

# MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

FRIDAY, MARCH 5, 2021

MINDEN, LOUISIANA

PRESS-HERALD.COM

75 CENTS

## Happy Birthday Dr. Suess

WILL PHILLIPS  
Minden Press-Herald

Local schools participated in National Read Across America Day, a day which aims to instill a love of reading in the hearts of students across the nation. Here locally, b1 Bank Reps, Minden Medical Center Reps, Minden Police, and Minden High School Students came to Richardson elementary in order to read to the kids there.

"This is a day that we look forward to every year, and we are so thankful for our community partners that help make this happen for our students!" a statement from E.S. Richardson reads.

This year, the day was Dr. Suess themed, for which students and staff came dressed as various characters from the popular children's book series such as Cat in the Hat and Thing 1 and Thing 2.

While the readers came in person to celebrate Read Across America Day, both in-person and virtual learning students were able to participate.

Representing Minden Medical Center, reader Mandi Hart said of the event, "We as parents and community members should never underestimate the power of reading to our children! So thankful to Richardson Elementary for allowing us the opportunity to come help promote reading with our school children! Knowledge is power!"



COURTESY PHOTOS

Minden High Students came out to Richardson elementary to take part in National Read Across America Day by reading to younger students.



COURTESY PHOTOS

Tokia Whiting - Harrison (Left) and Mandi Hart (Right) seen as they read stories to students who receive their education virtually ensuring that they are included in the National Read Across America Day festivities.

## A STEP in the right direction

WILL PHILLIPS  
Minden Press-Herald

The Minden City Council was given a proposal in a workshop held before the monthly City Council meeting to enter the City into the Selective Traffic Enforcement Program, STEP for short.

In a report published by the U.S. Department of Transportation, STEP is described as, "The premise of the STEP model is that an individual's discomfort

or fear of

being stopped for a traffic safety violation outweighs the desire not to comply

with the law. Like any good deterrence program designed to change motorists'

behavior, STEPs are conducted throughout the year to maintain positive

behavior, public awareness, and law enforcement engagement.

"A strong partnership between traffic safety and law enforcement professionals

forms the foundation of the STEP model. The lead agency representing either

of these two groups typically provides the core staff that takes responsibility

Guidelines for Developing a High-Visibility Enforcement Campaign to Reduce Unsafe



GARDNER

Driving Behaviors among Drivers of Passenger and Commercial Motor Vehicles."

The department that would be providing this "core staff" would be the Minden police Department.

In the details discussed in Monday's workshop, this program would have 2 MPD officers at a time working six hours of overtime six days a week to enable this program. They

See, **MPD**, Page 2

## Edwards announces looser COVID-19 restrictions in Louisiana

DAVID JACOBS  
The Center Square

(The Center Square) - Louisiana will shift into a less restrictive set of rules to help control the spread of COVID-19 after the current executive order expires Wednesday, Gov. John Bel Edwards said Tuesday.

The new regulations, which will remain in effect for 28 days, are similar to the Phase 3 White House-approved restrictions that were in place in the fall. Edwards said he was confident the state was ready to make the change, but he urged residents to continue taking precautions

See, **COVID**, Page 2

## Minden couple found deceased in home after suspected murder/suicide

STAFF REPORT  
Minden Press-Herald

Carroll Toms, owner of Toms Service Station located on the Shreveport Road in Minden, was found deceased with his wife Glenda Toms in their home Tuesday morning after an employee noticed they had not come in to work and checked up on them.

Police Chief Steve Cropper stated that it is a suspected murder/suicide as there were no signs of break in or attempted foul play.

"We received a call from one of Carroll's employees around 9 a.m. After he didn't come into work, [they] attempted to call him but didn't get an answer," said Cropper.

"She had a key, she went to their home to check on them, and found both deceased in their sun room."

Cropper stated that it was known that both had prior medical issues, but couldn't be positive whether that factor was relevant or not.

The bodies have been sent to Little Rock for autopsy.

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ZACH M. GOODMAN, D.D.S.

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Tomorrow's  
High Temp **66°**

Tomorrow's  
Low Temp **38°**

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# SECOND FRONT

## GOVERNMENT

### Legislative leaders put unified sales tax collection for Louisiana at top of agenda

DAVID JACOBS  
The Center Square

(The Center Square) – Days after announcing their intention to “fundamentally change” the state’s tax structure, the Louisiana Legislature’s top two elected leaders said centralizing the state’s tax collections is their biggest goal for the upcoming legislative session.

“That’s our big ask this year,” House Speaker Clay Schexnayder said.

Schexnayder joined Senate President Page Cortez on a podcast hosted by the Louisiana Association of Business and Industry. Cortez said he and Schexnayder might be the first speaker and Senate president in recent history chosen in independent elections the governor didn’t control.

With independence, however, comes additional responsibility, Cortez said.

“We now have to come up with a plan,” he said. “The governor, to his credit, has given us this latitude to say, ‘OK, go

tell me what your agenda is, policy-makers.’ So now it’s our turn.”

Sales tax collection in Louisiana is highly decentralized. Business advocates say the system is difficult to navigate, especially for small firms, and discourages companies from locating or expanding in the state.

“Each parish in Louisiana oversees its own sales tax collection, audits, rates and even interpretations of what is taxed,” the Public Affairs Research Council of Louisiana said in a 2018 report. “No other state has this degree of local independence and control of its sales tax system.”

Local government officials, however, traditionally have been wary of creating a unified state collector, arguing that local control is the best way to ensure the money is spent according to the wishes of local taxpayers and voters. Louisiana also has an unusually large number of exemptions and exclusions, some of which apply only at the state or local level, which

also adds complexity a single collector won’t fix.

A task force the Legislature created endorsed the single-collector concept but didn’t come to an agreement about how the collector should be governed and how audits would work. Local governments don’t want to give up their right to audit taxpayers, but business owners don’t want to deal with multiple audits.

The question of whether legislators should centralize collections goes back at least two decades, Cortez said. The change would require a state constitutional amendment, meaning it would need the approval of at least two-thirds of the legislators in each chamber and a majority of voters.

Lawmakers also will discuss eliminating the state’s income tax deduction for federal taxes while lowering the income tax rate so the overall tax burden is about the same. Voters in most parishes legalized sports betting in their jurisdictions last year, so the Legislature this year will try to work

out the rules and tax structure.

Another major unresolved issue for this year that isn’t tied to the upcoming legislative session is redistricting. Legislators need an official population count to redraw political districts, but the U.S. Census results, which were supposed to be ready by the end of last year, now may not be available until the end of September.

Cortez said lawmakers want to make sure local voters have a chance to weigh in, so the Legislature may not be able to hold a redistricting session until February. Lawmakers don’t have to complete the whole process in a single session, and the priority would be Congress, which holds elections next year, he said.

Louisiana holds elections for state offices in 2023.

This year’s regular legislative session begins April 12 and must end by 6 p.m. June 10.

### Covid: Louisiana expected to get 37,000 doses of Johnson & Johnson vaccine

Continued from Page 1

to control the spread of the coronavirus that causes COVID-19 and to get vaccinated against the illness as soon as they are able.

“We’re certainly moving in the right direction,” Edwards said. “We still have a lot of work to do before we get out of this pandemic.”

The statewide mask mandate will remain in place. Most businesses will be limited to 75% of their full capacity, compared with 50% under the modified Phase 2 currently in place.

Sporting events will be allowed at 50% capacity, up from 25%. Capacity restrictions on churches will be lifted, though maintaining at least 6 feet of space between people who don’t live together still will be “strongly encouraged.”

Gyms and fitness centers still will be restricted to 50% capacity. Bars throughout the state can open for indoor service at 25% capacity, at least, and up to 50% in parishes where the percentage

of COVID-19 tests that come back positive is less than 5%. Alcohol service still must end by 11 p.m. and customers still are supposed to be seated.

Indoor live music will be allowed at venues that meet the Louisiana State Fire Marshal’s standards, but audiences must remain seated. Fairs and festivals also will be allowed under certain circumstances. Indoor events will be limited to 50% capacity up to 250 people.

Providers have performed more than one million COVID-19 vaccinations in Louisiana, according to state officials, and about 14% of state residents have received at least one dose.

Louisiana officials expect this week to get 37,000 doses of the newly available Johnson & Johnson vaccine, which only requires one dose to get the full effect. However, state leaders were told Tuesday not to expect another Johnson & Johnson allocation for the next two weeks, Edwards said.

### MPD: Revenue can estimate up to \$1 million per patrol unit

Continued from Page 1

would patrol the roughly three miles of interstate that is within the city limits, and cars going twelve miles over the speed limit would be met with a ticket with a fine of \$250.

While the primary reason for enacting this program would be public safety, some other benefits that it would bring is the acquisition of vehicles for the MPD’s fleet as well as being another revenue stream for the City.

“Every two years, we’re going to take these two cars and put them in the fleet, and then we’ll buy two more cars, completely rig them out like this, and in the first 90 days of those tickets, we will get completely reimbursed for that. Then we start this process over again. That way they can help build his fleet and we’ll be keeping new cars out on the interstate,” said Mayor Terry Gardner.

Based on projections, the total cost per patrol unit would total \$129,516 annually, while the estimated revenue per patrol unit is roughly \$1 million. However, it should be noted that these projections were made with an estimated fifteen tickets

being given out daily. This means that revenues can vary depending on the amount of tickets an officer is able to give out in one shift.

This money will not only benefit the police department. In fact, revenues generated from this program will be split between the City of Minden getting 50%, the MPD getting 25%, and the Marshal’s Office getting 25%.

Part of the appeal of the program is that it can pay for itself, even if the amount of tickets given per day were to be less than projected. After recouping their initial investment, any additional money would be revenue to the city and other departments could use to bolster their budgets.

“This will let us pay some of our different departments more money. If we don’t start paying more, we’re fixing to be in a pickle,” said Gardner.

“So we’ve got to figure out a way to generate some revenue to pay our people, our people, I mean, they just proved it, a week and a half ago. They came and they worked together. They crossed department lines. We were lucky. We had power and we had water.

Our people need to be paid more money.”

Furthermore, enacting this program would allow the department to acquire faster and safer ticketing software and hardware. As Minden’s IT Director Jeff Ellinwood explains, officers would be given a handheld device that can swipe a license, and handle the ticketing process, looking up the driver’s information, processing the ticket, etc. all digitally. A copy would be printed for the individual to keep for themselves.

“From there, they bring the unit back to the office, they put it in the cradle, and all the tickets are automatically uploaded to the website, which in turn puts it straight into our system. And the tickets there when they come to the window to pay or they want to pay online, it is automatically uploaded and entered and it’s done. It’s a pretty unique system,” said Ellinwood.

