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WEDNESDAY



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today



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Vol. 47 No. 43



PARISH GOVERNMENT

Police jury aiding coroner's office

MICHELLE BATES
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Webster Parish Police Jury attorney Patrick Jackson says a plan is in place to help the coroner's office.

During the police jury committee meeting, Jackson told jurors "certain employment decisions have been made by the coroner," and certain "stopgaps" have been put into place to try to prevent

anything like this from happening again; however, Dr. Carlos Irizarry, coroner, is taking on the responsibilities of the office, he said.

Glenda Lewis was arrested Aug. 24 and charged with malfeasance in office and felony theft after a search warrant was executed at the coroner's office where Webster Parish sheriff's investigators seized files and docu-

mentation in relation to the alleged theft.

"We've been trying to facilitate at least some interim stopgap measure to get the coroner's office functioning and there's some other opportunities in the works to try to get the help of other coroner's offices until something can be put into place on a more permanent basis," Jackson said. "At this point, the investigation is still ongo-

ing and we still have a functioning coroner's office."

Lewis is accused of overbilling and double-billing public and private businesses for work done with coroner's office resources. Lewis was working for



LEWIS

the coroner's office and Hospice as well as other contractual agencies to do medical work and she was reportedly billing both parties for the same time. She was also billing for mileage for one entity and billing another entity for the same mileage, Sheriff Gary Sexton said at the time of her arrest.

Juror Charles Odom says he has no confidence

See **CORONER**, Page 2

MINDEN CRIME

Two arrested on drug charges

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Two were arrested on drug charges after police reportedly observed a suspicious vehicle.

Jacoby Mason, 24, of the 300 block of South Abney, was charged with possession of Schedule I CDS with intent to distribute and open container. Bond was set at \$15,500.

Adrian Combs, 31, of the 300 block of George Street, was charged with possession of Schedule I CDS (synthetic) marijuana with intent to distribute and open container. Bond



MASON



COMBS

See **ARREST**, Page 2

SALUTING FIRST RESPONDERS



Chamber of commerce says thanks with lunch

The Minden-South Webster Chamber of Commerce hosted its inaugural First Responder's Lunch Tuesday at the Minden Civic Center. Fish plates were served by Chamber Champion Party Express Catering and door prizes donated by area businesses were given away. Chamber President Jerri de Pingre says they hope to make the lunch an annual event at the start of September and could not have made this year's possible without the help of Town and Country Health and Rehab and all of the sponsors. Bruce Franklin/Press-Herald



POLLING PLACES

Voting precincts 21 and 22 to be merged

MICHELLE BATES
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Following a canvass of Webster Parish voters, the registrar of voters office will move forward with merging precincts 21 and 22.

All the voters in precinct 21 who cast their ballot at the Webster Parish Alternative School will be moved to the Minden Civic Center, to be merged with precinct 22, Melanie Smith, registrar of voters, said.

"We checked the precincts to see how many we have that contain less than 300 active registered voters," she said during a Webster Parish Police Jury committee meeting Tuesday. "The precincts that have less than 300 active registered voters, we are required to merge them with a larger adjacent

See **POLLING**, Page 3

PARISH GOVERNMENT

Police jury gets help with adjudicated properties

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The Webster Parish Police Jury is getting some help with adjudicated properties that will take the large amount of work off of staff without costing them a dime.

In Tuesday's meeting, the jury approved a contract with Civicsource, a New Orleans-based company that will take care of title searches and getting properties back on the tax

roll. The contract is for one year and no money will have to be paid by the police jury.

Parish attorney Patrick Jackson told jurors the way it works is Civicsource will take the adjudicated properties, clear the titles and put them up for auction.

"The biggest issue we were having was just the staff time to do it," he said. "Then all we could give them was a quick claim deed."

By doing a quick claim

deed, it does not clear up the title thereby making it more difficult for the land purchaser to go to a bank and borrow money against it, say for repairs or rebuilding on the property, he said.

Dax Allen, business development manager for Civicsource, says this is an investment driven model where nothing is done with the property until it can go back on the tax rolls, meaning successfully clearing of the title and

selling the property or returning it to its rightful owner.

"We've developed a model that follows due process for adjudicated properties, and we allow the market to tell which adjudicated properties are sold," Allen said. "There's no cost to the government, we indemnify them and offer title insurance, and the reason we are able to offer guaranteed title insurance is because we follow the strict guidelines

and legal requirements for due process."

Ronda Carnahan, police jury secretary treasurer, says she believes they have about 75 parcels of adjudicated property.

In other police jury news, the jury:

■ received a settlement check from Regions Bank in the amount of \$250,000 for the remainder of the 5-year lease at the downtown branch. The Sibley Road branch is currently under

See **JURY**, Page 2



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SECONDFRONT

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CORONER

Continued from page 1

in the coroner's office right now, given the arrest and conviction of Lewis' broth-

er, Glen Guin in 2012 for the embezzlement of nearly \$100,000 and the current situation.

"I'm getting calls, 'Why can't we do something?'" Odom said. "This is definitely an embarrassment."

He also asked about the proposed ballot proposition that would have taken the responsibility off of municipalities to pay for coroner's services by the creation of a taxing district to fund the coroner's office.

That proposition will not go on the ballot.

"They say, 'Why should I vote for this when this is happening?'" Odom said in regards to the creation of the taxing district.

The criminal investiga-

tion is still ongoing, but Jackson says coroner services for Webster Parish will continue.

"My understanding is he is (handling the coroner's responsibilities) and he is looking for replace-

ment staff," Jackson said. "He expects to have a plan in place, but there is some continuity of operation right now."

Qualifying for elected offices begins Sept. 8.

ARREST

Continued from page 1

was set at \$25,500.

Minden Police Chief Steve Cropper says officers made a traffic stop on what appeared to be a suspicious vehicle.

"Officer First Class Jeremy Sitter got out with a suspicious vehicle at Ewell Park and made contact with the driver and the passenger," he said. "Officers located two open containers of what they believed to be beer."

Apparently, Mason had a small bag of marijuana on his person, the chief said.

"Once they placed him under arrest, a more thorough search revealed six smaller baggies of marijuana, individually packaged for resale in the passenger door," Cropper said. "They also located a bag of synthetic marijuana in the vehicle."

Officer Terry Stephens and Officer First Class Jesse Cutrer assisted in the case.

Mason and Combs were transported to Bayou Dorcheat Correctional Center.

JURY

Continued from page 1

renovation for walk-in service, and the downtown branch will close in November.

