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WEATHER

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK



93 **71**
HIGH **LOW**

Intervals of clouds and sunshine. A stray shower or thunderstorm is possible.

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CAMP MINDEN CLEANUP

EPA community meeting postponed

No timeline set on contract signing

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The Environmental Protection Agency has postponed the Camp Minden community meeting that was set for Thursday.

In an email sent to Camp Minden Citizen Advisory Group chair Ron Hagar by Carl Edlund, Superfund director for

EPA's Region 6, the meeting was postponed "in order to ensure the presence of the (Louisiana Military Department's) contractor."

He says the reason for the postponement has to do with ongoing discussions.

"Discussions with the EPA, LDEQ, the recommended contractor and

LMD are ongoing," Edlund said. "Specific requirements and conditions of the contract are being resolved. LMD will continue to move forward in the contracting process, and we will schedule a full update on the contained burn system and operations upon signing of the contract."

Explosive Service Inter-

national, a Baton Rouge-based disposal company, is the contractor chosen to dispose of the M6 stored at Camp Minden. No details of the contract have been released to date, other than the company chosen and the method of disposal.

Col. Pete Schneider, spokesperson for the LMD, says the hang up is over additional costs needed to cover another requirement put forth by the EPA.

"They (EPA) changed a requirement," he said. "We're waiting for (the contractor) to get back to us on the cost of the additional requirement. They (ESI) want to be able to meet all the requirements. That's where we are."

He says ESI should be in contact with the LMD by Friday. According to information from the EPA, the earliest possible date for another community meeting will be June 30.

AT THE FARM

Blues Fest is Saturday



Avail Hollywood will be a featured singer at the Minden Blues Fest Saturday at The Farm. Courtesy Photo

Tickets still available at The Farm, Woo's Barber Shop

MICHELLE BATES
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For all the Blues lovers out there, be at The Farm about 5 p.m. Saturday.

The second Minden Blues Fest

will be Saturday, June 13 with the gates opening at 4:30 p.m. at 419 E. Union Street. Headlining the event will be TK Soul, featuring the Shreveport Jazz Ensemble. Rue Davis will start about 7 p.m.

Tickets are \$25; they are \$30 at the gate. Tickets are available at

The Farm or Woo's Barber Shop.

Rance Foster, who began the Blues Fest, says the festival is about bringing people together in a fun, family atmosphere.

"The purpose for this event is

See **BLUES**, Page 2

WEBSTER CRIME

Forcible rape charge sends North Webster man to jail

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A Springhill man is behind bars after he reportedly forcibly raped his significant other.

Dennis R. Ellis, 43, no address given, was arrested Sunday, June 8, and charged with domestic abuse aggravated assault and forcible rape. During a Gwen's Law hearing Wednesday, bond was set at \$600,000.

Springhill Police Chief Will Lynd says on the date of the arrest, a birthday party was hosted for Ellis where several people came to their house.

"From what I know, he got intoxicated and after everybody left late into the morning, he told (the victim) he was going to have sex with her," Lynd said. "She refused and he physically assaulted her and after he physically assaulted her, he sexually assaulted her."

**ELLIS**

See **ARREST**, Page 3

2015 FLOOD

Lake Bistineau water level being monitored

Flooding situations continue to be monitored at Lake Bistineau. Water began to flood some yards along the lake Thursday morning with a recorded level of 145.22 feet at 6 a.m. Flood stage is 142.5 and the lake is expected to crest Monday.



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SECONDFRONT

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LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE

Final decisions on state budget await

BATON ROUGE — Time was growing short Thursday for Louisiana lawmakers to strike a deal on next year's \$24 billion budget and the tax plans that will finance it.

Work in the 60-day regular legislative session must end by 6 p.m.

House and Senate leaders were trying to reach an agreement on how to raise taxes, shrink tax breaks and scale back business subsidies, as a way to drum up hundreds of millions of dollars for the budget. The money would stop deep cuts to colleges and public health services.

Lawmakers also were haggling over whether to meet Gov. Bobby Jindal's criteria for the tax changes

he'll consider. If they don't, they risk a veto of some of the tax bills that would pay for the spending plans in the budget.

Jindal, who is expected to announce his presidential campaign in two weeks, is threatening to veto bills he considers a net tax increase unless lawmakers find a way to offset them with what he considers a tax cut. He's closely guarded his record on a no-tax pledge he signed with an organization led by national anti-tax activist Grover



JINDAL

Norquist.

The Senate has agreed to create a tax credit — only on paper — that would satisfy Jindal's terms. But so far, House members have balked. They have called that idea a deception to the public, designed solely to benefit the Republican governor's White House ambitions.

If the governor gets his wish on a budget deal, it will be a rare victory in a legislative session that has shot down two of the centerpieces of his agenda.

Lawmakers rejected Jindal's push to give special protections in state law to people who oppose same-sex marriage, killing the bill after its first hearing. They also refused the

governor's effort to strip the Common Core education standards from Louisiana's public school classrooms. Instead, they ended the legislative controversy with a compromise that leaves much of the long-term decision-making on standards to the state's next governor and state school board members elected this fall.

By Thursday, lawmakers had cleared away nearly everything not connected to finances, leaving the final day's focus the same as when the session started: how to close Louisiana's \$1.6 billion budget gap in the fiscal year that begins July 1.

The Senate was seeking a much higher tobacco tax

rate that also would sweep in more types of tobacco products than the House sought. Also, the House disagreed with the Senate's plan to make deeper reductions to Louisiana's generous film tax credit program. In addition, the House has resisted a Senate plan to raise a fee on car buyers by \$50.

House Speaker Chuck Kleckley, R-Lake Charles, said he was confident the House and Senate could reach an agreement to "save higher education, fund health care and have a balanced budget" on time.

But whether that will include the offsets sought by Jindal remained unclear.

