Let us now

Parish jail absorbs inmates

Facility, already at capacity,
takes in Orleans prisoners

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On Saturday, 150 of the
7,800 inmates evacuated
from the Orleans Parish Prison
were brought to the Lafayette Parish Correctional Center, swelling
the jail's numbers beyond
capacity.

What the 150 are serving
time for was not clear
Saturday and only 35 of
them had been processed
by early afternoon.

"We were pretty much at
capacity already, and then
we got the call about these
guys coming in," LPCCC
Director Bob Rearton said.

The facility has a bed
capacity for 462 people and
already has surpassed that
number, but Rearton said
he didn't have an exact
count Saturday afternoon.

He said all are grateful
to have a roof over their
heads, even though they're
confined to jail cells.

"I've never had such a
group of inmates just
grateful to be somewhere
where they're being taken
care of," he said. "They're
dead people -- obviously
they're inmates, they
broke the law -- but
they're no more heinous
than the ones (already)
here in Lafayette. They're
really grateful that someone
taking care of them.

Rearton said he had
several more shipments
to deal with Saturday.

Hurricane Katrina: The aftermath

Hurricane Katrina, the storm that
made landfall on the Louisiana coast
Friday, forced the evacuation of
thousands of people from the
two states. The mandatory evacuations
in Louisiana and Mississippi were
ordered by state officials.

The mandatory evacuations
were issued as the storm
approached the region.

People were urged to
leave their homes and
go to a designated shelter.

Many were stranded on
the highway as they
tried to leave the area.

The storm caused
devastation to the
area, and the death toll
is expected to rise.

Levees broke in several
areas, sending floodwater
into people's homes.

People are now
beginning to assess the
damage and begin the
recovery process.

New Orleans

Red Cross family
registration

The American Red Cross is
registering families as an
attempt to reunite those displaced
du to Hurricane Katrina. Call (877)
LOVE2S for more information.

Help coming from
across the country

Thousands of water, food,
and toys are rolling into
Lafayette to help with relief efforts,
said Margaret Tr Habitat, executive
director of United Way of Acadiana.

Shifting priorities to
provide water, there
said. Other corporations
are stepping up as well, she said.

The Salvation Army sent
two trucksload
diapers, toys, games, water and
fertilizer to assist in the
response efforts.

Parish housing plan
set for evacuees
Inmates

station beneath Interstate 10 near the Superdome.
In addition to establishing a temporary booking and holding facility, some misdemeanor trials may resume in a couple of weeks, officials said Saturday.
However, restoring court proceedings will be complicated by the mass evacuation of the parishes pummeled by the hurricane.

We Will have some problems with trials by jury and locating witnesses," Foti said.
Although much of his Eastern District remains under water, U.S. Attorney Jim Letten vowed Saturday that his office is ready to pursue criminal charges against suspects.
"Make no mistake about this ... the entire federal criminal justice system is open and operating," he said. "This is something extremely difficult, but difficult doesn't mean impossible."
(Gannett News Service writer Dan Turner contributed to this report.)

Welcomes

Lafayette and the surrounding area are blessed with numerous human service agencies eager to assist. Locating the right one for a particular need can be done by dialing (232) HELP-411, the Southwest Louisiana Education and Referral Center.
We know a large portion of the refugee population is made up of children. We have a strong Parks and Recreation Department. Let the children run and play. Our library system also is a good one, and there is a Children's Museum. There are attractions in the area offering you and your family free or reduced admittance.
We have touched briefly on just some of the things being done to make your stay more physically and emotionally comfortable. There are many, many others. It is an area-wide, enthusiastic, deeply compassionate effort.
We see powerful and growing efforts across the state and nation to help the victims of Katrina, to begin rebuilding Greater New Orleans and to revive its way of life.
We believe the Big Easy will rise again. Until then, you are among people who care. Reach out. There is someone waiting to help.
(Bob Hamm is the editorial page editor the The Advertiser.)

Help

Food items being accepted at FoodNet
Call 232-FOOD for information about how to give to FoodNet.

Collection sites established in St. Martin Parish
The following collection sites have been established in St. Martin Parish for residents with:

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