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CAMP MINDEN CLEANUP

Fleming tours Camp Minden

Stop is first for congressman since 2012 explosion



U.S. Congressman John Fleming talks with the media following his first tour of Camp Minden since the 2012 explosion. Col. Ron Stuckey, left, along with other Louisiana Army National Guard officials, took Fleming on the tour, showing him igloos where the propellant is stored. Bonnie Culverhouse/Press-Herald

BONNIE CULVERHOUSE
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CAMP MINDEN — U.S. Congressman John Fleming remembers how it felt almost two and a half years ago when his Minden residence shook from an explosion at Camp Minden.

Wednesday, he saw for the first time what Louisiana State Police discovered when they investigated the blast — millions of pounds of M6 propellant once illegally stored by Explo Systems, Inc.

"It was interesting," Fleming at a press conference, following a tour of the Camp Minden grounds. "You kind of go back into the past to the old army ammunition plant days. I suspect these buildings have been here at least since World War II if not before. Many of them are deteriorating."

Fleming says Louisiana Army National Guard officials, Col. Ron Stuckey and Maj. Gen. Glenn Cur-

See **FLEMING**, Page 3



Barrels of M6 propellant are allegedly haphazardly stacked in igloos on Camp Minden. Officials say all igloos are full, with no more room to store the material. Submitted Photo

PARISH GOVERNMENT

Webster police jury forwards M6 resolution

PAT CULVERHOUSE
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A resolution seeking the removal of millions of pounds of M6 propellant from Camp Minden has been completed by the Webster Parish Police Jury and forwarded to the Environmental Protection Agency.

While other private petitions and public body resolutions

specifically oppose the open burn method which EPA and the military have identified as the preferred disposal method, the police jury opted to avoid specifying how the material should be destroyed.

Instead, the resolution asks that the removal

be conducted "...in the manner that is safest and time effective."

President Jim Bonsall says the police jury has always been concerned about getting rid of the M6, but delayed drafting a formal resolution until as much information from all parties involved could be studied. And, he pointed out, that includes statements from the group footing the bill for the cleanup.

"The Army said they were

not going to pay for anything except open burn, and (the M6) is getting older and older, and here we sat between a rock and a hard spot," Bonsall said. "This stuff has to go away. If the open burn is as nasty as they say, we have to ask which is worse, the open burn or the explosion."

Bonsall says jury members waited until more facts were

See **JURY**, Page 2



BONSALL

CAMP MINDEN
CLEANUP

Criteria discussed for alt. M6 disposal methods

MICHELLE BATES
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During the first conference call of the technical work group, members tentatively set the criteria for proposals to be considered in alternate methods of disposing of millions of pounds of M6 propellant at Camp Minden.

This work group is a sub-committee of the approximately 30-member dialogue committee.

Some of the criteria suggested included cost, destruction efficiency, timeline, number of pounds a company can safely dispose of per day, emissions, availability of the technology and the number of acres of land needed for the process, including a buffer zone.

Even though environmental economist Jane Williams strongly suggested limiting their choices to Department of Defense Explosive Safety Board approved technologies, the group decided to leave their options open. While they will consider ESB approved options for rendering the material non-explosive, it was suggested they might use a combination of methods and companies to complete the process from beginning to end.

A possibility would be to use an ESB permitted company to make sure the M6 is decommissioned, and then use another company for the disposal of it, even if that means repurposing the leftover material.

Dr. Brian Salvatore, a chemistry professor at Louisiana State University in Shreveport, says stability and the lack of monitoring still remains an issue.

"I've said many times I'm not downplaying any explosive risk here, but the evaluation of the stability is something that the Louisiana Army National Guard has been presented with the opportunity to do," he said, "and for whatever reason, a comprehensive evaluation of stability has not been done."

Doug Sarno, one of the facilitators of the meeting, said the challenge is going to be gathering legitimate sources and trustworthy information. The idea is to make sure everyone is comfortable with the information they are receiving.

See **DISPOSAL**, Page 2

"We cannot sit back here and rely and depend on the Army to come to the table...because they may very well not ever come to the table."

Sam Mims
Dialogue Committee Member

specht
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» **INSIDE:**

Minden High, Lakeside set to start baseball season **PAGE 6**



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Affordable Healthcare Act

More than 184K La. sign-ups in federal marketplace

Enrollment up from 2014

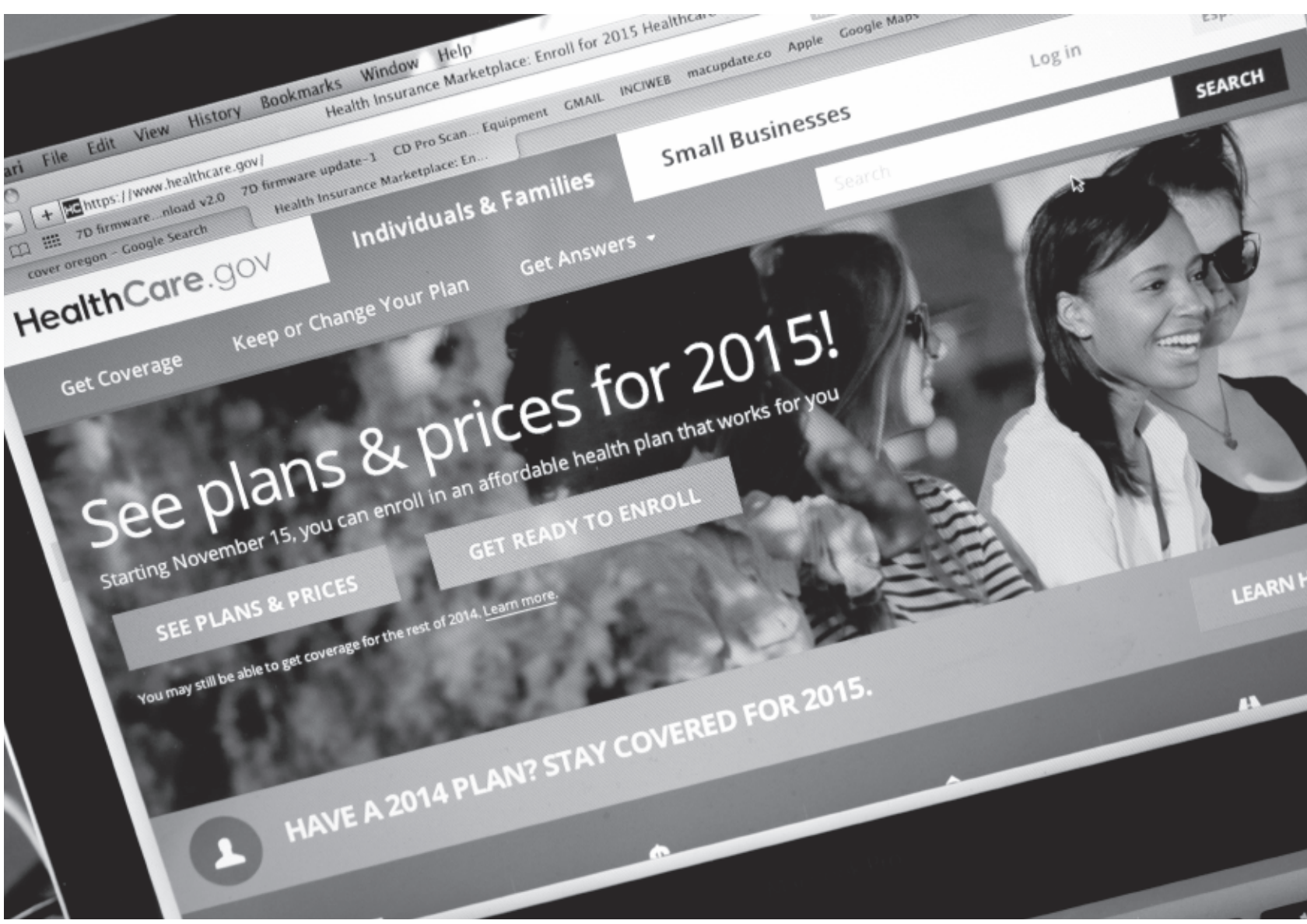
MELINDA DESLATTE
Associated Press

BATON ROUGE — More than 184,000 Louisiana residents enrolled for health insurance through the federal marketplace by the sign-up deadline, a growth of 82,000 people over last year, according to data released Wednesday from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

The three-month sign-up period ended Sunday, the second year of the marketplaces created under President Barack Obama's health care overhaul. About 11.4 million people nationwide will get health insurance through the marketplaces, both federal and state-run.

The marketplaces offer health insurance options for people who don't get insurance through their jobs or through programs such as Medicare and Medicaid. Subsidies are available to low- and middle-income families. Federal law requires most people to have insurance or face a financial penalty on their taxes.

Louisiana didn't create its own marketplace to shop for coverage, so state residents search for poli-



More than 184,000 Louisiana residents enrolled for health insurance through the federal marketplace by the sign-up deadline, a growth of 82,000 people over last year, according to data released Wednesday from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Courtesy Photo

cies at the federal HealthCare.gov website. Five companies offered insurance options in the state.

The state's numbers have spiked 81 percent from last year, with preliminary figures showing 184,532 Louisiana residents selected an insurance plan or were automatically re-enrolled in the coverage they chose last year. In the 2014

enrollment period, about 102,000 Louisianians signed up for health care coverage.

The final figures may go up slightly. People who were stuck in line and unable to finish their application by the midnight deadline will have until Feb. 22 to complete their insurance enrollment.

