

MINDEN

PRESS-HERALD

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MINDEN, LOUISIANA

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75 CENTS

Louisiana gas prices  
rise as consumer  
demand sees recovery

PATRICK DE HAAN  
Gas Buddy

Louisiana, LA, January 18- Gasoline prices in Louisiana have risen 5.2 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.07/g yesterday, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 2,436 stations in Louisiana. This compares with the national average that has increased 4.2 cents per gallon versus last week to \$2.38/g, according to GasBuddy.

"Gas prices have jumped to yet another multi-month high as crude oil price rise amidst perceived improvement in the COVID-19 pandemic, which continues to pump prices up as demand shows renewed signs of recovery," said Patrick DeHaan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

Including the change locally during the past week, prices yesterday were 16.9 cents per gallon lower than a year ago and are 17.0 cents per gallon higher than a month ago. The national average has increased 15.6 cents per gallon during the last month and stands 17.4 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

"In addition, with rumors swirling that President-elect Biden plans to cancel approval of the Keystone XL pipeline, which would cut off reliable Canadian oil to the U.S., oil prices may see additional pressure in the coming days. For now, the upward trend in gas prices may slow from the sharp rise in the last week, but motorists shouldn't expect much of a break from rising gas prices, which now stand less than twenty cents from their year-ago levels," said Patrick DeHaan.

GasBuddy is the technology company changing the way more than 75 million consumers find, purchase, and save money on gasoline. The app and website have the most accurate and real-time fuel prices at over 140,000 unique stations in the United States, Canada, and Australia and is the most comprehensive money-saving companion while on the road.

DREAM BIG!

MINDEN MARCHES FOR DR. KING



WILL PHILLIPS/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

Jordyn Dre and Artevius Smallwood seen leading the 34th Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration Parade held in honor of the memory of MLK Jr. who with eloquent speech and passion organized a movement that fought for the civil liberties of African-Americans and changed America for the better.

Smart Solutions: Economic Director Phillip Smart proposes ordinance to clean up dilapiated businesses

WILL PHILLIPS  
Minden Press-Herald

Minden Economic Development Director Phillip Smart recently proposed an ordinance to the Minden City Council that would aim to get rid of vacant businesses around Minden. In short, the ordinance would do this by imposing incrementally increasing fines and regulations that would make simply sitting on these properties and not selling them a costly endeavour.

"I brought forth this ordinance from the City of West Monroe because whenever I was a Community Development Director at the City of Arcadia, we had a lot of vacant buildings in our downtown

area, and we were trying to get Louisiana Main Street certified for our downtown. This was a good way to actually make people be progressive towards either fixing up their vacant structure or selling or leasing their vacant structure," said Smart.

"This is what we're bringing to Minden to move Minden forward so we can get these vacant structures that we have now marketable, where they're actually a fair market value, so other entrepreneurs that are in the city currently can have a shot at opening their own business and being successful. We're not just letting these vacant structures just become dilapidated, bringing down the value of our city, and getting left in the

past. We actually want to be, you know, a forward-moving city."

Overall the goal of this ordinance is to incentivize these vacant properties and get them into the hands of people who will maintain them and use them to bring business to the City of Minden.

During a meeting that was held to discuss the ordinance, Smart, the Mayor, the City Council, and Minden Building Official Brent Cooley met to look over this ordinance and talk about crafting one themselves.

Aptly summarizing the intended goal of the ordinance, Cooley stated, "If you can't afford to maintain it properly, you need to

See, **SMART**, Page 2

Minden St. Jude Goes Virtual for 2021 Auction

Special to the Press-Herald

Dear friends of St Jude,

Like the rest of the world over the past 10 months, the Minden St. Jude Auction will undergo many changes in 2021. The auction format is being adapted in an effort to follow COVID-19 protocols as laid out by the City, State, and Federal Officials. For 2021, we are pivoting to a virtual-only format that will still allow us to carry out our primary mission of supporting the kids of the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. As such we will be restricting public access to the Minden Civic Center as well as limiting the size of our amazing team of volunteers. Though we are saddened by these changes, we feel that this amazing event must continue in one form or another for the kids! THAT is what the Minden St. Jude Auction is all about!

First, keep checking in on the website. We are creating tabs for additional information, links and schedules. It is a work in progress but should be in place very soon.

The auction, in its adapted format, will be available to

See, **ST. JUDE**, Page 2

EDITOR'S NOTE

*Filing for the elections of the Minden city Councilman positions for District A and District D can be completed January 22 with the elections later taking place in May. Individuals interested may complete their filing for candidacy at the Webster Parish Clerk of Courts located at 410 Main St.*

*Anyone interested in announcing their candidacy may submit their announcement to be published in the Minden Press Herald. This can be sent to our office located at 203 Gleason Street or emailed to us at newsroom@press-herald.com.*

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Low Temp **50°**

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COVID-19

# SMART: Minden business looks to clean up

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get rid of it. If you don't, the City needs to push you in that direction."

Councilman Edwards of Dist. A noted, "I agree with you. That sounds easy."

Cooley responded, "It ain't gonna be easy, but the City is just gonna have to put their foot down and say if you don't do it, we're taking you to court."

Overall the Council seemed to be on board with the proposal, with most of the discussion revolving around making sure it's effective as opposed to whether or not it should be enacted in the first place.

City Attorney Jimbo Yocum explained that currently, the process of getting the owners of these vacant properties into court can be a timely endeavour, which is only exaggerated by the relatively lenient rules, or lack thereof, that requires owners to properly maintain said properties.

"The issue is that a lot of these buildings and properties are hier properties. ... Well, our current situation is as Brent says, whenever someone isn't complying

with our ordinances, the process is very cumbersome. It takes about two months to get someone into court, and then they come to court and the judge says, go clean up your property, and don't do it, I then have to rule them back into court for a second time to have a contempt hearing and they get to come and explain why they did or didn't do it," said Yocum.

"If they show up, we argue about it. If they don't show up, I get a judgment and then they get a chance to come back and refute that judgment 60 days later. I mean, this is months and months of a process for something that should be fairly simple."

In regards to the one that we're here for today, the vacant structure, I think it's a wonderful idea as long as it has teeth to it, and where it's not a big cumbersome process to get them into court when they won't abide by it."

"It would make it a lot easier to enforce and a lot quicker to get a resolution on."

Noting an example of another who saw positive

results for enacting a similar ordinance, Councilman Bloxom of Dist. E said, "So the Mayor of West Monroe said that once they implemented it, it changed all of their downtown area, and you can see it happening that there was more pride in the community, and she said that this had been tested through the courts and it held up."

"I think it should be all commercial," said Terika Williams-Walker, which would not just be businesses in the downtown area.

Later in the Meeting Councilman Tommy Davis of Dist. D got into the finer details of the ordinance and addressed some of the costs that would be imposed on vacant property owners. "If I did my math right, the first year is going to cost you five hundred fifty dollars. A second-year is gonna cost about seven hundred and fifty dollars the third year, It goes up to the sixth year you're paying, you know, that it's right at 4000 dollars a year.

You know, we've got lots of buildings in town right now that would be falling under that.

The exact amount has

yet to be set for this ordinance, but it would likely include an incrementally increasing fine, incentivizing the property owners to sell their property sooner rather than later. The ordinance could also do this by adding on insurance requirements for setting standards of maintenance.

So far the official ordinance has not been drafted, but the example ordinance from West Monroe would be used as a template, meaning the mechanisms addressed in the meeting to clean up vacant business properties in Minden would likely appear in the final draft.

"I think if we start messing with this, what we need to do is read through it thoroughly. Some of the wording may need to be changed, but we already know it has been challenged in court and it held up," said Walker.

"This is a template for it, and if it has teeth to it, there's no sense in us putting something in place that doesn't have any teeth to it then. What's the point? We're back at square one?"

MINDEN

# ST. JUDE: Auction goes virtual in 2021

Continued from Page 1

watch/listen/stream/bid via KASO/KBEF, Suddenlink, and of course via the website at [mindenstjude.com](http://mindenstjude.com). Our often memorized phone number 318-377-1100 will also be in full effect with a team of socially distanced volunteers to take your pledges! As always, we will go live on Thursday, February 4th and will continue through Super Bowl Weekend ending on Sunday, February 7th. Despite the virtual format we encourage you to tune in!

The Chili Cook-off and Children's Day have been canceled due to the adapted virtual-only format. We hope that these wonderful auction weekend components will return bigger and better in 2022.

The Minden Run for St. Jude will be taking place as usual, but will be starting from a new location and follow updated routes. Be sure to visit the [MindenRunForStJude.com](http://MindenRunForStJude.com) website for the details.

Auction T-Shirts can be pre-ordered online for pickup auction weekend or shipped after the auction concludes. Shirts will be available for purchase and for online order pickup auction weekend at Eastside Baptist Church in Minden.

Though we are going all-virtual for 2021, we have been assembling an amazing list of merchandise, raffle items, and board items. We encourage you to visit [mindenstjude.com](http://mindenstjude.com) to view the amazing list of raffle items including our always popular Grand Prize and Partner in Hope. You can also call into 318-377-1100 to place bids on not only the raffle items, but our great board items as well. We will do our best to keep the list of winners up to date on the website

so you can see if you won! We are currently working on details for item pickup as the Minden Civic Center will be restricted solely to a nimble team of volunteers.

We will be having the auction boards up and running this year, so if you are a merchant or have any donations for the boards, we will be happy to get them! The donation forms can be found on the website and we will be accepting items starting Wednesday, February 2, at the Civic Center. Important side note: Please remember that we are well aware of the hard times this last year has brought to so many of us, personally and professionally. If this is not the year to give, we totally understand! This community has supported the fundraiser through thick and thin, and everyone deserves a year off!

