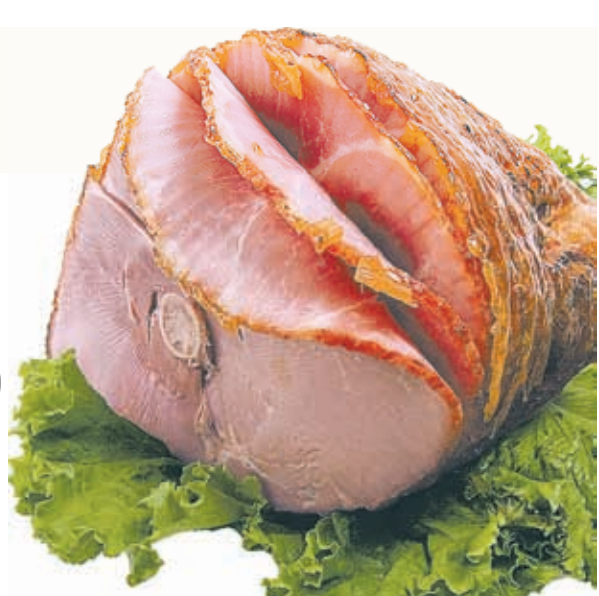


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NEWSPAPERS, INC.

Vol. 47 No. 109



ONWARD LOUISIANA

Campbell to lead fiscal committee

Team to tackle state budget woes for Gov.-elect Edwards

MICHELLE BATES

michelle@press-herald.com

First serving as a state senator, now serving as a Public Service Commissioner, Foster Campbell, D-Elm

Grove, has been selected by Gov.-elect John Bel Edwards to serve as chair of the Fiscal Matters Committee, along with Sharon Robinson, former inspector general and assistant legislative auditor. The Fiscal Matters Com-

**CAMPBELL****EDWARDS**

mittee is tasked with finding ways to eliminate the budget deficit, funding secondary and higher education and

improving access to health-care in the state.

"Bobby Jindal increased the budget, robbing Peter to pay Paul," he said. "We're in a hell of a mess. We're going to look at it from all perspectives. We're going to look at the exemptions people are getting, if these exemptions are valid, how long they've been on the books and if these exemptions still pro-

duce jobs."

He says they will look at places to cut and/or consolidate state services, but he won't know anything until the committee meets and gets the full scope of the budget crisis.

"We're going to start looking at it Tuesday," he said. "We're asking all the fiscal experts to come in Tuesday

See **CAMPBELL**, Page 3

MISS MINDEN 2016

Colvin takes the crown



Macey Colvin waves to the crowd as she is crowned by outgoing Miss Minden Baylee Howell. 2016 Teen Miss Minden Ally Doyle waits to present Colvin with a bouquet of roses. Michelle Bates/Press-Herald

Sharity Brent named first runner up

MICHELLE BATES

michelle@press-herald.com

Macey Colvin will represent Minden as 2016's Miss Minden.

Colvin, 20, was chosen out of five contestants Saturday, and she says the moment she was crowned was surreal.

"It was a long, longtime dream come true," she said.

"It's going to take me a while to breathe; it was a surreal moment, but it's something that I wanted to do and I've been planning to do, and this title means a lot to me and my family. It's the title that I want to take back to Miss Louisiana."

Colvin competed in 2014, coming in as first runner-up. She competed in the Miss Louisiana competition as Miss Bossier City that year as

one of four from Minden.

Her platform, "Break the Silence. Talk About It. You Matter. Teen Suicide Prevention," is one that hits close to home for her, she says, as she lost a friend about 10 months ago to suicide.

"I changed my platform for Miss Minden due to a lot of events with suicide and close calls in my lifetime and

See **PAGEANT**, Page 3

DOYLINE'S WATER

Experts to focus on Doyline water wells

DOYLINE — Water supply wells near Doyline will be the topic of discussion and future study as five government officials travel from Virginia, Texas, Kansas, and South Louisiana to meet with local north Louisiana community members.

The experts are responding to a request by the Camp Minden Citizens Advisory Group for more information on water pollution and mon-

TO GO

»6:30 P.M.

»TUESDAY, DEC. 8

»FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
FAMILY LIFE CENTER IN
DOYLINE

itoring at the Superfund site. A public meeting will be at 6:30 p.m., Tuesday, Dec. 8 at the First Baptist Church

Family Life Center in Doyline.

At the September meeting, citizens expressed a desire to know more about both private drinking water wells and surface water on or near Camp Minden in Doyline. Some were concerned about off-post groundwater wells in areas where people, livestock or agriculture use

See **WATER**, Page 2

CITY OF MINDEN

City power contract tops council agenda

MICHELLE BATES

michelle@press-herald.com

The City of Minden's power supply contract with S W E P C O will top Monday's agenda as Mayor Tommy Davis will be asking the council for authorization to negotiate the terms, including retaining legal counsel if

**DAVIS****TO GO**

»7 P.M.

»MONDAY, DEC. 7

»COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
MINDEN CITY HALL

needed.

In recent budget workshops, Davis has told council members the city is paying too much on its energy costs, and he wants to negotiate the terms of the contract to decrease how much

See **COUNCIL**, Page 3

EDUCATION

Board set to adopt resolution bond prop

MICHELLE BATES

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Following the overwhelming passage of the bond proposition in November, the Webster Parish School Board is set to adopt a resolution for canvassing the returns and declaring the results of the special election.

