HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL High school teams take part in tournaments PAGE 6

PRESS-HERALD www.press-herald.com

March 23, 2015 | 50 Cents



Spring brings sunshine, rain

INSIDE PG.2



Dr. Seuss Day at Harper

COMMUNITY PG.5



INFERNO ON ABNEY DESTROYED Sunday evening blaze rages through Abney Street home

MONDAY =



Minden firefighters battle a blaze Sunday night at 103 Abney Street, a residence owned by Wayne Mims. Cause of the fire is still under investigation. Bruce Franklin/Press-Herald

EDUCATION Funding for Harper renovation still in question

Board undecided on what actions to take with school

MICHELLE BATES michelle@press-herald.com

The Webster Parish School Board is beginning to research ways to fund the extensive renovation of J.E. Harper Elementary School.

At this time, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Dan Rawls says it's too early to know where the funding will come from.

During a special meeting at the school last week, Rawls listed several ways renovation of the school would be

handled logistically, and board members also talked about the decrease in parish funding over the years. "We have to worry about



how much we're going to put on our taxpayers," Rawls said during the meeting, "and what can we do to remedy this situation as easily as possible, that's

It's time to confirm Loretta Lynch **OPINION** PG.4

WEATHER

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK



56 HIGH LOW

> Mainly sunny. Winds S at 5 to 10 mph.

CONNECT WITH US

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BONNIE CULVERHOUSE bonnie@press-herald.com

An Abney Street residence was heavily damaged by fire Sunday evening, leaving the owner without a place to live.

The Minden Fire Department responded to the call around 8:20 p.m. to find the wood frame house at 103 Abney fully involved in flames.

"Cause of the fire is under investigation," Minden Fire Chief Kip Mourad said. "There was nobody in the house, and we got the people out of the house next door, but as far as what started it ... it's too soon to know.

Reddie Owens, whose lives nearby, said the house belonged to Wayne Mims, and she had no idea it was on fire until she saw lights from the cars and fire trucks.

"I was in the back room, about to go to bed," she said. "I came to the front to get something to drink, and I pulled the curtain and saw all this.'

Mourad says Mims' residence was unin-

WEBSTER TOURISM

Webster Parish being advertised in Times Square

Bruce Franklin/Press-Herald

STAFF REPORTS

This week, advertisement for Webster Parish has hit the big screen in Times Square in New York City.

Through Thursday, Webster Parish will be featured in the Horizon Travel Show on the 3,685 square foot Times Square Studios, home of ABC's Good Morning America. This

world-famous electronic icon, with its signature wavy LED

ribbons, will the resi-The five-

second DORSEY advertise-

ment will be shown 120 times during its duration and will feature the parish's best attributes and welcome tourists to north Louisiana.

The city's new fire truck, with a 70-ft. extension ladder,

was used Sunday night to douse the fire at 103 Abney

Street. Minden Fire Chief Kip Mourad says that while the

new truck has been used at other scenes, this is the first

time firefighters have used it to spray a working fire.

FIND IT ONLINE

View video of firefighters batteling

the blaze at press-herald.com.

Lynn Dorsey, executive director of the Webster Parish Convention and Visitors Bureau, says advertising in New York City is cheaper than some of the other ad campaigns she's participated in.

"This cost us about half of what I paid to put a half page ad in this one

(Louisiana Travel Guide)," she said.

Dorsey says she paid about \$7,000 for the half page ad, but about \$4,000 for the spots in Times Square. The magazine has a circulation of 500,000 in Louisiana.

The Louisiana Office of Tourism is one of the sponsors for the video.

In other tourism news, Dorsey says this is the first time the Travel South



STRONG

safest for the kids, and do it in a fiscal management process that's good for everybody."

Board president Charles Strong says Webster Parish is a rural parish, not especially a wealthy one.

'We don't have money to throw away at things," he said. "We have spent the last several years trimming budgets so that we can live within our means as it is. The unfortunate fiscal side of it comes up even though we hate for it

See **HARPER**, Page 3

Showcase has been hosted

in north Louisiana. "This is such a great opportunity for Webster Parish to be showcased while the event is held in north Louisiana," she said. "We will be working with Shreveport-Bossier and Monroe to market the I-20 corridor.'

Webster Parish is a silver sponsor for the showcase,

See TOURISM, Page 2



catch eyes of more than 1.5 million tourists

and dents daily.

2 Monday, March 23, 2015 – Minden Press-Herald

SECOND FRONT www.press-herald.com

LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE

Jindal pushing legislation to help sexual assault victims

MICHELLE BATES

michelle@press-herald.com

BATON ROUGE — Gov. Bobby Jindal is seeking to push through legislation that would take the burden of paying a hospital bill off of the sexual assault victim.

"We are fully committed to supporting individuals who have faced the horrendous crimes of sexual assault," Jindal said in a news

release. "This legislation will build on our efforts to support and protect

these individuals by providing

consistent care to victims in need and by removing unnecessary burdens that have gotten in the way of ensuring that these victims receive the assistance that they deserve."

According to the governor's office, "this legislation will ensure that hospitals do not directly bill those individuals for medical services associated with sexual assault."

It goes further to remove the requirement that victims report the crime to law enforcement within 72 hours of the incident in order to be eligible to apply for reparations from the Crime Victims Reparations Board.

Jim Williams, chief

"The manner in which we care for and respond to victims of sexual assault is a direct reflection of the strength of our communities," she said. "This critical legislation...reduces barriers for men and women to speak up when a crime against them has been committed."

