



# MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

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March 19, 2015 | 50 Cents

**THURSDAY**

MINDEN CRIME

## 2 BUSTED IN EARLY MORNING RAID

Suspects arrested on five warrants each for distribution of crack cocaine

**PAGE 2**



Minden Police Ofc. Kenneth James walks Dominick Jackson into the Minden Police Department. Jackson was arrested on five warrants for distribution of crack cocaine. Bonnie Culverhouse/Press-Herald

CAMP MINDEN

## Review of M6 proposals due today

MICHELLE BATES  
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Review of the M6 removal proposals begins Thursday morning following the due date of 5 p.m. Wednesday, March 18.

Col. Ron Stuckey, project coordinator for the cleanup of the M6 propellant at Camp Minden, says as of Wednesday morning, several different companies have expressed interest in the project.

"At the end of the day, they may or may not call me today, but for sure tomorrow, I'll find out who turned in bids," Stuckey said. "We know for a fact there were 13 contractors who expressed an interest. Whether or not they will all bid, I don't have a clue."

The bids will be turned in to the Louisiana National Guard's contracting office at Camp Beauregard in Pineville. The companies which submitted bids will not be released to the public until a contractor is chosen.

The final report from the Camp Minden Dialogue Committee listed the next steps in the process of the cleanup, which reports the review of bids could take one to two weeks. However, Stuckey says it could take longer.

"It's not something you do very quickly," he said. "You have to review each one of them, and if we get 13 bids, it could take more than two weeks. You just don't rush through it and pick the best price. You have to look at the details of what they said. They have to convince us they can meet the emissions standards and there is a technical evaluation, which is the hardest part. Then there is a cost evaluation, which is a lot easier."

At this time, \$19 million has been released to the state to cover the cost of the cleanup.

Nearly 16 million pounds of

See **BIDS**, Page 3

REMEMBERING AHMAD



Ahmad Adams and mother, Toni Thornton. File Photo

## 'He was a sweet young man'

### Remembering Ahmad Adams

BONNIE CULVERHOUSE  
bonnie@press-herald.com

When 12-year-old Ahmad Adams died from cancer March 14, he gave his family a gift.

Marnisha Becnel, his cousin and former babysitter, says in life and death, Ahmad is an inspiration.

"Anybody you talk to will tell you, his attitude was so amazing, and because of that, it makes it a little easier to mourn him," Becnel said.

"He was a bossy little man - he wanted what he wanted," she continued. "He was just cheerful little Ahmad. Nothing ever

See **AHMAD**, Page 3

EDUCATION

## Jindal plans to remove Common Core

Governor wants state to return to former education standards

MELINDA DESLATTE  
Associated Press

Gov. Bobby Jindal said Wednesday that his legislative proposal to remove Common Core from state public schools would return Louisiana to its old education standards and testing until new benchmarks are developed.

The Republican governor outlined the broad parameters of bills he'll push to stop Louisiana from using the multistate standards and the associated testing, saying removal of Common Core will be one of his top legislative priorities.

The proposals will be considered in the legislative session that begins April 13. The issue is certain to be contentious. Lawmakers refused to jettison Common Core from public school classrooms last year, but Jindal said he's confident growing opposition to the standards could change some legislative minds this year.

The Common Core standards are benchmarks of what students should learn at each grade level in English and math. They've been adopted by more than 40 states as a way to better prepare students for college and careers. Opponents say the standards are developmentally inappropriate and part of federal efforts to nationalize education.

"What sounded like a great idea, voluntary state-led high standards - it's a great concept. Unfortunately, that's not what Common Core



JINDAL

See **JINDAL**, Page 2

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WEATHER TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK



**70** HIGH **57** LOW

A steady rain in the morning. Showers continuing in the afternoon. Thunder possible.

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»»INSIDE:

Miss Minden hosts craft day, spreads awareness

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MINDEN CRIME

# Police arrest 2 on crack cocaine distribution charges

**BONNIE CULVERHOUSE**  
bonnie@press-herald.com

Multiple law enforcement agencies hit two houses early today, arresting two men on five warrants each of distribution of crack cocaine.

Tyrone Kennon and Dominick Jackson were taken into custody around 6 a.m., Minden Police Chief Steve Cropper said.

"We were working with DEA, state police, Claiborne Parish Sheriff's Office and Webster Parish Sheriff's Office," Cropper said. "We had arrest warrants due to undercover buys and obtained search warrants for both residences – one on Joel Street and the other on Mason Alley."

Cropper says both houses were hit simultaneously.

"State police SWAT did one, and our SRT (Special Response Team) did the other one," he said. "The other agencies and officers were there for perimeter – to make sure the two teams were safe doing their jobs."



**Left, a Drug Enforcement Administration agent searches a house on Mason Alley, after serving warrants on the resident for distribution of crack cocaine. Right, Webster Parish Narcotics detective Joel Thomas and K-9 Officer Niko search the exterior of a vehicle on Mason Alley.** Bonnie Culverhouse/Press-Herald

FOLLOW UP

## Police: Man found dead died of heart disease

**MICHELLE BATES**  
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Minden Police Chief Steve Cropper says the cause of death of a man found in his van in the parking lot of Walmart Supercenter was due to a heart condition.

Chris Hunter, 47, was found Saturday by an employee of Rose-Neath Funeral Home, Hunter's place of employment, the chief said.

"I have received information that he did have some heart issues," Cropper said. "The cause of death was probably due to heart disease."

Cropper says he has not yet received a written report on Hunter's autopsy. Officials with the coroner's office say it takes six to eight weeks for an official report.

## JINDAL

*Continued from page 1*

has become," Jindal said.

Jindal wants to establish a new process for developing Louisiana's education standards.

