

MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

TUESDAY, APRIL 19, 2022

MINDEN, LOUISIANA

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75 CENTS

ART FOR THE COMMUNITY

Masterpieces in the making

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

The Webster Parish Library hosted Teen Art Night at the Minden branch on Thursday evening. It was a free-style format where teens could choose from a variety of media to make original artworks. Young women and men were painting, drawing, making sculptures, and decorating small containers. Some were even adding LED lights to their creations.

"It's awesome to see so much creativity and talent in one room," said Aubrie Stahl, Teen Services Coordinator. "I'm very proud

of these Minden teens because this was created by teens." The idea for Teen Art Night originated with Gracie, one of the teenagers participating in the program.

Stahl plans to have more Teen Art Nights in the near future. In fact, she hopes to have a Bad Art Night soon so teens can have fun creating hilariously bad art.

The Webster Parish Library offers many enjoyable, creative, and educational programs for all ages. For more information, visit their website at <http://websterparishlibrary.org/>.



AMBER MCDOWN/
MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

Proud smiles and laughter were found in abundance during Teen Art Night at the Webster Library Minden branch on Thursday evening. Young people of Minden had a blast painting, drawing, sculpting, and even lighting their artwork with LED lights.



EDUCATION

Students enjoyed learning during the spring intersession

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Webster Parish students had a great time reinforcing and mastering skills during the intervention period at the beginning of the spring intersession break.

Under the Balanced Calendar, Webster Parish schools take a two-week intersession break three times during the school year: fall, winter, and spring. The intention is to limit "summer slide," where students lose academic ground over the long summer, by shortening the summer break and spreading those days throughout the school year. As a part of the school district's intervention plan, the first three days of the break are used either to help struggling students master needed skills or to enrich more advanced students beyond what is normally offered in the classroom.

During this, the final intersession break of the school year, a host of engaging and educational activities were provided.

At Brown Upper El-

ementary, students solved math problems using Skittles, completed a "gallery walk" to work together to identify the main ideas and themes in stories, performed science experiments to determine which solution would make an egg float, and played board games. "This week gave students an extra boost of prep for the upcoming LEAP test," said the post on their Facebook page.

Students of Browning Elementary dyed eggs, used clay to write their names, and participated in group outdoor activities. "Intersession is all about learning and having fun while doing it!" they posted.

At Central Elementary, students played Soccer Hop, learned math skills using manipulatives, and used Kagan strategies to learn to work cooperatively in groups. Central posted, "We believe this extra time on academic skills is helping them."

Students at Doyline High focused on team building and cooperation. "One advantage of intersession is students have time to make new friends,

engage in new activities, and spend time with new teachers," posted Doyline High. Doyline was only able to have two of the three days of intervention due to an extended power outage.

Jones Elementary students worked on honing their skills and had a blast playing candy-themed This and That with fun dances.

Phillips Elementary included some community service in their intervention by having students create cards for the residents of Town & Country and Meadowview nursing homes. The students participated in science and sensory activities as well as art and PE enrichment.

At Richardson Elementary, students played an Easter version of Battleship using coordinate planes to locate eggs instead of ships, reviewed finding the theme of a story, acted out the play "The Three Little Elephants," competed in egg races, Encanto dance/freeze, and structure building (using candy marshmallows, and toothpicks), and performed science experiments — inflating



COURTESY PHOTOS

Students around the parish created art and polished their academic skills during the spring intersession. Brown Upper Elementary students share Easter artwork they created as part of their intervention time.

balloons using pop rocks and dissolving Peeps using different solutions.

"We had three awesome days of learning and enrichment at the spring intersession," North Webster Upper Elementary posted on Facebook. "Students started out with Finding Evidence in Passages using the RACE strategy, Fraction M&Ms or Number Operations with Skittles. The last half of the day, students played Bingo, created bubbles to

hold, made sweet treats, started building a city, and enjoyed the outside."

Superintendent Rowland visited North Webster Junior High during the intervention session. Students worked on art projects and, per their Facebook post, "enjoyed fun, hands-on math lessons with Mrs. Kelly Paul."

And at Webster Junior High, 6th and 8th grade students completed a CSI activity, using skills and strategies to find evidence

and make inferences.

The teachers at all of these schools have gone great lengths to create engaging educational activities for these intervention sessions at the beginning of each intersession, and the smiling faces of the students indicate that the teachers were successful in this endeavor.

The spring intersession break is occurring now. Students will return to regular classes on Monday, April 25th.

LEGISLATION

Louisiana House committee approves permitless concealed carry bill

(The Center Square) — The House Committee on the Administration of Criminal Justice has approved legislation to allow residents to carry a concealed firearm without a permit.

Gov. John Bel Edwards' vetoed similar legislation last year.

The committee voted 10-7 on Wednesday to approve House Bill 37, sponsored by Rep. Danny McCormick, R-Oil City, to remove the requirement for a permit to carry a concealed firearm in Louisiana. The bill initially applied to those 18 years old and older, but committee members voted 8-5 to amend the age to 21.

"Louisiana is already an open carry state which allows law-abiding citizens to carry their firearms openly without mandatory training. It has not turned us into the wild, wild west," McCormick said. "Allowing those same law-abiding women and men to wear a jacket in colder weather or place their firearm in their purse while wearing a dress also will not cause chaos."

McCormick clarified HB 37 would only apply to people who are already legally allowed to open carry a firearm, while business and property owners will maintain their right to ban guns from their property. He said 25 states now allow for permitless concealed firearms, known as con-

stitutional carry, including all states bordering Louisiana.

Rep. Denise Marcelle, D-Baton Rouge, posed the question: "What would this bill solve?"

McCormick said HB 37 would remove the financial barriers to concealed carry that currently prevents low-income residents from acquiring a permit.

Dan Zelenka, president of the Louisiana Shooting Association (LSA), noted that "states that have had constitutional carry — Vermont has had it for 230 years now — have experienced no more issues than permit carry states, which is to say they've experienced very, very few issues."

He also stressed "the permit system will stay in place under this bill. That's important because the permit system provides us with reciprocity with about 40 other states."

The cost of Louisiana's concealed carry permit is \$125, the required training costs roughly the same, Zelenka said, and most of the training centers are not located near the state's larger cities.

"So people who live in big cities who may be on a fixed budget, obtaining a permit has a financial barrier," he said.

Barret Kendrick, a firearms instructor and LSA board member, told the See, **CONCEAL**, Page 3

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WEBSTER & MORE

SCHOOLS

Louisiana Senate passes bill to allow retired teachers to return to the classroom

(The Center Square) — Legislation that could help alleviate a critical teacher shortage in Louisiana by allowing retirees to return to work without losing benefits passed the Senate.

Senators approved Senate Bill 434, sponsored by Sen. Cleo Fields, D-Baton Rouge, with a vote of 33-0 to allow certified teachers who retired before July 1, 2020 to be rehired without losing state retirement benefits.

“When I entered Southern University, the largest department at the college was the department of education,” Fields said. “Today, the smallest department is the department of education.”

“In fact, the last graduation there was only three students that graduated

in the department of education,” he said.

