CAMEOS OF MINDEN Remembering Dr. Christine Hunt PAGE 3

PRESS-HERALD

April 8, 2015 | 50 Cents





Home stretch in sight for high school baseball

SPORTS PG.6



Meteorologist Joel Martin to speak at Lions Club

LIFE PG.5



JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER PROGRAM

6 6 *I* always thought it would be cool to be a fireman and I like helping people and serving the community."

WEDNESDAY

Austin Jones, Volunteer Firefighter

www.press-herald.com



WEBSTER CRIME Doyline man arrested on DWI charge

BONNIE CULVERHOUSE Special to the Press-Herald

DOYLINE — A Doyline man involved in a weekend accident was arrested by Webster Parish Sheriff's deputies for allegedly driving while intoxicated.

Burton Curtis Vize, 52, of the 100 block of Hickory Hollow, wrecked his vehicle on Pointe Road in Doyline Saturday afternoon.

Webster Parish Sheriff Gary Sexton says when deputies Eric Roby

and Troy Walker arrived at the scene, they smelled а strong odor believed to be alcohol on Vize's person.

"Vize was given three field sobriety tests and performed poorly on all of them," Sexton said. "The deputies took



him to BDCC (Bayou Dorcheat Correctional Center) on suspicion of DWI.'

On the Intoxilyzer 5000, Vize reportedly showed a blood alcohol content of .241g percent. According to Louisiana State Police, legally drunk is 0.08g percent.



Imagine Cruz as president **OPINION** PG.4

WEATHER

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK



thunderstorms developing later in the day.



@mindenph





Minden Fire Chief Kip Mourad helps volunteer firefighter Austin Jones with his air pack. Bonnie Culverhouse/Special to the Press-Herald

Minden Fire Department seeking junior firefighters

BONNIE CULVERHOUSE

Special to the Press-Herald

When Austin Jones turned 18 years old recently, his status with the Minden Fire Department changed from junior firefighter to volunteer firefighter.

"I always thought it would be cool to be a fireman and I like helping people and serving the community," Jones, who along with his twin brother Sutton was a JFF, said.

Fire Chief Kip Mourad says a JFF has to be 17 years old, limiting their service to one year.

"They have to be 17 because I don't want anyone 16 and under driving to a fire," Mourad said. "I know how I did when I was driving to a fire, and I don't want any of the kids doing that. No volunteer firefighters are allowed to "run hot" (with sirens

See **FIRE**, Page 2



Minden Fire Department works a fire on Abney Street in March. It was the first major fire Austin Jones worked as a volunteer fireman. Bruce Franklin/Press-Herald

APPLY TO BE A JUNIOR FIREFIGHTER

To fill out an application to be a junior firefighter, contact Chief Kip Mourad at the Central Fire Station located at 1213 Sheppard Street or call 371-4232.

Vize was booked into BDCC on charges of first offense DWI, reckless operation of a motor vehicle and no driver's license.

EDUCATION

Head Start turning 50 years old

MICHELLE BATES michelle@press-herald.com

The Head Start program turns 50 this year, and since the summer of 1965, it has been a "premier model for providing the whole child an opportunity for success in school and in life," according to National Head Start Association.

In her report at Tuesday's Webster Parish Police Jury meeting, Wanda Finley, touted the program's success in Webster and Claiborne parishes, saying they have served more than 365 children in both parishes.

"In serving these children, we have provided more than 100 percent in services to meet the needs of these babies," she said. "What does that say? We get an A-plus in what we're doing as far as our

See 50 YEARS, Page 3



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SECONDFRONT

MINDEN CRIME

Police: Stolen car seen in drive thru, teens arrested

BONNIE CULVERHOUSE

Special to the Press-Herald

Three male juveniles are at Ware Detention Center in Coushatta after allegedly stealing a car parked at Town and Country Health & Rehab Center on Weston Street.

Minden Police Chief Steve Cropper says a 14-year-old and two 15-year-olds were walking the parking lot at the local nursing home facility around 8 p.m. Thursday, April 2, allegedly looking for unlocked vehicles.

"Surveillance video shows that on the backside of the nursing home, the juveniles found a tan SUV with keys in the console," Cropper said. "They took it and drove around for quite some time. They were seen driving through a fast food restaurant drive through by someone who knew the vehicle was missing."

Cropper said the trio was

taken into custody around 10 p.m. Thursday in the Walmart parking lot area of Homer Road. They are charged with theft of a motor vehicle, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle and possession of synthetic marijuana.

FIRE Continued from page 1

Communea from page 1

and lights) to a fire. They have to obey the law at all times."

The JFF program was an accepted part of the local department – mostly to allow children and grandchildren of firefighters to learn about fighting fires and rescuing the injured.

"I started at 15, and I know how it impacted my life," Mourad, whose father was a fire captain for many years, said. "My son (Jared) – Chief (T.C.) Bloxom – put him on at 16. He is a Shreveport firefighter now."

But the age and dangers associated with firefighting prompted Mourad to prepare standard operating guidelines for junior firefighters in February 2009.

fighters in February 2009. "They have to fill out applications and the parents have to sign it," Mourad said. "JFFs serve as a support role for senior firefighters. They are allowed to roll and load hoses and retrieve tools at a fire scene."

A JFF must keep at least a C grade average and cannot respond to a call during school hours.

