

MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2023

MINDEN, LOUISIANA

PRESS-HERALD.COM

75 CENTS

New year, new mayor, new city council

WILL PHILLIPS
Minden Press-Herald

Nick Cox was officially sworn in as mayor of the City of Minden on Thursday evening. Cox took some time to let the citizens of Minden know what is on his mind during these first few days of office and what we can expect moving forward.

Since winning the election, Cox has been shadowing Interim Mayor Tommy Davis in order to make sure that Cox's transition into the seat of mayor is a smooth one, and he will be equipped to take the reins as soon as possible.

"I've been working at City Hall for about two months since

First meeting

Due to early press deadlines, coverage of the Minden City Council is available online.

press-herald.com

winning the election. City Hall has a lot of employees, and I've done my best to become familiar with them and figure out the hierarchy.

"Tommy Davis has done an amazing job during his time in office. Not only has he been great as an interim mayor, but has also been good for our future by allowing me to shadow him, keeping me in the loop,

showing me how the backend operates, and really just getting me ahead of the curve for when I officially take office.

"I've been able to pick his brain about anything that comes to mind, and he is an open book. It's good for me and great for the people of Minden," said Cox.

While developing working relationships among city employees is important, Cox also discussed the importance of reaching out further to other local organizations and community leaders.

"I can't stop there, so I'm spending more time next year



Minden Mayor Nick Cox is sworn into office by City Judge Sherb Sentell.

See, **COX**, Page 10

UTILITIES

Entergy to spend \$9.6 billion on grid upgrades

(The Center Square) — Entergy Louisiana is proposing a 10-year, \$9.6 billion plan to harden the electrical grid in Louisiana, and is seeking approval for the first five years from the Louisiana Public Service Commission.

Entergy filed a Phase I Entergy Future Ready resilience plan with the commission on Monday to propose "a comprehensive set of grid-hardening investments for the Commission to consider along with enhanced vegetation management and alternative technologies," according to an Entergy announcement.

The company contends it used a data-driven approach to evaluate thousands of potential storm scenarios to identify projects with the biggest impact for customers at the "lowest reasonable cost."

"In its totality, the resilience projects are estimated to cost approximately \$9.6 billion over 10 years," the announcement read. "It calls for 9,600 distribution and transmission projects that would strengthen more than 269,000 structures over 11,000 miles of power lines."

The plan includes two five-year phases between 2024 and 2033, and the company is working to secure federal grants and funding to mitigate the costs to customers.

Entergy is seeking approval from the PSC for the first, five-year phase, which includes about \$5 billion in projects the company expects to reduce customer interruptions by more than 34 billion minutes over the next five decades.

"Louisiana has a chance to lead the way in terms of energy, resilience and sustainability, but we must be ready and that's exactly what this plan intends to do," said Phillip May, Entergy Louisiana president and CEO.

YEAR IN REVIEW 2022

As we fully embrace 2023, the Minden Press-Herald shares some of the top stories of the past year. While far from a comprehensive list, these are some of the best, as chosen by our news team.

MINDEN GETS TO WORK PLANNING FOR INCREASED TOURISM AFTER HGTV PREMIERE

As many know by now, HGTV came to the City of Minden recently to film some of their upcoming season of Hometown Kickstart. Other than the direct benefits of having locales in Minden spruced up, after the episode featuring Minden airs, it is reasonable to assume that the amount of tourists the city draws will significantly increase.

WEBSTER SCHOOLS SUFFERING FROM OMICRON OUTBREAKS

Many schools in Webster Parish are currently impacted by absences due to the COVID pandemic. At this month's school board meeting, Assistant Superintendent Kevin Washington listed the class closings at schools in the parish.

LEMOINE CROWNED MISS MINDEN 2022

This past weekend the 2022 Miss Minden pageant took place when eight young women competed in a variety of categories to determine who would best represent our town with the titles of Miss Minden, Miss Spirit of Fashing, and Outstanding Teen.

After a night of fierce competition, the judges for the pageant ultimately made the decision to crown Anna Claire Lemoine as Miss Minden 2022. "It was honestly insane. I started out in the Miss Minden organization as a teen, and just being able to come back and win Miss Minden and be able to give back to my community as well as encourage other girls to step into the Miss America and Miss Louisiana Organization is just an absolutely humbling experience," said Lemoine.

OLIVIA BLACKWELDER CROWNED APACHE PRINCESS 2022

Olivia Blackwelder was se-

A look back at the year that was...



Anna Claire Lemoine is crowned Miss Minden 2022.

lected as Apache Princess 2022 for Glenbrook tonight at the Minden Civic Center. She was crowned by the 2021 Apache Princess, Emma Pitman.

Twenty-two young women competed for the opportunity to represent their school, showing beauty, grace, and charm.



MINDEN ST. JUDE AUCTION RAISES \$2.4 MILLION

The Minden St. Jude Auction came back bigger and better than ever this year, raising a whopping \$2,415,317 for the Children's Research Auction over the course of the event's four days, outpacing previous

year's records by nearly a million dollars.

POLICE OFFICERS RECEIVE THE LIFE SAVING AWARD

Five Minden police officers received the Life Saving Award this week for rescuing a critically injured young man.

SEVERE STORMS LEAVE MINDEN RESIDENTS WITHOUT POWER

The storm that blew through Texas and Louisiana Tuesday night left fallen trees and other damage in its wake. While the Minden area fared better than the Bossier area, the effects of the storm are still visible around town.

CHAMBER AWARDS GALA 2022 WINNERS

Each year the Greater Minden Chamber hosts their Annual Awards Gala. This event serves as an opportunity for the local

community to gather and enjoy an evening amongst one another, all while recognizing the individuals that go above and beyond in their efforts to better the City of Minden.

The award winners were Misty Robinson of Velvet Home & Clothing for Small Business of the Year; Dr. Earl Meador of Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College for Business of the Year; Ryan O'Glee of Minden Family Pharmacy for Business Person of the Year; Jennifer Campbell, Savannah Jones, and Kim Sentell of Webster Parish Libraries for Community Partner of the Year; Sue Gruber for Chamber Champion; George French for the Lifetime Achievement Award; and, in a new category added this year, Sherb Sentell for Hometown Hero.



RECLAIMING HISTORY

While city workers were preparing the area around the gazebo in Jacqueline Park early Tuesday morning, a thought-to-be-lost piece of history was found once again.

In Minden back in 1976, The Greater Minden Chamber chose to bury a time capsule as part of their bicentennial celebration of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

WEBSTER PARISH CONVENTION AND VISITORS COMMISSION ACQUIRES HISTORIC MILLER-INABNETT PROPERTY IN CENTRAL MINDEN

Nick Cox, Tourism Commissioner for Webster Parish Convention and Visitors Commission and Vice President of the Webster Parish Police Jury,

See, **REVIEW**, Page 10

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MINDEN FAMILY DENTAL

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Zach M. Goodman
D.D.S.



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Tomorrow's
High Temp 59°

Tomorrow's
Low Temp 38°

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WEBSTER & MORE

THE ARTS



Students from throughout Webster Parish were asked, as a part of Deck'd Out, to express themselves through the unique canvas of a skateboard deck. Parish Design Co. created the event to give an avenue for younger artists to showcase their talents.

