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April 6, 2015 | 50 Cents

MONDAY

INSIDE
today



FHA says 1,800 Louisiana bridges need repairs

NEWS PG.2



J.L. Jones Students of the Month

LIFE PG.5



Reaching a deal on Iran's nuclear program

OPINION PG.4

WEATHER

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK



83 **65**
HIGH LOW

Mostly cloudy skies. A stray afternoon thunderstorm is possible.

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“
Our primary focus is on the mom and baby as a unit versus babies in the nursery and moms being separate.”

Dana Haynes, Minden Medical Center Nursery Nurse Manager



Aarion Story gave birth to her daughters, 3-year-old Heaven and 4-month-old Trinity at Minden Medical Center. She says MMC's programs and staff benefited her before, during and after the births. Bonnie Culverhouse/Press-Herald

MMC PARTICIPATES IN BABY FRIENDLY INITIATIVE

BONNIE CULVERHOUSE
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The birth of a baby should always be a happy occasion, and Minden Medical Center is putting an initiative in place that will make the experience even better for the parents and the newest addition to the family.

“Our primary focus is on the mom and baby as a unit versus babies in the nursery and moms being separate,” Dana Haynes, MMC Nursery nurse manager, said. “As soon as the baby is born, we go skin-to-skin and stay that way for the first hour. C-section babies go skin-to-skin as soon as the mom gets out of recovery, until then we do skin-to-skin with the dad. All babies get that, and it makes a remarkable difference for new parents.”

Mandi Hart, labor and delivery nurse manager, says it's a time of special bonding.

“During the delivery process, we have the support people there, and we are taking baby straight to mom's chest, no longer to the warmer,” Hart said. “It's something we've had to move to in stages for the nursing staff, the patients and the physicians. It's a new change for everybody.”

“Rooming-in” is something the hospital implemented in 2001, but it is now almost mandatory,



Minden Medical Center Labor and Delivery Nurse Manager Mandi Hart, left, and Nursery Nurse Manager Dana Haynes prepare MMC's education room for members of the medical community who will hear about the new Baby Initiative implemented by the hospital. Bonnie Culverhouse/Press-Herald

providing there are no complications with the birth or the baby.

“Babies stay with their moms rather than in the nursery,” Haynes said. “We delay procedures and visitation and have limited visiting hours to give parents more time to bond with their

babies. Before we started rooming-in, the babies were in and out of nurseries. Right after delivery, the babies went to the nursery to get warmed up and a bath. The mom may not see them for six

See **MMC**, Page 3

CITY GOVERNMENT

Council to vote on new police officer

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Minden Police Chief Steve Cropper hopes to add another officer to his roster during a meeting of the city council Monday.

“The officer is Terry Nolan Stephens,” Cropper said. “If approved, this puts us with 31 officers and three openings.”

Members of the council are facing a light agenda during the 7 p.m. meeting at Minden City Hall.

In addition to personnel, the slate includes the following items:

- condemned properties at 110 Camp Street and 201 Cox Lane, both in District C
- adopt a resolution for a cooperative agreement to sell a 1979 Mack platform aerial truck with 65 ft. ladder to the Town of Homer for \$7,000
- hear the monthly police report.



CROPPER

ANALYSIS

Jindal's record under attack

Gubernatorial candidates slam governor

MELINDA DESLATTE
Associated Press

BATON ROUGE — With Gov. Bobby Jindal's approval ratings nose-diving in Louisiana, candidates vying to follow him into the governor's office are freely bashing Jindal's two terms as chief executive.

The strategy, practiced by both the Republican and Democratic contenders in the governor's race, is an under-

See **ANALYSIS**, Page 3



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SECONDFRONT

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LOUISIANA ROADS

FHA says 1,800 La. bridges need repairs



Louisiana has more than 1,800 bridges that are in need of repairs according to FHA data. Webster Parish had no bridges on the top 10 bridges needing repairs in the state. FILE PHOTO

SHREVEPORT — A federation of consumer advocacy groups federal data show Louisiana has more than 1,800 bridges that need repairs.

Federal Highway Administration data from 2014 show the state has nearly 13,000 bridges, and 1,837 of them are structurally deficient, according to the United States Public Interest Research Group.

The report comes as Louisiana grapples with a \$12 billion backlog in deferred road and bridge maintenance, The Times reported. And state and federal gas taxes, which provide money for transportation infrastructure, are flat and failing to keep up with inflation.

John Olivieri, the US PIRG's national campaign director for 21st Century Transportation, said hard FHA data highlights the state's spending priorities.

"It's not just the numbers are increasing. It's just that there's such a staggering amount in the first place," he said.

Structurally deficient bridges have at least one component that needs repairs or replacement. The designation doesn't mean a bridge is unsafe.

Such bridges are "more prone to safety issues in the future," Olivieri said. "They become more expensive to fix in the future."

Louisiana has a history of spending money on

interstates instead of paying to maintain existing roadways and bridges, State Sen. Robert Adley said.

He said he and other legislators are trying to figure out how to get money that has been diverted to state police and other areas back into the pot for roads and bridges.

Louisiana has put \$1.8 billion into bridge repair and about \$7 billion in road improvements since January 2008, said Lauren Lee, spokeswoman for the state Department of Transportation and Development.

"The state appears to favor building new and wider highways at the expense of repair and maintenance," Olivieri said in a statement.

State transportation deputy secretary Eric Kalivoda told the state's House appropriations committee March 24 the department forecasts Louisiana will have serious problems with the condition of its bridges in 10 years.

Kalivoda said the vast majority of those bridges were built in late 50s through the early 1970s. The bridges are reaching their design life and deficiencies will grow substantially.

"We are going to do something about it or we're going to be closing a lot of bridges," he said.