This system would also make data collection regarding the demographics of arrests to be accessed easier, as revealed after Councilman Terika Williams-Walker asked, “Well, I want to know what the breakdown is. Male, female, african-american,

white. I want to know the reports like that. Who is actually stopped and ticketed on the interstate?”

When she asked if that would be possible with this new system, she was assured that that data would be accessible.

“So it’s going to be a win-win situation for the police department, the city, and the state court here,” said Gardner.

While the STEP seems like it could be an overall positive move for the City, the Council was not ready to make a vote on it in the following meeting given that they were just presented with the information. There weren’t any flat out no’s, just a desire to have more time to process the information they were just given, especially given the variability of the potential revenues that can come from the program based on the amount of tickets given.

“It’s just that we have said a lot of things today, and I’m like Mrs. Walker, we have enough trouble right now trying to balance this budget,” said Councilman Wayne Edwards. “If what we say here is not what we actually do there’s going to be some issues.”

## Public Notice

### CITY OF MINDEN

The City of Minden will begin a systematic flow test of all Minden fire hydrants as required by Louisiana Property Insurance regulations. Testing will start in the Southwest area of the city defined as West of Sibley Road, South of Bayou Avenue area and will also include a limited section in the downtown area.

This work is scheduled to begin on March 8, 2021 and continue in the above-noted area for up to 45 days. Utiliserve will be the contractor performing the work and will be working out of appropriately marked vehicles.

This operation may result in some temporary discoloration in your water supply. If this occurs, please open your **cold** water faucets and flush until the water clears.

If additional information is needed you may contact City Hall at 377-2144 and ask for the Light & Water Department.



We appreciate your patience and cooperation.



# WEBSTER & MORE




3 DAY PLANNING FORECAST

FIRST ALERT WEATHER



JEFF CASTLE

Rain is back to wrap up the week, but dry weather is expected to return for the weekend. Temperatures will be coolest Friday with the clouds and showers around. We'll start warming back up over the weekend with highs in the mid to upper 60s.

FRI	 <div>50%</div>	TEMP <b>63</b>	WIND E 5
SAT	 <div>0%</div>	TEMP <b>65</b>	WIND W 5
SUN	 <div>0%</div>	TEMP <b>67</b>	WIND S 5

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## OBITUARY



Yvonne Copeland

Funeral services for Yvonne Botzong Copeland will be held Saturday, March 6, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at Taylor Baptist Church in Taylor, Louisiana with Rev. Kenny Rowe and Rev. Jimmy Eppinette officiating. Interment will follow at Woodard Cemetery in Taylor, Louisiana under the direction of Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden, Louisiana. The family will receive friends from 5 until 7 p.m. Friday, March 5, 2021 at Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden. Yvonne was born July 16, 1936 in Minden, Louisiana and entered into rest March 1, 2021 in Taylor, Louisiana. She was a member of Taylor Baptist Church. She was preceded in death by three sisters, Dorothy


Mullins, Mattie Kennedy, and Lillie Fletcher and two brothers, Ralph Botzong and Frank Botzong. She is survived by her husband of 66 years, Jimmy Copeland of Taylor; sons, Tony Copeland and wife Pam of Taylor, Neal Copeland and wife Faye of Taylor, and Jamie Copeland and wife Denise of Shreveport; daughter, Donna Copeland of Shreveport; sister, Gladys Turner of Boerne, Texas; twelve grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren. Pallbearers will be Jarred Copeland, Richard Jowers, Pearce Copeland, Chris Williams, Tommie Boddie, Lyle McCoy, and Justin "JD" Copeland. Honorary pallbearers will be Allen Boddie, Johnny Williams, Paul Lawler, and Ronald Jones. *Rose-Neath Funeral Home  
211 Murrell Street  
Minden, Louisiana 71055  
(318)-377 3412*



Billy L. Gibson

Billy L. Gibson was born on May 30, 1938, in Goldonna, Louisiana, to Laverne Emmerson Ballard and John Ben Gibson. He joined Minden First Baptist at an early age. Then he moved his membership to German-town Baptist church. Billy was a true outdoors man who loved to hunt, fish, and enjoyed being with his family. Billy attended Sibley High school class of 1957. He also served in the Army for 6 years in Fort Bragg, North Carolina. On December 22,2020 he gained his wings and transitioned from his earthly home to his heavenly home. He is preceded in death by his mother Laverne Emerson Ballard, grandmother Luella Camp, and grandfather James Columbus Emerson. He leaves to cherish his memory his daughters Amanda Gibson, Angela Gibson, and Melin-

da Amu (adopted daughter); his siblings Orlette Gibson, Yvonne Price; three grandchildren Ryan Colgin, Kayden Dooly, and O'Shayla Calloway; nephew David ( wife Tina Price) and Niece Yvette (husband Raymond Post). Great nephew Drew Parker and Conner Price. Great Great Nephew Bryce and Hudson Parker. Great Great niece Paige, Aubreigh, and Stevie Parker. Honorary Pallbearers David Price, Jimmy Warren, Brian Mixion, and Kit Tuggle. Active Pallbearers Drew Parker, Ryan Colgin, and Conner Price. The memory of Billy L. Gibson will remain in the hearts of all of us who knew him as a father, brother, uncle, grandpa, and friend. *Benevolent Funeral Homem  
Graveside Services at Gardens of Memories Cemetery  
1527 Lewisville Road  
Minden, LA 71055  
March 6, 2021 at 2 P.M.*



Avis Smith

Graveside services for Avis Beatty Smith will be held Saturday, March 6, 2021 at 1:00 p.m. at Fellowship Cemetery in Dubberly, Louisiana under the direction of Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden, Louisiana with Rev. Bill Crider officiating. Avis was born March 19, 1925 in Heflin, Louisiana, and went to her heavenly home on February 26, 2021. She was an avid gardener of both vegetables and flowers and loved to cook. She shared the bounty of her garden with her family and friends, and everyone, at least once or many times, was the recipient of one of her fresh baked pecan pies or a warm chocolate chip pound cake. Avis was preceded in death by her parents, Edward and Minnie Beatty; her husband, Vernon Smith; sister, Maxine Merritt and brothers, Earl Beatty, Harold Beatty, and Aubrey Beatty.

Left to cherish her memory is her sister, Jo Ann White (Edward); her sons, Gary Smith (Sandra) and Don Smith. Grandchildren, Phillip Smith (Maricel) and Kitty Currie (John). Great grandchildren, Britini Smith; Emily Humphreys (Luke); Jessica Korthauer (Ryan) and Matthew Currie. Great great grandchildren, Emma and Hank Humphreys, and many precious nieces and nephews. The family would like to express their gratitude to the 2nd floor nurses at Minden Medical Center for their excellent short- term care. To the nurses, CNAs and staff of Meadowview Nursing and Rehab Center, we extend our greatest appreciation and love for the kindness and tender, loving care given to "our girl". Pallbearers will be Matthew Currie, Curtis Merritt, Bruce Beatty, Bill Beatty, Hewitt White, and Mike Holomon *Rose-Neath Funeral Home  
211 Murrell Street  
Minden, Louisiana 71055  
(318) 377-3412*

NEW Obituary Submission Guidelines

- All obituaries must be typed to avoid any errors.
- Deadline for obituaries is 3:00 p.m. two days prior to the publication date.
- A proof can be provided via email if requested.
- Obituary cost is \$40/per 400 words and includes a single photo. Payments can be made over the phone once the obit is received. All obituaries are subject to prepayment.
- Obituaries may be submitted by bringing a typed copy by our office at 203 Gleason St., Minden, or emailing to [obits@press-herald.com](mailto:obits@press-herald.com).

If you have any further questions please call our office at 318-377-1866



# OPINION

MINDEN  
PRESS-HERALD

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**THE MINDEN PRESS-HERALD WELCOMES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.**

**HERE ARE OUR GUIDELINES:**

Letters are published identifying name, occupation and/or title and the writer's city of residence. Letters are not to exceed 500 words.

Send letters to: Letters to the Editor, Minden Press-Herald, P.O. Box 1339, Minden, LA 71055, or email to: newsroom@press-herald.com.

## OTHER OPINION

# Tech giants have far too much power

The First Amendment prohibits government censorship but Leftist politicians and groups are attempting to accomplish the same thing with threats and bullying.

It is now undeniable. We continue to see it daily. While the 1st Amendment won't allow Congress and/or government to censor conservative speech, Leftwing activists and politicians are accomplishing the same thing by use of intimidation and bullying. We have witnessed in the last few months several such actions.

As we know, many large social media entities have banned well known and highly popular conservatives from their platforms. We've seen President Trump, himself, and numerous other conservative figures either temporarily or permanently censored and banned from Twitter, Facebook, Twitch, YouTube, TikTok, Snapchat and virtually every other major social media platform. Many that haven't been banned outright have had large numbers of their social media followers deleted. Ap-

ple, Google, and others have also now purged conservative speech and speakers from their platforms as well. This is the beginning of a punitive "de-platforming" push.

[I understand that companies like these are private companies but while they enjoy the enormous benefit of Section 230 legal liability protection from 3d party content under federal law (Communications Decency Act), they shouldn't be allowed to selectively censor].

As Federal Communications Commissioner, Brendan Carr, noted "right now the greatest threat to free speech in this country is not any law passed by the government—the First Amendment stands as a bulwark." Rather, he continued, "the threat comes in the form

of legislating by letterhead. Politicians have realized that they can silence the speech of those with different political viewpoints by public bullying."

What we know is that Big Tech censored and diminished the visibility of Breitbart News, for example, by some 99% in 2020. Big Tech accomplishes these purges by arbitrarily deeming conservative speech to be "disinformation," "hate speech" or "authoritative" speech. Do you see how broad those categories are? Anything and everything could potentially be banned! This is accomplished by the tweaking of complex algorithms to either filter out or prominently display certain content as the software directs.

How does this not qualify as consumer fraud and a deceptive business practice? Large numbers of people signed up with these social media platforms, established accounts, posted pictures, bought ads, and cultivated followers but suddenly these companies pull the rug out from under certain customers. It's a bait

and switch. And, for that matter, what about the public accommodation laws? 42 U.S.C. Sec. 2000a (a) states that "all persons shall be entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, ... and accommodations of any place of public accommodation ... without discrimination..." These social media giants certainly "affect commerce." For these reasons and others, I feel a solid legal argument can be made that the public accommodation laws should apply online as well as in person.

