

A satellite image of a large hurricane with a distinct eye, swirling over a dark blue ocean. The hurricane's clouds are white and dense, contrasting with the dark water. The image is used as a background for the text.

WHEN EARTH ATTACKS!

A GEOLOGIST'S RETROSPECTIVE

NOGS LUNCHEON

NOVEMBER 2, 2015



‘The bed of the marsh will be raised by soil discharged into It’---
Gist of a 15th Century geology field trip note



**Sunday, December
26, 2004**

**Ao Nang, Krabi
Province, Thailand**

POPULAR SCIENCE

On Your Newsstand

May, 2005

courtesy of popsci.com

CLIP'N' SAVE! YOUR 4-STEP BUYER'S GUIDE TO SMARTPHONES

POPULAR science

WHAT'S NEW
41HOT
PRODUCTS

p 13

TECHNOLOGY TAKES ON
NATURE'S WORST—
FROM **HURRICANES** TO **VOLCANOES** TO **TSUNAMIS**

EARTH ATTACKS!

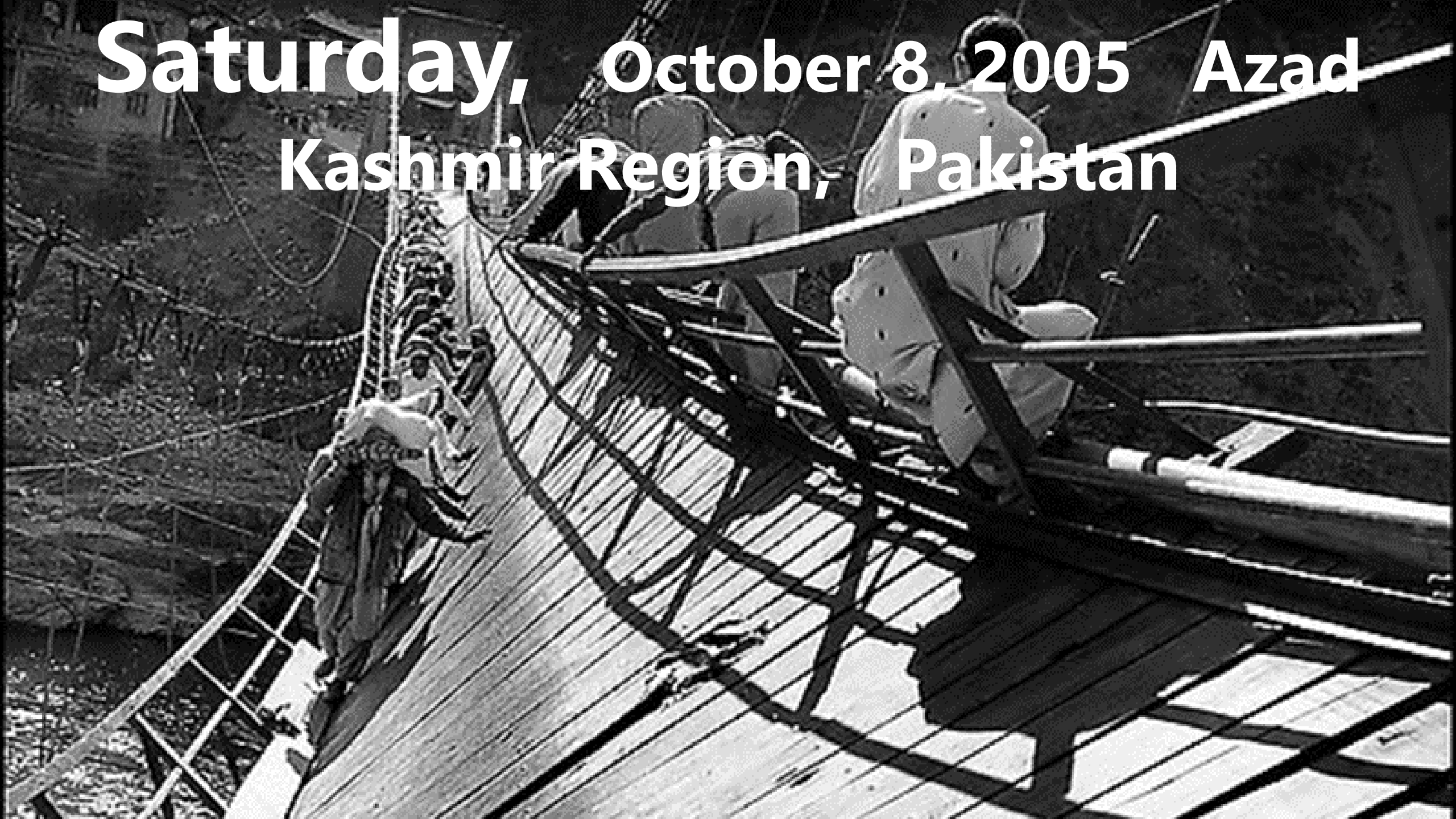


**SUPERSTAR HACKERS
CLASH IN VEGAS**

THE SHUTTLE FLIES AGAIN (GULP)



**Saturday, October 8, 2005 Azad
Kashmir Region, Pakistan**



2006

*MUSEUM
EXHIBIT!*

Springfield Science
Museum

<http://www.springfieldmuseums.org>



Doh!



Face the Nation Transcript August 30, 2015: Jindal, Landrieu, & Selzer

- (CBS News) -- A transcript from the August 30, 2015 edition of *Face the Nation*. Guests included: Bobby Jindal, Mitch Landrieu, (et al)...
- **DICKERSON: ...no single city was hit harder... no city suffered more for the failures of government**
- **MITCH LANDRIEU....this was an infrastructure failure... not a natural disaster...we need to get to 500-year protection...**

