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WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 31, 2024

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MARDI GRAS 2024

Let the good times roll Minden



AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTOS

On January 27, the streets of Minden came alive with the vibrant and festive spirit of the annual Mardi Gras Parade. Spectators were treated to a display of lively floats, accompanied by infectious music and the traditional throws that added to the excitement. The Minden community came together, sharing an evening filled with joy, laughter, and spirited celebration during this annual event.

ST. JUDE AUCTION

To a Cure and Beyond!

2024 Minden St. Jude Auction coming Feb. 8

WILL PHILLIPS
Minden Press-Herald

This year's Minden St. Jude Auction, "To a Cure and Beyond," will soon be underway starting February 8. The entirety of the auction will be broadcasted live with multiple ways to tune in: via KASO local radio, 1240 AM; on livestream via YouTube; and on the Optimum cable channel 11.

While the auction itself is still a few weeks away, people can already start taking part in a variety of ways. One of these includes going to their website, mindenstjude.com/raffle-items/, and browsing for raffles that already have tickets available for purchase. These include items in a wide variety of categories including art, electronics, dining, gift certificates, and more. Another eye-catching raffle is that of the Grand Prize that, this year, will be a 2024 GMC Yukon or \$50,000 cash.

On top of the raffles, t-shirts are also already up for sale on the website; they feature this year's theme, "To a Cure and Beyond." These t-shirts will be available for pickup at the Minden Civic Center when the auction starts.

Once the auction begins people will be able to

See, **AUCTION**, Page 2

WPL

Webster Parish Library hosts workshop for Louisiana librarians

WILL PHILLIPS
Minden Press-Herald

On January 23, the Webster Parish Library branch in Minden served as a host to librarians throughout northwest Louisiana to meet, share valuable insights, and best practices for librarians to make their summer programs more engaging and accessible.

To help other librarians enhance the impact of summer programs in libraries, Megan Thomas, Youth Consultant for the Louisiana State Library, emphasized the importance of adopting new and innovative ideas to better serve communities.

See, **LIBRARY**, Page 3

RIBBON CUTTING



AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

The Back Porch offers patrons a warm and inviting sit-down dining experience complemented by a well-appointed bar area.

The Back Porch celebrates grand opening

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

The Greater Minden Chamber joined Mike and Denise Sewell, proprietors of Roma Italian Bistro, in celebrating the grand opening of their newest establishment, The Back Porch, situated at 1404 Sibley Road within the Exata Inn.

The Back Porch offers patrons a warm and inviting sit-down

dining experience complemented by a well-appointed bar area. Mike Sewell conveyed gratitude for the overwhelming support received from the Minden community, emphasizing their commitment to giving back and fostering local growth. "We want to give back to the community; we want to grow the community," stated Sewell.

Describing the ambiance of the new venue,

Sewell remarked, "It's kind of like sitting on the back porch, and we want everyone to feel that way. It's not just a business, it's family. You can come sit and talk and enjoy each other."

Notable attendees at the event included Stephanie Barnette, president of the Chamber, along with several board members of the Greater Minden Cham-

See, **OPENING**, Page 3

WPSO

WPSO Shawn Jenkins honored

Special to the Minden Press-Herald

A Webster Parish Sheriff's Office deputy has received a Certificate of Appreciation from a federal drug enforcement agency for his part in investigations and arrests targeting a major trafficking organization operating in the Shreveport Caddo/Bossier area.

Deputy Shawn Jenkins was acknowledged for his "...exemplary performance of Task Force Officer (TFO)..." by the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) New Orleans Division and the Shreveport Residence Office (SRO), according to a letter of recognition by Brad Byerley, Special Agent in Charge.

According to Byerley's letter outlining the honor,



JENKINS

"As you may be aware, the DEA SRO has been involved in the investigation of a significant drug trafficking organization operating in the Shreveport Caddo/Bossier metropolitan area. This investigation has been identified as a DEA priority target investigation and was approved as an OCEDEF investigation. The investigation targets a methamphetamine distribution organization responsible for significant quantities of methamphetamine in North and Central Louisiana. During the course of the investigation TFO Jenkins was instrumental in the coordination of surveillance and enforcement operations. As a result of the Title III investigation, investigators have recovered over twelve pounds of methamphetamine, over 20 indictments, seized several firearms and a significant amount of U.S. currency."

"TFO Jenkins is highly

See, **HONORED**, Page 3



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Low Temp 28°

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WEBSTER & MORE

MINDEN LIONS CLUB

Missionaries Ron and Alana Greenwich share 35 years of service in Brazil at Minden Lions Club

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Ron and Alana Greenwich, missionaries with 35 years of service, were the featured speakers at the January 25 noon meeting of the Minden Lions Club. The couple recounted their experiences in Brazil, where they dedicated their lives to spreading the Word of Jesus and undertaking various humanitarian efforts.

Beginning their presentation with Ron reciting John 3:16 in Portuguese, the official language of Brazil, the Greenwhichs highlighted the vastness of Brazil, larger than the continental United States. As Southern Baptist missionaries affiliated with the International Mission Board, they spent a year in language school before settling in Florianópolis, a coastal city in southern Brazil, to establish churches and share the

message of Jesus. Collaborating with local partners, the Greenwhichs played a pivotal role in founding 10 churches in the greater Florianópolis area. Leveraging their social work backgrounds, their mission extended to the Baptist Friendship House, offering daycare, feeding programs, and vocational courses, primarily aimed at empowering women. Their initiatives included working in children's homes, establishing centers for addiction recovery, engaging in disaster relief efforts, and addressing various needs of the urban poor. Alana reflected on the multitude of needs they witnessed, emphasizing their commitment to serving communities wherever they went. "Since we worked with the urban poor, we saw so many needs wherever we went," said Alana. In their 32 years in

southern Brazil, the Greenwhichs saw the establishment of churches and community centers, providing accredited career training for men in fields like electrical work, construction, and masonry. Returning to Minden to care for Alana's parents, the Greenwhichs later resumed their missionary work in Manaus, northwestern Brazil, surrounded by the Amazonian forest. "We were called back to Brazil to do something very different from what we had done for 32 years, and that was to mentor the new missionaries arriving in Brazil," said Alana. In this new chapter, they helped train incoming missionaries, facilitating their acclimatization to Brazil while emphasizing the importance of spreading God's Word without imposing cultural changes. Ron, acknowledging



their ordinary nature, emphasized that their calling and God's equipping allowed them to make a lasting impact. He encouraged others to heed God's calling in their lives, emphasizing the transformative power of sharing

the message of the Lord. "I encourage you — and you don't have to be a preacher or a missionary — to obey God's calling, whatever that may be in your life," stated Ron. The Minden Lions Club meets every Thursday at

noon at the American Legion Memorial Hall, 119 W. Pine St. in downtown Minden. The club extends a welcome to potential new members interested in serving the community.

CRIME

Louisiana State Police foil cryptocurrency scam, return \$200,000 to elderly Texas man

STAFF REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

A routine traffic stop on Interstate 20 in Webster Parish led Louisiana State Police to uncover a sophisticated cryptocurrency scam that targeted an 82-year-old man from Midland, Texas. The driver of a rental car, initially suspected of involvement in drug-related activities, was found carrying \$200,000 in cash.

Authorities believe the elderly Texan fell victim to a "pig-butcher" scheme, a type of crypto scam where scammers build trust through quick gains before luring victims into larger investments. The scam originated in China and has gone global during the pandemic. The driver, acting as a courier, was paid to transport the money from Texas to an undisclosed location on the East Coast. Despite suspicions, no drugs were found in the vehicle, and a receipt indicated the cash withdrawal from the victim's bank. Louisiana State Police, in coordination with Midland authorities, have decided to wire the \$200,000 back to the victim, an 82-year-old widower who intended to invest in cryptocurrency in Hong Kong. Assistant District Attorney

Hugo Holland, who is overseeing the case, emphasized the importance of protecting individuals from falling prey to such scams. The victim's son has been notified, and authorities hope to dissuade the elderly man from further risky investments. The decision to release the driver without charges was made pending translation of messages found on three cell

phones, all in Mandarin Chinese, which may shed light on the workings of the elaborate scam. Holland expressed concern that the courier might have been working under duress, possibly part of a larger criminal syndicate. The phones and the State Police file will be forwarded to Midland authorities for potential prosecution. "We intercepted what could have been

a \$200,000 loss to this gentleman," stated Holland, emphasizing the commitment to protecting citizens from financial exploitation. "I don't want the man to be victimized again," he added. This case highlights the growing threat of cryptocurrency scams and the need for vigilance, especially among vulnerable individuals targeted online.

WPSB

Kerry Phillips named Employee of the Month at Webster Parish School Board meeting


AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

In recognition of his contributions, Kerry Phillips, a dedicated teacher at North Webster High School, was honored with the Employee of the Month award at the January 8 Webster Parish School Board meeting. The accolade was presented to Mr. Phillips by Keven Thompson of Taylor & Sons. Accompanying the recognition, Mr. Phillips received a commendatory letter of recommendation highlighting his multifaceted role at North Webster High School. The letter stated, "Mr. Phillips



teaches English III, but also oversees our campus technology and student council. Mr. Phillips oversaw the homecoming dance, and he always takes photos and videos during sporting events and special events at school. He oversees our

school website, and is a great asset at North Webster High School." This acknowledgment reflects the commitment and service Mr. Phillips consistently provides to enhance the educational experience at North Webster High School.



