

# MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12, 2023

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VOTE FOR YOUR FAVORITES

## Reader's Choice 2023 deadlines April 17

### Now with online option to cast your vote

#### STAFF REPORT

Minden Press-Herald

It is time, once again, for you to select the Best

of the Best in Webster Parish. The corrected deadline to submit ballots is 4 PM on April 17.

Everyone has an opin-

ion and now it is time to give yours. Vote for your favorite business in Webster Parish. The winners will be announced in our special Readers' Choice edition which will be published in the Minden Press-Herald by the end of May.

As usual, our Reader's Choice ballots are published in our newspaper, but we wanted to make voting even easier this year. So, for the second time ever, we are very excited about offering our readers an online ballotting option for our annual

Readers' Choice Survey.

For 2023, we have 87 categories for our Readers' Choice entries ranging from Auto Body Shop to Favorite Event Destination. To enter your ballot, simply type in your choice for each category below. Then, submit your ballot.

Thank you for your interest and participation in our 2023 Minden Press-Herald Readers' Choice Awards!! Survey link: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7279505/2e5555709fb7>

#### EDUCATION

## Lakeside High School does well at State

Special to the Minden Press-Herald

Members of Lakeside High School's FBLA organization had the opportunity to compete at the FBLA State Conference held in Lafayette, March 26 - 28th. Members competed in various categories including Advertising, Accounting II, Business Calculations, Human Resource Management, Journalism, Help Desk, Hospitality and Entertainment Management and Word Processing. Of the eight competitors, Lakeside had five students place in the top ten, one student who won the Business Calculations competition and another student who placed fourth in the state, thus qualifying them both for the national competition to be held in Atlanta in June. LHS's FBLA organization would like to thank Jason Parker, Minden Family Dental, Mr. Jerry Lott, Under Dawgs Restaurant, Coca-Cola, Country Market and Wimberly Insurance Agency for making this trip possible. Pictured from l to r are: Trinity Easom, Edgar Silva, Lillian Jolly, Kyan Taylor, Alora Lingenfelter, Hayden Burrell, and Karmryn Goodson. Not pictured is Kensey Thompson. Taylor and Easom represented Lakeside as voting delegates.

#### AIR & CAR SHOW



WILL PHILLIPS/PRESS-HERALD PHOTOS

## Wings & Wheels flies high and rolls out

Saturday afternoon many pilots, collectors, hobbyists and more visited the Minden Airport for the Wings and Wheels event hosted there. Airplanes lined the strip for people to come out and take an up close look at something usually seen miles high in the sky. For those that like their transport more grounded, classic modern and classic cars were also on display, providing a good variety of vehicles showcased at the event.

#### LIONS CLUB

## Starla Townsend to speak at Lions Club

#### AMBER MCDOWN

Minden Press-Herald

On Thursday, April 27 the Lions Club speaker will be Starla Townsend, the director

of the Youth Challenge Program (YCP) at Camp Minden.

Townsend is a Northeast Louisiana University graduate with a degree in elementary

education. She and her husband learned about YCP in 1999, and they both joined the program, eventually relocating to assist in the

See, **LIONS**, Page 3

#### SCHOOL BOARD

## Public shows concern with new school calendar

#### AMBER MCDOWN

Minden Press-Herald

During the April 3 Webster Parish School Board meeting, a number of items were discussed from comments on the next school calendar to the prospective teachers the district might hire, to the results of the lockdown drill at Minden High. Also, Jerri Lee joined the board as the new representative for District 9.

Julie Msangi addressed the board concerning the decision on how to select the next school calendar. At the March school board meeting, it was decided to allow all the employees to vote on a calendar. As a result, the traditional calendar was chosen over the balanced calendar.

"We feel that the decision to determine next year's calendar by pure democratic vote, including all of the employees of Webster Parish, was a mistake," she said.

Msangi went on to say that the data presented at the November 2022 meeting supported the conviction that the balanced calendar with intersessions played a significant role in improving student growth. She believes that not everyone was aware of this data, and also believes that the process should have included input from students and parents as well.

"Thirty-one slides about the effectiveness

of the balanced calendar and the intersession program were presented during the November 7 board meeting. These slides showed the dramatic gains our students achieved, including the fact that 9 out of 14 schools showed higher school performance scores than in the years prior to 2020. The data overwhelmingly showed that we as a district made impressive gains that earned us top ten in the improvement of students scoring mastery or advanced on the state tests."

There was no further discussion of the calendar after this, as this agenda item was only for the purpose of allowing Msangi to make her statements to the board.

This is the time of year when human resources is actively scouting for new teachers.

When asked about the prospects for new teachers found at job fairs, Robin Tucker, the personnel director, replied, "The quality is high, but the quantity is very, very low. For instance, last week we were at a job fair at Louisiana Tech, and there were 45-50 districts there, and we might have seen 8 or 10 candidates all day."

Webster Parish is using a "grow your own" mentality to produce teachers in which paraprofessionals are encouraged and helped to earn

See, **SCHOOLS**, Page 3

#### VILLAS

## The Villas at Spanish Court are open for business

#### AMBER MCDOWN

Minden Press-Herald

The Villas at Spanish Court held grand tours of the property during their S'mores n More event on March 25, and they had their grand opening on April 3.

The Villas, which are located at 224 W Union Street, were originally built in 1931, and they were occupied until somewhere around the early 1980s. They had fallen into desperate disrepair until Sara McDaniel of Simply Southern Cottage decided to take them on and rehabilitate them. After over a year of hard work and persistence, the Villas are finally open for use again as short term rentals.

During 2022, the Villas were a featured project house that appeared in every issue of American Farmhouse Style magazine and Cottages & Bungalows magazine. As a result, people are coming from all over the United States to see the finished project, stay in a villa, and see the rest of Minden.

"We've had people come from Colorado, Massachusetts, Montana, Texas, California, Arkansas," said McDaniel. "It's been great."

People are already making arrangements to book the entire property for family reunions or retreats.

Each villa is decorated with its own unique yet stylish theme, and many of the architectural

features were saved or replicated, so they retain a sense of the 1930s style.

On the weekend of March 25, a Simply Southern Saturday was held in downtown Minden to celebrate, and McDaniel offered ticketed tours of the property for the many people who had been greatly anticipating seeing the insides.

"We had about 400 people come through [to tour villas]," said McDaniel. "The furthest was from Houston. It's people that have watched the restoration process and wanted to come see it. I'm just so grateful people want to come see it."

The proceeds from these events were donated to Teen Challenge and the 2024 St. Jude



AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTOS

The Villas at Spanish Court held their grand opening on April 3. They are already getting reservations from people as far away as Montana and California.

Auction.

At the grand opening, Stephanie Barnette of the Greater

Minden Chamber said, "We're so excited to be here with Sara See, **VILLAS**, Page 2



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# MINDEN FAMILY DENTAL

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Zach M. Goodman  
D.D.S.



