

MINDEN

PRESS-HERALD

TUESDAY, APRIL 6, 2021MINDEN, LOUISIANA

PRESS-HERALD.COM75 CENTS

Old Glory flying high State Rep. McMahan donates flag to Webster Parish Tax Assessor



COURTESY PHOTO

On Thursday April 1 State Representative Wayne McMahan presented the Webster Parish Tax Assessor's Office with their own National Flag. A statement from the Assessor's Office reads, "On behalf of the Webster Parish Assessor's Office staff and the citizens of Webster Parish, I am honored and privileged to receive this National Flag from State Representative Dr. Wayne McMahan and to fly it in honor of our brave men and women in the Armed forces who protect our Great nation and all First Responders, our law enforcement officers, firefighters, and emergency personnel. Thank you Dr. McMahan for this National Flag that will be proudly flown from the Assessor's Office, newly renovated Flag Pole."

Vaccine hotlines open up for Louisiana

BATON ROUGE--Gov. John Bel Edwards announced that a COVID-19 vaccine hotline will go into effect this week.

"This is a smart solution, it is timely, and it comes at no additional cost," Edwards said.

The hotline will allow state residents to schedule COVID-19 vaccinations through special Louisiana Department of Health events and vaccine providers. The hotline also will connect residents with medical professionals so they can ask questions about the vaccines.

Edwards disclosed the plans for the hotline as he lifted capacity limits on bars, restaurants and casinos now that the number of virus cases has leveled off in the state. But unlike the governors in Texas and Mississippi, he kept a mask mandate in place for when people cannot socially distance to guard against the rise in cases that many other states are experiencing.

Edwards said that helping more residents get vaccinated remains the best solution. He



EDWARDS

said the hotline will address two barriers: lack of access to the Internet and "tech-savviness," or the time it takes to navigate the scheduling platforms, as well as a lack of access to medical professionals to ask specific questions.

"This is a big deal," said Gov. Edwards as he referred to the "Bring Back Louisiana" campaign and the vaccination hotline.

Difficulty in accessing vaccines due to a lack of computer access has been a problem for many poor people and some people living in rural areas.

The hotline will be staffed by workers who were trained to trace the contacts of people who were infected with the virus to warn them of their exposure.

The health department will begin training 60 call agents this week, and 10 will be specifically trained for clinical support.

The phone number and hours of operation will be made public soon.

Gas prices see a drop in Louisiana

PATRICK DE HAAN
Gas Buddy

Louisiana gas prices have fallen 1.1 cents per gallon in the past week, averaging \$2.61/g today, according to GasBuddy's daily survey of 2,436 stations in Louisiana. Gas prices in Louisiana are 17.4 cents per gallon higher than a month ago and stand 84.9 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. The cheapest station in Louisiana is priced at \$2.34/g today while the most expensive is \$3.25/g, a difference of 91.0 cents per gallon.

"Last week was a mixed bag for consumers at the pump as gas prices in half of states rose, while the other half saw declines, with March closing like a lamb after starting out like a lion," said Patrick De Haan, head of petroleum analysis for GasBuddy.

The national average price of gasoline has fallen 0.4 cents per

gallon in the last week, averaging \$2.86/g today. The national average is up 9.9 cents per gallon from a month ago and stands 95.5 cents per gallon higher than a year ago.

"Oil prices have shown signs of strength in the last few trading sessions, as OPEC agreed to raise oil production starting in May by a very modest 350,000 barrels per day. Overall, it's a small increase in output as global demand continues to show strength in light of Covid-related improvements. U.S. gasoline demand rose for the sixth straight week as consumers hit the road for Easter, and with demand growth likely to remain robust, we may see a second attempt at a run at a national average of \$3 per gallon in the months ahead. While the last few weeks have seen gas prices hold mostly steady, it's not likely to last forever, especially as Americans increasingly get outside as warmer temperatures return."

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SECOND FRONT

BLOTTER

Recent Arrests in Webster Parish

Joshua Thomas, 26, of the 700 block of Creighton Street, was arrested for disturbing the peace through public intoxication.

Quaderick Edwards, 23, of the 800 block of Harris Street, was arrested for failure to appear in court.

Kedarion McKinney, 30, of the 200 block of Miller Street, was arrested for failure to appear in court.

Rokimo White, 36, of the 1300 block of Summer Street, was arrested for false imprisonment, possession of a schedule I substance, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession of a stolen firearm, and being a fugitive from Greenwood police department.

Travis Sutton, 42, of the 100 block of Pilgrim Rest Road, was arrested for failure to appear in court.

Alexis Jones, 25, of the 200 block of Virginia Ave, was arrested for simple assault.

Eugene Henderson, 48, of the 600 block of Stone Street, was arrested for failure to appear in court and theft.

Briana Thomas, 29, of the 500 block of Babs Circle, was arrested for home invasion and criminal conspiracy.

Jordan Thomas, 23, of the 500 block of Babs Circle, was arrested for home invasion and criminal conspiracy.

Charles Bradley, 24, of the 000 block of McArthur Street, was arrested for possession of a schedule II substance, possession of a firearm in presence of controlled dangerous substances, and violation of a protective order.

Azende Burns, 23, of the 100 block of Taylor Street, was arrested for possession of a schedule I substance and driving without a driver's license.

Willie Harvey, 71, of the 300 block of Penal Farm Road, was arrested for failure to appear in court.

Lindsey Kennedy, 38, of the 1100 block of Park Highway, was arrested on a warrant for theft.

James Hammond, 58, of the 800 block of Park Highway, was arrested for simple criminal damage to property and being a fugitive from Webster Parish.

Errol Blake, 53, of the 1200 block of Fulton Street, was arrested for keeping a disorderly place.

Mikguel Stanley, 27, of the 400 block of W R Reeder Street, was arrested for failure to appear in court.

Charles Howard, 35, of the 700 block of Wood Street, was arrested for disturbing the peace through public intoxication and resisting an officer.

Noah St. Jacques, of the 200 block of Pecan View Drive, was arrested for simple criminal damage to property and careless operation of a motor vehicle.

Matthew Bray, 38, of the 400 block of Green Road in Minden, was arrested for violation of a protective order.

William Hilyer, 31, of the 100 block of Yellow Pine Road, was arrested for unauthorized entry of an inhabited space.

Zachary McKinney, 26, of the 6700 block of Caney Lake Road, was arrested for switched tags, failure to register vehicle, driving under suspension, possession of a schedule II substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

David Fowler, 49, of the 2700 block of Goodwill Road, was arrested on two warrants.

Christopher Oglee, 48, of the 800 block of Fire Tower Road, was arrested for disturbing the peace through public intoxication, and criminal damage to property.

February freeze killed lots of giant salvinia

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries says there's a bit of good news from February's big freeze -- it killed lake-choking invasive floating weeds.

The freeze didn't eradicate giant salvinia or water hyacinth, but it did cut back giant salvinia by about 95%, the department said in a news release.

The department says it's harder to tell about water hyacinth, because their bulbs usually survive even if the plant looks dead.

The effects on giant salvinia varied around the state, department biologists said.

In north Louisiana, it doesn't seem to be grow-

ing yet on water bodies such as Turkey Creek Lake, Lake D'arbonne and Caney Creek Reservoir. The department called that "a positive indicator that there has been an extensive kill of giant Salvinia."

It's already showing signs of growing back in Caddo Lake, Lake Bistineau, Black Lake and Saline Lake, which had more extensive accumulations going into the winter. However, the department said much of that previous accumulation did die.

The department said minimal amounts have been seen in south Louisiana, but as temperatures rise it's likely to grow back from hidden pockets around the marsh.

It said water hyacinth remains the worst aquatic weed in south Louisiana. "The winter storm in February burned the leaves off of most hyacinth plants, and it killed many; but the remainder have since leafed out and will likely grow substantially over the next two months," it said.

LDWF biologists will keep checking lakes statewide, and herbicide crews will spray lakes with chronic giant salvinia problems. The department also uses other methods to control water weeds, including drawdowns, biological controls such as salvinia weevils, and private contractor spraying.

VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITES!

*Deadline for entries is Monday, April 19, 2021 At 4 p.m.



