



INSIDE
Police
make
arrests
Page 6



YOUR FORECAST
Partly cloudy skies
High today of 76.
Lows in the 40s tonight.
Chance of rain 10 percent.
Clear skies this evening.

SPORTS
Lady Cougars
reach
semifinals
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Ruston Daily Leader

Friday/Saturday, April 27-28, 2018 Follow us: and www.rustonleader.com 75¢



Calhoun man injured in accident

A 25-year-old Calhoun man was airlifted to LSU Shreveport Health Science Center following a two-car accident that happened a little before 6 p.m. Thursday. The Ruston Police Department responded to a call of the accident that occurred on East Georgia Avenue and found that the driver of a Honda Civic, Wesley Peters, was traveling west on Highway 80 when he ran a red light attempting to turn west on East Georgia Avenue. A Chevy Silverado traveling east on East Georgia then struck Peters. Peters remains hospitalized this morning battling life-threatening injuries.

Submitted photo

Greenway marks milestone



Lincoln Health Foundation Chief Executive Officer Norman Hanes, far right, talks about the foundation's support of Ruston's Rock Island Greenway project during Thursday's official announcement of a \$1 million LHF grant for project. Looking on from left are Michael Tipton, president of the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation; Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce President Judy Copeland; and Ruston Mayor Ronny Walker.

Leader photo by NANCY BERGERON

Board of Regents chair visits GSU

By Derek J. Amaya
derek@rustonleader.com

Louisiana higher education institutes will continue to suffer from budget woes for several more years. But with the help of administrators and faculty, Louisiana will continue to elevate. That was the word Thursday from Robert Levy, chair of the Louisiana Board of Regents, during the Grambling State University's Faculty Appreciation Luncheon Thursday.

"Most in the room will never see us come back to the levels we used to be," Levy said. "The funding chal-

lenge is extraordinary in Baton Rouge."

The former 3rd District Attorney spoke for under an hour on a wide range of topics including the state's budget issues, what the Board of Regents future plans are and how education is suffering in the state.

Levy said Gov. John Bel Edwards has fought "tooth and nail" for education while the state Congress has done the opposite by putting "politics" over "merit." "We need to stay com-



Levy

petitive," said Levy adding that Louisiana suffers when citizens do not receive proper education.

"If we have no one with degrees, companies won't come here. This is a social and economic issue." Levy said while there are a number of roles the Board of Regents play in state higher education, he stressed the importance of delivering access to higher education to Louisiana citizens.

Following access to education, success is

the second most important factor for higher education.

"And your faculty does what they need to do," Levy said.

Levy also spoke about the Board of Regents Elevate Louisiana Initiative that's goals are to "educate and innovate" Louisiana citizens. Several years ago, the Board of Regents set a plan to elevate Louisiana's workforce, but as times have changed the Board of Regents must consider adjusting the plan accordingly.

"It's just the fiscal realities," Levy said.

See LEVY, page 5

Health foundation grant to aid accessibility

By Nancy Bergeron
nancy@rustonleader.com

Ruston's Rock Island Greenway project marked another step forward Thursday with the official announcement of a \$1 million Lincoln Health Foundation grant that will help fund a network of sidewalks and bike lanes connecting to the greenway. "It's allowing access to health care services. It's allowing access to the programs we provide in (the south) part of town. It gets at this whole wellness idea," Lincoln Health Foundation CEO Norman Hanes said about the project that's taking the old Rock Island Railroad bed and turning into an active transportation path through Ruston. Thursday's ceremony was held along the segment

of the greenway that when complete, will connect California Avenue through to the southern city limits at Tennessee Avenue. In order to get to the site, participants walked the first 1,300 feet of sidewalk that joins Vaughn Avenue to the greenway.

Hanes said what made the connector initiative so attractive to the foundation is that it incorporates all of the foundation's goals regarding healthy living and access to health care.

The greenway project includes building sidewalks and bike lanes from adjacent neighborhoods to the main greenway. For south Ruston residents, that means easier pedestrian access to doctors' offices, churches, schools and other services.

See GRANT, page 5

NO MORE

\$80,000
\$65,000
\$50,000
\$45,000
\$40,000
\$35,000
\$30,000
\$25,000
\$20,000
\$15,000
\$10,000
\$5,000

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Submitted photo

Adley Stump rocks Dixie

Adley Stump, Grammy Amplifier artist winner and former competitor on "The Voice," sings during the "Be a voice for Children's Miracle Network Hospitals" benefit concert for CMN Thursday at the Dixie Center for the Arts. Anna Blake, Miss Union Parish 2018, hosted the concert.

