, Afghanistan, during which he was injured. For his bravery and his injuries, he earned the Bronze Star and Purple Heart.

Brewer expects this mission, too, to weigh on his heart for the rest of his life.

"This will be an event that will change my outlook on life," he said. "These are Americans."

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KENT SIEVERS/THE WORLD-HERALD
A cold bottle of water helps Priscilla Vail of Gulfport, Miss., beat the heat while she waits in line for gas with B.J. Anderson of Gulfport at a gas station in Ocean Springs, Miss. With gas in short supply, long lines quickly form at stations where it is available.

Gas hunt requires patience

BY ERIN GRACE
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

OCEAN SPRINGS, Miss. — Nebraska's complaining about steep prices at the pump should consider what it takes to even get gas on the Gulf Coast. It's a hard-to-come-by commodity. Filling up car tanks and plastic five-gallon jugs for generators takes strategy, luck and something else that at times is in short supply, patience.

People line up overnight for gas when they can find it. Most stations are closed, their pumping islands cordoned off with yellow police tape. Those that are open have lines trailing for blocks, with police keeping watch. Several stations off Interstate 10 have lines stretching up the exit ramps.

Despite pleas and threats to keep prices in line, at least one station was charging \$4.47 a gallon.

But a station on Bienville Boulevard in Ocean Springs offered hope all weekend. On Sunday, lines moved quickly and with so much efficiency that sitting behind 20 cars waiting for one of six pumps took only 30 minutes. The price was right, too, at \$2.89 a gallon, cheaper than Nebraska's

\$2.97 average on Saturday. The customer service, from the Vietnamese owner nicknamed Mom by her regulars, was cheerful.

The secret didn't last for long. By Monday, dozens of cars had lined up for regular unleaded, now \$2.99.9 per gallon. The line snaked up a narrow neighborhood street with brick single-story houses appearing to be in fairly good shape.

Dozens of cars sat. And sat. No electricity at the station, a driver reported.

Some cars eased out of the line and left. Other drivers made the best of it, getting out of their vehicles and socializing. One woman slept. A man left his pickup to flag down a power company truck for help. Drivers asked a reporter counting cars if she was with the Federal Emergency Management Agency or an insurance company.

"Y'all need to find a way to find out about people who are missing," pleaded 48-year-old Jenny Richards of Ocean Springs, a passenger in a Chevy pickup. "My best friend is in Bay St. Louis. There's no way for me to find out if she's dead or alive."

Richards was riding with her

childhood friend Kim Everett, who confessed to feeling lost in her own town with street signs gone or twisted and so many landmarks damaged.

"I'm fourth-generation Ocean Springs. I don't know where we are," said Everett, 42.

Electricity was restored within the hour, and cars started to inch ahead.

Mom, whose real name is Ngat Nguyen Tran, raced to serve customers. A relative and a family friend directed traffic. Her two oldest daughters worked the cash register.

Because she didn't lose her home and because she saw the devastation of war in Vietnam, Tran hustled to make things run as smooth as she could under the circumstances. "My family lucky. God bless us," said the 44-year-old, who left Vietnam 30 years ago. "I feel sorry for all customers waiting for me. I do my best."

Halfway up the street from the station, Jim Martin surveyed the now-faster gas line from his front yard, where he was raking up debris.

"A lot of people were stuck here," he said, about those who remained during the hurricane. "Not enough money to buy gas."



KENT SIEVERS/THE WORLD-HERALD
With spotty electricity and phone service, Gulf Coast residents go back to the basics in communications.

Spray paint, plywood make signs of the times

BY ERIN GRACE
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

OCEAN SPRINGS, Miss. — Half of a Burger King sign lies in the front yard of a house across a five-lane highway. Plywood covers the windows of the Family Dollar. Forget about stop signs, street signs and even, in places,

Interstate markers.

With electricity spotty at best, cell phone service dubious and phone lines up or down, depending on where you live, Gulf Coast residents have gotten creative in communicating.

Spray paint and plywood tell people what they need to know: "Looters Will Be SHOT"

"Car Wash OPEN!!! Wash Katrina Away!"

"NO WATER, NO ICE CLOSED," read a sign outside the Ocean Springs Civic Center. In smaller letters: "NO FEMA."

Painted in red on the back window of a compact car was a frowned face and the words: "Fire FEMA's director."

Citizen rescuers bring Omaha native to safety

BY LYNN SAFRANEK
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

Scott Turnquist hasn't received many phone calls from his sister since Sunday, but that's OK. It means Susan Turnquist is relaxing on dry land.

Late Saturday, Turnquist finally made it out of New Orleans, where she had been stranded without running water and had been waiting for a rescuer willing to take her and her cats.

Turnquist told her brother in Omaha that she doesn't think her story of survival is as amazing as the tale of the citizens who helped her leave.

A group of men who had lost everything in Hurricane Katrina have been using a boat to pluck stranded residents from their homes and transport them to Baton Rouge, Scott Turnquist said.

The men heard about Turnquist from her boss, who has jewelry stores in New Orleans and Baton Rouge. The boss provided a hub for the citizens' rescue efforts, Scott Turnquist said.

One rescuer originally was from Switzerland and had been

"He's just bound and determined to get everyone out that he can. They don't have any jobs, their businesses are gone, so that's what they do."

Scott Turnquist said of his sister's rescuers

living in the New Orleans area for 14 years.

"He's just bound and determined to get everyone out that he can," Scott Turnquist said. "They don't have any jobs, their businesses are gone, so that's what they do."

Susan Turnquist, a 50-year-old Omaha native and longtime resident of New Orleans, didn't leave before Katrina hit because she has no car and didn't want to leave her three cats. She lost power early Aug. 29, and the water taps stopped running Wednesday. One morning, she

heard gunfire coming from a small corner grocery store.

The citizen rescuers, armed with weapons in case of emergencies and a bullhorn for communication, saved Turnquist, a neighbor in his early 70s and a woman friend living nearby — with their pets.

The rescue has been an emotional and physical relief. Turnquist was excited to return to normal meals and showers, her brother said.

Turnquist wants to stay at her boss's home in Baton Rouge for a while to let her mind rest. As soon as she's ready to leave, her brother plans to drive to Baton Rouge and bring his sister to Omaha.

Since a World-Herald story last week about her plight, strangers have called Turnquist to offer his sister work when she arrives and places to stay. He said the generosity has been humbling — and familiar.

"That's what Omaha is like," he said. "That's what she remembers. It's just shown what Midwestern people are all about."

