

# MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

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MINDEN, LOUISIANA

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## ELECTION

# Amendments on the ballot for Gubernatorial Primary

## What you need to know before going to the polls

**AMBER MCDOWN**  
Minden Press-Herald

Four proposed amendments will be on the ballot for the Gubernatorial Primary Elections, which will be held on October 14.

Amendment No. 1 (Act

200, 2023 HB 311), prohibits the use of funds, goods, or services from a foreign government or a nongovernmental source to conduct elections and election functions and duties unless the use is authorized by the secretary of state through poli-

cies established in accordance with law.

A vote of “yes” will mean that funds, goods, or services from a foreign government or nongovernmental sources would not be permitted to be used in elections unless they are authorized by the secretary of state in accordance with state law.

A vote of “no” will mean that funds, goods, or ser-

vices from a foreign government or nongovernmental source would be permitted to be used in elections.

Amendment No. 2 (ACT 30, 2023 SB 63) provides that the freedom of worship in a church or other place of worship is a fundamental right that is worthy of the highest order of protection.

A vote of “yes” will

mean that, in the event that state or local government action is alleged to have violated the freedom of worship, this right will receive the highest order of protection by courts.

A vote of “no” will mean that alleged violations of the freedom of worship could receive less strict scrutiny.

Amendment No. 3 (ACT 107, 2023 HB 47) requires

that a minimum of 25% of any money designated as nonrecurring state revenue be applied toward the balance of the unfunded accrued liability of the state retirement systems.

A vote of “yes” will mean nonrecurring state revenue paid toward state public retirement systems will increase to

See, **ELECTION**, Page 3

## MEET AND GREET



WILL PHILLIPS/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

The Greater Minden Chamber hosted a Meet and Greet with candidates from the upcoming fall election including the Governor's race, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education, State Senator, Assessor, and Police Jurors.

# Greater Minden Chamber hosts Meet and Greet with the candidates

**WILL PHILLIPS**  
Minden Press-Herald

The Greater Minden Chamber hosted a Meet and Greet with candidates running for office in the upcoming fall election. This article will cover the candidates who were present running for Governor, Board of

Elementary and Secondary Education District 4, Louisiana State Senate District 36, and Webster Parish Assessor. The remaining candidates will be covered in a separate article at a later date.

One of the candidates running for the governor's seat, Xavier Ellis, took the time to share his

platform.

“I am the youngest candidate in the governor's race, but that's not the important part. The important part is that my platform states I want to do recreational infrastructure. What that simply means y'all is this. I want to go to each municipality while I'm in

the governor's office and know what your needs, weaknesses, and threats are,” said Ellis.

“I want to be in the fight for that, along with teacher pay raise issues, and last but not least, I want to be able to diversify the office.

See, **MEET**, Page 3

## GOLF

# Pine Hills Junior Golf League holds inaugural championship

**AMBER MCDOWN**  
Minden Press-Herald

The Pine Hills Junior Golf League held its inaugural golf championship on Saturday, September 30, marking the culmination of the golfing season for nearly 20 young enthusiasts aged 8 to 17. Hosted at the Pine Hills Country Club, participants had to complete a minimum of four previous golf matches to qualify for this event.

The brainchild of Jeremy Utphall and Dr. Zack Goodman, the championship was a testament to the transformative power of golf in the lives of these young athletes. Utphall, a dedicated golf instructor, expressed delight in witnessing the growth and newfound passion for sports among these budding golfers, stating, “It's been really fun watching the kids grow.”

In the Elementary Division, Luke Hollloway secured 1st place for boys,

with an impressive score of 87, while Asher Utphall achieved 1st place for the girls with a score of 138.

Within the Middle School Division for boys, Tate Fegley clinched the top spot with a score of 101. Tying for 2nd place were Camden Grubbs and Cason Gibson, each boasting scores of 107, followed by Mason Hart securing 3rd place with a score of 109. Also vying for victory in this division were Zain Pruitt, Jackson Branch, Eli Adams, Treat Miller, Dalton Harber, and Maddox Hart.

In the Middle School Division for girls, Millie Perryman claimed 1st place with a score of 126.

For the High School Division, Jackson McCormick exhibited exceptional skill, seizing the 1st place with an impressive score of 79. Travis Randal secured 2nd place with a score of 85, closely fol-

See, **GOLF**, Page 3



AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTOS

The Pine Hills Junior Golf League held its inaugural golf championship on Saturday. This was the culmination of a summer spent competing in golf tournaments.

## WPSB

# Family coverage approved; LDOE stipends expected by December 19

**AMBER MCDOWN**  
Minden Press-Herald

The October 2 meeting of the Webster Parish School Board was unusually long with much discussion and information given. The meeting started on two particularly bright notes: Tammie Jones, who recently retired from food service for the parish, was named the Employee of the Month and was presented with a plaque by Rodney Taylor of Taylor & Sons, and an award was presented to the Doyline High School basketball team for winning the 2020 State Championship. Both of these will be featured in future Minden Press-Herald stories.

See, **SCHOOLS**, Page 3

## ANNOUNCEMENT

# Darrell Morris running for Police Jury District 10

Special to the Minden Press-Herald

Darrell Morris, RPEC Member, District 10, Parish of Webster, announces he is campaigning for the District 10 Police Jury Seat.

Morris has served on several boards: Board member of



MORRIS

Webster Parish Police Jury, Office of Community Services Board of Election Supervisor of Webster Parish Named Honorary Secretary of State of Louisiana

Board member of Republican Parish Executive Committee for District 10

Former Chairman of Republican Executive Committee of Webster Parish

Former board member of Coordinating Development Corporation

See, **MORRIS**, Page 2

## CITY COUNCIL

# Minden Police Department up for restructuring

**WILL PHILLIPS**  
Minden Press-Herald

The October Minden City Council meeting was a brief affair with the council discussing and voting on agenda items such as some restructuring of the Minden Police Department, starting bids for the city's plan

of building a new Public Works Facility, and the creation of a four-way stop at the intersection of Fulton and Columbia Street.

After the passing of the minutes, the first agenda item discussed was that of Chief McIver's plan to restructure the Minden Police Department.

“The Chief presented a plan to us that restructures his department. Basically, his plan removes the captain and lieutenant positions and creates two deputy chiefs and sergeant positions, and then it lays out duties in those plans,” said Mayor Nick Cox. The item was motioned through and

passed unanimously.

Along with that, the council also unanimously voted to appoint the position of interim deputy chief of police. “It's being recommended by Chief Jared McIver that we appoint Chris Cheatham as interim Deputy Chief of Police Department 10 Police

Department,” said Cox.

Next the council voted to start bids on the creation of a public works department. Discussions have been held over the past few months regarding the mayor's initiative to consolidate the public works department

See, **COUNCIL**, Page 2



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# MINDEN FAMILY DENTAL

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Zach M. Goodman  
D.D.S.



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Tomorrow's  
High Temp 84°

Tomorrow's  
Low Temp 61°

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# WEBSTER & MORE

OBITUARIES



## Robert Drew Simmons

Funeral services for Robert Drew Simmons were held Thursday, September 28, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at Rose Neath Funeral Home Chapel in Minden, Louisiana with Bro. Bill Crider officiated. Interment will followed at Gardens of Memory in Minden, Louisiana. The family received friends from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. Wednesday, September 27, 2023, at Rose Neath Funeral Home in Minden.

