

# MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2023

MINDEN, LOUISIANA

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## CITY COUNCIL

### Fluhr says goodbye at his last council meeting

WILL PHILLIPS  
Minden Press-Herald

The December Minden City Council meeting was a fairly regular affair concerning the typical aspects of business, but what made the meeting one to remember were the people recognized during it. Monday evening the city had its last meeting with City Clerk Michael Fluhr Clerk who is ending his employment with the city later this month. On top of that, the Minden Police Department recognized two individuals for two separate acts of courage: Minden native Colin Campbell, who helped bring two women to the hospital after a stabbing incident at Louisiana Tech University, and officer Logan Clingan, who helped to keep a man from taking his own life.



FLUHR

At the end of his budget financial report, Michael Fluhr shared some words about his time working with the City of Minden. "Over a decade ago, Mayor Robertson offered me the opportunity to serve as the city clerk, one

See, **COUNCIL**, Page 2

## CHRISTMAS IN MINDEN



Christmas in Minden, a cherished hometown tradition, promises holiday cheer this weekend, December 8-9.

### Christmas festivities light up Minden

Weekend events promise holiday cheer

AMBER MCDOWN  
Minden Press-Herald

As the holiday season unfolds, Christmas in Minden is gearing up for a weekend brimming with festive activities on December 8-9.

Kicking off the seasonal celebrations on Friday evening is the Tree Lighting Ceremony at 5:30 PM, held at the Minden Civic Center. The illuminating event

sets the stage for a weekend filled with holiday spirit.

Adding to the merriment, the Holiday Wine Walk invites participants to savor a wine-tasting experience while strolling through downtown from 5:30 PM to 8 PM. Tickets, priced at \$25, include an event wine glass, a map of participating businesses, and at least eight wine-tasting opportunities. Pro-



PRESS-HERALD PHOTOS

ceeds from this spirited event will benefit the new Ronald McDonald House in Shreveport-Bossier. Tickets can be purchased at <https://bit.ly/3GkKwBe>, and participants must be at least 21 years old.

For those with a penchant for fitness, the Rehab Reindeer Run commences at 6 PM, taking participants through the Christmas lit neighborhood of the Ridgewood subdivision. Further details are available at <https://runsignup.com/Race/LA/Minden/RehabReindeerRun>.

Simultaneously, the Holiday Trail of Lights Hayride departs from the Civic Center at 6 PM, offering an enchanting tour through Minden's historic district adorned with thousands of twinkling lights. The hayride is a complimentary experience for all.

Saturday morning ushers in more festivities, starting with a Christmas brunch at Geaux Fresh from 9 AM until 1 PM. The day unfolds with Mrs. Claus making a spe-

See, **CHRISTMAS**, Page 3

## WPSB

### 2024 officers elected at WPSB meeting

AMBER MCDOWN  
Minden Press-Herald

In recognition of Lakeside Jr/Sr High School's achievement as the first school to secure an A rating in the recent Louisiana school performance scores, the Webster Parish School Board (WPSB) convened its regular session on December 4 at Lakeside Jr/Sr High School.



STRONG

The meeting was hosted in the festively adorned library with a winter wonderland and Warrior pride theme. All school board members were present with the exception of Glenda Broughton, who was absent due to a family medical issue.

Following the approval of the previous month's minutes and special called meeting minutes, Kevin Thompson of Taylor and Sons honored Malea Geis, a special education teacher at Central Elementary School, with the Employee of the Month award. Details of Ms. Geis' commendation will be highlighted in an upcoming Minden Press-Herald article.

See, **WPSB**, Page 3

## EDUCATION

### NLTC Students Excel in ATMAE Video Competition

Minden - The students from Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College's Industrial Instrumentation and Electrical Technology program have gained recognition by securing 3rd Place in the ATMAE Student Challenge Undergraduate Video Competition.

ATMAE, an organization that accredits programs like the one at NLTC, ensures that students receive top-notch education in fields such as instrumentation technology, making them excellent candidates for the job market.

The winning video was created by students Jayden Allen, Michael Young, Angel Smith, and their instructor, Mr. McCrary. In their video, they shared compelling reasons why employers should hire graduates from ATMAE-accredited programs. The video highlighted the ways in which these students are prepared to excel in the

workforce, such as their understanding of professionalism, teamwork, and adaptability.

The Industrial Instrumentation and Electrical Technology program at NLTC teaches students to become highly skilled instrument technicians. Students learn a wide range of valuable skills, from mastering electrical and electronic technology, understanding PLCs, utilizing measurement devices, comprehending control valves, to effectively managing various processes. Safety measures are given great importance, and students are equipped with the knowledge and abilities to set up, care for, identify issues with, and fix different instruments.

To learn more about NLTC's programs and start your journey towards a fulfilling career, call 318-371-3035 or visit [www.nlcc.edu](http://www.nlcc.edu). Enrollment is open for the Spring semester, with classes beginning January 16th.

## GIVING



AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

YWSC collected toys and donations at Walmart on Friday night for the Civitan Santa program. The effort yielded \$423 in donations and two shopping carts filled with toys.

### Minden community unites to spread joy through Civitan Santa program

AMBER MCDOWN  
Minden Press-Herald

The Minden Civitan Club and the Young Women's Service Club (YWSC) join forces each year as part of the Civitan Santa program to collect new toys and ensure that the holiday

season is brightened for children in need.

Members of YWSC gathered at the Walmart entrance on Friday night to collect toys and donations. In a display of community generosity, the effort yielded \$423 and two shopping carts filled with toys.

Brandi Cade, the correspondence secretary for YWSC, expressed her enthusiasm, stating, "While I love all of the community service initiatives I get to be a part of with the Young Women's Service Club,

See, **UNITE**, Page 3

## COMMUNITY

### Joe LeBlanc seeks help to feed families

WILL PHILLIPS  
Minden Press-Herald

The Joe LeBlanc Food Pantry had a successful Feed a Family Program this Thanksgiving. They were able to feed 600 families through the generosity of individuals and businesses choosing to sponsor families as well as the hard work of their volunteers packing all the meals and handing them out during distribution.

"This is our 10th year to do the Feed a Family sponsorship program. Thanks to our supporters, we have been able to provide 10,200 holiday meals in the past 10 years," said Jessica Lewis, director

See, **FAMILY**, Page 3

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## MINDEN FAMILY DENTAL

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Zach M. Goodman  
D.D.S.



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# WEBSTER & MORE

LIONS CLUB

## Hope and redemption: A journey from addiction to salvation

AMBER MCDOWN

Minden Press-Herald

Ashley Miller, manager of the Broken Bean, shared her compelling story of overcoming addiction and finding redemption at the noon Lions Club meeting on November 30.

In her testimony, Miller revealed her descent into drug addiction, a journey that defied stereotypes. Despite a loving upbringing, academic success, and athleticism, she and her high-school sweetheart succumbed to the allure of drugs in college. What began as experimentation turned into a harrowing battle with pain pills, crystal meth, and heroin.

