

Merry Christmas

from the
Minden Press-Herald Staff

COMMUNITY

Let it be Christmas everywhere



AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTOS

Christmas in Minden 2022 was a big hit, drawing happy crowds for a variety of events. The parade kicked off with the color guard and ended with Santa and Mrs. Claus. There were four awards given for parade entries. The Minden High School band was voted Best Band, the Ladies of Elegance Steppers were voted Best Marching Group, Kacey Rhodes & Family received the Santa Award, and Calvary Missionary Baptist Church received the Spectacular Sparkles Award. Phillip Smart of Gibsland Bank & Trust presented the awards. After the parade, the people of Minden were treated to a fireworks display that was held in the courthouse parking lot. The night finished up with the movie Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer being shown in Miller Quarters Park, with refreshments being sold by GLOW, a youth group of St. Rest Baptist Church.

REASON FOR THE SEASON

Twas the Night Before Jesus Came

Special to the Minden Press-Herald

Twas the night before Jesus came and all through the house
Not a creature was praying, not one in the house.
Their Bibles were lain on the shelf without care
In hopes that Jesus would not come there.
The children were dressing to crawl into bed,
Not once ever kneeling

or bowing a head.
And Mom in her rocker with baby on her lap
Was watching the Late Show while I took a nap.
When out of the East there arose such a clatter,
I sprang to my feet to see what was The matter.
Away to the window I flew like a flash
Tore open the shutters and threw up the sash!
When what to my won-

dering eyes should appear
But angels proclaiming that Jesus was here.
With a light like the sun sending forth a bright ray
I knew in a moment this must be The Day!
The light of His face made me cover my head
It was Jesus! Returning just like He had said.
And though I possessed worldly wisdom and wealth

I cried when I saw Him in spite of myself.
In the Book of Life which He held in His Hand
Was written the name of every saved man.
He spoke not a word as He searched for my name;
When He said "It's not here" My head hung in shame!
The people whose names had been written with love

He gathered to take to His Father above.
With those who were ready He rose without a sound
While all the rest were left standing around.
I fell to my knees, but it was too late;
I had waited too long and this sealed my fate.
I stood and I cried as they rose out of sight;
Oh, if only I had been

ready tonight.
In the words of this poem the meaning is clear;
The coming of Jesus is drawing near.
There's only one life and when comes the last call
We'll find that the Bible was true after ALL!
Source unknown (Variously attributed to Randy Story, Stormy Gale, Lou Pinter, and Audrey Patricia Woolverton)

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WEBSTER & MORE

COMMUNITY

Water tower is getting a sandblasting

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

If you’ve driven through downtown Minden lately, you’ve probably noticed that the water tower is having some work done on it. The downtown water tower is undergoing a complete refurbishment both inside and out. The Minden Press Herald spoke with Mayor Tommy Davis to get the details on

this project. “I think it’s been 20 years since the water tank has been rehabbed,” said Mayor Davis, “It had some minor leaks in it, and that is being repaired. It has been sandblasted on the inside of the tank — we’ve already done that — and has been repainted on the inside. That paint has to cure for a while before we can fill it back up. And now they’ve put that shroud around it so they

can sandblast the outside of it. That’s what they’re doing now. That keeps the sand and the paint and everything from blowing everywhere.” The citizens of Minden can look forward to a refreshed version of the prior paint job, as the color scheme and design will remain the same. “It’s going to have the exact same color and design on it,” Davis said. “It may look a different

color because that color has been on there for 20 years, and it probably has faded.” The tower lights are also going to be replaced since some had stopped working, so the water tower’s new paint job will be well lit. This project was discussed during the November meeting of the city council, and was estimated to take several months to finish. The wa-

ter tower refurbishment is expected to be completed in February, 2023. “We met with the engineer yesterday, and we’re hoping in February it will be completed,” said Davis. “He gave us a target date of February 14. A lot of the reason [for this time frame] is that the inside was completely drained, completely sandblasted and painted. And now they have to go back in there, and it will have to

be sanitized completely on the inside and filled up with water. Depending on what type of residuals you have, sometimes you have to drain it again and fill it up again. You just do that as necessary.” So, in February, Minden residents can look forward to a water tower that not only looks attractive on the outside, but is well maintained and functioning correctly on the inside.

NLTCC

NLTCC and community leaders wish Dr. Meador a fond farewell

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College (NLTCC) hosted a retirement party on December 15 for their current chancellor, Dr. Earl Meador, to celebrate his career and wish him well in his future. Community, business, and school leaders took turns expressing how much they appreciate Meador both personally and professionally. The warmth and humor these speakers used made their deep appreciation apparent.

Melanie Sotak, vice chancellor of finance and administration, said, “It’s been a wonderful four years working with Dr. Meador and learning from Dr. Meador. He loves this college, he loves the faculty, the staff. He has gone to battle for each of us for what this college represents for the three campuses. And he secured the legacy, along with those of a few of the community, of what this college will be for years to come.” Sotak then presented Dr. Meador with a plaque from the school and a metal cross sculpture that had been created by welding instructor, Steve Perryman.

Next, Dr. Richard Campbell spoke, saying, “He’s been a great friend to the college obviously, a great friend to the community, and a great friend to most of us. And I know that he’s proud of Dr. Spillers who’s going to follow him. I’m hoping for one thing...that this boat that he’s working on...I hope it takes a long time to complete because I don’t want to see the guy

leaving anytime soon.” Mayor-elect Nick Cox was the next speaker; he said, “What happens at this school is very important to Minden. It’s very important to our community and all those that live here. What’s happened here over the last five and a half years has been very remarkable. You deserve all the credit for what you’ve done. You and your team have worked hard to take this school from the level it was to the next level. And then, when we thought it was good enough, it went to the next level. So we’re very proud of what you’ve done here with your time and your service. We know that the future is laid because of what’s happened in the past.”

Wayne Patterson presented Dr. Meador with an illustration of Pop-eye the Sailor Man, and said, “When I really have strong approval for someone, I call him a Popeye Man. And you’re a Popeye Man. He yam what he yam, and that’s all that he yam. And that’s what you get every day.”

State Representative Wayne McMahan related the story of his first bill that was passed which was a bill to make our vocational school a community college. Dr. Meador is the person who inspired this bill by showing McMahan the importance and the process needed to accomplish this goal as well as helping McMahan educate the legislative body of the same. Being a community college opens up opportunities for more funding which is a benefit to both the school and students.

“He saw what we needed to do to keep this

school the way it’s been for the past 50 years — serving our community,” said McMahan. “We started down that process, and they said it’ll take 8 to 10 years. Well, we’ve caught up with a couple of schools that have been trying for 8 to 10 years in just a couple years. And it’s because of his leadership and his vision of what it takes to get our school to where it needs to be. We hate to lose Earl from our community. Not everyone that comes and works in this community invests themselves in the community like Dr. Meador has. We’ve been blessed because of that.”

The next person to take the podium was Tracy Campbell. “In every profession — medical field, business world, education — there’s always people that stand out, that you remember and think ‘Man, they are really passionate about their job.’ You are one of those people in our community — in the education field, particularly at this college — you put your money where your mouth is. You’re not afraid of hard work. You’re not afraid to get down and do the least job all the way to the greatest job, and that is being the chancellor of this college.”

James Madden said, “I don’t know that there’s a whole lot left to say. I’ve never heard any more accolades than we have tonight, but everything that’s been said is absolutely the truth. I came here tonight wanting to do one thing and that’s to wish Earl and Lori the very best in their tomorrows. They’ve become more than a chancellor, more than our college

leadership, they’ve become good friends to everybody. Everyone who knows Earl and Lori have made good and lasting friendships.”

Mr. Madden continued, releasing some exciting news about NLTCC, by saying, “This school was chosen out of 782 community colleges in the United States, as far as the quality of school that we have. On that list, we’re number six. And that is a direct result of Earl’s leadership, his knowledge, and his wisdom to carry the day and make this school a bigger and better place. I want to wish them the very best and thank them for what they’ve done and congratulate them for all their achievements.”

Dr. Jayda Spillers, the chancellor-elect, was the last to speak to Dr. Meador. She related a story of the first three times she worked with Dr. Meador, when she was still working at the high school level. Dr. Meador helped her to fix a prob-

lem with dual enrollment, to create a new program for high school students, and to show a single graduate his importance by having a graduation ceremony instead of simply delivering the diploma.

