

# THE DAILY ADVERTISER

Thursday, September 1, 2005

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■ **Find help:** Assistance is available for those affected by the storm. **Page 2B**

■ **Town by town:** Find out what is happening in your hometown. **Page 5A**

■ **Back to school:** More than 600 refugees register in Lafayette. **Page 1B**

■ **Pause to reflect:** Faithful seek comfort on a Day of Prayer. **Page 3B**

# STRANDED



PC. Piazza/ppiazza@theadvertiser.com

A damaged gas platform burns Wednesday about eight miles off the coast from Buras in the Gulf of Mexico.



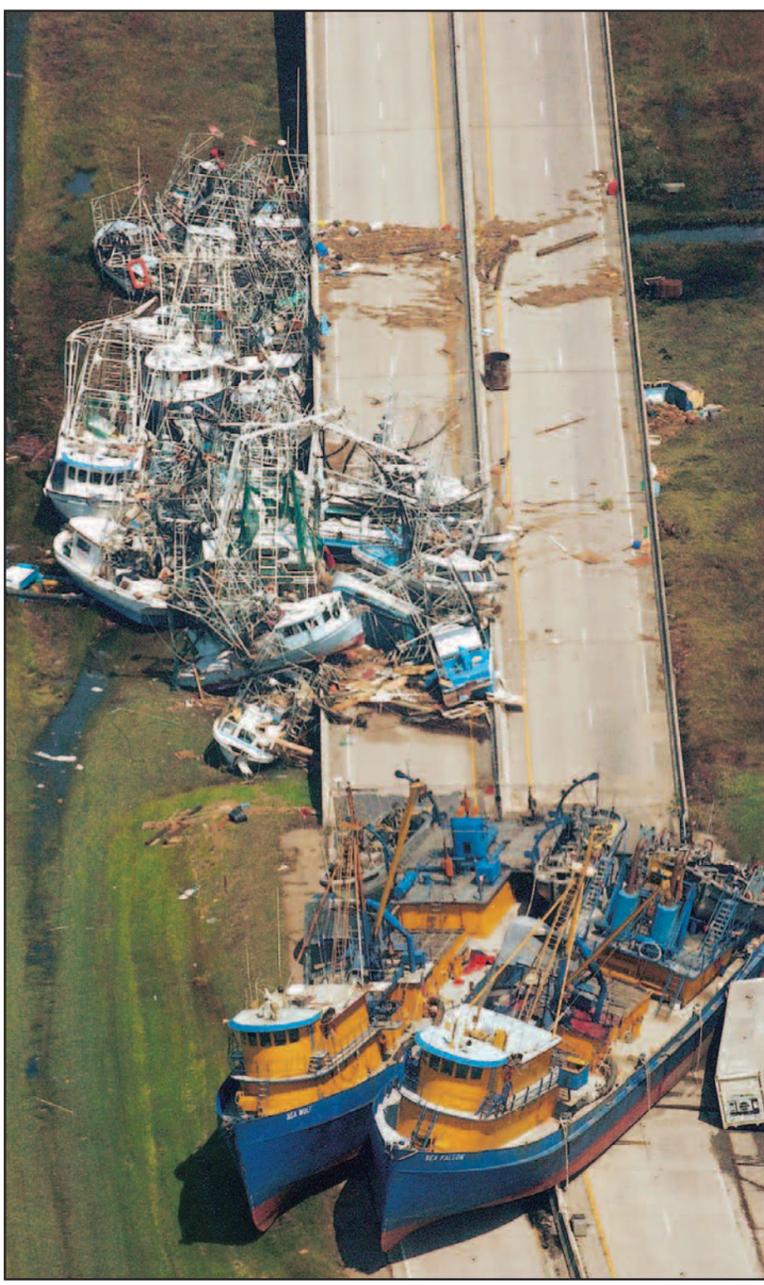
Claudia B. Laws/claws@theadvertiser.com

Evacuees who fled the Superdome by walking across the Interstate 10 bridge wait under the West Bank Expressway on Wednesday to be picked up by a bus to be moved to the Astrodome in Houston.



PC. Piazza/ppiazza@theadvertiser.com

Grand Isle suffered extensive damage from Hurricane Katrina.



