Jazzelyn Davis, left, Marie Smith, center, and Alicia Borden look through a suitcase of clothes brought to the Cajundome in Lafayette from Borden’s Algiers home near New Orleans. Borden returned to her home from the dome in Lafayette for the first time Monday to gather goods and clothes for her family. Borden said her home is damaged but most of her possessions inside are safe. Her family does not know when they will return.

**Cajundome cash flow reaching critical lows**

**BY RICHARD BURGESS**
Acadiana bureau

**LAFAYETTE** – The expense of running a relief shelter at the Cajundome could climb above $4 million in two months, according to budget figures released Tuesday.

Money from Cajundome coffers has been flowing out by the tens of thousands of dollars a day to feed and house the more than 6,000 Hurricane Katrina evacuees.

None of that spending has been reimbursed, said Cajundome Director Greg Davis, who is scheduled to meet with Federal Emergency Management Agency representatives today to determine what expenses will be covered and when.

“If nothing happens … next week we are bankrupt,” Davis told the Cajundome Commission during an emergency meeting Tuesday.

FEMA generally reimburses local governments for expenses related to relief efforts, but the question is when the money will come.

Davis said that some area banks have agreed to offer low- or no-interest loans to cover operating expenses, with no strict deadline on when the money would have to be repaid.

Meanwhile, the bills mount. Electricity for the facility — which now must be air-conditioned 24 hours a day — is running $300 an hour, and cleaning supplies and services are at $16,400 a day, according to budget figures prepared by Cajundome staff.

If the shelter remains open until Oct. 31, as most expect it will, the total bill would come to at least $4,076,338, according to the figures.

And while expenses mount, the Cajundome is losing out on its normal source of revenue — conventions, concerts and other large-scale events.

The Cajundome staff estimated revenue loss at about $400,000.