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November 30, 2015 | 50 Cents

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Cloudy.
Winds light
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SHOP SMALL SATURDAY



A customer discusses her purchase at Pink Pratique in downtown Minden during Shop Small Saturday, a national event sponsored by American Express. Michelle Bates/Press-Herald

'Success'

Business owners
say Shop Small
Saturday profitable

MICHELLE BATES
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Despite the wet weather, business owners participating in Shop Small Saturday across Minden say it was a successful day.

Many say a steady stream of customers came through their doors shopping for the perfect Christmas gifts. Chris LaBrie, a cashier at TG Garden and Gifts, says gift bags were given out to customers who shopped at their store, with items related to Shop Small Saturday.

"We've been steady today," he said. "It hasn't

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Sue Hughes, of Homer, was shopping for an outfit at Pink Pratique, with the help of Angie Hadnot. Pink Pratique participated in the national campaign for Shop Small Saturday. Michelle Bates/Press-Herald

QUEST FOR THE CROWN

Baker hopes to be Miss Minden

Abby Baker is a 20-year-old sophomore at Louisiana Tech University majoring in Early Childhood Education.

Abby wants to follow in the footsteps of her grandmother and mother and become a schoolteacher.

At Tech, Abby is a member of the Sigma Kappa - Beta Epsilon Chapter. She is also a member of Bulldog Belles and Beaux.

The Miss Minden Pageant will be at 7 p.m., Saturday, Dec. 5 at the Minden Civic Center.

Tickets are \$10 and on sale at Al-N-Way Cleaners, located at 410 Homer Road. Children two years of age and under get in free. Tickets will also be available at the door the day of the pageant.



Abby Baker. Courtesy Photo



Christmas trees were replaced Sunday at the entrances of Walmart Sunday after being removed over the weekend to make space for customers. Bruce Franklin/Press-Herald

Walmart replaces Christmas trees

BRUCE FRANKLIN
bfranklin@press-herald.com

Christmas trees have been put back up at each entrance of the Minden Walmart after being taken down over the weekend.

The two large Christmas trees that were at both entrances of the retailer were replaced with smaller trees to make space for customers, according to a spokesperson.

A Facebook post was shared more than 1,000 times Sunday claiming all

Christmas décor in the local discount store was being removed after a customer complaint; however, a Walmart spokesperson says that's not true.

"There were two Christmas trees that were removed for space purposes and that reason only," Walmart spokesperson Brian Nick said. "Any notion that Christmas decorations are being removed is not right."

Nick said there are no plans to remove the Merry Christmas signage or any other decor around the store.

ONLINE SHOPPING

Cyber Monday popular, but be wary of impulse buying

Cyber Monday has surpassed the week prior to Christmas and the week prior to Thanksgiving "to take the No. 2 position for most popular days for holiday shopping," a survey says. The digital marketplace RetailMeNot Inc., and Placed, Inc., which "connects ads to store visits," say they compiled the survey from more than 10,000 respon-

dents.

Cyber Monday is "the digital cousin to Black Friday."

Traditional Black Friday "continues to hold the reign as the busiest shopping day of the year in the U.S.," and 56 percent of people surveyed planned to hit the stores on Nov. 27, according to the survey, conducted in

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HAM GIVEAWAY WILDCARD

WILDCARD

This card can be dropped off at any participating business.

Name _____

Address _____

Phone # _____

21 hams will be given away this year by area businesses participating in the HAM GIVEAWAY. Registration blanks will be printed on Nov. 30, Dec. 7, and Dec. 14. Drawings will be held Dec. 17. Winners will be announced in the Minden Press-Herald on December 18th. Participating businesses include: Gibsland Bank & Trust (Homer Road & Sbley locations), ACE Hardware, Spillers Appliance & Furniture, Walmart, Hebert's Town & Country, A.J. Price, Inc. (Main St. and Hwy 531 locations), Hamburger Happiness, Richland State Bank, Hol-Mont Sales & Rental, Minden Farm & Garden, Save-A-Lot, MBL Bank, Bon Temps, Mike's Outdoors, DD Super Discount Liquor, Gorilla Tech, Cone's Farm & Garden Mart, Possibilities, and Holcomb's Body Shop.



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PLATINUM CHIKKZ TO HOST FIRST CHRISTMAS GIVEAWAY

With the Christmas holidays fast approaching, the Platinum Chikkz Social Club is hosting its first Christmas Wish List giveaway. The giveaway is for children up to 12 years of age, and the first 50 children to sign up will be guaranteed to get what they ask for. Members ask that gifts are limited to gifts up to \$20. Other gifts will also be available for children who did not sign up. A giveaway/party will be from 2 until 5 p.m., Sunday, Dec. 20, at the Forestry Building with food, fun, games and activities for the children. All children who signed up must be present to receive their gift. A sign up was at The Farm Saturday, Nov. 28; however, donations are still being accepted. For more information, contact Keke West at 318-288-6096, Nichelle Smith at 318-525-5703 or Jennifer Hill at 318-762-3693. Courtesy Photo

CYBER

Continued from page 1

October and November.

However, 55 percent of those surveyed consumers planned to shop equally across in-store and online retailers this holiday season.

"When looking at the way consumers research and spend this holiday season ... Black Friday and Cyber Monday are nearing parity in terms of consumer participation," David Shim, founder and CEO of Placed, said in a news release earlier this month.

Although deals are being offered earlier and earlier in the season, Cyber Monday continues to be a day when retailers pull out big promotions, The Associated Press

reports.

The Monday after Thanksgiving generated nearly \$2.04 billion in online sales last year, up 17 percent from the previous year, according to research firm comScore Inc. That represented the heaviest online spending day in history and the first to surpass \$2 billion in sales, said the firm, which tracks online sales.

