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LAW ENFORCEMENT

Deputies bust Texas man with drugs during traffic stop

WILL PHILLIPS

Minden Press-Herald

A typical traffic stop for improper lane usage turned into a drug bust for the Webster Parish Sheriff's Office after they arrested one Micha Powell, 42, of New Boston, Texas, on the charges of possession of a schedule II and IV substances with intent to distribute and possession of controlled dangerous substances in the presence of a minor. The bust turned up a bag containing nearly 90 grams of crystal meth and over 90 Xanax bars.

After witnessing Powell crossing over the center line while crossing the railroad tracks on east Porterville Road, a Lieu-



POWELL

tenant from the Webster Parish Sheriff's Office pulled Powell over and asked him to step out of the vehicle.

"As he exited the vehicle, he began to pat his pockets and then stated, 'man I have a knife,'" the arrest report read. "I asked him to place the knife on the hood of the car. He stated he had another one in his pocket, which he also put on the car."

The arrest report describes that as the Lieutenant explained the reason for the stop, Powell appeared nervous, stating "Powell was shaking profusely and paced back and forth as we talked."

Present in the vehicle at the time was a female the booking report refers to as Powell's girlfriend as well as their five year old child.

The Lieutenant asked them if there was anything illegal in the car, to

See, **BUST**, Page 3



COURTESY PHOTO

Deputies recovered drugs, money and a scale during the arrest of Micha Powell.



MINDEN PRESS-HERALD PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

City could plug budget holes with federal money

WILL PHILLIPS

Minden Press-Herald

It's the time of year again where the Minden City Council is tasked with assessing the upcoming year's budget and making any changes necessary to keep everything balanced. This year, the City is \$2.3 million over budget, meaning the city council is tasked with finding additional sources of revenue or figuring out what the city can do without for the next year.

During the first workshop, the council, mayor and acting city clerk went through every page of

the budget, deliberating anything that wasn't a necessity. The heads of various departments throughout the city were present in order to explain their requests for the upcoming year, which was met with scrutiny from the council as they attempted to make a dent in the \$2.3 million that they had to rein in.

One way the council did this was by changing some outright purchases of vehicles and equipment to lease purchases. Not to be confused with a lease option, this would still allow the city to own

See, **BUDGET**, Page 2

LEGISLATURE

Abortion limiting bills pass La. House

KATHLEEN PEPPO

LSU Manship School News Service

BATON ROUGE--The House passed three bills Wednesday to limit access to abortion.

Two of the bills--one by Rep. Raymond Crews, R-Shreveport, and one by Rep. Julie Emerson, R-Lafayette--would make it mandatory to report more information regarding abortions to the Louisiana Department of Health than is currently required.

The third, by Rep. Beryl Amedee, R-Houma, would require doctors to tell women who have begun the process of a chemical abortion that a potential reversal procedure after the first pill in a series of two exists.

After each of the three representatives presented their bills, Rep. Mandie Landry, D-New Orleans, asked, "Has LDH asked you to file this bill?"

Each of the three answered no. The Health Department did not voice opposition to or support for any of the bills.

Amedee's bill, which she referred to as the "Abortion Pill Reversal Disclosure Act,"

See, **ABORTION**, Page 3



CREWS



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Tomorrow's High Temp 83°

Tomorrow's Low Temp 54°

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# SECOND FRONT

FEDERAL MONEY

## FCC taking applications for broadband assistance

EMILY WOOD

LSU Manship School News Service

BATON ROUGE--The Federal Communications Commission began taking applications Wednesday for the Emergency Broadband Benefit, a program to help American families and individuals struggling to afford internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The program will provide a discount of up to \$50 per month for qualifying households and \$75 per month for qualifying households on Tribal lands. The discount will go towards broadband service.

Qualifying households also may receive an additional \$100 discount to purchase a desktop computer, laptop or tablet from a provider that agrees to pay at least \$10

and less than \$50 of the cost. "We can flip a switch right now and everybody can have all the internet they need, but that does not mean everyone can get it because they cannot afford it," said Leslie Durham, chair of Broadband for Everyone in Louisiana.

In Louisiana's Legislature, House Bill 465, to auction off parts of the

allocated 4.9 GHz in Louisiana, is awaiting final passage in the Senate. If passed, the bill would allow a winning bidder a three-year trial period with the high-speed spectrum.

The spectrum, along with the discount from the FCC, will provide faster internet service to people in Louisiana's rural communities.

"Broadband is vital to the successful health of our rural communities," said Durham. "What we are doing if we cut ourselves short with broadband is deciding what community dies and what community lives."

A household can qualify for the FCC's discount if it meets at least one of the following criteria:

Has an income that is at or below 135% of the federal poverty guidelines or

participates in certain assistance programs, such as SNAP, Medicaid or Lifeline;

Is approved to receive benefits under the free and reduced-price school lunch program or the school breakfast program in the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year;

Received a Federal Pell Grant during the current award year;

See, **HELP**, Page 3

LEGISLATURE

## New civics requirement?

Education bills advance in La. House

EMILY WOOD

LSU Manship School News Service

BATON ROUGE--Two bills that were met with backlashes in the House Education Committee still advanced on Wednesday to the House floor. House Bill 352, authored by Rep. Valarie Hodges, R-Denham Springs, would require the teaching of the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, the Federalist Papers, the

Gettysburg Address and the concepts of national sovereignty, American exceptionalism, globalism and immigration policy. It would retain present law to teach civics as a prerequisite for high school graduation, but these concepts and documents would be mandated in civics classes. The bill has been controversial, and it became even more so on Wednesday when some legislators felt that an amendment proposed by Hodges seemed similar to a recent bill by House Education Committee Chairman Rep. Raymond Garofalo, R-Chalmette, that would have prohibited any teaching that the United States or Louisiana is systematically racist or sexist. His bill was shelved after protests by members of the Louisiana Legislative Black Caucus. On Wednesday, Garofalo did not chair the hearing but instead came in and out of the room to vote. Hodges' amendment would have prohibited the Louisiana Education Department from approving materials that would teach "that a particular sex, race, ethnicity or national origin is inherently superior or



The signing of the Declaration of Independence.

inferior to another." That amendment failed on a tie vote, but the overall bill passed 8-5. Garofalo voted for the amendment and the bill.

"I truly do not understand how the chairman can be in another room and not presiding and then come in the room to vote," said Brass, a member of the Legislative Black Caucus.

The committee also approved another Hodges bill, House Bill 416, that would mandate the instruction of World War II and the Holocaust to middle school and high school students. It would include mandated training to teachers instructing students on such history. The bill would call on schools across the state to partner with the National WWII Museum in New Orleans to teach the curriculum. "The purpose of this bill is to make sure we don't forget [the Holocaust]," said Hodges. David Barton, a representative from Wall-Builders, a company that owns over 10,000 original historical documents, spoke on behalf of HB 416, stating that a survey in 2020 showed that 63% of millennials and Gener-

ation Z members did not know that 6 million people died in the Holocaust. Fifty percent of millennials and members of generation Z could not name a single concentration camp. Many representatives opposed both bills. Rep. Barbara Freiberg, R-Baton Rouge, questioned why HB 416 was not brought to the Louisiana State Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE), which is meant to make decisions on curricula taught in the state. David Barton's son Tim said it is important for the Legislature to mandate this teaching because the College Board removed the Holocaust from the 2014 teaching standard for advanced placement tests. A revised standard in 2015 added one paragraph requiring the teaching of the Holocaust. Rep. Ken Brass, D-Vacherie, and Rep. Tammy Phelps, D-Shreveport, also said curriculum changes should go through BESE rather than the Legislature. Brass stated that "we are opening Pandora's box if we begin to add things legislatively to the curriculum." "The

Holocaust is a genocide by which all others are measured," said Ari Morgenstern, policy and communications director at Christians United for Israel. "One cannot understand the depths of depravity of human history without understanding the Holocaust. That is why it is a special case." Ethan Melancon, director of governmental affairs with the Louisiana Department of Education, said BESE did not take a position on HB 416.

However, Melancon stated that BESE opposed HB 352. He said curricula should be set through the board that was constitutionally created for that purpose. He added that components of HB 352 would be added to a social-studies standards review BESE is conducting. U.S. history is currently taught in fourth grade, seventh grade and in high school.

Dr. Jenna Chaisson, assistant superintendent in the Office of Teaching and Learning at the state Education Department, said a steering committee there is looking to change the sequencing of when U.S. history is taught.

## Budget: Federal infrastructure funds could pay for projects

Continued from Page 1

the vehicles at the end of the lease, but lessens the total cash amount of the initial investment.

Michael Roy, City Councilman of Dist. D stated, "If we can find a way to lessen our initial injection, that would be better to try and balance the budget."

Michael Fluhr did warn the Council that becoming overly reliant on these lease purchases, while helpful in the short term, could increase the financial burden of the City for the future.

A potential silver lining for the city this fiscal year is the American Rescue Plan and potentially President Joe Biden's Infrastructure Bill that he is currently attempting to drum up support for in Congress. The American Rescue Plan Act should bring in a potential \$2.15 million for the City this fiscal year, though there are caveats as to how the City can spend it.

When they got into the financials for the street department, Acting City Clerk Michael Fluhr suggested they should budget funds potentially coming in from Biden's Infrastructure Bill, stating that other municipalities in the surrounding area had done similar actions with their budget, and that would have the benefit of putting a dent into the 2.3 million they were trying to cut.

"What do you think, if we put in this budget, 1 million dollars grant money out of the infrastructure bill, which is supposed to come?" asked Fluhr.

"We don't know if that's coming. He says it's coming, but I'm not going to hang my hat on a nail that's not in the wall," said Mayor Gardner.

The main contention with putting in expected money from the infrastructure bill was around the lack of certainty that it would be able to pass

**"We don't know if [federal money is] coming. He says it's coming, but I'm not going to hang my hat on a nail that's not in the wall."**

Terry Gardner  
Minden Mayor

through Congress. However, Fluhr explained that one way or the other, the street projects would need to be done, so they either will get the grant money and will be able to move forward with accepting bids for the projects, or they won't get the grant money and will have to dip into reserves to pay for the projects regardless.

"Well, you have two options, the way I see it. Either you're going to pay with the grant money, and that's what other municipalities, for example, Ruston, Natchitoches, they've been planning down the road for five years. They're going to plan on projects with grant money if they get it or not. The other option is if you don't get the grant money, then you have to go anyway in your reserves," said Fluhr.

"Since it is an infrastructure program... I believe it's safe to put at least some grant money in there. If we don't get the million, I would say put a million in, it would make a big dent in the 2.3 million."

"You're going to do the streets anyways. So taking that 500,000 out would be to our benefit," commented Councilman Wayne Edwards of Dist. A.

"And, put the million dollar grant money in, and go from there," stated Fluhr.

At the end of the meeting, the City Council cut approximately \$538,000 from the upcoming budget, still leaving themselves roughly \$1.8 million to account for in the upcoming budget workshops. The next budget workshop is set to take place on Tuesday, May 18.







# 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.

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### OTHER OPINION

## Dr. Phillip Rozeman: Building on our strengths

Last Friday, Governor Edwards announced the location of a large Amazon warehouse distribution center with a thousand direct jobs in Shreveport-Bossier. It is one of the most important economic wins in our history and could not have come at a better time.

The announcement caused me to reflect back on a key lesson I learned a decade ago as co-chair of the Citizens Advisory Board of the Shreveport-Caddo Master Plan process. In community meetings involving over a thousand citizens, I heard the different perspectives of people who live in our community – people who want to see Shreveport Bossier flourish.

