

# The Times-Picayune



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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2005

HURRICANE EDITION

**DAY 22 DEVELOPMENTS**

The official death toll in metropolitan New Orleans: **736**

Members of Louisiana's 256th Brigade Combat Team return from Iraq to find their homes battered, **See A-2**

The cost of rebuilding sparks debate about going further into debt, increasing taxes or cutting spending, **See A-3**

Family who evacuated to Houston struggles with finances, **See A-4**

Many customers are still in the dark about the status of their power, **See A-12**

A quarter of the restaurants in the New Orleans area might not return, **See A-13**

Businesses of all sizes and homeowners may apply for SBA loans to rebuild, **See A-15**

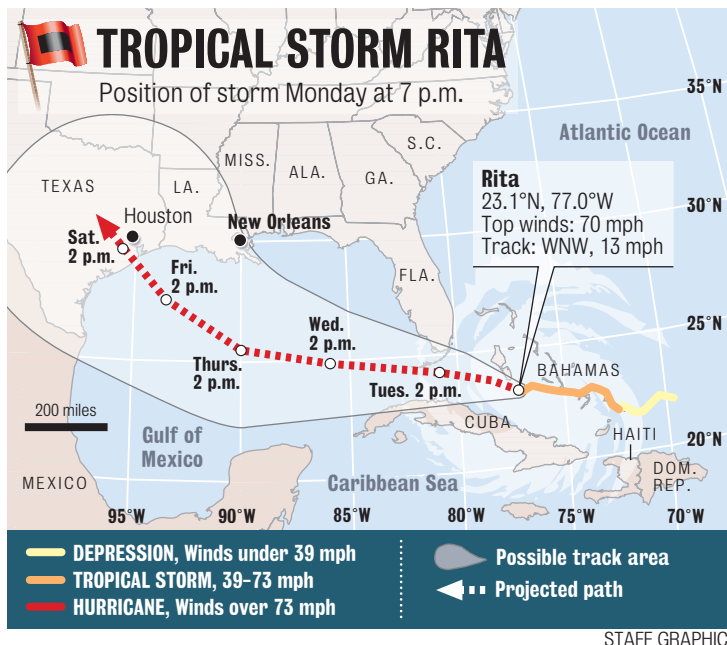
Station operators' courage, ingenuity keep pumps going, **See B-1**

Plaquemines death toll could rise because 100 shrimp boats are likely sunk, **See B-3**



Guitarist 'Gatemouth' Brown buried to the tributes of Delbert McClinton and B.B. King, **See B-4**

# NEW EVACUATIONS CALLED



## New storm threat ends homecoming for St. Bernard, N.O. residents

By Steve Ritea and Gordon Russell  
Staff writers

Just as the region inched toward functional, the specter of Tropical Storm Rita prompted some officials across the New Orleans region to revoke plans for residents' return, fearing more rain could overtake already weakened levees and cause further flooding.

Mayor Ray Nagin suspended plans to let Uptowners return later this week and asked Algiers residents, who were allowed to come back to their homes Monday, to evacuate. And St. Bernard halted re-entry plans altogether and imposed a mandatory evacuation beginning today at 4 a.m.

"I'm hopeful people have seen the effects of Katrina, and that we won't have the same problems this time," Nagin said. "If anyone wants to sit this storm out with our soaked levee systems, then God bless them."

With Rita on the horizon, President Bush late Monday announced another visit to New Orleans, likely this afternoon. Earlier in the day, he expressed concern about Nagin's plan for the return and said his administration had passed

that along to city officials.

"The mayor has got this dream about having a city up and running. And we share that dream," he said during a briefing. "But we also want to be realistic about some of the hurdles and obstacles that we all confront in repopulating New Orleans."

Bush added: "If it were to rain a lot, there is concern from the Army Corps of Engineers that the levees might break. And so, therefore, we're cautious about encouraging people to return at this moment of history."

