

## Here's how to navigate flood-aid process, minimize anger, confusion

BY MARK BALLARD | MBALLARD@THEADVOCATE.COM AUG 30, 2016 - 7:45 PM (3)



Advocate staff photo by BRAD BOWIE --

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Flood victims arrive to register for DSNAP at Blackham Coliseum on Tuesday, August 30, 2016, in Lafayette.

## Amite River Basin Commission meets briefly for first time since flood, keeps focus on tasks at hand

BY STEVE HARDY | SHARDY@THEADVOCATE.COM AUG 30, 2016 - 8:17 PM (3)



Advocate Staff Photo by PATRICK DENNIS

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Dietmar Rietschier, center, executive director, adds to the discussion during a meeting of the Amite River Basin Commission Tuesday.

## Where you live could determine whether permits or elevation required for flood damaged homes

BY TED GRIGGS | [tgriggs@theadvocate.com](mailto:tgriggs@theadvocate.com) and STEVE HARDY | [shardy@theadvocate.com](mailto:shardy@theadvocate.com) SEP 1, 2016 - 3:22 PM (0)



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A building is surrounded by the water on the flooded Ridge Road off Bluff Road during Ascension Parish flooding on Friday August 19, 2016.

## What's with the tents? Amid housing shortage, Baton Rouge flood victims struggling through

BY BRYN STOLE | BSTOLE@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 2, 2016 - 1:05 PM (0)



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Tents are set up outside the Tiger Bend Rd. home of Barry Moulder, photographed Aug. 20, 2016, and his wife Marta Beth, after the recent flooding disaster. Barry and Marta Beth, two sons and a daughter have been living in the tents since then, so they don't have to leave the long-time family-owned property and family-built home, as they begin the long process of cleaning and rebuilding.

## Many Central homes dropped from 'high risk' zones, allowed to lose insurance weeks before flood

BY REBEKAH ALLEN | RALLEN@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 3, 2016 - 4:15 PM (28)



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Aerial of severe flooding off Hooper Road near Central in East Baton Rouge Parish on Sunday August 14, 2016.

# THE ADVOCATE

Day 25

## Through literal 'hell or high water,' hundreds of Baton Rouge first responders logged long hours after losing everything in flood

BY BRYN STOLE | BSTOLE@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 4, 2016 - 6:30 PM (0)



Advocate photo by BRIANNA PACIORKA

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EMS paramedic Michael Castello in his gutted home near Millerville Road on Friday, September 2, 2016.

## Ascension President Kenny Matassa suspends elevation rule to record flood, but some may still have to raise homes

BY DAVID J. MITCHELL | DMITCHELL@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 6, 2016 - 11:01 AM (4)



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The pumps near Sorrento used for drainage in Ascension Parish. Aerials of severe weather flooding in

## Will you have to elevate? Requirements loosened, but many East Baton Rouge homes must rise or be replaced

BY STEVE HARDY | SHARDY@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 7, 2016 - 9:20 PM (14)



Advocate staff photo by BILL FEIG

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Water is up to the roofs in a subdivision off Joor Road. Aerials of severe weather flooding in East Baton Rouge Parish on Monday August 15, 2016.

## Gov. John Bel Edwards names flood recovery task force

BY ELIZABETH CRISP | ECRISP@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 13, 2016 - 4:30 PM  (...)



Molly Riley

FEMA Regional Administrator Tony Robinson, center, and Central City, La. Mayor Jr. Shelton, right, listen as Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards testifies on Capitol Hill in Washington, Friday, Sept. 9, 2016, before the House Oversight and Government Reform subcommittee on Transportation and Public Assets hearing on FEMA's response to the flooding in Baton Rouge, La. (AP Photo/Molly Riley) ORG XMIT: DCMR112

### More than 32K homes can stay on the ground after Metro Council exempts many from elevation requirement

BY STEVE HARDY | SHARDY@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 14, 2016 - 9:05 PM (7)



Advocate staff photo by TRAVIS SPRADLING

Baton Rouge's Ben Steib uses an ADMS (Automated Debris Management System) device to log data about the flood debris being removed by a truck, right, contracted through DRC Emergency Services, Thurs., Aug. 25,

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**“Elevation is now very much on the minds of people in the Baton Rouge region after the historic floods last month. Many people with property that flooded are looking to get back in their homes, as local leaders continue to dial back floodplain and elevation rules to federal minimums to ease their constituents' return.”**

## Debris crews vow to visit every flooded neighborhood by end of week, but...

BY STEVE HARDY | SHARDY@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 16, 2016 - 11:27 AM (1)



Advocate staff photo by BILL FEIG

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Debris piles line the street along St. Katherine Avenue awaiting pickup as crews gather up debris piles on Lemonwood Drive near Hollywood Street in north Baton Rouge Friday, Sept. 16, 2016. The city-parish is saying everyone should have a first pass by the end of next week. Also, starting Monday crews will go up onto people's property if the owners give their signed permission.

## Ascension Parish looking at thousands of homes requiring inspections

BY ELLYN COUVILLION | ECOUVILLION@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 16, 2016 - 3:00 PM (1)



Elyn Couvillion



Ascension Parish government is looking at the gargantuan task of inspecting 10,000 to 11,000 flooded properties – the great majority being homes – with a present staff for the job of only 11 people.

The parish, however, is talking with officials with the Federal Emergency Management Agency about the possibility of getting additional help with the work.

Planning Director Jerome Fournier told Parish Council Thursday that FEMA is asking the parish to do inspections of flooded properties to learn which ones have "substantial damage" – meaning that the cost of repairing the property would be more than 50 percent of its pre-flood value.

## After Katrina, house elevations in New Orleans depended on timing, funding, mindset

BY DAVID J. MITCHELL | DMITCHELL@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 17, 2016 - 6:31 PM (2)



Advocate staff photo by DAVID J. MITCHELL

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Al Petrie, 62, a native of New Orleans, stands recently near a few of the houses that he and investors built or renovated along one block on Vicksburg Street in Lakeview after Hurricane Katrina. One house, the tall townhouse in the background, was built to a high ground-floor elevation while others were allowed to remain at lower heights based on changing rules and market preferences after the devastating hurricane in 2005.

## How August floods might kill chunk of damaged Baton Rouge-area businesses

BY TED GRIGGS | TGRIGGS@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 18, 2016 - 11:49 AM (4)



Advocate staff photo by TRAVIS SPRADLING

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Cavalier House Books owner John Cavalier wheels a shipment of books into the unflooded business on N. Range Ave., in the Denham Springs Antique District, Fri., Sept. 16, 2016. Loyal customers have stopped in, sometimes spending more than he thinks they normally would, to show support, he said. Though people are

## Catastrophe modeler estimates Louisiana flood damage at \$8.5 billion to \$11 billion

ADVOCATE STAFF REPORT SEP 19, 2016 - 9:47 AM (0)



Advocate Staff Photo by PATRICK DENNIS

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A man paddles a pirogue up to his door step as he is surrounded by floodwater along La. 16 in French Settlement, La. Sunday. Water began to rise about an inch every 15 minutes there. Places along La. 16 that were dry Saturday night now have 2-3 feet of rising water Sunday afternoon.