Drew was born September 19, 1937, in Shreveport, Louisiana and entered into rest September 25, 2023, in Minden, Louisiana. He was a member of First Baptist Church and the American Legion. He served as a Commissioned Officer in the United States Navy. He was preceded in death by his wife, Beverly Simmons. He is survived by his sister, Barbara Johnson (Bob) of Lucas, TX; special cousins, Mona and Larry Elkins of Minden, and several nieces and nephews including Eric Johnson of Philadelphia, PA and Kathryn Johnson of Dallas, TX.

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



### Wills Successions

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## ELECTION

Continued from Page 1

a minimum of 25%. The amendment also prohibits any such payments from being used to fund cost-of-living increases.

A vote of “no” will mean nonrecurring state revenue paid toward state public retirement systems will remain at a minimum of 10%.

Amendment No. 4 (act 48, 2023 HB 46) denies a property tax exemption to nonprofit corporations or associations that own residential property in such a state of disrepair that it endangers public health or safety.

A vote of “yes” will mean that nonprofit corporations or associations that operate for religious, dedicated places of burial, charitable, health and welfare, fraternal, or educational purposes could lose their ad valorem tax exemptions if 1) the property, leased as housing, is in a state of disrepair and is a danger to the health or safety of the public, or 2)

the owner of the property has received at least three code-enforcement violations concerning health and safety in the previous 12-month period.

A vote of “no” will mean that these types of nonprofit corporations or associations will not lose their ad valorem tax exemptions on properties that are in disrepair or pose a danger to the health or safety of the public.

Beyond these four proposed amendments, the following elected positions are also on the ballot in Webster Parish: Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Secretary of State, Attorney General, Treasurer, State Senator (district 36), BESE (district 4), Webster Parish Assessor, Webster Parish Police Jury (districts 3, 5, 8, and 10), and Alderman for Town of Cullen.

Early voting for the Gubernatorial Primary elections began Saturday, September 30 and runs through Saturday, October 7. Election day is Saturday, October 14, 2023.

## SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 1

The next 30 minutes of the meeting was spent discussing the Med Gap HRA Employee Only option. Insurance policies across the board have increased due to inflation, and it was proposed that on this policy employees would need to start paying for spouses or children to be on the policy. After much discussion, the board voted to have the district pay the full amount for one more year. This will cost the district an additional \$109,000 for the year for this plan, the total cost being almost \$479,000. Board members voting for this were Jerry Lott of District 11, Johnnye Kennon of District 10, Jana Watson of District 6, Ronnie Rhymes of District 5, Jonathan Guthrie of District 4, Charles Strong of District 3, and Debbie Thomas of District 2. Voting against were Susan Addington of District 12, Jerri Lee of District 9, Glenda Broughton of District 8, and Linda Kinsey of District 7. Margaret Edens of District 1 was absent.

Items 8-12 were approved unanimously without discussion and included a field trip, declaring some miscellaneous items as surplus to be sold, authorizing the superintendent to sign for motorist coverage insurance policies, and approving upgrades to the district office's exterior.

Then came the discussion of when the LDOE stipends would be issued that were authorized by the state earlier this year. The state has mandated that the stipends be distributed by May 2024. Some parishes plan to have theirs distributed this fall. However, due to a number of issues, Webster Parish will not be able to distribute the stipends that soon.

Finance Director Crevonne Odom was visibly emotional about the pressures her department is working under and the additional hurdles that are placed in

their way. They are using an antiquated accounting system that they have been using for around 30 years. This system only allows one person at a time to work in it. This alone puts the accounting department in a constant time crunch. They are getting a new system, but the first phase of it, financial reporting, will not be live until April 2024, and the payroll phase will not be live until January 2025.

In the midst of the day-to-day routines of payroll, insurance, stipends, bills, etc., as well as needing a new accounts payable person, the finance department has been working nights and holidays just to stay caught up. Recently the board passed a measure to reinstate pay for those employees whose pay had been frozen years ago. The finance department is trying to get that done by the October payroll as well. Odom told the board that her plan is to have the stipends ready to be distributed by December 19.

“I’m going to do the best I can,” said Odom. “But I do need you guys to tell me what the priority is. Is the priority getting this extra \$2,000 or \$1,000 paid to them by December, or is it getting them paid on time on the 20th with their regular pay? Is it the subs getting their pay? Do we push back those extra stipends from meetings and let those wait so we can address the LDOE stipend? However you want me to do it.”

The board voted unanimously to have the stipends distributed by December 19. Teachers will be receiving their sales tax supplement on November 17 as well.

The maintenance fund expenditures were all passed unanimously without discussion.

The Webster Parish School Board typically meets on the first Monday of the month in the district office at 6 P.M. The public is welcome to attend.



## Carole Jo Davis Hall

Carole Jo Davis Hall, age 90, died peacefully in her sleep on September 30, 2023.

Carole was born August 21, 1933 in Atlanta, Texas to Sidney “Rush” and Veda (nee) Nichols.

Carole was preceded in death by her parents, her five siblings, her husband OJ Hall, son Mark Hanson and daughter Cynthia Mehre.

She is survived by her son Tim (Lin) Hanson and

daughters Ann (Sam) Marble, Karen Kinee, Brenda (Tim) Walter-Aguirre and Linda Hall (Brad Gililand). She had twenty grandchildren and many, many great-grandchildren.

Services were held Monday, October 2, 2023. Family received friends from 1-2pm at Rose-Neath with Rev. Bill Crider officiating the funeral immediately following. Interment followed at Gardens of Memory cemetery in Minden.

In lieu of flowers, family requests that donations be made in her honor to the charities of choice.

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



## Richard Jason Perot

Richard Jason Perot, 53, of Sibley, LA, passed away on September 27, 2023. A memorial service will be held Saturday, October 7, 2023 at Living Word in Minden, Louisiana at 1:00 p.m. Visitation will be October 7, 2023 at 12:00 p.m. until time of service. Officiating the service will be Pastor Andy Maddox.

Jason was a loving husband, son, brother, uncle, and friend. To many, he was like a brother and second dad. Jason loved with his whole heart and his presence and smile could light up any room. He always put others before himself, willing to lend a helping hand with his remarkable ability to fix anything. In his spare time, Ja-

son loved hunting, fishing, and weekends at the deer camp.

Jason was born on November 18, 1969, in Minden, Louisiana to Carma Perot and the late Richard Perot. Left to cherish his memory are his loving wife, Lesley Summer Griggs Perot; mother, Carma Perot; father-in-law and mother-in-law, Ronnie and Kim Griggs; brother, Mike Pedroza and wife, Peggy; sister, Melinda Williams and husband, Ricky; sister-in-law, Amber Hidalgo and husband, Jason; nephews, Dustin, Darren, Cameron, and Evan Hidalgo; nieces, Michelle Fountain, Allie Pedroza, Whitney Williams, and Cheyenne Henderson.

He was preceded in death by his father, Richard Perot, and brother, Carlos Pedroza.

Jason will forever be remembered for his smile, hugs, and unwavering love for family and friends. In his honor, please feel free to wear your finest blue jeans, camouflage, and LSU.

