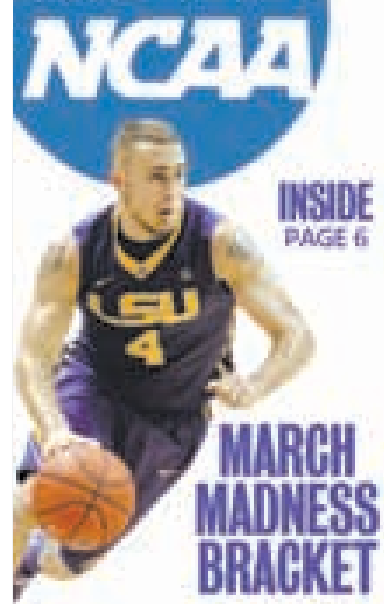


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Louisiana Legislation Session

*Open tray, education,
budget top bills of 2015*

BY MICHELLE BATES
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With 2015's legislative session set as a fiscal session, State Rep. Gene Reynolds, D-Minden, will be busy trying to get a balanced budget and bills passed.

There are several requests he's made to go before the House and Senate, but it's anybody's guess as to whether some will even get out of committee, he says. Gov. Bobby Jindal's budget proposal will probably be shot down before it ever goes anywhere, Reynolds predicts.

INSIDE

SENATOR
ROBERT
ADLEY,
R-BENTON,
ENTERING
LAST TERM AS
LAWMAKER
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EDUCATION

Board talks Harper school woes

MICHELLE BATES
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The Webster Parish School Board, with the help of faculty and the public, is beginning the task of looking at options to alleviate the issues that plague J.E. Harper Elementary.

In a special meeting at the school, board members began discussing options on how to best handle the logistics and the cost of creating a better environment for kindergarten and first grade students.

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Dan Rawls listed several options central office staff and the board are considering. He says one option is to move them to the previous NWLA Technical College and work on renovations to Harper while students attend school at the alternate site.



RAWLS

Another option is to switch with E.S. Richardson Elementary and put the fourth and fifth graders at Harper and put the "little people," as Dr. Rawls affectionately calls them, at Richardson.

"The issue to correct any deficiencies is very complex," he says. "It's going to involve massive renovations to this facility, which means the little children have to leave. Then it begs the question, where are you going to put them? There are many options on the table."

Board member Frankie Mitchell says Harper was the premier school when it was built. School systems all over the country were touring Harper because the open air setting was the going thing during the 70s.

"It was THE building at the time, 20 or 30 years ago," Mitchell said.

One parent of a Harper student says his daughter has trouble at Harper. He praised the teachers, saying they were doing the best within

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specht

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WEATHER TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK



67 HIGH
60 LOW

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LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE

ADLEY'S LAST TERM

Benton Republican to enter last term in Louisiana Legislature

BONNIE CULVERHOUSE
 bonnie@press-herald.com

When the Louisiana Legislature convenes April 13, Sen. Robert Adley, R-Benton, will enter the halls of the state capitol for his last legislative session as an elected official.

He plans to sail off into the sunset when it's over, hopefully leaving behind a balanced budget as part of his legacy.

"This is a fiscal session, and the budget the governor has proposed for the state requires a lot of bills to pass to do what he

wants to do with refundable credits and whatnot," Adley said. "I haven't found anybody yet who has filed any bills for him."

Like Adley, Gov. Bobby Jindal is a short-timer due to term limits. It makes for what Adley describes as "unusual circumstances."

"Because he's not 'here,' the legislature will finally get an opportunity to balance this budget," he said.

"The hole is \$1.6 billion, and we are looking for \$800 million to \$900 million that we really need to find to fund the budget, and we will still be cutting \$700 million to do that."

"The real shortfall that

we absolutely have to get back, is about \$400 million in higher education – or they're going to go into bankruptcy, and schools will literally be shutting down," he said.

Adley says legislators will have to locate around \$300 million "at a minimum" for health care, and about \$100 million in "general government, which is all the other state-wide officials and their offices."

The senator points to Secretary of State Tom Schedler's office which recently issued notice that it will be laying off workers and cutting back hours at museums all over the state in order to locate another \$100 million.

"Then, there has to be \$70 million going into the Transportation Trust Fund," Adley said. "That's the magic number we need to match our 80/20 number with the federal government for our own highways, roads and bridges."

Some bridges on state funded roads have already closed, Adley says.

"What Jindal has proposed is 'toll credits,'" he said. "After Katrina we got certain credits from the federal government. We can use those credits to match, but a credit is zero money, so we only get the match – so that's \$70 million we really need to get our hands on."



Dist. 10 Rep. Gene Reynolds, left, and Dist. 36 Sen. Robert Adley discuss the state budget before the 2013 Legislature. Courtesy Photo

Adley feels his numbers are the "absolute minimum we have to have."

"Jindal says he will go along with whatever we do, as long as we are revenue neutral, meaning we don't raise any taxes," Adley said.

"If we want to repeal a tax and add another one, that's ok, but you can't raise any taxes."

A recent press release from the governor's office claims "in addition to recurring reductions and continued streamlining efforts, the Executive Budget includes a \$526

million reduction in tax credit expenditures by limiting certain refundable credits to an individual or business's actual liability. This change does not increase the current tax obligation of any Louisiana taxpayer, and reduces the possibility of the state refunding taxes that were never collected."

This has already been a long session for Adley, as he has been working on bills and the budget since February. The session ends June 11.

Adley was first elected

to the state House of Representatives in 1979 and remained there for 16 years before term limits came into play.

"I ran for governor in 1995, then came back in 2003 for another 13 years in the senate, taking Foster Campbell's last year and then the 12 before term limiting," he said.

He spent two years on the Bossier City city council prior to his state government career.

"I started when I was in my 20s," he said. "I had a break in politics after I ran

for governor, and I enjoyed that very much. I never planned to come back to Baton Rouge."

Two fellow politicians – John Hinkle and John Breaux – talked him into returning to politics, but Adley says he feels this will be his last round.

"My wife and I have a boat ... we're about to sell it and get another one," he said. "We love to sail, and that's what we're going to do for a while."



