

UPCOMING EVENTS

**Miss. River Bridge site
public meeting**
Wed., April 27 5-7 pm
(see page 3)

Rockin' on the Railroad
Friday, April 29
Addis Railroad Park
(See page 4)

Election Day
Saturday, April 30
7 am - 8 pm

Kite Fest
April 30 & May 1
Soccer Complex
(see page 6)

**Port Allen High
Graduation**
Thursday, May 12

Brusly High Graduation
Friday, May 13

**Low Cost Pet
Vaccination Clinic**
Saturday, May 21
(see page 3)

Museum, COA tax renewals on ballot April 30

West Baton Rouge voters will cast ballots on renewal property tax millages for the WBR Museum and the WBR Council on Aging on Saturday, April 30.

Both millage renewal propositions are for 10 years. The Museum millage is 2 mills, which amounts to \$35 per

year for a \$250,000 home. The COA millage is 2.5 mills, which amounts to \$43.75 per year for a \$250,000 home. The millages are the primary sources of income for both the Museum, generating \$1.16 million in 2021; and the COA, generating \$1.45 million in 2021.

WBR MUSEUM SERVICES:

The West Baton Rouge Museum has an esteemed position among museums nationwide and in WBR. Of the nation's estimated 33,000 museums, only 1,084 are



Main entrance of the WBR Museum

accredited by the American Alliance of Museums and the WBR Museum is among those!

In addition, the WBR Museum is the top tourist attraction in the parish. It hosts world-class exhibitions and annual events like SugarFest, Blast from the Past Summer History Camp, and monthly music jams that bring the community together and showcase the parish to a broader audience. Admission to all exhibits and programs is free to WBR residents.

Through culture and educational programing, the museum builds relationships between generations, ensuring that the traditions, pride, and heritage live on – as in its French programs and Blues After School.

West Baton Rouge Museum impacts the community beyond the boundaries of its campus as the anchor institution
Continued on page 2

COUNCIL ON AGING SERVICES

The West Baton Rouge Council on Aging provides a variety of services to West Baton Rouge senior citizens, including meals, information and assistance, medical alert devices, nutrition education, outreach, family caregivers and respite support, homemaker services, wellness programs, recreation activities, trips, transportation, utility bills assistance and more.

"We try to be a one-stop shop for senior citizens in providing them with services and information that helps them with basic needs that are, in many cases, critical to their health and independence to live at home; and services and programs that enrich their lives," said Tommie Gordon, Director of the West Baton Rouge Council on Aging.
Continued on page 2



Participants are shown during an activity at the West Baton Rouge Council on Aging Center.

GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

WBR PARISH COUNCIL - Meets 2nd & 4th Thursday of month, 5:30 p.m., Parish Council Building, 225-383-4755, www.wbrCouncil.org

WBR PARISH SCHOOL BOARD - Committee meetings - 2nd Tuesday of month, 5 p.m. School Board meetings - 3rd Wednesday of month, 5 p.m., School Board office 225-343-8309, www.wbrschools.net

WBR PLANNING & ZONING COMMISSION - Meets 1st & 3rd Tuesdays of month, 5:30 p.m., Council meeting room, Parish Council Building.

WBR BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS - Meets 1st Tuesday of month. 5 p.m., Council meeting room in Parish Council Building.

TOWN OF ADDIS - Meets 1st Wednesday of month, 6 p.m., Addis Town Hall. Phone: 225-687-4844, www.addisla.org

CITY OF PORT ALLEN - Committee meetings - 1st Wednesday of month, 5:30 p.m. Council meetings - 2nd Wednesday of month, 5:30 p.m. Port Allen City Hall 225-346-5670, www.portallen.org

TOWN OF BRUSLY - Committee meetings on 1st Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m. Town Council meetings on 2nd Monday of each month at 6:30 p.m., Brusly Town Hall - 225-749-2909, www.bruslyla.com

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Upcoming exhibits

Aliento a Tequila (Spirit of Tequila) through May 29 - This photography exhibit explores the landscape, culture, and traditions that gave birth to tequila, Mexico's national drink. Aliento a Tequila celebrates a craft that is rooted deep in the culture of Mexico and connects viewers with the labor and place that produces this popular spirit.