1. INTERSTATE 20 OVER ST. LOUIS SOUTHWESTERN RAILROAD

Parish: Caddo
Year built: 1965
Daily crossings: 134,300

2. INTERSTATE 10 OVER CITY STREETS AND RAILROAD

Parish: Orleans
Year built: 1960
Daily crossings: 84,720

3. INTERSTATE 10 OVER THE CALCASIEU RIVER, RAILROAD AND STREETS

Parish: Calcasieu
Year built: 1952
Daily crossings: 70,100

4. LA-354 OVER INTERSTATE 10

Parish: St. Martin
Year built: 1970
Daily crossings: 63,700

5. INTERSTATE 10 OVER VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

Parish: Jefferson
Year built: 1967
Daily crossing: 59,040

6. INTERSTATE 10 WB OVER VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY

Parish: Jefferson
Year built: 1967
Daily crossings: 59,040

7. US 90 EB OVER THE HARVEY CANAL, STREET AND RAILROAD

Parish: Jefferson
Year built: 1987
Daily crossings: 53,820

8. US-90 WB OVER THE HARVEY CANAL, STREET AND RAILROAD

Parish: Jefferson
Year built: 1987
Daily crossing: 53,820

9. INTERSTATE 20 OVER THE ST. LOUIS SOUTHWESTERN AND KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN RAILROADS AND WESTERFIELD

Parish: Bossier
Year built: 1966
Daily crossing: 53,400

10. INTERSTATE 20 OVER US 71, KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN RAILROAD AND A SW RAMP

Parish: Bossier
Year built: 1966
Daily crossing: 53,400

Source: American Road and Transportation Builders Association

Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

Economic and Property Damages Settlement

The Deadline to file a Claim is June 8, 2015

June 8, 2015 has been established as the deadline to submit a claim in the Economic and Property Damages ("E&PD") Settlement with BP Exploration & Production Inc. and BP America Production Company ("BP") related to the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill. So if you are eligible to file a claim, you must act soon.

WHO IS INCLUDED?

The E&PD Settlement Class includes people, businesses, other entities, and properties in the states of Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi, and certain counties in Texas and Florida, that were harmed by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill that occurred on April 20, 2010. The website DeepwaterHorizonSettlements.com has detailed descriptions and maps of the included geographic locations to help you determine whether you are a part of the E&PD Settlement Class. Additionally, you can call 1-866-992-6174 or e-mail questions@DeepwaterHorizonEconomicSettlement.com to find out if a geographic location is included.

WHAT ARE THE PAYMENT CATEGORIES?

The settlement provides payments if you had economic loss or property damage because of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. By submitting a claim, you can request a payment in one or more of the following seven categories:

- Economic Damage
- Loss of Subsistence
- Vessel Physical Damage
- Real Property Sales Damage
- Vessels of Opportunity Charter Payment
- Coastal Real Property Damage
- Wetlands Real Property Damage

Economic Damage payments are available for Individuals and Entities that lost profits or earnings as a result of the Deepwater Horizon Incident. Coastal Real Property payments are available for property that was physically damaged in connection with the Deepwater Horizon Incident. Detailed descriptions of all seven categories are available at the website.

There is no limit on the total dollar amount of the E&PD Settlement. All qualified and timely claims will be paid in full once they are approved. The Settlement also allowed for Seafood Compensation claims, but the deadline for those claims has passed.

HOW DO I REQUEST A PAYMENT?

You must submit a Claim Form to request a payment. You can get a copy of the various Claim Forms by visiting the website or by calling 1-866-992-6174. Claims can be submitted online or by mail. If you have questions about how to file your claim, you should call the toll-free number for assistance. The claims process can be complex, so if you are eligible to file a claim, you should act now so you may complete your claim before the **June 8, 2015** deadline.

DeepwaterHorizonSettlements.com
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LIONS CLUB

Campbell: Solar energy is the future

BONNIE CULVERHOUSE
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Public Service Commissioner Foster Campbell is passionate about energy ... especially if it's renewable.

Campbell spoke to Noon Lions Club members Thursday about a variety of subjects, including solar energy.

"I'm for wind energy, solar energy; you name it, I'm for it," he said. "I don't

think we have to depend just on natural gas or coal for power.

The big companies would like to do that because they don't want competition, but I think if someone has the money to invest in solar, I'm for you."

It's an expensive project, Campbell says.



CAMPBELL

"If you have the money, you've done the research and you want to have your house in solar, we have a program where the electric company gives you credit for the electricity you produce," he said.

Southwestern Electric Power Company (SWEPCO), he says, has purchased wind power from Kansas.

"Some of the electricity SWEPCO sells – and they sell to Minden – might be wind powered," Campbell

said. "It's not for everybody. We'll never be in the wind power business here because we don't have wind, but if you go to Kansas or the panhandle of Texas or Oklahoma, the wind blows all the time. They are capturing the wind with these big windmills. It's clean, it's renewable and we don't have to depend on anybody for it."

Campbell says the PSC is asking these companies to mix renewable energy into their programs.

"If you left it up to them, they would stay with what they have," he said. "I predict in our lifetime, you are going to see more and more solar power because it is a thing of the future."

Campbell describes companies like SWEPCO and Entergy as monopolies.

"The PSC has to regulate them," he said. "I don't mind regulating them and telling them let's do some things for our consumers.

They do pay their bills."

He says he is in favor of the companies sending texts and emails if there is a power outage. He also believes in helping customers who have trouble paying their bills.

"A lot of times people can't pay their bills, for whatever reason," he said. "Somebody's sick or out of a job. We try to work with everybody. SWEPCO has been good about that, putting them on a payment plan."

OBITUARIES

Marjorie Stephens Culpepper

Marjorie Stephens Culpepper, 93, who lived in Minden for most of her life died peacefully at the Hospice Austin Christopher House on April 2, 2015. Funeral services will be at Rose-Neath Funeral Home Chapel in Minden, with the Rev. Leon Boggs officiating at 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 7.

Marjorie will be buried with her husband, Capt. Steve "SC" Culpepper, US Army Air Force, at the Old Minden Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 5 until 7 p.m., Monday, April 6, at Rose-Neath.