Jones says one of the biggest challenges in being a JFF was learning about the equipment. The biggest fire call he's answered was on Abney Street two weeks ago.

"He made entry wearing an air pack," Mourad said of Jones. "He was old enough, so he worked."

Jones says although the fire was major, it wasn't a frightening experience. "When you go in, you start thinking a little bit about what if the roof collapses," he said. "You think about the things that could go wrong, but it wasn't that bad. It's definitely an adrenaline rush." A JFF is trained in all fire

a provide a spects with the exception of entering any fire hot zone. That person attends a weekly fire drill and participates in some of the training.

"They (firefighters) went out to LSU (training center) at Camp Minden Monday," Mourad said. "They did a confined space rescue training. That's something they cannot do at 17."

Jones has been to the training center, but Monday night was the first time he was allowed to participate in all training. He says he learned to fit in tight spaces.

"We learned ways to maneuver with the air pack on," he said. "You just have to stay calm. The worst thing you can do is start panicking."

firefighters until recently when they turned 18 years old. Courtesy Photo

Since the twins have turned 18, Mourad has only two junior firefighters on his roster. He would like to have more; however, outfitting them becomes a problem if he gets too many.

"We have some old stuff that has been taken out of service," Mourad said. "The junior firefighters get those because they're not going to go into the fire."

Mourad likes to have a large number of adult volunteer firefighters because he is never sure how many will answer a call. With adult volunteers, cost is also a factor. "It costs a lot to bunker them out," the chief said. "For one person, it's about \$3,500 for your basic turnout gear and a pager."

To fill out an application to be a junior firefighter, contact Mourad at the Central Fire Station, 1213 Sheppard Street or call 371-4232.

Chimp Haven seeks to expand

SHREVEPORT — Chimp Haven wants to expand but it needs to work out a deal with the Caddo Commission to get an additional five acres of land for a buffer zone.

The planned expansion permits Chimp Haven, a national chimpanzee sanctuary located in Keithville, to take in more federally-owned chimpanzees once they're retired. A Chicagobased donor is on board to finance an approximately \$15 million project to build five additional habitats at Chimp Haven, which currently has three.

The Times reports the expansion would put two of the proposed habitats next to the border of property allocated to the sanctuary. And, the land Chimp Haven wants to use as a buffer zone includes a bike trail which would have to be moved.

Bossier City man pleads guilty to bankruptcy fraud

SHREVEPORT — A Bossier City man has pleaded guilty to hiding his business' assets during bankruptcy proceedings.

U.S. Attorney Stephanie A. Finley says 43-year-old John M. Santoro pleaded guilty Tuesday before U.S. District Judge Elizabeth E. Foote to one count of concealment of assets in a bankruptcy proceeding.

Evidence shows San-

toro filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection on May 20, 2011, as the owner and for Santoro's Catering Inc. After filing, Santoro had a third party sell a 2007 Dodge Ram 3500, which belonged to the company, and also sold some of the company's catering equipment.

Santoro faces up to five years in prison and a \$250,000 fine. Sentencing was set for July 6.





Checking

OBITUARY

Brenda Gay Hall Hughes

Funeral services for Brenda Gay Hall Hughes will be at 2 p.m., Thursday, April 9, 2015, at First United Pentecostal Church in Minden, with the Rev. Jeff Ramsey and the Rev. Verval Ramsey officiating. Interment will follow at Gardens of Memory in Minden under the direction of Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden. The family will receive friends from 5 until 7 p.m. Wednesday, April 8, 2015, at Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden.

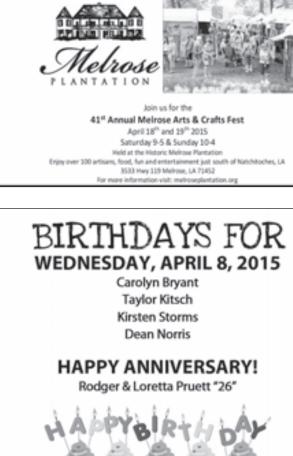
Brenda was born March 6, 1948, in Lil-

lie and entered into rest April 6, 2015, in Shreveport.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Thomas J. and Eva Dison Hall; sister, Maudine Hall; and brother, Thomas Gene Hall.

She is survived by her husband, Gene Hughes of Minden; daughters, Patricia Hughes of Minden and Dana Hughes Hudson and husband, Chad of Benton; grandchildren, Kyle and Kaylee Hudson of Benton; brother, Johnny Hall and wife, Bonnie Jean of Blanchard; sister, Patsy Hall Ramsey and husband, Verval of Minden; and numerous nieces and nephews.





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Wednesday, April 8, 2015 – Minden Press-Herald 3

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CAMEOS OF MINDEN

Remembering Dr. Christine Hunt

JUANITA AGAN

Special to the Press-Herald

Orignially published June 29, 2005.

She was my friend. She was known by many names -daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and especially friend. Since she was very young she had been called "Cricket", and it was so fitting since she was so small, but so active.

The Encourager

I have used another name in connection with this lady, and that is the word "Barnabas" because

that name means "encourager" and the Barnabas in the Bible was an encourager for Christians,

especially

AGAN

Paul. And she was our encourager, my son and I. The day before she entered the hospital for the biopsy, the last time she was hospitalized, she and I talked for a long, long time. We discussed the similarity of our illnesses since I cannot walk and breathe either. We

teaching ability. She was so proud that he was now teaching at Bossier Parish Community College, and she said that those that he taught thought his teaching was wonderful. And then, as usual, she talked of my Cameos. She said I made her laugh, and sometimes brought tears to her eyes. She made me feel that I was contributing something to the people around me even though I can no longer do anything physical to help anybody. She encouraged

talked of John and his

She has left me with precious memories.

me to continue writing.