Talented Art of West Baton Rouge- April 8- May 1 - This exhibit features the works of Talented Art Students in West Baton Rouge Parish Public Schools.

Women of the Blues - April 14 - August 28 - Enjoy portraits of the Women of the Blues during Baton Rouge's Annual Blues Fest. These women command the stage and spread joy and tunes with crowds all over the world.

Three Roll Estate and Alma- May 7 -August 21 - Get an up close look at Alma Plantation and Three Roll Estate and learn about the process of making sugar and rum from sugar cane.

Courting Style- June 18- August 14 - Tennis has been a popular activity for men and women alike since the 1870s. Drawn from the collections at the Museum of the International Tennis Hall of Fame, Courting Style: Women's Tennis Fashion explores this intersection of tennis and fashion.



Museum services

Continued from page 1

for the newly designated Port Allen Cultural District. This distinction brings perks to the community, including historic tax credits, state-wide publicity, wellness programs, and arts opportunities.

The museum has received several distinguished awards, including the Louisiana Association of Museum's Museum of the Year Award, a Bricks and Mortar Award from the Foundation for Historical Louisiana, and the Award of Merit from the American Association of State and Local History for the exhibit, Cohn High School: How We Love Thee.

"The West Baton Rouge Museum is committed to strengthening ties within our community," said Executive Director Angélique Bergeron. "Your continued support for our museum renews a commitment to celebrate our cultural heritage through the exhibits and programs held each year."

WBR Council on Aging services

Continued from page 1

The Council on Aging provides services at the center in Port Allen, as well as to home-bound seniors throughout the parish. A variety of activities, including arts and crafts, bingo, special events, educational programs and health services, such as COVID 19 vaccines, breast and prostate cancer screenings, blood pressure checks and diabetes testing, are available at the center.

Before the COVID 19 pandemic, the Council on Aging averaged serving 61,000 congregate and home-bound meals to participants.

During the COVID-19 pandemic period, it averaged:

- 67,359 meals served to participants;
- 18,750 transportation trips to doctor appointments, shopping, etc;
- 10,325 calls to check on the well-being of our home-bound residents;
- 8,750 wellness units through exercise, health, and wellness programs;

- 15,000 units of recreation, including bingo, cards, entertainment, and trips;
- Nutritional counseling to 671 center and home-bound participants;
- Counseling of 400 participants on medication management, providing pill boxes and pill cutters;
- Commodities and food pantry services to 180 low-income participants;
- Medical alerts devices provided to 10 participants;
- Respite Care services to 9 participants.

"This tax is critical to our operations, providing more than 80 percent of our revenue," said Gordon. "We hope our local residents get out to vote in this election."



Activities at your Library

Upcoming Holiday Closures:

Memorial Day – Monday, May 30th

Juneteenth – Friday and Saturday, June 17th & 18th

Independence Day – Monday, July 4th

Weekly Grab and Go Craft Bags - We continue to offer weekly Grab and Go Craft Bags for a variety of ages and interests while supplies last.

Programs for May

Tuesday, May 3 at 5 pm – Planting with a Twist for adults

Saturday, May 7 - 11 am to noon - Teen Advisory Board meeting for students grade 5 and up

Saturday, May 14 - 11 am – Tie-Dye Program for children ages 7 and up

Saturday, May 21 - 11 am-12:30 pm – Lego Club for children ages 3 and up

Saturday, May 28 - 10 am – Self-Care Day for adults



Summer programs, presenters are set

The West Baton Rouge Library's summer reading theme is Oceans of Possibilities, with library activities offered for all ages.

This summer's in-person program offerings for youth include art, crafts, STEM, and storytimes.