WILL PHILLIPS/MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

They 'Deck'd' the walls

Parish Design Co. hosts student art exhibit in December

WILL PHILLIPS
Minden Press-Herald

Parish Design Co. recently hosted an event titled Deck'd Out, which was an exhibition featuring skateboard decks and the art that was put upon them by talented students throughout Webster Parish.

"My wife Rachel and I started Parish Design Co. as a means to connect with young people and creative people from all walks of life in our parish. To embrace the arts, to embrace culture, to embrace locally made wares and projects. Because of my passion for skateboarding, and because we have some amazing art teachers here in Webster Parish, we decided we would get together and have a show around Christmas time called 'Deck'd Out' to celebrate what young people can do in our parish," said Patrick Miller.

Miller, who owns and operates Parish Design Co. alongside his wife Rachel, was the one who got the ball rolling for this program with the help of other art teachers in Webster Parish. The inspiration for the program came from a similar exhibition he started during his time at Louisiana Tech University.

"I was a professor at Louisiana Tech University for six years as the head of graphic design. In 2012, I started an exhibition of skateboard decks called Deck the Halls. Even though I left LA Tech in 2015 to go work for General Dynamics over in Bossier City, I actually saw that they've continued the tradition, and it's been going on for 10 years now," said Miller.

His passion for skateboarding continues to this day, with Miller being on the board of a skate park that will be opening soon in Ruston, as well as helping to facilitate fundraising to develop it.

Miller was also quick to credit those who helped him bring this project to fruition, most notably Kayla Martin and Jennifer Heard.

"Arts teachers throughout



Zoey Cox standing next to her board titled "Skate Through the Heartbreak."

the parish then helped facilitate students to be a part of the program. They work with a lot of young people who are passionate about the arts, and we thought this was a great way to showcase the work that they're doing here in Webster Parish. We're a big parish with a lot of creative people, so it's great to see so many folks from every end of the parish," said Miller. "We're so thankful that so many creative minds could come together and do something fun for young people."

Martin, the head of the Talented Art Program for Webster Parish Schools took some time to share her experience with

Deck'd Out and the importance of avenues like this to help display young talent that may get overlooked otherwise.

"I'm within the Talented Arts Program, which students test to get into. It's a really great way to showcase the kids who have exceptional talent. I had a small group of kids last year, and it grew so much. There are kids in our parish who don't get any recognition, unless it's something like this, because it's not the sports, academics, or more common extracurricular activities," said Martin.

"It's been awesome to see all the little niches that they get into. I have no students that are

the same. It's really cool to see the variation of talents within these kids, and I'm blessed to be a part of it."

Coordinating the students from Minden High School was the school's arts teacher, Jennifer Heard. She spoke of her students' enthusiasm for being able to participate in an event like this and noted that when it came to these boards, outside of some feedback here and there, that all the work was done by the students themselves.

"The kids, whenever I asked them whether they would be interested in doing skateboard decks, they all kind of lost their minds. They were obviously su-

per stoked about it," said Heard.

"It was fun seeing the kids really get into it, and push themselves to explore different subjects. Seeing them go from a flat piece of paper to a 3D object like the board was a lot of fun. We decided on what their plan for the board was, I was hands off completely. Everything you see up here was completely done 100% by the kids."

Minden High School student and member of the Talented Arts Program Zoey Cox offered her experience as a young artist participating in the program.

"I just drew a heart at first, but as I progressed throughout the painting, it became more and more deep. I didn't have a plan at first, but by the end it turned out well. I labeled it 'Skate Through the Heartbreak' because it's a broken heart, and throughout the painting, I went through it."

Miller was quick to express his thanks to an anonymous benefactor who covered a portion of the costs for the program. This, along with the costs covered by Parish Design Co., ensured that each student was supplied with a deck to work on for free.

Thirty-five student artists ended up submitting boards to be displayed, and the success of the program has led to Parish Design Co. planning other events to feature artists in the future.

"We're looking at some other options for creative endeavors, so there's an outlet for young creative people in Webster Parish. We really want to embrace the arts when folks are young because it's something that can last a lifetime for them. We want to make sure that these things are cultivated within our community," said Miller.

The boards that were submitted will be featured at Parish Design Co., located at 727 Broadway St. in Minden. Some of the decks are available for purchase with a portion of the proceeds going back toward the arts programs the students are involved in as well as to the student artists themselves.

WEBSTER & MORE

COMMUNITY

Mendenhall to chair radio station group

Special to the Minden Press-Herald

Please join KOKA in congratulating Terrell Mendenhall on being elected 2023-2024 Chairman of KOKA NATION.

Chairman Mendenhall is from Springhill, Louisiana, in Webster Parish. He is President of Citizens About Progress in the parish and a Community Development Coordinator for CDAC. Mendenhall graduated from Grambling State University, where he is an active alum.



MENDENHALL

“KOKA Nation is a support group for the station; they are more like boosters,” said Pastor CeJay, Director. I look forward to working with the new Chairman as he’s served on the committee for the last two years representing listeners in Webster Parish and has been listening to the station for 30+ years.”

To join KOKA Nation, go to www.koka.am.

Branson show coming to Springhill Jan. 7

Piney Woods Jamboree will be hosting the Melody Hart Family & Friends Branson Show at the Frank Anthony Community Activity Center in Springhill on January 7, 2023.

Melody Hart Family & Friends regularly perform high-energy classic country music in Branson, Missouri. Hart has been awarded Fiddle Player of the Year three times and is the reigning Female Vocalist of the Year for the Branson Terry Music Awards. Her husband, Wayne Massengale, has won awards for his fiddle playing ten times in Branson.

Together with their sons, this family has been putting on entertaining shows in different venues for many years. One of Hart’s favorite songs to perform is “Lord I Hope This Day is Good” by Don Williams because performing that song is what brought them together as a family band.

“We do that as a family because that’s one of the first songs we sat down and realized what we had as a family,” said Hart. “We had a family band. This song really just opened up my eyes and made me realize we have a family band right here.”

Piney Woods Jamboree invites you to come out and enjoy the music and entertainment. The show begins at 7 p.m. and ends at 10 p.m. Tickets run between \$15 and \$25. For more information, you can email Piney Woods Jamboree at pineywoods-jamboree@gmail.com or call 318-423-3710.



COURTESY PHOTO

Christmas Donation

Citizens About Progress after school tutoring Christmas party turned out great on December 14th. Sparklight blessed the inspiring organization with a donation of \$5000. A sincere thank you goes out to Sparklight for believing in the value of a good education for all students. To everyone who came out to support this great celebration we thank you. Plans will not work unless we all do.

Ardoin bans Tik Tok on Department of State devices

BATON ROUGE, La. — Louisiana Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin announced today that he was banning TikTok on all Department of State-issued devices, and called on Governor John Bel Edwards to follow the lead of the governors of Alabama, North Dakota, South Dakota, Iowa, Maryland, Texas, Utah and Virginia by banning its use on all state government-issued devices.

In a letter sent to Governor Edwards today, Secretary Ardoin said: “As Secretary of State, I have the serious responsibility of protecting voters’ personally identifiable information, which is why I have taken the step of banning the use of TikTok on all devices owned or leased by my agency. I wholeheartedly believe that doing so on a statewide level would protect our data and reaffirm our commitment to

privacy protections for our constituents. Therefore, I urge you to issue a directive banning the use of TikTok on our state government’s devices with immediate effect.”