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OBITUARY

George Christopher 'Chris' Hunter

George Christopher "Chris" Hunter softly passed from this life Saturday, March 14, 2015, due to coronary artery disease.



HUNTER

Chris was born in Minden to Robert (Bob) and Kathryn Hunter on May 29, 1967. He attended school at E.S. Richardson, J.E. Harp-er, Phillips Middle School, Webster Jr. High in Minden and Sibley High School. He was a graduate of Dallas Institute of Funeral Service and began his employment with Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Shreveport at the age of 18 and ended his career as manager of Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Arcadia. Before settling in Arcadia, he worked at funeral homes in Texarkana, Lufkin, Dallas and Amarillo,

Texas. Chris was a past member of the Jaycees in Texas and his project was always the Halloween Haunted House. He was very athletic, playing baseball and football in little league in Minden, city and church leagues in Minden and Texarkana and was an avid golfer.

Chris was a gentleman who was compassionate, caring and sincere, an excellent funeral director, who was gifted in family services. He touched the lives of so many in the nearly three decades he helped families in the loss of their loved ones. Chris was seven weeks old when his family lost a sister. A ministry of compassion and encouragement became life long for him when his family was often the first visitor to a home of grief with food, an encouraging word and prayer. Chris was an old soul who knew how to comfort with a hug. He was a man of character and integrity. As a student of Webster Jr. High he received commendation for honesty and integrity. The one true treasure of his

life and his greatest accomplishment was his son, Aidan Christopher Hunter, who is 11. Father and son were rarely apart. They had a special bond from birth admired by many.

Chris was preceded in death by his grandparents, Longino Frasier, Jodie and George Vaughn, Lillian Brown Hunter and Virgil Hunter; father, Robert (Bob) Hunter; sister, Dorothy Lynn Eldridge; and brother-in-law, Steve Jones.

He is survived by his son, Aidan Hunter; wife, Holly Cleaver Hunter; stepson, David Gray all of Minden; mother, Kathryn Hunter of Minden; sister, Cindy Eldridge of Chandler, Texas; brother, David Eldridge and wife, Jeanette of Minden; sister, Terri Eldridge of Minden; sister, Lynn Hunter Jones of Minden; brother, Todd Hunter of Alexandria; former wife, Sharon Staggs Hunter and her children, Ryan and Mindy. He is also survived by special friend, Molly Perryman Bailey and her children, Marjorie and Logan.

Visitation will be from 5 until 8 p.m. Tuesday, March 17, 2015, at First Pentecostal Church in Minden. Funeral services will be at 2 p.m., Wednesday, March 18, 2015, at First Pentecostal Church in Minden, officiated by the Rev. Jeff Ramsey, the Rev. Jimbo Yocom, the Rev. Debbie Woods and the Rev. Jeff Hoffman. Interment will follow at Gardens of Memory in Minden under the direction of Rose-Neath Funeral Home.

The family would like to thank Chris' Rose-Neath family for their friendship and loyalty. Special thanks to Valerie Carr and his Arcadia staff.

Pallbearers will be Tony Hall, Scott Hendrick, Mitchell Shirey, Mickey Tomlin, Michael Elshout and Phillip Tanner.

Honorary pallbearers will be Jonathon Guthrie, Tracie McCann, Steven Tomlin, Steve Lemmons, Kyle Swain Logan Bailey and David Gray.

HARPER

Continued from page 1

their abilities, but his daughter comes home every day complaining of the noise level and other issues, including bathroom issues.

"She can't concentrate because of all the noise," J.D. Cottle said. "She comes home

hungry because she didn't have time to eat. I've been up here for a Thanksgiving or Christmas meal. It's like herding cattle through a sales auction. These little ones take two bites and they're up and gone."

He went on to say money is not the issue; children's education should be at the forefront.

Principal Janene Ashley says the bathroom facilities are a huge issue because so many stu-

dents can't get to the bathroom in time, many times having accidents. The reason for this is the lack of adequate restroom facilities, not to mention the facilities aren't tailored to children so young.

The list of issues handed out to parents and the public was three pages long, and it was widely acknowledged that something needs to be done.

Board president Charles

Strong says when the schools were consolidated and shuffled parish wide four years ago, it was hard to foresee that Harper would not work.

"Four years ago, we apparently thought this was the thing to do," he said. "In that short span of time, we find ourselves back here tonight, and I would say with a general consensus, this was not the best thing to have done. We certainly don't need to

make a decision regarding this issue that won't stand the test of time and prove to be a good long-term decision. We certainly don't have the luxury of coming back and saying, 'Well, why don't we try this instead.'"

Harper Elementary houses roughly 500 students between kindergarten and first grade.

REYNOLDS

Continued from page 1

"It's probably going to be dead on arrival when it gets to the House, because we're going to disagree with a whole lot of that mess," he said. "He's dealing with funny money and money that can't possibly happen, and it's his same old tricks he's been doing. There's a lot of stuff in there that I know for a fact won't fly."

In the coming days, representatives and senators will be looking at the budget and striking and adding things they want to see make it. Here's a look at some of the requests Reynolds will be making on behalf of his constituents in district 10.

NO OPEN BURN

Reynolds is working with Lt. Gen. Russel Honore (Ret.), with the Green Army, to construct a bill that would eliminate the open tray burn method of disposal of M6 propellant or similar munitions in the state of Louisiana.

"I'm working with Gen. Honore on some of the language, and it hasn't been completely drafted yet," the state representative said. "If it passes, that means no one could burn M6 or

propellant like that ever again in the state of Louisiana. We need to shut that door."

EDUCATION

A bill will be introduced that will make it a statewide law to allow school systems to choose textbooks from the book depository in Baton Rouge but online as well. If passed, faculty and school systems will be able to order materials straight from the publisher, Reynolds says.

"It gives the locals a better chance to make choices on textbooks," he said. "It puts up guidelines on how they do that. They have to set up parent and teacher committees. The trend is to put more decision-making on the local school systems."