No specifics were avail-

able about the age or gender of the enrollees, with federal officials saying those types of details will be released within weeks. Most people who signed up for coverage qualified for federal subsidies to help cover the cost, the health department said.

"In the 37 states using HealthCare.gov, nearly 8 in 10 consumers had the option of getting covered

for as little as \$100 a month or less with financial assistance that lowered the cost of their monthly premium," HHS Secretary Sylvia Burwell said in a statement.

Of the people enrolled in Louisiana this year, one-third of them — 62,872 people — live in the metropolitan New Orleans area. Another 20 percent, or 37,154 people, live in

the Baton Rouge area.

It remains unclear how many will actually pay their premiums and receive the coverage for which they've signed up. Kevin Counihan, HealthCare.gov CEO, said federal officials estimate about 87 percent of those enrolled nationwide will make the payments required to keep their insurance.

DISPOSAL

Continued from page 1

Another concern remains the U.S. Army's silence and lack of participation as the discussions in the dialogue committee continue. Sarno says they are working to get the Army to the table, and still no luck yet.

Dr. Robert Flournoy, committee member, says a big part of the puzzle missing is the technical experts in the Army. He emphasized the need for their expertise in this whole process.

"We need to have those people on board because we're under a time frame in which we have to make

some quick progress for the instability of the explosives," he said.

Sam Mims, dialogue committee member, says the Army may never become a part of the process.

"We cannot sit back here and rely and depend on the Army to come to the table," he said, "because they may very well not ever come to the table. We're going to have to proceed with what we have. We do have a time limit, and if we keep messing around, the time frame is going to demand we do something, and it may not be what we want to do. It's my feeling they aren't coming to the table, and we have to move forward."

Sarno made it clear that the process for requests for information by the National Guard and the purpose of the dialogue committee are two separate things and are not connected.

The next conference call was Thursday from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Call 1-866-900-8984, with the conference ID 86569299. This will be a meeting of the entire dialogue committee.

Over the coming weeks, the technical work group and the dialogue committee will meet twice weekly until they meet again in person in March. Meeting dates will be published as they become available.

JURY

Continued from page 1

available, then decided to pen a resolution that was not about the method of disposal, but focused on the need "to get it out of here in the safest manner possible."

Without mentioning the open burn method, the police jury's resolution asks the federal agency "... to prevent any method of disposal of the M-6 propellant at Camp Minden that would cause harm to the citizens, the air quality, water quality, and any other danger that the disposal could create."

Additionally, the jury's resolution demands "the

EPA hold Public Hearing(s) to educate the citizens of the dangers and possible effects of any approved disposal method prior to implementation of M-6 disposal."

"We're hearing there are six methods of potential safe disposal, but we've not found out yet how many of the six methods are available to us," Bonsall said. "There are still some problems other than deciding on the method to use, like is the method available to us and if so, how long will it take. Answers are needed now."

Bonsall says he is satisfied with the language of the resolution.



"It's like I want it. We didn't jump out there and say something we couldn't

back up. Three or four members wanted to do something a long time ago, but I kept putting them off, because I didn't think we were prepared at the time to do something I thought would be meaningful," he said.

"We listened to a lot of people, including experts from both sides, and made a determination of what would be the best opinion which could be expressed on behalf of our constituents," Bonsall added.

Members of the jury voted unanimously (11-0 with one absent) at their Feb. 2 regular meeting to authorize that attorney Patrick Jackson and secretary-treasurer Ronda Carnahan prepare a properly formatted resolution.


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Dr. Denise A. Webb Family Medicine

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Dr. Denise A. Webb focuses on the individual health needs of her patients and empowers them to play an active role in their healthcare. It's definitely a team effort, but she encourages her patients to recognize the importance of their well-being and preventive care. Dr. Webb chose to become part of Minden Medical Center because of our "reputation for quality care and strong community involvement."

Board certified in **FAMILY MEDICINE**, Dr. Webb cares for patients of all ages. She treats everyday illnesses and chronic conditions. Services include: women's health care, school, work and camp physical exams, immunizations, lifestyle modifications, health maintenance and preventive health services. "Caring" is the one word she uses to describe herself. She chose the medical field because she saw people in need and knew she could make a difference.

Dr. Webb is accepting new patients at 101 Murrell Street, Suite 2 in Minden. Appointments may be made by calling (318) 377-3535.

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PERSONAL
Dr. Webb enjoys traveling, playing tennis, cooking, writing, playing fetch with Brutus (her black lab border collie mix), and volunteering with her sorority, Alpha Kappa Alpha, in her spare time.

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Waiting for a La. tax refund? You'll be waiting until March

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BATON ROUGE — Louisiana taxpayers who quickly filed their state taxes and are eagerly waiting for their tax refunds will

have to keep waiting.

The state Department of Revenue announced Wednesday that it won't start issuing refunds until the week of March 2.

The department said it was taking "extra precautions to verify the filings" because of concerns about fraudulent tax returns that had been discovered around the country.

Refunds were previously planned to start going out next week before the delay was announced. The revenue department says the week-long postponement will give it more time

to use a verification process to identify individual taxpayers.

Nearly 665,000 electronic returns have been filed with the state since Jan. 20, with no refunds issued so far.

Daniel Joseph Stedman

Memorial services for Daniel Joseph Stedman will be at 10 a.m., Saturday, Feb. 21, 2015, at Rose-Neath Funeral Home Chapel in Minden, with the Rev. Josh Beshea officiating. Daniel was born April 8, 1945, and

entered into rest Feb. 18, 2015.

He served his country in the United States Navy. Daniel retired from the Washington D.C. Fire Department after 23 years of service serving on Truck 5-Dent Place Georgetown, Ambulance 3, Engine 19, and Engine 32, and the Fire Boat, John Glenn. He

was a volunteer at Christus Schumpert Hospital in the cancer ward, cooked with Dutch Oven Club at Lake Bistineau State Park and was a member of AA with 31 years sobriety.

He is survived by Lisa Stedman of Minden; son, Daniel Stedman Jr. and wife, Julie and their children, Josh,

Matthew, Allie and Heather of Arizona; daughter, Tracie Suzenski and husband, Joe and their children, Danielle, Haley and Keeley of Pennsylvania.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.



STEDMAN

FLEMING

Continued from page 1

is, told him Explo employees were hiding material in the buildings, distributing it throughout.

"They had certain ways of masking it," he said. "They had done a real good job of hiding this material while it was accumulating. It was apparent they knew what they were doing was not a good idea."

Curtis told Fleming that Explo's contract did not allow the National Guard to inspect the storage bunkers.

"And they didn't volunteer, so there wasn't a whole lot the National Guard could do under the contract, and these people (Explo) were not being very cooperative in that effort."

In Fleming's opinion, the igloos at Camp Minden are in good shape, with exception of the one that exploded in October 2012.

"You can see evidence of an explosion – the trees are singed, some are blown down," Fleming said. "They (Stuckey and Curtis) described for me the three rail cars that were right next to it that got knocked over. Fortunately, it (M6) has now been stored properly, but now we're up against the problem of disposal."

Fleming says he is aware of the open tray burn technique requested by the Environmental Protection Agency, but he also knows the community questions the safety of that issue.

"I have challenged, as I know other members of the community have, the wisdom of an open tray burn, and we have challenged the EPA to come forward and prove to us that that would be a safe way of disposing of the material," he said. "As they have been thus far unable or unwilling to do that, I think it's important to look at other possible alternatives."

Fleming mentioned the dialogue committee comprised of elected officials, scientists, community members and activists that are discussing alternate methods of disposal.

"In a parallel course, we are also beginning to let bids again to look at what the cost would be for various methods of disposal," he said. "Hopefully, by March 9, we're going to have a decision from the committee and final say by the EPA to move forward on a process that will be effective, safe to the community and environment but also timely so we don't have further explosions."

Safety is the highest priority, but Fleming says cost is a major factor in the disposal choice.

"We can't do this with no consideration of cost," he said. "There has been money set aside, but if we use unnecessary expenditures, we rob other places and venues of their clean-

“THEY HAD CERTAIN WAYS OF MASKING IT. THEY HAD DONE A REAL GOOD JOB OF HIDING THIS MATERIAL WHILE IT WAS ACCUMULATING. IT WAS APPARENT THEY KNEW WHAT THEY WERE DOING WAS NOT A GOOD IDEA.”



CONGRESSMAN JOHN FLEMING

up money. We want to get it right."

Maj. Gen. Curtis reiterated that the contract signed by EPA, Army and Department of Justice at the federal level and then Louisiana National Guard and DEQ at the state level, is for open tray burn.

"That's where those funds are supposed to be used – for that disposal technique," Curtis said. "Last month, EPA bent a little bit and said they would entertain other methods of disposal, when that method is picked, the Army and the Department of Justice will have to agree to allow those funds in the federal judgment fund to be used on whatever the new process is."

It will require an amendment to the current contract, he said.

"They will amend the order we have in place to whatever this new disposal process is," Curtis said. "All parties will have to sign

that amendment."

Curtis went on to say the Army, which has not been part of the dialogue committee to date, "has not come to the table on this all along. They pushed away from it, trying to accept no responsibility in it."

However, he says, the Army is the responsible party.

"Because of the contract they (Army) let with Explo and the way they did not monitor that contract, that led to where we are today," Curtis said. "So, from day one to today, they've refused to accept responsibility and the only way we really got them to the table was a lot of political pressure, and DEQ at the state level issued an order. When that happened, the Army finally came to the table and agreed to let the money come out of this federal judgment fund but they still said, 'we accept no responsibility.'"