The lineup of guest presenters including a shadow puppet show, a Broadway percussionist, an engaging ukulele show, a magician, a special storytime with the Little Mermaid, and more.

For more information about these programs, be sure to swing by the library, check out our website, or follow us on Facebook.



Open Monday–Friday 8:30 am-5:30 pm
Saturday 9 am - 1 pm

INFRASTRUCTURE UPDATE: Bridge, Connector all proceeding

West Baton Rouge residents will be impacted by several infrastructure projects in the coming years. Following is an update on these projects:

INTRACOASTAL BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION: Construction has started on a new southbound Intracoastal Bridge structure next to the existing bridge. This project will have minor to moderate traffic impacts at various times. Once the south bound bridge is completed in the Spring of 2023, traffic on La. Hwy. 1 will be rerouted to the new bridge while the existing Intracoastal bridge is demolished and a new northbound bridge is constructed.

LA. 415/LA. HWY. 1 CONNECTOR ROUTE: Revised environmental studies and final design efforts required are underway now, and public meetings on the route will be held this summer. This project is expected to begin in the fall of 2023.

WIDENING OF INTERSTATE IN BATON ROUGE: This project presently is expected to have major traffic implications for Mississippi River bridge traffic and West Baton Rouge when it begins in 2023. The interstate is planned to be reduced to one lane east bound and one lane west bound at the curve just past the Nicholson exit on the bridge. Utility relocation has already started on this project. The parish has expressed its serious concerns about the traffic implications to the La. Department of Transportation and Development and state officials, and efforts to reduce the impact are being considered.

NEW MISSISSIPPI RIVER BRIDGE SITE: Public meetings are set in late April and May for the public to review the bridge sites and give their opinions. Of the 10 sites being considered, two are in West Baton Rouge. The final list of 3 sites is expected to be announced in May. Information on the public meeting in West Baton Rouge is below.

Where Could a New Mississippi River Bridge Be Placed?



Find out about current possible bridge placements and share your input about them at one of six open house-style public meetings in April and May

Wednesday, April 27, 2022 | 5-7pm

West Baton Rouge Parish
Addis Community Center
7250 LA-1, Addis

Walker leads Council in prayer

WBR Parish Councilman Atley Walker, Jr. led the assembly in the invocation at the State Police Jury Association Meeting held in Lake Charles. "Without The Lord opening doors for me to reach out and touch our local community, none of this would be possible," Walker said. "As the Bible states, 'With men this is impossible; but with God all things are possible.'"



Councilman Atley Walker, Jr.

Walker, Council Members, and parish administration pray before all meetings and have been doing so since early 2021. "It's important that we seek Godly counsel and Godly wisdom when making decisions that impact our local communities. The Bible tells us, 'And all things, whatsoever you shall ask in prayer, believing, you shall receive,'" Walker said.

West Baton Rouge Parish, administration and council have faith for continued infrastructure improvements, educational improvements, and improvements of services delivered to our elderly community. "We live in a time when local governments, state governments, and federal government agencies desperately need prayer," Walker said. "Our country was founded upon Christian values."

Utility customers must sign in to new online payment portal

West Baton Rouge Parish Utilities introduced a new online payment portal in April. Parish utilities customers who have not done so and who pay by credit or debit card will need to set up their account in the new Paystar system, even if they have an existing account.

Customers can access the new system directly from the parish website: wbrparish.org, by clicking the Utility Bill Pay button. Customers who have an auto pay setup in the old Paydici system will need to set up auto payments on the new Paystar system by May 1. The only customers not impacted are those who have already set up ACH automatic bank draft for payment of bills.

The new system offers several benefits to customers: simple one time payments without the need to register an account; payments can be made on mobile devices; and the payer portal offers options to view your bill, payment history, manage multiple accounts, etc.