In 2014, emergency personnel at MMC treated five sexual assault victims. In that same year, Chief Steve Cropper says the Minden Police Department has worked 32 sexual assault cases,10 so far this year.

Officials with the Webster Parish Sheriff's Office say 28 cases were worked across the parish. Those included eight rape cases, seven cases of indecent behavior, eight molestation cases, one aggravated incest case, two cases of sexting, one pornography case and one case of sexual battery.

"Our sexual assault cases are handled prioritywise," Sheriff Gary Sexton said. "They are considered to be a violent crime, and what we normally do is the victim goes to the hospital and we call the SANE nurse, especially if the allegations are that a rape has taken place or sexual assault case where one of the parties is not in consent."

Sexual assault, he says, is defined as any improper

SPRING HAS SPRUNG



Spring arrived Friday afternoon and brought blooming jonquils along with it. Forecasters say the first week of spring will be mixed with sunshine and rain as a weak El Niño develops in the Pacific. Bruce Franklin/Press-Herald

Spring brings sunshine and rain for first week

BONNIE CULVERHOUSE bonnie@press-herald.com

The National Weather Service claims Minden residents should see some sunshine for a few days, beginning Monday, after dodging a flash flood bullet over the weekend. Meteorologist Joel Martin says

by Sunday, rain gauges were expected to read close to three inches; however, the City of Minden's rain gauge showed only one inch for the past 24 hours.

'We are likely seeing a weak El Niño develop," Martin said. "El Niño is a warming of Pacific oceans that is known to alter weather patterns. Eighty percent of the time we see El Niño, we also see above average rainfall in the southeast U.S."

According to the National Weather Service, rain will return to the area Wednesday night with a 50 percent chance into the day Thursday. High temperatures each day will be in the high 70s, with lows in the mid to high 50s.

TOURISM

Continued from page 1

allowing WPCVB the opportunity to have oneon-one appointments with group tour operators, motor coach owners and journalists. "You get to pick up to

60 appointments for people you want to meet with," she said. "I'll be working with Monroe sharing a venue. You get six minutes with each one, because there are a lot of people. This is primarily for tour operators, which is what I want a chance to see, because we now have a package to offer."

Close to 500 suppliers, buyers and travel service providers, along with journalists from 37 states and three countries attend the

Travel South Showcase, Dorsey says. The event will be at the Shreveport Convention Center through March 26.

JINDAL

financial officer for Minden Medical Center, says billing depends on whether the victim files charges.

"If the patient files charges, we bill the patient's insurance company for the

for medical treatment.

When the patient does not

file charges, then we seek

reimbursement from the

patient's insurance or the patient. The Victim of

Crime fund [sic] will only pay if the patient files

assault vary across the state, but this legislation, if passed, will smooth the

road for the victims and

Donna Carter, CNO for MMC, says it is important to provide care in a manner where the patient feels

their families.

Officials with the governor's office say services to the victim of a sexual

emergency visit," he said. "If the patient is not insured, we work with other agencies to get reimbursement

charges."



touching and could go as deep as a conversation.

"An assault is putting yourself into a position where you could carry out a threat," he said. "A battery is where you actually touch somebody. Sexual assault is the carrying out of a threat of touching, or the inappropriate actions of an individual towards another in any kind of sexual manner, when one party is not in agreement to it."

Rep. Helena Moreno is the author of the Stand and Support Survivors bill, and the full text can be found on the Louisiana Legislators website. The 2015 legislative session begins April 13.

BIRTHDAYS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 23, 2015 Derek Harrison Perez Hilton Mo Farah Happy Belated Birthday Kadaris Harrison Happy Anniversary John & Christy Letendre



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safe. "It is important to protect the patient's rights while we focus on providing care in a non-judgmental manner," she said. "We work in collaboration with a patient advocate and (Sexual Assault Nurse Exam) nurse. The patient advocate and SANE nurse stay with the patient until they are in a safe place after discharge.'

Department of Health and Hospitals Secretary Kathy H. Kliebert says this legislation will "correct the system."



WILLIAMS

WEBSTER&MOI facebook.com/mindenph 🚮

2016 PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Cruz becomes first major candidate to jump into 2016 race

WASHINGTON — Texas Republican Sen. Ted Cruz has become the first major candidate for president, kicking off what's expected to be a rush over the next few weeks of more than a dozen White House hopefuls into the 2016 campaign.

"I am running for president and I hope to earn your support," the tea party favorite said in a Twitter message posted just after midnight on Monday.

Cruz will formally launch his bid during a morning speech at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia, choosing to begin his campaign at the Christian college founded by the Rev. Jerry Falwell

rather than his home state of Texas or the early voting states of Iowa and New Hampshire. It's a fitting setting for Cruz, a 44-yearold tea party darling whose entry into the 2016 campaign drew cheers Sunday among fellow conservatives.

Amy Kremer, the former head of the Tea Party Express, said that the Republican pool of candidates "will take a quantum leap forward" with Cruz's announcement, adding that it "will excite the base in a way we haven't seen in years.

Elected for the first time just three years ago, when he defeated an establishment figure in Texas politics with decades of expe-

rience in office, Cruz has hinted openly for more than a year that he wants to move down Pennsylvania Avenue from the Senate and into the White House.

In an online video promoted on his Twitter account, Cruz offered a preview of his campaign's message.

