

Metro



Eric Cook prepares Sugarshine Glazed Gulf Shrimp at his table during the Chefs Taste Challenge in the Great Hall at the Ernest N. Morial Convention Center on Friday. Photos by Michael DeMocker / mdemocker@nola.com



Investigators say Keyon Robin ordered his 18-year-old son to shoot Brian Rodrigue, who regularly bought heroin from Robin.

Father ordered son to shoot victim, JPSO says

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A heroin dealer ordered his 18-year-old son to shoot regular customer Brian Rodrigue, who died of multiple gunshot wounds, Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office investigators said.

Detectives arrested the accused dealer, Keyon Robin, 34, and his son, Keyon Smith, 18, on warrants for second-degree murder, said Col. John Fortunato, spokesman for the department.

Sheriff's Office dispatchers received reports of gunfire just before 10 p.m. Monday in the 1600 block of Apache Drive in Harvey. Deputies arrived and found Rodrigue, 37, lying in the street. He was pronounced dead.

Detective Ed Manix received a tip that Robin and his white Pontiac Grand Am

SEE SHOOTING, B2

GOLD MEDAL MENU

Ten chefs from around the country used their regional roots and the farm-to-table movement to inspire their culinary creations in the second annual Chefs Taste Challenge. Chef Eric Cook, of New Orleans' American Sector restaurant in the National World War II Museum, took the gold with his Sugarshine Glazed Gulf Shrimp.



Lee Anne Wong, of KH Restaurants LLC in Honolulu, delivers Thai-Style Fried Quail at her table during the Chefs Taste Challenge. Wong was the runner-up in Friday's competition.

Sex crimes unit progressing under NOPD consent decree, monitors say

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The New Orleans Police Department has made substantial progress in the way it responds to sexual and domestic violence cases, federal consent decree monitors said at a public hearing in federal court Thursday.

Lead monitor Jonathan Aronie said that while the sex crimes unit still needs improvement, it has reviewed and improved more than 40 policies, including those governing the use of body-worn cameras, crisis intervention and use of force.

"The New Orleans Police Department is taking the right steps to bring itself into compliance," Aronie said in reference to the consent decree, which was issued in June 2012 in response to civil rights violations and other misconduct by the department.

Aronie added that the NOPD is

SEE NOPD, B2

For more photos, see nola.com

Judge issued stinging rebuke of ex-DA Morel

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With a stinging rebuke, U.S. District Judge Kurt Engelhardt sentenced former St. Charles Parish District Attorney Harry Morel Jr. to three years in prison for obstructing the federal investigation into Morel's sexual harassment of women with pending court cases.

Now the transcript of that hearing has been made public.

In his statement, Engelhardt chastised Morel for breaking the public's trust as an elected official.

"Standing alone and in the absence of any other facts, the charge of obstruction of justice is significant even without an examination of the underlying facts," Engelhardt



At his sentencing, the judge chastised former St. Charles Parish District Attorney Harry Morel for breaking the public's trust.

said at the sentencing hearing on Wednesday. "Indeed, given a district attorney's role in bringing about justice, the very idea — the very idea — of a district attorney obstructing justice would on its face justify a sentence of at least three years or 36 months, which is the maximum sentence allowed here by statute."

Engelhardt, whom President George W. Bush appointed to the court, later

SEE MOREL, B2

Hustler Club sues over ruling on placement of signs in Quarter

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Larry Flynt's Hustler Club has filed a lawsuit seeking to overturn a ruling that the strip club's placement of 48 Hustler magazine covers on its Bourbon Street club violate rules about signs in the French Quarter.

The suit comes a month after the City Council denied the club's appeal of the ruling made by the Vieux Carre Commission, which found that the magazine covers were part of the club's signage and violate rules prohibiting excessive signage.

The club's attorney, Michelle Cumberland, argued before the City Council that the magazine covers qualify as art and are protected by the First Amendment.

City planners told the Council that the magazine covers qualify as signs because

SEE HUSTLER, B2

The lawsuit says ...

since the Vieux Carre Commission did not object to the signs within the 10-year window required under the law, the signs should be considered a legal, non-conforming use.

HUSTLER

FROM BI

some of them advertise services and specials, and list prices for those services.

The lawsuit, filed Aug. 12 and made public last week, makes many of the same arguments about why the signs should remain in place.

The lawsuit says the signs have been on the business since 1993, and since the Vieux Carre Commission did not object to the signs within the 10-year window required under the law, the signs should be considered a legal, non-conforming use.

The lawsuit adds that the signs "are not distinguishable from displays found on the doors of the T-shirt shops neighboring the property, or the windows of antique or art dealers on Royal Street," and it says forced removal of the signs is a violation of



Larry Flynt's Hustler Club has filed a lawsuit seeking to overturn a ruling that the strip club's placement of 48 Hustler magazine covers on its club violate rules about signs in the French Quarter. *Chris Granger / staff file*

the club's First Amendment rights.