And when an opportunity to work for Dr. Meador arrived, Dr. Spillers said, “I really didn’t think twice about coming to work for Chancellor Meador. I knew what a wonderful leader he was and how dedicated he was to building relationships, and I wanted to work with him. Thank you, Chancellor. Thank you to Lori and your family. We love you.”

Dr. Meador then stepped to the podium to make his response. “It’s a transition time,” Meador said. “I have very mixed feelings about it, but it’s a time that I’m also happy about the future. As I look across this room, I see people. Each one of you has played a role to make this place a success. Each one of you has dug in and did your part in your community, in your realm.

You worked hard to make it something special. As I look across this room, I think of the journey to get us where we are today, and how much each of you have worked to get us here. And I want to leave you with some positive thoughts. We have a future locked in for this college. We have our community college status, we have our application in to SACSCOC [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges] that we’ve started, and we have a leader going forward that’s going to stick with it and who has what it takes to make this community technical college be what it needs to be. Dr. Spillers, I believe in you. I couldn’t be happier about the choice that was made.”

Dr. Earl Meador plans to spend more time with his family and work on his boat. Dr. Jayda Spiller’s appointment as chancellor of NLTCC will be effective January 1, 2023.

Wilkie Receives 40-Year Award



Bob Wilkie, President of Aeropres Corporation and long-time resident of Minden, has recently been recognized for 40 years of professional service with the organization. He received his award at the Petroleum Club in Shreveport alongside his wife Sandy Fuller Wilkie.

Wilkie originally began his career in 1982 at the nearby Sibley manufacturing plant as Transportation Manager. Today, his office is in Shreveport at the Aeropres Corporate headquarters. For 4 decades he has helped shape the organization and the success of its people.

Also under Wilkie’s leadership, Aeropres Corporation has given back to the Minden community through school and youth sports sponsorships, volunteering time and resources, and through generous charitable giving to worthy organizations in and around the Minden area.

Aeropres Corporation is proud to congratulate Bob Wilkie for 40 years of excellence and leadership.

BLOTTER

Recent Arrests in Webster Parish

Courterias Moore, 31, of the 500 block of Winford Street, was arrested for disturbing the peace through public intoxication.

Kenn Jackson, 34, of the 500 block of Penal Farm Road, was arrested for being a fugitive of Webster.

Omero Rivera, 41, of the 600 block of Shadows Lane, was arrested for improper lane usage, failure to yield to an emergency vehicle, and no driver’s license.

Tyler Humphrey, 30, of the 200 block of General Scott Place, was arrested for being a fugitive from Bossier City.

Kennedy Preziosi, 25, of the 200 block of Pecan View Drive, was arrested for domestic abuse battery with child endangerment.

Jeremy Briggs, 29, was arrested for driving while intoxicated 2nd offense, possession of a schedule I substance with intent to distribute, no driver’s license, obstruction of justice, and improper lane usage.

William O’Neal, 59, of the 1200 block of Cotton Street, was arrested for disturbing the peace through simple assault.

James Moore, 54, of the 100 block of NE 2nd Street, was arrested for driving while intoxicated 2nd offense, failure to yield, and driving under suspension.

Tommie Erving, 57, of the 400 block of Patrick Street, was arrested for domestic abuse battery.

Jennifer McCaman, 22, of the 300 block of Angi Road, was arrested for domestic abuse battery.

George Wattree, 66, of the 600 block of Crichton Road, was arrested for simple burglary.

Ja’Kiry Moore, 27, of the 100 block of Pamela Street, was arrested for driving under suspension, driving without insurance, and driving without headlights.

Dmetrius Richard, 25, of the 700 block of Elm Street, was arrested for driving while intoxicated third offense, aggravated flight from an officer, driving under suspension, and resisting arrest.

Mary Noodall, 33, of the 400 block of Webb Court, was arrested for disturbing the peace.

Keandre Richard, 43, of the 700 block of Plum Street, was arrested for domestic abuse.

Jermaine Winzer, 35, of the 300 block of Mulnix Switch, was arrested for resisting an officer, possession of drug paraphernalia, and obstruction of justice.

Tehin West, 30, of the 100 block of Timothy Drive, was arrested for disturbing the peace.

James Andrew II, 37, of the 100 block of Claiborne Street, was arrested for failure to appear in court.

James Corrigan, 48, of the 200 block of East & West Street, was arrested for domestic abuse battery with strangulation.

Bobby Wiltcher, 37, of the 200 block of Fuller Street, was arrested for failure to appear in court.

Kevin Jackson, 34, of the 500 block of Penal Farm Road, was arrested on a warrant.

Drake David, 27, of the 400 block of Oak Drive, was arrested for improper lane usage.

Cindy McBride, of the 100 block of Graveyard Road, was arrested for a probation violation.

Morse Sharon, of the 500 block of Cowboy Morgan Road, was arrested for a probation violation.

WEBSTER & MORE

OBITUARIES

Ruby Mae Bailey

Ruby Mae Bailey, born July 31, 1926, and passed away Friday, December 9, 2022. She was born and lived in Minden, Louisiana, most of her 96 years.

Ruby was employed for many years as bookkeeper for both the A&P Grocery and Robinson's Shoe stores. She surprised us all when she became a successful Am-way cosmetic sales person. She was a loyal, conscientious and hard worker.

Ruby was a member of the First Baptist Church for over fifty years, serving in the children's department many years as a teacher and as a department leader.

Ruby was preceded in death by her first husband, Charlie W. Smith and her second husband of 52 years, Leo Bailey, her son Mack Jefferson Smith, her parents Webster and Gladys Robinson, a brother Huey Rob-



Teresa (Terri) Merritt Peaker

Teresa Darlene Merritt was born in Shreveport, Louisiana at the P&S Hospital August 26, 1961, and left this earthly home to go to her eternal home on December 14, 2022, in Minden, Louisiana. Jesus and all of her family and friends are waiting with outstretched arms to walk on the streets of gold and abide with joy, happiness, and no more pain. Her mother and father David Wayne Merritt and Marlin Estelle Milner Merritt were blessed to welcome their first-born child into this world. She was a faithful member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. She loved the Lord all her heart, mind, and soul. She loved sharing her testimony of the Gospel with family and friends. She loved all her Church Family, and they all loved her. She loved, adored, and cherished her family. She never failed to express to her mother and daddy, husband, and four daughters and son how much she loved and cherished each one of them and they also did the same. Throughout her illnesses and pain, they were there to love, honor, and care for her. She was so much fun to be around, always laughing and clowning around with everyone. She had a witty sense of humor and infectious laugh, which made everyone join in. She was kind, compassionate, and willing to help anyone in need and willing to share with others. She loved her grandchildren, and they loved their Mamaw. She played games and did fun crafts with them. She loved to grow flowers and vegetables, make flower arrangements, feed the birds, and take care of her animals, her constant companions who never wanted to leave her side. She graduated from Minden High School and was a majorette.

She leaves behind to cherish her memory her parents, David and Marlin Merritt; husband, Scott Brown-Peaker; daughters; Milly Melissa Gutierrez, (Juan), Sarabeth Beason (Troy) of Camden AR, Hillary Butler of Sibley, and Emily Marie Butler; son, Micah Crain Brown-Peaker; brothers, Mark Dwayne Merritt (Rema)

inson and two sisters, Margaret Watson and Dorothy Young.

She is survived by a daughter, Betty Ann Skinner of Georgetown, Texas (husband David) and one grandson, Jason Palos of Austin, Texas, a sister, Anna McMullen of Frierson, La., brothers Charlie Robinson, Keithville, La., and Marcus Robinson, Geneva, Florida, two step-daughters, Rala Allen of St. Joseph, Missouri and Francis Bragg of Sequin, Texas.

Ruby moved to an assisted living facility in Georgetown, Texas five years ago. She loved it there, and the staff loved her. It was a wonderful time for her and Betty Ann to spend time together as never before. She was a wonderful mother and will be so missed!

A graveside service will be held on Friday, December 30, at 10 a.m. at the Minden Cemetery, under the direction of Kilpatrick's Rose-Neath Funeral Home, with Chaplain Bill Crider presiding.

of Drasco, AR, and Kirk Bradley Merritt of Marion, AR; and grandchildren. Bradley and Kaylee Adams, Leia Perez, Matthew Gutierrez, Lizzy, Hannah, and Bella Rose Beason, Malachi and Makel West-Butler, Landon, Austin David Jr. and Addaline, and wonderful aunts, Madaline Coker and Sarah Leftwich, uncles, nieces, nephews, and a very special cousin, Debra (Debbi-Doo) Shores.