The 29-mill bond extension proposition passed Nov. 21, with 59 percent of bonding district 6 in favor and 41 percent against.

The proposition is funding \$7 million in capital improvements to J.A. Phillips Middle School and Webster Junior High School to accommodate

See **BOARD**, Page 2

HAM GIVEAWAY WILDCARD



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

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AP NEWS ANALYSIS

Analysis: Super PACs multiply in latest elections

MELINDA DESLATTE
Associated Press

BATON ROUGE — Many of the thousands of attack ads aired on TV channels across Louisiana this last election cycle came from outside groups trying to influence the races, rather than the candidates themselves.

Voters can expect the influence and spending of those super PACs to only grow larger in future elections now that they've gotten a foothold in Louisiana politics, as in other states.

Of the more than \$30 million in spending documented so far in the governor's race (final reports remain to be filed), half came from super PACs that poured millions into TV advertising, mail pieces and strategizing to help or hurt

individual candidates.

Analysis from the Center for Public Integrity shows those outside groups paid to air more than 20,000 TV spots in the governor's race, which was won by Democratic state Rep. John Bel Edwards.

"That really is a brave new world here in politics in Louisiana," Trey Ourso, chairman of Gumbo PAC, which opposed Republican U.S. Sen. David Vitter in the governor's race, told an audience at the LSU Man-ship School of Mass Communication during a post-election discussion of the role of political action committees.

Super PACs can raise and spend unlimited sums of money to support or oppose a particular candidate, while donors are limited to giving \$5,000 to candidates for a statewide campaign. Super

PACs are barred from coordinating with a candidate, however.

Critics worry the no-limits aspect of the PACs gives some ultra-wealthy donors too much influence in individual races, while supporters describe the spending as free speech.

In a twist, Vitter helped usher in the super PAC era for Louisiana elections, and the attacks from those outside groups helped defeat the U.S. senator in the governor's race.

A pro-Vitter super PAC, the Fund for Louisiana's Future, challenged a state law that had capped contributions at \$100,000 for each four-year election cycle as unconstitutional, and a federal judge threw out the restriction.

The Fund for Louisiana's Future cited a list of federal court rulings to support its

argument, including the 2010 Citizens United decision from the U.S. Supreme Court that stripped away restrictions on contributions.

Joel DiGrado, executive director of the fund, told the LSU audience he believed if the pro-Vitter PAC hadn't filed the lawsuit, someone else would have. And even without it, he said, "motivated people with money to spend would have found other vehicles" to influence the race.

Ourso agreed: "As walls are erected to keep money out of the political process, people find ways to get the money in."

The pro-Vitter super PAC ended up being the top spender among outside groups in the governor's race. It hit Republicans Scott Angelle and Jay Dardenne in the primary with repeated

attacks that helped to ensure Vitter secured a spot in the runoff instead of Angelle or Dardenne.

Vitter donated \$950,000 from his U.S. Senate campaign account to the PAC, an end-around Louisiana's prohibitions against transferring dollars from a federal campaign account to a state one. But the super PAC got millions more from a lengthy list of donors.

Other outside groups relied more heavily on individual donors.

The super PAC backing Angelle's candidacy, Louisiana Rising PAC, got most of its support from wealthy Houston oilman James Flores, who donated more than \$2 million.

An independent organization calling itself the Louisiana Water Coalition PAC, which launched the first attacks on Vitter

reminding voters of his 2007 prostitution scandal, had one donor: law firm Talbot Carmouche & Marcello. The law firm, which spent at least \$1.6 million on the effort against Vitter, has filed lawsuits against oil and gas companies for coastal wetlands damage, lawsuits Vitter opposed.

Gumbo PAC, which spearheaded an "Anybody But Vitter" campaign, benefited most from the support of the Democratic Governors Association. Ourso said the PAC spent \$3 million on TV ads alone in the runoff, using \$2.25 million from the DGA.

The Republican Governors Association used its own PAC to attack Edwards.

Similar deep-pocketed donors and more high-dollar spending will follow in the 2016 U.S. Senate and U.S. House races.



Above, parade participants filled downtown with holiday cheer as the annual Minden Christmas Parade rolled through downtown Friday evening. Right, Martha Wren, right, assists Larry and Robin Turner during the annual Wrap It Up Downtown Friday. Bruce Franklin/Press-Herald



BOARD

Continued from page 1

Harper students and closing that school.

Voters approved a five-year extension on a 20-year, 29-mill ad valorem tax in bonding district 6. The idea is to build an additional wing onto Phillips and move K-1 there with the pre-K. A total of 11 additional classrooms and renovations to the existing facility will take place to be age appropriate.

Board discussion will also take place from the buildings and maintenance committee on the election results. Committee members include Linda Kinsey, chair, John Madden and Brandon Edens.

In other news, the board will elect officers for the 2016 year. Currently, Charles Strong serves as president with Johnnye Kennon serving as vice president.

Other items on the agenda the board is set to discuss include:

- Approval of minutes from the personnel and finance committees from Nov. 2 as well as the regular

board meeting,

- Moro Electric, LLC to connect electricity to two portable buildings at Central School for \$1,545, using the District 3 Lease Fund.

- John Gibbs Roof Systems Inc., to work on the roof at the special needs building at Central Office for \$11,489 using the parish-wide maintenance tax.

