

MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

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OUTDOORS



A new kayak launch dock has been installed in Dixie Inn on Bayou Dorcheat. Webster Parish Tourism plans to have more kayak docks installed along the Bayou Dorcheat in the near future.

AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTOS

New kayak launch dock opens in Dixie Inn

Located next to the boat launch on Dorcheat Street

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Webster Parish Tourism held a ribbon cutting on June 2 for the new kayak launch dock that has been installed in Dixie Inn on Bayou Dorcheat. It is located next to the boat launch on Dorcheat Street adjacent to the site of the former Dorcheat Seafood & Grill. Community leaders from numerous organizations came

out to show their support for this project.

"This is a long-time dream in the making," said Serena Gray, the executive director for Webster Parish Tourism. "When I started this job five years ago, I knew I wanted to establish a kayak trail because it just blew my mind that there wasn't already one out here with Bayou Dorcheat running through the entirety of the parish."

The dock was installed by EZ Dock, which is also the company that evaluates proposed sites and gives advice on what type of dock should be placed there. Two other proposed sites are being considered at this time, one in Sibley on Hwy 164 and the other in Shongaloo on Hwy 2. Whichever one can be completed more quickly will be the next dock to be installed.

"The work that goes into preparing the land for these docks is done with the police jury's help. They see the vision of Tourism. They see

what we're doing, and they want to help us accomplish the dreams and the plans that we have for the parish.



GRAY

cooperation," said Gray.

"I think these docks will help our locals realize how serious we are about kayaking, and give our locals an opportunity

to have a quick family trip right here in Webster Parish. The information that we have on the paddle trail and the information that we have on checking the water gauge is on our website at visitwebster.net/outdoors.

"At our last kayak event, which was on Lake Bistineau, we had 132 paddlers travel in from five different parishes, four different states, and three international countries," Gray said. "It was the biggest paddle that we've done so far, and we just know that, as we con-

See, **DOCK**, Page 3

CRIME

Prime suspect in Merritt murder turns himself in

STAFF REPORT

Minden Press-Herald

Cedric Bernard Stephens, the prime suspect in the murder of Daniel Merritt, turned himself in to the Webster Parish Sheriff's Office on June 2. As soon as he turned himself in, he requested an attorney, therefore, law enforcement has not yet been able to question him about the murder or his whereabouts since Merritt's body was discovered on May 7 buried in the woods off Auction Barn Road.

Multiple agencies have been actively hunting Stephens since a warrant was issued for his arrest on May 9.

"We put in a lot of man hours, a lot of overtime hours," said Police Chief McIver. "I would like to believe that the constant pressure from law enforcement helped him to make the decision to turn himself in."

"I'm glad he turned himself in. I feel that the people of Minden can rest easier knowing that he's in custody."

FIRE

Mobile home fire claims the life of Shongaloo man

STAFF REPORT

Minden Press-Herald

In the early hours of Saturday, June 3, a devastating fire engulfed a mobile home in the 100 block of Stanley Road, leading to the unfortunate death of a Shongaloo resident. The Springhill, Shongaloo, and Cullen Fire Departments responded swiftly to the scene, but despite their best efforts, they were unable to save the life of 53-year-old Joseph Stanley Jr.

Springhill Fire Chief Michael Morse recounted the harrowing details of the incident, stating, "We

See, **FIRE**, Page 3

HEALTH



WILL PHILLIPS/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

In addition to in-person activities, online/virtual options will also be available nationwide.

30th Annual National Senior Health & Fitness Day held at Minden REC

WILL PHILLIPS

Minden Press-Herald

Minden Medical Center took part in the 30th Annual National Senior Health & Fitness Day hosting the event at the Minden REC Center.

"National Senior Health and Fitness Day is an annual awareness

day, so this year we are taking advantage of that for the seniors here in our community. That way they can come in, we can continue to keep them active and living healthy lifestyles," said Liz Baker, Circle Program Director at Minden Medical Center.

Minden Medical

Center joined with an estimated 100,000 seniors across the country to help promote active, healthy lifestyles through physical fitness, good nutrition and preventive care. In addition to in-person activities, online/vir-

See, **HEALTH**, Page 3

COMMUNITY

Grilling on Main 2023 this weekend

WILL PHILLIPS

Minden Press-Herald

The smell and sizzle of mouth-watering meats will soon fill the air in downtown Minden.

The Minden Main Street Board will be hosting the 7th annual Grilling On Main event, located, of course, on Main Street from June 9-10. This event will be a host to a variety of activities including a cornhole tournament, live music, a fireworks show, and of course plenty of grilling for all to enjoy.

Starting Friday, Main Street from Monroe Street to Pine Street will close and the festivities will begin setting up early in the morning. Starting at 12 PM that day, vendors will be set up in the area for event goers to peruse while enjoying the festivities.

Later that evening starting at 6:30 PM the "Little Grillers" competition will begin, giving young grillers a chance to take part

in the fun. Soon after that, the Cornhole Tournament will start at 7 PM.

Later that evening, after the winners of the Little Grillers competition are announced at 8:30 PM, a fireworks show will take place by the Minden Courthouse beginning at 9 PM.

Starting bright and early Saturday, the BBQ Cooking Competition will begin, where grillers compete to see who can make the tastiest meats. While most of these will go to judges for further scrutiny, the People's Choice tasting will begin at Easley's Courtyard on Pearl Street starting at 11:30 AM with tickets going on sale as early as 10 AM.

While waiting for the tasting to begin and afterwards as well, from 10 AM to 2 PM plenty of family-fun activities will be available to partake in, including a Kids Zone which will be hosted in the Capital One parking See, **GRILLING**, Page 3



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D.D.S.



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High Temp **87°**

Tomorrow's
Low Temp **61°**

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WEBSTER & MORE

SHOP LOCAL

Robertson’s Hardware opens in Sibley

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Robertson’s Hardware held its grand opening on June 3. Owned and operated by Michael and Connie Robertson, the store is located at 11112 Highway 371 in Sibley, and it brings a well-stocked hardware store within a convenient drive to the surrounding area.

The grand opening sale will run through Friday, June 9, with 20% off many items.

“For the next week, we are running a 20% off sale

on a lot of things like all Milwaukee tools, all Milwaukee necessities, all the spray paint, our RV section, water heaters, fans, and more,” said Michael Robertson.

With each purchase, you can enter to win a Broil King Baron grill. The drawing will be held at 4 PM on June 9.

The store’s hours are Monday-Thursday 7:30 AM until 5 PM and Fridays from 7:30 AM until 4:30 PM. Come to the store to see their wide selection of goods and excellent customer service.



AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTOS
The grand opening sale will run through Friday, June 9, with 20% off many items. The store’s hours are Monday-Thursday 7:30 AM until 5 PM and Fridays from 7:30 AM until 4:30 PM.

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WEBSTER & MORE

LIONS CLUB

Judge Jeff Cox speaks to Lions Club about the Constitution and the court system

AMBER MCDOWN
Mindden Press-Herald

Judge Jeff Cox was the guest speaker at the noon Lions Club meeting on June 1. He explained the general workings of the Louisiana court system and the importance of protecting the United States Constitution. Afterwards there was an opportunity to ask him questions.

Judge Cox graduated from Louisiana Tech, earned his MBA from LSU, earned a doctorate degree from Southern University, and received a law masters degree in taxation from SMU. Judge Cox has been serving as a judge since 2004.

“For about seven years, we were living under the Articles of Confederation, which caused us a lot of problems,” said Cox about the beginnings of the United States. “Our framers got together and developed our Constitution, which was a great Constitution. Think about it. We’ve only amended our Constitution 27 times. The first 10 were the Bill of Rights, talking about what rights we have as citizens of the United States.”

Next Cox asked the audience, “How many of you think criminals have too many rights? Think about this: We have the right to speak. We have the right to petition our government. We have the right to worship as we choose. We have the right to bear arms, which is in the second amendment. We have the right to be free from searches and seizures that are not supposed to happen in our house. We have the right to counsel if we go to court. We have the right to defense counsel. We have the right to reasonable bail. We have the right to a jury trial.” He then pointed out that these rights are not avail-



AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

The Lions Club meets at noon every Thursday in the American Legion Memorial Home which is located at 119 Pine Street.

able in other countries, especially at the time that the Constitution was written.