■ approved a cooperative endeavor agreement with the City of Springhill to facilitate a method of acquisition of servitudes,

■ approved the purchase of a microwave for the Council on Aging at a cost of \$160 using District 2 recreational funding,

■ approved appointments for the board of the Webster Parish Convention and Visitors Bureau. Joan Farrar Roan of Springhill will fill the unexpired term of Lamar Smith, which expires Dec. 31, 2016, and Etta Jo McCullough of Minden will fill the unexpired term of Mary McKinney, which expires Dec. 31, 2017.

The next police jury meeting will be Tuesday, Oct. 6 at 10:30 a.m. in the police jury meeting room on the second floor of the Webster Parish Courthouse. Committee meetings will begin at 9 a.m., in the conference room on the third floor in the police jury office.



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CAMEOS OF MINDEN

Do you remember when...

JUANITA AGAN
Special to the Press-Herald

Alan Jackson was singing "Remember When?" and I wondered if you remember when.

Do you remember when Ray Allen had a cleaning and pressing shop up near John Fort's News Stand on Main Street (front street)?

Remember when a man dipped the ice cream cones in the back of Fort's News Stand?

Or when Luke Garland had his jewelry store near Mrs. Molly David's shop? And do you remember the lovely hats Mrs. David had in her shop.

Have you forgotten Service Grocery that was owned by Mr. Walter McCoy and Mr. Ellis Wood? Lots of young people, especially boys worked there in

the long ago, such as Dr. Sam Williams.

Do you remember the little movie theatre next to City Drug Store? It had lots of names - The Scout, The Tower, Brownie and maybe other names that I don't remember.-

Remember when there was a Nichols' store along near City Drug Store. Later this was the site of Beall's. And do you remember the Morgan & Lindsey store?

Remember when Bernice McCoy Cundiff worked for Kennon's Grocery back in the thirties.

Furniture and Hardware
Remember Paul Wallace Furniture store. Mr. Alvah Williams

had the GE distributorship in part of that store. Mr. Leon Fuller worked in the furniture store, and he was such a kind and gentle man.

Do you remember when the big frozen malts cost a nickel at Star Drug Store. One of the men there was Mr. Mildred Alexander (that was his name - Mildred).

Remember all the nice people who worked at Webb Hardware? Mr. Will Life, Mr. Walter White, Mr. and Mrs. George Lorraine, Mrs. Marshall Carson, and Mr. "Doc" Gibson. Doris Monzingo as the bookkeeper there.

Later she was Mrs. Jimmy Lomax and Jimmy worked there, too. I always say that all my furniture is not "Early American" or "French Provincial" but it is "Early Webb Hardware". The furniture was quality furniture that would last a lifetime and beyond.

Clothing

Do you remember Brown-Goodwill, owned by Mr. Ed Brown and Mr. Ralph Goodwill. Before World War II they handled Red Cross Shoes, but during the war the name was changed to Gold Cross shoes to keep from thinking they were made by the American Red Cross. The dresses were so lovely there. I made most of my clothes as a teenager, and later, but I was so proud to have a nice suit or a dress occasionally bought there. Mrs. Dennis and Mrs. Matthews (Sue Norman's mother) were the nicest ladies to serve you there.

Remember when in the late afternoons Jim Lyons would peddle his Hot Tamales down the street. He counted out your tamales on several sheets of newspapers and quickly wrapped them for you. At

Address where I went to work in 1940 often some of the men would buy a couple of dozen tamales, spread them out on the counter and invite all of us to have some. They were so good.

Remember when Varah Hardy, and later Chloe Waters Powell worked at Wren Mercantile along with the owners, Mr. and Mrs. Lovic Wren. The Skinner Satin for my wedding dress came from there. Their material was the best. Mr. Wren was the sweetest of men, he was old when I was very young.

Juanita Agan submitted a weekly column to the Press-Herald for more than 15 years until her death in 2008. She was a resident of Minden since 1935. The Press-Herald is republishing select articles from Mrs. Agan's Cameos column every Wednesday.

POLLING

Continued from page 1

precinct. We had nine districts this year, and only one of those precincts is eligible to merge with a larger precinct."

She says after some discussion with staff at the police jury office, the best option is to move the larger precinct to the civic center,

which will alleviate overcrowding at the alternative school.

In order to do this, a demographer will have to redraw the precinct lines and rewrite the descriptions to submit to the state for approval, Smith said.

"If we do not merge these precincts, the police jury will be responsible for the entire cost of the election in those precincts," she said.

Juror Charles Odom says he feels like there are too many people at the civic center, but it is a better option than at the alternative school. The civic center is air-conditioned, has handicapped parking and is on more level ground for the elderly voters.

"Instead of the precinct at the civic center having to move to another place, this allows them to stay

too," he said.

Earlier this year, the issue came up in police jury committee meetings because the alternative school needs some work and has no air conditioning in its gymnasium. Also, the slope of the parking lot, and sometimes parking, was becoming a problem.

The primary election is October 24, with the following seats up for election: sheriff, clerk of court,

tax assessor, coroner, justice of the peace and all seats on the police jury. Doyline residents will also vote for two aldermen.

State seats include governor, lieutenant governor, secretary of state, attorney general, state treasurer, commissioner of agriculture and forestry, commissioner of insurance and BESE district 4 seat.

Qualifying for local candidates will be at the Web-

ster Parish Clerk of Court Sept. 8 through 10.

Candidates for state senator and representative will qualify with the Louisiana secretary of state.

For additional information on voter registration, elections or becoming a poll worker, visit www.Geauxvote.com or call the Webster Parish Registrar of Voters Office at 377-9272.

OBITUARIES

James Todd 'Bone' Alexander

James Todd "Bone" Alexander passed away peacefully in his sleep Monday, Aug. 31, 2015 at his home in Minden after a long and valiant fight against cancer. Todd was born on May 10, 1960 to Martha Blanche Hollis Alexander and James Ralph "Dick" Alexander in Minden.

There are not many people that didn't know Todd, and there are not many people that Todd didn't know here in the small town of Minden. He was a forgiving person with a big heart and he just didn't know how to hold a grudge. Todd was never one who worried too much about what people thought. He'd show up to a black tie event in his work boots, Levi's, pressed button up shirt, and a baseball hat. Many folks never saw him without a hat on. Todd started off his sentences one or two ways: "Let me tell ya something" and "Betcha Hun-erd." His laugh and distinctive voice could be heard a mile away. These are just a few of the many things that those who loved him will miss.

