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**TUESDAY**



**INSIDE**  
*today*



Jindal tax plan temporarily stalls, but revived

**NEWS PG.3**



J.L. Jones students of the month

**LIFE PG.5**



What creates jobs

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**WEATHER**

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK



**86** **63**  
**HIGH** **LOW**

Partly cloudy. A stray shower or thunderstorm is possible. Winds SSE at 5 to 10 mph.

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Vol. 46 No. 218



## PUBLIC WORKS

# Water project moving forward

**MICHELLE BATES**  
michelle@press-herald.com

A project years in the making is finally getting a start.

The ground water storage tank project has finally gotten some funding for engineering services. Paid for by the Louisiana Community Development Block Grant, the project has been needed for a long

time, says Mayor Tommy Davis.

"We've already done some engineering work on (the project)," he said. "We know what it would take to get it; it's just a matter of funding now."

The city council adopted a resolution for the citizen participation plan for the LCDBG program, which will allow Davis to begin applying for grants

this grant cycle towards the water storage tank project.

The storage tank would not be situated on stilts or legs, like the overhead water storage tanks on Broadway and at the Germantown Fire Depart-



**DAVIS**

ment. It would be a tank that sits on the ground. Davis says water weighs about eight pounds per gallon, and with two million gallons of water in the storage tank, that's a lot of weight.

The new tank, which will have the capacity to hold two million gallons, will be behind the water treatment plant.

With two water tanks

that hold a combined 750,000 gallons of water at any given time, why the extra storage space?

"When Tommy's Tire caught on fire on East Union Street, the water department had as many pumps on the wells going, but our water storage was steadily coming down," he said. "It would give us a lot

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'LORD, HEAR OUR CRY'

# DAY OF PRAYER PROCLAIMED



Minden Mayor Tommy Davis presents the certificate of the proclamation of the National Day of Prayer, which is Thursday, May 7. A service will be at noon in the sanctuary of First Baptist Church of Minden. Jordan Wilson/Press-Herald

## National Day of Prayer May 7

### STAFF REPORTS

The National Day of Prayer will be from noon until 1 p.m. at First Baptist Church of Minden in the church sanctuary.

"Lord, hear our cry," is the theme of the 2015 National Day of Prayer Task Force.

"This is a community-wide event," said the Rev. Leland Crawford, pastor of FBC Minden, and invites, "everyone who can and who will to join in this special time of praying for our community, state and nation."

Joining Crawford leading in prayer will be the Rev. Robert Whitaker of Victory Praise and Worship Center, the Rev. Brian Mercer, pastor of First United Methodist Church and the Rev. Jim Crain, pastor of Calvary Missionary Baptist Church.

"The National Day of Prayer is a vital part of our heritage," Shirley Dobson, chairman of the National Day of Prayer Task Force since 1991 and board member of Focus on the Family, said. "Since the first call to prayer in 1775, when the Continental Congress asked the

colonies to pray for wisdom in forming a nation, the call to prayer has continued through our history, including President Lincoln's proclamation of a day of 'humiliation, fasting and prayer' in 1863."

In 1952, President Harry S. Truman signed into law a joint resolution unanimously passed by Congress making the National Day of Prayer an annual observance. In 1988, President Ronald Reagan amended and signed into law that the National Day of Prayer will be observed annually the first Thursday in May.

"We have lost many of our freedoms in America because we have been asleep," Dobson said. "I feel if we do not become involved and support the annual National Day of Prayer, we could end up forfeiting this freedom too."

The task force's mission is "to mobilize the Christian community to intercede for America's leaders and its families... representing a Judeo-Christian expression of the national observance, based on our understand-

See **PRAYER**, Page 2

## MINDEN CRIME

# Minden man arrested for open container

*Police allegedly find testosterone in vehicle*

**MICHELLE BATES**  
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A Minden man was arrested after police allegedly found testosterone and an open container in his vehicle.

Preston Lane Cockrell, 22, of the 1400 block of Lewisville Road, was arrested Saturday, May 2, and charged with possession of Schedule III CDS (testosterone), open container, and a warrant through the Minden Police Department. Bond totaled \$11,425.

According to reports, Officer Chris Hamontree initiated a traffic stop on a vehicle reportedly driving a vehicle at night without its passenger side headlight.

During the stop, Hamontree noticed the smell of alcoholic impurities on his person, reports indicate, and Cockrell reportedly told the officer he had an open alcoholic container in his vehicle.

Hamontree searched the vehicle and it revealed six syringes and six vials with a yellowish liquid inside. Cockrell allegedly told police it was testosterone. Also found during the search was an open beer can.

Cockrell was arrested and booked on the above charges. He was transported to Bayou Dorcheat Correctional Center.



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# SECOND FRONT

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## CRIME

# Sibley man arrested in prostitution sting

### STAFF REPORTS

A Sibley man is among 10 that were arrested last week for prostitution, solicitation of prostitution and pandering April 29 as part of a two-day joint operation with area law enforcement agencies April 29-30.

Alec Thornton, 25, was arrested for solicitation of prostitution.

The Bossier Sheriff-Police Narcotics Task Force

was assisted by the Shreveport Police Department vice unit, Federal Bureau of Investigation human trafficking task force and Louisiana State Police to combine local, state and federal agencies to combat these types of crimes.

During the arrests, agents seized \$982 and four grams of marijuana. On April 30, the Shreveport Police vice unit, along with the other law enforcement agencies, continued the operation in Caddo Parish.

During the two-day joint operation, a total of 23 arrests were made – 10 in Bossier Parish and 13 in Caddo Parish.

Along with Thornton, the following were arrested:

- Morgan Crain, 22, of Shreveport. She was charged with prostitution.
- Vonetta Morris, 30, of Arkansas. Charged with prostitution and possession of marijuana.
- Devante Ward, 23, of Arkansas. Charged with

pandering, possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia.

- Tahessia Brannon, 21, of Arkansas. Charged with prostitution.
- Kazetta Taylor, 29, of Arkansas. Charged with prostitution.
- Rodney Hill Jr. 37, of Bossier City. Charged with solicitation of prostitution.
- Christopher House, 27, of Shreveport. Charged with solicitation of prostitution.
- Corwin Jones, 27, of

Shreveport. Charged with solicitation of prostitution.

■ Harold Brown Jr., 46, of Arkansas. Charged with solicitation of prostitution.

