

MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2023

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GOVERNMENT

History has been made

Johnson named Speaker of the House

STAFF & WIRE REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

Republicans eagerly elected Rep. Mike Johnson as House speaker Wednesday, elevating a deeply conservative but lesser-known leader to the seat of U.S. power and

ending for now the political chaos in their majority.

Johnson swept on the first ballot with support from all Republicans anxious to put the past weeks of tumult behind and get on with the business of governing.

Locals throughout Webster Parish and the state offered congratulations to Johnson. The Minden Press-Herald compiled the responses.

Minden Mayor Nick Cox

The impact of having Mike Johnson as Speaker of the House cannot be overstated for North Louisiana and Minden. With his leadership, our region

will experience enhanced visibility, attracting a wealth of economic opportunities and potentially securing increased federal funding. The sense of pride we feel, knowing that one of



JOHNSON

our own is in this influential position, is truly indescribable. Undoubtedly, this is an absolute home run for Northwest Louisiana.

Former Minden Mayor Tommy Davis

I am very proud of Mike Johnson and believe he will make a great Speaker. Mike is a very Godly man and has a servant's heart. We must be faithful to

pray for him.

(Community leader) Thomas Adams

I want to congratulate Congressman Johnson on getting elected Speaker of the house. This is a great honor for him and our area. I think Congressman Johnson is a very smart constitutional attorney who will represent

See, **SPEAKER**, Page 3

MPD

Minden Police Department provides insight into recent operations

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Deputy Chief Harrison and Lt. Kendrick of the Minden Police Department offered an update on recent department activities, events, and initiatives.



HARRISON

The department has been actively engaged in various events, including the National Night Out block parties as well as the Witches Ride of Minden parade and a scheduled power outage later that night. These events unfolded smoothly, even though some officers endured long hours. As Lt. Kendrick noted, "Most of us worked 18 hours that day."

Deputy Chief Harrison expressed optimism about the National Night Out event but also expressed hope for increased participation in the future. Plans for a large block party on city property are under consideration to foster community engagement and discuss crime prevention. "We'd like to make it like a festival type thing for the whole city," said Harrison.

The Special Response Team (SRT) has continued training, including pistol tactics training through 9 and 1 Tactical and night-time firing exercises.

The Minden Police Department recently acquired new body cameras from Axon, which come with accompanying laptops.

"We have brand new body cameras for every officer with access to Evidence.com," said Lt. Kendrick. "This will allow of-

See, **MPD**, Page 3

15 UNDER 40



AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTOS

Haynes Mandino was named the 2023 Young Professional of the Year by the Greater Minden Chamber on October 24.

Haynes Mandino named 2023 Young Professional of the Year

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

The Greater Minden Chamber celebrated the announcement of the 2023 Young Professional of the Year on October 24, during a ceremony held at the

Minden Civic Center. Haynes Mandino emerged as the deserving recipient among the 15 candidates under the age of 40.

Haynes Mandino, an educator at Minden High School, holds the dual role of a baseball

coach while also serving as a dedicated volunteer firefighter. Additionally, he takes on the role of a student minister at Emmanuel Baptist Church.

The awards ceremony

See, **MANDINO**, Page 2

CELEBRATION

Ty Pendergrass celebrates 40 years working in Minden

WILL PHILLIPS
Minden Press-Herald

The Minden community gathered at Meriwether Wealth & Planning on Friday in order to celebrate Ty Pendergrass and his 40th anniversary of being a financial advisor here in Minden. Four decades ago Pendergrass started working for Edward Jones Investment, later working with Argent Financial Group, and finally founding Meriwether four years ago.

It goes without saying that Pendergrass has had an impact on the City of Minden. Outside of his work, he currently serves as the chairman of the Webster Parish Convention and Visitors Commission, the Minden Cemetery Association, and in 2020 was awarded the title of Minden's Man of the Year for his tremendous impact on the local community.

"Forty years ago, when

I first came to Minden, I had to meet a thousand people before I could open an office. I averaged about twenty people a day for a while. I enjoyed interacting with people and getting to know the community. The people of Minden were very responsive and supportive," said Pendergrass.

"When I came 40 years ago, there was no one here doing investment. We were pioneering it, and the community was excited about that. I think there was some skepticism as to whether Minden could support that or not, but it worked out well for the community and well for me."

Pendergrass gave credit to his mother and father for instilling in him the philosophy that if you take care of your community, your community will take care of you.

"I grew up in a small

See, **CELEBRATE**, Page 2



WILL PHILLIPS/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

The local community at Meriwether on Friday gathered in order to celebrate Ty Pendergrass's 40th year of working as a financial advisor for the Minden community.

VOTING

Louisiana Gubernatorial Primary election set for November 18, 2023

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Louisiana residents are gearing up for the Gubernatorial Primary election scheduled for November 18, 2023. The polls will be open from 7 AM until 8 PM on that day, giving voters ample opportunity to cast their ballots.

Early voting will be available from 8:30 AM until 6 PM between November 3 and November 11, with the exception

of Sunday, November 5, and Veterans Day, which falls on Friday, November 10.

Several statewide positions are in a runoff, with the outcomes to be determined on November 18. These include:

Secretary of State: Gwen Collins-Greenup and Nancy Landry are vying for this role.

Attorney General: Lindsay Cheek and Liz Baker Murrill are the candidates.

Treasurer: John Fleming and Dustin Granger are competing for this position.

Board of Elementary and Secondary Education (BESE) for District 4: Stacey Melerine and Emma Shepard are the candidates in this runoff.

Furthermore, there are four proposed constitutional amendments on the November 18 ballot: Amendment No. 1: This amendment clarifies the timing of the gover-

nor's action on a bill. A "yes" vote would allow the legislature to reconsider vetoed bills without needing a separate veto session if the legislature is still in session.

Amendment No. 2: Amendment No. 2 seeks to remove provisions in the Constitution of Louisiana that created inactive special funds within the state treasury. A "yes" vote would result in the removal of funds from these inactive programs

and place the funds in the state general fund. The inactive programs include Atchafalaya Basin Conservation Fund, Higher Education Louisiana Partnership Fund, Millennium Leverage Fund, Agricultural and Seafood Products Support Fund, First Use Tax Trust Fund, and Louisiana Investment Fund for Enhancement.

Amendment No. 3: This amendment author-

See, **ELECTION**, Page 3



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D.D.S.



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Tomorrow's
High Temp 63°

Tomorrow's
Low Temp 34°

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WEBSTER & MORE

COMMUNITY

Minden Rec celebrates Halloween with Fall Fest



WILL PHILLIPS/PRESS-HERALD PHOTOS

This past weekend the Minden REC hosted its annual Fall Festival, giving the families in attendance an opportunity to dress up in their costumes and enjoy some treats, games, a spooky haunted tour through the REC's facility, and more.

CELEBRATE

Continued from Page 1

town of 1100 people and my mom and dad modeled giving to the community, so I tried to do

that myself here, my wife and I, and our community responded to that, they honored that," said Pendegrass.

When asked how it felt to see the community come out and support him on this special occasion, Pendergrass stated,

"It's very humbling, but I didn't do this by myself. I felt like God had some divine blessing on my work. We tried to honor the

people that came in the door and serve them. So it's very humbling to see people come out to congratulate me and my fam-

ily for being here for 40 years. It's very humbling and I'm very thankful and appreciative for the community's support."

MANDINO

Continued from Page 1

ny, hosted by Mandi Hart and Greg Lee, marked a significant occasion as it honored the late Mayor Terry L. Gardner, who was a steadfast sponsor of this prestigious award. Last year, the accolade was renamed the "Terry L. Gardner Young Profes-

sional of the Year" in his memory. Mandi Hart, one of the emcees, noted, "Terry truly believed in young professionals growing professionally. He inspired everybody to know that there is a leader inside of them, and that little things make a difference when you serve your

Brandi Cade, the 2022 Young Professional of the Year, had the privilege of announcing Haynes Mandino as this year's recipient. She described him as "an old soul living in a 20-something-year-old's body" and praised his dedication to selfless service and servant leadership.

er ship. Cade emphasized Mandino's positive impact on the community, stating, "Haynes Mandino makes Minden a better place. He is changing our city by investing in the lives of others."

