

CELEBRATION

Minden celebrates L'Jarius Sneed Day in style

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

March 2, 2024, was officially declared L'Jarius Sneed Day in Minden as the town celebrated native son and Super Bowl champion L'Jarius Sneed's second Super Bowl victory with the Kansas City Chiefs. The day began with a downtown parade in Sneed's honor, followed by a festive party at the Minden Recreation Complex (REC).

Before the party commenced, Mayor Nick Cox read a proclamation declaring the day as L'Jarius Sneed Day. Mayor Cox emphasized the rarity of Sneed's achievement, stating, "Out of the 1.1 million kids who play football in the United States each year, only 53 will win a Super Bowl championship. One of those players is from Minden, and he's done it twice."

Kathy Babers, representing Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, presented Sneed with a Congressional Commendation for his Super Bowl wins and a Speaker of the House Challenge Coin. Babers praised Sneed, saying, "We just want you to know that we are so proud of you. We're so excited that you honor your roots and honor God in all that you do."

Supporters from near and far, including Sneed's parents, relatives, friends, and fans from Kansas City, turned out to celebrate. Sneed's father expressed his gratitude, saying, "To go to the Super Bowl one time is something special. I thought the first time was a mind-blowing experience until we went this time, and it was totally different. I just want to thank my son for being great."

Two of Sneed's former coaches from Louisiana Tech, Ed Jackson and Jeff Burris, shared stories about Sneed and thanked his parents for their support. A youth dance group entertained the large crowd that gathered in the gym of the REC to honor Sneed.

Reflecting on the day, Sneed said, "I had fun seeing all the smiles and seeing everybody celebrating me — it was a blessing."

After the ceremony, Sneed delighted fans by signing autographs while children enjoyed hotdogs, played football, and bounced in the bounce house. The day was a fitting tribute to a hometown hero who continues to inspire Minden and beyond with his achievements on and off the football field.

WPSB

Webster Parish School Board considers options for teacher pay stipend

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

During the Webster Parish School Board meeting on March 4, Finance Director Crevonne Odom presented the Louisiana Department of Education's differentiated teacherpay stipend options. Totaling \$144,340, the disbursement offers four options mandated by LDOE. The options include: Option 1 for Teachers in Critical Shortage per BESE, Option 2 for Highly Effective Teachers based on fiscal year 2022-2023 evaluations and assessments, Option 3 for teachers working in



ROWLAND

See, **SCHOOLS**, Page 3



WILL PHILLIPS/ PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

The Chamber Awards Gala is an important event that shines a light on the individuals and organizations that work tirelessly to make Minden a welcoming and thriving community.

GALA

Greater Minden Chamber hosts 82nd annual awards gala

WILL PHILLIPS
Minden Press-Herald

The Greater Minden Chamber hosted its 82nd Annual Awards Gala last Tuesday evening at the Minden Civic Center. The event celebrated the achievements of businesses and individuals who have made a positive impact in the local community.

At the start of the event, Jennifer Spurlock, immediate past chair of the Greater Minden Chamber, highlighted the Chamber's accomplishments in 2023. She emphasized the financial responsibility of the all-female executive board and their success in paying off the chamber building. Spurlock also mentioned the eleven ribbon cuttings for new businesses, the growth in chamber membership to 240, and the success of the 32 events held, which drew over

1900 attendees and had 130 sponsors. She invited non-members to join and become more involved, wishing the 2024 board and Mandi Hart continued success.

Later in the program, emcees Tracey Campbell and Jake Chapman introduced the award winners for the gala's various categories, including Small Business of the Year, Business of the Year, Businessper-

See, **GALA**, Page 3

COUNCIL

Minden City Council advances infrastructure projects and property swaps

WILL PHILLIPS
Minden Press-Herald

The March Minden City Council meeting took place Monday evening where the mayor and council approved moving forward with projects such as the consolidation of the public works facilities, property swaps with the Webster Parish School Board, and the expansion of Minden's water capacity.

Since shortly after taking office, Mayor Nick Cox has been working to move forward with the consolidation of various public works departments within the city. Recently, bidding went out for the project and Minden's director of public works, Tyler Wallace, recommended that the bid be awarded to Testament Construction Services. This motion was approved unanimously by the council.

