# PRESS-HERALD

**WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023** 

MINDEN, LOUISIANA

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75 CENTS

MINDEN ST. JUDE AUCTION 2023

# Waving Goodbye to Cancer



The Minden St. Jude Auction was a big success this weekend, with people donating not only locally but from all over the world. People participated from all 50 states and 49 different countries. The internet alone broke over \$1 million in donations, with the grand total raising \$2,030,013 for the St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. Besides the main auction there were several events including the Minden St. Jude Chili Cook-off which raised \$9,422, the Young Women's Service Club's Kid Day which raised \$2,220, and the Minden Run for St. Jude which raised a whopping \$89,500. On top of the events, enticing raffle items also pulled in a lot of support. Some of the big raffle winners include Sara Ryubal winning the Playhouse, three Partner In Hope raffles including Glenn Warren winning the \$5000 cash prize, Allen Wiggins winning a trip to Disney World for four, and Greg Story winning the big screen TV. Joey Elawadi won the Grand Prize of a 2023 GMC Yukon.



COMMUNITY

# Valentine's Day party a **Noteworthy event**

**AMBER MCDOWN** 

Minden Press-Herald

On Friday, the Webster Parish Council on Aging put on a Valentine's Day party which was thoroughly entertaining with performances by DeeAnne Meece and Julie Free, two members of a singing group called Noteworthy. Meece and Free are also members

over 55 in the US. Meece and Free performed songs such as Doris Day's "Que Sera Sera," Dolly Parton's "Jolene," and Frank

of Spectacular Follies,

which is the largest and

longest-running musical

theater group for adults

"Young Heart" while the seniors clapped, sang along, and danced.

Meece, the current Creator/Director for Spectacular Follies, talked a little bit about Fol-

"It's really cool. It started in 2010; I've only been involved since 2014 as the director. People from all over come and audition, and there's so much talent. It's unbelievable. The show we're doing in the spring is a 50s show. All of these people lived during that time, and so they're reliving their teenage years and having so much fun with it. The audience is mostly



seniors too. A lot of times we'll have 5,000 or 6,000 people for all five shows. It's just so much fun. Everyone is always sad when it's over.

"It opens on April 27, and we do five shows all matinees except for an evening show on Sat- ater for us," Meece said. urday," said Meece.

In the past, Spectacular Follies has been held at the Eisemann Center in Richardson, Texas, but this year it will be at Granville Performing Arts Center in Garland, Texas.

"It's a little better the-See, **PARTY,** Page 2

**CRIME** 

#### Minden man leads law enforcement on high speed chase into Claiborne Parish

**STAFF REPORT** 

Minden Press-Herald

Just before lunch on February 9, a Minden man was arrested after leading law enforcement on a high speed pursuit which started on Homer Road in Minden and ended in Claiborne Parish.

The officer witnessed a blue Honda driven by James Matthew Patterson, 41, of Minden passing another vehicle in a no-passing zone, with no regard for oncoming traffic. The officer initiated a traffic stop, but Patterson refused to pull over. The officer pursued Patterson from Homer Road up to Country Club Circle and onto Germantown Road. Patterson turned off the public thoroughfare to follow dirt roads through Kisatchie National Forest until he ended up back on Germantown Road, which he followed to Hwy 2 in Claiborne Parish. During this chase, he exceeded 100 mph several times. Patterson was also seen throwing items out of his vehicle as officers

pursued him. Between Germantown Road and Homer on Hwy 2, Patterson crashed his vehicle, hitting both Claiborne Parish Sheriff Sam Dowies' vehicle and the vehicle of one of Sheriff Dowies' detectives. Patterson's vehicle ended up

in a ditch. Patterson had no outstanding warrants; Minden police still do not have an explanation for

See, **CRIME**, Page 2

Zach M. Goodman



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# WEBSTER & MORE

CITY COUNCIL

# Council approves to advertise for bids for street repairs

**WILL PHILLIPS** 

Minden Press-Herald

During the February Minden City Council meeting, many appointments to the city's boards and commissions were made, approval to advertise for bids on street improvement projects was given, and announcements of local community events that will be taking place in the following month were given.

The board with the most appointments was the Minden Downtown/ Residential Historic Commission. William Michael Dick and Alicia Watson Adams were new appointments, taking the places of Ann Demaline and Drew White respectively. The reappointments for the new term included Logan McConathy, Charlotte Jones, Elizabeth Hollingsworth, Jodie Martin, Leslie Rainer, and Melanie McCullough.

Appointments

also made to the Minden Main Street Program/ Develop-Downtown ment Commission, including Kim Landaiche to fill the unexpired term of Larry Gipson, and the reappointment of Shawn and Tiffany Hatcher Washington-Johnson.

Two appointments were made for the Housing Authority of the City of Minden Board, those being Shelia Phenix and Sharon Davis for five-year

The council also approved the hire of two new full time police officers for the Minden Police Department, Anthony Crittenden and Cadyn O'Connor. The council also approved the promotions of two Officers First Class, Reece Tewell and Christopher Cayer, to the rank of Sergeant.

The council also approved authority to advertise for bids on street projects in the 22/23 fiscal year. The budgeted projects are to include the following streets: Country Club Circle (Germantown Road to Lewisville Road ), Bayou Avenue (Pine Street to High Street), High Street, (Bayou Avenue to Shreveport Road), North Middle Landing (West Street to Shreveport Road), South Middle Landing (Shreveport Road to Horton Street), East Street (Martin Luther King Drive to Industrial Drive), Carolina Street (East Street to Sibley Road), and the intersection of Davenport Drive and Erwin Thompson

After the agenda items were taken care of, the council members took some time to let people know about what's going on in the city. Councilman Michael Roy of District D noted that there is utility work being conducted that isn't through the City of Minden. He noted that some issues have arisen as a result, and said that,

if anyone else comes to experience any issues as well, they should report it to City Hall.

"I know in my area there's a lot of utility work being done by a subcontractor, and that's being done through Center-Point Energy. That's not being done through the City of Minden. But if you do have any issues, be sure to bring it to our attention. We've had some unfortunately, so if you do, just reach out to the mayor's office or the Public Works Department," said Roy.

Carlton Councilman Myles took time to praise the employees in the water department for the work that they do after spending some of his time learning how that part of the city operates.

"This past month I had the pleasure of going to a water treatment class with the Water Superintendent Rick Buckner. Minden has an A rating as far as water,

and that's no small deal. To me it's a big deal. Especially in the time that we're in now with what's going on in Jackson and what's going on in Michigan," said Myles.

"I'd just like to say kudos to the guys working down at the water plant. Thank you for the hard work. There is someone there 24/7 making sure that the citizens of Minden have clean water."

He also took time to give a shout-out to the Black History Parade that will be taking place later this month. "The Black History Parade coming on Saturday, February 18, starts at 11 a.m. There will be scholarships given away, food trucks, and vendors. Please take part in this event," said Myles.

Councilman Pendergrass of District E reminded everyone of the St. Jude Auction that's starting later this week. "The St. Jude Auction is getting ready to

begin here in Minden. I'm sporting one of the shirts that they'll be selling starting on Thursday. I just encourage everybody in Minden to get out and participate in this event. I don't know that any other event in our town brings as many people here or brings as many people out and about. I pray that it's a great event and a safe event and that Minden does what it always does and shows its generosity in a big way," said Pendergrass.

The Minden City Council meeting takes place on the first Monday of each month starting at 5:30 p.m. at Minden City Hall. These meetings are open to the public to attend. For those who can't watch in person, the meetings are also streamed to Facebook and YouTube under the name City of Minden - Feels Like Home.

**WPSB** 

# Improvements all around approved at school board meeting

**AMBER MCDOWN** 

Minden Press-Herald

The February 6, 2023, school board meeting was, for the most part, business as usual.

Tanya Pesses Cole, a 1st grade teacher from Browning Elementary, was presented the Employee of the Month Award by Scott Walker of Taylor and Sons. Her accomplishments will be showcased in a future Minden Press-Herald ar-

Outside the regular maintenance fund expenditures, several highdollar agenda items were approved, and the progress of the construction of Minden High School's new multi-purpose building was discussed briefly.

The school board approved a new multi-year contract with IK Network Solutions for the purchase of E-Rate Category 2 Products and Services to replace the existing WiFi network in all the schools in the Webster Parish school board network for the amount of \$549,603.50. E-Rate is a universal service support program through the Federal Communications Commission which helps schools obtain affordable broadband. The Webster Parish School District's E-Rate is 85%, which means that the district will only be responsible for 15% (\$136,101.03) of the total, which will be paid for out of the general fund. The current network is seven years old and was not built to handle 30 Chromebooks in every classroom.

The board also approved Change Order #2 for the new complex for the Minden High softball project in the amount of \$40,051.22. This will be funded by the District 6 ½ Cent Sales Tax Fund.

