

MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

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PARADE



The MLK/Black History Parade took place on Saturday which saw over thirty-five entrants. Later a youth rally was held in front of Minden City Hall where scholarships were awarded and community members were recognized for their impact in the local area.

WILL PHILLIPS/PRESS-HERALD PHOTOS

Minden parade celebrates MLK's legacy

Featuring youth rally, dream scholarships, and trailblazer awards

WILL PHILLIPS
Minden Press-Herald

On Saturday the sound of brass filled the streets of downtown Minden as the MLK/Black History Parade took place. After the parade a youth rally was held which featured a battle of the bands, as well as recipients of scholarships and trailblazer awards which recognized individuals for their impact on the local community.

At the youth rally after the parade, four students were presented with the 2024 Endow a Dream Scholarship, with the recipients being Raegan Qualls-Davis, Gabrielle K. Cooper, Aliysha Butler, and Mikiyah Bell.

Another highlight of the event was the recognition of the winners of the Trailblazer Awards. These awards were given out to individuals who have made a positive impact on the local commu-

nity.

In the category of community service, Michael Walker was the recipient. "Walker organized an annual Prayer in the Park to pray for the students, faculty /staff, civic leaders, public officials, police and emergency departments for the past 9 years. Michael and his wife have coordinated fan drives each 4th of July for the past 8 years to help senior citizens. He is one of the coordinators for last year's and upcoming L'Jarius Sneed Day. Michael also works

with several organizations throughout the city including the Dr. Martin Luther King and June-teenth celebration," said Gilbert.

In the category of historian service, Gloria Smith Moody was the recipient. "Starting her teaching career at Webster High School in Minden, Louisiana, she later moved to Sibley High School and then Lakeside, where she fostered a love for history and learning in her students. After 45 years of teaching, she retired but continued her mis-

sion of educating others about Black history. Her commitment to preserving African history and culture is evident in her home, which serves as a museum," said Gilbert.

In the category of public service, Louisiana State Trooper Jeffery Walker was the recipient. "Jeffery began his career in law enforcement with the Webster Parish Sheriff's Office in 2005. He served there for two years before becoming a member of Cadet Class 88 with the Louisiana State Po-

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GALA

82nd Greater Minden Chamber Awards Gala set for February 27

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Greater Minden Chamber's 82nd Awards Gala is scheduled to take place on Tuesday, February 27, at the Minden Civic Center. The event will commence with a VIP Reception hosted by Travel-Centers of America from 5:30 to 6:15 PM, followed by the gala, presented by Home Federal Bank, starting at 7 PM.

The gala, a highlight in the Chamber's calendar, is expected to attract between 450 and 500 business professionals, making it the most attended event of its kind. The evening serves as the Annual Dinner where the Chamber will recognize outstanding individuals and businesses with awards such as Small Business of the Year, Business of the Year, Businessperson of the Year, Community Partner, Hometown Hero, Spirit of Hospitality, and the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Last year's recipients included Meriwether Wealth & Planning for Small Business of the Year, Ace Hardware for Business of the Year, Dr. Naomi Coyle for Busi-

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COMMUNITY

Seeds Women's Center launches "Seeds Spotlight"

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Seeds Women's Center has initiated a new program, "Seeds Spotlight," aimed at increasing community awareness about their organization and the families they support. The initiative, hosted on Facebook, will feature a different family each month, showcasing the ways in which Seeds has made a positive impact on their lives.

Through "Seeds Spotlight," the center intends to share personal stories illustrating how their services have helped families, improved parenting skills, and brought about positive changes. This platform will not only highlight the valuable

See, **SEEDS**, Page 3

AWARD



COURTESY PHOTO

Reece Tewell receives the Life Saving Award for his swift actions in rescuing Deputy Barnes, who was critically injured after being struck by a vehicle on January 30.

Minden Police Sgt. Reece Tewell receives Life Saving Award

STAFF REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

His shift had just ended on the evening of Tuesday, January 30, and Minden Police Sgt. Reece Tewell was headed to his home in Sarepta. It was just another workday's end, another routine drive

home. But the routine changed dramatically when his unit's radio cracked with a 911 alert about 6:22 PM.

Tewell was traveling north on U.S. 371 near Whispering Pines Church when he heard the call that an officer had been seriously injured and was down

on the roadway. At the time, he didn't know the victim was his longtime friend and schoolmate, WPSO Sgt. Aaron Barnes.

"I was near Rice Road and saw the blue lights flashing. I got in a hurry to get there," Tewell recalled. "When I arrived

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TOURISM

Tourism thrives in Webster Parish, boosting local economy

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Tourism in Webster Parish has experienced a significant upswing since the easing of COVID restrictions, according to the annual report released by Webster Parish Tourism for the year 2022. Visitor spending witnessed a notable increase, with expenditures soaring by 11%. This surge translated into a 10% rise in state tax revenues and a 13% uptick in local tax revenues, directly impacting residents by trimming individual tax payments by \$207.

In 2022, visitor spending in Webster Parish approached nearly \$30 million, generating \$1.15 million in local taxes.



GRAY

While comprehensive data for 2023 is pending, initial indicators suggest a continuation of the upward trend.

Apart from the traditional annual festivals in Minden, the growth is attributed to various factors, including the exposure garnered through HGTV's Hometown Kickstart and Camp Minden securing a 10-year contract to host the Archery Shooter Association Pro/AM tournaments.

The surge in short-term rentals, such as bed and breakfasts, has been particularly noticeable. Sara McDaniel, owner of Simply Southern Cottage, has witnessed a surge in bookings across her properties, drawing guests from across the United States and internationally. McDaniel's properties not only contribute to local accommodations but also drive

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Tomorrow's
High Temp 66°

Tomorrow's
Low Temp 55°

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WEBSTER & MORE

SPRINGHILL

Springhill unites: Marge Campbell Bird and Butterfly Park dedication inspires community spirit

Special to the Minden Press-Herald

Authorities in Webster Pin a heart-warming display of unity, the City of Springhill proudly celebrated the dedication of its newest communal haven, the Marge Campbell Bird and Butterfly Park, located at 404 N Giles Street in Springhill. The cost of the entire project, complete with landscaping and an irrigation system, was paid for by long-standing community members Jo and Jan Campbell in memory of their late mother Marge Campbell. This vibrant addition to our city's landscape stands as a testament to the collective dedication and generosity of community members who rallied together to make the dream of this space a reality. Jo and Jan Campbell would like to extend their warmest and most sincere gratitude to Donnie

Hough, Kathleen Reynolds Price, Linda Edens, Jeff and Kathy Jackson, Michael Vercher, Shirley Vercher, the Vercher Garden Center, Michelle Benson Lewis, Lydia Grant Smith, the family of Carolyn Glasscock, and Amie Poladian with the Springhill Main Street program for helping see this project make its way to fruition through the donation of both time and items for use in the beautiful, new landscaping. Mayor Ray Huddleston spoke at the event saying, "We'd like to thank everyone involved in the project for their unwavering commitment to enhancing the quality of life for everyone in Springhill. We hope that this and other community improvement projects ignite a feeling of pride in our residents and encourages the people in Springhill that each one of us have the capacity to make a



From left to right: Butch Lynd, Chief Will Lynd, Carroll Breaux, Linda Nelson, Johnny Edens, Jan Campbell, Linda Edens, Shirley Vercher, Pat McWilliams, Jo Campbell, Mayor Ray Huddleston, Mike Vercher.

difference." The Marge Campbell Bird and Butterfly Memorial Park will serve as a reminder that when the

community unites for a common cause, remarkable transformations are possible. As people gather and friendships

bloom within the park's embrace, the City of Springhill can take pride in the fact that its newest gem is a manifestation of

the shared dreams and aspirations of a tight knit community.

