

Krewe of Zeus won't move to Destrehan

METRO



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SPORTS



The Times-Picayune

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 23, 2014

DAILY & BREAKING NEWS AT



NOFD pension plan fix rejected by judge

Head sought to tap police budget

By Richard Rainey
Staff writer

Stacy Head took the stand Tuesday, in a way, to make a sales pitch.

The New Orleans City Council president — along with Mayor Mitch Landrieu and the rest of the council — is under the gun of a court order to immediately pay \$17.5 million that the city owes the firefighters' troubled pension fund. But that debt accumulated only in 2012, and Landrieu's administration has continued to short the city's monthly payments to that account throughout his tenure in City Hall.



Stacy Head
Her plan called for one-day-a-month furloughs

So Head offered Civil District Judge Robin Giarrusso a possible stopgap Tuesday: She wants to ask the Landrieu administration to take \$2 million from the New Orleans Police Department's 2014 budget and to examine whether city officials could find another \$1.4 million by enacting one-day-a-month furloughs for all Fire Department employees for the rest of the year. Head said the total would more than cover the \$691,000 a month by which the city's debt to the fund continues growing.

She told Giarrusso she planned to bring that strategy to her colleagues at Thursday's council meeting. But in the end, that wasn't good enough for the judge.

"I need to see a lot more movement toward the \$17.5 million or

See **FIREFIGHTERS**, A-10

Should police officers help save lives by giving first aid in an emergency — like a mass shooting on Bourbon Street? Or is their job hard enough as it is?

DEFINING DUTY



SURVEILLANCE VIDEO

When bedlam broke out in the French Quarter last month, some who rushed to render aid were troubled that a patrolman seemed to ignore their pleas for crowd control and first-aid equipment.

By Naomi Martin
Staff writer

When the bullets stopped flying on Bourbon Street about 2:45 a.m. on Sunday, June 29, many New Orleans police officers responded exactly as most would expect after a mass shooting: rushing to the scene, looking for gunmen and victims, calling for ambulances.

"I need EMS at Bourbon and Orleans," Detective Thomas Perez yelled into his radio. "Got a female shot in the side."

"I got another one at Bourbon and St. Ann shot in the face," Detective Michael Flores said. "Female into the face."

One officer, however, was captured on surveillance video behaving in a manner that, to many, made no sense at all. While a woman lay on the ground bleeding, the patrolman stood by, never leaning down to check on her, at one point turning his back and walking away as three tourists tried to save her. He was calling for medics, the police chief later said, but three doctors visiting from out of town who stopped to administer CPR were troubled that he seemed to be ignoring their pleas for crowd control and first-aid equipment.

The woman, Brittany Thomas, 21, died three days later from a single gunshot wound to the head. Doctors interviewed later said

See **POLICE**, A-8



ANATOMY OF A GUNFIGHT

View an interactive evidence file of the Bourbon Street shooting at nola.com

Common Core provokes another lawsuit

Supporters claim Jindal's out of line

By Danielle Dreilinger
Staff writer

A group of Common Core proponents sued Gov. Bobby Jindal on Tuesday, saying he has overstepped constitutional boundaries in his fight with the state Board of Elementary

and Secondary Education over contracts and tests. Jindal responded that the suit has "no merit."

The suit asserts that the governor and his administration "have sown chaos in the education system of this state." It asks the courts to unfreeze next year's testing contract immediately to allow schools to proceed with their plans.

The action comes one day

after 17 lawmakers sued to roll back the Common Core standards. Both suits were filed in 19th Judicial District Court in Baton Rouge.

Plaintiffs in the newer suit include several New Orleans and Baton Rouge parents, New Orleans and Ascension Parish schoolteachers and the New Orleans charter group Choice Foundation. Along with the governor, the defendants are

the state Division of Administration, its commissioner and the interim director of the Office of Contractual Review.

The Black Alliance for Educational Options is paying for the litigation, and several of the plaintiffs are alliance members, said Eric Lewis, the group's Louisiana director. "At this point, this is the only avenue that remains in moving the state forward in fully implementing Common Core," he said.

See **CORE**, A-10



Bobby Jindal
Says opponents' argument that he's overreaching has 'no merit'



BRETT DUKE / STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Kenner resident Delores Windsor says she fears for residents' safety in the overgrown area. "Children walk through here," she said.

Land turns into jungle in the heart of Kenner

Owner Home Depot isn't cited

By Ben Myers
Staff writer

Abutting the Lincoln Manor subdivision, near a shopping mall that Kenner officials hope will thrive, sits a 25-acre tract of commercial property that once was coveted by real estate developers but today looks more like a wildlife refuge.

The Home Depot owns the undeveloped land, which is so badly overgrown that weed stalks, some taller than basketball goals, have completely swallowed a stop sign at 31st Street and California Avenue.

Kenner forbids weeds taller than 15 inches on vacant commercial property, but City Hall

See **HOME DEPOT**, A-6

Municipal Auditorium rising from floodwaters



It's due back next year, perhaps with new role

By John Pope
Staff writer

Nearly nine years after Hurricane Katrina and the ensuing floodwaters trashed New Orleans' Municipal Auditorium, work is underway to restore the massive multipurpose building that has played host to decades of graduations and Carnival balls.

Repairs to the 84-year-old structure looming over Congo Square, paid for with \$20 million from the Federal Emergency Management Agency, began in January and are expected to continue until November 2015, said Tyler Gamble, a spokesman for Mayor Mitch Landrieu.

See **AUDITORIUM**, A-8



RAINY SKIES
HIGH 88° LOW 73°

BUSINESS A-9
CLASSIFIED D-7
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LOUISIANA A-2

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