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WEDNESDAY



INSIDE
today



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NEWS PG.2



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WEATHER

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK



84 **54**
HIGH **LOW**

A mainly sunny sky.
Winds N at 10 to 15 mph.

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NEWSPAPERS, INC.

Vol. 47 No. 62



MINDEN POLICE CUFF FIRE DEPT.

(AGAIN)



Kids of St. Jude true winners of tourney

The Minden Police Department battled the Minden Fire Department Tuesday evening in the third Battle of the Badges ball game. After a gruesome battle, the Minden police came out on top, with a score of 25-14. At the end of the night as the dust settled and lights faded, the children of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital were the true winners - as more than \$16k was raised for the cancer center. View more photos on page 7 and online at www.press-herald.com Bruce Franklin/Press-Herald



BLOCK PARTY

National Night Out nears

Fall is block party time in Minden and all citizens are encouraged by local officials and law enforcement to schedule a party on their block in observance of National Night Out. Registration is at Minden City Hall through Oct. 9 with Oct. 13 as National Night Out. District B Minden City Councilwoman Fayrine Kennon-Gilbert said moving NNO from August to October has encouraged more participation with cooler temperatures. "Fall is a beautiful time of the year in Minden and a

great time to head outdoors and socialize with your neighbors," Kennon-Gilbert said. "I encourage all citizens to make note of Oct. 13 and make plans with your neighbors to host a block party on your street." A n d while partying is all about fun, NNO has a serious side to it. "National Night Out is



KENNON-GILBERT

designed to heighten crime and drug prevention awareness," she pointed out. "It also generates support for, and participation in, local anti-crime efforts and strengthens neighborhood spirit and police-community partnerships. We want to send a message to criminals letting them know neighborhoods are organized and fighting back." During NNO, from 6 until 9 p.m., officials and law enforcement - city and parish - will be dropping by block parties for citizens to get to know the persons they rely on for their safety.

MINDEN CRIME

Man arrested, accused of choking girlfriend in fight

MICHELLE BATES
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Minden police have arrested a man on a warrant after his former girlfriend accused him of domestic abuse battery. Luis Miguel Trujillo, 28, of the 100 block of Homer Road, was arrested Friday, Sept. 25, on a warrant for domestic abuse battery with strangulation. Minden police chief Steve Cropper says Trujillo was arrested under Gwen's Law, which means he is incarcerated without bond

until a hearing can take place to determine bond, if any. Cropper says the incident occurred Saturday, Aug. 8, when his former girlfriend told police he'd tried to strangle her during an argument. "On Aug. 12, Officer First Class Jeremy Sitter took a report from Mr. Trujillo's ex-girlfriend,"



TRUJILLO

See **ARREST**, Page 2

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Senate district 36 candidate Ryan Gatti listens to questions about the need for skilled labor in Minden. Candidate Henry Burns was also on hand to answer questions and discuss the needs in vocational education. The discussion included business owners, education leaders and elected officials. Michelle Bates/Press-Herald

Bringing skilled labor to Minden

Officials, business leaders and candidates discuss Webster's workforce

MICHELLE BATES
michelle@press-herald.com

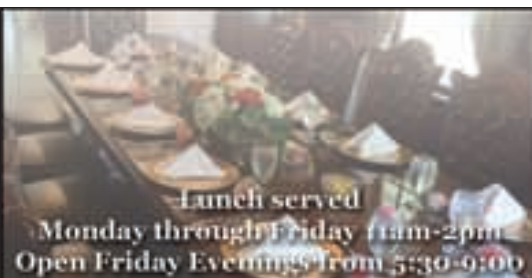
Business leaders, educators and elected officials met Tuesday to put their heads together on how to bring skilled labor to Minden. Minden economic development director James Graham told an audience of about 30 or more that he and mayor Tommy Davis spent the last several weeks meeting with businesses in the community and the recurring need seems to be skilled labor. "It came as a result of a discussion that the mayor and myself had with a number of companies around the city," he said, adding that statistics show economic development "has a hard



GRAHAM

time" in states with lower graduation rates. The candidates for Senate District 36 were on hand to discuss their stance on vocational education and the direction it needs to go. Candidate Todd Hollenshead was not in attendance due to a prior commitment. Henry Burns and Ryan Gatti both say skilled labor is important to district 36 as well as the state as a whole, but both shared different ideas on how to get there. Burns talked about the progress that outgoing Sen. Robert Adley, along with legislators and those before him made, saying technical colleges are key to providing skilled labor. "Your two-year degrees are now paying sometimes better than four-year degrees and seem to be in demand," Burns said. "Technical training is the key to our future

See **FORUM**, Page 2



Grace Estate
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SECONDFRONT

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COURT WATCH

Man pleads guilty to molestation

MICHELLE BATES
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A man charged with three counts of aggravated rape pleaded guilty in open court after withdrawing his plea of not guilty during trial Sept. 16.

Court minutes show that Jessie Lee Martin III represented himself during trial, but later withdrew his not guilty plea and entered a plea of guilty.

That plea agreement to

molestation of a juvenile led to a sentence of 25 years of hard labor with the Louisiana Department of Corrections without the benefit of probation, parole or suspension of sentence with credit for time served in front of 26th Judicial district judge Jeff Cox.

Assistant district attorney



MARTIN

Hugo Holland says he was indicted in May of three counts of aggravated rape, adding the two victims were his natural daughters. During the trial, the family authorized him to offer Martin the deal, Holland says, and he took it.

"While I wanted to finish the trial, as I am convinced our Webster jury would have convicted him, my victims wanted the case over, and the plea cut off all appeal rights," he said.

