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Thursday =





Webster Court News

NEWS PG.2



Minden Tea and Style Show

LIFE PG.5



Chop shop for the unborn

OPINION PG.4

WEATHER

Tomorrow's Outlook



98 75 HIGH LOW

Partly to mostly cloudy.
A stray shower or thunderstorm is possible.

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Vol. 47 No. 25



WEBSTER PARISH

Audit finds police jury in good health

MICHELLE BATES

michelle@press-herald.com

The Webster Parish Police Jury received an unqualified opinion on their audit for 2014, which is the best opinion a governmental entity can receive.

The audit was presented

to the jury Tuesday by representatives from Allen, Green and Williamson CPA.

Tim Green and Jamie Esswein presented the report telling jurors on the major areas of financial statements and major funds were unqualified.

"It was a clean report," she said.

FIND IT ONLINE

View a copy of the police jury's audit report online at **press-herald.com.**

For 2014 total revenues were \$13,417,906 with expenses settling in at \$12,058,519.

"They remained pretty stable," she said of the

comparison between 2013 and 2014. "There was about an \$87,000 increase in revenue and about a \$44,000 increase in expenses."

The total revenues and expenses include assets and liabilities.

Green went through some of the report, saying they'd done extremely well.

"As far as your financials, it looks like you've done really well," he said. "Especially in the general fund, you have basically a year's reserve. It's almost like you could operate a year with no revenues and pay your bills."

She gave a brie

See **AUDIT**, Page 2

WEBSTER PARISH

Police jury opposes inventory tax repeal

MICHELLE BATES michelle@press-herald.com

The Webster Parish Police Jury passed a resolution Tuesday in opposition of the state attempting to repeal the

inventory tax package.

The Public Affairs Research
Council gave some background on the tax in its state

budget research brief.

"Local governments in Louisiana and across the nation collect ad valorem property taxes from residential and business property owners," according to the brief. "Although unmentioned in the state Constitution, 'inventory' is included in property assessment values in Louisiana. Local governments collect a tax on inventories according to the local property tax millage."

In the 1990s, Louisiana began returning the inventory tax paid in throughout the year to manufacturers, distributors and retailers for 100 percent of the inventory taxes they pay.

See **REPEAL**, Page 2



Springhill Mayor Carroll Breaux, right, along with his wife, took the reins as president of the Louisiana Municipal Association Saturday. Courtesy Photo

Springhill mayor takes rein as LMA president

LAFAYETTE – Springhill mayor Carroll Breaux was installed as president of the Louisiana Municipal Association Saturday, at the Louisiana Municipal Association's 78th Annual Convention at the Lafayette Cajundome. Breaux formerly was vice president.

See **LMA** • Page 3

MINDEN CRIME

Man grabs girlfriend by neck, arrested, police say

MICHELLE BATES michelle@press-herald.com

A Minden man was arrested on charges of domestic abuse after he allegedly grabbed his girlfriend around the neck.

Assidious Devout Harris, 26, of the 600 block of Stone Street, was arrested Wednesday, Aug. 5, and charged with domestic abuse battery with chi



battery with child endangerment.

ment.
Chief of Police Steve Cropper says Sgt. Ryan Barnette and Officer First Class Ben Allen responded to a call regarding an unwanted per-

son.
"This all took place last night (Wednesday) about midnight," he said. "Officers

See **ARREST**, Page 2

CONSUMER ALERT

Blue Bell gets approval to resume Alabama production

BRENHAM, Texas — Blue Bell can resume production and sale of ice cream manufactured at its Alabama plant, the Alabama Department of Public Health announced Wednesday.

A state inspection found that Blue Bell's creamery in Sylacauga, Alabama, meets all state public health standards, said Ron Dawsey, director of the department's Division of Food, Milk and Lodging.

The finding leaves no state objection to resumed production at the plant, Dawsey said.

The privately held com-

The privately held company stopped production at its Alabama; Brenham,

Texas; and Broken Arrow, Oklahoma plants after issuing a national recall in April because of concerns about listeria. Its ice cream was linked to 10 listeria illnesses in four states, including three deaths in Kansas. The recall prompted Blue Bell to lay off a third of its workforce.

Listeria is a type of bacteria that can cause serious illness, particularly in older adults, pregnant women and those with weakened immune systems. Contaminated products were found at Blue Bell's Texas and Oklahoma plants. Tests found listeria on a

See ICE CREAM, Page 3



Blue Bell can resume production and sale of ice cream manufactured at its Alabama plant, the Alabama Department of Public Health announced Wednesday. File Photo

Real People Helping Real People

SECONDFRONT

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FALLEN OFFICER

Shreveport police: Officer shot, killed; manhunt ongoing

in northwest Louisiana say an officer has died after being shot while on duty, and a manhunt for a suspect is under way.

police Shreveport spokesman Bill Goodin tells The Associated Press that investigators believe they know who the suspect is and are obtaining a warrant for his arrest.

Goodin says a news conference will be held at 9:30 a.m. CDT Thursday to outline details of the shooting

release the name of the dead officer.

Clp. Marcus Hines said late Wednesday that the officer was shot while responding to a report of a suspicious person inside a home. Hines says an armed man was apparently inside the home, threatening to harm people.

Goodin says Shreveport police, Caddo Parish deputies, along with DeSoto Parish deputies and the state police are searching for the shooter.

IN THE COURTS

Webster court news for July 31

Charged with possession of drug paraphernalia (first offense). Bench warrant issued. Bond set at \$2,500.

James Burton Boston: Pled guilty to operating a vehicle while intoxicated (first offense). Possession of alcoholic beverages in motor vehicles and improper lane usage charges dismissed. Sentenced to 60 days in the Webster Parish Jail, suspended, one year active supervised probation, \$75 monthly fee, must pay \$500 plus court costs, must complete substance abuse, driver's improvement, and MADD programs, and 32 hours of community service.

Cythia Walker Gill: Charged with theft of the assets of an aged person or disabled person over \$1,500. Bench warrant recalled, must pay full restitution by

Sierra Harvey: Charged with middle grade theft. Probation revoked. Serve original sentence with credit for time served.