## GOLF

Continued from Page 1

lowed by Garrett Simpson in 3rd place with a score of 90. Jarett Burt rounded out the division, finishing 4th with a score of 115.

This inaugural year of the Junior Golf League has set the stage for future seasons, with organizers aiming to amplify the exhibition by hosting tournaments every week in the upcoming year. The

league extends its gratitude to its generous sponsors, including Pine Hills Country Club, Uthall Golf Instruction, Minden Family Dental, Parish Design Company, Mandino Flower Shop, Perryman Welding, Roma Italian Bistro, Coca-Cola Bottling Co. of Minden, and Mr. and Mrs. Burt, whose support helped make this tournament a resounding success.





OPINION

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**THE MINDEN PRESS-HERALD WELCOMES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.**

**HERE ARE OUR GUIDELINES:**

Letters are published identifying name, occupation and/or title and the writer's city of residence. Letters are not to exceed 500 words.

Send letters to: Letters to the Editor, Minden Press-Herald, P.O. Box 1339, Minden, LA 71055, or email to: newsroom@press-herald.com.

OPINION

The definition of a woman and freedom of association

A friend called me this week with a question.

She is part of a local affiliate of a state and national organization. They are a female-founded-and-constituted organization and require that to be a full member (men may be associate members) of the group, one must be female. She asked me whether it would be possible for a biological male who now "identifies" as a "woman" to legally demand to be included in the organization as a full member?

I believe the answer is "no," but the premise of her question is what is the definition of a woman? After answering that, I'm also going to address the legal rights individuals have to join various organizations and the right of organizations to decide who may join them.

Firstly, it is a sign of our moral and cultural decline that a question of this nature—which has for thousands of years been answered only one way—is being seriously posed in our society. But let's answer it.

There are many ways to describe the exquisite nature and allure of a 'woman,' but only one definition: a biological, genetic female at time of birth, possessed of the XX chromosomes. I suggested to my friend the statement "everyone is welcome in our Club, but to be a full member you have to

have been born with that unique and indispensable female sexual organ."

Now, the legal issue:

The U.S. Supreme Court has long held that the 1st Amendment's protection of free speech, assembly, and petition logically extends to include a "freedom of association." This simply means we have the freedom to associate with others who have



ROYAL ALEXANDER

similar political, religious, or cultural beliefs.

Two Supreme Court cases underscore this principle, both identifying a 1st Amendment violation. The Court held in Hurley v. Irish-American Gay Group that Massachusetts could not require the private organizers of Boston's St. Patrick's Day parade to allow a group of LGBTQ to march as a unit proclaiming its members' gay and lesbian identity. To do so, the Court reasoned, would require parade organizers to promote a message they did not wish to promote. The Court reasoned that the gay group could be refused admission just as readily as a private club could exclude an applicant whose views

were at odds with a position taken by the club's existing members.

Similarly, in Boy Scouts of America v. Dale, the Court held that application of New Jersey's public accommodations law to require the Boy Scouts of America to admit an avowed homosexual as an adult member violated the organization's 1st Amendment right of expressive association.

The Court held that the forced inclusion of an unwanted person in a group infringes the group's freedom of expressive association if the presence of that person affects the group's ability to advocate public or private viewpoints. The Court noted that Boy Scouts engages in expressive activity in seeking to transmit a system of values, which include being morally straight and clean. It also teaches that homosexual conduct is not morally straight and allowing it would impair its expression. So, allowing a gay rights activist to serve in the Scouts would force the organization to send a message that the Boy Scouts accepts homosexual conduct as a legitimate form of behavior when it expressly does not.

I suggested to my friend that her organization can legally limit its full membership to individuals who are biological females at

birth. This is because allowing transgender people as "women" into full membership directly contradicts and trespasses upon one of her group's core purposes—promotion and protection of the traditional American nuclear family and traditional gender roles. As such, forced inclusion of transgenders unconstitutionally infringes upon the organization's "freedom of expressive association" under the 1st Amendment.

At a time when Supreme Court Justice, Ketanji Jackson, apparently isn't astute enough to provide a definition of a "woman"—her own gender—which calls into question her ability to apply the all-important Violence Against Women Act; when fifty years of progress created by the vital Title IX, which created equality between male and female collegiate sports, has been turned on its head to allow men to unfairly compete against women, and to allow men to parade their identifying appendages in women's locker rooms (all without one word of protest from NOW or other women's feminist groups), it is clear that transgenderism is the worst form of toxic masculinity.

ROYAL ALEXANDER IS A SHREVEPORT ATTORNEY.

INSPIRATION

Seeing ourselves as others see us is powerful

The poet Robert Burns said "Oh the gift that God could give us, to see ourselves as others see us" which leads me to ask would we really want to know how others see us which may be up for further discussion" because there will always be people who pick on each other.

But for now I would like to ask what happens when we major in the minors, by that I mean when we pick on our spouses, our parents, our children or our friends for what we perceive as faults -- when we cannot back off and leave well enough alone --- when we keep on nit-picking at someone maybe we need to ask ourselves if this is what is really bugging us or is there a deep seated problem that we cannot articulate?

I am thoroughly convinced that there are many of us who could benefit from some deep soul searching or counseling to help us arrive at a mutually satisfying solution to problems that plague

us, that keep us awake day and night, when we cannot let go -- and just laugh at our own pettiness.

Though not a psychologist I think that many of our personal problems arrive from a lack of self-worth, from not feeling pretty enough or deeply loved by our friends and family -- of our spouses, so we criticize each other, trying to make them fit our mold of how we think people should behave.

Does any of this make sense to you?

It does to me.

It is really hard to get to the root of our problems -- to learn to control our tongues, our actions and just learn to love each other unconditionally.

There's one thing I know for sure -- no one likes to be belittled or made to believe that "it's our way or the highway!"

I also believe that many of the crises that occur in churches, in work-places and in government often arise from problems within the home -- between husbands and wives.

We find it hard to see our problems for what they are.

We want to cast blame on someone else instead of letting well enough alone.

No one wants to be bossed around.

It doesn't set well with any of us!

We each deserve to do our own thing unless we infringe on someone's rights.

Maybe this is where many of these issues arise -- from someone feeling like that they are not being consulted in major decisions -- and of course most of these decisions seem to always come back to money.

Though only an arm chair psychologist I find myself

sometimes caught in the middle and just want to give a friend or loved one the idea that maybe counseling might be in order because it is most often hard to see the real root of our problems.

Harmony is so much more important than conflict.

I hope something I've said helps someone who reads my insights.

It's so much better to take care of those we have in our relationships than to cast care to the wind and not show understanding to those we cherish most.

It is like a good friend one time wrote "if you criticize your friends you will find yourself all alone."

That's some of the best advice I've heard.

Maybe we just need to ask God for wisdom.

We mostly want to just be loved unconditionally!

EMAIL SARAH AT SARAH9957@AOL.COM

FROM THE BACK PORCH

Fall is finally here - time for a change

Fall is finally here. Can you sense it around you? Does it send a pleasant feeling throughout your body?

After so many record-breaking scorching temperatures bearing down on us for the past few months. the cooler breezes on the recent mornings have provided a pleasant respite.