According to his indictment,

count one occurred from 2000 to 2007, count two occurred from 2004 until 2010 and count three occurred from 2010 to 2013.

The charges of aggravated rape were dismissed in lieu of the plea agreement.

"The state will not bring charges against the defendant of pornography nor the possible charges in Bossier Parish," according to the court minutes. "The court ordered the DVDs and the photos sealed and only used for appellate reasons."

FUNDRAISER

T.C. Bloxom gun auction set for Oct. 22

MARILYN MILLER
Special to the Press-Herald

Area gun enthusiasts will get the opportunity to own a part of a law enforcement legend on Thursday, Oct. 22 with the auctioning of the late Chief T.C. Bloxom's private firearms collection.

The auction will take place at the Minden home of James and Lyda Madden, located at 100 Willow Creek Drive, beginning at 6 p.m. Tickets of \$25 per person will include dinner catered by Party Express and must be purchased prior to the event. Only a limited number of tickets will be sold.

Chief Bloxom devoted over 70 years in law enforcement and fire fighting to the citizens of Webster Parish and Minden, beginning as a volunteer fireman at the age of 14. He remained a fireman for 63 years, the last 37 as chief.

At the age of 27, T.C. joined the Webster Parish Sheriff's Office, where he earned a reputation for his investigative prowess and was known as a "closer." He retired as chief deputy sheriff



The late T.C. Bloxom. Area gun enthusiasts will get the opportunity to own a part of a law enforcement legend on Thursday, Oct. 22 with the auctioning of the Bloxom's private firearms collection. Courtesy Photo

after 26 years. In 1990, T.C. ran for and handily won the position of chief of police for the City of Minden, a title he held for the next 20 years.

The "chief" passed away

on July 12, 2014 at the age of 84, still a master storyteller with a renowned dry wit and sense of humor.

"My friend dedicated his entire life to serving this

community," auction co-coordinator James Madden said. "Now, a year after his passing, he continues to give."

Monies from the auction and ticket sales will go towards the construction of the new Children's Building at First United Methodist Church.

"During the years that T.C. served as chief, he supported Minden's churches and their expansion projects," Pam Bloxom, whose desire to put her husband's gun collection to good use sparked the idea of the auction, said. "I believe he would be very happy with this effort to help create a state-of-the-art learning space for the children and youth of First Methodist."

Tickets to the casual event may be purchased at the First United Methodist Church on Broadway, Carey Real Estate on the Homer Road, or T.G.'s Gardens & Gifts on Hwy. 531. Checks should be made payable to the First United Methodist Church.

Auction items will be posted on the "T.C. Bloxom Gun Auction" Facebook page beginning Thursday, Oct. 1.

ARREST

Continued from page 1

Cropper said. "The victim indicated that he'd strangled her and said the fight started because she would not allow drugs to be delivered to her residence."

Cropper went on to say the victim stated the two had gotten into an argument because she would not go get pills from a vehicle in the driveway.

"The victim stated they began to argue and he tried

to swing at her but missed," he said. "She tried to use a mattress to protect herself. Mr. Trujillo grabbed her legs and pulled her through the house. The victim stated she started to get weak, and that's when he began to choke her. She did not lose consciousness."

Cropper says she told police she waited to file charges because she was afraid of him, but she made him pack his belongings and move from the residence.

The case was turned over to Minden police detective Lt. Keith King Jr., who

obtained a warrant for Trujillo's arrest. According to the police report, Trujillo was brought to the police department from Ohio by U.S. Transport.

On Saturday, Sept. 26,

CORRECTION

In a story published Tuesday, Oct. 29 on page 1 headlined "Drug bust yields large amount of cocaine" the suspect, Demario T. Miller, was misidentified. We regret the error occurred. Shown is the correct image for Miller.



MILLER

FORUM

Continued from page 1

and for job opportunities not only to attract businesses but to provide good paying jobs for people."

Gatti says because of all the cuts to education, Louisiana's education system as a whole is suffering. He says the first thing to get cut during legislative sessions each year is education.

"We're still struggling with the same dropout rate, with people going to college," he said. "With technical schools, this is a rabbit we've been chasing for decades. Businesses are tired of training people for basic skills. We need kids to be working in the ninth and tenth grades."

A variety of questions were asked of the candidates, everything from how to get out from under unfunded mandates to how to getting Common Core out of Louisiana. Questions also included those about work ethic as well as funding to send kids to technical schools.

Following the discussion, business owner Ricky Sanders, of Sanders Machine, says he was leaving with more questions than answers.

"It sounds like we're talking about a problem that we're not fixing," he said.

He explained that his business is very math

intensive and applicants must pass a math test in order to be considered for employment, and he says that maybe two out of 10 applicants can pass the test.

"We have to take them from there and figure out if we can train them to do what we do," he said. "It's complicated for us to find the right people."

He says there is a disconnect between real world job application and what is being taught in the vocational schools but is optimistic about the direction vocational schools are taking.

"I think there are things in place," he said. "I think (rep.) Gene Reynolds is working towards some long term solutions, but I think more than anything it's about exposing kids to the idea that (they can continue their education)."

Interim director Dianne Clark, of Northwest Louisiana Technical College, says Tuesday's meeting was a good start in opening dialogue and it's important that the next senator for district 36 is an advocate for technical education. She says it will take everyone working together to bring programs to northwest Louisiana to meet the educational needs of the business community.

"The support in the room tonight was evident and we appreciate the community members for coming out and expressing their support for our college," she said. "It is important that the community members and the candidates stay focused on our goal of providing high quality, high skilled, high wage, high demand training to our northwest Louisiana citizens."



