

The Ouachita CITIZEN

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STATE
FINALS
COME TO
MONROE

SEE PAGE 1B



INSIDE...

Thursday, February 21, 2013

75 CENTS

**Budget deadline
April 9**

The Monroe City Council conducted the first of three budget hearings Tuesday night to entertain a proposed \$57.4-million budget for the 2013-2014 fiscal year, which begins May 1.

Final adoption of the budget must occur no later than April 9.

See Page 3A

**Local doctors
sentenced**

U.S. Attorney Stephanie Finley announced last week that Dallas Humble of Monroe was sentenced to 27 months in prison for conspiracy to import and distribute human growth hormones.

The hormones were part of a so-called anti-aging program for patients.

See Page 8A

**Enoch's hosts
fundraiser**

Enoch's Irish Pub & Grill hosts a fundraiser Saturday afternoon to send students in ULM's Marching Band and Choral Department to participate in the St. Patrick's Day parade in Dublin, Ireland.

The fundraiser will be from noon-5 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 23.

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WMPD begins search for chief

By Zach Parker
The Citizen

The West Monroe Police Department's next chief will not face any major or unfamiliar challenges, according to Mayor Dave Norris.

Norris said the police department is in good shape overall as the city prepares to commence a national search for chief to replace Christopher Elg, who resigned in early January.

Elg left West Monroe to become police chief in Tequesta, Fla. He began his new job Feb. 4.

Norris appointed Major Jerry Stansbury to serve as interim police chief until a permanent chief is named by the West Monroe Board of Aldermen.

Though the city will conduct a nation-wide search to fill the police chief post, Norris is sure some capable applicants from within the police department will surface.

"We have some very capable people in the department," Norris said. "I expect several people from within the department to apply for the job."

The city will begin to advertise for the police chief position upon completion of the state's civil service group's evaluation test for all qualifying applicants.

Norris said he recently filled out some paperwork for the evaluation tests for the civil service board. The civil service board will assign scores based on each applicant's test results. At that point, the city will begin to review and interview applicants.

Norris will make a final rec-

Please see
CHIEF / 12A



CHASE COLEMAN is shown in photographs from his acting career.

Far top left: Coleman as Blade Strongood in "Warehouse Rumble."

Photo — Warehouse Rumble production still

Above right: Coleman as Adam Larkin in "Cloak and Dagger."

Photo by Paul Zapata.

Left: Coleman posing for a launch party for Season 1 of In Between Men.

Photo by Melissa June Daniels

St. Fred actor makes waves

By Sunny Meriwether
The Citizen

A young former resident of Ouachita Parish is earning critical acclaim for his acting, particularly in the relatively new genre of web-TV series.

Chase Coleman, the son of Dr. Ed and Renee Coleman, is one of the stars of "In Between Men" by Qubed Prod and also has a recurring role on "The Americans," on the FX network.

Coleman said he got his start in the entertainment business as lead vocalist for the hard-rock band Falstaff while he was a student at St. Frederick High School. However, after five years, it was getting hard to get members of the group together to rehearse, and he decided he wanted to do something creative on his own.

"So I went over the Strauss Theatre and met Scott Baronet," he said. "I told him I wanted to do something, and he said they had an audition coming up for 'Little Shop of Horrors.' So I auditioned and got a part."



CHASE COLEMAN portrays Dr. Dane Sullivan in "In Between Men." Coleman attended St. Frederick High School and University of Louisiana-Monroe. He is the son of Dr. Ed and Renee Coleman.

Photo by Sidnei Beal

He continued acting at Strauss and also at the University of Louisiana-Monroe. During his junior year, he went to the Mike Beaty Model and Talent Expo in Dallas, where he met Suzanne Schacter of Suzelle Enterprises NYC, who is now his manager. Schacter suggested that Coleman visit New York for the summer.

"I was essentially living out of a suitcase, with a friend of a friend," Coleman said. "I was

going on a lot of auditions, and I was lucky to get work very quickly."