Big Tech has demonstrated a clear ideological bias, and Congress and regulators should take steps soon to ensure that the great legal and economic benefits these social media platforms were given in 1996—when these fledgling companies promised to be fair and impartial clearinghouses of all speech and content—are curtailed until a marketplace of ideas truly returns.

**ROYAL ALEXANDER IS A SHREVEPORT ATTORNEY.**



**ROYAL ALEXANDER**

## OTHER OPINION

# Is Biden reenlisting in the forever wars?

One week ago, in its first military action, the Biden Pentagon sent two U.S. F-15Es to strike targets of Kataib Hezbollah, an Iranian-backed Iraqi militia just inside the eastern border of Syria.

The U.S. strikes were in retaliation for a missile attack on a U.S. base in Irbil, capital of Iraqi Kurdistan, which killed a contractor and wounded a U.S. soldier.

"We're confident that the target was being used by the same Shia militia that conducted the strikes," said Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin.

But Democratic Sens. Tim Kaine and Chris Murphy want to know where President Joe Biden got his authority to launch attacks in Syria, where there was no clear or present danger to any U.S. troops.

Days before the U.S. strike, Kataib Hezbollah issued a statement denying any complicity in the Irbil attack: "We absolutely did not target Erbil or the Green Zone and have no knowledge of the group that did."

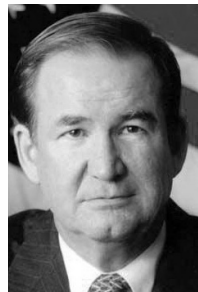
Iran has also denied any involvement in the missile attack on the Americans. On a visit to Baghdad, Iran's Foreign Minister Javad Zarif called for an investigation as to who is initiating the attacks inside Iraq.

"We emphasize the need for the Iraqi government to find the perpetrators of these incidents," said Zarif.

Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said Russian forces in Syria got only four or five minutes'

notice that U.S. planes were on their way to a strike.

Bottom line: Those conducting these attacks on U.S. bases and troops in Iraq, provoking American counterstrikes, seek to ignite a conflict between the



**PATRICK BUCHANAN**

U.S. and Iran, and its proxies in Iraq and Syria. And they are succeeding. Biden broke with former President Donald Trump on the latter's decision to pull out of the Iran nuclear deal and impose "maximum pressure" sanctions to compel Iran to negotiate a more restrictive deal. But Biden has yet to reveal his own strategy or goals in dealing with Tehran.

Is he willing to accept a return to the nuclear deal the U.S., U.K., France, Germany, China and Russia negotiated with Iran in 2015? And if that deal is now no longer adequate, how does Biden propose to get Iran to negotiate and agree to a tougher deal?

The leverage we have are the sanctions Trump imposed. If Biden lifts those in return for Iran returning to the terms of the 2015 deal, he surrenders all of his leverage for a new deal covering Tehran's missile development and aid to Shia militias in Yemen, Syria, Iraq and Lebanon.

But if Biden refuses to lift the Trump sanctions, Iran is likely to revive its nuclear enrichment program, give up on the U.S. and elect a hardline regime this year that could adopt a policy of attacking U.S. interests and personnel across the region until the Americans go home.

Six weeks into his administration, Biden seems in danger of being drawn back indefinitely into the forever wars of the Middle East.

In Afghanistan, under the terms of the peace deal negotiated with the Taliban in 2020, all U.S. troops are to be out of the country by May 1.

Under that deal, not a single U.S. soldier has been lost in combat in the last year.

If the U.S. announces, as some believe is likely, that we are not going to withdraw all forces by May 1, the Taliban, who control half the country, are likely to begin targeting the remaining American troops in the country.

Biden could then be presented with this Hobbesian choice: Flee Afghanistan under fire, or send more U.S. troops to protect those we left behind. Writes William Ruger, a veteran of the war and Trump's nominee to be ambassador to Afghanistan:

"Keeping our troops in Afghanistan beyond the promised deadline is pushing them back in the Taliban's cross hairs and indefinitely continuing an ... unwinnable war, which has already cost more than \$2

trillion and more than 2,400 American lives ...

"Anything less than a full drawdown means that Afghanistan will become President Biden's war. He will have to own the predictably terrible consequences of continuing a war that can't be won."

Looking at our 20 years of military intervention in the Middle East, since Osama bin Laden drew us in by bringing down the twin towers and hitting the Pentagon, what is on the asset side of our balance sheet?

Two decades of fighting in Afghanistan, yet the Taliban enemy we ousted in 2001 seems today destined to retake power when we depart.

Pro-Iranian Shia militia dominate the Iraq that we sent an army to liberate from Saddam Hussein. In Yemen and Syria, we bear major moral responsibility for two of the worst humanitarian disasters of the 21st century, and we are facing strategic defeats in both theaters.

In Libya, whose regime we helped to overthrow, Turks and Russians are fighting for control.

And China, which stayed out of all these wars we started — or into which we plunged — has prospered in these 20 years as few other nations in modern history.

**PATRICK J. BUCHANAN IS THE AUTHOR OF "NIXON'S WHITE HOUSE WARS: THE BATTLES THAT MADE AND BROKE A PRESIDENT AND DIVIDED AMERICA FOREVER."**



AROUND TOWN

UCAP needs for week of March 1:

Household Goods: towels, queen and king sheets, pots, pans & skillets

Clothing: Men’s socks

Thanks to the community for your outpouring of support!

19th Annual Scottish Tartan Festival

The 19th Annual Scottish Tartan Festival is coming to Minden, Louisiana Saturday April 10 at Scotland Farms, located 2224 LA 518. Join us as we celebrate Scottish culture and heritage through living history exhibits, Scottish cattle herding, Scottish history and Gaelic language seminars, and bagpipe music. There will be a dog show competition, a children’s area with hayride, Broadsword demonstrations, clan tents, genealogy, Scottish Highland beef burgers, and music, music, music! Performers include traditional Scottish band, Smithfield Fair, Traditional Irish groups, Emerald Accent and Cleghorn. There will also be performances by the Gems and the Port Belly Project of Shreveport, Louisiana. The Festival is being sponsored by the Scottish Society of the Louisiana Highlands.

Apache Princess Pageant

Glenbrook School’s annual Apache Princess Pageant will take place on Friday, March 12 at 7 p.m. at First Assembly of God Church in Minden. Due to capacity restrictions, a ticket must be purchased from a contestant prior to the pageant to attend. Tickets will not be available for purchase at the time of the event; however, the event will be live-streamed through the Glenbrook Apache Princess Facebook page. We invite everyone to watch with us as we choose our next Apache Princess.

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INSPIRATION

# Just stir what you have

Do you ever recall snippets of stories you have heard earlier in your life and it seems that one remark stands out above everything else?

I was reminded of one of these such stories this week. One can never be sure if the story is true or if it was just made up to stress a

point. Nevertheless, the one point being stressed is often important and can make a difference in one’s life.

While I don’t recall all the details of the story I will share what I do remember. And give you the moral of the tale.

There was once an older woman who owned a general store in a small community. Everyone lovingly called her Aunt Lucy, as she seemed to have no family but treated those who entered her business as family.

The young boys who frequented the store would always help with lifting heavy

items or any other task she asked them to do. They willingly helped Aunt Lucy, not because she was able to pay them, but she always had a pot of coffee on her stove and would share coffee with them as they listened to her tell the stories of her life.

To these youngsters, coffee was a “forbidden” treat as it was still considered an adult beverage. It was not suitable for children and it was only at Aunt Lucy’s they could taste the brewed drink. Of course, the coffee was diluted with milk to make it more palatable, plus one spoonful of sugar.

The boys would often complain and say they needed another spoonful of sugar.

To this, Aunt Lucy would always shake her head and say, “Just stir what you have.”

The boys soon learned that if they stirred that one spoonful of sugar really well,

the sweetness would be enhanced and the coffee tasted better.

As this phrase kept running through my mind, “Just stir what you have”, it started me thinking about stirring what we already have.

How often do we notice talents in others that are undeveloped because they didn’t dare take a risk? They might say, “But what if I try and fail” or “Will people make fun of my feeble attempts?” Do we know people like that?

But just look at all those who tried and succeeded.

There was once a man who loved country music and could sing really well. He didn’t mind sharing his talent of singing, yet he had a desire to learn to play the piano. He had a full time job, a family with several children and still he wanted to play piano enough that he took a chance. He made arrangements with a pianist to give lessons and he began to develop that talent that had lain hidden for so

many years. He stirred what he had.

I know of several young women who possessed talents for painting. Did they sit by and wish they could paint like a “real” artist? No, they didn’t but instead began to paint as often as they could. They had a family and worked at a job outside the home but still make time to get into painting. They took classes with a group, painted as often as they could and soon developed those innate desires. Now they proudly display their artwork and have even sold some pieces.

They stirred what they had. One young woman had a desire to write so even though she had a full time job and a family, she made time to begin writing down her thoughts and describing events in her family life. As she shared these with friends and received encouragement from others, she became more confident in herself. She later compiled some of these

in a devotional-type book aimed at encouraging other young women who were busy rearing children and managing households. She sold these with a cute title, “Mommy Has Crinkles”, with reference to her young daughter remarking on her “crinkles” (wrinkles). She is continuing in her writing and publishing, even though she has a very busy schedule-full-time job, a husband, and four children at home.

She just stirred what she had.

What is your secret wish to accomplish? Do you want to sing, play an instrument, write poetry, paint a beautiful picture? Think about it. What is it that you always wanted to do but were afraid to try?

Well now may be the time. Take Aunt Lucy’s advice and “just stir what you have.”

FANNIE MOORE IS A JOURNALIST WHO LIVES IN SHONGALOO WHERE SHE ENJOYS WRITING ON A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS.



FANNIE MOORE

INSPIRATION

## Space station launch honors ‘Hidden Figures’ mathematician

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A space station supply ship named after the Black NASA mathematician featured in the movie “Hidden Figures” rocketed into orbit Saturday, the 59th anniversary of John Glenn’s historic launch.

Northrop Grumman’s Cygnus capsule — dubbed the S.S. Katherine Johnson — should reach the International Space Station on Monday following its launch from Virginia’s eastern shore.

Johnson died almost exactly a year ago at age 101.

“Mrs. Johnson was selected for her hand-written calculations that helped launch the first Americans into space, as well as her accomplishments in breaking glass ceiling after glass ceiling as a Black woman,” Frank DeMauro, a Northrop Grumman vice president, said on the eve of liftoff.

