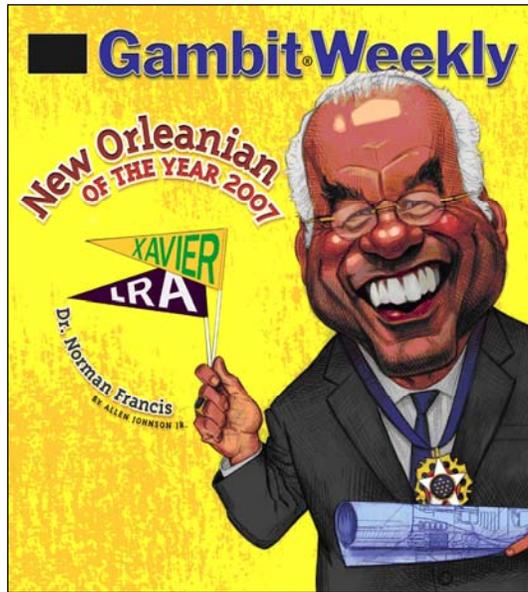




LRA Chair Declared New Orleanian of the Year

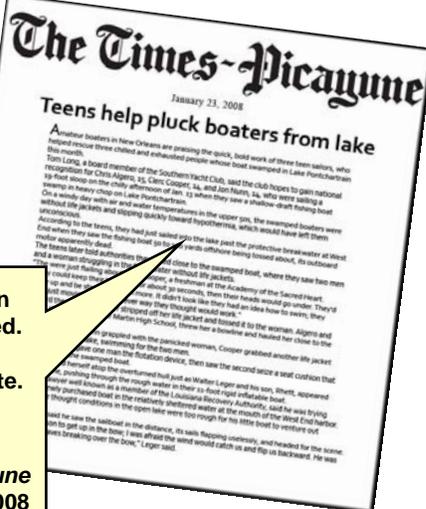


Board Member Helps Save Boaters

Walter Leger, Jr., his son Rhett, and three teens helped save three others after their boat capsized on Lake Pontchartrain Sunday, January 13.

“Leger and his son found the two men overboard deeply chilled and exhausted. He said one was slipping into unconsciousness, his eyes rolling white. He said the other was only a little stronger.”

The Times-Picayune
January 23, 2008





Board Member Remains on Superdome Commission



In January, Gov. Bobby Jindal re-appointed Board Member Tim Coulon to the Superdome Commission



“The commission will play an important role in the economic revitalization of New Orleans.”

Governor Bobby Jindal

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Farewell Dr. Alex Johnson



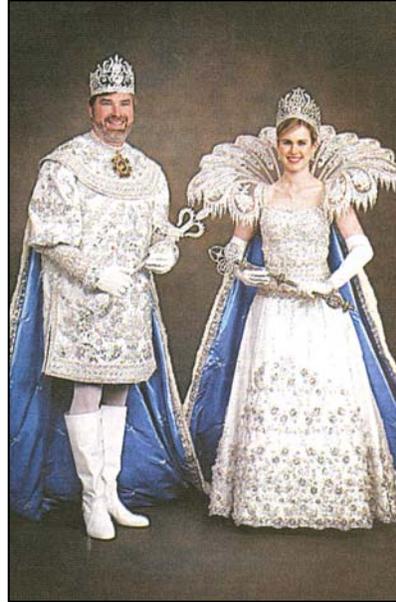
LRA Board Member Alex Johnson will be leaving Louisiana to take over as president of the Community College of Allegheny County in Pennsylvania

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Congratulations King Stuller

**LRA Board member
Matt Stuller reigned
as king of the
Greater Southwest
Louisiana Mardi
Gras Association**



Courtesy The Advocate

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New Orleans to Host International Summit



President George W. Bush announced during the State of the Union that the North American Leaders' Summit will be held in New Orleans on April 21 and April 22.

The Summit brings leaders from Mexico, Canada and the United States together annually to discuss global issues of importance to North America.

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Office of State Planning Taskforce Update

Final Report Key Recommendations:

- ✦ The LRA will house the Office of State Planning, providing planning assistance and implementation of Louisiana Speaks plans in disaster impacted parishes
- ✦ Develop structure, location, core mission, budget and staffing
- ✦ Use LRA/OSP experience as “lab” to determine what works and does not work
- ✦ Leverage work of CPEX and other organizations to develop planning assistance in other parts of the state
- ✦ Amend the LRA’s strategic plan and formulate 2-year transition plan to lead to the permanent creation of the Office of State Planning

Report will be issued to Governor, Legislature and public Friday, February 15



Fisheries Infrastructure Grant Program Update

- ✦ \$19.5 million grant program funded through CDBG
- ✦ 59 proposals submitted
14 eliminated for lack of required information
- ✦ This week, 11 experts from across the nation are evaluating remaining 45 proposals
- ✦ Tomorrow, the panel, some LRA Board members and staffers will take part in a Disaster Recovery Tour through Southeastern Louisiana
- ✦ Later this month, a state selection panel will consider the panel’s input and allocate the funds





Temporary Housing Transition Update



All temporary housing sites are scheduled to close by December 31, 2008, displacing 4,816 households at group and commercial trailer sites.

In the past two weeks, 16 group sites shut down.

Between March 31st and May 31st, 1,588 households will have to leave group sites.

The LRA's goal is to help citizens transition to safe, permanent and sustainable homes.

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Temporary Housing Transition Update

Steps Taken:

- ✦ Conducted on-the-ground, in-depth assessment of trailer park resident needs via visits and voluntary survey
- ✦ Continues work with Renaissance Village leadership
- ✦ Created weekly working group with relevant state and federal agencies
- ✦ Initiated closer working partnership with FEMA and HUD to acquire resources and funding. Result is increased communication and delivery of requested information
- ✦ Signed Memorandum of Understanding with Louisiana Family Recovery Corps, establishing LFRC as the state coordinator and provider of human services and related case management.



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Temporary Housing Transition Update

Next Steps:

- ✦ Continue to petition FEMA for funds for LFRC to provide needed services
- ✦ Combine and analyze newly acquired data from various sources
- ✦ Sign MOUs with relevant state agencies
- ✦ Determine unmet needs and funding gaps and secure funding
- ✦ Recommend policy changes to FEMA, HUD and state agencies
- ✦ Facilitate working groups between FEMA, HUD, state and nonprofits



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