

MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

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WEDNESDAY



MINDEN CRIME

Three arrested on drug trafficking charges

Police say men were in possession of marijuana, crack cocaine

BONNIE CULVERHOUSE
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Multiple traffic violations and video footage led to the arrest Saturday night of three

Minden men on drug charges. Minden Police Chief Steve Cropper says Officer First Class Kenneth James observed a vehicle in the Clerk Street/Tillman Drive area that was turning without

a signal, speeding and failing to observe stop signs, as well as the police cruiser's lights and siren. "Once they reached the intersection of Ash and Sullivan streets, the vehicle pulled

to the side of the road and stopped," Cropper said. "Officer James exited his patrol unit, while pointing his weapon at the vehicle." When Ofc. Clint Smith, Ofc. Shawn Jenkins and Ofc.



DILLARD



J. ALLEN



K. ALLEN

See **ARREST**, Page 2



Eric Lee, City of Minden Distribution and Collection supervisor, checks on progress at the bottom of a hole at the intersection of Myers and Lee streets where contractors are replacing a water valve. Bonnie Culverhouse/Press-Herald

CAMP MINDEN CLEANUP

Final M6 dialogue committee report released

MICHELLE BATES
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The final report by the Camp Minden Dialogue committee has now been released to the public and is on the EPA's website.

In the report, it gives a brief background of why the dialogue committee was formed, the circumstances at Camp Minden regarding the millions of pounds of M6 propellant stored in 97 bunkers, the criteria used to arrive at an alternative solution and the alternatives other than the open tray burn method of disposal.

"At the end of its analysis, the committee did not converge on a single technology, but rather identified a range of potential technologies and a number of key performance attributes that are recommended for consideration during the decision process," according to the report.

One of the key attributes is to "meet the highest possible standards for emissions," listing "open burning is not an option," as a bullet point in the summary. The attributes represent what the dialogue committee wishes to see the government agencies use when choosing an alternative method.

In the comments from individual dialogue participants, several seem to support the Super Critical Water Oxidation, or SCWO, process to eradicate the munitions at Camp Minden. Dolores

See **M6**, Page 2

WATER WOES

City upgrading section of water main along Lee Street

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Businesses and residents along Lee Street will notice a bit more water volume soon.

City of Minden crews and contractors have been working to replace small water lines all over town, but during a recent freeze, the Public Works Department learned about a substandard line on Lee.

"We were out working on lines after one of the freezes, and we found a one-and-a-

half-inch galvanized line, which over time, those things fail," Public Works Director George Rolfe said. "What we are doing on Lee Street is working where we discovered the line was substandard."

Rolfe says he believes the smaller line was likely laid during the project that was completed in the spring of 1978.

"Back when they made Sibley Road a one-way street going south and Lee Street coming into town – the Lee Street bypass, I'll call it, that's probably when it was done," he said. "We – the city and contrac-

tor Allen Ates – are replacing 300 to 400 feet of it with a six-inch line."

The valve was replaced and Myers Street opened Tuesday night.

"Depending on the weather, the line will take a few days," Rolfe said. "And they are putting in a hydrant."

Rolfe says the plan is to replace all substandard lines with those that are minimum of six inches.

"I would say, at this point, 90-plus percent of lines in town are six inches or larger," he said.

FIND IT ONLINE
FOR A LINK TO THE FINAL REPORT, VISIT PRESS-HERALD.COM

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WEATHER TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK

74 HIGH **63** LOW
Cloudy with showers.
Winds light and variable.
Chance of rain 40%.

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»INSIDE:
La. Tech names winter quarter honor students
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LA TECH

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Telina McVay/Press-Herald

WELCOME TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD

SUNNI'S TANNING

Sunni and Cicil Lawrence cut the ribbon on Sunni's Tanning, 1162 Homer Road, (behind Taco Bell) during a grand opening ceremony Friday. They are joined by Kara Woods, customer service and Krystal Long, assistant, along with officials from the City of Minden and the Minden-South Webster Chamber of Commerce. Sunni's Tanning, is open seven days a week.

M6

Continued from page 1

Blalock, with the ArkLaTex Clean Air Network, LLC, says she supports SCWO because she feels it is the safest method.

"I want to go on record with for [sic] Super Critical Water Oxidation as the M6 disposal method as my personal preference after examining the alternatives," she said. "With three machines, SCWO should eliminate over 60,000 pounds of M6 each day. The system is portable. Their (General Atomics) SCWO system

has required Army Explosives Board approval."

Several others expressed their support for the SCWO system, commenting in the report they feel the environmental cost to the health of the community is very low, even though it produces a lot of wastewater.

Other comments from dialogue participants regarded the committee and other factors.

"The outcome of this process will affect the health, safety and economic livelihood of the entire region," Rick Broussard, with the City of Minden, said. "To be a part of this has been very sober-

ing. The intensity of the many evaluation periods has been higher than anything I have ever witnessed and being around that level of intellect is very humbling."

Ron Hagar, dialogue member, supports another of the six technologies recommended by the committee – Arctech's Actodemil process. However, he says the U.S. Army seems to focus on a combustion or thermal process rather than another alternative.

"Based upon our research of disposal options, most of the Concerned Citizens I represent do not see any thermal combustion of M6 as a

safe alternative," Hagar said, "but we question our capacity to move the U.S. Army away from their focus upon the incineration process they are performing daily throughout the nation, and which they obviously want to do here."

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality also released a statement in the report, commenting they agree with the committee that a consensus was not reached; however, they did not have enough information to "perform a thorough assessment of the feasibility or ability to comply with applicable

Louisiana environmental standards and regulations at this time."

It goes on to say LDEQ "stands ready to review any proposal" for a technology that would comply with Louisiana standards and regulations consistent with the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent, the document which lists open burn as the destruction process of choice by the U.S. Army.