Upon receiving the award, Mandino expressed his gratitude, saying, "I'd like to thank the

community of Minden and the business leaders, and all the people who had a hand in raising me. I urge you to love your Lord first and then to love your community and the people you are around. Influence them in a positive manner and, more importantly, I urge you not to give up on the

youth of our community. I see firsthand every day the next generation of young professionals.”

This recognition underscores the significance of community engagement and mentorship, exemplified by Haynes Mandino in Minden.

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 indelectable detectives as John Munch in "Homicide: Life on the Street" and "Law & Order: SVU," has died. He was 78.
Belzer died Sunday at his home in Beausieu-sur-Mer, in southern France. There was no known cause of death, but Belzer had been dealing with chronic kidney and respiratory issues. The actor Henry Winkler, Belzer's cousin, tweeted, "Rest in peace Richard." Belzer is survived by his third wife, the actress Harlow McBride, whom he married in 1996. For the past 20 years, they lived mostly in France.

Marilyn Monroe
Marilyn Monroe was born Norma Jean Mortenson on June 1, 1926, in Ford Meriden on August 5, 1962, at the age of 36. She made only 30 films in her lifetime, but her legendary status will last forever.
Monroe's first marriage to James Douglas was in 1944, at the age of 16. Norma Jean married 21-year-old street plant worker James Douglas. The marriage lasted four years, and they divorced in 1946. By this time Marilyn began to model dresses, but parts in the movies followed. In 1949, 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 several classic movies, including "Gentlemen Prefer Blondes", "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying", "The Seven Year Itch", and became a Millionaire and "The Seven Year Itch". In 1955, Marilyn married American movie star Arthur Miller. The couple remained married until August 1961, when she filed for divorce after only eight months. In the same year, 1961, Marilyn played herself in the biographical film "Marilyn Goes to Paris". She also starred in the 1960 musical drama "Some Like it Hot". After a year of marital problems, she left Miller for the second time in 1962. Marilyn returned to the screen the next year for the delightfully campy "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 Hanks Lincoln. Abraham spent his early years on a family farm in southern Indiana. Lincoln worked as a soldier, a surveyor, militia soldier, and eventually became a lawyer in Illinois. He married his lovely wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, in 1842. They had four sons: Robert Todd Lincoln, Edward, William Wallace Lincoln, and Edward. He married his lovely wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, in 1842. They had four sons: Robert Todd Lincoln, Edward, William Wallace Lincoln, and Edward. He married his lovely wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, in 1842. They had four sons: Robert Todd Lincoln, Edward, William Wallace Lincoln, and Edward.

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MINDEN PRESS-HERALD
covering the...
Daily Report

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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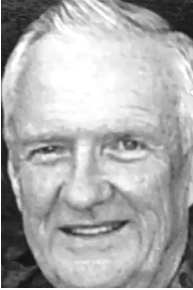
WEBSTER & MORE

OBITUARIES



David LeBaron

David LeBaron of Minden, Louisiana, passed away on September 8, 2023, at the age of 67. He was the fourth of six children born to Gordon LeBaron and Gwendolyn Crawford LeBaron, who preceded him in death. David is survived by sisters, Anne LeBaron of Valencia, California, Lynn LeBaron of Columbus, Georgia, and Gaye LeBaron of Ruston Louisiana, and by brothers Richard Gordon LeBaron of San Antonio, Texas, and William Crawford LeBaron of Minden, Louisiana.



Dr. Gary Glynn Daniel

June 6, 1932-October 23, 2023

Beloved long-practicing physician, Gary Glynn Daniel, M.D., 91, of Minden, LA passed away at his home on October 23, 2023. Dr. Daniel was born in Alberta, Louisiana, on June 6, 1932, to Roxie Alabama Guin Daniel and Jake Wilmer Daniel. Graduating from Minden High School, he received a football scholarship to Henderson State University in Arkadelphia, AR, where he met the love of his life, Gloria Stueart.

Completing his undergraduate studies, then marrying in 1955, attended Louisiana State University Medical School in New Orleans, LA, graduating in 1960. Following graduation, he served his country, completing his internship at the prestigious Walter Reed Army Hospital in Washington, DC. Upon completing his internship, he was assigned the post of Chief Division Surgeon for the 2nd Armored Division, at Fort Hood, TX, earning the rank of Captain.

Upon separating honorably from the U.S. Army in 1963, he returned to his hometown of Minden, where he proudly served the city and surrounding communities as a most skillful physician and surgeon. He was dedicated, caring, and one of the few “old school doctors” who understood the critical importance of taking time to get to know their patients. His practice was always a combination of complete subject matter knowledge and delivering it in an understanding and caring manner. He was much loved.

Dr. Daniel retired in 2003 from his medical practice, even though he never stopped providing care to family and friends. In addition to his practice, he was active and involved with the Minden Medical Center, Webster Bank and Trust Co., and the Minden Housing Authority. Addition-

ally, Daniel was the Coroner for Webster Parish from 2000 to 2004, and Deputy Coroner for many years previously. Dr. Daniel spent 43 years as a physician, during which time he also successfully raised various breeds of purebred cattle on his farm in Heflin, LA; was an accomplished private pilot; was a self-taught saw-miller; enjoyed his own sawmill, woodworker; and accomplished fisherman.

Dr. Daniel is survived by lovely wife Gloria Stueart Daniel of Minden, children Leslie and Byron Rainer of Minden, Ben Daniel of Heflin, LA; was an accomplished private pilot; was a self-taught saw-miller; enjoyed his own sawmill, woodworker; and accomplished fisherman.

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William Arnold Fritz

On the evening of October 24th, 2023, William Arnold Fritz celebrated his 93rd birthday and then went to his Eternal home in Heaven. He was born in Minden, Louisiana in 1930 to William and Aubyn Fritz. He is predeceased by his first wife of 67 years, Shirley Gwendolyn Hull Fritz.

Surviving are his two daughters, Dr. Elizabeth Bell and husband Roger of Las Vegas and Jean Kowaleski and husband Rory of Doyline, five grandchildren, Statler Hasley and wife Erin Lani, Keri Lee and husband Brian, Erin Hasley-Wever and husband Doug, David Kowaleski and fiancée Kristian Nuckolls, and William Bell and wife Cecillia. He has 3 great-grandchildren, Karoline Lee, Slater and Sloan Hasley. His brother, Don Fritz and his late sister, Betty Booth, a sponsor son, Thomas Randers and wife Eva Lou, and his wife Syble.

Arnold honorably served in the U.S. Navy as chief petty officer and was assigned to a few aircraft carriers. He played an integral role during the Cuban Crisis in 1961. He and his family were stationed along the Eastern coast in Florida, New York, and Virginia. He spent some of his earlier years in Hot Springs at the Navy recruitment office. In addition, he and his family were

sent to Europe where he was assigned at the MAAG in Lisbon, Portugal and NATO in Oslo, Norway. After his retirement, he came to Minden, attended school and became a qualified draftsman. He was employed at Minden Lumber Company and Howard Lumber Company. If he wasn't drawing house plans, he and his wife Gwen traveled extensively in the United States. He tirelessly spent hours talking on his ham radio, W5GDD, following in his father footsteps, W5BZR. Arnold loved building and even learned to enjoy having a garden. He was genuinely devoted to his grandchildren and family. He was a member of the Doyline United Methodist Church. He was also instrumental in constructing a Fellowship Hall for the church with other members and many volunteers he knew in the construction business. This past year he has enjoyed being a resident at The Oaks of Louisiana.

