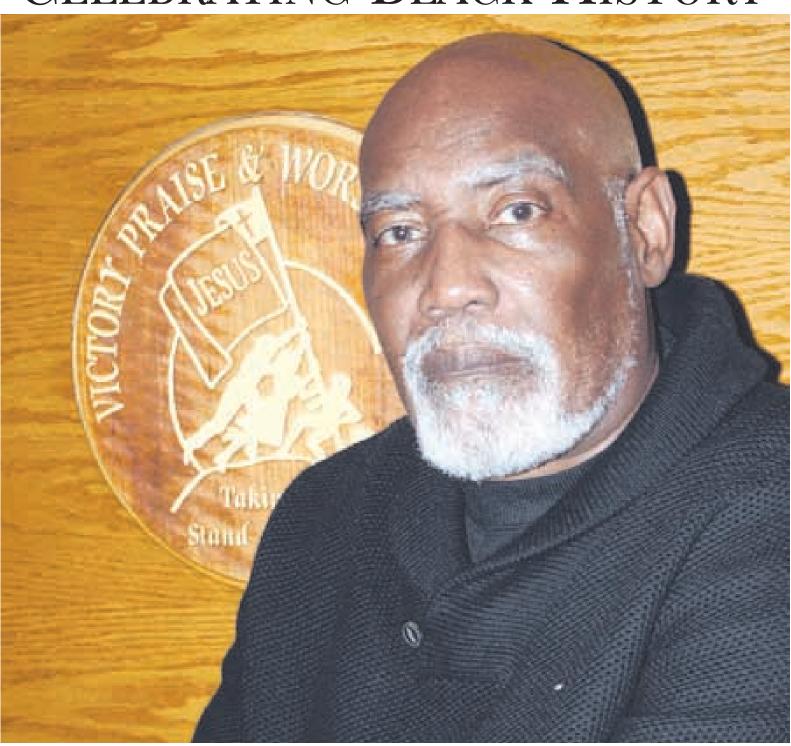
PRESS-HERALD PRESS-HERALD

Wednesday, February 11, 2015 | 50 Cents

CELEBRATING BLACK HISTORY



The Rev. Robert Whitaker, pastor of Victory Praise and Worship Center, is a prominent figure in Minden as a counselor and pastor. He and his wife, Mary, have five children between them, and they value education and respect, two characteristics he learned as a child and puts into practice every day. He was taught to leave the world better wherever he is. Michelle Bates/Press-Herald

nden 18 QUE COMMUNITY

Whitaker sees progress in race relations

MICHELLE BATES

michelle@press-herald.com

He is a pastor, a counselor, a husband, father and grandfather. He is a teacher and retired military - and he is a black man.

The Rev. Robert Whitaker, born in 1956 in Baltimore, Maryland, is not a native of Minden, but he and his wife, Mary, made their home in Minden in 1992 with their five children. One of the things that attracted him to Minden, he said, is its strong Christian roots and its compassionate people. However, he said he could still feel the "separation" between the city's white and black population.

"This is a unique community," he said,

GAMBLE HOSPICE CARE

"because on one side, there is a lot of love and a lot of compassion. One of the things that drew us to Minden was that David Specht Sr. was leading the March for Jesus. That was an exciting time - to be in a community that would shut down its downtown - blacks, whites, rich, poor, no matter your denomination - you walked together. I always respected Mr. Specht for that."

Specht was owner of the Minden Press-Herald until his passing in 2011.

"On the other side of that, I saw a photograph printed with some kids (from a Minden school) in black face, and that didn't go over well," he said. "When Mr. Specht was

See WHITAKER, Page 3

Police: Arrested man stole from dentist

MINDEN CRIME

PAT CULVERHOUSE pat@press-herald.com

A misplaced cell phone helped lead Minden police officers to the man who allegedly paid an unauthorized visit to a local dentist's office sometime before the clinic was open for business.

Minden Chief of Police Steve Cropper said 29-yearold William Joseph Beard is being held at Bayou Dorcheat Correctional

Center on two counts of simburglary after his reported carelessness helped detectives solve the case in only a few hours. "While col-



lecting evidence at the Elm Street office, officers found a cell phone which did not belong to any of the employees," Cropper said. "Our detective learned the phone was not one taken during vehicle burglaries we were working. The phone had a name and a GPS which showed a route leading to a Lakeshore Drive address."

After visiting the address and questioning Beard, officers returned to the police

See **THEFT**, Page 3

MAR-C a haven for disabled employees

MICHELLE BATES

michelle@press-herald.com

"We are a family."

That's how MAR-C Indusexecutive director Angelita Hudson describes the staff and employees at the company that employs the developmentally disabled.

'This is a haven for them,' she said. "We are their first line of defense."

The main source of revenue is state Medicaid, and with the last election, she said, a proposition passed that protects nursing homes doesn't protect programs like the one at MAR-C.

"We're a home and community-based waiver services," Hudson says. "These are the people who try to keep their folks at home instead of in a nursing home, (provide) jobs in the community and

See MAR-C, Page 2









A mainly sunny sky. Winds light and variable

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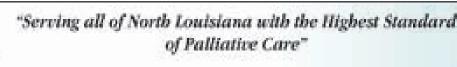
@mindenph



>>INSIDE:

Minden true example of Valentine's **PAGE 5**









Mardi Gras AT MINDEN Montessori

Students of Minden's Montessori school and their "escorts" line up for the annual Mardi Gras parade Tuesday morning. In addition to the bike riders, many students drove decorated electric vehicles over the parade route which ran across Germantown Road to Harper Elementary, where the school's kindergartners and first graders lined the drive to catch beads and candy. After circling Harper, the small revelers took their parade and assorted "throws" to entertain residents of The Arbor.

Photo by Pat Culverhouse

MAR-C

Continued from page 1

keep them out of institutions. The pie isn't big enough, because the money comes from the same pot – for the nursing homes, for institutions and for programs like these."

MAR-C is a 501(c)3 nonprofit company, which means private donations are accepted on top of the contracts the company receives to keep their employees working. For a long time, they had a contract with Temple Inland Container where MAR-C labeled the boxes sent to them. That contract was lost when the company closed in Minden.

They offer all types of services, from recycling, to yard work to ironing services. It also offers public awareness of people who have developmental disabilities. supported employment services and employment opportunities in a transitional work center. Employees, some who have been there for 20 or 30 years, range in age from

Much of the work they do is small assembly, like what they did for Temple Inland, some light assem-

bly work for Fibrebond Corporation and Press-It-Rite Ironing Service. Other work is welcome, she said.

