

MINDEN

PRESS-HERALD

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MINDEN, LOUISIANA

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75 CENTS

EDUCATION

LDE accepting applications for early learning review committee

STAFF REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

BATON ROUGE, La. -- The Louisiana Department of Education is inviting stakeholders to join in a review of the state's Early Learning and Development Standards (ELDS). These standards were developed in 2013 as the culmination of a year-long effort led by state agency staff, national experts and local stakeholders. The ELDS serve as a framework for supporting the implementation of high-quality, developmentally appropriate early childhood programs. These standards are intended to help early childhood educators and families across Louisiana deepen their understanding of how children grow and develop in order to best prepare them for kindergarten and beyond.

"Louisiana must continue to be a leader in early childhood education," said State Superintendent of Education Dr. Cade Brumley. "This process of engagement and improvement will make environments even stronger for Louisiana's youngest learners."

In an effort to support the Department's critical goal that all children are ready for kindergarten, and to align the ELDS review process to the K-12 content standard review policy, the Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) approved the process to review Louisiana's Birth to Five Early Learning and Development Standards during its meeting January 19. The Department has opened an application to participate in the standards

See, **ELDS**, Page 2

VAC-SCENE

Minden Walmart starts process of adminstering vaccines to priority groups

WILL PHILLIPS
Minden Press-Herald

Walmart is expanding vaccination efforts at the state's request of administering the COVID-19 vaccine to state-designated priority groups.

"So far, we have an estimated 100 Walmart stores and Sam's Clubs across more than half a dozen states administering vaccines to those the state has deemed eligible, including here in Louisiana," said Andrea Morris, Wamart Senior Account Executive.

Dr. Cheryl Pegus, Walmart's Executive Vice President for Health & Wellness, detailed Walmart's commitment to its customers and to the community it serves through this important initiative.

"Over the past year, our associates have risen to the challenge of serving our customers in new ways. Today, at the dawn of the most significant vaccine rollout of our lifetimes, Walmart again stands ready to serve," said Dr. Pegus.

In the future when more people are eligible to receive the vaccine, Walmart plans to offer the vaccine seven days a week at our pharmacies, through planned in-store vaccination clinics and through large community events.

They state they've been preparing for this by:

Training thousands of pharmacists and pharmacy techs

Building a new digital scheduling tool to make appointments easy

Partnering with state and federal agencies as we await allocations

At full capacity, Dr. Pegus stated that Walmart expects they will be able to deliver 10-13 million doses per month when supply and allocations allow.

Walmart is a federal pharmacy partner and can accept federal allocation of doses through Walmart and Sam's Club pharmacies. Specifically, there are key areas where they aim to help ensure Americans have access to the vaccine.

"We're doing everything we can to help ensure the health and



WILL PHILLIPS/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

The Minden Walmart has began the pivotal process of distributing COVID-19 vaccines to individuals meeting the criteria set forth by the Louisiana Department fo health.

well-being of our associates and customers during the pandemic. That includes keeping everyone updated and informed. We're educating essential workers and all associates on getting the vaccine as soon as they are eligible. We are strongly encouraging all associates to get vaccinated but are not mandating anyone receive the vaccine nor are we providing incentives at this time," said Dr. Pegus.

"As we always have, Walmart stands ready to serve our country, our customers and our associates. We appreciate the conversations we have had with both administrations and the ongoing conversations we are having with the new Biden administration. We look forward to the day we can activate our strengths to serve our communities and administer the vaccine."

The Louisiana Department of health ahs listed the following criteria one has to meet in order to receive a COVID-19 vaccine:

Persons ages 70 years or older in the community, health-related support personnel (labs, mortuary, pharmacy), outpatient clinic providers and clinic staff,

Urgent care clinic providers and staff, community care clinic providers and staff, behavioral health providers and staff, dialysis providers and recipients, home care providers (including hospice workers) and home care recipients (including older and younger people with disabilities over the age of 16 who receive community or home-based care, as well as clients of home health agencies), dental providers and staff, and students, residents, faculty and staff of allied health schools (if not already receiving vaccine or in a plan to receive from their respective schools).

In order to find out if you qualify for a vaccine under the current criteria, call the Minden Walmart Pharmacy at (318) 377-8211 or visit their website www.walmart.com for more information.

Minden City Council elections

WILL PHILLIPS
Special to the Press-Herald

Last Friday was the final day for candidates to file for the position of the Minden City Council positions representing Dist. A and Dist. D. Both of these seats were left vacant last year and were temporarily filled by Councilman Wayne Edwards of Dist. A and Councilman Tommy Davis of Dist. D. Citizens in their respective districts will be voting in the March election to determine which of the candidates listed below will represent them for the remainder of the term.

Candidates for Councilman District A, City of Minden:

Wayne Edwards (D)
P.O. Box 695
Minden, LA 71055
318-371-2826 Male

"Mandi" Hart (I)
196 Jo Ann Ln.
Minden, LA 71055
318-366-4446

Robert Stewart Jr. (D)
612 Joel St.
Minden, LA 71055
318-639-5078

Candidates for Councilman District D, City of Minden

Henry Bridges (No Party)
217 Woodhaven Dr.
Minden, LA 71055
318-218-6402

Michael Roy (I)
326 Braeburn Glen Dr.
Minden, LA 71055
318-658-7244

See, **COUNCIL**, Page 2

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Homer
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382.9396
927.9217
524.1046
932.9465

EDUCATION

ELDS: Louisiana DoE invites review

Continued from Page 1

review committee. All interested early childhood educators, leaders, experts, families and community members are encouraged to apply. The deadline for submissions is February 12, and selected participants will be notified in late February.

Those not interested in applying for the review committee are invited to provide feedback of the current standards and the priority of the goals proposed for the review process.

The ELDS review process has five main goals:

- Strengthen connections to kindergarten readiness expectations and ensure a scaffolded alignment across age-bands;
- Ensure a stronger integration of language that supports young children with disabilities and dual language learners;
- Reorganize the framework and structure of standards and indicators to make the resource more navigable and family-friendly;
- Embed commonly used assessments with intentionality to increase alignment; and
- Update the resources to reflect current research and the Department's initiatives.

Committee meetings will start in March and continue through August. All committee meetings will be open to the public. The review process will include opportunities for the public to weigh in on every standard.

MINDEN

COUNCIL:
Minden City
Council Elections

Continued from Page 1

27.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the state of Louisiana allows some citizens meeting the criteria to request a mail-in-ballot. The deadline to request an absentee by mail ballot is March 16. You can request an absentee by mail ballot online through the Voter Portal or through the Registrar of Voters Office. The deadline for a registrar of voters to receive a voted mail ballot is March 19 by 4:30 p.m.

The date for the election where citizens can vote for their City Councilman is March 20, 2021. Early voting takes place from March 6 until March 13 (excluding Sunday, March 7) from 8:30 a.m.-6 p.m. The deadline to register to vote in person or by mail is Feb. 17.

The deadline to register to vote through the GeauxVote Online Registration System is Feb.

NATIONAL

House sending Trump impeachment to Senate, GOP opposes trial

STAFF REPORT

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — As the House prepares to bring the impeachment charge against Donald Trump to the Senate for trial, a growing number of Republican senators say they are opposed to the proceeding, dimming the chances that former president will be convicted on the charge that he incited a siege of the U.S. Capitol.

House Democrats will carry the sole impeachment charge of “incitement of insurrection” across the Capitol late Monday evening, a rare and ceremonial walk to the Senate by the prosecutors who will argue their case. They are hoping that strong Republican denunciations of Trump after the Jan. 6 riot will translate into a conviction and a separate vote to bar Trump from holding office again.

But instead, GOP passions appear to have cooled since the insurrection. Now that Trump’s presidency is over, Republican senators who will serve as jurors in the trial are rallying to his legal defense, as they did during his first impeachment trial last year.

“I think the trial is stupid, I think it’s counterpro-

ductive,” said Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla.. He said that “the first chance I get to vote to end this trial, I’ll do it” because he believes it would be bad for the country and further inflame partisan divisions.