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WEBSTER & MORE

OBITUARIES



Mary Rockett Tomlin Williamson

Mary Rockett Tomlin Williamson, age 87, died Wednesday, December 27, 2023, at her home in Minden, Louisiana. A graveside service will be held at Springhill Cemetery on Saturday, February 3, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. Officiating will be her grandson, Chris Frye, lead pastor of New Hope Church of Eunice. Visitation with family and friends will be held in the reception room of First Baptist Church of Minden, on Friday, February 2, 2024, from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Mary Elizabeth Rockett was born in Monticello, Arkansas, on October 24, 1936, to Ovia Marie and Borden Ray Rockett. She was the second of four children, affectionately known as “Sis” to brothers, Laron (“Ron”), Johnny, and David, and spent most of her young life in Bernice, Louisiana. As a young mother, Mary lived with her three children, Danny, Laura, and Tim, in a one-bedroom house. While there were three beds, the close-knit family of four often preferred sharing one bed. Those moments set the cornerstones for her lifelong legacy as a caretaker and were among the favorite family stories that she loved to tell. On October 11, 1969, Mary married Dr. Allen Tomlin. Together they built a life rich in love, laughter, and countless friendships. The pair embraced their blended family, boasting a collective eight children, and ultimately earned their proudest titles of “Poppy” and “GG” from a host of adoring grandchildren. After 34 beautiful years of marriage, Dr. Tomlin preceded Mary in death on January 3, 2004. Following the passing of each of their beloved spouses, Mary married Mr. Wayne Williamson in 2006. She felt blessed to enjoy Mr. Wayne’s companionship during her sunset years and privileged to care for him



Jeffery Dean Ramsey

Funeral services for Reverend Jeffery Dean Ramsey were held Monday, January 29, 2024, at 3:00 p.m. at City On A Hill Pentecostal Church in Minden, Louisiana. Interment followed at Gray Cemetery in Sibley, Louisiana under the direction of Rose Neath Funeral Home in Minden, Louisiana. The family received friends from 2:00 ‘til 4:00 p.m. Sunday at the church.

Jeff was born June 12, 1967, in Minden, Louisiana and passed from this life January 18, 2024, in Casper, Wyoming.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Verval and Patsy Ramsey, grandparents, Mr. & Mrs. T. J. Hall, and

until his passing on October 13, 2013.

Mary was preceded in death by her father Borden Rockett, mother Ovia Rockett Kelly, and stepfather C. W. Kelly; brothers Ron, Johnny, and David Rockett; husband Dr. Allen Tomlin and son, Jarrel Tomlin; and husband Wayne Williamson. She is survived by her children: Danny Wilson and wife Melinda of Minden; Laura Stanley and husband Greg of Minden; Tim Wilson and wife Robbie of Minden, and the children of Dr. Tomlin: Dr. Tom Tomlin and wife Pam of Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida; Sue Tomlin of Macon, Georgia; Laura Tomlin of Augusta, Georgia; and Dan Tomlin and wife Adena of Milledgeville, Georgia. She was the proud grandmother and great-grandmother to Meredith Thacker, husband David, and children Madeline, Gwyneth, and Grant; Brooks Tomlin, wife Tina, and children Sydney and Cale; Pamela Tomlin; Karen Lindsky; Jamie Wilson and children Dani Lea and Rockett Rivet; Tomlin Wilson and wife Chelsea; Borden Wilson; Matt Humphrey, wife Dana, and son Owen; Nick Stanley; Courtney Stanley; Chris Frye, wife Megan, and children Addilyn, Emerie, and Gabriel; Kelsie Weaver, husband Weston, and children Kamrie, Kynnlie Mae, and Karys; Caleb Wilson, wife Cathryn, and soon-to-arrive daughter Lonnie. Mary is also survived by her sister-in-law and lifelong best friend, Jean Rockett Allen, and husband Curtis, and numerous nieces, nephews, extended relatives, and friends.

The family would like to express our gratitude to Cindy Burham for providing years of loving care for and kindness to our adored mother and GG. Special thanks are furthered extended to the Passages Hospice North Minden team for offering skillful assistance and comfort to all of us throughout the last 18 months.

Our hearts are heavy as we mourn her loss on earth, but we rejoice in knowing that Mary was united with her Lord and Savior and welcomed into the Kingdom of Heaven by our loved ones who passed before her. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial contributions be made to the building fund of New Hope Church of Eunice, Louisiana.

Mr. & Mrs. Thompy Ramsey, and grandson, Gabriel Tyler.

He is survived by his wife, Cindy Gray Ramsey; daughter, Gabrielle Ramsey Tyler, husband Ian, and grandsons, Christian, Collin, and Caleb; son, Jeffery Ramsey, wife Madeleine, and granddaughter, Aria; sister, Karon Ramsey Jones, husband Edward, and nieces Caitlyn and Marissa; parents-in-law, Wayne and Betty Gray, as well as many other family members.

Jeff left this world having touched countless lives, from those of his family and friends to those of church members and even strangers. He had a tremendous love for God, His Word, and His people, which was evident in his life and through his many ministries.

He enjoyed spending time with his wife and family, being with his grandchildren, writing, studying the Bible, sharing his love for food, and whistling a happy tune.

Jeff was deeply loved and will be greatly missed.



Wills Successions

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ADDRESS OF NOMINEE

PHONE NUMBER OF NOMINEE

Please include as complete information as possible including biographical (family, work, etc.), civic and professional activities, contributions to the wellbeing of the community, leadership attributes, etc.

Mail nominations to:

Minden Lions Club

P.O. Box 874

Minden, LA 71058

APPLICATIONS MUST BE RECEIVED BY JANUARY 31, 2024

OPENING

Continued from Page 1

ber. Additionally, local community leaders and elected officials graced the occasion, including Tourism Executive Director Serena Gray,

Clerk of Court Holli Vining, Assessor Denise Edwards, and representatives from the offices of US Senator John Kennedy and State Senator Adam Bass.

CRIME

Cotton Valley man charged with U Haul theft

Special to the Minden Press-Herald

A Cotton Valley man is being held on a charge of possession of stolen things after a Webster Parish deputy’s traffic stop revealed a stolen vehicle.

Webster Parish Sheriff Jason Parker said Deondray Lafayette Bragg, 40, was traveling north

on U.S. 371 just before 2 p.m. Thursday when WPSO Sgt. Aaron Barnes noticed loading straps hanging outside the rear door of a U Haul van. A quick license plate check by Sgt. Barnes showed the vehicle had been reported stolen, the Sheriff said.

“The suspect told Sgt. Barnes that he had rented the U Haul in Califor-

nia in November of last year,” Parker said. “Bragg stated that he knew he should have returned the vehicle but had fallen on hard times and had been living in it.”

Bragg was taken into custody and is currently being held at Bayou Dorchet Correctional Center. Parker said a hold has been placed on the van.

LIBRARY

Continued from Page 1

Thomas began by highlighting the primary objective of the session, stating, “So what we’re here to do today is to teach librarians best practices, ideas, and other general information on how they can make any kind of summer program at their library the best way to serve their community with new and innovative ideas.”

One of the key points Thomas emphasized was the need for librarians to step outside their branches and take their programs directly to the community. She stressed the importance of collaboration with other community agencies to expand the library’s reach to its local community. “One of the big things I push is getting outside of your branch. I really am encouraging children and teen librarians to take the

show on the road. To go to where the citizens are, partner with other community agencies, to bring a whole realistic experience to our communities,” said Thomas.

She urged librarians to explore ways to make their programs more efficient and achievable for community members with limited time. “We talked about how to make programs more efficient, how to make it more achievable for other community members, people who maybe don’t have the time to come into the library and spend lots of time coming to programs,” explained Thomas.

Furthermore, Thomas encouraged residents to explore the diverse summer programs offered by libraries across different parishes. She highlighted the variety of initiatives libraries are taking in their youth programs to incen-

tivize them to read more. “Any parish or any area you’re in, check out what your library is doing during the summer. Webster Parish is doing a discovery camp, other parishes are doing summer reading programs, summer reading bingo, summer reading adventures. There’s a lot of cool things going on that are accessible to people in the community and outside the community for people to attend,” Thomas added.

Thomas’s insights serve as a valuable guide for librarians looking to revamp their summer programs, ensuring they are not only engaging but also accessible to a wider audience within and beyond the community. The collaborative approach and emphasis on realistic experiences promise to make libraries vibrant hubs for learning and exploration during the summer months.

HONORED

Continued from Page 1

respected by all state and local agencies as well as the United States Attorney’s Office in the Western District of Louisiana. TFO Jenkins is frequently relied on to provide the SRO with valuable information and insight to fully exploit narcotic investigations. His knowledge and insight is truly a valuable asset to the DEA SRO and is an extremely effective tool when attacking drug trafficking organizations.

“TFO Jenkins has displayed a positive and professional image of law enforcement and the Webster Parish Sheriff’s Office (WPSO) and his efforts should be recognized. TFO Jenkins professionalism and his spirit of cooperation are a credit to you and WPSO. I am proud to issue TFO Jenkins a DEA Certificate of Apprecia-

tion to acknowledge his performance.”

Webster Parish Sheriff Jason Parker has served on the narcotics task force and knows the importance of getting to the source of trafficking organizations.

“Sgt. Jenkins is continuing a tradition of investigative cooperation between local, state and federal agencies to combat these drug traffickers,” Parker said. “Our goal is to get illegal narcotics off the street and cutting them off at the source is the best way we can do it.”

Parker said task force investigators work tirelessly to gather information and, eventually, make arrests.

“There are a lot of long, hard hours of investigation behind every arrest,” he said. “It’s also a dangerous operation because there’s lots of money involved and these

traffickers are criminals who are determined to get their illegal products to their distributors.”

There’s another benefit for the agents who can make arrests and seize items related to the illegal operations.

“Asset forfeiture is something that benefits law enforcement,” Parker said. “When we confiscate items like vehicles, weapons...anything that is part of the criminal enterprise, it translates to funds to help us continue our fight against traffickers.”

Parker said the Webster Parish Sheriff’s Office will continue to be a part of the team that is working to break up trafficking organizations.

“We will cooperate with other agencies and get the job done,” he said. “Investigators like Sgt. Jenkins are part of our contribution to this effort.”