Preceded in death by her grandparents, William Hortman and Gladys Estelle Calhoun Milner and Milly and Carl Maxey; twin grandsons, Jayden and Braydon West-Butler.

Funeral services celebrating her life will be held Monday, December 19, 2022, at 11:00 a.m. at Rose-Neath Funeral Home Chapel in Minden, Louisiana with Rev. Robert Goletz officiating. Interment will follow at Gardens of Memory in Minden, Louisiana. The family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. Sunday, December 18, 2022, at Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden.

We express our love and appreciation to her beloved and special Aunt Carolyn Sawyer who was always there for her all the time and Terri always referred to her to everyone as her biggest advocate. Terri always said, "Aunt Carolyn, what would I do without you" and Carolyn would say the same thing to her. They had a bond that could never be broken. Her friend, Sandra Strickland was a dear and faithful friend who loved her unconditionally and was true and loyal until the end. Their love for each other will go on forever. Her next-door neighbor, Jennifer Simmons, was there for her at any time, they had a wonderful friendship and Jennifer made sure her little cat was taken care of. Love was there between them at all times. Kim Sparish and Terri were like sisters, and they were sisters in Christ. We will always remember the never-ending love and devotion and inspiration and encouragement she gave to Terri. Thank you, Kim, for helping her through her times of need from the bottom of our hearts.

Pallbearers will be Mark Bahr, Troy Beason, Gerrit Davis, Juan Guteierrez, David Maxey, and Paul Shores.

Rose-Neath Funeral Home
211 Murrell Street
Minden, Louisiana 71055
(318) 377-3412



Leanne Culpepper

Funeral services for Leanne Culpepper will be held Monday, December 19, 2022, at 10:00 a.m. at St. Paul's Catholic Church in Minden, Louisiana with Father Kallookalam officiating. Interment will follow at Gardens of Memory Cemetery in Minden under the direction of Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden, Louisiana. The family will receive friends from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. Sunday, December 18, 2022, at Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden.

Leanne was born October 10, 1962, in Minden, Louisiana and entered into rest December 16, 2022, in Sibley, Louisiana.

Leanne's true calling was nursing. She took the time to get to know her patients and give them the best care possible. She loved each one as well as all the staff of Willis Knighton. She was a person who never met a stranger and could walk into a crowd of people she didn't know and come out with a new friend. She was a collector of all things beautiful, especially those of

the natural world. She loved rocks, woods, flowers, and animals of all kinds. She fed the fish and frogs in the pond at work, the birds in her yard, and the foxes in the neighborhood. Leanne loved her family and friends and was delighted to be Nana to her granddaughter. She left us with a legacy of love.

She was preceded in death by her father, Tommy Culpepper; son, Tommy Allen Culpepper; and grandparents, Sherill and Irene Culpepper and Deward and Florence Robinson.

She is survived by her partner, Richard Thornton of Sibley; mother, Marcelee Culpepper of Minden; son, Will Schubnell of Shreveport; daughter, Mallorie Bush (David) of Shreveport; sister Lejean Moore (Joe) of Deville; brothers, Charles Culpepper (Donna) of Nodona, TX and James Culpepper (Terri) of Minden; and granddaughter, Kennedy Bush.

The pallbearers will be Cole Thornton, David Bush, Chris Bagwell, Douglas Culpepper, Kade Morace, and Paul Culpepper.

The honorary pallbearer is Sammy Slayter.

Rose-Neath Funeral Home
211 Murrell Street
Minden, Louisiana 71055
(318) 377-3412

CRIME

Shreveport man busted with bags of marijuana

STAFF REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

On December 13, a Shreveport man was arrested on drug charges after Minden police officers observed his erratic driving on Lee Street.

Officers were dispatched after Jeremy O'Brian Briggs, 29, of the 2000 block of Queens Highway in Shreveport, was spotted by witnesses swerving on the roadway of eastbound I-20. The officers located the vehicle after it had exited north onto Lee Street.

"Officers observed the suspect vehicle swerve from the outside lane to the inside lane, almost hitting another vehicle as the vehicle traveled across Interstate-20 on Lee Street," the officer stated in the booking report. "The suspect vehicle then swerved back to the outside lane, almost hitting the same vehicle again."

The officers initiated a traffic stop, and Briggs began to drive at a slow speed, eventually stopping beside the Holiday Inn, but still in the outside lane of traffic. The officer could see that, inside the suspect's vehicle, the driver was moving something from the passenger seat. When the driver rolled down his window, the officers could smell alcohol and burnt marijuana.

"The driver, identified as Jeremy Briggs, was asked if he had consumed any alcoholic beverages, to which he stated yes," the officer reported. "Briggs was asked if he had smoked any marijuana, to which he stated yes. [The officer] asked Briggs if there was any marijuana inside the vehicle, to which Briggs stated no, and stated [the officer] could search the vehicle."

Briggs was asked to perform a standardized field sobriety test. He attempted several times, but was

unable to pass the test. At this point he was arrested for driving while intoxicated and was searched.

"During a search of Briggs' person, a small clear bag with a green leafy substance, suspected to be marijuana, was located in the front right pocket of Briggs' pants," the report stated. "Also located in the same pocket was a pack of Backwoods cigars, with one cigar inside of it and a bundle of cash. As [the other officer] was walking to the suspect vehicle to conduct a search, he located a large clear bag with a green leafy substance, suspected to be marijuana, laying on the ground beside the passenger door. When Briggs was asked about the bag, he stated he had thrown it out the window in an attempt to hide it from officers."

"A search of the vehicle turned up another clear bag with a green leafy substance, suspected to be marijuana, being

found in the passenger-side compartment of the vehicle, along with more cash stuffed underneath the passenger seat."

Briggs was transported to the Minden Police Department without further incident. At that time he was given a chemical breath test and failed it with a result of 0.127%. Anything above 0.08% is grounds for a DWI.

When the marijuana and cash were weighed and counted, there were approximately 24.86 grams of marijuana (with individual bags weighing 5.11 grams, 9.12 grams, and 10.63 grams) and \$2,604 in cash.

Briggs was charged with driving while intoxicated, possession of a schedule I (marijuana) with intent to distribute, driving without a driver's license, improper lane usage, and obstruction of justice.

All subjects are presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



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OPINION

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

OTHER OPINION

Twitter files, Hunter Biden laptop scandal only scratch the surface of the anti-free speech movement

One of the greatest gifts of American citizenship—a principle anchored in the bedrock of the 1st Amendment—is the guarantee that as long as one's political speech doesn't pose a "clear and present danger of imminent lawless action" we may say whatever we wish, and no government entity may stop us.

This promise, of course, includes the most vile, despicable, racist, bigoted, and hate-filled speech we can fathom. It includes Westboro Baptist Church protesting at the funerals of American soldiers chanting that the deaths of our patriots "was God's punishment on America for homosexuality." It includes the Skinheads effort to march in Skokie, Illinois for Naziism or the Klan advocating hate in support of white supremacy.

No matter how vulgar or offensive, the U.S. Supreme Court has held in a long line of free speech cases that such speech was permissible within the guidelines of local ordinances.

The First Amendment, our judicial precedents, and our cultural and political traditions have clearly established that non-violent speech we hate is at the very core of 1st Amendment protections. As Justice Hugo Black wrote in a 1972 school speech case, protections established by the First Amendment "must be ac-

corded to the ideas we hate or sooner or later, they will be denied to the ideas we cherish."

In this same line of thinking, Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis held that "the answer to speech we hate is counter-speech"—more speech containing arguments that persuasively refute the speech we hate.

John Stuart Mill claimed that the free competition of ideas in a "marketplace of ideas" is the best way to distinguish truth from falsity.



ROYAL ALEXANDER

Justice William Brennan wrote that "debate on public issues should be uninhibited, robust and wide-open" and said that vehement criticism and even mistakes were part of the price a democratic society must pay for freedom. (Sullivan).

Justice Samuel Alito wrote in a 2017 case involving "hate speech" that "the idea that the government may restrict speech expressing ideas that offend... strikes at the heart of the First Amendment. Speech that demeans on the basis of race, ethnicity, gender, religion, age, disability, or any other similar ground is hateful; but the

proudest boast of our free speech jurisprudence is that we protect the freedom to express "the thought that we hate."