GOVERNMENT

Louisiana special session aims to take a bite out of crime

(The Center Square) — Louisiana lawmakers will consider two dozen items aimed at reducing crime during an extraordinary session next week, from constitutional carry, to the death penalty, to harsher penalties for carjackers. "This special session begins to fulfill the campaign promises we made to the people of Louisiana to make our state safe again. No one, regardless of their neighborhood or zip code, should feel unsafe. We all want safer communities," Gov. Jeff Landry said in a statement. "We will defend and uplift our law enforcement officials and deliver true justice to crime victims who have been overlooked for far too long. I am eager to enact real change that makes Louisiana a safer state for all." As of Friday noon, lawmakers had prefiled 15 bills in the House and 13 in the Senate for the extraordinary session that begins Monday at 1 p.m. and runs through 6 p.m. on March 6. Among legislation pending in the upper chamber is Senate Bill 1, by New Iberia Republican Sen. Blake Miguez to allow law-abiding citizens to carry concealed weap-

ons without a permit. There's also Senate Bill 3, by Turkey Creek Republican Sen. Heather Cloud, to lower the age for consideration as a juvenile in the criminal justice system to 17, reversing reforms implemented under Gov. John Bel Edwards. Monroe Republican Sen. Stewart Cathey's Senate Bill 11 also addresses the threshold for juvenile justice. Cathey also prefiled Senate Bill 10 to reduce good time earned by prisoners sentenced for the death of a peace officer or first responder. Other Senate measures include efforts to increase penalties for carjacking from Sen. Valarie Hodges, R-Denham Springs. Another would create an office of public defender from Sen. Mike Reese, R-Leesville. A bill from Sen. Rick Edmonds, R-Baton Rouge would increase penalties for DWIs while another is intended to boost transparency in the justice system from Many Republican Sen. Alan Seabaugh. Prefiled House bills target many of the same issues, with Oil City Republican Rep. Danny McCormick offering constitutional carry with House Bill 12, Prairieville Republican Rep. Tony Bacala's

House Bill 1 to increase transparency, and House Bill 7 by Metairie Republican Rep. Laurie Schlegel to crack down on carjacking. Schlegel also prefiled House Bill 8 to increase penalties for distribution of fentanyl to minors, while Kenner Republican Rep. Debbie Villio submitted House bills 9, 10, and 11 to reform sentencing, probation and parole conditions for certain offenders. House bills 13 and 14 from Covington Republican Rep. Mark Wright also address sentencing and parole for dangerous offenders, respectively. Rep. Nicholas Muscarello, R-Hammond, prefiled House Bill 6 to expand methods for the death penalty to include nitrogen hypoxia. It would further give the Department of Public Safety and Corrections authority to determine the appropriate method: electrocution, lethal injection or nitrogen hypoxia. Still other prefiled bills would provide immunity from civil liability for peace officers, require drug testing for certain offenders, designate the use of weapons as a crime of violence and impose time limitations on rape prosecutions.

LIONS CLUB

Kristen Powers, advocate for disabilities support, speaks at Lions Club

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Kristen Gary Powers, executive director of the Arc Caddo-Bossier, took the spotlight as the guest speaker at the Minden Lions Club meeting on February 1. Born and raised in Shreveport, Louisiana, Powers holds a BA in Mass Communication from Louisiana State University and an MBA from the University of New Orleans. With nearly a decade dedicated to raising awareness and funds for individuals with disabilities, she addressed the club members about the vital services provided by the Arc Caddo-Bossier. Established as a private nonprofit organization, the Arc Caddo-Bossier has been a cornerstone of support for infants, children, and adults with disabilities, along with their families, in northwest Louisiana for 70 years. Powers, emphasizing the organization's mission, stated, "Our mission at the Arc Caddo-Bossier is to build unlimited opportunities for people with disabilities." She highlighted the diverse goals of individuals, ranging from employment to indepen-

dent living and self-care. Acknowledging the challenges people with disabilities face in securing employment, Powers stressed the importance of advocating for more employers to hire individuals with disabilities. She proudly shared that the Arc Caddo-Bossier is not just an advocate but a major employer itself. Through Frost Industries, a division of the organization, they create meaningful employment opportunities. Their services include commercial linens, custodial service, lawn maintenance, sorting and packaging, and kitchen work, with over 38 active contracts and 40 federal contract workers with disabilities. "We provide all the janitorial and custodial services for Barksdale Air Force Base. So if you go anywhere on base [except the commissary], and you meet a custodian, they work for the Arc Caddo-Bossier," Powers said, highlighting the organization's significant contributions. These are not sub-minimum wage jobs either. "These are federal jobs, and so they are being paid high wages with benefits." Beyond employment, the Arc Caddo-Boss-

ier offers community homes, community living support, children's services, day programs, and equine-assisted services. Powers announced the upcoming opening of the new Goldman School and Child Development Center, expanding their childcare and early childhood education services to meet the needs of the community. "We saw a need in the community, and so we opened up an additional campus of our school in partnership with the Highland Center," said Powers. Funding for the Arc Caddo-Bossier comes from grants, donors, and fundraisers, with services for disabled individuals covered by Medicaid waiver services. Powers expressed gratitude to private and corporate donors, emphasizing their crucial role in making a difference in the lives of the individuals served by the organization. The Minden Lions Club, meeting weekly on Thursdays at noon at the American Legion Memorial Hall, extends a warm welcome to potential new members interested in contributing to community service.

ELECTION

Voter registration deadlines for the March 23 Presidential Preference Primary

BATON ROUGE, La. — Secretary of State Nancy Landry reminds voters that the deadlines to register to vote in the March 23 Presidential Preference Primary and Municipal Primary Election are fast approaching. The deadline to register in person, by mail or at the OMV Office is Wednesday, Feb. 21. The deadline to register through the GeauxVote Online Registration System is Saturday, March 2. This deadline is for citizens who have never registered to vote, as well as voters who would like to make changes to their registration. The Presidential Preference Primary is a closed

party primary, which means only registered Democrats and Republicans will be allowed to vote in their party's respective primary. However, there are local elections in 24 parishes in which all voters may cast their ballots, regardless of party, if their jurisdiction is included. Voters are encouraged to check their voter registration—including party affiliation—before the registration deadlines. Citizens may check their registration or register to vote online at www.GeauxVote.com. After registering, voters should download the GeauxVote Mobile smartphone app.

The app provides registration information as well as voting districts, sample ballots, polling place information and election results. Early voting for the March 23 election will take place Saturday, March 9 through Saturday, March 16 (excluding Sunday, March 10) from 8:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. For more information, or to report potential polling place accessibility issues, please call the Elections Hotline at 800-883-2805, with TDD/TTY access at 711, or email the Elections Division at elections@sos.la.gov.

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OBITUARIES

James (Bootise) Holley

James (Bootise) Holley, 81, of Sibley, left his earthly home February 11, 2024, in Minden, Louisiana. He was born February 4, 1943, in Dubberly, Louisiana.

Bootise was preceded in death by his parents, Aubrey and Mable Holley and sisters, Linda Holley Reynolds and Claire Holley Robinson.

He is survived by his daughter, LeAnne Parsons and husband John West Parsons of Longview, TX; grandchildren, Kristina Lee Brazzel of New Orleans, LA, Anne Elizabeth Ferrell of Austin, TX and Peyton West Parsons of in Longview, TX; niece, Debbie Reynolds



Betty B. Lowe

Funeral services celebrating the life of Betty B. Lowe were held Saturday, February 17, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at Rose Neath Funeral Home Chapel in Minden, Louisiana with Bro. Calvin Hubbard officiating. Interment followed at Gardens of Memory Cemetery in Minden, Louisiana. The family received friends Saturday at 10:00 a.m. prior to the service time.

Betty was born December 11, 1935, in Norphlet, Arkansas and left her earthly home February 13, 2024, in

Morris G. Mills (Jerry)

Graveside services for Morris G. Mills (Jerry) were held Saturday, February 17, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. at Lane Memorial Cemetery in Sibley, Louisiana under the direction of Rose Neath Funeral Home in Minden, Louisiana. The family received friends from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. Friday, February 16, 2024, at Rose Neath Funeral Home in Minden.

Jerry was 79 years old and lived in Minden, LA. He passed from this life on February 13, 2024, to be with

Lumbley and husband Roy of Hooks, TX; nephew, Jeff Reynolds and wife Jodi of Dubberly; great nephew, Aubrey Reynolds and his daughter, Madelyn of Dubberly.

The family extends a special thank you to the staff of Highland Clinic, Bristol Hospice, and Town and Country Nursing Home. Also, to Jeff and Jodi Reynolds, and a special thanks to Charlotte and Brad Reynolds for the countless trips and her dedication to his care.

A memorial service was held Sunday, February 18, 2024, at 2:30 at Brushwood Methodist Church in Dubberly, LA with Joe Robinson officiating.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to: Ninna's Road to Rescue, Benton, Louisiana.

Minden, Louisiana. Betty was a member of North Acres Baptist Church.