Saturday

November 4, 2006

NOGS Field Trip







**What you were told on
the NOGS field trip in
2006 was correct.**



early 19th Century



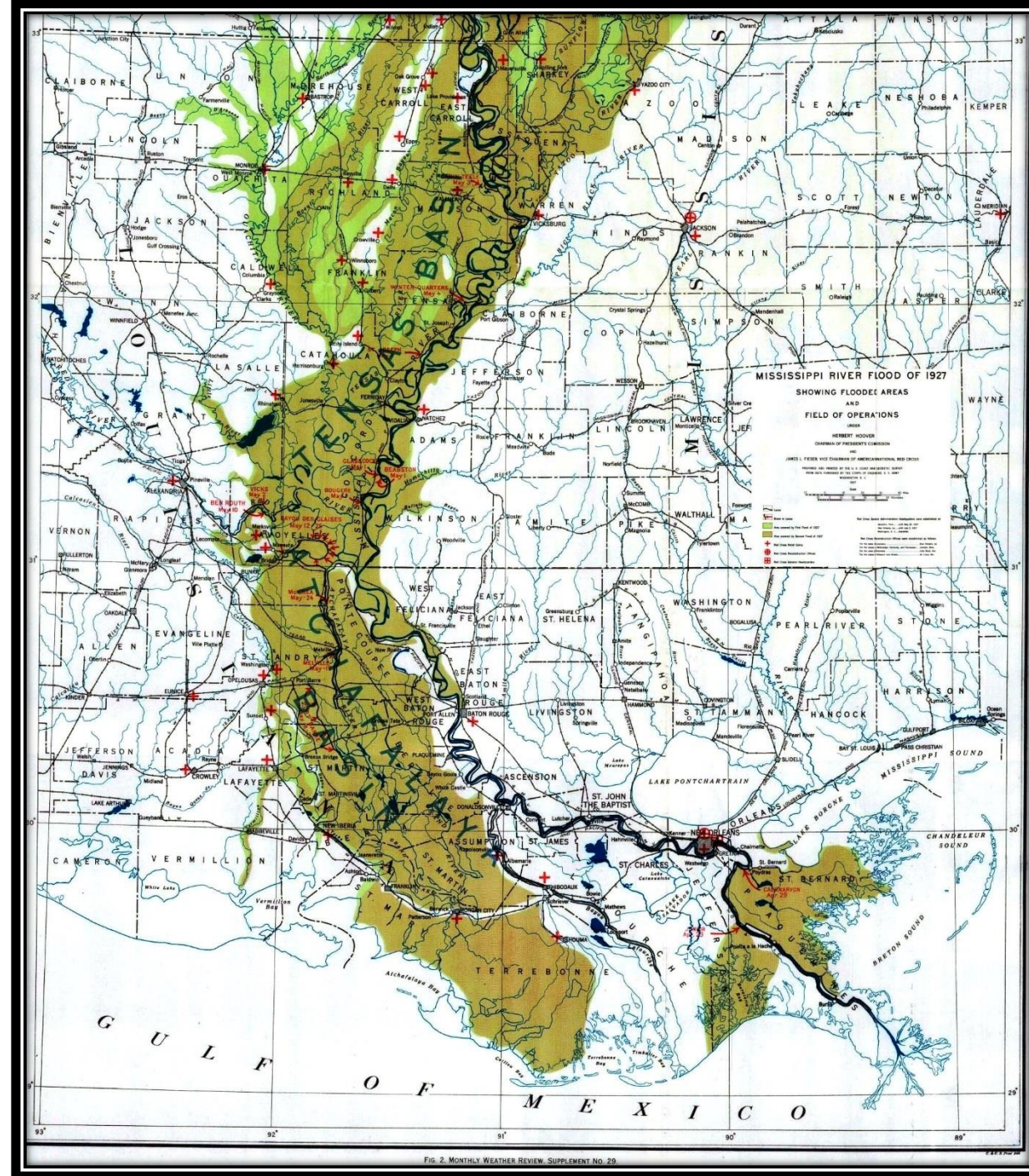
Courtesy: <http://portno.com/history>

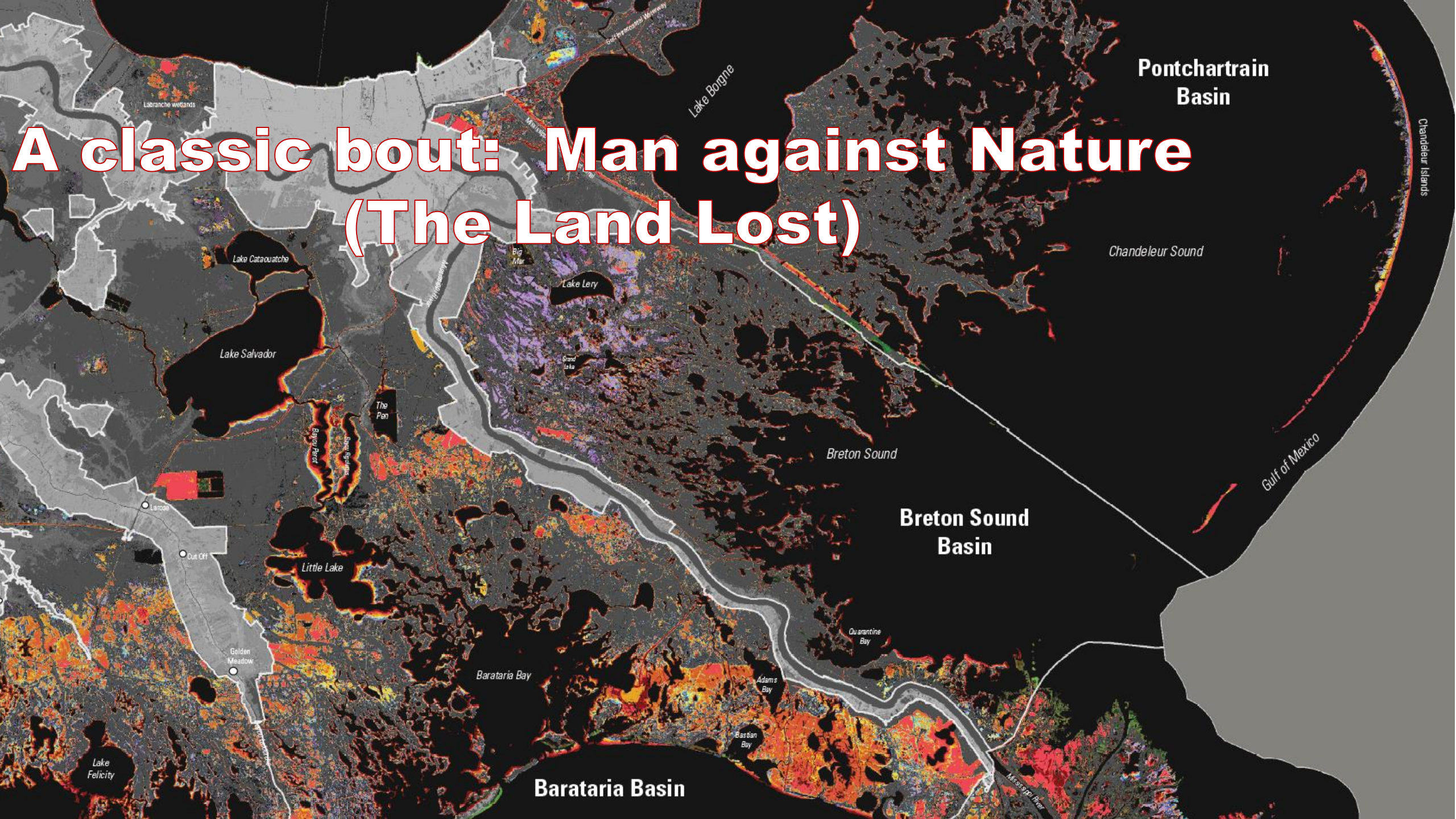


Original by New Orleans maritime artist August Norieri

Image for educational use to limited audience courtesy knowla.org

Be it enacted by the Senate and House
of Representatives of the United States
of America in Congress assembled...





Pontchartrain
Basin

Chandeleur Islands

Chandeleur Sound

Gulf of Mexico

Breton Sound
Basin

Barataria Basin

Lake Borgne

Labranche wetlands

Lake Cataouatche

Lake Salvador

Big Mar

Lake Lery

Grand Lake

The Pen

Baton Rouge

Little Lake

Golden Meadow

Larose

Out Off

Lake Felicity

Barataria Bay

Adams Bay

Bastian Bay

Quarantine Bay

Mississippi River

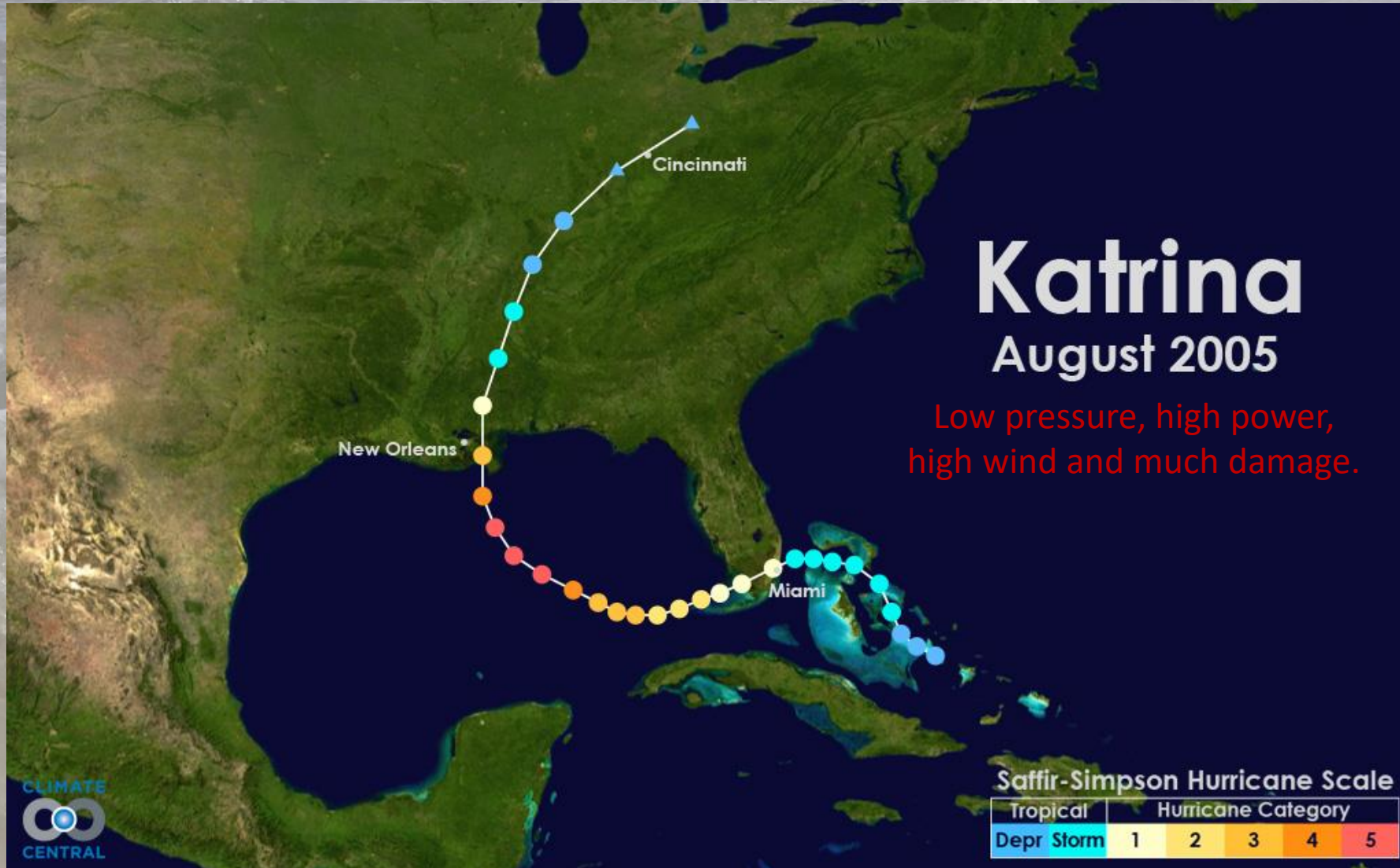
An aerial photograph showing a massive, dense, and billowing white cloud structure, likely a hurricane, viewed from above. The clouds are thick and textured, with a bright white core. The surrounding sky is a deep blue, and the ocean surface is visible at the bottom of the frame. The text is overlaid on the top half of the image.

KATRINA!

WHAT THE PILOT SAW...

