

# The Times-Picayune



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HURRICANE EDITION

KATRINA: THE STORM WE'VE ALWAYS FEARED

# CITY NEEDS TO CONTROL RECOVERY, BUSH SAYS

## PRESIDENT TOURS NEW ORLEANS WITH GOVERNOR, MAYOR

DAY 15 DEVELOPMENTS

President Bush returns to New Orleans, telling residents the federal government is prepared to offer whatever help Louisiana's leaders require.

The official death toll in metropolitan New Orleans: **279**



MICHAEL BROWN

FEMA chief Michael Brown resigns, see A-2

The displaced St. Bernard Parish Council meets in the chambers of the state House. See A-7

The U.S. Postal Service urges displaced residents to sign up for address changes, no matter how temporary. See A-3

FEMA is preparing temporary housing for as many as 200,000 displaced people for the next three to five years. See A-10

State authorities say they removed the bodies of 45 patients who died at Memorial Medical Center's Baptist campus. See A-6.



By James Varney and Bruce Nolan  
Staff writers

President Bush got his boots on the ground of New Orleans on Monday, touring some still waterlogged areas in the 7th Ward and Mid-City before conducting an ad-hoc press conference under the elevated Interstate 10 at Cleveland and South Claiborne avenues.

Flanked by Mayor Ray Nagin and Gov. Kathleen Blanco, Bush said the federal government is prepared to offer whatever assistance Louisiana's leaders require but that the design and implementation of the Hurricane Katrina recovery plan would be led locally.

"This great city has ample talent and ample genius to set the strategy, to set the vision," Bush said at Cleveland and South Claiborne avenues, a spot that until late last week was still under water and where the smell of the septic glop now coating much of New Orleans was noticeable.

"My attitude is this," he said. "The people of New Orleans can design the vision. They can lay out what New Orleans ought to look like in the future, and the federal government can help."

Bush deflected criticism of both the federal government's response to Katrina, which has been widely excoriated for its dawdling pace, and notions that the strain the ongoing war in Iraq has put on the armed forces somehow made them inadequate to handle the nation's worst natural disaster.

See BUSH, page A-5

Gov. Kathleen Blanco, President Bush and New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin duck to avoid a low-hanging wire Monday while touring parts of New Orleans. On his third visit to the region, Bush surveyed damage on the ground in an open-air military vehicle and in the air aboard his helicopter, Marine One.

## Floodwall breaches still a mystery

*Could structural flaw be to blame?*

By John McQuaid  
Staff writer

One of the central mysteries emerging in the Hurricane Katrina disaster is why concrete floodwalls in three canals breached during the storm, causing much of the catastrophic flooding, while earthen hurricane levees surrounding the city remained intact.

It probably will take months to investigate and make a conclusive determination about what happened, according to the Army Corps of Engineers. But two Louisiana State University scientists who have examined the breaches suggest that a structural flaw in the floodwalls might be to blame.

"Why did we have no hurricane levee failures but five separate places with floodwall failures?" asked Joseph Suhayda, a retired LSU coastal engineer who examined the breaches last week.

See BREACH, page A-8



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

A boat loaded with three corpses is towed down Read Boulevard near Abramson High School on Monday, nearly two weeks after Hurricane Katrina. New Orleans Mayor Ray Nagin said the slow pace of body removal is disrespectful to the deceased.

## Bodies lie for days awaiting retrieval

*FEMA policies limit who can do the job*

By Michelle Krupa  
Staff writer

Traveling by pirogue through the flooded Broadmoor neighborhood Saturday, two men spotted a body floating in a side yard at Rocheblave and Octavia streets. They reported it to National Guardsmen and a civilian airboat operator, who said they were aware of it.

For 13 days in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the body of Alcedo Jackson lay on a porch at 4732 Laurel St., wrapped in a plastic bag and covered in a blanket beneath a sign quoting the evangelist John and commending Jackson to "the loving arms of Jesus."

Across town, a left turn at Fern Street in the Carrollton neighborhood provided a clear view of the corpse of a man lying

face-down on the sidewalk near a vacant lot. He wore blue jeans. His head was uncovered. Residents who witnessed the scene also informed a pair of National Guardsmen stationed on North Claiborne Avenue. They said they knew.

Nearly two weeks after Hurricane Katrina tore a deadly path through the New Orleans area, grim sights like these still dotted the vacant urban landscape as the official number of bodies collected and sent to a makeshift morgue at St. Gabriel rose from Sunday's count of 197 by the Department of Health and Hospitals to 279 on Monday.

With the total expected to rise, Kenyon International Emergency Services, the firm brought in last week by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to help recover corpses, announced Monday that it would not formally extend its short-term agreement to have about 100 people on the

See BODIES, page A-4



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PARTLY CLOUDY, WARM  
HIGH 92 | LOW 74



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