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WEDNESDAY, JUNE 1, 2005

NEW ORLEANS EDITION

DA's bias payout to staff finalized

But \$2.8 million
excludes legal fees

By Gwen Filosa
Staff writer

A federal judge Tuesday ordered Orleans Parish District Attorney Eddie Jordan to pay more than \$2.8 million to the 43 former employees who successfully sued the city's top prosecutor for racial discrimination.

Jordan, the first African-American to be elected district attorney in Orleans, wrongly used race as the basis for firing dozens of white employees after taking office in 2003, a jury found in March.

The final dollar amount owed for back wages, benefits, emotional damages and lost "future" wages calculated by U.S. District Judge Stanwood Duval Jr. and issued Tuesday totals \$2,812,979.03. But that award does not include attorneys' fees for the plaintiffs, which are estimated to be at least \$1 million. Interest on the back-pay awards, calculated at about 10 percent, according to plaintiffs' lead attorney Clement Donelon, would further increase the costs by about \$100,000.

A U.S. magistrate judge will determine the plaintiffs' legal fees. Donelon and his colleagues have yet to file a request detailing the number of hours they worked and the expenses they incurred during the two-year litigation that ended in a weeklong

See JORDAN, A-8

Lee backs lethal response to chase

More than 100 shots
left teen driver dead

By Michelle Hunter
East Jefferson bureau

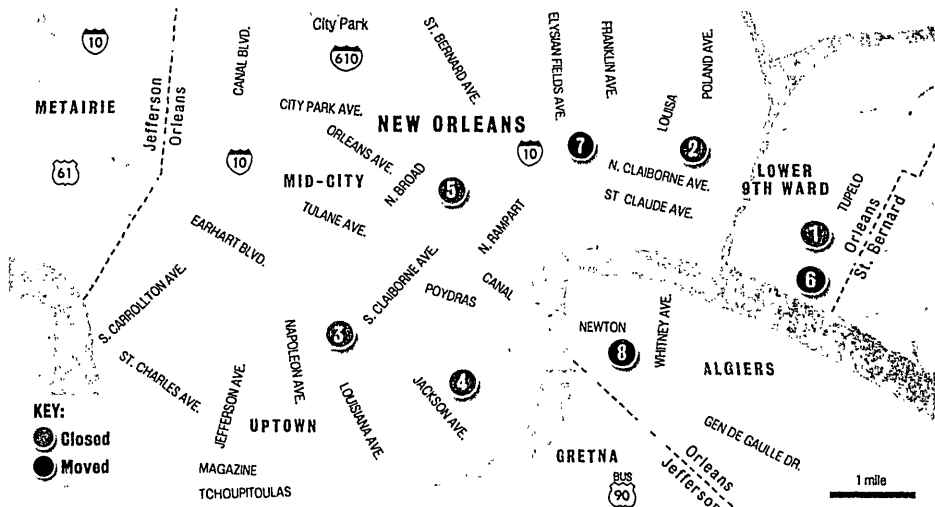
A day after deputies fired more than 100 shots at three suspected teenage car thieves during a chase through Jefferson Parish, Sheriff Harry Lee said Tuesday he steadfastly supports the lethal action taken by the deputies.

The wild chase ended on Jefferson Highway in River Ridge with a shower of bullets from deputies that left the driver, Antoine Colbert, 16, dead and his two 16-year-old passengers slightly wounded. The three teens, all from New Orleans, were unarmed.

"We had to stop that guy," Lee said. "If it took 300 bullets and they told me they shot 300 times, would have been OK with me. We just had to stop him."

The first shots fired during the chase came not at the culmination of the pursuit but in the

See CHASE, A-6



Five elementary schools to close

MIDDLE SCHOOLS MIGHT SURVIVE

SCHOOL CHANGES

1. LOUIS ARMSTRONG ELEMENTARY

Closing and merging with Hardin. The new school will be called Armstrong.

2. WILLIAM FRANTZ ELEMENTARY

Closing and merging with Lockett. The new school will be called Frantz.

3. JOHN HOFFMAN ELEMENTARY

Closing and merging with Lafon.

4. ANDREW JACKSON ELEMENTARY

Closing and merging with Laurel. Students also have the option of attending New Orleans Free School.

5. GEORGE MONDY ELEMENTARY

Closing and merging with Lafon.

6. MARTIN LUTHER KING MIDDLE

Moving from leased church to Louis Armstrong Elementary.

