ON THE DIAMOND

All-Star action heats up at the Rec. PAGE 6

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Despite the weather, Minden residents were treated to a fireworks show Saturday night to celebrate the Fourth of July. The show was put on by Lakeview United Methodist Church, George Fithen, Ron Hathorn

and Coca-Cola Bottling Company of Minden. Prior to the fireworks show, the veterans wall memorial was

unveiled. For more on the veterans wall, see Tuesday's edition. Courtesy Photo

WEEKEND TRAGEDY TWO drown following canoe accident

Two Louisiana residents vacationing in Georgia drowned following a canoe accident Sunday afternoon.

Authorities told WRBL TV-3 that 26-year-old Jemarion Warren and Billy Joe Warren's canoe overturned as they were crossing Innsbrook Lake at Pine Mountain Club Shalet Resort in Pine Moutain.

Police say the pair were not wearing lifejackets and could not swim well.

A witness said he called 911 after trying to jump in and help.

"We tried to give them paddles to grab onto, or at least grab onto the boat, and they were just panicking. Nothing was seeming to work. Then, all of a sudden they went under and we had just lost them," Jay Haygens told WRBL in an interview.

Panel

EDUCATION

Credit rating agencies combing through budget

OPINION PG.4

WEATHER

Tomorrow's Outlook



94 73 HIGH LOW

Cloudy skies early will become partly cloudy later in the day.

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MUDDIN' FOR THE MILITARY

ATV enthusiasts celebrated the nation's birthday this past weekend with an array of activities during Muddy Bottoms ATV and Recreation Park's "Muddin' for the Military." With a fireworks show and a concert by Summerfield native Frank Foster, the park was packed nearly to capacity. A little wet weather didn't dampen spirits as riders bogged through the trails of muck and mud throughout the weekend. The next ride will be Sept. 4-7 with Bayou Mudfest. Michelle Bates/Press-Herald



begins education standards review

MICHELLE BATES

michelle@press-herald.com

The newly formed panel that will review the Common Core State Standards has begun its work and is expected to complete their review by the end of the upcoming school year.

The review of the standards will focus on English and mathematics, according to officials with the Louisiana Department of Education.

"The process, approved by the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) in April, passed by legislators during the 2015 Legislative Session, and signed into law, empowers 101 educators and experts nominated by school districts, professional associations, and advocacy organizations to review and develop expectations for Louisiana students that will prepare them for college and career," reports a news release from LDOE. "Educators, parents and all other stakeholders will provide comment on the standards through an online Stan-

See STANDARDS, Page 2



SECONDFRONT www.press-herald.com

AN AP NEWS ANALYSIS Frayed relations could lead to significant change

MELINDA DESLATTE Associated Press

BATON ROUGE -Frustration, even outright anger, with Gov. Bobby Jindal has been simmering in the Louisiana Legislature for years, building as the Republican governor's presidential ambitions grew more obvious.

But widespread legislative sentiment that Jindal has been making decisions based on a GOP presidential campaign he's expected to announce June 24 may have a silver lining for the state, possibly putting limits on the next Louisiana governor's power and forcing sweeping change for state budget and tax policy.

In the just-ended legislative session, senators enacted changes to their leadership selection process aimed at limiting a governor's meddling and increasing legislative inde-

pendence. Lawmakers in both the House and Senate agreed to curtail the broad records exemptions granted to the governor, to provide more information to the public.

And the state's financial situation — hamstrung by Jindal's rigid positions on tax discussions — has become so troubled that the next governor elected this fall will almost certainly hold a special session to allow the type of wide-ranging, needed debate on the budget and taxes that lawmakers haven't had for years.

More through tradition than constitutional authority, Louisiana's governor has wielded significant power and sway over the business of the independently elected legislative branch.

The governor's ability to veto line items in the budget, control which construction projects

secure state financing and appoint hundreds to state boards and commissions has regularly been used to keep lawmakers in line and to limit what should be a separation of powers.

Lawmakers have allowed governors to choose their leaders and anoint committee chairmen. Jindal, term-limited and unable to run for reelection, has used that tradition and power to his advantage, just like his predecessors.

But the increasing rockiness of the relationship between lawmakers and Jindal may have set the stage for some notable shifts when a new governor takes office in January.

A day before the legislative session ended last week, the Senate enacted changes to the way it chooses its president and president pro tempore (the chamber's secondranking job) every four

years. They agreed to a secret ballot.

With that change, senators say a governor's armtwisting and threats can't carry as much sway in the votes because the governor won't be able to find out how individual senators voted — and won't be able to retaliate.

"The things that prevent us from being independent I think could be alleviated with a secret ballot," said Sen. Eric LaFleur, D-Ville Platte, who sponsored the rule change.

As they urged passage, senators talked of the heavy hand of governors in legislative decisions. Sen. Jonathan Perry, R-Kaplan, called the rule change "the most important vote for the future of this body."

"It's easy to say you're a senator, you're independent. We all know that practically right now that ain't

possible," said Sen. Norby Chabert, R-Houma.

