

'We don't feel safe'

Bullying, harassment take an emotionally painful toll on LGBT youths in Louisiana

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Teddy Lowery wanted to die. On Christmas Day, the 17-year-old attempted suicide. He isn't alone. The suicide attempt rate for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer students is four times greater than their straight peers. Experts say support and awareness from parents, teachers and school administrators can help lower the rate, and make students feel safe. "I would purposely do things that would hurt me just because I didn't want to live anymore," he said. "I never wanted to live past 18. Ever since seventh grade, I never thought I was going to live past 18 and now here I am — 22 days from being 18."

See BULLYING, Page 6A

Teddy Lowery, a senior at Parkway High School says he knows very well the pain that comes from bullying.

DOUGLAS COLLIER/THE TIMES

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Geaux Tigers
LSU's Danny Etling led the Tigers in their 45-10 victory over Southern Mississippi's Golden Eagles Saturday at Tiger Stadium, **1L**

“The students at Parkway would tell me that I’m an abomination and going to burn in hell. They said I should just kill myself because nobody cared about me anyways.”

TEDDY LOWERY
PARKWAY HIGH
SCHOOL STUDENT

“They think less of you and make it apparent that they won’t help you. It makes you feel alone or depressed. If there’s no one to help you, then you’ll eventually spiral down until someone does help. I was never outwardly out. I had to pretend to be someone else and it felt like I was living in a shell.”

TOSH ARCHIBALD
LOUISIANA TECH UNIVERSITY
FRESHMAN AND BENTON
HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE

Bullying

Continued from Page 1A

Bullying from his peers, school officials and community members throughout his life, he said, took a toll on the Parkway High School senior as he tried to focus on graduating. He felt isolated and alone.

“The students at Parkway would tell me that I’m an abomination and going to burn in hell,” Lowery said. “They said I should just kill myself because nobody cared about me anyways.”

Lowery added, “They made me feel weird because I liked boys.”

Suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people ages 10 to 24 behind accidents or unintentional injuries, according to the Trevor Project, a national organization that provides LGBT youth crisis and suicide intervention.

Noreen Giga, a research associate at the Gay, Lesbian, & Straight Education Network, said teachers may not be getting the proper support training to recognize a student in jeopardy.

“We know the support of educators is beneficial to creating a more positive school climate,” Giga said. “We know that overall LGBT students experience a hostile climate at school. So they experience high rates of victimization and feel unsafe at their school because of their sexual orientation or gender expression.”

Giga added, “We know that many students miss school because they’re feeling unsafe or uncomfortable.”

Bullying and students’ safety

Lowery hasn’t felt safe at school for many years and refuses to report the bullying to school officials for fear of retaliation. He said he voiced his concern to adults at his school during his freshman year but hasn’t since.

“I stopped going to the office to report anything that happened because I knew it would make it worse. The office just kind of pushed the problem under the rug,” Lowery said. “Boys would walk out of the bathroom and say, ‘I’m not using

the bathroom with a dirty faggot,’ and give me dirty looks if I stand in the stall next to them.”

“I’ve never felt safe at school — it’s a big trigger for my depression.”

Bossier Parish Schools are unable to discuss individual cases of alleged bullying or harassment, outcomes of those complaints or verify if a complaint was made, said Bossier Schools public relations liaison Sonja Bailes.

“Make no mistake, however, the district does not tolerate bullying or harassment in any form toward any individual, regardless of race, gender or sexual orientation,” she said. “If a reported incident meets legal criteria of bullying or harassment as set forth by the state, which is defined as a series of incidents or repeated pattern as opposed to a one-time occurrence, the district must investigate to determine whether it did or did not take place.”

Eight out of 10 LGBT students are harassed at school, according to GLSEN, a national organization focused on ensuring schools are safe for LGBT students.

“There was this one week, sophomore year, where it felt like everybody had something to say about (me) and I cried in class every day that week,” Lowery said. “That was the first time I told my mom that I wanted to die.”

Lowery’s mother, Sarah Parsons, won’t allow him to crumble underneath the verbal attacks. She’s his biggest supporter.

“The last two years have been very rough in our house with him,” she said. “It terrifies me because if you would’ve asked me a year ago I wouldn’t have thought my kid was going to be alive today. It scares me because he still has bad days.”

Parsons looked at her son and said, “You’re doing amazing and I support you. I stand behind you.”

Students aren’t the only ones bullying.

According to the Human Rights Campaign, nearly 57 percent of LGBT youth say churches or places of worship in their communities often aren’t accepting of LGBT people.

Katie and Jasmine De Santiago experienced indirect LGBT criticism while attending their grandmother’s church



ABOVE: Teddy Lowery, a senior at Parkway High School, says he knows very well the pain that comes from bullying. Lowery has attempted suicide several times after being bullied.



LEFT: Katie (right) and Jasmine De Santiago haven’t personally experienced bullying at C.E. Byrd or Magnolia School of Excellence. But they have felt negative, embarrassed and sad because peers would say indirect gay jokes and discriminatory slurs. PHOTOS BY DOUGLAS COLLIER/ THE TIMES

last summer for Bible study. Both sisters don’t feel completely comfortable exposing their individual sexual orientation to peers and church members.

Katie De Santiago is a senior at C.E. Byrd High School and Jasmine is a student at Magnolia School of Excellence.

“After the Pulse Nightclub (Florida) shooting, a bunch of stuff happened with ISIS and someone in the church said, ‘I hope the gays repented for their sins before they had gotten shot,’” Katie said. “Then the pastor basically compared gays to ISIS. I was disappointed, and it’s not the first time they’ve said something about gays.”

Meredith Nelson, an associate professor of psychology at LSUS, said while most gay teen bullying comes from school peers, other societal factors make students feel alienated including adults, religion and politics. Many LGBT youth have higher rates of substance abuse in addition to suicide attempts, she said.

“Adolescence is a time for identity development and determining who you want to be,” she said. “Students can get very depressed, develop low self-esteem and can feel ostracized as far as peer groups and athletics. Lower self-esteem leads to poor academics and overall performance. Many times it’s hard to find counselors that are helpful to them or mental health professionals in general.”