Pallbearers will be Statler Hasley, William Bell, David Kowaleski, Paul Fritz, Randy Watson, and Kyle Carter. Honorary pallbearers will be Doug Wever and Brian Lee.

A special thanks to the devoted staff at The Oaks, Willis Knighton Bossier, Carpenter House of St. Joseph, and Dr. Kennedy Lim. Also, a special thanks to Don, Keri and Karoline for their support. William was surrounded by a loving family and friends throughout his life.

Graveside services will be held Saturday, November 4th at 11 a.m. under the direction of Rose Neath Funeral Home in Minden. Officiating will be Bro. Bruce Lee.



Barbara “Kay” Moore Dillon

Funeral services celebrating the life of Barbara “Kay” Moore Dillon will be held Wednesday, November 1, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at First Baptist Church Minden with Rev. Leland Crawford officiating. Interment will follow at Arlington Cemetery in Homer, Louisiana under the direction of Rose Neath Funeral Home in Minden, Louisiana. The family will receive friends from 6:00 until 8:00 p.m. Tuesday, October 31, 2023, at Rose Neath Funeral Home in Minden, Louisiana.

Kay was born October 23, 1940, in Haynesville, Louisiana and entered into rest October 28, 2023, in Minden, Louisiana. She was a member of First Baptist Church Homer from birth, 1940-1958, a member of First Baptist Church Minden from 1964-2023 where she

sang in the adult choir, taught high school girls, couples class, and attended Friday Bible study. From 1995 to 2005 Kay was a member of Jefferson Baptist Church in Baton Rouge where she sang in the adult choir and the singing Christmas Tree. Her greatest joy was being with her grandchildren, great-grandchildren, working in her yard, and singing in the choir.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Roderick E. Dillon, Jr. and her parents William Moore, Jr. and Faye Gilmore Moore.

She is survived by her sons, Doug Dillon (Sheri) of Prosper, TX, Rod Dillon of Dallas, TX and Dave Dillon of Pottsboro, TX, and grandchildren, Matt Dillon (Analee) of Anna, TX, Sarah Denson (Brian) of Burleson, TX, Ashlyn Hutcheson (Collin) of Mena OK, Colton Dillon, and Bryan Payne of San Francisco, CA, and four great-grandchildren.

Pallbearers will be Matt Dillon, Colton Dillon, Bryan Payne, Brian Denson, Collin Hutcheson, and Willie Alums.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to St. Jude, First Baptist Minden or donor's choice.



Wills Successions

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SPEAKER

Continued from Page 1

us well. I hope this may open some doors for our great city and parish.

(Community leader) Jerry Madden

I just wish him the best. He's a good man, he's a very good man. I'm proud to be from his district. They could not have picked a better person.

Col. Carl Thompson

Today the Members of the U. S. House of Representatives made a very wise and historical decision when they elected Congressman Mike Johnson, a Constitutional Patriot, devout Christian and strong family man who loves the United States dearly and, as Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, will lead with wisdom and diplomacy.

CEO/President of the Greater Minden Chamber Stephanie Barnette

Not only is this an exciting time for Louisiana, but especially for the people of Northwest Louisiana. Mike Johnson is a true servant of the people and the Greater Minden Chamber is confident that great things are ahead under his leadership.

Minden Police Chief Jared McIver

I believe that the decisions Mike Johnson will make will be for the betterment of the country. He actually makes a difference. I've seen it. I'm proud for him; this is a huge accomplishment. I believe all of Louisiana is proud right now. This is a proud historic moment for our state.

Webster Parish Sheriff Jason Parker

We are so proud of our Congressman and friend Mike Johnson being elected Speaker of the House. I know Mike's character, integrity, and strong faith in God will guide him in leading the People's House as they make important critical decisions that affect our entire nation. Congratulations, Speaker Johnson!

State Representative Wayne McMahan

Congressman Mike Johnson is the kind of leader we need today. His strong Christian faith is the hallmark of his leadership. He is intelligent, well spoken, has a tremendous work ethic and the ability to disagree yet not be disagreeable. These are a few of Mike's attributes that will serve him and our country well in his role as speaker. We are blessed to have him as

our representative in Congress. This is a great day for Louisiana and our nation.

Louisiana State Senator Robert Mills

Congratulations to our own Congressman Mike Johnson on being elected Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives! I trust Speaker Johnson to lead our Congress with dignity and patience as he guides his colleagues back into the important work required of our Congressional leaders. Let us all pray for Speaker Johnson and his family as they all navigate this new opportunity and challenge.

Senator John Kennedy

Congratulations to my good friend Mike Johnson on becoming the Speaker of the House. My House colleagues have selected an outstanding leader to navigate an unprecedented time. Mike isn't just a consistent conservative—he's a courageous one. He loves God, his family, and his country more than anything, and he has devoted his life to serving them faithfully. American families share Mike's Louisiana values, and they deserve his confident, principled leadership.

Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin

I want to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Representative Johnson on his election as the 56th Speaker of the United States House of Representatives. Our state and nation will be well served by his leadership in this important role. I am especially pleased that the two highest positions in the House of Representatives are now held by Louisianians. Today is a great day for the State of Louisiana.

Former Congressman Dr. John Fleming

Congressman Mike Johnson won the coveted Speakership of the U.S. House of Representatives with an amazing unanimous vote among Republican members. This shows the large impact Mike has made in Washington in just a short period of time. This is no surprise to me as I have known and worked with him for many years and I am a witness to his many talents. We in Louisiana, especially North Louisiana, are extremely proud of him and we know he will take the U.S. Congress to new heights.

ELECTION

Continued from Page 1

rizes the local governing authority of a parish to provide ad valorem tax exemptions for qualified first responders. A “yes” vote would empower local parish authorities to grant ad valorem tax exemptions for first responders in their parish.

Amendment No. 4: Amendment No. 4 authorizes the legislature, after securing a two-thirds vote, to use up to \$250,000,000 from the Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund to alleviate a budget deficit. A “yes” vote would mean that, under specific

conditions outlined in the law, the legislature, with a successful two-thirds vote in each house, could access up to \$250,000,000 from the Revenue Stabilization Trust Fund to address budget deficits.

Louisiana residents are encouraged to participate in the election and consider these proposed constitutional amendments, as they will have a significant impact on the state's governance and finances. Make your voice heard on November 18, 2023.

MPD

Continued from Page 1

ficers to be out in the field more.”

These technological upgrades enable streamlined reporting through Evidence.com, facilitating more efficient data transmission to the D.A.'s office and reducing paperwork. The department's shift to online, Cloud-based records management software allows officers to complete tasks such as report writing, warrant checks, and tag inspections from their vehicles, enhancing field efficiency.

cy.

The police department has taken animal control under its umbrella of operations and is exploring the acquisition of dart guns to safely handle wild or aggressive animals, minimizing risks to officers.

A major focus this year has been to train officers as instructors in various law enforcement domains, enabling in-house training and collaboration with other agencies. Lt. Kendrick highlighted the successful introduction of training courses

such as a less-lethal shotgun class, taser recertification, and field sobriety refreshers, all taught by in-house instructors.

Four Minden Police Officers have recently received FAA certification as drone operators through the Bossier Sheriff's Office. This certification enhances the department's capabilities for special events and investigative purposes.

The Safety Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP) has contributed to improved highway safety by conducting over 800

stops on the interstate in the last 30 days, resulting in reduced accidents. “People are slowing down, and our accidents are down since we've started this,” said Kendrick.

The Drug Apprehension Response Team (DART) remains active in patrolling at night and on weekends.

The Minden Police Department continues to evolve, adapt, and enhance its capabilities to ensure the safety and well-being of the community.

OPINION

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

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

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

OPINION

School choice will soon find another opportunity in Louisiana

All the way back to the administration of Governor Bobby Jindal, Louisiana has viewed private-school choice statewide as very positive public policy that needed to be enshrined in state law to improve the quality of education of poor and minority children, and to provide the same educational choice enjoyed by children from more affluent families. However, Gov. John Bel Edwards has obstructed school choice during his two terms as governor.