“Prostitution is associated with illegal drug use and dealing, and pimps often prey on young ladies to exploit them for their financial gain,” Bossier Parish Sheriff Julian Whittington said. “The unfortunate truth is that some young ladies were sexually abused as children. With many of our other criminal

activity, such as batteries to sexual assault, and even homicide, the crimes of prostitution, sexual exploitation and human trafficking are also involved. Prostitution is not a victimless crime.”

The Bossier Sheriff-Police Narcotics Task Force comprises deputies with the Bossier Parish Sheriff’s Office and officers with the Bossier City Police Department.

## LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE

# Louisiana Senate passes bill allowing medical marijuana

**BRIAN SLODYSKO**  
Associated Press

BATON ROUGE — Roughly a year after a medical marijuana bill was shot down in committee, the Louisiana Senate on Monday passed a similar proposal that could get medical-grade pot to those suffering from cancer, glaucoma and a severe form of cerebral palsy.

The bill sponsored by Sen. Fred Mills, R-Parks, passed on a 22-13 vote, sending it to the House for debate. The measure moved on despite concern from some lawmakers that medical marijuana could

be abused.

During floor debate, Mills said his bill hits “the sweet spot between patient care and law enforcement.”

As written, Mills’ proposal would have tight controls on the use and distribution of the drug. Only 10 pharmacies in the state could fill prescriptions. The Department of Agriculture and Forestry would oversee the state’s sole cultivation facility, and patients prescribed



MILLS

the drug would be closely monitored.

Another major provision specifies that the plant cannot be smoked. Patients could consume only refined forms of marijuana such as oil, said Mills, who is a pharmacist.

Last year Mills brought a similar bill, but it was defeated in committee after drawing opposition from law enforcement. That changed this year, after Mills worked with the Louisiana Sheriffs’ Association to draft the bill.

The Louisiana District Attorney Association remains opposed to the bill, said Pete Adams, the group’s executive director.

“Quite frankly, there is no scientific evidence that medical marijuana is actually effective,” said Adams. He said he believes medical marijuana laws are a step toward the legalization of marijuana.

No one spoke in opposition to the bill during Monday’s Senate debate.

In committee, the bill drew heat from Sen. Dan Claitor, R-Baton Rouge, who said he didn’t want Louisiana’s law to be a sham law like in California where anyone can “walk in the door” to get medical marijuana. On the floor, however, Claitor ended up voting for the bill.



Roughly a year after a medical marijuana bill was shot down in committee, the Louisiana Senate on Monday passed a similar proposal that could get medical-grade pot to those suffering from cancer, glaucoma and a severe form of cerebral palsy. Courtesy Photo

## PRAYER

*Continued from page 1*

ing that this country was birthed in prayer and in reference for the God of the Bible.”

Honorary chairman of the 2015 National Day of Prayer task force is Dr. Jack Graham, pastor of Prestonwood Baptist Church in Plano, Texas, and PowerPoint Ministries radio and television broadcast ministry.

In his latest post on the NationalDayofPrayer.org website, Dr. Graham writes, “Our world is in turmoil...unstable...full of pressures and uncertainties. Problems can seem so overwhelming we wonder if there are any answers to the needs, to the troubles, to the tribulations we face. But there is an answer. And that answer can be found in prayer.”

Graham has also written a special prayer for this year’s event, which can be viewed on the website, <http://nationaldayofprayer.org/national-prayer/>

Crawford also agrees there is concern just how close to home the threat to our freedoms has come in just the last year. He shares an excerpt from an article he recently read about a

pastor in Australia who is calling for prayer and fasting for the United States.

Warwick Marsh, who is the Australian coordinator wrote on April 14, “The team behind Australia’s National Day of Prayer and Fasting with other prayer leaders are calling the nations of the world to prayer and fasting for seven days for (the) USA.

“Alison Jessup, from Australia, said, ‘We in Australia believe it is our turn to bless the nation of America and pray for healing for the USA through prayer and fasting according to 2 Chronicles 7:14,’” Marsh continues. “We in Australia are grateful for the protection that America gave Australia and the nations of the free world during World War II. The 1942 Battle of the Coral Sea, led by the USA, was the turning point in the Second World War for Australia.”

“We are calling the nations of the world to join in prayer and fasting with our brothers and sisters in Christ in the USA,” said Pastor Matt Prater, of Australia. “Last year, we had people from over 40 nations join with us. This year, we are believing for over 100 nations to join us in prayer and fasting for the USA.”

“While I am saddened at the bankrupt spiritual state of my nation, I am thankful to God that He has laid it on the heart of Christian brothers and sisters around the world to pray for the USA,” Crawford said. “I believe there is hope for us as long as God has laid it on the hearts of others to pray for us. I hope that our own citizens will join with others around the world to pray for this great nation. We need to make no mistake about this – the greatness of our nation is under attack because the God of our nation is under attack. Come join us at noon on May 7, for the National Day of Prayer. May God bless America.”

A light lunch will be served in the reception room after the time of prayer. For more information, call the church office at 377-4434.

“If My people who are called by My name will humble themselves, and pray and seek My face, and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heave, and will forgive their sin and heal their land.” 2 Chronicles 7:14 NKJV

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## LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE

# Jindal tax plan temporarily stalls, but revived

**MELINDA DESLATTE**  
Associated Press

BATON ROUGE — A key piece of Gov. Bobby Jindal's proposal to balance next year's budget sputtered briefly in the House tax committee, which initially rejected the tax plan Monday only to revive it within hours and pass it.

The proposal to scale back a tax credit for companies that pay local property taxes on their inventory could save the state hundreds of millions of dollars each year. But it faces strong opposition from business groups that call it a multimillion-dollar tax hike on companies ranging from local car dealerships to large chemical manufacturers.

The pro-business arguments initially appeared to sway the House Ways and Means Committee, which voted 9-7 against the measure by Rep. Bryan Adams, R-Gretna.

But after a recess and behind-the-scenes negotiation by Committee Chairman Joel Robideaux, the committee returned and

changed course. Lawmakers then voted 9-8 to advance the bill to the full House. The committee also approved a similar bill by Rep. Julie Stokes, R-Kenner, with a 13-3 vote.

Robideaux, R-Lafayette, has been urging the committee to move bills to the House floor as legislative leaders continue closed-door talks about how to balance next year's budget and close a \$1.6 billion gap without devastating colleges and health services.

"We are giving the entire body the ability to debate the bills. We are not committing to vote 'yes' or 'no' on the floor," Robideaux said to explain the votes. "We want as many of these bills on the floor so that we can consider everything."

The legislative session must end by June 11, and lawmakers have yet to come up with a plan to close next year's shortfall. If lawmakers don't agree with Jindal's approach, they have to find another way to raise money — or they have to deeply cut state spending.

