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WEDNESDAY

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TOMORROW'S OUTLOOK



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Vol. 47 No. 106

WEBSTER GOVERNMENT

Police jury passes 2016 budget

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The Webster Parish Police Jury's 2016 budget passed by a vote of 9-2 with one absent in Tuesday's last meeting of the year.

Among the reasons for voting against the budget's passage is the royalty fund from the Webster Parish Landfill, outgoing juror Charlie Odom said.

"I just can't see with the

way they budgeted everything, with the way the money about to go away like it's about to, I think they need to bite the bullet instead of just going with the flow," he said. "We're going from roughly \$600,000 on the royalties from E&P (exploration and



ODOM

production) waste, and I think this past month was \$12,000. Money's fixing to drop pretty good after that."

The police jury gets a certain percentage from royalties from the landfill. Although the police jury owns the landfill, it is leased by Republic Waste



THOMAS

Services. The police jury gets five percent on all gross revenue over \$250,000, not including exploration and production waste, and 17.5 percent on exploration and production waste.

In November, the balance of the royalty fund was roughly \$500,000.

Juror Daniel Thomas voted against the budget as well but for different reasons.

The arts and museums line item came under scrutiny in the finance committee

meeting Tuesday as they discussed the \$20,000 budgeted for Cultural Crossroads and \$25,000 Dorcheat Historic Museum.

Representatives from Cullen spoke to the jury regarding much needed roof repairs to the Cullen Railroad Museum. They have two bids in, one for \$6,500 and one for \$10,000, but the issue is how to pay for it. Thomas says they should

See **JURY**, Page 2

HISTORICAL DISTRICT | **THE HUFFMAN HOUSE**



Jim and Kimberly Huffman stand in front of their home and bed and breakfast - Huffman House - located at 1108 Broadway in Minden. Bruce Franklin/Press-Herald

Broadway home to Minden's newest Bed and Breakfast

Huffman House offers modern touch in historical district

MICHELLE BATES
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Minden is now home to a new bed and breakfast in the Minden Historic District.

The Huffman House, located at 1108 Broadway St., is a quaint little bed and breakfast that offers the modern amenities of a hotel room for

business travel or just a weekend getaway, making it the perfect place for an overnight stay.

James Huffman and his wife, Kimberly, bought the home at the beginning of the year after falling in love with Minden. James Huffman says they traveled through Minden over the Christmas holidays and fell in love

See **HUFFMAN**, Page 3



DOWNTOWN

'Wrap It Up Downtown' is Friday

MICHELLE BATES
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Downtown Minden will be abuzz with activity Friday as Wrap It Up Downtown gets underway.

Becky White, Minden Main Street director, says the downtown shops will be open later with specials and sales.

"This is to get people to come downtown, shop locally and promote the businesses," she said. "It's a good time to come down with the parade."

The Minden Evening Lions Club will host its annual Christmas parade at 6 p.m. Friday.

Main Street Commission President Terry Gardner says some of the businesses will offer refreshments, and hot chocolate will be offered during the parade.

He says he expects businesses to stay open until around 7 p.m., including the boutiques, antique shops, City Art Works as well as



WHITE



GARDNER

See **WRAP**, Page 3

QUEST FOR THE CROWN

Colvin eyeing Miss Minden crown

Macey Annalina Colvin is the 20-year-old daughter of Debbie and Brandy Colvin.

She is a sophomore at Bossier Parish Community College where she is obtaining a degree in Mass Communication.

Macey is the youngest of five and the fourth generation in her family to rodeo. She is a member of the United Professional Rodeo Asso-

ciation where she recently passed down her title as Miss UPRA.

Macey is currently a cheerleader at BPC and is proud to be a part of the first team from the college to compete at nationals in Daytona this April.

Her plans after graduation are to become a sales representative for Cinch Western Wear while starting

her career in public relations.

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.



Macey Colvin. Courtesy Photo

Win tickets to the Miss Minden Pageant. • Visit www.press-herald.com for details.

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SECONDFRONT

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BUSINESS NEWS

New Bossier City based window cleaning company to serve Minden

BOSSIER CITY - America's largest window cleaning company has arrived with the opening of a new franchise location in Bossier City. The new business provides services for commercial and residential customers in Bossier City, Shreveport, Benton, Minden, Arcadia and Ruston.

This Fish Window Cleaning location is owned by Jorge and Nancy Negron. Prior to opening this franchise location, Jorge worked in oil refinery in a managerial role for 20 years and then was a mud engineer off shore for 10 years. Nancy spent 21 years with Edward Jones Investments.

"We are thrilled to see Fish Window Cleaning continually expand across the nation, and we join Jorge and Nancy in celebrating the

opening of their business," John English, director of franchise development said. "Our franchise owners get to draw on FISH's thirty-seven years of knowledge and experience. FISH offers proven methods, training, a nationally recognizable business name, and uniformity, and we are excited to watch Jorge and Nancy grow their business."

To prepare for the new business, the Negrons completed multiple weeks of training in the Bossier City area and at Fish Window Cleaning headquarters in St. Louis, Missouri. Their office is currently open and accepting new customers.

"I am excited to bring Fish Window Cleaning to the area," Jorge said. "I look forward to meeting my residential and commercial neigh-



Fish Window Cleaning's Bossier City location is owned by Jorge and Nancy Negron. Courtesy Photo

bors and becoming the top, reliable provider for window cleaning needs."

To contact the local Fish

Window Cleaning, visit

www.fishwindowcleaning.co

m/3131 or call 318-584-7154.

OBITUARIES

Leon Brooks

Funeral services for Leon Brooks will be at 1 p.m., Dec. 7 at Growing Valley Baptist Church. Leon Brooks was born on Nov. 2, 1949 in Shreveport to the proud parents John and Madgaline Weston-Brooks.

He confessed and accepted Christ at an early age, uniting with the Growing Valley Baptist Church where he was baptized by the Rev. J. H. Dixon.

Leon attended elementary school at Union Elementary. After completing his secondary education in 1969 from Webster High School, Leon earned a bachelor of science degree from Grambling State University in history in 1973. He served for over 30 years as a teacher in the elementary education system where he was dedicated to teaching. He was serious about teaching his students.

Leon moved to California in November 2009, where he spent his last days.

Leon was preceded in death by his parents John and Madgaline Brooks. He leaves to cherish his memory four sisters; Nina Brooks, Polly Brooks-Britton and Bennie Brooks of Minden, as well as Winter Brooks-Varnier of Oakland, California, his brother Jerry V. Brooks of Grambling, 11 nieces and nephews, nine great-nieces and nephews and one great-great-niece and a host of relatives and friends.



BROOKS

Simon J. 'Doc' Collins

Simon J. "Doc" Collins, 90, of Louisville, Kentucky passed away on Nov. 24, 2015 at his residence.

Doc was a former resident of the Minden area.

He was born Aug. 9, 1925, in Coushatta, son of Amos Collins and Ethel Smith. Doc was the last living of eight children.

He had worked as a realtor for over 50 years. He also served his country in World War II in the Army and in the Korean War as an Air Force Reservist.

