

Ray Of Hope

A captive breeding program on St. Vincent Island yields a litter of red wolf pups. **DETAILS, Metro, Page 1**



More Women In Driver's Seat

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FURY, DEVASTATION

At least 55 are killed in Mississippi and Alabama, with many areas out of reach.

Storm produces a wall of water as high as 22 feet, flooding tens of thousands of homes.

Katrina goes just east of New Orleans, sparing low-lying city from incalculable damage.



Tribune photo by MICHAEL SPOONEYBARGER

Fire and rescue workers brave the winds of Hurricane Katrina on Monday as they launch a boat to rescue a family outside a hotel in Pascagoula, Miss. The storm lashed 200 miles of the Gulf Coast.

By JOSH POLTILOVE, MICHELE SAGER and JEROME R. STOCKFISCH
The Tampa Tribune

PASCAGOULA, Miss. — While the world watched New Orleans, waiting to see whether Hurricane Katrina would plow it under Monday morning, the Gulf of Mexico quickly and viciously rolled into coastal towns to the east.

At least 55 people were known to have been killed in Mississippi and Alabama. Many others were feared dead in neighborhoods that were flooded to their roofs and unreachable by rescuers. From Louisiana to the Florida Panhandle, 750,000 people lost power.

Katrina dealt a Category 4, 145-mph punch as it landed just east of New Orleans, sparing that city the Armageddon that was feared. But the storm lashed 200 miles of the north-central Gulf Coast for much of the day, flooding tens of thousands of homes and pushing a wall of water as high as 22 feet into Mississippi.

The storm loosened its fierce coil as it pushed north; forecasters expected winds would weaken to below 39 mph overnight. At its brute peak Monday, Katrina's elephantine rain bands covered most of the southeastern United States, reaching across 1,000 miles from north to south.

Fierce winds pushed rainwaters and the gray surge from the Gulf into whitecaps that smothered parked cars and roads. Gusts twisted metal highway signs like they were paper. Rain fell in sheets so

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The beach in Pensacola takes a fresh hit.



The Associated Press

Ernest Swaggerty contemplates the damage after the storm flattened his mobile home in Irvington, Ala. He was left with a big cleanup job after it scattered his possessions.

Economic Impact Will Reach Bay Area

INSURANCE: Storm's damage could cause premiums in Florida to rise.

CONSTRUCTION: Expect local shortages of materials, and higher prices.

AIR TRAVEL: Some flights canceled at Tampa International Airport.

HURRICANE SUPPLIES: They're still available at Bay area stores.

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Price Of Gas Likely To Rise Across Region

HURRICANE MAY INTERRUPT SUPPLY

By WILL RODGER
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Gasoline prices are rising in the Tampa Bay area in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, and could jump 25 cents a gallon or more by week's end, some experts are saying.

That's despite there being plenty of gasoline stored at the Port of Tampa and across Florida, with plenty more being shipped across the Gulf of Mexico. Still, Gov. Jeb Bush and industry officials said there could be a fuel crunch in a few days if Gulf state refineries are heavily damaged.

"Over the next 48 hours, contingency plans will begin to take affect to minimize supply interruptions," state Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Colleen Castille said late Monday. "In the meantime, residents can continue to do their part by purchasing and using fuel responsibly."

Gasoline shortages have been a problem in Florida during previous hurricanes, partly because most of the state's fuel arrives by barge. Gas can't come in when ports close and Bush has complained that the industry typically has kept relatively small amounts of fuel in inventory, so it's sometimes days before gas stations can get gasoline.

Florida's ports remained open and able to receive

See **GASOLINE PRICES, Page 6** ▶

Amount of price rise depends on storm's damage.



TODAY'S HIGH
90°

TODAY'S LOW
80°

Partly cloudy skies with a 60 percent chance of showers throughout the day. Similar forecast for the next few days.

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