

LIFE PG.5



Thumb Jamboree



Ron Curry, regional administrator, says this is good

CURRY

"Important progress is being made in the selection of an alternative technology for disposal of M6 and CBI (clean burning ignit-



Fleming: Tax code in need of change **OPINION** PG.4

WEATHER

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK



65 HIGH LOW

Mostly sunny early. Scattered thunderstorms developing later in the day. Chance of rain 50%.



@mindenph





H&R Block representative Sandra Rush, left, along with Donna Bradley assist Lashonda Walker and Lisa Walker filing their taxes Tuesday. The deadline to file is Wednesday. Bruce Franklin/Press-Herald

Deadline to file taxes is midnight

MICHELLE BATES

michelle@press-herald.com

The deadline to file federal taxes is at midnight Wednesday.

Several tax services are busy helping their customers get their returns in on time, and H&R Block offered a few tips on how to handle the frenzy that is Tax Day. Gale Cothran, franchise owner, says filers need to make sure they have all of their paperwork, but even if they have to file an extension, filers who owe still must pay by the April 15 deadline.

"An extension gives you six months, and an extension is automatic up until October 15 to get your paperwork togeth-er," she said. "It does not give you extra time on paying your taxes. You have to figure out

what you owe and make that payment. They'll (IRS) charge you penalties and interest for underpaying, but if you owe less, they'll refund you the money.'

She made it clear that any taxes owed is due April 15, period. However, the IRS will provide a 120-day extension for those who set up a payment plan, and they won't charge penalties but the filer will still have to pay interest.

In years past, the Minden Post Office has not stayed open on Tax Day, but the one in Greenwood will be open until midnight. Cothran says H&R Block will be open April 15 "until the last person walks out the door."

In order for tax returns to be considered on time,

See **TAXES**, Page 2

NEED MORE TIME?

Avoid a late-filing penalty by requesting a tax-filing extension. There are several ways to do so, including through the Free File link on IRS.gov, or by designating a payment as an extension payment and making it via one of the IRS e-payment methods, including the newest, IRS Direct Pay. Alternatively, taxpayers can file Form 4868. While an extension grants additional time to file, tax payments are still due April 15.

LEGISLATURE

its recommendation for an alterna-

tive technology to the open tray burn

method originally chosen to dispose of the propellant.

progress.

Religious objections bill to be changed

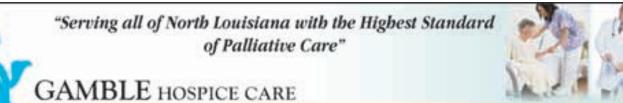
BRIAN SLODYSKO Associated Press

BATON ROUGE— A Louisiana lawmaker said Tuesday that changes are coming to his divisive religious objections bill, a key piece of Gov. Bobby Jindal's legislative agenda that has run into sharp criticism over concerns that it could lead to discrimination against gays and other minorities.

"We are not in favor of discriminating against anyone," said Rep. Mike Johnson, R-Bossier City, who sponsored the bill as a means to protect workers including wedding planners, photographers and bakers who object to working with gay couples but fear state retribution.

As written, the legislation

See **BILL**, Page 2



203 Pearl Street • Minden, LA • GambleHospiceCare.com 318-371-1140



TAXES Continued from page 1

income tax packages must be postmarked April 15. At 12:01 a.m., April 16, it will be considered late.

Cothran says the best advice is to get their taxes prepared on time.

"Even if you're short some things, you may be able to go back and amend it later on and make the changes," she said. "People who file extensions can sometimes forget to come back and file their taxes."

For businesses that are partnerships or file a Schedule C form, the deadline is still April 15, Cothran says. If a business is a corporation, their deadline was March 15.

Other tips are as follows: ■ Make sure to have all W2s, 1099 forms, any income information, such as interest paid by stocks and bonds.

■ Make sure to have all medical expenses and home mortgage interest.

Charitable contributions.

The United States Post Office offers the following tips when mailing income tax returns:

■ Be sure to use sufficient postage. Doublecheck the envelope. Does it weigh more than one ounce? Tax returns without enough postage will be returned.

• Write clearly. Print labels on your computer and neatly write both the destination and return addresses.

• Avoid the rush at the post office. Mail your return in a collection box that has a pick-up time before the deadline.

The deadline to file state taxes is May 15.

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SOME OF THE BEST CHICKENS ARE PAINTED HERE...

A Spring Festival for the Arts

and some chickens

learn to paint here!

We like to strut our stuff come springtime. Between the kids art exhibition and the various artists scattered around our four acre piece of heaven, we think we've got something to crow about here.

BILL Continued from page 1

would ban the state from denying any resident business licenses, benefits or tax deductions because of actions that person takes "in accordance with a religious belief or moral con-

viction" about marriage. Similar legislation has been proposed and is igniting strong debate in several other states this year.

One of the changes Johnson is offering would make clear that the proposal shall "not be construed to authorize any act of discrimination."

That, in effect, waters down the bill so it "doesn't do anything," said Keith Werhan, a constitutional expert with Tulane University Law School who reviewed the proposed amendment.

"If you really parse the language, it's not doing anything," Werhan said. "It doesn't provide any real protection, any serious protection to a religious believer." The adjustments come as critics — including some lawmakers and LGBT activists — have questioned whether the bill would not just allow businesses and employers to discriminate against gay couples, but also interracial couples and those who remarry after a divorce. "The bill never says 'gay marriage,' it doesn't say 'same-sex marriage,' it just says 'marriage'— so it could apply whether someone is opposed to interracial marriage, it could be gay marriage, it could be someone who is on their second or third marriage," said Rep. John Bel Edwards, D-Amite. Johnson fired back that critics have launched a campaign of "fear and intimidation and misinformation.' "Marriage, as it is defined in Louisiana, is between a man and a woman," he said. Any talk that the bill would sanction discrimination against interracial couples or divorced people seeking to remarry, he said, was "an attempt to exploit not only the spirit of this legislation, but the letter of it as well." He has proposed an amendment clarifying that point. Religious objections laws have proved contentious in Arkansas and Indiana where they ignited incendiary debate that pitted LBGT activists and business groups against social conservatives. Louisiana has proven to be no exception, where Jindal and Senate President John Alario, a fellow Republican, are at odds over the legislation. On Monday, the open-

BRIEFLY

A lawmaker who had a car accident with the Louisiana Capitol's new security system said he's broken his hand and suffered a concussion in the wreck.