Under his proposal, the state's public schools would use grade-level expectations developed 10 years ago and the LEAP and iLEAP standardized testing associated with them.

Those would stay in place until new standards are approved, through a new process that would require the backing of law-

makers, rather than the current process of the education board setting the standards on its own.

Superintendent of Education John White and Chas Roemer, president of the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, slammed the governor's proposal as misguided and politically driven. Jindal is considering a 2016 presidential campaign.

White said Louisiana educators have spent five years shifting to the Common Core standards, and he said Jindal's plan would upend years of curriculum changes and teacher training. He said the state edu-

cation board is moving ahead with a plan to review the multistate standards and testing to determine if adjustments are needed.

Jindal's plan "literally takes us back in time, and Louisiana more than any other state needs to be pushing forward," Roemer said. "This plan laid out by the governor is a disgrace, and it's a political one."

The governor's announcement about his legislative proposals comes the same week that more than 300,000 third-graders through eighth-graders, including Jindal's three children, are taking standardized tests aligned

with Common Core.

In addition to revamping the standards, Jindal also proposes to put new limitations on the contracting authority of the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, to keep it from entering into the types of contracts it has used for the Common Core tests.

Jindal's current approach is a more direct attack than last year, when the administration was largely absent from the legislative debate over Common Core. Whether the governor's involvement changes the outcome remains unclear.

## BIRTHDAYS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 19, 2015

- Curtis Mills Jr.
- Van Cade
- Bruce Willis
- Garrett Clayton
- Glenn Close
- Bun B
- Benny Fine



## Court-Approved Supplemental Information About The Deepwater Horizon Economic Settlement Claim Deadline



### June 8, 2015 – Deadline to File

**Claim(s) with the Deepwater Horizon (BP) Economic Settlement Program**

The Class Settlement and its objective, financial data based causation tests have been approved by final judgment.

If you reside or have a business in the map above, you have the right to file a claim.

If you submit a claim form and all required information and meet the formulas as approved by the Courts, you qualify for an award.

Not every claim filed will be eligible, but you have the right to file and find out.

**The June 8, 2015 Deadline will NOT be extended**

To file your claim go to:  
[www.deepwaterhorizoneconomicsettlement.com](http://www.deepwaterhorizoneconomicsettlement.com)  
Or Call (866) 992-6174



# OBITUARIES

## Ahmad Mikeil Adams

Ahmad Mikeil Adams was born Jan. 6, 2003, to Toni Thornton and Averett Adams III. He accepted Christ at an early age and joined St. Rest Baptist Church. Ahmad loved going to church and was very active in the Jr. Ushers' Ministry, Children's Ministry and Children's Choir. Even with his illness, Ahmad would come to worship service, whenever his health allowed.



ADAMS

Ahmad attended J. L. Jones and E.S. Richardson Elementary where all of his teachers and fellow students loved him and adored his courage.

In 2011, at the age of 8, Ahmad was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma (bone cancer). After treatment, including chemotherapy and amputation of one his legs, the cancer was defeated. In February 2013, after the cancer had been in remission, it reappeared in both lungs. In November 2014, Ahmad was also diagnosed with AML Leukemia.

Ahmad never complained or felt sorry for himself. He was diagnosed as a mere boy but fought his illness like a king. He was an inspiration to everyone.

Although his time spent at St. Jude was for treatment of his illness, Ahmad made lifelong friends and extended family members. He loved watching TV, playing with his iPad and Nintendo 3S with his sister LaJayla.

On March 14, Ahmad departed this earthly life. He was preceded in death by his paternal grandparents, Averett II and Galvester Adams.

He leaves to cherish his precious memories his mother Toni Thornton Adams; his father, Averett Adams III.; his sister,

LaJayla Thornton; maternal grandparents, Patricia Thornton Seamster (Anthony) and Cedric Day; maternal great-grandmother, Annie Thornton Lewis (John); godparents, Leonard and Janell Thornton Edmonds; his maternal and paternal aunts and uncles; and a host of other relatives and friends.

The cancer did not win or steal his joy. Ahmad was at peace. Recently, he talked with his family about Heaven and he was ready to be made whole again and walk around with his loved ones that were already there.

The family of Ahmad Adams extends special thanks to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee and its Shreveport affiliate, University Health, Jean Moore and the St. Rest Transportation Ministry, CenterPoint Energy, Webster Parish schools, Oreata Banks, Melissa Harris, Danny McKinney with Divine Services, Tamika White with Gamble Hospice, Brandy Moore, Tellys Stevens and the Minden community for the love and support given to Ahmad and his family.

Celebration of life services will be at 3 p.m., Saturday, March 21, at St. Rest Baptist Church with the Rev. B. J. Martin officiating. Interment will follow at the Sheppard Street Cemetery.

Services are entrusted to Kennon's Mortuary. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m., Friday, March 20 in Kennon's Mortuary Chapel.

Email condolences may be sent to kennonsmortuary@suddenlink.net.

## Kevin Todd Auld

Kevin was born in Dallas Feb. 13, 1964, and was called home March 16, 2015. He was 51 years old.

He was preceded in death by his par-

ents, Rogers and Jean Auld of Minden.

He is survived by his sister, Tonya; brother-in-law, Ken Alford; and his nephew, Hunter Alford; his uncles, Jim Auld and wife, Yeona and Jon Cook and wife, Helen along with numerous cousins and loving friends.

Kevin graduated from Louisiana Tech and was also a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity. He worked at Pepsi for many years as the accounts manager.

Kevin's proudest moments were spent with a football in his hand. His passion began when he started playing little league, high school at Glenbrook and carried to the field at Louisiana Tech. He will always be remembered for jersey # 22 and the amazing things he did on the football field on Friday nights. He had the most loving heart and a smile that lit up a room when he walked in.