A bill was introduced last year, but there were a few issues with the publishing companies, Reynolds says. He talked to some of the publishers and worked some things out, and his hope is it will move through and pass quickly. He hopes to get it through by the end of the session so the school board can start making decisions for the 2015-16 school year.

This bill is not associated with the Common Core State Standards, Reynolds says.

"This would go with any curriculum or content standards the state chooses," he said. "We

went back through it to make sure it does not favor any curriculum or content standards. This is strictly a process by which the locals can use textbooks for whatever the state ends up doing."

GIANT SALVINIA

The state representative is also working on a bill he introduces annually to try to get money for Lake Bistineau from minerals. It would generate roughly \$100,000 per year. Reynolds says he is looking at a public/private partnership to help cover some of these expenses, as the requested amount won't cover it all.

"The \$100,000 requested doesn't cover the whole year, so that's why I'm looking into a public/private partnership," he said. "We've got some people that are interested in trying to work with us."

The idea is to get a bill passed that would generate funding from the oil and gas underneath the lake to build a weevil breeding station as well as research into endocide.

Endocide is a process developed by researchers at Stephen F. Austin State University by which the salvinia would produce lethal chemicals that would turn on itself, thereby killing it from root to flower.

However, he feels it may not pass.

"Given a \$1.6 billion deficit, I'm not sure it's going to go through, but we're going to try," he said.

This issue will be discussed in more detail at the Bistineau Task Force meeting set to take place at 10 a.m., Thursday, March 19.

BANK BILL

This bill would deal with the number of notaries in the state of Louisiana, Reynolds says.

"It's a complicated issue," he said. "The notary test is very hard and the banks are running out of notaries. They want to have more, but the Notary Association is against it because they don't want more. They like the business. It's going to be a contentious issue."

CORONER'S OFFICE

A request has been made by the coroner's office, Reynolds says, to put before the people the creation of a taxing district to take the load off municipalities and the Webster Parish Police Jury.

"I'm not sure how far that's going to go," he said. "It's a requested bill, and that means I'm doing it by request. All the bill does is put the issue before the people. I'm going to have to take a neutral position on it

myself."

If passed, this request would be on the October ballot. The tax amount is stipulated in the proposed bill, which has not yet been filed.

The idea is to take the responsibility of paying the coroner's office off the municipalities and police jury. One of the pros of this request, if passed, is it would help the smaller municipalities like Heflin or Dubberly.

The estimated cost of one autopsy is \$1,800. Reynolds says if an accident occurred at the railroad tracks in Dubberly and four people were killed, it would cost the village of Dubberly \$7,200. Bigger municipalities like the City of Minden or the police jury could absorb those costs better, he says.

"We've got to do something to help them out," he said. "I'm not sure what it is yet, but I've looked for three years trying to find a way around this. For little towns, it's just really a big expense."

More will be revealed as these requests move through the process. The 2015 Louisiana Legislative Session is set to begin April 13.

Editor's Note: As of presstime, the previous bill requests had not been assigned House Bill numbers.

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OPINION

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PERSPECTIVE

What's fair?

Donald Trump's kids and Paris Hilton's siblings were born rich. That gave them a big advantage in life. Unfair!

Inequality in wealth has grown. Today the richest 1 percent of Americans own a third of the assets. That's not fair!

But wherever people are free, that's what happens.

Some people are luckier, smarter or just better at making money. Often they marry other wealthy, well-connected people. Over time, these advantages compound. Globalization increases the effect. This month's issue of *Forbes* says the world now has 1,826 billionaires, and some struggle to find enough parking places for their jets.

President Obama calls inequality "the defining issue of our time." Really? Not our unsustainable debt? Not ISIS? The president also said, "No challenge? poses a greater threat to future generations than climate change!"

Politicians constantly find crises they will solve by increasing government power. But why is inequality a crisis?

Alexis Goldstein, of a group called The Other 98 percent, complains that corporations got richer but workers' wages "are lower than they've been in 65 years."

That's a common refrain, but it's wrong. Over the past 30 years, CBO data shows that the average income of the poorest fifth of Americans is up by 49 percent. That doesn't include all the innovations that have dramatically improved everyone's life. Today even the poorest Americans have comforts and lifestyles that kings didn't have a century ago.

George Mason University economist Garrett Jones says, "If I was going to be in the bottom fifth in the America of today versus the bottom fifth of America in 1970 or 1960, it's hard to imagine that anybody would take that time machine into the past."

And despite America's lousy government schools and regulations that make it tough to start a business, there is still economic mobility. Poor people don't have to stay poor. Sixty-four percent of those born in the poorest fifth of the U.S. population move out of that quintile. Eleven percent of them rise all the way to the top, according to economists at Harvard and Berkeley.

Most of the billionaires atop the *Forbes* richest list weren't born rich. They got rich by innovating.

Rich people aren't guaranteed their place at the top, either. Sixty-six percent fell from the top quintile, and eight percent fell all the way to the bottom.

That mobility is a reason most of us are better off than we would have been in a more rigid society, controlled by central economic planners.

Life will always be unfair. I want to play pro basketball. It's unfair that LeBron James is bigger and more talented! It's also unfair that George Clooney is better looking! It's unfair that my brother is smarter than me.

Jones points out, "I was born with an advantage, too. Being born in the United States ... totally unfair." He also has two married parents — another huge advantage.

The question is not whether people start out life in homogeneous circumstances, he adds. "The question is whether government policies that try to fix this actually make things better or worse."

Worse, in most cases. Government "help" encourages poor people to be dependent and passive. Dependent, people stay poor. Also, most government handouts don't even go to the poor. They go to the middle class (college loans, big mortgage tax deductions, Medicare) and the rich (corporate welfare, bailouts to banks "too big to fail").

Instead of making government more powerful, let's get rid of those handouts. Left and right ought to agree on that.

America has prosperity and innovation because we have relatively free markets.

Progressives say, "Keep the innovation but have government make us more equal." But that doesn't work. It's been tried. Government-enforced equality — socialism — leaves everybody poor.

Equality is less important than opportunity. Opportunity requires allowing people to spend their own money and take their own risks.