SB 434, which was passed by the Senate on Wednesday, requires a 12-month waiting period for retired teachers to return. Local school districts must identify a critical shortage in math, science, English, language arts, or special education and the bill allows schools to use maternity, military, sabbatical and extended sick leave to justify the need.

Fields noted SB 434 “is supported by all of the educational groups.”

SB 434 is meant to be a temporary fix to the teacher shortage facing K-12 schools across the state before a sunset provision in 2025. An amendment added to the bill in committee would require

school employers to advertise vacancies to area teacher training programs before filling a position with a retiree.

“I want to make sure those individuals who are in college, who are getting an education, that they’re getting an opportunity to fill these positions,” Sen. Barrow Peacock, R-Bossier City, sponsor of the amendment, said in committee. “I don’t want them to be overlooked.”

Louisiana State Superintendent of Education Cade Brumley said in a webinar hosted by the Public Affairs Research Council last week that about 50,000 students are impacted by the current teacher shortage, mostly because there’s not enough certified and qualified teachers to fill

open positions.

“We believe we have about 2,520 certificated vacancies throughout the state of Louisiana,” Brumley said. “If you do the simple math, and say each one of those positions would impact 20 kids just at a minimum, you’re looking at about 50,000 kids that are impacted every single day.”

Peacock also successfully amended SB 434 on the Senate floor to include the same flexibility for rehiring retirees to fill adjunct professor positions in higher education nursing programs, if the retirees have been retired for at least a year, did not retire based on disability, have at least 30 years of creditable service in the retirement system, and are at least 62 years old.

“This will allow us to bring back those retirees who dedicated their careers to the state of Louisiana ... to come back and help for nursing only,” Peacock said.

Like teacher retirees, the change would require higher education institutions to advertise the open positions in an attempt to court new instructors before rehiring retirees. The nursing provision would include a sunset in 2027.

“This is something I think we need to address on the front end, that’s why there’s a sunset,” Peacock said, adding a long-term solution to the shortages should be a priority. “But ... I do have to acknowledge what higher education has (highlighted), they need qualified people who can teach our nurses.”

“We need nurses, that’s not only for education but for healthcare, too.”

INSPIRATION

Am I an accident waiting to happen?

According to the National Safety Council 53.6 percent of accidents happen at home.

Since most of my accidents occurred at home maybe you can avoid my careless pitfalls.

Where shall I start? Where shall I begin?

On January 6th, 2020, while spending time with my older friend, I found ways to relieve my back pain that has plagued me for years. While lying on the floor with my legs high up against the wall I fell asleep. A few hours later i noticed a blister on my left knee cap.

Because I had no clue what it was before talking with a friend who insisted I go to’ see Doctor Carter Boyd, my beloved primary physician, who diagnosed me with a poisonous spider bite.

Not only did he give me antibiotics but for various reasons the bite took six months to heal.

On March 3rd I tripped over an exercise machine, leaving me badly bruised

and in the emergency room three hours later.

Family members immediately moved the machine far away.

I was just grateful that I fell rather than my elderly friend.

A few days later the corona-virus lock down officially began, keeping us all out of circulation for a year, but being an introvert I am rarely bored, and enjoy being a homebody. Listening to myself think, I thrive on writing my thoughts down.

On June 4th I fell out of bed, leaving me shaken but not seriously hurt but I went to my doctor and was assured I didn’t suffer bleeding on the brain.

On September 2nd I tripped and fell rushing into an AT&T store in Shreveport -- but not seriously injured.

Nobody’s to blame except me. I tend to become

careless when I walk too fast, as is my genetic nature!

You should have seen my four feet eleven inch mother who run-walked every where she went.

And on December 30th I tripped over a pair of shoes, fracturing three toes on my right foot, hopefully giving me a wake up call that I need to slow down, leading me to ask am I an accident waiting to happen?

Trying to be more careful I have obtained a cane, a walker but the best piece I have found is a shopping cart because not only makes me feel more stable and allows me to run walk wherever I go!

I hope the readers will find some answers to the challenges that the golden years provide.

At the age of 74, my children want me to live to 107, because my oldest

son, Perry, says it won’t miss me so much because he thinks that he won’t miss me so much because he will be in his eighties.

It does make me feel more secure to be loved.

I appreciate my children’s encouragement.

I know that Jesus is in control because He the same yesterday, today and forever and He always gets me to the right place at the right time.

Without Him I can do nothing.

CONTACT SARAH AT SARAHPP9957@AOL.COM



SARAH HUDSON-PIERCE



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WEBSTER & MORE

DAR

DAR hosts State Conference

Special to the Minden Press-Herald

Louisiana Society Daughters of the American Revolution held their annual State Conference on March 17-19, 2022, at the historic Bentley Hotel in Alexandria. Dorcheat-Bistineau Chapter Regent Kathy Johnson and Chapter Vice Regent Cindy Madden represented our chapter at the conference. This year, DAR's President General Denise Doring VanBuren attended the Louisiana State Conference and gave the keynote address during the opening night ceremony. Special guest Robert Free-land presented "Louisiana's Islenos: The Legacy of Bernardo de Galvez." DAR members and their spouses enjoyed breakfast socials, luncheons, a formal night, cocktail hour, photography sessions, shopping, and a ghost tour of the hotel. During the Awards Luncheon, our chapter received an American



History Certificate of Excellence for our Christmas meeting. Cindy Madden received a Certificate of Recognition for her Constitution Week Program, a Superior Award for Service to Veterans (mailing birthday cards to veterans' homes each month), and a Historian Award for her participation in a wreath ceremony at the grave of Jethro Butler, a Revolutionary War soldier who is buried in Clai-

borne Parish. She also received a graduation cord for completing the DAR Members Course. Donna Sutton, our chapter Registrar, received a Lineage Research Certificate of Recognition for locating and documenting 4 previously unknown Revolutionary War patriots to be added to the DAR database. She also received a Certificate of Recognition for Recruitment for bringing 3 new members into

our chapter. Any woman 18 years or older who can prove lineal, bloodline descent from an ancestor who aided in achieving American independence is eligible to join DAR. Please visit dar.org for more information, and Like our Facebook page: Daughters of the American Revolution - Dorcheat-Bistineau Chapter

LEGISLATION

Louisiana bill to expand education savings accounts clears key House committee

(The Center Square) — A bill to expand educational options to special student populations cleared the House Appropriations Committee on Monday, moving the measure one step closer to reality. Committee members voted unanimously to approve House Bill 33, sponsored by Rep. Philip DeVillier, R-Eunice, to create education savings accounts (ESAs) equal to the average per pupil state funding parents can use for tuition, tutoring, and educational services and supplies necessary to meet their child's educational needs outside of the public education system. The bill would create an ESA program restricted to children of military families, children in foster care and those attending schools with D and F ratings who have been denied a transfer to better performing schools. The bill is among several to create ESAs that cleared the House Education Committee last week, and lawmakers on the House Appropriations Committee on Monday vetted the financial aspects of HB 33. Rep. Jason Hughes, D-