The Environmental Protection Agency via Ron Curry, Region 6 Administrator, saying they are ready to move forward with an alternative

method.

"This report is the result of a tremendous commitment by the community to seek alternative solutions to address the materials at Camp Minden," Curry said. "It represents the culmination of endless hours work, tireless study and research, and the incredible understanding and knowledge of the participants. I strongly believe that public engagement better informs decisions - both for the EPA and for the community."

ARREST

Continued from page 1

Brandon Curry arrived on the scene to assist, the driver, Kawaski Allen; front seat passenger, Jaquorius Allen; and back seat passenger, Bristol Dillard were taken into custody.

"The driver told Ofc. James he ran because he had an open container and did not have a driver's license," Cropper said. "He gave his consent to have the vehicle searched and in addition to finding an open beer bottle, the officer smelled what he believed to be a strong odor of unburned marijuana."

During the search, officers reportedly found small flakes of suspected marijuana in the vehicle's glove compartment. "The officer said the entire time he was searching the vehicle, he kept smelling marijuana," Cropper said. "He went back to his patrol vehicle to review the video footage and saw where something was thrown from the passenger side of the vehicle at a stop sign on Lanning at Ash Street. Jenkins and Curry walked the area but didn't find evidence."

A second review of the video reportedly showed

another object thrown from the driver's side. According to the report, several officers combed the area, while James returned to search the vehicle.

"He located digital scales with a white residue on it between the two front seats," Cropper said. "During a search of the back seat, he found two plastic baggies with suspected marijuana in them under the right back passenger seat."

The three suspects were booked at Minden Police Department.

Bristol Dillard, 25, of the 500 block of Constable Street, was charged with possession of CDS Sch. I marijuana with intent to distribute, possession of

CDS Sch. II crack cocaine with intent to distribute and obstruction of justice.

Kewaski Allen, 34, of the 1000 block of Pine Street, was charged with possession of CDS Sch. I marijuana with intent to distribute, possession of CDS Sch. II crack cocaine with intent to distribute, obstruction of justice, aggravated flight from an officer and cited for not using a turn signal at the required distance.

Jaquorius Allen, 19, of the 100 block of Lorex Road was arrested for possession of CDS Sch. I marijuana with intent to distribute, possession of CDS Sch. II crack cocaine with intent to distribute and obstruction of justice. There were also bench

warrants for his arrest on charges of no driver's license, no insurance and careless operation of a motor vehicle.

Cropper says several officers remained at the scene and reportedly located a white substance

from the vehicle, weighed 4 grams with a street value of \$25.

All three subjects were transported to Bayou Dorcheat Correctional Center.

BIRTHDAYS FOR
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2015

Meaghan Williams '13'
 Debbie Carrell
 Tammy Jenkins Williams '52'
 Charlotte Edwards
 Hays Brown
 Queen Latifah
 Dane Cook

happy birthday

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Camp Minden tops CC to DC trip

MICHELLE BATES
michelle@press-herald.com

In the first week of March, Minden-South Webster Chamber members made a trip to Washington D.C. to push for federal involvement in finding a safe disposal alternative to the open tray burn of nearly 16 million pounds of M6 propellant and clean burning igniters at Camp Minden.

Jerri de Pingre, president and CEO of the Minden chamber, traveled with the Shreveport and Bossier chambers of commerce to Washington where they met with Louisiana's delegation and delegates from Texas and Arkansas. Last year, de Pingre submitted an issue asking the U.S. Army to take responsibility for what is going on at Camp Minden, to come to the table, to spend the money and get it cleaned up.

"It was shortly after that trip that things really started moving," she said. "We went back up there in June and (then) Sen. (Mary) Landrieu got the Army to the table. There was a group of us around that table, and it's kind of what brought us up to where we are now."

This year, de Pingre submitted a second issue – this time asking the Army, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality to get back together and rewrite the request for proposal so the propellant gets cleaned up safely.

"We have about 15 minutes with each lawmaker," de Pingre explained. "We split into two groups so we cover more area that way. I took point on the Camp Minden issue. Lisa Johnson, president of the Bossier chamber, took point on Camp Minden with her group. So, it was probably spread across 10 different elected officials."

She says they met with several different lawmakers from Louisiana, Texas and Arkansas.

"Some people talked about Barksdale, some people talked about the Port, issues of debt; I talked about Camp Minden," she said. "Hopefully it's going to make a difference."

In the course of their marathon meetings with the delegates, de Pingre learned that Sen. Bill Cassidy will be training staff in Shreveport, and it gave her the idea to have him tour Camp Minden while

he is here.

"Camp Minden is on board and I'm just waiting to hear back from Sen. Cassidy's office," she said.

One of the best things to come out of the trip is Camp Minden has been added to the list of items to be discussed at an EPA meeting set in the nation's capitol, de Pingre says.

"They're talking about the air quality requirements and they're trying to drop from 70 parts per billion," she said. "Lisa Johnson told them about Camp Minden and a large part of it is an EPA issue. This is huge. The chamber signed resolutions – more than one – requesting them to take another look at it and give us an alternative to the open tray burn."

Resolutions have been sent to the EPA and the dialogue committee to show the chamber's support.

David Gray, with EPA Region 6, says the agency is seeking comment on levels for the health standard as low as 60 parts per billion.