"We thought it was a rite of passage," said Miller. "It just felt like something everyone did. We thought that we were going to eventually outgrow this, but it did not happen like that for us. Drugs grabbed us very, very quickly.

"For 15 years, I hid my addiction," Miller disclosed. Her double life included a successful career as an emergency room

nurse and a seemingly perfect family with four children.

"We had two daughters and two sons. We lived in the perfect neighborhood, Our children were in private school. From the outside looking in, our lives looked perfect. It was very important to me that people saw what I wanted them to see."

However, the facade crumbled in 2017 when she was caught stealing drugs. Despite multiple attempts at sobriety, Miller continued to fall into addiction. Her life spiraled into separation, despair, and thoughts of suicide.

"I felt like the people that loved me the most would be better off without me, because I was a problem. I was hurting everyone around me."

It was at this dark moment that Miller felt a divine intervention. "There was something inside of me that just knew that, if I just made one small step, everything could change for the better," she said.

Miller's lifeline came in the form of the Adult & Teen Challenge program



(ATC). Despite initial reservations, she committed to the 18-month program. The first night brought excruciating withdrawals, but a prayer marked a turning point.

"I went to my room, and I prayed, probably for the first time in my entire life. God, if you can just get me through this, if you can spare my children from seeing how bad this is about to be, then I'll stay for 30 days." Miraculously, she felt better the next day.

"As much medical knowledge as I have, there's nothing medical or scientific that can explain why I felt completely better 24 hours later. I know that nothing can explain what happened except God," she said.

Miller completed the program in 2020 and now manages the Broken Bean. Her family, including her husband who also graduated from ATC, has found healing. She emphasized, "This is something that I never, ever

deserved. It's because of God, and because of Teen Challenge, and because of the community of Minden that supports us the way that you do."

As Miller thrives, she sees her role at the Broken Bean as more than managing a coffee shop.

"We're about saving lives. It's truly just about giving people a whole new life," she said.

For those interested in supporting the Adult & Teen Challenge program, their Christmas Banquet

fundraiser will take place on December 7. Visit [www.louisianateenchallenge.com](http://www.louisianateenchallenge.com) for more information on finding help or contributing to this life-changing initiative.

The Lions Club, whose motto is "We Serve," has interesting speakers every Thursday at noon. They meet at the American Legion Memorial Hall located at 119 Pine Street, and they welcome new members who share the mission of community service in Minden.

MPD

## Drones now available for Minden police officers with FAA certification

AMBER MCDOWN

Minden Press-Herald

Four Minden police officers have completed certification as drone operators through the Bossier Sheriff's Office, and now the new equipment is up and operational. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) certification empowers these officers to operate drones within the city limits, add-

ing a valuable asset to the Minden Police Department's (MPD) resources.

Lieutenant Kendrick highlighted the diverse applications of drones, stating, "It's just another tool in our toolbox to help us with all the other stuff we're doing." The certified officers will utilize drones not only for investigative purposes, such as scanning areas for evidence in criminal cases, but also

for contributing to public safety during special events like parades.

Chief Jared McIver reiterated the department's commitment to maintaining privacy while enhancing officer safety with the addition of drones to the MPD's equipment arsenal. Reflecting on the local homicide case of Daniel Merritt, Chief McIver emphasized the advantages of utilizing drones to

obtain a comprehensive, bird's-eye view of an area. The larger surveillance drone has already demonstrated its efficacy in a stolen property case.

Considering the broader utility of drones in cases such as foot pursuits, traffic pursuits, and searches for missing persons, McIver acknowledged the tremendous resource they represent. The procurement of the

two drones, including a larger unit for overhead surveillance and a smaller unit for indoor use, was made possible through funding from various sources, including donations earmarked for the department's Special Response Team.

Detective Sergeant Jason Smith, leading the MPD's Criminal Investigation Division, played a pivotal role in this initia-

tive, undergoing training and obtaining the necessary license and FAA certification to operate the department's new aerial assets. Describing the functionality of the drones, Sgt. Smith emphasized the safety aspect, particularly in high-risk situations, where the indoor unit can be deployed to explore confined spaces without jeopardizing officers.

## COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

of the most important positions in the city's organization. Maybe some people don't think that way, but I believe it is. I always felt that the clerk's primary responsibility is to the residents, because it is the residents money the administration spends. Following that principle, the clerk questions, corrects, or denies financial activities and transitions, which does not create many friends, as you can imagine. So tonight, I presented my last financial report as an active city employee. My employment engagement with the current administration will end on December the 31st," said Fluhr.

"I believe Ms. Langford had a good year of training, and she is prepared for her new role as city clerk if she is so appointed by the city council. I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and the administration the wisdom to make decisions always with the benefit for the residents in mind."

Mayor Nick Cox shared some words of appreciation to Fluhr and the impact he had during his first year as mayor. "I'm glad he was here this year. His wisdom and advice helped me personally tremendously. There was hardly a day that went by that we didn't sit down. It's been invaluable to myself, Mrs. Langford, and I know the council sees your value. I sincerely appreciate all you've done to guide us in the right way. I can stand behind the fact that you always try to do what's best for the city. You're fighting for the citizens even up till the last day," said Cox.

Later in the meeting, Minden Police Chief Jared McIver introduced Colin Campbell to the mayor, council, and those in attendance, and recapped the event that took place that led to Campbell being presented with an award for courage and bravery.

"On November 13th of this year, if you didn't know, we had a very, very traumatic incident hap-

pen at Louisiana Tech. There was a suspect that went on a rampage of stabbing people with a knife on the campus. Colin happened to be in that area that specific day and two of the victims that were stabbed, Colin was there right after it happened, loaded these victims up in a vehicle, and took them straight to a hospital," said Chief McIver.

"For an eighteen-year-old young man to do what he did says something. Something I saw that stood out to me, before anyone else was called, this man stepped up before EMS could get there to do the job that they trained to do. An untrained young man jumped in and took that role.

"The definition of courage is the quality of mind and spirit that enables a person to face difficulty, danger, pain, etc. without fear. Courage is not something we're born with, it comes from what a person does or doesn't do. It comes from how a person

was raised, or mentored, or inspired in life. Courage isn't easy, but doing the right thing most of the time isn't easy. Colin did some things that a small minute number of people would've done."

Afterward, Lt. Joel Kendrick of the Minden Police Department introduced the second individual being recognized that evening, Minden Police Officer Logan Clingan.

"I want to recognize another outstanding individual that this city should be proud of. I want to impress upon everybody that family is very important, especially for people who do what we do, because when we come to work, we never know if we'll see them again," said Lt. Kendrick.

"On September the 15th of 2023, Officer Clingan met such an individual, who thought he was having what, up until that point, was the worst day of his life. This gentleman was about to make a critical decision that was a very permanent decision based on one of life's very

temporary problems. This gentleman was about to take his own life. A passerby noticed this gentleman, was concerned, and called the police department to see if we could help him.