Christopher Harvill: Pled guilty to possession of a Schedule II CDS. Sentenced to one year of hard labor at the Louisiana Department of Corrections, suspended, seven years of active superprobation, \$75 monthly fee, must pay \$1,500 plus court costs over one year, time to be served consecutively to any other sentence, probation con-

Tadazion Jackson: Charged with possession of a firearm or carrying concealed weapon by convicted felon and possession with intent to distribute a Schedule I CDS. Status conference passed to Aug. 21.

Cedric Lynn Jones: Charged with aggravated assault and criminal damage to property under \$500. Bench warrant issued.

Shane Reeve: Charged with second degree kidnapping. Status conference set for Nov. 6.

Tyler Stomberg: Charged with simple burglary of a pharmacy and simple burglary of an inhabited dwelling. Status and probation revocation hearing set for Sept. 25.

Shannon D. Strother: Charged with racketeering. Status hearing set for Aug.

Sean Welch: Charged with telephone harassment and simple assault. Probation revoked. Serve original sentence with credit for time served.

Christopher Boyd: Pled guilty to simple burglary. Sentenced to five years of hard labor at Louisiana Department of Corrections, all but six months suspended, five years of active supervised probation, must pay \$500 plus court costs and \$75 monthly fee.

Eric M. Denny: Charged with simple kidnapping. Trial maintained for Sept. Markisha L. Holden:

Charged with food stamp fraud. Must have all restitution paid. Review passed to Sept. 9.

McCuen: Charged with theft of oil and gas equipment valued at \$500 or more, less than \$25,000, criminal trespassing, possession with intent to distribute a Schedule II CDS and conspiracy distribution of a Schedule II CDS. Bench warrant issued. Bond set for a total of \$500,000 for theft of oil and gas equipment and criminal trespassing charges and another \$500,000 for possession with intent to distribute a Schedule II CDS and conspiracy distribution of a Schedule II CDS charges.

T'Quoneon Mims: Pled guilty to disturbing the peace. Illegal possession of stolen firearms charge dis-

See **COURT**, Page 3

Bonsall says he is pleased with audit

AUDIT

Continued from page 1

overview of the remaining report saying this year's report saw a huge decrease in findings, going from 13 in 2013 to only four in 2014, none directly relating to the police jury. There were two relating to the E911 communications district, one for a bid violation where they purchased new equipment for their phone services exceeding the \$30,000 limit before having to put it out for bid. The second regarded the budget law, in which their budget exceeded \$500,000 and did not conduct a public hearing or publish the proposed budget.

The other two were relating to the Section 8 program under community services, one relating to eligibility over their resident files on rent not being calculated correctly, and

one with discrepencies in reports submitted to HUD.

"This is a great improvement over the prior year," Esswein said. "(There were several findings) with the programs with (community services) and that was down to two this year. There were three findings in the prior year related to the police jury and those were all considered clear this year."

Jury president Jim Bonsall says he's proud of the

"We've had some really good reports," he said. 'Mary (Whitaker) with Community Services, she took over this deal and she had a lot of things to work out, and I'm really glad it's moved in the right direction. I know she's worked hard at it, and I know it doesn't happen overnight. I'm really proud of everybody who works for us because they work so hard to keep these clean audits."

Police say juveniles witnessed incident

ARREST

Continued from page 1

arrived, and the victim wanted her boyfriend to leave the residence. Mr. Harris was apparently not on the lease, and both subjects had been living together for the past year and a half." He says the victim told

police Harris pushed her and grabbed her around the neck. According to the police report, marks were visible around her neck During the altercation,

three juveniles were present and witnessed the incident," the chief said. "At that point in time, Mr. Harris was arrested and transported to the Minden Police Department."

He was booked and transported to Bayou Dorcheat Correctional

Tax assessor: Repeal could have caused big shortfall in parish session, he said. Then the

REPEAL

Continued from page 1

The way it works is this. A manufacturer, distributor or retailer pays an inventory tax, just like they do ad valorem taxes. They pay the tax collector, i.e., the Webster Parish Sheriff's Office, and then that amount collected is turned around and disbursed among the various governmental entities such as the police jury, the school board and municipalities.

Then the state, during tax season, issues a rebate or tax credit to the company for the full amount they paid in throughout the year on their inventory.

The Louisiana Legislature attempted to pass a bill to repeal that tax packessence cut funding to Webster's governmental entities, but would have cushioned the state's budgstate Rep. Gene Reynolds, D-Minden, said.

"It's a shell game, and it's a pretty good chunk of

money," he said. "It's been targeted as one of the areas that probably will be repealed. Most states don't have it.



There is an effort to make some sort of offer where the locals can actually raise the money. There's a lot of negotiations right now about how they're going to at least replace part of the money."

"Refunding the inventory tax was seen as a major

step to make Louisiana more competitive when it was enacted, and it is still a factor in national rankings business-friendly of states," according to the

Louisiana Association of Business and Industry. "... in sum, should the state choose to repeal or reduce the state tax credit to industry but leave the local inventory tax in place, the net result will be an increase in taxes from Louisiana employers to state/local government of \$377 million."

According to figures provided by the Webster Parish Tax Assessor's Office, had the repeal gone through, local governmental entities could have lost roughly \$2 million. In 2014, Webster Parish brought in approximately \$23 million

in inventory taxes. Tax Assessor Morris Guin says that would have been a "real big shortfall for the parish."

"I think things will be a little different next year," he says of Senate Bill 85 and similar bills with it. "It scared me when all that first started coming up this year, because that was

going to be a terrible short cut for us." Reynolds says if the

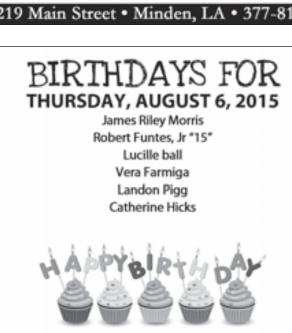
state is going to repeal it, they need to offer a solution to replace that funding so that it doesn't cripple "the locals." That's what they will be looking at in January during the special

following session will be a fiscal one, and legislators will be able start discussing options.