Here are two tips for Cyber Monday shopping from GreenPath Debt Solutions:

"Your inbox will be bursting with 'TODAY ONLY' bargains. Internet flash sales can be a great way to get a bargain, but, like Black Friday, before you start online shopping, take time to make a plan and stick to your list. Many online sales encourage you to buy more than you need. Discounts or free ship-

ping often are based on a minimum purchase. This can encourage you to spend way more than you planned and buy more than you need."

Sometimes, it makes sense to pay for the shipping and forgo the discount for meeting a minimum purchase threshold. "Don't buy something just to get free shipping, thinking you'll gift it to someone. Odds are, it will stay with you," Katie Bossler, GreenPath Debt Solutions personal finance counselor, said in a news release.

And here's a reminder from SecurityScorecard, a security-risk benchmarking company:

"Understand that credit cards and other personal information are always a target for hackers, so consumers should be vigilant about monitoring their statements

and credit services for fraudulent activity. Holiday shopping season is widely known to see increases in attack attempts on retail and e-commerce websites."

In case you're planning to shop from your work computer:

According to CareerBuilder's annual Cyber Monday poll, 12 percent of employers surveyed say they've fired someone for holiday shopping on the Internet while at work (compared to 8 percent last year). And, 56 percent say their organization blocks employees from accessing certain websites from work (up 3 percent from last year). The Harris Poll surveyed "a representative sample" of hiring and human resource managers "across industries and company sizes."

SHOP

Continued from page 1

been absolutely packed, but we've had a good bit of traffic in here. We've sold a lot of stuff."

He says their biggest seller Saturday were candles.

Paige Salas, owner of Beyond the Alley Boutique says she participated in Shop Small Saturday because it's a great way to be involved in her community.

"It's great for our community because it brings local people into local businesses, and it doesn't just help us out

as a business, but our community in general," she said.

Salas says she will participate next year and hopes that more of the community will get behind the Shop Small Saturday promotion.

"This is our first time to participate," she says, adding that she is a member of the Minden-South Webster Chamber of Commerce. "Thanks to the chamber, they've helped us out a lot."

The chamber provided promotional materials to advertise her business and promote Shop Small Saturday, she says. She says she would like see the promotion for Shop Small Saturday

begin earlier, including the addition of more signs throughout the area of participating businesses.

"That way when people are driving by, they can see them to shop the local businesses in town, and maybe do a month-long campaign beforehand," she said.

Tammy Eaton of Bobbies Hobbies, says the Downtown Business Association helped promote Shop Small Saturday as well. Bobbies Hobbies has participated for the last four years, she said.

"This year we decided we (Elaine Eaton and Catherine Hunt) needed to get more of the downtown businesses

included," she said. "I think maybe this year, since we did an event, we got more exposure for Minden and got more businesses involved. Hopefully we can model Shreveport for next year. We want to make it more of an annual event, not make it a sale, but more of a community event."

She says she would like to coordinate with the chamber as well, and hopes it will be bigger and better next year.

"We have a lot of ideas, and we just have to get people together," she said. "There's a lot of ideas that we didn't have time to do this year."

AROUND THE STATE

Authorities: Lindsay Lohan's stepmother removed from plane

NEW ORLEANS — A coast-to-coast flight was diverted to New Orleans to remove actress Lindsay Lohan's stepmother, authorities said Saturday.

Kate Major-Lohan, who is married to Lindsay Lohan's father, was removed from a JetBlue plane on Wednesday, Col. John Fortunato, spokesman for the Jefferson Parish Sheriff's Office, confirmed in an email.

FBI spokesman Craig Betzebe said she was arrested on a charge of interfering with flight crew members and attendants. JetBlue Airways Corp.

spokeswoman Sharon Jones said in an email that Wednesday's Flight 101 from Fort Lauderdale, Florida, to Los Angeles was diverted to New Orleans to remove an "unruly customer" whom she did not identify. She referred further questions to law enforcement.

Major-Lohan's phone number was not immediately available. It was not clear whether she had an attorney who could comment.

Lindsay Lohan's spokeswoman, Kate Driver, said in an email, "We don't comment on clients' personal lives."

AROUND THE STATE

\$1.7M bond set for man in gunfight that wounded 17

NEW ORLEANS — Bond has been set at \$1.7 million for a man police accuse of participating in a gunfight that wounded 17 people at a New Orleans playground after a neighborhood parade.

Online records show 32-year-old Joseph "Moe" Allen's bond was set Sunday in New Orleans Magistrate Court. He's also being held without bond on an otherwise unspecified out-of-state warrant.

Defense attorney Kevin Boshea didn't immediately respond to an email seeking comment.

Records show Allen was booked with 17 counts of attempted murder in the Nov. 22 shooting at Bunny Friend Playground. A preliminary hearing is scheduled Dec. 8.

Police spokesman Tyler Gamble says Allen turned himself in Saturday, a day after being identified as a suspect.

Police say they believe several others were involved in the shooting and are seeking any information people might have.

LOTTERY

Jackpots unclaimed in 3 big drawings

BATON ROUGE — The Louisiana Lottery Corp. says nobody won the top prizes in three big weekend drawings. It says estimated jackpots for Wednesday are going up to \$180,000 for Easy 5, \$350,000 for Lotto and \$110 million for the Powerball.

The largest prize won in Louisiana for Saturday's drawings was

\$2,219. The lottery corporation says 10 Lotto tickets won that amount for matching five of six numbers.

Winning numbers drawn Saturday:

Easy 5: 03-15-21-24-27

Lotto: 10-11-15-22-23-

39

Powerball: 02-06-47-66-67; Powerball 2; Power Play 3

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Bethany Winder, a nurse who lives in Colorado Springs, Colo., plants a sign in support of Planned Parenthood just south of its clinic as police investigators gather evidence near the scene of Friday's shooting at the clinic Sunday, Nov. 29, 2015, in northwest Colorado Springs. Courtesy Photo

Suspect in Colorado clinic shooting to appear in court

COLORADO SPRINGS, Colo. — The man accused of opening fire at a Planned Parenthood clinic in Colorado Springs lived a troubled, isolated life in the mountains of South Carolina and Colorado, but acquaintances said he never hinted that he would target the organization.