She is survived by her husband, A.D. Lowe, Jr. of Minden; daughters, Gail L. Downs and husband Jimmy of Minden, and Susan Lowe Walton and husband Bruce of Minden; grandchildren, Jeffrey Downs and wife Anna of Tyler, TX and Jonathon Downs and wife Carla of Minden; and great-grandchildren, Logan and Winnie Downs.

Pallbearers will be Mike Lewis, Jimmy Perryman, Steven Whitlock, Gene Baker, Larry Baker, and Randall Carter.

The family extends a special thanks to Tonya Comb for the care given to Betty.

his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

He is survived by his wife, Bobbie Curtis Mills, sons, Trace Mills, Timothy (Crystal) Mills, Nathan Mills, John Mays, and Curtis Mays, daughter, Christy (Bryan) Shane, seven grandchildren and numerous great-grandchildren.

His career includes employment with ExxonMobil, Engineers and Construction International and Becht Engineering. Jerry was a member of the Masonic Lodge and in lieu of flowers please consider donating to Shriners Hospital for Children (his favorite charity).



Wills Successions

Warren Law LLC

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GALA

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ness Person of the Year, Minden Junior Service League for Community Partner of the Year, Kip Mourad for Hometown Hero, Sara McDaniel for Spirit of Hospitality, and Philip McInnis for the Lifetime Achievement Award.

Additional honors include the Man of the Year, sponsored by the Minden Lions Club, and the Woman of the Year, sponsored by the Young Women's Service Club of Minden. In 2023, Tommy Davis was

named Man of the Year, and Cindy Madden received the Woman of the Year award. This year, according to Steve Cropper of the Minden Lions Club, there were 29 men and 22 women nominated for these prestigious awards.

The gala will be hosted by Tracy Campbell and Jake Chapman, marking their fifth and final time as emcees. The evening's theme, Arabian Nights, promises a lively and engaging atmosphere for all attendees.

AWARD

Continued from Page 1

and saw him [Barnes] on the ground, I knew it was bad...very bad."

Barnes had been struck by a vehicle while directing traffic. The impact had thrown him over the hood of a wrecker preparing to leave the scene with a stalled vehicle. The speed limit in the area of the impact is 55 mph, and witnesses would later say the vehicle which struck the deputy did not appear to slow down.

"I saw he was bleeding badly from a huge cut on his rear end, and I knew it had to be attended to right then," Tewell said. "I retrieved my medical bag and began stuffing the wound with gauze and bleeding suppresant and applying pressure. Everything was really kind of a blur."

With the items from the medical kit, Tewell managed to stop the blood flow from a four-inch deep, seven-inch long gash until medical help arrived. In addition to that wound, Barnes suffered another serious cut to his forehead, a broken tailbone, broken hip, fractured ankle and road rash.

Tewell said he has had EMT training over the course of more than 16 years as a volunteer firefighter with various departments. He currently is a member of the Sarepta Fire Department.

"When something like this happens, the training just kicks in," he said. "I knew what to do but this was a little different. I know Aaron and his family, and I remember thinking I had to do whatever it took to get him back to his wife and kids."

Sheriff Jason Parker said conversations with emergency medical personnel revealed that Tewell's quick and efficient actions probably saved Barnes' life. The closest EMT units were miles away, and time was not on the side of the victim.

"Aaron's wound was very severe, and he had already lost a lot of blood," Parker said. "The medical people I talked to said, if Sgt. Tewell had not been there and acted

as quickly and efficiently as he did, Aaron would most likely have bled out before they could get there."

In recognition of his actions on that night, Tewell was honored with a Life Saving Award presented by Parker on behalf of the Webster Parish Sheriff's Office. In part, the plaque reads, "You put yourself in harm's way to save another human life with dedication and courage."

"God put Sgt. Tewell in that place at that time because he knew what to do without hesitation," Parker said. "I understand he had finished his shift but had stayed over a few minutes. That put him in the right place at the right time for the right reason."

Minden Chief of Police Jared McIver said Tewell's action that night reflects the willingness of every officer to come to the aid of another in a crisis.

"There's tremendous cooperation between agencies in this area," McIver said. "Any time one agency needs assistance, there's always another...or as many as needed...ready to help. I'm proud of Sgt. Tewell, and I'm happy to see Sgt. Barnes recovering so well."

Present for the award was Barnes, who successfully underwent surgery for his extensive injuries and currently is recovering at home. Not surprisingly, he doesn't remember much about what happened.

"What I do know is that this man saved my life," Barnes said. "I lost about a fourth of my body's blood supply before the medical personnel got there. If he hadn't been there and known just what to do, I wouldn't have made it."

Barnes is married and the father of two children: a five-year-old son and an 18-month-old daughter.

"I'm looking forward to getting Reece out to the house, especially to meet my son," he said. "They've never met, but my son knows exactly who he is. He knows he's the man who made it possible for his daddy to come home."

PARADE

Continued from Page 1

lice. He became a Louisiana State Trooper in June of 2007 stationed at Troop G in Bossier City. Jeffery is currently a member of the 8th National Black State Trooper Coalition and Central States Troopers Coalition of Louisiana," said Gilbert.

In the category of Entrepreneur Service, Val Clark was the recipient. "In 1984 Val Clark decided to open up his own business as a mechanic at Otto Fast Gas. He diligently served the people in the city and surrounding areas seven

days a week, 12 hours a day, holidays, rainy days, and yes, Sundays, before and after church. The business continued to thrive and surpassed any of his expectations," said Gilbert.

In the category of Education Service, Jerri Musgrow Lee was the recipient. "Without a doubt Mrs. Lee understood the importance of getting an education. She made a point to encourage thousands of students throughout her 36 years of teaching and serving children. Her first teaching assignment was at her

dear alma mater, Webster High. In 1968 Mrs. Lee accepted the assignment at Dubberly where she became the first African-American teacher to teach a core curriculum class at a predominately white school. Her next assignment was Minden High School where she was blessed to spend 30 years as a foreign language and English teacher. Mrs. Lee retired from Minden High in June of 2000, but returned to teaching two years later. Her last teaching assignment was at the Webster Parish alternative school where she

SEEDS

Continued from Page 1

work of Seeds Women's Center but also provide a platform for families to

share their experiences and inspire others in the community. Seeds Women's Center encourages community

members to follow their Facebook page for updates and to learn more about the families benefiting from their services.

For more information, visit Seeds Women's Center on Facebook or call (318) 639-0907.

TOURISM

Continued from Page 1

month over month at all my properties." With her company projected to contribute approximately \$30,000 in state and local taxes, McDaniel anticipates further growth in 2024.

Similarly, Jim and Kim Huffman of Huffman Management reported growth in 2023, with an average daily rate surge of 18% and a 6% increase in occupancy. The interna-

tional reach of Huffman Management's website underscores the global interest in Minden as a travel destination. Buoyed by their success, the Huffmans are expanding their portfolio with two additional houses earmarked for renovation as short-term rentals.

Serena Gray, executive director of Webster Parish Tourism, expressed optimism about the future,

emphasizing collaborative efforts to attract more visitors to the area and foster economic growth across the community. "We are filled with anticipation for where we are headed and believe that, as we continue to work together, we will attract more visitors to our area resulting in economic growth for our entire community."

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OPINION

MINDEN
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OPINION

Centralizing State Public Defender Board in a New State Bureaucracy is Ill-Advised

I strongly support and commend Gov. Landry's efforts to address the crisis of violent crime in Louisiana. However, I respectfully suggest that one proposal is ill-advised and does nothing to advance that goal. Senate Bill 8 seeks to "create the office of the state public defender within the office of the governor for the delivery of indigent defense services." My interest stems from the fact that roughly half of my current law practice is comprised of work I do at the Caddo Public Defender Office. In that capacity, I have witnessed firsthand what is required to manage a public defender office in one of our state's largest parishes. My concern is twofold.

One, the conservative view of government is that government governs best when it governs least and when it governs at the most local level. That is for good reason. In each local public defender office, the district defender knows in great detail their parish, local judges, district attorney, and how best to navigate the local government structure. Individual parish public defenders across Louisiana take seriously their daily responsibility to see that their offices are empowered to do the very best job possible for their indigent clients.

No matter how experienced or hard-working an appointed State Public Defender may be, that local connection and

insight will be lost. That's why removing decision-making authority from each individual parish public defender and consolidating it in, essentially, a Governor-appointed "czar" in a new government bureaucracy undermines the very vibrancy and boots-on-the-ground dynamic that makes these individual offices effective.

