

MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

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GOVERNMENT

\$1.6 million surplus is biggest issue for Legislature

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

State Representative Wayne McMahan spoke with the Minden Press-Herald at the close of the second week of the legislative session which began on April 10. McMahan, the representative for District 10 which encompasses all of Webster parish and a small piece

of Bossier Parish, is serving on the House Select Committee on Disaster recovery and the Joint Legislative Committee on Capital Outlay.

“Without question, the largest issue we are facing is a \$1.6 billion surplus this year,” said McMahan. “We have some things looming in the future. In 2025 we are going to lose almost a half billion dol-

lars in tax revenue when the .45 cent tax rolls off. We need to start preparing for that. Now we are sitting here flush with money. Much of that is hurricane relief money and federal money left over from COVID. Those are monies you do not rely on receiving again, so we need to try to establish what we’re going to do this year and what we can

project going forward. We need to take care of some of the infrastructure needs and maybe some pay raises around the state. There is a constitutional cap that limits how much we



MCMAHEN

can spend. It requires a two-thirds vote of the House of Representatives and the Senate to be able to go above that spending cap. I think we need to be very careful going forward because we are going to have some leaner years ahead.”

With such a large surplus that cannot all be legally spent due to a spending cap, what hap-

pens to the money?

“I would think that if we could pay some debt down and roll some of the interest that we are paying off, that money would be freed up down the road for things like teacher raises and education. From a conservative standpoint, let’s look at our rainy day fund and see how we can shore those up and free

See, **SURPLUS**, Page 3

CRIME

Juvenile caught with bomb-making materials

STAFF REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

On the afternoon of April 18, the Minden Police Department, Minden Fire Department, Webster Parish Sheriff’s Office (WPSO), and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (AFT) were called out to the 900 block of Brackin Street to investigate possible explosives.



MCIVER

Originally, the WPSO had received information that stolen items were located at this property. They and the Minden Police Department went to check out that tip, receiving permission to search from the parents in the home.

“We asked if they minded if we walked through the house,” said Minden Police Chief Jared McIver. “They gave us consent to go in the house. When we went in the house, the juvenile — he was sitting on the porch — he went in there with us. He said, ‘I can show you where my room is.’ Well, he walked in the house and then bolted out the back door. Deputy Chief Hank Haynes and I chased him, and we finally caught him; he was hiding under a truck. We brought him back, and went in there and started searching, and it just started snowballing: drugs, bombs, and explosive devices. It went from a simple investigation to a major investigation real quick.”

Inside the 17-year-old’s room, they found not only a handgun and narcotics but also a variety of materials that could be used for making bombs as well as several devices that appeared to be bombs.

“We have found all

See, **BOMB**, Page 3

LIONS CHICKEN CHARBROIL



AMBER MCDOWN/ PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

Lions Club Chicken Charbroil a smoking success

The Minden Lions Club Chicken Charbroil was a big success, selling almost 800 dinners on Saturday morning. This semi-annual event is a major fundraiser for the Lions Club whose mission is to serve.

CRIME

Webster woman fails to seek assistance for man beaten in her home

STAFF REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

Hannah Moss of the 500 block of N Main Street was arrested for failure to seek assistance after a man was

brutally beaten in her home. She also gave a false report of the incident to Webster Parish Sheriff’s Office (WPSO) deputies prior to being arrested on a warrant, after which she gave the

full story.

The first meeting with a deputy took place at the Crawfish Hole. “Hannah told me that some man broke into her house so she called

See, **CRIME**, Page 3

TARTAN FESTIVAL 2023

Minden celebrates Scottish heritage

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

The 2023 Scottish Tartan Festival had a great turnout this weekend, attracting visitors from all around this area and even some from out of state. The festival, which is in its 21st year, was held in downtown Minden for the first time.

Music and dancing could be found throughout the day at the various stages which were set up in and around Millers Quarters. The festival also delivered genealogy information as well as displays of combat, blacksmithing, flint knapping, and more. There were also a number of competitions available to participate in or just enjoy watching as an audience.

Details Inside

More photos of the 2023 Tartan Festival
See **Page 2**

Many of the dogs that turned out for the dog show were decked out in tartans and tams. The dog show featured two categories: Scottish breeds and all breeds. In the Scottish breeds category Clyde, a 3 year old Scot-tie, won 1st place; Yazhi, an almost 13 year old Border collie, won 2nd place; and Nova, a 9 year old red merle coated Border collie, won 3rd place. In the All Breeds category, Charlie, a 12 year old Yorkie, won 1st place; Mojo, a 3 year old German shepherd mix, won 2nd place; and Jax, a 7 year old Lab-

See, **TARTAN**, Page 2



AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

It was a beautiful day for the Scottish Tartan Festival. People came from all over the ArkLaTex to enjoy Scottish heritage, eat some haggis, and watch the Highland Games. This was the first year the festival was held in downtown Minden.

Public schools to receive funding to increase school security

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Louisiana is planning to spend \$21 million to increase school security by creating single-entry access points at public schools as well as paying for other types of security equipment. This will be financed under the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, which was approved by congress last year.

“We intend to use one-time funds to harden

the perimeters of our schools,” state Superintendent of Education Cade Brumley said. “These funds will support this foundational element of school safety.”

The money will be able to be used for physical security measures such as creating single point entries and purchasing equipment such as security cameras and metal detectors. Having a single entry point is considered a best practice in security, but most schools

were not built with this in mind.

Superintendent Brumley plans to award 42 school systems approximately \$500,000 each to help increase security across the state.

“We want to put out real money because we know these are expensive,” said Brumley.

But here in Webster Parish, the district has been making improve-

ments across the parish for several years now, including having most of the schools already set up for single-entry.

“What I’m eager to find out is, can that money be used for maybe a few other things than just the single entry?” said Superintendent Johnny Rowland. “Because what we’re blessed with in Webster right now is the



BRUMLEE

majority of our schools are already established as single-entry schools. The problem that we’re running into is, after the day starts, maintaining single entry into the schools — not having that side door propped open, not having that other door unlocked, whatever it may be. It’s just maintaining and doing our due diligence during the day to stay that way. But what I’m wondering is...can

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High Temp **73°**

Tomorrow's
Low Temp **52°**

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WEBSTER & MORE

TARTAN

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radoodle, won 3rd place.

The haggis eating contest always draws a big crowd. Haggis, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica is “the national dish of Scotland, a type of pudding composed of the liver, heart, and lungs of a sheep (or other animal), minced and mixed with beef or mutton suet and oatmeal and seasoned with onion, cayenne pepper, and other spices. The mixture is packed into a sheep’s stomach and boiled.” The announcer for this competition declared, “This is some of the best haggis I’ve ever eaten.” The winner of the haggis eating contest was Trey Campbell who finished in just 37.66 seconds.

The Bonniest Knees competition is also a traditional crowd favorite. In this competition, a woman is selected to judge how bonny, or attractive, the knees of the competitors are. The men must

be wearing kilts, and the judge is blindfolded and must assess their knees by touch. This year, Johnnye Kennon of the Webster Parish Convention & Visitors Commission was selected to judge. After caressing the knees of the 11 contestants, the final winner was chosen: Gabriel Mateo of Mooringsport, Louisiana.

This year the Scottish Tartan Festival added Highland Games to the event. Based on the crowd response, the games will probably become bigger and more competitive over time. The games started with the stone put, shot putting a 22 lb stone. Nathan Sunter won that competition. Next, they did the heavy weight for distance, throwing a metal ball on a chain which weighed around 40 lbs. This was won by Dalton Cate. Then the stone chuck, chucking a more than 30 lb stone freestyle, was won by Nathan Sunter. After that, they competed in the caber toss, throwing a pole that was

around 15 feet long and close to 100 lbs. This was won by Sam Haynie. And the final individual competition was the weight over bar, where they stood under a bar that started out 9 feet in height and threw a 42 lb weight over it backwards. The bar was raised after each round. The winning contestant, Dalton Cate, was able to get his final throw over a 12-foot high bar. The games finished up with a tug-of-war between the competitors. If you’re interested in participating in Highland Games, check out the instructor’s website at <https://backyardrebellion.com>.

The Scottish Tartan Festival is presented by the Scottish Society of the Louisiana Highland to “commemorate the rich culture of our Celtic ancestors who came to this country in decades past.” For more information about this society, see their website: <https://www.louisianahighlands.scot>.





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WEBSTER & MORE

LEGISLATION

Bill moves forward to help relief of pregnancy expenses from father of child

GABBY JIMENEZ AND
CLAIRE SULLIVAN
LSU Manship School News Service

BATON ROUGE—The House Civil Law and Procedure Committee moved forward a bill that would allow mothers to recuperate half of out-of-pocket, pregnancy-related medical expenses from the father of their child.

After the baby is born, the mother would have two years to recover these expenses, which would not include costs covered by insurance. Under present law, women have no avenue for this action.

“I think this is a very good bill to really help the pregnant women in our state who have no way to recover these medical expenses,” said Rep. Lawrence “Larry” Frieman, R-Abita Springs, the bill’s author.

The bill requires that paternity be proved by clear and convincing evidence, with the burden of proof requiring paternity to be more likely true than untrue.

The proposed law, House Bill 5, garnered support from both anti-abortion and abortion rights groups, including Louisiana Right to Life and 10,000 Women Louisiana.

The bill comes on the heels of a near-total abortion ban in Louisiana after the overturning of Roe v. Wade, which has raised questions for lawmakers about supporting mothers.

The bill was amended to outline which pregnancy-

related medical expenses could be recovered from the biological father by the biological mother.

The bill would accept actual medical expenses,”which include costs incurred for prenatal care, including hospital visits, pharmaceutical expenses and travel. Additional expenses incurred during the pregnancy, determined to be “reasonable and necessary” under a judge’s discretion, may also be eligible for reimbursement.

There was discussion about what counted as a reasonable medical expense.

Rachael Catalanotto, a St. Tammany Parish lawyer, said mothers could submit prenatal vitamins and other “[types] of expenses that mothers take

on during the pregnancy that they would not have otherwise.”

Rep. Gregory A. Miller, R-Norco, asked if Lamaze classes fell under the bill. Catalanotto said those classes would ultimately be up to a judge.

Morgan Lamandre, the chief executive and president of Sexual Trauma Awareness and Response, raised concerns that the two-year period to recover the expenses was not enough.

Lamandre also argued the bill should extend to miscarriages and stillbirths because women still incur pregnancy costs in these scenarios. Maternity clothes should also be considered a reasonable expense, she said.

BOMB

Continued from Page 1

kinds of items that could be constructed into a bomb,” said McIver. “We’ve still got one little bomb-making device that they’re going to look at and x-ray, but the other ones appear to be some kind of manipulated fireworks. The way he had everything packaged up in individual packages — like little detonators here, shrapnel here, little powders here — he had them all individually bagged, so it definitely leaves no doubt that he was on the verge, on the cusp of getting ready to start constructing something. I don’t know what kind

of internet sites he’s been on; we don’t know that yet. The way everything was laid out...it leads us to believe that we just averted something that could’ve happened in the future, majorly. I think we dodged some stuff here. The way it was packaged, he could’ve made multiple bombs. I think he was getting ready to start experimenting. It’s all of our beliefs that this has probably stopped something that would have happened in the future.”

The juvenile was taken to the police station for questioning with his mother present. He was then transported to the Ware Youth Center.

SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 1

that money be used for added perimeter fencing, let’s say, which could really help at some of our campuses? Those are the questions I have. We’ve been very proactive already in Webster to establish a lot of this. I’m looking forward to future conversations to see just what exactly that money can be used for. But we’re thankful, we’re appreciative, and we’re glad that the federal government down through

the LDOE is recognizing these needs.”

The Department of Education has advised school leaders to solicit ideas from educators, parents, and others in the community for keeping our schools safe. Last year, the state held its first school safety summit, and more than 800 educators and first responders attended. The next safety summit is scheduled for June 15 at Raising Cane’s River Center in Baton Rouge.

EDUCATION

Officials are trying to remedy a decline in TOPS scholarship participation

GABBY JIMENEZ
LSU Manship School News Service

BATON ROUGE—State officials are trying to figure out how to remedy a decline in TOPS scholarship participation throughout the state.

The Taylor Opportunity Program for Students, known as TOPS, is a merit-based scholarship funded by the state. The program offers scholarships to Louisiana residents attending public colleges, universities or vocational schools in the state.

Kim Hunter Reed, Louisiana’s commissioner on higher education, spoke to the House Committee on Appropriations Thursday about the declining participation numbers.

As the number of high school graduates in the state has declined, so has the number of eligible TOPS recipients, Reed said. Acceptance rates for TOPS scholarship have

also seen a decline, she said.

For those who were eligible and did not use TOPS last year, 12.9% of the students missed the one-year deadline to accept their TOPS scholarship, according to Reed, and 56.8% enrolled at a school part-time. TOPS does not cover part-time enrollment.

Fourteen percent of the eligible students enrolled at a school out of state, Reed said. But 15% of students, or 8,000 TOPS eligible students, did not go anywhere.

“They’re not in the national database,” Reed said. “They’re not in our state’s database. And so we have to continue to ask the question: What is happening in terms of talent development? And how do we reach these students?”

Reed said the declining participation is particularly concerning due to the large number of stu-

dents who are eligible for the scholarships but still choose to not use it.

Rep. Debbie Villio, R-Kenner, asked if the declining numbers were correlated to a lack of face-to-face instruction during the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to Reed and Sujuan Boutté, executive director for the Louisiana Office of Student Financial Assistance, there has been a continuous decline in participation since before the pandemic started.

Among the various types of awards, Boutté said, the TOPS Tech award, which provides scholarships for students to attend a vocational or technical school, has the highest percentage of eligible recipients not appearing on records. The percentage of students not showing up on records decreases as the requirements for each scholarship increases,

which Boutté attributed to students’ preparedness to attend a post-secondary institution.

“Where we’re checking is – did those students go straight to work? ... We are seeing those greater trends for those that were enrolled part-time, those that missed the deadline. Those are your most affected students,” Boutté said.

Other states are luring TOPS eligible students with incentives like bigger scholarships and better financial aid, Reed noted.

Reed emphasized the importance of communication and outreach, especially in high school, to ensure students are aware of the program.

“We’ve got to meet students where they are, and make sure that they know that there are opportunities for them to pursue education,” Reed said.

SURPLUS

Continued from Page 1

up some of the money we are paying in interest.”

Currently in Webster Parish, there are a number of projects already in the works to improve infrastructure.

“One of the things that has been really good for our state, including District 10, over the past couple of years is the water sector money we put in place as a legislature,” McMahan said. “I think the first round was \$300 million and the second round for water sector was \$450 million. That is \$750 million that came back to a lot of rural communities to upgrade rural water associations and sewer systems. That is what the funds were delegated for so there were guidelines on how the funding could be used. That has been very good for our district as it has allowed us to upgrade water lines, water wells, purification systems and some other sewer projects in our district. The idea is to facilitate some of the water systems to consolidate so they will have more wells to back

each other up and have better water volume and pressure at the fringes of the water associations.”

“We have been very fortunate to get several water projects in this district,” McMahan said. “These are the types of projects we have had problems finding funding for. We recognized, as a legislative body, these needs and decided we wanted to dedicate some of the federal monies to upgrade and fortify some of our infrastructure needs in the water and sewer sector.”

Of course, everyone knows that bridges and roads across the parish and state need upgrades.

“When I got into the legislature in 2018, the DOTD told me we had about \$14 billion worth of backlog in infrastructure across our state that needed to be addressed,” McMahan said. “The last figure for these needs was around \$18 billion. We have a lot of road mileage that needs to be addressed and we are looking for ways to move some funds toward that.”

When asked how road

projects are selected, Representative McMahan explained that the Department of Transportation and Development (DOTD) is charged with that.

“DOTD does a good job in prioritizing what we need to do first. They have a to-do list of which roads are most traveled and in the most need of repair. Some of the rural roads that need to be repaired have low traffic counts. When deciding which roads to fix first, the priority goes to the roads that have the most traffic. That is something the DOTD does, and I think they do a pretty good job.”

DOTD has a vehicle with sensors that can measure the deterioration of a road. If you have ever noticed a road that appears to be in good condition getting a chip seal, that is because that road has been evaluated and found to be getting close to needing repairs. Instead of waiting three or four years and then needing a new overlay on them, the chip seal will give about eight more years of usability for a fraction of

the cost of overlay.

“Louisiana is in a really good place right now, coming out of COVID and getting back on our feet,” said McMahan. “Tax revenue is up. There are some major projects we need to do across the state. However, getting workers and enough people to put the infrastructure in place is a bit of a problem. We are still having supply chain issues with getting materials to do water and sewer projects. There are many projects out there that we have funds for right now that are still not finished because of these issues. We have several bridges that need to be worked on.”

“I think we have a good legislature. We work hard as a group, and we’re in a good place to move forward to make our state better over the next five to ten years if we are prudent and conscientious with the money we have and spend it wisely.”

Watch for updates on the regular legislative session in future Minden Press-Herald articles.



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OPINION

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203 GLEASON STREET
MINDEN, LOUISIANA 71055
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Executive Vice President

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WILL PHILLIPS
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OPINION

U.S. intelligence officials who claimed Hunter Biden laptop story was ‘Russian disinformation’ knew that was false

It turns out that the 51 former U.S. intelligence experts who signed the letter that President Biden used in the debate with President Trump to allege that the explosive and damaging information contained in Hunter Biden's laptop was a Russian fake—were, in fact, pushing the actual “Russian disinformation” campaign!

Recall, this letter was also the “authority” used by Twitter, Facebook, and many other social media platforms to censor and hide from the American people the New York Post's article which, in great detail, reported the truth about abundant evidence of widespread global corruption of the Biden Crime Family contained on Hunter's ‘Laptop from Hell.’

Former CIA Deputy Director Michael Morrell testified this past week that then-Biden campaign senior adviser, now-Secretary of State Anthony Blinken, was the “impetus” of the public statement signed in October 2020 that falsely but persuasively suggested the laptop belonging to Hunter Biden was “Russian disinformation.”

Let me try to summarize this slimy mess.

Our current Secretary of State, Anthony Blinken, was the driving force behind the fabrication of a letter signed by 51 former intelligence officials to discredit the Hunter Biden laptop story as Russian disinformation

when they knew full well it was not.

And why did Morrell, Blinken and the rest falsely discredit the New York Post story regarding Hunter Biden's laptop as supposed Russian disinformation?

“One intent was to share our (known)ly false) concern with the American people that the Russians were playing on this issue; and two, it was to help Vice President Biden ... to win the election.”

How should we interpret this?

Well, we all enjoy freedom of speech and the right to our own opinions, but it was of great significance and gravity that these prominent, credentialed former intelligence officials lent their names to this knowingly false statement. Millions of Americans assumed the signatories of the letter had access to information that we, as average American citizens, did not have. They were right. These officials did have special knowledge and that's the reason their signing the letter and attesting to this falsehood is all the more deceitful, manipulative, and damaging.

What was the result?



ROYAL ALEXANDER

It provided a lazy, compliant, Biden-supporting national media with the justification it needed to ignore the Hunter Biden laptop story and discredit Hunter's former business partner, Tony Bobulinski, who went on the record before the election to substantiate much of the information on the laptop through the use of huge numbers of text messages.

Why does this matter so much?

Because the revelation of influence-peddling by Hunter Biden just prior to the election was obviously newsworthy given that former VP Biden had repeatedly said he had “never spoken to my son about his overseas business dealings.”

The emails effectively proved that Joe Biden was not only aware of his son's business dealings but actually participated in meetings in support of this lucrative, international scheme to sell access to the U.S. Government. Thus, Joe Biden demonstrably lied directly to the American people throughout the 2020 campaign and in the Presidential Debates.

So, how should we view this joint effort by the national media and these current and former intelligence officials and other Administration officials who essentially colluded to suppress the Hunter Biden Laptop story?

The Wall Street Journal offers a sobering admonition: This “partisan foray by current and former U.S. intelligence officials ... should be deeply troubling to Americans on the left and right. They have authority by dint of access to information that isn't confirmable by the press, which takes their spin as gospel. This is a form of political corruption that needs to be exposed ...” (WSJ, 12-5-22)

What effect would this damaging information have had on the 2020 election?

After the election, a full 17% of Biden voters polled stated that they would not have voted for Joe Biden had they known prior to the election of the information contained on the laptop.

Remember, Pres. Trump only lost the Electoral College count by a mere 44,000 votes in three swing states out of approximately 154.6 million votes cast nationwide!

As a result of this malevolent suppression of the truth, the voice of the people was silenced, and the trajectory of American history and world history was forever changed.

This was a dirty, cynical, and corrupt political trick of the first order that we have a moral and civic obligation to unflinching call out and expose.

ROYAL ALEXANDER IS A SHREVEPORT ATTORNEY.

INSPIRATION

The therapeutic benefits of writing

Dr. Molly Harrower Gaines, psychiatrist and author of Therapy in Poetry wrote “Long before there were therapists there were poets, and from time immemorial man has struggled to cope with his inevitable, inner turmoil. One way of so coping has been the ballad, the song, the poem. Once crystallized into words, all engulfing feelings become manageable, and once challenged into explicitness, the burden of the incommunicable becomes less heavy.”

I cannot begin to tell you how many times I have quoted Doctor Gaines. Following her advice helped me to cope with my own emotions when I was literally going off the deep end.

Had it not been for God, and for the ability to draw others into my life, I can't imagine what might have happened to me.

It's just like Erma Bombeck told me in a letter, “it's not the money you make writing but knowing your words have touched people you've never met.”

That's the jst pf why writing is important.

Writing not only bridges



SARAH HUDSON PIERCE

gaps between us but acts as a safety valve to keep us from going off the deep end. There's nothing like writing to relieve emotional pressure that wells up inside.

Someone has said that “the key to happiness is having someone to love, something to do and something to hope for!”

What a magic mix!

I am just so grateful for being me -- for being able to cope in the midst of storms!

We can't make it alone nor would we want to. Writing is one way of connecting -- of giving others the courage to open up and pour out their pain.

It's just like the poet, George Eliot, wrote “Oh, the inexpressible joy of feel-

ing safe with another, being able to pour out all that's in our heart, knowing the gentlest of hands will sift out the chaff and grain together and keep what is worth keeping and blow the rest away!

Writing gives me purpose as I use my words to reach out, to give others hope in the mist of their emotional storms because “we are far more alike than we are different” to paraphrase the poet Maya Angelou.

Our emotions are our bond that bind us together as one!

Write! It's good for our mental health.

CONTACT SARAH AT SARAH9957@AOL.COM

OPINION

The Advocate: For Louisiana's students, hurricane disruptions live on

With Louisiana having seen some of the worst storms to hit in years, it is no surprise at all that more students are not at their desks in public schools.

