



# MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 28, 2024

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## ACCIDENT

### Juvenile pedestrian killed in single-vehicle Bienville Parish crash

**Ringgold** – On Saturday, February 24, 2024, shortly after 11:30 a.m., Troopers from Louisiana State Police Troop G began investigating a single-vehicle fatality crash involving a pedestrian in the 1300 block of School Street. This crash claimed the life of 7-year-old Kai-den Coke of Ringgold. The preliminary investigation revealed that a 2011 Dodge Ram was backed into a parking

space in a private parking lot and occupied by a driver. At the same time, Coke, who was playing with a ball, was inside the same private parking lot. For reasons still under investigation, Coke lost his ball, which rolled under the Ram. As Coke went to retrieve the ball, the driver, who was unaware that Coke had crawled under the Ram, pulled out of the parking space. As a result, Coke was struck by the

Ram. Coke was pronounced deceased at the scene by the Bienville Parish Coroner's Office. The driver of the Dodge was not injured. Although impairment is not suspected, routine toxicology samples were collected and will be submitted for analysis. This crash remains under investigation. As our Troopers work to ensure the safety of our roadways, investigating

fatal crashes remains a top priority. Dealing with the aftermath of a fatal crash is always challenging, particularly when children are involved. While each crash is unique, there are essential safety measures that can greatly reduce the risk of tragic crashes as we head into warmer weather. It is crucial to educate children on the importance of never playing near or around cars and

trucks. Always make it a habit to walk around your vehicle and thoroughly check the surrounding area before reversing. Avoid solely relying on detection devices, as they may not always be foolproof. Encourage your children to stand to the side of the driveway or sidewalk so they are clearly visible to you when backing out. Furthermore, when driving through residential areas,

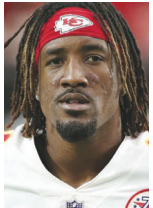
it is imperative to be extra cautious and attentive. Keep a watchful eye out for children, reduce your speed, and remain vigilant at all times. By following these safety tips, we can all play a role in preventing tragic crashes and keeping our communities safe. In 2024, Troop G has investigated four fatal crashes, resulting in five deaths.

## COMMUNITY

### Minden plans celebration day for Super Bowl champion L'Jarius Sneed

**AMBER MCDOWN**  
Minden Press-Herald

The City of Minden is gearing up for a grand celebration honoring hometown hero L'Jarius Sneed, two-time Super Bowl champion with the Kansas City Chiefs. The event, titled "The Red & White 38-SNEED'EM Celebration Day," is scheduled for Saturday, March 2, 2024.



Event organizers are calling on the community to show their support by donning red and white attire. "Let's paint the city red!" exclaimed Randy Tims, one of the organizers.

The festivities will kick off with a parade in downtown Minden starting at 11 AM, followed by a lively celebration at the Minden Recreation Center Complex. The event promises music, games, and free food for children, along with appearances by special guests, including a former NFL Super Bowl champion defensive back.

Organizers are seeking donations of any amount and any kind, including chips, snacks, water, hotdogs, buns, napkins, plates, sodas, popcorn, and toy gift items. Volunteers are also needed to help with the event. Randy Tims or Michael Walker can be contacted for donations or to volunteer. Tims emphasized, "Every single dollar we collect will go toward this event." This celebration marks a proud moment for Minden as they honor one of their own who has achieved great success on football's biggest stage.

## MFD

### Minden Fire Department takes a dive



WILL PHILLIPS/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

The Minden Fire Department's dive team underwent training this past weekend practicing scenarios that could arise in future aquatic-based emergencies.

**WILL PHILLIPS**  
Minden Press-Herald

For emergency responders, preparation is key. This past weekend, the Minden Fire Department's dive team put to the test training they had received over the past few months through running some

practice scenarios. Along with the training, a grant facilitated through Claiborne Electric allowed the Fire Department to purchase a new diving trailer. This asset has proven invaluable in enhancing their capabilities and enabling them to undergo their training sessions.

Chief Brian Williams of the Minden Fire Department expressed his enthusiasm about the team's progress, stating, "Since last year, they have been getting their dive certifications. Now that they're all finished with their train-

See, **SCUBA**, Page 3

## CRIME

### Three arrested for role in church fire insurance fraud scheme

**AMBER MCDOWN**  
Minden Press-Herald

Three Mississippi residents have been arrested for their involvement in an insurance fraud scheme related to a fire at an abandoned church. Cynthia Pearson, 66, and Ricky Pearson, 65, both from Jackson, Mississippi, were arrested on Friday, February 16, 2024. Shawn Burton, 52, also from Jackson, was previously arrested in August 2023. All three were booked into the Bayou Dorcheat Correctional Center. The church, located in the 500 block of Constable Street, had been vacant for several months

and did not have working utilities. In April 2023, the Minden Fire Department responded to the blaze. Due to a number of suspicious circumstances, the Louisiana State Fire Marshal's (SFM) office was called in to investigate. After a thorough investigation, SFM deputies, along with agents from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), concluded that the fire was intentionally set. Shawn Burton was identified as a suspect and arrested in August. Further investigation led to the arrest of Cynthia and Ricky Pearson, who own the church.

See, **FRAUD**, Page 3



AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

Three Mississippi residents have been arrested for arson and criminal conspiracy following an investigation into a fire at an abandoned church in 2023.

### Caney Puzzler Adventure Race set to thrill in Minden

**AMBER MCDOWN**  
Minden Press-Herald

Visit Webster Parish and Too Cool Adventure Racing are pleased to announce the Caney Puzzler Adventure Race, an exhilarating event to be held against the picturesque backdrop of Caney Lake in Minden, Louisiana, on March 2, 2024. This unique race invites adventure racing enthusiasts and outdoor enthusiasts to immerse themselves in a chal-

lenging blend of physical tests and mental puzzles, promising an extraordinary experience. Adventure racing is a demanding multisport endurance race that typically involves activities such as trail running, mountain biking, kayaking, and navigation. What distinguishes adventure racing is its emphasis on teamwork, strategy, and problem-



GRAY

solving. Participants must navigate a challenging course, surmounting natural obstacles and completing various tasks, making it a true test of both physical and mental endurance. The Caney Puzzler Adventure Race at Caney Lake will push participants to their limits, blending the natural beauty of the landscape with the excitement of adventure racing. Teams

will traverse diverse terrains, paddle across the tranquil lake, and solve mind-bending puzzles strategically placed throughout the course. Registration Details: Date: March 2, 2024 Location: 194 Caney Lake Park Rd. Minden, Louisiana Registration open through February 29, 2024 For more information and to register, please visit Too Cool Adventure Racing's website.