Customers have the following options to pay their parish utility bills:

- In person at the Utilities Office, 880 N. Alexander Ave. in Port Allen, Monday-Thursday from 8 am until 5 pm, or Friday from 8 am until noon.
- By check at these drive-thru drop off locations: Parish Utilities Office in Port Allen, the Town of Brusly Utilities Office, or the Addis Town Hall
- By mail at West Baton Rouge Utilities Department, P.O. Box 807, Port Allen, LA 70767
- Online at wbrparish.org
- By phone at 225-336-2406
- By bank draft. Call the Utilities Office at 225-336-2406 to set up. There is no additional charge to use the bank draft option.

Low cost rabies vaccinations

The West Baton Rouge Shelter & Animal Control Office will offer low cost rabies vaccinations for the pets of West Baton Rouge residents on Saturday, May 21 from 9 am until noon.

The vaccinations will cost \$10, rabies tag will be \$7, and microchips for pets will be \$15 while supplies last. Rabies vaccinations are required for all dogs, cats and domesticated ferrets over the age of four months.

The clinic will be held at the WBR Shelter, 3183 Ted Denstel Road in Port Allen. All dogs must be on a leash, and cats and ferrets must be in carriers.

Protect yourself from summer burglaries

The West Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office advises residents to be aware that both vehicle and home burglaries increase in the summer months.

Residents can protect themselves from vehicle burglaries by taking these precautions:

- Lock your vehicle doors
- Remove your keys from the vehicle
- Don't leave valuables in your car
- Do not leave a spare key near the vehicle
- Close the vehicle windows
- Park in well-lit areas
- Install an audible alarm system and anti-theft device

If going on a vacation, take these security measures:

- Make sure all doors and windows are locked
- Set exterior lighting on timers
- Don't leave spare keys outdoors
- Set some interior lights on timers
- Don't broadcast your location on social media
- Make sure all valuables are secured
- Stop newspaper deliveries and mail deliveries or have someone pick up each day.
- Arrange for lawn care if you will be gone an for an extended time

Get prepared now for hurricane season



Shown is some of the facilities and equipment ready for severe weather events.

Grants help Sheriff's Office gear up capabilities for severe weather

The West Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office has received several federal grants to help prepare for hurricane season and the increased number of severe weather events that have occurred in recent years. A trailer that was donated to the Sheriff's Office by the WBR Office of Homeland Security was converted into a bunk trailer complete with restrooms in case deputies have to stay in a devastated area for several days at a time.

In addition, a cook trailer that has been in service since 2008 had leaks and aging equipment. It was refurbished thanks to a grant. Other equipment donated or purchased with grant funds include two high water ATV units, side by side units, and stand-by generators. "We have about \$500,000 of equipment, but it cost the Sheriff's Office less than \$50,000," said Sheriff Mike Cazes. "It is important to have these capabilities to secure our parish if needed after severe weather, and to help our neighbors in times of need."

Addis road improvement program set this summer

The Town of Addis will bid out its 2022 road improvement program this summer, with seven roads to be repaired and overlaid. The \$680,000 road program is larger than past annual town budgets for road improvements, but was necessary to address needed repairs.

By far the biggest project is the milling and overlaying of Sugar Plantation Parkway, at a cost of \$264,000. Other roads on the list include Sugar Mill Parkway, Belle Vale Drive, Aubrey Ann Drive, Boulevard Acadian, Rue Saint Patrick and Rue Dauphine. The Town Council approved the project at its April meeting.

New name for concert series

The town has renamed its Friday evening music concert series to Rockin' on the Railroad. Mayor David Toups said the new name better reflects the town's railroad history and the event is held at the Addis Railroad Park. The old name was Live At 5 on the Westside.

The popular Friday evening concerts are back after a two-year absence due to COVID. The Spring lineup includes three concerts, and another three concerts are set for this fall. (See flyer at right).

"We are excited to get the concerts back," said Mayor Toups. "It's a great way to bring the community together for some fun, and build community pride."



