

MINDEN
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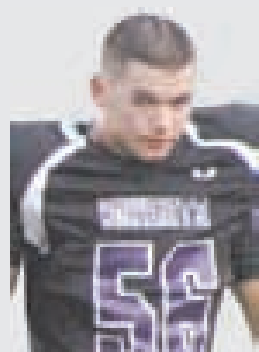
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October 21, 2015 | 50 Cents

WEDNESDAY



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today



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SPORTS PG. 6



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LIFE PG.5



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About Henry
Burns
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WEATHER
TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK



88
HIGH
65
LOW

Partly cloudy.
Winds SE at
5 to 10 mph.

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Vol. 47 No. 78



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber recognizes '15 Under 40' recipients



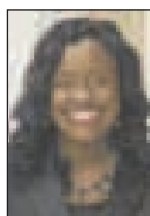
The Minden-South Webster Chamber of Commerce hosted it's fifth annual '15 Under 40' - sponsored by Chamber Champion TG Companies - banquet Tuesday evening at the Minden Civic Center. Webster Parish native Zazell Dubley spoke during the banquet while attendees enjoyed a meal catered by Roma Italian Bistro. Honorees included Kelli Carter, Minden High School; Kagnee Veitch, United Way of NWLA; Clint Smith, Minden Police Department; Tessa Cay Bryant, J.A. Phillips Middle School; LaTashia Upton, MD, The Women's Clinic; Kenny Balkom, Louisiana Department of Wildlife & Fisheries; Kelli Carter, Minden High School; Kagnee Veitch, United Way of NWLA; Clint Smith, Minden Police Department; Tessa Cay Bryant, J.A. Phillips Middle School; LaTashia Upton, MD, The Women's Clinic; Bridget Bridges, Doyline High School; Kelly Copeland Paul, Minden Medical Center; Shaun Lewis, Fibrebond Corporation; Leslie Williams Utey, Minden High School; and Mary Helen Simms, The Coordinating & Development Corporation. Tessa Cay Bryant was also named the 2015 young professional of the year. Bruce Franklin/Press-Herald



BALKOM



BRIDGES



BRYANT



CARTER



FOX



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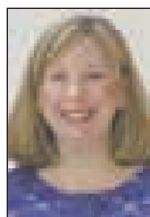
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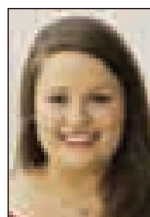
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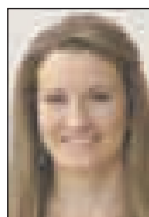
SMITH



UPTON



UTLEY



VEITCH



WIMBERLY

AROUND THE STATE

Louisiana unemployment rate falls

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW ORLEANS — Louisiana's labor market was flat in September, with unemployment and payrolls holding level.

The jobless rate stayed at 6 percent from August to

September, remaining below September 2014's 6.9 percent rate.

The number of people reporting having a job fell for the fourth straight month. Unemployment stayed level because 15,000 people left the labor force, continuing a trend that began in June.

Louisiana's unemployment rate remained above the national average of 5.1 percent.

A separate survey shows Louisiana payrolls fell 500 from August to September, but remained slightly above last September's level.

Both sets of figures —

adjusted to cancel out seasonal changes — were released Tuesday by the U.S. Labor Department.

The number of unemployed Louisianans fell to 129,000, down slightly from August and 21,000 lower than last year.

MINDEN CRIME

Woman helps brother hide gun, arrested

Police say weapon used in attempted murder case

MICHELLE BATES
michelle@press-herald.com

A Minden woman was arrested after police say she helped her brother hide a gun used in an attempted murder case.

Sedricka D. Adams, 20, of the 800 block of Fincher Road, was arrested Monday, Oct. 12, and charged with accessory after the fact to attempted second degree murder. Her bond was set at \$5,000.



ADAMS

Minden police chief Steve Cropper says a 16-year-old juvenile was walking down the street and a confrontation ensued with some others who had their vehicles parked in the street.

"This young man is a juvenile, and made a statement that he was going to kill one of the guys standing next to the car, pulls a gun out and shoots at him three times," he said. "Two of the bullets struck the vehicle he was

See **GUN**, Page 2

WEBSTER CRIME

Man arrested for drug trafficking

MICHELLE BATES
michelle@press-herald.com

SPRINGHILL — A Springhill man who went to court found himself under arrest for distribution charges.