BURNS



GATTI

BIRTHDAYS FOR TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2015

T-Pain

Fran Drescher

Barry Williams

Vik Sahay

Kieran Culklin

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Jimmy & Shirley Markray





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Funky Junk
Household

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"I'm George Fuller and I am a candidate for the office of Police Juror, District 12."

I am a lifelong resident of Webster Parish. My wife Lula and I have been married for forty-five years. We have four grown children and five grandchildren. I am a Navy Veteran who served two tour duty in Vietnam. After serving my country, I moved back home and started my career at Union Pacific Railroad. I was employed there for 35 years and retired in 2009. During my 35 years of employment, my schooling included supervision and management on personnel and contract labor management. I have a great interest in this community and in it becoming a good place to live and raise a family in the safest way possible. Family safety is number one where your kids can grow up in a safe environment. This means working very close with our parishes and Local Law Enforcement. Plus, there are so many improvements that need to be made and put under serious consideration. I am a lifelong member of Kirk Chapel CME Church where I serve as President of the Steward Board & Trustee, President of the Kirk Chapel Community Food Bank, Vice President of the Jenkins Community Water System, and a member of the Byron Legandy Lodge. I have served for 18 years as Worshipful Master, 32nd degree Mason, and Vice President of Jenkins Community Cemetery. This District gives me a great passion for all the people so we can work together. Let's have the best District in the Parish. That is why I am asking for your vote on October 24, #75.

GO VOTE FOR #75 OCTOBER 24!

Pamper Your Feet!

Insurance generally doesn't cover routine foot care like cutting or removal of corns and calluses, the trimming, cutting, and clipping of nails or hygienic or other preventive maintenance, including cleaning and soaking the feet. Minden Medical Center Physical Therapy is now offering this service in Minden.

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CAMEOS OF MINDEN

Promise lilies begin to bloom

JUANITA AGAN
Special to the Press-Herald

They are back again! Yesterday they were not there, but today there is a bright red circle of lilies around each pine tree in the back yard. Some folks call them "spider lilies" and others call them "surprise lilies", but to me they are "promise lilies", and I'd like to tell you why.

Long years ago, about 46 years ago, a newlywed couple moved into a house on the Sibley Road. After the long hours on their jobs they came home to plant the foundation planting around their new home. That autumn the days were short as they are by November, and the planting must be done by the headlights on their car. Long into the night they worked, planting roses in the newly created rose garden, and arbor vitae at either side of the house. Akin Nursery in Shreveport had planned the foundation planting, and the young couple followed the instructions.



AGAN

Each thing they planted such as the sasanquas and the camellias and the azaleas had specific instructions for their care. So much to do, and so little time to get it done.

The young can work the late hours and still spring back full of vitality and energy the following morning. All along the Sibley Road the older residents watched with interest as the newlyweds borrowed a tractor and filled in and leveled the front yard, and did the planting. One couple who lived down the road where the service station and the little convenience store is now located were especially interested. Late one night as the newlyweds worked, a little old man appeared in the car headlights, introduced himself as the husband of one of the friends of the young woman's mother. He asked permission to come down during the day and plant some bulbs around the trees in the yard. He said that there would be nothing to do to them, just wait for the following autumn and one day they would just pop up and bloom; no foliage, just a straight stalk with a large clump of red at the top. They questioned him about the care because everything else

they had planted required certain fertilizer, applied at a certain time, spraying and watering. Still, he maintained that there was nothing they had to do to keep them living and blooming. He said to trust him, that he promised they would not be disappointed. He said that he promised they would come back year after year and be a bright spot in the autumn days. With considerable doubt they consented for him to come the next day. Promptly they forget his promise and the trip to see them.

Months went by, and the shrubbery grew. The roses grew and bloomed, and the sasanquas and camellias and azaleas all had their season of blooming and being cared for. One morning in September they looked out into the backyard and there in a perfect circle around each pine tree was a beautiful cluster of red. Yesterday they had not been there and today they were. Then they remembered the promise the old man had made -- just wait and see, he had said. "I promise, I promise, wait and see", were the words they remembered.

The newlyweds were my late husband, J.C., and me, and our elderly friend was



A promise lily is shown. Courtesy Photo

Mr. Craton AAlexander. He called them "spider lilies" but I call them my "promise lilies" because of the dear old man who promised the young couple bright blooms year after year and quite unexpectedly. He was right, the lilies kept his promise to us.

About 30 or more years ago, one morning his wife, whom I called Aunt Kate Alexander, could not wake

him. He had gone on to be with Jesus. Still for more than 45 years the lilies have bloomed each autumn. Each time I see them I remember the kindly old man who wanted to help the young couple with their planting. He had to convince me but he was right. His promises were kept and are still being kept, as once again the lilies bloom for me. Even the young husband has now gone

to be with Jesus, too, promises made and promises kept.

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.

EDUCATION

Common Core test results to be released in mid-October

BATON ROUGE — Superintendent of Education John White said the first glimpse of how Louisiana students fared on Common Core tests will be released Oct. 12.

Those statewide results will show how 320,000 students in grades three through eight did on the exams in March and May, and eventually how they

compare with their peers in other states.

Students will be placed in one of five categories: advanced, mastery, basic, approaching basic and unsatisfactory.

The Advocate reports that once 10 other states and the District of Columbia release their own results, comparisons will be possible on the

math, reading and writing assessments.

White made his comments Monday, the same day education department officials began sharing preliminary results of the tests with roughly half of the state's 70 local school superintendents.

Some local leaders, including the president of the Louisiana Association of

School Superintendents, had complained they need to see the results now for teachers to help students improve their performance.

White said the only results being shared include

how many questions students answered correctly of the total, without any scaling that sheds light on how they performed overall.

"We do not have information that is even close to a

final score for students," he said.