AUGUST 29, 2005

Pressure 902, 140 mph wind, 14 in rain
(median), 1,321 deaths, \$34.4B lost



A satellite image of Hurricane Rita, showing a well-defined eye and a dense, swirling cloud structure over the Gulf of Mexico. The surrounding ocean is dark blue, and the landmasses of North and Central America are visible in green.

RITA!

SEPTEMBER 25, 2015

Thursday

September 22, 2005

The Advocate

THURSDAY
SEPTEMBER 22, 2005

BATON ROUGE
21theadvocate.com
50 cents

GOOD MORNING,
LOUISIANA

FOOD



Keep menu simple
to feed a household.

► PAGE 1F

BUSINESS

Lack of leadership
structure puts
BR-NO rebuilding
effort on hold

► PAGE 1D

SPORTS

Injuries mount
for hobbled Jaguar
football team

► PAGE 1E



Associated Press photo
in an image taken from televi-
sion, JetBlue Airbus Flight 292
makes an emergency landing in
Los Angeles.

Airliner makes landing
mostly on rear wheels

A JetBlue airliner with its
front landing gear stuck side
ways landed safely Wednesday,
balancing on its back wheels as
it showed up on the runway at Los
Angeles International Airport.
As the front wheels touched
the runway, flames shot along
the fuselage and the tires here off,
leaving the metal gear scraping
the runway for the final few
yards.

With 139 passengers on board,
the plane circled the Los Angeles
area for three hours as the pilots
burned off fuel and officials
tried to determine how to bring
the plane in safely.

► SEE STORY, PAGE 14A

House backs package
of Katrina tax breaks

The House approved a \$6.1
billion package of tax breaks
Wednesday to help families
recover from Hurricane Katrina
and encourage Gulf Coast
businesses to reopen their doors,
or at least keep employees on the
payroll.

The House passed the bill
422-0 as the Bush administration
urged residents to get out of the
way of another approaching
storm. Hurricane Rita, traversing
Louisiana and Texas.

► STORY, PAGE 10A

INDEX

Business	1D	Opinion	8B
Criminal	1C	People	8D
Comics	1D	Public opinion	2C
Deaths	26A	Politics	1D
Foot	1F	Sports	1E
Movie-TV	26A	Weather	1D

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Baton Rouge, LA 70801

17673-00100

THE
ADVOCATE
THE INDEPENDENT VOICE OF SOUTH LOUISIANA



Meet us
on page 2A



TODAY'S WEATHER
Breezy,
High: 94, Low: 74,
DETAILS: 10B
★

Rita a looming monster

1.3 million flee
Category 5
hurricane

BY PAM EASTON

Associated Press writer

Galveston, Texas—Gaining strength
with hurricane speed Wednesday,
Hurricane Rita swirled toward the
Gulf Coast a Category 5, 175-mph
monster on more than 1.3 million
people in Texas and Louisiana were
sent packing on orders from author-
ities who learned from Katrina.

It's scary. It's really scary,"
Shakelia Dantz said as she and her 5-
and 9-year-old daughters waited to
board a bus.

Southwest
Louisiana prepares
for flooding. **SA**
— Thousands of
refugees, Gulf rigs
hurled down as Rita
takes aim. **ID**

arranged by
emergency au-
thorities in
Galveston. "I'm
glad we've got the
opportunity to
leave. ... You
never know what can happen."

With Rita projected to hit Texas by
Saturday, Gov. Rick Perry urged res-
idents along the state's entire coast
to begin evacuating. New Orleans
braced for the possibility that the
storm could swamp the misery-
stricken city all over again.

Galveston, low-lying parts of Cor-
pus Christi and Houston, and mostly
empty New Orleans were under
mandatory evacuation orders as Rita
approached the Texas coast and be-
gan drawing energy with terrifying
efficiency from the warm waters of
the Gulf of Mexico.

Forecasters said Rita could be the
most intense hurricane on record
ever to hit Texas, and easily one of
the most powerful ever to blow into
the U.S. mainland.

Category 5 is the highest on the
scale, and only three Category 5 hur-
ricanes are known to have hit the
U.S. mainland — most recently, An-
drew, which smashed south Florida
in 1992.

The U.S. mainland has never been
hit by both a Category 5 and a Cat-
egory 5 in the same season.

Katrina, a once potent Category 5
storm, weakened slightly to a
Category 4 hurricane just before
coming ashore.

Government officials eager to
show they had learned their lessons
from the sluggish response to Kat-
rina sent in hundreds of buses to eva-

cuate the poor, evicted and hospital-
ized home patients, displaced
truckloads of water, ice and ready
made meals, and put rescue and
medical teams on standby.

"We don't want to see any more
deaths. We want to see as many
people as we can get out of there,"
said a FEMA spokesman.

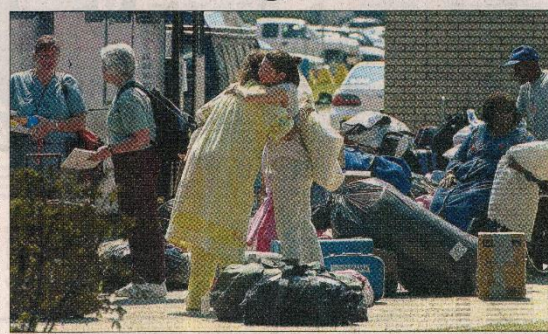
Special attention was given to ho-
spitals and nursing homes. Three
weeks after scores of sick and eld-
erly patients in the New Orleans area
died in a hospital flood, FEMA de-
cided in the 48 hours before while waiting
to be rescued.

Military personnel in south Texas
began moving north, too. Schools,
businesses and universities were
also shut down. Some sporting
events were canceled.

Galveston was a virtual ghost town
by mid-afternoon Wednesday.
In neighborhoods throughout the
island city, the few people left were
packing the last of their belongings
and getting ready to head north.

Helicopters, ambulances and bus-
es were used to evacuate 200 peo-
ple from Galveston's only bridge
across the Gulf of Mexico.

With its breathtaking size — tropi-
cal storm force winds extending 250
miles across — practically the entire
western end of the Gulf Coast was in
peril, and even a slight right turn
could prove disastrous to the
fractured levees protecting New Or-



Volunteer Melissa McGinnis, center, hugs a shelter patient Wednesday outside of the Recreational Sports Complex on the McNeese State campus.
The special needs shelter residents were being evacuated to Shreveport in the face of Hurricane Rita.

leaves.
In the Galveston Houston-Corpus
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Many evacuees push for return

Nagin vows quick action to open N.O.

BY JESSICA FENDER

Associated Press writer

Galveston, Texas—Hurricane Rita
didn't stop the push for a quick
return to New Orleans.

Mayor Ray Nagin said
Wednesday he will continue his con-
troversial plan to allow residents
back into their area despite a seri-
ously weakened levee system and
potential health hazards.

Nagin said he would soon set a date
and form a nine-member task force
to study even the most devastated
neighborhoods, where bodies have
been collected and debris blocks
roadways.

Some disagreed in the stormy
meeting of New Orleans politicians
in the State Capitol.

New Orleans residents and law-
makers at the meeting — especially
those from the backlot, Grifflin,
New Orleans East and Lakeview
neighborhoods — pleaded for the
chance to see their homes and collect
anything salvagable, saying they
were willing to assume the risks of
re-entry.

"All right, we'll go to work on it,"
Nagin told a frustrated crowd. "We'll
try to expedite something and get
people in."

"The Garden District, French Quar-
ter and some Uptown neighborhoods

are the most devastated areas," he
said. "We're going to get them back
as fast as we can."

While the water has finally sub-
sided in much of Orleans Parish,
there are no hospitals, no reliable
water or sewer systems and no guar-
antee of noncontaminated in many areas,
Nagin said.

Lakeview neighborhood resident
and state Rep. Patti Brantley, R-
New Orleans, pushed hard for re-en-
try and said he was satisfied with the
mayor's promise to come back next
week with a more detailed plan that

► **Police workers initially search, SA**
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Advocate staff photo by RICHARD ALAN HANCOCK
The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers uses slant girds Wednesday
to close off the 17th Street Canal to protect it from any storm surge
caused by Hurricane Rita. Floodwalls along the canal broke during
Hurricane Katrina, allowing water to pour into New Orleans.

LSU storm expert rejects levee failure explanation

BY MIKE DUNNE

Advocate staff writer

Galveston, Texas—A storm surge
expert said Wednesday that the
levee system in New Orleans was
not the cause of the city's flooding
during Hurricane Katrina.

The findings of the LSU center,
which predicts hurricane storm
surges for emergency officials, clash
with the explanation that
has been given by the U.S. Army
Corps of Engineers.

The corps has said the flood-
walls collapsed after water
flowed over them, eroding the

levee system. The corps has said
the levee system was not the cause
of the city's flooding during Hurri-
cane Katrina.

► **Police workers initially search, SA**
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La. budget hole still uncertain

Feds send \$764 million;
billions in loss expected

BY MICHELLE WILHELMSON

Capital news bureau

Washington—The federal govern-
ment in the wake of Hurricane Katrina
and hopes to get another \$724 million
in the coming weeks.

Those millions won't help plug a
budget hole that is so large that no-
body can agree how big it is. State
officials need federal help to fill the
gap in its \$16.7 billion budget but
can't use the FEMA money for that.

The Federal Emergency Manage-
ment Agency's money is being spent
on debris removal, shelters, food,
medical supplies, security and labor.

