

MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2024

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WPPJ



The Webster Parish Police Jury commenced the new year by taking their oaths of office for 2024, with Clerk of Court Holli Vining presiding.

AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

New Year New Police Jury

Webster Parish Police Jury swears in jurors, announces leadership for 2024

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Prior to the regular meeting of the Webster Parish Police Jury (WPPJ), the jurors officially commenced the new year by taking their oaths of office for 2024. Clerk of Court Holli Vining administered the

oaths, including those for two new members: Tan Grigsby and Nancy Hines.

In adherence to the customary new year procedures, the WPPJ conducted an election of officers. Jim Bonsall and Steve Ramsey emerged as president and vice-president, respectively,

with unanimous support. Lisa Balkom and Alicia Owens were approved as secretary-treasurer and assistant secretary-treasurer, respectively.

The regular meetings of the WPPJ are scheduled for the first Tuesday of each month at 10:30 AM, except for election day (November 5), when the meeting will be moved to November 6. Standard documents, including minutes, financial reports, and budgets, underwent routine approval during the session.

A change order amounting to \$2,909.18 received approval for repairing the air conditioning at the Cullen Senior Center. License renewals were granted for establishments in the parish providing beer, liquor, or video poker.

The board of jurors endorsed the reappointments for the Pine Country Education District, a vital fire education center on Camp Minden, utilized for training regional firefighters. Additionally, Gary Greene's reappoint-

ment to Fire District #7 was approved, as was an expenditure of \$500 for armored gloves used in rescues.

The abandonment of a parcel of land (parcel listing 108274) on Ridgeway Road was sanctioned, relieving the parish of its maintenance responsibilities for the rarely used road.

A noteworthy discussion centered around an upcoming parish ordinance (#982) amend-

See, **JURY**, Page 3

CITY COUNCIL

City Clerk and Mayor Pro Tempore appointed in January meeting

WILL PHILLIPS
Minden Press-Herald

The January Minden City Council meeting started off the year with some new faces in some new positions, with the council voting upon the mayor's recommendation for a new mayor pro tempore as well as a new city clerk.

Mayor Nick Cox recommended City Councilman Andy Pendergrass of District E as the mayor pro tempore for the year of 2024. The former mayor pro tempore, Councilman Michael Roy of District D, made the motion to move forward with the mayor's recommendation, seconded by Councilwoman Latasha Mitchell of District C, and passed with four votes, with Pendergrass abstaining.

Next up was the appointment of a new city clerk. With Michael Fluhr's term having ended at the end of 2023, the city needed someone new to take up the position. To no surprise, Melaney Langford was recommended as the new city clerk, as she had been working for the city for many years and specifically under Fluhr over the past year to be fully prepared to take up the position.

"I just want to thank y'all for allowing me to

See, **COUNCIL**, Page 3

WPSB

School Board addresses incident at North Webster High, and approves professional development trips

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

The Webster Parish School Board (WPSB) convened for their regular meeting at the Harper Pathways to Excellence center on January 8, 2024, with all members present except Johnnye Kennon of District 10.

The meeting commenced with the presentation of the Employee of the Month award to Kerry Phillips, a teacher at North Webster High School. Detailed information on Mr. Phillips' commendation will be featured in an upcoming Minden Press-Herald article.

See, **SCHOOLS**, Page 3

MPD

Minden Police Department reflects on transformative year under Chief McIver

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

As 2024 commences, Minden Police Chief Jared McIver takes stock of the substantial changes and enhancements implemented within the Minden Police Department during his tenure. After assuming office in early 2023, Chief McIver prioritized a multifaceted approach to elevate the department's professionalism and efficiency.

Among the noteworthy initiatives was the establishment of the deputy chief position to ensure continuous command-level decision-making. Currently, the department boasts two deputy chiefs, Tokia Harrison and Chris Cheatham.

Training emerged as

a focal point throughout the year, with officers attending diverse sessions, including the use of less-lethal force. Furthermore, officers transitioned into instructional roles, facilitating knowledge dissemination within the department. A dedicated training room was also added to support officers in staying abreast of evolving practices.

Achieving full staffing levels marked a significant milestone for the department, resulting in the formation of specialized teams to address specific issues. Notable additions include a Special Response Team, Drug Apprehension Response Team, two full-time narcotics officers, three detectives (including a juvenile detective), and



MCIVER



two School Resource Officers. This expansion led to a restructuring of ranks.

In terms of equipment, substantial upgrades were made, encompassing a new computer system, two drones, updated uniforms and badges, body cameras, firearms, laptop computers for each officer, and additional patrol vehicles.

A standout accomplishment for the year was the successful removal of the TTS and CHS gangs from Minden, significantly enhancing the safety of residents.

See, **MPD**, Page 3

GROWTH

Mayor Cox talks plans for 2024

WILL PHILLIPS
Minden Press-Herald

The coming of a new year offers a time to reflect on the year to come and what one wants to see happen during that time. Mayor Nick Cox has been in office for a year now, and given his position has a vision and plan for how he would like to see M i n d e n move forward. He took some time to share his thoughts on projects that he and the city as a whole can look forward to as we get further along in 2024.

One of his main focuses has been that of the consolidation of departments throughout the city into a new public works building.

"Something I'm looking forward to is building

the public works building. I'm a builder at heart anyways, and I also apply that love of building to building a community, building up people, building up teams, and building up structures," said Mayor Cox.

I'm excited because with that building will be the consolidation of employees. Right now we have the departments spread throughout the city, and this will help us move toward bringing everybody together. It'll also help us by getting our employees out of older buildings that are energy inefficient."

The council voted on this last year, and the city will officially have the project out for bid in a few weeks. He stated that an architect has already designed the facility so, once the council approves a bid, it'll be good to go for construction.

Another project that

See, **MAYOR**, Page 3



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Tomorrow's
Low Temp 28°

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INDEX
Obituaries **3** Classifieds **7**
Editorials **4** Crossword **11**
Sports **5** B&S **12**

WEBSTER & MORE

BLOTTER

Recent Arrests
in Webster Parish

■ Brent Adkins, 35, was arrested for failure to appear in court.

■ Jose Moldonado, 68, of the 800 block of Center Street, was arrested on a warrant.

■ Tony Walker, of the

700 block of Plum Street, was arrested for failure to appear in court.

■ Michael Simmons, 65, of the 500 block of Sullivan Street, was arrested for being a fugitive of an outside agency,

■ Mikayla Brooks, 28,

of the 900 block of Mayfield Road, was arrested for failure to appear in court.

■ Dustin Blane, 31, of the 800 block of Fincher Road, was arrested for domestic abuse with child endangerment, unauthorized use of a moving vehicle, and failure to appear in

court.

■ Bethany Tubbs, 37, of the 200 block of Pecan View Drive, was arrested for domestic abuse battery with child endangerment.

■ Jalliyah Smith, 23, of the 100 block of Kristin Lane, was arrested for theft.

■ Terry Tubberville, 55, of the 400 block of Lakeshore Drive, was arrested for domestic abuse battery with child endangerment and cruelty to a juvenile.

■ Levert Young, 29, of the 900 block of Nursery Road, was arrested for failure to appear in court.

■ Kiernan Combs, 21, was arrested for resisting an officer.

■ Brylie Silk, 27, of the 1000 block of Humble Street, was arrested on multiple warrants.

■ Blenda Dance, 70, of the 1300 block of Blue-run Road, was arrested for cruelty to animals.

LOCAL AUTHOR SPOTLIGHT

Local author Will Tolar releases debut novel, “The Lion in the Thicket”

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Northwest Louisiana native and Louisiana Tech graduate Will Tolar has unveiled his inaugural novel, “The Lion in the Thicket.” Residing in Cotton Valley with his wife, Laura, Tolar drew inspiration for the book from a challenging period in his life, which led to a transformative writing journey.

Tolar, who had never considered himself a writer, revealed, “I had no clue that I had the ability to write. If the story is inside of you, it has to come out of you. Sometimes it takes something very dark for it to come out of you.”

The author, known for his positive outlook, faced a profound struggle during a period marked by depression and doubt. Tolar likened it to being “like Jonah in the whale — it was dark, and I was alone.” Seeking guidance, he consulted a pastor/therapist and made a decisive choice to reclaim control over his actions and emotions.

“I just decided that it didn’t mat-

ter how I felt or what situation I was in, I was going to do what I wanted to do. And after that, the light slowly came on. The voice in my head became quiet, and my anxiety went away,” Tolar explained.

Following this internal transformation, Tolar experienced a vision. “Then one day I had this vision that I was rescuing people,” said Tolar. “That I was this dark figure who was doing good.” The next night he had the same vision, and Tolar said, “God, for a year You haven’t said anything. Are You going to start talking now?” and the reply was, “Why don’t you write down something and see what happens.” Tolar sat down with his laptop and started writing. After a couple of weeks, he had the first chapter completed, and he asked a mentor to read it. She was profoundly touched by what he had written and encouraged him to continue.

The novel revolves around Paul Schaffer, a character grappling with restarting life after his wife dies, leaving him with a newborn. Accepting a new job in a nursing

home, Schaffer encounters an elderly former contract killer named John Hunt. Hunt’s narrative unfolds, detailing a transformative encounter with a lion in a thicket that led to healing and love.

Reflecting on the novel’s message, Tolar emphasized, “If you feel stuck in life, you need to take some drastic risk, you need to do something that scares you. Our comfort zone holds us back. Nothing grows from comfort.”

“The Lion in the Thicket” offers diverse takeaways, from the redemptive and healing aspects to a call for embracing the unknown in one’s spiritual journey. Tolar encourages readers of various backgrounds to find resonance in the narrative.

The novel is available for purchase on platforms including Amazon, Books-A-Million, and Walmart. Will Tolar’s debut work promises a compelling exploration of resilience, redemption, and the pursuit of the divine in the face of life’s challenges.