The issue of how to handle the release of the scores has sparked debate and criticism from some local education officials.

AROUND THE STATE

No new Louisiana income tax refund cards as of Friday

BATON ROUGE — The Louisiana Department of Revenue says that, starting Friday, taxpayers cannot get state income tax refunds on debit cards because J.P. Morgan Chase is dropping the prepaid debit cards.


woman Kizzy Payton said Tuesday that refunds approved and processed after Thursday will get a paper check if the taxpayer requested a "MyRefund" debit card.

Taxpayers can still get refunds by direct deposit. Payton says that's the fastest

and most secure refund method.

If you already have a state tax refund debit card with money on it, you can use it after Thursday but won't be able to get future refunds placed on it.

Northern Louisiana BizAccelerator Network Project: Accelerating Your Business to New Heights



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TRAINING WORKSHOP FORMAT


(Snacks, Drinks, and Meals will be provided to the workshop participants)


- Friday Lunch – 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM - **Essentials for Success in Business**
- Saturday Morning, before lunch – 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM – **Customer Service, Excellent Communication, Marketing Tips, Social Media in Business**
- Saturday Afternoon, after lunch - 1:30 to 4:30 PM – **Business Assessment with Business SWOT Analysis, Developing Your Own Business Growth and Improvement Plan**

The Northern Louisiana BizAccelerator is funded by **USDA Rural Development** and focuses on helping rural business enterprises in North LA. Training Workshops will be hosted by **Winrock International** in partnership with the Professional Instructors from Cathy Denison, PhD and Associates Professional Services, Inc. (Denison and Associates). For more information, contact (337) 502-1911 or business@denisonassociates.com.

TRAINING WORKSHOP DATES and LOCATION

- October 2-3, 2015 – RV Building, 101 West Church Street, Springhill, LA, 71075


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OPINION

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EDITORIAL
ROUND UP

Banned Books Week celebrates freedom to read

Ever since man developed the ability to put words on paper, there have been those who seek to keep some of them from the printed page.

That's because the written word has power. It can change lives, change countries, change history. For some that translates to freedom, to inspiration. For others it creates fear — fear of upsetting the status quo, fear of challenging long-standing and cherished beliefs. We see books banned and burned in other countries — totalitarian regimes, for example — and we are quick to condemn. We see ourselves as people who cherish free speech and the free exchange of ideas.

But the fact is that books are regularly challenged and banned in this country — and have been for centuries.

In some cases the folks objecting to certain books are decent people. They think they are doing good, even doing God's will.

But in the end they defeat themselves.

Libraries, schools and bookstores across the country have felt pressure from government agencies, parents, civic and religious groups, and other concerned citizens to remove books from their shelves.

Sometimes they cave. Sometimes they fight. Sometimes they are helped by Americans more concerned about freedom than the perceived dangers a printed work presents.

These battles were more common in the last century. But they still happen today.

The most common reasons books are challenged in the U.S. are because they contain sexual content or strong language. Other reasons include negative racial and ethnic portrayals, unpopular political positions, views that question religious convictions and violent content.

According to the American Library Association, Among the 100 books most frequently banned or challenged in this country are classics such as "The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain, "I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings" by Maya Angelou, "The Catcher In the Rye" by J.D. Salinger, "Of Mice and Men" by John Steinbeck, "The Color Purple" by Alice Walker, "To Kill a Mockingbird" by Harper Lee, "Native Son" by Richard Wright, "Lord of the Flies" by William Golding, "Brave New World" by Aldous Huxley and "Slaughterhouse-Five" by Kurt Vonnegut.

More recently published targets in the Top 100 include the "Harry Potter" and "Goosebumps" series that focus on supernatural events, gay-related works such as "Daddy's Roommate" and "Heather Has Two Mommies," the "Captain Underpants" juvenile series and most everything written by Judy Blume.

This isn't a comprehensive list by any means. Hundreds and hundreds of books have been challenged and removed from libraries, schools and bookstores over the years.

For example, last year's most banned titles — the most recent list available — include "The Perks of Being a Wallflower" by Stephen Chbosky, the "Saga" comic book series and even "A Stolen Life," Jaycee Dugard's account of her 18 years in captivity after being kidnapped at age 11 by a convicted sex offender.

This is Banned Books Week, an annual event that celebrates the freedom to read. It began Sunday and continues through Saturday. Its organizers encourage Americans to fight censorship and celebrate the written word.

Those who value the First Amendment and the free exchange of ideas should recognize that there are others who do not and will take a stand when books are challenged. That ensures the folks who would ban books can never win.

That's because books can live forever. Book banners definitely do not. All of the works that have been challenged over the years are still with us. And, with vigilance, they always will be.

Everyone is free to decide what to read and what not to read, and what books are allowed in their own homes. That's fine.

But no person should be able to tell another what they can or cannot read.

