

# MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2023

MINDEN, LOUISIANA

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75 CENTS

## POLICE JUROR

### Cayla Cox takes over remainder of police jury term for mayor

WILL PHILLIPS  
Minden Press-Herald

The Webster Parish Police Jury recently voted to have Cayla Cox replace Minden Mayor Nick Cox as the police juror for District 8 for the remainder of his term. Mayor Cox has had this recommendation in mind for a while now since Cayla Cox already has the knowledge to help her navigate the position and its responsibilities.

"I recommended Cayla to fill the remainder of my term, but the decision was totally up to the jury. I have had this recommendation in place since 2016 when I first became a juror. I have many reasons for recommending Cayla. She knows what a juror does, she knows what the jury is working on, she knows all the other jurors and they know her, and she's extremely hard-working and dedicated to everything she does," said Nick Cox.

Cayla Cox was sworn in Monday by Webster Parish's Clerk of Court, Holli



WILL PHILLIPS/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

**Pictured above is Kayla Cox being sworn in by Holli Vining to finish out the remainder of Mayor Nick Cox's term on the Webster Parish Police Jury.**

Vining. Cayla Cox said after being sworn in, "I'm thankful for the opportunity to serve District 8 as their police juror. It is an honor to have been appointed, and I will do all I can to serve the citizens."

## COMMUNITY

### Miss Minden doing her part by selling shirts for St. Jude

AMBER MCDOWN  
Minden Press-Herald

Miss Minden 2023, Jacie Brent, is supporting the fundraising efforts for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital by selling T-shirts which sport images of iconic locations in Minden. She even got permission to use the city's official seal on the front.

Some of the locations depicted include KASO Radio, Academy Park, the Coca Cola plant, the Farm, Pine Hills Country Club, the Civic Center / St. Jude auction, the water tower, the Minden Press-Herald, and Turner's Pond. The shirts will cost only \$20 and come in sizes ranging from



COURTESY PHOTO

**Miss Minden 2023, Jacie Brent, is selling iconic Minden T-shirts to raise money for St. Jude.**

youth XS all the way up to adult 4XL, and they come in gold, midnight, violet, royal, and black.

All proceeds from these sales will go toward

helping St. Jude Children's Research Hospital with their mission of finding a cure and saving the lives of children.

To purchase a T-shirt,

go to the following link for Custom Ink: <https://www.customink.com/fundraising/miss-minden-2023-st-jude-fund-raiser>.

## CRIME

### Minden police apprehend fugitive from Colorado

STAFF REPORT  
Minden Press-Herald

Minden police officers apprehended a fugitive from Colorado while working the Safety Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) just before 6 a.m. on January 19.

The officer was patrolling the eastbound lane of I-20 where it passes through the city limits when he observed a white Chevy Malibu with Alaska plates driving 85 mph in the 70 mph zone. He initiated a traffic stop. The driver, Ryan Boucher (35) of Lakeland, Florida, had no identification, though he did provide his legal name and correct birthdate.

The officer stepped to the passenger side to speak with the passenger — who refused to identify himself — and he noticed a pipe (typically used for illegal narcotics) on the floorboard next to the passenger's foot. When asked, these men claimed that the only illegal substance in the car was some THC concentrate, which they willingly handed over.

After calling for backup,

the vehicle was searched and yielded a total of 167 grams of natural marijuana, 6 grams of methamphetamine, 57 gabapentin pills in various bottles, 48 buspirone hydrochloride pills, 64.5 sertraline hydrochloride pills, approximately 0.5 gram of THC concentrate, a meth pipe, 3 marijuana pipes, and 3 unknown blue pills.

The passenger was later identified as Corey Morris (35) of Colorado Springs, Colorado, and he was a fugitive from Colorado.

"When someone crosses state lines and is wanted, unless it's a major crime, most of the time they won't extradite the person," said Police Chief Jared McIver. "Colorado was contacted. The authorities up there said, 'Absolutely. Full extradition; we will take him and come get him.' That tells me that the passenger was trying to get out of Colorado because they were looking for him."

Besides the drugs, a number of suspicious license plates were found in the vehicle. At state lines there are license plate readers that will alert local law enforce-



AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

**A man who was fleeing justice in Colorado along with a variety of illegal drugs was apprehended by Minden police last week during a traffic stop on I-20.**

ment if they detect a vehicle that has been identified as stolen or as belonging to someone with a warrant for their arrest. It is presumed that these men were switching out license plates to evade the law, since the passenger was a fugitive from Colorado.

The officer who initiated the traffic stop was working STEP at the time. STEP began in April 2021 in an effort to decrease accidents on I-20 where

it passes through the city limits. Drivers must be doing at least 12 mph over the speed limit to be stopped.

"We're slowing down speeders and reckless drivers on the interstate," said McIver. "I've been working in Webster Parish in law enforcement for almost 27 years now, and that stretch inside the city limits of Minden has always been very bad for a lot of fatality accidents and wrecks. Since we've

implemented this program, it has put a huge damper on it. I'm not sure if we've had a fatality accident in this stretch since we implemented the STEP program. It's a good program in that we're slowing down speeders, we're taking weapons off the road, and we're taking drugs off the road."

Both men were arrested and charged with possession of a schedule II (meth), possession of a schedule I with intent to

distribute, possession of a schedule I concentrate, two charges of possession of a legend drug, possession of drug paraphernalia, and open container. Boucher was also charged with exceeding the speed limit. In addition to the drug charges, Morris was also charged with resisting an officer and being a fugitive from Colorado.

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



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# MINDEN FAMILY DENTAL

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Zach M. Goodman  
D.D.S.



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Tomorrow's  
Low Temp 36°

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# WEBSTER & MORE

## BLOTTER

### Recent Arrests in Webster Parish

Lindsey Kennedy, 40, of the 1100 block of Park Highway, was arrested for failure to appear in court.

Decarlos Thomas, 28, of the 600 block of Constable Lane, was arrested for resisting an officer and public drunkenness.

Ira Miller, 48, of the 400 block of Front Street, was arrested for theft.

Kwesi Corley Jr., 22, of the 800 block of Harris Street, was arrested on a warrant.

Marcellous Moses II, 27, of the 200 block of Georgia Street, ws arrested for domestic abuse battery.

Charles Rayner, 52, of the 200 block of Rayner Road, was arrested for domestic abuse battery.

Chris Adams, 49, of the 1000 block of Elmer Moore Road, was arrested for theft.

Corey Ray, of the 200 block of Horseshoe loop, was arrested for possession of a schedule II substance with intent to distribute, possession of drug paraphernalia, illegal possession of stolen things, and being a fugitive of Bossier Sheriff’s Office and Minden Police Department.

Charles Williams, of the 700 block of Clay Street, was arrested for possession of a schedule II substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

Trace Bynog, of the 200 block of Horseshoe Loop, was arrested for being a fugitive of the Minden Police Department.

Janice Jordan, 42, of the 200 block of Airport Road, was arrested for simple criminal damage to property.

Christopher Jackson, 24, of the 280 block of Trout Street, was arrested for sexual battery.

Timothy Bassinger, 18, of the 1300 block of 7th Street SE, was arrested for theft of a motor vehicle, simple burglary, and contribution to the delinquency of a juvenile.

