

SPECIAL NOTICE:

MEETING CHANGE

The West Baton Rouge Council has moved its monthly meetings from 6:30 pm to 5:30 pm, beginning with its May 10 meeting. Council meetings are held on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at the Parish Council Building.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Now-Aug. 5 – Acadian Handicraft Project exhibit, WBR Museum

May 5 – Live at 5 on Westside, Addis Railroad Park

May 11 – Live on the Levee, Port Allen

May 17 – Port Allen High graduation

May 18 – Brusly High graduation

May 26 – Family Day in the Park, William & Lee Park; Pool opens for summer

June 5 - July 19 – WBR Summer Camp sessions by WBR Recreation Dept. For more info see page 3

June 16 – Juneteenth Celebration, William & Lee Park

June 18 & 25 – Blast From Past week-long summer camps, WBR Museum

WBR wins international award for GIS technology

The parish's extensive geographic information system (GIS) has been selected among more than 100,000 entries worldwide for an international Special Achievement Award by the Esri Corp.

The GIS system provides a centralized and shared database, along with apps, for parish departments and other government agencies to help them operate more effectively and efficiently, and also to provide information to the public.

Environmental Science Services, Inc. (ES²) has been working with the parish on the software and applications since 2014. It is a Silver Partner with Esri Corp. in providing this software system.

"Esri is the largest GIS company in the world and is the gold standard," said David Alford of ES². "For a small parish like West Baton Rouge to have the extensive GIS system that it has, with so many uses and so many agencies involved, is exceptional and really shows a commitment to using technology to operate effectively."

In fact, last year Esri gave less than 100 Achievement Awards internationally, and of those only four were given to local government agencies. "It is a very big deal for a small parish like West Baton Rouge to receive this international recognition," he said.

The award will be given at the 2018 Esri User Conference, which draws some 24,000 attendees from throughout the world. The conference will be held in July in San Diego.

The parish continues to develop new apps, with several being developed this year. One will help the parish maintain a sign inventory, and another will enable the public to easily locate various government services.



One of the popular GIS apps used by the public is the WBR Mosquito Abatement site, available at: www.wbrcouncil.org/Departments/Mosquito-Abatement or on facebook. It shows mosquito zones, type of spraying scheduled, and whether mosquitos trapped in that zone have tested positive for West Nile Virus. Shown above is a screen view of the zones.

GIS apps used extensively by WBR agencies

The West Baton Rouge GIS system was first operational in 2015, and since that time GIS apps have been developed for numerous agencies. **Just a few of these uses include:**

Registrar of Voters Office - available to the public online and shows residents the districts in which they vote,

Mosquito Control - available to public online and shows mosquito tracking and populations in various areas

Office of Community Planning and Development - provides important data for economic development needs, planning and permitting

Emergency-911 - provides critical emergency call location information

Parks and Recreation - shows all parks in parish and their amenities

Utilities - provides detailed mapping of various utility lines and other infrastructure information

In addition, the software is also available to and used regularly by the **Towns of Brusly and Addis, City of Port Allen, and to the WBR Assessor's Office, School Board and Sheriff's Office**, along with Acadian Ambulance.

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 in Parish Council Building.

WBR BOARD OF ADJUSTMENTS - Meets 3rd 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.com

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 activities at Museum

May 4 – 1PM – Le Café Français - Coffee and conversation en français.

May 19 – August 5 - Tractors: Rural Engineuity - This exhibition highlights the innovations and people who transformed farming in the rural south.

May 21 – Enrichment Monday - Spinning and weaving hands-on training for staff and volunteers

June 1 – 1PM – Le Café Français - Coffee and conversation en français.

June 3 – Barn Kickoff - A day of tinkering, hammering, black-smithing, spinning, churning, milling and so much more! FREE!

June 11 – Enrichment Monday - Hands-on training for staff and volunteers

June 18-22 & 25-29 - Blast from the Past Summer History Camp - “How to have more fun on the farm”

July 6 – 1PM – Le Café Français - Coffee and conversation en français.

July 16 – 17 – Teachers Institute - Rural Engineuity: Cultivating Critical Thinking Skills in the Classroom

Farm engineuity on display

A new exhibition entitled Rural Engineuity will be on display May 19 through August 5. This exhibition highlights the innovations and people who transformed sugarcane farming and processing in the rural south.