Trump is the first former president to face impeachment trial, and it will test his grip on the Republican Party. The proceedings will also force Democrats, who have a full sweep of party control of the White House and Congress, to balance their promise to hold the former president accountable while also rushing to deliver on Biden’s priorities.

Arguments in the Senate trial will begin the week of Feb. 8. Leaders in both parties agreed to the short delay to give Trump’s team and House prosecutors time to prepare and the Senate the chance to confirm some of Biden’s Cabinet nominees. Democrats say the extra days will allow for more evidence to come out about the rioting by Trump supporters, while Republicans hope to craft a unified defense for Trump.

Sen. Chris Coons, D-Del., said in an interview with The Associated Press on Sunday that he hopes that evolving clarity on the

details of what happened Jan. 6 “will make it clearer to my colleagues and the American people that we need some accountability.”

Coons questioned how his colleagues who were in the Capitol that day could see the insurrection as anything other than a “stunning violation” of tradition of peaceful transfers of power.

“It is a critical moment in American history and we have to look at it and look at it hard,” Coons said.

An early vote to dismiss the trial probably would not succeed, given that Democrats now control the Senate. Still, the mounting Republican opposition indicates that many GOP senators would eventually vote to acquit Trump. Democrats would need the support of 17 Republicans — a high bar — to convict him.

When the House impeached Trump on Jan. 13, exactly one week after the siege, Sen. Tom Cotton, R-Ark., said he didn’t believe the Senate had the constitutional authority to convict Trump after he had left office. On Sunday, Cotton said “the more I talk to other Republican senators, the more they’re beginning to line up” behind that ar-

gument.

“I think a lot of Americans are going to think it’s strange that the Senate is spending its time trying to convict and remove from office a man who left office a week ago,” Cotton said.

Democrats reject that argument, pointing to a 1876 impeachment of a secretary of war who had already resigned and to opinions by many legal scholars. Democrats also say that a reckoning of the first invasion of the Capitol since the War of 1812, perpetrated by rioters egged on by a president who told them to “fight like hell” against election results that were being counted at the time, is necessary so the country can move forward and ensure such a siege never happens again.

A few GOP senators have agreed with Democrats, though not close to the number that will be needed to convict Trump.

Sen. Mitt Romney, R-Utah, said he believes there is a “preponderance of opinion” that an impeachment trial is appropriate after someone leaves office.

“I believe that what is being alleged and what we saw, which is incitement to insurrection, is an im-

peachable offense,” Romney said. “If not, what is?”

But Romney, the lone Republican to vote to convict Trump when the Senate acquitted the then-president in last year’s trial, appears to be an outlier.

Sen. Mike Rounds, R-South Dakota, said he believes a trial is a “moot point” after a president’s term is over, “and I think it’s one that they would have a very difficult time in trying to get done within the Senate.”

On Friday, GOP Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, a close Trump ally who has been helping him build a legal team, urged the Senate to reject the idea of a post-presidency trial — potentially with a vote to dismiss the charge — and suggested Republicans will scrutinize whether Trump’s words on Jan. 6 were legally “incitement.”

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell, who said last week that Trump “provoked” his supporters before the riot, has not said how he will vote or argued any legal strategies. The Kentucky senator has told his GOP colleagues that it will be a vote of conscience.

One of House Speaker Nancy Pelosi’s nine impeachment managers said Trump’s encouragement of his loyalists before the riot was “an extraordinarily heinous presidential crime.”

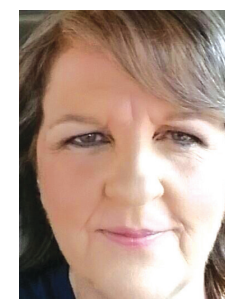
Rep. Madeleine Dean, D-Pennsylvania., said “I mean, think back. It was just two-and-a-half weeks ago that the president assembled a mob on the Ellipse of the White House. He incited them with his words. And then he lit the match.”

Trump’s supporters invaded the Capitol and interrupted the electoral count as he claimed there was massive fraud in the election and that it was stolen by Biden. Trump’s claims were roundly rejected in the courts, including by judges appointed by Trump, and by state election officials.

Rubio and Romney were on “Fox News Sunday,” Cotton appeared on Fox News Channel’s “Sunday Morning Futures” and Romney also was on CNN’s “State of the Union,” as was Dean. Rounds was interviewed on NBC’s “Meet the Press.”

Associated Press writer Hope Yen contributed to this report.

OBITUARIES



Lisa Gail Clayton

The family of Lisa Gail Clayton will receive friends from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Monday, January 25, 2021 at Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden, Louisiana.

Lisa was born February 25, 1962 in Hot Springs, Arkansas and entered into rest January 22, 2021 in Heflin, Louisiana. She was preceded in death by her daughter, Shara

Michelle Clayton; granddaughter, Emma Zemaitaitis; mother, Carolyn McMullan, and sister, Cathy Wiggins. She is survived by her husband of 41 years, Robert Clayton of Heflin; son, Dustin M. Clayton and wife Rachel of Dubberly; daughter, Carly Clayton Patrick and husband Dennis of Bossier City; father, Billy McMullan; brother, Billy D. McMullan of Provencal, and grandchildren, Abby Gail, Clayton Ryan, Lilly Paige, Madison Grace, Hallee Michelle, and Corbin Riley.

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

BIRTHDAYS FOR
SUNDAY, JANUARY 24, 2021
Justice Lindsey

Roosevelt Moore Sr.



Floyd V. Stratton

Graveside services for Floyd V. Stratton will be held Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 10:30 a.m. at Gardens of Memory in Minden Louisiana under the direction of Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden.

Officiating will be Rev. Bill Crider. Floyd was born May 23, 1923 in Des Arc, Arkansas and entered into rest January 24, 2021 in Bossier City, Louisiana. He was a member of First Baptist Church Minden; a mason; a retired Government Safety Officer with the Department of Defense and served his country in the United States Army during WWII receiving the Purple Heart medal. Floyd has resided in Minden since 1962 and was a Baptist Minister for

many years sharing God’s Word at various churches. He loved hunting, fishing, and gardening. One of his greatest pleasure was sharing his produce with others. He was preceded in death by his wife, Christine Stratton; son, Dicky Stratton, and granddaughter, Stacey Stratton. He is survived by his son, Terry Stratton (Kay) of Dixie Inn and Tommy Stratton (Chedy) of Minden; daughter, Joan S. Michael (Ellis) of Haughton; grandchildren, Chris Gibson, Debbie Stratton, Josh Stratton, and Amanda Hamawi; 10 great-grandchildren, and daughter-in-law, Susan Stratton of Atwater, California. Memorials may be made to First Baptist Church Senior Adult Ministry..

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

Wills Successions
Warren Law LLC
219 Main Street
Minden, La
318-377-8150
Call for a free information packet.

ECONOMY

Increase on gas prices start to slow in Louisiana

PATRICK DE HAAN

Gas Buddy

Louisiana gas prices have risen 2.6 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.11/g today, according to GasBuddy’s daily survey of 2,436 stations. Gas prices in Louisiana are 18.0 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 9.4 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The cheapest station in Louisiana is priced at \$1.76/g today while the most expensive is \$2.89/g, a difference

of \$1.13/g. “Finally, after several weeks of sharply rising gas prices, the pace of price increases has slowed significantly in recent days as prices are now largely caught up to oil’s increases as of late,” said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy. The national average price of gasoline has risen 1.1 cents per gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.40/g today. The national average is up 14.4 cents per gallon from a month

ago and stands 12.6 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. “While the national average remains at its highest level since the pandemic, increases are likely to slow down in the immediate short-term unless and until oil prices see renewed momentum. When it comes to demand, Pay with GasBuddy data showed last week’s gasoline demand at its highest level since November, another bullish factor as the nation continues to see

slow improvement from the pandemic,” said Patrick De Haan. GasBuddy is the authoritative voice for gas prices and the only source for station-level data spanning nearly two decades. GasBuddy’s survey updates 288 times every day from the most diverse list of sources covering nearly 150,000 stations nationwide, the most comprehensive and up-to-date in the country.

Send Us Your News
to: newsroom@press-herald.com

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.