“Last year he vetoed two bills that would have allowed all families with children who weren’t reading at grade level or had special needs to take their state-funded education dollars to schools of their choice.” (C, DeAngelis, Wall Street Journal, Oct. 19, 2023). WSJ continues “this year the Republican-controlled state House passed an even more expansive school choice proposal—one that would be available to all families, regardless of need—by a 61-37 vote. Although the bill had bipartisan support, it takes two thirds of each legislative chamber to override a veto.”

However, on Saturday, Louisiana elected a new governor, Jeff Landry, who has always been a proponent of school choice. In fact, Mr. Landry’s campaign website says that “no child should be trapped in a failing school” and that “if a school cannot adequately educate its students, those stu-

dents should be given the ability to obtain an education that is worthy of the commitment we have made to them.”

Further, additional candidates supporting school choice also were elected to the Legislature this year. “We now have a supermajority of school choice supporters in the Senate and are only a couple votes shy of a supermajority in the House” states Kelli Bottger of Louisiana Kids Matter.



ROYAL ALEXANDER

And now there is a governor-elect who will sign such legislation into law. Such a moment would provide so much hope for so many families across Louisiana—especially poor and minority families—whose children have been trapped in failing schools.

In fact, there has been a desire to enact school choice policy in Louisiana since even before Jindal, but the powerful public-school education unions have always stood in the way.

However, as outlined by The Heritage Foundation, there is a new school-choice advocacy strategy that is yielding huge new gains.

“The solution to this political challenge is to help inform

and organize families in suburban and rural areas who are concerned about the kinds of values their children are being taught in public schools. Radical academic content and school practices are not confined to large urban school districts on the coasts. Even in small towns across America’s heartland, public-school staffs have become emboldened to impose values on students that are strongly at odds with those preferred by parents. Whether it’s placing biological males in the girls’ bathrooms and locker rooms, calling children by pronouns that differ from their sex behind parents’ backs, or teaching a radical and ahistorical ideology that condemns America as irredeemably racist and divides people into “oppressors” and “the oppressed,” public schools are breaking faith with the families they are supposed to serve.” [Emphasis added]. (The Heritage Foundation, J. Greene, J. Bedrick, Feb. 2023).

Well, the 2020 pandemic forced students to learn online from home, thereby allowing their parents to see the often-radical, inappropriate things they were being taught. Now, change is coming. “Legislators facing organized groups of parents who want alternatives to the values promoted by public schools can be peeled away from the grip of teachers’ unions and rural superintendents.” (Heritage).

The Cato Institute also took a comprehensive look at the school choice issue and concluded this:

“People make choices based on what they perceive as the best match for their children, and those choices create incentives for individual schools to improve. The supply of quality schools then improves because families choose educational products that best fit their needs. Regardless of which mechanism is the most important, ESA (education savings account) programs that are accessible to all children, regardless of incomes, abilities, or other background characteristics, offer the best opportunity for a robust market to thrive where the supply of quality schools can increase and families are able to find the best educational match.” (Cato Journal, Winter, 2018).

School choice must be given a legitimate chance to flourish because the evidence is overwhelming that it will greatly increase positive student outcomes while affording parents control over the education of their children. Regardless of social or economic background, we must end the “soft bigotry of low expectations” for every student in Louisiana.

SHREVEPORT ATTORNEY, ROYAL ALEXANDER, WORKED IN D.C. IN THE U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOR NEARLY 8 YEARS FOR TWO DIFFERENT MEMBERS OF CONGRESS FROM LOUISIANA.

INSPIRATION

The transparency and safety of ‘writing it down’

Psychiatrist, M.Scott Peck, author of The Road Less Traveled, wrote “life is difficult.”

But what can we do about it?

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

From the richest to the poorest, to those in-between, we all have crosses to bear that would push us under if we don’t have a creative release. My safety valve has been

writing.

From the time I was in high school, living in an orphanage, to being a minister’s wife, trying to keep up my perfect front, to now, at the age of seventy-three, I find great joy in releasing my thoughts upon the page, but it does take courage to bare your soul.

We often start out trying to be that perfect person until we finally learn that perfection can be a chore.

Who wants to be around a perfect person?

Writing can allow your true self to come through, although most of us want to guard our private lives.

We don’t want to be hurt. It is only human.



SARAH HUDSON PIERCE

It’s only when we let down our guards, a little, that we allow others into our world.

Nobody really wants to hear about all of our money or the trappings of our success.

People want to know that somebody cares.

One way of expressing concern is to write your thoughts down and encourage others to write.

This life is just too short to keep our stories to ourselves.

We all have a story, whether we know it or not. We can numb our minds by background noise and party talk and never learn who we really are.

President Theodore Roosevelt said “many people live in quiet desperation, knowing neither victory nor defeat.”

By being open, transparent in our writing, we draw others into our lives. We can leave a legacy for our heirs,

allowing them to know where they came from and inspire them to make a difference with their lives.

Leaving your memoirs to your children is priceless.

I treasure the poems, stories, letters and old pictures I found in our old family trunk helping me find living, long lost relatives who shared their memories with me. What I learned encouraged me not to give up.

In 1983, Jack Gore, an English teacher, from Plain Dealing, Louisiana, told me that unless your writing is personal no one will ever understand what you are trying to say.

That advice helped me to write more than anything I’ve ever learned.

Writing can be just what’s needed most to survive!

EMAIL SARAH AT SARAH9957@AOL.COM

OPINION

America’s Question of the Week: What drives Mike Johnson?

While Congressman Mike Johnson was taking the oath as Speaker of the House of Representatives, the national media and people all over the country were scrambling to answer to the question, “Who is the new Speaker of the House Mike Johnson?” This is written to answer the question for them.

Julia Letlow, his colleague in the House of Representatives from Northeast and Central Louisiana summed up the character of the new speaker in an interview on KTBS3 on the day he was chosen. She said, “He is truly a person of great integrity and great faith”.

She noted “we can find in Mike great kindness and warmth. He lets his faith guide him so he treats others with respect and dignity”. Ms. Letlow closed her thoughts by saying, “I can’t think of a more generous, caring, and strong advocate for Louisiana and now for the entire country”.

If you want to really know Mike Johnson and what drives him, you don’t have to look very far. He wrote it down in a Republican Study Committee document “Seven Core Principles of Conservatism”. When he



PHILLIP ROZEMAN

In America, we proclaim the self-evident truths that all of us are created equal and granted by God the same inherent freedoms, such as the natural and unalienable rights to life, liberty, conscience, free speech and the free exercise of religion, and the ability to pursue happiness, own property, build wealth, and defend

ourselves and our families.

The second core principle is limited government. For individual liberty to be championed, government must be reduced. We believe, as our founders did, that legitimate government operates only by the consent of the governed and is more efficient and less corrupt when it is limited in its size and scope.

The third principle is the rule of law. Ours is “a government of laws and not of men,” and the rule of law is our foundation. To maintain order, liberty and a civilized society, public and private virtue should be encouraged and justice must be administered equally and impartially to all.

The fourth principle is peace through strength. The first obligation of the federal government is to provide for the “common defense” of the United States by securing our borders and protecting our homeland and our strategic interests abroad.....We must remain the strongest military power on earth that is fully prepared and capable of defeating any adversaries, tyrants, or terrorists, under any circumstances, at any time”.

The fifth principle is fiscal re-

sponsibility. Because government has refused to live within its means, America is facing an unprecedented debt and spending crisis. Federal debt now exceeds 33.5 trillion dollars and our current fiscal path is unsustainable and dangerous, jeopardizing our nation’s economic growth, stability, and the security of future generations.