In the last days of their work, lawmakers also gave final passage to a proposal that would limit the secrecy of the governor's office, to lessen the sweeping records exemptions that keep most information in the office hidden from the public.

Whether Jindal will agree to the record changes remains unclear. But lawmakers tried to make it an easy decision for him, setting the start date to coincide with the next governor's term. The bill wouldn't impact Jindal at all.

The more wide-ranging implication of the fractured relationships between lawmakers and Jindal could be tied to finances.

As Jindal guarded his record against tax increases. lawmakers went along with the governor's push

to use piecemeal financing to patch their way through the budget each year.

With savings accounts drained and continued budget problems on the horizon, lawmakers and the four major candidates for governor have started conversations about a wholesale review of Louisiana's tax structure and its billions of dollars in tax breaks.

A special session on the issue is expected when a new governor takes office, in the hopes of putting the state on a more solid financial footing.

Whether Louisiana gains improvements from the legislative discontent with Jindal is up to how the state's next governor and future lawmakers use the opportunities presented to them.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Melinda Deslatte covers the Louisiana Capitol for The Associated Press.

Webster Parish Court News

Carlton R. Eason: Charged with 21 counts of theft of \$1,500 or more and conspiracy theft of \$1,500 or more. Sentenced a total of 20 years of hard labor at Louisiana Department of Corrections. Each count, 1-5, is to run consecutive.

Mikel Chaz Farham: Charged with failure to register as a sex offender. Sentenced to six months in Webster Parish Jail to run concurrent with parole violation revocation. Credit for time served.

Jimmy C. Fisher: Pled guilty to hit and run driving and operating a vehicle while license is suspend-ed/revoked/cancelled. Sentence remanded for August 28.

Tommi Jo Irby: Charged with two counts of operating a vehicle while license

suspended/revoked/cancelled, operating a vehicle with improper tail lights, operating a vehicle without proof of insurance, failure to use safety belt, and improper child restraint. Must pay \$100 plus court costs or serve ten days in Webster cle with improper tail lights and without proof of insurance is set for August 28. Must pay \$25 or serve three days in Webster Parish Jail, served consecutive, for failure to use safety belt. Must pay \$300 plus court costs or serve 20 days in Webster Parish Jail, served consecutive, for second count of operating a vehicle without a valid license. Must pay \$50 for improper child restraint.

Terrel James Smith: Charged with simple burglary of a religious building and two counts of aggravated burglary of an inhabited dwelling. Pled not guilty. Recall bench warrant, bond forfeiture set aside. Passed status conference to August 24.

William Timothy Allen, IV: Charged with computer aided solicitation of a minor, indecent behavior with a juvenile, and obscenity. Status conference set for August 31. Trial set for Nov. 2.

Jacoby Dewayne Beene: Charged with second degree cruelty to juveniles and second degree battery. Trial passed to August 31. Daniel F. Belt: Charged with

White said. "The product

these 101 volunteer educa-

tors and experts produce

will reflect the years of

experience and commit-

ment they have given to

2015 legislative session,

state Rep. Gene Reynolds

and Webster Superintend-

ent of Schools Dr. Dan

Rawls say this is a step in

the right direction.

BIRTHDAYS FOR

SATURDAY, JULY 4, 2015

Johnny Green Sr.

Thelda Harris

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY

Niel & Jamie Moncrief

SUNDAY, JULY 5, 2015

Charlie Rice

MONDAY, JULY 6, 2015

K. J. Penton

Following the end of the

the children of our state."

two counts of distribution of a Schedule II CDS, possession of a Schedule II CDS, and possession of drug paraphernalia (first offense). Trial set for Nov. 2.

Sequin Clemons: Charged with simple burglary of an inhabited dwelling. Status conference set for August 3. Trial set for Nov. 2. Charged with two counts of simple burglary that were passed off dock-

Tadazion Jackson: Charged with possession of a firearm or carrying concealed weapon by a convicted felon and possession with intent to distribute a Schedule I CDS. Pled not guilty. Status con-ference set for July 27. Trial set for Oct. 19.

Charles A. Lewis: Charged with two counts of theft of oil and gas equipment over \$25,000, theft of goods over \$1,500, criminal conspiracy to theft of oil and gas equipment, and criminal conspir-acy to felony theft. Trial set for August 17.

glary, three counts criminal conspiracy to commit felony theft, two counts criminal conspiracy to commit simple burglary. Defendant rejected plea deal and is ready for trial. Trial set for Nov. 2.

Edward Pauley: Charged with possession with intent to distribute a Schedule II CDS. Pled not guilty. Status conference set for July 27. Trial set for Oct. 19.

Thain Schuler: Michael Charged with three counts of theft of \$1,500 or more, two counts simple burglary, three counts criminal conspiracy to commit felony theft, and two counts criminal conspiracy to commit simple burglary. Status hearing reset for August 3. Trial set for Nov. 2.

Russell Smith: Ravmond Charged with three counts of theft of \$1,500 or more, two counts simple burglary, three counts criminal conspiracy to commit felony theft, and two counts criminal conspiracy to commit simple burglary. Status hearing reset for August 3.

signed to Judge Self to follow codefendants. Status conference set for July 27. Trial set for Oct. 19.