“Most people would say, yes, criminals have too many rights,” said Cox. “But let me ask you this question: Of those rights that are in the Constitution, which one would you take away from yourself? If you were accused of a crime, wouldn’t you want those rights under the Constitution? The court system is designed to be able to protect those rights for you, and we have to elect good judges to be able to do that. We need people who believe in the Constitution, who believe in the rights that are guaranteed in that Constitution.”

At the city court level, everything from misdemeanors to civil cases under certain amounts and juvenile cases are heard. The district court level also handles juvenile court cases as well as civil cases that can reach into

the multi-million dollar levels. Everything can go to one of the five appellate courts in the state. We are in the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeal, which is located in Shreveport. There are nine judges working for the 2nd Circuit including Judge Cox.

“Our appellate court handles the top 20 parish- es of the state. So everything that goes through city courts all the way up to district courts comes to the appellate court. And I’m very honored to be your servant there.”

“We have to take every case that comes up. We cannot refuse any case that comes up to the appellate court level. If they appeal then we have to look at that appeal. If they don’t like the decision of the appellate court, they can go to the Louisiana Supreme Court.”

If you go to that level, however, your case may or may not be heard since the Supreme Court can choose which cases they

will see.

“The Supreme Court does not have to take any case except two cases: one involving a constitutional issue or one involving a capital murder case where someone has gotten the death penalty,” said Cox. “So the appellate court may be a person’s last place to have their case heard.”

“The sacrifice that this country has made, the sacrifice that our veterans have made, the sacrifice that people have made for the Constitution means something. It means our rights and our freedoms, and we need to make sure that we elect people who understand that the Constitution is the bedrock of the principles of this country, and we always need to be grateful for the people who served and the sacrifices they made.”

The Lions Club meets at noon every Thursday in the American Legion Memorial Home which is located at 119 Pine Street.

OBITUARIES



Donna Gail Cummings Smith

Donna Gail Cummings Smith age 80, went to be with her Lord and Savior on the exact date of her birth. Gail was born in Haynesville, LA on June 4, 1943, and after an 8-month battle with cancer she entered into heaven on June 4, 2023.

Gail lived and attended school in Haynesville and Gibsland, LA. Her first marriage brought her to Minden where she raised her four daughters. In 1993 she married Johnny Smith and moved to Dubberly, LA. She lived her life with a spirit for adventure: from dirt track and drag racing in her 20’s to parasailing in her late 70’s. She loved her family above everything. When asked recently, “Mama if you could get out of that bed and go anywhere you wanted, where would you go?” She answered, “I’d stay right here with the people I love.” She leaned heavily on her favorite scripture: I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me. Philippians 4:13.

She is preceded in death by her grandson, Jonathon Moore, her brother, Rusty Cummings, her parents, Buck and Idenna Cummings, her grandparents, John

Eddie and Oma Chandler, and Johnny Harmon and Minnie Hennigan Cummings.

Gail is survived by her husband, Johnny Smith; her daughters, Dennie Pat Morgan, Amanda Morgan Gulley and husband Paul, Shelly Morgan Mathews and April Morgan Walker and husband Judd; her stepsons, Johnny Lane Smith and wife Mary, Lonny Smith, Mike Sutter and wife Kelly, Brian Smith and Kristi; her brother, Joe Cummings and wife Peggy; sisters, Ann Thornton and Lisa Stroud and husband Steve; grandchildren, Suzi Prince and husband Dustin, PJ, Peyton, and Mackenzie Gulley, Bridger, Darbi, and Evie Walker, Max Morgan, Rainey Ashcraft and husband Zack, and Landon Morgan; great-grandchildren, Maite Bean and boyfriend Gavin and Mali Bean and boyfriend Andrew, Tanner and Jon -Patrick Gulley, Lane and Jordan Ashcraft; and great great-granddaughter, Aria Weslyn Smith.

Pallbearers are PJ Gulley, Peyton Gulley, Max Morgan, Bridger Walker, Dustin Prince, and Landon Morgan.

Honorary pallbearers are Jonathan Moore, Paul Gulley, Judd Walker, Steve Stroud, and Joe Cummings.

Visitation will be held at Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden, LA on Tuesday, June 6, 2023, from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. with a graveside service on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the beautiful Mount Mariah Cemetery in Arcadia, Louisiana.

FIRE

Continued from Page 1

had to treat it as a defensive attack due to how much of the total structure was involved. After we got a decent portion of the fire knocked down from the outside, me and one other Springhill guy transitioned to an interior attack, so that we could hit the fire better and look for the body.”

The initial units arrived

at the location at 3:40 a.m., battling the raging flames that had already engulfed the mobile home. Recognizing the need for additional resources, the Sarepta Fire Department was called in for extra water and manpower at 4:05 a.m.

At 4:16 a.m., the courageous firefighters braved the intense heat and dense smoke, entering

the burning structure in a desperate search for Joseph Stanley Jr. It was a race against time as they navigated through the treacherous conditions, determined to locate any signs of life.

Sadly, at 4:22 a.m., the grim discovery was made. The body of Joseph Stanley Jr. was found within the remnants of what was once his home. The heart-

breaking outcome left the tight-knit community of Shongaloo mourning the loss of one of their own.

Investigators believe that Joseph Stanley Jr. intentionally set the fire that ultimately claimed his own life. The reasons behind this tragic act remain unknown, and authorities continue to investigate the circumstances surrounding the incident.

DOCK

Continued from Page 1

tinue to build this product, more people are going to come and take advantage of that.

“And what a beautiful location and what a beautiful spotlight right here in Dixie Inn. We love this launch, and we’re going to do our best to take care of it.

“We wouldn’t have been able to come this far in kayaking and paddling on our waterways without the support of the Bayou Chapter of the Ozark Society,” said Gray. “They are phenomenal. They volunteer their time to place

the signage, they come to our events, they help us teach people how to get on the water.

“We’re doing such a great job that other parishes are wanting to replicate what we are doing. I think imitation is the highest form of flattery, so we must be doing something right. We have a beautiful parish, and we’re going to continue to promote it.”

Dorchest Bayou Rentals rents one- or two-seat kayaks, including life jackets and paddles, and they even rent kayak trailers if you need one to get to the launch. For reservations, call (318) 403-3440.

GRILLING

Continued from Page 1

lot, Coloring for Kids at City Art Works, and live music on stage at Easley’s Courtyard on Pearl Street.

The winners of the BBQ Cooking Competition will be announced later that evening at 5

PM.

With so much going on, there’s a little something for everyone to enjoy in this upcoming Grilling on Main, so be sure to head to downtown Minden for a weekend you don’t want to miss out on.

HEALTH

Continued from Page 1

tual options will also be available nationwide.

“Older adults at all levels of physical fitness are encouraged to participate in National Senior Health & Fitness Day,” said Patricia Henze, National Senior Health & Fitness Day program manager. “Our event goals are to increase awareness of the benefits of regular exercise and to encourage all older adults to take advantage of the many health and fitness activities offered in their communities, as well as online.”

Staying in line with these goals, the event hosted over 30 vendors

from the local area to help make the attendees aware of all that is available to them here at home.

“We brought in a lot of resources from the community, so they are aware of what is available and in the area,” said Baker.

“As we get older, we need those facilities so, if they don’t know about, them we wanted to make sure we had them here to raise awareness.

“We just want to make sure that they’re staying healthy and active and that, if they have any questions, they can feel comfortable coming to us. That way we can provide the best care to them.”

OBITUARIES

Martelle Merritt Dunn

Martelle Merritt Dunn, 95, passed away peacefully at home in Birmingham, Alabama, surrounded by her family, and was welcomed into the kingdom of Heaven on Saturday, May 20, 2023.

Martelle was born August 1, 1927, in Evergreen, Louisiana to Hasting and Eunice Merritt. She graduated from Evergreen High School and then trained to be a nurse under the supervision of the Sisters of Charity of Schumpert Hospital. Martelle married Merrille DeWitt “Jack” Dunn in 1945, and together they had one son, Joe Merrille Dunn. For over 35 years, Martelle cared for the people of Minden, serving as a nurse with Dr. John Hill. In 2020, Martelle moved to Birmingham, Alabama with her son and daughter-in-law to be close to family.