New Orleans, questioned why the fiscal note for the bill includes two administrative positions — an education program consultant at an annual salary of \$82,000 plus benefits, and budget manager at \$72,000 plus benefits — as well as a 5% administrative cost to administer the program. "When looking across the country, states that have implemented ESAs, you see that they take a percentage off the top, anywhere from 5% to a high of 10% to be able to do this. Mississippi, our neighbor, does 6%," said Ethan Melancon, director of government affairs for the Louisiana Department of Education. "The reason for the 5% is so we can identify a vendor, which the bill allows us to do, to be able to execute this work. "It allows us to go up to 5%, meaning we could use less than that if necessary," he said. "The reason why it's 5% is because we want to make sure we can implement this with fidelity, and to make sure we can cover the costs of the program." Melancon said the two staff positions would be tasked with overseeing

the vendor and to ensure necessary budget auditing, and would eventually be absorbed into the 5%. Any money left over from the 5% would be rolled back into the account for student ESAs, he said. Hughes also highlighted concerns the bill would negatively impact local school budgets, but DeVillier clarified the legislation would only divert the state's portion of student funding, leaving local and federal dollars with the public school. "So that would actually increase the available funds to be able to educate the children that stay in the public school setting, and it would also help the student-teacher ratio, as well," DeVillier said. The bill would provide ESAs as an option to about 11,000 students of military families and 3,000 foster students in the state, while data on the number of students in D or F schools who have been denied a transfer is not available, DeVillier said. Rep. Barbara Carpenter, D-Baton Rouge, questioned how ESA funds would be handled if stu-

dents return to public schools, and DeVillier clarified the money would follow the child. Melancon said state officials would promulgate rules to facilitate that process. Lawmakers also discussed how the bill would impact students who need special services. Officials with the Louisiana Association of School Superintendents and the Louisiana School Boards Association testified in opposition to HB 33, citing concerns about the impact on low-income students and funding for public schools. The state's teachers unions also opposed the bill in the House Education Committee. Hughes questioned why the organizations did not oppose a virtually identical bill that cleared the House and Senate committees last year, and representatives from both groups pointed to COVID concerns as a distracting factor. Hughes noted both groups provided positions on numerous other bills last session, despite the pandemic. HB 33 now moves to the full House for consideration.

NEW Obituary Submission Guidelines

- All obituaries must be typed to avoid any errors.
 - Deadline for obituaries is 3:00 p.m. two days prior to the publication date.
 - A proof can be provided via email if requested.
 - Obituary cost is \$40/per 400 words and includes a single photo. Payments can be made over the phone once the obit is received. All obituaries are subject to prepayment.
 - Obituaries may be submitted by bringing a typed copy by our office at 203 Gleason St., Minden, or emailing to obits@press-herald.com.
- If you have any further questions please call our office at 318-377-1866



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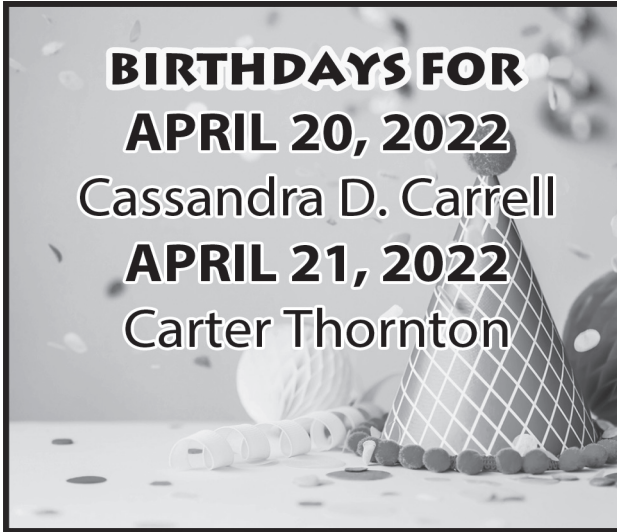
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CONCEAL

Continued from Page 1

committee the process also comes with costs for a background check and fingerprints, which often includes a trip to the State Police station in Baton Rouge. Louisiana State Police Col. Lamar Davis testified on the statistics of concealed carry permits and argued some in Louisiana don't have the capabilities necessary to carry a concealed firearm. Last year, the Department of Public Safety issued over 20,000 original five-year concealed handgun permits, over 7,000 lifetime permits

and renewed 12,000 permits, for a total of 39,351, he said. "During that same period the department denied 1,438 permits, revoked 37 permits, and suspended 255 permits," Davis said. "That's important because often times people see us as a money grab, and that's not it," he said. "Just like there are some people who do not have the capability to drive on our highways, ... there are people that also do not have that same capability to carry concealed." Fabian Blache, Jr., executive director of the Louisiana Association

of Chiefs of Police, testified against HB 37, while Baton Rouge Police Deputy Chief of Police Myron Daniels echoed Davis' "concerns" about eliminating training and education to carry a concealed firearm. "We already know the gangsters in the urban areas are already packing, we don't need everyone being allowed to possess a firearm," Blanche said. State Rep. Bryan Fontenot, R-Thibodaux, and other lawmakers on the committee repeatedly argued that law-abiding citizens deserve the right to protect themselves from criminals who disregard

the current concealed carry law. The Louisiana Council of Catholic Bishops, the Louisiana Municipal Association, Louisiana Progress Action, and Moms Demand Action Louisiana opposed the bill. A room full of citizens wearing red shirts, including some who testified, supported the legislation. HB 37 now moves to the full House for consideration. Edwards vetoed similar legislation, Senate Bill 118, last session. An effort to override the veto failed in the Senate.

OPINION

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

Telephone: (318) 377-1866.

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

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

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

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OPINION

Public’s right to know threatened by Senate Bill 322

Read all about it while you can: Senate Bill 322. Call it the “Turn Out the Lights” legislation.

For some misguided reason, at least some of Louisiana’s state senators seem hell-bent for turning out the lights on public notices through Senate Bill 322.

Sen. Fred Mills’ (R-Parks) SB 322, in Senate Local and Municipal Affairs committee now awaiting final revisions and amendments, is designed to take down the current state law passed seven decades ago requiring local and state governments to publish their public notices – meetings minutes, surplus equipment sales, proposed taxes, delinquent tax rosters, budgets, etc. – in Louisiana’s (digital and print) newspapers.

This bad bill SB322 proposes to move these public notices to “government websites.” Politicos plan to “let you know if you ask” when something is happening – meaning you having to request emails and USPS mailings, individually. Yes, good luck to us all with that. You can figure out what will happen if that comes to pass. You will find out less, much less – maybe even nothing. Government websites are notoriously clunky and hard to use, important data can be uploaded then easily changed and later modified by the keepers without notice to those who already

consumed it in its previous form. (That cannot happen as it stands today.) Government website info can be changed, hacked, deleted, held hostage. Government physical mail gets lost or not sent, no follow up or accountability when it doesn’t arrive. Oops. No third-party verification, no permanent record. You’ll be hunting and searching for where to find it all if you even look, maybe in 100 different places on the internet.

Public notices will become public un-noticed. That seems, perhaps, to be the goal of SB322. Darkness. It is, simply, the government saying “trust me” to tell you what government itself is doing. No thanks.