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WEBSTER & MORE

OBITUARIES



Kathy Kirby Wren

Funeral services celebrating the life of Kathy Kirby Wren were held Sunday, December 31, 2023, at 2:00 p.m. at First Methodist Church in Minden, Louisiana with Bro. Brian Mercer officiating. Interment followed at Pine Grove Cemetery in Minden, Louisiana under the direction of Rose Neath Funeral Home in Minden, Louisiana. The family received friends at 1:00 p.m. at the church prior to the service.

Kathy was born August 24, 1960, in Chicago, Illinois and met her Lord and Savior Jesus Christ December 27, 2023, in Minden, Louisiana. Kathy was a loving wife, mother, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend.

Kathy's family moved to Atlanta, Texas in 1974. She always knew she wanted to be a dental hygienist. She graduated Texas Women's University with a Bachelors

in Science, Cum Laude, at 20 years old. She then moved to Minden to work for Dr. Ed Brown, helping to build his practice over the next 40 years. There she met her husband of 38 years, Rusty, in her dental chair. Kathy was very excited to start her next chapter with Dr. Richard Campbell in the coming new year.

Kathy loved serving her community, whether it was volunteering for St. Jude, working in different committees in the church, or more recently volunteering as a Night Angel at Royal Family Kids Camp. As well as many other things, she loved spreading joy.

Kathy was an incredible wife and mother of two. Her passion was her family and taking care of others, including stray animals of all kind. We could write a book about this amazing woman and all of her accolades, but anyone who knew her already knows what a wonderful person she was. She will be deeply missed everyday.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to St. Jude or local animal shelters in her honor.



Edward "Ed" H. White, Sr.

Funeral services celebrating the life of Edward "Ed" White were held Monday, January 8, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at Heflin Baptist Church in Heflin, Louisiana with Bro. Mike Hawkins, Bro. Joe Lynn Robinson, and Bro. Ronnie Osborne officiating. Interment followed at Bistineau Cemetery in Heflin, Louisiana under the direction of Rose Neath Funeral Home in Minden, Louisiana. The family received friends from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. Sunday, January 7, 2024, at Rose Neath Funeral Home in Minden, Louisiana.

Ed was born November 21, 1938, in Lawhon, Louisi-

ana and met his Lord and Savior on January 5, 2024, in Heflin, Louisiana.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Claude and Evelyn White and sister, Drucilla Reeves.

He is survived by his wife, Jo Ann B. White; son Hewitt White and wife Sherrie; daughters, Terry Warren and Kelly White; sister, Lady Jane Patton; brother, Claude White and wife Martha; grandchildren, T.J. Tharpe and wife Jana, Cheree Cummings and husband Kyle, Mackenzie Warren and wife Courtney, Lindsey Powell and husband Scott, Coulson White and wife Meagan, and Ellen White and fiancé Cameron Ross; great-grandchildren, Tyler Tharpe and fiancée Carley Morgan, Trevor Tharpe, Brayson Cummings, Breelyn Cummings, Nettie Ann Powell, Grey Warren, Wade Powell, and awaiting arrival of John Coulson White; great great-grandchild, Emory Mae Tharpe, and a host of nieces and nephews.

JURY

Continued from Page 1

ment, mandating contractors to obtain individual permits for specific work, such as electrical, HVAC, and plumbing. President Jim Bonsall emphasized, "That way we know there's a licensed contractor on the job." Noncompliance fines will range from \$200 for the first offense to a one-year permit-purchasing ban in Webster

Parish for the third offense. This item will be up for approval during next month's meeting.

The meeting ended with reports from community committees. The Office of Community Services reported that the waiting list for the LIHEAP program has reopened. Head Start is actively recruiting new students and staff. Webster Parish Libraries will

be hosting the state's summer reading workshop in Minden this month. Mardi Gras in Minden will be held on January 27. The civil defense exhibit at the Dorcheat Museum is now open. And Angie Chapman, director of 911, was proud to announce that of the 37,636 calls received last year, 100% of them were answered with the process beginning within

10 seconds. Of the calls where the person disconnected before the call was answered, 100% were either called back with contact made or, if no answer, referred to law enforcement for follow up.

The next WPPJ meeting is scheduled for February 6 at 10:30 AM in the Webster Parish Courthouse Annex, located at 401 Main Street in Minden.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

be the city clerk. I know I have a lot of learning to do, but I have a great team behind me and am determined, so I'll get there," said Langford in regards to her appointment.

The council unanimously voted in approval of Langford to serve as city clerk for a three year term starting from January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2026.

Along with the approval of a new mayor pro tempore and city clerk, the

council also had to vote on authorizing the signatory power to sign checks. The purpose of this is so that, if something were to happen to the mayor, the city employees' checks would continue to get signed. This simply was shifted from the last mayor pro tempore, Councilman Roy, to the new tempore, Councilman Pendergrass. The newly elected city clerk Langford already had signatory powers which simply carried over into the new year, but new

signatory power did need to be granted to the new Assistant City Clerk Elizabeth Campbell. This motion was approved unanimously by the council.

Shortly after that, the council also unanimously approved for City Clerk Langford to be granted credit card signatory powers.

Upon the recommendation of Police Chief Jared McIver, the council voted to promote Shawn Griffith from the rank of Sergeant to Police Lieu-

tenant. The promotion was passed unanimously.

The 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 in person, or who 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.

SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 1

A notable discussion unfolded when Mr. Terrell Mendenhall sought to address the board regarding an incident at North Webster High School. However, state law (Act 1) designates local superintendents and principals as the final authorities in personnel decisions. WPSB attorney John Guice reminded attendees that discussing easily identifiable individuals in a public forum is prohibited by this law. Mr. Mendenhall was advised to privately discuss the matter with Superintendent Rowland or Assistant Superintendent Washington. The board agreed

to evaluate investigation procedures and ensure thorough examinations of incidents.

The board then deliberated and approved three trips for administrators and teachers to professional development conferences. The first trip, to the Innovative School Summit in New York City, faced scrutiny from Susan Addington of District 12. After discussions about the trip's cost and benefits, it was approved with Addington abstaining. The subsequent two trips, both to NIET National Conferences in Dallas and Grapevine, Texas, were unanimously approved. These conferences address the new teach-

er evaluation system.

In the personnel report, Robin Tucker highlighted the upcoming recruitment event at Louisiana Tech, addressing the critical teacher shortage in the region.

Ursula Hullaby, the school liaison, shared community contributions, with the Junior Service League providing 137 new coats for students and the Salvation Army assisting 89 families, in addition to 45 families served by the district. Hullaby expressed gratitude for representing the district in helping families in need.

Superintendent Rowland concluded the meeting by reminding

the board of the upcoming bond proposal. Rowland stated that he is well aware that the people of Springhill, Sarepta, Cotton Valley, and Shongaloo wonder why they don't have the same facilities seen at other schools in the parish. "The public does not understand how that works," said Rowland. "The citizens voted that in as either a bond issue or a maintenance tax. This is why this is very important: so we can address some of our shortcomings on the north end, facility-wise."

The WPSB's next meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2024. The public is welcome to attend.

MPD

Continued from Page 1

Reflecting on the transformative year, Chief McIver attributed the success to divine guidance and a dedicated team shar-

ing common ambitions. Chief McIver stated, "In 12 months time, the Minden Police Department has advanced beyond my expectations. All credit goes to God. Second, we

have a great team that shares the same ambitions and goals and wants to see our department continuously grow. We strive to create a positive work environment that

promotes men and women enjoying their job."

With optimism, the Minden Police Department looks forward to sustaining this growth in the upcoming year.



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MAYOR

Continued from Page 1

started last year and is carrying over to this year is that of improving Minden's local animal shelter. The city has attained some funds in order to help with improvements, but are working to create more ways to raise even more money to see the project fully realized. A fundraiser is in the works for later this spring where people can donate to the cause while also taking part in a fun activity; a Minden pet election.

"What we've got in mind is a pet election. If you love your little doggie, and you want them to be mayor, you can pay a sum of money to get them up on the ballot, with the proceeds going toward the animal shelter," said Mayor Cox.

Essentially, along with a donation, citizens will be able to put their furry friends up for election for various seats in Minden's government such as mayor, chief of police, city council, etc. Others can donate and vote on their favorite pets to win these seats.

As the mayor of Minden, Cox has to be forward thinking when it comes to Minden's opportunities to grow and bring in new people. While it may be some-

thing many take for granted, clean running water is a necessary part of being able to build new places for more people to live.

"We've got money in capital outlay from the state to build a water tank and expand our water capacity by two million gallons," said Mayor Cox. "We've been applying to the state for years, and we just got it passed to a higher priority."

Essentially, the part of Minden that has seen the most growth in recent years is furthest from the area that pumps the highest quality water. This project will allow the city to take one of its best resources and increase how far out it can travel.

These are just a handful of the projects that the city has planned for the upcoming year that have enough groundwork already completed to report on them. There are other projects in the works that will take some more time to develop before they can be officially announced to the public. Regardless, the City of Minden's administration along with its employees are working hand-in-hand doing what they can to make Minden the best it can be for its citizens.

OPINION

MINDEN PRESS-HERALD
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OPINION

A crisis at the border

Speaker Johnson visits, DHS links crisis to ‘climate change’

U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson (R-Shreveport-LA) and numerous other House Republicans recently traveled to the Texas border town of Eagle Pass, at which border patrol officials record more than 4,000 contacts with illegal immigrants daily. The Johnson visit highlights our nation’s insanely dysfunctional immigration system which, it is estimated, has allowed more than 6.5 million people to cross our southern border illegally in the past three years and up to 12,000 people who illegally enter the United States every day. (Customs and Border Protection data).

As I have recounted previously, this invasion has overwhelmed the capacity of border towns and states, prompting Texas governor, Greg Abbot, and Florida governor, Ron DeSantis, to begin busing or flying these illegals to “sanctuary cities” in heavily blue states and blue cities. In fact, most of the liberal “blue” states in America have had no real issue with the Biden Administration’s “open borders” policy. In fact, it’s been considered “racist” and “bigoted” to want to place any limitations on who could steal their way into our country.