Without a tax credit or some other offset proposal, about \$371 million used by lawmakers in next year's budget to pay mainly for public health care services and higher education risks a veto from the governor.

Ninety-four of the 105 House members signed onto a symbolic measure indicating a willingness to hold a veto override session if Jindal jettisons money tied to health care and colleges. The Senate has resisted the idea, and it's unclear if the Legislature would have the two-thirds votes required to override the governor's vetoes in such a session.

2015 FLOOD

Homes, farmland flood in rural northwest Louisiana

Homes and farmland remain under water in rural northwest Louisiana, and damage is spreading as the floodwaters from storms in neighboring Oklahoma and Texas overwhelm the Red River.

Totals for flooded buildings and farm acreage were unclear Wednesday. Both Bossier and Caddo parish officials are asking residents to report damage to their homes or businesses.

A farmland assessment may be ready Friday, said Patrick Colyer, the LSU AgCenter's northwest regional director.

An estimated 300 buildings have had power cut off, are threatened by water or have water inside, Caddo Parish sheriff's spokeswoman Cindy Chadwick said Wednesday.

In neighboring Bossier Parish, sheriff's spokesman Lt. Bill Davis

said two or three dozen houses and about the same number of mobile homes are flooded and at least 2,000 farm animals have been moved to higher ground.

About 15 of the flooded houses are in a subdivision where Davis estimated prices at \$400,000 to nearly \$1 million; at another house in that subdivision, residents pushed through chest-high water Tuesday to pile more sandbags onto the sandbag wall around their house.

The 144 residents of a Bossier City veterans home were able to stay in place but a sheriff's office substation across the street didn't fare as well.

"We sandbagged that for about 36 feet, back when we were told the crest would get to 34 feet. We got to 37 feet," Davis said.

Downriver in Natchi-

toches Parish, Mary Jones of the homeland security office said about 50 houses are flooded, but some are unoccupied. Another 200 houses and camps are threatened, she said.

"A lot of farmland is under," Jones said. "The sheriff is out helping one of the farmers get his cattle out."

The city of Natchitoches — a popular tourist destination, Louisiana's oldest permanent settlement (four years before New Orleans) and the place "Steel Magnolias" was filmed — is not threatened, she said.

Red River Parish Sheriff Glen Edwards said a half-dozen rural houses are threatened, and fields and pastures are flooded.

"As long as the levees hold ... we're good," he said.

BLUES

Continued from page 1

for people to come out and enjoy themselves," he said. "Even our local businesses have bought tickets for their employees. It's also to generate money for Minden."

He says quite a few people from out of town are

expected to attend. Last year, roughly 1,000 attended the festival.

"Last year's was the single largest event held at The Farm," said Chris Broussard, co-founder of Cultural Crossroads. "It was incredible."

"It brings people into Minden, and people that came last year will be coming back," he said. "It's turning out to be real nice,

just a family environment."

With so many people coming together and donating for the children who come through The Farm, Foster says he wanted something for the adults too, and the Blues Fest is one way to do that.

For more information about the festival, call 318-268-4280.

MINDEN CRIME

Man arrested, charged with domestic abuse battery

MICHELLE BATES

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A man allegedly arguing with his wife was arrested Sunday after he reportedly hit her.

Jobbie Peters, 51, of the 200 block of Virginia Avenue, was charged with domestic abuse battery.

Minden Police Chief Steve Cropper says his officers were dispatched to the residence around 9:40 p.m. that evening.

"When (Officer Russell

Engi) gets there, the suspect — Mr. Peters — was arguing with his wife," he said. "Both parties appeared to be intoxicated. His eyes were bloodshot and he had a strong odor of alcoholic beverages on his person."

He says the victim told Engi Peters had been abusing her all day.

"This is an ongoing deal," he said. "A lot of times we've arrested both of them."

Cropper says Engi noticed a laceration on the

victim's head, and Peters denied hitting her. Peters told the officer they'd been wrestling, but he never hit her, Cropper says.

"At that point time in with Mr. Peters apparently intoxicated and signs of an altercation, he placed Mr. Peters under arrest for domestic abuse battery."

He was booked at the Minden Police Station and transported to Bayou Dorcheat Correctional Center.



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OPINION

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EDITORIAL
ROUND UP

The Advocate on ID voting rule

We're in the middle of a huge season for elections in Louisiana — three years of them.

In 2014, Louisiana was one of the battleground states for control of the U.S. Senate. With races for Congress and many local offices on ballots, it was a huge election year. Most of America will get a break this year, but not in Louisiana.

The races for governor, Legislature, sheriffs and other local officials, the state school board — many heated races are likely in every corner of the state. And that's before the 2016 presidential election year, also one in which Louisiana will see many local elections.

In advance of the presidential year, the nation is already seeing a debate over voting rights and access to the ballot. Democratic candidate Hillary Rodham Clinton sparred with Republican candidate Rick Perry over a 2011 voting law that she said keeps poor and minority voters from the polls.

Perry shot back on Fox News, saying "it makes sense to have a photo ID to be able to vote."

We think Perry has the best of the argument because Louisiana has required photo identification, typically a driver's license, for a long time.

Obviously, we don't want to see the laws changed before elections to make it more difficult for one group or another to vote. Partisanship is on the rise in this country and it has resulted in politicians in some states seeking to limit early voting — a popular innovation in Louisiana, as elsewhere — because of a perception that it helps Democrats.

In some states, photo identification requirements can result in turning people away from the polls because alternative IDs are expensive or difficult to get. In Louisiana, there is the option of voting by affidavits filled out at the polling places.

That can slow down the process on big election days, such as the ones we've been having in this supercycle of big election years lately. But it does allow a safety valve for voting for those who either forgot their identification or who don't drive and had difficulty getting alternative IDs.

