

# MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

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**TUESDAY**



**INSIDE**  
*today*

WEBSTER PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## Video of inmate abuse surfaces

**Sheriff says leaked video could bring criminal charges**

**MICHELLE BATES**  
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As allegations of abuse, nepotism and others swirl around the Webster Parish Sheriff's Office, a video of reported inmate abuse at

Bayou Dorcheat Correctional Center has surfaced.

Reportedly, KTBS Channel 3 obtained a copy of the video and is set to air it Tuesday. Sheriff Gary Sexton says the video is not public record and the incident was investigated

internally.

"This is an internal investigation, and the outcome has been determined," Sexton said of the allegations of inmate abuse. "One of the guards does not



**SEXTON**

work at the correctional facility any longer, and the other is now over a work crew for the (Louisiana Army) National Guard. At one time, both held supervisory positions at the correctional facility, but are no longer in those positions."

He says the alleged incident happened about a year ago, and as far as the video of the incident

being released to the public, he says that's part of the internal investigation and cannot be made public at this time.

However, he says there is a criminal statute regarding the unauthorized release of video, but at this time, does not know if any criminal charges will be brought

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**WEATHER**

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK



**84**  
HIGH

**67**  
LOW

Cloudy. A stray shower or thunderstorm is possible.

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**'HOMELESSNESS IS AN EPIDEMIC IN ONE OF THE RICHEST COUNTRIES IN THE WORLD.'**



**Trent Dion Soto's documentary, "Among the Discarded," will premiere at The Farm Saturday as a way to bring awareness to the public about the plight of homelessness. Soto is pictured in front of angel wings he painted by hand at The Farm on the side of Zenobia's House during 2015 ChickenStock. Courtesy Photo**

## 'Among the Discarded' to premiere at The Farm Saturday

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'Among the Discarded,' a documentary about the plight of the homeless, will premiere at The Farm beginning at 7:30 p.m., Saturday.

The film, hosted by Cultural Crossroads, is being premiered in cooperation with St. Rest Baptist Church and Greater St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church. It will be shown on the large outdoor movie screen. Admission is \$5 and/or

socks and small toiletries. Soup and bread will be offered at concessions as another way to donate. A question and answer session will follow the film.

The film is documented by artist and Ruston native, Trent Dion Soto, who spent 30 days on Skid Row in Los Angeles chronicling the lives of those who are homeless. He experienced homelessness on a whole new level during his time there, he says.

"I know the basics of homelessness," he said during a previous inter-

view with the Press-Herald. "Homelessness is an epidemic in one of the richest countries in the world. There are many reasons behind it, but there's a lot we can do.

"It is a place where people were discarded," he continued. "It is something you see on TV you would figure would be in a third world country. You felt for them, and I felt helpless knowing that I couldn't help everyone."

Today, in his travels, he makes sure to connect

See **MOVIE**, Page 3

LEGISLATURE

## City court bill heads to House floor

**MICHELLE BATES**  
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A bill was heard on the House floor Monday that if passed could raise revenue for city courts in Minden and Springhill as well as take a load off district courts.

Minden City Judge Sherb Sentell says HB 29 will allow his office to streamline records as well as hire a juvenile probation officer.

"I'm trying to look at every way possible to increase the court's revenue to upgrade our software from the DOS operating system we're currently using," he said. "My number two reason is I want to have a program in place for our kids to get counseling if they need it, and some of them are at risk youth."

Right now, he can't afford to hire a juvenile officer to put a program of this nature in place.

The bill would raise the monetary threshold to file a civil suit from \$35,000 to \$50,000. Anything above \$35,000 must be filed in district court, Sentell says.

What they are asking for is within the average of what other municipal court systems have, Sentell says, and he has support for this bill.

"Theoretically, the district judges would have more time to handle felony criminal matters," he said. "It just makes it more efficient to handle smaller litigation."

He clarified this has nothing to do with misdemeanor versus felony cases, but rather



**SENTELL**

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# SECONDFRONT

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CAMP MINDEN CLEANUP

## Citizens Advisory Group stands behind M6 method

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The Camp Minden Citizens Advisory Group is standing behind the method chosen to remove the millions of pounds of M6 propellant at Camp Minden.

Concerns were raised during the meeting surrounding the contained burn method chosen to eradicate the nearly 16 million pounds of M6, but David Madden, who took the initiative to try to find a way to get rid of it a few years ago, explained the process by which the propellant will be destroyed.

The Maddens, at first, threw their hat in the ring to bid on the removal of the M6, but backed out “for moral reasons.” They’d built a closed incinerator to get rid of the M6, but after talking with representatives at El Dorado in Utah, found there was a better incinerator. And even with that better incinerator, the dialogue committee put stricter stipulations on environmental protections. Madden called it a “filter on top of a filter.”

Even with differences of opinion on which method should have been chosen, they all agreed it was time to stand behind that decision.

“It is super important for us to coalesce around them and what we don’t need to do is find five more roadblocks to throw at them,” he said of ESI and El Dorado, the company subcontracted to construct the incinerator.

Sam Mims, an advocate for

the method of supercritical water oxidation, says the method has been chosen and agreed with Madden that it’s time to come together and support the decision that’s been made.

“We really shouldn’t be having, internally, any more discussion about who or what’s going to be the contractor,” he said. “We need to put that discussion to bed. We don’t have time to be squabbling. We need to get behind this one particular bid and make it the only one that we have. We went through a dialogue process. There should be no discussion on any other option other than this one.”

Madden commended the CAG and the dialogue committee for changing the method of disposal.

“Because of you, they’re going to create the world’s best, cleanest, most efficient and safest air scrubbing system that man can build,” he said. “NASA can’t build one better than the one you all specified. Looking from the engineering and how it works, I can go to sleep tonight, tomorrow, next week, and I’m not worried about it. They’re (EPA) not going to let somebody sneak up on us and pull the wool over our eyes. I’m proud of y’all. You went through the process and saved our environment.”