Family Ties She had met her future husband, Bill Hunt, when his family came to work at the La. Ordnance Plant during the war. He attended school here only for a brief time and they moved away. Through a mutual friend he inquired about the whereabouts of one "Cricket". He was attending LSU and she was a student at the old Normal school better known as Northwestern State University. That was the beginning of a renewal of their friendship. Over the months it culminated into a romance. He entered the U.S. Navy and served in

the Pacific Theater of Operations. They corresponded during the war. After the war on November 2, 1946 they were married and transferred together to Louisiana College where they graduated in 1948.

Answered Prayers

Between college and the Seminary they pastored three churches and saw the birth of their first child, a daughter, Judy. Between Judy and the last baby, Carolyn, there were four babies that did not live, and that included one set of twins. Cricket and Bill longed for another child, even though the doctor had told them that another pregnancy might be fatal to Cricket. They prayed to God for a child, promising to rear that child to serve God wherever it was needed. (I was touched by her story since this was the same prayer I had prayed for a second baby, and God sent my son, John.) When Cricket's and Bill's baby came on June 2, 1958, she was considered a "miracle" baby since she lived and Cricket did not die. That baby, Carolyn, has lived up to the promises Bill and Cricket made to God, as she has served God in so many ways. (I might add

that the son I prayed for was born the day after this little girl and his birthday is June 3, 1958. God answers prayers, doesn't he?)

Tragedy Strikes

When this little girl was four, Bill, who was a Chaplain at Fort Polk, was stricken with a rare disease, Guillan-Barre Syndrome, and was paralyzed. The Army flew him to Brooke Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas. He only lived a few days and died. Cricket was left with a twelve year old daughter, and a four year old daughter. There was nothing to do but come home to Minden and teach school.

She taught my son in Junior High School and recognized his love for History and his ability. She has been such a strong supporter of him, and encouraged him to work toward his doctorate. She also continued her own education receiving her Masters Degree and in 1979 she received her Ed.D from Northwestern State University. Cricket was now known as Dr. Christine Hunt.

A Well-Rounded Woman

The honors have been heaped upon this woman, and her awards encom-

"Likewise, findings from show that EHS children on than their control group,"

religious activities. She taught graduate students at La. Tech, and was Principal of E. S. Richardson School here in Minden, one of the first women principals in Webster Parish. She was selected as Minden's "Woman of the Year." She traveled to many foreign countries. She lived an awe inspiring life as we remember she was first of all a mother. She continued her education. yet she did not sacrifice her service to her church and the Lord's work. Dr. Christine Sapp Hunt was and is an inspiration, and we cannot number the friends whose life she touched and helped.

pass education, civic and

A True Friend

Thank God for my friend, Christine "Cricket" Hunt whose death has left such a lonesome spot in my heart. God blessed me with a friend like her. There is no way to list all the many contributions she has made to so many causes, to so many people, and especially her friends and family. There is no one person who can fill all the things she did to enhance the lives of her loved ones, and of her friends, in education and the work in our church

according to the report.

"EHS children demonstrat-

ed a higher level of social-

emotional development

Other benefits include

than their control group."

and denomination. But we cannot grieve because she is now well and happy. She has already met Jesus, whom she served, and received the commendation "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou has been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things; enter thou into the joy of thy Lord" And she has seen her husband, Bill, and their four little babies that did not live, as well as all the loved ones and friends who have gone on before.

Dr. Prince, who was our pastor at First Baptist Church, often told us when he left on a trip "If I don't see you again here on earth, I'll meet you just inside the Eastern Gate over there." And so I'll close with his goodbye "Goodbye, Christine, look for me because soon I'll meet you just inside the Eastern Gate over there.."

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.

economic, health and law enforcement benefits, the report indicates.

For more information, call Webster Head Start at 371-1101.



50 YEARS others.

Continued from page 1

goals, but in celebrating our 50 years, we're going through the process of actually setting strategies to make the public aware of what Head Start does for the community."

She thanked the jurors who have been involved in working the program.

In light of that, Finley says they are working with their graduates to transipreschool to tion from public school. Head Start is helping parents with preparing documentation needed to enroll, such as a

birth certificate, utility bills accepted by schools and

"In setting those strategies, we work with the local agencies, educational which is the Webster and Claiborne Parish school boards," she said. "We take those graduates on field trips so they become familiar with their environment, the schools they will be attending. This helps to have a smooth transition for the children as well as the families, because we also work with personnel at those various schools to

agreements in place allow the public agencies to interact in this manner to provide these services.

"We're really working at a fast pace right now," she said. "We're changing some strategies in Head Start. We're doing some wonderful things to provide these services to meet the needs of the children and families in our communities."

NHSA reports some 31 million children have benefitted from Head Start's services.

The association touts enefits to local children ir

the EHS Impact Study average had a higher cognitive development score

make sure the needed documentation for enrollment is provided."

Finley says interagency

studies that increased achievement test scores and higher graduation rates.

That's how many Louisianans regularly read community news in their local newspaper.