This move follows a vote by unanimous consent by the United States Senate to ban TikTok on US government devices, stemming from concerns over its data collection and ties to the Chinese Communist Party.



COURTESY PHOTO

The Dorcheat Soil and Water Conservation District’s named Chris Saucier Conservation Farmer of the Year.

Saucier named Farmer of the Year

Special to the Minden Press-Herald

The Dorcheat Soil and Water Conservation District’s Conservation Farmer of the Year is Chris Saucier.

Chris’ love for agriculture began as a college student in Stephenville, Texas. He worked on a 4600 acre cow/calf operation ranch during his time there. He learned about hard work and gained an appreciation of the land and environment.

He began a career with a financial institution as a loan officer and soon realized he was not cut out for staying indoors. His best friend Elliot Brown’s father Larry Brown pur-

chased a Chrysler dealership in Minden and Chris followed his friend to the dealership in 2006 where he is employed.

Chris is married with two children, wife Jana, son Tucker and daughter Tatum. Chris’ father-in-law, Jim Ezell has taught him about forages, chemicals and hay production.

Chris has three tracts of land leased in Webster parish where he produces hay and has commercial herds of cattle. Being around other cattlemen such as Loyd Dodson, Stephen Eubanks, Al Faulk and Lee Faulk he was introduced to NRCS. Give’em a call, see what they can help you with. Well, he did in 2018 and

began a relationship with the staff at the Minden Field Office. Since 2018 Chris has completed one contract, has an active contract and a new application for more conservation practices to install. NRCS has assisted him with establishing legumes, fences, herbaceous weed treatment, heavy use areas and livestock pipelines. All of these livestock practices improve water quality, improve livestock health and reduce erosion.

Chris told me this Bible Verse from Proverbs 20:4 that keeps him inspired and motivated.

“IF YOU ARE TOO LAZY TO PLOW, DON’T EXPECT A HARVEST!”

Study: Louisiana ranked #2 in safe digital practices

STAFF REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

A recent study by Secure Data Recovery found that Louisiana is one of the most digitally safe states in the United States. Secure Data Recovery polled 2,335 people across all 50 states on their cyber practices to see which states were most vulnerable to digital threats.

Louisiana was rated the second most secure state for several reasons. Louisiana residents are more likely (62%) to keep two extra copies of their data locally, and 70% keep cloud backups. These are both 3rd highest nationally. Only 29% of Louisiana residents list personal information such as their email, phone number, or address on social media. And a whopping 77% of Louisiana residents use anti-virus software and 76% use multi-factor authentication.

According to the report, the top five things that Americans do that put themselves at risk are not using auto-generated passwords (79%), not using multi-factor authentication when-

ever possible (78%), not keeping a copy of important data on cloud (61%), not checking permissions when downloading a new app (60%), and using free Wi-Fi and unsecured networks in public (57%).

The top five things that Americans do to keep themselves safe digitally are keeping their phone numbers, home addresses, and email addresses off social media (71%), avoiding clicking on suspicious links, ads, or attachments (66%), using anti-virus software (68%), using unique passwords for each account (57%), and keeping two or more copies of important data locally (54%).

The top three most secure states are Kentucky, Louisiana, and New Jersey. The top three least secure states are New York, Nebraska, and Oregon.

Americans spend a lot of time online nowadays. Keep these practices in mind as you surf the internet, and keep your information secure.

Enrollment down 14% at community colleges

(The Center Square) — Enrollment in the Louisiana Community and Technical College System declined to the lowest level in 14 years, while state appropriations increased to a decade-high peak in 2022, according to the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.

LLA Mike Waguespack issued an audit report for the community college system last week that evaluates the system’s finances and accountability over public funds.

“Based on a five-year analysis, although the System’s enrollment has declined 14%, total revenues have increased \$150.2 million (29%),” according to the report’s highlights. “Federal Revenues increased \$134.8 million, mainly due to COVID-19 Federal Funding and Other Revenues increased by \$9.2 million, mainly due to increases in capital grants and gifts.”

The data shows the system’s fall enrollment for fiscal year 2022 was 52,282, down 322 from fiscal year 2021 and nearly 23,000 fewer students than a peak of 75,167 a decade ago. The last time enrollment

was comparable to fiscal year 2022 was in 2008, when enrollment was 52,405, according to the report.

The system’s state appropriations was \$151 million in FY 2022, up \$29 million from the year prior and the highest level in a decade. Net revenue from tuition and fees, meanwhile, declined by \$1 million from FY 2021 to \$106 million in FY 2022. Those revenues had been above \$110 million since 2014 and hit a peak of \$123 million in FY 2019, before declining during the pandemic.

“The System’s net position overall increased from negative \$65.2 million (restated) to positive \$33.5 million from July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022,” according to the report.

The change was due to a variety of reasons, including a \$23 million net increase in current cash tied to federal funding, \$18.2 million increase in net position for the LCTCS Facilities Corporations, a \$241 million decrease in net pension liability and \$169 million in deferred outflows and inflows related to pensions.

OBITUARIES

Sherrelene Adkins Smith



Funeral services for Sherrelene Adkins Smith, 79, of Sibley, LA will be held at 11:00 a.m. Thursday, December 29, 2022 in the Bailey Funeral Chapel with Bro. Tracy Winget and Bro. Ray Anderson officiating. Interment will be in Old Town Cemetery under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home of Haynesville, LA

Visitation will be 10:00 a.m. until 11:00 a.m. Thursday, December 29, 2022 at Bailey Funeral Home in

Haynesville, LA

Sherrelene was born December 31, 1942 in Vanda-

lia, IL and passed away Monday, December 26, 2022 at Minden Medical Center.

She was a member of the Minden Church of Christ and a former employee of the Minden and Shreveport Libraries. Sherrelene will be remembered as a loving daughter, wife, mother, and grandmother.

Survivors include her husband, James E. Smith of Sibley, LA, one daughter, Tanya Larson and husband Kyle of Belton, TX, one brother, Richard Dale Adkins and wife Margaret of Austin, TX, two granddaughters, Mallory Larson and Shelby Larson and numerous nieces and nephews that she loved like her own children.

She was preceded in death by her parents Denzil Maurice Adkins and Doris Crye Adkins and a sister, Cynthia Hollis.

Please visit www.baileyfuneralhome.net to sign the online register book.

Wills Successions

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Call for a free information packet.

Happy Birthday!

1/4 Virgie Hawkins Toliver
1/7 Delbert Pete Grigsby

OPINION

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THE MINDEN PRESS-HERALD WELCOMES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

HERE ARE OUR GUIDELINES:

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

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

OPINION

Prioritize human connection in the new year

We live in a crazy world where we get into heated debates with strangers on the internet and show we like stuff by pressing tiny digital hearts. Who came up with this weirdness? And as we have more and more digital interactions, the data shows we're losing actual human connection. A report by Harvard suggests that about 36% of Americans (including 51% of mothers with small children and 61% of young adults) experience "serious loneliness."¹

And even though we tend to see independence as a strength, the stress of disconnection contributes to a ton of issues, including substance abuse, anxiety, depression and heart disease.² Those are some pretty high stakes—which is why we need to do what we can to change those statistics. Here's what we all need to know about human connection and how to achieve it.

What Is Human Connection?

Human connection is what happens when two or more people choose to engage in vulnerable interactions where each person is heard, seen, known and valued. You're connecting with others if you feel better about yourself, or the world, after you've been with them. At the same time, connection is a risk because people may accept you, challenge you, love you, or call you out.