- Southern Hardwood Floors to sand and finish the gym floor and repaint game lines and art at North Webster Junior High School for \$11,780, using the Sarepta School building fund, and

- Approved field trips. The approved field trips include:

- Lakeside High School's Cross Country team to travel to the state meet.

- Lakeside Junior High Cross Country team to travel to Choudrant High School.

- E.S. Richardson fourth and fifth grade trip for 4-H AgMagic State Fair in Shreveport on Nov. 5.

- E.S. Richardson fourth grade trip to Ballet, Monroe on Dec. 3.

- Browning Elementary first grade students to travel to see Peter and the Wolf at the Riverview Theatre in

TO GO

»6 P.M.
»MONDAY, DEC. 7
»WEBSTER PARISH
SCHOOL BOARD

Shreveport, Nov. 12.

- Webster Junior High School chapter of National Junior Beta Club to attend district convention in Shreveport, Nov. 7.

- Webster Junior High Disabilities field trip: Dr. John O'Connor to take eight students on an instructional outing to Springhill movie theater to see the new Peanuts movie, Nov. 20.

- Central Elementary fifth grade students to travel to bowling alley in Springhill for PBIS rewards trip, Dec. 17.

- Couch Gould's world history class from Lakeside School on a field trip to Minden, and

- 80 students from Harper Elementary to travel to Ruston movie theater the week of Dec. 14-18.

The board will meet at 6 p.m., Monday, Dec. 7.

WATER

Continued from page 1

untreated water. Others asked about chemicals used at the former ammunition plant and expressed concern they may be in surface water and bayous near Camp Minden.

Dr. Bonnie Packer, project manager from the Army National Guard (ARNG), will present proposed sampling and testing of water supply wells outside Camp Minden.

John Meyer, associate director of Superfund Remediation in the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6, will listen to con-

cerns and explain current facts, along with EPA Project Manager Bart Canellas.

Environmental Scientist Mike Miller from the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ) and Senior Technical Analyst Terrie Boguski of SKEO Solutions will also take part in the meeting and answer questions.

The EPA, National Guard and DEQ worked together to develop the sampling plan. The EPA and DEQ will oversee the project and the National Guard will do the work at Camp Minden, a site on the National Priorities List (better known as Superfund).

The EPA Region 6 Super-

fund Division deals with these sites in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, and works with 66 Native American tribes. This is the major office concerned with north Louisiana hazardous waste, oil pollution and the brown-fields program. SKEO Solutions is a consulting firm that works with the EPA to provide scientific assistance to local community members.

"The health of the community is our top concern," says CMCAG Chair Ron Hagar. "We thank these government officials for their work, commitment, and their desire to help. We look forward to solving these problems together."



WE FIX ANDROIDS (the phones)



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PAGEANT

Continued from page 1

the past few years,” she said. “It’s been weighing heavy on my heart to find a way to promote it, and the Miss America organization allows me to do that along with the four points of the crown. The last one (suicide) was about 10 months ago. I lost a very dear, close friend of mine, but I’ve actually had three suicides and one attempt happen in my life.”

Colvin is the daughter of Brandy and Debbie Colvin and attends Bossier Parish Community College seeking a degree in mass communication.

Colvin also brought home the swimsuit award as well.

Other winners include first runner-up Sharity Brent, second runner-up Abby Baker, Baker, Miss Congeniality, Sharity Brent, Hannah McFarland Evening Gown award, and Brent, talent award.

Under the theme of “Breakfast at Tiffany’s,” the pageant included the swimsuit competition, the talent competition, evening wear, on-stage question and interview.

Colvin clogged to “Great Balls of Fire” by Jerry Lee Lewis during the talent portion of the competition.

First runner-up Sharity Brent, 19, is the daughter of James and Leslie Brent. She is a sophomore at Louisiana Tech University, majoring in nutrition and dietetics. She is a 2014 graduate of Minden High School.

Second runner-up Abby Baker, 20, is the daughter of Bruce and Jody Baker. She is also a sophomore at Louisiana Tech University, majoring in early childhood education.

Other contestants included Magan Billups, 17, the daughter of Kristal Bolyer



Contestants for the 2016 Miss Minden pageant are from left, Magan Billups, Abby Baker, second runner-up and Miss Congeniality, newly crowned 2016 Miss Minden Macey Colvin, first runner-up Sharity Brent and contestant Kat Murphy. Brent also won the Hannah McFarland Evening Gown award as well as the talent portion of the pageant. Colvin took home the award for swimsuit competition. Michelle Bates/Press-Herald

and Dennis Billups, and Kat Murphy, 18, the daughter of David and Lisa Murphy.

2016 Teen Miss Minden went to Ally Doyle. Pre-Teen Miss Minden was Landry Malone, with first runner-up Bailey Paul, second runner-up Cammy Edwards, and third runner-up and Miss Photogenic Alexis Guin. Minden’s choice was Olivia Blackwelder.

Ella Williams was crowned Little Miss Minden

Saturday. First runner-up was Alleigh Basinger, second runner-up was Addison Fields, Miss Photogenic went to Mikayla Blagg, and also participating was Gracie Purvis.

Petite Miss Minden 2016 went to Landry Edwards with first runner-up Haylen Kramer, second runner up and Miss Photogenic Aynslea Mays. Third runner-up was Ava Martin. In the toddler division, the winner was

Alexis O’Glee, with first runner up and Minden’s choice Kynslie Weems, Miss Photogenic Caroline Bolton and participant Kamille Smith.