If deep cuts must be



**A key piece of Gov. Bobby Jindal's proposal to balance next year's budget sputtered briefly in the House tax committee, which initially rejected the tax plan Monday only to revive it within hours and pass it.** Courtesy Photo

made, public colleges and health care services for the poor, elderly and disabled are the most vulnerable. That's because those are the least protected areas of the budget.

Higher education leaders encouraged passage of Adams' bill.

"We want as many

options on the table as possible," said LSU System President F. King Alexander.

Urgency — and uncertainty — appeared to spur the approvals, as lawmakers search for ways to close the budget gap and meet the strict limits of what Jindal will consider as a budg-

et-balancing solution.

Stokes said while the Ways and Means Committee has approved a lot of ideas, "Quite frankly, we don't have a solution at all."

Adams warned the committee: "The clock's ticking, and we're running out of time here."

Business groups favor a repeal of the entire property tax on inventory, so the state would no longer pay for the tax break and companies would no longer pay the tax. But that would hit local governments that rely on the tax revenue to pay for police, firefighters and schools.

## Briefs from the Louisiana Legislature's regular session

BATON ROUGE — Many of Louisiana's election dates would be shifted, if the Senate agrees to a proposal that won support Monday from the House.

The bill (House Bill 591)

by Rep. Chris Broadwater, R-Hammond, would move the election date a week earlier for regularly-scheduled state primary elections, but not for congressional and presidential pri-

maries. The general election dates for some municipal elections also would be moved up a week.

The candidate sign-up period also would shift a month earlier for regular elections, except for the presidential primary.

Secretary of State Tom Schedler has sought changes to the elections calendar, saying some of the timelines are so tight

that it makes it difficult to account for candidate dropouts and required changes to the ballot.

A 61-28 vote of the House sent Broadwater's bill to the Senate for debate.

Both the House and Senate have passed bills that would change the terms used to describe sexual assault crimes.

Authorities currently use "simple rape," "forcible rape" and "aggravated rape" to describe the varying degrees of sexual assault charges. Under proposals backed by each chamber, those terms would be changed to third-degree rape, second-degree rape and first-degree rape.

The House-backed proposal (House Bill 139) by

Rep. Valarie Hodges, R-Denham Springs, was approved in 98-0 vote and awaits debate in the Senate. The Senate voted 36-0 Monday for its own version (Senate Bill 117) by Sen. Gary Smith, D-Norco, sending it to the House for consideration.

A bill will have to get through both chambers before heading to the governor's desk.

## CITY

*Continued from page 1*

of capacity."

If a fire happened during an outage, water would be depleted quickly, he says. In discussing the fire at Tommy's Tire, he says, had it lasted much longer, the city would have been

out of water.

In the height of the summer, water customers will use approximately four million gallons of water per day, Davis says.

Even though there is an underground water storage tank at the treatment plant, it's still not enough storage, and the water has to be treated.

This is a long-term proj-

ect, something that's been "on our radar" for a while, Davis says. It goes back to the days of the late Mayor Bill Robertson.

"Bill Robertson talked about this years ago," Davis said. "He talked about the need for this, and every year we've tried to get a little funding. We got enough funding to get the engineering done, but

we've got wait until we get some more funding."

The entire cost of the project will cost about \$2 million to \$3 million. The cost of the engineering services is about \$200,000, says Public Works Director George Rolfe, and the city has been approved for its use.

## School Board Meeting

The Webster Parish School Board will meet at 6 p.m. in the board meeting room at Central Office, today. The regularly scheduled meeting was moved from Monday, May 4, to the next day due to schedule conflicts.

## GEE Retesting


High School GEE (Graduation Exit Examination) Retest will be administered at the Webster Parish School Board Office from May 18 through 29. Anyone that needs to retake parts of the GEE should contact Mary Copeland at the Webster Parish School Board office, 377-7052, before May 13 to make an appointment for testing.

## BIRTHDAYS FOR TUESDAY, MAY 6, 2015

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# OPINION

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PERSPECTIVE

## What creates jobs

I took a camera to Times Square this week and asked people, "What creates jobs?" Most had no answer.

One said, "stimulus!" What? Government creates jobs? No! I suppose it's natural that people think government creates jobs because politicians always say that.

"We've now created more than 10 million," said President Obama. But that just meant that he took office at the start of the recession, and finally job creation resumed.

He didn't cause that. In fact, his taxes and complex regulation slowed job creation.

His 2012 presidential election rival, Mitt Romney, was a little more free-market-oriented, but he sounded like Obama when he talked about jobs. He had "a plan" to add 12 million. Don't assume his plan was just to get government out of the way of the private sector — Romney said it's a bad idea to cut government spending during a recession.

FDR's New Deal was the dawn of belief that jobs flow from government. FDR didn't seem to care whether jobs people did were productive or sustainable. He just wanted something done about the "armies" of unemployed. If they weren't given jobs, they might become a real army and revolt.

Now that government has lots of power, people look to it to create jobs. Communist countries had five-year plans. They didn't work.

That's because jobs come from government getting out of the way and letting employers produce goods. Every new layer of regulations sounds nice — protecting the environment, providing more health care, forbidding discrimination against disabled people — but most rules do more harm than good.

Humans have needs and desires. Entrepreneurs see those needs as opportunity. They hire people not out of generosity or because government told them to — but because it's profitable to employ people if they produce valuable goods. If it's not profitable, that means those people would be better employed doing something else. The prices customers are willing to pay and the wages workers accept are the best indication of which jobs can be done profitably and therefore ought to be done. But politicians don't trust business owners to make those decisions. Some also resent it if entrepreneurs succeed without kissing the politicians' ring.

President Obama famously said, "If you've got a business, you didn't build that. Somebody else made that happen."

I'd think Hillary Clinton would have learned from the outcry that followed, but no — she then said, "Don't let anybody tell you that it's corporations and businesses that create jobs!" That old theory, trickle-down economics, has been tried. That has failed.

People need jobs, and millions find dignity in work, but not from jobs that others are forced to provide. People want to be genuinely useful. They don't just want to go through the motions.

More and more, Americans want jobs that have meaning and "purpose," says John Havens, author of "Hacking Happiness." "Purpose" usually means creating actual wealth.

Governments talk about five-year plans and false guarantees of stability, but truly futuristic thinking happens when governments leave people free to explore, innovate and profit. If the politicians don't screw that up, that process will create jobs we haven't even imagined yet.