AULD

Memorial service for Kevin will be at 2 p.m., Sunday, March 22, 2015, at Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden.

The family would like to thank Sandra Scott Paylor, his girlfriend, for giving him happiness for the last four months of his life and also to Keith Wren for being a rock for Kevin and for being such an amazing friend to him.

"But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles. They will run and not grow weary. They will walk and not faint." Isaiah 40:31.

## Leisa Marie Lewis Moore

Leisa Marie Lewis-Moore was born May 11, 1962, to the late Robert and Elena Lewis in Lufkin, Texas.

Leisa was a 1980 graduate of Minden High School. She continued her educational studies at Grambling State University and Bossier Parish Community College.

She was employed by Town and Country Health & Rehab, Mister Twister, Beanie & Bubba's, Dutch Quality and Huddle House during her work career.

Leisa Lewis Moore departed this earthly life March 13 at Willis Knighton Pierre-mont Hospital. She was preceded in death by her father, Robert W. Lewis Sr.; mother, Elena Hampton Lewis; brothers, Donnie Lewis and Kent Hampton; sister, Deloice Jean Lewis-Combs; and a niece, Nicolette Lewis.



MOORE

Leisa leaves to cherish her memories her husband, Rogers Moore; daughters, Chimere Lewis and Lucious Moncrief; sons, Lonvicci Lewis and Rodriquez Miller; grandsons, Jamarea Lewis and Jayce Reamer; brothers, Robert W. Lewis Jr., Grover L. Lewis and Ricky Lewis; sisters, Cynthia L. Combs (Lee Drew Jr.), Shirley D. Lewis and Stephanie M. Hawkins (Randall); best friend Cherele Dawson; and a host of loving nieces, nephews, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Celebration of life services will be at 11 a.m., Saturday, March 21 at Mt. Zion CME Church with the Rev. Raymond Hampton officiating. Interment will follow at the Sheppard Street Cemetery.

Services are entrusted to Kennon's Mortuary. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m., Friday, March 20 in Kennon's Mortuary Chapel.

Email condolences may be sent to kennonsmortuary@suddenlink.net.

## AHMAD

Continued from page 1

changed with him."

Becnel says when her cousin became ill, he never complained.

"If you didn't know he was sick, you never would've known," she said. "He never cried; he never complained."

Ahmad's mother, Toni Thornton, says her son

could "make you laugh and make you cry" at the same time.

"He had old friends and young friends," she said. "I didn't know he had touched so many people at the age of 12."

Thornton said her son's Facebook page was filled with comments from strangers.

"They would tell him how much they loved him and how much he touched them," she said. "He was a

sweet young man, and he had a lot of friends."

Thornton says her son's favorite thing to do was watch television - before and after he became ill.

"His favorite show was Man vs. Food," she said, with a laugh. "He was a picky eater, but he enjoyed the show and wondered how that man could eat four pounds of pancakes."

Ahmad was not one for the great outdoors, his mother says, but he

enjoyed wrestling with his older sister.

"He could get her on the floor and he'd be on her," Thornton said. "She'd be hollering for help, and I'd just look at her and say, 'get up, baby!' Even after he lost his leg, he'd scoot across the floor and try to get her."

A fun time in his young life was when he was selected grand marshal of the 2014 Martin Luther King Jr. Day parade.

Ahmad was featured in

the Press-Herald in October 2013 in an article written by Melissa Harris. In it, his mother, described her son's illness, saying he was diagnosed with Osteosarcoma in 2011 at age 8.

"The tumor started in his knee and grew so big that it broke his bone," Thornton said.

Ahmad spent a year at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital receiving chemotherapy, along with transfusions; howev-

er, in November 2011, his

right leg was amputated. For a while, the disease was in remission but returned in 2013, this time in his lungs.

Ahmad died at Claiborne Memorial Medical Center and will be laid to rest Saturday at Sheppard Street Cemetery, following a funeral service at 3 p.m., at St. Rest Baptist Church.

## BIDS

Continued from page 1

M6 propellant is stored in 92 magazines, or bunkers, at Camp Minden. At this time, the open tray burn method of disposal is the choice expressed in the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent; however, EPA Region 6 Administrator Ron Curry says they will be looking at alternatives.

Over the last month, the Camp Minden Dialogue Committee spent many hours of study and discussion of alternative methods to dispose of the munitions in an environmentally friendly way and for the safety of the community. Six different technologies, along with guidelines from the community, were submitted to the EPA last Friday for use in choosing an alternate method.

The scope of the massive amount of munitions was discovered in 2012 following an explosion that rocked Camp Minden and surrounding communities. The Louisiana State Police learned the now defunct Explo Systems, Inc., had improperly stored the M6 propellant, and when they went bankrupt, ownership was turned over to the state.

Once a contractor is chosen, a recommendation will be made to the EPA. The EPA will then approve a contractor, and the contract will be awarded. The timeframe of the cleanup will depend on the method and contractor chosen.

THANKS FOR READING!

# 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)
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# OPINION

## SHARE YOUR VIEW

Have a question about this page or want to submit an opinion? Send a message to Bonnie Culverhouse.  
**Phone: 377-1866 Ext:104**  
**E-mail: bonnie@press-herald.com**

First Place: 2012 Best Editorial Page, Louisiana Press Association

### PERSPECTIVE

# Selma and voting rights triumph

**MARCH 7 WAS** the 50th anniversary of "Bloody Sunday," the first attempt by black protesters to march from Selma, Alabama, to Montgomery to demand voting rights. Their march was brutally halted by Alabama state troopers acting under the orders of Gov. George Wallace. The protesters weren't deterred. On March 25, 1965, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. led thousands to the completion of the 54-mile pilgrimage from Selma to Montgomery. Dr. King rightfully described the protest as "a shining moment in the conscience of man." The march solidified support for the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

Prior to 1965, there might have been three black mayors nationally. In 2003, the National Conference of Black Mayors put the total number of black mayors at over 500. During the 1960s, there were fewer than 10 black U.S. representatives. Today there are 43. Since 1965, there have been three black state governors. Nationwide there are over 10,000 black elected officials. There is no question that blacks have been successful in the political arena, recently capping off that success with the election of a black president. It shouldn't be left out that since the '60s, there has been a major transformation among whites. Much of black political success could not have been achieved without white votes.