Doc was preceded in death by his daughter, Pamela Ann Collins.

Survivors include two sons, Steve (Jan) and Craig (Elaine), and a daughter, Linda Collins Parker (Allen) as well as grandchildren Travis Breeze, Shelby Collins, Sean Collins, Justin Collins, Davis Collins, Matthew Shroyer, Chloe Parker, Cambria Parker and three great-grandchildren.

Services will be at 11 a.m. Monday, Dec. 7, 2015 in the chapel of Arch L. Heady Russman and Sons, located at 1201 E. Oak St. in Louisville, Kentucky. Visitation will be from 10 a.m. until 11 Monday.

Burial with Military Honors will be at Kentucky Veterans Cemetery Central.

Expressions of sympathy may be given to the donor's favorite charity.

Please visit us at www.archlheadyeastoak.com to leave a condolence for the family.



COLLINS

JURY

Continued from page 1

have done something to help the Cullen museum because he saw the severity of the disaster.

"I was very upset and still have pretty bad heartburn over them not voting to give Cullen the funding for their museum," he said. "We've sat there and voted for many, many years to fund the Dorcheat Museum, Cultural Crossroads and even the (Holiday Trail of Lights). They (Cullen Museum) need help really bad."

He says this is the third time they've discussed the matter, adding talks began in October during budget meetings.

"There's some memorabilia there that's priceless," he said. "They've got some of it covered up with tarps – I think we help the arts there, and I want to continue voting to help there – but for them not to help that museum, as bad a shape as it's in, it just really gave me some heartburn. It was just kind of a protest."

Several different ideas were discussed, including jurors possibly agreeing to use a portion of their discretionary funds, or using funds from economic development to help defray the costs. The jury will discuss it again in January to come up with a viable solution.

Police jury president Jim Bonsall says it's time for the police jury to start watching its costs and trimming where they can. During the finance committee meeting Tuesday, the \$25 million budget came under scrutiny as they discussed the different expenses for which they must pay. Secretary Treasurer Ronda Carnahan says this year's budget will have about a six percent increase, but not because of

DESCRIPTION	BUDGET YEAR	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUE	% OF CHANGE
Prior year unexpended fund Balance	\$ 10,468,486.00	\$ 2,918,997.00	\$ 7,549,489.00	6.00%
REVENUE				
LOCAL SOURCE				
Ad Valorem Tax	\$ 2,295,000.00	\$ 850,000.00	\$ 1,445,000.00	
Sales Tax	\$ 3,150,000.00	\$ 3,150,000.00	\$ 3,150,000.00	
Occupational License Tax	\$ 215,000.00	\$ 215,000.00	\$ 215,000.00	
Fines & Forfeitures	\$ 416,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 396,000.00	
Code Management	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 27,000.00	\$ 27,000.00	
General Government	\$ 1,165,960.00	\$ 373,600.00	\$ 792,360.00	
Library	\$ 3,226,238.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 3,226,238.00	
STATE SOURCE				
Revenue Sharing	\$ 175,000.00	\$ 90,000.00	\$ 85,000.00	
Video Poker	\$ 351,000.00	\$ 351,000.00	\$ 351,000.00	
Alcoholic Beverage Tax	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	
General Severance Tax	\$ 1,300,000.00	\$ 1,300,000.00	\$ 1,300,000.00	
Fire Insurance Rebate	\$ 186,000.00	\$ 186,000.00	\$ 186,000.00	
Grant Funds	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 140,000.00	\$ 140,000.00	
Capital Outlay	\$ 1,260,000.00	\$ 1,260,000.00	\$ 1,260,000.00	
Royalties	\$ 245,000.00	\$ 52,000.00	\$ 193,000.00	
Public Safety	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,500.00	\$ 12,500.00	
FEDERAL SOURCE				
Parish Transportation	\$ 475,000.00	\$ 475,000.00	\$ 475,000.00	
5311 WPPJ OCS	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 400,000.00	\$ 400,000.00	
FEMA/OEP	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00	
TOTALS	\$ 25,578,184.00	\$ 7,006,097.00	\$ 18,572,087.00	6.00%
EXPENDITURES				
By Function				
Legislative	\$ 235,500.00	\$ 235,500.00	\$ 235,500.00	
Judicial	\$ 1,969,860.00	\$ 1,008,000.00	\$ 961,860.00	
Financial	\$ 1,165,400.00	\$ 1,165,400.00	\$ 1,165,400.00	
Elections	\$ 56,600.00	\$ 56,600.00	\$ 56,600.00	
Public Safety/Corrections	\$ 1,520,000.00	\$ 890,000.00	\$ 630,000.00	
Public Works	\$ 4,888,050.00	\$ 4,888,050.00	\$ 4,888,050.00	
Health & Welfare	\$ 666,192.00	\$ 547,192.00	\$ 119,000.00	
Economic Development	\$ 39,917.00	\$ 39,917.00	\$ 39,917.00	
Grants Federal/ State	\$ 128,800.00	\$ 128,800.00	\$ 128,800.00	
Capital Expenditure	\$ 1,760,000.00	\$ 1,760,000.00	\$ 1,760,000.00	
Recreation	\$ 77,000.00	\$ 77,000.00	\$ 77,000.00	
Library	\$ 4,357,761.00	\$ 4,357,761.00	\$ 4,357,761.00	
Library Debt Service	\$ 1,970,000.00	\$ 1,970,000.00	\$ 1,970,000.00	
General Government	\$ 662,558.00	\$ 156,908.00	\$ 505,650.00	
Other/Contingent	\$ 6,080,546.00	\$ 2,700,780.00	\$ 3,379,766.00	
TOTALS	\$ 25,578,184.00	\$ 7,006,097.00	\$ 18,572,087.00	6.00%

additional revenue. Some of that cost is capital outlay and the bond issue for the Webster Parish Library system.

She went over several different funds, including the road budget, which was increased to \$300,000.

In capital outlay, the police jury will have \$1.2 million, including the \$500,000 match from the jury to pay for the HVAC renovations at the Webster Parish Courthouse. Carnahan says bid openings will occur Dec. 10, with five bidders currently interested. They hope to move forward with the renovations after the first of the year.

In other business, the jury adopted the siren warning

program grant application with some revisions. The deadline for any municipality in Webster Parish to turn in an application will be April 15, 2016, with it going up for approval by the jury in May 2016.

The grant will be available for up to \$25,000 and approval will be based upon fund availability. The grant will come from the landfill royalty fund.

The revision included an "80 percent grant and 20 percent match from the municipality equal to the cost" was added to the grant application.

During the regular meeting, Library Director Beverly Hammett says they hope to

close on the purchase of the old Walgreen's building in Springhill, this week. The idea is, instead of renovating its current location in downtown Springhill, they will renovate the old Walgreen's building and move that branch there.

The old pharmacy and store was built in 2007, Hammett says, and it will be easier and more cost effective to renovate that building than to spend more money on renovations to the current buildings.

The next police jury meeting will be at 10:30 a.m., Monday, Jan. 11, 2016. Swearing in of new jurors will take place at 10 a.m. before the meeting.