4343 HARRIS STREET
RAILROAD PARK

KICKS OFF AT
5:30 PM / FRIDAYS

ROCKIN' ON THE RAILROAD





TOWN MEETINGS:

Town Council - 1st Wednesday of month, Town Hall, 6 pm
Planning & Zoning - 3rd Tuesday of month, Town Hall, 6 pm

Town installs license plate reader cameras

The Town of Brusly has installed nine license plate reader cameras throughout the town. The cameras alert the Brusly Police Department if the vehicle is stolen or involved in a crime, and also provide valuable information to police in investigations and fighting crime.

The cameras are solar powered, and recordings are made to cell phones, so no internet fees were incurred. They are also connected with a national database of vehicles used in crimes.

The cameras have been effective in reducing crime rates significantly in communities where they have been in use, noted Mayor Scot Rhodes. They will not be used to issue traffic citations, he said.



A sidewalk will soon connect Alexander Park to the new St. James Park, as shown above.

Construction begins on sidewalk linking parks

Construction of a sidewalk connecting St. James Park to Alexander Park will be underway by May. The project is part of the West Baton Rouge Parish Heritage Trailway system. This trail will be called the Joliet Trail in honor of the Mississippi River explorer, Louis Joliet. The parish trail system already has trails named the DeSoto Trail (levee-top trail), and will begin the Acadian Trail in Addis next year.

The \$1.16 million project is a 5 feet wide path connecting the existing sidewalk on West St. Francis Street near La. Hwy 1, and extending down East St. Francis Street to the River Road, where it will turn and continue down River Road to the St. James Park being constructed by the Town of Brusly. The new sidewalk will extend over the railroad crossing at La. Hwy 1 to the south side of East St. Francis Street.

The project includes installing culverts on a portion of St. Francis Street and all along the east side of the River Road at the toe of the levee. The parish is getting \$935,000 in federal/state funding for the project, and is funding \$233,000 of it. The project is expected to be completed by the end of this year.

Get the latest
Town of Brusly updates!
[Facebook.com/BruslyTownHall](https://www.facebook.com/BruslyTownHall)

**JUNETEENTH
FREEDOM
FESTIVAL**

JUNE 17-19

Williams & Lee Park • Noon til daily

Carnival Rides • Pop-Up Vendors

Live entertainment

Activities for youth, young adults & seniors

Info: Call Rose 225-346-5670



PA basketball, powerlifting teams honored at meeting

The Port Allen City Council and Mayor Richard Lee honored the Port Allen High



basketball team and the girls powerlifting team for winning their state championships in March. Shown in the top photo at left is the powerlifting team, and in the bottom photo at left is the basketball team.

Kite Fest adds inflatables, heavy attendance expected

Kite Fest, now one of the premiere events of the WBR Conference & Visitors Bureau, had a great turnout last year, and a bigger turnout is expected this year, provided the weather is good.

"We invested in some additional social media advertising, and that has sparked a lot of calls and contacts, so it is looking very promising," said Director Kathy Gautreau. "The fireworks show on Saturday evening is great, and is a good draw, and we have also added inflatables for the kids this year."

Set for April 30 and May 1, the kite fun is located at the WBR Soccer Complex in Port Allen. See info at right.

Meanwhile, the Bureau staff is staying busy with increased bookings of the Conference Center, including both weddings and social events, along with corporate events. "We are really pleased to see bookings picking up so much," Gautreau said.

EVENT DATES LISTED! Mark your calendar!

Kite Fest- April 30-May 1

Oldies But Goodies Fest BBQ Cook-Off - Sept. 10

Oldies But Goodies Fest - Sept. 11

Featuring That 70s Band, Chase Tyler Band & Car Show

Reflections of the Season childrens' event - Dec. 3

Reflections of the Season light display - Dec. 9 & 10

Free Admission
 Kite Flying "just for fun"
 Kite Design Competitions
 Children's Kite Making Workshop
 Indoor Kite Flying
 Louisiana Food Booths
 Professional Kite Flying Teams
 Inflatables
 Classic Sounds by Jude
Fireworks on Saturday night!

