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# MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 2, 2021

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75 CENTS

## GOOD BUSINESS

Greater Minden Chamber hosts Daiquiri Express & Liquor Ribbon Cutting



WILL PHILLIPS/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

The Greater Minden Chamber hosted a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony Thursday afternoon to welcome one of Minden's newest businesses Daiquiri Express & Liquor.

**WILL PHILLIPS**  
Minden Press-Herald

Thursday afternoon the Greater Minden Chamber welcomed one of Minden's newest additions to its businesses along Homer Road, Daiquiri Express and Liquor, with a Ribbon Cutting held at their location at 814 Homer Road.

Having five locations in Shreveport already, one of the owners Danny Black explained that when Minden citizens voted to allow the sale of packaged alcohol here in Minden, they thought it was a great location to try a new spin on their business.

"When Minden passed the law to be able to sell packaged liquor, that was when we decided to

come over to Minden," said Black.

"When that passed the November before last, we said ok, we have some contacts here in Minden, some people we know, some family. So we decided to try and find a location here."

While their other locations adhere to the businesses namesake and offer a variety of daiquiris, the Minden location also sells a variety of other beverages as well.

"Well we've been looking to try this concept out. Daiquiri Express has five locations throughout Shreveport, but we've never done it with the spirits, wine, liquor and beer."

Their new location along Homer road has been open since the end of 2020, but after having some time to settle in and get

adjusted, they wanted to cement their relationship with the local chamber and the Minden business community.

"We joined the chamber, and we wanted it announced. When we first opened, it was 0 to 100. Then we had the holidays, so it was good we had this little period to kind of settle in, step back and breathe, then we called Jana and said let's join the chamber and get this grand opening," said Black.

"We're excited to be here. We really are. This is a great community, great city. As I've said before, we have family that live here, so we're excited about being part of the Minden business community."

## Judge Schlegel Recognized by ABA as Legal Rebel

Special to the Press-Herald

24th Judicial District Court Judge Scott Schlegel, who serves as Chair of the Louisiana Supreme Court Technology Commission, was recognized by the American Bar Association (ABA) as a 2021 Legal Rebel. The designation was given to 10 individuals in the legal profession who help to bring about change in the judicial system by establishing a blueprint for courts to better serve the general public.

Judge Schlegel is featured in the article, 2021 Legal Rebels: Meet 10 legal professionals who are courting change, in the February issue of the American Bar Journal, a publication of the American Bar Association.

Chief Justice John L. Weimer said, "I commend Judge Schlegel for his enthusiasm,

dedication, hard work, and innovation in helping provide access to justice during these difficult times brought on by the pandemic. He has been at the forefront of bringing technology into the court system and has appropriately been nationally recognized."

The ABA Journal and the ABA Center of Innovation began in 2009 identifying judges, lawyers, and legal professionals who find innovative, "outside the box ways of improving the practice of law, often through technology." This year with the challenge

See, **REBEL**, Page 2



SCHLEGAL

## Minden St. Jude Auction begins this weekend

**WILL PHILLIPS**  
Minden Press-Herald

The Minden St. Jude Auction "Roundup for a Cure" will be starting this Thursday Feb. 7 and will be continued throughout the weekend through Super Bowl Sunday. The auction will be available to watch/listen/stream/bid via KASO/KBEF, Suddenlink, and of course via the website at mindenstjude.com.

As with many other events over the past year, changes were made in order to prevent large crowds and limit the spread of COVID-19. The auction will refrain from hosting the in person aspect of this event at the Civic Center, and the Chili Cook-off and Children's Day have been canceled as well.

"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," Minden St. Jude organizers stated.

"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

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

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Tomorrow's High Temp 63°

Tomorrow's Low Temp 51°

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# SECOND FRONT

MINDEN

## ST. JUDE: Auction kicks off this weekend

Continued from Page 1 about!"

There are more ways besides the auction alone to support St. Jude during this event. Their regular phone number 318-377-1100 can be called in order to give a pledge to St. Jude. Limited edition Minden St. Jude Auction

T-Shirts will be available for purchase, and online order pickup for those who pre-ordered, at East-side Baptist Church in Minden during the auction weekend.

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 website for more information.

"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!" said Minden St. Jude Auction Organizers.

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

LOCAL

## Cody Whitaker announces candidacy for BESE District 4 seat

Special to the Press-Herald

Cody Whitaker, of Winnfield officially qualified for the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, District 4 seat for the March 20th special election.

Whitaker is a 4th grade ELA and Social Studies teacher for the Winn Parish School Board system. In this role, Whitaker works to educate students and immerse them in the foundations needed to become productive and sustainable citizens. "Watching students achieve their very best is what makes teaching so special," stated Whitaker. "I truly have a passion for teaching reading. It is such a rewarding feeling when you see a child who has been struggling, finally reach their goal." Whitaker teaches at the same elementary school that he attended in the mid-90's.

Cody Whitaker's campaign will focus on the fol-

lowing priorities important to our children, our teachers, and our communities:

- A greater focus on literacy
- Access to early childhood programs.
- Workforce readiness for secondary students.
- Teacher recruitment and retention.
- Producing productive citizens in our communities.

"District 4, and the state of Louisiana's progress depends on all of our students receiving the very best education possible," said Whitaker. "I decided to run for BESE because I hope to be a voice, not just for students, but for my fellow educators and each community within District 4. As a teacher, I know what we go through on a day to day basis in order to improve the lives of students and I want to continue doing so at the state level."

Whitaker is active in several educational organizations including The American Association for

Employment in Education, Louisiana Association of Computer Using Educators, and HighScope Early Childhood Education Organization, among many others. He is also an alumnus of both NSU and LSU.

"Now, more than ever, we need to add an educator to our state's education board from District 4. I commend my fellow teachers statewide for the hard work they are doing every day for their students. COVID-19 has impacted our lives immensely, but just like we have always done, teachers have risen to the occasion. Who would have thought that recording lessons and teaching virtually would become the norm, but here we are and ready for the challenge, today, tomorrow, and every day,"



WHITAKER

Whitaker asserted.

Over the next two months Whitaker plans on engaging with the voters in district 4 (which include Bossier, Bienville, Caddo, Desoto, Red River, Sabine, Natchitoches, Vernon, Webster and Winn) to further understand their vision for BESE, District 4's future, and how to best represent those visions on day one in office. If you wish to talk with Cody to discuss your thoughts about BESE-District 4, or to help the campaign, please reach out to (318) 302-0596 or CodyforBESE@gmail.com. Thank you for the support for our students, our teachers, and our community.

*Anyone interested in announcing their candidacy for upcoming elections 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.*

MINDEN

## REBEL: Schlegel recognized by ABA as Legal Rebel

Continued from Page 1 the COVID-19 pandemic has presented for the courts' ability to have in-person proceedings, these innovations could not have been more timely. Courts have long been implemented ways to use technology to serve their citizens but the pandemic has accelerated the development and processing of these technological advances.

"It is an honor that the work we are doing here in Louisiana to modernize our court system has been recognized nationally," said Judge Schlegel. "This truly has been a team effort and I want to personally thank my colleagues on the 24th Judicial District Court and our justice partners for supporting our efforts to make the courts more efficient, effective and accessible. I'd also like to thank the Louisiana Supreme Court for its unwavering support of the lower courts during these challenging times. Together, we can continue to move the courts forward and utilize technology to better serve the citizens of Louisiana."