“A homework assignment for all of you is to go watch that movie after the Cygnus launch.” Johnson’s numbers contributed to the Feb. 20, 1962, flight in which Glenn became the first American to orbit the world. The film, released in late 2016, depicted the effort put forth by Johnson and other Black women at NASA’s Langley Research Center in Hampton, Virginia, during the early days of space exploration. Langley is 100 miles (160 kilometers) from the launch site at Wallops Island.

Northrop Grumman launched the 4-ton shipment for NASA in the early afternoon from Wallops, where temperatures were just above freezing. The Antares rocket was visible from the Carolinas to Connecticut, at least where skies were clear. This will be the space station’s second delivery in less than a week. A Russian capsule pulled up Wednesday with apples and oranges, among other things.

“Oh, we love fresh food!!!” tweeted Japanese astronaut Soichi Noguchi. He noted that the space station flew over Virginia just 10 minutes ahead of Saturday’s launch.

Noguchi and his six U.S. and Russian crewmates can expect more apples once the Cygnus arrives, along with tomatoes, nuts, smoked salmon, Parmesan and cheddar cheeses, caramels and coconut strips. The capsule also holds 120,000 tiny roundworms for a muscle experiment, as well as off-the-shelf computer equipment to increase data processing speed at the space station. Also flying: radiation detectors intended for NASA’s astronaut moon-landing program, and a new system to convert more of the astronauts’ urine into drinking water. It is Northrop Grumman’s 15th station supply run for NASA. SpaceX is NASA’s other shipper.

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LOCAL EATS

# Food for the Soul: Part 2

JORDAN LAHAYE FONTENOT  
Country Roads Magazine

Barbecue Brisket at the  
Simply Southern Cottage

With Gray’s help, I found myself comfortably accommodated for the night by Sara McDaniel, who I had been told was a remarkably successful blogger featured in lifestyle publications across the South, including Better Homes & Gardens, Cottage Style, Lola Magazine, Southern Lady, and more.

Having been graciously welcomed into her home earlier that day, I had briefly gotten the chance to explore some of her greatly celebrated “Simply Southern Cottage,” a 1926 home in Minden’s Historic District that she had restored and renovated into a modern epitome of Southern charm and style, attracting a massive Instagram following along the way. Awash in natural light and Sherwin Williams’ “Snow-bound,” tasteful and fascinating details stand out: elegant light fixtures, old shutters used as wall decor, an antique hutch—all of it accented in the breathing character of salvaged wood and centered by a fireplace-library-chandelier tableau at the end of her sitting room.

Sara McDaniel’s Simply  
Southern Cottage

Before McDaniel’s renovations, her cottage was totally hidden by red tip photinias and crumbling. She felt it calling her immediately, and began praying earnestly that its owners would sell it to her. Today, her story and ongoing restoration projects have garnered her a massive online following inspired by her knack for interiors, her adventures, and her motivational lifestyle.

Upon my return that evening—barbecue brisket plate and Abita Strawberry at the ready (had to try some of that quintessential Minden barbecue—Smokin’ J’s, highly recommended), I curled onto the plush white couch in my little guest apartment upstairs and opened my laptop.

So, what’s her story? Pulling up McDaniel’s blog, I learned that this house was more than a fun project, more than a claim to fame. In a post she wrote in October, I discovered yet another story of a woman restored, her life reclaimed, in Minden.

McDaniel had discovered her cottage at a time when she was resisting an inner (divine?) urge to move away from her life in Texas and closer to her family. She was just coming out of a divorce, mourning the loss of the life she had always envisioned for herself. Then one day, she was home for Christmas, driving through the historic district, and she saw it—at the time, obscured by red tip photinias and crumbling. She wrote, “Yet I knew in that twinkling in time, this was supposed to be my house and Minden was supposed to be my home.”

Drawn to the biblical story of Joshua and the battle of Jericho, McDaniel spent

the next several months praying that the owners—who no longer lived there—would agree to sell it to her, literally marching (with permission) around it, “bathing it in prayer.”

When she finally got the go-ahead, “I closed on the broken-down cottage, left in shambles and ruins, much like my life,” and “somewhere along the way, I began to realize ... the restoration of my house paralleled the restoration and reclamation of my life. My walls of resentment, anger, and bitterness were torn down. A new me and a new life were being carefully crafted and fashioned. While remnants of the old life remained, they were altered and polished, yet the flaws remained, adding in character and wisdom.”

Pre-Paddling Fuel at  
Hamburger Happiness

Some of Minden’s lesser known crown jewels are its plentiful waterways—centuries-old lakes and bayous lacing old cypress forests and the wild water kingdoms they foster.

One of Gray’s biggest goals for tourism in Webster Parish—especially in the festival-less, crowdless era of COVID-19—is to get people on the water. In partnership with the local Bayou Chapter of the Ozark Society paddle group (BCOS), she recently completed the parish’s first official paddle trail at Lake Bistineau State Park, and is working on a second along Bayou Dorcheat.

Though the state park was closed during my visit, Gray wanted to be sure to give me the “full Minden experience,” and organized a short morning paddle for us on Lake Bistineau, accompanied by McDaniel and Tammy Lee Jernigan, a representative from BCOS.

Before we got on the water, though, we fueled up with a home-style breakfast at the perfectly gritty, small-town diner: Hamburger Happiness. A plate of eggs, sausage, and biscuits ain’t nothing complicated, but it can be—and is—so easily done wrong. This plate, though, had all of the savory sincerity of well-used frying pans and hand-cracked eggs that any such establishment ought to aspire to.

Any visit to Webster Parish should include a day spent on one of its many gorgeous waterways. Lake Bistineau is a popular spot, and the home of the parish’s first official paddle trail.

In between conversations about the virtues of Southern Maid Donuts, the three women shared stories of past paddling antics, and discussed future plans for the CVB and BCOS to collaborate.

“People in Minden don’t realize that this is all here,” said Gray. “I post pictures of the cypress trees, and people will ask me where I am—assuming I’m somewhere down south. They don’t know that this is in their actual backyard.”

Later, on the water, Gray pointed out several lakefront properties—jokingly saying that that one is her dream home for Webster Parish’s future welcome

center. One day she hopes to center the office’s activities on the water, and to attract a kayak and canoe rental service to do business in the area for locals and visitors alike.

In the meantime, though, her collaboration with Jernigan and BCOS has been essential to these early efforts of promoting water recreation. “Whenever we need boats for people visiting or for locals who want to go out, Tammy or other members of the group will loan out their private boats free of charge, and usually deliver them too,” said Gray.

The group has also organized several community paddle events, including a recent one on Bayou Dorcheat at night. McDaniel had attended and described the remarkable way a bunch of strangers had gathered together on a weekend with the sole purpose of getting out on the water. “By the end, having paddled together in the pitch black as a group, we had all gotten to know each other so well,” she said. “It was really cool.”

Passenger Seat Reflections at Yummy Sushi

A surprising spot that Gray assured me was not to be missed was Yummy Sushi, an abandoned Sonic which had been taken over by a sushi chef. Gray admitted that she had been skeptical when they first opened up, but that it had quickly become one of her favorite places to eat in Minden—and a concept that, these days, seems a bit ahead of the curve.

So with each a “Spicy Green Roll” balanced on our laps, we chatted—discussing in deeper depth her experience moving from Lafayette to North Louisiana and her goals for encouraging more people to visit. We talked about the challenges of promoting tourism in a small town, especially these days, and how important creativity and community collaboration are to the efforts. At some point, our conversation rolled back around to Generation House. I asked Gray how she had gotten involved with the program.

“Well,” she said. “My father-in-law started it.” The senior pastor (and founder) of the Christian Church of Minden, Paul Gray discovered a need to support women, even after they come out of recovery programs, when a close family member underwent her own journey to recovery. “She came back from her program, and had a functioning family there to support her and get her started again,” said Gray. “But she had a friend who had gone through it all with her. We found out later that the friend—lacking other resources—had simply returned to the same environment that had put her on this destructive path in the first place, just down the hall from her longtime abuser.”

This deeply impacted Pastor Paul, who immediately felt compelled to do something. “We told him,” said Gray, “no, no, no. This is a big job. A big responsibility. We don’t need to



start anything on this scale. But of course he persisted, and our entire church came behind him. And we—well, God—made it happen.”

Just then, our server, a heavily earringed young man, masked, jogging around from car to car, came by to check on us, and he asked Gray why she hadn’t gotten her usual (the Mexican Roll).

I asked how she knew him, and she said, “From church.”

The Christian Church of  
Minden

Led by the pastors—Gray’s in-laws—of the CCAM, I peeked into the half-dozen classrooms-turned-gathering spaces. Furnished with charming mismatched couches, tables, and even a fake fireplace (much of which, Gray noted, came from the local antique trail), and emblazoned with wall art boasting affirmations of “You Belong Here,” and “Friends Gather Here,” the rooms felt like tiny living rooms—each designed for various age groups. In the teen activity room, for example, there were black lights, pool tables, and a station for video games—a set up nicer than most arcades these days. At the end of the long hallway was the auditorium, which

is where the church held their Sunday services.

In the back, though, in the college’s old machine shop is a massive space filled almost to the ceiling with pallets of Gatorade, chips, crackers, bread, hair-spray—“whatever they [the Food Bank of Northwest Louisiana] brings us, and whatever people donate.” On the back wall, a row of freezers keeps the meat cold, and a giant walk-in cooler holds all of the other perishables, including fresh vegetables picked from the community garden just outside. Called the Joe LeBlanc Food Pantry, this ministry of CCAM’s feeds Minden’s hungry on a massive scale, distributing an average of 89,000 pounds of food per month. Since the rise of COVID-19 in March, the number of families served by the food pantry has risen from six hundred to almost eight hundred.

The Christian Church of Minden, a nondemoninational church founded on principles of service and a goal to serve members of the community not necessarily served in existing congregations, is a major part of feeding its community through its community garden and the Joe LeBlanc Food Pantry. Photos by Jordan LaHaye.

I commented on the sheer scale of CCAM’s

ministries, struck by the remarkable amount of good seeming to be coming from this place. Pastor Paul nodded, but stopped me, saying—“It’s the whole community, though. We never anticipated for all this to grow like it did, but when one person starts something, so many more people show up.” And the good multiplies and multiplies, spreading throughout their little city.

On our way out, Gray pulled me through a door and pointed at one chair of many, situated in a circle. “Every Sunday,” she said, “at 9:30 am, first thing in the morning, Jodie Martin is sitting right there, leading a study group on the power, and the practice, of prayer.”

Coming full circle, this city of generous, faith-filled, action-oriented hearts had impressed me, one of rather faltering faith of late. Using what’s in the house—food, community, creativity, nature—Minden’s best (so many of them women!) have crafted a place where the vulnerable can feel supported, can be lifted up, and can start again. It’s a place of hope and promise, this little North Louisiana town, and one I hope to visit again soon.

