



1875

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South Louisiana's
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The Times-Picayune

A/B
BREAKING NEWS AT NOLA.COM

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2011

NEW ORLEANS EDITION • 75¢

Judge tells corps to halt lock plan

It must assess effect of closing MR-GO

By Mark Schleifstein
Staff writer

The Army Corps of Engineers was ordered by a federal judge in New Orleans on Friday to halt work on a \$1.3 billion plan to expand the Industrial Canal lock at the Mississippi River to accommodate deep-draft vessels until it writes a second supplemental environmental impact statement addressing the effects of closing the Mississippi River-Gulf Outlet on the plan.

U.S. District Judge Eldon Fallon found that the corps failed to adequately consider that closure of the MR-GO may have eliminated the need for the lock to be deep enough to handle deep-draft vessels.

"On its face this seems to be the proverbial bridge to nowhere; namely, constructing a deep-draft lock which will never be used by deep-draft traffic," Fallon wrote in a ruling issued Friday.

See **LOCK**, A-6

Avondale will have the power of prayer

Many congregations join in effort

By Bruce Nolan
Staff writer

Workers and labor advocates struggling to find a future for Avondale have enlisted the help of scores of pulpits and congregations, which are scheduled to offer special prayers this weekend for the welfare of the West Bank shipyard, a powerful source of local jobs.

Now owned by Huntington Ingalls Industries Inc, the shipyard is scheduled to close in 2013, unless a buyer steps up. The reason: declining ship orders from the Navy, the lone customer on whom all American shipbuilders depend.

See **AVONDALE**, A-6

TEN YEARS LATER
09.11.01

THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE

Norco native Robert Hymel died as heroically as he lived



HYMEL FAMILY PHOTO

Robert Hymel, a retired Air Force pilot working as a defense contractor, was packing up his temporary office in the Pentagon when American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the building on Sept. 11, 2001. In 1972, Hymel survived a fiery crash while piloting a B-52 bomber over North Vietnam, only to be killed three decades later in the basement of the well-fortified Pentagon.

By Lori Lyons
River Parishes bureau

Perhaps it would be more imaginable if Norco native Robert Hymel, a Vietnam-era Air Force pilot who flew death-defying missions over Hanoi in a lumbering B-52 bomber and once miraculously escaped a fiery crash that killed the co-pilot sitting right next to him, had died in combat. Instead, the 55-year-

old retired pilot died while packing boxes in the Pentagon when an airliner hijacked by terrorists flew into the defense headquarters on the morning of Sept. 11, 2001, killing him and 124 others.

He died in the nation's capital, in a most uncommon way, one of five Louisiana natives to die that day in terrorist attacks in Washington, New York and Pennsylvania.

Back home, in the small community along the Mississippi

River far from the battlefields of Vietnam and the halls of the nation's defense department, Hymel is being hailed as a hero on the 10th anniversary of an event so jarring that it has come to be known simply by two numbers: 9/11.

Hymel's photo is the centerpiece of a Memorial Wall in the commons area at St. Charles Catholic School in LaPlace, and

See **HYMEL**, A-4



Robert Hymel
'He was very dedicated to his country'

Dems fall on hard times in La.

They field no major statewide candidate

By Jonathan Tilove
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — The stroke of 5 p.m. Thursday marked a dark moment in the history of the Louisiana Democratic Party. For the first time in modern memory, the party did not field a single major candidate for statewide office.

"When the qualifying closed yesterday, I think we moved into a new era," said Baton Rouge pollster Bernie Pinsonat, who works for both Republican and Democratic candidates. "It's not surprising, we've been moving that way for the last 12 to 15 years.

"Then along came Barack Obama, with policies that alienated even more Louisianians, and of course, shutting down oil drilling."

Just as in the days of Democratic dominance, Pinsonat said, "the new reality is Republicans vs. Republicans."

It's been a stunning slide for Louisiana Democrats, who resisted the Republican tide longer than their counterparts in other Deep South states.

"If you had described the landscape today in Louisiana to me when I was a freshman state representative, when Edwin Edwards was governor, I would have thought you were smoking

See **ELECTION**, A-9

Ambitious ArtWorks complex officially closes

Awash in red ink, studio never found its footing

By Doug MacCash
Staff writer

Eight years after breaking ground on what was intended as a spectacular new jewel in the crown of the city's cultural attractions, Louisiana ArtWorks, the ambitious but ill-fated \$25 million art studio complex near Lee Circle, has officially ceased operation and may soon

have a new owner.

"There is no day-to-day activity in the building, and the organization has no employees and no source of revenue," Donna Klein, former chair of the ArtWorks board of directors, said Friday in an e-mail response to inquiries from The Times-Picayune.

The entire ArtWorks board of directors resigned in May, Klein said. The Arts Council of New Orleans, a city-affiliated agency that originated ArtWorks, has the authority to reconstitute it, but Arts Council Chief Executive Officer Mary Len Costa said Friday that she knows of no such plans at this time.

See **ARTWORKS**, A-8



MATTHEW HINTON / THE TIMES-PICAYUNE

Louisiana ArtWorks, a \$25 million studio complex, 'has no employees and no source of revenue,' said Donna Klein, former chairwoman of the ArtWorks board.

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WEATHER See D-10
SUNSHINE
HIGH 87°
LOW 69°

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174th
YEAR
NO. 233