"Our plan is to consolidate public works.



COX

We have many locations across the city and old facilities that are not energy efficient or handicap accessible. So we're wanting to merge our public works department and put it all located at the steam plant. This is phase one of that plan, to build a control center," said Mayor Cox.

"Right now we have electronic monitoring at the steam plant on the third floor. We have water monitoring of that equipment at the water plant. All this will be moved to one location. The public works director will be there, the assistant public works director and several of our department heads will be located there. And eventually, the plan would be to have everybody at the steam plant and have one consolidated public works facility."

Later in the meeting, the scheduling of the upcoming April City Council meeting was voted on to be moved a day, from April 1 to April 2, in order to let Minden's elected officials participate in

See, **COUNCIL**, Page 2

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WEBSTER & MORE

COMMUNITY

Minden welcomes new Little Free Pantry sponsored by Walmart

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Ethan Jeffus unveiled the latest addition to Minden’s community support network, the new Little Free Pantry outside the Broken Bean, painted in the signature “Walmart blue.” Sponsored by Minden Walmart, the pantry provides a 24/7 resource for essential items, including food, for those in need.

Jeffus’s passion for community service and his early experiences volunteering at food pantries inspired the project. “Ever since then I’ve asked myself, ‘How can we make food and essential items more accessible for those who need it?’” Jeffus said.

Each Little Free Pantry has a designated point of contact responsible for its maintenance. Stocking the pantry is a community effort, with locals contributing nonperishable food and toiletries to support their neighbors in need.

The unveiling ceremony, blessed by Reverend Steve Berger of First Methodist Church, also featured Kathy Babers



from Speaker Mike Johnson’s office, who presented a Certificate of Congressional Recognition to Jeffus.

Collaboration among several organizations made the pantry possible, including Louisiana Adult & Teen Challenge Program’s Broken Bean initiative, First Methodist Church, and Walmart. Ashley Miller, manager of the Broken Bean, invited

pantry users to come into the Broken Bean for prayer and support beyond material goods. “Most of the people who are in need, need more than just food. They need prayer; they need to know that we care; they need to know that they are seen. We are inviting the users of this box to come inside and talk with us. Let us pray with you; let us agree that better times are

ahead; let us get involved. Because maybe we can do something outside of this,” said Miller.

Walmart’s involvement began last November when they volunteered to stock a pantry and subsequently decided to sponsor one. Walmart manager Ronnie Gray shared his personal connection to the cause, saying, “Years ago I went through struggles myself, and I needed

some help.” Gray announced Walmart’s sponsorship of five additional pantries, showcasing the company’s commitment to supporting local communities.

Several different organizations have placed little pantries in Minden, providing vital resources and fostering community connections. Locations include Mercy’s Closet, the Farm at Cultural

Crossroads, the Council on Aging, and now the Broken Bean.

Jeffus expressed gratitude for the community’s support, acknowledging the Broken Bean for hosting the new pantry and Walmart for their sponsorship. The collaboration highlights the power of community-driven initiatives in addressing food insecurity and supporting those in need.

PAGEANT

Minden teen Ava Martin to compete in Miss Teen Volunteer America Pageant

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Ava Martin, a sophomore at Minden High School and current Miss Louisiana Teen Volunteer 2024, is gearing up to represent Louisiana nationally in the upcoming Miss Teen Volunteer America pageant in Jackson, Tennessee. National Teen Pageant Week is scheduled for March 6-9, with the finals on the last day.

The Miss America Volunteer Organization, which places a strong emphasis on community service, aligns perfectly with Martin’s passion for giving back. She is actively involved in the St. Jude Leadership Society, where she learns fundraising and leadership skills, organizes community events to raise money for St. Jude, and gains insights into pediatric cancer. Martin also volunteers at Seed’s Women’s Center, assisting in the baby boutique, and is eager to participate in the upcoming Birdies Fore Babies golf tournament this spring.

A staunch advocate for dance movement therapy, Martin’s platform is “Revive: Healing in Motion.” She aims to provide children of recovering addicts with a way to transition into normal life and cope with emotional stress.