Martelle enjoyed crafting and painting

with Jack, family, and friends in their workshop in Minden; vacationing in Branson, Missouri; and in her later years, attending her great grandson’s baseball and basketball games.

Martelle is preceded in death by her husband Jack, brother Hasting Calvin “Buddy” Merritt, and sister Francis (James) Hageman.

She is survived by her son Joe Dunn and wife Ruthie; granddaughter Jennifer Hall and husband Jason; great grandson Graham Hall; sister-in-law Peggy Merritt; brother-in-law and sister-in-law Frank and Helen Dunn; and many nieces, nephews, and dear friends. By those who loved her dearly, she was affectionately called and will always be remembered as Telle, Mamma, Mother, Mam-maw, Nanny, and Aunt Martelle.

A graveside service will be held at Evergreen Cemetery in Evergreen, Louisiana on Wednesday, June 7, 2023, at 11:00 AM. Interment provided by Kilpatrick’s Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden, LA.



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OPINION

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OPINION

Red River Waterway Commission, Port of Caddo-Bossier are dynamic economic assets

It's difficult to overstate what a tremendous natural economic asset a river can be, and the Red River is no exception.

As we know, in 1832, Capt. Henry Miller Shreve (Shreveport's namesake) led the mission to break through the Great Raft which was nearly 160 miles of concentrated dead wood on the Red River that completely impeded steamboat traffic. Shreveport was the site of the worst section of the Red River, and where "The Raft" was impenetrable.

However, to reach its potential any economic asset must be developed and marketed successfully. Based upon what I saw on my recent tour of the Caddo-Bossier Port, that has and is happening.

I am chagrined to admit that although I was born and raised in Shreveport—and have driven past the Port all of my life—I had never stopped in. Well, I remedied that defect recently.

My tour guide, Director of Marketing and Sales, Kathy French, and Executive Port Director, Eric England, provided me with a wealth of information regarding the essence of what occurs there daily. What I saw is remarkable.

Let me try to summarize.

The Port of Caddo-Bossier is part of the 7-parish Red River Waterway Commission (RRWC). The RRWC includes Caddo, Bossier, Red River,

Natchitoches, Grant, Rapides, and Avoyelles parishes. Over the last 50 plus years the RRWC has attracted federal and state dollars to create and maintain a navigable waterway. Of course, by making the Red River navigable, new industries have been attracted to our region.

(By the way, as economist Dr. Loren C. Scott points out, if the navigable waterway is the



reason our riverboat casinos landed here then we can also add the economic impact of the casinos to our total RRWC-induced dollar

amount).

One of my mistaken assumptions was that every entity that calls the Port home was directly connected to the river itself. Not so. There are multiple businesses that are located at the Port simply because it serves as a great regional location from which to launch to other markets.

Several of the Port industries do directly use the river to ship inbound or outbound cargo. However, other industries do not directly use the river but still benefit from water-compelled rates—i.e., as a bargain-

ing chip, they use the option of choosing barge transportation to get more favorable rates from trucking and/or rail transportation.

I was curious about the broad economic impact of the RRWC, and I reviewed Dr. Scott's most recent economic update.

In 2018 dollars, the RRWC has attracted \$14.4 billion dollars since 1968. Dr. Scott also estimates that since 2018, significant additional private dollars have been injected into our region with the expansion of several of the tenants at the Port.

Of course, we shouldn't overlook the enormous multiplier effect on our regional economy. Using the \$14.4 billion in inflation-adjusted real spending, Dr. Scott concluded that:

1). Business firms in the 7-parish region gained over \$23.9 billion in real new business sales since 1968.

2). Households in the 7-parish region saw real earnings rise over \$6.9 billion since 1968.

3). In 2018, spending attracted to the region supported 4,741 jobs in the 7-parish area.

Current tenants of the Caddo-Bossier Port include: Benteler Steel, Calumet Packaging, Oakley Louisiana, Odyssey Specialized Logistics, LLC, Omni Industries—Omni Specialty Packaging, Omni Industrial Solutions, Pratt Industries Paper Mill, Ronpak, Ternium,

West Louisiana Aggregates, LLC. and Alpine Silica (formerly Performance Proppants).

There is also considerable investment in infrastructure presently being made.

The Port will soon begin the bid process for a new \$35 million waterline that will bring millions of gallons of water from Bossier City to the Port. The waterline is considered one of the first improvements needed to attract larger manufacturing facilities—which can create hundreds of new jobs for the area—by providing a redundant, or secondary, source of water for manufacturers that require it.

The Port is also working on a rail spur and plans on adding electric substations, natural gas lines and transload facilities, so the sites are "shovel ready"—often imperative to win a prospective tenant—for construction. (Biz Magazine, 4-25-23).

(Port tenants also frequently have job openings).

It is encouraging that with the largely self-inflicted explosion of inflation in the last 2.5 years and a challenging job market, the RRWC and the Port of Caddo-Bossier are a hopeful reminder that even in a difficult economy, a well-directed and marketed economic asset can flourish.

ROYAL ALEXANDER IS A SHREVEPORT ATTORNEY.

INSPIRATION

Writing down the legacy of our lives

Doctor Leo Buscaglia wrote "if you wish to let the reader know who you are you must tell the story in your own words or we won't be able to see who you really are."

But no matter what happens to us we can work it into the legacy of our lives because we all have a unique story if we dare to share -- to go apart -- to delve into the deepest recesses of our minds and to tell it like it was.

It has been said that Laura Ingalls Wilder, author of The Little House On The Prairie series, was believed to have been more interested in leaving her story behind rather than the money she might make from the stories she wrote.

Erma Bombeck, the late best selling author, and syndicated columnist said "It's not the money that you make but knowing your words reach people you will never meet."

I never met Erma personally yet she forever touched my life helping me to achieve more than I could have ever achieved without her encouragement when she dedicated a column to me on February 26, 1986 after I sent her a copy of a \$5 check that I received for a poem that I wrote.



SARAH HUDSON PIERCE

That column went out in over 900 newspapers across the country and keeps me going long after she died in 1996. She knew what she was doing.

We all need a little encouragement.

We can't make it alone nor would we want to. The late Zig Ziglar, best selling

author and motivational speaker, said "if you will help enough other people get what they want you can have everything you want."

I have had so many people encourage me that if I were to start naming names I would surely offend someone. It's safe to say that the late Craig Durrett and Jeff Benson and Jeff Gauger, who were well loved editorial page editors, of The Shreveport Times, encouraged me more than they ever knew.

It takes courage, of being open, to finally find your voice but before we do we have to speak from the heart. It's not easy being transparent because there are just so many things we would rather keep secret. We have to protect ourselves because we have all committed enough sins to surely condemn us but we need to strive for honesty in our writing.

I still don't feel safe telling about the homeless situa-

tions I would have been in had it not been for being rescued by Christians yet I have been on the very edge of homelessness not to mention going into an orphanage as a child due to poverty.

I encourage you to write because it has been my form of therapy while in the orphanage and when I was recovering from a nervous breakdown in 1981. Life isn't easy but our struggles makes us who we are.

All it takes is picking up a pen and jotting down a sentence each day. The sentences multiply into pages easing the pain of what you are going through.

I hope my words have encouraged you to write.

The joy I feel comes from knowing God is the one who has pulled me out of the ditches and through all the tight places in my life!

CONTACT SARAH AT SARAH9957@AOL.COM

OPINION

Peacock: Transparency needed in third-party litigation financing process

BARROW PEACOCK
Special to the Minden Press-Herald

One of the bedrocks of our legal system in the United States is transparency. The accused must have the right to face his or her accuser. Disclosure of information must be shared with both parties to a legal matter. Every person or entity is afforded due process. Our courts are public forums where any citizen can attend to witness the legal process.

Unfortunately, there is a scheme in our legal system that is hidden in the dark and that is the ever-growing industry of third-party litigation financing. Hedge funds, equity firms and most recently sovereign funds or foreign funds are financing lawsuits on a contingency basis. These third-party financiers are using the civil justice system as an investment tool.

Agreements between private financiers and law firms to pay for litigation costs is legal. What is troubling is these financiers are not revealed at any part in the legal process.