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OPINION

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

OPINION

Market watch

Wall Street and Main Street agree: Trump has triumphed in GOP primary

I found it interesting to read this week that Wall Street investors are “conceding that former President Donald Trump will likely win the GOP primary for the 2024 presidential race.” (The Epoch Times, Jack Phillips, 1/24/2024). These remarks were made just before Trump won the New Hampshire primary. He also won Iowa earlier this month with strong support from his working class and middle-class base which has not been diminished in their support by the politically motivated law-fare being waged against him.

In fact, pundits across the political spectrum have concluded that the Biden’s unprecedented election interference caused by the numerous political legal cases that have been filed against Trump—the numerous indictments and efforts to deprive American’s of their right to vote by removing Trump from state ballots—have provided jet fuel to the Republican nomination and to his consistent lead over Biden in national and key swing state polls.

However, as interesting as that is, I found another set of comments even more insightful. Major Wall Street investor, Jamie Dimon, who is JPMorgan Chase CEO said he agreed with multiple statements and policies that were made by Trump on immigration, taxes, and the economy.

“Take a step back, be honest. He was kind of right about NATO, kind of right on immigration. He grew the economy quite well. Trade tax reform worked. He was right about some of China,” Further, “he wasn’t wrong about some of these critical issues, and that’s why” people voted for him. “I wish Democrats would think a little more carefully when they talk about MAGA,” he said, referencing the Trump “Make America Great Again” slogan. “I think this negative talk about MAGA is going to hurt Biden’s election campaign.” He further stated that “Democrats and President Biden are basically scapegoating them [saying] that you are like him.” (The Epoch Times).



ROYAL ALEXANDER

Mr. Dimon understates the Trump record. President Trump was not merely “kind of right” on NATO; he was completely right and only by calling out the other NATO nations in his bulldogged fashion have those other nations begun to pay into that organization anywhere close to their financial obligations—which is still many billions short of America’s annual NATO contribution.

Mr. Dimon also vastly understates that Trump was “kind of right on immigration.” Pres. Trump has been dead right on immigration and the scourge of drugs—including fentanyl that kills Americans daily—crime, human and child trafficking and terrorists who daily come over our southern (and increasingly, northern) border. It’s estimated that 8 million illegals have come into our country during the Biden Administration. I do agree with Mr. Dimon that President Trump “grew the economy quite well” and that “tax reform worked.” In fact, the Trump tax cuts caused the economy to explode with growth.

However, I was most intrigued by Mr. Dimon’s observation that the “negative talk about MAGA is going to hurt Biden’s election campaign” and that the Biden campaign makes a mistake when it “scapegoats” Trump supporters.

This scapegoating of Trump supporters to which Mr. Dimon refers calls to mind Hillary Clinton’s recommendation that the “cult-like” Trump supporters be “formally deprogrammed.” Of course, we also recall her 2016 accusation in which she deemed Trump supporters to be a part of a “basket of deplorables” ... “You know, ... you could put half of Trump’s supporters into what I call the basket of deplorables. The racist, sexist,

homophobic, xenophobic, Islamaphobic—you name it.” These Clinton comments were also reminiscent of those of then-presidential candidate, Barack Obama, who stated about religious conservatives “they get bitter, they cling to their guns and religion.”

What a breathtaking misunderstanding of the beliefs and motivations of roughly half of the American people. We support Trump because he is the only hope we see to preserve any semblance of the America we grew up in and deeply cherish. He’s the only national figure we see who can again possibly slow the rapid acceleration of our federal government toward a socialist form of government and our American culture into the godless cesspool that currently smothers us.

It is for these beliefs and values that MAGA Americans are scapegoated, ridiculed, and mocked. And that is why we stand with Trump. Because he stands with and fights for us. As Trump said, ‘in reality, they’re not after me. They are after you, and I am just in the way.’ May he long remain ‘in the way.’

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.

FROM THE BACK PORCH

Searching for the real rest

These past several months have been wearing on both of us. There are signs of aging, of physical ailments, and just overall tiredness and listlessness.

We have not had the energy to do the things that need to be done and certainly not the extra things that we have always enjoyed doing. No energy for shopping and we barely make it through the store to purchase groceries and other necessities. No energy for the required doctor visits, but we force ourselves to make the visits in hopes that we can find that “miracle cure”.

Not only do we find ourselves confined to home

more, but also missing our regular church attendance. We are unable to attend the many funeral services of our friends and relatives. And it seems as if there are so many recently.

We can listen to our Sunday church services on the internet, however we are unable to have that Christian fellowship and be of service to our church

I was feeling down and sorry for myself as I realized

we were missing so much of life.

Until I read a devotional recently that captured my attention and made me realize, that perhaps I was “just feeling sorry for myself.”

Matthew 11:28 reads: “Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest.”

We know that life can wear us down, by aging, sickness and necessary chores of everyday life. We can be physically, mentally, and emotionally tired.

While the message from Matthew may refer to our spiritual weariness, we realize that our everyday life problems can attribute much

to that spiritual exhaustion.

We must learn to accept our infirmities and realize that we aren’t the only ones with these problems. We must acknowledge there are others who may be suffering more than we are. We must go to God’s Word for comfort and solace. We must avoid the “sinful” pity-party and go to Him for help.

For He promises if we come to Him (those who labour and are heavy laden) He will give us rest.

FANNIE MOORE LIVES IN SHONGALOO.

KEEP THIS IN MIND

The heartbeat of Minden: Good things keep happening

In the wake of the recent Minden Mardi Gras parade, the streets of our charming town were painted with vibrant colors and resonated with infectious energy. It was a celebration that exemplified the unique spirit of Minden, leaving us with a sense of community pride and unity. As we bask in the afterglow of this joyous occasion, I am compelled to highlight the positive momentum that continues to shape our town.

This past weekend’s Mardi Gras festivities were a testament to the resilience and creativity of our community. The collaboration among local businesses, organizations, and residents showcased the vibrant tapestry

of Minden, emphasizing the power of coming together for a common cause. Such events not only bring us joy but also serve as a reminder of the strength that lies in our unity.



DAVID SPECHT

Looking forward, our community has more opportunities to make a positive impact. The upcoming St Jude Auction is a chance for us to once again channel our collective generosity toward a noble cause. It’s a call to action, inviting us to extend a helping hand to those in need and make a meaningful difference in the lives of others. Once again, let’s open our hearts and wallets, demonstrating the record-breaking compassion that defines Minden.

Beyond that, the Greater Minden Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet at the end of February promises to be a celebration of our city’s achievements and a recognition of the businesses that contribute to our collective success. It’s not merely an event; it’s a moment to reflect on our progress, acknowledge our strengths, and chart a course for the future.

I urge each of you to be active participants in these upcoming events. Whether you choose to support the St Jude Auction, attend the Chamber of Commerce Annual Banquet, or simply spread the word about the positive happenings in Minden, your involvement matters. Our community thrives when we actively engage and support one another.

As residents of Minden, we have a unique opportunity to be ambassadors for our town. Let’s share the news of all the good that’s been taking place, not just within our community but beyond its borders. Minden is more than a location; it’s a living, breathing entity fueled by the collective spirit of its residents.

So, let’s build on the positive momentum, embrace the opportunities to come together, and showcase the vibrant community spirit that makes Minden a truly exceptional place to live. Together, we can create a legacy of positivity that resonates for generations to come.

In the heart of Minden, where the echoes of celebration linger, let us continue to be the architects of a thriving community.

DAVID SPECHT IS PRESIDENT OF SPECHT NEWSPAPERS, INC., PUBLISHER OF BIZ. MAGAZINE, BOSSIER PRESS-TRIBUNE, AND MINDEN PRESS-HERALD.

SPORTS

Russell Hedges, Sports Editor
rhedges@spechtnewspapers.com

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL



Former Minden High star L'Jarius Sneed.

FILE PHOTON/PRESS-HERALD

Sneed makes monster play in AFC Championship

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Former Minden High star L'Jarius Sneed made one of the biggest plays in the AFC Championship Game Sunday in Baltimore, helping to send the Kansas City Chiefs back to the Super Bowl.

On the first play of the fourth quarter and Baltimore facing a second-

and-8 at the Kansas City 9, Lamar Jackson completed a pass to Zay Flowers.

Just before Flowers crossed the goalline Sneed slapped the ball out of Flowers' hands.

Sneed's teammate Trent McDuffie in the end zone for a touchback.

The Chiefs went on to win 17-10 and will play the winner of the NFC

Championship Game between the Detroit Lions and San Francisco 49ers in Super Bowl LVIII on Feb. 11 at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas.

It'll be Sneed's third Super Bowl appearance in just four seasons in the league.

Last year, the Chiefs defeated the Philadelphia Eagles 38-35.

Sneed was honored with a parade in Minden after the victory.

During the summer, he conducted a camp at Minden and appeared at the 318 Takeover Youth Camp in Shreveport.

Not only did Sneed, a cornerback, make the big play, he was second on the team in total tackles with five.

COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Bulldogs explode in second half to win fifth straight

KANE MCGUIRE
Louisiana Tech Associate Athletic Director/Strategic Communications

RUSTON — Four Bulldogs scored in double figures, led by Isaiah Crawford who had a game-high 25 points, as Louisiana Tech won its fifth straight by defeating New Mexico State, 73-53, on Saturday afternoon inside the Thomas Assembly Center on Karl Malone Court.

A subpar shooting performance in the first half led to LA Tech (15-6, 5-1 CUSA) holding just a 33-28 advantage at halftime. The Bulldogs exploded though in the second half behind their dynamic frontcourt of Crawford and Daniel Batcho who combined for 26 of the team's 40 points.

NM State (9-12, 3-3 CUSA) did not shoot much better in the first stanza but did make four of its last five field goals to slice into a deficit that was as large as 10 points through the first 20 minutes.