Where photo IDs are required, we urge our friends in other states to look at Louisiana's system. It's not enough to satisfy Clinton and other liberals, perhaps, but it strikes a reasonable balance between protecting against fraud — relatively rare nowadays anyway — and access to the polls.

The issue, we think, for the Democrats is not the voting system in Louisiana but the motivation of voters to go to the polls.

In Clinton's case, she saw Louisiana twice vote for her husband in national elections. He motivated his voters. She has the same challenge as a candidate. If she manages it, she won't have to worry about photo ID requirements in this state or in others.

Give us your two cents!

Send your Letter to the Editor to bruce@press-herald.com or mail them to Editor, 203 Gleason St., Minden, La. 71055.



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PERSPECTIVE

Buckle when it matters

The mood at the Capitol on Monday was what you would expect in the waning days of a legislative session in an election year, even though a deal on the budget was nowhere in sight. Some lawmakers went about their business as if headed on a vacation. Others appeared to be in a bad mood. You could count Sen. Neil Riser of Columbia among the latter. Riser was moving about between the House and Senate, apparently engaged in negotiations over the so-called SAVE fund. Better known in some circles as a scheme to create the mirage of a tax credit so Gov. Bobby Jindal could sign off on hundreds of millions of dollars in new taxes approved by lawmakers, the SAVE fund proposition represented the hot potato that few were willing to hold in order to hatch an agreement on a budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. It's a roughly \$25-billion spending plan, though \$1.6 billion out of balance at the onset of the fiscal-only session. The SAVE fund is the brainchild of the Jindal administration. It would impose a fee on the more than 220,000 college students in Louisiana, though they wouldn't actually pay it. Instead, students



SAM HANNA JR.

would collect a tax credit voucher equal to the fee. Students would then sign over the vouchers to the state Board of Regents, which would use the vouchers to collect state funding from the Department of Revenue for colleges and universities to use for operational purposes. We're talking about \$350 million for higher education. The bottom line is the SAVE fund would give Jindal some wiggle room on his no net increase in taxes pledge, while lawmakers could gin up enough new revenues to prevent higher education from undergoing another round of brutal cuts in state funding. It's that simple. As chairman of one of the "money" committees in the Senate, the Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committee, Riser would be considered a floor leader for the Jindal administration. Accordingly, it would be one of his responsibilities to help craft a budget the governor could stomach. That would include working out differences with lawmakers who were opposed — for whatever reason — to embracing the SAVE fund. You can count Rep. Jay Morris of Monroe as a SAVE fund detractor. Some lawmakers like Morris object to the SAVE fund for philosophical reasons. Others are opposed to it because they see it as an opportunity to stick it to Jindal in his last year as governor. Lawmakers like Riser recognize the SAVE fund represents a means to an end, though not desirable but

absolutely necessary if it is the intention of the Legislature to approve a budget Jindal will sign. The future of higher education in Louisiana would be on the line, too. Hovering overhead Monday was the very real prospect that the Legislature would pick this year — an election year — to exhibit some meaningful independence of the governor and buck him. In other words, lawmakers would approve a budget Jindal would most certainly veto, setting the stage for a veto session of the Legislature in which a two-thirds vote would be necessary to override. A tall order, to say the least. If I were a betting man, I would wager money that sometime Thursday before the legislative session concludes sine die, lawmakers will swallow their pride and approve a budget that includes the SAVE fund provision. Some lawmakers will leave the Capitol in a foul mood; others will be happy to just put the session behind them. At this stage in the game, however, with so much at stake, there's nothing wrong with living to fight another day.

Sam Hanna Jr. is publisher of The Ouachita Citizen, and he serves in an editorial/management capacity with The Concordia Sentinel and The Franklin Sun, three newspapers owned and operated by the Hanna family. He can be reached by call 318-805-8158 or emailing him at samhannajr@samhannajr.com.

PERSPECTIVE

Big Food and hotel giants

Near my home in Austin, Texas, there is a great, old refurbished motel that I recommend to people when they come to visit our fair city. It not only is right on the famed Congress Avenue but also has a keep-it-real attitude that is expressed right on its iconic marquee: "No additives, no preservatives, corporate-free since 1938."

The good news is that more and more businesses across the country are adopting this attitude, providing a buy-local, un-corporate, anti-chain alternative for customers. Food shoppers and restaurant goers, for example, have made a huge shift in recent years away from the likes of McDonald's, Pepsi and Taco Bell, preferring upstart, independent outfits with names like "The Corner," "Caleb's Kola," and "US Taco Co."

But uh-oh, guess who owns those little local alternatives. Right — McDonald's, PepsiCo and Taco Bell. Leave it to ethically challenged, profiteering monopolists to grab such value-laden terms as "genuine," "local" and "honest," empty them of any authenticity, then hurl them back at consumers as shamefully deceptive marketing scams.

In Huntington Beach, California, US Taco Co. poses as a hip surfer haunt, with a colorful "Day of the Dead" Mexican skull as its logo. The airy place peddles lobster tacos and other fare at \$3 or \$4 each — very un-fast-foody. Nowhere is it whispered that this is a big-chain outlet, created by a group of Taco Bell insiders. They even usurped the enterprising word "entrepreneur," stripped it of its outsider connotation, and twisted it into an ugly corporate vanity, calling themselves "intrapreneurs."

Fast-food restaurants are not the only ones that play this profitable imitation game. As everyone who travels a lot soon learns, when you stay in the hotels of the big chains, it's easy to forget where you are, since they are all so alike, offering all the charm of Noplace, USA.

This disorienting sameness has become even more dizzying in recent years as the chains have merged and conglomerated.

Weary travelers might choose to stay overnight in one of the Residence Inn hotels, a Courtyard, the TownePlace Suites or even splurge for a night in a ritzy Ritz-Carlton. In fact, though, whichever one you choose, you're in a Marriott — the \$14 billion-a-year combine that owns all of the above chains, along with 15 others. Marriott is among the world's 10 largest hoteliers that have a combined 113 different chains in their crowded stable of brand names.

