



MEREDITH HERALD

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Meredith's Weekly Weather

WEDNESDAY Sunny
High 84/ Low 63

THURSDAY Scattered Thunderstorms
High 82/ Low 49

FRIDAY Sunny
High 75/ Low 51

SATURDAY Sunny
High 81/ Low 58

SUNDAY Partly Cloudy
High 83/ Low 61

MONDAY Sunny
High 85/ Low 6

TUESDAY Mostly Sunny
High 80/ Low 59

CANDICE HOWARD

Contributing Writer

Just when the coast was clear from Hurricane Katrina and Louisianans had begun the effort to repair their submerged city, disaster struck again. Hurricane Rita came through Louisiana Cajun and Northeast Texas and began to release her fury Saturday September 24th. Hurricane Rita is the fifth major hurricane and second Category 5 hurricane of 2005 that has shattered many homes, and taken many lives along with her.

Hurricane Rita slammed against the Louisiana Cajun coast and northeast Texas early Saturday at 3:30 am, east of Sabine Pass at the Louisiana line. With a 15 foot storm surge and 120 mph winds Rita left behind destruction from east of Houston to south of New Orleans. Therefore causing flooding of about thirty percent of New Orleans, in addition to a path of floods, shattered homes, and closed

ports. The damage extended far inland, heavy wreckage was reported in Jasper, Texas about 50 miles north of the coast. However, the worst place hit included the port city of Lake Charles in southwestern Louisiana, where water elevated to the height of homes doorknobs.

The following Sunday after was when Hurricane Rita began to reflect life. Sunday was the first day of re-entry plan drawn up by authorities. Only residents of the northwest quadrant of the city were encouraged to return. The plan hoped to avoid the previous pre-storm evacuation, which left stranded Houstonians and abandoned cars clustered on freeways when drivers burned through gas in the gridlock. Officials dispatched buses to bring back thousands of evacuees from shelters. Rita had spared Houston severe damage by veering east toward the Louisiana-Texas state line when it hit early Saturday. Slowly cars began to emerge on the roads, sometimes with the assistance of officials, airports and businesses reopened and traffic moved effortlessly over freeways. Most businesses remained closed Sunday, with windows taped or boarded up. However, some employers rounded up employees to open their doors. On Monday, more and more traffic lights were working properly and a long line of customers waited outside of businesses.

Music and Cheesecake

JOY STRICKLAND

Staff Writer

The Meredith Coffeehouse had its second debut the evening of Saturday, September 24th. Located on Second Cate, the live music and delicious cheesecake, coupled with the squishy armchairs and many friends, made the coffeehouse a success.

The invigorating sound of live music could be heard outside Cate Center even before people entered the building, luring students and their friends into Cate for a wonderful evening. Drew

Holcomb, an up-and-coming musical artist with a personable air, regaled us with tales of past travels and amazed us with his extraordinary guitar and harmonica skills. His songs were lively and heartfelt, written about past experiences and future hopes, with excellent guitar accompanying the lyrics. Many an audience member bought one of Holcomb's two CDs, and those that forgot to visit

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Photo courtesy of: Associated Press

A couple from Erath, La embrace after realizing the damage to their neighborhood due to Hurricane Rita.

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The aftermath of Hurricane Rita was not as severe as Hurricane Katrina, however the support and need is present in both disasters. Hopefully with hurricane season winding down, the gulf coast will be saved and no more hurricanes will come in harms way.



Photo courtesy of: www.drewholcomb.com