"It needs to be an offset on there or a slow transition to that so it's not such a shock to the system," he











You said it, Louisiana!

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Parish Jail.

Pickard: Charged with theft

between \$750 and \$5,000, 12

counts of forgery, and unau-

thorized use of access card

damage to property valued

at \$500 or more but under

\$50,000, domestic abuse

battery (first offense), and

two counts of simple

assault. Sentenced to two

years of hard labor at

Louisiana Department of

corrections, suspended, two

years of active supervised

probation, must pay \$75

monthly fee, \$1,891 restitu-

tion over first 18 months,

\$500 plus court costs prorat-

ed over first 18 months for

criminal damage to property

charge. Sentenced to 45

days in the Webster Parish

Jail without benefit for

domestic abuse charge.

Sentenced to 30 days in the

Webster Parish Jail, credit for

time served, first simple

assault charge to be served

consecutive with domestic

abuse charge. Sentenced to

30 days in the Webster Parish

Jail to be served consecutive

for second simple assault

Charged with three counts

of distribution of a Schedule

I CDS and possession with

intent to distribute a Sched-

ule I CDS. Sanity hearing

Pled guilty to amended

charge of aggravated assault,

amended charge of simple

criminal damage to proper-

ty, and simple battery. Ille-

gal use of weapons or dan-

Christopher Jamelle Hall:

Yount,

charge.

Claude

passed to Sept. 9.

tinued to Sept. 9.

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instrumentalities

Sibley mayor to serve on executive board

Continued from page 1

Mayor Breaux succeeds David Camardelle, mayor of Grand Isle, as the LMA's highest ranking officer. As president, he will serve as the Association's leading official advocating for the villages, towns, and cities in Louisiana during the 2015-2016 year. Additionally, he will serve as the head of the Louisiana Municipal Association Executive Board, and chair of the Louisiana Municipal Association Executive Committee. Mayor Breaux started

his own plumbing business at the age of 19. He started his public service at the City of Springhill in 1990 and served four terms as an alderman. In 2006, he was elected mayor. He was successful in his re-election in 2010, winning with 88 percent of the vote. In this last election, he was unopposed and is now serving his third term of office.

In 2008, Mayor Breaux was elected and served for five years as District "A" Vice President. He was appointed to the LMA **Executive Committee and** he has been elected in leadership positions for the past two years.

As the mayor of the City of Springhill, he has



The 2015-2016 LMA Executive Committee, from left, Carroll Breaux Mayor of Springhill, Barney Arceneaux Mayor of Gonzales, and Lawrence Henagan Mayor of **DeQuincy.** Courtesy Photo

overseen water infrastructure improvements totaling over \$16 million, including a USDA Grant of \$2.5 million. Just this past year, he has worked with members of the North Webster Industrial Park Board to bring a "State of the Art" manufacturing facility to North Webster Parish, IntegriCo.

He is working closely with IntegriCo to bring 300 jobs to Springhill and promote a recycling initiative to build railroad cross ties from recycled

Also installed Saturday night were Barney Arceneaux, mayor of Gonzales, LMA first vice president and Lawrence Henagan, mayor of DeQuincy, LMA second vice president. In addition, 10 district vice presidents who will serve on LMA's Executive Board in 2015-2016 were intro-

District "A" - Mayor Jimmy Williams, Sibley District "B" - Mayor

Eugene Smith, Arcadia District "C" - Mayor

Harry Lewis, Rayville

District "D" - Mayor Ken Freeman, Many

District "E" - Councilman Nathan Martin, Pineville

District "F" - Mayor Purvis Morrison, Scott District "G" - Mayor

Greg Jones, Crowley
District "H" - Mayor

Harold Rideau, Baker District "I" - Mayor Donald Villere, Mandev-

District "J" - Mayor Joey Bouziga, Golden Meadow

charge dismissed. For the **COURT** aggravated assault charge, Continued from page 2 must pay \$500 plus court costs prorated over six months or 30 days in jail. missed. Must pay \$100 plus For the simple criminal court costs within 30 days or damage charge, must pay spend 30 days in the Webster \$500 plus court costs prorated over six months or 30 Michael Nipper: Pled days in jail, consecutive to guilty to distribution of a Schedule III CDS. Sensimple battery charge. Must pay \$500 plus court costs or tenced to five years of hard 60 days in Webster Parish labor at Louisiana Depart-ment of Corrections and Jail, 90 days suspended, one year of active supervised must complete substance probation, \$75 monthly fee, abuse treatment. must surrender any firearm Alexandria Denise

charge. \$500 or more, but less than Tervorious Harris: \$1,500. Status hearing con-Charged with aggravated burglary. Status conference Justin Lynn Rowell: Pled set for Nov. 2. guilty to simple criminal

(no hunting or obtaining a

hunting license), prorate

fees and court costs over six

months for simple battery

Heather Prudhomme: Charged with possession of a Schedule II CDS. Sentenced to two and a half years of hard labor at Louisiana Department of Corrections, credit for time served for this charge only.

Michael Thain Schuler: Charged with three counts of theft of \$1,500 or more, two counts of simple burglary, three counts of conspiracy to commit felony theft, and two counts of conspiracy to commit simple burglary. Status hearing passed to Aug. 7. Jason Aaron

Charged with three counts of theft of \$1,500 or more, two counts of simple burglary, three counts of conspiracy to commit felony theft, and two counts of conspiracy to commit simple burglary. Status hearing passed to Aug. 7.

Edwin James Shuler: Charged with possession of marijuana or synthetic cannabinoids offense). Status conference set for Aug. 31. Trial set for Nov. 2.

Deborah D. Jenkins: Charged with two counts of forgery, two counts of bank fraud, and possession of marijuana or synthetic cannabinoids. Status conference set for Aug. 7. Suspend bond until Aug. 7. Trial set for Nov. 2.