For your closest relationships, connection is being fully known and fully loved. Sadly, most of us believe we have to choose between being known and loved. We hide and edit parts of ourselves that have gotten us hurt before. We live in the shallow end of our relationships, afraid to go deep because of the potential consequences.

But real connection is like scuba diving. You can't stay on the surface if you want to have rich and meaningful relationships.

What Human Connection Isn't

Close and intimate relationships might sound like rainbows and butterflies, but they're actually super messy. Sooner or later, you're going to screw them up. You're going to be disappointed. But a messy relationship doesn't always mean you're doing something wrong.

Human connection isn't digital. Snapchat, TikTok, Twitter, Instagram, Facebook and any other platform I'm not cool enough to know about do not foster human connection. They can act as a starting point or provide information updates, but they don't offer the depth and excitement of true connection.

Human connection is not proximity, either. You can be close to someone physically but not be connected to them. If you're married, you know what it's like to be in the middle of a fight or struggling to get on the same page: That six-inch space between you in bed can feel like 1,000 miles. Connection needs proximity, but proximity does not guarantee connection.

How to Find Real Human Connection

Learning to connect with people is a lifelong adventure. It's going to look different for everyone, but here are a few practices to help steer you in the right direction:

Put your screens down

Technology is often counterproductive to connection. As much as possible, choose movement and/or conversation with people over screen time. A new rule in my home is this: When someone speaks, all phones go down and all eyes go to the person. I want everyone in my home to feel more valuable than a flashy metal box.

Schedule time with people

Quality time comes from quantity time. If you want connection, make time for it. Turn off Netflix and call a buddy to invite them over. Stop spending your nights and weekends checking in on work, and have dinner out together or take your kids to a park. Make time for people.

Look people in the eye

This one seems pretty basic, but it makes an incredible difference in how connected you feel to someone. Eye contact is a simple and powerful way to create connection. And while you're looking people in the eye, put down your screens and take out your headphones or earbuds. Physically demonstrate that you're connected.

Ask questions, then listen. When people are talking to you, pay attention. Listen. Focus on what they're saying. Ask follow-up questions. Dig deeper. Show people you care by practicing the art of conversation.

Be generous with forgiveness and grace

Relationships are risky, and they are messy. We live in a cancel culture that is constantly putting people on trial, scrutinizing their every move, and giving them death sentences for their first offense. Be different. Forgive. Be hospitable.

Extend grace, compassion and forgiveness to people, just like you'd want someone to do for you. Redemption is the best part of every good story.

Find groups that matter to you and be an involved member

Connection should first happen in our most intimate circles with friends and family. But eventually, we should all consider how we can be an engaged member of the larger community around us. From church to school to nonprofits to local politics, follow the thread of interest that connects you to a group of people you care about. Be present. Be engaged. Let your walls down. Remember, connection is a choice. Proximity alone won't do the trick.

If you remember nothing else from this article, please hear me on this: You are worthy of having deep, life-giving relationships. I'm talking about the kind of relationships that keep you up past midnight in deep discussion, make you laugh so hard you pee your pants, and push you to take risks and grow and change. Do whatever it takes to be well and learn new skills. Do what it takes to heal. If that means forgiving people, do it. If it means forgiving yourself, do it. If it means working with a therapist, do it.

You deserve to be happy, healthy and whole. And there's no better time to make this happen than right now.

DR. JOHN DELONY IS A MENTAL HEALTH EXPERT WITH PHDS IN COUNSELOR EDUCATION & SUPERVISION AND HIGHER EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION FROM TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY. PRIOR TO JOINING RAMSEY SOLUTIONS IN 2020, JOHN WORKED AS A SENIOR LEADER, PROFESSOR AND RESEARCHER AT MULTIPLE UNIVERSITIES. HE ALSO SPENT TWO DECADES IN CRISIS RESPONSE, WALKING WITH PEOPLE THROUGH SEVERE TRAUMA. NOW AS A RAMSEY PERSONALITY, HE TEACHES ON RELATIONSHIPS AND EMOTIONAL WELLNESS. FOLLOW JOHN ON TWITTER, INSTAGRAM, FACEBOOK AND YOUTUBE OR ONLINE AT WWW.JOHNDELONY.COM.

KEEP THIS IN MIND

Here are some books you may never have heard of, but should read anyway

Have you ever walked into Barnes & Noble, with every intention of buying a business or personal development book, only to be overwhelmed by the choices? Me too.

The crazy thing about traditional book stores, they rarely carry independently published books, so you are seeing just a small sample of what is available. If you try to search Amazon, the overwhelmed feeling returns, exponentially in most cases.



DAVID SPECHT

There are so many amazing books that can really move you (and your business) forward. I wanted to share these with you (See the image to the right).

To make things even easier, I have created a public Amazon list with those very books, so all you have to do is click and check out. These books are great gifts as well.

As a matter of full disclosure, I personally know each and every author listed. However, I am receiving no affiliate or other compensation for these recommendations. If I didn't believe these were excellent books, I would not be listing them.

Here is the url to the list: <https://www.amazon.com/hz/wishlist/ls/E4XV8R3I-YYPF>



DAVID A. SPECHT JR. IS PRESIDENT OF SPECHT NEWSPAPERS, INC.

OPINION

When did the music become too loud?

This is a column that has been on my mind for a long time. I have thought about it over and over again. Now, it is time to turn my thoughts into words. This column is centered around two questions: 1.) When did the music get too loud? 2.) When did I get old?

Do I think of myself as old? No, of course not. I don't think any of us ever really think of ourselves as being old. Do you remember the old saying "you are as old as you feel?" My mother surely lived by those words. Mom always wanted to be on the go and she always said that her drivers license would be the last thing to go. Well, she got her wish, as the last time that she drove was only about three weeks before she passed away. Mom always used to say "I am never going to be old."

Again, do I feel old? My short answer is "no, not at all." My finance is constantly telling me

that I am not 20 years-old anymore. In other words, I can not do the things that I used to do. Many times, even though my mind tells me that I can do certain things, my body tells me differently. At a certain age, I think we all experience these moments. I often feel as if I can do the things that I used to do (get up on the roof to clean gutters and similar types of things). Most of the time, I still give it the "old college try." However, at this point in my life, that last part has got me into trouble more times than I care to mention.

As a result, this forces me to

repeatedly ask myself a question. When did I get old? As a person that loves music and could seldom ever play it loud enough in my younger days, maybe I should ask another question. When did the music get too loud? My fiance and I are both music people. After all, we first met in the high school band over 44 years ago. Today, we often attend concerts and various other music/theater events together. We love music but at most of the concerts we have attended lately, the sound has been way too loud. At a music concert at Shreveport's Municipal Auditorium last Spring performed by a band of which we are both huge fans, the guitars were so loud that we could not hear the vocals.

So, even though we had a great time, the event was not nearly as enjoyable as it could have been.

One of my biggest pet peeves at this point in my life is restaurants that play their background music too loud. To me, the background music in some of our local restaurants is so loud that it is practically impossible to carry on a conversation during the meal. In fact, just a few days ago, I took our Managing Editor to lunch to discuss some business matters (newspaper business). When we walked into the restaurant to be seated, I immediately noticed that the background music was so loud that it was annoying. Essentially, there would have been no way to carry on a meaningful business discussion with the music being so loud. So, I asked the hostess if there was any way that they could turn it down just a bit. Fortunately, they complied.