Judge Schlegel is be-

ing honored for being a catalyst of technological developments on the bench. Among his efforts is the development of an integrated video conferencing calendaring system that allows attorneys to conduct pretrial hearings via video, collaboration with legal technology companies to utilize platforms like Slack and Zoom, and developing online forms to assist with specialty court matters, allow virtual breakout rooms for attorney, client consultation, and hold virtual proceedings. Judge Schlegel launched a courtonline.us website shortly after the COVID-19 crisis prohibited courts from public traffic. The website provides virtual access to 24th Judicial District Court proceedings via video conferences and onlinejudge.us provides resources to those with civil matters in Judge Schlegel's courtroom. These technological advances allow courts to prioritize the commitment to serve citizens while balancing the need to observe public health safety protocols for citizens and court staff.

### RECENT ARRESTS IN WEBSTER PARISH

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

Henry Jordan III, 30, of the 700 block of Brookes Alley, was arrested for failure to appear in court.

Erin Fowler, 39, of the 100 block of McDade Ave, was arrested for theft, drug paraphernalia, and possession of a schedule IV substance.

Melissa Chamblee, 48, of the 900 block of Nursery Road, was arrested for theft.

Dedrick Miller, 41, of the 100 block of Shreveport Road, was arrested for failure to appear in court.

Derrick Coney, 31, of the 800 block of Wood Street, was arrested for failure to appear in court.

Lows Dero, 41, was arrested for failure to appear in court.

Dameionia Gilbert, 35, of the 600 block of Chestnut Street, was arrested for theft, resisting an officer, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Ramonica Coleman, 21, of the 8000 block of Matthew Place, was arrested for disturbing the peace with fighting and resisting an officer.

Kiara Sims, 22, of the 900 block of Devereaux Street, was arrested for resisting

an officer and failure to appear in court.

Lacey Mann, 28, of the 1300 block of Highway 2 was arrested for driving while intoxicated 2nd offense, driving with an open container, and running a redlight.

Cedric D. Mosley, 38, of the 100 block of Talton Garden, was arrested for the possession of a schedule I substance, possession of a schedule I substance, possession of drug parapher-

nalina, driving with an open container, and running a stop sign.

George Puffer, 54, of the 1100 block of Shreveport Road, was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia and theft.

Melissa White, 45, of the 220 block of N. Middle Landing, was arrested for possession of a schedule II Substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, and theft.

Rico Nelson Jr., 22, of the 400 block of Joel Street, was arrested for failure to appear in court.

John Brewer III, 38, of the 600 block of Caney lake Road was arrested for failure to appear in court.

Justin Walston, 40, of the 100 block of Sandra Delmar, was arrested for felony possession of a schedule I substance, and introduction of contraband into a correctional facility.

# WEBSTER & MORE

## OBITUARIES



### Greta Mosley

Graveside services for Greta Mosley will be held Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 11:00 A.m. at Gardens of Memory in Minden, Louisiana. The family will receive friends from 9:30 until 10:30 a.m. Wednesday prior service.

Greta was born November 27, 1953 in Cotton Valley, Louisiana and entered into rest January 30, 2021 in Minden, Louisiana.

She was preceded in death by her mother, Cassie

Hagan; father, Odus Hagan; husband, Donnie Mosley; brothers, John Hagan and Peck Allen Hagan; and sister, Sue Morganson.

She is survived by her sons, Allen Mosley and wife Jennifer and Brandon Mosley and wife Ofelia; sister, Lynn Stocheck; and grandchildren, Michelle, Dalston, Hannah, Cassie, Sarah Margaret, Rebecca, Joe, Alfredo, and Ron..

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



### Mary Kathryn Dunning

Mary Kathryn Dunning peacefully passed on January 27, 2021 in her home in Star, Idaho.

She was born April 11, 1932 in Booneville, Mississippi as Mary Kathryn Clayton. As a child she

enjoyed working in the garden, riding horses, and climbing trees. To all her uncles, she was known as "Kat." She met her husband, a dashing marine who "made her knees buckle" at a young age in a restaurant where she worked. The military determined where they lived for years, starting with Camp Pendleton in Southern California where their first two children were born, then Camp LeJeune in North Carolina where they had two more children. They later spent four years in Oahu, Hawaii which was an exciting adventure for the whole family. After her husband retired from the military, they settled in Minden, Louisiana where they started a small business and had two more children. She soon had a gaggle of grandchildren running around with her two cabooses. After her husband suffered a brain aneurism, she found herself caretaker to not only her children and grandchildren, but also her husband and her little sister, Leverne who had down syndrome. In 1976 she joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, something that would serve as a strength and joy throughout her life. Because of her influence and faithfulness, many of her family also joined the church.

Kathryn continued her love of gardening and horses and shared that love with her family, but she also loved to serve others in her church, including genealogy research. She lived a full life and was the glue that guided and held her family together. She will be cherished and remembered by so many.

She leaves behind 4 daughters: Donna Williams of Star ID, Kathy Edge and B.J. Pike of Minden LA, and Julie Dunning of Shreveport LA. She also leaves behind 10 grandchildren: Tammy Warnick of Eagle ID, Cindy Gray of Star ID, Alayna and Austin Pike of Minden LA, Danielle Kirk of Homer LA, Sarah and John Edge of Minden LA, Nathan Edge of Ruston LA, Tawnya Dunning of Los Angeles CA, and Dennis Dunning Jr of Las Vegas NV. Great grandchildren: Payton, Leah, and Audrey Warnick of Eagle ID, Joshua Merritt of Colorado Springs CO, Christina Barnette of Marion AR, Quinton and Laura Merritt of Drasco AR, Bryce, Hollyn Edge and Tyler Edge of Minden LA, and Jonathon Dunning of Las Vegas NV. Great-great grandchildren: Preslee, Olivia and Addie Barnette of Marion AR, and Luther Hooten of Drasco AR. She is preceded in death by her husband, Herbert Riley Dunning, two sons Herbert Riley Dunning Jr and Dennis Dunning, her sister, Leverne Clayton and her parents, Burton Bryan Clayton and Florinda Tittle.

Funeral services will be held Tuesday, February 2, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. at Rose- Neath Funeral Home Chapel in Minden, Louisiana with Robert Goletz officiating. Interment will follow at Minden Cemetery in Minden, Louisiana. The family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. Monday, February 1, 2021 at Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden.

She was preceded in death by her husband Charles L. Dean.

She is survived by her daughter, Jamie M. Dean of Springhill; son Rusty Dean and wife Sarah of Texas; brothers, Robert Allen and Brian Allen both of Texas; sister Bonnie Petti of Texas; and grandchildren, Neil Anthony McCarl, Paris Nicole Saxon, Hunter Michael Dean, and Elise Harper Dean.

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



### Michelle L. Dean

Memorial service for Michelle L. Dean will be held Wednesday, February 3, 2021 at 10:00 a.m.

at Rose- Neath Funeral Home Chapel in Minden, Louisiana.

Michelle was born March 13, 1961 in Fresno, California and entered into rest January 28, 2021 in Springhill, Louisiana.



**BIRTHDAYS FOR**  
**SUNDAY, JANUARY 31, 2021**  
Gregory L. Miller



### Wills Successions

**Warren Law LLC**  
219 Main Street  
Minden, La  
318-377-8150

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- 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).

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# OPINION

**JOSHUA SPECHT, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER**  
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## MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

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identifying name, occupation

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71055, or email to:

newsroom@press-herald.com.

