

MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

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December 10, 2015 | 50 Cents

THURSDAY

INSIDE
today

YOUR MONEY

Guin announces tax savings

Webster Parish Tax Assessor Morris Guin says he has exceeded his goal of saving property taxpayers by more than \$1 million.

"We are pleased to announce that our goal to reduce Webster Parish property taxes by \$500,000 this year has not only been achieved but is expected to be exceeded," he said. "At this time, I estimate that

property taxes will be reduced by about \$550,000 for this tax year."

When he took office in 2013, one of his goals was to reduce property taxes through a reduction in costs within the assessor's office. The first year, taxpayers were saved \$500,000. He met that goal again in 2014. He also did away with charges to municipalities and the Web-

ster Parish Sheriff's Office, the tax collector for the parish.

"Since I've been in office, we've tried to think outside the box," he said during an April press conference. "Our goal was to

save tax dollars by maximizing the efficiency of the assessor's office and passing on those savings to the taxpayers. I truly believe the hard-working taxpayers of Webster Parish deserve to keep as much of their hard-earned money as possible."

The second reduction of \$500,000 makes \$1 million the assessor's office has saved the taxpayers of Web-

ster Parish, and this will happen this year, he said.

"We will continue to manage the assessor's office funds in the best manner possible," he said. "We will keep improving and doing the best job possible for Webster Parish and provide our Webster Parish citizens and neighbors with good and friendly service."

CONSUMER ALERT

IRS phone scam sweeping area



MICHELLE BATES
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Minden Police Chief Steve Cropper is warning citizens about a phone scam with callers claiming to be the Internal Revenue Service.

He says someone is calling people saying they need to pay a certain amount, usually up to \$500, or go to jail.

"They're hitting older people," he said. "Some of the people they've called are older, and we've gotten several complaints about it in the last few days."

He says if you owe the IRS money, the federal agency is not going to call on the phone. They will send a bill in the mail.

"Please do not give any personal information such as checking account numbers, credit card numbers, because it is a scam," he said. "If the IRS wants you, they are going to come get you."

According to officials with the IRS, they will not call you to demand immediate payment. They will not call you if you owe taxes without first sending a bill in the mail. They also will not:

- Demand that you owe taxes and not allow you to question or appeal the amount you owe,
- Require that you pay your taxes in a certain way —

See **SCAM**, Page 3**CROPPER**

MINDEN CRIME

Police arrest accused car thief

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Minden police have made a second arrest for the theft of two cars taken in June.

Minden Police Chief Steve Cropper says Jerol Leo Ewell, 17, of the 400 block of Walnut Street in Oil City, was arrested on warrants for two counts of theft of a motor vehicle. Bond was set at \$10,000.

"In June, we were dispatched to a residence in the 200 block of College Street in reference to a stolen vehicle," he said. "Officer Brandon Curry made contact with the victim; she indicated she left the keys in the ignition in the vehicle with the doors unlocked. When she exited her residence the following day she noticed that her vehicle was not parked under the carport."

He says another vehicle theft occurred within the same timeframe, and Minden police were notified four days later by the Shreveport Police Department that they had four subjects in custody in connection with both stolen vehicles as well as other crimes.

Two were juveniles, ages 15 and 16, and the other two were Miketerrio Cooper, 19, and Ewell.

See **ARREST**, Page 2**EWELL**

AT THE CAPITOL

Lawmakers vote to spend \$28M from 'rainy day' fund

BATON ROUGE — Seeking to help rebalance this year's budget and avoid cuts to higher education, Louisiana lawmakers have agreed to use \$28.2 million from the state's "rainy day" fund.

Thirty-eight of 39 senators voted to tap into the Budget Stabilization Fund,

along with 87 of the 105 House members, according to figures released Wednesday by Senate spokeswoman Brenda Hodge and House Clerk Alfred "Butch" Speer.

That vote count more than met the two-thirds support needed from each chamber.

It was the last piece of

Gov. Bobby Jindal's plan to close a \$487 million deficit in this year's \$25 billion budget for the fiscal year that ends June 30. Without the money from the rainy day fund, the Jindal administration said public colleges could have faced reductions.

"Under the circumstances, I believe the House

has chosen the best possible way to proceed to cover the budget shortfall. More cuts at this time would be devastating, especially to higher education and health care," House Speaker Chuck Kleckley, R-Lake Charles, said in a statement.

Lawmakers already had agreed to the rest of the gov-

ernor's recommendations, a rebalancing plan that leaves deep financial problems for Gov.-elect John Bel Edwards to address when he takes office Jan. 11.

After the \$28.2 million is spent, more than \$486.6 million will remain in the rainy

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Peeping tom
pleads not
guilty

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Outgoing board
members
recognized

NEWS PG. 2

Mixed signals
and making
deals

OPINION PG. 4**WEATHER**

TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK



74
HIGH

60
LOW

Partly cloudy.
Winds SSW at
10 to 15 mph.

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SECONDFRONT

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COURT NEWS

Peeping tom pleads not guilty

MICHELLE BATES
michelle@press-herald.com

A convicted peeping tom entered a plea of not guilty to charges of peeping tom (12th offense) and resisting an officer.

Glenn Edward Holiday, 51, of the 1300 block of Shepard Street, went before 26th Judicial District Judge Jeff Thompson, who set a trial

date of April 8, 2016, according to court documents.

Minden police responded to a call in reference to a prowler around 6 a.m., Wednesday, Nov. 4. The homeowner indicated someone had been outside his window and when officers went outside to that window, a hat was found on the windowsill, Police Chief Steve Cropper said.

Cropper says Holiday has

been arrested roughly 20 times on charges of peeping tom and convicted of 11 counts.

He was arrested Nov. 4 for resisting an officer as well because he ran from police.

He was apprehended, and



HOLIDAY

upon questioning, Holiday reportedly told police he'd left his hat at the Hardy Street residence.

After the third conviction, Cropper says the charge becomes a felony. If convicted of his 12th offense, Holiday could face a fine of no more than \$1,000, imprisoned with or without hard labor for not more than one year, or both.

MEDICAL NEWS



Minden Medical Center CNO, Donna Carter and CEO, George E. French III, presents outgoing board of governors members, G. Kent Gibson and Martha Tucker, with a plaque to commemorate their guidance and leadership to the medical center and community. Gibson served as a member from Jan. 1, 2010 until Dec. 31, 2014 and most recently as Chairman from Jan. 1, 2015 until Dec. 31, 2015. Martha Tucker served as a member from Jan. 1, 2013 until Dec. 31, 2015.

Courtesy Photo

AROUND THE STATE

Louisiana College off probation with accrediting agency

PINEVILLE — Louisiana College officials say the Rapides Parish school is no longer on probation with its accrediting agency, and they have addressed concerns about external influence.

The Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges has officially removed the private Pineville Baptist school from probation, Louisiana College President Rick Brewer told local media outlets Tuesday.

"This means our accredi-

tation is no longer in question," Brewer said. "It means we can continue to advance the college and its vision and mission. ... It means we have met the standards (SACS requires)."

SACS placed the school on probation in June 2014 and extended it this June, when the college said it was in compliance with five of the six standards that led to it being placed on probation in the first place. At the time, the only unresolved standard

was, "external influence."

Much of the debate over external influence revolved around Louisiana Baptist Convention Executive Director David Hankins also being a member of the school's Board of Trustees, an issue raised by former trustees before they resigned.