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

OPINION

MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

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THE MINDEN PRESS-HERALD WELCOMES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR. HERE ARE OUR GUIDELINES:

Letters are published identifying name, occupation and/or title and the writer's city of residence. Letters are not to exceed 500 words. Send letters to: Letters to the Editor, Minden Press-Herald, P.O. Box 1339, Minden, LA 71055, or email to: newsroom@press-herald.com.

OTHER OPINION

Malkin: Why a Biden crony wanted to punch me

When you're catching flak, you're over the target. When you're triggering threats of violence from the Biden crime family, you know you've hit the bull's-eye.

As the entrenched Obama-Biden syndicate that I chronicled in my 2009 book, "Culture of Corruption," officially returns to power in Washington, D.C., this week, it's worth calling attention to a telling little message from Hunter Biden's top business partner about yours truly. The Feb. 15, 2011 email was one of thousands stored on the abandoned laptop of Joe Biden's scandal-plagued son.

Heres' the backdrop: Over the past decade, I have reported extensively on Joe Biden's life-long milking of his entrenched swamp career for the benefit of his family — including his promotion of government-subsidized Amtrak rail boondoggles. During his tenure as vice president in the Obama administration, Biden fronted a \$53 billion high-speed train initiative. He installed friends and family inside the agency while eliminating longtime fiscal watchdogs looking out for taxpayers.

In 2009, I spotlighted how veteran Amtrak inspector general Fred Weiderhold was abruptly "retired" — just as the government-subsidized rail service faced mounting complaints about its meddling in financial audits and probes. Weiderhold had blown the whistle on overzealous intrusion by the agency's Law Department into his investigations of \$1.3 billion in rail stimulus money and exposed how Amtrak's legal counsel had usurped the watchdog's \$5 million portion of federal stimulus dollars to

hamstringing his probes.

Weiderhold discovered that the federal rail bureaucracy was retaining outside law firms beyond the independent watchdog's reach and obstructing subpoenas issued to an outside financial adviser. A 2010 report by GOP Sen. Chuck Grassley and Rep. Darrell Issa concluded that the Amtrak board improperly removed the agency inspector general without required prior notice to Congress.

Who ousted Weiderhold? Still can't say for sure, but I noted at the time that Biden's lobbyist son, Hunter, was sitting on the Amtrak board of directors when Weiderhold was pushed out. Hunter raked in tens of thousands



MICHELLE MALKIN

of dollars for showing up to Amtrak meetings. Eleanor Acheson, super-attorney and friend of Joe, was Amtrak's vice president and general counsel. She oversaw the very Law Department accused of interfering repeatedly with the taxpayer advocates in the inspector general's office. Acheson had also hired Biden's former Senate staffer Jonathan Meyer as her deputy general counsel. Meyer called it a "happy coincidence."

Hunter's business partner, Eric Schwerin, wasn't happy about my reporting on these matters in my syndicated columns and on my blog. In 2011, Schwerin was president of

Hunter's investment company, Rosemont Seneca. He wrote to Hunter with the subject headline, "M. Malkin," on Feb. 15, 2011, at 9:37 p.m.:

"Just read the blog post. Does anyone push back against her directly when she says you are a 'lobbyist' and are currently on the Amtrak board? I am sure it would be far worse to antagonize her, but it drives me crazy, I want to punch her in the face."

Quid Pro Joe and his minions have long chafed at accusations that they have profited mightily from their nepotistic enterprises. But who knew it inspired such fantasies of misogynistic violence? If Schwerin's name sounds vaguely familiar, then you've been paying attention:

—It's Schwerin who informed Hunter in other emails that he had failed to disclose \$400,000 in payments he received from Ukrainian energy company Burisma in 2014 after taking in \$1.2 million that year.

—It's Schwerin who was enmeshed in communications between Rosemont Seneca and a Chinese Communist Party-owned business entity called CITIC to build an NBC/Universal Studios theme park outside of Beijing.

—It's Schwerin who told Hunter in 2018 that a Chinese private equity firm, BHR Partners, would generate income for him "over the next couple of years."

—It's Schwerin who was rewarded by President Obama with a presidential commission appointment in 2015.

Hunter's laptop contains a trove of emails between Hunter, Schwerin and various other business associates who secured Amtrak contracts to

produce railroad cars and build tunnels. Internet investigator and blogger Nick Monroe chronicled long email threads exposing bid negotiations and insider information solicitations involving Hunter, Schwerin, Rosemont Seneca, CAF Railway Solutions and infrastructure design firm HNTB Corporation. In 2010, for example, Schwerin informed Rosemont colleagues that a CAF/Amtrak deal had gone through and started counting the big bucks:

"I think we should ask for \$75,000 upfront (which is 30%). Then begin billing them on a monthly basis sixty days later for the remaining \$175,000 (so for the remaining 10 months it would be \$17,500 a month). Objections?"

Schwerin then messaged Hunter privately: "For CAF we are guaranteed \$180,000 (or \$15,000 a month) for a year."

Sifting through a raft of similar messages, Monroe concluded: "It's through that we can see that Hunter Biden made a six-figure sum from leveraging his existing relationship with Amtrak, if not more. The door is open for authorities to audit Amtrak and investigate the full extent of taxpayer dollars that Hunter pilfered through his work."

Don't get your hopes up. The sycophants of the Fourth Estate and the operatives of the "deep state" will be too busy the next four years kissing the Biden corruptocrats' backsides — and protecting their privileged noses from harm.

MICHELLE MALKIN'S EMAIL ADDRESS IS MICHELLEMALKININVESTIGATES@PROTON-MAIL.COM.

OTHER OPINION

James: Constitution will continue to be tested moving forward

While "unprecedented" seemed to be an apt word to describe much of 2020, the beginning of 2021 seems to be continuing the trend by being precedent-breaking in its own right.

In the first weeks of 2021, America witnessed Congress face a series of monumental tests of their commitment to the Constitution, with the outcome of any one of those tests having the potential to dramatically alter the trajectory of our nation.

The first test was when Vice President Mike Pence was asked to reject the votes of certain states during Congress's certification of Electoral College votes. The second test was when the House of Representatives asked the vice president to invoke the 25th Amendment against President Donald Trump to force him from office. And the third test was when the House took up an unprecedented second impeachment effort against the president.

Any one of these events occurring on its own would be earthshaking. Yet all three happened within the course of just seven days.

In the first, Vice President Pence followed the constitutionally correct course of action and refused to send "disputed" electoral votes back to the states. Although there were legitimate questions raised about unconstitutional changes to state election laws, as well

as potential instances of election fraud, our Constitution does not vest the power in one person to declare those election results invalid. Only Congress has the authority to count votes of the Electoral College.

And while some complained about Republican House members

and senators raising objections on the floor about the validity of those votes, those members were working within the system, trying to shine

a light of transparency on an electoral process that left many doubting the accuracy of the results. They were attempting to create one last check before the votes were certified to help the American people feel that they had election results they could trust.

In the second event, the House passed a resolution calling on the vice president to invoke the 25th Amendment to forcibly remove President Trump from office.



KAY C. JAMES

Our Founders designed an electoral process that empowers the American people to choose their leaders through elections. Removing a president outside of that process

should be seen only as a last resort. The House resolution didn't come close to meeting the constitutional standard for the 25th Amendment, which requires that he be "unable" to carry out his duties. That generally means a physical or mental incapacity, which was not the case.

While some members of Congress felt convinced that the president should go, the end did not justify the means. The Constitution is not to be used as an emotional outlet or as a tool of political retribution. Again, Vice President Pence was right to reject the pressure that was put on him to go down this road. A man of faith, principle, and character, he took an oath to protect and defend the Constitution, and that's precisely what he did.

The third test of Congress's commitment to the Constitution came in the impeachment of the president.

The violence and chaos that took place at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 won't soon be forgotten. But the Democrat majority in the House faced a choice: follow through on their promise to unify the country and focus on the future, or pursue impeachment in an attempt to establish a historical precedent and appease their base.

Our nation needs time to heal from an ugly election, division among our people, and an appalling Capitol riot where lives were lost. That healing not

only requires a peaceful transition of power, but efforts by all Americans to reject the rancor in our politics and instead strive to work together for a better future.

