

# New Orleans CITYBUSINESS

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## Closing credits roll on video stores

by **Richard A. Webster** Staff Writer

The sun may have set on the glory days of the video store.

At the end of July, Blockbuster will close locations in the Riverside Market on Tchoupitoulas Street and the Pavillion in Kenner across from the Esplanade Mall.

Blockbuster spokesman Randy Hargrove said the closures should not be seen as part of a larger trend or a move to downsize in favor of online ordering.

**Barrett Cooper** isn't buying it.

**Cooper**, a commercial real estate specialist for **Stirling Properties**, handles the Riverside Market and Pavilion properties. The Blockbuster stores at those locations have operated on month-to-month leases for some time while unsuccessfully negotiating for reduced rents — a sure sign business is down, he said.

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