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CANTON CALLS

Drew Brees makes Saints history again, earns Hall of Fame induction on first ballot



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

Former New Orleans Saints quarterback Drew Brees is the first Saints player to gain induction into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in his first year of eligibility.

BY JEFF DUNCAN
Staff writer

SAN FRANCISCO — From cast-off to Canton. Drew Brees completed one of the most improbable journeys in pro football history Thursday when he was announced as a Pro Football Hall of Fame member in the class of 2026. Brees is joined in the class by Larry Fitzgerald, the former Arizona Cardinals receiver who also earned induction on his first ballot; Carolina Panthers linebacker Luke Kuechly; Patriots and Colts kicker Adam Vinatieri; and Roger

COMING SUNDAY

► Check out Sunday's edition for a special section to commemorate Drew Brees' selection to join the game's greats in Canton, Ohio.

Craig, the former San Francisco 49ers running back who was inducted via the pool of senior player candidates. "It's pretty surreal," Brees said Thursday night in San Francisco. "There's been a lot of reflection tonight. It's an absolute honor and privilege to

go into the Hall with these guys (in the Class of 2026)." Brees' longtime Saints teammate, offensive guard Jahri Evans, did not gain induction in his third year as a finalist. New Orleans natives Eli Manning and Reggie Wayne also did not make the cut. Brees is the first Saints player to gain induction in his initial year of eligibility. He joins Morten Andersen, Rickey Jackson, Sam Mills and Willie Roaf as the only players who played the majority of their careers in New Orleans to earn induction.

► See **BREES**, page 6A

EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH METRO COUNCIL

Removing Dunn from airport panel on agenda

Council member indicted on bribery, money laundering charges

BY PATRICK SLOAN-TURNER
Staff writer

A member of the East Baton Rouge Metro Council has called for a vote on removing council member Cleve Dunn Jr. from the Baton Rouge Airport Commission after Dunn was indicted on charges including bribery and money laundering.

In a statement Thursday, council member Dwight Hudson announced he was placing an introductory item on the council agenda for next Wednesday's meeting. If the council adopts the item for Dunn's removal, a public hearing would be held on Feb. 25. Then, on March 25, either a public or private hearing would be held in which Dunn could testify to his colleagues.



Dunn

► See **DUNN**, page 6A

State warned about parents of dead boy

Ascension child's living conditions, prior reports under scrutiny

BY QUINN COFFMAN
and CHRISTOPHER CARTWRIGHT
Staff writers

State child protection officials acknowledged Thursday that the agency received complaints about the parents of 5-year-old Marley Perrilloux, who earlier this week were charged with murder in what authorities have said was a case of neglect and perhaps starvation.

► See **DEATH**, page 7A

Trump endorses Miguez for Congress

Other candidates intend to stay in race

BY ALYSE PFEIL
Staff writer

President Donald Trump endorsed Blake Miguez for Congress on Wednesday, once again shaking

up Louisiana politics with a late-night Truth Social post. But Miguez's competitors said Thursday they intend to stay in the race — a sharp contrast with Trump's endorsement last month of U.S. Rep. Julia Letlow, R-Baton Rouge, to challenge Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-Baton Rouge, which drove several candidates to drop out of

the Senate race. Trump in a social media post called Miguez, a Republican state senator from Acadiana, a "MAGA warrior." He said the lawmaker would "work tirelessly" to support a long list of policy priorities that align with the Make America

► See **MIGUEZ**, page 7A



State Sen. Blake Miguez, R-New Iberia, is running for the 5th Congressional District despite not living in the district.

STAFF FILE PHOTO BY JAVIER GALLEGOS