"When officer Clingan got there, in the course of talking to him, this gentleman put two knives to his throat at the same time. Officer Clingan tried to talk the gentleman down, but it didn't work. The guy actually saw a couple of extra guys coming to help and started to run away all the while cutting his own throat with these two knives.

"At that moment Officer Clingan made a decision. He took out his taser and actually tased the individual to try to stop him from making that permanent decision. Well the taser did exactly what it was designed to do, it incapacitated that gentleman and stopped him from taking his own life.

"After getting treatment this man actually came back to our department and found Officer Clin-

gan, and told him, 'hey look, I was about to make the worst decision of my life. Thank you so much for allowing me to live another.' So thanks to Officer Clingan, his hard work, and his dedication to this city, this man lives on today and is thankful that he is still alive. So in honor of his dedication and of the decision that he made we, as the MPA and also the Minden Police department, would like to present him with the MPA Life Saving Award."

The monthly Minden City Council meeting takes place on the first Monday of each month starting at 6 PM at Minden City Hall. The meeting is open to the public to attend, and for those that cannot attend or wish to view the meeting after the fact, the meetings are live streamed on the city's Facebook page and YouTube channel titled City of Minden - Feels Like Home.

# WEBSTER & MORE

## OBITUARIES



### Billie Jones Avery

Billie Jones Avery, wife, mother, and grandmother went home to her Lord and Savior December 3, 2023, at the age of 89.

Billie was born and raised in Minden, LA and raised her family in McIntyre community for 70 plus years. She loved spending time with her family and grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her parents, John and Kate Jones, husband, Don Avery, son, Mike Avery, and

granddaughter, Edna Avery.

She is survived by her sons, Wayne Avery and wife Evelyn and Danny K. Avery and wife Mary; daughter, Athyl Cox and husband Doug. She also leaves behind 6 grandchildren, 18 great-grandchildren and one on the way, and 5 great great-grandchildren as well as numerous special nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be December 6, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. and services following at 11:00 a.m. at Antioch Baptist Church.

Pallbearers will be Brian Walker, Van Cox, Cody Avery, Cristian Avery, Chad Avery, Chris McGowan and Michael McGowan.



### William "Bill" Francis Stanley

### Francis Stanley

A memorial to honor the life of William "Bill" Francis Stanley Jr.

will be held December 7, 2023, from 5:00 until 7:00

p.m. at Rose Neath Funeral Home Chapel in Minden, Louisiana.

In lieu of flowers the family is requesting a donation

be made in Bill's memory to the Minden St. Jude Auctio-

## CELEBRATION

### Seeds Women's Center hosts second annual Christmas party for parenting class participants

AMBER MCDOWN  
Minden Press-Herald

Seeds Women's Center is set to host its second annual Christmas party, catering to families actively engaged in their parenting classes. The festive event will take place on Friday, December 8, at Calvary Baptist Church, located at 1400 Homer Rd in Minden, from 11 AM to

1 PM. Families attending the event will be welcomed with generous provisions, each receiving a substantial bag for shopping. On the tables, a variety of new items, including blankets, clothes, wipes, baby shampoo, lotion, towels, and baby toys, will be made available for selection. Door prizes, Pizza Hut pizza, cake donated

by A Piece of Heaven Bakery, and beverages are also part of the festivities. Amber Bradford, director of Seeds Women's Center, extends an invitation to those interested in enrolling in the parenting classes, emphasizing that the classes are entirely free of charge. She can be reached at 318-459-8579. Adding to the excitement, Santa and Mrs.

Claus will be in attendance, offering families the opportunity to capture memorable moments through pictures. Seeds Women's Center expresses enthusiasm for the upcoming celebration, aiming to make a positive difference in the lives of the families it serves.

## SANTA SIGHTING

### Cookies with Santa at the Germantown Colony Museum

AMBER MCDOWN  
Minden Press-Herald

The Germantown Colony Museum, located at 200 Museum Road in Minden, will be hosting Cookies with Mrs. Santa and Santa Claus. This free

event invites the community to join in the Christmas festivities with special appearances by Mrs. Santa on December 8, 2023, from 2 to 4 PM, and Santa Claus on December 9, 2023, from 10 AM to noon.

Attendees will have the delightful opportunity to enjoy cookies with Mrs. Santa and Santa Claus, creating memories for families and children. Capture the joy of the season by bringing your camera to immortalize

the experience. Don't miss out on this Christmas celebration as the Germantown Colony Museum becomes a heartwarming hub for cheer.

## UNITE

Continued from Page 1

Civitan Santa has to be my favorite. It's especially heartwarming to have kids come out of the store with toys in hand, ready to give to other kids!"

For those looking to contribute, there is still time to make a difference. YWSC will collaborate with the Civitans on December 15 and 18 to pack bags and toys for all registered children in the Ci-

vitan Santa program. The Minden Police Department and the Webster Parish Sheriff's Office deliver these heartfelt gifts to children just before Christmas.

Donations of new unwrapped toys can be delivered to the Minden police station or any Civitan member. Cash contributions are also welcomed and can be sent to the Minden Civitan Club at P.O. Box 95, Minden, LA 71058. Additionally, various businesses within the community have desig-

nated drop boxes for toy donations.

"I think I can speak for all of the ladies in YWSC when I say that the Civitan Santa toy drive is one of our most fulfilling events each year," Cade stated. "To know that we can assist with providing not only toys on Christmas morning to so many children, but also a feeling of hope and joy and keeping the magic of Christmas alive for them, gives us all a sense of purpose and provides joy to us in return. The Civitans

have always done such an amazing job with this, and we're so grateful that we've been able to assist them for several years, and we fully plan to continue doing so."

Application forms for assistance are available at the Minden Police Department and the Webster Community Action offices. Children up to the age of thirteen will be considered for the program. All applications must be submitted to the sponsors by December 15.

## FAMILY

Continued from Page 1

of the Joe LeBlanc Food Pantry.

Earlier in November they had about 74 out of 600 families sponsored for their Christmas portion of the program, and

currently that number has grown to 428. However, that means there are still 174 more families to be sponsored before the deadline of the Christmas distribution on December 16.

For those still looking

to sponsor a family and help the pantry reach their goal for Christmas distribution, a sponsorship is \$25 and the food pantry has a plethora of ways to donate including PayPal (@JLFP318), Venmo (@Joe-LeBlanc-22),

or by texting JLFPFAF to the number 44321. For those who simply want to send them a check, fill it out to JLFP, located at 814 Constable Street, Minden Louisiana 71055.

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## CHRISTMAS

Continued from Page 1

cial appearance at the American Legion Hall, bringing joy to children. From noon until 3 PM, the Dorcheat Museum hosts a kids' ornament crafting event, providing a creative outlet for the younger participants.

The highlight of Saturday is the downtown Christmas parade, pa-

ading through the streets at 4 PM. The downtown stage comes alive with entertainment at 5 PM, and the festivities culminate with a spectacular fireworks display at 7:30 PM.

Christmas in Minden remains a cherished hometown tradition, promising a weekend of holiday cheer for all.