“My mom owns Geaux Fresh, and 90% of her employees are women coming out of faith-based recovery programs. Growing up in that environment, I noticed that substance abuse doesn’t just affect the user but affects the whole family.”

Reflecting on her experiences, Martin encourages other young people



who want to make a difference in their communities not to underestimate their impact. “Everybody has a unique story and a message that they want to share, and everybody can take something different away from someone’s story.” She believes that self-discovery is key to making an impact.

Martin’s dedication to her platform has been steadfast, particularly over the past year. Through dance movement therapy, she has positively impacted the lives of many, highlighting the mental and physical benefits of dance. Her work reflects the core values of the Miss America Volunteer Organization, demonstrating her com-

mitment to enhancing the well-being of her community.

Looking ahead, Martin plans to pursue a degree in holistic medicine at Mississippi State University, with the goal of eventually opening a gym offering personalized diet and nutrition services.

Martin emphasizes the opportunities that pageantry has afforded her, particularly in terms of scholarship money. For those interested in participating, she encourages visiting MissLouisianaVolunteer.com or MissVolunteerAmerica.com, describing the pageant as an incredible platform for young women to become who they are meant to be.

CRIME

Suspect in Minden shooting apprehended by police

STAFF REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

Jaryon Stephens, 28, the prime suspect in a recent shooting incident in Minden that left two people injured, has been captured by the Minden Police Department. Stephens, who had been evading authorities since the shooting earlier this month, was apprehended after a pursuit by several officers.

Police Chief Jared McIver praised the diligent efforts of his department, stating, “The constant application of pressure

by Minden police finally paid off.” A detective, patrolling areas where Stephens was likely to be found, spotted him on the morning of February 29. Despite attempts to evade arrest, Stephens was eventually tased and taken into custody.

The shooting occurred in the 600 block of Martin Luther King Drive. One victim was found at the scene with multiple gunshot wounds and was transported to Ochsner LSU Health for treatment. Another victim, initially untreated, had been shot in the leg during the incident.

Chief McIver expressed relief at Stephens’ capture, stating, “I am happy to inform the public that the suspect is in custody. I hope the citizens of Minden can rest easier tonight.” He praised his officers and how well they work together and emphasized the department’s commitment to pursuing suspects in major crimes until they are apprehended, aiming to instill confidence in the community.

Stephens has been charged with attempted second-degree murder.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

the opening ceremony for the REC Center’s baseball and softball programs. The council approved this motion unanimously.

“The reason for the move, just moving it one day, is because opening day for baseball and softball at the REC center is scheduled for May 1, that’s already been communicated out very well to the parents and coaches. Our numbers are up in participation for those programs quite a bit, due to a lot of volunteer activity and trying to gain a lot of support from the community,” Councilman Andy Pendergrass of Dist. E explained.

“And the REC center staff and some volunteers have planned a big ceremony for opening day, that includes throwing out the first pitches at the games by us and the police chiefs and deputies, so we want to be out there to be able to show our support for the community in that way, and it just necessitated us needing to move this meeting back one day.”

Another big move for the city that was discussed during the meeting was that of a property swap between the City of Minden and the Webster Parish School Board. Currently, the City of Minden owns Griffith Stadium which is primarily utilized by Minden High School, and the school board owns the property where the city’s water plant on Clerk Street resides. The council voted to pass a motion where, pending attorney

approval, the two would swap the properties with one another.

“Currently, and for eternities past, Griffith Stadium has been owned by the City of Minden and utilized very primarily by the Webster Parish School Board, namely Minden High School. At the same time, the City of Minden has the water well and water plant at the Clerk Street location, and that property is owned by the school board. So there was some discussion about doing a land swap, and I believe we have it all worked out through surveys. There’s a little bit of attorney work still pending, but I am seeking a motion to do a land swap with the school board, swapping our Clerk Street water plant with Griffith Stadium property pending attorney approval,” said Mayor Nick Cox.

While the ownership of the property of the Clerk Street water plant was settled, there was still discussion to be had regarding the city’s plans with the facility. Ultimately, Public Works Director Wallace recommended that the plant be decommissioned and leveled in order to make space for an improved water infrastructure project. The council unanimously approved this decision.