The sixth principle is free markets. Government often stands as the greatest obstacle to the progress and prosperity of free people. Free markets and free trade agreements allow for innovation, improvement and economic expansion as risk takers, entrepreneurs, and business owners are given the liberty to pursue the American dream and create more jobs and upward mobility for more people.

The seventh core principle is human dignity. Because all men are created equal and in the image of God, every human life has inestimable dignity and value, and every person should be measured only by the content of their character. A just government protects life, honors marriage and family as the primary

institutions of a healthy society and embraces the vital cultural influences of religion and morality.

As to how these principles will guide him, Congressperson Letlow drew from the acceptance speech of Speaker Johnson. She said, “I was so encouraged to hear in his acceptance speech talk about unity and talk about strength. We need that so desperately with what we face worldwide”.

With these principles enumerated, Speaker Johnson closes the document writing, “In America, everyone who plays by the rules should get a fair shot. By preserving these ideals, we will maintain the goodness of America that has been the secret to our greatness”.

Here it is for all to see. Here are the guiding principles of our new Speaker of the House. For those who really want to know, this is what drives Mike Johnson.

DR. PHILLIP ROZEMAN IS A PRACTICING CARDIOLOGIST. HE HAS RECENTLY BEEN HONORED WITH THE DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD OF THE NORTH LOUISIANA MEDICAL SOCIETY AND THE COUNCIL TO A BETTER LOUISIANA. HE HAS BEEN

SPORTS

Russell Hedges, Sports Editor
rhedges@spechtnewspapers.com

COLUMN/HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Regular season ends Friday

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Friday marks the end of the regular season, and regardless of what happens, two Webster Parish teams will be headed to the playoffs — the North Webster Knights and Glenbrook Apaches.

North Webster rolled past Bastrop 32-14 in a District 1-3A game last week. Glenbrook fell to Homer but the Apaches gave the Pelicans all they could handle, falling 38-28 District 1-1A game at Homer.

According to Geaux-Preps.com, North Webster (5-4, 3-3) is No. 13 in the non-select Division III power rankings. The Purple Knights close the regular season against Lafayette Renaissance Charter Academy (1-5) Friday at home.

The top 16 in the final rankings host first-round games.

Glenbrook (7-2, 4-2) is No. 10 in the select Division IV power rankings. The Apaches have finished the regular season.

The top eight teams in the final rankings receive first-round byes in the playoffs.

Elsewhere last week, the Minden Crimson Tide defeated Booker T. Washington 16-8 at BTW in a District 1-4A game. The Lakeside Warriors fell to Class 2A No. 1 Calvary Baptist 52-0 at home.

The Tide and Warriors both close tough seasons Friday.

Minden (2-7, 2-4) hosts Woodlawn (4-5, 2-4), and Lakeside (3-6, 0-4) heads to Shreveport to play Green Oaks (2-7, 1-3).

Friday’s games

Woodlawn at Minden, 7

Lafayette Renaissance Charter Academy at North Webster, 7

Lakeside at Green Oaks

North Webster has had a remarkable turnaround from last year when the Knights went 2-8.

The Knights should have no trouble getting their sixth victory Friday. Lafayette Renaissance is in just its third year in the LHSAA. Its lone win was 36-26 over East Iberville in Week 6.

North Webster Head Coach John Ware said there was some talk about the turnaround after the victory last Friday.

“To sit here and be in

this position,” he said. “And tonight we feel like we secured a home playoff game. To go from 2-8 to having a chance next week to have a winning record on the year and that turnaround.

“It’s just the kids. They didn’t like that last year. They didn’t like that feeling. They turned it around in the offseason. We’ve got a bunch of good kids that sold out.

“We don’t have but four seniors that’s playing a lot so. And Xavier McGlothan

moving back here was definitely a big thing for us not only as a player but also somebody who’s been in the action for a few years and kind of knows what it’s all about. Him coming in helped this young team. We’re still young.”

Glenbrook rallied from deficits of 24-8 and 30-16 against Homer, the No. 6 team in the non-select Division IV power rankings and LSWA Class 1A poll.

The Apaches got within 30-28 in the third quarter but a two-point conversion attempt failed.

Minden’s season hasn’t gone like Head Coach Spencer Heard or his team thought it would. But Friday’s win was the 63rd in Heard’s 11 seasons at Minden, tying him with Elton Kelly at the top of the school’s all-time wins list.

Running Dunavon Robinson, only a junior, continued his solid season with 143 yards rushing. Jakobe Jackson scored a pair of TDs and two-point conversions.

Heard definitely has a chance to set the all-time wins record against Woodlawn but the Knights won’t be a pushover. Like Minden, Woodlawn has district victories over Bossier and BTW. The Knights fell to Northwood 48-18 last week.

Lakeside just hasn’t had enough health players to compete with the top teams in District 1-2A. Of course, only a few teams have been able to compete with Calvary Baptist, No. 1 in the select Division power rankings and LSWA 2A poll this season.

The Warriors should match up pretty well with Green Oaks though.

OUTDOORS

Fishing Report

BLACK BAYOU – No report. Water is low. Contact Honey Hole Tackle Shop 323-8707 for latest information.

BUSSEY BRAKE – Some big bass to over 9 pounds have been caught on fake frogs and spinner baits around the brush. The crappie are scattered around the brush. Bream have slowed. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole at 323-8707.

OUACHITA RIVER – Crappie fishing has improved in 10-12 foot water on shiners or jigs with better fishing up the bayou. Bass are fair in the cuts on shad imitations. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE D’ARBONNE – With a little current as

the result of Claiborne being lowered, fishing overall has improved. Bass have been fair to good early mornings around the grass on topwater lures with swim baits and soft plastics later around secondary points. Crappie are best along the channel edges fishing 8 feet deep in 12-14 foot water. 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 down some seven feet as the result of the drawdown. Bass fishing has been good early mornings on topwater and spinner baits. Later in the day jigs and spoons are working best. Stripers

and hybrid stripers are still biting in fairly shallow water hitting topwater lures. Fish in the 7-8 pound range are coming in. Boats can be launched at the state park at this time. Some reports of crappie being caught as well around submerged brush on shiners and jigs. For latest information, call Kel’s Cove at 927-2264 or Terzia Tackle at 278-4498.

CANEY LAKE – Night fishing for bass has been producing fairly well on dark spinners and soft plastics. They are fair to good early mornings on topwater lures with square bill crank baits, spinners fished along the grass lines 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 – Catfishing has been good. Crappie fishing has improved around the boat slips with better fishing on the south end of the lake. 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 – No report. For information, call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

NSU cancels season; head coach resigns

STAFF REPORTS
Minden Press-Herald

Northwestern State has canceled the remainder of the 2023 season due to the recent passing of junior safety, Ronnie Caldwell.

The school, which made the announcement last week, cited the mental health and wellbeing of its student-athletes as the primary reason for its decision.

“Ronnie was a beloved member of our community, and we miss him dearly,” said NSU President Dr. Marcus Jones. “While our instinct was to return to the field of play following his death, we’ve since learned that the hurt on our team was too deep. Now it is in the best interest of our players, coaches, and staff to pause and to take this time to mourn, to heal, and to support Ronnie’s family.”

The school also accepted the resignation of Brad Laird, who was in his sixth season as head coach of the Demons football team.

“Due to the loss of Ronnie and the emotional burden it has caused me, I don’t feel I can give my all to these players or

Saturday’s games

LSU at Alabama
6:45 p.m., CBS

Louisiana Tech at Liberty
5 p.m., CBS Sports Network

Grambling State at Alabama State
4 p.m.

this program,” Laird said. “Any coach will tell you that their players become like family, so the loss of Ronnie was like losing a son.

“I love this program and this university and I know it will persevere and move forward with the competitive spirit that is at the core of our DNA.”

Grambling State 28, Bethune-Cookman 14: At Grambling, after giving up an early touchdown, the Tigers (4-4, 3-2 SWAC) scored three straight for a 21-7 first-quarter lead.

