

THURSDAY

Stampede claims lives

Hundreds of pilgrims on way to Iraq shrine killed in chaotic scene. — International, 2A



DuMond found dead

Murderer, rapist discovered in his Missouri prison cell. — Arkansas, 1B

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New Orleans going under



Residents giving up, getting out

Editor's note: Reporter C.S. Murphy prepared this report with information from Katherine Marks in Gulfport, Miss., The Associated Press and Bloomberg News Services.

ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Conditions in New Orleans, sodden with filthy floodwaters and increasingly dangerous, only worsened Wednesday, three days after Hurricane Katrina pummeled the city.

Gangs of gun-toting looters pillaged soggy treasures as drenched and defeated residents emerged from their homes to begin a weary search for food, water and rescue.

Mayor Ray Nagin ordered 1,500 police to leave their search-and-rescue mission Wednesday night and return to the streets of New Orleans to stop the looting that has turned increasingly hostile.

"They are starting to get closer to heavily populated areas — hotels, hospitals, and we're going to stop it right now," Nagin said in a statement.



Nagin

The major American city all but disintegrated Wednesday, and the expected death toll from Hurricane Katrina mushroomed.

"At some point in time the dead bodies are going to start to create a serious disease issue," Nagin said.

"We know there is a significant number of dead bodies in the water" and other people dead in attics, Nagin said. Asked how many, he said: "Minimum, hundreds. Most likely, thousands."

The frightening estimate came as U.S. Army engineers struggled to plug New Orleans' breached levees with giant sandbags and concrete barriers, while authorities drew up plans to clear out the tens of thousands of people remaining in New Orleans and all but abandon the flooded city.

There will be a "total evacuation of the city. We have to. The city will not be functional for two or three months," Nagin said.

Nagin estimated 50,000 to 100,000 people remained in New Orleans.

Along coast, lost lives and lost cities

BY JILL ZEMAN
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

BILOXI, Miss. — A fluorescent orange X spray-painted on doors or walls marks where death passed over a house searched by members of the Florida Urban Search and Rescue team.

A single diagonal line, sometimes paired with a question mark, points out the houses where Hurricane Katrina left bodies in the rubble.

On Wednesday, searchers clambered over and picked through piles of what were once houses and businesses, joined by residents who continued to look for their neighbors and loved ones.

Hearse drivers roamed the destroyed city, watching for the solitary line denoting death.

"We're going to search this one real good," team member Les Rydl of St. Petersburg said, mentioning a suspect mound of



Arkansas Democrat-Gazette/MICHELLE POSEY

An urban search-and-rescue team from St. Petersburg, Fla., marks a house Wednesday in Biloxi to let other crews know that no bodies were found inside.

rubble as he tapped his nose. In Wednesday's sweltering, muggy heat, the smell of death became much more pungent. The house Rydl pinpointed

lawn under a pile of debris.

But at other locations in this coastal town, the searchers — including firefighters, police officers and Mississippi Wildlife Fisheries and Parks officials — found more human bodies, quickly increasing the death toll that has already surpassed 100 in Mississippi alone.

At one spot on U.S. 90, Hurricane Katrina flattened brick houses where the residents apparently tried to ride out the storm. As rescuers dug through debris, they found multiple bodies and left a mark for the hearses to find.

Residents packed the streets, especially after a Salvation Army aid station arrived. One woman, who did not give her name, came to stock up on water and supplies.

"This is unbelievable," she said. Her neighbor's mother and son drowned in the hurricane. See **SEARCH**, Page 9A

Evacuee influx has state scrambling for housing

BY ANDREW DEMILLO
ARKANSAS DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE

Federal, state and local officials assessed options ranging from military bases to campgrounds Wednesday as long-term housing solutions for the stream of refugees landing in Arkansas because of the devastation of Hurricane Katrina.

Refugees from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama continued to fill emergency shelters, hotels, state parks and other sites as cleanup efforts

continued from Monday's hurricane.

State officials couldn't give a total figure of refugees in Arkansas, but more than 1,200 people slept Tuesday night in 27 shelters around the state, said Dave Maxwell, deputy director of the Arkansas Department of Emergency Management. Countless other evacuees spent the night in hotels and other locations.

Even as they directed evacuees to shelters from West Memphis, officials said. See **SHELTERS**, Page 9A

City faces comeback choices

New Orleans' future tied to hard decisions

DEMOCRAT-GAZETTE PRESS SERVICES
An astonishing phenomenon — the drowning of New Orleans — leads to a mind-boggling question: How to rebuild a city? Some are already considering the challenge.

Officials from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers estimate it will be weeks before all the

water that flowed into the city through breached levees can be pumped back out. After that, it will take several years — and many billions of dollars — to rebuild homes, offices, streets and highways.

The decisions people make as they go through that process will be weeks before all the



Associated Press

A swimming pool is surrounded Wednesday by the debris of a neighborhood in Long Beach, Miss., that was obliterated.

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WEATHER

ARKANSAS Today Partly cloudy, slight chance of rain.

High Upper 80s to mid-90s.

Tonight Partly cloudy.

Low In the 60s.



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