The House could have chosen country over party and unity over divisive politics, but it didn't. While exercising its impeachment powers may be constitutional, the House's vote to impeach a president with less than a week left in office seemed to be more about using the Constitution as a tool for revenge than using it as the founders had intended.

In each of these three critical constitutional tests, the decision should never have been about taking one side or the other to support those we favor or to maintain power for a preferred candidate or party. It should have always been—and should always be—first and foremost about siding with the Constitution and, secondly, with the public's best interest.

Unfortunately, too often during these tests, too many of our leaders failed, and that should weigh heavily on the heart of every American. As tests usually do, they confirmed who in our government we can trust to follow the Constitution and who needs to brush up on the very document they took an oath to uphold.

KAY C. JAMES IS PRESIDENT OF THE HERITAGE FOUNDATION (HERITAGE.ORG).

GARDENING

On the subject of pruning

If you've been to a farmers' market lately, then the reality of seasonal cooking in the middle of winter has plainly revealed itself to you. Tis the season for root vegetables, and not a whole lot else.

But there is beauty to cooking with the season, not just because it feels in sync with the planet, but also because it compels you to make the most of what is available, whether those ingredients are familiar ... or not so much.

Root vegetables are pretty much what they sound like: vegetables that grow under the earth and must be dug up to be harvested. In cold weather, from late fall to early spring in temperate climates, root vegetables are pretty much all that's seasonally available, other than some late-summer crops that are hardy enough to store.

Since root vegetables grow underground, they absorb a lot of nutrients from the soil, and so are nutritional powerhouses, usually also high in starch.

Root vegetables include potatoes, yams and Jerusalem artichokes (all of which are also tubers), as well as beets, parsnips, turnips, rutabagas, carrots, yuca, kohlrabi, the onion family, garlic, celery root (or celeriac), turmeric, jicama, radishes (including daikon and horseradish), and ginger.

Some root vegetables get sweeter once the first frost hits. The cold causes the roots to work hard to prevent the plants from freezing, which causes the natural starches to convert to sugar. Carrots, turnips, rutabagas and beets are good examples.

So as we head into the belly of winter, it's the perfect time to explore the world of root vegetables.

As Robert Schueller, head of marketing at Melissa's Produce, a specialty produce company based in California, puts it, hardy root vegetables are ideal for "comfy foods; warm meals during the cooler time."

Schueller says that in recent years, specific varieties of root vegetables are having a moment. In the world of potatoes, for instance, baby potatoes are especially popular, including Dutch yellow, ruby gold, red, mixed fingerlings and gemstone.

He calls parsnips "the new carrot." Parsnips are related to both carrots and parsley, and look much like a large, pale carrot with a squattier base. The flavor, when cooked, is like a sweeter carrot, and parsnips can be used in pretty much any recipe that calls for carrots, when you want a heightened level of sweetness. They are com-

mon in traditional Jewish chicken noodle soup, and can be mashed with potatoes or on their own, as well as roasted.

Kohlrabi has also become trendy, Schueller says. It looks a bit like a UFO with a bunch of stems sticking out willy nilly, in shades of pale green to purplish, with a pale interior. Kohlrabi can be eaten cooked or raw; raw, it's flavor and texture are reminiscent of peeled broccoli stems, with a bit of peppery radish thrown in.

Radishes are popular not just for their spicy flavor but for the visual pop they give to salads and other dishes. The watermelon radish continues to trend, Schueller says, for its dramatic look: green on the outside, hot pink on the inside.

And multi-colored carrots are gaining traction because of how beautiful they look on a plate, in

hues of purple, red, orange and yellows often combined in a bunch. They can be used just as regular orange carrots are; try them cut lengthwise and simply roasted with olive oil and salt, perhaps served with a condiment or dressing like tapenade or pesto vinaigrette.

Celery root, horseradish, sweet potatoes and shallots are other root vegetables Scheuller sees gaining in popularity because of their use by restaurant chefs.

Different root vegetables have slightly different preferences, but in general, store them in a cool, dark place with ventilation.

Carrots, celeriac, parsnips, turnips and radishes do well in the fridge, preferably in the crisper drawer.

Store onions separately from other root vegetables, as they emit gases

that will accelerate the spoiling of other vegetables, especially potatoes.

Alan Spaulding, who sells vegetables at the Union Square Farmers' Market in New York City, says he keeps most of his root vegetables in the fridge. If he runs out of space, he stores them in the coolest, darkest place in his apartment.

Remove any fresh greens from the tops of root vegetables before storing them. Wrap the greens in a damp paper towel and store in the fridge; use them as you would use any cooking greens, like kale or spinach.

Spaulding offers this tip for reviving carrots that have softened: Place them in a bowl of cold water in the fridge overnight, "and they will firm right up."

JOHN MONZINGO, ASSISTANT
COUNTY AGENT

INSPIRATION

My New Years Message To The World And Other Rambling Thoughts

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 silence. 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 comes 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.

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LOUISIANA

Louisiana’s two open seats in Congress draw 28 candidates

DAVID JACOBS

The Center Square

On Friday, the final day for candidates to sign up to run for one of Louisiana’s two open seats in Congress, perhaps the biggest news was about someone who isn’t running.

State Rep. Lance Harris, an Alexandria Republican, ran to represent the 5th Congressional District last fall, making the runoff but losing to fellow Republican Luke Letlow.

Letlow subsequently contracted COVID-19 and died days before taking office, leaving the seat open. On Friday, Harris announced that he wouldn’t try for the seat again this year.

“For now, I believe I can better serve my district and this state by remaining in the leadership position in Louisiana Legislature,” he said in a video statement.

Julia Letlow, Luke Letlow’s widow, qualified to run on Thursday. Sandra Chistophe, a Democrat who came within a few hundred votes of edging out Harris and making the December runoff, is back in contention.

Louisiana does not hold party primaries. Every candidate for an office competes on the same ballot in the first round. If no candidate gets more than half of the votes, the top two regardless of party advance to a runoff.

The candidates who on Friday qualified for the 5th District race, which features 13 candidates, are Jim Davis, who is from Monroe and not a member of a political

party, Democrat Jessica Hollister of Bogalusa, Republican Robert Lansden of Ponchatoula, Republican Jaycee Magnuson of Opelousas, independent M.V. “Vinny” Mendoza of Ponchatoula, and Republican Richard Pannell of Dry Prong.

They join Republicans Errol Victor of Slidell, Chad Conerly of Kentwood, Allen Guillory of Lawtell, Horace Melton III of Shreveport, and Sancha Smith of Opelousas, who qualified earlier in the week. The largely rural 5th District includes much of northeast and central Louisiana.

The race for the 2nd Congressional District, which includes New Orleans and stretches into Baton Rouge, also drew a crowded field. The seat came open when Democrat Cedric Richmond left Congress to join President Joe Biden’s administration.

A pair of Democratic state senators from New Orleans, Karen Carter Peterson and Troy Carter, are the most high-profile candidates among the 15 who qualified. Democrat Harold John of New Orleans, Harvey Republican Sheldon Vincent, and Brandon Jolicoeur, a New Orleans resident who does not identify with a political party, all threw their hats in the ring Friday.

Republican Chelsea Ardoin of New Orleans, independent Belden “Noonie Man” Batiste of New Orleans, Republican Claston Bernard of Gonzales, Democrat J. Christopher Johnson of Gretna, Democrat Lloyd M. Kelly of New Orleans, Republican Greg Lirette

of New Orleans, Democrat Desiree Ontiveros of New Orleans, Democrat Gary Chambers of Baton Rouge, Libertarian Mindy McConnel of New Orleans, and New Orleans Democrat Jenette Porter all qualified earlier in the week.

Jefferey Robinson, a Ruston Republican, claimed a north Louisiana appeals court judgeship when no one else qualified to run. Marcus Hunter, Larry Jefferson, and J. Garland Smith, all Monroe Democrats, are running to be an appeals court judge in the same circuit.

Six candidates are seeking to represent northwest Louisiana’s District 4 on the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education after Tony Davis stepped down. They include John Milkovich, a Democrat-turned-independent and former state legislator from Shreveport who was a vociferous opponent of Common Core education standards.