Volume **54** Number **59**  
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Tomorrow's  
**High Temp 82°**

Tomorrow's  
**Low Temp 54°**

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WEBSTER & MORE



VILLAS

Continued from Page 1  
today. At our gala this past week, she was honored as our first Spirit of Hospitality award winner. We cannot think of anyone more

deserving right now. You are putting your heart and soul into this community, and putting it out for the world to see, and we appreciate everything you’re doing.”  
Mayor Nick Cox said, “I was one of the first people who walked in here and told her she was nuts. This is a testament that she can pull off anything.”  
To see more of the Villas or to book a stay, go to <https://mindenstays.com/the-villas-at-spanish-court-minden-la>.

VISIT UNUSUAL PLACES.

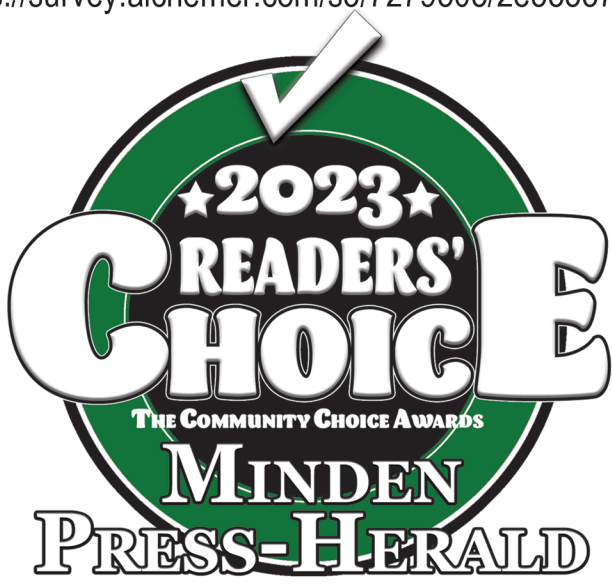
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Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Entry Deadline  
April 17, 2023  
4 p.m.

\*Favorite Restaurant \_\_\_\_\_

Everyone has an opinion and now it's time to give yours. Vote for your favorite business in Webster Parish! The winners will be announced in the Readers' Choice edition on Wednesday, May 24, 2023. You may drop the ballot off at the Minden Press-Herald office at 203 Gleason Street in Minden or mail it to the Minden Press-Herald, P.O. Box 1339, Minden, LA 71058. Only one ballot per person will be permitted. No reproductions or faxes will be accepted.

Favorite Auto Body Shop	Favorite Dentist
Favorite Manufactured Home Dealer/Supplier	Favorite Apartment Complex
Favorite Bakery	Favorite Auto Parts Store
Favorite Lawyer	Favorite Drive Thru Restaurant
Favorite Buffet Restaurant	Favorite Electrician
Favorite Breakfast Restaurant	Favorite Elementary School
Favorite Barber Shop	Favorite NEW Auto Dealer
Favorite Beauty Shop	Favorite USED Auto Dealer
Favorite Bank	Favorite Florist
Favorite C.P.A.	Favorite Evening Meal Restaurant
Favorite Chicken	Favorite Furniture Store
Favorite Ambulance Service	Favorite Gas Station
Favorite Heating & Air Provider	Favorite Gift Shop (Non-Florist)
Favorite Shoe Store	Favorite Principal
Favorite Casino	Favorite Fitness Center
Favorite Car Wash/Detail	Favorite Seafood Restaurant
Favorite Real Estate Office	Favorite School Teacher
Favorite Tuxedo Rental	Favorite Coach (ANY SPORT)
Favorite Tanning Salon	Favorite NEW Vehicle Salesperson
Favorite Pawn Shop	Favorite Pediatrician
Favorite Funeral Home	Favorite Grocery Store
Favorite Contractor	Favorite Mexican Restaurant
Favorite Hardware Store	Favorite Men's Apparel Provider
Favorite Health Care Provider	Favorite Daycare Provider
Favorite High School	Favorite Glass Shop (not eyewear)
Favorite Hotel/Motel	Favorite Oil Change Location
Favorite Insurance Agent	Favorite Pharmacy
Favorite Lawn Equipment Dealer	Favorite Pet Groomer
Favorite Jeweler	Favorite Pest Control Provider
Favorite Landscaping/Lawncare Provider	Favorite Roofing Company
Favorite Eye Care Provider	Favorite Pizza Restaurant
Favorite Liquor Store	Favorite Physician/Surgeon
Favorite Lunch Location	Favorite Plumber
Favorite Middle School	Favorite Public Official
Favorite Appliance Store	Favorite Women's Apparel Provider
Favorite USED Vehicle Salesperson	Favorite Crawfish
Favorite Tire Store	Favorite Tax Preparer
Favorite Dance School	Favorite Customer Service (ANY BUSINESS)
Favorite Veterinarian	Favorite Mini Storage
Favorite Nursing Home	Favorite Event Destination (or venue where events are held)
Favorite Mechanic	Favorite Doughnuts
Favorite Financial Advisor	Favorite Home Health Agency
Favorite Church	
Favorite Hamburger	
Favorite Walk-In Quick Care Medical	



# WEBSTER & MORE

## OBITUARIES

### JACKIE BRUCE COOK

Jackie Bruce Cook went home to be with his Lord on Monday, March 20, 2023, at the Town & Country Nursing Home in Minden, LA. Jackie was born on October 22, 1939 in Shreveport and grew up in Heflin. Jackie was preceded in death by his parents Laura and Bruce Cook and son James Boyd (Jimmy) Cook, sister Susan Cook Logan. He is survived by son Joseph (Joey) Cook, of Heflin,

daughter Cheryl Cook Tolbert of Mesquite, TX, brother Bobby Cook (Jane) of Fairview, TX, sister Mary Cook Singleton (John) of Nashville, Tennessee. Grandchildren: Christian Cook of Mesquite, TX., Chandler Tolbert of Mesquite, TX., Joshua (Josh) Cook (April) of Sarepta, LA., Sarah Cook of Minden, Great Grandchildren: Twins Jackson and Izabella Cook, and Wrenley Cook, of Sarepta, LA. A Graveside memorial service honoring the life of Jackie will be held 11:00 AM, Saturday, April 22, 2023 at the Bistineau Cemetery in Heflin, Louisiana with Bro. Richard Methvin officiating.