Good news about daughter ends mother's anxious days

■ An Omaha native and her family rode out the storm, but she couldn't call home.

BY ERIN GRACE
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

LATIMER, Miss. — Omaha native Amy Lepine considered the past week and her fortunes Monday while sitting with her daughters, Destyne, 10, and Delaney, 9.

She and her husband, Chris, lost their retail jobs in Kenner, La., in July. Unfortunate.

They moved out of their apartment by Lake Pontchartrain. Fortunate.

They put all their stuff in a storage facility in Latimer, a town about 12 miles northeast of Biloxi, Miss. Hurricane Katrina flooded the facility and ruined furniture, dishes, camping gear, Chris' comic book collection and oil paintings by Amy's grandfather. Unfortunate.

Their trailer is intact. Their relatives are safe. They are alive. Fortunate.

"I know that we're lucky — we're all lucky," Amy Lepine said. "But there's also a sense of selfishness. We lost everything we worked for . . . but I know we'll be OK. We'll all be fine."

The Lepine family, like thousands across Mississippi, has been without power for days. The family has stayed with Chris' sister and brother-in-law, who live up the gravel road and who have a generator.

The gas-fueled generator re-

stored the refrigerator, the well and the satellite TV. But no lights. No air conditioning. No phone.

There was no way to call Amy's frantic mother in Omaha, who last heard from her daughter at midmorning Aug. 29, the day the hurricane hit.

"We have no idea what happened," B a r b Thomas, Amy's mother, said last week.

In Mississippi six days later, a friend's cell phone magically worked. Amy Lepine dialed her mother.

"Hello," she said into the phone.

"Hello — who's this?" Thomas said, her voice shaking. She didn't think it could be her daughter.

"It's me! Amy!"

"Oh, my God!" Thomas shouted to Lepine's younger brother and sister. "It's Amy!"

Talking to her mother was a relief, Lepine said later. "I knew she was worried. I had been trying to call her."

Amy and Chris Lepine left Omaha for Biloxi in 1997, three



Thomas

years after they were married in downtown Omaha on Amy's 18th birthday.

The Lepines lived in Biloxi until 1999, when they moved to Kenner, a western suburb of New Orleans. In July, when the couple lost their jobs, the family returned to Mississippi, where Chris' sister and her husband have a brick house on 12 acres and where Chris' mother lived within shouting distance. A furnished one-bedroom trailer on the property was waiting.

The night before Katrina struck, the family heard the warnings and packed clothes, a computer, important papers, jewelry and their pet birds. They moved everything to Chris' sister's house.

The next day, the family watched the rain fly horizontally and listened to the wind howl from an outdoor porch. Rather than hiding from the hurricane, they were "being crazy," Destyne said.

"I looked forward to it — the adrenaline," said Amy Lepine, who had been through a much milder hurricane before.

But this time, she said, "it was real loud. A few times (I'm) thinking, 'I don't know why we moved down here.'"

The family's homes all survived. But the Lepines' belongings in storage were covered in water and mud.

But she and her husband are thankful.

"For our children. For our family," she said. "For our lives."

Prostate Cancer Screening and Seminar

September: Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

FREE prostate cancer screening will be offered for men, in an effort to raise awareness of prostate cancer detection. The screening will include a digital rectal exam and the prostate specific antigen (PSA) blood test. Space is limited, so please call to register.

Following the screening, join Andrew F. Trainer, M.D., urologist, for a free seminar as he discusses treatment options for benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH), prostate cancer and recommended dietary changes for optimal prostate health.

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Digest

MAIN NEWS

Oil-for-food report rips Annan, U.N.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan and the U.N. Security Council received an investigators' report Wednesday blistering their management of the oil-for-food program and saying the United Nations must be overhauled if it is to earn global credibility and meet its 21st-century obligations. The report came out of a yearlong investigation led by Paul Volcker, a former chairman of the Federal Reserve. It said those managing the program, created in 1996 to help ordinary Iraqis endure U.N. sanctions, ignored clear evidence of corruption and waste as Saddam Hussein skimmed \$1.8 billion from the \$64 billion operation and made an \$11 billion through smuggling on the side. **Page 10**

U.S. hostage rescued in Iraq

The U.S. military, acting on a tip from an Iraqi prisoner, raided a farmhouse south of Baghdad on Wednesday and rescued an American contractor who had been held hostage for 10 months. Roy Hallums, 57, was "in good condition and is receiving medical care," the military said after troops freed him from the farmhouse 15 miles south of the capital. **Page 10**

MIDLANDS

State can intervene in casino lawsuit

The State of Nebraska will be allowed to intervene in a lawsuit filed by the Santee Sioux Tribe challenging a decision that prohibits it from legally operating video poker, blackjack, roulette and other games at its Ohiya Casino at Niobrara, Neb. U.S. Magistrate Thomas Thalcken granted the request from the Attorney General's Office on Tuesday. "I don't want to see the expansion of gambling anywhere in Nebraska," Attorney General Jon Bruning said Wednesday. "And the state has a strong interest in controlling gambling on the Indian reservations." **Page 1**

SPORTS

NU's McKeon eager to test Wake Forest

Husker sophomore line-backer Corey McKeon has heard about Wake Forest's rushing attack, the one that pounded out 274 yards last week. He has seen it on film, the clips of pulling tackles and reverses and quarterback draws. "I'm ready for it," McKeon said. The first-year Blackshirt was supposed to be a question mark this year. On Saturday against Maine, the 6-foot-1, 225-pounder led the Huskers with 10 tackles, including one forced fumble, three tackles for loss and one sack. **Page 1**

BUSINESS

Gates increases Berkshire stake

Microsoft Corp. co-founder Bill Gates has increased his stake in Omaha-based Berkshire Hathaway Inc., adding 90 shares at a cost of about \$7.5 million. Gates, 49, now owns 3,730 shares of Berkshire, the investment company and insurer run by Warren Buffett, according to a filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. The value of Gates' stake is now about



Gates increased his stake in Berkshire Hathaway Inc., adding 90 shares at a cost of about \$7.5 million.

