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PRESS-HERALD

FRIDAY, AUGUST 27, 2021

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CITY OF MINDEN

Asst. City Clerk retires as budget talks continue

WILL PHILLIPS

Minden Press-Herald

Over the past weekend, Martha Conly, Assistant City Clerk for the City of Minden provided the city with a letter formally notifying them of her retirement.

In the letter she expressed her disagreement with the current administration hiring and payroll policy, which has been a subject of concern regarding the city's budget brought up by Councilman Wayne Edwards in recent meetings.

"It is with a heavy heart that I make this decision. I do not agree with the current administration's hiring and payroll policy. I do not feel that it is fair to hire someone at such an elevated rate of pay and then give them \$3,000, \$5,000, and \$6,000 dollar rate increases. These new employees will be making more than current employees, who have been here 20 plus years, within the first two years of their employment," the letter of resignation read.

Another employee within the same department also quit over the weekend, though the motivations behind that remain unknown.

This came just short on the heels of a City Council workshop that was being held to discuss the budget further, and further drove the conversation regarding raises for city employ-

See, **CITY**, Page 2

CITY GROWTH



WILL PHILLIPS/MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

Work continues on the former Stage Store at Towne East Shopping Center, making the way for a Burkes Outlet store, set to open Sept. 19.

Burkes Outlet coming to town

STAFF REPORT

Minden Press-Herald

Bealls Family of Stores is thrilled to announce its new Burkes Outlet store opening on Sept. 19 in Minden.

Burkes Outlet delivers an ever-changing assortment of name-brand fashion, beauty and home items at up to 70% off other stores' prices. From clothing and shoes for the family to unique home items to handbags, accesso-

ries, beauty items and more, Burkes Outlet is constantly bringing in new product.

"We love surprising our guests," says Dave Alves, President and Chief Retail Officer of Bealls Family of Stores. "It's all about the treasure hunt. That's why when you see something you love, you have to grab it fast."

Burkes Outlet is excited to open a new store in the Minden community and

will start with approximately 25 job opportunities. This is a great influx for the local economy and just in time for holiday!

"I've been following the growth of Bealls Companies and I am blown away with the growth, especially in times like these," stated Philip Smart, Development Director. "Burkes Outlet gives our citizens a more afford-

See, **BURKES**, Page 2

Home Federal opening commercial lending center here

STAFF REPORT

Minden Press-Herald

Home Federal Bank ("HFB"), the wholly-owned subsidiary of Home Federal Bancorp, Inc. of Louisiana announced that a team of five experienced and highly skilled professionals has been hired to open a loan production office in Minden, Louisiana, which will

quickly be converted to a full-service banking center. Additionally, Home Federal Bank has appointed a new Advisory Board member to represent its Webster Parish interests.

The new Minden team has over 100 combined years of banking experience in the Webster Parish market. "These individuals join us with a high level of experi-

ence and proven track record for successfully developing banking relationships in the Minden market. I am confident that we have chosen the best team to execute HFB's expansion plans into my hometown," said Jim Barlow, Chairman, President and CEO of Home Federal Bank.

See, **HFB**, Page 2

INSIDE TODAY



Are you ready for football?

STAFF REPORT

Minden Press-Herald

The 2020 high school football season in Webster Parish had its moments, but mostly it will be remembered for the many challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Not least among those were the cancellation of games during an already abbreviated eight-game regular season.

Lakeside played only five games. Minden and North Webster got in seven. The Tide played three more in the 4A playoffs. Glenbrook played 10 total in its final season in the MAIS.

Things might not be completely back to normal — the pandemic could raise its ugly head again — but they are close to it.

Jamborees are back. The 10-game regular-season is back. There are no limits on how many fans can attend the games.

Last year everyone was just glad there was a season. Now the regular routine has returned, and that obviously is a relief to all who love high school football.

One of the biggest stories in high school football this year is Glenbrook's move to the LHSA. The Apaches are in tough District 1-1A with powerhouse Calvary

Football Preview

High School, College & NFL get their turn
Inside Today

See, **FOOTBALL**, Page 3

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SECOND FRONT

City: Hiring, salaries scrutinized

Continued from Page 1

ees.

The conflict can be boiled down to Mayor Terry Gardner affirming that these were worthwhile hires, and that even with these raises they would still be underpaid in relation to others in their field, while Councilman Edwards believes that if these department heads get raises, then raises for all department heads should be considered.

"The only thing that I ask is that we come to a compromise, and what we do for one, we do for all," said Edwards.

"I understand the qualifications, and what you want to do as far as rewarding them for their job. We need to know before it occurred, not after it occurred. It seems strange, that on Friday, that memo goes to the clerk's office to raise that, when we just had a council meeting to say there was an issue with the budget that we wanted to discuss for those two positions. Put yourself in my position and tell me what you think?"

At this point the dialogue switched to that of there being a lack of communication.

"Everybody in the city is aware of what's going on. Terry, I have tried to work with this administration. I've been open and honest, but I don't see that coming both ways," said Edwards.

Gardner responded, "Mr. Edwards all I can do is invite you to come to my office and sit down like I did two times the other afternoon, asking you to come by Friday two times. And you didn't call me, come by or nothing."

Gardner defended the raises by stating that the previous economic developer had a salary of \$72,000 a year, and that he hired the new one at \$42,000 a year, with an incentive of a 6,000 raise after acquiring certifications and bringing a

"The only thing that I ask is that we come to a compromise, and what we do for one, we do for all."

Wayne Edwards
Dist. 1 City Councilman

business to the city with at least 10 full time employees.

"I think that is not excessive, I think that it's saving the city 30,000 dollars. In that job description, the reduced salary also added the occupational license. This year to date, under his supervision, has brought in 570,000," said Gardner. To me it's a win-win for the city, because I saved the city a lot of money, and created more revenue to put into the budget."

"I told her after she'd built the department, and proved her way, and with the added responsibility she has, I don't think a 5000 increase ... is excessive."

The next topic of discussion was that of the pay for the Police and Fire Departments for the city. Councilman Roy along with Mayor Gardner had created a Safety Initiative Program made up of representatives of each district to work alongside the departments to find solutions for the problems they are having.

Roy proposed some changes to the budget, which if his calculations are correct, could see the pay for these departments raise significantly while at the same time, not costing the City that much than they had originally budgeted for.

The Firemen in Minden get a starting pay of \$8.85, the lowest in the city. The solution proposed for this was to take the pay from long term firemen who had left the department, and instead of hiring new firemen to replace them, take their salaries, subtract the cost of promoting internally to fill those positions, and use the remainder to bring their starting sala-

ries up to the level of other positions in the city.

"Increase every fireman's pay where the base pay is starting at 13.50 an hour. And in that calculation, from what I understand, 15 is the optimal number of guys with the fire department, so that puts me leaving one open spot. The new salaries would come up to about \$720,000. I went and I figured on a percentage basis, all the insurance, FICA, medical, pensions, all that. So I came up with a new budget number of \$1.5 (million)," said Roy.

"The existing budget is almost 1.6, so that leaves about a positive 83,000 in the budget for that department. That's bringing everybody's starting salary up to 13.50 an hour, and that goes into percentage increase up to the assistant chiefs."

When it came to increasing pay for the Police Officers, Roy mainly utilized the budgeted amount that was in the budget already for overtime, and instead spread that out amongst the officers to increase base pay up to \$16.50.

"We're pulling their overtime of 175,000 to fund this," said Roy.

"Taking all that into account, plus, giving a total of 33 spots to the police department, so with the new hire they'll have about 7 positions available, including their dispatchers, the chief, and the secretary down there ... is at about 2.83 on the new budget, the existing is about 2.7, almost 2.8. It's about 41,000 dollars in the hole."

These calculations were preliminary, and still need to be run by the City Clerk in order to make sure that they hold up. Granted, these concerns should have come up during the initial budget workshops, but if the numbers are to hold up, this bodes well for the Fire and Police Departments as pay increases seem feasible. The other Councilmen were in approval of this plan as well.



COURTESY PHOTO

NLTCC Vice Chancellor of Workforce and Education Partnerships Dr. Jayda Spillers, NLTCC Mansfield Director Kelli Fisher, NLTCC Mansfield Director Pam Huber-Rivers, IP Balance of Plant/Area Maintenance Manager Mike Stewart, IP Maintenance Learning Leader Jeffrey Leach, and NLTCC Chancellor Dr. Earl Meador.

IP grant to help NLTCC students

Special to the minden Press-Herald

International Paper Foundation, through the Mansfield Mill, has donated \$9,000 to the North-

west Louisiana Technical Community College (NLTCC)-Mansfield Campus.

Thanks to the generous support of the Inter-

national Paper Foundation, students enrolled in NLTCC's Industrial Instrumentation and Elec-

See, **GRANT**, Page 16

HFB: Morrow, McClaran, Garrett, Frasier and Toland joining Minden lending team

Continued from Page 1

Patony Morrow, Senior Vice President of Commercial Lending and Market Manager for Webster Parish, most recently worked as a commercial lender for a regional bank in Minden. He joins HFB with 25 years of Commercial Lending experience and a total of 37 years of banking experience within Webster Parish.

Lindsay McClaran, Vice President of Mortgage Lending, most recently was employed as a Mortgage Lender for a regional bank in Minden and has established a solid mort-

gage banking background over the past nine years.

Shirlene Frasier, Vice President and Branch Manager, began her career in banking in 1982 and joins HFB from a regional bank with a vast knowledge of customer service, management support, and retail operations.

Rounding out our team are Shannon Garrett, a Commercial Loan Processor, who brings over 20 years of banking experience, along with Samantha Kramer, Mortgage Loan Processor, who began her career in banking in 2018.

Mike Toland will serve as an Advisory Board Member of Home Federal Bank representing the Webster Parish market. Born and reared in Minden, Mr. Toland spent the first 15 years of his career with a regional retailer prior to his current position as President of the Fleming Group, where he has worked for the last 25 years. Mike is very active in the community serving as a Sunday School Director at his church, past Chairman for United Way, a member of the Greater Minden Chamber of Commerce, and as a Minden City Councilman.

Burkes: Store to be open 7-days-a-week

Continued from Page 1

able and diverse shopping experience and it brings more jobs to Webster Parish."

Burkes Outlet's buyers are in market every day looking for one-of-a-kind buys and great brands.

They negotiate deep discounts that translate into huge savings for customers.

The grand opening celebration will take place September 19th through September 29th with games and giveaways. One lucky winner will re-

ceive a \$100 Burkes Outlet gift card.

Burkes Outlet will be located at 1094 Homer Road and will be open Monday through Thursday from 9am to 9pm, Fridays and Saturdays from 9am to 9:30pm and on Sundays from 10am to 8pm.

Football: Old coaches face off with different teams in 2021

Continued from Page 1

Baptist, perennial power Haynesville and recently resurgent Homer.

Glenbrook Head Coach David Feaster and Calvary's Rodney Guin will once again match wits just as they did when Feaster was at Parkway and Guin at Houghton.

Feaster was known for his prolific offenses at Parkway and Minden. Last year — Feaster's first as head coach — Glenbrook also put a lot of points on the board. It will be interesting to

see how the Apaches' fare against LHSAA competition.

Minden had an outstanding 2020 season. The second-round playoff victory over No. 5 Leesville won't soon be forgotten. The Crimson Tide looks primed for another solid season.

North Webster and Lakeside will look for improvement. The Knights were hit hard by injuries last season and the COVID-19 pandemic took a big toll on the Warriors.

At the next level, LSU and Arkansas will look to

bounce back from lackluster seasons.

A year after winning the national title, the Tigers went 5-5, although they finished strong with an upset of Florida and a victory over Ole Miss.

Sophomore Max Johnson, who led The Tigers to victories over Florida and Ole Miss in the last two games last season, will likely start at quarterback after Myles Brennan suffered a left arm injury in August that required surgery.

As usual, LSU has plenty of talent on both sides

of the ball. Another mediocre season could put Ed Orgeron on the hot seat if he isn't already.

Arkansas fans will also expect to see a lot of improvement in Sam Pittman's second season as head coach. The Razorbacks went 3-7 last season. If the defense isn't better, it will be another rough season.

Louisiana Tech will seek to continue its success under Skip Holtz. The Bulldogs' bowl winning streak ended last season, but the Bulldogs have the talent to start an-

other one.

Grambling State lost all four of its games in the spring season. COVID-19-related issues played a big part in the lack of success. Head Coach Broderick Fobbs is a proven winner, though, so the Tigers could again contend in the SWAC.

In the NFL, one of the biggest storylines to watch will be how the New Orleans Saints will fare without future Hall of Famer Drew Brees at quarterback. Either Taysom Hill or Jameis Winston will take over.



The quarterback position in Dallas will also be under close scrutiny. Will former Houghton star Dak Prescott, who signed a huge contract in the offseason, be the same quarterback he was before suffering the devastating leg injury in Week 4 last season?

It won't be long until we start learning the answer to that question and the others at the high school and college levels. It should be a fun ride.

