

Today: Mostly sunny, breezy. High 82. Low 62.  
Monday: Mostly sunny. High 79. Low 60.  
Details, C14

William H. Rehnquist, 1924-2005

## Chief Justice Dies at Age 80

By CHARLES LANE  
Washington Post Staff Writer

William Hubbs Rehnquist, the 16th Chief Justice of the United States, died last night at his home in Arlington. He was 80. Rehnquist, who had been suffering from thyroid cancer since last October, had managed to lead the court through its last term, which ended in June. But he went through "a precipitous decline in his health in the

last couple of days," Supreme Court spokeswoman Kathy Arberg said.

Rehnquist's death comes as the Senate is preparing for hearings on President Bush's nomination of John G. Roberts Jr. to replace Sandra Day O'Connor as an associate justice. Those hearings are set to begin on Tuesday. O'Connor, 75, announced her retirement on July 1, effective upon the confirmation of a successor.

Bush must now name a replacement for

Rehnquist, and the process of selecting and confirming a new justice will probably last past the first day of the court's new term, Oct. 3. That means that even if Roberts is swiftly confirmed, the court will be operating with only eight members for an indefinite period.

The votes on the court result in the automatic affirmation of the lower court's ruling in the court, but do not establish a legal precedent.

A conservative stalwart appointed as associate justice by President Richard M. Nixon in 1972, Rehnquist was elevated to chief justice in 1986 by President Ronald Reagan. His 33-year tenure on the court was one of the longest and most influential in the institution's history, as he spearheaded a rightward move at the court—first as a lone dissenter, then later as the leader of a

See CHIEF JUSTICE, A4, Col. 1



BY J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE — ASSOCIATED PRESS

Chief Justice of the United States William H. Rehnquist sits for a formal photo in 2003.

### In Texas

## 240,000 Evacuees Strain Capacity

By LISA REIN and DAN BALZ  
Washington Post Staff Writers

HOUSTON, Sept. 3 — Thousands of evacuees, exhausted and frustrated after days trapped in flooded New Orleans, continued to pour into Houston and other cities in Texas on Saturday, rapidly filling enormous arenas and small shelters in an extraordinary exodus of humanity that has quickly strained the capacity of the Lone Star State.

Over the past six days, Texas has mobilized its emergency relief operations almost as if Hurricane Katrina slammed into its borders, rather than the neighboring eastern states, and in a very real sense Katrina has hit Texas with massive force. About 240,000 Louisianans have found sanctuary in the Lone Star State in hotels and large shelters, state officials said. Many more are in church-run shelters and even some in private homes. Officials are scrambling to stay ahead of what they anticipate could be a long-term relocation of humanity.

Houston has become ground zero for the exodus, with 100,000 to 200,000 of the total number of refugees in the state sheltered here. To cope, officials have built a virtual organization from scratch, blending the public and private sectors, non-profit groups and churches to handle the evacuees' needs.

Almost overnight, officials established one of the largest hospitals in

See TEXAS, A26, Col. 1

### HURRICANE KATRINA: THE AFTERMATH



#### More Coverage

A supplemental section with dispatches from the states dealing with the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina begins on A23.

## Many Evacuated, but Thousands Still Waiting



BY SHANNON STAPLETON — REUTERS

A covered corpse lay on the ground early Saturday outside the New Orleans convention center as evacuees remained stranded.

### What Went Wrong

## Storm Exposed Disarray at the Top

By SUSAN B. GLASSER and JOSH WHITE  
Washington Post Staff Writers

The killer hurricane and flood that devastated the Gulf Coast last week exposed fatal weaknesses in a federal disaster response system retooled after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, to handle just such a cataclysmic event.

Despite four years and tens of billions of

dollars spent preparing for the worst, the federal government was not ready when it came at daybreak on Monday, according to interviews with more than a dozen current and former senior officials and outside experts.