Again, when did I get old? The younger me would have never done anything like this. No way.

Actually, I am the guy who still plays drums and guitar. And, I quite often turn up the volume even in my old age...ha! When I was playing drums in my room as a kid, the music from my stereo and the drums were reportedly so loud that they could allegedly be heard about a quarter of a mile down the street. In fact, I recently ran into a former neighbor from back in those days. The first question that she asked me was "Do you still play the drums? I proudly answered "yes, I do."

My parents used to complain about my loud music every day. I am certain that most of us have had that same experience. Now, I am there. That is me. How did that happen so quickly? When did the music get too loud? When did I get old?

RANDY BROWN IS VICE PRESIDENT OF SPECHT NEWSPAPERS, INC., AND PUBLISHER OF THE MINDEN PRESS-HERALD.

SPORTS

'Dogs add 17 to football team on early-signing day

Minden Press-Herald Sports Service

RUSTON — Louisiana Tech head coach Sonny Cumbie announced the addition of 17 new Bulldogs to the 2023 signing class during the early signing period last week.

LA Tech added nine new signees on the offensive side of the ball, including five offensive linemen, a quarterback, a wide receiver, a tight end and a running back.

Defensively Tech added eight prospects, including four defensive backs, two linebackers and two defensive linemen.

Relationships played a significant role in the Bulldogs' coaching staff putting together an impressive class during their first full year in Ruston.

Of the 17 signees, 10 were in-state products, while the remaining seven were from Texas.

"We were really able to hit Louisiana, east Texas and some towns around the Dallas and Fort Worth area," Cumbie said. "We are really excited about this group. It is fun to get them all officially signed. We have been able to be around these players and their families a lot and there are a lot of inspiring stories in this signing class. We look forward to getting them here in June and immersing them in our culture at Louisiana Tech."

Tech got started early with the addition of offensive lineman Roy Brackins III from Woodlawn High School out of Baton Rouge, followed by a local product in safety Cam Hill from Union Parish High School in Farmerville.

Brackins III, a 6-3 305-pound offensive lineman, averaged over three

pancakes a game while putting up impressive numbers in the weight room, recording a bench press of 350 pounds while squatting 510 pounds.

Hill was a standout at Union Parish High School, where he led the Farmers to a 12-2 mark and a state title appearance as a senior.

The Farmerville product recorded 169 tackles, four interceptions, two forced fumbles and eight pass breakups in his prep career. Hill also was a part of state runner-up teams in 2020 and 2021.

Tech added a pair of three-star recruits from New Orleans in safety Michael Richard and offensive lineman Troy Smith.

Richard prepped at state power Edna Karr High School and chose LA Tech over Arkansas, Mississippi State and UTSA, among others. As a senior, he was an all-state and all-district selection. Richard tallied 100 tackles, 12 pass breakups, eight interceptions, three sacks and two blocked punts in his high school career. He was a member of the Cougars' state championship team in 2019.

Smith starred at St. Augustine High School, where he collected all-district honors as a senior and junior. The New Orleans product has an impressive frame standing at 6-4 and weighing 285 pounds.

Tight end Eli Finley was the first out-of-state signee when he made things official at 7:20 a.m. Finley is a three-star recruit from Heath, Texas. He helped lead Rockwall-Heath High School to a 7-5 record as a senior while tallying 23 receptions for 230 yards and

four touchdowns. Finley was a first-team all-district selection and chose LA Tech over Oregon, Air Force, Army, Navy, North Texas and ULM.

Linebacker Colton Deckard was next on the Bulldogs' haul of prospects from the Lone Star State. Deckard has an athletic frame (6-3, 190) and played fullback and linebacker while at Muenster High School in Muenster, Texas. Deckard garnered all-state honors and was named region newcomer of the year in 2019. He was a four-sport athlete, lettering in football, baseball, basketball and track.

Physical running back Keith Willis Jr. and Linebacker DeMardrick Blunt were the next additions to Cumbie's program.

Willis starred at CE King High School in Houston, rushing for 1,515 yards during the Panthers' 9-5 season in 2022.

Blunt played both ways at Carroll High School in Monroe. The local product tallied 1,200 all-purpose yards and earned all-district and all-parish honors. Blunt also participates in basketball and track for the Bulldogs.

Evan Bullock was the lone quarterback signee on early signing day. The Anna, Texas native led all Texas high school quarterbacks with 56 touchdown passes while throwing for a staggering 4,179 yards with a 66 percent completion percentage. He was a semifinalist for the 2022 Mr. Texas Football Award and was voted district MVP. Bullock led Anna High School to a 13-1 record and a state quarterfinals appearance which was the best mark in school history.



PHOTO COURTESY OF LA TECH ATHLETICS

Second-year Louisiana Tech football coach Hugh Cumbie looked hard at his home state of Texas in adding seven recruits from the Lone Star State as part of the Bulldogs early signing class.

Hahnville wide receiver Dakota Williams was next on the Bulldogs signing slate. The three-star prospect tallied 37 receptions for 637 yards and 11 touchdowns as a senior. LA Tech won the recruiting battle for Williams over Tulane.

LA Tech continued its signing day swipe of offensive linemen with the addition of east Texas offensive tackle Keystone Allison, who is coming off a 16-0 state championship season at Carthage High School. The 6-4 266-pound athletic tackle chose Tech over 16 other offers, including Indiana, Colorado State, SMU, Tulane, UNLV and UTSA.

Cumbie and company added to the defensive pass rush with the addition of defensive lineman Obinna Okeke out of Houston. The three-star recruit had an impressive senior campaign at Cypress Falls High School, recording 63 tackles, 17 tackles for loss,

10 sacks and a forced fumble on his way to being a unanimous first-team all-district selection.

Ball-hawking safety Jacob Fields was the next to join the signing class of 2023. Fields is a three-star prospect from Melissa High School in Texas. Fields was an all-state selection as a defensive back and a returner. He tallied 156 tackles, 26 pass breakups, eight interceptions and three forced fumbles in his prep career.

Tech added another defensive back, David Webb III from New Orleans. Webb was a lockdown corner during his senior season at King Charter High School where he tallied four interceptions and did not allow a completion while targeted this season. He was a first-team all-district selection and also lettered in basketball.

LA Tech then got a signature from defensive lineman Delvin Whitaker

in St. Francisville. Whitaker garnered all-metro, all-district and all-state honors after leading West Feliciana High School to a 13-1 record which included a district title.

Next up, was the largest offensive lineman in the class, 6-7 305-pound Hayden Christman from Tioga. Christman was an all-district and all-state selection as a senior, helping Tioga to a 7-4 mark. Christman lettered all four years of his prep career while also lettering in basketball and track.

Rounding out the class was offensive lineman Ja'Marion Kennedy from Northwood High School in Shreveport. The physical lineman paved the way for 1,998 rushing yards his senior season helping lead the Falcons to a 9-3 record.

The 2023 recruiting class will be expanded during the second national signing day, which will take place in February.

Trouble comes in threes, even during Artic blast

GLYNN HARRIS

No doubt you have heard that when something bad happens to you, get ready; your problems are about to triple.

Such was the case during this recent bout of Arctic weather that caught all us southerners unaware.