My second concern is of a constitutional nature. I think S.B. 8 may pose a Separation of Powers issue.

Federalist 47 defined tyranny as: "[t]he accumulation of all powers legislative, executive, and judiciary, in the same hands, whether of one, a few, or many, and whether hereditary, self-appointed, or elective, may justly be pronounced the very definition of tyranny."

With this in mind, let's remember that the Louisiana governor's constitutional responsibility is to "faithfully support the constitution and laws of the state ... and see that the laws are faithfully executed." That includes criminal laws. As such, how is it not a conflict of interest and an "accumulation of all powers" for a governor, princi-



ROYAL ALEXANDER

pally responsible for seeing that the laws are faithfully executed and prosecuted, to appoint the very individual who will head the entity that defends the poor against the execution of those laws, placing that very agency in the governor's office itself—and also directly impacting the funding public defenders will (or won't) have to do their jobs? It's too much. Further, when we view this new proposal in light of the fact that the governor already has the power to pardon, grant clemency, and commute sentences, we will have placed in any governor's hands enormous unilateral power over the life of an accused individual.

Recall the Louisiana Public Defender Act of 2007 mandates that the state public defender system remain "free from undue political and judicial interference and free of conflicts of interest." S.B. 8 gravely undermines that guarantee.

Finally, it is not difficult to imagine a governor who understandably wants to move aggressively against crime, to seek to be reassured that the prospective state public defender appointee is of a like mind rather than that individual being primarily concerned with the legal defense of the poor. The many capable prosecutors throughout Louisiana are daily bringing to bear against tens of thousands of accused indigents

the full coercive weight—and resources—of the State of Louisiana.

For this reason, it is imperative that the individual who leads the state's public defenders be, and appear to be, both independent and singularly focused on indigent defense. There is simply no way a conflict of interest won't exist if the leader of the body whose sole function it is to defend the indigent is politically and financially dependent upon the governor who appoints that leader and impacts its funding. Also, if there is an issue with the amount of funding each division of the public defender system receives—for example, local offices versus Capital defense and (501) C 3s—this can be addressed by amending the Public Defender Act of 2007. There is no need to dismantle the whole system.

The Constitution's guarantee of due process and a vigorous legal defense requires that these two entities exist independently of one another.

I hope this proposal can be put aside and re-evaluated.

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

Mama Didn't Teach Me Not To Talk To Strangers

Mama didn't teach me not to talk to strangers!

I've met some of the most interesting people just by striking up conversations with folks that I meet in the grocery store.

Just recently I met a "would be" friend if I could just remember what her name was. I must take along a pen for just such a purpose.

Anyway I quipped how I love shopping Brookshires because their produce was always so fresh and the customer service so great! She chimed in what I was getting ready to say "I only buy cat food at a competitor because their prices are better on cat food."

Those words were just coming out of my mouth!

An instant friend because we knew that we are cat lovers! Not an interest we all share.

Back to my bottom line if there is one.

I've noticed that talking to strangers is becoming a nice pastime for some of us baby boomers in our second childhood.

In other parts of the country

it might not be so wise to talk to strangers but here in the South we seem to understand the beauty of spontaneous child-like conversation among those we don't know so well.

My friend, the late Gypsy Damaris Boston, may have said it best when she commented recently in one of her Times columns about how we don't use the front porch anymore for conversation and in fact the front porch has all but been done away with on many houses today.

In the backwoods of Arkansas where I was born at home in 1948 near Sulphur Springs, Arkansas, in a house built in the 1840's, we rode to town in a horse drawn wagon until 1955 before moving five miles



SARAH HUDSON PIERCE

into town at South West City, Missouri because of daddy's declining heath. Anyway we had no electricity or running water. About the only people we saw was a neighbor or two who would sit outside in the evenings while my sister, Alice, and I played or laid on the grass waiting for the first star to come out at night or trying to catch the fire flies who kept us company while the adults talked.

Anyway as we have become more remote, we seem to have lost the art of conversation as the social media, televisions and air conditioning have shut down staying outside at night. We have lost something in return.

We have become more disconnected from each other.

Too often we come to church as a routine. I call it "rote" religion where we punch time clock.. We appear to not really look at each other when we talk. Life can become a habit. In the process of having more and more we are losing what we crave most in our quiet hours.

We have given up feeding our spirits with human connec-

tions, the kind of bonding that can only be found in heart talk which may start out as casual conversation until we reach another realm.

Most of us need to be joined to kindred spirits.

One way to find friends is to make small talk with those we meet in church or wherever our paths cross!

For some of us "Silver Sneakers" the grocery stores serve their purpose if we dare to talk to strangers.

Whatever all of this means I do not know but I think we will mostly agree that the heart has a longing which can only be satisfied in reaching within and finding new friends wherever we they are.

For me I know that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever and that He always gets me to the right place at the right time placing those within my path who become lifelong friends who make my life whole.

For this I am forever grateful!

CONTACT SARAH AT SARAH9957@AOL.COM

KEEP THIS IN MIND

Some considerations if you want a different election outcome in 2024

Editor's Note: The following column is an abridged version due to print newspaper constraints. Read the unabridged version at press-herald.com.

I think Joe Biden will be re-elected to serve a second term as President of the United States. Although Biden and Donald Trump are unpopular overall, it appears we are in for a rematch. Republican primaries still present an alternative path.

If you are a concerned and perceptive Republican you should vote for former South Carolina Governor and United Nations Ambassador Nikki Haley in the presidential primary election. Louisiana votes Saturday, March 23.

I see remote possibilities for

the 2024 election resulting in a different winner than 2020. Ways Trump could win. None seem more plausible than Haley defeating Biden but if Trump as the Republican



DIRK ELLINGSEN

candidate is inevitable, here are some possible paths to victory. Imagine people who voted for Joe Biden in 2020 have suffered four years of voter's remorse. It doesn't matter if you hate Biden (Joe or Hunter) in 2024 as much or more as you hated him in 2020. You need disgruntled former Biden supporters to

vote for Trump. I don't know any. I do know some who might switch their vote to Haley.

How about four years of demographic changes favoring Donald Trump? Many teens too young to vote in 2020 can cast ballots in 2024. A groundswell of young people eager to support Trump? What about senior citizens who voted for Biden in 2020 and are no longer around to vote? Of course, this sort of demographic speculation could break for Biden too.

Electoral College intrigue seems Trump's best chance. Win some crucial swing states as done in 2016. You do not have to win the popular vote. Win back Georgia, Arizona, Pennsylvania, Wisconsin, and/or Michigan.

Consider Trump's selection of a running mate. What if he found a man or woman so compelling, they won over voters of both parties for seeming to be next in line for the presidency? Trump fealty is no assurance of charisma.

There could emerge a surprise third-party candidate who siphons off millions of Biden votes. Maybe a Green Party climate change doom-sayer or a dashing young Socialist with more elan than Bernie Sanders. Republicans would be too smart to vote for such a character but many Democrats might take the bait.

Old man health afflictions could be a game changer. Biden's merely four years older than Trump but he is older. Both make embarrass-

ing gaffes at the podium. Of course, Haley seems to be firing on all cylinders.

Finally, some wacky conjecture but we must consider all the angles. Imagine whereas the 2020 election was rigged, the 2024 election will be on the level. Let's say whatever tainted the election of 2020 fails to occur in 2024. Or maybe a Joe Biden Ireland birth certificate will turn up.

If you see the contest as Haley vs. Trump, stay the course. If you see the contest as Democrat vs Republican, do what you can at the ballot box to avoid a repeat of 2020. The way to keep Biden out of office is to nominate Haley.

DIRK ELLINGSEN LIVES IN MINDEN.

SPORTS

FOOTBALL

Minden to host celebration day for two-time Super Bowl champion Sneed

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Former Minden High star L'Jarius Sneed helped the Kansas City Chiefs win Super Bowl LVIII earlier this month.

Sneed, a cornerback, became a two-time champion. The Chiefs, who defeated the San Francisco 49ers 25-22 in overtime in Las Vegas, are the first team since the New England Patriots in 2003 and 2004 to win back-to-back titles.

For the second year in a row, the city of Minden will honor Sneed with a parade. It is scheduled for March 2 at 11 a.m.

