



2026 season taking shape for Yankees and Mets

SPORTS, 1B

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HURRICANE KATRINA 20 YEARS LATER



Still fighting its way back

Floodwaters from Hurricane Katrina cover streets on Aug. 30, 2005, in New Orleans. Much of the area was inundated as levees began to break and leak around Lake Pontchartrain. According to federal estimates, Katrina saw the third-highest death toll from a hurricane in recorded U.S. history. VINCENT LAFORET/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Hurricane Katrina devastated the Lower Ninth Ward; remaining residents and nonprofits work to bring neighborhood back to life

Rick Jervis USA TODAY

NEW ORLEANS – Concrete steps still stand sentry over empty lots here in the Lower Ninth Ward, their houses long washed away. ● Overgrown lots outnumber grocery stores. Streets, once filled with the sounds of children playing or older folks playing dominoes, are mostly quiet, punctured occasionally by the sound of a distant lawn mower. ● “Wasn’t always like this,” said Harry Sims, 72, whose house, on aptly-named Flood Street, is ringed on three sides by empty lots. “Katrina chased them all away.”

It’s been 20 years since Hurricane Katrina roared ashore on the Gulf Coast on the morning of Aug. 29, 2005, and the federal levees failed across New Orleans, unleashing flood torrents across the city.

The Category 3 hurricane and the ensuing breached levees and floodwalls caused more than 1,300 deaths – many of them in the Lower Ninth Ward – and around \$200 billion in damages (adjusted for inflation), making it at the time the costliest hurricane ever to hit the U.S. The disaster still claims the third-highest death toll from a hurricane in recorded U.S. history, according to federal estimates.

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Harry Sims, 72, a longtime Lower Ninth Ward resident, helped rescue several people on his skiff during the floods. He built a new home on Flood Street using federal recovery funds, but there are empty lots all around him. “You can’t run from home,” he says. JACK GRUBER/USA TODAY

Note to readers

We will not be printing a paper on Monday, Sept. 1, but will be providing it to you via the eNewspaper. You can always find the latest news on our website, mobile app, newsletters and social media. Subscribers can access the eNewspaper by going to our website and clicking on eNewspaper in the black navigation bar.

At a glance

Hurricane Katrina touched the Gulf Coast on the morning of

MONDAY, AUG. 29, 2005

The storm was a

CATEGORY 3

Resulted in more than

1,300 DEATHS

Caused about

\$200 BILLION IN DAMAGE

(adjusted for inflation)

Made U.S. history record with

3RD-HIGHEST DEATH TOLL

Though Katrina also devastated parts of Alabama, Mississippi and Louisiana, around

80% OF NEW ORLEANS WAS UNDERWATER FOR WEEKS

The city lost more than

120,000 RESIDENTS



Online

20 years after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast, the USA TODAY Network explores how loss, resilience and recovery reshaped the nation.

New Jerseyans look back at Hurricane Katrina

Ricardo Kaulesar

NorthJersey.com

USA TODAY NETWORK – NEW JERSEY

Joyce Griffin pulled down a giant bowl from the cabinet in the kitchen of her two-bedroom apartment in Gulfport, Mississippi, and poured a heaping helping of cereal and milk into it.

Terrance Leon George — her 4-year-old grandson — and his mother, Nakisha, twin brother, Marcus, and baby

sister, Arris, all spooned from it for their morning breakfast. A friend of his grandmother’s was visiting.

Then the house started shaking. Hurricane Katrina was barreling into their hometown.

After a window broke, they scrambled and fled to the bathroom.

And they waited.

A section of roof collapsed, with a giant piece hitting Terrance. To calm the children, their mother read from Harry

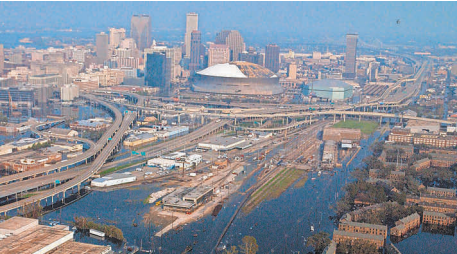
Potter books. To sustain themselves, they drank water from the toilet tank.

And they waited.

“I didn’t know what went on,” said Terrance Leon George, now a resident of Somerset. “I was out of it.”

After they spent two days stuck in the bathroom, a stranger who heard their screams managed to get the family out by removing debris from the collapsed

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Nearly a week after Hurricane Katrina slammed into the northern-western Gulf Coast, most of the city of New Orleans still lies inundated with floodwaters on Sept. 4, 2005. TONY GIBERSON/USA TODAY NETWORK VIA IMAGN IMAGES

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