

## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Oct. 28 - Household haz. materials collection, Alexander Park, page 3**
- Oct. 28 - Childrens drawing/ paint workshop, WBR Museum**
- Oct. 31 - Halloween trick or treat hours: 6-8 pm**
- Nov. 4 - Low cost rabies vaccination clinic - page 3**
- Nov. 5 - Veterans on Parade, downtown Port Allen**
- Nov. 9 - Financial ed/1st time home buyers class, Library**
- Nov. 11 - Beetle workshop, WBR Museum**
- Nov. 21 - Crafternoon art, WBR Library**
- Dec. 1 - Brusly Christmas Tree Lighting - page 5**
- Dec. 2 - Jingle Jeepin' Parade & Festival, WBR Visitor Center**
- Dec. 3 - Holiday Open House, WBR Museum**
- Dec. 19 - Family Holiday Concert, WBR Library**

## Work begins on Bayou Stumpy clean out

The \$1.6 million Bayou Stumpy Channel clean out project is now underway, with the parish working to clear a path along the canal for the contractor.

The project will clean out, widen and deepen 1.5 miles of Bayou Stumpy, which drains a large portion of the northern part of the parish. The contractor for the project, Shallow Water Equipment, will begin work in November.

The federal government will pay 100% of the contractor cost of the project. "It's been a tough road to finally get the project moving," said Parish President Riley "PeeWee" Berthelot. "It required getting a lot of federal and state permits and approvals, which took a lot of time. However, this will go a long way to improving drainage in heavy rain events in the northern part of the parish, and it is funded by federal dollars."



*Clearing along Bayou Stumpy to make way for cleaning out and widening the canal is underway.*

## Intracoastal Bridge completion now set

WBR Parish has received an update on the construction of and completion date for the new Intracoastal Bridge. It is now expected to be complete by the end of 2024 or early 2025, depending on weather delays.

Progress on construction was halted in the Spring after the La. Department of Transportation and Development found that the piers for the bridge were sinking more than expected. Since that time, a fix was engineered, and the contractor,

Kiewit Construction, has had a sub-contractor working on low mobility grouting to stabilize the piers. That is expected to be completed before the end of this year. Kiewit will begin construction work on the bridge again in early 2024, and plans presently call for traffic to be switched to the new bridge in late 2024.



## GOVERNMENT MEETINGS

**WBR PARISH COUNCIL** - Meets 2nd & 4th Thursday of month, 5:30 p.m., Parish Council Building, 225-383-4755, [www.wbrcouncil.org](http://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](http://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 2nd Tuesday of month, 6 p.m., Addis Town Hall. Phone: 225-687-4844, [www.addisla.org](http://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](http://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](http://www.bruslyla.com)

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**WBR CHAMBER PRESENTS**  
**OCTOBER LUNCHEON**  
*featuring*  
**LT. GOVERNOR BILLY NUNGESSER**

**Tuesday October 31st**  
 Doors open at 11:30am, Program to begin at 12:00pm  
 West Baton Rouge Convention & Visitors Bureau

**Members: \$25    Non-Members: \$35**

Register NOW at [www.wbrchamber.org](http://www.wbrchamber.org)

**Save The Date**  
 West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce Presents:  
**2023**  
**GOLF CLASSIC**

**Monday November 13, 2023**  
 The Island Golf Course

**Time:**  
 9:00am: Check-In  
 10:00am: Shot Gun Start  
 2:00pm: Awards Ceremony & Lunch

Register NOW!  
[www.wbrchamber.org](http://www.wbrchamber.org)

WEST BATON ROUGE LIBRARY

**Fun at the Library!**

**All Ages Children's Storytimes:** Every Tuesday at 10 am. Stories, songs, rhymes, and other fun activities in a relaxed setting. Storytimes last about 25 minutes.

**Teen Advisory Board Meeting & Candy Sushi:** Saturday, November 4 at 11:00 am.

**Financial Education and 1st Home Time Buyers Class:** Thursday, November 9, from 6-7 pm.

**Crafternoon Story & Dot Art:** Tuesday, November 21st at 2:00 p.m. Join us for a story and dot art activity for kids ages 3-7 years old. No registration is required.