Robert Lewis Dear, 57, will make his first appearance in court Monday. He is accused of killing a police officer and two civilians — an Iraq war veteran and a mother of two — who were accompanying separate friends to the clinic. The rampage touched off an hourslong standoff and shootout Friday that also left nine other people in the hospital. Dear's court appearance will be done by video Monday afternoon in Colorado Springs.

Colorado Springs police on Sunday said they would not disclose any information on the motive for the attack.

Dear has been described by acquaintances as a reclusive loner who didn't seem to have strong political or social

opinions.

Neighbors who live near Dear's former South Carolina home say he hid food in the woods and lived off selling prints of his uncle's paintings of Southern plantations and the Masters golf tournament. After he moved to Colorado, he once gave a neighbor pamphlets opposing President Barack Obama.

"He didn't talk about them or anything. He just said, 'Look them over when you get a chance,'" Zigmond Post said.

A law enforcement official said Dear told authorities "no more baby parts" after being arrested, part of a rambling statement that investigators are parsing to understand the reasoning.

The law enforcement official who recounted Dear's statement spoke on condition of anonymity because the official was not allowed to publicly discuss the ongoing investigation. The official said the "no more baby parts" comment was among a number of statements he made to authorities after his arrest,

making it difficult to know his specific motivation.

Still, U.S. Attorney John Walsh said investigators have been in touch with lawyers from the Justice Department's Civil Rights and National Security divisions, suggesting officials could pursue federal charges in addition to state homicide ones. One possible avenue is the 1994 Freedom of Access to Clinic Entrances Act, which makes it a crime to injure or intimidate clinic patients and employees.

"The case may fit the criteria for a federal domestic terrorism case, but based on my experience, I would be very surprised if this is not simply a local prosecution," said Colorado Springs Mayor John Suthers, a former U.S. attorney and state attorney general. "Murder charges will be more than adequate on the local level."

Planned Parenthood said witnesses believe the gunman was motivated by his opposition to abortion. Suthers said it's unclear whether the shooting was

intended to send an ideological message.

"That may or may not be the case here. We just have to see how things unravel," Suthers said.

Whatever authorities decide is sure to be controversial, given the political murkiness of Dear's statements and the debate over Planned Parenthood, which was reignited in July when anti-abortion activists released undercover video they said showed the group's personnel negotiating the sale of fetal organs. The organization has denied seeking any payments beyond legally permitted reimbursement of the costs for donating the organs to researchers.

Planned Parenthood has said that Colorado's 19 other clinics would be open for business Monday. The Colorado Springs clinic, though, has been heavily damaged and will be closed for an uncertain amount of time, said Vicki Cowart, the regional head of Planned Parenthood.

Trump says black pastors likely pressured not to endorse him

NEW YORK — Donald Trump says he thinks a group of black pastors meeting with him Monday had planned to endorse him for president but were pressured out of it because he "believes all lives matter."

"Probably some of the Black Lives Matter folks called them up and said, 'Oh, you shouldn't be meeting with Trump because he believes all lives matter,'" Trump said Monday on MSNBC's "Morning Joe," referring to the movement protesting against police brutality and the killing of unarmed African-Americans.

Trump predicted some of the 100 black evangelical leaders would endorse him after the meeting, nonetheless.

Many of the religious leaders invited to the meet-and-greet with Trump were surprised that the gathering was being advertised by his Republican presidential campaign as an endorsement. After they objected, the Trump campaign decided to keep the meeting private and quietly canceled a press conference afterward meant to announce their support.

"It's a miscommunication," said Darrell Scott, the senior pastor of New Spirit Revival Center in Cleveland Heights, Ohio, who helped to organize the meeting scheduled for Monday afternoon in New York — one of several Trump has convened in recent months with black religious leaders.

Trump's campaign had issued a press release last week that read: "Mr. Trump will be joined by a coalition of 100 African-American evangelical pastors and religious leaders who will endorse the GOP front-runner after a private meeting at Trump Tower."

The campaign later rebranded the event as "a private, informational meet-and-greet with many members of the Coalition of African American Ministers." A campaign press release said that a number of attendees were still expected to endorse Trump

after their meeting, but that the event would be closed to the press.

On Monday, Trump said, "I have no idea what the meeting is really. ... We'll see what happens. I don't know it it's an endorsement, I don't know if it's an endorsement by some."

"I do think pressure was put on them by people who may disagree with certain things," added Trump, who said he has "a great relationship with the black pastors."

Trump has been courting the support of evangelical black clergy members as he works to broaden his appeal in a crowded Republican field.

Scott estimated that more than 100 preachers from across the country would be attending the meeting, despite criticism in an open letter in Ebony magazine from more than 100 black religious leaders.

In the letter, the group wrote that "Trump's racially inaccurate, insensitive and incendiary rhetoric should give those charged with the care of the spirits and souls of black people great pause." They also expressed concern that the meeting on Monday would "give Trump the appearance of legitimacy among those who follow your leadership and respect your position as clergy."

Earlier this month, a black protester was roughed up by Trump supporters at a rally in Birmingham, Alabama. Trump said after the incident, "Maybe he should have been roughed up because it was absolutely disgusting what he was doing."

Trump also drew criticism recently for retweeting an image of inaccurate statistics that vastly over-represented the number of whites killed by blacks, among other errors.

OBITUARY

Bertie Estelle Ratliff

Funeral services for Mrs. Bertie Estelle Ratliff, 98, were at 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 28, 2015 at the Cullen Assembly of God Church with Pastor David Stephens officiating. Interment will follow in the Welcome Cemetery, Taylor, Arkansas under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home in Springhill.