The tractor has been called the most important agricultural advancement of our time and its invention changed the way farmers worked their land and improved profit margins.

Among the Louisiana inventors featured in this exhibit are Leonard Julien and Allen Ramsey Wurtele. A native of Ascension

Parish, Leonard Julien invented a sugar cane planting machine after realizing there had to be a better way to plant the crop. Allen Ramsey Wurtele of Pointe Coupee Parish invented a cane harvester and mechanized much of his rural farm. Photographs and design blueprints for his invention will be on display. The impacts of the 4-H Club, Future Farmers of America and the Cooperative Extension service will also be featured in the exhibit.



WBR LIBRARY

Summer programs at the Library

The West Baton Rouge Puppet Theatre presents “Never Say UGH! To a Bug,” a musical visit with insects and bugs indigenous to south Louisiana backyards. Limited reservations remain for the ten morning performances, May 7-11. The show is appropriate for kindergarten through 4th grade. Call 342-7920, ext. 224 for more information.

The West Baton Rouge Bookmobile is open for business at the Brusly Town Hall on Tuesdays from 2:30-3:45 p.m., and very other Thursday at Las Palmas’ parking lot in Brusly from 2:30-3:45 p.m. Call 342-7920, ext. 227 to request books and DVDs for pickup at the Bookmobile.

ADULT PROGRAMS

Book Club (Ages 18+)

The West Baton Rouge Library Book Club meets the first Saturday of every month from 11 am-12:30 pm. The next three titles to be discussed are:

May 5: MWF Seeking BFF: My Yearlong Search for a New Best Friend by Rachel Bertsche. “This charming, funny chronicle of an ‘experiment in extreme friending’ explores the bonds between women and the idea that the world is peopled with potential BFF’s” —People, 3 stars

June 2: The Great Alone by Kristin Hannah. “Alaska, 1974. Untamed. Unpredictable. A story of a family in crisis struggling to survive at the edge of the world, it is also a story of young and enduring love. ... this is a novel as spectacular and powerful as Alaska itself.” – Amazon.com Editorial Reviews

July 7: Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Mathematicians Who Helped Win the Space Race by Margot Lee Shetterly. “The #1 New York Times bestseller. The phenomenal true story of the black female mathematicians at NASA whose calculations helped fuel some of America’s greatest achievements in space.” – Amazon.com

“Flipster” digital magazines at your Library!

The WBR Library now provides access to digital versions of top popular magazines such as: Better Homes & Gardens, Consumer Reports, Cosmopolitan, Ebony, O, The Oprah Magazine, People, Real Simple, Rolling Stone, Seventeen, Southern Living, Sports Illustrated, and Time. These titles plus 18 more are available with your library card; read online, download and print to any mobile device, laptop, or personal computer. Flipster is currently available in the Library only; home access will be available soon. For more information, please call Adult Services Librarian Luis Interiano at 225-342-7920 ext. 230

Hwy. 415/La. 1 connector update

The final construction plans for the La. Hwy. 1/ La. Hwy. 415 connector route are presently being drawn by the La. Department of Transportation and Development. This is expected to be a year-long process.

The parish received a \$4.4 million Surface Transportation Block Grant for completion of the plans from the Capital Region Planning Commission. The parish will fund \$1.1 million of the total \$5.5 million cost for the plans, which will make the project “shovel ready, which puts WBR Parish in a better position when federal and/or state construction dollars become available.

Get on-line for info!

The parish offers several ways to get information 24 hours a day on-line:

www.wbr council.org - the parish website - submit work orders, pay utility bills, get announcements and officials’ contact info, and more.

Pages on facebook that provide updates:
West Baton Rouge Parish
Office of Homeland Security and 911
Mosquito Control
Animal Control
Parks and Recreation

ABOUT THIS PUBLICATION:

VISION WEST is published quarterly as a cooperative endeavor of West Baton Rouge Parish government agencies to educate residents about projects, activities and services in the parish. It is produced by Peacock Communications, LLC. Comments can be sent to: ellie@peacockcommunications.com, or call 225-929-9661.



Shown above is a portion of the Lobdell area work, which included closing up ditches by adding culverts on numerous streets.