The idea, obviously, is that if ordinary American citizens are presented with a full range of ideas that are not limited or censored by the government, we will accept the ideas that are true and reject the others.

Like voting, free speech serves as a vital social safety valve which relieves political pressure such that, Americans whose votes or whose speech may not win the day in the marketplace of ideas nevertheless know that they had a 'seat at the table' to utilize their constitutional rights to participate in the democratic process and to make their voices heard.

But much of this has changed dramatically. How so?

Because the truth is not what it used to be.

Today, "the truth" is that social media is a monolithic presence in our lives through Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and other powerful platforms that purposefully use complex algorithms to "push" forward certain information and suppress other information.

We cannot arrive at the correct conclusion—the truth—if we are not presented with all of the relevant ideas because powerful tools are being used to mis-

lead us and limit the scope of our search. That's not a "marketplace of ideas." That is pre-approved speech and Group Think directed and permeated most often with a Left-leaning bias.

As free citizens, we cannot discern the best path if we don't have all the relevant and probative information available. That's why the revelations we have seen lately of increasingly integrated involvement by government and government officials in social media censorship are so disturbing.

For example, if the Biden White House leans on its federal agencies to threaten Big Tech companies to censor certain speech—like Covid dissent, election fraud, etc.—then we have Gov-Tech censorship—with the tech companies acting as arms of the government to do what the government could not itself do under the U.S. Constitution. That's a conspiracy and very likely illegal.

May this critical inquiry into the Unholy Alliance between Big Tech, Big Media, and Big Government continue beyond Twitter, and include all the huge social media platforms—and may it begin soon!

Merry Christmas!

ROYAL ALEXANDER IS A SHREVEPORT ATTORNEY.

OPINION

Christmas Evokes Memories From '55

Christmas evokes many memories because children thrive on make believe, knowing Santa Claus will come whether they have reason to believe in him or not.. (In 1975 when we lived near Cleveland, Ark., our two older children remember the night that they heard sleigh bells ringing, not knowing it was me pulling out toys from under the house near the spot where the old whiskey still once stood. I was eight months pregnant at the time)

As a child I believed in Santa Claus even though we were told he didn't exist. One time I crept outside and placed a paper grocery bag on the porch, knowing he dared not step inside. Even though it remained empty I continued to believe.

One of my sweetest Christmas memories occurred in 1955 when I was in the first grade. There were two little girls, Marilyn and Blythe Epperly. Their parents owned an IGA country store in South West City, Mo., They lived over the store as was the custom years ago.

The girls came with their mom to our house with two dolls for my sister and myself.



SARAH HUDSON PIERCE

Being a sleuth, I had little trouble finding them because I remembered their father's name from so many years ago.

To my surprise, she and her younger sister Blythe remembered the gifts that their mother brought to us. I assumed the dolls were from their store — not so. Marilyn explained that their parents felt that they had received too many gifts from family members and requested the girls choose a doll to give to us because they sensed our need. She went on to say that the reason their family moved was they could barely make a living in our rural area so they understood what doing without might mean.

Those gifts planted wonder that led me to locate Marilyn and Blythe fifty years later because they moved back to Nashville, Tennessee, on Marilyn's eighth birthday in 1956.

What a sweet ending to the story as we rekindled childhood friendships. Marilyn added with fondness then that she fantasized running away to come back to see her friends as she watched her baby sister LuEllen sleeping on the back seat of the car in a baby bed inside a huge Jello box from their country store but Marilyn soon learned that God had a hand in their move because their mom had emergency heart surgery that could never have been performed in our rural area.

One of the best gifts we can give others as well as ourselves may be listening with the heart, of loving another unconditionally and without judgment. Some friendships come easily because we are magnetically drawn to others as we find soul mates and kindred spirits but sometimes friendships require courage, of making the first move, of picking up the phone to call, to extend oneself as we make ourselves vulnerable but the price is worth the effort because life would be dull without friends who know who we really are.

Having lost close friends I'm reminded that this life is not

forever and that if we want to do something for a friend or relative we better do it now lest we live in regret of wasted opportunities -- besides we just can't have too many friends whether they are older or younger than ourselves.

We can never replace departed friends but life can still be beautiful as we respond to friends God places within our paths.

The Bible still says "as iron sharpens iron so a man's countenance sharpens his friends countenance."

Friends add a glow to our face and put a sparkle to our eyes.

One dear departed friend, Joyce Duke Moore,quoted an unknown source who wrote "our friends help us test the water."

Luciano De Crescenzo wrote "we are angels with only one wing and we can only fly embracing each other."

SARAH HUDSON PIERCE IS AN AUTHOR WHO LIVES NEAR MOORINGSPOUT, LOUISIANA

OPINION

The Advocate: Congress taking action on Louisiana's vital interests

On Capitol Hill nothing beats a real deadline, mandating efficiency, and the end of the current session of the lame duck Congress amid the Christmas holiday season, when members of House and Senate want to get back home, may be a promising confluence of events for some of Louisiana's vital interests.

Action is moving fast on the Hill, and the huge impact of coastal erosion and the need for federally funded commitments to coastal states is a key element of the work of our delegation in Washington.

House passage of the Water Resources Development Act is a regular event, but it's still of vital importance. WRDA, pronounced word-ah, authorizes projects for waterways and ports across the United States.

That includes many coastal protection projects, and those are of obvious interest to Louisiana. House passage of the bill for Army Corps of Engineers projects was linked to the must-pass legislation funding national defense.

Maybe deadline legislating is not the purists' idea of the best way to legislate — we agree, generally — but this is real-life lawmaking. And for the key leader of the state's House delegation, Steve Scalise of Jefferson Parish, the new WRDA bill will be good for his metropolitan New Orleans district and also for Louisiana as a whole.

State coastal czar Chip Kline added a statement: "This WRDA will be more valuable to the sustainability of our coast than any other such bill

in over a decade. It not only clarifies roles and funding responsibilities for long-standing commitments to coastal protection and restoration, but also initiates new projects and policies that will provide major benefits to communities in Louisiana."

His predecessor, Garret Graves, is now congressman from Baton Rouge, helping to draft key WRDA provisions.

As that is part of the action, Louisiana's delegation is also seeking passage of the long-sought RISEE Act. That's another of the long titles bestowed on legislation to make it more attractive: Reinvesting In Shoreline Economies and Ecosystems Act.

But it is very attractive in its provisions for the state, as it lifts the cap on Gulf Coast

states' share of federal offshore revenues. That cap was part of the necessary deal-making to pass the landmark Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act, or GOMESA — a major project of then-U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu, D-New Orleans.

If the RISEE Act passes, long-standing limits on GOMESA revenues to the states go up; Louisiana benefits disproportionately. Also, wind energy revenues, not just those for oil and gas production, will benefit our state as this new industry takes hold.

We don't know if it will make it, but the measure was introduced with bipartisan support in Senate and House by Landrieu's Republican successor, Bill Cassidy, of Baton Rouge. The bill will benefit not only oceanside states but

those bordering the Great Lakes; nationally, projects funded through energy revenues would be of benefit to a large number of inland states.

Hopefully, even in the rush of deadlines, there are enough states invested in these areas to make these key measures successful: WRDA's ports on all coasts, and along the nation's rivers, and RISEE's energy funding for not only Gulf Coast projects but parks and recreation across the nation.

The action will be fast and furious in the next few days. But we hope that the Louisiana delegation will continue to be successful as they have been recently on infrastructure funding like these vital bills.

SPORTS

Lady Tiders fall in Holiday Classic title game



Stafford Bailey (left) and the Minden boys defeated Lakeside before falling to North Caddo in the Car Giant Holiday Classic they helped host over the weekend while Travestu Byrd (above right) and the Lady Tiders' advanced to the championship game of the girls' bracket before falling to Gibsland-Coleman.

Minden boys defeat Lakeside before falling to N. Caddo, 59-50

T. SCOTT BOATRIGHT
Minden Press-Herald

The Minden Lady Tiders rolled all the way to the Car Giant Holiday Classic girls basketball tourney final over the weekend before falling 60-35 to Gibsland-Coleman in Saturday's championship contest.

Minden opened the tourney with a 59-25 win over Ringgold before edging past Richwood 52-50 on Friday to reach the title game.