With the changes for 2021, we aim to keep everyone as informed as possible. Keep checking the website for updates, news, new raffle items, and announcements. We are also VERY active on Social Media via Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter. Though this is a "work-in-progress," we are actively adding new items and doing our best to put on an amazing event! Don't worry! Our sponsors are pulling through, our donations are pouring in, and the merchandise/raffle items are as great as ever. We are thrilled and a little surprised with the outpouring of support! Even with all of the craziness of the 2020-2021 school year, the children of Minden and Webster Parish are hard at work to support the kids of St. Jude!

Bear with us and say a little prayer as we figure things out! Remember, it's all for the kids!

-Minden St. Jude

STATE

# Public Safety Officials Commend Peaceful Weekend Activities, Urge the Reporting of Suspicious Activity

STAFF REPORT  
Louisiana State Police

Throughout the weekend, public safety officials from numerous federal, state, and local agencies worked to coordinate security protocols and ensure safety for protesters, Capitol grounds, and the surrounding community. The peaceful assemblies and activities throughout the weekend was a testament to the intended purpose of our First Amendment rights, including the

right to peacefully protest.

Leading up to Inauguration Day on Wednesday, January 20, 2021, a multi-agency collaborative team will remain in a heightened posture to monitor for any emerging threats to our state. No specific and substantiated threat to life or property have been identified at this time to include the State Capitol or other government buildings.

All agencies remain steadfast in our mission to protect our citizens

and deter criminal activity which prevents others from peacefully expressing their First Amendment rights.

Citizens are urged to report suspicious and/or suspected criminal activity by utilizing:

- 911 for life threatening emergencies
- Louisiana State Analytical & Fusion Exchange (LA-SAFE) Hotline - 1-800-434-8007
- LSP Suspicious Activity Online Reporting Form: [dpsweb.dps.louisiana.gov/suspicious.nsf/Web-Form?OpenForm](http://dpsweb.dps.louisiana.gov/suspicious.nsf/Web-Form?OpenForm)

gov/suspicious.nsf/Web-Form?OpenForm

· "See Something Send Something" mobile application

· Federal Bureau of Investigation online and hotline tip reporting: [www.fbi.gov/tips](http://www.fbi.gov/tips) -1-800-CALL-FBI

As indicated nationwide, citizens with information on the incident that occurred at the US Capitol last week or upcoming protests can notify the FBI at 1-800-CALL-FBI or at [fbi.gov/USCapitol](http://fbi.gov/USCapitol).

STATE

# Louisiana task force approves recommendations meant to improve law enforcement tactics

DAVID JACOBS  
The Center Square

(The Center Square) - A task force the Louisiana Legislature created to develop recommendations that would lead to better policing finished its work Thursday, agreeing to proposed changes related to choke holds, no-knock warrants, body cameras and other issues.

The longest debate focused on whether a law enforcement agency should be able to investigate potential wrongdoing by one of its own members. State Rep. Tony Bacala, a Prairieville Republican and former law enforcement officer, proposed creating a certification process that, once completed by at least three members of the

agency, would allow that agency to conduct an internal investigation when one of its officers is involved in a shooting that leads to death or serious injury.

Though smaller law enforcement agencies typically rely on State Police for such investigations, nothing currently stops them from investigating themselves if they choose to do so, speakers said.

"Right now, there are no real rules," Bacala said. "We're raising the bar above where it is today."

But state representatives Ted James and Edmond Jordan, both Baton Rouge Democrats who are Black, said an agency should not be allowed to investigate itself at all.

"It's the fox guarding the hen house," Jordan said, adding that a better idea

would be to create an independent agency to investigate officer shootings.

James said "police policing themselves" is not what "my community" wants. He said the U.S. Department of Justice under Attorney General William Barr recommended that states require an external agency to investigate shootings, suggesting that recommendation should carry weight with people inclined to agree with the current federal administration.

The task force voted 11-7 to approve Bacala's recommendation.

The group voted down James' proposal to ban officers under investigation from reviewing their body camera footage before meeting with investigators. He said going over the foot-

age with their attorney before making a statement to an investigator could help an accused officer fabricate a story to escape punishment.

Other members found James' proposal excessive. They said taking a look at the footage helps an officer refresh their memory about the incident.

Some of the other recommendations to the Louisiana Legislature the Police Training, Screening and De-escalation Task Force approved include:

Reduce the amount of time an accused officer has to secure counsel from 30 days to 14.

Increase the amount of time to complete an investigation from 60 to 75 days, including weekends and holidays.

Ban choke holds except

in cases where an officer believes they or another person are at risk of serious bodily harm.

Require anti-bias training for law enforcement officers.

Require agencies to develop plans to recruit more minority officers.

Require agencies to report to prosecutors any wrongdoing by officers that might hurt their credibility in court.

Give agencies 45 days to report incidents before fining an agency \$500 a day for failing to do so.

Direct Peace Officer Standards and Training Council to develop a process to potentially suspend or revoke an officer's certification for misconduct that does not lead to a criminal conviction, which currently is required. Their proposal

would be reviewed by judiciary committees in the state House of Representatives and Senate.

Ban "no-knock" warrants unless an affidavit establishes probable cause that such a warrant is needed to protect an officer from death or bodily harm. Officers still would have to identify themselves as uniformed officers and provide audible notice that they are entering a building.

Require dashboard cameras to be activated when an officer leaves their vehicle.

Require agencies to establish formal policies about when body cameras must be on.



# WEBSTER & MORE

## OBITUARIES



### Garland Mack Garrett

Around 3 am on January 8, 2021, Garland Mack Garrett, Sr., took his final breaths on earth at his home in Sarepta, LA and was welcomed to Heaven with the sweet embrace of Jesus. His passing took place while he was peacefully sleeping, mere hours before his 79 th birthday. Mack was a 1960 graduate of Springhill High School where he was Class President his Freshmen, Junior, and Senior years and Secretary his Sophomore year. During his high school career, he was a vital member of the Lumberjack Football Team.

He was known to most as Mack, but anyone who met him called him “friend”. One very special lady, Judy Waller Garrett, knew him as Honey. Mack and Judy celebrated their 59 th wedding anniversary on August 4, 2020.

Four children and their spouses were blessed enough to call him Dad: Garland Mack Garrett, Jr. and his wife Jonette; Julie Garrett Mills and her husband Kenny; Jennifer Garrett Douglas and her husband James; and Christian Garrett. Two special grandchildren came into this world calling him Pops: Jamison Rae Douglas and Braeden Garrett Douglas.

In Mack’s spare time, he could be found in the woods hunting, on the lake fishing, or on the golf course spending time with old friends and making new ones. Mack very proudly joined the Brotherhood of the Blue when he served Sarepta and Webster Parish as a Chief of Police and Bailiff. His gift of teaching and love for the

Word of God opened the door for him to teach the Ed Schultz Sunday School Class at the United Methodist Church in Springhill, LA.

Mack loved his family, his friends, his country, and his Heavenly Father. He loved to laugh and he was very generous with the wisdom he shared. “Pay attention”, “It’s always safe to trust the Lord”, “Bow up, grab a tree root, and growl,” and “I am on your side” are just a few of the many Mack-isms he often repeated to his family.

Those waiting to greet him in Heaven included his parents- Dr. William R. and Mabel Garrett and his brother- William “Bill” Robert Garrett, Jr., as well as Granny Reba and Papaw Ferman Robinson. Those of us who look forward to seeing him again include his sister- Mary “Sister” McEachern, wife- Judy, four children and their spouses, two grandchildren, many nieces and nephews, and countless friends who had the privilege of knowing him.

He will be sorely missed by anyone who had the pleasure of meeting him. Knowing that he is free from pain, with our Lord, and that we will see him again gives those who knew him strength and peace. I am sure if he was here today, he would be telling us that the day he took his last breath on earth, was when he truly began living.

Visitation for family and friends will be held at New Sarepta Baptist Church on Friday, January 17, 2021 from 5-7:00 pm. Celebration of Mack’s life will be held at New Sarepta Baptist Church on Saturday, January, 16, 2021 at 2:00 pm.

*Bailey Funeral Home*  
*Springhill, LA*  
*318-539-3555*



### Linda Gale Berry

Linda Gale Berry. 78 of Minden, Louisiana, passed away from Covid complications on Saturday, January 16, 2021.

She was born September 24, 1942 in Minden, Louisiana to Searcy and Odessa Barnes.

She is preceded in death by her son, Dr. Michael F. Berry; her parents, Searcy Barnes and Odessa Barnes Raudabaugh; her in-laws, Fred H. and Nobie Berry; and her brother, Searcy Barnes Raudabaugh.

She is survived by her husband of 58 years, Fred Berry. Other survivors include her son, Dr. Brent Berry and his wife Nancy, and their daughter Brittany Bigby and husband Hayden, and son, Nicholas Berry of Bossier City, Louisiana; daughter-in-law, Melissa Johnson Berry of Bentonville, Arkansas and her three children, Meredith, Matthew, and Molly; her brother, Eddie Raudabaugh and wife Brenda of Blanchard, Louisiana; and numerous dear friends.

Linda graduated from Minden High School in 1960 and attended Northwestern State University where she graduated with a B.S. in Nursing. Upon graduation, she did various jobs in nursing, including Home Health and working at Minden Medical Center where she retired in 1997. Linda was a devoted wife, mother,

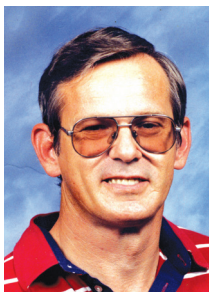
and grandmother. She participated in many clubs including the Junior Service League, Minden Book Club, Garden Club, and Birthday Club. She loved flowers and working in her yard and was an avid gardener and member of Master Gardeners. Linda was a devote Christian and loved her church, the First United Methodist Church of Minden. She enjoyed being in numerous Bible studies.

She was a wonderful cook and loved sharing her food and doing for others. Linda was definitely a people person and enjoyed playing cards with her many friends. One of her favorite things to do with Fred was to sit outside on the deck and watch the deer on the golf course. Linda was also an animal lover and on occasions came home with strays.