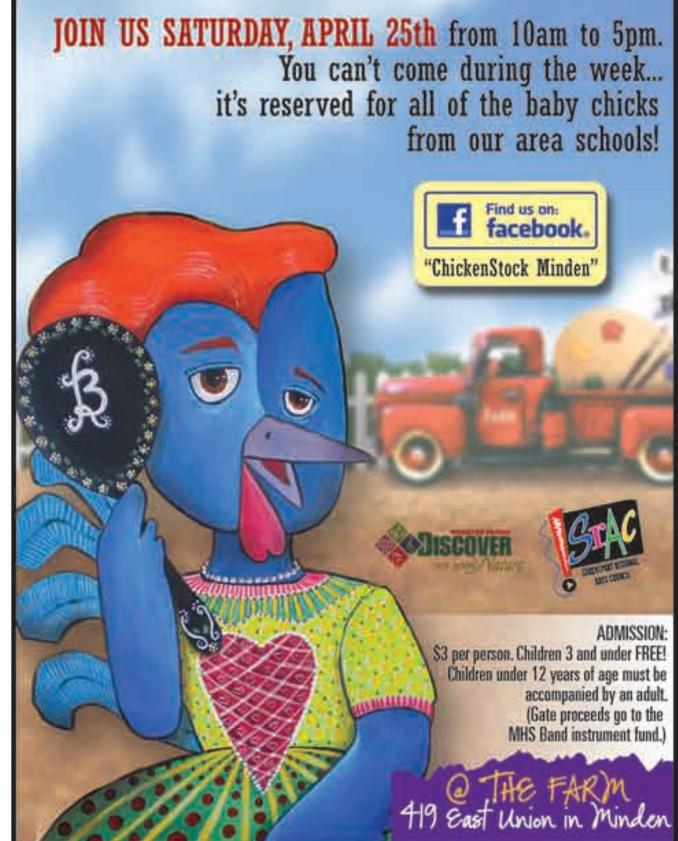
Rep. Paul Hollis, R-Covington, said his Audi A8 received considerable damage on the opening day of the regular legislative session when the security system engaged as he was exiting the parking lot. Two electronically-controlled pylons shot through the front of his car.

In a statement issued late Monday night, Hollis provided a medical update on his accident, after getting checked out by a doctor.

The new system was part of a \$5 million security upgrade around the Capitol over the last year.

ing day of the legislative session, hundreds of bills were introduced, but Johnson's proposal was the only one not referred to a committee. That changed Tuesday. After giving a speech to his colleagues about his intentions for the bill, Johnson tried to make his changes on the House floor, but he encountered resistance and withdrew the amendments. The bill then was sent to the House civil law committee, and Johnson said he'll seek to make his changes there. No hearing date on the legislation was immediately set.





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CAMEOS OF MINDEN

Do you remember when...

JUANITA AGAN Special to the Press-Herald

Alan Jackson was singing "Remember When?" and I wondered if you remember when. Do you remember when Ray Allen had a cleaning and pressing shop up near John Fort's News Stand on Main Street (front street)?

Remember when a man dipped the ice cream cones in the

back of Fort's News Stand? Or when Luke Gar-

land had his jewelry store near Mrs. Molly David's

shop? And do you remember the lovely hats Mrs. David had in her shop.

Have you forgotten Service Grocery that was owned by Mr. Walter McCoy and Mr. Ellis Wood? Lots of young people, especially boys worked there in the long ago, such as Dr. Sam Williams.

Do you remember the little movie theater next to City Drug Store? It had lots of names - The Scout, The Tower, Brownie and maybe other names that I

don't remember.-Remember when there was a Nichols' store along near City Drug Store? Later this was the site of Beall's. And do you remember the Morgan & Lindsey store? Remember when Bernice McCoy Cundiff

worked for Kennon's Grocery back in the thirties? Furniture and Hardware

Remember Paul Wallace Furniture store? Mr. Alvah Williams had the GE distributorship in part of that store. Mr. Leon Fuller worked in the furniture store, and he was such a kind and gentle man. Do you remember when the big frozen malts cost a nickel at Star Drug Store? One of the men there was Mr. Mildred Alexander (that was his name - Mildred).

Remember all the nice people who worked at Webb Hardware? Mr. Will Life, Mr. Walter White, Mr. and Mrs. George Lorraine, Mrs. Marshall Carson, and Mr. "Doc" Gibson. Doris Monzingo as the bookkeeper there.

Later she was Mrs. Jimmy Lomax and Jimmy worked there, too. I always say that all my furniture is not "Early American" or "French Provincial" but it is "Early Webb Hardware."

The furniture was quality furniture that would last a lifetime and beyond.

Clothing Do you remember Brown-Goodwill, owned by Mr. Ed Brown and Mr. Ralph Goodwill? Before World War II they handled Red Cross Shoes, but during the war the name was changed to Gold Cross shoes to keep from thinking they were made by the American Red Cross. The dresses were so lovely there. I made most of my clothes as a teenager, and later, but I was so proud to have a nice suit or a dress occasionally bought there. Mrs. Dennis and Mrs. Matthews (Sue Norman's mother) were the nicest ladies to serve you there.

