Property taxes are low

By GIBBS ADAMS
Adviser staff writer

A pleasant surprise awaits newcomers who buy homes in Baton Rouge.

"Property taxes here may be the lowest of any city in the country," Frank Granger, East Baton Rouge Parish tax assessor, says. "We're much more favorable than any other state in this region."

The low rate is due, in part, to the fact that the state itself levies no property tax. It is also due, in part, to a $7,500 homestead exemption on property, but more so to the 1974 Louisiana Constitution which says residences are to be assessed at 70 percent of their actual cash value.

Thus, a $75,000 home would be totally exempt from parish property taxes, including school taxes. So, if a new home is outside the city limits, the owner pays no property taxes. City property taxes on a similar home within the city would come to $31.52 in 1982 with parish or school taxes exempt, Granger says.

"I'm always having newcomers call me to see if there's been some mistake when they get their tax notices," Granger says. "They're used to paying that much or more each month for their property taxes."

To be eligible for homestead exemption, you must go to the assessor's office and sign before April 15. But, once you sign for homestead exemption, it is automatic from then on.

Assessors around the state must reassess property every few years to determine the fair market value. But, Louisiana law has a built-in formula which requires that tax rolls back when assessments go up. By a two-thirds vote of a taxing body, the taxes can be held at the same rate, but if assessments are accustomed to the low taxes and most public bodies roll back the taxes. The year of 1982 was the first reassessment year, and the only local taxing district that held taxes at the old level was the law enforcement district of East Baton Rouge Parish.

The late Sheriff Al Amoss held the law enforcement property tax at a higher level to provide for additional sheriff's deputies to patrol the parish and to man the Parish Prison, which is under a federal court order that the large maximum population and specifies the number of guards.

As a result of the reassessment, the city tax rate, however, dropped from 8.46 mills ($0.08 on each $1,000 of assessment) to 6.87 mills ($0.687 on each $1,000 of assessment). In addition to property taxes, East Baton Rouge residents pay a parish sales tax of 3 percent of which goes to the state and the other three percent to the parish. Food for personal consumption and prescription drugs are taxed at three percent (parish tax only).

Baton Rouge has no city income tax, and Louisiana's income tax is among the lowest in the country. The state income tax is based on a percentage of the federal income tax liability. Tax tables for state income tax use federal adjusted income less the federal excess itemized deductions. For a married couple, for instance, the tax would be 2 percent on the first $10,000 of taxable income.

Traffic laws

(Continued from Page 18)

state streets must be licensed or registered, the police legal adviser, includes mopeds, which are registered and operated as bicycles.

No one may operate any motor vehicle, including mopeds and electric bicycles, without a valid Louisiana driver's license, Redd said.

Minibikes and go-carts cannot be registered by the state because they are not supposed to be used on streets. Redd said. Anyone riding dirt bikes or go-carts on the highway, including the shoulders and ditches on highway right-of-way, can be cited.

In many states, bicyclists travel on the left side of the road, facing oncoming traffic, Redd said. But, in Louisiana, bicyclists are required to keep right, driving with the traffic, not against it. They must obey all traffic laws, Redd said. A city ordinance requires, in effect, that cyclists must follow the same rules as automobile drivers. When walking a bicycle, cyclists are to obey the same laws as pedestrians.

Baton Rouge has been having a significant problem with motorists driving in bike lanes, which are posted and marked on the roadway, Redd said. It is illegal to operate a motorized vehicle in the bike lane.

Driver's licenses are issued to persons who are 15 years old or older and who pass all required tests.

A state law requiring mandatory use of safety helmets for all motorcycle and motorbike riders went into effect in January. For a five-year period, only riders under the age of 18 were required to wear safety helmets.

There are other laws concerning the operation of motorcycles on highways. In many states, it is illegal to move a vehicle which has been involved in a traffic accident. Louisiana has no such prohibition. Redd said that a vehicle involved in an accident may be advisable for individuals to move their vehicles to a safe location to await the police.

Persons involved in accidents on public roadways are required to report the accidents to police.

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Applying for utilities

Getting your utilities connected can be confusing to some newcomers. Each utility has its own procedure for beginning new service. Here are the steps to follow for each:

**PHONE**
To request telephone service in Baton Rouge, new customers must call South Central Bell at 671-7222 to place their name on the waiting list.

If the home you are moving into has modular wiring, you can plug your phone at the service center nearest you. They are located in Village Square, Deltom Village, and on Sherwood Forest Boulevard in Sherwood Abbey. This procedure saves the consumer several dollars over the cost of having an installer make a house call.

If an installer must make a visit, it will take approximately 2 to 3 days to obtain service from the time you call. The fee for installation is approximately $25.

**WATER**
Baton Rouge has soft water from artesian wells. When you move to the city and buy a home here, all you need to do to obtain water is call Baton Rouge Water Works at 928-1000 before noon, give them the information over the phone and water service will begin the very same day. If you call after noon, water will not be turned on until the next day.

If you rent a home or apartment a $15 deposit is required before you can receive service. You may either mail the deposit or stop by the office at 4615 Government Street between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Water will not be turned on until the deposit is received. On the first month's bill, whether you rent or buy, there will be a $6 service charge.