Her family meant everything to her and she was loved so much by them. She will be dearly missed by all who knew her. Donations may be made to First United Methodist Church of Minden or charity of choice.

Because of safety concerns during Covid, only graveside services will be held at Gardens of Memory on Wednesday, January 20, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. under the direction of Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden, Louisiana. Services will be conducted by Rev. Brian Mercer and Dr. Jack Odell.

*Rose-Neath Funeral Home*  
*211 Murrell Street*  
*Minden, Louisiana 71055*  
*(318) 377-3412*



### Garry Wallace

Graveside services for Gary Wayne Wallace will be held Thursday, January 21, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at Old Athens Cemetery in Athens, Louisiana under the direction of Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden, Louisiana. Officiating will be Rev. Eddie Balance.

Gary was born on October 31, 1954. He fought a courageous 2 1/2 months battle with Covid before passing away on January 17, 2021 at the age of 66.

Gary was preceded in death by his parents, L.B. and Lorraine Wallace and baby sister Judy.

He is survived by his bv his sisters, Lorry Ann Crocker

and husband Benny and Mary Ann Nixon; brother, Larry Wayne Wallace and wife Debby; special aunts, Betty May and Faye Wallace; special nephew, Brad Holloway whom Gary considered a brother, friend, and hunting buddy, and numerous nieces and nephews.

He loved the Pittsburgh Steelers. It got exciting when the Steelers played the Cowboys and Gary’s cousin Huey Earl were together. Gary also loved hunting, fishing, chocolate pie and playing Wahoo. He attended church at New Hope Baptist Church and worked at Cameron’s Veterinary Hospital in Minden for over 25 years.

*Rose-Neath Funeral Home*  
*211 Murrell Street*  
*Minden, Louisiana 71055*  
*(318) 377-3412*



### Wills Successions

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## NEW Obituary Submission Guidelines

- All obituaries must be typed to avoid any errors.
- Deadline for obituaries is 3:00 p.m. two days prior to the publication date.
- A proof can be provided via email if requested.
- Obituary cost is \$40/per 400 words and includes a single photo. Payments can be made over the phone once the obit is received. All obituaries are subject to prepayment.
- Obituaries may be submitted by bringing a typed copy by our office at 203 Gleason St., Minden, or emailing to [obits@press-herald.com](mailto:obits@press-herald.com).

If you have any further questions please call our office at 318-377-1866



# OPINION

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203 GLEASON STREET  
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**JOSHUA SPECHT**  
Editor & Publisher

**WILL PHILLIPS**

Lead Reporter

**KELLY MAY**

Chief Financial Officer

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Circulation Manager

**JJ MARSHALL**

Sports Editor

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**CURTIS MAYS**

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**THE MINDEN  
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WELCOMES**

**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.  
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## OTHER OPINION

# Malkin: Amnesia of the anarcho-tyrannists

Is it just me or has the entire universe of establishment media, politics and Hollywood forgotten that this country has endured an entire year of relentless violent anarcho-tyranny?

Antifa and Black Lives Matter rioters set businesses and churches ablaze, smashed state capitols and laid siege to federal courthouses. They permanently destroyed precious statues and symbols of America's heritage. They assaulted elderly people, stalked and menaced bystanders, taunted and terrorized law enforcement. And they committed murder — dozens of times — in the name of social justice while the powers that be sat idly by.

How conveniently they have all forgotten the grief of Ann Dorn, widow of retired St. Louis police captain David Dorn, who was slain by George Floyd vigilantes looting a pawn shop he was guarding on June 2, 2020. Ann Dorn condemned the violence during a speech to the Republican National Convention last summer and recounted how she relives "that horror in my mind every single day. My hope is that having you relive it with me now will help shake this country from this nightmare we're witnessing in our cities" and "bring about positive, peaceful change."

Dorn's plea went unheeded. Why? Because riots and invasive protest are the primary means by which the left operates and has always operated.

When they take over government buildings, like 40,000

Democratic union workers did when they stormed Wisconsin's state capitol in 2011 for nearly a month, it's not an insurrection. It's a First Amendment celebration.

When they take over U.S. Senators' offices, like they did during the 2018 Kavanaugh confirmation hearings, it's not sedition. It's "democracy."

When they feel like blocking traffic and shutting down highways, the police don't arrest them. They protect them.

And when they occupy U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement facilities and vandalize federal courthouses — while obstructing homeland security operations, shining lasers in cops' eyes to blind them and hurling bricks at them to maim them — it's not a crime. It's "peaceful protest."

This is not "whataboutism." It's an absolutely necessary and vital backdrop as we seek to make sense of what happened last week in our nation's Capitol. (And isn't it the Left that always urges us to identify "root causes" when their thugs cross the line?) Law-abiding Americans are angry and frustrated precisely because the law has not been equally applied.

Whether we're talking about

lockdown rules or mob rules or election rules, the elites and their allies live by one set of rules and govern by another. Hundreds of thousands of peaceful Donald Trump supporters are being smeared by pundits and politicians who have downplayed left-wing lawlessness from Day One of the Trump presidency. Those who protest this injustice are being purged from social media and the public square at warp speed.

—Some 70,000 dissidents on Twitter were summarily purged after being tarred as dangerous conspiracy theorists on Monday.

—Air Force veteran Ashli Babbitt, an unarmed Trump supporter who was gunned down by Capitol police last week, has been ruthlessly defamed by blue-checkmarked celebrities on Twitter and labeled a domestic terrorist.

—MAGA moms and their children are being dragged off airplanes by federal jackboots for attending the Jan. 6 rally, while antifa and BLM advocates gloat.

—"Stop the Steal" organizer Ali Alexander and his colleagues have been wiped off Silicon Valley platforms, along with conservative social media company Parler, libertarian Ron Paul, "War Room" host Steve Bannon, "America First" host Nick Fuentes, "Red Elephants" host Vince James, cartoonist Ben Garrison, Judicial Watch president Tom Fitton, election fraud researcher Ron Watkins, Gen. Michael Flynn,

and lawyers Sidney Powell and Lin Wood.

—Trump faces yet another phony impeachment attack despite his explicit call for supporters to "peacefully and patriotically make your voices heard."

Meanwhile, actual convicted domestic terrorists like Black Liberation Army assassin As-sata Shakur, Weather Underground killers Kathy Boudin and David Gilbert, and May 19th Communist Organizer Susan Rosenberg (a left-wing weapons supplier and insurrectionist pardoned by Bill Clinton and now a board member of the umbrella group overseeing Black Lives Matter) are deified by the media, Hollywood and academia.

Maxine Waters has been cribbing Martin Luther King Jr.'s line about riots being the "language of the unheard" ever since she danced on the ashes of the L.A. riots with Bloods and Crips.

Liberal magazine Slate declared just six months ago in defense of antifa and BLM anarcho-tyrannists that "non-violence is an important tool for protest, but so is violence."

There simply cannot be peace and civil order in such a dysfunctional country of double standards and stifled dissent. It is dishonest and harmful to our republic to pretend otherwise.

MICHELLE MALKIN'S EMAIL ADDRESS IS MICHELLEMALKININVESTIGATES@PROTONMAIL.COM.

## OTHER OPINION

# DeSlatte: No immediate vaccine changes planned in Louisiana

Federal officials have changed their guidance to states for distributing and administering the coronavirus vaccine, but that doesn't mean Louisiana is rushing more of its residents to the front of the line for shot eligibility.

Gov. John Bel Edwards' administration is keeping its current approach for now, because the state already has more interest in COVID-19 immunization than it has vaccine doses available — particularly from those aged 70 and older who are currently eligible in Louisiana.

In addition, it's uncertain the new federal guidelines will stick. President-elect Joe Biden's administration is expected to make changes to the nation's approach to vaccinations, including adjustments to the distribution of doses to states.

For now, Louisiana's Democratic governor will maintain the current eligibility requirements and distribution network he's enacted through hospitals, pharmacies and health clinics.

"It's going to be some time before we announce any changes, if at all, to our approach with respect to priority groups," Edwards said. "One of the reasons is we're already focused on those most vulnerable in Louisiana, those who are 70 or older, and we still have a lot of those individuals who have yet to be vaccinated who want the vaccine."

In addition to the elderly, the vaccine in Louisiana is available to health care employees, EMS workers, firefighters, people with kidney failure and people who live and work at nursing homes and other long-term care facilities.

About 850,000 people out of Louisiana's 4.6 million residents fall into the current eligibility categories, according to Edwards' administration estimates.

More than 170,000 people have received at least the first dose of the two-dose Pfizer or Moderna vaccines, according to the latest data from the state health department.

That means about 4% of Louisiana's population has started the two-shot vaccination process.

On Tuesday, President Donald Trump's administration changed its guidance to states, widening its recommendations for eligibility after a sluggish start to getting shots in arms around the country. The new guidance urged states to immediately start vaccinating other groups lower down the priority scale, including people age 65

and older and younger people with certain health problems.

But states create their own eligibility standards.

Edwards already has set the next vaccine priority group when Louisiana expands its eligibility beyond the current list. But it likely will be weeks or possibly months before the state moves to that next cohort of people.

The list for that next priority group — whenever it becomes eligible — doesn't directly match the latest Trump administration guidance.

Louisiana's next priority group includes hundreds of thousands more people: grocery store workers, public transit employees, K-12 school employees and teachers, day care workers, post office employees, essential government response workers, judges, the National Guard and other military staff, prison guards and more.

Edwards said he might tweak the list before Louisiana opens eligibility to that group.

"We don't have to make that decision yet, because we're not there," he said. "When we move to that next group, that group may look a little different, a little larger than it currently does based on the recommendations we've gotten."

When Louisiana will broaden vaccination eligibility to that next group remains uncertain — and entirely up to the governor.

Edwards said he'll open shots to more people when de-

mand from those currently eligible lessens. His benchmark is when 20% of available vaccine appointments are not getting filled, the state will move to the next order of priority.