\$3 million road improvement project begins in Lobdell area

The parish's \$3 million road improvement program will begin in May, and the Lobdell area will be the first area to get improved roads. Those roads were greatly impacted by the parish's just completed \$3.9 million sewer project in that area, which added 155 homes into the parish sewer system, eliminating septic tanks. Roads to be overlaid include Lydia, Plantation Loop, Plantation, Kuhn's Road and Ted's Lane.

Phase two of the road improvement project includes other streets, along with the \$2 million construction of the Sid Richardson connector route. This road will connect Sid Richardson Road to La. Hwy. 1148, and is needed as an evacuation route. Other streets in phase two include Famco Road, Louise Drive, Bertha Drive, Cherrywood Street, Guiding Star Street, Parkway, West Parkway, Commercial/La. 415 Extension/Southwest Port, and the service road from Addis to Lukeville Lane.

New road coming for Addis area

Construction of a new road from Sid Richardson Road to Hwy. 1148 in the Addis area is now underway. Culverts are presently being installed. The road will provide an evacuation route for the Addis area to Sid Richardson Road. The parish received a \$150,000 capital outlay grant and will fund the rest of the \$2 million project.

Sewer pond erosion being addressed

The Lukeville sewer pond has been slowly eroding and because of that erosion, it is losing capacity. The parish has signed a contract to rebuild the banks and have erosion control matting placed around the pond banks to stabilize it. The \$150,000 project will be funded with \$75,000 in La. Government Assistance Program grant funds and \$75,000 in parish funds.

Project to increase water pressure, provide backup in southern WBR

A \$3 to \$4 million project to increase water pressure in the Brusly and Addis areas, and also provide a back-up well for the parish, is in the design and right-of-way acquisition phase.

During the severe and extended freezing temperatures in December and January, water pressure in the southern part of the parish was hampered because residents were dripping their faucets to prevent pipes from freezing.

The parish studied the water issues, and has developed a plan that includes two phases: 1) either refurbishing a well that has not been in use or drilling a new water well, and 2) installing a new main to the southern part of the parish from that well. This will also give the parish a third water well for production for the southern portion of the parish, which means it would have a back-up should one need maintenance or repairs.

The other phase is installing a 16 to 20-inch pipeline from the refurbished or new well to Brusly, and installing a 12 to 16-inch pipeline from Brusly to Addis, which should increase water pressure. This project is in the preliminary phase and could take two to three years.

Warm up arena to be added at Mouch Multipurpose Facility

A covered warm up and exercise area building will be added at the Louis A. Mouch, Jr. Multipurpose Facility in Port Allen this summer. The 100 feet by 120 feet metal building will be identical to the stall barn adjacent to the arena. Arena Director Jason LeBlanc said the addition will make the facility much more functional for the many events held there regularly. It will also serve as a show barn for 4-H Club events, and can be converted to a stall barn if needed for big horse events. "We have events almost every weekend of the year, and during the week. Right now if it's muddy or raining, the competitors have nowhere to warm up their horses before competing," he said. "It is also much safer during events when its raining." It is located at 152 Turner Road in Port Allen. Phone: 225.388.9125.

RECREATION UPDATES:

Pre-register now for summer camps

WBR Summer Camp is just around the corner, and pre registration is recommended. Camp dates and locations this year are:

Port Allen Community Center

June 5-7
June 12-14

Addis Community Center

June 19-21
June 26-28

Erwinville Community Center

July 10-12
July 17-19

Camps is open to kids ages 5-10.

Camp time is 8:30 am - 3:30 pm, and

includes many fun activities, games and excitement. The fee is \$10.00 a week and a maximum of 100 registrants are taken at each location! Sign up now at the WBR Parks and Recreation office. For more information call



Pool, splash pads to open for summer

The William and Lee Pool in Port Allen will open on Saturday, May 28, and stay open until August 11. It will be open Tuesday-Saturday from 10 am to 6 pm. Swim lessons will be offered all summer. For more information on sessions and costs, call the Parks and Recreation office at 336-2423. The splash pads located throughout the parish will open on May 5.



UTILITIES UPDATE:

Get notice before being disconnected

The WBR Natural Gas & Water Department has started a program in which residents will receive notification if their natural gas or water is about to be disconnected for failure to pay monthly bills. Residents can call the Department at 225.336.2406 and provide their name, account and phone number. They will receive a call or text the day before their service is to be disconnected, and given the opportunity to make payment. "The pilot program proved successful, so we will continue this program for customers," said Utilities Office Supervisor Pam Keowen.