THIS ARTICLE ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN THE AUGUST 2020 ISSUE



STRANGER FROM A STRANGE LAND

# Washington’s Farewell Address

Popular culture I treasure most first circulated in the century before our present. I’m an old guy. Occasionally a newer film, play, music, or combination crosses my narrowing radar.

I too was captivated by Lin-Manuel Miranda’s hip hop take on Alexander Hamilton. The beloved

song One Last Time and its coda refrain, “George Washington’s going home” from Hamilton: An American Musical struck me as the best musical exit since Rocky Horror’s Doctor Frank-N-Furter. A benefit of Hamilton’s popularity is prompting many to investigate history further. I was one.

The scene is based on George Washington’s Farewell Address. James Madison penned a first draft during Washington’s first term. The first President was tired of the office but the country needed him a second term. Washington’s secretary Hamilton was a gifted writer and helped pen the second Farewell. Later historians charged it was Hamilton’s work. But Washington had the final say on revising the composition. Madison and Hamilton were integral but the byline was Washington’s.

I visited the Webster Parish Library and checked out Washington’s Farewell: The Founding Father’s Warning to Future Generations by John Avlon. The book shares an 1823 letter from Thomas Jefferson reminiscing

about the Farewell Address evolution. “Mr. Madison recognized in it several passages from his draft, several others we were satisfied were from the pen of

Hamilton, and others, from that of the President himself. These he probably put into the hands of Hamilton

to form a whole, and hence it may all appear in Hamilton’s handwriting, as if it were all of his composition.” Avlon concludes, “Jefferson guessed correctly at the process of writing the Farewell Address.”

Inaugurations used to occur in March and not January. Enough weeks have passed and hopefully tempers cooled since Joe Biden became President to extol the good old days of dignified and peaceful transition of power. That’s one of the global peculiarities of the American experiment. Prior to George Washington’s Goodbye of 1796, leaders generally only conceded power by force or by dying. Here was a President voluntarily stepping down after a mere eight years on the symbolic throne? European crowns looking across the Atlantic were astonished.

The United States unity was a constant concern for Washington. Avlon observed, “Success would come from leveraging its combined strength rather than re-creating a European-style landlocked competition of solely self-interested states.” According

to Avlon, “Washington was in the civilization-building business.”

Washington’s Farewell Address was published in the American Daily Advertiser of Philadelphia on September 19, 1796.

It was accorded the second and third page. Only newspapers were the mass media of the day. The Address of General Washington to the People of America on His Declining the Presidency of the United States appeared in print only. He didn’t read it aloud before the American people. It was soon canonized and studied by school kids for over a century after its publication. Congress reads it aloud annually on Washington’s birthday.

Its seeming advocacy of isolationism seems dated. Subsequent masterpieces like Abraham Lincoln’s Gettysburg take its limelight. Avlon turns to the Bible for an apt parallel.“The Gettysburg Address was the New Testament to Washington’s Old Testament, a poetic promise of life after death, rather than the rules of behavior dispatched by a distant god.”

Washington called it “the disinterested warnings of a parting friend.” He humbly noted, “Interwoven as is the love of liberty with every ligament of your hearts, no recommendation of mine is necessary to fortify or confirm the attachment.” He believed we should be “indignantly frowning upon the first dawning of every attempt to alienate any portion of our country from

the rest.” He called our government “the offspring of our own choice.” That’s what made it so important. The country had enough problems with bickering European powers. Washington didn’t want us torn apart from within.

He worried about when “unprincipled men will be enabled to subvert the power of the people and to usurp for themselves the reins of government, destroying afterwards the very engines which have lifted them to unjust dominion.” Washington was the first and final President before political parties forever took hold and dominated debate. “Let me now take a more comprehensive view, and warn you in the most solemn manner against the baneful effects of the spirit of party generally.”

In the prophetic spirit, Washington warned, “The disorders and miseries which result gradually incline the minds of men to seek security and repose in the absolute power of an individual; and sooner or later the chief of some prevailing faction, more able or more fortunate than his competitors, turns this disposition to the purposes of his own elevation, on the ruins of public liberty.”

Washington railed against partisan politics from the onset. “I was no party man myself, and the first wish of my heart was, if parties did exist, to reconcile them,” he wrote to Jefferson in

July 1796. Two months later we read in the Farewell Address, “It agitates the community with ill-founded jealousies and false alarms, kindles the animosity of one part against another, foment occasionally riot and insurrection.”

Hamilton more colorfully expressed a similar sentiment in a letter from 1792. “I would mount the hobbyhorse of popularity, I would cry out usurpation, danger to liberty etc. etc. I would endeavor to prostrate the national government, raise a ferment, and then ride the whirlwind and direct the storm.”

Washington insisted in his Farewell Address “honesty is always the best policy.” To be honest, our first President was one of several to own slaves. He did free them in his will but he also took out ads a couple years before his death to try and recapture his escaped slave chef Hercules. The man finally busted loose from the longtime Washington family clutches in Philadelphia. They never caught Hercules the acclaimed chef.

Avlon suggests that the Farewell Address “durable wisdom is starkly relevant and due for resurgence.” I agree. I was struck reading this insightful document from George Washington.

DIRK ELLINGSON IS A MINDEN, LA  
RESIDENT AND IS CURRENTLY A PHARMACY  
TECHNICIAN AT THE LOCAL WALGREENS.

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BASEBALL

## A home run, a grand slam, a no-hitter, oh my.

WILL PHILLIPS  
Minden Press-Herald

In a baseball tournament that took place over this past weekend, Minden High's baseball team won two games, one against Captain Shreve that ended with a score of 5-2, and a much more explosive game by contrast against Leesville High School, which MHS's won handily with a final score of 17-3. The game against Leesville was also a no-hitter carried out by sophomore Bryce Miller, a solo home run hit by Jacob Walker, and a Grand Slam hit by sophomore Elliott Sheppard.

Coach Ben Bower took the time to provide his insight as to how these games played out. In regard to the game against Captain Shreve, Bower said, "Hayden Brown pitched that game. He's a senior, and he did really well. Threw strikes.

In that game, we had some timely hitting. We were pretty evenly matched as far as the pitching and

the defense went. Now to me, the difference in the game was we got timely hitting and they didn't. We got tickets when we had runners in scoring position and they didn't."

Shifting the discussion to the Leesville game, Bower stated that Captain Shreve was a team that had beaten them by one run in their two games against the team in the last two years. So in particular that was a team they were gunning to beat.

"We played them last year in the same tournament and they beat us by one run. I think it was eight to seven. And then the previous year we actually played them in the playoffs and they beat a six to five. So we've actually played them three years in a row, and this is the first time we've managed to handle business when we played them," said Bower.

And beat them they did, with a final score of 17-3, including a solo home run, a grand slam, and a no-hitter.

Granted, Leesville was a still able to score, with Bower explaining, "Now they

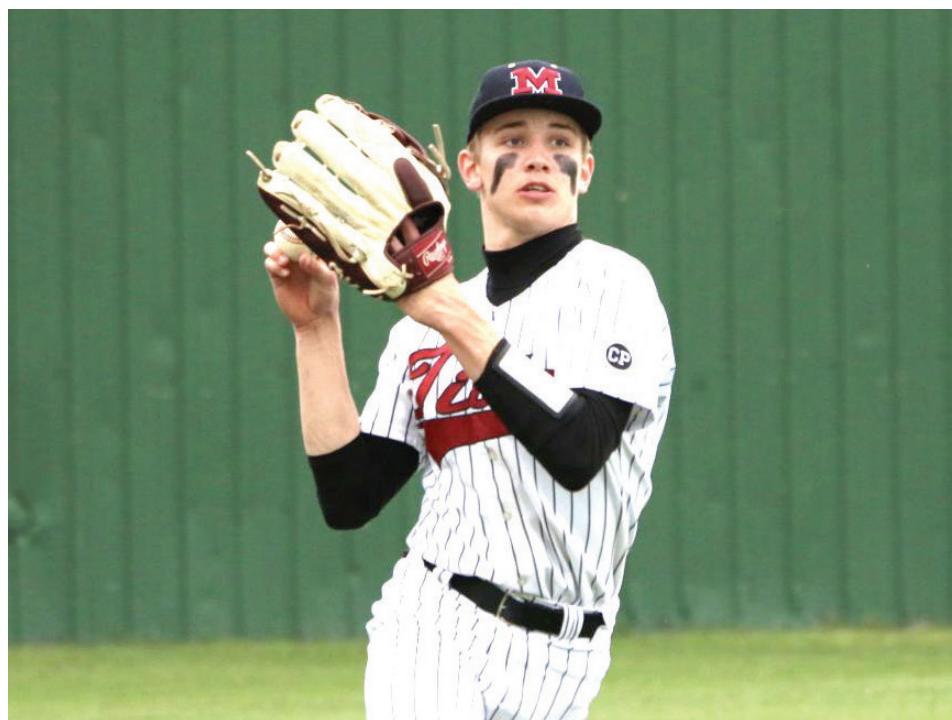
scored because he walked a couple runs, and then we had a couple of past balls, and so they scored three runs on a no-hit ball game, which is ridiculous, but, [Bryce Miller] did really well."

"I had my sophomore first baseman, Elliott Sheppard, hit a grand slam, and I had a senior Jacob Walker hit a solo home run, and those were back to back," said Bower.

"In eighteen years of coaching, I've never had back-to-back home runs like that, which is crazy."

While the game definitely harbored some explosive plays, ultimately Bower credited the win to his team's consistent play and doing "the little things right."

"I know they used quite a few pitchers. They struggled early throwing strikes, but like I said, I think we ended up with twelve or more hits on Saturday against those guys. The difference, like I said earlier, like they walk a couple, walk a couple, and then when they threw



MINDEN PRESS-HERALD/FILE PHOTO

The Crimson Tide's next game is against Rayville tonight at Griffith Stadium

strikes, we got base hits off of it or we moved a runner over and gave the next guy the opportunity to score. We were doing the little stuff right," said Bower.

"If these guys are doing the little stuff right, we can manage to win some ball games. If people give us baserunners, we have got to do our job to try to move them over to the next base and then let the next guy

get them in. Like I said, the last two games, we've been fortunate enough to get that done. So hopefully they keep doing that. If we can keep that up, we'll be in good shape."

