



# THE WEST SIDE Journal

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PORT ALLEN, LOUISIANA

## Sheriff's Office investigating deadly shooting in Erwinville

STAFF REPORT  
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The West Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office is investigating the fatal shooting of a 24-year-old New Roads found in a roadway in Erwinville Sunday, Nov. 22. Jaleel Leonard was found dead as a result of a single gunshot wound in a residential area off of Section Road, according to detectives with the West Baton

Rouge Sheriff's Office.

An autopsy revealed Leonard was shot once and died at the scene. The motive behind the homicide is unknown and is being investigated by West Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office Detective Division.

Anyone with information about Leonard's death is urged to call West Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office Detective Division at (225) 382-5200.

## Police Chief, City Council At-Large candidates finishing campaigns following low early voter turnout



Esdron Brown



Corey Hicks



Clerice Lacy



Bart Saia

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Port Allen Police Chief and Council At-Large candidates are reaching the end of campaigning ahead of the Dec. 5 run-off election. Corey Hicks and incumbent Esdron Brown face off for Police Chief while Clerice "Clo" Lacy and Bart Saia are running for the Council At-Large seat after ousting incum-

berent Carey Williams during the Nov. 3 election.

Early voting took place from Nov. 20-28 with a parish-wide early and absentee turnouts of just 5%, according to WBR Registrar of Voters Corey Passantino.

"Turnout was pretty low for this election," Passantino said.

The Nov. 3 election finished with Clerice Lacy (40%) ahead of Bart Saia



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## Contractor selected for I-10 widening

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State officials announced they chose a contractor or the first phase of the I-10 widening between LA Hwy. 415 and the I-10/12 split on Monday. Kiewit/Boh, a joint venture, was selected for the work af-

ter successfully submitting qualifications to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development. Construction is set to begin in late 2022 and expected to take at least six years to complete.

Phase one of the project

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# Phase 2

## Gov. Edwards orders modified version of Phase 2 through Dec. 23

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The modified version of Phase II coronavirus restrictions will remain in effect until at least Dec. 23, according to Gov. John Bel Edwards.

On Tuesday, Dec. 1, the state Department of Hospitals announced 5,326 new cases and 35 deaths across the state. Perhaps the most alarming figure is the number of hospitalizations, which reached 1,280,

which hovers around the same totals the state saw in spring. Meanwhile, 128 patients are on ventilators.

The total in West Baton Rouge has reached 1,389 as of Dec. 1, along with 43 deaths.

The new restrictions, which took effect the day before Thanksgiving, scale back occupancy limits to 25 percent. It also continues mandates of social distancing and masks.

It also limits occupancy to 50 percent for restaur-

ants, coffee shops and cafes, as well as casinos, video poker, gyms and fitness centers and non-essential retailers.

The new restrictions also include a 75 percent occupancy limit for churches and places of worship.

For occupancy at event centers, the restrictions will limit occupancy to 25 percent or a maximum of 75 people. It also includes the mask mandate.

For outdoor events, the occupancy remains 25 per-

cent and limits attendance to 150, where social distancing is not possible.

The announcement came after a spike that has brought 474 new cases per 100,000 people, a spike from the 170 for every 100,000 one week ago.

It also coincides with a total of 1,052 COVID patients in hospital care, which was up more than 350 from one week ago.

"We're moving the wrong direction," Edwards said. "We've moved pretty

fast in that direction."

The current surge is higher than the spring and summer surge. More than 169,000 new cases were reported nationwide on Monday, he said.

"Health-care workers in hospitals across Louisiana are extremely worried about their staffing and capacity levels not being able to keep up with the growing number of citizens being diagnosed with COVID-19 and being hospitalized. They need us all to do our

part to slow the spread," Edwards said.

"This year's holiday celebrations should not look like those from last year," he said. "The risk is too great. I know that we want to be together for the holidays, but we need to protect each other and make the sacrifices now so that we can come together when it is much safer."

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