

High school football

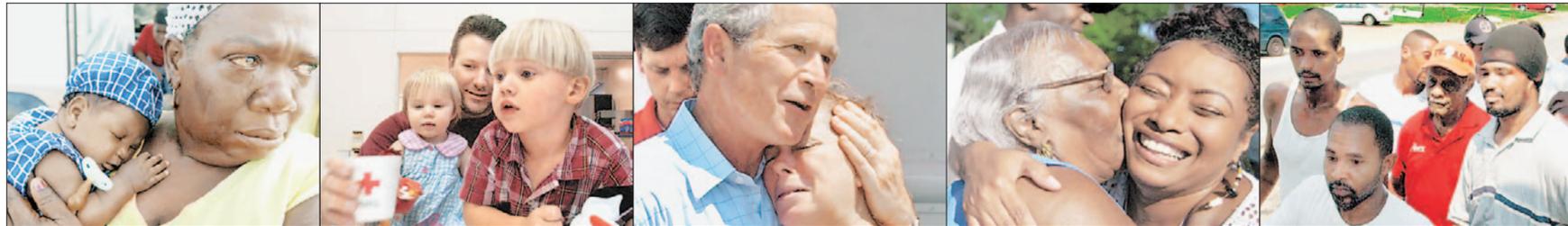
Pace 33, Gulf Breeze 30
Pine Forest 18, Choctaw 13
Catholic 25, Chipley 14
Washington 41, Escambia 0
Milton 10, W. Fla. Tech 0
Crestview 9, Woodham 7
Navarre 15, Univ. Christian 6
Northview 39, Sneads 8

SPORTS, 1D

PENSACOLA News Journal SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2005



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Relief sweeps in

'What took you so long?' many in New Orleans ask



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Dave Martin/Associated Press

An Air Force sergeant stands guard Friday outside Harrah's Casino as a huge military and aid convoy entered the New Orleans.

Some fuel finds its way to pumps

Carlton Proctor @PensacolaNewsJournal.com
For Pass Christian, Miss., residents Brooke Averhart and Vu Tran, the three-block line for gasoline was a beautiful thing. After driving for hours through Mississippi and Alabama looking for gas, the sight of cars lined up at the G-Bar Service Mart on Ninth Avenue was their salvation. The weary, storm-shocked evacuee from Hurricane Katrina, and

their friends, Phong Vu and Tim Phan, emerged from their cramped car shaking their heads at the devastation they had left behind. "Pass Christian is wiped out," Averhart said. "Biloxi is no more," added Phan. "It looks like a bomb went off. There's nothing left but concrete slabs." While Pensacola's fuel shortages were painfully evident Friday, at least gas was available to those who desperately needed

it, thanks to a shipment of 1.3 million gallons that arrived two days ago. By contrast, many of Pensacola's sister cities to the west, such as Mobile, Pass Christian and Biloxi, have precious little fuel, or in most cases, none at all. Despite the recent shipments of fuel to Pensacola, long lines, empty pumps and gas prices, fast heading toward \$3.50 a gallon, continue to dominate the landscape. See MANY WORKING, 2A



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Vu Tran fills several gas cans in Pensacola on Friday before heading home to Pass Christian, Miss.

Again, rhetoric doesn't match reality

Ron Fournier Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Iraqi insurgency is in its last throes. The economy is booming. Anybody who leaks a CIA agent's identity will be fired. Add another piece of White House rhetoric that doesn't match the public's view of reality: Help is on the way, Gulf Coast. As New Orleans descended into anarchy, top Bush administration officials congratulated each other for jobs well done and spoke of water, food and troops pouring into

ANALYSIS

the ravaged city. Television pictures told a different story. "What it reminded me of the other day is 'Baghdad Bob' saying there are no Americans at the airport," said Rich Galen, a Republican consultant in Washington. He was referring to Saddam Hussein's reality-challenged minister of information who denied the existence of U.S. troops in the Iraqi capital.

To some critics, President Bush seemed to deny the existence of problems with hurricane relief this week. He waited until Friday to acknowledge that "the results are not acceptable" — and even then the president parsed his words. Republicans worry that he looks out of touch defending the chaotic emergency response. "It's impossible to defend something like this happening in America," said former House Speaker Newt Gingrich. "No one can be happy with the

kind of response which we've seen in New Orleans," said Republican Gov. Mitt Romney of Massachusetts. Bush got himself in trouble by trying to put the best face on a horrible situation. The strategy is so common in Washington that operatives have a name for it, "spin," and the Bush White House has perfected the shady art. "This is what the president had to say about the relief effort earlier in the week: See BOASTINGS, 2A

Robert Tanner Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The cavalry finally arrived. With a cigar-chomping general in front, a camouflaged-green convoy of at least three-dozen troop vehicles and supply trucks rolled through floodwaters Friday into a desperate city where some storm survivors had died waiting for food, water and medicine. "Thank you, Jesus!" Leschia Radford shrieked amid a throng of tens of thousands outside the New Orleans Convention Center. Some people threw their arms heavenward, and others nearly fainted with joy as the trucks and hundreds of soldiers arrived in the punishing midday heat in a scene that looked like a relief mission to a Third World nation. But there also was anger and profane jeers from many in the crowd of nearly 20,000 who questioned why they had to wait four days after Hurricane Katrina and threaten to riot before they could get anything to eat or drink. "They should have been here days ago," said 46-year-old Michael Levy, whose words were echoed by those around him. "We've been sleeping on the ... ground like rats," Levy added. "I say burn this whole ... city down." With a rag shielding her from the searing midday heat and a cart at her feet holding her only belongings, 70-year-old Nellie Washington hardly saw the troops as heroes. "What took you so long?" she asked. "I'm extremely happy, but I cannot let it be at that. They did not take the lead to do this. They had to be pushed to do it." The soldiers' arrival-in-force came amid angry complaints from the mayor and others that the federal government had bungled the relief effort and let people die in the streets for lack of food, water or medicine. "The people of our city are holding on by a thread," Mayor Ray Nagin warned in a statement to CNN. "Time has run out. Can we survive another night? And who can we depend on? Only God knows." Earlier, in a rambling radio interview, Nagin erupted in tears and anger, saying, "Get off your (butts) and let's do something." President Bush took a land and air tour of hard-hit areas of Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama and admitted of the relief effort: "The results are not enough." "What is not working right, we're going to make it right," he pledged after arriving in Mobile. Congress quickly passed a \$10.5 billion disaster aid package, and Bush quickly signed it. What perhaps were the first signs of real hope for recovery came on a day that was ushered in with a thunderous explosion before daybreak and scattered downtown building fires that only confirmed the sense that New Orleans was a city in utter collapse. The explosion at a warehouse along the Mississippi River about 15 blocks from the French Quarter jostled storm victims awake and sent a pillar of acrid gray smoke over a city that the mayor has said could be awash with thousands of corpses. Other large fires erupted downtown. See SOLDIERS, 5A

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93° 72° RealFeel Temp: 104° at noon Rain: 0% Details: 6D

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