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



**JOHN STOSSEL**

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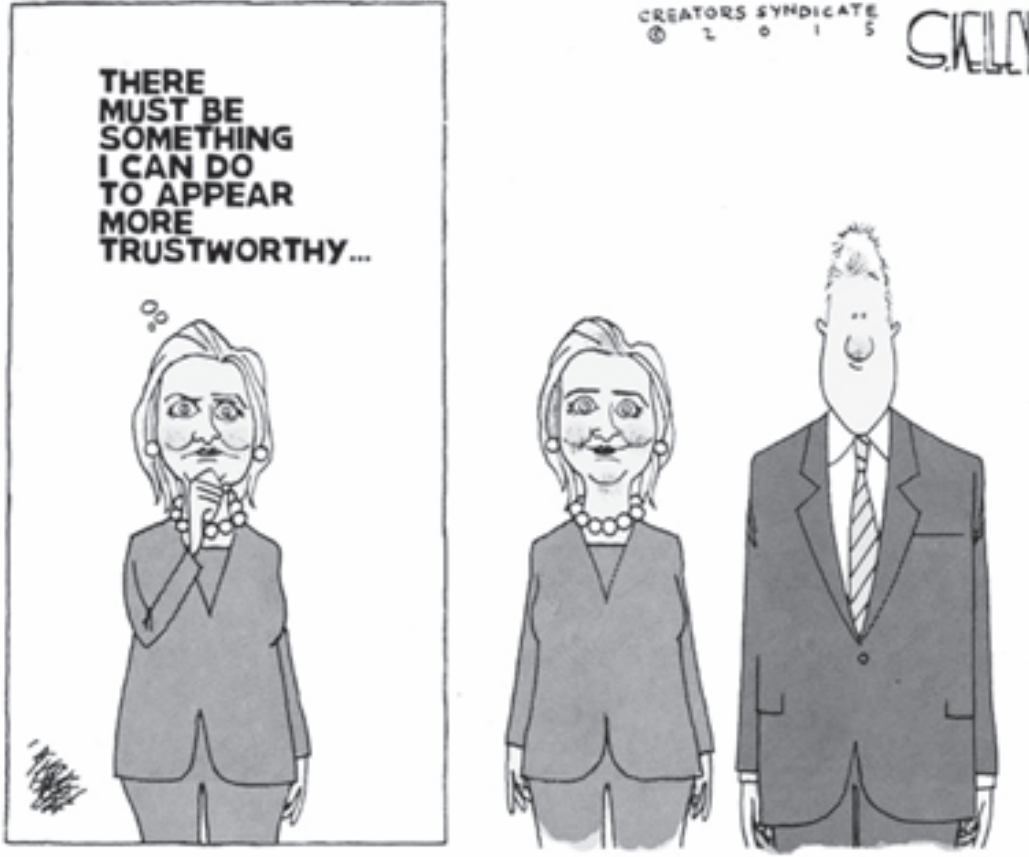
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EDITORIAL ROUND UP

## From green to red on traffic cameras

*Telegraph Herald. May 3, 2015.*

Are traffic cameras at intersections a valuable safety tool to deter red-light violators, or are they simply a means for governments to rake in easy cash from fines?

Though safety is the primary reason government gives when red-light cameras are installed, studies are showing that intersections are not safer -- one type of collision is replaced by another. Increasingly, these cameras seem to be more about the revenue from fines paid on computer-generated traffic tickets.

Let's give red-light cameras a red light.

Our opinion represents a reversal from three years ago, when we endorsed the City of Dubuque proposal to install the cameras. In our view, they were necessary for safety — a way to combat (and penalize) drivers who dangerously and carelessly blow through intersections despite a stoplight glowing red.

Even while endorsing the lights, we did reflect concerns about the motivations. "The city should not view this as a revenue opportunity with improving traffic safety as a positive side-effect," we stated in an August 2012 editorial. "Officials must approach this from a safety standpoint first — as a tool to help enforce traffic laws, and establish parameters such that the revenue generated is enough to cover the costs involved."

At the time, the Dubuque City Council was in the throes of community study and debate on the issue. At the council's request, Police Chief Mark Dalsing studied the question and presented a recommendation for using the cameras as a safety meas-

ure. Some citizens were vocal in their objection, saying it was nothing more than a ploy for more revenue, unfair and even an infringement on personal liberties.

Meanwhile, in other areas of the state and nation, the legality and legitimacy of the cameras was being questioned and challenged. For those reasons, Dubuque council members shelved the idea, suggesting they would bring it back. "I don't know if this will come back in a year or a month," Council Member Karla Braig said at the time, "but I do know this will come back."

Well, three years later, it hasn't come back. And that's a good thing.

There are now many more facts in evidence about traffic cameras.

Viewing cameras as a tool strictly to increase safety and not a means to raise revenue seems a bit naive. It is clearer that red-light cameras are primarily a money-making endeavor. Yes, in some cases they have had a positive influence on safety. But in other cases, the number of accidents at an intersection with red-light cameras went up. In some cases, the speed cameras had no impact on slowing down traffic.

A year after the City of Dubuque tabled its plan to pursue a contract with Redflex Traffic Systems, the City of Chicago, which has the nation's biggest camera program, dropped its contract with Redflex after the vendor was found to have acted unethically, including lavish gifts on a city transportation official overseeing the camera program.

The Chicago Tribune commissioned a first-ever scientific study and last December reported that "T-bone" collisions — the typical crash when a red-light violation is

involved — decreased by 15 percent. However, rear-end crashes — often due to a driver slamming on the brakes to honor a red light, to the surprise of the driver right behind — increased by 22 percent. (Only injury accidents were part of these calculations.)

"The biggest takeaway is that, overall, (the red-light program) seems to have had little effect," Dominique Lord, of Texas A&M University, the lead researcher on the Tribune project, told the newspaper.

Meanwhile, class-action lawsuits are pending in multiple states over the constitutionality of traffic-enforcement cameras. The Iowa Department of Transportation has ordered about one-third of the cameras in the state to be removed. The Illinois House recently approved a bill restricting their use.

Opposition to red-light cameras is not an open invitation for drivers to break the law, increasing the risks of injury or death in intersections. Indeed, we'd like to see more enforcement of red-light violations, as police resources allow.

Though it is clear that, at the time, Dubuque officials wanted to install the cameras for all the right reasons, it is also clear that city government dodged a big pothole by shelving the issue. Letting the idea simmer proved prescient. Plus, the delay gave our Editorial Board the opportunity to watch the issue play out, do further research, and change our opinion from green to red.

