

Slumping Tigers



LSU's woes continue on baseball diamond. **3C**
LSU's Michael Hollander

The Times

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FRIDAY, APRIL 18, 2008

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Funny Bone offers big city fun. **PREVIEW**

Dueling pianos



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COMMUNITY



Douglas Collier/The Times

Children's reading event held

■ A special reading event took place at the Volunteers of America's Highland Center Child Development Center. The event featured celebrity readers including Elizabeth Joyce (above) and Gwen Campbell and a visit from Clifford the Big Red Dog. **PAGE 3A**

Grand jury indicts 3 people

■ A Caddo grand jury has returned three indictments, including two for second-degree murder, the court spokesman reports. **PAGE 3A**

SPORTS

Benton advances to state

■ The Benton Lady Tigers 9-0 victory over Pearl River earned them a trip to next weekend's Class 4A state softball tournament. **PAGE 1C**

CONVERSATIONS

Obama may regret words



■ **KATHLEEN PARKER:** Barack Obama's remarks he made recently about embittered, small-town Americans may come back to hurt the presidential hopeful's chances. **PAGE 1B**
Share your opinion by commenting on this column online at shreveporttimes.com.

NATION/WORLD



Petr David Josek/AP

Troops suffer mental problems

■ Roughly 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-traumatic stress, an independent study said Thursday. It estimated the toll at 300,000 or more. **PAGE 12A**

Flu season worst in years

■ The current flu season has shaped up to be the worst in four years, partly because the vaccine didn't work well against the viruses that made most people sick, health officials said Thursday. **PAGE 12A**

Polygamists' hearing heats up

■ A court hearing to decide the fates of hundreds of children seized from a polygamist retreat was off to a chaotic start Thursday as hundreds of lawyers in two different locations demanded to study the first piece of evidence before it could be introduced. **PAGE 12A**

POPE BENEDICT XVI

Pope praises American spirit, offers words of hope



Gerald Herbert/AP

Lila Herndon, 5, (right) tries to make her sister Hannah Herndon, 3, smile as a choir practices on stage in the background in the early morning, prior to the Papal Mass.



Gerald Herbert/AP

Pope Benedict XVI reacts to the crowd at the conclusion of a Papal Mass on Thursday at Washington Nationals Park in Washington D.C.

By Marisol Bello and Cathy Lynn Grossman
Gannett News Service

WASHINGTON — After days with the powerful of church and state, Pope Benedict XVI turned to the laity Thursday morning, with a huge open-air Mass where he called on Catholics to renew their faith.

Benedict presided over Mass at the new Washington Nationals stadium, with a congregation-for-a-day of 46,000 people looking on. It was held on a beautiful, sun-splashed spring morning, with early cheers turning to silence from the faithful as the service began in earnest.

In his homily, Benedict repeated the core themes of his visit, calling on Catholics to welcome immigrants "within the unity of the Catholic faith," to educate their children in the faith and to evangelize to the world.

The pontiff called for stronger Catholic teaching to prepare youth for the challenges of secular society and for "cultivating a mindset, an intellectual culture which is genuinely Catholic, confident in the

"The crowd was responsive to everything. They sang loudly and answered the greetings during the different points of Mass and showed they were really happy to be there and happy he was there."



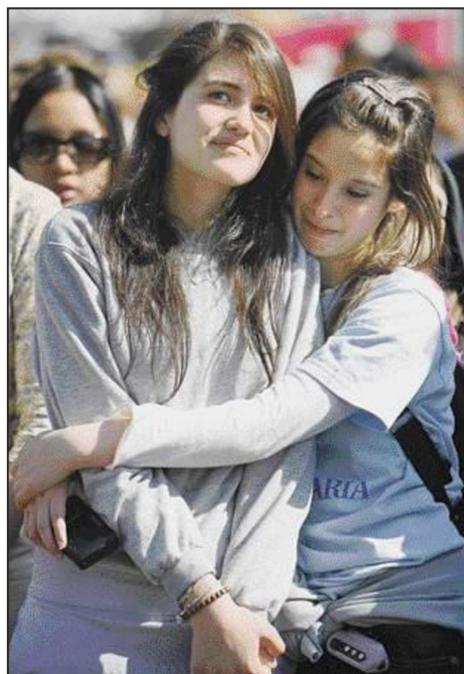
Father David Richter, of Shreveport, who is with The Catholic Center.