A key lesson from the over thousand citizens who participated in the meetings was the importance of capitalizing on the unique identify of Shreveport-Bossier and celebrating it – the wisdom of building on our strengths. The Friday announcement adds another strength to the ones we discovered when we looked around us ten years ago.

Shreveport-Bossier has a great economic development engine in Barksdale Air Force Base. BAFB not only supplies thousands of jobs but also spins off initiatives like Strike Works and partnerships like the Louisiana Tech Research Institute as a result of proximity to the Global Strike Command – all work supported by the Cyber Innovation Center.

Shreveport-Bossier is one of the smallest cities in the nation to have a medical school. This school connects our community to research, medical education, and entrepreneurial opportunities. Our community is a true center of excellence in healthcare with three

large health systems with a workforce trained predominantly at the LSU Health Science Center.

The Red River provided for the birth of Shreveport-Bossier 150 years ago and continues to be a key to future development. Today, the banks of the river provide a place for entertainment for adults at Riverboat Casinos and families at Sci-Port, the Aquarium, and the River-View Theater. Shreveport-Bossier has access to commerce on the Mis-



**PHILLIP ROZEMAN**

issippi River and Gulf through the Port of Caddo-Bossier. The port is the location of businesses that provide hundreds of jobs in our community. Shreveport-Bossier is one of a handful places in the world that can rightfully claim to be the birthplace of rock and roll, a music genre that literally changed cultures around the globe. This cultural juggernaut was created together by African American blues musicians and white country musicians bridging the racial divide.

Beyond this place in the history of rock and roll, not many cities the size of ours has the quality of life and cultural history of music, historical preservation and art. The Shreveport Symphony and Opera, Strand Theatre, Robinson Film Center, museums, nighttime music venues, Revel, ArtBreak, Kwanzaa, Mudbug Madness, Mardi Gras, and the list goes on and on.

In comparison to other moderate-sized cities, Shreveport-Bossier has one of the lowest cost of living in the country. Travel times in Shreveport-Bossier are minimal. Taking a trip to Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Dallas, Houston, or Austin keeps things in context as we realize the ease of getting around the community. One participant in a Master Plan community meeting said he would make Shreveport's tagline "Come back to an easier life."

Shreveport-Bossier probably connects education and work better than any region in any state. With availability of BPCC, SUSLA, and NWLA Technical Community College, higher education works with businesses to develop specialized education and credentials of value for people working in our community. Shreveport-Bossier has not one but five higher education institutions. LSU-Shreveport, LA Tech, Northwestern, Grambling, and Centenary provide choices in Shreveport-Bossier for pursuit of university degrees.

Not many cities the size of Shreveport Bossier have a spirit of volunteerism and philanthropy exhibited by the people in this community. Shreveport Bossier Community Foundation, Community Renewal, Providence House, Rescue Mission, VOA, SRAC, St. Jude, Holy Angels, Shriner's, and the list goes on and on. Not many cities the size of Shreveport Bossier have the diversity of churches and sheer numbers of places to worship.

The natural beauty and climate of Shreveport-Bossier provides the backdrop for Sportsman's Paradise. The beautiful neighborhoods with large trees and the proximity

of lakes are not duplicated in many moderate-sized cities. A family member of mine from Austin comes into town often to just take photographs of the natural beauty of Northwest Louisiana.

Emerging from the pandemic will be a time of change in every American community – especially in medium-sized communities like ours. There will be opportunity to recruit small and moderate-sized businesses looking to relocate from bigger cities. How we handle the recovery and change will be critical to our future success.

As we look forward, there remains concern about the continued shadow of COVID and the increased violence and jobless rates in our community. However, the announcement Friday gives us forward momentum and a reason to reflect on what makes Shreveport Bossier a great place to live and work. It will be a great time to both look back and look forward to capitalize on our unique identity and celebrate it.

The success of Shreveport Bossier requires many people working in multiple arenas. A thriving Shreveport-Bossier will take a collection of multiple recipes that will require many ingredients and a diverse group of cooks. No one person, government, or non-profit can do everything. This crossroad year of 2021 is a great time for us to pull together and go to work.

**DR. PHILLIP ROZEMAN IS A PRACTICING CARDIOLOGIST. HE IS PAST CHAIRMAN OF THE CITIZENS ADVISORY BOARD OF THE SHREVEPORT-CADDO MASTER PLAN, THE GREATER SHREVEPORT CHAMBER, AND BLUEPRINT LOUISIANA.**

### OTHER OPINION

## Has the backlash arrived for police-bashing?

Within hours of Saturday's shooting in Times Square where three bystanders, including a 4-year-old girl, were wounded, the two leading candidates to replace Mayor Bill de Blasio were on-site.

Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, a retired captain of the NYPD, and Andrew Yang, who declared:

"My fellow New Yorkers ... Nothing works in our city without public safety, and for public safety, we need the police. ... My message to the NYPD is this: New York needs you. Your city needs you.

"New York cannot afford to defund the police."

The rush of Adams and Yang to the scene of the shooting, and the messages they delivered, tells us something about the state of play in politics — and not only in the city of New York.

Liberal mayors and urban politicians who enlisted in the Black Lives Matter "defund the police" movement after the death of George Floyd in Minneapolis last May, appear to have caught a wave that is now receding.

In the streets of America's cities, violent crimes are spiking to heights unseen since the 1990s. And, instead of "Defund the Police!" the insistent cry is, "Where are the cops?"

Atlanta is a case in point.

Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms just announced she will not run for a second term. While she listed issues and events that exhausted her energy, The New York Times suggests that Atlanta's soaring

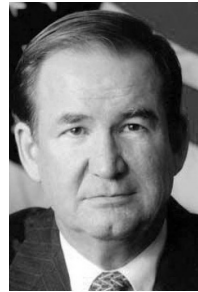
crime rate made her vulnerable and Bottoms was looking at possible defeat.

Writes Richard Fausset of the Times:

"The most serious political threat that emerged for Ms. Bottoms in recent months was a phenomenon she had previously described as the 'Covid crime wave.' ... Atlanta is struggling with a spike in violent crime, including a 58 percent increase in homicides last year...

"The mayor's inability to get a handle on crime has become the central theme for two challengers," one of whom is city council president Felicia Moore.

"Atlanta has a mayor that is



**PATRICK BUCHANAN**

more interested in things that happen outside Atlanta,' Ms. Moore said in a recent statement, referring to Ms. Bottoms's emerging national stature, including talk that she was rumored to be a possible vice-presidential candidate. 'We need a mayor who knows the No. 1 job of any mayor is to keep our city safe.'"

So visceral is the public reaction to the crime wave in Atlanta that in Buckhead, a wealthy enclave in the northern section of the city, there

is talk of secession and taking its tax base with it.

Why is crime rising and not only in Atlanta?

Among the reasons: the demonization and demoralization of police departments under constant fire for harboring "rotten apples" and rogue cops. Seen by cops as anti-cop, this campaign is generating police resignations, retirements and reductions in force.

The NYPD has lost 7% of its force and is in a recruitment crisis.

Large reductions in the number of cops have also been recorded in Chicago, Minneapolis, Milwaukee and Atlanta. Then there is the "Ferguson Effect" where cops avoid aggressive policing for fear a mistake could cost them their reputation and career, or worse.

In a nation as violent as ours, with daily confrontations between cops and often aggressive and armed suspects, police errors are going to be made. There are going to be unwarranted and unnecessary shootings, woundings and even killings.

In any war, there are casualties and collateral damage, and that is true of America's "war on crime" — another of our forever wars.

But the daily reports of escalating violent crime, resulting in growing numbers of innocent wounded and dead, are inducing a fear for safety that is outstripping any fear of cops. And politicians are beginning to see the numbers shift and reacting accordingly.

Consider a few of the crime numbers compiled by The Hill:

2020 witnessed more than 20,000 criminal homicides with a huge share of that spike occurring in urban America.

New York saw 150 additional homicides and 750 additional shootings in 2020 than in 2019. Chicago saw 274 more homicides and 1,435 additional shootings in 2020 than in 2019.

Los Angeles saw homicides rise 38% as shootings spiked 40%. Washington, D.C., ended 2020 with homicides up for the third straight year.

Killings in Philadelphia, where homicides have risen every year since 2016, almost reached 500, a 40% increase. In Louisville, homicides jumped 70%.

In Detroit, shootings and homicides rose for the second year in a row, increasing by 53%.

Homicides spiked for the second straight year in Minneapolis, to 84 deaths — the highest tally since 1995. Cleveland had its highest murder tally since 1982, after a nearly 40% jump in killings last year.

Houston hit 413 murders in 2020 — a 42% increase over 2019. Indianapolis saw a 40% jump in murders. For Denver, the murder increase was 50 percent.

Cops aren't doing these killings. They're doing their jobs trying to prevent these killings and apprehend the killers.

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



LOCAL CLUBS

# Young Women's Service Club welcomes new members



YOUNG WOMEN'S SERVICE CLUB/COURTESY PHOTO  
Seen pictured above are the new members of the Young Women's Service Club.  
From left to right, Madisyn Swilley, Melody Shelley, Lindsey Anderson, Gillian Davis, Misty Swilley, Keke Bridges, Savannah Brewster, Morgan Monday, and Jordan Colvin  
Not pictured: Taylor Culpepper, Megan "Roo" Johnson, and Macey Thomas.

YOUNG WOMEN'S SERVICE CLUB/COURTESY PHOTO  
Seen pictured above are the new additions to the Young Women's Service Club's Board Members.  
From left to right, Marsha Hayes (Recording Secretary), Cayla Cox (Vice President), Caroline Reno (Reporter), and Stephanie Barnette (President)  
Not pictured: Lauren Herriage (Treasurer) and Pamela Irby (Corresponding Secretary)

FROM THE BACK PORCH

## Country Roads, Take Me Home

*"Country roads, take me home  
To the place I belong  
Louisiana  
Rolling hills, take me home  
Country roads."*

I'm taking a bit of liberty with John Denver's haunting song, "Country Roads." He delivers this with such a wistful voice one can feel the deep longing for a beloved home place. He has been away too long.  
I have never lived away from my home on country roads, so I can't feel that longing and desire for another place. However, one can, without ever leaving home, have a yearning for another time in a place that is still there, but has vastly changed over the years.  
Our family home place remains, yet it will never be the same. Parents are gone, as are all four siblings. One looks out and sees, not open fields planted in corn and cotton, but that same acreage now grown up with pines and hardwood trees.  
The roads, once dusty red dirt roads, are now covered with asphalt. However, they still make those winding paths through the hills of north Louisiana. Once sparsely occupied lands are now dotted with houses, including single-wides and double-wides. Young families, side by side with

aging elders, now make this their home.  
Those country roads will always remain firmly planted in my memory bank. They were our link to the outside world, out of the fields and across the way to Grannie and Pap Wise's house. They led us to the creek for bream fishing when our crops in the fields were at a point we could take a day off. They led to an old swimming hole in the creek that was known by all as the "Wash Hole".