Left to honor his memory are his loving wife, Theresa; children, Matthew and Brittany Alexander; mother, Martha Blanche Hollis Alexander; brother, Bill Alexander and wife Mary Lynn; niece, Jennifer Christen Fontenot; nephew, William Jared Alexander; great nieces Lauren and Lillian Fontenot; stepchildren, Mallory Stewart, Tiffany Patterson and Shane Patterson; mother of his children, Janice Alexander; and countless friends.

Todd is preceded in death by his father James Ralph "Dick" Alexander and a special sister Sarah Margaret Madden Willis.

Visitation will be at Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden from 5 until 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 2, 2015. Funeral services will be in the chapel at Rose-Neath Funeral Home at 10 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 3, 2015 where Pastor Brian Mercer of First United Methodist Church of Minden will officiate. Interment will follow at Gardens of Memory Cemetery.

Honoring Todd, as pallbearers are Schuyler Marvin, Randy McMichael, Charles Smith, Richard McKissack, Kevin McCann, Tim Collins and honorary pallbearer Tommy Sumner.



ALEXANDER

The family would like to thank Minden Medical Center ER staff, ICU staff, Dr. Michael Chanler, Dr. Kishore Malireddy, St. Joseph Hospice, Dr. Roscoe Chan and Dr. Scott Boniol.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the donor's choice.

Philippians 4:7-And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Luke Survale Shepherd

Luke Survale Shepherd was born on Aug. 24, 1937 to Mr. Henry Shepherd and Mrs. Peggy Ann Lofton Shepherd. He accepted Christ at an early age and joined the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church.

Luke united in Holy Matrimony to Mary Hollingsworth. To this union of 54-and-a-half years, six children were born.

"Big Daddy," as he was affectionately called, loved spending time with his family and playing his favorite game, dominos.

Mr. Shepherd was employed by Willammette Industries until he retired in 1996.

On Aug. 31, 2105, Luke Shepherd departed this earthly life. He was preceded in death by his parents; one sister, Annie Stephens; two nephews, Richard Monroe and Patrick Coleman.

He leaves to cherish his precious memories, his wife, Mary Hollingsworth Shepherd; three sons, Gerald Shepherd (Cheryl) of Lakeland, Florida, Michael Shepherd (Tonnie) of Bossier City, and Kenneth Shepherd (Sharon) of Shreveport; three daughters, Regina Willies (L. T.), Chanetta Shepherd, both of Minden, and LaTasha Shepherd of Shreveport; 20 grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; brother, Johnny Shepherd (Rose) of Houston; four sisters, Elizabeth Jones of Dallas, Lola Coleman of Heflin, Texas, Bessie Monroe (Curry) and Jackie Shepherd, both of Houston; a sister-in-law, Dianne Hollingsworth of Princeton; and a host of other relatives and friends.

Celebration of life services for Luke Shepherd will be at noon, Friday, Sept. 4, at Mt. Calm Baptist Church with the



SHEPHERD

Rev. T. A. Knapp officiating. Interment will follow at the Sheppard Street Cemetery. Services are entrusted to Kennon's Mortuary.

Visitation will be from noon until 7 p.m., Thursday, Sept. 3 in Kennon's Mortuary Chapel.

Email condolences may be sent to kennonsmortuary@suddenlink.net.

The family would like to extend special thanks to the staff of Town and Country, Dr. Nidia, Dr. Dwahn, Dr. Stephens and Highland Wound Care.



Wills Successions

Rick Warren

Attorney at Law

219 Main Street • Minden, LA • 377-8150

BIRTHDAYS FOR WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 2, 2015

Brenda Harvey

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Annie R. Murray

Alma Faye Lockhart

Alice Faye Kinsey

Mark Harmon

Katt Williams





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"Approachable" is the one word he uses to describe himself. Dr. Maraist takes medicine and the care of his patients very seriously but also finds time to blend in his humorous personality.

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PERSONAL

Dr. Maraist grew up in St. Martinville, Louisiana and enjoys playing golf, hunting, fishing, cooking, gardening and spending time with his wife, Jodie, who is also an Ob/Gyn, and their dogs Izzie and Bella.

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OPINION

www.press-herald.com

EDITORIAL
ROUND UP

Justice served in EPA ruling

St Joseph News Press, Aug. 29

The federal Environmental Protection Agency oversteps its authority when it pursues a revised clean water rule that would trample on the rights of farmers and other private landowners.

This has been the contention of opponents for months, and now they have a powerful ally.

Judge Ralph Erikson of the U.S. District Court of North Dakota held in an 18-page opinion last week the EPA likely has gone too far with requirements that would bring millions of acres of private land under federal regulatory control for the first time.

Strict enforcement of the new standards would require federal permits for discharges into the affected waters and could restrict access altogether, according to The Wall Street Journal.

Judge Erikson temporarily stopped the rule from taking effect Friday in 13 states, including Missouri, while the court case continues. But the EPA plans to proceed with enforcement in other states, including Kansas.

This is an affront to all of the affected landowners who believe a federal judge's opinion ought to stand for something.

Missouri Attorney General Chris Koster, a Democrat, is part of a bipartisan group of officials who have been fighting to block this new rule defining "waters of the United States." In a statement, Mr. Koster noted the new rule:

- Extends the authority of the EPA and the Army Corps of Engineers "far beyond what a reasonable person considers to be a waterway."
- Defines tributaries to include ponds, streams that flow only briefly during or after rainstorms, and channels that are usually dry.
- Extends to lands within a 100-year floodplain — "even if they are dry 99 out of 100 years."

Judge Erikson says it "appears likely" the complaining landowners and states will win their argument contending the regulation seeks to regulate streams and ditches not material to the navigable waters where federal authorities have jurisdiction.

This opinion from a judge who has looked at the law confirms what most people on the receiving end of this rule think. The fact the EPA is unrepentant in seeking to enforce it anyway is another mark against an agency that too often is out of step with the American public.

Share your thoughts.

Email Letters to the Editor to
bruce@press-herald.com.

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PERSPECTIVE

A Week of Reflection

It was a tough week for many in Louisiana.

This week, two Louisiana police officers were senselessly killed while simply doing their job. One officer had stopped on the side of the road to check on a stranded vehicle, the other was responding to a report of a domestic dispute. These brave public servants are unfortunately joined by three other police officers killed in Louisiana earlier this year in the line of duty.

In addition, August 29 was the 10th anniversary of Hurricane Katrina making landfall in Louisiana, one of the costliest and deadliest hurricanes in U.S. history. The next day was the anniversary of the storm surge-induced failure of the New Orleans levee system, caused by over 50 different breaches to the city's flood protection system. This separate and distinct event resulted in the almost instantaneous flooding of over 80 percent of New Orleans. All told, more than 1,500 people lost their lives in Louisiana due to the storm and levee failure and over \$100 billion in property was damaged throughout the storm's impact area.