Louisiana presidential primary sign-up period is beginning

BATON ROUGE — The sign-up period for presidential candidates interested in being on Louisiana's March 5 primary ballot is starting.

Qualifying for the presidential primary runs from Wednesday through Friday.

Secretary of State Tom Schedler says he doesn't expect to see any presidential candidates show up in person to sign up for the race. He says they'll send a

representative to qualify them by proxy or they'll mail their paperwork into Schedler's office.

Presidential candidates have to pay \$1,125 with their paperwork or file a nominating petition with signatures.

One candidate who won't be on the ballot is Gov. Bobby Jindal, who ended his bid for the Republican presidential nomination two weeks ago.



Wills Successions

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Attorney at Law

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CAMEOS OF MINDEN

Holiday season brings back childhood memories

JUANITA AGAN
Special to the Press-Herald

"When is Christmas?" "How long until Christmas?" These are the questions all children want to know. But to me Christmas is not just a day on the calendar; it is a season of the heart. I am so thankful for a mother who made Christmas a season of the heart and taught me to observe Christmas that way.



AGAN

Preparations for Christmas at my house start the day after Thanksgiving.

Decorating for Christmas

In years gone by, I always got all my decorations out the day after Thanksgiving, and then I like to clear all the Christmas decorations away the day after Christmas. However, since Christmas is on Saturday this year I will be longer getting my decorations down and put away.

Early in November I bought the cherries, pineapple, and golden raisins for at least four batches of my fruit cake cookies. I chopped 24 cups of pecans since each batch requires six cups of chopped pecans. If I make many more things requiring pecans I will have to buy more pecans and get them picked out. I tried to make a little something each day and put the "goodies" away in the freezer in Tupperware containers to keep them from drying out.

In Years Past

My mother always made her fruit cakes the week following Thanksgiving, stored them away with apple slices and allowed them to mellow. She used things she had canned such as watermelon rind preserves, fig preserves, and pear preserves and lots of spices. Long before then, she had picked out the hickory nuts she would use in the cakes.

My family is not too fond of regular fruit cake, but they love the little fruit cake cookies (Lizzies) I make from a recipe given to me more than

30 years ago by Bessie Lee Lazarus. My husband thought my mother's fruit cake was the best he had ever eaten.

Sentimental Value

There are so many little decorations that are old but they are precious to me and I always in prior years put them out at Christmas. The little Santas that tumble, stand on their head, and in various grotesque positions are among my favorites. And of course, I collect angels, and I always bring out my angel figurines, and the little lace angels that I make. Some of my angels were gifts that someone made in a Bible School project, others cost \$65 to \$75 that my children have given me. All are so precious to me. However, I cannot decorate this year as I get too tired. Nor can I make that Christmas dinner for the family that I have done for so many years. We will go to my daughter's home for dinner.

The Reason for Christmas

But Christmas, the Christmas that is in my heart, is more than the wonderful

smells of spices and fruits at Christmas. It is more than the swags of green with the bows of red, and more than the golden magnolia leaves across my mantel. It is truly a season of my heart. It is a time of sharing, a time of love, and especially a time of love for the little babe that was laid in the manger in Bethlehem so many centuries ago. That little babe is our Saviour, and His birth is just part of the plan of salvation. It is continued on the cross that we think about at Easter, and then it goes on to the empty tomb for us all to know that He has ascended back to heaven, and the promise that He will come again for us.

My Childhood

Even in the most austere of times, there was a spirit of sharing in my home as we always had "company" at Christmas. If it were not relatives, it would be a widow that was among my mother's friends. Mother could take a little something and make a wonderful dinner out of it. She could prepare sweet potatoes so many different

ways, all delicious. Her chicken and dressing cannot be beaten and I don't think can be even equaled.

There was no money for gifts in my childhood, but my mother always managed to have something special for me. I have written about the compact she found for a nickel and carefully hid it until Christmas. I did not have the heart to tell her the MHS colors were now red and white, and not the green and white of the compact. Long before I entered high school, the colors had been changed, and that was why the compact was just a nickel. It was special to me because it was a sacrificial gift bought out of love for me.

My Mother

The last doll that I received at Christmas was a baby doll and I was about 10 when I received it. I planned to always keep that little doll. However, when I was about 17 my mother heard of a neighbor child of about six who longed for a baby doll for Christmas, and her family could not afford to buy a doll since they had a hard time

feeding the family. That little girl got the prettiest baby doll that Christmas - she got my doll. I was hurt that my mother did not even discuss it with me, but as time went by I was pleased that she had such a caring heart. That was my mother. She always found a way to share with others even though we had such a hard time making it ourselves. But the way she lived her life was such an example to me, far better than just telling me to do things. She taught by example. She believed the scripture in Matthew that reads: "Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me." And so she gave whatever she had.

Juanita Agan submitted a weekly column to the Press-Herald for more than 15 years until her death in 2008. She was a resident of Minden since 1935. The Press-Herald is republishing select articles from Mrs. Agan's Cameos column every Wednesday.



Huffman House offers spacious bedrooms with oversized high definition televisions with expanded cable, including premium channels as well as high-speed internet access. Bruce Franklin/Press-Herald

HUFFMAN

Continued from page 1

with downtown Minden, so much so, they moved here after purchasing the home.

"We actually came through Minden towards the end of their (Trail) of Lights," he said. "My wife, my daughter and myself just fell in love with how gorgeous downtown was, and what a wonderful little community it was."

When they learned the house was on the market, he says they looked at it and just fell in love with it. With the couple's background in hotels and hospitality, he and his family believe Minden is the perfect place to offer a bed and breakfast. He works for a hospitality company in Shreveport.

"This location put us right in the middle of our area," he said. "My wife, who manages Holiday Inn Express in Bossier City, her lifelong dream was to have a bed and breakfast. When we looked at how this house was set up, it just lent itself to be a bed and breakfast. Fulfilling a lifelong dream of owning a bed and breakfast and this home was basically perfect for it - a big, old historic home that has huge rooms upstairs with full baths attached to each bedroom."

Three bedrooms are available to book, he says. Huffman House offers spacious bedrooms with oversized high definition televisions with expanded cable, including premium channels as well as high-speed internet access.

The bed and breakfast offers a select complimentary

breakfast menu cooked to order and at the time guests prefer to eat.

Huffman House is a federal style home built by J.H. Nelson in 1918 on the site of the 1870 Reams home. Wood and architectural pieces from the original home were used in the construction of the Nelson's home.

It offers 4,800 square feet in the main living quarters with full adjacent pool house adding an additional 300 feet, plus a second full kitchen.

In the spring, the Huffmans intend to renovate the pool house into a suite with a bedroom, full bath, kitchen and lounging porch.

The Huffmans were granted a permit along with all the appropriate documentation to turn the home into a bed and breakfast in June.

WRAP

Continued from page 1

the two restaurants, Habacus and Roma.

