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SPORTS

The Times-Picayune

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BREAKING NEWS AT **NOLA.COM**

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NEW ORLEANS EDITION • 75¢

Progress faulted at youth prison

Advocates push for class-action lawsuit

By **Laura Maggi**
Staff writer

A year after advocates for accused juvenile delinquents filed a federal lawsuit alleging unconstitutional conditions at New Orleans' youth detention facility, they say little has been done to improve conditions there.

Attorneys from the Juvenile Justice Project of Louisiana say they are pushing the lawsuit more aggressively, filing a motion this month to establish the suit as a class-action based on depositions of juveniles held at the Youth Study Center this summer. The juveniles described sitting in cells for more than 20 hours a day, having little constructive contact with staff members, receiving haphazard education, and getting inadequate meals that sometimes include spoiled milk.

At the same time, these advocates said the city staff that runs the center is missing an opportunity to work with national experts to improve conditions there, specifically declining to work with experts at the Annie

See **LAWSUIT, A-6**

Council takes aim at Nagin's vetoes

Override expected at today's meeting

By **Bruce Eggler**
Staff writer

The New Orleans City Council seems poised to vote today to override Mayor Ray Nagin's veto of several major changes the council made to his proposed 2009 city operating budget. But conflict between the council and the mayor over how the city should spend its money next year is likely to continue.

The council will have a special meeting this afternoon to deal with Nagin's veto.

Several council members and aides said Tuesday they expect the council will override Nagin's action, perhaps by a unanimous vote, though one top aide warned that the final outcome "is kind of a moving target."

However, members are also expected to introduce several budget amendments that would not be voted on today but that

See **BUDGET, A-10**



Aretha Franklin



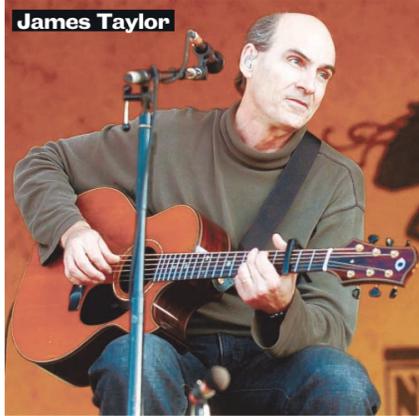
Dave Matthews



Wynton Marsalis



Bonnie Raitt



James Taylor



Tony Bennett



Terence Blanchard

STELLAR SOUNDS

Unveiling its lineup early, the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival offers up a strong bill of old favorites and new headliners

By **Keith Spera**
Music writer

By 1970, the first year of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival, Tony Bennett had been a star for two decades. The members of scruffy rock band Kings of Leon were not yet born.

Both are bound for the 40th Jazzfest, now presented by Shell.

They'll join Aretha Franklin, Sugarland, the Dave Matthews Band, James Taylor, the Neville Brothers, Maze featuring Frankie Beverly, Wynton Marsalis, Emmylou Harris, Wilco, The O'Jays, Pete Seeger, Ben Harper, Solomon Burke, Erykah Badu and hundreds more at the Fair Grounds

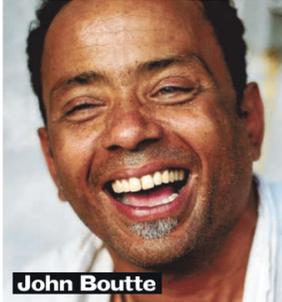
See **JAZZFEST, A-13**



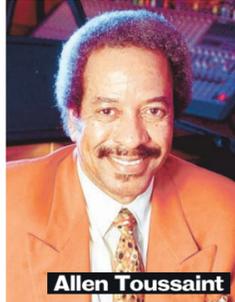
Pete Seeger



Dr. John

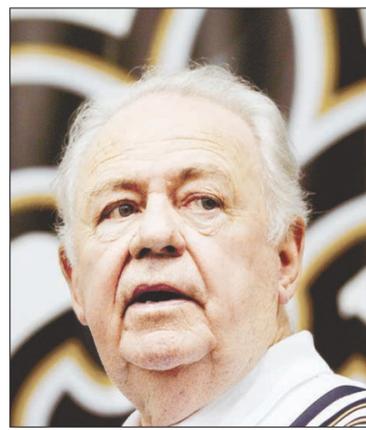


John Boutte



Allen Toussaint

COMPLETE JAZZFEST LINEUP, A-13



MATT ROSE / THE TIMES-PICAYUNE ARCHIVE

Benson undergoes cancer surgery

Doctor expects Saints owner to have 'full and complete recovery'