The anniversary of this event brought back memories and rekindled many emotions for those who were affected. Countless stories of heroism, perseverance and compassion have been retold and remembered throughout the week.

One important piece of that tragic history is how our people outside of the impact area and those in other states responded. People across Louisiana opened their homes, hearts and wallets to help others in their time of need. Our people took in friends, family and sometimes complete strangers and gave them a safe place to grieve, regroup and then helped them plan their next steps. The same is true of people in Houston, Dallas, Atlanta and many other cities across the South that became a temporary refuge and shelter for folks when they needed it most.

The compassion our people



STEPHEN WAGUESPACK

showed to their fellow man during Katrina and the months afterward revealed what is great about Louisiana and, quite frankly, America as a whole. It is one of the most enduring lessons from that horrible experience, that a nation based on the foundation of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness and filled with people that respect their fellow man do not need government to set their moral compass. They can do it themselves, especially in times of need. We know it to be true because we have seen it time and time again in our darkest days.

The question we have to ask is why do we show this side of ourselves so rarely and save some of our best human moments for times of adversity? Why does it take a tragic natural disaster like Hurricane Katrina or a horrific terrorist attack like we experienced on 9/11 to make us treat one another like we should each and every day?

These days, proof of our lack of compassion for others is everywhere. We spend time on social media, which is dominated by feeding frenzies driven by loud voices that disparage others who disagree with them on issues big or small. Awful acts of cruelty dominate the headlines in our newspapers and nightly news, and the most viewed Internet sites and TV shows usually deliver a high dosage of scandal, violence or provocative storylines.

Real-life stories such as the numerous videos that show Planned Parenthood officials harvesting and selling body parts barely even raise an eyebrow. Terrorists release videos of themselves beheading, torturing and burning alive innocent people, all without much anger or response from our leaders. Protests in other parts of the country are actually encouraging people to attack police officers, the very people who risk their lives each day for our benefit. The fact that five of the 22 police officers killed in America this year by suspects lived in Louisiana has not really dawned on most people.

It all makes you wonder what we even stand for anymore. How did we become a country that enables and celebrates anger, chaos and anarchy instead of principle, hard work and integrity? What has caused this rapid descent to a place void of the principles our Founding Fathers

spoke so highly of?

Is it something we did? Is this what happens when we take prayer out of schools, stop beginning every school day with the Pledge of Allegiance, replace family dinner around the table with eating while surfing the web, stop talking to our neighbors, demonize the police, and attempt character assassination on anyone with which we disagree?

What happened to manners and compassion? What happened to standing strong to our beliefs but doing so with civility? What happened to having pride in America because it is a well-coming melting pot of opportunity, a country with a common conviction that celebrates our individual freedoms with respect and honor?

Perhaps it just is what it is. Perhaps it was all bound to change at some point. Evolution happens and the age of technology and having the world at your fingertips is the new normal. Those who want to preach the gospel of anger, hate, division and chaos have a great venue to do so.

I wonder what lessons our kids are learning about American ideals and compassion for your fellow man through all of this. Are we losing their hearts and minds? Do they see the same America we see?

A generation from now, what will happen if a once-in-a-lifetime storm hits us again? Will our people strongly respond with a sense of community and compassion again? Will they open their homes and put the needs of others ahead of their own? Will they respect their fellow man? Will they act simply like we have grown to expect Americans to act in times like that?

I hope so, but if we stand by and continue to allow the leaders of tomorrow to be taught the importance of country, morality and friendship by ill-suited teachers that dominate social media and YouTube, don't be surprised if they don't.

Stephen Waguespack is the president of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, the largest and most effective advocacy organization in the state.

PERSPECTIVE

Why home schooling?

Many public primary and secondary schools are dangerous places. The Justice Department's Bureau of Justice Statistics and the Department of Education's National Center for Education Statistics show that in 2012, there were about 749,200 violent assaults on students. In the 2011-12 academic year, there were a record 209,800 primary- and secondary-school teachers who reported being physically attacked by a student. Nationally, an average of 1,175 teachers and staff were physically attacked, including being knocked out, each day of that school year. In Baltimore, each school day in 2010, an average of four teachers and staff were assaulted. Each year, roughly 10 percent of primary- and secondary-school teachers are threatened with bodily harm.

Many public schools not only are dangerous but produce poor educational results. According to the National Assessment of Educational Progress for 2013, sometimes called the Nation's Report Card (<http://tinyurl.com/mn6snpf>), only 33 percent of white 12th-graders tested proficient in math, and 47 percent tested proficient in reading. For black 12th-graders, it was a true tragedy, with only 7 percent testing proficient in math and 16 percent in reading. These grossly disappointing educational results exist despite massive increases in public education spending.

Many parents want a better education and safer schools for their children. The best way to deliver on that desire is to offer parents alternatives to poorly performing and unsafe public schools. Expansion of charter schools is one way to provide choice. The problem is that charter school waiting lists number in the tens of thousands. Another way is giving educational vouchers or tuition tax credits for better-performing and safer schools. But the education establishment fights tooth and nail against any form of school choice.

Another viable alternative increasingly chosen is home schooling. In 1970, there were only 10,000 home-schooled children. In 2012, according to recently released data from the National Center for Education Statistics, there were about 1.77 million children who were being home-schooled (<http://tinyurl.com/oodba7>).

Parents give a number of reasons for home schooling. Many want a safer environment for their children — away from violence, alcohol and other drugs, psychological abuse, and improper and unhealthy sexual indoctrination found in public schools. Some want to teach and impart a particular set of values and beliefs to their children.

In terms of academic achievement, home-schoolers beat out their public school counterparts. In reading, language, math, science and social studies, the average home-schooler scores somewhere near the 80th percentile. The average public school student taking these standardized tests scores at the 50th percentile in each subject area. Home-schoolers also tend to score higher than their public school counterparts on college admittance tests, such as the ACT and SAT.

Home schooling is not without its critics. Some of it is ludicrous, as shown in an excellent article in City Journal titled "Homeschooling in the City," by Matthew Hennessey. Stanford University political scientist Rob Reich has called for tighter regulation of home schooling to ensure that "children are exposed to and engaged with ideas, values, and beliefs that are different from those of the parents." My question to Reich is: Whose ideas and values should children be exposed to? Georgetown University law professor Robin L. West worries that home-schooled children grow up to become right-wing political "soldiers" eager to "undermine, limit, or destroy state functions." West would like to see home schooling more highly regulated and home-schoolers subjected to mandatory testing and periodic home visits in order "to give the state a window into the quality of home life, and a way to monitor signs of abuse."

