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# The Times-Picayune

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## La. players indicted in federal gambling probe

Investigation nets more than 39 players nationwide

BY GUERRY SMITH  
 Contributing writer

Former Tulane forward Kevin Cross was indicted in a Pennsylvania federal court on Thursday morning for point-shaving during the 2023-24 season as part of a sweeping investigation that also involved Nicholls State, included more than 39 men's basketball players on 17 NCAA teams and started a year earlier in Chinese professional basketball.

► **Federal prosecutors reveal sprawling scheme.**

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According to the indictment, Cross, then a senior, was approached in mid-February of 2024 and offered payment to underperform in a Feb. 18 game at East Carolina. He proceeded to take only two shots in 32 minutes while scoring a season-low four points — far below his team-leading average of 17.5 — as the Green Wave lost 81-67 as a 2½-point underdog. Federal prosecutors said he was paid approximately \$30,000 after the fixers raked in at least \$140,000 from bets placed on East Carolina.

Two weeks later, Cross agreed to shave points in a March 2 game at Florida Atlantic, according to the indictment, but that attempt was unsuccessful. He scored 14 points, and Tulane, a 15-point

► See **GAMBLING**, page 10A

### THE PLAYERS

The defendants who played basketball at Louisiana universities and are facing charges of bribery, fraud or aiding and abetting include:



**Kevin Cross**  
 Tulane forward  
 2020-2024



**Oumar Koureissi**  
 Nicholls forward  
 2023-2024



**Dyouvion 'Jah' Short**  
 UNO guard  
 2023-2025



**Cedouvious 'Dae Dae' Hunter**  
 UNO guard  
 2024-2025

**Diante Smith**  
 Nicholls forward  
 2023-2024

**Carlos Hart**  
 UNO guard  
 2023-2024

Two people associated with the Northwestern State University men's basketball team were implicated in Thursday's indictment, but not named.

### THE GAMES

Documents identify eight games where Louisiana men's basketball players tried or successfully rigged games.

■ **McNeese at Nicholls**, Feb. 17, 2024  
 ■ **Tulane at East Carolina**, Feb. 18, 2024

■ **Northwestern State at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi**, Feb. 19, 2024  
 ■ **Tulane at Fla. Atlantic**, March 2, 2024

■ **UNO vs. Lamar**, March 11, 2024  
 ■ **UNO vs. McNeese**, Dec. 28, 2024

■ **UNO at Vanderbilt**, Dec. 30, 2024  
 ■ **UNO vs. Southeastern**, Jan. 11, 2025

## FEMA denies La. fund request

Landry sought \$52M to cover Super Bowl, Mardi Gras expenses

BY SOPHIE KASAKOVE  
 Staff writer

Last March, Gov. Jeff Landry's homeland security agency told Louisiana taxpayers they likely wouldn't be on the hook for \$52 million the state spent to beef up security in New Orleans and temporarily shelter homeless residents during the winter tourist season.

They hoped the federal government, months after a Bourbon Street attack exposed local security flaws, would pick up the tab instead. But that didn't happen, according to public records obtained by The Times-Picayune this week.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency has no money to reimburse Louisiana's costs associated with Super Bowl LIX and Mardi Gras 2025, a Department of Homeland Security senior official wrote to Louisiana National Guard Maj. Gen. Thomas Friloux in June.

While the state could have used its existing, unspent FEMA grants to reimburse its costs, there was no unspent cash to use, he said.

"FEMA does not have additional funding available to supplement the existing ... grant awards," wrote David Richardson, an assistant secretary at the Department of Homeland Security on June 13.

In a statement Wednesday, Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness spokesperson Mike Steele did not comment on the denial.

"The success of last year's Super

► See **FEMA**, page 10A

## Lender forecloses on Metairie Towers

Developer defaults on \$19M loan

BY STEPHANIE RIEGEL  
 Staff writer

The lender that helped finance the \$24.3 million purchase of Metairie Towers in 2024 is seeking to foreclose on the vacant apartment complex after developer Darren Aschaffenburg defaulted on his loan, court

documents show.

According to a lawsuit filed in 19th Judicial District Court, Atlanta-based Bay Point Capital, a real estate investment firm, initiated foreclosure procedures on Dec. 22 for default on a \$19 million promissory note dated October 2024.

The note has been accruing interest at more than \$15,800 a day. With late fees

► See **TOWERS**, page 14A



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER  
 Mayor Helena Moreno speaks in front of Christian Light Missionary Baptist Church on Thursday.

## Mayor launches new street repair initiative

BY BLAKE PATERSON  
 Staff writer

For the first time in 20 years, the city of New Orleans repaired a broken sidewalk this week using City Hall workers instead of outside contractors.

The brand-new concrete slab in front of the Christian Light Missionary Baptist Church in Tremé is only a few square feet, but Mayor Helena Moreno said it shows her administration is serious about

fulfilling her campaign promise to repair the city's streets and sidewalks.

"While it looks small, it's a big deal," Moreno said at a news conference Thursday morning. "We're going to be doing this in neighborhood after neighborhood after neighborhood."

The project is part of a new city-wide street maintenance program that Moreno launched on Monday

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WEATHER

**HIGH 71**  
**LOW 50**

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