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Vol. 47 No. 8

WEBSTER CRIME

Robbery appears to be motive in shooting

MICHELLE BATES
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CULLEN — Robbery appears to be the motive of a shooting in Cullen that took place Wednesday night, Webster Parish Sheriff Gary Sexton says.

"We responded to a shooting that took place off Abbott Circle in Cullen

(around 9:30 p.m.)," he said. "We made contact with the victim at Springhill (Medical Center), and he'd been shot in the left arm one time."

Sexton says the victim, who is not being identified at this time, told him he'd pulled into a residence on Abbott Circle and the perpetrator demanded money.

"He said he told him he only had \$100, and the (perpetrator) hit him with an object he believed to be a pistol," he said. "He was still sitting in the driver's seat of his car and the suspect



SEXTON

shot him in the arm. The victim then backed up and got away from them."

He says, according to the preliminary investigation, the perpetrator took off running. Sexton says he believes investigators know who committed the crime, but isn't releasing details at this time.

"We've got some suspects but we have not

made any arrests at this time," the sheriff said. "We're trying to locate them now."

The victim did not suffer any life-threatening injuries.

The sheriff says the victim claims the motive of the incident was robbery.

MINDEN CRIME

Man arrested on agg battery charge

MICHELLE BATES
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A Minden man was arrested in the parking lot of the Minden Police Department after a vehicular altercation led there.

Joseph Lewis, 37, of the 500 block of Crichton Street, was arrested Wednesday, July 1, and charged with domestic abuse aggravated battery, aggravated criminal damage to property, driving under suspension and no insurance. Bond was set at \$13,500.



LEWIS

Minden Police Chief Steve Cropper says his officers were dispatched to Main Street at Monroe for a vehicle being rear-ended by another. As the vehicles were moving, he says, the caller stated his vehicle had been hit in the back more than once, and the driver was told to come to the police department.

"As the vehicle came into the parking lot, the vehicle that was running into the back of them came into the

See **ARREST**, Page 2

It's a Shootout

Fundraiser to help send Minden Patillo TarHeels Organization to Dallas tournament

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The Minden Patillo TarHeels Organization is hosting its first Bayou Basketball Shootout Tournament this weekend to raise funds to send roughly 30 kids to Dallas for a national championship.

Coach Jerome Blalock says the tournament will begin at 8 a.m. Saturday, July 11, at Lakeside Jr./Sr. High School. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and children five and under are free.

The tournament will include teams from all over the area and even some from out of state. "Every year, we have qualified for this thing called the PrimeTime National Championship," he said. "It's very expensive. We play throughout the year, and every tournament we go to, it costs us about \$300 to play in one of those tournaments."

They go between Arkansas, Texas and northeast Louisiana. He says they try to be frugal with the money they do raise, like finding hotels that serve free breakfast, feeding them fairly cheap lunches and providing supper for them.

The Dallas tournament will be four nights and five days. Each child has to pay a fee to go on the trip, but most of these children are underprivileged and come from single parent homes. In the past, some of them have gone on sponsorships, but this year they have not been able to find a sponsor, Blalock says.

Blalock says he started the organization in 2010 with 10 boys to give them something to do, teach them skills and build their character.

"We started because I had a group of boys who wanted to play AAU (Amateur Athletic Union) ball, and I had a group of boys with the shoot teams around, none of them won it," he said. "I have twin boys, and my boys and some of their friends got together and we started traveling that year."

The next year at the first practice, about 25 boys showed up, he says. Last year, they added a girls team, so the organization is up to about 36 boys and girls.

The idea behind the organization, he says, is to do more than just play basketball. Blalock and the others involved mentor the kids, tutor them and give them the opportunity to participate in community service activities. For exam-

See **BASKETBALL**, Page 2

Blood Drive
next week
Details on page 12

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SECOND FRONT

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HIGHER EDUCATION

GSU president: We must give students reason to stay

GRAMBLING — Willie Larkin, newly named president of Grambling State University, said he is listening to the Grambling faithful and he hears them saying one thing: "We want our university to be great again."

Larkin said the united message is directed at all areas — academics, athletics and community relationships.

"We need to have balance," he told The News-Star Editorial Board on Wednesday. "If we have balance, we will be able to advance the mission and goals of the university."

For the university to be successful, Larkin said he has to convince people to believe in Grambling again.

"I have to win people over. I have to help build or

regain the confidence of the Grambling faithful," he said. "I want to convince the state, including the Legislature, that Grambling State University can be a player in economic development."

Larkin also addressed the Louisiana State Board of Nursing's decision to revoke the approval of the school's undergraduate nursing program, saying,

"We can't be embarrassed like that again."

"Any time you lose an anchor program, you take a big hit," he said. "We have to face that reality. We have to give it some time. I still think that Grambling State ... needs to have a nursing program. We can be good again at that. And at the appropriate time, I will marshal the resources and work with the right

people to get that program reinstated at the university."