Elizabeth Frances Cummings

Funeral services for Elizabeth Frances Cummings will be at 10 a.m., Tuesday, April 7, 2015, at Rose-Neath Funeral Home

Chapel in Minden, with the Rev. Jim Phillips officiating. Interment will follow at Pine Grove Cemetery in Minden. The family will receive friends from 5 until 7 p.m. Monday, April 6, 2015, at Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden.

Elizabeth was born April 9, 1938, in Galveston, Texas and entered into rest April 4, 2015, in Minden.

Her husband, Leland Cummings and brother-in-law, Robert Cummings preceded her in death.

She is survived by her sons, Daniel L. Cummings and James M. Cummings, both of Homer; daughters, Carol Cummings of Minden and Anna Cummings of Minden; and sister-in-law, Elizabeth Ann Cummings of Waskom, Texas.

Pallbearers will be Charles Ray, James Guidry, Justin Butler, Drew Lewis, John Cole and Cameron Rhodes.

Bernard C. Whaley

Graveside services for Bernard C. Whaley, 95, were at 10:30 a.m. Monday, April 6,

2015, at Gardens of Memory in Minden, with Dr. Randy Hales officiating. The received friends from 9 until 10 a.m. Monday at Rose-Neath Funeral Home Minden Chapel before the service.

Bernard was born Feb. 25, 1920, in Walkerville, Arkansas and entered into rest April 2, 2015 in Minden. He was a long time resident and businessman of Minden. He owned and operated the Minden Dairy Queen for 40 years. B.C. was an avid hunter, fisherman, traveler, and a devoted husband, father and grandfather.



WHALEY

Mr. Whaley proudly served his country during World War II. 1st LT Bernard "Pappy" Whaley was a B-24 Bomber Pilot in Europe with the 446 bombardment, Group 707th Squadron "The D-Day Leaders." He returned home at age 24 having flown 30 bombing missions over France and Germany. His last two missions were flown on the D-Day beaches of Normandy. His numerous awards included

the Distinguished Flying Cross and four Air Medals.

He was preceded in death by his wife, of 66 years, Marjorie Bright Whaley.

He is survived by his daughters and sons-in-law whom he cherished, Sharon Garland and husband, Tom of Minden, Peggy McClendon and husband, Carr of Carmichael, California and Jeannie Sills and husband, Norris of St. Francisville. Also survived by his brother, Joe Whaley and wife, Emma Lou of Minden, seven grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and one great-great-granddaughter. His wife's family and all who knew him adored him.

The family was determined to take care of him at home with the help of VA home-based Primary Care nurses Susan Brown and Evaline Kinard and later Amedisys Hospice nurse Simone Wart and Maria Johnson of Country Road Resources. You treated him with such loving care and we will never forget it.

Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church Minden, 301 Pennsylvania Ave., Minden, LA 71055.

MMC

Continued from page 1

hours."

Haynes says now the nursery is essentially closed.

"We don't have a nursery," she said. "We have a Level II nursery, but well babies are always in with their moms."

Aarion Story gave birth to both of her daughters at MMC, and she believes rooming-in is vital to the bonding process.

"I had C-sections with my babies, so I didn't have that immediate skin to skin," Story said. "But with

the rooming-in ... that's how it's going to be when you go home. The hospital is not a daycare."

But, she says, the nurses were close at hand when she had questions, especially with her first child, Heaven, who is now 3 years old.

"I was breastfed, so I knew I wanted to do that," Story said. "With Heaven, the nurses showed me how. If I had any questions, they were right there to help me."

With her second child, Trinity, who is 4 months old, Story wanted to further her education, and MMC helped her there,

too.

"I went to breastfeeding class at the MMC education building," she said. "That helped a lot. My boyfriend went, too, because he wanted to know how he could help."

MMC's new programs are a part of Baby Friendly Initiative by The World Health Organization and Centers for Disease Control.

"They are based on 10 steps of successful breastfeeding," Haynes said. "Hospitals have to do different things to meet those steps in a certain pathway. We are evaluated by Baby Friendly. It is a certification

that, once achieved, you continue to meet guidelines to maintain it."

In 2009, The GIFT (Guided Infant Feeding Techniques) program was implemented.

"It is a step down from Baby Friendly that Louisiana came up with to help hospitals move toward Baby Friendly," Haynes said. "We at MMC were the first hospital in north Louisiana to achieve The GIFT certification."

They are not to the Baby Friendly certification yet; however, the hospital has entered the first phase.

"It requires changes we have made throughout the

years," Haynes said. "In 2011, we were certified by the Joint Commission in Maternal/Child Specialty Certification for Normal Deliveries."

The WHO provides the tools and assists with policies. Every year there are changes that require recertification.

"It costs MMC money to be a part of this, but we want to take that step to be able to provide the best care," Hart said. "We receive nothing for it except knowing we are doing the best for our patients."

Haynes, Hart and MMC are working toward more

hospital and community involvement with the initiative.

"We want to get the word out to start educating the parents early," Haynes said. "It starts with the clinic, then MMC, then the physicians that follow up with the babies."

"Fortunately, we work with wonderful physicians who are easygoing and are willing to try something new," Hart added. "If we bring them solid evidence and information, they will back us."

For more information concerning Baby Friendly, call MMC at 377-2321.

ANALYSIS

Continued from page 1

standable one, recognizing that a candidate can't successfully woo voters if he's too closely allied with a politician who's not well-liked.

But the trash-talking presents a problem for Jindal, whose record will be enduring an onslaught of attacks locally while he appears to be running for president nationally.

Having a Democrat blasting the Republican

governor is one thing.

When the GOP candidates are panning his performance, that threatens to undercut Jindal's speeches and interviews in Iowa, New Hampshire and Washington, D.C., about his achievements back home.

Jindal might have been helped if he had closer relationships with Louisiana's other Republican elected officials, but fostering those links hasn't seemed to be one of the governor's priorities since taking office in 2008.

If a recent small business forum with the

gubernatorial candidates is any indication, Jindal's political ambitions, policy-making process and budget-balancing decisions are going to take a beating for months heading into Louisiana's Oct. 24 statewide election.