"It's a time for truth, a time to rise to the challenge, just as Americans have always done. I believe in America and her people, and I believe we can stand up and restore our promise," Cruz said as images of farm fields, city skylines and American landmarks and symbols played in the background. "It's going to take a new

generation of courageous conservatives to help make America great again, and I'm ready to stand with you to lead the fight."

While Cruz is the first Republican to declare his candidacy, he is all but certain to be followed by several big names in the GOP, including former Florida Gov. Jeb Bush, Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker and two Senate colleagues, Kentucky's Rand Paul and Florida's Marco Rubio.

The Houston Chronicle first reported details about Cruz's campaign launch. His move puts him into pole position among those whose strategy to win the nomination counts on courting the party's most

JBITUARIES

conservative voters, who hold an outsized influence in the Republican nominating process.

"Cruz is going to make it tough for all of the candidates who are fighting to emerge as the champion of the anti-establishment wing of the party," said GOP strategist Kevin Madden. "That is starting to look like quite a scrum where lots of candidates will be throwing some sharp elbows.'

Following his election to the Senate in 2012, the former Texas solicitor general quickly established himself as an uncompromising conservative willing to take on Democrats and Republicans alike. He won praise from tea party

activists in 2013 for leading the GOP's push to partially shut the federal government during an unsuccessful bid to block money for President Barack Obama's health care law.

In December, Cruz defied party leaders to force a vote on opposing Obama's executive actions on immigration. The strategy failed, and led several of his Republican colleagues to call Cruz out. "You should have an end goal in sight if you're going to do these types of things and I don't see an end goal other than irritating a lot of people," said Utah Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch.

Jerri Dianne Johnson

Jerri Dianne Johnson, fondly called Dianne, was born June 16, 1951, to the late J. D. and Bessie Dias Johnson in Winnfield.

After the family moved to Minden, Dianne accepted Christ at an early age and was an active member of Mt. Calm Baptist Church

JOHNSON

under the pastorship of the Rev. C. L. Townsend. She was youth choir director and Sunday school secretary.

Dianne's early education took place at J. L. Jones Elementary, J. A. Phillips Jr. High and the great Webster High School. During her school years, Dianne was an intellectual student, a great debater and awesome piccolo player in Webster High School marching band and flutist in the concert bland.

After high school graduation in 1969, Grambling College was her school of choice where she pledged Delta Sigma Theta Sorority and graduated in three years with a degree in accounting. After



college graduation, Dianne moved to Temple Hills, Maryland where she worked for the Department of Defense and the U. S. Department of Interior as an auditor. Her profession allowed her to travel throughout the United States until her retirement after 30 years of employment.

Dianne continued to work after her retirement as a tax consultant, grant writer and event planner. Her favorite events included planning for the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority's 100 Anniversary Celebration and the annual Bayou Classic Activates for Grambling Alumni. She successfully wrote many grants for various churches and organizations resulting in their receiving funding for their ministry, program or event.

If she became involved in a project or program, Dianne was dedicated and passionate about it being successful.

In 2010, Dianne became a member of Stonewall Baptist Church under the leadership of Pastor Eulyss Reed.

Jerri Dianne Johnson departed this earthly life on Thursday, March 19 at her home.

She leaves to cherish her memories two

sisters, Beverly Johnson (Morris) and Elaine Johnson; nieces, Gia M. Jones (Jonathan), Kimberly Henley and Alicia Henley; and a host of loving relatives and friends.

Celebration of life services will be at 11 a.m., Tuesday, March 24, at Stonewall Baptist Church with the Rev. Eulyss Reed, officiating. Interment will follow at Sheppard Street Cemetery.

Services are entrusted to Kennon's Mortuary. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until 8 p.m. Monday, March 23 in Kennon's Mortuary Chapel.

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

Andrew S. Ritchie

Andrew S. Ritchie, 81, died March 10, 2015, in Bellingham, Washington. He was born in Mound in 1934, as the youngest of seven sons, to Mildred Collins Ritchie and Clinton McCay Ritchie. He spent his growing up years in Minden, graduating from Minden High School in 1952.

He attended Louisiana Tech University, majoring in accounting and graduated in

ued. "I think the board will come up with some good recommendations."

About 72 percent of homeowners fall under homestead exemption,

1956. He joined the US Air Force in 1957 as a second lieutenant and made a career of the US Air Force, retiring in 1979.

Andrew met Shelley Sturdy while stationed at Goose Bay AFB in Labrador and they married in 1959 in Denver, Colorado. Among the places he was stationed were North Carolina; Lansing, Michigan, where he received his MBA from Michigan State; Guam; and Japan. His three children are Ian (Marcia Rose) of Atlanta, Georgia, Evan (Julia Prestwich) of Bellingham, Washington and Kathryn (Todd Gierke) of Chicago, Illinois. There are six grandchildren, Aidan and Marja, Allegra and Emma, Andrew and Kate.

After retiring from the Air Force, the Ritchies taught in Japan for 14 years, in China for three years, and in Kentucky for two years. Andrew returned to a university in 1983 and received a teaching degree.

He had a life-long love of sports, playing tennis well into his 70s.

Andrew died peacefully at home under the care of family and hospice. His pastor brother-in-law conducted an intimate memorial service in the home of his son, Evan.