### OTHER OPINION

## Malkin: The matter of Tori Rose Smith's life

Victoria "Tori" Rose Smith lived a tragically short life. Three years. That's less than 200 weeks on this earth. She was a girly girl who sported oversized bows in her straw-blonde hair and a megawatt smile on her face. A great-aunt described the blue-eyed baby as "bubbly," "sassy" and "full of life" despite bouncing around foster homes for much of her brief existence.

Last week, authorities in South Carolina revealed that Tori had perished as result of multiple blunt-force injuries to her tiny head. She was beaten to death. Her adoptive parents, Ariel and Jerry "Austin" Robinson, are now charged with homicide by child abuse. A six-page police incident report describes how first responders rushed to the Robinsons' home on the afternoon of Jan. 14, 2021, after Mr. Robinson called 911. Little Tori was not breathing. EMTs performed CPR. She was rushed to the hospital, where she died. Investigators immediately suspected child abuse.

The key to Tori's murder lies in 17 redacted lines of the police report from a Simpsonville, South Carolina, police officer documenting his crime-scene interview with Ariel Robinson, who described an unknown incident involving her adopted daughter that had occurred the day before. The entire paragraph is blacked out — an ominous chunk of hidden information about Tori's last day on the planet.

Thanks to her ubiquitous social media presence, however, we can fill in a lot of blanks

about Ariel Robinson. She was a fame-chaser, an aspiring comedian, and a wannabe social media influencer who paraded her entire blended family (two biological sons, plus Tori and her two brothers, whom the Robinsons adopted all together) on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook for clicks and likes.

Robinson had achieved minor notoriety as the Season 20 winner of the Food Network's "Worst Cooks in America" contest. She hosted a podcast with her husband and was set to launch a new YouTube channel has now been deleted. But other dark clues remain.

In her past podcasts, Robinson spoke of battling depression and violent thoughts. "I don't feel like I want to hurt others, but some days I do want to hit others," she rambled. "I don't feel I would...I don't feel homicidal," she told her audience, then seemed only to half-joke: "Everybody want (sic) to hit somebody some days but I don't want to kill nobody." She talked about the temptation to just "snap" and warned openly that "(i)f you get angry today and fly off the handle, punch

somebody, kill somebody, assault, murder, you are one bad decision away from ruining the rest of your life."

Perhaps most troubling, she used her apparent propensity for violence as material for her stand-up routines. One video from 2019 shows her recounting how a social worker came to visit before she adopted Tori and her brothers. Robinson's own biological sons were making noise upstairs during the home interview, prompting Robinson to scream at the top of her lungs: "SHUT UP, BEFORE I COME UP THERE AND PUNCH YOU IN YOUR THROAT."

The audience laughed as she described how she downplayed the violent threat to the social worker ("Aw, ya know, it's just a game") and then delivered the punchline about the adoption to more peals of laughter:

"We got approved" for Tori's adoption — the audience erupted in cheers and giggles — "we gonna have her by December."

I've devoted this column space to beautiful toddler Tori because you probably won't hear anything more about her in the "mainstream" media. That's because this homicide is wrapped up in a package of race and crime taboos you are not supposed to discuss. Robinson is Black. Tori was white. On her social media accounts, Robinson promoted Black superiority, bashed Donald Trump and cops, and griped about institutional racism.

"In my house," she wrote, "my black children get treated the

same as my white children, and my white children get treated the same as my black children. It's a shame that when they go out into the real world, that won't be the case." Robinson punctuated the Jan. 6, 2021, Instagram post with the hashtags "#whiteprivilege" and "#BlackLivesMatter."

Eight days later, Robinson's adopted white daughter succumbed to multiple blunt force trauma to her head and will never have a chance to "go out into the real world."

Did child welfare bureaucrats overlook Robinson's mental health issues because of her race? Were they aware of her resentment of white people before they allowed her to adopt three white children? Did the system lower their standards to appease social justice and affirmative action crusaders? Were signs of abuse ignored out of deference to a rising celebrity whose politically correct status as a BLM-promoting do-gooder shielded her from scrutiny and criticism?

Ideas have consequences. So do lies. Americans have been hopelessly conditioned to look the other way at cases like this, lest they commit what they've been taught is the greatest sin of all: "racism." Until it is thoroughly demolished by people of courage, the myth of white privilege will surely claim more victims.

Say her name: Victoria "Tori" Rose Smith's life mattered.

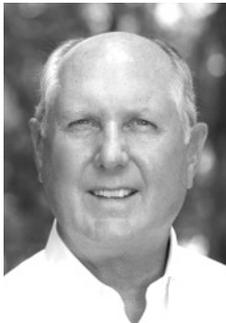
MICHELLE MALKIN'S EMAIL ADDRESS IS MICHELMALKININVESTIGATES@PROTON-MAIL.COM.



MICHELLE MALKIN

### OTHER OPINION

## Sen. Mills: We should support La. businesses



ROBERT MILLS

It is no secret that our state's economy is vulnerable and hurting. You do not have to look too far to see businesses closing their doors and industry running for higher ground — mainly to higher ground in Texas! At this pivotal moment in history, we in Louisiana should be doing all that we can to support companies wanting to stay in and invest in Louisiana. Major companies like Exxon-Mobil, Marathon Oil and Folgers Coffee to name a few are trying to do just this. But instead they are being met with a headwind trying to derail their investments into our state. These headwinds come from extremist

environmental groups like the Louisiana Bucket Brigade and Together Louisiana and I am seriously concerned with the inflated influence and power they seem to have been granted publicly.

I expressed these concerns to Louisiana Economic Development Secretary Don Pierson. I trust he agrees with me and I appreciate his work and willingness to help business and industry get fair and professional evaluations as they make their case before the various government entities necessary for approval by state and local officials. Programs like the Industrial Tax

Exemption Program (ITEP) promote business growth, maintain or add jobs and should be negotiated with qualified entities, not extremists like Together Louisiana and the Bucket Brigade. The benefits of successful projects supported by ITEP exemptions dot the skyline and support the families of our cities in north, south, east and western Louisiana. These employers will help our state, economy and society recover and prosper once again — something we should ALL be fighting for.

LOUISIANA SENATOR ROBERT MILLS, DISTRICT 36

## President Biden's actions harmful to La. economy

**MIKE MONCLA**  
Special to the Press-Tribune

The last two weeks have put on display the things we take for granted.

The permitting moratorium, the revocation of the Keystone Pipeline, then the outright leasing ban show that the Biden Administration does not fully grasp the critical, complex role oil and natural gas play in every moment of our day to day lives.

Let's start with the most obvious facet of life these bans jeopardize: energy security. Our attitude in America has been that energy for our homes, cars, and businesses is a right and a given. All we have to do is pull up to the pump or turn on the light switch. But the ban means a nearly 50% drop in offshore Gulf of Mexico oil production, and a 68% drop in Gulf production of natural gas.

When America makes less

of that product, but still has the same demand for that product, where will we have to go for it? We will have to import oil and natural gas from other nations. That's why the ban was quickly dubbed an "import more oil policy." Just under a year ago, another major player in the global energy market decided to turn on the spigot and over supply the market. If Saudi Arabia, or Russia, or Iran set their sights on tanking the American family, they can. All they have to do is decide not to sell to America — or sell at a premium and wring out the ole' USA pocketbook, just so we can fill our cars up. This is the complicated topic of energy security — and a ban makes us less secure on the global stage.