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NFL

Milton Williams Invited to NFL Combine

RUSTON, La. – Though there is no NFL Scouting Combine in Indianapolis this year, Louisiana Tech’s Milton Williams earned a spot on the invite list. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the NFL Combine will be done virtually with each school’s Pro Day taking place of the usual workouts done in Indianapolis. Williams, a 6-4, 278-pound defensive

lineman, earned 2020 First Team All-C-USA honors by both the conference and Phil Steele, and was named a third team All-American by Pro Football Focus. In the 2020 season, the native of Crowley, Texas, ranked third in C-USA in tackles for loss with 10.0 and seventh in sacks with 4.5. Williams was fifth on the team in tackles with 44, including 21 solo. He had a season-high eight tackles and a career-high 3.0 TFLs against UAB on Oct. 31. Williams registered at least three tackles in every game of the 2020 campaign. He also posted two quarterback hurries and one fumble

recovery during the season. During his LA Tech career, Williams registered 106 total tackles, including 49 solo, 19.0 for loss and 10.0 sacks. Season tickets for the 2021 Louisiana Tech football season are on sale now. Fans can purchase season tickets online at LATechSports.com/tickets or by calling the LA Tech Ticket Office at (318) 257-3631. The renewal deadline for season tickets is June 1, 2021.



Louisiana Tech defensive lineman Milton Williams.

TIM MORRIS/COURTESY PHOTO

BASKETBALL

Errant in-bounds pass costs BPCC Cavaliers in 74-72 loss to LSCPA Seahawks

BOSSIER CITY, La. – With the game tied at 72 and Bossier Parish in possession, a miscommunication on the in-bounds pass led to Lamar State Port Arthur’s

Kobi Johnson picking up the errant pass and driving for the game-winning layup with four seconds left. BPCC’s Paul King drove the length of the court and down the

right side of the lane and connected on the apparent game-tying layup. As the ball slipped through the net, King was whistled for an offensive foul thereby ending the game.

It was bitterly disappointing loss for the Cavaliers, who led by as much as 15 points in the second half, including by six with just over a minute left. Trailing 72-69, LSCPA’s Ty Archibald double-clutched a three-point attempt and was fouled by BPCC’s Fahmmi Mamo. Archibald, who was the Seahawks leading scorer in the game with 18, sank all three free throws to tie the game at 72 before Johnson’s game-winning layup.



The Seahawks had just two other players reach double figures in the game, forward Joe Lucien with 17 and guard Desmond McQuain, who added 10. The Cavaliers were led by King, who scored a game-high 19 points, while Mamo added 16 and Tutu Majok chipped in with 13. Majok, who leads Region XIV in rebounding, registered his fourth double-double of the season by grabbing a game-high 11 rebounds. With the win the Seahawks improve to 3-7 on the year, while the loss drops the Cavaliers to 3-7. BPCC travels to Tyler, Texas on Sat., March 6 to take on the TJCO Apaches.

MINDEN  
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EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE  
MARCH 20, 2021 ELECTION

Registrar Of Voters Office  
Webster Parish Courthouse  
410 Main St., Minden  
Saturday, March 6,- Saturday, March 13  
Excluding Sunday, March 7  
8:30AM until 6:00PM

\*\*\*\*\*

Springhill Civic Center  
101 Machen Dr., Springhill  
Saturday, March 6, - March 9  
Excluding Sunday, March 7  
8:30AM until 6:00PM

To view your sample ballot and obtain additional information regarding voting and elections visit [www.GeauxVote.com](http://www.GeauxVote.com) or contact your local Registrar of Voters office at 377-9272.



# Good News

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INSPIRATION

## ALWAYS ON MISSION Act 28:17-28

In the Book of Acts, we find the intriguing account of Paul's conversion experience and his three missionary journeys. Sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ was his mission. As we read these accounts, we can almost hear him as he explains how he met Jesus on the road to Damascus, how he was blinded and then received back his sight. Then he received from the Lord his life's mission: "take the message of salvation to the Gentiles as well as the Jews scattered across the known world."

We find accounts of him being tossed into prison, worshiped as a god, stoned several times and left for dead. He had to flee from several towns, faced false charges and threats on his life. At the close of the book, we find Paul in a Roman prison, awaiting trial before Caesar. But there is a thread connecting all these events and circumstances: opportunities to share the gospel.

In C-26:7, Paul is brought before King Agrippa and Gov. Festus (in Israel) where they examined and drilled him concerning his beliefs and behavior. He candidly stood before them and shared his testimony of meeting Jesus on the Damascus Road and the call placed upon his life. King Agrippa said to Festus, "This man could have been set free if he had not appealed to Caesar." So arrangements were made to send him to Rome to appear before Caesar. C-27.

As the small ship headed out to sea, loaded with cargo and Paul

under heavy guard, they struggled as they crossed the stormy waters. There were 276 men on this Egyptian ship sailing for Italy. Sailing across the Aegean Sea, around the island of Crete, they headed out into the broad Mediterranean Sea.

After days fighting a hard storm, they were shipwrecked on the island of Malta. They all survived the wreck and stayed there 3 months until springtime. Then they continued on to Rome (27:11). When they reached Puteoli, seaport for Rome, they met some believers who invited Paul and friends (traveling with him) to spend a week with them. These men had traveled some distance to meet Paul and his friends. Upon meeting them, Paul was deeply encouraged and thanked God for sending them to him. Then, they moved on to Rome where Paul (still under house arrest) was allowed to live by himself with a body guard.

Paul shared with the Jews about his journey that led him to Rome (28:17-20). He had long desired to come to Rome, to encourage the believers, to preach the gospel, and secure help of the Roman church for his mission to Spain (Rom 1 & 15). Here he was in chains, under house arrest, waiting to be taken to Caesar. But his mission and determination was still the same: "Preach the gospel."

But first he wanted to meet with the Jewish leaders. It was his custom to preach in the synagogue, but he could not go to them; therefore, they would have to come to him where he was 'housebound'.

He declared that he was coming to them as brothers -having done nothing against them or their customs. The reason I am here is this: "I was delivered as a prisoner from Jerusalem into the hands of the Romans. (no mention of his rough treatment in Jerusalem by the Jewish leaders). But the Roman king and governor found no fault in my preaching and behavior; they saw no reason to put me to death; He could be set free if he hadn't appealed to Caesar!" (This explains to them why he was now in Rome under house arrest. (V 18-19).

Paul was aware "God was at work in all these circumstances" and he was perceptive of it all too. V 20: It is because of this, I asked to see you first to share this with you. "This is what we have in common - The Hope of Israel, the Messiah that our forefathers knew about, actually now has come! He is the one I am compelled and committed to be a witness unto Him even though I am wearing these chains."

The Jews present told Paul they had not heard anything from Jerusalem about him and his ministry. "This is all new to us. No one has sent us or brought us any-

thing about you. Even those coming here from that region have not spoken anything about you or your ministry." The people were interested in hearing more about this new teaching Paul brought to them. It seems people everywhere in Rome were talking about it.

Eventhough the number of Jewish believers in Rome was small, it had survived the expulsion of the Jews by Claudius in AD 49, caused by riots prompted by preaching of Christ. After his death (AD 54), many of Jewish believers returned to the city. Paul wrote his letter to the Roman church about AD 57, reflecting on the value of the presence of the church there. By AD 61, when Paul arrived, the church had continued to grow, but still was referred to as a sect. It received a negative assessment from the Jewish and Roman communities. But Paul wanted to present his message of the gospel to the Jews and Jewish believers alike. 'He could relate to both of them.'

"Yes, we want to hear more about this since everyone is talking about this new sect and system of beliefs," they said. (V. 23). They were anxious to go to him, being under house arrest, since he could not go to the synagogue or community square. From dawn to dusk, they came to hear Paul preach. He expounded and testified, trying to persuade them about Jesus. He began with the Law of Moses and the Prophets. The pattern of this sermon was probably like unto the ones he preached earlier, shar-

ing how this Jesus was the same Messiah of the Old Testament. "They all pointed to Jesus, the Christ," he taught.

Some were persuaded and believed; sadly others refused to believe. Most of the Jewish community there opposed Paul's teachings. Yes, God's own people rejected the gospel: the power of God for salvation (Rom 1:16). It was offered first to Jews, then to Gentile and Greek, "but each must receive it by faith; it is an individual decision," he preached.

When they gathered to hear Paul preach (v 23), he told them about the Kingdom of God and taught them about Jesus from the 5 books of Moses and the prophecies. They listened: some believed, but some did not. They argued back and forth, but when they left the final words of Paul was ringing in their ears: "The Holy Spirit was right when he said through Isaiah the prophet - Say to the Jews, 'You will hear and see but not understand, for your hearts are too hard and your ears don't listen. You have closed your eyes against understanding for you don't want to see, hear, understand and turn to me to heal you.'"

Luke ends the Book of Acts with Paul still in prison. He spent 2 years more there in rented quarters, under house arrest, but able to receive visitors during this time. So he preached and preached and preached. Those around him must have been affected in many positive ways, realizing this new Way was not a sect, but

was ordained by God himself.

Paul was clearly one of the greatest missionaries of all time, yet many failed to believe his message. Like him, our task is to be faithful witnesses to all people, regardless of their responses. We see in Paul's ministry that God uses a variety of means to bring believers in contact with others who need to know the gospel. We should be looking to share the gospel with all people, especially those seeking to know more about Him. We are to be faithful in our witness, realizing we are on mission throughout life.

We may not go across the ocean to some foreign country to tell others about 'what Christ has done for us,' but we can help feed the hungry here in Minden, we can show God's love to the homeless and helpless around us. We can minister to the sick, visit in the jails and prisons, we can support UCAP, Teen Challenge, NW Pregnancy Center, and other agencies with a 'gospel message.' We can send a message 'someone cares for you because of Jesus' to our world. Don't be disappointed that you don't 'close a sale' each time you share a testimony; Paul was not able to do that either. We plant the seed, someone else may water and cultivate it as it grows....But we know God will reap the harvest in due time! We must be faithful to always be on mission!

**BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER**



Bill Crider

LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED

## Building the Temple at Jerusalem

When the Jews were carried captive to Babylon, the city was burned with fire along with the wall around the city of Jerusalem. Babylon had been defeated by Crus, King of Persia. King Cyrus decreed

that the Jews who wanted to go to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple were permitted to go. Esra led the group of Jews and they went to Jerusalem to rebuild the Temple. They

Cyrus and King Cyrus had the work stopped for several years. By this time Cyrus had been replaced by King Darius, who gave them permission to complete the Temple.



