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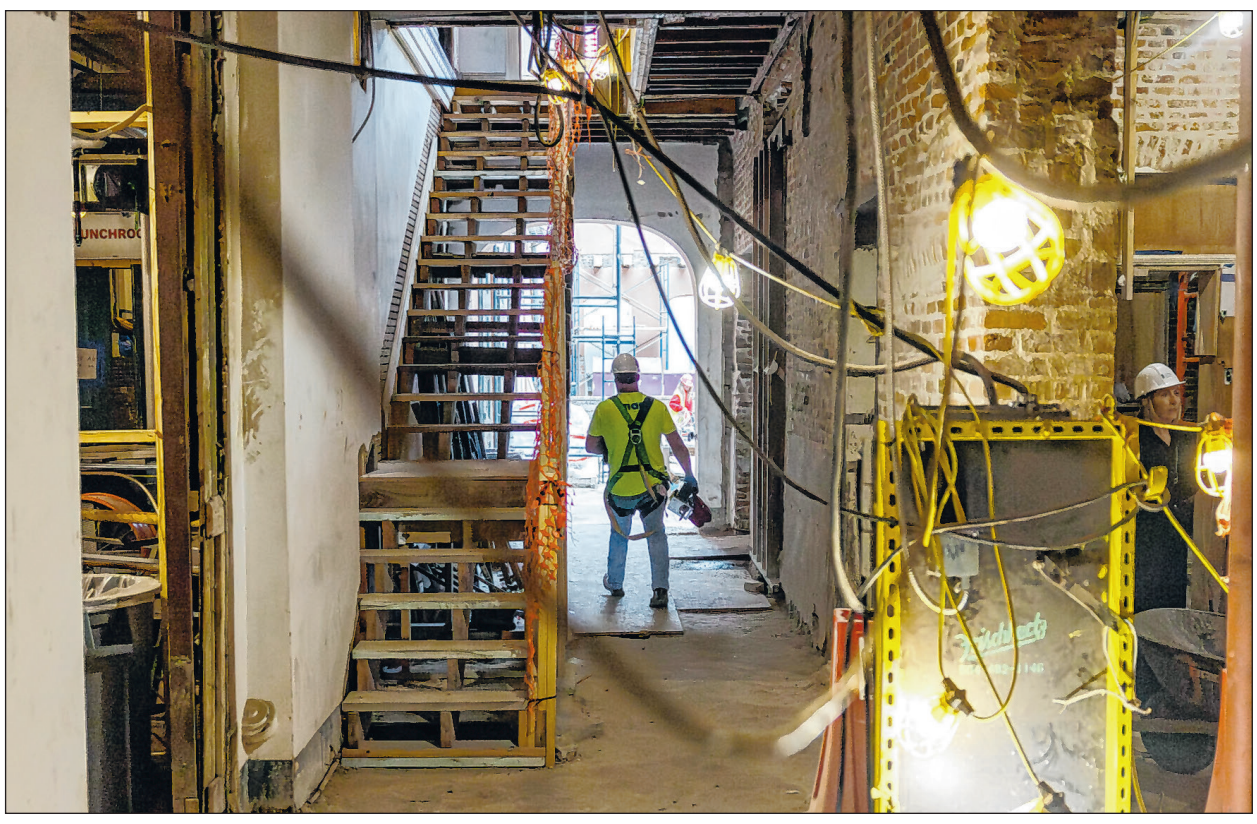
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THE NEW ORLEANS ADVOCATE

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$35M Quarter renovation reveals stories of the past



STAFF PHOTOS BY ENAN CHEDIAK

Renovations are underway at The Historic New Orleans Collection on Nov. 19.

Historic New Orleans Collection project will expand public engagement

BY STEPHANIE RIEGEL
Staff writer

The contractors renovating The Historic New Orleans Collection's headquarters in the heart of the French Quarter knew they were taking on a monumental project.

But what they've uncovered in the year since embarking on the $35 million renovation on Royal Street has far exceeded their expectations: more than 900 artifacts. Hidden doorways and windows. And literal layers of history buried under two centuries of plaster, paint and flagstone pavers.

"We've been peeling back the layers on these buildings, and in the process, so many secrets have been revealed," said Erin Greenwald, the organization's deputy director, on a recent hard-hat tour. "It is a fascinating process."



Layers of history were buried under two centuries of plaster, paint and flagstone pavers.

The renovation marks the culmination of the organization's yearslong plan to transform the complex of 18th- and 19th-century buildings and courtyards at 533 Royal St. — its headquarters since 1966 — from a mixed-use facility with exhibits, offices, workshops and collections storage into public-facing galleries, an education center, interactive experiences and event spaces.

When completed and reopened in 2029, the buildings will be completely dedicated to public engagement for the first time in the organization's 60-year history.

The project is part of a broader vision to create a vibrant cultural destination in the French Quarter that will seek to attract more than 300,000 visitors a year. At the same time, the aim is to preserve and interpret the historic buildings and the stories of the people who lived and worked in them over more than 200 years.

"Our ambition is to make a really significant contribution to how the French Quarter serves the city, how this place, that is so historic and so important in the world, serves New Orleans," said The Historic New Orleans Collection President and CEO

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SEC poised to vote on expelling LSU

Consequences could be devastating for athletic department

BY KOKI RILEY
Staff writer

On Thursday, the 16 member schools of the Southeastern Conference will vote on potentially expelling LSU — a member school since 1932 — from the league.

The consequences could be devastating, potentially crippling LSU's athletic department financially for years to come.

As outlandish as the possibility seems, only 11 of the conference's 16 schools would have to approve the expulsion measure for LSU to be kicked out, and media reports indicate the league has the votes if it wants to take that path. It would be an unprecedented move; the SEC has never kicked out a school.

If LSU were eliminated from the conference, it likely would become an independent school, free of any conference but without the stable income the SEC provides.

So how did it come to this?

The controversy began in the spring, when the university started recruiting ex-professional

➤ See **LSU,** page **5A**

Kenner's Hispanic immigrant community on edge

ICE arrests have intensified

BY LARA NICHOLSON and JUSTIN O'CONNOR
Staff writers

Every trip out of the house is an act of faith for Yanire.

An undocumented immigrant from Honduras who has lived in the U.S. for 18 years, she won't take housecleaning jobs too far from her Kenner home — anything over the Causeway Bridge seems risky, she said — and when she goes somewhere she plans her route to bypass spots where immigration advocacy groups have warned of Immigration and Customs Enforcement sightings.

She saves errands she considers unsafe for when her daughter, a U.S. citizen, visits home from college on the weekends: Hispanic supermarkets and Walmart, to name a few.

Yanire, who declined to publicly disclose her full name, has no criminal background and said she pays taxes each year. She put her feelings about ICE's operations plainly: "It's like hunting."

➤ See **COMMUNITY,** page **3A**

WEATHER
HIGH 75
LOW 50
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