Dr. Brian Salvatore, also a dialogue committee member, says he feels confident in the contained burn method with the pollution abatement system that will be on equipment.

Also of concern is the time it will take to construct the equip-



**Ron Hagar, Citizens Advisory Group chair, (standing) discusses how the group works and welcomed representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency and the Louisiana Military Department. Others in attendance included many members of the Camp Minden Dialogue Committee formed after community members learned of the dangers of open tray burn.** Michelle Bates/Press-Herald

ment and implement the M6 destruction. According to a tentative timeline released by the Environmental Protection Agency, it will take approximately five months to construct the incinerator and then another 12 months to destroy the M6 at a throughput rate of about 63,000 pounds per day.

Baseline water sampling as well as any contamination that might occur during the destruction process were also concerns.

“We feel it’s our responsibility

to keep as close a tab as we can, and the monitoring is the way to do that,” Ron Hagar, CAG chair, said. “The baseline water monitoring is going to assure us that when it’s all finished there’s no more M6 in the water than when we started.”

Adam Adams, on scene coordinator for the EPA, says the remediation project manager is working on water baseline sampling at Camp Minden.

“I’ve already had communication with him, and I’m trying to

get his information and also talk to his water guru, and bring it all together,” Adams said.

The CAG is in the process of building a website as a way to distribute information gathered from the EPA, results from air, water and soil monitoring as well as information from the CAG meetings.

The next meeting will be June 8 at a place yet to be determined. The meeting for June only will be moved to another site due to scheduling conflicts.

## Bossier Parish sheriff's tax sale Wednesday

BENTON — The Bossier Parish Sheriff’s Office will hold its annual tax sale Wednesday, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., for properties that have unpaid 2014 property taxes.

The sale is for approximately 300 assessments of land, commercial and resi-

dential properties that have unpaid ad valorem property taxes for 2014.

Property owners can still make their tax payments by 4:30 p.m. Tuesday to have their property removed from the sale list. For payment options, call the Bossier Sheriff’s Office

property tax department at 318-965-3400.

The tax sale is open to the public and will be held online only. To register and bid, go to [www.civic-source.com](http://www.civic-source.com), and click on "Sign In" to register.

## SEXTON

*Continued from page 1*

against the person who released it, if any.

The sheriff’s office is under scrutiny by the Louisiana Board of Ethics following allegations of nepotism, inmate abuse and missing money from the sale of scrap metal. The nepotism reports are in regards to father and son, Chief Deputy Bobby Igo Jr. and his son Deputy Bobby Igo III as well as BDCC Warden John Lewis

and his son.

The Press-Herald issued a public records request Monday seeking records regarding the department heads of the sheriff’s office and who is in supervisory positions.

An ethics board opinion was issued in 1999 (Ethics Board Docket No. 99-002) in which a similar situation arose in Lafourche Parish where Sheriff Craig Webre asked the ethics board for an opinion regarding his chief of staff Major Michael J. LeBlanc Sr. and his son Michael J. LeBlanc Jr. The opinion

concluded that LeBlanc Jr.’s employment was not in violation of the Code of Governmental Ethics “based on the assumption that Major LeBlanc is not the head of any particular agency within the sheriff’s department.”

LeBlanc Sr., according to the opinion, was second in command to Sheriff Webre, “and has authority over all members of the sheriff’s office.”

“Major LeBlanc should therefore be disqualified from participating in decisions concerning his son’s hiring as well as decisions


about promotions or salary increases if his son is employed by your office,” the opinion continued. “You, as sheriff, must take responsibility for any matters from which Major LeBlanc is disqualified.”

As these allegations against Sexton and his department are under investigation by the ethics board, the records requested will be produced as advised by his attorney, he says.

## Homer Police Department seeking reserve officers

The Homer Police Department is seeking individuals interested in applying to be a reserve officer. For more information and to obtain an application, contact Homer Police Department Officer Johnnie Hough or Police Chief Russell Mills by phone at 318-927-4001, email at [homerpolice9@gmail.com](mailto:homerpolice9@gmail.com) or stop by the Homer Police Department at 400 East Main St. in Homer.

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NORTH WEBSTER CRIME

# Woman turns herself in on drug charges

**MICHELLE BATES**  
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A Springhill woman turned herself into police after warrants were issued for her arrest on drug charges.

Crystal Todd Neely, 33, of the 800 block of North Ark in Springhill, was arrested Thursday, May 7, and charged with possession of Schedule II CDS

(hydrocodone), possession of Schedule III CDS (soboxone), possession of Schedule I CDS (marijuana) and possession of drug paraphernalia. Total bond was set at \$11,750.

Springhill Police Chief Will Lynd says he and the Webster Parish Narcotics Task Force received a tip on another person in which warrants had been issued and went to the residence for that purpose.

He says they also got a tip drugs were at that residence.

When they arrived, he says they asked if they could search the residence, and Neely said no.

“The individual we were looking for was not there, so then I asked



NEELY

about the drugs, and Det. (Shawn) Baker said he smelled an odor of marijuana,” Lynd said. “We asked if we could search, and she said no. That’s when I instructed one of my detectives to go get a search warrant, and she turned around and said, ‘Y’all come in.’”

Lynd says she took them to a bedroom inside the residence and showed them a drawer in a dresser

containing a small pink pouch authorities believe to contain a small amount of marijuana, two pills believed to be hydrocodone and one strip of soboxone.

“She did not have prescriptions for either one,” he said. “We did not arrest her that day. Warrants were obtained for her arrest.”

Lynd and detectives went back to the residence

and she was not home. The chief says they called her and she turned herself in.

She was transported to Bayou Dorcheat Correctional Center.

Arresting officers were Lt. Shawn Baker, with the Webster Narcotics Task Force, Det. Ronald Wedgeworth of the Springhill Police Department and Lynd.

AROUND THE STATE

## Colleges funded, but health care short in budget

BATON ROUGE — Louisiana’s public colleges would be spared cuts, but health care services for the poor would remain on the chopping block next year under a more than \$24 billion budget proposal advanced Monday to the full House for debate.