Louisiana also has to make sure it has enough vaccine available to give people the second shot required within weeks after the first dose. That's a delicate balancing act when states find out how many vaccine doses they'll receive from the federal government for the upcoming week only a few days before distribution.

Another change announced by federal officials might impact the number of doses states receive, if the Biden administration continues it. The Trump administration said the federal government will base each state's allocation of vaccines partly on how successful states have been in administering those already provided.

Louisiana's made significant strides in improving its vaccination reach after a slow pace across the first few weeks of the rollout. It ranked 16th among states Friday for the number of doses administered per capita, according to data collected by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, after earlier being in the bottom tier of states.

MELINDA DESLATTE HAS COVERED LOUISIANA POLITICS FOR THE ASSOCIATED PRESS SINCE 2000.



MICHELLE MALKIN



MELINDA DESLATTE



INSPIRATION

# Inauguration week prayer event aims to show Christian unity

WASHINGTON (AP) — As a politically divided nation prepares to inaugurate a new president in the wake of a violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, a group of Christian leaders is hoping to ease tensions through prayer during three days of ecumenical, nonpartisan programming.

Using the slogan and social media tag #Peace-WithJustice, the effort aims to project spiritual unity and counter people’s feelings of helplessness with action, during a time of high alert with thousands of troops securing the capital following the Jan. 6 violence, which has led to about 120 arrests so far.

The name of the gathering — held virtually due to the pandemic — is in part a nod to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.’s observation that “true peace is not merely the absence of tension; it is the presence of justice.” Details of the initiative were shared with The Associated Press in advance of its launch on the weekend when the country commemorates his birthday.

Leaders of the effort are incorporating the King holiday into their work, asking participants to use their Sunday messages to focus on “redoubling efforts to work together to address systemic racism and restore trust and integrity to our democratic system and institutions.”

Jim Wallis, founder of the Christian social justice group Sojourners and a lead organizer of the event, said he hoped to see the faithful “move beyond the emotions of anger and fear” and toward the moral truth of communal reconciliation.

“Prayer is action, in my view,” Wallis said.

After Monday’s federal holiday, the event continues Tuesday with a multid denominational Zoom prayer service. On Wednesday, when President-elect Joe Biden is inaugurated, participants plan a daylong chorus of testimony and other statements on Twitter in the hopes of restoring a sense of harmony to a transition of power that has been marred by violence.

Organizers have dubbed the 12-hour social media push a “thunderclap.”

“Defending democracy for all Americans — no exceptions” is imperative for all people of faith, the group says on its website.

Prominent participants include Michael Curry, presiding bishop of the Episcopal Church; Walter Kim, president of the National Association of Evangelicals; Commissioner Kenneth G. Hodder, National Commander of the Salvation Army; and Barbara Williams-Skinner, co-convenor of the National African American Clergy Network.

Williams-Skinner said she hopes it will become a model for further collaboration by people of faith across denominational boundaries.

“I hope that this is the beginning of a strong ecumenical coalition to fight against the evil of racism and all kinds of systemic injustices going forward, and to connect those to public policies that will come out of this administration and this Congress,” she said.

Kim said that while many member churches in his group are planning their own programs during inauguration week, the nonpartisan event appealed to him because “we need, in this moment, something that transcends partisan politics.”

He also acknowledged the presence of Christian symbols and overtly Christian identification among some of those who breached the Capitol in a bid to overturn the presidential election for President Donald Trump, saying that the potential convergence of Christian and nationalist identities “does grieve my heart.”

Looking ahead, he sounded a note of humility.

“In this moment of great division, for whatever parts the church has played,” Kim said, “we ought to repent and in any ways the church can contribute, we ought to pursue.”

ASSOCIATED PRESS RELIGION COVERAGE RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM THE LILLY ENDOWMENT THROUGH THE CONVERSATION U.S. THE AP IS SOLELY RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS CONTENT.

INSPIRATION

# Fools Give Reasons, Wise Men Never Try

One of the hardest lessons we have to learn is when to speak and when to keep silent yet when Jesus was criticized He answered not a word.

It takes years of practice, of learning when to speak and when to keep silent. If we will turn to the Bible we can learn so much. In the book of James we are taught that “if anyone lacks wisdom let him ask for it because He will give liberally upbraiding not.”

Why are we so slow to learn, to be afraid to ask?

He was the wisest one to ever live.

“Fools give reasons, wise men never try!” These words come from the popular song “Some Enchanted Evening.”

For many years I thought I had to give an answer for everything until one evening, in the 1980’s, I heard these words being sung at a cantata in Plain Dealing, Louisiana. Those words gave me an answer to the struggle I faced.

One of the hardest lessons to learn is to just shut up, to not answer back, to just stop talking, because we think that the more words spoken the stronger we make our case.

Quite the reverse is often true.

Jesus was a great example when He was criticized by the crowds. He answered not a word.

I know no stronger argument than that of si-



SARAH HUDSON-PIERCE

lence. Silence seems to be what we are most afraid of, not knowing how to answer next.

Why are we so scared to hear ourselves think? Why must we have constant noise and be plugged in to either cell phones, texting or social media?

I think we are scared of our own company. It takes years of becoming comfortable with ourselves.

Someone told me she believes people watch television all evening long is to numb themselves from thinking.

Why do we need to be numbed?

I like thinking, of hearing myself think, but I had to go through years of pain to get to that place in my life, having grown up in an orphanage.

It takes years of working at the art, the craft, of keeping silence. It may be harder to just ask for wisdom. If I understand the Bible it plainly teaches that wisdom comes with no strings attached. All we have to do is ask.

Sometimes we get under so much pressure we hardly know which end is up but if we will turn again to the Word we can find this hard, often overlooked truth.

Just ask for wisdom.

Enough said and maybe not.

I suppose there is a stubborn streak in all of us. We want to speak, to have the last word.

I’ve heard of the “silent

sale.” The way it appears to work is this -- just become silent after you have made your spiel, stop talking, and the sale will more likely be won.

Silence speaks volumes.

Why are we slow to learn this lesson?

Maybe we become mesmerized with our own words. Ministers are sometimes guilty of this trait, of thinking that the longer the sermon the better the message when in reality some of the greatest talks have consisted of few words.

“We have nothing to fear but fear itself” is the shortest speech ever recorded and was spoken by Franklin D. Roosevelt, our thirty-second president in his inaugural address. Those eight words were the entire speech which was followed by a standing ovation.

And most poignant verse is “Jesus wept” which is the simplest verse to learn. Yet it speaks loudly of Jesus’ emotion, of His deep love that carried Him to the cross.

These thoughts come from deep within my soul when I find myself in situations when I need great wisdom to know when to speak and when to keep silent. It’s those times that I ask for wisdom and it comes in the most needed times.

It gives me peace as I pillow my head knowing that Jesus is the same yesterday today and forever and that He always gets me to the right place at the right time.

CONTACT SARAH AT SAR-AHP9957@AOL.COM

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NATIONAL

From Baked Alaska to a guy with horns: notable riot arrests

STAFF REPORT  
AP NEWS

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than 125 people have been arrested so far on charges related to the violent insurrection led by supporters of President Donald Trump at the U.S. Capitol, where a Capitol police officer and four others were killed.

Charges from the Jan. 6 riot range from curfew violations to serious federal felonies related to theft and weapons possession.

From a man pictured kicking his feet up on a desk in House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's office to a far right-wing media personality known as "Baked Alaska" to the bare-chested guy sporting a furry hat with horns, here's a list in alphabetical order of some of the more notable arrests and allegations made by authorities.

Richard Barnett, 60, of Arkansas was photographed sitting with his boots on a desk in Pelosi's office during the Jan. 6 riot. He was ordered Friday to be brought to Washington, where he faces charges of unlawfully entering a restricted area with a lethal weapon — a stun gun. Barnett is also charged with disorderly conduct and theft of public property.

Retired Air Force Lt. Col. Larry Rendall Brock Jr., of Texas, is a former former fighter pilot photographed on the Senate floor wearing a military style helmet and body armor and carrying plastic zip-tie handcuffs. He is charged with knowingly

entering or remaining in a restricted building and violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds.

Jacob Chansley, 33 of Arizona was seen in the capitol wearing face paint, no shirt and a furry hat with horns and carrying a U.S. flag attached to a spear. Chansley, also known as Jake Angeli, calls himself the "QAnon Shaman," a reference to the apocalyptic and convoluted conspiracy theory spread largely through the internet and promoted by some right-wing extremists. He is charged with entering a restricted building without lawful authority, violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds.

Lonnie Leroy Coffman, 70, of Alabama drove to Washington to attend Trump's "Save America Rally" in a red pickup packed with an M4 assault rifle, multiple loaded magazines, three handguns and 11 Mason jars filled with homemade napalm, according to court filings. The grandfather was arrested that evening when he returned to the truck carrying a 9mm Smith & Wesson handgun and a .22-caliber derringer pistol. He is charged with possession of an unregistered firearm and carrying a pistol without a license.

Jenny Cudd of Texas, a former mayoral candidate in Midland, was arrested after posting a video bragging that she was part of a group that broke down Pelosi's door. Cudd,

who owns a flower shop, deleted the video and told The Associated Press she didn't personally go into Pelosi's office and didn't do anything violent or destroy any property. She was charged with entering a restricted building and disorderly conduct, both misdemeanors. She said she received death threats and her business, Becky's Flowers, was bombarded with one-star reviews calling her a traitor and domestic terrorist.

Derrick Evans, 35, was a West Virginia lawmaker who streamed video of himself charging into the building with the mob. The recently sworn-in delegate to the West Virginia House resigned after his arrest on two riot-related charges and apologized. Evans was quickly identified after he posted the video of the Capitol door being smashed and declaring: "The door is cracked! ... We're in, we're in! Derrick Evans is in the Capitol!"