Cash infusions from FEMA are
doubtful. FEMA forwarded \$219 mil-
lion to the state last week. This
week's haulout is \$545 million.

The money is going through the
state Military Department, which is
distributing it to state and local agen-
cies.

Normally, the military would have
to get the state's permission before
doing out the money. An emer-
gency such as a hurricane, changes
the rules.

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Pressure 897, 120 mph wind, 9 in rain (median), 119 deaths, \$4.7B lost



Vying for the title as the most aggressive government overhaul law of the session, the legis-



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The Times-Picayune

50 CENTS 170th year No. 35

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 6, 2006

METRO EDITION

Special session to tackle N.O. issues

Levee boards, city political posts are among 41 potential topics

By Laura Maggi
Capitol Bureau

BATON ROUGE — New Orleans government institutions, from the governor-appointed Orleans Levee Board to city offices that some call superfluous, will take center stage beginning today at the second special legislative session to tackle the aftermath of Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.



Gov. Kathleen Blanco
Addresses special session

The 12-day session called by Gov. Kathleen Blanco is expected to be dominated by a contentious levee board discussion, which could pit the governor against some of her own legislative leaders as lawmakers consider how to consolidate the boards that oversee levees in the New Orleans region.

But eliminating certain political posts in the city also could loom large if members from other parishes decide that "it is time that New Orleans joins the rest of the state," as one north Louisiana legislator said last week.

The session, which could take up 41 topics, could provide a test of Blanco's leadership a little more than five months after the first hurricane hit Louisiana. Many lawmakers have said the



STAFF PHOTO BY DUSTY COSTANZA

Runners take off at the beginning of the Mardi Gras Marathon in front of the Superdome on Sunday. Runners from 50 states and at least 11 foreign countries participated in the marathon, half-marathon and 5K. Local runners held their own, though, with half of the first 10 men to finish the marathon from the New Orleans area.

HOME RUN



New Orleans hosted its first major sporting event since Hurricane Katrina on Sunday. A crowd of about 3,200 runners turned out for the 41st Mardi Gras Marathon, in

Levee board bill tweaked on eve of session

Changes address taxing concerns

By Robert Travis Scott
Capitol Bureau

BATON ROUGE — The framers of a levee board consolidation bill have narrowed the scope of their legislation and removed some of its taxing authority in response to concerns raised by their initial proposal last week.

The changes could prove critical to a package of legislation seeking a two-thirds vote of both the House and Senate for a constitutional amendment.



Sen. Walter Boasso
Has made key changes to his levee board proposal

Backed by Gov. Kathleen Blanco during the special session that begins today, Sen. Walter Boasso, R-Arabi, will submit bills to create a Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority affecting eight parishes in the New Orleans area.

Among the key changes, the new board would oversee the territory of St. Tammany.



Levee board redo coming to a vote

Constitutional amendment requires statewide approval

By Frank Donze
Staff writer

The government-reform crowd was elated back in February after a recalcitrant Legislature finally agreed to restructure southeast Louisiana's patchwork network of levee boards.

Gov. Kathleen Blanco, who had made the initiative a top priority, couldn't hide her glee, announcing after the vote that "if consolidation of the New Orleans-area levee boards was the only accomplishment, I would call this session a total success."

Despite Blanco's claim of victory, the battle is not yet won.

Implementing the revolutionary changes requires a constitutional amendment, which voters across the state will consider Saturday.

Proponents of the measure, listed as No. 3 on a

See LEVEE, A-8

ST. TAMMANY JURY CONVICTS FORMER
NEW ORLEANS COP IN WIFE'S DEATH

NFL SCORES	Miami 13 Tennessee 10	Cincinnati 28 Pittsburgh 20	Baltimore 15 Philadelphia 38
Chicago 19	San Francisco 24	Indianapolis 24	Seattle 42 Denver 17
Minnesota 16	Buffalo 14	Jacksonville 14	N.Y. Giants 40 New Orleans 7
Green Bay 31	Washington 31	Carolina 26	St. Louis 10
Detroit 24	Houston 15	Tampa Bay 24	Arizona 14
			Tonight's Game: Atlanta at N.O.

The Times-Picayune

50 CENTS 170th year No. 247 MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2006 METRO EDITION

Corps looks outside for design ideas

Private industry asked to submit plans for canal storm barriers

By Sheila Grissett
Staff writer

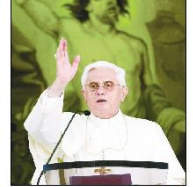
The Army Corps of Engineers has decided to use a single contract worth upward of a half-billion dollars for new pump stations to keep Lake Pontchartrain's storm surge out of three New Orleans canals without choking internal drainage in New Orleans and Lake. In addition, a temporary system is now being designed.

That's if the corps builds pump stations at all. In a break from the practice of the corps detailing design, a custom that has come under fire since Hurricane Katrina wrecked the region's hurricane defense system, corps project managers said last week that they will ask private industry to design critical new flood protection elements for the Lakes Avenue, Orleans Avenue and 17th Street canals but will not require pump stations.

"We know we're not the holder of all good ideas," said Richmond Kendrick, the corps' new Hurricane Protection Office deputy. "What I hear from upper management is, 'Don't do business as

See PUMPS, A-10

MEETING MUSLIMS



Pope Benedict XVI blesses the crowd at his summer palace at Castel Gandolfo, Italy, on Sunday. He meets today with ambassadors of predominantly Muslim countries to defuse tensions arising from a recent speech. See story A-5

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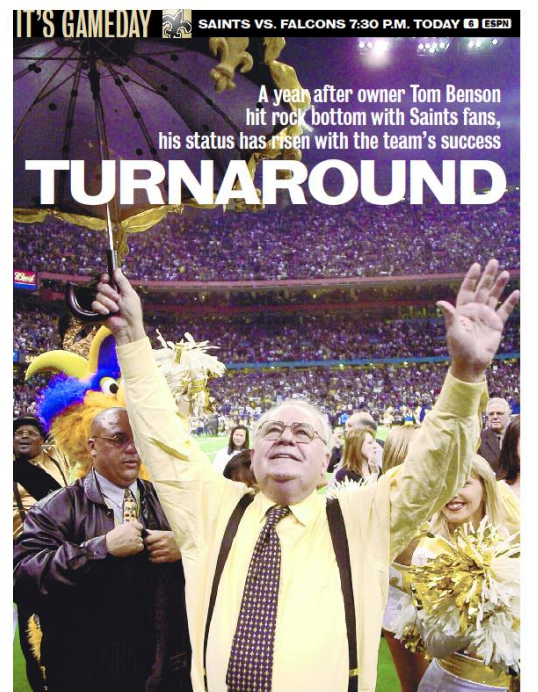
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See LEVEE, A-8



Not since the Saints' first and only playoff victory in 2000 over the Rams, has Tom Benson's boogie resonated with the fans the way it does today. Benson has said and done all the right things since January, culminating in tonight's return to a battered city and a refurbished Superdome.

By Mike Triplett
Staff writer

The days of the "Benson boogie" are long gone — those days when Saints owner Tom Benson would revel in the embrace of the fans, dancing and milling and laughing it up on the field after his team's victories.

But gone, too, are those dark days of last season, when Benson became public enemy No. 1 in New Orleans

as his love-hate relationship with the fans hit rock bottom. Tonight, the Saints are hosting one of the most highly anticipated home openers in sports history, showcasing a revamped team — and a reinvigorated city — in front of a sellout crowd and a national television audience.

There were times a year ago when many thought this day would never come.

But Benson has said and done all the right things since January, culminating in tonight's return to a battered city and a refurbished Superdome.

His September grasped his clenched fingers and kept her face close to his. "I want to make sure that he knows that I have him," Cheryl Biggers said.

That was in June. Ethan Biggers, 22, was later transferred to a Department of Veterans Affairs hospital in Tampa and remained in a semi-coma state.

"He can hear us. He opens his eyes. And we think he can follow

Growing number of soldiers suffer brain damage

Rehabilitation lags for battlefield survivors

By Gregg Zoroya
Staff writer

WASHINGTON — Army chaplain Kenneth Kahlert touched a cup of Communion wine to the lips of Sgt.

Ethan Biggers, who lay comatose at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. A drop slipped down his throat. The soldier gagged and coughed twice as his neighbor, Cheryl Biggers, cradled him over her knee.

"That's all right," she whispered, her left hand gently supporting the base of his head. Depression reared where battlefield surgeons peeled back his scalp and removed large sections of skull to relieve swelling from a bullet fired by a

soldier in Iraq in March. His September grasped his clenched fingers and kept her face close to his. "I want to make sure that he knows that I have him," Cheryl Biggers said.

That was in June. Ethan Biggers, 22, was later transferred to a Department of Veterans Affairs hospital in Tampa and remained in a semi-coma state.