CRIMETRACKER

Webster Arrest Report

City and parish law enforcement officers made the following arrests during the period Feb. 9 through Feb. 17.

■ Katonia Smith, 32, 2100 block Methodist Camp Loop, Minden, on warrant for simple criminal damage to property.

■ Latavion Seamster, 22, Mason Street, Minden, disturbing the peace, resisting an officer, simple battery.

■ Janet Johnson, 52, no

address given, contempt of court.

■ Deborah Nolen, 42, 500 block Sunset, Minden, simple battery.

■ Wayne Bell, 29, 500 block Sunset, Minden, simple battery.

■ Danny Allen, 54, 300 block Cox Lane, Minden, disturbing the peace by intoxication.

■ Kenyon Harris, 25, 900 block Harris Street, Minden, simple criminal damage to property,

remaining after forbid-

den. ■ Emily Butler, 23, 800 block Brackin, Minden, disturbing the peace.

■ Brandi O. Saffel, 34, 7900 block U.S. Hwy. 80, Princeton, forgery, theft by fraud.

■ Joshua Aaron Reeves, 20, 600 block Hayes Avenue, Taylor, Arkansas, distribution of CDS Sch. II (methamphetamine).



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THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2015

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Kanisha 'Pee Wee' Phenix


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OPINION



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Have a question about this page or want to submit an opinion? Send a message to Pat Culverhouse.
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First Place: 2012 Best Editorial Page, Louisiana Press Association

PERSPECTIVE

Shame

TODAY'S LIBERALS ARE not racists, but they often behave that way. They would benefit immensely from considering some of the arguments in award-winning scholar Dr. Shelby Steele's forthcoming book, "Shame: How America's Past Sins Have Polarized Our Country."

Steele, a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, explains that in matters of race, there is an ideological vision that completely ignores truth — a vision he calls "poetic truth." In literature, poetic license takes liberties with grammatical rules, as well as realities, in order to create a more beautiful or powerful effect than would be otherwise possible.

Liberals have a poetic commitment to black victimization as the explanation for the many problems affecting a large segment of the black community.

The truth that blacks have now achieved a level of freedom comparable to that of others has to be seen as a lie. People who accept the truth about that freedom are seen as aligning themselves with America's terrible history of racism. Accepting that racism is still the greatest barrier to black achievement is the only way liberals can prove themselves innocent of racism.

Thus, "modern liberalism is grounded in a paradox: it tries to be 'progressive' and forward looking by fixing its gaze backward. It insists that America's shameful past is the best explanation of its current social problems. It looks at the present, but it sees only the past."

Liberals believe that black people's fate is determined by the beneficence of white people and government programs. Steele points out that despite the handicaps of past racism and segregation, our fate was left in our own hands. In the face of more government opposition than assistance, black Americans created the most articulate and effective movement for human freedom that the world has ever seen — the civil rights movement. This was done without any government grants and in a society that ran the gamut from a cool indifference toward blacks to murderous terrorism.

Though not politically correct to acknowledge, there are cultural patterns within the black community that keep blacks from achieving true parity with whites.

Sociologist Daniel Patrick Moynihan identified these patterns in his 1965 report, titled "The Negro Family: The Case for National Action." Moynihan, who later became a Democratic senator, was condemned as a racist by much of America's academic establishment for "blaming the victim." Worse than that, Moynihan's experience became an object lesson for other social scientists that any research that implies black responsibility for black problems is forbidden.

Moynihan's conclusions were no less than prophetic. Steele says that family breakdown is the single worst problem black America faces. It spawned countless other problems in black America, including gang violence, drug abuse, low academic achievement, high dropout and unemployment rates, and high crime and incarceration rates.

Liberalism is a moral manipulation that exaggerates inequity and unfairness in American life in order to justify overreaching public policies and programs. Liberalism undermines the spirit of self-help and individual responsibility.

For liberals in academia, the fact that black college students earn lower grades and have a higher dropout rate than any group besides reservation Indians means that blacks remain stymied and victimized by white racism. Thus, their push for affirmative action and other race-based programs is to assuage their guilt and shame for America's past by having people around with black skin color. The heck with the human being inside that skin.

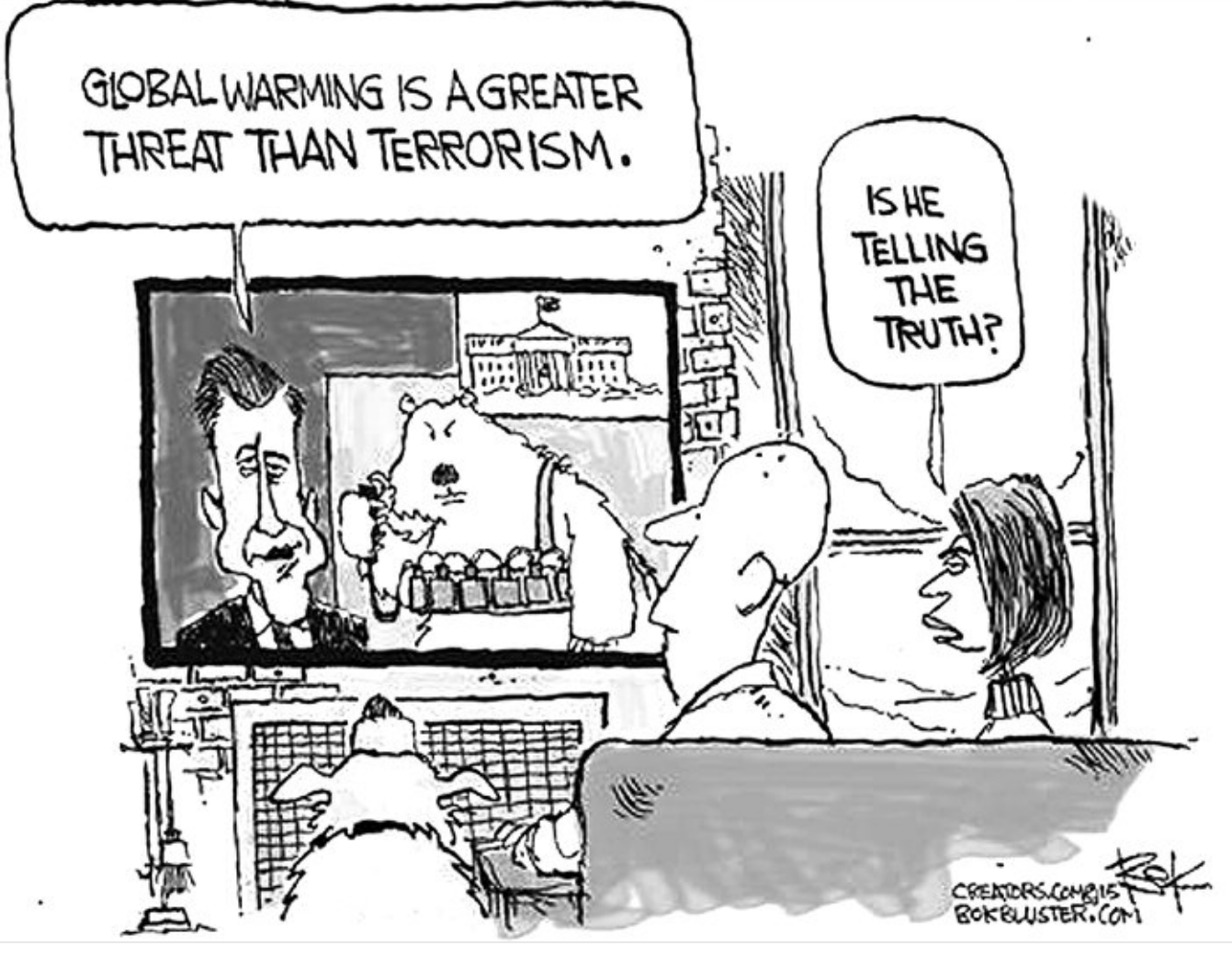
Shelby Steele argues that the civil rights movement's goal was a free society — one not necessarily free of all bigotry but free of illegal discrimination. After that, we minorities should be simply left alone, as opposed to being smothered by the paternalism, inspired by white guilt, that has emerged since the 1960s.

On that note, I just cannot resist the temptation to refer readers to my Proclamation of Amnesty and Pardon (<http://tinyurl.com/opd8vgd>), which grants Americans of European ancestry amnesty and pardon for their own grievances and those of their forebears against my people so that they stop feeling guilty and stop acting like fools in their relationship with Americans of African ancestry.

Walter E. Williams is a professor of economics at George Mason University.



WALTER WILLIAMS



PERSPECTIVE

Rumor has it ...

YOU KNOW YOU'RE running with some tough critics when one calls to say your journalism talents would make you a perfect replacement for Jon Stewart. Thanks anyway, but CNBC is on the other line looking for a replacement for Al Sharpton.

Speaking of taking liberties, every so often your humble observer is asked to put the straight skinny on some of the seemingly improbable events and rumors which are beginning to pop up faster than Kanye West. With the national fruit bowl beginning to fill as our country, and our own little corner of it steamrolls toward election time, here's what some are saying about a few of our recognizable people/candidates. Included is a brief explanation of what's behind it all.

In no particular order:

■ Scott Walker was tossed out of Marquette University for cheating (not true); Scott Walker has been accepting and hoarding campaign money for a presidential run since November, 1968 (hardly), Scott Walker claims he can see Russia from his back porch (sit down and shut up, Ms. Palin).