## OBITUARIES



### Jeraldine “Jeri” Webb

Jeraldine “Jeri” Webb, former Minden resident, peacefully joined her ancestors on December 29, 2022. Her home going ceremony will be held January 27, 2023 at the Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church in Kansas City Mo. Services will begin at 11:00 a.m. central time and may be viewed online at <https://metrombc.org>. Jeri was both a teacher and a guidance counselor in the Claiborne parish school system, was a primary participant in the parish’s Expanded Horizon’s program

for the gifted and talented and was fundamental in the development of the parish’s penal farm’s program to prepare the incarcerated for passing the General Education Development (GED) test. Jeri is survived by two sons - Phillip Darrett and Kenney Webb, two sisters, Charlie and Mignon, her niece Adriene and her “special nephew John”, double first cousins – Clarethia, Alma and Keith, and a host of cousins, friends former students and loved ones in both Kansas City, Mo and the Claiborne parish vicinity.

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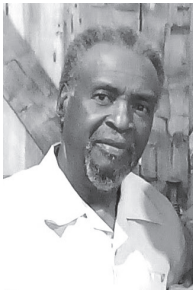
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WEBSTER & MORE

OBITUARIES



Vernon Ward

Mr. Vernon Ward, 75, of Minden, Louisiana entered the arms of his heavenly Father on January 12, 2023, from an illness.

The funeral services were held at 11:00 a.m., Monday, January 23, 2023, at The Christian Church at Minden with Pastors Paul and Ginger Gray officiating. Visitation was held at Hill Crest Memorial Funeral Home from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. on Sunday evening, January 22, 2023. Interment will be at Hill Crest Memorial Veterans Section in Haughton, Louisiana following celebration of life service. Funeral arrangements are being handled by Hill Crest Memorial Funeral Home Directors.

Mr. Vernon was born in Minden, Louisiana on March 15, 1947, to Johnnie B. Ward and Betty Rose Brooks. He attended Webster High School Class of '65 and continued his education at State College of Beauty, Licensed Cosmetologist, Certified Diesel Mechanic- Detroit Diesel Institute, Graphic Artist Oakland Community College, Automotive Paint and Body Technician Vo tech Pontiac, Michigan, Certified Private Investigator and Skip Tracer National Association of Investigative Specialist. Isshinryu Karate- One Mind One Heart 4th degree Black belt, and United States Marine Corp. Vietnam Veteran.

Mr. Vernon was an ordained Elder through The True Church House of Prayer to All Nations, Pontiac, Michigan and Evangel Association of Churches, Utica, Michigan. He served locally as Deacon and Greeters ministry at The Christian Church at Minden.

Mr. Vernon was married to Deborrah Geans Ward. They were married for 51 years.

Mr. Vernon worked as Union Laborer for Laborers Local 696 and retired in August 2009. He loved and enjoyed his cats, gardening, planting and yard maintenance, fishing, boating, Oil painting, and tinkering with vintage vehicles. He loved music and bicycling around the city. He was also active in the churches, national Rifle Association and American Legion. He would give you the shoes off his feet and go home barefoot if you needed or wanted them.

Mr. Vernon leaves to cherish his memory wife Deborrah; son, Vernon S. Ward; daughter, Vonda Ward; sisters, Maggie (Raymond) Broussard, Vera Lyons, and Mary Diane (George) Harris; grandchildren, Tanquanika Jiles, Shaquanika Seamster, Reginald Seamster, and Deriece Moore; four great –grandchildren, his church families, a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and brother by choice. He is also survived by his aunts, Ruby Jones and Lottie Easley, along with many friends and associates.

Mr. Vernon was preceded in death by his parents, Johnnie Ward and Betty Rose Brooks; his daughter, Aisha Eileen Ward; grandson, Jireh Ward; and loving cats, Sarabi and Baby Faith.

The Family of Vernon Ward wish to thank the Pastors and Associate Pastors of Christian Church at Minden, Overton Brooks Veteran Administration Medical Center, Shreveport, and the St. Joseph Hospice care team.

You may offer condolences to the family by visiting [www.hillcrestmemorialfh.com](http://www.hillcrestmemorialfh.com).



Bonnie R. Ashley

Funeral services for Bonnie R. Ashley were held Monday, January 23, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at Rose-Neath Funeral Home Chapel in Minden, Louisiana with Tracy Winget officiating. Interment followed at Fairview Church of Christ Cemetery in Marion, Louisiana. The family received friends Monday from 9:00 a.m. until 10:45 prior to the service.

Bonnie was born June 7, 1931 in Marion, Louisiana and entered into rest January 21, 2023 in Minden, Louisiana.

siana.

She was preceded in death by her husband, William G. Ashley, Jr; parents, Floyd and Dona Reeves; sisters, Martha Smeltzer and Julie Reed, and brother, Newton Reeves.

She is survived by her Son, William G. Ashley III of Wichita Falls, Texas; daughters, Trista Ashley of Minden and Diane Myers of Denham Springs; sister, Juanita Smith; seven grandchildren; thirteen great-grandchildren; one great great-grandchild; and numerous nieces and nephews.

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



Susan LaCour Dogens

Minden, LA - Susan LaCour Dogens, 91, was born on August 23, 1931 in Natchitoches Parish to Francois “Frank” and Susan Beaudoin LaCour. As the ninth child born to this union - “Baby Sue”, as she was affectionately called,

quickly became the delight of her family. Raised as strict Catholics, the entire family attended and were members of the St. Augustine Catholic Church on Cane River. Sue loved education and demonstrated it by becoming an honor graduate from Natchitoches Central High School, then immediately began matriculating at Southern University in Baton Rouge.

Sue was initiated in the spring of 1953 as a bold soul member of the Alpha Tau Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated. After graduation from college with a Bachelor of Arts in Education, Sue entered the honored profession of becoming a frontline Louisiana Educator. Her entire list of assigned teaching locations were in the public arena of Webster Parish Schools where she spent 32 years of teaching at Webster High School, J.L. Jones Elementary, E.S. Richardson and J.E. Harper Elementary School. As a lifelong educator, she planted seeds of knowledge and encouragement that continue to reap dividends through several generations.

On August 20, 1955, Sue married the love of her life, Ernest David Dogens, from New Orleans, LA. To this union two beautiful children were born - Robert Frank and Angela Bridget. Sue’s devotion to her husband and children was nothing short of awesome.

In 1985, Mrs. Dogens retired and spent her time traveling around the world from Italy to Alaska, cruising the Caribbean to countless hours volunteering at such organizations as The United Christian Appeal, Cultural Crossroads, The American Cancer Society, Ladies Altar Society of St. Paul’s Catholic Church, The Retired Teachers of Webster Parish, The National Educational Association and, of course, her beloved sisterhood of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. Sue was a charter member of the Minden Alumnae Chapter (1960) where she served as Treasurer, President, and held numerous

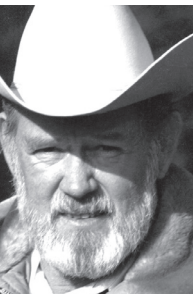
other positions. Sue was a Diamond Life Member. Her Distinguished honors include her receiving the 2015 Diocesan Medal of Honor from the Shreveport Catholic Diocese and numerous honors and awards bestowed throughout her teaching career.

On Wednesday, January 11, 2023, Susan LaCour Dogens departed this life peacefully. She has joined her parents, Frank and Susan LaCour, her husband, Ernest David Dogens, and eight of her siblings.

She leaves to cherish her memory one son, Robert Frank Dogens of Charlotte, North Carolina, one daughter, Angela Dogens Patton (Lawrence) of Stone Mountain, Georgia, one granddaughter, Elizabeth Claire Patton of Ashville, North Carolina, and surviving nieces and nephews: Joseph Raggio (Janie), Margie Raggio Sylvia (Franklin), Patricia Raggio Balthazar (Andrew), Lucille Morgan Metoyer, Catherine Morgan Cotton, John L. Morgan, Frances Balthazar Sylvia (Christopher), Jean Balthazar, John Balthazar (Deborah), Vivian LaCour Dillard (Jake), Valencia LaCour, Patricia LaCour Pichon (Michael), Samuel LaCour, Daniel LaCour (Patrice), Broderick Franklin; Godchildren: Donald Bostick (Houston, Texas) and LaKica Amos, DDS (New Orleans, LA).