FANNIE MOORE

I never knew where it got its name, but I know our entire family was always excited when Daddy would say, "Let's go down to the Wash Hole". This was usually right after lunch when we had all rested a little from our morning's work in the field.  
Everyone enjoyed the cool water, except Mama, who would never get in. This was where the older siblings learned to swim. I never learned, but enjoyed having rides on Daddy's back while he was swimming. He would swim out to a log that was crossing the water, let me off his back and I would sit on the log while he swam a while, then came back for me.  
We spent many hours there during those early years.  
The country roads also lead us down some unfamiliar areas on Sundays when our parents decided

to have a picnic. I never understood why we went in search of a good picnic spot when we had so many beautiful areas almost in our yard. There weren't a lot of parks and designated picnic areas, so we just drove down some country road until we found a nice shaded open space. There we spread our lunch and enjoyed our outing.  
Usually we would have fried chicken, potato salad, pickles (cucumbers, beets, and peaches), along with homemade biscuits and one of Mama's layer cakes. Iced tea and Kool Aid were our drinks.  
Landowners never minded when someone chose to have a picnic on their land. Most of the time there was so few cars on the road, it was pretty unusual to come upon families enjoying the byways.  
The country roads provided an excellent place for learning to ride a bike. Even if you fell, you weren't injured when you landed on the soft dirt roads.  
We spent many hours of leisure time in this endeavor.  
As I look back through the years, I can understand how one, without ever leaving home, can long for the country roads to take him home.  
Home, which is now just a memory.  
FANNIE MOORE IS A JOURNALIST WHO LIVES IN SHONGALOO WHERE SHE ENJOYS WRITING ON A VARIETY OF SUBJECTS.

SPECIAL COLUMN

## Dancing through the early 50's

CLEVE TAYLOR  
Special to the Minden Press-Herald

Got time for a little time travel? I hearken back to the days before I-pods, CD's, Walkmen, 8-Tracks, tapes, stereo, and even LP records. Music was live, on the radio, on records, or on jukeboxes. By the mid 50's forty-five rpm records were the height of technology and adapters were needed to adapt them to spindles built for 78 rpm records. Those records were a buck apiece at a time when kids were lucky to make 50 cents an hour and many adults were making only \$1 an hour.  
During my preteen years the radio was always tuned to KWKH, a station in Shreveport, Louisiana, (this is before TV) that played mostly country music and broadcast The Louisiana Hayride live every Saturday. In addition they had live shows featuring such stars as Hank Williams selling Johnny Fair syrup and Johnny and Jack (also featuring Loretta Lynn) selling some other product with their hit of "The Little Paper Boy".  
I remember another show selling Doughnuts that friends of mine were invited to perform on prior to their performing on the Hayride. A neighbor from across the street, Tommy Tomlinson, played lead guitar for Johnny Horton who had the hit record "Battle of New Orleans".  
So, this is just the long way of saying that during my early years I was totally immersed in country music. Hank Wil-

liams "Lovesick Blues", Lefty Frizell's "Always Late", Webb Pierce's "I'm in the Jailhouse Now", Slim Whitman's "China Doll", and Earnest Tubbs' "Walking the Floor Over You"; these are a sample of the songs that captured my attention and in which I was engrossed.  
Then I discovered girls and that I liked to dance with them. Fortunately the Hunter family, owners of the local Coca Cola Bottling Company, liked kids and built a playground, pools, sponsored sports teams and provided Hunter's Playhouse for our pleasure. Hunters, the shortened name we used, had a free jukebox playing 78 rpm records, a large dance floor, adult monitors who were teachers working a second job, and game rooms. Games were cards, checkers, ping pong and pool. Electronic games did not yet exist.  
The juke box automatically cycled through its record selection and we danced to all of those songs, and those songs helped shape the rest of my life. The records on the jukebox were all pop songs, not a country song among them, except for covers by pop artists or a crossover song like Sonny James "White Sport Coat and a Pink Carnation". Goodbye Country, hello pop music!  
Mostly the girls sat along the one wall and the boys sat on the other side of the dance floor. The boys had to walk across the floor to ask the girl to dance, and had to risk rejection. So, I learned to deal with re-

jection, developed skills to turn a rejection into a "Yes", and got to dance with most of the girls that came to Hunter's, including many who had never been on a dance floor before, but obviously wanted to or they wouldn't be there. Decades later I was pleased to have one of those girls thank me for talking her onto the dance floor and teaching her to dance.  
We jitterbugged to Glen Miller's "In the Mood", twirled to "Glow Worm" by the Mills Brothers, slow danced to "Half as Much" by Joni James, two stepped to Nat King Cole's "Mona Lisa", glided to Johnny Ray's "Cry", faked it on Eddie Albert's "Cherry Pink and Apple Blossom White", and danced along with tunes by the Ames Brothers, Teresa Brewer, the Ink Spots, Sinatra, Doris Day, Jo Stafford, and all the other top recording artists of the day.  
Hunter's Play House closed down sometime in the late fifties, but it was there all through my junior high and high school years. It was open two nights a week, and it provided a safe haven for the teens of my hometown, a place which introduced me to the pleasures of pop music and dancing.  
Rock and Roll and Rockabilly? Those came mostly after high school and deserve a story of their own. Maybe later.

BY CLEVE TAYLOR, IS A MEMBER OF THE MHS CLASS OF '56



STRANGER IN A STRANGE LAND

# Pollen, pollen everywhere

Springtime renews optimism yet I annually gripe about a sharp pebble in our collective shoe. I know you've heard this before but I think we're finally rounding a corner. Look outside. Is it gone yet? A real minus of Louisiana living is the pollen storms.

One of Woody Guthrie's most famous Dust Bowl ballads is So Long, It's Been Good to Know You. The original title was Dusty Old Dust. Storms during the 1930s lifted Oklahoma top soil from its precarious perch and blew it across the land into human dwellings and orifices. You couldn't escape. The chorus lamented, "This dusty old dust is a-getting' my home. And I've got to be drifting along."

The first chapter of John Steinbeck's masterpiece The Grapes of Wrath describes the conditions. "Now the dust was evenly mixed with the air, an emulsion of dust and air. Houses were shut tight, and cloth wedged around doors and windows, but the dust came in so thinly that it could not be seen in the air, and it settled like pollen on the chairs and tables, on the dishes. The people brushed it from their shoulders. Little lines of dust lay at the door sills."

That sounds like our pollen. We track it in the house. I try to sweep it up before it gets on the cat's paws. I remove my shoes when I come inside.

Pollen isn't as serious an affliction as stripping off the

topsoil. It's hard on the allergies of many but no one writes lyrics describing pollen Armageddon as they did of the Dust Bowl. Pollen never sent the Joads west to escape and seek subsistence living. Pollen encourages rather than destroys agriculture. But it's certainly an omnipresent irritant. Like a yellow film from eating cheese puffs writ large.

You wash it off your car and it's back within hours. You can write WASH ME on a car (or down here a truck) in mediums other than dirt. My leaf blower doubles as a pollen blower this time of year. By the time I reach the bottom of the driveway the top is covered again. Pollen showers your clothing and hair.

It's an aggravation of weeks duration. In Missouri, I was aware of pollen but didn't see it. It was like ultraviolet rays or atoms. Science books told me it's there but it didn't coat the landscape. Louisiana adds a visual reminder. Pollen blows off the foliage and covers our world.

I'm lucky not to suffer from hay fever. I shouldn't complain since pollen isn't among my allergies. Yet I shake my fists at the sky. Mostly because I try and keep the Ford Focus clean. I prefer Missouri garages over Louisiana car ports. A

garage better protects your vehicle from rain and grime. My dad used to say, "A clean car runs better." I can't prove that to be true but I try and keep my car clean regardless.

I returned to the days of washing my car at home with a bucket and hose. There's one advantage of a car port over a garage. I don't have to move the car to the driveway to wash it. I've coasted the conveyors of Robo washes and some maintain the technology leaves micro abrasions on your paint. I've fed countless quarters to the wand washes. I'm back to the original methods of car washing. The pollen season requires more times for the chore. Wash your car one day and it's encased in pollen the next.

There are worse things to track in the house than pollen. Animal excrement of course but I was referring to cinders. Wait, who does that? There was a period during my childhood when the powers that were in Columbia, Missouri chose to treat snow covered roads with cinders. Most towns opt for snow or sand or in the case of Minden, the sun. For years Columbia rolled out the cinder trucks. Parents understandably complained about kids tracking cinders in the house. I guess coal residue was cheaper than salt or sand.

But certainly dirtier. It was like Dick Van Dyke's chorus line of chimney sweeps from Mary Poppins performed Step in Time on your carpet. My mom reports Columbia still tames slippery streets with cinders and in the spirit of scientific experimentation you only find in a college town, beet juice.

Every state sells regional souvenirs. Louisiana symbols abound. Imagine replacing snow globes with pollen globes. Shake it up and cover a crawfish, an alligator, or Mike the Tiger with yellow flakes suspended in water. It might appeal to someone. My wife Lisa shares native zeal for fleur-de-lis emblazoned stuff. I bought her a cute salt and pepper shaker set mounted on a ceramic dock alongside the state bird. She didn't like it as much as I forecast. My stepdaughter Amanda ridicules the little pelican without mercy. I insist it's the thought that counts. And I'm thinking of bequeathing this fine practical sculpture to her.

I long ago crossed the plateau age of life and needn't accumulate junk. I'm horrified by hoarding. In a past family, I witnessed aged sisters in Kansas battle verbally over a vat of rotting potatoes following a funeral. Not over who should dispose of this late relative's legacy but rather who should claim it. Other than the pelican salt and pepper shakers, I don't wish to burden the girls

with offal possessions to sift and shake their heads at. Because I don't want stuff it's often hard to shop for those who do. You've adequate food and shelter. What else could you possibly want? Sometimes it makes me a bad gift giver.

Lisa warned me not to get my daughter Claire the Paw Perfect dog claw trimmer advertised on television. But the price was reasonable and those TV pups looked so pleased by this grooming accessory. I ordered one shipped to Pittsburgh. Claire reports one dog didn't like it and the other now has post-traumatic stress disorder. Foiled again.

I don't see pollen like last month but know it's still out there making nefarious plans to cover my car. Humans overestimate their abilities tangling with nature. It was hard to be patient during the February ice and snow and concede I needed help from the sun. Just as I must let nature present the annual pollen cavalcade and get it out of her system. It's part of the splendor of springtime. Or so they tell me. Much is beautiful in Louisiana. Not so the yellow powder even though it's vital to life growth. Adieu pollen... until next year.

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



DIRK ELLINGSON

AROUND TOWN

## UCAP Needs for Week of May 10:

- Food: chicken & dump-lings, biscuit mix, cornbread mix
- Clothing: men's socks
- Household Goods and Toiletries: toothbrushes & tooth-paste, shampoo, deodorant
- UCAP is open Wednesdays and Fridays from 10:00 to 1:00 for food, utility and rent assistance. We give out clothing on Wednesdays only.
- In April UCAP filled 36 requests for clothing and household goods and supplied 16 families (31 individuals) with food. We paid \$2,191 in utilities and \$200 for rent.

## Master Gardeners Class Registration

Classes will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. every Thursday for 10 weeks, starting July 1, 2021. Attendance at all classes is required for certification. There is a \$150 registration fee, which covers the cost of training manuals, publications and supplies for the class. Class size is limited, and the registration deadline is June 1, 2021.

Call 318-927-3110 or 318-371-1371, to request an application, or download one at [www.phlmg.com](http://www.phlmg.com) (Programs and follow the links). Applications may also be picked up at either Claiborne and Webster Extension Offices.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

# The march of time stops for no one

Wow, can you believe it is already May! The middle of May for that matter! I have been so busy with everything going on I haven't made it a staple in my week to write a column. I am trying to get back at it. Where has the time gone? Why is it flying by so fast? I wish it would slow down just a bit for us to enjoy life a little more.

Who is with me when I say I wish I could go back to when life was simpler. I love cell phones and all, but it would be great not to have them on your hip, so to speak: Where people had to talk to each other more. Where there were more game nights instead of nights in front of the TV.

We do watch TV but we don't have it on much. I love to watch it to wind down at night, but it is never on during the day.

I love that we live in the country. And, when the kids come over, we are looking for things to do outside.

