



Little League football results SPORTS PG. 6



MICHELLE BATES michelle@press-herald.com

The second Turk brother involved in the shooting death of Omar Lott entered a plea of guilty to accessory after the fact.

Dylan Turk entered his plea before 26th Judicial District Judge Parker Self.

Assistant district attorney Hugo Holland says Dylan

Turk also entered a plea of guilty on charges of battery of a police officer and resisting an officer by flight and will be sentenced on those charges the same date.

"After careful review of the case, there was insufficient evidence that Dylan Turk, who was with his brother J'Son Turk when J'Son shot and killed Omar Lott, knew that J'Son was going to commit the murder," Holland said. "We do



body--**D. TURK** that

the

and

makes him guilty of accessory after the fact.

J'son Turk entered a plea of guilty E-: 1 manslaughter.

Lott was shot and killed Aug. 24, 2014 in what Webster investigators called a possible drug deal gone bad. Holland says J'Son Turk shot and killed Lott, and his brother, Dylan Turk, helped hide the body.

Lott's remains were recovered in a wooded area off Walter Lyons Road three days after the shooting.

"(Dylan) Turk is dangerous," Holland said. "However much time the judge gives him (and I know the Judge will be fair with his sentence) will not deter Mr. Dylan Turk from future criminal conduct. I will see him again."

J'son Turk faces up to 40 years in prison, and the brothers are set for sentencing Feb. 1, 2016.

WEBSTER CRIME Four arrested on drug charges

MICHELLE BATES michelle@press-herald.com

SPRINGHILL - Four people were arrested on distribution charges following undercover buys of prescription pills, Springhill chief of police Will Lynd said.

Donna Mosley, 57, of the 200 block of 7th Street SW in

Springhill, was arrested on one count of distribuof Sche ule II CDS (amphetamines). Bond was set at \$75,000. Ăndy Scott Graves, of the same address, was arrested on one count of distribution of Schedule II D S C



ELECTION 2015 Early voting turnout is up

MICHELLE BATES michelle@press-herald.com

Early voting numbers are higher for the Oct. 24 gubernatorial election than they were in 2011, says Webster Parish Registrar of Voters Melanie Smith.

"The early voting numbers are better than the 2011 early voting numbers," she said.

As of the close of early oting Saturday, a total of 1,702 cast their ballots before Election Day. That number breaks down to 1,478 cast their ballots in person and 224 mailed in their votes, Smith said. During the 2011 gubernatorial election, only 1,116 cast their ballots early in person with 140 ballots mailed in. The Advocate reports about 14,000 fewer voters participated in early voting. When early voting ended, 222,162 of Louisiana's 2.89 million voters, or 7.6 percent, cast their ballots by Saturday. Secretary of state Tom Schedler predicts voter turnout will be between 45 to 50 percent on Oct. 24. He fears it could go lower because of a huge undecided



The Webster Parish School Board personnel committee reviewed Superintendent of Schools Dr. Dan Rawls' contract Monday following a performance evaluation sub-



Jindal releases

book

NEWS PG.2

Censorship in America **OPINION** PG.4

WEATHER

Tomorrow's Outlook



59 84 HIGH LOW

Sunny skies. Winds SSE at 5 to 10 mph.

CONNECT WITH US





See **VOTES**, Page 3

mitted to the board over the summer. Bruce Franklin/Press-Herald

Superintendent's contract reviewed

MICHELLE BATES michelle@press-herald.com

The Webster Parish School Board personnel committee reviewed Superintendent of Schools Dr. Dan Rawls' contract Monday following a performance evaluation submitted to the board over the summer.

The board's executive committee tallied the evaluation scores and Rawls received an overall average of 2.27, which means his evaluation is more than proficient.

Board president Charles Strong, in August, explained to board members in an email the rating scale and the criteria for the evaluation. The rating scale listed three

as exceptional performance. two for proficient performance and one for needs improvement.

Rawls was rated in four different areas: educational leadership, district management, performance objectives and board and community relations.

See CONTRACT, Page 3



(ampheta-GRAVES mines). Bond

was set at \$75,000.

Cherish Jery Mosley, 28, of the same address, was charged with distribution of Schedule II CDS (amphetamine). Bond was set at \$75,000.

Willie Ray Judgware, 47,

See **ARRESTS**, Page 3

ELECTION 2015

Future of higher ed major challenge for next governor

REBECCA SANTANA Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS - Rising tuition costs, departing faculty, and larger class sizes. Louisiana's next governor will have his hands full when it comes to addressing the future of higher education in the state.

Louisiana's colleges and universities have been hit by repeated budget cuts in recent years, leading many to question whether the state

will have enough graduates to fill jobs. But the question facing the next governor is where funding will come from and how colleges and universities should best use it.

"No matter what, the next governor is going to have to do something in higher ed,' said Barry Erwin, who heads the Council for a Better Louisiana in Baton Rouge, a nonpartisan think tank that monitors education issues.

Between 2008 and 2015,

Louisiana support for higher education dropped by 34 percent, compared with a nationwide drop of 6 percent, according to the council. At the same time, tuition and fees went up by nearly 80 percent, according to the Louisiana Board of Regents.

All the main candidates for governor – Republicans Scott Angelle, Jay Dardenne and David Vitter and John Bel Edwards — agree higher education has been cut too much and have vowed to

make higher education a priority. All have talked about the need to free up more money for higher education.

The problem, they say, is that so much of the state's money is already dedicated to other areas. When budget shortfalls arise, the only areas where lawmakers and the governor can make cuts are health care and higher education. All the candidates have talked about the need to re-examine how budget money is allocated and

what's protected from cuts and scaling back tax breaks to generate new money for higher education.

Educators have been meeting with the candidates to push their message that higher education shouldn't be looked at as an expense, but as an investment. By 2020, more than half the state's jobs will need applicants with a postsecondary degree or certificate, but only 28 percent of adults current-

See **HIGHER ED**, Page 2



25: Danine Weikli of Weikli Spandy Madatine in Mindea to rate to Disease hast? The grand prize is \$200. One holy within Munike's une limits. Grand Leaf?

SECONDFRONT www.press-herald.com

AROUND THE STATE Jindal's latest book released as his 2016 campaign struggles

MELINDA DESLATTE Associated Press

ROUGE BATON Republican presidential con-

tender Bobby Jindal offers history from a conservative viewpoint in a new book illustrating the "folly of looking to the

JINDAL government

for the solution to all of our problems."

Tracing an arc from the Bill of Rights to President Barack Obama's health care law, the Louisiana governor came out Tuesday with "American Will," a book meant to advance his struggling campaign. Matt Latimer and Keith Urbahn are co-authors with the governor.