Instead of talking about "fairness," it would be better to talk about justice: respecting other people, respecting their freedom and their property rights.

Real fairness requires limiting government power.

John Stossel is host of "Stossel" on Fox News and author of "No They Can't! Why Government Fails, but Individuals Succeed."



JOHN STOSSEL

OPEN LETTER

Skin in the game

It does appear changes in the laws authorizing the Minden Downtown Development Commissioners are necessary.

There is an expression "skin in the game" meaning the participant has a personal and monetary investment in the activity. It appears to me, the changes in the law must insure "skin in the game."

Therefore, I recommend the revised law specify qualifications for

the Downtown Development District Commissioners should only require, "Have a place of business and/or profession or own property in the Minden Downtown Development District."

That they have other places of business or profession, or where they reside, does not add or subtract from their degree of



JOHN STOSSEL

"skin in the game." Active investment should be the ONLY qualification.

I have been a resident of Minden/Webster Parish since 1975. Though the population is little changed from then, the area has grown and improved. We now have some of the dining and shopping which formerly required a drive to Shreveport/Bossier City. Let us make sensible changes in the law and help the Downtown Development District Commission do its job.

Sincerely,
Lee Estabrook

LOUISIANA SPOTLIGHT

Analysis: Outside group wields heavy influence in La. budget

LOUISIANA'S TAX POLICY in the upcoming legislative session could be shaped with a more heavily guided hand from a Washington-based organization than from the state's elected lawmakers.

In the halls of the Louisiana Capitol, it's well-known that Gov. Bobby Jindal runs his ideas on possible changes to the state's tax structure by Americans for Tax Reform, founded by national anti-tax activist Grover Norquist.

And the outsized influence of the organization, known as ATR, on Jindal's decision-making is starting to irritate lawmakers as the state faces a \$1.6 billion budget shortfall and they are looking for ways to close the gap.

The Republican governor, like 25 of the state's 144 lawmakers, signed the "Taxpayer Protection Pledge" promoted by Norquist's organization, agreeing to oppose any tax increases. As Jindal looks for ways to drum up new cash for the budget, he's working through the confines of what ATR considers a tax increase.

Lawmakers say they've been told at meetings with Jindal administration leaders that the governor only will support raising new cash for the state if the ideas don't violate the Washington-based organization's guidance.

That has Republican and Democratic legislators bristling that they're being artificially limited in searching for budget solutions by a group that has no stake in what happens to Louisiana, rather than have a straightforward conversation about Louisiana's tax structure and the wisdom of its tax breaks.

"Despite the position of the Americans for Tax Reform, I think Republicans can modify tax incentives to obtain a fair return to the state without going to hell," Rep. Tim Burns, R-

Mandeville, said on his blog.

Sen. Fred Mills is listed as a signer of the anti-tax pledge, though he said he doesn't remember committing to it. He said it won't guide his decisions.

"I'm looking for what's best for the state," said Mills, R-Breaux Bridge. "I'm not going to worry about some out-of-state firm that's going to list it on a scorecard. It's ridiculous."

Adhering to the anti-tax vow could be a valuable talking point for Jindal if he decides to enter the 2016 presidential race. Jindal shows no sign of shifting positions, despite the grim budget situation.

"The governor takes his pledge to the people of Louisiana not to raise taxes seriously," Jindal spokeswoman Shannon Bates Dirmann said in a statement.

Dirmann downplayed suggestions ATR was driving the governor's proposals, saying: "We consult with Americans for Tax Reform on different ideas just as we consult with many other groups interested in tax policy."

Patrick Gleason, ATR's director of state affairs, said the organization speaks with gubernatorial and legislative staff around the country about tax policy.

"Louisiana is no different," he said. Asked about the criticism from lawmakers, Gleason replied: "All we're doing is exercising our First Amendment rights. Legislators are free to disagree and make their case to their constituents."

Jindal's \$24.6 billion budget proposal toes the line in what's allowable

by ATR's parameters.

The governor is recommending the state scale back refundable tax credits, in which the state pays out more than the taxes owed, and use the \$526 million in savings to pay for colleges and health services in the fiscal year that begins July 1.

Businesses slammed the idea as a tax hike. Jindal calls it a reduction in state spending. ATR publicly sided with the governor.

In another complicated maneuver, Jindal proposes to generate new money for colleges by raising student fees, covering the higher costs with a tax credit and paying for the tax credit with a boosted cigarette tax. It wouldn't be a net tax increase, so it would meet ATR's standards.

In a written commentary, Barry Erwin, president of the nonpartisan Council for A Better Louisiana, described that as among the governor's "convoluted proposals that are manufactured to fit a certain definition of not raising taxes, but seem more like something out of the theater of the absurd."

While lawmakers criticize the ATR rules, they acknowledge they're factoring the parameters into their own negotiations over how to craft next year's budget in the legislative session that begins April 13. If they're not willing to override the governor's veto, they're boxed in by Jindal's anti-tax pledge whether or not they like it.

In a letter to LSU's student newspaper, Democratic political consultant James Carville, who lives in New Orleans, said Louisiana's elected officials have allowed Norquist "to become the most powerful person in our state."

Melinda Deslatte covers the Louisiana Capitol for *The Associated Press*.



MELINDA DESLATTE



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COMMUNITY

GARDENING 101

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THOMAS

Before you start this project, remember that chickens are living creatures and need daily care. They don't require much but in return they will give you several eggs per bird per week and help children learn responsibility by caring for animals.

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Check list:
 # 1- Healthy chicks – buy from a reputable supplier. Some of the best breeds are the Production Red, Buff Orpington and the Ameraucana breeds. Another thing to ask for is whether to buy pullets only or straight run chickens. Getting pullets only may cost a little more but that is better than having a bunch of roosters.

#2- Feeders and waterers – Smaller feeders and waterers for young chicks are recommended. Keep them filled with fresh feed and water daily.

#3- Feed – Use a chick starter for a complete, balanced nutrition for your chicks.

#4- Warmth – Use a brooder lamp with a red bulb for the first few weeks at least.

