

BRAINSTORM ENERGY FROM THE EARTH. C8



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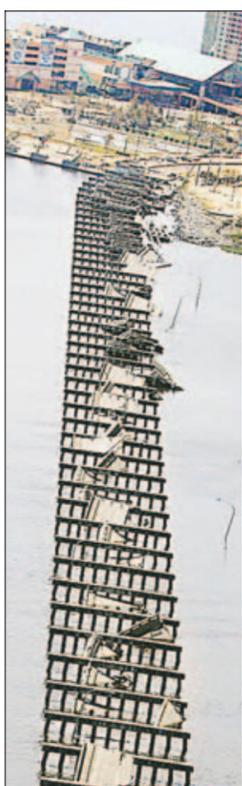
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50 CENTS

WEDNESDAY, AUG. 31, 2005

'IT'S JUST HEARTBREAKING'

Crisis deepens in hurricane-ravaged New Orleans as death toll rises



A bridge carrying Highway 90 into Biloxi, Miss., is a total washout. The city was crushed by Katrina, with 30 or more dying when a beachfront apartment building collapsed.

MORE COVERAGE

BUILDING FALLS: Residents swim for their lives as apartment collapses in Biloxi, Miss. PAGE A15

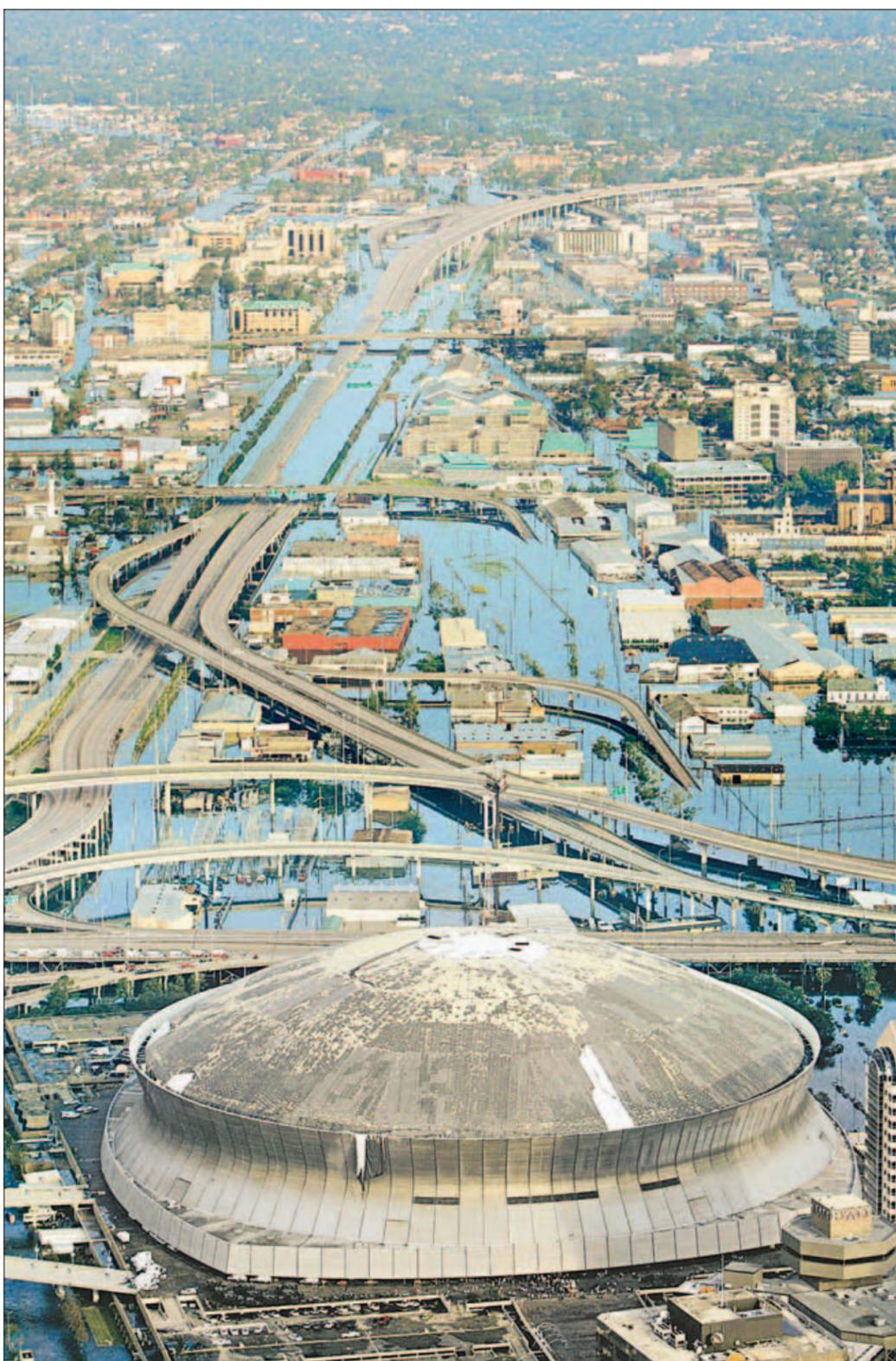
CRIME SPREE: Looters add to misery in New Orleans. PAGE A15

OFFERING AID: Shore dwellers open hearts and wallets for stricken South. PAGE A16

ANXIOUS WAIT: Point Pleasant couple wait by the phone for news of evacuated relatives. PAGE A16



Visit our Web site for the latest news on Hurricane Katrina, and look under Special Reports for a link to 'Hurricane Watch' for stories, a tracking map, graphical information and more.