REVISITING THE PAST

Jindal, 44, describes the history book as a "call to arms" that demonstrates how individual choices can steer the course of a country

at one of America's "most consequential crossroads."

The book, Jindal's second, hits traditional Republican themes, praising former President Ronald Reagan, trashing Obama's health care overhaul and swiping at Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Rodham Clin-

He selects stories from the past, using well-known and lesser-known figures, to outline a political philosophy that emphasizes the Constitution's protections of states' rights and individual liberties.

HIS HISTORY LES-SONS

Jindal uses his history lessons to accuse Obama of having "waged a war on the consciences of American Christians" and trying to undermine Second Amendment rights on firearms.

The Louisiana Purchase, in which Napoleon Bonaparte sold the Louisiana territory to Thomas Jefferson after France's attempt to build an empire in America failed, becomes a lesson

See **JINDAL**, Page 3

HIGHER ED Continued from page 1 ly have that, according to the

council. "You can't grow your economy if you can't produce the graduates. And that's what we do," said Sandra Woodley, who heads the University of Louisiana system with 90,000 students across

nine institutions. But finding the money won't be easy, with the state likely facing another shortfall next year after ending the most recent budget year at a deficit.

"Odds on next year is going to be even worse from what we're hearing," said Erin Cowser, head of governmental affairs at Southeastern Louisiana University, a school of 15,600 students in Hammond.

Joseph C. Rallo, the commissioner of higher education, said he's been told by heads of different schools that faculty with a lot of opportunities — science or technology, for example are getting poached.

Students have rallied in the capital against cuts, such as University of New Orleans sophomore Ernijah Carter. He said many of his classmates from last year have since begun attending lessexpensive community colleges: "A lot of them just couldn't pay for it." But some say more money isn't the only problem, and they'll be looking to the next governor to make changes to how the system is run. Stephen Waguespack, who heads Louisiana's leading business lobbying group,

/mindenph

For News

Updates

Republican Public Service Commissioner Scott Angelle: Angelle says Louisiana had unfairly cut higher education funding and needs to get its fiscal house in order. Because so much of the state's revenue is already dedicated, it leaves only higher education and health care as areas to cut: "With every dedication, we need to ask ourselves, 'Is this more important than health care or education?" He wouldn't support efforts to shut down colleges to save money but would instead focus on making the current ones more successful. Angelle also frequently talks about the need to focus on community and technical college programs and skills training.

Republican Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne: He said he does not have a "magic number" on how much higher ed money should come from state support and how much from tuition and fees but said it should be at more of an equilibrium. Most money now comes from tuition and fees. He said he would put more money in higher education, even if it means taking money from other areas of the state's general fund. But he said the state needs to stabilize its budget long term. He said there's room for colleges and universities to cut programs, and he supports efforts to eliminate duplication of programs. But he dismissed the idea of closing campuses.

Democratic state Rep. John Bel Edwards: Calling the higher education situation a "crisis," Edwards says many of the state's best students are going out of state. He said he'll hold the line on tuition increases to get back to a level where 50 percent of higher ed funding comes from the state general fund and 50 percent from tuition and fees. Edwards, who argued strongly against an earlier proposal by Gov. Bobby Jindal to merge two New Orleans universities, said he's not open to campus closures to cut costs.

Republican U.S. Sen. David Vitter: He said the state needs wholescale budget and tax reform to cut programs it can't afford and get rid of credits, exemptions and deductions that aren't growing the economy. Those steps would help stabilize and restore funding for higher education. He's also proposed a commission to streamline higher education and look at questions of how colleges and universities can do things more efficiently. For example, he said the Shreveport-Bossier area has four different nursing programs at four different schools. While the state needs all those nursing jobs, he said it doesn't need four sets of overhead.

Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, said state colleges and universities need more autonomy to deal with issues like buying supplies. He said the Board of Regents needs to scrutinize college programs with low retention or graduation rates or that duplicate programs found at similar institutions nearby - steps Rallo

said Waguespack.

Under the next governor, the organization would like to see additional dollars for higher education go to programs designed to fill highdemand jobs like computer science and construction specialties, similar to the 2014 Workforce and Innova-

Fund introduced by Gov. Bobby Jindal.

The WISE fund was wellreceived by colleges and business at a time when the state faces acute worker shortages in manufacturing and petrochemical industries. But it has struggled to get enough money in only its

AROUND THE STATE **Claiborne Electric's Operation Round Up** hits \$1 million mark

When Claiborne Electric's Operation Round Up trust board met recently to review grant applications and award funds to local causes, the money awarded pushed the organization's donated total to more than \$1 million.

Webster Parish communities have received nearly \$170,000 of total funding.

"We are ecstatic that our Operation Round Up program has reached \$1 million and amazed at the generosity of our members," Mark Brown, Claiborne Electric's general manager and CEO, said.

Operation Round Up is a community service program the co-op began in 2007. The program gives members the option to allow their bills to be rounded up to the next whole dollar. The difference in the actual bill and the rounded amount is deposited into the Operation Round Up Trust Fund. These collected funds are dispersed to charitable causes in the communities served by Claiborne Electric.

The program is governed by the co-op's Operation Round Up Trust board. This board consists of nine Claiborne Electric members from across the service area. One member represents each of the co-op's nine districts. Every other month, the board meets to review applications, make decisions about allocations and disperse the funds. At their September meeting, the total donated since the beginning of the program rose to \$1,012,887.97.

Operation Round Up was originally created by Palmetto Electric Cooperative in South Carolina. After seeing the success of the program, other co-ops began starting their own.

"Currently, there are more than 300 similar programs at electric cooperatives across the country, and Claiborne

Electric has one of the highest member participation rates in the nation," Brown said. "More than 95 percent of our members allow us to round their bill up each month and use their spare change to impact our local communities in a positive way.'

Claiborne Electric's first grants were awarded in October 2007. Since then, the program has been used to award more than 300 grants to local charitable organizations and families in need.

Organizations receiving grants have included schools, fire departments, youth organizations, police departments, veterans' efforts, food banks, libraries and museums. Families receiving assistance have included those who need immediate assistance after their homes have burned, along with home repairs and modifications for elderly and disabled individuals.

One hundred percent of the money raised through Operation Round Up stays in Claiborne Electric's sixparish service area.

Brown says he recalls specific instances over the past eight years where Operation Round Up funds have met community needs that will always stick with him. He remembers instances where school budgets were reduced and Operation Round Up was able to provide computers that would not be purchased otherwise. He recalls police and fire departments receiving grants for safety equipment that could not be bought due to budget restraints.