\$313 million. Gates became a Berkshire board member in December. **Page 1**

Starbucks opens downtown Friday

Starbucks Coffee Co. will open its first store in downtown Omaha on Friday. The 2,200-square-foot store is located on the first floor of Central Park Plaza, 222 S. 15th St. About 15 people will work at Starbucks, which features indoor and patio seating. The corporate-owned store will carry a full line of specialty coffee beans, pastries and merchandise, including coffee and espresso machines. **Page 1**

LIVING

Growth projected for cleaning firms

Hiring housekeeping help may be a luxury. But it's a luxury that many people are working into their budgets because their time is important. All markets for cleaning services — residential and industrial — are projected to see growth through 2009, according to the Freedonia Group Inc., a Cleveland-based market research firm. The growth will be driven by the increasing number of two-income households. **Page 1**

GO!

Two guitar greats at Joslyn tonight

Two outstanding guitarists are scheduled to perform tonight at 8 in the Witherspoon Concert Hall at Joslyn Art Museum. Eric Johnson is widely considered one of the world's leading guitarists for his broad tonal palette and range of techniques. Guitar Player magazine has named the two-time Grammy winner as best overall guitarist for four straight years. Opening the show is another famed guitarist, Adrian Belew, known for his work in the band King Crimson. Belew has also lent his talents to Nine Inch Nails, Frank Zappa, the Talking Heads and David Bowie. **Pages 8-9**

FOR THE RECORD

Nebraska Cattlemen representative: Craig Utter is a Sand Hills rancher who represents the Nebraska Cattlemen on a task force studying land practices of the Nebraska Environmental Trust. His affiliation was incorrectly stated at one point in a story in Tuesday editions.

Bank loans: Omaha State Bank reported no nonperforming loans on June 30. A table in morning editions showed an incorrect figure.

Steel plants: Nucor Steel Corp. has bought plants belonging to Birmingham Steel Co. A story Aug. 30 said Nucor had bought plants formerly belonging to another firm.

LOTTERIES

POWERBALL
■ **Saturday, Sept. 3: 1-330-31-43.** Powerball: 36. Power Play: 4. No jackpot winner. Jackpot for Wednesday, Sept. 7: \$60 million.
NEBRASKA
■ **Pick 5 — Tuesday, Sept. 6: 10-11-13-35-37.** No jackpot winner. Jackpot for Wednesday, Sept. 7: \$62,000.
■ **2by2 — Tuesday, Sept. 6: red 6-19; white 10-14.**
■ **Pick 3 — Tuesday, Sept. 6: 7-8-5.**
IOWA
■ **Cash Game — Tuesday, Sept. 6: 10-14-22-28-35.**
■ **Hot Lotto — Saturday, Sept. 3: 12-13-15-19-27.** Hot Ball: 16.
■ **Pick 3 — Tuesday, Sept. 6: midday 3-0-8, evening 4-9-9.**
■ **Pick 4 — Tuesday, Sept. 6: midday 0-2-3, evening 2-7-6-2.**

Lottery results from other states are at [Omaha.com](#).

Shots: Judge bases action on alleged victim's gender

Continued from Page 1

three people can be involved in the same incident where criminal conduct is involved, and how one count can be tried and the (others) can't," said Alan Sladek of Omaha. "I certainly felt terrorized at the time."

Roark's attorney, Ron Temple of Norfolk, declined to comment, other than to say he believed that the judge should have dismissed all charges against his client.

Jo Potuto, a University of Nebraska law professor, said there is nothing in the law that allows a judge to differentiate based on gender on whether a person has been terrorized or not.

However, Potuto said, the facts of the case — such as how

the alleged victims behaved during the incident — might lead a judge to proceed with one charge and not another.

During the preliminary hearing, Sladek and an Omaha couple on the trip, Todd and Laura Swift, testified that someone fired six rifle shots ahead of them as they floated downstream and across Roark's property.

All said a seventh shot was fired upstream, after they had decided to turn around and walk away. That effectively trapped the tubers, they said.

"I was terrified," Laura Swift testified. "My (four) kids were crying, my second youngest was crying, 'I don't want to die, Mom.'"

"There was silence then an awful curse," she recalled.

His daughters traveled with him to Sweden and France in the years after the death of his wife, Natalie Cornell Rehnquist, in 1991. They often were his companions at Washington events and joked that "dating your father is overrated," Spears said.

Cardinal Theodore McCarrick welcomed those assembled in the Roman Catholic cathedral for the Lutheran service. Rehnquist's family requested use of the cathedral because it could accommodate more people than the

Eventually, the witnesses said, they heard a vehicle door slam and a vehicle drive off.

Thinking the gunman had left, they proceeded down the creek. There they encountered a sheriff's deputy called by Roark, who said the tubers were interrupting his target practice.

Roark has said that he was firing at targets along the creek and that if he had intended to shoot the tubers, he would have hit them.

Sladek and others in the group have said that Roark was trying to intimidate the tubers and prevent them from floating across his property. It was legal for them to cross Roark's property, as long they stayed in their inner tubes.

Both Sladek and Todd Swift had to be restrained from assaulting Roark after the July 2004 incident.

Sladek, however, said that shouldn't have a bearing on whether he was terrorized or not.

The case is expected to go to trial next year. Sladek said Roark was offered a deal to avoid having the other felony charges refilled — plead guilty to the remaining felony charge, and surrender his firearm.

Neither the prosecutor nor the defense lawyer would comment about any plea offers.

Sladek said such an agreement would satisfy him. He said Roark should not own a firearm "if he can't understand how serious it is to fire in and around people."

Rehnquist: Children recall love of history, games

Continued from Page 1

Family members portrayed Rehnquist as a man who balanced career and family.

"No one smelled more roses than my dad," James Rehnquist said.

Nancy Rehnquist Spears joked about her father's history quizzing and his love of games and gambling.

"If a wager were involved, so much the better," said Spears, who recalled him promising her \$5 if she could tell him when Queen Elizabeth died.

"1603," she answered.

chief justice's Lutheran church in Virginia.

McCarrick praised Rehnquist as a "loving father and husband, an outstanding legal scholar, a tireless champion of life and a true lover of the law — in every sense, a great American."

Rehnquist was buried at Arlington National Cemetery, whose the Web site listed him as William H. Rehnquist, Sgt. USA, referring to his Army rank during World War II. From the grave site, where Rehnquist's wife is also interred, the Capitol is visible.

Their graves are in the older section of the cemetery, not far from those of former Chief Justice Warren Burger and Justices Harry Blackmun, William Brennan, William Douglas, Potter Stewart and Thurgood Marshall.

Rehnquist was the first justice to die in office since Robert Jackson in 1954 and the first sitting chief justice to pass away since Fred Vinson in 1953. Rehnquist served 33 years on the court, 14 of them as an associate justice and 19 as chief justice.