The family wishes to express their gratitude and sincere appreciation for the many acts of kindness bestowed on their loved one. Special Thanks are extended to Frances (Laney) Sylvia, Millicent Heard Martin, Dorothy Nell Robinson, Janet Winzer, Marilyn Johnson Walker, Juanita Billard, Kathy Holloway, Ethel Waller, Southern Care Hospice and the staff at the Highland Clinic of Minden.

Those wishing to honor Sue are encouraged to make donations to either the American Cancer Society or St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.



Neal Simmons

Neal Simmons of Brackettville, Texas, went home on January 10, 2023. He was born Gilmer Neal Simmons to parents Earnest and Corneil Simmons on October 10, 1941. There’s a reason you may have never heard his given first name; he never liked it! Neal was born a Texan, but while young, the family

moved to Homer, Louisiana. It is there that he spent his childhood with his two younger brothers, Wayne and Ronnie.

If you spoke with Neal in the last few weeks of his life, you would have heard him say he was 81 years old and had a hell of a life and that he did! A cattleman at heart and in practice, for the majority of his adult life, he owned and operated a ranch and N-S cattle company in Doyline, Louisiana, until his 50s. Neal also worked as a mail carrier for the US Postal Service to support his passion for cattle until an early retirement.

Neal met the love of his life, Barbara, in his later years. Married at 40 years old, Neal’s first child was his stepson, Caric Biles, whom he adopted and gave his last name. Neal and Barbara then expanded their family with a second son, Barkley Simmons. Neal supported and shared in Barbara’s culinary gift with their restaurant on the back porch of their Louisiana ranch home

through the 80s. Not long after, the family made their way to Texas, where Neal worked as both a food service director and ranch manager. He and Barbara would return to the restaurant business and later shared the family business with Barkley. If you enjoyed a meal from the grill at one of their restaurants, Neal was likely responsible for cooking your preferred choice of protein to perfection, his ribeye steak being a hometown favorite.

Not one to be idle, Neal worked well into his seventies. He never met a home he couldn’t remodel or add a polishing touch to, and it was a passion shared with his wife, Barbara. Every place they called home, they made beautiful. The most recent being their historic late 1800s rock building at the heart of Brackettville, Texas. Neal originally converted the building into a restaurant the family ran for years. Later, he remodeled it into their primary residence with the commercial kitchen remaining, along with the family’s passion and love for good food.

Neal Simmons lived a full life. He was proud of his family, hard work, and many accomplishments. He is survived by his wife, Barbara, son Barkley, and daughter-in-law Amanda, all of whom invite you to share your memories of Neal at his Celebration of Life was held on the lawn at the Simmons residence in downtown Brackettville, 112 North Street, at 3:00 pm January 21, 2023.

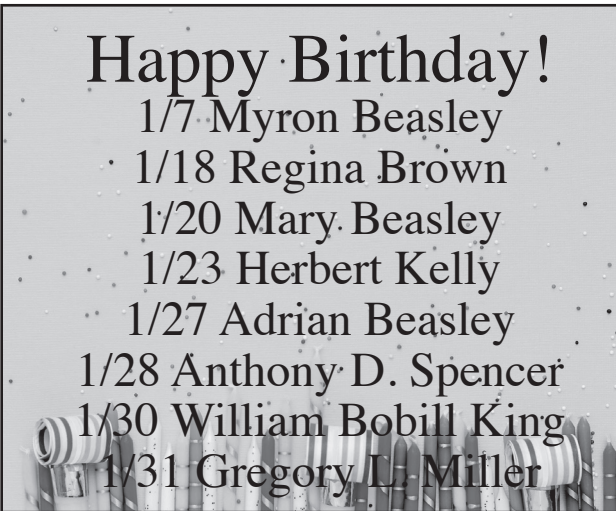
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MINDEN REC

New playground equipment coming to city parks

AMBER MCDOWN  
Minden Press-Herald

The Minden REC is planning some upgrades to the city’s parks starting this spring.

“We did a cost analysis on all the public parks, and we’re going to start upgrading a lot of the playgrounds at the various parks,” said Mike Aguilar, Assistant Director of the REC.

Ewell Park and Walnut Street Park will be getting new playground equipment around February or March, depending on equipment deliveries. And in August, Babbs Park and High Street Park will be getting new playgrounds as well.

“Upgrading the parks is well overdue,” said Aguilar. “Some of the playground equipment is cracked, and you can’t even get parts to fix it anymore. The following year we’re going to do a proposal for Roosevelt and Hinton. We’ll eventually update Victory and then the REC center.

“We’re wanting to get people out; get them active. Especially the kids. Hopefully this new stuff will get kids out and playing.

“There’s a lot of potential out there. There’s just so much more that we can do that’s within reason and not very expensive.

“What I’d like to see eventually is a dog area at all the parks. It’s been a concern that people just let their dogs go at some of the parks, and

the little kids get kind of nervous. So I’d like a designated area. And I’ve had people in the community say, ‘Hey, we’ll donate a ramp, or we’ll donate a little tunnel for the dogs,’” Aguilar said.

Not all the upgrades will be as expensive as getting new playground equipment. The various basketball courts around town will be getting spruced up as well.

“On the basketball courts at those parks — Walnut — we’re going to touch it up a little bit, put some lines down so the kids will have a free throw line. It’s only a one-court thing. At High Street we’re going to paint those lines too, so the kids have a defined area to play in. Same thing at Constable. So it’s little by little.”

Beyond that, they will be purchasing new nets for the soccer goals as well as installing security cameras at Victory Park, Babb Park, and Ewell Park.

Aguilar and the REC staff have a vision for how our parks can encourage outdoor exercise and better health.

“Hopefully the new council will like the vision and see what we’re doing, because some of that is pretty cost effective.”

The Minden REC offers a wide range of activities and equipment for residents to use. For more information, see their website at <https://mindenrec.org/>.

COMMUNITY

Red Blooms to bring Valentine love to seniors

AMBER MCDOWN  
Minden Press-Herald

Red Blooms Floral Design and Events in partnership with Town & Country Health & Rehab are bringing Valentine floral arrangements to residents of the nursing facility again this year.

A fresh floral arrangement can bring much joy, and reminds people that they are cared for. For only \$20, you can bring this enjoyment to someone who is staying at Town & Country.

You can purchase as many arrangements as you like, and you can pick the recipient or you can let the staff of Town & Country select the recipient for you.

“People just call and tell us how many ar-

rangements they want,” said Kathy Cropper of Red Blooms. “It’s \$20 per arrangement. Some people want one; some people want five. And if they have a relative out there, they can still use the \$20 concept to send their family member something.”

Deliveries will be made the Friday before Valentine’s Day, which is February 10, but you must make arrangements by the end of this month.

“The campaign ends January 31, so they still have time to get it in here,” said Cropper.

For more information, check out their website at [RedBloomsMinden.com](http://RedBloomsMinden.com) or call (318) 639-9516.



OPINION

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WELCOMES  
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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OPINION

Gas stoves and the Law of Unintended Consequences  
Climate change religionists, and America, beware

Biden Administration CPSC Commissioner Richard Trumka Jr. said last month that a ban on future gas-stove installations in homes and high-rises is on the table. “We need to be talking about regulating gas stoves, whether that’s drastically improving emissions or banning gas stoves entirely,” Trumka said. “And I think we ought to keep that possibility of a ban in mind because it’s a powerful tool in our tool belt, and it’s a real possibility here.” (N.Y. Post, 1-12-2023).