The House Appropriations Committee plugged the \$615 million estimated to be raised by a series of tax changes backed by the House last week into the spending plan for the fiscal year that begins July 1. They also reduced spending on state contracts, cut money for vacant jobs and made other modest changes to drum up a few million more to shift to other programs.

Although that money was enough to offset planned higher education cuts, it wasn’t enough to close all the gaps in health care programs. About \$180 million more in state financing would be needed to fill those holes.

“We leave higher ed intact; we keep on working on health care,” said Appropriations Committee Chairman Jim Fannin, R-Jonesboro.

Dollars sought by House leaders to reverse planned cuts across other government agencies, including for state parks, museums and agricultural services, also weren’t available.

The full House is expected to debate the budget May 21, with

lawmakers hoping they’ll have found more ways to decrease cuts before then, either with additional tax votes or an improved revenue forecast.

“We’re still short,” Fannin said. “We needed about \$950 million. We got about 70 percent of that” with the House tax votes.

The tax measures already passed face strong resistance from business organizations, and they don’t match Gov. Bobby Jindal’s guidelines for what tax changes he’d support, raising questions about whether the money used by the House to balance next year’s budget will win final legislative passage.

Meanwhile, without additional

dollars, the LSU privatization deals are short of what the hospital operators say they need to continue providing the current level of services to the poor and uninsured who rely on the facilities. The estimated price tag to fill the gap is \$61 million in state money, to draw down millions more in federal Medicaid financing.

In addition, LSU’s medical schools in New Orleans and Shreveport would be left with millions of dollars in insurance and retiree costs from the privatization deals. Medical school leaders say the \$56 million in “legacy costs” could jeopardize their ability to educate students.

## MOVIE

*Continued from page 1*

with the homeless in the area. He takes care packages that include hygiene products, clothes and other much needed items. He also takes the time to sit and visit with them.

In the film, he only scratched the surface of the many issues that face the homeless, but the group that touched him the most is those of homeless veterans.

“I think it is a great travesty that men and women serve our country and they’re truly discarded,” he said. “They suffer the highest suicide rate of any other social group that exists – 22 suicides a day.”

Because of his experiences, he says he’s here to be a voice for them.

“My journey will continue and it will be lifelong,” he said.

OBITUARIES

## Dorothy Geraldine Cheek Woodard (Jerry)

Dorothy Geraldine Cheek Woodard (Jerry) was born on September 11, 1930, and left her earthly home to be with her Heavenly Father on Mother’s Day, May 10, 2015.

A celebration of her life will be at First Baptist Church Minden at 11a.m., Wednesday, May 13, 2015, with visitation from 10 to 11 a.m. Officiating will be Brother Leland Crawford, Brother Jimmy Eppinette, and Brother Bill Ichter.

“Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies. Her children arise up, and call her blessed; her husband also, and he praiseth her.” (Proverbs 31:10 & 28.)

Jerry was a graduate of Louisiana Tech where she met and married her husband of 64 years, R.E. (Jack) Woodard, Jr. She was a true beauty inside and out and served as State Fair Queen and Homecoming Queen while at Tech.

She was a faithful member of First Baptist Church, Minden for 47 years where she volun-



WOODARD

teered as Sunday School Teacher, Department Director, and on various committees. She loved serving others through the Homebound Ministry and Bereavement Committee. She was an excellent cook and spent most of her days delivering an encouraging word and her beloved chocolate pie to those who were ill or in need.

“Booie” as she was lovingly known to her children and grandchildren, had a true servant’s heart and was happiest when she was helping her friends, family, and community. She was a gracious southern lady who loved others and her Lord above all else. “I love you” was spoken at every greeting and every departure. Booie left no words unspoken.

She is survived by a large family, all of whom she called by name each morning in prayer: husband, R.E. (Jack) Woodard, Jr; sons, R.E. (Mike) Woodard III and wife Laura; Pat Woodard, and wife Kelly, daughter Pam Woodard Teague, and husband Barry, and son, Gerald Mark Woodard and wife Lisa, son-in-law Greg Burke and wife Jennifer, eight grandchildren: Chad Teague and wife Anna Marie, Clay Teague and wife Sarah, Mason Woodard and wife Jennifer, Paige Woodard Mitchell, Noah Woodard, Katharyn Woodard, Reagan

Burke Spengler and husband Sam, and Mallory Burke as well as 6 great-grandchildren: Jack, Anabelle, Adelyn Grace, Jake, Bowen, and Mann.

Jerry is also survived by brothers, Ed Cheek and wife Barbara, Ken Cheek and wife Helen, a sister, Sherry Cheek Baldone and husband Charles, and a special sister-in-law, Mildred Woodard. She was preceded in death by her parents, Lucille and Gerald Cheek, and her precious daughter, Susan Woodard Burke.

We thank God for her complete healing and the blessed assurance that we will see her again in heaven.

Pallbearers will be her four grandsons and Sam Spengler, David Ogwyn, Steve Lee, and Marvin Jones.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to FBC Building Fund, Baptist Children’s Home, or St. Jude.

A special thank you to Ina Warren who has been such a blessing these past few months, as well as Karen, Becky and Deanna.

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct thy paths.” (Proverbs 3:6-7)

## COURT

*Continued from page 1*

civil matters. He gave the example that if a car company files suit against someone because they are behind on their bill for a \$36,000 vehicle, that case would have to be filed in district court. If the thresh-

old was raised, it would put it back into city court.

City court is funded through court costs and filing fees, Sentell says. Minden City Court and Ward I bring in roughly \$366,000 per year, and their expenses are about the same.

The software he wants to purchase will cost about \$150,000. The software will

streamline court documents and free up court employees by not having to manually look up information for people who call in. If someone misses a court date for a driving offense, then the software electronically sends a notice to the Department of Motor Vehicles, he says.