"All the store fronts will be decorated, and this is the first Christmas and first Wrap It Up Downtown that we've had in years that people can actually walk to two good restaurants," he said. "You can start shopping in the afternoon, spend the afternoon downtown with something that attracts everybody, and then you can

all at the end of the day have a nice meal at Habacus or Roma."

White says Saturday, Dec. 12, Santa will visit downtown Minden again at The Vault so children can tell him what they want for Christmas and have their pictures made with him. The Grinch Who Stole Christmas will also be there as well, White says.

The Dec. 12 date is a continuation of Wrap It Up Downtown, Gardner said.

The event will go on all day Friday, and all day Saturday, Dec. 12. Gardner says shoppers can find what the

need for Christmas for their loved ones on Friday and then focus on the children that Saturday.

He emphasized that downtown Minden does not just include Main Street, but Easley's Photography and Fine Arts on Pearl Street and Bobbies Hobbies on Dixie Street.

"We want everybody to come to downtown Minden and enjoy our beautiful Christmas lights," he said. "We're not only the friendliest city in the south, but we're also the friendliest Main Street in the South."



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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

OPINION

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EDITORIAL
ROUND UP

Advocate on Governor-elect John Bel Edwards

The appointment of a veteran legislator from the Florida parishes as the next governor's chief of staff underlines both the opportunities and the steep challenges facing Gov.-elect John Bel Edwards.

Edwards, from Amite, asked term-limited state Sen. Ben Nevers, of Bogalusa, to head his team during the transition and the administration.

Nevers served five years in the House and 12 in the Senate, where he was a committee chairman and respected by his peers. State Rep. Walt Leger III, D-New Orleans, said of Nevers: "Everybody likes him. It sets the right tone."

Nevers, a Democrat, gained statewide attention in 2008 as the author of Louisiana's "creationism" law allowing dubious materials challenging the theory of evolution into public schools. But lately, he was probably best known for a more substantive public policy struggle, when he allied with Edwards and others in an attempt to force Gov. Bobby Jindal to expand Medicaid insurance coverage for the working poor. The governor refused to do so, and the Legislature upheld Jindal's decision.

Accepting federal dollars for Medicaid expansion is an early priority now for the new governor-elect. It's not yet clear if Edwards will have to ask lawmakers to reverse their earlier decision against expansion. But it is certainly clear that the budget quagmire will require a willingness of legislators — most of whom were re-elected this year — to reverse, or at least partially roll back, some of their own votes during the years that Jindal was in charge.

The sometimes controversial public profile of Nevers is less important than the depth of his relationships with lawmakers who are faced with huge unpaid obligations left by the Jindal administration. With both the governor-elect and his newly named chief of staff coming directly from the Legislature, the administration is in a strong position — but will be asking lawmakers at the minimum to make tough calls on balancing the budget.

Clearly, it is those tough calls in planned special sessions in February, and the regular legislative session in the spring, that are an early focus for Edwards.

Share your thoughts!

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

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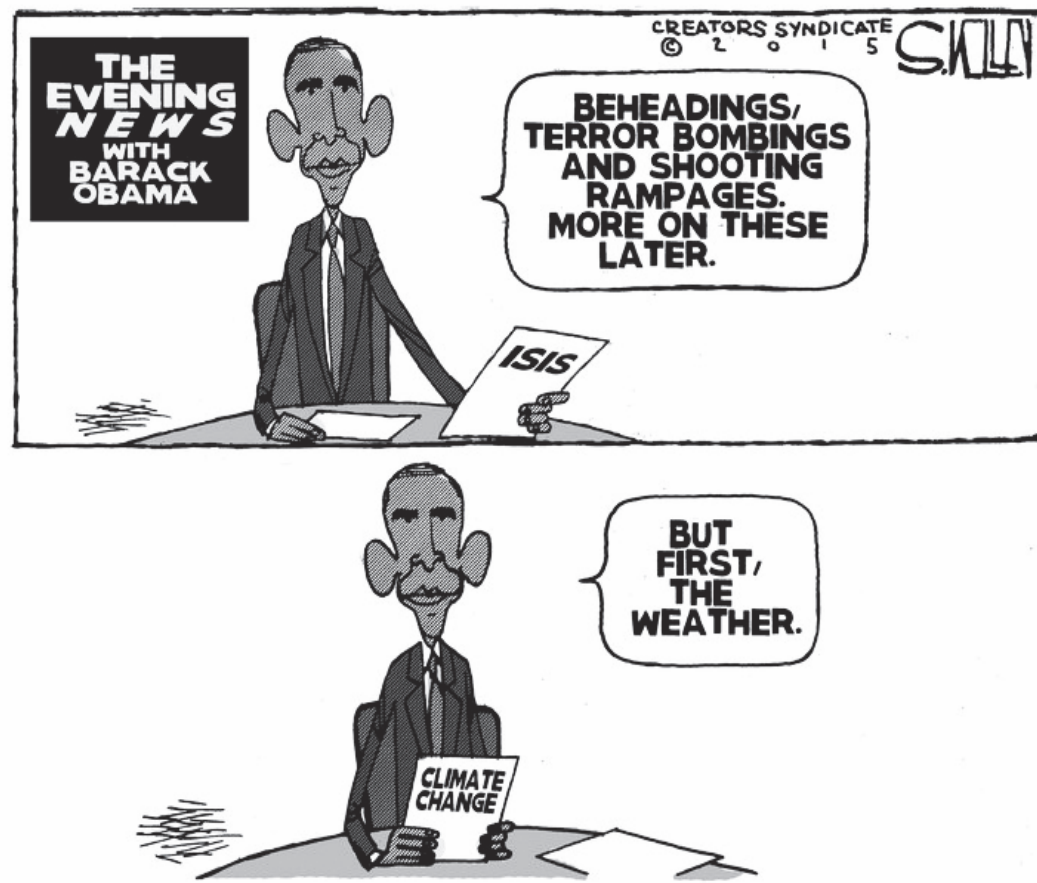
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PERSPECTIVE

A new game plan

The decision is made. We selected our leader, and now it is time to focus on solving our problems.

No, I'm not talking about Coach Miles and the work ahead for the Tigers' top dog and his team to regain supremacy in the SEC. I'm talking about Governor-elect Edwards and his task of working with the new Legislature and others to tackle Louisiana's challenges and reinforce its many strengths.

Across the country, states face similar challenges. Economic recovery is sluggish, deficits persist, and costs are on the rise, particularly in health care and entitlement spending. Annual deficits persist in Louisiana because of three major factors: revenue, spending and the budget structure.

Similarities exist between both the origins and short-term solutions to the state's current budget challenges to those of the late 1980s. The problems were not created overnight — they are a product of fiscal policies enacted over many years.

At the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry (LABI), we embarked on a budget research series to help stimulate dialogue and inform policymakers and the public on how our tax dollars are collected, reviewed and spent.

The second installment of this research series, "Budget Basics No. 2 — A Closer Look at 'Locked-Up' Spending," consists of 16 easy-to-understand charts accompanied by facts, data and brief findings, and is available at labi.org/budget-basics. It follows "Budget Basics No. 1 — Understanding the State Budget Deficit," released in October, which helps explain the state budget and why the deficit persists.