Visitation was from 1:30 p.m. until 3:30, Saturday, at the Cullen Assembly of God Church.

Mrs. Ratliff was born on May 25, 1917 to John Willie and Bertha Ledbetter Jaggers in Guntersville, Alabama and passed away on Thursday, Nov. 26, 2015 in Springhill. She was a resident of this area since 1933, was a faithful member of the Cullen Assembly of God Church and was a homemaker.

She loved her church and her church family and will be remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

She is survived by her son, Kenneth D. Ratliff and wife, Kay of Taylor, Arkansas; sister, Marie Thomas of Clute, Texas; granddaughter, Kim Newman and husband, Andy of Lexington, Kentucky and two great-grandsons, Silas and Owen.

Mrs. Ratliff was preceded in death by her husband, Loy Ratliff in 1974; by her parents and a brother, Clarence Jaggers.

Pallbearers will be members of the Cullen Assembly of God Church.

The family requests memorials be made to the Cullen Assembly of God Church.

Sign our online guest book at www.baileyfuneralhome.net.



Wills Successions

Rick Warren

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OPINION

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PRESIDENTIAL
ADDRESS

Recognizing the greatness of American generosity

In 1620, a small band of pilgrims came to this continent, refugees who had fled persecution and violence in their native land. Nearly 400 years later, we remember their part in the American story -- and we honor the men and women who helped them in their time of need.

Thanksgiving is a day for food and football, and for hoping the turkey didn't turn out too dry. But it's also a day to count our blessings and give back to others -- a reminder that no matter our circumstances, all of us have something to be grateful for. Maybe it's good health, a new addition to the family, or a child taking a next step toward college or a career. Maybe it's a new job, or long overdue raise. Maybe it's something as simple, and as important, as the chance to spend time with the people who matter most.

Of course, every American can be thankful for the chance to live in a country founded on the belief that all of us are created equal. And as President, I'm thankful that I get to see the best of America every day -- the courage of our troops and veterans, the resilience of our families, and the basic goodness of the ordinary people who call this country.

On this uniquely American holiday, we also remember that so much of our greatness comes from our generosity. There's the generosity of Americans who volunteer at food banks and shelters, making sure that no one goes hungry on a day when so many plates are full. There's the generosity of Americans who take part not just in Black Friday and Cyber Monday, but Giving Tuesday -- recognizing that in the holiday season, what you give is as important as what you get.

And I've been touched by the generosity of the Americans who've written me letters and emails in recent weeks, offering to open their homes to refugees fleeing the brutality of ISIL.

Now, people should remember that no refugee can enter our borders until they undergo the highest security checks of anyone traveling to the United States. That was the case before Paris, and it's the case now. And what happened in Paris hasn't stopped Americans from opening their arms anyway.

One woman from Pennsylvania wrote me to say, "Money is tight for us in my household ... But I have a guest room. I have a pantry full of food. We can do this."

Another woman from Florida told me her family's history dates back to the Mayflower -- and she said that welcoming others is part of "what it means to be an American."

Nearly four centuries after the Mayflower set sail, the world is still full of pilgrims -- men and women who want nothing more than the chance for a safer, better future for themselves and their families.

What makes America America is that we offer that chance. We turn Lady Liberty's light to the world, and widen our circle of concern to say that all God's children are worthy of our compassion and care. That's part of what makes this the greatest country on Earth.

I hope that you and your family have wonderful Thanksgiving, surrounded by loved ones, and full of joy and gratitude. And together, may we all play our own small part in the American story, and write a next chapter that future generations can be thankful for.

President Barack Obama's weekly address is published Mondays in the Minden Press-Herald.



**PRESIDENT
BARACK
OBAMA**

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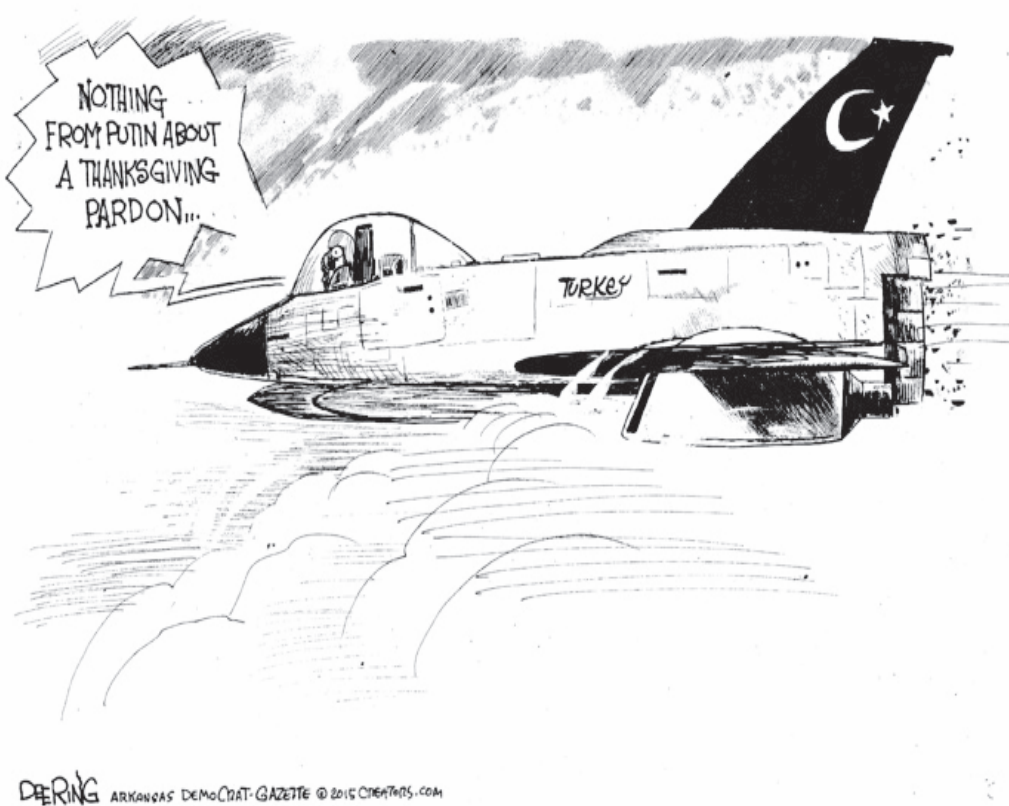
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The Minden Press-Herald is published Monday through Friday afternoon by Specht Newspapers, Inc. at 203 Gleason Street, Minden, Louisiana 71055. Telephone 377-1866. Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office as Minden Press-Herald, P.O. Box 1339, Minden LA 71058-1339. Subscription rate: In-parish home delivery \$11 per month; \$33 per three months; \$66 per six months; \$99 per nine months and \$132 per year. Out-of-parish mail delivery is \$14.50 per month; \$43.50 per three months; \$87 per six months; \$130.50 per nine months and \$174 per year. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Minden Press-Herald, P.O. Box 1339, Minden, LA 71058-1339.