Tosh Archibald, a Louisiana Tech University freshman and Benton High School graduate, never wanted to come out during high school for safety reasons.

Archibald said coaches would openly promote homophobic language on athletic fields and voiced their disgust when a gay boy wanted to become homecoming king. He decided not to report the incidents for fear of retaliation.

“They think less of you and make it apparent that they won’t help you,” he said. “It makes you feel alone or depressed. If there’s no one to help you, then you’ll eventually spiral down until someone does help.”

Archibald added: “I was never outwardly out. I had to pretend to be someone else, and it felt like I was living in a shell.”

It’s common for adults not to realize how their comments are affecting stu-

dents who are have unique gender expressions and sexual orientations, Nelson said.

“Sometimes the intolerance is coming from adults who kids may be looking up to such as educators or coaches,” Nelson said. “We’re getting better, but I don’t now if our local community is completely open to it.”

Where is the love?

Lowery said he requested a Gay-Straight Alliance club at Parkway to promote awareness and to have a “safe” place for his peers, but finding a sponsor who will follow through is difficult, he said.

Bailes said the district hasn’t told any students they couldn’t have a certain type of club, although the requested club must have a faculty sponsor to hold the organization accountable.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, schools should identify “safe spaces” such as a counselor’s office or designated classrooms or create student-led organizations that are welcoming and supportive.

Giga said Gay-Straight Alliance clubs can contribute to safer and more inclusive schools for LGBT students.

“LGBT students who attended schools with a GSA heard anti-LGBT remarks less frequently than those in schools without a GSA,” she said. “We know that LGBT students in schools with a GSA were less likely to report feeling unsafe because of their sexual orientation or gender expression.”

The Louisiana School for Math, Science, and the Arts GSA was founded 14 years ago as an opportunity for students to come together and share experiences. Andrew Nieman sponsored the club for seven years and said it provides a “home base” where honest communication among peers prospers.

“When topics such as Proposition 8, Don’t Ask Don’t Tell, marriage equality, or transgender bathrooms came up in the public discussion, the GSA was there to help our community tackle these topics so that friends of the LGBT community could talk about the subject without stepping on eggshells,” Nieman said.

See BULLYING, Page 8A

BY THE NUMBERS

42%

of LGBT youth say the community in which they live is not accepting of LGBT people

26%

of LGBT youth say their biggest problems are not being accepted by family, bullying and fear to be out

8

out of 10 LGBT students are harassed at school

2nd

suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people ages 10 to 24

MEET THE EDITOR



On Wednesday, November 10 the Shreveport Times invites you to meet our new editor, Jeff Gauger.

Jeff is a newcomer to Shreveport-Bossier city and is excited to hear your thoughts about The Times and share his vision of how we can serve as a community connector.

The event will take place from 5:30-6:00 at the Robinson Film Center Afterwards, we hope you’ll join us at the Robinson’s Book Lovers Supper Club to discuss the non-fiction history book, “The Guns at Last Light”.

“The Times’ news reports must reflect your passions, including those things that prompt you to celebrate or seethe. Our news crew won’t reflect you well if we don’t listen. And the listening starts with me. So bring it on.”

– Jeff Gauger

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LOCAL & STATE

CADDO PARISH SCHOOL BOARD



A Fair Park community member speaks to board members Tuesday about saving Fair Park High School.

PHOTOS BY SEGANN MARCH/THE TIMES

FAIR PARK COMMUNITY: ‘THIS IS AN ASSASSINATION’

High schools might consolidate if board plan moves forward

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A Fair Park High School student went home crying because she may no longer be a student at Fair Park if a plan by the Caddo Parish School Board comes to fruition.

Tears rolled down her face as she was led out of the Caddo Parish School Board meeting Tuesday night.

The board voted 8-4 to pursue the possibility of consolidating Fair Park High School and Booker T. Washington High School.

The young lady, like many other Fair Park students, supporters and alumni, are devastated.

Parents and alumni are calling the action taken by the school board an “assassination.”

PTSA president, Earnestine Coleman, said the school has been neglected for years.

“Six principals in 10 years, a plot to assassinate,” she emphasized to board members. “Fair Park’s opening date had more than 22 subs in the classroom and not certified, only a few are certified. Another plot to assassinate. Caddo Parish Schools put in new doors before they put books in classrooms. It has been set up for failure by the central office.”

Fair Park High School alumni and



A Fair Park student leaves the Caddo Parish School Board meeting crying after finding out she may no longer be a student at Fair Park in the near future.

students have been pushing to save their nearly 90-year-old high school from being converted to a middle school — a motion board members decided Tuesday to pursue.

While Fair Park has been an “F” school for more than 10 years; Booker T. Washington has recently moved out of failing status to become a “D” school.

Shreveport City Council member Willie Bradford’s initial thoughts indicated this merger could possibly help provide quality education to both schools. However, after more than 10 guests spoke to board members Tuesday night, his stance changed. Bradford told board members he wanted the community to flourish and for their voices to be heard during this matter.

Bradford said if a survey where to be sent out to both schools, the results would indicate that most of the alumni’s children don’t attend either.

“You don’t fight to save a building when a school is a chronic under performing school,” he said. “That’s where I found the hypocrisy in this. We want to save a school because we went there 20 to 30 years ago and we loved the colors, brick and building, but we are not doing anything tangible or meaningful to make sure those schools are achieving.”

Fair Park Alumni Director Cathy Bonds said alumni are absolutely opposed to this motion and have valid reasons. Their biggest concerns are students and faculty, she said.

See PLAN, Page 8A

City effort to end homeless vets lauded

Officials note progress made to get veterans off streets, under roofs

STAFF REPORT

Shreveport was recognized by the several federal agencies for making significant progress toward ending veteran homelessness.

The United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, Department of Housing and Urban Development, and Department of Veterans Affairs recognized the City of Shreveport for its efforts to effectively end homelessness among veterans.

“We are confident that the infrastructure and systems you have built will ensure that any veteran experiencing homelessness in Shreveport will get the support they need to quickly

See VETERANS, Page 8A



USA TODAY NETWORK PHOTO
Shale plays are expected to produce more oil and gas in 2017 and 2018, the EIA said.