Walker Construction Company was awarded the base bid to build the new visitor grandstand at the Minden High School football stadium. The contract amount is \$798,400 and will also be funded by the District 6 1/2 Cent Sales Tax Fund.

The regular maintenance fund expenditures will be detailed in a future

"I'd like to give props

to the Claiborne Parish

Minden Press-Herald article.

Finally, Edward Angel, Sr. and Edward Angel, Jr. of ELA Group, the construction company charged with building the new multi-purpose building at Minden High

School, gave a presentation to illustrate the reasons this project is so far behind schedule and over budget. In a nutshell, the reasons given were excessive groundwater issues and supply chain issues. The board will meet again

to discuss this in-depth and make some decisions about how to proceed.

The next school board meeting is scheduled for March 13 at 6 p.m. The public is welcome to attend.

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#### **CRIME**

Continued from Page 1

why he ran, but they suspect he may have been carrying illegal drugs. The items have not yet been retrieved due to the numerous roads he traveled while throwing objects out of his window.

Patterson was taken into custody in Claiborne Parish. His charges in that parish include speeding, careless operation of a vehicle, failure to maintain control, aggravated

assault with a motor vehicle, running a stop sign, no turn signal, aggravated criminal damage to property, aggravated flight from an officer, no seat belt, and resisting an of-

After he answers those charges in Claiborne Parish, Patterson will be coming back to Webster Parish to face the charges of improper lane usage, passing above the yellow, passing a school bus, littering, and aggravated flight from an officer.

Sheriff's Office, the sheriff, and the chief deputy," said Minden Police Chief McIver. "They did an outstanding job helping us with this pursuit as well as the Webster Parish Sheriff's Office and the Louisiana State Police. All the agencies combining is the reason that it ended like it did. It could have been worse. All those agencies were a huge help in this

pursuit."

### **PARTY**

Continued from Page 1

"It has a porte cochere, so it's not a problem getting seniors out if it's raining. The rake [slope] of the theater is better for wheelchairs. There are no steps. And it's a beautiful theater: a great stage, wonderful sound, wonderful lighting. We think it'll be a better fit for us."

Beyond this big annual show, Meece and Free also participate in smaller groups that have made it their missions to bring

entertainment to seniors. "Julie participated in

the Miss Senior Texas Pageant, and from that they have a group called the Cameo Club," said Meece. "The Cameo singers come to a lot of senior centers and all the way to skilled nursing homes and entertain them. We also have a breakout group from the Follies called Taste of the Follies. It's about eight performers, and we go around to the different venues, so we're constantly serving — or hoping we're serving — seniors. It's kind of taken over our lives actually," Meece said with a laugh.

"It's just so fulfilling." DeeAnne Meece and Julie Free very much enioved their visit to Minden and plan to return to see more of the town and to, once again, bring the joy of live entertainment to the seniors that live here. To learn more about Spectacular Follies, check out their website spectacularfollies.com. For more information about upcoming events at the Webster Parish Council on Aging, see their website webstercoa.com or call 318-371-3056.

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## WEBSTER & MORE

**OBITUARIES** 



# William Matthew "Bill" Barkas, Sr.

William Matthew "Bill" Barkas was born February 25, 1937 in Manila, Philippines and went home to be with the Lord in Covington, Louisiana on February 5,2023 at the age of 85.

He was a devoted husband for 65 plus years to Edith Hanna "Edie" Barkas of Minden, Loui-

He was a loving "Daddy" to Jessica (Lavon) Welch, Bill (Julie) Barkas, Jr., and Hanna (Jeff) Peshoff.

He was "PawPaw" to grandchildren Rachel Welch, Nathan Welch (Sima), Jonathan Welch (Brittany), Meredith Welch, Matthew Barkas (Morgan), Grant Barkas, Will Peshoff

Sarah Didier(Logan), Mary Peshoff, and John Clark Peshoff

He had nine great grandchildren—Ronin Welch, Kason Welch, Barron Welch, Ruston Welch, Joseph "JoJo" Welch, Luke Welch, Ruth "Ruthie" Barkas, Brooks Barkas, and Vera Didier-- and has three on the way.

He is also survived by his half-sister, Connie Madrid, of Manila, Philippines.

Bill is predeceased by his parents, Irene Barretto Barkas and Gabriel William Barkas, three half-brothers, Eddie Golden, Albert Golden, and Wally Golden and three grandsons, Benjamin Barkas, Caleb Welch, and Joshua Welch

He was a proud 1960 graduate of Louisiana Tech University with a degree in Agricultural Engineering and re-

mained a faithful Louisiana Tech Alumnus and 55-year season football ticket holder.

Bill worked in industry designing farm equipment and then later as an insurance agent. He filled his retirement years with work at First United Methodist Church Minden, the church ramp ministry, and singing in Hearts in Praise singing group. He enjoyed various Bible studies, including BSF, taught Sunday school, and was a faithful election poll worker.

He was a 55-year resident of Minden as well as a 55-year member of First United Methodist Church, Minden where he worked with youth and taught in the Builders Sunday School class for many years.

He was marked by a deep love for and devotion to God as well as a love and devotion for his wife and family. If there was a game or event for someone in his family, he was there, and he frequently enjoyed family vacations with those he loved.

Those who knew him described him as having great humility, faithfulness, and kindness. He never met a stranger and was a faithful friend. Hard work, a love for music (especially singing), and carpentry are other interests for which he was known.

He enjoyed weekly lunch with his ROMEO (Retired Old Men Eating Out) friends.

He was a very proud naturalized U.S. citizen and loved his country dearly. He was multi-lingual and had a keen interest in other cultures.

Services were Saturday, February 11, 2023 at First United Methodist Church in Minden with visitation to begin at 10:30am and the service to begin at 1:00pm. Graveside service will follow the funeral service at Hamilton Cemetery in Dubach.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be sent to St. Jude's or The Broken Bean/Teen Challenge.



#### Ted Pritchard Polk

Ted Pritchard Polk, age 94, Magnolia, AR, died February 10, 2023 in Benton, Arkansas.

Ted was born July 10, 1928 in Hamlet, North Carolina. He worked 35 years as a geologist in the field of oil and gas exploration in the Gulf Coast of Louisiana and Texas. He worked for the Standard Oil Com-

pany of Indiana, the Standard Oil Company of New Jersey, and the Monterey Oil Company of California. He retired with the Arkansas-Louisiana Gas Company in Shreveport, Louisiana. He was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather.

A long-time member of Magnolia First United Methodist Church and later Greer's Chapel Methodist Church, at the time of his death Ted was a member of Sardis UMC in Bauxite, Arkansas. Ted was also a member of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists, the New Orleans Geological Society, and the Lafayette, Louisiana Geological Society. He received a B.S. degree in geology from Duke University and a M.S. degree in geology from Texas A&M University, both of which gave him great pride. A man of deepest integrity, he loved cars and planes and throughout his life talked

fondly about his boyhood experiences as a young pilot in Hamlet.

Ted was preceded in death by his loving wife Nancy White Polk, his parents Ted and Ada O'Brien Polk of Hamlet, North Carolina, his half-brother Howard Lackey, also of Hamlet, and his grandson Daniel Polk of Benton, AR. Ted is survived by his son James P. Polk and wife Patty of Benton, Arkansas; his daughter Martha L. Johnston and husband Kerry of Cary, North Carolina; his son Robert B. Polk and wife Caroline of Alexandria, Virginia; and grandchildren Emily Polk Sparks and Jonathan Polk; Kirsten Johnston Davis and Matthew, Meghan, and Kyle Johnston; and Kristina and Thomas Polk.

The family is grateful to all the caregivers of both Pleasant Hills Adult Senior Services and Saline Memorial Hospice, both of Bryant, AR, for the wonderful care offered during Ted's final weeks of life.

The family will hold a graveside service at a later date for Ted, whose ashes will be buried at the Old Minden Cemetery in Minden, Louisiana. Memorial gifts may be made to either Sardis UMC at 10517 W. Sardis Rd, Bauxite, AR 72011 or Pleasant Hills Senior Services at 3418 Main St #100, Bryant, AR 72022.

Arrangements entrusted to Smith-Benton Funeral Home. Online guestbook: www.SmithFamilyCares. com.



#### Sammy W. Smith

Funeral services for Mr. Sammy W. Smith, age 83, of Springhill, LA, were held at 2:00 pm, Friday, February 10, 2023 at the Bailey Funeral Home Chapel with Bro. Terry Hughes, Bro. Todd Pickard and Bro. Phillip Carroll officiating. Interment will follow in Springhill Cemetery, Springhill, LA, under the

direction of Bailey Funeral Home, Springhill. Visitation was held Thursday, February 9, 2023, from

5:00 pm - 7:00 pm at Bailey Funeral Home.