## WPSB

Continued from Page 1

The next agenda item called for the election of school board officers for 2024. In the runoff, Charles Strong secured the presidency with 6 votes, while Johnnye Kennon obtained the vice presidency with 8 votes. Both will continue in their respective roles throughout 2024.

Expressing gratitude, Vice President Kennon remarked, "Thank you, and I appreciate your vote of confidence. We hope to move the board forward like we always have tried to do."

President Strong stated, "I'm elated to have another year of partnership with Ms. Kennon. We have to have some serious deliberations. We don't have that much money in reserve, and we have to make plans to develop that reserve while maintaining and, hopefully, improving the quality of education in our parish. I look forward to strong contributions from all of our board in partnership with our central office staff to make this the best it can possibly be. We're all blessed to be members on this board, and it's a privilege to serve."

The board proceeded to approve several trips

to conferences, including the National ESSEA Conference in Portland, Oregon, the NAFEP Conference in Washington, D.C., and the NIET National Conference in Dallas, Texas. Registration and trip expenses will be paid out of Title I funds.

Additionally, the board adopted a resolution calling for special elections in the Webster Parish School District and Springhill School District No. 8, authorizing the renewal of ad valorem taxes and the issuance of general obligation bonds. Yeager, Watson & Associates were designated as the lead architect for potential renovations to the three schools in Springhill pending voter approval in April.

Further approvals were granted for maintenance expenditures to enhance campuses, with details to be featured in an upcoming Minden Press-Herald article.

The meeting concluded with appreciation extended to Lakeside Jr/Sr High School for hosting. Due to some renovations at the central office, the next WPSB meeting will be held at Harper Pathways to Excellence on January 8, 2024, at 6 PM. The public is welcome to attend.

# Santa Letters

Send us your letters to Santa Claus!

All letters will be published in our special Christmas Greetings section and forwarded to the North Pole!

**HURRY!**  
Deadline is December 10th!

Mail your Santa letters to:  
MINDEN PRESS-HERALD  
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Or email letters to: [newsroom@press-herald.com](mailto:newsroom@press-herald.com)

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# OPINION

Joshua Specht, Editor  
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OPINION

## A perfect storm

### Caddo Sheriff race highlights the need for voting requirements to be followed to 'defend our Democracy'

I have closely followed the Caddo Sheriff election and the legal challenge occurring now in Caddo Parish District Court. The Nickelson Petition (lawsuit) is 80 pages long. The first 14 pages of the suit contain the allegations of mistakes and irregularities. Most of the remaining 66 pages contain numerous "Notation of Irregularities in the Conduct of the Election" prepared by poll commissioners who were working at the various precincts at which the alleged defects occurred.

I note that since even before the 2020 presidential election, Louisianians and all Americans have witnessed first-hand the impact of so-called 'voting irregularities'—such as those that were documented in all six of the major swing states in 2020—on the voters' confidence in the result of our elections, from the presidential down to the local level. That is why I believe the facts currently available in the public record and court filings concerning the Caddo Sheriff's race demand judicial resolution and, potentially, a re-vote.

The two candidates remain separated by only one vote, with Chief Henry Whitehorn prevailing. As a result, his opponent, John Nickelson, filed suit challenging the validity and conduct of the election alleging

it was "tainted with dubious votes, irregularities and a lack of procedure."

Unsurprisingly, the legal dispute centers upon whether certain voting requirements were followed and there is every indication they were not.

For example, Nickelson's legal counsel introduced documents reflecting that two people voted twice in the election. After reviewing the documents, one witness stated at trial "it appears so" that they had voted twice. Of these two individuals, one early voted in person then voted again on Election Day. Another individual



ROYAL ALEXANDER

sent in an absentee ballot and then voted in person on Election Day.

Nickelson's team also called Dale Sibley, Caddo Registrar of Voters, to testify about and focus upon the "flaps" or affidavits of 54 pulled ballots regarding why they had been flagged. It was discovered that voter and/or witness signatures were missing. In response, Sibley stated that his office policy is to err on the side of allowing a vote if the in-

tent is clear. Well, while that may be an admirable practice with which we can empathize, it likely doesn't comport with the law. If we are serious about 'defending our democracy' we must insist that only votes that are legally compliant be counted.

The Whitehorn team's principal argument has been that the allegedly defective absentee ballots were not objected to within the time required by law and, hence, they are waived.

The law requires that absentee ballots, for example, be handled and executed in a specific way for the simple but logical reason that the voter is not present in person voting at a voting machine. As such, election officials have no way of knowing whether the absentee ballot they are reviewing is a valid vote without the requirement that it be correctly signed and witnessed.

I think it is likely that there are almost always some mistakes or irregularities in every election, but not enough to change the outcome. However, with only a one vote margin, even one single mistake could change the outcome.

I attended the trial of this matter last week and, while I don't know how Judge Bleich viewed the trial and will rule after he receives and reviews the post-trial briefs

of both parties, I do feel that the Nickelson team carried its legal burden of proving that with a one vote margin "it is impossible to determine the result" of the election, and that a new runoff election should be ordered. (LA. R.S. 18:1432).

I emphasize that were the margin of victory here greater than one single, solitary vote the error or mistake might be deemed "harmless error" if it would not alter the outcome of the election. However, with a one vote margin, if even one of the numerous alleged mistakes and/or irregularities is true, the election outcome changes.

The right to vote and the necessity to have all legal votes count equally with that of every other voter is not only one of our fundamental constitutional rights but is also the right that is preservative of all our other rights. It is a sacred right for which over a million Americans fought and died throughout America's military history. That is why we must demand that the election safeguards put into place by law are scrupulously followed in this case.

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 gift that only we can give at Christmas

Why are we so slow of learning when it comes to the important things in life? Why do we have to lose that which is most important to us before we take stock of all that we possess?

As Christmas is upon us I am drawn into that childlike state, that I shall never forget.

Whether a child believes in Santa Claus or not is irrelevant, but what will always hold true is the child's ability to believe in fantasy...to just know that Christmas will bring that certain joy that we never outgrow.

When I was a child we only received one gift and were not allowed to believe in Santa Claus, but I still believed anyway. Being the imp that I was and still am I would quietly place a brown paper bag on our front porch because I knew that Santa dared not step inside.

And sleep wouldn't come! Of course the brown grocery bag went unnoticed, but I still believed.

We don't outgrow the child

within nor should we. I think dreaming is what keeps us forever young whether most of our wishes come true or not.



SARAH HUDSON PIERCE

But the one gift that brings me the most joy is reaching within and drawing from whatever gifts are buried there, I work on those gifts to will my dreams into reality.

Not knowing many of my living relatives, after later going into an orphanage, I was so blessed to have the old family trunk along with a host of family pictures. Since 1978,

when I began searching for family, I have not only found more lost relatives than anyone I know, but I have heard stories that warm my heart all year.

My second cousin, Mildred Pettis Leighton, couldn't afford to buy gifts for her family in her later years, so she turned to writing and penned some sweet stories about her childhood out in Woods County, Oklahoma, where she recalled my poor little mother who was left orphaned at the age of two when my grandmother, Myrtle Maples-Morris, died at the age of twenty-five, from typhoid fever.