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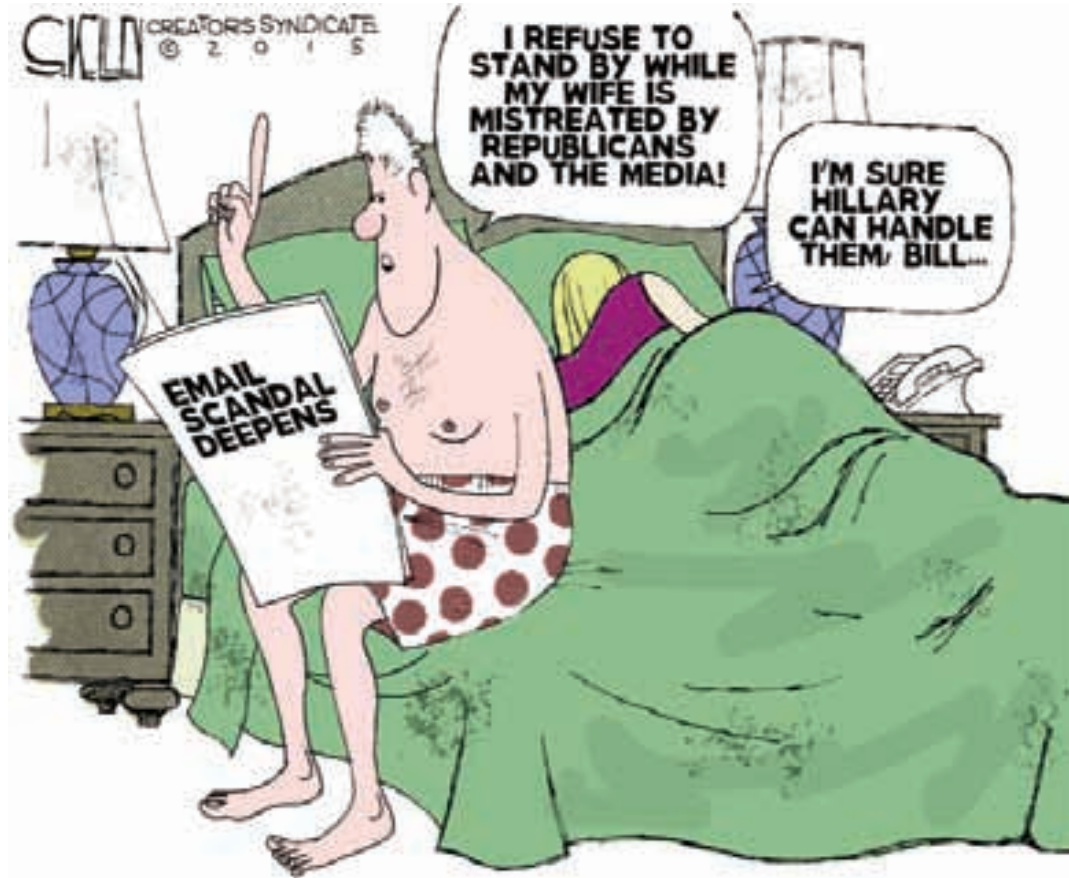
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PERSPECTIVE

Unnecessary loss of life

War is nasty, brutal and costly. In our latest wars, many of the casualties suffered by American troops are a direct result of their having to obey rules of engagement created by politicians who have never set foot on — or even seen — a battlefield. Today's battlefield commanders must be alert to the media and do-gooders who are all too ready to demonize troops involved in a battle that produces noncombatant deaths, so-called collateral damage.

According to a Western Journalism article by Leigh H Bravo, "Insanity: The Rules of Engagement" (<http://tinyurl.com/p59nlqs>), our troops fighting in Afghanistan cannot do night or surprise searches. Also, villagers must be warned prior to searches. Troops may not fire at the enemy unless fired upon. U.S. forces cannot engage the enemy if civilians are present. And only women can search women. Retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Thomas McInerney said: "We handcuffed our troops in combat needlessly. This was very harmful to our men and has never been done in U.S. combat operations that I know of." Collateral damage and the unintentional killing of civilians are a consequence of war. But the question we should ask is: Are our troops' lives less important than the

inevitable collateral damage?

The unnecessary loss of life and casualties that result from politically correct rules of engagement are about to be magnified in future conflicts by mindless efforts to put women in combat units. In 2013, then-Defense Secretary Leon Panetta officially lifted the ban on women serving in ground combat roles. On Jan. 1, 2016, all branches of the military must either open all positions to women or request exceptions. That boils down to having women serve in combat roles, because any commander requesting exceptions would risk having his career terminated in the wake of the screeching and accusations of sexism that would surely ensue.

The U.S. Army has announced that for the first time, two female officers graduated from the exceptionally tough three-phase Ranger course.

Their "success" will serve as grist for the mills of those who argue for women in combat. Unlike most of their fellow soldiers, these two women had to recycle because they had failed certain phases of the course.

A recent Marine Corps force integration study concluded that combat teams were less effective when they included women. Overall, the report says, all-male teams and crews outperformed mixed-gender ones on 93 out of 134 tasks evaluated. All-male teams were universally faster "in each tactical movement." The report also says that female Marines had higher rates of injury throughout the experiment.

Should anyone be sur-

prised by the findings of male combat superiority? Young men are overloaded with testosterone, which produces hostility, aggression and competitiveness. Such a physical characteristic produces sometimes-poor behavior in civilian society, occasionally leading to imprisonment, but the same characteristics are ideal for ground combat situations.

You may bet the rent money that the current effort to integrate combat jobs will not end with simply a few extraordinary women. Secretary of the Navy Ray Mabus told the Navy Times that once women start attending SEAL training, it would make sense to examine the standards. He said, "First we're going to make sure there are standards" and "they're gender-neutral." Only after that will the Navy make sure the standards "have something to do with the job." We've heard that before in matters of race. It's called disparate impact. That is, if the Navy SEALs can't prove that staying up for 18 hours with no rest or sleep, sitting and shivering in the cold Pacific Ocean, running with a huge log on your shoulder, and being spoken to like a dog are necessary, then those parts of SEAL training will be eliminated so that women can pass.

The most disgusting, perhaps traitorous, aspect of all this is the overall timidity of military commanders, most of whom, despite knowing better, will only publicly criticize the idea of putting women in combat after they retire from service.

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

EDITORIAL
ROUND UP

Football death is wakeup call

El Dorado News Times, Sept. 29, 2015

It finally happened. A New Jersey high school football player died after getting hit on the field. We have fully expected such a thing to happen, but we thought we would see the incident on TV in a professional game. Still, this death may give us the moment of clarity we need to fully examine the future of American football.