Larkin also announced a significant opportunity for the GSU Tiger Marching Band.

When the football team opens its upcoming season at the University of California at Berkeley, the band will have the opportunity to play at Apple's corporate headquarters.

The state has to be a champion of higher education, he said.

"If you have border states that are doing more for their universities, they're beating you," he said. "We can't give (students) a reason to leave. We have to give them a reason to stay."

Larkin said providing a high quality education is critical in retaining Louisiana students.

CRIME TRACKER

Arrests for the week of June 29

Minden Police Department

Shelly Dance, 33, 2400 block of Woodward in Ringgold. Charged with simple battery.

Britt J. Moody Jr, 29, 400 block of S. Gum Street. Charged with simple burglary, simple criminal damage to property, misdemeanor theft, and resisting an officer by flight.

Joseph Lewis, 37, 500 block of Crichton in Minden. Charged with aggravated criminal damage, domestic abuse/aggravated assault, driving under suspension, and no insurance.

Shondreka McGlothen, 21, 600 block of Peach Street in Minden. Charged with loud music and obscured windshield.

Ashley Bowers, 21, 100 block of Warren Trail in Minden. Bench Warrant 103309.

Johnny Bratton, 47, 600 block of Lincoln Street in Benton. Charged with felony theft of goods and simple battery.

Jamie Sayers, 36, 2100 block of Dogwood Road in Haynesville.

Charged with falsification of a drug test.

Richard Vines, 34, 2100 block of Dogwood Road in Haynesville. Charged with felony theft of goods. Fugitive from Claiborne.

Frederick Harris, 20, 3100 block of Fulton Street in Shreveport. Charged with three counts of monetary instrument abuse, three counts of forgery, felony theft, and criminal conspiracy.

Demartha Harris, 21, 3100 block of Fulton Street in Shreveport. Charged with principal to monetary instrument abuse, principal to theft, principal to forgery, and criminal conspiracy.

Tommy Beverly Jr, 24, 3100 block of Devaughn in Shreveport. Charged with monetary instrument abuse, forgery, misdemeanor theft, and criminal conspiracy.

Michael Gunn, 22, 700 block of Pershing Street in Minden. Charged with no insurance, no motor vehicle inspection, no driver's license on person, and theft

of goods.

Jason Belgard, 20, 100 block of Andrew Fletcher Road in Bienville. Charged with theft of goods.

Daniel Belgard, 22, 100 block of Andrew Fletcher Road in Bienville. Charged with theft of goods.

Gene Jackson, 40, 900 block of Warren Street in Minden. Charged with criminal damage to property.

Howard Morgan, 51, 100 block of Loop Road in Minden. Charged with public drunkenness and drinking in public places.

Sylester Coleman, 22, 400 block of Fort Street in Minden. Charged with domestic abuse battery and resisting by force or violence.

Melinda Woods, 35, 100 block of Walter Lyons Road in Minden. Charged with hit and run.

Cadence Morgan, 18, 700 block of Nella Street in Minden. Charged with driving under sus-

pension and no insurance. Fugitive from Webster Parish Sheriff's Office.

Jeremy Horton, 21, 400 block of Ash Street in Minden. Charged with theft of goods.

Michael Turner Jr, 40, 100 block of Sam Houston in Sibley. Charged with simple burglary and simple criminal damage to property.

Springhill Police Department

Tyrone James, 48, 900 block of 2nd St. S.E. in Springhill. Charged with criminal damage to property and failure to appear.

Carlos Gay, 34, 2200 block of Reynold Street in Cullen. Charged with theft of goods (2nd charge).

Alex Johnson, 18, 700 block of Curry Street in Springhill. Charged with simple battery.

Charbaseya Jackson, 19, 2200 block of Cullen Homes in Cullen. Charged with indecent attire (sagging pants) and contempt of court.

Lashameyon Walker, 26, 21000 block of Highway 371 in Cotton Valley. Charged with theft of goods.

Tiffany Parrish, 32, 100 block of Wheelbarrow Road in Cotton Valley. Charged with theft of goods.

Marice Archie, 31, 4000 block of Gayton Street in Monroe. Charged with open container and possession of a switchblade knife.

Calvin Ferguson, 38, 1400 block of 3rd Street in Springhill. Charged with domestic violence.

Craig Prestidge, 19, 200 block of Bower Loop in Haynesville. Charged with being drunk in public.

Lorenzo Hawkins, 45, 600 block of East Road in Cullen. Charged with domestic abuse battery.

Shannon Boyd, 18, 300 block of Moore Street in Springhill. Charged with sagging pants.

BASKETBALL

Continued from page 1

ple, the girls will go to the nursing homes and spend time with the elderly and those who reside there, and the boys recently went

to a church needing a paint job and touched up the outside of the building.