"According to EPA's analysis, strengthening the ozone standard to a range of 65 to 70 ppb will provide significantly better protection for children,



Minden-South Webster Chamber of Commerce President Jerri de Pingre, right, exchanged ideas with Liz Swain, Downtown Development Director for the City of Shreveport and Majority Whip, Congressman Steve Scalise in the Lincoln Room at the Capitol. Courtesy Photo

preventing 320,000 to 960,000 asthma attacks and from 330,000 to 1 million missed school days," he said. "Strengthening the standard to a range of 70 to 65 ppb would better protect both children and adults by preventing more than 750 to 4,300 premature deaths; 1,400 to 4,300

asthma-related emergency room visits; and 65,000 to 180,000 missed workdays."

The reason this was the biggest issue, de Pingre says, is because the person who brought it up is not from Louisiana.

"So that underscores the fact that people from all around the region are

concerned about it – not just Webster Parish, not just north Louisiana," she said. "This is south Arkansas. They understand that on any given day that an open tray burn, with a breeze blowing, that stuff's going up to south Arkansas, too."

OBITUARY

Christina Rice Crooks

Christina Rice Crooks, 58, of Greenwood, passed away suddenly March 11, 2015, at University Healthcare in Shreveport. She was born May 19, 1956, in Santa Barbara, California, to Margie Thierolf.

She is survived by her husband, Johnny Crooks; son, Keith King Jr.; two brothers, David Thierolf and John Thierolf; and numerous grandchildren, family and friends. She is preceded in death by her mother, Margie Thierolf; sisters, Janet Thierolf and Pamela Thierolf; and daughter, Sarah King Scoggins.

Mrs. Crooks was a loving wife, mother and sister who will be truly missed by all who knew her.

There will not be a funeral service per the wishes of Christina Rice Crooks.

"If we could visit heaven
On this our saddest day
Maybe for a moment

Our pain would go away.
We'd put our arms around you
And whisper words so true
That living life without you
Is very hard to do.
We cannot bring the old days back
When we were all together.
But loving thoughts and memories
Will stay with us forever."



CROOKS

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITES!



Everyone has an opinion and now it's time to give yours. Vote for your favorite business in Webster Parish! The winners will be announced in the Readers' Choice edition on April 17, 2015. You may drop the ballot off at the Minden Press-Herald office at 203 Gleason Street in Minden or mail it to the Minden Press-Herald, P.O. Box 1339, Minden, LA 71058. Only one ballot per person will be permitted. No reproductions or faxes will be accepted.

Name: _____ Telephone number: _____

*Favorite Restaurant _____

Deadline for entries is Friday, March 31, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.

One winner will be drawn from the ballots received and will win DINNER FOR TWO from the restaurant voted most favorite OR \$50

- Favorite Auto Body Shop
- Favorite Manufactured Home Dealer
- Favorite Bakery
- Favorite Lawyer
- Favorite Buffet Restaurant
- Favorite Breakfast Restaurant
- Favorite Barber Shop
- Favorite Beauty Shop
- Favorite Bank
- Favorite C.P.A.
- Favorite Chicken
- Favorite Ambulance Service
- Favorite Heating & Air Provider
- Favorite Shoe Store
- Favorite Casino
- Favorite Car Wash/Detail
- Favorite Real Estate Office
- Favorite Tuxedo Rental
- Favorite Tanning Salon
- Favorite Pawn Shop
- Favorite Funeral Home

- Favorite Dentist
- Favorite Apartment Complex
- Favorite Auto Parts Store
- Favorite Drive Thru Restaurant
- Favorite Electrician
- Favorite Elementary School
- Favorite NEW Auto Dealer
- Favorite USED Auto Dealer
- Favorite Florist
- Favorite Evening Meal Restaurant
- Favorite Furniture Store
- Favorite Gas Station
- Favorite Gift Shop (Non-Florist)
- Favorite Principal
- Favorite Fitness Center
- Favorite Seafood Restaurant
- Favorite School Teacher
- Favorite Salad Bar
- Favorite NEW Vehicle Salesperson
- Favorite Pediatrician
- Favorite Grocery Store

- Favorite Golf Course in Area
- Favorite Hardware Store
- Favorite Health Care Provider
- Favorite High School
- Favorite Homebuilder/Contractor
- Favorite Hotel/Motel
- Favorite Insurance Agent
- Favorite Lawn Equipment Dealer
- Favorite Jeweler
- Favorite Landscaping/Lawn Care Provider
- Favorite Eye Care Provider
- Favorite Liquor Store
- Favorite Lunch Location
- Favorite Middle School
- Favorite Appliance Store
- Favorite USED Vehicle Salesperson
- Favorite Tire Store
- Favorite Dance School
- Favorite Veterinarian
- Favorite Nursing Home
- Favorite Mechanic

- Favorite Mexican Restaurant
- Favorite Men's Apparel Provider
- Favorite Daycare Provider
- Favorite Glass Shop (not eyewear)
- Favorite Oil Change Location
- Favorite Pharmacy
- Favorite Pet Groomer
- Favorite Pest Control Provider
- Favorite Photographer
- Favorite Pizza Restaurant
- Favorite Physician/Surgeon
- Favorite Plumber
- Favorite Public Official
- Favorite Women's Apparel Provider
- Favorite Floor Covering Provider
- Favorite Tax Preparer
- Favorite Customer Service (any business)

OPINION

First Place: 2012 Best Editorial Page, Louisiana Press Association

SHARE YOUR VIEW

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

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SKILLY CREATORS SYNDICATE
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PERSPECTIVE

Why are we taxpayers subsidizing corporate crime?

"DO THE CRIME, do the time," the old saying goes. Unless, of course, the criminals are corporate executives. In those cases, the culprits are practically always given a "Get out of jail free" card.

Even the corporate crimes that produce horrible injuries, illnesses, death, massive pollution, consumer ripoffs, etc. are routinely settled by fines and payoffs from the corporate treasury, with no punishment of the honchos who oversee what amount to crime-for-profit syndicates. The only bit of justice in these money settlements is that some of them have become quite large, with multibillion-dollar "punitive damages" meant to deter the perpetrators from doing it again. Yet the same bad corporate actors seem to keep at it.