## FEMA clarifies what forms of housing OK for Shelter at Home program

BY ELIZABETH CRISP | ECRISP@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 19, 2016 - 3:29 PM (1)



Advocate photo by CAROLINE OURSO

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Billy Sullivan, right, and Andre Leblanc, center, talk to Patricia Lee about the work Sullivan's building company will perform on her flooded home on Friday morning as part of the Shelter At Home program.

## Will more people migrate to drier West Baton Rouge Parish after historic floods?

BY TERRY L. JONES | TJONES@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 19, 2016 - 6:45 PM (13)



Advocate file photo by HILARY SCHEINUK

Congestion on the Mississippi River Bridge connecting East and West Baton Rouge parishes begins to accumulate about 3 p.m. on July 25, 2014.

## Central students make video thanking Taylor Swift for donation

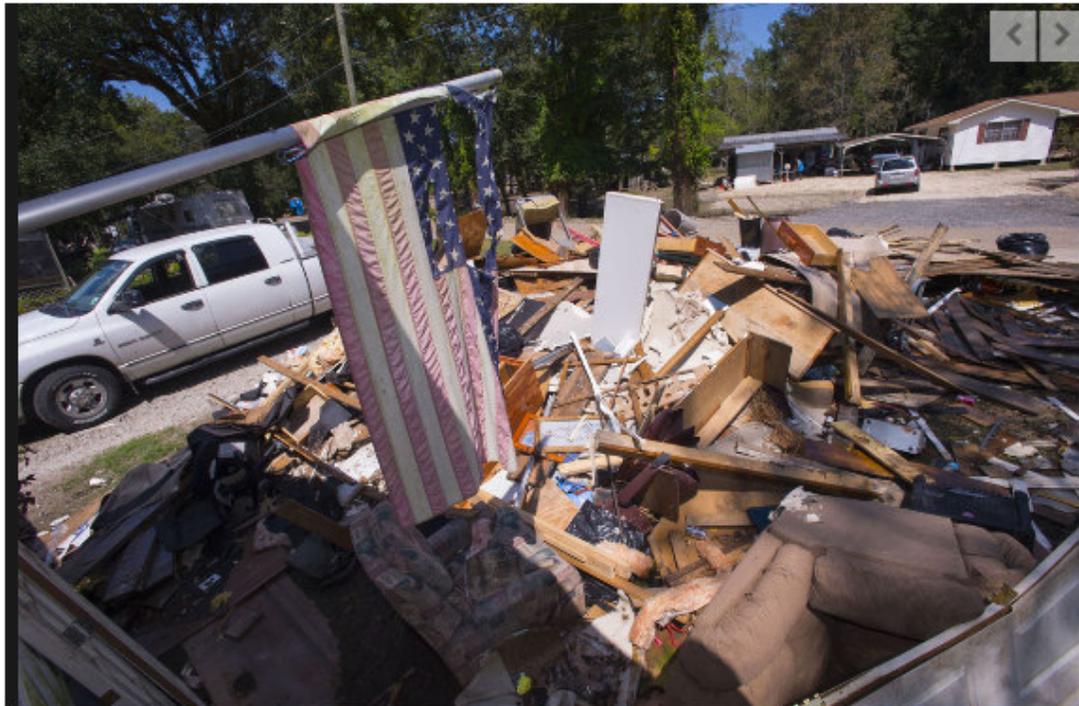
ADVOCATE STAFF REPORT SEP 20, 2016 - 4:12 PM (0)



Screenshot from video of Central students and staff thanking Taylor Swift for her donation following the devastating flooding in Louisiana. [Buy Now](#)

### 'Every minute matters' as volunteers help flooded Ascension Parish residents whose homes are only now accessible

BY ELLYN COUVILLION | ECOUVILLION@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 20, 2016 - 5:55 PM (3)



Advocate staff photo by TRAVIS SPRADLING

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Tearout debris extends Tues., Sept. 20, 2016 from the front porch to the street outside the home of Christy

## Time to get nerdy: hydrologist says government needs to learn true risks of flooding in the Amite Basin

BY STEVE HARDY | SHARDY@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 20, 2016 - 8:30 PM (14)



Advocate staff photo by BILL FEIG

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Aerial of severe flooding of the Comite River near Zachary in East Baton Rouge Parish on Sunday August 14, 2016.

**The government must invest in science to better understand local flooding.**

**Federal flood maps can be non-specific, out of date, subject to change and based on conjecture.**

**After Hurricane Katrina, the federal government invested millions of dollars to study coastal flooding.**

**"Why don't we have that available for basin flooding?"**

**He would like the government to run sophisticated computer models to form a more complete understanding of flood risks along the Amite, Comite and other local waterways.**

### 150 stories of extreme service: Readers tell tales of Cajun Navy's heroics during south Louisiana floods

Advocate staff report SEP 21, 2016 - 1:00 PM (2)



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THE ADVOCATE  
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BY WALT HANDELSMAN | WHANDELSMAN@THEADVOCATE.COM

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## Baton Rouge, Lafayette just went through the rainiest summer on record

BY AMY WOLD | AWOLD@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 21, 2016 - 4:45 PM (1)



Advocate photo by CAROLINE OURSO

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Many people were rescued from floodwaters that overtook Comite Drive and the surrounding neighborhoods in Central on Saturday.

**“Baton Rouge ended up shattering the record with 44.02 inches of rain from June through August, surpassing the wet summer of 1989 by almost 10 inches.”**

## What to expect after bare-bones Shelter at Home repairs are complete

BY ELIZABETH CRISP | ECRISP@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 21, 2016 - 7:55 PM (11)



Advocate staff photo by BILL FEIG

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Alice O'Conner is one of the homeowners who has benefited from the Shelter at Home program for Louisiana flood victims. O'Conner talks about the experience Wednesday Sept. 21, 2016.

## Shelter at Home's slow progress drawing criticism, but officials insist it's 'ramping up'

BY WILL SENTELL | WSENTELL@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 22, 2016 - 11:15 AM (1)



Will Sentell

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## U.S. Senate leaders propose \$500M 'down payment' on Louisiana flood relief

BY ELIZABETH CRISP | ECRISP@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 22, 2016 - 12:15 PM (1)



Advocate staff photo by TRAVIS SPRADLING

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Libby Bezet, 65, in pink, and her husband Danny Bezet, 67, in gray, are helped off a rescue boat, piloted by Danny Wall, in white cap, helped by Alan Bartlett (in g of Central Baptist Church, which is near the trailer, background that the Bezets lived in off Stevendale Road near Florida Blvd. just on the west side of the Amite River, Sat., Aug. 13, 2016 during flooding there. Healing Place Church's Kain Worthy, looks at landing site, and David Napuunoa is standing behind him.

