COMMUNITY

Baton Rouge welcomes you

Welcome

For hunters and fishermen, you only have to mention the words, and you’re sure to have someone show you around.

Sports enthusiasts will be able to appreciate baseball, football, basketball, tennis, even horse-bucking through the vault, all-inclusive and salty-sea teams, in addition to countless other centers such as those of the Louisiana Museum of Cultural History, YMCA and TCCR.

The city is home to two well-known universities, Southern and Louisiana State University.

Both offer much for city residents, whether through its sports and entertainment or opportunities for professional or personal advancement.

There’s also a community college, Louisiana Community College, that has fast made its own niche for area citizens.

History and garden buffs will find much of interest throughout the city and state.

Just off the interstate on Evans Lane, check out the LSU Rural Life Research Station where you can see how basic community life was in the early 1900s.

Take a walk around the grounds of the Burden Research Station, named after William and Margaret Burden who were instrumental in setting up this research program in Baton Rouge.

In the rear of the museum, the Burden Garden displays 19th century plantation gardens. There’s only a sample of the many historical sites.

What is the “Direct” difference?

At Bassett Furniture Direct our relationship with the factory makes all the difference. It allows us to give you the largest selection of Bassett products, from casual to traditional, from arts and crafts to contemporary.

New Residents:

This Cajun & Hillbilly Joke Book is a must have!
Over 600 clean jokes & wise cracks by John. E. Dial

Available by calling
769-3000

Check with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries at 225-755-2900 for recreation regulations and lake maps.

For information on other area interests from antiquing to plantations, pick up a tour guide and brochures at the Baton Rouge Area Convention & Visitors Bureau at 70 North Blvd.

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Free valet, free secure, on-site parking.

Bassett is proud to be a member of the Bassett Furniture Direct network, offering a complete line of home furnishings, including living room, bedroom, dining room, home office, and entertainment products. Bassett Furniture Direct is an innovative, direct-to-consumer business model that gives customers the opportunity to purchase high-quality furniture at exceptional prices directly from Bassett Furniture. This model allows consumers to shop for furniture in the comfort of their own home, without the hassles of traditional furniture shopping, and provides a more personalized and convenient shopping experience. Bassett Furniture Direct is dedicated to providing a wide variety of styles and designs to suit every taste and budget, ensuring that customers can find the perfect piece to complement their home decor. Whether you’re looking for a new sofa, a stylish bedroom set, or a functional home office solution, Bassett Furniture Direct is here to help you find the perfect furniture for your needs. With a commitment to quality and customer satisfaction, Bassett Furniture Direct is committed to helping you create a beautiful and comfortable home. bassettfurnituredirect.com

What’s in a name?

To some, the name "Bassett Furniture Direct" may seem an unusual combination of words. In fact, it represents the essence of the company that bears the name. Bassett Furniture Direct is not just a place to buy furniture; it’s a commitment to delivering superior customer service, outstanding products, and a seamless shopping experience. The name "Bassett Furniture Direct" captures the spirit of the company’s mission: to make it easy and enjoyable for customers to find the perfect furniture for their homes. This philosophy is evident in every aspect of the company, from its website and marketing materials to its physical locations and customer service. At Bassett Furniture Direct, the name "Bassett Furniture Direct" is more than just a name; it’s a statement of the company’s commitment to excellence and customer satisfaction. Bassett Furniture Direct is dedicated to providing a complete line of high-quality furniture at exceptional prices, delivered directly to your home with exceptional customer service. The name "Bassett Furniture Direct" is a promise to make it easy and enjoyable for you to find the perfect furniture for your home. Bassett Furniture Direct is committed to helping you create a beautiful and comfortable home, and the name "Bassett Furniture Direct" is a reminder of that commitment. Bassett Furniture Direct is proud to offer a wide variety of styles and designs to suit every taste and budget, ensuring that customers can find the perfect piece to complement their home decor. Whether you’re looking for a new sofa, a stylish bedroom set, or a functional home office solution, Bassett Furniture Direct is here to help you find the perfect furniture for your needs. With a commitment to quality and customer satisfaction, Bassett Furniture Direct is committed to helping you create a beautiful and comfortable home. bassettfurnituredirect.com
Mayer Singleton tackles new job in EBR

BY ADRIAM ANGELETI

In 2003, Eric Baton Rouge Parish

sheriff in a new mayor-led

parish and said the Louisiana law

parish. The new mayor was

not as well known as the

policy makers in the parish. The

name was not as well known as the

name of the mayor, and the parish

name was not as well known as the

name of the governor.

Mayer Bodey Singleton, left, with Advocate Publishing Group, is now in charge of the New Orleans metropolitan area, the mayor has said. In his

administration, Singleton says the

government will focus on private

sector growth, economic develop-

ment, and public safety.

The new mayor was well

known as the mayor of Baton

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Higher education opportunities expand in BR

Capitol News Bureau

Baton Rouge is served by three public universities:
- Louisiana's largest university and its "flagship" campus, LSU-Baton Rouge.
- One of the nation's largest black campuses, Southern University.
- Baton Rouge Community College.