Walker did leave college without graduating. Apparently he was more in love with politics than with his books. Brian Williams (who also left college without a diploma) claims he and Walker left school carrying a 3.8 average. Walker doesn't remember. He

also does not remember raising campaign funds early in his career. Claims in 1968 he was 1-year old and too young to drive to contributors' homes. Admits he can't see Russia, but on clear days can see Chicago. Same thing, only fewer bullets.

■ Hillary Clinton has been missing in action, sort of, for the past few weeks and it's being circulated that she has joined advisors in an isolated location. Seems the woman who passionately wants to exchange her past acronym of FLOTUS (First Lady of The United States) for POTUS, (President of...) is now wondering if, when she's elected, it would save a lot of embarrassment if Bill could become FETUS (First Eunuch of...).

Question two: Would the procedure be covered under Obamacare. The jury's still out on whether POTUS could observe.

■ It's rumored that Sen. Rand Paul, the Republican who is tagged the "great Libertarian hope," passed up the opportunity to attend a Hollywood fundraiser thrown by Tom Selleck to enter a John McEnroe look-alike contest in Tinseltown. The Kibitzin' Kentuckian reportedly gained

four popularity points in California when he won the contest with a sweeping backhand of three Tea Partites who protested his appearance.

■ Popular political columnist Cal Thomas allegedly has undergone a thorough examination by physicians at the Say What? Nottaclue Clinic in Washington, D.C. for his recent column which contained the following: "(Louisiana Governor Bobby) Jindal is a long shot for president and even vice president, but he brings enthusiasm, a positive outlook and a decent record as governor and that's not a bad start for any presidential candidate."

A friend of YHO who loves Thomas wondered if Cal bothered to check the governor's record and his travel voucher. A fellow observer believes if Jindal were president, he'd wear out at least three Air Force Ones just trying to stay out of town.

■ Jeb Bush is apparently taking a very serious look at challenging for the Republican nomination. Some Republicans are apparently taking a serious look at Barbara Bush who allegedly was overheard saying, "Jeb's the smart one." Tea Party faithful are apparently taking a serious look at hemlock.

Pat Culverhouse is a journalist, political columnist and editorial page editor for the Minden Press-Herald. You may contact him at pat@press-herald.com.



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COMMUNITY

NORTH WEBSTER NEWS



Students at Brown Upper Elementary School recently participated in the 39th annual Minden St. Jude Auction when they raised \$2,500 to help kids battling cancer and other deadly diseases. They raised the money by having a dance, concession, wearing jeans to school (instead of uniforms) and a Mardi Gras photo booth. "We are so proud of our students for embracing the challenge and raising critical funds for St. Jude," Principal Jessica Spence said. "Every dollar raised will help support the St. Jude mission of finding cures and saving children in communities worldwide." Courtesy photo

Warrick is grand marshal

The advisory board to the annual Black History Parade in Springhill has named Dr. Cynthia Warrick as the 2015 Grand Marshal.

Warrick is a visionary leader with accomplishments in business start-up, management, government policy and legal affairs.

She ventured into higher education 16 years ago serving in multi-faceted leadership roles as an administrator, public servant, healthcare professional, environmental research scientist, faculty member, and accreditation reviewer.

She serves as Senior Fellow for the Center for Minority Health Services Research at Howard University's College of Pharmacy, a position she has held since 2009.

Prior to her interim

presidential appointment at Grambling State University, Warrick served as interim president at South Carolina State University (2012-2013) where she prevented the closure of a major academic program threatening the degrees of over 200 professional nursing students.

She successfully lobbied the South Carolina legislature to increase university funding and improve the institution's public relations in the wake of negative publicity and established key agency and private sector partnerships.

She also served as Dean and Chief Research Officer



WARRICK

and tenured full professor of Pharmacy (2006-2011) at Elizabeth City State University in North Carolina; associate professor and director of environmental and occupational health at Florida A&M University and assistant professor in the Division of Management, Policy & Community Health at the University of Texas School of Public Health in Houston.

Warrick earned a doctoral degree in environmental science and public policy at George Mason University, a master's degree in public policy from Georgia Institute of Technology and a bachelor's degree in pharmacy from Howard University.

The parade is at 1 p.m., Saturday, Feb. 21 in downtown Springhill.

Around Town

Friday, Feb. 20

Just Faith COGIC, 210 S. Fairview, Minden, will host a pre-anniversary program for Elder David and First Lady Delphas Stutson at 7 p.m. Guest speaker will be Elder Charles Harris, pastor of Gibsland COGIC. Everyone is invited.

Saturday, Feb. 21

Piney Hills Master Gardeners will present Buds and Blooms from 9 a.m. until noon at First United Methodist Church, 903 Broadway. There will be seminars, demonstrations and door prizes. Tickets are \$10 at the door. All proceeds go to the 4-H Youth Gardening Contest. For more information, call 927-4055 or 927-1777.

MHS Darling Pageant will be at 6 p.m. in the Minden High School Auditorium. Call 377-2766 for information.

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.

Sunday, Feb. 22

Growing Valley Missionary Baptist Church, 1686 Fuller Road, and Dr. George Rice, pastor, will have an Annual Building Fund Program at 2:30 p.m. Guest pastor is Willie C. Bryant, Mt.

Canaan MBC, Bienville.

Mt. Zion Christian Methodist Episcopal Church's 53rd Annual Rainbow Tea will be at 3 p.m. Theme: "Investing in Family, Friends and Faith." Guest speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Logan Hampton, president of Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee.

Miller Chapel Baptist Church's Annual Ushers' Day Service at 2:30 p.m. Guest speaker is Pastor Samuel Bradley. Everyone is welcome.

Black History Observance at 3 p.m. at New Home Baptist Church, 118 Church Street, Taylor. The Rev. James Smith of Galilee Missionary Baptist Church in Dubberly will be the guest speaker.

44th Church Anniversary at 2:30 p.m. at Greater St. Paul Baptist Church, 510 High Street. Guest speaker and church will be the Rev. Asby K. Glosson, pastor of New Light Baptist Church in Minden. Everyone is invited. Lunch will be served at 1 p.m.

King Solomon Baptist Church, 372 Saltworks Road in Sibley, Minister Rodney E. Williams and Evangelist Cynthia K. Williams, will host annual Black History Program at 3 p.m. Theme: "Attacked But Not Defeated." Special guest is Pastor

Uelyss Reed, Stonewall Baptist Church, Bossier City.

Pastor L.A. Thomas and Bright Star Baptist Church family will host a Black History program at 2:30 p.m. Guest minister is Pastor Billy Joe Hawks of Mount Pilgrim Baptist Church. Deacon William Douglas, retired state trooper and current captain with Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office, will be Black History guest speaker. Everyone is welcome.

Just Faith COGIC, 210 S. Fairview, Minden, will have a 16th anniversary celebration for Elder David and First Lady Delphas Stutson at 3 p.m. Guest speaker is Alendale District Supt. Michael Nation Sr., pastor of Greater Love Outreach Ministry of Vivian. Everyone is invited.

Black History Program at 3 p.m., at Antioch Baptist Church, Hwy. 79, Minden, the Rev. Roger Curry, pastor/teacher. Guest speaker will be the Rev. Gregory Deloach, pastor of Blue Run Baptist Church.

Tuesday, Feb. 24

Linda Weaver Clarke will teach a seminar on important elements of writing family history from 3 until 5 p.m. in the Stewart Center at the Webster Parish Library on East and West Street.

A key to happiness

A former pastor was giving advice to a younger man in the ministry and was asked how he prepared his sermons.

Among the many things he suggested was to always be on the lookout for quotations, some that made a point, some that explained a point and others just because they were good stories that could be used to illustrate topics.

A noted teacher of writing offered somewhat the same advice. Keep pen and paper at hand, listen to conversations, collect quotations and always be attentive to people and places around you.

Over the years, I've found myself collecting tidbits, stories and jokes that might someday spark an idea for a story or article.

As I was looking through some files, I came upon this one that is indeed relevant today just as it was when it was first written.

By an unknown author, the quote is taken from a list of things intended as inspiration for a good life.

"To be happy you need: Something to do, someone to love and something to look forward to."

Psychologists and other learned professionals have noted these things for years and it would probably be wise if people were to heed them.

We can all agree that an idle life is usually one of boredom and listlessness that can lead to depres-

sion. It is good to have something to do each day to avoid such a life.

Those who are still employed may have no problem with this, as they know they will be going to the job each day where they will have certain tasks to do.

But what about the unemployed or retired ones who have no regular positions that require their presence? They, too, need something to do, and it may take a little soul-searching and planning to come up with a program to occupy them throughout the day.

One suggestion might be to volunteer with an organization that helps others and, in turn, one would be helping himself. Plan a regular visitation of shut-ins or those in nursing homes. Prepare a meal for someone who has been ill or who has a loved one they are caring for.

There are a number of ways to find something to do. It may take a little thinking and preplanning, but one would find it worth his while to seek out situations where he could occupy his hands and his mind.

It's a well-known fact that everyone needs someone to love. It may be a family member, a neighbor or, in some instances, a pet. (While I'm not a pet

person, I've witnessed the effectiveness of one living alone having a pet to care for.) Just knowing there is someone who loves you and depends on you being there can fill your days with contentment and happiness.

We all need something to look forward to. When we go to bed at night, we need a reason to get up the next morning. It can be as simple as joining friends at the coffee shop for coffee and visiting; a breakfast date with your Sunday school class or just a group of friends, a shopping trip, a stop at the library, a visit with a friend from high school.