Proponents of the bill, comprised nearly entirely of those who are required to post and pay for public notices, say it will save money – even though they know the budgets of local governing bodies are spending relatively minuscule amounts of their budget on their current legal requirement to inform the public about what they’re doing with your money. In most cases, the public notices spending is hundredths or thousandths of a percent of the governing body’s budget. Many of our governing bodies freely spend much more in the way of pet projects each year than is spent on valuable public notices. And there

has been no study or reasonable effort bothering to calculate the new cost of doing it the SB322 way.

That cost is “unknown.” We all know it will be more. Much more. And it’s all taxpayer money.

If SB322 passes, there’s a 100% chance that more government employees will need to be hired at literally every level and agency of government. More employee benefits. More computers and equipment will be purchased, more postage spent, more paper used, more office space rented or bought or maintained, more files to be maintained. More consultants, many the cronies of politicians, will be hired. Yet, they cannot and probably will not even try to achieve what newspapers are now doing for a relatively small cost and the needed associated current third-party verification. Competent local private jobs will be converted to inefficient government waste. Corruption and cronyism will be invited in through this new SB322 dark room.

SB322 will cost more and be less efficient and less effective than what we have now. Public notices in newspapers digitally and in print is the best of both worlds because it works. The current system is permanent, unchangeable, available 24/7/365 – and is archived in both the new-world and

old-world mediums (digital and print).

Your local newspaper serves you, the public. Key in on the “local” part. Newspaper reporters cover the doings of local governments at no expense to the government – unless you want to attribute public notice cost to some of that effort. Fair enough – and well worth it for the transparency that results. It’s worked for a long time – the internet didn’t change things as much as SB322 proponents would have us believe. Louisiana Press Association (LPA) and state newspapers have all public notices on a consolidated website available for free to whoever wants to see what’s going on – and many do. Convenient, efficient and searchable, available free to view at your local newspaper’s website or at LPA’s Public Notices link on their website. It’s all in print and online, third party verified and checked for completeness. Verified. Permanent. Been that way for years, for decades. It works.

Contact your elected officials and tell them our public notices law isn’t broken and it doesn’t need to be “fixed.” Tell your state senator you want to keep the lights “ON!” We don’t need SB322.

ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN THE RUSTON DAILY LEADER.

EDITORIAL ROUNDUP

The Advocate: Secrecy won’t help hold nursing homes accountable

It was a tragedy and an embarrassment for Louisiana last summer when the state had to swoop in and rescue more than 800 nursing home residents who had been evacuated to a Tangipahoa Parish warehouse in advance of Hurricane Ida.

Generators had failed in the sweltering summer heat, trash was piled everywhere and residents were left lying in their own feces and urine. Fifteen people died in the aftermath.

Bob Dean, known for operating low-rated nursing

homes, had moved 843 residents of seven homes to the warehouse.

The Louisiana Health Department knew of the evacuation because nursing homes are required to submit hurricane emergency plans to the state.

There ought to be a law to prevent this sort of thing from happening again, and now Gov. John Bel Edwards’ administration has proposed one.

House Bill 993, by state Rep. Joe Stagni, R-Kenner, would require nursing

homes to submit an “after-event report” every time they evacuate or have complications while sheltering in place during a natural disaster.

Louisiana is a magnet for powerful storms and every one presents different challenges, so the reports would be useful to the industry, to state regulators and to family members.

But the reports would be exempt from public disclosure, so families looking for a safe place to send their loved ones wouldn’t be able

to evaluate how well operators protect and care for vulnerable residents when hurricanes strike.

This secrecy is unnecessary, since sensitive details like patient names and medical conditions can be redacted. Yet it’s hardly surprising to see Democratic and Republican politicians looking after the interests of the politically powerful nursing home industry, rather than their own constituents.

Who says bipartisanship is dead in Baton Rouge?

OTHER OPINION

Louisiana can’t afford to be oil and gas exclusive

GREG LAROSE
Louisiana Illuminator

There are a number of ways you could describe Rep. Danny McCormick, but man of mystery is not one of them. He proudly wears his conservative Christian beliefs on his sleeve, often to the discomfort of those who prefer a firm separation between church and state. He also ardently touts his pro-2nd Amendment views, backing a proposal to do away with concealed weapons permits.

So it shouldn’t be much of a surprise that McCormick — a Republican from Oil City, Louisiana, who’s the owner of M&M Oil Co. — would be a staunch advocate for the fossil fuel industry. All he needs is a home address on Drill Baby Drill Avenue. What’s disappointing,

however, is that McCormick’s lens toward the future is also heavily coated in petroleum. He sponsored a resolution to exclude solar and wind energy projects from the state’s Industrial Tax Exemption Program, arguing that those alternative power sources should be placed on an “even playing field” with oil and gas.

When McCormick’s proposal went before a House committee last week, his colleagues were quick to point out that refineries are among the beneficiaries of industrial property tax breaks, as are plants that generate electricity. If anything, the field would be tilted if solar and wind were excluded from the incentive, they said.

Rep. Matthew Willard, D-New Orleans, saw the bigger picture that eluded McCor-

mick. By making incentives off-limits to alternative energy projects, Louisiana would be sending the wrong message to investors in a burgeoning industry.

“I just think it’s an awful idea for the Legislature to say, ‘No, we’re going to turn our back and just pass up these opportunities because we’re an oil and gas state,” Willard said.

Reps. Joe Orgeron, R-Larose, and Jerome “Zee” Zeringue, R-Houma, recognize those opportunities. They have co-sponsored House Bill 165, which would expand the lease size for wind energy projects in state waters just off the coast. The proposal might be more symbolic than practical, given that bigger wind farms are envisioned in deeper federal waters, although Org-

eron said pilot wind projects could be built along the Louisiana coast.

Their bill advanced easily from the House on a 92-10 vote and awaits a hearing in the Senate Natural Resources Committee.

McCormick voluntarily deferred his resolution in the House Ways and Means Committee when Speaker Pro Tempore Tanner Magee, R-Houma, made a motion to ice the proposal for good. It followed a somewhat testy exchange between the two in which Magee questioned whether McCormick actually understood the intent of the resolution.

“I think we’re getting confused on your questions,” McCormick told Magee.

“I think you’re getting confused on your own bill,” Magee replied.

Several state lawmakers recognize Louisiana is uniquely poised to carve out a niche in the wind energy industry, having a history steeped in offshore energy fabrication. Utility companies and industry have already invested heavily in solar alternatives, acknowledging that diversity of power sources is not just aspirational policy. It just makes good sense as they map out a path toward reliability and affordability.

We encourage McCormick to read the Texas tea leaves carefully if he’s considering bringing his resolution back up again. His fears of an all-green outlook for Louisiana are misguided, as the state will always be oil and gas reliant to a great extent. It’s just high time that we’re no longer oil and gas exclusive.

SPORTS

Minden, Lakeside set for softball playoffs

North Webster, Doyline both fall in pre-holiday postseason games on Friday

T. SCOTT BOATRIGHT
Minden Press-Herald

All four eligible Webster Parish high school softball teams already have started or are set to begin Louisiana High School Athletic Association playoff action.

