

MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2023

MINDEN, LOUISIANA

PRESS-HERALD.COM

75 CENTS

MINDEN ST. JUDE AUCTION

St. Jude Auction kicks off this week

AMBER MCDOWN

Minden Press-Herald

The 2023 Minden St. Jude Auction will be kicking off on Thursday, February 9 and will run through Sunday, February 12. This year's theme is Wave Goodbye to Cancer.

The auction began about 40 years ago, and it has since become a huge event in Minden, not just during the auction itself but year round as schools and organizations raise money to benefit the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. In fact, the City of Minden and the surrounding area has raised over \$20 million since the auction's inception.

The auction will be live on the air 9 a.m. to

10 p.m. on Thursday, 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. on Friday and Saturday, and 1 p.m. until either 9 or 10 p.m. on Sunday. You can tune in to the live stream at mindenstjude.com or the broadcast on KASO radio (1240 AM) or Suddenlink cable channel 11.

There are always a wide variety of items and services available to bid on. This year's grand prize will be the choice of \$50,000 or a 2023 GMC Yukon.

Besides the auction, there will also be the Minden St. Jude Chili Cook-Off and the Minden Run for St. Jude - Color Run! 5k 10k Kids Fun Run on Saturday, February 11. For more information on the cook-off, go to www.facebook.com/minden-chili/; and for the Fun Run go to www.minden-runforstjude.com/.

COMMUNITY

Mardi Gras in Minden



WILL PHILLIPS/PRESS-HERALD PHOTOS

The City of Minden came together downtown on Saturday to celebrate Mardi Gras season. The Minden Fasching Mardi Gras Parade spanned from Germantown Road to the route's end along Broadway, and all along the way people in floats were tossing candy and beads to the eager kids and families waiting along the route.



ECONOMY

AMBER MCDOWN

Minden Press-Herald

The mayor of Sibley, Jimmy Williams, is excited about the new housing development that the Town of Sibley is creating on 160 acres near Calloway Corners.

"We have bought some land, and we're starting a subdivision," said Mayor Williams. "We're hoping everything gets going by April. Right now, it looks like we're going to have 21 lots. We're going to see how that

goes, and then we can expand it. I'm really excited about that because we don't have a lot of places where people can build; we're kind of landlocked. This gives us an opportunity to expand Sibley. Of course, there will be people who're not excited, but my philosophy is, either you're growing or you're dying."

At this time, the town plans to just sell lots and let the homeowners choose their builders. The planned lot sizes will be around ¼

to ½ acre.

"The town will be selling lots, that's all we're going to do. There are some developers that are interested in it but, right now, we're going to develop these and see what happens," said Mayor Williams.

"We've had a lot of people calling wanting to know when it's going to open and how much it's going to be. We haven't determined that yet, but it's going to be cheaper than what they're doing over in Haughton. We're not trying to make money

on it, we just want people to come in. I'm very excited about that."

The project is in its preliminary stages with surveyors working to create a topographical map of the area but, weather permitting, they hope to start selling lots by spring or early summer.

Another big project that Sibley has in the works is a major water system overhaul including consolidating with Saltworks Water System which is located just south of Sibley.

"We got a \$5 million

grant to redo our water system," Williams said. "We'll be taking on Saltworks Water System. It's going to be completely redone. We're putting in green sand filters to take the minerals out of the water, drilling a new well. It's really going to help our water system. We've got a lot going on."

"The one we're taking on [Saltworks] is going to be completely redone. All new pipes, everything. So it'll be brand new."

The municipality was required to take on an-

other water system to qualify for the grant under the Water Sector Program. This helps to consolidate water systems so that grant-money improvements cover a larger area. There are many small water systems in Webster Parish that are in dire need of improvements.

"Hopefully we'll get started on that pretty soon," said Williams. "And we'll just continue to try to clean up town."

RISING TIDES

Lake Bistineau about to exceed flood pool

AMBER MCDOWN

Minden Press-Herald

Lake Bistineau is, as of January 30, about to exceed the flood pool. With this week's forecast of daily rain, the areas around the lake will almost certainly begin to flood.

According to the US Army Corps of Engineers, a flood pool consists of two zones: the lower zone is where water is intentionally held during an event until the downstream conditions allow for its release in a controlled manner. The top of this zone is typically defined by the top of the spillway gates in their



closed position.

Lake Bistineau's "full pool" level is 141.00 feet. The "flood pool" level is 142.50 feet. Since yesterday, the water level has risen 0.13 feet to 142.45 feet.

People who need to travel near Lake Bistineau

and residents of that area should plan alternate routes in case roads begin to flood.

The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development publishes road closures on their website: www.dotd.la.gov/.

ACCIDENT

Sarepta Boy Dies in Heating-Related Fire

WEBSTER PARISH State Fire Marshal (SFM) deputies have determined a fire in Sarepta that claimed the life of a child was caused by a space heater placed too close to combustible objects.

At 1:30 a.m. on Monday, January 30, the Sarepta Fire Department responded to a report of a mobile home fire located in the 700 block of Church Street. While two adults and two toddlers were able to escape and get treated for minor smoke inhalation, unfortunately, an 8-year-old boy was unable to be rescued.

During the investigation into what caused the fire, SFM deputies learned the family was asleep when the adults woke up to the smell of smoke. The two adults

and toddlers were able to escape from their side of the mobile home, but they were unable to get to the 8-year-old who was sleeping on the other side of the home.

After an assessment of the scene and collecting witness statements, SFM deputies determined the fire began in the bedroom where the victim was sleeping. The investigation confirmed the fire was caused by a space heater left running too close to bedding.

"This is the second space heater-related fire death from the past few days and both losses of life are of vulnerable individuals," said State Fire Marshal Dan Wallis, "We not only have to educate ourselves about safe home heating practices, but we need to be sure every member of

our household knows how to stay warm safely and understands why it's important to follow safe home heating tips."

Those tips are:

- Place space heaters 3-5 feet from combustible objects like blankets and curtains
 - Plug all heating appliances directly into wall outlets, not power strips or extension cords
 - Do not use stoves, ovens, or grills to heat homes
 - Don't overfill fireplaces/wood-burning stoves
 - Do not leave candles/open flames (or space heaters) left unattended
- In addition, deputies were unable to confirm the presence of working smoke alarms. Smoke alarms are proven to be the difference between life and death in a fire emergency.



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Zach M. Goodman
D.D.S.



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Tomorrow's
High Temp 59°

Tomorrow's
Low Temp 36°

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WEBSTER & MORE

EDUCATION

Louisiana public school enrollment has shrunk 5% since 2020

(The Center Square) — A recent audit shows Louisiana’s K-12 public school enrollment was 658,118 in the 2021-22 school year, down from a peak of about 712,000 in 2013.

Louisiana Legislative Auditor Mike Waguespack last week issued an informational brief on racial demographics in the state’s public and private schools for the 2021-22 school year that counted a total of 775,583 K-12 students, excluding homeschooled students and those in the state’s Special School District (schools for the deaf and the visually impaired).

“Of the 658,118 K-12 students attending public schools, approximately 71% were considered economically disadvantaged,” the report read.

That figure comes in slightly below the projected total public school enrollment of 686,300 for the current school year, according to Department of Education data cited by the National Center for Education Statistics.

Both figures mark a significant decline in the student population that seemingly accelerated during the pandemic.

Louisiana Superintendent of Public Instruc-

tion Cade Brumley earlier this month highlighted a more than 2% decline in the public school population between October 2020 and October 2022, or about 14,625 students. In total, about 34,000 students have left public schools since the pandemic began, equating to a nearly 5% loss.

NCES analysis shows Louisiana public school enrollment was at 784,757 in 1990, before declining to about 654,526 in 2005. Enrollment then trended upward to about 712,000 in 2013, before again falling gradually to about 697,900 in 2020, according to the data.

Louisiana’s public school enrollment loss since the pandemic is similar to the broader trend nationally. K-12 public school enrollment across the U.S. fell by an unprecedented 1.1 million students or roughly 2% in the first full year of the pandemic, followed by another 130,000 decline in 2021, according to the U.S. Department of Education.

That figure has since rebounded some to a projected enrollment of about 52.1 million students in 2023, or nearly 11 million more students than in 1990.

The LLA brief released in Louisiana last week was designed to break down the racial demographics in traditional public, charter, and private schools during the 2021-22 school year.

“Most students of all races attend traditional public schools,” auditors wrote. “However, white students are the most likely to attend private schools, Black students are the most likely to attend charter schools, and Hispanics are the most likely to attend traditional public schools.”

The LLA estimated 23.7% of white students attended private schools, compared to 5.8% of black students, 7.2% of Hispanic students, and 16.9% of other racial minorities. Charter schools enrolled 4.8% of white students, 19.1% of black students, 13.5% of Hispanic students, and 8.9% of other racial minorities, the LLA found.