"In the beginning, the organization consisted of just daycare," according to history of the company that began in 1956, "and it soon became apparent that much more was needed. In 1979, a store was leased and three staff members and 14 handicapped adults moved into the first sheltered workshop in the Minden area. MAR-C Industries is a workshop that provides jobs and job training for the citizens of this area."

"The idea is to keep

them at home as long as possible and keep them in the community as long as possible," Hudson said. 'The main thing is to provide work for them. The money that we make goes back to them. They are here to work. Health, safety, welfare and social skills - that's what we do."

She says the employees work well together, and they all interact as a family unit. For some, this is all they have, she says.

"MAR-C is a haven for these folks," she said.

While state funding continues to decrease, and has done so over the last 10 years, the needs remain

PONDER

the same - work for the employees to do and money to keep the company operational.

Right now, the most pressing need is vans. MAR-C has a fleet of seven vans, three of which are as old as 1996 models. They are running, but it is time to replace them. Repairs and maintenance to the vehicles are becoming costly.

"We are looking at vans for the future," Hudson said. "We don't have the funds to (apply for) matching grants."

Sponsorship opportunities are available for individuals or families and are classified as a self-advocate, interested citizen, professional in the field of developmental disabilities or a parent or relative of a person with developmental disabilities. Companies may wish to contact MAR-C to provide work for its employees.

To donate, or for more information, please call them at 377-4774, or email marcatmin@aol.com.

"Our adults are highly motivated, love their jobs and it affords them a great opportunity to be someone, to be seen as persons of dignity, worth and individual value to the community," she said.

)BITUARIES

Sally Dianne McFarland

Sally Dianne McFarland, beloved mother, sister and friend to many, went home to be with the Lord on the morning of Feb. 10, 2015. Dianne was born in Minden Sept. 16,1950, to Audrey and Beulah White. Dianne was preceded in death by her parents; her sister, Freda Sikes; and her husband, Ted McFarland. Dianne graduated from Minden High

School in 1968. She owned and operated a daycare center in Minden for many years. Her favorite

pastimes were cooking and gardening (and watching her Arkansas Razorbacks play football). Dianne was a member of First Baptist Church of Minden. Visitation will be from noon until 1:30 p.m., Friday,

Feb. 13, 2015, at Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden, with graveside services immediately following at 2 p.m., at Gardens of Memory in Minden. Officiating will be the Rev. Sammy Morrow, assisted by the Rev. Bill Crider.

Dianne is survived by her daughter, Juli McFarland of Minden; sister, Bonnie Brown and husband, Murell of Marshall, Texas; sister, Judy Warren of Mendenhall, Mississippi; brother-in-law, Ron Sikes and wife, Helen of Keithville; and several (much loved) nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be Murell Brown, Randy Brown, Robert Ervin, Norman McMillon, Ron Sikes and Greg Sikes.

The family wishes to express special thanks to Dr. Joe Bolger and the staff of Minden Medical Center for their loving care over the last 18 months and also to all of the other doctors and medical staffs that have cared for Dianne over the last several years. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Jude

Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee.

Bettye Rhea Ponder

Bettye Rhea Ponder, 80, went to be with our Heavenly Father Sunday, Feb. 8, 2015. Services were at noon

Wednesday, Feb. 11, 2015, at Rose-Neath Funeral Home Chapel in Bossier City. Officiating the service was Bro.

Jeff Harper assisted by the Rev. Clarence Chism. Interment followed at Lane Memorial Cemetery in Sibley. The family received friends from 4 until 7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb.10, 2015, at the funeral Home.

Bettye was born March 1, 1934, in Delhi to Virgil Emanuel Carter and Euna Lee Mims Carter. She met the love of her life (Willie Ponder) in Sibley and after what they called "courting" for a long time, decided to get married and rode to Minden

on his bicycle with her on the handlebars. They got married, he dropped her off at her house and he went home. They eventually told their parents they were married, and what a marriage it was, 56 years, and had four children that loved them dearly. She was the most caring person you ever would have wanted to meet, and was a very Christian woman as well. She believed in her Lord with all her heart. Bettye was a member of Bellaire Baptist Church, and the women's Sunday school class. Bettye worked at Bossier Medical Center as an OB scrub tech for more than 30 years helping to bring newborns into this world. She loved to sew, quilt, and cross stitch, but I think cooking was her most enjoyable hobby of all; she would experiment with new recipes and watch as everyone enjoyed eating what she had prepared. She loved each and every one of her grandchildren and her great-grandchildren; they brought her so much joy and laughter. All who knew her will truly miss her.

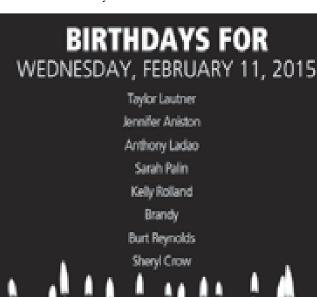
Preceding Bettye in death, is her husband, Willie F. Ponder; infant daughter, Virginia Clare Ponder; her parents; stepfather, William "Bill" Cudd; stepmother, Eunice Carter; grandson, Jason David Scott; brothers, Jack M. Carter, Virgil E. Carter, Bobbie G. Carter; sisters-in-law, Betty "Jane" Carter and Bernice Carter.

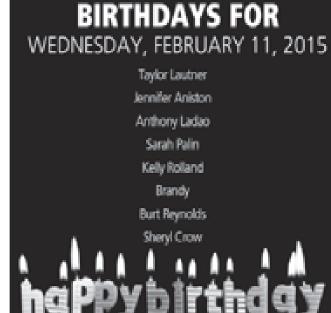
She is survived by her children, Phillip A. Ponder of Bossier City, Stephen E. Ponder of Bossier City, Karen P. Scott and husband, Eddie of Bossier City and Mark T.

Ponder and wife, Valerie of Haughton; grandchildren, Chase Ponder and wife, Jessica, Courtney Ponder, Daniel T. Scott and wife, Sabrina, Kristen Scott, Britney Brown and husband, Vince, Ceson Ponder and Caitlin Ponder; great-grandchildren, Jace Ponder, Addison Ponder, Nathan Scott, Kaitlin Dayton, Lauren Morse, Tristen and Mason States, Madison Brian, McKenzie Pinckley and Baylor Ledbetter; and one sister, Jo Nell Stuckey of Cha-