And let's not forget that these executive actions have been taken under the guise of protecting the environment. So I'll remind our President that America has the most strin-

gent environmental standards in the world, and in our state, revenues generated offshore go directly to Louisiana's coast through the GOMESA (Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act) program. In 2020, funds from offshore royalties came into Louisiana's coffers to the tune of \$155,718,470.00. Those coastal restoration dollars are now completely at risk. Let's not forget either that the single most generous industry to coastal resilience and restoration is the oil and gas industry.

Finally, the complex, robust economy from oil and natural gas provides hundreds of thousands of jobs, support for critical community and public services, and the affordable, reliable products we rely on every moment in our day to day lives. By 2022, a ban could translate into then loss of nearly 48,000 jobs — in Louisiana alone! It's clear to see that the loss of our

industry means harm to our state's families.

At the Louisiana Oil & Gas Association, I see that real impact every day just talking to my members. One pipe fabrication business recently told me "no new projects, no need for piping products." Others have cited being immediately forced to do layoffs, and others simply have no demand for their services. We are watching the guillotine being readied for our already greatly battered economy.

I'm asking the Governor to stand up for our state, just as the governor in our Lone Star neighbor just did. Find every way to support our vital industry and stop these executive actions from harming our great state of Louisiana.

MIKE MONCLA IS INTERIM PRESIDENT OF THE LOUISIANA OIL & GAS ASSOCIATION

## DONATION

## Red River Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. donate to UCAP



WILL PHILLIPS/MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

Red River Chapter of Jack and Jill of America, Inc. In conjunction with Souper Bowl of Caring, Inc. collected food to in order to help out those in need during these hard times. All proceeds were donated to the Minden UCAP. The Red River Chapter gives special thanks to the Anna Pink Ribbon Cancer Foundation for their generous donation to the food drive. Seen pictured are Tasha Duty, Deborah Cooksey, Shelia Handy, Reller Jones, and Angie Hadnot with the food they brought to be donated.

## INSPIRATION

## One sees clearly only with the heart

French author Antoine de Saint-Exupery, author of *The Little Prince* wrote "One sees clearly only with the heart. Anything essential is invisible to the eye."

Love and hugging are essential.

Having been born to poverty stricken parents who I knew loved me and then to go into a loving foster home for a couple of months before going into an orphanage I can speak from experience. To be given love until one's addicted and then to have it snatched away is one of the cruelest devastating experiences that can happen to a child or even an adult.

Having recently watched child star Margaret O'Brien, with the leading role in *Lost Angels*, helps me to explain just what is wrong with orphanages and why we need hugging!

When we were dropped off at camp I turned my back when I saw other children being hugged by their parents. I slept with my head under my pillow to muffle my crying at the orphanage because we were punished for crying.

You can put a child in an institution with plenty of food and clothing but you can't expect a child to thrive in an environment where all you have

are people who work for a paycheck.

Maybe there here are a few good orphanages but I believe it is rare if non-existent.

Doctor Andy Bilson, wrote "I am a social worker who has researched and campaigned for the reform of child protection systems across the globe for more than 30 years. But more importantly I am a parent. And so, without doubt, the most gut wrenching sound

I've ever heard is that of silence in a ward full of children in an orphanage. Children raised in orphanages can experience delays in terms of IQ, language, speech and vocabulary"

Having grown up in an orphanage I am here to say that a child care institution is most likely devoid of the kind of emotional care that children need to thrive. I can speak from experience having witnessed and experienced the kind of abuse that leaves a child scarred for life.

I've witnessed children running away at night never to be found.

Without love life is meaningless.

Had I not experienced living in a loving foster

parents for two months I might not have ever experienced the kind of home that was overflowing with love, affection, the kind of care that I soaked up like a dry sponge and when I went to the orphanage all I could see and feel were cinder blocks that were as devoid of love as they were hollow.

Yes "that which is essential is invisible to the eye."

One of those ingredients is hugging.

One of my favorite authors is the Italian born Psychologist Doctor Leo Buscaglia, author of *Living and Loving*, had much to say about the necessity of hugging and touching. He reports that "hugging increases hemoglobin in the blood."

Children need love to thrive.

It is easy for me to say that there are few people who have the ability, the need, to love children for a paycheck.

It took me years to get over the lack of love in an orphanage but had it not been for drawing love into my life and turning to writing as a safety valve for my emotions I might not be here today.

I hope I give you the courage to share your story however sad it may be and to draw love into your life.

CONTACT SARAH AT SAR-  
AHP9957@AOL.COM

## STUDENT LIFE

## Louisiana reading scores for young students continue to drop

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Reading scores for Louisiana's youngest students have plunged for three consecutive years, according to a new report that is drawing attention to one of the state's top challenges for improving classroom achievement.

The Advocate reports that more than half of students in kindergarten through third grades are performing below grade level, a potential harbinger of major learning problems.

"Clearly what we are doing is not getting the results that our kids deserve," state Superintendent of Education Cade Brumley told the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

"I am alarmed by this," Brumley said.

Reading problems have been an issue for years, and are one of the reasons why Louisiana ranks near the bottom nationally in education achievement. But the latest results are especially bleak.

Just under 60% of kindergarten students were reading below grade level in 2020, up from 50% in 2018, according to the state Department of Edu-

cation.

The report shows nearly 58% of first graders are below grade level in reading, compared to 39% in 2018. Among second-graders, nearly 52% fell below the standard, compared to 41% two years earlier. For third graders, more than half were subpar compared to 41% in 2018.

"I don't want this report to go away and not recognize that we have a challenge in front of us," Brumley said. "We need a reading revival in this state."

Experts say if a child is not reading on grade level by the third grade, the student is at risk of having long-term school problems. State law requires students in kindergarten, first, second and third grades to undergo literacy screening within 30 days of the start of the school year.

"I think K-3 is the gatekeeper for everything else that is going to happen," said former Board of Elementary and Secondary Education President Linda Johnson, who served on the board for 13 years.

Johnson sounded similar alarms 14 years ago.

She said the state consistently suffers from a lack of adequate preschool programs and has implemented too many programs for reading improvements with too many stops and starts. She said Louisiana needs to better partner with parents to help their children.

Libbie Sonnier, a member of Louisiana's Early Literacy Commission, said in some parishes more than 90% of children who enter kindergarten are ill-prepared to learn. About half are unprepared statewide.

"It speaks to the need for continued investment in early literacy and how we really need to focus on instruction in those kindergarten, first, second and third grades and really spend the time and effort to make sure children are getting the instruction they need that science supports," she said.

The commission has twice said Louisiana needs to spend \$15 million per year for early literacy. The Legislature last year approved \$2 million, which is being used to fund pilot projects in 12 school districts.

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# WEBSTER & MORE

LOUISIANA

## Louisiana pays \$346 million in unemployment benefits in January

DAVID JACOBS

The Center Square

(The Center Square) – The Louisiana Workforce Commission paid out \$346 million in unemployment benefits to almost 197,000 people in January, the LWC reports.

The Workforce Commission says it has cleared most of a 30,000-claim backlog from early this month, though almost 3,500 of those claims await additional review.

“The vast majority of the claims remaining in our queue are from claimants whose home address does not match that on their ID,” LWC Secretary Ava Dejoie said. “Many have a Louisiana address but an out of state driver’s license. These cases take longer to process as we continue

to combat and prevent fraud.”