WEBSTER & MORE




3 DAY PLANNING FORECAST

FIRST ALERT WEATHER



JEFF CASTLE

The heat will be easing and rain chances may be picking up by the weekend. We'll go from the mid 90s Friday back into the upper 80s over the weekend. Moisture ahead of a developing tropical system in the Gulf will help increase our rain chances.

FRI	 <div>20%</div>	TEMP 95	WIND <i>ESE 7</i>
SAT	 <div>40%</div>	TEMP 89	WIND <i>SE 5</i>
SUN	 <div>50%</div>	TEMP 89	WIND <i>SE 5</i>

Get the latest forecast from the KSLA First Alert Weather Team at [KSLA.com](https://www.ksla.com) or on your smartphone with the KSLA First Alert Weather App. Search your app store for KSLA to download.

Tax Assessor's report to provide pertinent information for Webster Parish taxpayers

Special to the Minden Press-Herald

MINDEN, LA – Do you want to know if you are eligible for a property tax homestead exemption? Or do you want to know if you are eligible to have the assessed value of your property frozen at the current level which will prevent your property assessed value from increasing? Or maybe you want to know how periodic property re-assessment that is required by Louisiana State Law will affect

your property taxes or do you just want to know how the taxes on your property are determined. These questions and many more are answered in the very first newly printed “Webster Parish Assessor’s Office Annual Report, 2021.” On January 1, 2021, when Denise Edwards took office, she established two main goals: Providing Webster Parish property owners and citizens with premium, courteous, proficient, timely service and providing

Webster Parish citizens with the important information that they need to make informed decisions about properly managing their property. “Keeping our citizens and taxpayers informed with up-to-date information is a high priority for the Webster Parish Assessor’s Office,” Edwards said. “With this goal as our priority we now provide Webster Parish citizens with two means of obtaining important property tax information.

These are: The newly published, first ever Webster Parish Assessor’s Office Annual Report and a newly re-designed website that went live in January this year. The web address is the same www.webster-assessor.org. The Annual Report and website were created as a service to the taxpayers of Webster Parish with their needs and best interest in mind,” Edwards continued. She described the As-

See, **REPORT**, Page 16

OBITUARY



Mattie Lee Moore Green Chappell

Mattie Lee Moore Green Chappell gained her heavenly wings on the evening of August 8, 2021 at her residence in Shreveport, Louisiana. Mattie was born on August 17, 1939, in Sibley, Louisiana to Maggie Lou Moore. She grew up in Sibley, Louisiana and graduated from Central Consolidated High School in Dubberly, LA in 1958. She accepted Christ at an early age, joining the Mt. Pero Baptist Church, Dubberly LA, also known to many as the “family’s” church. After Mattie was united in marriage to Jeremiah Ellis Green on April 9, 1960, she joined Mt Zion C.M.E., Minden, LA. To their union and blended family included Cheryl Denise, four daughters were born: Cynthia Annise, Candy Vanise, Melanie Beth and Jerri Etta. Mattie moved to Shreveport, LA in 1976 joining Lane Chapel C.M.E. and on June 9, 1985, she united with Major McDuffy. Mattie later united with George Chappell on January 1, 1994 and joined with him to New Elizabeth Missionary BC. Mattie worked at the Louisiana Army Ammunition Plant for over 30 years before she retired. She came out of retirement on September 12, 1996 to work as a Librarian for 17 years at Shreve Memorial Library throughout Shreveport, Louisiana until she retired in 2013. Still to this day, she is loved by many who still

recognize her as “My Librarian.” Mattie enjoyed spending time with family and friends, cooking trying new recipes and watching others enjoying her cooking, baking her famous 5-flavor pound cakes, playing and skunking people in dominoes, traveling, and loving on her grandchildren. Mattie leaves to cherish her memories: (Daughter) Cheryl D. Williams of Shreveport, LA; (Daughter) Candy V. Brown (Lawrence) of Bossier City, LA; (Daughter) Melanie B. Flournoy (Jerome) of Fontana, CA; and (Daughter) Jerri E. Green of Shreveport, LA; and fourteen grandchildren; fourteen great-grandchildren; and one great great-granddaughter and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Among those preceding her in death are: her mother, Maggie Lou Moore; her sister, Minnie Lee Alford; four brothers, Bill Moore, Calvin Moore, Willie Hall, J D Moore; one daughter, Cynthia Annise Green-Davis; and her husbands, Jeremiah Green, Major McDuffy, and George Chappell. **Morning Star Baptist** 5340 Jewella Avenue Shreveport, LA 71109 **Friday, August 27, 2021** Viewing/Visitation: 6:00pm – 6:30pm Family Hour: 6:30pm – 7:30pm **Saturday, August 28, 2021** Homegoing Celebration 11:00am **Interment:** **Moore Cemetery** **Moore Cemetery Road** **Dubberly, LA**

OBITUARY

Brian Shelby Fuller

A memorial service for Brian Shelby Fuller will be held Saturday, August 28, 2021 from 2pm to 4pm in the Fellowship Hall at North Acres Baptist Church. Brian was born May 27, 1981 and passed away July 21, 2021. Brian was a true outdoorsman and enjoyed all things outdoors. He loved hunting squirrel, ducks, and deer, but his greatest passion was fishing. Brian was preceded in death by his grandmothers Daphne Edwards and Nelda Fuller. He is survived by his daughter, Bentley Fuller, his son, Jacob (Fuller) Roark, his father, Archie Fuller, his mother, Carlene Fuller, his brother, Andy Fuller, and his grandfather, Shelby Edwards.

BIRTHDAYS FOR

AUGUST 24, 2021

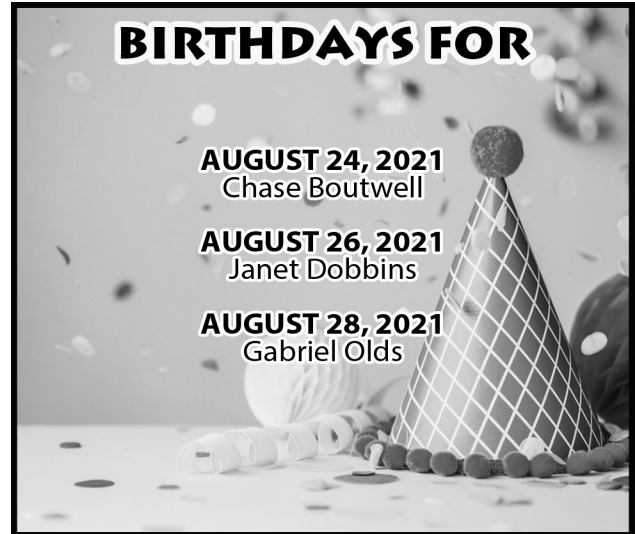
Chase Boutwell

AUGUST 26, 2021

Janet Dobbins

AUGUST 28, 2021

Gabriel Olds





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OPINION

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THE MINDEN PRESS-HERALD WELCOMES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

HERE ARE OUR GUIDELINES:

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

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

OPINION

Alexander: A debacle in Afghanistan

As we watch Afghanistan again devolve dangerously into a terrorist magnet ruled by the Taliban, we witness once again the timeless and immutable principle of history and nations that strength deters bad actors while weakness begets war.

Yes, Afghanistan has been a 20-year war beginning after 9-11 and yes, the American people no doubt wish to conclude America's engagement there and our troops, finally, return home. However, the American people also remember why they were deployed to Afghanistan in 2001 and recognize strong and effective leadership as well as politically driven tactical and strategic incompetence when they see it. They shudder when they realize their weak and inept national leadership has fallen far below America's high standard of competence, courage, and commitment to our strategic interests, our values, and the security of our country, and that the trust our international allies have placed in us has been seriously damaged.

U.S. troops have regained control of the Kabul airport and its single runway but that's the only strategic asset allied forces control. The rapidly developing problem is that thousands of American civilians, and those of our allies who were also shocked by our precipitous withdrawal, are still trapped behind enemy lines and unable to make it through a gauntlet of Taliban checkpoints to safety and safe passage out of this quagmire. Now, the Taliban, who provided Al Qaeda with the staging ground to plan and carry out the attack on America on September 11, 2001, rapidly fills the vacuum created by our quickly departing troops and security infrastructure.

In fact, the U.S. Embassy warned this week that "the U.S. government cannot ensure safe passage to the Hamid Karzai International Airport." Further, Sec. of Defense, Lloyd Austin, when asked last week whether the U.S. would be able to rescue Americans who can't make it to the airport, replied "I don't have the capability to go out and extend operations currently into Kabul."

What we are witnessing in real time is darkly reminiscent of the foreign policy disaster of President Jimmy Carter in Iran in 1979 when Islamic students

overwhelmed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran and took 53 American hostages. The similarly incompetent rescue mission President Carter ordered in 1980 to free the hostages was ultimately aborted—but not before five airmen and three Marines were killed—with the smoking wreckage of U.S. aircraft serving as a searing reminder of the high price to be paid for America's presidential weakness. What we've seen these last few days in Afghanistan also brings



ROYAL ALEXANDER

who mean us harm are watching closely from Tehran, Beijing, and Moscow and must be happily shocked to see heavily armed Taliban fighters relaxing in the Afghan presidential palace and helicopters hovering over the American Embassy in Kabul to assist fleeing Americans. At the same time, our frightened and desperate Afghan allies—men, women, and children—desperately seek to escape the re-imposition of a cruel Medieval legal and social structure where no life is sacred or safe, and women and children suffer most from the fanatical religious despotism brutally imposed by the Taliban—whose fatal flaw was that they trusted the U.S. to protect them from this very predictable scenario.

Now, many more will be violently extricated from their homes to be summarily executed by the Taliban for their support of our twenty-year mission to bring more freedom, stability, economic prosperity and women's rights to their nation—and to prevent their country from once again becoming a staging ground for lethal global attacks, including against Americans and America.

The most regrettable thing may be the fact that order in that country could have been maintained with comparatively little effort or expense by the U.S. or

its allies to insure we didn't allow extremist groups like ISIS or the Taliban to regroup and begin to grow and surge again. How must our American soldiers, Marines, Airmen, Sailors, and their families, who bravely fought in-country over the 20-year war, feel in seeing the enormous sacrifice of blood, sweat and tears—and lives—being lost through the imbecility of their national leadership literally over 3-4 days' time.

However, despite the criminal incompetence of their Commander in Chief, their sacrifice, and that of their families, was not in vain. Recall that in the immediate aftermath of 9/11, the military and intelligence establishment believed we would be attacked again in days or weeks. I remember being in DC for 9/11 and seeing in the days following this national tragedy the Army installing anti-aircraft artillery placements on the Capital Mall in order to defend the White House, the Capitol and other government buildings from what was thought to be a certain second wave of attacks. The sacrifice of our Soldiers, Airmen, Marines, Sailors and Coast Guard purchased, at a very high price, a blessed 20-year peace from attacks on our homeland for which all Americans are grateful.

The second most regrettable thing is that Pres. Biden, after promising to be a "leader the world respects" has done the opposite—and has damaged the U.S.'s relationship and credibility with our allies. This arbitrary and capricious withdrawal from Afghanistan has stunned and angered many of our allies. Remember, our allies over the last 20 years have also made enormous investments—blood and resources—in the stabilization and peaceful coexistence of that country to prevent the very thing from happening that is happening now—Afghanistan transitioning back to being a terrorist haven which threatens the entire civilized world, as well as the mass exodus of fleeing Afghans seeking emergency naturalization and settlement in the countries of our allies.

Biden's effort to blame President Trump for his own bad judgement is deeply dishonest. To suggest that Biden followed Trump's policies in any area, especially in an area of

foreign policy so important to our national strategic interests and the safety of our citizens, would be hysterical if not so tragic and dangerous. Rather, according to analysis by the Heritage Foundation, "Trump, in fact, handed Biden a problem mostly solved. All Biden had to do was negotiate a lasting settlement from a position of strength or maintain an economy of force presence in Afghanistan if the Taliban failed to deliver. Instead, Biden just decided to call it a day and call the troops home regardless of what the Taliban did on the ground." (Heritage.org).

This tragic error in judgment by the president recalls the statement of former Sec. of Defense, Robert Gates, who served both Republican and Democrat presidents, that "I think he's [Biden] been wrong on nearly every major foreign policy and national security issue over the past four decades."

Biden, in another dazed and confused press event, made the comment Friday that "we are in constant contact with the Taliban" who he believes are allowing Americans with passports to pass through checkpoints without violence. If it weren't so dangerous a situation this would be laughable. The most powerful nation on the earth is relying for the safety of its citizens on the word of the most vicious terrorists in the world—who have spent years killing Americans. Humiliating. And the fact that this foreign policy, defense, and intelligence disaster occurred roughly one month before the 20th anniversary of the attacks of 9/11 only rubs acid in our Nation's wound.