7. MIDDLE SCHOOL ALTERNATIVE

Moving from leased building to Hoffman Elementary.

8. HIGH SCHOOL ALTERNATIVE

Moving to Booker T. Washington.



STAFF PHOTO BY TED JACKSON

Orleans Parish School Board member Una Anderson, left, listens Tuesday as interim Deputy Superintendent Ora Watson talks about school closures. The School Board voted 6-to-1 in favor of the school closures plan, with board member Heidi Daniels voting against it.

By Brian Thevenot
Staff writer

After a series of delays and bitter debates, the Orleans Parish School Board voted Tuesday to close five schools, move three others and restore many of the system's failing middle schools.

The schools to close, all elementary schools, are William Frantz, Louis Armstrong, John Hoffman, George Mondy and Andrew Jackson.

The closures represent a compromise from the original plan presented by interim Deputy Superintendent Ora Watson, which called for closing twice as many schools. The board

voted 6-to-1 in favor of the compromise plan, with board member Heidi Daniels voting against it. The action came at a special meeting called a week after the board tabled the matter, citing serious concerns.

The middle school portion of the plan, however, faces another political hurdle before the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education. That's because the state board approved phasing out the middle schools

See CLOSURES, A-7

► School Board majority votes to sue its president, forcing him to sign deal handing over financial control to outside contractor, A-7

Former FBI official W. Mark Felt is legendary Watergate source

'I'M ... DEEP THROAT'



AP PHOTO

By David Von Drehle
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Deep Throat, the secret source whose insider guidance was vital to The Washington Post's groundbreaking coverage of the Watergate scandal, was a pillar of the FBI named W. Mark Felt, The Post confirmed Tuesday.

As the No. 2 man at the bureau during a period when the FBI was battling for its independence against the administration of President Richard Nixon, Felt had the means and the motive to help uncover the web of internal spies, secret surveillance, dirty tricks and cover-ups that led to Nixon's unprecedented resignation on Aug. 9, 1974, and to prison sentences for some of Nixon's highest-ranking aides.

See THROAT, A-4

Senate weighs bill to snuff indoor smoking

By Scott Sternberg
Business writer

Port of Call's general manager, Mike Mollere, has considered creating a no-smoking section in his Esplanade Avenue restaurant, but a bill scheduled to be debated today in the state Senate may force him to ban smoking entirely.

Senate Bill 354, which is at the top of the Senate's agenda this morning, would ban smoking in virtually all indoor public places in Louisiana, including restaurants and bars, although they could still let smokers light up in outdoor areas, such as patios.

Most businesses in the state that employ four or more workers would be required to adhere to the ban, including bowling alleys, pool halls and indoor sports arenas. Hotels and motels would be required to have no more than 25 percent of their

See SMOKING, A-6

Gift paves way for war-themed parade ground

D-Day donor honors his uncle, his hero

By Elizabeth Mullener
Staff writer

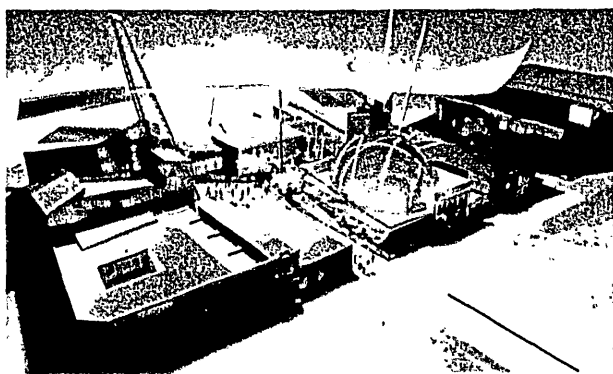
James Barksdale, onetime CEO of Netscape, called his uncle on Memorial Day to say he was donating \$5 million to the National D-Day Museum in his honor.

"He's one of my heroes and I

wanted to do this for him," Barksdale said.

The gift assures the construction of a parade ground through the center of a proposed new campus that will quadruple the size of the museum. A meandering walkway considered a signature element of the expansion, the parade ground will offer space for ceremonial occasions and some respite from the intensity of the exhibits as well as the opportunity to stroll from one museum

See MUSEUM, A-6



The parade ground, to be landscaped to evoke the various theaters of combat in World War II, will be covered with a huge white canopy, as seen in this artist's sketch. The gift by James Barksdale, ABOVE, is the largest private donation to the National D-Day Museum.