Serena Gray, Executive Director of Visit Webster Parish, expressed her enthusiasm for the upcoming adventure race, stating, "We are thrilled to partner with Keith Pitman and Too Cool Adventure Racing to host the Caney Puzzler Adventure Race at Caney Lake. This event perfectly embodies the spirit of Webster Parish, offering participants a unique blend of outdoor

See, **RACE**, Page 3



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# WEBSTER & MORE

BUSINESS

## Minden native opens scented candle company in Nashville

AMBER MCDOWN

Minden Press-Herald

Desiree Page, a Minden native, has recently launched Milton Candle Co. in Nashville, Tennessee, honoring her roots and childhood memories. The company's name pays tribute to Milton Drive, the street where Page grew up.

Page's love for candles, coupled with her nostalgia for her hometown, led her to create the scented candle line after her father, James McLaughlin, passed away. The "Minden" candle, named after her hometown, features

a blend of vanilla, leather, and birch, evoking a warm and cozy atmosphere with bright high notes. "I set out to find something that made me feel at home," she said.

"I love where I grew up; I love Minden. I loved my hometown, the street where I grew up, my neighbors," expressed Page, highlighting her deep connection to her roots. She fondly recalled that her childhood address on Milton Drive was the first thing she memorized.

Despite living in Nashville with her fiancée, a songwriter, Page remains

connected to Minden, returning every year. Her long-term goal is to open a shop on Main Street in Minden, aiming to share the charm of her hometown with others. "I want everyone to experience Minden, truly," she said.

Page, who also manages artists, is considering approaching local retailers to carry her line. In the meantime, her candles are available online at MiltonCandle.com.

"Minden is home to me, and it was such a special place to grow up. I want to make my hometown proud," Page concluded.



WPL

## Webster Parish Libraries offer pysanky egg decorating classes

AMBER MCDOWN

Minden Press-Herald

As Easter approaches, Webster Parish Libraries are offering lessons in egg decorating using the pysanky style, a Ukrainian folk art dating back several thousand years.

Shelley Masog, library resource administrator and pysanky egg instructor explained the art's historical roots: "Historically, it was tied to pagan rituals but, with the coming of Christianity, it began to take on religious symbolism." Traditionally, it was exclusively done by women at Easter, but now many people create pysanky eggs year-round. The word "pysanky" is derived from the Ukrainian verb pysaty, which means "to write."

Masog, who has been decorating eggs in the pysanky style for about 11

years, learned the method from her uncle in Minnesota. "Ever since I was a child, I was fascinated with it. About 11 years ago we were up there on vacation, and he showed me how to do my first egg, and I've been doing them ever since," said Masog. Legend has it that as long as people wrote pysanky, evil could never take over the world. Masog laughed, "And I thought, I need to share this process, and maybe more people will start writing eggs."

The pysanky method resembles a batik method. A tool called a "kistka" is used to apply hot wax to the shell of an egg, which is then placed in a series of dye baths. The wax prevents the dye from reaching the surface of the egg; multiple layers of wax and color may be applied to build the pattern, which

is then revealed when the wax is melted off at the end.

Masog will provide a traditional design for use in the class, with up to five colors used. This project will be completed by the end of the two-hour class. All supplies will be provided and, due to limited supplies, registration is required. Registration is currently open and is limited to eight people per class. These free classes will be held at three branches: Springhill on March 14 starting at 2 PM, Doyline on March 19 starting at 3:30 PM, and the Minden main branch on March 20 starting at 2 PM. Participants can register through the Webster Parish Libraries app, by contacting the branch manager, or by calling Shelley Masog at (318) 371-3080 ext. 142.



4-H

## LSU AgCenter hires K'Lanie Gordon as assistant 4-H agent for Webster Parish

AMBER MCDOWN

Minden Press-Herald

The LSU AgCenter has appointed K'Lanie Gordon as the new assistant 4-H agent for Webster Parish. A native of Webster Parish, Gordon brings a wealth of experience to her new role,



GORDON

having been involved in the 4-H program her entire life. She, along with her husband and three children, resides in Minden. Gordon is a 2011

graduate of Louisiana Tech University in Ruston.

As an assistant agent, Gordon will be responsible for a variety of tasks, including planning, developing, teaching, evaluating, and reporting on youth educational programs. She will also focus on delivering youth development programs that emphasize leadership, community service, and workforce

development. Additionally, Gordon will coordinate youth and volunteer involvement in 4-H programs and events, as well as build and lead a strong volunteer base.

Expressing her enthusiasm for her new role, Gordon stated, "I am very excited to begin my career with the LSU AgCenter and look forward to learning the ins and outs of the position." She added, "I am excited to be part of the Webster Parish 4-H family and am grateful for this opportunity."

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# WEBSTER & MORE

## OBITUARIES



### Patricia Walker

Graveside services for Patricia Walker were held Thursday, February 22, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at Fellowship cemetery in Dubberly, Louisiana under the direction of Rose Neath Funeral Home in Minden, Louisiana. Officiating was Bro. David Farmer.

Patricia was born January 20, 1964, in Shreveport, Louisiana and entered into rest February 14, 2024, in Bossier City, Louisiana. Patricia was a member of the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Minden. She had an avid love for hunting, fishing and most important was caring for her nieces and nephews.

Patricia was preceded in death by her father, Wallace Walker, Sr., paternal grandparents Walter D. and Ruby Walker, maternal grandparents Earl and Fannie Blackwell, and nephew Michael Gordon.

She is survived by her mother, Virginia Walker; sib-



### Pauline Sue Holtzclaw

Funeral services for Mrs. Pauline Sue Holtzclaw, age 86, of Cotton Valley, LA, were held at 2:00 pm, Saturday, February 24, 2024, at the First United Pentecostal Church, Cotton Valley, LA, with Rev. Kenneth DeHart and Rev. Josh DeHart, officiating. Interment followed in Cotton Valley Cemetery under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home, Springhill, LA.

Visitation was held on Saturday, February 24, 2024, from 10:00 am to 11:30 am at First United Pentecostal Church, Cotton Valley, LA.

Mrs. Holtzclaw was born on October 27, 1937, in Cotton Valley, LA, and passed away on Monday, February



### Virginia Walker

Virginia Walker were held Tuesday, February 27, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. at Rose Neath Funeral Home Chapel in Minden, Louisiana. Interment followed at Fellowship Cemetery in Dubberly, Louisiana. The family received friends Monday, February 26, 2024, from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. at Rose Neath Funeral Home in Minden, Louisiana.

Virginia was born November 17, 1945, in Coushatta, Louisiana and entered into rest February 23, 2024, in Minden, Louisiana. Virginia retired from the Webster Parish School Board where she worked in the cafeteria at Webster Junior High School. She loved cooking, gardening, canning, fishing and especially her I-Pad and telephone. Her greatest joy was her family.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Earl and Fannie Blackwell, husband, Wallace Walker, Sr., son,



### Emma Lou Whaley

Funeral services celebrating the life of Emma Lou Whaley will be held Wednesday, February 28, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. with visitation at 1:00 p.m. at Rose Neath Chapel in Minden, Louisiana with Bro. Richard Methvin officiating. Interment will follow at Gardens of Memory in Minden, Louisiana.