The Crimson Tide opened the boys side of the tourney with a 56-36 win over Lakeside before being knocked out by North Caddo, 59-50.

Doyline's boys continue to be the hottest team in Webster Parish, defeating Alexandria-Country Day 59-37 on Friday to move to 12-2 on the season.

Doyline's girls have gotten off to a solid 8-4 start, but still face sledding in a powerhouse District 1-B lineup that includes Weston (16-4), Quitman (12-4) and Castor (9-4).

Lakeside's boys stand at 3-9 after the loss to Minden in the Holiday Classic while the Lady Warriors have started off at 2-6 and are coming off a 56-35 loss to Richwood in the Holiday Classic.

Glenbrook's girls fell 48-42 to Red River on Thursday while the Lady Knights of North Webster defeated Plain Dealing 38-37 before falling 50-26 to Haynesville during last week's action.

OVERALL LOCAL PREP BOYS BASKETBALL STANDINGS (as of Monday, Dec. 19)

DISTRICT 1-4A			DISTRICT 1-3A			DISTRICT 1-2A			DISRICT 1-1A			DISTRICT 1-B		
	W	L		W	L		W	L		W	L		W	L
Evangel	11	1	Sterlington	13	0	Calvary Bapt.	10	0	Ringgold	8	7	<i>Doyline</i>	12	2
Woodlawn	8	4	Wossman	9	1	Loyola Prep	5	6	Arcadia	4	6	Quitman	11	5
Huntington	7	5	Richwood	13	4	Green Oaks	6	9	Haynesville	2	3	Castor	6	7
BTW	6	5	Carroll	9	6	North Caddo	4	6	Magnolia SOE2	7	7	Weston	7	10
Bossier	6	5	Union Parish	5	5	<i>Lakeside</i>	3	9	Plain Dealing	3	7			
<i>Minden</i>	6	8	Bastrop	1	11	D. Woods	0	8	<i>Glenbrook</i>	0	5			
Northwood	5	7	<i>N. Webster</i>	0	6				Homer	0	2			
North DeSoto	1	5												



OVERALL LOCAL PREP GIRLS BASKETBALL STANDINGS (as of Monday, Dec. 19)

DISTRICT 1-4A			DISTRICT 1-3A			DISTRICT 1-2A			DISRICT 1-1A			DISTRICT 1-B		
	W	L		W	L		W	L		W	L		W	L
Huntington	9	2	Bastrop	11	1	Calvary Bapt.	4	2	Arcadia	9	5	Weston	16	4
Northwood	8	6	Sterlington	10	1	D. Woods	3	6	Plain Dealing	4	7	Quitman	12	4
BTW	5	4	Union Parish	8	1	<i>Lakeside</i>	2	6	Homer	2	4	Castor	9	4
<i>Minden</i>	6	6	Wossman	11	2	Loyola Prep	1	5	Ringgold	4	8	<i>Doyline</i>	8	4
Evangel	1	2	Carroll	9	3	North Caddo	1	6	<i>Glenbrook</i>	2	5			
Woodlawn	4	9	Richwood	9	7	Green Oaks	0	13	Homer	3	9			
N. DeSoto	4	10	<i>N. Webster</i>	3	5									
Bossier	0	11												



Texas-El Paso sweeps LA Tech in Conference USA hoops season openers

Minden Press-Herald Sports Service

EL PASO, Texas — Turnovers and poor shooting by Louisiana Tech ended up being the difference in the Conference USA opener as the Bulldogs fell, 60-55, to UTEP on Saturday night inside the Don Haskins Center.

LA Tech (6-5, 0-1 C-USA) committed 20 turnovers while shooting just 4-of-25 from beyond the arc, making a season-low 16 field goals.

“It is hard to generate offense when you are turning the ball over,” said Tech head coach Talvin Hester. “Turning it over 20 times was really detrimental to what we did. We have to clean that up.”

Despite the free-throw discrepancy in the game with UTEP (7-3, 1-0 C-USA) shooting 37 times from the charity stripe to LA Tech’s 24, the visiting team still gave themselves a chance to win it.

Down 56-46 with 3:14 to play, the ‘Dogs held the Miners without a made field goal for the remainder of the game. The Min-

ers had plenty of issues from the free-hrow line as well to help LA Tech creep back into it, making just 15 total (sank just three of 14 in the final three-plus minutes).

The Bulldog managed to get within one possession, down three with just 21 seconds remaining, but two made free throws by the Miners iced the game.

LA Tech had the lead for only 1:49 of the entire game when it was an early 4-3 advantage. It was at 14-all with nine minutes remaining in the first half when UTEP was able to gain some separation, going on a 7-0 run.

Keaston Willis’ second of three triples pulled the Bulldogs to within one with 11:55 remaining in the game, but it was another 7-0 run by the Miners to keep the road team at bay.

Cobe Williams registered a game-high 18 points to go along with five rebounds and a career-tying five steals. Isaiah Crawford nearly registered a double-double with 12 points and nine boards

plus four steals of his own. Willis was the third Bulldog in double figures with 11.

With the 74-59 win, LA Tech now leads the all-time series over Southern, 6-2.

The Bulldogs have won four straight meetings over the Jaguars.

LA Tech registered a season-high eight blocks. The Bulldogs had just nine total blocks in the previous seven games combined.

Tech also recorded double-digit steals (10) for the third time this season.

The Dunkin’ Dogs will have the week off before returning to action at 8 p.m. Saturday in a game that will be streamed on the Mountain West Network.

WOMEN

UTEP 62, LA Tech 54

RUSTON — Louisiana Tech women’s basketball team dropped their 2022-23 Conference USA opener to Texas-El Paso Sunday afternoon inside the Thomas Assembly Center in a game that featured eight lead changes and six ties.

shots than the Techsters (64-39).

Halfway through the final stanza, Louisiana Tech’s Lotte Sant’s three tied the game at 48-48, but UTEP used 7-2 to regain a 55-50 lead with 1:28 left and hit five free throws down the stretch to match

their largest lead of the game.

Keiunna Walker led the Techsters with 12 points, while Anna Larr Roberson and Gabbie Green added nine each. Tech was led on the glass by Amaya Brannon, who had seven rebounds.



Louisiana Tech Lady Techsters coach Brooke Stoehr talks to players returning to the bench during Sunday's home loss to UTEP.

SPORTS

G-Men fall at No. 24 VA Tech; women lose at TCU

Minden Press-Herald Sports Service

BLACKSBURG, Va. — The Grambling State University men’s basketball led by as many as 10 points midway through the first half on Saturday at Virginia Tech, but suffered a cold-shooting spell toward the end of the half as the Tigers fell to the 24th-ranked Hokies, 74-48, at Cassel Coliseum.

Grambling State (6-4) led 21-11 with 10:49 left in the first half, but the Tigers could not hit a bucket from the floor as Virginia Tech (11-1) used an 18-2 run over the next eight-plus minutes as GSU could not recover.

Carte’are Gordon paced the Tigers with 12 points, on 4-of-8 shooting, with four rebounds and a pair of assists. Cameron Christon added 10 points, six boards, two assists and one steal. Shawndarius Cowart pulled down a team-high seven boards, along with five points and two assists.

Sean Pedulla led Virginia Tech with 21 points, including four 3-pointers, along with six assists, five rebounds and two steals. Hunter Cattoor recorded 13 points, four boards and one assist, while Justyn Mutts tallied 11 points, three rebounds, two assists and two steals.

Grambling State used a small 8-3 run, capped by a Cowart 3-pointer, as there Tigers led 11-6 with 15:55 remaining in the opening half.

GSU pushed the advantage to 16-9 after a Cameron Christon free throw with 13:23 left and stretched the margin to

21-11 on a Gordon trey with just under 11 minutes to play.

The Hokies, on the heels of a 18-2 run, took advantage of Grambling State’s cold shooting spell and grabbed a 29-23 advantage after a 3-pointer by Pedulla with just over three minutes left in the half.

A dunk by Malik Lamin snapped an eight-plus minute cold spell for the Tigers and cut the margin to 29-25 with 2:17 remaining.

However, Virginia Tech scored the final five points of the half as the Hokies took a 34-25 lead into the break.

Grambling State got back-to-back buckets by Christon and Virshon Cotton as the Tigers trailed, 38-29, with 16:46 remaining.

Virginia Tech answered with a 12-2 run, capped by a Grant Basile layup to extend the advantage to 50-31 with 12:38 left.