**Library Feud:** Tuesday, November 21, 6 - 7:30 p.m. To be a contestant, call the library at 225-342-7920 ext.227. Register online for audience participation.

**Hooping for Health and Wellness:** Saturday, December 9. The time is TBA.

**Family Holiday Concert at the Library:** Tuesday, December 19 at 6 pm. Fun engaging holiday music program with Lady Chops (Elizabeth Vidos of the Off-Broadway show STOMP) and Madam Dulcimer (Amanda Roberts). The duo recently performed to crowds at the 2023 New Orleans Jazz Festival.

**Financial Education Class:** Tuesday, January 9, 6-7 pm.

For more information and registration for these programs, check out the website calendar of events page at [www.wbrpl.com](http://www.wbrpl.com), follow us on Facebook, or give us a call.

**Upcoming Holiday Closures:**

- Veterans Day – November 10 & November 11
- Thanksgiving Holiday – November 23 - November 25
- Christmas Holiday – Noon on December 21 – December 26
- New Year's Day – January 1

**Ages 3-7**  
**Crafternoon Story & Dot Art**  
 Tuesday, November 21st  
 Children's Room  
 2:00-3:00 p.m.

**Family Christmas Concert at the Library**  
 Tuesday, December 19th at 6:00 p.m.

Join us at the WBR Library for a lively holiday music program that is fun for the whole family featuring Lady Chops, Madam Dulcimer, and lots of percussion instruments!

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 Comments: [ellie@peacockcommunications.com](mailto:ellie@peacockcommunications.com), or call 225-929-9661.

830 N. Alexander Ave.  
 Port Allen, LA 70767  
[www.wbrpl.com](http://www.wbrpl.com)

# LSU Ag Center offers 4-H, nutrition, horticulture programs in WBR

The LSU AgCenter has an office in Port Allen that provides a variety of programs for the WBR community, including 4-H and Youth Development, Family and Consumer Sciences (nutrition), and Agriculture and Natural Resources.

**The 4-H program**, offered to all 4th thru 12th graders, works with the school system to teach students how to grow vegetables and plants; provides fun workshops and camps that teach life and leadership skills, and offers clubs in livestock, shooting sports and junior leadership. Youths can join 4-H now. For more information contact Alexis LeJeune: aslejeune@agcenter.lsu.edu.

**The Nutrition program** educates the community on budget-friendly healthy food choices and the benefits of physical activity, and promotes healthy lifestyle habits. Claire Barbier leads this program, and holds workshops on them. She can be reached at cbarbier@agcenter.lsu.edu.

**The Agriculture and Natural Resources program** provides assistance and presentations by specialists who give farmers and cattlemen current research-based information to help them reduce input costs and be better stewards of the land. For information on agronomic crops, contact Mark Carriere - mcarriere@agcenter.lsu.edu; and for horticulture and livestock contact Allison Decell at aspillman@agcenter.lsu.edu.

For more information on these programs you can also call the Extension Office at 225-334-0309 or go to the website: [LSUAgCenter.com/WestBatonRouge](http://LSUAgCenter.com/WestBatonRouge).



One of the turf fields at Erwinville Park

## Parks get turf upgrades

The Recreation Department's project to install artificial turf at the parish's four regional parks - Addis, Brusly, Erwinville and Port Allen - will be completed by the end of October. The turf upgrades were made on three fields at each site. "We are very happy to stay on the cutting edge for the capital region and provide these upgrades for our residents," said Recreation Director Anatole Vincent. "We need the public's help in trying to maintain our facilities and maximize the lifespan of our turf. Please refrain from wearing metal spikes on the turf. Also no sunflower seeds or gum is permitted on the turf. There will be other rules and access times that will be implemented with the use of our new facilities. We hope everyone enjoys these upgrades."



## Water line upgrade underway

\$1.9 million project to upgrade water lines in the Erwinville/Rougou Road area is underway. The 6-inch water line will be replaced by an 8-inch line to increase water capacity. This will increase water output at fire hydrants on the north end, and also provide better water pressure in that area of the parish. The project also includes connecting water mains, which will provide better operational control of the water system in that area.

