



UL baseball comes out swinging at San Antonio
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LOUISIANA SENATE

Race among most expensive in US

By Deborah Barfield Berry
Gannett Louisiana

BY THE NUMBERS

\$19.9 MILLION

Campaign money **Mary Landrieu** spent. She had \$62,629 remaining.

\$14.6 MILLION

Campaign money **Rep. Bill Cassidy** spent. He had \$892,455 left.

\$2.9 MILLION

Campaign money **Air Force Col. Rob Maness** spent. He had \$17,123 remaining.

remotely as high as this one.”

The race, considered one of the most competitive in the country, ended when Republican Rep. Bill Cassidy easily defeated Democratic incumbent Mary Landrieu in a Dec. 6 runoff.

Conservative groups pumped millions into efforts to help Cassidy and retired Air Force Col. Rob Maness, a tea party favorite who finished third behind Cassidy and Landrieu on Nov. 4.

Landrieu spent about \$19.9 million during the election cy-



Republican Sen. Bill Cassidy, left, and Mary Landrieu meet before their final debate Dec. 1. Cassidy defeated Landrieu in a runoff election.

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WASHINGTON — Candidates in Louisiana's Senate race last year spent \$37.9 million, making it one of the most expensive Senate contests in the country.

Special interest groups spent another \$26.9 million, bringing the total tab to \$64.8 million, according to the non-partisan Center for Responsive Politics.

“We just blew through what is the equivalent of three barn-burners,” said Pearson Cross, a political scientist at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette.

One man's war in pictures

New book examines Charles Bertrand's service during WWII



By William Johnson
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The compelling story of one GI's time in the Pacific theater during World War II will be featured during Saturday's local history meeting.

“Our guest will be Neal Bertrand. He has just published ‘Dad's War Photos,’ a book about his father's service in the war. It is a just marvelous,” said Estelle Perrault, president of the Imperial St. Landry Genealogy and



Neal Bertrand

Historical Society.

The meeting, which is free and open to the public, will be held at 10 a.m. in the Opelousas Public Library, 212 E. Gro-

lee St., Opelousas. Bertrand, an Opelousas native who now lives in Lafayette, has just published his 300-page book based on his father's extensive photo library.

This father, Charles Curtis Bertrand, grew up in the farming community of Mallet between Opelousas and Eunice. He was part of a Cajun farm family that traces its roots in Louisiana back to 1760.

The war drew him away from home to service in the 863rd Army Engineer Aviation Battalion.

That unit's job was to prepare airfields, docks, entrenchments

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SUBMITTED PHOTO
Charles Bertrand stands beside Maj. Edward Cragg's P-38 fighter 11 days before it was shot down in the Pacific Ocean during World War II. Bertrand's story will be shared by his son during Saturday's meeting of the Imperial St. Landry Genealogy and Historical Society at the Opelousas Public Library.

White: La. DOE will not humiliate schools and districts

By Barbara Leader
Gannett Louisiana

Superintendent John White and the Department of Education may not penalize schools and districts for students who don't take the state's standardized testing in March.

In a meeting with district superintendents in Baton Rouge on Thursday, White agreed to examine the impact of parents opting out of the Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC) standardizing testing, but only after the exam is administered.

As BESE policy stands, schools will be given a score of zero for every student that doesn't take the test. Those zeroes become part of the school's performance score and can ultimately reflect in the school's and district's letter grade.

The superintendents wanted assurance that White fully understood the impact of penalizing schools and districts for parents who opt out of standardized testing.

And when they were satisfied that he understood, they confirmed it with a formal committee action.

“He made the statement that he would hold fair and steadfast to not making decisions to denigrate or embarrass schools or districts relative to the zero issue,” DeSoto Parish Superintendent Cade Brumley said.

To have a permanent record of White's remarks, Brumley made a motion to accept White's statement, and the superintendents voted to approve its acceptance.

Board of Elementary and Secondary Education member Jane Smith was in attendance at Thursday's meeting.

“I don't believe it's right to penalize schools and districts for a variable they can't con-



John White

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2 Mardi Gras parades ready to roll

By William Johnson
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Although the party has been underway for weeks, Mardi Gras in St. Landry Parish shifts into high gear this weekend.

Over the next five days, Opelousas and Eunice will host a total of five parades with something for just about everyone. Both cities will also offer a number of street dances and parties.

For the young at heart, there are two children's parades.

The first is today when the 800 students at Park Vista Elementary School in Opelousas hold their 25th annual Mardi Gras celebration.

That parade will roll at about 1:15 p.m. through the Park Vista neighborhood around the school.

Principal Ulysse Joubert said the parade is all about the children but has grown to be-



FREDDIE HERPIN, DAILY WORLD

Masked dancers make their way down Landry Street in a previous Frank's Half Fast-Krewes Mardi Gras Parade. The parade will march through downtown Opelousas on Mardi Gras day beginning at 1 p.m.

come one of the larger Mardi Gras parades in the area.

“This year we will have four high school marching bands and three junior high school

bands,” Joubert said.

Although the parade only passes through the Park Vista

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