> the course of the next few months so they will have time to study and ask questions about each

HARPER Continued from page 1

to. There are limits concerning the amount of

statewide average of mill-

ages is a little over 107.8, and the Webster Parish average is a little over 103.3. We're 29th out of 64 as far as population. We're

"What I'm driving at is

money that can be bonded in a district, the amount of money that can be borrowed for construction. We need to be real careful about how we make these decisions."

Board member Ronnie Broughton says a half cent sales tax was passed by the voters of district 6 which has been used for building.

"Part of the promise that we gave as board members to the voters is we've got to do something with the high school, we've got to do something with the junior high and the elementary schools will be next," he said. "That's what it was designed for; that's what we promised. There's three elementary schools, and Harper is in the worst need.'

Business and finance director Crevonne Odom says there are three sales taxes, two one-cent sales taxes and the one halfcent sales tax.

Board member John Madden backed up much of what other board members said throughout the evening saying the Minimum Foundation Program money – how the state funds school systems based on the number of students – has decreased over the last seven years. In 2008, according to his figures, Webster Parish schools' total budget was around \$10 million. In 2013, it was just over \$4 million.

"I don't know what we're going to do, but we have to do something," he said, adding that approximately 28 percent of taxpayers – business and homeowner – carry the load in paying property taxes in the parish. "The

a rather poor parish, but the teachers are paid bet-

READERS' CHOICE AWARDS 2015

stead exemption are being taxed heavily," he contin-

we're paying our teachers

not think they are, but the

people not under home-

well, although they may

which means they don't pay property taxes or very

present the board with one quote at a time over

little. Homestead exemp-

tion covers \$75,000 worth

of a homeowner's proper-

At this time, Rawls will

ty; anything over that is

taxable.

option and its cost.

E FOR Y Everyone has an opinion and now it's time to give yours. Vote for your favorite business in PRESS-HERALD 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. _ Telephone number: __ Name: WEBSTER PARISH 🖈 *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

Favorite Auto Body Shop
Favorite Manufactured Home Deale
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 Mexican Restaurant Favorite Hardware Store Favorite Men's Apparel Provider Favorite Health Care Provider Favorite Daycare Provider Favorite High School Fav Favorite Homebuilder/Contracto Fav Favorite Hotel/Motel Fav Favorite Insurance Agent Fav Favorite Lawn Equipment Dealer Fav **Favorite Jeweler** Fav Favorite Landscaping/Lawncare Provider Fav Favorite Eye Care Provider Fav Favorite Liquor Store Fav Favorite Lunch Location Fav Favorite Middle School Fav Favorite Appliance Store Fav Favorite USED Vehicle Salespersor Fav Favorite Tire Store Fav (arry Favorite Dance School **Favorite Veterinarian** Favorite Nursing Home

Favorite Mechanic

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



First Place: 2012 Best Editorial Page, Louisiana Press Association



PERSPECTIVE

It's time to confirm Loretta Lynch

ONE OF THE most important positions in the President's Cabinet – and to our national security, our law enforcement, and our criminal justice system – is Attorney General.

It has been more than four months since I nominated Loretta Lynch to serve as the next Attorney General of the United States. For 30 years, Loretta has distinguished herself as a tough, fair, and independent attorney. As the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York, she successfully prosecuted the terrorists who plotted to bomb the Federal Reserve Bank and the New York City subway. She helped secure billions in settlements for people wronged by some of the world's biggest banks. She's been dogged in her pursuit of public corruption.

Senate easily confirmed Loretta to lead one of the most prominent U.S. Attorney offices in the country – not once, but twice.

Still – it has been more than four months since I nominated Loretta Lynch to serve as Attorney General.

And this time, Republican leaders in Congress won't even let her nomination come up for a vote. In fact, by Monday, Loretta will have been languishing on the Senate floor for longer than the previous seven Attorneys General combined.

support her. This is purely about politics.

First, Republicans held up her nomination because they were upset about the actions I took to make our broken immigration system smarter and fairer. Now they're denying her a vote until they can figure out how to pass a bill on a completely unrelated issue. But they could bring her up for a yes-or-no vote at any time.

Republicans promised that Congress would function smoothly with them in charge. Here's a chance for them to prove it. Congress should stop playing politics with law enforcement and national security. They should support good people in both parties who want to reform our criminal justice system. And that means they should end the longest confirmation process for an Attorney General in three decades, and give Loretta Lynch a vote.

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

Half a heart on marijuana better than no heart at all

GIVE THANKS FOR the little things, they say. A bill that would stop the feds from going after medical marijuana users in states that permit such activity is something for which we should give thanks. But it is little.

Let's not criticize the sponsoring senators — Rand Paul, R-Ky., Kirsten Gillibrand, D-N.Y., and Cory Booker, D-N.J. — for such a small reprieve from the war on drugs. They've probably gone about as far as they could within

about as far as they could within the two-faced confines of our national politics.

If the measure becomes law, federal authorities could continue harassing and arresting patients, dispensaries, cultivators and banks serving the business in states that don't allow medical marijuana.

And what about Colorado, Washington and Oregon, states that have legalized marijuana for recreational purposes? Their nonmedical pot users are still dis-

medical pot users are still disobeying federal laws. The Obama administration is pretty much leaving them alone, but that's just a matter of current policy, Sean Dunagan, a former intelligence analyst at the federal Drug Enforcement Agency, told me.

"That could change with a different administration, with a different attorney general," he said.