We can make plans for our next vacation, searching out new places to visit. Browse through the new seed catalogs and plan a flower or vegetable garden.

It doesn't take much to give us something to look forward to, but we must make a conscious effort to reach out to others and plan things for our days.

Just a little effort can surely add to our happiness with something to do, someone to love and something to look forward to.

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.



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SPORTS

SPORTS briefs

COLLEGE BB

Duke tops UNC in instant classic

DURHAM, N.C. (AP) — Back and forth they went, trading big leads, shots and chances to win both in regulation and overtime.

And then the No. 4 Duke Blue Devils found a way to send their fierce neighborhood rivals home empty again.

Quinn Cook scored 22 points, freshman Tyus Jones matched a season high with 22 and Duke outlasted the No. 15 Tar Heels 92-90 on Wednesday night.

"It's tough for this game to always live up to the hype," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "But I think tonight's game exceeded it."

In a thriller befitting college basketball's most intense rivalry, the Blue Devils (23-3, 10-3 Atlantic Coast Conference) let an early 13-point lead slip away and trailed by 10 with less than four minutes left in regulation before rallying for their sixth straight win this season, and their ninth in 12 meetings in the series.

The three freshmen who start for Duke had their customary big games: Jones added eight assists, Justise Winslow added 16 points and Jahliil Okafor had 12 points and 13 rebounds.

Kennedy Meeks and Brice Johnson each scored 18 points to lead North Carolina (18-8, 8-5). Nate Britt pulled the Tar Heels within two with one free throw with 3.5 seconds left. He missed the second, Marcus Paige raced in and got his hands on the rebound — but Winslow grabbed it as the buzzer sounded.

"My teammates came to battle," said Paige, who finished with five points on 2-of-11 shooting. "They played fantastic the whole game. And I didn't really give them anything."

Amile Jefferson scored 13 points for the Blue Devils, who went up 90-89 with just under two minutes left in OT on Okafor's layup.

Cook gave Duke a two-point lead with a free throw with 31.8 seconds remaining. And when he missed the second attempt, he gave the Tar Heels a chance.

North Carolina milked the clock and worked the ball to J.P. Tokoto, whose short jumper from the left baseline hit off the front of the rim. The rebound went to Cook, who was fouled with 5.2 seconds left.

Cook missed the first free throw but made the second to put Duke up 92-89. North Carolina got the ball near midcourt before calling a timeout. Britt was fouled before the Tar Heels could even think about hoisting a 3.

Tokoto had 15 points, Isaiah Hicks scored 12 and Britt finished with 11 points, while Johnson added 12 points before fouling out early in overtime for the Tar Heels, who have lost four of five.

Britt put them up by 10 with less than four minutes to play with his knifing layup through the lane. And then the Blue Devils stormed back.

"It's not like we drew up anything," Krzyzewski said. "When they came back, that was on them. We just said, 'Play, man. Follow your instincts and play.' And they did."

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Lakeside Jamboree

CRIMSON TIDE, WARRIORS SET TO BEGIN BASEBALL SEASON



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is as follows:

- 3:30 Evangel vs. Minden
- 4:30 Evangel vs. Lakeside
- 5:30 Calvary Baptist vs. Minden
- 6:30 Calvary Baptist vs. Northwood
- 7:30 Lakeside vs. Northwood

Someone needs to tell Mother Nature it's time to play ball.

Yes, even though temperatures are still dipping down into the thirties, baseball season will begin Thursday afternoon at Lakeside High School.

The Warriors will host the Lakeside baseball jamboree, beginning at 3:30 p.m. Thursday afternoon in Sibley.

Five schools will be in attendance, with Calvary Baptist, Evangel and Northwood driving over to compete with Lakeside and the Minden Crimson Tide.

The jamboree was originally scheduled to take place on Saturday at both Lakeside and Minden High's Griffith Stadium, but inclement weather forced the action up a couple days.

The format for the jamboree has every team playing two, three inning games with no time limit restrictions. Teams will flip a coin to decide who is the home team, with the exception of Lakeside, who will be the home team for their pair of games. Each team is allowed the chance to take infield/outfield before the game if they wish to do so.

The scheduled start times for each game

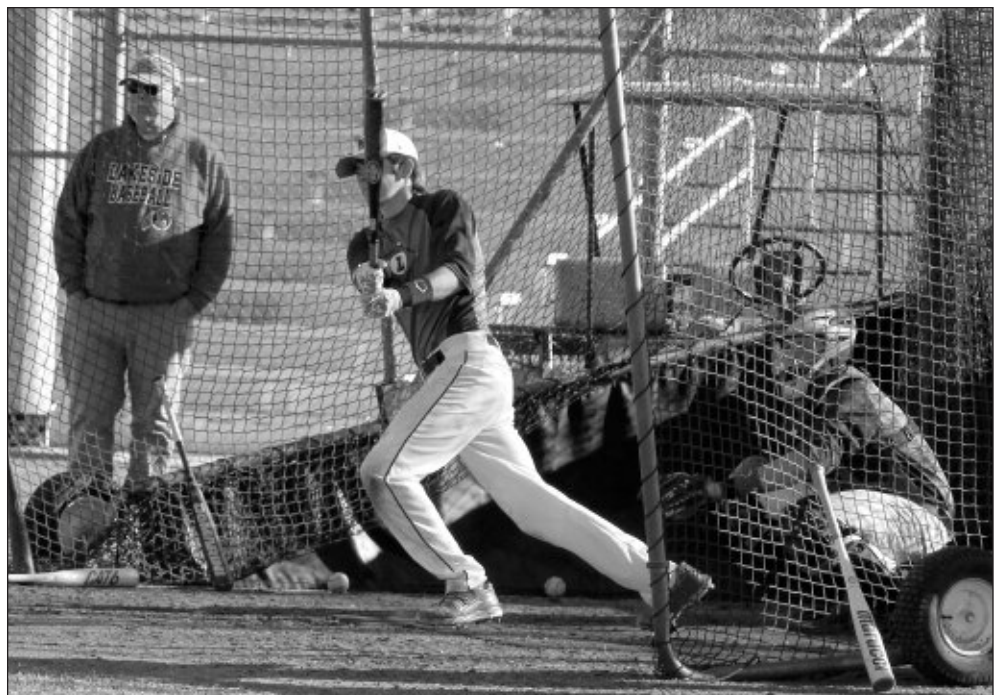
"In the two scrimmages we've hit the ball pretty well," Crimson Tide head coach Dean Francis said. "We've been putting the ball in play and our pitching has held its own. We're just going to try and get as much done as possible. That's why you scrimmage, to learn from your mistakes and get all that out."

The Crimson Tide will be tested right off the bat with two games against baseball powers Evangel and Calvary.

"Today with the jamboree starting, it's the start of our season," Francis said. "We're going in playing defending state champions so we've got to be ready."

The Lakeside Warriors are looking forward to starting their season as well.

"The vast majority of our varsity guys have been together since they were little boys," Lakeside head coach Bob Gray said. "In both scrimmages we've



Press-Herald Photos/Blake Branch

played pretty well against pretty good ball teams."

Lakeside will face another "pretty good" team Thursday when they square off with the Evangel Eagles.

The Warriors also get an early glance at the team they'll be battling for the district title this year, the Calvary Cavaliers.

"We think we'll be

better this year," Gray said. "When you look at our district, I think anybody can beat anyone on any given day, but Calvary is probably the clear cut favorite."

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Minden Press-Herald and Holcomb's **ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**



Congratulations to Minden High guard L'Jarius "JJ" Sneed. He is this week's MPH/Holcomb's Athlete of the Week after scoring 14 points and hitting the game winning free throws in last week's win over Benton.

The Press-Herald's Athlete of the Week feature is brought to you every other Thursday by Holcomb's Body Shop

LOUISIANA TECH BASEBALL

Tech bats get hot in 12-2 win



LAKE CHARLES — After four games of struggling offensively, Louisiana Tech bats exploded for 12 runs on 14 hits as the Bulldogs notched their first win of the Greg Goff era in a 12-2 victory over McNeese State on Wednesday at Cowboy Diamond.

The 12 runs scored is the most by a LA Tech (1-4) team since the 2013 season and more runs than the Bulldogs racked up in the first four games of this season combined.

"I am proud of our guys for never giving up after some tough results on this road trip," Goff said. "We showed a lot of fight today with our backs against the wall and I could not be happier with the effort of our players to go out and get a win today."

McNeese State (4-1) recorded just four hits through the first seven innings off LA Tech starting pitcher Phil Maton (1-0), who picked up the win for

the Bulldogs after holding the Cowboys to one run on four hits, while striking out six and walking one in seven full innings on the mound. Adam Atkins came on in relief in the eighth and gave up one run on three hits before Jared Keating closed things out in the ninth to clinch the victory.

Cole Prejean (0-1) was charged with the loss for the Cowboys after giving up two runs on five hits in five innings of work.

McNeese State struck first in the bottom of the second when Cowboys third baseman Matt Gallier hit a two-out solo home run straight down the right field line, good for a 1-0 lead for the home team.

The Bulldogs began the fifth inning with back-to-back singles by Mason Paxton and J.D. Perry to set up runners on the corners with no outs. Graham Ackal came through with LA Tech's first run of the game with an RBI single through the right side to score Paxton and tie the ball game at 1-1. Bryce Stark followed up with a sacrifice bunt to bring up Taylor Love who earned a walk to load the bases. Chandler Hall's sacrifice fly ball to center field

brought home Perry to give Tech its first lead over the Cowboys.