We recently purchased a game called Crossnet. If you haven't seen or gotten it, Crossnet is a four square volleyball court. We have fun with that for hours. It is crazy fun.

Do you remember what you used to do when you were young? We would go

out in the morning and not come home, most of the time, until supper time. We were always riding bikes, playing marbles in the dirt or climbing trees. All the kids in the neighborhood were together. If you wanted to know where the kids were, just look in the yards to find all the bicycles.

Those were the good ole days when you were thirsty, you drank from a water hose. We were dirty for sure when we got home, but we slept well and were ready to go the next day.

I was planning a big garden this year. I was really excited and was ready to plant. Well, time flies when you are having fun. I didn't make it a priority and time got away from me. We have been traveling and now it is too late.

I guess I will just have to go to the farmers' markets this year and get my tomatoes and cucumbers. Then try to plan for a garden next year. All is good because this year we are traveling a lot. I guess God knew I wouldn't have time to plan, water and pick. Seems this year we don't have to worry about watering with all this weather we are getting.

Ok guys, get ready and plan something with your

family. It doesn't have to be far away or cost money. Life is short. Plan to just be together and enjoy each other. Have a safe and great summer!

Sinful Triple Chocolate Poke Cake

**INGREDIENTS**

For the cake  
1 ½ cups (285g) granulated sugar  
½ cup (118 ml) vegetable oil  
3 large eggs  
1 tablespoon (15 ml) pure vanilla extract  
½ cup (118 ml) light sour cream  
2 cups (280g) all-purpose flour  
½ cup (55 g) cocoa powder  
1 tablespoon (5g) espresso powder (optional)  
2 ½ teaspoons (9 g) baking powder  
½ teaspoon baking soda  
1 teaspoon (5 g) salt  
1 ¼ cup (355 ml) coffee

**FOR THE TOPPING**

1 jar (8oz) hot fudge sauce (optional)  
1 box (3.4oz) Hershey's Dark Chocolate instant pudding mix  
1 ¾ cups (414ml) milk

**FOR THE WHIPPED CREAM:**

2 cups (472ml) heavy whipping cream

1 1/2 cups hot chocolate mix (about 10 sleeves of instant hot chocolate)  
Additional hot fudge sauce for drizzling  
Mini chocolate chips for garnish

**INSTRUCTIONS**

For the cake: Preheat the oven to 350°F.

In a large mixing bowl, combine the sugar, vegetable oil, eggs and vanilla extract. Beat on medium speed until the eggs and oil are well incorporated and the batter is lighter in color.

Next mix in the sour cream and beat until well combined.

In a separate bowl, sift together the dry ingredients. Then add half the dry ingredients followed by half of the coffee and mix just until the flour starts to incorporate.

Finally add the remaining dry ingredients, mixing on low speed while pouring in the remaining coffee and beating until all of the ingredients are well combined.

Use a spatula to scrape down the sides of the bowl and stir the batter from the bottom to the top to ensure it's well mixed.

Pour the batter into a 9x13-inch pan and bake at 350°F for 26-28 minutes. Test the cake for doneness by inserting a toothpick into the center of the cake. If the toothpick comes out clean, you cake is done. Remove from the oven and allow to

cool completely.

While the cake is still warm, take the end of a wooden spoon or another round object and poke holes all over the top of your cake.

optional: Heat the jar of hot fudge sauce in the microwave for about 30 seconds until you can stir it and thin it out. You may need an additional 30 seconds. Pour the entire jar of hot fudge sauce on the top of cake and allow it to absorb in the cake until cake is cooled. Let set until completely cooled.

When the cake has cooled, prepare the pudding layer by mixing a package of instant dark chocolate pudding with cold milk. Before the pudding sets, pour it over the top of the cake and put the cake in the fridge to let the pudding set, about 15 minutes.

Prepare the whipped cream. Put the bowl and whisk attachment in the freezer for 5-10 minutes to get them really cold (this step is optional, but a common practice I use.). In the cold mixing bowl, beat the heavy whipping cream on medium speed until soft peaks form. Add the hot chocolate mix and increase speed to medium high. Beat until stiff peak form.

Spread the whipped cream over the top of cake. You can top your cake with a chocolate drizzle and some mini chocolate chips



TINA SPECHT



INSPIRATION

## Getting to know God - a life-long journey

I believe God reveals Himself to us in a progressive manner. Some children, at a young age with a tender heart toward God, senses God ‘speaking to them.’ They open their hearts and invite Him to be their Lord and Savior in the person of Jesus. They begin to know God as a ‘loving Father, a saving Lord, and an ever-present Spirit.’ They begin on a life-long journey of growing in the likeness of their Lord. Staying true to the Spirit’s leading, they will live a rich life of blessings, maturing more and more at each station on the journey.

This wonderful journey for me began at age 18, a freshman in college, through the influence of fellow students and prayers of many others. It has been a joy-filled journey for these 62 years. There have been

many mountain-top experiences, where I could see breathtaking views of God’s wondrous love and power at work; there have been trips into the valleys where thorn bushes thrived, swamps filled with hungry ‘gators and other weird creatures pursued me; and sometimes life seemed to dump me into landfills of garbage. But that commitment made as a teenager always remained fresh and alive

– enough to nudge me on to ride the night train through and arrive back in the sunlight of God’s love and forgiveness.

As we congratulate the high school and college graduates, let’s wish them well and send them on

to the next station in life. Just as we are reminded that life is more than ‘the spring-break beach parties, or senior prom, or the special victory on the ball court,’ they, too, will soon learn the same

lesson – on their own. Life’s reality will soon introduce them to tests, challenges and hard questions that we have already encountered. They can learn to maneuver this rocky road called ‘life’ by obeying God’s signs along the way. There will

bridges out, detours to make, bumps in the road and ‘road under construction’ signs all along the way. The journey is not over until our earthly life is complete.

Special words of wisdom they have heard



Bill Crider

from parents and teachers will ring loudly in their ears as well. Dads become much wiser as youth age and have to make decisions about employment, handling finances and health care issues. Also, their faith system will be checked at every turn. Courage, loyalty and integrity must clothe them tightly, and God’s ever-present Spirit must be a welcomed source of power in all decisions made each day. The better one gets to know God and to lean on Him, life becomes more purposeful. God’s will is revealed more clearly – shining through one’s interests, special gifts, talents and dependence on the promises of our Lord. (Proverbs 3: 5-6).

As our youth (or anyone) matures in their faith and draw closer to the Father, they will better grasp the depth of His

love for them. They will understand the wonderful plans He has for their lives. (Jer. 29:11). God’s plan is for us to prosper and give us hope for the future. This is conditional to our promise to “seek Him, call upon Him and pray for His leadership in our lives.” He promises that if we do our part, He ‘will be found faithful.’ (Jer. 29:13).

Jesus confirmed His desire to guide us all the way though life’s ups and downs with these words of encouragement: “Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things (whatever you need in life) will be given unto you.” (Matt 6:33). So, are you seeking information about God and His will for your life today? Then it is time to move on to the next level of “getting to know Him in an intimate way.” Consistent Bible study, prayer,

worship, and fellowship with other Christians are agents of spiritual growth for all Believers. Our Lord can satisfy the deepest part of our being and heal the wounded areas of our hearts. (Charles Stanley, Every Day in His Presence, page 153).

So as you remove the cap and grown and move on to the ‘rest of your life,’ remember Jesus’ words in Matt 5: 14-16: “You are the light of the world. (Like) a city set high on a hillside, you cannot be hidden away....Then, let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.” Then you are well on your way to have a wonderful, successful life – touching many lives for the Lord on your life’s journey with Him.

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

THE UPWARD LOOK

### Saved: Reconciliation

“For by grace you have been saved through faith” Ephesians 2:8a “For if while we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.” Romans 5:10 NASB

Sin caused a great rift between all humanity and God. We became estranged, hostile, adversarial, and at enmity toward God and condemned under His wrath. But God made a way, through the atoning death and life of His Son Jesus, to restore the relationship and bring us



Max Hutto

together. This aspect of salvation is referred to as reconciliation. Though once rebellious, by His grace through faith, we have been reconciled through Christ.

*Lord Jesus, in Your great grace and love You bridged the gap caused by my sin. I now have a personal relationship and peace with God through faith.*

**MAX HUTTO IS A BAPTIST MINISTER AND A RESIDENT OF MINDEN. MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT [WWW.UPWARDLOOK.ORG](http://WWW.UPWARDLOOK.ORG).**

INSPIRATION

### Seek what?

*Matthew 6:33: Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things shall be added unto you.*

What things? All things required for living in this world.

Shelter, clothing, food, and every thing we need,

Psalms 37:25: I’ve never seen the righteousness forsaken nor his seed out begging for bread. I’ve been seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteous-



Mack Ford

ness for many years. I’ve always had everything needed for my life on this earth.

I’ve seen many people forsaken their seed begging for something to eat. What does this say to you. There are lots of people who are not seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness.

**MACK FORD IS A LOCAL RESIDENT OF WEBSTER PARISH**

### Working for the Lord

Have you ever felt like your just getting by at work? Have you ever made the statement I’m just here to get paid? If you answered yes to either of those questions it may be time to invite God to work. Colossians 3:23-24 NIV says “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord



Bernard Harris

as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.” We must remember that there is no small job. Every job and every interaction allows us to glorify God. We have to treat every day as a new op-

portunity to minister to those around us. As I end this article I would like to leave everyone with three points. Firstly, if we have a healthy and prosperous job God provided that job. Secondly, we should try to find something positive every day on the job even when it seems there is nothing positive. And lastly, the position you have is the position God gave you, and should enjoy and appreciate it until God moves you.

**BERNARD HARRIS III IS A HAUGHTON FIREMAN AND A LOCAL RESIDENT OF MINDEN**

*How can we pray for you?*

*If you’re in need of prayer, we can help you. Contact the FBC 24-Hour Prayer Ministry at 371-PRAY.*

**FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH**  
301 Pennsylvania Avenue • Minden, LA



# SPORTS

www.press-herald.com

PREP BASEBALL



Minden High School Baseball honored its seniors last week.

GINGER SWANSON/SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-TRIBUNE

## Thanks for the memories

Minden High wraps up 2021 season, players named to All-District team

**MARNIE GREGG**  
Special to the Press-Herald

The Minden High baseball team wrapped up their season by making it to the second round of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA) playoffs. This was the first group from MHS to reach the second round since the LHSAA started the 2 out of 3 rounds. “We lost out in the 2nd round round to Neville, who will be playing in the semifinals this weekend,” Coach Ben Bower said. “Next year I will only have

4 seniors. We will be relatively young, but competitive.” Several members of this year’s team were honored by District 1, 4A. Those named to 1st Team were: Hayden Brown – pitcher, Price Miller – infielder, Austin King- outfielder, and Parker Hall – utility player. Those who were named 2nd team were: Andrew Cooper – catcher, Jakob Walker- outfielder, and Jakobe Jackson- outfielder. For more news from the Tide Baseball team, follow their Facebook page at “Minden High Baseball Batter Up Club.”

### GLENBROOK TENNIS

## Woodard qualifies for MAIS state tournament

Special to the Press-Herald

Vicksburg, MS — Katharyn Woodard (Glenbrook School) qualified for the tournament as the runner-up from the South Regional in #2 girls singles. Only the semifinals and finals for Class AA will vie for the championships. The winner of the North plays the runner-up from the South; the winner of the South plays the runner-up from the North.

### SEMIFINALS

Katharyn Woodard defeated Haley Fyfe (Tunica Academy) 6-2, 6-2. Fyfe, the North winner, was unable to match Woodard's ground strokes. Using well-placed serves and some timely net-play, Woodard claimed the win, according to Coach Wayne Orr.