This charge is for sending a waterman out to turn on the water at the meter and take an accurate reading.

**ELECTRICITY & GAS**

The majority of homes in Baton Rouge are serviced by Gulf States Utilities (gas and electricity). Certain sections of the city are serviced by Louisiana Gas Service Co. (gas) and Dixie Electric Membership Corporation (electricity).

Gulf States requires a $100 deposit from both homeowners and renters. To apply for service call 387-0054 and a customer service representative will handle your application. If you call before 4 p.m. service will be started the next day, weather permitting.

Your deposit is held for 12 months. If the bill is paid promptly, the deposit is refunded with interest at the end of the first year.

For new homes, there is a $300 charge for underground electrical service (for the first 100 feet), and a $155 charge for running a gas line (for the first 60 feet).

**Civic federation can help**

By MIKE MULHERN

There is a civic organization in Baton Rouge which represents the neighborhood needs, hopes and aspirations of over 140,000 individual households. It is the Federation of Greater Baton Rouge Civic Associations. Charles Barbre is its president, and Geneva Peters is its secretary.

The Federation is actually one gigantic civic association. But instead of homeowners, it has subdivisions for members. There are currently 55 subdivisions in the Federation, the purpose of which is to further the interests of individual homeowners in Baton Rouge.

The Federation is currently engaged in numerous activities to aid the homeowners in its membership. It aids in the preservation of property values and works to improve the character and integrity of individual A-1 neighborhoods. It also promotes law enforcement and crime prevention, pushes for better streets and drainage, and works to prevent undesirable neighborhood rezoning.

But more than anything else, it coordinates the activities of its member organizations so that they can work together in solving common problems.

In the past, the Federation was involved in the successful campaign to thwart the city's plan to limit garbage pick-up to once a week; it also had a role in the drafting of the current City-Parish zoning ordinances. In 1974, the Federation was influential in establishing the practice of having public notice hearings set up to hear the grievances of adjoining landowners while rezoning was being considered.

Also, the Federation came out in opposition to and successfully fought against a plan to increase millage and property taxes without a vote of the people.

More recently, the Federation has been assisting the Sheriff's Department to establish the Neighborhood Watch Program in order to deter crime in residential areas.

"The Federation was instrumental in getting Baton Rouge certified as a Clean Community System by Keep America Beautiful," says Charles Barbre. "This means Baton Rouge has an ongoing program to reduce litter."

"We also have a Federation representative helping the City Council investigate erosion problems in our canals and drainage ditches to see what can be done about it. We have a representative on the Planning and Zoning Commission to give the homeowners a voice in its decisions, and we hope to place a representative on the City-Wide Flood Control board soon."

At present, the Federation is very involved in the Southside zoning controversy and is working to prevent developers from building a shopping center in an A-1 single family residential neighborhood on the corner of Perkins Road, Edinburgh and Lee Drive. "It's a case of one of our members having a problem and us coming to their support," says Barbre. "We believe good zoning should prevail over spot haphazard zoning."

"The Federation is also now involved in the community homes controversy, for it also is now jeopardizing the integrity of A-1 subdivisions," he points out. "In short, the Federation is opposed to any kind of an intrusion which would damage the definition of A-1 single family neighborhoods."

"Floodling has been a problem in the parish during the last year, and the Federation has a committee investigating what can be done here to alleviate the problem."

(Continued on Page 26)
East Baton Rouge Parish financial institutions offer some of the most extensive banking services in the country. Automated teller machines are stationed throughout the city to service customers' banking needs 24 hours a day. Many banks offer the option of paying bills by phone and automatic deposits of retirement, Social Security and other checks.

The parish has 12 banks and 11 savings and loan associations operating a total of more than 120 service outlets. In addition, there are a variety of other specialized financial services, such as credit unions, to meet the needs of customers.

Louisiana National Bank is the largest bank in the parish and among the five largest banks in the state with assets of $1,029,471,484,000 in deposits, 26 full-service branches and 24 automated teller machines throughout the parish.

American Bank & Trust Co.'s assets total $632,646,000 with deposits of $504,805,000. American Bank has 16 full-service branches and 20 automated tellers.

Fidelity National Bank reports assets of $651,884,000 and deposits of $546,972,000. Fidelity has 15 full-service branches and 15 automated teller machines.

City National Bank reports assets of $499,750,000 and deposits of $371,807,000 in deposits with 14 branches and 14 automated teller machines.

Capital Bank & Trust Co. has 13 branches and 11 automated teller machines. Capital's assets are reported at $491,286,000 and deposits total $392,872,000.

Baton Rouge Bank has assets of $149,024,000, with deposits of $134,045,000. Baton Rouge Bank has five branches and six automated tellers.

Bank of the South reported total assets of $56,067,000, deposits of $54,162,000 and two branches.

First State Bank & Trust Co. of East Baton Rouge Parish has its main office in Baker, with three branches. First State reports assets of $77,972,000, with deposits of $70,063,000.

 Guaranty Bank & Trust Co. reports assets of $24,484,000 and total deposits of $21,919,000. Guaranty has three locations and one automated teller machine.

Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co., which has been in operation for one year, reports assets of $18,552,487 and deposits of $14,379,169. Plans are in the making for a permanent facility.

First National Bank reports assets of $10,758,000 and deposits of $7,756,000. First National has one branch, but is affiliated with American Bank's Mint 24 network, which allows customers the use of American's 29 automated tellers.

The Bank of Zachary reported (Continued on Page 28)
Baton Rouge transportation

The Baton Rouge area is served by five airlines and two interstate bus lines.

Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport, Ryan Field, located at the northern end of the city, houses terminals for Delta Airlines, Continental Airlines, Republic Airways, American Airlines and a commuter service called Royale Airlines Inc.

The airlines offer flights to Louisiana's major cities of Shreveport, New Orleans, Alexandria, Lafayette and Monroe.

Direct flights out-of-state include Atlanta, Dallas, Houston, Memphis, Boston and Washington D.C.

In addition to the direct flights, the airlines offer hook-up flights from New Orleans, Memphis, Houston, Dallas and Atlanta to Philadelphia, Chicago, Denver, Milwaukee, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Los Angeles, New York City and other points on the East and West Coasts.

Greyhound and Continental Trailways provide the city with bus routes to nearly every major city in the United States, with stops in many small towns along the way.

Continental Trailways has buses departing 24 hours a day from its 717 Convention St., terminal. Greyhound, at 1253 Florida Blvd., also operates an around-the-clock terminal.

The Metropolitan Executive Transportation Co. (MEXTEX) is a new bus service offering six daily round trips to the New Orleans International Airport and the Hyatt Hotel in downtown New Orleans from the Hilton Hotel in Baton Rouge. MEXTEX can be contacted at 346-0453 and 925-2779.

Capital Transportation Corp., a city-owned bus line, provides 18 routes of transportation within East Baton Rouge Parish. Its routes and schedules can be obtained by telephoning the CTC headquarters at 343-8331.

Baton Rouge has more than a dozen taxi cab companies. A majority of these cabs operate around the clock. Their fares are set by the City-Parish Council.

For others who like to get away on their own, there are about two dozen car-leasing and rental dealerships located throughout the city. Hertz, Avis, National, Budget and Thrifty are located at Ryan Airport.

Banks

(Continued from Page 26)

$53,852,000 in assets and
$48,621,000 in total deposits, with three banking offices and two automated tellers.

There are 11 savings and loan associations with locations in East Baton Rouge Parish.

Dixie Federal Savings reported $1718 million in assets (as of Aug. 31), three branches in Baton Rouge and 26 branches statewide.

Capital-Union Savings Association reports $478,698,606 in assets and 10 branches. (Capital Savings and Union Federal merged to form Capital-Union Savings.)

Louisiana Savings Association, whose main office is based in Lake Charles, reported $415,431,432 in assets (as of June 30) with two locations in Baton Rouge.

Pelican Homestead & Savings is a New Orleans-based firm with three branches in Baton Rouge. A breakdown of Pelican's assets for the East Baton Rouge Parish branches was unavailable.

Baton Rouge Savings & Loan has assets of $134,236,000 and seven branches. Citizens Savings & Loan reports assets of $82,346,628 million and five branches. First Federal Savings & Loan Association of Scotlandville has assets of $48,096,997.

River City Savings and Loan Association reports assets of $23,108,000 (as of July 31). Sunbelt Federal Savings & Loan reports assets of $89 million and has seven branches statewide.

First City Savings and Loan reports $7,895,000 million in assets (as of July 31). Community Savings and Loan has assets of $30,863,433.
Entertainment varied in Baton Rouge

By DAVID FOIL
Advocate Arts Writer

Looking for entertainment and cultural happenings in Baton Rouge isn't nearly the problem it used to be, thanks to some well-prepared sources of information that are readily available to you.

The Arts and Humanities Council of Greater Baton Rouge serves as a center for activities in the arts, both performing and visual. A wide range of information about performances, shows, tickets and memberships in area cultural groups can be had by calling the council's office "Hot Line," 344-8558 and 344-7777.

Richard Mackie is the symphony's manager. For information about performances and tickets,

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THE NEWCOMER'S GUIDE TO BATON ROUGE

The SYMPHONY
The Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra will present a full subscription season of orchestral concerts in the Performing Arts Theater of the Riverside Centreplex. The series generally sells out before the season begins, so ticket buyers should inquire about season tickets as soon as possible. Tickets for individual concerts are occasionally available through the BRSO office, or at the Centreplex theater box office on the day of performance.

James Paul is entering his second season as the orchestra's first full-time conductor and musical director.

In addition to the "Tuesdays at Eight" subscription series, the BRSO will once again offer its Lagniappe concert series on Sunday afternoons produce and a three-performance Christmas presentation in early December of The Nutcracker with the Mississippi Ballet. The ballet is not part of the subscription series.

The roster of BRSO guest artists for 1983-84 "Tuesdays at Eight" includes flutist Jean Pierre Rampal, violinist Jaime Laredo, and pianists Robin McCabe and Abbey Simon. The orchestra's principal trombonist, Larry Campbell, will also be a soloist this season.

The orchestra's final concert of the season will present Felix Mendelssohn's oratorio Elijah.