Emma Lou was born October 20, 1933, in Columbia County, Arkansas and went to be with her Savior Feb-

lings, Cindy Walker and Bill Bolt of Haughton, Ron Walker and Angie of Tennessee, Wallace Walker, Jr. and Victor Saldivor of California, Harriet Johnson (Sissy) and Billy of Gibsland, Paulette Walker and James Wilkerson of Texas, Sherrie Moore and Jimmy of Texas, Mary Walker (Jana) and Mike Dyson of Converse, and Larry Walker and Alissa of Texas; nieces and nephews, Jan-nie Merritt (Darrell), Beth Rivera (Ricky), Beth Walker Jones (Elizabeth), Seth (Madelyn), Sarah Johnson, Julia Smith (Brian) and Samantha Phillips, Gage Cross (Katelyn), Alyssa Puckett (Daniel), McKayla Lindsey, Dylan Shoalmire (Keiano), Robyn Shoalmire, Randi Shoalmire, and Kathleen (Kat) Taylor (Alan); numerous great nieces and nephews; aunt and uncle, Mary Sullivan and Bubba Vaughn, and special friends Carlos and Kathy Irizzary.

Pallbearers were Wallace Walker, Jr., Ron Walker, Larry Walker, Billy Johnson, Victor Saldivor, James Wilkerson, and Wayne Walker.

Honorary pallbearers were Bubba Vaughn. Leebo Sullivan, and Bill Bolt.

19, 2024, in Cotton Valley, LA.

She is survived by five daughters, Susie Mason, Desiree Anne Stephens, Maxine Charles and husband, Pete, Lora Adkins, and Marium Denise Holtzclaw; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren; daughter-in-law, Vannessa J. Veazy of Cotton Valley, LA; several nieces and nephews; and two sisters-in-law, Eddie Hammontree and Evelyn Hammontree.

Mrs. Holtzclaw was preceded in death by her husband, Fred Clark Holtzclaw, her son, Johnny Veazy, and her parents.

Pallbearers will be Brian Charles, Brandon Charles, John Leeper, Rick Frazier, Austin Charles, and Scooter Lewis.

The family would like to say a special thank you to Hand and Hand Hospice and Johnette White for their love and care for our mother. Your love and kindness are greatly appreciated.

Benjamin Chaffie King, daughter, Patricia Walker, great-grandson, Michael Gordon, granddaughter, Tiffany Nicole Walker, and sister, Lougena Sullivan.

She is survived by her children, Cindy Walker (Bill Bolt) of Haughton, Ron Walker and Angie of Tennessee, Wallace Walker, Jr. and Victor Saldivor of California, Harriet Johnson (Sissy) and Billy of Gibsland, Paulette Walker (James Wilkerson) of Texas, Sherrie Moore and Jimmy of Texas, Mary Walker (Jana) (Mike Dyson) of Converse, and Larry Walker and Alissa of Texas; grandchildren, Jannie Merritt (Darrell), Beth Rivera (Ricky), Beth Walker Jones and Elizabeth, Seth (Madelyn), Sarah Johnson, Julia Smith (Brian) and Samantha Phillips, Gage Cross (Katelyn), Alyssa Puckett (Daniel), McKayla Lindsey (Dillon), Dylan Shoalmire (Keiano), Robyn Shoalmire (Travis), Randi Mae Shoalmire, Kathleen (Kat) Taylor (Alan), Taylor Driscoll, Justin Driscoll, Ronnie Driscoll, and Landon Ward; numerous great grandchildren; and sister, Mary Sullivan (Bubba Vaughn).

ruary 25, 2024, in Bossier City, Louisiana. Emma Lou was a member of Eastside Missionary Baptist Church.

She was preceded in death by her parents James and Nora Talley, husband Joe Whaley, granddaughter, Denise Whaley, sisters, Zinna Dailey, Reuna Christian, and Alice Sullivan, and brother Thomas Earl Talley.

She is survived by her son Toby Whaley and wife Susan, daughter, Cindy Maranto and husband Donnie, grandchildren, Lori Whaley Stratton (Craig), Rachel Sitter (Shane), and Stacy Manor (Shawn), and great-grandchildren, Karli Sitter, Riley Sitter, James Stratton, Chase Manor, and Sydney Manor.

Pallbearers will be Shane Sitter, Craig Stratton, James Stratton, Shawn Manor, Chase Manor, and Riley Sitter.

## CRIME

# Two brothers arrested in Minden Walmart incident

**STAFF REPORT**  
Minden Press-Herald

Matthew Welbourne, 41, and Nathaniel Welbourne, 46, both of the 5000 block of Dixie Garden Drive in Shreveport, were arrested on the morning of February 22 following an incident at the Minden Walmart that alarmed bystanders.

Minden police responded to a call regarding the Welbournes' paranoid behavior, with the two men reportedly claiming that people were after them. The officers were informed that the individuals had armed themselves with a hatchet near the pharmacy.

Upon approaching the

subjects, officers noted erratic behavior and statements from both men regarding their belief that they were being pursued. The individuals were escorted out of the store to their vehicle for further questioning.

During the questioning, the Welbournes denied ingesting illegal drugs, taking medication, or consuming alcohol. In an effort to further investigate, a K9 unit was called to the scene.

K9 Tigo conducted an open-air sniff of the vehicle, alerting officers to a positive odor. Subsequent searches of the vehicle revealed several firearms, medication bottles with various pills, and a bag

containing a crystal-like substance that tested positive for methamphetamine.

"Inside the passenger door pocket, officers located a black plastic bag. Inside the bag were three (3) medication bottles (2 black 1 green). Inside the two black bottles were different types of pills, four (4) were for blood pressure, and one (1) was identified as Buprenorphine and Naloxone (oral/sublingual). On the black bottles, they had the name of Nathaniel Welbourne on the printed sticker on the side of it. Inside the green bottle was a clear plastic bag with a crystal-like substance later field tested positive for

Methamphetamine," the police report stated.

Matthew Welbourne was placed under arrest and read his Miranda Rights. Nathaniel Welbourne was also handcuffed and read his rights after a search of his personal belongings uncovered additional methamphetamine.

Both men are facing charges including possession of a schedule II substance, illegal carrying of weapons in the presence of a controlled dangerous substance, disturbing the peace, and possession of drug paraphernalia. Nathaniel Welbourne faces an additional charge of possession of a schedule III substance.



## Wills Successions

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## SCUBA

Continued from Page 1

ing, they're putting it to use with some scenarios today."