### FINALS

Woodard met Molly McBride for a re-match of the South finals. Again McBride was the winner by scores of 7-6, 6-2, leaving Wood as the Class AA runner-up. “Katharyn has had a memorable tennis career for the Apache Netters. She earned All-MAIS honors three of her four years of high school COVID-19 prevented her playing in 2020). Katharyn played singles for the first time in her high school years, having played doubles and mixed doubles during her other years. I am extremely proud of her contributions to the success of our team. The team will miss her desire to compete and the enthusiasm to play. We wish her much success in her future at LSU in Baton Rouge,” said Orr.

## Apaches take game 1 of state championship

**MARNIE GREGG**  
Special to the Press-Herald

After rain delayed the start of the opening game of the Championship series, the Glenbrook Apaches tasted victory against Tunica Academy in Tunica, MS on May 12. The game, originally slated for a 4:00pm start time, was pushed back to 6:00pm. Jonathan Parkerson had an RBI in the 1st inning for the Apaches, and six more runs came in during the second inning due in part

to a double from Turner McLelland and a triple from Maddox Mandino. Cale Hollis pitched almost six innings before receiving relief from McLelland. Mandino and Jackson Powell each took turns on the mound to finish the game with a score of 9-7. The Apaches will face Tunica again on Saturday, May 15 for Game two (and possibly three) at Glenbrook at 2:00pm. A victory in either game will crown the Apaches as State Champions.



MARNIE GREGG/SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-HERALD

Banners could be seen on Country Club Circle in Minden, cheering on the Glenbrook Apaches as they head to Game 1 of the State Championship Series in Tunica, MS.

### MINDEN RECREATION T-BALL, SOFTBALL, BASEBALL

**Competitive T-Ball Yankees 25, Tigers 21**  
The 5 & 6-year-old competitive t-ball games started off with the Yankees beating the Tigers in a slug fest 25-21. Every batter on each team collected at least one base hit. Six hitters from the Yankees got at least 3 hits (Brayden Dalaney, Miles Macolla, Austin Ramsey, Reed Powell, Taylor Watkins & Eli Curley), while the opposing Tigers had 4 players with at least 3 hits (Lejerrius Bryant, Jonah Wiley, John Whitehead, Waylon Chapman). If you want to see some exciting ball, come out and watch this age group.

**Dixie Angels Softball Lady Legends 3, Bat Attitude 0**  
Ella Wood led the Lady Legends with her bat & pitching (5 strikeouts) & batting (a triple). Kenzie Pike also has a home run for the Lady Legends. Bonlee Cox had two hits for the Bat Attitude girls.  
**Dixie Darlings Pink Sox 11, Fury 0**  
The Pink Sox were off to a fast start with an 11-0 shutout of the Fury. Pink Sox has 22 hits in the game with three players having 3 hits each (E.K. Perryman, Layla Holford, Eme Jernigan.) The Fury showed a lot of fight in them and will come out swinging in their

next game.  
**Bat Attitude 1, Darling Divas 8**  
The Darling Divas came out on top by a score of 8-1. The Divas were led at the plate by Reagan Blanchard with three hits, followed by Presleigh Nelson, Sadie Dooley, and Laikyn Hollingsworth with two hits each. The Bat Attitudes were led at the plate by Brooklyn Southernlyn, Jada Jackson, and Isabella Marodd with two hits each.  
**Dixie AA Coach Pitch Coyotes 4, Astros 16**  
The Astros won 16-4 over the Coyotes. Colby Harris has two hits for

the Astros, with Gunner Sparks getting a triple. Kaleb Stevens also got two hits for the Astros. The Coyotes has four hits in the game by four different players.  
**Webster Machine 1, Skeeters 14**  
Skeeters won 14-1 over the Webster Machine team. Jordan Hartnell led the Skeeters with three hits, followed by Braxton Brown with two triples, Peyton Williams with a tripe and a home run, and Silas Bamburg with a triple. Murphy Durden and Beau Monday led Webster Machine with two hits each.  
**Dixie Ponytails Soft-**

**ball Legends 11, Stackers 2**  
The Legends scored their 11 runs by way of two hits and 13 walks. Legends pitching only gave up one hit in the ball game.  
**Dixie Youth AAA 9-10 Year Olds Webster Machine 12, Citizens**  
Webster Machine came out swinging a hot bat as every player had at least one hit, with four players picking up three hits each (Kaiden Kinsey, Trent Clemons, Louie Collins and Rylan Cochran). Kaiden Kinsey scored three of Webster Machine's runs.

Evan Walker and A.J. Hauley led Citizens at the plate.  
**Frontliners 11, Chaos 3**  
The Frontliners were led at the plate by Claylen Fowler who scored three runs after walking all three times he came to bat. John Hollis Robinson also had a double for Frontliners. Mac Vanderwood led Chaos with an inside-the-park home run.  
*Editor's Note: The preceding was submitted to the Press-Herald by a volunteer. We cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information.*



# From Ballerina to La. Tech Baller



Zoe Hicks’  
story takes her  
from Manitoba  
to Ruston

**MALCOLM BUTLER**  
Special to the Press-Herald

Following Sunday’s rain-soaked win over Southern Miss, Louisiana Tech outfielder Zoe Hicks walked toward the bus with the rest of her teammates for the ride back to Ruston.

Zoe, who had scored the second run of the game on a head first slide into home plate on a passed ball in the first inning of the 6-1 win, was covered with sweat and dirt, her pregame eye black (glitter-version) smeared across both sides of her face. She reeked of that sweaty, ballpark aroma that all players exude following a game on a hot, muggy, rainy early May morning/afternoon in Mississippi.

Zoe didn’t care. She is one of those players who wears that smell like a badge of honor. After all, it is the product of years of hard work.

**Dance, Hockey and Softball ...  
Oh My**

It’s who she is now. And it’s a long way from the four-year-old version of Zoe growing up in Manitoba, Canada. The Zoe who preferred ballerina slippers and tutus.

“Dance was my outlet,” Zoe said. “I could dance and sing and be energetic and crazy. I had my dance time. I was a little princess girly girl. I loved to have my hair done. I loved to have my makeup done. I just loved it. It was kind of my thing.”

“I thought I would be the dad going to all the dance recitals,” said Al Hicks, Zoe’s dad. “She loved her dance. She was in a dance troupe in Red Deer. They worked all year long on their little routines and then in the spring one of the theatres sold tickets to all the families and packed the place for a few nights of recitals. You would see Zoe on stage, and she soaked that up.”

Zoe is the youngest of two children for Al and Jan Hicks. For older brother Zak, hockey was his thing. And why not.

Hockey is a traditional Canadian thing. It is the staple for sports above the United States border. Plus, Al was a hockey coach. Natural fit ... for Zak.

But as Al and Jan would quickly find out, chasing a puck around an ice rink wasn’t exactly young Zoe’s cup of tea.

Al worked summer hockey camps in Okanagan, British Columbia, for a decade. One year he convinced Zoe to try out the hockey camp, something that turned out to be a short-lived experiment.

“About Wednesday of the first week – it was two-a-days for these little 8-year-olds – she is getting ready to go to her second ice time in the afternoon and she came up to me and said, ‘Dad, can I just go to the beach?’ I had a pretty strong indication at that moment that hockey wasn’t going to be for her,”

See, **HICKS**, Page 10

## EVENT

# Firecracker 5K returns for 37th year

Special to the Press-Herald

Sportspectrum is happy to announce the 37th Anniversary of the Firecracker 5k Race for Research Run & Healthwalk. This coming July 3rd, our Nation’s Birthday promises to be celebrated with a special passion and purpose by Americans from coast to coast. The 37th running also brings a special milestone to myself and this great run. The year was 1985, Springlake Point Apartments, and about 45 weekend warriors took the streets of Springlake to run the first Annual Firecracker. Scott Smith was our first overall male with a time of 15:37 and Terry Davis won the ladies crown in 19:00 flat. It has been a great ride and a lot of fun sharing my July 4th with all my favorite friends.

Sportspectrum has worked tirelessly to produce safe races through the pandemic, but is excited to return Firecracker 5k to the family tradition it has always been. The festivities will once again include live music, great food and drinks, and the ceremonial starting.

Our Title Sponsor is the Spine Institute of Louisiana Foundation. We are excited about combining Race for Research with our Firecracker 5K and look forward to an exciting long-term partnership. 80% of Americans experience back pain or spine disease. It is one of the most debilitating health problems that we face. The Spine Institute of Louisiana Foundation is a 501(c)3 not-for-profit organization whose mission is to improve current spine treatments and develop new ones through innovative research. Thousands of patients in the Ark-La-Tex have directly benefited as a result of the research that is done through the Foundation. The Spine Institute of Louisiana has received International recognition from the research performed at its research Foundation. Donations directly benefit spine research at the Spine Institute of Louisiana Foundation.

This race is also being run in the memory of three great friends. Ran Kiper, Jim Wilhite, & Robin Fell. They all had a passion for the great outdoors, from a Saturday morning jog with “the group” to a competitive half-marathon down on the Riverfront. They were all leaders, giving their time and resources to organizations and individuals in need. They loved their families and friends, and were committed to living life to its fullest —I miss you guys!!

The 1996 Firecracker 5K was Ran Kiper’s last foot race. The following day he was diagnosed with cancer and passed away that September. Men’s mug #101 is in memory of Ran Kiper.

“Firecracker strikes the perfect balance of competitive running and family fun. Every year I fight to get a mug, and regardless, I have a great time with friends and family after the race.” Andrew Gaspard, avid runner and Sportspectrum Manager

“Sprinklers, Popsicles, Music, Front Yard Gatherings, American Flags, The Southfield School Water Stop have all become staples to Shreveport’s largest road race. These elements truly make this a race for all ages and fitness levels.” Matt Snyder Firecracker participant

“We were happy to be able to safely produce races over the last year, and our looking forward to making the 2021 Firecracker 5k a running community reunion,” said Matt Brown. Sportspectrum owner.



# Hicks: COVID-19 became another obstacle to overcome

Continued from Page 98

said Al.

Her introduction to the sport she loves these days came around age 6.

"We put a ball in her hand and she played a little outfield and it was OK, but dance was still her passion," Al said. "But then we put her in the circle and she started pitching. Not to say it went very well for her early on, but she got a passion for ball."

The introduction to the sport wasn't necessarily a smooth one for young Zoe.

"Her first pitching experience, she walks the bases loaded," Al said. "She walks in one run. Two runs. Three runs. Four runs. And (coach) Clayton Cassidy says to me, 'We got to get her out of there.' I said, 'Yeah, but it can't be me.' So Clayton walks out to the circle and says to Zoe, 'How's it going, Zoe?' She said, 'Yeah, this isn't really how I had it planned.' Out she comes, but she was undaunted."

"For me moving from dance to softball, I liked being the center of attention," said Zoe. "I was that person. I was always outgoing. I was bubbly. I was energetic. I played one game and I went home and said, 'Dad, I want to pitch. I want to touch the ball every single time. I want the ball to come back to me. Every single time. I want to be in the middle of the circle.'"

And a softball player was born.

"We broke a lot of boards in the back yard working on her pitching," said Al. "She got to a pretty good spot. I think if she had stayed in the outfield the whole time, she may not have developed the passion for it, but her being right in the middle of things helped that. She would play shortstop, and she would pitch. She got the bug for ball. She went from interested to committed to passionate, absolutely passionate about the sport once she got into that 12 or 13 age range."