School officials have since added safeguards by offering trustees a route to report any relevant issues over external influence, Brewer said. Hankins remains a member of

the school's Board of Trustees.

Brewer said the school now must grow its program offerings if it is to grow its student body.

"The probationary sanction has been weighing on the college, but today, God showed us great favor," Board of Trustees Chairman Randy Harper said in a statement. "Now we can focus on even more things for the college's future. Our best days are still ahead of us."

FUND

Continued from page 1

day fund, according to data from the treasurer's office.

Besides using the rainy day fund, Jindal's deficit plan included a mix of cuts, patchwork financing and other

maneuvers to temporarily close the gap. The nonpartisan Legislative Fiscal Office said \$23 million in actual cuts were made to state government operations.

The rest of the list shuffled money around — like \$48 million earmarked for roadwork instead steered to plug general government holes — or pushed problems

into the second half of the current budget year or the next budget year.

For example, \$126 million in payments to some health care providers who take care of Medicaid patients will be delayed for two weeks, moving those debts into next year.

Also, a hefty internal Medicaid shortfall hasn't

been addressed because Jindal took that money to instead fill the larger deficit. Without a fix, the health department estimates it will run out of money to pay doctors, hospitals and other Medicaid providers in May. To close the gap costs \$191 million in state financing.

US SENATE RACE

Boustany, Maness declare candidacies for Senate race

BATON ROUGE — Two Republicans, U.S. Rep. Charles Boustany and retired Air Force Col. Rob Maness, have formalized their plans to run for U.S. Senate in Louisiana, filing federal paperwork for their campaigns.

Boustany, a doctor who has represented southwest Louisiana in Congress since 2005, and Maness, who ran unsuccessfully for the U.S. Senate last year, have entered their candidacy statements with the Federal Election Commission.

The 2016 election will determine who takes the Senate position being vacated by Republican David Vitter.

Boustany has been an influential member of Louisiana's congressional delegation, allied with the leadership rather than the tea party contingent of the GOP. Most recently, he was named chairman of the Ways and Means Committee's tax policy subcommittee.

Maness, a political newcomer when he ran in 2014, came in third for the Senate seat won by Republican Bill Cassidy, who defeated Democratic incumbent Mary Landrieu. While his grassroots campaign attracted solid support, Maness couldn't overcome a fundraising deficit and the GOP's backing of Cassidy.

Maness is expected to continue his tea party-based approach of criticizing the Washington establishment. Most recently he's been running a political action committee called GatorPAC, which supports conservative candidates.

"It is clear to me that Louisiana needs a constitutional conservative and

fighter in the United States Senate," Maness said in a statement Wednesday saying he was creating an "exploratory committee" for the race.

"My broad national security and leadership experience is a skill set sorely needed by our state to protect our citizens, and my commitment to principle is what's needed to fight the Washington Cartel," he said.

The competition for an open Senate seat is expected to attract several contenders.

Republican U.S. Rep. John Fleming, who represents northwest Louisiana, announced his candidacy earlier this week, with a video posted to his campaign website. Boustany has said he will do a formal announcement soon in his hometown of Lafayette.

Several other GOP politicians are eyeing the job, including Treasurer John Kennedy and Public Service Commissioner Scott Angelle, who ran third in the governor's race this year.

Maness has little money left in his campaign account after the 2014 race, only \$27, according to his latest FEC report. Fleming's recent fundraising report showed more than \$2.3 million cash on hand for a campaign, while Boustany reported nearly \$1.5 million.

Vitter decided against seeking a third term after losing the Louisiana governor's race.

Democratic candidates have been slower to emerge for the race. New Orleans Mayor Mitch Landrieu has said he won't run for the Senate seat.

ARREST

Continued from page 1

Shreveport police arrested Ewell for possession of stolen things.

"Apparently the Shreveport detectives interviewed the four and they admitted to stealing the vehicles," he said. "Arrest warrants were obtained for Mr. Ewell for being involved in the theft of these two vehicles back in June."

In November, arrangements were made to

transfer Cooper and Ewell from the Caddo Correctional Center; however, Ewell bonded out in August. Cooper was transported to Bayou Dorcheat Correctional Center and booked on two warrants for two counts of theft of a motor vehicle, that time, Ewell was entered into the National Crime Information Center as a fugitive.

Ewell was recently arrested by probation and parole and transported to CCC, where he was extradited to Minden and booked into BDCC.



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AROUND THE STATE

Report: La. spends fraction on anti-smoking initiatives

BATON ROUGE — A new report finds Louisiana is doing a poor job of funding tobacco cessation and prevention programs.

According to a national report issued Tuesday by a coalition of public health organizations, found that tobacco companies spend \$32 promoting use of their product for every \$1 Louisiana spends to prevent kids from smoking and to help

smokers quit.

In addition, Louisiana is spending \$7 million this year on anti-smoking prevention programs — 11.7 percent of the \$59.6 million recommended by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

The Advocate reports (http://bit.ly/1IUqo2H) Louisiana ranks 28th in the country on its efforts to combat tobacco use.

The report was released by the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, American Heart Association, American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network, American Lung Association, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, Americans for Non-smokers' Rights and Truth Initiative.

"The tobacco companies are as relentless as ever in marketing their

lethal products, so it is critical that Louisiana step up its efforts to protect our kids from tobacco addiction and help smokers quit," Matthew L. Myers, president of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, said in a news release.

The coalition said Louisiana took a small step this year toward reducing tobacco use by increasing the state's cigarette tax by 50 cents

to 86 cents per pack, but the tax is still well below the state average of \$1.61 per pack. Health advocates are pushing for a larger cigarette tax increase in 2016 to have a greater impact on reducing smoking, especially among kids.

OBITUARIES

James Edwin Clark Jr.

James Edwin Clark Jr. "Jim" (born March 23, 1956) ended his fight with cancer and left his life on earth Dec. 5 at 6 a.m. Jim was a fun loving Christian man of many talents who loved his family more than life itself. He was a quiet humble man who touched many lives in his journey. Jim was a world champion competitive shooter, pilot, hunter and lover of the outdoors. He was owner of CLARK Custom Guns in Princeton, LA (a leader in the industry of custom gunsmithing) and co-star of the reality TV show Shootout Lane. Jim held numerous national and world championship shooting titles and was considered to be one of the best gunsmiths who ever lived. In the realm of shooting he was most known for his speed, endurance, flexibility and accuracy. (Often surpassing those more than half his age.) Jim was active in forming the Keithville volunteer fire department, served on various law enforcement departments, and worked with our nations special forces. But more important than all his professional accomplishments, to all who knew him Jim was a kind, big-hearted man, always ready to lend a helping hand and a word of teasing to those he loved.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, James Edwin Clark Sr., and Bernice Bison Clark.

He is survived by his loving wife of 30 years, Dr. Lori Bias-Clark, and two sons, James Edwin Clark III (JEC), and Logan Clark. Also, sisters Kim Clark Hayes & husband Larry, and Kay Clark-Miculek & husband Jerry; father and mother-in-law Eugene & Melba Bias, numerous nieces & nephews and great nieces & nephews

A celebration of Jim's life will be held on Friday, Dec. 11, from 5 p.m. until 7 at the University Church of Christ Family Life Center at 2045 East 70th St. in Shreveport. A memorial service to celebrate his life will be held Saturday, Dec. 12 at 1 p.m. in the University Church of Christ auditorium. Curtis Shipley, a close friend and former shooting teammate of Jim's, will officiate the service. Assisting will be Tom Gresham of Guntalk Radio. Pallbearers will be: James Clark III "JEC", Logan Clark, Alan Susla, Bruce Piatt, Tommy Bison, Terry Cross, John Norwood, David May and Randy Luth. Honorary Pallbearers/Shop Employees: Clay Patterson, Matt Mathews, Paul LaPort, Will Perkins, Toby Johnson, and Don Watson.