“It tracks probation fees,

it tracks all that stuff,” he said. “It gives us statistics like how many kids we have on probation, and right now we have no way of tracking that except by hand. It’s very difficult to get a big picture of where we are without having case management software.”

Other bills set to head to the House floor by Rep.

Gene Reynolds is the textbook bill, which will allow faculty to go straight to the publisher to get textbooks, the Minden downtown development director’s bill, which changes the language of how the commission is appointed and who has the right to hire and fire the director, as well as others.



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# OPINION

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PERSPECTIVE

## Child abuse must be exposed

Shreveport attorney, Louis Avalone, recently wrote "as a nation, we seem to be increasingly agnostic, apathetic, about doing what is "right" for fear of being considered politically incorrect, or otherwise offending another."

When one in ten children are being abused I don't understand how we can possibly turn our backs and sweep it under the rug. It's not enough to say "let sleeping dogs lie" or "I don't want to know about it."

Unless you've experienced child abuse you cannot possibly comprehend the trauma, the dread of even going to sleep, in fear of being either physically or sexually abused.

My sister, Alice, and I lived in a church run orphanage, during the 'Sixties. we witnessed and experienced horrendous child abuse. For years Alice continued to wake up screaming in the night after her ordeal at the home.

My abuse was less frequent because I dared to report a house-mother for unmercifully beating a ten year old girl.

Only God could have given me that raw courage to take action.

It took me thirty-six years to finally locate one of the sexually abused victims who had been removed from the home, in hopes of keeping her mouth shut. I constantly searched for her, because I knew she needed to talk, because they wouldn't tell us where she was.

In June of 2001 I sat down in my recliner and said "I've got to find Sonja!" I think I knew that would be the day!

With only two calls to directory assistance, for the state of Texas, I was given two numbers for her maiden name. The first knew nothing but gave me his mother's phone number. She asked for the names of her siblings and recognized a sister's name on her genealogy site.

Before the end of the day I had Sonja on the phone where she lived in Hawaii. She excitedly recognized my voice.

She needed to talk I asked her to write her story for a book I was compiling. She was the reason behind the book even though many came forward to tell their stories!

In 2010 we published that book written by these children (many in their 50's and 60's) because they wanted to finally be heard. In June we also had a reunion and a book signing in Tulsa, where I first saw Sonja, after forty-five years.

We were interviewed by two television stations who were adamant that our stories needed to be told.

Also I told my story to the Aha Moment Tour that came through Shreveport in May 2013. I was grateful to set up an interview for Sonja Bilbrey-Alamia to tell her story, on the last day of that tour at Salem, Oregon, which is right where she currently lives.

The orphanage has moved from Turley to Claremore, Oklahoma and changed their name. They also home school the children, making it increasingly difficult to report the abuse. In 2003 one little girl was repeatedly raped and sodomized by a house parent.

She was unable to report the abuse until she returned home. The man will be in prison until 2018. His name can be found in the Claremore, Oklahoma court records.

As I write I continue to question why anyone would not want child abused exposed. If we don't protect children who will?

*Sarah Hudson Pierce is a syndicated columnist who lives near Shreveport, Louisiana.*



SARAH HUDSON PIERCE

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PERSPECTIVE

## Hillary's armor

"This vast right-wing conspiracy," Hillary Clinton said, "has been conspiring against my husband since the day he announced." That was the "feminist" first lady's response when her husband was accused of having sex with a 21-year-old.

Bill was more lawyerly. He said things like, "It depends upon what the meaning of the word 'is' is."

The Wall Street Journal's Kim Strassel suggests that the Clintons must have a Scandal Manual: "The standard operating procedure never changes."

Forty years ago, Hillary would have us believe that she wasn't just the wife of a man running for Arkansas governor — she was a lucky or brilliant investor who in less than three weeks doubled her money. No, tripled! No, wait — quadrupled ... no, actually, much more!

"Clinton made almost \$100,000 in the cattle futures market," reported Tom Brokaw, and "many wondered whether that was a sweetheart deal arranged for the governor's wife."

Of course it was.

In less than three weeks, Hillary turned \$1,000 into \$16,427. "I don't understand how that could have possibly occurred," she said. "My husband and I missed the fact that we had actually made some money."

A hundred thousand dollars — twice what her husband made as governor. Who remembers trivia like that?

That was around the time

of the Whitewater scandal, in which friends of the Clintons got sweetheart land deals. Seven people went to jail, but not the Clintons. Their records disappeared.

Hillary came on "20/20." Barbara Walters asked her, "How did you get into this mess where your whole credibility is being questioned?" Hillary answered sweetly, "I ask myself that every day, Barbara, because it's very surprising and confusing to me."

It is confusing to me, too. Travelgate and Fostergate were also confusing, as is the Democrats' sudden indifference to a president getting oral sex from an intern, deaths in Benghazi and, most recently, violation of State Department email rules.

"It would've been better for me to use two separate phones and two email accounts," Hillary testified.

"I thought using one device would be simpler."

Except it turned out she did use two devices: "iPhone, OK, in full disclosure, and a Blackberry."

She also said, "I took the unprecedented step of asking that the State Department make all my work-related emails public."

Except that wasn't true either. She turned over only emails she claimed were relevant. The rest were wiped clean from her home server — a private server government officials aren't supposed to use. Then she refused to give that server to a third party for an independent review.

Consequences? Punishment? No.

New revelations in the book "Clinton Cash" about the Clinton Foundation accepting billions from foreign governments and people doing business with our gov-

ernment brought out the same "Aw, shucks" replies from the Scandal Manual.

Bill told a reporter, "I asked Hillary about this, and she said, 'No one's ever tried to influence me.'"

Anyway, the Foundation money went to charity. Hillary said, "I am very proud of the work the Foundation does."

But what "work"? In 2013, a measly 9 percent of the money went to charity! Charity Navigator, the biggest charity rating service, won't even list the Clinton Foundation in its rankings. This is repulsive. If a Republican candidate ran a charity that did that, it would be a scandal. But the Clintons must be immune.