Only Glenbrook will not participate as the Lady Apaches the school wraps up its probationary year as a new LHSAA member school.

Minden is the highest seed from Webster Parish with the fourth-seeded Lady Tide set to play host to No. 29 AJ Ellender at 5 p.m. in Field 14 at the Minden Recreation Department.

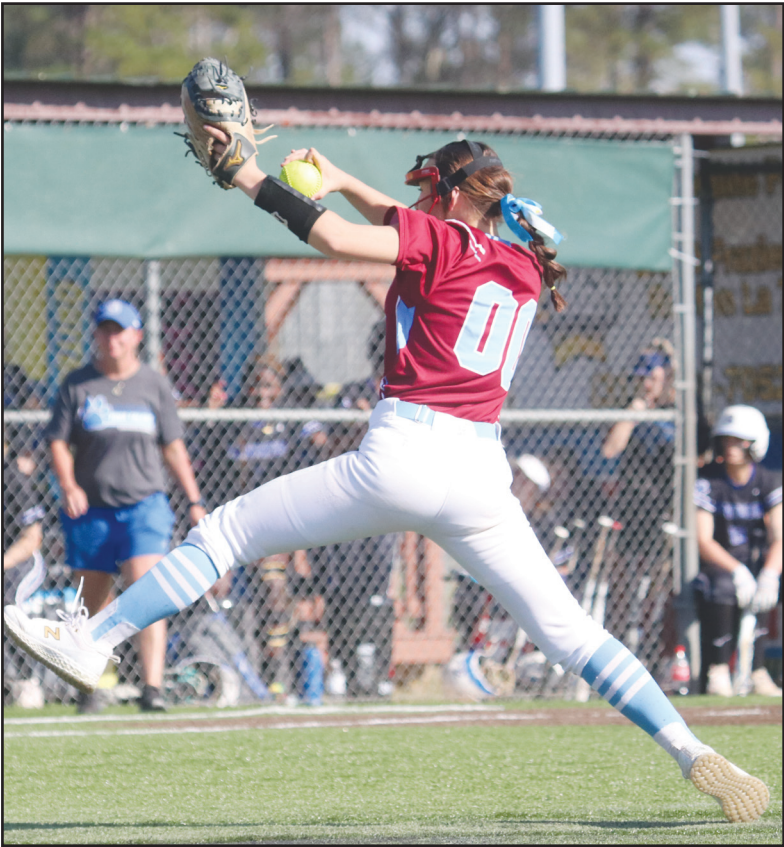
The Lady Tide stand at 17-9 on the season while AJ Ellender will come into the contest at 1-27.

In Class 3A, 29th-seeded North Webster played at No. 4 Grant on Friday with the Lady Knights falling 11-0 in five innings.

That wrapped up North Webster's season



Madison McGraw (above left) and the Lakeside High School softball team (above left) will play at Doyle in Class 2A LHSAA playoff action at 4:30 p.m. today while Minden will play host to AJ Ellender at 5 p.m. today at the Minden Recreation Department.



COURTESY PHOTOS

at 11-15.

Lakeside is the 29th seed in Class 2A and will play at No. 4 Doyle

at 4:30 p.m. today in Livingston.

The Lady Warriors stand at 6-14 on the sea-

son while Doyle is 23-9.

In Class B, Doyline also started its postseason before the Easter

holiday with the 14th-seeded Lady Panthers falling at home to 19th-seeded Elizabeth on

Friday afternoon by the score of 13-10.

That closed out Doyline's season at 17-7.

Diamond

'Dogs take series at Marshall

Minden Press-Herald Sports Service

HUNTINGTON, W. Va. — Louisiana Tech (25-11, 11-4 C-USA) swept Saturday's Conference USA doubleheader at Marshall (16-20-1, 5-10 C-USA) to take the series victory on the road at Marshall.

With Saturday's two wins, LA Tech's Lane Burroughs reached 300 career wins as a head coach.

The Bulldogs hit seven home runs in the series with Steele Netterville taking round trips in his last four games while Cole McConnell hit dingers in back-to-back games.

Jorge Corona had the hottest bat for the Bulldogs in the series at Marshall, going 6-for-13 on the weekend and driving in six runs with two home runs.



PHOTO BY JACK KELLY/MARSHALL ATHLETICS

Louisiana Tech's Adarius Meyers (right) hit a two-RBI double during the Bulldogs' 11-5 doubleheader nightcap win at Marshall on Saturday.

Parish baseball power rankings

(Regular season play ends Saturday with playoff brackets slated to be released on Monday.

Rankings/information provided by GeauxPreps.com)

TEAM	RECORD	CLASS/POWER RANKING
Minden	15-0	4A/15th (25.6400)
North Webster	17-11	3A/12th (24.2381)
Lakeside	20-8	2A/13th (25.6071)
Doyline	11-10	B/11th (22.2778)
Glenbrook	13-13	1A

*The Apaches are not listed in power rankings as a probationary first-year LHSAA member score ineligible for postseason play this season.

This week's schedule:	Thursday Minden at No. DeSoto • North Webster at Lakeside
Tuesday • Glenbrook vs. Cedar Creek • North Webster at Claiborne Christian • Lakeside at Bossier • Doyline at Saline	Friday • Glenbrook at Oak Grove • North Webster at Saline
Wednesday • Minden vs. N. DeSoto	Saturday • North Webster at Haynesville • Doyline at Benton

Techsters hand first C-USA series loss to N. Texas for first time since 2019

Minden Press-Herald Sports Service

DENTON, Texas — With the tying run on second and the winning run on first, Louisiana Tech sophomore Emma Hutchinson induced a fly ball out to seal the Lady Techsters series-clinching 6-5 win over North Texas Saturday afternoon at Lovelace Stadium.

Tech (29-16, 9-6 C-USA) handed North Texas (26-10, 13-5) its first conference series loss since the 2019 season and its first home conference series loss since 2018.

"This was a big series as coming into the weekend North Texas sat at the top of the C-USA standings," said Tech coach Josh Taylor. "They have been very tough at home for a while now, and it was fantastic