The Bulldogs opened the second half on a 13-2 run, getting the first six points from Crawford. Then the forward found his fellow big man Batcho for an alley-oop dunk. The run continued with Tahlik Chavez burying a three-pointer from the wing followed by another alley-oop slam by Batcho to make it 46-30 with 14:54 to go.

Meanwhile, the Aggies continued to be held in check on the offensive end by another stellar effort on defense by LA Tech. NM State managed just eight points through the first 9-plus minutes of the second half.

““We just could not hit shots [in the first half]. We got great shots but could not hit them. We were guarding well, playing good defense, but what I talked to the team about at halftime were the possessions we left on the table. We talked about having a good first few possessions and really opened up the game. Then some of those shots in the second half went in.” ”

Talvin Hester
Head Coach

The Bulldogs continued capped off their largest lead of the game after five straight points from Jordan Crawford including a wing three and a driving layup, giving the home team a 58-36 advantage with 10:29 left.

That largest lead was matched late in the game when Devin Ree banked in a three-pointer from the top of the arc, his third triple of the game.

The duo off the bench combined for 21 points (11 for Ree and 10 for Crawford) while the frontcourt went for a combined 37 points and 23 rebounds. Isaiah Crawford added eight rebounds to his scoring effort while Batcho tallied his ninth double-double of the season with 12 points and a game-high 15 boards.

LA Tech shot 37.9 percent from the field, knocking down seven three-pointers and 22 free throws. NM State was limited to 32.8 percent from the field with Jordan Rawls the lone Aggie in double figures with 10 points.

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Friday night a tough one for area teams

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Friday night was a tough one for parish teams.

In District 1-4A, Minden lost to Huntington in boys and girls games at Huntington. The Crimson Tide fell 66-42 and the Lady Tigers lost 72-33.

In a District 1-B boys game, defending champion Doyline lost to Castor 71-63 at Castor.

At Huntington, the Crimson Tide got off to a slow start and never recovered. The Raiders led 24-11 after the first quarter and 41-17 at the half.

Kameron Harris led Minden (11-6, 1-1) with 10 points. Cameron Parker had eight.

Jacob Stewart and Antonio Dixon led The Raiders (14-11, 1-1) with 15 and 14 points, respectively.

Minden hosts defending champion Bossier Tuesday. The Bearkats dropped to 1-2 in district with a 60-45 loss to Evangel Christian Saturday.

According to Geaux-Preps.com, Minden is No. 17 in the non-select Division II power rankings. The No. 5-16 teams in the final rankings host first-round playoff games.

The Lady Tigers suffered their first district loss, falling to 2-1.

Huntington improved to 21-5 and 2-0.

Minden defeated Woodlawn 39-23 Wednesday night in a game that

was postponed because of the winter weather.

Brooklyn Jefferson led the Lady Tiders with 14 points, seven rebounds, two assists and two blocks.

The Lady Tiders (11-9) are No. 19 in non-select Division II.

The Doyline boys dropped to 18-3 overall and 1-1 in district. The Panthers, No. 9 in non-select Division V, host Quitman Tuesday.

Castor improved to 10-13 and 1-1.

Elsewhere, defending non-select Division II champion Wossman was too much for North Webster in a District 1-3A girls game in Monroe.

The Lady Knights (11-6, 0-3) are No. 14 in non-

select Division III and still in the hunt to host a first-round playoff game.

With the regular season coming to a close, the Lakeside and Glenbrook girls are also still battling for playoff berths.

Lakeside lost to D'Arbonne Woods 56-40 in a District 1-2A game Friday. The Lady Warriors (5-14, 2-1) are No. 28 in non-select Division III. The top 28 teams in the final rankings make the playoffs.

Glenbrook defeated Haynesville 45-12 Thursday night. The Lady Apaches (3-10, 3-2) are No. 22 in select Division IV. The top 24 teams in the five select divisions make the playoffs.

OUTDOORS

Mother Nature is one ticked off lady

GLYNN HARRIS

After what we have gone through weather-wise over the past two weeks, I might have an inkling of why all this has come to be.

Could it be something called El Nino or La Nina? I don't have a clue what these weather phenomena is all about but I'm searching for something – anything – to explain why we here in the south have taken such a beating from Mother Nature.

It all started last summer. As April showers brought May flowers, the clouds which up to then had been friendly, blessed us with sufficient rains to get things going. Tomatoes were up and growing crimson and plump, purple hull peas were sprouting and we could hardly wait to pick a mess, cook a pot of them and serve them up with a pone of homemade cornbread and slices of those beautiful tomatoes.

Then, just like that, Mother Nature shut off the spigot. Days turned into weeks that turned into months without rain. We watched our ponds slowly shrink in size until all that was left was dry cracks as the pond that was once home to crawfish and turtles and frogs and minnows. Cows in the pasture would walk by, give what was once their water hole a longing look, swish tails at horseflies



GLYNN HARRIS

First drought; then the deep freeze followed by torrential rains indicates Mother Nature is angry.

and sadly walk away.

We had a neighborhood red tailed hawk that spent much of the day on the power line overlooking the pond, looking for a morsel. As the pond disappeared, so did the hawk. Why hang around to sit and look at cracked ground?

Finally, the skies became more friendly and gave us a few showers. The pond bottom became a puddle; dry cracks thirstily lapping up the scant few gallons of precious liquid.

Things started looking up somewhat in November and December giving us a

false hope that whatever Mother Nature had against us was beginning to wane just a bit.

Then came January. We welcomed the New Year clinging to the hope that finally things would start to settle out and return to a semblance of normalcy. The weatherman began talking about an event due the middle of the month that caused us a bit of concern. An article front was due around January 14 with the forecast of not only frigid temperatures but with the possibility of frozen precipitation.

No problem, we were

duped into thinking. It's January and a little snow might provide a bit of excitement and would probably be gone the next day. Boy was that a misnomer. We went to bed Sunday night with falling temperatures and by daybreak Monday, we were wrapped up with snow, sleet and ice with a temperature in the 20s and heading south.

We became prisoners to the elements; there was no way we could leave the house and that became a growing concern as I watched the level in my jug of milk sink lower and lower. We were down to eating the last end pieces of the remaining loaf of bread. The heating unit never seemed to shut off and take a breath before kicking on again. I might have to float a loan to pay my utility bill.

Finally, things thawed enough to drive the road to the grocery store to replenish the milk and bread. By week's end, we could at least function a bit better. Things looking much better, right?

Forecast for this week said otherwise. All the rain we missed last summer was scheduled to dump on us all at one time with heavy rain scheduled all week long.

I found a statement online that says it better than I can.

"It's like Mother Nature is mad and keeps storming out, then comes back yelling, 'And one more thing!'"

FISHING REPORT

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

BUSSEY BRAKE – Crappie fishing has been best fishing the deep tops with shiners and jigs. Bass fishing has been good with some nice ones caught on spinners and flipping jigs around the brush and wind rows. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole at 323-8707.

OUACHITA RIVER – Water is rising and fishing is slow. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE D'ARBONNE – The crappie fishing continues to be good in the channels and out from the dam in deep water. Shiners and jigs are taking some good fish. Bass are moving to the secondary points and in deep water out from the dam. Soft plastics are picking up some nice fish. For latest information, call Anderson Sport Center at 368-9669 or Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE CLAIBORNE – The lake has been down but should start to rise with all this rain this week. 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. A good many barfish are being caught along with the crappie. Bass fishing has fair this week as they too are starting to move deep. For latest information, call Kel's Cove at 927-2264 or Terzia Tackle at 278-4498.

CANEY LAKE – Some really nice bass are being caught on deep diving crank baits and soft plastics in the creeks and channels. Some yellow bass are being caught on jigging spoons. Crappie have been best around the deeper tops on shiners or jigs and they have moved to deep water out from the dam. 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 slow to fair while others are slow. For latest reports, call Poverty Point Marina at 318/878-0101.

LAKE YUCATAN – The water is starting to rise and fishing is slow. Commercial fishermen are catching lots of buffalo in their nets and catfish on trotlines. For information, call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.

Good News

GOOD NEWS

LIVING IN THE STATE OF CONTENTMENT

In Phil 4:11, Paul encourages his friends to ‘be content wherever you are’. He explains how he has known what it is to have a ‘good life’ and what it means to be poor. Study his life and we see that Paul grew up in a moderate/wealthy Jewish family in Tarsus, was educated in Jerusalem, sitting under the best of teachers, and was widely known among the Jewish leaders of the day. Follow Paul from his conversion experience (Acts 8/9) to his wilderness experiences, being shunned by the early church, and later as a traveling missionary living on whatever he could manage – we gather there were some rough times he dealt with. Imagine covering the miles and territory on foot, many times alone, on those long missionary journeys! Even when traveling with his companions, they needed food, shelter and clothing. We can hardly imagine

how hard such times were. God was seeing ‘what kind of man this Paul really was.’ God was ‘stretching’ Paul’s faith system; He wanted a genuine Ambassador who could stand up under the pressures that were to come. So over the years and miles, Paul learned he could depend on the promises of the Lord. He had learned the secret of contentment in every situation, whether with a full stomach or with hunger pains, having plenty or in constant need! He knew how to live on almost nothing or with every convenience available. (Phil 4:



Bill Crider

10-14) And here Paul pens one of the most precious of promises: “For I can do everything God asks me to with help of Christ who gives me the strength and power.” Paul, in his spiritual maturity had learned the secret of living the Christian life – depend completely on the leadership of the Holy Spirit to provide spiritual power and energy! Do nothing on your own, but in everything rely on the power of the Risen Lord. We know contentment is not a natural inclination of man. Grumbling, discontent, critical of others and murmuring are as natural to us as thorns are to the land. We must cultivate the precious things of the earth – things we encounter along life’s journey. Charles Spurgeon wrote: [If we want wheat, we must plow and sow wheat; if we want flowers, we must provide that tender

care and plant bulbs in proper season. Contentment is a flower of heaven and if we want it, we must cultivate our heart for it to come forth. It is not a product of natural man.] So Paul’s contentment was learned over years of God cultivating his heart. He was whipped, ran out of town, stoned, flogged and mistreated. Yet, he was led by the Holy Spirit to ‘get up, brush himself off, keep preaching, sharing, planting seeds of faith wherever he went - maybe in another area, still under the watch care of the Lord. Paul, when he wrote this letter to dear friends, was an old gray-haired man “on the borders of death” – a prisoner of Nero shut up in a dungeon in Rome. Yes, he had learned his lesson, using great discipline over the years, and now he can tell his friends: “I am content wherever life finds me.” Paul knew contentment

was not learned in a life of ease, but demanded great discipline over a long period of time. It was acquired slowly over time due to the wear and tear of sacrificial discipline while living a rugged life. It was a life directed by the Lord himself! Nothing less! Paul would tell you and me to ‘hush complaining and murmuring about how tough life is, how hard it is to serve the Lord in this day and time – put a smile your face, let the light of the Living Lord illumine your life and serve the Lord with gladness.’ Be content wherever you are... whatever He has called you to do, work as unto the Lord. Our reward is not an earthly one, but a Divine Reward awaiting us in glory. Rise and shine and give God the glory! No excuses accepted!

BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER

THE UPWARD LOOK

Significant Places: The Tomb

“Joseph bought a linen cloth, took Him down, wrapped Him in the linen cloth and laid Him in a tomb which had been hewn out in the rock; and he rolled a stone against the entrance of the tomb.” Mark 15:46 NASB



Max Hutto

Joseph of Arimathea was a rich man and member of the governing council. He owned a new tomb carved out of the rock located in a garden not far from where Jesus was crucified. A traditional cave-like tomb would have a small opening with a big stone that was rolled to close off the opening.

The interior of the tomb would be one or more chambers where the body was laid on a rock shelf. Joseph took Jesus’ body down off the cross, wrapped Him in linen, laid Him in the tomb, and closed the opening with the stone. Lord Jesus, the solemn burial of Your crucified body reminds me of the great price You paid to be my Savior and Redeemer.

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

INSPIRATION

Foolproof Plan

“Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths.” Proverbs 3:5-6 (KJV) How many times have you read this scripture and truly thought about its meaning? Noah knew the meaning and lived it out. Noah lived 600 years without seeing a drop of rain. However when God told him I’m going to flood the earth with rain, build a giant boat he was all aboard. This was a tremendous show of faith in the Lord and his plans. God gave Noah one of the greatest tasks ever, and he did it



Bernard Harris

regardless of popular opinion or human understanding of what’s possible. Do you think you can be that trusting? Today’s message is trust in God and you can’t go wrong. The challenge I am issuing this week is to ask God what he wants, rather than focusing on what you want. Have faith and let God be God. Our plans can always fail but Gods are foolproof.

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

Come

WORSHIP

How can we pray for you?

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
301 Pennsylvania Avenue • Minden, LA

CLASSIFIEDS

Classified line ads are published Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday in the Minden Press-Herald, Bossier Press-Tribune and online at www.press-herald.com

PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!

classifieds@press-herald.com

Classified Rates

Pricing is easy!

\$7.75

Per Day - Up to 20 words!
Additional words are only 30 cents more!

Garage Sales

No word limit.

\$11

One Day

\$16.50

Two Days

Receive a FREE Garage Sale Kit with your two day ad!

* Garage Sale ads must be prepaid.

Deadlines

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Payments

Cash Checks, Billing

Real Estate Notice

“All real estate advertised here is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate, which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

Grow Your Business

Call to place your ad!

PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!

377-1866

CLASSIFIED ADS

MINUTES
DECEMBER 18, 2023
VILLAGE OF DOYLINE
TOWN HALL

Town & Country Health & Rehab is an Equal Opportunity Employer. We recruit, hire, train, and employ without discrimination due to race, religion, age, sex, national origin, ancestry, disability, marital status, obligation to serve in the Armed Forces of the United States, or any other characteristic protected by applicable Federal or State law.

January 17, 24, 31, 2024
February 7, 2024
Minden Press Herald

LEGAL ADS

PUBLIC NOTICE

Minden Planning Commission Meeting
February 1, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.
Pelican Room - Minden City Hall

On the agenda is a request from 2049 Coffee Company, LLC., option holder on property owned by Tanya G. Florence located on Homer Road, for a zoning change from R-2 (Residential) to B-1 (Neighborhood Commercial).

The purpose of this zoning change is for the proposed construction of a drive-thru coffee shop.
Legal Description: LOTS #6 & 7, BLK. 21, GOODE ANNEX
All interested parties will be given a chance to be heard.

January 17, 24, 31, 2024
February 7, 2024
Minden Press Herald

"Anyone knowing the identity or whereabouts of the heirs and/or descendants of JOHNNY JAMES BAKER and/or RUBY WILLIAMS BAKER should contact D. Tomlin Wilson, Attorney at Law, by phone at (318) 771-7102 or by email at tomlinwilsonlaw@outlook.com."

January 17 and 24, 2024
February 7, 2024
Minden Press Herald

PUBLIC NOTICE

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Pelican Room - Minden City Hall

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To be advertised in the legal section of the official journal on January 17, January 24, and January 31, 2024.

January 17, 24, 31, 2024
February 7, 2024
Minden Press Herald

Village of Dixie Inn
Regular Session
January 9, 2024

NOTICE: THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN FORMALLY APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the Village of Dixie Inn met in regular session on January 9, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Village Hall, Dixie Inn, Louisiana with the following members present: Mayor Donna Hoffoss, Aldermen Judy McKenzie, Neil Finlay, and Lance Milligan. The meeting was called to order and the invocation and pledge of allegiance were given. There were no public comments. Mayor Donna Hoffoss welcomed guests. A motion was made by Neil Finlay and seconded by Lance Milligan to adopt the minutes of the Regular Session of December 12, 2023. Vote on the motion was unanimous. A motion was made by Judy McKenzie and seconded by Neil Finlay to adopt the financial statements for December 2023. Vote on the motion was unanimous. Department Reports: Mike Chrene reported all is well with the water department. Chief Robert Davis reported no problems at this time. Mayor Donna Hoffoss reported Chris Lovell as the winner of the village's Christmas ham drawing. New Business: Travis Morehart of Cook & Morehart CPA Firm presented the council with the village's 2022-2023 audit report. The village had one finding due to the lack of segregation of duties regarding collections. Mr. Morehart explained that while it would be ideal to hire an extra employee or practical to correct the finding, as the Village of Dixie Inn is a small village with limited funds. There being no old business, a motion was made by Neil Finlay and seconded by Lance Milligan to adjourn. Attest: Donna Hoffoss Mayor

January 31, 2024
Minden Press Herald

MINUTES
DECEMBER 18, 2023
VILLAGE OF DOYLINE
TOWN HALL

Meeting was called to Order by Mayor Gates. Invocation was offered by Jackie Daniels with the Pledge of Allegiance offered by Rachael Muniz. Roll was called:

present were Alderman Jackie Daniels, Alderwoman Rachael Muniz, Mayor Gates, Clerk Myra Kilburn. Absent Alderman Bridwell.

Motion was made by Rachael Muniz, seconded by Jackie Daniels to approve the November Minutes as offered. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Jackie Daniels, seconded by Rachael Muniz to accept the November Financials as offered. Motion carried.

The bids on 395 Watson Street property sale were opened by Mayor Gates. Only one bid was offered at \$5,000.00. After considering this bid, on motion of Rachael Muniz, seconded by Jackie Daniels, it was decided to counter offer that bid with a new minimum bid of \$10,000.00. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Rachael Muniz, seconded by Jackie Daniels to start the asking price on the 2021 Davis Utility Trailer (last 5 of vin#T3373) 18 x 77 w/ ramps \$2500.00. Motion carried.

Motion was made by Rachael Muniz, seconded by Jackie Daniels to approve the 22-23 Audit Questions as offered by the Clerk. Motion carried.

A discussion was held regarding the need for carport style or shed style coverings for the equipment we are now acquiring. Mayor Gates asked the Clerk to do some research regarding this issue.

Discussion was held to possibly move a maintenance man from contract employee to regular employee.

As there was no further business, motion was made by Rachael Muniz, seconded by Jackie Daniels to adjourn. Motion carried.

Mayor, Crystal Gates Clerk, Myra Kilburn

January 31, 2024
Minden Press Herald

CITY OF MINDEN
MINDEN UTILITY & CENTRAL CONTROL OFFICE

WEBSTER PARISH, LOUISIANA

Plans and Specifications Prepared by: **COTHREN, GRAFF, SMOAK ENGINEERING, INC. Consulting Engineers**
6305 Westport Avenue Shreveport, Louisiana 71129
Phone 318-687-3732 FAX 318-687-1049 Email dbgcgs@bell-south.net

DECEMBER, 2023
CITY OF MINDEN
MINDEN UTILITY & CENTRAL CONTROL OFFICE
WEBSTER PARISH, LOUISIANA
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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
INFORMATION FOR BIDDERS
BID DOCUMENTS
CONTRACT DOCUMENTS
SPECIAL CONDITIONS
GENERAL CONDITIONS
TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS
them free of ambiguities and sufficient for bid purposes. Further, he has (they have) based his (their) bid solely on those documents, not relying in any way on any explanation or interpretation, oral or written, from any other source. The CONTRACTOR states that he has personally examined the site, the plans and the specifications, and has required any Subcontractors to do likewise.

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS contain the provisions required for the construction of the PROJECT. Information obtained from an officer, agent, or employee of the OWNER or any other person shall not affect the risks or obligations assumed by the CONTRACTOR or relieve him from fulfilling any of the conditions of the contract.