Black leaders stress the importance of political power and getting out the vote, but we might ask how important political power is to the ordinary black person. As a start toward answering that question, we might examine black life in cities where blacks hold considerable political power. Detroit is the nation's most dangerous city. Rounding out Forbes magazine's 2013 list of the 10 most dangerous cities are Oakland, California; St. Louis; Memphis, Tennessee; Stockton, California; Birmingham, Alabama; Baltimore; Cleveland; Atlanta; and Milwaukee. According to a recent American Community Survey, by the U.S. Census Bureau, the 10 poorest cities with populations of more than 250,000 are Detroit, with 33 percent of its residents below the poverty line; Buffalo, New York, 30 percent; Cincinnati, 28 percent; Cleveland, 27 percent; Miami, 27 percent; St. Louis, 27 percent; El Paso, Texas, 26 percent; Milwaukee, 26 percent; Philadelphia, 25 percent; and Newark, New Jersey, 24 percent. In addition to poverty, there is grossly inferior education and high welfare dependency in these cities.

The most common feature of these cities is that for decades, all of them have had Democratic administrations. Some cities — such as Detroit, Buffalo, Newark and Philadelphia — haven't elected a Republican mayor for more than a half-century. What's more is that in most of these cities, blacks have been mayors, chiefs of police, school superintendents and principals and have dominated city councils.

In 2008, we saw the election of a black president. Blacks came out in historic numbers to vote for Barack Obama. Many Americans believed that the election of a black president meant that problems of race would be solved and we were moving toward a "post-racial" society. Evidence from the past six years points otherwise.

You might ask, "What's the point, Williams?" Let's be clear about what I am saying and not saying. I am not suggesting that there's a causal relationship between crime, poverty and squalor on the one hand and Democratic and black political power on the other. Nor am I suggesting that blacks ought to vote Republican. What I am saying is that if one is strategizing on how to improve the lives of ordinary — and particularly the poorest — black people, he wants to leave off his high-priority to-do list the election of Democrats and black politicians. Also to be left off the to-do list is a civil rights agenda.

Perhaps the biggest roadblock to finding solutions is the widely held vision that the major problem confronting blacks is discrimination. I am not arguing that every vestige of discrimination has been eliminated. I am arguing that the devastating problems facing a large proportion of the black community are not civil rights problems. The solutions will not be found in the political or civil rights arena.

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



**WALTER WILLIAMS**

### 2016 MADNESS

#### DEMOCRATIC PARTY NOMINATION



YEAH.... I'M NOT FEELING TOO HOT ABOUT THIS BRACKET RIGHT NOW...



GOOD HILLARY  
BAD HILLARY

### PERSPECTIVE

# Marginal leadership leads to 'marginal' military

**THE CONSTITUTION FOCUSES** primarily on limiting the power of the federal government. The founders knew that most things can be done more effectively and efficiently at the state level, or simply by the people themselves.

But one of the few powers they gave Washington is the responsibility to provide for the security of the United States. It takes the federal government to effectively defend our nation and our vital national interests abroad.

Unfortunately, as of 2015, Washington appears disturbingly cavalier about meeting this responsibility. America's military grapples with shrinking force size, rocketing costs, and outdated equipment.

A new measure of our national defense capabilities released by The Heritage Foundation, The Index of U.S. Military Strength, reveals several areas of weakness and geopolitical uncertainty that demand our attention.

The Index is an objective analysis which, among other considerations, judges our military strength by the "two major regional contingency requirement" - the capability to handle two major wars at the same time. America must be able to engage an enemy in one part of the world without creating an opportunity for another enemy to threaten the U.S. and her interests elsewhere.

Of the four branches of our armed services, three, plus our nuclear capability, were found to be "Marginal" - right in the middle of a scale from "Very Weak" to "Very Strong." Only our Air Force was rated "Strong." This is in the face of "Elevated" threat levels to vital U.S. inter-

ests from Iran, the Middle East and North Korea, and "High" threats from an annex-happy Russia and a rising China.

The Index also highlights the continuing challenges of asymmetric war and terrorism by the Islamic State, and continual cyber-attacks originating from China, Russia and Iran. Overall, our military capabilities in the current environment are rated "Marginal," meaning the Armed Forces are up to the task of a single major conflict and attendant global duties, but would be severely strained in tackling multiple fronts.

Incredibly, no one has conducted an annual, systematic review of America's defense capabilities - relative to threat - until now. Heritage's Index fills this shortfall, and its revelations should concern Americans of all political stripes, even those who reasonably object to past or current foreign policy. We don't need to always be at war to always be prepared for war.

Regrettably, our military's current deficiencies are consistent with the "Obama Doctrine" of foreign policy: America as an "equal partner" with other nations instead of an exceptional world leader. This isn't just misplaced modesty on the president's part. It is willful dismissal of historical and present reality of American leadership, and turns a deaf ear to our allies across the

world, who look to America for support against bullying neighbors and rogue states.