Home-schoolers have a defense against this sort of meddling. The Home School Legal Defense Association is a nonprofit organization established to defend and advance the constitutional right of parents to direct the education of their children. The National Home Education Research Institute provides educational resources and research for home-schooling parents. Its founder, Dr. Brian D. Ray, recently published "African American Homeschool Parents' Motivations for Homeschooling and Their Black Children's Academic Achievement." His findings are proof that home schooling is effective for not only white youngsters but black youngsters, as well.

Walter E. Williams is a professor of economics at George Mason University.



WALTER WILLIAMS

SPORTS

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SPORTS briefs

NFL 'Concussion' movie to shed light on NFL

NEW YORK — A day after its trailer debuted online and months before it hits theaters, the Will Smith football head-trauma film "Concussion" is already sparking controversy.

Citing studio emails leaked in the hack of Sony Pictures, The New York Times reported Tuesday that "Concussion" was altered to avoid antagonizing the NFL. The Times quoted one email that discusses a top Sony lawyer taking "most of the bite" out of the film "for legal reasons with the NFL."

In a statement to The Associated Press, "Concussion" director Peter Landesman disputed that report. He called his film, in which Smith plays the forensic pathologist Bennet Omalu who discovered that chronic brain damage factored in the deaths of NFL players, "a David and Goliath story."

"We always intended to make an entertaining, hard-hitting film about Dr. Omalu's David-and-Goliath story, which played out like a Hollywood thriller," said Landesman. "Anyone who sees the movie will know that it never once compromises the integrity and the power of the real story."

Sony Pictures and the NFL declined to comment on the report.

At issue with "Concussion" is whether the film was shaped by direct negotiation with the NFL, an organization known for aggressive image protection, or if the film was tweaked because of the kind of legal concerns that regularly play a part in any release by a major studio.

Landesman told the Times: "We're just being smart because any large corporation will design a response to something it considers to be a threat."

OLYMPICS LA back in 2024 Olympic host race

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Los Angeles is the official U.S. nominee for the 2024 Olympic games — a dramatic turnaround for a city that just two months ago was considered out of the running.

But with a late surge of life brought on by Boston's dropout from the process, the city found itself on Tuesday as the U.S. candidate, and its leaders were left feeling inspired and destined.

"This is a quest that Los Angeles was made for," said Mayor Eric Garcetti. "This city is the world's greatest stage."

Garcetti said Los Angeles, home to the Olympics in 1932 and 1984, would stage games that are both spectacular and profitable. He was given unanimous approval from his City Council to strike agreements for a 2024 bid, a move that was immediately followed by the U.S. Olympic Committee naming Los Angeles as its candidate.

"This is the engagement, not the wedding," Council President Herb Wesson said.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Lakeside on a warpath



Lakeside Warriors head coach Joey Pesses knows Friday night's game against the Ringgold Redskins will be a four quarter battle.

The Warriors had a tough time last week against Homer and Cedar Creek, but with week one of the regular season days away, Pesses is only thinking about getting to 1-0.

"Nothing that happened before this Friday night really matters," Pesses said. "It's tough because as student athletes they want to win every week, but in the scrimmage and jamboree we really wanted to see how different



PESESSES



Courtesy Photo/Christine Lee

packages and groupings would work. Come Friday night, everyone is going for 1-0."

The key to stopping Ringgold is containing their three-year starter at running back Deondre Scott.

"Scott is a specimen," Pesses said. "He's big and fast. He's a great concern

of ours. They have a good quarterback who can run and a big, tall receiver that got us last year."

The emphasis at practice this week has been wrapping up and getting hats to the ball.

"Everybody has to rally to the ball," Pesses said. "We always preach that, but we really amped it up

this week. If you try to arm tackle him (Scott) or solo tackle him, he's not going to go down very often."

On offense the focus will be execution.

"We can't shoot ourselves in the foot," Pesses said. "By that I mean no penalties, the line blocking to the whistle and the

backs hitting the whole. Everyone has to do what they're supposed to for our offense to function properly. I want to see our offense line staying low this week against some big defensive lineman."

The Warriors and Redskins will take the field at 7 p.m. in Ringgold on Friday.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Starting guard spot still up for grabs for LSU



BATON ROUGE - The position battle at offensive guard is far from over.

LSU released its first official depth chart of the season Monday, revealing co-starters separated by "OR" at both left and right guard.

Redshirt freshman Will Clapp and true freshman Maea Teuhema lead the way at left guard, while junior Josh Boutte and Clapp top the depth chart on the right side. Sophomore K.J. Malone and redshirt freshman Garrett Brumfield are listed as the third option at left and right guard,

respectively.

Though most of the shuffling along the offensive line has died down, Boutte said he expects the competition at guard to continue well past the Tigers' season opener against McNeese State on Saturday night.

"The biggest thing is about making each other better," he said. "What better way to do that than to compete throughout the whole season?"

Guard appears to be the only spot in question for the offensive line. Junior Jerald Hawkins and senior Vadal Alexander have been shoos at the tackle positions since the end of last season, and the depth chart lists junior Ethan Pocic as the starting center. Pocic initially worked at left guard for the first few weeks of preseason camp.

He swapped positions with Clapp, who is a co-

starter at both guard spots. But Teuhema, though only a freshman, has been making a strong case for playing time. Teammates have praised his strength and versatility since the start of preseason practice, and Boutte even said Teuhema can play several roles along the line.

A revolving door at guard can be unsettling for the tackles, who have to communicate with and be comfortable beside their interior linemen. Alexander, however, is just fine with the ongoing competition.

"Whoever is on the line next to me and in the starting five is definitely going to be

a capable guy," Alexander said. "We've been working so hard, and I trust everybody who's in contention right now. I have no worries about that."

Fournette No. 1 kick returner

Leonard Fournette is poised to receive 20-plus carries a game this season, but the sophomore standout looks to remain the Tigers' kick returner, too.

Fournette was listed as the No. 1 kick returner on LSU's depth chart released Monday. Freshmen Derrius Guice and Donte Jackson were behind him in a co-backup role.

Fournette has said that "it doesn't matter" whether he returns kicks, but he's expressed an interest in continuing in that role.

Last season he returned 24 kicks for an average of 26 yards per attempt, good for fourth in the Southeastern

Conference. One of the more notable highlights of Fournette's freshman season was a 100-yard kickoff return touchdown against Notre Dame in the Music City Bowl.

Cornerback Tre'Davious White is listed as LSU's starting punt returner, and safety Jamal Adams is his backup, according to the depth chart.