PERSPECTIVE

## Never again

Never again! Never again! How many times have I said that?

It's been at least three or four times; every time I finished with a garage sale. And I'm about ready to announce it one more time.

Why does it always seem so appealing to just plan a little sale to get rid of lots of the stuff that you want to move? It's too good to haul to the dump, but there's no room for it in my house and, too, I don't need it anymore.

For the past few years, I've just carried it to a drop off point for some organization, thinking they could probably use it in their fund-raising efforts.

Not this time though. I again thought I could make a few dollars by passing it along to someone else who might want it.

My son asked me, "Why do you want to have a garage sale? Just take it to the dump."

I merely laughed and told him I needed to sell it so I could go and buy more junk. (Maybe partially true.)

He, along with Hubby, probably thought that was about what I had planned.

I've only held a few sales before, not more than four. After it was all over and some time had passed, I seemed to have forgotten how much work it is to prepare for such an event.

But, over the years as we discarded things too good to throw away, the idea began to take hold again. This year, in addition to some things I've given up in our house, we also had loads of stuff from our travel trailer that we had to move. To get the trailer ready for sale, we had to unload years worth of accumulations.

Where do you put all that stuff? No room in the storage building, as it has, over the years, become a repository for un-needed things. We even took things out of there. No room in the house as I'm constantly trying to pare down. What do I do with it?

There's only one obvious answer. Sell it.

We just hope there are lots of people out there who enjoy shopping at garage sales. I know many people must enjoy them because they are so common in this area. Every week there are lots of sales advertised in the newspapers.

I've been blessed with good weather during these prior sales, but I just began to think, what if it's raining? You work all week getting it ready, place your ad in the paper, and put up signs. Then what? Pray for sunshine?

Probably no one would chance browsing in all that stuff if it rained. Then what would I do with it?

Most likely what I should have done to begin with--haul it off.

But for now, my plans are to plow ahead, set it up and hope lots of buyers show up to take it off my hands.

Heck, I might even decide I'd pay someone to move it.

And then for sure, you could hear me say, Never Again!

And mean it this time.

Fannie Moore is a journalist who lives in Shongaloo where she enjoys writing on a variety of subjects.



**FANNIE MOORE**

## Give us your two cents!

Send your Letter to the Editor to [bruce@press-herald.com](mailto:bruce@press-herald.com) or mail them to Editor, 203 Gleason St., Minden, La. 71055.



## EDUCATION

# Around Town

# Annual Freedom Fund Banquet

The Minden branch of the NAACP will have its Annual Freedom Fund Banquet at 6:30 p.m., May 8 at the Minden Civic Center. The keynote speaker will be the Rev. Dr. Earl Griggin Jr., presiding elder of Monroe District of the CME Church and former pastor of Mt. Zion CME in Minden. For ticket information, contact Tan Grigsby at 470-3364 or Sharon Wallace at 840-1165.

**Monday, May 11 - Wednesday, May 31**

Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church's annual youth revival will be 7 p.m. nightly. Guest evangelist will be the Rev. Thomas Ridley of St. Matthew Baptist Church of Ringgold.

**Monday, May 11 - Friday, May 15**

Jerusalem Baptist Church's spring revival services will be 7 p.m. nightly. Special guests will be the Rev. George Rice on Monday, the Rev. Ray D. Jiles Tuesday through Thursday and the Rev. Royal Scott Jr. on Friday.

**Monday, June 8 - Friday, July 31**

Saint Rest Baptist Church's "SMILE" program registration will be held on Saturday, May 9 from 9 until 11 a.m. For information on registration cost, call 318-465-1494 or 318-22-6184.



**J.L. Jones Elementary has announced their Students of the Month for March.**

Students of the Month for March. Pictured below, left, are second grade Students of the Month. Top row, from left, Holton Nelson, Connor Price, Jaliana Williams, LaTavia Williams, Makayla Boyce, Blake Gibson and Seth Miller. Bottom row, from left, Jordan Simmons, Jaxon Brazzel, Leigha Kennon-Gilbert, Rider Miller and Hadin Harrell

Pictured below, right are third grade Students of the Month. Top row, from left, Megan Johnson, Kristian White, Caleb Prichard, Elijah Haggard and Kaylin Tro-

Prichard, Elijah Haggard and Kaylin Troquille. Bottom row, from left, Landon Greer, Syrinity Coleman, Kaden Randle. Pictured left is overall Student of the Month, Holton Nelson.

**Not Pictured: Brooklyn Harris**  
Courtesy Photos



# Residents at LNHA Picnic



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# SPORTS

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## SPORTS briefs

### NBA

#### Bulls grab game 1 in Cleveland

CLEVELAND (AP) — The Chicago Bulls came in oozing with confidence, unafraid of LeBron James and convinced they could keep their playoff momentum rolling.

Derrick Rose made sure they did.

Looking like the league MVP he was before being slowed by knee injuries, Rose scored 25 points, Pau Gasol added 21 and the Bulls led from the start in a 99-92 victory over the short-handed Cleveland Cavaliers in Game 1 of the Eastern Conference semifinals on Monday night.

After all he's been through — surgeries, hours of rehab, uncertainty about his future — Rose, who has missed over 180 games the past four seasons, is savoring every moment back in the postseason.

"I just appreciate everything," he said, "getting back on the floor, my fans, every aspect of basketball. It's allowed me to change my life and my family's life. I owe so much to this sport. I'm just trying to roll with it."

Jimmy Butler added 20 points and banked in a contested jumper with 30 seconds left as the Bulls closed it out, silencing a roaring Cleveland crowd already worried about Game 2 on Wednesday night.

Kyrie Irving scored 30 points and James added 19 and 15 rebounds for Cleveland, playing its first game since Love — one of the Cavs' Big 3 — was lost for the remainder of the postseason with a shoulder injury.

"No excuses," Cavs coach David Blatt said.

James didn't offer any. "We all just have to play better," said James.

### NBA

#### Clippers steal game 1 in Houston

HOUSTON (AP) — The Los Angeles Clippers knew no one player could make up for Chris Paul's absence.

So they all chipped in to fill the void.

Blake Griffin had 26 points, 14 rebounds and 13 assists for his second straight triple-double to lead six double-digit scorers and lift the Clippers to a 117-101 victory over the Houston Rockets on Monday night in Game 1 of the Western Conference semifinals.

"Without Chris, everybody has to step up," Griffin said. "But it's not one person's job, it's everybody's job. And if you look at the stat sheet tonight, it was everybody."