It has been nice enough one can enjoy his morning coffee while sitting on the patio or porch. Even the late afternoons have provided cooler times for enjoying outdoor activities, whether work or leisure.

Fall is a time of change, a transition from hot to cold. A

time for the leaves to change from the vibrant greens to the many-hued reds, yellows, orange, magenta and rust and then into brown.

Leaves that endured heat and violent summer storms are now seeking their time of rest before dropping to their beds where they endure the winter's cold and frost.

Parents will soon be raking the fallen leaves where chil-

dren will enjoy running and playing in them, while parents once again rake them into neat piles.

Fall is a quiet time, a time for several species of birds to make their way to their winter homes. Looking up, one can see geese in their neat vee formation, faithfully following their leader. When the leader tires, he will drop back and let the next in line pick up the leadership role. They seem to know, by instinct, when it's time for a new leader to take over.

Nuts and berries are in good supply so animals can gather and store enough in their pantries for the bare

months. Some of the larger animals are preparing for a time of winter hibernation and will be able to survive during the colder months.

For much of the human population, fall is a time of travel and adventure: a time of seeking out fairs and festivals, a time of leaf-peeping to search places that are vibrantly hued with all the many species of trees.

A time to watch the ocean waves roll in, sweeping clean the coastal areas. A time to view the mountains with their trickling streams gathering the falling leaves that resemble small sailboats as they move quickly down-

stream.

There are so many places to go and things to see and fall is the perfect time to explore them.

If unable to do so because of age or health reasons, one can seek adventure through books. All these places can be seen in full color on the pages of books. Visit your local libraries and don't miss out on this beautiful season. Better yet, sit out in your own yard and take in all the colorful sights right around you.

However you choose to do so, enjoy this wonderful season.

FANNIE MOORE LIVES IN SHONGALOO.



FANNIE MOORE



SPORTS

Russell Hedges, Sports Editor  
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COLUMN/HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



Jakobe Jackson rushed for 124 yards and scored two touchdowns in a 32-16 loss to Huntington last week at W.W. Williams Stadium.

Parish teams look for better results in Week 6  
Glenbrook lone winner in Week 5

RUSSELL HEDGES  
Minden Press-Herald

Week 5 was a tough one for three parish teams.

The Glenbrook Apaches were the only team to come out on top, defeating previously undefeated Arcadia 29-6 on the road.

The North Webster Knights and Lakeside Warriors both had three-game winning streaks snapped with close losses at home.

North Webster fell to Wossman 28-21 in a District 1-3A game, and Lakeside lost to Lincoln Prep 6-0 in a non-district game.

The Minden Crimson Tide's tough season continued with a 32-16 District 1-4A loss to Huntington on Homecoming night.

This week, Minden (0-5, 0-2) visits the Bossier Bearkats (1-4, 0-2), another struggling team.

In other games, North Webster (3-2, 1-1) visits Union Parish (3-2, 1-0) in District 1-3A, Lakeside (3-2) begins District 1-2A play at home against D'Arbonne Woods Charter (4-0) and Glenbrook (4-1, 1-1) hosts Magnolia School of Excellence (0-5, 0-1) in District 1-1A.

Last week, Glenbrook pulled away late against Arcadia after leading 8-6 late in the third quarter.

As they have all season, quarterback Easton Sanders, running back Chase Sentell and receiver Landry Powell shined.

Sentell scored three touchdowns, two rushing and one receiving. Sanders tossed two TD passes, one to Sentell and one to Powell.

The defense held a team averaging 34.5 points per game to one touchdown.

Magnolia is coming off a 40-0 loss to Mansfield. The Mariners had to officially forfeit their first four games but they did not win any on the field.

Minden turned in a solid defensive effort against Huntington. The Tide were within eight points in the fourth quarter but an interception led to the Raiders' final touchdown.

Jakobe Jackson played most of the game at quarterback and provided most of the offense. He rushed for 124 yards on 27 carries and scored two TDs. Of course, he was also at his usual defensive back position where he had an interception.

Bossier lost to Northwood 41-0 last week. The Bearkats haven't scored an offensive touchdown since Week 1.

Minden's season hasn't completely slipped away yet. But the Tide will obviously have to finish strong.



Minden's Cameron Mitchell returns a kickoff against Huntington last week.

Friday's games

Minden at Bossier, 7  
North Webster at Union Parish, 7  
D'Arbonne Woods at Lakeside, 7  
Magnolia School of Excellence at Glenbrook, 7

North Webster scored 21 points against a Wossman team that had given up only 28 all season, including a 21-6 loss to Class 2A power Calvary Baptist in Week 4.

The Knights got within seven with about six minutes left but never got the

ball back.

Union Parish, the 2022 non-select Division III runner-up, no longer has running back Trey Holley, but the Farmers are still a formidable opponent. Their only losses were to 5A teams Airline and Captain Shreve.

Lakeside came close to pulling out a victory last week. The game ended with the Warriors at the Lincoln Prep 1.

Lakeside Head Coach Mike Santalices believed his quarterback spiked the ball with 2 seconds left but officials ruled time expired.

D'Arbonne Woods had an open date last week. The Timberwolves are averaging 40.3 points per game.

They will be the Warriors' biggest challenge yet. The Lakeside defense played well against Lincoln Prep.

If the offense can get going and most importantly avoid turnovers the Warriors will have a chance.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

LSU falls to Ole Miss in thriller; Tech, GSU win

STAFF REPORTS  
Minden Press-Herald

LSU fell to Ole Miss 55-49 in a wild offensive shootout Saturday night.

In other games of area interest last week, Grambling State defeated Prairie A&M 35-20 in the State Fair Classic, Louisiana Tech downed UTEP 24-10 in a CUSA road game and Northwestern State lost to Eastern Illinois 19-10 at home.

**Ole Miss 55, LSU 49:** At Oxford, Miss., Jaxson Dart completed a 13-yard touchdown pass to Tre Harris with 39 seconds to lift the Rebels to the victory.

Jayden Daniels hit Chris Hilton for 42 yards and LSU moved to the Ole Miss 16 with 12 seconds left. Two false start penalties moved the ball back to the 26 and a pass to the end zone fell incomplete on the game's final play.

LSU dropped to 3-2 overall and 2-1 in the SEC. Ole Miss improved to 4-1 and 1-1.

The team's combined for 1,343 yards total offense. Ole Miss gained 706.

"That's not a standard of play that's acceptable," LSU Head Coach Brian Kelly said. "I expect the guys to respond the right way. They've got a lot of pride. They play for LSU. They know that's not the standard. I expect them to come back Monday ready to make sure that they address, and we as coaches address, the things we need to do better."

LSU had 637 yards total offense. Daniels completed 27-of-36 passes for 414 yards and four touchdowns. He also rushed for 99 yards.

**Louisiana Tech 24, UTEP 10:** At El Paso, Texas, the Bulldogs ended their road losing skid while also remaining unbeaten in conference play.

Tech (3-3, 2-0 CUSA) used all three phases to get the victory.