Mack Ford

**MACK FORD IS A LOCAL RESIDENT**

**OF WEBSTER PARISH**

THE UPWARD LOOK

## The Flesh

*"Among them we too all formerly lived in the lusts of our flesh, indulging the desires of the flesh and of the mind, and were by nature children of wrath, even as the rest." Ephesians 2:3*  
NASB



Max Hutto

One's own personal fleshly nature is the third major force that influences and drives a person's sinful lifestyle. The word

"flesh" does not describe the physical body but the humanity, the spirit, the soul of the person, which is by nature sinful, craving after its own desires, passions, and wishes and not after God and

His will. This nature defines one's passions and lusts which are one's deepest desires and yearnings

of the heart and mind. The flesh supplies the inclination, the natural tendency, the propensity, the bent, towards sin.

Lord Jesus, my fleshly desires are great. Only in Your strength and grace can I walk in a lifestyle of righteousness.

**MAX HUTTO IS A BAPTIST MINISTER AND A RESIDENT OF MINDEN. MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.UPWARDLOOK.ORG**

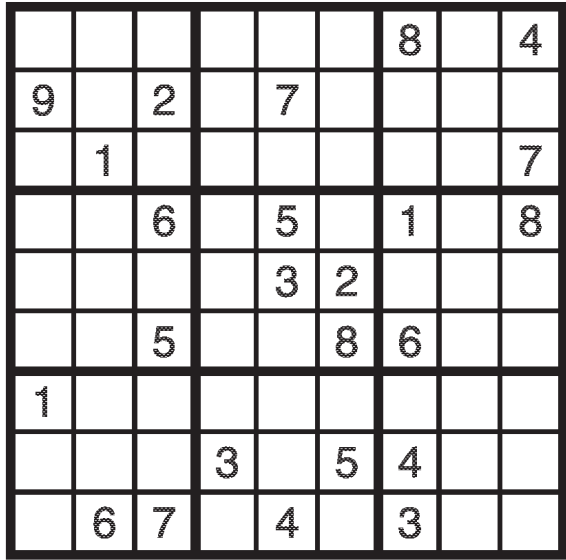


727 Main Street | Minden | 299-3856  
www.gorillatechandrepair.com



SUDOKU

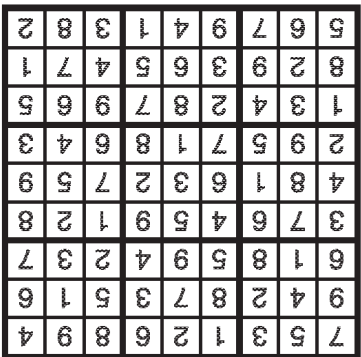
SUDOKU



Level: Advanced

Here’s How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you’ll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

WORD SLEUTH

WORD SLEUTH • HOW WE GET THERE

U N K H D A X T U R P M J G D

A X V S Q (MOTORCYCLE)

N Y A W B U S K I F D A X V T

Q W O M R E T O O C S E J H F

C A A B Y A N W W U R S P N L

J H U H O F C A D B K R Z X V

T S R B S Q L E L I O O M K I

H F D B Z K Y W L P V H T R Q

O N E L C Y C I B B R L K I H

F D C A Z X F I T R A I N U R

W V M A R T F A R C E C A P S

Thursday’s unlisted clue: JACK 18

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Friday’s unlisted clue hint: Underground Transportation

Airplane  
Bicycle  
Boat  
Cable car

Horse  
Motorcycle  
Rickshaw  
Run

Scooter  
Ski lift  
Spacecraft  
Tour bus

Train  
Tram  
Walk

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3/5

HISTORY

Continued from Page 11  
memorial service for the victims of the La Coubre explosion.

1872 - The air brake is patented. George Westinghouse is credited with the design of the railway braking system that uses compressed air.

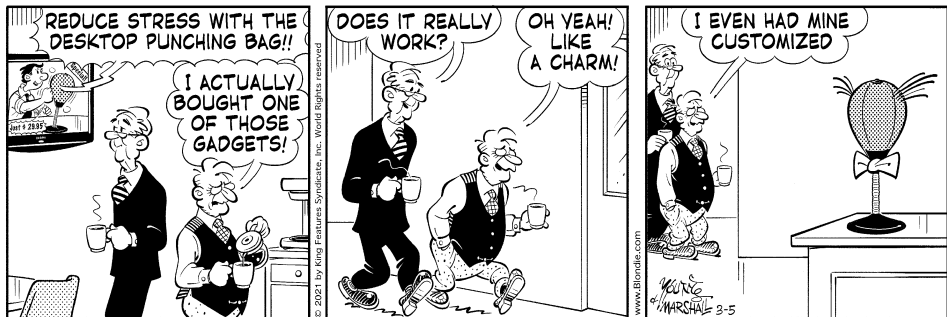
1616 - Nicolaus Copernicus’ revolutionary book De revolutionibus orbium coelestium is banned by the Catholic Church. In the book, Copernicus claimed that the Earth revolves around the sun. The Church maintained Ptolemy’s geocentric system. The book is considered a milestone in the history of astronomy.

COMICS

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT & GREG WALKER



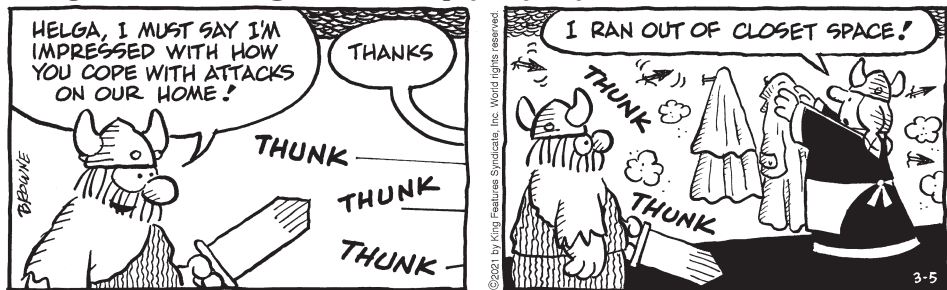
FUNKY WINKERBEAN | TOM BATIUK



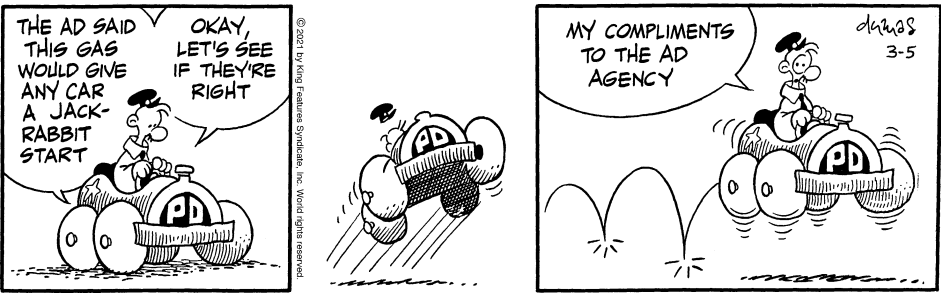
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN WALKER, GREG WALKER AND CHANCE BROWNE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



SAM AND SILO | JERRY DUMAS



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM | MIKE PETERS





# CLASSIFIEDS

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Classified line ads are published Tuesday through Saturday in the Minden Press-Herald, Bossier Press-Tribune and online at [www.press-herald.com](http://www.press-herald.com)

## Classified Rates

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**\$11**  
One Day

**\$16.<sup>50</sup>**  
Two Days

Receive a FREE Garage Sale Kit with your two day ad!

\*Garage Sale ads must be prepaid.

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Line ads must be submitted by noon the day before publication. Display ads two days prior to publication.

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### Real Estate Notice

"All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate, which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

## Grow Your Business

Call Courtney to place your ad!

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YOUR AD  
TODAY!  
377-1866



### ADVERTISE- MENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals will be received by the Webster Parish School Board, Attn: Johnny Rowland, Jr., by hand-delivery, at 1442 Sheppard Street, Minden, Louisiana, by mail to the Webster Parish School Board, ATTN: Johnny Rowland, P. O. Box 520, Minden, Louisiana 71058, Or electronically at [www.central-bidding.com](http://www.central-bidding.com) until 2:00 p.m. on Monday, March 08, 2021 for the sale of the following property: 215 N. Middle Landing Minden, LA 71055 (Old Stewart Elementary Site) Precisely at the above time and place, all proposals in hand will be publicly opened and read aloud and any proposals received subsequent to the opening will be returned unopened. General Conditions and Instructions to Bidders, a plat and description of the property, and Bid Form may be acquired from Webster Parish School Board, 1442 Sheppard Street, Minden, Louisiana or by contacting Terric W. Ferguson, telephone number (318) 377-7052. Arrangements to inspect the property may be made with Jeff Franklin, by telephone at (318) 377-7052. Minimum acceptable bid for the site is HIGHEST ACCEPTABLE BID Award of the purchase will be made to the highest bidder at or over the minimum acceptable bid subject to acceptance and approval by the Webster Parish School Board. The Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids. WEBSTER PARISH SCHOOL BOARD JOHNNY ROWLAND, JR. SUPERINTENDENT February 12, 2021 February 19, 2021 February 26, 2021 March 5, 2021 Minden Press-Herald

Webster Parish Fire Protection District #8 20947 Hwy 371 Cotton Valley, LA 71018 Vehicles owned by District #8 2007 Chevrolet Suburban Vin #3GNFK16 347G244405 - Chief Vehicle - \$2,500 1994 Simon Duplex Ladder Truck Vin #1591F71 J3R1020048 - Purchased Nov. 2014 \$49,000 - \$10,000 1997 Pierce Lance Pumper Vin #4P1CT02S-7VA000508 - Purchased 7/23/2015 \$20,000 - 10,000 March 2, 2021 March 5, 2021 Minden Press-Herald

**SHERIFF'S SALE WELLS FARGO BANK NA VS. RONALD LEROY DAVIS AND CHERYL LARABINE DAVIS**

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 78356. By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE issued out of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, in the above styled and numbered suit and to me directed, I have seized and taken into my possession and will offer for sale at public auction to the last and highest bidder for cash WITH-OUT the benefit of appraisalment and according to law at the principal front door of the Courthouse in the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana on WEDNESDAY, April 7, 2021, During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit: LOT ELEVEN (11), DRAKE SUBDIVISION, UNIT THREE (3), a subdivision of the Parish of Webster, as per plat recorded in Conveyance Book 3A on Page 98 of the records of Webster Parish, Louisiana, together with all buildings and improvements located thereon (the "Property"). SOLD SUBJECT TO ANY SUPERIOR LIENS, MORTGAGES OR PRIVILEGES THERETO. Said property seized is that of the defendant and will be sold to satisfy a judgment rendered in our Honorable Court. JASON R. PARKER Sheriff & Ex-Officio Auctioneer Webster Parish,