2022 Kite Fest Louisiana

**Saturday & Sunday
April 30-May 1, 2022**

West Baton Rouge Soccer Complex
3383 Rosedale Road
in Port Allen

For event information:
800-654-9701
www.westbatonrouge.net

**SATURDAY 11 AM TILL
FIREWORKS AT DARK
SUNDAY 11 AM - 6PM**

West Baton Rouge Soccer Complex
3383 Rosedale Road
in Port Allen

LOUISIANA Feed Your Soul. LouisianaTravel.com

Coca-Cola, TAMAR, S&P BARBERS, PLACED, Entergy, THE ADVOCATE, WBRZ, WBRZ 2, WBRZ 3, WBRZ 4, WBRZ 5, WBRZ 6, WBRZ 7, WBRZ 8, WBRZ 9, WBRZ 10, WBRZ 11, WBRZ 12, WBRZ 13, WBRZ 14, WBRZ 15, WBRZ 16, WBRZ 17, WBRZ 18, WBRZ 19, WBRZ 20, WBRZ 21, WBRZ 22, WBRZ 23, WBRZ 24, WBRZ 25, WBRZ 26, WBRZ 27, WBRZ 28, WBRZ 29, WBRZ 30, WBRZ 31, WBRZ 32, WBRZ 33, WBRZ 34, WBRZ 35, WBRZ 36, WBRZ 37, WBRZ 38, WBRZ 39, WBRZ 40, WBRZ 41, WBRZ 42, WBRZ 43, WBRZ 44, WBRZ 45, WBRZ 46, WBRZ 47, WBRZ 48, WBRZ 49, WBRZ 50, WBRZ 51, WBRZ 52, WBRZ 53, WBRZ 54, WBRZ 55, WBRZ 56, WBRZ 57, WBRZ 58, WBRZ 59, WBRZ 60, WBRZ 61, WBRZ 62, WBRZ 63, WBRZ 64, WBRZ 65, WBRZ 66, WBRZ 67, WBRZ 68, WBRZ 69, WBRZ 70, WBRZ 71, WBRZ 72, WBRZ 73, WBRZ 74, WBRZ 75, WBRZ 76, WBRZ 77, WBRZ 78, WBRZ 79, WBRZ 80, WBRZ 81, WBRZ 82, WBRZ 83, WBRZ 84, WBRZ 85, WBRZ 86, WBRZ 87, WBRZ 88, WBRZ 89, WBRZ 90, WBRZ 91, WBRZ 92, WBRZ 93, WBRZ 94, WBRZ 95, WBRZ 96, WBRZ 97, WBRZ 98, WBRZ 99, WBRZ 100

Chamber award honors at annual banquet in March

A large crowd was on hand as the West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce celebrated its Annual Banquet in March, honoring business and community leaders.

Pastor James Morrise of Rose Hill Church received the Pride of West Baton Rouge Award. He is pastor of Rose Hill Church in Port Allen, a community activist, hosting back-to-school giveaways, and donation of shoes to children. With his leadership, his church was adopted by Cohn Elementary and actively supports the school.

Olin Corp. was named the Large Business of the Year, and Lyons Specialty was named the Medium Business of the Year. The Small Business Award went to All Outdoor Power Equipment.

Young Professional of the Year Award was given to Toby Willis of Edward Jones Investments, and Patrick Hobbins was named the Volunteer of the Year. Lewy Physical Therapy received the New Business Award.

New Chamber Director Anna Johnson was the emcee. Congratulations to all the winners!



Shown are the award winners at the West Baton Rouge Chamber's Annual Banquet. They are, from left, Chuck Simmons and Tre' Simmons of All Outdoor Power Equipment, the Small Business of the Year; Rachel Barton of Olin, Large Business of the Year; Danny Lewy of Lewy Physical Therapy, New Business Award; Pastor James Morrise of Rose Hill Church, the Pride of West Baton Rouge Award winner; Toby Willis, Young Professional of the Year Award winner; and Patrick Hobbins, Volunteer of the Year award winner. He is also the WBR Chamber past board chairman from 2021. Not shown is Hugh Raetzch of Lyons Specialty Co., Medium Business Award winner.