Tim Gionet, a far-right media personality who calls himself "Baked Alaska," entered various offices in the Capitol and cursed at a law officer he alleged had shoved him. When told by law enforcement officers to move, he identified himself as a member of the media. Gionet live-streamed for about a half hour from inside the building and could be heard encouraging other protesters not to leave, cussing and saying "I'm staying" and "1776 baby," prosecutors said. He was

arrested in Houston and faces charges of violent and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds and knowingly entering a restricted building without lawful authority.

Jack Jesse Griffith of Tennessee was arrested after an informant identified him as a person known on Facebook as Juan Bibiano. That account shows of Griffith in what appears to be the Capitol Crypt, raising his closed fist into the air. Another post included a message saying he helped "stormed (sic) the capitol today." He is charged with knowingly entering or remaining in any restricted building or grounds without lawful authority to do so. He's also accused of engaging in disorderly or disruptive conduct with intent to to impede or disrupt government business.

Emily Hernandez of Missouri was seen in photos holding a splintered name plate belonging to Pelosi. Hernandez is charged with five counts, including disorderly conduct that impedes the conduct of government business and the stealing or disposing of government property.

Doug Jensen, 41, of Iowa was seen on video chasing a Black officer up an interior flight of stairs in the Capitol as a mob trailed several steps behind. Jensen, who is white, was charged with trespassing and disorderly conduct.

Adam Johnson, 36, of Florida is accused of swiping Pelosi's lectern during

the chaos and smiling as he walked through the Capitol rotunda with it. He is charged with theft, violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds.

Nicholas R. Ochs, 34, of Hawaii, founder of a local Proud Boys chapter, posted a photo of himself on Twitter inside the Capitol grinning widely as he smoked a cigarette. The FBI said it identified him from photos taken when Ochs campaigned unsuccessfully last year as the Republican nominee for a seat in the Hawaii state-house.

Robert Keith Packer, 56, of Virginia caused an uproar on social media after being seen in the Capitol wearing a sweatshirt bearing the name "Camp Auschwitz," a reference to the Nazi concentration camp where about 1.1 million people were killed during World War II. He was charged with violent entry and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds, and unlawfully entering a restricted building.

Dominic Pezzola, 43, of New York is a former Marine identified as a Proud Boys member who was seen in video shattering an exterior Capitol window with a stolen Capitol Police riot shield before he and others climbed inside, the FBI said. The bearded man, whose nickname is "Spazzo," also appears in a second video taken inside the building that shows him puffing a cigar in what he calls a "victory smoke," according

ing to a court filing. He is charged with destruction of government property, obstruction of an official proceeding and illegally entering a restricted building.

Jenna Ryan, 50, of Texas live-streamed a Facebook video walking with a group toward the Capitol and said, "We are going to (expletive) go in here" as they approached the door. "Life or death, it doesn't matter. Here we go." She then turned the camera to expose her face and said, "Y'all know who to hire for your Realtor, Jenna Ryan." She told KTVT-TV in Fort Worth she didn't do anything violent, didn't realize there was violence and hoped Trump would pardon her. "I just want people to know I'm a normal person, that I listen to my president who told me to go to the Capitol, that I was displaying my patriotism." She faces a charge of knowingly entering or remaining in the restricted building or grounds without lawful authority and disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds.

Robert Sanford, 55, a retired Pennsylvania firefighter, allegedly threw a fire extinguisher that hit three Capitol Police officers during the violent siege. He was charged with assault of a police officer, disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds, civil disorder and unlawfully entering the Capitol. His lawyer said he was a Trump supporter who got caught up in the mob mentality.

NATIONAL

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TAPS LOUISIANA NATIVE HONORÉ TO REVIEW CAPITOL SECURITY

DAVID JACOBS  
The Center Square

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on Friday announced that retired Lt. General Russel Honoré, a Louisiana native best known for his role in the response to Hurricane Katrina, will lead a Capitol Hill security review.

The news follows last week's deadly riot at the U.S. Capitol by supporters of President Donald Trump and precedes next week's inauguration of President-elect Joe Biden.

"To protect our Democracy, we must now subject the security of the U.S. Capitol Complex

to rigorous scrutiny," Pelosi said in a prepared statement. "To that end, I have asked Lt. General Russel Honoré (Ret.), a respected leader with experience dealing with crises, to lead an immediate review of the Capitol's security infrastructure, interagency processes and procedures, and com-

mand and control."

After Hurricane Katrina in 2005, the Department of Defense tapped the Lakeland native to take over what was widely seen as a botched federal response to the storm's aftermath. In a recent interview, he suggested some members of the Capitol Police may

have deliberately allowed the rioters inside.

"It's like the Capitol Police was doing security by ZOOM like we're doing this interview by ZOOM," Honoré said. "I don't know, I've just never seen so much incompetence, so they're either that stupid, or ignorant or complicit. I think they were

complicit."

Honoré retired from the Army in 2008. He now works as a speaker and consultant and often speaks out on environmental issues as a leader of the "Green Army" activist group.



# Saints' Brees exits playoffs, perhaps career, on sour note

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Nearly two hours after the New Orleans Saints' season had ended, Drew Brees stood on the Superdome field in street clothes, throwing passes to his children while his wife, Brittany, captured images of those moments with her cell phone.

Brees routinely throws the ball around with his kids after home games, but after a 30-20 playoff loss to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on Sunday night, he lingered longer than usual — and there was no telling whether that familiar postgame scene would play out again.

Two days after Brees' 42nd birthday, his 20th NFL season ended with statistically his worst playoff performance.

Brees threw three interceptions, his most in 18 postseason appearances. His 134 yards passing were a career-playoff low. And because of COVID-19 restrictions, there were fewer than

4,000 fans in the 73,000-seat Superdome to bid him farewell — if indeed it was his final game in a Saints uniform.

For now, Brees won't say. But he's also said nothing that would lead one to believe he's prepared to play next season, his last under contract.

"I'll answer this question one time and that is that I'm going to give myself an opportunity to think about the season, think about a lot of things just like I did last year and make a decision," Brees said.

That decision for the NFL's all-time leader in yards passing will come after a fourth straight season that saw the Saints (13-5) win 11 or more games and go to the playoffs, only to come up short of the Super Bowl.

This season, Brees missed four games with multiple broken ribs and a punctured lung, but came back in time to see New Orleans through to its fourth straight NFC

South crown and a convincing playoff victory over Chicago in the wildcard round.

"I would never regret it. Never. No complaints, no regrets," Brees said. "I've always tried to play this game with a great respect and a great reverence for it, and I appreciate all that this game has given to me.

"There are obviously so many incredible memories and so many incredible relationships that have come as a result of playing this game," Brees continued. "You find out so much about yourself and you have to fight through so much when you play this game. And I'd say this season I probably had to fight through more than I've ever had to in any other season in my career, from injury to all the COVID stuff, to just crazy circumstances. And it was worth every moment of it. Absolutely."

Brees said the way this season ended "won't

have anything to do" with his decision on whether to retire.

As for what will go into the decision, Brees said, "I'll keep that to myself right now."

Saints coach Sean Payton seemed to be taking his cue from Brees when he, too, sidestepped a question about what his decade-and-a-half relationship with Brees has meant to him.

"That's probably for another press conference," Payton said. "Obviously he's been tremendous for this team, this city. I could go on and on, but let's wait and answer that at the right time."

Other teammates didn't wait, though.

"He's been everything you could imagine a leader could be," said Saints defensive end Cameron Jordan, Brees' teammate since 2011. "He's the first one in, the last one out. Every stereotypical leadership core value you think of, Drew has. He exemplifies everything

that he does in terms of wanting to be a better teammate."

Veteran linebacker Demario Davis said playing with Brees has meant "everything" to him.

"When I came to New Orleans, I wanted to help Drew Brees win another Super Bowl because I feel like he deserves it for the accomplishments that he's had," Davis said. "I wanted him to have some more championship trophies on the mantle.

"He's a great teammate, a great leader, a great man, a great husband and a great father," Davis added. "He's just an example for all us to try to emulate."

Brees, who brought the Saints their only Super Bowl appearance and win in the 2009 season, is not only the all-time leader in yards passing with 80,358, but also completions 7,142. He began this season first in touchdowns, but is now second with 571, behind the 581 of Tampa Bay's

Tom Brady, who is moving on to his 14th conference title game at age 43.

When the game ended, Brees greeted a couple of Bucs players, including Brady, who he's known since college, and then pointed to the stands and blew kisses as he jogged to the tunnel leading to the Saints locker room. When he first emerged from the locker room back onto the field in street clothes, he shared a long embrace with Brittany while his three sons and daughter played nearby.

"I always soak in the moment and I'm looking up at my family and blowing kisses to my wife and my daughter and fist-pumping my boys," Brees said. "They've become so much a part of this as my kids have gotten older, and they are so invested in this as well. That's what makes the moment special, to be able to share it all together."

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NFL

# WHITE: ‘THE JOB ISN’T DONE YET’

AARON S. LEE  
Special to the Press-Herald

NEW ORLEANS — Former North Webster Knight and LSU Tiger Devin White made his triumphant return on Sunday after missing the previous two games due to COVID-19.

The 22-years-old inside linebacker was hoping for a “statement” game and his wishes came true during Tampa Bay’s 30-20 win over the New Orleans Saints inside the Mercedes-Benz Superdome on Sunday.

White led the Bucs with 11 tackles (10 solo) and nabbed both a fumble recovery and an interception in a pivotal performance that sent the Saints home earlier than expected in the NFC playoffs.

“It was all a team effort,” said White after the game. “I think the number-one thing is, [Defensive Coordinator] Todd Bowles said we were going to be feisty. We’re going to challenge those guys, and he was going to take us over them. I said the same thing. I said, ‘I’m going to take my guys over their guys.’ Because I know one thing, we might be young but we can get after it when we’ve got our mindset to it.”

Future hall of fame quarterbacks Drew Brees and Tom Brady went head-to-head for a third and final time this season, with the recently-turned 42-year-old (Jan. 15) falling to 5-3 all-time against Brady, 43.