Feds: Oil may linger at mid-\$50 range

KEN STICKNEY
USA TODAY NETWORK

Federal forecasts for oil and gas prices may show a mixed bag for Acadiana over the next two years.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration suggests in its January Short-Term Energy Outlook that West Texas Intermediate oil prices will average about \$52 a barrel for 2017, \$55 a barrel in 2018.

Brent crude prices, which reflect North Sea drilling, will average about \$53 and \$56 a barrel for the two years, the EIA said.

Strong global demand and an agreement by OPEC oil producers to restrain production has

See OIL, Page 8A



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Veterans

Continued from Page 3A

obtain a permanent home,” wrote Matthew Doherty, executive director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, in a confirmation letter to Mayor Tyler.

"It is my prayer that all that we accomplish in working to eradicate homelessness for veterans, would be transformational in their lives and allow them to transition into society as productive citizens who enjoy a good quality of life," said Mayor Ollie Tyler. "As citizens, we owe a debt to all of those who offered themselves in service and sacrifice for our country. Shelter is a basic need and the least that we can do for those who have done so much for us."

While the City recognizes that housing instability will continue to be an ongoing issue, the community now has a system to

prevent homelessness among the veteran population, shorten the duration of homelessness when it does occur, and establish sustained housing security for those who were once identified as homeless.

"Every person who has served our nation in uniform deserves a safe, stable place to call home. Communities like Shreveport have shown that ending veteran's homelessness is achievable," said Julián Castro, Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. "I am honored to congratulate Mayor Ollie Tyler and the local and federal partners for proving that we can find housing solutions for the brave men and women who have sacrificed on behalf of our nation."

Through strong partnerships created by the City of Shreveport and Overton Brooks VA Medical Center (OBVAMC), a team was able to lead an effective program to make shelter and housing available to Veterans ex-

periencing homelessness. Healthcare for Homeless Veterans (HCHV) and HOPE Connections were leading partners to make this achievement a reality.

These efforts were coordinated with Volunteers of America of North Louisiana (VOANL), the Elle Foundation, Salvation Army, Bossier Parish Section 8 Housing, and the Veterans Lighthouse, along with various landlords to achieve this historic milestone.

"Our combined efforts over the past several years have led to successfully placing our veterans into housing quickly and permanently. The Overton Brooks staff is truly dedicated and guided by the principle that when veterans have a place to call home, they are best able to benefit from the supportive services they need to stay in their homes long-term," said Toby T. Mathew, Medical Center Director. "There is still much work to be done to ensure that all of our veterans and their families have a place to call home."

Oil

Continued from Page 3A

pushed prices up since November, but actual production increases will push the prices back down, the EIA said. That will "mitigate the potential for significant crude oil price increases."

Economist Loren Scott, LSU professor emeritus, said modest price increases will favor U.S. shale producers in Texas, North Dakota and in the Marcellus Shale in Ohio.

Those producers, he said, have "gotten their break-even point below \$40" a barrel, which means they can make profits in the \$50 to \$60 per barrel range. If prices rise, Scott said, shale producers can ramp up production because there are some 4,000 drilled but uncompleted wells — DUCs — that can be fracked and in production quickly.

"Those can offset the supply cuts that OPEC is talking about," Scott said.

That's good for Texas, not so good for Louisiana, where coastal oil companies are more aligned with offshore drilling. Scott said the break-even point for drilling in the Gulf of Mexico is \$55 to \$60 a barrel; offshore companies need prices in the high \$60 a barrel to low \$70 range to "be

sustainable," he said, to draw investment.

C.R. "Rusty" Cloutier, president and CEO of Mid-South Bank in Lafayette, said he's not discouraged by the forecast of \$55 oil. He said there are many considerations about an energy rebound.

First, he said, never believe the forecasts.

"Three years ago, oil was supposed to go to \$150 barrel," he said. "Never, never, never believe in projections."

Consider, too, he said, that offshore producers don't care about 2018 prices. It takes some five to seven years for offshore projects to come to completion, so producers there "don't care about 2018 prices; they care more about 2021."

Cloutier said \$50-\$60 and gas prices of \$4-\$6 Mcf, or per thousand feet of natural gas, is enough to get some people back to work. There may be more consolidation in the energy industry, but he said plenty of Acadiana oil and gas service companies are willing to travel to find work.

"We need offshore," Cloutier said of south Louisiana's energy industry. "But you don't drill a well without a Cajun onboard."

Cloutier said Friday he was "meeting with folks from the Marcellus and Utica shales." South Texas, too, is "opening up" again

as rig counts suggest.

That activity is consistent with the EIA report, that says oil's rise above \$50 has sparked more investment in U.S. production, especially in the Permian Basin in Texas.

Variables abound in the industry, though. For example, Cloutier said the Trump administration believes in a robust energy industry and may favor relaxing rules placed in effect by the Obama administration. What will the Russians do? How cold might the winter be? Those things affect prices.

Scott said specifically the new well-control rule for offshore drilling imposed by the federal Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement is burdensome to producers, a regulation that may change under Trump. "There has been a confluence of not-so-good things."

Cloutier said he's seen some projections for oil to reach \$65 a barrel, prices that would be more favorable to offshore drilling.

Scott, though, noted that his own forecasts for 2017-18, revealed in Lafayette last October, show another year of decline with the economy "flattening out" in 2018. That forecast suggested as many as 5,000 more lost jobs in the Lafayette Metropolitan Statistical Area this year.

consider the Rainy Day one-time funds, but I absolutely do. It's not recurring. And we're facing \$400 million more cuts next year. If we use the Rainy Day now, we won't have it then."

McFarland said he believes most of the agencies have already prepared for the coming cuts if they followed Edwards' and Dardenne's instructions to save 5 percent of their budgeted funding in case of a midyear deficit.

But Dardenne said much of that money was used to make take care of last year's deficit in which the state was in arrears.

House Speaker Taylor Barras, R-New Iberia, a member of the Revenue Estimating Conference panel, hinted members might be reluctant following Friday's meeting, saying that neither using the Rainy Day fund nor call-

ing a special session was inevitable as Dardenne suggested.