"We try to get them involved in civic activities," he said. "We had (someone) come in and do a town hall meeting with the kids and the parents so the kids can start understand-

ing what it takes to (serve) your community."

The organization is a nonprofit for boys and girls ages 14-17 who will learn the skills for basketball and sportsmanship. It is year-

round, with practices at Ewell Park Recreation Center, where they practice on

concrete floors and wooden backboards. At times, they have been allowed to practice at the gym at Webster Junior High School, he says.

Blalock also gave special thanks to Assistant District Attorney Marcus Patillo for his support, financial and

otherwise, since the nonprofit's inception. Blalock says Patillo has sponsored children who might not have otherwise been able to participate in the tournaments.

He also thanked Lakeside Coach Jason Gould and Principal Johnny Row-

land for allowing them to use the gym there as well as donating all money raised from concessions.

The TarHeels are led by Blalock, and assistant coaches Darell Banks, Trent Jackson, Keyla Jacobs, Atorri "AJ" Shine and Rashad Wortham.

ARREST

Continued from page 1

parking as well," Cropper said. "Officers stopped both vehicles in the parking lot, right here in front of the police department. Mr. Lewis was driving one of the vehicles."

The victim indicated Lewis had struck his vehicle twice on Main Street, and there was evidence of the victim's vehicle on the suspect's vehicle, Cropper says, by way of paint transfer marks.

"When Mr. Lewis was questioned, he indicated he only ran into them one time," the chief said. "One of the passengers in the

victim's vehicle was the mother of the suspect's child."

The domestic abuse aggravated assault charge comes from the fact that at one time, Lewis and the female passenger were a couple and had a child together, Cropper says. He reportedly rammed the back of the vehicle because she was inside. The aggravated criminal damage charge stems from the damage caused to the victim's vehicle. He was also driving under suspension and had no insurance, the chief says.

Lewis was placed under arrest on the above charges and transferred to Bayou Dorcheat Correctional Center.

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2016 PRESIDENTIAL RACE

Jindal touts Louisiana as 'most pro-life' state

NEW ORLEANS — Seeking traction for his stalled presidential campaign, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal boasted to anti-abortion activists Thursday that he leads the "most pro-life state" in the country, and sought to position himself as a warrior for conservative Christians.

Jindal's speech at the National Right to Life Convention comes as he tries to separate himself among more than a dozen Republican White House hopefuls who also describe themselves as social conservatives.

"The left wants to take God out of the public square," Jindal told delegates after linking Supreme Court's recent decision legalizing same-sex marriage nationwide to the 1973 Roe v. Wade case that legalized abortion nationally. As he has in recent campaign stops, Jindal quipped that "if the court is just going to be a public opinion poll ... we should just get rid of it."

Now, Jindal said, the fight has shifted to whether individuals will be forced to acknowledge the rulings in their official or professional capacities.

"You've got folks going after business, individuals, churches and pastors for their sincerely held religious beliefs," Jindal argued, adding a dig at the Democratic party's

favorite for 2016. "When Hillary Clinton or President Obama talk about religious expression," Jindal said, "all they mean is that for an hour or two a week in church you can say what you want. That's not religious freedom. Religious freedom is the ability to live our lives 24 hours a day, 7 days a week according to our sincerely held beliefs."

Earlier this year, Jindal signed an executive order intended to protect individuals in Louisiana who refused, in their official or professional capacities, to act in a way that violates their religious belief that marriage should be confined to heterosexual couples. The American Civil Liberties Union and other civil rights groups have asked a state court to invalidate the order, saying it exceeds Jindal's authority.

The legal nuances of Jindal's power are less important than the symbolism for the governor as he courts social conservatives who hold considerable sway in GOP primaries. Jindal, who languishes at the bottom of many national GOP presidential polls, has worked particularly hard to reach evangelical Christian voters in Iowa, where fellow conservative Christians Mike Huckabee and Rick Santorum won in 2008 and 2012, respectively.

Jindal argued that too



Seeking traction for his stalled presidential campaign, Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal boasted to anti-abortion activists Thursday that he leads the "most pro-life state" in the country, and sought to position himself as a warrior for conservative Christians. Courtesy Photo

many Republican leaders are timid in their approaches on social issues. He singled out Jeb Bush for saying a candidate "must be willing to lose the primary to win the general (election)." The former Florida governor, who opposes abortion rights and same-sex marriage, made the comment without referring to any particular issue. Nonetheless, Jindal boomed Friday,

"I've got a radical idea for the Republican Party: How about we embrace our own principles?"

Jindal noted that he's signed a bevy of abortion restrictions in his two terms, helping win Louisiana the ranking as the "most pro-life state for the last six years," according to Americans United for Life.

Still, a recent analysis of abortion statistics by the

Associated Press found that Louisiana was one of just two states — the other was Michigan — where abortions increased from 2010 to 2014. Abortions increased 12 percent in Louisiana in that period; 18.5 percent in Michigan. Some of the increases are attributed to women who traveled to Louisiana and Michigan from other states that have restricted women's access to the pro-

cedures.