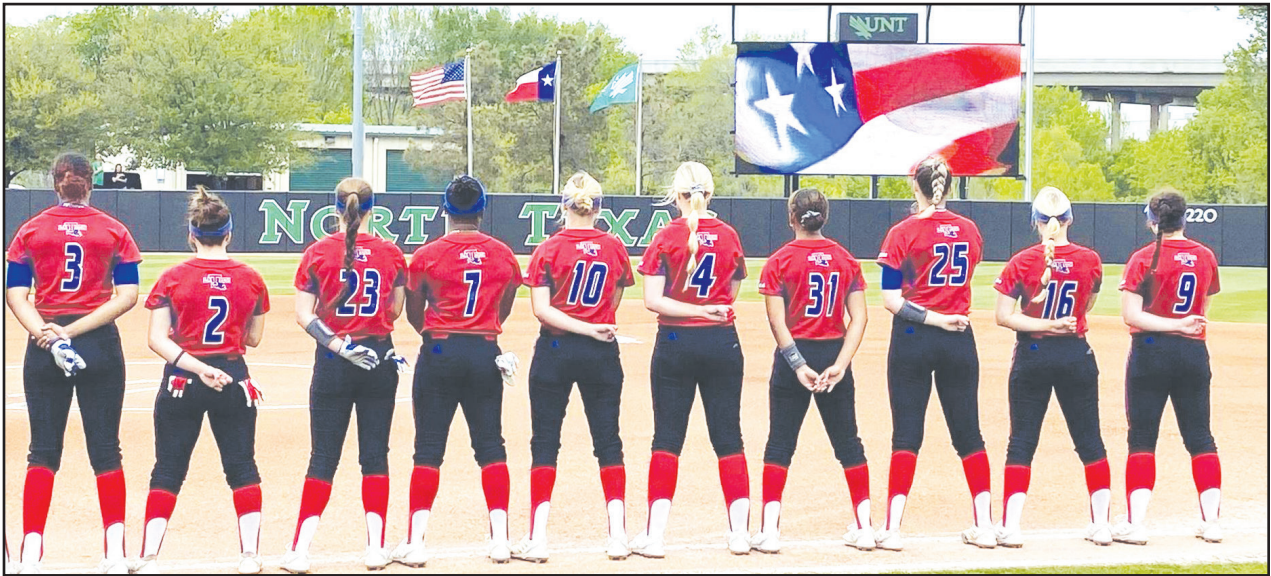
how our girls competed.

"Our offense was able to string together quality at bats and score runs early in our wins. This allowed our pitchers to settle into their outings and throw quality pitches. I am proud of this team's passion. I am proud of this team's heart and proud of this team's fight."

Saturday's win didn't come without some stressful pitches.

After building a 6-0 lead through three innings, Tech withstood a five-run sixth inning by the Mean Green as Hutchinson came on in relief for Audrey Pickett and closed the door for the second straight day.

"I was pumped to have the opportunity to slam the door and just went



COURTESY PHOTO

The Louisiana Tech softball team stands for the National Anthem before taking the field for Saturday's win at North Texas.

out with a mentality that I wasn't going to lose this game," said Hutchinson. "I wasn't going to let them take this series

from us. I wasn't trying to do too much; just doing what I do and pounding the zone, getting fly balls and pop ups to letting

my defense work behind me."

Tech, which lost the opener 8-2 on Thursday night before bouncing

back to win 9-3 on Friday, won for the eighth time in the last nine games and did it in impressive fashion.

CP3 stellar down stretch as Suns beat Pelicans 110-99 in playoff opener

PHOENIX (AP) — Chris Paul has built a Hall of Fame-caliber career by passing the ball.

He can also shoot it quite well, if needed.

Paul scored 19 of his 30 points during a brilliant fourth-quarter scoring display and the Phoenix Suns beat the New Orleans Pelicans 110-99 on Sunday night

in Game 1 of the first-round playoff series.

"Classic Chris," Suns coach Monty Williams said.

The top-seeded Suns needed Paul's big finish despite dominating most of the game. The Pelicans shook off a slow start, cutting a 23-point deficit to 79-71 by the end of the third.

New Orleans kept hitting shots in the fourth, but that's when Paul took over, hitting three 3-pointers and a layup in 2 1/2 minutes in a flurry that kept the Pelicans chasing. The ageless veteran will turn 37 later in these playoffs if the Suns advance far enough, but once again looked a decade younger.

Paul — a proud basting junkie — said taking over a game is all about feel.

"It's just reading the game," Paul said. "We watch games all day, every day. We got to watch all the games yesterday. We watched the games today. We know in the playoffs, teams aren't going to lay down."

Paul has never won a championship, falling just short last year when the Suns lost to the Bucks in six games in the Finals. He's fond of saying he never takes postseason basketball for granted and his 130th career playoff game was among his best.

Game 2 is tonight in

Phoenix.

The Suns were 47-0 in the regular season when leading after three quarters.

Now they're 1-0 in the playoffs. Paul shot 12 for 16 from the field, including 4 of 6 on 3-pointers.

He scored 17 straight points for the Suns at one point in the fourth quarter.

FUN & GAMES

CROSSWORD

ACROSS

1 Twinkler in the sky

5 Blitzer's channel

8 Iowa city

12 Give a hoot

13 High card

14 Ale variety

15 Tennis score

16 Zoo

18 Amber wine

20 Inventor Howe

21 Carefree

22 Crony

23 President Martin Van —

26 "Vogue" singer

30 "— was saying ...

31 Inlet

32 Watch chain

33 Wisconsin's capital

36 Winter woes

38 Bashful

39 AAA job

40 "Hello" singer

43 Folly

47 Kahn of "Blazing Saddles"

49 Big fair, for short

50 Body sci.

51 Steal from

52 Tara of "Sharknado"

53 Skye caps

54 GI's address

55 Taxpayer IDs

4 Break a promise

5 Toyota model

6 Final Four org.

7 Com-poser

8 Lunar program

9 Hawaiian island

10 "Born Free" lioness

11 Beholds

17 Lettuce unit

19 Author Fleming

22 Salary

23 "Kapow!"

24 "Born in the —"

25 Abolish

26 Fortify

27 Dolphins' org.

28 Doze (off)

29 Tummy muscles

31 Lad

34 Specks in the ocean

35 Writer Sil-verstein

36 Atlantic fish

37 Title holders

39 Cardio-boxing routine

40 Latin 101 word

41 Comic Carvey

42 Dutch cheese

43 L-Q bridge

44 Former mates

45 Short drive

46 Freshens lawns

48 Play-wright Levin

Solution time: 22 mins.

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

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12					13				14			
15					16				17			
18				19					20			
			21				22					
23	24	25				26				27	28	29
30					31					32		
33			34	35					36	37		
			38				39					
40	41	42				43				44	45	46
47					48				49			
50					51				52			
53					54				55			

SUDOKU

SUDOKU

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

Level: Beginner

Here's How It Works:

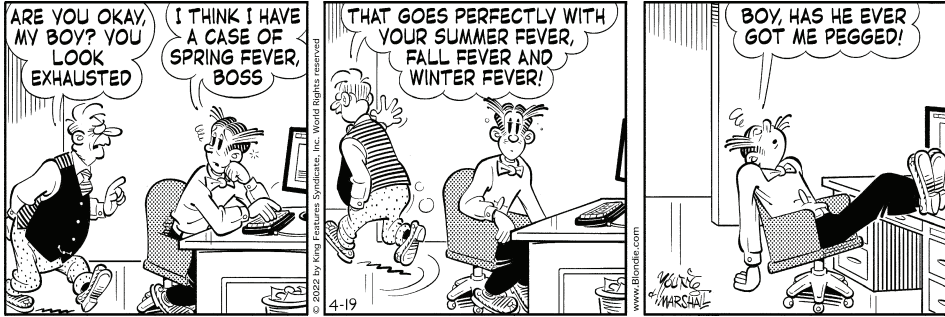
Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric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