Among the hardest hit in the latest head count was St. John the Baptist Parish. Its public school district lost 1 out of every 6 of its students over the past three years. Most of those losses have occurred since August 2021, when Hurricane Ida steamrolled through southeast Louisiana.

The storm shut down schools in St. John and they stayed closed, in some cases, for more than two months. Several were damaged, and students and staff went to other locations. The last displaced school, Emily C. Watkins Elementary in LaPlace, is set to return to its original

campus this fall, in time for the two-year anniversary of Ida.

State Superintendent of Education Cade Brumley said in an interview he's not surprised that the effects of the hurricanes continue.

“It was pretty clear to me that we were going to see loss in those southern parishes,” Brumley said. “I was on the ground after the storm and I could tell that housing in the local community was severely impacted by the wind and the rain.”

Unfortunately, Ida was not the only big storm to come calling during this decade. Hurricanes Laura and Delta hit a year earlier to the west, savaging the Lake Charles area.

Calcasieu and Cameron parishes accounted for a fifth of the students who were

missing from public school rolls in fall 2020.

Cameron Parish has continued to slowly shed students since then; its enrollment has declined by almost 18% since spring 2020. Calcasieu Parish finally bottomed out in spring 2022 and has added about 400 students since. But Calcasieu schools are still 11.4% below where they were three years ago.

There is no way to sugarcoat the consequences of hurricanes like those, with the disruption of housing and jobs and, most consequential for the future, schools and education.

In some places, it's a lack of contractors to do all the work needed at one time. In much of south Louisiana, though, many residents have left, Kevin Belanger, head of

the regional planning commission on the Terrebonne coast, said in an interview. Terrebonne Parish has lost almost 2,100 students since the pandemic, a 12% decline. About 1,700 of those students have left since Hurricane Ida.

And if families have tried to rebuild, it's been a hard slog. One issue that keeps cropping up there is the rapid rise in housing insurance rates.

The thing that kills us is insurance costs, Belanger said. That is the key driving everything. That is the elephant in the room.”

As is, we would add, poverty.

The lack of affordable housing is a problem in schools, even when jobs are growing: Families living on the margins are likely

to move as often as a new apartment rental special opens up. That wreaks havoc with school schedules at the best of times.

School enrollment studies by a consortium that included The Associated Press and Stanford University suggested that about 14,000 students are “missing” out of school in the state. Many of them are in the hurricane-afflicted parishes, where recovery can't happen fast enough.

Everyone is familiar with the disruptions of the pandemic closures. But the storms' impacts may be longer-lasting and lead to learning loss that affects a generation.

SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL



COURTESY OF DOYLINE PANTHERS ATHLETICS
Doyline sophomore Noah Spears pitched a perfect game last week in a 3-0 non-select Division V first-round playoff victory over Simsboro.

Doyline’s Spears pitches perfect game in playoffs

Minden, North Webster fall in first round

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Sophomore Noah Spears pitched a perfect game last as the No. 16 seed Doyline Panthers defeated No. 17 Simsboro 3-0 in the first round of the non-select Division V playoffs Friday night at Simsboro.

Doyline (10-16) visits No. 1 Choudrant (26-4) in the second round Thursday at 6. Choudrant received a first-round bye.

Elsewhere, Minden and North Webster had their seasons come to an end.

Minden, the No. 17 seed, fell to No. 16 Franklin Parish 11-3 in Game 2 of their non-select Division II best-of-3 first-round series in Winnboro. Franklin Parish won Game 1 4-3.

North Webster, the No. 14 seed, was swept by No. 19 Caldwell Parish 8-3 and 6-5 in a non-select Division III first-round series in Springhill.

Lakeside (18-13), the No. 5 seed, hosts No. 12 Mangham (13-19) in non-select Division IV second-round game Thursday at 6.

The Warriors received a first-round bye. Mangham

defeated No. 21 Merryville 6-5.

Glenbrook (22-10), the No. 3 seed, hosts No. 14 Vermilion Catholic (16-11) in a select Division IV second-round game Friday at 6.

At Simsboro, Spears struck out 18 of the 21 batters he faced. The other three outs were ground balls.

Spears threw 90 pitches of which 64 were strikes.

The game was scoreless until the Panthers tallied a run in the top of the sixth.

Caysten Mingo smacked a triple with two outs and scored on Dakota Stewart’s double.

Doyline added two more in the top of the seventh.

Kenneth Lee and Austin Arbaugh led off with back-to-back singles.

The Tigers turned a double play, but Stewart ripped a two-RBI double to left field.

Stewart finished 2-for-4 with three RBI. Lee went 3-for-3 with a double. Mingo went 2-for-3.

Cameron Johnson and Spears also had hits.

Simsboro closed its season 18-11.

At Franklin Parish, Minden led 2-0 in Game 1 after scoring a run in the top of the sixth.

But Franklin Parish put four on the board in the bottom of the inning. Cason Cloessner’s two-RBI single with two outs broke a 2-2 tie.

The Patriots had one other single in the inning and took advantage of an error and two hit-by-pitches.

Brandon Winston and Jakobe Jackson both drew walks with one out in the top of the seventh.

Winston advanced to third on a single by Brody Bower but the Patriots were able to record the second out.

With runners at the corners, Winston scored on an error. But a groundout ended the game.

Minden had seven hits. Elliott Sheppard and Landyn Huddleston both went 2-for-2.

Brody Bower started and went 5 2/3 innings. He struck out nine, gave up five hits and walked four.

In Game 2, two Patriots pitchers limited Minden to three hits.

Huddleston went 2-for-4. Sheppard had a single.

Minden finished 18-14 in its first season under Head Coach Cody Davis.

At North Webster, the Knights came close to evening the series in the second game.

North Webster, the designated visiting team in Game 2, trailed 3-0 after three innings. The Knights rallied with one run in the top of the fourth, three in the second and one in the sixth to take a 5-3 lead.

But the Spartans scored three in the bottom of the sixth.

North Webster had seven hits. Judd Wesson went 2-for-2 with an RBI.

Nathan Bernard, Colin McKenzie, Ethyn Radar and Jase Wesson had one single apiece.

In Game 1, Caldwell Parish led 2-1 after four innings then scored five in the top of the fifth. The Spartans had six singles in the inning.

North Webster had four hits. Radar went 2-for-3 with an RBI. Kyle Dinkins had a double and an RBI. McKenzie had a single.

North Webster closed its season 18-12.

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Curtain comes down on season

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

The curtain came down on the 2023 season last week.

The Minden Lady Tid-ers, Lakeside Lady Warriors and Glenbrook Lady Apaches all won first-round playoff games but lost to higher seeds in the second round.

The North Webster Lady Knights and Doyline Lady Panthers lost in the first round.

Minden, the No. 12 seed defeated No. 21 Franklinton 2-0 in the first round at the Minden Rec Center then fell to No. 5 Brusly 10-0 on the road.

Kylie Ryan pitched a two-hitter with 14 strikeouts against Franklinton.

Minden scored both runs in the bottom of the fifth.

Jacey Adams led off with a single and Kaylin Williams was hit by a pitch.

With two outs, both players advanced on steals.

Adams scored on an error on a bunt attempt by Taryn Tinsley. Ryan then doubled to right field.

The Lady Demons only put one runner on base in the final two innings, a two-out walk in the seventh. Four of Ryan’s strikeouts came in those innings.

The Lady Tid-ers got one hit off Brusly ace Amelia Bouvier in the five-inning game. Lindsay Ryan had a single in the first inning.

Minden, the District 1-4A runner-up, closed its season 20-12.

Lakeside, the No. 9 seed in non-select Division IV, defeated No. 24 Centerville 16-1 in three innings in the first round then fell to No. 8 Vinton 10-6 on the road.

The Lady Warriors scored six in the first, six in the second and four in the third against Centerville.

Lakeside got four hits and took advantage of 12 walks.

McKenna Chreene, Hallie Sutton, Emily Jones and McKensie Hamiter all had singles.

Nine Lady Warriors drew walks. Maggie Mandino, Rainie Hughes and and Paiton Levesque all walked twice.

Chreene allowed three hits and struck out six.

Lakeside got off to a great start against Vinton with four runs in the first.

Vinton answered with two in the bottom of the inning and tied it at 4 with two more in the third.

The Lady Lions scored four in the fourth. The Lady Warriors cut the lead to two with two in the top of the sixth.

Vinton extended the lead back to four with two in the bottom of the inning.

Sutton went 2-for-4 with a home run and three RBI. Chreene went 2-for-3 with two doubles.

Mackenzie McCoy, Ra-leah Harris and Paiton Levesque had one hit and one RBI apiece.

Emily Jones also had a hit.

Chreene completed an outstanding season in the circle with nine strikeouts.

Lakeside finished 20-11. The Lady Warriors won 14 more games than they did in 2022.

Glenbrook, the No. 14 seed in select Division IV, defeated No. 19 Hanson Memorial 9-6 in the first round then fell to No. 3 St. Frederick 13-3 in the second.

The Lady Apaches took a 6-1 lead against Hanson Memorial with two runs in each of the first three innings.

Hanson Memorial scored a run in the top of the fifth then tied it at 6 with four in the top of the sixth.

Glenbrook quickly broke the tie, scoring three in the bottom of the inning.

Five Lady Apaches combined for seven hits.

Sarah Margaret Mosley went 2-for-2. She walked

and scored the go-ahead run on a wild pitch in the sixth.

Gabi Brown smacked a two-run home run with two outs in the sixth.

Anna Grace Vining went 2-for-3. Vivian Still had a double. Rebecca Mosley went the distance for the win.

Brown hit a three-run home run against St. Frederick.

Still, Sarah Margaret Mosley and Rebecca Mosley all had singles.

Glenbrook, the District 1-1A champion, finished 15-12.

North Webster, the No. 21 seed in non-select Division III, lost to No. 12 Caldwell Parish 10-6 on the road in the first round.

The Lady Knights trailed 10-1 after four in-nings. They scored five in the top of the sixth but couldn’t complete the comeback.

Aniyah Davis hit a grand slam home run with two outs in the sixth. She also had a single and scored on a wild pitch in the third.

Anekah Coleman went 2-for-3 with a double.

North Webster closed its season 13-15.

Doyline, the No. 24 seed in non-select Division V, fell to No. 9 Choudrant on the road in the first round.

HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD

Glenbrook girls runner-up in District 1-1A

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Glenbrook finished runner-up in the girls division of the District 1-1A meet last week at Plain Dealing.

The Lady Apaches scored 93 points. Haynesville won with 128. Plain Dealing was third with 76 and Magnolia School of Excellence fourth with 67.

Glenbrook finished fifth in the boys division with 42 points. Haynesville won with 219. Ring-gold was second with 82, Homer third with 74 and Arcadia fourth with 60.

The top four finishers in individual events and the top four teams in the three relays qualified for the Region I-1A meet which was schedule for Tuesday at Ouachita Christian.

Glenbrook’s Vivian Still, Emerson McLelland and Laurie Killgore won district titles in the girls division.

Still, a sophomore, competed in her first meet of the season after helping the Lady Apaches softball team reach the second round of the Division IV playoffs.

She and Killgore, an eighth-grader, finished 1-2 in the 800-meter run in 2 minutes, 44.63 seconds and 3:06.05, respectively.

Still also finished second in the 400 in 1:06.09. Magnolia’s Rayonna Evans won in 1:05.43.

Killgore and McLelland, a seventh-grader, finished 1-2 in the 3,200 in 15:40.81 and 15:58.91, respectively.