Offensively, it was a pair of explosive pass plays to go along with another 100-yard rushing performance by Tyre Shelton. Defensively, it was keeping UTEP (1-5, 0-2 CUSA) off the scoreboard in their final four

Thursday's game

**Western Kentucky at Louisiana Tech**  
7 p.m., ESPN

Saturday's games

**LSU at Missouri**  
11 a.m., ESPN

**Grambling State at Alcorn State**  
2:30 p.m.

**Northwestern State at Lamar**  
3 p.m., ESPN+

drives. And on special teams, it was Smoke Harris electrifying with a 67-yard punt return for a touchdown.

**Grambling State 35, Prairie View A&M 20:** At Dallas, For the first time since 2017, Grambling State can lay claim to a victory over Prairie View A&M in State Fair Classic.

Grambling State improved to 3-2 overall and 2-0 in the SWAC. Prairie View A&M dropped to 2-3 and 2-1.

Myles Crawley continued to show why he's one of the top quarterbacks in the SWAC, throwing for 241 yards and two touchdowns on 25-of-40 passing. He connected with eight different receivers.

GSU rushed for more than 200 yards for the second the second week in a row. Floyd Chalk was the leading rusher, gaining 84 yards on 15 carries with a touchdown. Chance Williams was also strong for GSU, carrying the ball 16 times for 75 yards and a TD.

**Eastern Illinois 19, Northwestern State 10:** At Natchitoches, the Demons (0-4) could not capitalize on a strong defensive effort as visiting Eastern Illinois pitched a second-half shutout, scoring the only nine points of the final two quarters to grab the win.

Senior quarterback Quaterius Hawkinsthrew for 281 yards and an interception in his first NSU start.

Minden Press-Herald  
Football Contest Winners

Week 5

1st Place- Ragan Hoenke - \$25.00  
2nd Place - Marty Fletcher - \$15.00  
3rd Place - Barnell Johnson - \$10.00

1169 Sheppard St. • Minden, LA  
Owner: Richard Randle  
318-382-0900

Minden Press-Herald & Holcomb's  
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Jordan Case, Lakeside, Sr.  
Case rushed for more than 200 yards and scored four touchdowns in a 41-34 victory over Block on Sept. 22. He also had an interception that set up his first touchdown.

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



SPORTS

Russell Hedges, Sports Editor  
rhedges@spechtnewspapers.com

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Minden vs. Huntington

Photos by Russell Hedges/Press-Herald



The Minden Crimson Tide take the field before last Friday's Homecoming game.



Sharity Crawford is crowned the 2023 Minden Homecoming Queen.



Punter Bryson Ranger jumps high to field a high snap.



The Minden defense turned in a solid performance in a 32-16 loss to Huntington.

OUTDOORS

Thoughts on drought, heat effect on deer

GLYNN HARRIS

The weather this summer has been a doozy, hasn't it? This is not the first time seasons we've experienced days and weeks without rain with daily temperatures in triple digits adding to the misery. This summer, though, has been right up there with some of the worse ones.

We're sitting here with hunting seasons opening with archery season for deer beginning October 1 and squirrel season starting the following week on October 7. It's hard not to be concerned about the wildlife we'll be hunting, animals that are trying to make it with much of their food sources in peril.

My concern for what effect these hot and dry conditions will have on our hunting success sent me to Johnathan Bordelon, a fellow who keeps up with such and who was willing to share his thoughts based on his years of working with the ins and outs; the ups and downs of what wildlife faces during good times and not-so-good times.

Bordelon is Deer Program Manager for the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries (LDWF) with years of study and research under his belt.

"Ninety percent of our state fits the category of being in severe drought which set the stage for tens of thousands of acres of wildfires. Plants deer utilize have been impacted, not only by the fires but also by drought. Nutrients deer need have been diminished by these conditions," said Bordelon.

"Even in normal years, plants begin losing their nutritional value as they start losing their leaves as fall approaches. This situation becomes escalated during long periods of high heat and drought," he added.



COURTESY PHOTO

Will this year's drought and high temperatures affect deer hunters? Hopefully, hunters like Keith Johnson will be able to once again enjoy success.

What does this all mean for deer hunters this season? Will the body weights and antler development of deer be diminished? Are deer hunters more likely to see skinny deer with skimpy racks? Based on past history and research, Bordelon offered some interesting and encouraging information in this regard.

"Over the past 25 years, Louisiana has seen conditions like what we experienced this year. Summers or 2000-2001; 2006 and 2011-12, we experienced drought conditions and we have the advantage of studying what took place during those periods of drought and the effect it had on the condition of our deer.

"Interestingly, our research showed that we didn't see a drop in body weights and buck antler growth and development during those periods of drought; it was almost identical to years when it wasn't so hot and dry. However," he added, "it is a proven fact severe and extended periods of drought leads to reduced recruitment, to reduced body size overall that extends to antler development."

Cutting through all the research data, hunters want to know just what we might expect to see once we're sitting in our deer stands this season.

"I expect it to be about average this year but can't say that with certainty. Based on our samples and studies, we really don't expect to see significant changes from previous years," Bordelon said.

What about supplemental feeding, especially this year since so much natural vegetation has been affected?

"Our suggestion is to reach out to agencies such as the Extension Service, LSU and LDWF if you have a question about the quality of the supplemental feed you want to use.

Let's just hope that our deer survived basically intact during 2023. If 2024 is a repeat, however, all bets are off.

Fishing Report

**BLACK BAYOU** – No report. Lake closed as spraying pads is ongoing. Contact Honey Hole Tackle Shop 323-8707 for latest information.

**BUSSEY BRAKE** – Some are still catching nice bass around the brush on spinners and flipping jigs. The crappie are scattered around the brush. Bream have slowed. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole at 323-8707.

**OUACHITA RIVER** – The water level is quite low. Bass are fair in the cuts on shad imitations; some crappie are being caught around submerged tops in the river on jigs. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

**LAKE D'ARBONNE** – With Lake Claiborne being lowered and water running into D'Arbonne, the lake is a pool stage with some running over spillway which has improved fishing for bass and crappie in the bayou below the spillway. Some bass are still being caught early mornings on topwater lures around the grass and crappie are best along the channel drops on shiners and jigs. Bream are slow but 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 lake is undergoing a drawdown. There have been reports of some bream being caught on crickets and red wigglers off the banks. As the wa-

ter level drops look for bass to be on the secondary points with crank baits and soft plastics working best. Night fishing around the lights is still producing some action. Some reports of some real nice crappie being caught in 12 foot water on shiners and jigs. No report on stripers or catfish this week. For latest information, call Kel's Cove at 927-2264 or Terzia Tackle at 278-4498.

**CANEY LAKE** – Bass have been best fishing at night on dark spinners and soft plastics. They are fair to good early mornings on topwater lures with square bill crank baits, spinners and soft plastics working best later. Some bass are schooling and hitting shad imitations. Crappie have been best around the deeper tops on shiners or jigs. Bream are slow. 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** – Fishing for catfish has improved. Crappie fishing has slightly improved with best catches made on the south end. 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 level is falling and quite low. Some catfish have been reported and bass fishing has been fair. Crappie are slow. For information, call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.



# Good News

GOOD NEWS

## Life At Its’ Fullest

John 10:10: Jesus said: “I am come that you might have life and have it more abundantly.” Jesus was saying more than just ‘eat, breathe, and have a good time’! He was referring to a richer, fulfilled life centered around His presence. We will never be able to obtain the spiritual level He enjoyed. He was the ‘one and only begotten Son of God.’ We became ‘joint heirs’ with Him when we yielded our lives to Him, confessed our sins and accepted His promise of salvation through faith. It is then the promise of Jesus (Matt 6:33) comes alive in our spiritual maturation process.

