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FRIDAY  
APRIL 27, 2018

Saturday's delivery of The New Orleans Advocate may be delayed because of late NFL draft coverage.



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# THE NEW ORLEANS ADVOCATE

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FROM: Tom Schedler  
SENT: Thursday, December 15, 2011 1:52 p.m.  
TO: Dawn Ross

It is me trying to undress you thru my mind methods sorry you caught on

## Emails show Schedler made advances on former worker

Longtime employee suing secretary of state, who claims relationship was consensual

BY JIM MUSTIAN  
jmustian@theadvocate.com

Louisiana Secretary of State Tom Schedler used his state email account for years to send sexually suggestive messages to a subordinate, including one exchange in which he told the woman he was attempting to "undress" her with his mind, records show.

The state emails offer the first glimpse of Schedler's on-the-clock exchanges with Dawn Ross, a longtime employee who recently sued him for sexual harassment, claiming the secretary of state sent her love letters and then retaliated when she rebuffed his repeated advances. The emails were obtained by The Advocate through a public records request.

A number of the emails released by Schedler were partially blacked out, concealing parts of his communications with Ross. The redactions were done to hide communications that "were purely of a personal nature," according to Schedler's office.

But The Advocate was able to obtain complete versions of some of those emails, and those suggest the Secretary of State's Office blacked out sections that contained suggestive or otherwise embarrassing remarks by Schedler.

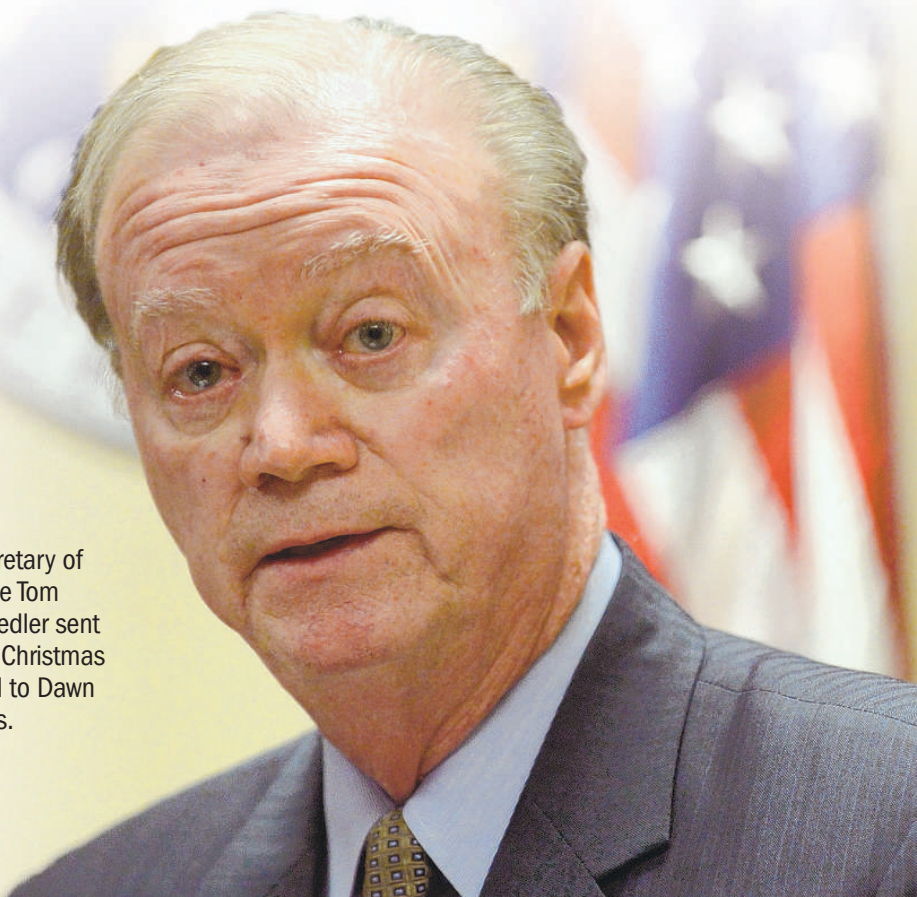
► See **SCHEDLER**, page 4A

FROM: Dawn Ross  
SENT: Thursday, August 13, 2015 9:31 a.m.  
TO: Tom Schedler  
SUBJECT: Today

Good Morning.  
Can I have 5 minutes with you this morning?