Dunagan is a member of Law Enforcement Against Prohibition, former law officers backing legalization of all drugs. They welcome such halfhearted reforms, but argue that they do not break the violent cartels that our drug laws keep in business. And they preserve our two-tiered system of justice, which ruins the lives of little people and lets the well-connected off the hook.

Speaking of which, Jeb Bush admits to having smoked pot in high school. Actually, Bush's dorm room at Phillips Academy Andover reportedly served as stoner central, where students would smoke hash to the strains of Steppenwolf's "Magic Carpet Ride."

Kids from modest backgrounds were being jailed at that time for doing far less. Today, even a minor drug conviction bars one from many jobs, including joining the military.



FROMA HARROP

She's jailed some of New York's most violent and notorious mobsters and gang members. And through it all, she's worked closely with law enforcement and local communities to get the job done.

In short, her qualifications are superb. That's why, in the past, the

Let me say that

again – she will have been waiting for a simple yes-or-no vote on the Senate floor for longer than the seven previous Attorneys General combined.

BARACK

OBAMA

No one can claim she's unqualified. No one's saying she can't do the job. Senators from both parties say they President Barack Obam's weekly address runs every Monday in the Minden Press-Herald.

EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

The Advocate, Baton Rouge, on Army National Guardsmen's death:

WE'RE GRATIFIED, BUT not surprised, by the huge outpouring of support for four Louisiana National Guardsmen who died earlier this month in a helicopter crash during training near Pensacola, Florida. The men worked at the 1-244th Assault Helicopter Battalion in Hammond.

Gone are the days when National Guard personnel were nicknamed weekend warriors. For at least a generation, in response to military engagements in Iraq and Afghanistan, the Pentagon has come to heavily rely on National Guard units as a regular presence in conflicts abroad. The Hammond-based battalion's service in combat missions overseas, as well as in rescue operations after hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Isaac, is a testament to the commitment that National Guard service often requires.

The four National Guardsmen who died in Florida paid the ultimate price for their country. Our hearts and prayers are with their loved ones.

Online: http://theadvocate.com



Yet Florida's former Republican governor evidently doesn't think his illegal behavior should disqualify him from serving as commander in chief. Why would he? The current holder of that job, President Barack Obama, also admitted to smoking pot, as did his predecessor, Jeb's brother George W. Bush.

If Jeb owned up to the rank injustice and fully supported ending the war on marijuana, that might lighten the hypocrisy factor. But Bush piously insists that he's against legalizing marijuana. If states want to do it, that's OK, he says. But that leaves the vast majority of Americans subject to arrest for smoking a joint after dinner.

Here's an idea. Why doesn't Bush volunteer to do the time behind bars that youths from less powerful families were being sentenced to in the 1960s? He could share a cell with Patrick Kennedy, the former liberal congressman from Rhode Island.

In the wee hours of May 4, 2006, Rep. Kennedy crashed his car into a barricade on Capitol Hill while under the influence of who knows how many controlled substances. He served in Congress for four more years, leaving at a time of his choosing.

Kennedy is now a staunch foe of legalizing marijuana, but, like Bush, has not offered to do his time. Given Kennedy's decades of addiction, that would be no small piece of change.

Many argue that marijuana at high potency and in great quantity can be harmful. That may be so, but the same is true of many things we can legally consume.

If states rights is the excuse for easing up on the ludicrous drug war, so be it. Any change that makes life less miserable for good people — and saves the taxpayers huge sums — is to be cheered. But oh the waste!

Follow Froma Harrop on Twitter @FromaHarrop. She can be reached at fharrop@gmail.com.



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EDUCATION



DR. SEUSS DAY AT HARPER

Members of the Minden High School baseball team and Capital One Bank employees volunteered to read to students at J.E. Harper Elementary School for Dr. Seuss Day. Courtesy photo

Kindergarten roundup begins in April

Webster Parish Schools will begin kindergarten registration for the 2015-16 school year on Friday, April 17 from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. for the following schools:

- Browning Elementary
 Central Elementary
- North Webster Lower Elementary and
- Doyline High School

J.E. Harper Elementary will register using the following schedule:

■ Kindergarten girls: Thursday, April 16, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m.

■ Kindergarten boys: Friday, April 17, from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m.

All students who will be five years of age by Sept. 30

are eligible to register.

All parents or guardians wishing to register a student for kindergarten classes must bring the following documentation when completing an application:

■ Original birth certificate

Social Security card

Most up-to-date immunization record and Dependence on guardian's

Parent's or guardian's proof of residence.

Copies of the documents will be made at the school.

For more information, call your child's respective school.

Around Town

Upcoming Events

Eggs and Issues, a breakfast with area legislators prior to the 2015 session, will be at 7 a.m. Wednesday, April 1 at the Minden-South Webster Chamber of Commerce office, 110 Sibley Road. Tickets are \$10. RSVP by March 27 at 377-4240 or info@mindenchamber.com

Tickets are on sale for the Minden Lions Club "Spring Chicken Charbroil" Cost is \$8 per ticket and may be acquired from any Lions Club member. Lunches may be picked up from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Saturday, April 18 in the Walmart parking lot. Proceeds go to the Louisiana Lions Eye Foundation and the Lions Crippled Children's Camp.

Monday, March 23- Tuesday, March 24

Calvary Missionary Baptist Church, 1400 Homer Road, will host Spring Revival Services. 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.

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 vegetable 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.

Adult Christian Education Class from 6:30 until 8 p.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church, 1107 Broadway. Topic for sixth week: The Passion, Death and Resurrection of Christ (Mark 14:1-16:8).