The fact that our military's ability to defend America's interest is in question reflects the unprincipled rhetoric of the current administration, alternately supporting and condemning regime change in North Africa, fighting extremism with strongly-worded tweets, putting political correctness before military readiness, and generally leaving both our friends and enemies confused as to where our priorities lie.

Our government has been infamously muddled in its handling of military spending and capabilities for many years. Public perceptions are drowned in buzzwords at the expense of accuracy: higher spending doesn't necessarily make us safer if it goes to useless projects, and "streamlining" doesn't necessarily mean more nimble, capable forces. With a new, energized Congress, there is a great opportunity to look at our military strength free from partisan politics and informed only by facts.

Progressive giant Teddy Roosevelt famously instructed, "Speak softly and carry a big stick." A century and many conflicts later, the White House seems to have forgotten his sage advice, losing its voice altogether and brandishing a stick that looks increasingly anemic and brittle.

Let us hope that it can be made whole again before we need to wield it, while praying that we never have to use it at the scale for which it should be prepared.

Jim DeMint is the president of The Heritage Foundation.



**JIM DEMINT**

**TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!**



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Letters must be signed and have a valid telephone number



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# COMMUNITY

### NANCY'S KITCHEN

## Apples Au Gratin

Use Granny or Fuji apples

Recently my sister-in-law's (Ava) daughter and son-in-law (Dawn and Michael Williams) came to see Ava for an overnight visit.

She cooked dinner and invited me to join them. For my contribution, I decided to use a recipe from my cookbook titled "A Taste of Home from the Schlabach Family."

You may recall the recent recipe I featured from the book for "Sour Cream Blueberry Pie" (1/22/15).

I was a bit wary of the recipe because it sounded very different and I wanted their feedback before sharing it with the Minden Press-Herald.

It did receive a "thumbs-up" from all of them. Even Dawn who doesn't relish cooking requested the recipe. That must make it a KEEPER.

I did do a couple of things different. Since I do not care for Granny Apples, I used Fuji apples and because I had cranraisins in my staple supply, I substituted them for the raisins. If you try it, I hope you too will like it.

### APPLE AU GRATIN

2 lbs. Granny Apples (I used Fuji apples), peeled and sliced

1/2 cup raisins (I used cranraisins)

1/2 tsp. cinnamon

1/4 cup lemon juice

3/4 cup brown sugar, packed

1/2 cup flour

1/8 tsp. salt

1/4 cup butter, softened

1 cup sharp cheddar cheese, grated

Arrange apples in a well-buttered 1 qt. casserole. Sprinkle with raisins, cinnamon, and lemon juice. In a bowl, using a fork stir together the brown sugar, flour, salt, butter, and cheese; sprinkle over the apples.

Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes or until apples are tender. It took me 25 minutes extra minutes baking for the apples to become soft.

Best served warm topped with vanilla ice cream.



Miss Minden Baylee Howell shows children at Providence House that they can be queens just like her. Courtesy photo

## Miss Minden hosts craft day, spreads awareness

Miss Minden Baylee Howell recently hosted a children's craft day at the Shreveport Providence House to promote her platform, "Hope For The Homeless."

As Howell prepares to compete for the title of Miss Louisiana in June, she will continue to spread awareness for her platform through community service.

She is hosting a fish fry as a fundraiser for the Children's Miracle Network from 2 until 7 p.m., Friday, March 20 at Ark-La-Tex Collision in Minden.

## Around Town

### Thursday, March 19

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.

Minden District Missionary Society's "Women in Red" Program from 1 until 3 p.m. at Point Pleasant CME Church, Homer. Speaker will be Laquetta Anderson. Sis. Gladys Manuel is local missionary president. The Rev. Lawrence Jefferson is pastor.

### 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.

Fresh Fire Ministries family will be celebrating their 3rd year as a church at 4 p.m., at the Minden Community House on Bridwell Street. Pastor Jacques and Lady Alysia Mitchell cordially invite everyone to come and share with us. Pastor Terrence McCray of Good Samaritan Baptist Church will be the guest speaker.

### Sunday, March 22- Tuesday, March 24

Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, 1400 Homer Road, will host Spring Revival Services. Sunday services: 10:45 a.m. with Pastor Pete Underwood and 6:30 p.m. with Pastor Richard Merritt; music by Calvary Choir. March 23 service: 7 p.m. with Pastor Josh Luellen; music by Carter family. March 24 service: 7 p.m. Pastor Joe Morrell; music by Carter family. Nursery provided each service. All are invited.

## Saying goodbye

We parted with a long-time friend recently, and it was hard to let her go.

She had been a faithful friend for so many years, traveling with us as far as Minot, North Dakota and as far south as Grand Isle. Then there were the many places in between where she was a part of our lives.

I am referring to our long-time friend, a Jayco travel trailer. We spent many nights in the confines of her shelter, sleeping, eating, playing cards, entertaining friends. It was a special time, but, as with many other things in life, there comes a time when it must end. So, that's what happened with our friend.

For many years we traveled with a group of friends on monthly outings. We gradually shortened the trips and now the group goes probably no more than two hours away. We no longer attend.

About four years ago, I began to suffer severe back pains, and I was unable to participate in the monthly campouts. Before I fully overcame the back problems, Hubby had double knee replacements. We ventured out only once or twice after that and the camper just sat, forlornly, under the shed.

We made use of the camper's refrigerator as a second one, as needed, and soon found ourselves just storing things in the trailer.

A young relative asked about buying it, so we agreed to let them have it, with the hopes it would bring them even half the joy it brought us through the years.

We had a short notice

before he wanted it, so one entire afternoon was spent emptying it out and giving it a cursory cleaning. (Not a good one, we didn't have time.)