Mr. Smith was born on May 10, 1939 to John Houston and Allie Mae Martin Smith in McComb, MS and passed away on Tuesday, February 7, 2023 in Shreveport, LA. He was a native of Summit, MS, a former resident of McComb, MS and has been a resident of Springhill since 1971. He was a graduate of Mars Hill High School in Summit, MS and a graduate of John A. Gupton Mortuary College in Nashville, TN. Sammy began his career working with Hartman Funeral Home in McComb, MS in 1958. He and his family moved to Springhill in August, 1971 when he became employed with Bailey Funeral Home. He was a totally dedicated

person to his profession and to serving the people of North Webster, Bossier and Claiborne Parishes. He loved people and tried his best to help families through a very difficult time in their life. He was a faithful member of Central Baptist Church and a former member of the Rotary Club.

He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Judy Smith; son and daughter-in-law, John W. and Stacy Smith of Haughton, LA; grandchildren, Cecelia and husband, Nate, Bailey, Macy, Mackenzie and Hunter; and great-grandchildren, Brantley and Caroline Jane. He is also survived by a number of other family members, nieces, nephews, and friends.

He is preceded in death by his daughter, Judy Melissa "Lisa" Smith, on August 18, 1985; his parents, four brothers and one sister.

Sammy was a strong supporter of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and in lieu of flowers, the family request memorial donations be made to St. Jude or to the Shriner's Hospital.

Sign our online guest book at www.baileyfuneral-home.net

Bailey Funeral Home Springhill, LA 318-539-3555



# Hamilton "Don" Bickham

Minden, LA. A Celebration of Life Service honoring Hamilton "Don" Bickham

February 17, 2023, at 12:00 noon at Mt. Zion C.M.E. Church, located at 414 East Union St., Minden, LA. Officiating the service will be Pastor

Lonnie Moore Jr. from the Harrison Chapel in Springhill, LA. Visitation will be held on February 16, 2023, beginning at 10:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m., at Benevolent Funeral Home located at 401 East Union St., Minden, LA.

Don was born September 17, 1941, in Minden Louisi-

Don was born September 17, 1941, in Minden Louisiana to Noel Hamilton Bickham and Hazel Moore Bickham. Don passed away peacefully on Friday, February 3, 2023, at Leslie Lakes Nursing and Rehabilitation Facility in Arcadia, Louisiana, after a lengthy illness.

He is survived by his daughter, Andrea Bickham Wells; (Jermaine) his son-in-law of Duluth, Georgia; and his grandchildren: Taylor Sears, Wesley Sears, Jayla Wells (all of Duluth,GA) and Mykayla Bickham, Juleah Matasovic (both of Minneapolis, MN); his goddaughter: Judy Matasovic; his sister: Virginia Bickham Jefferson, and his brother: Herbert A. Kelly Jr. (both of Minden, LA). Don is also survived by many cousins, classmates and friends.

Don was a proud graduate of the Webster High School Class of 1959 in Minden, LA. He graduated from Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA, in 1964 where he obtained a bachelor's degree in Music. Later, he pursued a Masters' Degree in Music at the University of Minneapolis at Minneapolis, MN.

Don was an enormously gifted and talented musician. Not only could he make an alto saxophone "talk," he could also play many instruments. He mentored

and taught many students. He could also compose and arrange music; and he creatively excelled at "All Things in Music." One of his most memorable career experiences came when he began teaching band at Central Jr. High School in Minneapolis, MN. He taught Prince Rogers Nelson (aka Prince; "The Purple One" and the Artist Formerly known as "Prince," and Morris Day (cousin of Prince and lead singer of the "Time"). There were many others that he accompanied like the late James Brown (The Godfather of Soul) and Al Green, but Don was truly ecstatic and most proud about these two former students.

He was preceded in death by his mother and father; son - Derrick Hamilton Bickham; grandparents: Tennis E. Bickham and Bertha Barker Bickham; and Matthew "Matt" Moore and Mary Birt Moore.

The family would like to express their gratitude to his primary care physician - Dr. Jennifer Lee; the doctors, nursing staff, ICU staff and 3rd Floor staff members at Minden Medical Center; and the-nursing staff at Leslie Lakes Nursing Facility and Rehabilitation in Arcadia, LA; his friends and church family at St. Rest Baptist Church (Rev. Robby D. Williams, Pastor) in Minden, LA, and Rev. T.J. Davis (Pastor) and church family of the Mt. Zion C.M.E. Church. Minden, LA.

He will be laid in his final resting place at the historic Sheppard Street Cemetery in Minden, LA. He was loved dearly and will be greatly missed.



# 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.

CRIME

# Minden man steals employer's truck and swallows 8-ball of meth

STAFF REPORT Minden Press-Herald

Late at night on February 7, a Minden police officer who was patrolling near Goode Street witnessed a vehicle running a stop sign, and he initiated a traffic stop. The driver, Xander Procell, 21, refused to pull over and drove up Cline Street reaching 70 mph before running the stop sign at East Todd and hitting some trees in the yard of a home in the 1000 block of Gloria Street.

"He wound up in the front yard," said Police Chief Jared McIver. "He hit two pine trees and a truck. He then proceeded back onto Gloria Street. The vehicle came to a stop a couple houses down, and he was or

dered out of the vehicle."
Procell was placed under arrest, and he immediately complained of back pain. Emergency personnel were summoned to assess his condition.

"That's when Xander said that he'd swallowed an 8-ball of methamphetamine; which is approximately 3.5 grams," said Chief McIver.

Procell was taken to the hospital to have the drugs removed from his stomach. Once he was released from the hospital, he was charged with aggravated flight (felony), possession of schedule 2 meth (felony), obstruction of justice (felony), possession of drug paraphernalia (misdemeanor), counts of simple criminal damage to property (misdemeanor), two counts of being a fugitive from Webster Parish. He was then transported to the Bayou Dorcheat Correctional Center.

Procell was also charged with theft of a motor vehicle through the Webster Parish Sheriff's Office for stealing the truck he was driving from his employer.

This arrest was made as a result of a new procedure that Chief Mc-Iver has enacted which assigns officers to patrol set areas of the city. The officers stay in their designated areas unless they are called to back up another officer.

"This arrest is a product of that officer being in that area that night. Him being over there was a deterrent that night, and we caught somebody with a stolen truck and drugs," said

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



# Evelyn D. Brooks

Funeral services for Evelyn D. Brooks will be held Wednesday, February 15, 2023, at 11:00 a.m. at Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden, Louisiana with Bro. Michael Sanders officiating. Interment will follow at West Lake Cemetery in

Doyline, Louisiana. The family will receive friends Wednesday at 9:00 a.m. prior to the service. Evelyn was born November 11, 1950 in Chinnor,

Evelyn was born November 11, 1950 in Chinnor, England and entered into rest February 12, 2023 in Doyline, Louisiana.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Mary Alice Parks and Arthur James Parks and her sister, Mary Elizabeth Parks.

She is survived by her husband, Michael Brooks of Doyline; son, Stephen Allen Brooks of Lawton, OK; daughter, Jennifer Claire Goodwin of Stonewall; brothers, Gilbert Parks and Richard Parks of England; and grandchildren, Jason, Rachael, Keira, Hailey, Joshua, and Gracie.

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

jspecht@press-herald.com

# **UPINION**

#### MINDEN\_ Press-Herald

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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** 

## Biden must defend America from foreign invaders

Incredibly, recent news reports have revealed that the U.S government regularly allows trespass of our airspace by China, a hostile foreign power. Conversely, Americans are unified on this issue of National Security: as a free and sovereign nation, we should be defending our nation with all force and means necessary.

The American homeland must be protected, and it is unnerving that a Chinese spy balloon can go undetected until a single news photographer in Montana happened to be watching the sky, saw the balloon overhead, took a picture with a long-range telephoto lens and circulated it on the internet. Only then did Biden even react but failed to take action for roughly one full week.

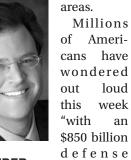
Additionally, even more recently, Biden Administration officials disclosed that the U.S. military shot down a "highaltitude object" flying in territorial waters over Alaska. The object was apparently flying at an altitude of 40,000 feet and posed a "reasonable threat to the safety of civilian flight." The Administration has disclosed that it doesn't know who owns the unmanned object or its purpose.

But, the Chinese reconnaissance spy balloon, equipped with multiple antennas and sensors for collecting and transmitting back to China a

wide range of intelligence and communications, was allowed to traverse the U.S., passing over several high security military installations before being shot down in the Atlantic off the coast of South Carolina.

As noted, the balloon had at that point already traversed parts of northwestern Canada and Idaho. Of great concern is that Montana is home to U.S. land-based nuclear missile silos and the Pentagon has admitted the balloon traveled over this and several other

"sensitive"



**ROYAL ALEXANDER** 

budget, why can't our government detect a Chinese spy balloon?" And, if it was detected, why were the American people not immediately alerted to this foreign threat?