ICE CREAM

Continued from page 1

plant catwalk at the Alabama factory, but not in cream samples, according to Alabama health officials.

Blue Bell, which is based in Brenham, Texas, underwent an extensive

cleaning and decontamination process at its plants following the recall.

No date has been given for when Blue Bell products could be back in stores as its flagship Brenham creamery and the Broken Arrow plant remain closed, Blue Bell spokeswoman Jenny Van Dorf said Wednesday.

"We are still finalizing

with the

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our distribution plan, and do not have a date when our products will return to market. We are making good progress on our facilities in Broken Arrow and Brenham, but do not have a date when production will resume," she

Last month, The Wall Street Journal reported that Fort Worth, Texas billionaire Sid Bass will lend the company up to \$125 million, and that the investment is essential for the popular ice-cream maker to remain in business, according to a published report. Under the terms, the Bass family would get a one-third stake in the company.



Miles that Matter 5K Run/Walk Saturday, August 15 at 8a.m. Minden

Miles that Matter 5K is being held in an effort to raise funds to offset healthcare costs for Tiffany Copeland of Minden who was recently diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia.

Starting Time: 5K Run/Walk sponsored in part by Minden Medical Center will start at 8a.m. Saturday, August 15.

Race course: The course will begin and end at Minden Medical Center Outpatient Physical Therapy at 1120 Homer Road in Minden. Participants will run/walk through Ridgewood neighborhood.

Registration: Early Registration is \$25 until August 4. All participants who register by August 4 will recieve a short sleeve official Miles that Matter Run T-shirt. Late registration is \$30 August 5-Race Day. You may pay with a credit card online at www.sportspectrumusa.com or with cash or contact Ashley Vise at 318-464-2146 or Sportspectrum in Shreveport at 6970 Fern Avenue. IPICO timing system is included in registration fee.

Packet Pickup: Friday, August 14 and Saturday, August 15, 8a.m. until 5p.m. at 1120 Homer Road and Race day 7a.m. until 7:45a.m. before race.

Age Group Awards: 1st place winners in each following age group will receive awards: 12 and under, 13-19, 20-30, 31-40, 41-50, 51-60, 61 and older.

Post Race Party: Following the race we'll have family friendly entertainment and activities, so stick around!

Inclement Weather: Check Facebook Fight for Tiffany or Call 318-464-2146 for updates on race day weather.

In consideration of my being admitted to enter the Milles that Matter SK, I, for myself, my heirs, and assigns, executors and administrators, do hereby forever release and discharge Sportspectrum, RRCA, Sportspectrum Race Management, NWLRA, Minden Medical center Rehab & Physical Therapy, their employees and agents, of and from any and all claims inds for damages, injuries, or liability, in any manner arising out of participation in this event. I agree to idemnify and hold harmless the parties released above from any claims or demands for damages, for injuries or liability, in any way arising out of my participation in this event. I certify that I have prepared myself for this race and that I am in adequate

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Miles that Matter SK	Official Entry Form and T-Shirt	Order Form - Augu	st 15, 2015					
Today's Date://2015	Entry Fee: \$25 Late Entry Fee a	fter August 4: \$30	Individiual T-shirts: \$25					
Last Name	First Name	Date	Date of Birth//					
Email Address	o							
Cell Phone Number Check here if you just want a t-shirt and are not planning to run								
Address	City	State	Zp					
Male Female	Short Sleeve T-Shirt Size (Circl Extra T-Shirts: Quantity:							
I understand and agree to all conditio Parent/Guardian Signature if under 18								

4 Thursday, August 6, 2015 — Minden Press-Herald

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EDITORIAL ROUND UP

The Advocate on state's economic growth factors

An old saying once used to suggest something is not relevant is a bit ironic today: What's that got to do with the price of tea in

Unfortunately, the price of a lot of things in China is more than relevant to Louisiana's generally positive but a little bit more uncertain economic prospects.

The price of stocks in China after a market tumble, as well as Greece's status in the EU, apparently have had an impact on United States consumer confidence, or at least economists at the Conference Board think so.

The consumer confidence survey is the lowest since September, but economist Lynn Franco told The Associated Press that it's still a positive number: "Overall, the index remains at levels asso-ciated with an expending associated with an expanding economy and a relatively confident consumer."

The U.S. economy grew by a solid 2.3 percent in the second quarter, the Commerce Department reported. So economic output numbers and orders of durable goods continue to be positive but also with a level of uncertainty. The latter were boosted by big airplane sales by Boeing after the Paris air show but not necessarily other products; the strong dollar inhibits foreign sales by making U.S. products relatively more expen-

One of the durable-goods numbers is relevant to Louisiana – oil and gas drilling equipment. That market has been severely curtailed by the fall in the price of

And here's another price-oftea-in-China effect: A slowdown in that giant economy in Asia is one of the factors in the fall of oil

While in the United States much attention has been focused on expanded domestic production — a long-term good for the economy and for Louisiana's service oilfield industries — a world market is also highly sensitive to energy demand, and China and European countries have not been growing as in the

Louisiana's energy sector thus does not show quite the countercyclical growth that we have been used to. With energy demands growing, even in past national recessions, we could count on energy for Louisiana growth even when the rest of the nation was undergoing harder economic times.

Now, our economic fortunes are more heavily dependent on others' growing. That was particularly apparent during the nation's heavy recession that began in 2008; closure of timber yards and lumber mills, for example, hurt the state significantly north of Interstate 10. Louisiana's exports, from food and fiber to petrochemical products, are today more than ever integrated into world markets.

The price of tea in China? Our answer to the question these days might be along the lines of, 'Well? What is it?"

Give us your two cents!

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



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PERSPECTIVE

Marijuana: From demonization to legalization to celebration

Earlier this year, music legends Willie Nelson and Merle Haggard teamed up to make a pro-marijuana video titled "It's All Going to Pot.'

