



— SINCE 1837 —

The Times-Picayune

THE NEW ORLEANS ADVOCATE

NOLA.COM | TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2026 \$2.00

Port container terminal clears major hurdle

Corps grants permits for \$2.6B St. Bernard Parish facility



PROVIDED IMAGE

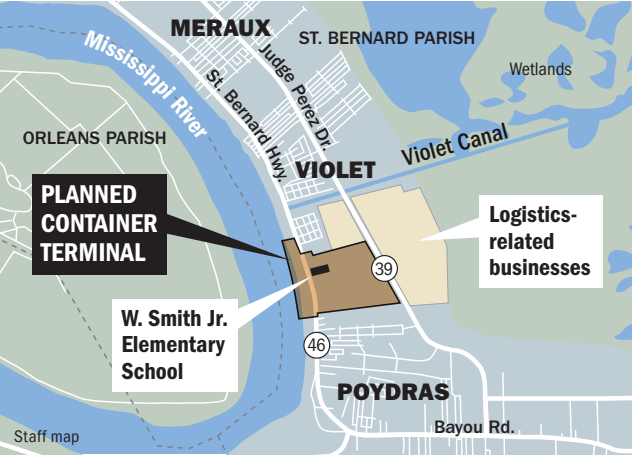
A rendering shows plans for the proposed Louisiana International Terminal in Violet in St. Bernard Parish.

BY STEPHANIE RIEGEL
Staff writer

The Port of New Orleans has secured a key federal approval for its planned container terminal in St. Bernard Parish, a major step forward in the yearslong effort to build a facility that will help the region remain competitive in global trade.

In a release Monday, the port said the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has granted permits authorizing construction of the Louisiana International Terminal, which will be located in Violet about 17 miles downriver of New Orleans.

The facility, which is expected to cost at least \$2.6 billion, according to the most recent estimates, is considered critical for Louisiana's maritime economy because the giant container ships that account for a growing share



of world shipping are too large to journey upriver and safely pass under the Crescent City Connection bridge.

"Today's permit turns years of engineering, environmental review and partnership into forward motion," Beth Branch, president and CEO of the port, said in a statement. "This is

not simply a regional port expansion; it is nationally significant infrastructure that will expand American export capacity and position Louisiana to lead the next generation of maritime commerce."

First conceived more than a decade ago, the project has been a top priority of local

economic development leaders and, more recently, of Gov. Jeff Landry's administration.

Still, the project still has a long way to go, both financially and logistically.

And it continues to face stiff opposition on the ground in St. Bernard Parish from elected officials and community groups who are worried about its impact on traffic, the environment and their quality of life.

The terminal will comprise more than 600 acres with 3,600 linear feet of wharf and a container yard capable of holding more than 62,850 containers at any given time, according to documents from the corps.

It also will have vehicle ramps, administrative buildings, an intermodal rail yard

► See **PORT**, page 5A

3 N.O. judicial candidates disqualified

Rulings on tax filings trip up hopefuls

BY MATT BRUCE
Staff writer

New Orleans Criminal Magistrate Judge Juana Marine Lombard was disqualified from the race to retain her seat after her opponent in the Nov. 3 election proved that she failed to file her state income taxes in 2023.

Lombard, who is the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court's chief judge, was one of three hopefuls removed from their respective races at the end of separate hearings at Orleans Parish Civil District Court on Monday. The others were Mark Lawes and Edward Washington.

Lombard was the only sitting incumbent of the trio to be ousted after Civil District Court Judge Veronica Henry sided against her claims that she thought her accountant filed her tax return.

"You can't go through life filing extensions and not paying your taxes," argued John Adcock, an attorney for Chanel Debose. Debose is challenging Lombard in the race.

Immediately after Monday's hearing, Lombard's attorney, Jerome Matthews, lodged a petition to challenge the ruling at the 4th Circuit Court of Appeal. Henry granted Lombard a stay while the appeal is underway so Lombard can continue to run her campaign at a crucial juncture when candidates are lobbying for endorsements.

"We're confident that we're in the right and hopefully an appellate court will agree," Lombard said as she walked out of the courtroom.

Lombard said during the hearing that she believed she'd filed her taxes for the past five years, as required by law, when she qualified to run this month. That was in part because her accountant of the past 17 years submitted her 2023 state and federal returns at the same time after preparing



Lombard



Lawes



Washington

► See **CANDIDATES**, page 7A

U.S., Israel meet on Gaza ceasefire

BY JULIA FRANKEL, SAMY MAGDY
and WAFAA SHURAF
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — A marathon meeting Monday between U.S. negotiator Jared Kushner and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu left the fate of the Gaza ceasefire unclear, with officials signaling moderate optimism but offering no concrete commitment by Israel to the latest U.S.-proposed plan.

Hamas has already agreed to the proposal. American negotiators appeared to acquiesce to Israeli demands that Hamas disarmament must come before

► See **GAZA**, page 5A



STAFF FILE PHOTO BY DAVID GRUNFELD

The Boomtown Casino first opened on the Harvey Canal in 1994 and houses over 700 slot machines and 20 table games across three stories.

Riverboat casino is headed ashore

West Bank's Boomtown will also get new name

BY LARA NICHOLSON
Staff writer

Boomtown New Orleans Casino, a riverboat casino on the West Bank, will relocate to a \$195 million land-based facility under a new name, the latest of Louisiana's riverboat gambling houses to come ashore in an effort to expand amenities and grow gaming revenues.

PENN Entertainment, the

national gaming company that owns Boomtown and several other Louisiana casinos, said Monday it plans to build a 140,000-square-foot casino on land near the riverboat in Harvey, under the new name Hollywood Casino New Orleans.

The new casino will include 875 slot machines, 45 table games, a retail sportsbook, VIP lounge and several restaurants and bars, including a steakhouse, pending regulatory approval. The facility is set to open in 2029 next to the existing hotel and

► See **CASINO**, page 7A