Democrat leaders in major cities across the country are moving forward with bans on natural gas stoves without regard to available infrastructure, the requirements of a reasonable transition, and the Law of Unintended Consequences.

Sensing a political catastrophe from the public response to this policy insanity, the Biden Administration quickly walked back the comments of its commissioner saying it had no plans to impose such a ban on the federal level. We’ll see.

Meanwhile, various elected officials have responded in opposition to the proposed edict:

If the “maniacs in the White House come for my stove, they can pry it from my cold dead hands,” tweeted Ronny Jackson, a Republican Texas member of the U.S. House and a former White House doctor.

Sen. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) tweeted Monday “the Biden Administration is once again going to extreme lengths to appease Green New Deal fanatics — they’re considering a national ban on gas stoves ... The federal government has no business telling American families how to cook their dinner.”



ROYAL ALEXANDER

we cook on.”

The American Gas Association responded by stating “any efforts to ban highly efficient natural gas stoves should raise alarm bells for the 187 million Americans who depend on this essential fuel every day pointing out that ‘natural gas utilities have reduced their greenhouse gas emissions by 69% since 1990 and help homeowners reduce their carbon emissions 1.2% every year.”

Breitbart News observed that: “Anyone aware of the past knows how absurd this latest hysteria is. In a few short decades, we have gone from natu-

ral gas burning 24/7 in homes by way of pilot lights to natural gas only burning when the appliance is in use. Additionally, most natural gas appliances are vented in some way, so there are no fumes at all.”

A Harvard Medical School study by Wynne Armand published Sept. 7, 2022, stated, “gas stoves affect air quality inside and outside your home, circulating pollutants that raise risk for asthma and other illnesses.” But further in the same study, Armand wrote that “observational studies can’t prove that cooking with gas is the direct cause of asthma.” That important detail is, unsurprisingly, being ignored by the national “media” and radical green groups.

The important point is that common sense and rationality have prevailed for the moment.

The lesson to take from this is, as stated by Gerard Baker of the Wall Street Journal, to remember this victory when future Leftist lunacies arise.

“The small triumph chalked up for common sense and normality is so rare these days it’s worth celebrating in itself. It’s also a useful reminder that the inexorable march of government mandates, the endless effort by our rulers to enforce their “scientifically” unchallengeable dogma on what they see as a population of ignorant

drudges, can be resisted.” (Emphasis added).

I close with a note of warning from Germany and the Rule of Unintended Consequences to the Climate Religionists. Numerous news reports reveal that in Germany, the Worship at the Altar of Climate Change has been demoted by the desperate effort to keep the lights on and the heat flowing into the homes of Germans.

In order to provide power and heat to its citizens during this bitter German winter, the German government recently announced that Germany was reopening five power plants that burn lignite, a highly polluting type of coal which energy experts tell us produces more carbon dioxide than any other form of generation.

The German government has also authorized that a large wind power project be dismantled to provide space for the expansion of a mine that produces lignite.

And this is happening while China reportedly builds one new coal plant unit per week.

We are nowhere near complete reliance on renewables, and we must diligently push back on this kind of policy insanity.

ROYAL ALEXANDER IS A SHREVEPORT ATTORNEY.

INSPIRATION

Back pain is number one reason people visit their doctors

According to Comprehensive Pain Specialists, “pain not only affects more Americans than diabetes, heart disease and cancer combined but workers lose an average of 4.6 hours per week of productive time due to pain and 20 percentage of Americans pain disrupts their sleep a few nights a week or more and 80 percent of people in the United States will experience back pain at some point in their lives. Besides the common cold, back pain is the number one reason people visit their family doctors.”

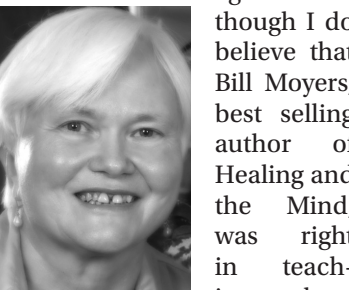
The bottom line is that we can’t get through this life without a little pain but that thought doesn’t diminish the pain that I have experienced for the past eighteen months. Anyone who has suffered back pain can identify with the misery that goes with not getting a good nights sleep.

Not only has back pain interrupted my quality of life for the past fifteen months, it has given me time to spin the stories that I want to write even though it is more difficult for

me to type so I have learned to talk my pieces into my hand held device!

I feel I have a mission to write as many stories as I can not only as a legacy for my family those who might appreciate my slant on life.

Anyone who thinks that pain is just in the head needs to think



SARAH HUDSON PIERCE

again -- although I do believe that Bill Moyers, best selling author of Healing and the Mind, was right in teaching there is a strong connection between the

mind and the body! Ever since 1976 when we lived in Cleveland, Arkansas, where our youngest son, Jeremy, was five months old, I experienced my first bout of back pain, which lasted about a week, I learned that I could only find relief by lying flat on

my back -- often on a heating pad and accompanied by muscle relaxers.

Since then I’ve discovered other exercises that offer relief within minutes.

I always thank God when I awake without any pain even though my relief may be temporary!

Almost everyone I talk to about my back pain knows exactly what I am talking about!

After numerous tests and x-rays and an MRI a conclusion was reached -- much to my relief and chagrin that surgery really isn’t an option. I don’t really want surgery but I would like a quick fix that would get me on the road to recovery!

After visits with my beloved primary physician and a spine specialist in Shreveport, I think I have made my decision to learn to cope with my pain the best I can. These doctors helped me to see that the only long-term relief is for me to resume my exercise program though I am a bit on the lazy side when it comes to exercise -- but now I am back to walk-

ing and my pain sometimes seems more manageable but I just wonder could my pain be psychosomatic?

I am also using Omega-XL, promoted by Larry King, and I have noticed a gradual improvement, being pain free for longer periods of time.

Just to have a few hours of life without pain makes me euphoric! Just to know that others have experienced our kind of pain -- whether physical or emotional gives us strength to go on which leads me to my bottom line!

I believe it takes experiencing deep pain to help us grow -- to become who we were meant to be -- so that we can reach out and lend support to those who need it most and it’s when we drop our barriers and allow others into our private world that we are joined together as one large family.

After all “we are angels flying with only one arm and we can only fly embracing each other.”

CONTACT SARAH AT SARAH9957@AOL.COM

OPINION

Some of my best ‘travels’ takes place at night, when I can’t sleep

One night last week I did some wonderful night travels.

At least, it would have been wonderful had it been real.

Hubby seemed restless and not long after we lay down, he called out frantically. I questioned to no avail. “I must have been dreaming about falling,” he added.

Needless to say I was concerned and was therefore hesitant about falling asleep too quickly. I thought I’d just give him time to settle down. But by the time he had settled down, I was wide awake. When I lie there wide awake, my mind begins to wonder and it can go almost anywhere.

That night I did some traveling, in my mind.

I started in Mexico, strolling through a wooded park that was sparsely occupied. Before we realized it, we were the only ones in sight.



FANNIE MOORE

We hurried our steps and before too long we were back within sight of the campground. And as they should, our friends scolded us for going out on our own. They claimed how they had heard of so much drug activity and killings in that particular park. We couldn’t tell if they really had heard these tales

or if they were just trying to caution us about going off alone.

We soon left Mexico and were in the Bahamas where our daughter and I tried our turns at parasailing. It was an exciting ride, Our Hubbies wouldn’t try it, they could always see the danger in everything where we saw only the excitement. It was exciting and then I bought the t-shirt that said, “I got high in the Bahamas,” with a picture of the parasail.