The report showed 71.5% of white students, 75.1% of black students, 79.3% of Hispanic students, and 74.2% of other racial minorities attended traditional public schools in 2021-22.



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WEBSTER & MORE

FINANCES

Louisiana audits find three state university athletics programs are losing money

(The Center Square) — Athletic departments at several of Louisiana’s public universities are operating at a loss, according to recent reports from the Louisiana Legislative Auditor.

Auditor Mike Waguespack issued a series of reports last week that examined whether financial statements for athletic departments at five of the state’s public universities complied with National Collegiate Athletic Association bylaws in fiscal year 2022.

A review of the statement of revenues and expenses for the University of Louisiana at Lafayette Athletic Department found a deficit of \$5.3 million, with total revenues of \$33 million and total expenses of about \$38.3 million. Auditors also noted one instance in which a \$6,000 in-kind donation was not accompanied by supporting documentation, as required.

The same review for the

Southern University at Baton Rouge Athletic Department showed a deficit of \$394,518 in 2022, with revenues of \$18.1 million and total expenses at \$18.5 million. Auditors found the university’s repayment schedule for outstanding intercollegiate athletics debt was not properly disclosed, in addition to other issues with incorrect athletic and Pell grant amounts in the NCAA Membership Financial Reporting System, and misclassified revenue.

Finances for the athletic department at Nicholls State University were also in the red for FY 2022, with expenses of \$11.1 million outpacing revenues of \$10.9 million, resulting in a deficit of \$203,448. Auditors also uncovered three instances of misclassified or understated amounts on the university’s statement of revenues and expenses.

“In addition, auditors noted that the university

overstated the current-year capital expenditures related to athletic buildings that were reported to the NCAA,” according to a report summary.

Two other schools’ athletic departments posted a profit in FY 2022.

At Louisiana Tech University, the athletic department’s revenues exceeded expenses by \$399,234, with total revenues at about \$28.7 million and total expenses of roughly \$28.3 million. Auditors found one scholarship worth \$1,297 that was incorrectly coded to football that should have been coded to men’s basketball, as well as a \$2,163 overpayment to an employee. Both the scholarship and overpayment have since been corrected.

Revenues also exceeded expenses at Southeastern Louisiana University’s athletic department by \$100,571, with total revenues at \$14.8 million and total expenses at \$14.7

million. Other issues at Southeastern involved an overstatement of countable contests for men’s track and field.

“The University had seven regular season countable contests and two postseason countable contests on its website,” the report read. “The Sports Sponsorship and Demographics form had five regular season countable contests and one postseason countable contest.”

At Nicholls State and Southern, “Auditors also noted variances between current-year and prior-year grant-in-aid revenue distribution equivalencies requiring explanations per NCAA guidelines,” the reports read.

Those variances occurred as a result of changes in student sports participation and program funding that exceeded 4% between fiscal year 2021 and 2022.



Wills Successions

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LIONS CLUB

Nominations being accepted for Man of the Year

AMBER MCDOWN

Minden Press-Herald

The Minden Lions Club is accepting nominations for the Minden Man of the Year award.

The Lions Club has been sponsoring this award since 1946, and it has been awarded to many well-known community figures.

If you know a man who is dedicated to serv-

ing the community, be sure to nominate him so that he might be recognized. The deadline to enter will be February 22, and the winner will be announced during the Chamber Awards Gala on March 28.

To nominate someone, or to see a list of the previous Men of the Year, go to tinyurl.com/yad48hna.

COMMUNITY

Free tax preparation through local VITA site

STAFF REPORT

Minden Press-Herald

With the many new changes in tax laws over the last 3 years, many people are uncertain about how to file their tax returns. The economic conditions that exist today, requirements by the IRS to receive stimulus checks and paying high fees for preparation of returns is not an option. So, what do you do? For the eight consecutive years, Greater Saint Paul Baptist Church has partnered with the Internal Revenue Service, United Way of Northwest Louisiana and Creighton Hill Community Development Corporation to offer free tax preparation and electronic filing to any person or family who earned \$58,000 or less per year.

Taxes are prepared by IRS certified tax preparers and submitted electronically to the IRS. If you have a bank account, the IRS will deposit your return directly into your bank account. If you have no account, your refund will be mailed directly from the IRS. State

tax returns will also be prepared and filed electronically. CHCDC VITA SITE has received the highest possible score, 100%, for the service provided to Webster Parish and surrounding parishes since its beginning. The Volunteer Site Coordinator Pastor Royal Scott, attributes the success of the site to the well trained and dedicated volunteers that love what they do and their high integrity. “This is a ministry for us and we receive great joy in helping people.”

The location for these services is Greater Saint Paul Baptist Church 510 High Street in Minden. The site will be open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday from 3:00 until 7:00 p.m. Because of Covid-19 you must call for an appointment and masks are required. It is closed Tuesday and Sunday. The services will begin January 30th and will close April 18th. To schedule an appointment call 318- 949-5768 or 913-269-5493 between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. or email us at chcdcvida@yahoo.com.

BUSINESS

Elevance Health to Acquire Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana

INDIANAPOLIS-(BUSINESS WIRE)-Elevance Health, Inc. (NYSE: ELV) and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana announced today that the companies have entered into a definitive agreement through which Elevance Health agrees to acquire Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana (BCBSLA). BCBSLA will join Elevance Health’s affiliated Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield family of brands.

This acquisition will unite two organizations deeply rooted in the communities they serve and aligned in a mission to improve whole health. Together they will continue to prioritize what is best for Louisiana’s members and customers by improving access, quality, affordability, and the experience that Louisianians have trusted for almost 90 years.

The combination builds on the existing collaboration in Louisiana through joint ownership of Healthy Blue, which serves Medicaid and Medicare Dual Eligible members. It will also accelerate BCBSLA’s strate-

gic evolution to improve access, affordability and quality of services delivered by BCBSLA to the more than 1.9 million members they serve with capabilities developed by Elevance Health and its healthcare services organization, Carelon. With more than \$4 billion invested over the past several years, Carelon delivers behavioral health, complex and chronic care programs, and innovative digital models.

“Elevance Health and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana will combine strengths to provide services unique to the needs of Louisiana to better serve members through a whole health personalized approach,” said Gail Boudreaux, President and CEO, Elevance Health. “As organizations aligned in our missions, we are excited at the opportunity to bring our leading, innovative whole-health solutions to BCBSLA’s members as we work together to become a lifetime, trusted health partner.”

“Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana is a strong and vibrant com-

pany with a history of serving Louisianians for almost 90 years. However, to remain strong in today’s environment with an ability to provide leading innovations, products and capabilities, we concluded that we needed a partner that could help us deliver these faster and better than we could alone. Aligning with Elevance Health - a national health care organization that has been our trusted partner since 2017 - will allow us to accelerate our mission of improving the health and lives of Louisianians,” said I. Steven Udvarhelyi, M.D., president and CEO of Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana.

Like BCBSLA, Elevance Health believes healthcare is best when delivered locally, and following the transaction’s close, the Louisiana plan headquarters will remain in Baton Rouge, and will continue to serve its customers locally through its workforce of approximately 3,000 employees. An additional benefit of this transaction will be the creation of a multi-billion-dollar foundation,

the Accelerate Louisiana Initiative. This foundation is being created to address the unique and complex needs of the people of Louisiana with the mission to improve the health and lives of the people of Louisiana by addressing health inequities and strengthening local communities.

The acquisition is expected to close later this year and is subject to customary closing conditions and receipt of certain required approvals. Upon closing, Elevance Health’s affiliated Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield plans will now operate within 15 states across the country.

Elevance Health’s legal advisors are White & Case LLP and Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP. Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP and McGlinchey Stafford PLLC are acting as legal advisors for Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana. Cain Brothers acted as financial advisors to Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Louisiana in this transaction.

OBITUARIES



William Matthew “Bill” Barkas, Sr. of Minden, Louisiana

Age: 85

Born: February 25, 1937, Manila, Philippines

Died: February 5, 2023, in Covington, LA

Devoted husband to: Edith Hanna “Edie” Barkas of Minden, Daddy to: Jessica (Lavon) Welch, Bill (Julie) Barkas, Jr., and daughter Hanna (Jeff) Peshoff. PawPaw

to grandchildren: Rachel Welch, Nathan (Sima) Welch, Jonathan (Brittany) Welch, Meredith Welch, Matthew (Morgan) Barkas, Grant Barkas, Will Peshoff, Sarah (Logan) Didier, Mary Peshoff, John Clark Peshoff 9 great grandchildren (and 3 on the way) Sister Connie Madrid of Manila, Philippines Predeceased by his parents, Irene Barretto and Gabriel William Barkas, 3 brothers, Eddie Golden, Albert Golden, and Wally Golden, and 3 grandsons, Benjamin Barkas, Caleb Welch, and Joshua Welch 1960 graduate of Louisiana Tech University, degree in Agricultural Engineering 55-year resident of Minden, 55-year member of FUMC, Minden. Worked in industry designing farm equipment, then later as an insurance agent.