### Mary “Sue” M. Ford

Funeral services celebrating the life of Mary “Sue” M. Ford will be held Wednesday, April 12, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at Holly Springs Baptist Church in Minden, Louisiana with Bro. Byron Longino officiating. Interment will follow at Holly Springs Cemetery in Minden under the direction of Rose-Neath Funeral home in Minden, Louisiana. The family will receive friends Tuesday, April 11, 2023, from 5:00

until 7:00 p.m. at Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden, Louisiana. Sue was born July 30, 1935, in Springhill, Louisiana and entered into rest April 8, 2023, in Homer, Louisiana. Sue is survived by her children, Doug and Suzanne Ford, Danny and Kathy Ford, and Don and Cathy Ford all of Homer, sister Martha Wimberly of Minden, nine grandchildren, and nineteen great-grandchildren. Pallbearers will be Doug Ford, Danny Ford, Don Ford, Chad Ford, Adam Ford and John Sanders. Rose-Neath Funeral Home 211 Murrell Street Minden, Louisiana (318) 377-3412

## BLOTTER

### Recent Arrests in Webster Parish

- Judameon Lewis, 21, of the 100 block of Clark Street, was arrested for disturbing the peace.
- Nycholas Willaims, 21, was arrested for disturbing the peace and possession of a schedule I substance.
- Jadamon Cato, 21, of the 1300 block of Word Street, was arrested for driving under suspension, switched tags, and driving without insurance.
- Jamal Reese, 40, of the 1900 block of Mill Street, was arrested for resisting an officer, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, possession of a firearm by an obliterated serial number, driving while intoxicated 1st offense, driving under suspension, careless operation of a motor

- vehicle.
- Frederick Judgeware, 40, of the 500 block of MLK Drive, was arrested for failure to appear in court.
- Lagreta Smith, 61, of the 700 block of Plum Street, was arrested on a warrant.
- Jeffery Delano, 38, of the 500 block of Goode Street, was arrested for running a red light, driving under suspension, and improper lane usage.
- Christopher Robinson Jr., 22, of the 1400 block of Moore Street, was arrested for failure to appear in court.
- Melissa Process, 38, of the 100 block of Hollomon Loop. was arrested on a warrant.
- Robin Foster, 33, of the 400 block of Katie Lane, was arrested for failure to appear in court.
- Aaron Wright, 23, of the 800 block of Norton Street, was arrested for reckless operation of a vehicle, resisting a police officer with force or violence, and operating a vehicle while license was suspended.
- Tyler Cook, 21, of the 300 block of United Gas Road, was arrested for being a fugitive of Bienville Parish Sheriff's Office.
- Michael Hernandez, 29, of the 100 block of Hanson Drive, was arrested for careless operation of a motor vehicle.
- Bennie Patterson, 37, of the 1400 block of Reynolds Street, was arrested for failure to appear in court.
- Colton Jones, 34, of the 3000 block of Goodwill Road, was arrested for domestic abuse battery.

## FIRE

### Grace Tabernacle catches fire Friday night

WILL PHILLIPS  
Minden Press-Herald

Late Friday night a fire broke out at Grace Tabernacle along the 500 block of Constable Street which kept Minden Fire Department preoccupied with putting out the flames until early into the next morning. The origins of the fire are currently being investigated by the state fire marshal. Minden Fire Chief Brian Williams stated that the Minden Fire Department got a call around 9:30 PM Friday night alerting them of a fire taking place on Constable Street. The first response vehicle to get there noted a heavy fire

taking place coming from the roof of the building. “They originally started with an offensive interior attack, which quickly switched to a defensive attack as night went on,” said Williams. A few hours later once the fire was more under control, the fire department started to go inside to put out the remaining hotspots. Williams also noted that the building was not currently under use, so luckily there were no injuries to report of. The State Fire Marshall is currently investigating the origins of the fire to see how it broke out in the first place.



The State Fire Marshall is currently investigating the origins of the fire to see how it broke out in the first place.

AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

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OPINION

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PRESS-HERALD  
203 GLEASON STREET  
MINDEN, LOUISIANA 71055  
318-377-1866  
www.press-herald.com  
USPS NUMBER 593-340

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The Minden Press-Herald is  
published Wednesday by  
Specht Newspapers, Inc. at  
203 Gleason Street, Minden,  
Louisiana 71055.

**Telephone:** (318) 377-1866.

Entered as Periodicals at the  
Post Office as Minden Press-  
Herald, P.O. Box 1339, Minden  
LA 71058-1339.

Subscription rate: \$40 per year.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address  
changes to Minden Press-  
Herald, P.O. Box 1339, Minden,  
LA 71058-1339.

**THE MINDEN  
PRESS-HERALD  
WELCOMES  
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OPINION

# Growing number of states go ‘pro-choice’ on public education

Thus far, 21, and soon to be, 22 states, including Louisiana, have adopted some form of school choice in education.

What is behind this rapid “pro-choice” trend in education?

The China Virus pandemic—and its galactically incompetent handling by the federal government—has caused great personal, social and economic harm for millions of Americans. However, it also exposed some things that millions of American parents were not aware of regarding what, and how, their children were being “educated.”

Through the online education of their children during the pandemic, parents discovered both that many public schools have not truly educated children in decades and that today many public schools serve more as a breeding ground for indoctrination in cultural Marxism than as institutions designed to impart even the most basic knowledge of language, math, science, or history.

The indoctrination includes Critical Race Theory (CRT) which argues that America is historically and hopelessly racist and ignores the enormous legal and social advances America has made to address the sin of slavery and racism.

Educational indoctrination also includes transgender confusion policies, Drag Queen Story Hour at the local library, and curriculum

and library materials containing graphic sexual content forced upon their young children in taxpayer-funded public schools.

However, when parents responded—including vocally at school board meetings, please recall the letter to Pres. Biden from the National School Boards Association referring to these concerned parents—who were already understandably frustrated with lockdowns, school closures, mandates and inappropriate educational materials and library content—as “domestic terrorists.”

Recall in the 2021 Virginia governor’s race, Democrat nominee for governor, Terry McAuliffe, slipped up and said out loud what the Left truly believes about public education and school children. “I don’t think parents should be telling schools what they should teach.” Think about that stunning comment. However, those are the views of the Left which firmly believes that the supreme authority in children’s lives is the state, not their parents and not God.

It’s become so insane that LA. State Rep. Raymond Crews has introduced a couple of bills, including one bill

that would prevent teachers and other school employees from being forced to refer to a student by the student’s “pronoun” rather than the time-honored method of simply referring to a student by the name and/or pronoun on their birth certificate.

The cultural cesspool we live in today has contributed to gender confusion that may burden a small percentage of young people, and tragically even lead some to suicide. But the answer to that is parental engagement before medical interventions, social kindness and mental health counseling, not upending natural law and the universal understanding of gender as signifying male and female.

So, parents are now much more interested in their ability to place their children into the schools they feel are of the best quality and best for their children.

What does “school choice” really mean?

Simply, when a state adopts a school choice law it is simply deciding that its state education dollars will follow the student to his or her choice of public, private, religious or charter school, rather than going directly to the public school in his or her zip code.

This represents a tectonic shift in American public education.

The late Milton Friedman, the Nobel prize winning economist, first advanced the principle that parents,

not government and not school boards, should decide where the public education funds used to educate their children will go.

Please know I don’t intend here to bash or criticize the large majority of teachers in Louisiana and across the country who are deeply committed to their jobs and try very hard to educate their students. My focus here is on the school boards and school administrators who demand that these teachers—rather than concentrate on imparting the basic knowledge that will be necessary for their students to function in our society—instead “teach” highly inappropriate topics including sexual perversion, gender identity and racial politics.