From high school to college to the National Football League, football has overtaken every other sport as America's game. Sorry, baseball. Soccer, not quite. Football is the national game of choice. Part of that is the schedule — one game each week. Anticipating the games grows to a fever pitch, and by Friday or Saturday or Sunday, the excitement is palpable.

There is no doubt, though, that the violent nature of the sport is part of its allure, too. Americans like gladiator sports, and football certainly is that. Fans love the big hit. Over the years, those hits got bigger and bigger to the point that sanctioning leagues had to do something to rein them in. We were on a path toward players getting killed while playing. There is simply no way those huge men could collide as they were without someone dying from a broken neck at some point.

To be sure, many sports are dangerous, and athletes have died playing these games throughout history. A 90 mph fastball can kill a baseball player. Boxers have died in the ring, and many of us remember the day Dale Earnhardt Sr. died at Daytona.

Football, though, provides perhaps the perfect forum for barely controlled violence that can result in horrific injuries and now, death.

Look at the evolution of football. Two generations ago, lineman were 6 feet tall and weighed a bit more than 200 pounds. Now, a major college offensive lineman is 6 feet, 6 inches tall and weighs well north of 300 pounds. But those aren't the guys who can hurt you. No, that would be the linebacker or defensive back who stands 6 feet, 4 inches tall and weighs 250 pounds. He is chiseled out of granite and has a speed burst like a cheetah.

Popular Mechanics studied the art of an NFL tackle using NFL defensive back Marcus Trufant. By NFL terms, he's not a big guy — 5 feet, 11 inches tall and weighing 199 pounds — but he runs the 40-yard dash in four and a half seconds, and when he tackles someone at full speed, he's exerting 1,600 pounds of force.

Sixteen hundred pounds of force.

The equipment football players wear has certainly improved over time, but helmets and pads have not kept up with the explosiveness of today's football player. No protective gear can protect someone from the violence of near a ton of force hitting him head on. Leagues have also become more aware of concussions and their impacts, short- and long-term, and that awareness has resulted in concussion rates going through the roof, but it has also led to players sitting out of games when in the past they probably would have played.

And we are learning more about the long-term effects of concussions on the human brain. Several high-profile former players died at their own hands, and initial research is showing that brain injuries may have led to those actions.

It's not out of the realm of possibility to suggest that football might not be around in its current form a generation from now. Parents across the country are pulling their children out of football, encouraging them to play less dangerous sports. At the highest levels, the game's rules have changed, and continue to change, to lessen violent collisions. Some fans lament the watering-down of the sport. We tend to think that the violence needed a bit of tempering.

We don't watch sports to see people get hurt. We certainly don't want to be a fan of a sport that has a discernible chance of someone getting killed through the normal course of play.

Let's do what we can to make the game safer before it has to go away.

Around Town

Oct. 1

St. Rest Baptist Church's 150th Anniversary will be celebrated with revival services featuring evangelist the Rev. Rene' Brown at 7 p.m.

The Minden Planning Commission will be meeting at 10:00 AM in the Pelican Conference Room at City Hall.

Oct. 3

Anna Pink Ribbon Cancer Foundation 5K Run/Walk at 9 a.m. (Registration starts at 8 a.m.) at the Capital One on Main Street. Register online at <http://www.sportspectrumusa.com/>. Call 318-639-5035 for more information.

Oct. 4

Valley Springs Baptist Church's 111th Anniversary will be celebrated at 2:30 p.m. with special guest the Rev. James E. Smith.

Oct. 5

The Webster Parish School Board will meet at 6 p.m. in the board room for its monthly meeting at Central Office, located at 1442 Sheppard Street.

Oct. 6

The Webster Parish Police Jury will meet at 9 a.m. in the jury's committee meeting room on the third floor of the Webster Parish Courthouse. The monthly meeting will begin at 10:30 a.m., in the jury meeting room on the second floor.

Oct. 10

Webster Parish Relay For Life for the American Cancer Society will be from 3 until 10 p.m. at the Minden Recreation Center. There will be a car show, kids games and bouncing house, entertainment and a special ceremony supporting cancer survivors and honoring those who have been taken.

Pink Pearl Tea at Orleans on Main at noon. Call 318-639-5035 for more information.

Oct. 11

West Lake Baptist Church homecoming will be at 10:30 a.m. with guest pastor Bro. Eddie Sowders and musical guest Aaron Watson and Friends.

Bright Star Missionary Baptist Church's 120th Anniversary will be celebrated at 2:30 p.m. with guest speaker Pastor Brady L. Blade.

Glenbrook visits Flamenco Ballet



Glenbrook School's Spanish I and II students recently attended the Historic Flamenco Ballet at the LSUS theater. The multicultural experience allowed students to experience various Latin America forms of dancing from several areas such as the Caribbean, Central and South America. Students were also exposed to different types of Latin dances such the Samba, Mexican Jarabe Tapatio and Salsa. The students are under the direction of Mrs. Rose Crawford. Courtesy Photo

LION'S CLUB

Mayor Tommy Davis to speak at Lions Club

Minden Mayor Tommy Davis will speak at the Minden Lions Club Thursday, Oct. 1. The Minden Lions Club meets at noon every Thursday in the American Legion Hall on Pine Street. Lunch is served around 11:45. Non-members may attend and eat at a charge of \$8.



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SPORTS briefs

FOOTBALL

Correction on MPH football contest

An error was made while tabulating the scores of this week's football contest. Marty Fletcher still finished in first place, but Ta'renzo Jones and Obie Jones Jr. finished tied for second place, not third. Because of this, they will split second and third place winnings and Vincen Bradford no longer has a winning entry.

