

In celebration of Baton Rouge's bicentennial, *The Advocate* is sharing moments from the past, tapping its 175 years of serving the community. Throughout the year, we are publishing pages from our archives which capture some of the local, national and world happenings -- everything from wars and hurricanes to festivals and social events -- that helped shape our city.

We hope you enjoy them.

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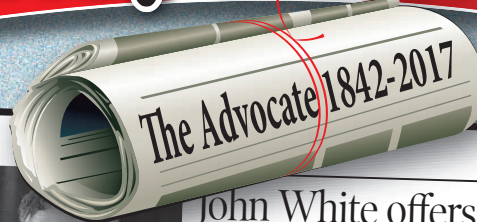
Telling Louisiana's story for 175 years



Southern's Aaron Tiller motivated to prove the doubters wrong **sports 1C**



John White offers plan to eliminate voucher waiting list **6A**



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AUGUST 13, 2016

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Floodwaters rising



Wheelchair user Dorothy Brooks, 78, is lifted through rising floodwaters by Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Office Sgt. Thomas Wheeler after floodwaters on Bankston Road south of Amite City surrounded the home of Brooks' sister, Laverne Andrews, following heavy rains Thursday night and Friday morning.

ADVOCATE STAFF PHOTO BY TRAVIS SPRADLING

More rain in weekend forecast

Area could see 4-8 more inches

BY AMY WOLD
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After more than a foot of rain fell on parts of the Baton Rouge area Thursday and Friday, and with more heavy rain on the way, 2016 could replace 1983 for many as the new benchmark for just how bad river flooding can get.

For some, it also comes as almost a repeat performance of what they went through just four months ago when torrential rain swamped thousands of homes across the state and helped set river level records in March.

The flooding and damage in southeast Louisiana this time could be even worse, with more rain expected over the weekend.

Anywhere from 5 inches to more than a foot of rain fell around Baton Rouge from Thursday evening to noon Friday. With at least 5 more inches of precipitation, if not significantly more in some areas, predicted for Friday night and Saturday, many rivers could rise to record-breaking levels.

For many people, the storm of 1983 is the benchmark for how bad flooding can get on various local rivers. During that April downpour, which lasted 50 hours, homes flooded across Livingston, Ascension and East Baton Rouge parishes.

Initially, Baton Rouge got off easy with only about 5 inches of rain falling between 10 p.m. Thursday and noon Friday. Just north of the city, Baker, Zachary and Central saw between 8 and 12 inches during that same time period, said Alek Krautmann, meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Slidell.

However, that luck didn't hold, and on Friday the Baton Rouge Airport saw more than 8 inches of rain, setting a record for the day, the service noted.

The low pressure system causing the downpour was centered Friday afternoon at the border of Louisiana and Mississippi north of Baton Rouge. It was expected to move slowly west, bringing a fresh wave of rainfall to south-central Louisiana.

Some of these rain bands already had dropped 2 to 3 inches an hour on certain areas of the state, enough to cause widespread flooding.

State of emergency declared; at least 1 dead

BY HEIDI KINCHEN, STEVE HARDY and MAYA LAU
Advocate staff writers

A relentless onslaught of rain drove down on the Baton Rouge area Friday, driving people from flooded homes, swamping streets and even taking the life of a man who drowned in a ditch near his house on Plank Road.

The worst flooding was widespread, stretching from northern East Baton Rouge Parish to the Denham Springs area to Tangipahoa Parish. As much as a foot of rain was dumped in some places.

The quickly rising waters forced several hundred people out of their homes Friday, with many having to be rescued by emergency personnel.

A woman who called 911 Friday morning had tried to help 68-year-old William Mayfield escape the flooding outside his house between Zachary and Baker, but Mayfield slipped and fell into a large ditch and did not come back up, said Casey Rayborn Hicks, spokeswoman for the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office.

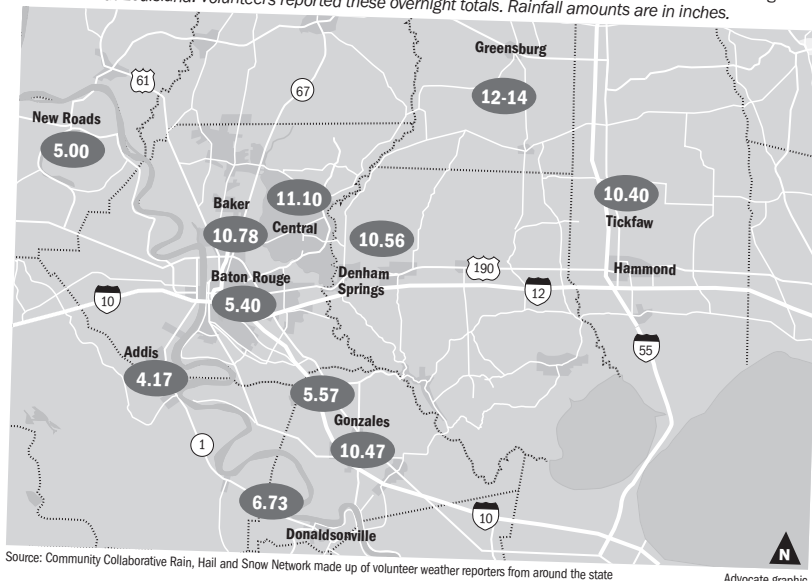
Zachary Police Chief David McDavid said the rainfall had caused some of the worst flooding he had seen since he started living there in 1969.

"What we're worried about now are these canals and the water rising and causing more flooding if this rain doesn't let up," McDavid said.

Gov. John Bel Edwards declared a state of emergency for the entire state because of the severe weather.

EARLY RAINFALL POSITIONS AREA FOR FURTHER PROBLEMS

Some of the heavier rain that fell Thursday night into Friday morning set the stage for widespread flooding around south Louisiana. Volunteers reported these overnight totals. Rainfall amounts are in inches.



Source: Community Collaborative Rain, Hail and Snow Network made up of volunteer weather reporters from around the state. Advocate Graphic.

The areas inundated by the rain include several parishes — such as Tangipahoa and Livingston — that were hit hard in March, when rain and rising rivers flooded homes across Louisiana.

The Louisiana National Guard aided rescue efforts in Tangipahoa Parish, where President Robby Miller said 140 people had

been rescued and more than a dozen state highways and 62 parish roads were impassable due to high water.

In Livingston Parish, the water pushed up caskets in St. Mark's Cemetery in Walker. And in St. Helena Parish, Greensburg was an island unto itself, cut off from the world by flooded highways.

Chief of Detectives Joe Chaney, of the St. Helena Parish Sheriff's Office, said he rode out in a Humvee to help rescue residents trapped in the flood. At least one had to be taken to a hospital for unspecified injuries, he said. Shelters were established

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