Four major candidates are running to be the state's next governor: Republican Public Service Commissioner Scott Angelle, Republican Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne, Democratic state Rep. John Bel Edwards and Republican U.S. Sen. David Vitter.

The depth and type of criticism of the governor varies by candidate, with Angelle — who worked for Jindal across his two terms, including as the governor's legislative lobbyist — being the least direct in his critique.

But even Angelle announced he opposes the governor's chief tax proposal for the upcoming legislative session, just like his fellow candidates. He also described a state budget careening from "fire drill to fire drill."

"Now, ladies and gentlemen, the building is on fire," he said.

That comment can only be seen as criticism of Jindal, the architect of many of the financing tactics and spending plans that have been put in place

over the last seven years, even if Angelle didn't directly call out Jindal by name.

Angelle's close ties to Jindal are considered his top political liability, and Edwards made sure to point out the connection at the business forum. He said Angelle shared the blame in the state's current financial problems.

"It is true the building is on fire, but I didn't spend the last several years helping Bobby Jindal light the match," Edwards said.

The candidate forum included a series of digs at Jindal, either directly or indirectly.

Vitter hit on complaints that Jindal has let his national political ambitions drive state policy: "I'm not going to worry about what national political groups think or what block voters in Iowa or New Hampshire poll."

Dardenne talked of having enough of Washington-style politics in Louisiana, in what appeared to be a strike at both Jindal and Vitter. He also said he wouldn't "put higher education on a back-burner in my administration," a reference to Jindal and lawmakers cutting \$700 million in state financing for college campuses.

Edwards was most

straightforward, blaming Jindal directly for helping to create the state's \$1.6 billion budget shortfall. The Democratic lawmaker uses Jindal to try to distinguish himself from his competitors, regularly saying the three Republican candidates would continue Jindal-style policies if they were elected governor.

The attacks put Jindal in an awkward position as the national spotlight bears down ever harder and interest intensifies in

the governor's performance in office. He has fewer defenders these days and an onslaught of critics.

Jindal and his chief advisers say the governor doesn't care about poll numbers that show his popularity among Louisiana residents dipping into the high 20s and low 30s.

They say the numbers indicate Jindal's reform agenda has ruffled feathers and disrupted entrenched bureaucracies.

They talk of economic development wins, educational changes and a smaller government footprint.

If few at home are touting those achievements, it would seem to make Jindal's story a tougher one to tell in other states.



JINDAL

BIRTHDAYS FOR MONDAY, APRIL 6, 2015

Ada Faith Kennon-Gilbert '11'
Paul Rudd
Spencer List
Candice Cameron
Zach Braff
Louie Spence
Charlie Mcdermott

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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OPINION

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PERSPECTIVE

Reaching a comprehensive, long-term deal on Iran's nuclear program

THIS WEEK, together with our allies and partners, we reached an historic understanding with Iran, which, if fully implemented, will prevent it from obtaining a nuclear weapon and make our country, our allies, and our world safer.

This framework is the result of tough, principled diplomacy. It's a good deal -- a deal that meets our core objectives, including strict limitations on Iran's program and cutting off every pathway that Iran could take to develop a nuclear weapon.

This deal denies Iran the plutonium necessary to build a bomb. It shuts down Iran's path to a bomb using enriched uranium. Iran has agreed that it will not stockpile the materials needed to build a weapon. Moreover, international inspectors will have unprecedented access to Iran's nuclear program because Iran will face more inspections than any other country in the world. If Iran cheats, the world will know it. If we see something suspicious, we will inspect it. So this deal is not based on trust, it's based on unprecedented verification.

And this is a long-term deal, with strict limits on Iran's program for more than a decade and unprecedented transparency measures that

will last for 20 years or more. And as a member of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, Iran will never be permitted to develop a nuclear weapon.

In return for Iran's actions, the international community, including the United States, has agreed to provide Iran with phased relief from certain sanctions. If Iran violates the deal, sanctions can be snapped back into place. Meanwhile, other American sanctions on Iran for its support of terrorism, its human rights abuses, its ballistic missile program, all will continue to be enforced.

As I said this week, many key details will need to be finalized over the next three months, and nothing is agreed to until everything is agreed. And if there is backsliding, there will be no deal.

Here in the United States, I expect a robust debate. We'll keep Congress and the American people fully briefed on the substance of the deal. As we engage in this debate, let's remem-

ber—we really only have three options for dealing with Iran's nuclear program: bombing Iran's nuclear facilities—which will only set its program back a few years—while starting another war in the Middle East; abandoning negotiations and hoping for the best with sanctions—even though that's always led to Iran making more progress in its nuclear program; or a robust and verifiable deal like this one that peacefully prevents Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon.

As President and Commander in Chief, I firmly believe that the diplomatic option—a comprehensive, long-term deal like this—is by far the best option. For the United States. For our allies. And for the world.

Our work -- this deal -- is not yet done. Diplomacy is painstaking work. Success is not guaranteed. But today we have an historic opportunity to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons in Iran, and to do so peacefully, with the international community firmly behind us. And this will be our work in the days and months ahead in keeping with the best traditions of American leadership.

President Barack Obama's weekly address is published each Monday in the Minden Press-Herald.



BARACK OBAMA

LOUISIANA EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

American Press, Lake Charles, on military spouses:

The men and women of the U.S. military are at the whim of the government when deciding where to locate.

By proxy, the immediate families of service men and women are in the same situation, which often means putting careers on the back burner as spouses follow their significant others around. Military personnel often move from one base to the next every two to three years. That's hardly enough time to put roots down and make inroads into a career.

Nancy Grade, a mental health counselor, recently found herself out of work when her husband, U.S. Air Force Maj. Erich Grade, transferred to Fort Polk. While she was licensed in Texas, it took five months before she

was licensed in Louisiana earlier this month.