Saturday, March 28

Lakeside High School yearbook staff presents its annual Elementary Beauty Pageant at 3 p.m. in Lakeside's Jr. High gymnasium.





Great dane looking for good home

A two-year-old great dane is a loving male looking for a good home. He is a house dog, completely house trained and great with all dogs and people. He will need a pet door and a fenced in yard. He is neutered. For an adoption application from the Webster Humane Society, call Sandy at 377-3804. The adoption fee is \$100.





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WITTE DIT I KLOG TIER LID

RUSTON - For a sec-

ond straight year, Louisiana Tech will take straight

on an SEC opponent on the road in the second

round of the National

which resulted in a victory when they face Texas A&M on Monday night

at 6 p.m. inside Reed

The contest will be televised on ESPN with

Tom Hart and Darrin

Horn calling the action.

able to advance in the

able to advance in the NIT by defeating Central Michigan, 89-79, in what was win No. 100 for Michael White who became just the ninth

active head coach to

reach 100 in his first four

third straight season the

'Dogs have won a post-

season game, a first since

"First of all, we have good players," White said about the postseason a c c o m p l i s h m e n t.

"Second of all, I think there has been a little bit of disappointment heading into the NIT over these last three years

where we were so close to

being in that other tourna-

and with the circum-

stances, the character of

our locker room and the

leadership of the guys

within that locker room

have been good enough to stay hungry and to play

with some edge and show

people that we are pretty

good. We are going to

continue to appreciate the

game and our opportuni-ties and be competitive."

"With the quick turn

It also marked the

LA Tech (26-8) was

The Bulldogs will be trying to replicate last performance

Invitation Tournament.

year's

Arena.

years.

1984-86.

ment.





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SPORTS briefs HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL TIDE FALLS TO CHIEFS COLLEGE BB Louisiana Tech all set for NIT showdown



BLAKE BRANCH blake@press-berald.com

NATCHITOCHES - The Minden Crimson Tide baseball team traveled south for a matchup with Class 5A Natchitoches Central, coming up just short in a 5-3

loss to the Chiefs. The Tide and Chiefs were tied at 1-1 entering the inning, where fifth Natchitoches Central broke loose for three runs that would prove too much to overcome.

The Tide came ready to play, out-hitting the Chiefs seven to five, but the statistic that would prove most

costly was the nine runners left on base by Minden. On the mound, Crimson

Tide starter Austin Keough was able to limit the Chiefs to just two hits in his five innings of work.

What hurt the Tide were the five walks allowed, as that was Natchitoches Central's only way to reach base for most of the day.

Gavin Smith relieved Keough in the sixth inning, pitching the final frame, allowing one earned run on three hits and striking out one.

Natchitoches Central's pitching staff walked five Minden batters, as well as one hit by pitch, but the Tide were unable to get the timely hits.

At the plate, Minden was led by Gunner Stephens who went 2-4 with a double and an RBI for the Tide.

Trace Francis had a good day at the plate too, finishing 2-4 with a pair



of singles and a walk.

Jay Beene went 1-3 with an RBI single, Gavin Smith went 1-3 with a single and a walk and Matt Eskew drove in a run with

a sacrifice fly to round out the Minden attack.

The Crimson Tide will shake this one off and be ready to go for their next game against Benton, Thursday March 26, at 6 p.m.

Fans are strongly encouraged to come out and support the Tide against the Tigers in their district opener.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL Warriors take part in Sterlington Tourney



BLAKE BRANCH blake@press-herald.com

STERLINGTON - The Lakeside Warriors took part in the Sterlington Invitational Tournament over the weekend, splitting a pair of games with the Bastrop High School Rams and the Oak Grove Tigers.

ters in the game.

On the flip side, Lakeside starter Justin McCready was stellar, pitching three innings of one-hit baseball while striking out two Bastrop hitters

Trent Geis finished off the final two innings of the five inning contest, allowing no hits and striking out two to get the save.

At the plate, Lakeside collected six timely hits with runners on base.

Luke Griffith started the hitting off for Lakeside with a 2 RBI double to break Bastrop's stride in the bottom of the first.

Logan Clark and Coulson White both had big days as well, collecting two hits, with one of White's driving home a run.

their luck was not as good, as Oak Grove was able to silence the Warriors' offense in a 3-1 victory.

Lakeside got an excellent pitching performance from Cameron Gray, who held the Tigers scoreless until the top of the seventh inning.

Oak Grove was able to push across three runs in the seventh, and that would be plenty.

The lone bright spot at the plate for Lakeside was the hitting of Jake Gray who finished 2-3 with a single, double and an RBI.

Braydon Jones and Thomas Lambert had the other two hits for Lakeside, both singles





Michael Sam takes part in first ever NFL veteran combine

TEMPE, Ariz. Michael Sam's first step to getting back in the NFL began Sunday morning under a hot Arizona sun.

The former seventhround pick of the St. Louis Rams was one of 105 free agents to go through position-specific drills in front of scouts from all 32 teams at the NFL's first veteran combine hosted at the Arizona Cardinals' practice facility.

Or as Matt Birk, the NFL director of football development, who organized the veteran combined, said, they were "fighting for their football lives."

Sam's fastest 40-yard dash was 5.07 seconds unofficially. His initial attempt was clocked at 5.1 seconds, also unofficially. At the NFL scouting combine in 2014, he ran the 40 in 4.91 seconds.