Nationwide, the AP survey showed a decrease in abortions of about 12 percent since 2010.

Four of Jindal's GOP rivals are scheduled to speak Friday at the convention. They include Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, former Texas Gov. Rick Perry, former Pennsylvania Sen. Rick Santorum and retired neurosurgeon Ben Carson.

STATE CRIME

Reeves man electrocuted while trying to steal copper

JENNINGS — Jefferson Davis Parish sheriff's deputies say 51-year-old Reeves man died while trying to steal copper from a utility pole.

Deputies tell the American Press three others were arrested Wednesday on theft charges in connection with the theft and damage to eight power

lines. Chris Ivey, commander of the sheriff's office criminal investigations division, says Jesse Jones III was electrocuted while trying

to pull down copper wires from poles near U.S. Highway 165 and Farm Road, near Fenton and Lacassine.

Ivey says Jones was

found unresponsive and taken to Lake Charles Memorial Hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

Three others arrested at the scene were booked

with theft over \$10,000.

They are being held without bond in the parish jail.

OBITUARIES

James O. Jones

Superintendent James O. Jones (born August 26, 1959) passed away on July 6, 2015. Supt. Jones was the Pastor of Greater Blessings COGIC in Minden and Victory Temple COGIC in Jonesboro. Local and district service will be at 7 p.m., Sunday, July 12, 2015. State funeral service will be at 11 a.m., Monday, July 13, 2015. Both services will be at Miracle Temple COGIC, 1405 Farmerville St. in Ruston. Internment will take place at Grambling Memorial Gardens in Grambling. Services handled by Precious Memories Mortuary of Shreveport (318) 670-3162.



JONES

Magdalene 'Munny' Badgett Ward

Graveside services for Magdalene "Munny" Badgett Ward will be at 4 p.m., Saturday, July 11, 2015 at Gardens of Memory in Minden under the direction of Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden. Officiating will be the Rev. Brian Mercer. The family will receive friends from 2 until 3:30 p.m., Saturday, July 11, 2015, before the service at Rose-Neath Funeral Home. Magdalene was born July 31, 1910 in Sherman, Texas, and entered into rest July 8, 2015 in Dallas, Texas. She is survived by her son Buddy Ward and wife Elaine of Minden, grandchildren Kyle Ward and wife Amy of Houston, Texas, Kristen Williamson and husband

Tom of Dallas, Texas, great-grandchildren Owen and Bennett Williamson of Dallas, Texas, Estella and Elise Ward of Houston, Texas, special nephew Dr. Robert Thompson and wife Debbie of Dallas, Texas, spe-

cial nieces Nancy Beth Wood and husband Joel of Germantown, Tennessee, Susan Badgett of Little Rock, Arkansas and a number of other nieces and nephews.

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OPINION

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EDITORIAL
ROUND UP

The Advocate, on the fate of La. Superintendent of Education John White

To the casual listener, it sounds as if John Bel Edwards plans, if elected governor this fall, to fire the state superintendent of education.

Edwards criticized Superintendent John White — formerly an administrator in New Orleans and New York City schools — as "not qualified to be a middle school principal" in Louisiana.

It is not the first time Edwards and White have clashed. The Democratic representative from Amite has frequently backed bills opposed by the superintendent, and vice versa. We believe that White has been more often correct on the merits of the policies that have, in our view, positively enhanced public education in Louisiana.

As a leading member of the House Education Committee, Edwards knows that the decision on the next superintendent is not his alone. The superintendent is picked, and has a contract with, the 11-member state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

BESE is of course heavily influenced by the governor — just look at White's selection. When his predecessor Paul Pastorek left unexpectedly, the young head of the Recovery School District was picked by a board with close ties to Gov. Bobby Jindal.

Jindal had supported many of the elected BESE members in their campaigns and had three direct appointments on the board. White and Jindal then were on the same page on adoption of new Common Core standards and broadly on the governor's other education policies.

Edwards is a fierce critic of the Jindal policies and would doubtless roll many of them back if elected and if he can muster the approval of the Legislature and with BESE.

The latter are elected this fall, too, and it is not clear that Edwards — even if elected governor — will have the time and influence to affect the BESE races on the same ballot.

Moreover, this is not a straight-up Democratic candidate versus a largely Republican BESE fight. Not only has Jindal flip-flopped on the Common Core issue, but two Republican candidates for governor — Scott Angelle and David Vitter — share the opposition to the new standards voiced by Edwards. Another Republican, Jay Dardenne, is alone in standing up for the tougher academic standards that White and state educators have put into place.

Common Core is one issue, but Edwards — his wife is a teacher — has more generally pushed the teachers unions' criticisms of other Jindal education policies; under Jindal, with White's support, the state has greatly expanded charter schools and a tuition voucher program for private schools. The Republicans, broadly speaking, are backing those Jindal policies, even the candidates at odds with White over Common Core.