Paul will also be at the helm of most of this season's "Lagniappe" subscription concert series that will include performances by the BRSC's newly formed chamber orchestra and a concert featuring Rampal as conductor as well as soloist. Conductor James Yestadt, who heads the orchestra program at LSU, will conduct a special Christmas concert that will include a production of Gian Carlo Menotti's opera Amahl and the Night Visitors.

In addition to the subscription series, the BRSO sponsors performances and tours by smaller instrumental ensembles comprised of orchestra members.

(Continued on Page 35)
Newcomers to East Baton Rouge Parish face a variety of school choices when it comes to deciding what type of education they want for their children — so many choices as to be downright bewildering at times.

The public school system offers magnet schools, special focus schools, extended day schools, special programs for gifted students, and a variety of specialized programs in addition to its regular school program.

In addition, there are Catholic, Protestant, or Pentecostal church-affiliated schools and private schools with no church affiliation. New residents to this area have a bit of homework to do if they are undecided on which type or form of education their child will enter.

The public school system is one of the largest school districts in the state, in terms of student population. There are approximately 155,560 students, 50 percent white, 50 percent black.

Public schools offer the greatest diversity of curricula, sometimes within the same school building. There are 93 public schools offering regular education programs, four magnet programs and six special education centers for students with handicaps which range from a slight learning disability through and including children whose mental or physical disabilities are severe.

In addition, several schools offer special education for the gifted, special needs students and other regular schools have part-time programs for the gifted.

Even the so-called regular education program in public schools offers different programs. Several areas have "special focus schools" which emphasize basic skills and discipline or a learn-at-your-own-pace program or an accelerated elementary program for college-bound children.

All the special focus schools are designed to offer parents and children further incentives to attend recently desegregated schools.

LIS on child care

After you move and settle into your new home there are many questions that may be unanswered. One problem that may arise, especially if both parents will be working, is where to keep the pre-school kids while mom and dad are at work.

The Library Information Service, 389-3370, can be very beneficial to newcomers searching for child care information.

Parents choose daycare for a number of reasons. Some parents may feel fortunate enough to have a friend or relative living nearby to assist them in caring for their children. But if you are new to Baton Rouge and have no relatives living here you may have no alternative but to look elsewhere for child care. The choices can be a caregiver in the home, in someone else's home, or in a day care center.

Finding a good and convenient sitter, home, or day care center is definitely not easy. Good programs usually have long waiting lists and may be inconvenient to reach from your home. Or they may cost more than you had planned to spend, or they may not offer the kind of care you would like for your children.

All parents seem to want the same thing for their children — a variety of day care centers from which to choose with teaching styles that do not conflict with their lifestyles and point of view. Centers with affordable fees that are licensed, safe and attractive, well-equipped with a variety of teaching materials, toys and learning equipment, and staffed by trained individuals.

For many parents the search for child care and home work will be a difficult problem. Eagerness to resolve this problem as soon as possible might cause many parents to settle for the first child care arrangement available. The problems of a unsuitable or unsatisfactory child care arrangement can become as great an emotional strain as finding a new place to live, so it is well worth the time and effort to make a thorough investigation before deciding.

Children of a single parent who works or from a family where both parents work are eligible for extended day schools which are open from 7:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Parents must provide their own transportation, but the school provides special enrichment courses in addition to the regular education program.

The magnet schools, two each for middle and high schools, are open to children who maintain 2.5 grade point averages and have at least average reading ability. Applications for admission to the magnet schools are usually made in the fall of the year before entry is desired. Instrouma and McKinley are the two middle magnet schools; Baton Rouge and Scotlandville are the magnet high schools. Scotlandville is in its second year of operation. Baton Rouge High is in its eighth year and is the oldest magnet school.

Scotlandville High School this year began a special engineering program (Continued on Page 32)

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Schools in Baton Rouge

(Continued from Page 31)

program, in addition to the other magnet school offerings, which is specifically designed for students interested in engineering or other technical careers.

Children evaluated by competent authorities and found to possess exceptional academic gifts or talents may seek admission to the several programs for gifted children. Parents may wait for evaluations from the public school system or pay themselves for a private evaluation. However, all private evaluations must be acceptable to the system's Department of Special Education.

The Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge oversees the largest and longest-established system of non-public schools in the area. There are numerous Catholic elementary schools, but spaces are limited in the high schools.

A new Catholic high school for the south suburban deanery is in construction in the Shenandoah area and is slated to open with the 1984-85 school year. Otherwise, there is Catholic High for boys, St. Joseph's Academy for girls and the co-educational Redemptorist High.

Episcopal elementary schools are also available, although there is just one Episcopal high school to date.

Baptist and other Protestant and church-affiliated schools have opened in the last three years and are enrolling large numbers of children who have left public schools.

There are also private schools that don't affiliate with a church. Trafton Academy and Runnels School are two of the larger private schools in that category.

The state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education has approved public and non-public schools operated in this parish and some of the private schools. Parents should contact the BESE or State Department of Education for information on accredited schools.