He also remembers the instance of a lady undergoing an unexpected amputation that left her in a wheelchair. A local church applied for an Operation Round Up grant to purchase supplies needed to build a wheelchair ramp on her home.

Schools and universities have sometimes relied on classes that keep students enrolled rather than preparing them for the work force,

December 19, 2015 Loren Marks - Bride-elect of Reid Batcher

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ing, constructing, improving, maintaining or operating the public school system of the District?

Please get out and VOTE on Saturday, October 24, 2015.

Tuesday, October 20, 2015 – Minden Press-Herald 3 WEBSTER&MORE

Judge: Louisiana must fund

that the attempted termina-

tions against it are motivated

and driven, at least in large

part, by reasons unrelated to

which is not currently pro-

Louisiana, had challenged

the state's right to end the

funding for cancer screen-

ings, gynecology exams and

defunding effort after videos

were released by the anti-

abortion Center for Medical

"When they (Cherish

JUDGEWARE

Jindal, running for the

other health services.

Republican

nomination,

Mosley and

Mr.

deals with contracts.

Graves was staying there

with them in the house. We

made buys on those three

Ronnie Broughton, per-

sonnel committee chair, says

with the needed changes to

his contract, Rawls and some

of the staff members met to

important is that the super-

intendent be evaluated no

different than any other

employee," Rawls said. "We

use a rubric, just like a prin-

cipal's, just like a teacher's; I

have certain goals that I want

he says, are specific ones he

wants to meet, which are in

tendent, mine are a little

broader than a teacher's," he

The performance goals,

'Specifically for a superin-

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Voter registration open for Nov. 21 state elections

BATON ROUGE – It's too late to register to vote for Saturday's statewide elections, but Louisiana residents have until Wednesday to sign-up to participate in the Nov. 21 runoff.

Eligible residents have until midnight Wednesday

JINDAL

Continued from page 2

about standing against the threat of aggression from a dictator and is used to critique the Obama administration's handling of the Islamic State group, the Iran nuclear deal and the war in Syria.

A revisiting of Joseph Kennedy's tenure as U.S. ambassador to Britain in the escalation to World War II is similarly devised as a cautionary tale against "appeasement," to criticize Obama's foreign policy.

"Appeasement, whether in the form of prisoner exchanges of hardened Guantanamo Bay terrorists to the Taliban or a lifting of U.S. sanctions on Iran in exchange for empty promises of delaying its nuclear ambitions, only emboldens," Jindal writes.

JINDAL'S OWN HIS-TORY

Jindal doesn't focus his criticism exclusively on Democrats. He revisits -

VOTES

Continued from page 1

vote showing up in political polling, he says, as high as 30 percent in some elections.

"It's the biggest wildcard," he said, adding, many of those people may just not cast a ballot.

"If that happens, you will

You know the price

before ore start!

to register to vote online. Residents can also register in-person daily until close of business at parish registrars of voters offices as well as state Office of Motor Vehicles, state social service agencies and armed forces recruitment locations.

but slightly dials back - his often-quoted 2012 statement after Mitt Romney failed to win the presidency. He said the GOP needs to "stop being the stupid party." In the book, Jindal also says the Republican Party needs to offer detailed policy proposals rather than simply rejecting Democratic ideas.

We need to be a party of solutions, and until we are,

we will be, to a degree, the stupid party," Jindal writes. He describes rejecting John McCain's request to vet him as a possible vicepresidential contender in 2008, saying he felt it was too soon to leave Louisiana because he had more to do as governor.

The son of Indian immigrants who raised him Hindu, Jindal also retells the story of his conversion to Catholicism as a teenager and describes the religious beliefs he's made a cornerstone of his presidential campaign. He says the role of religious faith in society will be one issue voters will decide when they choose a presidential candidate.

higher in smaller parishes where local races are "fueling activity." Fifteen percent or more of the voters already cast ballots in those parishes with Plaquemines Parish leading the way with 25 percent.

East Baton Rouge Parish topped the list with the highest number of early votes cast at 19,195, or 6.8 percent of the parish's vot-

Planned Parenthood for 14 days

KEVIN MCGILL Associated Press

ORLEANS NEW Louisiana must continue providing Medicaid funding to Planned Parenthood clinics for 14 more days while a legal battle continues over Gov. Bobby Jindal's recent order to block the funding, a federal judge ruled.

AROUND THE STATE

U.S. District Judge John deGravelles in Baton Rouge heard arguments Friday. His order was signed Sunday and made public Monday morning. Without his ruling, funding was expected to end

ARRESTS

Continued from page 1

of the 100 block of 7th Street SW in Springhill, was charged with two counts of distribution of Schedule I CDS (marijuana). Bond was set at \$60,000.

detective Springhill Ronald Wedgeworth and Webster Parish Sheriff's narcotics agent Lt. Shawn Baker made contact with Donna Mosley and Graves at the 7th Street address. According to the police report, agents

CONTRACT Continued from page 1

Under educational leadership, in instructional management, Rawls received a 2.36, staff development and professional growth 2.25 and student services management at 2.17.

Under district management, in fiscal, facilities and operations management, he received a 2.42, administrative management a 2.58 and in personnel management a 2.08

performance Under objectives, Rawls received a 2.33 in performance in all schools, a 2.00 in improve graduation rates by one percent per year, balanced budget a 2.58 and reduce the

Monday. A hearing date will be set after a Monday afternoon conference call, according to the order.

Although the extension of funding is temporary, deGravelles made clear throughout his 59-page ruling that the Jindal administration faces a tough legal task as the case progresses. He said Planned Parenthood had demonstrated a "substantial likelihood" of success in the case with its argument that the state was violating federal law by cutting off Medicaid funding through a qualified provider. He said it appears likely that the organ-

made undercover buys of they were selling prescripprescription pills from the tion pills, which prompted the four-month investiga-

"They were separate purchases done by (agents),

said. Lynd 'Amphetamines are the preones scribed when they go to the doctor to lose weight. It the curbs appetite and

Baker says they received information on the four that

Under board and community relations, Rawls received a 2.40 in board relations and a 2.10 in community rela-

tions. Summary comments by board members, who were listed individually, not included contract attachment data incomplete and needs better communication in the community, listing he needs to "listen" more, Strong said in his email.

After revealing the results of Rawls' evaluation, the board spent much of their time reviewing and tweaking his contract. Several changes were made, namely due to changes from the state. The changes made were largely to comply with Act 1, the sweeping education reform dealing with teachers and evaluations, and Act 548, which

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ization "will be able to prove Progress.