The Wall Street Journal notes that the larger picture is that for the second time in a week the U.S. has had its airspace invaded. The alarming picture is that "an undetected balloon would be able to deliver a nuclear explosive that could detonate above the ground and cripple

the U.S. electrical grid with an electromagnetic pulse. That's all too real a scenario if there is a major U.S. conflict with China, or for that matter with any major adversary." (WSJ, 2-6-23).

And, as James J. Carafano of The Heritage Foundation has observed, "there are no two ways to parse this. A Chinese spy balloon traversing the entirety of the United States is blatantly illegal, a clear violation of American airspace, and a deliberate encroachment on American sovereignty. It is a perfect example of the kind of threat that post-9/11 homeland security measures were meant to prevent." (2-10-23).

Carafano concludes with the assertion that "... the real reason for the Administration's belated, muddled, and confused response is that Biden is trapped between his desire to want to normalize relations with China, and the American people who want him to get tough on China and protect us."

Maybe Carafano is right, but I believe that his point is only a part of the explanation for why it took one week to shoot the balloon down.

Americans may also reasonably ask: "Is it possible the president is so soft on China because he is compromised as a result of the multi-million dollar business deals, documented on Hunter Biden's laptop, which the Biden Crime Family has entered into with the Chinese Communist government?"

Additionally, let's not forget that this dangerous invasion of our skies is completely consistent with the invasion this Administration has encouraged on our southern border, making America vulnerable to millions of illegal aliens, dozens of persons on the FBI's terrorist watch list, and enough fentanyl to kill every American several times over.

The issue of illegals and fentanyl, combined with theft, crime, terrorists, and human trafficking, including child sex trafficking, is both a humanitarian disaster and a serious national security vulnerability.

A country that can't or won't control its own borders is not a sovereign. It is a staging ground to be occupied by anyone with the means to steal into our country. It is a Nation in name only, just a place on a map.

Clearly something is wrong.

The Biden Administration has violated the fundamental constitutional duty of government to "provide for the common defense" and made America unsafe.

This madness must end now.

ROYAL ALEXANDER IS A SHREVEPORT ATTORNEY.

**INSPIRATION** 

### Lessons from the storms in our lives

Earthquakes, like the one in Turkey, reminds us that we are not in control of our situations or of the world at large.

Sometimes we get caught up in the feeling that we call the shots. It's important for us to know that we are not in control of very much.

The Bible says "the rain falls on the just and unjust" implying that what happens to us is not brought about due to our own merit.

Whatever happens to another can happen to us. To think not is to be naive.

The only thing we are in control of, to any degree, is our attitude. We do have the power to choose our attitude, though it may take all of the raw courage, grit and tenacity to keep on keeping on and to maintain an optimistic spirit in the midst of an emotional storm.

Although tornadoes can strengthen us, I pray that I never have to go through that kind of devastation.

What happens to us -- happens to all of us, at some point, to some degree.

It's how we accept and assimilate these events that make the difference.

Whenever my surroundings become too quiet, too peaceful, whenever there are no bumps in the road to knock me off my feet and to upset my equilibrium, I hold my breath, as it's always quietest before the storm.

Because my life has been orchestrated by need, by constant change, by having the rugs jerked out from under my



**SARAH HUDSON** 

**PIERCE** 

feet continually from earlymy childhood, when I lost my father at the age 10 and later ended up in an orphanage to the present time, I've

never had the luxury of feeling I was in control of my life.

I feel that there may be some people who do occasionally feel that we are "masters of our own fate, captains of our own soul" to paraphrase a famous

A few years ago I had a heated

discussion with a man about being masters of our own fate. I held to the premise that we aren't masters of our own fate to which he ascertained that we are masters of our own fate.

Less than a week later his mother dropped dead at a New Years Eve party, with no warn-

I believe that we all will have tragedies in our lives.

We are in control of little, only of our attitude.

Perhaps knowing this is why I've been spared the trauma of being in a fire or of seeing my possessions blown away.

Or perhaps my tornado may be just around the corner. I know I'm not in control of our circumstances.

This attitude may be why I obsessively make up my thank you list out each night before going to sleep. Perhaps this is my effort to hedge in my blessings as I know the trauma of losing the dearest to my heart, of leaving my own home, when I went in an orphanage as a young child.

Pain shapes our attitudes.

The only control we have is how we accept adversity.

For me, my strength has come from looking for the best in all situations, of allowing the pain to fuel my drive, to steer me to my present goals because I've learned the deeper one goes the higher one flies!

I have also learned not to accept no for an answer. I'm setting my own goals, not asking permission. I've been committed to an alchemy of doing whatever it takes to will my dreams into a reality.

Perhaps it took been pushed into a corner the jumping-off place, to the very edge of our existence to developed this attitude.

At this age I'm grateful, because I see each hard-knock as a stepping stone to my success, knowing I'm one step closer to my goal.

However I know where my breaking point is.

Had I not put God in my life I can only imagine where I would be today.

Without Him I can do nothing!

CONTACT SARAH AT SARAHP9957@

OPINION

# 'Just looking' can cause big troubles for your wallet

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

Don't go wandering around in a store, just looking. It will get you in

Especially if the store happens to be Sam's. A few days ago we were in the

neighborhood and Hubby decided to run by and fill up the gas tank while he could get the fuel cheaper than at our regular store. After he completed the task, he asked, "Do we need anything from Sam's?'

I answered that we didn't need anything but he suggested we go in just to look around. I knew that was bad news, but I thought I might find some fresh salmon so why not go in and look a bit?

We strolled in, and soon thereafter ran into a couple of friends. He was picking up meds for his mother so we said a quick hello and all went on about our business. The problem was, we didn't have any business, and certainly knew better than go in just to look. As we made our way down the

aisle, a gentleman stopped us with, "Ma'am, I'd like to give you this pen that says, Jesus loves you." He was holding out a beautiful pen. He added, 'Since



**MOORE** 

thought you needed this green pen." I thanked him for the pen and we commented on his unique wit-

ness, wishing

him a great

day as he

on green, I

have

walked away. From that point on, it was serious looking. Of course, we found two items near the front of the store that we thought we needed. So, in the cart they went.

Walking on, we came upon the shelves containing the various

kinds of oils and this reminded me I was out of olive oil. We scanned the shelves and found what I could use and it went into the cart. And of course the olive oil reminded me that I could use some bell peppers, squash and cucumbers. As we made our way up and down the aisles where the produce was displayed, we found everything except peppers, squash and cucumbers.

But, there sat some beautiful red ripe strawberries, in two-pound boxes. Could I use that many berries before they went bad? I wasn't sure but they were so pretty they, too, went into the cart. You can see by now, my cart was beginning to

fill up and I had not even reached the refrigerated section containing the salmon.

When we got there, I saw beautiful slabs of salmon and I could just almost taste it baked with a bit of garlic salt and parsley. As I looked at the label, it said pond raised. I didn't know salmon were raised in ponds. I thought they grew in the wild in the northern states and Atlantic countries. As I looked farther, I saw the words Atlantic salmon. Could it be both? Then, just below that it read, a product of Chile.

I envisioned maybe Norway, but never Chile. I wasn't too sure about the origin and the method of salmon farming, so, as badly as I wanted fresh salmon, I passed on it. I just couldn't put that fish in my cart. Now, all you major chefs and ex-

perienced cooks might have chosen to purchase the fish because you are more knowledgeable about it than I. But, somehow, to me it just didn't seem to be the real salmon I had in mind.

 $Iwas\,dis appointed\,that\,I\,couldn't$ find what I especially wanted to find, although as I said, we were just looking.

As we began to make our way back toward the front of the store, Hubby found his favorite little snack cookie, except it was vanilla and not chocolate. We debated, and his reasoning won. These would be just about as good as the chocolate

ones. And naturally, the quantity

was about three or four times more than the regular ones he usually bought. Now where would he store them when he got them home?

Since we were already in and pretty heavily committed, we made our way through the clothing section, just looking. There was nothing that caught our fancy so we strolled on toward the checkout counter.

As the total kept creeping up, I was beginning to be sorry we had entered the store to just look.

We paid for our unplanned purchases, made our way to the car to stash our goods, and left the parking lot several dollars poorer. Please, let me remember to nev-

er go in Sam's again unless I need something and I have a list. And you might want to heed this

Don't go in a store "just looking" as it causes big trouble.

FANNIE MOORE LIVES IN SHONGALOO.

## **S**PORTS

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

# Two parish teams headed to playoffs

**RUSSELL HEDGES** 

Minden Press-Herald

The Minden Tiders and Glenbrook Lady Apaches have both qualified for the state playoffs.

Official pairings were scheduled to be announced Monday after presstime. But according to GeauxPreps.com, Minden (11-14 against Louisiana schools) was No. 25 in the non-select Division II power ratings.

The top 28 teams in the final ratings make the playoffs.

Glenbrook (6-14) was No. 23 in the select Division IV power ratings. The top 24 teams in the final ratings make the playoffs.

The playoff appearance is the first for Glenbrook as an LHSAA school in its first year of eligibility.