Retirement years: volunteer work on church ramp ministry, sang in church singing group, worked in church office, enjoyed various Bible studies including BSF, taught Sunday school, faithful election poll worker Deep love for and devotion to God Love and devotion to wife and fam-

ily If there was a game or event for someone in his family, he was there. Faithful friend, never met a stranger Hard worker Great humility, gentleness, and kindness Loved music and especially loved singing Proud naturalized US citizen and patriot Faithful Louisiana Tech alumnus and 55-year season football ticket holder Enjoyed carpentry Multi-lingual and had keen interest in different cultures ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) Member of Masons, worked with church youth group, taught Sunday school,

Visitation 10:30, Saturday, February 11th at First Methodist Minden

Service: 1:00, Saturday, February 11th at First Methodist Minden

Graveside: Following the service at Hamilton Cemetery in Dubach, LA, Saturday, February 11th

In Lieu of flowers donations may be sent to St. Jude’s or The Broken Bean/Teen Challenge

Rev. Frank M. Jones, Sr.

Rev. Frank M. Jones, Sr passed away January 30, 2023, at the age of 83. He was a retired Methodist Minister, having served churches in Louisiana for over 30 years.

His parents, Rev. J.A. Jones and Lou Anna Wellford Jones preceded him in death.

He is survived by his wife of 61 years, Dyann Jones; his son, Frank Jones, Jr and wife Pattie Boothe Jones; twin grandsons, Austin Jones and wife Megan and Sutton Jones and girlfriend Kendelle Williams.

Services were Friday, February 3, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at Rose-Neath Funeral Home Chapel in Minden, Loui-

siana with Rev. Dave Fortuna officiating. The family received friends at 9:30 a.m. Friday prior to the service. Burial will be at Mt. Lebanon Cemetery in Mt. Lebanon, Louisiana.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to the Methodist Children’s Home in Ruston, St. Jude, or a charity of your choice.

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Send us your news at newsroom@press-herald.com

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

Free speech: public school teachers and social media

There have been several examples lately of public employees or, here, a public-school teacher—being disciplined or fired for things they have written or posted on social media. One such instance is a case in Waskom, Texas.

Regarding public-school teachers and social media, there are both protections and limitations to the right of free speech that can differ significantly from the scope of free speech and free expression we are accustomed to in our open society.

As we know, the 1st Amendment's guarantee of free speech is an ironclad legal principle. However, that protection in the context of public employees is more limited.

On one hand, the U.S. Supreme Court has reaffirmed many times that "speech on public issues occupies the highest rung of the hierarchy of First Amendment values and is entitled to special protection." The Court has also made clear that "public employees are often the members of the community who are likely to have informed opinions as to the operations of their public employers, operations which are of substantial concern to the public." Therefore, the First Amendment rightly protects teachers and other public employees from discipline or termination for speech on public

issues.

On the other hand, in public schools, where the government also acts as an employer, courts must balance both the First Amendment's free speech protections as well as the government employer's interest in "running an efficient, effective workplace" and pursuing educational goals.

So, how might a court analyze whether a public-school employee's speech is protected? Three commonly used factors are:



ROYAL ALEXANDER

1). Is the speech a matter of "public concern"? 2). Was the employee speaking as a citizen or as an employee? 3). How does the free speech interest of the employee as a citizen weigh against the interest of the government, as an employer, in promoting the efficiency of the public school it runs?

Here, the legal determination regarding whether the speech is protected would be highly fact intensive and fact specific.

What did this employee say or write? Was it personal and/or vindictive? or, no matter how harsh or vile, was the subject of

the speech of public or national importance? Was the topic how Covid has been drastically mishandled and misstated, or how the 2020 Summer of Riots were ignored while Jan 6th was disingenuously hyped to high heaven.

If the employee insulted the principal of his school based upon a petty, personal grievance, it might not be protected speech, but if the employee criticized his employer because the principal doesn't pay teachers enough money, that could well be protected speech because teacher pay is a matter of broad interest and public concern.

On the other hand, does the speech inhibit the normal operations of the school, i.e., is it highly disruptive; Is it personally disparaging or inflammatory? If so, it may not be protected speech.

The Waskom teacher, Patrick Durbin, reported a threat made by a student after two other students told him that a third student had threatened to shoot him; Durbin reported it to school authorities but then took to social media after he felt the administration did not handle the situation with any urgency or concern. After he spoke out on Tik Tok, he was placed on administrative leave.

This was the text of his post about being threatened to be shot by a student:

"Y'all wonder why teachers are getting out and quitting, it's bad administration and people covering up for kids doing things to endanger other people's lives; it's parents who don't discipline their kids" Durbin said in the video.

Durbin continued, saying part of him was ready to go back to a previous school district. "For the simple fact enough that I know the principals and the superintendent and the people that I worked with had my back and would protect us at all costs. I can't say the same for this district."

Let's analyze it: 1). Gun violence and shootings in American schools are a huge issue of national importance/public concern.

2). Durbin was an employee but was speaking as a citizen given that his speech involved criticizing a school administration he felt was too slow in responding to a serious health and safety issue—the possibility of preventing a school shooting.

3). Here, in my view, the interest of the teacher in speaking out about a very real danger outweighs the school's need for efficient operations.

I think this is protected speech and Mr. Durbin has correctly been reinstated.

ROYAL ALEXANDER IS A SHREVEPORT ATTORNEY.

INSPIRATION

A Gift that will last all year

The best gift that we can give ourselves and others, at any time, that will last all year is to pour outstories, knowing that we are all struggling with situations too deep to articulate to others. In doing so I encourage you to do the same because writing is the greatest therapy I have found to keep me from going completely under. Incidentally using this gift can completely wash out all of the emotional energy to provide relief.

It's February, 1962. As a fourteen year old girl, I sat on the floor in front of the cast iron wood stove, inside our unpainted, mostly unheated cabin in the woods near Noel, Missouri. As I put the kindling in the stove, I stirred the coals and watched the flame ignite. Looking deep within the fire, I vowed then and there that "I will rise up from whence I came."

Not knowing exactly what that would entail, change came at lightning speed!

Less than six weeks later I be-

came a Christian and was asked a couple of weeks later by the minister Fred Webb, who baptized me, if I would like to go to a Christian orphanage near Tulsa, Oklahoma.

He assured me that I would have immaculate surroundings and plenty of food and clothing and that I would be sent to school.



SARAH HUDSON PIERCE

went into the orphanage.

And it changed both of our lives forever!

It wasn't easy but I knew that God had a plan in it for me!

Now at seventy-four "life is difficult" as the famed author M. Scott Peck, said it was.

But it has been worthwhile!

God has always taken care of me and has always provided sometimes even more than I need.

Life isn't easy in our world, though it never has been I suppose.

Sixty-one years later I often struggle trying to find which end is up as I search for an answer to pending situations in my life that could overwhelm me.

I have struggled to keep my sanity because God always provides for me sometimes coming to me in the form of "Better Angels" who sense what I need before I ask.

At thirteen I almost drowned and actually went down five times before the Easter siblings, from South West City, Missouri, came to rescue me when they saw I wasn't clowning around!

I know what it feels like to almost drown and sometimes I feel like I am on the edge of my existence and am drowning but I know God will pull me through the tight places be-

cause He always does.

It isn't easy making a living in our society.

I won't bore you with the details of my current struggles but I will encourage you to pour your own thoughts out upon the page and do it and do it until it becomes a habit because writing can be one of the greatest forms of creative therapy there is.

Not only will you be your own therapist but you may be providing the rope that others need to survive as they reach out through the pen upon the page.

And remember that it all works out and that we do get what we say and we should begin immediately thanking Him in advance for what He is about to give us because it works that way.

It is all good and we get what we say!

CONTACT SARAH AT SARAH9957@AOL.COM

OPINION

A lazy Sunday and the slow return of energy

Editor's Note: The following is an encore publication of Fannie's column:

A lazy Sunday found me at home instead of at church. Well, actually it was sickness, not laziness, but since I was unable to attend church, I spent a lazy day, nestled in the recliner reading a new book.

I actually started the book on Saturday and finished it Sunday afternoon. It was a Charles Martin book, Thunder and Rain. Not a new book, but new to me and as always, his books never disappoint the reader. I discovered Charles Martin a few years ago and since have read many of his works. For those who enjoy a good book without foul or smutty language, I would highly recommend this author. I had ordered these several weeks ago but with all the preparations for Thanksgiving and Christmas, I



FANNIE MOORE

Last year found me reading less than I have in several years, so I decided that I would make an extra effort to get back in the reading habit this year.

To add to the excitement of getting back in the habit, our

granddaughter gave me a subscription to the Book of The Month Club for Christmas. I can hardly wait to explore the subscription and get started choosing books to read each month.