In the baby division, the winner was Nella Snider, followed by first runner-up Laramie Daniels, second runner-up Graylenn Gros and third runner up and Miss Photogenic Kinsleigh Haughton.

COUNCIL

Continued from page 1

they are paying.

“We want to take steps to see what we can do to either modify our contract and reduce our costs and be able to negotiate with SWEPCO, or in the long-term, maybe get out of our contract,” he said, following a workshop in November.

The city pays in the millions of dollars each year for electricity, and he says October’s bill was over \$1 million.

Figures from the city show that in 2014, revenue from the sale of electricity was \$17,376,115.31. Payments to SWEPCO for that year totaled \$11,523,870.39. The year 2013’s revenue was \$16,959,172.20 with payments to SWEPCO totaling \$10,529,878.47. In 2012, revenue totaled \$15,862,588.44 with payments to SWEPCO totaling

\$9,747,406.24.

The city is in year six of a 20-year contract with SWEPCO to provide electricity.

In other news, the council will also consider the removal and replacement of storage tanks on property owned by Waller Petroleum. Mike and Jesse Waller want to completely renovate the property, building a new convenience store and install state-of-the-art underground storage tanks that will replace the old single-wall tanks currently in the ground.

Other items on the agenda for consideration include:

■ Economic Development director’s report by James Graham

■ Personnel – the council will consider the hiring of Antonio Mims to the Minden Police Department.

■ M i n d e n Downtown/Residential Historic Commission reappointments – the council will consider the reappointments of

Kent Gibson and Charlotte Jones, whose terms expire Dec. 31, 2019.

■ Minden Housing Authority appointments – the council will consider the appointment of Ron Anderson, who will replace the unexpired term of Larry Johnson, and the appointment of Latasha Dent to replace Angela Wills, whose term expired June 30.

■ Property annexation request from Anthony Garner and Andreka Garner on Weston Street.

■ The amendment and re-enactment of Ordinance No. 1063, Streets, Sidewalks and Other Public Places

■ Adopt Ordinance No. 1064 Governing the Sale of Adjudicated Property

■ Adopt Ordinance No. 1065 Accepting Dedication of Water Main

■ Adopt Ordinance No. 1066 Abandonment of Right-of-Way

■ Adopt Ordinance No. 1067 Abandonment of Servi-

tude

■ Request to rescind re-subdivision of property – The Minden Planning Commission approved the preliminary plans for a re-subdivision of property owned by Benjamin Wood, located at Ferguson Street, but he has asked that council rescind that approval.

■ Approval of final plat for re-subdivision of property – The Minden Planning Commission approved the preliminary plans for a re-subdivision of property owned by Larry Brown at Third Street.

■ Award bids for the Minden Airport obstruction removal for the fuel facility and the terminal.

The council will also hear the annual fire and police report.

The Minden City Council will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7.

OBITUARIES

Keith Marvin King Sr.

Funeral services for Keith Marvin King Sr. will be at 2 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, 2015 at First United Pentecostal Church in Minden with the Rev. Jeff Ramsey, the Rev. W.C. Puckett Jr. and the Rev. Gerald Trammell officiating. Interment will follow at Minden Cemetery in Minden. The family received friends from 5 until 7 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015 at First United Pentecostal Church.



KING

Keith was born Feb. 15, 1954 in Ferriday and entered into rest Dec. 5, 2015 in Minden. He served his country in the United States Navy and retired Animal Control Supervisor with the City of Minden for 31 years.

He was preceded in death by his daughter Sarah Marie King Scoggins, father T.M. King, brother Kenneth Wayne King, and sister Rose Marie King.

He is survived by his wife Doris Ann King of Minden, mother Martha Marie King of Minden, daughter Annette King and husband Josh of Athens, sons Keith King, Jr. and wife Laura of Minden and Michael Smith and wife Jana of Clayton, brother Michael King and wife Patti of Monroe, grandkids Jason Lee, Joshua Lee, Austin King, Kyle King, Brad and Tabatha Blocker, Kaelyn, Saige, and Ella Smith, and Kristian and Schelby Scoggins, and great-grandson Beaux Remington Lee due January 2016.

Pallbearers will be Conrad Reeves, Brian Dison, Jr. Guthrie, Brian Gardner, John Crooks, and Keith Adcock. The family extends special thanks to Greg Pafford, Joshua Younse and David Miller of Pafford Ambulance Service and also special thanks to Conrad Reeves.

James T. ‘Jim’ Palmer

Graveside services for James T. “Jim” Palmer were at 3 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015 at Gardens of Memory in Minden under the direction of Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden. Officiating was the Rev. Brian Mercer. The family received friends from 12:30 til 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015 at Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden.

Jim was born March 18, 1946 in New Orleans and entered into rest Dec. 3, 2015 in Bossier City. He was a pharmacist for 40 plus years, an avid bird hunter who loved his English Setters. Jim loved cooking and sharing his dishes with others. He was a loving father and grandfather and will be deeply missed.

He was preceded in death by his wife Sheryl “Sheri” Palmer, father Dr. Fleater Palmer, Jr. and mother Virginia “Lil” Turner Palmer.

He is survived by his daughters Nicole Palmer Hochenedel and husband John of Edmond, Oklahoma and Elizabeth Palmer Bergeron and husband Charles of New Roads, grandchildren Harper Ashley Hochenedel, Palmer Ann Hochenedel, and Henry James Bergeron, goddaughter Sarah Hebert numerous nieces and nephews and friend and caregiver Jeanette Murphy.