“That plant has low water quality compared to what comes out of the other plant, so we don’t really integrate that water into the system very often, only just enough to keep it going and cycling through,” said Mayor Cox.

“It’s a very expensive plant to keep running to not be utilized. I’m told the good water in the city that we all know we have comes down by the steam plant, and the poorer water is up where the Clerk Street water plant is. So we are in the process of working with the state to get a capital outlay project where we can build a 2 million gallon capacity tank, and our engineers have identified that the best place to put that tank is where the Clerk Street water plant is.

“So I’m seeking tonight the council’s approval to decommission that and to level that plant. It’s contingent upon if we get this water project through the capital outlay. We met with the capital outlay people in Baton Rouge two weeks ago, and it’s looking very optimistic that we’re going to be able to put this water capacity in. Side note, this extra water capacity allows for a great amount of expansion in our city when it comes to the water needs that we have.”

The monthly Minden City Council meetings take place on the first Monday of each month starting at 6 PM at the Minden Civic Center. The meetings are open for the public to attend, and for those that cannot attend in person or who wish to view the meetings after they occur, the meetings are live streamed on the City of Minden’s Facebook page and YouTube channel titled City of Minden - Feels Like Home.

WEBSTER & MORE

OBITUARIES



Gladys P. McGee

We honored the life of Gladys P. McGee, a treasured educator and family matriarch, who left us on February 26, 2024. Gladys, a revered teacher at J.L. Jones Elementary School in Minden, Louisiana, was

survived by her daughters Bonnie, Jasmine, and Rhoda of Minden, and five grandchildren: English, Alexis, Allie, Paul, and Ronald Jr. Family, friends, and the community came together to commemorate her life at 12:00 noon, Saturday, March 2, 2024, at St. Rest Baptist Church in Minden, Louisiana. Interment was held at Sheppard Street Cemetery, followed by a repass at B.F. Martin Community Life Center. We joined in remembering a life beautifully lived.



Charlie Wayne Huber

Charlie Huber of Minden, LA, age 56, passed away peacefully at Christus Highland Medical Center in Shreveport, LA, on February 24, 2024. He was born September 12, 1967 in Shreveport, LA to parents Charley Lee and Virginia Huber. He is preceded in death by his parents and brother Daniel Huber of Greenwood, LA. He is survived by his wife Alicia Huber of Minden, LA. A sister, Ginger Huff of Greenwood, LA. A niece Lauren Huff of Keithville, LA. A brother, Robert Huber and a nephew Raymond Huber (Akacia) all of Swink, Oklahoma. Meg and Norman Murphy of Homer, LA. Sister-in-law Jennifer Powell (Ronnie) of Minden, LA and Jacob Powell (nephew) of Monticello, Arkansas. He graduated from Many High School. Charlie was a soft spoken, gentle, loving Chris-

tian that always had a kind word and smile for everyone he met. This was evident even when he passed away by being an organ donor. He was able to help several people, as he wished. He loved the great outdoors. Charlie was passionate about deer hunting, and fishing. He enjoyed traveling to the Smokey Mountains and the Rocky Mountains in Colorado. He also loved watching the LSU Tigers. He was employed with Stallion Oilfield Services for 16 years. He drove a truck for many years and was currently a dispatcher. The family is so grateful to everyone at Stallion for the love, concern, kindness, and generosity shown to Charlie and Alicia at this difficult time. Charlie was a member of Wesley Chapel at Lake Claiborne. Thank you to Bro. Danny Baskin and our church family for the love and concern shown to us. Thank you to the doctors and nurses in the MICU Christus Highland for the care given to Charlie. Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later date. I want to especially thank my sister, Jennifer for everything you did for me at this trying time. Thank you and I love you. Alicia

Anthony (Tony) Heard

Anthony (Tony) Heard was born on November 21, 1958. He passed away after a lengthy illness at home with his wife, Monnie, by his side on March 1, 2024. Tony was preceded in death by his father, Andy Heard; sister, Angela Heard; nephew, Taylor Jones; father-in-law and mother-in-law, James and Nancy Calhoun and sister-in-law, Kayla Gorham. Tony is survived by his wife, Monnie; son, Drew Heard; daughter, Lindsey Heard; grandson, Silas Heard; mother, Gloria Robinson; sisters, Lisa Heard and Tina Jones; sister-in-law, Susan Vess (and husband, Denny);

nephew, Peyton Gorham (wife, Jessica and their five children) and nephew, Pete Gorham. Monnie would like to thank Passages Hospice for being their for her and Tony. Tony and Monnie met 52 years ago. They loved riding around in her little red Toyota back then. Years later, they saw each other in Walmart and got married shortly after that. Tony and Monnie have been married for 29 years. Tony wanted to be cremated and did not want a memorial. Monnie will honor his wishes. Monnie wants it to be known that Tony was the love of her life and she knows they will be together again.