The lawsuit asks the court

to rule that the actions of the commission are "null and void" and that it acted "arbi-

trarily, capriciously, unreasonably" and "ignored the law."

NOPD

FROM BI

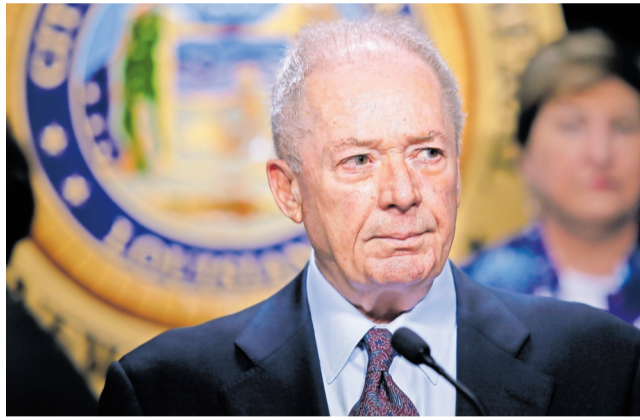
successfully collaborating with advocates and experts in sexual assault to create a more "community-oriented policing process." Evidence for that can be found in a 97 percent increase in reports of sexual assault this year compared to the same period in 2015, he said.

The news comes nearly two years after a November 2014 inspector general's report accused the NOPD of mishandling hundreds of reported sexual assault abuse cases. The report said five New Orleans police detectives entrusted to put rapists in jail and protect children from abusers routinely failed to perform proper investigations.

In an audit released in June, the inspector general said the department's sex crimes investigators and supervisors had properly documented and reviewed every rape case reported during a three-month period in 2015. Inspector General Ed Quatrevaux said the report represented a "remarkable turnaround."

Police Superintendent Michael Harrison on Thursday praised the Special Victims Section.

"Together we've put in place new policies, training and accountability measures that will ensure lasting reform," Harrison said. "We



In an audit released in June, Inspector General Ed Quatrevaux said the NOPD's sex crimes investigators and supervisors had properly documented and reviewed every rape case reported during a three-month period in 2015. He said the report represented a 'remarkable turnaround.' *David Grunfeld / staff file*

will continue to work aggressively to do everything we can to prevent sexual violence from happening and to support survivors of these terrible crimes."

In early 2015, Harrison put Doug Eckert in command of the department's Criminal Investigations Division, which includes the Special Victims Section. At the hearing, Eckert said the section has overhauled the way it reports, documents and investigates sexual assault cases.

To ease the workload on detectives and improve responses to survivors, the department has hired three civilian investigators, Eckert said. They have also hired three social workers to work with survivors and encourage what Eckert called a "vic-

tim-centered approach."

Eckert said the Special Victims Section is taking an aggressive approach to the way it processes rape kits, thanks to a \$1 million grant from the Department of Justice in 2015. The Police Department now collaborates with the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office and State Police to track and test rape kits at the State Police crime lab.

Eckert said the department has also improved its DNA testing capacity by hiring four crime lab analysts.

It plans to hire another three in the near future, he said.

Sgt. Rich Perry, a supervisor for the Domestic Violence Unit, said they have instituted a policy requiring detectives to ask four "vic-

Rodrigue. But he denied any involvement in the homicide.

Robin was booked into the Jefferson Parish Correctional Center in Gretna on drug charges. He was released Thursday on a \$41,000 bond.

Manix eventually met with Smith, Robin's son. During questioning, Smith admitted to shooting Rodrigue on his father's order, Fortunato said.

Smith was with Robin

that Monday night on Apache inside the Grand Am. After Robin told his son to act as the gunman, Smith got out of the car and confronted Rodrigue, shooting him with a semiautomatic pistol, Fortunato said.

Smith told investigators Rodrigue was still alive when he ran back to the car. The teen handed the gun to his father, and the pair drove off.

Detectives have not recovered the pistol.

Smith was taken into custody and booked early Friday with second-degree murder. He was being held without bond.

The U.S. Marshals Service Gulf Coast Regional Fugitive Task Force arrested Robin in Orleans Parish on Friday, Fortunato said.

Robin was being held at the Orleans Parish Prison but will be booked with murder when he is transferred to Jefferson Parish.

SHOOTING

FROM BI

were spotted near Apache just before the shooting, Fortunato said. Manix obtained a search warrant for Robin's residence at 1500 Lorene Drive in Harvey. Authorities took Robin into custody Tuesday and seized marijuana and cocaine, Fortunato said.

Investigators questioned Robin, who admitted routinely selling heroin to

MOREL

FROM BI

stated: "This sentence promotes respect for the law, provides just punishment for the crime charged, affords adequate deterrence and protects the public."

The facts of the case dictated that a maximum sentence be imposed, the judge said.

"Mr. Morel repeatedly took advantage of his vastly superior position of control and power against those over whom he, in his prosecutorial discretion, could reward or punish to serve himself," Engelhardt said. "Even worse, when this was discovered, Mr. Morel further sought to intimidate his victim, in this case, into destroying incriminating evidence of his wrongdoing."