Honorary pallbearers will be Steve Hebert, John Hebert, Stanley Hebert, George Miller, Steve Nicholson, and John Nicholson.

Donations may be made to First United Methodist Church, 905 Broadway Street, Minden, Louisiana 71055.

Aaron Ray Smith

Funeral services for Aaron Ray Smith will be at 10 a.m., Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2015 at Rose-Neath Funeral Home Chapel in Minden with the Rev. Rick Smith officiating. Interment will follow at Evergreen Cemetery in Minden. The family will receive friends from 5 until 7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 7, 2015 at Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden.

Aaron was born March 10, 1957 in Minden and entered into rest Dec. 5, 2015 in Sibley.

He was preceded in death by his father Alvin Smith and his mother Grace Palmer Thompson.

He is survived by his daughters Sarah Smith Marques and husband Jacob of Sibley, Misty Smith Brown of Minden, brothers Rick Smith and wife Ellen of Houston, Texas, Alford Smith of Doyline, and grandchildren Rayann Smith, Skyler Marques and Emma Marques.



SMITH

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BIRTHDAYS FOR
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Charles Jackson
Kim Weatherton
Happy Anniversary! Max and Joanna Reeve

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2015
Emily Lameaux
Caden Williams "1"
Ethel Rae Burley

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2015
Donald Allen
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OPINION

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PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

We will not be terrorized

Our hearts are with the people of San Bernardino—another American community shattered by unspeakable violence. We salute the first responders—the police, the SWAT teams, the EMTs—who responded so quickly, with such courage, and saved lives. We pray for the injured as they fight to recover from their wounds.

Most of all, we stand with 14 families whose hearts are broken. We're learning more about their loved ones—the men and women, the beautiful lives, that were lost. They were doing what so many of us do this time of year—enjoying the holidays. Celebrating with each other. Rejoicing in the bonds of friendship and community that bind us together, as Americans. Their deaths are an absolute tragedy, not just for San Bernardino, but for our country.

We're also learning more about the killers. And we're working to get a full picture of their motives—why they committed these revolting acts. It's important to let the investigators do their job. We need to know all the facts. And at my direction, federal law enforcement is helping in every way that they can. We're going to get to the bottom of this.

It is entirely possible that these two attackers were radicalized to commit this act of terror. And if so, it would underscore a threat we've been focused on for years—the danger of people succumbing to violent extremist ideologies. We know that ISIL and other terrorist groups are actively encouraging people—around the world and in our country—to commit terrible acts of violence, often times as lone wolf actors. And even as we work to prevent attacks, all of us—government, law enforcement, communities, faith leaders—need to work together to prevent people from falling victim to these hateful ideologies.

More broadly, this tragedy reminds us of our obligation to do everything in our power, together, to keep our communities safe. We know that the killers in San Bernardino used military-style assault weapons—weapons of war—to kill as many people as they could. It's another tragic reminder that here in America it's way too easy for dangerous people to get their hands on a gun.

For example, right now, people on the No-Fly list can walk into a store and buy a gun. That is insane. If you're too dangerous to board a plane, you're too dangerous, by definition, to buy a gun. And so I'm calling on Congress to close this loophole, now. We may not be able to prevent every tragedy, but—at a bare minimum—we shouldn't be making it so easy for potential terrorists or criminals to get their hands on a gun that they could use against Americans.

Today in San Bernardino, investigators are searching for answers. Across our country, our law enforcement professionals are tireless. They're working around the clock—as always—to protect our communities. As President, my highest priority is the security and safety of the American people. This is work that should unite us all—as Americans—so that we're doing everything in our power to defend our country. That's how we can honor the lives we lost in San Bernardino. That's how we can send a message to all those who would try to hurt us. We are Americans. We will uphold our values—a free and open society. We are strong. And we are resilient. And we will not be terrorized.

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

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Remember Pearl Harbor

DECEMBER 7, 1941

After the Japanese nearly decimated the U.S. Pacific Fleet at Pearl Harbor in a surprise attack that launched the United States into World War II, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt declared Dec. 7, 1941, "a date which will live in infamy."

Seventy-four years later, most of us born after 1941 may think of Dec. 7 as just another day.

That would be wrong. It is still a date of infamy, and an event that helped propel the United States onto the world stage as a superpower.

Few could probably see that on that infamous Sunday in 1941 when a large force of Japanese airplanes above along with miniature submarines launched into the harbor attacked with bombs, torpedoes, and bullets in an effort to destroy the U.S. Pacific Fleet. More than 2,300 died, most of them servicemen.

In addition, dozens of U.S. airplanes were lost and the USS Arizona and USS Utah were sunk.

Americans were stunned by the devastation, but Roosevelt quickly resolved to recover and to have revenge.

The United States declared war on Japan the next day -- Germany and Italy, Japan's allies, would declare war on the U.S. three days later -- and the United States threw everything into the effort, shipping men out to sea and to the



Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941, the date that will live in infamy.

shores of Dunkirk and across the Pacific to fight the Germans and Japanese, sending women to factory jobs and asking people at home to scrimp on everything from butter to nylon stockings to help those fighting at the front.

Victory would come in 1945 after 44 months of war

during which the U.S. Navy sank every Japanese aircraft carrier, battleship and cruiser in the Pearl Harbor strike force, according to National Geographic magazine.