As Hurricane Rita moved west toward southernmost Florida and the Florida Keys on Monday, forecasters warned the storm could reach Category 3 or greater

See RITA, A-10

## MISERY DOLED OUT EVENLY IN EASTERN NEW ORLEANS



STAFF PHOTO BY AMANDA MCCOY

Dentist Terrence Augillard creates a photographic record of the damage to his home in Eastover, a gated community.

## FEMA cuts housing plan by half

Evacuees leaving emergency shelters faster than expected

By Jan Moller and Robert Travis Scott  
Capital bureau

BATON ROUGE — As unexpected numbers of Hurricane Katrina evacuees are leaving emergency shelters and finding temporary housing on their own, federal officials Monday downgraded their estimate for how many trailers will be needed in Louisiana for people displaced by the storm.

Federal Emergency Management Agency spokesman David Passey said the agency is now planning to bring about 50,000 trailers to Louisiana, down from last week's estimate of 100,000.

Passey said the previous estimate was based on an earlier number of people still living in shelters. But shelter populations have declined significantly in the past week, including 4,700 people who left Louisiana shelters Sunday alone, officials said. Passey said he did not know what became of those who left, but speculated that many people used their own resources or FEMA emergency dollars to find hotels or apartments in other states.

"The focus right now is how can we get the most people out of shelters and into housing," Passey said.

"We acknowledge there's not a single housing solution," he said.

The first temporary trailer parks will not be ready to accept evacuees until next week, when 580 units are expected to open in the town of Baker, just north of Baton Rouge. Several more are expected to be up and running in the weeks ahead,

See HOUSING, A-5

# Shared suffering

By Lynne Jensen  
Staff writer

Traveling forsaken roads east of the Industrial Canal, it is evident that floodwater does not discriminate.

From the small dwellings and businesses along Downman Road to the upscale homes of Eastover and Venetian Isles beyond Bullard Avenue, water marks linger, scarring the doors of deserted buildings across eastern New Orleans.

Hurricane Katrina has come and gone. But the aftermath of muck and misery remains.

Eastover neighbors and childhood friends Kendall Parker and Terrence Augillard drove together Sunday from their temporary refuge in Lafayette to face the massive cleanup of their stately homes, nestled in a gated community waiting to be gutted.

Best friends since their days at St. Augustine High School in New Orleans, Parker, 39, and Augillard, 41,

**"This is our dream house. Everything we studied hard for, worked hard for. Everybody is suffering in his own way."**

KENDALL PARKER  
Eastover resident

attended dental school together and recently built dream homes for their families with the hope of living and retiring side by side.

Now they are sharing a portable generator, a water vacuum and whatever else it takes to start over.

"The plan is to get one house up and then the other," Parker said. "It's pretty overwhelming."

Several feet of water crashed into the dentists' two-story houses. In a sub-room used as a sewing space in the Augillard home, floodwater and fabric formed a colorful, stinky stew that Augillard attempted to suck out.

In the nearby dining room, a sur-

real scene was best witnessed from the upstairs balcony. Above the swirl of dark debris, the long, blond wood table was set with white china and crystal as though awaiting ghostly dinner guests.

In the Parker home, tropical fish swam in the huge downstairs fish-tank near toppled orange suede living room chairs, resting in mud. A weeks-old silver 2006 Lexus sat ruined in the garage.

"This is our dream house," Parker said. "Everything we studied hard for, worked hard for. Everybody is suffering in his own way."

While Augillard worked to remove remaining water from his house, Parker built a makeshift corral between their houses to hold ruined furniture and other items.

Against a brown backdrop of dead grass and shrubbery, rolls of orange plastic stood out, strapped to metal tiki torches, bird-feeder stands and whatever else Parker found to secure

See EAST, A-6

COMPLETE KATRINA COVERAGE

Expanded edition of The Times-Picayune at nola.com

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HOT AND HUMID  
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