This epic disaster underscores the essential lesson of history that the only way to ensure peace is through strength. As President Reagan said, "we know only too well that war comes not when the forces of freedom are strong, but when they are weak. It is then that tyrants are tempted."

The "tender mercies" of the Taliban are not going to endure for long and this Administration would be wise to address this disaster before then.

ROYAL ALEXANDER IS A SHREVEPORT ATTORNEY.

OPINION

The Advocate: Rural Louisiana needs to step up

With the full approval of one vaccine, and more likely to come, is there going to be another season of hope about beating COVID-19?

At the rate we're going in Louisiana, maybe not.

Resistance continues to getting the shots; there is going to be more resistance to getting booster shots that are now on the horizon, typically eight months from the second shot of the Pfizer or Moderna vaccines.

Nowhere is the problem

more acute than in small-town Louisiana.

During the earlier spring of hope, when vaccines were rolling out, people clamoring for their shots were trying various means of skipping the queues. One method was to seek out pharmacies or health units in small towns, to get a shot at the first shot without a wait.

Unfortunately, that those shots were available was a foreshadowing a larger problem: Too many folks in the country were not willing to get vac-

nated.

Low vaccination rates in rural and suburban Louisiana led to the staggering crisis there today. Small-town hospitals, vital to the physical and social health of their communities, are overwhelmed with COVID-19 cases.

Part of the problem is of course cultural: Low education levels can help online misinformation take deep root, and a lack of internet access can make finding an appointment difficult.

Some say they don't feel like the virus is a threat because they hardly ever gather in large groups, aside from church services or high school football games.

While true enough, that's not helping now, and an infectious disease doesn't turn off when people go into town to shop. We hope that full approval of vaccines will turn that corner, but people have to cooperate.

Louisiana must do better.

FROM THE BACK PORCH

According to Erma Bombeck

Some time ago, I wrote about the seasons of life with the Winter Season being the one I presently find myself in. I was reminded of this earlier this week when I heard a young man say, “I’ve already lived the best part of my life.”

This young man was in his early forties and I thought, “How sad that he feels that way.”

However, he went on to explain how his childhood was so different from the way children are growing up today. Apparently, he was looking at his childhood as being the best part of his life.

After thinking about this for a while, I began to see things from his perspective, the season of summer. He was recalling the carefree days when he was free of adult responsibilities, unlike today when he feels responsible for so much.

It reminded me of a column written by Erma Bombeck, “If I had my life to live over...”

The noted humor writer, in her season of winter, was asked if she had her life to live over would she change anything. At first she said no, but then she thought about it and changed her mind. She then proceeded to list some of the things she would change.

As I read these I was convicted of several of them that I could easily agree with.

“I would have invited friends over to dinner even if the carpet was stained and the sofa faded.”

I remember many times my excuse for not hosting friends was that I hadn’t had time to clean the house thoroughly. That would have meant deep cleaning, closets, drawers, cabinets etc. I later decided that if they were coming just to see what kind of housekeeper I was, then they weren’t really going to enjoy the visit. So why bother?

“I would have taken the time to listen to my grandfather ramble about his youth.”

I knew only one of my grandfathers and he never was one to share about his younger days. However, my daddy would often tell us stories about his childhood. We would always listen and enjoy these tales but we never asked for more information. Therefore, I grew up not knowing a lot about his family. Now that I am the only one of my generation left in the family, I have many questions, but sadly, there’s no one to ask.

“I would have sat cross-legged on the lawn with my children and nev-

er worried about grass stains.”

Looking back makes me wonder if I spent enough time playing with my children or if I was too busy keeping house, cooking, or other tasks that could have been put on hold while we spent that special time together, listening to their beautiful laughter.

“I would have shared more of the responsibility carried by my husband which I took for granted.”

It wasn’t written in stone that certain responsibilities were those of the husband and others were for the wife. I probably could have lifted some of the burden from his shoulders.

“I would have eaten less cottage cheese and more ice cream.”

As I recall all the times I tried new fad diets trying to achieve that perfect body shape, I realize how much enjoyment I really missed by not eating some of the foods I loved. All for the impossible look exhibited by those skinny girls on television. Finally, now in the winter season, I realize that no one actually looks like that in real life.

“When my child kissed me impetuously, I would never say, “Later. Now, go get washed up for dinner.”

I would take the time to enjoy every show of affection because all too soon they would consider themselves too old to display such. And we finally realize how short a time they offer it so freely.

“There would have been more I love yous... more I’m sorrys...more I’m listenings...but mostly, given another shot at life, I would seize every minute of it...look at it and really see it...try it on...live it...exhaust it... and never give that minute back until there was nothing left of it.”

When one reaches the Winter Season of his life, he can recognize what he could have done differently. Some people say they wouldn’t change a thing. I find it hard to believe that they can’t think of anything they would do differently.

But, friends, it isn’t too late to change some of the things we found lacking. Perhaps, others didn’t recognize all these little items we consider failures.

We can begin now to create a new atmosphere in our homes, among our friends and live with fewer regrets when we reach this period of our lives.

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



FANNIE MOORE

LIONS CLUB SPEAKER



WILL PHILLIPS/MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

State of the City

Mayor Terry Gardner was the guest speaker at last week’s Noon Minden Lions Club meeting Aug. 19. There he went into details over his past few years as mayor, noting the work his administration has been able to accomplish. In spite of a pandemic, the city of Minden has seen increasing sales tax growth month after month as a result of people shopping small and shopping local, initiatives the city has emphasized in recent years. His administration has also worked to bring Minden into the 21st century, which has been accomplished by the creation of new websites for the City itself as well as the REC Center, the development of an app, as well as a more engaged social media presence.

GARDENING

Microgreens provide nutrition without the garden

KYLE PEVETO
LSU AgCenter

Tiny edible vegetables known as microgreens have been rising in popularity with Americans searching for ways to add nutrition to home-cooked dishes.

As many found themselves seeking do-it-yourself projects during the 2020 COVID-19 outbreak, microgreens became a favorite miniature gardening project.

LSU AgCenter horticulture expert Kathryn “Kiki” Fontenot became interested in developing microgreen growing operations over the past year, and she developed a how-to guide to teach others.

“During the pandemic my workload changed drastically,” Fontenot

said. “Instead of meeting face to face with the public, we were answering tons of calls and emails from people just starting to garden.”

A common question was, “Can I just grow a small garden on the counter?”

“So, we set out to try,” Fontenot said.

Microgreens are young, immature vegetable and herb seedlings harvested just seven to 14 days after the seeds emerge from the soil surface. They can be added to salads, wraps, sandwiches and smoothies — just like full-size greens — but don’t require garden space.

Heather Kirk-Ballard, AgCenter consumer horticulture specialist, also noticed the popularity of



PHOTO BY KAYLEE DEYNZER/ LSU AGCENTER

Corn microgreens are harvested with clean, sharp scissors.

Caney Lakes Rec. area to close Sept. 7

STAFF REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

Caney Lakes Day Use Recreation Area will close for the 2021 season on September 7th, the day after Labor Day. The following facilities will be closed during this seasonal closure: swim area, ski beach area, and volleyball court. The day use recreation area will reopen next year on Memorial Day weekend, May 28, 2022.

Fishing, camping, boating, and hiking the Sugar Cane National Recreation Trail may still be enjoyed at Caney Lakes throughout the year. For more information, please contact the Caney Ranger District Office at (318) 927-2061.

\$8.9M in grants to be awarded to BPCC Students

Special to the Minden Press-Herald

BPCC will award \$8.9 million in COVID-19 relief grants to eligible students over the 2021-2022 academic year.

The funds are a part of the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund III, authorized by the American Rescue Plan.

“All students who are enrolled in the fall and spring semester are eligible for these grants,” said Dr. Teresa A. Jones, Executive Director of Enrollment Management at Bossier Parish Community College. “Those students with the greatest financial need

See, **BPCC**, Page 6

BPCC: Grants to help bring up enrollment

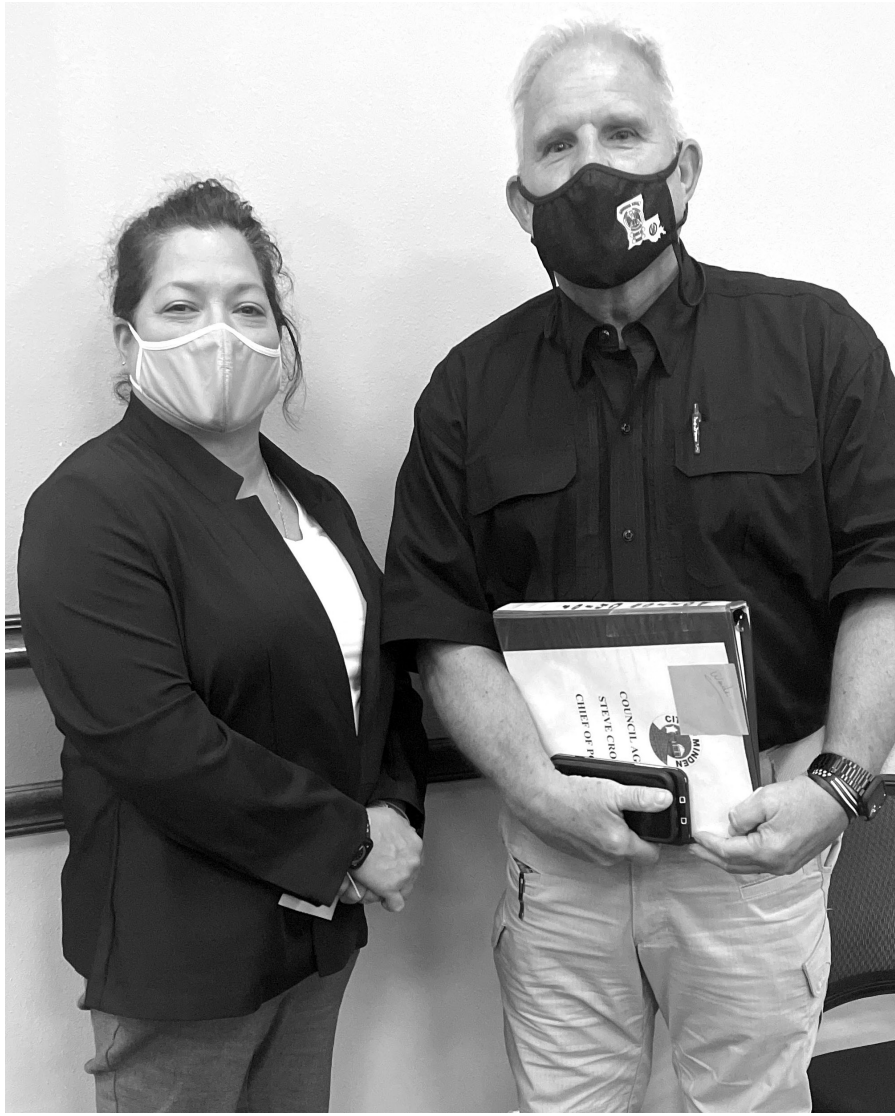
Continued from Page 5

will be prioritized, but all students will benefit from the grants that do not need to be paid back.”

BPCC has seen a decline in enrollment since the start of the pandemic. “Many students share with us that financial pressures make them unable to start or continue their studies; but these grants will make it possible for students to return or enroll for the first time,” Jones said.

BPCC awarded \$2 million in HEERF I funds authorized by the CARES Act, and another \$2 million in HEERF II funds authorized by the CRRSSA Act last academic year.

“HEERF III is more than double what we received in the first two rounds of emergency federal aid for students, combined,” said Dr. Rick Bateman, Chancellor of BPCC. “These grants come at a critical time for students, as the Delta variant impacts our region causing more economic hardship for students.”



WILL PHILLIPS/MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

Welcome to the MPD

The Minden City Council voted to approve a new hire to the Minden Police Department. Standing next to Police Chief Steve Cropper is Lita Hopkins, the MPD’s newest police officer.

Greens: Small spaces, like windowsills, are perfect for growing

Continued from Page 5

microgreens and created a video guide to growing them as part of the Get It Growing program. It is available at <http://bit.ly/GIGmicrogreens>. Growing microgreens is quick and easy, Kirk-Ballard said.

“You don’t even have to have a garden or a great deal of space,” she said. “Just a small space in a sunny window, decent potting soil, good drainage and voilà!”

Any vegetable crop can be grown as microgreens, but the most popular include broccoli, cabbage, peas, and herbs, such as basil, dill and cilantro.

While microgreens do not grow long, they do contain fiber, essential minerals, vitamins and antioxidant compounds. They also add color, texture and flavor to many dishes, Fontenot said.

“They are intense in flavor,” Kirk-Ballard said. “They taste best on a sandwich or in a salad and some people blend them into smoothies.”

“Microgreens aren’t difficult, but like any other garden they need a bit of attention.”

Kiki Fontenot
LSU AgCenter

Fontenot developed the microgreens guide along with her graduate students, who tested different vegetable seeds to see how they would fare as microgreens. The research became an enjoyable project, Fontenot said.