Newspaper Adventising

You said it, Louisiana!

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OPINION www.press-herald.com



PERSPECTIVE

College and industry partnerships are stronger than ever

TO MEET THE demands of a growing economy, Louisiana has a record number of jobs and workers. Economists estimate more than 75,000 jobs will need to be filled annually in Louisiana over the next ten years, of which 25,000 are new jobs every year. While the industrial boom dominates the headlines, growth is also occurring in new sectors such as technology and health care. In fact, even as low crude prices are resulting in declines in oil and gas employment, Louisiana continues to post job gains overall due to growth in so many areas.

Nearly half of annual job openings in Louisiana require a post-secondary credential and another 38 percent 18 months, Louisiana's community and technical colleges have raised \$40 million from industry partners' private matches. Individual companies are working directly with neighboring community and technical colleges to ensure appropriate, high-quality training to fill available jobs in cre-

ative ways. Recognizing the opportunity before us, corporate partners such as AT&T, JP Morgan Chase, CB&I, and Praxair have made significant investments across multiple colforthcoming recommendations to scale up training in New Orleans and the Bayou region.

In every corner of our state and across a diverse array of sectors, these cases exemplify the hard work, coordination, and commitment shared by leaders in industry and Louisiana's

community and agenda pressing workforce challenges in Louisiana. **STEPHEN** While the ongoing WAGUESPACK budget debates swirl around the State

technical colleges. And there are many others. These efforts have led to a public Our Louisiana 2020 - that sets out a bold plan to meet the most PERSPECTIVE

Imagine Cruz as president

AND AWAY WE GO - off on another crazy cruze with Ted!

Cinch up your seatbelts, for Sen. Ted Cruz (fueled by his raw ambition and flaming jet-powered ego) has come screeching out of the GOP's presidential staging area, getting a head start on all the other wannabes seeking the 2016 Republican presidential nomination. And what a crazy start Ted made, launching his campaign from Liberty University. Liberty U is the creation of the late Rev. Jerry Falwell, the self-promoting Christian theocrat, bigot, liar and buffoonish pretender to be God's chosen agent on Earth. Cruz hopes that launching there will make him "God's candidate" - the chosen one of far-right Christian extremists who dominate the vote in the early Republican contests.

But, Good Lord — Falwell? The vast majority of Americans remember him as an unholy fool, a non-stop spewer of hate. "I listen to feminists and all these radical gals," he said. "These women just need a man in the house. That's all they need. A man to tell them what time of day it is." And who can forget this piece of vicious sermonizing: "AIDS is the wrath of a just God against homosexuals." Likewise, the



JIM **HIGHTOWER**

pompous preacher said 9/11 was "what we deserve," claiming it was God's punishment for feminism, gays, the ACLU and other evils. His knowledge of African-Americans was equally insightful: "The true Negro does not want integration," he explained.

Also, in Jerry's world: "There is no separation of church and state"; "all public schools will be closed and taken over by churches," and "Christians will be running them"; and the Bible is "absolutely infallible," even "in areas such as geography, science, history, etc."

You can't stand in a hog wallow without getting stink all over you. Yet, Crazy Ted Cruz deliberately chose to stand in Falwell's political wallow, which leaves him reeking with the stench of Falwell's nastiness and knownothingism.

Is Cruz running to be president of the USA - or

require some college. However, of the 2.3 million potential working adults in Louisiana today, 600,000 have no high school diploma and another 1 million adults have a high school diploma but no post-secondary credential. It is clear that without targeted and urgent action, hundreds of thousands of Louisianans will be unprepared to capitalize on this life-changing opportunity.

To meet this challenge and ensure that Louisiana jobs are filled by Louisianans, employers and community and technical colleges are partnering now more than ever in our state's history. In 2013, the Legislature passed Act 360 to improve and build facilities for the rapidly growing community and technical colleges across the state, but also required a private match for the public investment.

In 2014, the JumpStart program was launched to create regional networks of K12 schools, colleges, and employers to design specific solutions for high-demand jobs in each area so that students graduate with industrybased certifications ready for employment or for college.

Last year, the Legislature created the Workforce and Innovation for a Stronger Economy (WISE) fund to produce more graduates in demand jobs, but again only when a private company partners with the college and provides a funding match. These initiatives have honed the focus of colleges and strengthened industry relationships that will pay dividends for generations.

Employers around the state have risen to the challenge. In just the past



in industrial trades to meet the dramatic expansion needs in the region. Public-private partnerships abound with companies such as Capital One and Sasol to support the training and utilize a \$20 million new regional training facility currently under construction.

In Lafayette, the Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center and local partners created a two-year registered nurse program at the South Louisiana Community College with the inaugural class in training now. In Baton Rouge, the Dow Chemical Foundation teamed with the Baton Rouge Community College to create the Women in Welding program, training 53 women at their Port Allen and Westside sites.

In northwest Louisiana, the Bossier Parish Community College was designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for the new Cyber Information Technology Program, which is preparing growing numbers of students for IT industry certifications relevant for companies such as CSC, which is opening a nextgeneration IT center across the street from the campus.

The Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI) and the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS) recently joined forces to better understand the needs of the maritime workforce with

Capitol, employers and educators around the state are staying focused on the task at hand - ensuring that Louisianans benefit from a historic opportunity for prosperity.

