



The buck stops there, she says

Mike "Pa" Woodard, of Greensburg, warns against arguing with 4-year-olds:

"I was driving home from church with my two granddaughters, Jesi Dier, 6, and Madi Dier, 4.

"We were on La. 449 north of Pine Grove when I saw on the side of the road a beautiful buck deer with a big rack.

"Well, I know the local game wardens put up fake deer to see if anybody will shoot from the road.

"I tell my granddaughters this, and Jesi agrees with me.

"But Madi says, 'Pa, that's a real deer.'

"So we turn around and go back, and the deer just stands there.

"I tell Madi, 'See, it's a fake deer,' to which she replies, 'Pa, that's a real deer; go back by it one more time.'

"So I turn around and go back by the deer, and all of a sudden he takes off and runs into the woods.

"This is the second time I have lost an argument with her."

(But not the last, I bet.)

Deutsch treat

Jim Riddle has another Southern accent story:

"Following my graduation from the University of Arkansas in 1955 with a second lieutenant commission in the Signal Corps, I was assigned to the communications center for the 7th Army in southern Germany.

"Having studied German in college, I developed a fluency for the local Sud (Southern) lingo pretty fast."

"At that time, the U.S. Army was working to help rebuild the German army as a buffer against the Russians in the Cold War.

"When the new German commanding general came for a visit, they were not sure he spoke English, so the local commander asked me to give him an introduction to our Signal Corps troops in German."

"Later, at a reception, the general addressed Jim in Hoch (High) German, then told him in perfect English. 'L.A. Riddle, Sud German is irritating. Sud German spoken with a Southern accent is like long fingernails on a blackboard!'"

Last words

Horvey Pashbin, of Lafayette, says, "Too bad I've planned to be cremated. If I were to be buried, I'd choose this as my epitaph: 'I was a damn Saturday afternoon fan."

Abuse program being touted

BY KIMBERLY VETTER
 Advocate staff writer

East Baton Rouge Parish residents who have been convicted of domestic violence or are facing such charges could be required to attend a 52-week domestic abuse intervention program.

The program — run by the Family Service of Greater Baton Rouge — has some people involved in domestic violence

cases excited and saying it's just what the area needs. Others, however, are hesitant to use it, especially when a first-time offender is involved.

East Baton Rouge Parish District Attorney Hillar Moore III said the program is a good fit for "hard-core abusers," but needs to be shortened in other cases.

First-time offenders who might plead to a lesser charge if

they volunteer to go through such a class aren't going to take a 52-week course, Moore said, adding there is no guarantee the alleged abuser will be convicted if prosecuted.

Domestic violence cases are complicated, he said. There is usually little physical evidence and the victim is typically the only witness to the alleged abuse. And, in many cases, Moore said, the victim refuses

to testify and wants the charges dropped.

"I get 10 to 15 requests a week from women who want my office to drop charges," Moore said. "It's a significant problem in this parish."

Family Court Judge Pam Baker said she understands the complexities of domestic violence cases but believes an intervention course shorter than 52 weeks isn't adequate.

According to national data, Baker said, an abuser needs at least a year of intervention to unlearn a lifetime of behavior. Anything less has little to no chance of making an impact.

That's why, Baker said, she hasn't sent anyone to the intervention programs offered in the area until the 52-week course offered by Family Service of

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Clint Cayou, of New Orleans, performs an Omaha Tribe double-beat traditional dance Sunday during the World Peace ceremonies at the Louisiana State Capitol. Representatives of Judaism, Baha'i, Buddhism, Christianity and Islam also participated in the program.

Seeking peace

The Institute of All Nations Inc., a private, nonprofit corporation, permanently chartered by the regents of the state of New York, begun under the co-chairmanship of former U.S. Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Goldberg and former U.N. Ambassador Arthur S. Lall, with Rama C. Mohanty, of Louisiana, as general secretary, adopted a resolution that World Peace Day be observed internationally each Oct. 1, beginning in 1998. The observance of this day in Louisiana has been marked by an annual proclamation by the governor and the adoption of resolutions by the state Legislature.



Lighting a candle for world peace as the Hinduism representatives Sunday are Kusum Gautum, 8, left, Latika Bharadwaj Chintamani and Diya Kalle.

High-tech charter school proposed

BY CHARLES LUSSIER
 Advocate staff writer

As early as next July, as many as 250 high school students could crowd into the Shaw Center for the Arts, learning the rudiments of digital animation or engineering on their own laptop computers.

If approved by the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education on Oct. 15, Baton Rouge Regional High School — actually two small high schools in one — plans to expand one grade at a time, and by fall 2013 would have as many as 1,000 students. It would choose students via a lottery, selecting students from eight Baton Rouge area districts, with the most spots coming from Baton Rouge.

One school would focus on digital media, and a second school would focus on science, technology, engineering and math, or STEM, as it's called in education circles.

"They'll be exciting places to learn that take advantage of the great downtown Baton Rouge assets, and prepare (students) for LSU," said Tom Vander Ark, a member of the diverse seven-member board of directors for these would-be twin charter schools. "I think that every town should have schools like that."

Vander Ark is best known for his eight years as an executive director of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, one of the nation's largest education philanthropies.

"I've been involved in the formation of 1,200 schools nationwide, and I'm as excited about these as I've been about any that I've been involved in all these years," he said.

Besides access to ample technology, students who attend these schools, if approved, would have chances to take courses at LSU, and work at internships in downtown Baton Rouge.

The two high schools are to start out at the Shaw Center, but may not stay there. School organizers are considering spreading the campus across all of downtown as enrollment grows. These organizers last week visited an arts school in Tacoma, Wash., that does just that.

East Baton Rouge Parish school officials have been wary of the new school

Massachusetts not to debate in 1776