The LWC has been scrambling to keep up with the demand for benefits since the COVID-19 pandemic began. Unemployed workers have complained about long waits and lack of response to claims.

The LWC says it has trained more than 120 staff members from across the agency to support the Unemployment Insurance department and assist with identity review and other complex claims resolution issues. More than 300 staff members are working extended hours and week-ends at call centers, handling more than 7,000 calls daily, the LWC says.

New claims for state unemployment benefits fell during the week that ended Jan. 23. According

to the Workforce Commission, initial claims dropped to 12,004 from the previous week’s total of 16,340. For a pre-pandemic comparison, during the week that ended on Jan. 25, 2020, 1,878 initial claims were filed, the LWC says.

Continued claims for last week increased to 64,916 compared to 63,888 the week before. The continued claims were above the comparable figure of 15,500 for the week ending Jan. 25, 2020.

New claims for federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance, which supports workers not otherwise eligible for state benefits such as contractors and gig workers, also fell last week, according to the U.S. Department of Labor. Louisiana workers filed 5,177

PUA claims during the week than ended Jan. 23, compared to 8,639 the week before, the department reports.

There were 118,888 continued PUA claims during the week that ended Jan. 9, the most recent total the federal government reported this week. That same week there were 55,020 people receiving federal Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation, which is for workers who have exhausted their state benefits.

*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.*

LOUISIANA

## THREE CASES OF CONTAGIOUS COVID STRAIN FOUND IN LOUISIANA AS GOV. EDWARDS CONTINUE VACCINE DISTRIBUTION

(The Center Square) – Three cases of a new, more contagious variant of COVID-19 have been confirmed in Louisiana, state officials said Thursday.

Two of the cases are from the New Orleans region and one is from southwest Louisiana. Another 14 suspected cases of the new variant have been identified but not yet confirmed.

The new strain was first identified in the United Kingdom and could be the dominant version in the United States by March. Pfizer and Moderna say their COVID-19 vaccines are effective against the new strain, but it’s unclear whether this new version carries a higher risk of serious complications.

For now, federal health experts have not recommended that state officials change any of their coronavirus mitigation restrictions in response to new strains, Gov. John Bel Edwards said. Recent spikes in case growth, hospitalizations and the proportion of tests coming back positive have leveled off though the numbers remain too high, officials said.

“The cases are coming down a little bit,” Dr. Joseph Kanter with the Louisiana Department of Health said. “The trajectory is encouraging, but we’re awfully high.”

The federal government plans to send 67,350 COVID-19 vaccine doses to Louisiana next week, up from 58,150 doses this week. Edwards said he expected the state to continue to receive the higher number for at least the next few weeks.

Almost 400,000 vaccine doses have been administered in Louisiana so far, and almost 2,000 vaccine providers have been enrolled in the state program, according to the health department. No more than a few hundred providers have gotten new vaccines to distribute at any one time because of the limited supply.

Federal officials say they will begin giving states three weeks of data about how many doses they can expect to get, which should help with distribution planning, Edwards said. Officials previously were only telling states how many doses they could expect to get the next week.

LOUISIANA

## Louisiana legislative leader to push tax system simplification

(The Center Square) – One of the Louisiana Legislature’s most powerful members wants to make simplifying the state’s tax system a priority for this year’s session and beyond.

“I’ve got three years to get this across the finish line,” said Sen. Bret Allain, who chairs his chamber’s Revenue and Fiscal Affairs Committee.

Allain has reached his term limit in the Senate and cannot run for his current office again.

Jim Patterson with the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry hosted a conversation with Allain that was posted online. Allain said Louisiana could create

more jobs if the state’s tax structure was “simpler and more predictable.”

The current system, in which high rates are offset by a long list of rebates, exemptions and deductions, leads to poor ratings from organizations such as the Tax Foundation and the Council on State Taxation and helps scare away investment, Allain said.

“We charge taxes on people and in some cases give the money back,” he said, naming the business inventory tax that most states don’t charge as an example. “We get scored very poorly for charging tax on inventory to start with, but we get no credit as a state for

giving the money back.”

Allain said his top priority is changing how the state handles personal and corporate income tax. Some House Republicans want to repeal state income taxes entirely, an idea that former Gov. Bobby Jindal floated but quickly abandoned when faced with opposition from legislators.

Allain has challenged representatives of the oil and gas industry to propose changes to how their industry is taxed. The industry has complained about the state’s high severance tax rate for oil but has pushed back against a proposal to lower that rate because it would involve higher

taxes on natural gas.

While broadening the tax base by cutting out tax breaks while lowering the rates to raise the same amount of money often is popular in theory, it can be tricky politically because some people end up paying more. And it can be hard to predict how much money a new tax system will raise.

Allain said an overhaul might cost the state a little money in the short term but create benefits over time.

“We’re crunching the numbers as we speak,” he said. “I think there’s a way to thread the needle.”

## SPORTS

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NCAA BASKETBALL

# Late Defensive Stops Carry LA Tech to 65-62 Win



TOM MORRIS/COURTESY PHOTO

**Cobe Williams overcomes injury to provide second-half spark.**

RUSTON - Trailing with 10 minutes to go in the game, Louisiana Tech strung together a long series of defensive stops and got two late free throws by Amorie Archibald to help grind out a 65-62 victory over Southern Miss on Saturday afternoon inside the Thomas Assembly Center on Karl Malone Court.

LA Tech (14-5, 7-3 C-USA) was having trouble stopping USM (7-10, 3-7 C-USA) on offense through 30 minutes of basketball. As a result, the Golden Eagles were up 54-49 while shooting 51 percent from the field with 9:42 left to go.

Then the defense for the Bulldogs found another gear. They limited the opposition to just one made field goal in their final 13 shot attempts. The two biggest stops came in the final seconds, forcing a miss on a potential game-winning floater and having a half-court desperation shot fall short that could have sent it into overtime.

"It was about the defensive end for us," head coach Eric Konkol said. "We had a hard time scoring today. We missed free throws, we turned the basketball over, especially in the first half. We did a better job taking care of it in the second half, but we needed all the stops we could get."

"Southern Miss was playing really efficient offense. They are good at mid-range basketball and getting the ball to certain spots. I felt like we were a step slow in moments. Our stops were absolutely required to come away with this victory today."

LA Tech was up 24-15 at the 7:39 mark in the first

half after a three-point play by Kenneth Lofton, Jr. and seemed poised to extend its lead even further. Cobe Williams went down with an injury at midcourt soon thereafter and the Golden Eagles found an offensive flow, battling back behind their leading scorer Tyler Stevenson.

The game was close to being knotted up at halftime just like Thursday, but two late free throws by Exavian Christon after his third steal provided the Bulldogs a 32-30 halftime edge.

That did not deter USM. They continued to put up points, going on a 10-0 run to go up 44-37 when Artur Konontsuk buried his third triple. The largest lead by the visitor forced a timeout by coach Konkol.

Amorie Archibald and JaColby Pemberton countered with two threes to put the 'Dogs back on top, but it was a brief one-point lead that got erased by Stevenson who scored six straight points, giving the Golden Eagles their 54-49 advantage.

Williams returned to the court a few minutes into the second half and provided the spark to get LA Tech back out in front. The point guard scored seven of the team's next 10 points, making it a 59-54 contest with 4:45 remaining.