Remember when in the late afternoons Jim Lyons would peddle his Hot Tamales down the street? He counted out your tamales on several sheets of newspapers and quickly wrapped them for you. At Andress where I went to work in 1940 often some of the men would buy a couple of dozen tamales, spread them out on the counter and invite all of us to have some. They were so good.

Remember when Varah Hardy, and later Chloe Waters Powell worked at

Wren Mercantile along with the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Lovic Wren? The Skinner Satin for my wedding dress came from there. Their material was the best. Mr. Wren was the sweetest of men, he was old when I was very young.

A Hole in the Counter Remember those grocery stores along there? E. Henry Lowe's, Lowe and David, and on down the street was Avinger's Grocery. Remember that A & P was on Main Street, too.

Remember when stores had a large roll of paper on the end of their counter? Nearby was a huge roll of twine.

Purchases were wrapped in paper and tied with the twine. Not many paper bags were ever used because the paper was cheaper. Sometimes the roll of twine was under the counter and it was pulled up through a hole in the counter. It was that way at Hearne's in Shreveport and at Sears. One of my children (I'll not tell you which one) stuck their finger in that hole where the twine was and the finger got stuck. It took a little work for both the store clerk and me to get that finger out so it not to be all skinned up. (Oh, the

joys of motherhood.) Men's Stores

Remember when we had several stores that sold men's clothing? One store that I remember was. first named Flewellvn's. then Scruggs, then it was called The Gentry and finally Ratcliff's. Vivian Williams and Maggie Sharp were two clerks who worked there for decades, helping you select shirts, ties and accessories to match the suit you had selected. Do you remember Bridges Clothing Store that was owned and operated by Jack Bridges? It handled men's furnish-

ings. And of course we all remember West Bros. that I have written so much about. That was my first real job for Saturdays and I was so happy to have that job. Mr. and Mrs. H. O. West have been gone for many years now, but Claude and Leatrice West, and David and Gloria West Evans are still important parts of our community.

Remember the sweet little lady that did the hemstitching for us? Miss Della Craton. She always had the prettiest blouses in her window. I bought a pretty red one and wore it for my school pictures in the ninth grade.

Remember when it was the custom to sit up at the funeral home when a friend had died? The time was broken up into two hour segments and we sat up around the clock. Often it was husband and wife that sat up, but occasionally it would be two men. That was long ago.

Do you remember when Minden Building and Loan was located on Pearl Street, where Jim Johnson's law office is located today? And R. H. Miller Insurance Agency was in the adjoining building there, too?

And so, Alan Jackson, I remember when, but it is not the same "remember whens" of your memories. Life was sweet, and we were young, we dreamed our dreams, and most of us lived out our dreams. And now we are old, but we still remember when.

Sometime later I'll ask you if you remember with me, when other memories come to my mind.

Juanita Agan submitted a weekly column to the Press-Herald for more than 15 years until her death in 2008. She was a resident of Minden since 1935. The Press-Herald is republishing select articles from Mrs. Agan's Cameos column every Wednesday.

M6

Continued from page 1

er) at Camp Minden," Curry said. "...the LMD met the Administrative Order on Consent deadline by submitting a vendor recommendation for EPA review and action. EPA continues to support an alternative technology for disposal and is quickly working to conclude efforts necessary in help-

alternative technologies to disposing of the millions of pounds of M6 propellant stored at Camp Minden.

The goal of the guidelines was to ensure the health and safety of the communities nearest Camp Minden and surrounding areas.

Frances Kelly, with Louisiana Progress Action, has been a staunch supporter and advocate for the safe disposal of the munitions at Camp Minden, and she hopes the EPA chooses the safest method possible. "I hope the State of Louisiana has chosen the safest possible method for the cleanup," she said. "I hope the EPA will only approve it if they have in fact chosen the safest method, and I'm prepared to keep working with all the different people and agencies in the community that have fought for safe disposal to make sure that it is the safest method and that the disposal happens in the safest way possible

and the community and workers are protected.'

A citizens' advisory group is currently being formed to oversee the cleanup at Camp Minden. The purpose of the group is to make sure the contractors and all agencies involved are following the applicable laws and criteria set forth to protect the health of the community

and the environment.

Although she has yet to attend the meetings conducted so far, she intends to be a part of the group.

'That group will help ensure that the cleanup at Camp Minden is done safely," she said.

The group will be comprised of community members from municipalities that will be affected, people with different skills sets, ex officio members from the agencies involved and others. Kelley says it's similar to the makeup of the Camp Minden Dia-

logue Committee but it is not yet fully formed.

Dialogue committee member Ron Hagar has been heading up the formation of the committee.





ing the state finalize its plans."

The method and vendor of choice is not being released at this time, Gray says, because the EPA has to review it. He says the EPA expects to act promptly on the state's recommendation.

The guidelines the committee used to choose a method and vendor were submitted by the Camp Minden Dialogue Committee that spent just a little over a month discussing

BIRTHDAYS FOR WEDNESDAY, APRIL 15, 2015

Lula Fuller Angela Williams Mae Helen Dixon Annie Washing Emma Watson Seth Rogen Maisie Williams

Ages 9-18

Growing up can be exciting, confusing and emotional! Girls ages 9-18 are invited to hear what our physicians have to say about topics including:

Puberty • Hygiene • Fitness • Nutrition

Self-Esteem
Sexual Awareness
STD's

Tuesday, April 28th 5:30-6:30-Ages 9-12, 7:00-8:00-Ages 13-18

Webster Parish Library - Meeting Room

Pizza & Door Prizes included. Pre-Registration is required.