The center said the videos showed that Planned Parenthood illegally sells fetal tissue for profit. Planned Parenthood denies the allegation and says the videos are misleading.

Lawyers for Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast, the Planned Parenthood arm that provides medical services in Louisiana, argued that Jindal's fight to cut funding for its non-abortion-related services is politically motivated.

"In fact, uncontradicted

See FUNDING, Page 12

individuals out of that house."

Donna Mosley and Graves were arrested at their residence on Tuesday, Oct. 13. Cherish Mosley and Judgware were arrested in Ward II court in Springhill on Oct. 7. The two were in court that day on unrelated charges, Baker said.

Warrants for their arrests were obtained, and the four were taken into custody. They were transported to Bayou Dorcheat Correctional Center following their arrests.

He went through the goals, saying these are objectives he wants to meet for teachers and principals as well as increasing the number of students participating in an advanced placement class or dual credit course by five percent in two years.

'So you have a better hierarchy of success," he said. "The better my teachers do, the better my principals do, the better I do. Everybody is being held accountable. Those are true performance objectives just like a teacher or principal gets."

If his contract is passed in November, the superintendent's salary will remain the same at \$120,000 per year with benefits. His current contract expires Dec. 31

Judgware) showed up for court, we arrested them there," he said. "All three of them were living in house,

C. MOSLEY speeds up their metabolism."

dropout rate a 2.00.

have a huge fall off," he ers. The Associated Press added.

Interest appears to be *contributed to this report*.

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said. "It won't be about one subject or one group of kids; these are aggressive, this is not a weak set of goals."









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Mark Wilson, MD is bringing his passion for athletics and excellent surgical skills in ORTHOPAEDICS & SPORTS MEDICINE to Minden where he will offer individualized care for a wide range of patients including high school and college athletes to those considering joint replacement. Dr. Wilson will be practicing the latest techniques in arthroscopic surgery for joint preservation, cartilage restoration, ligament reconstruction, instability repairs and joint reconstruction of the shoulders, hips and knees.

"Tenacious" is the one word Dr. Wilson uses to describe himself. Running his first marathon at 16, his determination has followed him throughout his career. He understands how important an active lifestyle is and plans to incorporate his extensive training into the treatment of his patients so that they can "get back to work, sports and life."

Dr. Wilson is joining Michael Austin PA-C to form Wilson Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine. New patients are welcome to their clinic located at 216 West Union, Suite A in Minden.

Appointments may be made by calling (318) 299-6334.

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SPORTS MEDICINE FELLOWSHIP

University of Wisconsin Madison, WI

PERSONAL

Dr. Wilson is a true sports enthusiast. He also enjoys camping hiking, fishing, watching airplanes with his children Evan and Ella and attending their activities with his wife, jil, including soccer and t-ball games.

Dr. Mark D. Wilson Orthopaedics &

Sports Medicine

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OPINION www.press-herald.com

PERSPECTIVE



How many times have you been asked to do something (not told, but asked) and you did not want to or else you thought the request didn't make sense? Often, a few times, never?

If so,what was or what would be your answer?

You, probably like I, would want to know why, what did this involve, how long would it take and other pertinent information.

But, what if, like so many Bible characters, you were instructed to do something with no chance for questioning or if you did question, you were just told you needed to do it.

Just recently we looked again at the story of Abram, later known as Abraham. He was told to pick up and move to an unnamed location where he was promised he would be blessed. He could take his household and his belongings, but he must go and as as he traveled, he would be shown the way.

Would we want to pack up and move, not knowing where we

were going and why, other than we were told by God to do so? I can just see the puzzled looks on the faces of my friends, as well as myself, if this happened to us.

For one

thing, I have

MOORE

never moved with the exception of leaving my parents home to a small home with my husband, This amounted only to taking a few personal belongings. Then, upon the completion of our new home, in the same location, we moved our few belongings in and finished furnishing it with new furniture.

That was it. No packing. No loading trucks, no travel to a new place. So, I can not imagine what it must be like to have to pick up, leave our home place and relocate. That was not the case in the lives of so many of our wellknown Bible characters. Look at Noah. What faith that man had as he worked so long and so hard to build the ark. Simply because God told him to and he trusted enough to do so. Then there was poor old Moses, who was told to go to Egypt and bring the people out. He questioned and questioned, acknowledged he could not speak to the people, and they wouldn't believe him. He begged, Please, God, send someone else. (I once saw a book with the unlikely title, "Here I am Lord, send Aaron". As if think about the many ways we have been blessed and the gifts and talents we've been given, I wonder how I could think about questioning God, if I thought he was asking me to do something. But, too often I find myself, not questioning, but simply making excuses for not doing it. How long would it take to write a few cards to those who are sick or going through other trials and troubles? Couldn't I find time to make a short visit to one who is homebound? What am I so busy about that I fail to do the things that I know I should do? I tell myself that I simply don't have time. But how much time do I spend on the computer? How much time watching TV? Running needless errands? Excuses, excuses. Do I, too often, do as Moses, and say please use someone else? Or, can I find myself with the servant heart I need and learn to obey? Something to think about. Fannie Moore is a journalist who lives in Shongaloo where she enjoys writing on a variety of subjects.

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PERSPECTIVE



EDITORIAL ROUND UP The Baton Rouge Advocate on the Trans-Pacific Partnership

Given the vast amounts of commerce and travel through the Pacific basin every day, it's truly a landmark when an agreement further reduces trade barriers and makes farms and factories across the ocean more lucrative participants in the world economy.

Now, despite some hiccups, we hope the U.S. Congress will do its part and push through the Trans-Pacific Partnership.

Because of the political deadlocks that afflict Capitol Hill, the new agreement is a work in progress in terms of the U.S. legislation. The administration of President Barack Obama and pro-trade Republicans banded together earlier this year to agree on a framework for approval of the agreement. That legislation requires a review period, and even the most ardently pro-trade members of the GOP are rightly taking their time to assess what TPP means for products, agricultural or mechanical, from their states.

We agree with U.S. Rep. Charles Boustany, R-Lafayette, that TPP has "the potential to be a groundbreaking 21st-century agreement" that will benefit Louisiana industries and farmers. Boustany and other members of the delegation now will take a look at what is inevitably a voluminous document that involves trading rules for trillions of dollars in future commerce.

Every state is going to have particular concerns, including about such cash crops as rice and sugar cane in Louisiana, among many other products that will benefit from open trade rules.