Coleman won the recurring role of Garrett on the ABC soap opera "One Life to Live." He decided to stay in New York, but he didn't abandon his studies. He has continued to work online toward a degree in business marketing. He has also

Please see
ACTOR / 12A

City schools cope with revenue shortfall

By Zach Parker
The Citizen

The Monroe city school system expects a \$1.2 million drop in revenue in the current fiscal year, prompting school system officials to cut salaries as well as other expenses.

The School Board entertained those matters Tuesday during a School

Board Finance Committee meeting. The finance committee meeting took place before the School Board's regular meeting.

School Board members discussed a revised general fund budget for the 2012-2013 fiscal year and learned the city school system faced a revenue shortfall because of a decline in student population, which led to a

reduction in state funding. The state allocates funding to local districts through the Minimum Foundation Program. MFP funding for local school districts is partly determined by the number of students enrolled in a school district.

School Board member Vickie Dayton, who serves as the chairman of the finances committee,

said the projected drop in revenue was expected.

"The bad news is that the revenue is down by \$1.2 million, but that was expected," Dayton said.

The finance committee projected a revenue decrease of \$853,354 from the MFP. The cut was prompted by a loss of 104 students from the school system. Also, 39 students left the city school system

to attend private or parochial schools with vouchers, representing a \$221,674 loss in revenues.

The school system also projects to collect some \$220,213 less in property taxes than was originally budgeted.

Meanwhile, ROTC

Please see
SHORTFALL / 12A

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Crawfishing for good eats, memories

In 1975, my family and I had the time of our lives crawfishing in Riverton, LA. The year was nicknamed the "seven-year crawfish." We filled three ice chests and still kept catching the freshwater crustaceans, throwing the extra loads into the truck bed.

All our family gathered in a huge crawfish celebration for a meal we still talk about today. The swamp crawfish digs a burrow up to three feet deep with a water-filled cavity at the bottom, just in case there is a drought. These seven-year crawfish were said to have been buried seven years, hence the name.

Your average crawfish grow some three to four inches but these were as big as six inches in length. They were also red when crawfish normally appear brownish-green in color.

This year, the conditions are best to see a similar phenomenon occur because of the drought

and cold weather, which caused the 2012 crawfish season to get a late start. This year we have had plenty of rain through the summer and fall. With dips of warmer weather this winter, the 2013 crawfish should be a bumper year.

This past full moon and warmer weather will help many crawfish to molt, a time when they shed their shell and do not eat and stay away from the bait in traps and nets. I hope older and larger crawfish will be out this March and have more babies because of the warmer weather. The eggs develop while attached to the swimming legs of the female and look like miniature adults when hatched.

They are scavengers, feeding on decayed organic matter and on small fish. This April, we are going to invest in more nets and I have a mixture of chicken livers, necks and gizzards that work very well as bait. The key to finding a great place to crawfish is to find



RENE HATTEN
STORIES FROM
THE OUTDOORS

running water in ditches and canals.

The backwater that comes yearly in Riverton is always ideal for nets. If you choose to use the traps that are found now at stores like Academy, TP Outdoors, etc, just know that you have to have a recreational gear license and have every trap tagged with a waterproof tag with your name and license number. There are requirements that you need to know and can find in the Fishing Regulation from the Department of Wildlife and Fisheries.

When you catch them, know that crawfish can be kept alive out of water for several days under proper conditions. Although they are aquatic animals and require water for proper breathing and other functions, their gills are internal, allowing them to survive in dry conditions for varying amounts of time.

We use an ice chest with a frozen two-liter soda bottle of water in the bottom to keep them cool but not drown in water. Crawfish should be kept cool, moist and given some fresh air circulation. Periodically spraying crawfish with water will refresh them and help keep them alive. Never put crawfish in water for storage, they will suffocate.

Using salt to "purge" crawfish prior to cooking isn't necessary; it's more of a tradition here in Louisiana. It is important, however, that they are washed well to remove mud and other debris—inspect them prior to cooking.

We cook with the normal additions of potatoes



Citizen Photo by Rene Hatten

CRAWFISHING IS a great and fun time for the whole family.

and whole-kernel corn but we dump all of the above into the ice chest and then dust with seasoning.

Whether you like your crawfish ice chest shaken or stirred is up to you.

