

# CAMPUS CURRENTS

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## Beta Club hosts district rally

By MORGAN MATCHETT

While most students spent election day relaxing, local Beta Club members still had to go to school.

The BRHS Beta Club hosted the 75<sup>th</sup> annual Beta Club District VII Fall Rally on November 4. Beta members from all over the district met in the school auditorium to discuss events.

BRHS was the host site this year because senior Seena Khosravi was elected as district governor at last year's rally. The district governor organizes and hosts the district rally the next year.

The goal of the rally was for the clubs to compete and decide who will represent the district at the state convention.

The BRHS Beta Club did behind-the-scenes work most of the day to keep the schedule running smoothly. More than 60 volunteers came in the morning to help set up and run errands.

"Everyone was helpful and sweet to our guests," said junior Beta Club officer Leyla Mocan. "I truly believe that things would not have gone as well without all their help!"

The Baton Rouge High gymnasium was a voting site on election day, and voters came onto campus to cast their ballots.

This caused some confusion about where everyone should park. Beta club president and senior Michelle Liu said that this didn't affect the rally much.

"A couple of voters came into the main building who were curious as to what was going on, but we sent them away," Liu said.

BRHS placed in every category for individual subject tests that members take in order to qualify for state rally.

Members who placed were not recognized because Khosravi helped to assemble the tests.

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# Not a drill



Firemen rush up the sidewalk to the main building after fire scare on the third floor. Students wait for permission to return to class.

## Overheated transformer sparks fire

By Alaina Sinclair, Morgan Matchett, and Jason Bush

Classes and Spirit Week were disrupted for nearly an hour on October 29 when dozens of firefighters showed up to Baton Rouge Magnet High School.

Around 1:10 P.M., a small fire started in the copy room on the third floor. Janitor Roosevelt Bell, who was present when the fire started, said that the fire was caused by an overheated transformer.

Principal Nanette Greer said, "I did not know there was a problem with the transformer until sparks started flying."

The Baton Rouge Fire Department was called to help put out the fire. According to Robert Combs, Public Information Officer at the Fire Department, eight trucks were dispatched to the school. About thirty firefighters were released as well to assist in putting out the fire.

Combs said that the fire took about five minutes to put out once it was found. No injuries occurred as a result of the fire.

Greer came on the intercom to give an evacuation order because the school's fire alarm did not sound.

Because the building is eighty-one years old, it is a common worry that the school may be a fire hazard.

Chief of the Fire Protection Bureau, Ray Cutrer, said, "The school is safer than it is given credit for."

He says that older schools don't necessarily have all of the resources that newer schools have, but they are still up to date.

BRMHS has a working fire system that notifies the fire department when there is a fire. The school is required to keep all exit doors clear and take any necessary electrical precautions. The school must also have at least one fire extinguisher that is serviced regularly for every seventy-five feet of travel distance.

Fire extinguishers on campus are distributed by Ferrara Fire Apparatus Inc. of Holden, Louisiana. Bell estimated the

number of fire extinguishers around campus to be about thirty. He said that they are serviced every year by a worker from the company.

Because the fire was caused by an overheated transformer, some of the electrical wiring is questionable. The majority of the electrical wiring in the school is old. The only time new wires are put in is when the school's air-conditioning system needs to be serviced.

"When they rewire air-conditioning, those wires are new. The rest is old." Bell said.

Bell also felt that the evacuation of the school, despite the fire alarm malfunction, went well.

"I haven't seen any dents in the escape plan yet," he said.

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