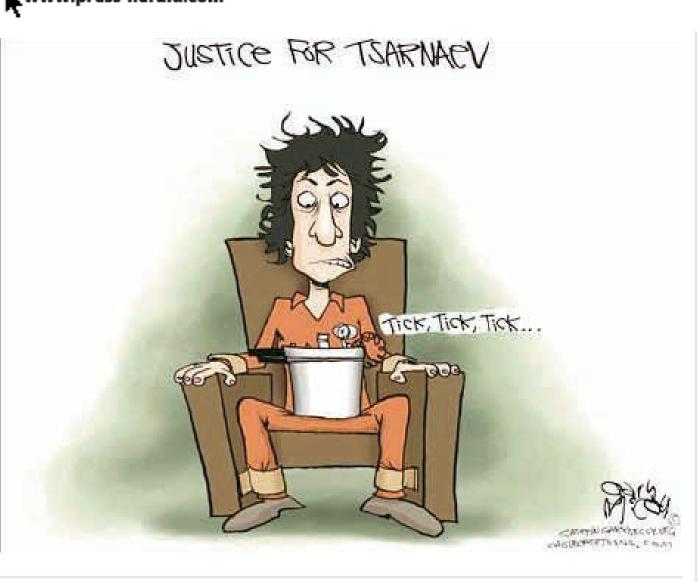
Call 318-382-8282 for more information or visit www.mindenmedicalcenter.com/Just4Girls



The Original & 3rd Annual urse Auction God semb & Salad Luncheon Saturday, April 25 | 10:30 a.m. | 407 Fort Street | Minden Sponsored by Women's Ministry of First Assembly | Doors open at 9:30 a.m. for auction viewing тоннт stella & dot enelope COACH AUTE SAC WE WILL BE AUCTIONING OFF PURSES OF ALL TICKETS FUN LADIES' DAY OUT! SHAPES AND SIZES FILLED WITH GOODIES! \$5.00 GOODIES FROM: THIRTY-ONE • AVON SPECIAL GOSPEL SINGER MARY KAY • WAL-MART • CELEBRATING HOME PENEOLOPE ANN • STAGE • BEYOND THE ALLEY RACHEL CHAPMAN INCLUDES ALL ACTIVITIES PREMIER JEWELRY - MERLE NORMAN LIMITED SEATING & LUNCHEON PINK PRATIQUE & LOTS MORE!

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OPINION



ANALYSIS

Budget woes don't stop other legislative disputes

MELINDA DESLATTE Associated Press

BATON ROUGE — Despite the depth of Louisiana's budget woes and the short length of this year's legislative session, many of the state's lawmakers want to embark on contentious debates that stray far from financial matters.

Fights over the Common Core education standards, gay rights, abortion, marijuana and gun laws are all in the queue for the twodards are developmentally inappropriate and part of federal efforts to nationalize education.

Gov. Bobby Jindal has made an attack on Common Core the centerpiece of his thin legislative agenda, and opponents of the multistate standards hope increased public disapproval of Common Core can help change their legislation's fate this year. Attempts to end use of the standards through legal challenges have failed so far.

Also on the rehashed debate front, awmakers again will consider whether to allow medical marijuana to be dispensed in Louisiana or to lessen penalties for simple marijuana possession. Sheriffs and district attorneys successfully stonewalled the bills last year, but polls show growing public support for the ideas. Grabbing attention in recent days is a proposal from newly elected Rep. Mike Johnson, R-Bossier City, that seems poised to drag Louisiana into the uproar over religious objection laws that drew national attention in Indiana and Arkansas. Johnson's "Marriage and Conscience Act" would ban the state from denying licenses, certifications, employment, contracts, benefits or tax deductions because of actions a person takes "in accordance with a religious belief or moral conviction" about marriage. Johnson says the bill is designed to protect opponents of same-sex marriage from state penalties because of their moral convictions. But LGBT advocacy groups and some legal experts say the proposal would enshrine discrimination against same-sex couples in state law. Jindal, who is courting Christian conservatives as he builds a likely presidential campaign, has taken Johnson's side on the legislation, and the issue could become one of the most divisive of the legislative session.

Gay rights organizations will be countering with proposals by Reps. Karen St. Germain, D-Pierre Part, and Austin Badon, D-New Orleans, to extend new protections in state law against discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity. Similar measures have gone nowhere in prior sessions.

On another social issue front, new

PERSPECTIVE

A Right to Discriminate

Bake me a cake, or go to jail!

Sadly, that is the new message from "inclusive" America. If you don't want to cater, photograph, preside over, sell pizza at, sell flowers to or otherwise participate in a gay wedding, you will be punished. If you don't want your business to pay for a kind of birth control that you consider murder, you will pay fines until your business is bankrupt.

Personally, I think both birth control and homosexuality are just fine, and gay marriage is as valid as straight marriage. But forcing everyone to act as if they think that way is just wrong. We have moved from "inclusion" to totalitarianism.

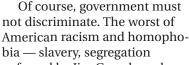
The list of people you must treat carefully keeps getting longer. Protected classes now include sex, race, age, disability, nationality, citizenship status, pregnancy, family status and more. I'm in two of those groups. You better treat me well!

Why force someone who disapproves of your actions to bake you a cake? Lots of other bakers would love the business. This debate has moved from inclusion to demanding that everyone adopt your values.

In a free country, bigots should have the right to be bigots. Americans should also have freedom of association.

American lawyers talk about special protection for religious freedom, and in the

Hobby Lobby case the Supreme Court said you could escape onerous parts of Obamacare by paying lawyers a fortune and convincing judges that you are a closely held corporation with religious objections. But why must you be religious to practice what you believe? This should be about individual freedom.



enforced by Jim Crow laws, bans on interracial marriage, anti-sodomy laws, etc. — was government-enforced discrimination. That was wrong, and it was right for the federal government to intervene.

But private actions are different.

