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FRIDAY, JULY 16, 2021

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2021 inside



GUNS IN LOUISIANA

Officers to  
Louisiana  
lawmakers:  
Keep concealed  
carry permit

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Dozens of Louisiana law enforcement officers called Thursday on state lawmakers to keep the current concealed carry requirements in place and uphold Gov. John Bel Edwards’ veto of a bill that would scrap the training and permit needed to carry a concealed handgun.

Lafourche Parish Sheriff Craig Webre said unfettered access to concealed weapons without the current permitting process “not only is going to endanger the law enforcement community, it will endanger the general public as well.”

Edwards struck down legislation by Republican Sen. Jay Morris of Monroe that would have allowed gun owners 21 and older in Louisiana to carry concealed firearms with-

See, **GUNS**, Page 3

MINDEN FIRE DEPT.

Fire on Sullivan Street



Early Sunday morning the Minden Fire Department responded to a residence on Sullivan Street that was engulfed in flames. “About 5:40 a.m. upon arrival it was a two story house fully involved. We were there until 11:30 a.m.,” said Minden Fire Chief Kip Mourad. Mourad stated that the front walls had collapsed in, and a defensive fire attack was performed to keep the fire at bay. The building was not occupied, no utilities were connected to the residence either. No injuries occurred as a result of the fire. The origins of the fire are still under investigation by the State Fire Marshal’s Office.

WILL PHILLIPS/ PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

SCHOOL BOARD  
MEETING

Students  
applaud  
school board  
over summer  
programs

WILL PHILLIPS  
Minden Press-Herald

A majority of the July Webster Parish School Board Meeting was spent discussing the district’s Summer Program and Fantastic Fridays. The program served roughly 300 students district wide, and hearing the testimonies of students, educators, and principals, the program seemed to be a resounding success, allowing teachers the opportunity to more directly cater to each student’s needs, and as a result raising their confidence as they go on into the next school year.

“Back in April, we came to you with a task that we had been handed by our Superintendent to come up with a program that would be one of academic intervention, and Fantastic Fridays were born. And I want to tell you and share with you happily that we delivered,” said Oreatia Banks.

Jakendrick Davis, a student at Brown Upper Elementary in Springhill, attended the Board Meeting through Zoom and provided the board members with his thoughts on Fantastic Fridays.

“I want to say thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak on behalf of the fellow students in the Fantastic Friday program. I believe the enrichment program was a great idea and a success. It allowed the students to experience avenues and give us

See, **SCHOOL** Page 2

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# SECOND FRONT

COMMUNITY

## 5th annual Michael & Chequilla Walker Fan Drive sees great success

**WILL PHILLIPS**  
Minden Press-Herald

The Michael & Chequilla Walker Fan Drive saw another successful year as the drive was able to raise 103 fans that will be donated free of charge to anyone who is in need of help to keep cool during the hot Louisiana summer.

“The reason that I really do this is because growing up, our mother taught us how to have a giving heart. Me and my wife appreciate the community for everything they do, and I enjoy giving back to the community in any way I can,” said Walker.

While this is the 5th year for the Walker Holding Group to host the event, new this year was the Smart Foundation, lead by Economic Development Director Phillip Smart, who collaborated with the Walkers to bring



COURTESY PHOTO

**The Walker Holding Group and The Smart Foundation along with community support were able to attain over 100 fans for the 5th Annual Michael & Chequilla Walker Fan Drive.**

fans to those in need. “Of course we want to thank the community for their support of the drive. An event like this is nothing without a community that gives, and you would be hard pressed to find a community that’s as giving as the people of Min-

den,” said Smart. “We also want to give special thanks to Walmart, who donated fans on top of selling us fans at a reduced rate with the monetary donations we received as part of the fan drive. They played a big part in mak-

ing this year a success.” If anyone in the community knows of individuals needing fans, they can contact Michael & Chequilla Walker by calling 318-210-1799 or 318-707-3532 respectively, or Phillip Smart at 318-607-5123.

## Kennedy files bill targeting social media companies that promote divisive content

(The Center Square) – Louisiana U.S. Sen. John Kennedy has introduced a bill to limit protections for social media companies that secretly leverage user data to promote divisive content.

Kennedy, a Republican, blasted Silicon Valley behemoths such as Facebook and Twitter for “provoking” platform users and blamed the “manipulative” business practice for causing unnecessary social conflict.

“Social media giants are using people’s data to manipulate them into spending more time on their sites, but the price is a more polarized America,” Kennedy said in a statement. “It’s time to stop rewarding platforms that use their algorithms to target users with content that plays on individuals’ emotions without their consent.”

The bill would deny legal immunity under the Communications Act of 1934, a Roosevelt administration law that allows Section 230 protections for websites hosting third-party content.

Critics allege the internet-based juggernauts should be defined as pub-

lishers under the law, not neutral platforms, and thereby subject to the same regulatory scrutiny as radio- and TV-based companies.

Kennedy highlighted the use of so-called “hot buttons,” or selectively identified issues that cause strong emotional reactions, which are then implemented into algorithms to intentionally show users content designed to agitate them.

“If these companies wield user data to foment division, they should not continue to enjoy such unfettered liability protections,” Kennedy said.

The 69-year-old first-term senator announced his reelection bid in June. He reportedly raised more than \$3 million last quarter with roughly \$1 million occurring in the past 30 days.

Now in campaign mode, Kennedy posted a Fox News interview to his Twitter account Tuesday – one day after filing the Senate legislation – wherein he decries internet political censorship.

“I trust social media like I trust Bill Cosby as a bartender,” he said.

## School: Suggestions of adding a school resource officer to Doyline High School was presented

Continued from Page 1

a chance to work in fields we don’t usually get to. It gave us a chance to continue our education and brightened our horizons. I hope it will continue to grow, and it showed a lot to our school curriculum,” said Davis.

Ashanti Cooper who worked the fantastic Friday and academic program as an educator also gave a brief overview of her experience working the program.

“I did have the opportunity to work both the summer program and Fantastic Fridays. I would like to say it was a wonderful experience on both ends. For the summer program I liked the small class sizes, and we were actually able to get in there and teach one on one with those boys and girls. Those boys and girls who needed that extra support that they kind of missed due to being home in quarantine or all those different things we dealt with during the school year. They were actually able to get a kind of a boost. I felt like at the end of the program, they were a little bit more confident going into the next grade,” said Cooper.

“As far as Fantastic Friday is concerned, I had an excellent time. I was able to stretch my craft because we were able to actually teach not only our grade level, elementary, but I was actually able to teach middle schoolers. So that was a wonderful experience. I was able to talk to them and we learned a lot of great things and life skills.”

“I want to give special thanks to our community partners. Carter Federal, b1, and Miles for Smiles, because they did come out and work with the boys and girls, and we just had a Fantastic time on those three Fridays,” said Cooper.

Countless educators who took part in the program attended the School Board Meeting in person, having nothing but great things to say about the program, and expressing hopes that it could be expanded in the future given the positive results they witnessed firsthand.

“I taught first grade down at Lakeside. The small class sizes were wonderful. From the minute they walked in, they worked until they went home. I had a grandmother call me at the end and ask me what have you done with my child,” said Sara Chreene.

This is a child that cried because he didn’t want to go to school, and now cried because it was over. “Thank you for allowing us this opportunity. These kids needed this, and I told them if this is something that gives us insight into what the intercessions are going to look like next year, I’m excited, because we saw that success this summer,” said Chreene.

Wendy Cruise, who teaches ELA at Brown Upper Elementary stated, “One thing we saw through these programs and these weeks were the social skills and the conversation skills. And as an ELA teacher, I will tell you one those children get those conversation skills,

then they begin to write. And if you can get them to talk and discuss, that writing will come along next.”

Bewanichin Sheppard, Principal of Webster Junior High started off by thanking the School Board employees who worked to not only make these programs possible, but also a success.

“I would like to start by commending Mrs. Rowland, Mrs. Jacobs, Mrs. Banks, and Mrs. Palmer, because they took on a task that we as principals do each year for our individual schools. But those ladies came together and they practically made a master schedule for all the students throughout the parish. I cannot imagine doing that for the whole parish. It was very well organized. As principals, we pretty much just had to come in and take their paperwork and follow what they had on paper for us to do.”

Having witnessed the results of the program, Sheppard ended her comments by asking for the program to be extended, and noted that if this had any bearing on how intersession periods would play out with the new school calendar, she was looking forward to them.

“I hope that not only we have it again next year, but if there is any way that we could extend it into July, because our children really and truly enjoyed it, and I think the parents did as well. It was really great having the program, and I look forward to the great things that are already being planned for

the intercessions in the fall, and for next summer, because those conversations are already being had.”

After hearing all of the comments from the educators who took part in the program, Superintendent Johnny Rowland echoed the comment on how this boards well for the upcoming intersession periods, and commended Fantastic Fridays for the success it had during its first year.

“Thinking about our intersession periods next year and our new calendar. The potential and what could happen during those times just listening to this, wow. That’s the whole purpose,” said Superintendent Rowland.

“I tell you for a first year endeavor, I don’t see how it could have gone any better. I’ve just been blown away.”

Before the official start of the School Board Meeting, an item was amended to the agenda concerning a tornado shelter for the education facility being built at Minden High School. In order to meet safety specifications, additional concrete foundation, upsized reinforced steel, as well as upgrades to the 500 feet of retaining wall was required to make the shelter be able to withstand up to 250 mph winds and missile impact of 100 mph. The additional cost to the project is a sum of \$166,724 of which the School Board approved.

The tornado shelter would be in the gym of the educational facility, and would be able to fit a

maximum of 900 people, which is enough to contain the entirety of MHS’s faculty, staff, and student body.