"He can hear us. He opens his eyes. And we think he can follow

Classified	E-6	Editorials	B-4	People	A-7	Television	C-5
Comics	C-12	Living	D	Puzzles	D-4	Weather	D-5
Deaths	B-6	National	A-5	Sports	D	World	A-4

Tuesday

April 19, 2011

"A considerable amount of large debris..." -- Inspector

WBV - 14c.2

NEW WESTWEGO P.S. TO ORLEANS VILLAGE - PHASE 2

Inspection Report

Date: 4/19/2011 Start Time: 8:10 AM End Time: 11:13 AM

Weather: Clear

Source: Tiger Team Report Appendix

Attendees: Don Robertson, Geneva Grille, David Roark, Ronald Forrester



ISSUE: On the east end of the job (Sta.119+00 to Sta.182+00) work continues on enlarging and filling in the protected side berm in accordance with the contract modification to eliminate seepage problems. **A considerable amount of large debris**, stones, and smaller wood chips was found in this area. Pickers were at approx. Sta.120+00 during the site visit, picking the levee and the flood side berm. GPS Coord: N29 52' 34.73" W090 08' 17.09"

Tiger Team Time

Times-Picayune quotes circa July, 2011

- Col. Edward Fleming, commander of the corps' New Orleans district office, announced a plan to address the debris concerns at the authority's July 25 meeting.
- The plan includes increased inspections and cutting trenches in the levees to see how much woody material they contain. Fleming also said a team of corps engineers from outside the New Orleans district would be brought in to evaluate the levees

"This 5-foot long log was unearthed from a levee ...(near)...where another massive hunk of wood was discovered in June."



Susan Poag, The Times-Picayune

Wednesday
November 2, 2011



Wednesday
October 26, 2011



Thursday
October 27, 2011



CONTINUED

Corps puts 'Tiger Team' on levee

LEVEE, from A-1

been dug by a team of corps engineers assembled after levee authority inspectors raised persistent concerns about woody debris in clay used to raise the 3.5-mile levee that extends from the New Westwego Pumping Station to a mile east of the Westminster Pumping Station.

The so-called 'Tiger Team' is comprised of engineers from outside the corps' New Orleans district office. But the levee authority is calling for an independent review by a third party, saying local corps officials have exerted undue influence over the testing.

Levee board member Michael Merritt, a geologist serving as the authority's representative on the testing team, said corps officials have repeatedly downplayed the debris problem and did nothing to stop a contractor from bulldozing excavated clay back into a trench as levee authority inspectors tried to collect samples.

A video of the Nov. 7 incident shows a white levee authority Bobcat rushing to scoop up clay before a larger yellow bulldozer pushes the clay back into the trench.

Merritt called the incident an "outrageous escalation of ongoing interference" with the levee-testing process that gives new meaning to the term "trench warfare."

Corps officials did not respond to specific questions about the levee authority's concerns, including the Nov. 7 incident.

Levee board member Paul Dauphin said the alleged attempt to "bulldoze the evidence" raises doubts about the 'Tiger Team's' independence.

"I think they're going to minimize everything and say that this levee is technically sound and safe or whatever," he said. "But we've got to look at this with our common sense, with our gut and with our concern for residents who live here and ask, 'Do I want to live behind a levee that has shopping carts, tires, hubcaps and firewood in it?'"

The shopping cart was found when a trench was dug in a berm on the protected side of the levee behind the Lincolnshire subdivision, Merritt said. The cart had been crushed and just one wheel and part of the metal frame were jutting from the edge of the trench, he said.

The protruding portion of the cart was removed, but Merritt said the rest was left embedded in the berm at his suggestion to avoid doing further damage to the levee "just to retrieve a souvenir."

Merritt said corps officials at the scene said the cart likely was part of the existing berm and had not been placed there during the ongoing levee-raising project.

But Merritt said the cart should have been discovered and removed under corps grubbing specifications that call for removing all pre-existing debris to a



WEST BANK LEVEE AUTHORITY

A shopping cart's wheel juts from a levee south of Westwego. Levee board member Michael Merritt says sections of the levee have a hard outer shell of firmly compacted clay over wet, poorly compacted clay. "It has a crunchiness outside and a soft, chewy inside," he said, calling it the 'jelly doughnut levee.'



THE TIMES-PICAYUNE

depth of 3 feet before new material is added to a levee.

He said there is no question that a hefty construction crane hook found less than 6 inches below the levee's surface was a recent addition.

Merritt said the hook had "just enough dirt on it to hide it" and likely would have popped to the surface in a year or two, creating a major safety hazard for the levee authority's grass-cutters.

"When the mower hit that, it was going to kill somebody," he said. "It would have shattered the blades and the mower deck and turned them into flying shrapnel."

Merritt also said he's concerned the unsuitable material will cause the levee to subside prematurely, leaving the levee authority or state on the hook for multimillion-dollar levee lifts.

He said the trenching revealed that lengthy levee sections have a hard outer shell of firmly compacted clay surrounding wet, poorly compacted clay that he was able to easily press his thumb into.

"It has a crunchiness outside and a soft, chewy inside," Merritt said. "That's why I call it the jelly

doughnut levee."

Local corps officials repeatedly downplayed the debris problem, Merritt said, citing one unnamed official's reaction to the discovery of a chunk of concrete. "They said, 'Well, you know, it weighs more than clay and it's on the stability berm, so it's probably helping,'" Merritt said. "They kind of liked it there."

Levee authority officials have emphasized that they are pleased with the vast majority of the 50-plus corps projects to upgrade 68 miles of West Bank levees and floodwalls in the wake of Hurricane Katrina's catastrophic flooding.

In June, the levee authority singled out three West Bank projects where authority inspectors had repeatedly found woody debris in clay used to raise levees. In one case, inspectors unearthed a massive, 200-pound log embedded near the crown of a nearly finished levee south of Harvey.

Corps specifications permit isolated pieces of wood if they are shorter than 12 inches, have a cross section less than 4 square inches and comprise no more than 1 percent of the levee material's volume.

Relatively little debris was discovered when the first 10 trenches were dug in September. But levee authority officials had said those trenches missed known trouble spots.

In the past two months, about 30 more trenches were dug in areas where electromagnetic mapping indicated foreign objects buried in the levee. The list of items excavated includes numerous logs that exceed corps specifications, a large piece of twisted sheet metal and several tires and hubcaps.

Officials with Phylway

rotating metal blades to sift out debris before the clay is loaded onto a dump truck.

"If that had been done on this project, we wouldn't even be here," he said.

Paul Rioux can be reached at prioux@timespicayune.com or 504.826.3785.

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 MONDAY-SATURDAY 10-6 THURSDAY 10-8

Follow the Leader.









Saturday November 19, 2011

The Times-Picayune

The Times-Picayune

nola.com BREAKING NEWS AT NOLA.COM

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2011

WEST BANK

Assorted debris riddles levee, report claims

*Shopping cart,
water heater found*

By Paul Rioux
West Bank Bureau

Test trenches cut into a problematic levee being raised south of Marrero unearthed logs, concrete chunks, tires, hubcaps, a hot water tank and a shopping cart, according to a blistering report by the West Bank levee authority that questions the levee's structural integrity.

The testing also revealed sections of wet and poorly compacted clay that prompted a levee authority official to dub it the "jelly doughnut levee," according to the report released Friday.

The findings raise questions about whether the \$29 million project should be redone, said Susan Maclay, president of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority-West Bank.

"This is the most ludicrous, Keystone Kop act that I have seen in my life," she said.

An Army Corps of Engineers spokesman said some of the debris may be linked to an old dump in the area, but he could not confirm a connection.

In a brief written statement, Walter Baumy, the corps' chief engineer in New Orleans, said the testing is ongoing and that "any findings will be evaluated and, if determined necessary, remedial construction will take place."

About 40 test trenches have

See LEVEE, A-5



WEST BANK LEVEE AUTHORITY PHOTOS



Photos from the West Bank levee authority show some of the debris found in a levee south of Westwego. Local officials, fearful the junk could fatally weaken the levee, have chastised the Army Corps of Engineers. This is the most ludicrous, Keystone Kop act that I have seen in my life," said levee authority president Susan Maclay.

PLAYOFFS PLAY ON

COMPLETE PREP COVERAGE IN SPORTS



MATTHEW HINTON / THE TIMES-PICTURE

Karr's Dejean Richardson leaps over South Terrebonne defenders Friday in playoff action at Behrman Stadium in New Orleans.

Each week, the fight to stay alive in the state playoffs gets tougher. And Friday night was no exception as Karr hosted South Terrebonne at Behrman Stadium and O. Perry Walker was on the road at Teurlings. The Algiers schools carried the momentum from last week's opening round wins and the goal of playing for the championship in December. With the help of the home crowd, Karr's Dejean Richardson leapt over South Terrebonne defenders Friday in playoff action at Behrman Stadium in New Orleans.

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Jeff Keating

Pr...
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Thursday
October 27, 2011



Merritt field notebook

- During the building of the Marrero to Westwego levee, quality control processes failed and Corps construction project managers did nothing to correct imported rubbish being used as a building material. Modern geology and geophysics methods can locate unhealthy levee sections

**WBV-14c.2 TRENCHING
FIELD REPORT**

INSPECTOR DATE LOCATION

STATION # OFFSET FROM C/L
 START TIME TOP ELEV
 END TIME ORIG GROUND ELEV
 WEATHER DEPTH

↑
N

EM GROUND TRUTHING?