Read more on Page 13A about the reaction of locals who attended Thursday's Mass.

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✓ EXPANDED COVERAGE OF THE POPE'S VISIT TO THE U.S., INCLUDING SCHEDULE.

■ See MASS 13A



Jacquelyn Martin/AP

Maria Laura Bompadre, 16, (left) and Barbara Gamiz, 15, who are originally from Argentina, now living in Bethesda, Md., embrace while watching the Papal Mass of Pope Benedict XVI on a jumbo screen outside of Washington Nationals baseball Park in Washington D.C., on Thursday. The teenagers were among many who could not get tickets to the Mass but stayed outside the stadium to watch.

Student enrollment causes concerns

■ Captain Shreve asking school board to add more classrooms.

By Ashley Northington
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More students than seats occupy the space in Captain Shreve High School's classrooms, and more are expected to enroll next year.

There are five teachers who don't have their own classrooms and three additional teachers were needed but couldn't be hired this school year because there was no room.

Citing a 30 percent enrollment spike over the past four years and significant housing development in the area, Captain Shreve Principal Sandra McCalla is asking the Caddo Parish School Board to give the green light to a proposal to build a 13-classroom wing at an estimated cost of \$2.5 million.



Crawford

"We are going to continue to grow," McCalla said. "More people are coming here. We saw this coming a long time ago."

The school's enrollment is about 1,330, while the school's capacity is 1,100. The school expects about 1,400 students to be enrolled next year.

Several classrooms have about 37 students, above state law that allows up to 33 students in one classroom. Many classrooms, like special education, honors or advanced placement courses, have strict limits on the numbers of students allowed in one classroom, which forces more students to be in other classes.

Not hiring the extra three teachers needed this year also caused some classes to be completely filled. Next year, the district's staffing formula will allot six additional teachers, including the ones that weren't hired this year.

McCalla said she intends to fill all the teaching spots to lower students in each class, which means 11 teachers won't have classrooms next year.

"It's hard to teach a class with over 30 students in it," McCalla said. "The more students you have in a class, the less time the teacher can give to each student."

The wing is expected to cost \$2.5 million. About \$1.4 million would come from a bond issue passed in 1996 that was to be used for classroom construction and the rest would come from a construction fund, said Board member Bonita Crawford, whose District 8 includes Captain Shreve High.

The proposal estimates a new wing could be ready for the

■ See SCHOOLS 4A

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✓ CADDO PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

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Greg Pearson/The Times

Battle Wings player Kenneth Williams shows some students some action photos of himself by way of the internet during a visit to Arthur Circle Elementary.

Battle Wings players give back

By Jimmy Watson
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Lisa Gallion's fourth-grade class at Arthur Circle Elementary School had a memorable day this week.

Bossier-Shreveport Battle Wings Manny Talbert and Kenny Williams visited with the 12 students and told them about their difficult childhoods and stressed the importance of staying in school, making good grades and obeying their teachers.

"If nothing else great ever happens to these kids, they won't forget this day," Gallion

said. "Many of my kids live with grandparents or other guardians and they often feel left out of things. But Manny and Kenny did an outstanding job of relating to the kids and making them feel special."

"When they left, I just sat there and said 'Wow, this was a truly great day.'"

Talbert, who grew up in Washington and teaches middle school there in the offseason, and Williams, who grew up in New York, made the visit after Gallion, an avid Battle Wings fan, approached them following the last home game.

"I asked them if they'd come and they said 'just tell us when and where,'" Gallion said. "I have some kids who would be considered 'at-risk' and maybe in danger of not making the right decisions. But Manny and Kenny were honest with them and they all hit it off really well."

Williams, who had a family member shot and killed in front of him on the streets of New York, said he felt like he gained the students' attention in a short amount of time.

■ See COMMUNITY 4A