And, apparently they were right, for I've now learned that even the state fair is going to pot — literally. A press release from the organizers of the DC State Fair exclaims: "It's true! For the first time ever, we're hosting a new contest for local cannabis growers to show off their plants' finest buds.' They're not just blowing

smoke, for it turns out that Washington, D.C., voters passed a referendum in November to legalize marijuato allow locals to grow up to



HIGHTOWER

six plants at their residences. With the nationwide renaissance in urban agriculture, why not invite the proud cultivators of the happy weed to show off the finest produce from their pot plots? After all, state fairs already have contests for the best ice cream, pickles, homebrew, compost, flower arrangements, crafts and such — so it's not a stretch to see who can win the Marijuana Bud Blue Ribbon. The buds are to be judged on characteristics such as appearance, smell and stickiness, but not such consumer-satisfaction qualities as "duration of high" or

"development of mellowness." In fact, contrary to the judging of the Tastiest Tomato category, the entry form for the Best Bud Contest specifies rather sternly that judges "will not sample or consume your submission." That's probably smart, since the whole panel of judges could dissolve into uncontrollable giggles halfway

through the sampling. From the demonization of marijuana to legalization and now to celebration — it's a trajectory of progress that reflects some mellowing in society itself. As the DC State Fair people put it, "Now that it's legal, we wanted a way to highlight this new freedom while also showing off the agricultural talents of the District's people.'

And with marijuana prohibition finally ending in states and cities across the land including full legalization and/or commercialization not just in Washington, D.C., but also Alaska, Colorado, Washington State and Oregon — who better than our friend Willie Nelson to lead the way for weed quality and social responsibility?

The iconic musician and intrepid fighter for justice has announced that he will market his own marijuana brand, "Willie's Reserve," and open a group of stores selling topquality pot and parapherna-

"I feel like I was buying so much of it, it's time to start selling it back!" Willie excitedly said of his new weed venture. "I am looking forward to working with the best

growers in Colorado and Washington to make sure our product is the best on the market." A tireless champion of small farmers, civil liberties, the environment, common sense and the common good, he plans to start rolling out his stores and products (including hemp goods) this year, and he'll expand further as states' laws allow. In the typical Willie way, the stores will be "the anti-Walmart model," with a core purpose of helping expand the market for small, energy-efficient, environmentally sound grow-

Over the years I have cited Willie's work in calling for legalization and restoration of hemp farming in America. I've also called repeatedly for an end to the Orwellian, Kafkaesque drug war that has criminalized the cannabis equivalent of cocktail hour 750,000 people are arrested each year for marijuanarelated offenses.

And now, I salute the innumerable grassroots activists who've steadily pushed America from the darkness of marijuana madness to being able to light up a "Willie" without getting busted! So to Willie, Merle, the DC State Fair and all the longtime champions of this struggle for normality, "This bud's for you!" Find out more about marijuana legalization at the Marijuana Policy Project (mpp.org) and the National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (norml.org).

PERSPECTIVE

Chop shop for the

His detractors will describe it as grandstanding. They also will say his decision was politically motivated.

Those who believe in the sanctity of life will applaud him. I do.

Whatever the reason was or wasn't, Gov. Bobby Jindal acted appropriately earlier this week when he directed the state Department of Health and Hospitals to terminate its Medicaid provider contract with Planned Parenthood's operation in our little corner of the world, that being Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast. Headquartered in Houston, Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast operates a satellite facility in New Orleans. The New Orleans office is conveniently located in a low income neighborhood, or in the heart of a populace that's largely dependent upon Medicaid for access to health care services.

Jindal's directive was in response to those horrific videos we've been exposed to over the past couple of weeks of aborted babies being picked apart by Planned Parenthood operatives in Planned Parenthood facilities. The little hearts and eyeballs and livers and other tissue

that's harvested from what was a live baby in a mother's womb are sold to corporations for socalled research purposes. It seems reasonable to suggest only an agnostic or an atheist could par ticipate in such behavior. Jindal's deci-

sion to drop the



hammer on Planned Parenthood also was justified in light of Planned Parenthood officials playing fast and loose with the truth when DHH questioned them about whether any Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast facilities engaged in what should be described as dissecting babies. Officials at Planned Parenthood answered "no" to DHH's inquiry, which we know to be a bald-faced lie thanks to one of the videos made public by the organization, Center for Medical Progress, that blew the whistle on Planned Parenthood's

"chop shops" for the unborn. For your convenience, the video of Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast's activities can be seen by going online to www.hannapub.com. Just click on the icon for the newspaper of your choice and direct your attention to this column. There you will see a link to the video.

Discretion is advised. While there's been a flurry of activity on the legal front to shut down the Center for Medical Progress' videos, the Republicancontrolled U.S. House and U.S. Senate lost all contact with their manhood, so to speak, and have failed to spike some \$500 million in federal funding for Planned Parenthood. Oh sure, the House approved legislation to defund Planned Parenthood, and the Senate took a jab at it, too, but fell short of garnering 60 votes to thwart a filibuster. But the fact of the matter is this Republican-controlled Congress simply does not have the backbone to stand up to a president who wholeheartedly supports the murder of unborn children.

That's it in a nutshell. Remember this the next time your congressman or your U.S. senator comes groveling for your vote. If you're a Louisianian, chances are your congressman voted to defund Planned Parenthood. Both U.S. senators did.

Their votes were meaningless, however, for each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation knew with all certainty any measure to defund Planned Parenthood would never be signed into law.

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

WEBSTERLIFE

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Around Town

August 8, 2015

The Golden Gates, Bro. Roy Flurnoy, King John Taylor, and Jody & Company will be performing at True Life COGIC's evening of "Old-Fashioned Quartet Singing" at 7 p.m.

New Light Missionary Baptist Church celebrates the 2nd anniversary of the Rev. Asby Kenta Glosson with an anniversary musical with special guests the Anointed Gospel Singers, Voices of Thunder and the Spiritual voices. Event begins at 6 p.m.

August 9, 2015

New Light Missionary Baptist Church celebrates the 2nd anniversary of the Rev. Asby Kenta Glosson with commemorative anniversary services at 3 p.m. with guest speaker the Rev. Johnnie Dyes

Saint James Missionary Baptist Church will celebrate its 149th church anniversary at 3 p.m.