"I give a lot of credit to Cobe for his resolve in fighting through his injury," said Konkol. "He was not comfortable in the second half and our trainer, TJ Thurmond Jr., was very proactive in finding a way to treat and make Cobe feel as comfortable as possible. Without that, the result of the game might have gone the other

direction. He played a big second half for us."

The lead was still five with 2:42 to go, but USM's La-Davius Draine sank a free throw and Tae Hardy converted a three-point play to slice the deficit down to one. And it was Hardy who had a potential game-winning floater roll off the rim at the five-second mark.

Pemberton pulled down his team-leading seventh rebound and got the ball into the hands of Archibald who calmly drilled two free throws.

"Southern Miss came in with a chip on its shoulder," said Archibald who finished with a team-high 15 points. "They played hard, they attacked the glass. We knew it was going to be a tough game. Those last 10 minutes, we had to dial in, play together and get it done. Those free throws were huge. My teammates believed in me and I knocked them down."

LA Tech shot 42.6 percent from the field (23-54), 27.3 percent from deep (6-22) and 61.9 percent from the foul line (13-21). Lofton, Jr. notched 14 points, the fifth straight game in double figures, and Isaiah Crawford posted 11 points for his team-leading 13th game with double-digit scoring.

Stevenson led all scorers with 20 points for Southern Miss.

LA Tech heads back out on the road next weekend to face North Texas in Denton. Game one of the two-game series is set for Friday, Feb. 5 with tipoff at 7 p.m. on Stadium.

PREP BASKETBALL

# Glenbrook girls up to 16-3



CHRISTINE LEE/COURTESY PHOTO

Glenbrook's Emma Pitman has new coach Cheryl Ford and the Lady Apaches off to an excellent 16-3 start this season with an eye toward another district title well within reach.

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## NCAA BASKETBALL

# Texas Tech's last-minute flurry beats LSU 76-71

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — No. 10 Texas Tech's experience in close games paid off against LSU.

Trailing by seven points with a minute remaining, the Red Raiders scored 12 consecutive points to come away with a 76-71 victory in the SEC/Big 12 Challenge on Saturday.

Texas Tech had played five Big 12 games decided by fewer than three points or in overtime.

"Even if something doesn't go our way at the end, you are still proud of the fight," Texas Tech coach Chris Beard said. "You are still giving yourself a chance by playing it to the bone. You just got to keep putting yourself in this position."

"There's a poise and confidence required to win a game down the stretch. Our guys showed that today. We made just enough plays on defense and we made just enough plays on offense."

Mac McClung, who had not made a field goal in the second half, ignited the comeback by the Red Raiders (12-5). He made two 3-pointers sandwiched around a missed free throw by Josh LeBlanc to move Texas Tech within 71-70 with 31 seconds to play.

Terrence Shannon had a steal and score after McClung's second 3-pointer to put the Red Raiders ahead by three points by sinking two free throws with 16 seconds remaining. Thomas missed another 3-point shot for the Tigers with two seconds left and Shannon sealed it with two more foul shots with one second left.

"This is college basketball," McClung said. "Every night is a difficult night. You have to close out games. We did that today against a big, athletic SEC team."

Shannon had 23 points and 10 rebounds, McClung added 22 points, and Kevin McCullar had 10. Marcus Santos-Silva grabbed 12 rebounds to go along with six points.

Javonte Smart matched his career high with 29 points for LSU (11-5). Thomas finished with 25 points. Darius Days had 11 points before leaving the game with a knee injury in the second half.

"We played extremely hard," LSU coach Will Wade said. "We just didn't have some poise and some discipline we needed in key stretches, especially in the last minute. We played well enough to win against a very good ballclub. We couldn't close it out."

LSU held the lead for most of the first half, but Texas Tech was down by

only 33-32 at the break. The Red Raiders outscored the Tigers 8-2 over the last three minutes to cut into a seven-point deficit. McClung scored 14 first-half points to keep Texas Tech close throughout the opening 20 minutes.

The Red Raiders got off to a quick start in the second half. After falling behind by six points, Texas Tech answered with an 11-2 run. Three-pointers by Kyler Edwards and Shannon helped the Red Raiders go ahead 45-42 with 14:39 remaining in the game.

Both teams took turns taking the lead over the next seven minutes. The Tigers had a three-point advantage at 48-45, while Texas Tech also had a three-point lead at 56-53. A basket by Smart tied the score at 58-58 with 7:33 remaining.

Trailing 60-58, LSU scored eight consecutive points — two foul shots by Thomas and two 3-pointers by Smart — to go ahead 66-60 with 4:33 to play. The Tigers maintained that margin until the final 60 seconds.

## BIG PICTURE

Texas Tech: After losing a similar-type game at West Virginia last Monday, the Red Raiders ended their two-game losing streak against LSU.

LSU: The Tigers have now dropped three of their past four games, including back-to-back home defeats against nationally-ranked Alabama and Texas Tech.

## NAIL-BITERS

No team may be more battle-tested for tight games in the NCAA tournament than Texas Tech. Since mid-December, the Red Raiders have been involved in six games decided by fewer than six points. Texas Tech has three close road victories against Oklahoma (69-67), Texas (79-77) and LSU (76-71). The Red Raiders were beaten at home by Kansas (58-57) and Oklahoma State (82-77 in overtime). Last Monday, Texas Tech lost a late lead and fell at West Virginia 88-87.

## LITTLE SUPPORT

Smart and Thomas provided almost all of LSU's scoring with a combined point total of 54 points. Smart was 12 of 18 from the field while finishing with 29 points. Smart had 29 points as a freshman against Tennessee two seasons ago. Thomas, who missed two shots in the last 25 seconds, was just 6 of 20 on field goals. Trendon Watford, who was averaging 18 points, had only four. Darius Days had 11 points and nine rebounds when he left the game with a knee injury midway through the second half. The rest of the Tigers scored two points.

## UP NEXT

Texas Tech: Hosts Oklahoma on Monday.

LSU: At SEC-leading Alabama on Wednesday.

## OUTDOORS

# AS DEER SEASON ENDS, START PLANNING FOR NEXT YEAR

GLYNN HARRIS

Special to the Press-Herald

It's time for hunters to switch gears. Deer and duck seasons in Louisiana have been put to bed as January came to a close. Now it's time to start planning for those seasons that remain.

Squirrel hunters, especially those with a dog that has been trained to tree squirrels, are not unhappy to see the end of deer season. They can hit the woods knowing they won't be messing up deer hunters; they pretty much have the woods to themselves.

Squirrel hunters who are also deer hunters can find those weeks of being out chasing squirrels put to good use. As they tromp through the woods following a squirrel dog they need to keep their eyes open for clues the buck you didn't get this season may have left.

Dr. James Kroll didn't get his nickname by happenstance; he's known as Dr. Deer for a reason. Kroll is one of the nation's foremost authorities on just about anything to do with the whitetail deer.

Kroll was featured guest several times at the now defunct Sportsman's Jamboree held in Ruston each fall for over 30 years. I recently renewed our acquaintance when I talked with him about recording a segment for my weekly outdoors radio program. He readily accepted and he shed light on what deer hunters can do now that deer season has ended.

"Deer hunters need to get back in the woods as soon as deer season ends to look for clues deer have left them during the season just ended," he said.

As deer hunters are acutely aware, bucks announce their presence by leaving evidence of their having been there. They leave "rubs," which consist of bark being removed from trees as a buck rubs his antlers, not only for removing the velvet that covered his antlers as soon as a new set began growing but also to let other deer know this is where he hangs out.