Members can't stop Edwards from calling a special session, but they can reject tapping the Rainy Day Fund.

"During the past 14 years the state budget has grown at an average annual rate of 3.9 percent while (inflation) has averaged 2.1 percent," Harris said. "We're outgrown the private sector economy two to one. How do we correct that?"

"Every year the revenue projection is wrong and we're spending more money than we're taking into the treasury. A lot of members are exploring the idea of making the hard decisions now."

Greg Hilburn covers state politics for the USA TODAY Network of Louisiana. Follow him on Twitter @GregHilburn1

Plan

Continued from Page 3A

"This is ridiculous and no reason for such a thing," she said. "Last year during the Recovery School District agreement extension (with Caddo Schools), it said it could be extended. All (Superintendent Lamar) Goree has to do is ask Superintendent John White for an extension. Our scores are coming up, moving from a 33 and 41 to 48. The principal assures me that we are going to be a "D" school when this school year is over."

Fair Park junior, Marlon Blackshire, said his school gets a lot of praise for the academic scores coming up, but the board is now telling them it's not good enough.

"We want that quality education because most of us come from disadvantaged households — this is all we know. We just want to have the same chances as those students at (Captain) Shreve and (C.E. Byrd) High School, and get the same education and textbooks," Blackshire said. "They get new calculators and we get their old ones."

District 10 board

member, Larry Ramsey, who made the suggestion to merge the schools, said Booker T. Washington has all the resources for a growing high school including a football field and a new gym.

Bonds says Fair Park has its own stadium and an identical gym to C.E. Byrd High School.

"We've got our own and they're as good as any other," she said. "Furthermore, you've got 735 high school students here at Fair Park and we are a 9-12 school. At BTW, I understand they have 300 to 350 students. You already have a settled population there because they are a 7-12 school. If you were going to make a move like, why wouldn't you leave those middle school students settled right there and move the 300 high schools students to Fair Park?" It makes no (sense to) disrupt all of their middle schoolers and all of our high school students."

Though the Louisiana Recovery School District still has the option to reject the board's approved proposal, take over the school, close the school, convert it to a charter or keep it as is, taxpayers and close-knit communities are upset. Community member

and activist, Craig Lee, said neither of the schools needs to be shut down. He proposed to the board that Caddo Magnet High School be shut down and its students be moved to either Fair Park or Booker T. Washington.

He asked board members why the community wasn't contacted about the merger.

"Let's stop this foolishness of black folk pitting against each other," he said. "There are some things going on because this has been going on for 15 years. What is the criteria for making the school close? Have you all thought about the security measures since you got gang wars or do you want black males to keep on killing each other? Which would contribute more to the school or to prison pipeline?"

Many speakers indicated they would not stop fighting and would pursue legal action.

"We are concerned about what we've seen occur at Fair Park High School over the years, in terms of the way it was treated," said graduate Chester Kelley. "Those are young people, they are first class and deserve the same first class treatment as the people on the other side of town."

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ABOVE: Grambling State University in Louisiana. BELOW: Kelly Stevens, left, and Kinzara Sam talk outside the student center at Grambling State University in Louisiana.

BLACK COLLEGES MAKING AN ENROLLMENT COMEBACK

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After years of decline, brought on by tougher admission standards and stringent requirements for student loans, enrollment at most Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) in Louisiana, has risen modestly.

MORE INSIDE

Applications open for Grambling president, **Page 3A**



Damon Wade

2015, according to data reported by the Louisiana Board of Regents. And overall enrollment within the Southern University System increased by 628 students for that same year.

See HBCUs, **Page 7A**



FILE PHOTOS BY HENRIETTA WILDSMITH/THE TIMES

Summer Fun
25 different ways to beat the heat **PAGE 1C**



SENATE CANDIDATE FORUM

Internet sales tax proposal gets no love

GOP candidates' policy positions don't vary much

MELINDA DESLATTE
ASSOCIATED PRESS

BATON ROUGE - Three of the main Republican contenders for Louisiana's U.S. Senate seat said Wednesday they oppose proposed federal legislation to require companies to collect sales taxes on Internet purchases.

U.S. Rep. Charles Boustany, U.S. Rep. John Fleming and state Treasurer John Kennedy participated in a candidate forum hosted by small business groups.

Supporters of the online sales tax collection proposal describe it as an issue of fairness that involves treating online retailers the same as brick-and-mortar stores.

Boustany said he had problems with the current proposal but left open the door for considering future ideas. Fleming said that although he wants to see a "fairer playing field," he didn't think a tax increase was the right response.

Kennedy was the most direct in his opposition: "Here's what I think the United States Congress should do with the Internet: Leave it alone."

Eleven candidates have filed federal paperwork to run in the Nov. 8 election for the Senate seat being vacated by Republican David Vitter. Only four reached the polling requirement set by the organizers of Wednesday's event. Public Service Commissioner Foster Campbell, a Democrat, didn't attend, citing a scheduling conflict.

See SENATE, **Page 8A**

Ivan Smith
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BLOTTER

Police investigate death of infant

Shreveport police are investigating the death of a two-month-old at Glen Leaf Mobile Home Community in Shreveport.

Police – along with paramedics – responded to the report of a two-month-old who stopped breathing at 5 a.m. Wednesday at a mobile home in the 7400 block of Glen Leaf Road.

The child was taken to an area hospital, but died. Police are investigating this incident.

Bullet grazes woman’s leg at residence

Police responded to the report of a shooting early Wednesday morning at a residence in the 400 block of E. 80th Street in Shreveport.

Police say a woman told them she was at home when she heard several gunshots. One of

the bullets grazed her leg.

The woman was not transported to a hospital for care to the non-life-threatening injury.

Man shot in leg during argument

A man was shot in the leg by another man at 2:47 a.m. Wednesday in the 6600 block of Burke Street in Shreveport.

A man told police he was involved in a verbal altercation with another man when he was shot in the leg. His injury was not life threatening.

The alleged shooter then fled the scene south-bound on Burke Street.

The suspect is described as a black male, approximately 6-feet tall and weighing approximately 120 pounds.

An investigation into this incident is ongoing.