Toliver ahead of Paris

True freshman Kevin Toliver is ahead of sophomore Ed Paris in the competition at cornerback, according to the depth chart released by LSU on Monday.

Toliver is listed as a co-starter at cornerback with junior Dwayne Thomas, believed to be the starter at cornerback when the Tigers are in base defense. Thomas, Toliver and Paris have been battling for the starting job during camp.



BOUTTE

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Murray's move may shift NFC East power



PHILADELPHIA — When DeMarco Murray traded the blue star on his helmet for silver and white wings, the balance of power in the NFC East shifted from the Dallas Cowboys to the Philadelphia Eagles.

That might be the difference in a division that's had four different champions in the last four years.

Last season, Murray helped the Cowboys end a string of mediocre seasons with a

record-setting performance that catapulted Dallas to 12 wins and its first division crown in five years.

But the All-Pro running back got a better free-agent offer from Philadelphia, where Chip Kelly overhauled the roster following a 10-win season that wasn't good enough for a playoff spot.

Murray is one of five new starters on an offense that has thrived since Kelly's arrival in 2013. He joins new quarterback and former college roommate Sam Bradford, who looked sharp in limited preseason action.

While the Cowboys still have Tony Romo, Dez Bryant and perhaps the best offensive line in the league, they'll miss Murray's franchise-record

1,845 yards rushing.

"We don't say let's take this player over that player because it's going to make that team weaker," Kelly said. "I know Dallas is going to be a tough opponent when we play them this year."

Murray doesn't have to be a workhorse in Philadelphia. The Eagles also signed former Pro Bowl back Ryan Mathews and they have Darren Sproles.

Dallas is counting on Darren McFadden and Joseph Randle to replace Murray's 497 carries.

"I think we'll be just fine," Randle said.

The Cowboys are aiming to become the first repeat champions in the East since the Eagles won four titles in a row from 2001-04.



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Fall Movie Preview: Highlights from September-December

NEW YORK — Though the fall movie season is traditionally the time of year when Hollywood gets serious, this fall is stuffed with spectacles.

Alongside the seasonal biopics, true-life tales and period dramas that will surely contend for Oscars, some of the biggest franchises around are set to add a whiff of popcorn to awards season.

James Bond returns in "Spectre" (Nov. 6), "The Hunger Games" comes to a close with "Mockingjay, Part 2" (Nov. 20) and a little movie called "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" lands Dec. 18.

Here's a monthly run-down of a few highlights to the upcoming movie season:

"Sicario" (Sept. 18) — Emily Blunt stars in Denis Villeneuve's grim and muscular drug war thriller on the U.S.-Mexican border.

"Black Mass" (Sept. 18) — Johnny Depp takes on the role of Whitey Bulger, the Boston mobster who inspired Jack Nicholson's gangster in "The Departed," in an engrossing true-life crime story.

"The Walk" (Sept. 30) — The French high-wire artist Philippe Petit, whose walk between the Twin Towers in 1974 inspired the 2008 documentary "Man on Wire," gets Robert Zemeckis' 3-D treatment, with Joseph Gordon-Levitt starring.

OCTOBER
"Steve Jobs" (Oct. 9) — Danny Boyle directs Aaron Sorkin's script of the Apple co-founder, played by Michael Fassbender.

"Truth" (Oct. 16) — A starry cast of Cate Blanchett and Robert Redford dive back into the CBS



News scandal over the network's report on President George W. Bush's Vietnam service.

"Bridge of Spies" (Oct. 16) — Steven Spielberg and Tom Hanks reunite for their fourth film together in a Cold War spy thriller about the negotiated release of a U.S. pilot shot down in the Soviet Union.

NOVEMBER
"Spotlight" (Nov. 6) — Thomas McCarthy dramatizes the reporting of the Boston Globe's "Spotlight" investigative reporting team and their Pulitzer Prize-winning coverage of the Catholic sex abuse scandal.

"By the Sea" (Nov. 13) — Angelina Jolie Pitt stars

with husband Brad Pitt in her third directorial effort, a marital drama set in 1970s France.

"The Good Dinosaur" (Nov. 25) — Pixar returns with its second film of the year, a dino-and-boy tale that imagines Earth had the asteroid that wiped out the dinosaurs never struck.

DECEMBER

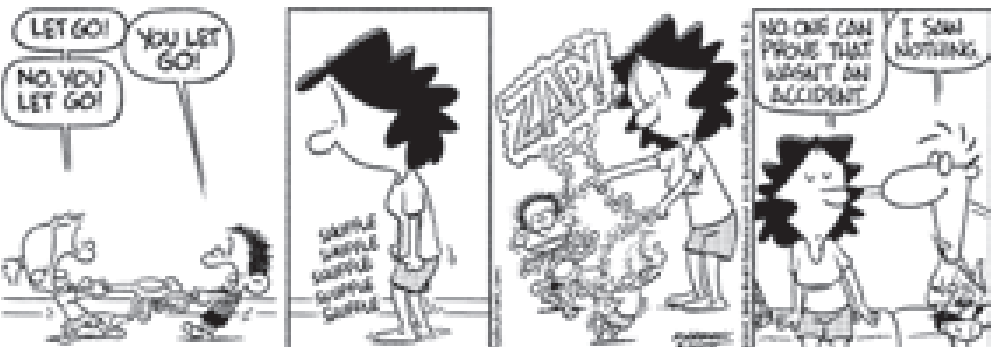
"Joy" (Dec. 25) — David O. Russell's latest is a family drama across generations that reteams him with Jennifer Lawrence, Bradley Cooper and Robert De Niro.

"The Hateful Eight" (Dec. 25) — Quentin Tarantino initially bagged this wintery Western after his script leaked online. He

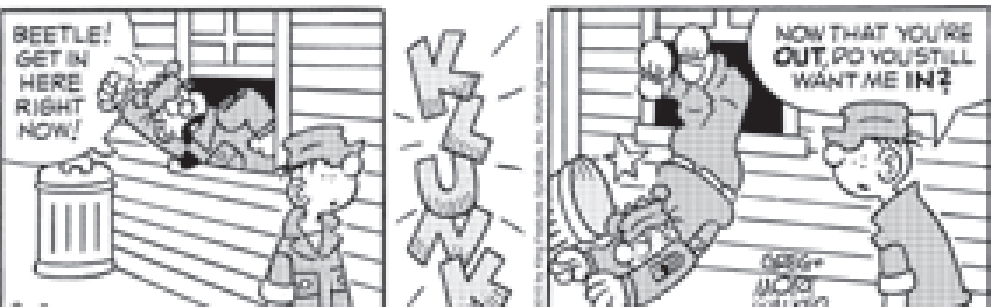
eventually capitulated and will release the movie first only in theaters projecting it in 70mm film.