AP NEWS ANALYSIS

Edwards' victory has ripple effect across politics

While analysts were still sifting through the results of the Louisiana governor's race, politicians already were moving beyond how it happened that a Democrat won the job and looking ahead to the ramifications of voters' decision.

Democratic state Rep. John Bel Edwards' victory and Republican U.S. Sen. David Vitter's defeat will have a sort of political domino effect that spills out across Louisiana politics.

Edwards' 12-percentage point win over Vitter was a rebuke to the senator after a race that became more about Vitter's personal integrity than any policy debates. With the embarrassing loss, Vitter quickly announced he wouldn't run for re-election to a third term next year, creating a rare open Senate seat.

Several politicians had been eyeing the seat for months -- though initially it was because conventional wisdom once had Vitter likely coasting to an easy win for governor. Republicans have been readying campaign plans for quite a while.

First up, U.S. Rep. Charles Boustany, a Republican from Lafayette, let fewer than two days lapse after Vitter's re-election decision before releasing a pre-announcement of his own Senate race plans. In the statement, Boustany made it clear he intends to run for Vitter's seat, saying an official Senate candidacy declaration would

come soon.

"I look forward to outlining my vision for Louisiana and how I intend to help lead our state to the bright future I know lies before us," Boustany said.

Within hours of Boustany's statement, Republican U.S. Rep. John Fleming of Minden followed up with one of his own, saying he, too, will make his Senate race announcement "in the near future."

"At that time I will share my goals for Louisiana and our nation, and why I believe the voters are eager to see real, conservative solutions in our nation's capital," Fleming said.

Other Republicans considering the Senate race include Treasurer John Kennedy; Public Service Commissioner Scott Angelle, the third-place finisher in the governor's race; and Rob Maness, who ran unsuccessfully for Senate last year. New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu, a Democrat, also hasn't closed the door on a run for the position.

If Boustany and Fleming both stick it out in the Senate race, that would create openings for their congressional district seats, and already possible contenders are starting to discuss their campaign options.

Angelle has been mentioned as a strong potential candidate for the 3rd Congressional District job held by Boustany, if he decides he'd prefer an easier competition than the Senate race is shaping up to be.

With this year's elections barely done, the 2016 races are getting under way. Meanwhile, in Baton Rouge, maneuvering for state legislative leadership jobs has been going on behind the scenes for months.

Now that Louisiana's next governor has been chosen, lawmakers are trying to leverage

the outcome to their advantage.

Some legislators are hoping their alliance with Edwards can help them gain support from their colleagues. Others are seeking to use the party split -- Edwards is a Democrat, while Republicans hold majorities in both the state House and Senate -- to drive more legislative independence in leadership selections.

Governors traditionally have held significant sway over who becomes Senate president and House speaker, with many governors going so far as to meddle in the selection of legislative committee chairmen and vice chairmen as well.

Edwards campaigned as a moderate with a bipartisan approach to governing. As a state lawmaker, he's also talked of the need for more legislative independence. Lawmakers are waiting for more signals on just how much he tries to interfere in their affairs as governor, and Edwards hedged a bit when questioned on the subject.

"I don't intend to tell the Legislature exactly who they need to put in what positions," Edwards said the day after his election win.

"But there will be communications because we have an agenda," he said. "I was elected with 56 percent of the vote saying I was going to do certain things, and I'm going to work to make sure that we get those initiatives through the Legislature."

Melinda Deslatte covers Louisiana politics for The Associated Press. Follow her at <http://twitter.com/melindadeslatte>.

PERSPECTIVE

Let pharmacies prescribe birth control

Back in 1933, Rep. Walter Pierce of Oregon introduced a bill in Congress to let doctors discuss birth control with their patients. The need for such a bill showed how controversial the subject was. But this was the heart of the Great Depression, when impoverished Americans could barely feed the children they had.

Oregon, along with California, is again ahead of the curve in promoting women's access to contraceptives. Both states will soon let pharmacists dispense the pill, patches and other hormonal contraceptives without a doctor's prescription. This is a major advance for the following reasons:

—Logistics. Needing a prescription from a physician requires having a physician. Many women don't, and those who do must often wait for appointments. Or they may have had a recent checkup and want birth control without going through the other unpleasant procedures in a gynecologist's office.

—Cost. It's a cheaper way to obtain birth control.

—Convenience. The United States has a very high percentage of unintended pregnancies. Many are the result of women being unwilling to jump through the hoops to secure birth control before having sex. The hurdles of convenience, cost and logistics are higher for poor women.