In a nutshell, the goal of school choice is education, not indoctrination.

This national trend of school choice by parents is really a reflection of nothing more than parents re-asserting their eternal primacy over the education, health and moral development of their children.

As President Reagan said, “Our leaders must remember that education doesn’t begin with some isolated bureaucrat in Washington. It doesn’t even begin with state or local officials. Education begins in the home, where it is a parental right and responsibility.”

**ROYAL ALEXANDER IS A SHREVEPORT ATTORNEY.**

INSPIRATION

## The ability to think on my feet and other random thoughts

Being the shy girl from the backwoods, I’ve not always found it easy to take up for myself or respond so easily when pushed into a corner but it has gotten easier ever since I joined Toastmasters in 1987 after publishing my first book.

Flash back to one night in August, almost thirty years ago, when I was invited to be the featured poet at a poetry meeting in Jefferson, Texas.

I don’t know what I was thinking about but for some “insane” reason I thought someone else would be reading my poetry!

Being the determined person I am, I stood up anyway, and did the best I could, having lost my public speaking skills I developed at McLain High School’s speech class

in Tulsa, Oklahoma during the Sixties.

So what would happen? I did OK I suppose but before I got back home to Plain

Dealing, Louisiana I was broken out in hives from the top of my head down to the tip of my toes. When my lips and tongue began to

swell, I had to go to the doctor to get a shot. I’ve had this affliction through the years whenever I’ve sustained a shock to my nervous system.

So what to do? I joined

Toastmasters, a public speaking group that charges a minimal fee and it paid off so well! Their teaching helped me so much through their weekly extemporaneous skills.

I learned at each meeting when we had less than two minutes to prepare a two minute talk from topics drawn from a hat!

To this day I still retain some of what I learned and just thought this would be a great way to give Toastmasters a plug for what they do to help people to get over their stage fright.

Years ago I read that when questioned a majority of people said that they would choose jumping off a cliff rather than standing before a crowd to give a talk which

may be why those who give talks are automatically considered leaders perhaps because of the amount of raw courage it takes to stand before a crowd.

So the next time you get in a tight ask God for wisdom, in advance, and perhaps joining a Toastmasters group near you. It might give others the courage to follow in your steps.

Whatever, it has given me a thrill just to write about this experience knowing it may be just what is needed in your life as it was mine.

I haven’t had a case of the hives either since joining Toastmasters in 1987.

**CONTACT SARAH AT SARAH9957@AOL.COM**

OPINION

## Rozeman: COVID pandemic lessons learned

A month ago, The Times published an article from Dr. Thomas Lew of the USA Today Network entitled “Vaccinating Young Children is Vital to the Fight Against COVID” Three years ago, this article would be accepted as dogma. Today, the public views health policy recommendations like these with some reservation.

Preparing for the future requires learning from the past. With the pandemic came lockdowns and unemployment, mental health consequences, educational interruptions at schools, and interrupted healthcare for other medical problems. These consequences are the result of both the health impact of the virus and the negative impact of health policy instigated to fight the virus.

We’ve learned a great deal over the last three years. Gratefully, the application of this knowledge reduces the fear of the unknown and the lessons learned should reduce our col-

lective and individual anxiety.

We learned the COVID vaccine decreases the major complications in the most vulnerable populations – the elderly, obese, and people with chronic illness. However, in healthy

children and young adults, the benefits of the vaccine are not as great. The constant continued drum beat supporting vaccine mandates in children have little support in scientific evidence.

We’ve learned there is no proof vaccines or masks reduce transmission of the virus from one person to another. This holds true for children. The vaccine and mask mandates

for young healthy people have caused great harm to many including nurses, soldiers, first responders, and school children. People have lost their job or been deemed ineligible for military service because of unnecessary mandates with little to no scientific support.

We’ve learned natural immunity is proven science and it applies to COVID in the same way it does other respiratory viruses. A Lancet medical journal compiling sixty-five studies concluded natural immunity is as protective or more protective for longer periods than vaccines. The concept of natural immunity has been a proven basis of immunology since my medical school days close to fifty years ago. Natural immunity is not scientifically controversial; it has stood the test of time. It should not have been ignored when making decisions about vaccines.

We’ve learned the use of lockdowns during the pandemic

was a national and global catastrophe. A cost benefit analysis noted the response to COVID-19 lockdowns was five to ten times more harmful to public health in terms of well being than the COVID virus itself.

We’ve learned the health policy designed for our schools was a disaster from the start and the negative consequences will be felt for years to come. It was understandable in the spring of 2020, but not thereafter. Significant learning loss, unobtained educational opportunity, increased mental health problems, addictions, and suicides are all the result of prolonged school closure. This is even more noteworthy in our most vulnerable children.

In the early months of the COVID pandemic, there was a very legitimate fear of the unknown related to thousands of world wide deaths and very high estimates of the expected mortality rate of COVID. It is hard to forget the daily news

conferences with a daily scoreboard of infections, hospitalizations and deaths.

At this point, our knowledge base about COVID is greater and the excessive use of fear to force compliance to vaccine and mask mandates, lockdowns and school closures is unsupported. This pandemic is playing out as has been the case in other respiratory viral pandemics throughout history. And when another pandemic comes our way, here is hoping that we approach health policy by applying what we learned in this pandemic.

**DR. PHILLIP ROZEMAN IS A PRACTICING CARDIOLOGIST. HE WAS HONORED AS RECIPIENT OF THE JOHN MICIOTTO HEALTHCARE LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD AND HAS RECEIVED THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD OF THE NORTHWEST LOUISIANA MEDICAL SOCIETY AND LOUISIANA STATE MEDICAL SOCIETY.**



**PHILLIP ROZEMAN**



SPORTS

Russell Hedges, Sports Editor  
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COLLEGE ATHLETICS

# Dr. Kiki Baker Barnes forges trailblazng career in athletics

## GCAC track meet a homecoming of sorts for conference’s commissioner

RUSSELL HEDGES  
Minden Press-Herald

For Dr. Kiki Baker Barnes, commissioner of the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference, the GCAC Men’s and Women’s Track and Field Championship is a sort of homecoming.

As a star athlete at Minden High from 1990-93, Barnes often competed in meets at Lee Hedges Stadium (then known as Caddo Parish Stadium), site of the GCAC meet Friday and Saturday.

Many members of her extended family reside in Princeton, Haughton and Minden. Her parents, Bobby and Linda Baker, live in Minden. Both were longtime teachers at Caddo Parish schools.

Of course, family isn’t the reason Barnes is coming to Shreveport. The GCAC Championship meet is.

She and her staff have been working closely with Shreveport-Bossier Sports Commission Director of Sports Sara Armond and the commission staff for weeks preparing for the event.

“Sara and the team, let me just say, they are amazing and I honestly feel like they have everything done,” Barnes said last week. “I

think we’re now at the last stage of this and it’s kind of promotion time. We want people to come out.