Desegregation and the general slowdown in the birth rate appear to have been the major factors responsible for the continued decline in public school enrollment. Court-ordered desegregation began on the elementary school level in 1981-82, while middle and high school students were affected in the 1982-83 school year here is a sketch of the desegregation plan for East Baton Rouge Parish public schools:

- While not the first integration of the parish schools, it is the first mixing plan devised by the School Board and is by far the most extensive desegregation ever attempted.

(Continued on Page 33)

Parent-child association offers help to newcomer

Moving to a new town when you are pregnant or have young children can be difficult. Newcomers can find others in the same situation through the Baton Rouge Parent Child Association, BRPCA, a non-profit volunteer organization, provides childbirth preparation classes and parenting activities for people with young children.

BRPCA is a group which understands that parenting is an awesome challenge. When family and friends are not close by, BRPCA provides an alternative to coping alone. They know that simply getting out and talking with others in the same situation can help.

Childbirth preparation classes can be the first step on parenting. These classes provide couples with an understanding of the birth process to help them eliminate fear, decrease tension and reduce perception of pain. Parents who take childbirth classes are more likely to have a positive, safe, and personally satisfactory birth experience.

Not only do the couples receive individual support before the baby's birth, but also afterwards. A monthly newsletter informs members of events, such as classes, seasonal parties for the entire family and monthly meetings of interest to any parent. No need to get a babysitter, because children are always welcome at meetings.

At the Mothers' Meeting, speakers discuss topics such as discipline alternatives, nutrition, potty training, and other essentials of motherhood.

At the New Parents’ Circle, moms with young babies discuss baby care basics, nurturing and nourishing, making time for you, from couple to family, and parenting: developing your own style.

There is no need to “go it alone” while living in Baton Rouge. For information about classes and other activities, call 389-0881.

DAILY OVERNIGHT SERVICE between BATON ROUGE and THESE CITIES:

- Oklahoma City: 405/672-7600
- Little Rock: Coming Soon
- Memphis: 901/392-7242
- Tulsa: 918/663-1240
- Shreveport: 318/222-4629
- Jackson: 601/987-4350
- Hattiesburg: Coming Soon
- Dallas: 214/631-7242
- Alexandria: 318/446-7181
- Monroe: 318/396-4381
- Houston: 713/691-1900
- Baton Rouge: 504/358-2500
- Mobile: 205/432-2600
- Lake Charles: 
- Houma: 
- New Orleans: 

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Schools in Baton Rouge

(Continued from Page 32)

The neighborhood school student assignment plan is the most part abandoned. Parents should check to locate the closest school still operating and determine whether it is part of a pair or cluster and what all the possible student assignments could be.

- A total of 13 elementary schools are closed to any use for student assignments. Two schools, South Boulevard and Northdale, were emptied of the surrounding children and converted to extended-day schools for children from anywhere in the parish.

- Special focus schools are offered in the schools which are part of three- or four-school clusters. That is, parents may register (but not be guaranteed admission) for a school which has a fundamental, continuous progress or advanced curriculum.

- Information about registration and curriculum is available from a nearby school.

- Parents wanting more information about the public schools should contact the main offices, which are located at 1900 S. Foster Drive. The phone number to call is 922-5465.

- Raymond G. Arveson is the superintendent of schools. Donald Hoover is associate superintendent of instruction. Graydon L. Walker is associate superintendent for management. Horace White is associate superintendent for pupil services.

- Walker's office is one source of information about the school district in which a residence is located. Helms' office can provide information about instruction and curriculum. White's office oversees discipline, school safety and special education.

- Most of the established nonpublic schools are not planning a major expansion to accommodate the wave of potential students that desegregation might prompt to leave the public schools.

- The Catholic Diocese operated schools have long-established rules that the Catholic schools shall not serve as a haven for those wanting to escape desegregation.

- Kindergarten is optional under Louisiana law. Children may enter the first grade before they are six if their sixth birthday comes before Dec. 31 of the year in which they enroll.

- Adults may also take part in the adult continuing education courses offered by the public school system.

- Bus transportation is available to most children attending parochial and public schools through the bus system operated by the parish public schools.

- The public and diocesan schools operate kindergarten through 12th grades. To be eligible to enter kindergarten, a child must be five years old by Dec. 31 of the year of his or her enrollment.

Most school zones are marked with signs and flashing lights and have a crossing guard. Parochial and private schools usually operate on the same school calendar as public schools. The school year has 180 days and opened for pupils on Wednesday, Aug. 24, 1983. The school day begins at 8:45 a.m. for elementary and 7:45 a.m. for middle and high schools.

Holidays in the 1983-84 public school year are Labor Day Monday, Sept. 5; Veterans Day, Friday, Nov. 11; Thanksgiving, Monday, Nov. 21 through Friday, Nov. 25; Christmas, Monday, Dec. 19; through Monday, Jan. 2; Mardi Gras, Monday, March 5; and Tuesday, March 6; Easter, Monday, April 17, through Friday, April 20. The last day of the school year is Friday, June 1, 1984.

All information on Catholic schools is available at the offices (Continued on Page 52)
East Baton Rouge Parish has two major universities — Louisiana State University, founded just before the Civil War, and Southern University, founded at the turn of the century to serve black students.

Both are land-grant schools, providing learning and research in many fields. LSU was awarded sea grant status in 1978, becoming the nation’s 13th sea grant college.