Economic growth and individual opportunity can and must be advanced simultaneously in Louisiana. Throughout this upcoming legislative session, LABI and LCTCS will jointly promote the principles and best practices of public-private cooperation in policies and legislation that stand to benefit the state as a whole. Louisiana has made critical strides to improve workforce opportunities and economic growth, and that progress must continue.

Higher education and industry are relying on each other to get the job done. A strong pipeline of talent and skills from Louisiana's colleges and universities are necessary to fill numerous and diverse opportunities with the promise of high-wage jobs and a better quality of life. We pledge to work together with the administration, the Legislature, and our partners across higher education to rise to the challenge, meet this goal, and continue to move Louisiana forward.

A joint column by Stephen Waguespack, president, Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI), and Dr. Monty Sullivan, president, Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS).

of Liberty University?

Ted's announcement of his presidential candidacy was a real Cruz-a-palooza! It was part Ronald Reagan, part Elmer Gantry, part John Lennon and, of course, part Jerry Falwell — yet it was totally Ted Cruz — full of blather, bloat and BS.

Not only was it staged at Liberty U but Cruz thumped the word "liberty" again and again, like a televangelist thumping the Bible. "We stand together for liberty," the candidate declared one final time at the conclusion of the show. That was more than a little cynical. While the mass media reported that Cruz drew a packed house of 10,000 Liberty students, few news stories mentioned a pertinent fact about the crowd — the budding scholars were not at liberty to avoid his speech, for school officials made attendance mandatory.

Another word reprised throughout the campaign event was "imagine" - used 38 times by Cruz in a sort of dreamy imitation of the John Lennon song. "Imagine health care reform that keeps government out of the way," warbled the senator, whose family has received free, platinumlevel coverage from Goldman Sachs, where his wife was a top executive. But she has now taken a leave from the Wall Street giant to join Ted's antigovernment crusade, so suddenly they had no health coverage. No problem for a hypocrite like Cruz, though — only a day after the big speech, he said he plans to sign up for Obamacare, the very program he demonized and pledged to kill.

But it was in the speech's finale that Ted reached his crescendo of cynicism: "It is a time for truth," he bellowed. Truth? This is a guy who fabricates facts to foment fear among the fringiest of the farthermost fringe of the right-wingers. The good news is that the more he campaigns, the more obvious it will be that can't even imagine truth. And like Falwell, he will be another fool for the history books.

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



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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Wednesday, April 8, 2015 - Minden Press-Herald 5

WEBSTERLI

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Around Town

Wednesday, April 8

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

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

Friday, April 10

Love Night for District Miss'y Minnie Grider will be at 7 p.m. at Holmes Memorial Temple COGIC, located at 900 Constable Street in Minden. Everyone is invited.

Saturday, April 11

A flea market extravaganza will be from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. at 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

The Creighton Hill Community Development Corporation Inc. will host a groundbreaking celebration for Creighton Hill Estates at 3 p.m. at the corner of W.R. Reeder St. and Bayou Avenue.

Mt. Comfort Baptist Church, located at 247 Mt. Comfort Road, will host its fifth musicians appreciation service at 3 p.m. The guest choir will be St. Rest Baptist Church. The event is sponsored by the Mt. Comfort Baptist Church senior choir.

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

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 classroom of their choosing to get an idea of what a day in the life of a Mt. Olive School student is like. The classrooms 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.

LIONS CLUB

Local meteorologist to highlight **Minden Lions Club Thursday**

Minden Meteorologist Joel Martin will speak at the Minden Lions Club Thursday, April 9, about the 1933 Minden tornado.

Martin worked with local historians, including John Agan, to add more unique in-depth research on the meteorology of that day. He will show that what happened once can happen again and that tornado awareness and planning remains important for our community.

"We can't stop the tornado from happening, but unlike 1933, we can be more prepared and informed and know what to do when it comes," Martin said.

Martin is an active operational meteorologist with over 35 years of professional experience. He is a retired Air Force colonel, with meteorology degrees from The University of Oklahoma and Colorado State University. In this

presentation, Martin is able to piece together facts from the weather logs and weather maps of that era to show about what the situation looked and sounded like to Minden citizens.

The Minden Lions Club meets at noon every Thursday in the American Legion Hall on Pine Street. Lunch is served around 11:45. Nonmembers may attend and eat at a charge of \$8.



Martin

BUSINESS NEWS

Claiborne Electric to give away Kawasaki mule Annual co-op meeting set for Saturday, April 18

RUSTON -- One of Claiborne Electric's members will leave the co-op's 2015 annual membership meeting as the owner of a new Kawasaki Mule 4x4 utility vehicle.

The Kawasaki Mule will be featured as the grand prize at the meeting, which will take place Saturday, April 18, at the Thomas Assembly Center on the campus of Louisiana Tech University in Ruston.

The Mule 610 4x4 was designed to carry 400 pounds in its tilting cargo bed with tailgate latches. With an optional towing hitch, the utility vehicle can tow up to 1,100 pounds. The Mule can be driven up to 25 miles per hour and features off-road capability. It also fits in the back of a full-size pick-up truck.

The grand prize will be awarded in a drawing of Claiborne Electric members in attendance. The winner must be present to win.

For a chance to win the utility vehicle and many



beginning at 9 a.m. on April 18. Each member will receive a gift during registration, which ends when the business meeting

Drop Off By

begins at noon.