In addition, Baton Rouge has a private institution, Our Lady of the Lake College, that offers two- and four-year degrees. Within easy driving distance of Baton Rouge are two growing regional centers of higher education, the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond. And community colleges have opened in neighboring Ascension Parish and the nearby Acadiana area.

Three-year-old Baton Rouge Community College has open admissions, meaning it accepts any Louisiana resident with a high-school diploma. BRCC offers lower-level college courses that are accepted by LSU, Southern and Southeastern.

The school also offers technical degrees like those of applied science in process control technology, which draws students for jobs at petro-chemical plants. The school graduated 70 students this spring. Enrollment tops 2,500 at BRCC.

Officials at the fledgling college expect their enrollment to hit 10,000 within five years, and work is underway to relocate the adjacent Louisiana State Police headquarters to make room to expand the campus off Florida Boulevard in the middle of town.

Louisiana residents pay $588 a semester at BRCC. That's for a full-time load of 12 hours or more credit hours.

One reason for the growth of BRCC is that LSU has fairly high standards for admission. LSU generally enrolls freshmen who earned better-than-average grades on a college-preparatory curriculum in high school or who otherwise prove they are ready for college courses.

LSU's main campus in Baton Rouge is the state's largest university, enrolling 30,870 last fall.

LSU offers a broad spectrum of education in the arts, sciences, engineering, business, music, design, education, agriculture and veterinary medicine.

The university is proud of its engineering college and boasts one of the best petroleum engineering programs in the nation, according to a national magazine. LSU is a federal land-grant and sea grant college, and conducts extensive research in agriculture and water-related fields.

Full-time tuition is $1,698 a semester for in-state students those enrolled in 12 or more hours.

Southern University is the center of the Southern University system, which includes three cam-
ECONOMY

Economy, job growth slow after record-setting 90s

Advisors staff report

Baton Rouge’s economy, much like that of the rest of the nation, has slowed somewhat over the past 12 months, and the metro area’s unemployment rate is 3.8% compared to 3.5% a year ago. The metro area’s job growth, which was strong in the late 1990s, slowed in 2004 and in April just over 1,000 jobs were added.

The high price of natural gas, used as a fuel and as feedstock for the area’s industrial plants, is causing more problems. The local chemical industry is losing business to competitors elsewhere.

And retail sales and vehicle sales are down for the year, indicating Baton Rougeans are reining in their spending.

The news is not all bad, though. Housing sales and home prices are up, while layoffs and plant closures are down significantly. Baton Rouge continues to be an attractive place to experience urban life with the addition of restaurants, bars and entertainment options. New development is occurring in new, “green” retail projects and more street-side shops have opened up.

The metro area’s work force totaled 363,450 jobs in April, up 480 from March this year and up 13,500 from the March, 2002 total of 350,100. That’s a 4.0% increase for the metro’s labor force.

That’s bad for Baton Rouge,” said LAI economist John L. Gallion. “But it’s a good sign for the region. It shows that the region is improving its economic base. The area is now more diversified and less dependent on a single industry.”

GAO

GOVERNMENT

Gov. fostered history of tax increases

By Capitol News Bureau

Republic of Gov. Mike Foster has a history of raising taxes, but for now—year on year—on consumers and businesses.

A former state economist who lived and worked in Baton Rouge during the governor’s term contends the governor’s efforts to increase state revenues have worked.

"He’s done a good job of raising some of the state’s income levels," said John B. C. Lord, a former state economist who worked for Foster in the 1990s. "I think that’s partly due to the governor’s efforts to increase state revenues." Lord said he was surprised to learn that the governor had a history of raising taxes, but for now—year on year—on consumers and businesses.

The govenor’s history of tax increases has been well-documented, with the governor raising taxes on a regular basis to cover the state’s budget shortfalls.

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Art popular in BR

By ANDY PRICE

The visual arts scene gets brighter by the day in Baton Rouge. Spurred by plans for the new Arts Block in downtown, Baton Rouge, which still includes a new and expanded LSU Museum of Art, is not only drawing new talent to its arts scene but also offering them a chance to show their work.

The Louisiana Museum of Art on First Street will host a new permanent collection of 20th-century American art from the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The museum will also open a new wing dedicated to contemporary art. The museum is planning a series of special exhibitions, including a show on the art of the 1960s, and will be hosting a series of lectures and workshops on contemporary art.

On the LSU campus, the new Student Union will feature a gallery for contemporary art, and a new art museum is planned to be built on the edge of campus. The museum will feature works by contemporary artists from around the world.

The new Louisiana Museum of Art will be located in a renovated building on the LSU campus. The museum will feature works by contemporary artists, as well as works by older masters.

LSU and southern schools of art and architecture exhibits, and encourage interest in the visual arts community by making them a strong component of the city's cultural landscape.

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