S = Bulk Sample Taken

BUCKET	ELEVATION	DEPTH	VISUAL	HEARD	DEBRIS	SOIL TYPE	NOTES
1	0	0-6"					0 No GPS for surveyor
2		0-6"					
3		6-12"					
4		6-12"					
5		12-18"					
6		12-18"					
7		18-24"					
8		18-24"	GY	Y			south side of trench = odd #'s
9		24-30"					wet, stiff clay; dark clay, small wood pieces
10		24-30"					large piece of gravel, probably limestone
11		30-36"				RB	
12		30-36"					
13		36-48"	GYYY				2" x 6" wood piece, wet clay
14		36-48"	Y	Y		wet clay	

TRENCH WALL OBSERVATIONS seepage:
sand stratas:

stability concerns:
good compaction:

Merritt field notebook

WBV-14c.2 TRENCHING
FIELD REPORT

REPRESENTATIVE PHOTOGRAPHS



27.46FS81.P1.jpg



27.46FS81.P2.jpg

WBV-14c.2 TRENCHING
FIELD REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
NO EXECUTIVE SUMMARY FOUND



Profile of 27+46FS81

Thursday March 20, 2008 The Times-Picayune

The Times-Picayune

Founded in 1837

GEORGE WILKINS KENDALL
and FRANCIS A. LUMSDEN, *Publishers, 1837-1864*
ALVA MORRIS HOLBROOK, *Publisher, 1864-1867*
ELIZA HOLBROOK NICHOLSON, *Publisher, 1867-1896*
NICHOLSON ESTATE, *Publisher, 1896-1914*
ASHTON PHELPS, *Publisher, 1914-1918*
LEONARD K. NICHOLSON, *Publisher, 1918-1952*
JOHN F. TIMS, *Publisher, 1952-1967*
ASHTON PHELPS SR., *Publisher, 1967-1979*

ASHTON PHELPS JR., *Publisher*

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YOUR OPINIONS

Update our geological data to head off disaster

The people of Louisiana deserve a new series of geological bulletins — research-based information on the geology of each parish — especially in the metro area. This would provide data for important construction and development decisions.

Unfortunately, since 1869, new geological bulletins have been issued on fewer than half of Louisiana's parishes. The most recent bulletin on the geology and mineral resources of a parish was issued in 1992. No new bulletins have been completed or published in Orleans and Jefferson parishes.

Of great concern in our efforts to control and prevent flooding is the lack of sufficient, current geological bulletins for the five-parish area around New Or-

leans, where geological processes are actively and constantly in motion.

Geological interpretation is both a science and an art, requiring a detailed working knowledge of local geological circumstances and structures. It's necessary, for example, to learn the sequence of rock, clay, sand or gravel layers; to understand the positions of rock layers after they have been reworked or folded to the breaking point, and to plan geological studies that test new interpretations or explore new regions.

Such research provides the foundation for informed public policy-making.

New geological research would reduce the risk of placing river diversions to restore

coastal areas on unsuitable fault blocks. It would also help us avoid placing the weight of a levee on top of or alongside a fault. And it would inform us of the strengths and weaknesses of the terrain, including geological processes that can either help or hurt flood-control projects.


With an ambitious public works building program before us, let's talk about the geologic facts of life for flood protection. Let's talk about helping the state of Louisiana finish its geologic homework.

Michael Louis Merritt

Southeast Louisiana
Flood Protection Authority-West
Certified Petroleum Geologist

George Losonsky, PhD.

Southeast Louisiana
Flood Protection Authority-East
Baton Rouge



“We have our work cut out, but we’re not going to go away, we’re not going to give up. We are going to keep asking for a good levee that meets plans and specifications because that’s what taxpayers are entitled to and that’s what they’re paying for.” ---

**Aired by Fox 8 News
New Orleans**

NON CONCURRENCE STATEMENT

The Statement:

Tiger Team member, Michael Louis Merritt, M.S., M.B.A., C.P.G., has determined he cannot, in good conscience, agree to the findings of many of the other team members in regard to Chapters 7, 8, 10, 11, and 12, of the final Tiger Team report. To avoid further delay of the report he is issuing this “statement of non-concurrence”. Mr. Merritt’s individual findings and conclusions may be reviewed in Appendix Y of this report.

Tiger Team News



By [Paul Rioux, The Times-Picayune](#)
on July 12, 2012 at 5:30 PM, updated
July 12, 2012 at 5:36 PM

- **West Bank levee debris will generally not compromise flood protection, Corps of Engineers finds**

- ...Merritt, a geologist, ... raised concerns about pockets of wet, poorly compacted clay in the levee, prompting him to dub it the “jelly doughnut levee.”
- But the Tiger Team report concluded that the levee is composed of well-compacted, high plasticity clay, giving it strength that exceeds design specifications.

Thursday

July 12, 2012

The

Second Independent Peer Review

General Charge Questions

- **Q1. Do the design assumptions made ...for hazards remain valid through the completion of design and construction as additional knowledge is gained and the state-of-the-art evolves?**

Circa March 11, 2014

Comment [MM1]:

The Tiger Team

- **heard witness accounts,**
- **saw by trenching and**
- **proved by Army lab analysis**

this project's contractor purposely added, or did not restrain, or both, the flow of rubbish at clay prices into the levee...

Westminster P.S. Flood Walls

5 inch shift at flood side base



2.5 inch shift from vertical



Thursday October 23, 2014

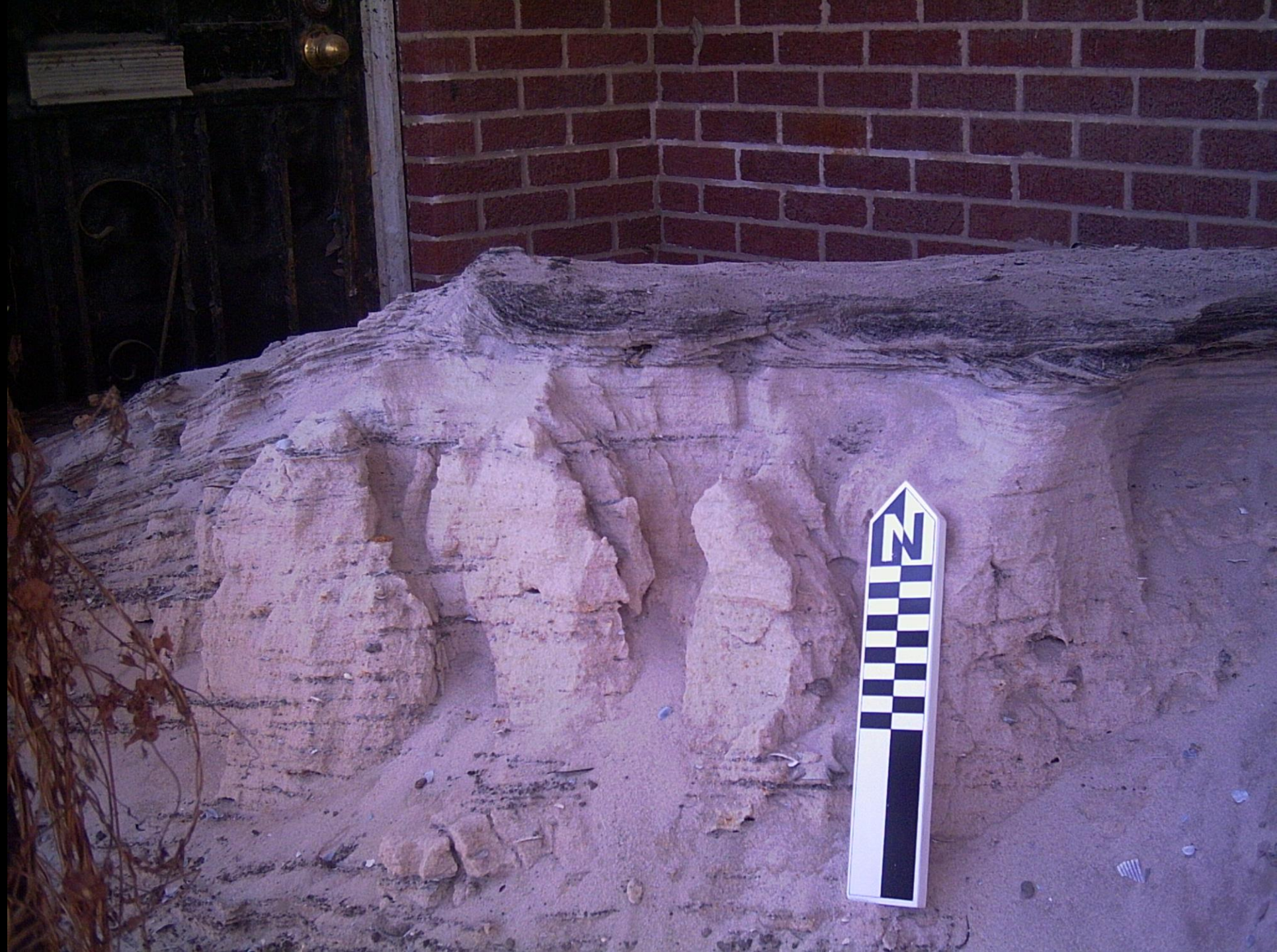
brief for Col. Hansen



Presentation to the Commander of the New Orleans District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
On
Recommended COA WBV 14C.2 due diligence