David LaCerte, secretary for the Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs, told the Baton Rouge Advocate that she should have been granted a license earlier under a 2012 state law meant to help military families who are subject to moves. The process is still slowed for thousands of military families because of state boards' interpretation of the law, he said.

The law, which covers both military trained professionals and spouses of military members, only requires state boards to issue temporary licenses while the applicants are undergoing the licensing procedure.

The law also sets several standards for issuing the temporary licenses, including that spouses must hold a current license from another jurisdiction, must have completed continuing education and have had recent

experience and not have been disciplined in another state for an act that would have resulted in the suspension or revocation of a license.

The purpose of the law isn't a back door to get unqualified workers among Louisiana's ranks. It's a mechanism to ensure that the families of military men and women aren't left high and dry and out of work when their significant others are ordered to pack up and head to a new destination in a new city and state.

It doesn't sound like boards around Louisiana are necessarily trying to skirt the law. It appears that the law is open to interpretation, which can be fixed at the upcoming legislative session. Louisiana lawmakers need to take the opportunity to close the holes and make sure that another qualified individual isn't left sitting on the sideline when the government decides it's time for another move.

PERSPECTIVE

Suing over soft sexism

ELLEN PAO'S GENDER discrimination suit against her employer contained the juicy elements that captivate us. The plaintiff was a Harvard-educated lawyer suing for a healthy \$16 million. The defendant was Kleiner Perkins Caufield & Byers, the high-powered venture capital firm. The locale was Silicon Valley, where many complain that the big fortunes go overwhelmingly to men. And Pao's evidence resided largely in gray areas, where things said and things done could be interpreted in several ways.

The case pitted the very privileged against the mega-privileged. That may explain why the jury rejected Pao's claims of gross unfairness. The jury members were mostly ordinary working folks, who probably put up with a lot more indignity for a heck of a lot less money.



FROMA HARROP

But the gray areas mattered most of all. When the questions under consideration come down to "he said, she interpreted," it's hard to pin down sexual discrimination. That doesn't mean it didn't exist. But the wiser course may be to laugh at, work around or ignore these slights rather than drag the men into court.

As many women have learned, the guys asked to join the top are the guys other guys have bonded with. Superior credentials go just so far. In collaborative businesses, people yak all the time — in offices, at lunch, in bars, at sporting events. They converse in the wee hours and in various states of fatigue and intoxication.

Stray remarks that could get a man spanked at college for being sexist may flow more freely in these environs. They may be the product of genuine affection, lousy language skills or misplaced gallantry. Or they may be inappropriate beyond a reasonable doubt.

But outside of bald crudeness and sex-for-promotion offers, such interactions can be handled with humor, diplomacy and forgiveness of human frailty.

Fear of the vigilant feminist poised to call the lawyers may cause men to keep female colleagues at an unhelpful social distance.

Looking over Pao's arguments, one might find grounds for complaint. For example, on Valentine's Day, a male colleague gave her Leonard Cohen's "Book of Longing." While the date of the gift and the romantic content might not earn an A in gender consciousness-raising class, it is a book of Zen-inspired poems, after all.

Same guy invited Pao to dinner when his wife was away. A female associate might use it as an opportunity to engage in bonding banter. If his intentions were dishonorable, a professional woman should know how to handle the situation.

Or the man may have simply wanted company at a meal with a co-worker he liked. Should Pao have been happier had he invited a male junior partner instead?

A group of Kleiner Perkins men went on a skiing trip but didn't invite any women. That is really too bad. On the other hand, the guys drinking grappa around the fire after dinner might not have felt free to let loose in the company of sensitive women. A reference to porn stars on a partner's private jet was one of Pao's raps against the company.

We are not so naive to believe that Silicon Valley companies are pure meritocracies, the tech industry's propaganda to the contrary. Where there is big money, men flock for the badges of male power. Sexual tension is a biological reality. And there's the comfort factor: Like wants to be with like.

So soft discrimination certainly exists. Sophisticated people should deal with it in a sophisticated manner — with subtlety. Rather than make men more sympathetic to the ambitions of their female colleagues, the threat of suits like this one could make men more scared of collaborating with them.

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

THE MINDEN PRESS-HERALD is published Monday through Friday afternoon by Specht Newspapers, Inc. at 203 Gleason Street, Minden, Louisiana 71055. Telephone 377-1866. Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office as Minden Press-Herald, P.O. Box 1339, Minden LA 71058-1339. Subscription rate: In-parish home delivery \$11 per month; \$33 per three months; \$66 per six months; \$99 per nine months and \$132 per year. Out-of-parish mail delivery is \$14.50 per month; \$43.50 per three months; \$87 per six months; \$130.50 per nine months and \$174 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Minden Press-Herald, P.O. Box 1339, Minden, LA 71058-1339.

USPS NUMBER 593-340

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EDUCATION

J.L. Jones Elementary Students of the Month



Second grade students of the month are: front row, Baylee Ware, Shuniya Harris, Carlie Cupples, Jalyn Hawk and Anastasia Escribano. Back row: Abigail Spencer, Brianna Carr, Shamijah Jefferson, Janiya Jefferson and Jasmine Rushing. Not Pictured is Garry Moore.



Third grade students of the month are as follows: front row, Mikey Stanaland, Noah Stewart, Lorelai Beavers and Toccarra Odom. Back row, Alleigh Basinger, Anunye Thomas, Carmen Lofton, Darvin Watts, Eden Croad and Maurice Rabb.

At the Opera

The Shreveport Opera Xpress recently visited Glenbrook with their "Operatizers" performance. The group sang selections from "Don Quixote," "Carmen," "South Pacific" and many other musicals and operas. The primary reason for the presentation was to let the students know about the opera and all that it can offer the students.



Overall winner is Anastasia Escribano pictured with J.L. Jones Principal Dusty Rowland.

Around Town

Monday, April 6 - Wednesday, April 8

The Bright Star Baptist Church annual spring revival at 7 p.m. each night. Guest speaker will be Pastor Royal Scott, of Greater St. Paul Baptist Church.