If I start a business with my own money, I ought to be allowed to serve only libertarians, people who wear blue shirts, whatever. It's my business!

My customers have choices. If I am racist or anti-gay, the free market will punish me. Enough people would boycott my business that I would



JOHN Stossel

month legislative session that begins Monday and must end by June 11.

Lawmakers proposing the nonfiscal issues insist they don't intend to let their proposals sidetrack the House and Senate from the important work of balancing next year's budget and finding ways to keep public colleges and health care services from steep reductions. The state faces a \$1.6 billion budget shortfall for the fiscal year that begins July 1.

Much of the decision-making over which tax changes to make, which fees to raise and which other financial maneuvers to use will be hammered out in closed-door negotiations. For some lawmakers, that means there's lots of debate time to address other concerns.

The most high-profile, nonfinancial battle involves efforts to yank the Common Core education standards and associated testing from Louisiana's public school classrooms. A similar push failed last 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 stanproposals targeting abortion have been pre-filed for consideration.

Sen. Elbert Guillory, R-Opelousas, is pushing a "personhood" amendment to the state constitution that would declare a fetus is a "human being from the moment of conception." Rep. Lenar Whitney, R-Houma, wants to prohibit doctors from performing an abortion if they know the woman wants the procedure because of the fetus' sex.

Other lawmakers want debates on whether police officers should wear body cameras when on duty; whether school boards should have to give elementary school students classroom instruction on firearm safety; and whether to ban people from letting a child 12 years old or younger use an Uzi automatic machine gun.

The bills promise to drum up controversy and attention at the Louisiana Capitol over the next two months, even if the financial deals largely get made behind the scenes.

Melinda Deslatte covers the Louisiana Capitol for The Associated Press.

Melinda Deslatte covers the Louisiana Capitol for The Associated Press.

Share your thoughts!

Email Letters to the Editor to bruce@press-herald.com.

probably lose money quickly.

It would actually be useful to see which businesses refuse to serve one group or another. Tolerance is revealed by how people behave when they are free. American law fosters the illusion that everyone is unbiased, while their real feelings remain hidden, making them harder to boycott, shame or debate.

Punishment from the market is enough. The heavy hand of law is not needed here.

However, given America's history, I accept that there are a few exceptions. In the South, people banned from a lunch counter had few other choices. The Civil Rights Act's intrusion into private behavior was probably necessary to counter the damage done by Jim Crow laws.

But today such coercion is no longer needed. Even in the difficult days of Reconstruction, after the Civil War, business began to bring together whites and blacks who might not always have liked each other but who wanted the best deals. It took several years for racists to get Jim Crow passed so they could put a stop to that erosion of the old racist ways. Government helped keep racism going for several more decades.

Individuals should be allowed to discriminate. I discriminate all the time. I favor people over others when I choose my friends, jobs, hobbies, clubs, religion, etc. So do you.

Elizabeth Taylor married nine times. Had she married again, should the EEOC have ordered her to marry someone from an ethnic minority?

A homophobic baker shouldn't stop a same-sex couple from getting married. Likewise, a gay couple shouldn't force a baker to make them a wedding cake. No one should ever force anyone to bake them a cake.

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

PRESS-HERALD

The views expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of the Minden Press-Herald or Specht Newspapers, Inc.

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WEBSTERLIFE

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Around Town

Monday, April 13-Wednesday, April 15

New Light Missionary Baptist Church will host its annual spring revival at 7 p.m. each night. The guest speaker will be the Rev. Kaled Adams of New Orleans. Everyone is invited.

Tuesday, April 14

Town and Country Health and Rehab will host its Souper Supper at 6 p.m. in the dining room to honor its volunteers. Bring at least one can of soup to donate to UCAP.

Tuesday, April 14-Thursday, April 16

Mt. Olive Christian School will host an "Open School" event. All parents of both attending students and prospective students are invited to come sit in the class-room of their choosing to get an idea of what a day in the life of a Mt. Olive School student is like. The class-rooms will remain open for your visit until dismissal at 3:25 p.m.

New Zion Baptist Church, located at 570 Amos Cutoff Rd., will host its annual spring revival at 7 p.m. each night. The guest speaker will be the Rev. Richard Jefferson, pastor of Zion Hill Baptist Church in Doyline. Everyone is invited.

Saturday, April 18

The Evergreen Memorial Cemetery Association will convene for its annual meeting at 11:30 a.m. at Givens Hall at Evergreen Union Church. Bring a covered dish and enjoy a buffet meal at noon. This provides the perfect opportunity to address any concerns about the cemetery and to add any spring flowers to loved ones' graves.

Sunday, April 19

Annual choir anniversary program at 3 p.m. at Union Grove Baptist Church. Special guest is Springfield Baptist Church of Mt. Lebanon. Other guests will be soloists and choirs from the surrounding area.

Lakeview Preschool plate lunch fundraiser from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m. Plates will include Hugh Woods pork chop dinner with pork chops, au gratin potatoes, dirty rice, roll and a dessert. Plates are \$10 each, carry out only. For tickets call 377-1226 or 377-1302 before noon.

St. John Divine Baptist Church will celebrate Minister Herbert L. Rhone and his wife's 10th anniversary at 3 p.m. at 517 Lake Road in Sibley. Come and share this special occasion with guest speaker Minister Rodney Williams, pastor of King Solomon Baptist Church in Sibley. The theme will be "Don't give out, don't give in, don't give up," Galatians 6:9.

Sunday, April 19-Friday, April 24

Galilee Missionary Baptist Church will host its spring revival. At 3 p.m., speaker for Sunday, April 19: Pastor James E. Smith. At 7 p.m. each night: April 20: Pastor Reggie Lofton, Mt. Nebo BC, April 21: Pastor Billy Hawkins, Mt. Pilgrim BC, April 22: Pastor Ray Jiles, Valley Spring BC, April 23: Pastor John Cole, Mt. Comfort BC, and April 24: Pastor Royal Scott Jr., Greater St. Paul Baptist Church.