Police investigate armed robbery

A woman told police

she was robbed at gun-point by a man who gained her confidence following their interaction at an apartment complex in the 6800 block of Rasberry Lane.

Police say they responded to the report of the robbery at 9:50 p.m. Tuesday. A woman told police she was visiting residents at the apartment complex when a man approached her and convinced her they knew one another. The man told the woman he knew someone in the apartment complex who sold cheap electronic games and tablets, and the woman left to get money to buy one of the devices.

When the woman returned with cash, the man pulled out a gun and demanded her money. The man then fled south-bound on Rasberry Lane in a 4-door, dark-colored vehicle. The woman was not injured during the robbery.

The man is described as a black male with a

light complexion. The woman said he was clean cut, with no facial hair. She said he was 6-foot-linch man and wore tan pants and a tank-top T-shirt.

Police are investigating this incident.

Shreveport woman stabbed Tuesday

Police are investigating the report of a woman who was stabbed just after 11 p.m. Tuesday night in the 300 block of W. 74th Street.

A woman told police she was arguing with a man when she felt a pinch in her side. She was cut and stabbed on the forearm, hand and head. Her injuries were not life-threatening.

The man is described as a 6-foot tall black male with a dark complexion, and weighing approximately 150 pounds. The woman said he also had braids.

An investigation into this incident is ongoing.

Woman stabs man during argument

A woman was arrested for aggravated battery following a violent altercation with her live-in boyfriend just before 8 p.m. Tuesday.

Police responded to the report of a man who was stabbed twice at his residence in the 1900 block of Nicholson in Shreveport.

According to police reports, the man was arguing with his girlfriend while the two were highly intoxicated. The woman then stabbed the man in the left lower arm and the left lower leg. He sustained non-life-threatening lacerations.

Showanda Yvette Loyd, 46, was booked into Shreveport City Jail for aggravated battery. Her bond is pending.

Wal-Mart employee accused of theft

A Blanchard Wal-Mart



Shtonya Webb

employee was arrested Saturday for stealing gift cards valued at \$9,000, according to information from Caddo Parish Sheriff Steve Prator.

Shtonya Webb, 36, of 2020 North Hearne in Shreveport, was booked into the Caddo Correctional Center for felony theft on June 25.

Sheriff’s Detective Casey Jones investigated the case and made the arrest after being notified that Webb, a cashier at the store, was accused of loading Wal-Mart gift cards without payment on 12 separate occasions.

MILES OLIVER

Breaking News/
Pubic Safety
Reporter
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HBCUs

Continued from Page 1A

Higher education experts say the increase could be due in part to a rise in the number of non-black students attending HBCUs, as well as recent racial conflicts at predominantly white institutions.

But for some black colleges and universities, the enrollment trend is still down.

Dillard University’s enrollment has fluctuated over the past four years with enrollment dipping by 15 students last fall.

Southern University Law Center has experienced a recurring decline in enrollment since 2013. Last fall, enrollment was down by 15 students.

The number of non-traditional black students is growing at campuses because of lower tuition, higher academic programs and more students wanting to attend a safer college environment, said Marybeth Gasman, a higher education professor at the University of Pennsylvania and director of the Penn Center for Minority Serving Institutions.

“We’re seeing an influx of Latino students and also Asian students at HBCUs, but that’s happening at all kinds of institutions,” Gasman said. “For a long time it wasn’t happening at HBCUs, and just in the past five years, it’s been happening a lot more. A lot of schools will see more white students if they have an MBA program, law school or programs that aren’t at other institutions, but there’s still some prejudice and racism that stops white students from going to HBCUs.”

Gasman also attributes negative media coverage on predominantly white institutions to sparking an increase in attendance.

“I think that all the national protests and shooting of black men and women has played a part,” she said. “I have interviewed quite a few students who have told me that HBCUs are a safe place, a sanctuary.”

Grambling State University projects an enrollment of 4,800 students



Skyy Miller, incoming freshman, listens to Grambling’s Associate Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Danny Hubbard, explain academic programs.

this upcoming school year, up by 247 students from last year. Though an increase, it would be well below 2011 fall enrollment.

“Overall the numbers at HBCUs are up, depending on the institution,” Gasman said.

Wade said GSU has recruited international students over the last decade.

“About 10 years ago, we had different pipelines in the Caribbean,” he said. “It’s maintained steady growth and in some of the other ethnic categories — we’re trying. This would be a very comfortable environment for students other than our traditional African American student.”

Dillard University President Walter Kimbrough said all HBCUs should see an increase this upcoming school year because of the negative media surrounding race relations at predominately white institutions.

Though enrollment at Dillard has been down for several years, the liberal arts institution projects a fall 2016 enrollment of 1,300 students — which would be an increase of 115 students.

“I expect to see an increase in HBCU enrollment throughout the nation,” he said. “People are looking at HBCUs differently now. Do I want to go to school at a place where

I might be in a hostile environment? University of Missouri had a national story about race relations.

“It’s going to be harder for places to diversify their student body because of the negative things that have happened, and HBCUs have benefited from that.”

The lower cost of attending an HBCU has also sparked an interest, Gasman said.

“Another reason is low tuition, there has been a lot of national attention about tuition costs and HBCUs boast tuition that is 50 percent less than majority institutions,” she said.

Southern University System officials said targeted recruitment campaigns, an innovative alumni enrollment initiative and creative recruitment strategies have helped boost enrollment at all SU campuses.

SUSLA Connect, a program created by the SU system in 2013, allows students who are unable to meet admission requirements at the Baton Rouge or New Orleans campus to be admitted to Southern University Shreveport.

“Nearly 90 percent of students who don’t meet the SU Baton Rouge or SU New Orleans admissions standards are invited to participate in the program,” said SU System spokesman Henry Tillman.

How we got here

Within the last few years, historically black colleges and universities in Louisiana experienced a decline or fluctuating numbers when it came to student enrollment each fall.

Professors and chancellors say the enrollment decline stemmed from the lack of available funding and resources, limited access to Parent Plus loans and more students wanting to diversify their education.