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GALA

Continued from Page 1

son of the Year, Community Partner of the Year, Hometown Hero, and Lifetime Achievement Award. Small Business of the Year was awarded to Under Dawgs Sports Grill. Chapman praised owners Rick and Claudine Thomas for transforming an old bank into a beloved restaurant, now known as Under Dawgs Sports Grill. Business of the Year went to La State Realty for their outstanding performance in 2023, ranking highly in volume, total listings, and transactions in the Northwest Louisiana Association of Realtors Board. Businessperson of the Year was awarded to Mike Elshout, recognizing his successful businesses and ventures, including Mike's Hometown Spirits, which has become a local favorite. Community Partner of the Year was presented to the Minden Foundation for their 20 years of

providing support to residents and businesses in need, without fanfare or publicity. Hometown Hero was awarded to Colin Campbell for his courageous actions in aiding victims of a violent attack, potentially saving lives. Lifetime Achievement Award went to Jack E. Byrd Jr., recognizing his significant contributions to the Minden community through various businesses and leadership roles. Additionally, the Young Women's Service Club presented the 2024 Woman of the Year award to Charlotte Jones for her extensive community service and leadership roles, while the Lions Club honored Larry Milford as the 2024 Man of the Year for his exceptional talents and contributions to the arts. The Chamber Awards Gala is an important event that shines a light on the individuals and organizations that work tirelessly to make Minden a welcoming and thriving community.

GOVERNMENT

Speaker of the House Mike Johnson addresses critical issues at Minden town hall meeting

AMBER MCDOWN Minden Press-Herald

Speaker of the House Mike Johnson held a town hall meeting at the Community House in Minden on March 4, where he discussed a range of critical issues facing the United States. Johnson was joined by elected officials and community leaders for the event. In an interview before the meeting, Speaker Johnson highlighted several key concerns, stating, "Crime is top of mind; the open border is top of mind — those things are related in many ways. The cost of living, and the general concern that people have about the safety and security of our country now, and what the future of our children is going to be because the conditions are so terrible right now." Johnson expressed confidence in the ability to address these issues through policy changes, stating, "The solution is to make better policy choices. And we offer that. I think Donald Trump is going to be re-elected president and I think the Republican party is going to win control of the Senate and I think we're going to grow the majority in the House. We can't do that soon enough. You've got a snapshot of that here [in Louisiana]. Look what [Governor] Jeff Landry's done right out of the box. His special session of crime was a great success. "What I'm for is decentralizing the federal government to allow and empower our state and local officials to be able to do what they need to do. State and local officials are more in tune with the needs of our communities and our states, and they should be empowered to do that. We need to get the federal government out of the way to allow for that. That was re-

ally our founders' vision for how it was supposed to work, but we've deviated from that at our peril." Regarding election integrity, Johnson referenced the 2020 election and stated that Republican-led legislatures have worked to strengthen election systems. "After the debacle that was the 2020 election and all of its irregularities, all of the Republican-led legislatures got immediately to work to fix and shore up their election systems. There were about 400 pieces of legislation that were signed into law around the country to ensure that the irregularities of the 2020 election never happen again." He emphasized the importance of training election personnel and encouraged early voting. Johnson also discussed his role as Speaker of the House, noting the scope of responsibilities and the constant demands of the position. "It's a never-ending, 24-hour-a-day job. It's just a constant barrage of activity and high-pressure demands," said Johnson. He expressed concerns about the state of the nation, stating, "The state of the nation is in decline. Because of the lack of leadership, poor leadership, failed leadership in the White House everything is in decline. We're declining in our stature on the world stage as well, because we project, through the Biden administration, weakness on the world stage. That is what has made all of our adversaries act so provocatively, and it's emboldened the terrorists and tyrants around the world and put us in a very serious situation. We're declining in our liberty, in our opportunity, and in our security, and we have to have a change." In addressing the border situation, Johnson provided startling statistics: The official numbers