Nathen Richard Stroud: Charged with simple burglary. Pled not guilty. Status conference set for July 27. Trial set for Oct. 19.

Amanda Lynn Truesdell: Charged with forgery. Pled not guilty. Status conference set for July 20. Trial set for Oct. 19.

Boss F. Walker: Charged with two counts possession with intent to distribute a Schedule II CDS and two counts possession with intent to distribute a Schedule I CDS. Bond remains at \$30,000, motion to reduce bond denied. Trial set for Nov. 2.

Angela Danelle Wolfe: Charged with three counts of theft of \$1,500 or more, two counts simple burglary, three counts criminal conspiracv to commit felony theft, and two

Parish Jail for first count of operating a vehicle without a valid license. Trial for operating a vehi-

Kevin Mitchell Martin: Charged with three counts of theft of \$1,500 or more, two counts of simple bur-

Quatarus T. Solomon: Charged with possession with intent to distribute a Schedule I CDS. Reas-

counts criminal conspiracy to commit simple burglary. Rest for July 10. Trial set for Nov. 2.



dards Review Portal that will launch July 8."

All public comments will be accepted online and will be shared with the standards review committee and content subcommittee members. Additionally, officials say, members of the public may attend any of the statewide meetings to share their feedback on how to improve instruction in Louisiana and the department. Members of the public can also submit their comments in

writing during each meet-Rawls says CCSS isn't ing. "Our state found comworking for Louisiana students and with this review mon ground in the simple committee, it will allow Louisiana to tailor a curidea that we trust profesriculum that works for all sional educators to do what is right for students," involved. State Superintendent John

"It's finally getting the two sides together, and it is a good thing," Rawls said in May. "Both sides are finally going to reach across the aisle and we're going to sit down together and go through these GLE's and decide what's best for our kids. Somewhere in there, I think they will ultimately come up with a solution that will finally help kids."

Reynolds says the PARCC test so widely criticized and feared is off the table as well.

A list of committee meetings and more information on the review process may be found on LDOE's website at www.louisianabelieves.co m.



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FINANCIAL

Greece looks to reopen bailout talks

ELENA BECATOROS Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece — Greece and its membership in Europe's joint currency faced an uncertain future Monday, with the country under pressure to reach a bailout deal with creditors as soon as possible after Greeks resoundingly rejected the notion of more austerity in exchange for aid.

With Greek banks running out of cash and facing the danger of collapse within days without new aid, the government in Athens is racing against the clock.

In an effort to facilitate negotiations on a new aid program, Finance Minister Yanis Varoufakis, who had clashed with European officials in the bailout talks, announced his resignation Monday.

But Greece and its creditors, who will meet again Tuesday to discuss how to keep the country in the euro, remain far apart on key issues, particularly the notion of debt relief.

The negotiations are

complicated for the European creditors by Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras' triumph in Sunday's referendum. More than 61 percent of Greeks backed his call to vote "no" to budget cuts the creditors had proposed in return for rescue loans the country needs — even though those proposals were no longer on the table.

The vote was painted by opposition parties and many European officials as one on whether Greece should remain in Europe's joint currency. In the aftermath, many officials softened their tone and said talks would resume, though Greece's chance of staying in the euro was looking increasingly shaky.

The country's banks remain shut for a sixth working day the government tries to limit a drain of deposits despite limits on cash withdrawals at ATMs.

All eyes now turn to whether the European Central Bank will increase the amount of credit the banks can draw on to make up for the cash drain. Ana-

lysts expect the ECB to not provide more emergency assistance on Monday, meaning Greece might have to tighten its limits on cash withdrawals and transfers from the current 60 euros (\$67) per day.

If the ECB does not increase its help to the banks, it will be impossible for Tsipras to keep his pledge to quickly restore Greece's banking system.

The Greek government has vowed to quickly restart negotiations with creditors in other eurozone countries and with the institutions that oversaw the country's bailout: the ECB, European Commission and International Monetary Fund.

Varoufakis appared to be the first casualty of the vote's fallout.

With his brash style and fondness for frequent media appearances, Varoufakis had visibly annoyed many of the eurozone's finance ministers during Greece's debt negotiations.

Varoufakis said in a statement he was told shortly after the referendum result that some other eurozone finance ministers and the country's other creditors would appreciate his not attending the ministers' meetings.

The idea was one "that the Prime Minister judged to be potentially helpful to him in reaching an agreement. For this reason I am leaving the Ministry of Finance today," he said.

As for his European negotiating colleagues, he said of them: "I shall wear the creditors' loathing with pride."

A replacement was to be announced later Monday.

With his high-stakes gamble to call a referendum with just a week's notice, Tsipras aimed to show creditors that Greeks, whose economy has been shattered and who face spiraling unemployment and poverty, have had enough and that the austerity prescribed isn't working.

But everything hinges on European reaction. A eurozone summit was hastily called for Tuesday afternoon to discuss the situation.

European officials appear to be split on a key demand by Greece to have the burden of its bailout loans be made more manageable.