After our grandmother died, our mother stayed at Mildred's house one Christmas, and Mildred reminisced that my mother was better than any doll at Christmas.

I think Mildred left a legacy in the handwritten stories she gave to her family at Christmas time. I was blessed to have received two sets of those stories while tracing my family tree.

We all have our way of celebrating the holidays. I don't feel that I have celebrated Thanksgiving or Christmas unless I have written some stories and baked some homemade yeast rolls.

Roll making is something I've done for a long time and I think I get more out of that ritual than by the receiver getting them (even though I won a blue ribbon on my rolls one time in a baking contest).

Our lives are filled with tradition, with ritual, just like Robert Fulghum emphasized in his book titled From Beginning To End The Rituals Of Our Lives.

So, gift giving and receiving is all a part of the traditions that help to give us a time line as we recall how far we've come and how much further we may go.

It's more than than mere giving and receiving, but it's the spirit of love that should last all year.

EMAIL SARAH AT SARAH9957@AOL.COM

FROM THE BACK PORCH

## Travel while you can

We were sitting at the table, eating breakfast, when Hubby unexpectedly said, "I miss traveling."

I heartedly agreed with him, but reminded him how blessed we had been to be able to travel quite extensively across the United States and also into Canada.

Our travels were almost entirely done in RV's and we criss-crossed America in that manner.

We had never done any "camping" (as we called it), but when our children were very young, Hubby got the urge to do so. He had seen several "cabover campers" and decided we needed one. So he took it upon himself to build one. He did a great job of it and it served us well for several years.

The area over the cab was large enough for a full sized mattress which served as sleeping quarters for all three youngsters. There was a window that did not open across the front so

they could look out as we went down the road. The truck had a sliding window in the back of the cab, so Hubby put one lower in the camper and we could communicate with them as we traveled. Our sleeping quarters was "downstairs."



FANNIE MOORE

Cardboard boxes served as our pantry and also contained our clothes and anything else we thought we might need. We were ready to go, except we had no idea how all this was going to work.

We decided we needed to make a trial run in order to

see what we would need so we spent our first night in the camper at the area near Bodcau Dam. There were no designated camp sites at that time so we just found an unoccupied area and set up for the night.

After this experience, we decided we were ready. After a few times camping near home, we were ready for the road.

The summer before our youngest child started school, and I was to start college, we made the ambitious trip to the Tetons and Yellowstone Park. We visited many historic sites along the way and decided we had done a good thing for the youngsters. (They never forgot it.)

After awhile we sold the camper and purchased a Pop-Up camper, where the canvas top folded out to make a spacious home. We were really excited about this upgrade. We kept it for several years, traveling to Nashville, the Smokies, and other places.

We upgraded to a bumper pull trailer with its own bathroom, shower, stove, beds, etc. With this, we traveled to Niagra Falls and places of interest. This served us well for a few years and we upgraded to larger ones through the years.

The youngsters soon outgrew us, graduated from high school and no longer wanted to travel with Mom and Dad.

After that Hubby and I made lots of trips to different places, sightseeing, taking pictures and enjoying the time together. (But missed our little ones)

We went to California and enjoyed seeing the beautiful coastline. A trip to New York took us the Statue of Liberty. We enjoyed all the states between here and there and later went to Helen, Ga. where we took some interesting pictures. Many trips were made to Branson, San Antonio and other interesting cities.

Our most ambitious trip was to Salem, Oregon with friends

to attend an International Sam-boree held by the Good Sam organization. We enjoyed sights along the way and afterwards made a sweeping tour through Canada and camped in the Bamff National Park, among the huge elks which roamed freely. That trip lasted five weeks and by then we were definitely homesick.

After that time, we stayed closer to home but didn't give up our travels until a few years ago when our health began to deteriorate and we thought if safer for us to stay home.

So, perhaps you can understand when we say we miss traveling.

And I would suggest, "If you want to travel, do so while you're young."

Because one day, you might be saying, "I miss traveling."

FANNIE MOORE LIVES IN SHONGALOO.

## SPORTS

**Russell Hedges, Sports Editor**  
rhedges@spechtnewspapers.com

## HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

# Minden High teams enjoy successful week

**RUSSELL HEDGES**  
Minden Press-Herald

Minden High teams went 3-0 last week.

The Crimson Tide defeated Lakeside 79-15 in its only game.

The Lady Tiders won twice, defeating Lakeside 55-18 and Homer 63-55.

The Minden boys were 5-1 through Monday under new Head Coach Jacob Brown.

Eight Crimson Tide players scored against Lakeside.

Cameron Parker and Maurice Rabb had 15 and 14, respectively. Jekoye Knowles added 12. Hudson Brown and Kameron Harris tallied 10 each.

Ten Lady Tiders scored against Lakeside.

Brooklyn Jefferson and Markeithra Willis had 11 points each. Willis hit three 3-pointers.

Travesti Byrd added 10. McKenzie Chase led Lakeside with nine points, including a pair of 3-pointers. She hit a 3 from just past the halfcourt line at the first-half buzzer.

Jefferson led Minden with 18 points and eight rebounds against Homer.

Kierra Harrison had 14 points, two assists and two rebounds.

Byrd had 10 points and four assists. Shelby Glenn had nine points and five assists.

Minden entered this week 3-3.

The Doyline boys ran their record to 8-0 with a



Minden's Jarvis Davis looks to pass during a victory over Lakeside last week. The Crimson Tide are off to a 5-1 start under new Head Coach Jacob Brown.

71-54 victory over North Webster. The Panthers also suffered their first loss, falling to Vidalia 62-49 in the Monterey tournament.

Cayden Mingo poured in 32 points against North Webster.

He also had four rebounds, four steals and four assists.

Damarion McClendon had 12 points and three steals. Kedric Clark had nine points and eight rebounds.

Jay Patterson had seven points, five rebounds, two blocks and two steals.

The North Webster girls edged Doyline 40-39. The Lady Knights also defeated

North Caddo 40-33.

North Webster (3-1) entered this week with a three-game winning streak.

The Glenbrook boys and girls suffered losses to Simsboro in their season openers.

The Apaches lost 67-36 and the Lady Apaches fell 34-24.

## HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

## Three Minden players first-team All-District 1-4A

**RUSSELL HEDGES**  
Minden Press-Herald

Three Minden players have been named to the All-District 1-4A first team.

They are junior offensive lineman Jonathan Bradford, junior defensive lineman Dunovan Robinson and senior Jakobe Jackson.

Jackson, a running back/receiver and defensive back, was selected on defense at athlete.

He also made the second team offense at athlete and defense at defensive back.

Jackson rushed for 669 yards on 121 carries and scored 12 touchdowns. He also caught 16 passes for 149 yards and two touchdowns.

Jackson had three interceptions.

Robinson also made second team at running back.