Water blankets 80 percent of New Orleans Tuesday after levees gave way in Katrina's aftermath. The Superdome, in the foreground, served as an emergency shelter but has also been inundated. (ASSOCIATED PRESS PHOTOS)

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS — Rescuers along the hurricane-ravaged Gulf Coast pushed aside the dead to reach the living Tuesday in a race against time and rising waters, while New Orleans sank deeper into crisis and Louisiana's governor ordered storm refugees out of this drowning city.

Two levees broke and sent water coursing into the streets of the Big Easy a full day after New Orleans appeared to have escaped widespread destruction from Hurricane Katrina. An estimated 80 percent of the below-sea-level city was under water, up to 20 feet deep in places, with miles and miles of homes swamped.

"The situation is unten-

able," Gov. Kathleen Blanco said. "It's just heartbreaking."

One Mississippi county alone said its death toll was at least 100, and officials are "very, very worried that this is going to go a lot higher," said Joe Spraggins, civil defense director for Harrison County, home to Biloxi and Gulfport.

Thirty of the victims in the county were from a beachfront apartment building that collapsed under a 25-foot wall of water as Katrina slammed the Gulf Coast with 145-mph winds. And Louisiana officials said many were feared dead there, too, making Katrina one of the most punishing storms

See **Disaster**, Page A14



A Coast Guard officer hoists two children into a rescue helicopter during the storm Monday. They were plucked from a New Orleans rooftop.

Destruction, disbelief in Katrina's aftermath

By ANTOINETTE KONZ and JANET BRASWELL
GANNETT NEWS SERVICE

HATTIESBURG, Miss. — As the first blush of a new day dawned Tuesday, Mississippians got their first real glimpse of the wreckage and ruin of Hurricane Katrina that smashed the area like a punch to the gut.

Trees were snapped like toothpicks or ripped entirely from the ground by their roots, billboards collapsed and shattered on the ground and signs and light stands crumpled under the 100 mph-plus winds.

Many Hattiesburg-area

homes and businesses were destroyed by the powerful hurricane that came ashore near New Orleans just after sunup on Monday and then mowed through the heart of Mississippi, leaving a wide path of destruction.

"I have never lived through anything like this before," said Joseph Oliver of Hattiesburg as he surveyed damage to his home. "I was here with Camille and lived in Florida when Andrew hit and nothing compares to this."

Hardy Street, one of 100 mph-plus winds. See **Mississippi**, Page A15

Engineering firm enacts a pay-to-play ban Campaign cash flow sealed up

By NINA RIZZO
FREEHOLD BUREAU

Schoor DePalma, one of the state's largest engineering firms and a major contributor to both Democratic and Republican campaigns, has become the first Shore-area company to announce the creation of a companywide pay-to-play policy.

The Manalapan-based firm sent an Aug. 23 letter to its clients announcing it has adopted a new corporate initiative called Quality

First that includes provisions "to eliminate any distractions from providing quality professional work."

The new policy states:
■ The company will no longer make any corporate political contributions.
■ Employees will be prohibited from providing meals or entertainment for public officials.
■ A new position of "independent

See **Pay-to-play**, Page A2

INSIDE

Balancing act

Providing a nutritious lunch for your child during the school day doesn't have to be a tug of war.

JERSEY LIFE/D1

Mostly cloudy

Storms possible.

WEATHER/A2

TEMPERATURES

BREAKFAST | LUNCH | DINNER
74° | 80° | 79°

BUSINESS	B8
CLASSIFIED	E1
COMICS/PUZZLES	D8
DATEBOOK	A17
EDITORIALS	A18
MOVIES/CELEBS	D2
OBITUARIES	B6
TELEVISION	D9



Four launch bid to get on union ballot DEP workers targeting Katz

By GREGORY J. VOLPE
GANNETT STATE BUREAU

TRENTON — The governor's race may not be the only election touched by the controversy over the \$470,000 U.S. Sen. Jon S. Corzine gave to a former girlfriend, Carla Katz, president of a state workers' union.

Four state Department of Environmental Protection workers announced Tuesday their attempt to unseat Katz and three members of

her executive board. If they get on the ballot, it would be Katz's first contested election after two terms as president of Local 1034 of the Communications Workers of America.

Katz has been a central figure in the gubernatorial campaign after it was revealed that Corzine, the Democrats' candidate for governor, loaned her \$470,000 as a mortgage while they were dating

See **Election**, Page A2



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