### Low cost rabies vaccination

November 4 • 9 am - Noon

**WBR Shelter & Animal Control, 3183 Ted Denstel Rd., Port Allen**

Rabies vaccinations - \$10 Rabies tag - \$7 Microchips - \$15 Dog heartworm test - \$15	Available while supplies last Rabies vaccinations are required for all dogs, cats, and domesticated ferrets over 3 months old.
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Dogs must be on leash. Cats & ferrets must be in carrier.

### HAZARDOUS MATERIALS COLLECTION

OCT 28 | 8AM-12PM

ALEXANDER PARK  
250 Elaine Street | Brusly, LA

ACCEPTED		
ACIDS AEROSOL CANS ARSENIC AUTO PRODUCTS INCLUDING: used oil, antifreeze, brake fluid, diesel, oil & fuel filters COOKING OIL BATTERIES INCLUDING: NiCd, lead acid, alkaline, rechargeable BLEACH, BOWL CLEANERS BUG SPRAYS WOOD PRESERVATIVES CLEANING SOLVENTS PAPER SHREDDING METALLIC MERCURY	CORROSIVE CLEANERS DEGREASERS DISINFECTANTS ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT PAINT THINNER PAINT INCLUDING: latex and oil, stain, varnish, shellac FLUORESCENT TUBES AND COMPACT FLUORESCENT BULBS LAWN AND GARDEN PRODUCTS INCLUDING: pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, fertilizer GLUE FIRE EXTINGUISHERS LIGHTER FLUID	MOTH BALLS OVEN CLEANERS DRAIN CLEANERS TURPENTINE POLISHES POOL CHEMICALS TVS, STEREOS AUTOMOBILE TIRES (5 without rims) CONTAMINATED GASOLINE (quantities less than 5 gallons) PROPANE TANKS AND BOTTLES
NOT ACCEPTED		
AMMUNITION, EXPLOSIVES FIREWORKS NON-RESIDENTIAL WASTE RADIOACTIVE DEVICES (smoke/fire detectors) SCHOOL LAB WASTE	LARGE GAS CYLINDERS INCLUDING: helium, freon or acetylene STYROFOAM INCLUDING: peanuts CONSTRUCTION/DEMOLITION DEBRIS	APPLIANCES/FURNITURE POWER TOOLS ALL LIQUIDS IN CONTAINERS LARGER THAN 5 GALLONS MEDICAL WASTE/ ALL MEDICINES

## Cane harvesting safety

Sheriff Mike Cazes reminds the public that we are now in the start of sugarcane season. While the sugarcane grinding season is an important economic period for our parish, it comes with increased risks on our roadways. Please be vigilant of large farm equipment, trucks, tractor trailers, and cutters that will utilize public highways to get their product to the mills.

## Halloween safety tips

- Allow extra time for travel during trick or treat times.
- Watch out for children who may dart into the roadways or walk on the shoulder of the road.
- Do not attempt to pass slow moving or stopped vehicles
- Use turn signals; and if you must stop or pull over, make sure to use your hazard lights.
- Be extra cautious as you enter or exit a driveway.

### Halloween Safety Tips for Parents:

- Make sure a parent or guardian always accompanies your children while trick or treating.
- Have a flashlight and glow sticks handy.
- Teach children to look both ways prior to crossing the street and not to dart between cars.
- Choose non-toxic face paint over masks that may block or impair vision.
- Costumes should be well fitting and have reflective material.
- Only visit homes that are well lit and familiar.
- Examine your child's candy prior to them consuming it.
- Remind children to not talk to strangers and to never enter a home or vehicle of a stranger.

## Christmas Crusade for kids kicking off

The West Baton Rouge Christmas Crusade for Children, established more than 28 years ago, has been a shining star in the holidays through the years. It was designed to bond law enforcement with the community and help families in West Baton Rouge who need assistance to make their children's Christmas joyful and happy.