Louisiana Linda Vaughan - Deputy March 5, 2021 April 2, 2021 Minden Press-Herald

**SHERIFF'S SALE B1BANK VS. FREDY CORDOVA AND CARMEN CORDOVA**

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 79034. By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE issued out of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, in the above styled and numbered suit and to me directed, I have seized and taken into my possession and will offer for sale at public auction to the last and highest bidder for cash WITH the benefit of appraisalment and according to law at the principal front door of the Courthouse in the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana on WEDNESDAY, April 7, 2021, During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit: LOT ELEVEN (11), DRAKE SUBDIVISION, UNIT THREE (3), a subdivision of the Parish of Webster, as per plat recorded in Conveyance Book 3A on Page 98 of the records of Webster Parish, Louisiana, together with all buildings and improvements located thereon (the "Property"). SOLD SUBJECT TO ANY SUPERIOR LIENS, MORTGAGES OR PRIVILEGES THERETO. Said property seized is that of the defendant and will be sold to satisfy a judgment rendered in our Honorable Court. JASON R. PARKER Sheriff & Ex-Officio Auctioneer Webster Parish, Louisiana Linda Vaughan - Deputy March 5, 2021 April 2, 2021 Minden Press-Herald

**AN ORDINANCE GOVERNING THE TOWN OF COTTON VALLEY AND THE ADMINISTRATION OF**

**THE SALE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**

WHEREAS, the Town of Cotton Valley ("Town") has conducted an election pursuant to La. R.S. 26:581, et seq., and the voters have approved the sale of alcoholic beverages of both high and low alcoholic content, for consumption both on and off the premises of sale, within the limits of the Town.

WHEREAS, the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen of the Town desire to enact certain rules and regulations regarding said sales of alcoholic beverages.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and the Board of Aldermen of the Town of Cotton Valley, Louisiana, in due, legal and regular session convened, as follows: ARTICLE A-IN GENERAL. Section 3.1 - Definitions. The following words, terms, and phrases, when used in this Chapter, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this Section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning: Alcoholic beverage means any fluid or solid which is capable of being converted into fluid suitable for human consumption and containing more than one-half of one percent alcohol by volume, including malt, vinous, spirituous, alcoholic or intoxicating liquor, beer, porter, ale, stout, fruit juice, cider or wine. Alcoholic beverage handling employee means any alcoholic beverage permit holder or employee, agent, partner, or other person connected with or employed by an alcoholic beverage permit holder, who physically handles, sells or serves any alcoholic beverage or container thereof, for consumption on the premises, including, but not limited to, waiters, waitresses, barmaids, bartenders and managers. Alcoholic beverage permit or

permit means a permit required by and issued pursuant to the provisions of this Chapter. Beverage of high alcoholic content means alcoholic beverage containing more than six percent alcohol by volume. Beverage of low alcoholic content means alcoholic beverages containing not more than six percent by volume. Chief of Police as used in this Chapter shall be the person holding the office of chief of police or the person designated by him to act for him. Motor vehicle means a motorized vehicle designed to convey person from one place to another on public streets and highways. Open container means any container or receptacle containing any alcoholic beverage; wherein the stamp or seal has been broken, or any container, bottle or can that contain any alcoholic beverage that has been opened subsequent to the filling of such can, bottle or container by the manufactory, brewery or distillery of such alcoholic beverage. Alcoholic beverages contained in drinking glasses, cups, including plastic glasses and Styrofoam cups, regardless of whether such containers have a top affixed thereto, shall be deemed an open container. March 5, 2021 March 9, 2021 March 12, 2021 March 16, 2021 March 19, 2021 March 23, 2021 March 26, 2021 March 30, 2021 April 2, 2021 Minden Press-Herald

**PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF MINDEN, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN IN REGULAR SESSION HELD ON MARCH 1, 2021.**

The Minden City Council met at City Hall, Minden, Louisiana, beginning at 5:30 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Terry Gardner, Wayne Edwards, Terika Williams-Walker, Vincen Bradford, Tommy Davis

and Pam Bloxom. Absent: None. Mayor Gardner welcomed everyone to the meeting. It is noted for the record that Mayor Terry Gardner allowed both council and public comments prior to every vote. Prayer was offered by Tommy Davis and Pam Bloxom led the Pledge of Allegiance. Upon motion by Wayne Edwards and duly seconded by Tommy Davis, the council adopted the minutes of Council Regular Session held on February 1, 2021, as presented, by the following vote: Ayes: Wayne Edwards, Tommy Davis and Pam Bloxom. Nays: Vincen Bradford and Terika Williams-Walker. Absent: None. Abstain: None. The motion carried. Upon the recommendation of Police Chief Steve Cropper, Wayne Edwards moved to approve the promotion of Minden Police Sergeant Chris Hammontree to the rank of Lieutenant. The motion was duly seconded by Vincen Bradford and carried unanimously. Upon the recommendation of Fire Chief Kip Mourad, Tommy Davis moved to approve the promotion of Fire Operator Matthew Wilson to the rank of Fire Captain. The motion was duly seconded by Terika Williams-Walker and carried unanimously. The following action was taken regarding condemned properties: Jeremy Shane Patterson 15261 Highway 80 321 Midlake Marina Road 2 Acres - Tract 310.45 x 46.14 x 276.94 Doyline, LA 71023 x 226.23 x 292.26 Ft. Lying South of U. S. Highway 80 in SW/4 of SW/4 Sec. 25-19-9 Building Official Brent Cooley reported that the property owner has requested 90 days in which to either remediate the property or negotiate a sale of the property.

Wayne Edwards moved to authorize the Mayor to issue an order declaring the property condemned and further order the immediate demolition of any structures located thereon and the cleaning of the lot within 90 days of this date. The motion was duly seconded by Vincen Bradford and carried unanimously. Pam Bloxom moved to approve the final plat for the lot split of property belonging to Triple S Holdings, LLC located at 1107, 1109 and 1111 Homer Road, as presented, noting that any legally non-conforming conditions, particularly in regard to utility services tied together or crossing the other tracts created by this lot split will be the sole responsibility of the property owners. The motion was duly seconded by Wayne Edwards and carried unanimously. Vincen Bradford moved to approve the final plat for the lot split of property belonging to Jeffie R. Frazier located at 516-518 W. R. Reeder Street as presented, noting that any legally non-conforming conditions, particularly in regard to utility services tied together or crossing the other tracts created by this lot split will be sole responsibility of the property owners. The motion was duly seconded by Wayne Edwards and carried unanimously. Upon motion by Wayne Edwards and duly seconded by Terika Williams-Walker, the council unanimously adopted a Resolution Adopting a Citizen Participation Plan for the Community Development Block Grant Program, as presented. Said resolution is attached to and made a part of these minutes. It is noted for the record that the signature line on the resolution will be corrected. Upon motion by Pam Bloxom and duly seconded by Wayne Edwards, the council unanimously adopted a Resolution Authorizing the



Mayor to Execute on Behalf and in the Name of the City of Minden a Contract for Louisiana Community Development Block Grant Administrative Services, as presented. Said resolution is attached to and made a part of these minutes. It is noted for the record that the signature line on the resolution will be corrected.

Upon motion by Tommy Davis and duly seconded by Terika Williams-Walker, the council unanimously adopted a Resolution Designating the Week of April 5-9, 2021 as National Community Development Week, as presented.

Said resolution is attached to and made a part of these minutes. It is noted for the record that the signature line on the resolution will be corrected.

There was no Budget/Financial Report given for the month of February, 2021. Mayor Gardner presented the latest sales tax figures.

The Police Report for January of 2021 was unanimously accepted, as presented, by motion of Wayne Edwards and duly seconded by Vincen Bradford.

Public comments were heard, council comments were heard and the meeting was adjourned.

Terry L. Gardner, Mayor  
ATTEST:  
Martha Conly, Assistant City Clerk  
March 5, 2021  
Minden Press-Herald

**BID NOTICE SEALED BIDS WILL BE RECEIVED BY** Claiborne Memorial Medical Center at 620 E. College, Homer, Louisiana, 71040 until April 6th, 2021 at 2:00 P.M. at which time the bids will be opened and read aloud for:

**P R O J E C T NAME:** CLAI-BORNE MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER RE-ROOF

Make sure bids are addressed directly to the Chief Procurement Officer listed at the bottom of this page.

Original complete bidding documents in PDF format must be obtained at no charge from Kevin Bryan Archi-

tect, LLC which has been designated as the only method and service of distribution of the bidding documents and plans. Questions about the bidding documents or request for approvals shall be directed to the Architect at:

Kevin Bryan Architect, LLC  
Attn: Duke Rauschenbach  
712 Texas Street  
318-673-9980  
duke@kevinbryanarchitect.com

Any person requiring special accommodations shall notify the architect of the type(s) of accommodation required not less than seven (7) days before the bid opening.

NOTE: BIDS SHALL ONLY BE ACCEPTED FROM CONTRACTORS WHO ARE LICENSED UNDER LOUISIANA CONTRACTORS LICENSING LAW FOR THE MAJOR CLASSIFICATION OF ROOFING CONSTRUCTION.

All bids must be accompanied by bid security equal to five percent (5%) of the sum of the base bid and must be in the form of a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond written in conformance with state law. Written evidence of the authority of the person signing the bid form should be included with the bid form. See La. R.S. 38:2212 B. (2) and (5).

The successful bidder shall furnish a Performance and Payment Bond in accordance with state law. The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids. A NON MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE will be held on March 24th 2021 at 10:00 a.m. at Claiborne Memorial Medical Center, 620 E. College, Homer LA 71040. Attendance at the Pre-Bid Conference by an Officer or Estimator directly involved with this Project is NON MANDATORY. Sign-in for the Conference will be between 9:45 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. The Conference will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m.

Angie Costakis Chief Procurement Officer  
Claiborne Memorial Medical Center

acostakis@claibornemedical.com  
318-371-3899  
March 5, 2021  
March 12, 2021  
March 19, 2021  
Minden Press-Herald

**APARTMENTS FOR RENT**

**Hillside Apartments**  
1, 2 & 3 Bedrooms  
400 Hillside Lane  
Minden, LA 71055  
318-377-5550  
Lots of Room  
Washer & Dryer connections  
Sparkling Pool

**Red Oak Villa**  
1355 Sheppard St.  
Minden, LA  
Carefree Independent Living For The Elderly  
Low income subsidized housing.  
Free water & garbage.  
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