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'Donor fatigue' concerns region's nonprofits

They fear donations to high-profile disasters will hurt local drives.

BY BILL ZLATOS
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Don Meredith did well in the stock market this year, so he

gave more generously to his favorite charity, the Salvation Army.

Meredith, 81, of North Strabane, Washington County, gave the Western Pennsylvania Division \$9,000 — up from his usual \$2,000 — but this time he split it three ways: for Katrina relief, local flood victims and operating

costs. He's concerned, though, that other donors might forget the regular needs of local charities.

"It's evident that when people give to these specific situations like the Katrina disaster, they lighten up on their normal contributions," he said. "Most people only have so many dollars to give."

Many nonprofit officials share the same view. They praise the unselfish response of residents to the headline-blaring disasters. But they worry whether donors will give enough to meet local needs, especially during holiday fundraisers.

"Each time there's another crisis, it takes its toll on local

nonprofits," said Myrna Zelenitz, executive director of the East End Cooperative Ministry in East Liberty. "We've had so many hurricanes, the tsunami and the earthquake in Pakistan."

Zelenitz hasn't seen her food pantry so bare in at least 10 years. The problem is called "donor fatigue" — a waning of contribu-

tions from donors exhausted by the past year's seemingly endless spate of disasters. Compounding the problem are rising gas and utility costs.

Nationally, nearly 31 percent of nonprofits responding to a survey cited "the hurricane impact

SEE NONPROFITS • A8

Wilma batters South Florida

The Category 3 hurricane caused the largest power outage in state history.

BY JAMIE MALERNEE
AND SCOTT WYMAN
SOUTH FLORIDA SUN-SENTINEL

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — Hurricane Wilma clobbered the entire southern half of Florida on Monday, killing six people, causing heavy flooding in the Florida Keys, ripping off roofs from the west coast to the east, blasting out South Florida office high-rise windows, and creating the largest power outage in state history.

Despite having a week to prepare, residents were left gasping at Wilma's strength and reach. The hurricane came ashore 22 miles south of Naples as a Category 3 storm and buzzed across the state, the fifth Category 3 or higher storm to hit Florida in 19 months. President Bush declared Florida a major disaster area as of yesterday afternoon, with Collier, Lee and Monroe counties qualifying for federal assistance, and the possibility of more counties to be added in coming days.

In South Florida, what made Wilma unique was her wide wake, causing nearly universal power outages and major destruction in Broward, Miami-Dade and Palm Beach counties, which have traditionally taken turns bearing the brunt of previous storms.

Officials warn they may not have power fully restored for another four weeks.

Due to the extensive damage, many South Florida cities remained under curfew from 7 p.m. yesterday to 7 a.m. today.

"I said beforehand that I thought people would be unpleasantly surprised by the power of this storm, and I think they have been unpleasantly surprised," said Tony Carper, Broward's emergency management director.

SEE WILMA • A8



KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

A huge explosion is seen Monday in downtown Baghdad. The Palestine Hotel, which houses many foreign journalists in Iraq, was hit by two rockets and a car bomb yesterday, damaging rooms and killing at least six people, Iraqi police said.

Bombers target hotel

At least six killed in attack on the Palestine

The Baghdad site houses foreign journalists.

BY MARIAM FAM
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BAGHDAD — A white car sped up to the thick wall protecting the Palestine Hotel and exploded, blasting out a section of the concrete. Within minutes, suicide bombers in two other vehicles tried to get through the breach.

One of them, a cement truck, made it — but apparently became stuck and blew up after a U.S. soldier opened fire on it. Had the driver traveled 20 or 30 yards farther and detonated the bomb at the hotel entrance, the attack

Report: At least 21 detainees have died in U.S. custody. **A7**

Lemons: The Pentagon can't get its money back for vehicles it bought from an Iraqi supplier. **A7**

Misled: U.S. investigators say a British lawmaker profited from the oil-for-food program. **A7**

could have killed many people inside the Palestine, where foreign journalists and contractors are based.

As it was, American troops and journalists escaped without serious injury, but at least a half-dozen passers-by were killed.

The deafening attack sent up a giant cloud of smoke and debris

SEE HOTEL • A7

Civil rights heroine Rosa Parks dies at 92

Her refusal to give up her bus seat sparked the 1955 transit boycott in Montgomery, Ala.

BY CASSANDRA SPRATTLING
DETROIT FREE PRESS

When Rosa Parks refused to get up, an entire race of people began to stand up for their rights as human beings.

It was a simple act that took extraordinary courage in Montgomery, Ala., in 1955. It was a place where black people had no rights white people had to respect. It was a time when



Parks: She was considered a catalyst for the civil rights movement.

Jim Crow laws had met their match.

SEE PARKS • A8

Local economists back nominee



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE/AP

President Bush shakes hands Monday with Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan (left) after naming his top White House economic adviser, Ben Bernanke (center), to replace the retiring Greenspan.

They like Bush's choice of Bernanke for Fed chief.

BY RICK STOUFFER
TRIBUNE-REVIEW

Among his fellow economists, Ben Bernanke is regarded as knowledgeable and open-minded, someone with first-hand experience of the nation's economic policy who likely wouldn't rock the boat if he takes the helm of the Federal Reserve Board next year.

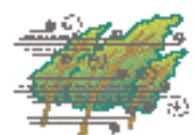
Bernanke, 51, a native Georgian who four months ago became chairman of President Bush's

SEE BERNANKE • A8

MORNING BRIEFING

Weather

42-36



Cold and rainy, with snowflakes likely today; windy, with rain and snow showers tonight. **A14**

Nation/World

President Bush says he will not turn over documents detailing the private advice Supreme Court nominee Harriet Miers has given him while serving the White House. **A3**

Introducing "intelligent design" to high school students could help the concept gain wider acceptance among mainstream scientists, a sociology professor testifies. **A6**

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A study finds long-term smokers have lower IQs and reduced thinking abilities. **A11**

Opinion

Gov. Ed Rendell promotes more corporate wealthfare. An editorial. **A12**

City & Region

The victim in an attempted womb-snatching of an unborn child testifies about the attack. **B1**

After 15 beers, stealing a school bus might seem like a good idea, but one joyrider's name might now be mud after the stunt. **B1**

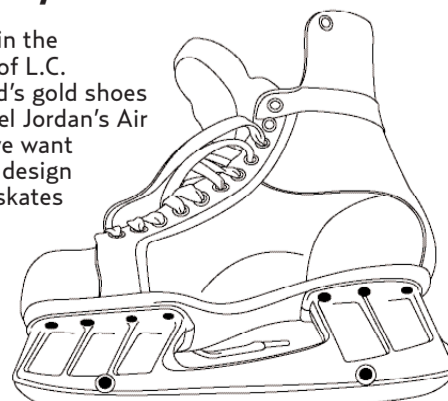
Business

Some European Union lawmakers are expressing sour grapes over a new U.S. wine trade deal. **D1**

Insurance costs for retired carpenters soar as their medical plan faces a ballooning deficit. **D1**

Seeking special skates for Sidney

Following in the footsteps of L.C. Greenwood's gold shoes and Michael Jordan's Air Jordans, we want readers to design signature skates for the Penguins' Sidney Crosby. See **E4** for details.



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