The crusade for 2023 is kicking off now, and donations are being sought to help the Sheriff's Office give to local families who cannot provide gifts for their children.

Among the items needed are monetary donations, batteries, Barbies, board games, basketballs, infant toys, Legos/blocks, watches, art kits, toy trucks and more.

Donations are being accepted now through December 1 at the WBR Law Enforcement Center, 1150 Northwest Drive, Port Allen.

Sign up for families needing assistance is November 13-29. See the flyer at left for more information. Sign up is also at the WBR Law Enforcement Center.

## TOWN OF ADDIS

### Road project to begin, drainage project bidded

The Town of Addis has awarded a \$575,465 road overlay contract to R.J. Daigle & Sons Contractors, and work is expected to begin in November. The project includes Ed LeJeune Road and Wyatt Christopher Road.

Some of the road repairs will require a complete reconstruction from the road base, and asphalt overlays will be done in other areas. In addition, patching will be done on some streets throughout town.

### DRAINAGE PROJECT FOR SUGAR HOLLOW

The town has gone out for bid on an estimated \$606,000 project to improve drainage in the Sugar Hollow Subdivision. This area has experienced flooding in severe rain events. The project includes the addition of culverts along side existing ditches to significantly increase the capacity of the drainage system; along with expanding the retention ponds to handle the additional storm water.

Bids will be received on November 14, and the project is expected to begin in early 2024.

## TOWN MEETINGS:

- Town Council - 2nd Tuesday of month, Town Hall, 6 pm
- Planning & Zoning - 1st Tuesday of month, Town Hall, 6 pm



## Addis Police UPDATES



Addis and Brusly Police Department detectives who attended the Lhia homicide training.

### LOUISIANA HOMICIDE INVESTIGATORS CONFERENCE

Detectives with the Addis and Brusly Police Departments attended the annual Lhia conference. This week-long training provided detectives with a variety of classes, such as statement analysis, interviewing techniques, crime scene analysis, legal updates, courtroom testimony, and more.



Officer Donaldson & Asst. Chief Jason Langlois

### CARTA POLICE ACADEMY GRADUATION

The Addis Police Department congratulates Officer Devin Donaldson on his graduation from CARTA (Capital Area Regional Training Academy). Donaldson began his law enforcement career with the Addis Police Department in January of 2023. He will now complete the field training program before being assigned to the uniform patrol division.

### JOINT EMERGENCY SERVICES TRAINING CENTER (JESTC)

All Addis officers attended EVOG (Emergency Vehicle Operations) training with the Louisiana State Police. This course provided officers with updated training in the classroom, as well as practical training on various driving courses. The purpose of EVOG training is to train and familiarize officers on emergency vehicle dynamics, and simulate emergency response situations.

# Town of Brusly CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING

Friday, December 1

5:30 pm

St. James Park - 1000 E Main St.

Lighting of the town's tree, holiday Jump houses, face painting, live music, SANTA and more!



## WBR CONVENTION & VISITORS BUREAU

### Closing out the year with events, busy Conference Center line-up

The Oldies But Goodies Fest drew big crowds to the WBR Convention & Visitors Bureau, with 25 BBQ cooking teams in the Smokin' Oldies BBQ Cook-Off and more than 80 antique cars in the antique car show on Sunday.

"We were very pleased with the crowds both days," said Tourism Director Kathy Gautreau. "It has become a great event for WBR."

Since then, the Convention and Visitors Bureau staff has turned its attention to two final events of the year and booming rentals of the center's ballroom and meeting spaces.

"Rentals are booming, and it's a variety of events, from weddings to corporate events," she said.

Meanwhile planning is underway for Veterans on Parade on November 5, and the Jingle Jeepin' Parade and Market on December 2. See flyers at right on both events.

This year's grand marshals of the Veterans on Parade are outgoing Parish President Riley "PeeWee" Berthelot and Huey P. Gauthier.

Joining the parade is free! Just register by calling 225-344-

2920. A ceremony for veterans will be held at the WBR Museum after the parade. The first Jingle Jeepin' Parade was held last year and was a huge success, with more than 50 decorated jeeps. Registration for the parade is requested, but not required. Vendors are being sought for that event - call 225-344- 2920.