Captain Scott Tucker representing the Webster Parish Sheriff’s Office presented the School Board with a proposal to fund an additional School Resource officer for Doyline.

“When our resource officers come in, they understand that they’re probably going to work a couple more hours than anybody else,” said Captain Tucker. “Y’all have been paying for two, and we would like to ask if you could pay for that third one. When we took those four deputies and put them into School Resource roles, it kind of left us short on patrols, and we had to hire them back and backfill those positions.”

Currently, one School Resource Officer is in charge of Lakeside, Central, and Doyline, and they believe it would be best for Doyline to have its own resource officer while the current one will continue to be in charge of Lakeside and Central.

“What we learned this year after looking at the time sheets and looking at schedules is our south-end, lakeside central and doylane ... if Lakeside has got a basketball game, and Doyline has a basketball game, you can’t be in two places at the same time. Also during the school day, if you’ve got something going on at Lakeside, and they need you at Doyline, it’s 20 minutes down there, and twenty minutes back,”

said Captain Tucker.

“What we’d like to propose is to add a third resource officer. And that school resource officer would be assigned to Doyline. Then we would have our Lakeside and Central person, could cover both of them. They’re five minutes apart, it’s not a problem.”

Tucker provided a potent example with MPD’s SRO Lt. Tokia Whiting, who recently prevented a former MHS student from taking their own life after being specifically requested by that student. It’s an example of the work that School Resource Officers do creating relationships with the students at the schools they attend, and how those relationships can create a better relationship between the law enforcement departments and the communities that they serve.

“The School Resource Officers can be very valuable to any role in law enforcement, but they’re also our first contact with these kids,” said Captain Tucker. “A prime example is Tokia Whiting who works for the Minden Police Department. Every kid, they all know her, and they trust her, and that’s what we’re trying to obtain with ours.”

The monthly Webster Parish School Board Meeting takes place on the first Monday of each month starting at 6 p.m. The meetings are open for the public to attend at the Webster Parish School Board Office located at 1442 Sheppard St. in Minden.



# WEBSTER & MORE

## Guns: Lawmakers are expected to meet later this month for an historic veto session to try to overturn the Democratic governor’s rejection

Continued from Page 1

out needing nine hours of training on gun safety, a background check and payment of a fee.

“There is simply no good reason why the State of Louisiana should provide for concealed carry of weapons for people that have no training on how to properly use a gun,” Edwards wrote in his veto message.

Lawmakers are expected to meet later this month for an historic veto session to try to overturn the Democratic governor’s rejection of that measure and other legislation from the regular session that was jettisoned by Edwards.

Thursday’s event featured police chiefs, sheriffs and their deputies. It was aimed to undermine a veto override of the concealed carry bill, putting GOP lawmakers in the uncomfortable position of possibly voting against some of their own police

chiefs and sheriffs. The news conference included law enforcement leaders from Baton Rouge, New Orleans, Iberville Parish, St. John the Baptist Parish, Jefferson Davis Parish, St. Gabriel and other locations around the state.

But even the law enforcement community is divided about Morris’ legislation.

The Louisiana Association of Chiefs of Police opposed the bill and objects to an override, but the Louisiana Sheriffs’ Association didn’t take a position on the bill. Only a dozen of Louisiana’s 64 sheriffs attended the news conference opposing the veto override, and the sheriffs didn’t publicly try to kill the bill as it was moving through the House and Senate.

Morris said his police chief in West Monroe supports the removal of the permitting requirements.

Lawmakers passed the legislation with biparti-

san, veto-proof majorities, but it’s unclear if all the lawmakers will agree to override Edwards’ decision. Lawmakers have only overturned two gubernatorial vetoes — and have never held a veto override session — under the current state constitution enacted in 1974. Though the veto session appears likely, Republicans who are in the majority don’t have enough votes alone to override a veto.

Supporters of Morris’ bill call the measure a protection of gun owners’ 2nd Amendment rights and individual liberties. Among the legislation’s supporters are the NRA, the National Association for Gun Rights and other gun owners’ organizations.

“To uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States, the Louisiana Legislature must overturn the governor’s veto and restore the God given rights of law-abid-

ing gun owners,” Dudley Brown, president of the National Association for Gun Rights, said in a statement Thursday.

He said the organization “is mobilizing members across Louisiana to encourage legislators to join its neighboring states” and become the 22nd state to pass the permit-less concealed carry legislation.

Opponents of the bill say removal of the permitting requirements could lead to more unnecessary shootings and deaths. Webre, the Lafourche Parish sheriff, said it could embolden untrained people to act like citizen vigilantes, unnecessarily escalating minor incidents into deadly ones.

“I’m a strong 2nd Amendment person, but I don’t agree with this bill whatsoever,” said East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff Sid Gautreaux, calling it a “dangerous, dangerous bill.”

### OBITUARIES



#### William Larry Johnson

William Larry Johnson passed away Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at his home in Minden, Louisiana. He was 78.

Larry was born August 27, 1942 in Gibsland, Louisiana to William Andy and Maggie Schaffer Johnson. He began his banking career at Minden Bank and Trust in 1960 and retired from Gibsland Bank and Trust in 2007 serving as Vice President at each location. Larry was a member of the Bankers Administration Institute and served on the Minden Housing Authority. He enjoyed hunting, fishing, as well as, reading a good book.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one sister-in-law, Jan Johnson.

He is survived by his wife Patricia Johnson of Minden, Louisiana; two sons, Ken Johnson of Texarkana, Texas and Kyle Johnson and his wife, Katie of Germantown, Wisconsin; four grandchildren, Kolton Johnson, Kendall Johnson, Kylee Johnson, and Katelyn Johnson; one brother, J.R. Johnson; one sister and brother-in-law, Marsha and Charlie Andrews; and numerous other relatives and friends.

Graveside services will be 10:00 A.M. Saturday, July 17, 2020 at Mt. Lebanon Cemetery in Mt. Lebanon, Louisiana under the direction of Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden, Louisiana.

Visitation will be held 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. Friday, July 16, 2021 at Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden, Louisiana.

Memorials may be made to St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105.11:00am.



#### Linda Delores (Lois) Allen Jackson

Linda Delores Allen Jackson was born on Valentine’s Day, February 14, 1952, to the late Roosevelt Allen and Velmer Island Allen.

She accepted Jesus Christ and began her Christian Journey at the New Light Baptist Church under the guidance of Pastor N.S. Coleman. She was a faithful and active member of New Light for more than fifty years.

She lived in the Crichton Hill area in Minden, Louisiana, all her life, attending Jerry A. Moore Elementary School, J. A. Phillips Jr. High School, and was a member of the 1970 graduating class of Webster High School.

Linda received her Bachelor of Science degree from Grambling State University and upon graduating, began her thirty-year teaching career at Homer Elementary School in Homer, Louisiana. She received a Master of Science Degree in Elementary Education from Grambling State University in 1983.

She taught fourth grade Science at Homer Elementary and at Union Elementary in Doyline, Louisiana. During her thirty years as an educator, she had the opportunity to teach the children of some of her former students.

In 1992, she married Rev. John Willis Jackson, Jr., and they were blessed with two sons whom they both loved very much.

Linda was an active member of Iota Rho Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. for twenty-nine years. She enjoyed traveling to the AKA Boules and Regional Conferences as often as possible.

She departed this earthly life and went home to be with her Lord and Savior on July 9, 2021.

She leaves to cherish her memory: two sons, John Willis Jackson, III (Qua’Shayla) and JaCorrian Jamil Jackson; two granddaughters, Kamyra Jackson and Ja’Nyla Jackson; her mother, Velmer Allen; her Uncle Lish Island (Joyce); two sisters, Vernia Hudson (Lee Drue) and Wilma Allen; one brother, Vincent Allen (Judy); all of Minden, Louisiana; her nephew, Lee Vell Island, Jr. and two nieces, Adrienne Hudson and Sonja Shine; her former students, relatives, and friends.

Graveside Service will be held at Sheppard Street Cemetery in Minden on Saturday, July 17, 2021, at 11:00am.

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**BIRTHDAYS FOR**

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# OPINION

## MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

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318-377-1866  
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USPS NUMBER 593-340

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The Minden Press-Herald is published Tuesday and Friday by Specht Newspapers, Inc. at 203 Gleason Street, Minden, Louisiana 71055.

**Telephone:** (318) 377-1866.

Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office as Minden Press-Herald, P.O. Box 1339, Minden LA 71058-1339.

Subscription rate: \$12.50 per three months; \$25 per six months; and \$50 per year.

### POSTMASTER:

Send address changes to Minden Press-Herald, P.O. Box 1339, Minden, LA 71058-1339.

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### OTHER OPINION

# Hanna: EWE was one of a kind

When Edwin Edwards died earlier this week at the age of 93 Louisiana lost a political figure whose triumphs and downfall will never be replicated again.

Edwards single-handedly dominated Louisiana politics for more than a quarter century including being elected governor an unprecedented four times, and between his terms as governor he still controlled the state's political landscape — for the most part — to the detriment of the governors he succeeded. If Dave Treen was still alive, he would confirm it. So would Buddy Roemer if Roemer had not passed away a couple of months ago.

Edwards rose to power the old fashioned way. He got his feet wet in politics on the local level, beginning in his adopted hometown of Crowley nearly 70 years ago when he was elected to the City Council. That was back in the day when Edwards was a young attorney sharing office space with another ambitious young man, B.I. Moody, who was an accountant. Edwards once joked that he and Moody were so broke they shared a telephone line and a trash can. Edwards would later soar as a politician. Moody, who is still alive and well living in Crowley, went on to make a fortune in just about every business venture he touched.