“Microgreens aren’t difficult, but like any other garden they need a bit of attention” Fontenot said. “Mold can easily grow, so getting your watering routine just right takes a bit of fine tuning. The reward is worth the effort!”

The microgreens growing guide is available on the LSU AgCenter website at <https://bit.ly/MicrogreensLSU>.




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STRANGER FROM A STRANGE LAND

No longer just drifting

One of my favorite films is *The Graduate*. Dustin Hoffman plays a recent college graduate spending his summer loafing and embarking on an affair with longtime family friend Mrs. Robinson. His dad confronts him one lazy afternoon floating in the pool and asks what he's doing. "I would say that I'm just drifting here in the pool," said Hoffman's character Ben Braddock.

As a child I enjoyed swimming. As an adult it began feeling like a chore.

Swimming got off to a bad start for me. As a first grader, I failed beginning swim lessons at Douglass Pool in Columbia, Missouri. Much of the curriculum focused on bobbing. You stood in chest high water and jumped up and down. If you were doing it as the instructor wanted, your knees bent so your head was underwater half the exercise. The cowardly jumps to dampen only our shoulders. I'm sure it didn't escape the teacher's notice.

During one of the later class sessions, they threw us in the deep end of the pool. If I couldn't bob where I could touch bottom, I certainly couldn't stay afloat in ten feet of water. I clung to the side until they let us return to the shallow end. All I learned in beginning swim class was to stand in water where I could touch bottom without terror.

I finally learned to properly bob towards the end of lessons albeit not at Douglass Pool. Down the street at a neighbor's house, I suddenly grew bold enough to immerse my head underwater. If you braved dunking your own head, you mastered bobbing. Unfortunately, my progress was too

little, too late.

We next swam at Ausburns Lake. There was a small sandy beach and concession stand. It wasn't the entire lake we could swim but rather a bordered off portion. We stood on the sandy bottom, splashed water, and played with pool toys in a lake. One late afternoon, I suddenly figured how to float prone. I was already willing to submerge my face. Now I could do the dead man float. I wanted to practice more but we had to go home. I was learning to swim.



DIRK ELLINGSON

Our family joined the West Broadway Swim Club and spent summer afternoons at the pool. My mom taught first grade so she had summers

off to take us. At some point, I learned the crawl stroke, likely from my father. This was my first experience with a high diving board. I was able to dive headfirst from great altitude. They made the kids get out of the pool hourly so the adults could swim privately without running into a child or getting hit with a soaked Nerf ball. We watched and waited anxiously for the lifeguard to whistle us back in. I took and passed intermediate swim lesson at West Broadway.

The Oakland Pool was open to the public. One day I split the crotch of my favorite swim trunks doing a cannonball off the diving board. I retreated to the restroom embarrassed for what seemed hours but was

likely just one for my mother to drive in a replacement suit.

Hickman High School in Columbia had a large indoor pool. That sounds like an asset but really wasn't because for the swimming unit in Physical Education class, the coach just made us swim laps the entire hour. The only worse activity in high school P.E. was jogging. We went outside and ran around the track for an hour. Or walked. Or adjourned to the bleachers for rest and a bad grade. Of course, gym class should provide no refuge for the inactive but I felt the coach needed to exert more creative thought than the kinesthetic equivalent of projecting 16mm films the entire class period.

In college, my dorm stood next door to a multipurpose center. I worked there selling concessions, shot baskets, and knocked tennis balls against the back wall, but never bothered to lift weights or swim in the pool. A girl I worked with was on the university diving team and Central Missouri State University had recently cutback funding for the less popular athletic programs like women's swimming. The budget for men's football went unscathed. Whether Louisiana or Missouri, football is a profitable priority in school sports.

My angry diver friend told me a joke floating around campus about coddled college football players. How many CMSU football players does it take to change a light bulb? Only one, but he gets three hours class credit for doing it. I should've asked my friend on the football team if that was true.

After graduation I moved to Independence, Missouri and joined the YMCA to swim

laps, a temporary devotion to an exercise regimen I take up now and again. They had indoor basketball courts too which was much more fun.

I lived in an apartment complex with two swimming pools plus another weight room to ignore. Then a condo community with a pool. Next, we bought a house in Kansas City with an in-ground pool. My daughter Claire grew up with access to swimming pools wherever we resided.

For the final five summers of my first marriage, I was devoted to pool maintenance. I never enjoyed it but got in the groove. Weekly backwashing the filter, replacing giant chlorine tablets, cleaning the skimmer, testing the PH levels and mixing in chemicals to raise the alkaline levels after acidic rains. I still spent more time in the pool than taking care of it, but I preferred reading inside the house to either activity. It felt like I had outgrown swimming.

Now it's a cross my stepdaughter Amanda bears. They bought an above ground pool last year and she's responsible for maintenance. Although she's never one to shirk a challenge, it's time consuming and costly to turn green water blue and murky water clear. They had to buy a larger filter pump this summer, the first burning out in less than a year. The outdoor elements destroyed some hoses which in turn burned the pump. Amanda is doing what I was doing at her age. She doesn't complain much but I'm sure there are things she'd rather do than maintain a pool.

I can testify a pool is like a motorcycle. It looks fun to have one and they can be. But they're a hassle too. You're

eventually going to want out.

I suppose owning a pool put me off swimming for years. Fond memories of idyllic childhood summers in the water had grown hazy. Yet I took it up again 18 years later as an exercise option for an otherwise sedentary creature. I can still walk after breaking my leg but hills and stairs remain a struggle. The benevolent properties of water do not discriminate against my damaged limb. I rejoined the Minden Recreation Center and signed up for ½ hour sessions of lap swimming.

My first Minden Rec indoor pool appointment, an irritable regular told me I was swimming in a time slot he'd reserved for five years. Possibly so. I hadn't been to the Rec in five years. But he had taken for granted his spot and the staff had to remind him even swim veterans need to sign up for times.

Swimming does tire me. I rest between laps. It's much more of a cardiovascular workout than hitting the speedbag or Tai Chi Chuan. I've no doubt it's good for me. It just requires discipline and on the physical fitness front, that's always been a challenge for me. I will keep at it for at least as long as I did the YMCA. I'm no longer just drifting.

And if you're just drifting, I want to offer you a word of advice. "Plastics. There's a great future in plastics. Think about it."

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

EDUCATION

LSU using COVID relief funds to forgive student debt

Special to the Minden Press-Herald

(The Center Square) – Louisiana State University is forgiving more than \$7 million in student debt using COVID-19 relief funds, the latest allocation in what LSU officials say has been \$25 million in student relief since the pandemic began.

"In an effort to continue providing access to an LSU education, we have made the decision to clear all unpaid prior tuition and fee balances for LSU students who enrolled at any point during the COVID-19 pandemic period," LSU Vice President for Enrollment Management Jose Aviles said.

The decision, which was announced Monday, applied to about 4,000 students. The funding comes from the federal Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund, a \$14

billion program created under the \$2.2 trillion Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act in March 2020.

The \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan Act added another \$36 billion to the program in March, and the U.S. Department of Education required recipient colleges and universities to make direct debt forgiveness payments to some students.

"In addition to the grants made directly to students, this guidance illustrates opportunities for institutions to use their own grants to reimburse themselves for lost revenue while supporting students during the pandemic, including discharging unpaid institutional balances so students can resume their studies and subsidizing childcare services for stu-



LSU DIVISION OF STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS
In U.S. News & World Report's 2020 edition of Best Colleges, LSU is ranked 72nd among public universities, is 6th among flagship universities nationwide and is the highest ranked public university in Louisiana.

dent parents," the Department of Education said. LSU's \$7 million tuition

and fee forgiveness grants apply from spring 2020 to the fall semester, which

began Monday.

The funding comes on the heels of \$9.4 million in federal COVID-19 funding that LSU issued to students in April. That round of funding was aimed at helping students with unexpected pandemic expenses and included undergraduate and graduate school students, law school students and those studying veterinary medicine, LSU officials said.

Grant awards were posted to students' university accounts and then distributed directly to students either by direct deposit or mailed check. The maximum award amount per student was \$1,200.

Louisiana higher education schools, which include community and technical colleges, receive Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund funding based on a federal formula that weighs student

enrollment numbers, Pell Grant recipients and other criteria.

Qualifying students must be enrolled in at least one credit hour, be a U.S. citizen or Title IV eligible noncitizen, be seeking a degree and have a valid 2020-2021 Free Application for Federal Student Aid, or FAFSA, on file with their respective school.

About 12% of LSU's 34,000 students qualify for the school's new debt forgiveness initiative. Unlike loans, the funds will not have to be paid back.

"Students who qualify for the debt relief will receive communication from Financial Aid & Scholarships in the Office of Enrollment Management with more details. The debt forgiveness applies to students with balances owed directly to LSU," Aviles said.

SPORTS

Jameis looks to be starter, but 'Taymeis' best move for Saints

After Monday night's preseason win for the New Orleans Saints over the Jackson Jaguars, it appears the Saints have found their heir apparent for departed quarterback Drew Brees.

In the battle for the Saints' starting role behind center, Winston had a significantly stronger night than Taysom Hill, connecting on 9-of-10 passes for 123 yards and two touchdown passes for 157.5 QB rating.

For the record, that's almost perfect. A perfect quarterback rating is 158.3.

Winston quarterbacked three series for the Saints, taking 16 offensive snaps that led to 14 points. He went 2-of-3 on third-down conversions and was not sacked.

Hill, meanwhile, went 11-of-20 passing for 138 yards with one touchdown pass and a 93.3 QB rating.

His six possessions (31 offensive snaps) led to nine points (New Orleans missed an extra point following his touchdown pass). But Hill was 0-of-3 on third-down conversions, and was sacked twice, both on third down.

That's not a horrible performance by any means. In fact, it's not even bad. But it wasn't close to Winston's showing, and I believe that's a good thing for the Saints.

You see, I believe having "Taymeis," Winston and Hill both out of the field, sometimes at the same time, provides the biggest winning opportunity for the Saints this season.

Hill is much more than a quarterback as a player who has also turned in time with New Orleans as a running back, H-Back, receiver, and special teams player extraordinaire, both on coverage and return teams.

New Orleans is already facing injuries at offensive skills positions with Michael Thomas out for the start of the season and with two of their three top tight ends banged up.

That's in addition to receiver Deonte Harris expected to miss a game or two after an off-season DUI arrest.

Hill remains of much value to the Saints because of his "Swiss Army Knife" role and the fact that he can do so many things to help the team.

And it is a team game, and if Hill wants to do what's best for the Saints as a whole it would be to return to the role this reason.

Don't get me wrong, I want to see him take snaps behind center every game. Even 20 to 30% to keep opposing defenses off balance.

And I would leave Winston out on the field in the slot for some of those plays.

I have two touchdowns I want to see from the Saints' dynamic quarterbacking duo this season.

The first would be a double pass with Hill hitting Winston in the flat and Winston then launching the ball back to Hill on a wheel route out of the end zone.

And I also want to see Winston do maybe the only thing Brees never did for the Saints — catch a touchdown from Hill.

I also want to see the Saints keep rookie Ian Book as the No. 3 quarterback. The player who I call "Baby Brees" has too much upside to let get away. He's the same size as Brees, was a standout for Notre Dame and plays much like a more mobile Brees.

Media reports say that teams have reached out to the Saints about possibly trading for Book, but the Saints should keep the young QB who could become a worthy No. 2 and allow Hill to remain in his 1B role as quarterbacking "Swiss Army Knife" for the Who Dats.

That seems to be the best winning combination for all heading into the post-Brees era for the Saints.



T. SCOTT BOATRIGHT

T. SCOTT BOATRIGHT IS SPORTS EDITOR OF THE MINDEN PRESS-HERALD. HE MAY BE REACHED VIA EMAIL AT MPHSPORTS@PRESS-HERALD.COM.

Parish prep teams ready to 'jam'

T. SCOTT BOATRIGHT
Minden Press-Herald

Webster Parish high school football teams are ready to play jamborees on Friday, even if the Glenbrook Apaches did have to call a late audible in preparation for the night.

Glenbrook was previously scheduled to play Natchitoches Central's JV team as part of a jamboree to be played at Northwestern State University's Turpin Stadium. That jamboree was to also feature Lakeside taking on St. Mary's, but before of COVID-19 cases at both of those schools, that game has been scuttled.

Hence the aforementioned audible, as a St. Mary's squad consisting of 20 or few starters and primary players will now take on the Apaches in a jamboree consisting of two 15 minute halves at Glenbrook High School.

Webster Parish's other three prep football teams will play in the Pineland Jamboree to be hosted by Haynesville High School starting at 6 p.m. Friday.

The Pineland Jamboree schedule is as follows:

- Game 1 - North Webster vs. Homer
- Game 2 - Minden vs. Homer
- Game 3 - North Webster vs. Lakeside
- Game 4 - Haynesville vs. Minden
- Game 5 - Haynesville vs. Lakeside

Tickets will cost \$10 at the gate but can be bought in advance at the respective schools for \$8, with each school keeping those proceeds. Revenue from tickets bought at the gate will be split between the five schools playing in the jamboree.