# DA, law enforcement task force to address youth violence

District Attorney Tony Clayton has joined forces with law enforcement officials in Iberville, West Baton Rouge, and Pointe Coupee Parishes to address youth violence and gang activity in those parishes, which make up the 18th Judicial District.

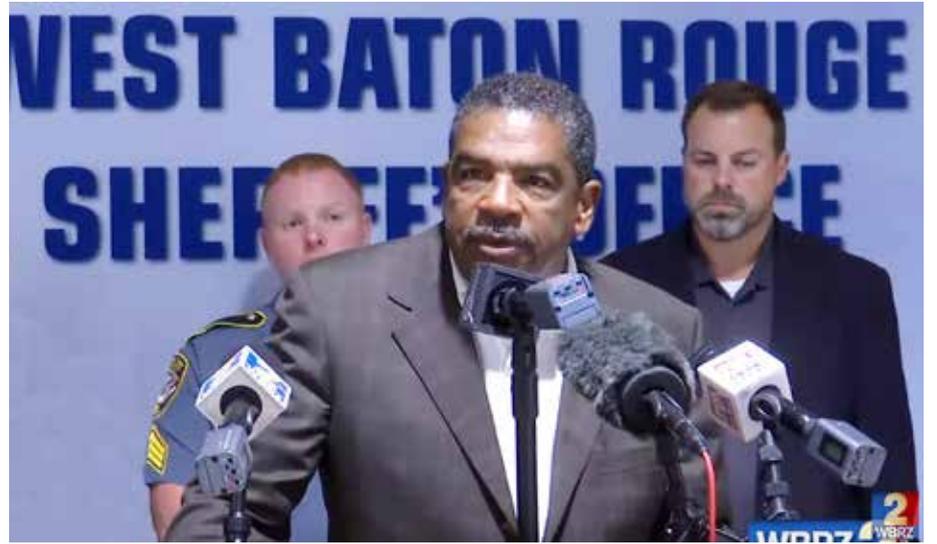
"A task force has been established, and we are monitoring social media, we are looking for messages and threats, and we will act to stop this violence," said DA Clayton.

"Parents - monitor your kid's social media, monitor their behavior, check their bedroom," he said. "If they are in a gang, law enforcement is coming, and the DA's Office is behind them 1 million percent. Not only the perpetrator, but everyone who aids or assists with any crime will be prosecuted."

"I didn't ask to be your District Attorney to arrest juveniles, but the violence and shootings must be stopped. We must protect our communities, and need everyone to pull together to help," he said. "We need parents, pastors, educators, everyone to show our youth that education and hard work, not gangs and violence, will lead them to happy and successful lives."

Youths join gangs around age 15, but can get involved in a gang as early as age 12. Parents should talk to their children about the negative consequences of gang activity, know their child's friends and their friends parents, watch their child's internet and social media activity, give them help in dealing with peer pressure, set limits on their behavior, and plan family time.

"We all want safe communities, and we all want our children to become productive, successful adults," Clayton said. "We must address this issue head-on to help our youths."



District Attorney Tony Clayton addresses the media after an arrest was made in the shooting at the Port Allen High/Brusly High football game.

## Signs your child may be involved in gang activity

- Repeated use of a specific color, symbol, clothing or number, or getting a tattoo to represent
- Using social media to represent, taunt, organize, or threaten
- Staying out late and secrecy
- Angry outbursts and aggression
- Negative attitudes toward anyone in authority
- Change in attitude, behavior, personal style
- Suspected use of drugs and/or unexplained cash or goods