These funding agreements can create conflicts of interest between a lawyer and their client. While attorneys are bound to uphold the interests of their clients at all times, the reality is in these matters their salaries are coming from the pockets of third-party financiers. That can result in the financiers having significant influence over the handling of the case.

Also, the Swiss Re Institute reports that these outside financiers seek to "incentivize litigants to initiate and prolong lawsuits" to drive legal fees higher. This same study found that claimants receive 12 percent less in settlement funds

when a third-party funder is involved. The study also found these types of cases increase legal, liability and defense costs for businesses by as much as 20 percent.

A recent 60 Minutes report found that foreign entities are investing in U.S. cases to push their own agenda. One sovereign wealth fund has the ability to fund such cases that could harm U.S. defense contractors, with Russian and Chinese entities potentially doing the same thing. Without much needed transparency standards in place, we could potentially see foreign government-controlled entities file lawsuits that jeopardize our national intelligence infrastructure.

We have learned that a Texas law firm has come under scrutiny for what a Louisiana US District Court Judge called "a pattern of misconduct never

seen before." We have further learned that this law firm's work on behalf of hurricane victims in Louisiana was backed by private investors. The private investment partner financing these lawsuits is an estimates and restoration company that was writing estimates for the firm's lawsuits. The private investors have sued the law firm, claiming the firm promised to pay them a percentage of each claim and a percentage of the attorney's fees. This relationship was not part of any public filings by the law firm when it sued on behalf of hurricane victims.

This firm has been barred from filing any further lawsuits and the Louisiana Supreme Court has suspended the law license of the firm's Louisiana managing partner.

A few states - Wisconsin, Delaware, and Montana -- have

passed laws mandating third party financing disclosure for all civil cases. I am attempting to do the same with my legislation - Senate Bill 196 - the Litigation Financing Disclosure and Security Protection Act. Louisiana should join these states in providing much needed transparency in this area. Please ask your State Representative and State Senator to vote for Senate Bill 196.

I also encourage you to contact our Congressional Delegation and ask them to support the Litigation Funding Transparency Act at the federal level. We need a national policy to protect our citizens, businesses and national security across our nation.

SEN. BARROW PEACOCK IS CHAIRMAN OF THE SENATE JUDICIARY A COMMITTEE.

SPORTS

Russell Hedges, Sports Editor
rhedges@spechtnewspapers.com

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Coaching changes at Minden

Jacob Brown named boys head coach

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Minden didn't need to look far to find its new head boys basketball coach.

After 14 seasons as the girls head coach, Jacob Brown is taking over the boys team.

He replaces Rennie Bailey, who resigned after seven seasons to become an assistant at Southern University.

Brown is a 1999 graduate of Minden where he was a multi-sport athlete.

After graduating from Louisiana Tech and a successful four-year stint coaching at Webster Junior High, he returned to his alma mater as head girls basketball coach in 2009.

In 14 seasons, he posted a record of 242-173. From 2015-19, Minden went 107-27 in four seasons. The Lady Tiders reached the Class 4A quarterfinals in 2018 and the semifinals in 2019. Minden also won the District 1-4A title in the 2018-19 season.

The Lady Tiders have made the playoffs seven of the last eight seasons.

Brown's roots in Minden run deep. His grandfather, the late Clyde "Buster" Carlisle, had a very successful run as the Crimson Tide head coach from 1970-80. He won more than 1,000 games in a 41-year career in Louisiana and Texas.

His mother Debbie and father Teddy are both Minden graduates. His uncle, Randy, Buster's son, was a star basketball player at Minden and a very successful high school coach with seven state championships

and almost 1,000 wins to his credit.

Brown coached boys at Webster. While he's enjoyed and had a lot of success coaching girls basketball, he said it's been a goal of his to coach boys at the high school level like his grandfather.

"It's always hard to leave any position you're in, at least the ones I've been in anyway, just because of the investment in the kids that you interact with on a daily basis," he said.

"It was a career goal of mine — not one that I've really tried to rush — but it was a career goal of mine to get back to the boys coach. And yes, my grandfather was the boys coach here at Minden from 1970 to 1980.

"He experienced a lot of success here before he went over to the state of Texas. So for me to have this opportunity is very special for me and my family."

Brown said following in his grandfather's footsteps might seem like a lot of pressure to some. But he sees it as an opportunity and a blessing.

"And being able to sit and talk basketball throughout the years I no doubt feel that he would be thrilled and excited," Brown said.

Brown said he appreciated the faith Robin Tucker, Minden's principal at the time, showed in bringing him to Minden from Webster 14 years ago. And he appreciates the support and trust Becky Wilson, Minden's current principal, has given him.

"You never know what's going to happen when you



RUSSELL HEDGES/PRESS-HERALD
After 14 seasons as the girls head coach, Jacob Brown is taking over the boys program at Minden.

get in the profession of coaching," he said. "To be honest with you Minden has been really good to me. It's a special place. You never really kind of expect to go back home.

"But it happened early and it happened early for me when I began coaching at Webster Junior High School. And all I kind think of it is opportunity and being blessed. After four years of being at Webster it was an opportunity to go to the high school as a head girls coach. I was blessed. My principal at that time was very proud of me and still is but she always told me it was great to be able to see people grow in that aspect."

Brown doesn't see any big issue transitioning from coaching girls to boys.

"What allows you to win basketball games, first it's about winning young people, winning in the game of life," he said "But yes, we obviously know in the sports aspect of it we're trying to win games."

Brown said it all goes back to fundamentals.

"That's your foundation," he said. "You have to be good at those things. I'm sure when I get back into it — you know, it's been 14 years — I'm sure there are going to be some

details that are different. Ain't no doubt, it's going to be faster.

"But as far as the things that'll allow you to be successful I just think it happens on both sides, boys and girls."

Minden hasn't had a lot of success in boys basketball recently. The Tide play in one of the state's strongest districts. Over the years, District 1-4A has included teams like Bossier, Huntington and Woodlawn which have been state champion contenders year in and year out.

Of course Brown wants Minden to reach that level but he said it's a process.

"Obviously, the ultimate goal is, yeah, the state championship," he said. "I think there is a process and steps you have to take. You have to get in the playoffs to win that state championship. But we're going to take it step by step.

"What really makes that intriguing is that is for years it's been the same way on the girls side. Huntington, Minden, Woodlawn, Benton at times ... You were prepared for that playoff run in your district. "Every night you had to be prepared to play. You couldn't let up. And so that'll transition over to the boys."

Bailey takes assistant job at Southern

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

After seven seasons at his alma mater, Minden head boys basketball coach Rennie Bailey is returning to the college level.

Bailey has accepted a position as an assistant coach at Southern University.

He said it wasn't something he was actively pursuing. He said his longtime relationship with Kevin Johnson, who was named head coach at Southern in March, played a big role in his decision.

"I'm not sure that's what I wanted to do," he said of returning to the college level. "Just the opportunity came about."

He said Johnson reached out to him.

"When he got the job probably a couple of months ago he told me he wanted me to come work for him," Bailey said. "So just the opportunity presented itself. It's one thing to pursue a job. It's another thing for someone to pursue you.

"I had to think about it. But at the end of the day he wants me so it gives me the opportunity to get back at that level and go to work again."

Bailey, a star player at Minden in the late 1970s, said he'll miss the relationships he's formed with his colleagues, players and students over the last seven seasons.

"It's bittersweet that I'm leaving," the 1979

Minden graduate said. "There's no place like home. There's no place like working at your alma mater and coaching at your alma mater. So for sure I'm going to miss the players. I'm going to miss all the relationships throughout the high school with co-workers, teachers, staff and administrators."

Minden did not enjoy the kind of success on the court the Crimson Tide had when Bailey was a player during his tenure.

Minden is in one of the toughest districts in the state.

District 1-4A has included schools like Bossier, Huntington and Woodlawn, perennial state championship contenders over the past seven seasons.

But wins and losses aren't the only measures of a coaches' success.

"We didn't win the way that I wanted us to win," he said. "But hopefully I just won in other areas. I couldn't get it done on the court. Hopefully I said something to somebody or did something for someone that changed their life in the way that they think and the way they pursue things. Those that I taught in my class and those that I encountered in the hallways.

"Small victories. Didn't get the big victories on the court. I just hope I was able to get small victories by helping young people by giving them direction and guidance in their lives."