“With the push for integration of historically white institutions during the Civil Rights Movement, enrollment dropped at HBCUs and their role of educating the near entirety of the black middle class shifted,” Gasman’s “The Changing Face of Historically Black Colleges and Universities” 2013 report stated.

In 1950, black students made up 100 percent of the enrollment at HBCUs.

By 1980, that number dropped to 80 percent as more Hispanic, Asian, and Caucasian students began attending HBCUs, which were specifically created to educate black citizens decades after the Civil War, according to Gasman’s report.

Kimbrough said enrollment numbers for HBCUs declined when the U.S. Department of Education changed the borrowing

rules and credit standards associated with Parent Plus Loans for undergraduate students in 2011.

Before the changes were implemented, Kimbrough said parents were able to obtain a Parent Plus loan if they didn’t have a bad credit history involving more than 90-day delinquencies, foreclosures and bankruptcies.

In 2011, charge-off accounts, or accounts in collections that weren’t being repaid within five years, hindered many families from being approved.

In 2012-13, enrollment numbers for black students decreased more than other race because of the Parent Plus Loan situation, according to a report issued by the National Center for Education Evaluation and Regional Assistance.

In Louisiana, that translated to an enrollment drop of 124 students at Dillard University.

“A lot of students were able to get parent plus loans and then all of sudden they weren’t,” Kimbrough said. “It wasn’t just HBCUs; it impacted any sector that has a significant portion of low-income students.”

The Parent Plus loan situation also caused problems for Xavier University, a private HBCU in New Orleans.

Richard Tucker, director of communications and media relations, said the institution lost more than 200 students after the rules changed.

In 2011, the university enrolled 3,399 students and in fall 2012, only 3,178 students enrolled.

“It caused similar problems at colleges across the nation,” he said. “The U.S. Department of Education has since reinstated the previous rules, but damage was done.”

Is there value in an HBCU education

HBCUs were created to educate black students, especially when Jim Crow laws and segregation took a toll on the black community.

Xavier University became a four-year college in 1925. It still holds the recognition as the only historically black Catholic university in the U.S.

In 1901, Grambling State University was founded. Cheyney University in Pennsylvania was founded in 1837 as the Institute for Colored Youth and is known as the earliest founding date of any HBCU, according to African American Registry.

Higher education professors and chancellors say black college and universities, both private and public, are vital to the success of all students and needed to ensure historical values are up-kept.

Incoming GSU freshman Sarah Walker always knew she wanted to attend an HBCU.

“Grambling State University was one of the first HBCUs to reach out to me,” said the Ohio resident. “I’m the only one out of my graduation class that went to an HBCU. I don’t think a lot of them wanted to leave home yet and I really wanted a new experience.”

Some students saw more value in attending non-HBCUs.

Parkway High School graduate and incoming LSU freshman, Andrianna Williams, said she wants to have a diverse college experience and have more minority privileges, such as scholarships.

“In this day and age, college is expensive and with the TOPS program on the line, I can’t afford it,” she said. “The only offers I had for HBCU schools were lower in education standards than LSU, which is crucial for me since I’m going for pre-med.”

In order to retain students and continue increasing enrollment numbers, HBCUs need to make sure students understand the value of attending, Gasman said.

“You need to communicate why the institution is a good place for an African American and what it can offer,” she said. “Majority institutions are constantly talking about the outcomes and why it’s a special place. You can’t just assume because someone is black that they’re going to come to an HBCU.”

LOCAL & STATE

Caddo sends 10 deputies to Baton Rouge

MILES JAY OLIVER
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Ten deputies from the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office were dispatched Thursday to Baton Rouge.

The deputies are all members of the Louisiana Sheriff's Association Task Force, which provides mutual aid across the state in the event of emergencies. The task force requested the deputies — all part of CPSO's patrol division — to assist the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's office with patrol duties through Monday, though they may stay longer if needed.

The effort of CPSO deputies down south will supplement deputies from East Baton Rouge Parish, who have been working around-the-clock following multiple protests, as well as the line-of-duty deaths of two Baton Rouge police officers and a deputy from East Baton Rouge Parish.

Cpl. Mark McLaughlin has been with CPSO for 16 years and has been on the task force for the last three years.

"We're waiting to see what we're going to do down there for them — we'll help out however we can," McLaughlin said. He previously assisted the New Rhodes Police Department and also helped out during Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

McLaughlin said the task force usually helps out during major disasters — such as tornadoes and hurricanes — but also assists in situations such the one taking place in the Baton Rouge area, when police departments require additional manpower to deal with crowds and unpredictability.

After leaving Caddo Parish Thursday afternoon, the deputies were scheduled to be sworn in by East Baton Rouge Sheriff Sid Gautreaux before beginning their first shift Thursday night. CPSO's members of the task force will ride with deputies from East Baton Rouge in two-man units and answer calls for service from citizens.

Sgt. Pamela Purgerson has been with CPSO for 18 years and

See **DEPUTIES**, Page 9A



PHOTOS BY HENRIETTA WILDSMITH/THE TIMES

Rev. David Hoey, chairman of the Children and Youth Planning Board, talks during a discussion of local law enforcement, religious leaders, and city leaders to address community policing and the relationship between minorities and police.

RACIAL TENSIONS, FEAR MANIFEST IN SHREVEPORT

Leaders talk about community policing

SEGANN MARCH
SEGANN.MARCH@SHREVEPORTTIMES.COM

Caddo Parish Children and Youth Planning Board chairman David Hoey said concerns over racial relations have caused him to change his driving habits.

Hoey's group met with area pastors and law enforcement Thursday to discuss improving the relationship between minorities and police, increasing confidence in law enforcement among the area's youth and discussing ways that the community can assist with policing.

"One of the reasons that I don't drive my Mercedes anymore is because I got pulled over for no reason," Hoey said. "I was scared and my daughters were saying 'daddy, please don't say anything, don't say anything. To this day, I still don't know why I was



Local law enforcement, religious leaders and city leaders came together to address community policing Thursday afternoon.

pulled over."

Hoey added, "It's continuing to infest and I'm praying to God we can figure something out."

Father Rothell Price from the Diocese of Shreveport said it's alarming when people of any race are stopped by police and fear for their lives, especially minorities. This isn't only a nationwide problem, but is happening right here in Shreveport and Louisiana, he said.