Naturally, as uniformity and conglomerate have taken over the industry, a consumer rebellion has erupted, with more and more travelers — especially younger ones — seeking out independent hotels, unique inns and local B&Bs. They prefer the un-corporate places that have cool names like the Moxy, Canopy and Vib. But oh, crud, guess what. All three of those are chains of "hip" hotels that opened in the past year and are owned respectively by Marriott, Hilton and Best Western.

Known in the industry as "lifestyle hotels," these fake-independent lodgings are the hot new niche for mega-conglomerates trying to nab travelers in search of authenticity. "The big hotel chains are in the business of pretending they aren't big chains," says Pauline Frommer, editor of the well-regarded Frommer's travel guides. "They want you to think they are boutiques."

Sneaky, sneaky! But the real problem with these fabricators of corporatized authenticity is that reality will win out in the end. Small and local has a genuine feel and flavor that the imitators can't sustain as they sprawl out into 1,000 and then 10,000 stores. And as they do that, it becomes obvious to customers that they've been duped — and that's not a good marketing strategy. We dupes will not only quickly see that we're being sold plastic "authenticity" but also be ticked off about it.



JIM HIGHTOWER

Around Town

Share your events with the community. Send your events to community@press-herald.com, fax them to 377-1866, over the phone by calling 377-1866 or in person at our offices located at 203 Gleason St. in Minden.

June 11, 2015

The Webster Council on Aging located at 1482 Sheppard St. will have a rummage sale from 1 p.m. until 4 p.m. in the activities room.

June 13, 2015

King Solomon Baptist Church will have Love Day at 5 p.m. featuring guest speaker Pastor Wosheka Burriel of Extreme Faith Worship Center.

Miracle Productions will present An Evening of Gospel at 7 p.m. at the Northwest 14th District Building located at 311 Bailey St.. Featured guest will beDynamic Holy Spiritualaires.

Growing Valley Missionary Baptist Church located at 1686 Fuller Road in

Minden will present "Becoming a more loving person" from 10 a.m. until noon.

June 14, 2015

Mt. Olive Baptist Church will host the New Destiny Singers, Apostle Samuel Smith at 2:30 p.m.

Mt. Pilgrim Baptist Church will have its 107th anniversary at 3 p.m. featuring the Rev. Lester C. Sims as guest speaker.

Carter Chapel C.M.E. Church will be holding their Annual Homecoming Service Sunday, June 14, 2015 at 3 P.M at 3354 Franklin Road in Heflin, Louisiana. They will also be holding Revival Services June 15 and 16 at 7 p.m. The speaker for all services will be Pastor Rodney Williams from King Solomon Baptist Church in Sibley.

Fibrebond names new chief financial officer

Fibrebond is pleased to announce Keith Bucher as Vice President and Chief Financial Officer at Fibrebond.

Bucher comes to Fibrebond from Tuthill Corporation, a global manufacturer of industrial goods based in Springfield, Mo., where he served as Director of Finance. Prior to his time with Tuthill, Bucher worked in financial leadership roles at Textron and Lectrus.

At Fibrebond, Bucher will be responsible for the Accounting and IT departments, and he will be a member of the company's executive team.

"Keith's career has been dedicated to manufacturing operations and he brings to Fibrebond expe-

rience in acquisitions, multi-site financial management and strategic leadership," said Fibrebond President Graham Walker. "His breadth of knowledge and experience will be helpful in the company achieving its long term goals."

Bucher received his undergraduate degree in Finance from Illinois State University and his Masters in Business Administration from Bradley University. Both natives of Illinois, Keith and his wife, Malia, have relocated to the Bossier City area and look forward to enjoying their first summer in Louisiana.

Fibrebond has continually owned and operated its manufacturing facility in Minden, La. The com-

pany has been family-owned and operated throughout its history. Fibrebond specializes in the manufacturing of concrete and steel structures for use as telecommunications and cell phone tower buildings, large-scale utility projects, and educational and correctional space in the institutional market. In 2014, Fibrebond established a new division of the company, Fibrebond Power. The expansion included the acquisition of a 187,000 square-foot steel production facility and gives Fibrebond more than 500,000 square feet of production space on 180 contiguous acres. For more information visit www.fibrebond.com.

Are you or someone you know getting married?

Is your church or organization hosting a local event?

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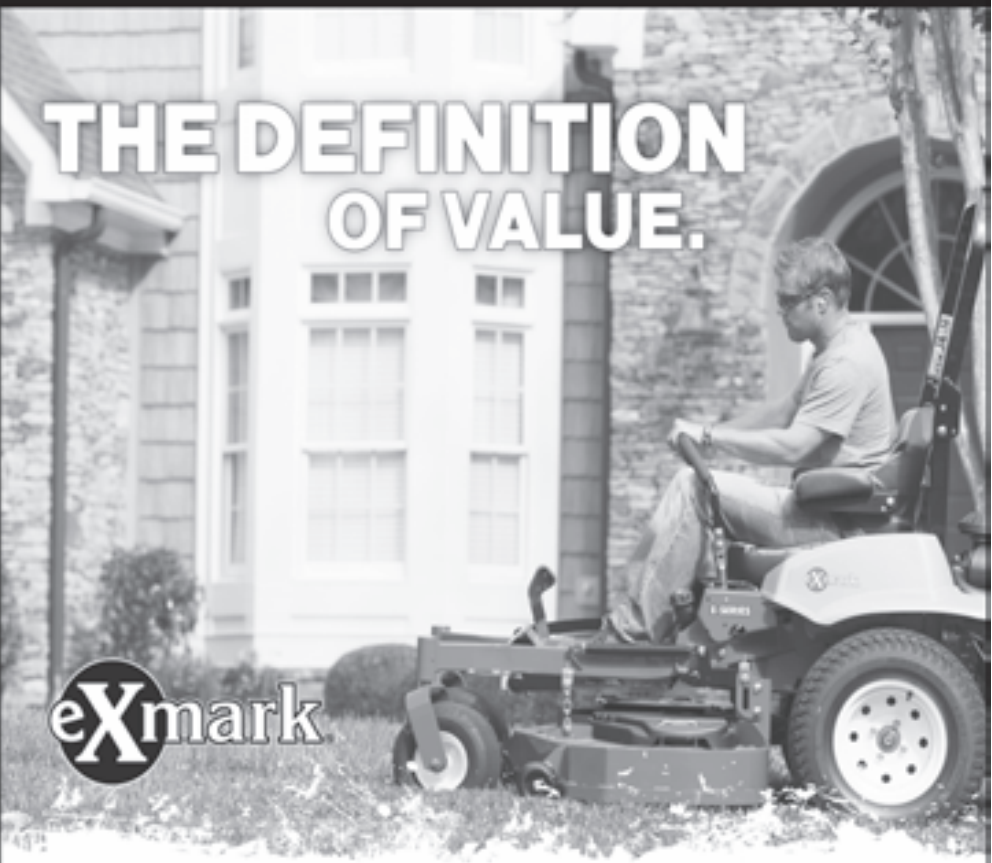
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SPORTS