"Remember Pearl Harbor!" became the battle cry in 1941. More than seven decades later, it's still worth repeating every year on Dec. 7th.

PERSPECTIVE

Drugmakers add insult to injury

It's one thing for Pfizer to renounce its U.S. citizenship, moving its official residence to Dublin, Ireland, as a tax dodge — all the while continuing to run the business in the United States. That disgusting tactic happens to be disgustingly legal, thanks to our indolent Congress and its failure to fix the corporate tax laws.

It's quite another to insult the public with blatant phoniness that avoiding billions in U.S. taxes gives the company "the strength to research, discover and deliver more medicines and therapies to more people around the world." Those are the words of Pfizer's chief executive, Ian Read, an accountant by training.

The Pfizer deal involves a merger with a much smaller Allergan, an Ireland-based company that happens to do its business in New Jersey. Wall Street analysts scoffed at the notion that the deal had any purpose other than to let the company avoid billions in U.S. taxes — billions that other American taxpayers will have to replace.

Since Read took the helm in 2010, Pfizer has slashed its research and development budget.

We assume the company will expect the United States to continue subsidizing research through the taxpayer-supported National Institutes of Health. We assume it wants the U.S. government to continue defending its intellectual property rights.

Pfizer made headlines more than a decade ago when it persuaded the city of New London, Connecticut, to use eminent domain to seize a working-class neighborhood around its shiny new headquarters — and replace it with an upscale shopping, hotel and office complex more to the company's liking. Actually, it was a condition of its move to the city, according to The Day in New London.

The Supreme Court gave the controversial plan a green light in 2005. Four years later, Pfizer abandoned New London.

Yes, the drugmakers know how to make government work for them.

Their lobbying group, the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, leads efforts to ensure that Americans pay far more for their products than citizens of other countries.

The drugmakers' crowning achievement was getting a Republican-controlled Congress to write a Medicare drug benefit law to their specifications. While funneling billions in taxpayer subsidies toward helping the elderly buy drugs, it forbade the U.S. government to negotiate the prices on behalf of said taxpayers.

No other Western country lets drug companies charge whatever they think they can get away with. This is why the government of Norway pays about \$460 for an injection of the asthma drug Xolair and our Medicare pays about \$860.

(Pfizer also lobbied against proposals to let Americans buy their drugs from other countries at these lower prices.)

These conversations always circle back to the drugmakers' argument that Americans must pay their price to cover the high expense of developing wonderful life-enhancing products.

We can close that circle by asking: To the extent that high U.S. drug prices support research and development benefiting the world, why are Americans the only ones footing the bills?

The drugmakers don't talk much about that publicly for a very simple reason. It is not in the interests of their executives and investors to stop Americans from playing the chump. If they can get the job done by writing checks to obedient U.S. politicians and the chumps keep re-electing them, why make trouble for themselves?

In a recent annual report, Read told shareholders of Pfizer's desire to earn "greater respect from the public," which entails "acting as a respectable corporate citizen."

Read may have reason to take the American public for easily deceived children. Basic decency, however, demands that he limit such thoughts to private dinner parties.

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



PRESIDENT BARACK OBAMA



FROMA HARROP

Around Town

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.

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

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.



Members of the J.L. Jones Horticulture Club display their fall arrangements. From left are, back row, Abigail Thomas, Asia Holiday, Gavyn Davis and Topher Wilson. Middle row are, Aaliyah Allen, Chloe Gorman, Jaydee Tuttle and Devin Harris. Front row are, Richard Lane, Landon Rhoads, Cannan Youngblood, Durriyah Flournoy, Hayden Watkins, Savanna Adams and Martha Davis. Courtesy Photo

J.L. Jones Horticulture Club

Jones Elementary's Horticulture Club's first project was to plant and design fall arrangements to decorate the tables when the second grade parents came to eat Thanksgiving lunch with their children in November.

The club was designed to deal with the art, science, technology and business of vegetable gardens and plant growing. "The smiles on the faces of the kids listed back to front were priceless," instructor Richard Lane said. "Great things are happening at J.L. Jones."

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| December 6, 1:00-9:00pm |
| December 7, 3:00-9:00pm |
| December 8, 3:00-9:00pm |
| December 9, 3:00-9:00pm |
| December 10, 3:00-9:00pm |
| December 11, 3:00-9:00pm |
| December 12, 10:00am-9:00pm |
| December 13, 1:00-9:00pm |



SPORTS

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SPORTS briefs

NCAA

NBA has eyes on LSU's Simmons

Before the start of the basketball season, Ben Simmons said he thought of himself as just another college freshman. The Louisiana State star labeled himself in October as simply "Ben from Melbourne, Australia."

But it was evident even then - as a horde of reporters gathered around him at the Southeastern Conference's media day - that Simmons was much more than an import from a faraway land. He is a basketball player with the rarest of skill sets. He is 6-foot-10 with a 7-footer's wingspan. The 19-year-old moves with the fluidity of a point guard and sends passes with great vision. He can rebound like a forward and attacks the basket with athleticism.

Marc J. Spears, who covers the NBA for Yahoo Sports, said Simmons is "probably the closest thing to LeBron James since LeBron James." Simmons is pegged by almost every mock draft to be the first pick in the NBA draft in June, a selection that the 76ers are desperately trying to own.

Simmons grew up in Australia as the son of an American professional basketball player who played Down Under for Sixers head coach Brett Brown. He moved to Florida to spend his final three seasons of high school at Montverde Academy, which helped prepare him for his journey to the NBA.