Chamber members and guests enjoy the festive atmosphere of the Chamber's Annual Banquet.

Why is an Assessor's Office employee on my property?

If you've recently started or completed a new home or commercial building, or done an addition to your home or commercial building, it is likely you have received or will receive a visit from a Deputy Assessor employed by the West Baton Rouge Parish Assessor's Office.

Why? "The Assessor's Office is required by Louisiana Statute RS 47:1958 to make site visits to every taxable property or tract of land in the parish. These site visits afford our office the opportunity to collect the information necessary to fairly and equitably assess all properties in the parish," explained Assessor Chris Guerin.

Property owners are typically required to obtain a permit from the parish or municipality where the property is located before starting a new construction or addition project. The Assessor's Office is notified by the parish and municipalities of the permits issued by those agencies. "In the past our Deputy Assessors made site visits to new construction and addition projects only in the spring and fall, but with the increased level of construction activity in the parish they are now visiting project sites on a year round basis," Guerin explained.

Barry Brewer, retired from the City of Port Allen, and Jimmy Altazan, retired from the State of Louisiana, hold the part-time positions of Deputy Assessors responsible for collecting the necessary data in the field that enables the Assessor's Office to fairly and equitably assess all properties in the parish. "They go on site to every project with laptops and tape measures in hand, collect the exterior dimensions of the homes and/or commercial buildings as well as many other attributes of the project (#stories, #baths, building height, etc.) and report the information back to our office," Guerin said.

It is standard procedure for the Deputy Assessors to knock on the door of the property upon arrival and identify themselves, but because these site visits are done during working hours many times no one is home. If no one answers, they will collect as much data on the property as possible and leave. Additionally, if no one is home or if the Deputy Assessors are unable to access a property due to



Deputy Assessors Barry Brewer and Jimmy Altazan of the WBR Assessor's Office.

locked gates, protective dogs, etc., they may leave a door hanger on site requesting the owner of the property contact the Assessor's Office.

Assessor Guerin says the Deputy Assessors travel in a well-marked white Ford Ranger truck, carry picture ID cards identifying them as staff of the Assessor's Office, and wear reflective vests with "WBR Assessor" prominently displayed on them so property owners can be assured they are properly authorized and on official business.

"Because of our work schedule and the timing of construction projects, it may be some time after a project is completed before our Deputy Assessors can make their site visit," Guerin said. "This sometimes surprises property owners, but if anyone has questions about our presence on their property, please contact our office at 225-344-6777."



VIEW YOUR PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

See your property on digital aerial maps!

Learn about tax exemptions, Download forms and more!

www.wbrassessor.org

PORT OF GREATER BATON ROUGE



■ **Storage capacity has nearly doubled to accommodate up to 2,000 containers.**

The successful public/private partnership between the Port of Greater Baton Rouge and SEACOR AMH has produced steady increases in the number of containers handled at the Port's barge terminal. As a result, a project to create nearly 4 acres of additional paved container storage capacity has been successfully completed. The yard is now capable of handling approximately 2,000 containers including containers measuring 40 feet, versus 20 feet.

Meet the Big Red Beast.

A 20% efficiency gain in container operations at the Port of Greater Baton Rouge is just one positive outcome of the Port's new, deep-reach container stacker known as *The Big Red Beast*. With a telescopic boom for stacking four containers high, shorter loading and unloading times have helped meet the increasing demand for container shipping services between Baton Rouge and New Orleans for area customers. The addition of the custom-made stacker is another component of the Port's recent expansion of its successful container operations.



For more information, contact Greg Johnson at (225) 342-1660.