Following the service, Jim's body will be taken to The Shootout Range, 336 Shootout Lane, Princeton, for his final send off. Interment will follow at Gardens of Memory Ceme-



CLARK

tery at 1527 Lewisville Road in Minden..

Jim was a practical man, and the family asks that in lieu of flowers donations be made to an account set up at Citizens National Bank (Account Number 2727498) to help with medical and final expenses. Extra funds will be put toward a shooting scholarship/match event in his name. A link for online donation can be found on the facebook page "Jim Clark Jr. Memory Shots" or sent via email upon request. For more information call: (318)949-0072 M-F

Charles James (Chuck) Parker III

Charles James (Chuck) Parker III died on Dec. 8, 2015, at his home in Kankakee, Illinois. Born March 1, 1940, to Charles J. Parker Jr. and Arlean Marie Burrage Parker. Chuck grew up on Gladney Street in Minden, and attended Minden High School and St. Paul's Catholic Church.

The family would like to thank the many thoughtful friends for their cards and prayers. Chuck really enjoyed keeping in touch with those he had grown up with, especially from the class of 1958!

There will be a memorial mass at St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in L'Erable, Illinois, at 11a.m. on Tuesday, Dec. 15.



PARKER

Marion Tucker Jones

Marion departed from life Dec. 8, 2015. She was born in



Wills
Successions

Rick Warren
Attorney at Law

219 Main Street • Minden, LA • 377-8150

Donaldsonville, Louisiana on October 17, 1927 to Lucius Tucker and Gladys Billiu Tucker and was a resident of Minden since 1968. She was preceded in death by her parents, her brother William Tucker and by her beloved husband, Emmett. She is survived by her sister, Ms Nell Boersma of Baton Rouge, her son Emmett Jones, III, cherished daughter-in-law, Linda, both of Minden, grandsons Chris Jones and Stephen Sorrels, granddaughter Angela Verrett and two great grandchildren.

Marion was a graduate of Northwestern in Natchitoches and worked for 13 years as a social worker with the Louisiana Department of Public Welfare. She obtained a teaching certificate from the University of Houston and taught for several years in Texas. Upon returning to Louisiana, she taught at Northwest Louisiana Vocational-Technical School in Minden for 18 years until her retirement.

The family wishes to express their profound appreciation for the care, love and Christian witness of Dr. Carlos Irizarry and his wife, Dr. Kathryn Irizarry. In accordance with Marion's wishes, there will be a private service for the family. Memorials may be made to: Seventh Day Adventist Church 108 Harvey's Way, Minden, Louisiana 71055.

Twilight and evening bell,
And after that the dark!
And may there be no sadness of farewell,
When I embark;
For tho' from out our bourne of Time and Place
The flood may bear me far,
I hope to see my Pilot face to face
When I have crost the bar.

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SCAM

Continued from page 1

for instance requiring you pay with a prepaid debit card.

■ Ask for your credit or debit card numbers over the phone, or

■ Threaten to bring in police or other agencies to arrest you for not paying.

If you do not owe taxes or have no reason to believe that you do, the IRS recommends that you do not give out any information. Hang up immediately. Contact the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration to report the call. Also report it to the Federal Trade Commission.



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For News Updates

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BIRTHDAYS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2015

Jean K. Moore
Walter Clyde Orange
Chazarius Batton "24"
Gary James
Raven Symone
Bobby Flay

Happy Belated Birthday, Ad Williams, Sr. "90"



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Tuesday, December 15

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at the Minden Civic Center



(photo ID required)



Make sure you eat a good meal and increase fluids before you donate. Also, be sure you know the names of all medications you take. Anyone age 16 or older, in good health who meets height, weight and donation eligibility requirements may give blood. 16 year-olds must present signed permission from a parent or guardian at each blood donation.

OPINION

www.press-herald.com

EDITORIAL
ROUND UP

The Advocate on Louisiana Gov. Bobby Jindal's budget

After years of Gov. Bobby Jindal's budget policies, legislators studied with well-informed skepticism his plan to make cuts and juggle funds to arrive at a technically balanced budget.

Amid all the dodges and weaves proposed by Jindal's commissioner of administration, Stafford Palmieri, one stood out to Sen. Dan Claitor, R-Baton Rouge. It was the \$126 million the Jindal administration described as an "anti-fraud" initiative in the state health department that postpones payments to health care providers by two weeks.

Palmieri said that gives the department time to closely check for fraud — but the net effect, Claitor and other lawmakers noted, is that the maneuver pushes payments for services into the next budget year.

"We're not going to find \$126 million in fraud. We're just slow-paying the providers," Claitor said.

"This is cash flow management," Palmieri replied.

It was a last expression of the cynical wonderland of Jindal accounting.

"While this might produce some savings from reducing fraud, the real 'savings' come from pushing the last two weeks of state payments owed to Medicaid health care provider plans into next fiscal year," the Public Affairs Research Council commented. "This means the private companies behind Bayou Health will get a two-week delay in compensation and that next year's budget will be that much deeper in the hole out the gate. In proposing its plan, the administration should have been more straightforward about the temporary nature of the cost savings instead of labeling the move primarily as an 'anti-fraud' initiative."

The whole package was adopted by the budget committee, even as everybody understands that it is inadequate.

Among other things, the Jindal expedients include stripping \$6.5 million from the coastal restoration office and \$46 million from transportation, both areas where the state needs to spend more money rather than less. But the alternative, clearly planned to push legislators to vote for it, was to make further cuts to state colleges and universities.

The lawmakers were jammed, and they knew it.

To their credit, both candidates for governor criticized the Jindal plan. Republican David Vitter and Democrat John Bel Edwards rightly saw it as budgetary fraud.

We hope that Gov.-elect Edwards can in the coming year provide the leadership to right the leaky financial rowboat that has been left to his administration.

But he will need support from legislators, whether they voted to approve or reject the Jindal "deficit elimination" plan.

We agree with state Rep. John Schroder, R-Covington, who voted against the administration proposal.

"We're just going to smoke-and-mirrors our way through this, and then we're going to have to deal with this in the very near future," Schroder said. "This clearly isn't fixing anything."

But Schroder and his colleagues are going to have to make tough votes next year in the new Edwards administration. We hope they'll have much more to work with in the way of financial responsibility at the top.

Share your thoughts.

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

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PERSPECTIVE

Mixed signals and making deals

Gov.-elect John Bel Edwards is in a pickle, politically speaking, which is a heck of a note since he won't take office for another month.

How did he get there, you might ask? It's simple. Or simple arithmetic since the pickle position in question concerns counting votes.

Before Edwards had the votes lined up to anoint the next Speaker of the House of Representatives, he declared Rep. Walt Leger of New Orleans should get the job. A Leger speakership seems a bit odd since Leger is a fairly liberal Democrat while almost 60 percent of the legislative districts in the House will be represented by Republicans when the new Legislature takes office the same day Edwards takes the oath to succeed Gov. Bobby Jindal.