“It’s real nostalgic, but what I want to see happen is I really want to see the community embrace this and I want it to be an impact on the community in terms of students. You know we’ve seen an uptick in mental health, depression and things like that in young kids now. Sport has always been a way to help students move and to find sometimes purpose and to exercise.

“We want students to have the opportunity to connect with our schools but to also see student-athletes who are competing in college and that could be their life. Even if they didn’t compete they may want to be an athletic trainer, or maybe they want to be an umpire or a coach or maybe they want to be a journalist.”

### HBCU Admission Fair

The Gulf Coast Athletic Conference, a member of the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics, is comprised of eight Historically Black Colleges and Universities — Dillard University (New Orleans), Fisk University (Nashville,



COURTESY OF GULF COAST ATHLETIC CONFERENCE  
Dr. Kiki Baker Barnes speaks to media in New Orleans after being named commissioner of the Gulf Coast Athletic Conference last year.

Tenn.), Oakwood University (Huntsville, Ala.), Philander Smith College (Little Rock, Ark.), Rust College (Holly Springs, Miss.), Southern University at New Orleans, Tougaloo College (Tougaloo, Miss.) and Wiley College (Marshall, Texas).

One thing Barnes is excited about is the HBCU Admission Fair that will be held in conjunction with the meet. It will feature all GCAC schools, including the University of the Virgin Islands, which is officially joining the conference July 1.

The fair runs from 1:30

to 3:30 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Saturday.

“It’s an opportunity for high school students,” she said. “If they haven’t selected a college we want them to have an opportunity to be exposed to our member institutions. And so admissions counselors are also going to be on site both days at the track event to talk to potential students. I’m really, really, really excited about that.”

### Award-winning career

Barnes has been the

commissioner since early 2022 after serving as interim commissioner for three years. She is the first Black woman commissioner in the history of the GCAC and the NAIA.

While she was interim commissioner, she still served as director of athletics at Dillard University, a position she held for 16 years. She also was the head women’s basketball coach from the time she was hired in 2006 until 2013.

During her tenure she has received numerous accolades. In 2022, she was included in Sports Illustrated and Empire Onyx’s “Elevate 100 Influential Black Women in Sports” series.

In 2021, she was named Nell Jackson Executive of the Year by Women Leaders in College Sports. In 2019, she was named a National Association of College Directors of Athletics Under Armour Athletic Director of the Year.

She is also a three-time GCAC Athletic Director of the Year.

### Star high school athlete

Barnes was a star basketball player at Minden, leading her teams to appearances in the 1992 and

1993 championship games.

She was also a state champion in the high jump.

After two years playing basketball at the junior college level, she went on to star at the University of New Orleans from 1995-1997.

Athletics has been a huge part of Barnes’ life since the fifth grade. But that wasn’t her first career goal. She wanted to be on TV in an Oprah Winfrey-type role. However, upon graduation from UNO she didn’t think she was ready to pursue that path.

“I hadn’t done enough internships and I didn’t feel like I was qualified honestly or ready to even pursue that career when I graduated from college, but everybody said once you graduate you’re supposed to know what you want to do,” she said. “I just didn’t feel like I was ready to do anything.”

### Career path

After Barnes graduated, she received a call from Gay Nix that would set her on her career path.

Nix, who led Byrd to two Class 5A state championships, was named the head

See, **BARNES**, Page 6A

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

# All parish teams make playoffs

RUSSELL HEDGES  
Minden Press-Herald

All five Webster Parish teams have qualified for the playoffs.

The season officially ended Wednesday with pairings scheduled to be announced Thursday. Under the LHSA’s new playoff format, the top 26 teams in non-select Divisions I-V and the top 24 in select Divisions I-IV in the final power ratings make the playoffs.

As of press time Monday morning, all parish teams met the criteria for qualifying.

According to Geaux-Preps.com, Minden (17-11) was No. 13 in non-select Division II, North Webster (13-14) No. 22 in Division III, Lakeside (17-10) No. 9 in Division IV, Doyline (6-9) No. 23 in Division V and Glenbrook (14-10) No. 10 in select Division IV.

While the power ratings could change based on results of games across the state Monday through Wednesday, Minden, Lakeside and Glenbrook should be at home in the first round. North Webster and Doyline will be on the road.

First-round games must be played by Monday, April 17.

Heavy rain across the

area last week caused several cancellations, but every team got in at least one game.

Minden defeated Summerfield 8-2 and Parkway 8-5.

Leigha K-Gilbert went 3-for-4 with a home run, two triples and two RBI against Summerfield.

Brooklyn Edwards had three doubles. Kylie Ryan had a home run, double and three RBI.

Gabby Morrison went 2-for-3.

Ryan pitched a three-hitter. She struck out seven and walked two.

Lindsay Ryan and Morrison both went 2-for-4 against Parkway.

Taryn Tinsley tripled and walked twice. K-Gilbert had a hit, walked twice and scored three runs.

Kylie Ryan gave up two hits and struck out 12.

North Webster defeated Byrd 12-1. Eight Lady Knights combined for 11 hits.

Landree Andrews went 2-for-2. Adryanna White went 2-for-3.

Anekah Coleman went 2-for-4 with a double and two RBI. Paige Timmons had a hit and walked twice.

Carlie Cambell pitched a no-hitter.

Lakeside defeated Family Community 6-1 and



VALLETTE WEAVER/SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-HERALD  
Glenbrook’s Rebecca Mosley fires a pitch last week against Haughton. The Lady Apaches are headed to the playoffs.

Simsboro 18-1.

Eight Lady Warriors combined for 10 hits against Family Community.

Pitcher McKenna Chreene went 3-for-4 with a double. Maggie Mandino had a double.

Chreene allowed five hits and struck out five.

Mackenzie McCoy went 3-for-3 with a double against Simsboro. Raleigh Harris went 3-for-4 with

three RBI.

Hallie Sutton went 3-for-4. Paiton Levesque went 2-for-3.

Lexi Wood and Emily Jones had triples. Rainie Hughes had a double and three RBI.

Chreene pitched a two-hitter, walked none and struck out eight.

Glenbrook fell to Haughton 15-1 and Doyline lost to Castor 15-0 in a District 1-B game.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

# Four parish teams notch victories

RUSSELL HEDGES  
Minden Press-Herald

Four parish teams picked up at least one victory last week.

Lakeside went 3-1. The Warriors opened the week with an 8-1 victory over North Webster.

Because rain postponed the opener, Lakeside played a District 1-2A tripleheader Saturday against D’Arbonne Woods. After losing the first game 4-2, the Warriors won the next two 14-1 in five innings and 7-3.

CJ Watts and Cooper Chase had three hits against North Webster.

Watts went 3-for-4 with two doubles. Chase went

3-for-3 with a double and two RBI.

Jordan Isbell went four innings for the win. He allowed one hit, walked one and struck out four.

Hunter Sutton allowed one hit in 1 2/3 innings of relief. Watts struck out the side in the bottom of the seventh.