France's finance minister, Michel Sapin, indicated that discussing Greece's debt is not taboo, saying the country could not recover with its current obligations "in the months and years to come."

Sapin also called for the ECB to maintain liquidity assistance to Greek banks. Germany, however,

remains reluctant to discuss debt forgiveness. Finance Ministry

spokesman Martin Jaeger said Germany's "position is well-known ... a debt cut is not an issue for us."

More broadly, Chancellor Angela Merkel's spokesman said talks on a new bailout program for Greece would depend on what proposals Athens makes.

Steffen Seibert said Germany respects the "clear 'no' vote" by Greeks against austerity measures."

However, he added that n

"in view of Greek citizens' decision yesterday, the conditions are not there at present to enter negotiations on a new program." He said the "no" vote is a vote against the principle — still supported by Germany — that solidarity requires countries to make their own reform efforts.

Besieged by a prolonged recession, high unemployment and banks dangerously low on capital, Greece defaulted on an IMF loan repayment last week, becoming the first developed nation to do so.

Now some analysts wonder if Greece is so starved of cash that it could be forced to start issuing its own currency and become the first country to leave the 19-member eurozone, established in 1999.

Tsipras was elected in January on promises to repeal the austerity demanded in return for its bailout and negotiations broke down late last month after dragging on unsuccessfully for five months.

OBITUARY

William L. "Bill" Carter

Funeral services for William L. "Bill" Carter were at 3 p.m., Sunday, July 5, 2015 at First Baptist Church in Minden with the Rev. Leland Crawford and Rob Basham officiating. The family received friends at 2 p.m., Sunday at First Baptist Church prior to the service.

Bill was born June 18, 1930, in Shreveport and entered into rest July 2, 2015 in Minden. Bill was a retired accountant for West Brothers, a member of First Baptist Church Minden, and a member of Gideon's International. He was a clock builder and loved working with wood.

He was preceded in death by his wife Betty Carter.

He is survived by his daughters, Judith D'Angelo and husband Stephen of Pass Christian, Mississippi and Jean Basham and husband Ronnie of Minden; grandchildren, Geoffrey Monzingo, William D'Angelo, Christian D'Angelo, Rob Basham, Angela Basham Partington; and great-grandchildren, Taylor Monzingo, Walker Basham, Abigail Basham, Brantley D'Angelo, Daniel Partington, and Nathan Partington.





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AP NEWS ANALYSIS



PERSPECTIVE **Too many** people crowding the great sights

ROME, Italy — On a recent June day, about 24,999 other tourists and I squeezed into the Vatican's Sistine Chapel. Seeing the Vatican and its museums is one of the most visually magnificent experiences on Earth. Clearly, the word has gotten out.

The chapel's ceiling — where Michelangelo painted God sending the spark of life to Adam - remains unforgettable, but its splendor does not entirely block the distraction of sweating humanity pressing on you. Hypertourism has degraded

sightseeing's five-star experiences. As the word suggests, hypertourism refers to the crush of transients into places built for more intimate encounters. And although the long lines and chaos surrounding such venues as the Louvre Museum in Paris and the Duomo in Florence are legendary, hypertourism is growing everywhere there's a bucket-list site, including in America's national parks.

The factors fueling the phenom-enon are obvious. Not only are more people inhabiting the planet, but many more of them have the where-withel to travel. Add to that chapter withal to travel. Add to that cheaper airfares and easy online booking.

Hypertourism can endanger the sights themselves. The famous ruins at Peru's Machu Picchu are under assault by the more than 2,500 visi-tors a day. The sacred Inca city doesn't have the facilities to handle all that human

waste. At the Vatican, the crowds breathing out car-bon dioxide and emitting body heat are so tough that they are threatening the glorious Renaissance frescoes that drew them in the first place. Vatican officials are trying to



FROMA HARROP

limit the damage through climatecontrol systems, but also by reducing the number of people coming through. The latter is a painful step for a holy place reaching out to all humanity. In this country, anyone who visits Bear Lake in Rocky Mountain National Park on a warm day knows that our national parks are not immune to the discomforts of hypertourism. The national parks have a lot of space, but they are also supposed to provide wilderness experiences. It can be hard to find solitude in a park that last year saw 3.4 million visitors — unless you're prepared to hike far from the beaten track. At Yellowstone National Park recently, a bison lying on the grass near Old Faithful Lodge and minding his (or her) own business was crowded by a group of tourists. An Australian man wielding an iPadtype device got into the bison's face, and the animal butted him into the air reportedly several times. This was the second violent humanbison encounter at Yellowstone this year, and the summer has hardly begun. One possible solution for crowded national parks is to create more of them. Another would be a strate gy to discourage drive-through visitors, especially on the busiest days. No one visits New York City for a wilderness experience — "wild" is another matter — but even in the land of hustle-bustle, the crowds are getting oppressive. Huge jets from every continent are now disgorging millions of summer tourists. Pedestrians have to walk into Fifth Avenue traffic to get around the throngs taking selfies and preparing Facebook posts in front of Tiffany's flagship store. The gorgeous Grand Central Terminal has rightly become a mustsee on the New York tour, but it's still a train station. Commuters now struggle to get around tourists commandeering staircases for group photos. A reality check is in order. New York's Metropolitan Museum of Art may seem jammed, but the nearly 6 million visitors it attracted last year equaled the number that packed into the Vatican Museums, a fifth its size. Still, it's undeniable that hypertourism has come to America. And its bags are unpacked. Follow Froma Harrop on Twitter @FromaHarrop. She can be reached at fharrop@gmail.com.