Name: _____
Telephone number: _____

*Favorite Restaurant _____

Everyone has an opinion and now it's time to give yours. Vote for your favorite business in Webster Parish! The winners will be announced in the Readers' Choice edition on Friday, April 23, 2021. You may drop the ballot off at the Minden Press-Herald office at 203 Gleason Street in Minden or mail it to the Minden Press-Herald, P.O. Box 1339, Minden, LA 71058. Only one ballot per person will be permitted. **No reproductions or faxes will be accepted.**

- Favorite Auto Body Shop
- Favorite Manufactured Home Dealer
- Favorite Bakery
- Favorite Lawyer
- Favorite Buffet Restaurant
- Favorite Breakfast Restaurant
- Favorite Barber Shop
- Favorite Beauty Shop
- Favorite Bank
- Favorite C.P.A.
- Favorite Chicken
- Favorite Ambulance Service
- Favorite Heating & Air Provider
- Favorite Shoe Store
- Favorite Casino
- Favorite Car Wash/Detail
- Favorite Real Estate Office
- Favorite Tuxedo Rental
- Favorite Tanning Salon
- Favorite Pawn Shop
- Favorite Funeral Home
- Favorite Golf Course In Area
- Favorite Hardware Store
- Favorite Health Care Provider
- Favorite High School
- Favorite Homebuilder/Contractor
- Favorite Hotel/Motel
- Favorite Insurance Agent
- Favorite Lawn Equipment Dealer
- Favorite Jeweler
- Favorite Landscaping/Lawn care Provider
- Favorite Eye Care Provider
- Favorite Liquor Store
- Favorite Lunch Location
- Favorite Middle School
- Favorite Appliance Store
- Favorite USED Vehicle Salesperson
- Favorite Tire Store
- Favorite Dance School
- Favorite Veterinarian
- Favorite Nursing Home
- Favorite Mechanic

- Favorite Dentist
- Favorite Apartment Complex
- Favorite Auto Parts Store
- Favorite Drive Thru Restaurant
- Favorite Electrician
- Favorite Elementary School
- Favorite NEW Auto Dealer
- Favorite USED Auto Dealer
- Favorite Florist
- Favorite Evening Meal Restaurant
- Favorite Furniture Store
- Favorite Gas Station
- Favorite Gift Shop (Non-Florist)
- Favorite Principal
- Favorite Fitness Center
- Favorite Seafood Restaurant
- Favorite School Teacher
- Favorite Salad Bar
- Favorite NEW Vehicle Salesperson
- Favorite Pediatrician
- Favorite Grocery Store
- Favorite Mexican Restaurant
- Favorite Men's Apparel Provider
- Favorite Daycare Provider
- Favorite Glass Shop (not eyewear)
- Favorite Oil Change Location
- Favorite Pharmacy
- Favorite Pet Groomer
- Favorite Pest Control Provider
- Favorite Photographer
- Favorite Pizza Restaurant
- Favorite Physician/Surgeon
- Favorite Plumber
- Favorite Public Official
- Favorite Women's Apparel Provider
- Favorite Floor Covering Provider
- Favorite Tax Preparer
- Favorite Customer Service (any business)
- Favorite Mini Storage
- Favorite Event Destination (or venue where events are held)

WEBSTER & MORE

OBITUARIES



Pete W. Talton

Funeral services for Pete W. Talton will be held Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. at Rose-Neath Funeral Home Chapel in Minden, Louisiana with Rev. Ruben Weaver and Rev. Greg Lee officiating. Interment will follow at Lane Memorial Cemetery in Sibley, Louisiana. The family will receive friends at 1:00 p.m. Thursday prior the service. Pete was born March 27, 1968 in Winnfield, Louisiana and entered into rest April 1, 2021 in Mansfield, Louisiana. He was preceded in death by his father, Jerry “Tubby” Talton.

He is survived by his mother, Nelda Talton; fiancée, Deedee Carpenter; children, Stefan, Morgan, Corey, Alyssa, Laila, Jade, and Taylor; grandchildren, Kaiden, Aceleigh, Willow, and Emery; siblings, Donna and Jerry Cobb, Brenda Harvill, Ronnie “Tiger” Harvill, and Amy Talton, and nieces and nephews, Brian and Kristy Walters (Sadie and Synda), Chris and Ashley Harvill, Nikki Harvill, Jamie and Brooks Walters (Zoe), Jeremy Harvill (Remi), Jessica and Robby Walters (Mason, Kylie, Ryder), Ethan Jeffus and Adlen Jeffus. The family extends a special thanks to Big Foot Energy Services, LLC, co-workers, and friends for all the love and support for Pete and his family at this difficult time.

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



Michael O’Neal Woodard

Funeral services for Mr. Michael O’Neal Woodard, age 70, will be held at 1:00 pm, Tuesday, April 6, 2021, at the Union Springs Baptist Church, Shongaloo, LA, with Bro. Larry Buford officiating. Interment will follow in Union Springs Cemetery under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home, Springhill, LA. Visitation will be held Tuesday, April 6, 2021, 11:00 am to 1:00 pm at Union Springs Baptist Church, Shongaloo. Mr. Woodard was born on March 12, 1951 to Norman and Tressie Knotts Woodard in Minden, LA and passed away on Wednesday, March 31, 2021 in Bossier City. He was an avid pool player, loved fishing and hunting, history and guns of all types. He was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, Kathy Jean Martin Woodard, of Minden, LA; daughter, Brandy Woodard Sheets and husband, Raymond Teddy of Minden, LA; grandsons, Michael Avery Sheets, Jarryn Sheets and

Ryan Sheets. He is also survived by two very special aunts, Gertrude Bell and Geraldine Knotts; nephew, Ricky Martin; brother-in-law, Richard Grant Martin; and a host of cousins and friends. Mr. Woodard was preceded in death by his parents and brother, Ronnie Woodard. Pallbearers will be Raymond Teddy Sheets, Dale Hollingsworth, Johnny Savage, Michael Wall, Mike Brewer and Perry Wall. Honorary pallbearers will be Richard Martin, Larry Cox, Jim Babcock, Richard Armstrong and Lamar Martin. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38015-9959 or the Cancer Research Foundation. The family wishes to express a very special thank you to Dr. Veluvolu and all his staff at the Willis-Knighton Cancer Center, Shreveport and all the doctors and nurses that cared for Mike during his stay at Willis Knighton ICU Unit in Bossier City, LA. Sign our online guest book at www.baileyfuneral-home.net

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



JoAnne Holder Spigener

Minden- JoAnne Holder Spigener (Nana) passed away April 2, 2021 after a long fought battle with Parkinson’s disease. She was born in Bernice, LA on December 11, 1934 to William and Bernice Holder. JoAnne graduated from Farmer-ville High School in 1952 and Louisiana College in 1956. She taught business at Bolton High School in Alexandria, LA. She completed her teaching career at North Central Area Vocational School in Farmerville, LA. In 1979. She married the love of her life, Leslie Spigener, on July 4, 1970. They traveled during their retirement years until her Parkinson’s made it too difficult. She loved spending time with family, especially her grandchildren. JoAnne enjoyed playing cards with friends and she took it quite seriously. You were better off being her partner than on the opposing team. Her love for the Lord was genuine and she demonstrated it in her everyday life. She taught Sunday School throughout her life and in her retirement years taught a Women’s Circle Bible Study at First Baptist Minden. She was preceded in death by her parents, William and Bernice Holder, Siblings: Lois Holleman (Cliff),

Pauline Perry (Clint), Alice Joiner (Mitchell), Bill Holder (Farrah), Felix Holder, and Don Holder (Alene). She is survived by her husband of 50 years, Leslie Spigener, her sister-in-law, Betty Sue Holder, Daughters: Mona Farley (Craig) of Minden, Cindy Jeansonne (Lyle) of Shreveport, and Cathy Mancini (John) of Tennessee. Grandchildren: Mike Farley, Cami Farley, Megan Farley Marttila, Joseph Donald, Thomas Jeansonne (Kristen), David Jeansonne (Emily), Matthew Jeansonne, Rachel Jeansonne, Cassidy Mancini, Megan Mancini and Jack Mancini. Great-grandchildren: Dusti Farley, Garrette Farley, Hannah Farley, Riley Marttila, Lily Marttila, Madison Jeansonne, Katie Gray and Hayden Gray; Her “like sisters” Barbara Roberts and Pam Denton as well as a host of nieces, nephews and special friends. The funeral service will be at 2:00 p.m. Monday, April 5, 2021 at First Baptist Church in Minden, LA with visitation prior to the service at 12:30. Officiating the service will be Bro. Leland Crawford, Bill Crider and Steve Gilley. Pallbearers will be grandsons. Honorary Pallbearers: Don Sawyer, Laddie Ulmer, Ken Fryer, Roger Harper, Robert McKillips and Wayne Chance. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that you make donations to First Baptist Church building fund or the charity of your choice.

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



William ‘Nathan’ Hoyle

Graveside services for William “Nathan” Hoyle will be held Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 10 a.m. at Brushwood Cemetery in Dubberly, Louisiana with Tracy Winget officiating. Nathan was born June 18, 1957 in Little Rock, Arkansas and entered into rest April 3, 2021 in Dubberly, Louisiana. Nathan was a hard worker; a carpenter; an avid hunter and fisherman, and most of all he loved his family. When you saw Nathan his dogs Lucky and Bit-

Bit were always with him. He is survived by his wife Susie Hoyle; son Jason Hoyle and wife Pam; daughter, Tammy Edwards and husband Phillip; sisters, Melinda Smithey and husband Gary and Lesa Waldron and husband Larry, and grandchildren, Tristan, Makynna, Kasey, Cameron, and Evan. Pallbearers will be Jerry Smith, Dustin Smith, Cameron Harrison, Scott Dye, Mark Lewis, and Tristan Williams. Honorary pallbearers will be Kyle Henry and Phillip Edwards.

*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.

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BIRTHDAYS FOR

- MARCH 13, 2021**
Brooklyn Jefferson
- MARCH 15, 2021**
Ben Harvey RIP
- MARCH 16, 2021**
Lester Frazier
- MARCH 18, 2021**
Debbie Carrell
- MARCH 19, 2021**
Curtis Mills Jr.
- MARCH 21, 2021**
Judy Harwell
- MARCH 28, 2021**
Milan Williams RIP
- MARCH 30, 2021**
Eric Clapton

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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Classifieds/Public Notices

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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: The global trace-and-track regime

he Biden administration's vaccine passport scheme is just the teeny-tiny tip of a massive privacy invasion iceberg. A year ago this week, I began chronicling the worldwide weaponization of COVID-19 by big government and big business to trace and track the health data of untold hundreds of millions of human beings. Let's review.