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SPORTS briefs

MLB

A's walk-off against Rangers
OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Sam Fuld scored the winning run on a slide into home to just beat the throw with one out in the ninth and Oakland snapped a four-game losing streak with a win over Texas.

Fuld hit a one-out single off Keone Kela (4-3) for just his eighth hit in 80 at-bats and stole second. Fuld advanced on Billy Burns' infield single and shortstop Elvis Andrus held the ball rather than throwing to third.

Josh Reddick followed with a sharp grounder that second baseman Adam Rosales fielded and threw home just barely too late. It marked Reddick's fifth career game-ending RBI.

Oakland's comeback spoiled a 10-strikeout night by Texas starter Yovani Gallardo.

Billy Butler hit a tying single off Tanner Scheppers in the eighth after Oakland scored another run on third baseman Joey Gallo's throwing error.

Tyler Clippard (1-3) pitched a perfect ninth for the win.

MLB

Hunter ejected as Twins get swept

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The Kansas City Royals reclaimed first place with a resounding three-game sweep on the road of division rival Minnesota.

The Twins were beaten so soundly, well, they lost their shirt.

One of them, at least. Alex Gordon hit a three-run homer, Edinson Volquez struck out six batters over seven innings and the Kansas City Royals beat the Twins 7-2 on Wednesday, a night spiced up in the eighth inning by an ejection of Torii Hunter that prompted an equipment-throwing tantrum by the Minnesota star.

"You know what he's trying to do. He's trying to fire everybody up and get 'em going," Kansas City manager Ned Yost said. "They've been in a little slow bat period themselves, and he's trying to get everybody fired up and get 'em going. It's a bit entertaining."

Hunter was heaved by home plate umpire Mark Ripperger for arguing a called third strike. Hunter had to be restrained briefly, before yanking off his elbow pad, shin guard and batting gloves and throwing them around the batter's box area.

Then Hunter ripped off his jersey and hurled that over the first-base line, before retreating to the dugout.

"We have bad days, all of us, as hitters, pitchers. Even umpires have bad days, and he had one," Hunter said

COLLEGE BASEBALL

Eight Tigers drafted



BATON ROUGE – LSU junior first baseman Chris Chinae was selected Wednesday in the 17th round of the 2015 MLB Draft by the St. Louis Cardinals.

A total of eight LSU players were selected during the draft, which began Monday and ended Wednesday.

Junior shortstop Alex Bregman was selected in the first round Monday by the Houston Astros, and junior outfielder Andrew Stevenson was chosen in the second round Monday by the Washington Nationals.

On Tuesday, senior catcher Kade Scivicque was chosen in the fourth round by the Detroit Tigers, senior infielder Jared Foster was selected in the fifth round by the Los Angeles Angels, senior left-handed pitcher Zac Person was chosen in the ninth round by the Houston Astros, junior outfielder Mark Laird was selected in the ninth round by the Philadelphia Phillies and senior third baseman

Conner Hale was chosen in the ninth round by the Seattle Mariners.

Chinae, a native of Miami, is batting .355 this season with 17 doubles, 11 homers, 58 RBI and 42 runs. He is No. 3 in the SEC in hits (87), and he is fifth in the league in RBI, sixth in total bases (137), seventh in batting average, eighth in doubles, 10th in slugging percentage (.559) and 10th in home runs.

A 2015 third-team All-America selection, Chinae was voted to the NCAA Baton Rouge Regional All-Tournament team after batting .455 (5-for-11) in three games with one double, three RBI and three runs.

2015 LSU Baseball Draft Summary

1st rd. (2), Alex Bregman, SS, Houston Astros

2nd rd. (58), Andrew Stevenson, OF, Washington Nationals

4th rd. (130), Kade Scivicque, C, Detroit Tigers

5th rd. (165), Jared Foster, INF, Los Angeles Angels

9th rd. (259), Zac Person, LHP, Houston Astros

9th rd. (264), Mark Laird, OF, Philadelphia Phillies

9th rd. (275), Conner Hale, INF, Seattle Mariners

17th rd. (521), Chris Chinae, 1B, St. Louis Cardinals.



LSU's Alex Bregman was the first Tiger selected in this year's MLB draft. He went second overall to the Houston Astros. AP/Photo

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Romo putting to bed issues with NFL

IRVING, Texas (AP) — Tony Romo has no regrets about comments he has made about the NFL since the cancellation of a fantasy football-themed event where the Dallas Cowboys quarterback was to be a headliner.

But Romo refused Wednesday to elaborate on what he said during radio interviews the previous day.