Minden is in the playoffs for the first time since 2020. The Lady Tiders lost in the second round of the Class 4A playoffs.

Of course, this is the first year schools defined as non-select are playing divisions and not classes. That was the result of the LHSAA Executive



RUSSELL HEDGES/PRESS-HERALD

Head Coach Jacob Brown's Minden Lady Tigers have qualified for the non-select Division II playoffs. Note: Coach Brown's last name was incorrect in a cutline in last week's edition.

Committee voting to change the definition of a select school in June of last year. The result was that many previously nonselect schools moved into the select category.

Coach Jacob Brown's Lady Tiders split District 1-4A games last week.

They defeated North DeSoto 51-41 on the road and lost to Northwood 62-41 at home.

Travesti Byrd led three Minden players in double figures against North DeS with 14 points.

Timiah Hawkins had 13 and Jayden Dent 12.

Byrd scored 10 in the first half and Minden led 21-18. The Lady Tiders extended the lead to 36-28 at the end of the third. A tough second quarter

doomed the Lady Tiders' against Northwood.

Dent led Minden with 15 points. Timiah Hawkins added 11.

Minden led 12-10 after the first quarter. But Northwood took control in the second, outscoring the Lady Tiders 23-5.

**OUTDOORS** 

# When talking deer hunting, opinions differ

**GLYNN HARRIS** 

for Deer season, practical purposes, has come to an end but opinions on deer hunting vary widely and run the gamut from "if it's brown it's down" to not shooting one unless it's a trophy.

For the past 10 years or so, I have had the privilege of writing about trophy bucks taken around the state for LA Sportsman magazine. I have come away with the firm belief that Louisiana rivals states like Kansas and Iowa where some genuine buster bucks taken every season.

For example, if a buck has antlers with measurements of at least 140 inches including number of points, tine length, overall mass and inside spread, it got written up as a trophy. As the season progressed, we had so many 140 inch bucks it was necessary to move the cut-off point to 150 inches. Looking back over the bucks that earned a spot in the magazine, the top five bucks ranged from 177 inches to a whopping 192 inches.

Some hunters work hard all year in providing nutritional feed for deer, scouting, using trail cameras to locate and pin-

point target bucks. Other hunters are not interested in what a buck scores but just want to put a deer or two in the freezer, buck or doe – it doesn't matter.

I ran across a page on Face Book that highlights just how far ranging opinions are on what is an acceptable deer to take. There has been some talk about wanting to change Louisiana's deer hunting regulations from six, which currently includes three antlered and three antlerless deer.

One respondent on the page I read wrote... 'About changing Louisiana deer hunting reg...in my opinion, I say leave it like it is. I don't care about horns; I'm a meat hunter and I would be happy with six doe tags."

This comment triggered the following rather heated response...."Meat hunter is what someone calls himself if he's too lazy to scout and hunt for big deer, part of the 'if its brown its down' crowd. Ain't a hunter in Louisiana would pass a good buck for a doe. Everyone wants to kill a good buck."

Deer hunting today is far different than it was back in the days when I began hunting. For the first few years I hunted,



Opinions differ between trophy hunters and meat hunters about which deer should be targeted during season.

bucks were the only legal deer that could be taken. That included anything from 2 inch spikes on up. I can remember when all I looked for was to see something sticking up on a deer's head. Spike or four point; it didn't matter because it was a buck.

Later, there were mixed reactions when regulations allowed one "doe day". Some were happy to see this happen while others were bemoaning the belief that if you allowed hunters to shoot does, it would be the end of our deer herds in the state.

This didn't prove to be the case as a few years later more "doe days" were added until the current picture emerged where the tagging

system was implemented allowing hunters to take deer of either sex up to the daily and season limit.

Here is the response from another on the page I read that gives deer hunters something to think about... ."I have no problem with anyone choosing to shoot any legal deer on their property. Sure, we let some deer go and our neighbors shoot them

So what...we don't own the deer. If it makes them happy, so be it.

People have different wants, needs and goals. Hope everyone can enjoy the hunt the way they see

In this writer's opinion, this respondent pretty much nailed it.

# Fishing Report

BLACK BAYOU -

Crappie are improving around the trees on jigs or shiners. No report on bass or bream. Contact Hole Tackle Shop 323-8707 for latest information.

BUSSEY BRAKE -

Crappie fishing has slowed a bit but some good bass are being caught around structure on creature baits. 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 Water levels are slowly falling and fishing has improved. Crappie fishing has been good this week fishing the channel edges with shiners or jigs. Bass fishing has been good fishing Bandit crank baits or Rat-L-Traps along the banks. Bream have not started just yet but you can catch catfish fishing night crawlers or cold worms off the banks. 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 have improved with some to around 8 pounds caught on crank baits and soft plastics. Catfishing is good on a variety of baits. No report on bream or stripers. 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. Carolina rigs are picking up some nice bass fishing underwater humps and drop-offs. 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-

LAKE **POVERTY POINT** – Catfishing has been good with a 29 pound cat caught this week. Crappie fishing around the slips and on the south end has been better in the afternoons on shiners or jigs. Bass fishing has been fair. No report on bream. For latest reports, call Poverty Point Marina at 318/878-0101.

LAKE YUCATAN - The water is on a slow fall and there has been very little fishing except some catfish have been caught. For information, call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

# Doyline wins another District 1-B championship

**RUSSELL HEDGES** 

Minden Press-Herald

The regular season ends this week, and it looks like the Doyline Panthers will be the only parish team to make the playoffs,

Doyline, which won its sixth straight District 1-B championship last week with a 63-41 home victory over Quitman, entered this week 24-5: The Panthers are scheduled to close the season with a home game against Georgetown Friday.

According GeauxPreps.com, Doyline was No. 5 in the non-select Division IV power ratings.

The top 28 teams in the final power ratings in non-select Divisions I-V make the playoffs. The top 24 teams in select

Divisions I-IV make it. Glenbrook, finished the regular season 6-16, is No. 26 in the non-select Division

IV ratings. At No. 35 in the nonselect Division II power ratings, Minden won't be going to the playoffs, the Crimson Tide did pick up wins No. 9 and 10 last week, defeating North DeSoto 66-36 on the road and Northwood 67-47 at home.

Stafford Bailey hit five 3-pointers and scored 23 points against North DeSoto. He also had 22 against Northwood.

Mijai Batton scored 17 against Northwood.

Lakeside scheduled to close its season Monday against Havnesville. North Webster's final opponent is also the Golden Tornado on Wednesday.

Jamaria Clark scored 41 points in Doyline's victory over Quitman.

The Panthers avenged a 48-47 loss at Quitman on Jan. 31.

Leading 22-20 after a sluggish first half, Doyline started the third quarter with an 11-2 run for a 33-22 lead. The Wolverines never got closer than eight after that.

The Panthers led 44-32 after three quarters and continued to pull

Clark had 13 points at the half then owned the second half.

Damarion McClendon had nine points. Broox Swain had 12 rebounds. Kedric Clark had 11

rebounds. Noah Spears had nine rebounds. The 6-foot-6 Swain and 6-7 Spears made very difficult for life the Wolverines inside. Quitman was forced

perimeter. The Wolverines had some success behind the arc, but they missed many.

to take shots from the

**HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL** 

# Season gets underway

**RUSSELL HEDGES** 

Minden Press-Herald

The 2023 softball season is underway. Doyline visits Loyola College Prep Wednesday.

Three games are scheduled for Thursday. Minden opens District 1-4A play at home against Caddo Magnet, Lakeside hosts Summerfield, and North Webster hosts Evangel Christian.

Glenbrook opens its season next Tuesday at home against Quitman.

Note: For a season preview, please go to press-herald.com.

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Minden Press-Herald & Holcomb's

### Athlete of the Week



#### Braxton Clark Minden High School

Clark has been named the Freshman of the Year on the All-District 1, Division II boys soccer team. The boys team made the playoffs for the first time in school history.

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

6 | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023 MINDEN PRESS-HERALD | MINDEN, LA

# Good News

**GOOD NEWS** 

#### **OPENING OUR HEARTS TO JESUS**

We see young ladies wearing 'heart lockets' often. Seeing this reminds me of the story of a young English girl who wore one and never allowed anyone to open or look inside. There was a mystery surrounding the thought of 'what romantic notion' might be concealed (probably a picture of one she loved). After she died, the locket was opened. A small slip of paper was found with these handwritten words: "Whom having not seen, I love." Under this was a drawing of a cross.

When she 'gave her heart to love each day of our lives. John

Jesus, she made a total commitment to allow Him to be Master of all. Isn't that what God demands (Duet 10:12-13; Matt 22:37-40)? Isn't that what Jesus taught His disciples when He

called them ser-(Luke 9:23-24)? Since God is love (1 John 4:16), we ought to



also love Him with all our heart. We are called to reflect that writes these sobering words, "The world will know we are Christians by the way we love others" (John 13:34-35).