In March 2020, Singapore unleashed a Bluetooth app called "TraceTogether" on Google Play and the Apple Store to track people who tested positive for coronavirus and notify others through their cellphones. For those who argue that participation is completely "voluntary," bear in mind that Singapore functions as a high-tech dictatorship where refusal to comply with stay-at-home orders and refusal to share GPS location data with health bureaucrats are criminal offenses subject to six months' imprisonment and/or a \$10,000 fine.

The Singapore system was quickly expanded to require users to submit their national ID numbers and passport numbers; a few months later, the government issued wearable tracing "tokens" with QR codes to all 5.7 million residents in Singapore. Plans are in the works to formally mandate TraceTogether enrollment for anyone in cinemas, restaurants, workplaces, schools and shopping malls.

Dozens of states, plus countries including Germany, the U.K., and a large swath of Canada, now use COVID-19 exposure notification apps akin to Singapore's that are built on Google and Apple's Exposure Notification application programming interface.

On March 9, 2020, the Trump

administration's U.S. Department of Health and Human Services unveiled new data rules requiring doctors and hospitals to "send a core set of medical data directly to third-party apps after a patient has authorized the information exchange." Google, Apple and Microsoft — all at the forefront of health data mining — sat in on the rule-making process meetings.

The tech oligarchs are in the driver's seat, not the back of the bus.

As I've reported in investigative documentaries and this column for years, Google/YouTube is already knee-deep in mental health data mining

of adults and children despite repeated privacy violations. They've mined students' emails in violation of the federal Family and Educational Rights and Privacy Act. They've violated the federal Children's Online Privacy Protection Act. Google secretly harvested tens of millions of medical records with identifying names, lab results, diagnoses, immunization records and prescriptions from thousands of hospitals across 21 states through "Project Nightingale" — a partnership with Ascension health system to build a search tool and data analytics using machine-learning algorithms.

A year ago this month, Google launched "Verily," a COVID-19 screening and testing website. California Gov. Gavin Newsom forked

over \$55 million to subsidize Verily contracts with 28 counties. The contracts allow Google/Verily to mine and share home addresses and medical information with "unnamed contractors and state and federal health authorities," according to Kaiser Health News.

In April 2020, COVID control freak Anthony Fauci mentioned that the feds had begun investigating "certificates of immunity" for American citizens. New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio launched a snitch line urging people to upload photos of businesses not in compliance with social distancing rules. Georgia officials dispatched law enforcement officers to random private homes in Fulton and Dekalb counties to ask residents questions about their health and to collect blood samples for an antibody test.

Police agencies in Florida, Connecticut and New Jersey deployed drones to enforce social distancing and experiment with fever and facial mask detection. In May 2020, China rolled out temperature armbands to college students. In August 2020, the Butler, New Jersey, public schools mandated temperature armbands manufactured by Accwell for students and staff to be worn at all times as a condition of access to public education.

Volan Technology successfully marketed and distributed tracking Bluetooth-enabled "badges" and "beacons" to school districts that can track campus movements of COVID-positive wearers for up to 30 days and identify others with whom they've had close contact. Princeton Identity rolled out new touchless biometric and iris scanning products to be installed on college campuses. Online proctoring services that proliferated in the

age of COVID, including Proctorio, Factorial and Respondus Monitor, collect college students' facial recognition data — which can be sold to third parties.

This week, the Washington Free Beacon obtained a Biden COVID team document outlining a trace-and-track program developed by the University of Illinois using Bluetooth technology that mimics the Singapore model I flagged a year ago.

This week, snoozing Americans finally woke up to the Biden vaccine passport plan and the New York vaccine verification program known as the "Excelsior Pass." But these credentialing systems have been in the works for years among U.S. and global health agencies, long before "corona" meant nothing more than a beer or bright light to most people. The Vaccination Credential Initiative is a joint endeavor of the feds, Microsoft, Oracle, Salesforce, the Mayo Clinic, electronic medical records giant Epic, Big Pharma CEOs and globalist nonprofit entities all coordinated by the military-industrial powerhouse MITRE corporation.

These public-private partnerships between tech companies and Surveillance States obliterate any meaningful distinction between "free market" initiatives and government directives. Big tech, big health and big government all work seamlessly to ensure the success of the global trace-and-track regime. There is no freedom to choose in a climate of collusion and a culture of conformity. The conspiracy is real.

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

OTHER OPINION

DeSlatte: Closed party primary debate dividing Louisiana GOP

Louisiana's Republican leaders are sharply at odds over whether and how the state should redesign its primary elections, a resurfacing disagreement driven by political ideology that could have significant sway in future election victories.

The divide over whether to return to closed party primaries for some or most elections is drawing particular interest because Republicans weighing in on the issue are possible contenders for governor and other statewide offices in 2023. The type of primary election in place could help determine how those bids for office fare.

Lawmakers will decide whether they want to change Louisiana's election system in the legislative session that starts April 12.

Officials in both the Democratic and Republican parties are pushing the idea of a closed party primary, at least for congressional races — where candidates from each political party run against each other and the top vote-getter from each party advances to a general election.

But the drive appears to be stronger among some within the GOP.

Attorney General Jeff Landry, a conservative Republican eyeing a bid for governor, indicated he supports closed primaries for congressional, statewide and legislative races. State Senate GOP leader Sharon Hewitt, another possible gubernatorial contender, wants

to start closed primaries with congressional races. Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser, a moderate Republican seen as one of Landry's chief competitors for governor, opposes closed primaries entirely.

"I just believe that something that's not broke, why fix it?" Nungesser told a task force reviewing the issue. "In an open primary,

that's the fairest way. You've got to speak to all the people of Louisiana."

In Louisiana's current open primary system, all candidates regardless of party run against each other for elected

office. If no one candidate tops 50% in that primary, the top two vote-getters advance to a head-to-head runoff. That system has been in place since 1975, with the exception of a three-year span for congressional elections.

Closed primaries are seen as favoring more ideologically driven candidates over moderates because party loyalists would sift among the contenders and advance one to a general election. In a governor's race, for example, a closed primary is seen as benefiting Landry's hardline stances over

Nungesser's willingness to work with Democrats like Gov. John Bel Edwards.

A task force led by Hewitt to study the issue voted Monday to recommend that lawmakers create a closed party primary for congressional races and leave the rest of Louisiana's elections alone. Each party would decide, under the recommendation, whether voters without party affiliation can participate in its primary or be sidelined.

That will be the starting point for legislative debate.

Republican U.S. Rep. Steve Scalise and Democratic state Sen. Cleo Fields, a former congressman, are among the chief proponents for closed primaries for the congressional races because Louisiana's "jungle primary" system regularly sees the state selecting members of Congress later than the rest of the country.

In competitive congressional races, particularly for open seats without an incumbent, races often are pushed into a December runoff — a month after nearly every other state has settled its seats. Scalise and Fields argue that puts Louisiana's newest congressional delegation members at a disadvantage in seniority, committee assignments and orientation sessions.

Fields briefly persuaded lawmakers to create a closed party primary for congressional elections for the 2008 and 2010 U.S.

House and U.S. Senate elections. But lawmakers reinstated the open primary system by the 2012 congressional races.

The Legislature has seen a lot of turnover since then.

Some Republican Party leaders have intensified their interest in closed primaries after the last two governors' races featured intra-party GOP fighting among candidates that benefitted Edwards and helped contribute to his victories.

Fields suggested it would be too difficult to win legislative passage of anything more than closed primaries for congressional races, and he said even that limited closed primary bill will be hard to pass.

"Let's get our members of Congress to Washington at the same time as (everyone else), and then let's call it a day," he told the task force.

There's not uniform agreement even among Louisiana's members of Congress.

Republican U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy — who has drawn his party's ire because he voted to convict former President Donald Trump in the recent impeachment trial — has panned the proposal to shift Louisiana to closed primaries.

When asked about the debate in February, Cassidy replied: "It seems like a stupid idea."

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



MICHELLE MALKIN



MELINDA DESLATTE

INSPIRATION

Did COVID-19 stress, uncertainty stall anti-smoking push?

WASHINGTON (AP) — A year after COVID-19 upended life for millions of Americans, there are troubling signs that the coronavirus may have also slowed progress against another deadly health threat: smoking.

Fewer smokers called quit-smoking hotlines last year and some smoked more, contributing to an unusual bump in cigarette sales — all in the middle of the stress, anxiety and uncertainty from the pandemic.

“It’s hard for folks to quit using tobacco in the best of times, so what happens when life is suddenly turned upside down?” said Jen Cash, who oversees Minnesota’s anti-tobacco programs.

Researchers are already concerned about COVID-19’s impact on cancer screenings and opioid overdoses as many Americans were cut off from routine care and examinations. But services to help smokers quit -- delivered via phone and online -- would seem well-positioned to withstand the disruptions of the pandemic. The programs help with devising a plan and often provide free nicotine gums and patches.

Yet, calls to states routed through a national hotline fell 27% last year to about 500,000 — the biggest drop in a decade, according to the North American Quitline Consortium. In a recent report, the coalition of anti-smoking counselors cited the pandemic and the drop in public awareness messaging.