There are four vocational-technical schools in the vicinity. Frazier Jr. Vocational-Technical is located west of the Mississippi River in Port Allen. The Parrish School of Dental Hygiene is located in Gonzales. The Tallulah School of Dental Hygiene is located in Tallulah. The Caddo Parish School of Dental Hygiene is located in Shreveport.

LSU is the state's comprehensive higher education facility. It was founded in 1860 at Pineville, moved to Baton Rouge in 1869 and located on its present campus on Highland Road in 1932.

LSU's official enrollment was nearly 42,000 students last fall. Southern University had its beginnings in New Orleans in 1881. In 1914, the university moved to its present location in New Iberia. Enrollment at the mostly black university was about 9,000 last fall.

Baton Rouge has three vocational-technical schools — Baton Rouge Vocational Technical School, Capitol Area Vocational School and J.M. Frazier Sr. Vocational-Technical School. Frazier is the newest school.

Baton Rouge Vocational Technical School, Portside Vocational-Technical, is located west of the Mississippi River in Port Allen.

The school has a budget of over $1.5 million. The school of Veterinary Medicine, with $2 million budget, and the Center for Agricultural Sciences and Rural Development, with a budget of $50 million.

Southern University, like LSU, has a law school.

Both universities conduct two semesters and a summer term each year.

LSU offers curricula leading to bachelor's degrees in almost 130 majors, 75 master's degrees and 48 doctoral degrees.

Southern University offers almost 100 programs leading to bachelor's degrees, including such arts and humanities, education, business, agriculture, engineering, home economics and sciences, and several dozen master's degree programs.

The LSU campus is on a 1,944-acre tract in the southern part of the city, with its principal buildings primarily in a 300-acre area. Southern University is on an 88-acre tract in the north of the parish.

LSU has an instructional staff of 1,250 and a supporting staff of about 3,200. Total employment reaches nearly 5,000.

Southern has an instructional faculty totaling several hundred and more than 1,000 total employees.

LSU charges a tuition fee of $494 per semester for a full-time undergraduate, resident student, one taking 15 or more credit hours. Non-resident must pay an additional $735 per semester.

Southern University's tuition fees for a full-time student taking 12 hours or more are $325. A non-resident student must pay an additional $335. The fees are reduced for part-time students.

The universities offer a number of scholarships, including academic and athletic scholarships. Athletic scholarships are also offered in a number of interscholastic sports activities. Colleges and departments also provide financial aid.

Federal financial aid has been offered through various grants, and students who need financial aid may contact the schools' financial aid offices for information on Louisiana Higher Education Assistance Loans. Part-time jobs are available on the campuses at LSU and Southern.

The Baton Rouge Vocational Technical Institute, 3400 Winbourne Avenue, offers courses and the only charge is for textbooks and supplies.

Among the courses offered are automobile mechanics, data processing, technology, drafting, electronics technicians, computer service, instrument technician, machinist, office occupations, practical nursing, refrigeration-air conditioning and welding, culinary arts, child care, massage, plumbing, industrial electricity, carpentry, medical laboratory technician, respiratory therapy technician, nurses aide, ward clerk, marketing and distribution.

Capitol Area Vocational School at 1500 S. 13th St. provides courses in technology, office occupations, practical nursing and welding.

Air conditioning and welding, culinary arts, child care, massage, plumbing, industrial electricity, carpentry, medical laboratory technician, respiratory therapy technician, nurses aide, ward clerk, marketing and distribution.

Louisiana's vocational-technical schools are managed by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Department of Education.

University sports are popular

By Joe Macaluso
State Times Sports Writer

Mention LSU and Southern in this town and suddenly you'll strike up a conversation. Talk about the Tigers or Jaguars and you'll soon have lots to discuss from the latest football, basketball or baseball season to the upcoming years for wrestling, track and women's collegiate sports.

Both schools enjoy a rabid following and most all of the over half-million people in metropolitan Baton Rouge follow the progress of at least one of the schools. It's sure you'll find very few unopinionated in that half-million, too.

And there's been more added to the fire in the last few months with LSU and Southern kicking off their respective football seasons with a forecast of challenging conference crowns.

Both schools have settled in under new athletic directors — Bob Broaddus at Louisiana State and Dick Hill at Southern. Both men have developed new horizons for their departments.

LSU is located in Southern Baton Rouge and its athletic plant is rated among the best in the country. Included is nationally renowned Tiger Stadium, which was expanded in 1978 to accommodate 75,750. Over the years, Tiger Stadium has been called "Death Valley" because of the tenacity of the teams and the exuberance of their fans. The latter shown in its first football game of the season when a record 75,665 packed into the oval to face Ole Miss.

The stadium also serves as a dormitory for some 1,500 male students. On Saturday night this year, it will be the fifth most-populated area in the state.

Special pay-parking facilities are available for camps and motor homes and some fans plan their entire weekend around home games. Tailgating and parking arrive campus Friday afternoons and a party atmosphere reigns throughout the day of the game. Since the 1967, LSU's home attendance has ranked in the Top 10 nationally.