Staying firearm ready

All West Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office deputies are presently undergoing annual firearm training to be re-certified for the year. The training takes place at the Sheriff's Office Shooting Range. This is one aspect of numerous on-going training programs for deputies that are required annually. Reserve deputies are also required to complete this training. Shown at left is a training session underway.



Graduates reminded not to drink/drive

May is a month of graduation parties and celebrations, and the West Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office warns graduates and their families that deputies will be out in force and watching for drunk drivers throughout the month.

"Don't let a wonderful celebration become a tragedy," said Sheriff Mike Cazes. "Have parental supervision at parties and make sure a designated driver is assigned to get everyone home."



Complete the Post Academy

Corporal Julie Roberts and Deputies Dillon Price and Richard Parsons, Jr. recently completed the 426-hour deputy training program at the Capital Area Regional Training Academy. This certified them to work as road deputies. They are presently all assigned at the WBR Correctional Center.

LeBlanc to be honored

The late Corporal Donna Weems LeBlanc, who was shot to death by a neighbor while defending her family in 2016, will be among the seven officers honored at the Louisiana Law Enforcement Officers Memorial Ceremony in New Orleans on May 9.

She will also be honored at the National Memorial Wall in Washington DC on May 13, and her name will be etched into the wall.

LeBlanc was a 22-year veteran of the West Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office and had served as a dispatcher and booking officer. She was a road deputy when she was killed.



TOWN OF ADDIS



Right turn lane drawing at Sugar Mill & La. Hwy. 1

Turn lane coming for Sugar Mill

A dedicated right turn lane is being added at the red light on Sugar Mill Parkway and La. Hwy. 1, said Mayor David Toups. The dedicated lane will extend 150 feet, providing room for approximately 15 vehicles, and should significantly reduce the traffic backup at the red light. A back to back curb will also be constructed as a median barrier so that left turns onto West Frontage Road will not be allowed. These projects will be completed in May, and are being funded by the Sugar Mill developers. In addition, the developers are also constructing a sewer lift station for the area. The town will provide a pipeline from the lift station to the town's sewer plant. This project will begin this summer.

Don't pour oil/fat down drains

Most fat that is poured down the drains is in liquid form, but when it hits the pipes underground, the grease hardens on the walls of sewer lines. A popular myth is that running hot water down the drain will prevent this from occurring, but the ground surrounding the pipe keeps it cool, allowing the fat to cling to the walls of the pipe.

Over a period of weeks or months the fat will harden in the pipes, eventually causing the pipe to become completely blocked. Sometimes these blockages can cause sewage to back up into your home or your neighbor's home causing hazard and inconvenience to the inhabitants. Instead of pouring fats down the drain, allow it to cool and solidify, then scrape it out and dispose of it in your household trash.



Grease almost completely blocks a water pipeline.

Live At 5
on the Westside

FRIDAY, MAY 4
RYAN FORET & FORET TRADITION

Town of Addis Railroad Museum & Park
4343 Harris Ave. - 5-8 pm

Food & drinks, balloon artists,
face painting, kids' movies in the park!

Meetings:

- Addis Town Council** - 1st Wednesday of each month - Town Hall - 6:00 pm
- Addis Planning & Zoning** - 3rd Tuesday of each month - Town Hall - 6:00 pm
- Addis Historical Society** - 2nd Tuesday of each month - Addis Museum - 5:30 pm



Proclamation urges youth not to drink

April was proclaimed Alcohol Awareness Month in the Town of Brusly in an effort by Mayor Scot Rhodes and Brusly officials to fight underage drinking. The proclamation noted that graduation celebrations in May often involve drinking. Local groups, including the WBR Health Community Coalition, DFC Youth Leadership, WBR Students Against Destructive Decisions, and local governing bodies, have partnered to remind students that underage drinking is illegal, and that drinking and driving kills people.

Shown at the town's April meeting are representatives of the West Baton Rouge Healthy Community Coalition. From left are Jasmin Dominique of Port Allen High School, Jonathan Veal of Brusly High School, Brusly Mayor Scot Rhodes, and Mya Pitre of Brusly High School.



The Town of Brusly once again celebrated Arbor Day on February 28 by planting trees at Alexander Park. The trees were planted in partnership with the National Arbor Day Foundation, and continue the town's commitment to being an Official Tree City USA. Shown above, city officials, employees and others gather for the tree planting.