By
Commissioner Michael Merritt

October 23, 2014





Saturday

November 5, 2011

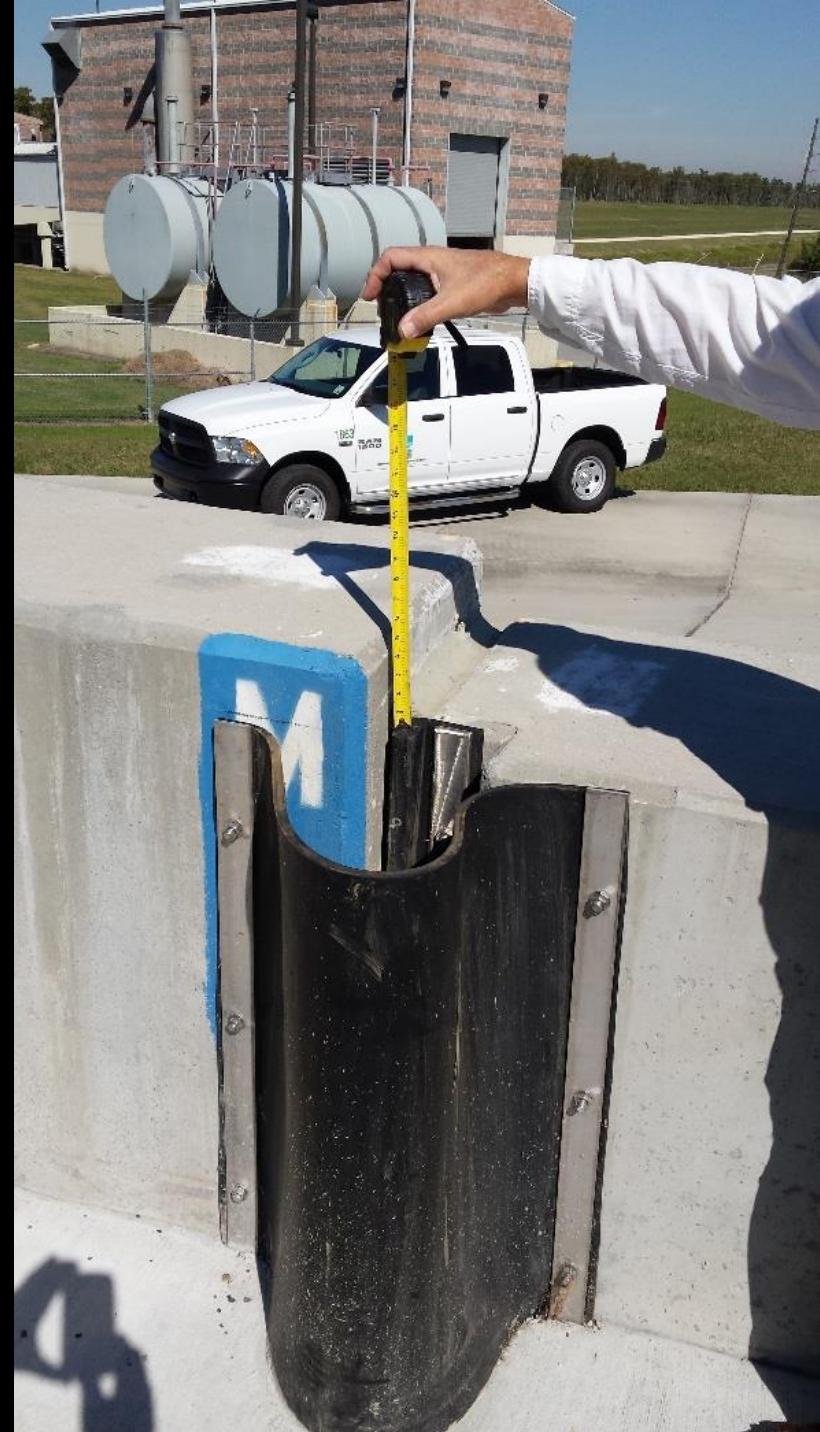
Exit the Tiger Team

**SLFPA-W crew picks trash out of
“new clay” fill at trench 27+25 FS 80**



**L-R: Delando Davis, Kernice Richard, Jeff Picado, Chris Goodson and
Foreman Ronald Forrester**

Friday
October 23, 2014



Wednesday

Those defects were in plain view. The next challenge we hope to confront with the help of the Legislature and our stakeholders is to prevent another flood, this time using geology and geophysics to find and fix hidden geo-hazards beneath the levees. – Mike Merritt



Friday

August 21, 2015

Mississippi River Commissioners aboard the M. V. MISSISSIPPI



Friday

October 24, 2008



7001 River Road, Marrero, Louisiana 70072
(504) 340-0318 • FAX: (504) 371-6868 • www.slfpaw.org

Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - West

Moved by Mr. Merritt and, seconded by Mr. Morgan, to adopt a resolution of the Board of Commissioners of the Southeast Louisiana Flood Protection Authority - West Bank Board of Commissioners (the Authority) expressing to the State Geologist, Dr. Chacko John, the respectful request of the Authority and its constituents, the Algiers Levee District and the West Jefferson Levee District, that the State of Louisiana Geological Survey submit a plan to the United States Department of the Interior proposing detailed research and digital compilation of geological research data on the structure and stratigraphy of the New Orleans and Terrebonne Bay Quadrangles covering the lands and hurricane storm surge, drainage and flood prevention facilities under the Authority's jurisdiction.

RESOLUTION NO. 102408-04

90°00'
30°00'



QUATERNARY SYSTEM

HOLOCENE

Hmm ₁	Mississippi River meander belt 1—point bar deposits of Mississippi River meander belt 1 , buried by a thin layer of overbank sediments. These point bar deposits typically are composed predominantly of silt, sandy silt, and poorly sorted silty sand. They are mapped where overlying natural levee deposits (Hml ₁) are sufficiently thin that scroll marks, however faint, are perceptible as a surface indicator of point-bar ridge-and-swale topography.
Hml ₁	Natural levee complex of Mississippi River meander belt 1 —deposits of the natural levees flanking Mississippi River meander belt 1. Typically, they consist of sandy silt, silt, clayey silt, silty clay, and clay.
Hmc ₁	Crevasse complex of Mississippi River meander belt 1 —crevasse channel and splay deposits of Mississippi River meander belt 1.
Hb	Backswamp deposits —fine-grained Holocene deposits of rivers, underlying the flood basins between meander belts.
Hdp	Deposits of the Plaquemine delta lobe, Mississippi River —deltaic deposits underlying the delta plain of the Plaquemine delta lobe. They are composed of cyclically interbedded interdistributary peat and clay; natural levee silt and clay; distributary sand; and delta-front and prodelta mud and clay.
Hdpl	Natural levee complex of the Plaquemine delta lobe, Mississippi River —deposits of the natural levee complex of the Plaquemine delta lobe, Mississippi River. The natural levees of the Plaquemine distributary course consist of predominantly of silt, silty clay, and clay.
Hdl	Deposits of the Lafourche delta lobe, Mississippi River —deltaic deposits underlying the delta plain of the Lafourche delta lobe. They are composed of cyclically interbedded interdistributary peat and clay; natural levee silt and clay; distributary sand; and delta-front and prodelta mud and clay.
Hll	Lafourche natural levee deposits —deposits forming low natural levees flanking the meander belts of the Lafourche distributary course of the Mississippi River and its main distributary channels. The natural levees of the Lafourche distributary course consist of sandy silts and silt that grade downstream and away from their crests into silty clay and clay.
Hds	Deposits of the St. Bernard delta lobe, Mississippi River —deltaic deposits underlying the delta plain of the St. Bernard delta lobe. They are composed of cyclically interbedded interdistributary peat and clay; natural levee silt and clay; distributary sand; and delta-front and prodelta mud and clay.
Hdsm	Meander belt of distributary course of the St. Bernard delta lobe, Mississippi River —sandy point bar deposits along the Bayou des Familles distributary course of the St. Bernard delta lobe, Mississippi River. They are mapped where overlying natural levee deposits (Hds) are sufficiently thin that scroll marks, however faint, are perceptible as a surface indicator of point-bar ridge-and-swale topography.
Hdsl	Natural levee complex of the St. Bernard delta lobe, Mississippi River —deposits of natural levee complexes of the St. Bernard delta lobe, Mississippi River. The natural levees of the St. Bernard distributary courses consist predominantly of silt, silty clay and clay.
Htd	Deposits of the Teche delta lobe, Mississippi River —deltaic deposits underlying the delta plain of the Teche delta lobe. They are composed of cyclically interbedded interdistributary peat and clay; natural levee silt and clay; distributary sand; and delta-front and prodelta mud and clay. These sediments lie upon the surface of the Markogoula and other older delta lobes, which are either buried

Wednesday

...After the June, 2007 Senate hearing, we rolled the entire heavy equipment crew and used everything we had stockpiled in the yard because we knew with Legislative backing we could finish what we started. We were ready a year before Gustav clobbered the temporary levee with a 7.5 foot storm surge.

May 21, 2014 Senate Hearing



Saturday August 30, 2008

The Times-Picayune



LSU CHANGES KICKOFF TO 10 A.M. SPORTS ESPN CLASSIC

The Times-Picayune

BREAKING NEWS AT NOLA.COM

SATURDAY, AUGUST 30, 2008

RIVER PARISHES EDITION • 50¢

WAITING FOR GUSTAV

CATEGORY 3 PREDICTED, EVACUATION URGED



Clyde Posey is loaded onto a bus Friday as his daughter, Claire Brauninger, stands by. Posey and about 100 other residents of Ormond Nursing and Care Center in Destrehan were taken to affiliated facilities in Pineville and Natchitoches.

By Robert Travis Scott,
Mark Schellstein
and Michelle Krupa
Staff writers

Residents of vulnerable coastal parishes should evacuate as soon as possible in anticipation of an expected dangerous Category 3 Hurricane Gustav, packing winds of 115 mph and surging early Tuesday, Gov. Bobby Jindal said Friday.

A Louisiana State University scientist working with state emergency preparedness officials warned late Friday that Gustav could push as much as 15 feet of storm surge onto a wide stretch of the state's coastline west of New Orleans.

"If it stays on this southeast Louisiana track, Gustav will be like a hybrid between Katrina and Rita," Robert Twilley said.

"And right in the middle, you've got the huge Atchafalaya basin. ... I just hope people don't wait too long" to get out.

The state will open contraflow traffic patterns on Interstate 10 "early, early Sunday morning" to assist the exodus, Jindal said as he announced preparations to move people out of at least 19 parishes in which a state of emergency has been declared.

See EVACUATION, A-2

SEND US YOUR STORM STORIES AND PHOTOS



Map as of Friday at 7 a.m.

COMPLETE GUSTAV COVERAGE
A5-10, METRO, MONEY, NOLA.COM

Flood-control teams get ready for Gustav

Special attention paid to vulnerable spots

By Sheila Grissett
Staff writer

Flood-control personnel crisscrossed the region Friday, beginning to clear floodgates, staging emergency supplies and equipment in strategic locations and stationing still more oversized barge and buckets of rock and sand to better protect from the approaching Hurricane Gustav.

Workers were efforts more critical than on the West Bank of Jefferson Parish, where a nascent hurricane flood defense system favors residents especially vulnerable to the kind of surge that would be generated by a major storm making landfall at the central Louisiana coast, as Gustav may early next week.

The Orleans Levee District also was hustling to stock large sandbags atop a section of low levee

See FLOODS, A-4

THE RACE FOR PRESIDENT



SEN. JOHN MCCAIN, R-ARIZ., renewed his claim to be the 'original maverick' by introducing Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as his running mate Friday.

McCain taps Alaska's governor to be No. 2

'Hockey mom' pick seen as lure for supporters of Hillary Clinton

By Michael Krush
The Dallas Globe

DAYTON, Ohio — Sen. John McCain slammed the political world Friday by unveiling Gov. Sarah Palin of Alaska as his running mate, topping the first woman on a Republican ticket will draw disaffected Democrats and independents, while confounding Sen. Barack Obama's message of change.

In selecting a little-known, 44-year-old first-term governor with scant foreign policy experience, McCain immediately faced questions about whether she would be qualified to occupy the Oval Office if something happened to McCain, who missed 72 Friday.

But the Arizona senator said Palin is a reformer who is "exactly who I need — she's exactly who this country needs — to help me fight the same old Washington politics of me first and country second."

McCain renewed his claim to be the "original

See MCCAIN, A-4

Gun, ammo sales are brisk ahead of storm

Dealers say customers arming to stay and protect property

By Chris Kirkham
and Brendan McCarthy
Staff writers

On what would normally be a slow summer weeknight, the three employees at Orleans Gun Works Inc. frantically tended to a crush of customers snatching the racks of shotgun and rifles lined up behind the glass counter.

Among the patrons: a jewelry store owner from eastern New Orleans with plans to stand guard through Gustav; two uniformed Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office deputies inquiring about additional firearms; and an avid hunter who was in to pick up a 12-gauge he dropped off for cleaning.

"It's hurricane season, you definitely want it back now, right?" employee John DeFollier said with a grin as he handed the hunter's shotgun back to the owner.

In yet another sign of hardened sensibilities in post-Katrina New Orleans, managers of gun shops and sporting goods stores across the area

See GUNS, A-12

PARTLY CLOUDY
HIGH 92 LOW 74
Weather D-8

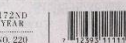
CLASSIFIED
COMICS A-11
DEATHS B-8

EDITORIALS
LIVING C
MONEY C-8

NATIONAL
PEOPLE A-2
RELIGION C-6

SPORTS
TELEVISION A-2
WORLD C-5

172ND
YEAR
NO. 220



Tuesday
September 2,
2008

The Times-Picayune

EDITORIALS • B-5

The Times-Picayune

METRO

NOLA.COM/NEWS CONTINUOUS BREAKING NEWS

SECTION

B

Tuesday,
September 2, 2008

Plaquemines gains ground on breach

Sandbagging pays off on Braithwaite Park levee



Levees stand strong on the West Bank

'We can fight that,' official says of surge

By Allen Powell II
and Meghan Gordon
West Bank bureau

The cracking voices and pale faces of West Bank leaders said it all Saturday night.

Considering predictions for a close, western hit by a Category 4 storm, they knew the levee system they have spent many frustrating years trying to fund wouldn't stand a chance against this one.

About 30 hours later, the same politicians and levee board managers sounded calm and confident. The storm posed an obvious threat to Grand Isle and Jean Lafitte, but at least the most heavily populated areas and Jefferson Parish's only room for economic growth stood a good chance against the diminished hurricane.

Visions of more than 10 feet of water cruising over the West Bank levees up to the Mississippi River were replaced with 5 to 6 feet that officials said they could handle.

"We can fight that," Jerry Spohrer, top administrator of the West Bank regional levee board, said late Sunday.

Monday morning, it became

See **WEST BANK**, B-4



Heather Harris carries her dog, Pikachu, through ankle-deep floodwater Monday at their raised trailer on U.S. 190 east of Slidell.

Tuesday
September 2,
2008

The Times-Picayune

McCain, Obama make plea for aid for Gulf Coast hurricane victims A-4

The Times-Picayune

BREAKING NEWS AT NOLA.COM

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HURRICANE EDITION • 60¢

SAFE AT HOME

INDUSTRIAL CANAL WALL HOLDS DESPITE FEARS

No flooding, but massive power outages as Gustav weakens



ELIOT KAWOITZ / THE TIMES-PICAZYNE

Hurricane Gustav's surge filled the Industrial Canal in New Orleans to the brim, breaking over the canal's newly built 13-foot western wall. The surge poured knee-deep water into adjacent streets, but the wall did not topple. The overtopping stopped at mid-afternoon as Gustav's winds began to slacken.

Category 2 storm strikes nearly empty south La.

By Bruce Nolan Staff writer

A diminished Hurricane Gustav sidestepped an eerily empty metropolitan area Monday without the high-velocity power it displayed off shore and spared the region, especially the vulnerable West Bank, from widespread flooding. But in its relative weakness, Gustav demonstrated again how vulnerable the region remains.

Although it passed 70 miles southeast of the city as a downgraded Category 2 storm, Gustav's surge filled the Industrial Canal to the brim.

Beginning at mid-morning, wind-driven waves broke over the canal's newly rebuilt 13-

foot western wall and poured knee-deep water into adjacent streets.

But the wall held structurally, and the resultant flooding entered no homes. The overtopping stopped at mid-afternoon as Gustav's winds began to slacken.

Gustav's legacy apparently will be persistent, widespread power outages that will take "days, at least" to repair, Emergency spokesman Morgan Stewart said.

He said nearly half the state's 3.1 million customers were in the dark Monday night, the utility's third-worst outage after Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

Stewart said the utility will begin assessing the damage Tuesday morning.

The power outages are likely to affect residents' return, Gov. Bobby Jindal said Monday night that Tuesday is too soon for residents to come home.

Remarkably, the French Quarter again fared well, as it did after Katrina. Much of all of the neighborhood was still on the grid Monday night, so were about 33,000 of 141,000 New Orleans customers.

Gustav apparently took no time around New Orleans, but struck Baton Rouge, a solid blow. It killed an elderly couple, Richard and Mary Ann Darby Broussard, who had fled Abbeville to be with their daughter. The storm dropped a tree on the house where they were staying.

SEE GUSTAV, A-3

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- Parish-by-parish hurricane damage assessment METRO



Pictures from the storm A-10 & B-10

N.O. area grazed, but wind hits hard

By David Hammer and Michele Krupa Staff writers

New Orleans averted disaster Monday as Hurricane Gustav weakened and stayed significantly west of the city while a tightly coordinated effort by local, state and federal agencies kept property secure and neighborhoods mostly dry. Nevertheless, water that overtopped levees for several hours at the Industrial Canal trapped nerves and highlighted just how precarious the city's storm protection system still is three years after Katrina.

Gustav slammed ashore as a Category 2 storm 72 miles from New Orleans, near the fishing village of Cocodrie in Terrebonne Parish. The Cajun hamlet is about 20 miles from

Port Fourchon, a vital hub in the energy industry that shuttles huge amounts of oil and gas through pipelines to inland refineries.

In New Orleans, easterly winds topped out at 45-mile-per-hour gusts in the mid-to-late morning. Though still far short of hurricane strength, the gusts were strong enough to force waves over the Industrial Canal's western flood-wall, causing as much as 6 inches of flooding in the city's Upper 9th Ward.

Army Corps of Engineers officials never wavered in their faith in the flood protection system.

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172ND YEAR
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Respectfully,
Mike Merritt

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