"I said everything I was going to say. I said what I

thought," said Romo, who wore a blue cap with an NFL logo while surrounded by reporters at his locker after the latest offseason practice.

The National Fantasy Football Convention event scheduled for next month in Las Vegas was canceled last week after the NFL reiterated a policy banning appearances associated with casinos.

During an interview

Tuesday on ESPN Radio, Romo indicated that it could be an issue of money.

"We were just trying to get the fans to hang out with players," Romo said during the interview. "It seems like a no-brainer to me, especially because it really wasn't going to be something that I didn't think was going to break the NFL's heart money-wise."

Romo also said he was disappointed that the NFL

waited until so close to the event before voicing its concerns.

Asked Wednesday if he had heard from anyone from the league office since his interviews, Romo responded, "No. I have not had any contact, before or after," and then smiled.

Romo was aware of a tweet with his picture sent from the NFL's verified account Tuesday that was quickly deleted. It was a

picture of Romo waving at a practice, with the words "Hi Tony!" followed by two emoticons representing a hand waving back.

"Obviously when someone takes it down after nine minutes, it tells you probably all you need to know," Romo said.

There was no immediate response Wednesday to an email to a league spokesman about Romo's comments and the tweet.

FROM THE SPORTS DESK

All hail King James

It's difficult to comprehend just how great LeBron James has been through the first three games of the NBA Finals.

Never in the history of the league has a player done more with less on the games biggest stage, and honestly, I'm just happy to have the chance to bare witness.

Yes, I went there, I said witness.

LeBron took some heat (see what I did there?) early in his career for an advertising campaign featuring James with his arms spread, boasting the words, "We are all witnesses".

Even though those words came courtesy of Nike's marketing team and not James himself, it added fuel to the fire for his detractors.

Those detractors have gone silent this postseason, as James has led his team in the most impressive way possible, hitting the boards hard and fighting for rebounds, driving to the basket for high percentage shots, distributing the basketball with Magic-like precision and accuracy and

calming down his wide-eyed teammates when the bright lights of the Finals start to shake them late in games.

The numbers tell a pretty impressive story.

Through the first three games of the series, James is averaging 41 points, 12 rebounds and 8.3 assists.

Let that sink in. Then there's James shot totals.

In the regular season James took 18.5 shots per game. Now, with Kyrie Irving and Kevin Love sidelined with injuries, James is putting up 35.7 shots per game.

But his teammates are just fine with that. They understand that to earn a ring, it means James has to continue dominating the possessions, grinding the shot clock down to about six seconds and then making his move. It's this tactic that has helped slow the run-and-gun Warriors.

I wrote in my column last week that LeBron pulling out this series shorthanded would make it the greatest

accomplishment of his career, and it's looking like he's well on his way.

But, with the injury to Irving, what we've seen from James so far takes on even bigger meaning.

Michael Jordan never posted numbers like this in a finals. He came close to equaling James point total through the first three games of an NBA Finals (Jordan: 117, LeBron: 123), but Jordan never came close to the rebounding and assist totals put up by James.

I guess what I'm trying to say is, we're two Cavalier wins away from a moment some say they knew was coming, and doubters thought would never come.

Whether you love him or hate him is irrelevant, because what he's doing in his sport right now is unprecedented.

Kobe and M.J. can go ahead and take the backseat.

LeBron is in the driver's seat, and he's on the verge of becoming the unquestionable greatest basketball player of all-time. Period. End of story.

Blake Branch is the Sports Editor at the Minden Press-Herald

STANLEY CUP FINALS Saad's late goal evens series

CHICAGO (AP) — Brandon Saad drove the net and had the puck poked away by Andrei Vasilevskiy. When he somehow found it again, Saad gave it a desperate backhand whack that just happened to send it right between Vasilevskiy's moving pads.

Saad scored with 13:38 to play, and captain Jonathan Toews got his first goal of the series as the Blackhawks beat the Lightning and their rookie goalie 2-1 Wednesday night, knotting the Final at two games apiece.

The 22-year-old Saad's latest clutch goal was the offensive highlight of a gritty, defense-dominated night at the United Center. Corey Crawford and the 20-year-old Vasilevskiy, the Lightning's surprise starter, both had stellar moments before Saad beat his fellow youngster for the winner.

"I was really pretty lucky," Saad said. "I just saw space going to the net. Tried to drive and create some chaos. Just try to get some wood on

it and get to the net, and it found a way in."

Chaos reigned again in the final minute for Crawford, who capped his 24 saves with a frantic last stand. Lightning captain Steven Stamkos had two golden chances to force overtime, but the Blackhawks survived.

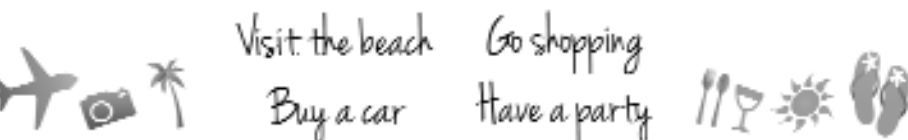
Game 5 is Saturday night in Tampa.

The series is now a best-of-three, with Chicago needing at least one more win at Amalie Arena to secure its third Stanley Cup banner in six seasons. Tampa Bay has home-ice advantage, but a fraction of the Blackhawks' big-game credentials.

Despite their differences in experience, these teams are incredibly close: This is the first Final since 1968 in which each of the first four games was decided by one goal. Faced with the prospect of a 3-1 series deficit, the Blackhawks responded with championship grit.

Saad scored his eighth goal of the postseason — and his second in two games.