“Seek first the kingdom of God and then all these things needed for spiritual maturity

will be added unto your life.” (Matt. 6:33) It is a life-long adventure with God. Daily He adds to our lives ‘things and people’ that will help in our having a fulfilled life. Parents, pastors, Sunday school teachers, s c h o o l teachers, coaches, and Christian leaders all begin to ‘input in our lives.’ Bible Study, worship and prayer become daily necessities; Christian fellowship reveals opportunities to grow in ministry and service. Soon, the new-person is emerging. Our spiritual



Bill Crider

gifts begin to become visible as we serve and allow the Holy Spirit to work through us. (Rom 12:6; 1 Cor 12). God is glorified in our lives. Our sphere of influence is enlarged. Our life is changing; we are becoming; our spiritual life is being fulfilled! We are growing in our Christian life; no more ‘milk but give us beef-steak’ for we are becoming adults in the maturation process.

Four areas of our lives are affected as we grow in Christ. (Lu 2:52) Just as ‘He increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man’ so shall we as we move through the developmental stages of our spiritual life. Jesus advanced through these stages:

1) He advanced intellectually and in practical holiness (wisdom); 2) from childhood to adolescence to adulthood (stature); 3) spiritually in His relationship with His Heavenly Father (in favour with God), and 4) He advanced socially (in favour with man).

\* Jesus became complete in His being. We, too, can have a more fulfilled life by following Jesus’ example.

If we are to be as complete as God desires, we must grow through these dimensions of life. It requires much discipline on our part though. It doesn’t happen by osmosis – sleeping with a Bible under our pillow. But as we do things that pleases our Father, we are stacking lev-

els of spiritual growth and our life is being made more complete. Yes, it all piles up as we grow older, serving the Master through dedicated service, obedience and commitment to His teachings, our lives becomes richer and richer in His love. Remember the Gaither song: “The Longer I Serve Him the Sweeter He Grows?” That’s the idea of living a more fulfilled life. This ought to be the theme song of each of our lives as we mature in His love day-by-day.

\* Some thoughts from Open Windows, Spring, 2016, Apr 2.

**BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER**

### THE UPWARD LOOK

## Singing to the Lord

*“speaking to one another in psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, singing and making melody with your heart to the Lord;” Ephesians 5:19 NASB*



Max Hutto

A believer who is filled, guided, and controlled by the Holy Spirit will burst forth in praise to God. Scripture and songs of worship will overflow from the believer’s heart to the Lord. There is a vertical dimension of worship where songs are praising God. There is also a horizontal dimension of worship where songs are testifying

to others about what God has done for the believer. Expressing feelings, yearnings, and desires of the heart, singing is an important and vital aspect of a believer’s worship.

Lord Jesus, You have filled my heart and my life with songs. May I faithfully and joyously sing Your praises and tell others of Your great love, mercy, and grace.

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

### INSPIRATION

## Seasons

My family and I have recently gone through a season of pain and frustration. While in this season I just happened to be reading Job as part of my daily reading. Job lost almost everything but his life yet he never denounced God or sinned against him. However, Job’s friends accused him of being this terrible sinner and insisted his struggle had to be punishment for his sin. Job a man of God knew better. Job knew that God shows blessings and misfortunes to the just and the unjust. This brings me to the point of this article. Seasons come and go in our lives regardless of our level of salvation. However, how you come out of that season depends solely on how you choose to approach it. Did you rely




Bernard Harris

on yourself or did you rely on God? Job complained, cried, and even asked God why but still never denounced him. Job trusted God and his plan and it ultimately led to Job’s restoration and the restoration of everything he lost. If I’ve learned anything from Job it’s that God has a plan, it’s always on time, and it’s always better than mine. I implore everyone reading this article to trust God through all seasons both good and bad and he will never let you down.

**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



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\* Garage Sale ads must be prepaid.

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“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

LA Fogata Steakhouse LLC D/B/A LA Fogata Steakhouse is applying to the Office of Alcohol & Tobacco Control of the State of Louisiana for a permit to sell beverages of high and low alcohol content at retail in the Parish of Webster at the following address:

507 Main Street  
Minden, LA 71055  
LA Fogata Steakhouse LLC  
D/B/A LA Fogata Steakhouse  
Owner: Marcos Villegas Hernandez  
Member: Habacu Morales

September 27, 2023  
October 4, 2023  
Minden Press Herald

PROCEEDING OF THE VILLAGE OF HEFLIN, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN IN REGULAR MEETING HELD ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2023.

The Heflin Town Council met at Town Hall, Heflin, Louisiana beginning at 7:39 pm with the following members present: Mayor Ralph James council members Matt Austin, Robert Stachowicz, Police Chief Paul Miques, and Village Clerk Sherry Limosnero. Absent council member Hallie DeMoss and Water System Operator Jesse Williamson.

The meeting was opened with prayer offered by Matt Austin and Robert Stachowicz led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Ralph James welcomed everyone to the meeting. Upon motion by Matt Austin and duly seconded by Robert Stachowicz, the council adopted the Minutes from August 3, 2023 at Council Regular Meeting held on September 7, 2023 as presented; the motion was approved unanimously. Robert Stachowicz moved to accept the August, 2023 Operating Financial Statements as presented; the motion was duly seconded by Matt Austin. The motion was approved unanimously.

Upon motion by Matt Austin and duly seconded by Robert Stachowicz, the council unanimously approved Water System Reports for August, 2023. Robert Stachowicz moved to accept the August, 2023 Police Department Reports as presented; the motion was duly seconded by Matt Austin. The motion was approved unanimously. Matt Austin moved to accept the August, 2023 ARP Report as presented; the motion was duly seconded by Robert Stachowicz. The motion was approved unanimously. Council comments were heard, public comments were heard. There being no further business to come before this Council, meeting adjourned by Council Member Robert Stachowicz.

Attest by:  
Sherry Limosnero  
LCMC, Village Clerk  
Respectfully posted:  
9/19/2023  
Adopted:

October 4, 2023  
Minden Press Herald

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE  
October 9, 2023  
Posted September 20, 2023

A public hearing will be held during the Regular Town Council Meeting on Monday, October 9, 2023, at 6:00 PM at the Sibley Town Hall Council Meeting Room, 345 North Main Street, Sibley, Louisiana, for the purpose of considering the adoption of:

1. Proposed Ordinance No. 50-E titled AN ORDINANCE ADDING TO ORDINANCE 50-D PROVIDING FOR VICIOUS DOGS, DANGEROUS DOGS, AND DOGS AT LARGE WITH THE TOWN LIMITS OF THE TOWN OF SIBLEY AND TO DEFINE PENALTIES OF THE ABOVE-MENTIONED DOGS.

2. Proposed Ordinance No. 152-A titled AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CERTAIN ROADWAYS WITHIN THE TOWN OF SIBLEY TO PROHIBIT THRU TRUCK TRAFFIC AND TO PROVIDE FOR A PENALTY IN VIOLATION THEREOF.