Annual youth revival at 7 p.m. each night at Union Grove Baptist Church. God's messenger will be Pastor James Edwards of Mt. Carmel Baptist Church of Homer.

Saturday, April 11

A flea market extravaganza will be from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the St. Rest Community Life Center. Anyone is invited to reserve a table to sell their items. This is a community event. For more information, call 377-0925 or 371-9028.

Ringgold Slabtown Car-Truck-Motorcycle Show will begin with registration at 10:30 a.m., show from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. in downtown Ringgold. The annual Health Walk/Fundraiser will take place at 7 p.m. at Bank of Ringgold. Registration is \$10.

Sunday, April 12

Pleasant Valley Baptist Church in Athens will host its annual family and friends day at 2:30 p.m. The special guest will be Pastor Cleon Warren and St. John Baptist Church of Homer.

Tillman Church of God in Christ will host its family and friends day at 3 p.m. The guest speaker is Elder McClendon Winbush Jr., pastor of Stoner Hill Church of God in Christ.

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

New Zion Baptist Church, located at 570 Amos Cutoff Road, 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.

Lions Club Chicken Charbroil April 18

Tickets are on sale for the Minden Lions Club Spring Chicken Charbroil.

The 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. in the Walmart parking lot.

Proceeds go to the Louisiana Lions Eye Foundation and the Lions Crippled Children's Camp.

UCAP needs:

Food: canned chicken and dumplings, canned fruit, Jello, mixed vegetables and sugar (1-2 lb. bags or boxes)

Household Items: dishes and king and queen sheets

Clothing: boy's shirts - size 2, men's work boots - all sizes, men's shorts - all sizes, men's pants - 32 waist

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

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SPORTS briefs

MLB

Cards blank Cubs on opening night

CHICAGO -- Adam Wainwright on Opening Night at Wrigley Field was a perfect combination for the St. Louis Cardinals.

Wainwright threw six innings of five-hit ball, and St. Louis chased Jon Lester in the fifth inning of a 3-0 victory over the Chicago Cubs on Sunday in the major league opener.

"A shutout win is a great way to do it," manager Mike Matheny said. "I'm real impressed how Wainer went about his business and set the tone."

Wainwright allowed the leadoff hitter to reach in four of the first five innings, including three doubles. But he worked out of trouble each time, finishing with six strikeouts and no walks.

The ace right-hander improved to 9-1 with a 3.33 ERA in 20 career games at Chicago's long-time home.

"Tonight I was able to make good pitches when I needed to. Hopefully next time I keep them off base," Wainwright said.

Jason Heyward had three hits in his St. Louis debut, and Matt Holliday drove in two runs. Throw in Matt Carpenter's two hits, and the top third of the Cardinals' lineup went 7 for 14 with three RBIs.

Playing their most anticipated opener in years, the Cubs went 0 for 13 with runners in scoring position. Lester, who got a \$155 million, six-year contract during free agency, allowed three runs and eight hits over 4 1/3 innings in his fifth straight Opening Day start.

NBA

LeBron records triple-double in home win over Bulls

CLEVELAND (AP) — LeBron James recorded his first triple-double since coming home, and the Cleveland Cavaliers made 16 3-pointers while winning their 18th straight home game, 99-94 over the Chicago Bulls on Sunday.

J.R. Smith made eight 3s, Kyrie Irving casually dropped one from 52 feet and scored 27 as the Cavs moved closer to a Central Division title and securing the No. 2 seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

Mike Dunleavy scored 24 and Aaron Brooks 17 for the Bulls, who could have star guard Derrick Rose back in the next few days.

James finished with 20 points, 12 assists and 10 rebounds, his first triple-double in a Cleveland uniform since May 13, 2010, two months before he left as a free agent for Miami.

The Cavs notched win No. 50 and improved to a league-best 31-7 since Jan. 15.

Smith scored all 24 points from long range as the Cavs improved to 3-1 this season against the Bulls.

HIGH SCHOOL TRACK

WARRIOR RELAY RESULTS

Special to the Press-Herald

The Warrior Relays featured nine teams, including all four Webster Parish high schools. After the smoke had cleared, Cedar Creek won the girls' championship scoring 145 points to runner-up North Webster's 113. North Webster took home the boys' title scoring 154 to Cedar Creek's 95.

For the Crimson Tide, April Wright picked up both hurdle titles clocking times of 18.62 in the 100 hurdles and 55.31 in the 300 hurdles.

Brooke Ensminger placed second in the 300 hurdles with a personal best of 56.53 and was sixth in the 100 hurdles (20.21). Tanija Rice sped to a personal best of 13.29 for fourth in the 100 followed by Whitney Aubrey who turned in a personal best of 13.63 for fifth.

The 400 also had person-

al bests for Sierra Murell, who was fifth (1:06.15) and Phyllessia Lewis who was sixth (1:06.90). The Minden 400 relay made up of Rice, Ensminger, McCoy, and Smith was fifth (55.19). The 800 relay of Rice, Murell, McCoy, and Smith was sixth (1:57.22). The 1600 relay of Murell, Lewis, McCoy, and Wright took fourth (4:42).

The Tide boys were led by freshman Patrick Heard and sophomore Antonio Rivette.

Heard ran a wind-aided personal best of 10.71 in the 100 for fourth place.

For the second straight week he ran a strong second leg on the third place 400 relay.

Heard also took sixth in the long jump (18'3").

Rivette, running the 110 hurdles for the first time, took fourth at 17.09. He also took fourth in the 300 hurdles (44.82). Rivette also ran

a leg on the second place 800 relay (1:33.84) and also on the third place 400 relay (44.14).

The 400 relay was made up of Edwards, Heard, Francis, and Rivette. The 800 relay was composed of Baker, Francis, Freelon, and Rivette.

Detavious Elkins took fourth in the 200 meters at 23.13.