Also running to replace Davis on the BESE are Republican Shelly McFarland of Winnfield, Republican Michael Melerine of Shreveport, Democrat Emma Shepard of Shreveport, Democrat Cassie Williams of Bossier City, and Cody Whitaker of Winnfield, who does not identify with a political party.

David Jacobs is a Baton Rouge-based award-winning journalist who has written about government, politics, business and culture in Louisiana for almost 15 years. He joined The Center Square in 2018.

RECENT ARRESTS IN WEBSTER PARISH

Keri Vaughan, 21, of the 800 block of College Street, was arrested for domestic abuse battery, possession of drug paraphernalia, and possession of a schedule I substance.

Kendall Bridges, 31, of the 100 block of Emma Drive, was arrested for distribution of a schedule I substance.

Loleda Lilly, 38, of the 200 block of Sam Maddery Road, was arrested for possession of a schedule I substance, possession of a schedule II substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, and introduction of contraband into a correctional facility.

Chris Lawrence, 59, of the 200 block of Midlake Marina, was arrested for second degree battery.

Elroy Keake Jr., 36, of the 300 block of Nelson Road, was arrested for driving with a brake light out.

Thomas Rosco, 59, of the 100 block of Smith Trail, was arrested for sexual battery.

Kenneth Cross, 40, of the 100 block of Harvey Lane, was arrested for speeding, switched plates, reckless operation of a motor vehicle, and flight using a motor vehicle, disregarding stop sign, two counts of criminal neglect of family, and driving under suspension.

Antonio Nelson, 23, of the 800 block of Plum Street, was arrested for failure to appear in court.

April Clement, 40, of the 100 block of Coty Lane, was arrested for driving under suspension, unauthorized use of a motor vehicle, failure to appear in court, and two counts of misdemeanor theft.

Robert Sparks, 51, of the 300 block of South Main Street, was arrested for failure to appear in court.

Jason Edwards, 40, of the 510 block of E & W Street, was arrested for failure to appear in court.

Justin Hile, of the 200 block of Airport Road, was arrested for possession of a firearm by a convicted felon and driving under suspension.

Brandon Bates, 22, of the 200 block of Katie Lane, was arrested for felony criminal damage to property.

Kedarrion Baker, 24, of the 700 block of Woods Street, was arrested for resisting an officer.

Jaminskion Baker, 26, of the 700 block of Woods Street, was arrested for domestic abuse battery and false imprisonment.

Carl Rugely Jr., 33, was arrested for theft of a motor vehicle, possession of schedule II meth, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Shakur M. Peters, 26, of the 100 block of Loop Road, was arrested for domestic abuse battery with strangulation and child endangerment.

Tioshiana Robinson, 21, of the 300 block of Winford Street, was arrested for domestic abuse battery by aggravated battery.

Demarqueus Gill, 18, of the 900 block

of McCausland St, was arrested for criminal damage to property.

Edward Miller, 40, of the 400 block of Front Street, was arrested for three counts of distribution of a schedule I substance.

Telvin West, 28, of the 600 block of Stone Street, was arrested for criminal mischief, flight from officer, possession of a schedule I substance, driving without a license, and driving with headlights out.

Tywastia Willis, 37, of the 1000 block of Austin Road, was arrested for possession of a scheduled substance.

Dexter Kinsey, 32, of the 1000 block of Cherry Street, was arrested for possession of a schedule I substance.

Charles Bradley, 24, of the 000 block of McArthur Street, was arrested for reckless operation of a motor vehicle.

Caronele Edwards, 47, of the 1300 block of Lee Street, was arrested for criminal mischief and possession of a schedule I substance.

Jonathan Shaw, 31, of the was arrested for two counts of distribution of a schedule I substance, and possession of a schedule II substance.

Zarvia moore, 31, of the 600 block of the Carolina Street, was arrested for domestic abuse battery with child endangerment.

Troy Trichell, 55, of the 100 block of Dye Road, was arrested for possession of a schedule II substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, felony theft, and remaining on property after being forbidden.

Janice Trichell, 60, of the 100 block of Dye Road, was arrested for theft.

Derravian Garner, 45, of the 300 block of Talton Street, was arrested for resisting with force or violence.

Sarah Deleon, 30, of the 200 block of Pearl Street, was arrested for domestic abuse battery, simple criminal damage to property, cruelty to juveniles, and disturbing the peace.

Michael Keith Pennington, 44, of the 1400 block of Lewisville Road, was arrested for simple battery.

Sawyer Harrison, 50, of the 100 block of James Circle, was arrested for possession of a schedule II substance, general speed law, careless operation of a motor vehicle.

Tiffany Cunnington, 31, of the 900 block of Baker Street, was arrested for driving while intoxicated.

Randavious Hosley, 26, of the 1200 block of Shreveport Road, was arrested on a warrant.

Eric Denny, 39, of the 700 block of Main Street, was arrested on a warrant.

Samantha Anderson, 34, of the 100 block of Holomen Loop, was arrested for remaining on property after being forbidden.

Arthur Lewis, 56, of the 800 block of Peach Street, was arrested for simple criminal damage to property.

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NBA

TOXIC POSITIVITY

For the Pelicans, it's time to admit that this isn't working

JJ MARSHALL
jjmarshall@press-herald.com

The Pelicans are bad. They haven't been good all season, despite stumbling into a few early wins. It has been clear for anyone watching without a vested interest that the excitement sold to Pels fans ahead of the season was not in line with the product presented on the court.

I remember thinking when the Pels won the Zion lottery that any budding journalist with half a mind should try to get to New Orleans. I thought it'd be worth the sacrifice to find a way to get credentialed and just bum-rush your way into being a Pelicans beat writer. With the excitement Zion was going to inject into the city and the franchise, it would be worth it.

Not two years later, and I'm glad I didn't give that advice to anyone aloud.

Let's be honest, Zion has had one of the great starts to a career we've ever seen. Brandon Ingram is staking his claim as either a true NBA #1 or the most over-qualified #2 in the game going forward. There is still a lot to be excited about if you're a Pelicans fan.

Still, the way New Orleans has started the season is beyond troubling.

This isn't a statistical breakdown. This is all about the eye-test.

Statistically, it'd be easy to make the claim that Lonzo Ball is not an NBA starting point guard, or that JJ Redick is beyond his peak, that Eric Bledsoe should have been the last player David Griffin sought out this summer, or even that Steven Adams, as solid as he's been, isn't the best fit in 2021 next to Zion Williamson. These statistics, though in a smaller sample size, jump out at you. But the sample size is important in a truncated season, where a 5-9 record is more akin to a 7-14 start. Given how the Pelicans have played thus far, they'd be lucky to have that record in a regular NBA season.

In today's NBA, you don't have long with superstars. Zion could be preparing for his next franchise sometime in the coming year, if we're being honest. And given what New Orleans has provided for him through his first forty games, would you blame him? What other franchise would "build" a starting lineup around Zion, in his first real season, consisting of the worst shooting backcourt in the league, a ball-dominant, non spot-up shooter in Ingram and the



last living 90s NBA center in the league with Adams? What other franchise would not have a legitimate backup for Zion? How has New Orleans put him in positions to succeed?

Zion has been incredible through brute force. The Pelicans offense has Zion and any other big constantly facing away from the basket to initiate dribble hand-offs and set screens. Zion barely gets any easy baskets drawn up for him, so the fact that he's putting up historic numbers is even more mind-blowing.

Young teams can win now more than ever, and you don't know when your window is going to slam shut. No matter how good the upcoming draft is on paper, you never know what's going to happen. This past draft was sold to us as a dud for years. Now, there are a dozen rookies who look like potential All-Stars and draft gurus really ought to take a look at how they approach draft classes.

Even if the Pelicans throw this year away, a year of Zion learning NBA styles and developing habits, are we sure that David Griffin will get the draft right? What if the Pels get the sixth pick? Even if they get Cade Cunningham or Jalen Suggs, is that going to put them in contention the following season? Or will that season be a throwaway as well?