Houston scored five straight points to cut the lead to one with about 7 1/2 minutes left. Matt Barnes got the Clippers going after that, making two 3-pointers in a 12-0 run that made it 101-88 3 minutes later, and the Clippers coasted to the victory.

## HIGH SCHOOL TRACK

# WARRIORS RUN TO STATE



*Special to the Press-Herald*

NATCHITOCHES - The Region 1-2A track meet at Northwestern State University proved to be a great day for Coach Dan Grantham's distance runners.

The trio of Alissa Lander, Cody Robinson, and Eric Greene each qualified in two events for the 2A State Championships at LSU.

Lander ran two personal bests on the day. She finished third in the 800, running a time of 2:29.64

which was seven seconds better than her previous best.

In the 3200, Lander posted a personal best of 11:59.58 by six seconds in easily winning the event. Both of those times are also new Lakeside track records.

For the Lakeside boys it was a 1-2 sweep in the 1600 and the 3200.

Eric Greene won the 1600 at 4:50.66 and the 3200 at 10:43.04. Cody Robinson placed second in the 1600 at 4:51.28 and second in the 3200 at 10:47.51.

Seniors Cayla McKinsey and Destine Joiner added points to the Lady Warriors.

McKinsey placed fifth in the 200 at 27.95. Joiner took fifth in the long jump at 14'11".

Joiner, McKinsey, and eighth-grader Kelly Willis ran on the fifth place 400 relay (53.84). Willis had a personal best javelin throw of 87'7".

Eighth-grader Yasmine Ferguson placed fourth in the pole vault clearing 6'0".

Seventh-grader Angelina Futch ran a personal best of 14:09 placing fifth in the 3200. She beat her former personal best by one minute.

Seniors Darryl Moore and Frankie Miles led the Warrior guys.

Moore soared to a personal best of 42'6" for fifth in the triple jump and jumped 21'1 1/2" for fifth in the long jump. Miles tossed the shot 43'10 1/2" for fourth and was fifth in the high jump at 5'10". DJ Harrison picked up sixth place in the javelin at 140'6".

Calvary scored 76 points in winning the 18 team men's championship.

Lakeside finished fifth with 45 points.

Menard won the 16 team women's title scoring 96 points.

Lakeside placed 7th with 27 points.

Lander, Robinson, and Greene will now participate in the 2A State Championship on Friday, May 8, in Baton Rouge at the LSU Track Complex.

In November, all three earned All-State Honors in Cross-Country with Lander winning the 2A three mile title.

#### Tide track concludes season

The Minden Crimson Tide track team recently concluded their season at the 1-4A Regional track meet at Benton High School.

The Tide did not qualify any of their runners for the state championships, as only the top three finishers in each event qualify for state.

The Lady Tiders were represented at Regionals by Brooke Ensminger and Sierra Murrell.

Ensminger participated in the 300 meter hurdles and 1600 relay, while Murrell was in the 400 meter dash and 1600 relay.

Phylessia Lewis and April Wright were also part of a young 1600 relay for most of the season.

The Tide guys were represented by freshman sprinter Patrick Heard.

Heard finished eighth with a fully automatic time of 11.30. Heard's best time of the season was a hand-timed 10.71 at the Warrior Relays in April.

With Heard and hurdler Antonio Revette returning next year, the Crimson Tide's track prospects are looking good for the future.

Sophomore sprinters Tavorius Edwards and Dontavious Elkins and junior Kenneth Francis will also return to anchor what will be an experienced relay team.

## WINNERS OF UCAP GOLF TOURNAMENT



The Richland State Bank UCAP Golf Tournament was recently held at Pine Hills Country Club. A great meal was catered by Hugh Wood and local band "No Name Drive" provided music after the supper. Championship Flight winners Eddie Seabaugh (left) and Cliff Gray shot an outstanding 121. In second place was Larry Willett and Teddy Brown with a 124 and closely behind in third place was Brian Grubbs and Lance McGuire with a score of 125. 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

# White River offers more than great fishing

I still can't quite figure out why Meridian, Mississippi's Mike Giles agreed to travel to the Media Event at Gaston's White River Resort in north Arkansas. The date for the media event occurred smack-dab in the middle of Mississippi's spring turkey season and Giles is one of those guys who, as they say, is "eat up" with turkey hunting.

Stepping out of his cabin at Gaston's early one morning a couple of weeks ago with daylight just beginning to erode the darkness, Giles did what he'd do if he was back home in the Mississippi woods. He stepped across the parking lot, faced a wooded hill to the north, cocked back his head, cupped his mouth and did a splendid rendition of a barred owl.... "Who cooks... Who cooks... Who cooks for YOU."

GGGGOOOOOOBBB-BLLLLLEE! Not one but two long beards shock-bled in response from their

roost trees back in the woods. Giles smiled, picked up his fishing rod and headed to meet his guide, satisfied that even if he was on the White River to fish, he managed to stay

connected with his favorite sport.

Fishing and fellowship with other outdoor writers, photographers and broadcasters and soaking up the hospitality afforded by Jim Gaston and his crew of professionals is the main reason I always red-circle the date of the annual Media Event. From the guides who have never failed to put me on fish to the unbelievable table fare at Gaston's restaurant featuring everything from steaks to seafood to the comfort-

able easily-accessible cabins to the outstanding shore lunch, you'd think this would be enough to cause sensory overload. These alone would make the seven hour drive from north Louisiana worth trip. However, there's a whole lot more.

There are extra amenities that are hard to put a price tag on. One, as alluded to above, is the fact that there are "gobblers in them thar hills". If you can't hunt 'em, at least you get to hear 'em.

For the past several trips I've made to Gaston's I get to lay aside my fishing rod for a moment and pick up my camera because from the rocky outcroppings the White has carved its way through, some of them dripping from underground springs, to the clear-as-gin rushing cold water the trout call home, there is plenty to photograph. That includes a species I've seen on every trip I've made to Gaston's, bald eagles.

A few hundred yards from Gaston's headquarters is a rather strange thing taking place. A dozen or more blue heron nests sit in the upper branches of trees, their loose jumble of sticks making one wonder what keeps them from falling. A few yards away from these heron shanties, a pair of bald eagles has constructed a thousand pound condo, dwarfing the heron nests. These two species apparently co-exist in a rather strange symbiotic relationship, something like, "you don't mess with me; I won't mess with you."

On my trip there a couple of weeks ago, two eaglets had hatched and peered over their sturdy home at boats passing beneath. Sitting like a sentry guarding the youngsters, one of the adults perched on a branch above the nest.

