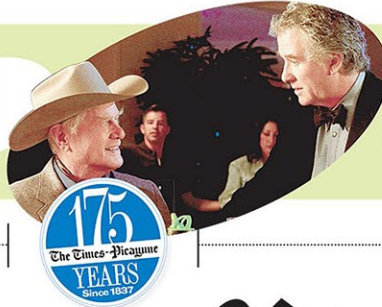


'Dallas' returns with faces old and new

LIVING



The Times-Picayune



BREAKING NEWS AT **NOLA.COM**

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 13, 2012

METRO EDITION • 75¢

Defense attorney deserts client midtrial

North shore judge ships lawyer to jail

By Claire Galofaro
St. Tammany bureau

Two days into a St. Tammany Parish rape trial, the defense attorney stood and confessed to the judge that he'd done an inadequate job representing his client, a 25-year-old Slidell man accused of raping two young girls.

Attorney Claiborne Brown refused to proceed, despite the judge's threats to hold him in contempt of court.

Judge William Burris, with "righteous indignation," as he described his feelings on the matter, told the bailiffs to take Brown to the parish jail until he became willing to "perform his duties."

Brown's client, Joshua Cumberland, is accused of raping two girls — one 9 and the other 6 — several times over five months in 2009.

One of the girls eventually told her grandmother that she and the other girl had been raped repeatedly.

Cumberland hired an attorney from out of state, who hired Brown as his local co-counsel. The out-of-state lawyer did not show up for the trial or any prior hearings.

Brown has been practicing law in the state since October 1998, according to the Louisiana State Bar Association.

He and Assistant District Attorney Nick Noriea seated a jury on Monday — interrupted in the afternoon when Cumberland suffered an asthma attack and was rolled out of the courthouse on a stretcher.

By Tuesday, Brown filed a motion describing himself as unqualified to provide adequate counsel. The defendant's family

See **LAWYER**, A-4

PAPER LAYS OFF 200 EMPLOYEES

New companies to have 20 percent fewer workers



PHOTOS BY CATHERINE THRELKELD / THE TIMES-PICAYUNE

Times-Picayune staffers watch television coverage of the layoffs on Tuesday in the newsroom on Howard Avenue.



Special projects reporter Cindy Chang, left, comforts St. Tammany reporter Christine Harvey, who was not offered a position with the new Nola Media Group.

By Jaquetta White
Business writer

Managers at The Times-Picayune informed more than 200 members of the newspaper staff Tuesday that their last day at the company will be Sept. 30. The Times-Picayune, according to company executives, is shrinking its overall staff — including news, advertising, circulation and other departments — by 32 percent, or 201 employees.

Employees who were not laid off were offered new jobs beginning this fall with Nola Media Group or Advance Central Services Louisiana, two new companies that will oversee news coverage and production and distribution, respectively,

for The Times-Picayune and its affiliated website nola.com.

The layoffs come as part of a plan to reduce publication of the daily newspaper to three days a week this fall. When the four publication days are cut, the news operation will shift its focus online to nola.com, and both the newspaper and website will be overseen by the newly created Nola Media Group. Ricky Mathews, who will replace Ashton Phelps as the paper's publisher, will be its president. The decision was made in response to a digital shift in the newspaper industry that makes more digitally focused content-gathering necessary, according to an announcement posted to nola.com May 24.

See **LAYOFFS**, A-4

Editor Jim Amoss explains companies' new mission, see video at nola.com

DA cites progress while avoiding discord

He beseeches mayor for more money

By John Simerman
Staff writer

Orleans Parish District Attorney Leon Cannizzaro chose tact over attack in his annual address to the city Tuesday night, boasting progress for a notoriously dysfunctional New Orleans criminal justice system while plying Mayor Mitch Landrieu for more money.

Cannizzaro touted the successful prosecutions of some high-profile criminals, including last year's conviction of Uptown crime kingpin Telly Hankton, while steering clear of the kind of direct challenge to judges that rankled the criminal court bench last year.

The district attorney acknowledged the double edge of last year's "state of the criminal justice system" speech, in which he pressed the judges to conduct 600 jury trials, suggesting they were lazy. The judges ended up at 329 jury trials for 2011, an 18 percent increase from 2010.

"Now I know that I ruffled some feathers last year with some of the judges on the Criminal District Court when I asked them to conduct a specific number of jury trials. Perhaps I was out of bounds with that suggestion. Perhaps I was not," Cannizzaro said, as Chief Judge Camille Buras and others looked on inside Gallier Hall.

See **CANNIZZARO**, A-3



Leon Cannizzaro points to success in convicting high-profile criminals

CONTROVERSIAL CAUSEWAY BLVD. BUILDING GAINS NEW LOOK

Owner insists it's residential; neighbors still don't like it

By Caitlin Cruz
East Jefferson bureau

The finishing touches of brick and siding to the exterior of 3201 40th St. have calmed only so many fears about the controversial "metal house" facing Causeway Boulevard in Metairie.

Owner Craig Boes has almost finished the exterior of what he has said all along is a house. He plans to rent it once the interior is complete.

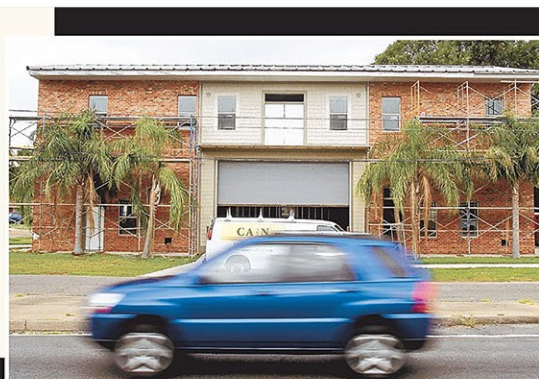
But Betty Wright, president of the Causeway Civic Association and an opponent of the structure, said it remains an eyesore.

"It does look a little more attractive, but we're still not happy about it and it still doesn't look like a house," she said.

See **HOUSE**, A-3



When construction began at 3201 40th St. in Metairie, neighbors protested its industrial appearance. After litigation by the parish, it more closely resembles a residence.



“It does look a little more attractive, but we’re still not happy about it and **it still doesn’t look like a house.**”

Betty Wright, president of the Causeway Civic Association and opponent of the structure



STORMS POSSIBLE
HIGH 90°
LOW 75°

CLASSIFIED D6-10
COMICS C-5
DEATHS B-3

EDITORIAL B-4
LIVING C
LOUISIANA A-2

MONEY C-6
NATIONAL A-5
SPORTS D

TELEVISION C-2
WASHINGTON A-2
WORLD A-6

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