MLB

Baseball officials set to tour Cuba

Joe Torre and Dave Winfield will be leading a baseball goodwill tour of Cuba this month.

Major League Baseball and the Players Association said Thursday the trip, which is set to run from Dec. 15-18, will include children's clinics and a charity event.

Torre is the chief baseball officer and Winfield is the union's special adviser. They will be joined by current players, a group that has not yet been announced.

This is M.L.B.'s first visit to Cuba since the Baltimore Orioles played an exhibition game against the Cuban national team in 1999.

Commissioner Rob Manfred said "baseball represents a pivotal common bond in our cultures, and the impact that Cuban ballplayers have made on our game is undeniable."

Tony Clark, the union's executive director, said he hoped that the visit would start a "relationship that will only grow stronger."

if a major league baseball team plays a spring training game in Cuba next year, it will be the Tampa Bay Rays.

Commissioner Rob Manfred chose the Rays by picking a ball out of a bin at Major League Baseball's offices on Park Avenue in Manhattan on Friday afternoon. There were many teams, including the Mets, the Yankees and the Los Angeles Dodgers, eager to play in Cuba.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Tournament time begins

PARISH TEAMS BEGIN HOLIDAY TOURNEY PLAY THIS WEEK



Staff Report

It's that time of year again, people are getting into the holiday spirit and the parish high schools are gearing up for their holiday tournaments.

The Minden Holiday Classic will be coming up next week, with the Glenbrook Tournament the following week, but this week Doyline High School will be hosting a number of teams in their annual tournament.

Here's a look at this week's schedules for all or parish teams.

Minden High

The Crimson Tide, boosted by the returning football players, and the Lady Tiders are coming off a good week of games and now will head to Bossier to take on Airline High school

in a pair of varsity games on Tuesday.

Starting Wednesday, both teams will head to Doyline to take part in the Doyline Tournament that runs through Saturday.

Lakeside

The Lakeside Warriors and Lady Warriors will travel to Benton High School for a pair of varsity games with the Tigers and Lady Tigers. They will then finish out the week at the Doyline Tournament.

Doyline

The Panthers and Lady Panthers will play a tournament tune-up tonight as they host teams from Converse. Then they will begin hosting their annual tournament starting Wednesday with first round games, and finishing up Saturday night with the



championship games.

North Webster

The Knights and Lady Knights will travel to Homer for a pair of games with the Pelicans and Lady Pels, then beginning Wednesday, they will head to south Webster Parish to take part in the Doyline Tournament.

Glenbrook

The Apaches and lady Apaches won't be taking part in any tournaments this week, but nonetheless will be busy. Tuesday, they will host Riverdale Academy in a pair of varsity games and then will head to Magnolia, Arkansas for a pair of Thursday match-ups with Columbia Christian. Glenbrook will wrap up their week with a pair of games against East Texas Christian School in Longview, Texas.



COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Two Bulldogs named All-Academic



IRVING, Texas - Louisiana Tech quarterback Jeff Driskel and safety Xavier Woods were recently honored as the Bulldog duo were named to Conference USA's All-Academic Team.

Louisiana Tech, Southern Miss and Western Kentucky each had two honorees apiece. This marks the second consecutive year Woods has received C-USA All-Academic honors. Charlotte, Florida Atlantic, Marshall, North Texas, Old Dominion and Rice each

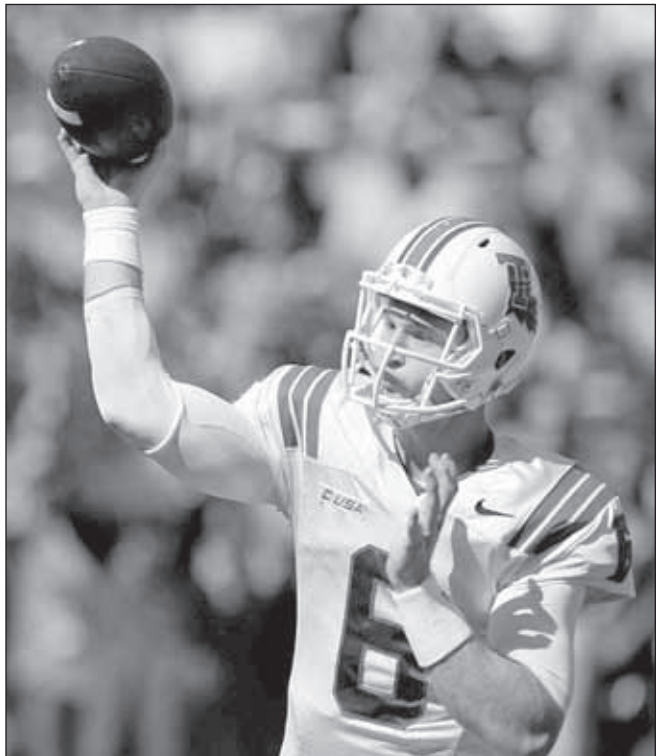
had one student-athlete recognized.

The team is comprised of two redshirt freshmen, one sophomore, six juniors, one senior and two graduate students. The all-academic team consists of student-athletes who have earned a 3.2 cumulative grade point average or better and are a starter or key reserve for their team. The squad is selected by the league's football media relations directors for football.