Mount Dillard Christian Methodist Episcopal Church will have its homecoming and revival services at 11 a.m.

Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church will have homecoming services at 3 p.m. with special guest the Rev. Leroy Jones.

Annual Mission Day program to be held at Union Grove Baptist Church at 3 p.m.. Guest speaker will be Pastor John Cole.

August 10 - 12, 2015

St. Mark Baptist Church will have its annual revival nightly at 7 p.m. Guest evangelist will be the Rev. Arthur Douglas.

Mount Dillard Christian Methodist Episcopal Church will have its revival nightly at 7 p.m. with the Rev. Derrick Harris.

Miller Chapel Gospel Baptist Church will have its annual revival 7 p.m. nightly. Guest speaker will be the Rev. ASby Glosson. All are welcome.

Pleasant Grove Missionary Baptist Church will have revival 7 p.m. nightly.

August 10 - 14, 2015

Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church will have its "Recalling the Christian" revival program at 7:30 p.m. nightly. Special guests include minister Nathan Richardson, Russell Robinson and the Rev. Demetrice Bell.

August 15, 2015

Antioch Baptist Church will have its prepastor's anniversary celebration at 6 p.m. with guest speaker Elder Carnell Cooper. Musical guests will include Union Grove Choir, Bro. Bernard Webb, Voice of Thunder and The Violinaries.

August 20, 2015

St. Rest will host a Betty Rose Watts Community Lunch.

August 23, 2015

Antioch Baptist Church will have its 5th Pastor's Anniversary Celebration at 2:30 p.m. with guest pastor the Rev. James Smith.

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



Ukulele Gumbo will perform at the Minden Tea and Style show this Saturday. Pictured from left, front row, are Keith Reyes, Ronny and Glenda Collums. In the back row are Rita Rodgers, Julia Adkins, Ellen Stetson, Susan Keith and Lou Osborn. Courtesy Photo

Minden Tea and Style Show to benefit American Cancer Society

The Minden Tea and Style Show benefitting the American Cancer Society will be held this Saturday from 2 until 4 p.m. at the Eastside Missionary Baptist Church. This year those attending will be entertained by the musical group "The Ukelele Gumbo." The event will be catered by Rebecca McDaniel. Tickets for the tea are a \$25 donation. For more information contact Myra Wilson at 371-0063.

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GOING OUT WINNERS





BLAKE BRANCH blake@press-herald.com

MYRTLE BEACH, SC -The Minden AA all-stars run came to an end Wednesday.

Here's a recap of Wednesday's games. Florida 10 Louisiana 5

The boys had a tough time with the Florida allstars, falling by five runs and ending their chances of moving on to the championship bracket

Easton Sanders and Brody Bower led the team at the plate, going for a double and a single in the game.

Seth Mangrum had a run scoring double, followed by Zander Rowell, Hudson Brown and Landyn Huddleston contributed with singles.

Louisiana 8 South Carolina 7

The Minden boys went out winners with an exciting one-run victory over a good South Carolina team.

Easton Sanders led the way once again, this time with a triple and single.

Hudson Brown came through with a double and single, as did Brody Bower, Seth Mangrum and Brandon Davis. Zander Rowell had two hits, while Reagan Coyle, Jaxon Smith and Landyn Huddleston had base hits.

NEW ORLEANS SAINTS Ingram wants in on passing game

WHITE SULPHUR screen passes. SPRINGS, W.Va. - As Saints quarterback Drew Brees rolled away from pressure, Mark Ingram raced out of the backfield and toward the left sideline, where he nimbly made a tough, twisting catch on a throw over his back shoulder. His father, former NFL

receiver Mark Ingram Sr., might have enjoyed that play.
"I've always wanted to first day

do that since my first day here. I've always believed in myself that I could contribute in the passing game, coming out of the backfield, running routes," Ingram said after practice Wednesday. "I'm looking forward to that, hopefully expanding that role."

Given some personnel changes in New Orleans this offseason, Ingram could get his wish.

The Saints released

Pierre Thomas, among the club's most productive receivers out of the backfield, particularly

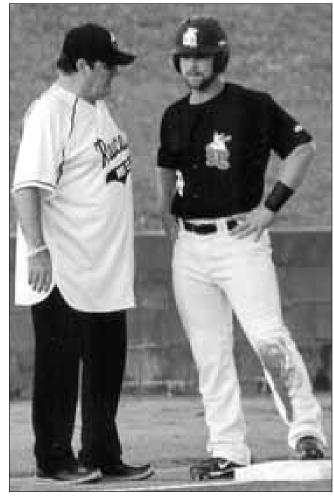
Last season, Thomas led all Saints running backs and was fifth on the club overall — with 45 receptions for 378 yards. Ingram, whose maiden Pro Bowl nod came largely because of his 964 yards rushing, was third in receiving among Saints running backs last season with 29 catches for 145 yards.

Sean Payton said it's difficult to discern a resemblance between the way the younger Ingram catches the ball and how his father did it, largely because they've played different positions. Yet Payton stressed, "Mark has that versatility, though, where we feel like he absolutely is someone who can help us not only in the running game but in the passing game." Fellow Saints running

back C.J. Spiller, acquired this offseason, also is expected to be involved in the passing game, an area in which he thrived in Buffalo.

STANDOUT PERFORMANCE

Lakeside Alumn still swinging





Jackson Slaid, a 2010 graduate of Lakeside, got to meet and speak with Pete Rose when the baseball legend spent a night coaching and signing autographs at a River City Rascals game in O'Fallon, Missouri. Slaid is hitting .310 with six home runs and 24 RBI for the Rascals.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Key, others arrive to LSU camp with hype



BATON ROUGE (AP) -Defensive end Arden Key strolled into the West Campus Apartments at 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, the first LSU player to officially report for preseason camp.

"He's a guy that in my

opinion will play a lot of the snaps as a true freshman," coach Les Miles said.