Before long, we were in Colorado, riding the rapids on the Arkansas River. Hubby and I were the youngest of the three couples, but he was again warning about how dangerous the ride would be. And He Proved to Be Right! About half way down

the strip of river we were to navigate, we ran upon a huge boulder there in our path. Hubby and I were in the front, so as we were panicking about our situation, Hubby stood up and pushed against the rock with his feet and finally got us dislodged. We were some happy campers when we reached the bend in the river and could see our bus that was to pick us up and take us back to our boarding place.

And, you can be sure, we never tried that ride again.

Sleep still had not arrived and we were now at Niagara Falls where it is almost mandatory that visitors ride “The Maid of the Mist,” a boat that carries riders under the Falls, hence the mist. Riders are provided a hooded “slicker

suit” but it doesn’t keep one dry. However, even in our near-drowned state, we were happy that we had the opportunity to experience such a great “once in a lifetime” event.

Before we made it back to our bedroom and a cup of hot chocolate, we had covered a large portion of the Canadian Rockies, seeing some of the most majestic mountains we had ever seen, before or after.

By 2:30 a.m. we were so tired from our travels, we were ready to enjoy a large cup of hot chocolate and turn out the lights.

I hope tonight goes better.

FANNIE MOORE LIVES IN SHONGALOO.



SPORTS

‘Juiced’ up scoring propels Panthers

Doyline’s Jamaría Clark pours in 50-plus points in four recent games

T. SCOTT BOATRIGHT  
Minden Press-Herald

Suffice it to say, ‘Juicy’ has found his sweet spot.

Doyline senior Jamaría “Juicy” Clark has found himself in “the zone” in recent games — one of those times in basketball where anything and everything he puts up seems to fall through the nets.

Clark has poured in 50 or more in four of his last five games, including the Panthers’ most recent 79-42 win over Plain Dealing in which he totaled 53 points along with seven assists, five rebounds, four steals and a blocked shot.

The 6-2 guard also scored a school-record 70 points in a 93-30 win at North Webster on Jan. 12.

Clark’s lowest scoring performance over the past five games? That would be 23 points at Choudrant on Jan. 9 in which he hit a game-winning put-back at the buzzer to defeat the Aggies.

Doyline coach Michael Normand admits he’s never seen a player surfing the zone the way Clark has in recent games for the Panthers.

“In 28 years of coaching I’ve never seen a stretch of basketball by any player much less one of my own like I’m witnessing now,” Normand said in a recent Facebook post. “Just in the last five games Juicy has three 50-point games and a 70-point game!”



PRESS-HERALD PHOTO BY T. SCOTT BOATRIGHT

Doyline’s Jamaría Clark is on a scoring run the likes of which Panthers coach Michael Normand says he’s never seen.

Former Crimson TD Sneed strong for Chiefs in win over Jaguars

T. SCOTT BOATRIGHT  
Minden Press-Herald

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — Patrick Mahomes pleaded with Chiefs coach Andy Reid to let him stay in the game on Saturday.

He argued with trainers, assistant coaches and anyone else within earshot on the Kansas City sideline to let him play through an injured right ankle.

“I’m not coming out of a playoff game,” Mahomes would say later, “unless they take me out.”

Well, the Chiefs did, forcing him to get X-rays late in the first half of their divisional game against Jacksonville.

But when they came back negative, and Mahomes proved he could protect himself in the halftime locker room, Reid decided to let his All-Pro quarterback back on the field — and he gamely led them to victory.

Mahomes finished with 195 yards passing and two touchdowns, the second capping a 75-yard drive late in the fourth quarter, and lifted Kansas City to a 27-20 victory over the Jaguars and a spot in a fifth straight AFC championship game.

Mahomes also vowed to be ready for next week against Cincinnati and Buffalo at Arrowhead Stadium; if the Bills win, they’re headed to Atlanta.

Former Minden High and Louisiana Tech standout L’Jarius Sneed totaled 12 tackles for the Chiefs, including nine solo stops.

Chad Henne led a 98-yard touchdown drive while Mahomes was out. Travis Kelce had a career-high 14 catches for



PRESS-HERALD PHOTO BY T. SCOTT BOATRIGHT

Former Minden and Louisiana Tech L’Jarius Sneed totaled 12 tackles (nine solo) for the Kansas City Chiefs in Saturday’s home playoffs win over Jacksonville.

98 yards and two scores. Marquez Valdes-Scantling hauled in the eventual clinching TD pass with about 7 minutes left in the game.

“It’s a credit to the team I have around me, the coaches around me and the organization in general,” Mahomes said. “We try to do whatever we can to be in this position, to get to the AFC championship game and find a way to the Super Bowl.”

The Jaguars, who rallied from a 27-0 deficit to beat the Chargers in the wild-card round, squandered two chances to mount another late rally.

The first ended when Jamal Agnew had the ball pop loose inside the Chiefs 5 with about 5 1/2 minutes to go, and the second when Jaylen Watson made a leaping, one-handed interception near midfield.

The Jaguars’ last-gasp chance ended when Kansas City recovered an on-side kick with 24 seconds to go.

Trevor Lawrence finished with 217 yards passing with a touchdown toss to Christian Kirk, who was briefly hurt midway through the fourth quarter but returned to finish the game.

Travis Etienne added 62 yards rushing and a touchdown.

“When you get this far you don’t want to only

go this far,” the Jaguars’ Foyesade Oluokun said. “You want to keep going.”

“I don’t really have the words right now,” Lawrence added. “The Chiefs did more today than we did.”

Long before Mahomes hobbled to the sideline in pain, he was at his creative best, driving the Chiefs downfield on their opening possession.

There was a shortstop-style sidearm sling to JuJu Smith-Schuster, a key third down pass to Kelce as he was being dragged to the turf, and the flip pass to his tight end that gave Kansas City a 7-0 lead.

The Jaguars came right back, taking advantage of a big kickoff return and a short field.

Lawrence, whose four touchdown throws helped to stun the Chargers last week, proceeded to hit Kirk for the matching touchdown.

Then, the complexion of the game changed.

Mahomes was moving up in the pocket when Arden Key brought the full weight of his body down on the quarterback’s ankle. Mahomes hobbled to the huddle and managed to get through three more plays to end the first quarter, then was on the field two more plays before Harrison Butker kicked a 50-yard field goal.

During the Jaguars’

ensuing possession, Mahomes got into a heated argument with Reid and the training staff. He then threw down his coat and headed to the locker room, forcing Henne to take over midway through the second quarter, just as the 37-year-old journeyman did two years ago in a playoff win over Cleveland.

“Yeah, I did not want to go, and they kind of gave me the ultimatum that I wasn’t going back in unless I went in there,” said Mahomes, who cheered on Henne’s 98-yard drive from the sideline, wearing a puffy winter coat on a cold, sleeting night.

As the second half began, though, that familiar red No. 15 jersey was trotting back onto the field.

“It was a short leash,” Reid acknowledged. “If I felt like he wasn’t able to handle it, he would have been out.”

His right ankle heavily taped, Mahomes struggled to move around, but simply his presence seemed to calm the Chiefs — and their angst-filled fan base.

Butker added a second 50-yard field goal late in the third quarter to extend the lead to 20-10, and when the AFC South champs answered with a touchdown of their own, so did the Chiefs.

Mahomes drove them downfield for one last score that proved to be the margin of victory.

“We know that if it’s up to Pat, he’s going to be in there. I’m sure he had some words with everyone on the sideline that he wanted to be in there as fast as possible,” Kelce said afterward.