Jargon like "non-discretionary" funding, "self-generated" revenue and "stat deds" make for an overly complex budget picture that guarantees spending for specific functions,

whether it is a statewide priority or not. In short, Louisiana has too many lock boxes and dedicated funds in the state budget that annually spend billions of taxpayer dollars on cruise control without sufficient oversight and accountability.

The Advocate succinctly stated in a recent editorial that, "We agree with critics of today's budget that there are too many dedicated funds, small to medium-size chunks of the general fund that are on budget autopilot, generating money year after year for specific purposes."

Despite state law that requires it, there is a remarkable dearth of recommendations for consolidation or elimination of dedications resulting from regular mandated legislative reviews. Nearly 400 dedications of state tax revenue exist in law and the Constitution. These "stat deds" make up \$3.8 billion in fiscal year 2016.

Constitutional and statutory dedications fall into three main categories:

Diversions of tax revenue that would otherwise flow into the State General Fund total \$1.6 billion in Fiscal Year 2016 in 117 funds, including various local government subsidies.

Fees and assessments are appropriated to 105 funds totaling \$975 million in Fiscal Year 2016, including a number of sources of gaming revenue dedicated to programs or expenditures largely unrelated to the fee, fine or revenue source.

"Other" legislative appropriations, grants or other revenue sources total \$1.3 billion in Fiscal Year 2016 in 68 funds.

About 40 dedications are constitutional, with Fiscal Year 2016 appropriations totaling more than \$2 billion — slightly more than half of the dollar amount in dedications that would require a vote of the people to unlock.

More than 250 dedications exist in Louisiana law only (not the Constitution) with Fiscal Year 2016 appropriations totaling \$1.7 billion that can be reprioritized by a vote of the Legislature.

In Fiscal Year 2016, roughly \$4 billion dollars in State General Fund (of a total of \$9 billion) directly financed local governmental entities and an estimated \$300 million in statutory dedications are appropriated exclusively to various forms

of local government. With regard to capital expenditures, nearly half of all state bond proceeds have been used to fund non-state projects (46 percent). Locked-up funding mechanisms mean dollars like these are rarely reviewed or reduced.

In fact, we have to go back decades to find a significant example. To help address the significant deficits of the late 1980s, the Roemer administration and the Legislature abolished more than 100 statutory dedications in one bill, unlocking hundreds of millions of dollars for general use — including sacred cows for stakeholders and local government. However, since then, the number of actual funds has increased from 78 to 393. The dollar amount of statutory dedications is also on the rise.

The effort to balance our budget will be complicated and messy. To do it right and to get out of the chronic deficit game we have played for years, it will take a comprehensive approach. Simply raising new tax revenue from a weak economy and throwing those dollars into an unreformed governmental budget will do nothing to solve our annual flirtations with deficits. All spending must be brought into the daylight and removed from the shadows of the budget. Every spending program at the state and local level deserve equal attention and how we prioritize going forward is key.

In the third and final installment of Budget Basics, LABI will offer research-based solutions to the state's budget challenges for the new Legislature and governor to consider in 2016 that will encourage both smarter government and a stronger economy.

Fiscal reform will not be easy, but it can be done. Regaining our rightful perch atop the SEC will not be easy for LSU, but it can be done. Both will just take a new game plan, teamwork and smart execution.

Stephen Waguespack is the president of the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry, the largest and most effective advocacy organization in the state.

PERSPECTIVE

Can we learn from Europe?

Earlier this year, my column asked, "Will the West Defend Itself?" I pointed out that America's leftists and progressives believe that the U.S. should become more like Europe. I wonder whether they also want to import European policies that created barbaric extremism among its Muslim population.

France's recent tragedy is not surprising, given some of its policies that are not widely publicized abroad. France has no-go zones, which are officially called "zones urbaines sensibles," or sensitive urban zones, where police are reluctant to go. Some of these zones are dominated by Islamic extremists. According to some reports, there is hardly a city in France that does not have at least one ZUS. It is estimated that there are more than 750 such zones in France. According to The Washington Times, "France has Europe's largest population of Muslims, some of whom talk openly of ruling the country one day and casting aside Western legal systems for harsh, Islam-based Shariah." It appears that much of France's Muslim population has no intention of joining the French culture. Many French Muslims are hellbent on importing the failed components of their motherland, such as Shariah, the subjugation of women, suppression of free speech and honor killings.

But France is not alone in tolerating people who have little desire to abandon the culture from which they fled. Ingrid Carlqvist has written an article titled "Sweden Descends into Anarchy". Carlqvist says, "Once upon a time, there was a safe welfare state called Sweden, where people rarely locked their doors." She adds: "Since the Parliament decided in 1975 that Sweden should be multicultural and not Swedish, crime has exploded. Violent crime has increased by over 300 percent, and rapes have increased by an unbelievable 1,472 percent."

One Swedish policeman says, "The situation is slipping from our grasp," referring to some no-go areas, such as Tensta and Rinkeby. "If we're in pursuit of a vehicle, it can evade us by driving to certain neighborhoods where a lone patrol car simply cannot follow because we'll get pelted by rocks and even face riots.

These are no-go zones. We simply can't go there." As a result of the increasing danger, Swedes are arming themselves in unprecedented numbers and sales of home alarm systems are booming.

Elliot Friedland, writing for the Clarion Project, has an article titled "Belgian Government Admits It Has Lost Control of No-Go Zone." Security and Home Affairs Minister Jan Jambon says the government does not "have control of the situation in Molenbeek." Molenbeek, a district of Brussels, has been referred to as "Europe's jihadi central."

Two of the terrorists who carried out the recent attacks in Paris were found to be from Molenbeek. Terrorist plots connected to this neighborhood include the 2001 assassination of anti-Taliban leader Ahmad Shah Massoud; the 2004 Madrid train bombings, which killed 191 people; the 2014 attack on a Jewish museum in Brussels; the January attack on a kosher grocery in Paris after the Charlie Hebdo shootings; and the August attack on a Paris-bound train, in which an Islamic terrorist was overpowered by three Americans.

There are zones where the government has lost control in Germany, England and most other European countries, too. Viktor Orban, prime minister of Hungary, explained the situation confronting Europeans: "For us today, at stake are Europe, the lifestyle of European citizens, European values, the survival or disappearance of European nations and, more precisely formulated, their transformation beyond recognition. Today the question is not merely in what kind of a Europe we would like to live but whether everything we understand as Europe will exist at all."

Europe provides a valuable lesson for Americans. Most Americans, including me, welcome people to our country who come here, as immigrants have in the past, to become Americans. We don't welcome people who wish to import the failed culture from which they fled. We could extend the welcome mat even further if we abandoned the welfare state. We have far too many Americans living off the earnings of others. We don't need to encourage others to do the same.

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



WALTER WILLIAMS



STEPHEN WAGUESPACK

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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 Pageant are on sale. 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.

Lakeview United Methodist Church will be serving children a free breakfast of pancakes and juice and offering a free picture with Santa from 8:30 a.m. until 11:00 a.m.