Yamon D'vork Thomas, 44, of the 500 block of Springbranch Road in Springhill, was charged with distribution of a Schedule II CDS. Bond was set at \$50,000.

According to the police



THOMAS

See **THOMAS**, Page 2

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SECONDFRONT

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RACE TO THE WHITE HOUSE

As Webb exits, Chafee, Santorum and others hold to '16 dream

Laurie Kellman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Their fundraising power is waning — if they ever had it. Their support in preference polls couldn't drop much lower. Some don't get invited to the debates in prime-time. Those that do get asked afterward, on live television, when they plan to quit.

The first of these longshot candidates for president dropped out of the 2016 race on Tuesday, when former Virginia Sen. Jim Webb — who entered the race with an email — told reporters he was withdrawing.

Surrounded by campaign signs, Webb insisted he's not necessarily out. He said he may come back to the White House campaign as an independent. Doing so would turn what was once a long-shot campaign for the Democratic nomination into a presidential quest that would

require a miracle.

In no particular order, here's a look at the other candidates who you may have forgotten are running for president — those who have demonstrated a sustained inability to raise cash or rise beyond the low single digits in national polls.

They're still in it to win it, hoping to win the favor of a major donor or catch fire in an upcoming "undercard" debate.

At a time when the top candidates in each party have been able to raise at least eight figures each fundraising quarter, the following candidates haven't cracked \$1 million.

REPUBLICAN BOBBY JINDAL

The Louisiana governor has raised about \$580,000 in each of the last three-month fundraising periods, and barely registers in national polls out this week among the 15 remaining

major GOP presidential candidates.

Jindal, 44, released a book Tuesday, "American Will," which he said is meant as a "call to arms" for conservatives and an effort to revive his struggling campaign. The book retells the story of his conversion from Hinduism to Catholicism as a teenager and describes the religious beliefs he's made a cornerstone of his campaign.



JINDAL

REPUBLICAN GEORGE PATAKI

The former New York governor who left public office in 2006 saw his contributions decline from \$255,000 in the second quarter of the year to \$154,000 over the most

recent three months.

Pataki, 70, also is stuck with no measurable support in this week's preference polls. He told the Concord Monitor in New Hampshire last week that he prefers to focus on things he can control, and remains optimistic because of his bipartisan record as governor.

REPUBLICAN RICK SANTORUM

The former U.S. senator from Pennsylvania, who lost his bid for re-election in 2006, saw the \$608,000 he had collected by June 30 drop to \$390,000 over the following three months.

Santorum, 57, registers at 2 percent in one of this week's new polls and at 0 percent in the others. This week, he tweeted that he spoke before the New York Times editorial board and "I survived!" A favorite among conservatives, Santorum won nominating contests in 11 states in the 2012.

GUN

Continued from page 1

standing next to and the other ricocheted somewhere and they never could find it."

He said the victim knew the juvenile. Det. Keith King Jr. was called to the scene, took statements and obtained enough evidence to seek a warrant for the arrest of the juvenile for attempted second degree murder.

"Due to the fact that he was a juvenile, he needed

someone that could be with him for his well-being," he said. "They couldn't make contact with his mother, so his sister comes with him, Ms. Sedricka Adams. They put the juvenile into an interview room with her present."

During questioning, Cropper says the juvenile denied any involvement in the incident.

"After the interview, his sister supplied the 16 year old juvenile with a cell phone so he could make a phone call to one of his friends to get the gun and hide the gun

he'd used the night before to try to shoot this guy," the chief said. "Investigators made contact with the juvenile and his sister again, and informed him that he needed to tell them where the gun was and the sister needed to assist."

Cropper says Adams also denied having any involvement with incident.

"That's what prompted her arrest to accessory after the fact to attempted second degree murder," he said, adding police concluded she had no knowledge of the

shooting itself.

Adams was placed under arrest by Capt. Dan Weaver and Marvin Garrett and Officer First Class Ben Allen.

"Due to the fact that she's approximately 18 weeks pregnant, we contacted Judge (Sherb) Sentell, we got her out of jail because of her condition," he said. "She didn't have to post bond, but she is on bond."

Cropper explained that even though she is not incarcerated, she cannot leave the Minden area until the case is resolved.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Centenary College's president leaving

SHREVEPORT — Centenary College in Shreveport soon will be looking for new leadership.

Centenary President, Dr. David Rowe, announced Tuesday in a news release that he is leaving next year to lead Lake Highland Preparatory School in Orlando, Florida. He will remain at Centenary through July 1, 2016.