Edwards' trajectory from Crowley to the governor's office is well documented. He spent a brief spell in the state Senate as a floor leader for Gov. John J. McKeithen before his election to the U.S. House of Representatives in Louisiana's old Seventh District, anchored in Acadiana. The incumbent congressman, Ashton Thompson, was killed in a car accident in 1965, prompting a special election, which Edwards easily won.

Edwards didn't care for serving in the Congress. He said the Congress acted too slowly for his taste which makes perfect sense because Edwards was never one to dally. He was widely known for making decisions quickly, and that was that. He didn't change his mind, and he never went back on his word.

In 1971, McKeithen was on his way out of office after convincing voters to amend the state Constitution to allow governors to serve two consecutive terms. That set the stage for a wide-open governor's race that featured 16 candidates including state Sen. J. Bennett Johnston of Shreveport and Edwards. Though they had served together in the Senate, Edwards and Johnston never close personally.

In those days, Louisiana conducted its elections like the rest of the country, in closed primaries. That meant all Democrats ran against one another for the Democrat nomination while Republicans did the same. There were only two Republicans running that year — Dave Treen and Robert Ross.

Edwards and Johnston emerged from the Democrat primary for a runoff that Edwards won by less than 5,000 votes, but he easily defeated Treen in the general election, 57.2 percent to 42.8 percent.

Not long thereafter, Louisiana moved to open primary elections in which candidates, regardless of party affiliation, all run against one another with the top two vote-getters meeting in a runoff. It was Edwards who led the charge for the change because he argued it was unfair and too costly for Democrats, who dominated politics in Louisiana at the time, to wage three campaigns to be elected to public office while Republicans often faced no competition for the Republican nomination.

Edwards had campaigned as a reform candidate in 1971 and never hid his ambition to rewrite the state Constitution to bring Louisiana, as he put it, into the 20th century. That was his focus in the first term. After a constitutional convention in 1973



**SAM HANNA**

It would still be considered one of the finest state constitutions in the country if the Legislature would disengage from shirking its responsibilities by asking the voters to amend it so often.

It is important to remember Louisiana's economy was a different animal in the 1970s. The oil and gas industry was booming and so were the farmers. Since Edwards spearheaded changing the manner in which Louisiana collected severance taxes — from a flat fee to a percentage of the price per barrel of oil — the state's coffers were flush, and that gave Edwards the money to entice the Legislature to expand state government's footprint including fulfilling many of the promises Edwards had made on the campaign trail in '71 and again in 1975 when he was re-elected with 62 percent of the vote.

Overnight — or in the matter of just a few years — Louisiana had undergone a phenomenal change, and it was a change the people welcomed. In the eyes of the vast majority of the electorate, Edwards could do no wrong.

Barred from seeking re-election in 1979 because of term limits, Edwards left office in 1980 and supposedly slid into the private sector to practice law and pursue other business interests. At least that's what he told the press he was going to do, but in short order it was crystal clear that Edwards' campaign for governor in 1983 got underway the moment he vacated the office for Treen to become the first Republican governor in Louisiana since Reconstruction. From the sidelines, Edwards used his allies in the Legislature to thwart every meaningful piece of legislation the Treen administration proposed. All the while, Edwards was raising money for what would become the most expensive governor's race in

the state's history at the time.

Treen put up a good fight in '83, but he was no match for Edwards who promised to return Louisiana to the heydays of the 1970s when all was well with the world.

Edwards' third term in office was marked by a dramatic downturn in the state's economy thanks to a collapsing oil and gas industry and a falloff in commodity prices in agriculture. While the rest of the nation was experiencing an economic rebirth under President Ronald Reagan, Louisiana was in the midst of a deep recession. Edwards got the blame, and he made matters worse for himself politically when he browbeat the Legislature into raising taxes to balance the state budget.

Meanwhile, U.S. Attorney John Volz in New Orleans set his sights on Edwards and indicted him on racketeering charges stemming from the state's issuance of hospital permits. Edwards was tried twice. The first trial ended with a hung jury in 1985. Edwards was acquitted in a second trial the following year, but at that point, the damage was done. Coupled with an abysmal economy and a persona that the governor was a crook, Edwards' third term, for all practical purposes, was over.

It was not at all surprising that Edwards was unseated in the 1987 governor's race though Edwards denied Roemer the satisfaction of defeating him in a runoff, which was certain to occur had Edwards not dropped out of the race after running second in the October primary. Roemer was a phenomenon who was full of bright ideas but lacked the follow-through to make it happen. Like Treen had experienced less than a decade prior, Roemer had to deal with legislators who were still close to Edwards though Edwards was coy about ever seeking office again.

In 1991 a weakened Roemer sought re-election and was confident he would prevail. Though he had become a Republican, a conservative movement was afoot in Louisiana and conservatives were leery of Roemer who had vetoed an anti-abortion bill championed by then-state Rep. Woody Jenkins. Though Congressman Clyde Holloway would garner the endorsement of the state Republican Party, state Rep. David Duke, a former grand wizard of the Ku Klux Klan, was in the picture and he loomed large. Duke had captured more than 60 percent of the white vote in his unsuccessful bid to unseat then-U.S. Sen. J. Bennett Johnston a year earlier, and there was no denying Duke's rhetoric attracted scores of white voters who otherwise may have cast a ballot for Roemer or Holloway.

Edwards was in the mix, too, with a base of support in the black community which made him a player from the start.

It was called the race from hell. Bumper stickers appeared around the state saying, "Vote for the crook. It's important." The reference, of course, was of the choice between Duke and Edwards, who met in a runoff

election that garnered national attention including President George H.W. Bush crossing party lines to endorse Louisiana's most prominent Democrat, Edwards.

Edwards steamrolled Duke in a record turnout though Duke managed to collect some 58 percent of the white vote. In northeastern Louisiana, Duke easily carried Ouachita Parish.

Louisiana had changed. Edwards never found his footing in the fourth term. The Legislature wasn't on the same page with the governor, and all the while gambling — or gaming as it was called to pass constitutional muster — dominated the headlines. By June of 1994, Edwards had lost his love for the job and announced he wouldn't seek re-election. He became a lame-duck governor in an instant.

Edwards didn't bring gambling to Louisiana. Gambling has been around since the days of Jean Lafitte, and Edwards was accurate when he often reminded audiences that Roemer was responsible for delivering the lottery, riverboat casinos and video poker to the state. Edwards could claim the land-based casino in New Orleans, which he had long advocated and finally pushed through the Legislature in 1992.

It was the riverboat casinos, though, that did Edwards in, specifically the governing board that was charged with awarding the state's licenses to operate the floating gambling vessels. When Edwards was convicted in January 2001 of taking payoffs to manipulate the riverboat casino licensing process, the thrust of the alleged wrongdoing occurred after Edwards had left office in 1996. It is inconceivable how a former governor can be convicted of manipulating a governing board that no longer answered to him, but the Feds did it.

Sadly, that's how scores of Louisianians will remember Edwards. They'll remember his conviction and the eight-plus years he spent in federal prison, but few will take the time to recall his body of work.

Edwards made mistakes. He was no saint. He could be cold. He was calculating. He associated with people who miraculously got wealthy during his terms in office, and he was known — at least in his younger years — of having a wandering eye.

That doesn't change the fact, though, that Edwards dramatically changed Louisiana and while his conservative detractors could rightfully claim Edwards oversaw a vast expansion of state government and gave the state a black eye in light of an atmosphere of alleged corruption, no one can deny Edwards loved Louisiana and felt he had acted in the state's best interest. For the most part, he did.

Without a doubt, Louisianians will never witness another governor like Edwin Washington Edwards. Never.

He was one of a kind.

**SAM HANNA IS PUBLISHER OF THE OUACHITA CITIZEN.**



AROUND TOWN

UCAP Needs for Week of July 12:

Food: lunch meat, biscuit mix, corn-bread mix  
Clothing: men’s socks  
Toiletries: tooth-brushes & 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.

Thanks to the community for your support!

Beech Springs Baptist Church Vacation Bible School

Beech Springs Baptist Church will be holding their vacation bible school starting July 19th through the 23rd located at 15910 HWY 80 in Minden. The theme for this year will be “Destination Dig” and is open to ages 3 through 6th grade. Each day will last from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Job Fair

July 23rd from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. the City of Minden will be hosting a Job Fair held at the Minden Civic Center. For any businesses that would like to join, contact Minden Economic Development Department at 318-377-2144.

Bistineau Baptist Church 151st Homecoming

Bistineau Baptist Church will be celebrating it’s 151st Homecoming, August 1, 2021 located at 195 Bistineau Church Rd in Heflin. The speaker will be Brother Wayne Whiteside and service starts at 10:30 a.m. Lunch will be served after. For more information call Nancy @ 318-453-7389 or Bro. Richard 318-423-2528

Send us events!

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STORIES FROM THE BACK PORCH

Life’s Addictions

I have been off Facebook for a few weeks now, and I am beginning to realize how much time I had actually spent, browsing and occasionally commenting on the page.

I enjoyed keeping up with friends to see what was going on in their lives, but while trying to keep up with everyone else, I was ignoring things going on around me that should have been my concern. At first I missed the constant browsing but now I am becoming adjusted to a new normal.

It was only after a friend called and told me of a message, supposedly sent by me, that I knew it was time to do something else. The message told her she was going to receive \$50,000, that I had already received mine and I had seen her name on the list of recipients. I apologized and assured her it did not come from me. Therefore, I decided it was time to delete my account.

Earlier, the first thing

I reached for each morning was my phone, to see what was going on, spending several minutes catching up.