Brian Williams "misre-mbers" his helicopter coming under hostile fire and loses his job. But Hillary says, "I remember landing under sniper fire ... we just ran with our heads down to get into the vehicles." That was total fabrication, but when Hillary was caught, she just told reporters it was a "minor blip."

"I say a lot of things — millions of words a day — so if I misspoke, that was just a misstatement."

Misstatement? I call it a self-promoting lie. But the Clintons are Teflon. In the presidential race, Betfair lists Hillary as the overwhelming favorite.

"Political language," George Orwell wrote, "is designed to make lies sound truthful and murder respectable, and to give an appearance of solidity to pure wind."

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

EDITORIAL  
ROUND UP

## Parents, talk to your kids about cannabis

*From the Juneau Empire.*

It's time to have the talk. Not the talk about sex or alcohol, or even drugs in general. It's time to talk marijuana.

With attitudes about cannabis changing, with the newly legalized recreational use of the drug in Alaska, it's time for parents and guardians to have an honest discussion with their kids.

Because regardless of what changes in society, marijuana use by anyone under 21 is still quite illegal and the consequences are unpleasant and often irreversible.

But the talk must come from a parent. It can't come from a counselor, from a coach or a "Big" or a police officer. It's the parents that have the most influence and when it comes to big discussions, there is simply no substitute. It's up to the family to cut through the sea of information — and misinformation — about the affects of marijuana on youth; it's up to them to filter through the cacophony.

When it comes to the talk, parents should be prepared in order to be effective — be honest, do your homework, be calm and sincere, and be prepared to listen. If it's going to work, the discussion needs to be open and thought out, and it absolutely needs to go deeper than, "As long as you're under my roof ."

Before any discussion, parents need to consider how they want their child or teen to view cannabis. Think about what they should know. Then, think about what it was like to be their age — the freedom of getting to borrow the car, that blemish that felt as large as a volcano, or the feeling when that special someone took notice. The life of a teen is like having one foot in childhood and one in adulthood; it's not necessarily an easy place to be.

We've offered up some suggestions on how to approach the topic — but these are just guidelines, a road map of sorts to help pilot adults through what is likely uncertain territory.

But first, we'd like to acknowledge one important fact: Every family is different, unique in the way they communicate and interact with one another. These guidelines might not fit exactly into one family, but perhaps a version of them will.

The publication "Marijuana and the Responsible Parent" shares facts and statistics about cannabis use and the drug's effect on the body from "light" to "heavy" use. The publication was created by the Environmental Resource Council, a nonprofit that aims to provide information geared toward helping schools and families.

The publication is thorough. It's not long or drawn out, it's not marred by jargon or excessive statistics. It's like the talk should be, we think — open, honest and real. Among other recommendations on how to talk to kids and teens about cannabis, here are some of the highlights:

Avoid scare tactics: These might work well on younger children, but as soon as that teen realizes the whole truth, there goes a parent's credibility.

Listen: A good conversation goes both ways.

Be cautious about confronting their use: Think hard about approaching a youth about use. How and if it happens will depend largely on the unique relationship between parent and child.

Be sensitive if they have used: Trying cannabis, even once, is not unusual.

Do not try to talk if they are high: Any kind of intoxication does not bode well for conversations of this nature. Be patient; after the high has worn off, then absolutely have a chat.

Don't argue: This makes listening hard for both parties and will put the youth on edge.

Don't take responsibility for the status quo: Parents are not responsible for drug laws or the way society deals with or thinks about cannabis.

Don't "rate" drugs: Don't get bogged down discussing which drugs are worse or better than others. Stick to the facts: It's illegal.

Consider discussing your personal use: Of course, this is a very personal choice, but children and teens will love their parents no less if the answer is "yes." Instead, it will likely up the level of respect.

For half a century, folks on both sides of the marijuana argument have thrown misinformation, exaggerations, stereotypes and social policy interpretations back and forth. Amid all the noise, it's easy to feel like everyone is yelling and no one is listening.

But your kids will listen. And they want to hear from you.



## Around Town

Wednesday, May 13

Minden Medical Center celebrates life after stroke. Information about stroke symptoms, how to seek emergency help and TeleStroke services available at MMC will be discussed in the Minden Medical Center inpatient rehab dining room on the second floor at 3 p.m. For more information call 371-5669.

Sunday, May 17

Blue Run Baptist Church's annual usher's program will be at 2:30 p.m. Special guest will be New Light Baptist Church's Rev. Asby Glossom.

Pilgrim Rest Baptist Church of Sibley will celebrate the church's 115th anniversary at 2:30 p.m. Guest speaker will be the Rev. Thomas Ridley of St. Matthew Baptist Church of Ringgold.

Hopewell Baptist Church's "Unveiling of the Chair" will take place at noon. Special guest will be Pastor James E. Smith and Galilee Missionary Baptist Church.

Mt Comfort Baptist Church's annual community homecoming celebration at 2:30 pm. The Rev. Rhone and St. John Divine Baptist Church of Heflin will be the special guest.

The Youth of Longspring COGIC will host a youth program at 3 pm. Guest Speaker will be Stephanie Owens of New Friendship Baptist Church.

Sunday, May 24

Hopewell Baptist Church will celebrate its 128th Church Anniversary at 2:30 p.m. Guest speaker will be the Rev. Samuel Henderson.

## EDUCATION

# Brown Upper Elementary School All-Star Basketball Game



Brown Upper Elementary School hosted their final all-star game of the year Tuesday, May 5 in the school's gym. Last week they were the host team against the LA Round Ballers on Monday. Tuesday they traveled to Shreveport to play against them again. Pictured are players TyTravion Mendenhall, De'Terriun Fuller, A'niya Nelson, Me'yaunna Bradford, Donald Owens, Akeivus Glover, Kevin McDaniel, Zy'Ion Markray, and JaMarcus Stephens. Not pictured is Coach Jimmy Harris. Courtesy Photo

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**Clothing:** boy's clothes - size 2, men's work boots - all sizes, men's pants and shorts - size 32 and 34 waist.