The Lakeside ladies finished fourth scoring 60 points. The ladies grabbed two third-place finishes in the field as Heather Schenck threw 76' 8" in the javelin and Destiny Joiner went 14' 8 1/2" in the long jump. Tamarica Wright was fourth in the long jump (13' 2 3/4"). With a throw of 66' 2", Destine Thornton was fifth in the javelin. Taniya Joiner finished fifth in the high jump (4' 2").

Sophomore Alissa Lander led the ladies on the track placing second in the

800 with a personal best of 2:36, second in the 1600, (5:53), and winning the 3200 (12:28).

For this performance, Lander was named most valuable track performer. Cayla McKinsey took third in the 200 at 27.53. Skylar Johnson grabbed fifth in the 100 hurdles (19.06). The 400 relay made up of Thornton, Fields, Jones, and Key was fourth (54.21) and the 800 Relay composed of Ferguson, Schenck, Jones, and Jones took fifth (1:57.19).

The Lakeside boys scored 89 points to place third overall.

In the boys' field events seniors Frankie Miles, Darryl Moore, and Jamarion Teal led the way.

Miles won the shot (44' 8"), was fifth in the high jump (5' 8"), and sixth in the discus (91' 4"). Moore grabbed third in the long jump (19' 10") and third in

the triple jump with a personal best of 41' 10 1/2".

Teal had a personal best leap of 6' 0" in the high jump for third place.

DJ Harrison took third in the javelin (138' 3") and Ty Callendar was fourth in the discus (108' 8").

Placing sixth in the shot-put at 33' 9" was Jordan Richard. Austin Moss and Adam Petty tied for sixth in the pole vault (7' 6").

Eric Greene led the Warriors on the track winning the 1600 (4:55), taking second in the 3200 (10:53), and was third in the 800 (2:15). Sophomore Cody Robinson won the 3200 (10:43) and was second in the 1600 (4:56). Darryl Moore grabbed fifth in the 200 at 23.19. The 1600 Relay made up of Cox, Moss, Lofton, and Mitchell placed fifth (4:22).

Next action for the Lakeside teams will be at Plain Dealing on Friday, April 10.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Badgers, Blue Devils to tangle for the title

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Duke languished in the shadows of Kentucky all season, the big blue juggernaut that nobody seemed to be talking about. It was a rarity for a program with such a championship pedigree, not to mention a record-setting coach and superstar freshmen.

They can thank Wisconsin for finally returning to the limelight.

The fun-loving Badgers ended the Wildcats' pursuit of perfection in the national semifinals, and set up an intriguing showdown in Monday night's title game: Duke trying to give Mike Krzyzewski his fifth national championship, Wisconsin trying to capture its first in 74 years.

"I don't think basketball fans that I know would ever say that Duke didn't have a good team," countered Badgers coach Bo Ryan, who won four Division III titles at Wisconsin-Platteville.

"A lot of people thought they had a pretty good team because they spanked our team at our place in December," he said. "I can't say that they were ignored, that's for sure."

Yet the buzz at the Final Four this week was focused on Kentucky. The only folks giving the Badgers much of a chance were wearing red and white and scarfing down cheese.

Along with the coach in the other locker room.

"Coming into the year, I thought they'd be the best

team in the country, and they have been," Krzyzewski said. "It's just that Kentucky's undefeated performance has overshadowed just how good Wisconsin has been, until (Saturday) night. There aren't any shadows anymore."

Only spotlights.

The Blue Devils (34-4) have run roughshod through the NCAA Tournament, relying on suffocating defense and game-changing freshman Jahliil Okafor to shut down opponents. They're allowing just 55 points per game, one of the finest defensive performances in tournament history.

Meanwhile, Okafor and his merry band of freshmen — Justise Winslow, Tyus Jones and Grayson Allen — have risen to the challenge of the game's biggest stage. The four led the way in a semifinal blowout of Michigan State, a game never in question after the first 5 minutes.

"We want to be one of those teams that coach is bragging about five, seven years later," senior guard Quinn Cook said. "So that's the motivation for us, to be special."

As if they needed any more motivation, Krzyzewski has been waving his 2010 title ring in their faces all tournament. He earned it in Indianapolis, in the same building as this year's Final Four, and steps away from where he won his first championship at the Hoosier Dome in 1991.

"That's what we want to get," Okafor said, glancing at the glittering ring on Coach

K's hand. "We've always talked about us having an opportunity to have a national championship ring."

The loveable goofballs from Wisconsin (36-3) are standing in their way, and nobody can argue they haven't earned the right. Only three other teams have faced the highest possible seed in every game on the way to the championship since the field expanded to 64 in 1985.

Two of those lost in the title game. None had to face another No. 1 seed.

"They know they have a chance to make a mark in history. They understand that," Ryan said Sunday. "But they're enjoying it while they do it, and that's important, too."

Indeed, the Badgers have become the clown princes of the NCAA Tournament. From messing with stenographers to podium hijinks, to their penchant for playing Super Smash Bros., the free-spirited Big Ten champs have taken an entire fan base — and plenty of casual fans — on quite a ride.

"That's just how we are," explained the Badgers' Sam Dekker. "Some people tell us on Twitter, 'Focus, guys!' But that's just us. We know when to focus."

Or, as teammate Nigel Hayes put it, "We don't try to be ourselves. We just ARE ourselves."

What they are is an offensive powerhouse led by AP player of the year Frank Kaminsky that is averaging nearly 80 points in the tournament. They're a veteran



group that's been through the grind. They're the counter argument to all those critics that argue the college game has fallen off, that scoring is down, execution is sloppy and the product has never been worse.

They're also the team that has already avenged a heart-breaking loss to Kentucky in last year's national semifinals, and is now one step

away from its first championship since 1941.

"Whatever this team accomplishes Monday night, one way or the other, it's still who they are," Ryan said. "I've never been concerned if there are people that perceive us a different way, because we are who we are. We play the way we play. We're sure happy with it. So we can live with that."

COLLEGE BASEBALL

LSU completes series sweep of Alabama



HOOVER, Ala. — Third-ranked LSU completed a three-game sweep of Alabama Saturday with a 6-4, 13-inning victory over the Crimson Tide at Hoover Metropolitan Stadium.