■ 2425 Ernest Wilson Drive ■ P.O. Box 380 ■ Port Allen, LA 70767-0380
PH: (225) 342.1660 ■ FAX: (225) 342.1666 ■ www.portgbr.com

Registration opens for fun-filled Summer Learning Program at schools

Parents should be on the look out for registration for the School Board's Summer Learning Program, which was wildly popular and successful last summer. The program is open to students in grades Head Start to 8th grade, and will be held Monday through Thursday, June 6-30, from 8 am until noon.

The program includes small English and math learning groups, along with a wide variety of enrichment activities, such as crafts, games, arts and music, tours, field trips, STEM activities and more. In addition, the school system will provide both breakfast and lunch for those participating, along with transportation of the students and all supplies needed.

It will be offered at the following schools: Brusly Elementary, Lukeville Elementary, Brusly Upper Elementary and Brusly Middle, Caneview, Port Allen Elementary, Cohn and Port Allen Middle Schools. Each school will set its program activities.

Schools are sending out registration information the week of April 25, and registration is required by May 6 so that the schools can plan for the program.

"The COVID pandemic impacted students' learning, and this program was started last year as an effort to help students get caught up in their math and English education," said Julie Mayeux, Supervisor of Secondary Education/CTE Supervisor. "The students get two hours of math and English studies, and two hours of enrichment activities. It is funded by the federal government, but really is a community effort."

She noted that local teachers are employed to teach the classes, along with college education majors and students in Brusly High's Educators Rising program. The WBR Library, WBR Museum, and WBR Parks and Recreation Program all provide support of the program by offering activities for the students at each school site or at other sites. "It is great to have this collaboration and stakeholder involvement," she said.

"Last year, we had 889 students in the program and we received rave reviews from the parents and the students," Mayeux said. "The kids wanted to be there and really enjoyed it. We hope to build on that success this year."



Scenes from the 2021 Summer Learning Program.

Supt. Watts to retire

WBR Parish School Superintendent Wes Watts announced, as this issue was going to press, that he will retire July 31. He has been WBR Superintendent for 8 years. A full article on Watts will be in the July issue of Vision West.

Congratulations Graduates!

Port Allen High Graduation - Thursday, May 12
7 pm at the Port Allen High Auditorium

Brusly High School Graduation - Friday, May 13
7 pm at the Brusly High Auditorium

Port Allen basketball, powerlifting teams win state titles



The Port Allen High boys' basketball team has accomplished a very difficult feat, winning the state LHSAA Class AA championship for the third year in a row! They beat a tough Amite team for the state title in Lake Charles on March 12.

First year Head Coach Dimario Jackson, who was named Class 2A Coach of the Year, said the Pelicans did an excellent job of handling adversity throughout their season, and ended the year with a 24-10 record.

They won four play-off games to get to the state championship game, beating Pickering, Doyle, Winnfield and powerhouse Rayville to get to the championship game. Elliott McQuillan was named the game's Most Outstanding Player, and First Team All-State. "We had to do a self-check during the season when we lost Jalan Knox, but these guys locked in and did what they had to do to win," Jackson said. "I want to thank my coaching staff, Principal Jackson and Superintendent Watts for their support. This would not have been possible without them."



The Port Allen girls powerlifting team took its fourth straight state championship in March, maintaining its status as a top 5 powerlifting program in all classes of Louisiana schools. It scored a total of 57 points, 13 more than second place Pope John Paul High.

Coach Brian Bizette noted that the team, which was undefeated this year, "really bonded and pushed one another, and we are only losing two seniors, so we will be strong next year too." In addition, he said the team is growing both in numbers and in competitiveness, with 18 team members and more expected next year.

Alexis Alford was named the Outstanding Lifter of the tourney, and 2nd Team All State. She also received a scholarship in powerlifting from Blue Mountain College. Sulma Camaja also made the All State team.

"My assistant coaches did a lot to help train the team, and they deserve a lot of credit for their hard work."