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# SPORTS

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## SPORTS briefs

### NFL

#### Brady will appeal suspension

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP) — Tom Brady and the New England Patriots are preparing for a fight.

The reigning Super Bowl MVP will appeal his four-game suspension, his agent said, and the team threw its "unconditional" support behind its quarterback after the NFL came down hard on its biggest star in the "Deflategate" scandal.

"Tom Brady has our unconditional support," Patriots owner Bob Kraft said in a statement issued on Monday night. "Our belief in him has not wavered."

Five days after an NFL investigator reported that it was "more probable than not" that the Patriots broke the rules, the league handed down its punishment: Brady was banished for four games, and the Patriots were penalized \$1 million — matching the largest fine in league history — and docked two draft picks for using improperly inflated footballs in the AFC Championship game.

NFL executive vice president of football operations Troy Vincent also indefinitely suspended the two equipment staffers who carried out the plan, including the one who referred to himself in text messages obtained by the league as "The Deflator."

The investigation by attorney Ted Wells found that Brady "was at least generally aware" of plans by two Patriots employees to prepare the balls to his liking, below the league-mandated minimum of 12.5 pounds per square inch.

### NBA

#### Curry scores 33 to help even series

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — Steve Kerr challenged his Golden State Warriors to ratchet up the intensity to playoff-level. With MVP Stephen Curry leading the way, they responded.

Curry scored 21 of his 33 points by halftime, and the Warriors snapped their two-game skid Monday night by routing the Memphis Grizzlies 101-84 to tie the Western Conference semifinals at 2-2.

"Tonight we took a step towards understanding that sense of urgency and kind of competitiveness and physicality to the game," Kerr said. "It was probably our most competitive effort, definitely of the series, but probably of the playoffs."

The Warriors hadn't lost three straight games all season, and they never came close as they took back home-court advantage. Curry hadn't scored more than 23 points in a game in this series, and he nearly had that by halftime.

Draymond Green had 16 points and 10 rebounds for the Warriors while Klay Thompson had 15 points, Harrison Barnes 12 and Andre Iguodala 11.

## HIGH SCHOOL TENNIS

# Apaches wrap up tennis



*Special to the Press-Herald*

JACKSON, MS. - By virtue of their winning or of finishing as the runner-up of their division of play in the North AA Tennis Tournament, two Glenbrook Apache netters advanced to the Class AA Tournament held at the Bridges Tennis Center in Jackson, MS.

Competing in the Class Four individuals and/or doubles' teams from the North and South Tournaments. In the semifinals, Catherine Willis defeated Hodges (Laurel Christian School) 6-0, 6-3.

"Catherine's on-court strategy had a positive response for each of her opponent's attempts to earn points," Glenbrook head coach Wayne Orr said. "Winning the first seven games of the match allowed her to calm her nerves."

In the finals, Willis was defeated by Emily Hillhouse (Hartfield Academy) 6-1, 6-1. "Seemingly Catherine's allotment of positive ground strokes, volleys, and serves had been used in the semifinals," Orr said. "Unforced errors, the heat of the noon-day sun, and consistency of controlling the points by her opponent earmarked the match."

This was Willis's third consecutive year to compete in the class tournament.

Graham Lemoine, competing in the Boys' No. 2 singles, was defeated by

Gray Chancellor (Laurel Christian School) 6-0, 6-2 in the semifinal match. Lemoine, a senior at Glenbrook, was competing for the first time in his high school tennis career.

"Graham's inconsistency in returning serve and his inability to string points together to earn games identified the first set," Orr said. "The second set began with a little more 'pep to his step,' but that renewed vigor began to wane as his opponent became more aggressive in his net play."

"Graham has enjoyed a varied tennis career in singles, doubles, and mixed doubles that has contributed to the success of our program. His versatility will be difficult to replace. He, along with his twin sister Madison and Bridget Cone (our three seniors), will leave a void in our line-up that must be filled by our younger players."



**Catherine Willis offers up a serve during a match earlier this season.** Courtesy Photo/Darden Gladney

## ALL-DISTRICT LADY WARRIORS



**The Lakeside Warriors placed ten players on the 1-2A all-district softball team. They are (front row: from left to right) Marjorie Bailey, Kelly Willis, Madison Mouser, Allie Maness, Ashley Nunn, (Back row: from left to right) Cassy Monday, Alexis Harvey, Emily Maness, Kendelle Williams and Deirdre Johnson.** Courtesy Photo

## GOLF TOURNAMENT

# Pine Hills Memorial Classic

Pine Hills Country Club is getting ready to host their annual Memorial Classic Golf Tournament on July 11-12 and this year's tournament is shaping up to be the best one yet.

This year, the two-day tournament will honor the memory of longtime Minden resident and club manager, Leo Elshout.

The tournament features a \$350 entry fee with two person teams.

The tournament format will feature scramble play on Saturday, before switching to better ball on championship Sunday.

This year, first place in each flight will receive \$1,000.

Additionally, participants will have the chance to win a whopping \$10,000 for making a hole-in-one

during the tournament. Also, keep an eye out for other on-course activities and surprises.

Breakfast and Lunch will be served Saturday and Sunday, with Dinner and other festivities included on Saturday night.

For those looking to get involved in a sponsorship role, \$100 dollar hole sponsorships are available.

For additional information or to register for the tournament, visit [pinehillscminden.com](http://pinehillscminden.com).

Entry forms are also available at the clubhouse in the 19th hole, or call James Hodges at (318)789-3309.

This year's field will be limited to 54 teams, so act fast if you wish to be a part of this year's Memorial Classic

## LOUISIANA OUTDOORS

# Flooded with memories of a special brother

We buried my little brother Saturday. When my nephew informed me of his death in the middle of the night last week, I was flooded with emotions. I felt an immediate sense of loss and regret tempered with a measure of relief. Tom has been moving ever closer to death's door for the past several months. Finally the door swung open and Tom was ushered in. The relief I felt was because his body would no longer be wracked by the ravages of the condition that eventually claimed his life. Even so, losing my brother hurt.