Now, the first thing I reach for is a small devotional book, “Mornings with Jesus”. I read the short devotional for the day before I starting my day. I have placed this book on the night stand so when I wake each day, it is one of the first things I see and reach for. No longer do I reach for the phone, except later to check the weather for the day.

I had not realized that I had actually become “addicted” to Facebook. But there is no doubt that’s what had happened.

It has now been near three weeks, and even though I don’t know what is going on every minute of the day with “friends”, I am just as happy going about my day unaware of the busy lives they are leading.

This has freed me up to do so many other

things that I had more or less neglected.

I began to cook meals for those who were having health problems, I made and iced cupcakes as an unexpected treat for our great grandchildren and we picked and froze blueberries. After picking the blueberries, Hubby said ,” I’ll bet those berries would be good in a cobbler.” So we had blueberry cobbler. We even topped it off with Blue Bell Homemade Vanilla ice cream.

I had recently begun a new recipe column for a weekly newspaper and this gave me an incentive to search out different recipes, some I had not used in a long time. Naturally, when I looked up these recipes, I was tempted to put them to use in my own kitchen. So we have been eating some different foods recently, mostly due to less internet and more time for other things.

Another result of being off Facebook is that I have more time for reading. Instead of reading what someone did over the weekend or what array of fresh vegetables someone had cooked,

I was back into reading books. I am making regular visits to the library and have read books by authors that I had never read. Instead of picking up a book by a favorite author, I am now reading many different genres and thoroughly enjoying my reading time.

Now, if I have spare time, I no longer reach for my phone, instead I reach for a book.

It’s strange how such a simple thing as Facebook can consume so much of our time. It’s also strange when we recognize it for what it can become in our lives. I’m not saying Facebook is inherently bad, but it like many other things in excess can become so.

If someone had asked me if I had ever had an addiction, I would have quickly told them no.

Not anymore, because I truly believe that’s what Facebook had become in my life.

And I’m happy that I am overcoming this bad habit.

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

FORMER GOVERNOR

Ex-Louisiana Gov. Edwin Edwards dies; knew power and prison

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Edwin Washington Edwards, the high-living, quick-witted four-term governor who reshaped Louisiana’s oil revenues and dominated the state’s politics for decades, a run all but overshadowed by scandal and eight years in federal prison, died Monday. He was 93.

Edwards died of respiratory problems with family and friends by his bedside, family spokesman Leo Honeycutt said, days after entering hospice care at his home in Gonzales, near the Louisiana capital.

“I’ve made no bones that I have considered myself on borrowed time for 20 years and we each know that all this fun has to end at some point,” Edwards said days before he died, according to his family’s statement.

The “Cajun King” was known for delivering a steady supply of memorable one-liners as well as for his deft political instincts. Infamously, the lifelong Democrat said once said that the only way he could lose to a particularly lackluster Republican was if he were “caught in bed with a dead girl or a live boy.”

A native of Louisiana’s Acadiana region who swore his 1972 oath of office in French and English, Edwards enjoyed renewed popularity after emerging from prison in 2011 at age 83, with his flamboyant character intact.

The federal case that led to his May 2000 conviction

involved him taking payoffs from interests seeking riverboat casino licenses during his final term in the 1990s. Edwards maintained the case was built on secretly taped and misinterpreted conversations and the lies of his former cronies, who made deals to avoid jail.

But the conviction and the numerous investigations and allegations were an unavoidable stain on his legacy.

“He had eloquence, creativity, a razor-sharp mind, executive abilities that many lacked, and leadership skills that many envied. He could relate to crowds better than almost any politician I ever knew,” Louisiana State University journalism professor Robert Mann said in an email Monday. “He had everything, and yet squandered it by devoting much of his time to enriching his friends. I’ve rarely seen a wider chasm between the promise for greatness and reality.”

Silver-haired and gifted with an easy charm, Edwards dominated Louisiana politics in the late 20th century much as Huey P. Long had dominated its earlier years. They shared a populist appeal to the state’s downtrodden, and political fortunes that flowed in part from taxes on oil. But the dealmaking Edwards had a cooler demeanor.

Edwards was born on Aug. 7, 1927, to a sharecropper and a midwife in Avoyelles Parish, in the re-

gion settled by 18th century French exiles from Nova Scotia who came to be known as Cajuns. According to his authorized biography, his father’s ancestors were Welsh; his mother’s continental French; but Edwards always considered himself a Cajun.

Raised a Roman Catholic, Edwards preached in the Church of the Nazarene as a teen and didn’t drink or smoke. Despite his unabashed fondness for high-stakes gambling, dirty jokes and his reputation as a womanizer, he earned a following among Catholics and fundamentalists.

He had four children during a 40-year marriage to his high school sweetheart, the former Elaine Schwarzenburg, before they divorced in 1989. Five years later, at 66, he married 29-year-old Candy Picou in a ceremony at the governor’s mansion. They divorced after he went to prison, but he found a third wife in Trina Grimes, then 32, a pen-pal who visited him behind bars.

“I would have walked into prison a happy man had I known how it was going to end,” he said at his lavish 90th birthday bash in 2017.

They had a son, Eli, in 2013 — Edwards’ fifth child — and starred in a short-lived reality TV show, “The Governor’s Wife.”

“He was so optimistic all the time. Nothing bothered him except bothering other people,” Trina Edwards said.

According to the state-

ment, she said his dying words were to his 7-year-old son: “Eli told him every night, ‘I love you.’ And he told Eli, ‘I love you, too.’ Those were his last words.”

A lawyer, Edwards began his political career on the City Council in the town of Crowley in 1954 before moving on to the state Legislature, then Congress. He won the governor’s office in 1972 with help from organized labor and Black voters realizing their civil rights-era strength.

He appointed more African Americans to policy-making positions than any previous governor and spearheaded the adoption of a new constitution.

“My dad never saw color and never turned his back on anyone in need,” said his son Stephen Edwards, who worked alongside his father in the Edwards Law Firm, according to the family statement.

Edwards seized on an oil boom in 1974 to defeat energy interests and fill Louisiana’s coffers, tying oil taxes to price, rather than volume. Changing the severance tax from 25 cents a barrel to 12.5% of value made Louisiana the most cash-rich state in the nation at the time while New York City was going bankrupt, said Honeycutt, his official biographer.

Constitutionally barred from a third consecutive term, he left office in 1980 only to return four years later, after easily defeating incumbent David C. Treen,

the state’s first Republican governor since Reconstruction and a frequent target of Edwards’ barbs. “It takes him an hour and a half to watch ‘60 Minutes’” was typical.

The campaign was briefly suspended by tragedy: Edwards’ youngest brother, attorney Nolan Edwards, was murdered by a disgruntled client.

A grieving Edwards resumed the race and went on to win, then paid off his debts from the \$14 million campaign by chartering a \$10,000-a-head trip to France for his friends and supporters.

“I’ve wanted all my life to be a king, and now I can be,” he quipped during their stop in Versailles.

But more trouble loomed. Oil prices plummeted. Edwards pushed through \$700 million in highly unpopular taxes, and his reputation for impropriety caught up with him.

Edwards had seemed impervious to earlier scandals, even when he acknowledged that he and his wife Elaine received \$20,000 from South Korean government agent Tongsun Park.

But in 1985, he was indicted on federal racketeering charges involving hospital and nursing home regulations. His fortunes had faded by the time he was acquitted the next year: Bowing out of a 1987 runoff when he faced certain defeat against Democratic Rep. Buddy Roemer, Edwards appeared political-

ly finished.

But Roemer suffered political setbacks — voters rejected his tax overhaul package and disliked his switch to the Republican Party. Edwards entered the race and won the runoff in a landslide against former Klansman David Duke by stoking fears that an ex-Nazi in the governor’s mansion would bring economic ruin.

“Vote for the crook. It’s important,” said a popular bumper sticker.

Edwards retired in 1996 before winding up again under federal indictment. After prison, he attempted one more political comeback, losing a runoff to a Republican in a south Louisiana congressional race in 2014.

Eulogies poured in as word of his death spread.

Louisiana’s current governor, John Bel Edwards, no relation, said: “Edwin was a larger than life figure known for his wit and charm, but he will be equally remembered for being a compassionate leader who cared for the plight of all Louisianans. Our state has lost a giant, and we will miss him dearly.”

Funeral arrangements are pending, according to the family, but there will be a public viewing in the Louisiana State Capitol’s Memorial Hall, not far from where Huey Long is buried.



WHERE YA FROM

# Minden and the History Lesson

Minden and Webster Parish have quite a few secrets. Maybe they aren't secrets to the locals, but some are new to me. I have been happy with the reception of the articles. This week, I want to share some of the things the readers have shared with me.

My first article about Hank Williams got a lot of attention. It was pointed out that neglected to say that Hank and Billie Jean's wedding was complicated by the fact that she wasn't divorced yet. This is true. However, years later the marriage was recognized and Billie Jean, along with Hank, Jr. and Jett Williams became equal heirs to Hanks estate. Although his first wife, Audrey is buried next to Hank in Nashville, she was left out completely.

I wrote about Lefty Frizzell's accident in Minden and found out that Harmon Drew is a pretty popular guy. I have enjoyed talking with him

and getting to know him.

After the article about Percy Mayfield, I learned that locals, Tracy Campbell, Randall Wilson and Brian Carlisle went to New Orleans to accept The Louisiana Music Hall of Fame award on his behalf!

I wrote last week's article about the legendary James Burton. I don't use that title lightly and was please to receive this photo of James in Miss Winn's fourth grade class at Minden Elementary. That's young James Burton on the bottom left. Priceless!

After that article, I was reminded of another Minden music-related story. In 1955, July 15th was on a Friday. It was that night that John Cobb booked a young talented kid to perform at the Joy Drive-in Theatre for \$25

for 1 performance.