Please spare us the lectures on personal responsibility. The objective here is to prevent unwanted pregnancies.

Some argue that these state laws don't go far enough in "freeing" the pill. They want it sold over the counter just like aspirin and toothpaste.

Hormonal contraceptives are already sold over the counter in much of the world -- in nearly all of Asia and Latin America and in most of Africa. A prescription is still required in Canada and in western Europe, with the interesting exception of Portugal. One can argue for requiring some sort of prescription, at least for the time being. Health insurance generally doesn't cover over-the-counter medications but will pay for prescribed contraceptives.

The federal Food and Drug Administration, meanwhile, takes forever to approve over-the-counter medications (another problem that needs fixing).

Although these contraceptives are generally very safe, they can cause complications for a few women. Both Oregon and California will ask pharmacists to have women fill out short questionnaires to help determine whether hormonal birth control poses any risks to the patient.

Arizona, Idaho and New Mexico have shown an interest in following the Oregon and California example. Washington state already lets pharmacists prescribe contraceptives, but only under special agreements with physicians; they can get complicated.

As we look forward to more easily obtainable birth control, we can also observe the past at work in a case now winding through the U.S. Supreme Court. It is the umpteenth challenge to the Affordable Care Act requirement that employers provide coverage for birth control. (Houses of worship are already exempt.)

The plaintiffs this time are the Little Sisters of the Poor in Baltimore. They argue that the Obama administration's accommodation for religious nonprofits opposed to contraception, such as theirs, is too burdensome.

In truth, all they have to do is fill out a short form saying that birth control violates their religious beliefs and they won't have to pay for it. The group says doing even that makes them "complicit" in the alleged immorality tied to birth control.

Americans have to agree on certain principles, and access to birth control is widely accepted, including among Catholics. In this world of increasing religious diversity, many principles will conflict with theological teachings. In short, Obama has stretched religious accommodation far enough.

Back to the future, thank the American West for leading the way toward curbing unwanted pregnancies -- the results of which no one of faith or otherwise wants. Letting pharmacies prescribe contraceptives should become law across the land.

Follow Froma Harrop on Twitter @FromaHarrop. She can be reached at fharp@gmail.com.



**FROMA
HARROP**

Around Town

Dec. 5

A Christmas Bazaar Fundraiser for Ross Aldridge will be from 9 until 5 p.m. at the CAC building in Springhill. For more information contact Lisa Balentine at 318-564-0978 or Nan Stephens at 318-578-4800.

Tickets for the Miss Minden Scholarship Pageant are going on sale Monday, Nov. 23 and will end Friday, Dec. 4. Tickets are \$10 each and are on sale at Al-N-Way Cleaners, located at 410 Homer Road. Children two years of age and under get in free. Tickets will also be available at the door the day of the pageant. The Miss Minden Scholarship Pageant will be Saturday, Dec. 5 at 7 p.m. at the Minden Civic Center. The pageant is sponsored by the Young Women's Service Club.

Dec. 6

Terry Combs will be preaching his first sermon at Mt. Comfort Baptist Church at 2:15 p.m.

Dec. 12

The St. James Baptist Church will be hosting a "Community Connection" concert at 5 p.m.

Dec. 12

The St. James Baptist Church will be hosting an Auxiliary Day program on at 3 p.m.

Class of 1970 will be sponsoring a 45th class celebration at the forestry building at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$15. For more information call 377-3652 or 377-3357.

Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Achievement Week Program



The Gamma Omicron Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.'s awarded, from left Windell R. Bonner, Grady Smith and Bernard Hudson during the annual Achievement Week Program. Courtesy Photo

The Gamma Omicron Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc. held its annual Achievement Week Program on Sunday, Nov. 15 at Mt. Calm Baptist Church in Minden.

The International Achievement Week is a mandated program of the fraternity that was originally designed to promote the study of African American life and history in 1920.

In 1976, this commemoration evolved into Black History Month. Presently, Achievement Week Programs recognizes those individuals at the local and national levels who have made significant contributions toward improving the quality of life in the community.

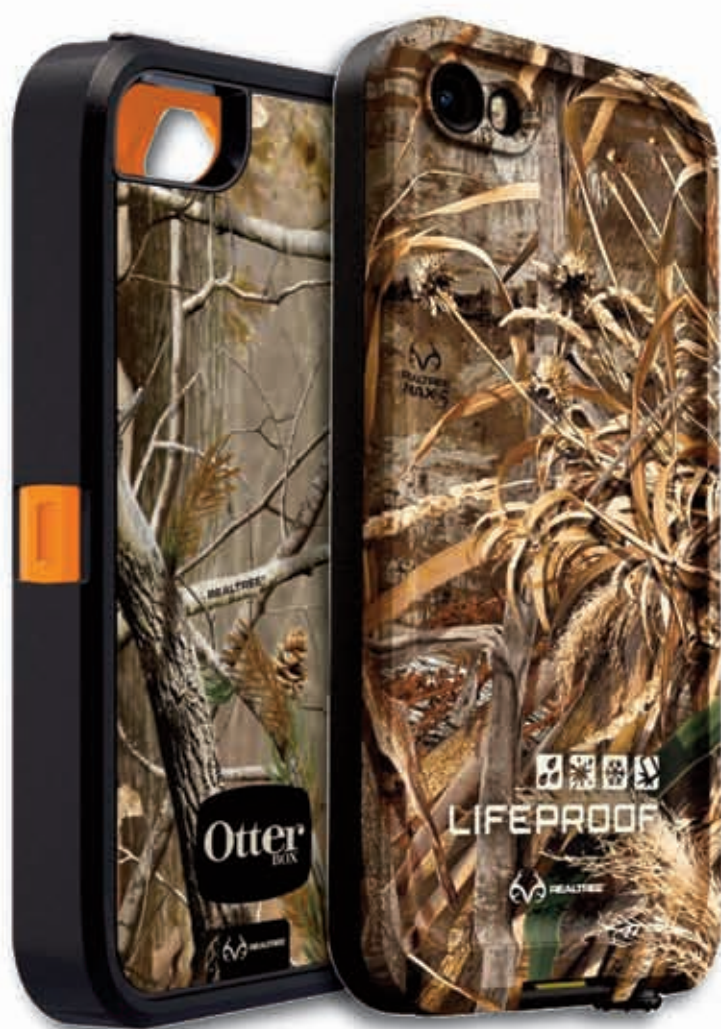
In keeping with the objectives of the international objectives, the Minden Chapter recognized two brothers and one local citizen who made significant achievements in the community over the past year 2014 to 2015.