We go back three-quarters of a century. Born to a mom and dad, short on resources but rich in family values, he and I grew up simply. I was the oldest so my hand-me-downs went to him. We didn't have much in the way of "things and stuff" but the way we were raised, we didn't feel short-

changed. I never remember feeling less fortunate than the other kids because the shirts he and I wore to school were made by our mom out of material she bought at Milam's store in Winnfield. She could work magic with her old foot-operated Singer sewing machine, needle and thread.

Tom and I were fortunate to have two first cousins growing up on the hill just across our uncle Sam Brewton's pasture from us. Our dads were brothers; uncle Walter's two boys, Doug and Sambo, were like brothers to Tom and me. We were stair-steps; I was the oldest; Doug one year younger than me; Tom a year younger than Doug with Sambo a year younger than Tom.

Tom's death has brought a flood of memories that seem so much

more important now that he's gone. One memory brings a chuckle — he, Doug, Sambo and I had a spot down on Molido creek we claimed as our own.

There was a swimming hole where the water ran cold and clear located in a bend of the creek with a high clay bank on the outside bend. One night the four of us had set out hooks for catfish and were spending the night there on the creek bank.

With the hooks out and baited, we settled down on blankets for the night. Sometime in the middle of the night, Sambo decided we needed to go run our hooks. I was sound asleep, jumped up and still stuporous, began walking toward the creek.

When Tom got the least bit excited, he

would stutter and stammer and as he saw me walking toward the bluff bank, he tried to warn me. All I heard was "GL...GL..." before kersplash; I stepped off the bluff in the dark and into the cold water below. The other three had a good laugh; I had to contend with spending the rest of the night soaked to the skin.

Years passed, we grew up and ventured out into lives of our own. Half a dozen or so years ago, cousin Doug offered a suggestion that the other three of us jumped at. He has a nice pond near his Goldonna home and invited us for a get-together to catch, clean and cook fish, sit under the shade and relish old memories. This initial gathering has been followed every year since and it has become one of my year's highlights. We're meeting there again soon but it won't be the same without my brother.

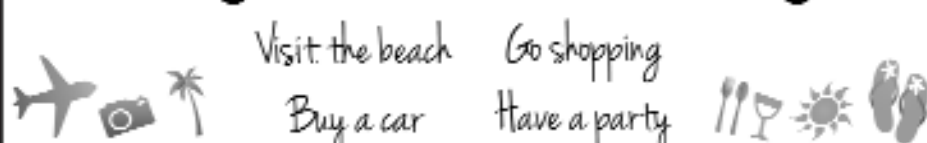
er. Tom and I were beneficiaries of a mom who loved birds and taught us to identify those that visited our yards. In his adult life, Tom became an expert at bird identification and often conducted birding tours.

This time of year, I am always on the lookout for a rose breasted grosbeak, a stunningly beautiful bird that makes a brief appearance on our feeders each spring.

I had not seen a grosbeak thus far this year but on the morning of Tom's death, I looked out at the feeder and there sat a gorgeous male, black back, white under parts and crimson bib. It was as if Tom had sent me a final farewell message. I love you and miss you brother. Thanks for your parting gift.

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# Fox calling an end to 'American Idol'

Fox is lowering the curtain on "American Idol," ending a series that dominated television throughout the 2000s and made stars of the likes of Simon Cowell, Kelly Clarkson and Carrie Underwood.

The network announced Monday that "American Idol" will go off the air after its 15th and final season next spring. The cast from the past few seasons, with Ryan Seacrest as host and Jennifer Lopez, Keith Urban and Harry Connick Jr. as judges, will return for a season-long celebration of the show's history.

"It was not an easy decision.' American Idol' has been such a vital part of Fox for its run," said Gary Newman, Fox Television Group co-chairman and CEO. He promised a season-long celebration that matches the show's significance, with the suggestion that its big-name contestants and past judges may be involved.

"American Idol" faded over the past few years, eclipsed in the music competition genre it pioneered by NBC's "The Voice." Personnel changes didn't help, and neither did tinkering with the format, as the show fell victim to what usually kills off most television series — old age. Still, it was a solid performer for a Fox network that struggles in the ratings.

Dana Walden, co-chairman and CEO of the Fox Television Group, described it as a "pretty emotional decision" to end "American Idol."

Fox and the show's producers were discussing how the series would con-



tinue, but ultimately "we all arrived at the conclusion that it was time to bring the show to an end," said Newman. "But we wanted to do it in a way that was special and celebratory."

"Idol" was a quick hit, with fans following contestants who sought the prized "yellow ticket" to Hollywood and a chance at stardom. In the early years, "American Idol" also showed many of the cringe-worthy auditions of contestants with no hope of winning, but has generally resisted those recently.

Simon Cowell, the Brit

with a tart tongue and honest assessments, became a star as judge, along with his fellow originals, Paula Abdul and Randy Jackson.

The big-voiced Clarkson became a major pop star after winning "Idol," and Underwood is a solid performer on the country charts. Personalities like Adam Lambert and Clay Aiken also became household names after competing on "Idol."

"'American Idol' has been a big part of my life for so long, it's frankly hard to imagine it without it," said Seacrest, who was co-

host of the show with Brian Dunkleman on the first season, and solo host for all the others. "It's been a remarkable journey, and I feel very fortunate to have been part of a show that made television history in countless ways. It's a show about chasing and fulfilling dreams and, truth be told, it helped some of my own dreams come true, too."

Walden said there are no specific plans yet, but that several former contestants and judges have already expressed "a lot of enthusiasm" for coming back and celebrating the

show's legacy in its final year.

"We're going to deliver a really special season next year," Newman said.