McLelland won the

1,600 in 7:01.35. Ring-gold’s Faith Clifton was second in 7:17.04.

Eighth-grader Anna Morales and Hallie Hammond posted runner-up finishes.

Morales was second in the javelin with a throw of 81 feet, 6 inches. Haynesville’s Layla Tell won with an 87-7.

Hammond took second in the shot put with a throw of 28-11. Plain Dealing’s Brianna Newton won with a 33-2.

Junior Olivia Downer and sophomore Emily Chanler both had best distances of 28-3 in the triple jump. Downer took third via the tiebreaker. Haynesville’s Zyariah Mosley won with a 31-3.

Glenbrook finished second in the 4X400 relay in 5:14.17. Magnolia won in 4:55.95. (Names of relay team members were unavailable.)

Seventh-grader Carson Powell won a district title in the boys division. He took the 1,600 in 5:31.77. Haynesville freshman Carl Smith was second in 5:37.00.

Powell also qualified for the regional meet in the 800 with a fourth-place finish.

Senior Turner McLelland, a member of the Apaches’ baseball team competing in his first meet, finished third in the 400 in 58.59. Haynesville’s DeMondra Martin won in 57.77.

Junior Nick Killgore was third in the 3,200 in 13:54.13. Smith won in 12:44.27.

Glenbrook’s 4X100 relay team qualified with a fourth-place finish.

Five Lakeside athletes win events in 1-2A meet

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Five Lakeside athletes won events in the District 1-2A meet last week in Sibley.

The Warriors finished fourth in the boys and girls divisions.

Lakeside scored 95 points in the boys division, just one point be-

hind third-place finisher Green Oaks. Loyola won 130.

Lakeside scored 68 in the girls division. Loyola won with 167.

Connor Wood and teammate Jamarion Evans finished 1-2 in the boys discus. Wood threw 107 feet and Evans 105-8.

See, LAKESIDE, Page 6

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Minden Press-Herald & Holcomb’s

Athlete of the Week



Vivian Still

Glenbrook School

After helping the Lady Apaches softball team reach the second round of the playoffs, the sophomore won the 800 and finished second in the 400 in the District 1-1A track and field meet.

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

SPORTS

Russell Hedges, Sports Editor
rhedges@spechtnewspapers.com

HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD

Sixteen Minden athletes set to compete in Region I-4A meet

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Sixteen Minden athletes qualified for Thursday's Region I-4A meet at the District 1-4A last week at North DeSoto.

The Region I-4A meet is set for Lee Hedges Stadium in Shreveport.

The top four finishers in individual events and the top four teams in the four relays qualified.

Brayden Britton had the Tide's best finish. He was the runner-up in the boys 110-meter hurdles in 17.09 seconds. North

DeSoto's Dale Howard won in 16.32.

Porter Neal and Christian Lofton finished third and fourth, respectively, in the boys 1,600.

The foursome of Lemaario Elkins, Christian Lofton, Jakerryon Montgomery and Porter Neal was third in the boys 4X800 relay.

The foursome of Ariyanna Quarles, Mia Feaster, Kiara Dixon and Keirsten Dixon finished third in the girls 4X400 relay.

Kiara Dixon was fourth in the girls high jump.

Cameron Parker finished

fourth in the boys 300 hurdles.

The team of Kaiden Shine, Tyjaveyin McClen-don, Britton and Jaylin Williams was fourth in the boys 4X200.

Williams was fourth in the 200. He finished just .23 seconds behind runner-up Mar'javius Moss of Northwood. Williams ran a 23.47. Evangel Christian's Tyreek Robinson won in 22.64.

Minden finished sixth with 48 points. North DeSoto won with 168.

Huntington won the girls division.

Doyline's Harris wins four events in District 1-B meet

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Doyline junior Izayla Harris won four events in the District 1-B meet last weel in Castor.

Harris won the girls 100-meter dash in 12.36 seconds, the 200 in 26.15, the 400 in 1:01.24 and the triple jump with a distance of 34 feet, 11.5 inches.

She won all four in typical dominating fashion, taking the 100 by 1.20 seconds, the 200 by 2.60, the 400 by 5.86 and the triple jump by 4 feet, 6 inches.

The top four finishers in the individual events and the top four teams in the relays qualified for the Region I-B meet which was schedule for Tuesday at Quitman.

Doyline freshman Tak-erria Washington won the 800 in 2:48.88. Quitman's Megan Kelley was second in 2:56.69.



Izayla Harris
FILE PHOTO

Washington also finished third in the 400 in 1:08.47.

Sophomore Peyton Handy finished third in the long jump and triple jump. She went 14-2 in the former and 29-2 in the latter.

Seventh-grader Karmryn Harris finished fourth in the 100 hurdles. Eighth-grader Lanie Gates was fourth in the 300 hurdles.

Junior Nadia Lara was fourth in the 800.

In the boys division, sophomore Jonas Florence won the discus with a 98-9, 16-8.5 farther than the best throw of runner-up Caden Bryant of Castor.

Sophomore Caysten Mingo took second in the javelin with a 130-2. Castor's Johnathan Warren won with a 136-3.

Sophomore Landon Spears finished second in the high jump with a 5-8. Castor's Jamarion Clark won with a 5-10.

Spears also finished third in the triple jump

Doyline finished third in the 4X100 relay and fourth in the 4X200 and 4X400.

Freshman Zach Moreno took third in the 3,200 in 13:58.21. He was also fourth in the pole vault,

Keidric Clark was fourth in the 110 hurdles.

Large group of North Webster athletes headed to I-3A meet

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

A large contingent of North Webster athletes are heading to the Region I-3A meet after qualifying in the District 1-3A meet last week at Sterlington.

The top four finishers in individual events and the top four teams in the four relays qualified for Wednesday's meet at ULM.

North Webster finished fourth in the boys division with 75.5 points. Wossman was first with 141, Sterlington second with 134 and Carroll third with 114.

North Webster finished fifth in the girls division with 72 points. Sterlington won with 141. Wossman was second with 109, Union Parish third with 85 and Carroll fourth with 83.

No North Webster athlete win a district title, but the Lady Knights came close in the girls 4X200-meter relay.

The foursome of Anekah Coleman, Nevaeh Watts, De'Maiyh Moore and Markiau Scott finished second in 1:46.83, just .17

behind Wossman.

Kalli Bethany finished second in the girls pole vault with a 6-6. Sterlington's Brooklyn Beach won with a 7-0.

Braedon Roberson came close to winning the boys long jump. He leaped 21 feet, just 3 inches shorter than the best jump by winner Deondre Washington of Carroll.

Avante Curry finished second in the boys 300 hurdles in 42.23. Wossman's Makiah Smith won in 40.77.

Curry and Robertson teamed with Jkobe Lawson and Dejuan Coleman for a runner-up finish in the 4X100 relay in 43.65. Wossman won in 42.05.

The same foursome finished third in the 4X200 in 1:31.36. Wossman won in 1:28.00.

Lawson, a freshman, also qualified in the 100 and 200 with third-place finishes. He ran a 10.90 in the 100 and a 22.29 in the 200.

Wossman's Johnny Woods won both, running a 10.65 in the 100 and a 21.67 in the 200. He won

the 100 and finished second in the 200 in the Class 3A meet last year.

Kedrien Cody took third in the boys 110 hurdles in 16.99. Wossman's Brian Fisher won in 14.35.

Jamyrian Jackson and Kemaurion Jefferson qualified with fourth-place finishes in the javelin and high jump, respectively.

The foursome of Watts, Tomiyah Hawthorne, Moore and Scott finished third in the girls 4X100 in 51.52. Wossman won in 49.48.

Nyla Willis took third in the javelin with a 68-1. .

Watts finished fourth in a very tight 100. She ran a 12.64. Winner Kamilya Merrweather of Wossman ran a 12.25.

Coleman was fourth in the 200 in 26.74. .

Mathilde Lian and Quianna Clark qualified with fourth-place finishes in the discus and high jump, respectively.

The foursome of Abigail Lorenz, SherAsia Mendenhall, Ramzee Lewis and Amiyah White qualified with a fourth-place finish in 4X800 relay.

LAKESIDE

Continued from Page 5

Kentravion Miller took the boys discus with a 38-2. D'Arbonne Woods' Carlos Alejo was second with a 36-9.

Rodney Smith won the boys long jump with a 20-6. Green Oaks' Amarion Dorsey was second with a 19-7.

Madison McGraw won the girls 3,200 in 16:28.83. Loyola's Isabella Cascio was second in 16:42.18.

Omero Urbina took second in the boys 400 in 54.75. D'Arbonne Woods' Abram Garcia won in 52.98.

MvKenzie Chase finished tied for first in the girls pole vault with a 7-0.

Krystal Cornelius was second in the girls discus with a 77-8. D'Arbonne Woods' Steele Hough won with an 81-6.

Tarmarjah Ferrell was

second in the boys triple jump with a 39-7. Green Oaks' Cortaveous Dorsey won with a 41-4.

Chad Davis finished second in the javelin with a 137-10.5. Loyola's Cooper DeFatta won with a 142-1.

Lexi Bradley was second in the girls 1,600 in 6:13.42. She finished just .03 behind Calvary Baptist's Anna Sarkozi.

The foursome of Jordan Case, Jaylon Jackson, JaCoby Curry and Urbina was second in the boys 4X400 in 3:38.13. Calvary Baptist won in 3:33.14.

The top four finishers in individual events and the top four teams in the four relays qualified for the Region I-2A meet Wednesday in Mansfield.

Lakeside's third-place finishers in individual events were Lillian Jolly

(girls 800), Bailey Mangrum (girls 300 hurdles), Aybrie Plunkett (girls javelin) and James Maxie (boys 300 hurdles),

The foursome of Jeremiah Allen, Tarmarjah Ferrell, Joshua Sebald and Jacob Whitehead finished third in the boys 4X100 relay.

The foursome of Naja White, Ja'Kiah Williams, Ke'ara Thompson and Alexis Odom was fourth in the girls 4X100.

The team of White, Ty'breyanna Williams, Ja'Kiah Williams and Thompson was fourth in the girls 4X200.

The foursome of Gavin Woodall, Michael Stanaland, Mason Liles and Brandon Bell finished fourth in the boys 4X800.

Jacob Whitehead was fourth in the long jump.

OUTDOORS

Spring time is bird watching time

GLYNN HARRIS

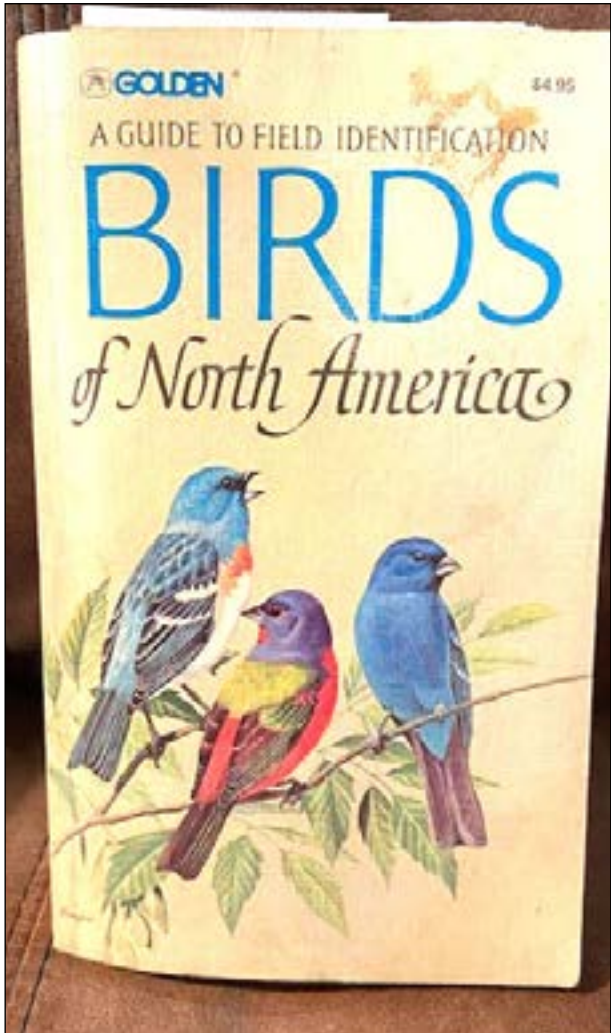
I got a little excited this morning when I saw on Facebook that someone down around Alexandria had taken a photo of a special bird on his feeder. It's a bird I start watching for about this time every spring.