Local elections to be held Saturday

Staff Report
newsroom@rustonleader.com

Three tax/millage elections are set for the area on Saturday with polls open between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. Choudrant and Dubach voters will take to the polls on April 28 to decide whether or not to renew two millages that generate approximately \$260,550 combined over a 10-year period.

The Dubach School District No. 5 maintenance and operation millage will expire in later this year and the Choudrant School District No. 6 maintenance and operation millage is set to expire in 2019.

The election will look to renew the property taxes that generate approximately \$137,300 and \$123,250, respectively, over a 10-year period. The funds raised from the millages are used for maintaining the schools located inside the school district.

See SIMSBORO, page 5



David Smith
Business Development Officer
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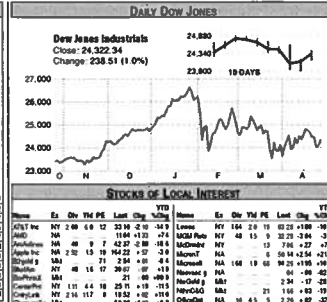
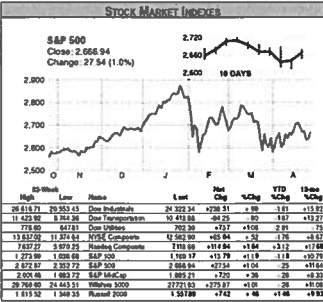
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THE MARKET IN REVIEW



MUTUAL FUNDS

Name	Total Assets (\$Bil)	Net Assets (\$Bil)	Total Return (YTD)	12-Month Return	5-Year Return
Fidelity Divd Growth	120.26	119.14	+13.8%	+13.8%	NA
Fidelity Divd Growth	118.78	117.66	+13.6%	+13.6%	NA
Fidelity Divd Growth	120.26	119.14	+13.8%	+13.8%	NA
Fidelity Divd Growth	120.26	119.14	+13.8%	+13.8%	NA
Fidelity Divd Growth	120.26	119.14	+13.8%	+13.8%	NA
Fidelity Divd Growth	120.26	119.14	+13.8%	+13.8%	NA
Fidelity Divd Growth	120.26	119.14	+13.8%	+13.8%	NA
Fidelity Divd Growth	120.26	119.14	+13.8%	+13.8%	NA
Fidelity Divd Growth	120.26	119.14	+13.8%	+13.8%	NA
Fidelity Divd Growth	120.26	119.14	+13.8%	+13.8%	NA

MARKET SUMMARY - NYSE AND NASDAQ

GAINERS (25 or more)				LOSERS (25 or more)				Most Active (by volume)			
Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Name	Last	Chg	%Chg
Amgen	113.00	+1.17	+1.0%	United Ther	76.25	-1.00	-1.3%	AMZN	1648.00	+18.00	+1.1%
Merck	100.00	+0.84	+0.8%	Genzyme	51.00	-0.21	-0.4%	GOOGL	1205.00	+11.00	+0.9%
Abbott	92.00	+0.84	+0.9%	United Ther	76.25	-1.00	-1.3%	MSFT	85.00	+0.84	+1.0%
Novartis	72.00	+0.84	+1.2%	United Ther	76.25	-1.00	-1.3%	FB	172.00	+1.00	+0.6%
GlaxoSmithKline	68.00	+0.84	+1.2%	United Ther	76.25	-1.00	-1.3%	BA	172.00	+1.00	+0.6%

STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Name	High	Low	Net Chg	%Chg	YTD %Chg
Amgen	113.00	112.00	+1.00	+0.9%	+11.5%
Merck	100.00	99.00	+1.00	+1.0%	+13.2%
Abbott	92.00	91.00	+1.00	+1.1%	+3.3%
Novartis	72.00	71.00	+1.00	+1.4%	+8.3%
GlaxoSmithKline	68.00	67.00	+1.00	+1.5%	+12.1%
United Ther	76.25	75.25	+1.00	+1.3%	+10.2%
Genzyme	51.00	50.00	+1.00	+2.0%	+10.6%
Amgen	113.00	112.00	+1.00	+0.9%	+4.0%
Merck	100.00	99.00	+1.00	+1.0%	+14.9%

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Levy spoke about 'fiscal realities'

Continued from page 1
Levy said those "fiscal realities" include almost \$2 billion in deferred maintenance and \$700 million budget toward higher education, numbers that are significantly less than before the administra-

tion of former Gov. Bobby Jindal.
"Can Louisiana sustain and support a \$1.5 billion enterprise with less than \$700 million?" Levy said. "I wasn't great at math, but I don't see that happening."

Among other items Levy addressed, Levy boasted about the importance for historically black colleges and institutes such as GSU for the African American community, the new Board of Regents commissioner Kim

Hunter Reed and the importance for citizens to be active in fighting for education.
"(The Board of Regents and GSU) are committed to higher education," he said. "We know how important it is to us."