In a message to the campus, Rowe said leading in a "different educational sector" poses a "new and

exciting set of learning and growth challenges for me."

Lake Highland Preparatory School serves 2,000, pre-K through 12th grade students.

Rowe was Centenary's 30th president and he helped develop the schools' Centenary in Paris program and its "Do More in Four" program which encourages students to earn a Bachelor's degree and Master's degree within four years at no extra cost.

Port of Iberia companies to hire new workers

NEW IBERIA — Two fabrication companies say they have been awarded multiple projects that will put hundreds of people to work at the Port of Iberia.

The Advocate reports Dynamic Energy Services International President Emile Dumesnil told port officials Tuesday that Sasol Ltd. has awarded Dynamic fabrication parts of its \$8 billion ethane cracker project being built in Lake Charles.

Dumesnil says Dynam-

ic is testing welders at its east yard at the Port of Iberia for work that by early 2016 should put 300 of all crafts to work.

He says the Sasol components will be barged to Lake Charles.

Dynamic's second project will be piping for the deepwater Shell Appomattox project.

RamFab, a company new to the Port of Iberia, also has been awarded part of the Sasol ethane cracker project.

THOMAS

Continued from page 1

report, North Webster Narcotics Task Force agents had made undercover buys from Thomas.

As he went to Ward II court on unrelated charges,

Springhill detective Ronald Wedgeworth and Webster Parish Sheriff's narcotics agent Lt. Shawn Baker served a warrant and placed him under arrest.

He was transported to Bayou Dorcheat Correctional Center on the above charge.



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November 16, 2015



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OPINION

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LETTER TO
THE EDITOR

Re: Rep. Henry Burns

Well here we are in the last week before the election and the part of political campaigns that I hate the most is occurring fast and furious.

The attack ads, half-truths, innuendos and sometimes lies are being used to try to get you, the voter, to change your mind about any given candidate.

This is a huge problem in American politics and has become common place and acceptable. But to me it is one of the reasons we have a dysfunctional political system in our country.

I would like to address one of the political innuendos in Senate race 36.

Henry Burns has been painted as not being involved in the battles at Camp Minden and the Lake Bistineau salvinia fight. This is simply not true.

Representative Burns, along with myself, Senator Adley, former Representative Jeff Thompson and others fought for safe disposal at Camp Minden for three years. Most of this was behind the scenes. Because Camp Minden was in my district, I was the lead player but Representative Burns was at most meetings and played a positive and supportive role in the final solution. I feel his comments in the Minden Press-Herald were taken out of context which was unfair. The salvinia fight is very difficult because of many reasons that have been discussed and tossed around for at least a decade. Representative Burns, Senator Adley and I have attended meetings with LDWF and others in the research area to try to obtain money for studies and methods to control the aquatic weed because THERE IS NOTHING ON PLANET EARTH THAT HAS BEEN FOUND TO ERADICATE SALVINIA!

Representative Burns has voted for my bills and has supported my efforts to obtain funding.

I think we as voters should be informed about candidates with truthful information about records, character and ethics. So many times we choose candidates based on false information that is spoon fed to us by special interest groups, party pundits (Republican and Democrat) and bloggers. I ask you to please make an educated decision and vote on all candidates based on facts and truth. PLEASE EXERCISE YOUR RIGHT AND VOTE THIS SATURDAY!

Representative Gene Reynolds
District 10

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.

The Minden/Webster Parish branch NAACP monthly meeting will convene at 6:30 p.m. at the Northwest 14th District Building. For more information contact Minden Branch President Minister Kenneth Wallace at 371-4436.

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.

Zion Hill Baptist Church's Family and Friend Day worship will be at 2:30 p.m. with guest speaker pastor Barry Jofrion.

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.

Miller Chapel Baptist Church's 114th anniversary will be celebrated along with Family and Friend day at 3 p.m. with guest speaker the Rev. Donnie Johnson.

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.

Conservation group to meet Nov. 5

SARAH TRICHEL
Special to the Press-Herald

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (USDA-NRCS) and the Dorcheat Soil and Water Conservation District will host a Locally Led Conservation Meeting at 10 a.m. Thursday, Nov. 5 at the LSU Ag Center in Minden.

Public input and involvement will help make decisions that affect natural resource conservation activities in Webster Parish.

Conservation of resources cannot be achieved by one group, government agency or individual – it takes cooperative conservation. At this meeting the public will be able to voice concerns, provide comments and help to identify conservation issues in Webster Parish.

