

WVU wins, MU loses

Mountaineers down East Carolina 20-15 to go 4-0. Marshall falls to Central Florida 23-13.

SPORTS, 1C



Bring on the bands

An in-depth look at Tuesday's majorette and band festival at UC Stadium.

SECTION J



Keeping busy

National pollination demand helping state beekeepers.

BUSINESS, 1E



INDEX, 2A

Sunday Gazette-Mail



PARTLY CLOUDY
High 82
Low 64
Page 16A

Charleston, West Virginia

THE STATE'S LARGEST NEWSPAPER

★ September 25, 2005 \$1.50



AP photos

Hurricane Rita brought down this building's brick wall Saturday in Galveston, Texas.

Rita a relief after Katrina

Big cities spared direct hit; tornado kills 1

By Michael Graczyk
The Associated Press

BEAUMONT, Texas — Hurricane Rita pummeled east Texas and the Louisiana coast Saturday, triggering floods and demolishing buildings, yet the dominant reaction was relief that the once-dreaded storm proved far less fierce and deadly than Katrina. Authorities pleaded with the roughly 3 million evacuees not to hurry home too soon, fearing more chaos.

"Be patient, stay put," said Texas Gov. Rick Perry. "If you are in a safe place with food, water, bedding, you are better remaining there for the time being."

In any other hurricane season, Rita might have seemed devastating. It

knocked out power for more than 1 million customers, sparked fires across the hurricane zone and swamped Louisiana shoreline towns with a 15-foot storm surge that required daring boat and helicopter rescues of hundreds of people.

But the new storm came in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, with its 1,000-plus death toll, cataclysmic flooding of New Orleans and staggering destruction in Mississippi. By contrast, Rita spared Houston, New Orleans and other major cities a direct hit. "The damage is not as serious as we had expected it to be," said R. David Paulison, acting director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency. "The evacuations worked."

One person was killed in Mississippi by

Please See RITA, Page 9A



Suet Somsy (left) of New Iberia, La., and Thongla Thongdixay of New Orleans remove branches from Somsy's truck in the aftermath of Hurricane Rita in Shreveport, La.

"The damage is not as serious as we had expected it to be. The evacuations worked."

R. David Paulison, acting director, Federal Emergency Management Agency

Marchers in D.C. protest Iraq war

By Jennifer C. Kerr
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Crowds opposed to the war in Iraq surged past the White House on Saturday, shouting "Peace now" in the largest anti-war protest in the nation's capital since the U.S. invasion.

The rally stretched through the day and into the night, a marathon of music, speech-making and dissent on the National Mall. Police Chief Charles H. Ramsey, noting that organizers had hoped to draw 100,000 people, said, "I think they probably hit that."

Speakers from the stage attacked President Bush's policies head on, but he was not at the White House to hear it. He spent the day in Colorado and Texas, monitoring hurricane recovery.

In the crowd: young activists, nuns whose anti-

Please See WAR, Page 8A

Contingent from W.Va. shows unity

By Morgan Kelly
mkelly@wvgazette.com

They brought up the rear of the procession, but a group of West Virginians marching in Saturday's protest in Washington made sure they added their voices to the roughly 100,000 protesting the war in Iraq.

With the smaller states' contingents near the back of the march line, the 300 to 400 people from West Virginia found themselves far removed from the speakers and sound stage. That didn't dampen spirits, though.

"Everybody's happy as

Please See UNITY, Page 8A



EAMON SIGGINS/For the Sunday Gazette-Mail

Daniel Morrison and Bridget Davis, both of Charleston, march with other West Virginians in Washington, D.C., on Saturday during a protest against U.S. involvement in Iraq.

Upscale housing aiding growth in White Sulphur

By Rosalie Earle
earle@wvgazette.com

WHITE SULPHUR SPRINGS — One morning in June, residents here woke up to a bright pink building on Main Street.

That was one of the more noticeable changes in this blue-collar town of 2,300.

One-stop shopping for the home builder. 1E

There are probably 10 new businesses in White Sulphur Springs, but as Larry Klein acknowledges, "It takes a lot to make an impact" with a main street that's at least a mile long.

Still, residents and business leaders are excited by the momentum that has been growing with the expansion of The Greenbrier Sporting Club and its upscale homes.

And its recent inclusion in



CHIP ELLIS/Sunday Gazette-Mail

Artist Monnie Bare said the pink exterior of her building in White Sulphur Springs turned out to be "a marketing tool I didn't expect." She has her studio in the back of the shop, where she sells decorative painted furniture.

the Main Street West Virginia program should make town improvements easier to achieve.

In the recent past, the contrast between the spiffiness of

Please See HOUSING, Page 8A

Americans finding inexpensive, high-quality health care in India

By Ramola Talwar Badam
The Associated Press

BOMBAY, India — Bradley Thayer, a retired apple farmer from Okanogan, Wash., traveled 7,500 miles to get his torn knee ligament fixed, and says he paid a third of what it would have cost him in a U.S. hospital.

And that included airfare to Bombay.

Thayer, 60, had no health insurance when he fell and injured himself while summering in British Columbia. He says his U.S. doctors told him he would have to wait six months for surgery and pay bills totaling \$35,000. So he joined a rising tide of American and European patients heading to India, Thailand and Singapore for top-class orthopedic surgery, plastic surgery, infertility treatment and cardiology that are much less expensive than in the West.

It's the latest in outsourcing — Asian doctors study in the United States or Britain, acquire their

"Flying halfway around the world is cheaper."

Bradley Thayer, knee surgery patient from Washington state

skills and reputations in hospitals there, then take them back to their home countries and wait for the business to come to them.

"Flying halfway around the world is cheaper," said Thayer, beaming from his Bombay hospital bed. "I came straight to India. It's a long way to come without tests, but I feel great."

He had never been to India, and he first had to overcome the stereotypes at home.

"My friends and relatives said I was crazy," he said. "They said, 'They'll cremate you along the Ganges.'"

But he already felt familiar with Asian doctors. "In Canada

and America, when you read the names of doctors in hospitals, every third or fourth doctor is Indian," he said.

Hospitals in Bombay, Delhi and Bangalore have been taking these so-called "medical tourists" since the mid-1970s, initially from the Middle East and South Asia, later from Africa, and now from the West.

So far, news has spread largely by word of mouth, or on Web sites set up by patients to extol their Indian experiences and become vocal proponents. Now the Indian government is getting behind it, offering one-year medical visas extendable for an additional year, and organizing exhibitions abroad to advertise Indi-

Please See INDIA, Page 9A



ST. ALBANS Love LEXUS AND Love TOYOTA AND Love NISSAN Love SCION
304-727-2921 www.candomotors.com