

# THE DAILY ADVERTISER

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## Chances for intense storm slim

### Oil companies don't hesitate to pull workers

**Jim Bradshaw**  
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The chances of the low pressure system known as 93L

becoming Hurricane Jerry diminished late Wednesday as the wet and windy system moved into the Gulf of Mexico. It could still become Tropical Storm Jerry and it could still come to Louisiana, although a landing to the east now is a growing possibility. Nonetheless, oil companies began pulling personnel off Gulf of Mexico rigs and state emergency personnel began a

### Your forecast

For a look at the five-day outlook, see **Page 6D** or go to [theadvertiser.com](http://theadvertiser.com).

closer watch as the storm started to get better organized. No tropical storm watches or warnings had been issued for the Gulf Coast late Wednesday.

For complicated meteorological reasons involving the way a cold-cored system and a warm-cored system have merged and the length of time required to intensify under those conditions, "the chances of 93L ever reaching hurricane strength now appear dim," Weather Underground expert Jeff Masters said in his

### STAY AHEAD OF THE STORM

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See **STORM** on Page 4A

### Rally for 'Jena Six': Civil rights movement beckons new generation

# Town becomes symbol



Claudia B. Laws/claws@theadvertiser.com

From left, UL students Dakotah Price and Brandon Lewis, both of Baton Rouge, paint signs Wednesday at the UL Student Union on the university campus in Lafayette in preparation for the civil rights protest in Jena. More than 50 UL students plan to leave Thursday morning for the demonstration.

### UL students to join supporters of jailed youths

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It was only about 50 years ago that protesters marched in the streets or sat at lunch counters to fight for racial equality. With perceived inequalities in the criminal justice system, the focus of dissent now is typically on courthouse steps. And today, that's where thousands of protesters will be in Jena, a small town in the center of a national debate after a high school fight led to the arrest and prosecution of six black students, now known as the "Jena Six."



Chargois

It's predicted today's rally will draw a Who's Who of the civil rights movement with the Rev. Al Sharpton, the Rev. Jesse Jackson and other national civil rights leaders attending. But there, too, will be Brandon Lewis, Dakotah

### Who are the 'Jena Six'?

The six black Jena High School students charged in connection with the beating of a white student have been referred to as the "Jena Six" ever since a June rally at the LaSalle Parish Courthouse where supporters were chanting, "Free the Jena Six." Jesse Ray Beard, Mychal Bell, Robert Bailey Jr., Carwin Jones, Bryant Purvis and Theo Shaw all originally were charged with attempted second-degree murder and conspiracy to commit the same, according to LaSalle Parish District Attorney Reed Walters. Those charges came after Justin Barker was hit and then repeatedly kicked by a group of students at the high school on Dec. 4.

All of the students but

Beard, who was 14 at the time, were charged as adults. Bell, who was 16 at the time of the incident, was convicted as an adult in June of aggravated second-degree battery and conspiracy to commit that crime. Walters reduced his charges just before the trial. Since then, both of those convictions have been vacated and tossed back to juvenile court. Charges against Bailey, Jones and Shaw have been reduced to aggravated second-degree battery. Purvis has yet to be arraigned. Details about Beard's case are unknown, as it is being handled in juvenile court, although he is back at Jena High and participating in athletics.

More questions and answers, Page 7A

Price and at least 53 other UL students. You may not have heard of them. They haven't made headlines. But they represent a younger generation that is beginning to take on the mantle of those who led the civil rights movement in the past century.

The Jena case has opened students' eyes, Lewis said. "Them being high school

students, it's our generation. And for us to see racism still exists, we felt like we needed to do something," said Lewis, who's the president of the National Pan-Hellenic Council, which represents the traditional African-American Greek organizations at UL. They also know that they'll be part of history today. "We'll remember this for

**PHOTO GALLERIES** @theadvertiser.com

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### Inside today

Jena residents worried about town's image. **Page 6A**  
Organizers plan three separate events. **Page 7A**

the rest of our lives. We'll know that we were there and we did something and didn't stay silent like so many other people," Lewis said.

College students will be among those who attend the rally with at least 12 buses of students from Morehouse and Spelman colleges in Atlanta, three buses of Southern University students and four from LSU, said Je'Nelle Chargois, Louisiana's vice president for District D of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

The response from the younger generation has been "wonderful," Chargois said.

See **JENA** on Page 4A

### Student fighting heads agenda at board meeting

Lafayette Parish School Board member **Rickey Hardy** suggests rotating school resource officers as students are promoted. **Page 2A**



### Campus violence

# Fighting forces 24 from school

### 129 arrests reported since year began

**Amanda Bedgood**  
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The majority of students involved in back-to-back brawls at Acadiana High School recently have been assigned to the district's short-term alternative school.

Fifteen of the 26 students who were disciplined for fights Sept. 5 and 6 were sent to Continuing Academic Program for Students, seven were sent to the Lafayette Parish Alternative Program, two were expelled entirely and two were allowed back on campus.

The school's principal, Nikki Broussard, has reported that things are going well on the campus after more than 30 students were arrested for fighting that erupted because of territorial disputes.

Scott police completed its investigation into the matter. Eight of the students — those 17 years old and older — were charged as adults for disturbing the peace by fighting and 24 of the students were charged with the same as juveniles.

See **FIGHTING** on Page 4A

### By the numbers

Hearing results from fights at Acadiana High School:  
 ■ 15 students assigned to CAPS (Continuing Academic Program for Students), a short-term alternative school.  
 ■ 7 students assigned to LAPS (Lafayette Parish Alternative Program), a long-term alternative school.  
 ■ 2 students returned to AHS.  
 ■ 2 students removed from school completely.

Where we live

### Inside today



Monty Brinton/CBS

### Lafayette man takes on 'Survivor: China'

Following last season's appearance by Kenward "Boo" Bernis, **James Clement** makes it two years in a row that a Lafayette resident will appear on the hit CBS reality show. Find a preview of this year's challenge on **Pages 5C & 6C**.



### Only on the Web

### AcadianaMoms hot topic: Sesame Street

You can win free tickets to Sesame Street Live! performances Oct. 11-14. Go to [AcadianaMoms.com](http://AcadianaMoms.com).



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### On newsstands today

**Party like a rock star**  
Third event amps up funding for Lafayette arts organization. **Inside L Magazine**

### In the forecast

High: **92** Low: **66**



Logan Molaison

Mostly sunny and clear. See more on **Page 6D** or go to [theadvertiser.com](http://theadvertiser.com).

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