

Truck to leave for Louisiana

Driver to deliver essential supplies

BY MEGHAN DAVIS
ASSISTANT CITY EDITOR

After Hurricane Katrina's assault on the Gulf Coast led to a sharp rise in gas prices, Gov. Mike Easley encouraged carpooling as a means to conserve gas.

This week, two Chapel Hill groups are applying Easley's message to their Katrina relief efforts.

Volunteers from the Chapel Hill Children's Clinic, led by nurse Maria Mekeel, and the Orange County Democratic Party will share a truck to carry supplies south to Covington, La., on Thursday.

When she saw the devastation the hurricane caused, Mekeel said she knew she wanted to help.

She began to collect supplies to send to evacuees living in temporary shelters.

"She was so moved by the plight of displaced people, especially the kids, that she felt moved to do something," said Bob Krueger, who owns Great Harvest Bread Co., at

229 S. Elliott Road.

Krueger offered his store as a drop-off location for supplies.

"We're looking for things like bug spray, diapers, tools, cleaning supplies, any type of canned goods, paper goods, flip-flops," Mekeel said.

She set up collection sites at University Mall, Carrboro Family Pharmacy, Chapel Hill Urgent Care and the clinic.

"The only thing we can't take is clothes," Mekeel said.

"These people have no dressers, no homes to put clothes in."

As of Monday, there was some question of who would be able to drive the truck such a long distance.

Krueger even asked those gathered for the Chapel Hill Town Council meeting Monday if they know anyone who can drive a rig.

Then Charlie Gray, the chief executive officer of Carolina Trucking Academy, offered Mekeel a big rig to carry the supplies.

"Talk about being careful what you wish for," Krueger said.

Mekeel said Gray parked the truck in Carrboro Plaza and

"She was so moved by the plight of displaced people, especially the kids, that she felt moved to do something."

BOB KRUEGER, RESTAURANT OWNER

offered a driver and the gas necessary for the trip, some \$1,500 worth.

Mekeel said the Orange County Democratic Party contacted her last week to coordinate their drives.

The party collected supplies Tuesday and Wednesday at Binkley Baptist Church, 1712 Willow Drive.

"When I left we did a head count, and we estimated that we had another tractor trailer's worth of stuff," said resident Katrina Ryan.

Ryan is a candidate for the Carrboro Board of Aldermen who traveled to Texas — her home state — with several truckloads of supplies last week.

"One of the little classrooms at Binkley is entirely full."

The truck will leave today for Covington, where the Veterans for Peace have set up a camp on the

shore of Lake Pontchartrain.

And Mekeel already has plans for the next trip.

"A second load is going to Biloxi, Miss.," she said.

"That one is focusing more on children."

"I heard that children down there are sleeping on top of a tarp in a Kmart parking lot and being eaten alive by fire ants."

Mekeel said she would love to have some help in her efforts from volunteers.

"There will be a drive in our office parking lot this Saturday, and I need to staff it," she said.

The Chapel Hill Children's Clinic is located at 109 Connor Drive, Suite 103. She will be on-site from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday.

"The next truck I have donated, but no gas for it."

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

New Orleans seeks clean bill of health

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS — The putrid air rising from New Orleans' slowly receding floodwaters was found Wednesday not to be overly polluted, encouraging news for a mayor weighing the reopening of the French Quarter and other dry parts of the city.

Mayor C. Ray Nagin had said a clean bill of health for the air would allow the tourist-friendly French Quarter and central business district to open as early as Monday.

And while the Environmental Protection Agency still found the floodwaters contained dangerous levels of sewage-related bacteria, the air pollutants were found to be at acceptable levels.

"We're bringing New Orleans back," Nagin promised earlier. "We're bringing this culture back. We're bringing this music back. I'm tired of hearing these helicopters. I want to hear some jazz."

About 40 to 50 percent of the city still was flooded, down from 80 percent after Katrina hit, as 53 permanent and temporary pumps worked to siphon off 8 billion gallons a day.

On the hard-hit east side, block after block of once-flooded neighborhoods gave way to a slimy, putrid muck, ruined cars, snapped utility poles and collapsed houses.

Virtually all homes bore marks indicating they had been searched for victims.

None in sight during a pass through neighborhoods had an additional numeral that would indicate bodies.

The body count in Louisiana alone climbed to 474 on Wednesday, and it was expected to rise further as state and federal officials went about the tedious task of collecting bodies and then using DNA to identify them.

SAPIKOWSKI

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April. The bodies were found May 14 wrapped in blankets inside the house.

During the two weeks before his parents' bodies were discovered by police, he checked in and out of a Durham Marriott hotel.