Rose Breasted Grosbeak. I'll start getting texts and calls from folks around this area who will send me a photo, asking what kind of bird this is. If you see one as they pass through and they stop for a bite on their way to their northern breeding grounds, I can guarantee it will get your attention because of the striking colors – black back, white under belly and a crimson patch on the upper chest.

As a novice birder, it all started for me as a youngster with my mom. She would hear an unfamiliar birdsong, pick up her tattered bird book as my brother, sister and I would follow her outside to find the bird she was interested in. This triggered something in me that has captivated my interest since those boyhood days.

I may be sitting on a deer stand and see a particular bird and for a moment would forget why I was on the deer hunt. I wanted to know what bird it was and I'd try to get a photo and dig out my bird book when I got home to try and identify it.

My wife and I keep our bird feeders filled with the anticipation that we just might see one that has alluded us for the past several years. In my opinion, the Painted Bunting is the



A bird book may be tattered but is important in helping identify song birds.

GLYNN HARRIS

most beautiful bird the Good Lord ever created. He must love birds a lot to have created one with red underparts, blue back with a bright chartreuse patch on the upper back. I can guarantee you, should you spot one, it'll take your breath away.

Our introduction to Painted Buntings took place years ago when I spotted one on our feeder one mid-April morning. Incredibly one would show

up in our yard within a few days of the same time each spring, usually around April 15 for ten years straight. For some reason, these handsome birds have shunned our feeder for the past several years but we have memories of those special times when they graced us with visits.

As beautiful as the male is, the female Painted Bunting has the distinction of being the only song bird we have

with the coloration of a brilliant yellow-green. To see a pair on the feeder was a treat indeed.

This time of year, the cousin of the Painted Bunting, the Indigo Bunting is a frequent visitor to our feeders. Coloration is described in my bird book as an iridescent blue.

Another that is likely to show up is the Blue Grosbeak, slightly larger than the Indigo, blue but with rusty colored wing bars.

During winter, folks in our part of the world have visitors that usually run in packs and they love to feed on bags of thistle seed we hang. They're rather drab in color and you wonder how they get the name Gold Finch. However, these birds undergo a transition as they head north and if we're fortunate we get glimpses of them as the drab gray transitions to a brilliant bright yellow. Some of the birds wintering south of us are passing through now and I have seen a couple on my feeders showing off their bright yellow coloration.

There are some who can legitimately be called "birders" who are much more adept at bird identification than I am, making annual birding trips and keeping life lists of birds they identify. For novices like me, I just enjoy trying the best I can to identify those I happen to see.

My old tattered "Birds of North America" is a constant companion as I flip through dog-eared pages to see if I can correctly identify the latest little bundle of flit and feathers I see in my yard.

Fishing Report

BLACK BAYOU – Bream are on the beds and hitting worms and crickets. Crappie are good fishing around the trees and brush. Contact Honey Hole Tackle Shop 323-8707 for latest information.

BUSSEY BRAKE – Big bass are continuing to come in with some 10 pounds and better flipping soft plastics around brush. Crappie are on the spawning beds and hitting shiners or jigs and the bream are starting to spawn. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole at 323-8707.

OUACHITA RIVER – The water is high. No fishing reports this week. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE D'ARBONNE – Crappie fishing continues to be good as some of the fish are still spawning while some are spawned out and are hitting jigs or shiners fished 10 feet deep in 18 foot water. Some big bass are still in bedding areas and hitting soft plastics and jigs. Bream are spawning and hitting crickets or night crawlers. Catfish continue to be 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 – The bream bite is on as they have moved to shallow spawning areas and are hitting crickets. Bass fishing has been good this week, fishing shallow wa-

ter with Chatter baits and soft plastics. A good many crappie are being caught on yo-yos baited with shiners. Stripers are starting to show up. No report on catfish just yet. For latest information, call Kel's Cove at 927-2264 or Terzia Tackle at 278-4498.

CANEY LAKE – Big bass are on the beds with some really big females up to 10 pounds have been caught. The hot bait this week is the Trace Glide lure fished just outside the grass. Sinko lures are also taking some good fish. Some crappie are still spawning in the shallows with some good ones caught on shiners and jigs while post-spawn fish have moved back. The bream are moving to the beds with quite a few beginning to show up. 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 and out of the shallows as some have already spawned. Bream are moving in to spawn. No report on bass. For latest reports, call Poverty Point Marina at 318/878-0101. For information, call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.

LAKE YUCATAN – The water is falling and it will be a week or so before it gets low enough for the fishermen to show up. For information, call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.

Good News

GOOD NEWS

THE POWER OF THE RESURRECTION

John 3:16 gives explanation of why Jesus died on the cross... "for God so loved the world." Had Jesus not been committed to follow the Father's will, even to death on the cross, the Divine Plan for His resurrection would be null or void. Imagine after God spending all of this planning, detailing and putting these circumstances together in the minds and hearts of the great prophets of old, only to have His own Son stall at the last minute! Praise God that was not in the 'game plan.' He followed through with the agonizing death, allowing the 'sins of the world to be the nails in his hands.' It was for our sins that He suffered and died. The great exchange: God gave His Son to die for the sins of the world. In return, we cast our sins on Him at the cross. He, who knew no sin, became sin for our sake. God gave the world His Son; in return, we gave our sins over to Him. He became sin, and in exchange we became justified through the process and was made 'joint-heirs' with Christ... a Child of God's....adopted into his righteousness. We are now Ambassadors for Him in our daily walk.

Carefully he was removed from the cross by Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus (both were Pharisees) and placed in Joseph's new tomb. They rolled

a great stone in front of the entrance to them and went away. Some women were watching from across the way. And we all know the rest of the story. It was Friday, but Sunday was coming.

When the news reached the disciples that Jesus was not in the tomb, a hush of fear gripped them. Later behind locked doors, they were comforted, yet fearful when Jesus appeared to them in his 'resurrected body.' He had a physical appearance as in former days, yet, He had the supernatural power to 'just appear and then disappear.' He still could commune with His disciples and they could interact with Him. But something was strangely different.

The Power of the Resurrection was seen over the countryside during the next 40 days. Jesus appeared to the disciples several times as well other groups. He opened their minds so now they could understand the Scriptures. He reminded them of the passages of His



Bill Crider

suffering and how He would rise from the dead on the third day. He also told them that now repentance and forgiveness of sins will be preached in His name to all nations. And He closed this discussion with these words before His ascension: "You are my witnesses of these things. I am going to send you what my Father has promised; but stay here until you have been clothed by the Holy Spirit from on high."

After some 40 days, the Day of Pentecost was at hand. Again many gathered in Jerusalem to celebrate this annual holiday. Acts 2 speaks of how the Holy Spirit ascended upon the disciples and they were never the same. The mighty power of the Holy Spirit had been released when Jesus ascended into heaven. Did not Jesus promise that if He would not die, the Holy Spirit would come to be a constant guide, the great Comforter to each individual believer and lead them into all truth? It was the Power of the Resurrection.

John records the incident when the Resurrected Lord called the disciples from a night of fishing to come and dine with him (John 21). John presented the Risen Lord, not as a shapeless ghost, but a 'transformed man but of flesh and blood, who ate and drank with

them as one in the flesh. (Wm. Barclay – The Gospel of John, Vol 2; pp 282-83).

"The proclamation of the Resurrection of Jesus lies of the basis of apostolic teaching. It ranks first among all miracles which bear witness to Christ's divine power. It is the divine seal of approval upon Christ's atoning work, and thus is in close connection with the justification of sinners."(Ungers Bible Dictionary, pg.920).

The events in Acts 2 concerning the 'miracle of Pentecost further stamps the incredible power of the Resurrection of Jesus. His promise to his disciples (John 14:25) that upon his death, the Father would send the Holy Spirit to be our great Comforter and reveal further truth to us. This miracle has been referred to the 'birth of the Church.'

In Acts 2: 1-4, Luke describes the coming of the Spirit in three parallel statements, each pointing to an aspect of the event. Those in the upper room were 'filled with the Holy Spirit.' From this point onward in Acts, the gift of the Spirit became a normal experience upon becoming a Christian. V 2: a sound came – a mighty wind and it filled the house; V 3: tongues of fire appeared ... and rested on each of them; they began to speak in other

tongues/languages (where those present could hear and understand in their own language.) It was audible and visible and manifested itself in an outward demonstration of inspired speech. This is described as a rushing, mighty wind. The people gathered there, in Jerusalem to celebrate Pentecost heard and witnessed this miracle. They had come from all corners of the Roman world –thus they took this message and new faith experience back home, expanding the boundaries of the penetrating power of the Holy Spirit. The power of the Resurrection began to thrust the Christian faith into this entire region and has been encircling the earth since then.

Yes, the Power of the Resurrection will continue to be felt in the lives and works of Christians until the return of the Lord. It is this power that continues to change the hearts and lives of all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ as the Holy Son of God who came to 'seek and save that which is lost.' Paul was a champion of what the Resurrection of Jesus meant to him and a lost world.

BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER

THE UPWARD LOOK

New Characteristics

"And be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving one another, just as God also forgave you in Christ." Ephesians 4:32 HCSB



Max Hutto

As the believer strives to remove the old sinful characteristics, he must put on the new godly characteristics. Kindness is being gracious, friendly, courteous, considerate, and generous to others. Compassionate is being tender-hearted and full of affection and concern for others, especially caring for those in need. Forgiveness is to

tend mercy to others, moving beyond their faults and offenses. Having received God's forgiveness through Christ, the believer must likewise forgive others.

Lord Jesus, as You have shown me mercy and grace, let me show others kindness, compassion, forgiveness, mercy, and grace. Help me to love as You have loved me.

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

INSPIRATION

Down not out

Mike Tyson once said, "Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the mouth". This statement was made during a pre-fight interview for his bout with Evander Holyfield. Tyson's statement can be applied to multiple aspects of life including our walk with God! We as people often fabricate grandiose plans for ourselves. We often find that as followers of God, our plans don't match His in direction, scale, or timing. Then one faithful day life punches you in the mouth and everything seems to fall apart. You must then ask yourself one quintessential question. How do I get back up? Well, wonder no longer because God has provided a solution. Psalms 37:5-6 NIV says "Commit your way to the Lord; trust in him and he




Bernard Harris

will do this: He will make your righteous reward shine like the dawn, your vindication like the noonday sun". It happens so often that we go into the battles of life with the mentality that we have to fight it all ourselves and only ask God when we fail. However, that couldn't be further from the truth: our battles and subsequent victories to follow all belong to the lord and are for his glory. So in closing this article I would like everyone to ask the question: is my plan God's plan?