So, what do you do with 40 years of accumulated "junk" you hauled around all over the country? Complete set of cookware, along with small electrical appliances; complete set of dishes, tableware, serving pieces, decorative pieces, etc. In addition, there was extra bedding, towels and washcloths, clothes, shoes, games, ironing board, books, binoculars, afghans and blankets.

As we removed these things, the question was, what do we do with this stuff? The answer, garage sale. But, in the meantime, where does it go?

A small storage house was situated next to the camper shed, so that's where most of it landed. Now, the question will be, when do we sort these items into garage sale and throw away?

I have a feeling it won't be long, because you can only stand all that clutter for a short while.

But, the day came when the new owner came to carry her away.

It was a bittersweet day, as I recalled all the fun we had traveling with her. She made so many trips to Branson, she probably thought that was her second home. But, now there will be no more of those

days. From now on, it will be shorter trips and hotel stays.

When she was being slowly pulled out of the driveway, I went inside. I had said my goodbye and did not wish to see her leave.

Here's hoping, she likes her new home and will serve her new owners well.

*Fannie Moore is a journalist who lives in Shongaloo where she enjoys writing on a variety of subjects.*



MOORE

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# SPORTS

## SPORTS briefs

### COLLEGE BB

LaTech to play Texas A&M on ESPN

RUSTON – The second round NIT matchup between No. 3 seed Louisiana Tech and No. 2 seed Texas A&M has officially been set for Monday, March 23 with tipoff at 6 p.m. on ESPN.

LA Tech was able to reach this point in the tournament by defeating Central Michigan, 89-79, on Tuesday night in Ruston. The victory was No. 100 for head coach Michael White who became just the ninth active head coach to reach 100 victories in his first four years.

Monday's game will mark the second straight season the Bulldogs face an SEC opponent on the road in the NIT. Last year, the 'Dogs were able to pull out a victory at Georgia to reach the quarterfinals.

It will be the seventh time that LA Tech and Texas A&M face each other on the hardwood and the first since the 2012-13 season opener at Reed Arena.

## HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

# TIDE ROLL PAST PARKWAY



Submitted Photo/Russell Hedges



**BLAKE BRANCH**  
blake@press-herald.com

The Minden Crimson Tide traveled to Bossier City Tuesday and defeated the Parkway Panthers 6-2.

It was a big win for the Tide coming off a loss to Lakeside in the Lakeside Tournament over the weekend.

The Tide scored one run in the top of the first inning and another in the second.

Parkway answered in the bottom half of the second with two runs to tie the game.

The two teams remained tied the rest of the way, moving into extra

innings.

In the top of the eighth, Gunner Stephens led off with a double, before being moved to third on a sacrifice groundout by Matt Eskew. Jay Beene drove in the go ahead run with a double to right field and from their the Tide cruised to the finish line.

"We're coming along," Minden head coach Dean Francis said of his team's performance. "With the weather and all these tournaments getting backed up we've had all these games back-to-back and it's tough on kids. We're just trying to get in a groove like everybody else. The kids are starting to make some plays and it's getting warmer, more like baseball weather. I like the way we're coming around."

Key for the Crimson Tide in this contest was the pitching of senior Jay Beene who tossed all

eight innings, striking out seven batters and allowing one earned run on six hits.

"The pitchers have done their part," Francis said. "You can look at all of our box scores and see we just haven't put up the numbers we need to. They've kept us in games here lately. Jay is just coming out of basketball and I'm excited about how he's coming along."

Gunner Stephens and Jay Beene had big days at the plate for Minden, going 2-4 with a single, double and an RBI. Austin Keough also drove in a run for the Tide, finishing 1-4 with a double. Peyton Gray added a single and scored two runs, while Gavin Smith added a base hit.

The Crimson Tide will be back in action in the Natchitoches Central Tournament beginning Thursday, March 19.

### NFL

Manning coming back for Broncos

DAYTON, Ohio (AP) — Trailing most of the game, Dayton squeezed every last little bit out of its home-court advantage to get an NCAA Tournament win.

Kendall Pollard scored 17 points on Wednesday night, and Dayton — cheered on by the deafening home crowd — went on a closing run for a 56-55 win over Boise State in the First Four.

The Flyers (26-8) will play sixth-seeded Providence on Friday in Columbus, Ohio. And they recognized that their 80-mile trip to the middle of the state had a lot to do with the place they were leaving.

"They were electrifying," senior guard Jordan Sibert said of the crowd. "I don't think we would have won that game without them."

It was the first time since 1987 that a school has played an NCAA Tournament game on its home court, an anomaly resulting from Dayton hosting the opening games.

The Flyers went 16-0 at home during the regular season and have won 22 straight at UD Arena, seventh-longest active streak in Division I.

They needed a big finish to keep it going.

The Flyers trailed by as many as 12 points in the first half and by seven with 3:43 to go. Encouraged by the crowd of 12,592 — the largest for a First Four game — Dayton closed with a 10-2 run.

"It's a great feeling to be in the tournament still," Sibert said.

Derrick Marks' leaning 3-pointer at the buzzer was far off the mark, finishing it off. Marks had 23 points on 10-of-21 shooting.

"They hit a few shots down the stretch that were back-breakers," Boise State coach Leon Rice said.

Sibert's two free throws tied it at 53-53 with 1:02 left, and his long 3-pointer gave the Flyers a 56-55 lead with 34 seconds to go.

## HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

# Lakeside dominates Choudrant in six innings, 12-1



**BLAKE BRANCH**  
blake@press-herald.com

The Lakeside Warriors cruised to a convincing 12-1 victory in a road matchup with Choudrant Tuesday, as the Warriors continue to swing hot bats following their 8-0 victory over Minden on Sunday in the Lakeside Tournament.

The Warriors collected

10 hits in the game, and senior right-hander Luke Griffith was too much for the Aggies on the mound.