Kimbell led off the sixth by crushing a home run to the deepest part of the ball park to extend LA Tech's lead to 3-1. The Bulldogs kept the inning going by loading the bases, which forced McNeese State to bring in left-hander Tyler Erickson in relief. After a long at bat, Stark flied out to center to give Tech a 4-1 advantage, which was immediately followed by a wild pitch to make it a 5-1 lead for the Bulldogs.

The Bulldogs piled on the runs in the seventh when McNeese sent Day to the mound, as LA Tech plated six runs on five hits, including a two-out grand slam by Stark, his first homer in a LA Tech uniform, to make it an 11-1 lead.

Stark led the Bulldogs with five RBI in the win thanks to his grand slam in the seventh, while Jacob Derouen, Kimbell and Perry each had three-hit games for LA Tech. Paxton totaled two hits for the Bulldogs, while B.J. Findley and Graham Ackal also had base knocks to help lead Tech to its first win of the season, against McNeese's pitching staff.

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GOOD NEWS

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

God's Odds



KATHY IRIZARRY

Wicked Jeroboam was still king of the northern kingdom of Israel when Abijah began to reign as King of Judah. Sadly, these kindred kingdoms arrayed for war against one another, 400,000 troops under Abijah and 800,000 under Jeroboam. The odds definitely seemed stacked in Jeroboam's favor, but Abijah didn't see it that way. "Abijah stood up upon mount Zemaraim, which is in mount Ephraim, and said, Hear

me, thou Jeroboam, and all Israel; Ought ye not to know that the LORD God of Israel gave the kingdom over Israel to David for ever, even to him and to his sons by a covenant of salt? Yet Jeroboam the son of Nebat, the servant of Solomon the son of David, is risen up, and hath rebelled against his lord" 2 Chronicles 13:4-6. Yes, Jeroboam was the one who led the people into idol worship by providing two golden calves

and set up his own system of priests rejecting God's instructions. Abijah continued, "But as for us, the LORD is our God, and we have not forsaken him. . . And, behold, God himself is with us for our captain, and his priests with sounding trumpets to cry alarm against you. O children of Israel, fight ye not against the LORD God of your fathers; for ye shall not prosper" verses 10, 12. Abijah

spoke with confidence in his God, but Jeroboam only saw his numbers in comparison to Judah's. He would not back down, but rather, set an ambush considering the battle already won. He had not, however, reckoned with God's odds. "When Judah looked back, behold, the battle was before and behind: and they cried unto the LORD, and the priests sounded with the trumpets. Then the men of Judah gave a

shout: and as the men of Judah shouted, it came to pass, that God smote Jeroboam and all Israel before Abijah and Judah. And the children of Israel fled before Judah: and God delivered them into their hand" 2 Chronicles 13:14-16. When you find yourself in situations where it seems the odds are against you, just cling to the LORD and remember, "If God be for us, who can be against us?" Romans 8:31.

ALONG THE WAY

Be careful what you do and say....someone is watching

Remember the children song? O be careful little feet where you go; For the Father up above is looking down in love, so be careful little feet where you go..." Sometimes I get the sense that I am being watched, though I may be all along. It is eerie! Bet you have felt that way too from time to time. Well, the truth is "Someone is really watching us." Psalms 33: 18 and 34:15 remind us that we are never out of God's sight. Just like a loving parent

who is always aware where the children are – that's our loving Father – God. Isn't it comforting to know He is always 'on the job', watching out for our well-being? We never have to wonder or hope about the presence of God. He is everywhere we might wander in life. Isaiah says we are like sheep; we have a wandering nature. We will take the easy road 'to get out of town', and many just don't care about where that road leads.



BILL CRIDER

That is how sheep get lost and wander far from the fold!. In Luke 15 the wayward son took the low road and soon found 'the wild world' was closer than he thought it to be. And true to form, the 'world' took him in and raped him of everything his father had instilled in him. Farther and farther from home he wandered aimlessly....right into a Gentile pigpen. That is enough to wake up Jewish lad, eating the hog's food – and we know what that is called. One day he came to his senses and remember his loving father. He wanted to go home, see his father, take his punishment...just anything to get back into the safety of the

father's watchful care. He was willing to serve as a slave just if "I can come home." We all know this feeling....we have been 'far from home'...maybe eaten some of the slop with the pigs. Not a pretty picture is it? He was not careful where he went, how he spent his time and where temptation would lead. He was living the good life, "let the good times roll" was his motto. Truth is the Father is always watching for us. He is longing to have that close fellowship with us He originally planned. After Adam and Eve disobeyed and sinned against God, they broke fellowship with Him. Though they (the people) drifted far from Him,

God was always watching for opportunities to 'touch them' again. He was watching, with tearful eyes. Psalms 34:18 tells of a loving God that is close to us in all situations, especially when our hearts are breaking. We all have problems and circumstances in life to deal with. But it is reassuring to know our God is there ready to help us climb back onto the right road and head us homeward. He wants to direct our feet, guard our speech, shield our eyes and ears, protect us in every way. We can never move out of His watchful care. Today if you are alone, downtrodden, saddened or frightened – be aware that

God is watching you. He is waiting for you to turn and look to Him. Make eye-contact today with this loving Father that will never forsake you. As we taught our children, we need to heed the words to the children's song mentioned above: Be careful little eyes what you see – Be careful little ears what you hear; Be careful little hands what you do – Be careful little tongue what you say, For the Father up above is looking down with love....so be careful in everything you do...



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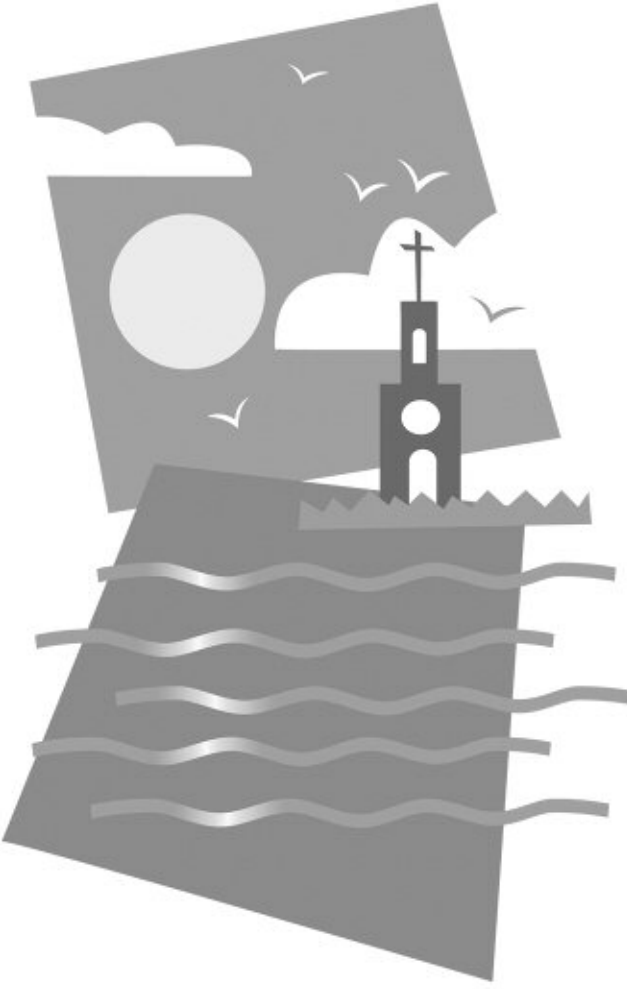
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In Praise of Placidity

The poem "Desiderata" by Max Ehrmann opens with the following line: "Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence." The term "desiderata" is Latin for "desired things" and Ehrmann's poem is a compendium of sage advice for a well-lived life. Focusing only on the first line of the poem, we would do well to remember that the hustle and bustle of our modern world is fast, noisy, and devoid of a sense of calmness and serenity that is important to our well-being. While there are times when we crave speed and excitement, a well-balanced life also needs a fair amount of quiet calm. Time spent alone, and without the noisy distractions of phones, televisions and computer screens, can be instrumental in slowing us down. Turn off the lights and any electronic devices, including your phone, yes, your phone has an "Off" button. Spend some time just being there. We forget that we don't always have to be doing something. Sometimes just being is enough. Try to carry your newfound sense of calmness and serenity back into your everyday life. And finally, realize that you can take a short serenity break anytime by just closing your eyes and going to a peaceful and relaxing spot in your mind.



Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

– Christopher Simon

John 14:27

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300 Camp St. • Minden
- Mt. Nebo Missionary Baptist Church
5489 Hwy. 531 • Dubberly
- New Birth Ministries
208 N. Fairview St. • Minden • 377-7486
- New Ebenezer Baptist Church
Church Hwy. 153 • Castor • 544-8502
- New Friendship Baptist Church
Friendship Rd. • Castor • 544-8600
- New Light Baptist Church
413 W. R. Reader • Minden • 377-3540
- New Ramah Baptist Church
Hwy. 153 South • Ashland • 544-8473
- New Zion Baptist Church
Childs Road, Evergreen Community
377-8500
- New Zion Baptist Church
570 Amos Cutoff Rd. • Doyline • 745-2700
- North Acres Baptist Church
1852 Lewisville Rd. • 377-4315
- Parkway Baptist Church
16016 HWY 79 • 377-0007
- Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church
207 Claiborne St. • Sibley • 371-0828
- Pilgrims Rest Baptist Church
211 Pilgrims Rest Church Rd. • 949-6159
- Pleasant Hill Baptist Church
Fryeburg • 377-5215
- Pleasant Grove Missionary
Baptist Church
Hwy. 531 Dubberly Rd.
- Rocky Mt. Baptist Church
1437 Hwy. 534 • 927-5070
- Salem Baptist Church
493 Hearn Rd. • Shongaloo • 377-5813
- Sibley Missionary Baptist Church
453 S. Main St. • Sibley • 377-4692
- Saint James Baptist Church
158 St. James Church Rd. • 377-2485
- St. John Divine Baptist Church
517 Lake Rd. • Heflin • 371-1948
- St. Mark Baptist Church, Doyline
Doyline
- St. Rest Baptist Church
611 E. Union St. • 377-5455
- Trinity Baptist Church • Doyline
- Union Grove Baptist Church
Penal Farm Rd. • 377-6152
- Unity Baptist Church
304 Humble St. • Cotton Valley • 832-4896
- Valley Peace Baptist Church
707 Crow • Cotton Valley • 832-4463
- Valley Spring Baptist Church
212 Fuller Rd. • 377-5773
- West Lake Baptist Church
2587 Hwy. 163 • Doyline • 745-2458
- Whispering Pines Missionary Baptist Church
16330 Hwy 371 • 377-5775
- Zion Hill Baptist Church
118 Pilgrim Rest Rd. • Doyline • 745-3434

- CATHOLIC**
- St. Paul Catholic Church
414 Fincher Rd. • 377-5364
- CHRISTIAN**
- Holy Faith Christian Church
222 Maiden Lane • 377-9120
- CHURCH OF CHRIST**
- Church of Christ
211 N. College • 377-1967
 - Northside Church of Christ
613 Constable
- CHURCH OF CHRIST IN GOD**
- Faith Temple Doctrinal
Church of Christ in God
414 Midland • 377-3325
- CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST**
- Church of God in Christ
310 Gum • 738 Peach St. • 377-8763
 - Creighton Hill Church of God in Christ
608 Creighton
 - Forest Chapel Church of God in Christ
310 Gum St. • 377-0805
 - Greater Blessing
Church of God in Christ
409 Sibley Road • 377-9974
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518 Constable St. • 371-0367
 - New Beginnings Church of God in Christ
719 East St. • 377-6160
 - Sibley Church of God in Christ
276 Weatherthorn St. • 377-5013
 - Tillman Church of God in Christ
- EPISCOPAL**
- St. John's Episcopal Church
1107 Broadway • 377-1259
- FULL GOSPEL BAPTIST**
- Praise Temple of Minden
208 N. Fairview • 377-7486
- INDEPENDENT CHRISTIAN**
- Yellow Pine Christian Church
Yellow Pine Rd. off Hwy. 7
- VICTORY PRAISE & WORSHIP CENTER**
- 1001 Victory Way • 382-1500
- INTERDENOMINATIONAL**
- New Life Fellowship Church
220 Pine St. • 371-0409
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- Jehovah's Witnesses
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- LATTER-DAY SAINTS**
- The Church of Jesus Christ of
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310 Wellington Dr. • Bossier • 401-5990
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- Immanuel Lutheran Church
2565 Airline Dr. • Bossier City • 746-2215
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Dubberly
 - Doyline United Methodist Church
116 Main St. • Doyline • 745-3512
 - Evergreen United Methodist Church
Evergreen Road • Minden • 377-0857
 - First United Methodist Church
903 Broadway • 377-1483
 - First United Methodist Church
1500 Church St. • Cotton Valley • 832-5537
 - Heflin United Methodist Church
124 N. Church St. • Heflin • 377-7079

- Lakeview United Methodist Church
301 Lakeshore Drive • 377-1226
 - Mt. Zion CME Church
414 E. Union • 377-4171
 - New Hope CME
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 - Pilgrim Rest United Methodist Church
Webster Parish Rd. #258
 - Pine Grove United Methodist Church
4549 Hwy 159 • 377-2609
 - Pleasant Valley United Methodist Church
Hwy. 7 North • 371-1134
 - Sibley United Methodist Church
403 S. Main St. • Sibley • 377-0805
 - Southern Methodist Church
Corner of Yale & Fairview
 - Union CME Church
1046 Saltworks Road • Sibley
 - Webster Memorial CME Church
403 Walter Lyons Rd. • 377-2370
 - Wesley Grove CME
Humble Ave. • Cotton Valley • 832-5311
- NON-DENOMINATIONAL**
- Christian Church at Minden
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 - Faith Restoration Ministries
380 Country Club Circle • 371-1337
 - Fresh Fire Ministries
407 Meadowview Dr. • 426-1637
 - House of Prayer For All Nations
52 Dewberry Lane • Dubberly • 377-7765
 - House of Prayer RTBM
1222 Bayou Ave • Minden • 377-8373
 - Living Word Worship Center
440 Hwy. 531 • 371-9462
 - Many Nations Tribal Church
Dubberly • 377-8324
 - Minden Christian Center
318 Dixie St. • 745-2569
 - To God Be The Glory Deliverance
Outreach Ministries
6738 Hwy 531 • Heflin • 377-9059
 - Vineyard Christian Fellowship
705 Main St. • 371-2478
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- Apostolic Lighthouse
1001 Lewisville Rd.
377-2626 or 413-0296
 - First Pentecostal Church
612 Hwy 531 • 377-0390
 - First Pentecostal Church
Gibsland • 843-6928 or 371-6982
 - First United Pentecostal Church
21317 Hwy 371 • Cotton Valley • 832-4410
 - United in Christ Pentecostal Church
5782 Hwy. 7 • 371-9577
- PRESBYTERIAN**
- Minden Presbyterian Church
1001 Broadway St. • 377-3560
- SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST**
- Minden Seventh-Day Adventist Church
108 Harvey's Way • 371-0870
 - New Start Seventh-Day Adventist Church
106 Magnolia St. • 382-0858
- UNITED PENTECOSTAL**
- Apostolic Temple of Truth
724 Mims Grocery Rd. • 371-0175
 - First Pentecostal Church
612 Hwy 531 • 377-0390
 - Haughton United Pentecostal Church
127 Oak Lane • 949-9827
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701 Carolina St. • 371-0110

Veteran Lester Holt in unique position at NBC

NEW YORK — Lester Holt's first report card as NBC's choice to fill in for suspended anchor Brian Williams as "Nightly News" anchor found him maintaining the network's ratings lead, although the competition has tightened.

The understated understudy has worked without a break since Williams took himself off the newscast on Feb. 7 and was suspended for six months by NBC News on Feb. 10. The network continues to investigate Williams for misrepresenting his experiences as a journalist.

"Nightly News" with Holt averaged 9.43 million viewers last week, the Nielsen company said. ABC's "World News Tonight" had 9.03 million viewers and the "CBS evening News" had 7.63 million. The 400,000-viewer advantage over ABC last week is smaller than the average 587,000-viewer edge by NBC for the season that began last September.

Holt, 55, has been with NBC News since 2000 and before that worked as a news anchor in Chicago for 14 years. Besides being Williams' chief sub for the past two years, he co-anchors "Dateline NBC," "Weekend Today" and "Nightly News" on the weekends.

He's been placed in a uniquely awkward position, asked to right the ship for a company desperate to get out of the headlines, not knowing whether it's a temporary position or one that could become permanent. And if Williams does not return, what can — or should — Holt do to prove he's the right person for the job?

"It's tough," said veteran news executive Rick Kaplan, once Holt's boss when he was MSNBC president. "He has to be very careful, because until Brian's future is outlined very clearly, Lester is just doing the network a favor in a way."

He called Holt a wise choice for the role. Holt has unassailable credentials, works hard and does the job without drawing atten-



Lester Holt. Courtesy Photo

tion to himself, Kaplan said. "What NBC needs is quiet competence, and Lester has that in abundance," Kaplan said. "Lester is someone everybody can be proud of. He is somebody the people of NBC News can be proud of and rally behind, because that's what they need right now."

Holt is choosing to keep his head down and do the job, not speaking publicly about his role. He's an accomplished bass guitar player, but he's not going on entertainment programs to show his chops or swap stories about the news business. Frequent appearances on talk shows led to trouble for Williams, and NBC knows that it's no time to display how entertaining their news anchor is.

"I never believed the anchor-man should be the know-it-all," Holt said in a 2003 interview with The Associated Press. "And I try

to communicate that to the audience. While I have some knowledge from my years of experience, what I want to do is walk you through this because we're all walking through this together."

When the Iraq War started last decade, MSNBC similarly worked Holt hard, often giving him anchor shifts during the day and in the evening, and having him appear on "Today" in the morning.

There's no indication Holt has lusted after Williams' job. They're the same age and, until two weeks ago, Williams was about as secure as you can get in the broadcast business, armed with a long-term contract and atop the ratings.

But there's also no indication Holt won't work to take advantage of an opportunity.

NBC will be watching closely to see how the Holt-anchored

broadcast holds up in the ratings. "Nightly News" won on four of the five nights last week, losing only on Wednesday, the evening after Williams was suspended and his name was stripped from the broadcast. NBC has won 282 straight weeks in the ratings, Nielsen said.

But reliance on ratings is tricky. Suppose NBC sinks — would it be because viewers didn't like Holt, or because they were angry at NBC because of what Williams did? Or angry at NBC because of how Williams was treated?

Holt's lack of flashiness may be just what NBC needs now, but that's something that could be a handicap when executives are choosing the person who would essentially be the face of the network news division. Executives often feel they need stars in that role, the Katie Courics, Diane Sawyer or Matt Lauer of the

world. David Muir's recent success replacing Sawyer at "World News Tonight" shows the desire for big names may be overrated.