Brees passed for 134 yards compared to Brady’s 199, but it was three costly interceptions that sealed their fate with the Bucs capitalizing with



TAMPA BAY BUCS/COURTESY PHOTO

21 points. “The job’s still not finished yet,” said White. “It was never about finishing [with] just beating the Saints. It was always about getting to the bigger goal. Tom preached that and Tom is a winner, and I’m glad to be playing under his leadership.” The Saints finished

13-5 overall and 2-1 against the Bucs in what is rumored to be Brees’ last game. The NFL’s all-time leading passer was coy about his future following the loss. “Well, I’ll answer this question one time, and that is that I’m going to give myself an opportunity to think about the

season, think about a lot of things, just like I did last year, and make a decision,” said Brees. With the win, Tampa Bay (13-5) advances to the NFC Championship game in Green Bay against Aaron Rodgers and the Packers (14-3).

MLB

# ASTROS REACH DEALS WITH MCCULLERS, DÍAZ; NOT CORREA

HOUSTON (AP) — The Houston Astros agreed to one-year contracts with right-hander Lance McCullers Jr. and infielder Aledmys Díaz on Friday to avoid salary arbitration, but couldn’t come to terms with star short-stop Carlos Correa. Houston also finalized a \$12.5 million, two-year deal with reliever Pedro Báez that includes a club option and could be worth \$19.5 million for three seasons. Last season he was 0-0 with a 3.18 ERA and two saves in 18 appearances for the World Series champion Dodgers. The Astros and Correa

exchanged arbitration figures Friday, with Correa asking for \$12.5 million in 2021 and Houston offering \$9.75 million. The sides could still strike an agreement until an arbitrator hears the case remotely next month and issues a verdict. The arbitrator will go with one number or the other — no settling in the middle. The 26-year-old Correa batted .264 with five home runs in 58 games last season, a disappointment he erased with a splendid October. He hit .362 with six homers and 17 RBIs in 13 postseason games, pushing the sub-.500 Astros to Game 7 of

the AL Championship Series before they lost to the Tampa Bay Rays. Correa was set to make \$8 million in 2020 but ended up with \$2,962,963 in prorated pay during the pandemic-shortened season. McCullers will make \$6.5 million next season after a solid year in 2020 in his return after missing a season following Tommy John surgery. McCullers was 3-3 with a 3.93 ERA and 56 strikeouts in 11 starts last season, earning \$1,518,519 prorated from a \$4.1 million salary. He’ll be one of the leaders of Houston’s rotation in 2021 with ace Jus-

tin Verlander out all year after having Tommy John surgery. The 30-year-old Díaz will make \$3 million next season. He played just 17 games in an injury-plagued 2020 season. He hit .241 with three homers and six RBIs in his second season in Houston and earned \$962,963 prorated from a \$2.6 million salary. In seven seasons with the Dodgers, Báez is 21-15 with a 3.03 ERA in 355 appearances. The right-hander has 369 strikeouts in 356 career innings and has limited opponents to See, **ASTROS**, Page 9

NCAA FOOTBALL

# Another boring blowout in the era of super teams

By halftime, with Alabama clearly unstoppable and cruising toward a perfect season, the mind began to wander toward an obvious question. Has Nick Saban, the greatest coach in the history of college football, assembled the greatest team of them all? Certainly, a case can be made for a group that breezed through a Southeastern Conference-only schedule in a pandemic-plagued season while barely breaking a sweat. “I think we’re the best team to ever play,” quarterback Mac Jones said. “There’s no team that will ever play an SEC schedule like that. I’m so happy to win this game and kind of put the icing on the cake.”

Hold up, though. It was only a year ago that LSU romped to the national title with a juggernaut of a team led by Heisman Trophy winner Joe Burrow and a horde of NFL-bound players.

Come to think of it, a case could also be made for the 2018 Clemson Tigers, thoroughly dominant as they became the first team ever to finish 15-0.

There’s something to be said for this era of super-power teams, with all their individual brilliance.

Without question, it was utterly thrilling to watch DeVonta Smith gliding past Ohio State’s befuddled defense, basically uncoverable as he turned in an MVP performance in only half a game.

But parity has left the building in college football, producing a rash of playoff blowouts that have, frankly, sucked all the drama out of the game’s grandest stage.

One could almost hear millions of homebound fans reaching for their remotes when the Crimson Tide trotted off the field in South Florida with an 18-point halftime lead.

By the time it mercifully ended, with Alabama celebrating a 52-24 rout of the Buckeyes, most of the nation had surely tuned out this Picasso of a performance by the crimson-clad bunch of future first-round picks.

Who could blame ‘em? This script has become numbingly routine. No one has come within 17 points of the last three champions in the College Football Playoff. The average margin of their postseason triumphs was 25.3 points. Last season, it was LSU that shredded Oklahoma 63-28 in the semifinals and crushed Clemson 42-25 in the title game.

The year before, it was the Tigers who set the standard: smoking Notre Dame 30-3 in the semis before a stunning 44-16 wipeout of Alabama in the national championship game.

Now comes the Crimson Tide (13-0), which endured just one game that was closer than 15 points and, amazingly, scored in all but two of 52 quarters over the

course of the 2020-21 campaign.

Alabama coasted past Notre Dame 31-14 in the semifinals and was never seriously threatened Monday night, scoring on five of its first six possessions against an Ohio State defense that looked as though it couldn’t get enough players on the field.

Smith, every bit the worthy Heisman winner, hauled in 12 receptions for 215 yards and three touchdowns in a mere 30 minutes; he was knocked out of the game with a hand injury early in the third quarter and celebrated in workout attire.

“Heaven knows what he could have done if he had played the whole game,” Saban said.

Jones, the unheralded recruit who bided his time behind Jalen Hurts and Tua Tagovailoa, capped off his lone season as the starting quarterback by completing 36 of 45 passes for 464 yards and five TDs.

The final piece of the Tide’s three-headed offensive monster, running back Najee Harris, totaled three scores and 158 yards with running and receiving skills that will surely serve him well at the next level.

“This is a great team,” Saban said.

Let’s not forget the architect of it all, the guy who came to Tuscaloosa in 2007 when the Alabama program was in tatters and pulled off a feat that no one thought possible.

Saban claimed his seventh national title to surpass the record he shared with the man in the houndstooth hat, Bear Bryant.

Asked if he could put his achievement in perspective, Saban replied, “Not really. I’m just happy we won tonight. I haven’t really thought about that because I’m always looking forward. I just love this team so much and what they’ve been able to do, I can’t even put it into words.”

Saban has always been reticent to compare teams, but he was surprisingly blunt when asked about the legacy of his latest group.

Of all his championship teams, this is clearly his favorite.

“To me, this team has accomplished more than any of those other teams,” Saban said. “No disrespect to those other teams, but this team won 11 SEC games. This team won the SEC, went undefeated in the SEC, and beat two great teams in the playoff.”

“There’s quite a bit to write about when it comes to the legacy of this team.”

The sparse, socially distanced crowd at Hard Rock Stadium was serenaded with “Sweet Home Alabama” before the trophy was handed out.

In all likelihood, there’s weren’t too many people still watching at home.

Greatness is to be appreciated, for sure. But it sure is boring.



OUTDOORS

# IT WAS ‘SNOW’ BEAUTIFUL

**GLYNN HARRIS**  
Special to the Press-Herald

Weathermen sometimes have a quirky streak about them and they particularly like to play games with us southerners when it comes to forecasting snow. I can’t count the times when the weather forecast calls for “the possibility of” snow, getting kids all excited about the chance at a snow day from school and grown-ups somewhat excited about getting to watch snow fall, and sometimes atmospheric conditions crop up to steer the system away from us.

Last week, we had just such a forecast; the chance of north Louisiana getting snow was virtually an iron-clad deal. The promise we heard from local weather forecasters as well as the

Weather Channel indicated that there was virtually no way we’d miss snow this time.

Sure, I thought. You guys are just setting us up for another disappointment. I’ll believe it when I see it.

Then I had an idea. I have a good friend, Neil Shaw, who has just retired as a television weatherman and I thought I would pick his brain a bit to see what he had to say about the promised snow event we were “supposed” to get last weekend.

Surprise, surprise; what Neil had to tell me went right along with what the TV guys were saying.

“You will get snow, from two to four inches in the Ruston area starting Sunday night and ending Monday morning,” Shaw said. Utilizing several weather-related terms like “coastal low pressure area” to “available moisture” to the “cold core” of the system headed our way, the set-up was ripe for a nice snowfall for our area, Shaw said. He SAID...I’ve heard that line before.

As Sunday afternoon faded into night, I kept my nose to the window to see if it was actually going to happen. Well, guess what; Neil Shaw hit it squarely on the head because right around 7:00 Sunday night, my wife told me she was seeing snow flakes highlighted by our security light. By the time we went to bed, our cars and yard was already experiencing a soft white blanket of snow from fluffy flakes that continued to flutter down..

Monday morning gave us a winter wonderland. Sticking a ruler through the blanket of snow on the ground, it read exactly three inches. Neil Shaw nailed it.

I had validated to me something I already knew. As much as we in



GLYNN HARRIS/COURTESY PHOTO

**When it snows, song birds with high rate of metabolism need plenty of extra food and water to survive.**

the south enjoy a pretty snowfall, it creates a crisis for songbirds when they wake up to find their food sources covered in a blanket of white.

The metabolism of songbirds is high which means as they flit and flutter around, they expend excessive energy and they have to replace energy sources. When their food is covered, something like a state of panic sets in; they have to eat.

In preparing for the upcoming snow event, should it actually take place, I had replenished my supply of bird seed in case the birds found their food beneath a blanket of snow. It is amazing how quickly a bunch of hungry birds can clean their plates.