Among the flaws they cited: Failure to take the storm seriously before it hit and trigger the government's highest level of response. Rebuffed offers of aid from the mil-

itary, states and cities. An unfinished new plan meant to guide disaster response. And a slow bureaucracy that waited until late Tuesday to declare the catastrophe "an incident of national significance," the new federal term meant to set off the broadest possible relief effort.

Born out of the confused and uncertain

See RESPONSE, A31, Col. 1

### Along the Gulf Coast

## Picking Up the Pieces of Shattered Lives in Southern Mississippi

By SALLY JENKINS  
Washington Post Staff Writer

PASCAGOULA, Miss., Sept. 3 — Everywhere you look, there is something wrecked or someone crushed. An oysterman sleeps in a tent in a Kmart parking lot. A senator's daughter digs through rubble like a scavenger, and finds her childhood bed in a strange street. An Elvis impersonator's wig lies

caught in a box hedge.

These are the kinds of things you see, and the sorts of people you meet, along Highway 90, the beach boulevard that runs the length of the state's coastal region. Once it was a tour of faintly seedy romanticism, of garish casinos and oil refineries, sagging tin-roofed cottages, and antebellum and Greek Revival mansions. The beaches were fine and white as sugar, the air damply and gently corrupt,

and hundred-year-old oak limbs hung over blue-green bays with an ache-inducing grace. Or, that is what memory tells you.

Now the road is buckled and, in places, impassable. The houses and casinos are splintered. Huge metal structures lie crumpled like tissue. The air reeks of spoiled shrimp, and corpses. The residents wail with grief by the roadside at all the harm and spoil, or contemplate it with that peculiar local symptom

called southern humor.

"When God decides to clean house," said Jo Rusin, standing in front of the pile of loose bricks that was her retirement home in Waveland, "he doesn't just use a Swiffer Wet-Jet."

Several blocks inland from the beach, a dank little canal called the Ditch snakes

See GULF COAST, A34, Col. 1

### INSIDE

#### Maryland Edges Navy In Renewed Rivalry

Sam Hollenbach caps the Terps' late 82-yard drive with a touchdown to prevail, 23-20.

SPORTS, E1

#### What to Read This Fall

In a particularly prolific season, editors pick and preview the coming best bets. BOOK WORLD

#### 'Night Draws Near'

In excerpts from Post reporter Anthony Shadid's new book, diary entries from Baghdad teenager Amal Salman, right, describe her family's struggles as war descends on the Iraqi capital.

STYLE, D1



BY ANDREA BRUCE — THE WASHINGTON POST

#### Roberts's Views Formed Early



Former classmates recall Supreme Court nominee John G. Roberts Jr.'s worldview as at odds with Harvard's liberal orthodoxy in the '70s. NATION, A6

#### Less Oxygen In the Bay

An illustrative look at how nutrient pollution is choking oxygen from much of the Chesapeake Bay, threatening wildlife. METRO, C13

## 3 Men, 3 Avenues to Va. Governorship Warner's Legacy, GOP's Edge Make Race Uncertain

By MICHAEL D. SHEAR  
Washington Post Staff Writer

RICHMOND — If this were any other state, Democratic Gov. Mark R. Warner probably would be riding his high job approval ratings to a lopsided reelection this fall.

But Virginia is the only state in the nation that automatically sends its governors packing after one term. And so this November, as they do every four years, Virginia voters will reinvent their state government and provide the rest of the nation an early glimpse at the current political mind-set.

"The voting trends all point Republican. But Mark Warner has shown there's a path to Democratic victory," said politics professor Mark J. Rozell, director of the Center for Public Policy

at George Mason University. "People are talking about this as a genuine, competitive, two-party race that could go either way."

The candidates are two party stalwarts who started their campaigns for governor as Warner's term started and a maverick whose last-minute entry into the contest has tweaked the conventional political wisdom.

The Democrat is Lt. Gov. Timothy M. Kaine, the former Richmond mayor who claims to be the heir to Warner's probusiness, centrist policy agenda. Kaine wants the Nov. 8 election to unofficially be the referendum on Warner that the constitution officially prohibits.

The Republican is former attorney general

See VIRGINIA, A8, Col. 1