## Sisters who flooded during Katrina and again last month surprised by check from Ellen DeGeneres

BY JEFF ADELSON | JADELSON@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 22, 2016 - 6:26 PM  (0)



Jeff Adelson



Jonetta Bennett and Natalie Bennett Thomas were excited when they found out "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" wanted to do a short interview with them to post online and more excited still at the prospect of being in the audience for a live taping of the nationally syndicated show.

Just being in the studio would have been enough for the sisters, who lost homes in both Hurricane Katrina and last month's flooding. But that's not all Ellen DeGeneres had in store for the sisters on Wednesday.

The pair, laughing and joking, were brought onto the stage to talk about their experience and their ability to remain positive through disaster.

## Report: Worldwide, nations see benefits of naming storms; Louisiana floods show flip side

Advocate staff report SEP 23, 2016 - 9:58 AM (0)



Advocate staff photo by BILL FEIG

Homes are surrounded by water in the Azalea Lakes subdivision in Baton Rouge.

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## For disabled flood victims, answers on housing take on special urgency

BY ANDREA GALLO | AGALLO@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 23, 2016 - 6:00 PM (1)



Advocate staff photo by TRAVIS SPRADLING

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Flood victim Roy Harvey, left, places his hand on the leg of his wife Julie Harvey, right, as she is filled with emotion, while recalling the loss of precious family photos and keepsakes, when their Central, La. home was filled with water during recent flooding. Julie was diagnosed with ALS in 2012, and has found that her condition

## FEMA won't change maps after floods; some worry of consequences

BY DAVID J. MITCHELL | DMITCHELL@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 24, 2016 - 4:58 PM (15)



Advocate staff photo by HILARY SCHEINUK

Plastic covers salvaged electronics as contractors had begun laying wall board and removing flooring at the home of Daniel Champton, Wednesday, Sept. 14, 2016, in Prairieville, La. Champton's home received 6 inches of water from the August floods. The home off La. 42 was not in the 100-year floodplain. Champton was not required to have flood insurance.

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**“flood insurance claims filed over the August floods in Louisiana already had totaled 29,000, making it the fourth biggest storm since the creation of the program.**

**preliminary data suggests the flood touched thousands of homes in the Baton Rouge region outside the zones FEMA designated as at high risk of flooding — the areas where mortgage holders must have flood insurance.**

**For years, federal officials, joined by local and state leaders across Louisiana, have urged people to buy flood insurance whether they live in a high-risk zone or not.”**

## Central officials say inspection process moving along in city hit hard by floods

BY AMY WOLD | AWOLD@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 25, 2016 - 5:15 PM (1)



Amy Wold



The now-familiar piles of debris look exactly the same in front of two neighboring homes along Elkhorn Drive in [Central](#).

Both homes got the same amount of flooding, about 40 inches or so. Both have been cleaned out of drywall and carpet, with air conditioning humming at all hours to help dry out the interiors.

However, the path forward toward rebuilding will be different for each because one is in the 100-year flood zone and one is not.

"It's in a holding pattern until a valuation can be done," said David Ratcliff, program director of Central Municipal [Services](#), pointing to the house on the left, the one in the flood zone, on a recent trip down through parts of Central to look at home inspection progress.

## FEMA finds nearly half of inspected Denham Springs structures 'substantially damaged'

BY HEIDI KINCHEN | HKINCHEN@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 26, 2016 - 8:22 PM (0)



Advocate photo by BILL FEIG < p>

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Businesses take on water at Juban Crossing looking northwest over I-12 in the Denham Springs area during severe flooding in Livingston Parish on Sunday August 14, 2016.

## Louisiana flood aid held up in U.S. Senate amid fight over Flint water crisis funding as government shutdown looms

BY ELIZABETH CRISP | ECRISP@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 27, 2016 - 10:42 AM (5)



Advocate staff photo by TRAVIS SPRADLING

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Eric Waxley, center, is pulled to safety by Carol Richard, left, after the boat Waxley and wife Robin Waxley, background, were using to help rescue got in trouble in swift water near the Country Roads subdivision in Central, off Central Thruway and Frenchtown Road, Sat., Aug. 13, 2016 during flooding near the confluence of the Comite and Amite Rivers.

## Walker hires law firm to sue DOTD over I-12 design that city officials say worsened flooding in the city

BY VIC COUVILLION | Special to The Advocate SEP 27, 2016 - 6:00 PM  (...)



**WALKER** – The City Council has agreed to retain the Baton Rouge law firm of deGravelles Palmintier to sue the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development over an alleged faulty design of the portion of Interstate 12 that runs on the south side of the city.

Mayor Rick Ramsey has claimed over the past several weeks that the design of I-12 was a contributing factor to the floods that inundated much of Walker during the August flood. He has alleged the interstate impeded the natural flow of water on the south side of Walker during the flooding.

Ramsey said lawyers with deGravelles Palmintier have already begun researching the issue of whether I-12's design created flooding problems in his city. He said that he did not know at this time when the lawsuit would be filed.

## Central council officially changes one-foot elevation rule for substantially damaged buildings

BY AMY WOLD | AWOLD@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 27, 2016 - 8:11 PM (10)



Amy Wold



Central City Council made it official at their Tuesday night meeting that the owners of substantially damaged homes from August's flooding don't have to rebuild to the one-foot-above-base flood elevation.

However, any substantially damaged home that is below the base flood elevation set through the National Flood Insurance Program would still need to be raised to that minimum level.

The change in the Central council's ordinance is meant to allow more people with existing dwellings to

**“We have a lot of damaged structures. We want to let as many people rebuild as they can,” said Councilman Jason Ellis.**

**The change could impact the city's ranking within FEMA's Community Rating System, which gives homeowners a break on their flood insurance premiums in return for the city instituting more-stringent building codes.**

**Ellis said, “It would be ideal to tell people don't build where it floods, but where would we tell them to build because our entire city was flooded.”**

## Will flooding drag down Baton Rouge's mental health? Here's how to keep spirits up

BY ANDREA GALLO | AGALLO@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 29, 2016 - 4:45 PM (8)



Advocate file photo by BILL FEIG

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A kayaker creates interesting patterns while paddling up Boreas Avenue off Old Hammond Highway. Aerials of severe weather flooding in East Baton Rouge Parish on Monday August 15, 2016.

## Here's what officials may have to do to identify washed up caskets, end 'traumatic' struggle

BY MAYA LAU | MLAU@THEADVOCATE.COM SEP 30, 2016 - 5:00 PM (1)



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Casket popping up a vault top, right. Many caskets that were dislodged in the floods in August are yet to be re-interred. Over a month later, officials and families of the deceased are navigating the complicated process of identifying and re-burying the dead. Memorial Cemetery on Thursday Sept. 29, 2016.

## Hundreds of Denham Springs residents face possibility of having to elevate their homes

BY HEIDI KINCHEN | HKINCHEN@THEADVOCATE.COM OCT 2, 2016 - 3:00 PM (7)



Advocate staff photo by BILL FEIG

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Debris is piled up in front of a house on Chantulane Avenue on Thursday Sept. 29, 2016. Houses in this neighborhood may face elevation requirements because of the flood.