We don't know how the election will turn out, but even if it turns out as Edwards wants it to, the fact is that White's supporters on BESE, if returned to their own offices, might have a lot to say about whether the superintendent stays or goes.

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CHAMBER CHATTER

Chamber of Commerce events in full swing

I recently had the privilege of serving on the search committee for the City of Minden's new Economic Development Director. Our committee presented the Mayor and City Council with two outstanding candidates. Both gentlemen accepted an invitation to come to Minden for personal interviews with the council and mayor. Mayor Davis brought each one by the Chamber so that I could also meet and visit with them. It confirmed for me that our search committee had done a great job. Both were exemplary candidates. Monday night the mayor made a recommendation and the council unanimously voted to hire Mr. James Graham. Mr. Graham comes to us from Ohio. We are excited that this important step forward for our city has come to fruition, and we look forward to great things in our future. A word of caution, however; these great things will not happen overnight. While Mr. Graham is highly qualified, change won't come immediately. We must be patient and do all we can to support our new Economic Development Director. We live in a wonderful city. Mr. Graham's addition will be a huge boost to letting others know just how much Minden has to offer.

We are currently accepting nominations for our 2015-16, Class of Leadership Webster. This year's program will be supplemented by the addition

of Sue Gruber as coordinator. I am thrilled to have Sue back in the fold and look forward to a great year. There is no age limit on participation. Even if you've lived in Minden for years, you can take part. Please call the chamber for details and to pick up a nomination packet. Deadline for participation is August 1st.

We are also accepting nominations for our fifth annual "15 Under 40" honorees. Deadline for nominations is August 31st. If you know of a deserving young professional under the age of 40, please take a minute to fill out a nomination form so that they may be considered. Our "15 Under 40" Dinner and Gala is scheduled for October 20th at the Minden Civic Center.

Mark your calendars for September 1st. The Chamber will host its inaugural FIRST RESPONDERS APPRECIATION LUNCH at the Civic Center. Too often we forget the sacrifices made by those individuals whose task it is to keep us all safe. We look forward to honoring them with a lunch, door prizes, and goodies. Tickets are available to the public on a limited basis.

Lunch will consist of fried fish and all the trimmings, tea and dessert. Watch the newspaper for information and the date that tickets will go on sale.

The Chamber is once again supporting the Back to School Bash which will be held at the Civic Center on August 3rd. This is an outstanding program that seeks to make sure no child starts the school year without the necessary supplies. Our city is well-known for its generous spirit. It is on full display at this annual event. For more information you may call Ursula Hullaby at the School Board Office.

The legislative session has come to a close. Sadly, business took a huge hit in the form of increased and new taxes. Please make it a priority to look at what was done in the name of balancing the budget. Small businesses keep this country moving. It is regrettable that they also bear the burden and feel the biggest "hit" when our elected officials choose not to make cuts in spending and rather choose to increase our tax obligations. "Americans for Prosperity" is one organization that has put up a score card of our legislators on their website. It's a fast, easy way to see how those we send to Baton Rouge vote. Check it out.

Jerri dePingre is president of the Minden-South Webster Chamber of Commerce.



JERRI DEPINGRE

PERSPECTIVE

Sanctimony and Sanctuary

The American left has promoted some astoundingly bad ideas over the past few decades. But when it comes to the safety of American citizens, none has been quite so damaging as the righteous-sounding "sanctuary city" policy.

The noxious scheme started - no surprise - in California. Local cops in Los Angeles and San Francisco were forbidden from stopping suspects merely to inquire about their immigration status.

Things then went from bad to wretched as other cities strove to demonstrate how "humanely" they treated those illegal aliens who were, as we heard ad nauseam, "living in the shadows." Finally, all that humaneness morphed into total insanity when local officials provided sanctuary to some truly bad hombres.

You know the story of Kate Steinle, the 32-year-old woman who was shot to death in San Francisco last week. Illegal alien Francisco Sanchez has pleaded not guilty after initially copping to the murder. A career criminal who reportedly used more than 30 aliases, Sanchez had been deported to his native Mexico five times.

During his most recent visit state-side, he chose San Francisco because it's common knowledge among the criminal class that the City by the Bay goes easy -- very easy -- on illegals.

Democrats have been running away from this putrid mess as fast as possible, not an easy feat while pointing fingers at the same time.

City leaders blame the feds, the feds blame anyone in sight, and the Obama administration, of course, blames Republicans. You know, for not passing "comprehensive immigration reform."

The ideological divide over sanctuary cities was very clear on The Factor this week. Juan Williams actually defended the policy, putting forth the familiar theory that sanctuary encourages illegal aliens to report crimes, thus making those cities safer.

