



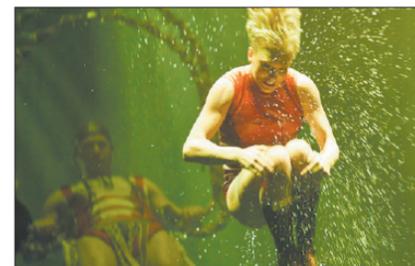
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The Daily Reveille

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OH, WEATHER, WHY ART THOU?



La Niña, cool Pacific waters, to blame for recent scattered weather patterns

Emily Herrington
Staff Writer

Fur-lined boots, galoshes or flip-flops?

The unpredictable weather of recent weeks has left students puzzled and unsure of climate-appropriate garb.

"It's really hard to decide

what to wear," said biological sciences freshman Kari Estep. "One day there's rain, then no rain the next. It's hot, then cold again."

Barry Keim, geography and anthropology professor, said the most significant cause of this winter's eccentric weather is the fact that the

nation is currently experiencing the effects of La Niña.

In La Niña, sea surface temperatures in the Pacific Ocean run colder than normal, disrupting the atmosphere's general circulation, Keim said.

La Niña tends to make winters warmer and drier. The

country has been in a La Niña state since October of 2010, Keim said, and Louisiana was already suffering a drought before it began.

Keim said the cold air fronts of winter typically originate in Canada, but this

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* Students in the Quad used these words to describe the recent weather.

graphic by MELISSA RUSHING / The Daily Reveille

BR COMMUNITY

Reggie's proposal couple identified

Rachel Warren
Staff Writer

Mystery solved.

The Daily Reveille reported Monday that an unknown man proposed to his girlfriend with the help of a student band at Reggie's Bar.

The lucky girl, animal science and technology junior Kellsey Fenley, said the couple has been dating for about four years.

"I had no idea what was going on," she said. "I saw him waving at the band, and then all of a sudden he was on stage, and I heard my name being called."

Her fiancé, Baton Rouge native Tyler Varnado, recently joined the Army and wanted to propose before he left for basic training Tuesday.

Varnado said he hadn't planned to pop the question at the bar but got the idea when he saw the band on stage.

"I knew I was going to do it anyway, so I thought, 'Why not?'" he said.

The next morning, Varnado made sure Fenley knew he was serious by cooking her breakfast and hiding her engagement ring in a pancake.

Fenley said the couple will begin planning the wedding when Varnado returns from basic training in 16 weeks.

Contact Rachel Warren at rwarren@lsureveille.com

HEALTH

Komen reverses after backlash

Students find cut to funds troubling

Rachel Warren
Staff Writer

The Susan G. Komen for the Cure Foundation and Planned Parenthood often make news for their contributions to women's health, but the organizations have recently become known for making waves instead.

For years, the Komen

Foundation has funded several Planned Parenthood programs, including breast health education, cancer screenings and mammogram referrals, but an Associated Press story published Jan. 31 said the foundation decided to withdraw its support.

Following a public relations backlash, Komen then reversed that decision Feb. 3 and announced it would continue to support the organization.

Nearly a week after the initial decision, campus is still buzzing from the news, and the social

media aftershock is still happening. Komen attention abounded again Tuesday when the organization's vice president, Karen Handel, resigned.

According to The Associated Press, Planned Parenthood said the grants it received from the Komen Foundation totaled about \$680,000 last year and \$580,000 the year before. In the time that Komen withdrew its support, Planned Parenthood received more than four times that amount



REX C. CURRY / The Associated Press

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Women protest Tuesday outside Susan G. Komen for the Cure headquarters in Dallas.

CAMPUS CRIME BRIEFS

Three men arrested for series of fraternity house robberies

An investigation about a series of robberies in November and December at the Kappa Alpha and Kappa Sigma fraternity houses led to the arrests of three men on Feb. 2, according to Capt. Cory Lalonde, LSU Police Department spokesman.

LSUPD investigators received a tip that 19-year-old biological sciences student Jordan Alexander Lewis, of 18049 Forrest Hills in Prairieville, was involved with the burglary.

Two other men were later identified, including 20-year-old psychology student Anthony Randolph Ferguson II, of 110 Bellemeade Blvd. in Gretna, and 19-year-old Terris Michael Bierria Jr., of 338 Stafford Place in New Orleans.

When the three men were questioned, they acknowledged their involvement and assisted officers in recovering some of the stolen property. Lalonde said a TV, Xbox consoles, video game accessories and other

personal items were stolen from the fraternity houses.

Lalonde said Bierria Jr. also admitted to stealing an iPad in the Quad during November.

While police were recovering the property, Lalonde said Ferguson was found with 27.5 grams of marijuana along with small bags that are typically used in the sale and distribution of marijuana.

The men were all arrested on two counts of burglary. Bierria Jr. was also arrested for theft.

All three were booked into the East Baton Rouge Parish prison.

Student resists, assaults officers, is transported to hospital

A University student was arrested Feb. 1 after beating and resisting an officer, according to Lalonde.

The incident occurred when 18-year-old psychology freshman Brandon Lamar Addison, of 11140 Idlewood Court in New Orleans, punched and kicked officers.

Officers traveled to LeJeune Hall at 7:36 p.m. on a marijuana-related dispatch, Lalonde said. He said while conducting an investigation, officers came into contact with Addison.

When officers tried to talk to him, Addison was non-responsive, leading officers to contact EMS to check on him.

While EMS officials attempted to attend to Addison, he became irate and belligerent. When officers tried to calm him down, Addison became physical.