Brusly officer also a singer

Brusly police Officer Robyn Ross sang the National Anthem at a baseball tournament for the Capital Area Law Enforcement Foundation in April. The tournament, held at Rivault Park in Port Allen, consisted of 28 teams to help promote awareness and raise funds for the CALEF. Pictured is Officer Ross (second from right) with Officer LeJeune of the Addis Police Department, Deputy Williams of the East Baton Rouge Sheriffs Office and a catcher for one of the teams.



CITY OF PORT ALLEN

PROJECT UPDATE: Walkway project begins

The construction of the Whitehead Boulevard Greenway will get underway in May! The walkway will extend from the entrance of Rivault Park at Oaks Avenue to Avenue A.

The walkway is the first phase of a 3/4 mile recreation greenway that will join Rivault Park with the Old Ferry Landing Park and Centennial Park. The second phase of the project will extend the walkway from Avenue A to South River Road.

The city received a \$100,000 grant from the Louisiana Recreational Trails Program for the project, and will add another \$35,000 to complete Phase 1. The walkway will extend 2,000 linear feet in the median of Whitehead Boulevard.

Water, sewer projects completed

Three major public works projects have been completed. They include replacing water lines on Maryland and Georgia Streets, replacing sewer lines on Calendula Street, and completely overhauling the sewer lift station next to La. Hwy 1.

Both the water lines and sewer lines required replacement because they had deteriorated in numerous places. The work on the lift station included installing two new pumps, updating electrical equipment, drainage work around the site and painting. It totaled \$300,000.

Railroad line/spur work continues

The addition of another Union Pacific Railroad line and spur through Port Allen just south of Avenue G is about 50 percent complete, according to city officials. The expansion of the track will allow Drax Biomass, located at the Port of Greater Baton Rouge, to receive 80-car trains weekly, and provide for more railcar capacity at the Port.



May 11 - ROUGON!

5:30-8:30 pm

**Old Ferry Landing Park
Bring your lawn chairs!**

Juneteenth Celebration

**Saturday, June 16, William & Lee Park
Performances by TYREE NEAL, CUPID**

Sponsored by City of Port Allen



Centennial Park sidewalks are in

Phase one of Centennial Park is now complete, with the gazebo installed and walkways now laid. The park is adjacent to Port Allen City Hall and across the street from the Old Ferry Landing Park. Phase one of the park included a sidewalk, lamp posts for lighting and the gazebo. Phase two will include benches and the city and Dow Chemical Co. logos, since Dow donated \$100,000 for the project. The park offers a beautiful setting for gatherings or relaxing outdoors, and is adjacent to the city's popular Old Ferry Landing Park and the much-used levee top walking trail.

Rain hampers Kite Fest

Kite Fest Louisiana' - one of the parish's premiere tourism events - was hampered this year by rain most of the weekend. Attendance totalled about 5,000 people for the event, which usually draws some 20,000 attendees, said Executive Director Kathy Gautreau. Those braving the weather did enjoy favorable wind conditions for kite flying. Shown is a scene from the event.



Exterior event area to be completed in May

The extensive patio expansion at the back of the West Baton Rouge Conference Center is expected to be completed by the end of May. The patio upgrades include a much large concrete area with a pergola ideal for outdoor weddings and other outdoor events. A fountain, lighting and stamped concrete has already been completed. In the photo above, the area is ready for construction of the pergola.

New, unique Christmas event venue!

A new twist is being added to the popular Reflections of the Season event this December. The site can be booked for private Christmas parties. "We already have corporations that have booked the site for December 1 and 8, and we think this will be a great addition to this event," said Gauthreau. Reflections of the Season will be open to the public December 14-16 and December 20 through 23. Private parties will be allowed any day it is not open to the public. In other Convention and Visitor Center news, Gauthreau said West Baton Rouge was represented at tourism shows in Wyoming, Denver and Ft. Polk during the Spring.