“It’s really disturbing to see that the quit line calls have gone down so much because they’re exactly what I hoped would be going up,” said Dr. Nancy Rigotti of Harvard Medical School, who was not involved in the report.

In a separate survey of 1,000 adult smokers, Rigotti and her colleagues found about a third reported smoking more during the first six months of the pandemic.

Alli Comstock of Los Angeles had been smoke-free for seven years when she lost her child care job

last March because of the pandemic. Facing her first long-term stretch of unemployment, she started smoking again, out of a combination of boredom and anxiety.

“It just felt like something else to do and it made me feel calmer,” said Comstock, 32, adding that she knows cigarettes, which contain the stimulant nicotine, don’t help relieve anxiety.

Comstock eventually quit again after months of feeling like “we were in a time when it didn’t matter.”

“In November, I realized it did matter and that I was a smoker, and I didn’t want to be that,” she said.

Research has linked other traumatic events to relapses among ex-smokers, including after the 9/11 attacks.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says it’s too early to gauge the pandemic’s impact on smoking rates. In a statement, the CDC noted that although cigarette sales spiked around the first lockdowns last

March, they have since fallen back to earlier levels. That suggests the rise was mainly smokers stocking up on cigarettes.

The U.S. smoking rate has held steady at around 14% in recent years after a decades-long decline from over 40% in the 1960s. Smoking, which can cause cancer, strokes and heart attacks, is blamed for about 480,000 annual deaths.

Because smoking overlaps with many other forms of addiction, the data on quit attempts is being closely watched by doctors who treat people who abuse drugs and alcohol, many of whom also suffer from depression and anxiety.

Dr. Brian Hurley of Los Angeles County’s health department says those with addictions are less likely to recover if they continue to smoke. Last year’s drop in hotline calls suggests “a maelstrom of worse outcomes” said Hurley, a board member of the American Society of Addiction Medicine.

Quitting, though, is notoriously difficult with just 7% succeeding, according to CDC figures. Many smokers are referred to quit-smoking hotlines at their annual checkup. Those appointments largely stopped last spring along with most other non-essential care.

Still, last year’s data on quit-smoking calls includes glints of positive news. Smokers who called Minnesota’s hotline reported smoking more, but also said they were more motivated to quit because of COVID-19. That mirrored national data showing smokers are aware that smoking can make them more vulnerable to serious illness from a coronavirus infection.

Experts seeking to explain last year’s trends also point to a drop in anti-smoking advertising campaigns from public health departments. In many cases, those promotions were replaced by messages about masking, social distancing and hand-washing.

The CDC recently resumed its national “Tips from Smokers” advertising campaign and is conducting its annual surveys of tobacco use among adults and teenagers, the definitive snapshot of U.S. smoking and vaping.

Prior to the virus outbreak, much of the focus was on the alarming rise in electronic cigarette use among high schoolers and middle schoolers. Survey data conducted before classrooms closed showed teen vaping was already falling compared to 2019, following new flavor bans and raising the legal age to buy them.

With teenagers unable to attend school or regularly socialize with their friends, researchers speculate the pandemic may have further slowed the social spread of vaping.

“I have a feeling it may have had a positive effect on teen vaping, but a negative effect for adult smoking,” said Rigotti.

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INSPIRATION

Why we need laughter

According to the National Safety Council 53.6 percent of accidents happen at home.

Since most of my accidents occurred at home maybe you can avoid my careless pitfalls.

Where shall I start? Where shall I begin?

On January 6th, while spending time with my older friend, I found ways to relieve my back pain that has plagued me for years. While lying on the floor with my legs high up against the wall I fell asleep. A few hours later I noticed a blister on my left knee cap.

Because I had no clue what it was before talking with a friend who insisted I go to see Doctor Carter Boyd, my beloved primary physician, who diagnosed me with a poisonous spider bite.

Not only did he give me antibiotics but for various reasons the bite took six months to heal.

On March 3rd I tripped over an exercise machine, leaving me badly bruised and in the emergency room three hours later.

Family members immediately moved the machine far away.

I was just grateful that I fell rather than my elderly friend.

A few days later the coronavirus lockdown officially began, keeping us all out of circulation for a year, but being an introvert I am rarely bored, and enjoy being a homebody. Listening to myself think, I thrive on writing my thoughts down.

On June 4th I fell out of bed, leaving me shaken but not seriously hurt but I went to my doctor and was assured I didn’t suffer

bleeding on the brain.

On September 2nd I tripped and fell rushing into an AT&T store in Shreveport -- but not seriously injured.

Nobody’s to blame except me. I tend to become careless when I walk too fast, as is my genetic nature!

You should have seen my four feet eleven inch mother who run-walked everywhere she went.

On December 30th I tripped over a pair of shoes, fracturing three toes on my right foot, hopefully giving me a wakeup call that I need to slow down, leading me to ask am I an accident waiting to happen?


I know Jesus is in control because He the same yesterday, today and forever and He always gets me to the right place at the right time.

Without Him I can do nothing.

CONTACT SARAH AT SARAH9957@AOL.COM



SARAH HUDSON-PIERCE



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News

GOVERNMENT

Congressman wants Louisiana to dedicate at least \$1B in federal stimulus for major transportation projects

(The Center Square) — Congressman Garret Graves is urging state lawmakers to spend at least \$1 billion of Louisiana's federal stimulus money on transportation projects, such as major new bridges in Baton Rouge and Lake Charles.

Gov. John Bel Edwards suggested he could support that idea if federal regulators say it's OK, although his top priority is replenishing the state fund that pays for unemployment benefits. Doing so might also cost close to \$1 billion if lawmakers want to maintain the current level of employer taxes and worker benefits.

Louisiana is set to receive more than \$5 billion through the federal American Rescue Plan. More

than \$3 billion will go to state government, while local governments will get almost \$2 billion.

"The extraordinary and likely once-in-a-lifetime availability of flexible federal dollars could be an opportunity for transformational investment in Louisiana," Graves wrote in a letter to Edwards, state Senate President Page Cortez and state House Speaker Clay Schexnayder.

In the letter and in an interview, Graves pointed to a new Mississippi River crossing in the Baton Rouge area and a new Interstate 10 bridge in Lake Charles as long delayed needs.

"I think that's a really good long-term investment that doesn't get the

state in a bad cycle of using this one-time money to cover recurring costs," Graves said in the interview. "I think those are extraordinary projects that are extraordinarily delayed."

A billion dollars likely wouldn't be enough to pay for both projects — the Baton Rouge bridge is expected to cost in the neighborhood of \$1 billion — but an infusion of that size could kick-start both projects and could be combined with other revenue sources such as tolls, Graves said.

"It puts the project within reach," Graves said. "You start getting within a more doable realm."

Asked about Graves' request, Edwards pointed out the U.S. Treasury has

not issued the rules about how the stimulus money can be used or how much money will be distributed in the first year.

"Making those allocations just isn't possible yet," Edwards said.

The federal law explicitly allows spending on water, sewer and broadband infrastructure. Expanding broadband access to areas without high-speed internet has become a bipartisan priority among lawmakers, and ailing water systems are a significant problem for many small towns statewide.

Edwards said he has been discussing possible uses for the money with legislators. His first priority for the stimulus money, which he shares with many lawmakers,

is to shore up the state's unemployment insurance trust fund. Employers pay taxes to support the fund. When the balance falls, employers pay more and the benefits to unemployed workers are reduced.

And when the balance hits zero, as it did recently, state officials borrow money from the federal government to pay legally required weekly benefits and employers are assessed a "solvency tax" to repay the debt. Lawmakers suspended the laws last year that would have triggered the tax increases, hoping a permanent solution, such as federal funding, would emerge.

Ava Dejoie, who leads the Louisiana Workforce Commission, said this

week the commission had borrowed \$156 million so far. Officials will be able to stop borrowing, at least temporarily, once the first-quarter tax payments start arriving in a few weeks.

Dejoie said the state's debt to the federal government may reach \$240 million. Under current law, to maintain the current tax and benefit levels, the fund balance would need to hit \$750 million, she said.

Edwards has not said publicly how much money he will ask legislators to put into the fund. Commissioner of Administration Jay Dardenne said the ask will be in the "hundreds of millions."



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REMEMBERING A BIRTHDAY GOBBLER

GLYNN HARRIS
Special to the Minden Press-Herald

I had a birthday this week and I was reminded of another birthday I had 13 years ago. On March 29, 2008, I was presented a special birthday gift when I slipped out to the woods in Jackson Parish, called in and downed a big gobbler.

This brings to mind what is taking place now 13 years later as turkey season in 2021 kicked off for most of us in this part of the state on Good Friday, April 2. Season opened for youth hunters the weekend before and from reports I have seen and heard about, several youngsters were successful in bagging gobblers.

You will note that this year's season begins a week or so later than it did in 2008 as wildlife biologists and wild turkey experts felt it necessary to delay the season a bit to give gobblers and hens more time to get together before the hunting begins. The goal is to have more hens bred before we start chasing gobblers. The jury is still out on whether or not it will produce more wild turkeys on the ground.