Each co-op member has been mailed an official registration card, printed on an over-sized postcard. Members who present their postcard during registration will be entered into a drawing for a new flat-screen high-definition television. Drawings for all prizes will take place during the business meeting.

The day will include a performance by nationally acclaimed bluegrass group Lonesome River Band at 10:30 a.m. The co-op will also provide lunch for everyone in attendance and a play area for kids featuring several jump houses. The annual meeting is an event for Claiborne Electric members only.

Members with questions may call the co-op at 927-3504 or 368-3011.

Pick Up By



other door prizes, members may register at the Thomas Assembly Center

Claiborne cookers Kids Cast Iron cook off a success

HOMER – Everyone had fun at the 2015 Kids 3-Pot Cast Iron Cook Off at Lake Claiborne State Park Saturday, March 28.

Activities included cooking clinics and demonstrations, pancake relay races, hot dog lunch and the Kids 3-Pot Cast Iron Cook Off and a potluck supper.

Congratulations to the 2015 winners: 9-year-old Harrisen and 7-year-old Evangeline Smith, the "Dutch Oven Duo" from Shreveport. The three dishes Harrisen and Evangeline cooked were Moroccan chicken with olives and lemon, bacon-braised brussel sprouts with toasted pecans and triple-berry s'mores cobbler from scratch within the allotted time of three hours.

Three judges in five areas – taste, presentation, originality, teamwork and inspiration scoring a perfect 100 in every area – judged them.

Thanks to sponsors and supporters Claiborne Electric Co-op, Gibsland Bank

and Trust, Super 1, Brookshire's, Ryan's, Cowboy Trailers, Lodge Cast Iron, Coca-Cola, Music Mountain Water, Blue Bell, McKinney Outdoor Superstore, Academy Sports, Walmart, Celebrity Theater, FNB -The Uncommon Bank and Couture Tees.

Thanks also goes to Z107.5, the Peach 99.3, The Guardian-Journal, Bernice Banner, Ruston Daily Leader, The Times of Shreveport, Gannett News Service and individual contributors who helped make this event a success.

The next Dutch Oven Gathering is Saturday, April 25. Cooking starts at 9:30 a.m., sampling at noon at Lake Claiborne State Park. The theme is potluck. Everyone is welcome to cook with us, or you can Dutch Oven Cookers events bring a covered dish to share.

The Claiborne Dutch Oven Cookers is a chapter of the Louisiana Dutch Oven Society, which meets every fourth Saturday of the month at Lake Claiborne

State Park. They are currently expanding their membership and invite anyone, including youth, churches and other groups who enjoy cooking outdoors to bring their pots, food, supplies and cook with us. If you would like to learn how to cook in a Dutch oven, come to a demonstration at any of their monthly gatherings at the park. Their motto is "Good Food, Fun for All Ages, Educational and Inspirational."

For more information, contact Bob Haber, president of the Claiborne Dutch Oven Cookers and interpretive volunteer at the park, at 318-476-0746 or the park at 318-927-2976

All of the Claiborne are free. Normal state park entrance fees apply. For online information, find and "Like" them on facebook.com/claibornedutchovencookers and at www.facebook.com/lakeclaiborne.statepark.

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SPORTS www.press-herald.com

SPORTS briefs

NBA

Spurs in stride as playoffs approach OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — Kawhi Leonard is seizing more responsibility from San Antonio's veteran core, and the Spurs are taking off.

The 23-year-old forward matched a career high with 26 points for the second straight game, and the Spurs rolled past the Oklahoma City Thunder 113-88 on Tuesday night for their eighth straight victory.

Leonard is averaging 19.4 points and shooting 59 percent from the field during the win streak. "He's been absolutely

amazing," Spurs center Tim Duncan said. "He's on a tear right now, and we're riding him. He's not doing it the wrong way. He's taking great shots and contin-uing to be unselfish, but he's absolutely being aggressive. That's what we need from him."

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said Leonard, last year's NBA Finals MVP, is becoming more comfortable in a leading role.

"He doesn't have a chip on his shoulder or trying to make a statement, he's just playing," Popovich said. "He's getting better all the time, and getting more confident. We're getting him more and more room, and you're seeing a young player blossom."

GOLF Tiger ready to take on Augusta

AUGUSTA, Ga. (AP) Tiger Woods hit the ball so pure that he felt like a 14-time major champion. Before long, the swing left him and he resembled a guy who couldn't break 80. He became so frustrated that he even threw a few

With the school year winding down, area teams are getting close to the

are getting close to the end of their regular sea-son schedule and playoff scenario's are beginning to take shape. Minden High took a break from district play for a showdown with the Airline Vikings, and the Glenbrook Apaches took on a tough district foe in Prairie View.

Prairie View. Meanwhile, Lakeside had a district clash with North Caddo. Minden Crimson Tide The Minden Crimson

Tide went on the road to faceoff with the Airline Vikings, coming home with the loss in a 6-4 contest.

Airline jumped out to an early 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first inning

bottom of the first inning following a pair of RBI base hits by Cameron Taylor and Peyton Davis. Minden responded in the top of the second inning with a one run. After sitting the Vikings down in order, the Crimson Tide came back to the plate still swinging hot bats, adding three runs to make the score 4-2. Airline added two runs

Airline added two runs in both the bottom of the third and fourth innings to make the score 6-4 where it would stay.