MINDEN CIVITANS

April is Civitan Awareness Month

April is "Civitan Awareness Month" and the Minden Civitans promote activities their and encourage residents to become new members of the club. By telling the community about their projects such as the Fair Pageant, working the fair, the Civitan Golf Tournament, Christmas party for handicap citizens, Civitan Santa, Clergy Banquet, riding in the Minden Mardi Gras Parade, working the Minden High football games, Operation Shoebox, helping with the Special Olympics, sponsoring youth teams, having guest speakers, doing an environmental project, helping judge the local sincere fair, providing fruit baskets for schools, helping provide food for the youth working with the Fuller Center, fruitcake sales at Christmastime and operating the candy boxes located in several Minden businesses. The Minden Civitans meet on Tuesdays at noon at Exacta Inn and the last Tuesday of the month a special meeting is held at the Minden Fairgrounds at 6:30 p.m.



Minden Mayor Tommy Davis presented the proclamation for "Civitan Awareness Month" to Minden Civitans President-elect Jeff Clemons. Courtesy Photo

Are you or someone you know getting married?

Is your church or organization hosting a local event?

Call the Minden Press-Herald at 377-1866 to learn how to get the word out in the Webster Life section!



Friday, April 24-Sunday, April 26

The 10th pastoral appreciation honoring Bishop Charles A. Blanks will be at Mt. Calvary Baptist Church, located at 329 Shady Oak Ext., in Springhill. The guest speakers will be Bishop Kimberly Randle at 7 p.m., Friday, April 24, a musical at 6 p.m., Saturday, April 25, and Pastor Rodney Williams at 3 p.m., Sunday, April 26. Everyone is invited.

Saturday, April 25

Eastside Missionary Baptist Church will host a 5k race and fun run. "Race Towards a Mission" is a fundraiser for the youth's planned mission trip. The fun run begins at 8 a.m., with the 5k race beginning at 8:30 a.m. Photo booth and face painting will also be available. Register online at www.active.com or call 393-6150 for a race application. Prizes will be available for every age group.

Eastside Missionary Baptist Youth Fundraiser "Race Towards a Mission" will begin at 8 a.m. with a Fun Run at the church. There will be a 5K at 8:30 a.m., a photo booth and face painting. Register online at www.active.com or call 393-6150 for a race application. Prizes will be available for the winner of every age group.

Monday, April 27-Wednesday, April 29

Annual youth revival, 7 p.m. each night at Mt. Comfort Baptist Church. Guest speaker will be Minister Brian Jackson of Union Springs Baptist Church in Shreveport. Theme is "Doing What My Parents Say." All are invited.

Saturday, May 2

Mt. Lebanon Historical Society presents "Stage Coach Days" at Mt. Lebanon. Live music, cake walks, a silent auction, quilt raffle will be available. Gourmet hot dogs at noon and supper at 5 p.m. with grilled hamburgers. Lots of food and fun. Also, a fun game of Mt. Lebanon Jeopardy will be played with trivia questions and answers about the history of Mt. Lebanon. The event begins at 11 a.m. Exit 61 off I-20, Mt. Lebanon is on Highway 154, three miles south of Gibsland.

Sunday, May 3

Union Grove Baptist Church will host its 111th church anniversary at 3 p.m. The guest speaker and church will be Pastor Donald Crawford and Sweet Home Missionary Baptist Church of Emerson, Arkansas.

Rocky Mount Baptist Church will host its 17th anniversary for Pastor Billy R. Ellis at 3:30 p.m. The guest speaker will be the Rev. Julian Burns of Springville United Baptist Church of Gibsland. Rocky Mount BC is located at Highway 534 in Homer.

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SPORTS

SPORTS briefs

POLICE FUNDRAISER WIFFLEBALL FOR A CAUSE

NBA

Pacers stay alive in playoff race INDIANAPOLIS (AP) – C.J. Miles and George

Hill helped Indiana survive Part I of its playoff push Tuesday night.

Now comes the harder part — making the red-eye flight to Memphis and doing it all over again less than 24 hours later.

At least the Pacers still have a chance. Miles scored 25 points, Hill added 24 and together they spurred a 7-2 run to open the second overtime and keep Indiana's playoff hopes alive with a critical come-from-behind 99-95 victory over Washington.

"Just all-out heart, and determination, and will, and perseverance, and not quitting," coach Frank Vogel said. "We got down so many times and had so many opportunities to give in. They just persevered through it."

It took everything the Pacers (38-43) had.

Paul George played a season-high 17 minutes, 46 minutes, almost three full minutes longer than planned. His 20-foot pull-up jumper tied the score at 85 with 22.4 seconds to go in the first overtime.

COLLEGE FB Bowl payouts boomed in 2015

Thanks to the College Football Playoff, bowl games paid more than a half billion dollars to conferences and schools last season, the largest payout ever and an increase of almost \$200 million from the final season of the Bowl Championship Series.

According to an NCAA report released Tuesday, the 39 postseason FBS games distributed \$505.9 million to the participating conferences and schools. The schools spent \$100.2 million to take part in bowl

games.

BLAKE BRANCH

blake@press-herald.com

For the first time, the Minden Police Department is coming together to put on a WiffleBall tournament to benefit their Special Response Team.

"This team trains every week inside the city limits of Minden," Minden Chief of Police Steve Cropper said. "They train in schools, hospitals and any public buildings that allow us to in order to be ready when a situation

arises."

Tournament organizer, Trey Waller, said that the tournament is a way for residents to take care of those who serve and protect

tect. "This team isn't funded by the city," Waller said. "So they've taken it upon themselves to fund their training. As a taxpayer, I'm pretty excited about my police chief being interested in my safety above and beyond what's being paid for. It speaks volumes about our police force."

