

SATURDAY

Mostly sunny

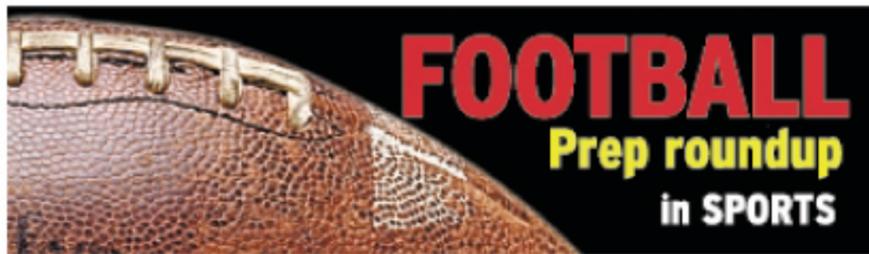
87

Sunday

Mostly sunny

85

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YOUR MONEY

### Rates grease mutual funds

Higher interest could bring you higher returns

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YOUR YARD

### The power of water gardens

Local homeowners share their relaxing secrets

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WHAT TO SEE & DO ALONG THE STRAND

Best bets for entertainment and night life fun



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# Relief arrives amid ruin

President Bush promises Gulf Coast 'will rise again'

Fallout from Katrina to bruise Strand housing

Messy federal response under microscope

FOLLOWING THE STORM

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#### On the Net

For more information on how to help storm victims and expanded coverage of Hurricane Katrina, visit [MyrtleBeachOnline.com](http://MyrtleBeachOnline.com).

#### Coming Sunday

What dangers do we face? The Grand Strand isn't immune to the types of flooding caused by Katrina. As growth along the Carolina coast changes the terrain, it also changes the flood plains, which intensifies the risks.



By KIN MAN HUI *The Associated Press*

Evacuees are helped to board a C-17 at Louis Armstrong New Orleans International Airport on Friday to seek refuge at Dobbins Air Reserve Base near Atlanta. The airport is housing thousands of sick and frail patients.

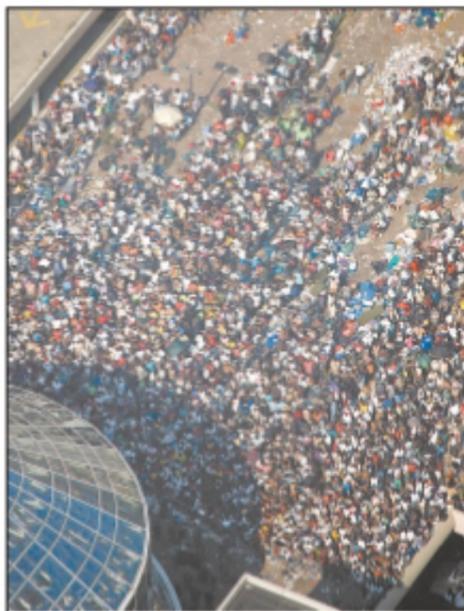
### RELIEF | Experts: Focus on terrorism mires disaster aid

By ALISON YOUNG AND SETH BORENSTEIN *Washington Bureau*

WASHINGTON | The chaotic government response to Hurricane Katrina, which even President Bush said was "not acceptable," was the inevitable result of federal policies emphasizing protection from terrorist attacks at the expense of preparing for far more common natural disasters, state emergency officials and other experts said Friday.

As hurricane survivors died along roadsides and at shelters where they were told to take refuge, or pleaded for food and water or a ride to an overcrowded shelter, members of Congress called for hearings to find out how the response to this disaster could have failed so badly when the nation has spent unprecedented billions of dollars in the name of home-

See **RESPONSE** | Page 8A



By DAVID J. PHILLIP *The Associated Press*

Thousands wait to be evacuated Friday outside the Superdome in New Orleans. There has been criticism that the relief effort has been slow. On Friday, members of Congress said they wanted to find out why the response was so tardy.

### STRAND | Storm costs expected to trickle down to home builders, buyers

By JENNY BURNS *The Sun News*

New-home prices on the Grand Strand are expected to increase — though by how much isn't certain — as the price of materials local builders use rises by about 10 percent.

Builders also are facing a surcharge by some local truckers hurt by spiraling gas costs that rocketed past \$3 in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

"It's killing everybody," said Tim Hunt, owner of trucking company TCH Enterprises. "Nobody saw this coming, that [gas] would jump this much, this fast."

The increased costs will not affect those who already have bought new homes and have them under contract. That's where builders will eat the cost of Katrina's fury, said Berkley White, president of the Horry-Georgetown Home Builders Association.

Nonetheless, most experts expect the Grand Strand's \$4 billion real estate market

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### NEW ORLEANS | National Guard rolls in as more evacuees clear out

By BRIKA BOLSTAD, JACK DOUGLAS AND MARTIN MERZER *Washington Bureau*

NEW ORLEANS | Waves of disaster cascaded into new corners of America on Friday, as torrents of Hurricane Katrina's victims poured into Texas, Georgia, Florida and elsewhere, and fuel shortages and other economic shocks rippled through the nation.

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

Reacting to blistering criticism of the relief effort, President Bush said: "The results are not acceptable."

National Guardsmen delivering food, water and at least the

See **KATRINA** | Page 8A

### GULF TOUR | Bush assures survivors help is on the way

By MIKE WILLIAMS AND KEN HERMAN *Cox News Service*

NEW ORLEANS | Wrapping up an emotional tour of hurricane-devastated Gulf Coast communities, President Bush told desperate victims Friday that the region "will rise again."

Bush's daylong visit to Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana was marked by intense personal exchanges with residents whose lives were shattered by Hurricane Katrina's landfall Monday.

At the Mobile, Ala., airport, after an unusual in-public, on-air briefing from officials, an obviously moved president promised that the much-criticized federal relief effort would improve.

Bush had kind words for Mike Brown, head of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, saying, "Brownie, you're doing a heck of a job."

But he had said before departing Washington that "the results are not acceptable," and he acknowledged the problems

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