

LSU beats Auburn, 31-19

See Sports



Z's WIN

4-3 victory over Calgary sends Zephyrs to Triple-A World Series

See Sports

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WEATHER

Mostly cloudy with showers
High: 86
Low: 74
Details: B-8

1393/2222

The Times-Picayune

SUNDAY METRO

1998 YEAR 100 240 SEPTEMBER 20, 1998 \$1.50

Tropical Storm Hermine soaks storm-weary coast

Grand Isle evacuates third time

By LITTLE BACON-SLOOD
Staff writer

For the third time in as many weeks, a soggy and warning-weary population spent an uneasy day Saturday waiting for a storm system to lumber onto shore from the Gulf of Mexico. But as Tropical Storm Hermine came ashore late Saturday, forecasters predicted much of the area would be spared the deluge that hit last week.

"Basically it'll be wet and windy," said meteorologist Mike Shields of the National Weather Service's office in Slidell. "Things should be improving by late Sunday afternoon."

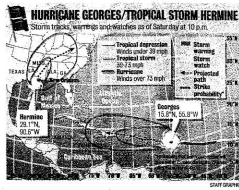
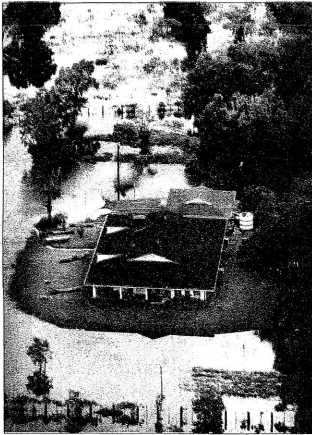
Late Saturday, the storm was drifting north-northeast with top winds of 40 mph, slightly weaker than top afternoon wind speeds of 45 mph. The National Weather Service expected the storm to be downgraded to a tropical depression today.

A tropical storm warning and flash flood watch were in effect for southeastern Louisiana throughout the day Saturday, but clouds gave chase to the sun for most of a day that featured only scattered brief showers.

Forecasters predicted similar conditions this afternoon, after a rainy overnight. Temperatures should be in the mid-80s, coupled with periodic downpours — but nothing comparable to the drenching that Tropical Storm Frances gave the area last week, meteorologists said.

For areas still reeling from the flooding that Frances brought, Hermine's comparatively modest surge came as a relief. In Lafitte, workers used sandbags to plug up drainage ditches that were acting as conduits for water into town instead of away from it because of the high tides that kept many homes in the area trapped by water more than a week after Frances moved through.

See HERMINE, A-10



Boats cover the front lawn of a home in Lafitte that is still surrounded by floodwaters caused by last week's Tropical Storm Frances. The area is bracing for the arrival of Tropical Storm Hermine.

STAFF PHOTO BY JOHN MCELROY

Clinton voiced regret, anger, tape shows

President's remorse over his affair mixes with fury at Starr's team

By JAMES BENNET and JILL ABRAMSON
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PRESIDENT CLINTON
Evative, angry, cajoling

MONICA LEWINSKY
Clinton glad she got a deal

WASHINGTON — In more than four hours of testimony before the grand jury, President Clinton painted a picture of himself as a concerned and even tender friend to Monica Lewinsky, lawyers familiar with the Aug. 17 proceeding said.

The image is starkly at odds with that of the callous manipulator conducting an illicit affair portrayed by the impeachment report to Congress by Kenneth Starr, the White House independent prosecutor.

At several points in the testimony, the president expressed embarrassment and regret about the affair, the lawyers said. After one five-minute break, he told the grand jurors, "I'd give anything in the world to not admit what I had to testify to today," the lawyers said.

At another point, the president delivered what one lawyer

called a "distillate," in which he criticized the prosecutors for swooping down on Lewinsky upon learning of their relationship. "Monica was kept by five of your lawyers and five of your FBI agents," he said, according to the lawyer.

On Monday, when the videotape of Clinton's testimony is released by Congress, the public will see a more complex portrait than the one in Starr's 445-page report. Clinton's allies and friends have argued. While Starr's report drew on many sources, particularly on Lewinsky's testimony, to painstakingly chronicle what the independent counsel says are impeachable acts, it did not describe in detail the president's justification for

See CLINTON, A-20

Election might shift balance on Supreme Court

Focus on business, law clinics, crime

By MARK SCHLEIFSTEIN
Staff writer

A pivotal battle for the direction of the state Supreme Court could be decided this fall by the unlikely combination of the state's biggest conservative business lobby and a liberal Loyola University law clinic director.