He was the Tide's leading rusher with 748 yards on 127 carries. He scored seven touchdowns.

Minden's other second-team selections were senior wide receiver Cameron Mitchell, junior offensive lineman Garrett Doolley and junior offensive lineman James Williams.

Minden's honorable mention selections were tight end Nolan Garms, offensive lineman Denarius Crowe, defensive lineman Jarvis Davis, linebacker Landyn Huddleston, linebacker Alderick Edwards, defensive back Brian Turner and defensive back Ketric Kimble.

District champion North DeSoto swept the top honors.

Sophomore quarterback Luke Delafield was named the Offensive MVP. Senior defensive back Lake Bates was named Defensive MVP.

North DeSoto's Dennis Dunn was named Coach of the Year.

The Griffins went undefeated in district and finished 11-2 after falling to Opelousas 28-20 in the non-select Division II semifinals.



Minden's Dunovan Robinson (16) was named to the All-District 1-4A first and second teams.

## OUTDOORS

# Mixed emotions result in book launch

GLYNN HARRIS

Did I want to write a book? Absolutely. Did I think I could? Yes. Would I actually get down to writing one? Not sure; not sure at all. The very thought of trying to put a book together was overwhelming. One day, I'd think I could do it. The next day, you gotta be kidding. At my age with no knowledge of all that's involved in writing a book was too much. I decided to just forget it. As much as I'd like to see a book with my name on the cover, it was just too much, so I gave up the thought.

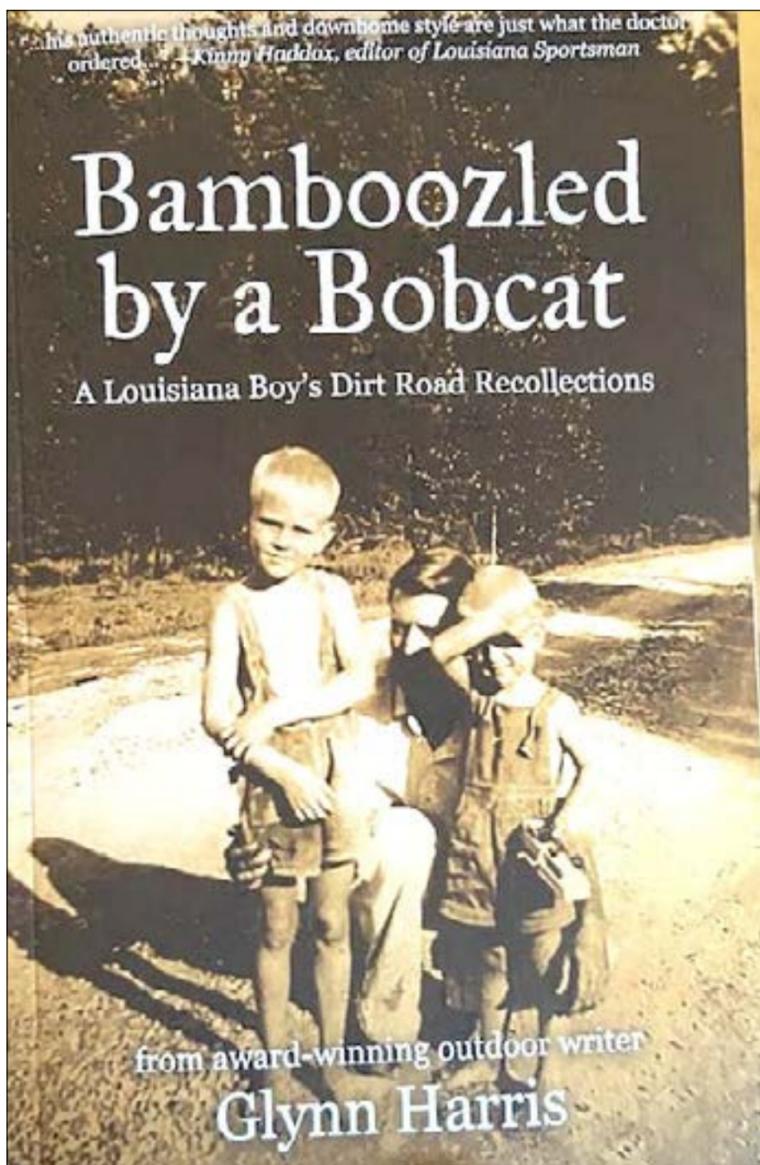
Enter Morgan Tarpley Smith. She had been my contact for my weekly columns in the Jena Times, a newspaper I have submitted my outdoor columns to for years. Her side gig, which became her main job after her years with the Times was setting up her own business of being an editor assisting and guiding writers in book writing projects.

Smith began dropping hints that I ought to consider compiling a book and she was willing to help by becoming my editor. This past summer, I took a deep breath, shook off a case of nerves and decided to give it a try under her direction.

This past Wednesday, November 29, Amazon.com released to the world my book. My palms are sweaty and I hyperventilate some at the thought that I actually did it. The title of my book, "Bamboozled by a Bobcat" highlights one of the stories about a harrowing experience I had as a kid when I was within two feet of having a big bobcat pounce on my head.

In my introduction of readers to my book, here's what Morgan Smith guided me in writing on my Glynn Harris Author page on Facebook.... "It's a collection of many short stories from my growing up years in Goldonna and other stories involving country life, fishing and hunting."

To give you a better idea of the contents of the book, some chapter titles begin with my growing up in a



GLYNN HARRIS

four room house my daddy and friends built. Two bedrooms, a kitchen and living room. Bathroom? We didn't have one the first few years of my life because bathrooms need water and our shallow well where we drew water for drinking and cooking couldn't cut it. Our bathroom consisted of a path out back leading to our outdoor privy.

We didn't have air conditioning early on. We didn't even have fans for one main reason. Electricity had not made its way

to Goldonna back then. I did my homework by the light of a kerosene lamp, we heated the house in winter by a wood heater and in summer without power meant that we sweated a lot. It was a glorious day when they erected a pole, ran a wire to the house and we could pull a string and a light would come on. Hallelujah!

In the book, you'll read about how I learned to hunt by following my dad to the squirrel woods and my introduction to deer

and turkey hunting. I tell about hog killing day, how the grown ups processed and cured the meat without having electric freezers. One chapter I think you'll find interesting and has the chance to bring a chuckle is entitled "Moonshine in the Church House."

A writer friend, Keith Sutton, reviewed a first copy of the book and endorsing it, he wrote... "Bamboozled by a Bobcat takes the reader on a heart-felt journey through a life richly lived....these recol-

### Fishing Report

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

**BUSSEY BRAKE** – Crappie fishing has improved around deep brush on shiners or jigs. Some good bass are still hitting on top early with spinners and jigs working best later. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole at 323-8707.