Anyone associated with the Pelicans will tell you to be patient. Many, including

loosely associated bloggers and podcasters refuse to accept that this project hasn't worked. They want you to give Lonzo Ball and Eric Bledsoe time. They even laugh at fans and sarcastically tweet how dumb New Orleans fans are for being disgusted by the lack of effort on display against Minnesota in a loss to the worst team in the league (who was missing their top two scorers as well). This behavior runs all the way to the top, where Griffin and company want to convince you that this was the plan all along. Don't believe them.

Those same people were just as excited as you were before the season, or when the Pelicans hit the lottery. Unfortunately, despite killer play, Zion does not have the same energy we've seen from him since he was 15. He doesn't have that spark in his eye or that smile on his face. Part of it is due to taking some licks as an NBA rookie, but most of it, in my eye, is because everything is so hard for him. Other franchises go all out to develop young talent and make things easy on them. In New Orleans, we have to watch game after game of Lonzo Ball getting ten more shots than Zion because, why again? To pump up his trade value? Because Griffin doesn't want to admit that it's not working?

Being "positive" in the face of failure is not courageous. It's dumb. Admit that this is a failure New Orleans.

Make the adjustment today. If the Pelicans are going all-in on the future, then they can't spend game after game with their lottery picks riding the bench while JJ Redick is putting up 12 shots a game at 30% from three. There are a number of moves to be made, but the first one ought to be making a broad decision on what the goal is for this season.

There is a way to be competitive and still plan for the future. Guys like Steven Adams are great to have on the court and in the locker room. Perhaps Eric Bledsoe could be as well, but not at the expense of players who are essential to the Zion-BI years going forward.

Most of all, Pelicans fans, hear me on this: you are right to be disappointed. It's not right to clown players or talk down to them. But it's completely within your right to question decisions on all levels when this is the result.

The only thing the Pelicans are building at the moment is a losing culture. If something isn't done to shock the system soon, it could get much worse, quickly.

New Orleans is used to getting Chris Pauls and Anthony Davis and Zions, but it's not normal to win the lottery, multiple times, or get the sort of luck the Pelicans have gotten.

Instead of "throwaway years" how about let's see what a competent roster built around Zion and B.I. could do?

NCAA BASKEBALL

Crawford, Bulldogs overpower Miners



EL PASO, Texas – Exactly a year after having surgery to repair a season-ending knee injury that he suffered inside the Don Haskins Center, Isaiah Crawford went off for a career-high 25 points to help lead Louisiana Tech to a 73-55 victory over UTEP on Saturday night.

LA Tech (12-5, 5-3 C-USA) never led in last night's loss and gave up the second-most points this season. It was a complete 180 in the win as the Bulldogs never trailed, holding UTEP (7-7, 3-5 C-USA) to 34.7 percent shooting and forcing 16 Miner turnovers.

The 18-point win matched the largest for the 'Dogs in El Paso who were able to avoid a C-USA road sweep for a second time by coming up with a Saturday victory.

"We had a hard time guarding UTEP last night," said head coach Eric Konkol. "We were able to use a few things

that we saw in the second half from the first game and formulated a game plan for today. Credit goes to our guys, they were locked in and all on board. They worked really hard to come away with a big road win."

Eleven of those forced turnovers by the Bulldogs came in the first half, fueling a 20-6 run, including back-to-back dunks by Crawford and Cobe Williams, to give the visiting team a 32-16 edge with 3:03 left in the first half.

UTEP's Souley Boum poured in seven straight points though, shrinking LA Tech's halftime lead to 32-23. Boum came out and scored four quick points to slice the Miner deficit down to five.

The Bulldogs were still clinging to a five-point lead at 39-34 with 15:55 still to go, but Crawford did his version of taking over by scoring seven

See, **TECH**, Page 8

NOTICE

Due to the death of Luther W. Moore, his law office will be closing March 31, 2021. If you would like your files, please call the office at 377-0864 to schedule a pick up time. Otherwise, for your convenience and security, your files will be destroyed if we do not hear from you by the March 31st date above.

TECH: Bulldogs down Miners

Continued from Page 7

straight points. And after making the team's lone three in the first half, the sophomore drilled three in the second half.

"It was a special night for Isaiah," said Konkol. "There are memories of coming to this place and you remember Isaiah went down with the injury last year. He has worked really hard to get back to this point, and not just back to this point, but better. He is finding his spots. He is really growing as a player."

Extra threes by Xaiver Armstead and Exavian Christon helped put the game out of the reach as LA Tech built as much as a 24-point lead at 64-40.

Crawford went 8-of-12 from the field and 4-of-5 from beyond the arc, scoring the most points in a single game this season for the 'Dogs. He also had a team-high eight rebounds.

After recording a double-double on Friday, Kenneth Lofton, Jr. reg-

istered 11 points and seven rebounds. JaColby Pemberton was the third Bulldog in double figures with 10 points. As a team, LA Tech shot 46.2 percent from the field, outscored UTEP 28-12 in the paint and sank 19 free throws.

"We are throwing inside a whole lot more," said Konkol. "The touches that Junior and Drew are getting with their size. We want to get the ball inside and play inside out. We talk about getting to the paint every single day. UTEP is a team that does a great job of limiting three-point shots. We needed to find some lanes and areas to penetrate and punch the paint and be aggressive around the rim."

Boum was the lone Miner with double-digit points for UTEP, scoring 23.

Next up for LA Tech is a road trip to Hattiesburg, Mississippi to face Southern Miss on Thursday, Jan. 28. Tipoff is set for 6 p.m. on CBS Sports Network.

BUZZARDS; THE GOOD, BAD AND UGLY

GLYNN HARRIS
Special to the Press-Herald

If ever there was a creature on God's green earth that runs the gauntlet from good to bad to ugly, it has to be the vulture, or what most of us call the buzzard.

First the good. I have enjoyed sitting in my warm cozy home on a cold windy day and watching buzzards seemingly having the time of their lives. If you haven't done so lately, sit and watch how graceful these big birds are riding the wind currents, drifting so eloquently with the breeze. Effortlessly drifting with the wind, a sudden change in altitude and direction seems second nature these majestic birds. They are fun to watch.

Buzzards are also known for cleaning up road kill and carcasses of dead animals. They provide us a service in doing this because nobody wants to have to endure the stink of something dead rotting away of its own accord. Buzzards not only enjoy the feast but when several are gathered, a carcass can be reduced to bare bones quickly. In our part of the world, the largest buz-



ard is the turkey vulture. With a wing span of near six feet, the bald head and reddish face is characteristic. The flight of the turkey vulture is more graceful than that of its cousin, the black vulture which is easily recognized not only in their smaller size but when you watch one fly, wing beats are more rapid and the tail is shorter than the turkey vulture.

Both species are known for excellent eyesight with an uncanny sense of smell. This brings to mind when once I brought home a sack full of collard greens and my wife insisted that I cook them outside so I set up my cooker on the driveway a few feet from the house.

As the greens began cooking with steam rising, I noticed moving shadows along and over the driveway. Half a dozen buzzards were circling overhead, apparently mistaking the aroma of my collard greens for a road killed possum. Pointing out this interesting activity to my wife, she opted for a sandwich for lunch.

Now for the bad. Buzzards seek out sheltered areas for nesting, hollow logs or cavities.

They also love to nest in vacated deer stands when the unthinking hunter leaves a window open on his box stand after season ends.

Before season opened one year, I went out to check my stand, one in which I had carelessly neglected to secure a window and I don't have to tell you what I found. Although my sense of smell is not as acute as that of a buzzard, I began picking up unsavory whiffs of stink before I got to the stand.

Fearing the worse, I climbed the ladder and opened the door and to make a long stinky story short, the mess that a nest of buzzards had left in the stand meant a cleaning job I never want to have to repeat.

Now let's talk about

the ugly. As graceful as buzzards are when they are airborne, getting a close-up view of a buzzard withdrawing his head from the inner portions of a three-day-old road killed deer, is a sight you want to divert your children's attention away from. Bald, reddish with a beak designed for doing what it does, is a sight you'd like to soon forget.

I learned another interesting fact about buzzards. Groups of different species of animals and birds are given names. A flock of geese, a herd of elephants, a sounder of feral pigs, for example.

With the current political climate being what it is, it may be somewhat appropriate when naming a bunch of buzzards. Whoever came up with their name years ago was a visionary. They are called a "committee". A committee of buzzards.