PC. Piazza/ppiazza@theadvertiser.com

Boats were piled on the ramp of the bridge in Empire on Wednesday.

## Rebuilding lives will take massive aid

**Jan Risher**  
jrisher@theadvertiser.com

The reality of life after Katrina is setting in for evacuees, shelter providers, officials, first responders and the entire nation.

As conditions in New Orleans deteriorate, everyone involved is realizing the heavy toll of evacuating a major American city.

On Wednesday, President Bush, after flying over the Katrina-devastated Gulf Coast on his way back from his Texas vacation, convened a Cabinet meeting in Washington and vowed to help rebuild Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama.

"We're dealing with one of the worst natural disasters in our history," Bush said, calling on Americans to donate to the Red Cross to help the

victims, who include more than 1.2 million displaced Louisianians.

Evacuees from the Superdome were being bused to Houston's Astrodome and Lafayette's Cajundome on Wednesday. Area hospitals admitted critically ill patients airlifted from New Orleans-area hospitals that could no longer care for them.

Lafayette, one of the closest fully-operable cities, is bursting at the seams. Infrastructures are being re-invented on the fly.

In quiet and often heroic ways, people are working toward recognizing and meeting needs of thousands who have, for the moment, lost all means to support themselves.

"I think I am not going

See AID on Page 8A

## Rescue chief, mayor fear 'thousands' dead

**Raju Chebium**  
The Daily Advertiser/  
Gannett News Service

Thousands of New Orleans residents may have drowned in the floods unleashed by Hurricane Katrina, a leading rescue official said Wednesday as he tried to find hovercraft to remove patients stranded in about a dozen hospitals.

Richard Zuschlag, head of Lafayette-based Acadian Ambulance Service, has dispatched all eight of his helicopters and half of his 220-ambulance fleet to New Orleans. He said his paramedics are seeing more and more bodies floating in the waters, which have reached as high as 20 feet in some parts of the city.

"My biggest fear is that when the water does go

See FEAR on Page 8A

### INSIDE

#### Some won't leave

A New Orleans couple is keeping their fingers crossed that their candles and a turkey will hold out until help arrives.

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#### Coast affected

The United States Geological Survey reviews changes to Louisiana's coast.

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#### Hospital assists

Women's & Children's takes in tiny patients.

Page 1B

#### Animals helped

Evacuated pets offered safe haven in Blackham Coliseum.

Page 1B

## Cajundome refugees happy for help, face new futures

**Beverly Corbell**  
bcorbell@theadvertiser.com

Yvonne Reed and her family don't know what happened to their house in Algiers, across the river from New Orleans. But she's grateful for the help of a Lafayette police officer who directed her and her family to the

Cajundome.

"He was driving car 417," she said Wednesday. "He told us to come here and register with the Red Cross. He asked if we were long-term or short-term, and when I said long-term, he said we should register the kids for school and gave me a number to call. He really

helped me to get the process started."

Reed said the family rented a motel room Sunday and Monday and slept in their car Tuesday after their money ran out. Unable to sleep, Reed went out and found the officer just before midnight.

See HELP on Page 8A



Andrew West/The Daily Advertiser

Kathleen Brewster, 51, of New Orleans wipes sweat away from her face Wednesday at the Cajundome.



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Joseph O. Arceneaux, 69, New Iberia  
Mrs. David Fox, 85, Delcambre  
Samuel Gautreaux, 79, Opelousas

### ACADIANA DEATHS

Marie L. Manceaux, 90, Abbeville  
Gregory V. Moore, 31, Charlotte, N.C.  
Ernest L. Potier, 71, Gueydan  
Robert Stanley, 39, Duson  
Richard D. Wickens, 94, Lafayette  
For Obituaries, see Page 4B.

### INSIDE TODAY

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**Casa Ole** Look who's cooking at Casa Ole.  
Made fresh every day at Casa Ole.

### TUNA'S MUCHO MACHO NACHOS

Big Tuna of 102.1, KOIS says, if you've conquered his Boom Boom Burrito, are you up to the challenge of the Mucho Macho Nachos? Tortilla chips covered with refried beans, sizzling hot fajitas steak and chicken, seasoned sautéed onions and bell peppers, chile con queso and shredded cheese. Topped off with jalapeños, sour cream and guacamole. It's the appetizer that eats like a meal.