over the past three years state that there have been about 8 million encounters at the border and about 2.5 million "got-aways." Over 300 people who were already on the terrorist watch list were stopped. "Those numbers do not include the numbers of people who got in undetected, and there's a whole bunch of them." 60%-70% of the people who are stopped are single adult males of military age and capability. Young children who are unable to identify parents or guardians are being sent off with non-governmental organizations. "The White House admits that they have lost track of at least 86,000 unaccompanied minors once they get past that point in the system." Johnson is guessing that 15 million people have come across the border in the last three years. "We have no idea where they all are," he said. Johnson also raised concerns about the federal debt and its impact, stating, "We are going to be spending more money on interest on the federal debt next year than we spent on the entire department of defense budget." Regarding natural gas, Johnson criticized President Biden's decision to pause LNG exports, stating, "What you're doing with LNG is terribly disruptive to America and to the world." Safe Energy for Europe has a multi-billion dollar contract to buy LNG from the United States for countries in Europe. Since we can no longer provide it, they are now buying it from Russia, which aids them in their war against Ukraine. Speaker Johnson's town hall meeting provided a platform to address pressing issues and offer insights into his vision for addressing these challenges in the upcoming year.

SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 1

schools with an economically disadvantaged rate of 85% or more, and Option 4 for teachers in leadership positions. Up to 303 teachers in Webster Parish may be eligible. Superintendent Johnny Rowland expressed concerns about potential discontent among teaching staff due to discrepancies in stipend amounts. "What's the last thing we want to do? Breed discontent," Rowland stated. Some teachers may qualify for more than one category, potentially leading to varied payouts. During the meeting, Jonathan Washington, the dean of students at Richardson Elementary, was honored with the Employee of the Month award by Kevin Thompson of Taylor and Sons. His commendation will be featured in an upcoming Minden Press-Herald

article. Shakera Williams of the Webster Parish Extension Office introduced K'Lanie Gordon as the new 4-H agent, who expressed excitement about her new role and the program's potential growth. "I'm very excited to be here in this position, and I'm excited to see the program grow from what it is to what we can make it," said Gordon. Board members Jonathan Guthrie and Debbie Thomas were recognized for completing 20 hours of Continuing Learning Units. Several field trips were approved, including visits to NASA for North Webster Upper Elementary 5th graders, a trip to Dallas to see the musical "Hamilton" for Lakeside High School world history students, and visits to the SAU Science Open House for Minden High School physical science

students and St. Francisville for Talented Art students. A professional development trip to the NIET National Conference was also approved for content coaches. Option 2 won the vote for the school calendar, securing 64% of the vote. In announcements, Superintendent Johnny Rowland informed attendees about the upcoming regional superintendent meeting in Minden on March 19. He also addressed challenges resulting from a loss of state funding for summer feeding programs provided by local churches, indicating the need for solutions. A special meeting is scheduled for March 18 to vote on stipend disbursement options, with the next regular school board meeting set for April 1, 2024, at 6 PM. These meetings are open to the public as required by state law.

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OPINION

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OPINION

Supreme Court to Hear Trump Presidential Immunity Claim

I had hoped the Supreme Court would hear this case, and on an expedited basis. That's because the issues presented in the case lie at the very core of our Constitutional separation of powers.

The Supreme Court has stated that the question before it in this case is "whether and if so to what extent does a former President enjoy presidential immunity from criminal prosecution for conduct alleged to involve official acts during his tenure in office." As we know, the allegations of wrongdoing against President Trump stem from his alleged conduct on Jan. 6, 2021.

As the Wall Street Journal has observed "... in Nixon v. Fitzgerald, the high court held that a president enjoys absolute immunity from civil suits predicated on his 'official acts,' even if they fall foul of 'federal laws of general applicability.'" Justice Lewis Powell wrote that such immunity is a "functionally mandated incident of the President's unique office, rooted in the constitutional tradition of the separation of powers and supported by our history." Such lawsuits "could distract a President from his public duties, to the detriment of not only the President and his office but also the Nation that the Presidency was designed to serve." (WSJ, Rivkin @ Foley. 3-1-24).