Across the street from Tiger Stadium is the 15,000-seat Assembly Center which is home to the nationally ranked basketball Tigers as well as meets for nationally ranked gymnastics and wrestling teams. The internationally famous Mardi Gras Gymnastic Meet, which annually attracts top United States and foreign athletes, is an annual feature there.

And, right next door, is the Bernie Moore Track Stadium, which twice served as the site of the NCAA track and field championships.

Also included in this almost-unique complex is a lighted tennis stadium with six championship courts and, of course, the Assembly Center, is the multi-purpose Field House where indoor track and tennis matches are held. It will serve as the site of the Southeastern Conference Indoor Track and Field Meet in February.

There is also the Huey Long Memorial Pool, a bubble-enclosed facility which serves as the training site of the LSU swim teams and which also is host to several dual meets in the winter months.

LSU's "TIGER" STADIUM

Toward the Mississippi River from Tiger Stadium is Alex Box Stadium, home of the baseball Tigers. The field and covered seating area is recognized as one of the best collegiate facilities in the South.

South, down Nicholson Drive, are LSU's 18-hole golf course and driving range, which are opened to the public year-round.

Besides those varsity men's programs, the Tigers have varsity programs for women - baseball, volleyball, tennis, gymnastics, swimming, golf, softball, outdoor and indoor track and cross-country.

Southern's campus is located in Scottsdaleville, in North Baton Rouge, and has the largest enrollment of any predominantly black institution of higher learning in the United States.

The Jaguars play all home football games at the newly refurbished (Continued on Page 35)
Entertainment varied in Baton Rouge

(Continued from Page 29)
called the BHSO office, ph. 387-6166.

BATON ROUGE OPERA

The newly formed Baton Rouge Opera will open its premiere season Nov. 9 (to be repeated Nov. 11) with a rare production of Giuseppe Verdi's 'Joan of Arc.' An Italian known in Giacomo Mignolet's 'Arco,' conducted by Henry Holt and staged by BBO artistic director Donald Dorrs. The Baton Rouge Opera is a regional operatic company serving central and southern Louisiana. Its productions are designed to utilize the best of the outstanding young American artists, along with Baton Rouge singers. Holt, who annually conducts Seattle's acclaimed Wagner Festival, is the company's conductor.

In addition to the subscription season, the BRO is developing an intern system and a program for bringing opera to schools and to outlying areas. It also offers one student matinee of each of its productions.

The rest of the 1983-84 season will include Donizetti's 'Ludia di Lammermoo' (Feb. 8, 16) and Gaetano Puccini's 'Tosca' (Apr. 11 and 13).

For information about the company and its activities, ph. 333-6254.

COMMUNITY CONCERT

Throughout the season, the Baton Rouge Community Concert Association offers a subscription series with a variety of musical performances — open only to those with season memberships — in the Performing Arts Theater of the Riverside Centreplex. The 1983-84 season will include the New World Ballet (Oct. 13), duo-pianists Resta & Schaefer (Nov. 3), Acadiana Brass Quintet (Jan. 24) and bass Spiro Malas in recital (March 15). Season tickets (there is no individual admission) have already gone on sale; additional memberships might still be available.

GILBERT & SULLIVAN

The Baton Rouge Gilbert & Sullivan Society presents performances — in concert and fully-staged operettas by Sir Arthur Sullivan and Sir W.S. Gilbert. The company's fall production is 'Patience' in early October. Membership in the society is open to anyone interested. For further information, call Judy Constantine, 766-3487.

CHORAL SOCIETY

The Baton Rouge Choral Society, a non-professional choral group under the direction of Dr. Victor Klimash, presents a season of performances of large-scale choral works — with the Philharmonia Orchestra, which it sponsors — and an annual Christmas concert, which this year will feature Händel's 'Messiah.' In the spring, the society will present Johannes Brahms' 'A German Requiem.'

Choral society season tickets are available by mail, P.O. Box 30170-A, Baton Rouge, La. 70893.

SCHOOL OF MUSIC

The LSU School of Music annually presents a wide variety of musical programs throughout the school year. Among its attractions, all open to the public, are performances by:

- the all-student LSU Symphony Orchestra and the more intimate LSU Sinfonia, both under the direction of James Yestadt.

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Dear Newcomers,

Welcome to Baton Rouge! Welcome to the land of shrimp and crawfish, oysters and spiders, bass and frog legs. To the home of red peppers and tabasco, okra and gumbo. And thanks for the welcome party. Oh! And how about a cocktail? Yum!

Welcome to Festival Country where rice dressing and gumbo and jambalaya, coq au vin and crawfish areclimb to such gastronomic heights that they are served on skewers.

Now you can taste the best strawberries anywhere, marvelous peaches so juicy you have to mop your chin, and oranges so sweet they make other oranges taste like lemons. Our nation's capital is the city of New Orleans. And even watermelon is treated as a festival.

Do we have a little snob, a bit uphill about our southern Louisiana food? Well, we do. After all the food of south Louisiana is the best. Umphly, we say, it's the best. Where else can you go into just about any mom-and-pop restaurant and consistently get food that is better than that served in many other parts of the country? Where else is everyone interested in the subject that it takes only a few minutes of general conversation to get down to important subjects, namely food and where did you eat what last?