This report includes material from Bloomberg News.

New Orleans: Filthy water carries disease threat

Continued from Page 1

them some cash in hand that empowers them," FEMA Director Michael Brown said. The program initially will benefit people who have been moved to major rescue centers. The cards will be limited to one per household.

■ The first government tests confirmed that floodwaters in New Orleans contain concentrations of bacteria associated with sewage that are at least 10 times higher than acceptable safety levels, making direct contact by rescue workers and remaining residents dangerous. At least four people may have died of a waterborne bacterial infection circulating in Katrina's floodwaters, health officials said.

■ State Rep. Nita Hutter said 30 people died at a flooded-out nursing home in Chalmette, just outside New Orleans. She said the staff left the elderly residents behind in their beds. And more than 100 people died at a dockside warehouse, where they were waiting for rescuers to ferry them to safety, said Rep. Charlie Melancon, whose congressional district includes the area.

■ Firefighters battled blazes around New Orleans — an emerging threat in a city where the water pressure is too low to fight fires and where many people are using candles because of

"There are dead babies tied to poles, and they're dragging us out and leaving the dead babies. That ain't right!"

Dolores Devron, New Orleans resident

the lack of electricity.

■ Workers returning to the city to restart essential services came under gunfire. More than 100 law officers using armored personnel carriers converged on a housing project and captured a suspect who had been firing on telephone workers, authorities said.

Mayor Nagin's stepped-up evacuation orders came as workers struggled to find and count the corpses decomposing in the 90-degree heat. Even when cadaver dogs pick up a scent, workers frequently cannot get at the bodies without heavy equipment. The mayor has estimated that New Orleans' death toll could reach 10,000.

The mayor's everyone-out directive — which superseded an earlier, milder order to evacuate made before Hurricane Katrina crashed ashore Aug. 29 — came after rescuers scouring New Orleans found hundreds of people ignoring warnings to get out.

Several residents said they heard Nagin's latest order on portable radios and were reluc-

tantly complying.

Dolores Devron and her husband, Forcell, finally agreed to go. Dolores Devron said she was relieved that the couple were allowed to take their dog with them but angry that they were ordered out.

"There are dead babies tied to poles, and they're dragging us out and leaving the dead babies. That ain't right!" she screamed, waving her arms as she was directed onto a troop carrier truck.

Picola Brown, 47, hobbled slowly down the street on crutches. She said she had not been able to leave because a truck had run over her left foot shortly before the storm struck, breaking a toe.

"The mayor said everybody's got to go. I got ready. I just don't want them knocking on my door," she said.

"Where do you want to go?" asked a soldier from the 82nd Airborne Division. She answered, "Wherever it's comfortable."

Patricia Kelly, 41, sat under a tattered, dirty green and white

patio umbrella in front of an abandoned barber and beauty shop in the devastated 9th Ward. Her home was flooded; she was not able to get back in but did not want to leave the neighborhood.

"I'm going to stay as long as the Lord says so," Kelly said. "If they come with a court order, then we'll leave. I hope it doesn't get to the point where we're forced out."

Pumping floodwaters out of the city began after the Army Corps of Engineers used hundreds of sandbags and rocks over the Labor Day weekend to close a 200-foot gap in the 17th Street Canal levee, which burst in the aftermath of the storm and swamped 80 percent of this below-sea-level city.

Although toxic floodwaters receded inch by inch, only five of New Orleans' normal complement of 148 drainage pumps were operating Wednesday, the corps said.

How long it takes to drain the city could depend on the condition of the pumps — especially whether they were submerged and damaged, the corps said. Also, the water is full of debris, and while there are screens on the pumps, it may be necessary to stop and clean them from time to time.

This report includes material from Bloomberg News.

Gas: Stations' profit margins slimmer

Continued from Page 1

said David DiMartino, a Nelson spokesman. "We are trying to get to the root cause of why (gas) is so expensive. He (Nelson) thinks the problem is more of an underlying problem."

Retail prices have dropped in the last few days as the wholesale price of gasoline has declined. Pump prices at some Omaha stations are down 20 cents or more compared with prices late last week.

Nebraska's average price for regular unleaded gasoline was \$3.19 per gallon on Wednesday. In Iowa, the average price per gallon was \$3.07.

But prices are still 30 cents or more above levels before the hurricane hit.

Retailers aren't reaping the benefits of the recent spike in prices, say industry experts. Most of the added price can be attributed to higher costs charged by the oil companies and refineries.

"What it really comes down to is that a significant amount of the refining capacity has been reduced because of the hurricane. You have less product that is getting to the market, and that is driving up prices," said Bill Bush, a spokesman for the American Petroleum Institute, which represents the U.S. oil industry.

Crude oil costs still account for about half of the price of a gallon of gasoline sold at your neighborhood filling station.

But, after Hurricane Katrina, refining costs are creeping up as a percentage of the price of a gallon of gasoline, said Jacob Bournazian, an economist for the Energy Information Admin-

No field trips at Norris

Field trips have been suspended at Norris Public Schools because

of high fuel prices. When prices go down, administrators will reconsider, said Roy Baker, superintendent of the school near Firth, Neb. The halting of trips will not affect travel to athletic events or marching band competitions.

istration of the U.S. Energy Department.

During last week's big price spikes, retailers' average gross profit nationally for a gallon of gasoline was 10 cents, said Fred Rozell, retail pricing director for the Oil Price Information Service, a firm that tracks the oil industry.

That margin was actually about 3 cents below the 12-month average for 2004.

Out of those profits, retailers must pay credit card processing fees and other overhead, he said.

Net profits for retailers are typically 2 cents or 3 cents per gallon of gasoline, he said.

Rozell said the average gross profits last week were lower than the 2004 average because not all retailers immediately passed along to consumers the full increases in wholesale gas costs.

Price differences among stations during last week's jump convinced some drivers that certain retailers must be price gouging.

But Rozell said that just because a station was charging 20 cents or 30 cents more than a competitor doesn't mean price gouging occurred.

Some stations pass along to consumers the full increase in wholesale prices immediately, he said, while others pass along the increase gradually.

He said some retailers wait until they pay a higher wholesale price for a load of gasoline before raising pump prices.

But Rozell said it's more common for retailers to increase pump prices after they've been notified of a coming increase.

That practice is not unreasonable, said Bill Brauch, director of the consumer protection division of the Iowa Attorney General's Office.