I purchased black oil sunflower seeds, another bag with a mixture of cracked corn, millet, safflower along with striped sunflower seeds, a suet cake along with a bag of thistle seeds for the finches. Every couple of hours, I have to replenish the feeders cleaned out by a variety of birds that included a colorful mixture of cardinals, blue jays, chipping sparrows, white throated sparrows, juncos, chickadees, tufted titmice, nuthatches, gold finches and purple finches.

I am thankful for the opportunity to watch fluffy flakes fall and I’m also thankful, and relieved, that my friend Neil Shaw’s forecast hit it squarely on the head. He said we’d get two to four inches; we got three.

BUSSEY BRAKE - Crappie fishing has improved with some good catches made on shiners or jigs in the deep holes, especially around the levee. Bass fishing has been fair on jigs, soft plastics and spinners. No report on other catfish or bream. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

BLACK BAYOU - Bass have been fair to good around where there is current at Hannah’s Run

on jigs. Crappie and bream are slow. Contact Honey Hole Tackle Shop 323-8707 for latest information.

OUACHITA RIVER - The water is high and rising. Some crappie and bass are being caught in the river lakes and creeks. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE D’ARBONNE - Crappie have been fair with best catches made along the stump lines fishing 15 feet deep in 20 foot water using jigs or shiners. Bass are getting out of the current and some are being caught fairly shallow on jigs, spinners and Rat-L-Traps. Bream are slow while catfishing is good on cold worms and night crawlers. For latest reports, call Anderson’s Sport Center at 368-9669 or Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE CLAIBORNE - Crappie fishing has been good this week in deep water fishing jigs or shiners just off the bottom in water as deep as 40 feet. Bass fishing has been slow to fair. Lots of catfish have been caught by commercial fishermen. No report on stripers or bream. For latest information, call Tim Loftin at Kel’s Cove at 927-2264.

CANEY LAKE - Fishing for bass and yellow bass has been best on jigging spoons and tail spinners bounced off the bottom. Some bigger bass have been caught on deep diving crank baits.

Crappie fishing has been fair around deep tops on shiners or jigs especially in the deep water out from the dam. No report on catfish or bream. For latest information contact Bateaux on Caney Lake at 259-6649, Hooks Marina at 249-2347, Terzia Tackle at 278-4498 or the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE POVERTY POINT - Crappie have been best in the afternoons are working best around the boat slips. Catfishing has been best in the afternoons on a variety of baits. For latest

reports, call Poverty Point Marina at 318/878-0101.

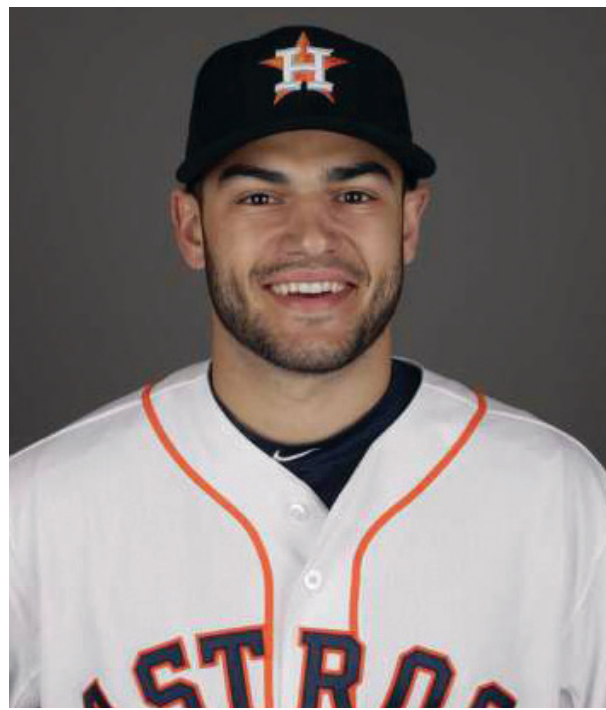
LAKE ST. JOHN - Bass have been fair while crappie are slow but should begin improving. Catfishing is slow. For information, call Ken Mahoney at 318-201-3821.

LAKE YUCATAN - The water is starting to fall rapidly. No fishing this week. For information, call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.

LAKE BRUIN - No report. For information, contact Carlos Gray at 318/766-0075.

MLB

# ASTROS: Still no Correa deal



Continued from Page 6

a .206 batting average.

He’s been particularly tough on left-handers, holding them to a .181 mark. His best season came in 2019 when he went 7-2 and led the team with 71 appearances and set career bests in wins, opponents’ batting average (.174) and WHIP (0.95).

He gets a \$500,000

signing bonus and salaries of \$4.5 million this year and \$5.5 million in 2022.

Houston has a \$7.5 million option for 2023 with a \$2 million buyout.

Báez’s 2022 salary can escalate by \$1 million based on innings this year: \$250,000 each for 30, 40, 50 and 60. His option would escalate to \$8 million if he has 100 innings in 2021 and 2022 combined.



## WHEN EVERY SECOND COUNTS

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WINNFIELD, LA  
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MINDEN, LA  
(318) 382-0380**

**7919 HWY 165  
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RINGGOLD, LA  
(318) 894-3737**

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SUDOKU

SUDOKU

6			8		5	2		1
8	1					4		
3		7					9	5
	4		5		3		8	2
	8			7			4	
				6				
	3		9	5			1	8
1	6				4	3		
				1	6			

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!

4	2	9	6	3	1	8	7	5
9	5	7	8	2	4	6	9	1
8	1	6	5	7	9	2	3	4
9	3	7	8	9	4	6	1	2
4	6	4	5	2	1	7	3	8
2	7	4	6	5	3	8	9	1
6	8	5	9	4	1	6	7	3
3	2	7	6	4	1	8	9	5
8	1	5	7	2	9	4	6	3
6	9	4	8	3	5	2	7	1

ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

WORD SLEUTH

WORD SLEUTH • GRAINS AND OILSEEDS

R W T Q N J G D A X U R O L J

S A F F L O W E R G D A X V S

P S N K I F C C A X V S Q O L

J H E E C A X A V T R P N L J

H S O R G H U M M U S T A R D

F D B Y C R Y E S E V I L O X

V T R P X Y E L R A B O O M K

I G E D A O N I U Q B Z N X W

U T R Q L O C N R O C N A L J

I G F D F E T A E H W K C U B

C A Y S T U N A E P X W V T S

Monday's unlisted clue: MANTLE

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Tuesday's unlisted clue hint: — AND KETCHUP

Barley  
Buckwheat  
Camelina  
Canola

Corn  
Flax  
Olives  
Peanuts

Pennycress  
Quinoa  
Rice  
Rye

Safflower  
Sorghum  
Wheat

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1/19

HISTORY

Continued from Page 10

India's first female prime minister. She was assassinated on October 31, 1984.

1915 - Georges Claude patents his neon discharge tube. Neon lighting soon became popular for outdoor advertising.

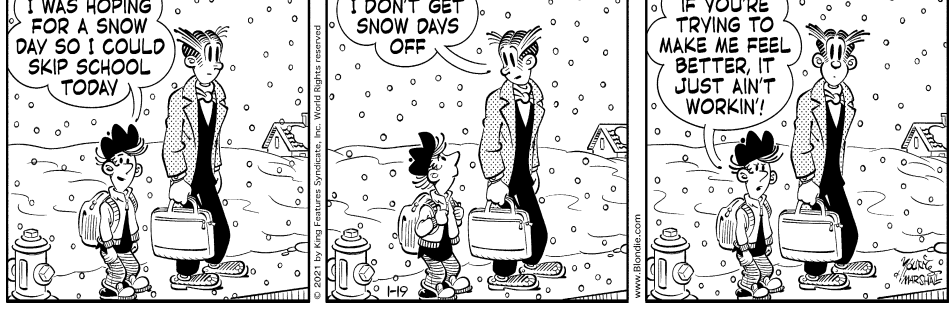
1829 - Goethe's "Faust" (Part 1) is premiered. The work is considered one of the greatest works of German literature.

COMICS

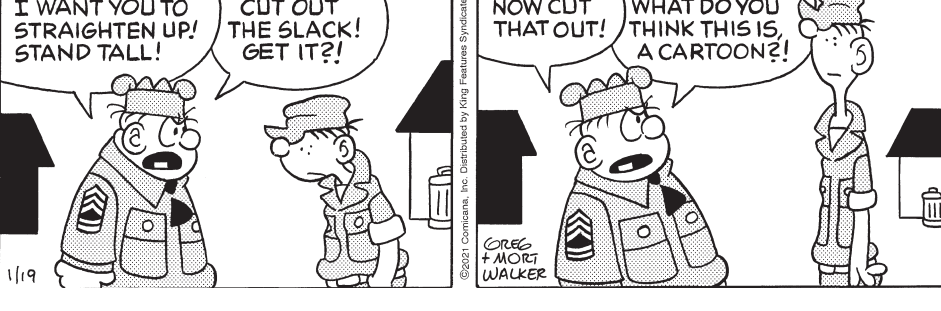
BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



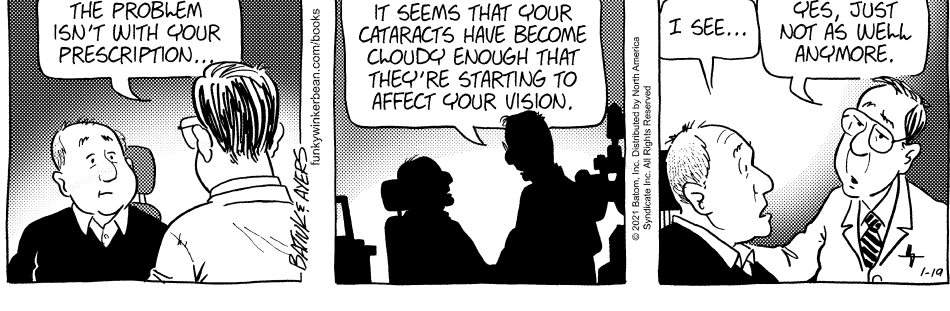
BLONDIE | DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT & GREG WALKER