The Hokies stretched the lead to 63-36 with just over eight minutes remaining as Virginia Tech proved to be too much as Grambling State saw its three-game win streak come to an end.

INSIDE THE NUMBERS

- Grambling State shot 36.5 percent (19-of-52) from the field and 62.5 percent (5-of-8) from the free-throw line

- Carte’are Gordon paced the Tigers with 12 points, on 4-of-8 shooting, with four rebounds and a pair of assists

- Cameron Christon added 10 points, six boards, two assists and one steal

- Shawndarius Cowart pulled down a team-



PHOTO COURTESY OF GSU ATHLETICS COMMUNICATIONS

Grambling’s Cameron Christon (left) totaled 10 points during Saturday’s loss at Virginia Tech.

high seven boards, along with five points and two assists

- The Tigers finished with 22 points in the paint, 13 bench points, 12 second-chance points, eight points off 13 Virginia Tech turnovers and five fast break points

- Virginia Tech went 26-of-51 shooting (51 percent) and 11-of-20 (55 percent) from the charity stripe

- Sean Pedulla led Virginia Tech with 21 points, including four 3-pointers, along with six assists, five rebounds and two steals

- Hunter Cattoor recorded 13 points, four boards and one assist

- Justyn Mutts tallied

11 points, three rebounds, two assists and two steals

- The Hokies finished with 24 points in the paint, 23 points off 19 Grambling State turnovers, 15 bench points, nine second-chance points and three fast break points

WOMEN

TCU 56, Grambling 45

FORT WORTH, Texas — The Grambling State University women’s basketball team wrapped up the non-conference portion of its schedule on Sunday afternoon, falling to Texas Christian University at Schollmaier Arena.

Colbi Maples paced GSU (1-10) with 18

points on 5-of-13 shooting from the field to go along with six rebounds and one steal. Miracle Saxon also posted a double-figure scoring effort, finishing with 10 points, three rebounds, two assists, one block and one steal.

TCU (5-5) opened the game strong, crafting a 17-6 lead. Phylicia Allen scored a layup with 1:15 left in the quarter to trimming the Horned Frogs’ lead to single-digits heading into the second.

After TCU ballooned its lead to 24-12 with 4:14 left in the half, Maples stroked a 3-pointer to once again keep the deficit under 10. With

2:55 to go, Miracle Saxon knocked down a mid-range jumper, making the score 26-19. The Horned Frogs carried a 33-21 lead into the break.

Grambling State settled down in the second half, outscoring TCU 24-23. TCU built a 19-point lead to start the fourth quarter, its largest of the game, on a 3-pointer by Tara Manumaleuga.

The Lady Tigers then embarked on a 12-2 run capped by a fast break layup by Leah Morrow, cutting TCU’s advantage to 54-45 with 1:24 to go. The Horned Frog tacked on two free throws in the waning moments of the game to secure the 56-45 win.

Joe Simmons 36 years later — like father, like son

GLYNN HARRIS

I had the privilege of writing a story 36 years ago of an impressive buck taken by the late Tommy Simmons of Ruston. On November 13, 1986 Simmons was hunting in northern Lincoln Parish when a buster of a buck stepped out and he dropped the 12 point. I still recall the emotion Simmons shared with me as he told his story. Although this was before antler score and measurements were in vogue his buck was likely in the 160 inch class.

Tommy’s son, Joe, not yet born when his dad nailed the big buck, took up where his dad left off. After an extended illness, Tommy passed away in 2020. Joe, age 29, encountered

another big Lincoln Parish buck this season and was successful in bringing the big 13 point trophy to the ground on Nov. 27.

“When you write the story of my buck, “please include the fact that my dad set the stage for my success,” said Joe Simmons. “In fact, he got his big buck within a couple of miles of where I currently live in the Pea Ridge community of Lincoln Parish.”

Joe Simmons was hunting on a 53-acre tract north of Choudrant in Lincoln Parish. The day before his encounter with his buck, he was bow hunting from his lock-on stand when he heard a fierce fight between two bucks.

“They were fighting in a thicket next to my



COURTESY PHOTO

Joe Simmons shows off the buck he got last week hunting in Lincoln Parish.

stand and it went on for five or six minutes. I’d hear antlers clashing, brush breaking and deer running when finally a small 8 point stepped out. I felt the other buck was likely the big one several of us had been after but he didn’t show. I decided that tomorrow, I’d be in my box stand with my rifle because I felt like he was in the area and I might have a chance at him,” Simmons said.

It had rained the day he was bow hunting but the rain had stopped and the morning of Nov. 27 dawned cool and damp. Simmons’ stand overlooks two shooting lanes where wheat, oats and rye are planted. The woods were previously a mixture of pines and

hardwoods that had been cut some 15 years ago leaving the area a dense thicket, perfect habitat for a big buck.

“I got out early and had to walk through corn I had scattered on one of my lanes. I used an Ever Calm scent cover on my boots and every 50 yards or so, I put out some Code Blue estrous doe scent before climbing into my stand” he said.

Not seeing any action the first hour or so after daylight, a buddy hunting nearby texted him about a nice buck he had just shot with his bow.

“Since I wasn’t seeing anything and my buddy was excited about his bow kill, I shut the windows on my stand,

called him to hear his story and we talked for maybe 15 minutes,” Simmons said. “After we finished talking, I opened the windows again and half an hour later, I looked up to see a big buck walking across my lane at 65 yards. I couldn’t be sure if it was the big one I was after but since it was bigger than any others I knew about in this area, I put my Browning BAR .270 short mag on the window, grunted to make the deer stop and I took the shot. The buck crumpled but then disappeared into the woods.”

Walking to the site of the shot, there was no blood and Simmons considered going to get his blood tracking dog. There was no need for a tracking dog because he took two steps into the woods and saw antlers. The big buck had only run 15 yards before collapsing.

The buck sported 13 points with an inside spread of 17 5/8 inches, bases around 5 inches each with main beams stretching to near 27-inches each. The buck which was rutted down weighed 170 pounds and was determined to be around 5 1/2 years old. Taking the buck to Greg Hicks, official scorer for Buck Masters, the rack measured 174 3/8 inches.

“It’s hard to express what I feel,” Simmons said, “about getting another Lincoln Parish trophy buck 36 years after my dad got his.”

— Contact Glynn Harris at glynnharris37@gmail.com.

Fishing Report

BLACK BAYOU – No report this week. Contact Honey Hole Tackle Shop 323-8707 for the latest information.

BUSSEY BRAKE – Crappie fishing has been best on jigs or shiners around the boat ramp and nearby trees. Bass have fair to good flipping creature baits around structure. For the latest information, contact the Honey Hole at 323-8707.

OUACHITA RIVER – Crappie fishing has improved a bit with best catches made on jigs or shiners around structure. Bass have been best in the cuts and run-outs on shad imitation lures. For the latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE D’ARBONNE – Crappie fishing has been good with best catches made on shiners or jigs fished along the channel edges. Bass fishing has been best fishing the points with soft plastics and crank baits. Bream are slow while catfish are biting cold worms fished off the banks. For the latest information, call Anderson Sport Center at 368-9669 or Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE CLAIBORNE – Crappie fishing has been best fishing around the lights at night with shiners or jigs as well as around the tops in 12-14 foot water. Bass fishing has improved with some in the 4-5 pound range caught on a variety of

lures. No report on catfish, bream or stripers. For the latest information, call Kel’s Cove at 927-2264 or Terzia Tackle at 278-4498.

CANEY LAKE – Jigging spoons and tail spinners are working best on bass bouncing these lures off the bottom in 18-20 foot deep water. Soft plastics and deep diving crank baits have been producing some around humps just off the channels with a few in the 7-8 pound range. Crappie fishing continues to be best fishing the deep tops on shiners or jigs. No report on bream or catfish.. For information contact Hooks Marina at 249-2347, Terzia Tackle at 278-4498 or the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE POVERTY POINT – Crappie fishing is improving with fish caught around the boat slips as well as on the lower end of the lake on shiners or jigs. Catfishing continues to be good with mostly smaller sizes reported. No report on bass. For latest reports, call Poverty Point Marina at 318-878-0101.

LAKE YUCATAN – The water continues to rise and is now coming in through the chute. Before this week’s storms some good sized crappie and bass have been reported. For information, call Surplus City Landing at 318-467-2259.