San Francisco Sheriff Ross Mirkarimi parroted that talking point on CNN, saying, "I firmly believe it makes us safer." The sheriff should resign immediately, and Mayor Ed Lee also has to go. Both men have blood on their hands, as do the city supervisors and all the past "social justice" warriors who enabled this gross injustice.

On the other side of the argument, conservative Charles Krauthammer condemned the cities that totally ignore federal law, choosing instead to make their own. His pithy summary: "Sanctuary cities are a disgrace."

Last week's murder was one of those events that captured attention around the country and the world. That is partly because Kate Steinle was gunned down at a tourist spot in one of America's famed cities.

And also because the murder came so soon after Donald Trump railed against criminal illegal immigrants.

If there is one positive, it's that all the attention could lead to action that would truly save lives. Congress needs to pass, and President Obama must sign, a law forcing localities to cooperate with federal authorities. Cities like San Francisco can no longer decide which laws they will enforce, which they will ignore.

Beyond that, any illegal alien who returns to the USA after being deported should face at least five years in the big house. Double that the second time. This absurd and deadly merry-go-round has to stop.

Consider this simple thought experiment: Provo, Utah and Montgomery, Alabama declare themselves "sanctuary cities." Not for illegal aliens, but for deeply religious Americans. Their public schools include Bible study classes and daily church services, while same-sex marriage is banned by local law.

How long before the Justice Department would stomp on those cities and prosecute their leaders? Can you count the minutes?

Yet dozens of cities throughout America are doing essentially the same thing with immigration. They do not follow federal law, they protect dangerous criminals, and they have fomented mayhem and murder.

So let's get on with it, Congress. Do your job by passing "Kate's Law." It will be a fitting way to honor a young woman who was killed by a vicious criminal, and by the policies that enabled him to roam free on the streets of San Francisco. Pass the law. Now.

Bill O'Reilly is a talk show host on Fox News. His column runs on Friday in the Minden Press-Herald.



BILL O'REILLY

Meshia Key graduates from Southern Univ.

Minden native, Meshia J. Key graduated from Southern University - Shreveport on May 6 a degree in elementary education. She will further her education at LSU-S this fall.

Meshia is the daughter of Marva Key-Taylor of Minden and James Faulkner of US St. Thomas Virgin Islands. She is the granddaughter of Harry L. and Ruby Key and a great granddaughter of Tessie L. Hill of Minden.



Fundrasier for Webster Humane Association and Lumberjack Animal Rescue

The fundraiser Rescues on the Bayou to benefit the Webster Humane Association and Lumberjack Animal Rescue will be from 4:30 p.m. until 8:30, Saturday, July 11 at Pavilion at Cinnamon Creek RV Park in Dixie Inn. The event will include food, door prizes and music from the Exit 49 Band. Adult tickets will include a pulled pork sandwich plate and one raffle ticket. The cost is \$18. Children's tickets for ages 4 until 12 will include a hot-dog and will cost \$7 after. The guest of honor will be Braveheart. Braveheart is the voice of change for abandoned, abused and neglected animals all over the world. For tickets or more information, contact Trish Stanley at 318-371-5111.

WRAP UP

Stevens Family Reunion

SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-HERALD

A family reunion for the descendants of Thomas Louis Stevens and Louisiana (Anna) Hutchinson Stevens was held July 4th in Heflin at the Heflin Baptist Church. A word of welcome was extended by Stewart Beatty of Heflin. Joe Bob Beatty of Heflin asked the blessing before our meal and Ned Beatty of Minden led in the pledge of allegiance.

Joy, fellowship, and great food was the order of the day. Some relatives in attendance were present for the first time in 20 years. Having married a girl from Bolivia, South America and their job requiring travel has presented a problem for their attendance.

A brief program was led by Irene (Stevens) Tomlinson to help relatives get acquainted. Using a booklet she had prepared with pictures of the older generation helped them recog-

nize their family line.

Gifts were given in recognition: Additions in the family this year.

Bride, Groom or Baby - none. One with the name "Stevens" went to Thomas Wayne Stevens of Montgomery, AL, those traveling the longest distance went to Gene Harris, wife Chachi from Bolivia; their daughter Ingrid Harris Antezana and her two children, Sophia Antezana and Matthew Antezana of Miami, Florida.

Sharon Felts of Shreveport was seated in the "Stevens" chair when checking the register number for that one #19 and received a gift.

Those who carry the name of the first Stevens grandparents in any form went to Thomas Wayne Stevens of Montgomery, AL, and Thomas Steven Davis of Minden.

Recognition was made of a dear one not present: for her life and service to

her Lord, church and community - Lucille Beatty Feltse. Born May 9, 1916 recently celebrated her 99th birthday, now living in Virginia with her daughter Beth Claire Felts Elkins. Lucille was an artist and many of her paintings were on display.

