



A Future Depends on It

Parents unite to volunteer at local schools and help kids succeed

See story, Metro section inside

The Portland Observer

Week in
The Review

Bush Admits Mistakes



President Bush time took responsibility Tuesday for federal government mistakes in dealing with

Hurricane Katrina and suggested the calamity raised broader questions about the government's ability to handle both natural disasters and terror attacks. "To the extent that the federal government didn't fully do its job right, I take responsibility," he said.

Death Toll More Than 400

Hurricane Katrina's death toll in Louisiana climbed to 423 Tuesday, up from 279 a day before. The jump came as recovery workers turned more and more of their attention to gathering up and counting the corpses in a city all but emptied out of the living. See story, page A2.

Nursing Home Charged

The owners of a New Orleans nursing home where 34 people were found dead after Hurricane Katrina have been arrested and charged with 34 counts of negligent homicide for not evacuating their patients, even after buses were offered by government officials, the Louisiana attorney general's office said Tuesday.

Ophelia Threatens East Coast

Vulnerable islands off the Carolinas were evacuated and mainland schools were closed Tuesday as erratic Tropical Storm Ophelia wobbled closer to land with a threat of flooding rain. A hurricane warning was in effect from Georgetown, S.C., to North Carolina's Cape Lookout.

Court Nominee Under Fire

Supreme Court nominee John Roberts jostled with Democratic senators Tuesday at his confirmation hearing to be chief justice, dodging their attempts to pin down his opinions on abortion, voting rights and other legal issues. Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., described some of his writings as a "narrow, cramped and mean-spirited view" that failed to show a full appreciation of discrimination. See related story, page A2.

U.S. Launches Iraq Strikes

U.S. forces widened their operations against insurgents in northern Iraq on Tuesday, launching an attack on the Euphrates River stronghold of Haditha only days after evicting militants from Tal Afar. Residents also reported American air strikes in the same region near Qaim.

Hurricane Victims Welcomed

Church provides housing

BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Since Saturday, the Powerhouse Temple Church of God in Christ serving north and northeast Portland has received a slew of donations for Hurricane Katrina survivors brought to Portland by the congregation.

Church Pastor Mary Overstreet sold her vacation home in Arizona and cashed in two certificates of deposit to help 22 people with housing and utilities. She has offered to pay rent for 20 apartments in Portland, but the homes need basic necessities like furniture, bedding, towels and other items to make them livable.

The church's pews are already full of bags and boxes, but the community is encouraged to continue with support, as it'll take awhile for victims to get back on their feet.

"We want to thank the people and all they've done," said Anna Forbes, Hurricane Katrina displacement coordinator for the church.

Rather than just give people a cot to sleep on, she said, they hope to give a families a key to an apartment instead. Although clothes and household items for the victims are much appreciated, monetary donations

are also vital to continue to pay for housing. "Love one another," Forbes said. "Extend a helping hand and extend kindness."

Although the Federal Emergency Management Agency has not send any evacuees to Portland, more than 245 survivors of the storm have arrived through the help of family, friends and local churches. Hundreds more Americans displaced from the Gulf Coast could arrive in the next few weeks.

A Welcome Oregon Committee has been organized by community groups and faith-based organizations to make hurricane

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PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Local volunteers stand among the pews filled with donations for Hurricane Katrina victims at the Powerhouse Temple Church of God. Pictured (from left) are Perlia Bell and her 3-year-old grandson Ty Juan James, Christina Forbes, Kimberly Cox and Grace Forbes.