Key, who seems to sit atop the pecking order of the Tigers' 2015 signing class, made his long-awaited arrival to LSU, donning a gray tank top and showing up before any other player during the annual report day.

LSU players filed into the West Campus Apartments on Wednesday to check in for camp. Drills begin at 9:30 a.m. Thursday. LSU is scheduled to have two splitsquad practices a day — a morning and afternoon session — for the first four days. On Monday, Day 5, the team will practice once and will don full pads for the first time. Monday's practice also signifies the last day reporters are allowed to view a portion of drills.

Key was a hot topic of

discussion Wednesday as Miles, in a 20-minute news conference, praised the 6foot-6, 240-pounder. After all, Key was rated by some as top three nationally at his position among those in the

2015 class. Highly touted offensive lineman Chidi Valentine-Okeke also was cleared too late. Valentine-Okeke, like Key, reported to camp Wednesday. All LSU signees who qualified are on campus, the program said. Receiver Brandon Martin and defensive back Jeremy Cutrer did not qualify.

Key was spotted in the LSU football operations building's lobby Wednesday afternoon with members of his family. He towered over others and his long, rangy

arms hung by his side.
"I'm here!" Key posted on his Twitter account at 7:19 a.m. Wednesday.

He wasn't the only athletic talent to arrive on campus Wednesday. The nation's top-ranked 2016 recruit, New Jersey defensive tackle Rashan Gary, visited campus with his mother, according to multiple recruiting sites, including Rivals.com, Scout.com

247Sports.com. Gary, a 6-foot-4, 310pound five-star prospect, is the No. 1-ranked player in this year's class, according to 247Sports and Scout.com. Because of NCAA recruiting rules, Miles can't comment on Gary's visit. He could talk about Key, though.

"He went to work for the summer. He's in great shape," Miles said.

Key gained about 15-20 good pounds over the summer, the coach said. Any fear that he'd be out of shape upon arrival to Baton Rouge on Wednesday was put to bed when Miles saw Key.

"He's lean and bigger and stronger than he was. He was maybe skinny before. He ain't skinny any more. Big, tall, rangy, fast athlete," he said. "If he can develop that, he'll play at a high

LSU might need Key more than ever. The Tigers are slim on experience and depth on the defensive line. L\$U lost starting ends Jermauria Rasco and Danielle Hunter, and end Maquedius Bain departed

the program this week. Miles said Bain was never reinstated from his suspension for an arrest in

The presumed starters at end are low on any game action. Tashawn Bower played in a reserve role last season and struggled at times. Lewis Neal didn't even play end — he was a tackle.

Is Key the guy the Tigers can count on? He's off to a good start, being the first to arrive and in grand shape.

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THE BIBLE SPEAKS

Dealing with evil



Paul tells us in Romans 12:14 & 17 "Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not."

"Recompense to no man evil for evil". But don't people who persecute others and do evil deserve a taste of their own medicine? It seems only fair. Jesus taught a different way, later preached by Paul, which is out of sync

with the norm. Jesus' is our Model though distinct from the typically expected.

We are told "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men" Romans 12:18. Think about the words employed in this admonition. We are to make an all out effort at maintaining peace with others - even if they are the

ones creating dissention! This is the way of a follower of Christ.

Jesus told us "Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" Matthew 5:44. It's easy to quote, but not so easy to put into practice. When He said to pray for our enemies, He obviously

didn't mean to pray for their retribution. That would not be loving nor a blessing to them. Rather, we are to intentionally "do good to them." We many congratulate ourselves if we simply refrain from hurting back in revenge, but to actually do good?!

Paul has more to say on the subject. "Dearly beloved, avenge not yourselves, but rather

give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine enemy hunger, feed him; if he thirst, give him drink: for in so doing thou shalt heap coals of fire on his head. Be not overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good" Romans 12:19-21. A paraphrase of this passage would be "never take revenge but

turn your hostility over to God. The Scriptures make it clear, "I will see that justice is done. I will take care of it." We then attentively provide for the needs of that enemy We counteract the bad things they do by doing good things for them. This is another measuring rod for our own lives Am I, are you, ready to follow Jesus in treatment of our enemies?

ALONG THE WAY

The majesty and glory of God



As a child, did you ever lay on a pallet at night in the yard, looking up into the heavens'? Or lying in the shade on summer days just watching the thunderclouds as they rolled in dark angry formation, listening to the thunder and watching the lightening? Did you see the animal figures, angels or people images in the cumulus clouds as they silently sailed across the sky being pushed by the force of the wind? Remember how the beautiful rainbows after April showers and how they graced the sky?

I remember shooting stars flashing across the sky. The teachers had a fancy name for them - comets. Did you ever think of how marvelous God made the world and placed all these things into motion? These are great 'teaching points' to use with our children today as we observe the majesty and glory of our God at work in

We are amazed when these heavenly bodies perform their magnificent display of lights and sounds. The harvest moon, the super

moon, blue moon, shooting stars, rainbows, thunder and lightening all display the glory of God. (Psalm 19:1). God's creative work has put into perfect rhythm the movements of the planets, sun, moon, stars and all other heavenly beings. John Peterson's hymn reminds us of a greater miracle in his wonderful hymn: "It took a miracle to put the stars in place; it took a miracle to ĥang the world in space, But when He saved my soul, cleansed and made me whole, it took a miracle of

love and grace." The silent language of creation affirmed the Lord as Creator and declared that all creation stands as a testimony of His greatness.(OW, April 16, 2015). The breathtaking sunrises and sunsets and the sparkling starry hosts on a dark night – all whisper "God and God alone" in our spiritual ears. John Newton wrote about this great miracle of salvation, when he penned the ageless hymn -Amazing Grace. This is another example of the majesty and glory of God's

"Men ought always to pray."

Luke 18:1

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love and to what extend He was willing to show it.(John

Consider wandering outside on a cooler summer night, when the sky is clear and observe the action. The constellation of stars, hear the sounds of nature all around, and marvel at God's perfect creation and that He created you and me in His image to be care-takers of it all. Just another manifestation of the majesty and glory of the Lord.