One problematic issue is tobacco, as several pro-trade Republican senators from the South don't want provisions that prevent cigarette manufacturers from challenging tobacco restrictions in the 12 countries involved. The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network applauded the provision, saying tobacco companies would otherwise use trade rules to challenge domestic antismoking laws in Australia, the U.S. or other signatory countries. Realistically, regulation of smoking should be a domestic matter, so TPP ought not open the door to endless litigation over tobacco use in international trade forums. But just as realistically, given that liberal Democrats and trade unions often oppose freetrade treaties, every vote will count as the Senate and House take up the final product of years of negotiations. These difficulties ought not to obscure the enormous economic and social benefits of freer trade across the Pacific basin ... If the TPP fulfills the promise of freer trade, Louisiana will grow and our producers will benefit. We hope the small hiccups involving a relatively few states, such as tobacco rules, do not get in the way of this broad and expansive benefit to the American economy.



n America

Support for the idea that it's good to hear all opinions, even offensive ones, is thin. A plurality of Americans now support laws against "hate speech.'

Conservatives once wanted to ban Playboy magazine, violent rap lyrics and offensive depictions of Jesus. Leftists then were right to fight such bans, but today leftists encourage censorship in the name of "tolerance."

Scientist Matt Taylor helped land a probe on a comet for the first time in history. But because he explained his achievement while wear-

ing a T-shirt that had cartoons of sexy women on it (designed by a female friend of his), writer Rose Eveleth of

tweeted

The Atlantic

that Taylor "ruined" the comet landing. The public outcry against him was so great that he cried at an apologetic press conference

Silicon Valley entrepreneur Brendan Eich created JavaScript and helped start Mozilla Firefox. But when activists discovered that he'd once donated \$1,000 to support California's Proposition 8 banning gay marriage, they attacked him as "a hater." A year and a half later, Eich still can't find a job.

When Eich donated the money, Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton opposed gay marriage, too. But in just five years, such opinions have become so "unacceptable"

that a tech genius is ostracized by his own industry.

As long as the leftist mobs don't use law or violence, they're still engaged in free speech. Private employers can impose most any speech rule they choose. The First Amendment applies only to government. But now some government officials are as eager to censor as the leftist mobs.

After the owners of Chickfil-A said they oppose gay marriage, the mayors of Chicago, San Francisco and Boston said Chick-fil-A is "not welcome" in their cities. San Francisco's mayor said, "The closest Chick-fil-A is 40 miles away and I strongly recommend they not try to come any closer."

Since mayors may influence permits and zoning, their threats aren't idle. And no new Chick-fil-A outlets have opened in those cities.

This is a clear violation of the First Amendment, although the politicians seem oblivious to that.

Of course, much worse than today's left are those who censor through violence. Al Qaeda's magazine names people who should be killed, chirping, "A bullet a day keeps the infidel away.

Writers and artists heed the threats. CNN, NBC and the New York Times will no longer show Mohammed cartoons.

I was surprised that liberal commentators were so eager to cave in to the terrorists' threats. Chris Matthews said, "Wanting to pick a fight with Islam is insane.

Such cowardice just invites more censorship.

When the TV series "South Park" was censored by its own network for depicting Mohammed, a fan of the

show, liberal cartoonist Molly Norris, showed her support by drawing her own cartoons of Mohammed. For doing so, she received death threats. Fearing for her safety, she went into hiding.

Columnist Mark Steyn was appalled that "Her liberal newspaper — the way they put it in announcing that she'd gone, ceased to exist, was: 'There is no more Molly.'" She hasn't been heard from in five years.

"The only way we're going to move to a real sense of freedom is if every time somebody puts a bullet in a cartoonist for drawing a cartoon of Mohammed," says Steyn, "every newspaper ... displays that picture.'

Steyn argues that societies that censor create more violence by driving hate speech underground.

You can have a society with free speech where I call you names, and you do rude drawings of me, and I say you're a hater, and we hateyhatey-hate each other," said Steyn on my TV special, "Censorship in America," but "the alternative is the Muslim world where there's no open debate, and so there's nothing left to do but kill and bomb and shoot.'

Free speech matters. If we give in to those who would shut us up, the censors will push and push until we have no freedom left. If we're going to sort out which ideas are good and which are bad, everyone must be allowed to speak.

John Stossel is host of "Stossel" on Fox News and author of "No, They Can't! Why Government Fails — But Individuals Succeed.'



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



JOHN STOSSEL

Tuesday, October 20, 2015 - Minden Press-Herald 5

WEBSTERLIFE

facebook.com/mindenph fi

MAR-C Industries is raffling off a 65-quart Yeti cooler to help raise funds for a down payment to purchase a van to help with transporting their workers. The drawing is Nov. 10 and tickets are \$10. Call 377-4774 to purchase tickets. You do not have to be present to win.

Around Town

Oct. 13-31

First United Methodist's "Pumpkin Patch" featuring 1,500 pumpkins will be open throughout the month. "Football in the patch" will be from 5 until 7 p.m. Oct. 17, The LSU game will be shown via projector. There will also be games and food. Attendees should bring own chairs. "Pumpkin Shine" will be Oct. 24 from 3 until 5 p.m. with food and carnival games. For more information contact First United Methodist's main office.

Oct. 22

An auction of Chief T.C. Bloxom's personal gun collection will be at 6 p.m. at 100 Willow Creek Drive. \$25 ticket must be purchased prior to the event. Tickets may be purchased at Carey Real Estate, First United Methodist Church, and TG's Garden and Gifts.

Oct. 24

Iota Rho Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, in cooperation with Partners for Healthy Eating, will sponsor a Food, Fun and Fitness Day from 10 a.m. until noon at St. Rest Baptist Church Family Life Center. Activities are open to all children grades K-12. Parental supervision is required. There will be games, prizes and snacks. For more information contact Ora Rice at 377-6842.

Mt. Comfort Baptist Church's Husband and Wife program will be at 6 p.m.

Oct. 25

HALLELUJAH! Many Voices One Song Musical will be at Union Grove Baptist Church at 3 pm. Special guest will be House of Peace Ministries. Other guest will be soloists and choirs from the surrounding area

Oct. 28-30

Longspring Church of God in Christ will celebrate their 4th Annual Youth Explosion at 7:00 PM, nightly. Guest Speaker will be Elder Paul Gatlin of Emmanuel COGIC in Opelousas, LA. If any youths, are interested in performing contact Shyterikia Thompson at 318-458-5292.



Jerome and Shawn King of John Jacobs' Next Generation Power Force stand with Brown Upper Elementary School Principal Jessica Spence. Courtesy Photo

Power Force team visits Brown Upper Elementary

HANNAH HUCKABAY LAUREN KETCHUM

Special to the Press-Herald

The Power Force Team was at Brown Upper Elementary School, Oct. 9. The students enjoyed the power and strength exhibitions the team was showing.

