

FEATURES

TO DO: JANUARY

This New Year, resolve to take advantage of all that Shreveport-Bossier has to offer, from cultural pursuits to sporting events to family fun. Here are a few suggestions to get you started in 2011.

Rising Star: Leah Thompson in "Annie"

This month, 8-year-old Leah Thompson takes the stage in the Peter Pan Players production of *Annie*. Thompson stars as the adorable orphan with a pair of pipes, and she's ready to don the red, curly wig — even if it itches a bit — and belt out "Tomorrow."

As she follows her passions of acting and singing, the third grader from Haughton certainly hasn't had a "hard knock life" finding roles. She first started acting when she was six and appeared in a production of *Babe*. "I loved it," she says. "I like [acting] because it's fun, and I like performing in front of people."

Thompson recently wrapped her first film, *Nobody But Her*. The short film, directed by Phillip Jordan Brooks, is a supernatural thriller about a young girl and her grandmother. (The release date is not yet confirmed, but you can learn more at www.facebook.com/NobodyButHer.)

It seems Thompson is also as comfortable behind a mic as she is in front of a camera. For fun, she says she likes to record songs for her YouTube channel (YouTube.com/LeahThompsonMusic), where a video of her singing Miley Cyrus' "Party in the USA" has more than 100,000 views.

Catch Thompson and the Peter Pan Players Jan. 13–16 and Jan. 21–23 at the Performing Arts Center on the campus of Shreveport First United Methodist Church (500 Common St., Shreveport). Tickets are \$15 for children and \$18 for adults. For information, call 318.868.9619 or visit www.peterpanplayers.org.

Bridal Show Basics

Each holiday season brings a flurry of new engagements. The New Year greets excited brides-to-be eager to start planning the big day, and just in time, the Signature Bridal Expo arrives at the Bossier Civic Center (620 Benton Road, Bossier) on Jan. 30 from 12:30 to 4:30 p.m. Tickets are \$8.

A bridal show is a great way to meet with wedding professionals, from cake bakers to string quartets, all under one roof. Keep these tips in mind as you head to the show.

1. Bring a friend. You'll have a lot more fun if you're not by yourself.
2. Bring your patience. These one-stop wedding shops can draw a crowd. Be prepared to wait behind other brides in order to talk to a variety of vendors.
3. Bring labels. Many vendors will want you to share your contact