Sam said he did not talk to any scouts, instead meeting with the media immediately after his workout before quickly leaving the Cardinals' facility while the other defensive linemen in his group lingered around to cool down and recover.

He refused to answer questions, non-football including one about whether his appearance on ABC's "Dancing with the Stars" will affect his chances to make a roster.

In the Warriors' first game of the weekend, they took on Bastrop, dominating on their way to a 10-0 victory.

The Bastrop pitching staff gave Lakeside plenty of opportunities at the plate, walking a whopping 10 bat-

Thomas Lambert had Lakeside's only other hit of the day, a single.

McCready was the winning pitcher for the Warriors. In game two for Lakeside,

The Warriors will aim to get back on track when they travel to Coushatta on Tuesday, March 24, for their district opening matchup with Red River High School.

First pitch for that contest is set for 6 p.m.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL Plenty of storylines for Sweet Sixteen showdowns

When the NCAA Tournament reaches the Sweet 16, that means there are only 15 games left to decide a national champion.

Here are some story lines to watch as the Sweet 16 approaches:

REMATCH REPLAYS: Two of the eight games in the regional semifinals will be rematches from the regular season

UCLA and Gonzaga met on Dec. 13 in Los Angeles, and the then-No. 9 Zags came away with an 87-74 victory. Kyle Wiltjer scored 24 points and Byron Wesley added 20 points for Gonzaga.

Bryce Alford scored 23 points and Isaac Hamilton added 18 for UCLA.

Louisville and North Carolina State met in an ACC game on Feb. 14 and the visiting Wolfpack prevailed 74-65. Cat Barber had 21 points for N.C. State, which held Louisville to 33 percent shooting and outscored the Cardinals 32-16 in the paint.

"We got dominated at all positions tonight." five Louisville coach Rick Pitino said then.

Chris Jones, who was dismissed from the program last month, scored 20 points and Wayne Blackshear added 19 for then-No. 9 Louisville. Terry Rozier and Montrezl Harrell, Louisville's leading scorers, combined for 14 points

SWEET SEEDS: The West Regional will be the toughest of the four in the Sweet 16 if you believe the seeds.

Top-seeded Wisconsin will play No. 4 North Carolina and second-seeded Arizona will face No. 6 Xavier in Los Angeles, a total of 13 when the seedings are added.

The Midwest is second with 16 (No. 1 Kentucky vs. No. 5 West Virginia and No. 3 Notre Dame vs. No. 7 Wichita State), while the South is next with 19 (No. 1 Duke vs. No. 5 Utah and No. 2 Gonzaga vs. No. 11 UCLA). The last of the regionals is

the East where third-seeded Oklahoma meets No. 7 Michigan State and No. 4 Louisville faces eighth-seeded North Carolina State, a total of 22

SPECIAL K: When the coaches shake hands before the Duke-Utah Sweet 16 game, it will be between two men with a lot in common.

Duke's Mike Krzyzewski and Utah's Larry Krystkowiak probably lead the NCAA in name typos.

"I don't know how many times two Polish coaches will go against one another, where both of us are called Coach K, but he's a good friend,' Krzyzewski said of Krystkowiak. "I had him on my Sirius XM show about a month ago and, boy, he was

really good — really good." SPARTY'S PARTY **PARTY:** Michigan State under Tom Izzo has become as familiar in the Sweet 16 as the guys in a school band wearing enough face paint to cover a garage.

The Spartans have reached the regional semifinals for the seventh time in the last eight years. They will face Oklahoma in Syracuse, New York.

Izzo has a 13-1 record in games in the round of 32. He was surprised a bit that this team won its second game to move on.

"We've been a team all year that has banged around, probably lost more games than we should have just because of the free-throw situation or dumb coaching with 2, 3 seconds left to go in the game and people hitting 3s and tying it," Izzo said. "But I think we've had to earn every single thing we've gotten because every game's been like that. So I think they felt comfortable in a game because that's the way not their whole tournament has gone or the Big Ten Tournament, their whole season has gone that way. I'm really proud of this team. I

don't use that word lightly when I speak and I am."

KENTUCKY'S CHASE: The top-ranked Wildcats showed in the round of 32 why they are the evenmoney favorite to win the whole thing.

In their win over Cincinnati, the Wildcats shot just 37 percent and were outrebounded 45-38. There really wasn't a point in the game when Kentucky felt threatened about its winning streak and the 64-51 win was the Wildcats' 29th of 36 by at least 10 points.

"I always like it when my team shoots 37, 36, 35 percent and wins in double digits," Kentucky coach John Kentucky coach John Calipari said. "It shows them they don't have to make shots to win. You can miss them all. No, you can't miss them all. You can miss most of them, and you can still win games if you defend, you rebound and you play that way, make your free throws, and they did."

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John Legend on race, Common, Sam Smith, 'Blurred Lines'

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — John Legend says he's concerned that the "Blurred Lines" verdict could set a scary precedent for artists creating music inspired by others.

In a wide-ranging interview with The Associated Press, the Grammy winner said understands why people say 2013's biggest hit song by Pharrell Williams and Robin Thicke sounds like "Got to Give It Up," Marvin Gaye's 1977 hit, adding: "I said that when I first heard it, too."

But he said he doesn't agree with the jury that determined the performers copied elements of Gaye's work.