John Jacobs' Next Generation Power Force is a group of world class athletes who have combined unique feats of strength with a powerful message. They speak of inspiration and motivation which equals academic and personal achievement. They are encouraging students to live a life of excellence and challenging them to be the best that they can be.

They snapped a baseball bat into, rolled up a frying pan, ripped a phone book and twisted a piece of rebar with their teeth and hands only.

Hannah Huckabay and Lauren Ketchum are 5th grade students at Brown Upper Elementary School.





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SPORTS briefs

NFL

Eagles win, look less than impressive PHILADELPHIA (AP)

Sam Bradford kept the New York Giants in the game. His defense wouldn't let Eli Manning do anything.

DeMarco Murray ran for 109 yards and a touchdown, Nolan Carroll returned one of Manning's two interceptions for a score and the Philadelphia Eagles beat the Giants 27-7 Monday night.

The Eagles had three takeaways, sacked Manning three times and forced two intentional grounding penalties.

"All the credit goes to them," Bradford said of Philadelphia's defense. "For us to go where we want to go, I've got to play much better."

No kidding.

Bradford threw for 280 yards with a 32-yard TD pass to Riley Cooper, but had three interceptions. The Giants got zero points off the turnovers.

"We were stagnant," Giants coach Tom Coughlin said. "They did more with their opportunities than we did."

The Eagles (3-3) have won two straight to move from last place in the NFC East into a tie for first with the Giants (3-3). The teams meet again in Week 17.

Neither team looked sharp in front of a primetime audience. They combined for seven turnovers and 21 penalties.

"That's bad football," Coughlin said.

MLB Blue Jays get hot, take game two TORONTO - Back in the homer dome with their rowdy fans, Troy

MINDEN REC. FOOTBALL Little League roundup **RESULTS FROM WEEK FOUR OF MINDEN REC. FOOTBALL**

Little league football season is in full swing. Here's a recap of last week's gridiron action.

2nd-4th Grade Saints 6 Lil Tiders 0

Cameron Mitchell led the Saints with 30 yards and a touchdown offensively, followed by Jakobe Jackson who led the way with 80 yards. Maurice Rabb pitched in with 27 yards and Elijah Haggard ran for three yards.

Brody Bower led the Lil' Tiders with 22 vards, followed by Brayden Britton with 20 yards, Jacobe Rankin with 15 yards and Isaiah Browning with six yards.

Cooper Tire 33 Punishers 0

Keithric Kimble led the Cobras with 166 yards and three touch-downs, followed by Landyn Huddleston with 79 yards and a touch-down, N'Kayleb Reddix down, N Kayleb Reddix with 14 yards and a touchdown and Victor Gipson Jr. with 12 yards. Jackson Moore and Hunter Perrin led the way for the Punishers with two yards rushing each

5th-6th Grade Lil Tiders 7 **Punishers 0**

Bryan Kopf led the Lil Tiders with 77 yards and a touchdown, followed by Daylen Robinson with 28 yards and Ty'Darrium Green with seven yards.

D'Angelo Garner had 72 yards to lead the Punishers, followed by Daquez Jackson with 15 yards and Jonathan Perrin with nine yards.

Titans 42 Mohawks 28

Eddie Markray had a huge game for the Titans, rushing for 352 yards and five touchdowns to lead the way. Kataurio Grigsby added 87 yards and a touchdown, followed by Zackeil Arrington with 14 yards and Kameron Grigsby with eight yards.

Kameron Talley led the way for the Mohawks with 131 yards and one score, followed by Drew Cate with 83 yards and a touchdown. Andrew Cooper fin-

ished with 43 yards and two touchdowns, while Deonte Jackson added five yards to round out the offense.

Lil Tiders 24 Titans 7

Daylen Robinson had 97 yards and two touchdowns rushing to lead the Lil Tiders. Javis Moore ran for 75 yards and a touchdown in support, followed by Ty'Darrium Green with 48 yards and a touchdown. Bryan Kopf rounded out the offense with 68 yards rushing.

Eddie Markray led the Titans with 121 yards and a touchdown pass to Jamaria Clark, who fin-ished with 29 yards. Gage Jellum added five yards rushing.

Ducks 35 Mohawks 8

Khyrese Taylor and Darryl Thomas proved to be a dynamic duo for the Ducks. Thomas finished with 199 yards and two touchdowns for the Ducks, followed by Taylor with 153 yards and three touchdowns. James Colbert added three yards and a onepoint conversion run.

Andrew Cooper scored the only touchdown for the Mohawks, totaling 45 yards to go with his score. Cade Boley ran for 99 yards and a two-point conver-sion, Deonte Jackson had 77 yards, Ethan Vise finished with 14 and Paul Clayton added 10 yards.

YOUTH FOOTBALL Glenbrook teams compete for Swamp Bowl titles



The Glenbrook third and fourth and fifth and sixth grade football teams competed in the Swamp Bowl recently to determine champions for their season. Here are the results.

3rd-4th Grade Semi-finals **Glenbrook 18 Briarfield 0** Chase Sentell led the Apaches in the semi-final

win with 62 yards and a touchdown on the ground. Reagan Coyle rushed for 58 yards and one score and Landry Powell added 20 yards rushing and a touchdown. Cade Herron, Chase Sentell, Garrett Brown and Landry Powell all led the team in tackles. **Championship Game**



The Glenbrook fifth and sixth grade football team poses with their Swamp Bowl trophy. Wesley Mandino/Courtesy Photo

5th-6th Grade Sentell who had 142 yards yards to give Glenbrook Cooper Chase caught a the win. Mandino, Jake rushing and three touch-Semi-finals 75 yard touchdown pass from Maddox Mandino, downs. Reagan Coyle had Hortman and Cale Hollis **Glenbrook 8** while Peyton Wells com-47 yards rushing in sup-Claiborne 6 led the team in tackles and Peyton Wells passed for pleted a 25-yard pass to Cason Clemons. Mandino port and added an inter-Chase Tolbert had an ception on defense. Cade 68 Maddox interception. yards, Mandino rushed for 106 had eight tackles to lead Herron, Garrett Brown Championship and Jackson Lott led the yards and Cooper Chase Glenbrook 6 the team, followed by defense in tackles. caught two passes for 26 St. Fred's 25 Landry Powell with six.

Tulowitzki, Josh Donaldson and the Toronto Blue Jays quickly got into the swing of the AL Championship Series.

Tulowitzki and Donaldson both connected in a six-run third inning Monday night, and the Blue Jays roughed up Johnny Cueto for an 11-8 victory over the Royals that cut Kansas City's series lead to 2-1.