Any crawfish found straight tailed, mushy or mealy shouldn't be eaten. The heads and peels are

great to plant in your flowerbeds with hydrangeas for maximum colors through the summer.

I hope you try crawfishing with your family and friends, it's a great way to get outdoors and have the kids run the nets.

It's not expensive and the memories are for a lifetime.

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FINALS

and friends and supporters from the athletes' school populations."

The spring's youth sports events continue in May with the boys' and girls' state tennis tournament on May 1-3, which will be held at the Forsythe Park tennis courts and the ULM tennis courts too.

The tennis tournament will bring in about 800 athletes.

The CVB board of directors approved the release of 75 percent of a \$100,000 grant to the ULM tennis courts for renovations and facility improvements.

The CVB originally awarded ULM a \$120,000 grant last year with \$20,000 earmarked for the ULM vs. Baylor tennis match.

The board of directors

LHSAA Tournament Schedule

LHSAA Basketball Finals
March 6-9 at Fant-Ewing Coliseum on ULM campus.

LHSAA Powerlifting Tournament
March 14-16 at West Monroe High School

LHSAA Tennis Tournament
May 1-3 at Forsythe Park and ULM Tennis Courts

LHSAA Baseball Tournament (Class 1A & 2A)
May 10-11 at Warhawk Field in ULM's Malone Stadium

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13					14			15			
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THEME: Oscars

ACROSS

- *The knight on the Oscar statuette holds one
- *Possible best director
- Sound of passing bullet?
- Taekwondo country
- ___ of Good Feelings
- Twofold
- Relating to Quechuan people
- Energy unit
- To set someone free
- Bruce Wayne's Batman, e.g.
- *Historical drama and Oscar nominee
- Feline cry
- Secretary, e.g.
- a.k.a. American Gas Association
- Cleanse
- Gather, as in courage, e.g.
- Make fun of
- Lord's worker
- *Controversial speech-making director (2003)
- Aware of
- Itch
- *Singing nominee
- Apartments, e.g.
- Bank claim
- "___ in full"
- Petered out
- Put in the hold
- Grazing land
- *Vanity Fair holds a big one on Oscar night
- ___ sheet
- *Western director nominee
- "Cloud ___," snubbed by the Academy
- Justin Timberlake's "___ the End of Time"
- Under the weather
- 1.75 pints
- "Time is money," e.g.
- Adam and Eve used its leaves for covering
- Silly and insignificant
- Comedy Central's "___ O"

DOWN

- Drug approver
- Throat infection
- Often used with "bum"
- *Got an Oscar
- Shamu, e.g.
- King's domain
- *President portrayer
- *Ang and Spike, e.g.
- Get it wrong
- Bald symbol
- Dietary mineral
- Division word
- Nervous biter's victim
- Hidden valley
- Hogwash
- Flooded
- Any doctrine
- Ascetic Muslim monk
- *Love
- Going to
- *Cooper and Lawrence
- ___ "Silver Linings Playbook"
- Wedding cover
- Daytime TV offering
- Relating to tone
- Bert's roommate
- High-pitched
- Japanese string instrument
- Three of these in a yard
- Horse or pig sound
- Difficult to detect by the mind
- ___ chi
- *Youngest ever nominee
- Sense an odor
- Colorful spread
- African tea
- Backward arrow command
- Greek H's
- Not far distant in time, space or degree
- Aquatic plant
- *Like most in attendance at the Oscars
- Manhole cover
- WSW opposite
- One in a set

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HOSPITALS

voted to release \$75,000 of the grant to ULM after receiving a full expense report. The CVB will award the remaining \$25,000 upon completion of the renovations.

Some of the renovations include resurfacing of the courts and improvements to the overall tennis facilities.

"That court sits on an underground water line so it needed to be resurfaced because it shifts some," said Alana Cooper, CVB Executive Director. "It needed work on the court surface as well as improvements made to other parts of the tennis facilities including the nets."

The improvements to ULM's tennis courts will make it easier for the CVB to bid again for the event next year, according to Cooper.

After the tennis tournament, the baseball state tournament for Class 1A and 2A will commence at Warhawk Field in ULM's Malone Stadium.

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