Well, as a consequence of the transporting of these illegals, the illegal immigration plague has descended upon these liberal cities—like Chicago, Denver and New York—and they are clamoring for relief. What

hypocrisy. Abbot has vowed to continue sending illegals to these cities to lessen the burden on actual border towns and states and so these liberal enclaves will know what it feels like to be a “border town.”

Speaker Johnson stated with regard to President Biden, “it was on his very first day in office that President Biden stopped construction of a southern border wall, and he ended the Remain in Mexico policy. It was estimated ... that if the Biden Administration would reinstate just the Remain in Mexico policy, it could stem the flow by probably 70 percent or more, but he refuses to do it.”

If the whole situation were not such a dangerous and tragic one, it would be hard not to say “I told you so” to these American “sanctuary cities” who have ignored federal immigration law for years and done everything possible to impede law enforcement from apprehending and deporting illegals.

For these reasons, Speaker Johnson has unequivocally called on the president to “take immediate executive action,

including putting an end to the ‘catch and release’ policy and either deporting or detaining those crossing the border illegally,” reinstating the Remain in Mexico policy instituted during the Trump administration, and resuming construction of the border wall.

Governor Abbot has described as “pathetic” the response of Department of Homeland Security Secretary, Alexandra Mayorkas, after Mayorkas blamed the immigration crisis on “climate change,” among other things. “Climate change? Mayorkas is pathetic,” Abbot stated, “The REAL reason illegal immigration records are being set is because Biden refuses to enforce immigration laws.”

The extraordinary scope of the invasion of our southern border doesn’t even address the “169 individuals on the terror watch list that have been detained at the border so far this year ... this represents a 10-fold increase from FY 2021.” (U.S. Senator S. M. Capito).

And the number of terrorists caught and detained on the border requires an answer to the question: How many terrorists have succeeded in crossing our border into the US? If even a few terrorists have crossed the border without being caught, great harm can result to our nation. We must remember that only 19 terrorists illegally in our country caused the tragedy of

September 11th and the deaths of 3,000 innocent American citizens.

Recall the unrelenting efforts of the Trump Administration to suppress and turn back the tide of illegals of every kind. Please know that we are long past talking about citizens from all over the world who are coming to America to work, seeking a better life. We are now having transported into our country illegally massive quantities of drugs (including fentanyl which is killing Americans every day and roughly 100,000 each year), human and child trafficking, violent criminals, terrorists, and everything in between.

This is the point: one of the constitutional powers that actually is directly granted to the federal government is the solemn obligation to secure our borders and defend them against invasion. The Biden Administration is, by design, abjectly failing at this responsibility.

As President Trump has said, “If you don’t have borders then you don’t have a country.” This. Must. Stop. Now.

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

That which is essential is invisible to the eye

French author Antoine de Saint-Exupery, author of The Little Prince wrote “One sees clearly only with the heart. Anything essential is invisible to the eye.”

Love and hugging are essential.

Having been born to poverty stricken parents who loved me and then to go into a loving foster home for a couple of months before going into an orphanage I can speak from experience. To be given love until one’s addicted and then to have it snatched away is one of the most cruel, devastating experiences that can happen to a child or even an adult.

Having just watched child star Margaret O’Brien, with the leading role in Lost Angels, helps me to explain just what is wrong with orphanages and why we need hugging!

When we were dropped off at camp I turned my back when I saw other children being hugged by their parents. I slept with my head under my pillow to muffle

my crying at the orphanage because we were punished for crying.

You can put a child in an institution with plenty of food and clothing but you can’t expect a child to thrive in an environment where all you have are people who work for a paycheck.

There are a few good orphanages but I believe it is rare if non-existent..

Doctor Andy Bilson, wrote “I am a social worker who has researched and campaigned for the reform of child protection systems across the globe for more than 30 years. But more importantly I am a parent. And so, without doubt, the most gut wrenching sound I’ve ever heard is that of silence

in a ward full of children in an orphanage. Children raised in orphanages can experience delays in terms of IQ, language, speech and vocabulary”

Having grown up in an orphanage I am here to say that a child care institution is most likely devoid of the kind of emotional care that children need to thrive. I can speak from experience having witnessed and experience the kind of abuse that leaves a child scarred for life.

I’ve witnessed children running away at night never to found.

Without love life is meaningless.

Had I not experienced living in a loving foster parents for two months I might not have ever experienced the kind of home that was overflowing with love, affection, the kind of care that I soaked up like a dry sponge and when I went to the orphanage all I could see and feel were cinder blocks that were as devoid of love as they were hollow.

Yes “that which is essential is invisible to the eye.”

One of those ingredients is hugging.

My favorite author Italian born Psychologist Doctor Leo Buscaglia, author of Living and Loving had much to say about the necessity of hugging and touching. He reports that “hugging increases hemoglobin in the blood.”

Children need love to thrive.

It is easy for me to say that there are few people who have the ability, the need, to love children for a paycheck.

It took me years to get over the lack of love in an orphanage but had it not been for drawing love into my life and turning to writing as a safety valve for my emotions I might not be here today.

I hope I give you the courage to share your story however sad it may be and to draw love into your life.

EMAIL SARAH AT SARAH9957@AOL.COM

FROM THE BACK PORCH

What does the holiday season bring? Check the scales

After a busy two or three months, Christmas came and went and then we found ourselves in a busy beginning of a new year. After all this time (21/2 months) I have found myself, and my family, cooking and sharing meals.

And needless to say, the pounds have piled on.

It really began the middle of November when we celebrated Hubby’s birthday (as well as son-in-law and grandson). We have always honored Hubby with a family gathering, including his favorite cake, Fresh Apple Cake. We would choose a menu and it varied almost every year. This year was one we hadn’t tried before.

One of our grandsons has taken up fishing and he likes to cook his catch for friends and family. So I asked him to

cook fish for us and I would buy shrimp to go with them. Our daughter and son in law cooked them, along with the corn and potatoes. So the fish with fries and hush puppies, along with the boiled shrimp and coleslaw, made up the delicious meal that Hubby (and the rest of us) enjoyed in mid-November.

It was only a short while until we were getting ready for Thanksgiving, which meant another big meal. This one consisted of the usual Thanksgiving fare- chicken

and dressing, baked ham, salads and other side dishes. The little ones always want ham with yeast rolls and they are happy. A grandson brought a huge bowl of Death by Chocolate which was devoured, especially by his cousin who is about the same age. This was our big traditional meal because all of our family was going to be here for this one, but not for Christmas.

This one was a hit with all and especially by the bathroom scales which keeps seeing the numbers creep up.

Well, you know what is next on the calendar. Another family get-together which includes lots of food and family.

Not wanting to have the chicken and dressing so close to the last one, we went in another direction. This time we chose chicken and sau-

sage gumbo with rice and our grandson brought a large dish of Dirty Rice, or as he said if south of I-10, Rice Dressing. Also, the usual baked ham for the young ones who did not prefer gumbo.

We had our Unbaked Fruit Cake which no one wanted, as well as our usual Christmas candies and snacks.

It was a great meal and fun gathering of family and friends.

Now, we can take a breather, or at least we think we can. But, alas, not so.

Next comes New Year’s with Greens and Black-eyed Peas.

This was a smaller event with only our children, just the five of us.

When growing up, we had black eyed peas and cabbage, supposedly for money and ease in the new year. This was

practiced by everyone in the south, mainly because the peas and some type of greens were available in the rural areas.

Our family all liked cabbage so it was on the table that day. However, our son doesn’t like cabbage but loves turnip greens, so we just substituted the type of greens. Added to this was corn bread and Apple Dumplings.

We enjoyed the plain meal and now, we’re expecting that money and ease.

While not knowing about the money and ease, we can be sure of one thing.

The numbers on those scales keep creeping up.

FANNIE MOORE LIVES IN SHONGALOO.



FANNIE MOORE



ROYAL ALEXANDER

SPORTS

Russell Hedges, Sports Editor
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HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Minden coach likes team’s progress

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

With nine games left in his first season as head coach, Minden head coach Jacob Brown likes the direction his team is headed. The Crimson Tide was 9-4 going into Tuesday’s game against Loyola Prep. “Overall I’ve been pleased,” Brown said. “I think our guys have competed. They’ve played hard. They’ve done the things we’ve asked them to do. We’ve had some challenges.” The nine wins is one less than Minden had all of last season. In fact, Minden has not won more than 13 games in a season since going 15-12 in 2016. That’s also the last time the Tide made the playoffs.

Now Minden is not only in a solid position to make the playoffs, the Tide could host a first-round game with some success down the stretch. “What I want them to accomplish is, first it was, hey, let’s do what we have to do to get into the playoffs,” Brown said. “Now that we’re sitting right there it’s, hey, let’s take that next step. And you’re on the verge of a home playoff game at this point of the season with a lot of work next to do.” Starting Friday against Booker T. Washington at home, all of Minden’s games are against District 1-4A opponents although the first two don’t count in the standings. District 1-4A is the home of non-select Division II defending state champion Bossier and Huntington, another Class 4A power. Minden fell to Bossier



Minden senior Maurice Rabb puts up a shot during a come-from-behind victory over Benton.

62-41 in the second round of the “Doc” Edwards Invitational last month. “Bossier is ... they are Bossier,” Brown said. “They’re a championship caliber team. As a coach you want to challenge your team to look forward to those type of challenges. That’s a team that’s in our division. You’ll see them again in district. You could see them in the playoffs.” One reason Brown feels good about his team is the way it has responded to adversity, especially with just two seniors on the roster. After every loss, Minden has responded to a victory. The Tide has also had to fight through injuries. Three starters were out during the first three games of the season. Minden lost sophomore guard Jaiden Franklin for

the season to a knee injury during an overtime loss to Arcadia the second game of the season. Junior small forward Carmelo Smith missed a couple of games after suffering a concussion. Junior guard Christian Lofton missed time with a foot injury. Several players have had to adjust to playing new positions. “Our team is very inexperienced when it comes to the number of varsity minutes played,” Brown said. “Even my junior class. It’s them finding their way. Not that they didn’t play prior to. They had game minutes but their roles have changed and it’s guys like Darnell Morris being a leading scorer.” Morris is a 6-foot-2 small forward.