With reading on my mind, I selected some favorites of mine for our three older great-grandsons this year for Christmas. I don't usually give them books but this year, I felt as if they were old enough to begin to build an interest in reading. One of them loves to read, so I thought I would encourage the others to develop a love of reading.

Three favorites that I read to my students, and they loved, were Charlotte's Web, Where the Red Fern Grows, and Old Yeller. So I purchased these for the boys in hopes they will enjoy them as much and perhaps, begin to read more for pleasure. As I find myself regaining

some strength after a few weeks of not having any, I took the opportunity today to do some baking, which I have let go since before Christmas. It wasn't much, just Buttery Scones, but with added cranberries and walnuts, They turned out quite tasty and will serve as quick breakfasts foods with coffee.

I wasn't sure what I wanted to bake but I knew I didn't want to make cake or pie. So, as I flipped through my cookbook, I found it to be a choice between scones and Irish Soda Bread. The bread is made in a large round loaf and makes a hard bread that can be sliced and popped in the toaster. It, too, can have fruits and/or nuts added to it. It also makes a good breakfast bread. But since I had all the ingredients for the scones, that was what I made.

A little laundry and cleaning the floors also kept me busy to-

day. It's strange how everything that you are unable to do when you are feeling bad just looms out at you. Perhaps no one else notices all the littler chores that go undone but the one responsible can clearly see every one of them.

I was thankful for the energy this morning to be able to get some things done. I'm trying to do only a little at a time, so I'm not completely down again. And, I'm hoping and praying that others don't suffer with this ailment, however, it seems to be making the rounds.

Here's hoping all are well and enjoying the weather and all its changes. Sunshine and rain. We need them both, so we are thankful for them both.

FANNIE MOORE LIVES IN SHONGALOO.

SPORTS

Russell Hedges, Sports Editor
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HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Regular season hits final week

Two parish teams still have a chance to make playoffs

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

The high school girls basketball regular season ends this week, and it looks like most Webster Parish teams will be on the outside looking in when the pairings are announced Monday.

After splitting a pair of District 1-4A games last week, the Minden Lady Tiders entered this week No. 28 in the non-select Division II power ratings.

The top 28 teams in the final rankings in each of the five non-select divisions make the playoffs.

Minden (10-14, 3-2 through Monday) defeated Bossier 57-45 in overtime on the road and lost to Booker T. Washington 53-48 at home.

Both Minden games last week went down to the wire.

At Bossier, Travesti Byrd scored all 19 of her points in the second half and overtime to lead the Lady Tiders. She had eight points in the fourth quarter and five in overtime.

Jayden Dent scored seven of her 13 points in overtime. Timiah Hawkins had 11 points in the game, including a big 3-pointer at the third-quarter buzzer to give Minden a 31-26 lead.

Bossier's Adreonia Smallwood rebounded her own miss and sank a 3-pointer with 10.8 seconds left to tie the game at 43. She led Bossier with 25 points.

The Lady Tiders missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer. Minden dominated in overtime, outscoring the Lady Kats 14-2.

Against BTW, Mindentrained 27-20 at half then outscored the

Lady Lions 21-11 in the third to take a 41-38 lead.

Atiyana Freddie hit a 3-pointer with just under three minutes to play to give Minden a 46-43 lead. But BTW went on a 10-0 run to go up by seven with a few seconds left.

Dent led the Lady Tiders with 14 points. Freddie finished with 11 points, including three 3-pointers.

Shelby Glenn scored 10 and Byrd eight.

The Lady Tiders were scheduled to visit North DeSoto Tuesday then host Northwood Friday.

The North Webster Lady Knights closed the regular season 7-14 after falling to Carroll and Plain Dealing last week.

North Webster was No. 30 in the non-select Division III power ratings.

The Lakeside Lady Warriors also closed their season last week. They did pick up their fourth win, defeating D'Arbonne Woods Charter 39-36 at Lakeside.

The Glenbrook Lady Apaches were No. 23 in the select Division IV power ratings.

Glenbrook was scheduled to visit Plain Dealing Monday and host Homer Tuesday.

The top 24 teams in final power rankings in select Divisions I-IV make the playoffs.

The Doyline Lady Panthers were No. 30 in the non-select Division IV power ratings.

The Lady Panthers dropped games to Quitman and Weston last week. They were scheduled to visit Castor Tuesday then close the season at home against Quitman Friday.



Minden Head Coach Jacob Wood talks to his team during a timeout during last week's overtime victory over Bossier on the road.



Minden's Travesti Byrd goes up for a shot during last week's victory over Bossier. She scored all 19 of her points in the second half.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

After winning streak ends, Doyline starts another one



Minden's Jaiden Franklin tries to block a Bossier shot during a loss last week at Bossier.



Minden's Cameron Parker looks for an opening during a District 1-5A loss to Bossier last week at Bossier.

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

The Doyline Panthers had a 12-game winning streak snapped last week then started another one.

Doyline fell to Quitman 48-47 in a District 1-B game on the road last Thursday. That game was supposed to have been played Tuesday but it was postponed because of the winter weather that hit the area.

The Panthers routed Weston 85-52 in a home district contest. Doyline entered this week 22-3 overall and 3-1 in district, tied for first with Quitman.

The Panthers were scheduled to play Castor Tuesday. They will get another shot at Quitman Thursday at home.

The Wolverines (16-11 through Monday) fell to Castor 60-57 last Friday.

Jamaria Clark had another huge game against Weston. He scored 35 points and had 13 assists, four rebounds, four steals and one block.

Damarion McClendon scored 16 points and had three steals, three rebounds and two steals.

Jay Patterson had 15 points, seven rebounds, two steals and one assist. Broox Swain had 14 points, eight rebounds and one block.

Elsewhere, the going was tough for parish schools last week.

The Minden Crimson Tide dropped two District 1-5A games, failing to Bossier on the road and Booker T. Washington 70-45 at home.

Minden hung tough early in the boys game, scoring the final four points

of the first quarter to cut a five-point Bossier lead to one.

The Bearkats got off to a fast start in the second, but The Tide were still in it down 34-26 at the half.

Bossier, No. 4 in the Division II power ratings, put the game away in the third quarter, outscoring the Tide 20-4.

Stafford Bailey led Minden with 16 points. He was 9-of-10 from the free throw line.

The Tide entered this week 8-18. They were scheduled to host North DeSoto Tuesday then host Northwood Friday.

It's been a very tough season for the North Webster Knights, but they came close to picking up a victory last week. The Knights fell to Plain Dealing 61-56 at home.

North Webster trailed 28-23 at the half then cut the gap to one after three quarters.

Avante Curry led the Knights with 15 points. Jasavion Miller added 11.

North Webster closes the season at Haynesville Wednesday.

In its only game last week, Lakeside lost to Loyola 73-58 in a District 1-2A matchup at home.

The Warriors were scheduled to close the season at Haynesville Monday.

Glenbrook dropped a pair of District 1-1A games last week, failing to Magnolia School of Excellence 59-56 on the road and district leader Ringgold 68-42 at home.

The Apaches were scheduled to visit Plain Dealing Monday and close the regular season Tuesday at home against Homer.

SPORTS

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FOOTBALL



COURTESY PHOTO

Glenbrook All-State linebacker Rhett Johnson signed with Southern Arkansas last week.

Glenbrook’s Johnson signs with Southern Ark.

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Glenbrook linebacker Rhett Johnson signed with Southern Arkansas last week during a ceremony at the school. Johnson was a first-team Class 1A All-State selection last season. He was also the co-Defensive

MVP in District 1-1A. Johnson helped the Apaches go 10-0 in the regular season. Glenbrook advanced to the quarterfinals of the select Division IV playoffs, losing to eventual champion Ouachita’s Christian 28-27. Johnson had 111 total tackles, including 11 for loss, and three fumble

recoveries. Southern Arkansas is a member of the Great American Conference in NCAA Division II. The Muleriders went 5-6 last season. Other SAU signees included Haughton linebacker Connor Blank and Red River receiver Elijah Harper.



COURTESY PHOTO

Minden defensive lineman Makhi Reed wide receive Jaylin Williams signed last week. They are pictured with Minden Head Coach Spencer Heard.

Minden’s Reed, Williams sign

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Minden’s Makhi Reed and Jaylin Williams signed to play at the next level on National Signing Day last week. Reed, a defensive lineman, signed with Lamar University. Williams, wide receiver, signed with Butler (Kansas) Community College. A three-year starter,

Reed was a first-team All-District 1-4A selection his junior and senior seasons. He was second team as a sophomore. According to information on the Cardinals signees on the Lamar website, he was rated the No. 54 prospect in the state of Louisiana according to DandyDon.com. He was also rated as the No. 8 defensive lineman and the No. 4 defensive

tackle on that list. Reed also received recruiting attention from Air Force and Navy. Williams was a second-team All-District selection. Parkway Class 5A All-State running back Jaylan White also signed with Butler. Butler was ranked No. 9 in the final NJCAA poll last season after going 8-4 overall and 4-2 in the Jayhawk Conference.

MEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

NSU extends winning streak

STAFF REPORTS
Minden Press-Herald

The Northwestern State Demons continued extended their winning streak to five last week with two conference road victories. The Demos defeated Houston Christian 94-76 and Lamar 72-68. NSU improved 16-8 overall and 7-2 in the Southland Conference. Five players hit double figures, led by DeMarcus Sharp’s 29. Statistically, Isaac Haney had one of his most productive games in conference play, finishing with 12 points and seven rebounds while tying his career high with seven

assists. Emareyon McDonald tied his career high with 18 points on an efficient 6-for-9 shooting. A sophomore guard from Couthatta, McDonald tied a career high with three steals, part of a 15-theft effort for the Demons. Sharp led the Demons against Lamar with 23 points. The Demons visit Texas A&M-Commerce Thursday and host Southeastern Louisiana Friday. In its only game last week, Louisiana Tech completed a season sweep of Rice 80-72 at home. Cobe Williams led the Bulldogs (13-10, 6-6 C-USA) with 20 points. He

knocked down six straight free throws down the stretch to help Tech stymie an Owls rally. Williams was one of four Bulldogs in double figures, including Kaleb Stewart (career-high 17), Dravon Mangum (15), and Isaiah Crawford (14). Tech heads to Florida this week for games against FIU Thursday and Florida Atlantic Saturday. The Grambling State Tigers split a pair of games, falling to Alcorn State 63-60 at home and defeating Alabama State 73-60 on the road. Cameron Christon and Virshon Cotton led the Tigers against Alcorn with 12 points each.

WOMEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Tough week for area teams

STAFF REPORTS
Minden Press-Herald

It was a tough week for area teams with only the Grambling State Lady Tigers managing a victory. Grambling State split a pair of SWAC contests, falling to Alcorn State 58-52 at home and edging Alabama State 52-51 on the road. Colbi Maples led the Lady Tigers against Alcorn with 14 points, five rebounds and one steal. Miracle Saxon not only clinched the win against Alabama with a last-minute jumper but she also recorded her second double-double of the season scoring 12 points and snagging 12 rebounds.

GSU (6-15, 5-5) was scheduled to visit Alabama A&M Monday. The Lady Tigers return home Saturday to face Texas Southern. The Louisiana Tech Lady Techsters dropped their only game last week, falling to Rice 70-67 in a Conference-USA game in Houston. The game turned in the final 10 seconds with Tech up by one. Rice’s steal off an inbound pass led to the go-head layup and an intentional foul, giving the Owls two more shots and possession. After Rice hit one of two, Tech’s defense was able to force a five-second call on the ensuing inbounds to give Tech one final attempt, but

a three-pointer from Lotte Sant from the top of the key was wide left. Three Techsters reached double figures on the night, with Keiunna Walker scoring a team-high 14, followed by Robyn Lee and Amaya Brannon with ten each. Tech (12-10, 5-7) heads to Florida this week for games against FIU Thursday and Florida Atlantic Saturday. The Northwestern State Lady Demons lost to conference road games, falling to Houston Christian 69-58 and Lamar 75-57. Joelle Johnson scored a career-high 22 points against Houston Christian, including nine in the fourth quarter.

OUTDOORS

Hunting squealers — A blast from the past

GLYNN HARRIS

I suppose it’s normal, when you get older, to revisit more frequently those special times and events that define who you are. One such activity that put an indelible mark on my life will seem insignificant to some who never experienced it, nor would they care to. I’ll explain. When I was growing up on the rural route near Goldonna in Natchitoches Parish, hunting in fall and winter was as natural then as driving through the Burger Doodle for a burger and fries is today. There were neither deer nor turkeys to hunt in the woods where I grew up but beeches and oaks growing along the creek banks harbored plenty of squirrels. For real excitement, I knew I could head down to the slough and more than likely, I’d be able to get a shot at a few wood ducks. I’m not sure if in the 1950’s, I knew the proper name of wood ducks, the colorful little ducks that made their living in the sloughs and back waters down in Saline swamp. They were simply “squealers”, deriving their name, I assume, from the high-pitched call they made as they careened through the timber on their way to shallow areas in the swamp to feed. From the time I was old enough to tag along with my dad, we hunted squealers practically every morning before school. In no way did our early morning squealer hunts resemble duck hunting



COURTESY PHOTO

Hunting wood ducks is best done down in the swamp where squealer ducks like to hang out

today. There were no blinds; no decoys; no dogs; no calls. We gathered at dawn with other fathers and sons to pass-shoot squealers at the Sand Flats, a narrow spit of sand dotted with blackjack oaks that lay on the east side of Saline Bayou. For as long as I can remember, wood ducks flew across the Sand Flats after leaving their roost on their way to a feeding area. I’d like to think that they still fly the same route today. I’m sure they flew across other areas along Saline, but since blackjack oaks don’t grow tall, the ducks generally flew lower over the Sand Flats. I don’t recall killing very many squealers on these early morning forays, but the anticipation that I might was temptation enough to prod a teenager from a warm bed, morning after morning, for less than half an hour of wing-shooting action. As I grew older, we took squealer hunting

to another level. Instead of shooting for half an hour at the Sand Flats, we pulled on hip boots and drove as far as the old truck would take us down into the swamp, down to where Fordoche creek spilled out of its banks across the lowlands under the hardwoods to create a shallow green-tree reservoir. Just about every morning during Christmas vacation from college, I’d join my brother, my dad, and two cousins to wade out into an old brake where squealers came to feed. On rare occasions, a mallard or two would drop in but for the most part, wood ducks were all we saw. A couple of years ago, I was privileged to relive this experience once again when I joined three other members of our hunting club before daylight for a squealer hunt. One member had seen ducks pouring into a particular portion of our flooded woods several days in a row while he sat on his deer

stand. On this particular morning, we gave the deer a rest, pulled on waders, laid aside deer rifles and picked up shotguns. We splashed our way to the flooded woods, spread out 75 yards or so apart and were waiting when the first “whee-o-wee” echoed through the flooded oaks. The shooting was fast and furious and within 45 minutes, it was over. We collected seven squealers, one short of a two-bird-per-hunter limit and were back at camp by the time the sun broke over the horizon. For a few fun-filled exciting minutes, I was down on the old brake with my brother and cousins, waiting in flooded timber at daybreak, listening for the first squealer to announce its arrival. I don’t know when I’ve enjoyed a hunting experience more. On second thought, maybe I do. Perhaps it was the last time I shot squealers down on the old brake back home.

Fishing Report

BLACK BAYOU – No report this week. Contact Honey Hole Tackle Shop 323-8707 for latest information.
BUSSEY BRAKE – No report. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole at 323-8707.
OUACHITA RIVER – The water is rising with current and fishing has been slow this week. No reports on crappie or bass. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.
LAKE D’ARBONNE – A flood gate has been opened to release water that is quite high. Even so, the ACT tourney was held last week with a bunch of nice crappie being caught along channel edges and on the flats. Winning total in this catch, weigh and release event totaled 208 fish 1 pound and over. No report on bass, bream or catfish this week. For latest information, call Anderson Sport Center at 368-9669 or Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE CLAIBORNE – Crappie fishing continues to be fair to good with jigs and shiners picking up some fish in deep water. Bass are fair to good with some weighed in during a tournament in the 7 pound bracket. No report this week on bream, stripers or catfish.. For 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 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 – With cold, windy and wet weather, there have been no fishermen out this week. For latest reports, call Poverty Point Marina at 318/878-0101.
LAKE YUCATAN – The water is on a slow fall but because of inclement weather, there has been no fishing on the lake this week. For information, call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.

Good News

GOOD NEWS

Confronting Problems in Life

Everyone will confront problems in life – that is a fact! We can allow these challenges to ‘get the best of us’ or we can back our ears, lift our needs to our Father and pray for His Divine Guidance, for wise counsel and a touch of His Spirit. When there are personal or general challenges that ‘rock our world,’ we have a God big enough to hear our pleas and to respond in unbelievable ways. Though the ages, God has been at work responding to such prayers and petitions.

When disaster happens, what do we do? Often, Christians respond with manpower, money and resources. Some may just sit around and complain about it, doing very little to solve the problem. We saw this happen in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina hit with such force and destruction. It has happened again and again, and many of the same volunteers and ministry groups responded. Some just talk about ‘what needs to be done.’ It was that way in Haiti when the country was devastated by similar storms. We know some damages can be avoided by proper construction, better planning and making security checks.

However we all are going to face life’s difficulties sooner or later. Some have already faced disasters and serve as models of Christian character for others to follow. But no matter

how much we prepare, often it is just not enough. In Mark 13, Jesus had been going through some difficult times in trying to prepare His disciples about His forthcoming time of suffering and death.