There are a host of issues, or problems, with Edwards drawing a line in the sand, so to speak, over his man getting the Speaker gig, beginning with perception and ending with some good old-fashioned horse trading, which is sure to anger the base of Edwards' party, the Democrat Party.

Reportedly there are roughly 50 Republicans in the House who are firm in their support for Rep. Cameron Henry's bid to become Speaker. Henry, of course, is a Republican, and a conservative Republican at that.

That means there are about a dozen Republicans in the House who are considered

approachable as far as their votes in a hypothetical Speaker's election are concerned. In other words, there are about a dozen Republicans — or more — who would be willing to trade their votes for something of value. That's a rather rough way to put, but let's face it. If a Republican member of the House would forsake his party in order to lock up a committee chairmanship or keep his vaunted Pentagon Barracks apartment under a Democrat Speaker, ladies and gentlemen you would be staring at a Republican who's willing to sell his vote. Which is entirely understandable since politics is at the heart of this discussion.

In an ideal situation, Edwards would put the Speaker issue to bed. Soon. Very soon. Because the last thing Edwards needs is for a Speaker's election to be held on his first day in office.

How would it appear in the eyes of the public if a new governor failed to elect his choice for Speaker? What would the governor's political detractors think?

Think about it.

For Republicans who are insistent that the next Speaker be one of them, they had better hold firm and work their caucus. If push comes to shove, they should demand the House take a roll call vote to elect a Speaker. That way, any Republicans who stray from the pasture must make their positions known publicly. And suffer the consequences in the next election.

In the meantime, Edwards should recognize he's already sent mixed signals to the electorate, including many independents and moderate Republicans who played a sig-

nificant role in helping him land some 56 percent of the vote in the November general election. Remember, Edwards presented himself to the voters as a pro-life Democrat who believes in the Second Amendment.

If that's true, why did the governor-elect settle on a Democrat for Speaker who's got a track record of supporting abortion and anti-gun legislation?

It's also important that Edwards recognize every favor he extends and every position or chairmanship he promises in order to secure votes for Leger, represents political capital he's wasting before he even takes office. Before he even entertains a budget bill in which votes, one way or another, become very, very valuable. Or expensive.

Then there's the issue with Edwards' core base of support in the Democrat Party. Wonder how they feel about the governor-elect possibly cutting deals with Republicans? Not good, I can assure you.

Yet, it is what it is. And Edwards has managed to paint himself into a corner, and the only way out is certain to produce consequences that will haunt him for the next four years.

A rough start, to be sure. *Sam Hanna Jr. is publisher of The Ouachita Citizen, and he serves in an editorial/management capacity with The Concordia Sentinel and The Franklin Sun, three newspapers owned and operated by the Hanna family. He can be reached by call 318-805-8158 or emailing him at samhannajr@samhannajr.com.*

PERSPECTIVE

The sleaze, guilt and punishment of Don Blankenship

Don Blankenship didn't get what he deserves in his federal trial, but he definitely deserves what he got.

"Guilty," declared all 12 West Virginia jurors who pondered the charge that this arrogant and avaricious CEO of Massey Energy Company willfully conspired to violate America's mine safety laws. As a result of that conspiracy, 29 miners were essentially murdered by the corporation on April 5, 2010, in a horrific explosion deep inside Massey's Upper Big Branch coal mine.

Blankenship, a multimillionaire right-wing ideologue, union-buster, and political heavyweight, ran the Upper Big Branch mine like a lawless third-world operator. It was one of the most dangerous workplaces in the country, because this kingpin of King Coal relentlessly put profit over people, recklessly endangering miners. But coal is, indeed, king in West Virginia, so the laws are written to coddle the royals of the industry. Thus, Blankenship's guilt is to be punished by a maximum of one year in prison — and his diamond-studded legal team intends to have the jury's unanimous verdict of guilt tossed down the dark shaft of judicial favoritism for the rich.

What the mining baron deserved was to be put in stocks on the state's capitol grounds, where he would be subjected to a steady stream of derision from the families of mineworkers who were degraded, made ill and even killed to haul up coal so Don could live in luxury. He escaped that justice, but he'll never shake off the guilty judgment of the jurors — or of the American people who followed the long, widely covered trial that fully documented the rank immorality of this man and his ill-gotten fortune.

He undoubtedly thinks he got away with murder, but in the Court of Public Opinion, his legacy is that he has turned the name Blankenship into a four-letter word.

In fact, unlike the CEOs of most giant corporations, Blankenship's outward appearance actually reveals what's inside: an arrogant, conniving, cutthroat industrial thug.

Not for nothing was this thickset, mean-eyed West Virginian known as "the dark lord of coal country." He generated profits by working miners to exhaustion (and even to death), viciously busting unions, browbeating subordinates, running disgracefully unsafe mines, callously decapitating mountains as a cheap way to get at coal, willfully poisoning the region's waterways and people with toxic mining waste and outright purchasing politicians to run errands for him.

To him, the value of everything and everyone was measured by one thing: the dollar.

By that measure, Blankenship has always put the dearest value on himself, taking \$18 million in personal pay in 2010 alone — the same year his disregard for safety ripped apart the 29 miners. He gets chauffeured around in a Bentley and a helicopter; he vacations on the French Riviera; and his "primary mansion" is a vast estate secluded behind tall iron gates. But he also enjoys his nearby "entertainment home," a four-story castle pretentiously perched on a mountain peak so all the serfs can see that he is lord of the realm. Few townspeople are impressed. As Carmelita Brown said: "I can see his house from my window. To me it's like he made a statement, you know? He's God. God on the mountain. But he's as close to God as he's going to get, up on that mountain."

But Lord Don has taken a great fall, as he was ousted as CEO in 2010, and then finally, last week, was convicted for the conspiracy that led to the needless deaths of those 29 miners. He's also widely despised because, as one local put it, "he betrayed his own people." Of course, he's so narcissistic and materialistic that he says, "I don't care what people think. At the end of the day, Don Blankenship is going to die with more money than he needs."

Or deserves. But if anyone ever deserved to die with nothing but a sack of cold cash to comfort him, this greedy industrialist is that person.



JIM HIGHTOWER

Around Town

Dec. 10
The Hwy 80 Alliance will have a holiday meet & greet at 4 p.m. until 6 at City Art Works. Committee members will discuss upcoming events planned for January 2016 and February 2016. Special guest will be Becky White, Downtown Development Director. There will be refreshments and music. For more information, call Stephanie Winzer at 453-0559.

Dec. 12

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

Dec. 13

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

Lakeview United Methodist Church's family night Christmas program "Journey to the Manger" will be at 6 p.m. A reception will follow. The church is located at 301 Lakeshore Dr. Minden.

An Annual Prayer Band program will be hosted at Union Grove Baptist Church at 3 p.m. Serving as guest pastor and church will be Pastor Greg Deloach and Blue Run Baptist Church.

The 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.

Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church will host a fellowship program with special guest speaker Pastor James Smith of Galilee Missionary Baptist Church at 2:30 p.m.



Annual Sarepta Christmas Festival

JANET REEVES
Special to the Press-Herald

"Rockin' Around The Christmas Tree" was a festive affair. The weather was perfect and everyone had a great time. There were food and arts and craft vendors, three bouncy houses, one dry slide, regular park activities, instructors to help children create special "take home" projects, live entertainment inside the big tent and inside the Sarepta Community Center, an elaborate Silent Auction, a regional Chili Cook-Off and a huge car show.