Actually, the weather folks had been telling us to get ready for one of the coldest blasts in recent times but I'm not sure we were prepared for temperatures dropping suddenly into single digits accompanied by strong icy north winds.

At our house, we took the precautions we had been told to do, things like wrapping pipes, putting those Styrofoam do-hickeys on outside faucets, letting water drip in the sinks and such.

We were settling down to a long winter's hanging with it when just before dark on Thursday, the day the blast hit, our house went dark.

I mean, totally dark. Our power was out. Calling Entergy to report the outage, we sat, we waited, it was getting colder as each minute passed.

Finally 4 1/2 hours later, we found out the problem; the high winds had knocked down a power pole just down the road. They fixed it and bingo — the lights and blessed heat came on.

Everything was okay then, right? We assumed it was but during the night, we were having to add more



COURTESY PHOTO

The recent Arctic blast caused outdoors writer Glynn Harris to lose power and heat, forcing him to look for ways to keep warm.

cover because even though the heating unit was running, we determined that the air it was producing was akin to the temperature of the wind howling outside. In short, our heating unit was on the fritz.

It was not until the following afternoon as we huddled for warmth and even drove to town in a warm car and got a bite to eat that we were able to get a technician from one of the three companies we called to come out, locate and fix the problem.

The power surge when we lost power had knocked out the

breaker to our heating unit. It was fixed and we watched with sighs of relief as the temperature in the house was starting to climb.

Finally, we were back in business and would be able to ride out the Arctic blast. We thought we were until I hit the start button on my computer to get back to work and nothing happened; it was dead as a door-nail.

Calling my computer guru in Bossier City, Rex Moncrief, he determined that the problem was in the monitor; it was as dark and lifeless. I had my radio program to put

together for Tuesday afternoon's broadcast and there was no computer to create the program. I reverted to what I formerly did when I began as a writer half a century ago. I wrote it all out in long-hand, read it to my phone and emailed it to the station.

That was one deadline I met but I was faced with another critical one; I had to come up with my weekly column for the newspapers for which I write, columns that I email after putting them together.

With email not available, I was stuck until Tuesday morning when shops were back in business after the holidays.

Locating a monitor at Office Depot, I brought it home, unpacked it and called my buddy Rex to help me get it installed.

What you are reading now is my first effort on my restored computer.

If it's a little scatter brained, you'll hopefully understand.

That makes three problems in a row that we faced and eventually conquered and I pray to the Good Lord that things will be on the up and up now. Let's just hope when everything thaws when the freeze lets up that there won't be water spraying everywhere. The plumbers are busy enough without me adding to their workload.

— 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 good this week 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 — Bass fishing has been best fishing the points on crank baits. Crappie fishing has been good with best catches made on shiners or jigs fished along the channel edges. 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 with shiners outperforming jigs. They're in deep water around structures. Bass have been best fishing drop shot and Carolina rigs in deep wa-

ter. 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 and yellow 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. 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 has been good this week with some nice sized 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 the 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. Duck hunters are having good luck. A few reports of nice sized crappie and bass being caught. For information, call Surplus City Landing at 318-467-2259.

— Glynn Harris

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

PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!

classifieds@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

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\$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

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**

SHERIFF'S SALE

VALUE FINANCE CORPORATION VS. ANTHONY ROB-ERT MATTESON

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 79861

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-OUT 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 11, 2023, During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

Lot Number One Hundred Twenty Eight (128) and West Twenty Five feet (W 25') of Lot Number One Hundred Twenty-Nine (129) of BABB Addition, a Subdivision in the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana as per map and plat of said subdivision on file and of record in Map Book Two (2), Page 82 of the official records of Webster Parish, Louisiana, in the office of the Clerk of Court of said Parish, together with all improvements thereon and all rights thereto belonging. The municipal address of the above-described property is 1012 Horton Street, Minden, Louisiana 71055.

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

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

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

Linda Vaughan - Deputy

**December 7, 2022
January 4, 2023
Minden Press-Herald**

SHERIFF'S SALE

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC VS. SHELENA R. SELLERS, INDIVIDUALLY AND AS SURVIVING SPOUSE IN COMMUNITY WITH RICHARD R. GREENE, JR.

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 80327

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-OUT 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 11, 2023, During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

Commencing at the intersection of the North side of Monroe and the West side of College (Union) Streets and run south 75 degrees West a distance of 132.5 feet; thence run North 17 degrees West 280 feet to the Point of Beginning; Thence run North 75 degrees East 106 feet; thence run North 22 degrees West 99 feet; thence run South 75 degrees West 217.5 feet; thence run South 17 degrees East 98.5 feet more or less; thence run North 75 degrees East 119 feet to the Point of Beginning located in the Southwest Quarter of Section 22, Township 19 North, Range 9 West, Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana, together with all improvements thereon and all rights thereto belonging.

ALSO the perpetual use of the alley 12 feet wide commencing on Monroe Street entering the property described hereinabove from that street, as more fully described hereinabove from that street, as more fully described in a deed from Minden Sanitarium to A.B. Moreland recorded in Conveyance Book 33, Page 216 of the Conveyance Records of Louisiana in which deed the alley is more particularly described as follows:

Beginning at the intersection of Monroe and College (Union) Streets and run 75 degrees West along Monroe Street 132.5 feet to the point of beginning; thence run North 17 degrees West 280 feet; thence run North 75 degrees East 12 feet; thence run South 17 degrees East 280 feet; thence run South 75 degrees West 12 feet to the point of beginning located in Webster Parish, Louisiana, together with all buildings and improvements thereon.

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 11, 2023, During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

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 7, 2022
January 4, 2023
Minden Press-Herald**

SHERIFF'S SALE

JESSE J. JOHNSON VS. RENEE JANICE JORDAN

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 80336

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-OUT 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 11, 2023, During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

Lot 210x210 ft. in Southeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SE/4 of NE/4), Section 17, Township 23, Range 10, with a municipal address of 362 Springhill Airport Road, Springhill, Louisiana 71075.

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

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

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

Linda Vaughan - Deputy

**December 7, 2022
January 4, 2023
Minden Press-Herald**

SHERIFF'S SALE

REGIONS BANK D/B/A REGIONS MORTGAGE VS. THE UNOPENED SUCCESSION OF JUNIOR T. THOMAS

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 80108

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, February 8, 2023, During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

Commencing at the Southeast corner of Lot No. Six (6), Block "I", Justice Heights Addition to the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana, as per map and plat thereof on file and of record in the Office of the Clerk of Court, Webster Parish, Louisiana, in Map Book 1, Page 2, and run West along the South line of Lot No. 6 a distance of 70 feet to 1/2" iron pipe for the point of beginning; Thence continue West along said South line of Lot No. 6 a distance of 70 feet to conc. monument, thence run North 140 feet to 1" iron pipe, thence run East 70 feet to 1/2" iron pipe, thence run South 140 feet to the point of beginning, together with all improvements thereon and all rights thereto belonging, and being the same property as shown by plat of survey prepared by Doyle P. Sanders, Registered Land Surveyor, dated March 9, 1996, attached to Book 883, Page 305.