OUTDOORS

Finding an eagle for my beloved

GLYNN HARRIS

My first glimpse of a bald eagle in Louisiana took place when I was just a kid and the one I saw was sitting on a nest made of a huge pile of sticks and branches high up in a big pine tree not far from my home in Goldonna. Someone had alerted my dad to the eagle nest and he took my brother, sister and me to the piney woods to see it. Unfortunately, too many other people knew about the nest and all the activity caused the birds to abandon the nest.

According to officials with the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF), the Goldonna eagle and just about all the others around the state disappeared. In the early 1970s, only seven nests were counted across the entire state. Not only had the birds disappeared in our state, the same thing was happening across the United States. The culprit responsible for the vanishing eagles was a pesticide we know as DDT.

The pesticide did a great job of controlling nuisance insects on crops. Many of the DDT-infested insects made their way into waterways where they were eaten by small fish, which were eaten by larger fish, which just happens to be a bald eagle's main diet.

As eagles caught and ate fish, the DDT came with the eagle's meal with the result being an increasing difficulty of the birds to absorb calcium, the absence of which made the eggs of nesting eagles thin. As a result, eggs were broken before they hatched.

Fortunately, the use of DDT was outlawed in the



CARLA JOHNSTON

Spotting a bald eagle in our part of the country is a special event.

United States in 1972 and a slow but steady recovery began.

Over the past few years, I have had the opportunity to spot eagles at inopportune times. I'm not looking for them but — BAM — there's an eagle.

I was headed to my favorite fishing pond one morning several years ago. As I turned off the highway down the road to the pond, something caught my eye sitting in a tall pine. I saw the telltale white head of a bald eagle.

One of the most impressive sightings I ever had was one day a few years ago when James Ramsaur, director of Lincoln Parish Park, called me to bring my camera; he had something to show me.

When I arrived at the park, I saw what looked like a feather pillow had exploded along the pond dam at the park. Sitting atop a tall tree nearby was a bald

eagle. Ramsaur explained that an eagle had caught one of the white ducks making their home on the lake and enjoyed a meal on the pond dam.

More recently, I was driving home from town when I watched a bald eagle flying across a pasture toward a pond. The white head and tail feathers were dead giveaways.

While I have had the occasion to spot an eagle now and then, my wife has been denied that opportunity and I hoped she might be with me when I spotted one. Last week, I struck gold.

After a trip to town, I had noticed that the owner of a hay field across the road from my home had mowed hay that morning.

Casting a glance onto the field of freshly cut hay, something caught my eye. There sitting in the field 100 yards from me was a bald eagle apparently en-

joying a meal from a rat; snake; rabbit or something the mower had run over.

Since it was a few hundred yards from home, I hurried in, told my wife to jump in the car and come with me to see if it was still there. It was. We sat for several minutes observing the eagle which was being harassed by several crows. The eagle eventually flew to a branch on a tall tree across the field and having brought binoculars along with us, we enjoyed the scene for several minutes before the big bird grew tired of being harassed by crows and flew along the field giving us another spectacular view of the white head and tail as it flew.

If you really love your wife and she has never seen an eagle, be on the lookout for one to show her. I have a sneaking feeling I'll be getting a chocolate pie out of the deal.

Fishing Report

BLACK BAYOU — Bream are on the beds and hitting worms and crickets. Crappie and bass are around the trees. Bass hitting spinner baits. Contact Honey Hole Tackle Shop 323-8707 for latest information.

BUSSEY BRAKE — Big bass in the 8-10 pound category are being caught flipping the brush along with spinners and square billed crank bits. Top-water lures working best early mornings. Crappie are scattered; bream are on the beds and hitting worms and crickets. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole at 323-8707.

OUACHITA RIVER — Crappie fishing has been good in the river lakes on jigs and shiners. Bream are on the beds in the woods. Bass are fair on crank baits. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE D'ARBONNE — The Majestic Big Bass classic kicks off this weekend. Bass have been best on spinners and crank baits along shallow grass lines. Crappie are on the edge of the flats. Bream are on the beds and hitting worms and crickets. 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 — Bass have been good on swim baits with good fishing for them at night with soft plastics and spinners. Bream fishing has been best up Isaac Creek on crickets and worms. Crappie fishing has been best up the creeks on shiners or jigs. No report on catfish or stripers. For latest information, call Kel's Cove at 927-2264 or Terzia Tackle at 278-4498.

CANEY LAKE — Deep diving crank baits and Carolina rigged worms are picking up some bass to 8 pounds on the deeper drops while swim baits are working fairly well along the grass lines. Crappie fishing has been best at night on shiners around the lights. The bream are bedded and hitting crickets and worms. 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 — Catfish and bream are biting. Bass and crappie slow to fair. 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 barfish and crappie along with catfish are starting to bite. Bass are fair. For information, call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.

Good News

GOOD NEWS

Honoring Those Saints Who Are Homebound

In every community there are adults unable to enjoy the freedom of moving about, take care of themselves, or do things they once enjoyed. We refer to them as being “homebound.” Of course, all of them are not “at home”; many are in nursing homes, special care facilities and such. Some live with their children or other relatives. But the bottom line is: People need special help at this crucial time in their lives.

The church must rise to this challenge and minister to needs of those bound to a life of inactivity, confined to the bed or wheelchair, and unable to do daily chores for themselves. In times past, families assumed this responsibility completely. But not so today; families are not equipped for long term care like this. As the num-

ber of nursing homes and other facilities increase to meet these needs, there is a greater need for able adults to step forward to help the church reach out to minister in the name of Jesus. Most recently the Baby Boomers added a great number of those “coming of age.” With medical advancement increasing longevity, this is going to be even a greater challenge for the church in the near future.

The Bible has much to say about the aged, providing care for them, and giving the respect due them. Psalms and Proverbs speaks to the wisdom that comes with

age. Acts reminds us of the “special place aging men and women should hold in the church family and the need to minister to their needs.” In the Old Testament, several are mentioned who grew old and were no longer able to live along, requiring others to minister to them. Also Jesus took time, as did the disciples, to speak and minister to those they encountered. This included the blind, crippled, lepers, men in prison, those ill at home, widows and orphans. All of these would qualify as “homebound” and needing a “ministry touch.”

Some churches honor their Homebound Members and those who minister to them each year. Often this is done in Spring – maybe as part of a Christian Home Emphasis.. A memorial list

can be shared (names of those who have died in the past year), reminding the church family to be aware of this far-reaching ministry and opening up opportunities for ministry.

Not all homebound persons are “old and aged.” Some are confined to the bed or wheelchair because of accidents, birth problems, or childhood illnesses. Nevertheless, it is a great privilege and blessing to provide Christian ministry to everyone who is not able to attend church activities because of health reasons.

Do you know a ‘homebound’ person? Chances are they are lonely, wishing to do more for themselves, not depending on others to do simple tasks, etc. Bottom line: they would rather be doing for themselves and helping

others. Right now, they cannot. So let’s look around our neighborhood, make a list of ones you know, share with the church leaders if they are not being ministered to in any way. Lend a helping hand to them. Reach out and give a handshake or hug. Hold the hand of a homebound person as you say a prayer of hope, of healing, and comfort. Adopt one of these dear saints and make their remaining days bright with smiles and the sunshine of God’s love. Could be that one day soon, you and I may be in such a helpless state. And then what?

BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER

THE UPWARD LOOK

Incompatibility

“For you may be sure of this, that everyone who is sexually immoral or impure, or who is covetous (that is, an idolater), has no inheritance in the kingdom of Christ and God.” Ephesians 5:5 ESV



Max Hutto

A habitual lifestyle that is consumed with sexual immorality, impurity, or covetousness is incongruent and incompatible with the lifestyle of a believer in the kingdom of Christ. A follower of Jesus is commanded to live a holy and pure lifestyle that honors and glorifies God. The

characteristics of the old sinful nature must be put aside and removed from the new life of a believer in Christ. To consistently and persistently remain in the old sinful lifestyle demonstrates a lack of identification and possession of a new life in Christ.

Lord Jesus, may my life be righteous and pure, and may I glorify and honor God in all that I do.