During the program, the following awards and categories were presented:

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SPORTS

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SPORTS briefs

NFL Osweler, Broncos beat Pats, 30-24

DENVER — Brock Osweler engineered his first comeback win in only his second NFL start. Starting for Peyton Manning, Osweler drove the Broncos 83 yards to give the Broncos a brief lead in the fourth quarter, then called the perfect play in overtime to set up the win. Osweler and the Broncos overcame a 14-point, fourth-quarter deficit for a 30-24 victory over none other than Tom Brady and the previously undefeated New England Patriots.

"Something I was told very young in my football career was that the game is not over until zeros are up there on the clock," Osweler said.

Denver (9-2) won it with 12:32 left in overtime, after Osweler changed running plays at the line of scrimmage and gave it to C.J. Anderson, who ran around left end for a 48-yard touchdown and the win.

It wouldn't have come to that had Osweler not connected with Demaryius Thomas for 36 yards, then Emmanuel Sanders for 39, as part of an 83-yard march for a 24-21 lead with 1:09 left in regulation. Denver had trailed 21-7 earlier in the quarter.

Brady (280 yards, three touchdowns) led the Patriots (10-1) to the tying field goal, but after winning the coin toss to start overtime, New England went three-and-out, and Osweler and Anderson won the game.

NBA Kobe retiring after 20th season

LOS ANGELES — After 20 years in a Lakers uniform and a lifetime in basketball, Kobe Bryant determined that his aching body and his passion for the game had both grown weaker than his excitement about the future.

That's when Kobe decided he could only wait a few more months to begin his life after the Lakers.

Bryant announced Sunday that he will retire after this season, ending a landmark 20-year NBA career spent entirely with Los Angeles. He was serenaded with cheers throughout the struggling Lakers' 107-103 loss to Indiana, beginning his farewell tour through the league with a clear mind and a burgeoning curiosity about his next chapter.

"I had to just accept the fact that I don't want to do this anymore, and I'm OK with that," the dry-eyed, smiling Bryant said after the game.

The 37-year-old Bryant made the long-anticipated declaration in a post on The Players' Tribune on Sunday, writing a poem titled "Dear Basketball."

"My heart can take the pounding. My mind can handle the grind. But my body knows it's time to say goodbye," wrote Bryant, the third-leading scorer in NBA history. "And that's OK. I'm ready to let you go. I want you to know now. So we both can savor every moment we have left together. The good and the bad. We have given each other all that we have."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Miles' big moment

TIGERS TOP AGGIES 19-7, SECURE ANOTHER SEASON FOR LES



BATON ROUGE — Les Miles rode across the Tiger Stadium field on the shoulders of his players while fans chanted his name.

It would have been quite a send-off, except LSU's administration doesn't want him going anywhere after all.

Minutes after LSU closed the regular season with a 19-7 victory over Texas A&M, athletic director Joe Alleva said Miles will remain the coach. The announcement capped more than a week of speculation that Miles was on the verge of losing his job after his first three-game losing streak in his 11 years at LSU.

"I'm looking forward to working with Coach Miles as he leads this team to a bowl game and another great recruiting class," Alleva said as Miles' wife, Kathy, and their four children looked on. "Les and I have talked. We have talked about this program and we are committed together to working to win and compete at the highest level."

LSU's administration had allowed speculation about Miles' status to fester by refusing to comment on the matter last week, but Alleva stressed that he was only following his policy of waiting until after the season to comment on a coach's future.

Indeed, Miles said he did not know for sure whether he'd just coached his last game on the home sideline of Death Valley until after the game. He said LSU President F. King Alexander



MILES



Les Miles is carried off the the field inside Tiger Stadium in what was believed to be his final game as head coach at LSU. After the win, Miles was informed he would be returning. Courtesy Photo

informed him first, followed by Alleva.

"We're a talented football team. We seemed to undershoot our mark this year," Miles said. "I agree with Joe. Winning championships is something Joe wants to work toward fully and I'm right with him. It's not enough to win occasionally. You have to win all the time. I get that."

LSU players didn't find out until word began circulating about Alleva's announcement. Tigers senior right tackle Vadal Alexander said he found out when he got a text from his parents and just smiled.

Victory over Texas A&M (8-4, 4-4) did not come easily for the Tigers (8-3, 5-3), who trailed until

Derrius Guice's 50-yard scoring run in the third quarter.

Leonard Fournette ran for 159 yards and a touchdown. He finished the game owning LSU's single-season rushing record at 1,741 yards, surpassing the mark of 1,686 yards set by Charles Alexander in 1977.

"It has been hard, not just with (speculation about) coach Miles, but with us having lost the last three games," Fournette said. "These last three weeks will help this team grow and help us grow in life. I can say this has been one of the longest three weeks in my life. It was hard for everybody."

Kyle Allen passed for

161 yards and one touchdown for the Aggies, but had a pass intercepted by Donte Jackson inside the final 2 minutes, all but sealing LSU's victory.

Aggies coach Kevin Sumlin said his team's turnovers and problems protecting Allen tipped the game in LSU's favor.