“Darnell Morris has been a double-digit scorer,” Brown said. “Some of our guys who are the leading scorers, they typically have to guard some of the better players on the other teams as well.” Maurice Rabb, a 6-4 power forward who was a receiver on the football team, and JeKoye Knowles, a small forward whose main playing time before this season was in JV games, are the team’s lone seniors. “He’s been everything I’ve expected him to be,” Brown said of Rabb. “He has the ability to protect the rim, creating a lot of extra opportunities and athletic plays around the rim.” Knowles has been a consistent performer. He came through in clutch time in a 63-61 victory over

Benton. The Tide rallied from a 13-point deficit in the fourth quarter. “He stepped into the starting lineup when some of these injuries began to take place,” Brown said. “Averaged double figures in scoring and has done a good job guarding and rebounding.” Sophomore guard Cameron Parker has been an impact player. “When he shoots the ball well he’s one of the best shooters in the area, maybe across the state,” Brown said. Another sophomore, 6-4 Kameron Harris, has also produced. Sophomore guard Hudson Brown, Brown’s son, has also gotten quality minutes off the bench. “They impact the game,” Coach Brown said. “One night it might be scoring, one night it might be rebounding, one night it might be making the right pass consistently.” Since returning from his foot injury Lofton has made his presence felt defensively, Brown said. “A kid coming off the bench, kind of instant offense and does it through a variety of ways through our system,” Brown said. “Gives us extra opportunities by rebounding on both ends of the floor.” Junior guard Chris Harris has given the team “instant energy” when he enters the game,” Brown said. It all goes to the team’s depth and the way it’s come together once the football players, including Kameron Harris and Brown, joined the team. “There have been times if we’ve dressed 11 there’s a chance we’ve might’ve played them all at some

point,” Brown said. “Not just to please somebody but there are 11 guys we feel can step on the floor. If somebody’s struggling we can make that adjustment.” “Seeing these guys and how they respond to their new roles has really been fun to see as a coach,” Brown said. “And us getting a feel for each other and then knowing what we expect each time we step on the floor.” Brown said even in the losses there have been positives. The Tide rallied in a 61-57 loss to Arcadia. They had a chance to tie the game early in the second half in a 54-46 loss to Airline. Even against Bossier, if they would have been able to make a few more shots underneath the basket the game would’ve been closer. “As a coach I have to be honest and tell our guys what we have to do to get better, but you also have to bring out the positives,” Brown said. “We had opportunities that we didn’t capitalize on.” “I like the resolve of our team. I like how they’ve persevered. I’d like for us to put it together for four quarters.” Brown knows the District 1-4A gauntlet will be a challenge, but he’s looking forward to it. “I think we’re pretty close to having an identity as a team,” he said. “I think it’s a testament to our kids that they just kind of kept battling through adversity. You make it a point that there’s adversity beyond the game of high school basketball and you’re going to have to kind of walk your way through it. You’re going to come out with something good on the other side.”

OUTDOORS

Teen anglers dominant on Caney Lake

GLYNN HARRIS

Colby Dark is an 18 year old first year student at LA Tech from W. Monroe. Until recently, his goal in life was to become a success at construction; he wants to be a builder; that’s his college major. However, he is putting the hammers and nails and saws and levels on the back burner for now because he’s in the process of building something else, a successful bass fishing guide business. There is a good chance for success in the guide business because of something phenomenal that happened on Caney Lake last week. Fishing with a partner, 19 year old Gage Struben, the pair hit the mother lode of big bass. The pair fun fishing on Caney that day experienced something not many other bass anglers have accomplished anywhere. Fun fishing it was because they were obviously having a blast when over the course of two days, the two teens landed 10 bass that weighed 86 pounds and change. Folks, that’s over an 8 pound aver-



Colby Dark and Gage Struben pose for a photo with their five Caney Lake bass weighing over 48 pounds

age topped off with Dark’s personal best weighing 13.5 pounds and Struben’s best weighing almost 12 pounds. I was able to chat with Colby’s dad, Randall Dark, he shared how this amazing two days on the water happened. “The boys had been out the day before and were

fishing shallow in spots they knew,” said Dark. “They didn’t have any luck fishing shallow so they decided to try another place and were just idling along using a side scan sonar when they spotted something that captivated their attention. The sonar picked up a big school of what they believed

to be large gizzard shad being followed by a gathering of big fish that were obviously interested in the shad. “At first, they felt the big fish following the shad were probably carp but they decided to see just what they were. Casting jigs, the show was on. Between noon when the first fish was caught – not a carp but a huge bass – and 3:00, the guys brought 38 pounds of bass to the boat, including Gage’s personal best 11.8 pounder” said Dark. “My son had just signed to fish the pro series this year and he had arranged for a camera man and media guy to work with him. They decided to go back to the same area the next day to see if they could duplicate what they had done the first day.” With the camera rolling, they second day was even better as the pair brought to the boat five bass weighing 46 pounds, 6 ounces topped off by Colby’s personal best 13.5 pounder. We were able to visit with Colby later that day to pick his brain a bit. He is a member of the LA Tech Fishing Team and will be headed for the College National Cham-

pionship January 6 to be held on Lake Tohopekaliga in Florida. “I went to Florida to pre-fish and was able to locate some good bass, catching 30 pounds two days straight,” Colby said. He’ll be putting his school work on the back burner for awhile as he will be fishing tournaments and inviting people to go to his Facebook page and check out his Hooked Up Guide

Service. What is this teenager’s secret? “I’ve just been lucky”, he said. In my opinion, it has taken much more than luck to produce the amazing results he has enjoyed catching big bass. The professional bass fishing world has a young fellow from W. Monroe who is on a path to eventually see his name up there on the same level as the Kevin Van Dam’s of pro fishing fame.

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

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

Darnell Morris
Minden, Jr.

Morris' scoring and defense has been a big factor in the Crimson Tide's success in the first half of the season.

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

Fishing Report

Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE D'ARBONNE –The crappie fishing has been good in the channels and channel edges in 14-18 foot water on shiners or jigs. Bass are moving to the secondary points 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 along the tree lines and are moving to the deep water out from the dam with shiners or jigs picking

up some nice slabs. Bass fishing has fair this week as they too are starting to move deep. Boats can still be launched at the State Park launch and at Pleasure Point. 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 as well as on the secondary points with deep diving crank baits. Colby Dark and Gage Struben. W. Monroe, caught some monsters last week to 13.5 pounds on jigs with best five weighing 48-plus pounds. 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 – Crappie fishing is improving both on the south end and around the boat slips on shiners or jigs. No report on bass; catfishing is good. For latest reports, call Poverty Point Marina at 318/878-0101.

LAKE YUCATAN – The water is low and fishing is quite slow this week. For information, call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.

Good News

GOOD NEWS

USING YOUR GIFTS IN THE NEW YEAR

How many times have you already heard: “What gifts did you get for Christmas?” For the children, answers may include - dolls, cars, table or computer games, sports gear and such. For teens, they usually want money, accessories for what-ever, clothes (their choice) or other big and expensive items. For adults, usually books, gift cards, hunting/fishing equipment, and jewelry all are gifts we appreciate. And this is the total focus for many during the Christmas season. But what gift have you given back to God this year? Well, this would be a good time to con-

sider some gifts God gives us....and a good time for us to say - “Thank you, Heavenly Father for your perfect gift, and this is what I want to give YOU!”

C o n - sider the gift of sal- v a t i o n given to us through the com- ing of the C h r i s t - c h i l d . throughout the year God just continues to bless us with many, many more gifts. As we made resolutions for the



Bill Crider

New Year, hopefully we con- sidered using the ‘spiritual gifts’ given by the Holy Spir- it! Let’s focus on ‘what I can give’ in Jesus’ name!

We are gifted to preach, teach, minister, and serve. Some have gifts of mercy and healing, some show hospi- tality while others may help with physical needs. We all can give of ourselves to oth- ers. Doesn’t the Bible teach us ‘it is more blessed to give than receive’? Paul teaches that we are to use our gifts to ‘edify and build up the church, the fellowship.’ Can you imagine what our com- munity would be if all be-

lievers were to employ these spiritual gifts for His glory in 2024? Why, everyone with- in 100 miles would want to move here, yes, come and live where people genuinely love and care for each other.

Billy Graham writes: “Re- search shows most resolu- tions we make are broken within a month or so into the New Year, in spite of our good intentions.* Consider just having one goal this year: To be filled with the Holy Spirit and allow Him to give direc- tion in all matters. (Eph 5:18). Listen to the Spirit for guid- ance and seek to appropri- ate His strength for each day.

It is likely that after a year of “walking more closely with the Lord as our guide” we will sense more change in our lives than using a daily check list to keep noble resolutions.

Alexander Maclaren: “ He who has the Holy Spirit in his heart and the Scriptures in his hand has all he needs.” This year, let’s use the gifts God has given to change the world around us this year.

* (Hope for Each Day: Billy Graham, page 364).

BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER

THE UPWARD LOOK

Significant Places: Nazareth

“They returned to Galilee, to their own city of Nazareth. The Child continued to grow and become strong, increasing in wisdom; and the grace of God was upon Him.” Luke 2:39b-40 NASB

After the Christ Child was born in Bethlehem, Joseph and Mary ultimately re- turned and settled in Naza- reth, a seemingly insignifi- cant simple village in Galilee. It was in this hometown of Nazareth where Jesus grew physically from a young child into a strong man. He also grew in wisdom



Max Hutto

through knowing, understand- ing, and obeying the Scrip- tures, the commands of God.

Lord Jesus, in this new year may I grow in wisdom and in Your grace. Teach me from Your Word, the Bible, how I am to live in Your grace and love in a way that honors and glorifies You.

