Mudbugs face off against Rapid City. 1B

# The Times

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SATURDAY, APRIL 10, 2010

CADDO ■ BOSSIER ■ WEBSTER ■ DESOTO

### Winged miracles

Expert to give talk on butterfly sanctuary.





Weather details. forecast

Detailed weather maps and radar images at Snreveporttimes.com

THE

#### **QUICKREAD**

A fast way to digest the news of the day

#### LOCAL/STATE

#### **New Christian school growing**

■ Close to 60 students have signed up for the 2010-11 academic year at Summer Grove Baptist Academy, and the school is looking to add at least two teachers to its six-member faculty. PAGE 3A



#### Historic conference next week

Historians and conservation enthusiasts plan to meet next week in Shreveport for the 31st annual Louisiana Preservation Conference on Wednesday through Friday. Events are slated throughout the area. Educational sessions will be at the Shreveport Convention Center. PAGE 3A

#### NATION/WORLD

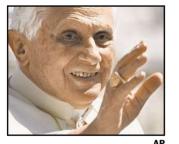
#### U.S.-Kyrgyz base now functional



Thousands mourned Friday the Kyrgyz protesters shot dead by police during a bloody revolt in the Central Asian nation. Also, flights resumed at the U.S. base just outside AP the capital. PAGE 7A

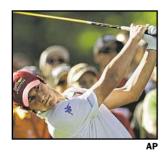
#### **Papal controversy still swirls**

■ The future Pope Benedict XVI resisted pleas to defrock a California priest with a record of sexually molesting children, citing concerns including "the good of the universal church." PAGE 7A



#### **SPORTS**

#### Golf tourney gets to business



A day after the hype of Tiger Woods' return and the nostalgia of Jack Nicklaus as a starter and Tom Watson on the leaderboard, the Masters Tournament got serious Friday. PAGE 1B

#### Wings' Marshall adds to team

■ Willis Marshall is a guy with a touch of irony. At 34 years old, the Bossier-Shreveport Battle Wings wide receiver/kick returner is an elder statesman playing a game normally reserved for up-and-coming youngsters. PAGE 1B

#### LIVING

#### Tomato varieties now available

■ In recent years, heirloom tomatoes have started showing up at local nurseries, but this year you have a chance to buy four varieties and see your money go for a good cause. PAGE 1C



4C CROSSWORD ADVICE 11A Business **9A** DEATHS 1C 3C SCOREBOARD 5B Comics **1B** LOCAL/STATE **3A** Sports



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## Voters could get to fix term limits

■ Bill focuses on how long school board members can serve.

By Mike Hasten mhasten@gannett.com

BATON ROUGE - Louisiana voters could have the chance to decide whether their school board members should have limits set on how long they stay in office.

The House and Governmental Affairs Committee this week approved House tarily, and Rep. Tony Ligi, R-Bill 410 by Baton Rouge Rep. Metairie, got the Legislature Steve Carter

with a 14-4 vote, calling for a stateelec- **Louisiana** tion in which Leaislature voters each school

system would decide whether they want term limits imposed on their board members. So far, only Lafayette and

Jefferson parishes have limited school board members' terms. Lafayette did it volunMetairie, got the Legislature to impose limits on the Jefferson Parish School Board

HB410 would not apply to the Lafayette and Jefferson school systems, the Recovery School District or boards of charter schools.

Carter failed last year in an attempt to force term limits on board members but this time is calling for local option votes affecting each city or parish school district. He said it would result in "fresh blood" and new ideas on school boards, just as it has in the Legislature.

The Louisiana School Boards Association, which successfully campaigned last year to defeat Carter's package of school board reform bills, opposes this proposal, too.

"I see this attack is renewed," said DeSoto Parish School Board President John Neilson, who predicted school boards again will be able to defeat the proposal.

LSBA Executive Director Nolton Senegal said he believes that "a lot of parishes are not going to vote for this' because people like to individually choose who represents them.

Committee Chairman Rep. Rick Gallot, D-Ruston, tried to amend out of the bill the parishes of Bienville, Lincoln and Claiborne, but the committee

rejected his proposal 10-6. Rep. Rosalind Jones, D-Monroe, tried but failed to insert the same language that's in state law, which authorized the Lafayette board's self-

Bills are

seeking

to clean

up laws

■ Effort would update

defunct language in

By Mike Hasten mhasten@gannett.com

tional.

Ville Platte,

Senate Bills

446, 447 and

448 that seek

some of the

defunct lan-

guage.

author

education legislation.

BATON ROUGE — Hidden inside the green covers on

the Louisiana Revised Statutes books that line the shelves of lawyers' offices and

libraries are laws that have no

meaning, have been ignored or supplanted, and have been

declared blatantly unconstitu-

And even thought they are

"There have been statutes

passed that the court declared

unconstitutionai years ago, but for some reason, people didn't want to take them out,"

said Sen. Eric LaFleur, D-

to remove **Legislature** 

guage from education laws.