Chance Williams rushed for 119 yards and two touchdowns. Floyd Chalk gained 80 yards and scored one TD.

More ‘bear’ facts to consider

GLYNN HARRIS

The Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries Commission is expected to vote at their November meeting on whether our state will schedule a hunting season for black bears in 2024-25.

There are those, especially hunters and hunting camp and other property owners in parishes bordering the Mississippi River, who welcome the possibility of scheduling a hunting season for bears. They have grown tired of seeing hunting stands, feeders and camps damaged or destroyed by what they consider nuisance animals. They also point to the fact that bear numbers especially in that part of the state continue to grow.

On the flip side, there are animal rights activists and others who hate the thought of our resident bears being hunted. What the Commission decides will dictate which of the two groups gets what they prefer.

OK, let’s assume you are a proponent of bear hunting in Louisiana, your name gets drawn to enable you to hunt bears. What if you get one? What will you do with it? Process it yourself or take it to a taxidermist? I talked with a taxidermist friend about his thoughts on processing a bear.

“There’s a good bit more work involved. Most folks who bring in a bear want a half body mount, full body mount or a bearskin rug. This involves skinning out the feet, the toes and front legs. It takes more time because of the size. They make beautiful mounts; we have done several brought in from out of state”, he said.

Comments I read concerning preparing and eating bear meat differ as much as the pro-hunt/no hunt parties.

“Bear meat is nasty”, said one. “Bear meat is wonderful”, another counters. “Just treat it like pork. I have eaten every bear I’ve killed and turned it into roasts, breakfast sausage, Italian sausage and prepared on the smoker,” a fan of eating bear added.

Google has much to say about bear meat for food. “Bears are known to carry the disease trichinosis, like pork. To prevent getting it, killing the trichinosis in the meat is as simple as making sure the meat hits 160 degrees when cooking.”

Other comments I found on the Internet are interesting...“Stuff like chili, tamales, shredded

bear, burgers, tacos and stew are going to make you love bear meat more and more.”

Another writes, “The best steaks come from the loin, aka, backstrap. You can cut several large roasts from the front and hind quarters and reserve the rest for stew meat and/or grind into burger.”

Here’s another thing to consider. Peterson Hunting magazine has this to add to the pro/con of eating bear meat. “It pays to consider their diet. Bears shot in the fall eat wild berries and in spring, they feed on grass; it’s like they’re grain fed. Perhaps only dumpster bears, scavenging on

the soiled scraps of what we humans eat should be avoided.”

I would conclude that bears that have grown fat on corn when they rip into a corn feeder, should provide a better taste than the dumpster divers.

The jury is still out. Some folks like to eat bear meat; others wouldn’t touch it. If you are selected to hunt bear and you get one but you can’t relish the thought of eating one, here’s a comment I read from a guy who doesn’t plan to eat bear meat and who might have trouble getting along with folks.

“Give the meat to neighbors you don’t like.”

Minden Press-Herald
Football Contest Winners

Week 9

1st Place - Deborah Franklin - \$25.00

2nd Place - Penny Morgan - \$15.00

3rd Place - Denise Craig - \$10.00

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Owner: Richard Randle
318-382-0900

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

Xavier ‘Tut’ McGlothan
North Webster, Sr.

McGlothan accounted for four touchdowns in a 34-12 victory over Bastrop at Baucum-Farrar Stadium on Oct. 27. He passed for one, ran for one and returned interceptions for two.

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

Good News

GOOD NEWS

JUST AN OLD SHOE BOX

This month, all across the nation, boys and girls, men and women, churches, civic groups and service clubs are filling shoe boxes with age-appropriate toys and supplies to deliver them to First Baptist Church, Minden. Deadline: Before the third week in November. There, they will be checked, packed in larger boxes and taken to hub collection point. (Our Hub Collection Point is FBC, Bossier City.) From there, they will be trucked to larger areas (Dallas, Atlanta, Charlotte, etc) for final inspection before being airlifted to more than a hundred poor countries. Upon arrival, they will be met by trained leaders to help distribute the shoe boxes to children in remote and poverty-stricken areas. This is lovingly referred to as the “Shoebox Ministry” or Operation Shoe-Box (Franklin Graham Ministry). Each year several million children

receive these ‘special gifts of love’ – the first gift ever received by many of them. (A reminder that God is the author of good gifts and gave the “greatest Gift of all” to us!) Several years ago, while the team was busy packing the shoe boxes at church, getting them ready to ship onward, a granny and her 5-year old granddaughter came by and saw the action. She asked granny what they were doing. She replied, “They are packing gift boxes for some really poor children in other countries.” The girl looked at her granny and said, “I wish I was a poor little girl so I could get me a shoe box.” Well, when the workers heard that story,



Bill Crider

they pooled some money and filled her one and delivered it to her. No doubt, she had a very unusual Christmas that year. I know the magic of an old shoe box! Growing up in a ‘cotton patch,’ the Crider children saved their shoe boxes when new school shoes came each fall. Our fireplace was not big enough to hang 7 stockings (only my grandma wore them); so we used shoe boxes for “Old White Beard” to drop a few goodies in on Christmas Eve. There was an apple, orange, banana, dried raisins in a cluster, several chocolate drops, some hard candy (all stuck together), a pair of socks and a small toy. What a disappointment for kids wishing for the Red Ryder BB Gun, a bike, or the like. In retrospect, we were recipients of the original Operation Shoe Box shipment. We can never imagine the impact these simple gifts

make in the lives of the recipients. The excitement of the children opening the boxes must be exceedingly great! Over the next few months, world - wide, clusters of children will have the surprise of their lives. Not only will there be toys, pencils, combs/brushes, tooth brushes/paste, toiletries, and such, but in each box will be a Bible story written in the language of the child. Over the years many lives have been changed through the power of the shoe box. Our God can use such a simple “tool” to draw the heart and soul of children and even communities together in oneness. Pick up your box(es) at First Baptist soon and begin this wonderful adventure of making some child in a far-away country a very happy soul; maybe even plant seed that will bear fruit in unusual amounts in years to come.

Many have included family picture and pen pal letters, creating a relationship that has grown through the years. (Go to Franklin Graham Ministries on line, click on Shoe Box Ministries and watch some videos of ‘children in action’ as they receive and open the boxes. You will never be the same! But save your boxes, there are many children in Minden area needing a touch of love, a word from God! Just to know someone really cares for them. Why not plan (today) to make a difference in the lives of a family this season. Put together shoe boxes and deliver them locally to several you know in need. Remember...God so loved the world, He gave!

BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER

THE UPWARD LOOK

Take Refuge

“Be gracious to me, O God, be gracious to me, For my soul takes refuge in You; And in the shadow of Your wings I will take refuge Until destruction passes by.” Psalm 57:1 NASB



Max Hutto

Facing overwhelming odds while being pursued by those who would kill him, David calls out to God, his only help, strength, and comfort. He cries out for God to be gracious, to be merciful, to show him favor and bless him. Though he is hiding in a cave, the only shelter for his soul is in the shadow of the

cherubim’s wings which are above the mercy seat of the ark. There in the Holy of Holies, in the very presence of God, he finds comfort and refuge. There he will stay until destruction has passed him by.

Lord Jesus, as the world around me crumbles, I find peace, comfort, and strength in You, my refuge. Cover me with Your grace as troubles pass by.

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

INSPIRATION

Common Ground

As Americans, most of us enjoy some form of leisure time activity. Those activities could include sporting events, concerts, and even movies. Though these activities might be different from one another they are also very similar. In every one of these situations, you find yourself in a large group often composed of familiar and unfamiliar people. Despite the group’s differences, they have one major similarity: they all enjoy this particular activity and they are all partaking in this shared experience. This creates common ground and an avenue for communication with people you otherwise might not talk to. This raises the question of why can’t our Christian walk provide the same experience? We are not instructed to only



Bernard Harris

minister to the people we know or feel comfortable around but we are instructed to minister to all the world. Take, for instance, the movies where we sit for 2 hours with strangers where we laugh, cry, get angry, and fall in love and we do all of this while sitting in the dark and trying to remain quiet. If we can have such a powerful experience sitting silently in the dark, imagine what we could do out loud in the light! My challenge for everyone reading this article is to go out and be the light of Jesus for at least one person this week by using common ground.