By **Teddy Kider**
Staff writer

Saints owner Tom Benson had surgery last week to remove a cancerous mass on his left kidney, the team announced Tuesday evening.

Benson, 81, had the 3-centimeter mass removed at Ochsner Medical Center in New Orleans on Dec. 10. He was released from the hospital Sunday night and is resting at home, according to Greg Bense, Saints vice president of communications.

"The mass was discovered when Mr. Benson came in for a CT scan for an unrelated issue," said Dr. John Amoss, Benson's personal physician and the Saints' team doctor. "Once this mass was detected, it was subsequently removed by freezing the mass and then removing it. It was diagnosed as early-stage renal cell cancer, and the prognosis for this type of cancer removed at this stage is excellent. We anticipate a full and complete recovery, and he will not need any radiation or chemotherapy."

Amoss said that had the mass not been discovered in its early stage, it "certainly could have been life-threatening." But Amoss is "very optimistic that this is a complete cure," as it typically is in 90 percent to 95 percent of similar cases.

The cancer did not spread to any other part of Benson's body, Amoss said, and the follow-up for this procedure is to monitor the kidney to make sure there are no more growths.

There are more than 51,000 new cases of kidney and renal pelvis cancer each year with almost 13,000 deaths a year from the disease, according to the American Cancer Society.

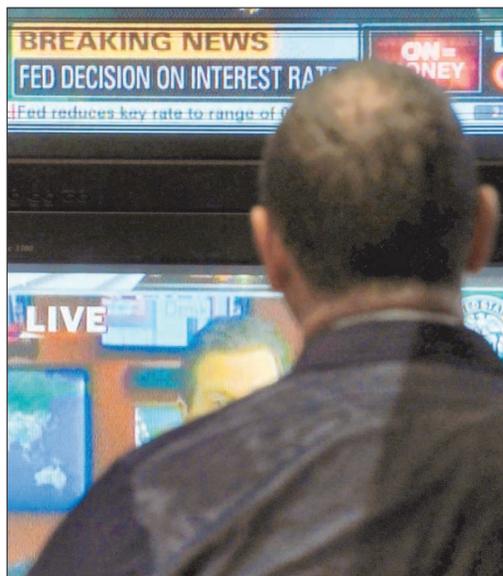
In April 2001, Benson underwent quadruple

See **BENSON, A-6**

SURPRISE SURGE

On the floor of the New York Stock Exchange, a specialist watches television reports Tuesday about the Federal Reserve's decision to slash interest rates by more than predicted. With the news, the Dow Jones industrials jumped 360 points.

See **story, C-6**



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Killing in Afghanistan hits very close to home

N.O. man is accused of cold-blooded crime

By **Bruce Alpert**
Washington bureau

WASHINGTON — Paula Loyd, a social scientist helping U.S. troops adjust to the cultural and political landscape of war-ravaged Afghanistan, was talking to residents of a village near Kandihar last month when, without warning, one of the men ignited a container of flammable liquid and tossed it at her, setting her on

fire.

With Loyd, 36, engulfed in flames, the attacker fled, running about 50 yards in the direction of Don Ayala, a New Orleans man working as a private security contractor to protect Loyd and other members of her Army Human Terrain System team. Ayala, according to an affidavit from an Army special agent, drew his pistol but did not fire, instead extending his arm to knock the attacker, Abdul Salam, to the ground.

Assisted by soldiers from C Company, 2-2 Infantry Battalion, Ayala subdued Salam, and handcuffed him with

See **AYALA, A-10**



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