The jamboree games will be the final "practice" games before the 2021 Louisiana High School Athletics Association playoffs kick off next week.



Glenbrook's Collin Gregg (10) scored on this long reception during a home scrimmage held against Parkers Chapel High School out of El Dorado, Ark.

PHOTO BY MARNY GREGG

Minden Redbirds take RRABL 30+ title

Minden Press-Herald Sports Service

SHREVEPORT — The Minden Redbirds captured the 2021 Red River Adult Baseball League 30+ Division crown with a 9-5 win over the D'Arbonne Lake Monsters Sunday at Captain Shreve High School's Baseball Field.

It's the second straight RRABL crown for the Redbirds, who won the 2019 title. The league did not play in 2020 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

"After struggling during the regular season, we put it all together in the playoffs much like we did in 2019," said Minden player-manager Charlie Cavell. "Our pitching and defense was incredible. When you can throw it and catch it well more often than not you're going to give yourself a chance to win. We had a big inning offensively in the semifinals and got some timely hits in the finals and were able to win it all again."

Sunday's championship was a resumption of a game which started on Aug. 15 at LSU Shreveport's Pilot Field. The Redbirds were leading 5-3 at the end of six innings before torrential rains forced the suspension by RRABL president David Pratt.

Ian Doiron, who was named the 2021 Most Valuable Player by a team vote, closed out the final three innings on Sunday to register the save. Doiron struck out six of the 11 batters he faced in the three innings.

"I didn't think I'd get a chance to pitch in the championship," said Doiron, who played collegiately at



COURTESY PHOTO

Pictured is the 2021 Minden Redbirds. From left to right on the front row are Charlie Cavell, Ty Wood, Keith Hardin, Chris Fort, Philip Johnson, Brandon Counts, Brandon Underwood. From left to right on the back row are Corey Burr, Ben Michiels, Anthony Young, George Stricker, Aaron Lowe, Thomas McManis, Ian Doiron, Zach Christ, Tim Morris.

LSU Shreveport. "When the game got suspended, it gave me the chance to come back and pitch. I was able to come in and close it out, but I wouldn't have been in that position had it not been for Corey (Burr) and Chris (Fort) getting us there."

Burr earned the win for Minden after allowing three runs on four hits, walking three and striking out three over five innings. Fort pitched a scoreless sixth inning before the rains halted the game.

Minden, who was the No. 4-seed heading into the playoffs, defeated the No. 1-seed Bossier City Rats 15-4 on Aug. 13, behind Doiron's strong pitching performance. Doiron struck out 10 in going the distance to earn the win.

"I'm grateful to be named the MVP," said Doiron. "I'm just happy to be the champs again. Now we can go for the three-peat."

The Redbirds were clinging to a 5-3 lead in the top of the seventh inning before erupting for 10 runs on eight hits to blow the game open.

"We had most everyone back from 2019 and we added a couple of key new players," said Cavell.

"I said it in 2019 and I'll say it again, that when all of our guys show up we're an outstanding baseball team, and I think we proved that again."

Cavell thanked the team sponsors Casey Surmick at Claiborne Pharmacy & Gifts and Gary Jones at Advanced Ambulance Service of Minden for their support of the team.

G-Men 'clean corners' before preparing for opener

T. SCOTT BOATRIGHT
Minden Press-Herald

The term “four corners” in sports often refers to the offensive stall strategy popularized by North Carolina basketball coach Dean Smith in the 1960s.

But Grambling State football coach Broderick Fobbs has his own “four corners philosophy” that deals with both football and life in general.

Fobbs has spent recent days and practices focusing on the little things — the intangibles he says can mean the difference between winning or losing on the gridiron.

And it all starts long before a player hits a football field.

“It’s about taking care of everything — every aspect — you need to take care of to accomplish whatever you’re trying to do,” Fobbs said. “Think about cleaning a room. You can have the middle of the room totally clean and straight, but if the corners are still dirty and not taken care of, is the room really clean?”

“We’re trying to get the



Broderick Fobbs

players to think about everything they do preparing for game day, making sure they’re taking care of all the testing protocols and everything all the way back to taking care of academics and making sure they can be out there.”

During Wednesday night’s practice, that included thinking about the way his Tigers enter Eddie G. Robinson Stadium on game day, complete with a run-through of showing their head coach how they will do that.

Before the full pads practice kicked into high gear Fobbs also spent time talking with his



Grambling State football coach Broderick Fobbs talks to his team during Wednesday night’s workout about how and where they should stand on the field during games.

MINDEN PRESS HERALD PHOTO BY T. SCOTT BOATRIGHT

team about where players should stand during a game based on units on the field.

“That’s how coaches will know how to find

you,” Fobbs told his players. “You have to pay attention. You don’t want a coach having to rush another player in there because you didn’t

realize you need to be out on the field.”

The G-Men will next turn their attention toward opening game day as Grambling continues

preparations to take on Tennessee State at 3 p.m. Sept. 5 in the Black College Hall of Fame Game at Tom Benson Stadium in Canton, Ohio.

Intensity and competition high for LA Tech’s defensive backs

Minden Press-Herald Sports Service

RUSTON — Louisiana Tech’s defensive backs have been working on getting better every day during the 2021 fall camp.

The unit returned all of its starters from the 2020 campaign in graduate Khalil Ladler, senior Zeno Hannibal, junior Jaiden Cole, sophomore BeeJay Williamson and freshman Cedric Woods, and also added new Bulldogs in the backfield to help create more depth at the safety and cornerback positions.

“We’ve gotten some great work,” said Tech coach Skip Holtz. “Zeno Hannibal continues to get better and better and keeps working at it.

Bringing in the competition has motivated him.

Cedric Woods is playing at a really high level. Brodrick Calhoun is starting to come along. These are all names of guys who have been here and played here and are getting better and better with the reps they are getting. I really like what BeeJay and Jaiden Cole are doing.

“We’ve got about eight or nine guys right now we feel we can play in the secondary which is going to be huge. We had to make sure we had some depth after what we went through last year with COVID and injuries. We want to make sure we have as much depth as we can and we’re starting



Louisiana Tech defensive back Zeno Hannibal covers a teammate during a recent Bulldogs practice.

PHOTO COURTESY LA TECH STRATEGIC COMMUNICATIONS

to build that. The three new faces have increased the intensity and competition in the room.”

Ladler appeared in nine games, including seven starts, at safety in the 2020 season. He registered 34 total tackles, including 19 solo and 1.5 for loss. The native of Stone Mountain, Georgia, tallied three or more stops in six contests during the campaign and had a season-high seven tackles at UTSA on Oct. 24. Ladler was named an all-C-USA honorable mention.

“The safeties have been doing really good,” Ladler said. “We’ve been working to try and make each

other better each and every day. We come out and attack every day like it’s game day.”

Hannibal appeared and started in nine games during the 2020 season where he recorded 26 total tackles, including 16 solo, five pass breakups and one fumble recovery. The Monroe native had a career-high eight tackles at BYU on Oct. 2 and a career-high four pass breakups at North Texas on Dec. 3. Hannibal was named an all-C-USA honorable mention.

Cole appeared in all 10 games and made five starts during the 2020 campaign. The Monroe native registered 39 to-

tal tackles, including 21 solo, 2.5 for loss and 2.0 sacks, one pass breakup, one quarterback hurry and one forced fumble in 2020. He had a career-high six tackles against both Marshall on Oct. 17 and UAB on Oct. 31. Cole had at least three stops in eight games during the 2020 campaign.

Williamson has been named to both the Conference USA and Paycom Jim Thorpe Award pre-season watch lists. The native of Dallas finished the 2020 season third on the team with 56 total tackles, including 32 solo, while also registering 2.0 tackles for loss, 1.0 sack,

three interceptions, three pass breakups, one quarterback hurry and one forced fumble. Williamson was an honorable mention for the Paycom Jim Thorpe Award Player of the Week in 2020 after he registered two interceptions against UAB and forced a fumble at the goal line to give LA Tech the game-winning possession. The sophomore defensive back registered multiple tackles in every game of the 2020 campaign.

Woods started in all 10 games at cornerback as a true freshman for the Bulldogs in the 2020 season. The Monroe native made his first career appearance at Southern Miss on Sept. 19 where he posted a career-high six tackles. Woods led the Bulldogs with six pass breakups during the campaign and registered 30 total tackles, including 21 solo, and two interceptions.

He posted a tackle in nine games, including seven games recording at least three tackles. Woods was named to the 2020 Conference USA All-Freshman Team.

“We’ve been coming along really well,” Woods said. “It’s a grind. It’s a process coming in every day working and getting better. We brought in two transfers during the spring and they’ve been coming along. Injuries are a part of this game. We’ve been working and trying to elevate the room

and get better every day.”

Tech returns five more lettermen in redshirt junior DJ Brown, junior Marquallius Turner, sophomore Brodrick Calhoun, redshirt freshman Christian Archangel and freshman Jamison Kelly. Sophomore Dallas Taylor-Cortez and freshman Tyler Mansfield also return from the 2020 squad.

Louisiana Tech added a trio of transfers in the spring in graduate Baylen Buchanan (Tennessee), graduate Elijah Hamilton (Vanderbilt) and junior Myles Mason (Arkansas). Redshirt freshman Qua’veon Turner joined the Bulldogs this fall after spending the previous two seasons at ULM.

“We have a lot of faces back there,” Holtz said. “Elijah Hamilton and Myles Mason are a little bit limited right now with bumps and bruises during camp, so they’re not getting as much work.”

“Between those two and Baylen Buchanan, the three new additions in the backend, they are all going to make us stronger.”

Tech added a pair of freshmen defensive backs in Carlos Duno-vant and Bryant Wade.

Louisiana Tech opens the 2021 season at Mississippi State at 3 p.m. Sept. 4.

The Bulldogs will then open a three-game home stretch against Southeastern Louisiana at 6 p.m. Sept. 11 inside Joe Aillet Stadium.

GOOD NEWS

The last glance at yesterday's summers

I am sure we all have fond memories of summers spent when we were young with few responsibilities. These 'jobs' were allocated by Mama or Daddy at will. Some were 'standing responsibilities' needing attention year-round; like shelling corn for chicken feed, slopping the hogs and gathering eggs. But there were summer jobs as well: keeping cool water in the kitchen and on the front porch, watering the cattle and hogs, feeding the dogs after each meal, etc. Grandmas really come in handy to have around to pick up slack and help a struggling fellow at certain times. Summers were a little laid back! Suppose it was because it was so hot.

We raised a large garden, filled with all sorts of vegetables: tomatoes, peas, beans, squash, okra and onions. We were always shelling butter beans and peas. . There was also a lot of canning being done. Fig preserves, watermelon rind pickles, and all sorts of jellies were prepared in the summer to go with those cat-head biscuits in the winter

Before refrigerators and freezers, life was tuff! The old wash pot got a good workover every week it

seemed. The old wood stove kept the kitchen temperature about 100 it seemed all through the summer. We had a steam bath every day - long before it was a popular thing to do.

Often times at lunch break we would pump water for the NO. 3 Wash-tub then set it in the sun to warm. Boy, did that ever feel good to sink down into the warm water after a hard day of work in the field. As we grew older, it became more difficult to curl your body up enough to fit down into the tub. We collected rainwater from the eaves of the barn - into 55 gallon drums. This was used for washing clothes and also all the girls had to have this 'soft' water for a good hair wash on Saturday afternoon.

A favorite past-time after supper was to sit on the front porch and count the cars that passed by stirring up dust. Children caught lightning and June bugs to play with while the mosquitos "caught" us. We slept under mosquito nets each night

since we had no screens on the windows. And we had dozens of those funeral home fans to use.

The grocery bus ran through the country on Tuesday afternoons. Mama would have her eggs ready to do some 'bartering' so to speak. What a treat to get Corn Flakes and Kool-aid, Jack's cookies (1 penny each) and maybe some bubble gum.

Most afternoons, we listened to the Chicago Cubs play baseball. They were the only ball team without lights in their stadium, so they played day games at home. We all had favorite teams to keep us with and had many high-level discussions about which team or player really were the best. Yankees, Dodgers, Giants, Cards? Some of my favorite players to follow were: Ralph Kiner and Joe Adcock, Mickey Mantle, Whitey Ford, Don Drysdale, Ernie Banks, and Stan Musial. I cannot name a single player on any of the teams now - the day of the 'true team player is gone' it seems.

Every Tuesday evening in the summer, country

folks - especially kids - would gather at Bruce Parker's store for an outdoor picture show. A large tent was set up with the side curtains flapped open to allow cool air from the large fans set up outside to blow a breeze though. For a country kid who had never seen a movie, this was Hollywood meets country. There was always a cartoon or two, followed by suspense -filled serial continued for weeks. It was a thriller each week, to keep us guessing all week how 'he was going to get out of that fix alive.' But he did and the story would continue next week. Now, for the main feature - usually a Western! After it was over, country kids would disperse down the dusty roads, happy and excited to be able to experience

such a treat.