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

Come

WORSHIP

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ASSEMBLY OF GOD
MINDEN

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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.

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377-1866

NOTICE OF SPECIAL ELECTION

Pursuant to the provisions of a resolution adopted by the Board of Commissioners of Cullen Fire Protection District No. 6 of the Parish of Webster, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Cullen Fire Protection District No. 6 of the Parish of Webster, State of Louisiana (the "District"), on September 12, 2023, NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special election will be held within the District on **SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2023**, and that at the said election there will be submitted to all registered voters in the District qualified and entitled to vote at the said election under the Constitution and Laws of the State of Louisiana, and the Constitution of the United States, the following proposition, to-wit:

PROPOSITION (BOND)

Shall Cullen Fire Protection District No. 6 of the Parish of Webster, State of Louisiana (the "District"), incur debt and issue bonds to the amount of not exceeding \$2,400,000, in one or more series, to run not exceeding 20 years from date thereof, with interest at rates not exceeding 7% per annum, for the purpose of acquiring, constructing and improving buildings, machinery and equipment, to be used in giving fire protection to the property in the District, title to which shall be in the public; which bonds will be general obligations of the District and will be payable from ad valorem taxes to be levied and collected in the manner provided by Article VI, Section 33 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, and statutory authority supplemental thereto, with an estimated increase of 8 mills to be levied in the first year of issue above the 3.50 mills currently being levied to pay General Obligation Bonds of the District?

The said special election shall be held at the polling places for the following precincts which polls will open at seven o'clock (7:00) a.m. and close at eight o'clock (8:00) p.m., in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:541, to-wit:

PRECINCTS
04(PART)
05(PART)
06(PART)
11(PART)

The polling places for the precincts set forth above are hereby designated as the polling places at which to hold the said election, and the Commissioners-in-Charge and Commissioners, respectively, shall be those persons designated according to law.

The estimated cost of this election as determined by the Secretary of State based upon the provisions of Chapter 8-A of Title 18 and actual costs of similar elections is \$3,100.

Notice is further given that a portion of the monies collected from the taxes described in the Proposition shall be remitted to certain state and statewide retirement systems in the manner required by law.

The said special election will be held in accordance with the applicable provisions of Chapter 5 and Chapter 6-A of Title 18 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority, and the officers appointed to hold the said election, as provided in this Notice of Special Election, or such substitutes therefor as may be selected and designated in accordance with La. R.S. 18:1287, will make due returns thereof to said Governing Authority, and NOTICE IS HEREBY FURTHER GIVEN that the Governing Authority will meet at its regular meeting place, the Cullen Fire Station, 109 Coyle Avenue, Cullen, Louisiana, on **TUESDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2023**, at **SIX O'CLOCK (6:00) P.M.**, and shall then and there in open and public session proceed to examine and canvass the returns and canvass the result of the said special election. All registered voters of the District are entitled to vote at said special election and voting machines will be used.

October 11, 2023
October 18, 2023
October 25, 2023
November 1, 2023
Minden Press Herald

LEGAL NOTICE
Anyone knowing the

whereabouts of any heirs, children, or relatives of DEBORAH LYNN MORGAN with regards to the "Unopened Succession of Deborah Lynn Morgan" is asked to contact Jack W. Slaid, Attorney-at-Law at (318) 382-1177 or at 1374 Homer Road, Suite 200, Minden, LA 71055.

November 1, 2023
November 8, 2023
Minden Press-Herald

Loyce Hudson Family Trust v. Leeann Dupree Cain, et al.; Docket No. 80955 C; 26th Judicial District Court; Webster Parish, Louisiana. Please notice that LEEANN DUPREE CAIN has been named as a defendant in the above styled action. Anyone knowing whereabouts or having information on LEEANN DUPREE CAIN is asked to contact Attorney Taunton Melville at (318) 200-0897, or by email at TMelville@MelvilleLawFirm.com.

November 1, 2023
Minden Press-Herald

Public Notice

26th Judicial District Expense Fund

In accordance with provisions of the Local Government Budget Act, this shall serve as notice that the judges of the 26th Judicial District Court will hold a public hearing at 12:00pm Thursday, November 16, 2023 in Courtroom 4A of the Bossier Parish Courthouse located at 204 Burt Boulevard, Benton, Louisiana. The purpose of said hearing shall be to receive public input on the proposed budget for the FY 2024. The proposed budget is available for public inspection Monday through Friday from 8:30am until Noon and from 1:00pm until 4:30pm in office of the District Court located in the Bossier Parish Courthouse or the Webster Parish Courthouse.

November 1, 2023
Minden Press Herald

SHERIFF'S SALE

CARTER FEDERAL CREDIT UNION VS. MICHAEL BREN-DAN FLINT

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 80881

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, December 6, 2023, During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

LOT NO. TWO HUNDRED FORTY-SIX (246) of PINE HILL SUBDIVISION of Section 13 and 24, Township 23 North, Range 11 West, Webster Parish, Louisiana, as per plat and map of said subdivision filed for record on April 23, 1938, and recorded in Book of Plats at Page 92, in the Office of the Clerk of the District Court and Ex-Officio Recorded in and for Webster Parish, Louisiana, together with all improvements located therein and rights thereto belonging.

Purported to be municipally known as 200 3rd Street Pinehill, Springhill, Louisiana 71075,

AND

LOTS TWO HUNDRED FORTY-SEVEN (247) and THREE HUNDRED (300) of the PINE HILL SUBDIVISION, a subdivision located in the Southwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter, Section 24, Township 28 North, Range 11 West, Springhill, Webster Parish, Louisiana, as per map and plot thereof on file and of record in the Office of the Clerk of the District Court and EX-Officio Recorded in and for said parish in Map Book 1, Page 92; together with all Improvements

located thereon and all rights thereto belonging.

Purported to be municipally known as 202 3rd Street Pinehill, Louisiana 71075.

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

November 1, 2023
November 29, 2023
Minden Press Herald

Webster Parish Fire District #3 is auctioning off two surplus vehicles by sealed bid.
1. 1985 Ford C700 Tanker vin #1FDWD-74N7FVA14207
2. 2001 F350 Super Duty Service Truck vin# 1FDWF36L01ED79111

Vehicles will be auctioned as is, where is and will need to be moved within 14 days of notification.

To bid on either vehicle identify the vehicle you wish to bid on, your bid amount and your contact information. Submit your bid in an envelope addressed as follows:

SEALED BID
P.O. BOX 494
DOYLINE, LA 71023

Bids must be received by Dec 4th, 2023. Bids will be opened at the Dec 5th, 2023, Board Meeting.

November 1, 2023
November 8, 2023
November 15, 2023
November 22, 2023
November 29, 2023
Minden Press Herald

Accepting Applications for Drivers

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

Large Garage Sale / Estate 1241 Country Club Circle. November 4th from 7-Until?

MISC
Use Happy Jack® Kennel Dip as an area spray to control deer ticks, fleas, stable flies & mosquitoes where they breed. HAUGHTON FARM & GARDEN 318-949- 9243. (www.happyjackinc.com)

October 23, 2023

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
WEBSTER PARISH POLICE JURY

2024 ROAD CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS

The Webster Parish Police Jury solicits sealed proposals for:
2024 Road Construction Materials.