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

INSPIRATION

Top Priority

I sat down and thought about my goals in life and thought about how to accom- plish those goals. As I thought, “piori- tizing” came to mind. Every- thing we do in life requires us to make things a priority and form a hierarchy of needs. So as you read this article I need you to ask yourself two ques- tions. Where does God rank on your hierarchy of needs? Have you made God a priority in your life? Several individuals in the Bible had to answer these questions but the one that stood out to me the most has always been job. According to Job 1:20, NLT Job stood up and tore his robe




Bernard Harris

in grief. Then he shaved his head and fell to the ground to worship. This all took place after Job lost everything important to him. Job worshiped because he put God first and knew God blessed him with everything he lost and would continue to bless him. So I would like to conclude this article with a challenge. Put God first in ev- erything you do and watch it prosper.

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

Come

WORSHIP



FIRST
ASSEMBLY OF GOD
MINDEN

How can we pray for you?

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
301 Pennsylvania Avenue • Minden, LA



LEGAL NEWS
12/22/2023 to 12/28/2023

RECORDED INSTRUMENTS

#	INDEX	DATE FILED	INSTRUMENT #	ITEM	PARTY ONE(S)	PARTY TWO(S)	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
1	MTG	12/22/2023	605737	CANCELLATION	BOSWELL JOHN MICHAEL	CROSS KEYS BANK	\$172,212.00	2
2	CON	12/21/2023	605738	DEED	MEALEY DAWN ALFRED	LEWIS CARTER BRYANT	\$700,000.00	8
3	CON	12/21/2023	605739	AFFIDAVIT	WILLIAMS TERESA ANN	PUBLIC	IMMOBILIZE MOBILE HOME	2
4	CON	12/22/2023	605740	DEED	WILLIAMS TERESA ANN	BRITTON ROBERT C	\$50,000.00	3
5	CON	12/22/2023	605741	DEED	HARNES CLAUDIA PULLMAN	PULLMAN CAROL	\$10,000.00	2
6	CON	12/22/2023	605742	DEED	HILL MELBA BLAINE SIMMS	THOMAS MELVIN BROWNING JR	\$45,000.00	3
7	CON	12/22/2023	605743	DEED	SMITH DON NEAL	THOMAS MELVIN BROWNING JR	\$52,000.00	3
8	CON	12/22/2023	605744	DEED	WILKS COMMUNICATIONS INC	MITCHELL LATASHA ANDERSON	\$25,000.00	2
9	MTG	12/22/2023	605745	MORTGAGE	HAUGERUM KAREN NEWMAN	GRELAND BANK & TRUST COMPANY	\$29,945.70 UP TO \$500,000.00	22
10	MTG	12/22/2023	605746	NOTICE SECURE	UNOPENED SUCCESSION OF DELMER LEWIS VAUGHAN	PUBLIC	\$44,794.99- CIVIL #80241	1
11	CON	12/22/2023	605747	POWER OF ATTORNEY	NEWT BROWN CONTRACTOR LLC	BROWN HAYS NEWTON	UNANIMOUS CONSENT OF MEMBERS	2
12	CON	12/22/2023	605748	POWER OF ATTORNEY	PALMETTO SURETY CORPORATION	ABS BAIL BONDS INC	2024 BAIL BONDS	4
13	CON	12/22/2023	605749	DEED	HARRIS JEFFREY SCOTT	STEPHENS KOLLIER L	\$150,000.00	7
14	MTG	12/22/2023	605750	MORTGAGE	STEPHENS KOLLIER L	GNFS LLC	\$142,450.00	20
15	MTG	12/22/2023	605751	MORTGAGE	FORDENB PLANTATION LLC	GRESLAND BANK & TRUST COMPANY	\$140,000.00 UP TO \$500,000.00	21
16	MTG	12/22/2023	605752	ASSIGNMENT OF LEASES & RENTS	FORDENB PLANTATION LLC	GRESLAND BANK AND TRUST CO	\$140,000.00 UP TO \$500,000.00	16
17	CON	12/22/2023	605753	AFFIDAVIT	COUCH JOHNSON BRYAN DECEMENT	COUCH MARY	1/2 OWNERSHIP INTEREST	12
18	CON	12/22/2023	605754	DEED	ESTATE OF JOHNSON BRYAN COUCH	WHITEHEAD ROBERT	\$150,000.00	4
19	MTG	12/22/2023	605755	CANCELLATION	WESTSTEP LLC	BANCORPSOUTH BANK		3
20	MTG	12/22/2023	605756	CANCELLATION	DUBREUIL T21 LLC	QUACHITA INDEPENDENT BANK		3
21	MTG	12/22/2023	605757	CANCELLATION MULTIPLE	DUBREUIL T21 LLC	QUACHITA INDEPENDENT BANK		3
22	MTG	12/22/2023	605758	CANCELLATION	WESTSTEP LLC	QUACHITA INDEPENDENT BANK		3
23	CON	12/22/2023	605759	DEED	SHARP PAMELA MANN	ZION HILL FARM LLC	\$75,000.00	6
24	MTG	12/22/2023	605760	NOTICE OF REPOSESSION	LARONS JERRICA	SOLSA 1	2019 KIA FORTE	1
25	MTG	12/22/2023	605761	NOTICE OF REPOSESSION	CHASE TREVION	GM FINANCIAL	2019 DODGE CHARGER	1
26	MTG	12/22/2023	605762	REINSCRIPTION	3 C S PROPERTIES & INVESTMENTS LLC	M&L BANK P&A	\$56,400.00	1
27	CON	12/22/2023	605763	DEED	MCCAY ARLANA R	MCCAY DARYL GLENN	\$500.00	1
28	MTG	12/22/2023	605764	CANCELLATION	TURNER CHARLES ALAN	MINDEN BUILDING & LOAN	\$50,000.00	2
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23	CON	12/22/2023	605759	DEED	SHARP PAMELA MANN	ZION HILL FARM LLC	\$75,000.00	6
24	MTG	12/22/2023	605760	NOTICE OF REPOSESSION	LARONS JERRICA	SOLSA 1	2019 KIA FORTE	1
25	MTG	12/22/2023	605761	NOTICE OF REPOSESSION	CHASE TREVION	GM FINANCIAL	2019 DODGE CHARGER	1
26	MTG	12/22/2023	605762	REINSCRIPTION	3 C S PROPERTIES & INVESTMENTS LLC	M&L BANK P&A	\$56,400.00	1
27	CON	12/22/2023	605763	DEED	MCCAY ARLANA R	MCCAY DARYL GLENN	\$500.00	1
28	MTG	12/22/2023	605764	CANCELLATION	TURNER CHARLES ALAN	MINDEN BUILDING & LOAN	\$50,000.00	2
29	CON	12/22/2023	605765	AFFIDAVIT	WARD THOMAS LEROY SR	PUBLIC	AFFIDAVIT OF IMMOBILIZATION	2

RECORDED INSTRUMENTS

#	INDEX	DATE FILED	INSTRUMENT #	ITEM	PARTY ONE(S)	PARTY TWO(S)	DESCRIPTION	PAGE
1	MTG	12/22/2023	605737	CANCELLATION	BOSWELL JOHN MICHAEL	CROSS KEYS BANK	\$172,212.00	2
2	CON	12/21/2023	605738	DEED	MEALEY DAWN ALFRED	LEWIS CARTER BRYANT	\$700,000.00	8
3	CON	12/21/2023	605739	AFFIDAVIT	WILLIAMS TERESA ANN	PUBLIC	IMMOBILIZE MOBILE HOME	2
4	CON	12/22/2023	605740	DEED	WILLIAMS TERESA ANN	BRITTON ROBERT C	\$50,000.00	3
5	CON	12/22/2023	605741	DEED	HARNES CLAUDIA PULLMAN	PULLMAN CAROL	\$10,000.00	2
6	CON	12/22/2023	605742	DEED	HILL MELBA BLAINE SIMMS	THOMAS MELVIN BROWNING JR	\$45,000.00	3
7	CON	12/22/2023	605743	DEED	SMITH DON NEAL	THOMAS MELVIN BROWNING JR	\$52,000.00	3
8	CON	12/22/2023	605744	DEED	WILKS COMMUNICATIONS INC	MITCHELL LATASHA ANDERSON	\$25,000.00	2
9	MTG	12/22/2023	605745	MORTGAGE	HAUGERUM KAREN NEWMAN	GRESLAND BANK & TRUST COMPANY	\$29,945.70 UP TO \$500,000.00	22
10	MTG	12/22/2023	605746	NOTICE SECURE	UNOPENED SUCCESSION OF DELMER LEWIS VAUGHAN	PUBLIC	\$44,794.99- CIVIL #80241	1
11	CON	12/22/2023	605747	POWER OF ATTORNEY	NEWT BROWN CONTRACTOR LLC	BROWN HAYS NEWTON	UNANIMOUS CONSENT OF MEMBERS	2
12	CON	12/22/2023	605748	POWER OF ATTORNEY	PALMETTO SURETY CORPORATION	ABS BAIL BONDS INC	2024 BAIL BONDS	4
13	CON	12/22/2023	605749	DEED	HARRIS JEFFREY SCOTT	STEPHENS KOLLIER L	\$150,000.00	7
14	MTG	12/22/2023	605750	MORTGAGE	STEPHENS KOLLIER L	GNFS LLC	\$142,450.00	20
15	MTG	12/22/2023	605751	MORTGAGE	FORDENB PLANTATION LLC	GRESLAND BANK & TRUST COMPANY	\$140,000.00 UP TO \$500,000.00	21
16	MTG	12/22/2023	605752	ASSIGNMENT OF LEASES & RENTS	FORDENB PLANTATION LLC	GRESLAND BANK AND TRUST CO	\$140,000.00 UP TO \$500,000.00	16
17	CON	12/22/2023	605753	AFFIDAVIT	COUCH JOHNSON BRYAN DECEMENT	COUCH MARY	1/2 OWNERSHIP INTEREST	12
18	CON	12/22/2023	605754	DEED	ESTATE OF JOHNSON BRYAN COUCH	WHITEHEAD ROBERT	\$150,000.00	4
19	MTG	12/22/2023	605755	CANCELLATION	WESTSTEP LLC	BANCORPSOUTH BANK		3
20	MTG	12/22/2023	605756	CANCELLATION	DUBREUIL T21 LLC	QUACHITA INDEPENDENT BANK		3
21	MTG	12/22/2023	605757	CANCELLATION MULTIPLE	DUBREUIL T21 LLC	QUACHITA INDEPENDENT BANK		3
22	MTG	12/22/2023	605758	CANCELLATION	WESTSTEP LLC	QUACHITA INDEPENDENT BANK		3
23	CON	12/22/2023	605759	DEED	SHARP PAMELA MANN	ZION HILL FARM LLC	\$75,000.00	6
24	MTG	12/22/2023	605760	NOTICE OF REPOSESSION	LARONS JERRICA	SOLSA 1	2019 KIA FORTE	1
25	MTG	12/22/2023	605761	NOTICE OF REPOSESSION	CHASE TREVION	GM FINANCIAL	2019 DODGE CHARGER	1
26	MTG	12/22/2023	605762	REINSCRIPTION	3 C S PROPERTIES & INVESTMENTS LLC	M&L BANK P&A	\$56,400.00	1
27	CON	12/22/2023	605763	DEED	MCCAY ARLANA R	MCCAY DARYL GLENN	\$500.00	1
28	MTG	12/22/2023	605764	CANCELLATION	TURNER CHARLES ALAN	MINDEN BUILDING & LOAN	\$50,000.00	2
29	CON	12/22/2023	605765	AFFIDAVIT	WARD THOMAS LEROY SR	PUBLIC	AFFIDAVIT OF IMMOBILIZATION	2

