

partment Assistant Chief Mike Armanini said. After an East Baton Rouge Parish sheriff's deputy spotted the blaze at 721 Gardere Lane, firefighters arrived at 4:37 a.m. to find flames coming out of the roof, according to a news release. One firefighter suffered a moderate injury and was treated at a hospital. Firefighters brought the fire under control at 5:08 a.m., but stayed until 9 a.m. to battle hot spots. Residents of the home were not injured, the release says. The cause of the \$200,000 fire remains under investigation, Armanini said. Anyone with information about the fire is asked to call St. George Assistant Chief Chad Roberson at (225) 279-1439.

POLITICS

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ballot even though Caldwell is the official victor since Cao was his lone opponent.

Under state law, any votes cast for Cao will not be counted.

Jindal to attend political summit

Gov. Bobby Jindal will mingle with a crowd of political heavyweights at the Values Voter Summit in Washington, D.C., next month.

The governor's spokeswoman, Melissa Sellers, confirmed Tuesday that Jindal is among the speakers at the summit, which will be held Oct. 7-9 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel.

Other speakers include U.S. Rep. Michele Bachmann, Texas Gov. Rick Perry and former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney. Bachmann, Perry and Romney are vying for the Republican presidential nomination. Jindal is backing Perry.

The summit is aimed at conservatives. A presidential straw poll is conducted each year.

Diversity Council recognizes Broome

State Sen. Sharon Weston Broome, D-Baton Rouge, was recognized Friday by the Louisiana Diversity Council as one of "Louisiana's Most Powerful and Influential Women."

Broome is the Senate President Pro Tempore — second in command — of the upper chamber.

The Louisiana Diversity Council is a member of the National Diversity Council, a nonprofit group that champions businesses to include people of different races, nationalities, religions and sexes.

Triche drops bid for House seat

Former state Rep. Warren Triche, of Thibodaux, dropped a bid for re-election to his old House District 51 seat last week.

The withdrawal of Triche, a Democrat, still leaves incumbent state Rep. Joe Harrison, R-Napoleonville, with one challenger: Howard John Castay Jr., No Party-Morgan City.

Triche could not seek re-election in 2007 because of term limits.

Press Club to hear Dardenne speak

Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne will be the guest speaker for Monday's noon meeting of the Press Club of Baton Rouge.

Dardenne will take the microphone alone after his re-election challenger Billy Nungesser, the president of Plaquemines Parish, bowed out of what had been planned as a candidate forum.

Nungesser originally agreed to participate, then said he had a New Orleans fundraiser that conflicted.

Dardenne and Nungesser, both Republicans, face each other in the Oct. 22 election.

The Press Club meets at noon at De La Ronde Hall, 320 Third St., in downtown Baton Rouge. Lunch, which is served at 11:30 a.m., is \$12 for members and \$15 for non-members.

The public is invited, but only members of the Press Club and the news media are allowed to ask questions.

Forum centers on senior issues

Baton Rouge General Medical Center — Mid City and the East Baton Rouge Parish Council on Aging will hold a forum

for legislative candidates Thursday.

Candidates for state Senate District 14, Louisiana House Districts 29, 61, 63 and 101 and state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education District 8 are invited. The forum will begin at 11 a.m. in the Baton Rouge General — Mid City Atrium, 3600 Florida Blvd.

This forum is designed to allow senior citizens to meet the candidates and hear their positions. Candidates will be given a chance to answer a slate of questions created and submitted by senior citizens.

La. World Peace Day scheduled Saturday

The Louisiana World Peace Day Committee in partnership with the Legislative Youth Advisory Council begins World Peace Day at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, with prayer on the State Capitol steps.

At 2 p.m. Sunday, Oct. 2, an exhibition of artwork by students around the state opens in the chambers of the State Senate. The art is being displayed in Memorial Hall of the State Capitol through October.

Compiled by the Capitol news bureau. Contact email address is mballard@theadvocate.com.

The Advocate
Sept. 25, 2011

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