But there will be more this year. Following the parade, there will be a noon ceremony at the Minden Rec Center. After the ceremony, there will be au-



FILE PHOTO
The city of Minden is hosting a celebration in honor of two-time Super Bowl champion L'Jarius Sneed on March 2.

tograph signing, food and kids' bounce houses.

Sneed was credited with three tackles and a pass defended in the Super Bowl.

In his four seasons in the league, he has gained a

March.

According to media reports, signing Sneed is a priority for the Chiefs.

Sneed told ESPN he wants to return to Kansas City. Defensive tackle Chris Jones is also a free agent.

On the show Up & Adams, which is broadcast on FanDuel TV and YouTube, Sneed told host Kay Adams that there are always uncertainties once negotiations start.

"I hope so, I hope so," he said of staying with the Chiefs. "They can't keep both of us. Hopefully they got enough for both of us. But you know, they gonna make it happen. I hope so."

He was asked if he had a message for Chiefs general manager Brett Veach.

"Pay me, pay me. That's what I've got to say. Pay me."

HIGH SCHOOL INDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

Doyline's Harris shines at state meet

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Doyline senior Izayla Harris made the awards stand in three events Saturday in the LHSAA Indoor Track and Field State Meet at LSU.

She won the Division II 60-meter dash, finished second in the triple jump and took third in the 400.

Harris had ran a time of 7.71 seconds in the 60 finals.

University Lab's Addison Harvey finished second in 7.782. Holy Savior Menard's A'Shyria Burns was third in 7.786.

Harris also had the fastest time in the prelims at 7.67.

She leaped 36 feet, 1.75 inches in the triple jump. Burns won with a 37-2.

Harris ran a 59.33 in the 400 finals.

St. Louis' Hannah Boulion won in 57.92. Lake Charles College Prep's Jayla Mason was second in 58.04.

Doyline finished seventh in Division II with Harris' 24 points. Holy Savior Menard won with 50.

Harris, an Alcorn State signee, won the 100, 200 and 400 at the state outdoor meet in May, setting Class B records in all three.



MICHAEL ODENDAHL/SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-HERALD
Doyline senior Izayla Harris on the Division II 60-meter dash and made the awards stand in two other events in the state indoor meet. She is pictured above at the state outdoor meet last May.

OUTDOORS

The therapy of fishing

GLYNN HARRIS

Today's news is often dreary and sad. Murders, drugs busts; conflicts abroad; you name it it's all there on the six o'clock news. It's enough to send us all scurrying behind barred windows and locked doors. The kicker, though, is a growing level of anxiety the general public feels about our own well-being.

Psychiatrists, psychologists, and therapists are seeing their business boom during the times in which we live. While these folks can often help, I have another idea I learned by watching an old man one day. Just for the sake of doing it, go fishing.

Once when my family and I were on vacation on a lake in Arkansas, we rented a cabin by a lake. Rising early one morning while the family slept, I poured a cup of coffee and stepped out of the cabin to sit on the dock and enjoy the peace of the morning.

Spying an old white-haired gentleman fishing from the dock, I moved closer. As I approached, he snapped the rod upward and momentarily, a bluegill was flouncing on the dock. He admired the fish a few seconds, unhooked it and gently slid it back into the water.

He picked up a slice of bread, pinched off piece, molded it around his hook and continued his fishing. What the old fellow was engaged in was a healthy form of therapy. He was fishing for the sheer enjoyment of the sport.

Observing this, I was reminded of a scripture passage in John 21:3 that begins, "Simon Peter saith unto them, I go a-fishing". Wycliff's Bible Commentary offers regarding Peter's announcement, "The sight of his boat and the waters of his beloved Galilee, and perhaps the necessity of keeping body and soul together, dictated his sudden announcement."

The statement – "keeping body and soul together" smacks of therapy to me. Granted, we need more activities that serve to keep our inner selves intact during these times.

While there are more ways than fishing to soothe jangled nerves and provide salve for anxiety, fishing has been scientifically proven to be one of the most effective ways of relieving stress.

Studies have shown that one of the most effective deterrents to stress and stress-related illnesses is fishing. In an article I once read, the writer stated that it is necessary to find a safety valve enabling us from time to time to lay aside the pressures of our hemmed-in lives.

"My answer is", wrote the author, "go fishing."

There is a scientific reason why fishing relieves stress, he continued. He wrote of his study of the psychology of daydreams and fantasies and the ways in which one's imagination

can be put to practical use. He noted how often people who are learning to relax mentally picture scenes of nature and peaceful lakeside or oceanside settings. The calming effects of being near water were evident again and again in his clinical and experimental studies.

Scientists have fitted subjects with electro-physiological instruments to measure changes in muscle tension on the forehead. They have learned that when subjects imagine situations involving pressure or fear, the frontalis muscles tighten. As soon as they shift to imagining scenes on a quiet lake as the warm sun emerges from the clouds, the needle on the dial drops sharply as tension is reduced.

I never finished that cup of coffee. It grew cold on the dock as I hurried back to the cabin, fetched my fishing rod and slice of bread and pulled up a chair next to the old guy.

HGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Minden, Doyline make playoffs

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

The Minden Crimson Tide and Doyline Panthers have qualified for the LHSAA playoffs.

According to Geaux-Preps.com, Minden (14-8) is No. 14 in the non-select Division II power ratings, and Doyline (23-3) is No. 5 in non-select Division V.

In the non-select divisions, the No. 5-16 teams in the final official ratings host first-round games.

The official pairings were scheduled to be released by the LHSAA on Monday. Most first-round games will be Friday.

Minden is in the playoffs for the first time since 2016. The Crimson Tide last played a home game in the first round in 2011. That was also their last playoff victory.

Minden came close to earning a share of the District 1-4A championship last week.

The Tide fell to Woodlawn 60-58 at Minden in the regular-season finale.

Minden finished 4-3 in the district. Bossier, Huntington and Evangel Christian all finished tied for first at 5-2.

Cameron Parker and Carmelo Smith led the Tide with 12 points each.

Darnell Morris scored 10. Kameron Harris and Maurice Rabb had eight each.

Woodlawn scored on a follow underneath the basket with 23 seconds left to take the 60-58 lead.

The Tide had a couple of chances to tie or take the lead but the shots wouldn't fall.

Doyline routed Georgetown 85-46 at home in its final regular-season game.

Cayden Mingo knocked down nine 3-pointers and led the Panthers with 35 points. He hit six in the second half, including four in the third quarter.

Damarion McLendon scored 16 points. Keidric Clark added 13 and Jay Patterson 11.

Broox Swain chipped in seven.

Doyline reached the quarterfinals last season. The Panthers are back in the playoffs despite losing star Javaria "Juicy" Clark, who averaged 37.5 points, to graduation.

The Panthers reached the quarterfinals last year.

HGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

North Webster wins first playoff game in school history

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

North Webster made school history by making the playoffs for the first time.

Last week, the No. 16 seed Lady Knights made more history by winning their first playoff game.

The Lady Knights defeated No. 17 St. Helena 49-38 in the first round of the non-select Division III playoffs in Springhill.

North Webster (12-8) was scheduled to play No. 1 seed and defending state champion Rosepine in the second round Monday.

Elsewhere, No. 18 seed Minden fell to No. 15 Leesville 65-48 in a non-select Division II first-round

game at Leesville.

In a select Division IV first-round game, No. 21 Glenbrook lost to No. 12 St. John 47-27 in Plaquemine.

At North Webster, Aniyah Davis had a double-double with 28 points and 17 rebounds. She also had eight blocks and four assists.

Bree Lyons had seven points and three rebounds. Amiyah White had six points and five rebounds.

At Leesville, Minden closed its first season under Head Coach Cindee Wright-Clark 13-12.

At St. John, Glenbrook closed its first season under Head Coach Valerie Ricord 4-13.



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

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



Aniyah Davis
North Webster, Sr.

Davis scored 28 points and grabbed 17 rebounds as North Webster won a girls playoff game for the first time in school history. The Lady Knights defeated St. Helena 49-38 in a non-select Division III first-round game.

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



Fishing Report

BLACK BAYOU – The water is rising and a few crappie are showing up around the trees on shiners and jigs. Bass have been fair on spinners and swim baits. Contact Honey Hole Tackle Shop 323-8707 for latest information.

BUSSEY BRAKE – Bass fishing is improving with some nice fish caught on spinners and jigs. Crappie are beginning to move to the flats and are fair on jigs and shiners. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole at 323-8707.