"I feel like we've played better at home and I felt like the entire night we had great at-bats," Donaldson said. "Not just good at-bats, great at-bats."

Ryan Goins also homered and had a two-run single, one game after his misplayed pop fly set off Kansas City's winning rally Sunday.

The resilient Royals tried to come back this time, too. Kendrys Morales capped a four-run surge with a two-run homer in the ninth before Roberto Osuna closed it out.

"We're just going to keep fighting," Kansas City outfielder Alex Gordon said. "We've got a lot of competitors on this team and that's what you see."

Even with a big lead, Tulowitzki lost his cool. He was given a rare playoff ejection for arguing balls and strikes before the top of the eighth.

Glenbrook 19 Tallulah 0 Glenbrook won the

third and fourth grade Swamp Bowl title behind a big game from Chase

LOUISIANA OUTDOORS Comments urged for duck hunting zone changes

When a decision is handed down by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission (WFC) relative to duck hunting zone boundaries, number of zones, structure of zones and season splits, hunters are stuck with that decision for the next five years.

This is the year when proposed changes in the duck hunting picture can be made to change any or all these regulations if it seems in the best interest of the duck hunting situation. Any changes for the 2016-17 waterfowl hunting seasons must be decided on no later than December 1, 2015 with recommendations made to the WFC at it's November monthly meeting

As a result of this "hurry up" situation, Larry Reynolds, Waterfowl Study Leader for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) is proposing some changes in the hunting zone alignment and is wanting to hear from duck hunters whose comments and concerns will be presented to the WFC at its November meeting.

"In 2012, we made a pretty substantial change when we went

from having two zones (West and East) to adding a third Coastal zone to the mix," Reynolds said. "We changed to three zones by taking the old West zone and drawing a line forming a West and Coastal zone, we have been hunting these three zones now for four years and have received a lot of comments from hunters about changes they want to see made."

Reynolds noted that in August

when the WFC set the Coastal zone a week earlier than LDWF had recommended, there was a significant outcry from hunters in that area.

"There is a group of rice farmers and hunters utilizing the rice fields in

HARRIS

southwest LA who had been wanting a little more time to get their second crop of rice off the land and get their blinds ready before season opened. Therefore, there is a new proposed boundary line in southwest LA that will move a lot of the rice acreage in Evangeline, Acadia, Jefferson Davis and Vermilion Parishes out of the Coastal zone and into the East zone so rice famers will have another week to get their second crop out and blinds ready," said Reynolds.

Another proposed change if approved will have an effect on duck hunters in northwest Louisiana.

"In 2012, I had proposed straightening that zigzag boundary which has no biological justification. It runs through the middle of the piney woods. I suggested straightening that line making the boundary Highway 167 up to the Arkansas boundary. The WFC initially approved that line but then changed their mind and their decision when a group of hunters in eastern Claiborne Parish in the Corney Lake area objected strongly.

"In the last four years, I have received requests from hunters in that area to re-establish that line to expand the area of the West zone in that part of the state. This year," said Reynolds, "there is a proposal to do just that."

Reynolds cautions that these are only proposals and will not affect duck hunting for the 2015-16 season.

"What we're asking duck hunters both in the coastal area as well as northwest LA to let us know what they want. We will take those comments, summarize them and present them to the WFC at their November meet-ing," he said.

With the deadline date looming closer, duck hunters who would like to make recommendations need to act with haste; there are only a few weeks before that November meeting.

Hunters can make their wishes/concerns known by contacting Larry Reynolds at his phone of via e-mail. Call him at 225/765-0456 or e-mail lreynolds@wlf.la.gov.

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8 Tuesday, October 20, 2015 – Minden Press-Herald

ENTERTAINMENT

www.press-herald.com

Oprah Winfrey goes on diet, gains Weight Watchers deal

Oprah Winfrey, who has publicly struggled with her weight for decades, is going on a diet again. But this time she stands to gain a lot of money from her efforts.

Weight Watchers said Monday that it signed a fiveyear deal with the former talk show host. Winfrey, a coowner of OWN: The Oprah Winfrey Network, is paying about \$43.2 million for a 10 percent stake in the weight loss company.

The deal is already paying off: Weight Watchers shares doubled after the partnership was announced, earning Winfrey more than \$40 million on paper.

Winfrey will use the Weight Watchers mobile app and work with a personal coach, the company said. She has also agreed to let Weight Watchers use her name, image and likeness for its products and services. Additionally, she will make appearances on the compa-

ny's behalf. "Weight Watchers has given me the tools to begin to make the lasting shift that I and so many of us who are struggling with weight have longed for," Winfrey said in a statement. "I believe in the program so much I decided to invest in the company and partner in its evolution.

Weight Watchers is no stranger to celebrities. It has paid singers Jessica Simpson and Jennifer Hudson to promote its plan. But the deal with Winfrey is a shift to focus on overall health and wellness, rather than just dropping pounds.

"We are expanding our purpose from focusing on weight loss alone to more broadly helping people lead a healthier, happier life," said Weight Watchers President and CEO Jim Chambers said in a statement.

The company has been hurt by the popularity of fit-



outs and the amount of calories they eat for free on its app. Buying a FitBit tracker unlocks similar free online tools. Weight Watchers charges for its online food tracking, and weekly meetings and weigh ins have been a hallmark of its plan. Its shares were down 73 percent for the year through Friday. The company's earnings have health apps. MyFitnessPal fallen every year since 2011. To boost its earnings, the

company announced \$100 million in cost cuts earlier this year.

Winfrey's weight has yoyoed over the years, and she's been very open publicly about her struggles with dieting

In fact, weight was a frequent subject of her talk show, which ended nearly on stage wheeling 67 pounds of fat in a wagon, representing the weight she lost. But her weight has fluctuated over time.

Her weight was still an issue as "The Oprah Winfrey Show" came to an end. She told the TV interviewer Barbara Walters that one of her goals was to "make peace with the whole weight thing."

fortable with being the subject on the cover of her magazine because of her weight gain.

She now can trade weight loss tips with her best friend, Gayle King. The host of TV news program "CBS This Morning" told her Instagram followers five weeks ago that she joined Weight Watchers.

pounds on the plan.

Representative for Winfrey and King did not respond to requests for an interview.

Meanwhile, Weight Watchers is hoping to tap into Winfrey's ability to turn ordinary products into the latest trend.

A stamp of approval from Winfrey during her talk show was powerful. Books she recommended skyrocketed up best seller lists and products shown on her holiday gift guide episodes would sometimes sell out.