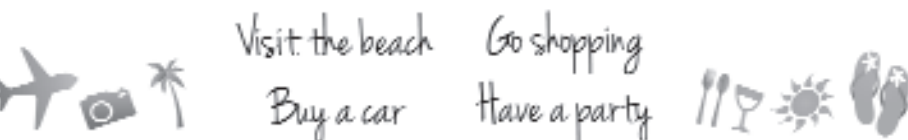
Driskel, the starting QB that ranks seventh in the

nation and second in C-USA with 3,575 passing yards, a number ranking eighth in school history in just his first year with the program. He actually threw for more passing yards and touchdowns this season in Ruston than he did in the previous four years at Florida combined. Driskel ranks in the top 25 nationally in both passing touchdowns (24) and passing efficiency (150.2) this season. He carries a 4.00 GPA while working towards his MBA.

Woods was a member of the 2014 C-USA All-Academic Team and carries a 3.65 GPA in Marketing. The starting safety has 50 tackles, seven tackles for loss and two fumbles forced this season. Woods ranks fourth nationally among active career leaders in interception return yards.



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S O Q U Y D C M Z F G U .

Friday's Answer: IF A VERY DRY CHAMPAGNE IS SO STRONG IT KNOCKS EVERYBODY OUT, YOU MIGHT CALL THAT BRUT FORCE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals T

CROSSWORD

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|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| ACROSS | 45 Jenna Elfman TV role | 2 Mine (Fr.) | 24 Mom's mate |
| 1 Bathe | 49 War horses | 3 Urban haze | 25 "Just — thought!" |
| 5 Truck's wheels | 51 Taxis | 4 Thor's weapon | 26 Harbor helpers |
| 8 Wood cutter | 52 Museo display | 5 Disaster aid group | 27 Nameless folks |
| 12 Austen heroine | 53 Elton's john | 6 Texter's "I think" | 29 D.C. stadium initials |
| 13 Kooky Philips | 54 Provo's state | 7 Tiger's sport | 30 Sci-fi invaders |
| 14 Follow | 55 Opposite of 15- | 8 Goddess of wisdom | 33 "Nope!" |
| 15 Good times | 56 Flat "six-pack" | 9 Milk dispenser? | 36 Hush-hush |
| 16 Flipper's family | 57 Zaire's Mobutu — Seko | 10 Element No. 30 | 38 Old calculator |
| 18 Whopper rival | | 11 "Or —!" | 40 Heart chart (Abbr.) |
| 20 Cut-throat | | 17 Ms. Zadora | 42 Union foe |
| 21 Flubs | | 19 La Scala solo | 43 By way of, briefly |
| 23 "— takers?" | | 22 Eye sores | 44 Actress Ward |
| 24 Nationalists | | | 46 Motel info |
| 28 Farm unit | | | 47 Some corp. hires |
| 31 Buckeyes sch. | | | 48 Ace Arthur |
| 32 "— Like It" | | | 50 Take the money and run? |
| 34 Many a time | | | |
| 35 Pen pals? | | | |
| 37 Fish-eating birds | | | |
| 39 Buzzer | | | |
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Solution time: 26 mins.

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Friday's Answers

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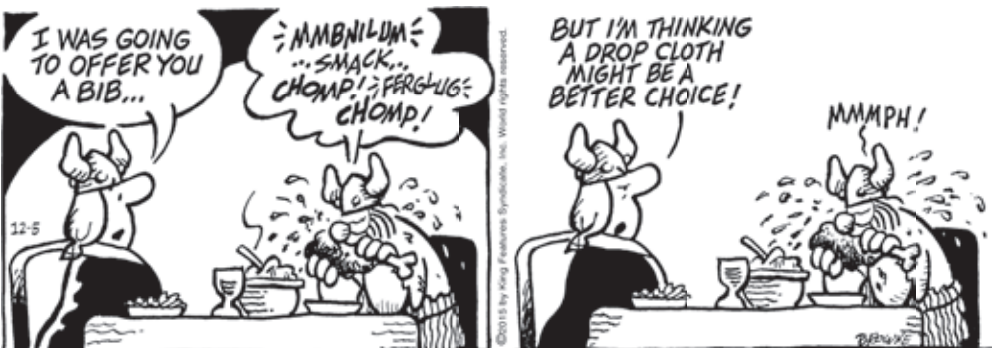
BLONDIE | DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



FUNKY WINKERBEAN | TOM BATIUK



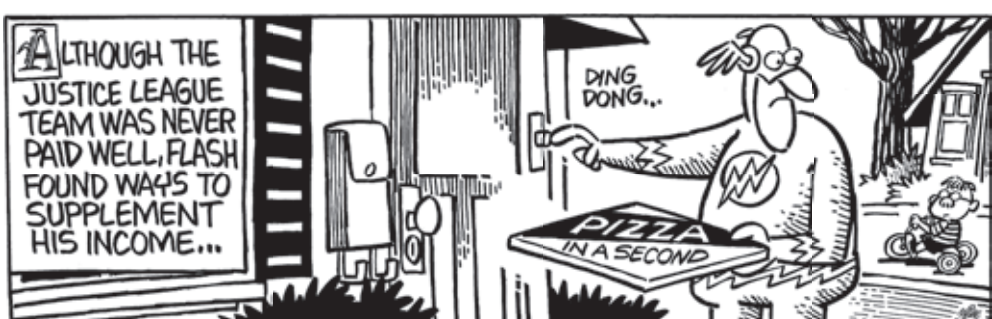
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HAM GIVEAWAY RULES:

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