Chief Justice Pascal Calogero, a Metairie Democrat, is running for re-election to a third term on the high court. But he faces strong opposition from 24th Judicial District Judge Chuck Cusumano, a Metairie Republican and a liberal lobbyist and a possible threat to his power base from Bill Quigley, the New Orleans law clinic director who is running as an independent.

Struck in the middle, Calogero is trying to position himself as the moderate in this race.

He has been targeted on the right by the political lobbying arms of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry for what the group contends is



anti-business record on the court. LABI's political action committees have donated \$30,000 to Cusumano's campaign.

On the left, Quigley entered the race after Calogero and other court members voted to limit the ability of college law clinics and their students to represent working poor and middle-class clients and community organizations in lawsuits against businesses.

The election could shift the balance on a Supreme Court charged last month with a major shift toward the interests of the state's business community in recent years.

In the 1980s, faced with an onslaught of Supreme Court

See COURT, A-7

Ordinary people seek signs of God

Spiritual directors help show the way

By BRUCE HOLMAN
Staff writer

God has elbows, Pricilla Mumma believes. She felt them resting in her ribs, so to speak, when a vague and unnamable restlessness nudged her a few years ago even in the midst of a happy marriage

and successful career. So on the advice of a friend, Mumma, a Metairie business consultant, tried something increasingly numbers of lay people are doing:

She engaged a personal spiritual director.

Less than guru mystics but more than just friends, spiritual directors are one-on-one counselors who help people discover, or stay in touch with, what they believe are God's hints and prod- dings buried in the noise of ev-

eryday life.

Archbishop Francis Schulte has one.

But so do veteranian Nola Falciano, 43, who believes spiritual direction, among other things, has enlightened him and sensitized him to others, to the needs, for instance, of single mothers who work in his Slidell practice.

And there's Melanie Arnold, 33, a former proliant who says she once would have rebelled at

the very thing that makes her happiest now, raising two children in Mandeville as a full-time mother.

"That's not to say I'll never have another job," she said. "And it's not that I insist that all women should be doing this."

"But I found that letting go of that career, which once would have terrified me, instead has made me incredibly happy, and I

See SPIRITUAL, A-27

Hurricane: Evacuation shelters prepared

From A-1

Meanwhile, residents of Grand Isle were ordered to evacuate for the third time in three weeks Saturday because of the rains and winds *Hurricane* is expected to unleash. By 10 p.m. Saturday, *Hurricane* was about 75 miles south-southwest of New Orleans.

"Just about everything's ready to move," Grand Isle resident Steve Resweber said as he got ready to evacuate. "It's a test run the first time. The second time is easy. The third, you're all ready to go."

In addition to Frances, Grand Isle residents had fled as *Hurricane* East approached before veering off and hitting the Florida Panhandle.

Predicted storm surges of 3 to 5 feet and high tides pushed up by the winds most worried people in Grand Isle, the state's only inhabited barrier island. But late Saturday, only light rain was falling there, officials said.

The evacuation mandate came shortly after 10 a.m., and by late afternoon almost all of Grand Isle's 1,000 residents had left town as winds reached 25 mph and sea water from tides ran 6 feet higher than normal sloshed over some roads. Grand Isle rises just 5 feet above sea level, and water usually cuts off the single road to the mainland even before the island itself floods.

The American Red Cross opened a shelter in Larose about 40 miles away in Lafourche Parish for those evacuating Grand Isle. The shelter is large enough for 500, but by 8:30 p.m. only 15 people had shown up, shelter manager Dolores Champagne said.

"Sometimes it's sunny out, then it gets dark and cloudy," Champagne said. "I really don't know what to expect anymore."

"We're just sitting and waiting," she said.

It was the same in Plaquemine Parish, where officials issued a voluntary evacuation for residents living in low-lying areas or mobile homes.

A shelter at Belle Chasse High School was opened and transportation was provided for those wanting to evacuate. By 8:45 p.m., 44 people were there, a shelter worker said.