## WEST BATON ROUGE MUSEUM

### BEE TLE SCULPTURE WORKSHOP

with Kellie Rountree  
for children and adults  
November 11  
9:30 - 11:30 AM



### BEE TLE PENDANT WORKSHOP

with Kellie Rountree  
for adults  
November 11  
1:00 - 3:00 PM

Call ahead to register  
225.336.2422

Free of charge

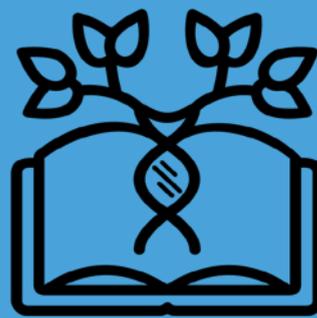
### Children's Drawing & Painting

with Ms. Shaun

Saturday, November 18  
Saturday, December 16  
from 10:30 AM - 12PM

Limited space,  
Call ahead to register  
225.336.2422

### EXPLORATIONS IN



### GENEOLOGY

WBR Genealogical Society  
presents

The Battle of Baton Rouge  
Saturday, November 18  
10:30 AM - 12PM

with guest speaker,  
Ronnie Harris

## Holiday Open House

arts & crafts • gingerbread  
papa noël • hot cider  
elf scavenger hunt  
holiday musical performances  
and more!

SUNDAY  
DECEMBER 3  
2:00 - 5:00 PM

# Recapping 2023 - Values, rates and revaluation

West Baton Rouge Parish will see its largest year-to-year increase in assessed property values in 2023, \$117.8 million. "The increase is due in large part to a \$109 million increase in business personal property values. Additionally, there was an increase of \$11.1 million in real estate assessed values due to new residential and commercial construction," said Assessor Chris Guerin in the WBR Parish Assessor's Office annual property assessment report.

The total assessed value of real estate increased from \$246.8 million in 2022 to \$257.9 million in 2023. As noted earlier, there was a significant increase in business personal property (inventories, business furniture and fixtures, machinery and equipment) from \$385 million in 2022 to \$494.2 million in 2023. Also, the value of public service property (pipelines, rail, telecommunications, utilities and watercraft) valued by the Louisiana Tax Commission decreased from \$48.4 million in 2022 to \$46 million in 2023.

Guerin noted 84.5% of all property taxes paid in West Baton Rouge Parish are paid by business and industry. Additionally, the parish has approximately \$1.92 billion in industrial property exemptions that will be phased onto the assessment rolls by 2030. "These are exemptions the Louisiana Economic Development Office granted to new manufacturing businesses and existing manufacturing business expansions," Guerin said.

Property owners can expect to see the parish-wide property tax rate for 2023 decrease from 104.88 mills to 103.84 mills. The rate reduction is a result of the Assessor's Office reducing its rate from a constitutional maximum 2.47 mills down to 1.24 mills.

Assessor Guerin also wants to remind residents of West Baton Rouge Parish that 2024 will be a revaluation year. It is not too soon to apply for a homestead exemption, special assessment level value freeze (age 65 and older or 100% disabled), or additional homestead exemption for veterans with at least a 50% service-connected disability. Applications may be submitted online, mailed or faxed in, and of course, completed in person in the Assessor's Office.

As always, the Assessor's Office website is available 24/7 for access to valuable parcel information including ownership data, assessed values and legal descriptions, as well as aerial photography and digital maps of West Baton Rouge Parish. You can visit the site at [www.wbrassessor.org](http://www.wbrassessor.org).

If you would like to review the assessment for your property, go to the Assessor's Office website: [www.wbrassessor.org](http://www.wbrassessor.org)

## 2023 Property Tax Breakdown

TAXING DISTRICT	MILLAGE	TAXES
<b>Assessor's Office</b>	1.24	\$ 921,849.00
<b>Atchafalaya Levee Dist.</b>	4.04	\$ 2,993,802.00
<b>WBR Parish Council</b>		
Communications/E-911	2.00	\$ 1,486,852.00
Community Center	2.00	\$ 1,486,852.00
Council on Aging	2.50	\$ 1,858,565.00
Drainage	7.20	\$ 5,352,688.00
General Fund	3.52	\$ 2,616,860.00
Health Unit	0.75	\$ 557,570.00
Library	4.10	\$ 3,048,047.00
Museum	2.00	\$ 1,486,852.00
Recreation	5.00	\$ 3,717,131.00
<b>WBR School Board</b>		
Constitutional	4.39	\$ 3,263,641.00
General fund	15.00	\$11,151,392.00
Bonds & interest	10.00	\$ 7,434,261.00
Salaries I	12.00	\$ 8,921,114.00
Salaries II	12.00	\$ 8,921,114.00
<b>WBR Sheriff's Office</b>	16.10	\$11,969,165.00
<b>Total Taxes</b>	<b>104.88</b>	<b>\$77,187,734.00</b>