#5- A chicken coop – You don't have to build an expensive coop, just make sure you provide ample room for the chickens. They need good lighting, a place to nest, roost and plenty of ventilation.

Backyard chickens are a great way to teach and have food to eat, too.

Mitzi Thomas is the co-owner/Manager of the Minden Farm and Garden.

J.E. HARPER ELEMENTARY STUDENTS OF THE MONTH



J.E. Harper Elementary School has named Students of the Month for February. Kindergarten SOM are Nolan Waller, left, Braylon Buckner, Khyler Loud, Cameron Westberry, Keyuna McGlothern, Raegan Lachney, Courtney Hudson and Gabriel Van. Not pictured is Tristan Taylor. Courtesy photo



First grade SOM are Levi Miller, front row from left, Garrett Basinger and Anthony Lewis; back row from left, Madison Clark, Makayla Williams, Akira Lofton, Me'Zhya Sanders, Kenyatta Edwards, Kylik Hill, Synyah Rabb and Kenneth Miller. Courtesy photo

Around Town

Thursday, March 19

Bistineau Task Force will meet at 10:15 a.m. at the Webster Parish Courthouse. Rep. Gene Reynolds will be there to discuss new legislation that could help with funding and Mike Woods, Director of Inland Fisheries, LDWF will be discussing a 2015 management plan for the lake. Jeff Sibley, LDWF will provide an update on Lake Bistineau. Questions or discussion topics can be submitted in advance at btf@trail-blazer.org or 318-255-3554.

Adult Christian Education Class from 6:30 until 8 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 1107 Broadway. Topic for fifth week: Jesus in Jerusalem (Mark 11:1-13:37).

Saturday, March 21

The Southern Plainsmen from Hornbeck will be in concert at Ringgold First United Methodist Church at 6 p.m. The concert will be free but a loving offering will be taken.

Sunday, March 22

Men and Women Day Program at Hopewell Baptist Church in Dubberly will begin at 2:30 p.m., presided by Minister Charlie West. Guest speakers will be Sister Norma J. Baker of King Solomon Baptist Church in Sibley and Deacon Wesley Crawford of St. Rest Baptist Church.

Monday, March 23- Wednesday, March 25

Annual Spring Youth-Led Revival at Growing Valley Missionary Baptist Church, 1686 Fuller Road, will begin at 7 p.m. nightly. Guest Evangelist is Youth Minister Kendrick Golatt of Morning Star Baptist Church, Shreveport. Everyone is invited.

Thursday, March 26

UCAP Hungerfest will be at 5:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, 903 Broadway. The meal is \$5 and consists of soup, crackers and iced tea. Tickets may be purchased at the door or from UCAP at 204 Miller St. A cake auction will be held following the meal.

Send your events to:
community@press-herald.com

UCAP is in need of the following items for the week of March 16:

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|
| Food | Towels and wash-cloths |
| Macaroni and cheese | Clothing |
| Biscuit mix (packages or small boxes) | Men's and women's tennis shoes (all sizes) |
| | Boys' and girls' pants and tops sizes 2T, 6-8 |
| Household Items | Men's pants - 32 and 34 waist |
| Bar soap | |
| Dishes | |
| Queen sheets | |

Donations may be made at 204 Miller Street between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday, Wednesday and Friday or call 377-6804.

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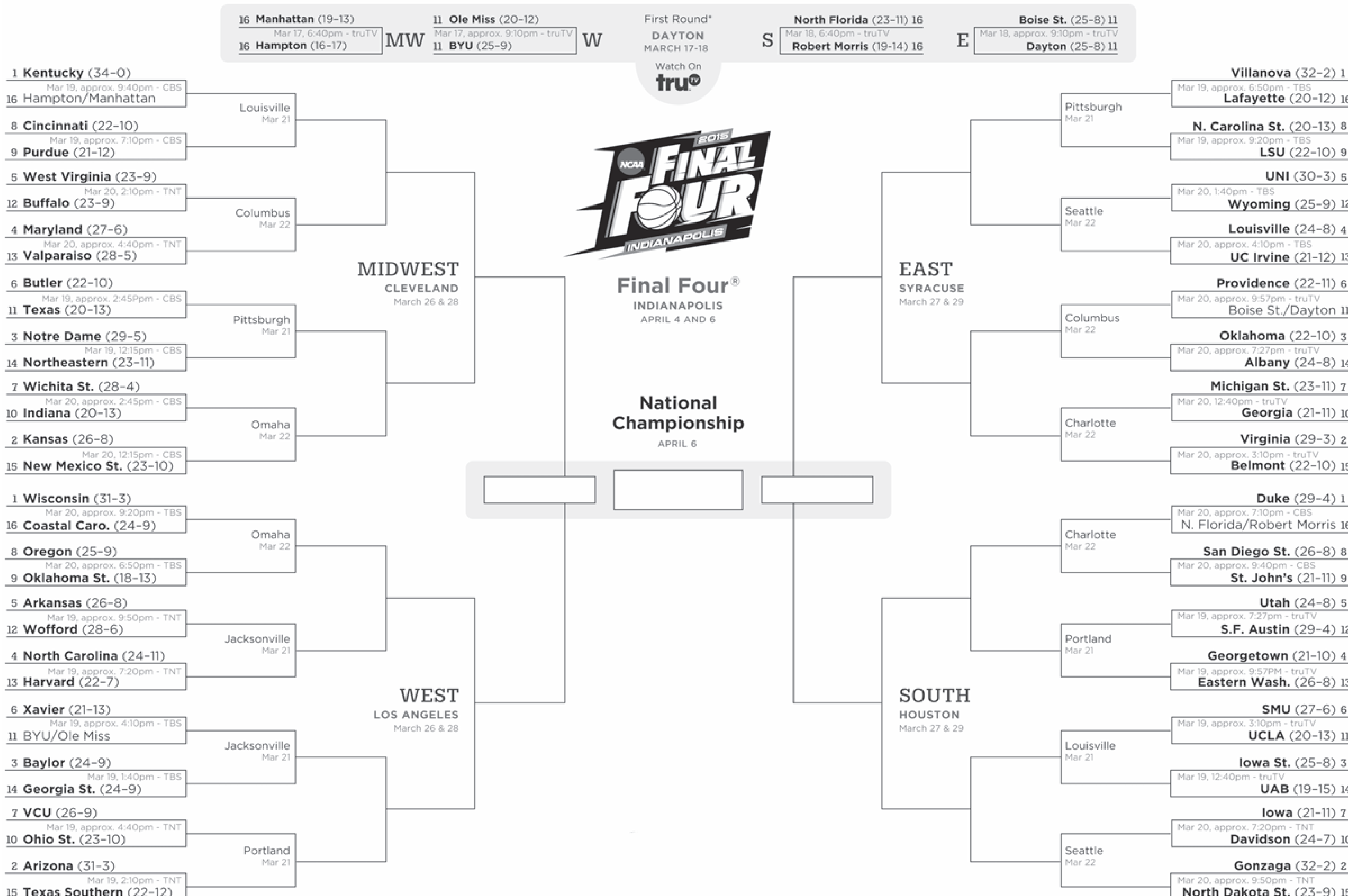
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SPORTS