"Standing alone and in the absence of any other facts, the charge of obstruction of justice is significant even without an examination of the underlying facts. Indeed, given a district attorney's role in bringing about justice, the very idea — the very idea — of a district attorney obstructing justice would on its face justify a sentence of at least three years or 36 months, which is the maximum sentence allowed here by statute."

U.S. District Judge Kurt Engelhardt

Morel, 73, was the top prosecutor in Louisiana's 29th Judicial District for 33 years.

He pleaded guilty to one count of obstruction of justice for instructing a woman

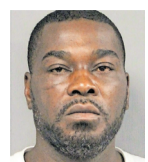
to destroy evidence in the government's investigation. In the process, he admitted he "solicited sex from other individuals who were defendants or who had family members who were defen-

dants in the St. Charles Parish criminal justice system.

During the sentencing hearing, he apologized and said "It's unfortunate that I did what I did."

Marrero man accused of stabbing nephew

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Charles Harris

A Marrero man who was "mad at his entire family" stabbed his nephew multiple times Thursday evening, authorities said.

Charles Harris, 47, of 2005 Gladstone Drive, was booked with aggravated second-degree battery, a Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office arrest report said.

The victim, a 39-year-old man, was taken to University Medical Center in New Orleans in critical condition.

Relatives at Harris' home told deputies he and his nephew began arguing Thursday around 5 p.m.

Authorities didn't say what caused the disagreement.

But Harris went to his bedroom and retrieved a kitchen knife as the argument escalated. He returned to the living room and allegedly stabbed his

nephew four times in the back and arm, the report said. Harris's nephew ran outside and collapsed to the ground.

When deputies arrived, Harris walked out the front door and yelled, "Yeah, I stabbed him. I told him not to come at me like that," the arrest report said.

Harris told deputies he stabbed the victim because he was mad at his entire family. Deputies took him into custody and booked him at the Jefferson Parish Correctional Center in Gretna.

Harris has a conviction for possession of cocaine, according to Jefferson Parish court records. He was being held still being held at the correctional center in lieu of a \$75,000 bond.

THE TV CROSSWORD



The identity of the featured performer is found within the answers in the puzzle. To take the TV Challenge, unscramble the letters noted with asterisks within the puzzle.

ACROSS

- Allen, for one
- "The ___"; 1976 Gregory Peck horror film
- Xenon or hydrogen
- Ending for pay or Motor
- "Lonesome ___"; 1989 Western miniseries
- 2011 animated film about a macaw
- Actor on "The Catch" (2)
- "Bill __, the Science Guy"
- Actor Cariou
- Skelton's Kadiddlehopper
- Frequent visitor to Mayberry's jail
- Gold, to a scientist
- "Just __ With It"; 2011 Adam Sandler movie
- Former talk show host Larry's initials
- Initials for Matthew Perry's "The Odd Couple" character
- Ms. Remini
- "The __ Breed"; 1966 James Stewart film
- Actor Tommy __ Jones

- Short-lived 2002-03 medical drama series
- Actor on "Nashville" (2)
- One of John-Boy's brothers
- Partner
- "__ World ___"; 2013 Lake Bell movie
- Yearbook section
- Eject from office
- "The ___"; 1995 Sandra Bullock film

DOWN

- "Invitation ___ Gunfighter"; 1964 Yul Brynner film
- "__ Fly Away"
- Patrick Dempsey's state of birth
- Cartoon dog
- "Married to the ___"; 1988 Michelle Pfeiffer movie
- Eddie's "Green Acres" costar
- Actress Carter
- "Lou ___" (1977-82)
- "Up in the ___"; 2009 George Clooney film
- Layer of turf
- "___ the Car" (1965-66)
- Bernstein and Nimoy
- "Better ___ Saul"; AMC crime drama series
- "Cool Hand ___"; 1967 Paul Newman movie
- Grandpa's pet bat on "The Munsters"
- "__ Like It Hot"
- Hale and Arkin
- Actor John ___
- Red Muppet
- "___ the Press"
- "___ Evening News with Scott Pelley"
- 2013 Joaquin Phoenix sci-fi movie
- Thirsty Frenchman's need
- Thomas More & Maximilian Kolbe; abbr.
- 90 degrees from NNW
- Natalie Cole's inspiration



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Hidato Sol.

8/21

19	18	16	13	12	9	118	117	116	100	101	
20	17	15	14	11	10	8	119	99	115		102
21	3	4	5	6	7	120	98	97		114	103
24	22	2	127	126	121	122	123		96	104	113
23	25	1	128	31	125	124		95	105	111	112
132	26	129	32	29	30		94	90	89	106	110
131	130	27	28	33		93	91	68	88	109	107
38	39	36	34		52	92	66	67	69	87	108
40	37	35		54	53	51	65	70	71	86	84
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43		46	48	56	59	60	63	75	78	79	82
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