There was standing room only

when Santa appeared, enthusiastically waving, from a fire truck. The lines were long as each child anxiously awaited for their own individual time with Jolly Old St. Nic, who gave each child a present. Steve "Babs" Slack held the attention of the young and "not so young" as she authentically read the Cajun version of "Twas the Night before Christmas."

Earlier in the week, the hidden treasure was found by the team of Jodi Page and Debbie Woods. They were wearing their Sarepta Christmas Festival T-shirts, so that upped their winnings by \$50. The total prize was \$350.

The sponsors of this event were: Barksdale Federal Credit Union, Carter Federal Credit Union, Citizens Bank and Trust Company, Coca Cola Bottling Company of Minden, Rodney and Tracy Ketchum and Webster Parish Convention and Visitors Commission. Volunteer groups were the Louisiana Youth and Teen Challenge Program and the North Webster Junior High School 4-H Club.

The Festival Committee extends their heart felt thanks and appreciation to all that participated in anyway toward the success of this event.



Courtesy Photos

Santa Letters

Send us your letters to Santa Claus!

All letters will be published in our special Christmas Greetings section and forwarded to the North Pole!



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SPORTS

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SPORTS briefs

HS BASKETBALL

Doyline Tourney:
Day one results

Doyline - The Doyline Tournament tipped-off Wednesday night with three games.

Girls

Bossier 71, Homer 37
The Bossier Lady Bearkats cruised by the out-matched Lady Pelicans, advancing to round two where they will face the winner of North DeSoto and Calvary.

Lakeside 56, Doyline 15
The Lady Warriors handled the Lady Panthers for the third time this season and will face the winner of Minden and North Webster.

Boys

Byrd 69, Haynesville 52
The Byrd boys and Haynesville had the most competitive game of the night. Byrd will await the winner of North Webster and Red River.

MLB

Winter meetings heating up

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — The National League champion New York Mets filled a key spot by obtaining second baseman Neil Walker from Pittsburgh for pitcher Jon Niese, and the Detroit Tigers bolstered their bullpen by acquiring reliever Justin Wilson from the New York Yankees in Wednesday trades at the winter meetings.

The Arizona Diamondbacks, meanwhile, kept upgrading their rotation. A day after finalizing a \$206.5 million deal for major league ERA leader Zack Greinke, they announced their five-player swap with Atlanta that brought All-Star righty Shelby Miller and sent No. 1 draft pick Dansby Swanson to the Braves.

"Our ownership stepped up in allowing us to get Zack Greinke. It puts us in a position to get better as a team, but we weren't complete. We needed an additional piece to our rotation," Arizona general manager Dave Stewart said.

Miller should slot into the No. 2 spot in the rotation ahead of Patrick Corbin, Rubby De La Rosa and Robbie Ray.

"You're getting almost 800 innings out of your starting rotation, which should help our bullpen out," Stewart said. "The biggest part of our problems in our 'pen last year is we had to go there very often and ask them for a lot of innings."

Other teams are waiting for the market to develop, especially for hitters.

Among the 17 elite free agents who didn't accept qualifying offers, five had reached agreements and all were pitchers: Greinke, Jordan Zimmermann, Jeff Samardzija, John Lackey and Marco Estrada. In addition, Hisashi Iwakuma has an agreement with the Los Angeles Dodgers that remains to be finalized.

Among the remaining 11 are pitchers Wei-Yin Chen, Yovani Gallardo and Ian Kennedy, joined by first baseman Chris Davis; second basemen Daniel Murphy and Howie Kendrick; short-stop Ian Desmond; and outfielders Jason Heyward, Justin Upton, Alex Gordon and Dexter Fowler.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

FRIENDLY COMPETITION

BECKHAM, LANDRY SHARE SPECIAL SKILLS, FRIENDSHIP

MIAMI — Standing on opposite sidelines for a change Monday night, close friends Odell Beckham Jr. and Jarvis Landry will root for — and try to top — each other.

The likely winner? Fans of acrobatic receivers.

Friendly competition between the former LSU teammates will involve keeping score for the first time, with Beckham and the New York Giants playing Landry and the Miami Dolphins.

"This game has been marked on the schedule for a long time," Beckham said Wednesday. "It finally being here is so surreal."

Both teams are 5-7, so the best reason to watch might be the rival receivers. Even their pregame warmup, when Beckham and Landry practice one-handed catches, should be entertaining.

"It's a bond that goes way beyond the game," Landry said. "His success means everything to me, as mine is to him. I want him to have the game of his life, but I want to win the game."

Beckham will be rooting for Landry, not that anyone will be able to see it.

"I can't say that out loud," Beckham said, "but I always want to see him do well."

They've been friends since they were juniors at different Louisiana high schools, and played together for three seasons at LSU, where they became the most prolific receiving tandem in school history.

Beckham was drafted 12th overall by the Giants in 2014, and Landry was



taken in the second round the same year by Miami. Now they're two of the NFL's best receivers.

"Week in and week out we always put the pressure on each other to make plays," Landry said. "We feed off of each other so much."

The season has been vexing for both because of the way their teams have struggled. Landry's frustration boiled over Sunday as Miami's offense sputtered during an ugly win over Baltimore, and at one point he threw a sideline fit — and his helmet.

"We had like four or five drives where we barely moved the ball," Landry said. "It was just trying to get guys fired up, trying to get guys a little more into

the game, playing with a little more energy. And we got the W, so I think it worked."

He and Beckham talk and text virtually every day and say they're like brothers. They're both 5-11, and with their soft Louisiana accents, they sound alike. When the Giants arrive at their South Florida hotel this weekend, Landry said he'll be there to pick up Beckham and take him to dinner.

They're so close, they have the same number of receptions — 78, to tie for sixth in the league. Beckham ranks fourth with 1,154 yards, and is tied for second with 10 touchdown catches.

Landry has the edge in versatility. He's one of two



Courtesy Photos

players with at least 100 yards on rushing (107), receiving (821), kickoff returns (255) and punt returns (252). He has even completed a one-handed pass.

Giants coach Tom Coughlin sees similarities in the duo.

"There's a definite flair," he said.

Both have a knack at eye-popping catches, particularly one-handers.

"It started back in college," Beckham said. "Jarvis came in as the No. 1 receiver. It was something he had taken to another level, and it was something I was so fascinated by, to think outside the box about things that could happen. We worked on it, and it has come a long way."

An LSU assistant coach

assembled a video collage of the duo's most acrobatic efforts titled "The Freak Catch Tape." But Beckham's best catch isn't on it, Landry said, because it took place in practice.

"The most amazing catch that I've ever seen him make was — I wouldn't say it was behind his head, but — behind his head, basically," said Landry, struggling for words. "It's crazy to even really talk about it."

Beckham said he remembers that reception, and quickly adds that some of Landry's craziest catches have been tough to describe, too. Good thing there will be plenty of cameras at the stadium to document their performance Monday night.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE Shoulder ends Ingram's season



METAIRIE — What might have been former Heisman Trophy winner Mark Ingram's best season as a pro is over with four games remaining on the New Orleans Saints' season.

The Saints have placed Ingram, their most productive running back, on injured reserve Wednesday, ending his season after 12 games.

A person familiar with the situation said a worsening of Ingram's recent shoulder injury is the reason why he won't play again this season. The person spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the Saints have not publicly specified why Ingram was placed on injured reserve.

Ingram had been on the team's injury report with shoulder soreness last week, but played the entirety of Sunday's 41-38



loss to unbeaten Carolina. He also scored his sixth rushing touchdown of the season with a little more than five minutes left in the fourth quarter.