FROM: Tom Schedler  
SENT: Thursday, August 13, 2015 10:25 a.m.  
TO: Dawn Ross  
SUBJECT: Re: Today

No I demand much more including lunch and dinner



Secretary of State Tom Schedler sent this Christmas card to Dawn Ross.



## La. to get \$82 million for coastal restoration

Funding from Gulf oil revenue-sharing deal

BY BRYN STOLE  
bstole@theadvocate.com

WASHINGTON — With the flourish of a marker across a huge human-sized check, Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke on Thursday signed off on the first major tranche of federal offshore oil revenue earmarked for Gulf states.

Louisiana's cut of the \$188 million pot: \$82 million, the vast majority of it already set aside for coastal restoration projects.

The cash comes courtesy of the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, a 2006 law that set up a formula to split some of the federal government's revenue from offshore drilling in the Gulf of Mexico with Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas and Alabama.

Louisiana and the other states have received a trickle of money under the first phase of the GOMESA deal — but the massive check Zinke signed on Thursday represents the first substantial payday for Louisiana, which has more oil platforms off its coast than the other three states and will therefore get the largest cut.

The \$82 million figure is tens of millions less than federal and state officials had initially projected during rosier times for oil producers. A multiyear downturn in oil prices and a steep falloff in new oil exploration in the Gulf of Mexico is largely responsible for the downturn in revenue. Some also have blamed stricter regulations for offshore drillers, imposed by the Obama administration after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster killed 11 workers and spilled millions of barrels of oil into the Gulf, for slowing production.

But the payment will provide a major boost for coastal protection and restoration projects in cash-strapped Louisiana, where state lawmakers in Baton Rouge are grappling with a multimillion-dollar budget shortfall. Under Louisiana's constitution, the GOMESA funds are dedicated to coastal restoration or protection work.

Roughly \$66 million will go to the state. The other \$16 million will go directly to 19 coastal parishes, with amounts ranging from \$517,000 to \$1.6 million.

The check dwarfs previous payouts under GOMESA in its much more limited Phase 1, the first of which came in 2009. Before Thursday, a grand total of \$37 million in

► See **COASTAL**, page 4A

## Cosby convicted of sexual assault

BY MICHAEL R. SISAK and CLAUDIA LAUER  
Associated Press

NORRISTOWN, Pa. — Bill Cosby was convicted Thursday of drugging and molesting a woman in the first big celebrity trial of the #MeToo era, completing the spectacular late-in-life downfall of a comedian who broke racial barriers in Hollywood on his way to TV superstardom as America's Dad.

Cosby, 80, could end up spending his final years in prison after a jury concluded he sexually

violated Temple University employee Andrea Constand at his suburban Philadelphia mansion in 2004.



Cosby

He stared straight ahead as the verdict was read but moments later lashed out loudly at District Attorney Kevin Steele after the prosecutor demanded Cosby be sent immediately to jail.

► See **COSBY**, page 6A



Charles Neville performs during Jazz Fest in 2014.

## N.O. music legend Charles Neville dies

Neville Brothers saxophonist was 79

BY KEITH SPERA  
kspera@theadvocate.com

Neville Brothers saxophonist Charles Neville died Thursday of pancreatic cancer in Massachusetts, where he had lived for many years. He was 79.

His brother Aaron Neville confirmed his death to WWL-TV.

Charles Neville was the second oldest of the four brothers

who, for three decades, formed the core of the Neville Brothers, one of the most important and influential bands to emerge from New Orleans. For years, the Neville Brothers were the closing act on the final Sunday of the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival.

Neville's evocative saxophone supplied one of the band's sonic signatures. It snaked through the title track of the classic 1989 album "Yellow Moon" and the song "Healing Chant." "Healing Chant"

► See **NEVILLE**, page 6A

