

WEATHER

Today: Partly cloudy, humid. Heat index low 100s. Highs low to mid-90s. Rain chance 20-30 percent.

Tomorrow: Continued partly cloudy and hot. Highs low to mid-90s. Rain chance 10 percent.

Complete Weather/10B

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WORLD

STAMPEDE KILLS 800 IN IRAQ

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KATRINA'S IMPACT

GAS WOES

Nationally, in Mobile

PAGES 12A, 6B

METRO

Bry Shields, family among 20 injured by generator fumes

PAGE 1B

MOBILE REGISTER

Mobile-Baldwin Edition
50 Cents

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2005

Classified Want Ads: 219-5000

KATRINA'S TOLL: 'LIKELY THOUSANDS'

TOTAL EVACUATION OF NEW ORLEANS UNDER WAY

KATRINA'S HEADLINES

School concerns: Mobile County education officials are considering "double-shifting" some campuses because of damage at 15 schools. Baldwin schools, citing gas shortages, scrapped plans to reopen today. **Page 1B**

Poison fumes: Mobile hospitals on Wednesday treated at least 20 people who inhaled potentially deadly fumes from generators. **Page 1B**

Heat difficulties: About 30 nursing home residents were evacuated after overheating Wednesday as more than 200,000 people remained without power in south Alabama. **Page 1B**

Gas shortages: One local station sold out its supply of 3,000 gallons of gasoline in three hours Wednesday. Gas distributors assured that more was on the way to the area. **Page 12A**

Trash pickups?: Some local officials say that it will be Friday before they know when large-scale debris pickups will begin. **Page 14A**

Bayou recovery: Bayou La Batre struggles to bring relief to residents. **Page 5B**

Worker woes: Katrina could trigger a nationwide spike in demand for skilled construction workers, possibly slowing homebuilding, economists say. **Page 18A**

Casino questions: The reopening of Mississippi's coastal casinos could hinge on whether state legislators ditch the requirement that gambling take place only on the water. **Page 16A**

Runoff delay?: Mobile mayoral candidate John Peavy said he wants his Sept. 13 runoff against Sam Jones postponed because of the storm; Jones said he hadn't considered a delay. **Page 17A**

Bayway crawl: Motorists remained backed up for miles Wednesday along Interstate 10 at the entrance to the Wallace Tunnel, but some other roads remained closed altogether. **Page 12A**

Finding help: Who has emergency food and ice? What are the curfews? Where can you make donations? You'll find answers to those and other essential questions after the storm on **Page 2B**



DAVE MARTIN/Associated Press

Sheila Dixon of New Orleans weeps while clutching her 18-month-old daughter Emily as they sit on the side of Interstate 10 after being airlifted out of flood-besieged New Orleans on Wednesday. Dixon wept uncontrollably, saying that everything she had was lost and she had no idea where she was being taken.

► Police taken off search-and-rescue missions and told to control violent looters

By **ADAM NOSSITER**
Associated Press Writer

NEW ORLEANS — With thousands feared drowned in what could be America's deadliest natural disaster in a century, New Orleans' leaders all but surrendered the streets to floodwaters Wednesday and began turning out the lights on the ruined city — perhaps for months.

Looting in the wake of Hurricane Katrina spiraled so out of control that Mayor Ray Nagin ordered virtually the entire police force to abandon search-and-rescue efforts and focus on the brazen packs of thieves who have turned increasingly hostile.

Nagin also called for an all-out evacuation of the city's remaining residents. Asked how many people died, he said: "Minimum, hundreds. Most likely, thousands."

With most of the city under water, Army engineers struggled to plug New Orleans' breached levees with giant sandbags and concrete barriers, and authorities drew up plans to clear out the tens of thousands of remaining people and practically abandon the below-sea-level city.

Nagin said there will be a "total evacuation of the city. We have to. The city will not be functional for two or three months." And he said people would not be allowed back into their homes for at least a month or two.

If the mayor's death-toll estimate holds true, it would make Katrina the worst natural disaster in the United States since at

Please see **Katrina** Page 6A ▶

HELPING VICTIMS

► Churches, relief organizations get ready; more refugees expected in region

By **GUY BUSBY**
Staff Reporter

Baldwin and Mobile relief agencies, working to help local people harmed by Hurricane Katrina, prepared Wednesday to also aid thousands more refugees from Mississippi and Louisiana.

Some storm victims were simply pulling off Interstate 10 on Baldwin's Eastern Shore on Wednesday morning, having run low on money, gas and options, according to one relief leader.

"Most of them have no place to go," said Brenda Lee, director of South Baldwin United Way and chairwoman of the Baldwin Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster group. "The people most affected are from outside, but they're going to be coming here and they need our help. We're going to have an influx of people looking for jobs, looking for housing."

Shelters opened Wednesday in the Nichol-

Please see **Relief** Page 4A ▶

■ How can you help? **Page 2B**

Slidell residents: Where's the relief?

► Some people say they'll never return; others say even a wet home is home

By **JEFF AMY**
Staff Reporter

SLIDELL, La. — The water was mostly gone from this New Orleans suburb Wednesday, but organized relief still hadn't found many residents, and questions about what comes next after Hurricane Katrina had only begun.

Slidell, a city of 26,000, remained close to terra incognita. Police and government employees were moving about, but the city had no power, no phone service, no running water, no gasoline, and apparently no relief stations for the many people who chose not to flee from the north shore of Lake Ponchartrain.

Unlike in Alabama and Florida after Hurricane Ivan last year, none of the water-damaged buildings bore the spray-painted marks from search and rescue crews, designating which ones



Clint Morgan hugs his neighbor Dexter Sharp, who has his back to the camera, as Morgan's wife, Wendy, wipes away tears Wednesday in the doorway of their home in Slidell, La. Morgan recalled when the storm struck: "You heard women screaming 'Help! Help!' but there was nothing you could do."

BILL STARLING/Staff Photographer