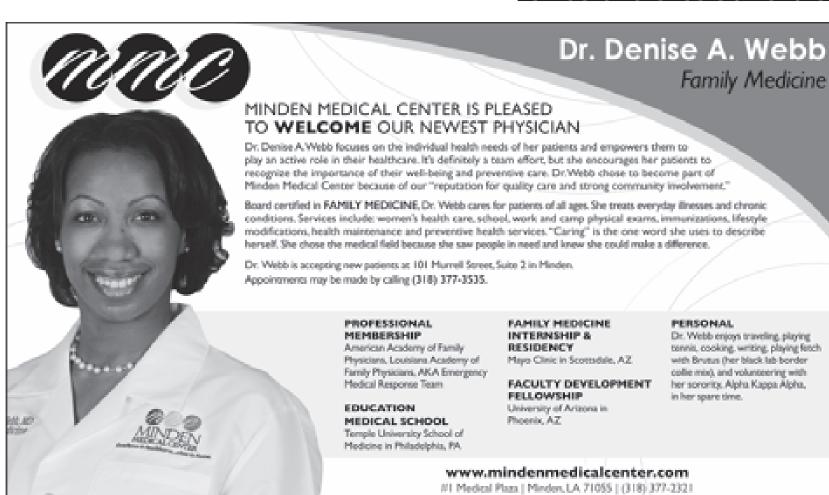
Honoring Bettye as pallbearers will be Vince Brown, Jeffrey Lang, Chase Ponder, Daniel Scott and Jay Wooley.

The family would like to thank the office of Daniel J. Moller Jr., M.D. and staff with a special thanks to Debbie for always being the wonderful nurse that you are. And to Dr. Moller, you meant the world to mom, thank you from us children for all you have done for her.









Minden true example of Valentine's

Editor's note: Originally ran Feb. 4, 2005.

JUANITA AGAN Special to the Press-Herald

Special people Know the art Of living with A loving heart. Gerri Goss sent me a Hallmark Valentine that had the above verse on the front. I think that verse describes the folks in Minden and the adjacent

Consider this a Valentine to Minden. As I thought of all the wonderful things that different organizations, clubs, and individuals do for those who need their love and their help, I cannot think of another town that has such caring and loving

St. Jude's

We know that St. Jude's has acknowledged that Minden, Louisiana donates the most money per capita of any town this size in America. The reason? People in Minden

As I thought back over

the years, beginning with Pete Treat's little daughter, I remembered all the people who have been treated at St. Jude's and how successful many of their treatments have been.

There was a little boy named Adam Bush, who was treated there, as well as a little Greene boy from up the Cotton Valley Road. Here in Minden, we remember Sarah Smith, Denise

Whaley, and the Morris family. First in the Morris family, their little daughter, Kelsey, had cancer and



was successfully treated at St. Jude's. Later, her grown brother, Justin, developed a form of leukemia or cancer and was treated there, but an infection took his life. Currently, little Stanton Haynes, Timothy Sibley and Emilie DuBose are patients of St. Jude's.

In addition to those people, remember the barn that was built for the Steve Shaw family after his heart attack and death? It was a loving community that came together and built what Steve had wanted built. And then, we cannot forget little Coleson Shaw. How faithful have Minden folks been with love and caring.

There have been fish fries, and all sorts of fund raisings for many of these, and many of the physical needs have been met. There are prayers being offered up almost constantly for the well being of these children.

House Fires

When there is a home lost to fire, people are so good to try to come in and help the family get a start with household goods. Often a benefit is put on because of a person's long

Fundraisers

In many of the churches some of the Sunday School Classes raise large sums of money to help either the elderly or the sick survive. In First Baptist Church, where I worked for 12 years, I remember the class that Mr. W. W. Williams taught

(he was Butch's father). That class would raise hundreds of dollars to help people. Mr. Williams would outline the needs and the men would come forward and place money on the table. Many times it would be more than \$600 to meet a special need. This was not for credit on the church records; it was from their hearts.

Mrs. V. G. Miles, the widow of our former pastor, often contacted that class for a special need. She also contacted a class in the Methodist Church, a class that had Mr. Jack Batton and Mr. J. B. Williams in it. That class helped Mrs. Miles help others, too.

Churches and others send aid to tornado victims in different communities. At Christmas, there is the Angel Tree that people select a name and fill the needs of that child. Certain clubs provide food baskets for families at Christmas.

Helping Others

I notice that in Tyler, Texas, about 1,000 came out to the funeral of the

young girl murdered for her car. There have been thousands who have contributed to aid for some of these children here in Minden. Again, considering it on a per capita basis, Tyler is much larger than Minden, and yet there are more people involved in helping others here in Minden

Doesn't it make you feel good, and very proud that Minden is such a warm and caring place? I never go to the store, either Brookshires or Wal-Mart that as I ride in the little motorized carts people will ask "Can I get something for you?" and of course I always need something that is too high for me to reach from the cart. Again and again someone will come to the cash register and unload my groceries. Friends will call and say that if my children cannot get off to take me to the doctor they will take me. Not just me, but they are faithful to take many other people to the doctor when they need to

Now it is February and

it is the Valentine season of the year, let us all think of Minden, the people, and the love that is expressed by people who

Inside the Valentine Gerri sent me was the fol-

lowing little poem that I am sending out to Minden for all the help, the love, the caring and just the kind words that you say to those who need a kind word:

If you knew how many

Are touched by everything you do

You'd know the grati-

tude and love That's always felt for

That is my message to Minden and I want to say

"Thank You! Thank You! Thank you!" for the love you have showered on me.

Juanita Agan submitted a weekly column to the Press-Herald for more than 15 years until her death in 2008. She was a resident of Minden since 1935. The Press-Herald is republishing select articles from Mrs. Agan's Cameos column every Wednesday.

WHITAKER

Continued from page 1

addressed on it, he did try to correct that. But seeing those kids in black face, it was an insult."

He explained the school had a talent show some years back and some of the kids were portraying the Jackson Five. They'd painted their faces black. He said he felt it was insensi-

"It's like a husband and wife relationship," he said. "If you do something insensitive and you don't know you hurt her, and you continue to do it, either you are insensitive or there is a failure to communicate. That's where the racial tension is in our community. Sometimes it's insensitivity, and sometimes it's a failure to communicate."

Minden's made a lot of

Continued from page 1

received a call from an

individual at the residence.

ed to come back, that the

suspect was in his room

"We were told we need-

THEFT

progress since 1992, he says, but he believes it could go farther.

Coming from Baltimore, which the Mason-Dixon line runs through, he said racism wasn't as prevalent as it was in the deep south. He graduated from Baltimore City College, one of the oldest high schools in the nation. He graduated in 1974 and after a stint at the University of Maryland, he joined the United States Air Force, where he would later meet his wife.

He grew up in a household where respect was one of the more prominent characteristics taught.

"I grew up in a household where education was important," he said. "They taught us at a young age to respect ourselves, respect our environment and to try to make things wherever we were better They didn't always say those words, but by the character they displayed,

hiding items they knew did

not belong to him," Crop-

per said. "We received a

search warrant, and detec-

tives Keith King Jr. and

Chris Cheatham, and Capt.