I've seen bald eagles here in north Louisiana several times recently but it's not easy to get close enough for a good photo. Those on

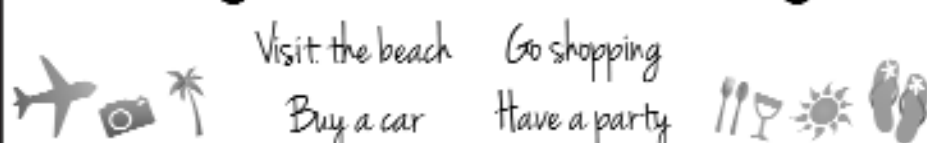
the White River, though, are accustomed to the hum and bustle of fishermen on the river, enabling photographers to get near enough for good photos.

My fishing partner, Jackie Smith, and I caught plenty of trout, thanks to our knowledgeable guide, Paul Jones. The food and accommodations were world class and it was with a twinge of regret that I drove away from Gaston's for my trip home.

I had driven no further than a mile from the resort when I had to stop and let three deer cross the road. Just one more reason why the date for the Media Event at Gaston's in north Arkansas is always red-circled on my calendar.

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MINDEN RECREATION CENTER

# Krushers win big, Bandits top Lil' Soldiers

**Darlings**  
**Gray's Jewelry 6**  
**Dirt Divas 14**  
Rebecca Moseley tripled and singled to lead the Divas. Vivian Still added a double and two singles, Sara Beth Culpepper added a single and double and so did Colby Hollis. Lainey Mercer added two base hits, as did Penny Lane. Abigail Clark and McKenna Chreene led Gray's with a single and double each. Riley Austin, Gracie Williams and Izzy Miller added base hits.

**Kennon Krushers 23**  
**State Farm 2**  
Leigha Kennon-Gilbert, Dakota Howard and Aubrey Gorman all had doubles and base hits to lead the Krushers. Bailey Haulcy, Ah'Lazia Douglas, Kristian White, Brooklyn Davis and Kennadie Keener all had two base hits for Kennon. Destiny Boyd, Charlie Flournoy and Leyla Slaughter added base hits.

Kenzie Bailey, Chelsea Jackson, Synyah Rabb, and Maddy Whitehead, Keyonia Richardson and Zoi Salsburg all had base hits for State Farm.

**Dixie Angels**  
**Mark Dunn Tigers 0**  
**Timberland 4**  
Landry Malon hit a home run to lead Timberland. Lauren Still added a double, while Caylum Lewis and Hannah Davis added base hits.

Kaleigh Foster had the only hit for the Tigers. Piper Stevens pitched well for the Tigers, striking out six batters.

**Cooksey's Tax 0**  
**Kennon Dazzlers 7**  
Hilary Bates had the only hit for Cooksey's, while Kelsie Morgan managed to strike out four. Ada Gilbert doubled

and singled to lead the Dazzlers, and Kaylin Williams and Lacie Cheatham added base hits. Gilbert also struck out four batters.

**Belles**  
**Pink Pratique 22**  
**First Un. Methodist 7**  
Shania Freelon tripled and singled for Pink Pratique, followed by Nancy Silva with a double and Whitney Aubrey, Morgan Starkey and Shamorrow Whiting all singled.

Audrey Plants had the only hit for First United Methodist.

**OWC 16**  
**Glenbrook 7**  
Haley Machen had a double and two singles for OWC. Abagael Cross doubled and singled, while Olivia Osborne, Emma Mayfield, Abigail Johnson, Karlee Osbon, Jordan Sheppard and Harlie Miller all singled. Osborne also pitched, striking out eight batters.

Aubrey Dickson led Glenbrook with a single and double and Alyssa Martin and Hannah Mosley added singles.

**AA**  
**Elm St. Dental 10**  
**Alpha Energy 7**

Seth Mangrum hit a home run and a triple to lead Elm Street Dental. Also homering, was Kennedy Burns. Dawson Day, Mason Goodman and Copeland Cupples added two base hits and Ethan Turner and Levi Rhodes each had a base hit.

Jon Jon Dick tripled and singled, Cadence Tims tripled and Hunter Bell added two singles to lead Alpha Energy.

**Braves 7**  
**Timberland 1**  
Landon Finley crushed a home run for the Braves, Chris Harris delivered a triple and Spencer Spell and Peyton Gray added base hits.



A coach offers up a pitch during a Darlings game Monday night at the Minden Recreation Center. Press-Herald Photo/Blake Branch

Josh Rolen had a double to lead Timberland Services.

**Exterminators 3**  
**BMS Wrecking Crew 4**  
Braydon Winston hit a home run, Kyler Monk doubled and Jekoye Knowles added two base hits to lead the BMS.

The Exterminators were lead by Gavyn Davis with a home run and single, followed by Omar Corley with a double and Gavin Harris, Joey Curry and AJ Sterling with singled.

**Bandits 17**  
**Lil Soldiers 6**  
Wyatt Whorton hit a home run, tripled and singled for the Bandits. Spencer Brantley, Everonte Williams and Willie Jenkins tripled and singled and Tanner Johnson hit two doubles to help lead the way.

Brandon Harris and Zai'Arrin Carter had a double and single for the

Lil Soldiers. Kris Jackson tripled and Blake Maynard, J'Kyrn Banks, Christiano Ambrosio, Johnathan Bryant and Jackson Harris added base hits.

**AAA**  
**Apaches 17**  
**Skeeter's 0**

Maddox Mandino tripled, doubled and singled to lead the Apache offense. CJ Watts had two doubles, Garrett Brown had a double and single, Cason Clemens had two singles and Landry Powell and Jakobe Jackson had base hits.

On the mound, Landry Powell and Maddox Mandino combined to throw a no-hitter.

**Holmont 19**  
**Regulators 6**  
Noah Spears had a double and JP Parker singled to lead Holmont. Chase Hammons tripled and Dakota

Williams singled to lead the Regulators.

Hammons led the Regulators on the mound with three strikeouts, and Paul Clayton struck out four batters for Holmont.

**Dixie Youth**  
**US Silica 2**  
**Swain's 10**

Caid Thomas doubled and hit two singles to lead Swain's. Brian Foster added two base hits and Bryce Swain, Keaton Moore and Jackson Powell added hits.

Connor Humphreys tripled to lead US Silica.

**Tide 6**  
**Tigers 7**

Charles Berry doubled and Payton Allen and Caleb Rhodes added singles for the Tigers. Parker Hall struck out for batters for the Tigers.