— Glynn Harris

Good News

GOOD NEWS

HOW THE GREAT GUEST CAME (Edwin Markham)

Before the cathedral
in grandeur rose
At Ingelburg where
the Danube goes;
Before its forest of sil-
ver spires
Went airily up to the
clouds and fires;
Before the oak had
ready a beam,
While yet the arch
was stone and a dream
-
There where the altar
was later laid,
Conrad, the cobbler,
plied his trade.
It happened one day
at the year's white end
-
Two neighbors called
on their old-time
friend;
And they found the
shop, so meager and
mean,
Made gay with 100
boughs of green.
Conrad was stitching
with face ashine,
But suddenly
stopped as he twitched
a twine;
"Old friends good
news! At dawn today,
As the cocks were
scaring the night away,
The Lord appeared in
a dream to me,
And said, "I am com-
ing today -- your Guest

to be!"
So I've been busy
with feet astir,
Sweeping the floor
with branches of fir.
The wall is washed
and the shelf is shined,
And over the raf-
ter the holly
twined.
He comes
today, and
the table is
spread
With milk
and honey
and wheaten
bread."
His friends
went home;
and his face grew still
As he watched for the
shadow across the win-
dow sill.
He lived all the mo-
ments o'er and o'er,
When the Lord
should enter his lowly
door -
The knock, the call,
the latch pulled up,
The lighted face, the
offered cup.
He would wash the
feet where the spikes
had been,
He would kiss the
hands where the nails
went in,
And then at the last
would sit with Him

And break the bread
as the day grew dim.
While Conrad, the
cobbler mused, there
passed his pane
A beggar drenched
by the driving rain,
He called him in from
the stony street
And gave him
shoes for his
bruised feet.
The beggar
went and there
came a crone,
Her face with
wrinkles of sor-
row sown.
A bundle of
fagots bowed
her back,
And she was spent
with the wrench and
rack.
He gave her his loaf
and steadied her load
As she took her way
on the weary road.
Then to his door
came a little child,
Lost and afraid in the
world so wild,
In the big, dark world.
Catching it up,
He gave it the milk in
the waiting cup,
And led it home to its
mothers arms,
Out of the reach of
the world's alarms.
The day went down




Bill Crider

BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF
MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER

THE UPWARD LOOK

Government Decrees

"Now in those days a decree went out from Caesar Augustus, that a census be taken of all the inhabited earth." Luke 2:1 NASB



Max Hutto

With Caesar ruling over the Roman empire, every-one under his reign was obligated to obey whether they liked his law or not. His decrees often disrupted the ordinary day to day life. It is easy to imagine that the people in Gali-lee and Judea were more concerned about the decrees of Caesar than they were about a young couple expecting

a child or even the coming of the Sav-ior. Even today it is easy to be preoccupied and overwhelmed by government and news head-lines causing us miss what God is doing.

Lord Jesus, even in the hustle and bustle of this world, help me to stop and worship You, spending time in Your Word, the Bible, and in prayer. Keep my focus this Christmas season on You, my Savior.


MAX HUTTO IS A BAPTIST MINISTER AND A RESI-DENT OF MINDEN. MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT WWW.UPWARDLOOK.ORG.

INSPIRATION

Recipe for success

If you're like me and you like to bake you've probably used a recipe. In theory, if you follow the same recipe you should get a consistent result. However, that isn't always the case. It's been my ex-perience that I can be consistent and still fail. I have found that in some instances the failures are due to mistakes in my execu-tion. However, I have also had to face the fact that some factors are beyond my control. Several things can affect the outcome. For instance inconsistent oven heat, changes in barometric pressure, or even faults in your ingredients. The situations in our lives can be viewed similarly. We as humans often go through our lives making plan

after plan. This is fine because it aids in organization. However, you need to ask yourself, a question. What will I do when one of my plans fails? Jeremiah 29:11 NLT Says " I know the plans I have for you," says the Lord. "They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope." As humans and children of God, we have to learn to let go of our plan and seek out God's. This could be the difference between rising to the occasion or falling flat.



Bernard Harris

BERNARD HARRIS III IS A HOUGHTON FIREMAN AND A LOCAL RESIDENT OF MINDEN

Come

WORSHIP

FIRST ASSEMBLY OF GOD MINDEN

How can we pray for you?

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
301 Pennsylvania Avenue • Minden, LA

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

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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.

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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 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

SHERIFF'S SALE

NATIONSTAR MORTGAGE LLC VS. FLOYD GRAY

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 80367

By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE issued out of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, in the above styled and numbered suit and to me directed, I have seized and taken into my possession and will offer for sale at public auction to the last and highest bidder for cash WITH the benefit of appraisal and according to law at the principal front door of the Court-house in the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana on WEDNESDAY, January 25, 2023, During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

Lots 118 and 119, George C. Meyers Subdivision, a subdivision in Webster Parish, Louisiana, as per plat recorded I Book 1, Page 37 of the Conveyance Records of Webster Parish, Louisiana, together with buildings and improvements thereon; subject to restrictions, servitudes, rights-of-way and outstanding mineral rights of record affecting the property.

SOLD SUBJECT TO ANY SUPERIOR LIENS, MORTGAGES OR PRIVILEGES THERETO.

Said property seized is that of the defendant and will be sold to satisfy a judgment rendered in our Honorable Court.

JASON R. PARKER
Sheriff & Ex-Officio Auctioneer
Webster Parish, Louisiana

Linda Vaughan - Deputy

**December 21, 2022
January 18, 2023
Minden Press-Herald**

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Notice is hereby given that the Webster Parish School Board will receive sealed bids from LA licensed general contractors until **2:00 P.M., Thursday January 19, 2023, for:**

JOB #2022-14 NEW VISITOR FOOTBALL GRANDSTAND FOR MINDEN HIGH SCHOOL MINDEN, LOUISIANA

Bids will be accepted until the date and time specified and will be publicly opened and read aloud at that time in the School Board's Office, 1442 Shepard Street, Minden, Louisiana 71055. All submittal packages will be stamped or marked to acknowledge timely receipt. Sole responsibility for proper mailing or delivery of any bid in compliance with this advertisement is that of the bidder. Bids received after the date and time of opening will not be considered.

A non-mandatory **Pre-bid Conference** will be held at **10:00 A.M. on Tuesday January 10, 2023 at Minden High School: 400 College St., Minden, Louisiana 71055.** Bidders must check in at the office.

All bids must be accompanied by bid security equal to five percent (5%) of the base bid and all alternates and must be in the form of a certified check, cashier's check or bid bond written by a company licensed to do business in the State of Louisiana.

Complete bid documents may be obtained from Yeager, Watson & Associates, LLC, 118 S. Trenton St., Ruston,

LA 71270-4432, (318) 202-5708, upon receipt of deposit of \$200.00 for each set of documents. The deposit is fully-refundable to all plan holders upon return of the documents, in good condition, no later than fifteen (15) days after receipt of bids. The deposits for all other sets of documents will not be refunded. Bid-related materials and electronic submittal of bids may be found at: WWW.CENTRAL-BIDDING.COM. For questions relating to the electronic bidding process, please call Central Bidding at (225) 810-4814. Electronic bid documents are also available for a purchase price of \$20 from the architect's office or by membership to following Plan Rooms: LAGC, ConstructConnect, Dodge, or ISqFt.

The Webster Parish School Board is an equal opportunity agency dedicated to a policy of non-discrimination regarding Title VI, the Civil Rights Act of 1964, Title IX, and Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973.

The Webster Parish School Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

/s/ Johnny Rowland
/t/ Johnny Rowland, Secretary Treasurer
Webster Parish School Board

**December 14, 2022
December 21, 2022
December 28, 2022
Minden Press-Herald**

LEGAL NOTICE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE WEBSTER PARISH ASSESSOR HAS COMPLIED WITH LA REVISED STATUTE 39:1306 RELATIVE TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE AMENDED BUDGET PROCESS FOR THE YEAR ENDED, DECEMBER 31, 2022 AND IN THE BUDGET PROCESS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2023. NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION, PUBLICATION OF BUDGET SUMMARY AND PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE APPLICABLE STATUTES.

DENISE G. EDWARDS, CLA
WEBSTER PARISH ASSESSOR

**December 21, 2022
Minden Press-Herald**

PROCEEDING OF THE VILLAGE OF HEFLIN, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN IN REGULAR MEETING HELD ON DECEMBER 8, 2022.