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

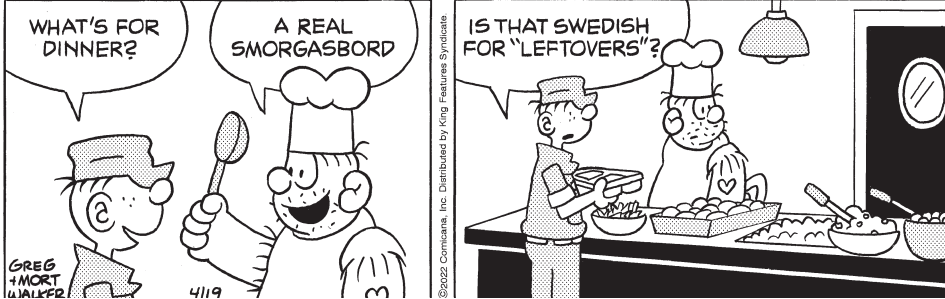
ANSWER:

COMICS

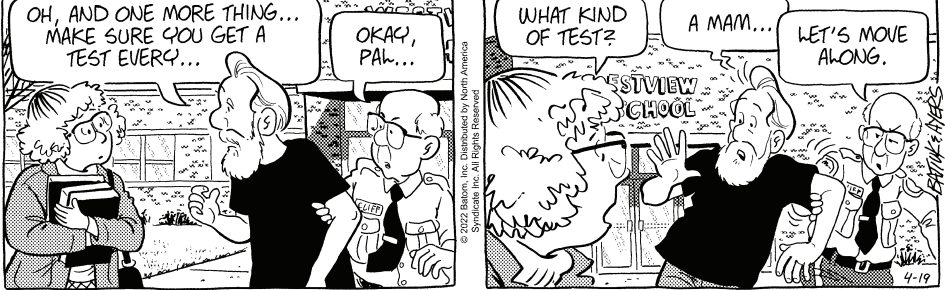
BLONDIE I DEAN YOUNG AND JOHN MARSHALL



BEETLE BAILEY I MORT & GREG WALKER



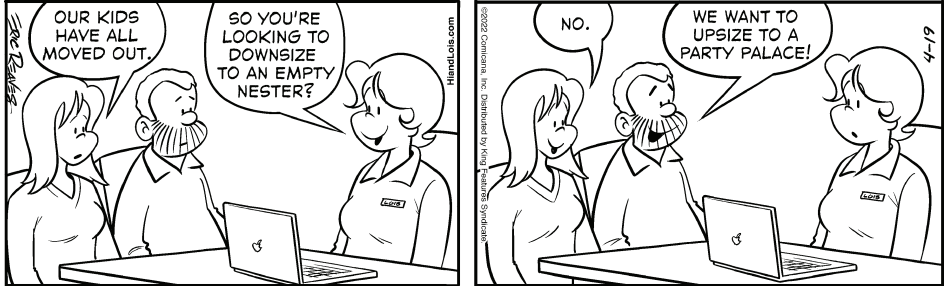
FUNKY WINKERBEAN I TOM BATIUK



HAGAR THE HORRIBLE I CHRIS BROWNE



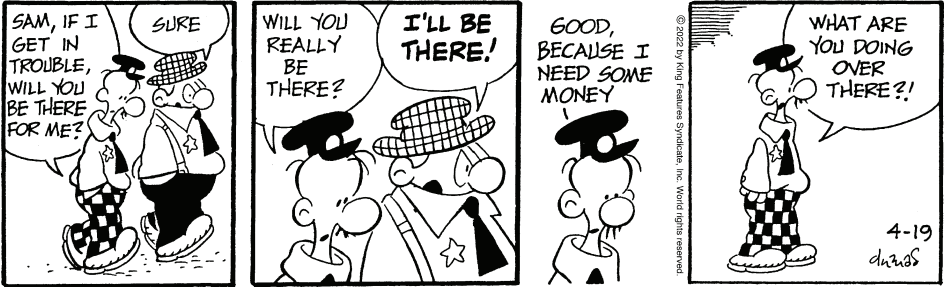
HI AND LOIS I BRIAN WALKER, GREG WALKER AND CHANCE BROWNE



MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM I MIKE PETERS



SAM AND SILO I JERRY DUMAS



CRYPTOQUIP

4-19 CRYPTOQUIP

HL TED GCUV C UVIT RKCOO
XVIBVFSCJV EL ROCUHB HF
TEDI QOEEM, SGVF TED

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT THE CLOSE OF EVERY WORKWEEK I REALLY LOVE COOKING FOOD IN HOT OIL. THANK GOD IT'S FRY DAY!

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals S

FUN & GAMES

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified line ads are published Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday in the Minden Press-Herald, Bossier Press-Tribune and online at www.press-herald.com

Classified Rates

Pricing is easy!

\$7.75

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

Line ads and display ads must be submitted by noon two days before publication.

Public Notices

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 here 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

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sealed Bids for CMTS 104 AFRC HVAC Controls Repair will be received at Post Headquarters, Camp Minden Training Site, (Building 100, 1st Floor Conference Room 120), 100 Louisiana Ave., Minden, Louisiana 71055 until 10:00 a.m. CT, Wednesday, May 11, 2022, and immediately opened thereafter.

ANY PERSON REQUIRING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS SHALL NOTIFY 1LT LUKE A. KING OF THE TYPE(S) OF ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED NOT LESS THAN SEVEN (7) DAYS BEFORE THE BID OPENING.

Complete Bid Documents for this project are available in electronic form. They may be obtained without charge and without deposit from Luke A. King., the Project Manager, and CFMO-FM Area Coordinator. Printed copies are not available from the Project Manager, but arrangements can be made to obtain them through most reprographic firms. Plan holders are responsible for their own reproduction costs. Questions about this procedure shall be directed to the Project Manager at **Luke A King., CFMO Facility Maintenance Area Coordinator, Office 137, 100 Louisiana Avenue, Minden, Louisiana 71055. Phone (318) 299-4259. Attention: Luke King, CFMO-FM Area Coordinator. E-Mail Address: luke.a.king7.mil@army.mil.**

A Mandatory Pre-Bid conference and site visit is scheduled: **10:00 a.m. CT, Tuesday, April 26, 2022, Post Headquarters, Camp Minden Training Site, (Building 100, 1st Floor Conference Room, 120), 100 Louisiana Ave., Minden, Louisiana 71055. Attendance at this Conference is mandatory.** Prospective bidders must attend the Pre-Bid conference in order to submit a bid. **The Pre-bid conference shall be conducted within appropriate guidelines concerning COVID-19; example: Social Distancing.** The Point of Contact is 1LT Luke A King, Email: luke.a.king7.mil@army.mil. Office: 318-299-4259.

BIDS SHALL BE ACCEPTED ONLY FROM CONTRACTORS THAT ATTEND THE ENTIRE MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE.

ANY PERSON REQUIRING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS SHALL NOTIFY 1LT LUKE A. KING OF THE TYPE(S) OF ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED NOT LESS THAN FIVE (5) DAYS BEFORE THE MANDATORY PRE-BID CONFERENCE.