He borrowed a flat-bed trailer from Almond's Feed and Seed and parked it in front of the concession stand. His sister, Miss Cheshire, managed the theatre and this night was the first time this future star would see his name on a marquee!

That young man was none other than Elvis Presley! He came and performed his songs to a throng of young people. He came out wearing a pink tuxedo with a black see-through blousy shirt. Not everyone was enamored with his stylings. One person told me that she thought his hair looked too greasy. She wasn't too impressed with his pink outfit. She said his shirt looked girly-looking and thought his performance was in-



JOHNNY WESSLER



timidating.

To the fans, it was a great event. Behind the scenes, there was one catastrophe avoided. It seems Elvis had forgotten his jacket back at the Bossier City motel. So, John had to rush back to get it, and did, just in time for the show.

Miss Cheshire's daughter, Peggy (later Peggy Cheshire Baldwin) was dating a young man with a camera and a sense that history was being made. His name is David Madalozzo, and he was stationed at Barksdale AFB at the time. A few of his photos have survived and the quality is remarkable. Young people may not realize, but in 1955, when you took photos, you didn't know how they would turn out until there were developed. These turned out great!

After the show, Madalozzo took a photo of his date, Peggy with Elvis. You'll notice that, although Elvis has his hand

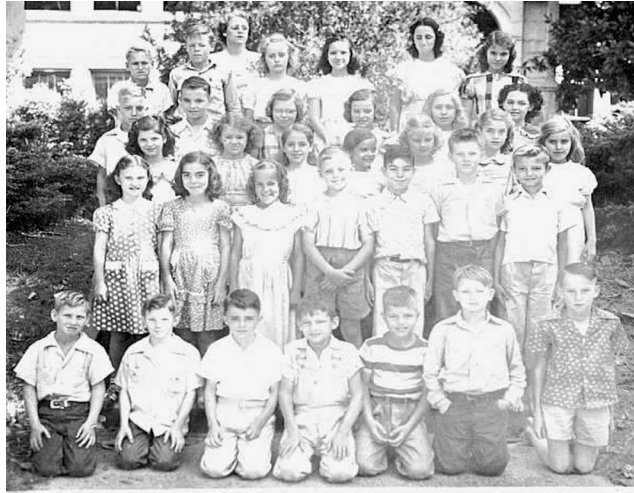
around Peggy, he isn't touching her. Peggy said that her boyfriend insisted he not get too close.

In this photo, Elvis is relaxing in a chair at the managers house which was located on the property of the Drive-In. If you're wondering, the bottle at his feet is Vick's Cough Syrup.

The guy in this photo with Elvis might be Bob Chandler. He worked in the theatre and would have been there that night.

Writing about music history is made better when I hear personal stories from the readers. Please feel free to share any stories you have or want me to investigate. Thanks for reading.

JOHNNY WESSLER OFFERS  
HISTORIC MUSIC TOURS AND  
PRESENTATIONS. FOR MORE  
INFORMATION CONTACT HIM AT  
JOHNNY.WESSLER@GMAIL.COM OR  
318-393-3274



COURTESY PHOTO

In this image a young James Burton can be seen in in Miss Winn's fourth grade class at Minden Elementary (bottom left).



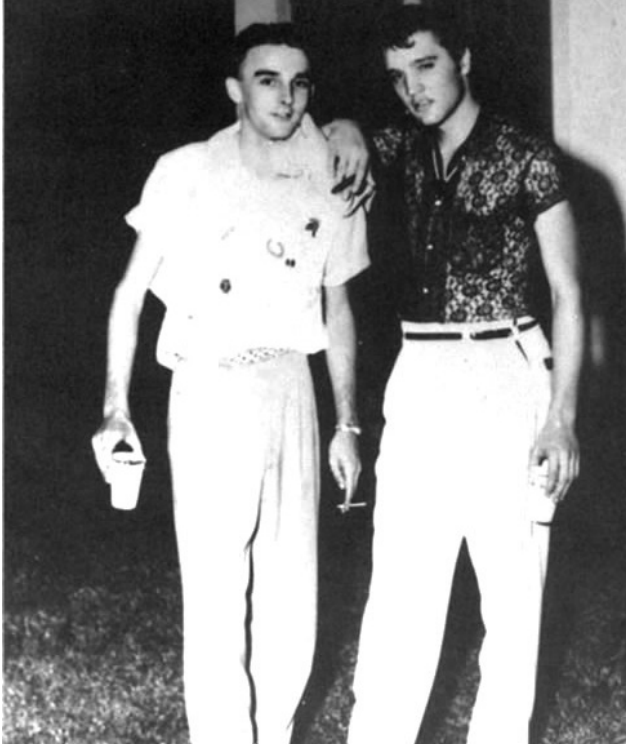
COURTESY PHOTO

Seen above is Elvis, Scotty Moore and Bill Black performing at Joy Drive-In Theatre, July 15, 1955



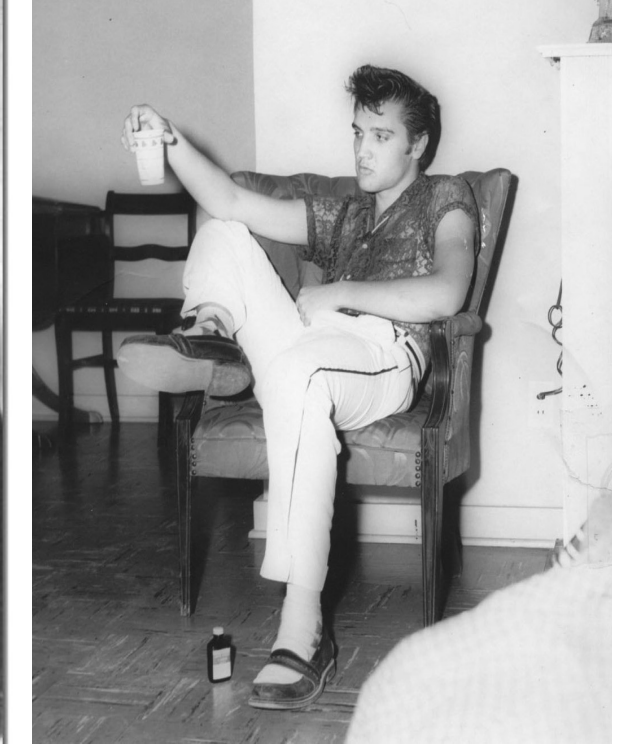
COURTESY PHOTO

Elvis seen sitting on the couch enjoying an evening with Peggy.



COURTESY PHOTO

Elvis seen with a man who is possibly Bob Chandler.



COURTESY PHOTO

Elvis relaxing on a chair at his manager's house.



STRANGER FROM A STRANGE LAND

# Contrast of Longitudes

The recurring theme of this column is contrasting living north and south. This week a change from latitudes to longitudes.

Five years after I moved 600 miles south, my daughter Claire moved over 800 miles east. She and her husband Jacob migrated to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. They departed the friendly confines of Raytown, Missouri, a city so close to neighboring Kansas City they too are levied a 1% earnings tax to fund KC police and firefighters.

Both cities are characterized as part of the Midwest yet Pittsburgh is far more eastern in demeanor and not just because of its time zone. Claire is now always an hour ahead of me. I asked her to compare her resident cities present and former.

“People on the east coast in general are ruder and have a more pessimistic disposition towards strangers,” Claire said. “Pittsburgh exhibits some of the east coast mindset, although overall is more Midwest in nature. People do hold the doors for you here, not so much in New York City.”

When we lived north, my wife Lisa lamented bland victuals. I don’t know if it’s aversion to spice, pepper availability, heat tolerance, or cooking skills but it’s true the median Missourian palate experiences more limited seasonings. On the culinary front, Kansas City is famous for barbecue. A vegetarian since she was a teen, Claire is often in settings where it’s hard to find meals without meat. I asked about Pittsburgh.

“There’s lots of fried food in both locations but Pittsburgh is famous for their chicken wings,” she said. “Jacob is a fan but there are very few places with cauliflower or vegan wings for me. I’ve had a lot of good pizza out here from small hole-in-the-wall

joints.”

I concede chow is better in Louisiana than Missouri. Except pizza. It’s far superior up north with more variety. I could cite both regional chains and small businesses in Missouri making better pizza than we’re eating here. Touchy family subject because Johnny the Pizza baron was Lisa’s uncle. Johnny learned his craft at the Pizza Shack in Lamoni, Iowa where he attended college. It’s good (most pizza is) but I miss the pizzarias of the north.

I frequently talk weather. Like her old man, Claire prefers cold weather to hot. Ellingsons are of Scandinavian descent and I guess the as yet unvisited old country still calls us.

“In Kansas City, you never truly know what temperature it’s going to be regardless of the time of year,” Claire said. “It could be snowing in May and 80 degrees in October, but thankfully not in Pittsburgh. It’s unseasonably hot this summer, but typically stays consistent with southern Canadian temperatures since we’re located so close. The winters are brutal.”

Whether snowy roads or clear, traffic and narrow streets are the worst changes in Claire’s new setting.

“I miss driving my car. I never thought I would, but I miss being able to get in my old Chrysler and drive open wide highways without traffic. The greater Kansas City area is massive and there are more roads and area in general for traffic to flow. Pittsburgh is maybe a 20-minute drive without traffic from end to end whereas KC is at least double that time. It’s an incredibly small city (compared to what I’m used to) with very old roads. Unless you’re on the highway, most streets are

extremely narrow. It’s common for people to park on the sidewalks, lawns, or wherever they can fit. Garages are not too common in this city but massive potholes are. I’d say driving is what I hate the most about living here, but we don’t have to do it much since we’re now within walking distance of many attractions.”