We are called to be reflectors of His love, shining into a world of darkness. Jesus said, "Let you light so shine (in the darkness) so others can see it as it reflects the glory of the Lord (Matt 5:14-16 ). God sent forth His only Son 'while we were yet sinners' to give his life to change our sinful actions through faith. It was through God's unlimited grace that raised the word "love" to the highest degree

and brought a new meaning to it. Even though "the love of God is greater far than tongue or pen can ever tell", a love-chip from His heart resides in each of our hearts as well, when we embrace Jesus as our personal Savior. \*(Lehman/Nehoria Baptist Hymnal pg 111; 2008 Edition).

This is a good time to unlock the locket of your heart and see if it still contains the presence of Jesus' love. Or has your devotion for God been replaced by some cheap affection, source of desire, or other relationships? As we renew our love-vows to each other (spouse, family, friends), during Valentine season, let us also take some private time this week to renew our love for Jesus and give Him the key to the locket of our heart, once and for all..

**BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF MINDEN** 

MEDICAL CENTER

#### THE UPWARD LOOK

#### Put On The New

**Max Hutto** 

"and put on the new self, which in the right and good and by wholly follow-

likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth." Ephesians 4:24 NASB

Having put off the old sinful nature, a believer is to be clothed in the new na-This new redeemed life is formed in the likeness of God, being righteous in

dealing with others and being holy and pure in relationship with God. This new self, this new creation is to live a life that is exemplified by doing what is ing and obeying the Lord in all aspects of life as God works to conform the believer into the image of Christ.

Lord Jesus, mold me and make me more like You. Let my life reflect Your righteousness and holiness, giving glory and praise and honor to You.

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

#### **INSPIRATION**

#### Together

In Matthew 22 a lawyer tried tempt- At the heart of those commandments ing the lord by asking him a question " which is the greatest commandment?" The Lord answered him (Matthew 22:37-

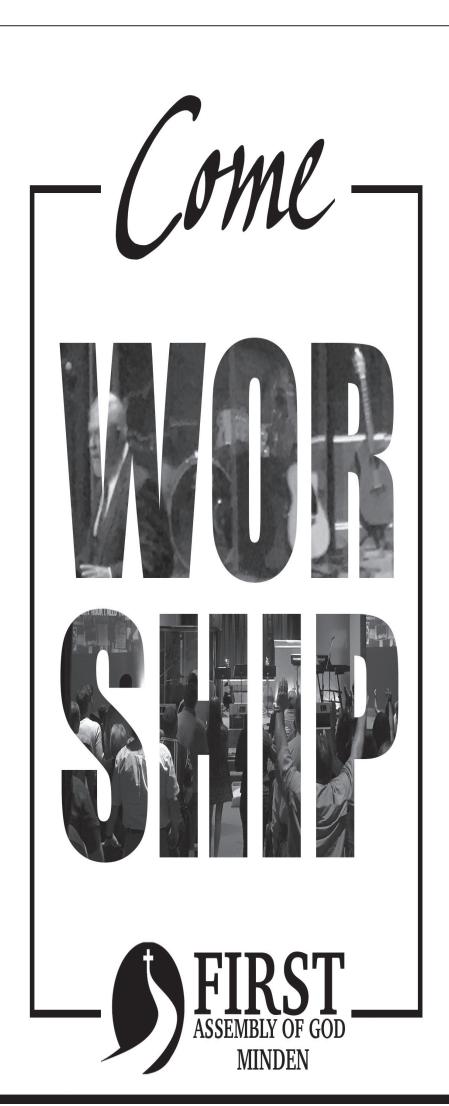
40 NLT)"You must love the Lord your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.' This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: 'Love your neighbor as yourself.' The entire law and all the demands of the prophets are based on these two commandments." I read this word and I marvel at the power of God and his divine wisdom.

Jesus gave us two commandments to be the backbone of our entire belief system.

stands one word and that word is love. We live in a world that is wrapped in chaos and struggling to find peace. We

> rely on the people around us to give us the solution but God already has. The solution to our problems has always been love over hate, faith over fear, and togetherness over separation. I would like to encourage everyone this week to give your worries to God and lift up everyone around you in his love.

**Bernard Harris** BERNARD HARRIS III IS A HAUGHTON FIREMAN AND A





Answers: A. fitness B. weights C.

gym

D. exercise

A B C D E F G H i J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to exercise. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 13 = E)

5 13 15 21 A.

Clue: Being healthy

В. **13** 21 15 10

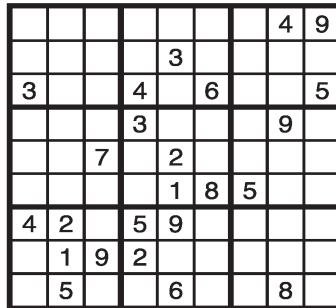
Clue: Heavy exercise tools

18 17

Clue: Fitness location

D. 3 **13** 24 19

Clue: Physical activity



# Numbers

**Fun By The** 

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!

Level: Intermediate

#### 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!

2	8	6	Þ	9	ŀ	3	G	Z
3	G	Þ	Z	8	2	6	_	9
ŀ	Z	9	3	6	G	8	2	Þ
9	2	G	8	ŀ	Z	Þ	3	6
Þ	3	L	6	2	9	Z	8	G
8	6	Z	9	<b>ヤ</b>	ε	L	9	2
9	ŀ	8	9	Z	Þ	2	6	3
Z	9	2	L	ε	6	G	Þ	8
6	†	ε	2	G	8	9	Z	L

**HISWER**:

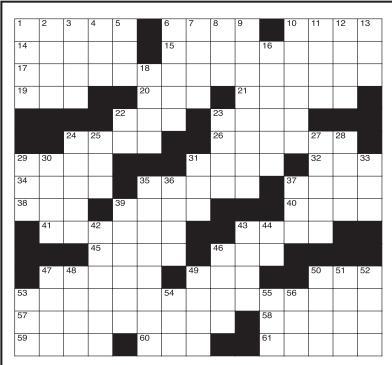
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#### **CLUES ACROSS**

- 1. North American people
- 6. Chinese surname
- 10. Fit in at the last minute
- 14. "Very" in musical terminology 40. Bluish green 15. Underwater displays
- 17. Crosby's bandmates
- 19. Belong to he
- 20. Informed about the latest trends46. Apply pressure to
- (archaic)
- 22. Genus of grasses
- 23. Satisfy
- 24. Petty quarrel
- 26. Made level
- 29. Ruler of Iran
- 31. Historical region of Syria
- 32. Food suitable for babies
- 34. Something to lend
- 35. Zone of oceanic trenches
- 43. Without (French) 45. Lilly and Manning are two

37. Philippine island

41. \_\_ Tomei, actress

38. Domesticated animal 39. Plant of the lily family

- 47. Divide in half
- 21. Sequences of alternating turns 49. Bad deed
  - 50. Don't know when yet
  - 53. Hollywood's greatest honor 57. Aiming to exhort
  - 58. Faked
  - 59. A way to pierce
  - 60. Midway between northeast
  - and east

30. Precursor to hemoglobin

33. Compound fabric (abbr.)

36. Ottoman military commanders

31. Much \_\_ about nothing

35. A way to act slowly on

61. Points

#### **CLUES DOWN**

- 2. \_\_ Spumante (Italian wine) 3. Egyptian goddess
- 4. Split pulses
- 5. Afflict
- 6. Type of area rug 7. Tide
- 8. Affirmative
- 9. Sudden change 10. One picked
- 11. Debauched man
- 12. Stiff bristles
- 13. Famous arena
- 16. Established rules and methods 49. Dry or withered
- 18. Injection 22. Father
- 23. Protein-rich liquids 24. He delivers gifts
- 25. Advanced degree
- 27. Fencing swords 28. Chinese mountain range
- 29. Shaft horsepower (abbr.)
- 37. Popular kids' network 39. Hard compound
- 42. Sympathize with
- 43. Northeast college
- 44. Blood group 46. Frosted
- 47. Turn away
- 48. Benefit
- 50. Bangladeshi monetary unit
- 51. Reproduced
- 52. Contributes 53 Thrust horse power (abbr.)
- 54. Wear
- 55. Promotes retention of
- water (abbr.)

56. Very small

Ν SSA EE w s 0 N G H I S E S Н ОА Α ٧ Ε N E D E G O AL S S N S υВ R A D M Α R 0 Κ Ε Ε Α D

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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@pressherald.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 knowlingly accept any advertising for real estate, which is in violation of th elaw. 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 **TODAY!** 377-1866 I, Sheila Jenkins #420940, have applied for clemency for my conviction of Distribution of Cocaine: Second Degree Murder. If you have any the Board of Pardons (225) 342-5421.