NBA

Rose to have surgery to repair eye fracture

CHICAGO — Bulls star Derrick Rose will have surgery on his left eye after being elbowed in the face.

The 2011 NBA MVP sustained a left orbital fracture on the first day of practice, the team said Tuesday in a release. He is scheduled for surgery on Wednesday, and a timetable for his return will be determined after the operation.

It's the latest in a long line of injuries for Rose, and the last thing the Bulls needed with a new coach in Fred Hoiberg.

Rose missed all of the 2012-13 season after tearing his left ACL during the first round of the 2012 playoffs, and played only 10 games two years ago after tearing the meniscus in his right knee. He also had a minor procedure on the right knee late last season.

The Bulls return mostly intact after winning 50 games and losing to LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers in the Eastern Conference semifinals. The one big change they made was on the sideline, with Hoiberg replacing the defensive-minded Tom Thibodeau.

MLB

Dodgers make it three straight titles

SAN FRANCISCO — Clayton Kershaw lingered on the field a few moments longer than the rest of his Los Angeles teammates, then looked up at the cheering fans in Dodger Blue, smiled and tipped his cap before quickly disappearing into the dugout and heading off to celebrate.

Kershaw pitched the big-money Dodgers to their third straight NL West title, tossing a one-hitter as Los Angeles beat Madison Bumgarner and the San Francisco Giants 8-0 on Tuesday night.

Kershaw allowed just a third-inning single and struck out 13, and now he'll get a chance to erase those sour postseason memories as the Dodgers (88-69) advanced to face the NL East champion New York Mets in a best-of-five Division Series.

"I've been through it now a bunch, I think this is my fifth postseason now," Kershaw said. "I don't know if you can get wiser from failing all the time. I know what that feels like."

Kershaw (16-7) finally got the best of his 2015 nemesis in the fourth matchup of the year against World Series MVP Bumgarner, striking out the side in order three times and retiring the final 19 batters as the Dodgers snapped a four-game losing streak. He is six strikeouts away from 300.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

LSU addressing errors



BATON ROUGE — LSU coach Les Miles wants his players to realize that the margin for error their talent has given them early this season will shrink as the stakes rise, and that sloppiness will eventually catch up to the ninth-ranked Tigers if they don't clean up mental errors soon.

"We have a talented team which can be dominant at times," Miles said. "But, we play too close because of those penalties."

LSU committed 14 penalties in a 34-24 victory at Syracuse last Saturday.

On offense, there were four false starts as well as an illegal formation penalty, the last of which nullified an 87-yard touchdown run by Leonard Fournette, who still finished with 244 yards rushing and two TDs in spite of that.

In addition, five major penalties against the defense occurred during all three Syracuse touchdown drives.

Safety Rickey Jefferson and cornerback Kevin Toliver were called for pass interference. The flag on Toliver nullified an interception by Jefferson. Nickel

back Dwayne Thomas was called for grabbing a face mask. Defensive end Lewis Neal and linebacker Deion Jones were hit with personal foul penalties.

Three weeks into the season, the Tigers are averaging nine penalties for 86 yards per game.

"We're on it," Miles said. "We're going to work at it and get it fixed."

Miles said that the crowd noise at the Carrier Dome was a likely factor in the false starts. Yet one of his offensive linemen offered a different reason.

"False starts are the result of a lack of focus," senior offensive tackle Vadal Alexander said. "You can't have penalties like that. The crowd noise is less a factor. There are techniques we have to handle crowd noise and we didn't use them. That was a case of us not being focused."

Despite remaining unbeaten, the Tigers (3-0) dropped in the Top 25 Poll from eighth last week to ninth this week as they prepare for a visit by Eastern Michigan on Saturday night.

The Tigers said their sloppiness wasn't limited to penalties at Syracuse, but also execution.

Even though Fournette had a huge day running the football, the holes were not there as often as the previous week against Auburn. Fournette met more resistance at the line of scrimmage, sometimes using his strength to plow through it, sometimes not.

Fournette had 17 yards in losses against the Orange defense. In addition, quarterback Brandon Harris was



Courtesy Photo

sacked twice. The Tigers offensive line had yielded only one sack in the victories against Mississippi State and Auburn.

"That was more us than them," Alexander said. "It's our job to get the running back to the second level (of the defense) untouched. Then, we have to protect Brandon in the passing

game. This is definitely something we need to get fixed."

Eastern Michigan (1-3) is last among FBS teams in rush defense - not a good fact with Fournette next on its schedule. So LSU will be heavily favored; the Tigers opened as 46-point favorites.

Regardless of the score, Miles wants to see his team

play a cleaner game.

"We will bring awareness of the penalties to the players," Miles said. "They have goals for the season. It's about our path and what we want to accomplish as a team. All in all, I am very glad to be in the position we are in right now. We are in pursuit of a penalty-free game and that's what we'll do."

YOUTH FOOTBALL

Glenbrook falls to Cedar Creek in pair of games



BLAKE BRANCH
blake@press-herald.com

The Glenbrook youth football teams lost a tough pair of games to Cedar Creek Monday night. Here are the results.

3rd-4th grade Cedar Creek 12 Glenbrook 0

Landry Powell led the offense with 51 yards rushing, followed by Reagan Coyle who ran for 30 yards. Coyle also led the team receiving with two catches for seven yards.

Powell led the way defensively with five tackle, Parker Salas had four and Cayd Herron finished with three tackles.

5th-6th Grade Cedar Creek 30 Glenbrook 6

Maddox Mandino led Glenbrook with 87 yards rushing and a touchdown. Kendall Flournoy pitched in on the ground with 10 yards, while Cooper Chase led the team in receiving with three catches for 52 yards. Mandino added 27 yards receiving on three catches.