He knew how they would feel and the hostilities they would face, so He kept trying to prepare them for turbulent times. He offers 4 spiritual anchors to help them/us be secure in the coming storms. We can find strength and comfort by applying these principles to our lives today. Ben Franklin said, “An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” If we can learn these anchors before the storms strike, perhaps we can better face them and not be completely overwhelmed.

Our setting is the Mount of Olives with the disciples gathered around Jesus, discussing teachings and events that presented questions in their minds. His motive was to prepare them for the trials and challenges they would face in the future. (We face many such hardships today and need encouragement on how to confront them.) These teachings



Bill Crider

are not just meant to satisfy curiosity about the future, but to give practical instructions on how to handle the future. Mark presents Jesus not only the Suffering Servant but the powerful Lord of the ages as well.

In this passage, Jesus’ teachings center on the massive temple in Jerusalem. As He and his disciples were leaving the temple court one day, the disciples begin to comment on the wondrous beauty of the building. But Jesus replied how the temple would be demolished, all stones falling on each other in total disarray. They then stopped and looked across to the way to the temple. That’s when the disciples asked Jesus to tell them more about when the temple would be destroyed and rebuilt in three days. Are there signs we can look for so we can know when this is about to happen?

Jesus’ responses seem to shift back and forth between the near future and the remote future way out yonder. These things might happen perhaps in their life time or on in the distant future. But Jesus promised that He would have the last word in human history, when God’s purposes are brought to completion.

There are four Spiritual Anchors to use in the Pending Storms of Life:

(1). 13: 9-13 - Prepare by trusting the Spirit. Be on guard.

Be prepared to speak and the Holy Spirit will speak through you. “Persecution will come in the future; the Good News must be preached to all nations/people. Stand firm; the Holy Spirit will give the words to defend the faith.

(2). 13:21-23 - Prepare by staying in the Truth. Jesus knew when the fires grow hotter, we all have a tendency to yield to temptation or be misled. He said: There will be many false messiahs and prophets; you will be viewed as ripe targets for their schemes.” (Don’t we hear them today)? His advice to us is to “Place your feet on firm ground and stand with the truth.”

(3). 13: 24-27 - Prepare by Rejoicing. People were watching the heavens, looking for signs or signal of things to come. The tribulations We are going to face are not the final ones. Jesus said: “I will have the last word in this battle. I will have a word of judgment against my enemies and a word of deliverance for Christians.” V 26-27 When Jesus returns, there will be no doubt what is happening. No one will miss this. It will not be mistaken for a natural happening. It will be the super of super-naturals. People will see the Son of man coming in clouds—great power and glory. Angels will be sent out to gather His elect from the four corners of the earth. No one will be

missed, They will find all of His chosen ones. This will surely be a time of great rejoicing. Jesus will surely be in charge and we will share in his triumphant victory.

(4). 13: 32-37 - Prepare by Remaining Faithful. Stand firm. Watch and pray. Be alert. Tell us more. We all are curious about so many of these things. Though God doesn’t owe us any explanation as to when He will bring this about, Jesus tells us that “only the Father in heaven knows when this will happen.” Just be alert! Be prepared! Keep on serving God faithfully, keep on witnessing, keep on sharing the love of God with those around you; keep on serving one another and keep on loving with the love that comes from God alone.”

These are 4 spiritual pillars to build on when we feel overwhelmed by the happenings around us, the times we feel persecuted or dumped upon.

1. Trust in the Spirit of God
2. Stand firmly with the truth (read Bible; pray earnestly)
3. Rejoice in knowing of Jesus’ victory and that we share in it
4. Remain faithful – be alert!

BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER

THE UPWARD LOOK

Renewed Mind

“and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,” Ephesians 4:23 NASB



Max Hutto

As a believer lays aside the old sinful nature and puts on the new nature in Christ, this life-changing transformation requires a changing of one’s mindset. It requires a renewing of the mind, cleaning out of old sinful thoughts and filling the mind with holy and righteous thoughts. This different thinking is accomplished by filling the mind with God’s Word, the Bible and with His ways. This renewal

of the mind also involves being careful what one puts in the mind through all forms of media, music, video, and literature.

Lord Jesus, help me to fill my mind with what is true, honorable, right, pure, lovely, commendable, excellent, and praiseworthy. Through Your Word transform my mindset and thoughts to what is holy and righteous.

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

INSPIRATION

Divine Instructions

The first thing you learn as a child in school is how to follow instructions. It seems that as we get older we tend to forget the lessons of the past. Well I’m here to tell everyone today that it is time to go back to school. In the book of Exodus God wanted to see if the children of Israel could follow some simple instructions. He provided food in the form of bread rained down from heaven. He provided simple instructions to the people. The first of the lord’s instructions was to gather only what you needed. The second was to not save any for the next day unless you were gathering for the sabbath. However



Bernard Harris

the children of Israel still felt the need to test the limits of God’s rules. What the children of Israel didn’t realize is God gives us instructions to empower us. God’s instructions aren’t there to hold us back but to propel us forward. When we follow God’s instructions we walk in his righteousness and in his authority. I pray today that as we walk through life we walk in God’s instructions. I pray that we would all go out into the world spreading the good news of his glory, grace, and love.

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

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ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

CRYPTO FUN

☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐ ☐

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to animal welfare.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 22 = E)

A. 20 17 22 12 14 22 8

Clue: Provides temporary protection

B. 5 24 9 23 5 12 20

Clue: Pets

C. 15 11 23 18 11 8 14

Clue: Feeling at ease

D. 5 10 11 19 14

Clue: Take in as one's own

Answers: A. shelter B. animals C. comfort D. adopt

SUDOKU

	5	6	4				9	7
			5					
4								3
		2				1	7	
7		5	6			3		
	1		8					
	4	3					8	
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Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

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

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

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FUN & GAMES

			1	2	3	4	5	6			7	8	9	
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44								45	46	47				
48								49						
50								51						

CLUES ACROSS

1. A woman of refinement

7. Body part

10. One who imitates

12. Tropical Asian starlings

13. A type of delivery

14. W. Australian capital

15. Many wombs

16. Wings

17. Expression of amusement

18. Brews

19. Mild yellow Dutch cheese

21. Mild expression

22. Solitary

27. Distance to top

28. The rebirth of a soul in a new body

33. Police who investigate police (abbr.)

34. Begrudged

36. Popular sports league

37. Autonomous republic of Russia

38. Double-headed drum

39. Type of light bulb

40. Czech River

41. Male servants (Span.)

44. Previously

45. Minor

48. Metrical foot

49. Days that follow Mondays

50. Small European viper

51. News shows have one

CLUES DOWN

1. Inspiration

2. Resembling wings

3. Form of Persian

4. Consumed

5. Extinct flightless bird of New Zealand

6. Sea eagle

7. Jaguarundis

8. Poker stake

9. Bravo! Bravo! Bravo!

10. South American nation

11. A colorless, odorless gas

12. Disturbance

14. Artist's tool

17. Polish peninsula

18. Ottoman military leaders

20. Bird-like dinosaur

23. Drinking glass

24. Central Florida city

25. One's mother

26. To do it is human

29. Atomic #10

30. Used to write

31. The branch of medicine concerned with the ear

32. Adversaries

35. Have already done

36. One of conspicuous wealth

38. It flies over sporting events

40. Geological times

41. Net

42. Musical phrase

43. Chadic dialect

44. Private Internet Access (abbr.)

45. Lizard genus

46. Woman of the church

47. Having ten

PUZZLE SOLUTION

			M	A	D	A	M	E				E	A	R				
	E	M	U	L	A	T	O	R				M	Y	N	A			
	C	E	S	A	R	E	A	N				P	E	R	T	H		
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H	A	H										A	L	E	S			
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L	O	N	E	S	O	M	E					H	T					
	R	E	I	N	C	A	R	N	A	T	I	O	N					
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I	A	M	B						T	U	E	S	D	A	Y	S		
A	S	P							A	N	C	H	O	R				

GENERAC®

Prepare for power outages today

WITH A HOME STANDBY GENERATOR

\$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

Contact a Generac dealer for full terms and conditions

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE

CALL NOW BEFORE THE NEXT POWER OUTAGE

(855) 649-6863

FREE 7-Year Extended Warranty*

— A \$695 Value!

*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

GENERAC

CLASSIFIEDS

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

Classified Rates

Pricing is easy!

\$7.75

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

Garage Sales

No word limit.

\$11

One Day

\$16.50

Two Days

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

* Garage Sale ads must be prepaid.

Deadlines

Ads

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

Public Notices

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

Payments

Cash Checks, Billing

Real Estate Notice

“All real estate advertised here is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate, which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Grow Your Business

Call to place your ad!

PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!
377-1866

PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!

classifieds@press-herald.com

5095928
Town & Country Health & Rehab is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We recruit, hire, train, and employ without discrimination due to race, religion, age, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability, marital status, obligation to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States, or any other characteristic protected by applicable Federal or State law.

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 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 Street (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, 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, 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
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.