LSU, posting its second extra-inning win of the

series, improved to 27-5 overall and 8-4 in the SEC. Alabama dropped to 15-15 overall and 4-8 in conference play. The sweep was LSU's first in a road series at Alabama since 2001, when the Tigers swept the Tide in Tuscaloosa.

LSU will play host to the University of New Orleans at 6:30 p.m. CT Tuesday in Alex Box Stadium, Skip Bertman Field.

"Another tremendous effort by our players to earn a sweep on the road, which is very hard to do in

the SEC," said LSU coach Paul Mainieri. "I'm extremely proud of the way our guys competed throughout the weekend; we demonstrated a lot of poise in winning three tight ball games against a very tough Alabama club. Our bullpen, which had struggled early in the series, was outstanding today, and it allowed us to finally break through in the 13th."

The Tigers broke a 4-4 tie in the top of the 13th when centerfielder Andrew Stevenson

walked, stole second and moved to third on a throwing error by catcher Taylor Poe, and scored on an errant pickoff attempt by Alabama pitcher Thomas Burrows.

LSU extended the lead to 6-4 when first baseman Chris China singled, moved to second on a passed ball and scored on designated hitter Jake Fraley's single. The single was Fraley's fourth hit of the game, establishing a career high.

Freshman right-hander

Jesse Stallings (1-1) earned the first win of his college career, as he worked the final 4.2 innings, allowing no runs on three hits with no walks and two strikeouts.

Stallings retired the first two Alabama hitters in the bottom of the 13th, but centerfielder Georgie Salem kept the game going with a double down the right-field line. Stallings, however, forced shortstop Mikey White to ground out to second base to end the contest.

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AT THE BOX OFFICE

'Furious 7' races past expectations with \$143.6 million at the box office

LOS ANGELES — The high-octane "Furious 7" peeled out of the gates in its opening weekend, picking up a stunning \$143.6 million from 4,004 locations to easily top the domestic box office, according to Rentrak estimates Sunday.

The expectation-shattering sum is a studio and franchise best for the homegrown car-obsessed series, which has continued to grow over the past few films.

"Furious 7," now the ninth-biggest opening of all time, also unseats previous April record-holder "Captain America: The Winter Soldier," which opened to \$95 million on the same weekend last year.

While the "Fast and Furious" films have grown in popularity over the past three films, the mega-opening for "Furious 7" was also at least partially tied to audience interest in star Paul Walker, who died in a car crash in Nov. 2013 before the film was completed.

Production on "Furious 7" was halted while the filmmakers and Universal decided whether or not to proceed with the film. The team ultimately decided to delay the release from its originally scheduled July 2014 date.

"It probably created some curiosity, but, at the same time, (the film) fits in so well with the overall continuing saga of the 'Fast and Furious' franchise," Nick Carpou, Universal's president of domestic distribution, said



of Walker. "It's a motivator, but it's not by any means the prime motivator the see the movie," he added.

There is also a sense that massive openings like "Furious 7" point to the creeping of summer blockbuster season, which seems to be starting earlier and earlier as studios try to stake their claim on prime dates.

But for Carpou, in a 52-week-a-year release strategy, the demarcation of a

summer blockbuster is almost irrelevant when it comes to getting audiences to turn out in droves for a film.

"It's that corny old adage that if you build it, they will come," he said, adding that the impressive February debut of "Fifty Shades of Grey" helps prove his point.

Paul Dergarabedian, Senior Media Analyst for box office firm Rentrak, thinks that this is a liberating trend for studios who

once clamored for the first weekend in May release date.

"Studios are finding tremendous value in putting their movies in non-traditional corridors," he said.

As the most ambitious release in Universal's history, "Furious 7" opened on 10,005 screens internationally as well, picking up \$240.4 million from 63 territories for a \$384 million worldwide debut — a 48 percent increase over "Fast

& Furious 6."

The film will also debut in Russia, Poland, Japan, and China in the coming weeks.

Holdovers populated the rest of the top spots with DreamWorks Animation's "Home" earning \$27.4 million to take a distant second place. "Get Hard" brought in an estimated \$12.9 million, while "Cinderella" and "The Divergent Series: Insurgent" rounded out the top five with \$10.3 mil-

lion and \$10 million, respectively.

But it's all about "Furious 7" for the next few weeks. The film has the roads to itself until Disney and Marvel's "The Avengers: Age of Ultron" hits theaters on May 1.

"This could be the first in the franchise to flirt with the billion dollar mark," Dergarabedian said.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. "Furious 7," \$143.6 million (\$240.4 million international).
2. "Home," \$27.4 million (\$20.7 million international).
3. "Get Hard," \$12.9 million (\$2.6 million international).
4. "Cinderella," \$10.3 million (\$24.3 million international).
5. "The Divergent Series: Insurgent," \$10 million (\$15.5 million international).
6. "It Follows," \$2.5 million.
7. "Woman in Gold," \$2 million.
8. "Kingsman: The Secret Service," \$1.7 million (\$20 million international).
9. "Do You Believe," \$1.5 million.
10. "The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel," \$1 million (\$3 million international).

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Sidney R. Smith And/Or anyone knowing whereabouts, Please contact Richard E. Griffith, Attorney at Law, at 839 Kings Highway, Suite 200, Shreveport, Louisiana 71104, or (318) 222-0337.

April 6 & 8, 2015
Minden Press-Herald

NOTICE

Webster Parish School Board adheres to the equal opportunity provisions of federal civil rights law and regulations that are applicable to this agency. Therefore, no one will be discriminated against on the basis of race, color, national origin (Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964); gender (Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972); disability (Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973) in attaining educational goals and objectives and in the administration of personnel policies and procedures. Anyone with questions regarding this policy may contact Dr. Daniel Rawls, Superintendent at (318) 377-7052, P.O. Box 520, Minden, LA 71058.

April 6 & 13, 2015
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