Easing of pandemic restrictions finally allow Claire and Jacob to explore their new city.

“I haven’t been out enough since I’ve been vaccinated but I did love the Carnegie Natural History and Art Museum and we frequently go to Frick Park to walk our dog. The waterfront area is beautiful. Living near so many rivers and bridges makes me feel less landlocked than I did in Kanas City. It’s cool to know a lot of these buildings have been around for at least a century.”

Claire and Jacob attended their first Pittsburgh Pirates baseball game this season. PNC Park is much newer than Kauffman Stadium, home of the Kansas City Royals.

“PNC Park is a very clean stadium. You get a view of the Allegheny River and a couple bridges instead of I-70 and a Denny’s. The fans were louder and heckled opposing team players more often than I ever heard at Royals games.”

Claire said Pittsburgh fans screamed, “Steroids!” I’m guessing because former Pirate Starling Marte now plays for the Miami Marlins, the visiting opponent at the game they attended. While playing for Pittsburgh, Marte got in some trouble when he tested positive for performance enhancing drugs. He was contrite in his 2017 statement to the press. “With much embarrassment and helplessness, I ask for forgiveness for un-

intentionally disrespecting so many people who have trusted in my work.”

Sounds genuine to me but not enough for some Pirates fans. Tragically, Marte lost his young wife to a heart attack last year. Clearly a player fans should cut some slack. Nope. Not in Pennsylvania. Perhaps some of that geographical rudeness Claire was talking about.

Pittsburgh fans are likely not as bellicose as those in Philadelphia on the eastern side of the state, but they’re clearly not as polite as Kansas City. Claire’s friend Kara from Baltimore was reluctant to wear Oriole orange to a Royals game because of her experiences back home. Claire assured her it would be okay.

When Lorenzo Cain, an outfielder on the 2015 Royals World Series champions, returned to Kauffman Stadium as a Milwaukee Brewer he was given a thunderous standing ovation. While a Royals camera operator, I sometimes visited with opposing team fans. The best behaved were fans of the Minnesota Twins, a team with an Iowa fan base willing to drive south to Kansas City.

In my experience the entire Midwest swath of states including Minnesota, Iowa, Missouri, Arkansas, and Louisiana are full of polite people. Yet I’ve heard accusations of Missourians being ruder than southerners. I guess because we don’t say sir and ma’am. Eye and ear of the beholder. Like Claire, I believe Missouri in the country center is plenty polite.

Prior to our move, I lobbied Lisa we move to Minden instead of West Monroe because of tap water quality. We’ve good water here. Water in Pittsburgh has been an unpleasant surprise.

“Tap water here is heavily chlorinated,” Claire said. “It

must be like drinking from a YMCA pool.” They had to invest in a pricey Brita water filter.

I’ve noted few Louisiana houses here have basements or garages. Claire reports architecture in Pittsburgh is very different from Kansas City.

“The houses look literally like Mister Roger’s Neighborhood. They’re all mere feet apart, built wherever there is space, and sitting atop ancient foundations still intact. Our home was built in 1912. Although most everything is redone, the bones, foundation, and brick are all original. Houses here are very solid. There are so many that they squish tightly together in most areas. Rowhouse style is popular as well as slender Tudors in wealthier areas.”

Claire the nomad is happy she made the move east.

“I’m someone who loves to travel and although I have seen many cities and countries, I spent 29 years living in one place. I’d like to live in another city or two before I die. My soul rarely settles in one area. I vibe to the movement of life and I’d love to see it all.”

Their dogs Ringo and Scully have a smaller backyard but there’s still room to frolic besides the aforementioned Frick Park.

“Even though our house now is much smaller, it’s actually longer in length so the pups have a big path to run around and play inside,” Claire said. “I think they are comfortable in their new home.”

Claire and Jacob also have a cockatiel. When asked for a quote about the change in scenery, Bird expressed, “No opinion.”

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

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# SPORTS

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GOLF

## Fore-gan!

Former Bulldog, Sam Forgan, set to compete at The Open

Speical to the Minden Press-Herald

RUSTON, La. – Eight years ago, Sam Forgan put his clubs away after competing for the last time as a Louisiana Tech student-athlete.

But he has never stopped being a Bulldog.

This week, the former Tech captain and Stowmarket, England, native will be competing in The 149th Open Championship.

Forgan will tee off in the first round of The Open at 6:42 a.m. CT on Thursday alongside Ireland's Pádraig Harrington and Australia's Brad Kennedy.

The 149th Open will take place at Royal St. George's Golf Club in Sandwich, England, from July 15-18. The Open will

be available to watch on both NBC and the Golf Channel.

Forgan qualified for The Open after earning one of the three available spots at the Prince's qualifier.

In the first round of the qualifier, Forgan with an even-par 72. He carded three birdies in the front nine and registered an eagle on hole 15.

Forgan finished the second round with a two-under 70 after carding five birdies, including three straight on holes 11-13. With two of the three qualifying spots claimed, the former Bulldog sunk the 10-foot putt to par his final hole in order to qualify. Forgan finished the day tied for second with a two-under 142.



COURTESY PHOTO/DONNY CROWE  
Sam Forgan was a member of the Louisiana Tech Golf Team. He will compete in the British Open.

NFL

## Peyton Manning doesn't rule out future role with Broncos

ENGLEWOOD, Colo. (AP) — Peyton Manning didn't rule out a future role with the Denver Broncos given the ownership uncertainty surrounding one of the NFL's iconic franchises. "I am as interested in what's going to happen as anybody because I care a b o u t it," Manning said Wednesday in a Zoom call ahead of his induction next month into the Pro Football Hall of Fame.



MANNING

The trust that runs the franchise valued at \$3.2 billion could approve one of late owner Pat Bowlen's children to become the team's next controlling owner — Brittany Bowlen, 31, is the preferred choice — or sell the team altogether.

Arapahoe County District Judge John E. Scipione signed a motion this week to dismiss a lawsuit filed

by two of the late owner's daughters from his first marriage.

Amie Bowlen Klemmer and Beth Bowlen Wallace had alleged their father was already affected by Alzheimer's and was subject to "undue influence" in setting up the three-person trust that has run the team in his absence and will decide the future of the franchise.

Bowlen died in 2019 a month shy of his induction into the Hall of Fame and five years after stepping away from his duties running the team after announcing he'd been diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

The judge had put the four-week trial, which was scheduled to start July 12, on hold earlier this month.

In his dismissal notice Tuesday, the judge wrote that Bowlen's estate planning documents were "valid, enforceable, and reflect Patrick D. Bowlen's intent and will" and that the trustees — team president Joe

See, **MANNING**, Page 9

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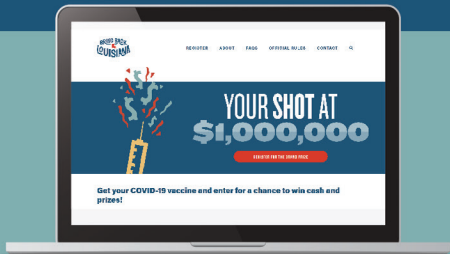
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COLLEGE BASKETBALL

# A TALL ORDER

## Lady Techsters add 6-foot-5 graduate transfer

RUSTON, La. – Louisiana Tech just got a little taller.

Head coach Brooke Stoehr announced the addition of 6-foot-5-inch forward Jadona Davis to the Lady Techster roster as a graduate transfer.

Davis spent the past two years at South Alabama after beginning here collegiate career at Middle Tennessee.

“We are excited to add Jadona to the Lady Techster family,” said Stoehr. “She brings great length and experience to our group. Jadona will add depth to our interior attack as a shot blocker and scorer. We look forward to her joining us in Ruston as she pursues a graduate degree from Louisiana Tech.”

Davis played at Wayne County High School in Mississippi where she earned all-state honors her senior season after averaging 20 points, 11 rebounds and 6 blocks per game. She was selected as the region 5-5A Offensive Player of the Year that season and was a McDonald’s All-American nominee.

“I am excited to join the Louisiana Tech Women’s basketball family,” said Davis. “It is an honor to be a part of a program



Jadona Davis

with such great history and a remarkable legacy. I chose to play for Coach Stoehr because of the energy and commitment she dedicates to the team. I believe dynamic success is in store for Louisiana Tech, and I look forward to contributing to the elevation of the program.”

Davis signed with Middle Tennessee and lettered two years for the Blue Raiders, seeing action in 19 games. She eventually transferred to South Alabama and after sitting out in 2019-20 due to the NCAA transfer rule, Davis saw action in 21 games last year while averaging 5 points and 3 rebounds a contest. She shot 40 percent from the floor and 73 percent from the free throw line and was second on the team with 22 blocked shots.

She is the fourth Division I transfer that Tech has landed this off-season, joining Gabbie Green (Pittsburgh), Salma Bates (Tulane) and Kate

Thompson (Wisconsin).

Season tickets are on sale for both the Lady Techsters and Bulldogs. Fans can purchase their season tickets at <https://am.ticketmaster.com/latech/buy>. Season ticket prices will remain the same for the upcoming year as fans are encouraged to take advantage of the combo season ticket packages that include both men’s and women’s games.

Tech will play an 18-game Conference USA schedule that includes nine home games (already released) as well as a non-conference slate that will be released later this summer.

Louisiana Tech officials anticipate game days for the 2021-22 basketball season will see the Thomas Assembly Center return to a more traditional state as the University plans to operate the venues as close to normal as possible while following state health guidelines.

# Manning: Former QB on “year to year basis” with team in some capacity

Continued from Page 8

Ellis and lawyers Rich Slivka and Mary Kelly — have the authority to administer the trust.