LaFleur said state agencies

are going through the law

books to weed out such lan-

Joan Hunt, a state Depart-

ment of Education attorney,

said that although she found

numerous items in Revised

Statute 17, which contains education laws, "there are still

LaFleur said several of the

stripped provisions were put

into school law during the

"McCarthy Era" and the Cold

War when the government

was swept up in a search for

communists. Some bills cau-

tion schools about watching

For example, one of the bills

strips a provision adopted

in 1956 that anyone seeking admission to college must

present "a certificate attesting

to his or her eligibility and

good moral character signed

by the local school superin-

It was declared unconstitu-

A bill on the books since

1962 says the Department of Education will conduct seminars lasting "at least two

days" in which teachers and students in grades 11 and 12 would be provided "a clear

understanding of the funda-

mental principles of the Amer-

ican form of government, the

evils of socialism and the basic

philosophy of communism and

the strategy and tactics used

by communists in their efforts

to achieve world domination."

The state was to appropriate

Another unconstitutional bill

being stripped was aimed at

avoiding integration, following

a federal government mandate

that the 1954 Brown vs. Edu-

cation U.S. Supreme Court

\$30,000 to pay room and board

for the two-day retreat.

tendent and principal."

tional in 1957.

some on the books.'

for dissidents.

wrong, they're still there.

■ See VOTERS 5A

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#### U.S. SUPREME COURT

## Stevens retiring

Summer battle looms over selection of the new justice Obama vows successor will be voice for ordinary people



Associate Justice Anthony M. Kennedy (seated, from left), Associate Justice John Paul Stevens, Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Associate Justice Antonin Scalia, Associate Justice Clarence Thomas, Associate Justice Samuel Alito Jr. (standing, from left), Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Associate Justice Stephen Breyer, and Associate Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

By Mark Sherman The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The retirement of Justice John Paul Stevens, the Supreme Court's leading liberal, touched off an immediate electionyear political battle Friday over President Obama's second high court pick. Republicans promised trouble for any activist nominee.

Obama said he would quickly name a successor in the mold of Stevens, who he said was a voice for ordinary people rather than powerful inter-

Eleven days before his 90th birthday, Stevens said he would step down when the court finishes its work for the summer in hopes that a replacement could be confirmed well before the next term begins in October.

"We cannot replace Justice Stevens" experience or wisdom," Obama said at the White House after returning



In this June 2006 image Associate Justice John Paul Stevens (center) talks with Chief Justice John G. Roberts.

from Prague where he had signed a nuclear treaty. "I'll seek someone in the coming weeks with similar qualities: an independent mind, a record of excellence and integrity, a fierce dedication to the rule of law and a keen understanding of how the law affects the daily lives of the American people. It will also be someone who, like Jus-



tice Stevens, knows that in democracy powerful interests must not be allowed to drown out the voices of ordinary citizens. A White House

official said about 10 people are under

consideration, but speculation has focused on fewer than that. Leading candidates are said to be Solicitor General Elena Kagan, 49, and federal appellate Judges Merrick Garland, 57, in Washington and Diane Wood, 59, in Chicago. All three were considered last year as well, and Obama interviewed Kagan and Wood before choosing Sonia Sotomayor for the high court.

Of those, Wood would be most likely to excite Obama's liberal base and stir up conservative opposition.

■ See JUDGE 5A

#### Topping the list among possible replacements

Potential candidates to replace retiring Justice John Paul Stevens, listed alphabetically:

- Merrick B. Garland, judge on Ú.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.
- Jennifer Granholm, Michigan governor. ■ Elena Kagan, U.S. solicitor general.
- Harold Hongju Koh, legal adviser to the State
- Janet Napolitano, Homeland Security secretary. ■ Deval Patrick, Massachusetts governor.
- Diane Pamela Wood, judge on 7th U.S. Circuit Court
- of Appeals in Chicago.















#### Tracking length of service on the nation's highest bench

Currently, Justice John Paul Stevens has served longer than all but three justices, John Marshall, Stephen J. Field and William O. Douglas, in Supreme Court history.

James M. Wayne 1835-1867 (32y, 5m, 22d) William O. Douglas John Marshall John Paul Stevens 1863-1897 (34y, 6m, 11d) 1975- (34y, 3m, 22d) (34y, 5m, 2d) **1800** '10 '20 '30 '40 '50 '60 '70 '80 '90 **1900** '10 '20 '30 John Marshall Harlan I 1812-1845 (33y, 7m, 7d) 1877-1911 (33y, 10m, 4d) 1956-1990 (33y, 9m, 4d) 1937-1971 (34y, 29d) Source: The Oyez Project

#### ■ See LAWS 5A