**OUACHITA RIVER** – Crappie have been best fishing jigs or shiners around submerged tops in the river with good catches made in the channels up the bayou. Bass are best in the cuts fishing shad imitation lures. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

**LAKE D'ARBONNE** – With cooler weather dropping water temperatures, crappie fishing has been quite good in the channel fishing jigs or shiners 8 feet deep in 14 foot water. Bass are moving to the secondary points and swim baits and soft plastics are picking up some nice fish. 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. Crappie are moving to deep water

out from the dam with shiners taking the most fish while jigs are working fairly well. Bass fishing has fair this week as they too are starting to move deep. Catfishing has been good late afternoon tight-lining shiners. Boats can still be launched at the State Park launch.. For latest information, call Kel's Cove at 927-2264 or Terzia Tackle at 278-4498.

**CANEY LAKE** – Bass are moving to deeper water with best catches made on jigs, spoons and soft plastics. Crappie have been best around the deeper tops on shiners or jigs and they will also be headed for deeper water out from the dam as temperatures drop. 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 on the south end of the lake with some big ones caught; fair around the boat slips. Bass are slow to fair. For latest reports, call Poverty Point Marina at 318/878-0101.

**LAKE YUCATAN** – The water is low and fishing is quite slow this week. A few slab crappie have been caught on jigs and shiners. For information, call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.

lections are woven together with a tapestry of outdoor adventures, hunting escapades and the evolution of a budding writer."

This gives you a snapshot about what you'll read when you order your copy of "Bamboozled by a Bobcat". I'll hopefully get set up soon for a book signing or two but

in the meantime, go to Amazon.com and search for the book. I think you'll like it and with Christmas just around the corner, getting copies for friends and kin might make your shopping for gifts a bit easier.

Thank you Morgan Tarpley Smith for getting me off high center; we got er done!

# Good News

GOOD NEWS

## It Was Early in December.....

The best that I remember; though it's been a long, long time since then. We'd long been talking 'bout Christmas; Grandma was fattening the hen. The Sears' Wish Book was well worn already by the constant abuse the Crider kids gave it each night. With each search came a prayer for a special toy to appear - in shoe box along with a few Christmas nibbles and treats. This was our wish and prayer - that at least one of these would be there! December is the 'longest month' - at least 100 days it seems. All children all would agree!

By early December, the field work was done, crops were all gathered: corn in the barn, peanuts dried and packed away, dry peas were 'thrashed' and sacked, sweet potatoes banked for the winter, and corn meal ready for cooking. Now, just daily

chores and school stood between us and Christmas. All farm kids helped with feeding and milking the cows, fattening the hogs (for a later date), feeding the chickens, and other daily 'musts,' like s t a c k - i n g f i r e w o o d o n t h e p o r c h, s p l i t - t i n g s t o v e w o o d f o r t h e k i t c h e n s t o v e, a n d d o i n g 'w h a t e v e r n e e d e d t o b e d o n e.'

My daddy would remind us, "You have got to earn your keep." And we didn't put up an argument, for we knew 'Christmas is coming - it's right thar on the calendar.'

Remember the goodies that began to appear on the table from Thanksgiving to the New Year? Cakes, pies,

and pudding - just to name a few. Can you count the number of potato, pumpkin or pecan pies you ate during that time? My favorite was (still is) mincemeat and raisin pie! Of course, for most families, the fruitcake held center stage. Early planning had to be done to get all the ingredients and have time for it to 'ripen' before cutting. And wasn't that fresh coconut cake the best of the bunch?

Those hairy coconuts looked like little monkeys in the bag when Daddy brought them from the store. How hard they were to crack and hull-out. I can't count the times I scraped my knuckles on the home-made grate, grinding out cups of fresh coconut for cakes and pies. If coconuts were not available, we could always rely on those special jam/jelly stack cakes. They were good all year-long

-- nothing seasonal about them!

Can you see how selfish children and adults are when we make the holidays 'all about us'? Many children grow up thinking only of what they want. When we focus on ourselves and what we want, we miss the mystique of Christmas. Jesus Himself said, "it is more blessed to give than receive." It's hard to keep this focus when the glitter around us is so appealing. So early in the month, we can begin building our focus on "knowing the joy of giving." Well, this is a good time to start our serous thinking and praying about what we can give in honor of Christ this year. We are reminded of this eternal promise: "God so loved the world (you and me) that He sent His only begotten Son (Jesus) that whosoever (that's you and me)

believeth in Him will have everlasting life." (John 3:16).

We can begin today (December 6) giving each day in the month something to honor the Christ Child: children can give a toy to get a toy; youth can give of their time, helping with yard work, housecleaning, running errands for the elderly, etc. Adults can give their time and resources to help the needy, the widows, the single-mother families, etc. Christmas will never be the same! Make this Advent Season the most special one yet for your family. As the Peace Candle is lighted, may the 'peace that passes all understanding' invade your heart this week? "O Prince of Peace, Almighty God, How excellent is Your name in all the earth!"



Bill Crider

BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER

### THE UPWARD LOOK

## Significant Places: Eden

*"The LORD God planted a garden toward the east, in Eden; and there He placed the man whom He had formed."* Genesis 2:8 NASB



Max Hutto

Eden is the first place of significance as we prepare for Christmas. There God planted a wonderful and perfect garden for the first man and woman. The perfection was soon destroyed when, deceived by the serpent, the couple disobeyed God. As He pronounced judgement on their sin and on the serpent, God also promised that

from the seed of the woman would come a Savior, who would bruise the serpent and also be bruised by the serpent.

Lord God, thank You for Your amazing plan to send Jesus into the world to destroy sin and evil by dying on Calvary's cross. Because of Your grace and mercy, I am forgiven of my sins through Jesus my Savior.

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

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

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

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"We are applying to the Collector of Revenue of Louisiana for a permit to sell beverages of Low Alcoholic Content at Retail at the following address: Family Dollar #21587 at 138 E Union St in the City of Minden, Parish of Webster, State of Louisiana." December 6, 2023 December 13, 2023 Minden Press Herald

"We are applying to the Collector of Revenue of Louisiana for a permit to sell beverages of Low Alcoholic Content at Retail at the following address: Family Dollar #25014 at 1019 Homer Rd, in the City of Minden, Parish of Webster, State of Louisiana." December 6, 2023 December 13, 2023 Minden Press Herald

### PRESBYTERIAN VILLAGE OF HOMER

Presbyterian Village of Homer is accepting applications for a Van Driver. Must have a clean driving record. Contact: Alex White Director of Nursing @ 318-927-6133.

December 6, 2023 December 13, 2023 Minden Press Herald

Anyone that may have conceived a child with Tiffany C. in February of 2021 please contact S. Giddens at 318-761-2418.

December 6, 2023 Minden Press Herald

### NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY AND QEP ENERGY COMPANY F/K/A QUESTAR EXPLORATION AND PRODUCTION COMPANY AND QEP FIELD SERVICES COMPANY

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and QEP Energy Company f/k/a Questar Exploration and Production Company and QEP Field Services Company (Respondents), Agency Interest Number 145387, et al., have entered into a proposed settlement agreement, Settlement Tracking No. SA-AE-23-0030, concerning the State's allegations of environmental violations by Respondent at its facilities in Bienville Parish, Bossier Parish, Caddo Parish, DeSoto Parish, Lincoln Parish, Red River Parish, Union Parish, and Webster Parish, Louisiana, which allegations are set forth in Notices of Potential Penalty, Enforcement Tracking Nos. AE-PP-09-0572, AE-PP-10-01019, and AE-PP-10-01870, and other violations included in the settlement and which are not in the Notices of Potential Penalty.