As a refresher, here's what happened on my birthday 13 years ago. This was the second weekend of Louisiana's turkey season that year and the week before, I experienced something that would quicken the pulse of any turkey hunter. The day before season opened, I drove up to a well site on the back of our hunting club property and surprised a flock of turkeys, including several gobblers that

took off. No problem; I knew where I'd be on opening day.

That afternoon, I set up my pop-up blind within gunshot range of the well site and the next morning, I was there before daybreak with strutting gobbler and submissive hen decoys in place. Soon after daylight, the gobbling began. My calls were answered immediately and within a matter of minutes, I saw three white heads pop up across the well site and when the three gobblers spotted the decoys, here they came trying to outrace each other.

What happened next will be forever etched in my memory. All three attacked the gobbler decoy I had out and sent it flying. One of the gobblers separated from the other two and I dropped him. As he lay on the ground flopping, instead of the survivors high-tailing it out of there, they attacked the gobbler on the ground, giving him a pummeling you wouldn't believe.

I swapped my shotgun for my camera and began snapping photos until they eventually left.

Now to my birthday gobbler. The following Saturday, March 29 on my birthday, I was back in the area with a friend and fellow hunter, Mike Brister, and when daylight came, I heard gobbling back across the well site like the Saturday before. Mike insisted I give another gobbler a try and I hurried across the well site to cut the distance. A few minutes later, I saw a white head as one of the surviving gobblers came in cautiously to my calling. On

my 71st birthday, I put the pop on him, a fine bird with good beard and spurs.

On my birthday this year, I didn't hunt for one obvious reason; turkey season wouldn't open for another few days.

A lot has happened to my turkey woods over the past 13 years. Much of the land has been sold and is no longer in our hunting club so I'll have to choose another spot. Even so, I had to be somewhere in woods on our club. Why? Because as author Tom Kelly once wrote.... "I don't hunt turkeys because I want to; I hunt them because I have to."

FISHING REPORT – 3-31-21

BUSSEY BRAKE – Cooler stormy weather has slowed fishing a bit. Bass are around the banks and trees. Some catches to 5 pounds have been reported on spinners, crank baits and soft plastics. The bream are showing signs of starting to move to the beds. Crappie are slow to fair this week. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

BLACK BAYOU – Bass fishing has been good on jigs, spinners and soft plastics. Bream and crappie are fair this week. Contact Honey Hole Tackle Shop 323-8707 for latest information.

OUACHITA RIVER – The river is still high but starting to fall. No fishing report this week. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE D'ARBONNE

– Some crappie have apparently already spawned as they're moving to deeper water with shiners and jigs picking up some both shallow and in deeper water. Bass fishing has been better this week away from the banks as some of these fish have also apparently spawned and moved deeper. Best baits have been spinners, crank baits, spinners and soft plastics. Bream are just now starting to show signs of life as they're moving to shallow bedding areas and starting to hit worms and crickets. Catfishing continues to be good off the banks on night crawlers and cold worms. For latest reports, call Anderson's Sport Center at 368-9669 or Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE CLAIBORNE – Bass fishing has been fair this week with some to around 4 pounds caught on spinner baits and Sinkos. Crappie are hitting shiners on yo-yos with some still shallow while others that have already spawned have moved to deeper water. Both crappie and bream continue to bite below the spillway. Catfishing has been fair to good on yo-yos, stump hooks and on noodles. Striper fishing has been fair and the bream are beginning to bite around shallow beds on worms and crickets. Bream are beginning to show up around shallow spawning areas with some caught on crickets and worms. For latest information, call Tim Loftin at Kel's Cove at 927-2264.

CANEY LAKE – Bass fishing has been best



GLYNN HARRIS/COURTESY PHOTO

For a perfect gift, nothing is more exciting than to down a mature turkey gobbler on your birthday.

fairly shallow with trick worms, jigs and spinners picking up a few. No heavy weight bass were reported this week. The chinquapin bite has started with fish moving shallow and hitting worms and crickets. Crappie fishing is good with most of the bigger fish moving shallow while some average sized fish are still being caught beneath the Highway 4 bridge on shiners and jigs. No report on catfish. 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 – The turn to cooler weather has

moved the crappie off the banks and slowed the fishing this week. Catfishing for smaller fish has been good. Bass have improved with some to around 4 pounds reported. Bream are beginning to show up around shallow bedding areas. For latest reports, call Poverty Point Marina at 318/878-0101.

LAKE ST. JOHN – Crappie, bass and catfish have all improved somewhat this week. Bream have yet to start biting. For information, call Ken Mahoney at 318-201-3821.

LAKE YUCATAN – The water is very high and rising. No fishing this week. For information, call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.

TRACK & FIELD

Strong Throwing Marks Highlight LA Tech's Meet at LSU

BATON ROUGE, La. – Louisiana Tech's track and field team recorded 13 top-three finishes in Saturday's Battle on the Bayou at LSU's Bernie Moore Stadium in Baton Rouge.

Throwers Riley Finnegan and Johnie Jean-Jacques each notched a first-place finish on Saturday, placing first in the men's discus throw and men's shot put, respectively. Finnegan set a new personal best in the discus throw with a toss of 48.06 meters (157'-08"). Jean-Jacques recorded a first-place mark in the shot put with a heave of 15.72 meters (51'-07"). Jean-Jacques also notched a

second-place toss in men's discus throw, finishing just one spot behind his teammate Finnegan.

Tim Fitzgerald finished just a spot below Jean-Jacques in the men's shot put, recording a toss of 15.39 meters (50'-06") for second place. Bulldog javelin thrower Tripp Marcus posted a season-best toss of 68.56 meters (224'-11") to place second in the men's javelin throw.

On the women's side, fellow thrower Rhea Thompson placed second in the women's shot put with a heave of 13.87 meters (46'-06.25"). Thompson also recorded a top-three finish in

the women's discus throw with a season-best toss of 45.31 meters (148'-08").

"It was another great week for our throwers," head coach Gary Stanley said. "We had some good, competitive efforts at LSU today, and I think this team is getting better every week."

Triple jumper Murphy Bavinga recorded a second-place finish of his own with a leap of 14.78 meters (48'-06") in the men's triple jump. Fellow triple jumper Leah Scott placed third on the women's side with a leap of 11.99 meters (39'-04").

Sydney Anderson placed

third in the women's high jump with a mark of 1.67 meters (5'-05.75").

On the track, 400-meter runners Seth Boullion and Jada Branch secured third-place times on the men's and women's side, respectively. Boullion set a new PR in the 400-meter dash with a time of 48.26 seconds, while Branch recorded a time of 57.14 seconds for a third-place finish of her own.

Shanique Masters ran her way to a season-best time in the women's 800-meter run, placing third in the race with a time of 2:18.95. Fellow Lady Techster Callie Ezell placed



MICHAEL WADE/COURTESY PHOTO

Johnie Jean-Jacques notched a first-place finish on Saturday

fifth in the race with a time of 2:23.54 seconds.

LA Tech will head south once again for a Saturday meet in Hammond, Loui-

siana. Southeastern Louisiana will serve as the meet hosts for April 10's Strawberry Relays.

GSU completes series sweep over UAPB with 7-5 win on Easter Sunday

PINE BLUFF, Ark. | The Grambling Tigers baseball team trailed 5-3 before scoring four unanswered runs to close the game as it completed the weekend series sweep with a 7-5 victory over Arkansas-Pine Bluff in game three at the Torii Hunter Baseball Complex in Southwestern Athletic Conference action. GSU is now on its second four-game win streak of the season and has won nine of its last 11 games.

Game 1
Grambling 11 UAPB 1

The Tigers jumped on top early with three runs in the second inning as Jeremy Almaguer hit an RBI ground out that scored Rafael Ramirez, III for the first run of the game. Kevin Breaux then produced an RBI-single to score Joseph Gunn. Moments later, Cameron Phelts generated an RBI-single to right field as Breaux scored another run for the Tigers.

Kevin BreauxGSU sophomore catcher Kevin Breaux had a marvelous day on offense in the 11-1 thrashing over UAPB.

Breaux, a sophomore catcher out of Reserve, La. filled the stat sheet and produced a total of three runs, two-RBI and two hits in the victory.

Joseph Gunn Grambling graduate student Joseph Gunn blasted two home runs in the 15-3 blowout victory over ULM.

Grambling poured in another three runs in the fourth inning when Gunn hit his third home run in four days with a shot to right field. Then, with the bases loaded, Phelps brought home Almaguer with another RBI-single. Gunn finished with another big day and produced three runs, two hits and an RBI, while teammate Phelps generated a game-high three hits.

Cameron PheltsCam Phelts bunts vs. UAPB

GSU added five insurance runs in the seventh inning, including a vicious 3-RBI base-clearing line drive to left field by Christian Mervilus.

The sophomore from New York's three-RBI total was good for a game-high.

Kerry Boykins Jr.GSU pitcher Kerry Boykins, Jr. earned his third win of the year and struck out five batters in the 11-1 victory over UAPB.

Grambling redshirt junior pitcher Kerry Boykins, Jr. (3-1) was brilliant on the mound and earned the victory, striking out five Golden Lion batters as he allowed just one earned run and only five hits in six innings on the mound.

UAPB pitcher Bryce Roesch (0-1) picked up the loss and gave up six earned runs in 3.1 innings of work.

Game 2
Grambling 11 UAPB 8

The Grambling Tigers

baseball team got behind early but used a 7-run eighth inning to defeat UAPB, outscoring its opponents a total of 37-12 throughout the last three contests.