For more information on the Locally Led Conservation Meeting contact the local USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service and Dorcheat Soil and Water Conservation District office at 377-3950 Extension 3.

Persons with disabilities who require accommodations to attend or participate in this meeting should contact Sarah Trichel at 377-3950 ext. 3 or sarah.trichel@la.usda.gov by Friday, Oct. 30.

Robinson named Glenbrook student of the month

Damaza Robinson has been selected as Glenbrook High School's Student of the Month. This is Damaza's first year as a Glenbrook Apache. He enjoys participating in Glenbrook sports, including football, basketball, track and cross country.

Damaza's favorite subject is Geometry. In the classroom, he is attentive and ready to learn. When Damaza is outside of school, when not studying, he likes to work out with his friends. Damaza is a member of Evening Star CME Church where he plays the drums. After high school, he plans to attend college.



ROBINSON

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.

The family of Freddie Gavin is asking for your prayers and donations to help with medical expenses. Freddie is a resident of the Couchwood community in the Cotton Valley area. He has been diagnosed with stage 4 congestive heart failure and is in desperate need of a heart transplant. In an effort to raise funds to provide medical treatment at Baylor Hospital in Dallas, a Matters of the Heart Benefit for Gavin will be at 5 p.m. November 9 at Dock Masters. T-shirts will also be sold for \$10-15 to benefit Gavin.

**For Ticket/Shirt info, contact:
Terrell Mendenhall (318-422-0883)
Evelyn Parish (318-832-5377, Cotton Valley)
Floydean White (318-578-4067, Cullen)
Nicole Frazier (318-578-1884, Springhill)
Mary Gavin (318-268-7214, Couchwood)**

PUT YOUR PUMPKIN IN OUR PATCH!

Bring a photo and your message to the Minden Press-Herald by Tuesday, Oct. 27. Our pumpkin patch will publish on Friday, Oct. 30!

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SPORTS

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SPORTS
briefsFOOTBALL PICKS
Results from MPH
football contest

The results are in from this week's football contest and in first place is Obie Jones Jr., with 19 correct picks and a tiebreaker of 48. Debra Hutchinson finished second with 19 correct picks and a tiebreaker of 56, and Carla Key came in third place with 19 correct picks and a tiebreaker of 30.

MLB

Murphy, Mets take
3-0 lead over Cubs

CHICAGO — Daniel Murphy is a contact hitter known for shaky fielding and occasionally getting lost on the bases.

This playoff impersonation of Babe Ruth, Roberto Alomar and Derek Jeter all rolled into one, he can't explain it. Nor can his manager.

"I've watched a lot of baseball over the years, I don't think I've seen anybody put on this kind of a show on this stage like he has so far," Mets manager Terry Collins said. "I mean, even the guys in the dugout, they're baseball guys, too, and they're saying the same thing."

A cluster of New York fans gathered in the rain behind their team's dugout after the final out and chanted "Let's go, Mets!" And with a win Wednesday night at Wrigley Field, the Mets will be going to their first World Series in 15 years.

MLB

Royals blow out
Blue Jays, 14-2

TORONTO — Whether it's a long ball by Ben Zobrist, a slashing single from Lorenzo Cain or another exhilarating trip around the bases for Alcides Escobar, these Kansas City Royals are relentless — and one win from a return trip to the World Series.

Zobrist hit a two-run homer on knuckleballer R.A. Dickey's fourth pitch of the game, Alex Rios connected an inning later against his former team and the Royals romped past the Toronto Blue Jays 14-2 Tuesday for a 3-1 lead in the American League Championship Series.

"We're very confident," Rios said. "We have a very well-balanced team from top to bottom."

Cain scored on a passed ball and Mike Moustakas had a sacrifice fly in an LCS-record four-run top of the first.

Escobar had four RBIs and Cain drove in three runs as the Royals bounced back from an 11-8 loss Monday. Kansas City led 5-2 in the seventh before breaking away.

"The circumstances aren't what you want," Pennington of his first pitching appearance.

Kansas City can win the pennant Wednesday, when Edinson Volquez starts against Toronto's Marco Estrada in a Game 1 rematch.

"It's a do-or-die game for us," Toronto manager John Gibbons said. "But they do it all year. I think these guys will let this one go and they'll show up to play tomorrow."