What's going on here is a game of winkin' 'n' noddin', in which corporate criminals know that those headline-grabbing assessments for damages they've caused have a secret escape hatch built into them. Congress has generously written the law so corporations can deduct much of their punitive payments from their income taxes! As Sen. Pat Leahy points out, "This tax loophole allows corporations to wreak havoc and then write it off as a cost of doing business."

For example, oil giant BP certainly wreaked havoc with its careless oil rig explosion in 2010, killing 11 workers, deeply contaminating the Gulf of Mexico and devastating the livelihoods of millions of people along the Gulf coast. So, BP was socked with a punishing payout topping \$42 billion. But — shhhh — 80 percent of that was eligible for a tax deduction, a little fact that's been effectively covered up by the bosses and politicians.

This crazy quirk in America's laws to deter corporate crime forces victims to help subsidize criminals. Follow the bouncing ball here: First, a court orders a corporation to pay punitive damages to a victim of its criminal acts; second, the corporate offender pays up, and then merrily subtracts a big chunk of that payment from its income tax, effectively taking money out of our public treasury; third, while the criminal is counting its tax break, the victim is notified that the punitive damage money he or she received from the corporation will be taxed as "regular income;" fourth, that means a big chunk of the victim's payment goes into the treasury to replenish the public money the corporate villain subtracted.

This is nothing but shameful pandering by government officials to rich and powerful criminals. It's bad enough that corporate-financed lawmakers legalize such encouragement of criminality, but corporate-coddling judges are playing the same disgraceful game — drastically reducing the amounts that juries order corporations to pay. In a Montana case, for example, a jury awarded \$240 million in punitive damages to the families of three people, including two teenagers, killed in a car crash. The deaths were blamed on a steering defect that South Korean automaker Hyundai was found to have known about and "recklessly" ignored for more than a decade. But a district judge has since supplanted the jury's ruling with her own. While declaring that Hyundai's "reprehensibility" certainly warrants a sizeable punishment, she cut the corporation's punitive payment down to \$73 million.

Hello — that's not punishment to a \$79-billion-a-year car giant, it's pocket change. Why would Hyundai executives quit putting corporate profits over people's lives if that's their "punishment"?

Plus, we taxpayers and the victims' families are still lined up to subsidize whatever "punishment" Hyundai ultimately pays. With subsidies and wrist-slaps, the corporate criminal whirligig will continue to spin, making a mockery of justice. Fortunately, Sen. Leahy has had the good sense to introduce legislation to lock down this escape hatch for thieves, killers and other executive-suite villains. For more information on the moral outrage of ordinary taxpayers being forced to subsidize corporate criminals, contact U.S. PIRG at www.uspirg.org.

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



JIM HIGHTOWER

PERSPECTIVE

Evolve or die

THOSE THAT STAY one step ahead of the game are best able to avoid falling two steps behind the competition.

Currently, the New Orleans Saints are trying to exemplify this principle, restructuring their roster and locker room chemistry to evolve in order to stay relevant in the NFL. Kodak wishes they would have taken a similarly aggressive approach and evolved sooner to digital photography in the late 1990s, instead of holding true to film on their way to bankruptcy several years ago.

Ask any successful business competing in the global economy if they plan to evolve and they will explain clearly that evolution and innovation is key to survival. Change is not optional; it is necessary and inevitable for continued success.

This year, the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI) will celebrate its 40th anniversary. A group of businessmen focused on defending free enterprise and promoting a pro-business economy that would help Louisiana reach its great potential formed the organization in the fall of 1975. Throughout the years, it has been a model of consistency in state policy and politics, never wavering from its original mission.

At the time of its founding, the first major step toward creating a competitive economic environment in Louisiana was to pursue the enactment of a Right-to-Work law.

An in-depth study of the state's economy at the time indicated the primary hindrance to business growth was the absence of a Right-to-Work law. A subsequent opinion poll showed that over 74 percent of Louisiana's residents believed that union membership should not be a condition of employment. Almost 77 percent favored passage of a law to ensure the right to work without union membership.

Nevertheless, passage of such a law was expected to take years. At the time, organized labor had a vise-like grip on state government, personified by former state AFL-CIO President Victor Bussie. He was a strong ally to then-Gov. Edwin Edwards and was regarded by many as a skilled strategist during his two decades as leader for the unions.

Surprisingly, and against massive odds, LABI succeeded in getting the Legislature to pass a Right-to-Work bill on its first attempt in the summer of 1976. Following the stunning vote that sent Louisiana's Right-to-Work bill to Gov. Edwards' desk, Bussie stood on the steps of the capitol and told the thousands of union faithful there, "We'll keep coming back until this law is repealed."

The unions' annual attempt to repeal Louisiana's Right-to-Work law never got traction. To this day, the law is the foundation of our state's economic development. Without it, Louisiana could not compete with its southern neighboring

states — all of which also have Right-to-Work laws on their books — for business investment and the jobs it brings.

Union membership in the U.S. as a percentage of the country's total workforce has steadily declined for decades, falling from around 20 percent some 30 years ago to just over 11 percent in 2014. Louisiana membership is a mere 5.2 percent, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

The decline in membership, along with the Obama administration's regulatory overreach in support of the unions, signals that unions are struggling to make themselves relevant to today's mobile and informed workforce.

Unions are out of step with workers' interests, politically, economically and personally. Unions have become increasingly active politically on numerous issues and aggressively promote a national agenda that does not usually reflect the values of many local communities across Louisiana.