At a previous hearing, Williams said elements of both physical and emotional abuse might have provoked the shootings.

During Wednesday's hearing the court also addressed a motion for involuntary commitment filed by Sapikowski's legal guardian.

Barber said the motion would be handled in a closed civil proceeding with the clerk of court.

He ordered that the Orange County sheriff keep Sapikowski in the county jail for the hearing before transporting him to the hospital.

Barber also ordered that any peti-

tions filed in the matter be sealed.

Sapikowski will remain in temporary custody at the hospital, and if released, will be in the custody of the sheriff.

Last week, evidence from the supplemental discovery in the case was turned over to Williams.

The list of evidence included:

- A State Bureau of Investigations lab report;

- Adam Sapikowski's bank account summary;

- A LabCorp report;

- Xeroxed photocopies of seized items and contents of spiral notebooks;

- Sapikowski's first semester report card from Durham Academy;

- A handwritten letter that appears to have been written by the defendant dated Aug. 28, 2003.

Contact the City Editor at citydesk@unc.edu.

STATE FUND

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for him, the report states that the hiring process was neither open nor fair.

The fairness of distribution also was a point of contention.

Julie Robinson, spokeswoman for Black, said the programs went through an approval process before receiving funds.

"All projects had to meet strict criteria to prove they were eligible for state funding," she said. "If they did not meet that criteria for state funding, they did not receive any funding for that program."

But in Cooper's report, project accountability was cited as one of the three major inadequacies in funds appropriation.

Mecklenburg County is one area expected to receive funds, but Dumont Clarke, a Mecklenburg County Commissioner, said he did not know of any specific programs that are receiving funds.

"I think the money went to some worthy causes just because I know Jim Black, and I trust his judgment," he said. "He is a good man who has worked very hard on

behalf of the people of this state."

Robinson said projects are being undertaken throughout the state and not just in the home counties of the legislative leadership.

"These projects went to districts all across the state," she said. "Almost every Democratic member (received money for a project), and I know that former co-speaker Morgan helped several Republicans."

The partisan slant to the distribution of funds is a concern to some, but more than that is the blow to public accountability.

"I think public officials have a responsibility to keep the public trust," said Lynda Clay, chairwoman of the Carteret County Board of Commissioners.

Ensuring public trust is something Cooper addressed in his report with recommendations to avoid controversy in the future, stressing transparency and accountability.

In the 2005-06 state budget, Robinson said, all projects to be taken up were specifically itemized, instead of establishing a reserve fund.

Contact the State & National Editor at stntdesk@unc.edu.

ADDRESS

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"It's a chance for the community to come together and hear directly from him what's on his mind," Wegner said.

Officials said the forum has helped Moeser keep in touch with the community.

"I think he sees it as a tool, one of the many methods of being in touch with the campus," said Lisa Katz, director of UNC News Services.

"It's an opportunity to talk about the big picture, and we're all part of that."

Contact the University Editor at udesk@unc.edu.

RELIGION

FROM PAGE 3

together and lots of people tend to go towards other groups to fit their spiritual needs," he says. "They don't want to make a full commitment into a fraternity."

Last semester, junior Janel Jack made that commitment to another Christian sorority on campus, Alpha Epsilon Omega, and she says she loves it.

And while the sorority has only a handful of members — they receive

three to five rushees every season — she says it's a diverse group in terms of race and geography.

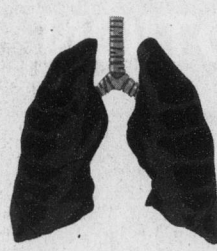
Pressley says that just because the sisters all have religion in common, it doesn't mean they're not looking outside their circle.

"We're there to build each other up," she says. "We say we are sisters in Christ, but we do not discriminate because this person hasn't read all of the book of John."

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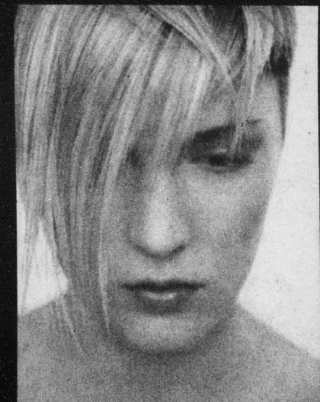
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Brooke Bitler	Caroline McGlamry
Rebecca Blackwell	Megan McHenry
Elizabeth Broome	Taylor Meadows
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Laura Cameron	Lauren Moffatt
Mary Lou Craven	Brittany Peacock
Sydney Darden	Stephanie Porowski
Shannon David	Paula Pridgen
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