FISHING REPORT - 1-20-21

BUSSEY BRAKE - Crappie fishing has been good in the deeper holes with some big fish caught on jigs and shiners. Bass fishing has been fair on jigs, soft plastics and spinners. No report on catfish or bream. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

BLACK BAYOU - Bass have been fair on jigs and soft plastics. Crappie have been good around Hannah's Run on jigs. Bream are slow. Contact Honey Hole Tackle Shop 323-8707 for latest information.

OUACHITA RIVER - The water is high and muddy and fishing is slow. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE D'ARBONNE - Water levels are high with off-colored water and current and crappie have been best in the sloughs around stumps on shiners or jigs. Bass are fair 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. Drop a jig or shiner to the bottom and reel up two turns for best results. Bass are slow to fair with most fish running small to medium sized on jigs and soft plastics. Catfishing has been fair to good on trotlines baited with blood bait or chicken livers. Some stripers are being caught along with the crappie down deep. No report on 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 on the points. 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 - No report. For latest reports, call Poverty Point Marina at 318/878-0101.

LAKE ST. JOHN - Bass are improving while crappie are slow. Catfishing is fair. 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 - Bass fishing has been fair with a 9 pounder caught during a tournament last weekend. Crappie, catfish and stripers are slow. For information, contact Carlos Gray at 318/766-0075.

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NFL

A VERY WEBSTER SUPER BOWL

A pair of Webster Parish's finest are all set for an NFL rematch on the biggest stage of them all...



KANSAS CITY CHIEFS & TAMPA BAY BUCS/COURTESY PHOTOS
Chiefs' defender and former Minden High standout JJ Sneed (left) will take on Bucs linebacker and former North Webster star Devin White in the Super Bowl.

AARON S. LEE
Special to the Press-Herald

Webster Parish pro football fans could not have scripted out the season any finer. It's a dream scenario for many as L'Jarius Sneed and Devin White are all set for an epic rematch on the NFL's grandest stage — Super Bowl Sunday!

It's Minden vs. Springhill. Louisiana Tech vs. LSU, when Sneed's Kansas City Chiefs (16-2) travels to Raymond James Stadium to face White's Tampa Bay Buccaneers (14-5) for Super Bowl LV on Feb. 7.

Sneed punched his ticket to Tampa with yet another stellar postseason performance during the Chiefs' 38-24 victory over the Buffalo Bills (15-4) in the AFC Championship game at Arrowhead Stadium on Sunday evening.

Despite leaving the game in the third quarter after a nasty head bump, the rookie cornerback recorded four tackles and his second sack of the postseason.

Sneed, who missed nine games due to a broken collarbone, has been red hot when healthy.

The just-turned 24-year-old (Jan. 21) was joined by Juan Thornhill and former LSU Tiger Tyrann Mathieu in a Chiefs secondary that held high-powered quarterback Josh Hill (28-of-48) to just 287 yards and two touchdowns.

Chiefs backup corner Rashad Fenton snagged a Hill interception during the fourth quarter as well. Fenton was subbing for Sneed, who was being examined in the locker room by trainers after hitting his head on the turf while defending Bills wide receiver Stefon



Diggs.

The Chiefs announced on Twitter that Sneed was being evaluated for a concussion.

Head coach Andy Reid commented about Sneed and fellow defensive back Armani Watts.

"Armani Watts has a head injury and so does Sneed," said Reid in the post-game press conference. "I think those guys will be OK."

The defending Super Bowl champions will make their way to Tampa to face Tom Brady after the Bucs bested Green Bay 31-26 in Lambeau Field for the NFC Championship earlier in the day.

Like Sneed, White continues to shine in the postseason.

A week after notching an 11-tackle, one-interception, one-fumble re-

covery performance to knock the New Orleans Saints out of the playoffs, the second-year linebacker out of LSU led the Bucs defense with nine tackles, as well as a critical fumble recovery to start the second half.

The former North Webster Knight picked up an Aaron Jones fumble caused by Jordan Whitehead and ran it 21 yards to the Packers' 8-yard line.

One play later, Brady hit a wide-open Cameron Brate to extend the Bucs' lead, 28-10.

Tampa's win marks Brady's 10th Super Bowl appearance, his first as a Buc since joining the team this year after spending 20 seasons with the New England Patriots where he amassed six Super Bowl titles, four Super Bowl MVP awards and three NFL MVP awards.

The win also marks the first time in league history a team will play the Super Bowl in their home stadium.

Super Bowl LV will also be a rematch from Week 12, which Kansas City won, 27-24, at Raymond James.

That was the last game the Bucs lost before launching their seven-game winning streak that has the team back in the title game.

SUDOKU

SUDOKU

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

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!

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

Z C Y V R O L H E B X U R O F
L I E B Y V S Q N K H E B R Y
W T H R O L J G E B Y W E U R
P N K T I A G D B Z X E V E S
T Q O M W N D K I G Z E R U C
A H Y L W O U A S I Q O E L P
H N G L H T R O N L C J H A H
F C E U C H A G Y S X L P V V
U S L N A I E V O L Q P I O N
M Y T I T N E N O N K J C N H
F E P I Z G G E E S O O G C B

Monday's unlisted clue: HEAD

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

Tuesday's unlisted clue hint: THE — POINT OF WATER C°

Cipher	Naught	No value	Null
Goose egg	Nil	Nonentity	Zilch
Love	No growth	North	Zip
Nada	No score	Nothing	

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1/26

HISTORY

Continued from Page 10

The Constitution of India came into effect that day.

1905 - The world's largest diamond is found in South Africa. The Cullinan Diamond weighed 3106.75 carats (621.35 g or 1.37 lb) and has an estimated value of 2 billion USD.

1788 - The first Europeans settle in Australia. The first elements of the British "First Fleet" had arrived in Sydney Harbour on January 18.

COMICS

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



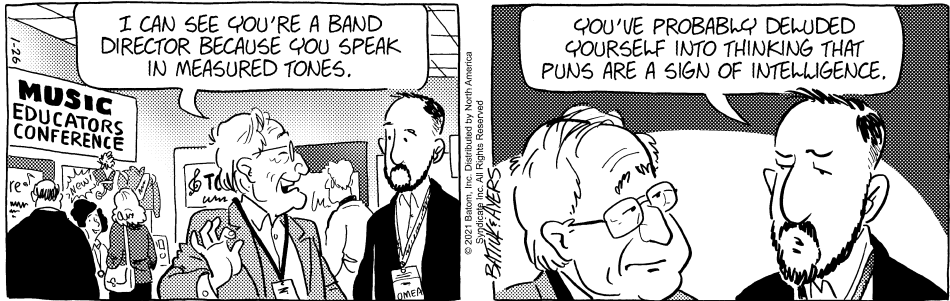
BLONDIE | DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT & GREG WALKER



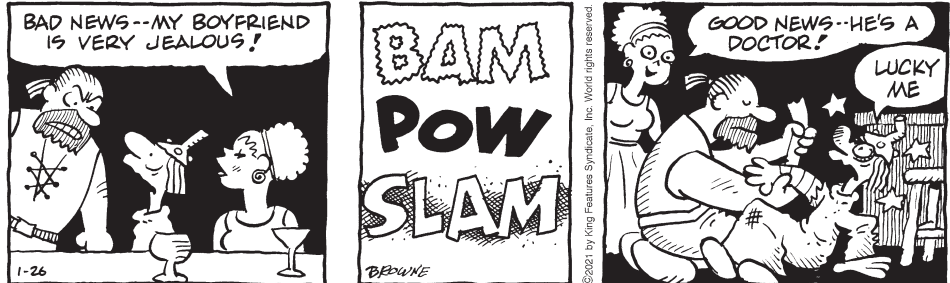
FUNKY WINKERBEAN | TOM BATIUK



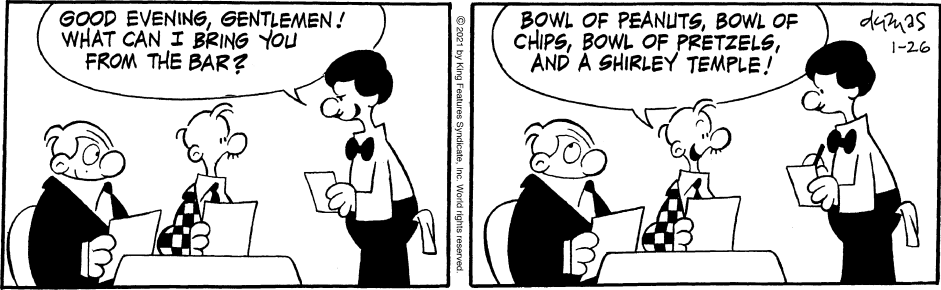
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN WALKER, GREG WALKER AND CHANCE BROWNE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