The team's dedication to honing their skills was evident as they engaged in various scenarios under the guidance of experienced instructors. Hank Ashley, a member of the dive team, highlighted the focus of their training, stating, "Today we are putting together some of the techniques we've learned over the last six months of doing public safety diving. We're going over different search patterns and different scenarios that we would encounter as first responders and public safety divers."

Ashley credited their readiness to that of SCUBA Ventures in Shreveport, where they received top-notch training. "We went through SCUBA Ventures out in Shreveport. They were the best of the best. We had a great

time with them. They've taken us from just being swimmers. They worked with us really well, and we really established a relationship there," Ashley remarked.

Despite their expertise, the team remains committed to growth and inclusivity. Ashley emphasized the importance of nurturing new talent, stating, "The members we have are great and they are excellent in everything they do, but they are further in age than some of the newer guys we have coming on, so we're trying to keep it alive."

As they navigated through challenging scenarios, the Minden Fire Department's dive team exemplifies dedication, skill, and a steadfast commitment to serving their community. Through ongoing training and collaboration, they stand ready to confront any aquatic emergency with confidence and expertise.

## FRAUD

Continued from Page 1

Both Pearsons were charged with arson with the intent to defraud as well as criminal conspiracy. Burton was charged with simple arson of a religious building, simple burglary, and criminal conspiracy.

The investigation is ongoing, and any-

one with information is urged to contact the SFM's Arson Hotline at 1-844-954-1221 or online at lasfm.org. Tips can be submitted anonymously.

The SFM extends thanks to the Mississippi State Fire Marshal's Office and the ATF for their assistance in the case.

## CRIME

# Dubberly man arrested for felony theft at Ace Hardware

**STAFF REPORT**  
Minden Press-Herald

Jeremy Shephard, 35, of Dubberly, was arrested for felony theft at Ace Hardware on the morning of February 23.

According to the police report, Shephard already had three active warrants for his arrest when the Minden police officer arrived at the scene.

"I was dispatched to the above location for a subject with active warrants. I made contact with Shephard in his vehicle sitting in the parking lot of Ace Hardware,"

the police report stated.

Shephard complied with requests for his information, and dispatch confirmed that he was the person they were seeking. Shephard was placed under arrest for those warrants and advised of his rights per Miranda.

"After further investigation, it was determined that Shephard also stole another piece of merchandise while he was in Ace Hardware just before I arrived. He was also placed under arrest for that theft as well."



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

Why Do Americans have a Constitutional Right to Assistance of Counsel and a Legal Defense?

I have been asked that question many times but have never addressed it in an article. The subtext of this question is usually something like this: "How do you represent people you think may actually have committed the crime?"

That's a great question and the short answer is that I never ask an individual I represent whether they committed a crime and most of them don't trust their attorney enough to admit it even if they did.

But that is a secondary point. What is important is that the presumption of innocence and other constitutional safeguards for the accused are what distinguishes our country and our Constitution from every other one in world history. It's really more about the rule of law and requiring the government to prove guilt before the awesome power of the state can be invoked to circumscribe an American citizen's freedom or even take his life, following due process.

Receiving "due process" of law means we are entitled to a presumption of innocence in every moment prior to a conviction. We have the right against self-incrimination—we don't have to testify at trial and the fact that we don't testify cannot be used against us as evidence

of guilt. We have the right to an attorney, the right to trial by jury and the right against Double Jeopardy—not being tried twice for the same alleged offense, and the right to confront witnesses against us through cross-examination.

The State also has the entire burden of proof. An accused person doesn't have to prove anything at trial. The State's burden of proof is the heavy legal burden of "proof beyond a reasonable doubt." The State also may not convict someone based upon an illegal search or seizure. Generally, if the police



ROYAL ALEXANDER

don't have a warrant signed by a neutral judge—that is based upon probable cause to believe the individual has committed a crime, allowing them to be in a place to discover the alleged criminal activity, that evidence can't be used in court.

The State also has a continuing legal and ethical obligation to turn over to me all exculpatory evidence (i.e. evidence which proves my client is not guilty) that

never goes away.

Why did the Framers of our Constitution feel so strongly that it was necessary to anchor these guarantees in our Constitution? Because they had suffered the very abuses they were now protecting against at the hands of King George and the British government, which eventually led to the Revolutionary War. Thomas Jefferson lists many of these abuses in the Declaration of Independence. So, in setting up our new government the Framers made very certain that such abuses could no longer be perpetrated.

So, when I defend someone, I present the very best legal arguments that may be available to my client. If I'm unsuccessful it means that a thoroughly vetted jury of 12 people have unanimously decided guilt. However, if I persuade even one juror that the State has not carried its burden of proving that my client is guilty, the result is a hung jury, and the state has to start over, and my client remains presumed innocent.

When the trial is finished and a jury returns a unanimous verdict of guilty, I know I have done my job, and the jury did its job. The system worked.

However, even when I lose, it is still critical that the trial was held and that my

client received a zealous defense through my challenging the State's evidence and cross-examining the State's witnesses. I have tested the obligation of the police to remain thorough and conscientious as they do their critically important jobs—like correctly providing Miranda warnings and preserving evidence with a verifiable chain of custody; requiring the DNA expert to be certain about their findings and requiring that the doctor who performed the autopsy be absolutely certain about their conclusion regarding the cause of death. I have forced the ballistics expert to be certain that this very bullet matched this very gun and have required that any lay witnesses be very certain about what they are testifying to against my client on the witness stand.

That is why I have a clear conscience and a sense of peace. I've done my job and protected all of our constitutional rights and have ensured that our criminal justice and judicial systems have worked as our Founders intended..

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

March is brain injury awareness month

For over thirty years the Brain Injury Association of America (BIAA) has led the nation in observing Brain Injury Awareness Month by conducting public awareness campaign in March of each year.

The theme for the campaign is Change Your Mind providing an awareness platform for educating the general public about the incidence of brain injury and the needs of people with brain injuries and their families and Individuals

I shall never forget when I first became aware of just how important it is that I share my story of my mother's tragic accident, when she lapsed into a coma at the age of two, while her parents were living in an underground dugout in Woods County, Oklahoma where their family was in the Land Rush of Oklahoma in 1908.

I was over-awed, after sharing my mother's story, at a Christian writer's conference in 2010. A young woman approached me and told me how grateful she was that I had told my story that day because her daughter had been in an automobile accident that caused her to be disabled

for life yet she was soon to become a new mother.

A year later I saw her again and she said that somehow it was working out with their family and the new grand baby.

It helps knowing someone else has experienced what you are going through.

Not long after that experience I was sitting in a doctor's waiting room next to a young woman. Being the perpetual story teller that I am, I began sharing my story about my mother's brain trauma.