February 1, 2023 February 8, 2023 February 15, 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 al 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

#### SHERIFF'S SALE

<u>B1 BANK</u> VS. REBECCA A. ARA-GON

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana,

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 appraisement and according to law at the principal front door of the Courthouse in the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana on WEDNESDAY March 22, 2023, During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

Lot No. 57, Block , Premier Park Subdivision, being a part of the West Half of Southeast Quarter (W 1/2 of SE 1/4), and a part of the East Half of Southwest Quarter (E 1/2 of SW 1/4), lying East of (old) Śtate Route 90, all in Section 17, Township 21 North, Range 10 West, Webster Parish, Louisiana, being a lot North Side 80.0 feet; East Side 78.2 feet; South Side 120.2 feet; and West Side 75.0 feet, as recorded in Map Book 2, Page 22.

320 McArthur

Loop, Cotton

Valley, Louisiana

71018 SOLD SUBJECT MINDEN, STATE TO ANY SUPERIOR LIENS, OF LOUÍSIANA, MORTGAGES

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

OR PRIVILEGES

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

Linda Vaughan -Deputy

Court

February 15, 2023 March 15, 2023 Minden Press-Herald

PROCEEDING OF THE VILLAGE OF HEFLIN, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN IN REGÚLAR MEETING HELD ON **FEBRUARY 2, 2023.** 

The Heflin Town Council met at Town Hall, Heflin, Louisiana beginning at 8:07 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Ralph James council members Hallie DeMoss, Robert Stachowicz, Police Chief Paul Migues, Water System Operator Jesse Williamson and Village Clerk Sherry Limosnero. Absent council member Matt Austin.

The meeting was opened with prayer offered by Hallie DeMoss and Robert Stachowicz led the Pledge of Allegiance Mayor Ralph James welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Upon motion by Robert Stachowicz and duly seconded by Hallie DeMoss, the council adopted the Minutes from January 5, 2023 at Council Regular Meeting held on February 2, 2023 as presented; the motion was approved unanimously Hallie DeMoss moved to accept the January, 2023 Operating Financial Statements as presented; the motion was duly seconded by Robert Stachowicz. The motion was ap-

proved unanimously. Upon motion by Robert Stachowicz and duly seconded by Hallie DeMoss, the council unanimously approved Water System Reports for January, 2023. Hallie DeMoss moved to accept the January, 2023 Police Depart-

ment Reports as presented; the motion was duly seconded by Robert Stachowicz. The motion was approved unanimously. Upon motion by Robert Stachowicz and duly seconded

by Hallie DeMoss, the council unanimously adopted Law Office of Christopher Stahl as Village Attorney for 2023. Hallie DeMoss

moved to accept Wise, Martin, & Cole L.L.C. as the Village of Heflin's official Auditor for 2023. The motion was duly seconded by Robert Stachowicz as presented; the motion was approved unanimously. Upon motion by

Robert Stachowicz

and duly seconded by Hallie DeMoss, the council unanimously adopted Always Best Quality Mainténance L.L.C. as the Village of Heflin landscaper for 2023. Hallie DeMoss moved to accept Minden Press Herald as the Village of Heflin's official Journal for 2023. The motion was duly seconded by Robert Stachowicz

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

as presented; the

unanimously.

motion was approved

Attest by: Sherry Limosnero LCMC, Village Clerk Respectfully posted: 2/8/2023 Adopted:

February 15, 2023 Minden Press-Herald **PROCEEDINGS** OF THE CITY OF TAKEN IN REGULAR SESSION HELD ON **FEBRUARY 6. 2023** 

The Minden City Council met at City Hall, Minden, Louisiana, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Nick Cox, Carlton Myles, Levon Thomas, Latasha Mitchell, Michael Roy, and Andy Pendergrass. Absent: None Mayor Cox welcomed everyone to the meeting. It is noted for the record that Mayor Cox allowed both council and public comments prior to every vote. Prayer was offered by Carlton Myles and Levon Thomas led the

Pledge of Allegiance. Upon motion by Michael Roy and duly seconded by Carlton Myles, the council unanimously adopted the minutes of the City Council Regular Session held on January 2022, as presented. Absence(s): None. Abstention(s): None

Andy Pendergrass

moved to approve

the appointments of William Michael "Mike" Dick, Alicia Watson Adams, Leslie Rainer, Melanie McCullough, Logan McConathy, Charlotte Jones, Elizabeth Hollingsworth, and Jodie Martin to the Minden Downtown/Residential Historic Commission to fill the expired terms, as presented. The motion was duly seconded by Latasha Mitchell and the vote was unanimously in

favor. Abstention(s):

None. Absence(s):

Carlton Myles moved to approve the appointments of Kim Landaiche, Shawn Hatcher, and Tiffany Washington-Johnson to the Minden Main Street Program/Downtown Development Commission to fill the expired or vacant terms, as presented. The motion was duly seconded by Levon Thomas and the vote was unanimously in favor. Absence(s): None. Abstention(s):

Upon motion by Levon Thomas and duly seconded by Carlton Myles, the council unanimously appoint ed Shelia Phenix and Sharon Davis to the Board of the Housing Authority of the City of Minden, as presented. Absence(s): None. Abstention(s): None.

Michael Roy moved to adopt the revisions to the City of Minden Employee Manual and make adoption of the new City of Minden Employee Manual effective February 9, 2023, as presented. The motion was duly seconded by Latasha Mitchell and the vote was unanimously in favor. Absence(s): None. Abstention(s): None.

Upon motion by Carlton Myles and duly seconded by Andy Pendergrass, the council unanimously confirmed Anthony Crittenden and Cadyn O'Connor as full-time police officers in the Minden Police Department, subject to passing all applicable tests. Absence(s): None. Abstention(s)

None Upon motion by Michael Roy and duly seconded by Latasha Mitchell, the council unanimously approved the promotion of Minden Policer Officer First Class Reece Tewell and Minden Policer Officer First Class Christopher Cayer to the rank of Sergeant, as presented. Absence(s): None. Abstention(s): None.

Andy Pendergrass moved to authorize the City Clerk to advertise for bids for the 2022-2023 Street Improvements Project. The motion was duly seconded by Carlton Myles and the vote was unanimously in favor. Absence(s): None. Abstention(s): None.

Carlton Myles moved to authorize to advertise for bids for the FY 2022 LCDBG Sewer Rehabilitation Project, as presented The motion was duly seconded by Latasha Mitchell and the vote was unanimously in favor. Absence(s): None. Abstention(s):

Upon motion by Carlton Myles and duly seconded by Michael Roy, the council unanimously adopted a Resolution that Adopts a Language Access Plan (LAP) belonging for Limited English

Other Federal Funding, as presented. Absence(s): None. Abstention(s): None. Carlton Myles moved to authorize Mayor Nick Cox to enter into a contract to retain the services of Neil Erwin, Attorney at Law, to serve as "outside counsel" for the City of Minden and to represent the City in matters pertaining to land use, zoning, employment, and other legal matters as may hecome necessary under the supervision described as folof the City Attorney, as lows: presented. The motion

Proficiency Persons

ceive LCDBG and Any

as Required to Re-

unanimously in favor. Absence(s): None. Abstention(s): None. Upon motion by Michael Roy and duly seconded by Levon Thomas, the council unanimously adopted a Resolution to Amend the City of Minden 2022/2023 Budget, as presented. Absence(s): None.

was duly seconded

by Latasha Mitchell

and the vote was

Abstention(s): None. City Clerk Michael Fluhr presented the Budget/Financial Report for the month of December 2022. No motion was required.

The police report for December of 2022 was unanimously accepted, as presented, by motion of Michael Roy and second by Carlton Myles.

Announcements were heard, council comments were heard, and the meeting was adjourned

Nick Cox, Mayor

ATTEST:

Michael Fluhr, City Clerk

February 15, 2023 Minden Press-Herald

#### SHERIFF'S SALE

LAKEVIEW LOAN SERVICING, LLC SHELENA R. SELL-ERS, INDIVIDU-ALLY AND AS SUR-**VIVING SPOUSE** IN COMMUNITY WITH RICHARD R. GREENE, JR.