Which has the address of 403 Clerk Street, Minden, LA 71055

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

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

JASON R. PARKER Sheriff & Ex-Officio Auctioneer

Webster Parish, Louisiana
Linda Vaughan - Deputy

**December 7, 2022
January 4, 2023
Minden Press-Herald**

B1 Bank vs. Nellie Mae Sparks, 26th Judicial District Court, Webster Parish, State of Louisiana, Docket Number 80380. If anyone knows the identities and/or whereabouts of the heirs of Nellie Mae Sparks, please contact Attorney Jessica Davis at 318-935-9448 or jessicagdavis.law@gmail.com.

**January 4, 2023
Minden Press-Herald**

SHERIFF'S SALE

SPECIALIZED LOAN SERVICING, LLC VS. SHARON BROWN WALLACE AND KENNETH RAY WALLACE

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 80166

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, February 8, 2023, During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

A LOT LOCATED IN THE NORTH-WEST QUARTER OF THE SOUTH-WEST QUARTER (NW/4 OF SW/4) OF SECTION 31; TOWNSHIP 18 NORTH, RANGE 8 WEST, WEBSTER PARISH, LOUISIANA, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGIN AT THE SOUTHWEST CORNER OF THE AFORESAID FORTY; THENCE RUN NORTH A DISTANCE OF 650 FEET AND TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THE LOT TO BE HEREIN DESCRIBED; THENCE CONTINUE NORTH ALONG THE FORTY LINE AND ALONG THE EAST RIGHT OF WAY OF LOUISIANA HIGHWAY NO. 531 A DISTANCE OF 200 FEET; THENCE RUN EAST A DISTANCE OF 300 FEET; THENCE RUN SOUTH A DISTANCE OF 200 FEET; THENCE RUN WEST A DISTANCE OF 300 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, TOGETHER WITH ALL IMPROVEMENTS THEREON AND ALL RIGHTS THERETO BELONGING; subject to restrictions, servitudes, rights-of-way and outstanding mineral rights of record affecting the property.

That certain manufactured home/mobile situated on the above described property, being a 1999, 80 x 28 Signal Homes, Inc., Beacon, Serial No. SGO10447A/B99, which said manufactured home/mobile home was immobilized pursuant to Affidavit to Immobilize Mobile Home dated August 19, 1999 and filed for record as Instrument No. 430941 of the records of Webster Parish, Louisiana.

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 7, 2022
January 4, 2023
Minden Press-Herald**

SHERIFF'S SALE

1NK1X4TX6NR979735 is stored at 1422 Sibley Rd, Minden, LA, 71055. If all current charges are not paid and vehicle claimed by the owner by January 16, 2023 a Permit to Sell may be obtained.

**January 4, 2023
January 11, 2023
Minden Press-Herald**

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

Pursuant to the provisions of a resolution adopted by the Police Jury of the Parish of Webster, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of the Parish of Webster, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"), on November 1, 2022, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election will be held within the Parish on **SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 2023**, and that at the said election there will be submitted to all registered voters in the Parish qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and Laws of the State of Louisiana and the Constitution of the United States, the following proposition, to-wit:

PROPOSITION (LIBRARY MILLAGE CONTINUATION)

Shall the Parish of Webster, State of Louisiana (the "Parish"), continue to levy and collect a special tax of twelve and thirty-nine hundredths (12.39) mills on all the property subject to taxation within the Parish (an estimated \$3,220,400 expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of ten (10) years, beginning with the year 2025 and ending with the year 2034, for the purpose of acquiring, constructing, improving, furnishing, equipping, operating and/or maintaining public libraries in Webster Parish, said millage to represent a thirty-nine hundredths of a mill (.39) increase (due to reappraisal) over the 12 mills tax authorized to be levied through the year 2024 pursuant to an election held on May 3, 2014?

Said special election will be held at each and every polling place in the Parish of Webster, which polls will open at seven o'clock (7:00) a.m. and close at eight o'clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541.

The polling places at the precincts in the Parish are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the said election, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, shall be those persons

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

**January 4, 2023
February 1, 2023
Minden Press-Herald**

Regular Session City Council Meetings in 2023

Tuesday, January 3, 2023
Monday, February 6, 2023
Monday, March 6, 2023
Monday, April 3, 2023
Monday, May 1, 2023
Monday, June 5, 2023
Monday, July 3, 2023
Monday, August 7, 2023
Tuesday, September 5, 2023
Monday, October 2, 2023
Monday, November 6, 2023
Monday, December 4, 2023

**January 4, 2023
Minden Press-Herald**

GRAPHIC DESIGNER NEEDED

Designer: Experience in; Adobe Creative Suite (Photo-shop Illustrator - In Design), Familiar with Mac computers. Position is part-time or full-time and they should email their resume to: design.websterprinting@gmail.com -and/or- websterprinting-minden@gmail.com

**January 4, 2023
January 11, 2023
Minden Press-Herald**

ATTEST: /s/ Jim Bonsall President

/s/ Lisa C. Balkom Secretary-Treasurer

**January 4, 2023
January 11, 2023
January 18, 2023
January 25, 2023
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PROBLEM CREDIT REPORT? Lexington Law helps works to challenge inaccurate negative items including identity theft, collections,

designated according to law.

The estimated cost of this election as determined by the Secretary of State based upon the provisions of Chapter 8-A of Title 18 and actual costs of similar elections is \$50,000.

Notice is further given that a portion of the monies collected from the tax described in the Proposition shall be remitted to certain state and statewide retirement systems in the manner required by law.

The said special election will be held in accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 5 and Chapter 6-A of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority, and the officers appointed to hold the said election, as provided in this Notice of Special Election, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1287, will make due returns thereof to said Governing Authority, and NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Governing Authority will meet at its regular meeting place, the Police Jury Meeting Room, Webster Parish Courthouse Annex, 401 Main Street, Minden, Louisiana, on **TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2023, at TEN-THIRTY O'CLOCK (10:30) A.M.**, and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the returns and declare the result of the said special election. All registered voters of the Parish are entitled to vote at said special election and voting machines will be used.

THUS DONE AND SIGNED at Minden, Louisiana, on this, the 1st day of November, 2022.

ATTEST: /s/ Jim Bonsall President

/s/ Lisa C. Balkom Secretary-Treasurer

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WEBSTER & MORE



Archers from across the country met at Camp Minden for an event in April.

REVIEW

Continued from Page 1

along with the six tourism commissioners are pleased to announce the lease and soon-to-be acquisition/purchase of the historic 11-acre Miller-Inabnett property located in central Minden, Louisiana.

ARCHERY COMPETITION TAKES PLACE AT CAMP MINDEN

Archers from across the country met at Camp Minden Thursday, April 21 through Sunday, April 24 for the 2022 McKenzie Archery Shooters Association Easton/Hoyt Pro/Am Tour, an event that will kick off a 10-year run at the 15,000-acre facility west of Minden.

SUSPICIOUS PACKAGE SHUTS DOWN DOWNTOWN

A suspicious package was found on the steps of the Webster Parish courthouse Tuesday morning. Downtown is currently blocked off while sheriff's deputies wait for the bomb squad to arrive. "They X-rayed it and saw a suspicious looking spring," said Chief Cropper of the Minden police. "It didn't look like a detonator, but what they're going to do is blow it up." The person who left the package (and then returned to modify it) was caught on video, and authorities are currently working to identify the man from the video.

MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER HOSTS BLOOD DRIVE FOR COTTON VALLEY EXPLOSION VICTIMS

Given the tragedy that befell three Webster Parish citizens as a result of the recent explosion that took place in Cotton Valley, Minden Medical Center has decided to help out by hosting a blood drive starting early Thursday morning.