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Knights to be televised



BLAKE BRANCH

blake@press-herald.com

SPRINGHILL - The North Webster Knights will be on display for a national audience Thursday when they travel to Mansfield, as the LHSAA chose them in the preseason for the game of the week. The game will be televised on FOX Sports New Orleans.

It's a first for the program, and something that will be special for this Knights team and head coach John Ware.

"I've been involved in football my whole life," Ware said. "I've never gotten to do this. I told our guys you won't get this opportunity much. It's a huge game for us."

Some coaches might view the bright lights of television as a distraction, but Ware doesn't see it that way.

"The guys have been talking about since the preseason," Ware said. "There will definitely be some excitement around game time."

Mansfield brings an 0-7 record into Thursday's matchup, but Ware said that record is not indicative of what the Wolverines can do.

"They lost their quarterback for about four weeks and he's back now," Ware said. "They have plenty of good football players and have always had tradition there. It ought to be a good matchup."

The key for North Webster is containing Mansfield's elusive signal-caller Jaylin Wilson.

"The quarterback can take off and run," Ware said. "When he gets in scramble mode he can hurt you, and they are big up front on both sides of the football. North DeSoto only beat them 19-17 at the beginning of the year, so they aren't a bad team."

On offense, the Knights will try and get back to basics this week, after struggling to establish their physical running game for most of last week's game with Loyola.

"Some of our basic plays we didn't execute as well," Ware said. "I told this group they have a chance



Courtesy Photo/Tiffany Lovitt

to be as good as they want to be, we just haven't gelled the whole way yet. I'm looking forward to this week and seeing if they're up for that challenge."

It's important for the Knights to get going on the ground, especially with such diverse talents in the backfield as Devin White, Jalen Smith and T.J. Hawthorne.

"I've never had three backs as good as this at one time," Ware said. "To have them, as well as a 6'4" receiver and a quarterback who can throw, no one should be able to stop us."

SHOOTING

Clanton on target over summer



Kacie Clanton, a Glenbrook senior, shot in the Junior World Skeet competition this summer. She won ladies 410 junior world and placed third in ladies junior high overall, as well as fourth in ladies junior 28-gauge highest overall. She got her start in 4H shooting sports two years ago. Daniel Clanton/Courtesy

NFL

Jackson
crashes car
racing Lynch

RENTON, Wash. — Seattle Seahawks running back Fred Jackson was uninjured when his car crashed outside the team's facility on Tuesday.

The Renton Police Department said shortly before 5 p.m. PDT on Tuesday, Jackson lost control of his 2016 Chevrolet Corvette as he drove down Seahawks Way. The crash happened about 48 hours before the Seahawks face the San Francisco 49ers in a Thursday night game.

Jackson remained on scene until officers arrived and was cooperative. He was then taken by team personnel back to the facility and did not report any injuries.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

LSU ramping up defensive pressure



BATON ROUGE — If anyone can appreciate how hard it has been to slow down Lewis Neal and the rest of LSU's defensive line this year, it is Tigers offensive tackle Vadal Alexander, who has had his hands full with them in practice since last spring.

"I saw it in the offseason, just the way they were always working on get-offs and pass-rush moves, playing blocks and just working hard — working their butts off — to get better," Alexander said. "That's why I think you've seen it on the field this year."

LSU defenders have racked up 17 sacks through the first six games this season, putting them on pace to easily eclipse last season's total of 19 sacks (in 13 games).

The fifth-ranked and unbeaten Tigers (6-0, 3-0 Southeastern Conference) had five sacks against Florida in a 35-28 victory last Saturday night that dropped the Gators from No. 8 to No. 13 in the national rankings. Defensive end Lewis Neal had three sacks, increasing his team-leading total to seven this season.

The ability to sustain that kind of pressure could be a significant factor this Saturday, when LSU hosts Western Kentucky and Hilltoppers quarterback Brandon Doughty, who has averaged 387 yards passing this season.

Neal credits new defensive line coach Ed Orgeron — who has been an assistant in the pros and a head coach at the major college level — with infusing the Tigers' defensive front with energy and passion, while at the same time refining their techniques.

The result, the Tigers say, is a defense which plays with relentless aggression, but also with the discipline required to avoid getting

caught out of position.

"Intensity and attention to detail," Neal says when asked about Orgeron's influence. "We study NFL defensive lines all the time. We get and learn technique that NFL players use all the time. Those things help us a lot."

Davon Godchaux has three sacks this season, while freshman end Arden Key has a sack-and-a-half. But even when defensive linemen are not being credited with sacks, Neal said, they're helping flush QBs into the arms of fellow defenders.

