

ANIMAL PLANET VISITS BATON ROUGE

Crowd interacts with wild, wooly beasts at State Fairgrounds expo.

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POLITICS



Boasso ads feature a cardboard Jindal

State Sen. Walter Boasso is ready to tackle U.S. Rep. Bobby Jindal in the governor's race...

Boasso, D-Arabi, recently rolled out two new campaign commercials in which he promises to make health care more affordable...

The commercials mention only one other candidate to the Oct. 20 race: Jindal, R-Kenner, who is widely perceived to be the frontrunner.

The first commercial opens with a shot of the cutout before panning to Boasso.

The commercial closes with a grinning Boasso picking up the cutout and walking off the screen with it.

The cutout pops up in the second commercial as well. Boasso notes it across a parking lot as he is described as the "big guy" ready to take on "the insurance industry... and Bobby Jindal."

GOP panel seeks regional primaries

The Republican State Central Committee appeared poised Saturday to urge national party leaders to consider "regional presidential primaries."

But the committee last night needed to transact business and went home.

Committee member Mike Bayham of Chalmette pushed the resolution noting that the presidential primary process has become "fractured" with 23 states voting Feb. 5.

Louisiana, whose primary used to be in March, moved its primary ballot to the second Saturday in February.

Though earlier, the nomination still may be locked up by the time Louisiana gets to vote, Bayham said. His resolution asked the Republican National Committee to devise and enact a plan for a regional rotational system by 2012.

But the resolution was sidetracked because so many members had left.

It's a problem that has plagued recent quarterly meetings of the 215-member party committee.

Blanco appoints Falterman to panel

Anthony G. "Tony" Falterman, district attorney for the 23rd Judicial District covering Ascension, Assumption and St. James parishes, is now a member of the Louisiana State University Board of Supervisors.

Falterman, of Napoleonville, was introduced to the board Saturday as successor to Marty J. Chabert, of Chauvin, whose term expired June 1, 2006. The Associated Press reported.

Chabert was seated in 2004 to fill the unexpired term of Bernie Broadmann, who had been named to an at-large spot on the 16-member panel.

Falterman, 60, was appointed by Gov. Kathleen Blanco.

Hines, Kennedy spar on the radio

Two of the state's top leaders called each other names on New Orleans radio last week.

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Police: No time to waste Agencies to learn responses to 'active shooters'

BY KIMBERLY VETTER Advocate staff writer

Responding to a crisis such as the one at Virginia Tech in April where 32 people were killed by a gunman isn't the job of just special response teams any more.

"In situations like Columbine and Virginia Tech, the killing starts immediately and the reaction by law enforcement must be immediate and effective to minimize loss of life," said East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff Greg Flores.

"There is no time to wait for SWAT (special weapons and tactics teams)," he said.

The course, called Law Enforcement Active Shooter Emergency Response, is being hosted by the Sheriff's Office and LSU's National Center for Biomedical Research and Training Center, Academy of Counterterrorism Education.

"Every ounce of training will work to improve our ability to respond quicker. Quicker, more efficient response means saving lives."

LSU POLICE CHIEF RICKY ADAMS

West Irree Road in Zachary.

The course, called Law Enforcement Active Shooter Emergency Response, is being hosted by the Sheriff's Office and LSU's National Center for Biomedical Research and Training Center, Academy of Counterterrorism Education.

Former law enforcement officers and military operations personnel who have used rapid deployment techniques during their careers will teach the course and focus on active-shooter situations at educational institutions, a Sheriff's Office news release quoted Fred Raiford as saying.

The instructors will provide classroom and field training, Raiford said, including scenario-based exercises during which participants will implement a rapid deployment to an active-shooter incident.

"Every ounce of training will

work to improve our ability to respond quicker," said LSU Police Chief Ricky Adams. "Quicker, more efficient response means saving lives."

Initially, the course was going to be only for LSU police officers, Flores said. But, after the Virginia Tech massacre, he and Adams decided to make the course available to officers across the state.

In addition to providing the facility for the training, the Sheriff's Office is footing the bill of about \$3,000 for the

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City debates historic look



Advocate staff photo by ARTHUR D. LAMM

Elvin Watts, co-owner of the Theatre Antiques Mall in Denham Springs, supports the creation of a historic district and commission for the downtown area, which would oversee changes to buildings there.

How far should preservation go in Denham Springs?

BY BOB ANDERSON Florida Parishes bureau

DENHAM SPRINGS — A lot about the city has changed since 1951, when people flocked to the Capitol Theater for the Saturday afternoon matinee and trains still stopped at the depot to pick up produce and passengers.

Many merchants and city officials say they would like to keep what remains of the historical look of the city's Antique Village, which is the heart of the downtown area.