Before you realized it, summer was ending: the cotton was ready to be picked, school bells were ringing and the buses were racing through country. We had to put on shoes and go back to school. Another summer in the books! Fun is over! But what fond memories....so much that many of them still linger till today.

I think it is alright to wander back down that WPA Road and find that Memory Lane that grows more special the longer I live. But it never was meant for us to move back there....just a brief visit from time to time. So as summer draws to an end, I promise we will not venture down this lane for a while - but focus on the here and now. But I

love to hear Doris Day (in my memory) singing, "I'm gonna take a sentimental journey."

We find many instances in the Bible where God or some prophet or teacher call the people to 'remembrance of what happened in the past and how important it is to remember it - the significance of it, the consequences of forgetting or neglecting lessons learned, etc. So, go ahead before the summer vanishes - 'take a trip back to yesterday.' Share some of your choice memories with your grandchildren whether they want to hear about them or not!

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



Bill Crider

THE UPWARD LOOK

Through the cross

"He did this so that He might reconcile both to God in one body through the cross and put the hostility to death by it." Ephesians 2:16 HCSB

True reconciliation that ends the hostility between rival groups of people can only happen when both are reconciled to God, and that reconciliation only comes in Christ through the cross. In the cross each person acknowledges that his sin debt is only paid through Jesus' death. In the cross each person recognizes his unwor-

thiness and humbly accepts the grace of God that forgives and cleanses all sin. In the cross barrier walls are broken down, and there is reconciliation with God and also with other believers in Christ.



Max Hutto

Lord Jesus, in the cross You put to death the hostility caused by my sin. In You I now have been reconciled and have peace with God and other believers.

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

Come

WORSHIP

SUNDAYS 10:30AM & 6PM | WEDNESDAYS 6:30PM
407 FORT STREET | MINDEN, LA
WE HAVE SOMETHING FOR ALL AGES

*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

SUDOKU

SUDOKU

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

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

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

SPORTS SLEUTH

SNACKS AT THE GAME

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

Wednesday's unlisted clue: MOHAWK

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

Thursday's unlisted clue hint: COTTON —

Beer	Crackerjack	Ice cream	Popcorn
Brats	Fries	Nachos	Snow cone
Burgers	Frozen yogurt	Peanuts	Soft pretzel
Chili dog	Hot dogs	Pizza	

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8/26

1993 Yak-40 crashes in Tadjikistan, 79 killed/1 lives
1988 Dodger Tommy Lasorda wins 1,000th game as manager tops Philadelphia, 4-2
1985 20th Space Shuttle Mission (51-I)-Discovery 6-launched
1970 Jimi Hendrix creates his last studio recording at Electric Lady Studios in New York, an instrumental called "Slow Blues"
1964 Walt Disney's "Mary Poppins" directed by Robert Stevenson, starring Julie Andrews and Dick Van Dyke premieres in Los Angeles

COMICS

BABY BLUES | RICK KIRKMAN AND JERRY SCOTT



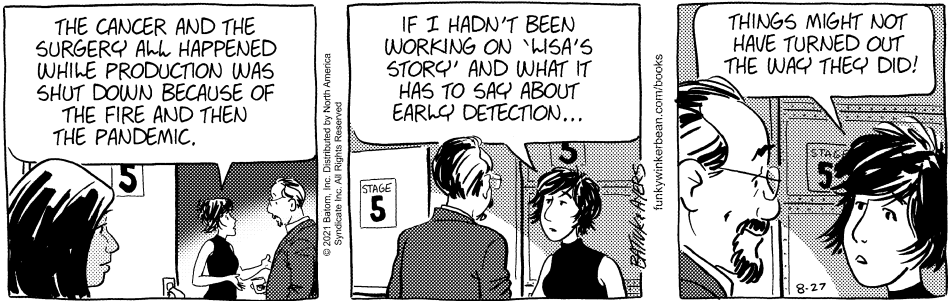
BLONDIE | DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



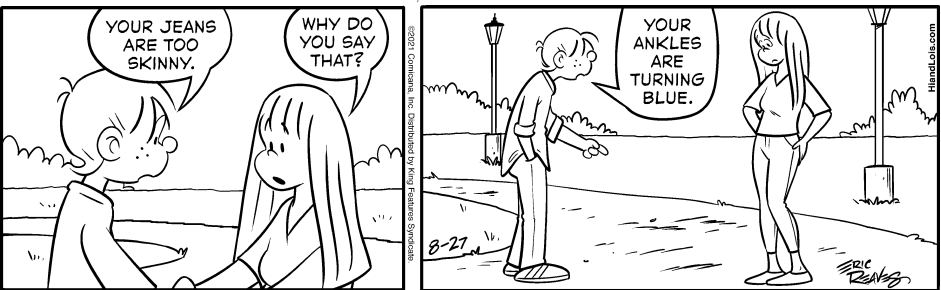
BEETLE BAILEY | MORT & GREG WALKER



FUNKY WINKERBEAN | TOM BATIUK



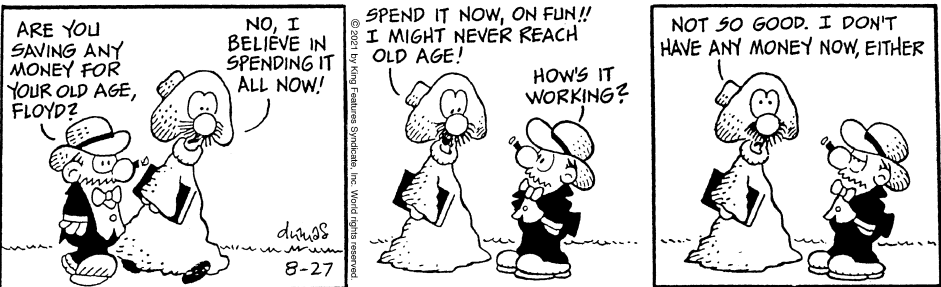
HI AND LOIS | BRIAN WALKER, GREG WALKER AND CHANCE BROWNE



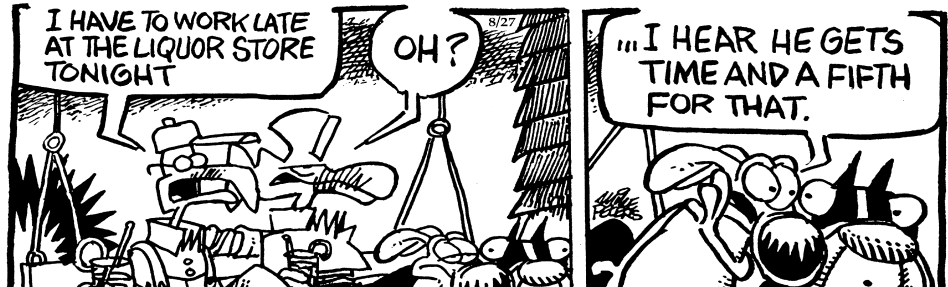
HAGAR THE HORRIBLE | CHRIS BROWNE



SAM AND SILO | JERRY DUMAS



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM | MIKE PETERS



CLASSIFIEDS

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classifieds@press-herald.com

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Per Day - Up to 20 words! Additional words are only 30 cents more!

Garage Sales

No word limit.

\$11

One Day

\$16.⁵⁰

Two Days

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

*Garage Sale ads must be prepaid.

Deadlines

Ads

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Public notices must be submitted two days prior to publication date depending on the length. Notices may be emailed to classifieds@press-herald.com

Payments

Cash, Checks, Billing

Real Estate Notice

"All real estate advertised herein is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination.

We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate, which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Grow Your Business

Call to place your ad!

PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!

377-1866



Advertisement for Bid NOTICE OF PUBLIC: PROPERTY: PROPERTY FOR SALE

The Webster Parish Police Jury is now receiving bids for the sale of property known as Webster Parish Landfill, located at 493 Landfill Road, Minden, Louisiana. The description of the property to be sold is the following described property situated in the Parish of Webster, State of Louisiana, together with all improvements and appurtenances, including the transfer of that certain landfill operations Permit No. P-0165 issued to Webster Parish for the purpose of operating the sanitary landfill (subject to advice and consent of relevant regulatory agencies):

The following described property situated in Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana, to-wit:

Parcel #128453
62.22 acres – Township 19 North, Range 10 West:
Sec. 15 – SW/4 of SW/4
Sec. 16 – East 22.22 AC of SE/4 of SE/4

Parcel #128454
57.78 acres – Township 19 North, Range 10 West:
Sect. 16 – S/2 of SE/4, less East 22.22 AC. of SE/4 of SE/4 prev. sold

Parcel #128460
280 acres – NE/4 Sec. 21, N2 of NW/4 & SE/4 of NW/4 Sec. 22-19-10

Parcel #128461
40 acres – SW/4 of NW/4 Sec 22-19-10

The bid specification sheets are available at no charge in the office of the Secretary-Treasurer, Webster Parish Policy Jury.

The Webster Parish Police Jury is a tax-exempt governmental agency. The Webster Parish Police Jury abides by the requirements of the Louisiana Bid Law. ALL BIDS SUBMITTED MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED

**July 9, 2021
July 20, 2021
July 30, 2021
August 6, 2021
August 17, 2021
August 27, 2021
Minden Press-Herald**

ORDINANCE NO. 1120

AN ORDINANCE GRANTING CENTERPOINT ENERGY RESOURCES CORPORATION, D/B/A CENTERPOINT ENERGY LOUISIANA GAS, THE RIGHT TO CONSTRUCT, INSTALL, OPERATE AND MAINTAIN FACILITIES FOR THE TRANSPORTATION, DISTRIBUTION AND SALE OF GAS IN THE MUNICIPALITY AND, FOR SUCH PURPOSES, TO USE AND EXCAVATE IN THE PUBLIC HIGHWAYS, STREETS, SIDEWALKS, ALLEYS, SQUARES, COMMONS, GROUNDS, AND OTHER PUBLICLY OWNED AREAS AND LEVYING A FRANCHISE

(PRIVILEGE) TAX FOR THAT PURPOSE. BE IT ORDAINED BY THE MAYOR AND BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF MINDEN, LOUISIANA:

Centerpoint Energy Resources Corporation d/b/a CenterPoint Energy Louisiana Gas, its successors and assigns, hereinafter called "Grantee", is hereby granted the right to construct, install, operate and maintain in this municipality, as now and hereafter constituted, pipelines and related facilities for the transportation, distribution and sale of gas ("Facilities") and for such purposes to use, and excavate in, the public highways, bridges, streets, sidewalks, alleys, squares, commons, grounds and other publicly owned areas ("Public Rights-of-Way") for a period of ten (10) years. This franchise constitutes a permit to construct, remove, operate, and maintain the Facilities within the Public Rights-of-Way and to park vehicles in the streets and other Public Rights-of-Way when necessary for the construction, removal, operation, or maintenance of Facilities. Grantee and contractors performing work for Grantee shall not be required to obtain an permits in addition to this franchise or to pay any fee in addition to the fee stated below in order to perform such work or to park within the streets and other Public Rights-of-Way. The term shall automatically renew for one-year periods unless either party gives notice of termination at least ninety (90) days prior to the expiration of the then-current term; provided, however, that the term shall not exceed a total of twenty (20) years from the effective date of this franchise. Upon its timely acceptance, this ordinance shall continue in effect for a period of twenty (20) years from the date of its passage and approval as indicated below, unless terminated earlier pursuant to this ordinance.

Grantee's facilities shall be installed and operated in a workman like manner, and this Municipality shall be held harmless from any damages caused by the negligence of Grantee's employees in the course of their employment. Grantee shall tunnel beneath paved streets, sidewalks and alleys wherever practical in laying and replacing mains. Grantee shall refill its excavations and restore sidewalks and pavements promptly, and if this is not done within a reasonable time then it may be done by the Municipality at Grantee's expense. Grantee's lines shall be laid so as not to interfere with the present sewer and/or water system, and if a new sewer and/or water line crosses Grantee's pipeline at the same level, then this Municipality may, if Grantee has not done so after reasonable notice, raise or lower

Grantee's line at Grantee's expense but only under Grantee's supervision. However, if any relocation of Grantee's pipelines and/or related facilities is required as a result of any project of the United States federal government or any project financed in whole or in part by the United States federal government, then the Municipality shall pay Grantee the costs and expenses incurred by Grantee in relocating Grantee's pipelines and/or related facilities up to but not greater than the total finances provided in connection with any such project by the United States federal government. This Municipality may inspect Grantee's construction work at any time, or have said work inspected by a qualified engineer. The point of delivery of gas to the consumer shall be at the inlet to the consumer's meter, and service pipe and facilities necessary to safely receive and utilize the gas at and beyond that point of delivery shall be furnished and maintained by the consumer, except that Grantee shall furnish and connect the gas meter. Title to all equipment installed by Grantee shall remain in Grantee, and Grantee shall have the unqualified right to use, extend, repair, replace, change, abandon or remove facilities installed under the authority of this grant or any other facilities as it may determine to be necessary or desirable from time to time in the conduct of its business. Grantee will not be obligated to commence, extend or continue any particular gas service by means of facilities installed under the authority of this grant or any other facilities except as Grantee may determine the prudent management and use of its present and future gas supply and facilities to permit and in accordance with Grantee's applicable rates, rules, regulations, policies and procedures, including curtailment procedures, as the same may exist and be changed from time to time. Grantee may promulgate and enforce reasonable rules, regulations and requirements governing the sale, deliver, receipt and use of gas furnished by Grantee and the commencement and discontinuance of gas service. Grantee's rates currently effective in this Municipality for gas service shall continue in effect until raised or lowered in the manner provided by law.