"What people don't realize," Neal says, "is it takes all four defensive linemen to get a sack."

LSU coach Les Miles credits Orgeron's "enthusiasm for play and technical expertise," for the dramatic increase in sacks this season.

Orgeron arrived at LSU to find defensive linemen who not only had talent, but in some cases were also just acquiring the maturity to apply what coaches are teaching, Miles says, adding



that something similar occurred when he hired offensive coordinator Cam Cameron in 2013, as quarterback Zach Mettenberger entered his final season.

Against Florida, Neal explains, LSU pass rushers were mindful of quarterback Treon Harris' mobility. So when the Tigers beat blockers and got into the backfield, they feigned like they would keep charging,

but then pulled up to ensure they didn't lose containment.

"I knew when he wanted to run, so I made him try to run," Neal explained. "I show my presence and then wait for him to make his move ... then I go get him."

"That strategy worked all night long," Neal continued. "You see, quarterbacks get nervous, especially when they are mobile."

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POP CULTURE

It's time for 'Back to the Future' Day

LOS ANGELES — The future is today — if "Back to the Future" is to be believed.

The celebration of the so-called "Back to the Future" Day on Wednesday marks the date — Oct. 21, 2015 — that the characters Marty McFly, Emmett "Doc" Brown and Jennifer Parker famously journeyed from 1985 to 2015 in the sci-fi film trilogy's second installment in 1989.

"Back to The Future Part II" envisioned a colorful 2015 with flying cars, hoverboards and self-tying shoelaces. While those doodads are hardly prevalent today, the film did accurately tease the rise of such technology as flatscreen televisions, biometric scanning and hands-free gaming. It also predicted the Chicago Cubs winning the World Series — an actual possibility with the Cubs contenders in the real-world playoffs, although maybe not for long.

"Back to the Future" Day is being celebrated Wednesday with an appearance by the original cast at a Lincoln Center screening in New York, as well as several fan-centric events and more than 1,700 theaters hosting screenings across the country.

"Back to the Future" filmmaker Robert Zemeckis' trilogy has left a lasting impression on pop culture in the 30 years since the original film



debuted, spawning a theme park attraction, video game and animated series.

Beginning on Wednesday, the town of Reston, Virginia, is ceremoniously changing its name to Hill Valley, McFly's fictional hometown. The Washington West Film Festival will feature a marathon screening of the trilogy Wednesday and a Sunday screening of the orig-

inal film, with appearances by stars Christopher Lloyd and Claudia Wells, as well as screenwriter-producer Bob Gale.

"Back to the Future" Day will be celebrated in Southern California during the four-day "We're Going Back" fan event. The festivities will occur at locations featured in the film series, including a tour of the Hill Valley town

square on the Universal Studios lot, an "Enchantment Under the Sea" dance at the Hollywood United Methodist Church and a screening in the parking lot of the Puente Hills Mall, where McFly famously blasted off in Doc Brown's time-traveling DeLorean.

The "We're Going Back" fan event will also host the premiere of "Back in Time," a

documentary about the franchises' legacy featuring interviews with such notables as Michael J. Fox and Steven Spielberg. The documentary will also be released digitally Wednesday.

Other celebrations include a re-creation of Hill Valley on Thursday in Fillmore, Calif., where part of the franchise was filmed, and Million McFly March, a gath-

ering of fans dressed as McFly that will begin at the Burbank, Calif., location of Burger King depicted in "Back to the Future."

For those who don't want to leave home, the trilogy is exclusively streaming on Amazon Prime, and Universal is releasing a special edition trilogy box set in light-up packaging resembling Doc Brown's flux capacitor.

'Star Wars' fans clamor for tickets, wonder where's Luke

LOS ANGELES — Millions of fans cried out in joy after they saw the latest trailer for "Star Wars: The Force Awakens," but it also left more than a few wondering where Luke Skywalker has been during all the market-

ing. Even Mark Zuckerberg commented on the official fan page, writing "this looks amazing. I love Star Wars."

It didn't take a Jedi to notice that Luke Skywalker was missing from the promo.

The ads have focused mainly on new characters such as Daisy Ridley's Rey and John Boyega's Finn. But the clips also have strategically teased out the return of original characters such as Harrison Ford's Han Solo and Carrie Fisher's Princess Leia.

Mark Hamill's Luke Sky-

walker is nowhere to be seen — in full at least.