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5	CON	12/22/2023	605741	DEED	HARNES CLAUDIA PULLMAN	PULLMAN CAROL	\$10,000.00	2
6	CON	12/22/2023	605742	DEED	HILL MELBA BLAINE SIMMS	THOMAS MELVIN BROWNING JR	\$45,000.00	3
7	CON	12/22/2023	605743	DEED	SMITH DON NEAL	THOMAS MELVIN BROWNING JR	\$52,000.00	3
8	CON	12/22/2023	605744	DEED	WILKS COMMUNICATIONS INC	MITCHELL LATASHA ANDERSON	\$25,000.00	2
9	MTG	12/22/2023	605745	MORTGAGE	HAUGERUM KAREN NEWMAN	GRESLAND BANK & TRUST COMPANY	\$29,945.70 UP TO \$500,000.00	22
10	MTG	12/22/2023	605746	NOTICE SECURE	UNOPENED SUCCESSION OF DELMER LEWIS VAUGHAN	PUBLIC	\$44,794.99- CIVIL #80241	1
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12	CON	12/22/2023	605748	POWER OF ATTORNEY	PALMETTO SURETY CORPORATION	ABS BAIL BONDS INC	2024 BAIL BONDS	4
13	CON	12/22/2023	605749	DEED	HARRIS JEFFREY SCOTT	STEPHENS KOLLIER L	\$150,000.00	7
14	MTG	12/22/2023	605750	MORTGAGE	STEPHENS KOLLIER L	GNFS LLC	\$142,450.00	20
15	MTG	12/22/2023	605751	MORTGAGE	FORDENB PLANTATION LLC	GRESLAND BANK & TRUST COMPANY	\$140,000.00 UP TO \$500,000.00	21
16	MTG	12/22/2023	605752	ASSIGNMENT OF LEASES & RENTS	FORDENB PLANTATION LLC	GRESLAND BANK AND TRUST CO	\$140,000.00 UP TO \$500,000.00	16
17	CON	12/22/2023	605753	AFFIDAVIT	COUCH JOHNSON BRYAN DECEMENT	COUCH MARY	1/2 OWNERSHIP INTEREST	12
18	CON	12/22/2023	605754	DEED	ESTATE OF JOHNSON BRYAN COUCH	WHITEHEAD ROBERT	\$150,000.00	4
19	MTG	12/22/2023	605755	CANCELLATION	WESTSTEP LLC	BANCORPSOUTH BANK		3
20	MTG	12/22/2023	605756	CANCELLATION	DUBREUIL T21 LLC	QUACHITA INDEPENDENT BANK		3
21	MTG	12/22/2023	605757	CANCELLATION MULTIPLE	DUBREUIL T21 LLC	QUACHITA INDEPENDENT BANK		3
22	MTG	12/22/2023	605758	CANCELLATION	WESTSTEP LLC	QUACHITA INDEPENDENT BANK		3
23	CON	12/22/2023	605759	DEED	SHARP PAMELA MANN	ZION HILL FARM LLC	\$75,000.00	6
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29	CON	12/22/2023	605765	AFFIDAVIT	WARD THOMAS LEROY SR	PUBLIC	AFFIDAVIT OF IMMOBILIZATION	2

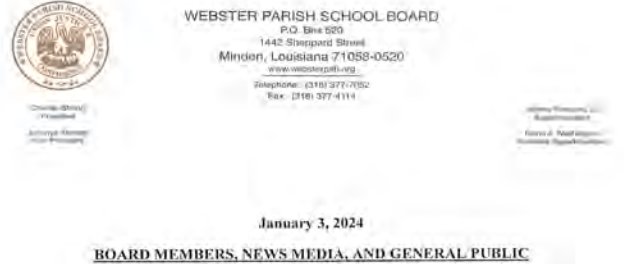
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8	CON	12/22/2023	605744	DEED	WILKS COMMUNICATIONS INC	MITCHELL LUTASHA ANDERSON	\$35,000.00	2
9	MTG	12/22/2023	605745	MORTGAGE	MAGUIRE KAREN MCDONAM	CROSS AND BANK & TRUST COMPANY	\$334,570.00 UP TO \$500,000.00	22
10	MTG	12/22/2023	605746	NOTICE SCHEDULE	UNOFFERED SUCCESSION OF DELAER LEWIS BURGHAN	PUBLIC	\$474,949 - CIVIL MORTG	1
11	CON	12/22/2023	605747	POWER OF ATTORNEY	NEWTON BROWN CONTRACTOR LLC	BROWN HAYS NEWTON	UNANIMOUS CONSENT OF MEMBERS	2
12	CON	12/22/2023	605748	POWER OF ATTORNEY	PRALMIT TO SURETY CORPORATION	ABS SAIL RINGS INC	2024 BAL BONDS	4
13	CON	12/22/2023	605749	DEED	HARRIS JEFFREY SCOTT	STEPHEN B KOLLER L	\$150,000.00	7
14	MTG	12/22/2023	605750	MORTGAGE	STEPHEN B KOLLER L	BNFS LLC	\$142,450.00	28
15	MTG	12/22/2023	605751	MORTGAGE	PONDERS PLANTATION LLC	GBS&L BANK & TRUST COMPANY	\$140,000.00 UP TO \$500,000.00	21
16	MTG	12/22/2023	605752	ASSIGNMENT OF LEASES & REITS	PONDERS PLANTATION LLC	GBS&L BANK AND TRUST CO	\$140,000.00 UP TO \$500,000.00	16
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18	CON	12/22/2023	605754	DEED	ESTATE OF JOHNSON BRIAN COUCH	WATTSHEAD ROBERT	\$150,000.00	4
19	MTG	12/22/2023	605755	CANCELLATION	WESTTOP LLC	BANK OF SOUTH BEACH		3
20	MTG	12/22/2023	605756	CANCELLATION	DUBREYF J D LLC	DUBREYF INDEPENDENT BANK		3
21	MTG	12/22/2023	605757	CANCELLATION MULTIPLE	DUBREYF J D LLC	DUBREYF INDEPENDENT BANK		3
22	MTG	12/22/2023	605758	CANCELLATION	WESTTOP LLC	DUBREYF INDEPENDENT BANK		3
23	CON	12/22/2023	605759	DEED	ZEON HILL FARM LLC		\$750,000.00	6
24	MTG	12/22/2023	605760	NOTICE OF REPOSSESSION	LAWING JERRICA	SUSLA 1	2019 KIA FORTE	1
25	MTG	12/22/2023	605761	NOTICE OF REPOSSESSION	CHASE TRISTEN	SAFM FINANCIAL	2019 BUICK CHARGER	1
26	MTG	12/22/2023	605762	REPOSSESSION	213 PROPERTIES & INVESTMENTS LLC	NBL BANK FKA	\$56,400.00	1
27	CON	12/22/2023	605763	DEED	MCDAY ARLISA R	MCDAY DAVID GLENN	\$500.00	1
28	CON	12/22/2023	605764	CANCELLATION	TORNEY CHARLES ALAN	MINDEN BUILDING & CO	\$50,000.00	2
29	CON	12/22/2023	605765	AFFIDAVIT	WARD THOMAS TERRY SR	PUBLIC	AFFIDAVIT OF IMMOBILIZATION	2