When *Hurricane* Earl threatened nearby three weeks ago, 1,100 people took refuge there, the worker said.

Shelters also opened Saturday in Marrero, Belle Chasse and Houma.

Along with Mayor David Carmadelle's evacuation order for Grand Isle, about 800 residents of two low-lying parts of Lafourche Parish were ordered out after *Hurricane* grew from a tropical depression during the morning.

Bursts of rain poured down periodically, but Carmadelle said



Workers from Jean Lafitte and the Jefferson Parish Street Department, from left, Ronnie Thomason, Daniel Williams, Jason Montagna and Domnick Ditcher, fill a drainage ditch on Lloyd McElrath's property in Lafitte. The rising tide in Bayou Barataria is coming rainwater to reverse its course and drain back out into the street. Sandbags will help plug the ditch. STAFF PHOTO BY MARGALINA ZAVALA

heavier downpours were expected Saturday night and early this morning.

"Right now it just fizzles out and half an hour later you get another squall," Carmadelle said. "But I hear it's going to get worse."

Elsewhere emergency management personnel passed the day monitoring the storm system and praying the rain would continue to be light.

"We had one good little storm and that was it," Jefferson Parish emergency operations coordinator Brandt Kachler said.

In New Orleans, where a couple of squalls came through with minimal rain, levee officials had closed 24 flood gates and anticipated closing 16 more throughout the evening Saturday.

"We haven't had much rain," said Charles Ireland, deputy director of New Orleans' emergency preparedness office. "Find some wood and knock on it."



Jerry Adams, above, operator of a portable machine that has been pumping water out of low-lying areas in Barataria since last week, does some maintenance work Saturday afternoon along Louisiana 301. At right, standing through 1/2 foot of water left by Tropical Storm Frances a week ago, Barataria resident Vickie Hickman takes out the trash Saturday before the tide begins to rise again. Friday was the first day she did not need to use her progap to get across Louisiana 301 from her home to her boats. STAFF PHOTOS BY MARGALINA ZAVALA



Caribbean braces for Georges

Hurricane packs 150 mph winds

By DANIEL HERSO
Associated Press Writer

FORT-DE-FRANCE, Martinique (AP) — Hurricane Georges strengthened to an "extremely dangerous" Category 4 storm Saturday, capable of causing severe damage as its 150-mph winds bore down on the islands of the eastern Caribbean.

Georges was moving west-northwest at 30 mph and was expected to begin affecting the eastern islands this morning, with the center of the storm passing over the islands later in the day.

On Saturday at 5 p.m. EDT, Georges was about 450 miles east of the Lesser Antilles, the National Hurricane Center in Miami said.

"Georges is now an extremely dangerous Category 4 hurricane," the center warned.

Hurricane Andrew, which devastated parts of southern

This is a hurricane big enough that people should remain very vigilant and should not think that our island will be completely spared by Georges.

DANIELLE DECAN
Radio Caribbe, Martinique

Florida in 1992, was a Category 4 storm.

The Hurricane Center predicted storm-surge flooding of 5 to 10 feet above normal tide levels along with 5 inches to 8 inches of rain, with heavy rainfall possible in some areas.

Residents of the small, eastern Caribbean islands were taking Georges seriously: Under sunny skies in Dominica, the usually busy Saturday markets were more active than usual as residents stocked up on necessities and fishermen hauled their boats from the water.

In the neighboring French islands of Martinique and Guadeloupe, forecasters urged residents to prepare.

"This is a hurricane big enough that people should re-

main very vigilant and should not think that our island will be completely spared by Georges," warned forecaster Danielle Decan on Radio Caribbe in Martinique.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency sent health care workers, engineers, firefighters and other professionals to the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico ahead of the storm.

Franco's deputy minister for overseas territories, Jean-Jack Chevraux, sent 40 public service officers to both Martinique and Guadeloupe.

At 5 p.m. EDT, the Hurricane Center extended the hurricane watch to Puerto Rico. Watches had already been issued for the entire northeastern rim of the Caribbean from St. Lucia in the south to the U.S. Virgin Islands in the north.



Contractors board up windows of the J.E. Naselle wholesale supply store in Roseaux, Dominica, Saturday. Residents of the eastern Caribbean braced for Hurricane Georges, which gained strength to 150 mph winds. AP PHOTO