Originally published July 4, 2015.

Happy Fourth of July, everybody. Like many of you, Michelle, Sasha, Malia, and I are going to spend the day outdoors, grilling burgers and dogs, and watching the fireworks with our family and friends. It's also Malia's birthday, which always makes the Fourth extra fun for us.

As always, we've invited some very special guests to our backyard barbecue – several hundred members of our military and their families. On this most American of holidays, we remember that all who serve here at home and overseas, represent what today is all about. And we remember that their families serve, too. We are so grateful for their service and for their sacrifice.

We remember as well that this is the day when, 239 years ago, our independence, proclaiming that all of us are created equal, endowed by our Creator with certain unalienable rights including

the rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

A couple of centuries later, we have made ourselves into a big, bold, dynamic, and diverse country. We are of all races, we come from all places, we practice all



faiths, and believe in all orts of different ideas. But our allegiance to this declaration this idea – is the creed that binds us together. It's what, out of many, makes us one. And it's been the work of each successive generation to keep this founding creed safe by making sure its words apply to every single American. Folks have fought, marched, protested, even died for that endeavor, proving that as Americans, our destiny is not written for us, but by us. We honor those heroes today. We honor everyone who continually strives to make this country a better, stronger, more inclusive, and more hopeful place. We, the people, pledge to make their task our own – to secure the promise of our founding words for our own children, and our children's children. And finally, what better weekend than this to cheer on Team USA – good luck to the U.S. Women's National Team in the World Cup Final! Thanks, everybody. From my family to yours, have a safe and happy Fourth of July. President Barack Obama's weekly address is published Mondays in the Minden Press-Herald.



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.



combing through budget

Louisiana lawmakers struck a budget deal that spared health care and colleges from deep cuts, lessened the reliance on quick fixes to stay afloat and won Gov. Bobby Jindal's signature. But was that enough to satisfy national credit rating agencies?

State officials are waiting to have that question answered, knowing the recent legislative session began with the threat of a credit downgrade hovering over Louisiana because of worries about its shaky finances and patchwork budget

maneuvers. The

answer from the rating agencies is of particular interest to Jindal, who's running for the Republican

presidential

nomination

and is tout-

MELINDA DESLATTE

ing his management of Louisiana as one of his selling points. A credit downgrade would undermine the narrative.

News of whether Louisiana made enough progress to escape a lowering of its credit rating should come by late July or early August, as the state readies for its next round of borrowing through a bond sale to investors.

Ratings from the credit agencies help determine interest rates. A drop in a state's credit rating raises interest costs, making it more expensive to borrow money.

In February, two national rating agencies - Moody's Investors Service and Standard & Poor's Rating Services moved the state from a 'stable" to "negative" credit

outlook even after state officials sought to reassure them about Louisiana's financial condition.

The rating agencies raised concerns about the shortterm patches Jindal and lawmakers have used to balance the budget, maneuvers that have created annual budget shortfalls.

At the time, Standard & Poor's credit analyst Sussan Corson wrote that whether the state focuses on "structural solutions" to its budget problems "will be a key determinant of its future credit stability in the next two years."

In other words, the governor and lawmakers knew they were being closely watched as they closed a \$1.6 billion budget gap for the fiscal year that began Wednesday. Jindal made personal

pitches to the three national rating agencies since the legislative session ended about the health of Louisiana's finances and the progress made to align state spending to annual income.

Treasurer John Kennedy also made a similar round of phone calls.

Commissioner of Administration Kristy Nichols, the governor's chief budget adviser, said she and Jindal talked to the agencies about "huge strides" made in this year's budget.

She said it relies less on piecemeal financing and more on stable, recurring revenue. She said they described savings made through cuts and restructuring across agencies and improved revenue forecasts on the horizon.

The general takeaway that I received from all three of the rating agency calls was that the state went an extremely long way to address the struc-tural imbalance," Nichols said

She described herself as

"optimistic" the state will avoid a credit downgrade: "From the questioning that we received, I really didn't see any huge hurdles.

Legislative action lessened the state's reliance on onetime financing. Jindal and lawmakers used

\$1.2 billion in piecemeal money from property sales and savings accounts to balance last year's budget. This year, that's cut in half, with estimates pegged around \$550 million.

However, some maneuvers to drum up new money remain short-term fixes, set to expire in three years. While that gives a new governor and Legislature taking office in January enough time to take another look at the entire budget and tax situation, it could generate continued questions about the state's long-term fiscal stability.

Lawmakers agreed to raise about \$750 million this year through tax hikes, fee increases and reductions to tax breaks. About \$270 million of those maneuvers only last until mid-2018.