Danny Weaver returned to

A search of Beard's room

uncovered a computer,

identified by serial num-

the house."

they taught us this. Both of them were very well respected and very strong Christians."

His parents retired from government service, and his father owned two small grocery stores. He is one of children, youngest of them.

"We debate about who is the baby in the family, but I am the youngest," he said, laughing.

On a more serious note, he recalls his family history saying his father was raised in an area where slave quarters still existed.

"As I understood it, the family that ran the plantation was still there," he recalled. "My grandfather was one of the first to own his own land. I still remember being told about how my great-great-grandfather, when he was informed he was free they said he couldn't stay in that area, because either he would still be enslaved or

bers, reportedly stolen

from the dentist's office

along with other items,

including dental tools,

Cropper said. Officers

reportedly also found pill

bottles apparently taken

from the house next door

to the home where Beard

was living.

they would kill him. So he

His father and his family are from North Carolina. His mother is from West Virginia.

And by the time Whitaker came along, they were living in Baltimore. Whitaker says while the segregation laws were diminishing in its power and effectiveness, there was still a reason for the Civil Rights Movement

"In parts of the city, there was still a lot of racism," he said.

Today, he calls several people friends, but few he says embraced him and his family. He mentioned Graydon Kitchens, prominent member of First Baptist Church in Minden. He mentioned the late Rev. B.F. Martin, father of the Rev. B.J. Martin, pastor of St. Rest Baptist

'To this day, one of my

closest friends in this community is Jeff Ramsey," he said. "Our daughters were friends when they were little. They've gone their separate ways, but he and I have maintained that friendship close to 20 years. I can honestly say I love him like he's my

Whitaker and his wife have five children between them, and they enjoy spending time with their seven grandchildren.

Why Not Cut It For Free? The Minden Press-Herald and Mike's Outdoor are giving away a Snapper Lawn Tractor.

- Briggs & Stratton Rear Engine
- 33-inch mower deck
- Mulching kit Included
- 6 cutting deck positions give you the freedom to choose the length of grass
- that stays on your lawn Electric start allows fast and easy start up without hurting your back.

UPCOMING MEETING

where they

The Minden Dialogue Committee will meet from 1 to 6 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 12 at the Community House located at 711 Gladney in Minden. The group will host a media availability from 12:15 to 12:45 p.m. to answer questions. The meeting is open to the public.



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The name of ONE lucky subscriber will be DRAWN at 4 p.m. Friday, May 6. To be eligible, you must START a new subscription to the MINDEN PRESS-HERALD for 3 months or more, or RENEW your subscription for 3 months or more. Subscriptions must be for HOME DELIVERY.

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OPINION

First Place: 2012 Best Editorial Page, Louisiana Press Association



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Have a guestion about this page or want to submit an opinion? Send a message to Pat Culverhouse.

Phone: 377-1866 Ext:107 E-mail:pat@press-herald.com

PERSPECTIVE

A Corporate Coup d'Etat

WHEN I WAS A TYKE, Momma warned me not to eat anything unless I knew where it came from. That advice is so sensible that even Congress acted on it in 2002, passing a straightforward law called Country Of Origin Labeling. COOL requires meat marketers to tell us whether the meat they sell is a product of the USA, China or Whereintheworldis-This useful information empowers us con-

sumers — which is why global agribusiness giants hate it and are trying to get a secretive, autocratic, plutocratic, private court in Switzerland to kill it. This can't be, you say? But it is. Unbeknownst to

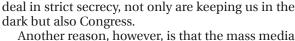
most Americans, when the U.S. joined the World Trade Organization in 1999, we surrendered a big chunk of our sovereignty to this corporate court. Here's what's happening: (1) American con-

sumers have a basic right to know where their meat comes from, but (2) that right has been pitted against American corn flakes and ketchup in a "trade war" that (3) is being forced upon us by a handful of corporations that produce, slaughter, butcher and package meat outside of our country but (4) are allowed under trade agreements to challenge a U.S. law that had been duly enacted for the people inside our country, so (5) America was sued in an obscure, autocratic, private organization created by and for corporate interests and headquartered in Switzerland. Then (6) that corporate "court" did indeed rule that the "profit right" of foreign meat packers is superior to our people's basic right of self-determination.

Holy Tom Paine, this is corporate tyranny! But it's about to get worse, for President Obama and Congress intend to hang another bad trade deal, the Trans-Pacific Partnership, around

our necks this spring.

What? You haven't heard of the TPP? Dubbed "a corporate coup d'etat" by Public Citizen's Global Trade Watch, it's a grandiose grab for power masked as a trade deal, allowing an unprecedented level of global corporate rule over Americans. One reason we commoners don't know about it is that the corporate and governmental elites of the 12 nations that have been negotiating this momentous



HIGHTOWER

Another reason, however, is that the mass media has been shockingly silent, apparently even incurious about what clearly is a huge story with historic consequences.

FAIR, the excellent watchdog group that tracks media coverage, found that ABC, CBS, CNN, Fox and NBC have offered the American public practically zero to little news stories about TPP. Even though the looming power grab has now spawned protests around the world, generated a major coalition of some 500 grassroots groups in our country loudly opposing the ripoff deal and has produced an odd-bedfellow, a rare bipartisan alignment of opponents in Congress, there's been a TV blackout. Could it possibly be that the global conglomerates that own our so-called "news" networks don't want us knowing what's up behind TPP's closed doors?

Let's do the media's job for them and find out

what's in this bad deal: The trade hoax

Of the document's 29 chapters, only five address tariffs and other actual trade matters. The other 24 consist of various ways to "free" corporations from any accountability and from any responsibility to the world community's common good.

Bye-bye "Buy American"

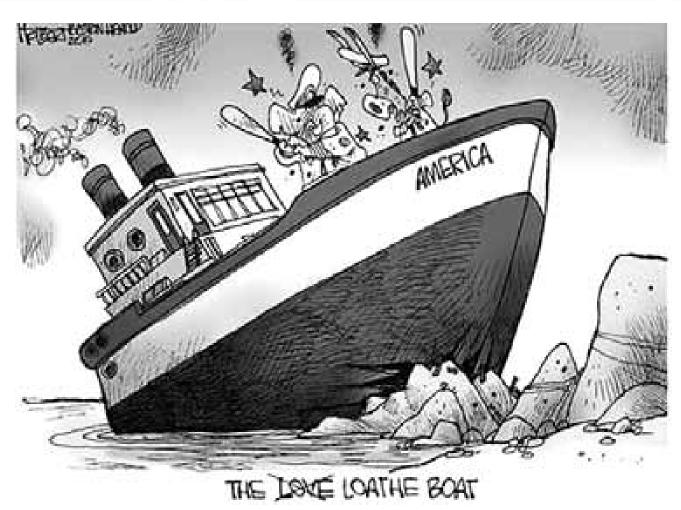
TPP dictates that all corporations based in any member nation must be given equal access to the public dollars that any government spends on equipment, food, highway projects, etc. Thus, our own national, state and local governments would no longer be free to give preference to suppliers of our choice. "Buy American" and "Buy Local" programs could be challenged by private corporations.