Each BID must be accompanied by a BID Bond payable to the OWNER for five percent of the total amount of the BID. As soon as the BID prices have been compared, the OWNER will return the BONDS of all except the three lowest responsible BIDDERS. When the Agreement is executed the bonds of the two remaining unsuccessful BIDDERS will be returned. The BID BOND of the successful BIDDER will be retained until the Payment BOND and Performance BOND have been executed and approved, after which it will be returned. A Certified Check may be used in lieu of a BID BOND.

A Performance BOND and a Payment BOND each in the amount of 100 percent of the CONTRACT PRICE, with a corporate surety approved by the OWNER, will be required for the faithful performance of the contract.

Attorneys-in-fact who sign BID BONDS or Payment BONDS and Performance BONDS must file with each BOND a certified and effective dated copy of their power of attorney. The party to whom the contract is awarded will be required to execute the Agreement and obtain the Performance BOND and Payment BOND within ten (10) calendar days from the date when NOTICE OF AWARD is delivered to the BIDDER. The NOTICE OF AWARD shall be accompanied by the necessary Agreement and BOND forms. In case of failure of the BIDDER to execute the Agreement, the OWNER may at his option consider the BIDDER in default, in which case the BID BOND accompanying the proposal shall become the property of the OWNER.

The OWNER within ten (10) days of receipt of acceptable Performance BOND, Payment BOND and Agreement signed by the party to whom the Agreement was awarded shall sign the Agreement and return to such party an executed duplicate of the Agreement. Should the OWNER not execute the Agreement within such period, the BIDDER may by WRITTEN NOTICE withdraw his signed Agreement. Such Notice of withdrawal shall be effective upon receipt of the notice by the OWNER. The NOTICE TO PROCEED shall be issued within ten (10) days of the execution of the Agreement by the OWNER. Should there be reasons why the NOTICE TO PROCEED cannot be issued within such period, the time may be extended by mutual agreement between the OWNER and CONTRACTOR. If the NOTICE TO PROCEED has not been issued within the ten (10) day period or within the period mutually agreed upon, the CONTRACTOR may terminate the Agreement without further liability on the part of either party.

The OWNER may make such investigations as he deems necessary to determine the ability of the BIDDER to perform the WORK, and the BIDDER shall furnish to the OWNER all such information and data for this purpose as the OWNER may request. The OWNER reserves the right to reject any BID, as permitted by law, subject to Louisiana Public Bid Law.

A conditional or qualified BID will not be accepted. Award will be made to the lowest responsible BIDDER.

All applicable laws,

ordinances, and the rules and regulations of all authorities having jurisdiction over construction of the PROJECT shall apply to the contract throughout. Time of Completion and Liquidated Damages: Bidder must agree to commence work on or before a date to be specified in a written "Notice to Proceed" of the Owner and to fully complete the project within TWO HUNDRED SEVENTY (270) consecutive calendar days thereafter. Notice to proceed to be issued once material is delivered to project area. Bidder must agree to pay as liquidated damages the sum of \$ 250.00 for each consecutive calendar day thereafter as hereinafter provided in the General Conditions.

Contractor's State License Classification for the project is: BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

Each BIDDER is responsible for inspecting the site and for reading and being thoroughly familiar with the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS. The failure or omission of any BIDDER to do any of the foregoing shall in no way relieve any BIDDER from any obligation in respect to his BID. The low BIDDER shall supply the names and addresses of major material SUPPLIERS and SUBCONTRACTORS when required to do so by the OWNER.

The ENGINEER is COTHREN, GRAFF, SMOAK ENGINEERING, INC. His address is 6305 Westport Avenue, Shreveport, Louisiana 71129.

BID DOCUMENTS

TO: CITY OF MINDEN
520 BROADWAY
LOUISIANA UNIFORM PUBLIC WORK BID FORM

BID FOR: MINDEN UTILITY & CENTRAL CONTROL

MINDEN, LOUISIANA 71055 OFFICE

The undersigned bidder hereby declares and represents that she/he; a) has carefully examined and understands the Bidding Documents, b) has not received, relied on, or based his bid on any verbal instructions contrary to the Bidding Documents or any addenda, c) has personally inspected and is familiar with the project site, and hereby proposes to provide all labor, materials, tools, appliances and facilities as required to perform, in a workmanlike manner, all work and services for the construction and completion of the referenced project, all in strict accordance with the Bidding Documents prepared by: COTHREN, GRAFF, SMOAK ENGINEERING, INC. and dated: DECEMBER 2023.

Bidders must acknowledge all addenda. The Bidder acknowledges receipt of the following ADDENDA: (Enter the number the Designer has assigned to each of the addenda that the Bidder is acknowledging)

TOTAL BASE BID: For all work required by the Bidding Documents (including any and all unit prices designated "Base Bid" * but not alternates) the sum of: Dollars (\$) ALTERNATES: For any and all work required by the Bidding Documents for Alternates including any and all unit prices designated as alternates in the unit price description.

Alternate No. 1 Dollars (\$) Alternate No. 2 Dollars (\$) Alternate No. 3 for the lump sum of: Dollars (\$) NAME OF BIDDER: ADDRESS OF BIDDER: LOUISIANA CONTRACTOR'S LICENSE NUMBER: NAME OF AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY OF BIDDER: TITLE OF AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY OF BIDDER: SIGNATURE OF AUTHORIZED SIGNATORY OF BIDDER **: DATE: * The Unit Price Form shall be used if the contract includes unit prices. Otherwise it is not required and need not be included with the form. The number of unit prices that may be included is not limited and additional sheets may be included if needed. ** If someone other than a corporate officer signs for the Bidder/Contractor, a copy of a corporate resolution or other signature authorization shall be required for submission of bid. Failure to include a copy of the appropriate signature authorization, if required, may result in the rejection of the bid unless bidder has complied with La. R.S. 38:2212(A)(1)(c) or RS 38:2212(O) . BID SECURITY in the form of a bid bond, certified check or cashier's check as prescribed by LA RS 38:2218.A is attached to and made a part of this bid.

9
BID BOND FOR MINDEN UTILITY AND CENTRAL CONTROL OFFICE

January 31, 2024
February 7 and 14, 2024
Minden Press Herald

SUPPORT

SMALL

BUSINESS

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

CITY OF MINDEN
Owner

520 BROADWAY
Address

MINDEN, LA 71055
City, State, Zip

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of
MINDEN UTILITY & CENTRAL CONTROL OFFICE

will be received by the **CITY OF MINDEN**
at the **CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM, 520 BROADWAY, MINDEN, LOUISIANA 71055**
until **2:00 P.M., Monday, February 26, 2024**, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud as permitted by public bid law. This is in accordance with La R.S. 38:2212 (A)(1)(b), the provisions of La R.S. 38:2212.

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

The CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be examined at the following location(s):
Cothren Graff Smoak Engineering, Inc., 6305 Westport Avenue, Shreveport, LA 71129

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of COTHREN, GRAFF, SMOAK ENGINEERING, INC. upon payment of \$ 75.00 for each set, which is refundable to prime bidders within 10 days after receipt of bids. Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids for just cause.

January 31, 2024
February 7 and 14, 2024
Minden Press Herald

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Minden Housing Authority will hold a Public Meeting on March 11, 2024, at 9:30 AM at 1209 East Street, Minden Louisiana, to receive comments on the following:

Revised 2021 Capital Fund 5-Year Action Plan Budget/2021 Annual Statement

Revised 2022 Capital Fund 5-Year Action Plan Budget/2022 Annual Statement

Revised 2023 Capital Fund 5-Year Action Plan Budget/2023 Annual Statement

All documents are on display and available for viewing at the office of the Housing Authority at the same address above, Monday through Thursday, between the hours of 9AM and 3PM.

January 31, 2024
February 7, 14, 21, 28, 2024
March 6, 2024
Minden Press Herald

SHERIFF'S SALE

GIBSLAND BANK AND TRUST COMPANY

VS

JASON DANIEL HUCKABEE AND STACY ANN BLACK HUCKABEE

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 81154.
By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE issued out of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, in the above styled and numbered suit and to me directed, I have seized and taken into my possession and will offer for sale at public auction to the last and highest bidder for cash WITH the benefit of appraisal and according to law at the principle front door of the Courthouse in the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana, on WEDNESDAY, March 6, 2024,
During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

Lot 38, 39, and 40 Prairie Bayou Subdivision, Unit 2, located in the Northeast Quarter, Section 20, Township 17 North, Range 10 West, Webster Parish, Louisiana, as per plat recorded in Map Book 3, Page 140 of the Clerks Office in Webster Parish, Louisiana, together with all buildings and improvements thereon, and INCLUDING one (1) 1999 Oakwood, Double Wide Manufactured Home, being 38 X 64, Model # 3410, Make - Home Theater Dream Home, bearing Serial # JOTX 10A04162 A/B, having been Immobilized thereon by an Act of Immobilization recorded May 9, 2000, in Conveyance Book 904, Page 797, register number 435543, official records of the Webster Parish Clerk of Court, State of Louisiana.

SOLD SUBJECT TO ANY SUPERIOR LIENS, MORTGAGES OR PRIVILEGES THERETO.
Said property seized is that of the defendant and will be sold to satisfy a judgment rendered in our Honorable Court.

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

Pam Brantley
Pam Brantley - Deputy

January 31, 2024
February 28, 2024
Minden Press Herald

SHERIFF'S SALE

LOYCE HUDSON FAMILY TRUST

VS

LEFANN DUPREE CAIN AND RICKY R. CAIN

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 80955.
By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE issued out of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, in the above styled and numbered suit and to me directed, I have seized and taken into my possession and will offer for sale at public auction to the last and highest bidder for cash WITHOUT the benefit of appraisal and according to law at the principle front door of the Courthouse in the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana, on WEDNESDAY, February 7, 2024,
During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

Tract 1: A certain parcel of property described as commencing at the Southeast Corner of Lot 1, Block "B" of the Core Nickerson Subdivision as per map and plat thereof recorded in Volume 1, Page 88 of the Map Records of the Office of the Clerk of Court, Webster Parish, Louisiana, and running South 530 feet to the point of beginning of the lot herein described; from this point run West 140 feet; thence South 130 feet; thence East 140 feet; thence North 130 feet to the point of beginning, located in the Northeast Quarter of Northeast Quarter, Section 25, Township 23 North, Range 11, West, Webster Parish, Louisiana, together with all improvements located thereon and rights thereto belonging.