But it might be harder to get her message across now. "She has less contact with people on a daily basis," said Craig Garthwaite, an assistant professor of strategy at Kellogg Northwestern's School of Management. In 2012, for example, Winfrey relaunched her book club, but it doesn't hold the same power. "Most people don't know that it exists," said Garthwaite.

Besides the OWN network, Winfrey reaches fans through O, The Oprah Magazine and Oprah.com. She also has a strong social media following with more than 29 million followers on Twitter, 11 million on Facebook and 4 million on Instagram.

The Weight Watchers endorsement is a departure for Winfrey. Throughout her talk show reign, Winfrey did not make money off endorsements, Garthwaite said. Since leaving the talk show, she has also lent her name to Starbucks Corp., which sells Oprah-branded tea drinks.

Winfrey is buying about 6.4 million shares of Weight . Watchers at \$6.79 per share. She will also receive options to buy an additional 5 percent of the company's fully diluted shares. She is also joining the company's board.

Shares of New York-based Weight Watchers Interna-Last week, King indicated in tional Inc. soared 6.68, or 98 Since then, Winfrey has an Instagram post that she percent, to \$13.47 in afternoon trading Monday.

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five years ago after 25 years on the air. In 1988, a thin Winfrey famously walked out

talked about being uncom- had lost more than seven

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Division of the Bossier City Fire Department, Benton Road, 620 Bossier City, Louisiana, 8:30 AM and 4:00 PM.

Completed applications must be received by the above mentioned person at the address given b 3:00 PM, No-

vember 2, 2015. Approved applicants will be notified of the exact date, time and place least five (5) days prior to the examination. For

may call Barbara Mur-Fire and Police Civil Service Board at (318)

TENANCE WORKER Ware Youth Center is seeking for a Janitorial/Maintenance Worker to work at Johnny Gray Jones Youth Shelter in Bossier City. Must have covered high school diploma License.

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Pusuc NOTICES The Minden Housing Authority Board of Directors met at the Minden Housing Authority and held their regular board meeting on October 20, 2015 Wednesday, October 14 2015 at 12:15 pm with the following members present: Wills, Angela Dr. Daniel Gary and Truvesta Johnson. Member(s) absent: Larry Johnson and Martin

present

Tosha

meeting

was

Jones

was

Moore.

called to order by Dr. Gary Daniel. Minutes Regular the Meeting of September 9, 2015 were read and motioned for approval by Truvesta Johnson seconded Wills. Angela Jones provided board with a copy of the bank statements for all of the accounts to review. She presented to the board the paperwork from Minden Building Loan requesting signatures for Truvesta Johnson, Dr. Daniel, and Chunda Jones that would give them the authority to withdraw or move the CD if the need should ever arise. It was also noted that Ms. Moore had no signature rights but could call for inquire about the CD if needed. In old business Ms. Jones notified the board that she would have the Section 8 Semap scores very She also informed the board that as of today the Section 8 Program October 20, 2015 its reached budget authority and will not be housing any new tenants.

meeting be adjourned. Please note that the detail minutes of the Minden Housing Authority can be viewed 1209 at East St, Minden, LA 71055 during regular business hours.

Daniel that the board

Minden Press-Herald LEGAL NOTICE The Leton Water

filed a request with

the Louisiana Public

has

System, Inc.

Service Commission for an increase in its rates for water service and fees within its service area in the parishes of Webster and Claiborne. This increase is rate necessary to repay a loan from the USDA to update the system other and capita expenditures needed to protect and improve our water supply. The existing water service monthly rate is for residential service. \$12.50 minimum for 2000 gallons with a rate of \$2.75 per 1000 gallons over the minimum and for commercial service \$50.00 minimum for 2000 gallons with a rate of \$2.75 per 1000 over the minimum. The proposed rate for residential is \$20.00 minimum for 2000 gallons with a usage rate of \$5.00 per 1000 over the minimum and for commercial service \$100.00 minimum 2000 gallons with a rate of \$5.00 per 1000 over the minimum. Questions and comments should be directed to the Louisiana Public Service Commission at (800) 256-1397.

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by Dr. Gary Daniel to approve the 4% merit increase for Ms. Jones and it was seconded Angela Wills. It was reported that our knowledge, Webster Subdivision is progressing well. With no further business to discuss, it was moved by Willis and Angela seconded by Dr. Gary

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Continued from page 3

evidence in the record at this time is that PPGC does not perform abortions in Louisiana, is not involved in the sale of fetal tissue and none of the conduct in ques-

tion occurred at the PPGC's two Louisiana facilities," deGravelles wrote.

NOR JINDAL Planned Parenthood says 5,200 IS TRYING TO low-income Medi-SCORE POLITcaid patients obtain ICAL POINTS services through **BY BLOCKING** their two Louisiana clinics.

"It is shameful that Governor Jindal is trying to political score points by blocking women's access to critical health Melissa care." Flournoy state Flournoy , state director of Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast, said in a statement hailing the order as a victo-

Raegan Carter, with Planned Parenthood Gulf Coast, has described Jindal's decision as political grandstanding. She's called Jindal's action against clinics illegal.

In reacting to the judge's Mike Reed, ruling, spokesman for Gov. Jindal, said Planned Parenthood has engaged in classic misdirection regarding the millions they have repaid in Medicaid fraud and their own admissions in the videos.

"Instead of going through the same administrative review as any other Medicaid provider, they are running to the federal courts and asking for special treatment," Reed said. "We will appeal this decision and continue to fight to ensure Planned Parenthood no longer receives

taxpayer funding." Arguing for the state, attorney Jimmy Faircloth

said Friday that the judge should stay out of the matter for now because Planned Parenthood had not yet gone through a state administrative appeal process. The appeal process would have suspended the planned fund-

ing cutoff until a decision was reached. Planned Parenthood lawyer Flaxman Carrie said there was no legal requirement that the organization go through the state process before heading to federal court. DeGravelles agreed.

Carter has said the clinics were reimbursed nearly \$730,000 during the organization's last budget year for services provided to Medicaid patients. Carter said without the Medicaid revenue, the clinics would have been forced to reduce staff and hours and

the Baton Rouge clinic may shut down entirely.

Faircloth said the videos were a catalyst for a hard look at Planned Parenthood's practices. But, he emphasized that the move to cut off Medicaid money was based on other factors.

For instance, the state cites a \$4.3 million settlement in Texas of claims that the organization billed government programs for services that weren't medically necessary or that weren't provided.

Planned Parenthood did not admit any wrongdoing in that 2013 settlement and says Louisiana officials knew about it even before it was formally entered in court. DeGravelles agreed that the settlement was no cause for cutting off funding.



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