Meanwhile, unions have overplayed their hands by insisting on wages and benefit structures that ignore the economic realities constraining the companies with which they bargain. This results in lost jobs and incomes to their members. Finally, younger workers joining the workforce are not inclined to turn their futures over to a union representative who tells them they cannot be paid more based on their ability, but must settle for a wage comparable to that paid to a less able co-worker.

A milestone was reached this past week as half of the states in the U.S. now protect their workers with Right-to-Work laws. Wisconsin became the nation's 25th state to enact a Right-to-Work law on Monday, March 9, when Gov. Scott Walker signed a bill into law to protect Wisconsin's workforce from forcibly joining a union in order to hold a job.

Indiana and Michigan became Right-to-Work states in 2012. A number of other states have Right-to-Work bills before their legislatures this year, as the recognition dawns that worker freedom translates into economic development.

The enactment of Right-to-Work laws in these three states is quite remarkable because Midwestern states have long been a union stronghold and viewed as impervious to laws that would grant workers the freedom to refuse union membership and mandatory dues, usually paid by workers even when they choose not to be union members, which is referred to as "agency shop."



STEPHEN WAGUESPACK

The new governor in Illinois is now attempting to evolve the state's traditional deference to union domination by pushing reforms to make Illinois' business climate more competitive with neighboring states.

Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner has already issued an executive order prohibiting public unions from collecting mandatory fees from workers who don't want to join the union. Considering over 90 percent of Illinois state workers are unionized, which is the highest rate in the country, this effort has brought out major push back from their union leaders. In fact, 27 Illinois unions have already sued the governor for this action.

Illinois has seen thousands of manufacturing jobs go to nearby states with more business-friendly laws and has tremendous budget and pension liability debt issues that are holding back its growth. The centerpiece of Gov. Rauner's budget proposal to address these debt issues is described by the Wall Street Journal as recommending, "cuts to state transfers to local governments, adjustments to government employees' health plans, and structural changes to public-union pensions."

Gov. Rauner has stated that his first priority is to change the way Illinois does business, saying, "We've got massive debt, massive deficits, high unemployment. People think, 'just raise the income-tax rate.' Guys, that is not going to fix our problem. We've gotta grow."

Traditional union strongholds like Michigan, Wisconsin and Illinois are beginning to see the light. They recognize they must evolve if they are to compete in the global economy.

Evolution is a part of life. The dinosaurs learned that lesson the hard way. Countless companies and industries have also learned it that way over the years. In the global economy, the smart companies, industries and states will always strive to be on the cutting edge of advancing policies that keep them competitive for investment and jobs.

In 1975, Louisiana passed groundbreaking right-to-work legislation to make us more competitive. Other states are finally catching up to us and it is time we start looking for the next workforce and budget reforms to make our economy more business-friendly than other states.

If we rest on our laurels and take our right-to-work laws and private sector momentum for granted, we may miss our Kodak moment and gradually go the way of the dinosaur. That would be a tragedy. It's our move.

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

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WEBSTER PARISH'S NEWS SOURCE

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COMMUNITY

WEBSTER HUMANE ASSOCIATION

Webster Humane Association is in need of a loving home for these two 4-year-old litter-mates that owner would like kept together. Owner has cancer and needs to "re-home" these two dogs she has owned since they were puppies — one is male, one female. Both are neutered with all shots and are house broken. They are inside dogs and a fence is required. Call Sandy for adoption application: 377-3804. Fee is \$100 for both. Courtesy photo



HIGHER EDUCATION

La. Tech names winter quarter honor students

Louisiana Tech University has announced the names of students on its winter quarter President's and Dean's honor lists. Students whose names are followed by an asterisk earned recognition as members of the President's Honor List. That distinction signifies achievement of at least a 3.8 academic grade point average on a minimum of nine semester hours completed (100-level or higher), with no grade lower

than a B. To be eligible for the Dean's Honor Lists, a student is required to earn at least a 3.5 academic grade point average with no grade lower than a C on a minimum of nine semester hours completed (100-level or higher). Courses yielding satisfactory/failure grades and courses audited do not count toward eligibility for either recognition. Only undergraduates with no incomplete grades are eli-

gible to make either list. **Doyline:** Molly Joyce Day*, Erin Renee Smith*, Ethan Michael Sullivan and Cassidy Opal Zanca* **Dubberly:** Savannah Dawn Brown and Chelsea Shaw **Heflin:** Torres Cristal Soto, Torres Maria Guadalupe Soto* and Samuel Edwin Thrash **Minden:** Macie Lee Branch*, Laura Elizabeth Brown, Jennifer Lynn Dickinson*, Joshua S. Harden*, Coltan Ryan Haynes, Vic-

tor Keith Powell, Claudia L. Pullman, Austin R. Snider*, Ethan Hale Tesnow, Katlyn Brooke Watson*, Jordan Taylor Wood, McKenzie Alyssa Wren and Jimmy Yocom **Sarepta:** Christina Kayley Gonzalez*, Allie N. Morgan, Melanie R. Slack* and Megan Elizabeth Theriot* **Shongaloo:** Miranda Kathleen Miller* and Hannah Marie Talley **Sibley:** Kali Rebecca Kilian.

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@trailblazer.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.

Longspring COGIC will be celebrating their 88th Church Anniversary at 3 p.m. Guest Speaker will be Elder Benjamin Hulon of Faith Temple COGIC in Rayville.

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.

Celebrate your wedding, engagement, or anniversary with Webster Parish!
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SPORTS
briefs

COLLEGE BB
 Ole Miss,

Hampton advance

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — Let this be a lesson to the 64 NCAA Tournament teams yet to take the floor: A quick start means a lot. A great finish is even better.

Reginald Jackson was at his best early and late to lead Hampton — just 12-17 and headed nowhere 12 days earlier — to a 74-64 wire-to-wire victory over Manhattan in a matchup of 16 seeds on Tuesday night at the First Four.