Tract 2: Starting at the Southeast Corner of Lot #1, Block "B" of the Core Nickerson Subdivision, as per map and plat thereof on file and of record in the Office of the Clerk of the District Court, Webster Parish, Louisiana, thence ran South 492 feet to the point of beginning of the property herein described; thence continue South 38 feet; thence run West 150 feet; thence ran North 50 feet; thence ran East 85 feet; thence ran South 12 feet; thence ran East 65 feet to the point of beginning, together with all improvements located thereon and rights thereto belonging.

319 Orr Street, Cullen, Louisiana 71021; Webster Parish Parcel No. 121956

SOLD SUBJECT TO ANY SUPERIOR LIENS, MORTGAGES OR PRIVILEGES THERETO.
Said property seized is that of the defendant and will be sold to satisfy a judgment rendered in our Honorable Court.

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

Linda Vaughan
Linda Vaughan - Deputy
January 3, and 31, 2024
Minden Press



LEGAL NEWS
1/12/2024 TO 1/18/2024

RECORDED INSTRUMENTS

#	INDEX	DATE FILED	INSTRUMENT #	ITEM	PARTY ONE(S)	PARTY TWO(S)	DESCRIPTION	PAGES
1	CON	01/12/2024	605985	ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION	JNR HOLDINGS OF MINDEN LLC	PUBLIC		5
2	CON	01/12/2024	605984	DEED	WOODS E J DALE	ANDING JOSEPH WAYNE	\$180,000.00	2
3	MTG	01/12/2024	605985	MORTGAGE	ANDING JOSEPH WAYNE	CROSS KEYS BANK	\$183,870.00	24
4	CON	01/12/2024	605986	AFFIDAVIT	NORTON FANNIE MAE JENKINS DECEDENT	NORTON ARTHUR RAY	SMALL SUCCESSION	11
5	CON	01/12/2024	605987	AFFIDAVIT	PIPES MICHAEL	PUBLIC	DE IMMOBILIZE MOBILE HOME	1
6	CON	01/12/2024	605988	QUITCLAIM DEED	HANSEN ROBIN ELIZABETH	CURRIE BETTY JEAN	\$12,600.00	5
7	MTG	01/12/2024	605989	CANCELLATION	CRAWFORD PAUL G	AMSOUTH BANK	\$50,000.00	5
8	MTG	01/12/2024	605990	NOTICE OF REPOSSESSION	JACKSON CORDARIUS	REGIONAL ACCEPTANCE CORP	2020 FORD F150	1
9	CON	01/12/2024	605991	DEED	DEMANN MICHAEL KENT	WALLACE TERRY L	\$284,000.00	3
10	MTG	01/12/2024	605992	MORTGAGE	WALLACE TERRY L	STANDARD MORTGAGE CORPORATION	\$269,800.00	24
11	MTG	01/12/2024	605993	CANCELLATION	PHILLIPS KERRY ADAM	PNC MORTGAGE	\$71,023.00	3
12	MTG	01/12/2024	605994	CERTIFICATE	DAVID LAWLER CONSTRUCTION INC	ISLEY TOWN OF	SUBSTANTIAL COMPLETION PROJECT NO 2202700 WATER MAIN EXTENSION US HWY 871	2
13	CON	01/12/2024	605995	DEED	RENTZ RALPH LAMAR	AHF INVESTMENTS LLC	\$30,000.00	4
14	MTG	01/12/2024	605996	AFFIDAVIT	AHF INVESTMENTS LLC	PUBLIC	NO WORK	1
15	MTG	01/12/2024	605997	MORTGAGE	AHF INVESTMENTS LLC	BOM BANK	\$200,000.00 UP TO \$50,000,000.00	16
16	MTG	01/12/2024	605998	MORTGAGE	MOXON KEVIN R	GIBSLAND BANK & TRUST COMPANY	\$135,000.00 UP TO \$50,000,000.00	22
17	MTG	01/12/2024	605999	MORTGAGE	KIRKLAND LAURA MITCHELL	GIBSLAND BANK & TRUST COMPANY	\$331,230.78 UP TO \$50,000,000.00	22

MARRIAGE LICENSE



26TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT
PARISH OF WEBSTER
STATE OF LOUISIANA

CIVIL LEGAL NEWS

CASES FILED FROM 1/12/2024 TO 1/18/2024

Civil Cases					
Case #	Date Filed	Case Title	Type	Proceeding	Judge
81172	1/12/2024	ROCK CREEK CAPITAL LLC VS DYLAN J WEST ET AL	CIVIL	MONIES DUE	MICHAEL NERREN
81173	1/12/2024	ROYCE LANE VS PROGRESSIVE SECURITY INSURANCE COMPANY ET AL	CIVIL	DAMAGES	MICHAEL CRAIG
81176	1/16/2024	SARAH DOBBINS VS CRAWFISH HOLE #2 INC	CIVIL	PERSONAL INJURY	CHARLES SMITH

Probate Cases					
Case #	Date Filed	Case Title	Type	Proceeding	Judge
17959	1/12/2024	SUCCESSION OF WILLIE COSBY	PROBATE	SUCCESSION UNDER \$125K	
17960	1/12/2024	SUCCESSION OF JAMES WILLIAM MCDUFF	PROBATE	SUCCESSION OVER \$125K	

Uniform Commercial Code
Verified Filings By Debtor Name

For Parish WEBSTER and Date Type Filing Date and Begin Date 1/12/2024 and End Date 1/18/2024 and Mask Tax Id Numbers True

Debtor	Secured Party
ANDERSON, ANTHONY / ##### 9311 BELDEN DRIVE, SHREVEPORT, LA, USA 71118 FILE NO. 60-363453 FILED 1/12/2024 11:41:00 AM TR TERMINATION ORIGINAL FILE: 60-359973	UNITED CREDIT CORP OF MINDEN / ##### 217 MADLO LANE, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055
B.M.S., L.L.C. / ##### 1142 HOMER RD., MINDEN, LA, USA 71055 FILE NO. 60-363452 FILED 1/12/2024 10:32:00 AM FS ORIGINAL	FIRST WESTERN BANK & TRUST / ##### 100 PRAIRIE CENTER DR., EDEN PRAIRIE, MN, USA 55344
GILLENTE, TRINITY / ##### 184 BRADY ST, SPRINGHILL, LA, USA 71075-4900 FILE NO. 60-363451 FILED 1/12/2024 10:32:00 AM FS ORIGINAL	GULFCO OF LOUISIANA, LLC / ##### P.O. BOX 157, SPRINGHILL, LA, USA 71075
OLIVER, GRACIE / ##### 200 SHERWOOD LN APT 2, SPRINGHILL, LA, USA 71075-3765 FILE NO. 60-363456 FILED 1/12/2024 11:57:00 AM TR TERMINATION ORIGINAL FILE: 60-357744	GULFCO OF LOUISIANA, LLC / ##### P.O. BOX 157, SPRINGHILL, LA, USA 71075
PARKER, KEYONNE D / ##### 2895 GLOVER STREET, RINGGOLD, LA, USA 71068 FILE NO. 60-363455 FILED 1/12/2024 11:44:00 AM FS ORIGINAL	1ST FRANKLIN FINANCIAL CORPORATION (MINDEN) / ##### P.O. BOX 1098, MINDEN, LA, USA 71058
SMITH, STACY SUNSHINE / ##### 215 RAYMOND SMITH ROAD, HOMER, LA, USA 71040 FILE NO. 60-363454 FILED 1/12/2024 11:41:00 AM TR TERMINATION ORIGINAL FILE: 60-362001	UNITED CREDIT CORP OF MINDEN / ##### 217 MADLO LANE, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055
TYSON, ANGEL DIANNA / ##### 231 MOSSWOOD RD, SAREPTA, LA, USA 71071-2314 FILE NO. 60-363449 FILED 1/12/2024 10:32:00 AM FS ORIGINAL	GULFCO OF LOUISIANA, LLC / ##### P.O. BOX 157, SPRINGHILL, LA, USA 71075
WILLIAMS, SAMMIE / ##### 202 SHIRLEY DR, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055-2043 FILE NO. 60-363450 FILED 1/12/2024 10:32:00 AM FS ORIGINAL	FIRST TOWER LOAN, LLC / ##### P O BOX 1460, MINDEN, LA, USA 71055

Number of Debtors:8

January 31, 2024
Minden Press Herald



MARKING PICTURES
THE LIFE AND WORK OF
CLEMENTINE HUNTER



THE CABILDO

A LOUISIANA STATE MUSEUM



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Feed Your Soul.
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LouisianaStateMuseums.org

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING
WEBSTER PARISH POLICE JURY