SPORTS briefs

NBA

Heat, Wade top

LeBron's Cavs

MIAMI (AP) — Dwyane Wade's top offensive highlight of the night led to no points.

Didn't matter. The Miami Heat had more than enough.

Wade scored 21 of his 32 points in the first half, Goran Dragic added 20 points and nine assists, and Miami handed LeBron James another loss on his former home floor with a 106-92 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Monday night.

The win pushed the Heat back into the No. 8 spot in the Eastern Conference playoff race.

"Our guys wanted it very badly tonight," Miami coach Erik Spoelstra said. "We understand what the playoff race is right now. It felt like an old Miami Heat game with normal Miami Heat huddles. Guys were screaming at each other, lot of passion in this game and it was much-needed."

Hassan Whiteside had 16 points and 11 rebounds and Mario Chalmers finished with 16 points off the bench for the Heat, who won both of James' regular-season trips to Miami this season — his first two games back since leaving the team and returning to Cleveland last summer.

"For this team, it's about fighting for the playoffs right now," Wade said. "Every day, we in, we out, we in, we out — so we needed this win today."

James scored 16 of his 26 points in the fourth quarter for Cleveland, which had its four-game winning streak snapped. Kyrie Irving added 21, but shot only 5 for 15.

NBA

Parsons leads Mavs past Thunder

DALLAS (AP) —

Chandler Parsons and Rajon Rondo were a solid combination on offense for the Dallas Mavericks.

And they were tag-team partners for the sequence that sent Russell Westbrook to the bench with six fouls.

Parsons scored 31 points, Rondo had 13 assists while drawing a key charge on Westbrook in the final minute, and the Mavericks rallied from 15 down in the third quarter for a 119-115 victory against the Oklahoma City Thunder on Monday night.

Westbrook just missed his seventh triple-double in 10 games, finishing with 24 points, 12 assists and eight rebounds. But he picked up his fifth foul pushing off on Rondo on a drive when trailing by two, then got No. 6 immediately after by knocking over Parsons on the inbounds pass with 59.3 seconds left.

Dirk Nowitzki added 22 with some big 3-pointers in a playoff-like finish to a game that had all the elements of a tense postseason matchup through the first three quarters. There were five technical fouls and matching flagrant fouls called on Tyson Chandler and Westbrook.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

ALL-DISTRICT WARRIORS



BLAKE BRANCH
 blake@press-herald.com

The Lakeside Warriors didn't have all the success they were hoping for in what was still a solid 2014-15 basketball season.

Much of that can be attributed to the fact that Lakeside's district was home to two of the top four teams in the entire state of Louisiana, North Caddo and Lakeview.

Still, the Warriors were able to place four boys' players on the all-district team.

The Lady Warriors placed one player on the all-district list, freshmen Destine Joiner.

Joiner, an honorable mention selection, was a steady force for the Lady Warriors. She led the way during a rebuilding season and will be back to build on this past season's success.

For the boys, Frankie Miles was able to make the first team.

"Frankie was our undersized post man," Lakeside head coach Jason Gould said. "What an honor for the coaches to vote him



first team." Miles averaged 13 points and 5 rebounds a night for the Warriors.

Jamarion Teal was selected to the second team all-district list.

"Jamarion had a really good year," Gould said. "He ended up averaging 11 points and 9 rebounds. He was good in several

ways for us and we're proud of him for the improvements he made over the past few years."

Quatarus Solomon was a honorable mention selection in his first year of varsity competition.

"We were glad to have Quatarus on varsity this year," Gould said. "He really helped us a lot this year."

Solomon averaged 10 points per game for Lakeside

Last, but not least, was Davian Whiting.

Whiting also averaged 10 points for the Warriors.

"He was our point guard," Gould said. "He was one of our better shooters and did a great job all year."

LATECH BASKETBALL

Bulldogs back in the TAC for NIT



RUSTON — A week and a half ago, Louisiana Tech seniors Raheem Appleby, Michale Kyser and Kenneth Smith had what was a perfect ending to their home careers inside the Thomas Assembly Center.

On Tuesday night at 6:30 p.m., the winningest class in Bulldog history will get to reopen that book and attempt to add another chapter as they participate in the 32-team National Invitation Tournament when they take on Central Michigan.

As many milestones as the trio and head coach

Michael White have reached, they can actually reach another because they have the opportunity in front of their home crowd to win their 100th game which will be broadcast live on ESPN3 with Trey Bender and Kyle Macy calling the action.

"I hope to see some rejuvenating from our guys, especially mentally," White said after not making the NCAA Tournament. "We ended our home court season in the TAC perfectly. Now it is a matter of making sure we end it again. Making sure we do not incorrectly rewrite the story book that these three seniors made. That is going to be the message to our guys, especially our newcomers."

"These three seniors have prided themselves on finishing strong and that will be my challenge to them. We still have a chance to finish strong and finish the right way. Not having any regrets, finishing your legacy the right way."