MINDEN'S MAYOR TERRY GARDNER ANNOUNCES CANCER DIAGNOSIS

Mayor Terry Gardner posted a video to the City of Minden's Facebook page with the solemn announcement that he has been diagnosed with both pancreatic and liver cancer.

FORMER DISTRICT JUDGE KITCHENS PASSES

Graydon Kelly Kitchens Jr. — family man, lawyer, and judge — passed away this weekend surrounded by family and loved ones. Kitchens has been a fixture of Minden since he was born in 1936.

ANNA CLAIRE LEMOINE PLACES IN MISS LOUISIANA COMPETITION

With 29 candidates competing for the title of Miss Louisiana, Anna Claire Lemoine was named third runner-up in the Miss Louisiana pageant that was held June 17-19. Miss Lemoine, a graduate of Glenbrook School, represents our town as Miss Minden for 2022.

MINDEN MAYOR TERRY GARDNER PASSES AWAY

Terry L. Gardner, Mayor of the City of Minden, passed away on June 28, 2022, at the age of 68 from complications related to his recent cancer diagnosis. Mayor Gardner informed the public of his cancer diagnosis by video on May 24, 2022. He took office on January 1, 2019, which was one of the proudest moments of his life. He loved his city and was honored to serve as mayor.

NO MAYOR, NO PRO TEM: COUNCIL FINDS THEMSELVES IN "LEGAL QUAGMIRE"

Tuesday's city council meeting was a non-typical one to say the very least. Most obviously, the late Terry Gardner's untimely passing left a vacancy in the position of mayor. While there is typically a contingency plan in place for such circumstances, regarding the position of mayor pro tempore, at the start of this city council meeting, Minden did not have one.

DAVIS OFFICIALLY SWORN IN AS INTERIM MAYOR

Tommy Davis, appointed as interim Mayor of Minden by Gov. John Edwards, was officially sworn in as mayor Tuesday morning by Holli Vining, Clerk of Court for Webster Parish.

GIRLS NIGHT OUT A ROARING SUCCESS

Let's Go Girls - Girls Night Out was a roaring success at the Civic Center on Saturday. Hundreds of ladies came out to eat, drink, dance, and shop during this fundraiser which was sponsored by the Junior Service League (JSL).

15 UNDER 40 CLASS OF 2022 ANNOUNCED

Fifteen young business leaders and entrepreneurs have distinguished themselves with their service to the community, and the Greater Minden Chamber is recognizing that service by nominating them for this year's 15 Under 40 Top Young Professionals.

SROS WILL GIVE WEBSTER PARISH SCHOOLS MORE SECURITY

At a special meeting of the Webster Parish School Board on Monday, board members voted to approve funding to supply every public school in our parish with a School Resource Officer (SRO).

TEACHERS STILL ENJOY FREEDOMS OF RELIGION AND SPEECH

During the October school board meeting, Chris Plants addressed the board regarding the religious freedoms of teachers in Webster Parish.

Plants, a member of the Christian group named Men of Courage, reported that teachers were coming to him with concerns regarding their religious freedoms in their workplaces. "Teachers started coming to me saying they couldn't put their Bibles on their desks, and they wanted to," said Plants.

TARTAN FESTIVAL RECEIVES GRANT FROM WEBSTER PARISH CONVENTION AND VISITORS COMMISSION

The Scottish Society of the Louisiana Highlands received a \$4,000 grant on Tuesday from the Webster Parish Convention and Visitors Commission. This was also an opportunity to announce that the Tartan Festival, which previously was held at Scotland Farms on Hwy 79, will be moved to Miller Quarters in downtown Minden.

NICK COX PREPPING FOR TAKING OFFICE NEXT YEAR

Nick Cox, after having won the election for Mayor of the City of Minden, is already hard at work getting familiarized with the inner workings of the city so that it will be a smooth transition when it comes time for him to officially take over the position on Jan. 1 of next year.

CITY OF MINDEN RECOGNIZES GLENBROOK VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM AT CITY COUNCIL MEETING

The City of Minden recognized the Glenbrook Varsity Football Team at the recent December city council meeting for making it to the Louisiana High School Athletic Association quarterfinals. Mayor Tommy Davis read a proclamation detailing their accomplishments.

CHRISTMAS IN MINDEN

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.

COX

Continued from Page 1

working with the council and working on developing my relationships with them. And beyond that, I plan to have meetings with community leaders, other elected officials, community organizations, non-profit groups, church leaders. I want to be a mayor that reaches across the community to do exactly what I promised I was going to do: move us forward together," said Cox.

January's city council meeting will be the first with the agenda set by Mayor Cox. He elaborated on some of the agenda items, why they are there, and how they will help the city as a whole.

"I set the agenda for the January meeting. I've been going to City Hall since November 9th every day that I could. So I've got a good feel for what needs to happen in January. We looked up, historically, what happens during these months, first-of-the-year business that has to take place. I met with the new city council to make sure they were on board for the different plans that I have. If my recommendations get passed, we'll be in good hands," said Cox.

The main items of note were that of the appointment of a city clerk and city attorney, and his recommendations for the positions include some very familiar faces.

"We already have an interim part-time clerk who is really experienced, Michael Fluhr. He has agreed to come back for one year as a full-time city clerk, to train our current assistant clerk to take his position.

"Tommy Davis and I both interviewed several people for city clerk. They were all skilled within their respective fields,



WILL PHILLIPS/MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

Dist. A City Councilman Buddy Myles, Dist. D City Councilman Michael Roy, Dist. C City Councilman Latasha Mitchell, Dist. E City Councilman Andy Pendegross, Dist. B City Councilman Levon Thomas, Minden Mayor Nick Cox, and Minden Police Chief Jared McIver seen pictured shortly after their swearing in ceremony Thursday evening.

the problem was, none of them had government clerk experience. CPAs and city clerks are as different as night and day."

He also stated that, with a majority of the city council and the mayor being new, it is best to have as many experienced people in the other positions as possible. "We have a relatively green administration. I have experience on the police jury, but it's nothing like being mayor. This is no time to change over who handles the money," said Cox.

In regards to the city attorney, Cox recommends moving forward with Jimbo Yocum, particularly noting the leadership he displayed during the time following the late Terry Gardner's passing and before a new mayor pro tempore was elected.

"I think Jimbo Yocum has exhibited his prowess as city attorney during a time when the city didn't have a leader. The city was in a pickle, and Jimbo showed great leadership and wisdom and got the city through a very tricky time. I'm recommending we reap-

point him for four years," said Cox.

He also spoke of the new Police Chief, Jared McIver, and is optimistic about his plans to help move Minden forward from a safety standpoint. "I'm really excited about what McIver is doing to make our city safer. That's a big part of a city's success, is fostering a safe environment. The things that he's told me about what he wants to do makes me feel good about our future from a safety standpoint and, from a budget standpoint, I'm going to do what I can to support the police," said Cox.

Lastly, Cox once again expressed his thanks to the people of Minden for voting him into office, and he aims to make the most of the chance he's been given.

"I'm really grateful for the opportunity to be able to serve Minden in this way. I'm very excited about our future. I don't take it lightly that the citizens elected me. It just makes me even more want to take this opportunity by the reins and do a great job with it," said Cox.



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