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THE BIBLE SPEAKS

Don't be a castaway

As Christians we look forward to the hope of Jesus' second coming, the culmination of the plan of salvation when the saved will enter into God's kingdom of glory. A study of scripture on the subject implies a physical preparation for that event. Consider the following verses. We're told in Luke 12:40, "Be ye therefore ready also: for the Son of man cometh at an hour when ye think not." Paul said "But I keep under my body, and bring it into subjection: lest that by any

means, when I have preached to others, I myself should be a cast-away" 1 Corinthians 9:27. "Know ye not that ye are the temple of God, and that the Spirit of God dwelleth in you? If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy; for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are" 1 Corinthians 3:16, 17. Certainly a spiritual pre-



KATHY IRIZARRY

paredness is needed, but because God's mode of communication with us is via our minds, to be spiritually prepared requires physically taking care of our bodies so as to assure maximum function of our minds, the site of our spiritual selves. The frontal lobe of the brain is the seat of discretion, distinguishing right from wrong and decision making. The fact that

Jesus said to "be ready" tells us there is something to do in preparation. Paul's statement speaks of keeping under the body and bringing it into subjection. Things like exercise, change to healthier lifestyle and diet are things that will strengthen the mind's function so we can be more attuned to the Holy Spirits promptings. To not engage in these disciplines could result in our being a castaway. That's a sobering thought. Please give some serious thought to the content of 1

Corinthians 3:16, 17. What would constitute defilement of our body temple – the temple of God? If one is perfectly honest in their assessment, it would be recognized that anything that has a negative effect on our bodies would be defilement. This would include the use of any addictive substances, but it would also include intemperance which includes excess use of even what is ok otherwise. Any lifestyle choices that are known to shorten life would defile the body. Jesus told us that just

before His coming "there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" Matthew 24:24. I don't know about you, but I personally want my brain function at its best so as to detect the Holy Spirit's leading when I read the Word, pray, and when I encounter any and every decision. We do not have to be deceived. Don't be a castaway!

ALONG THE WAY

Fathers – step up to the plate

Perhaps you have been watching some of the college baseball games, leading up to the CWS in Omaha in a couple of weeks. We have watched some of the most exciting baseball games – and there is probably more to come. Almost every player who steps up to the plate can 'deliver'. That is his expectation to say the least.

approaching, many cards and calls will be made to fathers and grandfathers across the way. There will be traditional gifts (ties, socks, etc) but perhaps the greatest gift for father would be a note or call to express gratitude for a caring love, a sacrificial life to provide for the family, a 'thank you' for always being available, etc. Wouldn't it be a tribute to fatherhood if all children could relate this kind of messages to their fathers?



BILL CRIDER

Nothing is more precious than to read (or hear) what small children say about their parents...especially their dads. There is such innocence in their expressed feelings. As they grow older they begin to see our inconsistencies and the tone usually changes a bit. By the time children are 18, they can see clearly 'who that man is that calls himself my dad.' Sad to say, many children have 'an absentee dad somewhere out yonder...they never see nor hear from.'

Prisons are full of men and women who 'never knew their father', or had an abusive relationship with them. Young mothers had to bear the responsibilities of childbirth and childrearing all alone. Consequently, these children grew up never knowing the 'love of a father' as it was meant to be. So, when we talk about "God, our Heavenly Father", we must be careful to help them fully understand how this all came about in history. As we read the Scriptures about God's love, His adoption of sinful men, and how we become a part of His wonderful family...Perhaps, we can help those struggling in this area to draw near the Heavenly Father, trust Him, and enter into this unique relationship: Father and child.

It's not too late to 'begin anew' in this relationship. If you feel you have failed as a father, come clean with the Lord, your family, your children (especially), and renew a vow of fatherhood, to be a trustworthy husband and a committed disciple of Jesus. And be amazed what a difference this will make in the years ahead! Get in the game, step up to the plate. Who knows, you may hit a homer with just a few adjustments to your stance, hand grip, and follow through. Happy Father's Day!

My Daddy and me

By Bill Crider

I know a special daddy, and he belongs to me. We do so many fun things; he means the world to me. We run and play, and swim and climb up the big oak tree; God made many wonderful dads, but gave the best to me.

He tells me that when I was just a wee-wee babe, and could not crawl or walk, He'd take me in his arms at night and coo me with his talk; He'd sing me lullabys and then, caress my head and cheeks; He'd kiss me, lay me down while angels watched me sleep.

Now that I'm growing bigger, and can do some things alone; I still like for Dad to hold me

and sing a funny song. Of course, I've always known it from the very start: My parents told me they loved me with all their heart.

As I grow older, larger and strong; I can do more things on my own; But I will remember things my Daddy did just for me alone. We loved to wash the car together, dig in the yard sometimes. There were baseball games, vacation trips, and campouts...SUPER FINE.

I will hold these memories in my heart as time goes on -each word of love, encouragement, each funny little song. Now Father's Day is so special, and will be as each year goes by. I remember Dad's words to me: "You are the Apple of my eye." Thank you, God, for Fathers.

THE UPWARD LOOK

Be alert, the adversary prowls

"Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls about like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour." 1 Peter 5:8 NASB



MAX HUTTO

watchful. They were to be calm and sharp minded. Even when they cast all their concerns on the Lord, they were to be vigilant for the evil enemy lurks waiting to pounce. The adversary, accuser, and slanderer prowls around seeking to disrupt, discourage, debilitate,

decimate, destroy, and devour the believers.

Lord Jesus, help me not to be intimidated by the roar of those opposed to You. Help me to be watchful and alert to evil attacks even as I trust in the protection, care, and guidance of Your Mighty Hand.

Max Hutto is a Baptist Minister and a resident of Minden. More information can be found at www.upwardlook.org.