I noticed she became speechless while I told my story.

After I finished she said "there's a reason you just told me that story. I am helping my sister-in-law, who was brain damaged in an auto accident to raise her teenage daughter."

She confirmed how important sharing my mother's story really



SARAH HUDSON PIERCE

is.

It took me a long time to find out what happened to my child-like mother but one thing I will always know she loved me so much and wanted to do better but didn't know how. I shall never forget her blinding tears when we went to an orphanage.

I would probably not be here today had it not been for my parent's neighbors matching them up after my maternal grandfather died leaving my thirty-nine year old mother with no family support system. My paternal grandmother also had just passed away leaving my already ill father with no one to care so it was an easy match.

But anyway my sister, Alice, and I came into this world in a most unusual setting and we both vividly remember the taunts and stares of other children because of our funny clothes and everything that goes with being poor.

Children can be cruel. I don't think anyone knew what had happened to mother but the school yard bullying hurt us both to the core.

Being a child is hard enough but standing out in a crowd

hurts.

What I am here to say is that what happens to someone else can just as easily happen to you. To think not is to be naive.

I recall one summer in the early 80's when three young people in this area had accidents that caused them to lapse into a coma resulting in permanent brain damage.

Sometimes just hearing someone else's story gives us the courage to go on. We should not be so afraid to reach out, to share where we came from.

After all "we are all angels flying with only one wing and we can only fly embracing each other."

Whatever happens to us can be a tool we can use to lift other's to their feet, out of depression and lead us to a brighter day.

Where will my story lead I do not know but one thing I know is that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever and He always gets me to the right place at the right time.

CONTACT SARAH AT SARAH9957@AOL.COM

KEEP THIS IN MIND

A Look Behind the Minden Press-Herald Website Woes

You might be wondering, "What's going on with the Minden Press-Herald website?" It's a fair question, given the recent challenges we've encountered. Let me fill you in on the backstory.

Shortly after Christmas, we convened a meeting to strategize the future of our digital presence: what's working, where we need to improve, and how we can better serve our community online. While our website has long been the go-to source for local news, we recognized the need to modernize and meet the evolving expectations of our readers.

Around the same time, we found ourselves grappling with a barrage of malicious

bot traffic inundating our website, along with others in our company, and overloading our servers. Every



DAVID SPECHT

Despite enlisting the help of our service provider's experts, the issue persisted, leaving us frustrated and perplexed. Turning to a third-party solution seemed

promising, but alas, their attempted fix only exacerbated the issue, resulting in a complete website outage. Back to square one it was, as we grappled with the reality that a sluggish website was better than none at all.

Enter Cloudflare, our latest third-party partner, who proposed rerouting our website traffic to fend off the bots. While this strategy showed some promise, it wasn't a foolproof solution. Thus, the implementation of a "human verification" step upon website access became our current workaround. Though effective in combating bot traffic, it hasn't come without its share of drawbacks, such as images and

link previews failing to reach our social media posts or email newsletters.

Our hope is to streamline this process in the near future, utilizing the verification step only when absolutely necessary. Moving forward, we're committed to enhancing our website with upgrades and more content than ever before. One notable addition is our news and sports submission forms, designed to facilitate easy contributions from our readers. In these challenging times, especially since the Covid pandemic, we recognize the importance of community engagement and pledge to handle your submissions with care and urgency.

While our commitment to providing a printed product remains steadfast, we acknowledge that our digital footprint is equally vital. Rest assured, we're more than just a newspaper – we're a multimedia platform dedicated to serving Minden and beyond. I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to you, our readers, for your patience and understanding as we navigate these challenges. Though we're not out of the woods yet, we're making significant strides, and your unwavering support means the world to us.

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 BOYS BASKETBALL

Tide top Leesville in first round of playoffs

RUSSELL HEDGES  
Minden Press-Herald

The Minden Crimson Tide advanced to the second round of the non-select Division II playoffs with a 65-54 victory over Leesville last week at home.

The victory was the Tide's first in the playoffs since 2011.

Minden (15-8), the No. 14 seed, was scheduled to travel to Monroe Tuesday to take on No. 3 Carroll in the second round. The Bulldogs (25-8) received a first-round bye.

Leesville, the No. 19 seed, closed its season 13-16.

The Tide have gotten contributions from many players all season. Thursday's game was no exception.

Five Minden players scored in double figures. Christian Lofton, Darnell Morris and Cameron Parker all scored 12.

Maurice Rabb and Kameron Harris had 10 each. Jekoye Knowles was one point short of joining his teammates in double figures with nine.

Minden led 13-9 after the first quarter.

Both teams picked up the pace offensively in the second. The Tide outscored the Wampus Cats 19-15 and took a 32-24 lead into the locker room.

Lofton scored eight in the second. Parker hit two 3-pointers. Knowles was 4-of-4 from the free throw line.

Minden scored 19 again in the third quarter and held Leesville to 11. The Tide led 51-35 going into the fourth.

Parker and Morris knocked down 3-pointers in the third. Rabb scored six points.

The Tide made 8-of-11 free throws in the final quarter.

Jeremiah Lee led Leesville with 20 points.



DOUGLAS BLOW/SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-HERALD  
Minden's Christian Lofton goes in for a layup during a 65-54 victory over Leesville in the first round of the non-select Division II playoffs.

HGH SCHOOL GIRLS SOCCER

Minden's Ryan Defensive MVP on All-District 1, Division II team

RUSSELL HEDGES  
Minden Press-Herald

Minden senior Kylie Ryan has been named the Defensive MVP on the All-District 1, Division II girls soccer team selected by the district's coaches.

Minden senior midfielder Cameron Smith was named to the first team. Sophomore defender Madison Kirby and senior midfielder Kaydree Kemp were named to the second team.

Minden's honorable mention selections were

sophomore NyKira Smith, sophomore Lindsay Ryan and junior Annabelle Toland.

Senior Audrey Jordan of district champion Caddo Magnet was named Overall MVP.

Magnet sophomore Isabella Baltov was named Offensive MVP. Minden senior Kylie Ryan was named Defensive MVP.

North DeSoto's Melanie Windham was named Freshman of the Year.

North DeSoto's Morgan Ersoff, was named Coach of the Year.

HGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Minden, Lakeside, North Webster off to good starts

RUSSELL HEDGES  
Minden Press-Herald

The Minden Crimson Tide, Lakeside Warriors and North Webster Knights all went undefeated in the first week of the season.

Minden opened the season with a 15-0 victory over Southwood. The Crimson Tide won three games in the Many tournament, defeating Bunkie 10-0, Sumner 9-8 and Zwolle 12-0.

Lakeside went 5-0. The Warriors opened the sea-

son with a 2-0 victory over Doyline followed by a 14-4 victory over Union Parish.