Uniform Commercial Code		
Verified Filings By Debtor Name		
For Parish WEBSTER and Date Type Filing Date and Begin Date 12/29/2023 and End Date 1/4/2024 and Mask Tax Id Numbers True		
Debtor	Secured Party	
GARCIA, JOEL ANDREW / #####	UNITED CREDIT CORP OF MINDEN / #####	
709 LOUISIANA AV, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	217 MADLO LANE, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	
FILE NO. 60-363403	FILED 1/4/2024 2:25:00 PM	
FS ORIGINAL		
GREEN, ALICE / #####	1ST FRANKLIN FINANCIAL CORPORATION (MINDEN) / #####	
P O BOX 705, CULLEN, LA, USA 71021-0705	1124 MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	
FILE NO. 60-363408	FILED 1/4/2024 2:25:00 PM	
FS ORIGINAL		
GRIDER, TYRONE LAMAR / #####	MBL BANK / #####	
200 HARTWELL ROAD, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	ATTN: LOAN DEPARTMENT 100 MBL BANK DRIVE, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	
FILE NO. 60-363401	FILED 1/4/2024 1:37:00 PM	
AM AMENDMENT	ORIGINAL FILE: 60-348848	
HAWKINS, DESMOND T / #####	1ST FRANKLIN FINANCIAL CORPORATION (MINDEN) / #####	
1054 JOHN POPE RD, SHONGALO, LA, USA 71075-4923	P O BOX 1098, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	
FILE NO. 60-363385	FILED 1/3/2024 8:52:00 AM	
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JACKSON, BETTY / #####	FIRST TOWER LOAN, LLC / #####	
110 FORT ST, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055-4344	P O BOX 1460, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	
FILE NO. 60-363570	FILED 12/29/2023 2:03:00 PM	
TR TERMINATION	ORIGINAL FILE: 60-362155	
LEWIS, ANDRE DESHAUN / #####	UNITED CREDIT CORP OF MINDEN / #####	
433 FLOURNOY LUCAS, SHREVEPORT, LA, USA 71106	217 MADLO LANE, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	
FILE NO. 60-363405	FILED 1/4/2024 2:25:00 PM	
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LEWIS, SHERRY LYNN / #####	UNITED CREDIT CORP OF MINDEN / #####	
2843 W CAVETT DR, SHREVEPORT, LA, USA 71104	217 MADLO LANE, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	
FILE NO. 60-363404	FILED 1/4/2024 2:25:00 PM	
FS ORIGINAL		
MARTIN, GARY R / #####	GULFECO OF LOUISIANA, LLC / #####	
1054 JOHN POPE RD, SHONGALO, LA, USA 71072-2032	P O BOX 157, SPRINGHILL, LA, USA 71075	
FILE NO. 60-363371	FILED 12/29/2023 2:03:00 PM	
FS ORIGINAL		
MARTIN, GARY R / #####	GULFECO OF LOUISIANA, LLC / #####	
1054 JOHN POPE RD, SHONGALO, LA, USA 71072-2032	P O BOX 157, SPRINGHILL, LA, USA 71075	
FILE NO. 60-363592	FILED 1/3/2024 8:53:00 AM	
TR TERMINATION	ORIGINAL FILE: 60-360851	
MCCALL, CHARLES / #####	FIRST TOWER LOAN, LLC / #####	
3222 OLD ARCADIA HWY, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055-6405	P O BOX 1460, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	
FILE NO. 60-363369	FILED 12/29/2023 2:03:00 PM	
FS ORIGINAL		
MCCALL, CHARLES K / #####	FIRST TOWER LOAN, LLC / #####	
3222 OLD ARCADIA HWY, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055-6405	P O BOX 1460, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	
FILE NO. 60-363391	FILED 1/3/2024 8:53:00 AM	
TR TERMINATION	ORIGINAL FILE: 60-362179	
MCDONALD, ETHEL J / #####	1ST FRANKLIN FINANCIAL CORPORATION (MINDEN) / #####	
507 BRADFORD ST, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055-3714	1124 HOMER ROAD, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	
FILE NO. 60-363386	FILED 1/3/2024 8:52:00 AM	
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MCDONALD, PAULINE / #####	1ST FRANKLIN FINANCIAL CORPORATION (MINDEN) / #####	
605 JOEL ST, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055-5207	P O BOX 1098, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	
FILE NO. 60-363387	FILED 1/3/2024 8:52:00 AM	
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PICKARD, CLAUDE / #####	1ST FRANKLIN FINANCIAL CORPORATION (MINDEN) / #####	
605 NILES ST, SPRINGHILL, LA, USA 71075-2830	1124 HOMER ROAD, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	
FILE NO. 60-363372	FILED 1/3/2024 8:50:00 AM	
FS ORIGINAL		
SHEPPARD, RODNEY E / #####	1ST FRANKLIN FINANCIAL CORPORATION (MINDEN) / #####	
P O BOX 254, RINGGOLD, LA, USA 71068-0254	1124 MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	
FILE NO. 60-363492	FILED 1/4/2024 2:25:00 PM	
FS ORIGINAL		
SIMMONS, ERIN / #####	FIRST TOWER LOAN, LLC / #####	
311 SOUTHEAST 4TH AVE, SIBLEY, LA, USA 71073	P O BOX 1460, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	
FILE NO. 60-363394	FILED 1/3/2024 8:53:00 AM	
FS ORIGINAL		

Uniform Commercial Code		
Verified Filings By Debtor Name		
For Parish WEBSTER and Date Type Filing Date and Begin Date 12/29/2023 and End Date 1/4/2024 and Mask Tax Id Numbers True		
Debtor	Secured Party	
SIMS, LOUIS G / #####	FIRST TOWER LOAN, LLC / #####	
613 ADAMS RD, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	P O BOX 1460, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	
FILE NO. 60-363367	FILED 12/29/2023 2:03:00 PM	FS ORIGINAL
SMITH, RUBY / #####	UNITED CREDIT CORP OF MINDEN / #####	
7646 HIGHWAY 9, HOMER, LA, USA 71040	217 MADLO LANE, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	
FILE NO. 60-363369	FILED 1/4/2024 12:10:00 PM	TR TERMINATION ORIGINAL FILE: 60-361300
SMITH, RUBY / #####	UNITED CREDIT CORP OF MINDEN / #####	
7646 HIGHWAY 9, HOMER, LA, USA 71040	217 MADLO LANE, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	
FILE NO. 60-363406	FILED 1/4/2024 2:25:00 PM	FS ORIGINAL
STANLEY, TONIA / #####	1ST FRANKLIN FINANCIAL CORPORATION (MINDEN) / #####	
532 BABB CIR, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055-3902	1124 HOMER ROAD, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	
FILE NO. 60-363389	FILED 1/3/2024 8:52:00 AM	FS ORIGINAL
THEUS-EDWARDS, ANNISA / #####	1ST FRANKLIN FINANCIAL CORPORATION (MINDEN) / #####	
401 RUSSELL ST, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	1124 HOMER ROAD, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	
FILE NO. 60-363388	FILED 1/3/2024 8:52:00 AM	FS ORIGINAL
THOMAS, SANDRA JEAN / #####	UNITED CREDIT CORP OF MINDEN / #####	
510 WYANDOTTE STREET, SHREVEPORT, LA, USA 71101	217 MADLO LANE, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	
FILE NO. 60-363380	FILED 1/3/2024 8:52:00 AM	FS ORIGINAL
THURMAN, JENNIFER MICHELLE / #####	UNITED CREDIT CORP OF MINDEN / #####	
1110 PINE ST, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	217 MADLO LANE, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	
FILE NO. 60-363381	FILED 1/3/2024 8:52:00 AM	FS ORIGINAL
WATKINS, SANDRA NELSON / #####	UNITED CREDIT CORP OF MINDEN / #####	
304 SYRUP MILL ROAD, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	217 MADLO LANE, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	
FILE NO. 60-363377	FILED 1/3/2024 8:52:00 AM	FS ORIGINAL
WATKINS, SANDRA NELSON / #####	UNITED CREDIT CORP OF MINDEN / #####	
304 SYRUP MILL ROAD, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	217 MADLO LANE, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	
FILE NO. 60-363400	FILED 1/4/2024 12:10:00 PM	TR TERMINATION ORIGINAL FILE: 60-362622
WHALEY, TOBY FRANK / #####	UNITED CREDIT CORP OF MINDEN / #####	
1311 EVERGREEN ST, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	217 MADLO LANE, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	
FILE NO. 60-363379	FILED 1/3/2024 8:52:00 AM	FS ORIGINAL
WILLIAMS, FELICIA SHARON / #####	UNITED CREDIT CORP OF MINDEN / #####	
9371 GARFIELD DR, SHREVEPORT, LA, USA 71118	217 MADLO LANE, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055	
FILE NO. 60-363383	FILED 1/3/2024 8:52:00 AM	FS ORIGINAL
Number of Debtors: 43		

January 10, 2024
Minden Press Herald



NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a regular meeting of the Webster Parish School Board, of the Parish of Webster, State of Louisiana, will be held at Harper Pathways to Excellence Center, 618 Germantown Road, Minden, Louisiana, on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 6:00 PM. for the following purpose, viz:

1. Prayer – Pledge of Allegiance
2. Approve the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on December 4, 2023.
3. Presentation by Kevin Thompson of Taylor and Sons to recognize Employee of the Month recipient for the month of January 2024: Kerry Phillips, teacher at North Webster High School.
4. Mr. Terrell Mendenhall to address the board.
5. Consider approval from Browning Elementary School for 1 administrator and 4 teachers to attend the Innovative Schools Summit in New York, NY, on February 28 - March 2, 2024. Funding source is Title I.
6. Consider approval from J. A. Phillips Elementary School for Tina Leal and four additional ILT leaders to travel to Grapevine, Tx, to attend the NIET National Conference. The conference is February 29 - March 1, 2024. Funding source is Title I
7. Consider approval for Early Childhood Supervisor Janene Corley to attend the NIET National Conference in Dallas, Texas, February 29 - March 1, 2024. Funding source is ESSER.

- Consolidated District 3 Maintenance Fund**
8. Consider approval for Lakeside Jr/Sr High School to accept the proposal from Squyres Electric to add four electrical receptacles to the conference room for \$1000.00. Funding source Consolidated District 3 Maintenance Fund.
 9. Consider approval for Lakeside Jr/Sr High School to purchase a FieldTurf Field Sweep for the softball field for \$3575.00. Funding source Consolidated District 3 Maintenance Fund.
- Cotton Valley Maintenance Fund**
11. Consider approval to ratify for payment Invoice # 14805 from Mechanical Cooling Services for \$1740.00 to replace a hot water HVAC pump at Lakeside Jr/Sr High School. Funding source Consolidated District 3 Maintenance Fund.
- Doyleline Maintenance Fund**
12. Consider approval for Homeland Safety to add two additional classroom cameras at Doyleline High School for \$2508.52. Funding source is Doyleline Maintenance Fund.
 13. Consider approval for Crider Glass to install double storefront doors at Doyleline High School for \$8500.00. The doors will be located in hallway at the front entrance to the school for entry control. Funding source Doyleline Maintenance Fund.
- District 6 1/2 Cent Sales Tax Fund**
14. Consider approval to accept the low quote from G & G Drywall for \$3650.00 to paint the interior of 777 building #1 at Richardson Elementary School. Funding source District 6 1/2 Cent Sales Tax Fund.
 15. Consider approval for Homeland Safety Systems to add two additional classroom cameras at Richardson Elementary for \$2458.66. Funding source District 6 1/2 Cent Sales Tax Fund.
 16. Consider approval to accept the quote of \$995.00 from Satter Construction to clear and grub trees and undergrowth at the Minden High School Softball field and former WPERC Center. Funding source District 6 1/2 Cent Sales Tax Fund.
 17. Consider approval to accept the proposal from Johnson Controls for repairs to Boiler #3 and #4 for \$23,219.00 at Minden High School. Funding source District 6 1/2 Cent Sales Tax Fund.
- Sarepta Maintenance Fund**
18. Consider approval to accept the proposal from Minden Irrigation and Landscaping to install a sprinkler system at North Webster Jr. High School Football stadium for \$23,086.50. Funding source Sarepta Maintenance Fund.
- FYI**
19. Personnel Report
 20. School Community Liaison Report
 21. Superintendent's Report
 22. Announcements
- Sales Tax for the months of October and November 2023
• July 2023 - October 2023 Monthly Financial Reports

Next Board Meeting February 5, 2024
The meeting will be open to the public as required by law.

BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT

JOHNNY R. ROWLAND, JR., SECRETARY

Any person desiring to address the Webster Parish School Board on any agenda item must complete one of the index cards at the receptionist's desk. You should include your name and the number of the item you wish to address. Cards must be submitted to the Board President prior to the meeting.

WEBSTER PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
MINUTES
Monday, December 4, 2023
6:00 P.M.

The Webster Parish School Board Regular Meeting, of the Parish of Webster, State of Louisiana, met at Lakeside Jr/Sr High School, 9090 Hwy. 371, Sibley, Louisiana, 71073 on Monday, December 4, 2023 at 6:00 P.M. The meeting was called to order at 6:11 P.M. by President Charles Strong. The prayer was led by Susan Addington and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Johnnie Kennon. Members present: Susan Addington, Margaret Edens, Jonathan Guthrie, Johnnie Kennon, Linda Kinsey, Jerri M. Lee, Jerry Lott, Ronald Rhymes, Charles Strong, Debbie Thomas, and Jana Watson. Member absent: Glenda Broughton.

Item #2. Approve the Minutes from the Regular Board Meeting held on November 6, 2023. Motion to approve was made by Ronald Rhymes; seconded by Linda Kinsey. Motion passed.
Item #3. Approve the Minutes from the Special Called Meeting held on November 13, 2023. Motion to approve was made by Ronald Rhymes; seconded by Linda Kinsey. Motion passed.
Item #4. Presentation by Kevin Thompson of Taylor and Sons to recognize Employee of the Month recipient for the month of December 2023: Malea Oels, Special Ed teacher at Central Elementary School.
Item #5. Election of School Board Officers for the Year 2024. Motion to open the floor for nominations for president was made by Jerri M. Lee; seconded by Margaret Edens. Motion passed unanimously. Jana Watson nominated Jonathan Guthrie. Jerri Lott nominated Charles Strong. Jerri M. Lee nominated Johnnie Kennon. A motion was made by Linda Kinsey that nominations be closed; seconded by Jana Watson. Motion passed unanimously. Jonathan Guthrie received two votes. Charles Strong received four votes. Johnnie Kennon received five votes. On recommendation from attorney Elmer Noah a runoff will need to be held between the two highest vote recipients. A motion to have a runoff between the two highest vote recipients was made by Margaret Edens; seconded by Debbie Thomas. Motion passed unanimously. Charles Strong was elected president by a showing of hands with six votes as follows: Susan Addington, Jonathan Guthrie, Jerry Lott, Charles Strong, Ronald Rhymes, and Jana Watson. Johnnie Kennon received five votes by a showing of hands as follows: Margaret Edens, Johnnie Kennon, Linda Kinsey, Jerri M. Lee, and Debbie Thomas.
Motion to open the floor for nominations for vice-president was made by Margaret Edens; seconded by Debbie Thomas. Motion passed unanimously. Charles Strong nominated Johnnie Kennon. Jana Watson nominated Jonathan Guthrie. A motion was made by Ronald Rhymes that nominations be closed; seconded by Jerri M. Lee. Motion passed unanimously. Johnnie Kennon was elected vice-president by a showing of hands with eight votes as follows: Susan Addington, Johnnie Kennon, Linda Kinsey, Jerri M. Lee, Jerry Lott, Ronald Rhymes, Charles Strong, and Debbie Thomas. Jonathan Guthrie received three votes as follows: Margaret Edens, Jonathan Guthrie, and Jana Watson.

Item #6. Consider approval for Title I Supervisor and Title I Principals to attend the **National ESSA Conference** in Portland, OR on February 7-10, 2024. Title I funds will be used to pay for registration and trip expenses. Motion to approve was made by Ronald Rhymes; seconded by Jerri M. Lee. Motion passed.
Item #7. Consider approval for Title I Supervisor to attend the (NAFEP) National Association of Federal Education Program Administrators on March 16-20, 2024 in Washington, D.C. Title I funds will pay for registration and trip expenses. Motion to approve was made by Linda Kinsey; seconded by Jonathan Guthrie. Motion passed.
Item #8. Consider approval to add Jessica Spence and (1) member of her ILT Team to attend the NIET National Conference in Dallas, Texas. Funding source Title I funds. Motion to approve was made by Jerri M. Lee; seconded by Debbie Thomas. Motion passed.
Item #9. To consider and take action with respect to adopting a resolution ordering and calling special elections to be held in (i) Webster Parish School District, Parish of Webster, Louisiana to authorize the renewal of an ad valorem tax therein and (ii) Springhill School District No. 8 of the Parish of Webster, State of Louisiana to authorize the renewal of an ad valorem tax therein and the issuance of general obligation bonds; making application to the State Bond Commission and providing for other matters in connection therewith. Motion to approve was made by Jerry Lott; seconded by Margaret Edens. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote with Glenda Broughton being absent.

A motion was made to amend the agenda by Margaret Edens; seconded by Debbie Thomas. Motion passed unanimously by roll call vote with Glenda Broughton being absent.

Item #9a. Consider approval for Yeager & Watson and Associates to serve as lead architect on the general obligation bond project. Motion to approve was made by Margaret Edens; seconded by Debbie Thomas. Motion passed.

Motion to approve Item #10 thru Item #22 in global vote was made by Ronald Rhymes; seconded by Jonathan Guthrie. Motion passed.

Consolidated District 3 Maintenance Fund

Item #10. Consider approval for Lakeside Jr/Sr High School to purchase 1 MX065-V4 Smart Board from Detel for \$3541.48. Funding source Consolidated District 3 Maintenance Fund.
Item #11. Consider approval for PCC sports to make full depth repairs to specified existing track surfaces at Lakeside Jr/Sr High School as quoted for \$14,689.00. Funding source Consolidated District 3 Maintenance Fund.
Item #12. Consider approval to ratify for payment Invoice #14236 from Mechanical Cooling for \$8,300.00 to replace a burned-out compressor and inverter board at on the HVAC system at Central Elementary School. Funding source Consolidated District 3 Maintenance Fund.
Item #13. Consider approval to ratify for payment Invoice #14090 from Mechanical Cooling for \$5480.00 to replace faulty condenser fan motors and contacts on the gym chiller at Lakeside Jr/Sr High School. Funding source Consolidated District 3 Maintenance Fund.

Doyleline Maintenance Fund

Item #14. Consider approval to ratify for payment Invoice #14439 from Mechanical Cooling for \$4460.00 to repair a leaking HVAC cassette in the library server room at Doyleline High School. Funding source Doyleline Maintenance Fund.

District 6 1/2 Cent Sales Tax Fund

Item #15. Consider approval for Webster Junior High School to purchase 2 hand trucks and 8 high-back office chairs from BMS for \$1917.57. Funding source District 6 1/2 Cent Sales Tax Fund.
Item #16. Consider approval for Hercules Ag and Outdoor to install locking restroom gates at Webster Jr. High School for \$19,000.00. Funding source District 6 1/2 Cent Sales Tax Fund.
Item #17. Consider approval for Minden High School to purchase a 21' Players Bench for the visitor dugout at the new Minden Softball complex from Minden Athletic for \$1949.00. Funding source District 6 1/2 Cent Sales Tax Fund.
Item #18. Consider approval for Johnson Controls to replace the ignition/stepper board on boiler #4 at Minden High School for \$4,416.00. Funding source District 6 1/2 Cent Sales Tax Fund.

Sarepta Maintenance Fund

Item #19. Consider approval to ratify for payment Invoice #14385 from Mechanical Cooling for \$1000.00 for a condenser fan motor, fan blade, and shroud for the HVAC system at the football stadium at North Webster Junior High School. Funding source Sarepta Maintenance Fund.

Springhill Maintenance Fund

Item #20. Consider approval for Johnny Craig to install 3 new gates at McMahan Park Baseball Field for \$3398.22. Funding source Springhill Maintenance Fund.
Item #21. Consider approval for North South Lawn service to provide landscaping work at Browning Elementary in the amount of \$2928.00. Funding source Springhill Maintenance Fund.
Item #22. Consider approval for North South Lawn Service to provide and install approximately 600 feet of 6-foot fencing and appropriate gates at Browning Elementary School for \$15,400.00. Funding source Springhill Maintenance Fund
Item #23. FYI

- The entire student body of NWUE will go to the Spring Theater in Springhill, Louisiana, on December 15, 2023.
- Richardson Elementary School will have its fall fundraiser limo ride and pizza party on December 20, 2023. This off campus event will be for students that earned the reward.

- Item #24.** Personnel Report
Item #25. School Community Liaison Report
Item #26. Superintendent's Report
Item #27. Announcements
- Sales Tax for the month of September 2023

Meeting adjourned 6:42 P.M.

Next Regular Board Meeting January 8, 2024, to be held at Harper Pathways to Excellence Center.

The meeting will be open to the public as required by law.

BY ORDER OF THE PRESIDENT

JOHNNY R. ROWLAND, JR., SECRETARY

January 10, 2024
Minden Press Herald

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