

GOOD MORNING, LOUISIANA

SPORTS



Georgia in with SEC win; NCAA names pairings.

► PAGES 1C, 5C

PEOPLE



Attack on militant kills 20 in Pakistan

A missile strike near the Afghan border destroyed the house of a suspected militant leader Sunday, killing at least 20 people, witnesses and state-run Pakistan Television said.

Seven missiles were fired in the strike in the tribal area of South Waziristan, the television report said. The Pakistani military said five or six explosions were heard near Wana, the main town in South Waziristan.

Local tribesman Rahim Khan told The Associated Press missiles were fired by an unmanned drone.

At least two hit and destroyed the home of a local militant leader and Taliban sympathizer who goes by the single name Noorullah, Khan said.

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N.O. native helps bring back absinthe

Lucid, developed by New Orleans native Ted Breaux, is the first traditional absinthe legally distributed in the United States in 95 years.

Now, the Old Absinthe House in New Orleans is serving its namesake again. Lucid, and a few other legal absintnes, are also being sold by retailers in Baton Rouge like Martin Wine Cellar and in bars such as Roux House and Red Star downtown.

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U.S. damage control

Paulson: Feds will 'do what it takes' to heal markets

BY JEANNINE AVERSA
AP economics writer

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration will “do what it takes” to stabilize chaotic markets and minimize the economic damage, Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson said Sunday after a tumultuous week capped

by the government rescue of a teetering investment bank. All eyes now are on Wall Street. Leading financial advisers prepared for a meeting today with President Bush.

The Federal Reserve on Sunday approved a cut in its lending rate to financial institutions to 3.25 percent from 3.50 percent.

“These steps will provide financial institutions with greater assurance of access to funds,” Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke told reporters in a brief conference call Sunday evening.

Paulson, in a series of news show appearances, defended the Federal Reserve’s extraordinary step Friday to provide emergency financing to one of Wall Street’s most venerable firms, Bear Stearns Cos. The central bank’s intervention was “the right decision,” he said.

Paulson said he was pleased by Sunday’s developments. “Last Friday, I said that market participants are addressing challenges, and I am pleased with recent developments. I appreciate the additional actions taken this evening by the Federal Reserve to enhance the stability, liquidity and orderliness of our markets,” he said.

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Remembering the fallen in Iraq



Advocate staff photo by RICHARD ALAN HANNON

Parishioners and visitors at the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge walk through a labyrinth Sunday during the annual candlelight memorial for the fallen in Iraq. Story, page 4A.

4,000th death in Iraq war nears

BY BRADLEY BROOKS
Associated Press writer

BAGHDAD — Sometime soon, the U.S. military will suffer its 4,000th death of the war in Iraq.

When the 1,000th American died in September 2004, the insurgency was just gaining steam. The 2,000th

death came as Iraq held its first elections in decades, in October 2005. The U.S. announced its 3,000th loss on the last day of 2006, at the end of a year rocked by sectarian violence.

The 4,000th death will come with the war further out of the public eye, and replaced by other topics in the U.S. presidential campaigns.

Analysts say the 4,000 dead, while an arbitrary marker, could push the war debate back into the campaign season, particularly considering the war’s fifth anniversary Thursday. Or, with overall violence lower

in Iraq, the milestone could pass with far less public discussion than in past years. Last year was the deadliest for American troops in Iraq, with 901 service members killed. As of Sunday, at least 3,988 Americans have died in Iraq.

James Carafano, a military analyst with the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, said the decline in violence since 30,000 troops were sent into Iraq last summer has been more important in the public’s eye.

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Hunger problem ‘urgent’ for state

BY JOE GYAN JR.
New Orleans bureau

The Louisiana Food Bank Association and its five regional food banks, including the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank, are preparing to ask state lawmakers for \$15 million to fight an “urgent” problem exacerbated by hurricanes Katrina and Rita: hunger.



Manning



Advocate staff photo by MARK SALTZ

First-time volunteers Becky Berry, left, and Dana Holton sort food at the Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank.

The Second Harvest Food Bank of Greater New Orleans and Acadiana is experiencing an 80 percent increase in the need for food in the 23 southern Louisiana parishes it serves. The Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank is seeing a 65 percent rise in need in the 11 parishes it covers.

“Many of these citizens represent the new face of hunger in Louisiana and are evacuees

who may be displaced here permanently or for years to come,” said Michael Manning, president and chief executive officer of the Baton Rouge area food bank.

State association President Natalie Jayroe, president and CEO of the Second Harvest food bank, said the number of Louisianians living in poverty

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Study: Gators shift lungs

Maneuver helps animals get prey

BY SONIA SMITH
Advocate staff writer

That alligator gliding soundlessly through the swamp maneuvers so nimbly in the water by using special muscles to shift the position of its lungs, new research shows.

To move furtively through the water, an alligator can reposition its lungs — and change its center of buoyancy — using its diaphragm with specialized pelvic, abdominal and rib muscles, according to a study conducted by researchers at the University of

Utah, published Friday in the Journal of Experimental Biology.

These muscles work in concert to allow an alligator to move the lungs toward the tail when diving, toward the head when surfacing and to the side when rolling, said T.J. Uriona, a co-author of the paper.

Making these internal adjustments helps the alligator dive and roll more quickly and with stealth, Uriona said.

C.G. Farmer, the paper’s co-author, obtained the five juvenile alligators used in the study from Louisiana’s Rockefeller Wildlife Refuge near Grand Chenier.

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