January 8, 2024
10:00 A.M. Honorable Holli Vining, Clerk of Court administered the Oath of Office to the incoming Jurors for the term of office beginning January, 2024 and ending January, 2028: Jim Bonsall, Steve Ramsey, Steve Lemmons, LaTanya Grigsby, Nancy Hines, Randy Thomas, Mike Griffith, Bruce Blanton, Daniel Thomas, Allen Gilbert, Beverly "Debbie" Kennon, and Adam Lee 10:30 A.M. PUBLIC HEARING: To hear comments concerning the proposed abandonment of a right of way of the Webster Parish Police Jury Road Maintenance Department, listed as Ridgeway Road PR- 10A, 816 feet long and 16 feet wide, which is located off of Louisiana Hwy 371, 32.63876N/93.36557W. Parcel listing 108274, Webster Parish, Louisiana. Byron Patterson was in attendance and was in favor of the abandonment. No other comments
Public Hearing closed REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER: PRAYER: Steve LemmonsPLEDGE: Mike Griffith Mr. Steve Ramsey moved to nominate Mr. Jim Bonsall for President for the year 2024. There were no other nominations, Mr. Bonsall is elected by acclamation. Mr. Steve Lemmons nominated Mr. Steve Ramsey for Vice President for the year 2024. There were no other nominations, Mr. Ramsey is elected by acclamation. Mr. Mike Griffith moved, seconded by Mr. Randy Thomas to add Recreation Funding for Webster Parish Fire District #7 and to Abandon Ridgeway Road PR-10A. Motion carried unanimously. There were no audience comments Mr. Allen Gilbert moved, seconded by Mr. Bruce Blanton to approve invoices for payment pending review by juror Allen Gilbert. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Steve Ramsey moved, seconded by Ms. Beverly Kennon to adopt the minutes of the December 5, 2023 Road Committee, Finance Committee, and Regular Meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Daniel Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Adam Lee to appoint Lisa C. Balkom, Secretary-Treasurer, and to appoint Alicia Owens, Asst. Secretary-Treasurer to a two-year term. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Bruce Blanton moved, seconded by Mr. Randy Thomas to approve Webster Parish Police Jury Resolution #001-2024 Signature Authorization Resolution. Motion carried unanimously. Ms. LaTanya Grigsby moved, seconded by Mr. Mike Griffith to approve Resolution # 002-2024 to set the date and time for the Police Jury Regular meetings, on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:30am with the exception of November 5, 2024 (Election Day) and it will be moved to Wednesday, November 6, 2024 at the Webster Parish Courthouse Annex located at 401 Main Street West Entrance, Minden, LA. Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Nancy Hines moved, seconded by Ms. LaTanya Grigsby to approve the Proposed 2024 Budget and Amended 2023 Budget for the operation of the North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory Commission. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Steve Ramsey moved, seconded by Ms. Nancy Hines to approve the 2024 Budget with actual brought forward figures from 2023 and End of Year Budget Amendments to include brought forward figures from 2023. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Bruce Blanton moved, seconded by Ms. Beverly Kennon to approve the following financial reports of the Webster Parish Police Jury: a. Financial Statement, Check Registers, and Bank Recon. for the month of November, 2023. b. Jury/Witness Fee Bank Recon, Retiree Account Bank Recon and LCDBG Bank Recon for July- December 2023. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Jim Bonsall presented the December 2023 financials to be approved in February. Mr. Allen Gilbert moved, seconded by Mr. Mike Griffith to approve the change order for North/South Contractors, Inc. in the amount of \$2,909.18 for the Cullen Senior Center located at 103 Murria Street in Cullen, LA. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Randy Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Steve Ramsey to approve the 2024 Beer & Video Poker Renewals:

Video Poker:
*Pot O' Gold 230 Goodwill Rd. Minden, LA 71055
*Minden Truckstop & Casino 1629 LA Hwy 531 Minden, LA 71055
*Timberland Truckstop, LLC 26026 Hwy 371 Sarepta, LA 71071
*Shongaloo Crossroad Lounge 13529 Hwy 159 Shongaloo, LA 71072
*Shongaloo Crossroad Deli 13531 Hwy 159 Shongaloo, LA 71072
Beer:
*E-Z Mart 26545 Hwy 371 Sarepta, LA 71071
*Shongaloo Crossroad Lounge 13529 Hwy 159 Shongaloo, LA 71072
*Shongaloo Crossroad Deli 13531 Hwy 159 Shongaloo, LA 71072
*Sawmill Lounge 26026 Hwy 371 Sarepta, LA 71071
*Timberland Truckstop, LLC 26026 Hwy 371 Sarepta, LA 71071
*Springhill Country Club 26746 Hwy 371 Cullen, LA 71021
High Alcohol Content:
*Shongaloo Crossroads Lounge 13529 Hwy 159 Shongaloo, LA 71072
*Springhill Country Club 26746 Hwy 371 Cullen, LA 71021

Motion carried unanimously. Ms. Nancy Hines moved, seconded by Ms. LaTanya Grigsby to approve the Board Appointments for the Pine Country Education District: Reappoint Brian Williams, Chairman term to end 12/31/2025. Reappoint Lisa C. Balkom, Secretary-Treasurer term to end 12/31/2024, Reappoint Butch Ford term to end 12/31/2025, Reappoint Jim Bonsall term to end 12/31/2024 and Reappoint COL. Carl Thompson term to end 12/31/2024. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Mike Griffith moved, seconded by Mr. Randy Thomas to approve the Board Appointment for the Webster Parish Fire District #7 to reappoint Gary Greene to a two-year term ending 12/31/2025. Motion carried unanimously. The jury discussed to amend Webster Parish Ordinance #982. It will be voted on at a later time. Mr. Mike Griffith moved, seconded by Mr. Allen Gilbert to approve Recreation Funding to expend \$500 to the Webster Parish Fire District #7 on gloves for the department. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Mike Griffith moved, seconded by Mr. Steve Lemmons to approve to Abandon Ridgeway Road, PR-10A in Webster Parish. Motion carried unanimously. COMMENTS: Melinda Davidson WPOCS Director Wanda Finley HeadStart Director Savannah Jones WP Library Director Serena Gray WP C.V.B. (Tourism) Allen Mosley WP Coroner Col. Carl Thompson Denise Edwards/Assessor Shakera Williams LSU Ag/Extension Service Brian Williams OHSEP Director John Barr Congressman Mike Johnson Angie Chapman E911 DirectorJessica Gorman Parish Historian Mr. Jim Bonsall then gave Presidents' closing remarks. There being no further business to bring before the Jury, the meeting adjourned.

/s/ /s/
Lisa C. Balkom Secretary-Treasurer Jim Bonsall President

January 31, 2024
Minden Press Herald

ADOPT
DON'T SHOP!

SPAY AND
NEUTER!

SUPPORT
LOCAL
SHOPS!

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

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to bath safety.
Each number corresponds to a letter.
(Hint: 3 = **G**)

A. 8 15 24 10

Clue: Slide

B. 3 9 11 2

Clue: Hold on

C. 15 24 3 4 5 24 25 3

Clue: Illumination

D. 23 11 5 14 9

Clue: H_2O

Answers: A. slip B. grab C. lighting D. water

SUDOKU

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

Level: Intermediate

Here's How It Works:

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

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

ANSWER:

Fun By The Numbers

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

FUN & GAMES

1	2	3	4			5	6	7		8	9	10	
11				12			13			14			
15							16			17			
	18				19		20			21			
				22	23				24				
25	26	27	28	29									
30							31						
32									33	34	35	36	37
				38	39	40		41	42				
				43			44						
		45	46										
47	48				49			50	51	52	53	54	
55					56				57				58
59					60				61				
62					63					64			

CLUES ACROSS

1. Functions
5. Records electric currents associated with contractions of the heart
8. Trigonometric function (abbr.)
11. Secret political clique
13. Type of gibbon
14. Nocturnal S. American rodent
15. Famed American playwright
16. Mesopotamian goddess
17. Abba __, Israeli politician
18. Long ridge of gravel and sediment
20. A place to stay
21. Actor Idris
22. One who behaves in a rebellious way
25. A way to measure movement
30. Distinguish oneself
31. Type of drug (abbr.)
32. Basketball great Baylor
33. Masses of salivary matter
38. Calls balls and strikes
41. Plant that grows along the ground
43. A recreational activity in the air
45. Consumes too much
47. Island nation
49. Pistol
50. Mixtures of soul and calypso
55. Ancient Greek City
56. Similar
57. Roughly trimmed tree trunk used in a Scottish game
59. Semitic fertility god
60. Born of
61. Frogs, toads, tree toads
62. School in the northeast (abbr.)
63. Soviet Socialist Republic
64. “__ the Man” Musical, baseball player

CLUES DOWN

1. Fiddler crabs
2. Discount
3. Partner to “flows”
4. Ethnic group of Laos
5. Beloved “Seinfeld” character
6. Book of tickets
7. The last name of “Hermione”
8. Type of TV package
9. Helps to heal a cut
10. Town in Galilee
12. Actor Horsley
14. “Hocus Pocus 2” actor Ed
19. Bird-loving group (abbr.)
23. They respond when someone is sick
24. Emerged
25. Midway between south and southeast
26. Monetary unit of Afghanistan
27. Unit of work or energy
28. Indicates near
29. Famed river
34. For each
35. News organization
36. CNN’s founder
37. They ____
39. Areas off to the side
40. Satisfies
41. A spare bed
42. Legendary singer Diana
44. Frothy mass of bubbles
45. A kind of sorcery
46. River in South Africa
47. Philippine Island
48. County in China
51. S. American plant
52. Beverage containers
53. Edge
54. Protein-rich liquids
58. Moved quickly on foot

PUZZLE SOLUTION

U	S	E	S				E	C	G				C	S	C
C	A	B	A	L			L	A	R			P	A	C	A
A	L	B	E	E			A	R	A			E	B	A	N
	E	S	K	E	R		I	N	N			E	L	B	A
					R	E	N	E	G	A	D	E			
S	P	E	E	D	O	M	E	T	E	R					
S	U	R	P	A	S	S		S	R	I					
E	L	G	I	N							S	P	U	T	A
					U	M	P		C	R	E	E	P	E	R
					B	A	L	L	O	O	N	R	I	D	E
			O	V	E	R	E	A	T	S					
C	U	B	A			G	A	T		S	O	C	A	S	
E	L	E	A			I	S	H			C	A	B	E	R
B	A	A	L			N	E	E			A	N	U	R	A
U	N	H				S	S	R				S	T	A	N

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with 3 months **free***

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Weight Watchers

*With select plan purchase. Restrictions apply.

Don't let the stairs limit your mobility.

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