“It’s just a different feeling when one-five is in there. He can make anything happen, even on one ankle.”

STATS AND STREAKS

Mahomes improved to 5-0 in the divisional round of the playoffs. He’s thrown 28 TD passes and three interceptions in 10 home playoff games. ... Henne was 5 of 7 for 23 yards and a score. ... Jacksonville had eight wins as an underdog this season, tied for the most

in the Super Bowl era.

UP NEXT

The Chiefs wait to hear whether they play the Bengals at Arrowhead Stadium or the Bills in Atlanta for a spot in their third Super Bowl in four years. The Jaguars turn their attention to free agency and the NFL draft.

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Minden Press-Herald & Holcomb’s

Athlete of the Week

Timiah Hawkins

Minden High School

The junior guard led Minden with 14 points in a 42-49 win over Woodlawn and 13 points in a 60-47 loss to Northwood in games played last week.

The Press-Herald Athlete of the Week feature is brought to you every other Friday by Holcomb’s Body Shop in Minden.



# SPORTS

## Dunkin’ Dogs, Techsters both fall to Blue Raiders

Minden Press-Herald Sports Service

RUSTON — Louisiana Tech could not make it two straight games of overcoming double-digit deficits, falling to a hot-shooting Middle Tennessee by a score of 68-51 on Saturday afternoon inside the Thomas Assembly Center on Karl Malone Court.

LA Tech (11-9, 4-5 C-USA) had one of its worst offensive performances of the season, coughing the ball up 15 times and making just three of its 21 three-point attempts. Meanwhile, MTSU (13-7, 6-3 C-USA) was efficient at all three offensive levels, shooting 52.1 percent from the field while sinking 11 triples (second most this season).

“We did not play together today,” said Dunkin’ Dogs coach Talvin Hester. “I thought our problems were on the offensive end of the court. Early in the game, I thought we were playing 1-on-1 basketball. We were not moving the ball, we were not sharing it, which I thought affected our defense. We scored 24 points in the first half. We got down and started hanging our heads. In the second half, I thought our defense was better, holding them to 25 points. But, we dug a hole we could not get out of. We only had three assists and had 15 turnovers. That is not a winning recipe.”

Neither squad pro-

duced much offense through the first seven minutes or so, but after Terran Williams drained his second three-pointer to tie up at 10-10 with 12:32 to go in the first half the Blue Raiders embarked on a 13-0 run to force a timeout by the Bulldogs.

The lead gradually climbed through the stanza, ultimately ending at 43-24 going into halftime.

LA Tech made a pair of 6-0 runs, stretches where Cobe Williams attacked the rim and finished at the rim. However to overcome that big of a deficit, some three-pointers needed to fall and they never did (went 0-8 from beyond the arc in the second half).

The last ditch effort to make a run at a comeback came when Williams scored eight straight points to make it a 60-47 deficit with 5:06 to go. But, it was too little, too late as MTSU countered with an 8-2 run to put the game away.

Williams was the only Bulldog in double figures with 22 points. Elias King, who had 17 off the bench, anchored the Blue Raiders.

**MTSU 68, Lady Techsters 50**

MURFREESBORO, Tenn. — Louisiana Tech women’s basketball team played championship-level basketball in hostile territory for the majority of the Saturday afternoon’s

contest at Middle Tennessee.

However, the Blue Raiders bookend the first and last five minutes of the game to pull away and extend the fourth-longest winning streak in the country to 14 games.

Middle Tennessee (16-2, 9-0 C-USA) got off on a 10-0 start while holding LA Tech (11-8, 4-5 C-USA) to 0-11 from the field, but Tech settled in and rallied off a 9-2 run to cut the deficit in half by the end of the first quarter, 16-11.

In the second, with three starters sitting due to foul trouble, Salma Bates, Robyn Lee, and Lotte Sant combined for all 13 second-quarter points, hitting three 3-pointers, and kept Tech within striking distance at the break (30-24).

Bates finished the night with eight points, four rebounds, and four assists with zero turnovers. Lee and Sant both chipped in six off the bench.

Tech came out of the halftime locker room and put together what was perhaps their best quarter of the season, holding the Blue Raiders scoreless on 0-7 shooting over the first 5:37 of the period en route to an 8-0 run courtesy of Keiunna Walker and Amaya Brannon to grab their first lead of the game (32-30).

Walker reached double figures for the 13th straight game (14), while Brannon added 10 points.



COURTESY PHOTOS

## Minden High School celebrates soccer seniors

Minden High School’s soccer teams held Senior Night on Jan. 19 with the girls defeating Huntington 8-0 and the boys falling to Caddo Magnet 9-1. MHS girls senior soccer players are Lizzie Tuttle, Elyse Jackson, Caroline Ford and Alaina Anglin. MHS boys senior soccer players are Collin Campbell, Andreas Rodriguez, Kendrick Jackson, Alex Martin and William Davis.



## Cuz’n Fish Fest celebration down to only two

GLYNN HARRIS

Back in the day, I’m talking eight decades or so ago, kids raised out on the rural route did it differently.

When it came to entertaining yourself, there were no high fi gadgets; no cell phone; no video games. Why? It takes electricity for these things to work and it was years before the wires were strung and lights came on in Goldonna.

I grew up in a four room house my daddy built — a living room, kitchen and two bedrooms. Bathroom? Forget about it; it took water piped into the house to make it work. Our bored well, bucket, pulley and rope in the back yard was the water supply. Indoor plumbing consisted of what some folks called a thunder mug or slop jar. The serious stuff took place down a path out back that led to the outhouse.

My brother, Tom, was two years younger than me and we, just the two of us, would no doubt have run out of outdoorsy things to do had it not been for our first cousins, Doug and Sambo who lived on the next hill over from us. Doug and Sambo were like brothers to Tom and me and we did virtually everything together. I was the oldest, Doug a year younger than me, Tom a year younger than Doug and Sambo bringing up the rear, a year younger than Tom.

What did kids do for entertainment way back then before electricity and such came



COURTESY PHOTO

The four Harris boys Cuz’n Fish Fest is now down to just two — Glynn Harris and his cousin Sambo.

to us? If youngsters growing up today had been deprived of all the gadgets and widgets available today, chaos would no doubt ensue. Not for the four Harris boys; none of the other kids growing up in the community had anything modern either so we didn’t miss what we never had.

What we did have was the tank pond lying adjacent to the L&A railroad track that furnished water for the steam engines that chugged and labored up Oshkosh hill after filling tanks.

Just over the track was Molido (pronounced Molly-dough) creek that coursed through the woods half a mile in back of our house. We learned to swim in the tank pond and Molido with its resident red perch, goggle eye, bass, jackfish and mud cat population was the perfect training ground for boys just learning to fish.

The passage of time has a way of changing things. We all grew up,

married, had kids and lived in homes with electricity and indoor plumbing and all the amenities these afforded. Tom and I moved away while Doug and Sambo remained in the little town where we grew up. It’s sad but it’s true; when the realities of life separate you from those who were once so important to you, you grow apart, not because of problems but that’s just the reality of life.

Several years ago, I got a call from Doug. He had retired from a successful career in the petroleum industry, had purchased land and constructed a nice pond near his home and he stocked it with bluegills and bass. Like me, he had missed the times the four Harris boys had growing up and he suggested that we meet on his pond, catch, clean and cook fish and relive some of the special times we had growing up.

On June 29, 2007, the four of us met up on the

pond, did those things he suggested, had so much fun and enjoyment we decided we would meet together every year and do it all over again. The Cuz’n Fish Fest was born on that day fifteen years ago and has continued ever since.