Trace Francis led the way for Minden in the batter's box, going 2-4 with a pair of singles and an RBI, Matt Eskew added an RBI double, Brian McLaughlin an RBI single, Austin Keough drove in an RBI on an error and Gavin Smith, Peyton Gray and Gunner Stephens all added sin-

gles for the Tide. The Tide will be back on the field Saturday, April 11, for a huge dis-trict game with the Benton Tigers. First pitch is set for 1 p.m. at Benton. **Lakeside Warriors** The Lakeside Warriors traveled to face the North Caddo Indians in a battle

Caddo Indians in a battle

of district opponents. The Warriors jumped on the Indians early and never let off the gas pedal, cruising to a 15-0 win.

The offense was aided early by a big two-run sin-gle by Thomas Lambert and a two-run double by Cameron Gray. Trent Geis added an RBI single to round out a five run first inning

When the dust settled, Lakeside had 14 hits and 11 RBI, continuing their

tear at the plate. Geis, the winning pitcher, combined with Braydon Jones to shutout the Indians.

Other Warriors who got in on the action were Coulson White who had a great game in going 3-4 with three singles and an RBI.

Lambert finished 2-4 with a single, double and 5 RBI, Geis went 3-4 with three singles and 2 RBI, Cameron Gray finished 2-3 with a single, double and 2 RBI, Logan Clark went 2-3 with a pair of singles and an RBI and Chris Brantley added an PBL single

BI single. Luke Griffith had an RBI on a sacrifice fly, Josh Prince added two base hits and Jake Gray, Frankie Chanler and Tanner Page all added base hits for the Warriors. Lakeside will play

again Thursday, April 9, when they host district foe Red River. **Glenbrook Apaches** The Apaches were fac-ing the same pitcher who

ing the same pitcher who shut them down last time

these two teams got together, Tristan Shanks. This time, Glenbrook came out on top 2-1 behind a great pitching performance from senior

Clay Simonton. Simonton was zoned in from the first pitch, carv-ing up the PVA lineup and

holding on to a one-run lead most of the way. Glenbrook got the only two runs they needed when Spencer White reached on a base hit. Then, Colt Wilson laid a nice bunt down the first base line that the PVA

pitcher threw into right field, scoring White. With Wilson at third base, freshmen Nick Mourad came through with a clutch two-out base hit to score the winning run.

Senior Spencer White closed the game inducing a ground ball to end a PVA rally attempt with two runners on base.

NBA Pelicans move into playoff position

FUNDRAISER Living Word preparing for second annual Wiffle Ball Tournament

HOME STRETCH IN SIGHT Area teams in action as regular season nears its end

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL



clubs because of a game that had never been so maddening.

This wasn't Woods playing in the Masters.

This was the last seven weeks when he was trying to decide if he should even show up.

"I worked my (tail) off," Woods said Tuesday with a smile of satisfaction. "That's the easiest way to kind of describe it. I worked hard. ... People would never understand how much work I put into it to come and do this again. But it was sunup to sundown, whenever had free time. If the kids were asleep, I'd still be doing it. And then when they were in school, I'd

still be doing it. "So it was a lot of work."

And he got his answer.

It took nearly two months, followed by two practice rounds at Augusta National last week, before Woods decided to end his selfimposed break and return at the Masters.

Woods last played the Masters two years ago. He was No. 1 in the world and the overwhelming favorite. Now he is at No. 111 in the world and Las Vegas bookies may have been generous in listing him at 40-1.

Golf's biggest star always lights up Augusta National, and such was the case when he arrived Monday afternoon.

NEW ORLEANS (AP) - Now Anthony Davis has some proof to back him up when he claims that young, unpredictable New Orleans could pose a threat to the No. 1 seed.

Davis scored 23 of his 29 points in the second half, including two free throws with 9 seconds left, and the Pelicans moved into eighth place in the Western Conference with a 103-100 victory over the Warriors on Tuesday night.

"We look at ourselves as an elite team. We feel

like we can play with anybody and we can beat anybody on any given night," said Davis, who also grabbed 10 rebounds. "We just got to go out there and play that way."

The Pelicans moved back into the West's last playoff spot by a halfgame over Oklahoma City, which lost to San Antonio. But nothing was secure until Stephen Curry, who scored 25 points, saw his shot that would have tied the game go in and out as time expired.

Living Word is getting ready to host their second annual W.I.N. Wiffle Ball Tournament to benefit the Widows In Need Foundation (W.I.N.).

The tournament will be played at Living Word's newly built Bush Stadium, built in honor of former Senior Pastor, Rev. Bill Bush.

The W.I.N. Foundation was founded in 2014 as a non-profit organization, based on biblical principles of honoring God through caring, assisting and supporting widows

who are in need.

The tournament will be held June 6, at 10 a.m. and will be concluded June 7, at 1 p.m.

Participants can register online at livingwordminden.org or widowsinneed.com. Registration forms are also available at the church.

Registration is currently underway and can be done up until the day of the tournament, although you can save money by registering now.

Up until May 18, registration is \$20 per per-

son, from May 18 to June 5 the cost is \$25 per person and the day of the tournament cost is \$30 per person.

There will be three age divisions: 12 and under, 13 and up and over 40.

There may be 6-8 players per team, with those registering early receiving a free T-shirt and stadium cup.