"Everybody acknowledges there is a problem," he said. "I just think everybody is looking at this problem from different vantage points and so it's important to bring all of those people together and say 'here is what I see.' The biggest thing that holds us back from solving the problem is our fear of having the conversation that we dread. The conversation that is dreaded is race relations."

During Thursday's meet-

ing, various leaders discussed ideas and reflected on their negative encounters with police. The board's priority is protecting children, families and communities.

Shonda Houston-Dotie, director of Youth Program for Volunteers for Youth Justice, said she took a group down to Baton Rouge for a college tour around the same time the Dallas police shootings occurred. She told a student about the Dallas events and the girl responded, "Well, that's good for them."

"That's the kind of attitude our young people have," she said. "I had to say to her 'those are families and they're not going to see their loved ones come home.'"

Houston-Dotie added, "This goes back to educating our young people. How do we let our young people know that police do have a place?"

Lt. Samuel Hall of the Caddo Parish Sheriff's Office had a

See **MEETING**, Page 9A

Safely dispose of prescription drugs to potentially save lives



GARY L. CALLIGAS

This morning I decided to look through my many expired, unneeded and unused prescription medications at home. First, I pondered how to dispose of them properly. I thought that I should have done this long ago as

these drugs in the wrong hands of my little granddaughters could cause them serious inquiry or even death. I also noticed that there were no instructions on the prescription bottle labels on the proper way to dispose of drugs, but I could ask my doctor or my pharmacist. However, I decided to research this very important task myself to share with others.

Half of all Americans use at least one prescription drug, while over 10 percent of the population uses five or more. Therefore, there is a large overabundance of drugs prescribed and filled, and used by individuals; however, some drugs become unneeded or not used and left in the home or office with little supervision on their access.

Why does safe drug disposal matter? Accidental drug overdose is one of the most common sources of household injury.

Children younger than 5 years old are especially at risk for unintentional exposure to prescription drugs and even over-the-counter medications. Poisoning deaths from unintentional young children has doubled since 2000.

See **CALLIGAS**, Page 4A

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Meeting

Continued from Page 3A

different point of view. He said patrol officers anticipate the worst every day and are on guard constantly to protect their lives and citizens.

“What happens in California within seconds is affecting what goes on here and what happens in New York City affects us

immediately. It's a nationwide problem. When we show up, we're there to help you,” he said.

While community and faith-based leaders expressed their concerns, they also suggested ideas to expand the conversation and to promote growth within the community and in neighborhoods.

Rev. at First Presbyterian Shreveport Chris Currie said the goal to move forward should not

only consist of prevention, but also long-term proactive community partnerships across demographics. Cultural understanding is vital to closing the racial and disparity gaps, he said.

“We need to hear and understand concerns from all members of our

community, and we need to talk to each other,” he said. “We are at a point where we cannot bury our heads in the sand around issues that are happening that we are now seeing symptoms of.”

Bishop L. Lawrence Brandon suggested citizens, law enforcement

and community leaders need sensitivity training.

“We can't just blame one group,” he said. “We can't blame all law enforcement on a few bad apples and can't blame a few bad apples on entire communities. We really have to think about what

we're saying and how it will be perceived — that would be most helpful. The country is being exposed.”

Price said continuing conversations like Thursday's will help to improve safety for both police officers and citizens.

Deputies

Continued from Page 3A

served on the task force for the past eight years. She previously assisted with Hurricane Ike and considers her dispatch to Baton Rouge part of her duty as a member of law enforcement.

“I think you have to be a little bit nervous, but I think nerves are sometimes what keeps you focused,” Purgerson said when asked if she has any concerns about the trip. “But I'm going with a great group of guys.”

Cpl. Scott Miller is another of the 10 deputies who prepared to travel to Baton Rouge Thursday afternoon.

“It's just part of the job — I feel great about it,” said Miller, who has been with CPSO for 28 years and on the task force for the past four years.

Miller has previously assisted during events where crowds typically grow to large sizes, including a crawfish festival in Breaux Bridge.

The deputies will be staying in the Louisiana State Police barracks, which typically supports 60 to 80 people.

Caddo Sheriff Steve

Prator called the team “well-trained” and “well-disciplined,” noting that the 10 deputies are the first team activated by the Louisiana Task Force. However, this is the second time deputies have been called from Caddo Parish to assist Baton Rouge.

Two weeks ago, aid was sent to assist with protest and the city's unrest. CPSO spokesperson Cindy Chadwick said that group consisted of members specially trained in dealing with civil unrest, but they were not members of the actual task force.

On Tuesday, 10 deputies from the Bossier Parish Sheriff's Office also were sent to assist law enforcement in the Baton Rouge area, but Prator said they were not part of the task force.

Chadwick said CPSO contacted LSP over the weekend to let them know of officer availability. Everyone was subsequently put on notice and got the word that they would be dispatching early Thursday afternoon.

“It's been a long few weeks for our Baton Rouge counterparts,” said Prator. “They are our brothers and sisters in law enforcement, and we're ready to do our part to help out.”

Lucien H. Marioneaux

SHREVEPORT, LA - Services celebrating the life of Lucien H. Marioneaux, 67, will be held at 11:00 a.m. Friday, July 22, 2016 at Rose-Neath Southside Chapel. A private burial will follow. Officiating will be family friend Jeff Warren. Visitation with the family will be held from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. on Thursday, July 21, 2016 at Rose-Neath Southside Chapel.

Lucien was born on June 24, 1949 in Shreveport to Harry Brewster Marioneaux, Sr. and Lela Mae Johnson and passed away on July 19, 2016 in Stone-

wall, LA. He was an avid outdoorsman who loved raising and catching fish, hunting, feeding his deer and enjoying being outside. He had a lifelong career in the oil and gas industry from which he retired, and was the founder of Oilpatch Supply and Service, Inc.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother Harry B. Marioneaux, Jr. Lucien is survived by his son, Lucien Marioneaux, Jr.

Honoring Lucien as pallbearers will be Roosevelt King, Ray Moore, Sr., Dustin Ruso, Woody Schick, Dusty Wadsworth, and Donald Wise.