THE UPWARD LOOK

God reaches down and rescues



"He reached down from heaven and took hold of me; He pulled me out of deep waters. He rescued me from my powerful enemy and from those who hated me, for they were too strong for me." Psalm 18:16-17

In great distress David cried out to God for help. David did not have the strength or power to win the battle against his enemies. He felt as if he was being drowned by his enemies. They were overpowering him and forcing him down into the deep waters. David's only hope was God. In beautiful poetic fashion,

David described how God reached down from heaven and took hold of him and rescued

Lord Jesus, I often feel overwhelmed and powerless against the struggles and trials of life whether they be circumstances or people. Reach down and rescue me, for it is only through Your strength and power that I can survive these days of tumult and distress.

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

reflections of faith

Embracing the new

out of the ship, he walked on the water to go to

Matthew 14:29 There is great potential released when we step out of our place of comfort. God does unprecedented things in the lives of those that are willing to take a risk. Life is filled with situations that present risks and the greatest



And he said, Come. And fear of failure. When we step when Peter was come down out of our comfort zone and

> into our faith zone, God allows us to experience something new.

> God desires for us to walk into territories that no man has gone, but we will never do these great things if we walk in fear. When we step out in faith on the Word of God, we can expect to see something

new occur as we thing that hinders us from did with Peter. The key to becoming our best self is the Peter staying in his faith zone was his ability to keep his eyes on Jesus and not himself. If we are going to move into something new, we must place our eyes on Christ. When you operate in self, in fear or unbelief you will eventually sink.

Today realize that when we step in faith our liquid of self turns into a solid faith surface. It takes courage to step out as Peter, but when you do you will embrace something others will not, unless they take a leap of faith to embrace the new. Jacques is the Pastor of Fresh Fire Ministries and Author of "Effectively

A church- supporting spirit

comes from your Holy Bible. Hebrews 10:25 Let us not give meeting up together, some are in the habit of doing.

Just as prayer generates a love for scriptures and causes people to begin to read the Bible, so does prayer also cause men and women to visit the house

ALLEN

MARY C

A church- supporting explained. Church going is spirit. The word of God closely connected with the Bible,

primarily because the bible cautions us against not giving up meettogether. Church going also results because God's chosen minister explains and enforces the scriptures upon his hearers. Prayer develops a resolve in those who practice it to not forsake the church. Prayer generates a church going conscience, a of God to hear the scriptures church-loving hear, and a

church supporting spirit. Praying people take delight in preaching of the word and the support of the church, amen. Minister Mary C. Allen, as always, my prayer line is open 24 hours, day and night if anyone needs spiritual prayer or spiritual advice; 1-318-265-4352. I pray every one of God's children have a blessed fulfilling day in Jesus Christ name. Amen. Minister Mary C. Allen. A prayer from the desk of Minister Mary C. Allen: Father God, help us not to give up meeting together and praying together with other believers. Amen.

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When I was a schoolboy, in the 1960s,

Reconsidering Columbus

Christopher Columbus was celebrated as the heroic discoverer of America, and every child knew that "Columbus sailed the ocean blue in fourteen-hundred ninety-two." By the 1980s, when I was in college, history was no longer taught as if the great explorers were heroes. Their exploits were subjected to reasonable criticism, and the fact that Columbus (and most other explorers, if we are to be honest) were seeking wealth and slaves took the luster off of their image. It is worth noting that even in Columbus's own time his treatment of the native Americans was subject to criticism. But perhaps we shouldn't judge Columbus too harshly. In the late 1400s slavery was still a near universal practice, Columbus had a lot of "bad apples" among his crew, and some of the "Indians" Columbus encountered were hostile. Furthermore. Columbus really did see his role at least partly as spreading Christianity to a benighted race of people who he thought would make good Christians. Columbus belonged to the Franciscan third order and he took to wearing the monk's robe after his third voyage, which he returned from in chains. After successfully defending himself, he spent time in a Carthusian monastery, where he wrote a Book of Prophecies which attempted to place his explorations within a larger divine plan. Columbus genuinely believed that he was doing the will of God, and so maybe this year on Columbus Day we should take a closer look at his exploits and his legacy.

Christopher Simon



"Yet their voice goes out into all the earth, their words to the ends of the world." -Psalm 19:4

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(400 or so), whis- Western, key barrels, art, Sibley Rd. lumber, washer NOW and dryer ñ great condition. Antiques and other furniture, screen tv, com- bussers. trict #8, in Cot- sell!!! Thursday ton Valley La will Aug 6th 7:30 a. receive SEALED m. until 6:00 p. m. BIDS until 5pm and Friday Aug 18th 2015 for the til 1:00 p. m. 915 **SEEKS** in Minden.

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dition \$45 Call or text 318-658-2923 for pictures mation!!

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to admin@myro- AUG 8 th. 982 Penal Farm Rd. MIN- Minden, 7am till. August 7th 7:30 a. m. un- DEN PRACTICE Antique lane ceexperi- dar chest \$200, 234 serger \$100, nice dining table and chairs \$150, experi- small rocker \$25, ence preferred. antique wall shelf ben- w/mirror \$100, efits. Please send 30yr collection of SERVICES resumes to P. elephants, love insired books, hay ring, LA man/one horse buggy w/leather at VAC TRUCK DRIV- harness \$200 NEEDED and 50 years of Stallion produc- "stuff". 377-3600

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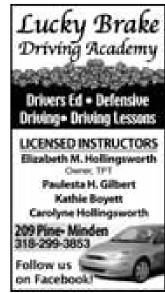
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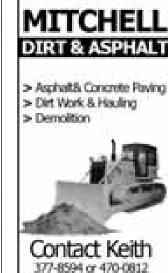




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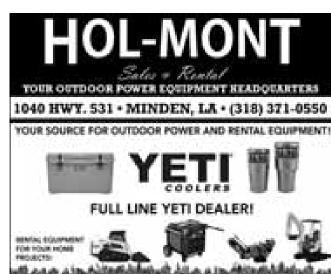
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