And do you know, it's not just the women who talk food. It's men, too. In Louisiana most every boy is brought up learning something about cooking after all, when a fellow goes hunting and fishing he needs to know how to fit the catch, how to keep body and soul together with a little squirrel stew or crawfish cornbread until he gets home. Besides, his daddy cooks, too.

Louisiana cooks are not extravagant, either. With the pioneering history of this area - just maybe excepting the French court of 18th-century New Orleans and Le Petit Paris, otherwise called St. Martinville and the Acadian skills for creating culinary delights out of gatherable plants - most Louisiana cooks understand using what's available as a kitchen challenge. Add the Indian, Spanish, and British influences with the Hungarians' touch from Albany with the Yugoslavian spoon from Pascagoula, Pass, and you've got the best of all worlds. Especially when you top that off with the tomatoes and sausage and fruits and peppers, brought and taught to us by our neighbors to the south.

Now, have you tasted gumbo, fish from the bayou, fried fish with just a little red pepper in the coating? Or crawfish boil, from down the river? Or some chicken and andouille sausage, gumbo?

Well, come on! Join the group. Welcome!

Pat Baldridge
Food Editor

Dining-out is a fun experience

CRAWFISH — A LOUISIANA DELICACY

By Betty Eppes
FUN Restaurant Critic

Two things are demanded of all Baton Rougeans. They must be avid, almost rabid fans of the LSU Tigers and of Baton Rouge food.

The former can be a bit trying when the Tigers post losing seasons, but the latter is a breeze. Because Baton Rouge has so many great restaurants, area residents can eat in a different one every day for a year and still not get around to them all.

Our city's biggest gastronomic dispute is over whether seafood or crawfish is king of South Louisiana cuisine.

Newcomers from outside the South may never have eaten crawfish, more commonly known as the Louisiana Mud Bug. Do not despair.

The first question a Baton Rougean asks of a new acquaintance is not, 'Where do you come from?' But, 'Are you eating crayfish tonight?' A negative answer compels any native toJsonObject
Consumer agencies are helpful

By SHIRLEY BENTON
Advocate staff writer

Most of the time, living in Louisiana is very agreeable. But when problems do arise consumers can turn to several agencies for help in the marketplace.

The agencies can help consumers avoid problems before buying or work for solutions after the fact.

The state operates the Office of Consumer Protection, headed by Ann Myers, and located in the Belmont Office Park on Wooddale Boulevard. It has education, research and complaint sections.

Brochures and fact sheets are published by the agency, seminars are held, and consumer alerts are issued. Information and reliability reports on businesses are provided.

Complaints can be made by telephone, but unless the matter is urgent a written complaint is required.

If no indication of an illegal trade practice is noted, a mediator works with the business and the individual, attempting an amicable solution.

If fraud or an unfair or deceptive trade practice is suspected, a prelegal investigation for basic facts is made and the information forwarded to the proper legal authorities, such as the Attorney General’s office or local district attorneys.

OCP can be reached by dialing 925-4401 locally or toll free (800) 272-8478 outside the Baton Rouge area.

The Better Business Bureau of the Baton Rouge Area encourages consumers to make intelligent buying decisions by inquiring about firms before doing business with one whose track record is unknown.

It provides information on both local and out-of-town businesses and has information on organizations asking for charitable donations.

Located at 2655 Wooddale Blvd. and headed by Dale Ramirez, the BBB will mediate disputes if things go wrong and has an arbitration service. Pamphlets with business advice are distributed.

Call 926-3010 for help.

The BBB accepts complaints on insurance and utility matters, but the OCP is prevented by law from handling these problems.

Another source of help for those with insurance problems is the Insurance Commissioner’s office, which accepts complaints on any kind of insurance.

The office requests a letter stating the nature of the problem and giving the insured’s name, name of the insurance company, the policy number and whether it problem involved life or health or property or casualty insurance.

Group insurance problems require the name of the employer. The agency will consult with the insurance company and attempt to work out the problem.

Send the information to the Commissioner of Insurance, P.O. Box 44214, Baton Rouge 70804.

Family Debt Counselors, a nonprofit program supported primarily by the business community, provides financial counseling to individuals or families experiencing financial difficulty.

Some problems are handled through counseling only, with individuals administering or executing a budget on their own after receiving advice.

In severe cases involving excessive debt a long-term management program is executed through the service.

Part of the program at the beginning is contacting the person’s debtors and working out a payment schedule.

“The business community works with this program fantastically and gives superb cooperation,” says Dave Sledge, executive director.

A one-time charge for counseling is $5. If long-term management is required, only actual expenses, such as bank account fees and mailing costs, is charged.

FDC is located at 1894 Wooddale Blvd. Appointments are scheduled by telephoning 927-4274.

Entertainment

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- the LSU Opera Theater, Richard Aslanian directing, with at least one major staged performance each season.
- smaller instrumental ensembles such as New Times (contemporary musical works), Collegium Musicum (pre-Baroque music) and the LSU Brass Guild.
- choral groups, including the LSU A Cappella Choir and the LSU University Chorus.
- graduate and under-graduate recitals — both vocal and instrumental — are free and open to the public throughout the academic year.

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