Changes are inevitable with the passage of time and eight April’s ago, my brother Tom passed away. That left the three of us to continue what Doug started 15 years ago. We continued to meet and it became obvious that Doug’s health was in a slow decline. On January 11, I drove to Goldonna to attend the funeral of Doug, the one who started it all. This leaves just Sambo and me, the oldest and youngest of the four Harris boys to pick up the pieces of our childhood. Will we continue the tradition? I suppose time will tell.

— Contact Glynn Harris at [glynnharris37@gmail.com](mailto:glynnharris37@gmail.com).

### Fishing Report

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

**BUSSEY BRAKE** — Rappie fishing has been fair to good on jigs or shiners. Bass have been fair around brush and structure. For the latest information, contact the Honey Hole at 323-8707.

**OUACHITA RIVER** — The water is rising and fishing has been fairly good this week on crappie fishing around submerged tops in the river on jigs and shiners. No report on bass. For the latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

**LAKE D’ARBONNE** — Crappie fishing has been fair to good with best catches made on jigs or shiners fished mid depth just off the channel. Bass had been best fishing the points on crank baits. Catfish are biting cold worms fished off the banks; bream are slow. For the latest information, call Anderson Sport Center at 368-9669 or Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

**LAKE CLAIBORNE** — Crappie fishing continues to be good with shCrappie fishing continues to be good with shiners having the edge over jigs this week. The fish are still fairly deep. No report this week on bass, bream, stripers or

catfish.. 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 picking up a few 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** — Jigging spoons and tai Crappie fishing has been good this week around the boat slips and on the south end on shiners or jigs with some bigger fish caught during the afternoons. Catfishing is good with a 32 pounder weighed in this week. No report on bass or bream. For latest reports, call Poverty Point Marina at 318-878-0101.

**LAKE YUCATAN** — After a rise in water levels, the water is beginning to fall but not many fishermen are going out because of windy conditions. Overall fishing is slow. For information, call Surplus City Landing at 318-467-2259

— Glynn Harris



# Good News

GOOD NEWS

## Digging Deeper into the Well of Living Water

In the Bible Lands, water is the most treasured resource. Its availability made it the object of wars in the past, and even today it is a source of much conflict. (Gen 21). In John 4, Jesus is seen with the Samaritan woman at the well, talking about water. Today, in many regions of the world, Christian volunteers are helping nations ‘dig for water’ so they may know the refreshing taste of what “Jesus must taste like.” After all, He said, “I am the Living Water –he who drinks from me shall never thirst again.” (John 4:10).

Many of us have learned first-

hand the importance of having ‘running water’. Having grown up with ‘one hand on a deep-well water pump’, we grew to appreciate a ‘cup of cool water’ early in life. Our first home was in the c o u n t r y with a well in the yard. We had an electric pump mounted to bring water from the well into the house. But quite often, the well would fill with sand and stall the pump.



Bill Crider

That’s when I learned how to go down into the narrow well and clean it out. Once that was done, water would flow back into the well, the pump would work and we would be happy (for a week or so, and then we would repeat the process). Our neighbors nearby were very accommodating for frequent trips to their bathroom, showers and a bucket of fresh water to drink. Frustrating to no end for us!

Sometimes it seems our “spiritual well is dry or full of sand”. We may ask, What must we do? How can I get to God; my prayers seem unanswered?

Why don’t I feel the Spirit any-more? etc. We have all wrestled with questions such as these. Just like the well digger who has not struck water, he knows ‘he must keep digging a little deeper’. So must we!

It all starts on our knees, pouring out our hearts to God in confession, contrition and a plea for mercy. We must empty out all the ‘sand and silt that has clogged our well of ever flowing water’; we must petition our Heavenly Father to ‘clean our well and make it useful once again’. We must dig deeper into our relationship with Him,

seek His face and listen for His tender call to discipleship. We must submit our hearts as clay into His hands, once again, asking Him to remold us into His own image.

Dig deeper in God’s Word, deeper in commitment and servanthood. Dig deeper into our relationship with our Father and our Lord- and wait for the fresh spiritual waters come bursting forth.

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

THE UPWARD LOOK

## Heard Jesus?

*“if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught in Him, just as truth is in Jesus,” Ephesians 4:21 NASB*



Max Hutto

Many people have heard about Jesus and may even be able to tell many of the things He has said and done. But a believer has heard Him, has come to know Him, and has been and continues to be taught by Him. A believer has found truth in Jesus who was crucified, buried, and raised again to provide salvation, to redeem from sin, and to give

eternal life. Having heard Jesus, a believer has turned away from the old sinful lifestyle and now walks in truth and righteousness.

Lord Jesus, in You I have found truth and life. Continue to teach me from Your Word, the Bible, how I am to live and walk daily in righteousness and holiness.

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

INSPIRATION

## A New Vessel

Think of a moment in your life when everything was the way you liked it. Now think of the moment when it all changed. Did that change happen gradually or immediately? Next focus on how you reacted to the changes. Did you embrace it willingly or did you fight? Now conclude this moment of reflection with one last question. Did I handle the situation in a Christian manner? This line of thinking can be very helpful in following Christ completely. We can’t ground ourselves in our old lives and expect a new one with Christ. We have to let go of our old lives and become a new vessel for God. Jesus makes this point to the religious leaders in Luke

5:37-39. “And no one puts new wine into old wineskins. For the new wine would burst the wineskins, spilling the wine and ruining the skins. New wine must be stored in new wineskins. But no one who drinks the old wine seems to want the new wine. ‘The old is just fine,’ they say.” I would like to conclude by encouraging everyone to be open to the possibility of a new life in Christ. Don’t let the comfort of your past make you rigid to the future.


**BERNARD HARRIS III IS A HAUGHTON FIREMAN AND A LOCAL RESIDENT OF MINDEN**



Bernard Harris

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### 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 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

January 4, 2023  
January 11, 2023  
January 18, 2023  
January 25, 2023  
February 1, 2023  
Minden Press-Herald

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Minden Planning Commission Meeting

February 2, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.

Pelican Room - Minden City Hall

On the agenda is a request from Justin & Amanda Greer for a zoning variance on property owned by them located at 201 Margaret Place. This property is zoned R-1 (Single Family Residential).

The purpose of this zoning variance is to be able to place a 24' x 44' metal storage building. The color of the storage building will match the house.

**Legal Description:**  
2.58 ACRES – TRACT 24.93 X 121.92 X 139.04 X 150.15 X 235.01 X 302.47 X 425.82 FT. IN SW/4 OF NE/4 SEC. 14-19-9 & LESS 0.56 AC. DONATED

All interested parties will be given a chance to be heard.

January 11, 2023  
January 18, 2023  
January 25, 2023  
Minden Press-Herald

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Minden Planning Commission Meeting

February 2, 2023 – 10:00 a.m.

Pelican Room - Minden City Hall

On the agenda is a request from Webster Land Corporation for preliminary approval of a lot split on property owned by them located on Recreation Drive.

**Legal Description:**  
SW/4 OF NW/4 & NW/4 OF SW/4 SEC. 35-19-9, LESS 1.73 AC. SOLD, LESS 4.91 AC. FOR STREET DEDICATION, LESS 3 AC. SOLD, & LESS 1 AC. SOLD, LESS 2 ACS SOLD

All interested parties will be given a chance to be heard.

January 11, 2023  
January 18, 2023  
January 25, 2023  
Minden Press-Herald

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January 25, 2023  
February 1, 2023  
February 8, 2023  
Minden Press-Herald

Village of Dixie Inn Regular Session January 10, 2023

NOTICE: THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN FORMALLY APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the Village of Dixie Inn met in regular session on January 10, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at Village Hall in Dixie Inn, Louisiana with the following members present: Mayor Donna

Hoffoss, Aldermen Judy McKenzie, Lance Milligan, and Opal Finley.