OUACHITA RIVER – Water is rising and muddy with too much current. Fishing is slow. A few catfish are being caught. For latest information, contact

the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE D'ARBONNE – The water is beginning to settle down some and the crappie are starting to move to staging areas in the mouth of the creeks. Jigs and shiners are picking up some nice fish. Bass are fair with best catches made deep on soft plastic as they too are starting to set up in staging areas preparing to move in to spawn. 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 is rising. Some crappie are still deep with best fishing just out from the

dam on shiners or jigs but they're starting to move to the mouth of creeks preparing to move in to spawn before long. Bass are fair with secondary points producing some fish with soft plastics and jigs picking up some. For latest information, call Kel's Cove at 927-2264 or Terzia Tackle at 278-4498.

CANEY LAKE – Some nice sized bass are being caught as they are beginning to move from deeper water to staging areas. Soft plastics and jigs are picking up some good fish. Crappie have been best around the deeper tops on shiners or jigs and they are starting to move to the mouth of the creeks setting up for the spawn as soon as water tempera-

tures start to warm. 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 has improved in deeper water around the trees on shiners and jigs. Catfishing is fair to good. No report on bass. For latest reports, call Poverty Point Marina at 318/878-0101.

LAKE YUCATAN – After being so low for weeks, the river is rising pretty fast. A good many buffalo and catfish are being taken in nets this week. For information, call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.

Good News

GOOD NEWS

When our son was young, he used to think I ‘ran the church’ because I had a large ring of keys. I tried to tell him, having all these keys just means “I need to be the first one to arrive and be last to leave” the church, making sure all doors were unlocked and then locked (and the lights turned off). Praise the Lord when the church ‘discovered’ master keys. This meant one key would unlock most of the doors around the church. (Do you know how much a dozen keys weigh)?

The Bible teaches there is a

Master Key to heaven – Jesus Christ. He, Himself, spoke these words: “I am the Way, the Truth and the Life; no one comes to the Father except through Me!” (John 14).

Think how confusing it would be if there were many keys that would open heaven’s door – as some people suggest. And if just one of those keys were stolen....! Wow!



Bill Crider

The Master Key

But the Bible clearly states there is ‘only one way’ to get into heaven; Not through Buddha, Confucius, Mohammed, or any other suggested pathways! Jesus is the only One whom history teaches was “raised from the grave” (John 11:25) and was seen by hundreds of witnesses after the resurrection (John 20:30-31). No other teacher has the “words of life” to shelter us from the storms that come, to soothe the weary soul, or to bring hope in the midst of despair and salvation to a lost beggar!

We are saved by God’s grace through faith in His Son, Jesus Christ. It is through this faith we are called to be effective disciples. Luke 9: 23-24: Jesus said: “If anyone wants to be my disciple, he must deny himself, take up his cross daily, and follow Me.” We learn to follow Jesus by obeying God’s will. If we do not obey the voice of the Lord, but rebel against His commands, then the hand of the Lord will be against us.

Billy Graham writes: If you want God to hear your prayers, surrender your selfishness and

stubbornness to Him, and then humbly seek His will. Yes, obedience is the Master Key to effective prayer” (Hope for Each Day, page 55). Jesus challenged His disciples before He ascended into Heaven with these words: “As you go into the world, be my disciples...and remember, I am always with you, even to the end of time.” (Matt. 18:28-30). Be sure the Obedience Key is on your key ring as you serve the Lord daily.

BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER

THE UPWARD LOOK

Significant Places: Great White Throne

“Then I saw a great white throne and Him who sat upon it . . . And I saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne . . . and another book was opened, which is the book of life;” Revelation 20:11-12 NASB



Max Hutto

Jesus will return. Though there are many questions concerning His second coming and many of the specific details of His second coming remain hidden, Jesus will come again and will come as Judge. The books and the book of life will be opened and all peo-

ple will be judged. Those whose names are not found in the book of life will face an eternity of punishment in the lake of fire (Revelation 20:11-15).

Lord Jesus, I will stand before Your throne, knowing that my name is in the book of life solely because of Your grace through my faith in You as my Savior and Lord.

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

INSPIRATION

Strengthening the future

Proverbs 22:6 says “ Direct your children onto the right path, and when they are older, they will not leave it.” This poses a very important question for many of us as Christians and parents. In this time of extreme difficulty are we talking to our children about God? Many of us have become stay at home parents and also teachers. We have also seen the church move into the household and social media. This situation has given us a unique opportunity to make God part of our children’s everyday curriculum. We live in a world that is constantly changing and wrapped in uncertainty. How-




Bernard Harris

ever, one thing we can be certain of is God and his love. We need to reinforce this point in our children’s lives as often as we can. That’s why in closing this article I would like to challenge everyone to take just a moment out of their day to pray with their kids and study the word of God.

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

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

Classified Rates

Pricing is easy!

\$7.75

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

Garage Sales

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\$11

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

* Garage Sale ads must be prepaid.

Deadlines

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Line ads and display ads must be submitted by noon two days before publication.

Public Notices

Public notices must be submitted two days prior to publication date depending on the length. Notices may be emailed to classifieds@press-herald.com

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

SECTION 00020 ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Separate sealed bids addressed to the City of Minden (herein referred to as Owner) will be received by the Owner for the construction of the project described as follows:

2024 STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Bids shall be addressed to the City of Minden and delivered to the City Clerk's Office located at 520 Broadway Street, Minden, Louisiana 71055 no later than 10:00 A.M. local time on Monday, March 4, 2024. Shortly after the deadline for bid submission, bids properly received will be publicly opened and read aloud in Minden City Hall Pelican Room located at 520 Broadway Street, Minden, Louisiana. Any bid received after the above time will not be accepted under any circumstances and will be returned unopened. Faxed bids cannot be accepted and will be discarded. Owner is not responsible for the timely delivery of bids by USPS or any other carrier.

The Contract Documents may be examined at the following locations:

City of Minden
Department of Public Works
520 Broadway
Minden, LA 71055

Riley Company of Louisiana, Inc.
112 East Mississippi Avenue
Ruston, LA 71270

Copies of the Contract Documents may be obtained at the office of the engineer, Riley Company of Louisiana, Inc., 112 East Mississippi Avenue, Ruston, Louisiana 71270, telephone (318) 251-0238, fax (318) 251-0239 upon payment of \$60.00 for each set. Deposit is fully refundable to all bona fide prime bidders who submit a bid upon return of the documents in good condition no later than ten (10) days after receipt of bids. Deposit is 50% refundable to all others.

Contract documents will also be available online at www.BidExpress.com. Contractors are provided the option to submit bid for public contracts through a uniform and secure electronic interactive system as stated in Louisiana Bid Law R.S. 38:2212.1. Electronic bids may be submitted at www.BidExpress.com. If bidding online, all interested parties must register with Bid Express. If bidders encounter problems accessing Bid Express, please contact Bid Express at 888-352-2439.

The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities or to reject any or all bids in accordance with state bid law.

Prime bidders for this work must be licensed under the classification of Highway, Street, and Bridge Construction. Any subcontractor submitting a sub-bid in excess of \$50,000 to a prime bidder is required to be licensed in accordance with the State of Louisiana requirements.

An acceptable Bid Bond, Cashier's Check, or Certified Check, payable to the Owner in an amount not less than 5% of the total and, must accompany the bid. Failure to do so will cause bid to be rejected. Negotiable Bid Bonds will be returned to the unsuccessful bidders as soon as possible or not more than 60 days after the opening of bids. Bidders failing to provide a bid bond will be considered a "no bid".

Bids shall be in a sealed envelope marked "DO NOT OPEN - SEALED BID - CITY OF MINDEN 2024 STREET IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT - BID NUMBER 02-2024 - ATTN: CITY CLERK." Bids shall include their full company name, address, and license number, as issued by the State of Louisiana Contractors Licensing Board, on the outside of the envelope containing said bid documents.

An acceptable Performance Bond and Payment Bond equal to 100% of the contract price will be required of the successful bidder.

No bidder may withdraw his/her bid within forty-five (45) days after the actual date of the opening thereof.

Bidders will also be in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations of the Federal Government, State of Louisiana, and meet all bonding and insurance requirements.