In consideration of this grant, beginning on the date Grantee files its written acceptance of this ordinance and thereafter for as long as this ordinance remains in effect in accordance with its terms, Grantee shall pay to the City of Minden four and a half percent (4.5%) of Grantee's gross receipts from gas sales to residential and commercial customers located inside the city limits. Amounts due hereunder shall be computed quarterly and payments shall

be made within thirty (30) days after the expiration of the quarter with respect to which payment is due.

This franchise ordinance will not be effective unless it is accepted by Grantee by written notice delivered or mailed to the Mayor within 90 days after the date of its passage and publication as required by law.

The provisions hereof are intended to be separate and severable, and the holding of any portion hereof to be invalid shall not affect the other portions.

WHICH ORDINANCE was passed and approved on the 19th day of August, 2021, by motion of Wayne Edwards, seconded by Vincen Bradford by the following vote:

YEAS: Five
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

s/_____
Terry L. Gardner, Mayor

s/_____
Michael Fluhr,
Acting City Clerk

**August 27, 2021
Minden Press-Herald**

ORDINANCE NO. 1121 OF 2021

AN ORDINANCE LEVYING TAXES OF 5.46 MILLS AS GENERAL ALIMONY TAX ON ALL TAXABLE PROPERTY LOCATED IN THE CITY OF MINDEN, LOUISIANA. THOSE TAXABLE PROPERTIES DESIGNATED AS A PART OF THE MINDEN DOWNTOWN DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT WILL BE ASSESSED WITH AN ADDITIONAL 2.00 MILLS MAKING A TOTAL OF 7.46 MILLS ON THOSE PROPERTIES LOCATED IN SAID DISTRICT.

SECTION 1: BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL, of the City of Minden, Louisiana, in special session convened on August 19, 2021, that under the provisions of Article VII, Section 23 B of the Constitutional and statutory authority supplemental thereto, the Council of the City of Minden, State of Louisiana, is authorized to levy and collect with the City of Minden, State of Louisiana, a tax millage of 5.46 which is hereby levied and imposed by the City of Minden on all taxable property, both immovable and movable, as shown by the tax records of the parish, affecting property assessed within the corporate limits of the City of Minden for the Year 2021, being 5.46 mills, Mill Key #5225001 as general alimony tax.

SECTION 2: BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Council of the City of Minden, Louisiana, in special session convened on August 19, 2021, that under the provisions of Article VII, Section 23 B of the Constitutional and statutory authority supplemental thereto, the Council of the City of Minden, State of Louisiana, is authorized

to levy and collect with the City of Minden, State of Louisiana, those properties designated as a part of the Minden Downtown Development District will be assessed with an additional 2.00 mills, Mill Key #5225003, making a total of 7.46 mills on those properties located in said district.

SECTION 3: BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, the property administrative officials of the Parish of Webster, State of Louisiana, be and they are hereby empowered, authorized, and directed to spread said taxes, as hereinabove set forth, upon the assessment roll of said Parish for the year 2021, and to make the collection of the taxes imposed for and on behalf of the taxing authority, according to law, and that the taxes herein levied shall become a permanent lien and privilege on all property subject to taxation as herein set forth, and collection thereof shall be enforceable in the manner provided by law;

SECTION 4: BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED, that all ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

WHICH ORDINANCE was read in full and on motion of Wayne Edwards, seconded by Michael Roy, and passed on the 19th day of August, 2021, by the following vote:

YEAS: Five
NAYS: None
ABSTAIN: None
ABSENT: None

s/_____
Terry L. Gardner, Mayor

s/_____
Michael Fluhr,
Acting City Clerk

**August 27, 2021
Minden Press-Herald**

NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Bradley R. Sweazy, Interim Executive Director Louisiana Housing Corporation (LHC) 2415 Quail Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70808 (225) 763-8700

Notice Issued: August 25, 2021

On or about September 3, 2021, the LHC will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of the Lead-Based Paint Hazard Control Grant Program (LBPHC) is authorized by Section 1011 of the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 (Title X of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992, 42 U.S.C. 4852) and funding is provided by the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020, approved December 20, 2019 (Public Law 116-94), and the Consolidated Appropriations Act 2019, approved February 15, 2019, (Public Law 116-16). The Healthy Homes Supplemental funding is authorized under Section 502 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1970 (12 U.S.C.

1701z-2), with funding approved by the same Appropriations Acts, for the following multi-year program/project: Louisiana Housing Corporation's Lead Safe Housing & Healthy Homes Program (LSHHHP), for the purpose of identifying and controlling lead-based paint hazards and associated minor rehabilitation on residential properties within 20 targeted parishes: Avoyelles, Caddo, Calcasieu, Catahoula, Claiborne, East Baton Rouge, East Carroll, Iberia, Jefferson Davis, Madison, Morehouse, Natchitoches, Orleans, Ouachita, Rapides, Red River, Sabine, St. Landry, St. Mary, and Webster. The proposed program would involve minor rehabilitation and hazard control activities within the homes of privately owned rental or owner-occupied housing of low and very low income families with children under the age of six with elevated blood lead levels (eblls): 10 µg/dL. LHC's LSHHHP plans to conduct lead hazard control activities on 175 residential units in the targeted parishes and also plans to provide Healthy Homes remediation to 60 homes. The LHC is requesting the release of \$3,300,000.00 in Healthy Homes funding.

The proposed hazard control activities to be funded under this/ these program(s) is/are categorically excluded from the National Environmental Policy Act requirements, but subject to compliance with some of the environmental laws and authorities listed at § 58.5 of 24 CFR Part 58. In accordance with §58.15, a tiered review process has been structured, whereby some environmental laws and authorities have been reviewed and studied for the intended target area(s) listed above. Other applicable environmental laws and authorities will be complied with, when individual projects are ripe for review. Specifically, the target area(s) has/ have been studied and compliance with the following laws and authorities has been achieved in this Tier 1 review: Airport Hazards, Coastal Barrier Resources Act, Air Quality, Endangered Species, Farmlands Protection, Noise Abatement and Control, Sole Source Aquifers, Wetlands Protection, Wild and Scenic Rivers, and Environmental Justice. Site-specific environmental reviews will include compliance with the following environmental laws and authorities for proposed projects funded under the program(s) listed above: Flood Insurance, Coastal Zone Management, Contamination and Toxic Substances, Explosive and Flammable Hazards, and Historic Preservation. Should individual aggregate projects exceed the threshold for categorical exclusion detailed at §58.35(a), an Environmental Assessment will be completed and a separate Finding

of No Significant Impact and Request for Release of Funds published. Copies of the compliance documentation worksheets are available at the address below.

An Environmental Review Record (ERR) that documents the environmental determinations for this project, and more fully describes the tiered review process cited above, is on file at LHC, 2415 Quail Drive, Baton Rouge LA 70808, (225) 763-8700 and may be reviewed or copied weekdays 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the LHC's Environmental Department to the attention of Mr. Agaha Brass, Environmental Manager, 11637 Industriplex Blvd, Baton Rouge, LA 70809. All comments received by September 1, 2021, will be considered by LHC prior to authorizing submission of a Request for Release of Funds and Environmental Certification to HUD.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

The LHC certifies to HUD that Bradley R. Sweazy in his official capacity as Interim Executive Director, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the LHC to utilize federal funds and implement the Program.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will consider objections to its release of funds and the LHC's certification for a period of fifteen days following either the anticipated submission date (cited above) or HUD's actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if the objections are on one of the following bases: (a) that the Certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the LHC; (b) the LHC has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the LHC has committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58), and may be addressed to HUD and sent to the email address as follows:

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

Karen M. Griego
Office of Lead Hazard
Control and Healthy
Homes, Program
Environmental
Clearance Officer
U.S. Department of
Housing and Urban
Development
LeadRegulations@
HUD.GOV

Potential objectors may contact HUD directly to verify the actual last day of the objection/comment period.

Bradley R. Sweazy
Interim Executive
Director

August 27, 2021
Minden Press-Herald

NOTICE OF POSITION OPENING AT CLAIBORNE

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE:

JOB TITLE: COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL MARKETING SPECIALIST
POSITION LOCATION: HOMER OFFICE
EXCELLENT PAY & BENEFITS AVAILABLE

EDUCATIONAL AND SKILL REQUIREMENTS:

Bachelor's degree in mass communications, journalism, marketing, or a related field is required. Applicants interviewed will be asked to submit a portfolio of work.
 Details available at www.our.coop/careers

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice of Public Hearing
 Public Hearing #1
 Love Louisiana Outdoors

To all interested citizens of Cotton Valley, Louisiana

Notice is hereby given that the Town of Cotton Valley will hold a public hearing on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. at the Town Hall, 478 Resident St., Cotton Valley, Louisiana to receive public comment on funding the Office of Community Development has available for Love Louisiana Outdoors projects.

The Citizen Participation Plan will be available for review at the hearing. The following will be discussed:

The Office of Community Development -Local Government Assistance has allocated \$225,000 for the development or rehabilitation of outdoor fitness and recreational parks to provide suitable space for activities to encourage physical distancing and support social distancing guidelines.

Activities that may be undertaken include public facilities improvements, acquisition, clearance and demolition.

The plans of the Town for minimizing displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with such funds and the benefits to be provided by the Town to persons displaced as a result of such activities; and the Town's prior performance of LCDBG programs funded by the State of Louisiana.

All citizens, particularly low- and moderate-income residents of slum and blighted areas, are encouraged to submit their views and proposals regarding community development and housing needs. Those citizens unable to attend this hearing may submit their views and proposals to Tiffany Parish, Town Clerk, at 478 Resident St., Cotton Valley, Louisiana 71018 until the close of business on September 6, 2021.

Town of Cotton Valley does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex, age, religion or disability; and provides upon request, reasonable accommodation, including auxiliary aids and services to afford an individual with a disability an equal opportunity to participate in all services, programs and activities. Any persons requiring special needs assistance should contact Tiffany Parish, Town Clerk, at (318) 832-4283 at least five days prior to the meeting.

August 27, 2021
Minden Press-Herald

FILED

AUG 11 2021
 DEPUTY CLERK
 WEBSTER PARISH

IN RE : PROBATE DOCKET NUMBER 17221
 INTERDICTION OF : 26TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
 EMMIT OVIE PICKETT : WEBSTER PARISH, LOUISIANA

NOTICE

STATE OF LOUISIANA:
 PARISH OF WEBSTER:
 NOTICE IS GIVEN that the Curator of this succession has petitioned this Court for authority to sell the interdict's interest in real property at private sale in accordance with the provisions of Article 2381 of the Code of Civil Procedure for a price of **ONE HUNDRED TWENTY-FIVE THOUSAND AND NO/100 (\$125,000.00) DOLLARS.** The real property is described as follows:

A CERTAIN PIECE OR PORTION OF GROUND, together with all the buildings and improvements thereon, and all the rights, ways, privileges, servitudes, advantages and appurtenances thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining, situated in the PARISH OF WEBSTER, STATE OF LOUISIANA, and being more fully described as follows, to-wit:

Commence at the Northeast Corner of the East Half of the West Half of the West Half (NE1/4 of E1/2 of W1/2) of Section 11, Township 17 North, Range 10 West, Webster Parish, Louisiana and run South along the East border line of said East Half of West Half of West Half (E1/2 of W1/2 of W1/2) Section 11, Township 17 North, Range 10 West a distance of 1350 feet to a point which is the Southeast corner of a Lot #2 received in Partition Deed recorded as Registered No. 267227 Conveyance Records of Webster Parish; from this point run West 660 feet to the Southwest corner of said Lot #2 which point is the point of beginning of the lot herein conveyed; from this point of beginning run North 210 feet; thence run East 210 feet; thence run South 210 feet; thence run West 210 feet to the point of beginning. Bearing a municipal address of 3082 Herren Road, Doyline, LA 71023.

