

Hewitt-Trussville Mountain Brook	19 7	Oak Mountain Spain Park	15 7	Woodlawn Huffman	7 0	Homewood Sylacauga	49 9	Hoover Thompson	21 18	Expanded prep coverage <b>D1</b>
McAdory Jess Lanier	12 7	Fairfield West End	43 6	Wenonah Hayes	14 6	Pelham Vestavia	24 21	Mortimer Jordan Gardendale	37 7	

**PREP SCORES**



# Saturday

September 3, 2005

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**HURRICANE KATRINA | RESCUE AND RECOVERY**

# FIRST TASTE OF RELIEF



AP/SUSAN WALSH

President Bush tries to comfort Bronwyn Bassier, 23, of Biloxi, Miss., center, and her sister, Kim Bassier, 21, during his walking tour of Biloxi.

**MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS**

**National Guard arrives.** Troops bring supplies, hope to thousands stranded amid New Orleans' flooded streets.

**President visits.** George Bush begins a tour of the Gulf Coast in Mobile, then heads to Biloxi, Miss., and on to New Orleans. "We have a responsibility, at the federal level, to help save life, and that's the primary focus right now," he says. / 7A

**Texas ready for more.** The state says it's ready for more hurricane victims. The Houston mayor says conventions scheduled in that city will be canceled and refugees will not be kicked out of their convention center. / 7A

**Mobile returning to normal.** Half the city has power restored and residents are shopping for replacement groceries. / 6A

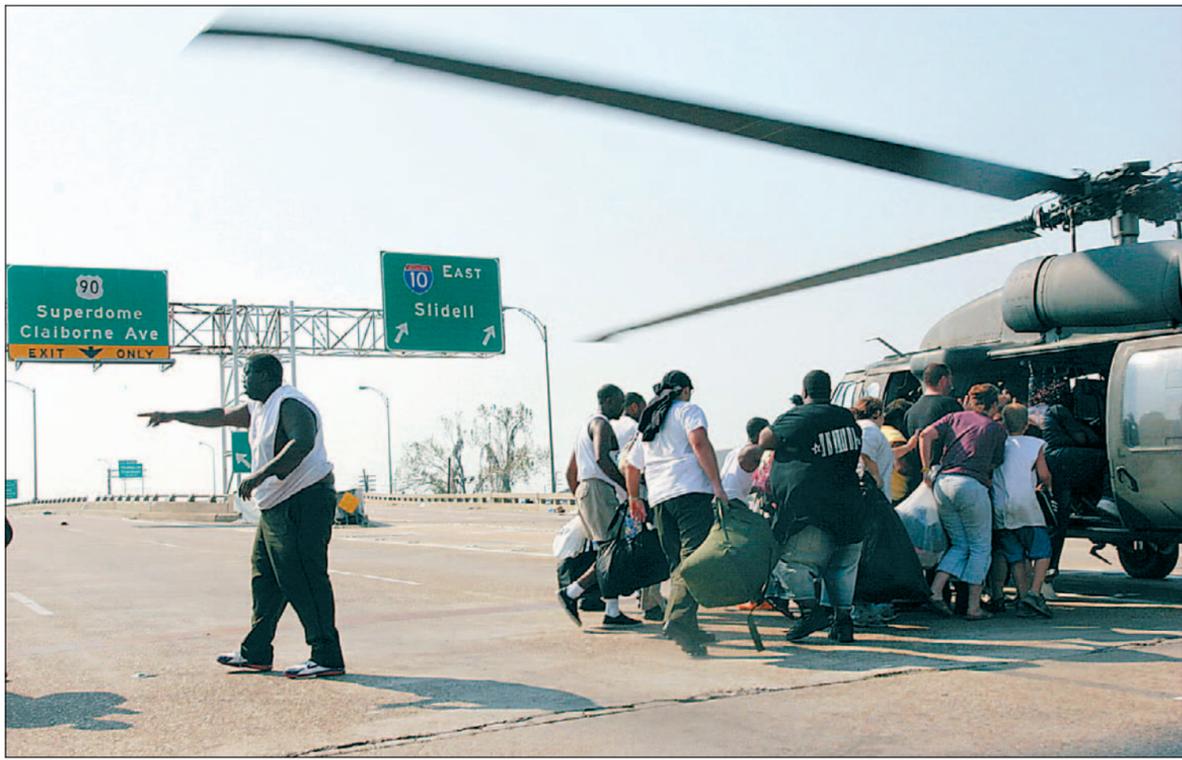
**Gougers warned.** Alabama authorities warn that gasoline price-gougers will not be tolerated. Also, the International Energy Agency agrees to release 60 million barrels of oil and fuel from its emergency reserves. / 6A