Melaney Langford,
City Clerk

**Bid Number 02-2024
To be advertised:**

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

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that, in accordance with L.R.S. 3:1609 and LAC 7:XV.314 (A), the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry, Louisiana Boll Weevil Eradication Program, has established a boll weevil eradication zone, the Louisiana Eradication Zone, consisting of all the territory within the state of Louisiana.

Notice is further given that all producers of commercial cotton in Louisiana are required to participate in the boll weevil eradication program, including cost sharing, in accordance with the Boll Weevil Eradication Law and regulations. This includes, but is not limited to, reporting of cotton acreage and destruction of cotton plants and stalks by December 31 of each crop year. A copy of the law and rules and regulations may be obtained from the Boll Weevil Eradication Commission, 5825 Florida Blvd., Ste. 3002, Baton Rouge, La. 70806, telephone number (225) 922-1338.

Notice is also given that the planting of noncommercial cotton is PROHIBITED in Louisiana unless a written waiver is obtained from the Commissioner of Agriculture & Forestry in accordance with LAC 7:XV.319(C). To request a waiver, submit a written application to the Department of Agriculture and Forestry, at the address provided in this notice, stating the conditions under which such written waiver is requested.

**February 14, 2024
February 21, 2024
February 28, 2024
Minden Press Herald**

As of February 6, 2024, the Webster Parish Police Jury has amended Webster Parish Building Code Ordinance#982 to ensure the safety and protection of all citizens. The changes are:

- Section 5 PERMIT EXEMPTIONS
Electrical: A permit shall not be required for minor repair work, including the replacement of lamps, the repairing flush, and snap switches, replacing fuses, changing lamp sockets and receptacles, taping bare joints, and repairing drop cords or the connection of approved portable electrical equipment to approved permanently installed receptacles.

- Section 5 PERMITS

Application for permit All new construction and additions/renovations permits will require the plumbing, electrical, and mechanical contractors to purchase a separate permit for the proposed work. Each trade permit will cost \$50.00 per job/location. The applicant shall first file an application for a permit with the Webster Parish Building Department by the person, or his designee, proposing to perform the work. Such application shall describe the work to be performed; the premises on or in which such work will be performed; the electrical, plumbing, or mechanical contractor who will perform the work; and such additional information as may be required by The Webster Parish Building Department. When issued, the permit shall not be transferable from one electrical contractor to another, and if the owner of the premises desires to have another electrical contractor perform the work, a new permit application shall be filed as if the original permit for the work had never been issued.

- Section 12 VIOLATIONS
Penalties: Any person who violates a provision of the code or fails to comply with any of the requirements thereof will be penalized \$300 first offense, \$700.00 second offense, and \$1,200.00 third offense. After the third offense, the violator will be restricted from obtaining a permit in Webster Parish for one year.

BE IT ORDAINED that this ordinance and amendments will supersede all prior resolutions or ordinances of the Webster Parish Police Jury, which are in conflict. **THUS DONE, CONSIDERED AND ADOPTED** by the Police Jury voted on this day
February 6, 2024.

**February 14, 2024
February 28, 2024
March 6, 2024
Minden Press Herald**

TNT Storage, LLC, owner of Dorchest Storage, (318-377-9733) located at 1002 Dorchest Rd., Minden, LA, will have one 10 x 10 unit to auction on www.StorageAuctions.com starting on 2/21/24 at 10:00 am and ending on 3/7/24 at 10:00 am. Dorchest - #18 Nicholas Steiner - small refrigerator, high chair, car seat, vacuum, bag chairs, mattresses, misc. items

**February 21, 2024
Minden Press Herald**

TNT Storage, LLC, owner of Sibley Self Storage, (318-377-9733) located at 5578 Hwy 164, Sibley, LA, will have one 5 x 10 units to auction on www.StorageAuctions.com starting on 2/21/24 at 10:00 am and ending on 3/7/24 at 10:00 am. Sibley Self Storage #18 Glenda Stone - fishing poles, electric scooter, toys, potty chair, sewing box, mirror, lots of boxes.

**February 21, 2024
Minden Press Herald**

TNT Storage, LLC, owner of Hilltop Storage - Homer Rd., (318-377-9733) located at 1109 Homer Rd., Minden, LA, will have one 10 x 12 unit and one 10 x 15 unit to auction on www.StorageAuctions.com starting on 2/21/24 at 10:00 am and ending on 3/7/24 at 10:00 am. Hilltop Storage - Homer Rd. #128 Delores Crow - stroller, car seat, stove, fridge, table, dolly, misc. items.: #209 Kissy Allums - TV, chaise lounge, couch, love seat, Christmas deco, entertainment center, speakers, stereo

**February 21, 2024
Minden Press Herald**

**MINUTES
JANUARY 5, 2024
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 Steve Bridwell. Roll was taken 3 present 0 absent.

Motion was made by Steven Bridwell, seconded by Rachael Muniz to amend the Agenda to include the discussion regarding a new Ordinance pertaining to the use of contractor vehicles during the hours of sunset and sunrise. Motion carried.

by Rachael Muniz, seconded by Jackie Daniels to approve the December 2023 minutes as offered. Motion carried. Motion was made by Jackie Daniels, seconded by Rachael Muniz to approve the December Financials as offered, motion carried. Motion was made by Steven Bridwell, seconded by Rachael Muniz to approve a blanket resolution authorizing the Mayor to make requests to the WPPJ on behalf of the citizens of the Village of Doyleine, motion carried. Motion was made by Steven Bridwell, seconded by Jackie Daniels to request the WPPJ to grade on Agape Lane, Doyleine, motion carried. Quotes for a new/used barn-shed were held, no vote was taken. The Mayor and clerk advised the Council that while there had been some maintenance issues, nothing unusual for this time of year, all had been handled. Chief Hayden reporting a rise in online scams in our area and asked the Council to remind the people of Doyleine to use caution when using the internet; i.e. persons calling and requesting money, prepaid cards, even romantic requests. Chief Hayden reported that the Police department is in need of 2 new vests. The council indicate that he should purchase the vests immediately. Motion was made by Steven Bridwell, seconded by Jackie Daniels to adjourn, motion carried.

**February 21, 2024
Minden Press Herald**

Anyone knowing the whereabouts of any heirs of Delmer Lewis Vaughan, please contact Cody A. Boyd, Attorney at law, at 199 Burt Blvd, Benton, Louisiana 71006, or (318) 990-2693.

**February 21, 2024
Minden Press Herald**

**MINUTES OF THE
REGULAR MEETING
WEBSTER PARISH
POLICE JURY
February 6, 2024**

MEMBERS PRESENT:
Jim Bonsall, President; Steve Ramsey, Vice President; Beverly Kennon, Mike Griffith, Steve Lemmons, LaTanya Grigsby, Allen Gilbert, Bruce Blanton, Nancy Hines, Randy Thomas and Adam Lee
Absent: Daniel Thomas

Mr. Jim Bonsall called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Steve Lemmons to open the meeting with prayer. Mr. Mike Griffith led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Jim Bonsall then asked for additions to the agenda.

There were no comments from the audience concerning the agenda.

Mr. Randy Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Mike Griffith to approve invoices for payment pending review by juror Randy Thomas. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Nancy Hines moved, seconded by Ms. LaTanya Grigsby to adopt the minutes of the January 8, 2024 Regular Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Allen Gilbert moved, seconded by Mr. Bruce Blanton to approve Recreation Funding for District 2 to purchase window blinds for the Cullen Senior Center, \$250.00. Motion carried unanimously. .

COMMENTS:
Savannah Jones WP Library Director
Jason Parker WP Sheriff
Col. Carl Thompson Denise Edwards/Assessor
Shakera Williams LSU Ag/Extension Service
Brian Williams OHSEP Director
Jessica Gorman Parish Historian

Mr. Steve Ramsey moved, seconded by Mr. Steve Lemmons to approve the action taken at the Road Committee Meeting held earlier today. Motion carried unanimously.
Ms. Beverly Kennon moved, seconded by Mr. Bruce Blanton to approve the action taken at the Finance Committee Meeting held earlier today. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jim Bonsall then gave Presidents' closing remarks. There being no further business to bring before the Jury, the meeting adjourned.