They won three games in the Many tournament, defeating Ebarb 16-1, Bunkie 9-5 and Zwolle 11-1.

Minden hosts Lakeside Thursday at 6 p.m.

North Webster also went 5-0. The Knights opened with victories over Plain Dealing, 15-0, and Ringgold, 17-3.

The followed those victories with a three-game sweep of North Caddo, 12-2, 23-12 and 15-9.

Doyline downs Castor in first round

RUSSELL HEDGES  
Minden Press-Herald

The first two games this season between District 1-B foes Doyline and Castor had plenty of excitement and suspense.

Last Friday's non-select Division V first-round play-off game between the Panthers and Tigers was short on both.

Doyline, the No. 5 seed, started and finished strong

in a 65-44 victory over No. 28 Castor at Doyline.

The Panthers (24-3) were scheduled to host No. 12 Hicks (21-15) in the second round next week. The Pirates defeated No. 21 Phoenix 68-66 in the first round.

Castor closed its season 13-18.

The Panthers and Tigers split their regular-season games. Castor won 71-63 at Castor. Doyline rallied for a

56-55 victory at Doyline.

This time, the Panthers jumped on the Tigers early, rolling to a 19-5 lead after the first quarter.

Castor played better in the second quarter, but Doyline was still ahead by 10 at the half.

The Tigers got within eight, 47-39, after three quarters. But the Panthers made sure there would be no suspense in the fourth, limiting the Tigers to six

points.

Four Doyline players scored in double figures. Jay Patterson had 17, Cayden Mingo 16, Damarian McLendon 14 and Keidric Clark 10.

Mingo hit four 3-pointers, one in each quarter. McLendon was 7-of-8 from the free throw line. He made all four attempts in the fourth quarter.

Dawson Wood led Castor with 17 points.

OUTDOORS

It was an average year for trophy bucks

GLYNN HARRIS

As an outdoor writer/broadcaster, there are several things on my work schedule. For instance, every week I write an outdoor column appearing in seven newspapers around north Louisiana. In addition, I produce and record four weekly radio programs. When opportunities are presented, I write an occasional article for magazines.

One thing that has been a regular assignment for the past 10 years or so is to contact, interview and write articles for Louisiana Sportsman magazine and web site about trophy bucks taken in Louisiana. I enjoy everything I do for outdoors media but especially rewarding is getting to do articles on these big bucks that come to my attention either by my being contacted by successful hunters or by browsing social media to find photos hunters post when they are successful in downing a trophy.

Granted, I don't get them all as some hunters prefer to keep their success under wraps as they have no interest in sharing details preferring to keep details and locations secret. I totally accept that. If I had a secret honey hole where I find my trophies, I might be reluctant to share too many details. Even so, I average getting to write articles on at least twenty-five big bucks each season. The ones I do write about give me an idea of what type of bucks on average are taken each season.

From my contacts for the season just ended, my conclusion is that the number and quality of bucks this year was average or maybe slightly below average. Drought conditions this past summer affecting browse plants no doubt contributed to this season's somewhat lower results.

In past years, my articles have covered an occasional buck weighing in excess of 300 pounds and a few have resulted in impressive



COURTESY PHOTO  
One buck featured in LA Sportsman was a 155-nch, 12-point buck taken in Sabine Parish by Casey Carrington.

scores of 270 inches or better. I did articles on 30 trophy bucks this past season with buck with the heaviest body weighing just over 230 pounds. The highest scoring buck I located measured 190 inches of antler mass.

Looking over the statistics of bucks taken last season covered in articles I wrote were impressive, but not quite as eye-catching as some in seasons past.

The highest number of bucks I found were taken in Union Parish with five while Beauregard Parish produced four, indicating that you are likely to find a trophy really from one end of the state to the other. Bucks were taken in twen-

ty-two parishes from north to central to the delta region to southwest Louisiana.

How about antler measurements? The thirty bucks in my articles averaged just over 156 inches of mass while the average number of antler points were 10.26. How about body weights? This came out to 192.6 pounds per buck.

During the month of October, nine bucks were reported, November had the highest number with 15 while December produces six.

Four bucks were taken by traditional archery equipment, two with crossbows and the majority, 24,

fell to high powered rifles.

A number of trophies were taken by happenstance. They just showed up. Many of the more successful hunters, however, work all year to prepare food plots, keep minerals available, especially during spring and summer when new antlers and muscle mass are growing.

I'm already looking forward to deer season 2024-25 when we get to do it all over again. Maybe this will be the season with weather conditions improved and I'll get a call from you or find your photo of your buck on social media. Be assured, if this happens, I'll be in touch.

Fishing Report

**BLACK BAYOU** – Crappie fishing is improving around the trees on shiners and jigs Bass are fair fishing spinners and soft plastics around the points. Contact Honey Hole Tackle Shop 323-8707 for latest information.

**BUSSEY BRAKE** – Bass fishing is improving with some to around 8 pounds caught on spinners and flipping creature baits around he brush. Crappie are in transition and 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 but some good catches of crappie and bass are being made back in the sloughs. Catfishing is fair. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

**LAKE D'ARBONNE** – 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 chatter baits, crank baits and soft plastic as they 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 CLAIRBORNE** – 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 prepar-

ing to move in to spawn as water temperatures continue to rise. Bass are improving with some in the 8 pound category on secondary points with soft plastics and jigs working best. 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 temperatures 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 but they're starting to move up to spawn. A 3.26 pounder was caught in a tournament. Catfishing is fair to good. No report on bass. For latest reports, call Poverty Point Marina at 318/878-0101.

**LAKE YUCATAN** – The water is falling with a slight bump coming followed by more falling water. Catfish and buffalo are being caught on trotlines and in nets. Crappie are beginning to move up to spawning areas. For information, call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.



# Good News

GOOD NEWS

## DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS MARCH 10

We will wrestle with this issue again next week! Why are we still observing this ‘war strategy for saving the consumption of energy?’ Daylight Savings Time (DST) was first implemented in Germany in 1916 during World War I. Other European countries followed soon, and the United States followed suite in 1918. It was first implemented as the Standard Time Act of 1918 as a wartime measure for 7 months during World War I in the interest of adding more daylight hours to conserve energy resources. (Woodrow Wilson was President). Year-round DST

was implemented again during World War II, when FDR was President. A Congressional Report on the energy impact of extending DST by 4 weeks, revealed the time change saved about 0.03% of the country’s total electrical use and about ½ of 1 % of total energy consumption. Is it really worth it all? The question continues to float through our discussions in the spring



Bill Crider

and fall, with no concrete action being taken to settle the issue. So while we discuss and fuss about this issue, consider these measures to better use our time this year: \* Have a clear picture of what you want to accomplish each day \* List tasks and appointments on your calendar; review it daily \* Have a few clear goals for each activity and projects you’re involved in \* Feel free not to read everything that crosses your desk \* Prioritize your tasks in order and stick to top-priority items

\* Work on highly involved tasks when you feel the most alert \* Stop working when you feel fatigued \* Break the large projects down into manageable pieces to finish one at a time \* Survey your long-term goals regularly \* Commit your work unto the Lord and seek His directions in every way No matter how we ‘cut the day’ we still have 24 hours to get our work, hobbies, household, family-time and leisure chores squeezed in. Most important is

to ‘place our time in the hands of the Lord, praying to make the best decisions on time management.’ Use Proverbs 3: 5-6 as a starter for spiritual guidance. (Add other Scriptures that will help you order your time and balance your work.) \*pgs 24-5: Lists to Live By; vol 2.

**BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER**

### THE UPWARD LOOK

## Significant Places: New Jerusalem

*“Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth . . . And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God,” Revelation 21:1-2 NASB*



Max Hutto

In the last two chapters of Revelation, John writes of the glory of eternity in Heaven. In seemingly inadequate words he attempts to describe the beauty, the splendor, and the grandeur of the Holy City, the New Jerusalem. This marvelous place is being prepared by the Lord as an inheritance for all whose names

are written in the book of life, for all who, by the grace of God, have trusted in Jesus as their Savior. In this New Jerusalem, Heaven, believers will spend eternity in the presence of the Lord. Lord Jesus, I am in awe of this place You are preparing for me and all believers. I long for the day when Your glory is revealed, and I will spend eternity with You.

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

### INSPIRATION

## My Brother’s Keeper?

Do you have friends and family members that have stepped away from God? Have you made an effort to show them the love and compassion of Christ? I ask these questions not to survey but to evoke serious thought. God has charged us not to be lazy and apathetic towards our brothers and sisters but to be proactive in their salvation. Abram (Abraham) figured this concept out without having to be told by anyone. A situation arose in which Lot and his family were taken captive. Rather than fend for themselves, Abram springs into action. Genesis 14:14-16 KJV “And when Abram heard that his brother was taken captive, he armed his trained servants, born in his own house, three hundred and eighteen, and pursued them unto




Bernard Harris

Dan. And he divided himself against them, he and his servants, by night, and smote them, and pursued them unto Hobah, which is on the left hand of Damascus. And he brought back all the goods, and also brought back his brother Lot, and his goods, and the women also, and the people.” Abrams’ example shows us that no matter how people treat us, mercy, compassion, and love are always the solution. Abram was truly his brother’s keeper.

**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](http://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

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

### Ads

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](mailto: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

### 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 Commission, 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**  
**April 3, 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

**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 appraisalment and according to law at the principal front door of the Court-house 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 Clerk's Office in Webster Parish, Louisiana, together with all buildings and improvements thereon, and INCLUDING one (1) 1999 Oakwood, Double Wide Manufactured Home, being a 28 X 64, Model # 3410, Make - Home Theater Dream Home, bearing Serial # HOTX 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 -  
Deputy

**January 31, 2024**  
**February 28, 2024**  
**Minden Press Herald**

Village of Dixie Inn  
Regular Session  
February 13, 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 February 13, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the Village Hall, Dixie Inn, Louisiana with the following members present: Mayor Donna Hoffoss, Aldermen Judy McKenzie, Nell Finlay, and Lance Milligan.

The meeting was called to order and the invocation and pledge of allegiance were given.

A motion was made by Nell Finlay and seconded by Judy McKenzie to adopt the minutes of the regular session of January 9, 2024. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

A motion was made by Judy McKenzie and seconded by Lance Milligan to adopt the financial statements for January 2024. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

Department Reports:

Mike Chreene reported all is good with the water department.

Chief Alan Davis reported that electrical work had to be done on the 2018 Tahoe.

Mayor Hoffoss asked council members to begin thinking about how the village water system will be monitored, either by contracting a water-monitoring service, or hiring an individual to monitor the system, in the event water/sewer operator, Mike Chreene, retires in the coming months/years.

New Business:

A motion was made by Nell Finlay and seconded by Judy McKenzie to adopt Resolution 01-02132024 to apply for FY 2023-2024 LGAP Grant in the amount of \$25,000 to have the water tower inspected. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

A motion was made by Lance Milligan and seconded by Judy McKenzie to adopt Resolution 02-02132024 to apply for FY 2023-2024 CWFEE Grant in the amount of \$15,000 to have the water tower cleaned. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

A motion was made by Judy McKenzie and seconded by Lance Milligan to approve paying Village Clerk, Alicia Ware, for monthly fuel mileage at 67 cents per mile (the federal rate) to be paid monthly by check. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

A motion was made by Nell Finlay and seconded by Lance Milligan to approve increasing hourly wages by \$2.40 for Village Clerk, Alicia Ware. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

Mayor Hoffoss introduced Ordinance 132, which would provide for the enforcement of certain traffic violations by automated means and provide for civil penalties for those particular violations. The council will vote on the ordinance at the March 2024 meeting.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Nell Finlay and seconded by Judy McKenzie. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

ATTEST:  
Donna Hoffoss  
Mayor

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

**RESOLUTION 02-02132024**  
**VILLAGE OF DIXIE INN**

WHEREAS, the Village of Dixie Inn has a need to have our Water Tower cleaned, and WHEREAS, the Village does not have the resources to construct this project, and WHEREAS, funds are available from the Community Water Enrichment Fund, and WHEREAS, the Village's Engineer, Cothorn, Graff, Smoak Engineering, Inc. has determined this project can be funded with the funds available from CWFEE.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Village of Dixie Inn is in full agreement and accord on making a request to the Division of Administration, Office of Community Development CWFEE a grant in the amount of \$15,000 to assist us with this badly needed project. Upon motion by Lance Milligan, duly seconded by Judy McKenzie and carried, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Village of Dixie Inn in regular session convened on February

13, 2024.

\*\*\*\*\*  
I, Alicia Ware, Clerk of the Village of Dixie Inn, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Village of Dixie Inn in regular session convened on February 13, 2024.

Given under my official signature and seal of office on this the 13th day of February 2024.

(SEAL)

Alicia Ware, Clerk  
Village of Dixie Inn

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

**RESOLUTION NO.01-02132024**

**VILLAGE OF DIXIE INN**

WHEREAS, the Village of Dixie Inn has a need to have our Water Tower Inspected, and WHEREAS, the Village does not have the resources to construct this project, and WHEREAS, funds are available from the Local Government Assistance Program, and WHEREAS, the Village's Engineer, Cothorn, Graff, Smoak Engineering, Inc. has determined that this project can be funded with the funds available from the LGAP.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the Village of Dixie Inn is in full agreement and accord on making a request to the Division of Administration, Office of Community Development LGAP a grant in the amount of \$25,000 to assist us with this badly needed project.