He said raising the pump price before the more expensive gasoline arrives enables retailers to afford to pay the higher wholesale cost.

Neither Nebraska nor Iowa has a specific law against price gouging, but both states have laws that could apply to excessive gas prices.

Iowa might be able to prosecute for gas gouging using a consumer law that covers acts that cause "substantial and unavoidable injury" to a buyer. Those acts could include excessive gas prices, Brauch said.

But the Iowa Attorney General's Office said gas retailers are "acting responsibly and raising their prices in connection with soaring wholesale prices."

Regan Anson, spokeswoman for Nebraska Attorney General Jon Bruning, said retail price gouging occurs when there is an unreasonable markup beyond the wholesale gas price and the price charged by competitors.

She said her office has no evidence that retailers have done that.

Evacuees: Mass-shelter plans on hold

Continued from Page 1

cials are asking that the Omaha Civic Auditorium and St. Mark United Methodist Church in Lincoln remain on standby for another week or two, ready to take evacuees on short notice if the situation changes.

Officials also will work with other communities to identify potential shelters but will not prepare them unless the need arises, Heineman said.

Volunteers at St. Mark, at the request of the Red Cross, have set up 200 cots in the worship hall to prepare for the possibility of receiving evacuees.

For now, the cots, temporary showers and banks of phones and computers remain in place at the Omaha Civic Auditorium, in case the call for help does come.

The message to everyone involved in Omaha's relief effort hasn't changed, said Judy Peschio, director of the Heartland Chapter of the American Red Cross. If the call comes, Omaha must be ready to move fast.

But even as Omaha's evacuee center sits idle, Katrina victims are finding their way to the city, often moving up to be with family and friends. The Red Cross has worked with about 200 people — representing 58 households — who need help finding services in town, Peschio said.

New arrivals call each day. Their needs are no different than those arriving at large evacuation centers, so Omaha still needs to step up to help, she said.

World-Herald staff writer Judith Nygren contributed to this report.

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For Bluffs native, it's time to face 9/11

■ Suzanne Tinley will join others who lost siblings at the World Trade Center in a ceremony Sunday in New York.

BY HENRY J. CORDES
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

When the long roll of lost souls is recited at Ground Zero Sunday, Suzanne Tinley will read the names of eight of the dead, ending with the words "and my brother Michael E. Tinley."

Tinley, a Council Bluffs native, is among 200 siblings of World Trade Center victims selected to participate in Sunday's ceremony marking the fourth anniversary of 9/11. She said it will be an honor to pay tribute to her brother and the nearly 3,000 others who died in New York City that day.

"My brother wasn't a hero and would not want to be considered a hero," she said. "But it's a way of paying honor to people who by chance were in the wrong place at the wrong time."

After parents, children and grandparents of 9/11 victims performed the readings in previous years, New York's mayor decided to have brothers and sisters do it this year to recognize the special, and often overlooked, bonds of siblings.

The bond between Tinley and her brother indeed was special. She lived in New York in the shadow of the twin towers and would see her Dallas-based brother on all his frequent business trips to the city.

The morning of Sept. 11, 2001, Mike Tinley, a 56-year-old Creighton Prep and Creighton University grad, called his sister from the 100th floor of the north tower.

An hour later, Suzanne Tinley was crossing the Brooklyn Bridge when she saw a shower of debris shrouding the upper floors of that tower, shimmering in the morning light. She had looked up an instant after the first plane struck.

Later, she stood in her apartment blocks away and watched in disbelief as the massive tower shuddered and collapsed into a fiery heap. Any hopes that her brother had survived came crashing down with it. No trace of Mike was ever found.

With both of Mike Tinley's daughters living on the West Coast, Suzanne served as the family representative in 9/11's emotional aftermath. She filled out the paperwork declaring him missing, was swabbed for DNA

See *Tribute*: Page 2

Omaha expects evacuees today

■ City and state officials learned that four planes are scheduled to arrive.

BY JASON KUIPER
AND KEVIN COLE
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITERS

Omaha's preparations to shelter evacuees from the hurricane-battered Gulf Coast apparently will be put into practice today.

Mayor Mike Fahey and Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman

were notified late Friday that Omaha could end up with as many as 440 people, said Paul Landow, a mayoral spokesman. There's no guarantee, however, that any evacuees will come, Landow said.

Four planes are scheduled to arrive in Omaha: the first plane at 10:55 a.m., and the last at 9:30 p.m. Once the planes touch down

at Eppley Airfield, medical personnel will immediately assess any medical needs.

Evacuees will be taken by Metro Area Transit buses to the Omaha Civic Auditorium, where they will have access to food, banks, telephones, computers and other needs.

"The goal is to get them in, get them settled, get them something to eat and comfort them," said Judy Peschio, executive director of the Heartland Chapter of the American Red Cross.

More of the casework and

identifying the individual needs of the new arrivals will begin Sunday, Peschio said.

It was not known how long evacuees would be staying in Omaha, but plans are for their stay at the Civic to be brief before settling them in area hotels and other housing.

Des Moines saw 38 evacuees arrive on two planes at that city's airport Friday. The refugees were taken by bus to the Iowa State Fairgrounds, where they were assessed for medical

See *Evacuees*: Page 2

Inside

Police south of New Orleans turned back hundreds of evacuees in the first days after the storm. **Page 4**

Residents of Gretna, Neb., are collecting relief supplies for people in Gretna, La. **Page 4**

The insurance industry could be facing up to \$60 billion in claims. **Business**

Katrina's aftermath is a big topic for school counselors. **Living**

Bird's-eye view of misery



KENTSIEVERS/THE WORLD-HERALD

A view of the Superdome and the downtown area of a still-waterlogged and polluted New Orleans on Friday from a search and rescue medical helicopter 1,000 feet above the city.

Death tally may be lower than feared

THE NEW YORK TIMES

NEW ORLEANS — The first organized effort to scour the city for its dead has turned up far fewer bodies than expected, officials said Friday, raising hopes that the city's death toll from Hurricane Katrina might be much lower than the 10,000 the mayor and others have predicted.

As floodwaters continued to recede, police officers, National Guardsmen and members of the Army's 82nd Airborne Division went street to street and house to house in the first phase of a systematic hunt to find, remove and identify the dead.

"There's some encouragement in what we found in the initial sweeps," said retired Col. Terry Ebbert, who oversees police and emergency operations as the city's chief of homeland security. "The numbers so far are relatively minor as compared with the dire predictions of 10,000."