The proceeds from the

tournament will go towards simulated weapons that are used during training. The total cost of the

The total cost of the weapons is approximately \$3,200, and Waller said to raise that total would be a successful tournament.

"We'd love to be able to write the police department a check for \$3,200," said Waller. "We do that through getting people and businesses around Minden to help sponsor."

The tournament will be held Saturday, April 25, from 9 a.m. - 3 p.m, at Living Word's Bush Stadium.

The cost for those who pre-register is \$20 and \$30 per player the day of the tournament.

For a \$3 gate fee, spectators are encouraged to bring a lawn chair and come watch some good old-fashioned, backyard baseball.

Waller said a concession stand will also be onsite with serving hot dogs, hamburger, nachos, candy and Coca-Cola products.

Teams can register online at livingwordminden.org (click on the SRT wiffle ball link) or by calling 371-9462 and speaking with Trey Waller.

Businesses wanting to help raise the funds for the SRT can become a corporate sponsor by donating \$100, sponsor a team for \$150, or give a donation of any amount to Living Word Minden.

All donations will be tax deductible, as Living Word Minden will present a check in the total amount raised.

"It's going to take several teams to reach our goal," Waller said. "This is something that benefits our community."

MAKEUP GAMES TO BE PLAYED TODAY



The Minden Crimson Tide and Lakeside Warriors had their games rained out Tuesday, but will make them up today. The Crimson Tide will play at North DeSoto at 6 p.m., while the Warriors will play Calvary at 4 p.m. at a site to be determined. Press-Herald Photos/Blake Branch and Russell Hedges

NBA Sefolosha blaming police for injury

ATLANTA (AP) — Atlanta Hawks player Thabo Sefolosha said Tuesday he is in "great pain" and blamed New York City police for causing a "significant injury" that knocked him out for the season.

The backup forward sustained a fractured right lower leg and ligament damage while being arrested with teammate Pero Antic outside a Manhattan nightclub while the Hawks were in the city to face the Brooklyn Nets last week.

Sefolosha won't return until next season, costing the top-seeded Hawks a strong perimeter defender heading into the playoffs.

"On advice of counsel, I hope you can appreciate that I cannot discuss the facts of the case. Those questions will be answered by my attorney in a court of law," Sefolosha said after practice, reading from a statement in his first public comments since the incident. "I will simply say that I am in great pain, have experienced a significant injury, and that the injury was caused by the police."

caused by the police." Antic and Sefolosha were at the scene early last Wednesday when Indiana Pacers forward Chris Copeland was stabbed outside the nightclub. The Hawks players were charged with obstructing authorities and disorderly conduct, though Antic said they weren't even with Copeland when the stabbing occurred.

NBA PLAYOFF PUSH Pelicans can clinch playoff berth with win

The revenue figures were reported by the bowls and the College Football Playoff to the NCAA and the schools supplied expense reports for participation, said Damani Leech, the NCAA's managing director, championships and alliances.

Total payouts from 35 postseason games from the 2013-14 season were \$309.9 million while schools spent \$97.8 million to participate. For the 2012-13 season, payouts were \$300.8 million and expenses were \$90.3 million.

"The largest portion of that increase in revenue distribution in year over year can be directly attributed to the College Football Playoff," Leech said. "While there were four additional postseason bowl games last year versus the previous year that's, relatively speaking, immaterial."

The College Football Playoff replaced the BCS last season. The playoff matched the four top teams in the nation, as selected by a selection committee, in two bowl semifinals with the winners playing for the national title. The BCS paired the top two teams in country as chosen by polls and computer rating in a national championship game.

ESPN pays the College Football Playoff about \$470 million a year for the media rights to the three playoff games and four other bowls and most of the money is distributed to the 10 FBS conferences and schools. New Orleans Pelicans coach Monty Williams often speaks with San Antonio Spurs counterpart Gregg Popovich, a mentor.

But this time was a little different, Williams said, since their teams will meet Wednesday night at the Smoothie King Center with so much on the line.

"We're both happy for each other, either way," Williams said. "Once the ball goes up, you're competing; it's a different deal. ... We were both kind of laughing at how this game came about."

For the Pelicans (44-37), a victory is needed to assure the franchise's first playoff berth since 2011 and a first-round matchup with the Golden State Warriors.

New Orleans is tied with Oklahoma City (44-37) for the Western Conference's eighth and final playoff spot; the Pelicans will make the playoffs with a victory or if Oklahoma City loses Wednesday at last-place Minnesota. The Pelicans hold the tiebreaker over the Thunder because they won three of four games in the season series, but a Pelicans loss and a Thunder win would send Oklahoma City to the postseason instead.

For the Spurs (55-26), the defending NBA cham-

pions, a victory would give them the West's No. 2 seed, meaning only Golden State would have home-court advantage against San Antonio in a Western Conference playoff series.

The Pelicans are 2-1 against the Spurs this season; New Orleans won the first two games, the first time in franchise history that it won consecutive games against San Antonio.

But the teams haven't played since the host Spurs won 95-93 in overtime on New Year's Eve, and a lot has happened since then. Immediately after that game, Spurs point guard Tony Parker returned from a hamstring injury, and small forward Kawhi Leonard, whom Williams said may be the Spurs' best player, came back from a bruised right hand.

Since that game, the Spurs are 35-12. They are on an 11-game winning streak and have won 14 of their past 15 games and 21 of their past 24.

"They've had so much continuity," Williams said. "They've been in every situation. So that's a lot to overcome. That's what we have to do."