The proposals must be in the hands of the undersigned no later than **2:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 28, 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 December 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

October 25, 2023
November 1, 2023
November 8, 2023
November 15, 2023
November 22, 2023
Minden Press Herald

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF ELECTIONS
Parish of Webster
P.O. BOX 370
Minden, Louisiana 71058-0370



HOLLI VINING, PRESIDENT
Clerk of Court

ANGELA HALL
Registrar of Voters

MEMO
October 19, 2023

TO: Board of Supervisors of Elections
FROM: Angela F. Hall, Registrar of Voters
RE: Schedule of Meetings for November 18, 2023 Election

Friday 9/15/2023	10:00 AM (for Oct 14 & Nov 18 elections)	Selection of Commissioners (RS 18:434) Clerk of Court Jury Commission Room
Thursday 11/02	9:00 AM	Seal Early Voting Machines (RS 18:1309.1) Registrar of Voters office
Monday 11/13	10:00 AM (already selected for Oct 14 & Nov 18 election. Tentative date in case we receive large number of ballots & need to select more board commissioners)	Select (absentee) Parish Board Commissioners & Alternates (RS 18:1314) Registrar of Voters Office
Thursday 11/16	9:00 AM	Seal Voting Machines Voting Machine Warehouse
Thursday 11/16	TBD	PBES may begin prep & verification of absentee & early voting ballots beginning 3 days prior to election (18:1313.1) if over 1,000 ballots & cannot accomplish day prior to election. SOS written permission required.
Friday 11/17	TBD	PBES may begin prep & verification (18:1313.1) of absentee & early voting ballots (if over 1,000 ballots)
Saturday 11/18	3:00 PM? TBD	Election Day, Tabulation & Counting Absentee/EV ballots (18:1313)
Tuesday 11/21	9:00 AM	Break seals on Voting Machines (18:573) Voting Machine Warehouse

*Board notice of polling locations (RS 18:535) for October 14, 2023 and November 18, 2023 elections published in the Parish Journal 9/27/2023

November 1, 2023
Minden Press Herald

2024 Proposed Budget -Webster Parish courthouse Annex-401 Main Street-West			
Police Jury-public Hearing: December 5, 2023 at 10:30am entrance, Minden, LA 71055 318-377-7564			
DESCRIPTION	GENERAL FUND	SPECIAL REVENUE	BUDGET YEAR
	FUNDS		GRAND TOTALS
REVENUE:			
TAXES	\$ 925,000.00	\$ 4,900,000.00	\$ 5,825,000.00
LICENSE & PERMITS	\$ 286,650.00	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 316,650.00
INTERGOVERNMENTAL REVENUE			
FEDERAL FUNDS		\$ 2,900,000.00	\$ 2,900,000.00
STATE FUNDS	\$ 1,773,765.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 1,873,765.00
OTHER FUNDS			
CHARGES FOR SERVICES	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
FINES AND FORFEITURES		\$ 249,000.00	\$ 249,000.00
USE OF MONEY	\$ 332,000.00	\$ 24,500.00	\$ 356,500.00
OTHER REVENUE	\$ 310,000.00	\$ 446,751.00	\$ 756,751.00
LIBRARY REVENUE		\$ 5,189,513.00	\$ 5,189,513.00
TOTAL REVENUE	\$ 3,657,415.00	\$ 13,854,764.00	\$ 17,512,179.00
OPERATING TRANSFERS IN	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 300,000.00	\$ 400,000.00
BEGINNING FUND BALANCE	\$ 2,253,975.00	\$ 1,553,097.00	\$ 3,807,072.00
TOTAL REVENUE, FUND BALANCE, AND TRANSFERS IN:	\$ 6,011,390.00	\$ 15,707,861.00	\$ 21,719,251.00
EXPENDITURES			
LEGISLATIVE	\$ 230,615.00	\$ 969,177.00	\$ 1,199,792.00
JUDICIAL	\$ 946,000.00		\$ 946,000.00
ADMINISTRATIVE/FINANCE	\$ 1,202,896.00	\$ 352,500.00	\$ 1,555,396.00
ELECTIONS	\$ 80,139.00		\$ 80,139.00
PUBLIC SAFETY/CORRECTIONS	\$ 571,730.00	\$ 875,000.00	\$ 1,446,730.00
HEALTH & WELFARE	\$ 509,511.00	\$ 105,000.00	\$ 614,511.00
GENERAL GOVERNMENT	\$ 85,500.00	\$ 995,400.00	\$ 1,080,900.00
PUBLIC WORKS		\$ 4,102,675.00	\$ 4,102,675.00
LIBRARY		\$ 5,745,587.00	\$ 5,745,587.00
LIBRARY DEBT SERVICE		\$ 250,464.00	\$ 250,464.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$ 3,287,170.00	\$ 13,395,803.00	\$ 16,682,973.00
Reserve	\$ 2,724,220.00	\$ 2,312,058.00	\$ 5,536,278.00
TOTAL EXPENDITURES, RESERVES, ETC.	\$ 6,011,390.00	\$ 15,707,861.00	\$ 21,719,251.00
Individual fund balances for the proposed budget may be reviewed in the office of the Secretary-Treasurer			
As published in the Minden Press-Herald, November 1, 2023			

November 1, 2023
Minden Press-Herald

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Eloy Sosa

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MINDEN
PRESS-HERALD

2023 FOOTBALL
CONTEST

1. Lakeside vs.
Green Oaks

12. Louisiana
Lafayette vs.
Arkansas State

DR. WAYNE ***
McMAHEN
YOUR
State Representative District 10



2. Woodlawn
vs. Minden

Mike Spillers
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Minden, LA 71055
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MINDEN FAMILY
DENTAL
DR. ZACH GOODMAN

13. Louisiana
Tech vs. Liberty

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Quality of Care and Quality of Life

3. Lafayette
Renaissance vs.
North Webster

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4. Missouri vs. Georgia



11. UL Monroe vs. Southern Mississippi

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2023
F-150

14. Houston Christian vs. NSU

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5. Washington vs. USC

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19. Bears vs. Saints

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10. Miami vs. North Carolina State

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15. McNeese vs. Southeastern Louisiana

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6. Oklahoma vs. Oklahoma State

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Courtesy Officer

9. SMU vs. Rice

20. Cowboys vs. Eagles

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16. Miami vs. Kansas City

17. Vikings vs. Falcons

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• Auto
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• Life

7. LSU vs. Alabama

Sutter Insurance Agency, Inc.

Lamplighter
MANOR GARDEN APARTMENTS

8. Texas A&M vs. Ole Miss

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ACE
Hardware

18. Commanders vs. Patriots

807 HOMER ROAD, MINDEN LA
(318) 382-9000

WINNING TEAMS BALLOT

NAME: _____

PHONE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

1. _____ 11. _____

2. _____ 12. _____

3. _____ 13. _____

4. _____ 14. _____

5. _____ 15. _____

6. _____ 16. _____

7. _____ 17. _____

8. _____ 18. _____

9. _____ 19. _____

10. _____ 20. _____

THE TIE BREAKER: TOTAL POINTS OF
Arkansas vs. Florida _____

CONTEST RULES

1. Locate the 20 games and circle the name of the team you think will win.

2. Print the winning team name in the blank on the ballot. BE SURE TO MATCH THE NUMBERS CORRECTLY.

3. Predict the TOTAL number of points you think will be scored in the tie breaker game and enter in the space provided.

4. Complete and cut out the entry blank and deposit at the Minden Press-Herald, 203 Gleason Street, Minden, LA or mail to Football Contest, P.O. Box 1339, Minden, LA 71058.

5. Entries must be dropped off no later than 12:00pm on Fridays. Entries received after 12:00pm on Friday will not be accepted

6. WE WILL NO LONGER ACCEPT FAXES.

7. Prizes awarded will be \$25 for first place, \$15 for second place, and \$10 for third place.

8. One entry per person per week.

9. Employees, Independent Contractors and Families of the Minden Press-Herald are not eligible.

10. NO PHOTOCOPIED ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED.