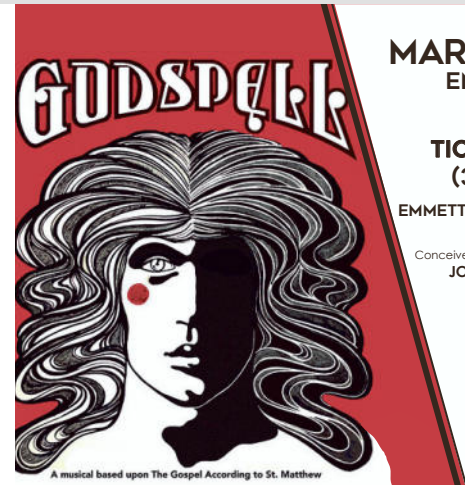


Former West Monroe star Young has played role for Louisiana Tech

SPORTS, 1B



GODSPELL

WEEKENDS OF
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Conceived and Originally Directed by
JOHN-MICHAEL TEBELAK
Music and new lyrics by
STEPHEN SCHWARTZ
Originally Produced
on the New York Stage by
EDGAR LANSBURY /
STUART DUNCAN /
JOSEPH BERUH

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"I can't move around like I want to move around because of the gas prices. I can't go to my regular spots, and that's how it is," explains Mike Jones, 61, owner of Mike's Turkey and Wings mobile catering business.

PHOTOS BY MARIO VILLAFUERTE/SPECIAL TO THE SHREVEPORT TIMES

Higher gas prices affect area drivers

Mario Villafuerte
Special to Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Drivers in Louisiana are feeling the pinch of higher gas prices.

According to BatchGeo.com, the average commuting time in Shreveport is 21.7 minutes, and 89% of us drive alone. That short drive-time is getting more expensive. As of the first week of March, gasoline prices climbed by \$ 0.50 a gallon. In some areas, gas stations' prices crept up over \$4. a gallon.

For Mike Jones, 61, a small-business man the weight of the increasing cost is getting heavier.

Jones pulls out a small sledgehammer, swinging it down, smashing against several pieces of wood to feed the fire of a BB-Q pit mounted on a trailer, attached to a Dodge RAM truck.

Jones owns Mike's Turkey and Wings, mobile catering whose business motto is; 'You Buy-We Fly'. But, it is getting more costly to accomplish that promise.

"Really it's affecting my business a little bit. I can't move around like I want to move around because of the gas prices. I can't go to my regular spots, and that's how it is," explains Jones.

At a Circle K store in Bossier City, where Jones located himself during a



Russell Lester, a retiree from Bossier City, is having to make some changes to his personal finances as gas prices go high. Lester is on a fixed income.

weekend, the price of regular gas was \$4.29 a gallon for a credit card transaction and \$ 4.19 cash.

Even with an economy car, Temonia Manning of Bossier City, is having a hard time watching the price at the pump go higher. "Before the gas prices went up, I was spending \$25 to fill up my Honda Civic, now it costs \$40," she ex-

claims. Manning has a "half-a-tank" rule nowadays. She fills the tank when it's half-empty, to ease the price shock when the pump nozzle clicks it's finished.

Family frugality is a strategy Jared Marcantel, of Ruston, is a course that

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Subpoena power might help panel investigate Greene death

Greg Hilburn
Lafayette Daily Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana's lawmakers in the state House are on their way to granting subpoena power to special committees know as "select committees" like the one created to investigate the death of Ronald Greene during a violent arrest by State Police in 2019.

Republican Speaker Clay Schexnayder of Gonzales authored House Resolution No. 1, which the House Governmental Affairs Committee approved without objection Thursday.

"This would give the same authority to select committees as normal standing committees," said Republican House and Governmental Affairs Chair John Stefanski of Crowley, who presented the measure for Schexnayder.

The resolution now heads to the full House for debate.

Last month Schexnayder created a bipartisan select committee to investigate the Ronald Greene case.

The panel, which is chaired by Republican Speaker Pro-tem of Houma, has already met twice, including a combative hearing on Tuesday in which retired State Police Col. Kevin Reeves denied there was any coverup concerning Greene's death.

"It's not a power we want to use, but it is essential for us to find the truth because we know there are witnesses and documents that still have not been made public," Magee told USA Today Network.

Democratic Rep. Royce Duplessis of New Orleans asked Stefanski specifically if the resolution would apply to the Greene committee since it has already been meeting.

"I believe the select committee already has this authority, but this would expressly grant it," Stefanski said. "This would clear up any question about it."

Schexnayder's resolution would allow the Greene committee to compel witnesses to appear before the panel or face possible criminal contempt charges.

It also allows the committee to secure records, either digital or traditional, related to the Greene case.

Greene, who was Black, died following a brutal beating by State Police after a two-parish, high-speed chase ending with Greene crashing his vehicle in Union Parish.

Greene's family members said they were led to believe Greene died as a result of injuries from the crash rather than from the beating from State Police before videos were made public showing the severity of Greene's beating.

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Cassidy on no-fly zone in Ukraine, 'Operation Warp Speed'

Greg Hilburn
Lafayette Daily Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana Republican U.S. Sen. Bill Cassidy said he opposes implementing a no-fly zone over Ukraine that would lead to direct engagement from American troops but instead supports providing equipment that would improve Ukraine's anti-aircraft defense.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy addressed the U.S. Congress Wednesday, directly asking Congress and President Joe Biden for a no-fly zone against Russian air attacks.

"Is this a lot to ask for, to create a no-



Cassidy

fly zone over Ukraine to save people? Is this too much to ask?" Zelenskyy said virtually on Wednesday. "I can say, I have a need. I need to protect our sky."

Cassidy praised Zelenskyy and the Ukrainian people, calling his speech to Congress "incredible."

But Cassidy said the U.S. can't risk direct combat with Russia, which would likely happen if U.S. pilots fired on Russian planes.

"I do think that would be an escalation," Cassidy said in a conference call with reporters. "I do not think (Ameri-

can troops) should be (deployed) there."

But Cassidy does believe the U.S. and other European allies should supply Ukraine with anti-aircraft equipment, planes and drones to shoot down Russian jets that are relentlessly bombing Ukraine.

President Joe Biden announced Wednesday that an additional \$800 million in military aid will be sent to Ukraine.

'Operation Warp Speed'

Cassidy said his proposed plan to increase American oil and natural gas production would help lower prices at

home and help Europe wean itself from Russian energy, placing more pressure on Russian President Putin to end his invasion of Ukraine.

He said Biden's "assault on energy production" through drilling limits, pipeline cancellations and other policies limiting fossil fuels caused gas prices to begin rising dramatically even before Russia's invasion.

"President Biden blames everything on Putin," Cassidy said. "But gas prices were up 50% before Putin invaded."

Cassidy said his proposal would be to ramp up production through expedited

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