



## Red River Watershed Institute Sheds Light on Area Water Shortage

Alexandra Meachum  
STAFF WRITER

A water shortage remains present in Louisiana despite better weather and the recent hurricane. According to the authorities excessive lawn watering may be partly to blame for this shortage.

The state has been under an emergency drought warning since last summer. Gary Hanson, director of the Red River Watershed Institute at LSU Shreveport, said with the way the weather is going the drought will not be leaving.

“Hurricane Isaac provided some relief to drought areas, but it mainly helped Arkansas more than it did for Louisiana,” Hanson said.

The hurricane gave Northwest Louisiana some rainfall, but Hanson pointed out it was not enough. The average rainfall for the past two years has not been a large amount either.

The average rain fall in August 2011 yielded about two inches, while the average in July 2012 was six inches. Even though it is a slight increase, compared to the 20 inches of rainfall in 2009, it has not been raining as much, Hanson said.

He said that one of our area’s biggest problems can be attributed to people using too much water for their lawns, which takes away from

the aquifer systems.

Large yards on timed watering systems use a large amount of water that is not necessarily needed to maintain a healthy lawn, while putting a strain on the overall water supply. The excessive watering also causes root systems to become shallower.

His solution to overcome watering lawns on daily timers is for lawn care owners to convert to what is called “grass-cycling.” The process allows the grass to grow longer while not watering more than once a week. When it does need to be trimmed, Hanson suggests leaving it at least an inch high.

“If people want their grass to continue to grow in the changing climate then they should learn to cycle it,” Hanson said.

Another measure Hanson said would help is an “adaptive management” process. By cycling more and watering less, grass becomes more able to handle drought.

Until conditions change Hanson anticipates the problem will persist but having an emergency water usage order in place has helped.

Hanson does a lot of his research at the Red River Watershed Institute. The applied science facility serves a vital role in monitoring

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Photo by Crystal Vandegriff

Director of Recreational Sports Angel Martin answers the question posed by Jaisen Grey, history, junior, about the health benefits of V8 juice vs. its sugar content.

## LSUS Shopping Trip Teaches Healthful Tips

Crystal Vandegriff  
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

LSU Shreveport students were given an opportunity to get a hands-on education in healthy grocery shopping on last week.

Students met LSUS Director of Recreational Sports Angel Martin in the entry area of Walmart. Martin led the students on a tour through the store discussing which foods hold the most nutritional benefits for students, and which sections of the store students would do well to avoid completely.

“The anatomy of a grocery store,” Martin

said, “is not set up for your convenience, it’s set up to get you to think a certain way and to make certain purchases because that’s obviously what they’re in the business for. The most convenient stuff that your mind will go to first is set conveniently out. The perimeter [of the grocery store] is your best option because fresher stuff tends to be on the perimeter with more packaged and processed stuff towards the center,” she said, beginning the tour in front of a rack full of sugary snacks.

Martin handed students a page of helpful tips including stocking up on whole-grain rice, eating whole wheat instead of white bread, and replacing fattier snacks with something healthier like

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## LSUS Bookstore Enforces New Book Return Policy



Photo by Julie Thomas

The LSUS bookstore is open Mondays from 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Tuesdays through Fridays from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Julie Thomas  
STAFF WRITER

The LSU Shreveport bookstore is a reliable location on school campus for students to buy supplies and books, but for the past two years there has been a new return policy on books that most students are still not aware of.

The old return policy for books only lasted for the first two weeks of school. The first week, a student could receive a full 100% refund on a book, but the second week was only a 90% refund. There was a major problem with this therefore a change was made.

“Students would buy our books and then return them once the books they ordered from Amazon or some other place came in,” David Dinkins said, (I lost his card and will get another for his title information before edits tonight, sorry)

Buying a book from internet sites can sometimes be cheaper. Students would use the school bookstore book until their cheap-

er one came in and then return the book for a 100% to 90% refund.

The new return policy is for all books being sold and now last for three weeks instead of two. The first week students can still receive a full 100% refund, but after the first week up until the fifteenth day of school the students can receive 90% back but only if they drop the class.

The last day to drop without getting a Withdraw is the fourteenth day of school. The new policy allows returns until the fifteenth day so students who drop and genuinely need the money back can receive it.

“We wanted to limit the abuse and help the ones that really need the help,” Dinkins said.

There are still students that are unaware of this new policy. The bookstore does not notify students of this policy until a student asks or tries to return a book after the first week.

“I really wish the bookstore had told me about the return policy while I was buying the book  
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SHOP cont.



Photo by Crystal Vandegriff

Angel Martin prepares to lead students on a tour of their local Walmart.

popcorn. Other suggestions include learning which fruits and vegetables are in season throughout different times of the year, and buying fruits that are both ripe and almost-ripe, in order to have well-ripened fruit throughout the week.

"Today, I'm not going to obsess on natural stuff or no preservatives or organic because that's not always do-able on a college

student's budget because it gets expensive," Martin said. Instead, she showed healthier but still affordable alternatives to average college student staples, such as whole grain spaghetti rather than Ramen noodles.

"It was very, very helpful," said Jaisen Grey, history, junior, of the shopping trip. "I have extensive notes [of things I want to try]."

DROUGHT cont.

the surface to ground water levels, which helps to predict situations like a drought. Hanson operates it with his assistant director Amanda Lewis and a group student workers and interns. They provide a "unique hands-on approach," into the study of water resource and management.



Got something the student body needs to know? Get your message out by e-mailing us at [almagest@lsus.edu](mailto:almagest@lsus.edu)

## PELICAN BRIEFS

### LSUS Hosts Journalism Conference

The Shreveport Journalism Foundation will host its annual training seminar 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday from in the Louisiana State University Shreveport University Center.

The training conference will examine the use of social media, creating your own media company, professional behavior, and learning how media managers work and make de-

isions. The conference will cost \$15 for students, \$25 for professionals and current Public Relations of Louisiana members, and \$20 for Shreveport Journalism Foundation members.

For more information, visit the Shreveport Journalism Foundation website, [www.shreveportjournalismfoundation.com/training-conference](http://www.shreveportjournalismfoundation.com/training-conference).

BOOKSTORE cont.

instead of when I tried to return it," Michael Gaydos said, accounting, sophomore.

The book store has a variety of items for the house, to wear, or just to own for fun. Not only is there a large section of school supplies, such as notebooks, pens, notecards, and flash drives, but there is also a Greek section with paddles, key chains, and other items

branded with the Greek lettering. There is also a section with cooking utensils that are labeled the LSUS symbol and Pete the Pilot.

There are cell flowered cell phone cases and wristlets for girls. LSUS shot glasses, mugs, and picture frames. The book store also carries Nike and Adidas sportswear branded with LSUS on it for men, women, and children of any size.



Photo by Julie Thomas

The bookstore also offers LSUS apparel, accessories, school supplies, flash drives, and other novelty items.

## Road Construction Slows LSUS Students Down

Students hoping to use the front entrance to the LSUS campus may find themselves in a bind. Youree Drive is under construction, one lane at a time. The construction is scheduled to be completed soon but until then students may be getting caught in traffic jams due to only one lane being open in each direction.

Photo by Chelsea Newell



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