Wall Street rides again!

If anyone doubts this pact is a corporate boondoggle dressed in trade clothes, let them read its shameful financial provisions. Our nation's financial regulations would have to be "harmonized" to comply with TPP's extreme deregulation, re-creating the anything-goes Wall Street ethic that crashed the world economy in 2008.

To help stop this anti-democratic nasty, go to www.exposethetpp.org.

Jim Hightower is a national radio commentator, writer, public speaker and author.



PERSPECTIVE

Small business has big community role

SMALL BUSINESSES make a big impact at home.

There are more than 424,000 small businesses in Louisiana, employing more than 892,000 people. In fact, small businesses make up more than 97 percent of Louisiana's employers, providing jobs to more than half of the state's private workforce in 2012. Small business is the backbone of our communities and their contribution to Louisiana's economic growth is all too often over looked and taken for

Instead of looking for ways to make it easier to help them grow their business and expand their investment in our communities, government continuously throws new mandates and restrictions on top of them, making their community-enriching mission that much more difficult.

Whether it is the disincentives for hiring full-time workers found in Obamacare, the ever-increasing litigation fears resulting from our litigious society or the constant threats to impose market manipulating impacts on job creation that would result from a national minimum wage increase during this recession, small businesses are used to having government take steps to complicate their business plans every step of the way.

In addition to their tremendous impact here in Louisiana, small businesses also make a large impact on the national economy. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there were over 28 million small businesses employing 55 million workers, or about half of all private sector

These firms are responsible for 59 percent of all net new jobs from 2010 through 2013, yet they are disproportionately impacted by compliance burdens associated with regulation.

A recent study found that small businesses pay \$11,724 per employee per year in regulatory compliance. Their ability to operate efficiently and

free of unnecessary regulatory burdens is critical for their ability to compete and create jobs. According to the National Association of Manufactur-

ers (NAM), the total cost of federal regulations in 2012 was \$2.028 trillion (in 2014 dollars).

Federal regulations continue to strangle and stifle small business and there is an effort to help reduce some of this burden. H.R. 527, the Small Business Regulatory Flexibil-



WAGUESPACK

ity Improvements Act of 2015 is bipartisan legislation, which would help alleviate unnecessary regulatory burdens placed on small businesses.

According to NAM, it would reform the regulatory process to ensure that all federal agencies appropriately consider the impact of their rules on small businesses across America. As a result, federal agencies would issue smarter regulations that minimize inefficiencies and unnecessary burdens while still protecting public health, worker safety and the environ-

This Act would improve and modernize the Regulatory Flexibility Act (RFA), a 1980 law that requires federal agencies to transparently account for the impact of regulation on small businesses.

However, each agency interprets important terms in the existing statute in widely divergent ways and is able to avoid the RFA's requirements as Congress intended. This bill would streamline and make uniform those determinations of when the RFA would apply to a rule.

Despite limited adherence by federal agencies to the RFA's provisions, the RFA has yielded billions in savings for small businesses.

In fiscal year 2014, the U.S. Small Business Administration's Office of Advocacy reported compliance cost savings of \$4.8 billion for small businesses. Over the past ten years, the small business compliance cost savings due to the RFA is greater than \$90 billion. These savings were derived from a small number of regulatory alternatives that were less costly to small businesses.

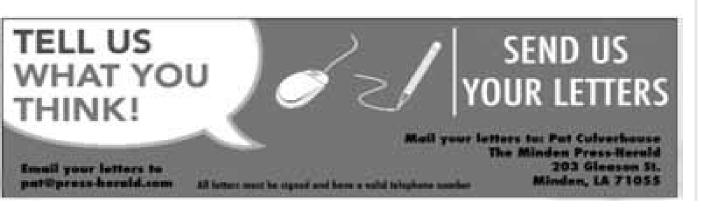
If all federal rules with small business impacts included the type of analysis required by this legislation, the savings could be significantly higher and our regulatory system could more efficiently meet our objec-

Many rules that have significant impacts on small entities are not covered by the RFA because the small businesses adversely impacted are not directly regulated entities. The Act would require agencies to consider the true impact of their rules on the regulated community.

It also would give the Office of Advocacy additional authorities and require it to establish standards for conducting a regulatory flexibility analysis during the rulemaking process. H.R. 527 improves transparency and ensures that agencies thoughtfully consider the impact of regulations on small businesses.

The House of Representatives passed H.R. 527 last week by a vote of 260-163. It now heads to the Senate for consideration. Hopefully, consensus will be found around the simple notion that we should be doing everything we can to help small businesses continue to carry out the fundamental role they play so well: making a difference each and every day in the communities in which they live.

Stephen Waguespack is president of Louisiana Association of Business and Industry.





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COMMUNITY

MARDI GRAS - KREWE OF AKEWA



Earning privileges

In elementary school there were certain tasks teachers would allow you to do, "if you earned the privilege." I'm not too sure what it took to earn privileges but I do distinctly remember some of the tasks we could do.

One was to operate the hectograph machine.

Probably not too many of you ever had an experience with the hectograph machine. But it was at one time the highlight of an elementary student's day when the teacher felt confident that she could trust him to operate machine.

As I recall, it was about fourth and fifth grade when we were introduced to the machine that made copies for use in the class room.

It had a unique odor and one was quite apt to come out with purple ink on his hands.

The machine that we used was located in the "cloak room". This was the little room at the back where we placed our lunch bags and coats. It was also where one went when he was misbehaving. An early form of time out. Also a

forms of punishment.

A master copy was made by handwriting or drawing diagrams on a certain kind of carbon. This copy was placed on the roller drum of the machine and by turning the handle, one could move the copy to where sheets of paper came in contact with it and thereby printed the worksheets to be used in class.

Not everyone had the privilege of operating the machine, but for those who did, they felt proud that the teacher had enough confidence in them to trust them with the task. The hint of purple ink left on one's hands signified status.

Another treasured task was given in third grade during World War II. At the time, the country was involved in raising funds to support the war effort and one way of doing this was by selling War Savings Stamps and War Bonds. These could be purchased at the local post office and were in amounts of 10, 25 and 50 cents or \$1 and \$5.

The stamps were put in a booklet provided by the government and when poor trees near the playfilled could be traded in for ground sported white

cent stamps to fill a book. This would purchase a bond that at its maturity in 10 years was valued at \$25.