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

INSPIRATION

Pray

When I write these articles my goal is always to inspire someone. This writing is no different from the others and I want to inspire you all to do one thing more and that is pray. The best way to communicate with God is through ceaseless prayer and constant submission to his will. We live in troubling times is a phrase I hear all too often now and my response to that is we have always lived in troubling times and God has always given a solution. So what do we do and how do we combat the sorrow? Simple, we pray and we rejoice in the knowledge that our God is not limited by the obstacles of this world and as we cast our lives



Bernard Harris

on him he removes those limits from us as well. Your release from the burdens of this world can start today and all you have to do is pray. Matthew 11:28-30 NLT says “Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you, because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.”

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

Come

WORSHIP

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

⊙ * ✎ ☺ ♣ ~ ⓪ ♫ ✧ * ⬠ ✕ ✎ + ~ ✎ ⬆ ☾ * ⓪ ✎ ✎ ✎ ☾ ☾ ☾ ☾

ABCDEFGHIJKLMNOPQRSTUVWXYZ

CRYPTO FUN

☾ ☾ ☾ ✎ ✎ ☾ ☾ ☾ ☾ ☾

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to water quality.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 6 = E)

A. 12 20 3 10 6 21
Clue: Removes impurities

B. 16 4 15 21 18 10 6
Clue: Absorb water

C. 21 6 14 6 21 17 24 20 21
Clue: Used as a water supply

D. 22 20 22 6 14
Clue: Carry water

Answers: A. filter B. hydrate C. reservoir D. pipes

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

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

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

FUN & GAMES

CLUES ACROSS

1. Taxi

4. Cattle disease (abbr.)

7. Before the present

8. They burn in a grill

10. Enough (archaic)

12. "A Doll's House" playwright

13. Long loop of cloth worn around the waist

14. Napoleonic Wars battle

16. Chinese surname

17. Fragrant essential oil

19. Follows sigma

20. Model

21. A place with many dining options

25. BBQ dish

26. Corn comes on it

27. A sheep in its second year

29. Triad

30. They ____

31. Actor DiCaprio

32. TV's "Edith Bunker"

39. Sustenance

41. Man who behaves dishonorably

42. Cause a loud, harsh sound

43. A way to take in liquids

44. Gene type

45. The Miami mascot is one

46. Excessive fluid accumulation in tissues

48. Casino machine

49. Contains cerium

50. Something with a letter-like shape

51. Handwoven Scandinavian rug

52. Legendary actress Ruby

CLUES DOWN

1. Conqueror

2. Kin relation

3. Increases the value of

4. Pack

5. Popular nut

6. Dogs' enemies

8. Former OSS

9. Unpleasant person

11. Come again?

14. Beverage container

15. Rock formation

18. Dorm official

19. The bill in a restaurant

20. Type of jug

22. Importance requiring swift action

23. Outfit

24. Small Eurasian deer

27. Weight used in China

28. A major division of geological time

29. Popular beverage

31. Confined condition (abbr.)

32. Practical joking

33. Pouchlike structure

34. Pound

35. Lilly and Manning are two

36. Stopped discussing

37. Baltimore ballplayer

38. Candymaker

39. One thousandth of a second (abbr.)

40. Northern sea duck

44. Partner to cheese

47. Cannot be found

PUZZLE SOLUTION

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

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While we appreciate every donation, in some cases, we find that we are unable to accept certain vehicles, watercraft, and/or recreational vehicles due to the prohibitive costs of acquisition. If you have any questions, please give us a call at (888) 651-6230.

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

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* Garage Sale ads must be prepaid.

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

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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

PUBLIC BID NOTICE

The office of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court is accepting sealed bids for surplus, nonfunctioning inventory no later than Friday June 16, 2023. There is a minimum bid of \$1,000.00. If you would like to view the surplus inventory list, please call Mike at 318-965-2217.

Please submit sealed bids to:

Melissa Fox
Court Administrator
26th Judicial District Court
PO Box 310
Benton, LA 71006

**May 24, 2023
May 31, 2023
June 7, 2023
Minden Press-Herald**

Legal Notice

Sealed bids will be received in the office of the Webster Parish School Food Service Office until **4:00 P.M., Monday, June 12, 2023** for Supplies, to be used in the school year **September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2024**.

Bids will be opened publicly in the Webster Parish School Food Service Office at **9:00 a.m. on June 13, 2023**, and all bids received after the submission deadline will be returned unopened.

Supplies Bid Opening **Wednesday, June 21, 2023 - 9:00 – 10:00am**

All questions regarding the bid shall be submitted in writing via the email or fax listed below no later than 4:00 p.m., CST, Wednesday, June 7, 2023. If needed, release of responses to written questions will be answered in the form of an addendum. Addendum will be sent to those bidders that requested a copy of the solicitation. Questions received after this date and time may not be accepted. Responses to submitted questions will be answered by 4:00 p.m., CST, Monday June 12, 2023.

No pre-bid meeting is scheduled. Attendance is not required for opening or bid award.

Complete specifications and further information may be obtained from the School Food Service Office, Webster Parish School Board Office, 1442 Sheppard St., Minden, LA, 71055, or P.O. Box 520, Minden, LA, 71058-0520, (318) 377-1336, Fax (318) 377-6311. Webster Parish School Board reserves the right to reject any and all bids and waive any informalities.

Public Bid Opening.

USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

This Institution is an equal opportunity employer.

Webster Parish School Board

Johnny Rowland Jr.
Johnny Rowland Jr., Superintendent

**May 24, 2023
May 31, 2023
June 7, 2023
Minden Press-Herald**

PUBLIC NOTICE: Cellico Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to construct a 260-foot Self-Supporting Lattice Communications Tower. Anticipated lighting application is FAA Style A. The Site location is at 14348 US Hwy 371, Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana (N32° 37' 41.1", W93° 21' 40.2"). The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Antenna Structure Registration (ASR, Form 854) filing number is A1245952.

ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS: Interested persons may review the application (www.fcc.gov/asr/applications) by entering the filing number. Environmental concerns may be raised by filing a Request for Environmental Review (www.fcc.gov/asr/environmentalrequest) and online filings are strongly encouraged. The mailing address to file a paper copy is: FCC Requests for Environmental Review, Attn: Ramon Williams, 445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554. 23-001121 DMG

June 7, 2023

Minden Press-Herald

IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR DRINKING WATER

Water system failed to take corrective action or notify State Dept. of Health of corrective action following identification of deficiency

On 1/26/23, LDH performed a detailed inspection and engineering evaluation of our water system called a sanitary survey. During this survey, they identified one or more deficiencies in our system. As our customers, you have the right to know what happened and what we are doing to correct this situation. According to EPA's Ground Water Rule, we were required to correct the deficiency or work with the state to develop a plan to correct the deficiency (or deficiencies). However, we failed to correct the deficiency or contact the state before the deadline and have therefore violated a requirement of the Ground Water Rule.

What should I do?

There is nothing you need to do. You do not need to boil your water or take other corrective actions. If a situation were to arise where the water is not safe to drink, you would be notified within 24 hours.

What does this mean?

This is not an emergency. If it had been an emergency, you would have been notified within 24 hours.

This deficiency has the potential to result in lack of proper treatment and oversight of the water system. Inadequately treated water may contain disease causing organisms which could cause symptoms such as diarrhea, cramps, and associated headaches. While no evidence of contamination or other health threats was detected, we are still committed to correcting the deficiency to eliminate the threat of contaminations.

What was done?

Corrective actions have been made, and a timeline for items not corrected has been given to LDH.

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

This notice is being provided to you by Bistineau State Park #1, LA2119001. If you have questions about this notice please contact the water system directly at 318-745-3503.

**June 7, 2023
Minden Press-Herald**

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

VILLAGE OF DIXIE INN (hereinafter referred to as the "Owner").

Sealed bids marked "Sealed Bid" VILLAGE OF DIXIE INN Love Louisiana Outdoors Project to be financed by the State of Louisiana Love Louisiana Outdoors Program will be received by the Owner for the construction of the project described as follows:

**VILLAGE OF DIXIE INN
Love Louisiana Outdoors Project Dixie Inn Park- Restroom and Picnic Shelters**

Proposals shall be addressed to the **VILLAGE OF DIXIE INN and delivered to the Village of DIXIE INN Town Hall, 60 SHELL STREET, MINDEN, LA 71055** not later than **2:00 P.M., JULY 11, 2023**. Sealed bids shall be marked as "Sealed Bid" – VILLAGE OF DIXIE INN Love Louisiana Outdoors Project to be financed by the State of Louisiana Love Louisiana Outdoors Program. All bids must be submitted on the proper bid form. The Contractor shall display his Contractor's license number prominently on the outside of the envelope. Any bids

received after the specified time and date will not be considered. The sealed bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at **2:00 P.M., JULY 11, 2023 at the Village of DIXIE INN Town Hall, 60 Shell Street, Minden, Louisiana 71055**.