Mandino also led the team in tackles with 14, followed by Cale Hollis with six and Dayton Sims and C.J. Watts with three tackles.



Blake Branch/Press-Herald

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Cowboys still believe Weeden can win



IRVING, Texas — Brandon Weeden has completed 10 passes to wide receivers in two starts for the Dallas Cowboys.

Even when he had All-Pro Dez Bryant last year against Arizona, he had trouble getting him the ball,

with 10 targets and just two completions in a loss.

After Weeden couldn't answer an Atlanta rally with any success down the field in a 39-28 loss Sunday, the natural question was whether the Cowboys trusted their backup enough with Tony Romo sidelined at least six more games with a broken left collarbone.

"Yes I do," owner and general manager Jerry Jones said after the end of a six-game winning streak in the regular season for the defending NFC East champion. "In general, I bet

when we look at it, he stayed within himself. He's probably capable of getting it downfield, too, if they ask him to. I'm not worried. We just have a lot of work to do to stay in the hunt."

After a fast start fueled by the running game, Weeden's first bad decision was an interception that turned the game in the Falcons' favor in the second quarter, before the Dallas defense quit making stops.

With a nine-game losing streak that's tops among current starters and more interceptions (29) than touchdowns (27) for his

career, Weeden will have to listen to chatter about whether the recently acquired Matt Cassel is a better fit to lead the Cowboys until Romo returns.

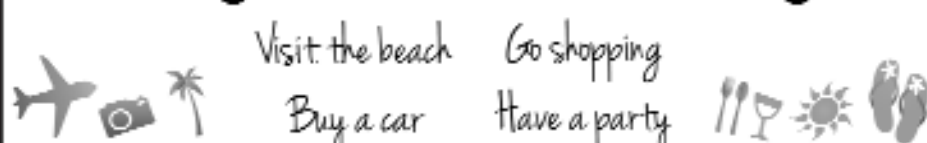
Dallas (2-1) goes to winless New Orleans this weekend before a visit from Tom Brady and New England. The Patriots went 11-5 in 2008 with Cassel filling in after Brady injured a knee in the opener, although they missed the playoffs.

Weeden and coach Jason Garrett said Atlanta's coverage schemes dictated the

underneath throws. Cole Beasley was the only receiver to catch a pass — he had four for 49 yards — and Terrance Williams was targeted twice without a reception. Those were the only six throws to receivers.

"Not many people make a lot of big plays. That's the style of defense," Garrett said Monday. "There were some opportunities to throw the ball outside to the outside receivers that we didn't take full advantage of. To say we should've thrown it down the field more, I don't know that's accurate."

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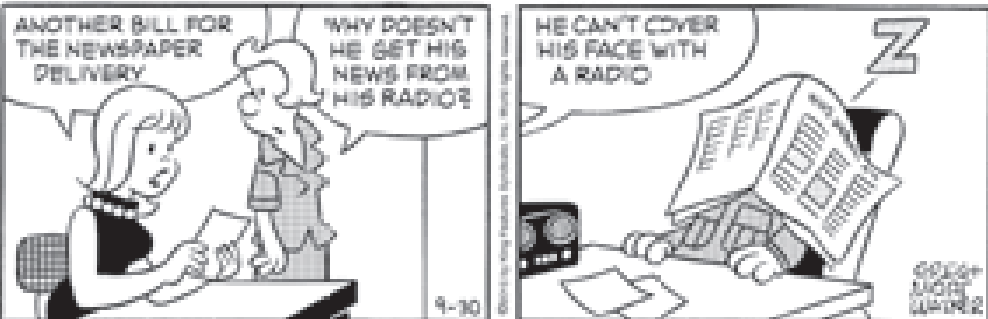
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CRYPTOQUIP

Y S D B L U X E D S R K L W W Y B D
V Y E F M L R D N L Q D N K W D U Z
N D X Q D M . X W E D U X N N , E F X E ' M
V F X E W U L Z S M X U D W L U .

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU PLACED YOUR HAND IN THAT CARPENTER'S VISE, I'D SAY YOU'VE GOTTEN A GRIP ON YOURSELF.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals T

CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Mosque
5 \$ dispenser
8 Prayer ending
12 Unrivaled
13 Feathery accessory
14 Exceptional
15 Sightseeing stop
17 Determination
18 Hackneyed
19 Brings forth
21 Differently
24 Moreover
25 Punch's partner
28 Fruit seeds
30 Totally dominate
33 From — Z
34 Sired
35 Trouble
36 Kitten's comment
37 Reverberate
38 Recognize

DOWN
2 Castle protection
3 Actress Paquin
4 Musical hodge-podge
5 Lawyers' org.
6 Anderson's "High —"
7 Create
8 Electric-bulb gas
9 Sale sign
10 Canal zone
11 Trawler gear
16 Gibson or Brooks
20 Expansive
22 Detail, briefly
23 Rowing crew
25 Predicament
26 Multi-purpose truck
27 Unpretentious, in the South
29 Milne bruin
31 Court
32 Fresh order
34 "Cheers"
38 Mounds down
40 Duck down
42 Honest politician
43 Ocean motion
44 Fix, in a way
45 Anything but that
47 Pace
48 Old Peruvian
49 Paradise
52 Raw rock
53 Tex- — cuisine

Solution time: 24 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 9-30

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15				16					17			
18							19	20				
			21		22	23		24				
25	26	27			28		29			30	31	32
33				34						35		
36				37					38			
		39	40			41		42				
43	44				45			46		47	48	49
50					51	52	53					
54					55				56			
57					58				59			

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