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N.O. expects funding extension for roadwork



STAFF PHOTO BY SOPHIA GERMER

Roadwork is unfinished on the 300 block of North Rocheblave Street on Tuesday.

City hopeful feds OK finishing 6,000-block program

BY SOPHIE KASAKOVE
Staff writer

After months of uncertainty, New Orleans officials on Tuesday said they expect federal officials will sign off on a funding extension that would allow the city to finish the massive, 6,000-block roadwork program that's been tearing up and replacing city streets for the better part of a decade.

During a City Council committee meeting, Steve Nelson, the city's public works director, told council members that Moreno administration officials had "really productive phone calls" with Federal Emergency Management Agency officials on Friday that indicate extensions of the \$1.7 billion program, known as the Joint Infrastructure Recovery Request program, will come through.

"This is a major win for the city of New Orleans," said Nelson. "We are on the glide path to completion of the Hurricane Katrina recovery program."

The hopeful sign comes as officials grew increasingly concerned about the funding extension with the current deadline fast approaching and with residents weary of constant delays of road projects.

Without the extension, the cash-strapped city would need to scrounge up funds on its own when the July 1 deadline hits, or pause road projects that are already underway.

The extension would be at least the fifth that the city has received to finish the program roadwork, which is funded through a settlement with FEMA as part of the city's Hurricane Katrina recovery.

Still, the fate of some projects funded through separate tranches of Katrina money remains unclear. For instance, FEMA has not committed to extend the spending deadline for the work underway to stabilize the Municipal Auditorium, Nelson said, and Sewerage & Water Board officials, who oversee

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"This is a major win for the city of New Orleans. We are on the glide path to completion of the Hurricane Katrina recovery program."

STEVE NELSON,
New Orleans
public works director

Cassidy bucking Trump after election loss

Senator votes against war, won't support \$1B for ballroom

BY MARK BALLARD
Staff writer

WASHINGTON — U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy, for the first time, joined in a vote Tuesday to consider legislation ending the war in Iran, showing how he is less politically inhibited since failing in his reelection effort.

He joined three other Republicans in a largely symbolic 50-47 vote to discharge from committee a bill asserting congressional war powers authority to end military action against Iran. The action allows the Senate to put the resolution on the Senate calendar for another vote. A vote by the full Senate on passage hasn't been scheduled yet.

Should the resolution receive 51 votes for passage, the measure would then go to the House. If approved by the House, it would have to be signed by President Donald Trump.

Earlier in the day, Cassidy said he opposes



Cassidy

➤ See **CASSIDY**, page 8A

S&WB making headway on Dwyer Canal sewage leak

BY JONI HESS
Staff writer

Months after New Orleans East residents began complaining of a persistent stench emanating from the Dwyer Canal, Sewerage & Water Board officials said Tuesday that they've made headway on the raw sewage leaks and other issues that have created another black eye for the utility.

The S&WB found sewage leaks in multiple locations throughout the 3-mile-long canal, with

➤ See **SEWAGE**, page 6A

Helis Foundation President David Kerstein receives 2025 Loving Cup

Philanthropist honored for his support of arts

BY JOHN POPE
Contributing writer

Helis Foundation President David A. Kerstein received the 2025 Times-Picayune Loving Cup on Tuesday, surrounded by representatives of the artistic, cultural, civic and charitable organizations that have benefited from his work for decades.

The Helis Foundation supports myriad initiatives: the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, WWOZ-FM, WYES-TV, the New Orleans Police & Justice Foundation, the United Way and Second Harvest Food Bank. But Kerstein was quick to credit the contributions of all people who have worked with him over the years, many of whom crowded the Audubon Tea Room for the early evening ceremony.

"The importance of the Loving Cup lies in its acknowledgment that New Orleans is a great city and that

all great cities need great contributors," Kerstein said. "Virtually everyone here is such a contributor."

Among those in the audience were New Orleans Mayor Helena Moreno; New Orleans Police Superintendent Anne Kirkpatrick; singer Irma Thomas; Joe Giarrusso, the city's chief administrative officer; New Orleans City Council member Eugene Green; Kristin Gisleson Palmer, executive director of the Preservation Resource Center; Andy

➤ See **LOVING CUP**, page 7A



David Kerstein, right, receives the 2025 Loving Cup from John and Dathel Georges, of Georges Enterprises and the Georges Media Group, during a ceremony at the Audubon Tea Room on Tuesday.

STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

WEATHER

HIGH 86
LOW 74

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