In the nightcap at the University of Dayton Arena, BYU led by 17 at half but Mississippi regrouped in the second half behind Stefan Moody, outscoring the Cougars 25-0 off turnovers in a stunning 94-90 win.

"Welcome to March Madness," said Rebels coach Andy Kennedy after his team went from down-trodden to a second-round matchup with Xavier in exactly 20 minutes. "This was a tale of two halves."

The Rebels (21-12) move on to a date with sixth-seeded Xavier on Thursday in Jacksonville, Florida, on Thursday afternoon.

Meanwhile, the Hampton Pirates, who have won five in a row just to get to the .500 mark, now get to play mighty Kentucky, No. 1 overall, 34-0 on the year and chasing history.

"It's a heck of a mountain, you know what I'm saying?" said coach Edward Joyner Jr. "We know that. We're going to go and compete. And let the chips fall where they may."

NFL

Hardy to sign with Bucs or Cowboys

Former Carolina Panthers defensive end Greg Hardy, who is undergoing a physical this morning in Dallas, is expected to choose Wednesday between the Cowboys and Tampa Bay Buccaneers, agent Drew Rosenhaus told ESPN NFL Insider Adam Schefter.

Hardy and the Cowboys have been engaged in ongoing negotiations, and the player stayed overnight in Dallas before the scheduled physical.

Hardy, 26, was a 2013 Pro Bowl selection after leading Carolina with 15 sacks, tying a team single-season record.

Carolina placed the franchise tag on Hardy in February 2014, guaranteeing him \$13.1 million for the season. On May 13, he was arrested and charged with assaulting and threatening to kill ex-girlfriend Nicole Holder.

A Mecklenburg (North Carolina) County judge found Hardy guilty on July 15. The verdict was set aside when Hardy requested a jury trial.

All charges were dropped on Feb. 9 because Holder refused to cooperate with the district attorney's office after receiving a financial settlement from Hardy.

Hardy was placed on the inactive list before the second game this past season and the commissioner's exempt list before the third game until his domestic violence case was resolved.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

WHITE GETS OPENING INVITE

Honors piling up for North Webster's Devin White



BLAKE BRANCH
 blake@press-herald.com

It's been an eventful off-season for North Webster High School athlete Devin White, if there is such a thing.

The junior runningback/linebacker has been busy on the camp circuit, recently traveling to Dallas, Texas for the Dallas Regional showcase for "The Opening".

The Opening is a four-day, invitation only scouting combine held at Nike World headquarters in Beaverton, Oregon. Only the top 150 high school football prospects in the country - as chosen at The Opening regionals held nationwide - can attend.

Thanks to a dazzling display of athleticism (4.57 40-yard dash and 34-inch vertical jump), White will be getting open in Oregon, July 5-10, with the 149 of the other top prospects nationwide.

To top off the good news, White recently gave a pledge to play in the Under Armour High School All-American football game.

The 6-foot, 260-pound prospect took some time to reflect on his busy spring.

"First of all it's a blessing."



White said. "To get open is a hard achievement. There are thousands of kids trying to achieve this right now and they only have 150 invites they can give out. Really, it's just a blessing."

A blessing indeed, but White has put in the hard work in order to receive those blessings.

"I have been working hard," White said. "I've been doing the shuttles and trying to keep my

forty (time) down. I go to Shreveport two or three days a week to work with a speed trainer and I run track. I work a lot on my game by myself, so it's nice to see people recognize me and see the hard work paying off."

One unique aspect of The Opening is that the camp is run by NFL players, both past and present.

Players such as Jerry Rice, Patrick Peterson, Larry

Fitzgerald and Darrell Revis will be working hard with the prospects, including White.

"It's just great," White said of working with some of the game's elite. "They're going to give you a lot of knowledge about things you don't know about recruitment, teach you some stuff on the field and just work out with them. It's going to be a learning experience. You can

never take in too much information."

With the whirlwind of camps, calls from coaches, and college football fans around the country pleading for his services, White has leaned on the advice of guys who have already been through the process.

"I've talked to Leonard Fournette from LSU," White said. "Myles Jack from UCLA, who plays both runningback and linebacker for them, and Donte Moncrief who went to Ole Miss and plays for the Colts."

Southern Miss's runningbacks coach called me today. I thought he was calling me to recruit me to the school, but he was just calling to say 'Man, I was a runningback. I've been in your position before and there's a lot I can help you with.'"

White still has one goal that stands above The Opening, the Under Armour game or any other honor for that matter.

Winning a state championship with his teammates and coaches at North Webster.

"I'm focused on what's in front of me," White said. "That's being a team player and trying to win a state championship. I'll take a state championship over anything. I know a lot of the young guys are looking up to me. I just have to lead them by example. I know if guys see me doing the right things, they'll do the right things. When everyone is doing the right thing, good things are going to happen."

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Apaches fall to Raiders at home, 11-0



BLAKE BRANCH
 blake@press-herald.com

The Glenbrook Apaches had a night they would like to forget Tuesday, as Riverfield Academy drove over from Rayville to deliver an 11-0 loss before heading back east.

In a game where the strike zone appeared to be the size of a dixie cup, the Apaches walked nine Raiders. When Glenbrook was able to throw one over the heart of the plate, Riverfield was ready, racking up hit after hit on their way to the win.

"We had a really bad

fourth inning," Apache head coach Jonathan Hardy said. "That's almost more walks than we've probably had all season combined. At times we were able to locate and weren't getting it (the call). Other than that we have to swing the bats a lot better. We struck out way too many times. We have to find ways to get on base."

Caleb Wilson went 1-1 and Clay Simonton went 1-2 as the Apaches could only muster two hits against Raider pitching.