Chase went 3-for-4 with three RBI in the 14-1 win over D’Arbonne Woods. Bradley Dick had two triples and two RBI.

Sutton went five innings got the win.

Jon Jon Dick went 4-for-4 with a triple in the 7-3 win. Isbell went 3-4.

Chase pitched a complete game. He allowed five hits and struck out five.

Lakeside entered this week 14-12 overall and 3-6 in district.

Glenbrook went 2-0. The Apaches downed Haynesville 18-2 in a District 1-1A game and defeated Evangel Christian 12-1.

Seven Apaches combined for nine hits in the three-inning game against Haynesville.

Garrett Brown had a home run, double and four RBI. Seth Mangrum got the win.

Hayden Harmon went 3-for-3 with a double and two RBI in the five-inning game against Evangel.

Maddox Mandino went 2-for-3 with two doubles and two RBI.

Brown went 2-for-3

with a double.

Easton Sanders went the distance. He struck out four and walked only one.

Glenbrook entered this week 18-8 overall and 2-0 in district.

Minden split a pair of games. The Crimson Tide defeated Woodlawn 16-0 in a District 1-4A game and fell to Calvary Baptist 7-1.

Seven Crimson Tide players combined for nine hits in the three-inning game against Woodlawn.

Bryson Ranger had a triple and double. Brandon Winston went 2-for-2 with a double.

Landon Brewer didn’t allow a hit. He struck out

See, **BASEBALL**, Page 6A

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

# Doyline star Clark first-team Class B All-State

RUSSELL HEDGES  
Minden Press-Herald

Doyline senior guard Jamaria Clark has been named to the Louisiana Sports Writers Association’s Class B All-State first team.

It’s the fourth year in a row he has been named to the first or second team.

Clark averaged 37.2 points, 7.9 assists, 6.7 rebounds and 4.3 steals last season. He led the

Panthers to a 27-4 record and the quarterfinals of the non-select Division V playoffs.

Avoyelles Charter sophomore Jalen Brown was named the Outstanding Player.

Brown averaged 18 points, 4 rebounds, 6 assists and 3 streaks for the select Division IV state champions, who finished 35-1.

Avoyelles Charter’s Antonio Benjamin was named Coach of the Year.

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Minden Press-Herald & Holcomb’s

## Athlete of the Week

**Izayla Harris**  
Doyline High School

The junior won the 100-meter dash in 12.25 seconds, the 200 in 25.37, the 400 in 59.62 and the triple jump with a leap of 33 feet, 1 inch in the Quitman Relays.

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



SPORTS

BARNES

Continued from Page 5A

coach at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette in 1996.

“Gay recruited me at UNO, but in my senior year she left and took the head coaching job at UL Lafayette,” Barnes said. “Well, Gay reached out to me maybe a week or two after I had graduated UNO and said, hey, I wanted to see what you were thinking about.

“I have a graduate assistantship available and I’d like you to come and be a member of our team and be a graduate assistant coach and we’ll pay for your Master’s degree in communications.”

“I felt like now that I was getting ready to go to grad school I could finally focus on this TV stuff, right? So it was like I know sports because I’ve done that literally for like the last 12 years of my life I’ve played basketball. So yeah, being a coach, I’ve worked at camps, I’ve worked with kids and young people so I think I could be a coach, right? So it was her reaching out to me and offering me the opportunity that really started my career.”

Beginning her career

Barnes’ first head coaching job was at Southern University-Shreveport.

In 2006, she was named women’s head basketball coach and athletic director at Dillard.

Of course at that time New Orleans was reeling from the devastation caused

by Hurricane Katrina. When she took over Dillard only had three sports so she had to re-build the program almost from scratch.

Under her watch Dillard added three sports teams.

She also rebranded the athletics department and led fundraising efforts that brought in more than a \$1 million to the athletic department.

As commissioner she’s strived to increase the GCAC’s footprint, including forging a deal with the Urban Edge Network to stream the conference’s events.

Trailblazer, role model

Because of her status as the first black woman commissioner of the GCAC, Barnes has been called a trailblazer.

Last year, she told Rod Walker of the New Orleans Advocate it was never her intention to be one. But she embraces being a role model.

“Honestly, I didn’t have any black women coaches except for my assistant coach in high school was a black lady,” she said. “But all of my coaches were mostly white men and all the athletic directors were mostly white men. There were no women doing anything honestly.

“Gay was a head women’s coach so she hired me, but there were only a few women head coaches. So I mean when I thought about it I didn’t even see myself in

any of those roles because I didn’t see people who looked like me doing those roles.

“So now I’m on the other side and I was like, oh, I think I might want to be a head coach now that I see it I can do that and I got my opportunity at Southern University in Shreveport in 2000. And then it was like, well, I think I would want to be an athletic director too.”

Focus on students

Of course, Barnes wants to keep the focus on not just student-athletes but all students and young people as a whole.

In 2018, she started a program called “So you want a career in athletics?”

She said the goal of the program is to “find young ladies who were students in high school playing sports and say, hey, do you know you can be a writer for sports? Hey, did you know you could manage an athletic program?, and make sure that they were aware that the opportunity exists.

“And of course if they so desired to pursue a career of an athletic director that I have a coalition, like I’ve got women all over the country that so can connect with and give them a mentor that can help them explore that.

“And so I have had an amazing career in sports even though it wasn’t what I desired to do and I have been so happy about it. And I just want other young

girls to actually have the opportunity to know and to be able to be connected to mentors because mentors have been very, very critical to my own personal career development.”

Barnes is also President and CEO of Kiki Baker Barnes, LLC, which aims to help other university athletic departments improve and grow their brands.

She is the author of a book titled Disaster and Failure: The Perfect Formula for Championship-Level Success.”

It started in Minden

Barnes said everything that’s led her to this point in her career started in Minden.

Her 30-year high school reunion is coming up soon and she’s looking forward to it.

She said she received a questionnaire that included a question asking about senior year highlights.

She said one of the biggest was playing for the state championship at Hirsch Coliseum. Minden played for state titles in both 1992 and 1993, losing close games to Green Oaks and Carroll, respectively. It was the first time in years the state tournament, then known as the Sweet 16, had been played in North Louisiana.

“What made ’93 so great was the fact that literally we were going to be at home for the championship,” she said. “We were one of the

top teams and all we had to do was to take care of business. And you know we made it to the championship game and lost by a shot at the buzzer.”

The team’s camaraderie and the journey to the championship game is what stands out in Barnes’ mind.

“Going to school with the same group of teammates from sixth grade all the way to high school, going from not being able to make a layup or a chest pass to eventually being one of the top teams in the state is one of the things I’ll never forget and it really taught me the value of teamwork and that everyone has value,” she said.

“Everybody on the team contributed in some kind of way whether they were on the court, whether they were holding our bag or the towels or giving us water or cheering us on, we did not achieve that level of success on our own.”