**European "Vacation"**

Prior to Zoe's eighth-grade year, Al got a job in Europe coaching hockey at a sports academy in St. Polten, about a 45-minute drive from Vienna. It was a great opportunity for Al and a chance for Zak to continue his hockey training at the academy, which also offered numerous other athletic chances for the youngsters. Zoe made the move overseas as well.

"It was crazy. It was a big adventure for me, my dad and my brother," said Zoe. "It was just something different. I was 12. I had this incredible opportunity in front of me to travel Europe."

But the incredible opportunity meant finding a sport to take at the academy, an academy that didn't offer softball. So Zoe turned back to her original love, dance. Only this time it was taught by a professional Russian ballet instructor.

"In order for her to be a part of that, we had to find a sport for her," said Al. "She probably could have gotten by on the basketball or volleyball. She was not a soccer player. But then the dance opportunity came. Even though she worked pretty hard, you could start to see her passion leave dance and

become really, really part of what softball was. The discipline of the dance was really good for her. Just learning how to commit herself to a craft and try to get better."

Zoe agrees.

"The dance I had been doing was just for fun," said Zoe. "It was more social. No competition or anything. I think that's what I liked about ballet (in Austria). You were beating out people for a ballet position. The instructor (Frau Uszedmanoba) was always talking about that ... being a professional ballerina. She would say, 'You have things to work on. Go fix it and I will see you next week.' It was more feedback for me, and it was like now go hone your craft. I really liked that about dance."

"I think that's why I put in so much time now to know my swing. To watch film and do slow motion video work. To do a bunch of analytics on my swing and on my average and on my statistics. I think that kinda started there. How could I be at my best and use the things that I have to my advantage?"

Although she enrolled in dance at the sports academy that year, Zoe never quit working on softball.

"After the guys would get off the ice, she would drag me over to the corner of the rink and would set up a pitching lane," laughed Al. "And then we would go to one of the tennis domes and set up a batting cage and she would put in the extra work. She never slowed down."

"I would take the bus to school," Zoe said. "I would take the bus to dance classes. It was just all a big adventure. My dad and I lived in the apartment and my brother lived on campus at the sports academy. It was basically my dad and I hanging out. When he had extra time, we would go hit or pitch at the hockey rink. We would step off 43 feet, and I would pitch. One day he pulled out the radar gun they used for slap shots for the hockey guys. We were working radar stuff with my pitching at the end of the hockey rink. Everyone looked at us like we were crazy."

**College Bound**

The hours of hard work paid off.

Zoe earned a softball scholarship to play at Iowa Western Community College where she enrolled in the fall of 2017.

"There were not DI people banging on our door or calling us," Al said. "Through a connection she visited Boston College. I knew they weren't going to sign her but it was a way to whet her appetite. (Iowa Western) Coach Ben Greer did a world of good for Zoe. Her first year she was pretty average. He spent a lot of extra time with her. He would pitch with her and hit with her. Her next year was an All-American year for her."

She was actually named to three different All-American teams following that sophomore season, including first team National Junior College Athletic Association (NJCAA) as well as second team FastPitch News and third team National Fastpitch Coaches Associ-



Zoe Hicks

ation (NFCA). She batted .488 with 24 doubles, 71 RBI and 66 runs scored. In the circle, Zoe was 16-5 with a 2.69 earned run average and 130 strikeouts.

It was enough to get her noticed by one Division I program.

"Coming out of junior college my options were still limited," said Zoe. "It was either a DII school in West Virginia or Buffalo. Mike Roberts (now an assistant coach at UL-Lafayette) was the head coach at Buffalo and told me he wanted me to be a part of turning that program around."

So prior to her sophomore season at Iowa Western, she signed the national letter of intent to play in New York. The summer following her All-American season, she received the news that Roberts was heading to UL-Lafayette and a new coach would be hired at Buffalo.

"At that point I had the decision to either decommit and find a new school or go to Buffalo," said Zoe. "I made the decision to go to Buffalo. I just didn't have that many options at that time. But when I got there, I realized it wasn't the program for me."

After entering the transfer portal, Zoe's former Iowa Western coach helped her make the connection to former LA Tech head coach Mark Montgomery in Ruston. The Lady Techsters had just lost a left-handed hitting first baseman and Montgomery needed to fill a position need quickly before the start of the spring 2019 season.

"(Coach Montgomery) was very honest from the beginning," Zoe said. "He wanted me to come make an impact on a program that had won the C-USA title in 2017. He sold me. I was on board with that."

"Zoe coming to such a strong DI program was really good for her," Al said.

The marriage worked instantly.

Zoe started 42 games for the Lady Techsters in 2019, batting .269 with 32 hits, 22 runs and 35 RBI. She was the perfect complement to an already loaded and talented lineup. She made a significant impact helping Tech in a heated race for the regular season title until she broke her ankle while sliding into third base in a game against UTEP late in the regular season.

Even with Zoe on the sideline for the last 19 games of the season, the Lady Techsters managed to capture the program's

first regular season conference title and the C-USA Tournament title with a 3-1 win over Marshall at Mary Bowers Field in Birmingham. Zoe still played a role, using her enthusiasm and energy from the dugout to urge her teammates to a memorable late season run.

The 2020 season came and went ... quickly. A new head coach in Maria Winn. A roster that had lost a highly-decorated senior class. Change. Adversity. And at times, plenty of struggles. Yet Zoe, who had recovered from her ankle injury, didn't miss a beat, batting a team-high .344 with six doubles and two home runs. Tech opened C-USA play winning two out of three at UTEP and appeared to be poised to turn the corner when the college softball season - along with the entire country - shut down due to COVID-19.

It was just one more disappointment to overcome.

"I asked her one day if she had any regrets about not signing with a smaller program where she could have been their All-American, their all-everything," Al said. "Zoe said, 'Well, it wouldn't have made me better. I needed to go somewhere that was ahead of me, to a DI program where I was surrounded by players that were going to make me better and by coaches that were going to ask me to do more.'"

"That's the attitude I wanted her to have," Al said. "Ruston has been a good fit for her. There have been some heartbreaks along the way with her. But if you look at the big picture, life is going to throw you some nasty changeups and curveballs. I think her time there has given her a skill-set to move with those changes and do well in life."

**Tech Connection**

This fall while the rest of her LA Tech teammates were in Ruston, trying to maneuver through the challenges of acclimating to a third coach in three years and of operating in a COVID-19 world, Zoe stayed in Canada.

"I remember she called me and said she just didn't feel good about crossing the border," Al said. "She was quite concerned about the pandemic. I told her to start making some phone calls and maybe she could do some workouts through

her connections at Sport Manitoba."

That advice led her to a chance meeting with former Bulldog baseball player Amos Ramon in Winnipeg.

"I was hitting one day and (Amos) starts asking me questions about places in Ruston," said Zoe. "Is Dawghouse still there? Do you go to this place or that place for postgame?" We started talking about how Ruston has changed so much. The new facilities ... all that kind of stuff."

"She would be training and hitting by herself," said Ramon, who played for the Bulldogs in 2005 and 2006. "I knew the connection. So I went up and introduced myself. We talked about Ruston and Tech. I knew what kind of hard worker she was. It always intrigues me when I know a player is a hard worker. That's what I'm driven to as far as a trying to work with those types of players. Just watching Zoe come in every day and work out. She was there four to five hours a day, lifting and doing other things at the facility."

According to both of them, the relationship turned into one of pupil and student. Zoe's drive to get better and to hone her craft. Amos' drive to help people do exactly that.

But it wasn't just softball that Zoe wanted help with during the summer and fall working with Amos. Nope. Zoe has played and has a desire to continue playing baseball following her Tech softball career.

**Expedition League**

As the sun begins to set on Zoe's collegiate career - she took advantage of the NCAA's ruling that allowed 2020 seniors to play in 2021 - she does so knowing that her career on the diamond isn't over.

In January, Zoe made a little history by signing with the Wheat City Whiskey Jacks of the Expedition League. She became the first female to sign with the 12-team collegiate summer league. Once the Tech spring quarter ends, she will head north to Grand Forks, North Dakota, for the opening of the summer season on May 25. Normally the Wheat City organization is based in Brandon, Manitoba, Canada, but due to border issues pertaining to COVID19, it will call Grand Forks home for the 2021 season.

"College kids from all over come and stay with a host family and play for the summer," said Zoe. "It's an interesting opportunity to be the first female to play in the expedition league. I think we play 62 games in 70 nights. We have to have a bigger roster to deal with the amount of ball we'll be playing."

It won't be Zoe's first experience with baseball.

That came in the summer between her second year at Iowa Western and her first year at Buffalo/LA Tech.

"I went to a tournament with my dad's senior ball team because they needed more bodies; it was just kind of luck of the draw," Zoe said. "I played with them at a random tournament that they have gone to for years. There were a couple of weddings that weekend so

they had less bodies than normal. The coach messaged my dad and asked if Zak and I wanted to play that weekend. My brother has played in the league before. My dad played in it years ago when he was like 16."

"I was like 'Ok.' I had never played baseball in my life. My first at bat I foul off a few pitches and get the count to 2-2 and then the guy hits me in the middle of my back. The provincial coach from Team Manitoba was there and came up to me after the game and was like, 'Hey, do you play baseball somewhere?' Anyway, I ended up going to play at the national tournament with them and we finished fourth. It was from there that I got involved with that program every summer after that."

So having been bitten now by the baseball bug as well, Zoe decided to pursue opportunities following her final season of softball in Ruston. She emailed Ray Walker, the general manager of the Whisky Jacks and expressed interest in playing. She followed up with phone calls to the team owner and ultimately spoke to the coach, Robby Laughlin.

"I knew that at the junior college level, Zoe was a pretty elite softball player, and she has been really good for (Tech)," Laughlin said. "I have done a lot of research on her. I talked to Amos Ramon, who said to me, 'She is a really good ball player. I am not going to call her a softball player. I am not going to call her a baseball player. She is just a ball player.'"

"At the end of the day, my whole thing was I didn't want it to be a circus. I know this is something she has worked extremely hard for. Everything that Zoe is getting she deserves," Laughlin said. "The conversations between us have been that she wants to do this to prepare herself to be on Team Canada to compete in baseball at the World Cup for Women. I think this is an absolute great opportunity for her. The Expedition League is a pretty high-level collegiate summer league, and she is definitely going to get tested by it. That's for sure. I would like to think she probably won't ever see any competition in women's baseball like what she will see this summer. I am really excited for her to get this opportunity, and see how it goes for her. It's a unique situation for sure."

Unique and another opportunity for the ballerina turned ball player to get better.

"If you're sitting in your comfort zone, you aren't getting any better," Al said. "You probably aren't stretching and growing unless you are uncomfortable. This will make her uncomfortable, and she will have an idea where she stacks up. She has visions of playing for the Canadian National Women's Baseball Team if they get back to World Championships after COVID. She would love to put on the maple leaf jersey and compete for her country."

But for at least two more weeks, Zoe will put on the Tech uniform and compete for her University as part of one last dance with the Lady Techsters.