"Rubs are important in that they leave evidence of all the places bucks travel. What hunters need to do right now is get a good aerial photo of their hunting land and start mapping out all the rubs on all the places they hunt. By connecting the dots, you'll be able to identify travel routes the bucks take as they move around the woods as our research has shown that



GLYNN HARRIS/COURTESY PHOTO  
**Bucks leave rubs on saplings and trees, letting hunters know their routes of travel.**

bucks will use the same routes again year after year unless there has been a serious change in the habitat like clear cuts etc," said Kroll.

Kroll pointed out that there are different kinds of rubs, some on one side of a tree while others are on both sides. He explained the difference.

"If all the trees are rubbed on one side, that's thought of as a one-way travel corridor. However," he noted "if you see trees rubbed on both sides, that's a two-way corridor. When you find rubs close together and in a circular area, that's like the "holy grail" because this is usually in an area where does tend to feed. Bucks usually like to get there just before dark, work their sign posts and hang around waiting for the does to show up."

"Sign posts," according to Kroll, are made by a buck first rubbing his forehead on his tarsal glands located on the inside of his back legs and then rubbing the bush or sapling with a forehead gland, effectively mixing the scents together.

"Only mature or dominant bucks will do this as lesser bucks might come to inspect but they don't rub the sign posts," he added.

What about buck scrapes made by bucks scraping away leaves, urinating over tarsal glands to be deposited on the pawed ground?

"I don't hunt scrapes because they are usually made at night," Kroll said. "Follow the rubs to those communication centers where bucks wait for does to show up to improve your chances that a mature buck might show up

just before dark."

FISHING REPORT - 1-27-21

BUSSEY BRAKE - Crappie fishing has been good in the deeper holes and around the dam fishing 10-12 foot water on shiners or jigs. Bass to 5-6 pounds have been good on tubes, jack hammer and chatter baits. 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 fair 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 - Crappie fishing has been best fishing 14 feet deep along channel edges in 20 foot water on shiners or jigs. Bass have been best on the points with crank baits, jigs and soft plastics picking up some fish. 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 at night around the lighted piers. Some bigger fish have been caught casting jigs while smaller fish are being caught just off the bottom in deep water out from the dam. Some are also being caught on yo-yos baited with shiners. The bass are slow to fair while some

stripers are being caught along with the crappie. Catfishing is good on trotlines baited with chicken livers or blood bait. 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 and around the grass on Chatter Baits, crank baits and soft plastics. Crappie fishing has been best just out from the dam fishing 2 feet off the bottom in 25-30 foot water. 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 fishing has been best afternoons around the boat slips.

Catfishing has been fair. No report on bass or bream. For latest reports, call Poverty Point Marina at 318/878-0101.

LAKE ST. JOHN - Bass fishing has been good on jigs, spinners and soft plastics. Crappie and catfish are slow. For information, call Ken Mahoney at 318-201-3821.

LAKE YUCATAN - The water is starting to fall rapidly with a big rise coming in a few days.

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.

NFL

# SUPER BOWL SPIRIT WEEK

## J.L. Jones spearheads Super Bowl Spirit Week in honor of Webster Parish pros



JANE MIMS SNEED/COURTESY PHOTO

Chiefs' defender and former Minden High standout JJ Sneed (right) will take on Bucs linebacker and former North Webster star Devin White (left) in the Super Bowl.

### AARON S. LEE

Special to the Press-Herald

Forget about the Saints and Cowboys. Super Bowl LV has turned Webster Parish into two very different factions this season.

On one hand, there's North Webster alum Devin White and his Tampa Bay Buccaneers (14-5), and on the other hand is former Minden Crimson Tider L'Jarius Sneed and his Kansas City Chiefs (16-2).

The two teams met in Week 12, with Patrick Mahomes throwing for 463 yards and three touchdowns in the defending Super Bowl champion's narrow 27-24 win over Tom Brady (345 yards, 3 TD, 2 INT) and the Bucs.

For Sneed, the all-rookie team cornerback from Louisiana Tech recorded three tackles (two solo), while the second-year



linebacker out of LSU tallied 12 tackles (nine solo) on the day.

This time, it's for all the marbles.

Both players are red hot during postseason play, with former J.L. Jones alum Sneed notching back-to-back games with a well-timed quarterback

sack and 11 total tackles, while White has combined for 26 tackles, two fumble recoveries and an interception during NFC divisional round and championship play.

And Minden's J.L. Jones Elementary is leading the charge in support of both Sneed and White with a



week-long Super Bowl Spirit celebration (Feb. 1-5).

A Facebook post from the school promoting the week read:

"WEBSTER PARISH SUPER BOWL!!!! Next week we will celebrate the Super Bowl by having Spirit Week! We are very

proud of Mr. "GET LIVE 45" Devin White and our very own J.L. Jones alum-nus Mr. L'Jarius "38 Reasons" Sneed."

Here is what's on tap at J.L. Jones this week:

L'Jay Monday (Feb. 1) - Students may gear and apparel from L'Jarius Sneed, Minden High or

Louisiana Tech.

Touchdown Tampa Tuesday (Feb. 2) - Students may wear Hawaiian style shirts, sunglasses and hats or caps.

Trail-ride Thursday (Feb. 4) - Students may wear western wear and cowboy boots in honor of Devin White's love of horses. Gear from White, LSU and North Webster may also be worn.

Fanatic Friday (Feb. 4) - Students may wear red, yellow or orange shirts, and either Chiefs or Bucs gear.

Super Bowl LV marks the first time a participating team is playing in its own stadium. The 55th edition of the NFL Championship is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. (EST), Sunday, Feb. 7 at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Fla.

Viewers can tune in to CBS or stream via CBSSports.com and the CBS Sports App.

# FUN & GAMES

## On This Day In History

**1990** - The South African Apartheid system of racial segregation begins to disintegrate. President de Klerk announced the unbanning of the African Nation Congress (ANC) and his intentions to release Nelson Mandela.

**1943** - The Battle of Stalingrad comes to an end as the Axis Powers surrender. Germany's defeat marked a turning point in World War II.

**1925** - 20 mushers embark on a journey

See, **HISTORY**, Page 11

## CRYPTOQUIP

EQ EG EW MEQQEVFKG QJZ  
VDZGNET RDJRKD GJ LNYD  
NTC LEWGN YDW, E IFDWW  
GXDC'ZD XNZM JQ DZZETI.

**Yesterday's Cryptoquip:** WHAT SINGLE STATEMENT WOULD BE ACCURATE ABOUT EITHER A MAN OR A GOAT? IT'S HALF THE FAUN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals G

⊙ \* ☼ ☺ ☽ ☾ ☿ ♁ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

**CRYPTO FUN**

☼ ☽ ☾ ☿ ♁ ♃ ♄ ♅ ♆ ♇ ♈ ♉ ♊ ♋ ♌ ♍ ♎ ♏ ♐ ♑ ♒ ♓

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to frozen foods. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 22 = E)

**A. 21 16 22 22 3 22 16**  
Clue: Cold storage

**B. 15 22 21 8 9 1 22 16 7**  
Clue: Extra portions

**C. 21 15 5 7 2**  
Clue: Done quickly; in a \_\_\_\_

**D. 20 12 22**  
Clue: Frozen water

Answers: A. freezer B. leftovers C. flash D. ice

## KAKURO

Best described as a number crossword, the task in Kakuro is to fill all of the empty squares, using numbers 1 to 9, so the sum of each horizontal block equals the number to its left, and the sum of each vertical block equals the number on its top. No number may be used in the same block more than once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Kakuro increases from Monday to Sunday.