SAVE THE DATE

Fourth Fest - July 4

Oldies But Goodies Fest & Smokin' Oldies Cook-Off - Sept. 8-9

Sugar Fest - Oct. 7

Reflections of Season - Dec. 14-16, 20-23



WBR Chamber recognizes dedicated leaders

The West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce honored the Best of West Baton Rouge winners, and also installed its 2018 Board of Directors at the annual Membership Banquet, held in February. This is the premiere Chamber event of the year, attracting many members, parish officials and community leaders. Among the honorees were:

Best New Member: Rotolo's Pizzeria, Port Allen

Best Small Business: State Farm Agent Brittany Weaver

Chamber Ambassador of the Year: Francesca Shreve, Lofton Staffing & Security Services



Young Professional Award: Chris Reeves, Edward Jones



Best Large Business: Placid Refining Company, LLC



The Pride of West Baton Rouge: Jean Crites!



Chamber Volunteer of the Year: Kevin Durbin, West Baton Rouge Parish Government



Why is the Assessor's personnel on my property?

If you've recently started or completed an addition to your home or business in the last year or so, it is likely you have received or will receive a visit from an inspector for the West Baton Rouge Parish Assessor's Office.

Why? "We are required by law to assess the value of all properties in the parish, and we must check these projects and adjust assessments once they are completed," explained Assessor Barney "Frog" Altazan.

Property owners are required to get 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 of the permits filed by those agencies. "We used to inspect projects only in the spring and fall, but with the increased level of activity in the Parish our field crew is out inspecting projects on a year round basis," Altazan 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 inspectors, checking the dimensions of any additions to residences or buildings. "They go on site to every project with a tape measure and tablet in hand and measure the area of the construction project and report that information back to our office," Altazan said. "It has been our standard policy for many years for the inspector

to knock on the door upon arriving at the property, but because these checks are done during working hours, many times no one is at home."

If no one answers, they simply take the necessary measurements on the property and leave. "We have had property owners call and want to know why we are on their property," Altazan said. "We are simply doing our job in making an inspection to properly assess property." Altazan said the inspectors carry an ID card identifying they are on staff with the Assessor's Office, and wear reflective vests with "Assessor" written on them so property owners can be assured they are properly authorized and on official business.

In addition, Altazan said his office notifies the law enforcement agency in the area an inspector will be working so if someone calls about a man being on someone's property, the law enforcement agency can assure the caller the inspector is authorized to take measurements on the property.

Because of our schedule of work and the timing of the construction project, it may be some time after a project is completed that we go to the property to make an inspection," Altazan said. "This sometimes surprises people, but if anyone has questions about an inspector's presence on their property, please call my office at 344-6777."



Barry Brewer and Jimmy Altazan, inspectors with the WBR Assessor's Office.