The specter of a five-figure toll had been raised this week as the Federal Emergency Management Agency ordered 25,000 body bags to be flown to a temporary morgue in St. Gabriel for Louisiana fatalities. The state's official death count stood at 118, and Mississippi's was 211.

Ebbert, who would not provide any figures on the count so far in New Orleans, said it would take two more weeks before the search for the city's dead could yield a reliable assessment.

As they looked for bodies, the officers and troops began to retrace steps they had walked during the past two weeks as they searched primarily for the living — who Ebbert said now number fewer than 5,000 — and tried to persuade them to leave. On Friday, city officials continued to hold off on their threat to use force to evacuate those who refuse, calling it a last resort.

"We're trying our best to persuasively negotiate, and we are not using force at this time," said Sherry Landry, the city attorney.

Another promising development to emerge

See *Katrina*: Page 2



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

FEMA Director Michael Brown will be handling his duties from Washington, D.C., instead of the Gulf Coast. Story on Page 4

\$193,000 vehicle on police wanted list

BY LYNN SAFRANEK
WORLD-HERALD STAFF WRITER

The latest set of wheels being added to the Omaha Police Department's fleet isn't your average police cruiser.

It's armored on all sides, including the top and bottom, and has blast fragmentation-resistant floors. It's a gas guzzler, achieving 10 miles to the gallon.

And it comes with a hefty price tag: \$193,244.

Welcome the BearCat — the

Omaha's share of Homeland Security funding would be tapped for the purchase.

priciest piece on the department's equipment wishlist.

The City Council will decide on Tuesday whether to authorize payment for the BearCat — and other protective equipment — from the Omaha metropolitan area's \$5.1 million homeland security grant.

"More than likely, that will be approved," said City Council

President Dan Welch.

The BearCat's primary role will be aiding at the sites of bomb threats and situations involving hazardous materials and "weapons of mass destruction" in an area covering three counties, according to paperwork submitted to the City Council in support of the request for the vehicle.

Its secondary use will be sup-

porting the narcotics unit when serving high-risk search and arrest warrants and clandestine laboratory incidents.

The money being used to purchase the BearCat is from the \$5.1 million grant awarded to Omaha in December through the federal Urban Area Security Initiative, which geared grants toward high-risk urban areas. The money was designated for three counties: Douglas, Sarpy and Washington.

See *BearCat*: Page 2



CRAIG SCHREINER/THE STATE JOURNAL

Omaha's BearCat armored vehicle would be similar to this one purchased by the Dane County Sheriff's Office in Madison, Wis.

Omaha weather



Mostly sunny.
High 92; low 70



When one son plays for Iowa and another for Iowa State, you know you're in for a tough night. **Sports, Page 4**

The band of brothers from the 899th Tank Destroyer Battalion get together for one last reunion. **Midlands**



Coming Sunday

The Arts Preview section looks at the coming season, including Thomas Wilkins' debut.



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Digest

MAIN NEWS

Pay dispute shuts Baghdad airport

A pay dispute between the Iraqi government and a British security firm has led to the closure of Baghdad's international airport — the war-torn nation's safest link to the outside world. Iraq's Transportation Ministry has fallen several months behind on its \$4.5 million-a-month payments to London-based Global Strategies Group. Iraqi troops were sent to reopen the airport Friday, but they were called back after a confrontation with U.S. troops at a highway checkpoint. **Page 5**

Mississippi killer sent back to prison

Former Ku Klux Klan leader Edgar Ray Killen appears to be healthier than a judge had been told — healthy enough, in fact, to go back to prison. Killen, 80, was convicted in June for the 1964 slayings of three civil rights workers in Philadelphia, Miss. He was freed on a \$600,000 appeal bond Aug. 12 after he testified at a hearing that he was in constant pain and confined to a wheelchair. However, several law enforcement officers said they had seen Killen driving during the past two weeks, including one who reportedly saw him step out of this truck. He is serving a 60-year term. **Page 6**



Killen
rights workers in Philadelphia, Miss. He was freed on a \$600,000 appeal bond Aug. 12 after he testified at a hearing that he was in constant pain and confined to a wheelchair. However, several law enforcement officers said they had seen Killen driving during the past two weeks, including one who reportedly saw him step out of this truck. He is serving a 60-year term. **Page 6**

MIDLANDS

Brenda Council broke casino pledge

Former Omaha City Councilwoman Brenda Council has pleaded guilty to trespassing in Council Bluffs for violating a self-imposed promise to stay away from all Iowa casinos. She signed a form that generally is used by people who want to stop themselves from gambling, but she said Friday, "No, I don't believe I have a gambling problem." She was fined \$100 for misdemeanor criminal trespass for being at Bluffs Run at 2:45 a.m. Wednesday, Aug. 31. She signed the form in July and was warned Aug. 10 by staff at Harrah's Casino in the Bluffs. **Page 3**

SPORTS

Mavs to take on future NCC rival

Central Washington's football team joins the North Central Conference next season, but UNO fans can get a preview of the Wildcats today. Central Washington visits Caniglia Field for a 1 p.m. game with a May team that is missing star wide receiver Chris Denney, who has a hamstring injury. Also, an injured ankle has left leading rusher Jamar Day's status in doubt for fifth-ranked UNO. The Wildcats opened their season with a 44-0 loss to North Dakota, another NCC team. **Page 3**

Success spices Iowa-ISU matchup

Today's installment of the Iowa-Iowa State football rivalry is unusual in one sense: Both teams' expectations are high this season. The sold-out game starts at 2:30 p.m. at Jack Trice Stadium in Ames. Eighth-ranked Iowa and the Cyclones are both among the favorites this year in their conferences, and ABC will broadcast the game to two-thirds of the na-

tion. "It's nice to have this kind of attention focused on this game," Iowa coach Kirk Ferentz said. **Page 3**

BUSINESS

Farms' buffer strips have dual benefits

Hunting and farming, two of Iowa farmer Kenny Snyder's passions, each benefit from a project of Snyder's that has grown into a statewide initiative. Snyder, of Carroll, established a buffer strip of grasses between his fields and neighboring streams. The grasses reduce erosion and chemical runoff and provide habitat for game birds. The initiative was among ideas discussed at last week's White House Conference on Cooperative Conservation in St. Louis, which focused on how public-private partnerships can improve the environment without governmental mandates. **Page 1**

aq rose 1.61 percent. **Page 1**
SEC might sue General Re leader

The Securities and Exchange Commission is considering filing a lawsuit against the chief executive of General Reinsurance, Berkshire Hathaway's largest insurance division. Joseph Brandon could face a civil action in connection with alleged violations of securities law, the SEC said. The notice apparently is related to an SEC investigation into accounting irregularities by American International Group, which has done business with General Re. **Page 2**