Jacquez Jackson, Cooper Parks, Hunter Maddox and Justin

Richardson all had base hits for the Tide.

Seth Johnson struck out five batters for the Tide.

**Dixie Boys**  
**Glenbrook 7**  
**Minden Elite 4**

Beau Branch tripled to lead Glenbrook. Haynes Mandino, Branthony Brown and Cade Clemons all singled.

Trenton Butler tripled and Hunter Wilks singled to lead the Minden Elite.

**Farm Bureau 9**  
**Lakeside 3**

Stone Rasbury doubled and singled to lead Farm Bureau Insurance. Chance Frizzell and Brittain Ranger added singles.

Drake Austin and Trent Sparks singled to lead Lakeside.

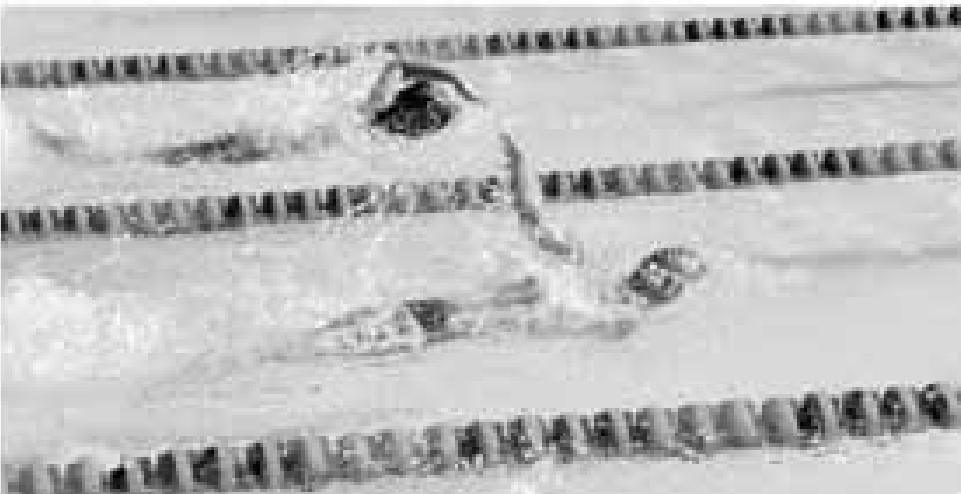
Michael Watts struck out five batters for Lakeside and Cameron Dollar led Farm Bureau with four strikeouts on the mound.



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# Singer Chris Brown accused of battery in Las Vegas

LAS VEGAS — Singer Chris Brown faces another battery accusation just days after he performed at an after-party to the weekend's much hyped boxing match, which was also billed as the kickoff to his residency at the Drai's nightclub.

Las Vegas police said Brown, 25, is suspected of beating a man who was found at the Sunrise Hospital & Medical Center at 3:42 a.m. Monday.

The man said he was playing basketball at the Palms Casino Resort when he got into a verbal argument on the court with the singer. He claimed Brown punched him and, as he was preparing to defend himself, another person with the singer also hit him.

The man took himself to the hospital where he was treated for non-life threatening injuries and released.

Las Vegas police said they went to the hotel after they were called to the hospital but didn't locate Brown.

Authorities say they have given Brown the option to sign off on a misdemeanor battery citation or have the case turned over to the Clark County District Attorney's office. As of 2 p.m., police said Brown has not responded.

Officer Larry Hadfield said signing off on the citation is not an admission of guilt but an acknowledgement of the accusation. Similar to accepting a traffic ticket, the accused would be given a court date in Clark County Justice Court scheduled for months from now.

Police said the investigation continues but declined to address the other person with Brown who also allegedly hit the man.

"We haven't cited anybody. We have not had the opportunity," Hatfield said.



The incident happened at the Palms Casino Resort, which features a basketball-themed luxury suite for \$25,000 per night, officials said.

The 10,000-square-foot Hardwood Suite features an indoor basketball court, locker room with a gym shower, "NBA-sized" beds and 24-hour butler, according to the hotel.

A hotel spokesman deferred all other comment to police.

On Saturday, Brown performed a sold-out show at Drai's nightclub atop the Cromwell Hotel as after-party entertainment to the much anticipated

boxing match between Floyd Mayweather and Manny Pacquiao. He also attended the fight at the MGM Grand Garden Arena.

At his show, Brown reportedly commanded \$100 and \$200 cover charges with table reservations with bottle-service ranging in price from a \$2,000 minimum for a small four-seater as far away from the stage as it can go, to at least \$20,000 for a table in the middle of the action.

The full-length concert was also billed as the launch to Brown's new residency at Drai's. His next show in the series of

concerts is scheduled for July 4, according to an announcement.

The statement sent Sunday also said Brown is expected to celebrate his birthday at the venue's night time pool party on Tuesday.

The troubled R&B singer was freed from probation for felony assault just six weeks ago. In 2009, Brown pleaded guilty to a brutal attack on his then-girlfriend, the singer Rihanna, hours before the Grammy Awards.

Brown's legal woes have since been in the spotlight.

His probation was revoked briefly, in January for performing

in Northern California without permission and in 2013 for a fender bender filed as a hit-and-run case. He was also charged that same year with misdemeanor assault in Washington.

In February, Canadian immigration officials also refused to allow him into the country, forcing him to cancel two shows, and British officials blocked his entry in 2010 forcing the cancellation of four performances.

Brown's attorney and publicist could not immediately be reached for comment.

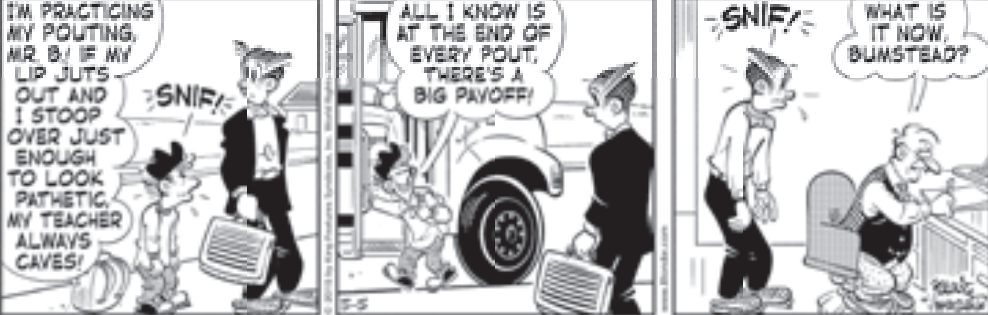
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