"You have to be careful when it comes to copyrights, whether just sounding like or feeling like something is enough to say you violated their copyrights," the singersongwriter told The Associated Press on Saturday before performing at the South by Southwest music festival. "Because there's a lot of music out there, and there's a lot of things that feel like other things that are influenced by other things. And you don't want to get into that thing where all of us are suing each other all the time because this and that song feels like another song."

Williams, with whom Legend has worked in the past, and Thicke also were ordered to pay nearly \$7.4 million to three of Gaye's children.

"I think we have to be careful about that, and I'm a little concerned that this verdict might be a slippery slope," Legend said.

Legend also spoke about collaborating with Sam Smith, whose debut album earned him Grammys for song and record of the year last month; his collaborator Common's recent comments about racism that sparked some backlash; and mentoring budding artists with for the AXE White Label.

Here are some highlights from the interview:

AP: Are you working on a new album?

Legend: A week from Monday I'll start. I'm going on vacation next week because I need it (laughs) and then I'll really jump in the studio to start writing again.

AP: "All of Me" was such a huge hit. Is there any pressure as you head into the next album?

Legend: The pressure I put on myself isn't, 'I have to make another 'All of Me." It's just I have to write great songs. I want to make a better record than I made the last time. I want to grow. I want to discover



"Glory" from (the movie) "Selma." Where did you put it?

Legend: It's sitting on my piano in New York at our apartment there. AP: Common received some backlash for his comments about ending racism on "The Daily Show" last week. What are your thoughts?

Legend: Oh yeah, I heard a little bit about it and I understand what he's saying and learning to love each other, even if we look different or worship differently or live differently. But I think it's not enough for us to extend the hand of love. I think it's important that that goes both ways. It's important also that we look at policies we need to change as well.

It's important for us also to fight for certain changes that need to happen. And one of those issues that I really care about is education. But also another one is incarceration, which is what I talked about at the Oscars. And mass incarceration is a policy that's kind of built up over the last four decades and it's destroyed families and communities, and something we need to change. And it's fallen disproportionally on black and brown communities, especially black communities, and it's kind of a manifestation of structural racism. So when you think about that kind of thing, it's not enough to say we need to love each other, you have to go behind that and say we need to change these policies, we need to fight, we need to protest, we need to agitate for change.

AP: What was it like working with Sam Smith on the charity single "Lay Me Down"?

Legend: It was great. I love Sam. I think he's one of the most talented new artists out right now, and our voices work really well together. And we both love soul music and wanted to make a really powerful song together, and we were able to do that — and do it for a great cause. And I'm excited for all the traction the song has gotten; it hit No. 1, my first No. 1 in the U.K.

AP: Have you been to SXSW before?

Legend: I've performed here many times, just different types of events. There's always something going on. The first time I played here was actually for Starbucks, outside of Starbucks in 2005 for my first album. I've come back for different purposes different years. I've done a show with Kanye here.

AP: What was it like mentoring budding musicians?

Legend: I love it. It's something I've always done anyway. A lot of it has been informal; some of it is me signing artists like Estelle or executive producing artists like Stacy Barthe. It's always been a part of what I like to do, and I benefited from it as well. Kanye signed me and has mentored me, Stevie Wonder has mentored me. All kinds of people have given me great

new things about myself creatively. AP: You and Common won an Oscar for because I do believe that part of us ending racism is us seeing each other's humanity

advice over the years, so I like to pay it forward as well.

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MINUTES TOWN OF COTTON VALLEY MARCH 10, 2015

Meeting was Order called to by Mayor Phillips. Invocation was RN - NEEDED Di- offered by Officer Jason Fitzgerald and the Pledge of Allegiance by Phillips. Mavor Motion was made by Cat Cox, by Toby Sinclair to search jobs by state accept the Agenda presented. motion carried. Motion was made by Toby Sinclair, seconded by Cat Cox to accept the February Minutes presented. as ,motion carried. PROWLER 29 Ex- Motion was made condition by Toby Sinclair, seconded by Cat Cox to pay the bills, motion carried. Motion was made by Cat Cox. seconded 2006 CADILLAC Evelyn Parish for SRX silver, 3rd row a Resolution to Point seat, fully loaded, request the return old train previously deeded to the Council on Aging,

carried

Motion was made

by Toby Sinclair,

for the Mayor and Clerk to pursue possible bond loans with the USDA. Motion was Made seconded bv Evelyn Parish mileage to pay Cat Cox to for attend a meeting Natchitoches, in La, motion carried. Motion was made

seconded by Toby Sinclair to close the meeting, motion carried.

March 23, 2015 Minden Press-Herald

by Naomi Houston,





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CRYPTOQUIP

UGHRQE DRCTZ GARQM AGFAKTE G D S MLTKF HGEMTFUQZZB FTMQFDTS MTDDKE ELRME: "CRZZTB RU MLT SRZZE."

Friday's Answer: THAT GUY NEVER MANAGED TO PEEL THE POTATOES. HE WAS RUNNING VERY LATE, WITH NO TIME TO PARE. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals O

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A man wakes up after sleeping under an ADVERTISED blanket on an ADVERTISED mattress, shaves with an ADVERTISED razor, brushes his

teeth with ADVERTISED





toothpaste, washes with ADVERTISED soap, puts on ADVERTISED clothes, drinks a cup of ADVERTISED coffee, drives to work in an ADVERTISED car and then refuses to ADVERTISE believing it doesn't **PAY**.

Later, when his business is failing he ADVERTISES it for sale in the ...

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