> We children were encouraged bring nickels and dimes to buy stamps. Then on a MOORE certain day,

two or three children would be selected to walk down to the post office to purchase the stamps. We were always encouraged to walk down by the road and not take the trail that led through a wooded area, even though it was a short-cut.

I'm certain there was a lot of dallying around to and from the post office, however, I don't remember the teacher ever scolding a student for taking too long.

Another task, although not as prestigious as these others, was dusting the chalkboard erasers. Each day, toward the end of the day, two people were chosen to take the erasers outside and beat the chalk dust out of them. Those place to mete out other a bond. It took 75 of the 25 trunks until the teachers

noticed and put a stop to it. Some would even hit the

erasers up against the

building. That, too, was

These little privileges that we treasured so much are no longer available to the children as they don't exist anymore. But the children are perhaps allowed other privileges.

And they will be performing tasks that were unheard of in our day.

Fannie Moore is a journalist who lives in Shongaloo where she enjoys writing on a variety of subjects. Throughout the years she has submitted poetry and articles that were published in several magazines and newspapers.

Around Town

Friday, Feb. 13

Enrollment specialists from Martin Luther King Health Center of Shreveport will be at the United Way office in Minden on select Fridays to assist persons in signing up for a health insurance plan on healthcare.gov at 202 Miller Street, Minden. Call Christina Copeland at 318-470-2111.

Sunday, Feb. 15

Black History Celebration to be held at Union Grove Baptist Church at 3 p.m. Musical guests will be St. Rest Baptist Church Youth Choir of Minden and guest speaker will be Minister Richardson, Nathan Associate Minister of St. Rest Baptist Church. Everyone is invited.

Annual Black History and Pew Rally Program at 3 p.m. at Mt. Comfort Baptist Church. The Rev. Robbie D. Williams of Macedonia Baptist Church in Monroe will be the guest speaker.

Run Baptist Blue Church, Gregory

Deloach, pastor/teacher, will host Black History Program at 2:30 p.m. Special guest is The Rev. Anthony Abney, pastor of White Oak Grove Baptist Church, Homer. All churches are welcome.

Black History Month

Friday, Feb. 20

essays are due at 5 p.m. The essay contest, sponsored by the Minden Press-Herald, is open to school children in grades 4-8 and 9-12. Essays and poems are accepted and should be no more than 150 words. They should reflect what someone or an event in their history reflects what the celebration of Black History means to them. Send submissions to bonnie@pressherald.com. Name, age and contact information must be provided.

Saturday, Feb. 21

Longspring Church of God in Christ, 518 Constable Street, will be hosting an "Old Ship of Zion" program at 5 p.m. Everyone is Invited.

Celebrate your wedding, engagement, or anniversary with Webster Parish Send an email to community@press-herald.com

MINDEN LIONS CLUB

Field service director for Louisiana Farm **Bureau Federation is guest speaker**

Carey Martin, Area 1 Field Services Director for the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, will be the guest speaker at Thursday's meeting of the Lions

Martin works in a territory consisting of 17 parishes across north Louisiana, serving as a liaison between the State Office in Baton Rouge and the parish offices.

His primary responsibility is the assist parishes in developing and implementing an effective plan of action to promote and support agriculture on the parish and state levels. Many times Carey says he feels like a fireman, running from parish to parish to tackle the latest problem and "put out the fire."

Of course, the most visible face of Farm Bureau are the Farm Bureau Insurance Companies, but Martin works to promote what he calls "the farm side of Farm Bureau."

The Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation was founded in 1922 to improve the lives of farmers and rural residents. That mission continues today, but in a greatly expanded role.

It includes organizing grassroots legislative action, educating Louisiana residents about the importance of agriculture and telling the Louisiana farmer's story to the general public. Martin says he enjoys every aspect of his job, especially the fact that he gets to work

with farmers every day. Martin grew up on a dairy and beef cattle farm in Desoto parish. He graduated from LSU in 1992 with a degree in Agricultural Education. He entered the media and public relations world after graduation and worked as a farm radio reporter for stations in Oklahoma and Nebras-

In 1997 he joined the Information and Public Relations staff of the Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation in Baton Rouge as a radio and television specialist.

In 2003 he transferred to the Field Staff of Louisiana Farm Bureau and relocated back to his home area of Northwest Louisiana.

Martin married his college sweetheart, C.J. They have been married for 24 years and have five chil-

The Minden Lions Club meets at noon every Thursday in the American Legion Hall on Pine Street. Lunch is served.

The United Christian Assistance Program (UCAP) is in need of the following:

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Canned milk and fruit

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SPORTS

Benson will undergo psychiatric exam

NEW ORLEANS (AP) Hours after a New Orleans judge ordered that he undergo psychiatric examinations by three experts, Saints and Pelicans owner Tom Benson issued a statement Tuesday saying he wants to do that as soon as possible as he fights an effort by his daughter and her children to have him declared incompetent.

New Orleans Civil District Judge Kern Reese ordered that Benson be examined by March 13. Each side must choose one medical expert and they will agree upon a third.

Renee Benson and her children, Rita and Rvan LeBlanc, filed the lawsuit questioning the 87-year-old billionaire's competency after the three were abruptly fired from leadership roles in the sports franchises and after Benson announced that his wife, Gayle, would control the teams after he dies. The suit says Gayle Benson, who married Benson 10 years ago after the death of his second wife, has "systematically isolated" him from family, friends and advisers.

MLB

Rodriguez meets with Yankees officials

NEW YORK (AP) Alex Rodriguez met with top New York Yankees officials on Tuesday and apologized to the team as he prepares to report to spring training following his season-long suspension for violations of baseball's drug agreement and labor contract.

A joint statement from Yankees Rodriguez said the 39year-old met at Yankee Stadium with owner Hal Steinbrenner, team president Randy Levine, general manager Brian Cashman and assistant general manager Jean Afterman.

Rodriguez was accompanied by lawyer Jim

"Alex initiated the meeting and apologized to the organization for his actions over the past several years," the statement said. "There was an honest and frank discussion on all of the issues. As far as the Yankees are concerned, the next step is to play baseball in spring training."

A person familiar with the meeting, speaking on condition of anonymity because the release of additional details was not authorized, said the meeting lasted about 90 minutes.

The person said the Yankees said they accepted the apology but maintained that doesn't mean the team has forgotten about Rodriguez's actions over recent years. Team officials also said Rodriguez has to make up many things to many people.

York opens New spring training on Feb. 20 at Tampa, Florida, and Rodriguez is due to report with position players and start workouts on Feb. 26. Yankees officials told him he will be treated like any other player at spring training.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

TIDE SURVIVE TIGERS



BLAKE BRANCH

blake@press-herald.com

The Minden Crimson Tide and Lady Tiders were at home Tuesday hosting a pair of pivotal games with the Benton Tigers.

