

Landry leads in attorney general fundraising

Associated Press

BATON ROUGE — Attorney General Buddy Caldwell has fallen behind chief opponent Jeff Landry in fundraising for this fall's election.

Both Republican candidates in the Oct. 24 election filed their campaign finance report this week with the Board of Ethics.

Landry, a former congressman, has more than three times the campaign cash reported by Caldwell.

Caldwell's report shows him raising \$39,000 in 2014, ending the year with \$302,000 in the bank.

Landry brought in more than \$766,000 in donations for the same period. Coupled with a

\$392,000 personal loan, Landry reported having more than \$1 million in his campaign account.

The slate of candidates in the race remains uncertain. Treasurer John Kennedy, also a Republican, has said he is considering running for attorney general, and he's sitting on a \$3.5 million campaign account.

White

Continued from Page 1A

trol," she said. Smith is one of at least four BESE members asking for a special meeting to discuss the potential for parental opt outs and the district impacts.

"I've been pretty outspoken that we are going to honor a parent's constitutional right to decide what they believe is right for their child, knowing that it could result in us hypothetically having lower performance scores and potentially letter grades," Brumley said.

Louisiana School Board Association President Scott Richard said superintendents got a "glimmer of hope" when White verbally pledged to look at participation rates after testing and assured superintendents that the Department of Education would not humiliate or denigrate any school or district.

According to Richard, White said the testing program will continue and move forward as planned.

"I think the superintendents hoped that White would address the issue proactively instead of drawing a line in the sand saying, 'we are going to give letter grades no matter what,'" Richard said.

White and the state

Board of Elementary and Secondary Education have already agreed not to penalize teachers or students for student scores on the controversial test, but he has not agreed to do the same for schools and districts.

After parents statewide began discussions about opting out of the test, schools and districts became concerned that if the state Department of Education followed current policy, which White said previously they would do, district and school performance scores could drop dramatically.

Districts say they heard parental concerns ranging from the intervention of the federal government in local education to the test causing stress for the children because it is a more rigorous exam.

Although Jindal originally advocated for both the Common Core State Standards and PARCC, he has since reversed his position.

Jindal issued an executive order in January allowing parents to exercise their choice to opt out of PARCC and urging BESE to protect school districts from consequences by authorizing alternate assessments.

BESE president Chas Roemer called Jindal's executive order an attempt

to create chaos.

"The governor has a consistent pattern of creating chaos — it's what he does best," Roemer said in January. "For the governor this is a political thing. For BESE, it's an issue of how we make sure students in our state are as well prepared for the future as other students across the nation. That's what's important to BESE and to responsible leaders of this state."

Bertrand

Continued from Page 1A

and more for the combat troops. The engineers also saw plenty of action.

They built many of the airfields as quickly as possible, often under enemy fire. Air raids from neighboring Japanese island bases were common occurrences.

"Dad said he never killed anyone. He did, however, have some close calls with death," Bertrand said.

The book is built around the 800 photos his father took during the war, 400 of which are included in the book.

In addition to photos of daily life in the unit, pictures of island natives and their customs, the book includes many photos of the weapons, equipment and especially the many aircraft his father encountered throughout the war.

The war took him all the way from Australia to the liberation of the Philippines. But like many veterans of that conflict, Bertrand said his father never spoke of the war.

As a result, Bertrand wanted to create a book as a tribute to his father, who died 15 years ago at age 80.

The son originally thought it would simply be a picture book. "I had no story to go with them," Bertrand said.

As he worked on the project, he said another veteran informed him the battalion had an official diary.

"That made all the difference in the world. It added the drama; the meat on the bones," Bertrand said. "I was able to trace his steps from day to day."

That diary is now the backbone of the book, richly illustrated with the photos. Interspersed are numerous maps and entries marked "Elsewhere in the War," which provide a month-by-month account of actions throughout all theaters of war.

WANT TO GO?

Imperial St. Landry Genealogy and Historical Society
"Dad's War Photos: Adventures in the South Pacific"
Talk by Author Neal Bertrand
10 a.m. Saturday
Opelousas Public Library
212 E. Grolee St., Opelousas
Meeting is free and open to the public

The book also includes details of all the aircraft his father encountered during the war, their missions, weapons and specifications. Bertrand's father was also a fan of the nose art on many of these war machines, and the book includes many pictures illustrating the wide variety of themes.

The softcover books are \$20 and Bertrand will be happy to autograph them during the program.

"I also have some artifacts he brought back from the war, such as a Japanese rifle, that I'll share at the meeting," Bertrand said.

Now that the book is finished, Bertrand said he has one more goal - reaching out to the families of the other 800 men who served in his father's unit.

"That would be a dream come true if I could track them down. This would be an opportunity for their decedents to see what their father or grandfather went through," Bertrand said. "Wouldn't that be great?"

St. Landry Cinema
1234 Heather Dr. Opelousas
Phone: 942-2400

**STADIUM SEATING
DIGITAL PROJECTION**

Friday 02/13/15 to Thursday 02/19/15

Fifty Shades of Grey	R
Friday & Thursday.....	(4:10) 6:50 9:30
Saturday - Wednesday...	(1:30) (4:10) 6:50 9:30

Jupiter Ascending	PG13
Friday & Thursday.....	6:40 Only
Saturday - Wednesday...	(1:20) - 6:40 -

Jupiter Ascending 3D	PG13
Everyday.....	(4:00) - 9:20

The Sponge Bob Movie	PG
Friday & Thursday.....	(4:20) 7:00 9:30
Saturday - Wednesday...	(1:50) (4:20) 7:00 9:30

American Sniper	R
Friday & Thursday.....	(4:00) 6:40 9:20
Saturday - Wednesday...	(1:20) (4:00) 6:40 9:20

() = Matinee Feature \$6.00 per person
3D Shows: Add \$2.00 per ticket
www.acadianacinas.com

Empowering. Something we take pride in.

St. Landry HOMESTEAD™
Federal Savings Bank

Believe in the Homestead
Because we've always believed in you.

Checking & Savings | Home, Consumer & Business Loans | Retirement

Opelousas: 948.3033 | Eunice: 457.8196 | Port Barre: 585.2301

StLandryHomestead.com

MEMBER FDIC EQUAL HOUSING LENDER

HOG WILD HARLEY GIVEAWAY

WIN A PAIR
of Harley-Davidson® Motorcycles!

Saturday, February 14 & 21 | 6:00pm - 10:00pm

Earn entries all month long when you play with your B Connected card.
Plus, get a FREE entry daily by swiping your B Connected card at any promotions kiosk.

Visit EvangelineDowns.com for more information. Actual vehicles may vary from photo.
Harley-Davidson is a registered trademark of H-D Michigan, LLC.

\$44K

PRESIDENTS' DAY GIVEAWAY

Monday, February 16
6:00pm - 10:00pm

WIN your share of
\$44,000 CASH!

Visit EvangelineDowns.com for more information.

Mardi Gras CASH GRAB!

Tuesday, February 17
Noon - 6:00pm | Event Center

GRAB up to \$10,000 CASH!

Visit EvangelineDowns.com for more information.

EVANGELINE DOWNS
RACETRACK • CASINO • HOTEL™

Acadiana's Place to Play!

337-594-3000 | EvangelineDowns.com

**GAMBLING PROBLEM?
CALL 1.877.770.7867**