

Bonjour, Acadiana

High: 78 Low: 50

Mostly cloudy and breezy with a thunderstorm.

See more on Page 6D or go to theadvertiser.com.

INSIDEACCENT FESTIVAL
IT'S ALMOST THERE



Festival Internationale de Louisiane is just days away. Grab today's Weekend Accent for all you need to know to enjoy this year's event, including stories about returning bands and the headliner, schedules, lineups and more. **Page 1C**

THE LEGISLATURE IN SESSION
LAWMAKERS TOIL

Teens using cell phones in the car, what science teachers can teach, where gas wells can be drilled and the future of Lake Peigneur. **Pages 2A, 7A & 8A**

INSIDE TODAY FOURCHON
VITAL TO ECONOMY

Study finds that even a temporary shut-down of Port Fourchon would have severe negative impact. **Page 1B**

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LEADER SHIFT: UL ADVISORY TEAMS MEET TO IDENTIFY CHALLENGES

Savoie: No time to waste



P.C. Piazza/ppiazza@theadvertiser.com
Incoming UL President Joseph Savoie addresses the Transition Advisory Team on Thursday at the Alumni Center in Lafayette.

Community feedback seen as key to smooth transition

Marsha Sills
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How many people does it take to compose a to-do list for a new university president and his staff?

At least 53. That's how many UL faculty, staff, students and community and business leaders have been hand-picked to devise solutions for UL's next president, Joe Savoie, to address when he starts his new job in late June.

No time will be wasted in the transition process,

Savoie said. "We want to make these decisions now, so we can start working," Savoie told the group during their first meeting on Thursday.

The teams met for the first time for an overview of their responsibilities as advisory team members.

Six teams will focus on specific issues addressed by an institutional review of the university during the presidential search process last year and during visits with faculty and staffers.

TALK BACK @theadvertiser.com
Click on this story's headline to read the institutional review, plus see a complete list of transition team members.

Team topics include academics and faculty, athletics, economic development and research, facilities and property, student issues and university advancement.

Next week, each team will be briefed by university faculty and staff on the issues relevant to their group. Then, the homework will begin.

See SAVOIE on Page 4A

Lafayette's Jarrell witnesses message of hope

Pontiff reaches out



Photos by The Associated Press

Pope Benedict XVI acknowledges the crowd Thursday at the conclusion of a Papal Mass at Washington Nationals Park in Washington. Bishop Michael Jarrell was among a contingent of Acadiana parishioners who traveled to see the pope.

Benedict XVI meets with abuse victims

Ana Radelat
Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — Bishop Michael Jarrell, one of the thousands of faithful who came to Washington this week for a historic papal visit, said he was inspired by what he saw and heard.

Inside today
See the pope's itinerary for his U.S. visit. **Page 12A**

Jarrell was one of about 46,000 people who attended an open-air Mass in Washington's new baseball stadium, where Pope Benedict XVI chided



Jarrell

See PONTIFF on Page 12A



Worshippers participate in the offertory procession during Thursday's Papal Mass in Washington.

MORE ONLINE: Blogs, photos and videos @theadvertiser.com

Driver gets 24 years in prison

Franco ordered to pay \$22,000 in restitution

Claire Taylor
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Raymundo Franco, who pleaded guilty to the 2005 death of a teenager in a horrific wreck at the intersection of Congress Street and Bertrand Drive, was sentenced to 24 years in prison.

Brittany Claire Dugas, 17, of St. Martinville, along with two passengers in her Honda Accord, Kylie Viator and Michelle LeBlanc, both 17, were leaving a convenience store at the corner of West Congress Street and Bertrand Drive on Feb. 18, 2005, when Franco's Chevy Avalanche struck the teen's car.

Franco had been drinking and was speeding, and had been arrested days earlier in Jefferson Davis Parish for OWI, court records show.

The crash killed Dugas. One of her passengers lost a leg and both teens suffered serious

See DRIVER on Page 12A

TALK BACK @theadvertiser.com
Do you think the judge made the right decision in Franco's sentencing? Click on "Story Chat" and get the conversation started.

Mental-health issues plague U.S. troops

Independent study says as many as 300,000 veterans may suffer

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — About one in every five U.S. troops who have survived the bombs and other dangers of Iraq and Afghanistan now suffers from major depression or post-trau-

matic stress, an independent study said Thursday. It estimated the toll at 300,000 or more.

As many or more report possible brain injuries from explosions or other head wounds, said the study, the first major survey from outside the government.

Only about half of those with mental health problems have sought treatment. Even fewer of those with head injuries have seen doctors.

Army Surgeon General Eric Schoomaker said the report, from the Rand Corp., was welcome.

"They're helping us to raise the visibility and the attention that's needed by the American public at large," said Schoomaker, a lieutenant general. "They are

On the Web

Learn more about depression and post-traumatic stress at www.rand.org or www.army.medicine.army.mil.

making this a national debate." The researchers said 18.5 percent of current and former service members contacted in a

See TROOPS on Page 4A

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