Dec. 6
Terry Combs will be preaching his first sermon at Mt. Comfort Baptist Church at 2:15 p.m.

Galilee Baptist Church's 151st anniversary will be celebrated at 2:30 p.m. Serving as guest speaker will be pastor Terrance Hicks.

Dec. 8
The first meeting of the Breast Cancer Support Group in Minden will be from 5 p.m. until 6 p.m. at Pink Pratique. The Breast Cancer Support Group will meet the 2nd Tuesday of each month to provide positive support and encouragement to women/men who are currently being treated for, or are survivors of breast cancer. For more information contact Deborah Cooksey at 318-639-5035.

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.



Bobby Christy, Commander of the American Legion, Post #74, presents Outstanding Service to The American Legion Award to State Representative Gene Reynolds, House of Representatives District #10, left, and Henry Burns, House of Representatives District #9, right. Courtesy Photos

American Legion Post #74 recognizes elected officials

Special to the Press-Herald

On Nov. 10, Commander Bobby Christy, Immediate Past Commander Carl Thompson and members of The American Legion, Wiley-Pevy Post #74 paid tribute to three local elected officials who Christy and Thompson credited with saving The American Legion Wiley-Pevy Post Hall located at 119 Pine St. in Minden.

"Tonight, as we prepare to celebrate Veterans Day tomorrow, I am pleased to recognize and pay tribute to three outstanding elected officials for their patriotism, their dedication to and support of our Nation's veterans and to their tenacity that resulted in saving the important community asset, The American Legion Hall," Thompson said.

"Louisiana State Representative Gene Reynolds led the charge and was supported in the Senate by Senator Robert Adley and in the House by State Representative Henry Burns. Together they were successful in obtaining the funds required to pay

for a life-time metal roof for The American Legion Hall here in Minden."

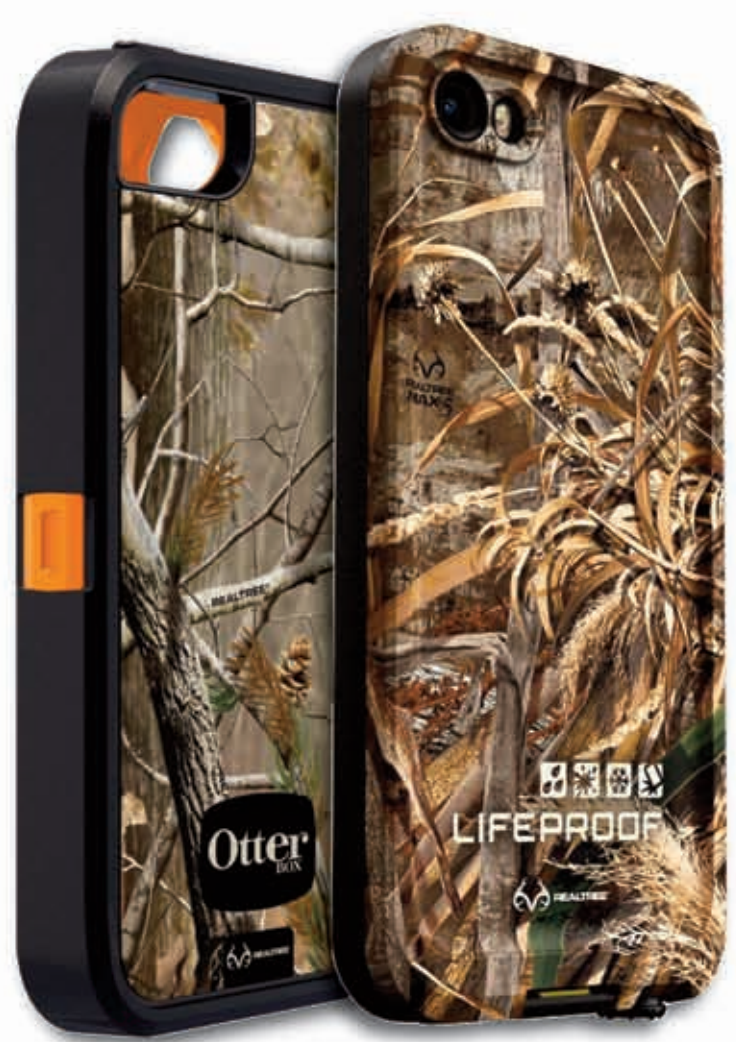
Thompson went on to state that without the dedication and perseverance of Reynolds, Adley and Burns, the funds required to pay for The American Legion Hall roof would not have been obtained and, eventually, the old flat roof over the building would have failed, resulting in the loss if the iconic American Legion Hall, a Pine Street landmark constructed in 1952.

"The members of Post #74, through local fund raising activities and labor provided by Bayou Dorcheat Correctional Center were able install lifetime metal roofs over the north and south wings of The American Legion Hall at a cost of almost \$50,000 for materials," Thompson continued. "However, the Post members were unable to raise sufficient funds required for a metal roof over the huge Main Hall. That is when Mr. Reynolds, Senator

Adley and Mr. Burns stepped forward and obtained the needed funds."

"The American Legion Hall here in Minden does not belong to the Post #74 members, it belongs to the Minden and South Webster Community. The Post members are only the caretakers of this important community asset," Thompson said. "The historic Hall was constructed by WWII veterans whose names are embossed on the bronze place near the front door. These WWII veterans returned home and quickly set about building a vibrant Minden and South Webster Community and to supporting our Nation's heroes, our veterans."

"Tonight, we, the 170 members of The American Legion Wiley-Pevy Post #74, recognize three of our community heroes, Mr. Reynolds, Senator Adley and Mr. Burns, who continue the Minden-Webster Parish traditions, duty and honor of supporting our Nation's heroes, our veterans," Thompson concluded.



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SPORTS

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SPORTS briefs

FOOTBALL MPH Football Contest winners

The final winners are in for the 2015 edition of the MPH Football Contest.

From 11/21, the first place winner is Otis Bell Jr. with 16 correct picks, followed by Charles Hoenke in second with 15 correct picks and Mike Brinkley in third place with 14 correct picks and a tiebreaker of 35.

For 11/28, first place went to Judy Ayers with 18 correct and a tiebreaker of 35. In second was Otis Bell Jr. with 18 correct and a 51 tiebreaker. Third place went to Dixie Herber with 18 correct picks and a tiebreaker of 57.

NCAAF CFB Playoff race heating up

Oklahoma is No. 3 in the College Football Playoff selection committee rankings, putting the Sooners safely in position to be in the final four with their season completed.

Committee chairman Jeff Long refused to speculate Tuesday night whether the Sooners could be moved out of the top four by Saturday's results when the final rankings come out Sunday. But it's plain to see Oklahoma should be OK. Of the four teams directly behind Oklahoma, two are playing each other (No. 4 Iowa and No. 5 Michigan State in the Big Ten title game for a spot in the playoff), one isn't playing and can't win a conference (No. 6 Ohio State) and another has two losses (No. 7 Stanford).

No worries of a repeat of last year for the Big 12, when it was the Power Five conference left out of the playoff.