LA Tech (25-8) is coming off an emotional loss in overtime in the Conference USA tournament semifinals to UAB which ended its quest for the NCAA Tournament.

Now the 'Dogs, led by C-USA Player of the Year and All-Tournament team member Speedy Smith, will have to prepare themselves mentally and physically to try to extend the team's 29-game home winning streak which ranks fourth in the country.

NFL

49ers Borland retiring, cites health concerns

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Another star member of San Francisco's vaunted defense is calling it a career.

The 49ers announced late Monday that linebacker Chris Borland is retiring after one season, without offering specifics.

Borland told ESPN's "Outside the Lines" earlier Monday that he is retiring following his standout rookie season because of concerns about head trauma.

"While unexpected, we certainly respect Chris' decision," 49ers general manager Trent Baalke said. "From speaking with Chris, it was evident that he had put a great deal of thought into this decision. He was a consummate professional from day one and a very well-

respected member of our team and community."

The 24-year-old Borland had a team-leading 108 tackles in his stellar rookie season, emerging as a punishing defender. He also had a sack and two interceptions.

He told "Outside the Lines" on Monday he wants to do "what's best for my health."

"From what I've researched and what I've experienced, I don't think it's worth the risk," he said in that interview. "I feel largely the same, as sharp as I've ever been. For me, it's wanting to be proactive," Borland said. "I'm concerned that if you wait till you have symptoms, it's too late."

LOUISIANA OUTDOORS

Introducing kids to hunting crucial for future

When most guys my age were growing up, it was a no-brainer. Come fall and winter, we went hunting. Our dads did; our grandpa's did; our cousins and neighbors did. As a result, it was a natural coming of age for youngsters back then to take to the woods and fields with rifle or shotgun.

Today, things are not the same as they were during those simpler times. Kids now have so much to compete for their time. Another thing is that the generation in which parents of today's youngsters grew up, there is less interest in hunting for many. The result is an overall decline in the number of hunters resulting in a fading of recruitment of new hunters.

I read a statistic recently that is troubling. For every 100 adult hunters, there are only 69 youth hunters com-

ing up to take their places. Lose a hundred guys who get too old or infirm to hunt and only two-thirds of them are being replaced.

The Families A Field web-site has some interesting facts that reveal what a monumental,

though often overlooked, impact hunting has on the nation's economy.

According to the website, hunters have poured over \$30 billion into the economy. More than 1 million jobs are supported by hunters. Nearly 80 percent of adult hunters started out as youth hunters.

The question that begs

an answer is what can be done to reverse this trend; to be sure that as today's hunters age, they will have plenty of youngsters stepping up to take their places.

Wildlife biologist and free-lance writer, Brian Grossman of Kentucky offers several suggestions that parents should consider in getting their offspring involved in hunting.

"Make it fun," writes Grossman. "Regardless of the child's age, these early days afield with you are probably the most critical in determining whether or not he/she maintains an interest in hunting. These first hunts are where the child is going to form an opinion about hunting. They'll either decide it's fun, or it's boring. It's up to the adult to make it fun."

"Make the initial outing brief; young kids especially

have short attention spans. "Hunt from a ground blind where excessive movement is not easily detected."

"Don't push them." From personal experience, some of the most gratifying times I have ever had in the outdoors was when I had a youngster sitting alongside me and especially when the kid and I teamed up for success.

Years ago, I guided 12 year old Sarah Hebert on a youth turkey hunt on Jackson Bienville Wildlife Management Area. I called in a gobbler she was able to drop on the spot. The excitement I experienced in her success was right up there with hers.

As discouraging as are the statistics that show a declining interest in hunting for youth, Jeff Simmons, owner of Simmons

Sporting Goods in Bastrop sees some positives about youngsters in our part of the country.

"Kids in this part of the country are more involved in hunting than I've seen in recent years. Our number one selling rifle at our store is a youth rifle and the number one selling shotgun is a youth model. People around here are getting their kids into hunting. I can't speak for the rest of the country but our kids are getting involved," Simmons said.

Let's make sure that as hunters in my age bracket are forced to give up the sport because of health or age, there will be plenty of young fresh faces standing ready to take our places.

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Durst heir faces murder charge after documentary broadcast

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Robert Durst couldn't explain away similarities between his handwriting and a letter he said "only the killer could have written" that alerted police to his friend's shooting 15 years ago.

Confronted with new evidence by the makers of a documentary about his links to three killings, the troubled millionaire blinked, burped oddly, pulled his ear and briefly put his head in his hands before denying he was the killer.

Then he stepped away from the tense interview and went to the bathroom, still wearing the live microphone that recorded what he said next.

"There it is. You're caught!" Durst whispered before the sound of running water is heard. "What the hell did I do? Killed them all, of course."

That moment didn't just make for a captivating finale to a six-part documentary on the eccentric life of an heir to a New York real estate fortune.

It also may have given police and prosecutors more evidence in the long-cold case of a mobster's daughter. Susan Berman was felled by a bullet to the back of her head as investigators prepared to find out what she knew about the disappearance of Durst's wife in 1982.

Los Angeles prosecutors filed a first-degree murder charge Monday that alleges Durst lay in wait with a gun and killed a witness — special circumstances that could carry a death sentence if prosecutors decide later to pursue it.

Durst, 71, who was arrested at a New Orleans hotel on the eve of Sunday's final episode, agreed Monday to face trial for the murder of Berman,

who had vouched for him in public after his wife vanished.

Attorney Dick DeGuerin said outside court that Durst didn't kill Berman, and is "ready to end all the rumor and speculation and have a trial."

The makers of "The Jinx: The Life and Deaths of Robert Durst" said Durst rejected his lawyer's advice to stay quiet before granting two lengthy interviews. They also said he knew he was being recorded throughout, and that they shared any evidence they gathered with authorities long before broadcasting the film on HBO.

Legal experts said the bathroom tape could become key evidence.

"Any statement that the defendant makes that they want to use against him, they can use against him," said Andrea Roth, a law professor at the University of California, Berkeley. "Even if it's sketchy, and only in context appears to make him look guilty."