Cameron Bufford came up huge on the offensive end for Grambling (8-14 overall, 5-3 SWAC) and scored a game-high three runs on two hits and added an RBI.

Teammates Jahmoi Percival and Phelts both generated two runs apiece for the Tigers, who won its third consecutive game.

Rafael Ramirez III-Jeremy AlmaguerGerald Nervis Jr.

Rafael Ramirez, III, Jeremy Almaguer and Gerald Nervis Jr. all finished with 2-RBI in the victory.

Jason AlvarezSenior Jason Alvarez struck out 9 UAPB batters in the 11-8 victory in Pine Bluff.

GSU pitcher Jason Alvarez (1-2) was solid on the mound and earned the victory, striking out

nine Golden Lion batters in seven innings of work while allowing just three earned runs on the afternoon. LJ Diaz produced three strikeouts and allowed just one hit on six batters faced in relief work for Grambling before Kimani Bailey entered for a brief moment in the ninth inning and picked up the save.

Game 3
Grambling 7 UAPB 5

Grambling (9-14 overall, 6-3 SWAC) was led by pitcher Antoine Valerio (3-1) who dominated the Golden Lions and earned the victory, striking out three UAPB batters in five innings as he allowed only one hit on the afternoon.

The Tigers took an early 2-0 lead in the first inning before UAPB answered back and scored three runs in the bottom of the inning on starting pitcher Marc Luna.

Grambling tied the game in the following inning, but the Golden Li-

ons responded again with two additional runs in the third before GSU poured in four unanswered runs to seal the deal, including Percival's eighth inning home run. The Virgin Islands native filled the stat sheet and was consistent on the offensive end, producing two runs, two hits and 2-RBI. Teammate Gunn also added 2-RBI in the victory.

Bufford and Almaguer each generated two runs apiece and helped launch Grambling to its fourth consecutive victory and second conference sweep of the year.

Up Next
Grambling State will travel to Nacogdoches, Texas, on Tuesday, April 6 to face Stephen F. Austin in non-conference action. First pitch is set for 3 p.m. at Jaycees Field.

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Your Sports

to: newsroom@press-herald.com

WEBSTER PARISH LIBRARIES – YEAR IN REVIEW



KIM SENTELL
Director of Marketing/Community Liaison - Webster Parish Libraries System

When COVID – 19 initially hit, the library system faced many unprecedented challenges. Recognizing our community relies on many of our services, library staff had to develop innovative ways to serve patrons safely. Despite the challenges, the library is grateful they could continue to provide essential services and library materials to patrons and invite you to take a look at a few ways. Your library saw a little over 69,657 visits at our Springhill and Minden Branch alone from those of you who used this system to safely access books and movies and program kits, and more. Online Services like Kanopy, Hoopla, and Overdrive have allowed patrons to access ebooks, audiobooks, movies, even television shows without leaving home. More than 31,600 items were streamed this way. Eleven thousand eight hundred two reference questions were answered, and there were more than 15,300 Public Computer Sessions.

A few of the new services added in response to COVID – 19 are Contactless Curbside Pickup, Homebound Delivery Service, and Wi-Fi Hotspots, with 241 circulations still in demand. Educator Passes were designed which offer educators in Webster Parish special borrowing privileges.

Your library saved our community a total of \$2,109,088.68 by checking out materials.

SUDOKU

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

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

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

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

CHESS GAMBITS

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

Monday's unlisted clue: PENGUIN

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

Benko	Duras	King's	Queen's
Budapest	Elephant	Latvian	Rosentreter
Chicago	England	Lewis	Vienna
Danish	Evans	Lopez	

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4/6

HISTORY

Continued from Page 10
157 days later, two of them reached the same location.

1909 - Robert Peary allegedly becomes the first person to reach the North Pole. Peary's claim has never been verified and is widely contested. The first undisputed journey to the North Pole was the 1948 Soviet Sever-2 expedition.

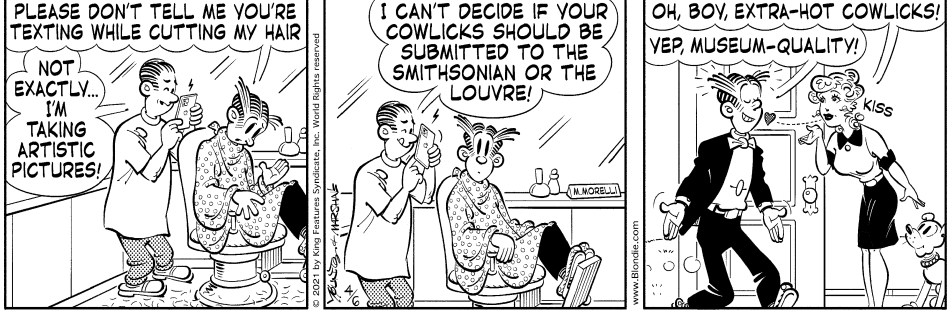
1896 - The first modern Olympic Games are opened in Athens. 241 athletes from 14 countries took part in the First Olympiad. The event took place over 1500 years after the last ancient Olympic Games, which originated in Olympia in south-western Greece.

COMICS

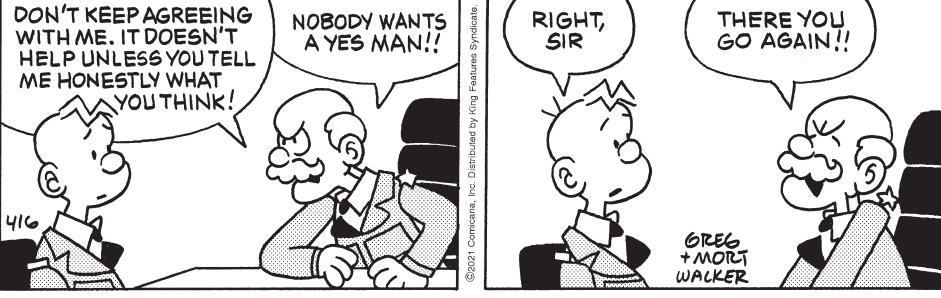
BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



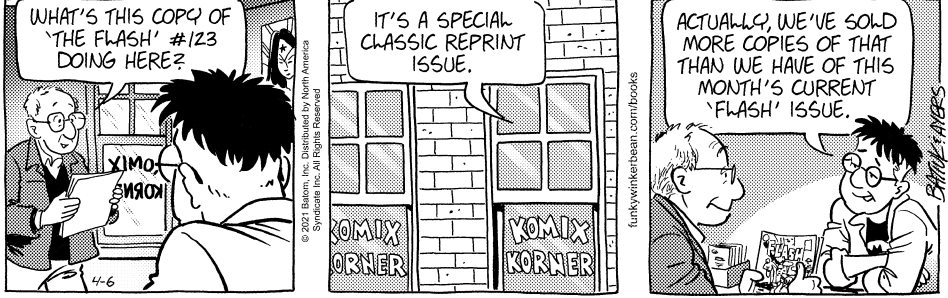
BLONDIE | DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



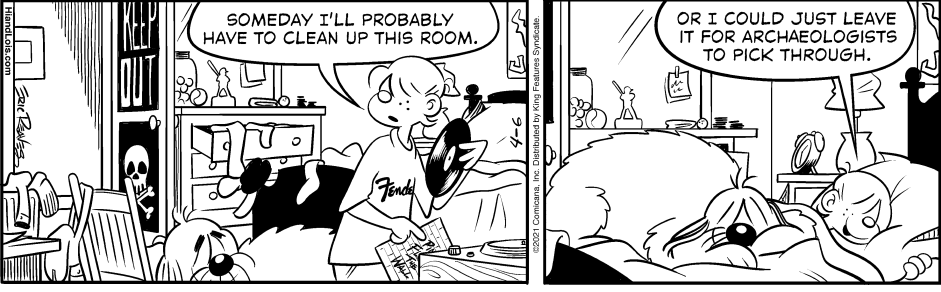
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT & GREG WALKER



FUNKY WINKERBEAN | TOM BATIUK



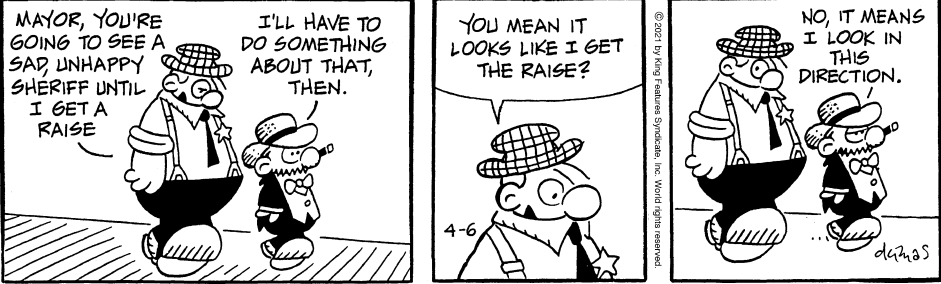
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN WALKER, GREG WALKER AND CHANCE BROWNE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



SAM AND SILO | JERRY DUMAS



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



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Line ads must be submitted by noon the day before publication. Display ads two days prior to publication.