Fans have heard Luke's voice and seen what is presumed to be his gloved hand on R2-D2, but his conspicuous absence from the most recent trailer and the official poster had many Twitter users asking #whereisluke and wondering what that means for his character.

Director J.J. Abrams is somewhat notorious for keeping the plots to his films under wraps, and "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" has been no different.

The 2-minute, 35-second

spot debuted during ESPN's "Monday Night Football" halftime and was made available online immediately after. Overnight ratings for the game show a definite viewing spike during half-time, suggesting that many tuned in solely for the trailer, not the Giants-Eagles game.

Tickets for the "The Force Awakens," out Dec. 18, went on sale earlier Monday, causing sites like Fandango and MovieTickets.com to experience intermittent crashes as a result of demand.

The initial fervor has dissipated, though, and sites

seemed to be back up and running and getting fans their tickets. AMC theaters are also selling tickets for 39 "Star Wars" marathon events, where they will be showing all seven films on Dec. 17.

Sellouts have been reported for many of the Thursday night preview showings of the latest chapter. AMC alone sold out 1,000 shows in less than 12 hours but also noted that there are still nearly 4 million tickets available for opening weekend.

Ticketing sites tend to keep specifics about actual

secret. MovieTickets.com did reveal, however, that "The Force Awakens" had accounted for a whopping 95 percent of sales on the site in 24 hours.

Fandango experienced unprecedented demand for tickets as well. They've already sold eight times as many tickets as they had for their previous record holder, "The Hunger Games."

"Movie theaters are continually adding new show times on Fandango to meet the phenomenal demand," a Fandango company statement said.

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



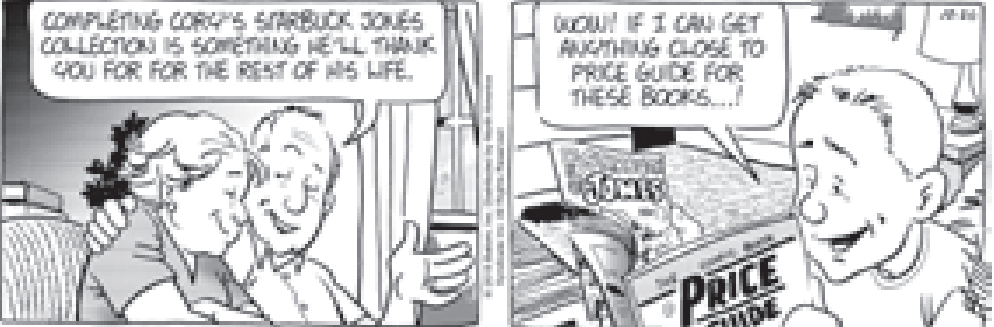
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT & GREG WALKER



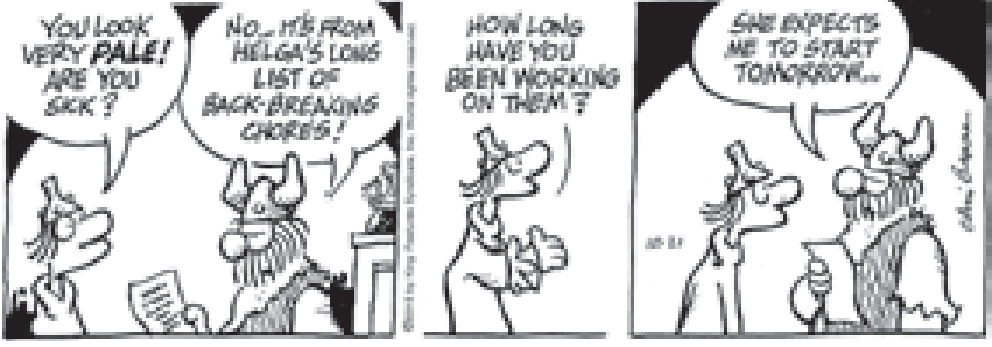
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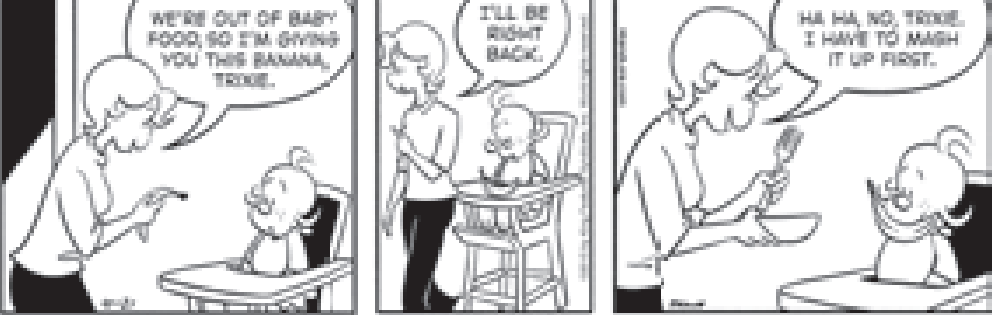
FUNKY WINKERBEAN | TOM BATIUK