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

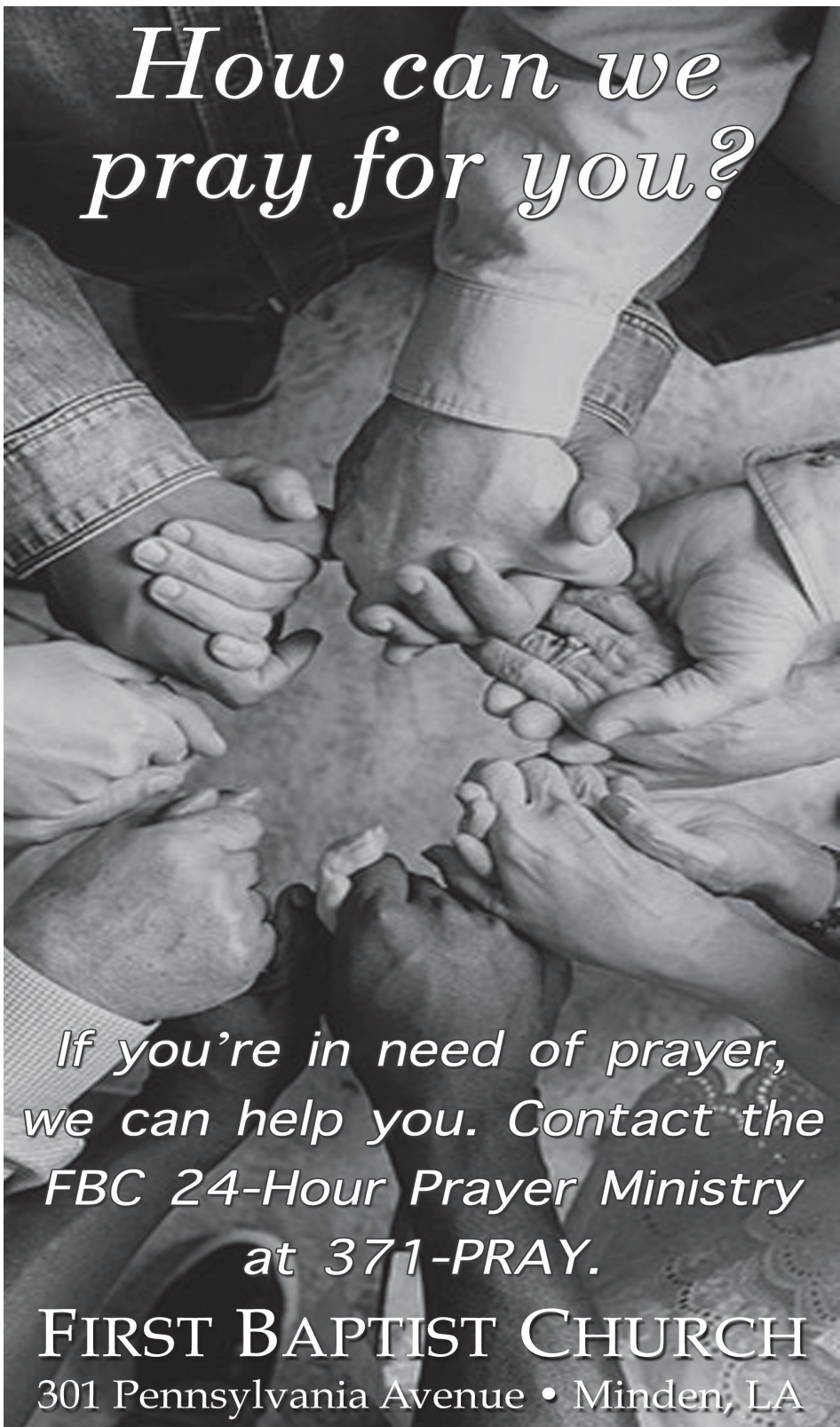
Come

WORSHIP



FIRST
ASSEMBLY OF GOD
MINDEN

How can we
pray for you?



If you're in need of prayer,
we can help you. Contact the
FBC 24-Hour Prayer Ministry
at 371-PRAY.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
301 Pennsylvania Avenue • Minden, LA

⊙ * ✎ ☺ ♣ ~ ♀ ✧ ✱ ⚙ ✖ ✱ + ≡ ✱ ▲ ☾ ✱ ♂ ✱ ☼ ☾ ♀ ☾ ⊕

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

CRYPTO FUN

☼ ☾ ☾ ✱ ♂ ≡ ~ ✱ +

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to vacations.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 15 = E)

A. 23 15 18 22

Clue: Cease work

B. 23 15 19 24 7

Clue: Become less tense

C. 20 1 13 23 4 15 25

Clue: A trip

D. 18 13 11 22 10 24 18 15

Clue: Bag

Answers: A. rest B. relax C. journey D. suitcase

SUDOKU

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

Level: Advanced

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

FUN & GAMES

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9	10		
11				12							13	
14								15				16 17
	18								19			20
				21		22				23		
					24		25	26	27		28	
				29			30			31	32	
				33		34		35				
36	37	38		39			40		41			
42			43		44			45				
46								47		48		
49				50	51				52		53	54 55
	56					57		58				59
			60				61					
				62							63	

CLUES ACROSS

1. Absence of difficulty

5. Preserve a dead body

11. Gratitude

14. The act of coming together again

15. More cushy

18. Visionaries

19. Large, fish-eating bird

21. Indicates near

23. NY Mets legend Tommie

24. Icelandic books

28. Pop

29. Hammer is one

30. Sense of self-importance

32. Thyrotrophic hormone

33. Can't be found

35. Electronic data processing

36. Passports and licenses are two

39. Snake-like fishes

41. Air Force

42. Popular computers

44. Intermediate ecological stage

46. Wings

47. Used in combination

49. Laid back

52. Jewelled headdress

56. Slow

58. Famous Falls

60. Reassertions

62. Periods of time

63. Hyphen

CLUES DOWN

1. Body part

2. Mimics

3. Expel large quantities

4. Sea eagle

5. Genetically distinct varieties

6. Dialect of Chinese

7. Famous Mr. T character

8. Consumed

9. Chinese dynasty

10. Menace to yards

12. Ireland

13. Palm trees

16. Fungal disease

17. Willis and Robert are two

20. Affirmative! (slang)

22. It shows who you are

25. The First State (abbr.)

26. Get older

27. Associations

29. Woman (French)

31. Sunscreen rating

34. Brew

36. Leader

37. Plants in the legume family

38. Burn with a hot liquid

40. Junior's father

43. Scads

45. Morning

48. Length of a line (abbr.)

50. Double curve

51. Small, thin person

53. Worn by exposure to the weather

54. Mars crater

55. Humanities

57. Word element meaning ear

58. To the __ degree

59. Residue of something burned

61. It cools your home

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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

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CONNECTS

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Bonus offer: 4G Android Tablet with one time co-pay of \$20

ACP program details can be found at www.fcc.gov/affordable-connectivity-program-consumer-faq

CLASSIFIEDS

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

PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!

classifieds@press-herald.com

Classified Rates

Pricing is easy!

\$7.75

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

Garage Sales

No word limit.

\$11

One Day

\$16.50

Two Days

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

* Garage Sale ads must be prepaid.

Deadlines

Ads

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

Public Notices

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

Payments

Cash Checks, Billing

Real Estate Notice

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

Grow Your Business

Call to place your ad!

PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!

377-1866

SHERIFF'S SALE

GMFS LLC VS. DENNIS ALAN NORTH CUTT AND METTIE ELLEN DAVIDSON NORTH CUTT

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. CV80588

By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE issued out of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, in the above styled and numbered suit and to me directed, I have seized and taken into my possession and will offer for sale at public auction to the last and highest bidder for cash WITH the benefit of appraisal and according to law at the principal front door of the Court-house in the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana on WEDNESDAY, May 31, 2023, During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

THAT CERTAIN PORTION OF GROUND, together with all of the buildings and improvements thereon and all of the rights, ways, means, privileges, servitudes, appurtenances and advantages thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining thereto, situated in Section 27, Township 12 North, Range 10 West, in Webster Parish, State of Louisiana, known as LOT 13 OF MORRIS & DICKSON SUBDIVISION, containing 2.29 Acres, more or less; subject to restrictions, servitudes, rights-of-way and outstanding mineral rights of record affecting the property.

SOLD SUBJECT TO ANY SUPERIOR LIENS, MORTGAGES OR PRIVILEGES THERETO. Said property seized is that of the defendant and will be sold to satisfy a judgment rendered in our Honorable Court.

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

Linda Vaughan - Deputy

April 26, 2023
May 24, 2023
Minden Press-Herald

NOTICE

Webster Parish Special Education will be destroying all Special Education records for students who exited the program on or before May 2017 and/or have reached their 27th birthday (birth year of 1995). If you would like your records, contact the Webster Parish Special Education Office at (318) 377-7052 before Friday, April 28, 2023. You must provide a picture ID and your signature will be required to obtain these records.

April 19, 2023
April 26, 2023
Minden Press-Herald

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

CYPRESS WATER SYSTEM Owner

129 Willow Street Address

Heflin, LA 71039 City, State, Zip

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of **CONTRACT III- BOOSTER STATION IMPROVEMENTS** will be received by the **CYPRESS WATER SYSTEM** at the Heflin Town Hall South, 122 N. Church Street, Heflin, Louisiana 71039 until **10:00 A.M. TUESDAY, MAY 16TH, 2023**, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud as permitted by public bid law. This is in accordance with La R.S. 38:2212 (A)(1) (b), the provisions of La R.S. 38:2212.

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

gov, prior to beginning of construction.

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

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

April 19, 2023
April 26, 2023
May 3, 2023
Minden Press-Herald

Village of Dixie Inn Regular Session April 11, 2023

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

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the Village of Dixie Inn met in regular session on April 11, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. in the Village Hall, Dixie Inn, Louisiana with the following members present: Mayor Donna Hoffoss, Aldermen Nell Finlay, Judy McKenzie, and Lance Milligan.

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

There were no public comments.

Mayor Donna Hoffoss welcomed guests.

A motion was made by Nell Finlay and seconded by Judy McKenzie to adopt the minutes of the Regular Session of March 14, 2023. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

A motion was made by Judy McKenzie and seconded by Lance Milligan to adopt the financial statements for March 2023. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

Department Reports:

Mike Chreene reported all is well with the water department. The village took part in a Sanitary Survey conducted by the Department of Health & Hospitals last month, in which no deficiencies were reported.

Chief James Edwards reported all is well with the police department and presented the council with records of all traffic stops/citations by Dixie Inn P.D. from January 1, 2023 to current.

Mayor Donna Hoffoss reported the Historic Highway 80 sale will be April 21st-22nd. The mayor, clerk, and aldermen will attend the LRWA (Louisiana Rural Water Association) class on April 10th and 11th.

New Business

Mayor Hoffoss read aloud two Proclamations by Governor John Bel Edwards. The first stated April 2023 is Fair Housing Month in the State of Louisiana. The second stated the week of

April 10-14, 2023 has been reserved for recognition and appreciation of the Community Development Block Grant Program.

There being no old business, a motion was made by Nell Finlay and seconded by Judy McKenzie to adjourn.