The Information for Bidders, Form of Bid Proposal, Form of Contract, Plans, Specifications, and Forms of Bid Bond, Performance and Payment Bond, and other contract documents may be examined at the Village of Dixie Inn. Copies may be obtained at the office of the Engineer, COTHREN, GRAFF, SMOAK ENGINEERING, INC., upon payment of \$50.00 which amount constitutes the cost of reproduction and handling. This payment will not be refunded.

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. All bidders must sign: (1) the Bid, (2) Certificate of Corporate Principal and Surety, (3) any Addenda issued, and (4) Bid Bond which always must accompany the bid in the correct amount.

A Corporate Resolution authorizing a representative of the corporation to sign the bid must accompany the bid, if the bidder is a corporation.

Each bidder must deposit with his/her bid, security in the amount, form, and subject to the conditions provided in the Information for Bidders. Sureties used for obtaining bonds must appear as acceptable on the U.S. Department of Treasury Circular 570.

No bidder may withdraw his/her bid within thirty (30) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

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

The Contractor Classification for the project is:

BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

Attention of Bidders is particularly called to the requirement as to conditions of employment to be observed and minimum wage rates to be paid under the Contract, Section 3, Segregated Facilities, Section 109, Executive Order 11246, and all applicable laws and regulations of the Federal government and State of Louisiana and bonding and insurance requirements.

The successful bidder must submit executed copies of Certification Regarding Equal Employment Opportunity, Section 3 and Segregated Facilities, Section 3 Plan with Tables A and B, Certification Concerning Labor Standards and all subcontractors' certifications prior to contract execution.

The successful bidder will be required to execute the Owner's Standard Form of Agreement/ Contract for construction together with the Performance and Payment Bonds within ten (10) working days after normal award of contract.

The Contractor shall begin mobilization and procurement of materials within ten (10) working days of the receipt of the Notice to Proceed.

Please notify the Owner seven (7) days in advance of the scheduled bid opening if special accommodations specified under ADA are required.

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.

**June 7, 2023
June 14, 2023
June 21, 2023
Minden Press-Herald**

SHERIFF'S SALE

LAKEVIEW LOAN

SERVICING, LLC VS. PATRICK AN-DREW KING AND RACHEL KING, A/K/A RACHEL ELIZABETH MILLER KING, RACHEL ELIZABETH MILLER, RACHEL ELIZABETH KING

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. CV80496

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 **WITHOUT** the benefit of appraisal and according to law at the principal front door of the Courthouse in the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana on **WEDNESDAY, July 12, 2023**. During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

A 1.83 acre, more or less, tract of land located in the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NW/4 of SE/4) and the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (SW/4 of SE/4), all in Section 4, Township 20 North, Range 9 West, Webster Parish, Louisiana, more particularly described as follows:

Begin at an existing 3/4 inch iron pipe at the Southeast corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter, (SE/c of NW/4 of SE/4), also begin at the Northeast corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NE/c of SW/4 of SE/4), said Section 4 for the Point of Beginning and run South 195.14 feet to an existing 1/2 inch iron rod on the apparent North right-of-way of Blue Run Road; thence run North 83 degrees 18 minutes 22 seconds West 196.65 feet along said apparent right-of-way to a set 5/8 inch iron rod; thence run North 3 degrees 06 minutes 05 seconds West 381.12 feet to an existing 2 inch iron pipe at a cross-tie fence corner; thence run North 89 degrees 51 minutes 28 seconds East 209.39 feet to an existing 2 inch iron pipe at a cross-tie fence corner; thence run South 1 degree 47 minutes 31 seconds East 208.96 feet to the Point of Beginning, as per Plat prepared by Paul W. Culpepper, Registered Land Surveyor, dated March 10, 2010, Drawing # 10-047C, together with all buildings and improvements located thereon, having a municipal address of 1162 Blue Run Road, Minden, Louisiana 71055, formerly and historically described as:

One acre in the Southeast corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (SE/c of NW/4 of SE/4) of Section 4, Township 20 North, Range 9 West, Webster Parish, Louisiana, together with all improvements thereon and all rights thereunto belonging, being the property acquired by W.A. Smith from the Webster Parish School Board by Deed recorded in Volume 256, Page 311, Conveyance Records of Webster Parish, Louisiana, and acquired by Lionel & Lou Myles from W.A. Smith and Sallie Roberts Smith by Deed recorded April 10, 1984 recorded in Volume 609, Page 718, Conveyance Records of Webster Parish, Louisiana (Assessment #104847).

Which has the address of 1162 Blue Run Road, Minden, LA 71055

SOLD SUBJECT TO ANY SUPERIOR LIENS, MORTGAGES OR PRIVILEGES THERETO.

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

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

Linda Vaughan - Deputy

**June 7, 2023
July 5, 2023
Minden Press-Herald**

City of Minden Section 8 Waiting List

Applications for the city of Minden will be available **ONLINE ONLY starting Monday, June 19, 2023, and ending Thursday, July 20, 2023**. This is to get place on the waiting list only and for inside the city limits of Minden, LA. The website to apply is <https://mindenhousingmanager.com/>

You must create an account online to apply!!

Cecily Young
Housing Specialist 4

**June 7, 2023
Minden Press-Herald**

June 5, 2023

**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
WEBSTER PARISH POLICE JURY**

CULLEN SENIOR CENTER RENOVATIONS

The proposals must be in the hands of the undersigned no later than **9:00 a.m., Wednesday, July 5, 2023, in the Courthouse House Annex meeting room of the Webster Parish Police Jury, 401 Main Street, Minden, Louisiana 71055**. The bid forms and specification sheets are available at no charge in the office of the Secretary-Treasurer, Webster Parish Policy Jury. Successful bids will be approved at the Regular Meeting,

Webster Parish Police Jury on July 5, 2023.

The Webster Parish Police Jury is a tax-exempt governmental agency.

The Webster Parish Police Jury abides by the requirements of the Louisiana Bid Law.

ALL BIDS SUBMITTED MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED.

Webster Parish Police Jury

/s/
Lisa Balkom
Secretary-Treasurer

**June 7, 2023
June 14, 2023
June 21, 2023
June 28, 2023
Minden Press-Herald**

I, John Hays, 535664, have applied for clemency for my conviction of ILL Possession Stolen Things. If you have any comments, contact the Board of Pardons (225) 342-5421.

**June 7, 2023
June 14, 2023
June 21, 2023
Minden Press-Herald**

I, Michael Milligan, 625741, have applied for clemency for my conviction of Schedule II. If you have any comments, contact the Board of Pardons (225) 342-5421.

**June 7, 2023
June 14, 2023
June 21, 2023
Minden Press-Herald**

Patrick Andrew King and Rachel King, A/K/A Rachel Elizabeth Miller King, Rachel Elizabeth Miller, Rachel Elizabeth King and/or Anyone knowing their whereabouts, Please contact Richard E. Griffith, Attorney at Law, at 839 Kings Highway, Suite 200, Shreveport, Louisiana 71104, or (318) 222-0337.

**June 7, 2023
Minden Press-Herald**

LEASE PROPERTY is available for your mobile home at 713 Peach Street.

Contact: Larry Houston, 301-814-4647

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Article IV, Section 21(D)(1) of the Louisiana Constitution, that on May 31, 2023, Entergy Louisiana, LLC ("ELL"), a public utility providing retail electric and gas service throughout the State of Louisiana, filed with the Louisiana Public Service Commission ("LPSC") its Formula Rate Plan ("FRP") Rider Schedule FRP Evaluation Report and Workpapers for Test Year 2022.

