



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRIS GRANGER

The saddle of P.G.T. Beauregard features several medallions of iconic Louisiana images such as a mother pelican feeding her young. Beauregard was born in St. Bernard Parish and had the saddle made in Paris, affixed with the state seal of Louisiana. The saddle was stolen during the Civil War.

Group brings storied saddle to N.O.

SADDLE, from B-1

on St. Claude Avenue at the Orleans-St. Bernard parish line.

The saddle is on loan from the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts, formed in 1638 to train officers for militias. It is the third-oldest chartered military organization in the world, and the oldest in the Western Hemisphere. Representatives of the group were in the New Orleans area last week to escort the saddle to the museum and participate in several wreath layings, including one at Chalmette Monument on the site of the Battle of New Orleans.

"In view of the fact Beauregard was from St. Bernard, (the

display) is really a significant opportunity for people to see something that has a connection with this area," said Stan Amerski, curator of the Jackson Barracks museum.

"It should strike a whole bunch of interest" among history and military buffs, as well teachers interested in organizing a field trip for students, Amerski said. He said groups can arrange a free tour by calling (504) 278-8242. The museum is open Mondays through Fridays from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The federal government auctioned the saddle as contraband after its capture, and it was purchased by a Union officer, Col. Charles Whelden, who used it during the remainder of the

war, Amerski said.

Whelden was a member of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, and when he died his widow donated the saddle to the group's museum in Faneuil Hall in Boston.

The saddle was accompanied to New Orleans by about 150 members of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts.

Today, the Massachusetts group plays a supportive role in preserving the historic and patriotic traditions of the military. Its members include Boston area businessmen, some current and former military men, and it has had four of its members become U.S. presidents: James Monroe, Chester Alan Arthur,

Calvin Coolidge and John F. Kennedy.

William J. O'Brien, a retired banker, holds the title of captain commanding of the Massachusetts group. O'Brien said the group makes an annual trip and that when members chose New Orleans, they thought the saddle would be of interest because Beauregard was a native of the area.

"It is outstanding that they had the thought of combining their annual activities with bringing this artifact home to a place where it can be really appreciated," Amerski said.

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'Quick-take' rules approved for blight

BOND, from B-1

utive Rod West and banker John Kallenborn are leading the effort to raise private money for a \$200,000 "advocacy campaign" that could explicitly urge voters to support the bond issue. Veteran political consultant Jim Carvin would handle that campaign if the money can be raised.

In other actions Thursday, all by unanimous votes, the council:

- Agreed to let the city implement a "quick-take" procedure for expropriating abandoned and blighted housing. The expedited procedure was authorized by a law the Legislature passed this year at the request of the Nagin administration. Under the procedure, a judge quickly determines whether the property can be expropriated, with a trial to determine its value delayed until later. Under the initial application of the law, Comprehensive Central City Initiative of New Orleans Inc. will buy 17 blighted properties for rehabilitation after the city seizes them. Despite the expedited procedure, Kristi Kendrick of the city attorney's office said the owners will retain all their rights and will be entitled to compensation based on the properties' appraised value.

- Agreed to a request by Southern University at New Orleans to change the name of the easternmost block of Robert E. Lee Boulevard, between Press Drive and Campus Boulevard, to Emmett W. Bashful Boulevard.

Bashful was SUNO's founding chancellor and led the school for 28 years. The only building in the block is a church, whose address is on Press Drive. Although a state law prohibits naming public buildings after living people, it does not apply to streets. Longtime activist Dyan French Cole said the city should consider changing the name of the entire boulevard, not just one block, to honor Bashful.

- Amended the design rules for mobile home parks "in view of the contemporary usage of recreational vehicles." Councilwoman Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson said the changes will allow RVs to use such facilities. She said developer Tom Bauer plans to build an RV park behind the Winn-Dixie supermarket across Orleans Avenue from the Municipal Auditorium. Bauer also built the Winn-Dixie.

- Confirmed Nagin's reappointment of Byron Harrell, president of Baptist Community Ministries, to the board of the Downtown Development District, and Nagin's appointments of businessman Alton Doody to the New Orleans Historic District Landmarks Commission, where he replaces Byron Hughey, and of Tessa Jackson to the New Orleans Public Library Board, where she succeeds Suzanne Ormond, who died in February.

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AD REPORTER

By Martin Covert



Dillard's and Wacoal, the lingerie design and manufacturing firm, will draw attention to breast cancer awareness and research this week with custom fittings and donations to the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation for every bra sold at the stores. An Awareness Pin will also be offered at the fittings, while supplies last.

Building to unify schools' resources

MEDICAL, from B-1

purchasing of core resources and building of space. We're progressing on all three fronts," said Dr. Roy Weiner of Tulane, co-director of what is formally known as the Louisiana Cancer Research Consortium in New Orleans.

"Our hope is that we will be able to build on strength," said Dr. Oliver Sartor of LSU, the other co-director.

Ten scientists have been hired from such renowned institutions as Memorial Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center, the Mayo Clinic, the University of Texas M.D. Anderson Cancer Center and Yale University. In addition to their expertise, they bring federal grants totaling nearly \$4 million into the New Orleans area, Weiner said.

They eventually will occupy a building at Tulane and South Claiborne avenues, between Interstate 10 and St. Joseph Church. The estimated \$50 million price tag will be financed by revenue bonds.

The architects are Hillier Architecture of Princeton, N.J.,

and the New Orleans firm of Lyons & Hudson. Construction is expected to begin in the first quarter of next year and take about two years, Weiner said.

"It can't happen soon enough," he said. "We are bulging at the seams. It's impacting the tempo at which we can recruit new people."

The number of floors the building will have is not certain, although it is definite that office and research floors will sit atop a four- or five-story garage, which will not only provide parking space but also ensure that all the occupied areas will be at least as high as the elevated roadway.

Even though LSU and Tulane will make separate hires, and even though grants will be awarded to the universities individually, Weiner said the building's layout will have a symbol of the new unity: There will be no floors reserved for Tulane or LSU personnel.

The building is designed to bring together people with complementary skills "with no particular thought about which

school pays their salaries," he said.

LSU and Tulane came together slightly more than two years ago after each institution had been boosting its own cancer center.

"It's a consortium that brings together the best of LSU and Tulane and brings out the creativity," Sartor said.

Consortium personnel will be involved in research, treatment and drug development, and they will specialize in cancers of the breast, prostate, lung, head and neck, and ovary, as well as leukemia, lymphoma and myeloma.

Research topics will include molecular genetics, studies of

the way cells communicate, immunology, prevention and epidemiology.

Those specialties are based on faculty members' expertise, Weiner said.

The consortium plans to apply in about four years to the National Cancer Institute for designation as a cancer center, an accolade that not only recognizes excellence but also makes such an institution eligible to compete for members-only research grants.

There are 61 such centers, none of which is in Louisiana.

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