Attest:

Donna Hoffoss Mayor

April 26, 2023
Minden Press-Herald

If anyone knows the whereabouts of AS-SIDIOUS DE'VOLT HARRIS please contact S. Giddens, Attorney at Law at 225-772-1130

April 26, 2023
Minden Press-Herald

SHERIFF'S SALE

B1 BANK VS. REBECCA A ARA-GON

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 80443

By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE issued out of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, in the above styled and numbered suit and to me directed, I have seized and taken into my possession and will offer for sale at public auction to the last and highest bidder for cash WITH-OUT the benefit of appraisal and according to law at the principal front door of the Court-house in the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana on WEDNESDAY, May 3, 2023, During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

Lot No. 57, Block 1, 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) State 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 TO ANY SUPERIOR LIENS, MORTGAGES OR PRIVILEGES THERETO.

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

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

Linda Vaughan - Deputy

March 29, 2023
April 26, 2023
Minden Press-Herald

Graphic Designer Needed Webster Printing Company in Minden is seeking an experienced graphic designer. For more information, contact Walter at (318) 243-7102.

Delivery Drivers Needed

Bill & Ralph's Inc. 118 B & R Drive, Sarepta, La. 71071
Accepting Applications For Delivery Route Drivers with a CDL(Class A) Drivers License. Free Medical Insurance for Driver, Family Medical Insurance available. Dental and 401K Benefits, Hourly plus Incentive Pay, Yearly Safety Bonus Pay, Monthly Safety/Performance Pay. Apply at Bill & Ralph's Contact Mickey Hodges at (318)539-2071 mickey.hodges@billandralphs.com

ADOPT...DON'T SHOP

HAVE YOUR PET SPAYED OR NEUTERED

Bid # 03 - 2023

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

The City of Minden seeks sealed bids to sell Transformers:

Qty. 1 – used ERMCO KVA Three-Phase Type 480Y/277 Transformer I # 60808721727

Qty. 1 – used ERMCO KVA Three-Phase Type 480Y/277 Transformer I # 60808725645

minimum bid set for each transformer \$ 1,000.00

Sealed bids marked " **Bid 03 - 2023—Transformers**" shall be addressed to the City Clerk of the City of Minden, and delivered to the City Clerk's Office located at Minden City Hall, 520 Broadway Street, Minden, Louisiana 71055 no later than 9:00 A.M. local time, on May 01, 2023. Any bid received after the specified time and date will not be considered. The sealed bids will be publicly opened and read aloud shortly after the 09:00 A.M. submission deadline on May 01, 2023, at the Cypress Conference Room located at Minden City Hall, 520 Broadway Street, Minden, Louisiana 71055.

Bidders should submit a bid price (at least minimum bid of \$ 1,000.00 each) under the consideration of be responsible for transportation of the equipment from the City's location at no cost. Bid will be awarded to the Bidder with the highest price.

The information for Bidders may be obtained at the City Clerk's office located at Minden City Hall, 520 Broadway Street, Minden, Louisiana 71055.

The information for Bidders will also be available online at www.BidExpress.com. If bidding online, all interested bidders must register for the project online. IF bidders encounter any problems accessing Bid Express, please contact Bid Express 888-352-2439.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids for just cause; such actions will be in accordance with Title 38 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes. No bidder may withdraw his/her bid within five (5) working days after the actual date of the opening thereof. The highest bidder shall be given ten (10) working days from the date of the bid opening to consummate the sale. If said highest bidder fails to consummate the sale within the time allowed, the property will be offered to the second highest bidder. Any person with disabilities requiring special accommodations must contact the City of Minden at (318) 377-2144 no later than seven (7) days prior to bid opening.

The Owner hereby notifies all bidders that in regard to any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, that Minority Business Enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit offers in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, national origin or disability in consideration for an award.

City of Minden

Michael Fluhr City Clerk/Treasurer

April 12, 2023
April 19, 2023
April 26, 2023
Minden Press-Herald

Town Of Sibley

P.O. Box 128
345 N. Main Street
Sibley, Louisiana 71073
Phone (318) 377-0345 Fax (318) 377-0361

April 10, 2023

The Sibley Town Council met in regular session on Monday, April 10, 2023 at 6pm in the Sibley Town Hall Meeting Room.

Members present were Mayor Jimmy Williams, Aldermen: Wayne Bolton, Helen Chanler, Richard Davis, Alan Myers and Robert Smart.

Mayor Williams opened the meeting in prayer; then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Richard Davis motioned to accept the minutes to the March 13, 2023 Regular Meeting as read, Helen Chanler seconded. Motion carried.

No New Items were added to the agenda.

No Public Comments.

Wayne Bolton motioned to adopt Resolution No. 2023-04, authorizing Robert Smart, Sherry McCann and Linda Christy to sign Requests for Payment, Jimmy Williams to certify signatures, Gibbsland Bank & Trust as the designated official depository and Jimmy Williams, Sherry McCann and Robert Smart to authorize to sign checks for all Water Sector Program Grant Funds. Richard Davis seconded. Motion carried.

Richard Davis motioned to adopt a Right of Passage for Doodle Trail, Robert Smart seconded. Motion carried.

Robert Smart motioned to adopt the updated Sibley Police Department Policy & Procedure Manual, Wayne Bolton seconded. Motion carried.

Assistant Fire Chief Richard Davis gave the March 2023 activity report for the Sibley Volunteer Fire Department.

There was not a representative of the Sibley Police Department to give the March 2023 activity report for the Sibley Police Department.

The Board acknowledged the receipt of the March 2023 Financial Reports.

The mayor announced the Annual Clean-Up Day for April 15, 2023 and that Sibley's second Emergency Siren is installed, tested and active. He, also, gave updates on the construction on the new subdivision.

Alan Myers motioned to adjourn, Richard Davis seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Attest:

Jimmy Williams Mayor

Sherry McCann Town Clerk

April 26, 2023
Minden Press-Herald

Legal Notice of Dissolution

Notice is given that Heflin United Methodist Church voted at a special meeting held on February 25, 2023, to disaffiliate with the Louisiana Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church and to dissolve the corporation in accordance with Louisiana Law out of court and to appoint as Liquidators Sally Holley, whose address is 250 Brushy Creek Road, Sibley, Louisiana 71073 and Cathy Lee, whose address is 515 S. Main, Heflin, Louisiana 71039.

Attest:

Lou Frye, Secretary

April 26, 2023
Minden Press-Herald

INVITATION FOR BID

SEALED BIDS for construction at the Minden Airport consisting of Parallel Taxiway North, Airport Improvement Program No. 3-22-0032-017-2023, will be received by the City Clerk at the City of Minden, Louisiana, located at 520 Broadway, P.O. Box 580, Minden, Louisiana 71058, until 10:00 a.m. CST on Wednesday, May 17, 2023. Bids will then be publicly opened and read aloud in the Cypress Room located at City Hall. Bids received after the 10:00 a.m. deadline will be returned to the bidder unopened via certified mail. Received bids will be referred to the City of Minden City Council for action and award. Sealed bids must be marked on the outside with City of Minden Bid No. 02-2023.

A Pre-Bid Conference will be held on Wednesday, May 3, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. in the Airport Terminal Building, 100 Aviation Drive, Minden, LA 71055. Representatives from the Owner and Engineer will be present to discuss the project. Although the meeting is not mandatory, bidders are encouraged to attend and participate in the conference.

Contract Documents including bid proposal forms, plan sheets, and specifications for the project may be viewed and downloaded free of charge (with the option to purchase hard copies) at www.civcastusa.com. Scanned plans and specifications (PDF format) are available on CD for a non-refundable price of \$25.00 from KSA Engineers, Inc., 1111 Hawn Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71107. Addenda will be posted at www.civcastusa.com. You will be notified of addenda automatically, through email, if you downloaded your plans and specifications via [civcastusa.com](http://www.civcastusa.com). Please submit questions for the project 72 hours prior to bid opening through www.civcastusa.com in the Q&A portal.

Bids shall be received only on proposal forms furnished by the Engineer. In no event shall proposal forms be issued later than twenty-four (24) hours prior to the hour and date set for receiving proposals.

Bidders may elect to submit bids electronically via the internet. Electronic bids for the City of Minden are available for submission at www.bidexpress.com. Bidders desiring to submit electronic bids must register with Bid Express. All bids submitted electronically shall include a digital signature as required by Louisiana State law. Bidders submitting bids electronically are not required to submit paper forms.

Bid proposals, amendments to bids, or requests for withdrawal of bids, which are received after the time specified for bid opening, shall not be considered for any cause whatsoever.

An acceptable bid bond, cashier's check or certified check payable to the City of Minden, in an amount equal to five percent (5%) of the bid price, shall be submitted with each bid. The successful Bidder will be required to furnish and pay for satisfactory performance and payment bonds. Bidders are advised that Performance, Payment, and Maintenance Bond, each in the amount of 100 percent (100%) of the contract price, will be required.

On any bid submitted in the amount of \$50,000 or more, the Contractor shall certify that he is licensed under Louisiana Revised Statute 37:2150-2164 and show his license number on the bid and on the envelope. Bidders must be licensed in the following category: **Highway, Street and Bridge Construction (or applicable sub classification)**. The licensee shall not be permitted to bid or perform any type or types of work not included in the classification under which his license was issued.

Notice of Requirement for Affirmative Action to Ensure Equal Employment Opportunity
1. The Offeror's or Bidder's attention is called to the "Equal Opportunity Clause" and the "Standard Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Construction Contract Specifications" set forth herein.

2. The goals and timetables for minority and female participation, expressed in percentage terms for the Contractor's aggregate workforce in each trade on all construction work in the covered area, are as follows:

Timetables	
Goals for minority participation for each trade:	29.3%
Goals for female participation in each trade:	6.9%

These goals are applicable to all of the Contractor's construction work (whether or not it is Federal or federally assisted) performed in the covered area. If the Contractor performs construction work in a geographical area located outside of the covered area, it shall apply the goals established for such geographical area where the work is actually performed. With regard to this second area, the Contractor also is subject to the goals for both its federally involved and nonfederally involved construction.

The Contractor's compliance with the Executive Order and the regulations in 41 CFR Part 60-4 shall be based on its implementation of the Equal Opportunity Clause, specific affirmative action obligations required by the specifications set forth in 41 CFR 60-4.3(a) and its efforts to meet the goals. The hours of minority and female employment and training must be substantially uniform throughout the length of the contract, and in each trade, and the Contractor shall make a good faith effort to employ minorities and women evenly on each of its projects. The transfer of minority or female employees or trainees from Contractor to Contractor or from project to project for the sole purpose of meeting the Contractor's goals shall be a violation of the contract, the Executive Order and the regulations in 41 CFR Part 60-4. Compliance with the goals will be measured against the total work hours performed.

3. The Contractor shall provide written notification to the Director of the Office of Federal Contract Compliance Programs (OFCCP) within 10 working days of award of any construction subcontract in excess of \$10,000 at any tier for construction work under the contract resulting from this solicitation. The notification shall list the name, address, and telephone number of the subcontractor, employer identification number of the subcontractor, estimated dollar amount of the subcontract, estimated starting and completion dates of the subcontract, and the geographical area in which the subcontract is to be performed.

4. As used in this notice and in the contract resulting from this solicitation, the "covered area" is Minden, Louisiana in Webster Parish.

Title VI Solicitation Notice

The **City of Minden**, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that for any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and no businesses will be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, national origin (including limited English proficiency), creed, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), age, or disability in consideration for an award.

The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) goal is 12.45% of the dollar value of this contract. The DBE program also includes a small business element pursuant to 49 CFR Part 26. The Owner's award of this contract is conditioned upon Bidder or Offeror satisfying the good faith effort requirements of 49 CFR § 26.53.

As a condition of responsibility, every Bidder or Offeror must submit the following information on the forms provided herein within five days after bid opening.