LIVING

Church grows with Latino community

At a time when many of Omaha's immigrant-based churches have lost members, Our Lady of Guadalupe is prospering. The south Omaha church, a longtime anchor of the city's Latino community, is planning a \$550,000 renovation and expansion that will close it for about six months. An influx of Spanish-speaking newcomers is prompting the expansion and adding a layer to generations of people who worship at the Catholic church. **Page 1**

Children's show to mark 50 years

A TV show that has taught Omaha children about religion through puppets and pictures starts its 50th season this weekend — with the same format as when it started. A celebration of the milestone for "Jean's Storytime" starts Sunday at St. Luke Lutheran Church, 2315 I St. in Omaha. Among those appearing will be program host Maribeth Schnase and her husband, Fred, who controls the puppets on the KMTV-Channel 3 show. He is the son of the show's original "Miss Jean," Norma Schnase, who was the host for 38 years before retiring in 1994. **Page 1**

LOTTERIES

POWERBALL
■ **Wednesday, Sept. 7: 12-32-40-50-54. Powerball: 37. Power Play: 3. No jackpot winner. Jackpot for Saturday, Sept. 10: \$70 million.**
NEBRASKA
■ **Pick 5 — Friday, Sept. 9: 3-4-19-25-30. No jackpot winner. Jackpot for Saturday, Sept. 10: \$74,000.**
■ **2by2 — Friday, Sept. 9: red 10-26; white 1-12.**
■ **Pick 3 — Friday, Sept. 9: 6-4-9.**
IOWA
■ **Cash Game — Friday, Sept. 9: 5-20-26-27-29.**
■ **Hot Lotto — Wednesday, Sept. 7: 4-12-17-19-27. Hot Ball: 16.**
■ **Pick 3 — Friday, Sept. 9: midday 1-3-3, evening 0-1-5.**
■ **Pick 4 — Friday, Sept. 9: midday 6-0-4-6, evening 9-1-8-5.**

Lottery results from other states are at Omaha.com.

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Choppers: Nebraska crews cope with confusion

Continued from Page 1
Black Hawks bearing the insignia of medical evacuation mission — a red cross on a white square.

The air traffic fills radios with so much chatter that a Nebraska Black Hawk crew of four can't hear all calls.

With the mix of military and civilian aircraft, crew members are concerned that they'll get in each other's way. Interference may have led to at least one of the three civilian helicopter crashes in a week.

Fineran, of Lincoln, reminds his flight crews to be extra cautious in the skies.

Here, a successful mission is a bit like the expression painted on one of his unit's Black Hawks. With a pair of dice, it says "crapshoot."

Earlier Friday, the crew had success. They delivered an Air Force serviceman with a broken elbow and an IV from a base tent emergency room to a Navy helicopter landing ship.

The Iwo Jima is anchored in the Mississippi, east of New Orleans' Riverwalk. Normally used to transport Marines, it has been set up as a command center with hospital services. It took just nine minutes to ferry the injured man from base to the landing deck.

The Nebraskans also coped with hurdles Thursday. A mission to rescue an injured guardsman ended in frustration when another Army helicopter

swooped in first. The Army helicopter did not have the priority clearance that the Nebraska medevachas.

That and other complications delayed the injured man's arrival at a base hospital by 40 minutes. Initially his injury was reported as a gunshot. Turns out a Humvee had rolled over his foot.

Since arriving Sunday at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base across the Mississippi River from New Orleans, the Nebraska unit has ferried about 25 people to safety in the unit's two UH60A Black Hawks. Twenty people, including children, were rescued Monday at a Winn-Dixie supermarket parking lot.

That was a more gratifying mission for Chief Warrant Officer Burdette Chappell of Kearney than taking two healthy residents to an evacuation site. The pilot said Thursday he felt like "a glorified taxi" after that run.

Unlike other aircraft, Nebraska's two medevac helicopters are supposed to be reserved for shuttling seriously injured people to a hospital. Given the situation in New Orleans, with toxic floodwaters stranding some people in their homes, the medevacs are also supposed to help in search and rescue.

But they haven't been as busy as they'd like.

Responding to last week's complaints about too little help, the federal government has called up massive forces: the 82nd Airborne, 4th Infantry Di-

vision and 1st Cavalry, along with National Guard units from at least half the states. Various Homeland Security forces and out-of-town fire and police crews also have arrived.

The naval air base southeast of the city has become a cluster of tent cities. So many kinds of military aircraft are coming and going that the Nebraska guardsmen long ago lost count. There are Kiowas, Coast Guard Jayhawks and Falcon search jets, Navy Sea Hawks, Air Force Pave Hawks. The C-130 cargo plane behemoths that carried the National Guard's light-armored vehicles here.

So many fuel and supply planes came in that guardsmen said items couldn't be sorted fast enough.

Above the Nebraska unit's base — two small buildings with air-conditioning recently restored — aircraft thunder all day.

Joining Nebraska in providing medevac services here are units from Wisconsin, Wyoming, Washington, D.C., Georgia, Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana, as well as Fort Bragg and Fort Polk.

Nebraska's unit members split their time between a command center and bunkerhouse for on-call pilots and crew. Those not on call share floor space in a base gym with 300 other troops.

Their mission — search and rescue, followed by providing life-sustaining help and medical

assistance — has no deadline. Fineran told members Thursday not to ask for a weekend off to see the Huskers play.

He expects their duties to pick up as forces on the ground prepare to begin an exhaustive door-to-door search to ask — but not require — residents to leave New Orleans.

Outside the city, the unit is sheltered from the stench of rot that permeates the air in New Orleans. Yet at 300 feet in a Black Hawk, the scope of disaster hits hard.

Staff Sgt. Charles Lang, a crew chief from Lincoln, can't stop thinking about all of the loss. Lang, 48, a husband and father, saw a pickup, wedged midair between the top of a house and its garage. He saw boats snagged on power lines. He has combed neighborhoods where streets are rivers and rooftops hold signs of life — abandoned mattresses, chairs, coolers — and signs of death.

"It's hard to fathom," he said. "It makes you feel sorry for all the people."