Minden and Benton met earlier this season with the result being two tightlycontested games on the road at Benton. Fans got more of the same at The Palace Tuesday night.

In the boys game, the Crimson Tide defeated the Tigers 61-59.

"It was a tale of two halves," Crimson Tide head coach Alan Shaw said. "We were very slow and lethargic in the first half. We were allowing a lot of easy baskets on defense and our offense was stagnant."

Trailing at the half, Shaw delivered the right message to wake the team up.

"I told the kids it was do or die in the second half. If we don't win this game we won't make the playoffs."

The team responded, coming out on fire, surging back to pull even with Benton.

"We picked it up in the second half," Shaw said. "We didn't change anything. We just responded with energy, effort and enthusiasm."

With the game tied and the clock nearing all zero's, Minden's L'Jarius Sneed was fouled and sent to the free throw line.

Sneed nailed both free throws in front of a huge senior night crowd and last second Benton's attempt fell short, giving Minden the win.

'It was nice to recognize our seniors tonight," Shaw said. "I'm glad we could honor them with a big win tonight."

Kevin Hamilton led the way, finishing with 18 points. L'Jarius Sneed added 14 including the game winning free throws and Anfernee Red added 12

Lady Tiders
The Lady Tiders fell to Benton, 82-74 in overtime.

Both teams played well, treating the large crowd to one of the most intense games of the year.

"I'm proud of how we played tonight," head coach Jacob Brown said. "The kids really laid their hearts out there on the court tonight. That's all you can ask for as a coach.'

The Lady Tiders had opportunities to seal the deal in regulation, but three missed free throws in the final 30 seconds of the fourth quarter allowed Benton to tie the game and send it to overtime.

"We had some foul trouble," Brown said. "And we missed some free throws that we had been hitting all year. It was a bad four minute stretch that cost us

tonight, but I can't say anything but positives about the way the girls played tonight. It's just a tough pill to swal-

On senior night, it was freshman Sha'terra Batton who led the team with an Tiaga Pugh scored 16 points and Marlena Hill was in double figures with 12.

The Tide and Lady Tiders will both be back at home Friday to take on the district leading Indians and Park.

Those will be the last home games of the season so fans are encouraged to come out and support the teams one last time at The



HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Warriors lose heartbreaker to Cavaliers



BLAKE BRANCH blake@press-herald.com

The Lakeside Warriors and Lady Warriors went on the road to face Calvary Baptist Tuesday night.

The Lady Warriors were playing for pride on this night, while the Warriors needed a win to solidify their playoff position.

In the boys game, the Warriors fell to the Cavaliers in an overtime heartbreaker,

It was a tought loss for a team that has battled adversity throughout the season.

"We got off to a really bad

start," Lakeside head coach Jason Gould said. "We started off the game cold, missing a lot of shots and turning the ball over. We went into halftime down by 12."

When the Warriors came back out for the second half they played with a sense of urgency, outscoring Calvary in the third and fourth quarter and taking a three-point lead with just seconds to play.

Then, Calvary came down and hit a desparation 3pointer to tie the game with seconds to Lakeside's final attempt was off in regulation and in overtime the Cavaliers held off a shocked Warrior squad.

'The game came down to free throw shooting tonight," Gould said. "We lost by one and we went 17 of 35 from the free throw line.'

Jamarion Teal led the way in the loss with 18 points, followed by Frankie Miles with 16, Quatarus Solomon with 11 and Jalen Gould with 9.

Lady Warriors The Lady Warriors fell to the Lady Cavs 49-28.

Lakeside has shown improvement throughout the season under the direction of head coach Tavasha Anderson, who continues to preach patience for her young

"There's one game to go, so there's still room to get better," Anderson said. 'Our younger girls are getting a lot of experience early in their careers of what they'll face the rest of their high school days. We still have a lot of maturing to do on and off the court to become better basketball players.'

Destine Joiner scored 14 points to lead the Lady Warriors and LaCandria key added 6.



COLLEGE BASKETBALL

LSU nearly upsets No. 1 Kentucky



BATON ROUGE - The LSU men's basketball team battled its way from a double digit deficit midway through the second half and carried a three-point lead into the closing minutes before top-

ranked Kentucky rallied to score the last five points to secure a hard-fought 71-69 decision in-front of a raucous 13,997 fans on Tuesday evening at the Maravich Center.

The setback moved LSU (17-7, 6-5 SEC) to sixth place in the SEC standings, while Kentucky (24-0, 11-0 SEC) has won 46 of its 48 games as the Associated Press' top-ranked team. The 13,997 paid attendance is a record in the current Maravich Center seating configuration dating back to the 2005-06 season.

Jarell Martin racked up 21 points and 11 rebounds to collect his 10th double-double on the season. He was 8of-11 from the floor and put forth a 5-for-7 effort at the free throw line. Martin has reached double figures in eight of his last nine games.

Keith Hornsby dialed up 17 points on a 7-for-14 shooting clip aided by a pair of three-pointers. He ran his streak to seven straight games with 10-plus points.

Jordan Mickey tacked on 16 points, seven rebounds and four blocks. He extended his run to 10 consecutive games in double figures and notched 10 of his 16 points during the second half.

Tim Quarterman distributed a game-leading seven assists whereas Josh Gray provided seven points, four rebounds and two assists to highlight LSU's bench.

The Wildcats had four players come away with double figures fueled by Willie Cauley-Stein, who registered 11 of his 15 points in the second half. He posted a 7-for-9 shooting effort. Devin Booker secured 14 points to spark UK's bench, while Karl-Anthony Towns picked up 12 points and 13 rebounds.

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Bye, Bye, Brian

NBC suspends Brian Williams for 6 months without pay

NEW YORK (AP) — NBC announced Tuesday that it is suspending Brian Williams as "Nightly News" anchor and managing editor for six months without pay for misleading the public about his experiences covering the Iraq War.

NBC chief executive Steve Burke said Williams' actions were inexcusable and jeopardized the trust he has built up with viewers during his decade as the network's lead anchor. But he said Williams deserved a second chance.

Williams apologized last week for saying he was in a helicopter that was hit by a grenade while covering the Iraq War in 2003. Instead, another helicopter flying ahead of his was hit, and some veterans involved in the mission called him out on it. The swift public reaction had put NBC News on a crisis footing.

NBC News President Deborah Turness said in a memo that Williams "misrepresented" events that occurred while he was covering the war.

"It then became clear that on other occasions Brian had done the same while telling that story in other venues," Turness said. "This was wrong and completely inappropriate for someone in Brian's position."