All Bids must be accompanied by Bid Security equal to five percent (5%) of the Base Bid and Additional Bid Items (ABI) and must be in the form of a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond.

Bids shall be accepted by Contractors who are licensed under LA. R.S. 37:2150-2192 for the classification of **MECHANICAL WORK (STATEWIDE)**. Bidder is required to comply with provisions and requirements of LA R.S. 38:2212(B)(5).

The successful Bidder

will be required to furnish a Performance and Payment Bond written by a company licensed to do business in the State of Louisiana, equal to 100% of the Contract amount, including Additional Bid Items (ABI), if required.

No Bid may be withdrawn for a period of forty-five (45) days after receipt of Bids except under the provisions of LA R.S. 38:2214.

Electronic Bid Documents may be submitted by Contractors to the Construction & Facilities Management Office by submitting their bid along with their bid security to <https://www.centralauctionhouse.com/>. Electronic bids must be submitted so as to be posted prior to **10:00 a.m. CT, Wednesday, May 11, 2022**. Hard copies of the contractor's electronically submitted packet must be sent to the Camp Minden Training Site Construction and Facility Management Office, ATTN: Attention: Luke King, CFMO-FM Area Coordinator, **Post Headquarters, Camp Minden Training Site, (Building 100, Office# 137), 100 Louisiana Ave., Minden, Louisiana 71055.**

Contractors MUST attend the mandatory Pre-Bid conference scheduled for **10:00 a.m. CT, Tuesday, April 26, 2022**, at the listed above location in order to submit an electronic bid.

The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any and all Bids for just cause. In accordance with directives and guidance published by Facility Planning and Control, the Louisiana Revised Statutes, the provisions and requirements of those stated in the advertisement for bids and those required on the bid form shall not be waived. The Louisiana Military Department Deputy Director for Contracting and Purchasing and the State Contracting Officer do not possess authority to waive any informality incidental thereto. The Owner shall incur no obligation to the Contractor until the Contract between Owner and Contractor is fully executed.

The Louisiana Military Department is a participant in the Louisiana Initiative for Small Entrepreneurships (SE) Program (the Hudson Initiative) and the Veteran-Owned and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned Small Entrepreneurships Program (the Veteran Initiative). Bidders are encouraged to consider participation.

**April 5, 2022
April 12, 2022
April 19, 2022
Minden Press-Herald**

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Separate sealed bids addressed to the City of Minden (herein referred to as Owner) will be received by the Owner for the construction of the project described as follows:

2022 ROAD PROJECT

Bids shall be addressed to the City of Minden and delivered to the City Clerk's Office located at 520 Broadway Street, Minden, Louisiana 71055 no later than **10:00 A.M.** local time on **Tuesday, May 10, 2022**. Shortly after the deadline for bid submission, bids properly received will be publicly opened

and read aloud in Minden City Hall Pelican Room located at 520 Broadway Street, Minden, Louisiana. Any bid received after the above time will not be accepted under any circumstances and will be returned unopened. Faxed bids cannot be accepted and will be discarded. Owner is not responsible for the timely delivery of bids by USPS or any other carrier.

The Contract Documents may be examined at the following locations:

City of Minden
Department of Public Works
520 Broadway
Minden, LA 71055

Riley Company of Louisiana, Inc.
112 East Mississippi Avenue
Ruston, LA 71270

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained at the office of the engineer, Riley Company of Louisiana, Inc., 112 East Mississippi Avenue, Ruston, Louisiana 71270, telephone (318) 251-0238, fax (318) 251-0239 upon payment of \$50.00 for each set. Deposit is fully refundable to all bona fide prime bidders who submit a bid upon return of the documents in good condition no later than ten (10) days after receipt of bids. Deposit is 50% refundable to all others.

Contract documents will also be available online at www.BidExpress.com. Contractors are provided the option to submit bid for public contracts through a uniform and secure electronic interactive system as stated in Louisiana Bid Law R.S. 38:2212.1. Electronic bids may be submitted at www.BidExpress.com. If bidding online, all interested parties must register with Bid Express. If bidders encounter problems accessing Bid Express, please contact Bid Express at 888-352-2439.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all bids in accordance with state bid law.

Prime bidders for this work must be licensed under the classification of Highway, Street, and Bridge Construction. Any subcontractor submitting a sub-bid in excess of \$50,000 to a prime bidder is required to be licensed in accordance with the State of Louisiana requirements.

An acceptable Bid Bond, Cashier's Check, or Certified Check, payable to the Owner in an amount not less than 5% of the total and, must accompany the bid. Failure to do so will cause bid to be rejected. Negotiable Bid Bonds will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders as soon as possible or not more than 60 days after the opening of bids. Bidders failing to provide a bid bond will be considered a "no bid".

Bids shall be in a sealed envelope marked "DO NOT OPEN – SEALED BID – CITY OF MINDEN 2022 ROAD PROJECT – BID NUMBER 13-2022 – ATTN: CITY CLERK." Bidder shall include their full company name, address, and license number, as issued by the State of Louisiana Contractors Licensing Board on the outside of the envelope containing said bid documents.

An acceptable Performance Bond and Payment Bond equal to 100% of the contract price will be required of the successful bidder.

No bidder may withdraw his/her bid within forty-five (45) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Bidders will also be in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations of the Federal Government, State of Louisiana, and meet all bonding and insurance requirements.

Michael Fluhr,
City Clerk

**April 12, 2022
April 19, 2022
April 26, 2022
Minden Press-Herald**

EMPLOYMENT

Presbyterian Village of Homer is hiring CNA's all shifts, LPN's all shifts, and weekend RN's. For more information, please call (318)927-6133 and ask for Alex Vansickle for RN/ LPN/ CNA applications.

EMPLOYMENT

Box Truck Delivery Driver New Higher Pay Scale ! Bill & Ralph's Inc.
118 B & R Drive, Sarepta, La. 71071
Accepting Applications For Box Truck Delivery Driver Must have at least a Class D License.
Training for CDL-A will be available, if interested, but not mandatory.
Free Medical Insurance for Driver,
Family Medical Insurance available.
Dental and 401K Benefits, Hourly plus Incentive Pay, Yearly Safety Bonus Pay, Monthly Safety/ Performance Pay.
Apply at Bill & Ralph's
Contact Mickey Hodges at (318)539-2071 mickey.hodges@billandralphs.com

Delivery Drivers Needed New Higher Pay Scale ! Bill & Ralph's Inc.
118 B & R Drive, Sarepta, La. 71071
Accepting Applications For Delivery Route Drivers with a CDL(Class A) Drivers License.
Free Medical Insurance for Driver,
Family Medical Insurance available.
Dental and 401K Benefits, Hourly plus Incentive Pay, Yearly Safety Bonus Pay, Monthly Safety/ Performance Pay.
Apply at Bill & Ralph's
Contact Mickey Hodges at (318)539-2071 mickey.hodges@billandralphs.com

TRAIN ONLINE TO DO MEDICAL BILLING! Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months! Call 1-866-350-4447. The Mission, Program Information and Tuition is located at CareerTechnical.edu/consumer-information. (M-F 8am-6pm ET) (LA-SCAN)
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