The major question they debate is how far an ordinance should go in regulating building owners in order to maintain and even modify the character of downtown Denham Springs.

Rows of vintage shops still line both sides of bustling North Range Avenue between the railroad and Centerville Street. Many of those businesses, including the movie theater and the old hotel, now sell antiques, though a bridal boutique, restaurant, bank and other businesses dot

the old downtown.

For at least 10 years, city officials and merchants have talked about creating a historic district with a commission that would oversee various regulations governing the exterior appearance of downtown buildings. At times, the discussions have grown heated.

The proposals inevitably drew concerns from some business owners. The plans went nowhere.

Previously, the people writing the proposed ordinances "tried to put too much in," said Chris Disapayne, one of the owners of Chandlers, which has operated downtown for decades, first as a department store and now as an antique shop.

Sometimes, people inserted proposed rules that were aimed at something they didn't like about somebody else's shop, Disapayne said.

"A lot of people have that worried feeling again" as the City Council considers



Advocate map

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Police arrest boyfriend in girl's stabbing death

BY SONIA SMITH Advocate staff writer

A Baton Rouge teenage girl was found stabbed to death in her apartment early Saturday morning, police said.

Baton Rouge police spokesman Capt. Jeff Smith identified the slain woman as 17-year-old Bianca Brown.

Alexander Hooks, 20,

Brown's boyfriend, was arrested about 6 p.m. Saturday in the 600 block of Therville Street, Smith said.

The suspect has a criminal background spotted with minor offenses, said the East Baton Rouge Parish Clerk of Court's Web site.

Police arrived at Brown's apartment in the Brandywine

Condemnum complex, 10950 Darryl Drive, at about 4:30 a.m. Saturday, Smith said.

By noon, the police had packed up, leaving behind one small strand of crime-scene tape below Brown's unit.

The mood in the complex last Friday afternoon was uneasy, with neighbors swilling to speak on the record about the

slaying.

A Happy Meal box stood on a coffee table and a computer screen still glowed in the back of Brown's darkened living room.

Neighbors did say that Brown had a son around 1 year old. Police did not comment on the whereabouts of Brown's son Saturday.

Acting troupe comes to LSU

Globe Theatre actors help La. teachers

BY JORDAN BLUM Capitol news bureau

St. Amant High School English teacher Angela Broadmann entered "Shakespeare boot camp" and quickly remembered how hard it is becoming a student again.

"The roles are reversed now," Broadmann said. "The teachers are the learners and most of us are hesitant, a little nervous."

Broadmann is one of 17 area teachers who trained at LSU this past week with professionals from William Shakespeare's Globe Theatre in London.

LSU is the London theater group's third trip to the United States with its Shakespeare Live! performance-based teaching styles to implement new teaching programs to motivate students in middle and high schools.

"I have seniors reading at a fifth grade level — real shy," said Mary Ann Ledbetter of Broadmoor High School. "But give them just a small part (in a play) and they can be so proud."

Chris Stafford, London project manager for the Globe, said it is important for the teachers to become comfortable with acting and vocal exercises so they can bring them to their classrooms.

"Shakespeare's plays shouldn't be experienced on your feet," Stafford said. "Rather than dead words on a piece of paper."

Globe Shakespearean actress Yolanda Vispook said the hands-on teaching approach gets students excited about learning and helps their self-esteem.

"If you mention Shakespeare, kids break into a cold sweat and want to hide behind a chair," Vispook said. "But if they're playing and having fun and not just struggling with the difficult language — by the end of it, they realize what they have achieved."

Each teacher's class will act in an "Adopt an Actor" program during which they will rediscover

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RESPONSES

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class later this month and would like to offer more of the same in the future, Phares said.

Eventually, Phares said, he would like to see the course mandated by the Louisiana Legislature.

Thus far, Phares has been in contact with organizations such as the Louisiana Sheriff's Association and the Police Officer Standards and Training Council to gain their support.

Bobby Gaston with the sheriff's association said he strongly supports the idea of making the course mandatory for law enforcement officers in Louisiana.

"The days of being able to wait on the SWAT team are gone," he said. "People riding

the streets need to know how to respond to these types of situations."

Sgt. Don Kelly of the Baton Rouge Police Department said police officers have participated in similar active-shooter training several times since the April 20, 1999, shooting at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., that left 13 dead and 24 wounded.

"It's good training," he said. "We never pass up the opportunity to participate in any training relating to that, especially with other agencies with whom we might work."

Although "it's a fool's game to predict the outcome of an armed conflict," Phares said. "Better training, which this course will provide, and better equipment, which we will demonstrate and recommend, increase our chances of saving innocent lives."