Glenbrook will try to get revenge for the home blowout as they travel to Rayville for a doubleheader with Riverfield Friday.

First pitch for game one of the doubleheader is at 4:30 p.m. at Riverfield Academy.



Submitted Photo/Darden Gladney

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Bulldogs beat Central Michigan 89-79



RUSTON — Head coach Michael White picked up win No. 100 and Louisiana Tech extended its home winning streak to 30 by defeating Central Michigan, 89-79, on Tuesday night in front of 6,904 fans inside the Thomas Assembly Center.

With the victory, LA Tech (26-8) advances to the second round of the National Invitation Tournament for the third straight season and will take on Texas A&M at a date and time to be determined.

Any worry that coach White had before the game about the players' energy level coming off the heart-breaking exit from the Conference USA Tournament went out the

door in a hurry.

The game started with a classic alley-oop pass from Kenneth Smith to Michael Kyser, sending the eighth largest crowd in TAC history into an uproar.

The entire team ended up showing their grit, especially on the offensive end. The Bulldogs shot a season-best 57 percent from the field (33-of-58) and 58 percent from beyond the arc (11-of-19) and got a season-high 43

points from the bench.

"That was a really good win for us," White said after becoming just the ninth active head coach to reach 100 victories in his first four years. "I thought we played very well. That was as well as we have played offensively all year. Defensively, we had some breakdowns as I think most teams in the country would have trying to defend Central Michigan. They are incredible offen-

sively.

"The three seniors led us with mentality more than anything, in terms of taking advantage of playing in a prestigious tournament that does not happen to be the NCAA Tournament. These three guys were really down the past few days, but they showed their true colors and maturity tonight. I was really pleased with the way our supporting cast, supported these three seniors."

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FILM REVIEW

'Insurgent' could use more divergence

JAKE COYLE
AP Film Writer

Given that conformity is the scourge of the "Divergent" series and much of its young-adult ilk, it's a shame that the films, including the new "Insurgent," do so little to stray from well-worn YA paths.

For a series that waves the banner of individualism, they make a poor case for it. Instead of throbbing with a teenage spirit of rebellion — or things like youthful wildness, humor or sex — the two "Divergent" movies are curiously content to eke out a rigid, lifeless fable in drab futuristic environs.

The answer, here, to the question of what are you rebelling against isn't "Whaddya got?" but the slightly less visceral "An elaborate, highly metaphorical dystopian system of militaristic control."

But even faint, fantastical whiffs of teen insurrection carry enough potency to drive feverish young audiences. Why? Much of it has to do with the stars.

Say what you will about YA movies, but they've been an efficient star-making machine that's produced Jennifer Lawrence, Kristen Stewart and Shailene Woodley. We should be happy to have them: good actresses all, who easily lead their respective films over their male counterparts.

The YA men aren't as fine a bunch but here include the hunky Theo James and the excellent Miles Teller. Predictably



In this image released by Lionsgate, Theo James, center, Shailene Woodley and Ansel Elgort appear in a scene from "The Divergent Series: Insurgent." Courtesy Photo

providing "Insurgent" with its only lively, comedic moments, Teller looks as if he didn't get the note that all must be sullen and serious.

A quick summary. Based on Veronica Roth's trilogy of best-selling novels, the "Divergent" films are set in a walled, post-apocalyptic Chicago, where survivors are ritualistically sorted into five factions. Every 16-year-old is tested for which faction suits them, and then must choose one and

remain there forever.

Tris (Woodley) chose Dauntless, who are known for their bravery and, it seems, their proclivity for train hopping. But her test revealed her to be "divergent" — someone who has no dominant characteristic but a plethora — and this makes her uncontrollable. In "Divergent," Tris came to embrace her fate, find a boyfriend in Dauntless leader Four (James, who has a natural chemistry with Woodley) and stop a

plot by the city's overlord, Janine (Kate Winslet) to make zombies of its citizens.

"Insurgent," the full name of which is the suitably clunky "The Divergent Series: Insurgent," finds the tale largely spinning its wheels and features many redundant confrontations. Along with an underground revolutionary leader played by an underused Naomi Watts, Tris and Four organize a revolt against Janine.

Allegiances are in constant flux; Teller's sarcastic operator switches sides with the wind. The plot (which includes Tris' brother, played by Ansel Elgort and Jai Courtney's burly enforcer) progresses less in a forward motion than in a repetitive cycle of escapes, surrenders and rescues, often taking place in the same hallways. Executions at gunpoint and frequently threatened suicide add to the cheery atmosphere.

Much of the drama of "Insurgent" takes place in a virtual reality in which Tris frequently faces various simulation challenges, forcing her to reconcile her guilt in the death of her parents, as seen in the first installment. These "sims" are where "Insurgent" flashes its fanciest effects, but this dream state just further removes the film from any tangible reality. "Insurgent" is already an allegorical fantasy.

The way of many YA adaptations is to make the first film cheaply and then, once its popularity has been proven, boost the production value in subsequent sequels. That's the case with the 3-D "Insurgent," where director Robert Schwentke ("R.I.P.D.") takes over for "Divergent" helmer Neil Burger. The result is a bigger, glossier and better made action film with less embarrassing fight choreography. But any appeal still depends entirely on the talent of its cast.

The final "Divergent" book will be split into two movies, a future that is indeed a little dystopian. Much brighter, though, are the blossoming careers of Woodley and Teller, who were best together in the indie "The Spectacular Now." Movies, thankfully, come in factions, too.

"The Divergent Series: Insurgent," a Roadside Attractions release, is rated PG-13 for "intense violence and action throughout, some sensuality, thematic elements and brief language." Running time: 118 minutes. Two stars out of four.