The dismissal of the lawsuit this week suggests a settlement has been reached but both sides are prohibited from commenting on the case.

Ellis has said all of Bowlen’s seven children named in the trust must agree on the choice if one of them is selected or the team would be sold.

That has led to speculation that Manning, who retired after the Broncos won Super Bowl 50, could be involved in some capacity.

“I’ve gone on a year-to-year basis in this second chapter,” Manning said. “I’m going to try to do this, this year. I don’t go past that because you try different things and maybe you like it, maybe you don’t. I will always be a part of the Broncos and Colts organizations in some way.

“But I’m interested in what’s going to happen. I haven’t said no to anything officially forever. I’ve

just said no to some things each year. The next year, maybe things change. So, who knows what will happen in that.”

Manning said he had always hoped to finish his career in Indianapolis, where the Colts selected him No. 1 overall in the 1998 NFL draft, but a neck injury led to his dismissal from the Colts and made him the most sought-after free agent in NFL history, rivaled only by Tom Brady’s jump from New England to Tampa a year ago and Reggie White’s shift from Philadelphia to Green Bay in 1993.

Impressed by John Elway’s approach, Manning chose the Broncos.

“Denver, boy they just welcomed me with open arms,” Manning said. “They were the only team that really just understood what I was going through emotionally, physically, and a lot of that was Elway.

“They were the only team that said, ‘Hey Peyton, give us your Indianapolis playbook and we will form this hybrid offense with the plays we like in Denver that

will help you at this point in your career. We will really give you a chance to get back going again.’ And not every team was doing that. I will always be indebted to Denver. ... You can only live in one place, and Denver’s just been a great place to live. I couldn’t have made a better decision.”

Manning has lived in Denver since retiring from the NFL a month after becoming the first quarterback to win Super Bowls with two different teams.

He and his young son, Marshall, are often spotted at Nuggets games and Manning threw out the ceremonial first pitch at baseball’s All-Star Game on Tuesday night at Coors Field.

With Rockies icon and former University of Tennessee football teammate Todd Helton looking on, Manning one-hopped his throw to Colorado pitcher German Marquez.

“It was an 0-2 count in my head,” Manning explained. “So, I had a pitch to throw away. That’s what I told Helton.”



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# CLAIBORNE MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER

MLB

# All-Star TV rating hits record low, viewers up slightly

NEW YORK (AP) — The television rating for baseball’s All-Star Game sank to a record low but viewers increased by 1%.

The American League’s 5-2 win over the National at Denver on Tuesday night featuring Shohei Ohtani as the first two-way All-Star got a 4.5 rating and 11 share, and was seen by 8,237,000 viewers ages 2 and up, Fox said Wednesday.

The previous low rating

was 5.0 for the American League’s 4-3 victory at Cleveland two years ago, which had an 11 share and was seen by 8,140,000 viewers.

Viewers peaked at 8,897,000 from 9-9:15 p.m. EDT.

The 2020 All-Star Game was canceled due to the pandemic.

The Home Run Derby drew a combined 7,126,000 on ESPN and ESPN2 on Monday night,

up from 6.2 million in 2019 and its most viewers since 2017. This year drew 6,358,000 viewers on ESPN and 767,000 viewers for a Statcast-themed alternate telecast on ESPN2.

The rating is the percentage of television households tuned to a broadcast and the share is the percentage tuned to a telecast among those households with televisions on at the time.



GOOD NEWS

## Living the Beatitudes Daily

In studying through Matthew’s Gospel, I ‘camped’ in Chapters 5-7 – The Beatitudes – for a while. By reading them over and over, I thought the teachings would ‘stick to me’ and that would be enough. But the more I studied them, the more I realized Jesus wants us to incorporate them into our daily living as we follow Him. That sounds like work to me!

Oh, but the blessings that come from obeying the Master’s teaching! Soon after Jesus’ baptism and his victory over Satan in the wilderness, He began his public ministry. The ‘hour’ had struck, the call to action had come, and He must go forth on His crusade. (Barclay). He knew His mission and

He was ready for the challenge. Matthew records how Jesus began calling His disciples together (3:18-22). His promise was to make them “fishers of men and not just fishermen.” Others began to follow to hear his teachings and witness the miracles that He did. Our

first recorded teaching sessions are referred to as The Beatitudes. This was His message He wanted to pass on to the disciples, and they would pass on to others. This might be considered the ‘ordination sermon’ for the disciples. In this Sermon on the Mount we find the His core and foundation-

al teachings He shared with the disciples. Matthew and Luke give us their ‘take’ of the Mount Sermon, with some variation. Both accounts are rich in tips for godly living and service for us today.

It is said by scholars, “Matthew collected Jesus’ teachings into one whole pattern; Luke took the pattern, broke it up and scattered the pieces all over his gospel.” We know this was not just one sermon He preached, but a summary of the consistent teaching to His disciples. Today we might use the ‘retreat’ concept for a Master teacher to use to teach concepts and truths

for His team to use in future assignments. Jesus chose the hillside.

When Jesus went up the hill to teach, His disciples followed Him. He sat down and began to teach. (Master teachers sat and their followers sat around them, eager to hear every word). As He looked around, He made eye contact with them and began to share Himself. Imagine Jesus saying: “This is very important and I don’t want you to miss any of it.” When Jesus opened His mouth, it was more than idle talk. This expression was used to speak of a solemn, grave and dignified utterance. He was really opening His heart and fully pouring out His mind. These were the

men He chose to be His right-hand team in His task of taking the Good News to the world. It has been referred to as ‘nothing less than the concentrated memory of many hours of heart-to-heart communion between the disciples and their Master.’ And then Jesus began teaching....

“Blessed are the poor in spirit; Blessed are those who mourn; Blessed are the meek; Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for righteousness; Blessed are the merciful; Blessed are the pure in heart; Blessed are the peacemakers; Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake; Blessed are those who are insulted and falsely accused. Rejoice and be

glad when you are persecuted because of Me, for your reward will be great; You are blessed”, Jesus said.

This passage is worthy of our dwelling at length to fully comprehend what the Master Teacher is conveying to His disciples. Our assignment is to incorporate these challenges into our daily lives, putting to test each one as we allow the Lord to direct our paths. . And then our lives will be truly ‘salt and light’ to share with a hopeless and sick world. (Robert Schuler spoke of them as being “Be-happy-attitudes”).

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



Bill Crider

THE UPWARD LOOK

## Friction and Derision

*“Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision,” which is performed in the flesh by human hands” Ephesians 2:11 NASB*



Max Hutto

To a Jew in the first century all other people were Gentiles. The friction and enmity between Jews and Gentiles was enormous. To some Jews a Gentile was nothing more than a wild dog that ravaged the streets. Being circumcised in the flesh, the Jews were overtly proud to be “God’s chosen

people.” Gentiles were not privileged or worthy to have God’s mark on them. Yet Christ broke down these barrier walls and established peace between Jew and Gentile believers.

Lord Jesus, though formerly I was unworthy because of my sin, because of Your grace I have peace with God and others. Help me to share that peace with all people.

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

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# Come WORSHIP

**FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD MINDEN**







SUDOKU

SUDOKU

		2						
						1	8	
	3			5	6			7
		9	4	8				
		4		7		6		2
	1							
3			8	4				5
	8				2	7		
	4			3				1

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!

1	9	8	6	3	5	7	4	2
4	3	7	2	1	9	5	8	6
6	5	2	7	4	8	1	9	3
8	6	4	5	9	2	3	1	7
2	1	9	3	7	6	4	5	8
5	7	3	1	8	4	6	2	9
7	2	6	9	5	1	8	3	4
3	8	1	4	2	7	9	6	5
9	4	5	8	6	3	2	7	1

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 THE — :MOVIE TITLES

L W R E L B B O C U R G P N K  
I S S E N I S U B G D O B Z X  
Y A D T S E G N O L V D S Q O  
G M K I G C Z E C A Y F W U S  
Q N P N S R U O H K R A D L S  
J H I D F E C E D M A T N Y F  
X V R K U S Q P R Y A H W N R  
M I K J N H F E C S T E O B U  
B Z Y S D O O R C X I R T A M  
X V S E L B I D E R C N I A S  
U T R Q Y O B L L E B P O D M

Thursday's unlisted clue: KING

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.  
Friday's unlisted clue hint: PERSON WHO MENDS SHOES

A-Team	Croods	Incredibles	Rescuers
Bellboy	Dark Hours	Lion King	Smurfs
Birds	Dirty Dozen	Longest Day	Town
Business	Godfather	Matrix	

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7/16

HISTORY

Continued from Page 10 ple. The Armenian militant organization ASALA took responsibility for the attack.

1955 Mainau Declaration is signed by 18 Nobel laureates. The declaration against the use of nuclear weapons was initiated by German scientists Otto Hahn and Max Born.

1799 The Rosetta Stone is found. The ancient Egyptian rock inscribed with a decree by King Ptolemy V was found in the Egyptian port city of Rashid (Rosetta) by French Captain Pierre Bouchard.