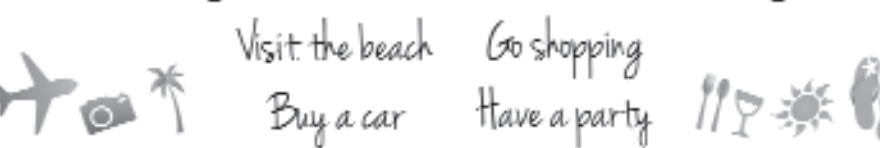
Ingram, selected for the Pro Bowl as an alternate last season, has been the team's leader in yards from scrimmage this season with 1,174, including 769 yards rushing. He also scored six touchdowns rushing.

"Obviously, he has been tremendous and been extremely reliable in all phases of the offense, obviously running the football and protection and catching the ball on

of the backfield," Drew Brees said of Ingram. "Over the last two years especially he has kind of come into his own. I would consider him one of the top backs in the league, all-purpose, can do everything and just a great guy to be around and great locker room guy. I don't know if there is a guy more liked than him."

With Ingram out, New Orleans activated fullback Austin Johnson from the practice squad. The Saints still have three other running backs on the active roster: C.J. Spiller, Tim Hightower and rookie Marcus Murphy.

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ALONG THE WAY

Don't be afraid and miss out on Jesus

When Mary and Joseph finally arrived at the small village of Bethlehem, what they needed most was a place for Mary to get some rest (her delivery time was near). Remember she and Joseph had made their trip over rugged terrain for some 80 miles to register for “that Roman census.”(a 4 days’ journey). What a price to pay for such a demand from the government. Mary could have stayed in Nazareth with their families. She would have been surrounded by two older, loving, caring ‘mothers’ to help her in the child’s delivery. It would have made the trip easier for Joseph, also: get down there, register and

then hurry back to check on Mary. But remember; they were young, in love and she was heavy with child- no way was he going to leave her alone, among the ridicule and scorn she might experience while he was gone. (They knew the OT prophecies that ‘the Messiah must be born in Bethlehem).’ Mary was not a complainer...she was brave to embark on such a trip at such a risk. But God had spoken to both of them and they wanted to be obedient. So, here they are in Bethlehem, just 5 miles outside of Jerusalem. Joseph would register and pay taxes there. hometown of his ancestors, including David.



BILL CRIDER

“But what about a place for my dear wife – heavy-with-child?” Perhaps they knocked on doors getting the same kind of answers – “sorry, no room available”. We would hope the first inn they approached a kind-hearted keeper offered them this stable room out back. Only speculation! It may have been commonplace to take the ‘barn’ as a last resort when no official room was available. But Joseph had to feel terrible subjecting his pregnant wife to a cattle stall to endure the pains of childbirth that night. After all, they knew this was God’s own Son being born – He deserved a better ‘labor room’. But still, this could have been the best of all choices available there...a barn with hay and food for the donkey, privacy for the young couple dealing with such a delicate situation, and

a private time with God and the Holy Spirit bringing about the unique virgin-birth of our Lord. Divine history happened in this lowly cattle stall. While the rush of the world never slowed, this Savior, the Christ- Child came ‘forth’. His coming in seclusion would soon be broadcasted afar. Mary and Joseph were not afraid to make this long journey though she was so close to her delivery date. God had spoken to them about these details and that was sufficient for them to travel in faith that God would take care of their needs. They had wrestled with this for months; it was clear in their minds and hearts now. They were not afraid of what might happen. Brave souls! The Shepherds did not want to miss this joyous event of which the angel told them. In the middle of the

night, on the hillside with their sheep, they were not afraid to follow the angel’s invitation to ‘come and see’. The Magi from the East came and found the babe too. They did not want to miss this wondrous, historical event revealed to them by that mysterious star. They arose and followed the star right to the Babe and his parents in Bethlehem. Anna and Simeon were not afraid as they ‘hailed the long-awaited Messiah’ when the young family went to Jerusalem for Mary’s purification rites at the temple. They were devout and filled with the Spirit and had been promised by God they would see the Christ-child (before their death) if they were faithful and lingered there at the Temple. Their prayer (God’s promise) was answered. The Shepherds, the Magi, Simeon and Anna were not

afraid to follow the leadership of the Lord to ‘come and see Jesus’. They were obedient to Him and went away to share the good news...THE MESSIAH HAS COME....just as God had promised in Old Testament times. So, why should we be afraid to “come and see” Jesus? May we accept this same challenge as they did? ‘Come and see; go and tell!’ Don’t be afraid of Jesus... trust Him...embrace Him and His teachings....let Him change our lives this Christmas. Let’s not miss out on Him! What a special gift God gave to the world! Our greatest gift to God would be to “give our hearts to Jesus, placing our complete faith and trust in the One who came to ‘save us from our sins’. Whatever we do, WE MUST NOT MISS JESUS!

THE BIBLE SPEAKS

Relevant Laodicea message



KATHY IRIZARRY

At the time the letters were written to the seven churches, Laodicea, the seventh, is said to have been the richest city in the province of Asia Minor. It was known for its textile industry, famous for a medical school which developed a special eye balm, and was a primary banking center in the region. From this information, one can understand much of Jesus’ choice of words in His message to Laodicea. “These things saith the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of the creation of God; I know thy works, that thou art neither cold nor hot: I would thou wert cold or hot. So

then because thou art lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will spue thee out of my mouth. Because thou sayest, I am rich, and increased with goods, and have need of nothing; and knowest not that thou art wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked: I counsel thee to buy of me gold tried in the fire, that thou mayest be rich; and white raiment, that thou mayest be clothed, and that the shame of thy nakedness do not appear; and anoint thine eyes with eyesalve, that thou mayest see. As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent. Behold, I stand at the door, and

knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me. To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne. He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches” Revelation 3:14-22. Laodicea had a problem. Thinking themselves to be in “need of nothing”, they were lukewarm and oblivious to their dangerous situation of need – “wretched, miserable, poor, blind and naked.” But praise the Lord, He not only awakens those to their danger but

also provides the remedy to get out of danger. Purchase genuine gold – the kind we lay up in heaven. Obtain the white garment of Christ’s righteousness. Our own will never do. Ask for a divine anointing of the eyes in order to rightly see and judge. It is Jesus, the Amen, the faithful and true witness, who is at our heart’s door awaiting entrance. And when we, as overcomers, invite Jesus to full occupancy of our lives, we can look forward to one day occupying His throne with Him! That is one amazing promise! Kathryn Irizarry is a member of the Seventh-day Adventist Church.

THE UPWARD LOOK

Ongoing growth



MAX HUTTO

“For if you possess these qualities in increasing measure, they will keep you from being ineffective and unproductive in your knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.” 2 Peter 1:8 NIV Having listed the virtuous and godly characteristics of a believer, Peter states that these qualities should be increasingly evident and discernible in the life of the believer. This character transformation and spiritual growth is an ongoing life-long process of learning and becoming. This growing process will lead one to become effective and fruitful in life as opposed to idly passing the days unproductively

with no purpose. The believer should be growing in his knowledge and understanding of the Lord that changes his character and conduct to be more like Jesus. Lord Jesus, help me to continually grow in my knowledge of You and Your Word. I desire that by my character and conduct that it would be evident to others that You are my Savior and Lord. Max Hutto is a Baptist Minister and a resident of Minden. More information can be found at www.upwardlook.org.