3. Proposed Ordinance No. 155 titled AN ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH PROTECTED COVENANT FOR LANE MEADOWS SUBDIVISION.

The public is invited to attend.

Linda Christy  
Deputy Clerk

In accordance with the American with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance, please contact Sibley Town Hall at 318-377-0345, describing the assistance that is necessary.

October 4, 2023  
Minden Press Herald

Notice of Public Meeting

The Minden Housing Authority will hold a Public Meeting on November 16, 2023, at 10:00 a.m., at 1209 East Street regarding the updates to the FMR's (Fair Market Rents) that will affect the Public Housing Flat Rents for 2024. We will be accepting comments through November 14, 2023. All documents are on display at the office of the Housing Authority, 1209 East Street, Monday through Thursday, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.

October 4, 2023  
October 11, 2023  
Minden Press Herald

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to article IV, section 21 (D)(1) of the Louisiana Constitution, that on September 29, 2023, CenterPoint Energy Arkla, a Division of CenterPoint Energy Resources Corp., ("CNP"), a natural gas public utility having facilities to permit the local distribution of natural gas to residential and commercial customers in the parishes listed below, filed with the Louisiana Public Service Commission ("LPSC" or "Commission") its Evaluation Report pursuant to its Gas Operation Rate Stabilization Plan ("RSP") for the test year ended June 30, 2023 ("TY 2023"), in accordance with LPSC Orders No. U-27676 (Corrected) and U-32996. CNP's Gas Operations RSP filing, if approved by the Commission as filed, will result in a rate increase of approximately \$5.2 million annually inclusive of impacts due to the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act ("TCJA") and termination of the regulatory asset approved in Order No. U-36541, effective as of December 28, 2023.

Affected Parishes: Bienville, Bossier, Caddo, Claiborne, De Soto, Jackson, Lincoln, Ouachita, Union, and Webster

CNP's RSP filing for the 2023 Test Year reflects an Earned Return on Equity ("EROE") of 5.08% and pursuant to the RSP's cost of service sharing mechanism, the EROE requires a rate adjustment by CNP. It is estimated that the requested net rate increase will have the following effect on average monthly bills: a Residential customer using 42 CCF will increase \$2.52; a Small Commercial-Firm Service customer using 238 CCF will increase \$14.28.

For questions and comments please call the LPSC toll free at (800) 256-2397. Additionally, the Company's filing and 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

CENTERPOINT ENERGY ARKLA

October 4, 2023  
Minden Press Herald

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NOTICE

Proposed Constitutional Amendments to be voted on at the Gubernatorial General Election November 18, 2023

CODING: Words which are struck-through are deletions from existing law; words in **boldface type** and/or **under-scored** are additions.

Proposed Amendment No. 1  
Regular Session, 2022

ACT No. 278

HOUSE BILL NO. 166  
BY REPRESENTATIVE GREGORY MILLER  
A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana, to provide relative to gubernatorial action on a bill and matters related thereto; to provide relative to veto sessions; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article III, Section 18 of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§18. Gubernatorial Action on Bills; Sign, Failure to Sign, Veto; Veto Session

Section 18.(A) Gubernatorial Action. If the governor does not approve a bill, he may veto it. A bill, except a joint resolution, shall become law if the governor signs it or if he fails to sign or veto it within ten days after delivery to him if the legislature is in the session in which the bill passed on the tenth day after such delivery, or within twenty days after delivery if the tenth day after delivery occurs after the legislature legislative session in which the bill passed is adjourned.

(B) Veto Message. If the governor vetoes a bill, he shall return it to the legislature, with his veto message, within twelve days after delivery to him if the legislature is in the session in which the bill passed. If the governor returns a vetoed bill after the legislature adjourns legislative session in which the bill passed is adjourned, he shall return it, with his veto message, as provided by law.

(C) Veto Session. (1) A bill vetoed and returned and subsequently approved by two-thirds of the elected members of each house shall become law. The legislature shall meet in veto session in the state capital at noon on the fortieth day following final adjournment of the most recent each session in which a bill that finally passed was vetoed, to consider all bills passed during that session that were vetoed by the governor and that were not reconsidered by the house of origin during the session in which the bill passed. If the fortieth day falls on Sunday, the session shall convene at noon on the succeeding Monday. No veto session shall exceed five calendar days, and any veto session may be finally adjourned prior to the end of the fifth day upon a vote of two-thirds of the elected members of each house.

(2) No veto session shall be held if a majority of the elected members of either house declare in writing that a veto session is unnecessary. The declaration must be received by the presiding officer of the respective houses at least five days prior to the day on which the veto session is to convene.

(3) If a veto session is to be held and the time period for the conduct of the veto session occurs during a regular or extraordinary session of the legislature, the legislature may reconsider all bills vetoed by the governor and not previously reconsidered by the legislature as part of the business of the regular or extraordinary session during the time period set forth in Subparagraph (1) of this Paragraph without the necessity of convening or adjourning a separate veto session.

Section 2. Be it further resolved that if this proposed amendment is approved by a majority of the voters voting thereon in the state, it shall become effective on January 8, 2024.

Section 3. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 18, 2023.

Section 4. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at the election, there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as follows:

Do you support an amendment to clarify that the timing of gubernatorial action on a bill and his return of a vetoed bill to the legislature is based upon the legislative session in which the bill passed and to authorize the legislature, if it is in session, to reconsider vetoed bills without convening a separate veto session? (Effective January 8, 2024)(Amends Article III, Section 18)

Proposed Amendment No. 2  
Regular Session, 2023

ACT No. 199

HOUSE BILL NO. 254  
BY REPRESENTATIVE THOMAS  
A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to repeal Article VII, Sections 4(D)(4)(b), 10.4, 10.10, and 10.12(B) and (C) and Article IX, Sections 9 and 10 of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to special funds in the state treasury; to provide for the repeal of certain special funds; to provide for the transfer of remaining balances of such special funds; to provide for submission of the proposed amendments to the electors; and to provide for related matters.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to repeal Article VII, Sections 4(D)(4)(b), 10.4, 10.10, and 10.12(B) and (C) of the Constitution of Louisiana.

Section 2. Be it further resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to repeal Article IX, Sections 9 and 10 of the Constitution of Louisiana.

Section 3. Be it further resolved that the state treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to transfer any remaining balances in the funds repealed by this Joint Resolution to the state general fund upon the adoption of the amendment contained in this Joint Resolution.

Section 4. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 18, 2023.