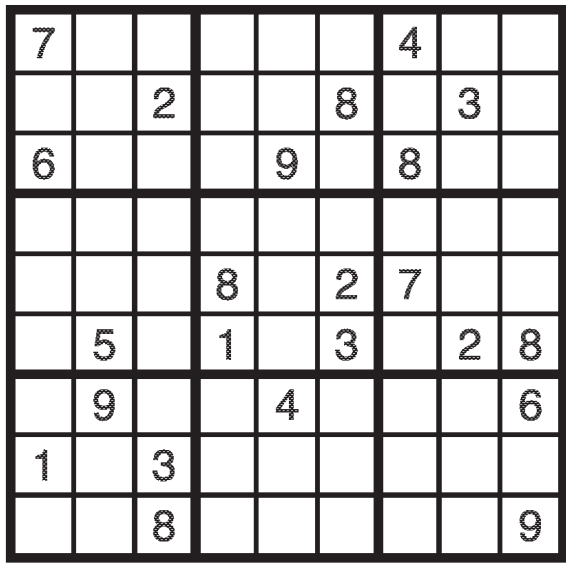






SUDOKU

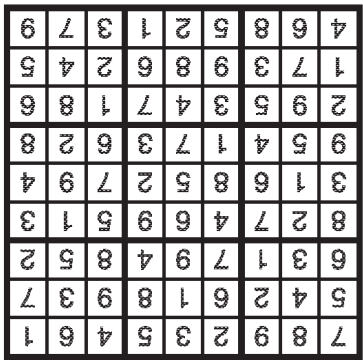
SUDOKU



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 — THINGS

P U R O L I E B Y V S Q N K H

E B Y W T R O L J G E B Y W U

G R P N G K I G D B Z X V S Q

I N S I G N I F I C A N T O M

Y K I I M G I O O E C A Y W F

U L L V S E Q E P Y N L N J O

H F H A I B R M E E A C I A K

Y X V T E L U E S S Q W C P C

N M K S R R J H H H O F E E I

C B T A Z A U C Y T X H V H H

U T R L F O E S R U O C T Q T

Thursday's unlisted clue: SUSANS

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

Friday's unlisted clue hint: JUST ONE OF — THINGS

|               |        |           |            |
|---------------|--------|-----------|------------|
| Best          | Last   | Other     | Sure       |
| Course of     | Living | Real      | The way of |
| Earthly       | Mere   | Scheme of | Thick of   |
| Insignificant | Nice   | Seeing    |            |

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5/14

HISTORY

Continued from Page 1  
defense treaty, which played an important role during the Cold War as an antagonist of NATO.

**1948** - Israel becomes an independent state. The announcement by Prime Minister, David Ben-Gurion, triggered a 10-month armed conflict known as the Arab-Israeli War of 1948. It started the day after the proclamation as troops of Egypt, Syria, Transjordan and Iraq invaded the young nation.

**1796** - The first small-pox vaccination is administered. The British physician, Edward Jenner, successfully inoculated an 8-year-old smallpox patient using material from a cowpox lesion. The word "vaccine" is derived from the Latin word for cow (vacca).

COMICS

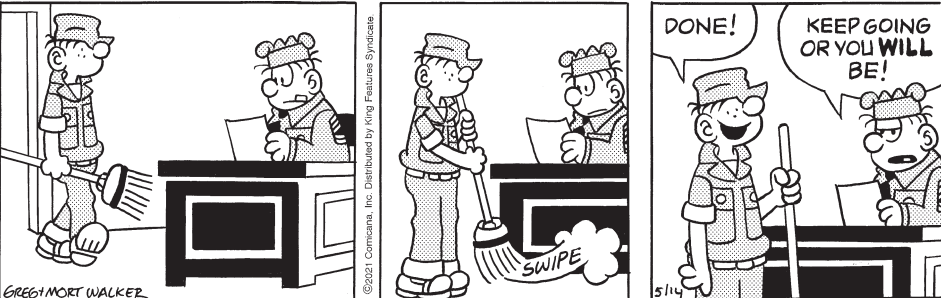
BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



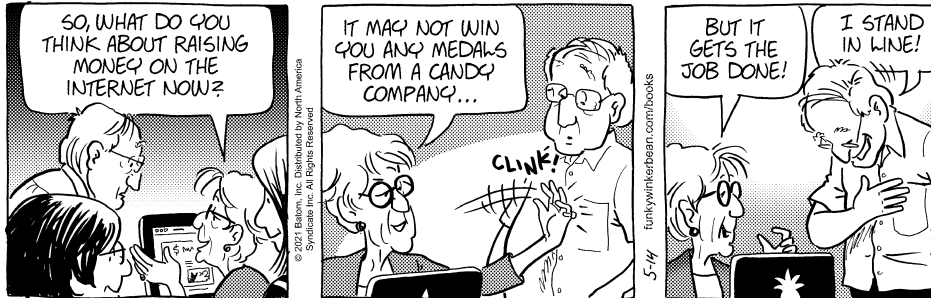
BLONDIE | DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



BEETLE BAILEY | MORT & GREG WALKER



FUNKY WINKERBEAN | TOM BATIUK



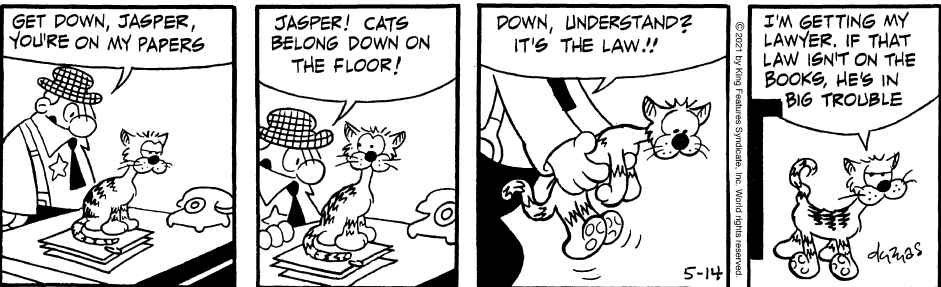
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN WALKER, GREG WALKER AND CHANCE BROWNE



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



SAM AND SILO | JERRY DUMAS



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM | MIKE PETERS





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“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.

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SHERIFF’S  
SALE  
CARRINGTON  
MORTGAGE  
SERVICES, LLC  
VS.  
JOHN HARRISON NEAL

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 79121.

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, May 19, 2021, During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

The East 74 feet of Lot Ten (10), Block “C”, Bonnie Heights Subdivision, a subdivision located in the South Half of the Southeast Quarter (S/2 of SE/4), Section 16, Township 19 North, Range 9 West, Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana, as shown by map and plat thereof in Map Book 2, Map 97, Map Records of Webster Parish, Louisiana, together with all improvements thereon and all rights thereto belonging. Which has the address of 210 Virginia Avenue, Minden, LA 71055.

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

April 16, 2021  
May 14, 2021  
Minden Press-Herald

SHERIFF’S  
SALE  
CITIBANK, N.A.  
NOT IN ITS  
INDIVIDUAL  
CAPACITY BUT  
SOLELY AS  
OWNER TRUSTEE FOR NEW  
RESIDENTIAL  
MORTGAGE  
LOAN TRUST  
2018-3  
VS.  
JERRY R. LE-MAY A/K/A JERRY RAE LEMAY A/K/A JERRY RAY LEMAY AND VESTA C. LEMAY

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. CV79046.

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, May 19, 2021, During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

A TRACT OF LAND 70 YARDS SQUARE IN THE NORTHWEST CORNER (NW) OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW 1/4) OF SECTION 32, TOWNSHIP 23 NORTH, RANGE 10 WEST, WEBSTER PARISH, LOUISIANA, CONTAINING ONE ACRE, MORE OR LESS; subject to restrictions, servitudes, rights-of-way and outstanding mineral rights of record affecting 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

April 16, 2021  
May 14, 2021  
Minden Press-Herald

### ADVERTISEMENT 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 Tuesday, June 01, 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

May 07, 2021  
May 14, 2021  
May 21, 2021  
May 28, 2021  
Minden Press-Herald

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Minden Planning Commission Meeting

June 3, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

Pelican Room - Minden City Hall

On the agenda is a request from Latasha Mitchell for a zoning change from R-3 (Single Family Residential) to B-1 (Neighborhood Commercial) on property owned by her located at the municipal address of 224 N. Middle Landing Street.

The purpose of this zoning change is to be able to use the property to open a preschool/after-school facility for children.

Legal Description: LOT #4 AND THE NORTH 5 FT. OF LOT #5, BLK. “F”, RESURVEY OF S.J. HARRELL SECOND SUBDIV.

All interested parties will be given a chance to be heard.

To be advertised in the legal section of the official journal on May 14, May 21, and May 28, 2021.

May 14, 2021  
May 21, 2021  
May 28, 2021  
Minden Press-Herald

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Minden Planning Commission Meeting

June 3, 2021 – 10:00 a.m.

Pelican Room - Minden City Hall

On the agenda is a request from Teressia Garner, Andreka Winston and Kristi Williams (option holders) for a zoning variance on property owned by Minden Baptist Church located at the municipal address of 800 Yale Street. This property is zoned R-2 (Single Family Residential).

The purpose of this zoning variance is to be able to use the property for a daycare/preschool facility.

Legal Description: LOTS #14, 15, 16, 17 & 18, BABB ADDN. & STRIP 30 X 145 FT. ADJ. (FORMERLY PART OF HIGH ST.) IN NE/4 OF SW/4 SEC. 28-19-9

All interested parties will be given a chance to be heard.

To be advertised in the legal section of the official journal on May 14, May 21, and May 28, 2021.

May 14, 2021  
May 21, 2021  
May 28, 2021  
Minden Press-Herald

LLC., is applying to the Office of Alcohol & Tobacco Control of the State of Louisiana for a permit to sell beverages of high and low alcohol content at retail in the Parish of Webster at the following address: 605 Main Street, Minden, LA, 71055

Under Dawgs, LLC. Members: Claudine Adams Thomas and Ricky Lynn Thomas

May 11, 2021  
May 14, 2021  
Minden Press-Herald

SHERIFF’S  
SALE  
HOME POINT  
MORTGAGE  
ACCEPTANCE  
CORP.  
VS.  
ERIC C. SIMMONS A/K/A  
ERIC CARROLL  
SIMMONS

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. CV79141.

By vir-

tue 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 WITHOUT 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, June 16, 2021, During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

Begin at the NE corner of the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 8, T23N, R10W, Webster Parish, Louisiana, and run S 0° 10'E 900 feet to the point of beginning; thence run W 608.9 feet; thence run S 377.7 feet to the N right-of-way of Springhill to Shongaloo Highway; thence run S 88° 43'E along said right-of-way 190 feet; thence run N 220 feet; thence run E 200 feet; thence run S 223.5 feet to the said right-of-way; thence run Easterly along curve in the said right-of-way to the E line of said forty a distance of 220.9 feet; thence run N 0° 10' W 414.3 feet to the point of beginning.

Also Begin at the NE corner of the NW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 8, T23N, R10W, Webster Parish, Louisiana, and run S 0° 10' E 1062 feet; thence run W 219.4 feet to the point of beginning; thence continue W 200 feet; thence S 220 feet to the N right-of-way of the Springhill to Shongaloo Highway; thence run S 89° 00' E along said right-of-way 200 feet; thence run N 223.5 feet to the point of beginning, together with all rights thereto belonging. Which has the address of 24130 Highway 157, Springhill, LA 71075.

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

May 14, 2021  
June 11, 2021  
Minden Press-Herald

### PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Village of Doyline will conduct two (2) public hearings on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, beginning at 10:00 AM in the Village Hall at the Village of Doyline.

The purpose of the first public hearing will be to receive comments on the Parish's performance on its FY 2019 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) Program (Contract No. 2000477899) for sewer improvements. The Parish will submit close-out documents for the aforementioned LCDBG program to the Louisiana Division of Administration within forty-five (45) calendar days of this notice.

The second public hearing, a Fair Housing Informational Hearing, will be conducted following the Performance Hearing. The purpose of this hearing is to discuss fair housing policies, including the Fair Housing Act as Amended (Title 8), and any recommendations for improving fair housing opportunities within the community.

All residents of the Parish, particularly low to moderate income persons, are invited to attend and submit comments. Any person unable to attend these hearings may submit their writ-



ten comments to: Mr. Steven Bridwell, Mayor, Village of Doyline, Post Office Box 626, Doyline, LA 71023.

Any person having a physical handicap that requires special accommodations or any non-English speaking persons who require an interpreter should telephone the Village at (318) 745-2625 or write to the Village at the above address at least three (3) days prior to the hearing date.

May 14, 2021  
Minden Press-Herald

PUBLIC HEARINGS

The Town of Sibley will conduct two (2) public hearings on Wednesday, May 19, 2021, beginning at 10:00 AM in the Town of Sibley.

The purpose of the first public hearing will be to receive comments on the Parish's performance on its FY 2019 Louisiana Community Development Block Grant (LCD-BG) Program (Contract No. 2000477912) for sewer improvements. The Parish will submit close-out documents for the aforementioned LCDBG program to the Louisiana Division of Administration within forty-five (45) calendar days of this notice.

The second public hearing, a Fair Housing Informational Hearing, will be conducted following the Performance Hearing. The purpose of this hearing is to discuss fair housing policies, including the Fair Housing Act as Amended (Title 8), and any recommendations for improving fair housing opportunities within the community.

All residents of the Parish, particularly low to moderate income persons, are invited to attend and submit comments. Any person unable to attend these hearings may submit their written comments to: Mr. Jimmy Williams, Mayor, Town of Sibley, Post Office Box 128, Sibley, LA 71073.

Any person having a physical handicap that requires special accommodations or any non-English speaking persons who require an interpreter should telephone the Town at (318) 377-0345 or write to the Town at the above address at least three (3) days prior to the hearing date.

May 14, 2021  
Minden Press-Herald

“NOTICE TO ESTABLISH A BRANCH”

In the matter of the establishment of a branch of Gibbsland Bank & Trust Company, notice is hereby given that the Gibbsland Bank & Trust Company, whose Main Office and domicile is located in Gibbsland, Bienville Parish, Louisiana, has made application to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Louisiana Commissioner of Financial Institutions to establish a branch to be located at 714 Broadway Street, Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana.

Any person wishing to comment on this application may file his or her comments, in writing, with the Regional Director, Kristi Elmquist, of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at its Dallas Regional Office at 1601 Bryan Street, Dallas, Texas 75201, not later than May 29, 2021. The non-confidential portion of the application is on file in the regional office and is available for inspection during regular business hours. Photocopies of the non-confidential portion of the application file will be made available upon request.

Any person wishing to comment on this application with the Louisiana Office of Financial Institutions may file his or her comments, in writing, with the Commissioner of Financial Institutions, Post Office Box 94095, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804-9095. The Office of Financial Institutions is not required to consider any comments received more than 30 days after the date of publication of

this notice. The Public Section of the application will be available at the Office of Financial Institutions for public inspection during the regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

This notice is published pursuant to Part 303.7 of the Rules and Regulations of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and LAC 10:1 Chapter 5 of the “Louisiana Register”.

Gibbsland Bank & Trust Company  
P.O. Box 180  
1246 Third Street  
Gibbsland, LA 71028

By:  
John C. Cole,  
Chief Banking Officer

May 14, 2021  
Minden Press-Herald

PUBLIC NOTICE:

Hemphill, LLC proposes to build a 270-foot Self-Support Communications Tower. Anticipated lighting application is medium intensity dual red/white strobes. The Site location is 115 Buddy Carter Place, Doyline, LA 71023, Lat: [32-28-23.276], Long: [-93-23-56.548]. The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A1193084.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS – Interested persons may review the application (www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) by entering the filing number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review (www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest) and online filings are strongly encouraged. The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554.

HISTORIC PROPERTIES EFFECTS – Public comments regarding potential effects on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Alondra, a.trevino@trileaf.com, 2550 S. IH-35,

Suite 200, Austin, TX 78704, 512-519-9388.

May 14, 2021  
Minden Press-Herald

Executive Department Proclamation Number 51 JBE 2021

SPECIAL ELECTION – JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE DISTRICT 3, PARISH OF WEBSTER

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the office of the Justice of the Peace, Justice of the Peace District 3, Parish of Webster, because no one qualified for this office during the January 22-24, 2021 qualifying period for the March 20, 2021 special election; and

WHEREAS, Louisiana Revised Statute 18:621 requires the Governor to call a special election to fill a vacancy in the office of a judge when more than twelve (12) months of the term remain unexpired, in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:621, and/or the dates for elections set forth in La. R.S. 18:402.

NOW THEREFORE, I, JOHN BEL EDWARDS, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and the laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

SECTION 1: A special primary and general election for the unexpired term shall be held throughout the jurisdiction of the Justice of the Peace District 3, Parish of Webster, for the purpose of electing a justice of the peace to fill the vacancy in the office.

SECTION 2: Any qualified person desiring to become a candidate for the office shall file a notice of candidacy, accompanied either by a qualifying fee or a nominating petition, as required by law, with the appropriate election official in the manner and form, and under the procedures

and conditions, provided by La. R.S. 18:461 et seq., and all other applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, La. R.S. 18:1 et seq., during the period commencing Wednesday, July 14, 2021, and ending at 4:30 p.m. Friday, July 16, 2021.

SECTION 3: The special election for the unexpired term shall be held and conducted under the applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, La. R.S. 18:1 et seq.

SECTION 4: The primary election shall be held Saturday, October 9, 2021, and the general election shall be held Saturday, November 13, 2021, at the times and places and in the manner prescribed by law.

SECTION 5: The Secretary of State, Commissioner of Elections, Parish Board of Election Supervisors, Clerk of Court, Registrar of Voters, and all other persons charged with any power, function, right, duty or responsibility in conducting elections in the jurisdiction of the Justice of the Peace District 3, Parish of Webster, are hereby authorized, requested, directed and empowered to exercise every lawful function and to do every act necessary to conduct the special election, to cause the returns to be made, to canvass and promulgate the results, and to perform all related and incidental functions.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 11th day of March, 2021.

GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE

SECRETARY OF STATE

May 14, 2021  
Minden Press-Herald

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NOTICES

**HEAD START CENTERS** in your areas are accepting applications for enrollment of children who will be 3 or 4 years of age on or before September 30th of this year. Our Head Start Program has been recognized by the State of Louisiana for providing high quality services for all children, including children with disabilities. For more information, you may visit or call: Head Start Administrative Office  
111 Murrell Street  
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**HUSBAND FOR HIRE RETIREMENT SALE** Saws, sanders, variety of doors, wood, paint, power washer, firewood and rack, mower, 4-wheeler, and much more. Charles Stubbs, 318-377-8658 or 426-5425.

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**WEBSTER PARISH HEAD START** has an immediate opening for Bus Driver in the Minden, Cotton Valley, Homer and Haynesville area. Requirements are CDL with Passenger and School Bus Endorsement. Please apply at Webster Parish Community Services or the Head Start Administrative Office.

**GARAGE/ESTATE SALES LARGE YARD SALE** 264 Katie Lane, Minden. Friday & Saturday starting at 8:00am. **MOVING SALE** Saturday, 7-till. 127 Fullbright Circle, Minden. Huge Sale!

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- 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.

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



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# WEBSTER & MORE

LEGISLATURE

## State moves closer to centralized sales tax collection

More legislation must pass in another session to complete plan

DAVID JACOBS  
The Center Square

The Louisiana Senate voted unanimously Wednesday for a House-passed proposal to centralize oversight of sales tax collection.

"Doing business like we've always done isn't working for us," said Sen. Barry Milligan, R-Shreve-

port, who presented House Bill 199 in his chamber. "We're being left behind."

Under Louisiana's unusual system, 53 different entities collect sales taxes. Local leaders historically have liked it that way, arguing that having local officials collect local taxes is the best way to ensure the money is spent the way

local voters and taxpayers want it spent.

Business advocates, however, long have argued the current system is too difficult to navigate for companies that sell in multiple jurisdictions, especially for small businesses. The decentralized system also contributes to Louisiana's poor showing on various think tanks' rankings of state tax systems.

Some lawmakers also fear the current system could be found unconstitutional in light of the U.S.

Supreme Court's *Wayfair* decision, which cleared the way for states to collect sales taxes on internet sales but said states placing an "undue burden" on interstate commerce could be violating the U.S. Constitution.

The bill calls for an eight-person commission, with four representing state interests and four representing local officials. At least two-thirds of them would have to agree to change commission policy.

Under amendments

adopted Wednesday, the Senate would have to confirm the commission's members. The House and Senate will have to work out the differences in their versions of HB 199.

Local officials want to retain their ability to audit businesses in their areas that they suspect are withholding taxes, but businesses don't want to be subjected to multiple audits by different jurisdictions. The commission is directed to streamline the audit process, but what that will mean is not

clear. The commission will serve as the central auditor for all out-of-state taxpayers.

The change will require a constitutional amendment, which means voters must approve. The bill calls for an election next fall.

The enabling legislation that pairs with the proposed amendment is not available in the current session. Lawmakers will have to hammer out the details in a future session.

## House committee considers two incarceration bills Wednesday

RYAN NELSEN  
LSU Manship School News Service

BATON ROUGE--Two bills dealing with the release of incarcerated individuals were heard in a House committee Wednesday, with one passing and the other being deferred in the face of opposition.

HB83, by Rep. Bryan Fontenot, R-Thibodaux, advanced through the Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice. The bill expedites bail procedure by ending a requirement that an arrested individual must be transported to the parish

where the warrants were originally registered before being released.

HB603, written by Rep. Wilford Carter, D-Lake Charles, did not pass, as he tried to adjust the amount of time that the Department of Corrections (DOC) takes to complete paperwork dealing with a detainee's release.

A complication for Carter's bill is that Louisiana is under a statewide civil investigation by the Department of Justice for its prisoner release practices.

"The United States Constitution requires that a person must be released within, at most, two days

of their legal release date," said Rebecca Ramaswamy, staff attorney of the Promise of Justice Initiative. "HB603 tries to give the DOC 40 days, or 10 days, or even three days. Anything more than two days past their legal release date, the state is violating that person's rights."

Ramaswamy told the committee that the bill "is trying to get the legislators blessing to continue to waste millions of dollars a year on unnecessary and unconstitutional over detention."

Rep. Carter was not present at the meeting.

Another member of the

Promise of Justice Initiative, Michael Calhoun, told the committee just how much over-detaining costs the state.

"In 2019, DOC found in one month, 231 people were affected," Calhoun said. "Those people waited an average of 44 days to be released after a judge ordered them free." He said the agency concluded that this pattern was costing the state \$2.8 million a year in housing costs alone.

Megan Garvey, who spoke in opposition to the bill on behalf of the Louisiana Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers, told the committee that the

Corrections Department uses a van to physically transport paperwork rather than using communications technology.

A defense lawyer on the committee, Rep. Nicholas Muscarello, R-Hammond, did not object to Carter's bill being voluntarily deferred but spoke enviously of HB83 by Fontenot.

"I'm kind of disappointed I couldn't think of it," said Muscarello.

That bill proposes that people with warrants taken into custody outside of the jurisdiction where the warrant was issued can make bail in the parish they were detained. Cur-

rently, law-enforcement officers are required to transport the individual to the parish that issued the warrant, causing delay and transportation costs.

Sheriff Craig Webre of Lafourche Parish spoke in favor of Fontenot's bill and said it "legitimizes and recognizes the right to bail, that all persons who are arrested have."

"It also assists in expediting the process in a way that allows jails and people incarcerated not to have to be transported all across the state of Louisiana when not necessary," said Webre.



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