"The fact that I think that most of the discussion and debate was above them and below them would indicate that their position at three was pretty solid with the committee" this week, Long said of the Sooners.

Clemson is still No. 1 and Alabama remained No. 2. Both the Tigers (12-0) and Crimson Tide (11-1) head into their conference championship games Saturday needing a victory to lock up a playoff spot.

MLB Red Sox draw an ace with David Price

BOSTON — The Boston Red Sox and AL Cy Young runner-up David Price have agreed to terms on a seven-year free-agent deal worth \$217 million, a person familiar with the negotiations told The Associated Press.

The person spoke on condition of anonymity Tuesday night because the deal — the largest ever for a pitcher — is pending a physical. It is expected to be announced on Friday, the person told the AP.

A left-hander who was the AL's top pitcher in 2012 and the runner-up twice in seven full major league seasons, Price has a 3.09 ERA with 1,372 strikeouts and 104 wins. He went 18-5 with a 2.45 ERA in 2015, striking out 225.

After spending his entire career in Tampa Bay, Price was acquired by Detroit at the 2014 trade deadline. A year later, the Tigers traded him to the Blue Jays at the July 31 non-waiver deadline and Price helped Toronto reach the playoffs.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

TIDE ROLL OVER WARRIORS

MINDEN SWEEPS PAIR OF RIVALRY GAMES FROM LAKESIDE



BLAKE BRANCH
blake@press-herald.com

SIBLEY - Minden and Lakeside met for the second time this season Tuesday night, renewing a rivalry that has seen its share of excitement. Tuesday was no different, as the Crimson Tide and Warriors laid it all on the line in a pair of games.

Boys
Minden hung on to defeat Lakeside in a classic, 66-62.

"Lakeside played really well," Minden head coach Alan Shaw said. "They

were draining three's all over the place. We stepped up and made some big stops and hit some clutch free throws. It's big for us to know we can step up when the game is on the line."

Lakeside led at the half, 32-31 behind the impressive play of Jalen Gould and some relentless rebounding.

With 24 seconds left in the game and the two teams tied at 62-62, Minden's L'Jarius Sneed drove the lane and was fouled. Sneed knocked down both free throws to give Minden the lead. Lakeside tried to counter but a loose ball went off a Warrior's knee to give Minden possession. The Tide would ice the game with more clutch free throws.

"I thought my kids responded very well," Lakeside head coach Jason Gould said. "Our kids fought and battled; we just couldn't pull it out in the

second half."

Sneed led Minden with 17 points, followed by Thomas Brown with 13 and Davian Moore with eight points.

Monty Willis led Lakeside with 17 points, followed by Jalen Gould with 15 and Djimon Lard with 12.

Girls
The Minden Lady Tiders defeated the Lakeside Lady Warriors, 65-18.

"I thought our ladies came out and played hard," Lady Tider head coach Jacob Brown said. "We were aggressive for the most part and did a good job of working for good shots. We forced turnovers and rebounded well. That's something we preach about."

Tiaga Pugh led Minden with 19 points, followed by Sha'Terra Batton with 10 points and Destiny Powell and Sha Whiting with six points each.



Blake Branch/Press-Herald

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Glenbrook clobbers East Texas Christian at home



Blake Branch/Press-Herald

G

BLAKE BRANCH
blake@press-herald.com

The Glenbrook Apaches and Lady Apaches were back in action at home Tuesday against East Texas Christian Academy.

Boys
The Glenbrook boys defeated ETCA, 54-22 behind another big game from Cade Conterez who finished with 17 points for the second consecutive night.

"We executed well in

all areas of the game," Glenbrook head coach Jeff Dalton said. "It as good to see the guys playing loose and having fun out there. I'm glad we could get everyone some court time tonight since they all work equally hard in practice."

Conterez led all scorers with 17 points, followed by sophomore De'Maza Robinson who had 10 points for the Apaches and Connor Chase with nine points.

Girls
The Glenbrook Lady Apaches got a big game from their senior leader, Carsin Spurlock, to propel them past the ETCA girls, 62-27.

"It all clicked tonight for the girls," Lady Apache head coach

Rendi Dillard said. "Offensively and defensively, we looked much better tonight. On the nights when everyone contributes, we have our better games and that was the case tonight."

Spurlock finished with 13 points to lead the Lady Apaches, followed by Kate Marvin had 10 points and Olivia Dalton finished with eight points.

"We have been working very hard," Dillard said. "We'll keep doing so and be ready for our district games, but I'm proud of the effort so far."

The Apaches and Lady Apaches will take on Central School in their next game, Thursday, Dec. 3 at home.

NATIONAL FOOTBALL LEAGUE

Saints offense turns stagnant late in season



METAIRIE — As an offensive captain, Saints veteran right tackle Zach Strief wants to put New Orleans' latest loss in the proper perspective, which in this case means emphasizing how bad the 24-6 drubbing in Houston really was on his side of the ball.

"Offensively, it's the worst game I've been a part of — so 10 years is a long time to have a worst of something," said Strief, who was a Saints rookie when coach Sean Payton first brought his high-powered offense to New Orleans in 2006.

"We just never got into a rhythm. We weren't able to convert third downs. We put ourselves in bad positions — third-and-long situations that we talked all week

about not getting into," Strief continued. "You put a good defense in good situations, they're going to make you look bad."

A little more than a week ago, the focus at Saints headquarters was on how bad the defense was — worst in the league in yards and points per game, which got coordinator Rob Ryan fired.

The defense showed signs of improvement under Ryan's replacement, Dennis Allen, giving up 63 fewer yards and 7 fewer points than the season average coming into last weekend. But New Orleans failed to score a single touchdown for the first time since 2005, when Jim Haslett was head coach.

The Saints had the second-ranked offense in the league entering last weekend, averaging 414.5 yards. But New Orleans managed only 268 yards in Houston.

Receiver Brandin Cooks said he and his offensive teammates must not let one bad game against a strong Houston defense define them.



Courtesy Photo

"We have to continue to trust in what we have," Cooks said. "We can't sit there and pout about it. We've just got to get back to work."

"I continue to believe in this team," Cooks continued. "We continue to believe in each other and I still feel like we can do

something special."

The result in Houston extended the Saints' losing streak to three and dropped them to 4-7, their worst record through 11 games during Payton's tenure.

But Payton doesn't sound upset about the character, effort or enthusiasm of his players.

"The preparation and the want-to and desire is there. Those guys have been outstanding," Payton said. "This is a good locker room and we just have to be better at what we are doing and look closely at eliminating mistakes that are being repeated and evaluate those."

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Head Start Pre-School Program Webster Parish Community Services has an opening for the position as Head Cook at the Mother Goose Land Head Start Center. Job applications are available at the Head Start Administrative Office located at 111 Murrell Street in Minden. Qualified applicants should submit a job application along with the resume and three letters of referral (must include previous employer). **Qualifications:** High School Diploma or Equivalent. Experience working in the food service area. **Apply by:** December 4, 2015.