"It is kind of hard when the quarterback can't set his feet and move the ball down field," Sumlin said. "LSU played very well on defense."

As the game ended, fans chanted, "Keep Les Miles! Keep Les Miles!"

And they got their wish. Throughout game day, Miles' biggest fans made sure they were seen and heard.

During the "Tiger Walk," from the team busses to the stadium, Miles was greeted like a hero as he waved to the crowd, at times pausing and turning around as if to soak it all in. Many fans held up signs expressing support for the embattled coach, some urging LSU to give him at least one more season.

Inside Death Valley before kickoff, the crowd roared when Miles was introduced during Senior Day ceremonies. The coach tipped his trademark baseball cap to acknowledge the crowd, raising the volume a little more.

Miles overall record improved to 111-32. LSU could have had a nine-win regular season if not for lightning canceling the season opener against heavy underdog McNeese State.

Yet, some of the very aspects of LSU's game that have bothered Miles' critics showed up again.

There were a handful of pre-snap penalties and the passing game was largely ineffective. Brandon Harris was 7 of 21 for 83 yards, no touchdowns and an interception. A number of his passes sailed over intended receivers or skipped off the grass short of their mark. Most of his receptions came on check downs to running backs, including a critical third-down swing pass to Fournette for a 17-yard gain that sustained the Tigers' final scoring drive.

It didn't help that kicker Trent Domingue, who'd missed only one field goal all season coming in, missed three against the Aggies.

When the Tigers finally produced a big play to take a 13-7 lead, it came on Guice's long run.

The Aggies, who led 7-6 at halftime, scored their lone TD on Allen's 8-yard, third-down pass over the middle to Ricky Seals-Jones.

The Aggies squandered a chance to widen their lead when Allen was sacked and stripped by Kendall Beckwith on the LSU 13, with the Tigers' Devon Godchaux recovering.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Bulldogs fall to Golden Eagles, 58-24



RUSTON — Louisiana Tech running back Kenneth Dixon tied an NCAA record but the fanfare was overshadowed by a season-high seven turnovers in the Bulldogs' 58-24 loss to Southern Miss Saturday afternoon at Joe Aillet Stadium in Ruston.

Dixon scored twice as he tied Montee Ball (Wisconsin, 2009-12) and Keenan Reynolds (Navy, 2012-Present) with an NCAA record 83 career overall touchdowns.

However both scores came off receptions as Louisiana Tech (8-4, 6-2)

struggled to establish a running game, rushing for negative yardage in a game for the first time since 1999.

Southern Miss (9-3, 7-1) took advantage of LA Tech's season-high seven turnovers as the Golden Eagles scored 30 points off turnovers including 20 points off three Tech turnovers in a 45-second span.

The loss, which came on the 80th anniversary of the first meeting between the two teams, snapped Louisiana Tech's nine-game home winning streak.

Jeff Driskel was 27-for-44 for 355 yards and three touchdowns but was also intercepted three times. Trent Taylor notched 11 catches for 102 yards and one touchdown while Paul Turner registered six catches for 112 yards in the game. Dixon was the team's third-best receiver with five catches for 81 yards but fin-

ished with negative-four yards rushing.

Beau Fitte led the Louisiana Tech defense as he tallied a career-high 15 total tackles including one for a loss of three yards and an interception.

That would be Southern Miss quarterback Nick Mullens only interception as the USM signal caller threw for 386 yards and three touchdowns in a 24-for-37 performance while Ito Smith ran for three scores of his own on 169 yards rushing. Michael Thomas caught seven passes for 162 yards for Southern Miss including one touchdown.

Louisiana Tech now awaits an announcement of which bowl game the Bulldogs will be invited to with that decision to be made by Dec. 6. Conference USA has seven guaranteed bowl commitments this season including the NOVA Home Loans Arizona,



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Heart of Dallas. The league also has a secondary agreement with the Independence Bowl.

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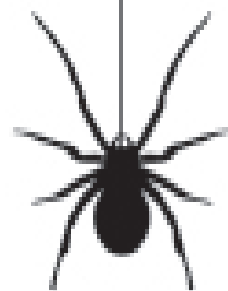
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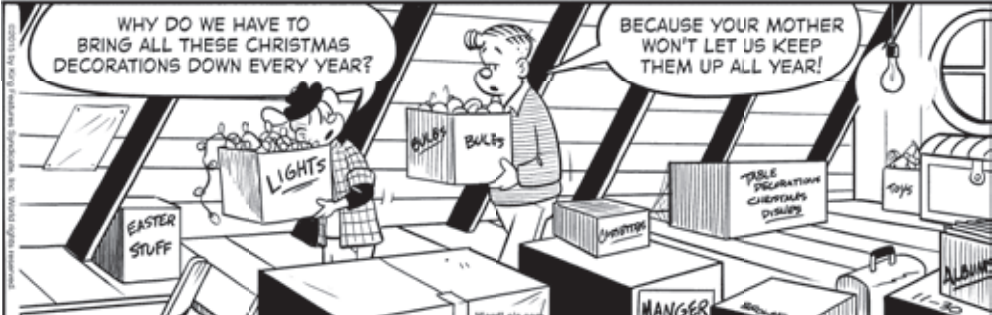
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HAM GIVEAWAY RULES:

- 1.) Clip ham coupons on this page. Coupons must be deposited at the business whose name appears on the coupon.
- 2.) Coupons may be deposited by anyone over 16 years of age. No coupons will be accepted by mail.
- 3.) Enter as often as you like, one entry per person per store visit.
- 4.) No purchase necessary. You do not have to be present to win.
- 5.) If you are a winner, pick up the certificate at the store that has drawn your name. Certificates must be redeemed at the grocery store indicated on the certificate no later than December 23rd, 2015
- 6.) Employees of the Minden Press-Herald and their families are not eligible.