In lieu of flowers the family suggests memorials may be made to Ninna's Road to Rescue, Benton, LA (www.roadtorescue.org) or any animal rescue of the donor's choice.

Rose-Neath Funeral Home
Southside Chapel 318-687-1256



Margaret Pilkinton Snyder

ELM GROVE, LA – Funeral services for Margaret Pilkinton Snyder, 90, will be held Friday, July 22, 2016 at 3 p.m. at Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Bossier City. Officiating will be Rev. H.B. Fuller, Pastor Emeritus of Memorial Baptist Chapel. Interment will follow at Pilkinton Cemetery near Benton, LA. Visitation will be at 2 p.m. on Friday until time of service.

Mrs. Snyder passed away July 19, 2016, at her home in Elm Grove, LA. She was born September 7, 1925 in Elm Grove, LA,

attended Elm Grove School, then graduated with a B.S. from the State Normal College, which is now Northwestern State University. She was the treasurer, the organist, and a Sunday School teacher at Memorial Baptist Church, where she was a charter member. Previously, she was a member of Elm Grove Baptist Church for many years. Mrs. Snyder also ran the business side of the family farm when she was not in the kitchen preparing delicious food, which was enjoyed by many who stopped by to visit. Their farm “Whitehouse Plantation”, was named for Mrs. Snyder's family home. Her husband, Blackshear Hamilton Snyder, Sr., surprised her by buying the small white house and surrounding acreage for an anniversary gift. Then he had their dream home built on the property, where they lived the rest of their lives.

Mrs. Snyder is preceded in death by her parents, James Ellison and Ruey Mae Merritt Pilkinton; her brothers, James R. Pilkinton, Harvey Pilkinton, Roy L. Pilkinton, David Pilkinton; her sister, Mildred Pilkinton, and her husband, Blackshear H. Snyder, Sr.

She is survived by her son, Blackshear H. Snyder, Jr. and wife, Cindy; her daughter, Linda Snyder; grandchildren, Courtney B. Gaston, William Caleb Gaston, Jared Hinson, Blackshear H. Snyder III, Madison Snyder Thomas and husband, Cole; great-grandchildren, Rory Norton, Easton Snyder, Grant Thomas; nieces and nephews, Charles “Roddy” Pilkinton, Becky Pilkinton, Lynda P. Buck, Susan P. Lloyd, Amy Lou Pilkinton, Lisa P. Gable, Campbell Snyder, Guion S. Pitts, S. Bowie Snyder, and a host of family and friends.

Honoring Mrs. Snyder as pallbearers will be, William Cox, Matthew Gable, Kenny Loftin, Richard McMullen, Jim Mercer, Roddy Pilkinton, Tommy Pilkinton, and Arthur Seale. Serving as honorary pallbearers will be, Charles Buck, Scott Dickson, Rick Gable, and Mike Graham.

The family would like to give thanks to Johanna “Little Margaret” Loftin, her caretakers, Tangela Tolbert, Jessica Tolbert and LaWanda Chisum, and the kind and compassionate workers at Trinity Home Health and St. Joseph Hospice.

The family suggest memorials may be made to Memorial Baptist Chapel, 308 McDade Rd, Elm Grove, LA 71051, St. Joseph Hospice, 668 Jordan St, Shreveport, LA 71101 or the charity of your choice.

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DEATH notices				FIND ALL OF THESE ONLINE AT shreveporttimes.com/obituaries			
NAME	AGE	DEATH	RESIDENCE	FUNERAL HOME	SERVICE TIME	SERVICE LOCATION	INTERMENT
Eunice Miller Arinder	72	7/22/2016	Minden, LA	Rose-Neath Minden	7/23/2016 10:00 AM	Rose-Neath Minden Chapel	Brushwood Cemetery, Dubberly LA
Melissa Baylor	92	7/15/2016	Shreveport, LA	Heavenly Gates Funeral Home	7/23/2016 11:00 AM	From Bondage to Freedom Church	Union Forbing Cemetery
James “Shot” Byrd	53	7/21/2016	Bryceland, LA	Rose-Neath Arcadia	7/23/2016 2:00 PM	Rose-Neath Arcadia Chapel	Bear Creek, LA
Genevieve Capps Carver	90	7/20/2016	Collinsville, OK	Hill Crest Memorial Funeral Home	7/23/2016 11:00 AM	Hill Crest Memorial Chapel	Forest Park East Cemetery
Marvin L. Coleman	83	7/20/2016	Heflin, LA	Rockett Funeral Home	7/23/2016 11:00 AM	Bistineau Baptist Church, Heflin	Bistineau Cemetery, Heflin LA
Dorothy Evans	60	7/19/2016	Shreveport, LA	Heavenly Gates Funeral Home	7/23/2016 10:00 AM	Light of the World Church, Shreveport	Clayton Gardens Rest Cemetery, Ferriday
Sharon D. Henry	53	7/18/2016	Shreveport, LA	Good Samaritan Funeral Home	7/23/2016 1:00 PM	Good Samaritan Chapel	Lincoln Memorial Cemetery
Tommy Jones, Jr.	69	7/23/2016	Shreveport, LA	Heavenly Gates	7/23/2016 11:00 AM	New Testament Pentacostal Church	Round Grove Cemetery
Myrtle Virginia Smith	72	7/12/2016	Center, TX	Mangum Funeral Home	7/23/2016 4:00 PM	Mangum Funeral Home Chapel	Short Cemetery, Center TX
Dawn Patricia Solomon	63	7/16/2016	Bossier City, LA	Winnfield Funeral Home	7/23/2016 11:00 AM	Winnfield Funeral Home Chapel	Carver Memorial Cemetery
Mary Lee Wilson	86	7/13/2016	Shreveport, LA	Good Samaritan Funeral Home	7/23/2016 11:00 AM	Good Samaritan Chapel	Lincoln Memorial Cemetery
CW3 (Ret) William Wilson	68	7/16/2016	Minden, LA	Rose-Neath Minden	7/23/2016 11:00 AM	Beech Springs Baptist Church, Minden	Gardens of Memory Cemetery