OBITUARY (Paid Announcement)

Joe David Williams
Funeral services for Joe David Williams, 43, of West Monroe, LA will be held at 2:00 PM on Sunday, April 29, 2018 at Kilpatrick Funeral Home Chapel in Ruston, LA. Rev. Larry Emory will officiate. Interment will follow at Longstraw

Cemetery in Choudrant, LA under the direction of Kilpatrick Funeral Home of Ruston.
Visitation will be held from 1-2 PM prior to the service.
Joe was preceded in death by his mother, Carol Ebright, grandfather, "Red" Williams, and grandparents, Edwin and Helen Ebright.

He is survived by his wife, Renee Williams of West Monroe; sons: Joe Dalton Williams and Christopher Gage Williams of Ruston; father, Joe Dolph Williams and wife, Kim, of Ruston; grandmother, Hazel Williams of Ruston; and brother, Heath Williams and husband, Trent of Ruston.

Honoring Joe as pallbearers are John Shirley, Troy Lord, Jeff Cochran, Vance Payne, Mark Owens, and Ben Biscom.
Memorials may be made to the Arkansas Children's Hospital or Ruston DART.
Online condolences may be made at www.kilpatrickfuneralhomes.com.

DEATHS

Daniel
Paul A. Daniel, age 66, of Dubach, died Thursday, April 26, 2018. Arrangements are incomplete at this time, but are under the direction of Owens Memorial Chapel Funeral Home of Ruston.
Phillips
Johnny Wayne Phillips Sr., 77, of Bernice passed away on Thursday, April 26, 2018 at his home. Arrangements are incomplete under the direction of Kilpatrick Funeral Home in Ruston.

Trump says of Comey: 'He's either very sick or very dumb'

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Donald Trump insists he "won't be involved" in any attempt to interfere with the investigation into Russian election meddling—unless he changes his mind.
Trump also is renewing his attacks on James Comey, the FBI director he fired last year, accusing him of lying about Trump's trip to Moscow in 2013 that has received fresh scrutiny Early Friday. Trump accused Comey in a tweet of leaking classified information.
"He's either very sick or very dumb," Trump tweeted.
On Thursday, the GOP-led Senate Judiciary Committee approved a measure that would safeguard special counsel Robert Mueller from being fired. The move came shortly after Trump, in a television interview, blasted the Justice Department, which oversees the special counsel's investigation.
"I am very disappointed in the Justice Department. But because of the fact that it's going on, and I think you'll understand this, I have decided

that I won't be involved," the president said in a telephone interview with "Fox & Friends."
But then he added: "I may change my mind at some point, because what's going on is a disgrace."
The Mueller legislation approved by the Senate panel may be largely symbolic, since Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said he won't bring it up for a full Senate vote. But it shows there are limits to Republican support for Trump when it comes to the president's attacks on the special counsel's probe.
Four Republicans joined Democrats in a 14-7 committee vote to approve the measure.
Nearly all GOP senators say Trump shouldn't fire Mueller. And Republicans who support the legislation say it's necessary to guard against presidential interference by giving Congress more oversight power.
"While my constitutional concerns remain, I believe this bill should be considered by the full Senate," said Sen. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, chairman of the committee, adding to pressure on McConnell.

Grant to aid Greenway

Continued from page 1

In agreeing to fund the grant, the LHF board broke a two-year ban on new projects. The board also approved dipping into the money with which the foundation was started in order to make the four annual \$250,000 grant payments.
The LHF grant is the second \$1 million grant the city has received for the greenway. In September 2017, the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation gave a like amount to the city.
Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana Foundation Michael Tipton, who attended Thursday's event, praised the work that's been done over the last six months.
"This project really makes active transportation part of people's lives," he said. "You can safely get to your house, to the parkway, to downtown, to where you need to go."

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Report a missed paper by calling 202-5871.

Simsboro seeks 1.25 percent sales tax

Continued from page 1
Lincoln Parish Business Manager George Murphy said that if the millages are not renewed, the school board might have to use money from the general fund in order to maintain those districts.
The Village of Simsboro will hold a special election for a 1.25 percent sales tax.
The sales tax will be the first of its kind in Simsboro, and is meant to go into the village's general fund, said Mayor Sybil Smalling-Foster.
"We need this tax, and

we hope that people will see it that way," she said.
"I hope they will understand what we are trying to do for the village. I encourage everyone to go out and vote."
The sales tax, if passed, would be collected upon the sale at retail, the use, or lease or rental, the consumption and the storage for use or consumption of tangible personal property and on sales of services in the village.
The tax can be used for "any lawful corporate purpose of the Village."

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