- 1) The names and addresses of Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) firms that will participate in the contract;
- 2) A description of the work that each DBE firm will perform;
- 3) The dollar amount of the participation of each DBE firm listed under (1);
- 4) Written statement from Bidder or Offeror that attests their commitment to use the DBE firm(s) listed under (1) to meet the Owner's project goal;
- 5) Written confirmation from each listed DBE firm that it is participating in the contract in the kind and amount of work provided in the prime contractor's commitment; and
- 6) If Bidder or Offeror cannot meet the advertised project DBE goal, evidence of good faith efforts undertaken by the Bidder or Offeror as described in appendix A to 49 CFR part 26. The documentation of good faith efforts must include copies of each DBE and non-DBE subcontractor quote submitted to the bidder when a non-DBE subcontractor was selected over a DBE for work on the contract.

All contracts and subcontracts that result from this solicitation incorporate by reference the provisions of 29 CFR part 201, et seq, the Federal Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA), with the same force and effect as if given in full text. The FLSA sets minimum wage, overtime pay, recordkeeping, and child labor standards for full and part-time workers.

The Contractor has full responsibility to monitor compliance to the referenced statute or regulation. The Contractor must address any claims or disputes that arise from this requirement directly with the U.S. Department of Labor – Wage and Hour Division.

TRADE RESTRICTION CERTIFICATION

By submission of an offer, the Offeror certifies that with respect to this solicitation and any resultant contract, the Offeror –

- 1) is not owned or controlled by one or more citizens of a foreign country included in the list of countries that discriminate against U.S. firms as published by the Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR);
- 2) has not knowingly entered into any contract or subcontract for this project with a person that is a citizen or national of a foreign country included on the list of countries that discriminate against U.S. firms as published by the USTR; and
- 3) has not entered into any subcontract for any product to be used on the Federal project that is produced in a foreign country included on the list of countries that discriminate against U.S. firms published by the USTR.

This certification concerns a matter within the jurisdiction of an agency of the United States of America and the making of a false, fictitious, or fraudulent certification may render the maker subject to prosecution under Title 18 USC § 1001.

The Offeror/Contractor must provide immediate written notice to the Owner if the Offeror/Contractor learns that its certification or that of a subcontractor was erroneous when submitted or has become erroneous by reason of changed circumstances. The Contractor must require subcontractors provide immediate written notice to the Contractor if at any time it learns that its certification was erroneous by reason of changed circumstances.

Unless the restrictions of this clause are waived by the Secretary of Transportation in accordance with 49 CFR § 30.17, no contract shall be awarded to an Offeror or subcontractor:

- 1) who is owned or controlled by one or more citizens or nationals of a foreign country included on the list of countries that discriminate against U.S. firms published by the USTR; or
- 2) whose subcontractors are owned or controlled by one or more citizens or nationals of a foreign country on such USTR list; or
- 3) who incorporates in the public works project any product of a foreign country on such USTR list.

Nothing contained in the foregoing shall be construed to require establishment of a system of records in order to render, in good faith, the certification required by this provision. The knowledge and information of a contractor is not required to exceed that which is normally possessed by a prudent person in the ordinary course of business dealings.

The Offeror agrees that, if awarded a contract resulting from this solicitation, it will incorporate this provision for certification without modification in all lower tier subcontracts. The Contractor may rely on the certification of a prospective subcontractor that it is not a firm from a foreign country included on the list of countries that discriminate against U.S. firms as published by USTR, unless the Offeror has knowledge that the certification is erroneous.

This certification is a material representation of fact upon which reliance was placed when making an award. If it is later determined that the Contractor or subcontractor knowingly rendered an erroneous certification, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) may direct through the Owner cancellation of the contract or subcontract for default at no cost to the Owner or the FAA.

All Bidders and Proposers shall comply with the provisions of Buy American Preferences, Davis Bacon Requirements, Debarment and Suspension, Lobbying Federal Employees, and Recovered Materials.

Bids may be held by the City of Minden for a period of sixty (60) calendar days after the date and hour set for the opening.

The City of Minden reserves the right to reject any or all Bids for just cause and reserves the right to waive any and all informalities.

Michael Fluhr
City Clerk/Treasurer
City of Minden
Telephone: (318) 377-2144

April 19, 2023
April 26, 2023
May 3, 2023
Minden Press-Herald

NOTICE

The Webster Parish Police Jury will be accepting sealed bids until the hour of 10:00 A.M. Tuesday May 23, 2023. Bids will be received by SEALED BID ONLY. There is a \$25 bid fee per parcel listing. Bid fee is NON-REFUNDABLE! (For Example: If a bidder bids on parcel numbers 12345, 12346 & 12347, then the bid fee will be \$75) Bids will be read aloud in the Police Jury Meeting Room, **Webster Parish Courthouse Annex**, Minden, Louisiana, for the following: To sell the adjudicated interest of the Webster Parish Police Jury in the following described properties, having been declared as surplus property by the Webster Parish Police Jury.

Assessment #	City	Street Name or Subdivision	Min. Bid
100387	Minden	2110 Hwy 531	962.36
100532	Heflin	Lots 18 & 19 Webster Rd.	516.41
100760	Heflin	Canal	512.00
101253	Heflin	Off Diamond T. (down a dirt road)	535.89
101547	Doyline	Mallard Lane	1,206.83
101597	Heflin	Bossier St.	557.00
102101	Heflin	183 Webster St.	1,845.48
102238	Heflin	Canal St.	515.00
102561	Minden	Goodwill Rd.	594.44
102929	Doyline	132 Palmetto Dr.	1,104.93
102962	Heflin	Off Claiborne St.	448.05
102970	Heflin	Davis St.	458.05
103686	Heflin	153 Mattie Lane	2,235.42
103687	Heflin	Mattie Lane	501.91
104247	Heflin	Canal St.	523.64
104248	Heflin	Canal St.	516.00
104525	Heflin	Off Webstr Rd. @ Dead End	535.89
106201			509.71
106676	Heflin	Webster Rd. (7 Lots)	4,052.80
106709	Heflin	Mattie Lane	791.83
106995	Heflin	Webster Rd.	501.45
107130	Dubberly	Webster Rd.	501.20
108257	Doyline	219 Lakeview Dr.	3,558.43
108467	Heflin	Mattie Lane	518.00
108629	Heflin	Mattie Lane	450.31
108879	Doyline	Main St.	526.23
109539	Minden	609 Chestnut St.	6,170.59
111519	Minden	409 Chestnut (2 Lots)	3,803.79
111930	Minden	221 Abney	3,720.15
112095	Minden	305 Walnut	10,137.24

112245	Minden	201 Gum St.	4,888.09
112669	Minden	402 N. Roosevelt	5,621.47
113006	Minden	Constable	437.57
114277	Minden	113 Marshall St.	3,223.75
114580	Minden	408 N. Roosevelt	8,794.63
115027	Minden	924 Lewisville Rd.	6,695.59
115930	Sibley	173 S. Johnson St.	509.19
117525	Springhill	108 Percy Burns/JD Clayton	511.40
118569	Springhill	186 Smithville Rd.	791.96
119689	Sarepta	Short Rd.	1,438.79
120565	Shongaloo	255 Henry Williams Rd.	1,048.22
120888	Cotton Valley	Greenard St.	643.27
120946	Cotton Valley	222 Resident Rd.	1,035.12
121105	Cotton Valley	191 McClanahan Dr.	681.87
121221	Cotton Valley	350 McArthur Loop	2,199.42
121283	Cotton Valley	Mullens St.	540.24
121483	Cotton Valley	next to 245 Wheel Barrow Rd	713.63
121521	Cotton Valley	Church St.	434.94
121589	Cotton Valley	Lum St.	451.41
121715	Cullen	Newsom St.	2,964.36
121748	Cullen	202 Stewart St.	1,801.67
121765	Cullen	Thomas St.	576.15
121766	Cullen	Corner of Moore & Cobb	396.58
121770	Cullen	North Curtis St.	619.18
121806	Cullen	607 East Rd.	3,290.56
121859	Cullen	Cobb St.	482.07
121952	Cullen	Behind 105 Abbott (off Abbott Circle)	0.00
121958	Cullen	Behind 106 White St.	687.32
122033	Cullen	Off Of Burnham	324.51
122044	Cullen	617 East Rd.	2,151.51
122167	Cullen	Williams St.	497.05
122236	Springhill	306 Orr St.	4,455.96
122260	Cullen	125 Payne St.	2,317.18
122264	Cullen	Henrietta White Blvd	454.77
122300	Cullen	112 S. Lemon St.	1,343.27

122320	Cullen	109 Plymouth	1,591.39
122321	Cullen	107 Plymouth	861.76
122337	Cullen	Abbot Cir & Henrietta White	557.22
122358	Cullen	Cobb St.	652.78
122359	Cullen	MLK Jr. Dr.	631.22
122360	Cullen	MLK Jr. Dr.	739.44
122407	Cullen	Abbot Cir & Henrietta White (behind Rhone)	463.58
122422	Cullen	617 East St.	4,077.51
122547	Cullen	Bolton St.	471.82
122709	Sarepta	5699 Hwy 2	2,368.61
123298	Springhill	806 Baker St.	1,867.55
123636	Springhill	406 Center Park Dr.	2,939.66
123665	Springhill	Spruce St.	1,177.35
123780	Springhill	302 3rd St. SE	4,294.22
124524	Springhill	718 Church St.	3,287.45
124888	Springhill	911 1st St. SE	1,257.85
125532	Springhill	Reynolds St.	953.95
125804	Springhill	907 7th St.	1,771.71
125807	Springhill	910 7th St. SE	1,771.71
125813	Springhill	Off of Center St.	2,704.92
125842	Springhill	308 Williams St.	4,143.24

Upon acceptance of the highest responsive bid, and receipt of the bid amount, the acquiring person needs to publish a notice in the official journal that any tax sale party has sixty (60) Days or (6) months to redeem the property or otherwise challenge the sale in a court of competent jurisdiction. The fact of this ad does not create or reestablish a right to redeem the property that has otherwise expired. The successful bidder is responsible for determining those tax sale parties whose interest the successful bidder intends to terminate. The successful bidder will produce payment within five (5) days of notice of award or the bid could be awarded to the next highest bidder.

The sale shall comply in all respects with Ordinance 996 and La.R.S.47:2201-2292. The terms of the sale include that such sale is for cash or cash equivalent, that such sale if without warranty of title and without any warranty of merchantability of fitness; that such sale is "as, where is"; that the buyer is responsible for obtaining title insurance at buyer's cost, if it is desired; and that the Police Jury reserves the mineral rights to the greatest extent possible.

Lisa Balkom, Secretary-Treasurer Jim Bonsall, President
Webster Parish Police Jury

If you have any questions call Angie at 318-377-7564

April 26, 2023
May 10, 2023
Minden Press-Herald



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- Coordinate with other departments for placing classifieds and legal notices
- Accept payments for subscriptions, accounts, etc
- Manage supply inventory and make orders as needed
- Monitor funds available for postage and add when necessary
- Convert paper files to e-documents using a scanner and Google Drive
- Filing
- Keep front area clean and orderly

Assistant bookkeeper duties include:

- Compiling deposits
- Answer customer questions regarding payments and billing
- Mail out billing with tearsheets, including filling out affidavits
- Assist with any other billing or deposit duties as needed/requested

Applicants should be familiar with modern office equipment (i.e. scanners, Mac/PC, postage machines, fax machines) as well as programs such as Google Drive, Google Docs, and Gmail.

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