**Conceptis Kakuro** By Dave Green

	16	5		7	3		29	4	6	
13			3				16			
			6							
17							10			
							23			
		3				17			17	14
		10				24				
	8					35				
	16					24				
9									6	
						24			22	
						26				
27									15	
									22	
	8	17					16			6
							17			
									10	6
24							35			
17							16			
									4	

Difficulty Level ★★ 2/02

**Answer to previous puzzle**

	19	6	21	15		6	4	30		
10	2	1	3	4		12	3	1	8	29
18	8	2	5	3		22	2	3	9	8
26	9	3	6	5	2	1		16	7	9
								35		
			4	2	1		15	9	1	5
14	8	3	2	1		29	9	8	5	7
10	7	2	1			16	9	8	7	
									17	24
7	6	1				39	9	7	5	4
						17	9	7	5	4
30	9	7	8	6			13	2	1	3
	23	6	9	8			30	7	6	8

Difficulty Level ★★★★★ 1/29

## CROSSWORD

- ACROSS**
- 1 Docile
  - 5 Eyeglass frames
  - 9 Scoundrel
  - 12 Actor
  - 13 "Superfood" berry
  - 14 "— you kidding?"
  - 15 Cheater's reference
  - 17 Director
  - 18 Missing
  - 19 Kennedy or
  - 21 Rainbow-shaped
  - 24 Dick
  - 25 Thailand, once
  - 26 Used
  - 30 Medit. nation
  - 31 Audition
  - 32 Chest-beating
  - 33 Parts
  - 35 Ship's staff
- DOWN**
- 1 Pampering, for short
  - 2 Vacuum's lack
  - 3 Avril
  - 4 Insignia
  - 5 Stadium cheers
  - 6 "Cold As Ever"
  - 7 Fannie
  - 8 Tot
  - 9 Crafty
  - 10 Yankee
  - 11 Contradict
  - 16 Turf
- 20 PC key**
- 21 Unrepaired**
- 22 Get up**
- 23 Port vessel**
- 24 New Mexico resort**
- 26 D.C. VIPs**
- 27 911 responder**
- 28 Duel tool**
- 29 Morning droplets**
- 31 Portrays**
- 34 Calendar abbr.**
- 35 Arrow on a computer screen**
- 37 24 hours**
- 38 Camel feature**
- 39 Leer at**
- 40 Rebuff**
- 41 Rhyming tributes**
- 44 Shapiro of NPR**
- 45 Med. plan**
- 46 Rowing need**
- 47 Snoop**

Solution time: 22 mins.

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

Yesterday's answer 1-30

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	
12					13						14		
15					16						17		
				18					19	20			
21	22	23						24					
25						26	27				28	29	
30											32		
33											35		
											37		
38	39												
42											45	46	47
48											50		
51											53		

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# SUDOKU

## SUDOKU

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

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

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 • RODENTS

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

Monday's unlisted clue: MINH

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.  
 Tuesday's unlisted clue hint: DAM BUILDER

- |             |            |            |              |
|-------------|------------|------------|--------------|
| Blesmol     | Coypu      | Hamster    | Prairie dogs |
| Capybara    | Gerbils    | Marmots    | Rats         |
| Chinchillas | Groundhog  | Mice       | Squirrel     |
| Chipmunks   | Guinea pig | Porcupines |              |

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2/2

# HISTORY

Continued from Page 10 to transport medicine to Nome, Alaska, inspiring the Iditarod Race. The Iditarod is the world's longest and most challenging dog sled race.

**1922** - "Ulysses" by James Joyce is published. The novel is considered one of the most important works of modernist literature.

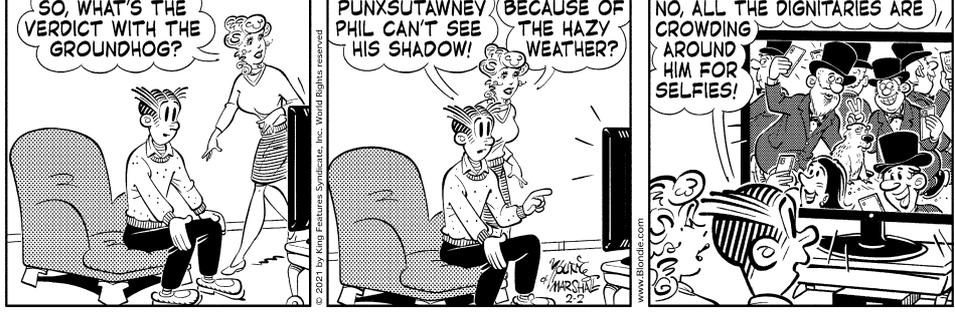
**1852** - The first public flushing toilet is opened in London. Using the "Public Waiting Room" at 95 Fleet Street cost 2 pence.

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## BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



## BLONDIE | DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



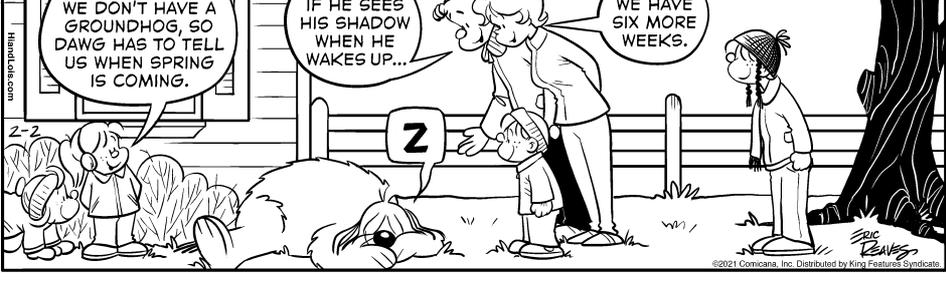
## BEETLE BAILEY | MORT & GREG WALKER



## FUNKY WINKERBEAN | TOM BATIUK



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



## HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



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Job Category: Water and Sewer  
Job Type: Full Time  
State/Province: LA  
City: Plain Dealing  
Salary and Benefits: DOE  
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General Responsibilities: & #8232; The individual in this position will be responsible for coordinating and supervising personnel and all daily activities related to the Water/Sewer Department. This includes activities related to the maintenance and repairs to the water distribution and sewer systems. This position is also responsible for managing various contracts and contractors

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**Position Requirements: & #8232;** The successful candidate will be a high school graduate with maintenance experience; or a combination of education and experience will be considered. The successful candidate should also have considerable knowledge of the methods used for excavating, tunneling, shoring, breaking asphalt/concrete, confined space entry, cutting of mains and pipes, backfilling, hauling etc. Essential position requirements include excellent communication and

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**B e n e - fits: & #8232;** - Medical, dental and vision coverage, life insurance, and voluntary participation in a deferred compensation program. Selection Process: & #8232; Conditional offer of employment will be contingent on the candidate successfully completing a pre-employment physical examination which includes a back evaluation and drug and alcohol screening, A driver's license records check with the State of Louisiana. Interested candidates should apply with an application which may be obtained from the Town Hall in Plain Dealing The Plain Dealing is an Equal Opportunity Employer

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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](http://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](http://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

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