The Pelicans were 16-16 after that Dec. 31 loss. It came 22 days after forward Dante Cunningham was signed and 11 days before swingman Quincy Pondexter was obtained in a trade. Since then, New Orleans has added backup point guards Norris Cole and Toney Douglas, and point guard Jrue Holiday and forward Ryan Anderson have missed lengthy times with injuries and returned.

"Both teams are different," Williams said.

Williams said he likes the edge that the Pelicans now play with and that the bench is more complete, enabling him to better match other coaches' moves.

His team has been in a lot of situations, too, especially recently. The Pelicans have come back from being three games out of a playoff spot and in 10th place, appearing to have only a slim chance to make the playoffs.

Williams said his Pelicans are ready for this moment.

"We've been in this race for a month and a half," he said. "We've dealt with more emotions and big games, big losses, big wins. They know they're going to go out and execute. It's going to be a cool time. It may be the first time we're embarking on this, but these guys have been through a lot. They



know how to handle this."

The Spurs' talent, experience and time together let them adjust to opponents' strategies more quickly than other teams can. But in the previous meetings this season, it appeared the Spurs had a difficult time adjusting to the Pelicans' energy and intensity. And this Pelicans team is even more intense with the new additions.

That energy and intensi-

ty will on display in front of a raucous crowd Wednesday night.

"The players were all talking about it," Williams said. "It's what you dream about as a young player, to be in a game like this. From where our program has come from, it's an awesome opportunity. Our fans get a chance to be a part of it, and we get a chance to do it on our home floor."

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Percy Sledge, who sang 'When A Man Loves a Woman,' dies

NEW ORLEANS — Percy Sledge, who soared from part-time singer and hospital orderly to lasting fame with his aching, forlorn performance on the classic "When a Man Loves a Woman," died Tuesday in Louisiana. He was 74.

His family said in a statement released through his manager, Mark Lyman, that he died "peacefully" at his home in Baton Rouge after a yearlong struggle with cancer. The cause of death was liver failure, Lyman said.

A No. 1 hit in 1966, When a Man Loves a Woman" was Sledge's debut single, an almost unbearably heartfelt ballad with a resonance he never approached again. Few singers could have. Its mood set by a mournful organ and dirge-like tempo, "When a Man Loves a Woman" was for many the definitive soul ballad, a testament of blinding, all-consuming love haunted by fear and graced by overwhelming emotion.

The song was a personal triumph for Sledge, who seemed on the verge of sobbing throughout the production, and a breakthrough for Southern soul. It was the first No. 1 hit from Alabama's burgeoning Muscle Shoals music scene, where Aretha Franklin and the Rolling Stones among others would record, and the first gold record for Atlantic Records.

Atlantic Records executive Jerry Wexler later called the song "a transcendent moment" and "a holy love hymn." Sledge's hit became a standard that sustained his long touring career in the U.S., Europe and South Africa and led to his induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame in 2005. It was a favorite at weddings -Sledge himself did the honors at a ceremony for musician and actor Steve Van Zandt — and often turned up in movies, including "The Big Chill," "The Crying Game" and a 1994 Meg Ryan drama named for the song's title.

"When a Man Loves a Woman" was re-released after being featured in Oliver Stone's Vietnam War film "Platoon" in 1987 and reached No. 2 in Britain. Michael Bolton topped the charts in the 1990s with a cover version and Rolling Stone magazine later ranked it No. 53 on its list of the greatest songs of all time.

Recognizable by his wide, gap-toothed smile, Sledge had a handful of other hits between 1966 and 1968, including "Warm and Tender Love," "It Tears Me Up," 'Out of Left Field" and "Take Time to Know Her." He returned to the charts in 1974 with "I'll Be Your Everything."

David Hood, a 71-yearold member of the legendary "Swampers," a studio group from Muscle Shoals, recorded with Sledge on his follow-up song to "When a Man Loves a Woman." Hood said he owed his career to Sledge and described him as the "nicest person famous, Sledge worked in the cotton fields around his hometown of Leighton in northwest Alabama and took a job in a hospital in nearby Sheffield. He also spent weekends playing with a rhythm-and-blues band called the Esquires. A hospital patient heard him singing while working and recommended him to record producer Quin Ivy.

In the 2013 documentary "Muscle Shoals," Sledge recalled recording the song: "When I came into the studio, I was shaking like a leaf. I was scared." He added that it was the "same melody that I sang when I was out in the fields. I just wailed out in the woods and let the echo come back to me."

Sledge said the song was inspired by a girlfriend who left him for a modeling career after he was laid off from a construction job in 1965. But in a decision that likely cost him a fortune, he gave the songwriting credits to two Esquires bandmates, bassist Calvin Lewis and organist Andrew Wright, who helped him with it. While identified with Muscle Shoals, Sledge lived for most of his

inducted into the Alabama Music Hall of Fame in 1993 and the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame in 2007.

In April 1994, Sledge pleaded guilty in federal court to tax evasion involving income from concerts in the late 1980s. He was sentenced to six months in a halfway house,

given five

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Sledge

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January 2014 but soon resumed touring.

Fellow musicians gathered in Florence, Alabama, later that year for a concert to raise money for Sledge's health care. The performance closed with Sledge joining in on his famous song.

"He didn't get to sing but one line,"

recalled

David

75 in November. He is survived by his wife and 12 children, Lyman said.

Johnson, a producer on

some of Sledge's record-

ings and an organizer of

the benefit. Johnson said

another R&B star, Eddie

Floyd, sang most of the

song but handed the

microphone to a frail

His family's statement

said he would have been

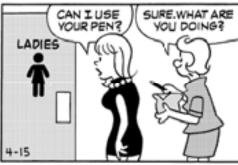
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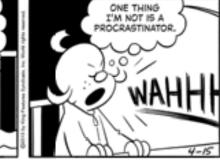
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CRYPTOQUIP

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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.

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