'Kardashian' game maker Glu creating Jenner sisters game

ASSOCIATED PRESS

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Glu Mobile is keeping up with the Kardashians.

The mobile video game developer responsible for

the popular "Kim Kardashian: Hollywood" game announced plans Tuesday to develop a game starring Kardashian half-sisters Kendall and Kylie Jenner.

Glu says the game will feature the likenesses, voices and creative influences of the 19- and 17-year-old "Keeping Up with the Kardashians" co-stars and models. They previ-

ously appeared in the "Kim Kardashian: Hollywood" game.

Glu Mobile Inc. said the game is expected to launch later this year for Apple and Android

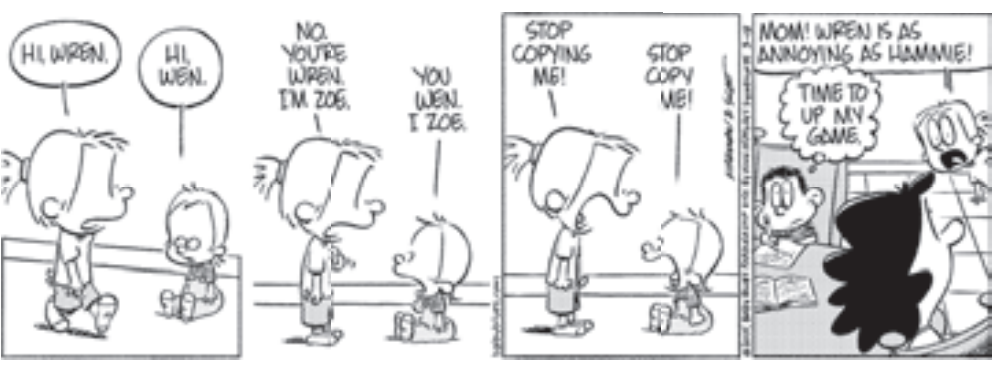
devices.

The San Francisco-based company reported better-than-expected fourth-quarter profit results last month. It also announced plans to devel-

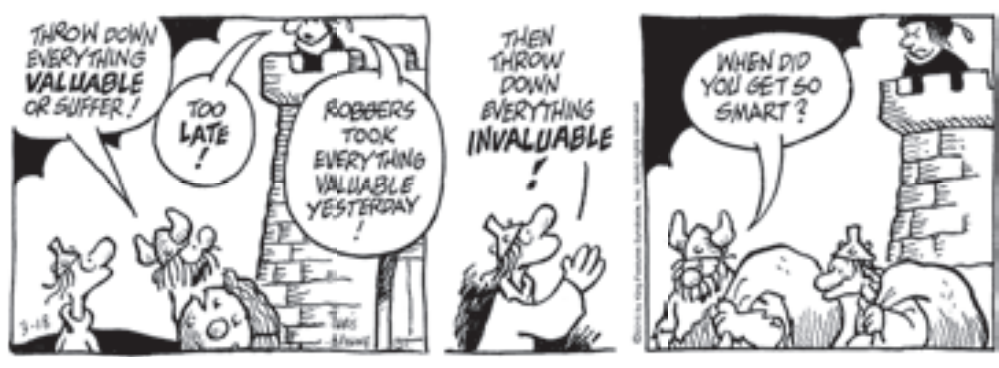
op a game starring pop singer Katy Perry.

Kendall Jenner walked the runway earlier this year in shows at New York, London, Paris and Milan Fashion Weeks.

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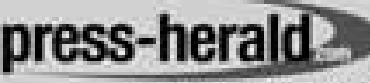


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March 18 & 24, 2015
Minden Press-Herald

State of Louisiana Executive Department

Proclamation No. 39 BJ 2015

SPECIAL ELECTION - JUSTICE OF THE PEACE - PARISH OF WEBSTER

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the office of Justice of the Peace, Justice of the Peace District 5, Parish of Webster, due to no one qualifying in the last scheduled special election.

WHEREAS, R.S. 18:585 mandates that the Governor shall call a special election to fill the vacancy in an office, including a vacancy caused by the failure of any candidate to qualify for the election in the office, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution and the laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

NOW THEREFORE I, BOBBY JINDAL, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: A special primary and a special general election shall be held throughout the jurisdiction of the Justice of the Peace District 5, Parish of Webster, for the purpose of electing a justice of the peace to fill the vacancy in the office.

SECTION 2:

Any qualified person desiring to become a candidate shall file a notice of candidacy, accompanied either by a qualifying fee or a nominating petition, as required or authorized by law, with the appropriate election official in the manner and under the procedures and conditions provided by R.S. 18:461, et seq., and all other applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, R.S. 18:1, et seq., during the period commencing Tuesday, September 8, 2015, and ending at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, September 10, 2015.

SECTION 3:

The special election shall be held and conducted under the applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, R.S. 18:1, et seq.

SECTION 4:

The primary election shall be held on Saturday, October 24, 2015, and the general election shall be held on Saturday, November 21, 2015, at the times and places and in the manner prescribed by law.

SECTION 5:

The Secretary of State, Commissioner of Elections, Parish Board of Election Supervisors, Clerk of Court, Registrar of Voters, and all other persons charged with any power, function, right, duty or responsibility in conducting elections in the jurisdiction of the Justice of the Peace District 5, Parish of Webster, are hereby authorized, requested, directed and empowered to exercise every lawful function and to do every act necessary to conduct the special election, to cause the returns to be made, to canvass and promulgate the results, and to perform all related and incidental functions.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF,

I have hereunto set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana, at the Capitol, in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 27th day of February, 2015.

/s/ Bobby Jindal
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA
ATTEST BY THE GOVERNOR
/s/ Tom Schedler
SECRETARY OF STATE

March 18, 2015
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