Each bidder must have an active Unique Entity ID (SAM), as verified on 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

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.

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

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of any family or friends of CYNTHIA B. FRANKLIN with regard to "Lakeview Loan Servicing LLC versus Cynthia B. Franklin" is asked to contact Jack W. Slaid, Attorney at Law at (318) 382-1177 or at 1374 Homer Road, Suite 200, Minden LA 71055.

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

I, Sheila Jenkins #420940, have applied for clemency for my conviction of Distribution of Cocaine, Second Degree Murder. If you have any comments, contact the Board of Pardons (225) 342-5421.

February 1, 2023
February 8, 2023
February 15, 2023
Minden Press-Herald

City of Minden Section 8 Waiting List

Applications for the city of Minden will be available **ONLINE ONLY starting Monday, February 13, 2023, and ending Monday, March 13, 2023.** This is to get place on the waiting list only and for inside the city limits of Minden, LA. The website

to apply is <https://mindenha.housing-manager.com/>

You must create an account online to apply!!

Cecily Young
Housing Specialist 4

February 8, 2023
Minden Press-Herald

Relay System available for Minden

The public is hereby notified that the City of Minden uses the Louisiana Relay System for communicating with the hearing impaired.

The Numbers are:
Customer Service 1-888-699-6869
TTY Users 1-800-846-5277
Voice Users 1-800-947-5277
Spanish 1-800-737-1813
Speech/Speech 1-888-272-5530

Nicholas A. Cox,
Mayor
City of Minden

February 8, 2023
Minden Press-Herald

On December 12, 2023 the Cotton Valley Water System triggered this requirement of the Revised Total Coliform Rule due to

Exceeding the number of total coliform positive samples for the monitoring period (2 or more TC+ for systems collecting less than 40 samples a month or more than 5% of the samples collected in the month were TC+ for systems collecting 40 or more samples a month)

"Coliforms are bacteria that are naturally present in the environment and are used as an indicator that other, potentially harmful, waterborne pathogens may be present or that a potential pathway exists through which contamination may enter the drinking water distribution system. We found coliforms indicating the need to look for potential problems in water treatment or distribution. When this occurs, we are required to conduct assessments to identify problems and to correct any problems that are found. "

"We failed to conduct the required assessment."

"Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail. "

• We completed the required assessment and identified the cause of the sanitary defect to be addressed [We replaced the Chlorine System Booster Pump] We have currently corrected the problem on a schedule approved by [Louisiana Department of Health]. **Town of Cotton Valley 318-832-4283.**

February 8, 2023
Minden Press-Herald

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that, in accordance with L.R.S. 3:1609 and LAC 7:XV.314 (A), the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry, Louisiana Boll Weevil Eradication Commission, has established a boll weevil eradication zone, the Louisiana Eradication Zone, consisting of all the territory within the state of Louisiana.

Notice is further given that all producers of commercial cotton in Louisiana are required to participate in the boll weevil eradication program, including cost sharing, in accordance with the Boll Weevil Eradication Law and regulations. This includes, but is not limited to, reporting of cotton acreage and

destruction of cotton plants and stalks by December 31 of each crop year. A copy of the law and rules and regulations may be obtained from the Boll Weevil Eradication Commission, 5825 Florida Blvd. Ste. 3002, Baton Rouge, La. 70806, telephone number (225) 922-1338.

Notice is also given that the planting of noncommercial cotton is PROHIBITED in Louisiana unless a written waiver is obtained from the Commissioner of Agriculture & Forestry in accordance with LAC 7:XV.319(C). To request a waiver, submit a written application to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, at the address provided in this notice, stating the conditions under which such written waiver is requested.

February 8, 2023
February 15, 2023
February 22, 2023
Minden Press-Herald

MINUTES

The Webster Parish Library Board of Control met for a regular meeting in the Stewart Center Meeting Room Friday, January 27, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. Present were board members George French, Linda Watson, Vera Davison, Charlotte Dean, Ethel Smith, and Secretary Savannah Jones. Absent: Laura Evans

Mr. French established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. As required by Police Jury ordinance, the financials for November of 2022 were chosen for inspection.

Mr. French called for officer nominations. Upon motion by Ethel Smith, second by Linda Watson, George French, III was unanimously elected President and Laura Evans was unanimously elected Vice President. Mr. French appointed Director Savannah Jones as secretary.

Mr. French asked for any additions to the agenda. Upon motion by Linda Watson, second by Vera Davison, agenda item #7: 'Review and approve 2023 YTD Financial Report' was amended to 'Review and approve 2022 YTD Financial Report.' Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. French asked for audience comments. There were no audience comments.

Upon motion by Charlotte Dean, second by Linda Watson, the minutes of the October 28, 2022 regular meeting were approved as mailed.

Director Savannah Jones gave an overview of the 2022 year-to-date financial report. Upon motion by Linda Watson, second by Vera Davison, the 2022 year-to-date financial report was approved as presented. Motion carried.

Savannah Jones presented the 2023 amended budgets and review comparison. Upon motion by Ethel Smith, second by Linda Watson, the 2023 amended budgets and review comparison were approved as presented. Motion carried.

Upon motion by Charlotte Dean, second by Vera Davison, the Library Board President and Director were authorized to sign 2023 documents.

All present 2022 board members present signed the Police Jury Annual Certification form as required.

There being no further business, upon motion by Ethel Smith, second by Vera Davison, the meeting adjourned at 11:29 a.m.

President

Secretary

Date

February 8, 2023
Minden Press-Herald

COMBINED NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

8 February 2023
City of Minden
P.O. Box 580
Minden, LA 71058
(318) 377-2144

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the City of Minden.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about February 27 the City of Minden will submit a request to the Louisiana Division of Administration (DOA) for the release of LCDBG funds under Title 1 of the Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383), as amended, to undertake a project known as Minden Sewer Rehabilitation for the purpose of rehabilitating several main sewer trunk lines to better serve this area of the City by reducing inflow and infiltration (I&I) and reducing the risk of sewer line blockages which cause sewer overflows. Funding for this project has been allocated from a FY 2022 CDBG of \$1,158,000 that has recently been awarded to the city.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The project site includes wetlands; however, an 8-Step Process was completed and determined there are no practical alternatives and the impact on the wetlands will be minimal to none. The City of Minden has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at the City Hall located at 520 Broadway Street, Minden, LA 71055 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the City of Minden. All comments received by February 24 will be considered by the City of Minden prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

The City of Minden certifies to Louisiana Division of Administration that Nicholas A. Cox in his capacity as the Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. Louisiana's Division of Administration's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the City of Minden to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

Louisiana's Division of Administration will accept objections to its release of funds and the City of Minden's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (which-ever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the City of Minden; (b) the City of Minden has omitted a step or failed to make a decision of finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the

development process have committed funds, incurred costs, or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by DOA; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76) and shall be addressed to Louisiana's Division of Administration at Post Office Box 94095, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70804.

Nicholas A. Cox
Mayor, City of Minden

February 8, 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, March 8, 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

February 8, 2023
March 1, 2023
Minden Press-Herald

GRAPHIC DESIGNER NEEDED

Designer: Experience in; Adobe Creative Suite (Photoshop Illustration - 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

RENTAL
Brand new manufactured double-wide for rent. 4 bedroom/2 bath. \$1000/month + utilities. Also options to buy. Must have references and proof of income. Available this spring. Call Javelin Hardy (971) 275-9974

For Rent. 4 bed / 1.5 bath. Sec 8 ready. \$800/month \$800 deposit. 215 Pershing Street. Call (318) 843-4530 or (816) 309-7550

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

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

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

Farm Equipment
Earn \$5,000+ Every Year From Hunting Leases Upfront payments from our hunters Reduce risk with FREE liability insurance Call for a quote today 1-888-871-1982 (LA-SCAN)

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

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

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

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

Attention: Oxygen Users! Gain freedom with a Portable Oxygen Concentrator! No more heavy tanks and refills! Guaranteed Lowest Prices! Call the Oxygen Concentrator Store: 1-855-382-4168 (LA-SCAN)

MobileHelp, America's Premier Mobile Medical Alert System. Whether You're Home or Away. For Safety and Peace of Mind. No Long Term Contracts! Free Brochure! Call Today! 1-855-411-0949 (LA-SCAN)

SECTION 00020
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

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

2022-2023 STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Bids shall be addressed to the City of Minden and delivered to the City Clerk's Office located at 520 Broadway Street, Minden, Louisiana 71055 no later than 9:00 A.M. local time on Monday, March 6, 2023. Shortly after the deadline for bid submission, bids properly received will be publicly opened and read aloud in Minden City Hall Pelican Room located at 520 Broadway Street, Minden, Louisiana. Any bid received after the above time will not be accepted under any circumstances and will be returned unopened. Faxed bids cannot be accepted and will be discarded. Owner is not responsible for the timely delivery of bids by USPS or any other carrier.