While people like Russ Mitchell, Carole Simpson and James Brown have filled in, and Max Robinson was a co-anchor at ABC News more than 30 years ago, a black journalist has never been a sole anchor on one of the three network evening newscasts. There will be interest in whether Holt has the chance to be the first.

"I'm not ascribing motives," said Richard Prince, a former Washington Post journalist now at the Maynard Institute for Journalism Education. "I'm just saying that it hasn't happened."

NBC's immediate goal is to find Holt a few days off, preferably by this weekend.

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



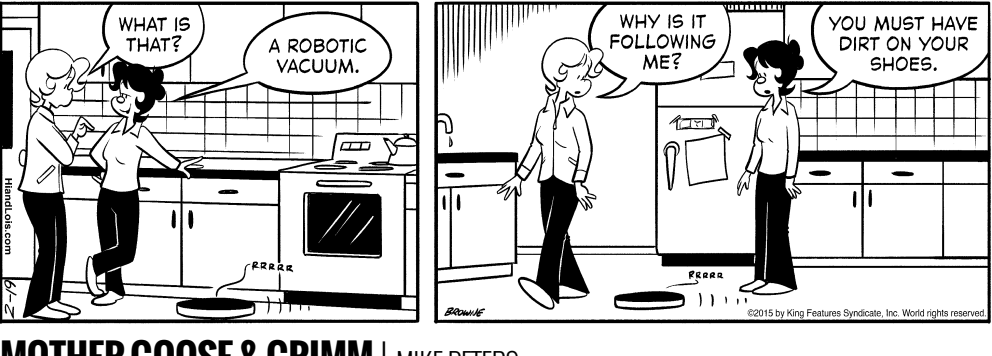
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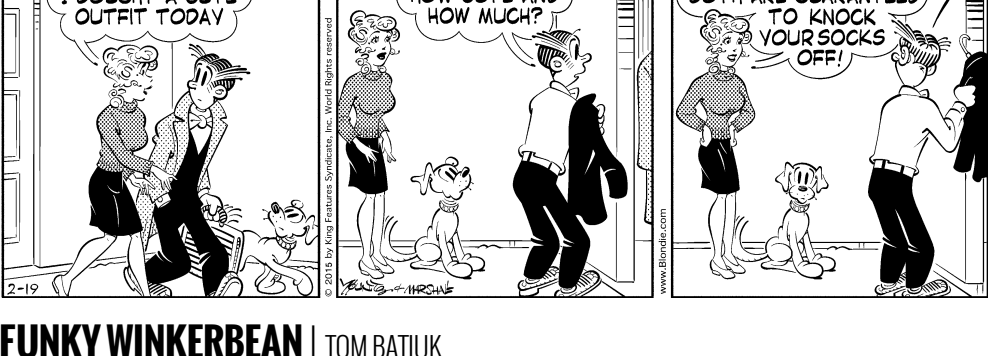
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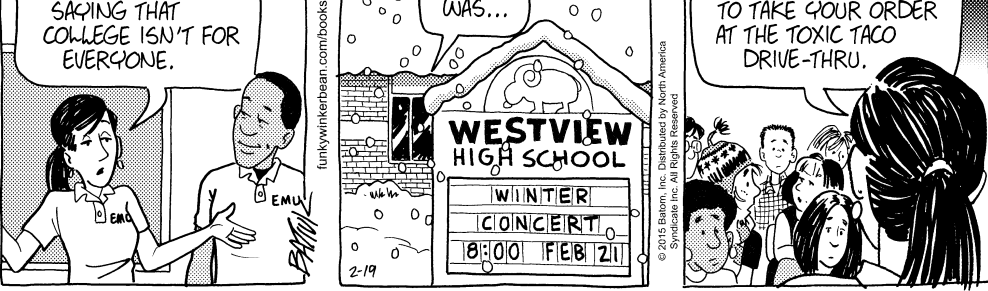
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AUCTIONS

ESTATE AUCTION Sat Feb 21st 10:00AM. To settle the estate of Willie Fey Roberts, 305 Laurel St., Haughton, LA. E. McKinnley to High School. Turn on Laurel to auction. Furniture, antiques, misc. glassware, cookware, pottery, R. R. light, desks, 10X16 portable build, dinner bell, iron wagon wheels, linens, #7 sickle sye, 2 refrigerators, washer & dryer. Far more than this list! Inspection Fri Feb 20th 9am-4pm. Auctioneer Al Cox #626. Call 318-949-3044

MISC.

CEMETERY LOT FOR SALE Section 1, Lord's Supper, Lot 54, space 6, Gardens of Memory, Minden \$995. Call 455-1671

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Minden Planning Commission Meeting
March 5, 2015 - 10:00 a.m.
Pelican Conference Room - Minden City Hall

On the agenda is a request from Dr. Eddy W. Sherman II for a zoning change on property owned by him located at the municipal address of 164 Country Club Circle. The zoning change being requested is from R-1 (Single Family Residential) to B-1 (Neighborhood Commercial).

The purpose of this zoning change is for the proposed construction of a dental office/clinic on the property.

Legal Description:

TRACT 291.94 X 651.56 X 589.45 X 171.80 X 299.70 X 150.50 X 328.31 FT. IN SW/4 OF SW/4 SEC. 13-19-9, LESS AC. SOLD, LESS 4.49 AC. SOLD, LESS 1 AC. SOLD, LESS 0.01 AC. SOLD FOR HWY. R/W, LESS 1.24 AC. SOLD, LESS AC. SOLD, & LESS 4.49 AC. OUT OF SW/4 OF SW/4 & NW/4 OF SW/4 SOLD (PARCEL #112600)

All interested parties will be given a chance to be heard.

February 12 & 19 & 26, 2015
Minden Press-Herald

Village of Heflin, Owner, P.O. Box 198, Heflin, Louisiana 71039, separate sealed BIDS for Landscaping & Maintenance of Village property. Information and Contract may be obtained by calling 318-377-9799 by March 4, 2015.

If you have any questions please call 377-9799 or email villageofheflin@suddenlinkmail.com

Thank you, Shery Limosnero, Village Clerk

February 18-20, 2015
Minden Press-Herald

WANTED

Applications for Professional Services for the following project

will be accepted until 2:00 p.m., Thursday, March 12, 2015. Responses to the Request for Qualifications must be submitted according to the requirements listed in the RFQ. Interested firms must obtain an official Request for Qualifications (RFQ) package via email from Ms. Jamie Richard, Project Coordinator, CSRS, Inc., Email: JRichard@csrsonline.com. This includes all correspondence regarding this RFQ.

ONLY THOSE FIRMS THAT HAVE OBTAINED THE OFFICIAL RFQ PACKAGE FROM CSRS, INC. WILL BE CONSIDERED BY LCTCS FACILITIES CORPORATION.

LATE OR INCOMPLETE SUBMISSIONS MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Project Description: Professional Design Services for Northwest Louisiana Technical College, New Workforce Development Building, located in Minden, Louisiana. The project includes a new building connecting to the existing Workforce Development facility.

Applications shall be delivered or mailed to: LCTCS Facilities Corporation c/o CSRS, Inc. Attn: Mr. Casey Anderson, Project Manager 6767 Perkins Road, Suite 200 Baton Rouge, LA 70808 Ph: (225) 769-0546 Fx: (225) 767-0060

February 19 & 26, 2015
March 5, 2015
Minden Press-Herald

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| 1 Move like a moth | 39 Furniture wood | 1 Envelope part | 24 Chances, for short |
| 5 Comical Caesar | 42 Lent a hand | 2 Volcanic outflow | 25 Cattle call? |
| 8 Man or Wight | 45 Breathing passage | 3 Lay — thick | 26 Pram |
| 12 Thin wood strip | 49 Scandina- vian capital | 4 Heavy blow | 28 Insepa- rable |
| 13 Pair | 50 Einstein's birthplace | 5 No one you know | 29 Parade ribbon |
| 14 Celeb | 52 Guy | 6 — Jima | 30 Historic period |
| 15 Acknowl- edge | 53 Tourna- ment format | 7 Finished | 31 Society newbie |
| 16 Harry Potter's pal | 54 Lawyer's due | 8 Narrow strips of land | 36 "Scar- face" |
| 17 The Su- premes, e.g. | 55 Related (to) | 9 Ecdysiast | 37 — out a living |
| 18 Jipijapa hat | 56 Burning heap | 10 Secular | 38 Teutonic |
| 20 Moral principles | 57 Ever- green type | 11 Cupid's alias | 41 Half dozen, in a way |
| 22 Swindle | 58 Profits | 19 Brief time (Abbr.) | 42 Barrel part |
| 23 Mischie- vious kid | | 21 "— the season ..." | 43 Catch sight of |
| 24 Trans- Siberian Railway city | | | 44 Homer's favorite beer brand |
| 27 Shared rumors | | | 46 Hear the rooster |
| 32 Cauldron | | | 47 Settled down |
| 33 Tolkien creature | | | 48 Longings |
| 34 Before | | | 51 Mail- lander's memento |
| 35 Wizard | | | |
| 38 Snatch | | | |

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A	V	A	C	A	P	O	S	I	I	I	
Y	A	P	L	Y	R	E	E	N	D	S	
				S	E	A	I	R	A	N	
G	R	I	P	P	E	M	A	N	I	C	
R	A	Z	E	C	A	P	Y	B	A	R	A
A	G	E	E	R	I	O	L	I	E	N	
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Yesterday's answer 2-19

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	
12				13			14				
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