The Hefflin Town Council met at Town Hall, Hefflin, Louisiana beginning at 8:05 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Todd Leake council members Matt Austin, Ralph James, Police Chief Paul Miguees, Water System Operator and Village Clerk Sherry Limosnero. Absent council member Hallie DeMoss.

The meeting was opened with prayer offered by Ralph James and Matt Austin led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Pro Tem welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Upon motion by Matt Austin and duly seconded by Ralph James, the council adopted the Minutes from November 10, 2022 at Council Regular Meeting held on December 8, 2022 as presented; the motion was approved unanimously. Ralph James moved to accept the November 2022 Operating Financial Statements as presented; the motion was duly seconded by Matt Austin. The motion was approved unanimously.

Upon motion by Matt Austin and duly seconded by Ralph James, the council unanimously approved Water System Reports for November, 2022. Ralph James moved to accept the November, 2022 Police De-

partment Reports as presented; the motion was duly seconded by Matt Austin. The motion was approved unanimously.

Upon motion by Matt Austin and duly seconded by Ralph James, the council unanimously approved the A.R.P. Report for November, 2022. Ralph James moved to accept the **2023 Operating Budget for the Village of Hefflin** as presented; the motion was duly seconded by Matt Austin. The motion was approved unanimously. Said Operating 2023 Budget is attached to and made a part of these minutes.

The Village of Hefflin would like to Thank Mayor Todd Leake for 24 years of dedicated and outstanding service to our Village as Alderman and Mayor.

Council comments were heard, public comments were heard. There being no further business to come before this Council, meeting adjourned by Council Member Matt Austin.

Attest by:
Sherry Limosnero LCMC, Village Clerk
Respectfully posted: 12/13/2022
Adopted: 12/8/2022

**December 21, 2022
Minden Press-Herald**

I, Bryant Lyons, DOC # 428978, have applied for clemency for my conviction of: second degree cruelty to a juvenile. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Board of Pardons at (225)-342-5421.

**December 21, 2022
December 28, 2022
January 4, 2023
Minden Press-Herald**

GPM Southeast, LLC d/b/a Dixie Mart #7290 is applying to the Office of Alcohol & Tobacco Control of the State of Louisiana for a permit to sell beverages of low alcohol content at retail in the Parish of Webster at the following address:

800 Lewisville Road, Minden, LA 71055
GPM Southeast, LLC
Dixie Mart #7290
Member: GPM Investments, LLC
Corporate Officers: Arie Kotler, CEO, Eyal Nuchamovitz, EVP, Donald Bassell, CFO

**December 21, 2022
December 28, 2022
Minden Press-Herald**

GPM Southeast, LLC d/b/a Dixie Mart #7292 is applying to the Office of Alcohol & Tobacco Control of the State of Louisiana for a permit to sell beverages of low alcohol content at retail in the Parish of Webster at the following address:

982 Highway 531, Minden, LA 71055
GPM Southeast, LLC
Dixie Mart #7292
Member: GPM Investments, LLC
Corporate Officers: Arie Kotler, CEO, Eyal Nuchamovitz, EVP, Donald Bassell, CFO

**December 21, 2022
December 28, 2022
Minden Press-Herald**

GPM Southeast, LLC d/b/a Dixie Mart #7293 is applying to the Office of Alcohol & Tobacco Control of the State of Louisiana for a permit to sell beverages of low alcohol content at retail in the Parish of Webster at the following address:

1403 Sibley Road, Minden, LA 71055
GPM Southeast, LLC
Dixie Mart #7293
Member: GPM Investments, LLC
Corporate Officers: Arie Kotler, CEO, Eyal Nuchamovitz, EVP, Donald Bassell, CFO

**December 21, 2022
December 28, 2022
Minden Press-Herald**

GPM Southeast, LLC d/b/a Dixie Mart #7294 is applying to the Office of Alcohol & Tobacco Control of the State of Louisiana for a permit to sell beverages of low alcohol

content at retail in the Parish of Webster at the following address:

917 Homer Road, Minden, LA 71055
GPM Southeast, LLC
Dixie Mart #7294
Member: GPM Investments, LLC
Corporate Officers: Arie Kotler, CEO, Eyal Nuchamovitz, EVP, Donald Bassell, CFO

**December 21, 2022
December 28, 2022
Minden Press-Herald**

EMPLOYMENT

The Town of Cotton Valley has a Part-Time (32 hrs/wk) position open in Public Works. Must have water and sewer knowledge including but not limited to repair leaks, read meters, fill potholes, mowing, and operate small equipment. Applications are available at Town Hall, 478 Resident St Cotton Valley LA 318-832-4283.

**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**

**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**

**RENTAL
3 bedroom/2 bath mobile home for rent. \$650/month plus \$300 deposit. Call (318) 658-3791**

**VILLAGE OF HEFLIN BUDGET
ADOPTING THE BUDGET FOR THE VILLAGE OF HEFLIN, LOUISIANA
FOR THE CALENDER YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023**

BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Alderman of the Village of Hefflin, Parish of Webster, State of Louisiana that the budget for the calendar year beginning January 1, 2023 and ending December 31, 2023 be and it is hereby adopted as follows:

SECTION I.
TOTAL GENERAL FUND REVENUE \$119,873.03

General Fund Expenditures:
Sub – Total General Funds Expenditures \$69,300.00

Sub – Total Police Department Expense \$15,000.00

TOTAL GENERAL FUND EXPENDITURES \$84,300.00

SECTION II.
WATER REVENUE & OPERATING FUND
TOTAL R/O REVENUE \$57,997.24

TOTAL R/O EXPENDITURES \$58,138.00

SECTION III.
This operating budget will be effective on. JANUARY 1, 2023
This operating budget was introduced on. NOVEMBER 10, 2022
This operating budget was read and considered on DECEMBER 8, 2022 at an open regular session of the Board of Aldermen. Upon a motion made by **RALPH JAMES**, seconded by MATT AUSTIN. the following vote was taken at an open regular session DECEMBER 8, 2022

YEAS: 2
NAYS: 0
Absent: 1
Abstain: 0

**December 21, 2022
Minden Press-Herald**

Attorney
Robins Roach Law Firm, LLC has opened its doors as a general practice in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. As experts in Louisiana law, we are here to serve. The Robins Roach Law Firm offers a wide variety of legal services to both individuals and businesses of all types. Contact Charlie Robins Roach to schedule your confidential consultation today at 1-225-614-2837 or email us at robinsroachlaw-firm@gmail.com (LA-SCAN)

PROBLEM CREDIT REPORT? Lexington Law helps works to challenge inaccurate negative items including identity theft, collections, late payments, liens and more from your credit report. Call for a free credit repair consultation: 1-888-521-0958 John C. Heath, Attorney at Law, PLLC, dba Lexington Law Firm. (LA-SCAN)

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Over \$10K in Debt? Be debt free in 24 to 48 months. No upfront fees to enroll. A+ BBB rated. Call National Debt Relief 1-844-932-4168. (LA-SCAN)

SAVE YOUR HOME! Are you behind paying your MORTGAGE? Denied a Loan Modification? Is the bank threatening foreclosure? CALL Homeowner's Relief Line! FREE CONSULTATION 1-877-760-3072 (LA-SCAN)

The COVID crisis has cost us all something. Many have lost jobs and financial security. Have \$10K In Debt? Credit Cards. Medical Bills. Car Loans. Call NATIONAL DEBT RELIEF! We can help! Get a FREE debt relief quote: Call 1-844-488-4687 (LA-SCAN)

Health and Wellness
ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Inogen One G4 is capable of full 24/7 oxygen delivery. Only 2.8 pounds. FREE information kit. Call 1-855-874-9438. (LA-SCAN)

Attention: Oxygen Users! Gain freedom with a Portable Oxygen Concentrator! No more heavy tanks and refills! Guaranteed Lowest Prices! Call The Oxygen Concentrator Store: 1-855-382-

4168 (LA-SCAN)

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Home and Garden
Eliminate gutter cleaning forever with LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. Call 1-866-846-0785 (LA-SCAN)

Home Improvement
BATHROOM RENOVATIONS. EASY, ONE DAY updates! We specialize in safe bathing. Beautiful new walk-in showers with no slip flooring. Also, grab bars and seated showers available. Call for a free in-home consultation: 1-855-238-1870 (LA-SCAN)

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