Family, community ties

Barnes still has many relatives living in Minden and Northwest Louisiana, including aunts, uncles and siblings in addition to her parents.

Her father and late grandmother were originally from Princeton.

Her first cousins, Myron and Lorenza Baker, were football stars at Haughton and Louisiana Tech.

For Barnes, community is everything — her GCAC community and Minden.

“I do just want to give a huge thank you to the community,” she said. “I think it’s important to the people who reported to you and I want the community, my Minden community, Webster Parish and then the Ark-La-Tex at large to know that coming back home is about the community.

“It’s about connecting with these young people. It’s about letting them see college student-athletes about showing them another way and I hope the community will embrace us in the way we embraced Independence Bowl.

“I do remember going to the little FCA dinner every year and it was always so exciting to see the football players. Like we wanted to see the student-athletes and it was so cool. It was like, oh, I want to go to college and be a student-athlete or I just want to go to college because I want to be connected to other students who are gonna make a difference some way and I see us partnering with the Shreveport-Bossier Commission and bringing our championship now to Shreveport in that same way.

“It’s an opportunity of inspiring the next generation of students and student-athletes. So a huge thank you to my community for everything they invested in me, their support and then my teammates. I couldn’t be the person I am without their support.”

BASEBALL

Continued from Page 5A

seven and walked two.

Jakobe Jackson, Elliott Sheppard and Bryson Ranger had two hits apiece against Calvary.

Minden entered this

week 15-9 overall and 3-1 in district.

Doyline went 1-2. The Panthers defeated Huntington 11-1 then dropped two District 1-B games

against Quitman 1-0 and 11-1.

Noah Spears went 2-for-2 with a triple and four RBI in the five-inning game against Huntington.

Caysten Mingo, Kenneth Lee and Benton Bates combined on a three-hitter with nine strikeouts.

Spears allowed two hits, struck out six and walked

only one in six innings in the 1-0 Quitman game. The run the Wolverines scored in the fifth was unearned.

Cameron Johnson went 2-for-3.

Doyline entered this week 6-15.

In addition to the Lake-side loss, North Webster fell to Natchitoches Central 7-1.

OUTDOORS

Finding a bream can produce ‘lazy man’ fishing

GLYNN HARRIS

I saw something earlier this week that caused my pulse to quicken just a bit. Driving along the interstate, what I saw harkened back to this time last year. I saw a bunch of something red growing along the highway.

Crimson clover. When it starts to bloom, I have learned over the years that the red blossoms have a special meaning. Simply stated, it means that temperatures are climbing which signals the bream to gather on the shallow spawning beds or at least be headed that way.

There is something special about the spring bream spawn. When things get right, it produces what I have come to appreciate, and that’s “lazy man fishing” because there’s nothing quite as easy as filling an ice chest with all the bream you care to clean.

Why is it so easy to catch bream once you have located a spawning bed? Whereas bass and crappie pick out special spots to individually deposit their eggs, bream seem to love the company of other bream. Catch one and you could possibly limit out by tossing a baited hook, popping bug or small spinner into the same spot over and over until you’re done.

In addition to watching for the crimson clover bloom, you can watch the thermometer and when it hits and consistently hangs around the 68 to 72 degree mark, be assured that bream are on the verge of doing their spring thing.

The most popular sunfish is the bluegill probably because there are so many of them and they’re easy to catch. Running a close



GLYNN HARRIS

Ultralight gear and crickets are just the ticket for catching big bluegills.

second for sunfish is the redear, or shell cracker or as most of us know them, chinquapins. They typically spawn in water a little deeper than bluegills. One reason they’re so much fun to catch is that pound for pound, nothing pulls harder than a big fat chinquapin and they tend to be heavier than their bluegill cousins.

The state record for bluegills sits at 1.83 pounds, a fish caught by Tim Delaney in Tatt Lake in 2016 while the record chinquapin was caught in our own Caney Lake in 1998, a 2.87 pounder landed by Jerry Smelly. Incidentally, eight of the top ten redears listed in the state records were caught on Caney Lake.

Once the bream are on the beds, here’s how I practice the art of “lazy man fishing”. I have access

to a private pond where I have fished for probably 30 years and I don’t think I ever came home from a trip to this pond without having all the bream I wanted to clean.

First, I’ll bring along a comfortable lawn chair and set it up under a big shade tree on the pond bank. Sitting on the ground beside me is a bucket of crickets along with a tackle box with a selection of small spinners. I’ll have an ultra-light spinning rod and reel prepared with a stout bream hook, a small lead weight a couple of inches above the hook and depending on the depth I want to fish, a Styrofoam float two to three feet above the hook.

It’s a simple matter of skewering a cricket on the hook and lobbing it into the spawning beds I know

are there because that’s where they have been for all the years I have fished this pond. If things are right, the cork will bobble and then slip beneath the surface and here we go again. Often before trying the live bait method, I’ll pick up my other ultralight rod that already has a small spinner attached and give it a chance first.

Once I’m back home, I’ll filet the whole lot of them save for a couple I’ll scale and fry whole. The first bite will be the crispy tail, sort of like eating a potato chip. Next I’ll “unzip” it by removing the top fin exposing the backbone I’ll carefully lift out to reveal all the goodness of whole fried bream has to offer.

Is your mouth watering yet? Mine is and I haven’t even made my first trip to the pond this spring.

Fishing Report

BLACK BAYOU

– Bream are starting to bed and hitting worms and crickets. Crappie are fair fishing around the trees and brush. Contact Honey Hole Tackle Shop 323-8707 for latest information.

BUSSEY BRAKE

– Big bass are continuing to be caught on soft plastics as they have moved up to spawn. Danny Diel, Bastrop, landed the second largest bass reported from Bussey, a 13.84 pound giant on a Senko. Crappie are on the spawning beds and hitting shiners or jigs. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole at 323-8707.

OUACHITA RIVER

– Bass fishing has been best fishing the mouth of the cuts with shad imitation lures. Crappie have been fair in the river lakes. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE D’ARBONNE

– Bass fishing has been best in the back of the creeks on soft plastics, jigs and creature baits. Some crappie have spawned out and moved away from the shallows but there are still plenty hanging around shallow spawning areas and have yet to spawn. Bream are moving to the beds and are being caught on crickets and night crawlers. Catfish are being caught fishing cold worms and night crawlers off the banks. For latest information, call Anderson Sport Center at 368-9669 or Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE CLAIBORNE

– Bass have been best fishing around the shallow docks with a Sinko or wacky worm as they have moved up to spawn. A good many crappie are being caught on yo-yos baited with shiners. The bream have started to bed and are beginning to be caught on worms and crickets. No report on stripers or catfish just yet. For latest information, call Kel’s Cove at 927-2264 or Terzia Tackle at 278-4498.