Public Notices

Public notices must be submitted two days prior to publication date depending on the length. Notices may be emailed to classifieds@press-herald.com

Payments

Cash, Checks, Billing

Real Estate Notice


"All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate, which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Grow Your Business

Call Courtney to place your ad!

PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!

377-1866

PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE

Minden Planning Commission Meeting
April 8, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.
Pelican Room - Minden City Hall
On the agenda is a request from Ruthell Walker Hardin for a front and rear yard setback variance on property owned by her located at the municipal address of 205 Columbia Street. This property is zoned R-3 (Single Family Residential).
The purpose of this front and rear yard setback variance is to place a 16' x 72' mobile home on the property. In an R-3 District, the required front yard setback is 20 feet and the required rear yard setback is 20 feet.
Legal Description: LOT #6, BLK. U, ROSEDALE SUBDIV. IN SE/4 OF SW/4 SEC. 27-19-9
All interested parties will be given a chance to be heard.
March 19, 2021
March 26, 2021
April 6, 2021
Minden Press-Herald

LOT #10, BLK. "C", MILLER'S SHOP SUBDIV. & A STRIP 10 X 228.76 FT. ADJ. IN NE/4 OF SE/4 SEC. 28-19-9 (FORMERLY AN ALLEY)
All interested parties will be given a chance to be heard.
March 19, 2021
March 26, 2021
April 6, 2021
Minden Press-Herald



PUBLIC NOTICE
In accordance with federal regulations, the Webster Parish Police Jury Office of Community Services, Section 8 Housing Authority for Webster Parish will begin accepting pre-applications for rental assisted housing and/or placement on the waiting list for such housing. Pre-application packets can be picked up beginning Monday, May 3, 2021 during business hours. WE WILL ONLY BE ACCEPTING THE FIRST 100 APPLICATIONS
Applications will be accepted on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 9:00 am to 12:00 noon and then from 1:00 pm ending at 4:00 pm at the Minden office. The waiting list will close on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 4:00 pm or when 100 are received, whichever comes first. No pre-application packets will be accepted other than at the times and date listed above. Persons desiring to apply for rental assistance may obtain pre-application packets from the location listed below:
Webster Parish Police Jury Office of Community Services 208 Gleason Street Minden, LA 71055
ALL APPLICATIONS MUST BE TURNED IN AT WEBSTER PARISH OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES LOCATED AT 208 GLEASON STREET MINDEN, LA ON THE SPECIFIED DATE AND TIMES GIVEN
Equal Opportunity Housing/Employer/Program/Provider Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities.
April 6, 2021
April 16, 2021
April 20, 2021
April 30, 2021

APARTMENTS FOR RENT

Hillside Apartments

1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms

400 Hillside Lane
Minden, LA 71055
318-377-5550
Lots of Room
Washer & Dryer connections
Sparkling Pool




Red Oak Villa

1355 Sheppard St.
Minden, LA

Carefree Independent
Living For The Elderly

Low income subsidized housing.
Free water & garbage.
Mailboxes & laundry rooms. Emergency call system. Convenient to banking & shopping.

377-8474
8:00 - 4:00 • Mon. - Fri.

NOTICES

BREWSTER STORAGE at 998 Dorcheat Road is permanently CLOSING. Contact 318-771-1092 to obtain storage contents no later than April 30, 2021

SALES

FOR SALE: Town of Sibley is taking sealed bids for a 1974 Ford F-750

Minden Press-Herald

Public Notice

On March 25, 2021, the Judges of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court amended the 2020 Judicial Expense Fund Budget to decrease the Transfer from Child Support Fund to \$116,355.31 as well as to increase the Beginning Fund Balance to \$1,906,089.00. Should you wish to view the Amended Budget, you may do so in Bossier Parish at 204 Burt Blvd., 5th Floor and in Webster Parish at 410 Main St, 2nd Floor.
April 6, 2021
Minden Press-Herald

Fire truck.

Bids should be turned in at Sibley Town Hall, 345 N. Main St., Sibley or mailed to P. O. Box 128, Sibley, LA 71073. Bids will be taken until April 9, 2021 & will be opened on April 12, 2021 at the April Council Meeting.

EMPLOYMENT

BOX TRUCK DELIVERY DRIVER Bill & Ralph's Inc. 118 B & R Drive, Sarepta, La. 71071 Accepting Applications For Box Truck Delivery Driver Must have at least a Class D License. Training for CDL-A will be available, if interested, but not mandatory. Free Medical Insurance for Driver, Family Medical Insurance available. Dental and 401K Benefits, Hourly plus Incentive Pay, Yearly Safety Bonus Pay, Monthly Safety/Performance Pay. Apply at Bill & Ralph's Contact Mickey Hodges at (318)539-2071 mickey.hodges@billandralphs.com.
E. I. Williams Industries, LLC, a world leader in the fabrication of industrial products is seeking to hire for the position of Office Administrator at its newly opened facility in Sarepta. The position would be reporting directly to the Chief Financial Officer. The purpose of this position is to provide accounting, reporting, human resources including payroll, administrative and overall support of production to achieve the goals of E. I. Williams Industries, LLC. Candidates should have completed High School, some college is desirable, Associate Degree is preferred, five (5) or more years of accounting support experience is preferred but not required and some experience in dealing with local and state governmental programs and officials is preferred, but not required. Applicants should send their completed resumes with at least two business references to careers@ei-williams.com. Interviewing to be conducted online.

PRESBYTERIAN VILLAGE OF HOMER is accepting applications for CNA'S. Must be CNA certified. Full-Time Day and Evening shifts available. Contact: Cathy Franklin CNA Supervisor at 318-927-6133.

FOR SALE

PARTIAL SHARE OF Woods Fish Market, 601 Shreveport Rd., for sale. Contact 910-988-5335 for more information.

STATEWIDE CLASSIFIEDS

Attorneys

Applying for Social Security Disability or Appealing a Denied Claim? Call Bill Gordon & Assoc., Social Security Disability Attorneys, 1-844-883-2045 FREE Consultations. Local Attorneys Nationwide [Mail: 2420 N St NW, Washington DC. Office: Broward Co. (TX/NM Bar)] (LA-SCAN)

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Become a Published Author. We want to Read Your Book! Dorrance Publishing-Trusted by Authors Since 1920 Book manuscript sub-

missions currently being reviewed. Comprehensive Services Consultation, Production, Promotion and Distribution Call for your FREE Author's Guide 1-866-593-1492 or visit <http://dorranceinfo.com/la-press> (LA-SCAN)

Education

COMPUTER & IT TRAINING PROGRAM! Train ONLINE to get the skills to become a Computer & Help Desk Professional now! Grants and Scholarships available for certain programs for qualified applicants. Call CTI for details! 1-855-471-2636 (M-F 8am-6pm ET) (LA-SCAN)

Flexible Healthcare Career Training, Medical Billing and Coding Program. Call Now For Information: 1-866-746-4143 (LA-SCAN)

TRAIN Online To DO MEDICAL BILLING. Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months. Call 1-866-350-4447. (M-F 8am-6pm ET) (LA-SCAN)

Financial Services

ARE YOU BEHIND \$10k OR MORE ON YOUR TAXES? Stop wage & bank levies, liens & audits, unfiled tax returns, payroll issues, & resolve tax debt FAST. Call 1-855-832-2310 (LA-SCAN)

Denied Credit?? Work to Repair Your Credit Report With The Trusted Leader in Credit Repair. Call Lexington Law for a FREE credit report summary & credit repair consultation. 1-855-527-0217. John C. Heath, Attorney at Law, PLLC, dba Lexington Law Firm (LA-SCAN)

Have 10K in Debt? Credit Cards. Medical Bills. Personal Loans. Be Debt Free in 24-48 Months. Call NATIONAL DEBT RELIEF! Know Your Options. Get a FREE debt relief quote; Call 1-844-290-9978 (LA-SCAN)

Over \$10K in debt? Be debt free in 24-48 months. Pay nothing to enroll. Call National Debt Relief at 1-855-794-1033 (LA-SCAN)

SAVE YOUR HOME! Are you behind paying your MORTGAGE? Denied a Loan Modification? Threatened with FORECLOSURE? Call the Homeowner's Relief Line now for HELP! 1-866-470-1641 (LA-SCAN)

For Sale

ENJOY 100% guaranteed, delivered to-the-door Omaha Steaks! Get 4 FREE Pork Chops and 4 FREE CHICKEN BREAST Order the Omaha Steaks Classic - ONLY \$129.99. Call 1-844-897-8143 and use code 66762SXC or visit www.omahasteaks.com/dinner702 (LA-SCAN)

HughesNet Satellite Internet 25mbps starting at \$49.99 per month! Get More Data FREE Off-Peak Data. FAST download speeds. Wi-Fi built in! FREE Standard Installation for lease customers! Limited Time, Call 1-844-253-8788 (LA-SCAN)

H u g h e s N e t Satellite Internet FOR BUSINESS. 25mbps for just \$69.99 per month! Get More Data FREE Off-Peak Data. Built-in Wi-Fi for wireless devices. FREE Standard Installation. CALL 1-877-573-7981 (LA-SCAN)
Pittman & Davis Mixed-fruit medley for the Holidays! Give the gift of Winter Sunshine! 6 Rio Ruby Red Gems. 4 Tiny Tim Navels. 6 Mini Fuji Apples. Call NOW and SAVE 33% OFF. Pay just \$19.99. FREE Shipping! Call 1-844-922-1799 to order item MXSP and mention code PNVH-E143 for savings or visit PittmanDavis.com/pittmandavis.com/ME143 (LA-SCAN)