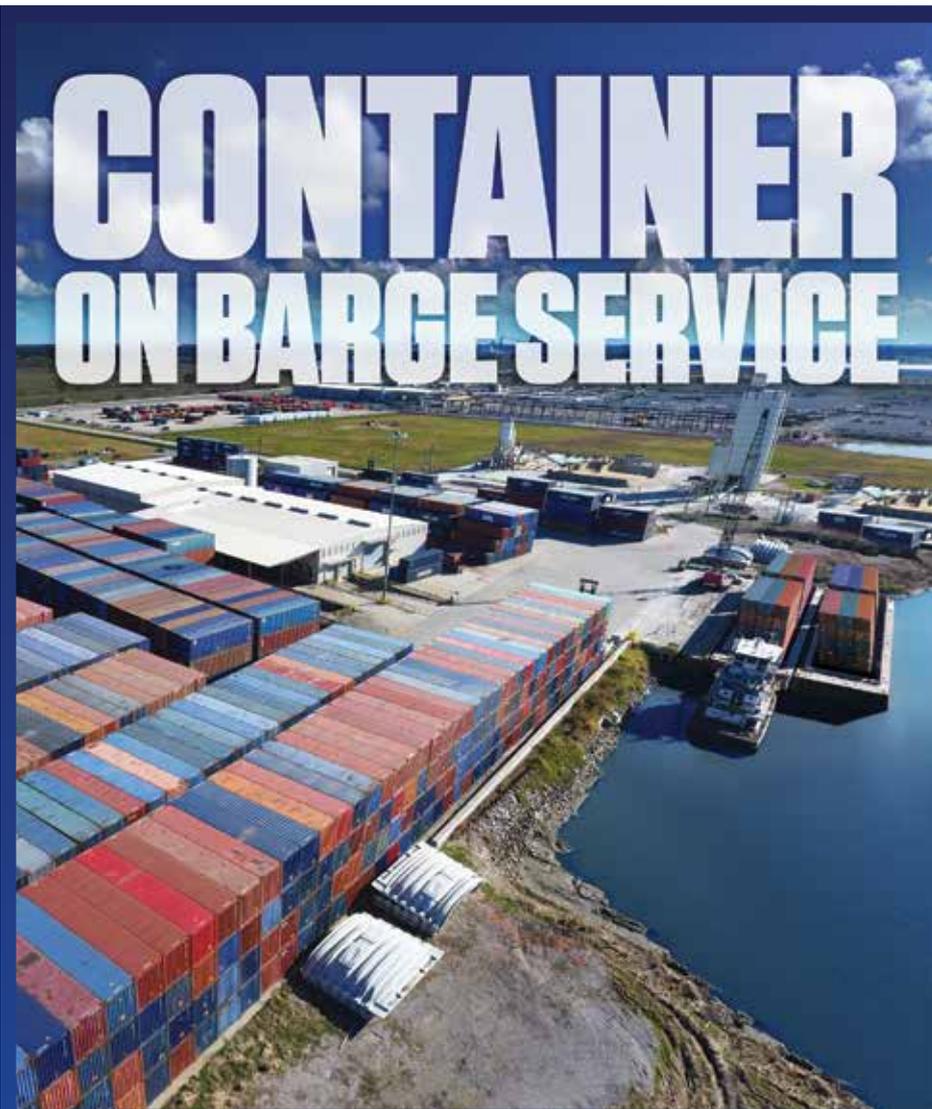


VIEW YOUR PROPERTY ASSESSMENT

See your property on digital aerial maps!

Learn about tax exemptions, Download forms and more!
www.wbrassessor.org

PORT OF GREATER BATON ROUGE



CONTAINER ON BARGE SERVICE

In 2016, container-on-barge services returned to the Port. Today, operator SEACOR handles up to 400 containers at a time, loading them with a variety of products from nearby industries and transporting them to the Port of New Orleans for export.

Local industry acceptance is helping ensure confidence in the service. SEACOR has increased from one to two runs to New Orleans per week, and volume has nearly quadrupled.



The Port is accruing equipment for quicker and easier transport with the assistance of a \$1.75 million Maritime Administration grant. A \$4-5 million expansion of the container yard is being partially funded through Louisiana's Port Priority Program.

Port Executive Director Jay Hardman said, "We are excited about acquiring more efficient equipment and adding infrastructure. Every one of our containers that goes down to New Orleans for export is one less 18-wheel truck on our roads and bridges."

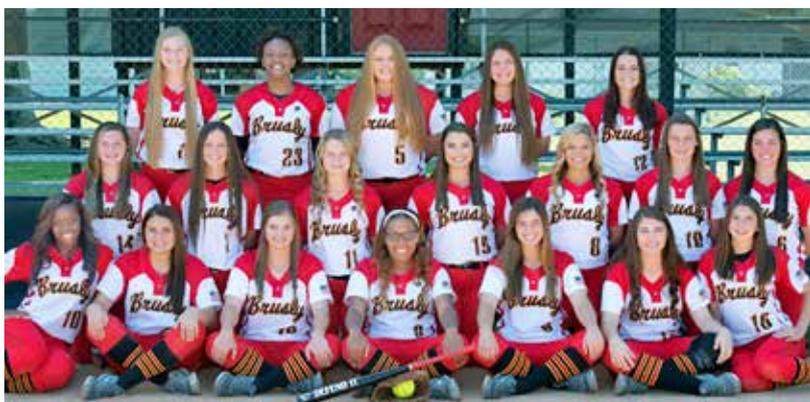
For more information, contact Greg Johnson:
225-342-1660.



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



Congratulations to the Port Allen High Powerlifting team, which won the Class 2A state championship in March in Alexandria! Coached by Brian Bizette, the team beat out 11 other teams with over 70 competitors to reach the state finals. Nyjala Williams was a force for the team, setting four divisional records: 405 lb. squat, 205 lb. bench, 405 lb. deadlift, and total record of 1,015 lbs., and Best Lifter in Heavy Platform!