The meeting was called to order and the invocation and pledge of allegiance were given.

There were no public comments.

Mayor Donna Hoffoss welcomed guests.

A motion was made by Opal Finley and seconded by Lance Milligan to adopt the minutes of the Regular Session of December 13, 2022. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

Financial statements of all funds, including a current budget vs. actual, were presented and discussed. A motion was made by Judy McKenzie and seconded by Opal Finley to adopt all financial statements for December 2022. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

Department Reports:

Travis Morehart reported no findings in the 2021-2022 audit.

Mike Chreene reported needing upgrade on SCADA system for the water department.

Chief Edwards reported the new '23 Tahoe/ patrol vehicle came in. Officer, Zane Crittenden, started the Police Academy 1/06/23. The department received a letter of appreciation for Robert Davis and Zane Crittenden regarding a traffic stop. Robert Davis was promoted to Captain.

Mayor Hoffoss reported Robin Wendt as winner of the Christmas ham drawing.

New Business:

A motion was made by Judy McKenzie and seconded by Lance Milligan to remove Verna Kay Hallmark Stratton from B1 bank account and add Opal Finley as signer to B1 accounts. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

A motion was made by Judy McKenzie and seconded by Opal Finley to approve quotes to replace new '23 Tahoe. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

A motion was made by Lance Milligan and seconded by Judy McKenzie to approve repairing door panel on '14 Tahoe. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

A motion was made by Lance Milligan and seconded by Opal Finley to approve removing the old fire hydrant at Cinnamon Creek RV Park. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

A motion was made by Judy McKenzie and seconded by Lance Milligan to upgrade SCADA system for lift station. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Opal Finley and seconded by Lance Milligan. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

Attest:  
Donna Hoffoss  
Mayor

January 25, 2023  
Minden Press-Herald

### SHERIFF'S SALE

B1 BANK VS. NELLIE MAE SPARKS

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 80380

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 Courthouse in the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana on WEDNESDAY, February 1, 2023, During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

LOTS 103 and 104 BABB ADDITION, City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana, as per plat recorded in Book 2, Page 82, in the Conveyance Records of Webster Parish, Louisiana, together with all buildings and improvements thereon. The Municipal Address is 1007 Horton 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 28, 2022  
January 25, 2023  
Minden Press-Herald

### SHERIFF'S SALE

MIDFIRST BANK VS. BRANDON R. GORUM AND CHASITY GORUM

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. CV80379

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 Courthouse in the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana on WEDNESDAY, February 1, 2023, During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

LOT EIGHT (8), HILLSIDE SUBDIVISION, PHASE "1", SITUATED IN THE NORTH-WEST QUARTER OF THE NORTH-WEST QUARTER (NW/4 OF NW/4) OF SECTION 19, TOWNSHIP 19 NORTH, RANGE 8 WEST, WEBSTER PARISH, LOUISIANA, AS PER MAP AND PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION FILED IN CONVEYANCE BOOK 897, PAGE 489, REGISTRY NUMBER 432036 OF THE CONVEYANCE 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 28, 2022  
January 25, 2023  
Minden Press-Herald

### VILLAGE OF DOYLINE

POSTED ON JANUARY 6, 2022 @ 12:00 pm  
**COUNCIL MEETING DATE:** MONDAY, JANUARY 9TH 2022 @ 6 PM  
**LOCATION:** DOYLINE TOWN HALL  
624 COLLEGE STREET  
DOYLINE, LA 71023

### AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER  
INVOCATION  
PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE  
ROLL CALL

CALL FOR ANY REQUESTS FOR ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

1. APPROVAL OF COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES FROM DECEMBER 5TH
2. APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
3. JOHN FRENCH (JBF ENGINEERING)-SEWER PROJECT STATUS UPDATE
4. APPROVAL OF JOHNSON STREET ROAD REPAIR RESOLUTION
5. MAINTENANCE REPORT- JOHNNY MONTGOMERY
6. SEWER REPORT- MIKE DUNAWAY
7. CLERK'S REPORT-JAMES HILL
8. CHIEF'S REPORT- ROBBY HAYDEN
9. MOTION TO ADJOURN

JAMES HILL, TOWN CLERK  
VILLAGE OF DOYLINE  
624 COLLEGE STREET  
DOYLINE, LA 71023  
318-745-2625

**IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, PLEASE CONTACT THE VILLAGE CLERK, JAMES HILL, AT 318-745-2625 SHOULD YOU REQUIRE ANY SPECIAL ASSISTANCE OR ACCOMMODATIONS.**

January 25, 2023  
Minden Press-Herald

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

PLEASANT VALLEY WATER SYSTEM  
Owner

1098 Greene Road  
Address

Minden, LA 71055  
City, State, Zip

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of **CONTRACT I- NEW WATER WELL NO.7**

will be received by the **PLEASANT VALLEY WATER SYSTEM** at the Webster Parish Police Jury Meeting Room, 401 Main St. (West Entrance), Minden, LA 71058 until **10:00 A.M. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023**, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud as permitted by public bid law. This is in accordance with La R.S. 38:2212 (A)(1)(b), the provisions of La R.S. 38:2212.

Each bidder must have an active Unique Entity ID (SAM), as verified on [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov), prior to beginning of construction.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following location(s): Cothren Graff Smoak Engineering, Inc., 6305 Westport Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71129.

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of COTHREN, GRAFF, SMOAK ENGINEERING, INC. upon payment of \$35.00 for each set, which is refundable to prime bidders within 10 days after receipt of bids. Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids for just cause.

January 25, 2023  
February 1, 2023  
February 8, 2023  
Minden Press-Herald

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

### PLEASANT VALLEY WATER SYSTEM, INC.

Owner

1098 Greene Road  
Address

Minden, Louisiana 71055  
City, State, Zip

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of **Contract II- Water Distribution Improvements**

will be received by the **PLEASANT VALLEY WATER SYSTEM, INC.** at the Webster Parish Police Jury Meeting Room, 401 Main St. (West Entrance), Minden, LA 71058 until **10:00 A.M. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023**, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud as permitted by public bid law. This is in accordance with La R.S. 38:2212 (A)(1)(b), the provisions of La R.S. 38:2212.

Each bidder must have an active Unique Entity ID (SAM), as verified on [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov), prior to beginning of construction.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following location(s): Cothren Graff Smoak Engineering, Inc., 6305 Westport Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71129.

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January 25, 2023  
February 1, 2023  
February 8, 2023  
Minden Press-Herald

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

PLEASANT VALLEY WATER SYSTEM  
Owner

1098 Greene Road  
Address

Minden, LA 71055  
City, State, Zip

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of **CONTRACT III- BOOSTER STATION IMPROVEMENTS**

will be received by the **PLEASANT VALLEY WATER SYSTEM** at the Webster Parish Police Jury Meeting Room, 401 Main St. (West Entrance), Minden, LA 71058 until **10:00 A.M. THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2023**, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud as permitted by public bid law. This is in accordance with La R.S. 38:2212 (A)(1)(b), the provisions of La R.S. 38:2212.

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January 25, 2023  
February 1, 2023  
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Minden Press-Herald

I, Charles Blanks #598250, have applied for clemency for my conviction of Malfeasance in Office - Sexual Conduct. If you have any comments, contact the Board of Pardons (225) 342-5421.

## PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!

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January 25, 2023  
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**Bill & Ralph's Inc. 118 B & R Drive, Sarepta, La. 71071**

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**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](mailto:mickey.hodges@billandralphs.com)**

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