## 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](http://www.portgbr.com)

# STEM Competition expanded to promote fun learning

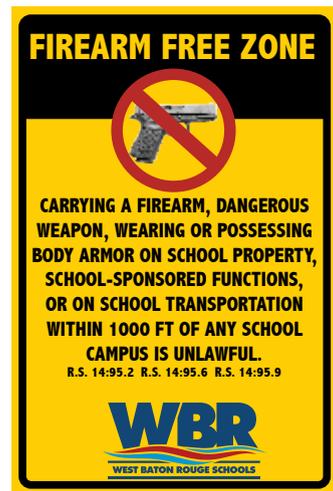
The STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) Competition within West Baton Rouge Schools is being expanded this year to provide students with fun and challenging ways to learn.

The fall STEM Competition will take place October 24 for 6th-8th graders; October 26th for 9th-12th graders; and October 27th for 4th and 5th graders. The competition will be held at the Baton Rouge Community College (BRCC) site in Port Allen so that students can also see programs offered by BRCC at the site. Each school in the parish can send between 39-49 kids each day of the competition.

Among the competitions being offered are quiz bowls, drone races, math and measurement competitions, bridge and tower building, coding, Super Smash Brothers, snap circuits (electrical) and more.

"We will have multiple competitions going at one time, and have industry volunteers assisting us, along with the staff of our WBR Technology Department," said Candice Breaux, Career Academy Supervisor. "The kids love this program, and we're providing for double the number of kids this year. We will also offer it again in the Spring, and hope to bring other school districts to our site to compete with our kids. It is a great way for them to learn through fun challenges."

# Safety protocols ramped up

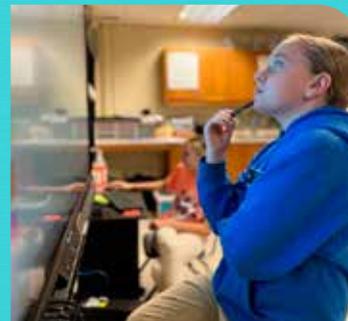
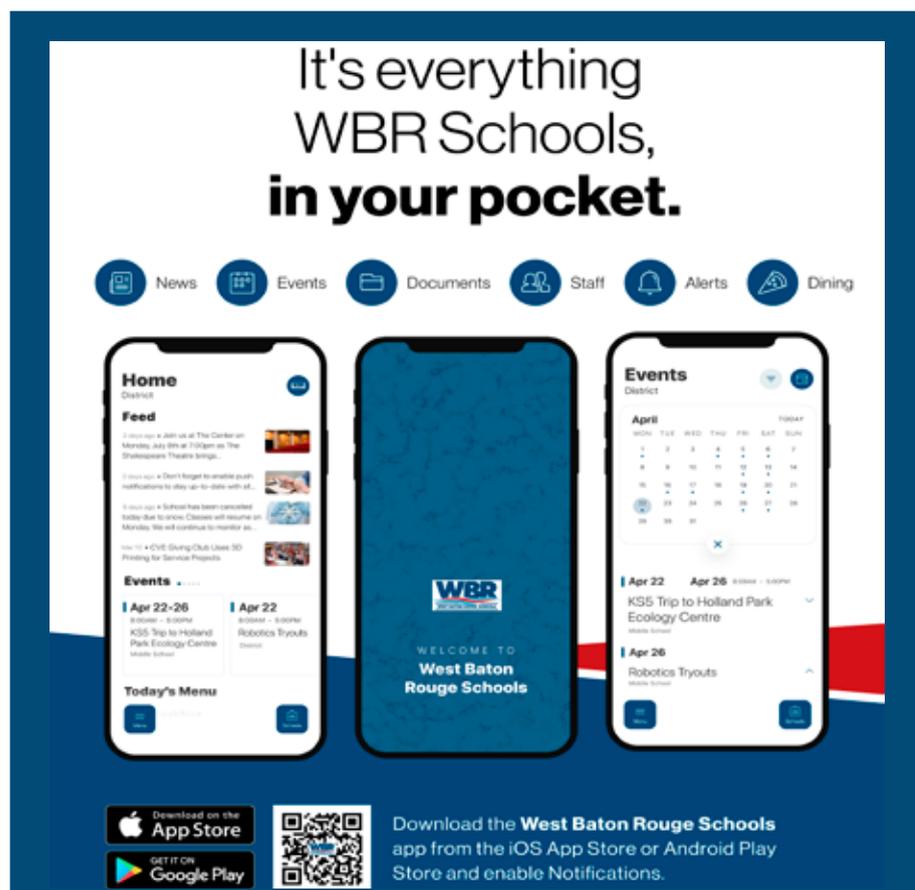