COMICS

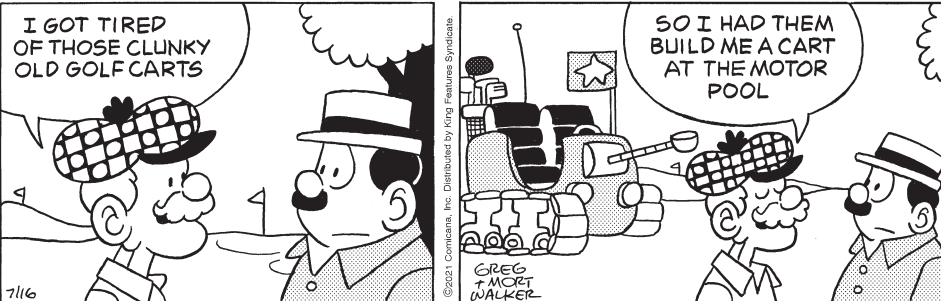
BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



BLONDIE | DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



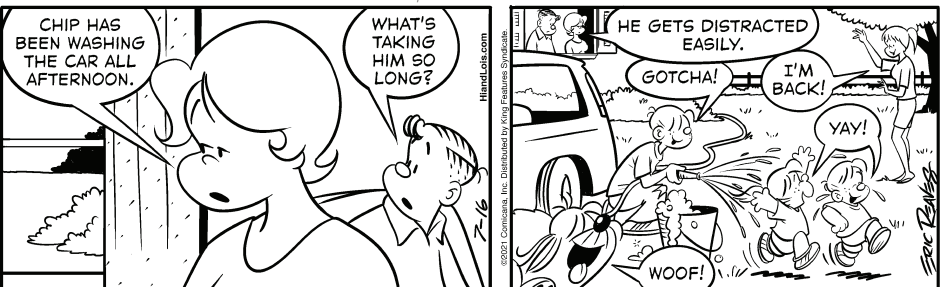
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT & GREG WALKER



FUNKY WINKERBEAN | TOM BATIUK



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



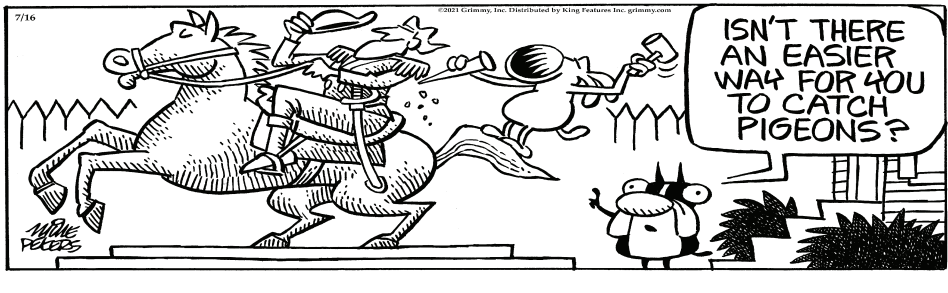
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



SAM AND SILO | JERRY DUMAS



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM | MIKE PETERS









carried.

Mayor Williams presented the Letter of Engagement to the board for the 2020 – 2021 Audit for Cook & Morehart. No action was necessary.

Chief Jeremy Robinson recommended to the council to accept the resignation of Officer Chris Miller. Richard Davis motioned to do so, Alan Myers seconded. Motion carried. The Chief, also, recommended to the council to Officer Josh Davis for the part-time position contingent upon the successful completion of his employment evaluation. Robert Smart motioned to do so, Wayne Bolton seconded. Motion carried.

Chief Robinson gave the June 2021 activity report for the Sibley Police Department.

Richard Davis gave the June 2021 activity report for the Sibley Volunteer Fire Dept.

The board acknowledged the acceptance of the June 2021 Financial Report.

The mayor offered information on the American Rescue Plan and that the town would use these funds for Water System Improvements.

Alan Myers motioned to adjourn, Helen Chanler seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned.

Attest:  
Jimmy Williams  
Mayor

Sherry McCann  
Town Clerk

July 16, 2021  
Minden Press-Herald

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## EMPLOYMENT

Claiborne Parish Office of Community Services is looking to hire a part time driver. Applicant must meet the following: Be at least 25 years of age, have a high school diploma or equivalent, safe driving record, physical capability to perform duties such as keeping vehicles clean, have a chauffeur's license or a Class B and be willing to attend trainings. This position is part time and hours vary from day to day, must be available Monday through Friday 4:30 AM to 4:45 PM. Background check and drug/alcohol screening will be performed on potential employees. Applications can be picked up at 621 South Main Street, Homer, LA or call (318) 927-3557 and speak to Tim Cain for further information. We are an equal opportunity employer.

**THE MINDEN HOUSING AUTHORITY** Is seeking a qualified person to fill the fulltime position of Maintenance Repairer 1. Experience needed in the maintenance and repair of building facilities, electrical, plumbing, HVAC, and carpentry. A clean driving record is required. Must pass drug test and a background check. Do not apply at the housing authority office. You must apply online at: [jobs.civilservice.louisiana.gov](http://jobs.civilservice.louisiana.gov)

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SUCCESSION  
OF  
ELLEN GRACE FIELDS STEWART MCBRIDE

PROBATE DOCKET NO: 17355  
26TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT  
WEBSTER PARISH, LOUISIANA

### NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY TO SELL IMMOVABLE PROPERTY AT PRIVATE SALE

NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Administrator of this Succession, JOHNNIE HARVEY STEWART, has petitioned this Court for authority to sell immovable property belonging to the succession of the deceased at private sale to William Joseph Renz, Sr. and Donna Renz in accordance with the provisions of Article 3281 of the Louisiana Code of Civil Procedure for \$300.00 cash, with the succession to pay for encumbrances and pro rata taxes. The immovable property proposed to be sold at private sale is described as follows:

An undivided one-half (1/2) interest in and to the following described property:

A triangular tract or parcel of land in Northwest Quarter of Southwest Quarter (NW/4 of SW/4), Section 36, Township 19 North, Range 10 West at iron pin; thence run in a westerly direction along the north right-of-way line of Old Dixie Overland Highway 437 feet to point of beginning; thence continue in a westerly direction along the north right-of-way line of Old Dixie Overland Highway 437 feet to iron pin at point where Old Dixie Overland Highway intersects the Old Minden-Shreveport Road; thence run in a northeasterly direction along old Minden-Shreveport Road 450 feet to iron pin; thence South 99 feet to point of beginning.

Any heir or creditor who opposes the proposed sale must file his opposition within seven (7) days from the date on which the last publication of this notice appears.

June 25, 2021

July 16, 2021

Minden Press-Herald

By order of the Court  
s/Holli Vinina  
HOLLI VININA, CLERK

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# COMMUNITY IMPACT REPORT FOR 2020



At Minden Medical Center, we spent much of 2020 navigating the challenges and adjusting to changes caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. While it was a tough year for our hospital, our community and our nation as a whole, the COVID-19 pandemic did not deter us from our mission to make the communities of Webster, Claiborne and Bienville parishes healthier. If anything, it made our focus on our mission and efforts to create a place where people choose to come for healthcare, physicians want to practice and employees want to work, stronger than ever. Inviting the best physicians into our communities and supporting them is one of the most important drivers of our ability to offer the best possible healthcare to the region. In 2020, we opened a new primary care clinic, Minden Medical Clinic of Haughton. We look forward to continuing to expand primary care access in 2021 with the addition of new family medicine physicians to our team. While delivering high quality patient care close to home is the single most important contribution we make, there are many other ways we are making a positive impact in our communities. In creating excellent workplaces for our 526 employees in 2020, we made \$462,124 in capital improvements, and managed and distributed an annual payroll of \$25,018,404. We are proud to take a leadership role in our communities and are committed to delivering needed healthcare to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. We are also committed to ensuring fiscal responsibility – both at the hospital and in the community. In 2020, we paid a total of \$690,342 in taxes, as well as provided sponsorships and donations to local organizations.

“We continue to be committed to fostering a culture of caring, compassion and safety for our employees, medical staff, patients and our community. Thank you for allowing us to serve you and your families, and for your unwavering support of our team and our mission to make communities healthier.”



JIM WILLIAMS, CEO  
MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER



## SUPPORT & SPONSORSHIPS

- Greater Minden Chamber’s 15 Under 40
- Greater Minden Chamber’s First Responders
- Appreciation Night
- Greater Minden Chamber’s Annual Awards Banquet
- United Christian Assistance Program
- Haughton Middle School
- Haughton High School Football Program
- Minden High School Football Booster Club
- Women Helping Others of North Webster
- Volunteers for Youth Justice-CASA
- Minden St. Jude Auction
- Athletic Training Support for Lakeside Jr/Sr High School, Springhill High School & Minden High School
- Lakeside Athletics
- American Heart Association
- Webster Parish School Board Back to School Bash

## SERVICES

- Cardiology
- Primary Care/Family Medicine
- General Surgery
- Inpatient & Outpatient Rehabilitation
- Behavioral Health
- Women’s Health/The Baby Place
- Emergency Care
- Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine
- Intensive Care Unit
- Diagnostic Imaging
- Laboratory
- Nephrology
- Podiatry



## 2019-20 BOARD OF GOVERNORS

David A. Specht, Jr. <i>Board Chairman</i>	Johnnye Kennon <i>Webster Parish Convention &amp; Tourist Bureau</i>
Alicia Adams <i>Business Owner</i>	Jeff Lee <i>BI Bank</i>
Donna Carter <i>Chief Nursing Officer</i>	G. Scott Phillips, MD <i>MMC Medical Director &amp; Family Practice Physician</i>
Laura Evans, LCSW <i>Behavioral Consultant</i>	Erin Soletto, MD <i>MMC Medical Staff President &amp; General Surgeon</i>
George E. French, III <i>Retired CEO of MMC</i>	Jim Williams <i>CEO of MMC</i>
Terry L. Gardner <i>City of Minden Mayor</i>	

## AREA LOCATIONS

- Minden Primary Care
- Wilson Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine
- The Women’s Clinic
- Minden Nephrology & Hypertension
- MMC Rehab Service Outpatient Clinics in Minden & Homer
- Surgery & Endo Associates
- Minden Medical Clinic of Haughton
- Elite Family Medicine
- Foot & Ankle Specialist of Minden