"The bats are finally beginning to wake up," Lakeside head coach Bob Gray said. "Several guys are perking up at the plate. Josh Prince got into the middle of one and hit it a long way. I don't know if it's come down yet.

Luke had a good game on the mound. We've been waiting on that type of performance. It was a big game if for no other reason, because it wasn't raining."

Josh Prince had the big hit for Lakeside, a homerun in the fourth inning to blow

the game wide open. Prince finished 2-3 with a homerun, single and 4 RBI.

Coulson White had a 2 RBI single, Frankie Chanler drove in two runs on a Choudrant error, as did Brayden Jones. Logan Clark had a pair of singles, as did Luke Griffith, who also struck out five batters on his way to earning the win on the mound.

Thomas Lambert rounded out the Lakeside attack with a base hit and a pair of stolen bases.

Lakeside will be back in action in the Sterlington Tournament beginning Thursday, March 19.



## TRACK & FIELD

# Lakeside Junior High relays



Special to the Press-Herald

The Lakeside Jr. High Relays featured eight schools which included Ouachita Christian, Cedar Creek, St. Mary's, North Webster, Webster, Homer, and Haynesville. After the dust settled, Lakeside took the seventh grade boys title, Ouachita Christian the eighth grade boys trophy, and Cedar Creek won the girls championship.

The Warriors seventh grade boys scored 185 points to defeat runner-up OCS with 147. The Warriors won 4 of 7 field events. Brandon Jackson won the shot with a toss of 35' 1 1/2" and the discus at 92' 3". Dayton Pruiet won the javelin throwing 99' 3".

Zach Sumlin jumped 5' 2" to win the high jump. Pruiet also took second in the discus at 86' 1/2". Taking second in the high jump was Chance Mitchell at 4' 8". Zach Bass took fourth in the long jump at 13' 2" followed by Lamar McKinsey who was fifth at 12' 7 1/2". In the triple jump, Odray Miles was fifth at 24'

7" and Orlando Robertson took sixth at 24' 0".

On the track Zach Sumlin won the 110 Hurdles at 17.0, took third in the 100 at 11.90, and took third in the 200 at 26.72. Lamar McKinsey won the 300 Hurdles at 54.08. B. Sivils won the 2400 at 9:22 and took second in the 1600 at 6:17. Ondray Miles took second in the 400 at 1:04.47 and the 800 at 2:30.29. Orlando Roberson was third in the 400 at 1:06.63 and fifth in the 800 at 2:38.11.

Austin Sims was third in the 100 Hurdles at 19.75 and fourth in the 100 at 13.00. Chance Mitchell finished fourth in the 200 at 27.87. Mitchell, Jackson, Sims, and Pruiet ran on the winning 400 relay at 53.30. McKinsey, Brown, Pruiet, and Jackson were on the second place 800 relay at 1:56.59. Miles, Roberson, Sivils, and Pruiet made up the second place 1600 relay at 4:46.59.

The Warriors eighth grade boys finished fourth with 80 points as OCS finished first with 175 points. Zi Crawford lead the Warriors in the field leaping 5' 2" to win the high jump. C. Applewhite took third in the shot at 35' 4 1/2". Noah Willis was sixth in the shot at 32' 1 1/2". Parker Brunson took fourth in the discus at 85' 7" and the javelin at 81' 2". Tim Ramsey with a throw of 76' 9 1/2" was fifth in the javelin. JT Thomas was

sixth in the triple jump at 25' 7".

Hayden Finley was sixth in the pole vault at 6' 6". Tyler Davis lead the way on the track as he easily won the 800 (2:24), the 1600 (5:32), and the 2400 (8:33). Zi Crawford took second in the 100 at 11.14. Luke Brundage was sixth in the 200 at 28.77. Devin Stiles was sixth in the 300 Hurdles at 55.96. The 1600 meter relay made up of Dayton Pietch, Devin Stiles, JT Thomas, and Hunter Hennigan finished third at 44:49.

Webster's eighth grade boys scored 36 points. Josh Sims lead the way finishing second in the 110 hurdles (15.78) and second in the 300 hurdles (50.02). Gage Edwards was third in the 110 hurdles at 15.80. Isaih Jones finished fourth in the 2400 at 10:38 and Stephen Wheeler was fifth at 12:15. Tylmerion Phenix finished fourth in the shot at 34' 0".

In the girls division Lakeside finished with 35 points behind Cedar Creek's 162 points. In the field Tynia Joiner finished tied for second in the high jump clearing 4' 0". Jamiya Winzer finished third in the shot with a throw of 29' 4". On the track, Angelina Futch was top scorer finishing third in the 800 (3:07), 1600 (7:03), and the 2400 (11:33). Tynia Joiner placed fourth in the 200 at 31.28.

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## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



Congratulations to Minden's Jay Beene. He is this week's MPH/Holcomb's Athlete of the Week after striking out seven batters in eight innings of work versus Parkway. Beene was also 2-4 with an RBI double.

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

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# GOOD NEWS

THE UPWARD LOOK

## Praise worthy

*"I call upon the LORD, who is worthy to be praised, And I am saved from my enemies."*  
 Psalm 18:3 NASB

Because of God's great character expressed in the previous verse, David calls on the Lord. In times of distress as well as in

times of joy, David praises the Lord and worships Him. Worship is giving honor to the one who is worthy of the honor and recognizing the character and attributes of the one being worshiped. Worship is expressing reverence, adoration, and

devotion to God. David is acknowledging that God is the one who has protected him and saved him from all his enemies.

Lord Jesus, You are my Savior and my Lord and are worthy of all my praise. I thank You for saving my soul and for

providing protection, guidance, and direction in my life.