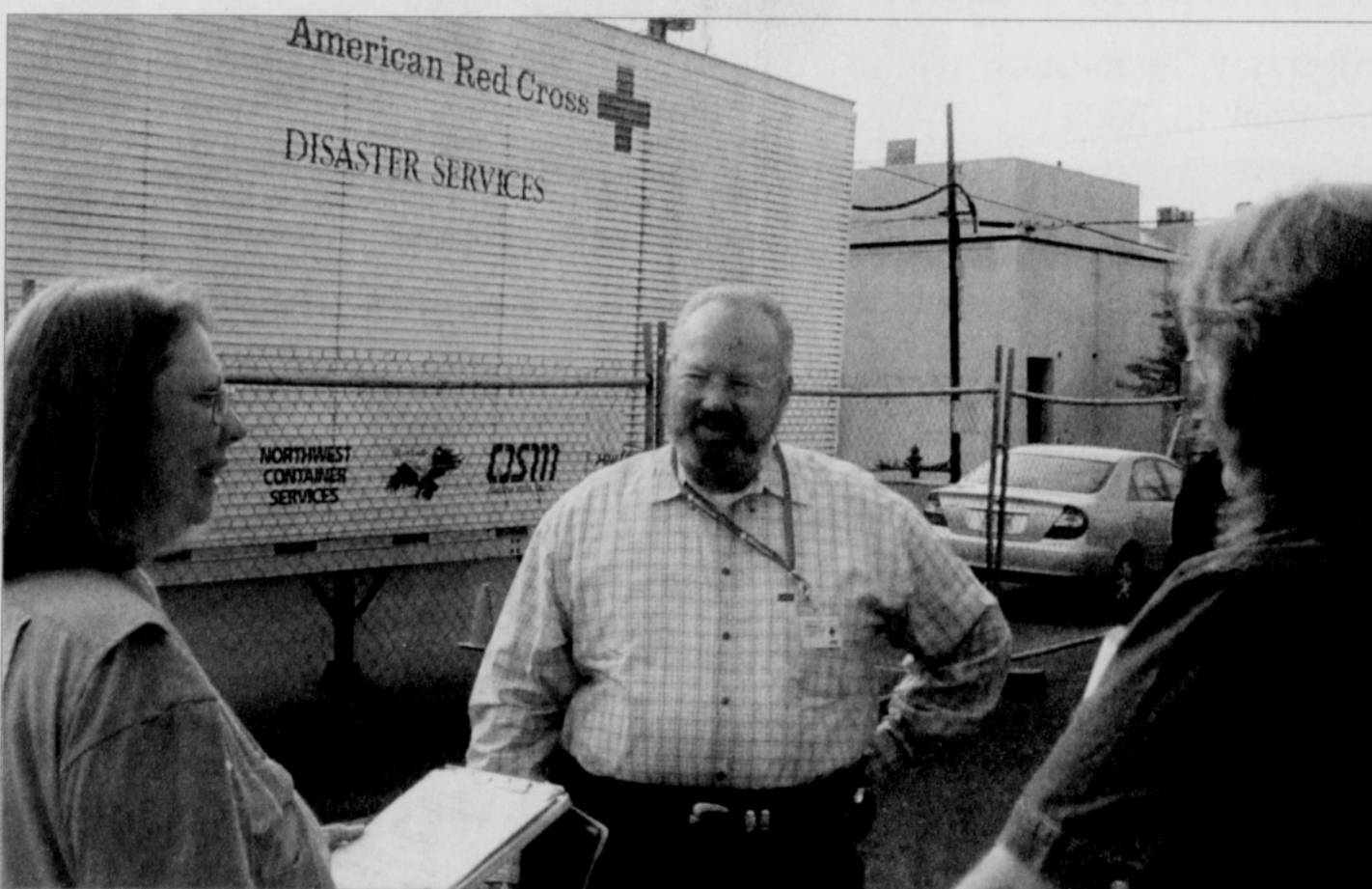


PHOTO BY MARK WASHINGTON/THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Jim Gruetzke, manager of safety and security for the Red Cross, talks outside the former Washington High School in southeast Portland with volunteers Debbie Ellis (left) and Linda Johnson. The school is being used to provide 24-hour assistance to Katrina Hurricane survivors.

Resource Shelter Assists Arrivals

Former school open 24-hours for help

BY KATHERINE BLACKMORE
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

Portland's once abandoned Washington High School has become a bustle of community resources over the last week, anxiously awaiting the arrival of Hurricane Katrina victims. Although it was announced last Friday that a large cluster of people would no longer be airlifted to Portland through the Federal Emergency Management Agency, that hasn't stopped others that have been displaced from coming to Portland. On Sunday, Mayor Tom Potter and Red

Cross officials made a decision to staff the former shelter site 24 hours a day to provide resources to survivors coming to Portland on their own to stay with family or friends.

"Some of (the victims) look completely exhausted and traumatized, but they just want to get their lives back together," Miller said.

By Tuesday, 245 people had been helped by the Red Cross, with each family or individual being assigned a Multnomah County caseworker to keep recovering lives on track.

Although the high school isn't being used as a shelter, various local agencies are using the site from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. to offer vouchers for housing, bus passes, meals and clothing, as well as emergency health care and mental health services. Red Cross volunteers are also available at all times to provide immediate help from a variety of local organizations.

The story is about helping about people in need, but there's also the story about how we all came together as a community.

—Mary Miller, Red Cross communications director

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Neighborhood Torn by Evacuee Concerns

Many want to help, others raise issues

BY LEE PERLMAN
THE PORTLAND OBSERVER

People helping survivors displaced by Hurricane Katrina ran into concerns over the backgrounds of possible evacuees and charges of racism at a community meeting in southeast Portland.

The issues were raised last week when Buckman neighborhood residents spoke to plans to use the former Washington High School as an emergency shelter for up to 1,000 Gulf Coast residents. The federal government has since said the shelter will not be needed, but the Red Cross still plans to use the school as a resource center and training facility to help displaced Gulf Coast residents.

Buckman Neighborhood Association Chair Susan Lindsay said her initial concern was packing so many people into one building, warehousing people, robbing them of their dignity and subjecting them to the sort of abuse they experienced in the New Orleans Superdome and Houston Astrodome.

While about half of a meeting drawing about 75 people wanted to know how they could help, about half had concerns about possible "criminal elements" or other impacts on the community.

"What was supposed to be an informational meeting unfortunately became tainted by misunderstandings, frustration and media hype," said Anne Hughes, another Buckman Neighborhood official. She also found press coverage of the event "somewhat inciteful."

Kathryn Jackson, an African-American woman living in Eastmoreland, said it was "sad and shameful that we have to humanize a situation where we have fellow human beings in need."

Her remarks produced shouts of protest from others who insisted their

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