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Luke 18:1

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The Age of the Selfie

The term "selfie," used to describe a picture one has taken of oneself, usually with one's cell phone camera, is loaded with insinuations of narcissistic self-centeredness, and perhaps with good reason. The vast majority of the pictures taken throughout the entire history of the world have reportedly been taken in just the last few years, with the advent of the digital camera and its ubiquitous cousin the cell phone camera. There are now small video cameras that mount just about anywhere and enable their users to get footage of just about anything, from skiing down an alpine slope to deep-sea diving, which has added to our ability to document our lives. But what is the point of all of this documentation? Are our friends and families that interested in looking at all of these pictures and videos of us or are they for our own viewing pleasure? Or do they really just serve to certify that we were actually at the concert or visited the Eiffel tower? It's nice that we can so easily share pictures and videos, but we run the risk of missing the experience in question if we are only interested in getting the great picture or video, and perhaps more perilous still is the prospect that a self-absorbed generation and culture will become even more so. We would all do well to remember that many experiences are best experienced by just being there and don't need to be photographed or recorded.

—Christopher Simon



Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to interests of the others.

Philippians 2:3-4

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Lady A kicks off CMT Awards with Zedd, Underwood wins 1

Country trio Lady Antebellum kicked off the CMT Music Awards with the help of one of electronic dance music's top stars.

The Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tennessee, was full of hands pumping in the air, explosive blasts and beaming lights as Grammy-winning DJ-producer Zedd, known for the hits "Clarity" and "Break Free" with Ariana Grande, played piano and backed Lady A. The trio performed some of Zedd's "Beautiful Now" in between their own song, "Long Stretch of Love."

Carrie Underwood, the lead nominee with five, won the first award Wednesday for collaborative video of the year for "Somethin' Bad," her duet with Miranda Lambert.

"This is so amazing," the country star said, who stunned in a skin-tight white dress. "I, of course, accept this award on behalf of the one and only Miranda Lambert."

Underwood is also nominated twice for video of the year, and she could extend her record-winning streak at the CMT Awards.

She has won video of the year for the past three years, and this year she's nominated for the top prize with "Something in the Water" and "Somethin' Bad." Underwood also won the honor in 2010 and 2007, and her five wins for the award make her the record holder.

Underwood, a new mom, will also hit the stage, where Luke Bryan, Jason Aldean, Reba McEntire and Zac Brown Band will also perform.

Other nominees for the fan-voted video of the year include Dierks Bentley's "Drunk on a Plane," Florida Georgia Line's "Dirt," Aldean's "Burnin' It Down" and Bryan's "Play It Again." Twelve videos were originally nominated for the top prize, but were later whittled to six.

Also performing at the awards: Eric Church, Florida Georgia Line, Jake Owen, Keith Urban, Kenny Chesney and Sam Hunt. Arnold Schwarzenegger, Billy Ray Cyrus, David Spade, Hunter Hayes and Rumer Willis will hand out awards.

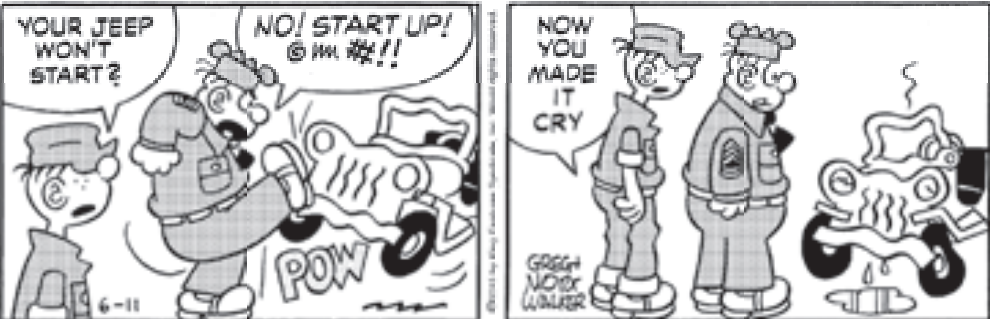
Underwood also earned two nominations for female video of the year with "Something in the Water" and "Little Toy Guns." The show is being hosted by Erin Andrews and Britney Snow.



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R F V R P C S D J F P J E F Q S G D V G G
R T S C H G B S R T P V R X K W Y E S C H ?

Y F X E S C , H F X W K C F E U .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF PLANTS SPROUT AND SHOOT UP REALLY RAPIDLY. I WOULD SAY THEY'RE GROWING FULL SPEED.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals P

CROSSWORD

ACROSS	39 Mess up	57 Squid squirt	21 Praise in verse
1 Elevator man	40 Type measures	58 Authentic	24 Ump
5 Play-ground game	42 Prophet whose donkey scolded him	DOWN	25 Call — day
8 Uncertain	45 Awk-wardly stiff	1 News-paper page	26 Cosmetic procedure
12 Rid of rind	49 Egyptian fertility goddess	2 Cab	28 Commotion
13 Inseparable	50 Lawyers' org.	3 Camera part	29 One-sided contest
14 Exposed	52 Nibble	4 Ignite	30 Fa-la connector
15 Egress	53 Biography	5 Both ways	31 Crucial
16 Atmosphere	54 Solidify	6 Blackbird	36 Obliterates
17 Pedestal occupant	55 Faris of "Scary Movie"	7 Bacterium	37 Support provider
18 Drop from the will	56 Back muscles, briefly	8 In the same place (Lat.)	38 Weather map line
20 Computer-to-phone links		9 Jack, e.g.	41 Criminal's procedure (Abbr.)
22 Nourished		10 Gift-tag word	42 Check
23 Nov. follower		11 Longings	43 One side of the Urals
24 Musical phrase		19 Lindbergh book	44 Creche trio
27 Pollution filter of a sort			46 Eat in style
32 Greek H			47 Sicilian spouter
33 Vitamin stat			48 Actress Patricia
34 Fish eggs			51 Stiller or Stein
35 Zucker-berg's company			
38 Without acting			

Solution time: 25 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 6-11

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18				19			20	21				
			22					23				
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32					33					34		
35			36	37						38		
		39					40	41				
42	43				44		45			46	47	48
49					50	51			52			
53					54				55			
56					57				58			

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