The Department of Environmental Quality will accept comments on the proposed settlement for the next forty-five (45) days. The public is invited and encouraged to submit written comments to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of the Secretary, Legal Division, Post Office Box 4302, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4302, Attention: Jay L. Gioroso, Attorney. All comments will be considered by the Department of Environmental Quality in reaching a decision on whether to make the settlement final.

Terms and conditions of the proposed settlement agreement may be reviewed on the Department of Environmental Quality's website at [www.deq.louisiana.gov](http://www.deq.louisiana.gov), by selecting About LDEQ, Enforcement, and Settlements. The document may also be viewed at, and copies obtained from, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Public Records Center, Room 127, Galvez Building, 602 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802. To request a copy of the proposed settlement, submit a completed Public Record Request Form (DEQ Form ISD-0005-01). The form and instructions for completion may be found on the DEQ Website at the following address: <http://deq.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/General/PublicRecordsRequestForm.pdf>, or by calling the Customer Service Center at 1-866-896-5337.

Pursuant to La. R.S. 30:2050.7(D), the Department of Environmental Quality may hold a public hearing regarding this proposed settlement when either of the following conditions are met: 1) a written request for public hearing has been filed by twenty-five (25) persons, by a governmental subdivision or agency, or by an association having not less than twenty-five (25) members who reside in the parish in which the facility is located; or 2) the secretary finds a significant degree of public interest in this settlement.

For further information, you may call the Legal Division of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality at (225) 219-3985.

December 6, 2023 Minden Press Herald

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# USE YOUR LANDSCAPE EVERGREENS FOR CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS

**JOE W. WHITE, PH.D.**  
*Extension Horticulturist, (ret)*  
 LSU AgCenter  
 December 2023

While you may not have started decorating for Christmas yet, it's a tradition that most families enjoy and look forward to each year. How you decorate is up to you and your family. Those with large homes typically need quite a bit of material to produce that finished look, but that can get pretty expensive. And if there are several parties to be hosted, even more material may be required.

Many of the decorations available to embellish our homes for the holidays are made of long-lasting materials that can be re-used in future years (if there is storage space available). However, some of us still have a strong desire to use natural materials for decorating like we were accustomed to in our childhood. Although some natural foliage, fruits and nuts are commercially available, the quantities needed can be expensive and some are quite perishable with a short shelf life. When put out early in the holidays and they begin to deteriorate, they will have to be replaced in order to keep the display attractive. Some may even become unavailable. One option if it's greenery that's needed is to use parts of some of your evergreen landscape plants.

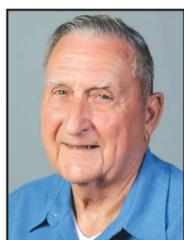
Most of our southern landscapes already contain plants that can be used for Christmas decorations so use what you have and just be careful about how you remove it from your landscape plants so that you don't ruin their look. Forget about duplicating the

appearance of firs, spruce and hemlock which don't survive in our climate. Instead, use the foliage of magnolias, pine trees and hollies that have red berries. These can be used to make wreaths and decorate tables and mantles. Oh, and if you don't happen to have any suitable plants that you can use, you probably can get what ever you need from a relative, neighbor or friend.

Another tree that you may want to consider growing is the Leyland Cypress which used to be available from local farms, but I don't know if those farms are still operating. This tree is well adapted to our climate and makes a great border plant plus its shape makes it ideal for Christmas. There are several planted along the Arthur Ray Teage Parkway if you want to get a first-hand look. However, these

are mature trees and may not reflect their shape as a young specimen.

Another tree usually found growing wild in abundance is the Eastern Red Cedar. It has that "Christmas shape" when relatively young and if you can find one it makes a good choice. And the female plants of Chinese hollies which bear red berries make great decorations as their foliage (usually dark green) is very durable.



JOE W. WHITE, Ph.D.



# Louisiana Tech announces Fall 2023 honor roll

Louisiana Tech University has announced the names of students on its Fall Quarter 2023 President's and Dean's honor lists.

Students whose names are followed by an asterisk earned recognition as members of the president's honor list. That distinction signifies achievement of at least a 3.8 academic grade point average on a minimum of nine semester hours completed (100-level or higher), with no grade lower than a B.

To be eligible for the dean's honor lists, a student is required to earn at least a 3.5 academic grade point average with no grade lower than a C on a minimum of nine semester hours completed (100-level or higher).

Courses yielding satisfactory/failure grades and courses audited do not count toward eligibility for either recognition. Only undergraduates with no incomplete grades are eligible to make either list.

Honor students are listed below by their hometowns, with all Louisiana students listed first by parish.

**Heflin:** Lloyd Jacob Chumley\*, Sara K. Osborne\*

**Minden:** Jazmin Marie Abreu\*, Lauren E. Adams, James Carter Barnett\*, Olivia Catherine Blackwelder\*, Allison M. Brittan\*, Ashtyn Brittan, Colin Campbell, Aaron Micheal Edwards\*, Addison Marie Fields\*, Carson Jack Fields, Molly Fowler, Walker Hagen Gray, Vivian Reese Hanson, Connor Jacob Heard\*, Mary Evelyn King, Maddox Peyton Lee, Naomi Keyes Logan\*, Alyssa Clair Martin\*, Eli Christian McGraw, Zachary Allen McIntyre\*, Jackson McKinney, Aidan Turner McLelland, Collin Murphy, David Phillip Nida\*, Cooper Parks, Emma Claire Pitman\*, Savannah Teresa Powell\*, Haley Amber Raburn, Emily N. Ramie\*, Kendrick Jermaine Robinson, Lily Grace Spillers, Lauren Still, Elizabeth B. Tuttle, Elisa Rayne West, Rebecca Lynn White

**Sarepta:** Grant Jeffrey Harper, Kody Grant Herrick\*, Brianna J. Lewis\*, Meagan Sydney Maxwell\*, Abram Cohen Otwell\*

**Shongaloo:** Luke Scott Vining\*

**Sibley:** William Ryan Kendrick, Maya Faith Merritt, Jinny P. Schober\*

**Springhill:** Brianna Sky Gahagan, Lyndie P. Green, James Arthur Hardaway\*, Hannah Leann Huckabay\*, Anna Eliot Orr\*, Jordan Patrick Orr, William P. Smith\*

## WEBSTER

**Doyline:** Jacob M. Corke, Jack Andrew Edwards, Hayden A. Engel\*, Chase Hunter Sadler\*

**Dubberly:** Kara Virginia Bryce\*, Mary Alexis Fish, Raven Parrish Kirk, Madeline Elizabeth Loy, Whitman B. McGee\*



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