After his separate round of phone calls, Kennedy was reticent to give a forecast about how the rating agencies will view the state's budgeting progress.

These folks are good poker players," he said, describing it as a 50/50 chance the state can avoid a credit downgrade.

Kennedy said he's repeat-edly stressed it would take several years for Louisiana to dig out of its budget difficulties

"What I want to try to convince them is we made some progress," Kennedy said. Don't downgrade us yet. Give us some time.

Melinda Deslatte covers the Louisiana Capitol for The Associated Press.



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WEEKEND FUNDRAISER

Minden Patillo TarHeels Basketball Organization hosting shootout tourney

The Minden Patillo TarHeels Basketball Organization will host its first Bayou Basketball Shootout Tournament at 8 a.m., Saturday, July 11 at Lakeside Jr./Sr. High School. The tournament will serve as a fundraiser for the organization as they prepare to travel to Dallas for the PrimeTime National Basketball Championship. Admission is \$7 for adults, \$5 for students and children 5 and under are free.

Minden Patillo TarHeels Organization is a nonprofit basketball organization for boys and girls ages 14 to 17; and is committed to working with children in the community to give them skills to play basketball and teach sportsman-



ship. The teams compete in tournaments throughout north Louisiana, east Texas and south Arkansas. The team is seeking

donations to be used to support expenses needed for the national tournament in Dallas. The Minden Patillo TarHeels are led by head coach and founder, Jerome Blalock and assistant coaches, Darell Banks, Trent Jackson, Keyla Jacobs, Atorri "AJ" Shine and Rashad Wortham.

Annual Homecoming program to be at Union Grove Baptist Church on Sunday, July 5 at 3 p.m. Guest speaker and church will be Bishop Charles Blanks and Mt. Calvary Baptist Church of Springhill.

Revival Services to be held 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.

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 before July 6 is \$15. After it will be \$18. Children's tickets for ages 4 until 12 will include a hotdog and will cost \$5 before July 6 and \$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.



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SPORTS briefs

MLB

Kansas City with four all-star starters NEW YORK (AP) -The All-Star Game will have a Kansas City flavor, just not as much as it appeared last month. And the hometown

Reds can celebrate a starter, too, despite Cincinnati's sorry season.

Houston second baseman Jose Altuve passed Kansas City's Omar Infante in the final days of voting, leaving four Royals as starters for the All-Star Game.

Cincinnati's Todd Frazier leapfrogged St. Louis third baseman Matt Carpenter and will be in the NL starting lineup for the July 14 game at Great American Ball Park, according to final results

announced Sunday. AL champion Kansas City will be represented in the starting lineup by outfielders Lorenzo Cain and Alex Gordon, catcher Salvador Perez and shortstop Alcides Escobar. Four players ties the AL record for fan-elected starters, achieved nine times previously.

Kansas City had not had any starters since outfielder Jermaine Dye in 2000.

"Winning brings atten-tion, and that's what we've been doing," Gordon said. "I think we play with a lot of energy, a lot of fun. People have noticed it."

Eight Royals were on track to start in vote totals announced June 15, but first baseman Eric Hosmer, third baseman Mike Moustakas and designated hitter Kendrys Morales also were overtaken.

NBA Aldridge to join Duncan, Spurs LaMarcus Aldridge got he answers he needed

BLAKE BRANCH

blake@press-berald.com

Dixie Darlings Darling Nationals 21 West Ouachita 0

Vivian Still and Addison Monk led the Nationals with three hits each, followed by Kylie Ryan, Audrey Teutsch, Rebecca Mosley and McKenzie McCoy with two hits. Colby Hollis, Jacey Adams, Riley Robinson, Paiton Levesque and Lindsey Ryan all added base hits. Darling Nationals 11

Springhill 0

Addison Monk had three hits to lead the Nationals, followed by Kylie Ryan, Colby Hollis, Vivian Still, Riley Rebecca Robinson, Mosley and McKenzie McCoy all had two hits. Audrey Teutsch, Jacey Adams, Lainey Mercer and Paition Levesque all had hits.

Dixie Angels Minden 10 Union 0

Piper Stephens doubled and tripled, while Maci Tanner tripled to lead Minden Angels. Emma Earnhardt, Ella Floyd, Lauren Still, Molly Kaylin Fanning and Williams all had base hits. Piper Stephens pitched two of the three innings in this game, striking out six.

The Angels second game was delayed by weather and will be played Monday at 6 p.m. in Haughton.

Ponytails Minden 10 **Springhill 3**

Bridget Morgan had two singles and Regan Lee doubled and singled to lead Minden, followed by Holly Estes, Karli

Gotshall and Aubrey Gray with base hits. Laney Taylor pitched for Minden, striking out 12 batters in six innings.

Haughton 16 Minden 1

Regan Lee had a double to lead Minden, followed by Laney Taylor with a single. Taylor Bumgarner tossed four innings in the circle for Minden.

Dixie Youth Minden Cont. 16 **Springhill 5**

Seth Johnson had three doubles and a single to lead Minden, followed by Hayden Brown, Jonathan Parkerson and Carson Parker each with a double and single. Cale Hollis added a double and Jackson Powell, Je'Dyah Taylor, Caid Thomas and Grady Brasher each had base hits.

Minden Cont. 15 NOLA 5

Jonathan Parkerson and Seth Johnson both blasted big home runs for the Continentals to lead the way. Hayden Brown had three doubles, as did Caid Thomas, and Jackson Powell, Je'Dyah Taylor, Grady Brasher, Bryce Swain and Keaton Moore all had singles.

AAA

Minden Nationals 11 Union 4

In the championship game of the AAA sub-district tournament, C.J. Watts blasted a home run and a double, and Bryce Powell smashed a home run of his own to help Minden defeat Union for the title. Cason Clemons and Cooper Chase both had two hits, and Maddox Mandino, Dayton Sims, Chase Tolber, Landry Powell and

The AAA Minden Nationals celebrate winning the sub-district tournament title in Farmerville last Tuesday, June 30. Press-Herald Photos/Blake Branch

Brandon Winston all had singles. Watts struck out seven

DIXIE BASEBALL

ALL-STAR ACTION

batters in three innings on the mound and Mandino struck out five in two innings of work.

Minden Nationals 20 Benton 0

C.J. Watts and Cooper Chase blasted home runs for Minden, followed by Cason Clemons with three hits and Kendall Dee Flournoy, Maddox Mandino, Bryce Powell, Dayton Sims, Chase Tolbert and Landry Powell added base hits.

Flournoy, Mandino and Clemons combined to get the win on the mound.

Minden Nationals 12 Ruston 3

Maddox Mandino hit four singles to lead Minden, followed by Brandon Winston with a double and Dayton Sims, Bryce Powell, Landry Powell and Chase Tolbert with base hits,

Maddox Mandino got the win on the mound.



SOCCER

from the San Antonio Spurs.

And the Spurs apparently got the answer they wanted.

Ending a frantic few days of courtship - and perhaps cementing the Spurs as the preseason favorites to win yet another NBA title – Aldridge announced Saturday that he will sign with San Antonio and align with Tim Duncan and Kawhi Leonard to form what would figure to be among the league's mostformidable frontcourts.

"I'm happy to say I'm going home to Texas and will be a Spur!!" Aldridge, a Dallas native, posted to Twitter verified his account. "I'm excited to join the team and be close to my family and friends."

The Spurs could not comment because of the league's offseason moratorium. Aldridge's representatives did not respond to requests for further comment beyond the tweet.

Aldridge will be eligible to sign his new deal Thursday.

You could kind of tell once this whole thing started that he was trying to go somewhere else. Oklahoma City star Kevin Durant said during summer league play in Orlando, Florida. "I know a lot of fans were probably upset in Portland in his decision, but at this point in your life and your career you've got to focus on you."

Lloyd's hat trick leads US women to World Cup

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) – Carli Lloyd lives for the big moment. She had her biggest on Sunday night and gave the United States its third Women's World Cup title.

Lloyd scored three times as the U.S. jumped to a four-goal lead in the first 16 minutes, and the Americans overwhelmed defending champion Japan 5-2 for the team's first World Cup championship since 1999, and record third overall.

A sellout crowd of 53,341 that included U.S. Vice President Joe Biden roared in approval for Lloyd's hat trick, the first ever in a Women's World Cup final.

"It's been a long journey, my career. I've had a lot of people believe in me, in my corner, from day one," the 32-year-old midfielder said. "I've dedicated my whole life to this. Everything else comes second. But I wouldn't want to do it any other way."

When it was over, Lloyd collapsed to her knees and pumped her fists. Forward Abby Wambach bearhugged teary eyed coach Jill Ellis, lifting her off the ground.

Lloyd, awarded the Golden Ball as player of the tournament, scored twice in a span of about 135 seconds as the U.S. led 2-0 by the



fifth minute.

Lauren Holiday boosted the lead in the 14th and two minutes later Lloyd made it 4-0 with an audacious 54yard, right-footed shot from midfield that sailed over goalkeeper Ayumi Kaihori.

Tobin Heath scored two minutes later, the third goal off a restart for the Americans.

The U.S. had struggled in the World Cup since winning the inaugural tournament in 1991 and then

again at the Rose Bowl eight years later.

Christie Rampone, the only holdover from the 1999 team, lifted the trophy with Wambach, the 35-year-old former FIFA Player of the Year who has said this will be her last World Cup. Wambach was among the most vocal opponents of FIFA's decision to play the tournament on artificial turf.

Hope Solo won her second straight Golden Glove as top goalkeeper of the tournament. She played despite critics who urged the U.S. Soccer Federation to drop her after she initially faced two misdemeanor counts of domestic violence from a June 2014 altercation at her half-sister's house, charges that were dismissed earlier this year.

Solo, who hasn't spoken to the media for most of the tournament, proclaimed simply: "We did it! Awesome!"

The title, which adds a coveted third star to the American uniform, also vindicated the U.S. Soccer Federation for its decision in April 2014 to fire coach Tom Sermanni, who had replaced Pia Sundhage the previous year, and replace him with Ellis, the Britishborn American who had been an assistant on the coaching staff.

