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GONE



'We lost everything'



William Colgin/The Mississippi Press

Sam Miller, 10, is comforted by a neighbor Monday after returning to his home on Beach Boulevard in Pascagoula. Many homes on Beach Boulevard were destroyed by Hurricane Katrina, which slammed into the Mississippi Gulf Coast with 145 mph winds and a 22-foot storm surge.

Katrina punches Pascagoula with unprecedented water and wind

By JOHN SURRETT
The Mississippi Press

PASCAGOULA — Tom Illich peered through a window in District Attorney Tony Lawrence's third floor office at the Jackson Count Courthouse as the wind-driven storm surge from Hurricane Katrina slowly rose to swallow cars and pickup trucks in the courthouse parking lot across the street and wash Magnolia Street with whitecaps.

Illich and his daughter, Kayla, had been keeping a video record of the storm as soon as Katrina hit Pascagoula.

"I have two sons, one in Arizona and one in Guam," Tom Illich said. "I'm going to give each one a copy. This is interesting."

Illich, Kayla and his wife, Pascagoula native Nyanne Illich, had recently moved to Pascagoula from Guam.

"We're used to typhoons," he said. "Typhoons were never like this."

See STORM SURGE, Page 6-A



William Colgin/The Mississippi Press

As hurricane-force winds pelted Pascagoula Monday, residents carry a stranded woman out of waist-deep flood waters on Chicot Road.

'Beach Boulevard is no more'

By BRAD CROCKER
The Mississippi Press

PASCAGOULA — Hurricane Katrina punched Pascagoula Monday with enormous storm surge and sustained winds for more than 12 hours Monday to level most of Pascagoula, leaving new residents and hurricane veterans alike, dumfounded in its wake as they witnessed the strongest storm to hit the city.

No exact damage figures were immediately available Monday, but many homes, businesses, industries, roadways and other areas were heavily damaged.

Electricity, phone service, running water and other utilities were knocked out early. The downtown area, including City Hall and the police department, were soaked by stunning floodwaters.

Katrina's winds, with gusts over 137 mph,

See BEACH BOULEVARD, Page 8-A

REGION, 2-A

Storm death toll mounts in New Orleans, on Mississippi Gulf Coast

REGION, 7-A

Much of downtown Mobile under water from Katrina's storm surge