Kerry Lawrence, a defense attorney in Westchester County, New York, said Durst's lawyers will have to try to explain away his comments, perhaps dismissing them as a joke.

"Prosecutors would argue it was a candid moment of self-reflection, and he I assume will argue that he knew he was still being recorded, and this was either said in jest or he was being facetious or sarcastic or was being provocative," Lawrence said. "I don't think it's quite the smoking gun."

The bathroom recording was not part of the evidence presented to prosecutors before charges were filed because detectives were still trying to determine if the recording was tampered with in any way, a law enforcement official



with knowledge of the investigation told The Associated Press.

The official, who was not authorized to speak publicly because the investigation was ongoing and spoke on condition of anonymity, said the handwriting analysis was the key new evidence in the long investigation.

The documentary showed filmmaker Andrew Jarecki confronting Durst

ing to Berman, that has similar writing in block letters and also misspelled the address as "Beverley."

"I wrote this one but I did not write the cadaver one," Durst said. But when shown an enlargement of both copies, Durst couldn't distinguish them.

Former Westchester County prosecutor Jeanine Pirro seemed stunned when the filmmakers showed her Durst's previously unknown letter to Berman, saying "the jig is up."

She believes it was her reopening of the cold case into Kathleen Durst's 1982 disappearance that provoked the killing of Berman, who had been Durst's confidante.

Now, she said, his own words can convict him.

"It was a spontaneous statement, a classical exception to the hearsay rule," Pirro told Fox's "Good Day New York." "I don't hear it as a muttering. I hear it as a clear, unequivocal 'I killed them.' That means he killed his wife, he killed Susan Berman and he killed Morris Black."

Durst — still worth millions despite his estrangement from his family, whose New York real estate empire is worth about \$4 billion — has maintained his innocence in three killings in as many states.

He was acquitted by a Texas jury in the 2001 dismemberment killing of his elderly neighbor, whose body parts were found floating in Galveston Bay. Lawyers said Durst — who fled Texas and was brought back to trial after being caught shoplifting in Pennsylvania — killed Morris Black in self-defense.

Durst, however, acknowledged using a paring knife, two saws and an ax to dismember the body,

and that may result in a delay of his transfer to Los Angeles, because he was arrested with a revolver on Saturday. That's illegal for felons, and Durst did prison time after pleading guilty to evidence tampering and jumping bail.

Louisiana authorities filed weapons charges late Monday charging Durst as a convicted felon in possession of a firearm and with having a small amount of marijuana.

When Durst approached the filmmakers and agreed to go on camera, he was still suspected in the killing of Berman, whose father was a Las Vegas mobster associated with Bugsy Siegel and Meyer Lansky, and the disappearance of his wife, who was declared dead long after she vanished in New York in 1982.

Durst's longtime Houston lawyer Chip Lewis called Jarecki "duplicitous" for not making it clear to Durst that he would be sharing footage with police.

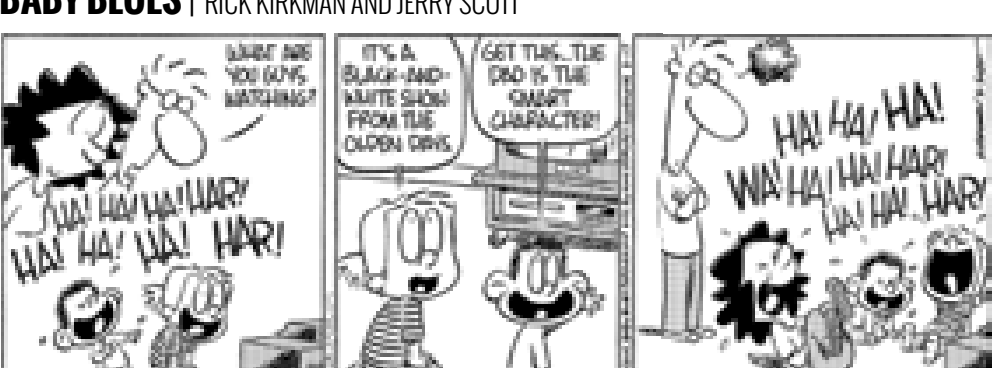
"It's all about Hollywood now," Lewis said.

But Jarecki said Durst signed a contract clearly giving the filmmakers the right to use what they gathered however they wished. Los Angeles Deputy Police Chief Kirk Albanese said the timing of the arrest had nothing to do with the production and that police were concerned Durst might flee the country.

"We do police work based on the facts and evidence," Albanese told the AP on Monday. "I know there's lots of speculation about that. It had nothing to do with the show."

By Monday, the filmmakers — likely witnesses at a trial — said they would make no more comments.

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT & GREG WALKER



BLONDIE | DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



FUNKY WINKERBEAN | TOM BATIUK



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



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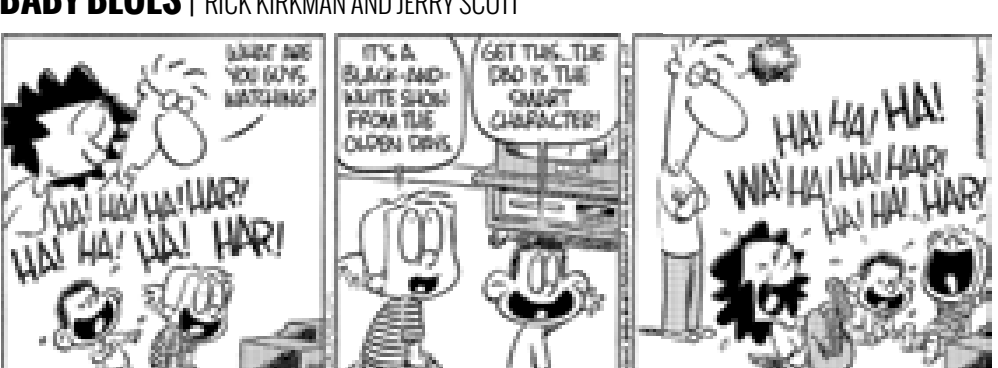
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