Some unit members questioned whether they could have done more had they been called up sooner. Anticipating a call-up after Katrina hit, the unit scrambled to get its two Black Hawks ready. It took five days to get the order.

"That's the period of time when you're watching CNN going, 'We could be here,'" Lang said.

Katrina: Hope rises for lower death tally as floodwaters recede

Continued from Page 1

Friday was the first detailed timetable for draining New Orleans. The Army Corps of Engineers said most of the city could be dried out by Oct. 2, though some of the eastern areas of New Orleans could be under water until Oct. 8, the Associated Press reported. The corps had previously said the job could take up to 80 days.

And for the first time in the 11 days since the hurricane slammed into the Gulf Coast, government and utility officials offered a time frame for restoring electricity to New Orleans' downtown business district. They said they hoped to have power turned on, and much of the debris cleaned up, by the end of next week.

Between 350,000 and 400,000 homes were still without power in New Orleans and the surrounding area, compared with about 1 million just after the hurricane, according to new estimates by Jimmy Field, a member of the Louisiana Public Service Commission, and Daniel Packer, the president of Entergy New Orleans, the city's major electrical provider.

In St. Bernard Parish, which was hit particularly hard, 99 percent of homes and businesses were still without power, Field said. In Orleans Parish, that figure was 89 percent, and a little more than 50 percent in Jefferson Parish.

As floodwaters recede north toward Lake Pontchartrain, water levels across the city have fallen by as much as 4 feet since Monday. Parts of Interstate 10 that had been flooded are now passable, and the city's downtown core is mostly dry.

A \$30.9 million contract was signed Friday to rebuild the I-10 bridge over Lake Pontchartrain that sustained major hurricane damage. The emergency project should restore traffic to the bridge connecting New Orleans and Slidell, La., within 45 days, the Associated Press reported. Work was set to begin Monday.

On Canal Street, a major commercial artery where many news organizations are working out of recreational vehicles powered by gasoline and diesel, some hotels prepared to reopen.

Businesses, including some clothing stores, sent employees to inspect their properties. In the French Quarter, contractors cleaned streets and removed downed trees.

Yet elsewhere, the city appeared emptier on Friday than it had been earlier in the week, with fewer people sitting on porches or drinking outside bars. Even some who vowed this week to resist the city's evacuation orders said they would relent.

Their change of heart was understandable. In the areas of the city where water still stands, the stench has grown increasingly unbearable as corpses rot and human and animal waste builds up. Abandoned and unfed dogs roam, sometimes in packs, along lifeless streets.

Even in dry zones, residents have no electricity or drinkable water, and face an endless procession of police officers and soldiers telling them that the city is unlivable and encouraging them to leave, sometimes politely and sometimes sternly.

Ebbert, the city's homeland security chief, said that in their first sweep of the city, the police and National Guard had persuaded 3,854 residents to leave their homes since Sunday, including many who had spurned previous evacuation orders.

He said that the new sweep would focus on the dead, and that for dignity's sake, the news media would not be allowed to watch. Officers who locate bodies will notify mortuary teams under the supervision of FEMA, he said. Those teams will seek to identify the bodies, notify relatives and feed the information to state health officials, who have started to compile death statistics.



Suzanne Tinley with her husband and one of their two children.

Tribute: Anniversary ceremony will be the first for Suzanne Tinley

Continued from Page 1
in the morning light. She had looked up an instant after the first plane struck.

Later, she stood in her apartment blocks away and watched in disbelief as the massive tower shuddered and collapsed into a fiery heap. Any hopes that her brother had survived came crashing down with it. No trace of Mike was ever found.

With both of Mike Tinley's daughters living on the West Coast, Suzanne served as the family representative in 9/11's emotional aftermath. She filled out the paperwork declaring him missing, was swabbed for DNA testing and ultimately picked up his death certificate.

Tinley continued to live in the apartment overlooking her

brother's final resting spot until just before the one-year anniversary of the attack, when she moved with her family to a Boston suburb. She's never gone back for any of the previous anniversary ceremonies at Ground Zero.

She wouldn't have gone this year had her brother's daughters not encouraged her to put her name into the lottery to be a reader. One product of the 9/11 attacks is a new, close bond with her nieces.

She also decided she was ready to go back.

"For so many people, there's still so much anger and frustration," she said. "But you have to find a way to move past that. In the past year or so, I have gotten to that point."

Iowa: Vilsack says state will get more than 500 evacuees

Continued from Page 1
given debit cards with between \$400 and \$2,000, depending on the size of their family, and were provided information about accommodations at the hotel.

Relief workers helped the evacuees fill out paperwork for financial and medical assistance.

Gov. Tom Vilsack said evacuees were not told of their destination before boarding the airplane.

"I don't know what the justification for that is," Vilsack said Friday evening from the State Capitol. People "should have a sense of where they're headed," he said.

Vilsack said 516 evacuees have arrived in Iowa, either through the Federal Emergency Management Agency or church groups, and more are expected after some East Coast governors told FEMA that potential hurricanes could affect their ability to help.

Friday in Omaha, volunteers continued to prepare the Civic Auditorium for Gulf Coast evacuees as they awaited word on whether the facility will be needed.

"We're still waiting to hear," Jim Rogers, assistant director of the Douglas County Emergency Management Agency said late Friday afternoon. "We should know late tonight."

Judy Peschio, executive director of the Heartland Chapter of the American Red Cross, said there was a 75 percent chance that the city would host at least some and possibly as many as 500

evacuees at the auditorium.

Edwin Hullander of FEMA said cities in Tennessee, Rhode Island and Michigan were taking in people Friday.

As long as there are people left in New Orleans, Hullander said, states will continue to receive evacuees on a rotating basis. Nebraska, Ohio and Oregon are scheduled to take any evacuees flown out of New Orleans today.

"These may not be happy campers," Hullander said.

Peschio said the Red Cross has nearly 200 volunteers trained to meet the needs of arrivals.

Other relief agencies, the city, the county and state also will have representatives on hand. They will provide food, police security, medical care, money and help finding family members. Those evacuees who choose to remain in Omaha will get help finding housing, jobs and schools.

A few hundred victims of Hurricane Katrina already have found their way to Omaha or are on their way. Peschio said her people have worked with 350 victims scattered among 115 households in the area. These are people who typically have come to be with family or friends.

Brad Ashford, director of the Omaha Housing Authority, said his agency has heard from 41 families, or more than 100 people, who need public housing.

World-Herald staff writers Judith Nygren, Kevin Cole and Joseph Morton contributed to this report.

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