The filing reflects an earned return on common equity ("EROE") for the 2022 Evaluation Period/Test Year of 8.33%, which is below the approved FRP midpoint and, without consideration of the cap, would result in an increase to Base Rider FRP Revenue of approximately \$70.7 million. However, after application of the cap approved by LPSC Order No. U-35565, Base Rider FRP Revenues are only being increased by \$4.9 million. After accounting for all components of FRP Revenue, including amounts inside the bandwidth and subject to the cap as well as amounts which are adjusted outside of the bandwidth, the net increase is \$85.2 million. The resulting FRP factors to be applied to the respective ELL rate classes (including Legacy ELL and Legacy EGSL rate classes) effective for customer bills rendered on and after the first billing cycle of September 2023, are as follows:

Ln No.	Rate Class	Total ELL FRP Rate Adj.
1	ELL- Residential	81.6591%
2	ELL- Small General Service	78.9456%
3	ELL- Large General Service	79.5313%
4	ELL- Large Industrial Power Service	75.0703%
5	ELL- Large Load, High Load Factor Power Service	74.8169%
6	ELL- Large Industrial Service	76.9172%
7	ELL- Lighting	80.3628%
8	EGSL- Residential	76.4672%
9	EGSL- Small General Service	74.6051%
10	EGSL- General Service	74.5049%
11	EGSL- Large Power Service	69.8024%
12	EGSL- High Load Factor Service	69.6842%
13	EGSL- Municipal Water Pumping Service	74.4150%
14	EGSL- Street & Area Lighting	74.6771%

It is estimated that the proposed adjustment in rates will have the following effects upon applicable Legacy ELL customers' typical monthly bills: for a Residential customer using 1,000 kWh the bill would change by approximately \$2.27; for a Small General Service customer using 50 kW and 12,500 kWh the bill would change by approximately \$26.37; for a Large General Service customer using 1,000 kW and 500,000 kWh the bill would change by approximately \$633.97.

It is estimated that the proposed adjustment in rates will have the following effects upon applicable Legacy EGSL customers' typical monthly bills: for a Residential customer using 1,000 kWh the bill would change by approximately \$1.42; for a Small General Service customer using 5000 kWh the bill would change by approximately \$6.90; for a Large General Service customer using 500 kW and 255,500 kWh the bill would change by approximately \$183.11.

For questions and comments regarding ELL's filing, please call the LPSC toll free at (800) 256-2397. Additionally, the filing, including its attachments may be viewed in the Records Division of the LPSC at the following address:

Records Division
602 N. 5th Street, 12th Floor
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802
Telephone: (225) 342-3157

ENTERGY LOUISIANA, LLC

**June 7, 2023
Minden Press-Herald**

RECOGNITION

WPPJ Awarded 2022 Keep Louisiana Beautiful beautification grant

WILL PHILLIPS
Minden Press-Herald

The Webster Parish Police Jury (WPPJ) has been selected as a recipient of the 2022 Keep Louisiana Beautiful beautification grant by Keep Louisiana Beautiful, the state's premier anti-litter and community improvement organization.

This year's grant, in the amount of \$3,630, provided funding to install a new sign with lighting to direct citizens to the police jury office. Funding will also provide new landscaping that will enhance the beauty of an intersection on Minden's historic Main Street. The landscaping will include native Louisiana plants.

This project will not only revitalize a street corner by removing remnants of the old bank sign anchor point and electrical boxes, it will also assist citizens in finding the Webster Parish Police Jury office by installing a new sign along the roadway.



WILL PHILLIPS/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

This year's grant, in the amount of \$3,630, will provide funding to install a new sign with lighting to direct citizens to the police jury office.

"Citizens have a hard time finding the police jury office for permitting and things like when it serves as a voting precinct," said Webster Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness Director Brian Williams, who found and applied for the grant. "I'm excited to be able to help the WPPJ se-

cure funding to install a new sign with landscaping and LED lights, dedicated to Bernard Hudson, to illuminate it at night. This project will not only provide direction for our citizens, but it will also revitalize the old flower bed at the street corner on Main near the courthouse."

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

Claiborne Electric Co-op 2023 Drive-Thru Annual Meeting

June 10, 2023

9 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Members may drive-thru at either:

Claiborne Electric Cooperative - 12525 Hwy. 9, Homer

OR

D'Arbonne Woods Charter School - 9560 Hwy. 33, Farmerville



Prizes:

- 50 gift cards - \$100 each
- \$500 registration card prize
- \$1,000 cash prize
- \$2,000 cash prize
- \$3,000 cash prize
- \$4,000 cash prize
- \$5,000 cash grand prize

Members should bring:

- Registration card (received by mail)
- Picture ID (must match the registration card)

Keep Up With The News Daily!

MINDEN PRESS-HERALD
covering local..
Obituaries

John F. Kennedy
John F. Kennedy of Brookline, Massachusetts. Services were held at Cathedral of St. Matthew the Apostle, 1725 Rhode Island Avenue NW, Washington DC on November 25, 1963 at 11:00 a.m. Interment was at Arlington Memorial Cemetery.

Richard Belzer

Richard Belzer, the longtime stand-up comedian who became one of TV's most indelible detectives as John Munch in "Homicide: Life on the Street" and "Law & Order: SVU," has died. He was 76. Belzer died Sunday at his home in Beaulieu-sur-Mer, in

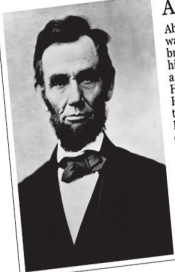
southern France. There was no known cause of death, but Belzer had been dealing with circulatory and respiratory issues. The actor Henry Winkler, Belzer's cousin, tweeted, "Rest in peace Richard." Belzer is survived by his third wife, the actress Harlee McBride, whom he married in 1985. For the past 20 years, they lived mostly in France.



Marilyn Monroe

Marilyn Monroe was born Norma Jean Mortenson on June 1, 1926, in Los Angeles General Hospital. She died on August 5, 1962, at the age of 36. She made only 30 films in her lifetime, but her legendary status will remain with film history forever. In 1942, at the age of 16, Norma Jean married 21-year-old aircraft plant worker James Dougherty. The marriage only lasted four years, and they divorced in 1946. By this time Marilyn began to model swimsuits. Bit parts in the movies followed. In 1951, Marilyn got a fairly sizable role in "Love Nest." In 1952, she made "Monkey Business,"

where she was seen for the first time as a platinum blonde, a look that became her trademark. Over the next decade she made a series of classic movies, including "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes," "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," and "The Seven Year Itch," and became an unmatched sex symbol and superstar. In 1953, Marilyn married American baseball legend Joe DiMaggio. The union lasted only eight months. In "Bus Stop" in 1956, Marilyn finally showed critics that she could play a straight dramatic role. It was also the same year she married playwright Arthur Miller. After a year off in 1958, Marilyn returned to the screen the next year for the delightful comedy, "Some Like It Hot." This was to be Marilyn's only film for the year. Her last film, "The Misfits," (1961) was popular with critics and the public alike.



Abraham Lincoln

Abraham Lincoln was born February 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky. He was the son of Thomas Lincoln and Nancy Lincoln Grigsby. Abraham spent his early years on a family farm in southern Indiana. Lincoln worked as a boatman, a store clerk, a surveyor, militia soldier, and eventually became a lawyer in Illinois. He was elected to the Illinois legislature in 1834. He married his lovely wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, in 1842. They had four sons together: Robert Todd Lincoln, Tad Lincoln, William Wallace Lincoln, and Edward Baker Lincoln. Abraham was a very loving father and husband, he always thought of his family before himself. Lincoln continued his political career and became the United States House of Representatives member from Illinois in 1846. In 1860, Abraham was elected president of the United States. During his presidency, Lincoln is best known for abolishing slavery. As he sat in a play on April 15, 1865, at the end of the Civil War, Lincoln was shot and killed by an assassin. Abraham Lincoln will always be remembered — gone but never forgotten.

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MINDEN PRESS-HERALD
covering the...
Daily Report

Minden man arrested on drug charges
By Minden Press-Herald - Feb 20, 2023



A Minden man was arrested on drug charges after a Minden police officer spotted the man's erratic driving.

Jakoren Jones, 28, of the 600 block of Goodwill Street was initially seen running the stop sign at Pershing and East Street.

"I observed a silver Ford Fusion run the stop sign at Pershing and East Street," the officer reported. "The car struggled to maintain its lane and

MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

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