**More than \$200 million.** Total donations pass the \$200 million mark, with more than \$195 going to the American Red Cross. / 9A

**Mississippi-bound.** A medical-relief caravan filled with medical supplies, clothes, baby formula and toiletries sets out from Chelsea. / 8A

**Economic toll.** Following Katrina's punch on the Gulf Coast, the unemployment rate is expected to hit 25 percent in the area. / 8A

**Local News:** Volunteers welcome refugees to Birmingham / 16A



AFF/GETTY IMAGES/Nicholas Kamm

New Orleans hurricane victims board an Army helicopter on an overpass near the Superdome as evacuations get into full swing. About 100 people were airlifted from there Friday to the city's airport, bound from there to shelter out of state.

## Military arrives; evacuation under way

By N.R. KLEINFELD  
New York Times News Service

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.

Five days after Hurricane Katrina, the chaotic scene at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport evoked the ongoing mix of hope and despair that has gripped 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.

Patrolmen yelled out the number of available seats on each flight, and passengers 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 airport was a stark landscape of triage, with rows of people on stretchers and others bound to wheelchairs, including someone already dead, in a wing that had been converted into the world's largest emergency room. A morgue had been set up in one concourse.

## City agencies brace for evacuees

### Officials face questions of need, seek answers

By CAROL ROBINSON  
News staff writer

Birmingham-area public and private health and welfare agencies are willing to help an influx of long-term evacuees from areas destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.

But Friday, officials of the United Way, state, county and city faced more questions than answers: How many people to expect? What kind of problems will they have? How

can agencies helping newcomers maintain service to existing clients?

"This is an extraordinary event for us," said Harry Brown, United Way's senior vice president for community initiatives. "It's like the water in New Orleans — it's rising and we're trying to figure out what to do in the middle of it."

While they hustle to meet the immediate needs of evacuees, the reality is sinking in

that many will be here to stay.

"All across the Southeast and beyond, we'll have hundreds of thousands of evacuees that will never go back," said Billy Baxter, CEO of the Birmingham area chapter of the American Red Cross. "We need to be prepared to look at this as an integration into our community."

In a series of meetings Friday, agency officials decided one of the most immediate needs is to determine how many evacuees

► See **Evacuees**, Page 2A

► See **Relief**, Page 2A

John Bechel of the Louisiana Probation and Parole Department guards the streets of New Orleans as a fire burns in the background Friday.



AP

## A walk through the hell of fear and numbness

By ALLEN G. BREED  
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Above the din, a woman is screaming the Lord's Prayer as if heaven can no longer hear silent pleas.

"And lead us not into temptation," she bellows hoarsely to the unhearing throng, "but deliver us from evil . . ."

But temptation is everywhere in this crippled city. And so, it seems, is evil.

Five days after Hurricane Katrina came and went, necessity has forced police officers to become looters. Gangs hijack the boats of volunteers who have come to rescue them. Naked babies wail for food as men get drunk on stolen liquor.

A walk through New Orleans is a walk through hell — punctuated, it must be

► See **Chaos**, Page 5A

"This is a great day for the citizens of Jefferson County and for our children. God is good."

Larry Langford, commission president



## Judge upholds Jeffco sales tax-bond sale

By VAL WALTON  
News staff writer

A Jefferson County judge ruled Friday that the county's new sales tax and \$1 billion education bond sale are legal, ending a class-action lawsuit challenging their validity.

But attorneys for the residents who argued the bond sale was in-

valid said they might appeal to the state's highest court.

Circuit Judge Caryl P. Privett decided with her ruling the county had the right to commit proceeds from the 1 cent sales tax to repay the bond, which it plans to distribute to 12 school systems for capital or building improvements.

Privett's decision, granting summary judgment, ended the need for a trial in the case that originated with two separate lawsuits but was combined at the county's request to include any Jefferson County taxpayer. The suits questioned the legality of bonds the county sold in December and January to pay for the capital

improvements.

In her ruling, Privett found that the debt does not count against the county's constitutional debt limit as the plaintiffs had argued. The judge also ruled that the action is an appropriate agreement between the

► See **Sales tax**, Page 2A