Put on your TV Ears and hear TV with unmatched clarity. TV Ears Original were originally \$129.95 - NOW WITH

THIS SPECIAL OFFER are only \$59.95 with code MCB59! Call 1-855-935-3524 (LA-SCAN)

Two great new offers from AT&T Wireless! Ask how to get the new iPhone 11 or Next Generation Samsung Galaxy S10e ON US with AT&T's Buy one, Give One offer. While supplies last! CALL 1-866-393-0713 (LA-SCAN)

Viasat Satellite Internet Up to 12 mbps Plans Starting at \$30 per month. Our Fastest Speeds (up to 50mbps) & Unlimited Data Plans start at \$100 per month. Call Viasat today! 1-855-801-0860 (LA-SCAN)

WE SHOP, YOU SAVE on your Medicare Supplement Insurance! Call 1-844-885-9650 today to compare Medicare benefits and costs from up to 20 top-rated carriers. Receive the best option for you. (LA-SCAN)

Health and Wellness ATTENTION DIABETICS! Save money on your diabetic supplies! Convenient home shipping for monitors, test strips, insulin pumps, catheters and more! To learn more, Call now! 1-888-723-9462 (LA-SCAN)

Attention: Oxygen Users! Gain freedom with a Portable Oxygen Concentrator! No more heavy tanks and refills! Guaranteed Lowest Prices! Call Oxygen Concentrator Store: 1-855-382-4168 (LA-SCAN)

FREE MEDICAL SUPPLEMENT QUOTES! Top Providers. Excellent Coverage. Call for no obligation quote to see how much you can save. 1-877-326-0344 (LA-SCAN)

One Press of a button sends help FAST, 24/7! At home on the go. Mobile Pendant with GPS. FREE First Aid Kit (with subscription) Call 1-877-626-0996 for a FREE Brochure. (LA-SCAN)

SelectQuote is dedicated to finding a Medicare plan right for you and your wallet. Call 1-844-668-3694 today and receive a free

quote from one of our multiple carriers (LA-SCAN)

Stay in your home longer with an American Standard Walk-In Bathtub. Receive up to \$1,500 off, including free toilet, and lifetime warranty on the tub and installation! Call 1-877-318-1753 or visit www.walkintubquote.com/LA (LA-SCAN)

Still paying too much for your MEDICATION? Save up to 90% on RX refill! Order today and receive free shipping on 1st order - prescription required. Call 1-855-978-2676 (LA-SCAN)

VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! 50 Pills SPECIAL \$99.00 FREE Shipping! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW! 1-855-403-6345 (LA-SCAN)

Home and Garden BATHROOM RENOVATIONS EASY ONE DAY updates! We specialize in safe bathing. Grab bars, no slip flooring & seated showers. Call for a FREE in-home consultation. 1-855-238-1870 (LA-SCAN)

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever with LeafFilter, the most advanced debris blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. Call 1-866-846-0785 (LA-SCAN)

The bathroom of your dreams for as little as \$149per month! BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Limited Time Offer - FREE virtual in-home consultation now and SAVE 15%! Call Today! 1-866-806-5009 (LA-SCAN)

Home Services \$59.99 per month DIRECTV Special. 155+ Channels, HBO for 12 months and 3 months of Premium Movie Channels! Whole Home GENIE HD DVR! Call Now! 1-888-498-4312 (LA-SCAN)

AT&T Internet. Starting at \$40 per month with 12-month agreement. Includes

1 TB of data per month. Get More For Your High-Speed Internet Thing. Ask us how to bundle and SAVE! Geo & svc restrictions apply. Call us today 1-866-282-4680. (LA-SCAN)

AT&T TV - The Best of Live & On-Demand On All Your Favorite Screens. CHOICE Package, \$64.99 per month plus taxes for 12 months. Premium Channels at No Charge for One Year! Anytime, anywhere. Some restrictions apply. With 24-month agreement TV price higher in 2nd year. Regional Sports Fee up to \$8.49 per month.is extra & applies. Call IVS 1-833-317-1353 (LA-SCAN)

ATTENTION HOMEOWNERS! If you have water damage to your home and need cleanup services, call us! We'll get in and work with your insurance agency to get your home repaired and your life back to normal ASAP! Call 1-888-706-1445 (LA-SCAN)

BEST SATELLITE TV with 2 Year Price Guarantee! \$59.99 per month with 190 channels and 3 months FREE Premium Movie Channels! FREE next day installation! Call 1-844-284-8095 (LA-SCAN)

DIRECTV NOW NO Satellite Needed. \$40 per month. 65 Channels. Stream Breaking News, Live Events, Sports & On Demand Titles. No Annual Contract. No Commitment. CALL 1-844-246-2428 (LA-SCAN)

DIRECTV - Switch and Save! \$49.99 per month. Select All-Included Package. 155 Channels. 1000s of Shows/Movies On Demand. FREE Genie HD DVR Upgrade. Premium movie channels, FREE for 3 months! Call 1-866-734-0452 (LA-SCAN)

DISH NETWORK \$59.99 for 190 Channels! Blazing Fast Internet, \$19.99 per month. (where available.) Switch & Get a FREE \$100 Visa Gift Card. FREE Voice Remote. FREE HD DVR.

FREE Streaming on ALL Devices. Call today! 1-855-654-8207 (LA-SCAN)

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Earthlink High Speed internet. As Low As \$14.95 per month (for the first 3 months) Reliable High Speed Fiber Optic Technology. Stream Videos, Music and More! Call Earthlink Today! 1-866-794-6858 (LA-SCAN)

High-Speed Internet. We instantly compare speed, pricing, availability to find the best service for your needs. Starting at \$39.99 per month! Quickly compare offers from top providers. Call 1-844-222-6843 (LA-SCAN)

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SAVE BIG ON HOME INSURANCE! Compare 20 A-Rated insurance companies. Get a quote within minutes. Average savings of \$444 per year! Call 1-877-533-3917 (Monday-Friday 8am-8pm Central) (LA-SCAN)

Medical Equipment ATTENTION: OXYGEN USERS! The NEW Inogen One G5. 1-6 flow settings. Designed for 24-hour oxygen use. Compact and Lightweight. Get a FREE Info kit today. 1-855-874-9438 (LA-SCAN)

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Portable Oxygen

Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim Independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. For a FREE information kit call 1-855-636-1667 (LA-SCAN)

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Donate your car, truck, or van. Help veterans find jobs or start a business. Call Patriotic Hearts Foundation. Fast, FREE pick-up. Max tax-deduction. Operators are standing by! Call 1-866-934-5706 (LA-SCAN)

INVENTORS - FREE INFORMATION PACKAGE have your product idea developed affordably by the Research & Development pros and presented to manufactur-

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Want To Buy FREON WANTED: We pay \$\$\$ for cylinders and cans. R12 R500 R11 R113 R114. Convenient. Certified Professionals. Call 312-291-9169 or visit RefrigerantFinders.com (LA-SCAN) **Attorneys** Applying for Social Security Disability or Appealing a Denied Claim? Call Bill Gordon & Assoc., Social Security Disability Attorneys, 1-844-883-2045 FREE Consultations. Local Attorneys Nationwide [Mail: 2420 N St NW, Washington DC. Office: Broward Co. (TX/NM Bar)] (LA-SCAN)

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Put on your TV Ears and hear TV with unmatched clarity. TV Ears Original were originally

\$129.95 - NOW WITH THIS SPECIAL OFFER are only \$59.95 with code MCB59! Call 1-855-935-3524 (LA-SCAN)

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3694 today and receive a free quote from one of our multiple carriers (LA-SCAN)

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Still paying too much for your MEDICATION? Save up to 90% on RX refill! Order today and receive free shipping on 1st order - prescription required. Call 1-855-978-2676 (LA-SCAN)

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BATHROOM RENOVATIONS EASY ONE DAY updates! We specialize in safe bathing. Grab bars, no slip flooring & seated showers. Call for a FREE in-home consultation. 1-855-238-1870 (LA-SCAN)

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The bathroom of your dreams for as little as \$149per month! BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Limited Time Offer - FREE virtual in-home consultation now and SAVE 15%! Call Today! 1-866-806-5009 (LA-SCAN)

Home Services
\$59.99 per month DIRECTV Special. 155+ Channels, HBO for 12 months and 3 months of Premium Movie Channels! Whole Home GENIE HD DVR! Call Now! 1-888-498-4312 (LA-SCAN)

AT&T Internet. Starting at \$40 per month with

12-month agreement. Includes 1 TB of data per month. Get More For Your High-Speed Internet Thing. Ask us how to bundle and SAVE! Geo & svc restrictions apply. Call us today 1-866-282-4680. (LA-SCAN)

AT&T TV - The Best of Live & On-Demand On All Your Favorite Screens. CHOICE Package, \$64.99 per month plus taxes for 12 months. Premium Channels at No Charge for One Year! Anytime, anywhere. Some restrictions apply. With 24-month agreement TV price higher in 2nd year. Regional Sports Fee up to \$8.49 per month.is extra & applies. Call IVS 1-833-317-1353 (LA-SCAN)

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