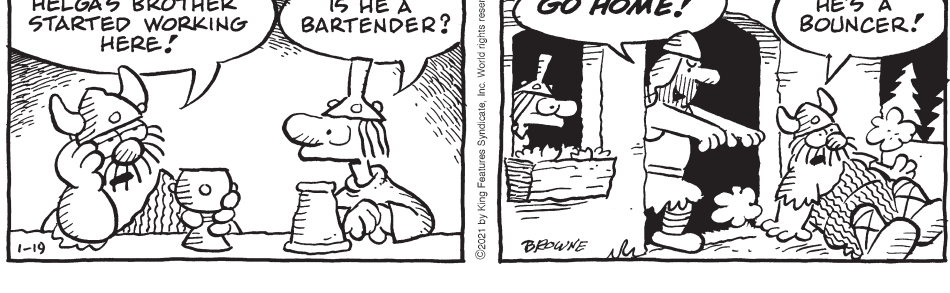
FUNKY WINKERBEAN | TOM BATIUK



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



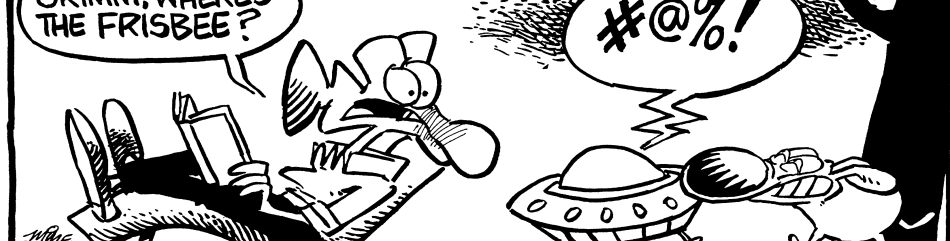
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



SAM AND SILO | JERRY DUMAS



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM | MIKE PETERS





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January 8, 2021  
January 12, 2021  
January 19, 2021  
January 26, 2021  
Minden Press-Herald

**PROCEED-  
ING OF THE  
VILLAGE OF  
HEFLIN, STATE  
OF LOUISIANA,**

**TAKEN IN REG-  
ULAR MEETING  
HELD ON JANU-  
ARY 7, 2021**  
  
The Heflin Town Council met at Town Hall, Heflin, Louisiana beginning at 7:17 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Todd Leake council members Matt Austin, Hallie DeMoss, Ralph James, Chief of Police Paul Miguez, Water System Operator Jesse Williamson, Village Clerk Sherry Limosnero, and members of the public. The meeting was opened with prayer offered by Ralph James and Hallie DeMoss led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Todd Leake welcomed everyone to the meeting. Upon motion by Matt Austin and duly seconded by Hallie DeMoss, the council adopted the Minutes from December 3, 2020 at Council Regular Meeting held on January 7, 2021 as presented; the motion was approved unanimously. Hallie DeMoss moved to accept the December, 2020 Operating Financial Statements as presented; the motion was duly seconded by Ralph James. The motion was approved unanimously. Upon motion by Ralph James and duly seconded by Matt Austin, the council unanimously approved Water System Report for December, 2020. Matt Austin moved to accept the December, 2020 Police Department Report as presented; the motion was duly seconded by Hallie DeMoss. The motion was approved unanimously. Hallie DeMoss moved to adopt Heflin Fire Protection District 12 Board Member Stewart Beatty, June 1, 2020 till May 31, 2022 as presented: the motion was duly seconded by Ralph James. The motion was approved unanimously. Council comments were heard, public comments were

heard. There being no further business to come before this Council, meeting adjourned by Council Member Matt Austin.  
January 19, 2021  
Minden Press-Herald

The Sibley Town Council met in regular session on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 6pm in the Sibley Town Hall Meeting Room. Members present were Mayor Jimmy Williams, Aldermen Wayne Bolton, Helen Chanler, Richard Davis, Alan Myers and Robert Smart. Mayor Williams opened the meeting in prayer; then led the Pledge of Allegiance. Robert Smart motioned to accept the minutes to the December 14, 2020 Regular Meeting as read, Helen Chanler seconded. Motion carried. No New Items were added to the agenda. Travis Morehart, Town of Sibley CPA, was present to present the 2019-2020 Audit. Richard Davis motioned to accept Mayor Williams' recommendation to appoint Robert Smart as Mayor Pro-Temp for the term 2021 – 2024, Wayne Bolton seconded. Motion carried. Richard Davis motioned to appoint Paul Kitchens as town attorney for the 2021 – 2024 term, Alan Myers seconded. Motion carried. Helen Chanler motioned to accept Mayor Williams' recommendation to appoint Sherry McCann, MMC, as town clerk for the 2021 – 2024 term, Richard Davis seconded. Motion carried. Helen Chanler motioned to appoint Sherry McCann, MMC, as tax collector for the 2021 - 2024 term, Helen Chanler seconded. Motion carried. Robert Smart motioned to appoint Minden Press Herald as the Town of Sibley Official Journal for the 2021 - 2024 term, Wayne Bolton seconded. Motion carried. Robert Smart gave the December 2020 Activity Report for the

Sibley Volunteer Fire Department Chief Police Chief Jeremy Robinson gave the December 2020 Activity Report for the Sibley Police Department. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer. The Mayor and Board of Alderman acknowledged that they have received the November 2020 Financial Statement. Mayor Williams welcomed the new alderman to the board and gave updates on the Wastewater projects. Alan Myers motioned to adjourn, Helen Chanler seconded. Meeting adjourned.  
January 19, 2021  
Minden Press-Herald

**Village of Dixie  
Inn  
Regular Session  
January 12, 2021**  
NOTICE: THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN FORMALLY APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL. The Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the Village of Dixie Inn met in regular session on January 12, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. in the Village Hall, Dixie Inn, Louisiana with the following members present: Mayor Kay Hallmark-Stratton, Aldermen Nell Finlay, Donna Hoffoss and Judy McKenzie. The meeting was called to order and the invocation and pledge of allegiance were given. There were no public comments. Mayor Kay Hallmark-Stratton welcomed guests, which included Travis Morehart with Cook & Morehart, CPAs. A motion was made by Nell Finlay and seconded by Donna Hoffoss to adopt the minutes of the regular session of December 8, 2020. Vote on the motion was unanimous. A motion was made by Judy McKenzie and seconded by Nell Finlay to adopt the minutes of the Special Called Meeting of January 12, 2021. Vote on the motion was unanimous. Financial state-

ments of all funds, including a current budget vs. actual, were presented. A motion was made by Donna Hoffoss and seconded by Judy McKenzie to adopt all financial statements for December 2020. Vote on the motion was unanimous. Department Reports: Mike Chreene reported all is well with the water department. Chief Jim Edwards reported that he and Sergeant Alan Davis, for the Dixie Inn Police Department, have met or exceeded all the requirements to qualify for LI-BRS (Louisiana Incident Based Reporting System) certification qualification. The prisoner/inmate transport cage has been installed in the 2018 Tahoe. Mayor Kay Hallmark-Stratton reminded all to complete the yearly Ethics Training and Sexual Harassment Training. Annual Financial Disclosure Statements are due by May 15, 2021 for elected Public Officials. Financial Training for elected Public Officials is to be completed once per term of office. New Business: Mr. Travis Morehart, CPA with Cook and Morehart, presented to the Mayor and Aldermen the 2019-2020 audit. There were no infractions on the audit. A motion was made by Nell Finlay and seconded by Judy McKenzie to accept the 2019-2020 annual audit report prepared by Cook and Morehart. Vote on the motion was unanimous. A motion was made by Nell Finlay and seconded by Judy McKenzie to allow Mayor Kay Hallmark-Stratton, Chief James Edwards, and Mike Chreene to speak with prospective businesses for quotes on a Village Hall security system upgrade. Vote on the motion was unanimous. A motion was made by Nell Finlay and seconded by Judy McKenzie to allow Mayor Kay Hallmark-Stratton to file applications for the FY 2020-2021 CWF and LGAP grants (\$25,000 each, balance due by the Village). The grants would be used for a Mission SCADA Alert System for the water booster station, water well, sewer plant and three lift stations. Vote on the motion was unanimous. There was no Old Business to discuss. There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made

by Judy McKenzie and seconded by Donna Hoffoss to appoint James Edwards as Chief of Police for the Village. Vote on the motion was unanimous. A motion was made by Donna Hoffoss and seconded by Judy McKenzie to appoint Mike Chreene as Water/Wastewater/Maintenance Supervisor for the Village. Vote on the motion was unanimous. A motion was made by Judy McKenzie and seconded by Nell Finlay to appoint Donna Hoffoss as Mayor Pro Tempore for the Village. Vote on the motion was unanimous. A motion was made by Donna Hoffoss and seconded by Nell Finlay to appoint Mr. Paul Kitchens as legal attorney for the Village. Vote on the motion was unanimous. A motion was made by Donna Hoffoss and seconded by Judy McKenzie to approve Mayor's Court to be held by Minden City Court for 2021. Vote on the motion was unanimous. A motion was made by Nell Finlay and seconded by Judy McKenzie to allow Mayor Kay Hallmark-Stratton, Chief James Edwards, and Mike Chreene to speak with prospective businesses for quotes on a Village Hall security system upgrade. Vote on the motion was unanimous. A motion was made by Nell Finlay and seconded by Judy McKenzie to allow Mayor Kay Hallmark-Stratton to file applications for the FY 2020-2021 CWF and LGAP grants (\$25,000 each, balance due by the Village). The grants would be used for a Mission SCADA Alert System for the water booster station, water well, sewer plant and three lift stations. Vote on the motion was unanimous. There was no Old Business to discuss. There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made

by Nell Finlay and seconded by Judy McKenzie. Vote on the motion was unanimous. ATTEST:  
Kay Hallmark-Stratton Mayor  
January 19, 2021  
Minden Press-Herald

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