## Governor's staff: Red Cross "clearly has room for improvement," requests response plan for future disasters

BY REBEKAH ALLEN | RALLEN@THEADVOCATE.COM OCT 3, 2016 - 1:24 PM (16)



Advocate staff photo by HILARY SCHEINUK

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In preparation for the moving of all flood victims from the Baton Rouge River Center, the American Red Cross has set up 380 cots in Stage 5 of Celtic Media Studios, Wednesday, September 14, 2016, in Baton Rouge, La.

## Flooding, then stagnation: Baton Rouge-area home sales see steep drop

BY TIMOTHY BOONE | TBOONE@THEADVOCATE.COM OCT 5, 2016 - 4:36 PM (4)



Advocate staff photo by TRAVIS SPRADLING

The Advocate file photo -- 'For Sale' sign outside flooded house.

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## Last of flood victims exit Baton Rouge shelter; some still face uncertain future

BY TERRY L. JONES | TJONES@THEADVOCATE.COM OCT 5, 2016 - 5:45 PM (1)



Advocate staff photo by BILL FEIG

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Red Cross worker Tonda Hatchett, left, checks with a smiling Michael Williams, right, making sure that all of her and her family's belongings have been removed to their transportation from the site. The last shelter located at Celtic Studios for displaced flood victims closed at noon on Wednesday Oct. 5, 2016.

## Controversial, long-abandoned Darlington Reservoir gets renewed interest after historic flooding

BY STEVE HARDY | SHARDY@THEADVOCATE.COM OCT 5, 2016 - 8:00 PM (1)



Advocate staff photo by BILL FEIG

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The bridge over the Amite River is almost under water in the Port Vincent area during severe flooding in Livingston Parish on Sunday August 14, 2016.

**“Scientists and engineers packed an LSU conference hall Wednesday for a post-mortem on the August flood. In blunt, technical talks, academics, government officials and private professionals found a few reassurances following the disaster but also focused on ways to improve to try to mitigate the next catastrophe such as better storm forecasting.”**

## Ascension councilmen air worries about home elevations as damage assessments begin to roll out

BY DAVID J. MITCHELL | DMITCHELL@THEADVOCATE.COM OCT 6, 2016 - 7:24 PM (0)



David Mitchell



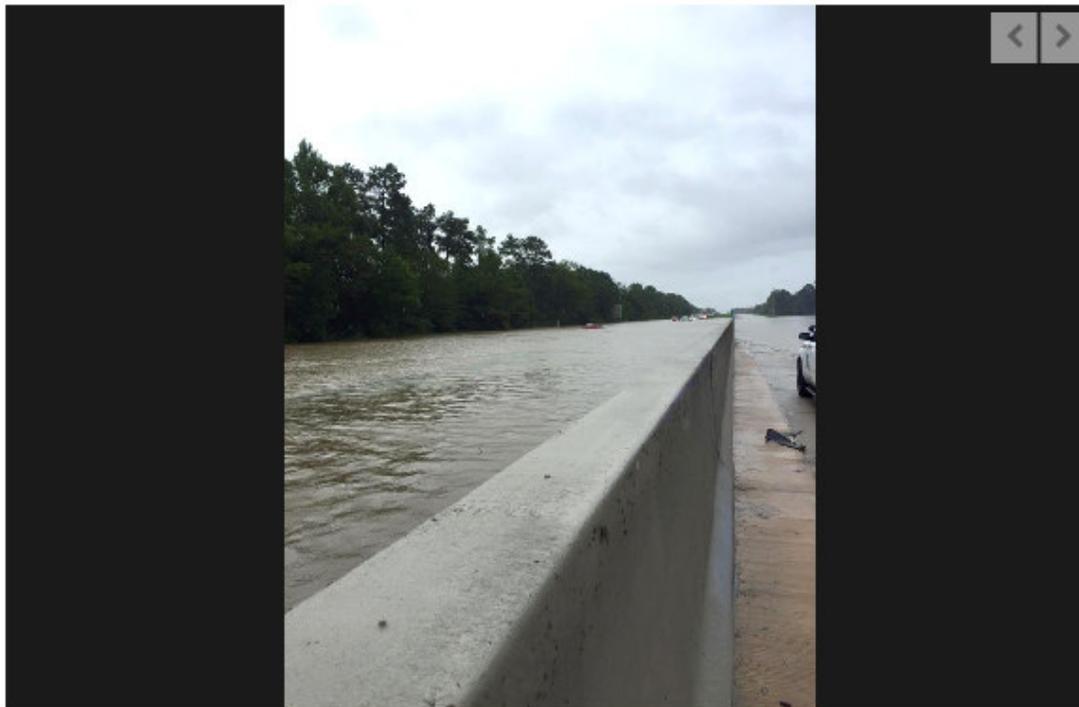
**DONALDSONVILLE** – About one-fifth of the homes in Ascension Parish reviewed so far for flood damage have crossed a national flood insurance threshold that could require home elevation, demolition or removal, parish officials said Thursday.

But those homes are from just a small sample of the 6,000 to 7,000 homes that parish officials expect they and FEMA contractors will eventually have to review.

That small sample constituted properties about which homeowners had sought out parish officials, and a top parish planning official told the Parish Council Thursday that he expects the final percentage of homes over the federal damage threshold will be much lower.

### Lawyer says I-12 safety wall could have worsened flooding for thousands of property owners

BY HEIDI KINCHEN | HKINCHEN@THEADVOCATE.COM OCT 6, 2016 - 8:45 PM (6)



**“As many as 100,000 people in East Baton Rouge and Livingston parishes may have received additional flooding because of the concrete safety wall built along the median of Interstate 12.”**

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO by Mayor of Walker, Rick Ramsey, shows the flooded west bound lanes of Interstate 12 approaching Walker with a concrete barrier damming up the flow of water. ORG XMIT: CCOs2JuhHW36-  
-WA-01-

## Flood, rebuild, repeat: Louisiana top state in repetitive flood losses; experts cite 2 key reasons

BY AMY WOLD | AWOLD@THEADVOCATE.COM OCT 8, 2016 - 2:17 PM (7)



Advocate staff photo by BILL FEIG

Aerial of severe flooding off Plank Road near Baker in East Baton Rouge Parish on Sunday August 14, 2016.

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**Louisiana parishes and communities take eight of the top 25 spots in the country for repetitive flood loss, with Orleans Parish at number one and East Baton Rouge Parish at 24th place.**

**Far too many communities and far too many people believe these are one time events and continue to build in places destined to flood”**

# THE ADVOCATE

## STATES WITH MOST REPEAT FLOOD LOSS, 1978-2015



Source: Natural Resources Defense Council

Advocate graphic by DAN SWENSON

BY DAN SWENSON | THE ADVOCATE

### Experts: Officials not 'doing property owners any favors' by lowering building standards after August flood

BY STEVE HARDY | SHARDY@THEADVOCATE.COM OCT 8, 2016 - 3:07 PM (16)



Advocate staff photo by BILL FEIG

Boats make their way up a flooded O'Neal Lane just north of I-12 during severe flooding in East Baton Rouge Parish on Sunday August 14, 2016.

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A few weeks after the August flood, a FEMA engineer appeared before the East Baton Rouge Metro Council and remarked that the parish has the strictest flood-related building codes she's ever seen. Rather, East Baton Rouge had the strictest codes. "I really don't think the communities are doing property owners ... any favors by rolling back some of these higher standards," said Chad Berginnis, executive director of the Association of State Floodplain Managers. . . . I absolutely would not be setting the rebuilding level at the 100-year level."

## A messy debate: which East Baton Rouge landfill is best equipped for flood debris?

BY ANDREA GALLO | AGALLO@THEADVOCATE.COM OCT 8, 2016 - 7:00 PM (0)



Advocate staff photo by BILL FEIG

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An emptied out truck drives down the road as other trucks full of collected flood debris are scooped out at the Ronaldson Field Landfill on Oct. 7.

## Post-flood debris collection end Oct. 31 in Ascension Parish

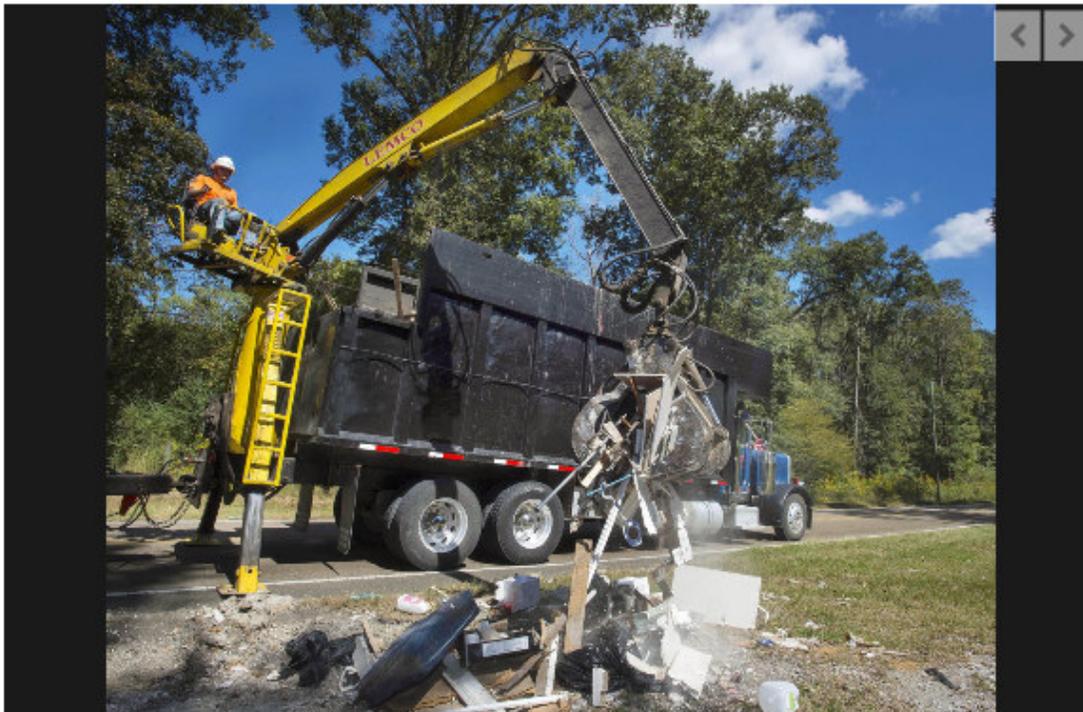
RIVER PARISHES BUREAU | OCT 10, 2016 - 5:09 PM (0)

## Baker mayor tells council flood debris pickup is nearly complete

BY EMILY BECK COGBURN | Special to The Advocate | OCT 11, 2016 - 8:17 PM (0)

## Flood debris still cluttering your yard? Baton Rouge city-parish wants help ID'ing remaining piles

BY ANDREA GALLO | AGALLO@THEADVOCATE.COM OCT 11, 2016 - 4:15 PM (0)



Advocate staff photo by TRAVIS SPRADLING

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## HUD: Louisiana will get nearly \$438M in first round of flood aid

BY ELIZABETH CRISP | ECRISP@THEADVOCATE.COM OCT 13, 2016 - 9:41 AM (3)



Advocate staff photo by TRAVIS SPRADLING

Ascension Sheriff's Office Staff Sgt. Blaine Melancon, left, strides through the water Tuesday, Aug. 16, 2016, after hopping off a boat looking for any remaining rescues in the Lake Park subdivision and other sections of the Brittany area of south Gonzales near Sorrento, in Ascension Parish. Behind them, from left, are Dwayne

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**“State officials have repeatedly described the money as a ‘down payment’ on the billions that they hope to receive to help the state rebuild from massive floods in the spring and in August. The total flood damage has been estimated at \$8.7 billion, and state leaders say nearly 130,000 homes were damaged or destroyed.”**

# THE ADVOCATE

Day 65

## Congressional delegation presses state task force to quickly develop federal aid plans

BY ELIZABETH CRISP | ECRISP@THEADVOCATE.COM OCT 14, 2016 - 3:51 PM (1)



Advocate staff photo by BILL FEIG

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A rescue truck pulls a boat up Range Avenue in Denham Springs. Aerials of severe weather flooding in Livingston Parish on Monday August 15, 2016.

## Push on for Comite Diversion, but Corps of Engineers continues to find project doesn't offer best bang for buck

BY DAVID J. MITCHELL | DMITCHELL@THEADVOCATE.COM OCT 15, 2016 - 6:00 PM (1)



Advocate file photo by BILL FEIG

Aerial of the Comite Diversion Canal. Looking west. Mississippi River at top.

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**Congressman Graves recently (said) . . . that the long-stalled Comite River Diversion Canal must be the priority . . . .**

**“This is a make-or-break-it deal for many of these homeowners or business owners. They are not going to come back to their community because the cost of elevating is prohibitive.”**

**But perhaps standing in the way is a number — 1.4 — that has helped keep the project half-built. That number, called a benefit-cost ratio...is far lower than needed to bump it up the national priority list.**

## 'Biggest challenge' installing FEMA's mobile homes for Louisiana flood victims...

BY MARK BALLARD | MBALLARD@THEADVOCATE.COM OCT 16, 2016 - 6:08 PM (3)



Connecting electricity to a FEMA mobile home, like the one in the background, sometimes requires contractors to dig up a neighbor's yard. (Photo provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.)

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## East Baton Rouge mayoral candidates confront unknowns as they propose flood recovery, prevention plans

BY STEVE HARDY | SHARDY@THEADVOCATE.COM OCT 17, 2016 - 11:18 AM (2)



Steve Hardy



Even as the people of East Baton Rouge Parish focus on rebuilding what was destroyed by the August flood, they must select a new leader who can look to the horizon and implement strategies to blunt the damage caused by future storms.

There are several issues at play: a push for better forecasting and risk assessment, considering possible changes to building codes and choosing infrastructure projects to pursue.

## East Baton Rouge moves forward with plans at nine flood-damaged schools and four administrative sites

BY CHARLES LUSSIER | CLUSSIERS@THEADVOCATE.COM OCT 20, 2016 - 7:51 PM (1)



Charles Lussier



East Baton Rouge Parish school officials on Thursday got the green light to seek proposals from construction firms to manage the reconstruction of nine schools and four administrative centers damaged during the historic flooding in August.

Meanwhile, nine architects are being hired to complete designs for the district's 13 flooded buildings. No timetables for when displaced students can return have yet been set for those facilities.

The initial tearing out and remediation of flooded school buildings was overseen by CSRS/Tillage Construction, the joint partnership that serves already as the program manager for most school construction for the school system. The partnership also won a competitive contract last month to serve as the FEMA consultant for the school system as the district seeks to have up to 90 percent of its disaster-related costs reimbursed.

**“The initial estimate for flood damage was at least \$50 million, but school officials expect that number to go up.”**

## Gov. John Bel Edwards increases federal flood aid request to \$4 billion

BY ELIZABETH CRISP | ECRISP@THEADVOCATE.COM OCT 21, 2016 - 12:27 PM (0)



Susan Walsh

President Barack Obama and Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards tour Castle Place, a flood-damaged area of Baton Rouge, Aug. 23. Obama is making his first visit to flood-ravaged southern Louisiana as he attempts to assure the many thousands who have suffered damage to their homes, schools and businesses that his administration has made their recovery a priority. (AP Photo/Susan Walsh)

**In a letter to President Barack Obama this week, Edwards said that the total impact of the catastrophic flood that swept across south Louisiana in August, killing 13 people . . . is becoming clearer . . . . FEMA has estimated as many as 188,000 structures, mostly homes, were flooded in August.**

## Two flooded Livingston Parish schools to reopen Jan. 6, three others to relocate

BY HEIDI KINCHEN | HKINCHEN@THEADVOCATE.COM OCT 21, 2016 - 2:30 PM (1)



Advocate staff photo by BILL FEIG

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Alexandro Cardona does repairs in the main office. Livingston Parish School Supt. Rick Wentzel and DSHS Asst. Principal Wes Partin show the progress of the flood-damage repairs going on at Denham Springs High School Thursday Oct. 20, 2016.

**“district officials have said the total bill for flood recovery easily could top \$100 million.”**

## Video: National Guard's breathtaking rescues, Louisiana flood response shown in documentary

ADVOCATE STAFF REPORT OCT 21, 2016 - 7:50 PM (0)



A screenshot from the Louisiana National Guard flood response documentary, which shows a guardsmen aiding in an air rescue.

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## A tall task: FEMA studies of flooded Louisiana homes to determine costly elevation needs

BY DAVID J. MITCHELL | DMITCHELL@THEADVOCATE.COM OCT 21, 2016 - 8:58 PM (3)



Advocate staff photo by BILL FEIG

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From left Jason Schneider and Seth Bradley do damage assessments as FEMA contractors in Ascension Parish Tuesday Oct. 18, 2016.

## Auditor: Louisiana missing paperwork to justify \$22.3M in hazard mitigation money

BY STEVE HARDY | SHARDY@THEADVOCATE.COM OCT 22, 2016 - 2:45 PM (2)



Advocate staff photo by AMY WOLD -- As seen from the top of a levee near Pointe aux Chene, the terraces built in open water are meant to help reduce erosion and encourage marsh growth as part of mitigation for the building of the Morganza to Gulf levee system in Terrebonne Parish.

## Major reductions coming on flooded East Baton Rouge, Livingston structures' values

BY HEIDI KINCHEN | HKINCHEN@THEADVOCATE.COM OCT 25, 2016 - 5:04 PM (2)



Advocate staff photo by BILL FEIG

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Flooded sheetrock removed from the ground up at the house of Michael Gonzales Jr. on Churchpoint Road in the Gonzales area during Ascension Parish cleanup on Friday August 19, 2016.

**“In East Baton Rouge, flooded buildings will receive a 35 percent reduction in assessed value. In Livingston, the discount will be 20 percent.”**

## Flood-stricken Livingston Parish's slowdown causes drop in Baton Rouge-area home sales for September

BY TIMOTHY BOONE | TBOONE@THEADVOCATE.COM OCT 26, 2016 - 1:05 PM (0)



ADVOCATE STAFF FILE PHOTO BY BILL FEIG

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Houses took on water just north of Interstate 12 in the Walker area during August's severe flooding in Livingston Parish. The Greater Baton Rouge Association of Realtors saw a 21.3 percent drop-off in sales in Livingston Parish in September.

## An early look at major flood recovery component slated for review on Friday

BY ELIZABETH CRISP | ECRISP@THEADVOCATE.COM OCT 27, 2016 - 6:55 PM (0)



Advocate staff photo by BILL FEIG

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Aerial of a subdivision in the Watson area which is drier after severe flooding in Livingston Parish on Tuesday August 16, 2016.

## Flood task force puts off vote on initial component of housing recovery plan

BY ELIZABETH CRISP | ECRISP@THEADVOCATE.COM OCT 28, 2016 - 3:45 PM (7)



Advocate staff photo by BILL FEIG

Aerial of severe flooding in the Watson area of Livingston Parish on Sunday August 14, 2016.

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“Pat Forbes, executive director of the state Office of Community Development, offered up a recommendation that the state put most of its initial \$437.8 million in federal aid toward a housing rehab program with tight criteria.

This housing plan is the most important piece of our overall recovery — bringing people back home.”

## Gov. John Bel Edwards hopes to return to flood-damaged Governor's Mansion next month

ASSOCIATED PRESS OCT 30, 2016 - 12:04 PM (1)



Advocate Staff Photo by PATRICK DENNIS

The Governor's Mansion from the air Saturday.

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## Floods highlight need to build smartly

BY TIMOTHY BOONE | TBOONE@THEADVOCATE.COM NOV 2, 2016 - 4:49 PM (3)



ADVOCATE STAFF FILE PHOTO BY PATRICK DENNIS

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Downtown Denham Springs takes on water during August's flood. Officials at a smart growth summit Wednesday said ideas for more resilient building are needed.

## Livingston assessor finds half of buildings in parish flooded in August, but believes more out there

BY DAVID J. MITCHELL | DMITCHELL@THEADVOCATE.COM NOV 3, 2016 - 3:45 PM (0)



Advocate staff photo by BILL FEIG

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Houses take on water just north of I-12 in the Walker area during severe flooding in Livingston Parish on Sunday August 14, 2016.

## FEMA suffers from periodic mobile home shortages; some may not get into trailers until new year

BY DAVID J. MITCHELL | DMITCHELL@THEADVOCATE.COM NOV 4, 2016 - 7:15 PM (0)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO -- State officials on Wednesday unveiled a three-pronged plan for housing flood victims, including a program that will bring manufactured housing units to the state for people with more severe damage.

## Louisiana flood victims have one week left to register for disaster aid

ASSOCIATED PRESS NOV 6, 2016 - 9:30 AM (0)



STACY GILL

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Advocate staff file photo by STACY GILL -- Zachary resident Mandie Barnes, left, applies for flood assistance through FEMA representative Rebecca Thurman, of Texas, at the Disaster Recovery Center inside the Zachary Men's Club on Rollins Road in September.

### Gov. John Bel Edwards prepares to make case for more flood money, but agreement still not reached on how to spend initial \$438M

BY ELIZABETH CRISP | ECRISP@THEADVOCATE.COM NOV 7, 2016 - 4:00 AM (1)



Susan Walsh

President Barack Obama and Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards tour Castle Place, a flood-damaged area of

**“Officials have estimated that the Louisiana floods in (March, Northern Louisiana and) August caused \$8.7 billion in damage.”**

**“The latest estimates say that as many as 180,000 structures—homes and public buildings, such as schools or police stations—sustained damage in the August flood alone.”**

## Gov. John Bel Edwards set to return to DC to lobby for flood aid this week

BY ELIZABETH CRISP | ECRISP@THEADVOCATE.COM NOV 8, 2016 - 11:00 AM (1)



Susan Walsh

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President Barack Obama shakes hands with Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards, accompanied by Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-La., after making a statement about the flooding following a tour of Castle Place, a flood-damaged

# Epilogue

# THE ADVOCATE

## Congress approves more than \$1.25B for Louisiana flood recovery

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS DEC 10, 2016 - 6:53 PM (0)



Advocate staff photo by BILL FEIG

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Aerials of severe weather flooding in East Baton Rouge Parish on Monday August 15, 2016. A National Guard vehicle turns west on Prescott Avenue off of N. Foster Drive. Looking south southeast.

**The additional allocation approved Friday means Congress has dedicated between \$1.8 billion and \$1.9 billion, including an initial \$438 million in disaster relief funds, for Louisiana's long-term rebuilding.**

**Still, that's short of the at least \$2.6 billion requested.**

# THE ADVOCATE

## FEMA's response defies common sense, needs to be 'Cajunized,' Congressman Garret Graves says

BY REBEKAH ALLEN | RALLEN@THEADVOCATE.COM PUBLISHED DEC 12, 2016 AT 2:20 PM | UPDATED DEC 12, 2016 AT 2:24 PM (6)



ADVOCATE STAFF PHOTO BY BILL FEIG

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LA Congressman Garret Graves addresses Trump supporters before President-Elect Donald Trump arrives to speak at a rally for U.S. Senate candidate John Kennedy Friday Dec. 9, 2016, in the Dow Chemical Airplane Hangar at Metro Airport.

# THE ADVOCATE

## 'Not good news' for Louisiana: New study finds warming climate will lead to more frequent, intense storms

BY BOB MARSHALL | bmarshall@thelensnola.com DEC 18, 2016 - 5:00 PM (25)



Advocate staff photo by BILL FEIG

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**The new report, he said, should worry local flood planners because it adds to a growing body of climate science that projects more moisture in the air.**

# THE ADVOCATE

## Louisiana homeowners battle red tape, mortgage companies' miscommunications to make flood repairs



BY TED GRIGGS | TGRIGGS@THEADVOCATE.COM DEC 19, 2016 - 12:15 AM (2)



ADVOCATE STAFF PHOTO BY BILL FEIG

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A tiny 360-square-foot house, left, is where Candi Faust, her husband and one child have lived since the August flood hit their house, right. The Fausts built their house six years ago and acted as their own general contractor. They and others are having to battle mortgage companies to oversee flood repairs on their own.

# THE ADVOCATE

## New subdivision approved for Bayou Fountain area that flooded in August

BY ANDREA GALLO | AGALLO@THEADVOCATE.COM DEC 19, 2016 - 7:30 PM (11)



Advocate staff photo by JOHN BAL

Canal at Lee and Burbank overflows into Winn-Dixie parking lot

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# THE ADVOCATE

## How much damage was done during August's flooding? Exact numbers difficult to come by

BY DAVID J. MITCHELL | DMITCHELL@THEADVOCATE.COM DEC 22, 2016 - 6:05 PM (0)



Advocate Staff Photo by PATRICK DENNIS

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Woodwick Ave. off O'Neal Lane shows the lingering effects of the Great Flood with multiple FEMA trailers in front yards, trash piled up along the street and ad signs for contractors.

# THE ADVOCATE

## What are the prospects for decades-old Baton Rouge-area flood protection plan after August disaster?

BY WILL SENTELL | WSENTELL@THEADVOCATE.COM DEC 26, 2016 - 4:00 AM (19)



ADVOCATE PHOTO BY DAVID J. MITCHELL

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U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy, R-Baton Rouge, third from right, leans in Monday and discusses a map of the Comite River Diversion Canal with Mark Wingate, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers deputy district engineer, second from left, moments before an August meeting in the headquarters of DOTD. The officials gathered to discuss the

# THE ADVOCATE

## Flood insurance coverage booms after devastation in Baton Rouge area, but will it last?

BY TED GRIGGS | TGRIGGS@THEADVOCATE.COM DEC 28, 2016 - 10:33 AM (1)



Advocate staff photo by BILL FEIG

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# THE ADVOCATE

## See FEMA claims, money distributed in your Baton Rouge-area neighborhood after August flood

BY JEFF ADELSON, STEVE HARDY and DAVID MITCHELL | Advocate staff writers PUBLISHED DEC 29, 2016 AT 5:49 PM | UPDATED DEC 29, 2016 AT 7:34 PM

6



ADVOCATE STAFF PHOTO BY TRAVIS SPRADLING

Their large artificial Christmas tree destroyed when their house was inundated by the August floods, James Jeansonne, left, and wife Sarah have managed only to put out this tiny tree in their living room, as repairs

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**Almost half of the 129,000 applications for disaster assistance . . . came from areas considered to be at a lower risk of flooding, new federal data show.**

**The scope of the damage raises questions about whether the floods were an extraordinary event that simply could not be forecast by the maps and the insurance systems they support — or if the flooding, and similar events around the country, point to a problem with the way the risk of disaster is quantified.**

# THE ADVOCATE

## Baton Rouge rainfall record smashed: Rainy New Year's Eve helps rewrite record book

BY GRACE TOOHEY | GTOOHEY@THEADVOCATE.COM UPDATED DEC 31, 2016 AT 4:32 PM (1)



Advocate staff photo by HILARY SCHEINUK

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Fans fill the stands as they watch St. Helena and Madison Prep compete in a 2A semifinal game through a light rain, Friday, December 2, 2016, at Memorial Stadium in Baton Rouge, La.

**The rainy New Year's Eve pushed Baton Rouge beyond the 1989 rainfall record, making 2016 the wettest year in the city's known history and topping the previous mark of 88.32 inches.**

**By the end of Saturday, 90.54 inches of rain had fallen at Baton Rouge Metro Airport.**

# THE ADVOCATE

## Letters: FEMA remains committed to flood survivors

By Gerard M. Stolar DEC 31, 2016 - 9:29 AM (5)



Will Sentell

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Advocate Photo by WILL SENTELL – Julie Baxter Payer, deputy chief of staff for Gov. John Bel Edwards, tells reporters Thursday that the Shelter at Home program for flood victims has "ramped up" in recent days and officials know there are complaints that work is moving too slowly. More than 19,000 applications for the assistance have been filed.

# THE ADVOCATE

## Louisiana's pricey Shelter at Home flood-recovery effort aided thousands of homeowners, but program ends with mixed reviews

BY ELIZABETH CRISP | ECRISP@THEADVOCATE.COM JAN 2, 2017 - 7:30 PM  (0)



ADVOCATE STAFF PHOTO BY TRAVIS SPRADLING

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Wooden 'Shelter At Home' sink platform and legs, discarded now and sitting in a trash heap on Breeden Drive,

# THE ADVOCATE

## After 'frustrating' process, state's plans for \$1.7B in federal flood aid to be revealed

BY ELIZABETH CRISP | ECRISP@THEADVOCATE.COM JAN 5, 2017 - 6:30 PM (0)



Advocate staff photo by BILL FEIG

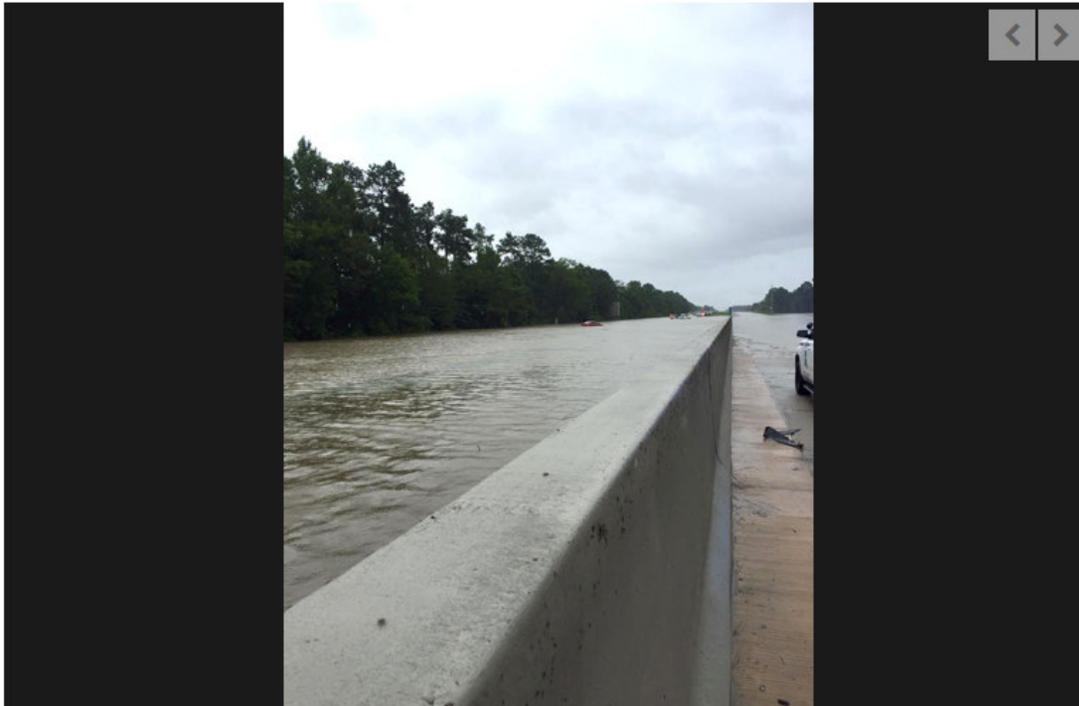
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Aerials of severe weather flooding in East Baton Rouge Parish on Monday August 15, 2016. A National Guard vehicle turns west on Prescott Avenue off of N. Foster Drive. Looking south southeast.

# THE ADVOCATE

## Median wall caused flooding in Livingston and EBR parishes, cities claim in class-action suit against DOTD

BY HEIDI KINCHEN | HKINCHEN@THEADVOCATE.COM JAN 5, 2017 - 7:15 PM (1)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO by Mayor of Walker, Rick Ramsey, shows the flooded west bound lanes of Interstate 12 approaching Walker with a concrete barrier damming up the flow of water. ORG XMIT: CCOs2JuhHW36-sWAzP1q

# THE ADVOCATE

## Gov. Edwards updates Louisiana flood recovery status: Months to go, billions still needed

BY ELIZABETH CRISP | ECRISP@THEADVOCATE.COM PUBLISHED JAN 6, 2017 AT 12:00 PM | UPDATED JAN 6, 2017 AT 3:07 PM (2)



ADVOCATE STAFF PHOTO BY TRAVIS SPRADLING

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Gov. John Bel Edwards speaks at a press conference at the State Capitol Friday, Jan. 6, 2017, on the state's plan for spending \$1.2 billion in flood-relief funding recently approved by Congress. He's flanked by Restore Louisiana Task Force co-chairs Jimmy Durbin, left, and Jacqui Vines, center. A meeting of the task force scheduled for earlier in the day in Livingston was cancelled because of a winter weather advisory

# THE ADVOCATE

## Baton Rouge home sales skyrocket as investors, bargain hunters buy flooded, gutted homes

BY TIMOTHY BOONE | TBOONE@THEADVOCATE.COM JAN 7, 2017 - 4:00 PM (1)



Advocate Staff Photo by PATRICK DENNIS

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Michelle and Michael Wade, with their daughter Emma, 14 months, are buying this house off Trammell Drive that flooded and is being renovated.

# THE ADVOCATE

## Dispute erupts over Central planning changes that allow more construction in flood plains

BY STEVE HARDY | SHARDY@THEADVOCATE.COM JAN 8, 2017 - 1:00 PM (4)



Advocate staff photo by BILL FEIG

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Aerial of severe flooding in the Central area of East Baton Rouge Parish on Sunday August 14, 2016.

# THE ADVOCATE

## Ascension president wants regional 'drainage summit' on comprehensive flood fix; some leaders welcome idea

BY DAVID J. MITCHELL | DMITCHELL@THEADVOCATE.COM JAN 9, 2017 - 9:25 PM (0)



Advocate file photo by BILL FEIG

Aerial of the Comite Diversion Canal. Looking west. Mississippi River at top.

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# THE ADVOCATE

## Looking for alternative to National Flood Insurance Program? Here's a new trend...

BY TED GRIGGS | TGRIGGS@THEADVOCATE.COM PUBLISHED JAN 19, 2017 AT 12:00 AM | UPDATED JAN 19, 2017 AT 12:40 PM (2)



ADVOCATE STAFF PHOTO BY TRAVIS SPRADLING

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Debris pile in median on Monticello Blvd. in the Monticello subdivision off Greenwell Springs Road, Friday, Dec. 30, 2016, over four months after the August flooding.