The series averaged 12.69 million viewers during its initial run in 2002, but exploded quickly thereafter, reaching a peak average of more than 30 million viewers each episode in 2006, according to the Nielsen company. It continued averaging more than 20 million viewers an episode through the 2011 season, when its deteriorating popularity accelerated.

Its star at Fox was

eclipsed this season by the music-based soap opera "Empire," which will launch its second season in the fall. So far this year, "American Idol" is averaging 9.15 million viewers per episode, Nielsen said.

The show will run in a similar format next season as it has this year, airing Wednesday and Thursday nights starting in January for the beginning stages, then once a week on Thursday for the second part of the season, Fox said.

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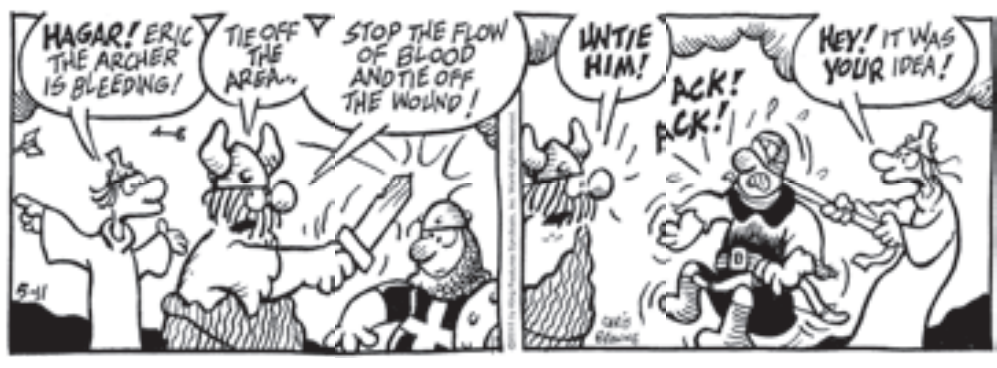
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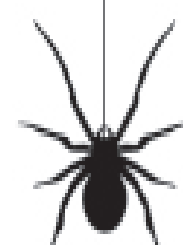
#### **SHIH-TZU PUP- PIES** pup shots,

vet checked, par-

ents on site, 3 male

1 female, \$300

each. 268-9951



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J Z K U N W K N G L M Z N X Y Q Y B M L  
E W K L J D Q H Z D U R Z G T U , N X Y  
G H A H B K Y J T G W J Y J Q W R N Y Q

U X Z D N Y B “ G Y W A Y E Y M Y W B ! ”  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SANDWICH SHOP  
EMPLOYEES WHO ALWAYS BUG YOU BY  
MAKING UNSOLICITED SALES CALLS: DELI-  
MARKETERS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals T

CROSSWORD

<b>ACROSS</b>	<b>37</b> Talk-show group	<b>DOWN</b>	<b>16</b> Trench
<b>1</b> Polygraph finds	<b>38</b> Mexican entree	<b>1</b> Part of UNLV	<b>20</b> Knocks
<b>5</b> Jewel	<b>41</b> Cribbage scorer	<b>2</b> Hostel	<b>21</b> Mulligan, e.g.
<b>8</b> Emoji	<b>42</b> PC symbol	<b>3</b> Greek vowel	<b>22</b> Gardener, at times
<b>12</b> Against	<b>43</b> Hide seekers	<b>4</b> Gas thief's device	<b>23</b> Killer whale
<b>13</b> Floral neck-wear	<b>48</b> Gaelic	<b>5</b> Merri-ment	<b>24</b> Loud sound
<b>14</b> Winter forecast	<b>49</b> Charged bit	<b>6</b> Always, in verse	<b>26</b> Wild
<b>15</b> Yellowtail fish	<b>50</b> Nastase of tennis lore	<b>7</b> Slip-ups at the poker table	<b>27</b> Still
<b>17</b> Roll call reply	<b>51</b> What-ever's left over	<b>8</b> One of the black keys	<b>28</b> Get up
<b>18</b> Hasten	<b>52</b> NCIS network	<b>9</b> From the beginning	<b>29</b> Cachet
<b>19</b> Chest compo-nent	<b>53</b> North Sea feeder	<b>10</b> Heart	<b>31</b> October stone
<b>21</b> Fire		<b>11</b> Basin acces-sory	<b>34</b> Pluto, once
<b>24</b> Bruin			<b>35</b> Heckle or Jeckle
<b>25</b> Ripped			<b>37</b> Energy
<b>26</b> Fun-loving women of the 1920s			<b>38</b> Layer
<b>30</b> Common Mkt.			<b>39</b> Farm fraction
<b>31</b> One-on-one exams			<b>40</b> Rolling stone's lack
<b>32</b> Compete			<b>41</b> Cook-ware
<b>33</b> Cover-ings			<b>44</b> Plagiarize
<b>35</b> Arizona city			<b>45</b> Right angle
<b>36</b> Kegler's pathway			<b>46</b> Cage compo-nent
			<b>47</b> Get a glimpse of

Solution time: 22 mins.

A	W	E		S	H	O	N	E		P	V	C		
S	H	E		T	O	N	A	L		L	I	E		
H	O	L	L	Y	W	O	O	D		A	I	D		
				I	L	L		M	E	A	N	I	E	
T	A	I	P	E	I		T	S	N	T				
E	L	F		S	N	L		T	I	F	F	S		
D	U	E	S		G	O	T		S	O	O	N		
S	M	E	L	T		G	E	E		O	B	I		
				L	I	A	R		A	M	I	D	S	T
B	I	G	T	O	E		C	B	S					
A	D	O		I	N	T	H	E	M	O	O	D		
L	E	O		S	E	W	E	R		D	U	O		
D	A	D		T	E	A	R	S		E	R	R		

Yesterday's answer 5-12

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15				16					17			
			18				19	20				
21	22	23				24						
25					26				27	28	29	
30				31					32			
33			34						35			
			36					37				
38	39	40					41					
42					43	44				45	46	47
48					49				50			
51					52				53			

IT PAYS

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