Ellis' coaching was criticized early in the World Cup tournament when the United States appeared to sputter at times on offense. Shifting Lloyd up top as an attacking midfielder in the semifinal against topranked Germany and again in the final, did the trick.

"I want to thank Jill," Lloyd said. "I know lots of people out in the stands were worried about us. We all held together. We all stayed the course. We all executed the game plan."

Lloyd had come up big before, scoring the winning goals in the 2008 and 2012 Olympic finals.

She put the U.S. ahead in the third minute off a corner kick from Megan Rapinoe, streaking into the penalty area on a diagonal run and using the side of her left foot just in front of the spot to redirect the ball inside the far post.

Lloyd's third goal came when Kaihori ventured far off her line.

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ENTERTAINM

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'Terminator,' 'Magic Mike' fizzle at July 4th box office

July 4th went off like a dud at the box office. Anticipated new releases 'Magic Mike XXL" and "Terminator Genisys" fizzled, leaving the popular holdovers "Jurassic World" and "Inside Out" to top the holiday weekend.

Despite the brawny enticements of Channing Tatum and Arnold Schwarzenegger, the fourweek rule of Universal's dinosaur sensation "Jurassic World" continued with an estimated \$30.9 million, according to studio estimates Sunday.

Pixar's acclaimed Inside Out" nearly caught up to the runaway dinos, taking in \$30.1 million in its third weekend of release.

The strength of those June hits and the unfortunate timing of July 4th this year coming on a Saturday (rather than stretching out a long weekend) meant the sequels "Terminator Genisys" and "Magic Mike XXL" both failed to match previous installments. Paramount's

Terminator Genisys," the fifth film in the series which also marks Schwarzenegger's return to his most iconic character, took in \$28.7 million over the weekend and \$44.2 million since opening Wednesday.

Warner Bros. also tried to expand the weekend, opening Tatum's malestripper romp "Magic Mike XXL" on Wednesday. But after a strong start, the film managed just \$12 million over the weekend. Over five days it made \$27.1 million.

The openings were disappointing for the new

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"Terminator Genisys," an attempted reboot in the 31-year-old, James Cameron-created franchise, was made for \$155 million. "Magic Mike XXL," a road-trip sequel to Steven Soderbergh's 2012 hit original, was made for just under \$15 million.

Megan Colligan, head of worldwide distribution for Paramount, said the weekend simply didn't play like a holiday weekend.

"The weekend got off to a very sluggish start because people didn't have off until Friday," said Colligan. "Our start was

to do with it is pretty severe competition. 'Jurassic' is still such a powerhouse in the marketplace and it was hard to anticipate that that wouldn't have burned off a little more by now.'

"Genisys" failed to come close to the previous "Terminator" film, the Schwarzenegger-less "Salvation," which had a five-day debut of \$65.3 million over Memorial Day weekend in 2009. "Genisys," which critics have slammed, is finding better business abroad. It made \$74 million international over the weekend. "Magic Mike XXL, however, had the benefit

LOOK!

CHILDREN!

of largely positive reviews and tracking numbers that suggested a possible No. 1 opening of more than \$40 million. The original debuted with \$39.1 million.

But "Magic Mike XXL" failed to expand its audience. Whereas moviegoers for the first film were 73 percent female, "Magic Mike XXL" was a staggering 96 percent female, Warner Bros. said.

Dan Fellman, head of domestic distribution for Warner Bros., said the film performed worse than expected in the South, Midwest and in Canada. Such a "girls-night-out" release, he said, didn't

materialize over the holiday weekend.

'Our audience wasn't available to us," said Fellman. "We might be down but we're not out. I'm in the wait and see mode.

Hollywood's summer has been inching close to equaling its record 2013 season, thanks partly to the unexpected success of "Jurassic World." (Now with \$558.2 million domestically, it's already the fourth-best showing of all time in North America.) The biggest potholes

this summer have been holiday weekends, noted office firm Rentrak.

Those weekends usually are the tent poles to Hollywood's summer spectacle, but the lagging Independence Day weekend follows a lackluster Memorial Day, when Disnev's "Tomorrowland" flopped.

These are the weekends everyone's going, 'Wow, what happened?'" said Dergarabedian. "Part of it was the calendar. Part of it, too, was you have two movies out there -"Jurassic World" and "Inside Out" — that are just dominating the marketplace. Both those movies have appealed to every audience segment imaginable."

This weekend was still up 6.9 percent over last year, when Melissa McCarthy's "Tammy" and the sci-fi adventure "Earth to Echo" made for Hollywood's worst July 4 in decades.

Universal's animated off-shoot sequel

"Minions" will debut next weekend after a strong international performance. The film, which gives the pipsqueak henchmen of the "Despicable Me" movies the spotlight, has already grossed \$124.2 million abroad, including \$54.3 million this weekend.

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Rentrak. Where available, the latest international numbers for Friday through Sunday are also included. Final domestic

releases, but each has a different makeup.

just not where it needed to be. Some of that does have Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for box-

figures will be released Monday.

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

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

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