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We shall overcome

The shooting and killing of nine people engaged in a Bible study this past June in a Charleston church basement was horrific on many levels. How anyone could do such a thing was beyond comprehension for most of us. But what strained our comprehension even more was the reaction of love and forgiveness by family members of the slain victims. Forgiving such a heinous crime requires a deep and abiding faith, and was so morally and spiritually beautiful as to bring many of us to tears. Out of tragedies such as this, God works miracles, and the miracle here was how a young man hoping to bring strife and division to our country actually brought a show of love and unity. There will always be hate and haters among us, but love is stronger and more pervasive, and ultimately more effective in overcoming hate. We are reminded of Jesus' words on the cross: "Father, forgive them, for they do not know what they are doing." (Luke 23:34 NIV) And remember, it's easy to forgive the little stuff; the real task is to forgive the seemingly unforgivable

– Christopher Simon



"Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good." —Romans 12:21 NIV

Your Guide To Area CHURCHES

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NOTICE TO SELL MOVABLE OR IMMOVABLE PROPERTY AT PRIVATE SALE

The administrator of the above estate has made application to the court for the sale, at private sale, of the mineral interest described as follows:

.000072710 royalty interest in the following wells located in Section 16, Township 21 North, Range 10 West, Webster Parish, Louisiana currently being paid by Plains Marketing under owner number 0763323 and XTO Energy, Inc. under owner number 0314454: B SIDNEY HEIRS (Serial No. 21736) CV SU; XTO SIDNEY HEIRS (Serial Number 235747)

under the terms and conditions set forth in the application for authority to sell mineral interest at private sale.

Notice is now given to all parties to whom it may concern, including the heirs and creditors of decedent, and of this estate, that they be ordered to make any opposition which they may have to such application, at any time, prior to the issuance of the order or judgment authorizing, approving and homologating that application and that such order or judgment may be issued after the expiration of seven days, from the date of the last publication of such notice, all in accordance with

By order of the court,

/s/ _____
JAMES W. MARTIN
Clerk

November 19, 2015
Minden Press-Herald

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF MINDEN, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN IN REGULAR SESSION HELD ON MONDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 2015.

The Minden City Council met in Regular Session at City Hall, Minden, Louisiana, on Monday, November 2, 2015, beginning at 7:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Tommy Davis, Wayne Edwards, Fayrine A. Kennon-Gilbert, Vincen Bradford, Mike Toland and Benny Gray. Absent: None. The prayer was offered by Wayne Edwards and Mike Toland led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Tommy Davis welcomed everyone to the meeting. Upon motion by

Wayne Edwards and duly seconded by Vincen Bradford, the council unanimously adopted the minutes of Council Regular Session held on Monday, October 5, 2015, as presented. Fayrine A. Kennon-Gilbert, National Night Out Chairperson, recognized and thanked the 2015 Block Party Hosts and along with the council, declared the campaign a success. The following action was taken regarding condemned properties: James Hudson 419 Woodard Street P. O. Box 52217 Lot 60 x 117 ft. out of Lot #5, Warsaw Houston, TX 77052 - 2217 Addn. in NW/4 of NE/4 Sec. 27-19-9, 58 ft.

Off East End of Lot #1 of Subdiv. of N/2 of Lot #4, Warsaw Addn. in NW/4 of NE/4 Sec. 27-19-9 (ADJ.), & Lot 30.5 x 117 Ft. Out of Lot #5, Warsaw Addn. in NW/4 of NE/4 Sec. 27-19-9

A written curator report was presented by Attorney Graydon K. Kitchens, Jr. which stated that correspondence was sent to Mr. Hudson by certified and regular mail and the return receipt was received as signed for by W. D. Hudson on October 29, 2015. Fayrine A. Kennon-Gilbert moved to authorize the Mayor to issue an order declaring the property condemned and further order the demolition of any structures located thereon and the cleaning of the lot within 45 days of this date. The motion was duly seconded by Wayne Edwards and carried unanimously.

Anthony and Andreka Garner have presented a request for access to city utilities for property they are in the process of purchasing and requesting to be annexed into the corporate limits of Minden. Andreka Garner intends to build a house on her property. Vincen Bradford moved to grant the request of Anthony Garner and Andreka Garner for access to city utilities for property located at Weston Street at the owner's expense with the following stipulations: (1) all installations will be made according to city specifications, inspection and approval; (2) the site and location of water meters will be contingent upon city approval; (3) water and sewer rates will be subject to outside city limits rates. The motion was duly seconded by Fayrine A. Kennon-Gilbert and carried unanimously. Upon motion by Fayrine A. Kennon-Gilbert and duly seconded by Mike Toland, Ordinance No. 1060, an Ordinance Abandoning a Twenty Foot Alley that runs from

Sibley Road to Railroad Avenue, more fully described in said Ordinance No. 1060, was unanimously adopted, as presented. (Lying between Lots 4-5 of Block A and Lots 4-5 of Block E, Miller's Shop Subdivision) Upon motion by Mike Toland and duly seconded by Benny Gray, Ordinance No. 1061, Accepting of Dedication of Water Main and Easement from Glenbrook School, was unanimously adopted, as presented. Fayrine A. Kennon-Gilbert moved to table action on Ordinance No. 1062, An Ordinance To Amend and Reenact Chapter 78, Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places, Article I, In General, Sec. 78-3, Repair and Maintenance of Sidewalks Generally; Interfering with Streets, Sidewalks, Drainage Facilities, Paragraph (a) and (b) of the Code or Ordinances of the City of Minden, State of Louisiana, until a Council Workshop can be held. The motion was duly seconded by Wayne Edwards and carried unanimously. Wayne Edwards moved to adopt a Resolution for Municipal Water Pollution Prevention, as presented. The motion was duly seconded by Vincen Bradford and carried unanimously. Said resolution is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute an Agreement with the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development (LA DOTD) for improvements at the Minden Airport, was unanimously adopted, as presented upon motion of Benny Gray and duly seconded by Mike Toland. Said resolution is attached to and made a part of these minutes. The Police Report for October of 2015 was unanimously accepted, as presented, by motion of Mike Toland and duly seconded by Benny Gray. Council comments were heard, public comments were heard, and the meeting was adjourned.

/s/ _____
Tommy Davis, Mayor

December 10, 2015
Minden Press-Herald

ORDINANCE NO. 1063

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REENACT CHAPTER 78, STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES, ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL, SECTION 78-3, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF SIDEWALKS GENERALLY; INTERFERING WITH STREETS,

SIDEWALKS, DRAINAGE FACILITIES, OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES, CITY OF MINDEN, STATE OF LOUISIANA.

BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Council of the City of Minden, Louisiana, the governing authority thereof, in its regular session convened on November 2, 2015, that Chapter 78, Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places, Article I, In General, Section 78-3, Repair and Maintenance of Sidewalks Generally; Interfering with Streets, Sidewalks, Drainage Facilities, Paragraphs (a) and (b) of the Code of Ordinances is hereby amended and supplemented to read as follows: All sidewalks along the sides and fronts of private property shall be kept in good repair by the owner of the property. If the owners of the property do not make necessary repairs to sidewalks within ten days from the time notice from the mayor is served by certified mail, the repairs shall be made by the city. The cost for the repair done by the city will be added to the property owner's property assessment. The city may participate in the costs of replacement of a private property sidewalk up to 50% of the standard cost of a four foot sidewalk, subject to prior approval by the city. The Director of Public Works shall approve the replacement of all sidewalks and have the right to inspect and reject material furnished by the property owners, which in his opinion is not of the quality or kind required for the project. **BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED AND ENACTED** by the Council of the City of Minden, Louisiana, that the remaining provisions of Chapter 78, Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places, Article I, In General, remain as originally written or amended. This ordinance shall become effective thirty (30) days after the first publication in the official journal of the City of Minden. Which ordinance was, upon motion by _____, duly seconded by _____, adopted this 2nd day of November, 2015, by the following yeas and nays vote:

YEAS :
NAYS :
ABSTAIN :
ABSENT :

/s/ _____
Tommy Davis, Mayor

December 10, 2015
Minden Press-Herald

ORDINANCE NO. 1063

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AND REENACT CHAPTER 78, STREETS, SIDEWALKS AND OTHER PUBLIC PLACES, ARTICLE I. IN GENERAL, SECTION 78-3, REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF SIDEWALKS GENERALLY; INTERFERING WITH STREETS,

/s/ _____
Tommy Davis, Mayor

December 10, 2015
Minden Press-Herald

ORDINANCE NO. 1064

AN ORDINANCE GOVERNING THE SALE OF ADJUDICATED PROPERTY.

BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Council of the City of Minden,

Louisiana, in Regular Session held on December 7, 2015, that the Council of the City of Minden may: Section 1: Elect to set a dollar amount as a minimum bid for the public sale of adjudicated property, which shall be at least the total amount of statutory impositions, governmental liens, and costs of sale. Section 2: It may elect to require an appraisal of adjudicated property to be sold at public sale. When the political subdivision elects to use an appraised value to establish a bidding floor instead of setting a dollar amount minimum bid as allowed by this section, the political subdivision shall appoint a licensed appraiser to appraise and value the property. The minimum bid at the first public sale shall be at least two-thirds of the appraised value of the property. If the property fails to sell at the first public sale, the minimum bid at the second sale shall be one-third the appraised value of the property. Section 3: Alternatively, the Council may elect to sell the adjudicated property at public sale to the highest bidder without setting a minimum bid or requiring an appraisal. Section 4: The Council may allow an adjoining landowner to purchase a adjudicated property for a period of one year prior to the sale. Such a sale shall be deemed a public sale under the provisions of this subpart. Section 5: When adjudicated property is declared surplus and a public bid is held, at the time of the bid opening, the declared highest bidder meeting the minimum requirements, if any, shall be required to post a \$500.00 deposit within five business days (when City Hall is open for business) of being declared the highest bidder. This is considered to be earnest money and shall be in the form of a certified check or bank money order. If said highest bidder fails to present the \$500.00 deposit within the time allowed, the property will be offered to the second highest bidder with the same deposit requirements. Said qualified highest bidder shall be given 30 business days (when City is open for business) from the date of the bid opening to consummate the sale or said qualified highest bidder will forfeit the \$500.00 deposit. If the purchase price (bid) of the property is less

than \$500.00, the deposit will be the same amount as the purchase price (bid). If the sale is consummated within the 30 business day time frame (when City Hall is open for business), the \$500.00 deposit will be applied toward the purchase price. Section 6: While a tax debtor or an owner participates, directly or indirectly, in post-adjudication sale of donation during or subsequent to expiration of the redemptive period, it shall be treated as a redemption, and the tax debtor or owner shall be required to pay all taxes and costs in accordance with all laws applicable to redemptions. However, if the property is redeemed, all mortgages, liens, privileges, and other encumbrances affecting the property prior to the sale shall remain in force and effect with the same validity and priority as if sale had not occurred. Section 7: While property remains a adjudicated property, the current owner remains liable as owner of the property under applicable law. The City is not liable as owner of the property. (LSA 47:2210)

By motion of Mike Toland and duly seconded by Benny Gray, Ordinance No. 1064 was passed and adopted by the following vote on this 7th day of December, 2015: **AYES:** Five **NAYS:** None **ABSENT:** None **ABSTAIN:** None

/s/ _____
Tommy Davis, Mayor

December 10, 2015
Minden Press-Herald

ORDINANCE NO. 1065

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING DEDICATION OF A WATER MAIN, INCLUDING VALVES AND HYDRANTS, A MINIMUM ONE (1) YEAR WARRANTY ON ALL WORKMANSHIP AND MATERIALS, FROM COLEMAN PORTFOLIO II, LLC.

/s/ _____
Michael Fluhr, City Clerk

December 10, 2015
Minden Press-Herald

ORDINANCE NO. 1065

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING DEDICATION OF A WATER MAIN, INCLUDING VALVES AND HYDRANTS, A MINIMUM ONE (1) YEAR WARRANTY ON ALL WORKMANSHIP AND MATERIALS, FROM COLEMAN PORTFOLIO II, LLC.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Minden met in regular session this 7th day of December, 2015, at its regular meeting place in the City of Minden, Louisiana: **SECTION 1:** that the drawing depicting a new 6" Water Main extension on Aaron's Utility Plan, located on property within the corporate city limits of the City of Minden, Louisiana, described as follows: U.S. Hwy. 79 Right-of-Way, located in the Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SE/4 of NE/4) of Section 23, Township 19 North, Range 09 West, Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana.

SECTION 2: that the City of Minden accept

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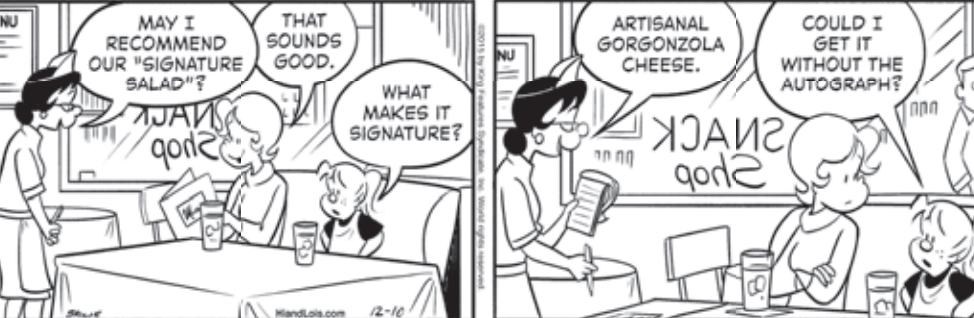
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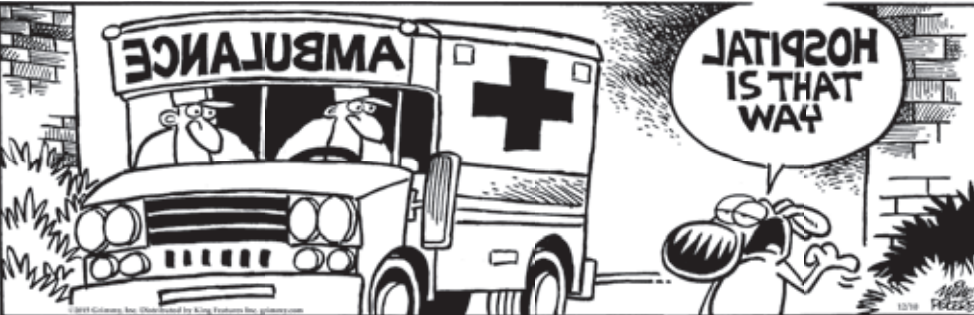
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