Upon motion by Nell Finlay, duly seconded by Judy McKenzie and carried, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Village of Dixie Inn in regular session convened on the 13th day of February 2024.

\*\*\*\*\*  
I, Alicia Ware Clerk of the Village of Dixie Inn, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted by the Village of Dixie Inn in regular session convened on February 13, 2024.

Given under my official signature and seal of office on this the 13th day of February 2024.

(SEAL)

Alicia Ware, Clerk  
Village of Dixie Inn

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

**RESOLUTION 03-02222024**  
**RECORDKEEPING PROCEDURES BY THE VILLAGE OF DIXIE INN**

WHEREAS, the Village of Dixie Inn was awarded the Great Floods of 2016 Disaster Recovery Program Grant, administered by the State of Louisiana Office of Community Development; and,

WHEREAS, the CDBG Program requires Grantees to establish procedures to ensure adequate record keeping within the program, subject to the Freedom of Information Act; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Village of Dixie Inn, that the attached procedures entitled, "Record Keeping Procedures", are hereby adopted.

UPON MOTION BY Lance Milligan, duly seconded by Judy McKenzie and carried, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Village of Dixie Inn on the 22nd day of February, 2024.

Donna Hoffoss, Mayor

Alicia Ware, Clerk

### CERTIFICATE

I, Alicia Ware, Clerk of the Village of Dixie Inn, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of a Resolution passed, approved, and adopted on the 22nd day of February, 2024.

Alicia Ware, Clerk

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

**RESOLUTION 04-02222024**  
**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICY BY THE VILLAGE OF DIXIE INN**

WHEREAS, the Village of Dixie Inn has been awarded the Great Floods of 2016 Disaster Recovery Program Grant, administered by the State

of Louisiana Office of Community Development; and,

WHEREAS, the CDBG Program requires Grantees to establish policies and procedures that will ensure the appropriate, effective, timely, and honest use of funds; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Village of Dixie Inn, that the attached policy entitled, "Financial Management Policy", is hereby adopted.

THUS, DONE UPON MOTION BY Nell Finlay, duly seconded by Judy McKenzie and carried, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Village of Dixie Inn on February 22nd, 2024.

Donna Hoffoss, Mayor

Alicia Ware, Clerk

### CERTIFICATE

I, Alicia Ware, Clerk of the Village of Dixie Inn, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of a Resolution passed, approved, and adopted on the 22nd day of February, 2024.

Given under my official signature and seal of office on this the 22nd day of February, 2024.

Alicia Ware, Clerk

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

**RESOLUTION 05-02232024**  
**FAIR HOUSING POLICY BY THE VILLAGE OF DIXIE INN**

WHEREAS, the Village of Dixie Inn desires to give meaning to the guarantees of equal rights contained in the Constitution and laws of this State and the United States, and to encourage and bring about mutual self-respect and understanding among all citizens and groups in the Village of Dixie Inn; and,

WHEREAS, under the Federal Fair Housing Law, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, it is illegal to

deny housing to any person because of race, sex, religion, sex, or national origin; and,

WHEREAS, under the Louisiana Equal Housing Opportunity Act, Title 51:2601, All persons should therefore be able to compete for available housing on an open, fair, and equitable basis, regardless of race, color, religion, sex, disability, familial status, national origin, or natural, protective, or cultural hairstyle.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Village of Dixie Inn, Louisiana makes a firm commitment to do all within its power to eliminate prejudice, intolerance, disorder and discrimination in housing.

THEREFORE BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that a Fair Housing Law poster which has the "Equal Housing Opportunity" logo, will be displayed at Village of Dixie Inn Municipal Building.

THEREFORE BE IT ALSO RESOLVED, that the following procedures will be used to accomplish the purpose of the aforementioned resolution:

1. The Village of Dixie Inn shall inform all village employees of the Village of Dixie Inn's commitment to fair housing.
2. The Village of Dixie Inn will keep this resolution on file at the Village of Dixie Inn Municipal Building for the public.
3. The Village of Dixie Inn shall direct all employees to forward immediately to the Mayor any reports they receive of housing discrimination.
4. The Village of Dixie Inn shall support fair housing. Complaints may be filed locally with Municipal Court or by reporting violations to the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development at Toll-free number, 800-669-9777, within 10 days of said complaint.

THUS DONE UPON MOTION BY Nell Finlay, duly seconded by Judy McKenzie and carried, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Village of Dixie Inn on February 23rd, 2024.

Donna Hoffoss, Mayor

Alicia Ware, Clerk

### CERTIFICATE

I, Alicia Ware, Clerk of the Village of Dixie Inn, do hereby certify that the above and foregoing constitutes a true and correct copy of a Resolution passed, approved, and adopted by the Village of Dixie Inn on this the 23rd day of February 2024.

Alicia Ware, Clerk

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

The Minden Housing Authority Low Rent/ Public Housing will close its Waiting List starting Thursday, February 29, 2024, until further notice.

**February 28, 2024**  
**March 6, 2024**  
**March 13, 2024**  
**Minden Press Herald**

ADOPT, DON'T SHOP

*Town Of Sibley*  
P.O. Box 128  
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February 22, 2024

The Sibley Town Council met in a Special Meeting on Thursday, February 22, 2024 at 1:00 p.m. at Sibley Town Hall.

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

Mayor Pro-Tem Richard Davis opened the meeting in prayer; the mayor then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Richard Davis motioned to adopt Resolution No. 04-2024 to authorize and fully support the application for LGAP funding for rehabilitating lift stations and authorizing the mayor to execute the application. Helen Chanler seconded. Motion carried.

Wayne Bolton motioned to adopt Resolution No. 05-2024 to authorize and fully support the application for CWFEE funding to purchase more radio read meters and authorizing the mayor to execute the application. Alan Myers seconded. Motion carried.

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

Meeting adjourned.

*Robert Smart*  
Robert Smart  
Mayor

Attest  
*Sherry McCann*  
Sherry McCann  
Town Clerk

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

**EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE**  
**for**  
**March 23, 2024**  
**Election**

**REGISTRAR OF VOTERS OFFICE**  
**WEBSTER PARISH COURTHOUSE**  
**410 Main St., Rm. 101, Minden**  
**Saturday, March 9th - Saturday, March 16th**  
**Excluding Sunday**  
**8:30 AM until 6:00 PM**

**SPRINGHILL CIVIC CENTER**  
**101 Machen Dr., Springhill**  
**Saturday, March 9th - Saturday, March 16th**  
**Excluding Sunday**  
**8:30 AM until 6:00 PM**

To view your sample ballot and obtain additional information regarding voting and elections visit [www.GeauxVote.com](http://www.GeauxVote.com) or contact your local Registrar of Voters office at 377-9272.

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



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