Safety protocols have been ramped up at all schools and events after the tragic start to football season.

Among the changes are screening everyone who attends school games, random screenings at schools, implementing a clear bag policy for all games, increased law enforcement presence at schools, and updating and adding firearm free zone signage at all schools, fields and gymnasiums. More exercises for principals and teachers on how to respond to a variety of incidents is also being initiated.

"We already had a robust school security program with our ZeroEyes detection system, school resource officers, secure entrances, and

Rapter Emergency Management System in all classrooms, but updated the policies, trainings, and screening systems offer additional layers of security," said JaKouri Williams, Coordinator of School Safety and Security.



## OUR PRIMARY GOALS

**1 STUDENTS:** Promote academic student outcomes at every school

**2 SAFETY:** Improve security & support for student emotional learning

**3 STAFF:** Build highly effective instructional teams

**4 SENSIBLE/SOUND SPENDING:** Align finances with goals

**5 STAKEHOLDERS:** Enhance communication with parents & community

# Strategic plan updated with vision to create "A" district

The West Baton Rouge School Board has adopted an updated Strategic Plan with the goal of making the district one of few "A" school districts in Louisiana. The plan was reviewed by the Board at its Annual Retreat in August.

"We believe this plan will help all our students advance academically, and will provide us with a very high quality and effective school system," said Superintendent Chandler Smith. "The five goals are interconnected and the strategies provide research-driven tactics and programs to take our district to the next level."

The plan's five primary goals and strategies to reach each goal are:

**1) STUDENTS: Promote academic student outcomes at every school**  
Strategies include: A school-wide planning process; strengthening early childhood readiness; align grade-level curricula and common assessment system; create a Career Academy and Early College Model by increasing dual enrollment credits, industry-based certification and Associate's degrees; and utilize technology to promote student achievement.

**2) SAFETY: Improve security and support for student emotional learning**  
Strategies include: Improve building security and maintain secure school entrances; train staff in emergency operations plan; reduce student absenteeism by improving tracking and creating community partnerships; clearly communicate behavior expectations; develop and implement a district-wide mental health program; and increase opportunities for student well-being through expanded extracurricular activities.

**3) STAFF: Build highly effective instructional teams**  
Strategies include: Provide principals with staffing support through partnerships; ensure schools have effective Professional Learning Communities and are meeting the academic needs of all students; improve evaluation tools and procedures; ensure a district career ladder is in place; support staff morale with para-to-teacher model, effective mentoring and recognition.

**4) SENSIBLE/SOUND SPENDING: Align finances with goals**  
Strategies include: Create a budget that ensures resources align to the academic return on investment; improve buildings for learning and safety; sustain robust technology; ensure WBR is competitive in compensation and benefits; prepare for future enrollment growth; provide transparency.

**5) STAKEHOLDERS: Enhance communication with parents and community**  
Strategies include: Create new website and app for parents ease of use and update regularly; build on partnerships with agencies/organizations; share results, successes with community; improve school-to-parent communication; establish Parent Advisory Committees at all schools.