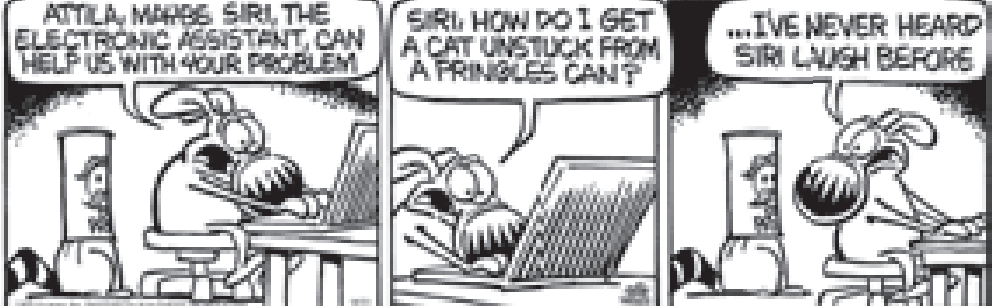
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



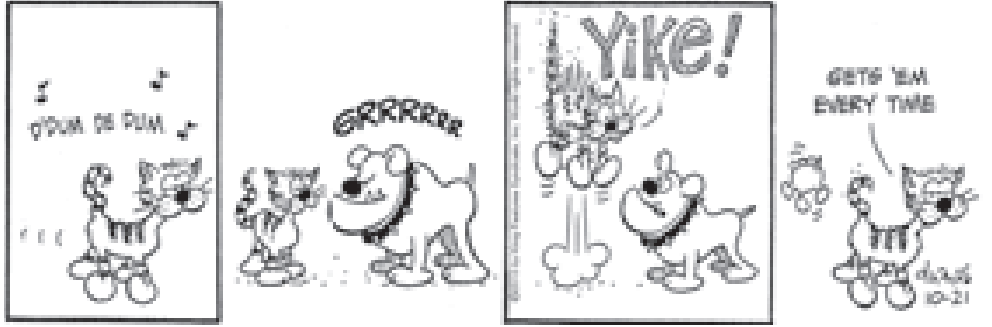
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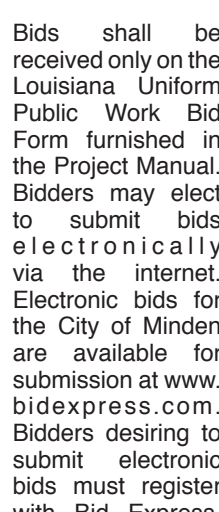
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WGXADGTXYHLDPL, LAD
HYLWSEDXYQQDHLWLYGUWP
MNCNHMW SYU-ST-SYU
WXXYRHL.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: JUST TODAY I LEGALLY CHANGED MY NAME TO BECOME SWEDISH-SOUNDING. I WASN'T BJORN YESTERDAY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals T

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Resistance unit

4 Low range

8 Terrible guy?

12 Pair with an air

13 Met melody

14 Mature street

15 Freddy's

20 Heavy weight

21 Greek peak

24 London newspaper

28 Montana city

32 Bear lair

33 Yoko —

34 Frat party garb

36 Feminine principle

37 Garbage barge

39 Wallet

41 Red River capital

43 — out (supplemented)

44 Eggs

46 Leaves at the library?

50 Kid's pop

55 "7 Faces of Dr. —"

56 Garfield's pal

57 Hindu princess

58 Doctrine

59 Enter

60 Related

61 Spell-down

DOWN

1 Poetic tributes

2 Luau entertainment

3 Mid-May honorees

4 Watch Junior

5 "Entourage" character

6 Part of RSVP

7 Sodium chloride

8 Oddly funny

9 By way of

10 Spring mo.

11 Homer's neighbor

17 Automation, for short

19 Scale member

22 Uppity one

Solution time: 23 mins.

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Yesterday's answer 10-21

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15				16					17			
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59					60					61		

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