*Max Hutto is a Baptist Minister and a resident of Minden. More information can be found at [www.upwardlook.org](http://www.upwardlook.org).*



**MAX HUTTO**

ALONG THE WAY

## Last words...

Ever wonder what the last words of some folks spoke? Bessie Smith (Blues Singer) said, "I'm going now: but I'm going in the name of the Lord." Frank Sinatra said, "I'm losing it." William H Seward (Author of Alaskan Purchase) said these final words: "Love one another." De Vinci said: "I have offended God and mankind for my work did not reach the quality it should have." Billy Sunday (Evangelist)'s last sermon was: "What must I do to be saved." What do you want your last words to be? What do you suppose the last words of these hymn-writers were:



**BILL CRIDER**

George Beverly Shea, Fanny Crosby, Isaac Watts, B.B. McKinney? Bet they were words of praise and thanksgiving!

We know Paul shared many statements about his faith, the power of Jesus in his life, the salvation experience on the Damascus Road, and words of love and encouragement. It would be hard to determine his final words. But his dynamic words to young Timothy might have been etched on his tomb as a legacy of his life-long commitment to Christ: (2 Tim 4: 6-8) "I have fought a good fight, I have finished the race, I

have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day – and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing."

We might want to claim this declaration of Paul's found in Rom. 1: 16 as some of his most profound words: "I am not ashamed of the gospel, because it is the power of God, for the salvation of everyone who believes: first for the Jew, then for the Gentile." Peter writes this beautiful promise: "Our Lord is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but

everyone to come to repentance." (2 Pet. 3: 9). John's last words might have been "Love one another" since he repeated that over and over in his epistles.

Jesus' last words were: "It is finished!" He accomplished his earthly mission and now it was time to return to the Father. As His earthly body withered in pain and agony, as his life-blood flowed down his side, and the reality of what was really happening, Jesus proclaimed these immortal words – "It is finished!"...and then He died. God's salvation plan was being perfected. His earthly

assignment was completed. Jesus wanted his Father's will to be done. And it was! His resurrection made possible a new life for all who accepted His as personal Lord and Savior. When He said, "it is finished", it signaled a new beginning for mankind. Instead of defeat, we now claim victory – victory in Jesus! A new epitaph!

What will your last words be as you realize life is ebbing away? How about this? "I'll meet you just inside the Eastern Gate?"

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# Iggy Azalea on social media, tour, new album, Britney Spears

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Missing Iggy Azalea on social media? You may have to get used to it.

The rapper, who has spent the last week off of Twitter and Instagram, said she may not return to the popular networks.

"Yeah, so nice not to be on social media so I'm kind of going to continue that until, maybe forever," she said in an interview with The Associated Press early Thursday.

Azalea's management has been posting on her social media accounts since she announced she was taking a break. In her last Instagram post, she wrote about paparazzo invading her privacy by taking photos of her outside her home.

"I think it's disgusting," Azalea said backstage at the Samsung Milk Music Lounge during South by Southwest in Austin, Texas, where she was the headline act. "I don't think it's nice to stick your camera through somebody's fence and hedge and take a picture of them in their yard and think that's OK at all."

Though the "Fancy" performer is off social media, she's keeping busy with new music and her upcoming tour, which was rescheduled to happen in the fall instead of the spring due to "production delays."

"The whole point was to make no compromises, but nothing's changed in terms of my creative vision," she said. "It's very kind of like Patrick Nagel, powerful 80s androgynous women vibe."

Azalea said she didn't want to wait until September to launch the tour, "but because the arenas are so far in advanced book, it was kind of their next slot." She said she'll take advantage of the free time by recording her sophomore album.

"I didn't anticipate having any time to completely finish it, but now that I have kind of the time," she said. "I'd love to have an album at the end of 2015."

Azalea said her first single will be the Britney Spears-assisted "Pretty Girls."

"I love Britney. She's super sweet and I just want to hang out with her all the time," she said. "I saw her at Toys 'R' Us randomly; she lives right down the street from me. ...Since I've met her now we keep bumping into each other in the street."

"I don't know if I needed re-inspiring, but it's just made me extra excited to want to put out new music," she added about the song.

Azalea's new album will be the follow-up to last year's "The New Classic," which was nominated for best rap album at this year's Grammy Awards and launched the hits, "Fancy" and "Black Widow."

"My first album got pushed back so many times and it was really, probably like two years of recording on and off, not the entire time, but it was a real struggle and I think that was something that really like reflected in my album a lot — I talk about trying to make it, trying to breakthrough," she said. "So my second album, now I don't have this problem. So I hope it's a little bit more up-tempo and just really fun. I just want to have something so summer and so girly, so loud and obnoxious and braggadocios."



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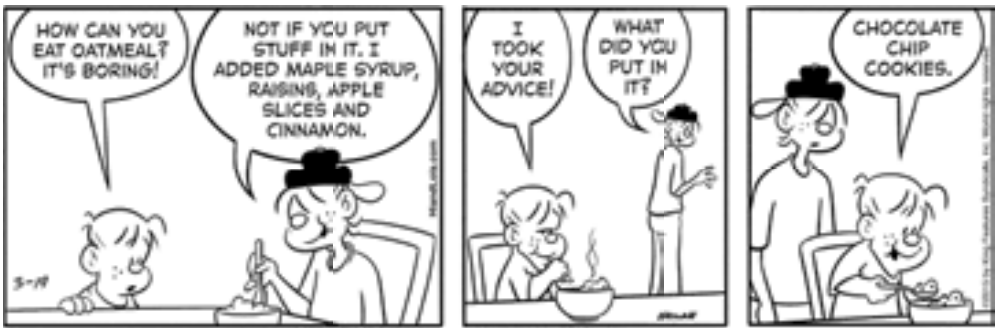
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