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November 25, 2015
December 2 & 11, 2015
Minden Press-Herald

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Secretary-Treasurer

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Z J J H O U Y D Z W W S P S J Z U D A
A D C U E H U V W D M . M H P D U Y V E R M

Z X D C D U U D X J D O U S E Q Z V A .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF YOU OWN UPWARDS OF TWELVE SHEEPDOGS OF SCOTTISH ORIGIN, I'D SAY YOU'RE OVER-COLLIE-FIED.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: H equals O

CROSSWORD

- | | | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
| ACROSS | DOWN | DOWN | DOWN |
| 1 Noodle-head | 40 Secret agent | 1 "— Vu" (Warwick hit) | 20 Barely lit |
| 5 Race car logo | 41 Designer Chanel | 2 Musical piece | 23 Calif. clock setting |
| 8 Pranks | 43 Style guide org. | 3 Camera part | 24 Fill with wonder |
| 12 Fencing blade | 45 Santa's greeting | 4 Get ready, in golf | 25 Nancy who played Livia |
| 13 Quid pro — | 47 Sits in on a college course | 5 Piglet's cries | 27 Sheep talk |
| 14 Kind of roast | 51 Norwegian king | 6 Harbor hauler | 29 Trendy |
| 15 Late-spring beetles | 52 Opie Taylor's | 7 Pretender | 30 Oink spot? |
| 17 Slugger Tommie | 54 Horse's hair | 8 Awards for Rihanna | 32 Vinyl record tracks |
| 18 Make certain | 55 Opposite of con | 9 First emperor of Rome | 34 Title for NYC's Ed Koch |
| 19 Everest climber Hillary | 56 Wacko | 10 Fed. agents | 37 Frau's "Oh!" |
| 21 Zadora of "Hair-spray" | 57 Concludes | 11 Drove over the limit | 39 Err |
| 22 Eyeglass frames | 58 "Hannah and — Sisters" | 16 Top hat feature | 42 Pizzazz |
| 23 Cooking spray | 59 Tolkien tree people | | 44 "Rumour Has It" singer |
| 26 World Series org. | | | 45 Abode |
| 28 Legends | | | 46 "The Good Earth" figure |
| 31 Convention freebies | | | 48 De-crease? |
| 33 "Cheers" bartender | | | 49 Track pace |
| 35 Business attire | | | 50 Thesaurus wds. |
| 36 — cotta | | | 53 Plural of is |
| 38 Boxer's bark | | | |

Solution time: 23 mins.

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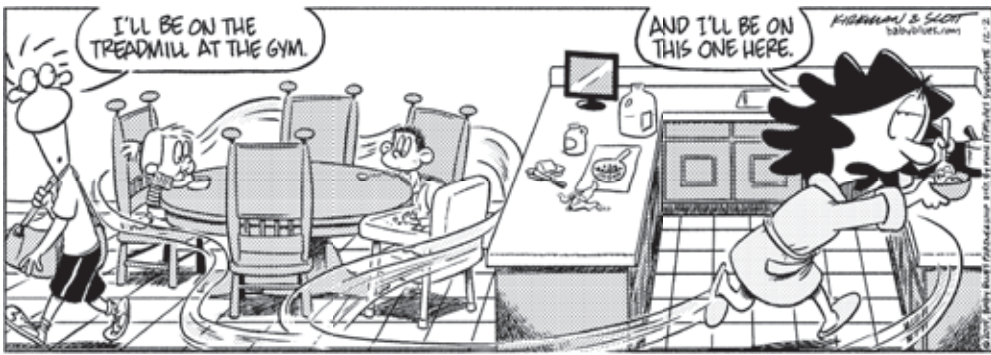
Yesterday's answer 12-2

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57					58				59	

COMICS

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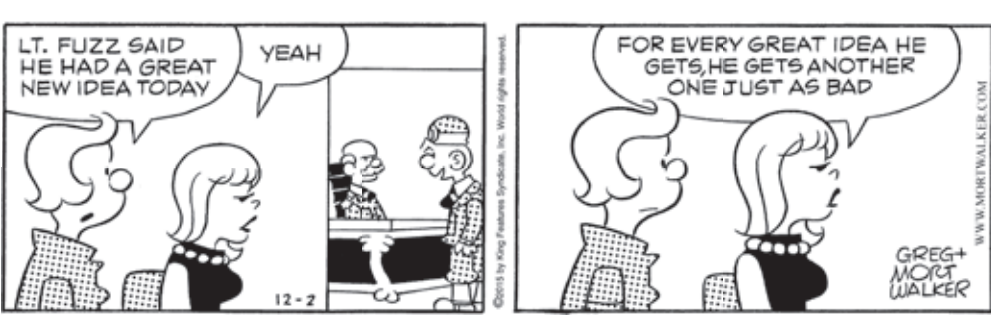
BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



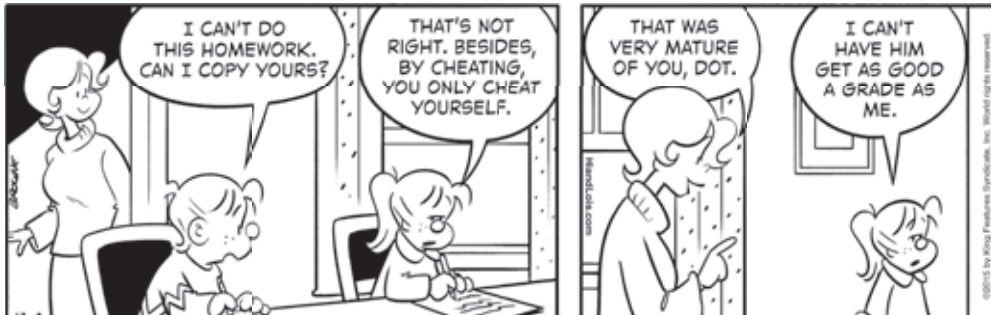
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



BEEBLE BAILEY | MORT & GREG WALKER



HI AND LOIS | BRIAN WALKER, GREG WALKER AND CHANCE BROWNE



BLONDIE | DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



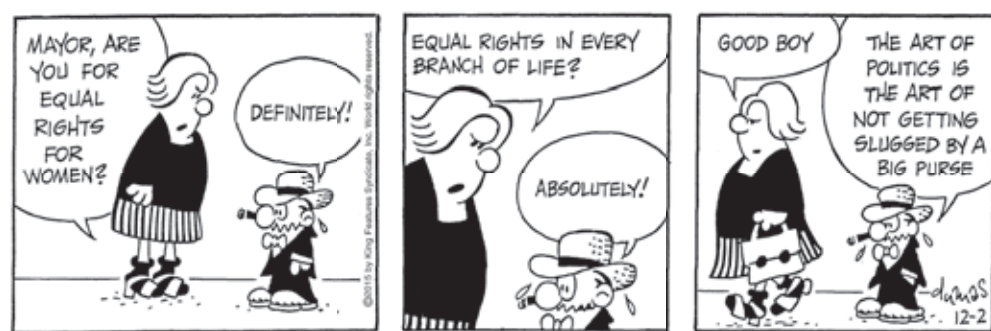
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