After a brief struggle, officers subdued Addison. He was transported to Baton Rouge General Mid City for medical attention.

Addison was issued a misdemeanor and released.

Contact The Daily Reveille's news staff at news@lsureveille.com

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in private donations.

"The outpouring of support online for Planned Parenthood and women in need of breast cancer screenings has been nothing short of astonishing," according to a statement by Planned Parenthood. "And because of it, the Planned Parenthood Breast Health Fund has received more than \$3 million from thousands of people across the country in only three days."

The story said the charity stopped funding Planned Parenthood because of newly adopted criteria that keeps it from funding organizations that are under investigation. Planned Parenthood is currently the focus of an inquiry launched by a Republican representative from Florida.

But Planned Parenthood officials said on its site that the Komen Foundation withdrew support because it was facing "pressure from anti-women's health political organizations."

English sophomore Megan Shay said she found the Komen Foundation's initial decision disheartening.

"It's kind of sad that they're getting caught up in politics," she said.

Shay said the biggest consequence could be the way people view the foundation.

"Either way, no one's going to be happy," she said. "Pro-life people are going to be mad they're supporting Planned Parenthood, and pro-choice people are going to think they're flip-flopping. It was just a bad move."

Alex Fields, anthropology sophomore, said she thought the foundation's initial decision was upsetting because of the many services Planned Parenthood offers to people who may not be able to afford them otherwise.

"They have all this money, and they're fighting breast cancer, which is a great cause," she said. "But they're also promoting awareness — that's what Planned Parenthood does."

Contact Rachel Warren at rwarren@lsureveille.com

WEATHER, from page 1

winter, almost every front to touch Louisiana was born on the Pacific coast.

"The circulation this year is wildly different from what it typically is," Keim said.

The groundhog Punxsutawney Phil may have seen his shadow this year, indicating six more weeks of winter, but Keim is skeptical of the groundhog's prediction.

Even though Louisiana has a history of low temperatures during February, Keim said he doesn't think southern Louisiana will see much more cold weather.

"I'm not saying winter's over, but as long as we're in the La Niña pattern, it seems more likely than not that we will remain in a warm and dry pattern," he said.

Even though there has been moderate rainfall in the past two weeks, the state continues to experience drought.

John Saichuk, AgCenter professor and rice specialist, said Louisiana's rice has been affected by this year's heat and water shortage.

Saichuk said the water

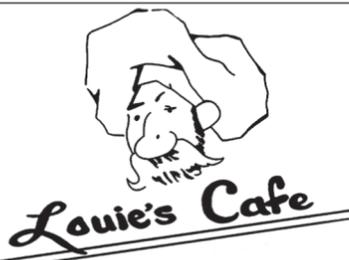
shortage is the chief concern for farmers because they usually pump from surface water, which has been in short supply because of the drought.

The shortage of fresh water also leads to a migration of salt water, which is unusable for planting, Saichuk said.

"We need at least another 10 to 12 inches of rain to get us back into good shape," he said.

The heat affects plant reproduction, and there aren't any heat-resistant rice varieties, Saichuk said. Some farmers were forced to abandon their fields over the summer because of the immense heat and dryness.

But there may be a silver lining.



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Louisiana's summer heat is particularly devastating to farmers, and the only option left is to plant earlier than normal, Saichuk said.

And this mild winter opens the possibility for an earlier plant.

Kenneth Gravois, AgCenter sugarcane specialist, said this warm, dry winter is beneficial to the crop.

"A dry winter never killed a sugarcane crop," Gravois said.

He said the opposite — cold, wet conditions — would be

stressful to sugarcane.

Though sugarcane is resilient, Gravois said the drought is still harmful to the crop. He said the tropical storm during last Labor Day weekend was a blessing in disguise for sugarcane.

Keim said the outlook for February, March and April predicts warmer-than-normal temperatures and below-normal precipitation.

This year's weather is similar to last year's, which eventually led to the flooding of the

Mississippi River, Keim said. The same pattern persists, but he said he finds the event unlikely to recur because the North experienced less snow this year.

"The potential is there," Keim said. "It's hard to imagine that it'll be as bad as it was last year."

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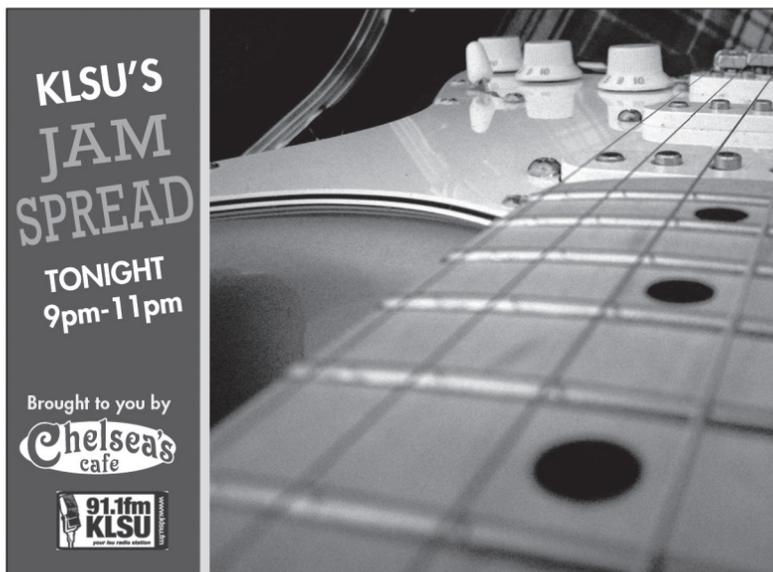
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