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

BY ORDER of the Court,

Holly King
 WEBSTER PARISH CLERK OF COURT

August 27, 2021
August 31, 2021
Minden Press-Herald

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 C. Heath, Attorney
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The Webster Parish School Board will hold a Public Hearing on the 2021-2022 Operating Budget on September 13, 2021 at 5:00 P.M. in the Board Room of the School Board Office located at 1442 Sheppard Street in Minden, Louisiana. The Public is invited and encouraged to attend the meeting and provide input into the spending of educational dollars.

A copy of the Budget will be available for Public inspection between the hours of 7:30 A.M. and 4:00 P.M., Monday thru Friday, at the front desk of the School Board Office.

WEBSTER PARISH SCHOOL BOARD CONSOLIDATED BUDGET SUMMARY 2021-2022

	GENERAL FUND BUDGET	SPECIAL FUNDS BUDGET	TOTAL BUDGET	ESTIMATED ACTUALS FY 2020-2021	FY 2020-2021 REVISED BUDGET	BUDGET CHANGE	PERCENT TO CHANGE
I. REVENUE							
A. LOCAL	\$ 11,438,161	\$ 21,027,860	\$ 32,466,021	\$ 29,918,458	\$ 29,930,077	\$ 2,535,944	8.473%
B. STATE	\$ 37,060,573	\$ 584,917	\$ 37,645,490	\$ 37,571,033	\$ 37,618,498	\$ 26,992	0.072%
C. FEDERAL	\$ 71,293	\$ 11,112,028	\$ 11,183,321	\$ 11,617,456	\$ 10,737,627	\$ 445,694	4.151%
D. OTHER	\$ 2,401,674	\$ 1,145,625	\$ 3,547,299	\$ 3,845,110	\$ 4,427,381	\$ (876,082)	-18.788%
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 50,971,701	\$ 33,874,430	\$ 84,846,131	\$ 82,952,057	\$ 82,713,583	\$ 2,132,548	2.578%
II. EXPENDITURES							
A. REGULAR PROGRAM	\$ 22,591,727	\$ 2,294,713	\$ 24,886,440	\$ 26,913,782	\$ 27,547,054	\$ (2,660,614)	-9.658%
B. SPECIAL PROGRAMS	\$ 7,613,872	\$ 1,876,075	\$ 9,489,947	\$ 9,585,032	\$ 9,737,103	\$ (247,156)	-2.538%
C. VOCATIONAL PROGRAMS	\$ 1,348,715	\$ 139,994	\$ 1,488,709	\$ 1,302,320	\$ 1,648,173	\$ (159,464)	-9.875%
D. OTHER INSTRUCT. PROGRAMS	\$ 486,194	\$ -	\$ 486,194	\$ 494,072	\$ 600,178	\$ (113,984)	-18.982%
E. CULTURALLY DEPRIVED (ESSA)	\$ 653,235	\$ 3,656,612	\$ 4,309,847	\$ 4,216,830	\$ 4,249,332	\$ 60,515	1.424%
F. ADULT ED. PROGRAMS	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	\$ -	#DIV/0!
G. PUPIL SUPPORT PROGRAMS	\$ 2,204,575	\$ 146,802	\$ 2,351,377	\$ 2,397,963	\$ 2,353,218	\$ (1,841)	-0.078%
H. INSTRUCT. STAFF SUPPORT	\$ 1,957,854	\$ 3,103,179	\$ 5,061,033	\$ 3,137,788	\$ 3,253,860	\$ 1,807,173	56.539%
I. GEN. ADM. PROGRAMS	\$ 868,622	\$ 548,199	\$ 1,416,821	\$ 1,410,475	\$ 1,360,627	\$ 56,194	4.130%
J. SCHOOL ADMINISTRATION	\$ 4,029,101	\$ 240,685	\$ 4,269,786	\$ 4,256,984	\$ 4,237,384	\$ 32,402	0.765%
K. BUSINESS SERVICES	\$ 672,606	\$ 48,502	\$ 721,108	\$ 761,795	\$ 744,238	\$ (23,130)	-3.108%
L. OP. & MAINT. SERVICES	\$ 3,787,622	\$ 2,816,234	\$ 6,603,856	\$ 6,545,157	\$ 7,639,790	\$ (1,035,934)	-13.560%
M. TRANSPORTATION SERVICES	\$ 3,513,515	\$ 304,112	\$ 3,817,627	\$ 4,638,068	\$ 4,826,661	\$ (1,009,034)	-20.905%
N. CENTRAL SERVICES	\$ 441,373	\$ 15,016	\$ 456,389	\$ 470,471	\$ 452,810	\$ 3,579	0.790%
O. FOOD SERVICE OPERATIONS	\$ -	\$ 4,190,404	\$ 4,190,404	\$ 4,278,564	\$ 4,047,507	\$ 142,897	3.530%
P. COMMUNITY SERVICES	\$ 22,000	\$ -	\$ 22,000	\$ 22,000	\$ 20,000	\$ 2,000	10.000%
Q. FACILITY ACQ. & CONST.	\$ -	\$ 6,255,120	\$ 6,255,120	\$ 6,403,627	\$ 4,209,109	\$ 2,046,011	48.609%
R. OTHER USES OF FUNDS	\$ 276,052	\$ 9,623,801	\$ 9,899,853	\$ 10,162,260	\$ 10,974,316	\$ (1,074,463)	-9.781%
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	\$ 50,467,063	\$ 35,259,448	\$ 85,726,511	\$ 86,997,188	\$ 87,901,360	\$ (2,174,849)	-2.474%
EXCESS (DEFICIENCY)	\$ 504,638	\$ (1,385,018)	\$ (880,380)	\$ (4,045,131)	\$ (5,187,777)	\$ 4,307,397	-83.030%
EST. FUND BALANCE 7/1/21	\$ 7,264,055	\$ 37,994,613	\$ 45,258,668	\$ 50,456,731	\$ 49,509,868	\$ (4,251,200)	-8.587%
ADJUSTMENTS	\$ -	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ 200,000	\$ -	0.000%
EST FUND BAL. 6-30-2022	\$ 7,768,693	\$ 36,009,595	\$ 44,578,288	\$ 46,611,600	\$ 44,522,091	\$ 56,197	0.128%

August 27, 2021
August 31, 2021
Minden Press-Herald

Bid # 02 - 03 / 2021
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Camp Minden plays big role in training, emergency responses

STAFF SGT. THEA JAMES
Louisiana National Guard

Camp Minden is a Louisiana National Guard training site located approximately 18 miles east of Shreveport, Louisiana, that plays a major role in the state mission to provide support to Louisiana residents in the event of a state or local emergency. Camp Minden is home to not only units of the 199th Regiment (Regional Training Institute), the 139th Regional Support Group, Recruiting and Retention Command, the Youth Challenge Program (YCP) and the Industrial Complex, it also serves as the Joint Reception, Staging and Onward Integration (JRSOI) for Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC) units during emergency response events. Camp Minden encompasses about 15,000 acres of land, with approximately 52 miles of railroad tracks and 60-65 paved roads, which is used to train and prepare soldiers for their jobs and potential emergency response missions. "Our top customers are

the soldiers in training," said retired Master Sgt. Robert Cooper, Camp Minden's operations manager. Minden's RTI is responsible for training a plethora of soldiers in their Military Occupational Specialties (MOS), such as: 88M Motor Transport Operators, 12N Horizontal Construction Engineers and 12W Carpentry and Masonry Specialists. Minden, with its reserved storage areas, acts as a staging area and distribution point for emergency response commodities and supplies. These warehouses store hundreds of pallets of rations, water and Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) in preparation for an emergency. The expansive infrastructure available on Camp Minden helps resolve large storage challenges presented during state emergencies. LANG brings great capability and flexibility to all disaster response efforts to include the COVID 19 pandemic. "Transportation assets, National Guard drivers and warehouse logistics specialists were expand-

ed on the post as inventory levels of PPE grew, drastically increasing our efficiency and shortening response times to citizens in the area," said retired Col. Pat Griffin, ESF-7 unified logistics director. Camp Minden is a secure military installation making it an asset to units passing through the area. Minden has a large multipurpose-overnight rest site that can be used for EMAC forces, units performing annual training or units passing through. The bays, with more than 100 bunkbeds, are equipped with electricity, good circulation, and a large area for showers. Camp Minden is the ideal location for JRSOI operations. JRSOI incorporates the reception of the strategic reserve EMAC forces, in-process and integrate them with their gaining units to contribute to emergency response efforts. "We've developed our facilities to accommodate EMAC forces in order to provide a doctrinal environment for them to be able to be successful," said Col. Willis B. Hall, commander of the 199th Regiment (RTI).

The response to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita showcased the largest deployment of state-to-state aid and is a testament to the EMAC's effectiveness in sharing resources through mutual aid agreements. Camp Minden is also the primary staging area for high-water rescue vehicles, boats and commodity distribution during state emergencies. "It's a good place to do emergency relief because we won't flood; parish agencies can come in and out to pick up commodities," said Post Sgt. Maj. Steven Stuckey, a Shreveport, La. native. The drainage systems make Camp Minden a recommended spot to store and safeguard commodities. Drainage is directed south into Lake Bistineau via Boone Creek and Bayou Dorcheat in the east and Caney Branch and Clarke Bayou in the west. "For us, maintaining a safe and effective place so we can best serve our citizens in time of crisis is critical," said Post Commander Lt. Col. Harry Wilson.

Grant: Money to be used for tools and equipment

Continued from Page 2

tical Technology program will have access to state-of-the-art tools and trainers. These tools and trainers closely simulate that used in local business and industry and will provide for hands-on, practical learning experiences. "We are extremely grateful to receive this generous donation from IP," stated Mansfield Campus Director, Pam Hubier-Rivers, "International Paper is a strong business and industry partner and friend to NLTC. Their continuous support of finances, and business and industrial expertise is greatly appreciated and vital to making our I/E program a success." "Our hope is that this donation will be used to purchase tools and equipment that will assist in providing students with workplace based learning and current industry technologies," said Michael Stewart, Balance of Plant/Area Maintenance Manager for the Mansfield Mill. "We would like to thank International Paper Foundation and the Mansfield

"We would like to thank International Paper Foundation and the Mansfield Mill for this generous donation which will help assure that our students will be 'Inspired, Equipped, and Ready to Work' upon completion of their studies."

Dr. Earl Meador
NLTC Chancellor

Mill for this generous donation which will help assure that our students will be 'Inspired, Equipped, and Ready to Work' upon completion of their studies," added NLTC Chancellor Earl Meador. NLTC offers the Industrial Instrumentation and Electrical Technology program at its Mansfield and Minden Campuses. Other programs taught at the Mansfield Campus are Practical Nursing, Patient Care Technician, Business Office Technology, and WorkReady U/Adult Education. Contact the Mansfield Campus at 318.872.2243 for more information or to register for classes which begin on October 11, 2021.

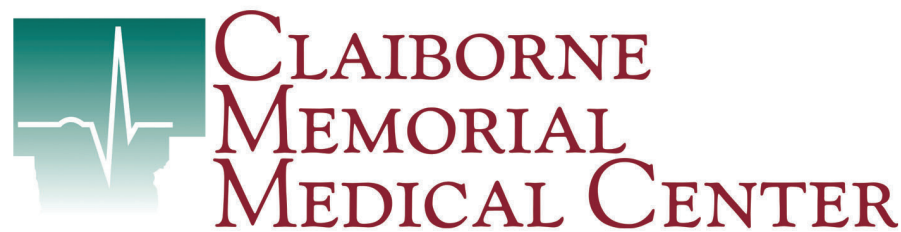
Report: Copies mailed to parish taxpayers

Continued from Page 3

Assessor's Office first ever Annual Report that was recently mailed to all Webster Parish property owners as a very important and understandable source of information about special tax exemptions, special property assessment freezes, how property tax dollars are spent, how property is assessed and much more. Edwards stated that the website will allow property owners from home or office to file online for Homestead Exemption, locate property ownerships, view digital aerial photographs and maps and obtain assessed property values, legal descriptions, estimated amount of property taxes and other helpful information that pertains to the Asses-

sor's Office. The newest feature is free access to the aerial Geographic Information Service (GIS) mapping, which was previously subscription fee-based service. "In order to ensure our citizens obtain all the benefits to which they are entitled, I will continue to assist and inform them how to properly file for homestead exemption and special assessment level freezes available to Senior Citizens and Veterans with disabilities and any other tax benefits available and to stay current with all legislative changes that will affect our taxpayers and taxing districts," Edwards said. "I have recently added the ability to file for Homestead Exemption online

and plan to add Special Assessment Applications when the software becomes available." "As your Webster Parish Assessor, my staff and I will continue to provide courteous and helpful service to our taxpayers. We are here to answer any of your questions or concerns. Our goal is to be the best public servants, providing the best service and always strive to do better. This is your office, and we are here to serve you!" Edwards said. Anyone who didn't receive a copy of the Webster Parish Assessor's Office Annual Report 2021 can obtain a copy at the Assessor's Office in Minden at 103 South Monroe Street, Phone 318-377-9311 or in Cullen at 110 Industrial Park Drive.



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