Katrina's chaos continues

Gas prices spike in wake of storm

The Associated Press

Gasoline prices leaped yesterday as key refineries and pipelines remained out of service following Hurricane Katrina, crimping supplies and leading to caps on the amount of fuel delivered to retailers. The U.S. government said it would loan oil to refineries facing shortfalls. Crude futures prices fell but remained close to $60 a barrel.

Some of the knottiest issues still to be resolved will be restoring electricity to Gulf Coast refineries and pipelines, which are also suffering from flooding that may have left some important equipment submerged. It will be days before a full assessment of the damage can be done, industry officials and analysts said.

A significant amount of oil and gas production in the Gulf of Mexico remains shut and reports of banged-up platforms and rigs continued to trickle in as companies conducted aerial inspections of offshore facilities.

Onshore, wholesale gasoline suppliers have begun capping the amount of fuel they sell to retailers in certain markets to make sure retailers do not take delivery of more fuel than they actually need. Analysts said they do not anticipate widespread fuel shortages and cautioned motorists not to top off tanks out of fear.

With retail gasoline prices surging to record highs and motorists facing $3 a gallon at the pump in a growing number of markets, BP PLC said in an e-mail to clients that it is making “pricing decisions with prudence and restraint in the wake of this natural disaster.”

Light sweet crude for October delivery on the New York Mercantile Exchange fell 84 cents to $66.97 a barrel, down from an overnight high of $70.65. On Tuesday, oil futures settled at $69.81, the highest closing price on Nymex since trading began in 1983, although still below the inflation-adjusted highest closing price on Nymex since trading began

New Orleans mayor urges flight

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — With thousands feared drowned in what could be America’s deadliest natural disaster in a century, New Orleans’ leaders all but surrendered the streets to food distribution lines yesterday and began turning out the lights on the ruined city — perhaps for months.

Looting spiraled so out of control that Mayor Ray Nagin ordered virtually the entire police force to abandon search-and-rescue efforts and focus on the brazen packs of thieves who have turned increasingly hostile.

Nagin called for an all-out evacuation of the city’s remaining residents. Asked how many people died, he said: “Minimunum, hundreds. Most likely, thousands.”

With most of the city under water, Army engineers struggled to plug New Orleans’ breached levees with giant sandbags and concrete barriers, and authorities drew up plans to clear out the tens of thousands of remaining people and practically abandon the below-sea-level city.

Nagin said there will be a “total evacuation of the city. We have to. The city will not be function- al for two or three months.” And he said people would not be allowed back into their homes for at least a month or two.

If the mayor’s death-toll estimate holds true, it would make Katrina the worst natural disaster in the United States since at least the 1906 San Francisco earthquake and fire, which have blamed for anywhere from about 500 to 6,000 deaths. Kat- rina would also be the nation’s deadliest hurri- cane since 1900, when a storm in Galveston, Texas, killed between 6,000 and 12,000 people.

A slow exodus from the Superdome began yes- terday as the first of nearly 25,000 refugees left the miserable surroundings of the football stadium and were transported in buses to the Astrodome

Coronado keeps rep as party dorm

By Holly Wells

AZARONA DAILY WILDCAT

School has started and already the citations are flying, at least in Coronado Residence Hall. Since students moved into the dorms, Coronado has had more alcohol- and drug-related arrests than any other on-campus residence.

Students and officials speculate the hall’s large size and party reputation are the reasons behind the violations.

Between Aug. 17 and Sunday police respond- ed to 13 drug- and alcohol-related incidents in the dorms, according to University of Arizona Police Department reports.

Seven of those incidents took place in

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Amanda McDonald (left), a 2005 nursing graduate, and engineering management senior William Lewis

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QUICK HITS

Likins expresses sympathy

President Peter Likins encouraged the university and community members to provide aid to the victims of Hurricane Katrina in a campuswide e-mail yesterday. The Office of Community Relations has posted a list of national and local organizations that accept direct contributions, which can be accessed at http://ua.cares.arizona.edu/katrina/.

The president extended his deepest sympathy to those who are suffering from the hurricane’s devastating effects.

Day of Caring needs help

The UA is teaming up with Habitat for Humanity Oct. 8 for the sixth annual Day of Caring Project. The Office of Community Relations and Human Resources Department is asking faculty, staff and students to make a difference in the community.

This year, at least 500 volunteers are needed to make the day a success.

Read more at http://uanews.org/spots/11588.

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