"The Revenant" (Dec. 25) — A year after his Oscar triumph, Alejandro G. Inarritu is back with this gritty frontier Western starring Leonardo DiCaprio.

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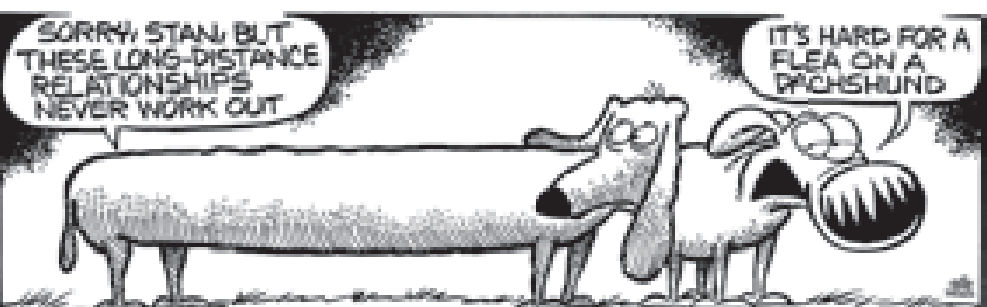
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INVITATION FOR BID SEALED BIDS for construction at the Minden Airport

consisting of the Obstruction Removal – Fuel Facility project, State Project No. H.011275 will be received by the City Clerk at the City of Minden, Louisiana, located at 520 Broadway, P.O. Box 580, Minden, Louisiana 71058, until 2:00 p.m. CST on Tuesday, September 29, 2015. Bids will then be publicly opened and read aloud in the Cypress Room located at City Hall. Bids received after the 2:00 p.m. deadline will be returned to the bidder unopened via certified mail. Received bids will be referred to the City of Minden City Council for action and award. Sealed bids must be marked on the outside with Bid No. 03-15. A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Monday, September 14, 2015, at 1:30 p.m. in the Airport Terminal Building, 341 Methodist Camp Road, Minden, LA 71055. Representatives from the Owner and Engineer will be present to discuss the project. Although the meeting is not mandatory, bidders are encouraged to attend and participate in the conference. Contract Documents including bid proposal forms, plan sheets, and specifications for the project may be viewed and downloaded free of charge (with the option to purchase hard copies) at www.civcastusa.com. Scanned plans and specifications (PDF format) are available on CD for a non-refundable price of \$25.00 from KSA Alliance, Inc., 1111 Hawn Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71107. Addenda will be posted at www.civcastusa.com. You will be notified of addenda automatically, through email, if you downloaded your plans and specifications via

civcastusa.com. Please submit questions for the project 72 hours prior to bid opening through www.civcastusa.com in the Q&A portal. Bids shall be received only on proposal forms furnished by the Engineer. In no event shall proposal forms be issued later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the hour and date set for receiving proposals. Bidders may elect to submit bids electronically via the internet. Electronic bids for the City of Minden are available for submission at www.bidexpress.com. Bidders desiring to submit electronic bids must register with Bid Express. All bids submitted electronically shall include a digital signature as required by Louisiana State law. Bidders submitting bids electronically are not required to submit paper forms. Bid proposals, amendments to bids, or requests

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licensed in one of the following categories: Specialty: Installation of Equipment, Machinery and Engines; Specialty: Storage Facilities, Metal Covers, Tanks, Floating Roofs; Highway, Street and Bridge Construction. The licensee shall not be permitted to bid or perform any type or types of work not included in the classification under which his license was issued. Bids may be held by the City of Minden for a period of one hundred and twenty (120) calendar days after the date and hour set for the opening. The City of Minden reserves the right to reject any or all Bids for just cause and reserves the right to waive any and all informalities. Michael Fluhr City Clerk/Treasurer City of Minden Telephone: (318) 377-2144

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341 Methodist Camp Road, Minden, LA 71055. Representatives from the Owner and Architect will be present to discuss the project. Although the meeting is not mandatory, bidders are encouraged to attend and participate in the conference. Bidding Documents including bid forms, instructions, drawings, and specifications for the project may be viewed and downloaded free of charge (with the option to purchase hard copies) at www.civcastusa.com. Scanned Bidding Documents (PDF format) are available on CD for a non-refundable price of \$25.00 from KSA Alliance, Inc., 1111 Hawn Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71107. Addenda will be posted at www.civcastusa.com. Parties will be notified of addenda automatically, through email, only if they have registered to view or download the documents via www.civcastusa.com. Bidders requiring clarification or interpretation of the Bid Documents must submit their questions no later than 7 days prior to bid opening through www.civcastusa.com.

in the Q&A portal. Bids shall be received only on the Louisiana Uniform Public Work Bid Form furnished in the Project Manual. Bidders may elect to submit bids electronically via the internet. Electronic bids for the City of Minden are available for submission at www.bidexpress.com. Bidders desiring to submit electronic bids must register with Bid Express. All bids submitted electronically shall include a digital signature as required by Louisiana State law. Bidders submitting bids electronically are not required to submit paper forms. Bids, amendments to bids, or requests for withdrawal of bids, which are received after the time specified for bid opening, shall not be considered for any cause whatsoever. An acceptable bid bond, cashier's check or certified check payable to the City of Minden, in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the bid price, shall be submitted with each bid. The successful Bidder will be required to furnish and pay for satisfactory performance and payment bonds. Bidders are advised

that a Performance, Payment, and Maintenance Bond, in the amount of 100 percent (100%) of the contract price, will be required. On any bid submitted in the amount of \$50,000 or more, the Contractor shall certify that he is licensed under Louisiana Revised Statute 37:2150-2164 and show his license number on the bid and on the envelope. Bidders must be licensed in the following category: Building Construction. The licensee shall not be permitted to bid or perform any type or types of work not included in the classification under which his license was issued. Bids may be held by the City of Minden for a period of forty-five (45) calendar days after the date and hour set for the opening or as extended by mutually written consent in accordance with Louisiana Public Bid Law. The City of Minden reserves the right to reject any or all Bids for just cause and reserves the right to waive any and all informalities. Michael Fluhr, City Clerk/Treasurer, City of Minden, Telephone: (318)