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

By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE issued out of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish Louisiana, in the above styled and numbered suit and to me directed, I have seized and taken into my possession and will offer for sale at public auction to the last and highest bidder for cash WITH-OUT the benefit of appraisement and according to law at the principal front door of the Courthouse in the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana on WEDNESDAY February 22, 2023, During the legal sale hours, the following property,

Commencing at

the intersection of the North side of Monroe and the West side of College (Union) Streets and run South 75 degrees West a distance of 132.5 feet; thence run North 17 degrees West 280 feet to the Point of Beginning; Thence run North 75 degrees East 106 feet; thence run North 22 degrees West 99 feet; thence run South 75 degrees West 217.5 feet; thence run South 17 degrees East 98.5 feet more or less; thence run North 75 degrees East 119 feet to the Point of Beginning located in the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter of Section

22, Township 19

North, Range 9 West, Minden. Webster Parish Louisiana, together with all improvements thereon and all rights thereto

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

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

**SOLD SUBJECT** TO ANY SUPE-RIOR LIENS, OR PRIVILEGES THERETO.

and improvements

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

Sheriff & Ex-Officio Auctioneer Webster Parish, Louisiana

JASON R. PARKER

Linda Vaughan -Deputy

Minden Press-Herald

NOTICE OF **MEETING** of the Webster Parish Board of Election Supervisors Regarding the March 25, 2023 Election

Friday, February 24, 2023, 10:00 AM Webster Parish Courthouse, Minden, Louisiana 410 Main Street, Clerk of Court's Office, Ground Floor

#### **AGENDA**

Call to Order 2. Selection of Commissioners & Alternate Commissioners for the primary and general elections March 25, 2023 and April 29 2023. 3. Adjourn

February 15, 2023 Minden Press-Herald

#### LAND FOR SALE

9.72 Acres located on Pine Street, Minden, LA.- \$70,000.00 Call Chad between 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Monday thru Friday 318-371-2225.

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.

#### elin Hardy (971) 275-9974

Available this

spring. Call Jav-

Books from home or collections. 40 years of accounting experience. Quickbooks preferred for bookkeeping. No preference for collections. Call Linda for more information (318)

#### **DRIVERS Delivery Driv-**

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#### **GRAPHIC** DESIGNER **NEEDED**

es@billandral-

phs.com

Designer: Experience in; **Adobe Creative** Suite (Photoshop lllustrator - İn Design), Familiar with Mac computers. Position is part-time or fulltime and they should email their resume to: design.websterprinting@gmail. com -and/orwebsterprintingminden@gmail. com

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

SECTION 00020 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

268-6359.

Separate scaled 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 follow

#### 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 read aloud in Militage City Half Fernan Rosen be accepted under any circumstances and will be returned 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

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 Contract documents will also be available online at <a href="https://www.BidExpress.com">www.BidExpress.com</a>. Contractors are provided une 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 <a href="https://www.BidExpress.com">www.BidExpress.com</a>. 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

Prime bidders for this work must be licensed under the classification of <u>Highway</u>, <u>Street</u>, and <u>Bridge</u> <u>Construction</u> 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 requirement 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

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

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 requirement

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

#### **North Park Apartments** 2500 Montgomery Lane **Bossier City, LA** Call Now 318-742-6506

Bossier Press-Tribune

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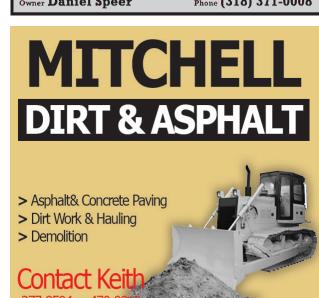


work, shopping, banking or visiting. From Springhill to Shreveport and all points in between we will get you there with dependable, courteous services. For information or to schedule a ride 318-377-7022 – Minden

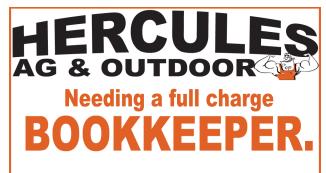
318-539-5696 - Springhill Handicap & wheelchair accessible Equal opportunity employee/services

Monthly Bus Passes Available







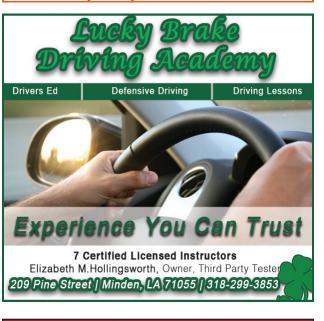


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10 | WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 15, 2023

COMMUNITY

# Webster Parish Police Juror Bernard Hudson has passed away

WILL PHILLIPS

Minden Press-Herald

The Webster Parish Police Jury (WPPJ) an-

nounced earlier
this week that
one of their jurors, Bernard
Hudson, has recently passed
away. Hudson
had served on
the police jury
for nearly seven
years, originally being

years, originally being elected and sworn into office in 2016.

Hudson's untimely passing was a shock to some on the jury. During the February WPPJ meeting, President Jim Bonsall stated, "My prayers are with Bernard and his family. I knew Bernard was sick, I guess I didn't

realize he was as sick as he was.

"Bernard was a good juror. He took care of his district really well, worked hard. It's just a sad day."

Funeral services for Bernard Hudson will take place Saturday, February 11, starting at 1 p.m. at the Growing Valley Baptist Church. Visitation is set to take place on Friday,

February 10 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Benevolent Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, the family asks that donations be given to the Growing Valley Baptist Church youth department.

Also wanting to share a few kind words to honor Hudson's memory was his former fellow juror and current mayor of Minden, Nick Cox, who said, "Mr. Bernard and I got elected to the Webster Parish Police Jury at the same time. There are several things that stuck out to me about him over working with him for the past seven years. He treated everyone with respect no matter who they were. He cared about his police jury district and spent many miles traveling the roads to make sure he was on top of problems. He was not afraid to speak his mind, even if he was the only one. I considered Mr. Bernard a friend, and he will be greatly missed by the community he served so faithfully."

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



**FUNDRAISING** 

#### United Way of Northwest Louisiana exceeds fundraising goal for Imagination Library

United Way of Northwest Louisiana (UWNW-LA) exceeded its end-ofyear \$50,000 fundraising goal and raised more than \$66,000 in support of its educational program, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library. UWNWLA is expanding the program into the targeted zip code areas of 71004 (Belcher), 71107 (Shreveport) and 71108 (Shreveport). Funds raised to support the program will sponsor more than 1,300 children living in Northwest Louisiana.

Studies show that 50 percent of children in Northwest Louisiana enter kindergarten without the tools needed to be successful in school and later in life. As the largest provider in the state, UWN-WLA enables the Imagination Library to mail a new, age-appropriate each month to children's homes at zero cost to the children's families. Children can be enrolled in the program at birth and own a library of up to 60 books by the time they enter kindergarten, ensuring they have the proper tools for school readiness.

for school readiness.

In addition to the 71004, 71107, and 71108 zip code areas, the Imagination Library is also available in the 71103, 71106, 71109, 71111, 71112, 71006 and 71064 zip code areas of Caddo and Bossier Parishes. And, all of Desoto, Red River, Sabine, Natchitoches and Webster Parishes are included in this program.

The expansion of the program was made possible by the United Way Book Club, an end-of-year giving campaign held by UWNWLA in order to support the Imagination Library. The funds raised from the Book Club are part of a larger \$250,000 goal to renew the Imagination Library where it is currently offered. UWN-WLA will need to raise additional funds in order to be able to provide the program throughout all of Northwest Louisiana, which is why the organization will be continuing the Book Club through 2023.

According to 2017 IRS tax return data (the most recent year for complete tax return data), the 71108 zip code area in Shreveport is one of the poorest zip code areas in Louisiana. Many children in this area are a part of families whom we call ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). ALICE represents the growing number of individuals and families who work hard, but are still unable to afford to pay for their essential needs. The children of ALICE are especially affected when it comes to the lack of books in their homes because books are often viewed as a luxury item when other family necessities are going unmet.

Among the funds donated to the UWNWLA educational program, \$10,000 was contributed by an anonymous donor (with the promise of annual renewal) in order to begin targeted enrollment for the Imagination Library in the 71108 zip code area. In beginning the targeted enrollment process, UWN-WLA plans to visit Caddo Heights Elementary on February 14th to begin enrolling pre-K 4 students into the program.

The anonymous donation will sponsor more than 200 children living in the Caddo Heights and South Highland areas of Shreveport..

The opening of the Imagination Library in 71004 was made possible by a different anonymous donor with a gift of \$1,200 to sponsor all 20 eligible children in the Belcher area. An additional \$5,500 was provided by the same donor, enabling UWN-WLA to target elementary schools in 71107, including Cherokee Park, North Highlands, Pinegrove, and Northside. On February 1st and 2nd, the organization will enroll pre-K 3 and 4 students at Cherokee Park and North Highlands. This donation will sponsor approximately 111 students living in 71107.

"We are honored to be able to expand the Peach

"We are honored to be able to expand the reach of Dolly Parton's Imagination Library in these geographical areas of our community," said the anonymous donor. "By putting books in the hands of the very young, we hope to ignite a desire for learning that will last a lifetime. Reading regularly with young children stimulates brain development and in turn builds language, literacy, and social-emotional skills that can have lifelong health benefits."

"It's our mission to one day offer the Imagination Library in every zip code throughout Northwest Louisiana," said UWNW-Northwest LA President & CEO LaToria Thomas. "The funds provided by all our generous donors who joined the United Way Book Club get us one step closer to reaching that goal and ensuring all children in our region will have access to books. We extend our deepest gratitude to those that gave on behalf of the children in our commu-

To learn more about Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, the United Way Book Club, and how to become a member or sponsor, please visit https://unitedwaynwla.org/united-way-book-club/

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