/s/
Lisa C. Balkom
Secretary-Treasurer

/s/
Jim Bonsall
President

**February 21, 2024
Minden Press Herald**

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

507 Main Street
Minden, LA 71055
LA Fogata Steakhouse LLC

D/B/A LA Fogata Steakhouse
Owner: Kassandra Violedi Yepes

**February 21, 2024
February 28, 2024
Minden Press Herald**

SHERIFF'S SALE

**LAKEVIEW LOAN
SERVICING, LLC
VS.
PATRICK ANDREW
KING AND RACHEL
KING, A/K/A RA-
CHEL ELIZABETH
MILLER KING, RA-
CHEL ELIZABETH
MILLER, RACHEL
ELIZABETH KING**

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. CV80496

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-OUT the benefit of appraisal and according to law at the principal front door of the Court-house in the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana on WEDNESDAY, March 27, 2024 During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

A 1.83 acre, more or less, tract of land located in the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NW/4 of SE/4) and the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (SW/4 of SE/4), all in Section 4, Township 20 North, Range 9 West, Webster Parish, Louisiana, more particularly described as follows:

Begin at an existing 3/4 inch iron pipe at the Southeast corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (SE/c of NW/4 of SE/4), also begin at the Northeast corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NE/c of SW/4 of SE/4), said Section 4 for the Point of Beginning and run South 195.14 feet to an existing 1/2 inch iron rod on the apparent North right-of-way of Blue Run Road; thence run North 83 degrees 18 minutes 22 seconds West 196.65 feet along said apparent right-of-way to a set 5/8 inch iron rod; thence run North 3 degrees 06 minutes 05 seconds West 381.12 feet to an existing 2 inch iron pipe at a cross-tie fence corner; thence run North 89 degrees 51 minutes 28 seconds East 209.39 feet to an existing 2 inch iron pipe at a cross-tie fence corner; thence run south 1 degree 47 minutes 31 seconds East 208.96 feet to the Point of Beginning, as per Plat prepared by Paul W. Culppepper, Registered Land Surveyor, dated March 10, 2010, Drawing #10-047C, together with all buildings and improvements located thereon, having a municipal address of 1162 Blue Run Road, Minden, Louisiana 71055, formerly and historically described as:

One acre in the Southeast corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (SE/c of NW/4 of SE/4) of Section 4, Township 20 North, Range 9 West, Webster Parish, Louisiana, and one acre in the Northeast corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Southeast Quarter (NE/e of SW/4 of SE/4) of Section 4, Township 20 North, Range 9 West, Webster Parish, Louisiana, together with all improvements thereon and all rights thereunto belonging, being the property acquired

by W.A. Smith from the Webster Parish School Board by Deed recorded in Volume 256, Page 311, Conveyance Records of Webster Parish, Louisiana, and acquired by Lionel & Lou Myles from W.A. Smith and Sallie Roberts Smith by Deed recorded April 10, 1984 recorded in Volume 609, Page 718, Conveyance Records of Webster Parish, Louisiana (Assessment #104847).

Which has the address of 1162 Blue Run Road, Minden, LA 71055

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

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

Linda Vaughan - Deputy

**February 21, 2024
March 20, 2024
Minden Press Herald**

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-OUT the benefit of appraisal and according to law at the principal front door of the Court-house in the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana on WEDNESDAY, February 28, 2024 During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

Begin at the Southwest corner of the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (SW/C of NW/4 of NE/4), of Section 13, Township 23 North, Range 11 West, Webster Parish, Louisiana; thence run North 210 feet to the point of beginning; thence run North 65 feet; thence East 160 feet; thence South 65 feet; thence West 160 feet to the point of beginning. Springhill, Webster Parish, Louisiana.

Subject to restrictions, reservations, easements, covenants, oil, gas or mineral rights of record, if any.

Which has the address of 1004 8th Street Southeast, Springhill, LA 71075

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

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

Linda Vaughan - Deputy

**January 24, 2024
February 21, 2024
Minden Press Herald**

SHERIFF'S SALE

**FIRST TOWER
LOAN, LLC, D/B/A
TOWER LOAN OF
BOSSIER CITY
VS.
GEORGIA M. HUD-
SON, DECEASED**

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 81139

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-OUT the benefit of appraisal and according to law at the principal front door of the Court-house in the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana on WEDNESDAY, March 27, 2024 During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

THAT CERTAIN PIECE OR PORTIONS OF GROUND, together with all of the buildings and improvements, and all the rights ways privileges, servitudes, appurtenances and advantages thereunto belonging or in anywise appertaining.

Begin at the Northwest corner of the Southeast Quarter of Southeast Quarter, Section 24, Township 23 North, Range 11 West, Webster Parish, Louisiana, thence run South 15 feet; thence run East 171.2 feet to the point of beginning of the property herein described; thence continue East 50 feet; thence run South 100 feet; thence run West 50 feet; thence run North 100 feet to the point of beginning, together with all improvements located thereon and right thereto beginning.

PROPERTY LOCATION: 203 Williams Street, Cullen, LA

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

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

Linda Vaughan - Deputy

**February 21, 2024
March 20, 2024
Minden Press Herald**

SHERIFF'S SALE

**REGIONS BANK
DBA REGIONS
MORTGAGE
VS.
THE UNOPENED
SUCCESSION
OF DELMER
LEWIS VAUGHAN
A/K/A DELMAR L.
VAUGHAN**

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 80241

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February 12, 2024

The Sibley Town Council met in regular session on Monday, February 12, 2024 at 6pm at Sibley Town Hall.

Members present were Mayor Robert Smart, Aldermen: Wayne Bolton, Helen Chanler, Richard Davis and Alan Myers.

Mayor Smart opened the meeting in prayer; then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Alan Myers motioned to accept the minutes to the January 8, 2024 Regular Meeting as read, Richard Davis seconded. Motion carried.

Richard Davis motioned to accept the minutes to the January 29, 2024 Special Meeting as read, Helen Chanler seconded. Motion carried.

There were no New Items and No Public Comments.

Alan Myers motioned to adopt Resolution No. 02-2024 authorizing the removal of Jimmy Williams and the addition of Robert Smart to Gibsland Bank & Trust, Edward Jones & Co. and Louisiana Asset Management Pool. Wayne Bolton seconded. Motion carried

Wayne Bolton motioned to adopt Resolution No. 03-2024 declaring a 2010 Dodge Charger and a 2010 Chevrolet Tahoe as surplus property and assigning to LPS Municipal Surplus Property Program to be auctioned. Helen Chanler seconded. Motion carried.

Alan Myers motioned to appoint Keith Merritt to complete the unexpired term of alderman, left by Robert Smart. Richard Davis seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Alan Myers motioned to ratify the mayors appointment of Richard Davis for Mayor Pro-Tempore, Helen Chanler seconded.

YEA: 3 – Wayne Bolton, Helen Chanler, Alan Myers NAY: 0 BSTAIN: 1 – Richard Davis Motion carried.

Wayne Bolton motioned to accept the Employee Handbook Amendment recommended by Mayor Smart. Richard Davis seconded. Motion carried.

Assistant Fire Chief Richard Davis gave the January 2024 activity report for the Sibley Volunteer Fire Department.

Assistant Police Chief Clint Meshell gave the January 2024 activity report for the Sibley Police Department.

Alan Myers motioned to adjourn, Richard Davis seconded. Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned.

Attest:

Robert Smart Mayor
Sherry McCann Town Clerk
February 21, 2024
Minden Press Herald

Ever dreamed of becoming a Master Gardener? Now is your chance. The LSU AgCenter is accepting applications for the next Piney Hills Louisiana Master Gardeners class, scheduled for June through September. Membership is open to all adults in Northwest Louisiana. **Master Gardeners are the volunteer arm of the LSU AgCenter.** They are trained in horticulture in exchange for 40 hours of volunteer service, sharing what they have learned with other gardeners.

Volunteer opportunities include organizing and staffing the annual garden tour, annual seminar, along with the spring Plant Sale, teaching children about gardening, creating, and maintaining demonstration gardens and assisting in local parish extension offices.

So, what will you learn? Topics include insects, plant health, vegetables, fruits, turf, ornamentals and more. Classes, both lecture and hands-on, are taught by Louisiana Cooperative Extension specialists, university professors and other horticulture experts.

Classes will be held from **6 p.m. to 9 p.m. every Thursday for 11 weeks, starting June 18, 2024.** Attendance at all classes is required for certification. There is a \$165 registration fee, which covers the cost of training manuals, publications and supplies for the class. If you register by April 27, 2024, you will receive a \$25 discount. Class size is limited, and the registration deadline is May 27, 2024.

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