CANEY LAKE

– Bass are on the beds with some really big females up to 7 and 8 pounds have been reported. Crappie are beginning to move to the shallows with some caught on shiners or jigs. Bream fishing is just now starting as they are moving in to spawn and hitting crickets and red wigglers. No report on catfish. For information contact Caney Lake Landing at 259-6649, Hooks Marina at 249-2347, Terzia Tackle at 278-4498 or the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE POVERTY POINT

– Catfishing is good. Crappie are in the shallows getting ready to spawn with some nice ones reported. Bream should be moving in to spawn. No report on bass. For latest reports, call Poverty Point Marina at 318/878-0101.

LAKE YUCATAN

– The water is falling but is rising again but should crest by the end of the month. No fishermen this week. For information, call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.



# Good News

GOOD NEWS

## THE POWER OF THE CROSS

We just celebrated the death, burial and resurrection of Jesus. Isn't Easter a very special time for all believers? It is more than hiding eggs, family get-togethers, new clothes, spring flowers, school holidays and all. They are all important to us as we move into the spring-time in anticipation of Easter. But this celebration belongs completely 'the power of the Cross.' Because of this historical event, we can have a 'new life in Christ.' The Christian life would not be possible if the Cross on Calvary's hill was not sandwiched right between the Last Supper and the empty tomb. There would be no room for the Resurrection if there had not been a death. We must not negate nor ignore the power of the Cross upon which Jesus died for our sins. "Had it not been for Calvary; Had it not been for the old rugged cross; Had it not been that He died for our sins; Then our souls would be eternally lost." (Hymn).

Each year I am reminded of the importance of Easter in my life. Back in 1959, as a college freshman, I gave my life to Jesus in the morning service (College Place Baptist Church, Monroe, LA). That night I was baptized into the fellowship of the church. That has been the most memorable and meaningful decision I have ever made. And I can tell you, my life has

never been the same. Not having the blessing of growing up in a Christian home, I was not aware of the teachings of Jesus about 'living for Him, the role of the church in our daily lives, and how important it is to serve Him and others daily in His name as we run life's race. His power has been there to energize me.

But as I grew in obedience and commitment to His teachings, I began to see how the pieces of life's puzzle would fall into place when I trusted Him with my whole heart. (Proverbs 3: 5-6). Step -by-step I grew in knowledge and application as I learned more about living the Christian life and how the Cross was the dividing line of choosing to follow Christ or not to follow Him. "All obedience or none" seem to be the demands of Christ to be a disciple. As a young school teacher, I must say, sometimes the demands and requirements of teaching tested my complete obedience to the Lord. But I was learning that 'living the Christian life was a life-time assignment.'



Bill Crider

One did not arrive on the first day of the journey, then sat down and wait for the Rapture.

It is challenging to read about young Stephen, a deacon, in Acts 6. He was 'full of God's grace and power and was able to do many wonders and miraculous signs among the people.' He had felt the power of the Cross and Resurrection and he was never the same. His zeal and commitment forced him forward to be a bold witness, regardless of the outcome. But he was accused of blasphemy against Moses and God. So they tried him and found him guilty, which led to his death. But there witnessing this was a young Jewish lad, trained under the best teachers who was totally committed to 'living by the Law.' Stephen's clothes were piled at the feet of young Saul as the men stoned him to death.

No doubt this made a deep impression on Saul's life as he began his endeavor to 'round up the Christians in Damascus and bring them to Jerusalem to be punished.' (He was working for his salvation - the more he brought to trial, the more 'points' he earned - so to speak). When he came face-to-face with Jesus on the Damascus Road and saw the glory of the face of Jesus, Saul was blinded. Falling before the Risen Lord, he saw the glory of the

Lord all around him. He was never the same. His life turned around. He had a new purpose, a new life, a new name (Paul) was given him, and a new Master was not in charge. The crucified Jesus became his Lord and Savior as a result of this experience. Yes, the power of the Cross was ever evident in Paul's life afterwards. In all of his preaching, in all of his writings - the power of the Cross was what spurred him on. It compelled him to make the three missionary journeys. Villages after towns he visited; rivers and seas he crossed to tell others of the power of the Cross and the Resurrection of Jesus. To Paul this was all foolishness until he met Jesus face to face. He could never forget it though. Question: Have your forgotten the day, the time, the circumstances when you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior?

Paul was super-charged and his battery never ran dry. Each day was a new opportunity to share Jesus; each town presented a wonderful privilege to tell others what Jesus had done for him and what He could do for others. What could happen to a man like this and bring such a change in his life? It's the power of the Cross. Paul preached: "It's not I that lives, but Christ lives within me. My sins were nailed to the Cross when Jesus died." He could never forget!

Paul was empowered by the presence of the Holy Spirit to 'go and tell the message on the mountains, in the valleys, in the towns, the countryside and in the large cities.' He knew the Risen Lord, the forgiveness of his sin, he knew the power of redemption and he knew the Jewish mind. He first sought to witness to his brothers, but when they rejected him, the Holy Spirit guided him toward the Gentiles. Here he found a ready audience with receptive hearts and many responded to his message of the Cross, the Death, Burial and Resurrection. After the Resurrection, Jesus' assignment on earth was completed, but He left the work in the hands of His disciples. The challenge was to 'go into all the world - teaching, preaching, baptizing in the name of the risen Lord.' But we must not stop at the Cross. We must remember that Jesus was taken down from the cross, He was buried in a borrowed tomb. But on the third day, He was resurrected. Now there is a new power that gives a greater boost to the meaning of being a believer. We will explore the Power of the Resurrection next week.

BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER

### THE UPWARD LOOK

## Died, Buried, And Raised

*"Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, and that He was buried, and that He was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures." 1 Corinthians 15:3b-4 NASB*



Max Hutto

From the beginning of time, God had a plan designed to redeem us from our bondage to sin. That plan was written down in Scripture. Then, at the right time, Jesus Christ died on Calvary's cross. His sacrificial death paid the price for our sins, our wrong deeds. He was buried in a tomb on what we celebrate as Good Friday. The following

Sunday, Easter, Jesus rose out of the grave, alive forevermore. By His death and resurrection, He offers you and me the gift of forgiveness of sins and eternal life. Have you accepted His gift?

Lord Jesus, in humble gratitude I serve and praise You for forgiving me of my sins and for eternal life. Hallelujah! You are the Risen Savior!

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

### INSPIRATION

## Bringing the Good

In times of extreme struggle, man tends to look for someone to blame. We make great efforts to search out the negatives of our situation. Well, I'm here to tell everyone reading today that this is not the way. God wants us to find his blessing in all our situations. He wants us to seek out the good in everything. And if we search through a situation and find nothing good, he wants us to bring the good. This is done through trust and faith in God's plan. In Genesis Joseph demonstrates this flawlessly. Genesis 45:3-5 NLT "I am Joseph!" he said to his brothers. "Is my father still alive?" But his brothers were speechless! They were stunned to realize that Joseph was



Bernard Harris

standing there in front of them. "Please, come closer," he said to them. So they came closer. And he said again, "I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. But don't be upset, and don't be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives." I would like to encourage us all to be like Joseph and bring the good to our bad situations.

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

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