A concession stand will be on site to provide T-shirts refreshments. will be available for \$10 and the gate fee for nonplayers is \$3.

GOLF TOURNAMENT Fourth annual golf tournament to benefit UCAP

Golfers will tee off Saturday, April 11 and Sunday, April 12 at the annual Richland State Bank Golf Tournament to Benefit United Christian Assistance Program. Members of the tournament board are Justin Sharp, left, Ralph Williams, John Earnhardt, Jay Kumar, Micah Hanson and James Hodges. To date, 44 teams have signed up for the two-man scramble. The board will accept up to 60 teams. The entry fee is \$300 per team. In 2014, the tournament raised \$9,000 for UCAP. For more information about the tournament or to be a sponsor, contact Earnhardt at 318-218-4909 or Williams at 377-4628. Press-Herald Photo/Bonnie Culverhouse



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FILM REVIEW

'The Longest Ride' tells 2 love stories, old and new

SANDY COHEN AP Entertainment Writer

Ever since "The Notebook" made moviegoers swoon in 2004, Nicholas Sparks' name has been synonymous with teary-eyed romance.

The author's latest novel adapted for the big screen, "The Longest Ride," is no exception, offering two love stories at once. But the most heartfelt affair here isn't between its impossibly good-looking stars; it's shared by a couple 70 years their senior through a story told in flashbacks.

Sophia (Britt Robertson) and Luke (Scott Eastwood, son of Clint) comprise the younger pair. She's an art-history student at North Carolina's Wake Forest University with plans to work in a New York gallery. He's a competitive bull rider trying to claim the national title. They meet when her friends persuade her to go to the rodeo. He's in the ring, and during a stunt, his cowboy hat flies off and lands right in her lap. Obviously, they have to go on a date.

A convoluted and unrealistic set of circumstances lead them to meet Ira (Alan Alda), a widowed curmudgeon who clings to a collection of love letters he wrote to his late wife. It is through these letters that the young couple, and the audience, learns about Ira's love affair with Ruth. Told through extended, sepia-tinted flashbacks, the young Ira (Jack Huston) and Ruth (Oona Chaplin) share the kind of romance that movies are made for.

It was love at first sight for the two, who meet in the early days of World War II. By the time he's called to serve, they're a couple, and Ruth waits for Ira until an injury sends him home for good. Despite years of personal chal-



The letters, and the flashback sequences they inspire, reveal "the longest ride" has nothing to do with bull-riding: It's about Ira and Ruth's lifelong love.

While ostensibly meant to illustrate the timeless nature of romance, the richness of this relationship makes its modern foil seem superficial by comparison

Eastwood is a fitting cowboy - handsome and sculpted, with a touch of his dad's famous swagger. He's believable as a for love, but Sophia and Luke's era to convey the power and Running time: 124 minutes. Two bull-rider, and shows enough struggle just doesn't seem as

vulnerable charm to be a romantic leading man.

The cherubic, pillow-lipped Robertson makes for a fine potential partner. She's pretty and sweet, yet headstrong and focused when it comes to her future.

Both actors are easy on the eyes, but lack the fireworks, and just plain fire, to be a truly convincing onscreen romance.

The script by Craig Bolotin sets up each couple as sacrificing shots, using a rider's-view cam-

serious. The unnecessary setting of Sophia's sorority house doesn't help: Her sisters apparently exist only to wax euphoric about her date's looks, then disappear from the narrative.

"I want a cowboy," one says. Both couples are filmed lovingly by George Tillman, Jr. ("Soul Food"), who was inspired by his own 25-year marriage to helm the story. He also brings a gritty realism to the bull-riding

If only the same power and intensity existed in Sophia and Luke's love affair.

Still, the film is likely to satisfy Sparks fans. And it brings something new to the romance genre: bull riding.

'The Longest Ride," a 20th Century Fox release, is rated PG-13 by the Motion Picture Association of America for "some sexuality, partial nudity and some war and sports action."

lenges, they keep their marriage intact.

intensity of the animal and sport.

and a half stars out of four.

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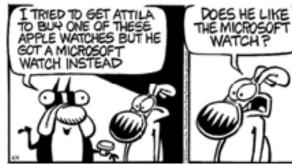


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Chairperson AGENDA ITEMS

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Reduce Your Past Tax Bill by as much as 75 Percent. Stop Levies, Liens and Wage Garnishments. Call The Tax DR Now to see if you Qualify 1-800-916-6934

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Miscellaneous

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DONATE YOUR CAR. TRUCK OR BOAT TO HERITAGE FOR THE BLIND. Free 3 Day Vacation, Tax Deductible, Free Towing, All Paperwork Taken Care Of. 800-953-9884

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CRYPTOQUIP

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BLEE NC L MHHG GHRVH. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO NOTIFY ME TO HURRY UP AND PREPARE MYSELF. I'M ALREADY ALL READY. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals I

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A man wakes up after sleeping under an ADVERTISED blanket on an ADVERTISED mattress, shaves with an ADVERTISED razor, brushes his teeth with ADVERTISED toothpaste, washes with ADVERTISED soap, puts on ADVERTISED clothes, drinks a cup of ADVERTISED coffee, drives to work in an ADVERTISED car and then refuses to ADVERTISE believing it doesn't **PAY**.

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

MINDEN PRESS-HERALD CLASSIFIEDS

Let your customers know what you have. Call and ADVERTISE today! 377-1866

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