377-2144
September 2 & 9 & 16, 2015
Minden Press-Herald
Notice of Proposed Sale of Succession Property at Private Sale
Notice is hereby given that the following described property located at 155 Horseshoe Loop, Doyline, LA 71023, is being proposed for private sale, by the Executor, Donna E. Harris, in the Succession of Clyde Joseph Melancon, Probate No. 15,529, 26th Judicial District Court, Webster Parish, State of Louisiana. Property Description: 1) Lot 24, less the Northeast Half sold to SANFORD C. AND SYBIL STRONG, as per deed recorded in Book 288, Page 203, of the Conveyance Records of Webster Parish, Louisiana, of the E.B. SMITH SUBDIVISION, located in Lots 4, 5 and 8 of Section 19, Township 18 North, Range 9 West, Webster Parish, Louisiana, as per map and plat thereof on file and of record in Plat Book 3, Page 4, of the records of the Clerk of the District Court and Ex-Officio Recorder in and

for Webster Parish, Louisiana, together with all buildings and improvements thereon. AND 2) Begin at the Northeast Corner (NEc) of Lot 24 of the E. B. Smith Subdivision, located in Lots 4, 5, and 8 of Section 19, Township 18 North, Range 9 West, Webster Parish, Louisiana, as per map and plat thereof on file and of record in Plat Book 3 Page 4, of the records of the Clerk of the District Court and Ex-officio Recorder in and for Webster Parish, Louisiana, and run South 32° 40' West 50 feet; thence run North 57° 20' West 200.56 feet to the point of beginning of tract herein described; thence continue North 57° 20' West 23 feet, more or less, to the Easterly right-of-way line of Parish Road Number 143 (also known as Horseshoe Bend Road); thence run in a Southwesterly direction, along the Easterly right-of-way line of said road a distance of 55 feet, more or less, to a point on said right-of way line which is North 57° 20' West and 33 feet, more or less, from the Southwest Corner of said Lot 24, thence

run South 57° 20' East 33 feet, more or less, to the Southwest corner of said Lot 24; thence run North 9° 42' East 54.31 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning, and being the same property outlined in red on plat of survey prepared by Jerry W. Phillips, dated October 30, 1983, attached hereto and made a part hereof, together with all improvements thereon and all rights thereto belonging. AND 3) Begin at the Northeast Corner (NEc) of Lot 24 of the E. B. Smith Subdivision, located in Lots 4, 5, and 8 of Section 19, Township 18 North, Range 9 West, Webster Parish, Louisiana, as per map and plat thereof on file and of record in Plat Book 3 Page 4, of the records of the Clerk of the District Court and Ex-officio Recorder in and for Webster Parish, Louisiana, and run South 32° 40' West 100 feet; thence run North 57° 20' West 179.40 feet to the point of beginning of tract herein described; thence continue North 57° 20' West 33 feet, more or less, to the Easterly right-of-way line of Parish Road Number 143 (also

known as Horseshoe Bend Road); thence run in a Southwesterly direction, along the Easterly right-of-way line of said road a distance of 103 feet, more or less, to a point on said right-of way line which is North 57° 20' West and 52.5 feet, more or less, from the Southwest Corner of said Lot 23, thence run South 57° 20' East 23 feet, more or less, to the Southwest corner of said Lot 23; thence run South 57° 20' East 52.5 feet, more or less, to the Southwest corner of said Lot 23, thence run North 9° 42' East 108.61 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning. A tract or parcel of land 14 feet in width extending along the Northern side of Lot 23, E. B. Smith Subdivision located in Lots 4, 5, and 8 of Section 19, Township 18 North, Range 9 West, Webster Parish, Louisiana, as per map and plat thereof on file and of record in the Office of the Clerk of Court, Webster Parish, Louisiana, more particularly described as follows: Begin at the Northeast corner of said Lot 23; thence run South 32° 40' West a distance

of 14 feet; thence run North 57° 20' West a distance of 174 feet, more or less, to the West line of said Lot 23; thence run North 9° 42' East 14 feet, more or less, to the Southwest corner of said Lot 24; thence run South 57° 20' West 179.40 to the point of beginning of the property herein described, together with all improvements thereon and all rights thereunto belonging. Any opposition to the proposed sale must be filed within seven days from September 1, 2015.

Septemeber 1 & 2, 2015
Minden Press-Herald
Healthcare
Think Long-Term
Make your move to Meadowview Healthcare Center! Our highly progressive and award winning 230-bed, full-service healthcare facility seeks:
1 LPN
(1) 6p-6a
2 C-N-A's
(1) 6a-3p, (1) 2p-10p
As part of the Nexion Health, you can look forward to Great Pay & Excellent Benefits! For immediate consideration, please apply in person at Meadowview Healthcare, 400 Meadowview Rd. Or call (318) 377-1011 or email your resume to Meadowview.adm@Nexion-health.com EOE m/f/d/v


IT PAYS

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** 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...

MINDEN PRESS-HERALD
CLASSIFIEDS
Let your customers know what you have.
Call and **ADVERTISE** today! 377-1866

CRYPTOQUIP

V S N U D M S F W T M S V Q X Y Q X
A Y Q C S Y M U Y S C S Y J I T L A T I
I Q X W F Q L X , Q K Q G S F T M U J
F W S J ' Y S F Y D N G - D K S L F .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COULD IT BE THAT WHEN THE LITTLE KID SNEAKS INTO THE CASINO, HE GAMBLES WITH GUMBALLS?
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals T

CROSSWORD

ACROSS	38 Catch sight of	3 Praise to the skies	23 Wild West show
1 Crease	39 Early bird?	4 Coat with flour	25 Speedometer stat
5 Prosciutto, e.g.	41 Do what I say	5 This and 32-Down are a big fuss	26 Debtor's letters
8 Get bigger	43 Billfold	6 Donkey service	27 Eternal
12 Petri dish stuff	46 Gun the engine	7 Church	29 Trick or treat?
13 G8 member	50 Neighborhood	8 Dinner-time prayer	31 Try the tea
14 Hayseed	51 Bald	9 Cruel	32 5-Down's partner
15 Ignorant	54 Platter	10 Reed instrument	34 Advantage
17 On	55 Einstein's birth-place	11 Sobbed	38 Pupil's cover
18 Mount Rushmore face	56 Enrages	16 Caustic solution	40 Candied
19 Potpourri pouch	57 Facility	20 On in years	42 Mess up
21 Paraphernalia	58 Petrol	22 Teen's woe	43 Test the waters
24 12-Across, e.g.	59 Pub missile		44 Met melody
25 Wee bit			45 Hoodlum
28 Inlet			47 Actress Farmiga
30 Computer key			48 Addict
33 Luau bowlful			49 "Hey, you!"
34 Done			52 Carte lead-in
35 Knight's address			53 They're faster than emails
36 Drone			
37 Antelope's playmate			

Solution time: 24 mins.

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