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Push on to finish ‘road to nowhere’



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT DUKE

State Rep. Jacob Braud, R-Belle Chasse, stands at the end of Peters Road in Belle Chasse on Aug. 15.

Plaquemines Parish has wanted bridge over Intracoastal Waterway to Jefferson for decades

BY BLAKE PATERSON
Staff writer

State Rep. Jacob Braud walked to the end of an access road south of the Naval Air Station in Plaquemines Parish and stepped from smooth asphalt onto a gravel path.

“It’s literally a road to nowhere,” said the Belle Chasse Republican as he surveyed a pile of trash dumped at the dead end. “Would Texas build a road to nowhere?”

It’s here, about a mile and a half away from the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, where Louisiana spent more than \$16 million on an access road for what was supposed to be a new bridge. The span, a dream of locals for decades, would have traversed the man-made canal that divides much of Plaquemines from Jefferson Parish. The road opened in 2014. Then work stopped. The bridge was never built.

Now, there’s new momentum around finishing the job.

Traffic snarls from the construction of the Venture Global LNG export terminal near Port Sulphur



➤ See **ROAD**, page 6A

ELECTION 2025
NEW ORLEANS MAYOR

Poll tracks Moreno’s big lead

Numbers show Duplessis moving into second place

BY JAMES FINN
Staff writer

As the federal indictment of Mayor LaToya Cantrell grabbed the attention of New Orleans this week, the race to elect Cantrell’s successor heated up, with a new poll showing Helena Moreno maintaining a wide lead and attacks starting to fly at the front-runner.

The poll from WWL Louisiana, which was conducted by New Orleans-based Fauchaux Strategies, shows Moreno, the City Council vice president, was supported by 47% of 600 registered voters polled between Aug. 8 and Aug. 14.

That’s the same percentage of support Moreno secured in a pair of polls by analyst Ron Fauchaux earlier this year, an indication that the New Orleans City Council vice president, who launched her campaign in December and has dominated the fundraising circuit, remains the person to beat.

But in a shift, state Sen. Royce Duplessis polled second in the race with 18% of respondents saying they’d vote for him, overtaking City Council member Oliver Thomas, who came in third with 16% in Fauchaux’s latest poll. In a survey by Fauchaux last month, Thomas polled second and Duplessis third.

Fourteen percent of respondents are undecided in the new poll, which had a 4% margin of error, while 5% are supporting one of several lesser-known candidates.

The results suggest that Duplessis has added to his support since a fourth major candidate, retired Judge Arthur Hunter, bowed out of the race this month and announced he would campaign alongside the state lawmaker. Still, both Duplessis and Thomas will need to make up a lot of ground with voters in coming weeks as the Oct. 11 primary approaches.

“The biggest news in the poll was Royce overtaking Oliver,” Fauchaux said in an interview



Moreno



Duplessis



Thomas

➤ See **POLL**, page 6A

Charter school for dyslexic students OK’d

BY ELYSE CARMOSINO
Staff writer

A charter school for children with dyslexia was given the green light to open a new location in Jefferson Parish this week after the state’s Board of Education approved the move despite debate over whether the school, which already operates other campuses throughout the state,

➤ See **SCHOOL**, page 8A



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY JAVIER GALLEGOS

Louisiana Key Academy operates campuses throughout the state, including in Baton Rouge. It has been approved to open a new location in Jefferson Parish.

All 55 million U.S. visas under review

Violations could lead to deportation

➤ **Crackdown has D.C. residents on edge.** PAGE 13A

BY MATTHEW LEE
AP diplomatic writer

WASHINGTON – The Trump administration said Thursday it is reviewing more than 55 million people who have valid U.S. visas for any violations that could lead to deportation, part of a growing crackdown

on foreigners who are permitted to be in the United States.

In a written answer to a question from The Associated Press, the State Department said all U.S. visa holders, which can include tourists from many countries, are

➤ See **VISAS**, page 8A