

Gayle Benson making a mark on the New Orleans sports scene **1C**



**TRUMP, KIM SHARE HISTORIC MOMENT 8A**



**PELICANS TO SIGN JJ Redick**  
sports **1C**



# The Times-Picayune

## THE NEW ORLEANS ADVOCATE

SEVEN DAYS • HOME DELIVERED • LOUISIANA OWNED



**HIGH 92  
LOW 76**  
MORE ON 6B

**MONDAY**  
JULY 1, 2019

6th year, No. 323

**\$1.00**

# THE SALVATION OF DR. JOHN



TIMES-PICAYUNE FILE PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

New Orleans musical legends Fats Domino, from left, Mac 'Dr. John' Rebennack and Dave Bartholomew sit together in 2014 at the premiere of 'The Big Beat,' a documentary film about the sound that Bartholomew and Domino created in the 1950s.

## Mac Rebennack and the woman who guided him along the way

BY KEITH SPERA  
Staff writer

Mac "Dr. John" Rebennack received the New Orleans equivalent of a state funeral.

During his June 22 memorial service at the opulent Orpheum Theater, local music royalty sang his praises. Mayor LaToya Cantrell saluted him as a "beloved son" of the city. The grand second-line that followed, both formal and festive, shut down Canal Street.

But the prospect that he would one day merit such a send-off was, for the first half of his life, unlikely.

For 34 years, Rebennack was a self-described "dope fiend." Over the decades, his heroin addiction led him down many dark roads. Crime, violence, hospitalizations, arrests, affairs, divorces, dirty dealing, sheer craziness — he was familiar with all of it.

He could have easily ended up like so many of his heroes and friends: a hugely talented New Orleans musician who died young and faded into obscurity.

But in 1989, he got clean. Over the next three decades, he emerged as one of the most beloved and respected representa-

► See **DR. JOHN**, page **6A**



PROVIDED PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER BRISCOE  
Mac 'Dr. John' Rebennack, left, and B.B. St. Roman in 2015

## Record number of women running for office

BY MARK BALLARD  
Capitol Bureau editor

So many women already have signed up to run for the Louisiana Legislature this fall that Democrats and Republicans are predicting a sea change in the state's lawmaking body by the time the votes are counted. Forty-seven of the Legislature's 144 seats are open because of term limits.

At least 20 women have announced their candidacies. Along with 22 female incumbents who are running for reelection or in the other chamber, that means that 42 women — more than ever before — will stand for election on the Oct. 12 ballot. Those numbers are expected to grow before candidates officially sign up in August.

Even if they all win, and nobody is predicting that outcome, the Legislature still will have one of the nation's lowest ratios of women to men in the nation.

But Republicans and Democrats agree that enough women are positioned to win to change the dynamics. Making an impact is a low hurdle as the Louisiana Legislature has never had

► See **WOMEN**, page **8A**

### LOW RANKING

Bottom five states with women in state legislatures prior to April

RANK	STATE	PERCENT	TOTAL
50	Mississippi	13.8%	24
49	West Virginia	14.2%	19
48	Tennessee	15.2%	20
<b>47</b>	<b>Louisiana</b>	<b>15.3%</b>	<b>22</b>
46	Wyoming	15.6%	14
45	Alabama	15.7%	22

## Welcome to New Orleans' next great newspaper.

Today, The Times-Picayune and The New Orleans Advocate become one, and our aim is to weave together the best of both publications.

The first thing to know about The Times-Picayune | The New Orleans Advocate is that it will be published and delivered to your home seven days a week. Times-Picayune subscribers have been receiving a newspaper on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday mornings. You can stay with that schedule or tell us that you want daily delivery by calling (504) 529-0522 or going online to theadvocateoffers.com and using promo code TATP. The upgrade is a great deal: For only pennies a day, you get seven days of home delivery instead of three. We have recruited more than 100 former Times-Picayune carriers to handle the additional work, joining the 80 contractors who have been delivering The Advocate. If you are an Advocate subscriber, you don't need to change a thing.

The next thing to know about The Times-Picayune | The New Orleans Advocate is that it's produced by reporters, photographers and editors who have been providing our community with great journalism for a generation. The publisher, editor and managing editors learned their trade at The Times-Picayune and were part of the team that won Pulitzer prizes for coverage of Hurricane Katrina. Writers like Stephanie Grace, Nell Nolan and Keith Spera, who started at The Times-Picayune and joined The New Orleans Advocate, will see their bylines alongside Times-Picayune writers like Dan Gill, Michelle Hunter, Doug MacCash, Ann Maloney and Herbie Teope. Our comics and puzzles pages will expand, and we will feature all of the longtime Advocate regulars, like "Peanuts" and "Garfield," and new strips from the Times-Picayune, like "Dustin" and "Mutts." We have two dozen writers and photographers from The Times-Picayune on our staff. Overall, we have more than 120 journalists covering Louisiana, keeping you updated through our print editions, through NOLA.com and via social media.

Finally, The Times-Picayune | The New Orleans Advocate is locally owned. Dathel and John Georges purchased The Advocate in 2013 and The Times-Picayune this year because they believe a great city like New Orleans deserves a great local daily newspaper. They own other businesses in Louisiana, and they hear from our readers every day — everywhere from Saints games to Carnival parades. Almost all of the other daily newspapers in Louisiana are owned by big companies in other states, and they have to answer to investors or shareholders. But we answer to readers and advertisers right here in Louisiana.

At a time when other publications are diminishing and coverage of local news is threatened, we're bolstering The Times-Picayune | The New Orleans Advocate. With your support, we'll keep it strong!

We would love to hear from you, so please drop us a note at [tellus@theadvocate.com](mailto:tellus@theadvocate.com)