Section 5. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at the election, there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as follows:

Do you support an amendment to remove provisions of the Constitution of Louisiana which created the following inactive special funds within the state treasury: Atchafalaya Basin Conservation Fund, Higher Education Louisiana Partnership Fund, Millennium Leverage Fund, Agricultural and Seafood Products Support Fund, First Use Tax Trust Fund, Louisiana Investment Fund for Enhancement and to provide for the transfer of any remaining monies in such funds to the state general fund? (Repeals Article VII, Sections 4(D)(4)(b), 10.4, 10.10, and 10.12(B) and (C) and Article IX, Sections 9 and 10)

Proposed Amendment No. 3  
Regular Session, 2023

ACT No. 179

SENATE BILL NO. 127  
BY SENATOR DUPLESSIS  
A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to add Article VII, Section 21(O) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to ad valorem tax exemptions; to provide for an ad valorem tax exemption for certain first responders; to require the parish governing authority to approve the ad valorem tax exemption; to provide for exemption amounts; to require the tax assessor to establish a procedure to apply for the exemption; to provide for eligibility; to require taxing authorities to absorb the loss of revenue as a result of the exemptions; to provide relative to reappraisals; to provide an effective date; to provide for applicability; and to specify an election for submission of the proposition to electors and provide a ballot proposition.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to add Article VII, Section 21(O) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§21. Other Property Exemptions  
Section 21. In addition to the homestead exemption provided for in Section 20 of this Article, the following property and no other shall be exempt from ad valorem taxation:

\*\*\*

(O)(1) In addition to the homestead exemption authorized pursuant to the provisions of Article VII, Section 20 of this constitution, which applies to the first seven thousand five hundred dollars of the assessed valuation of property, a parish governing authority may approve an ad valorem tax exemption of up to two thousand five hundred dollars of the assessed valuation of property receiving the

homestead exemption that is owned and occupied by a qualified first responder.

(2) For the purposes of this Paragraph, "first responder" shall mean a volunteer firefighter who has completed within the tax year no fewer than twenty-four hours of firefighter continuing education and is an active member of the Louisiana State Firemen's Association or is on the departmental personnel roster of the Volunteer Firefighter Insurance Program of the office of state fire marshal. For the purposes of this Paragraph, "first responder" shall also mean a full-time public employee whose duties include responding rapidly to an emergency and who resides in the same parish in which their employer is located. The term includes the following:

(a) Peace officer, which means any sheriff, police officer, or other person deputized by proper authority to serve as a peace officer.

(b) Fire protection personnel.

(c) An individual certified as emergency medical services personnel.

(d) An emergency response operator or emergency services dispatcher who provides communication support services for an agency by responding to requests for assistance in emergencies.

(3) The exemption provided for in this Paragraph shall only apply in a parish if it is approved by the parish governing authority.

(4) Each tax assessor shall establish a procedure whereby a person may annually apply for the exemption which shall include the production of documents by the first responder. In the application for the exemption, the first responder shall produce documentation issued by his employer evidencing employment for the taxable period for which the exemption is being requested.

(5) Notwithstanding any provision of this constitution to the contrary, any decrease in the total amount of ad valorem tax collected by the taxing authority as a result of an ad valorem tax exemption granted pursuant to this Paragraph shall be absorbed by the taxing authority and shall not create any additional tax liability for other taxpayers in the taxing district as a result of any subsequent reappraisal and valuation or millage adjustment. Implementation of the exemption authorized in this Paragraph shall neither trigger nor be cause for a reappraisal of property or an adjustment of millages.

Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 18, 2023.

Section 3. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment, if approved by the electors, shall become effective on January 1, 2024, and shall apply to ad valorem taxes due beginning in tax year 2024 and thereafter.

Section 4. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at said election, there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as follows:

Do you support an amendment to authorize the local governing authority of a parish to provide an ad valorem tax exemption for qualified first responders? (Adds Article VII, Section 21(O))

Proposed Amendment No. 4  
Regular Session, 2023

ACT No. 198

HOUSE BILL NO. 244  
BY REPRESENTATIVE BISHOP  
A JOINT RESOLUTION

Proposing to amend Article VII, Section 10.15(E)(1) and (F) and to add Article VII, Section 10.15(G) of the Constitution of Louisiana, relative to the use of monies in the Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund; to provide for submission of the proposed amendment to the electors; and to provide for related matters.

Section 1. Be it resolved by the Legislature of Louisiana, two-thirds of the members elected to each house concurring, that there shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana, for their approval or rejection in the manner provided by law, a proposal to amend Article VII, Section 10.15(E)(1) and (F) and to add Article VII, Section 10.15(G) of the Constitution of Louisiana, to read as follows:

§10.15. Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund  
Section 10.15. Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund.

(E)(1) Except as provided for in Paragraph (F) (G) of this Section, monies deposited into the Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund shall be permanently credited to the trust fund and shall be invested by the treasurer in a manner provided for by law.

(F)(4) Except as provided in Subparagraphs (2) and (3) Paragraph (G) of this Paragraph Section, no appropriations shall be made from the Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund.

(2)(e) (G)(1) In any fiscal year in which the balance of the fund at the beginning of the year is in excess of five billion dollars, hereinafter referred to as the minimum fund balance, the legislature may appropriate an amount not to exceed ten percent, in the aggregate, of the fund balance, hereinafter referred to as the allowable percentage, for the following: for capital outlay projects in the comprehensive state capital budget, transportation infrastructure, or both.

(f) Capital outlay projects in the comprehensive state capital budget.

(h) Transportation infrastructure:

(b) The minimum fund balance or the allowable percentage may be changed by a law enacted by two-thirds of the elected members of each house of the legislature.

(3) In order to ensure the money in the fund is available for appropriation in an emergency the legislature may authorize an appropriation from the fund at any time for any purpose only after the consent of two-thirds of the elected members of each house of the legislature. If the legislature is not in session, the two-thirds requirement may be satisfied upon obtaining the written consent of two-thirds of the elected members of each house of the legislature in a manner provided by law.

(2) In addition to Subparagraph (1) of this Paragraph, monies in the Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund may be used as follows:

(a) If after the incorporation of the maximum allowable use of monies from the Budget Stabilization Fund into the official forecast for the next fiscal year, the official forecast for the next fiscal year is less than the official forecast money for the current fiscal year, the difference, not to exceed two hundred fifty million dollars, may be incorporated into the next fiscal year's official forecast.

(b) If after the appropriation of the maximum allowable use of monies from the Budget Stabilization Fund for the current fiscal year, a deficit for the current fiscal year is projected due to a decrease in the official forecast, an amount not to exceed two hundred fifty million dollars may be appropriated.

(c) The consent of two-thirds of the elected members of each house of the legislature shall be required prior to the utilization of any monies in the fund pursuant to the provisions of this Subparagraph. If the legislature is not in session, the two-thirds requirement may be satisfied upon obtaining the written consent of two-thirds of the elected members of each house of the legislature in a manner provided by law.

(3) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Paragraph, any of the following may be changed by law enacted by two-thirds of the elected members of each house of the legislature:

(a) The minimum fund balance, the allowable percentage that may be withdrawn, or both, as provided in Subparagraph (1) of this Paragraph.

(b) The maximum amount that may be withdrawn as provided Subparagraph (2) of this Paragraph.

Section 2. Be it further resolved that this proposed amendment shall be submitted to the electors of the state of Louisiana at the statewide election to be held on November 18, 2023.

Section 3. Be it further resolved that on the official ballot to be used at the election, there shall be printed a proposition, upon which the electors of the state shall be permitted to vote YES or NO, to amend the Constitution of Louisiana, which proposition shall read as follows:

Do you support an amendment authorizing the legislature, after securing a two-thirds vote of each house, to use up to two hundred fifty million dollars from the Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund to alleviate a budget deficit subject to conditions set forth by law and allowing the legislature to modify such conditions for accessing the monies in the fund, subject to two-thirds vote? (Amends Article VII, Section 10.15(E)(1) and (F); Adds Article VII, Section 10.15(G))

October 4, 2023  
Minden Press Herald

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