Those present were: Stewart and Carolyn Beatty, Joe and Diane Beatty, of Heflin, Ned and Judy Beatty of Minden, Sandy Beatty of Minden, Wayne Stevens of Montgomery, AL, Kristi Witt of Foulk, AR, Steve Davis, Jimmy and LaDonna Davis of Minden, Irene Tomlinson of Minden, Rusy Davis and Nell Davis of Heflin, Gene Harris and Chachi Harris of Miami, FL, INgrid Antezana, Sophia Antezana and Matthew Antezana of Miami, FL, Sharon Felts of Shreveport and Rev. Ronnie Osborne of Heflin.

Around Town

July 10, 2015

Revival Services to be Monday through Friday, July 6 - 10, 2015 at 7 p.m. nightly. Revival messenger will be Pastor Willie Jiles of Mary Evergreen Missionary Baptist Church of Shreveport.

July 10, 2015

Fresh Fire Ministries will host a Friday Night Hangout night for youth ages 10-18 years old. There will be food, games (pool, ping

pong, air hockey, darts,) live music & much more. 5 p.m. until 8.

July 11, 2015

Mount Comfort Baptist Church will have its annual Women Day at 11 a.m. with Sister Barbara Doss as the speaker.

July 12, 2015

Mount Comfort Baptist Church will host Dea. Donald Joseph of Blue Run Baptist Church for a worshipservice on the importance of

Sunday School at 11 a.m.

Mt. Zion C.M.E Church will celebrate the 3rd appreciation for the Rev. Raymond F. Hampton at 3 p.m. Guest speaker is the Rev. Dr. Perrico Robinson of Belen Church in Belen, New Mexico.

Pleasant Valley Baptist Church in Athens will have its 111 Anniversary Service will be at 2:30 p.m. Special guest will be Pastor C.W. Murphey and Friendship Baptist Church in Haynesville.

New Light Missionary B.C. will have its church anniversary at 3 p.m. with the guest speaker the Rev. A. Shelton of Union Grove M.B.C.

Greater St. Paul Baptist Church will have its Annual Family and Friends Day Celebration at 10:30 a.m.

New Light Missionary Baptist Church located at 413 W. R. Reader St. in Minden is celebrating their 109th Church Anniversary at 3 p.m. The guests are Pastor Alvin Shelton and Union Grove Baptist Church of Minden.

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HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Football season in sight



With the summer heat intensifying over the last week, the Minden Crimson Tide and Glenbrook Apaches have stepped it up as well. The Crimson Tide got in a good day's work as head coach Spencer Heard (left) goes over technique and alignment with a few Crimson Tide players. The Tide are working towards their Jamboree which will be played at home in The Pit. Over at Glenbrook School, new head coach Caleb Carmikle explains formations and calls to his junior varsity receivers and runningbacks. First game for the Apaches will be August 21 as they travel to Class AAAA Copiah Academy.

LITTLE LEAGUE

Darlings are district champs



Courtesy Photo/Clint Hollis

Dixie Darlings
Minden Nat. 16
Minden Cont. 5

In the district semi-final game, Kylie Ryan had a home run and a triple to lead the Minden Nationals to the win. Rebecca Mosley also blasted a home run for the Nationals, while Addison Monk had a triple and a single, Jacey Adams had a dou-

ble and Colby Hollis, Riley Mosley, Vivian Still and Audrie Teutsch all had hits.

Statistics for the Minden Continentals were not available at press time.

Minden Nat. 10
Benton 7

In the championship game against Benton, the Nationals were led once again by Kylie Ryan who

blasted her second home run of the night. Vivian Still, Audrie Teutsch and Lainey Mercer had two hits to help out the Nationals and Colby Hollis, Riley Robinson, Addison Monk, Rebecca Mosley, Jacey Adams, Mackenzie McCoy, Lindsey Ryan and Paition Levesque all had base hits to round out the offense.



Minden Press-Herald and Minden Farm & Garden

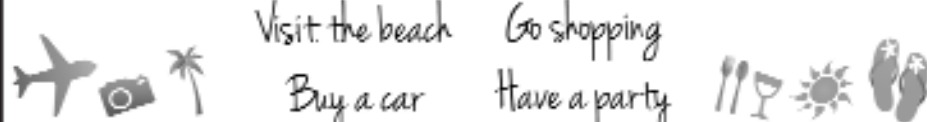
TEAM OF THE WEEK



Congratulations to the AAA Minden Nationals. They are this week's MPH/Minden Farm & Garden Team of the Week after going undefeated and taking first place in the district all-star tournament. The AAA Nationals will head to Winnsboro for the North Regional tournament on July 17.

The Minden Press-Herald's Team of the Week feature is brought to you every other Friday by Minden Farm & Garden.

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Country music acts quietly abandon Confederate flag

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The Confederate flag was once a familiar symbol in country music, representing the rural South and the renegade spirit of artists such as David Allan Coe and Hank Williams Jr.

But the rebel banner that will be removed Friday from the grounds of the South Carolina Capitol has faded from stage and song, with many country artists quietly distancing themselves from the emblem that used to feature prominently in merchandise, lyrics and concerts.

"You won't find it being used by young country acts today, partly because it doesn't mean the same thing to them," said Robert K. Oermann, author and columnist for MusicRow magazine. "Partly because some of them aren't Southern and partly because if you want to appeal to a national audience, why would you do that?"

Many artists have adopted the American flag instead.

Only a small number of country artists have been willing to speak on the issue in the weeks since nine black churchgoers were fatally shot at a Bible study in Charleston, South Carolina.

Charlie Daniels wrote a long column on his website addressing the most recent controversy over the flag, which he called "a sign of defiance, a sign of pride, a declaration of a geographical area that you were proud to be from."

"That's all it is to me and all it ever has been to me," Daniels wrote, explaining that he opposes racism and believes that every person deserves the same rights and advantages regardless of skin color.

"Unfortunately," Daniels said on the site, "the Confederate battle flag has been adopted by hate groups — and individuals like Dylann Roof," who is charged with murder in the church attack.

John Rich, of the duo Big and



Rich, told Fox News' Sean Hannity that he agreed with calls to remove the flag from its pole outside the Statehouse in Columbia. A protest song called "Take Down Your Flag," written by singer-songwriter Peter Mulvey, has been recorded and posted online by hundreds of artists, including Ani DiFranco, bluesman Keb' Mo and actor Jeff Daniels.

The banner was not commonly used until the late 1960s, when it began to be adopted by some country and rock artists who identified as outlaw musicians appealing to blue-collar fans, Oermann said.

Coe and Williams, the country group Alabama and rockers like Lynyrd Skynyrd all used the flag on stage or in merchandise or referenced the flag or the Confederacy in their lyrics.

The flag continued to appear in some country acts through the 1970s and early 1980s, but it fell out of favor as the genre became more commercial and the industry sought to reach wider audiences in the suburbs and urban areas beyond the South.

Country artists take a big risk in addressing social and political issues. Just two years ago, Brad Paisley was criticized for recording a song called "Accidental

Racist," with rapper LL Cool J, that sought to explore racial tensions but came across as naive and ill-advised.

Diane Pecknold, an associate professor of women and gender studies at the University of Louisville who has written extensively about the history of country music, said country has a strong association with patriotism and with promoting inclusion of all races and cultures. She noted that Paisley, Tim McGraw and Garth Brooks all have songs that are explicitly anti-racist.

"You can criticize them for being naive or being post-racial in a way that ignores contempo-

rary and institutionalized racism," Pecknold said. "You can criticize them for failing to conceptualize it in a meaningful way, but you still have to say that they are talking about race and an ideal of America that is anti-racist."

Darius Rucker, a black musician who hails from Charleston, chose to communicate directly to his fans on Twitter: "Incredibly proud of my city for handling this tragedy with love. Thankful to be a part of a community that can come together in a time of need."

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Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals D

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| ACROSS | DOWN | DOWN | DOWN |
| 1 Traffic light color | 41 Constitution letters | 1 Actress Gardner | 19 Mythical reveler |
| 6 Prevent | 43 Raw rock | 2 Periodical, for short | 21 Enervate |
| 9 Pump up the volume | 44 Hathaway or Heche | 3 Mind- (psychedelic) | 22 Japanese pond carp |
| 12 Price | 45 Be that as it may | 4 Continental coin | 24 Towel designation |
| 13 Sundial numeral | 47 Radiant | 5 Get guns again | 26 Shun |
| 14 Powell co-star | 49 Skip a sound | 6 Cafe | 28 Chump |
| 15 Old market-place | 52 "Platoon" locale | 7 Has a bug | 30 Ancient boy king |
| 16 Decelerating | 53 Bill's partner | 8 Carnival city | 32 Circulating need |
| 18 Defeats | 54 Blanket carrier in comics | 9 Extraterrestrial | 33 Rowboat holder |
| 20 Paper quantity | 55 Sailor's assent | 10 Unit | 34 Reuben |
| 21 Schuss | 56 Conclusion | 11 Unusually small one | 36 Ra, e.g. |
| 23 Scratch | 57 Trade-mark pictures | 17 Utterly ruins | 38 — Carta |
| 24 Available | | | 39 Dentist's task |
| 25 Top-rated | | | 40 Garden statuette |
| 27 Subject | | | 42 Pie case |
| 29 Messy domicile | | | 45 Unsigned (Abbr.) |
| 31 Request | | | 46 Hodge-podge |
| 35 Swore, old-style | | | 48 Lemieux milieu |
| 37 Do in a dragon | | | 50 Pair with an air |
| 38 Possibly will | | | 51 Curvy letter |

Solution time: 21 mins.

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Yesterday's answer 7-10

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