The Contract Documents may be examined at the following locations:

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

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

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained at the office of the engineer, Riley Company of Louisiana, Inc., 112 East Mississippi Avenue, Ruston, Louisiana 71270, telephone (318) 251-0238, fax (318) 251-0239 upon payment of \$60.00 for each set. Deposit is fully refundable to all bona fide prime bidders who submit a bid upon return of the documents in good condition no later than ten (10) days after receipt of bids. Deposit is 50% refundable to all others.

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

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

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

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

Bids shall be in a sealed envelope marked "DO NOT OPEN - SEALED BID - CITY OF MINDEN 2022-2023 STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT - BID NUMBER 01-2023 - ATTN: CITY CLERK." Bidder shall include their full company name, address, and license number, as issued by the State of Louisiana Contractors Licensing Board on the outside of the envelope containing said bid documents.

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

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

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

Michael Fluhr, City Clerk

February 8, 15 and 22, 2023
Minden Press-Herald

North Park Apartments

2500 Montgomery Lane
Bossier City, LA

Call Now 318-742-6506



Portable Oxygen Concentrator May Be Covered by Medicare! Reclaim independence and mobility with the compact design and long-lasting battery of Inogen One. Free information kit! Call 1-855-636-1667 (LA-SCAN)

Safe Step. North America's #1 Walk-In Tub. Comprehensive lifetime warranty. Top-of-the-line installation and service. Now featuring our FREE shower package and \$1600 Off for a limited time! Call today! Financing available. Call Safe Step 1-844-699-5801 (LA-SCAN)

Stroke and Cardiovascular disease are leading causes of death, according to the American Heart Association. Screenings can provide peace of mind or early detection! Contact Life Line Screening to schedule your screening. Special offer - 5 screenings for just \$149. Call 1-866-470-1458 (LA-SCAN)

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

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

Prepare for power outages today with a GENERAC home standby generator \$0 Money Down + Low Monthly Payment Options Request a FREE Quote Call now before the next power outage: 1-844-335-2962 (LA-SCAN)

The bathroom of your dreams for as little as \$149 per month! BCI Bath & Shower. Many options available. Quality materials & professional installation. Senior & Military Discounts Available. Limited Time Offer - FREE virtual in-home consultation now and SAVE 15%! Call Today! 1-866-806-5009 (LA-SCAN)

The Generac

PWRcell, a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-888-885-0098 (LA-SCAN)

UPDATE YOUR HOME with Beautiful New Blinds & Shades. FREE in-home estimates make it convenient to shop from home. Professional installation. Top quality - Made in the USA. Call for free consultation: 1-844-539-0570. Ask about our specials. (LA-SCAN)

Vivint Smart security. Professionally installed. One connected system for total peace of mind. FREE professional installation! Four FREE months of monitoring! Call now to customize your system. 1-844-919-0143 (LA-SCAN)

Home Services \$59.99 per month Directv Special. 155+ Channels, HBO for 12 months and 3 months of Premium Movie Channels! Whole Home GENIE HD DVR! Call Now! 1-888-498-4312 (LA-SCAN)

BEST SATELLITE TV with 2 Year Price Guarantee! \$59.99 per month with 190 channels and 3 months free premium movie channels! Free next day installation! Call 1-844-284-8095 (LA-SCAN)

Directv Satellite TV Service Starting at \$74.99/month! Free Installation! 160+ channels available. Call Now to Get the Most Sports & Entertainment on TV! 1-844-592-1499 (LA-SCAN)

Directv Stream - The Best of Live & On-Demand On All Your Favorite Screens. CHOICE Package, \$84.99 per month for 12 months. Stream on 20 devices at once in your home. HBO Max FREE for 1 year (w/CHOICE Package or higher.) Call for more details today! (some restrictions apply) Call IVS 1-833-317-1353 (LA-SCAN)

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COMMUNITY

The Northwest Louisiana Master Gardeners award community grants

The Northwest Louisiana Master Gardeners are proud to announce the 2022 recipients of NWLAMG community grants. NWLAMG awards grants to organizations and municipalities that support beautification and horticultural education within our community. Of particular interest are projects that make a difference in the community, that are sustainable, and involve collaboration among local organizations.

The NWLA Master Gardeners awarded a total of \$10,941. The winners of the community grant program:

Faith and Fostering - \$904 – Faith and Fostering serves homeless young adults who have experienced trauma and creates a safe, comfortable environment. We are providing funds for landscaping at one of the homes.

Highland Center - \$951 – The Community Center has a mission of providing a safe, welcoming place where all people can grow, learn and share to build a stronger Highland neighborhood. We are providing funding

to improve some of the landscaping around the Center.

Keep Bossier Beautiful - \$1850 – This project is centered around enhancing the Bossier City Animal Control. It's a partnership with Keep Bossier Beautiful, the city of Bossier and Bossier Parish Schools. The Bossier Parish Talented Arts Program is designing metal artwork that will be displayed at the Animal Control Center. We are providing funding for the landscaping that goes along with this enhancement.

LSUHS Growing for Good - \$1000 – Growing for Good is a project created by the medical students as a way to give back to the community. They grow and donate fresh produce to local families as well as offer cooking demonstrations. We are providing funding for additional gardens to increase their produce donations.

MLK Health Center & Pharmacy - \$340 – MLK Health Center is a teaching laboratory that educates patients and visitors on healthy eating habits



COURTESY PHOTO

Picture above are this years recipients of the 2022 NWLAMGG community grants.

and general gardening skills. The funding for this project will be used to re-establish a bed that was infected with Rose Rosette disease.

Shreveport Garden Study Club - \$3500 – Babyland is part of the Greenwood Cemetery Project initiated by the Shreveport Garden Study Club in partnership with the City of Shreveport

started 25 years ago. We are providing funding for landscaping for this final phase of the club's capital improvement at the cemetery.

Shreve Memorial Library - \$2397 – The library branch located on Pines Road is redoing their landscaping and we will be providing the funding for the updates.

The NWLA Master

Gardeners launched this program in 2010 as a way to give back to the community after all the support given each year for the Le Tour des Jardins, Fall Bulb Sale, and Spring Plant Sale. The mission of the Master Gardeners is to educate the public about gardening and engage our community in horticultural pursuits. Giving these grants allows them

to multiply their efforts by aiding and funding projects envisioned, implemented and maintained by other groups. To date, we have donated over \$150,000 to the gardening community.

For more information on the Community Grant Program or each individual grantee, please call the NWLA Master Gardeners at (318)408-0984.

INSURANCE

Senate President Page Cortez voices support for bills encouraging home insurance companies to return to the state

BATON ROUGE – The House on Wednesday approved bills to spend up to \$45 million to encourage insurance companies to return to the state and to prevent firms that went bankrupt or were declared insolvent from using the money.

The House Appropriations Committee approved the two bills Tuesday before sending them to the House, where representatives questioned state Insurance Commissioner Jim Donelon about the details of the program.

The funds would be used to reduce the financial risk for insurance companies that resumed writing home and other property insurance policies in the state.

Donelon emphasized the urgency of the program for the 125,000 residents covered by the state's insurer of last resort, the Louisiana Citizens Property Insurance Corp, as well as for those who cannot afford insurance at all.

Without the program, Donelon said, "Thousands of people are going to lose their homes."

The bill now goes to the Senate, where the president, Sen. Page Cortez, R-Lafayette, has voiced support for it.

Donelon looked back at the success that a similar incentive program had in the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005.

Five companies participated then, and about a dozen others followed them back to the state. "The insurance industry is bird-like in their movement," Donelon said.

The commissioner ensured legislators that competition in the market would lower rates for policyholders. But not all lawmakers seemed convinced.

"You're much more

confident than I am on that issue," Rep. Lawrence "Larry" Frieman, R-Abita Springs, said.

Legislators also worried the incentive fund would not provide long-term relief to policyholders.

Rep. Chad Brown, D-Plaquemine, strongly criticized the commissioner, saying the incentive program was Donelon's plan A, B, C and D.

"Did it really work last time? Or did we just get lucky?" Brown asked of the similar program implemented after Katrina.

Brown is not the only member of his caucus unsure of the commissioner and his plan.

"Democrats are focused on helping struggling homeowners and rescuing our collapsing insurance market," said Rep. Sam Jenkins, chairman of the Democratic Caucus, in a statement Monday. "But we must remember this crisis occurred on Commissioner Donelon's watch."

Jenkins said they must ensure the incentive fund is not a "cash grab for big insurance companies."

Still, some legislators think the plan they view as imperfect is better than nothing for the thousands of coastal residents struggling to insure their homes.

"With reservation, I am going to support this bill," Brown said, pointing to his coastal constituents who are desperate for relief.

He said he hopes that if another storm hits next year, the companies will stay.

Rep. Timothy Kerner, R-Jefferson, whose own premium increased by \$12,000, implied he also has reservations about the bill but urged his colleagues to support it.

"This is not the perfect bill, but it is the only bill," he said.

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