SAM AND SILO | JERRY DUMAS



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



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Sealed proposals will be received by the Webster Parish School Board, Attn: Johnny y hand-delivery, at 1442 Sheppard Street, Minden, Louisiana, by mail to the Webster Parish School Board, ATTN: Johnny Rowland, P. O. Box 520, Minden, Louisiana 71058, Or electronically at www.central-bidding.com until 2:00 p.m. on Friday, January 29, 2021 for the sale of the following property: 215 N. Middle Landing Minden, LA 71055 (Old Stewart Elementary Site)

Precisely at the above time and place, all proposals in hand will be publicly opened and read aloud and any proposals received subsequent to the opening will be returned unopened. General Conditions and Instructions to Bidders, a plat and description of the property, and Bid Form may be acquired from Webster Parish School Board, 1442 Sheppard Street, Minden, Louisiana or by contacting Jackie Rice, telephone number (318) 377-7052.

Arrangements to inspect the property may be made with Jeff Franklin, by telephone at (318) 377-7052. Minimum acceptable bid for the site is \$72,250.00 Award of the purchase will be made to the highest bidder at or over the minimum acceptable bid subject to acceptance and approval by the Webster Parish School Board.

The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

WEBSTER PARISH SCHOOL BOARD JOHNNY ROWLAND, JR. SUPERINTENDENT

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

Five-Year Review for Camp Minden, Louisiana

The Army is ini-

tiating the sixth Five-Year Review for Camp Minden, formerly Louisiana Army Ammunition Plant (LAAP), located in Bossier and Webster Parishes, Louisiana. The Army, with oversight by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 6, and Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, is conducting this Five-Year Review as required by the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (Superfund) and the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan.

LAAP was placed on the National Priorities List in 1989 due to contamination caused by past disposal of explosive-laden wastewater from historical operations into former lagoons. The purpose of this Five-Year Review is to determine whether the selected remedy at a site remains protective of human health and the environment. If there are issues that impact the remedial actions' protectiveness, the five-year report will provide recommendations to address them. This review evaluates the protectiveness of the remedies for EPA Operable Unit (OU)s: OU2, OU3, OU4, OU5, OU6, and OU7 in accordance with Record of Decisions (ROD) in 1996, 2000, 2006, 2007, 2010, and 2020.

The selected remedies outlined in the 1996, 2000, 2006, 2010, and 2020 RODs called for no further action/no response action with land use controls. These controls include deed restrictions to prevent residential use, ground disturbance, and access to Camp Minden.

Components of the selected remedy in the 2007 ROD for EPA OU5 include monitored natural attenuation/long-term monitoring for explosives, volatile organic compounds and metals in ground-

water and institutional controls in the form of deed restrictions to prevent residential and groundwater use.

The sixth Camp Minden Five-Year Review report is anticipated to be completed in July 2021. The final report will be available in the administrative records located at:

Webster Parish Library
521 East & West Street
Minden, Louisiana 71055

Doyline Branch Library
333 Main Street
Doyline, Louisiana 71023

Should members of the community have questions or comments about the Camp Minden Five Year Review or interest in additional site information, please contact CPT Marquita Cash and Jonah Duos. Their contact information is:

CPT Marquita Cash
CMTS Deputy Commander
100 Louisiana Blvd
Camp Minden, LA 71055
318-382-4204
marquita.a.cash.mil@mail.mil

Jonah Duos
CMTS Safety
100 Louisiana Blvd
Camp Minden, LA 71055
318-299-4233
jonah.s.duos.nfg@mail.mil

January 22, 2021
January 26, 2021
Minden Press-Herald

RESOLUTION NO.01-01202021 VILLAGE OF DIXIE INN

WHEREAS, the Village of Dixie Inn has a need to install SCADA Mission Alert Systems for the Sewer Plant and (3) Sewer Lift Stations located in the Village of Dixie Inn, and WHEREAS, the Village does not have the resources to construct this project, and WHEREAS, funds are available from the Local Government Assistance Program, and

WHEREAS, the Village's Engineer, Cothren, Graff, Smoak Engineering, Inc. has

determined this project can be accomplished with the funds available from the LGAP.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Village of Dixie Inn is in full agreement and accord on making a request to the Division of Administration, Office of Community Development LGAP Program for a grant in the amount of \$25,000.00 to assist us with this badly needed project.

Upon motion by Nell Finlay, duly seconded by Donna Hoffoss and carried, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Village of Dixie Inn in special session convened on January 20, 2021.

I, Dana James, Clerk of the Village of Dixie Inn, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Village of Dixie Inn in special session convened on January 20, 2021.

RESOLUTION NO. 02-01202021 VILLAGE OF DIXIE INN

WHEREAS, the Village of Dixie Inn has a need to install SCADA Mission Alert System on the Booster Station, and Radio on Remote Well #3 in the Village of Dixie Inn, and WHEREAS, the Village does not have the resources to construct this project, and

WHEREAS, funds are available from the Community Water Enrichment Fund, and WHEREAS, the Village's Engineer, Cothren, Graff, Smoak Engineering, Inc. has determined this project can be accomplished with the funds available from the CWF.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Village of Dixie Inn is in full agreement and accord on making a request to the Division of Administration, Office of Community De-

velopment CWF Program a grant in the amount of \$22,500.00 to assist us with this badly needed project.

Upon motion by Donna Hoffoss, duly seconded by Judy McKenzie and carried, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Village of Dixie Inn in special session convened on January 20, 2021.

I, Dana James, Clerk of the Village of Dixie Inn, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Village of Dixie Inn in special session convened on January 20, 2021.

Given under my official signature and seal of office on this 20th day of January 2021.

January 26, 2021

Minden Press-Herald

Village of Dixie Inn Regular Session January 20, 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 special session on January 20, 2021 at 12:00 noon 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. Mayor Kay Hallmark-Stratton read aloud Resolution No. 01-01202021. Nell Finlay made a motion to adopt the Resolution #01-1202021 approving the Village of Dixie Inn to install SCADA Mission alert system on the Sewer Plant and (3) Sewer Lift Stations for the LGAP application for the Village of Dixie Inn. The motion was seconded by Donna Hoffoss. The vote on the motion was unan-

imous and having 3 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Absences, and 0 Abstains.

Mayor Kay Hallmark-Stratton read aloud Resolution No. 02-01202021. Donna Hoffoss made a motion to adopt the Resolution #02-01202021 approving the Village of Dixie Inn to install SCADA Mission alert system on the Booster Station and Radio on Remote Well #3 for the CWF application for the Village of Dixie Inn. The motion was seconded by Judy McKenzie. The vote on the motion was unanimous and having 3 Yeas, 0 Nays, 0 Absences, and 0 Abstains.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Nell Finlay and seconded by Donna Hoffoss. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

ATTEST:

Kay Hallmark-Stratton Mayor

January 26, 2021
Minden Press-Herald

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The **2021 Minden St. Jude Auction** is 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**. Due to COVID-19 regulations, we are 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!

For more information on 2021 Auction changes visit mindenstjude.com

AUCTION ON-AIR SCHEDULE:

The auction will run from **February 4, 2021** through **February 7, 2021**. It will be broadcast on **Suddenlink Channel 11, KASO/KBEF Radio**, and live-streamed on both **Facebook** and our website mindenstjude.com

BROADCAST SCHEDULE:

- Thursday – 3:00 pm to 10:00 pm
- Friday – 7:00 am to 10:00 pm
- Saturday – 7:00 am to 11:00 pm
- Sunday – 1:00 pm to 9:00 or 10:00 pm