The Brusly High softball team is ranked #1 in the state and, at press time, was heading to the state softball tournament. The team won the district championship, and with its 27-7 record, is ranked 151st in the country! It is coached by Beau Bouvier. Among its stand-outs are pitcher Mary Cathryn Comeaux, who has a 17-4 record, catcher Caroline Gassie with a .350 batting average and 10 home runs, third baseman Kyana Thymes, with a .435 batting average; and outfielder Angel Bradford, with a .432 batting average.

Brusly ACT board having impact

The highest ACT scores by students at Brusly High School have been posted on a board at the entrance of the school for 3 years, and it has had a very positive impact.

“We started showing off our ACT board when we realized that school-wide we had some pretty impressive scores,” said Principal Walt Lemoine. “There is room to put 30 names on it. The first year we had 33 students with scores of 26 and above, and 7 had a score of 30 or above (34 is the highest score possible on the ACT). We had to attach 3 names to the bottom slots. With the latest batch of scores we have 27 students with on the board with at least at a 26 score, and 12 students with at 30 or better.”

Lemoine said the board has been effective because students are proud to have their names on it, and visitors can see the impressive the scores. The ACT is a nationwide test so it is very recognizable. “We don’t place an extra emphasis on the ACT, but it helps to show that all around preparation is what pays off,” Lemoine said.

BRUSLY TOP ACT SCORES					
34	Clay Southcross	33	Landon Zimmerman	32	Dara Euban
32	Lagan Barthelot	31	Lagan Brum	31	Tristan Lint
30	Nathaniel Bonavia	30	Graham Campbell	30	Sebastian Dexter
30	Caleb Dunn	30	Camryn Gustha	30	Sylvia Souge
29	Brooks Bourgeois	28	Mason Acosta	28	Lacey Bodd
28	Michelle Denova	28	Garrett Roberts	28	Alexander Spencer
27	Savannah Bezet	27	Celeste Denova	26	Keliana Bradley
26	Blayne Conway	26	Laurel Fishburn	26	Rebecca Quendry
26	Matthew Jans	26	Sydney Luckhart	26	Baylee Weems

Staff works to give back

Relay for Life: The WBR School Board’s Relay For Life Team raised more than \$13,800 for the American Cancer Society and many students and school system staff turned out for the WBR Relay event, held in April. Overall, more than \$24,400 was raised in the event. Tammy Seneca, Supervisor of Information Systems and Educational Technology, chaired the event.

Autism Awareness: The WBR Schools Support Autism Awareness Team had raised more than \$695 and sold 77 shirts by mid-April for autism support programs as part of the Active for Autism 5K Run/Walk to be held May 5 in Baton Rouge. The 24-member team is open to anyone that is interested in supporting autism awareness and registration is open until the day of the race. It is being coordinated by Brusly Elementary teacher Claire Alleman. Info is at [facebook.com/WBR Schools Active for Autism Team Page](https://facebook.com/WBR_Schools_Active_for_Autism_Team_Page).

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT UPDATE: Construction project reports

Following is an update in mid-April on schools currently under construction in the school improvement program:

Cohn Elementary - New 8,975 square feet multipurpose building, with new administrative space, is blocked in and steel for roofing was arriving. Interior work will begin in May. Driveway should be poured by the end of April. It is on schedule to open in August. The renovations to the existing school will include CAT 6A wiring in all buildings, renovating student restrooms, a new freezer, new cooler, and an upgraded vent hood in the cafeteria. Also, the current administration office will be converted to a space for counselors and school nurses.

Brusly Elementary School - New 7,576 square feet multipurpose/Head Start facility is also blocked in, with roofing and then interior work set. It also is on-schedule to be complete for the 2018-2019 school year.

Port Allen High School - Dirt work has begun on the new 15,640 square feet theater/band building and 8,052 square feet gymnasium. A temporary road is in place. Extensive interior renovations to the school will begin the day teachers leave for the summer. That includes, first hazardous materials abatement, then demolition and rebuilding of the front entrance area, technology upgrades, roof repairs, HVAC improvements, an improved bus entrance and better traffic flow. The school building improvements will be complete for August, and the new buildings will be complete by March of 2019.

“The school building renovations must be done in 8 weeks, which is a very short period of time, so they require extensive coordination,” said Earl Kern, the school board’s construction consultant. “The WBR school staffs have been on board and helpful, which is critical for these short turnarounds.”



New Cohn Elementary multipurpose building



New Brusly Elementary multipurpose/Head Start building



Site work for Port Allen High School theater building