Turness said Lester Holt would continue to substitute for Williams as anchor.

While NBC News avoids a backlash from Williams' supporters, the action jeopardizes the network's competitive position. "Nightly News" has been atop the ratings dating back to Tom Brokaw's time in the anchor chair more than a decade ago. But ABC's "World News Tonight," with new anchor David Muir, has been gaining in second place, and Scott Pelley has built a newscast that appeals to traditionalists at CBS.

Besides veterans angered by Williams' false story, his initial apology made him a target of online ridicule with his claim that he misremembered key details. Internet memes jokingly placed Williams at the scene of other events including the Last Supper or the first walk on the moon.

"The penalty is tough, which it should be," said Bill Wheatley, a longtime NBC News executive who now teaches journalism at Columbia University. "When he comes back on the air, it will be up to Brian to demonstrate to his viewers and colleagues that he deserves their trust. I believe that if he works hard and focuses on his journalism, they'll forgive him."

Williams received some key support in 6 miles from his location.

the last 24 hours. Fox News Channel host Bill O'Reilly, frequently a critic of NBC News, suggested on Jimmy Kimmel's show that Williams should keep his job unless more stories come out. Columnist David Brooks in The New York Times suggested there was a need for forgiveness in instances of wrongdoing.

Jon Stewart, of "The Daily Show," who has hosted Williams as a guest 22 times, criticized Williams for vanity. But he had sharper words for media outlets going after Williams.

"I am happy," Stewart said. "Finally, someone is being held to account for misleading America about the Iraq War."

Similar uncharted territory for NBC News and Williams is how they handle his return in six months — does he simply come back to work or does he offer a detailed interview on NBC or with another, impartial source?

"Can Brian Williams come back? Maybe," said Jeff Greenfield, former CNN and CBS News reporter and commentator

What will be interesting for Williams is how he spends the six months, whether he does volunteer work, helps veterans' groups and seeks professional help for a tendency to embellish stories, he said. Whatever he does, it will be watched closely.

Williams recently signed a contract extension to coincide with last year's 10th anniversary as anchor. His suspension will cost him several million dollars.

Even with the suspension, Turness said the network's probe into Williams' statements is continuing.

Shortly after it happened during a reporting trip to Iraq in 2003, Williams explained on NBC that one of a group of helicopters he had been flying with had been hit by a rocket-propelled grenade. When he appeared with David Letterman a decade later, the story changed to his helicopter had been hit, which Williams now admits is false. It wasn't until he told the story on "Nightly News" last month and veterans who had been there complained that the embellishment emerged.

In Israel in 2006, Williams explained to his news viewers that he'd been on an Israeli helicopter and saw a trail of smoke and dust where Hezbollah rockets had landed in the Israeli countryside, and he described seeing rockets being launched 6 miles from his location.

The story became more dramatic when he appeared on "The Daily Show" a month later.

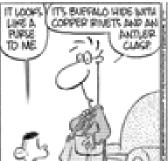
"Here's a view of rockets I have never seen, passing underneath us, 1,500 feet beneath us," Williams said. "And we've got the gunner doors on this thing, and I'm saying to the general, some four-star, 'It wouldn't take much for them to adjust the aim and try to do a ring toss right through our open doors, would it?'"

An Israeli army official who traveled with Williams that day, Jacob Dallal, on Tuesday called the anchor's account "generally reasonable." He said it was fair to assume rockets



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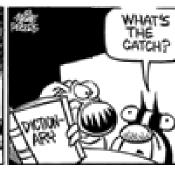




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described property Wood Rocky Horse of Large mirror

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SVLR JVL VOZV-SHPWORZ

GOQGKX GPNSR RLLIX

JHPW NQ SQOJL, VOX XJMPL

KXKHPPM XJOPJLI. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I TOLD THAT FELLOW HE'D PROBABLY NEED TO APPLY ANOTHER LAYER OF POLISH, BUT I WAS RE-BUFFED. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals S

Bowl

41 Spartan

slave

43 Aviation

44 Amrma-

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46 Border

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55 Existed

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57 Destroy

61 Crafty

1 Thick

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DOWN

58 Back talk

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59 State with 17 "The

56 Llama

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50 1990

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2 Heap

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4 Pulling

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5 Blunder

6 Mellow

7 Sense. 8 Picasso's

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9 Genetic

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11 Moo goo

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19 Bullring

22 Unes-

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10 Series-

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25 Barber-

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26 Met

27 Hinge

29 Hold

(on) 28 "Gee!"

sway

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31 Busy

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42 X rating?

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49 Catch

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51 Clerical

48 Carrier's

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50 Transcript

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45 Desert

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30 Cousin of

10-Down

CROSSWORD. ACROSS 39 First Super

 Soothing place to spend a day

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4 Cana-

team 12 Fleurde- -

13 Drive on 14 "Do -

others ..." 15 Laila of

"We Need to Talk"

16 Buck 18 Confuse 20 Muumuu

accessory 60 Rad. x 2 21 Roster 24 AMPAS

award 28 Antioxidant beverage

32 Oliver Twist's request **33** No

stylish 34 Dresses (in)

longer

36 Huge

Solution time: 23 mins. D O S E T W A N G CHAR O O H S B B O O O I N G A N A F I N A L T E E T E R M I N A L D A R N A R D C A N O E
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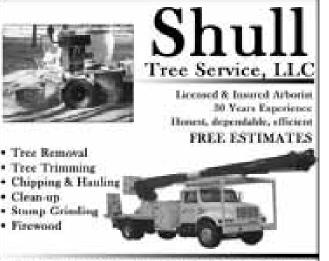
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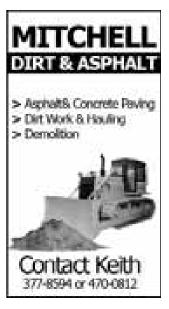
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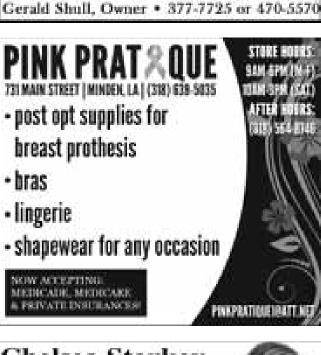






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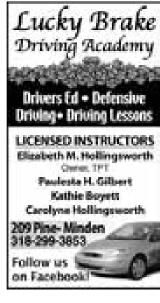


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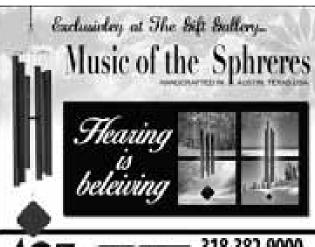
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