In fact, the Nixon Court specifically noted that "the greatest

public interest isn't in enforcing ordinary statutes against the president." Rather, immunity is necessary to ensure he has "the maximum ability to deal fearlessly and impartially with the duties of his office." (WSJ).

We recall President Trump has vigorously and repeatedly contended that the 2020 presidential election was a fraudulent election and that all of his actions on Jan 6, 2021, were fully appropriate in light of the constitutional requirement that a president "take care that the laws are faithfully executed." This obviously includes election laws.



ROYAL ALEXANDER

While Nixon was a civil case involving a lawsuit, the Supreme Court has decided it will now address whether these constitutional considerations require immunity from criminal prosecution as well. The Nixon Court ruled that a president has "absolute immunity" for lawsuits for civil acts, even those at the "outer perimeter" of his official duties. Otherwise, such liability could cause a president to pause and/or chill certain of his actions as president if he could be civilly liable for them.

Well, this analysis would also

obviously apply to criminal prosecution and with arguably greater force.

Things are highly partisan in these times and President Trump's enemies have resorted to lawfare against him because they don't believe they can defeat him on election day. They will literally do anything to stop him from being reelected including abusing both the civil and criminal law.

So, the question really becomes this: if civil lawsuits—which usually involve a resolution based upon money paid to the aggrieved party for damages—could materially alter the way a president conducts the duties of his office, wouldn't the threat of criminal prosecution have an even greater chilling effect on him?

The precedent for criminally prosecuting a former president has now been set by highly biased special counsel, Jack Smith. Do we really believe that Republican prosecutors will not turn on the next Democratic president in exactly the same way? They will. As President Trump has stated regarding the absence of immunity from criminal prosecution as it pertains to President Biden, "Joe would be ripe for indictment." Indeed, Pres. Biden should be praying fervently for presidential immunity from criminal indictment.

Special Counsel Robert Hur recently concluded Biden 'willfully retained and disclosed

classified military and national security information'—making out the elements of a crime—but concluded Biden wouldn't be criminally charged even after he leaves office because his memory is so poor and his mind so blown that, essentially, he couldn't effectively work with counsel to assist in his own defense. (But he's fit to be president?!).

This question of presidential immunity is important far beyond President Trump.

Again, Jack Smith, the partisan who spent 3 years and millions of dollars attempting to charge Trump with insurrection on January 6th, was unable to find evidence to even charge him with incitement, never mind insurrection.

Every one of these highly strained, legally unprecedented attacks on Trump's candidacy are not only a threat to him but, more importantly, to the American people and our democratic form of government—and the sacred and inviolable right we citizens have to choose our leaders.

This is election interference at its worst and must be stopped.

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

Am I an accident waiting to happen?

According to the National Safety Council 53.6 percent of accidents happen at home.

Since most of my accidents occurred at home maybe you can avoid my careless pitfalls.

Where shall I start? Where shall I begin?

On January 6th, 2020, while spending time with my older friend, I found ways to relieve my back pain that has plagued me for years. While lying on the floor with my legs high up against the wall I fell asleep. A few hours later I noticed a blister on my left knee cap.

Because I had no clue what it was before talking with a friend who insisted I go to see Doctor Carter Boyd, my beloved primary physician, who diagnosed me with a poisonous spider bite.

Not only did he give me antibiotics but for various

reasons the bite took six months to heal.

On March 3rd I tripped over an exercise machine, leaving me badly bruised and in the emergency room three hours later.

Family members immediately moved the machine far away.

I was just grateful that I fell rather than my elderly friend.

A few days later the corona-virus lock down officially

began, keeping us all out of circulation for a year, but being an introvert I am rarely bored, and enjoy being a homebody. Listening to myself think, I thrive on writing my thoughts down.



SARAH HUDSON PIERCE

On June 4th I fell out of bed, leaving me shaken but not seriously hurt but I went to my doctor and was assured I didn't suffer bleeding on the brain.

On September 2nd I tripped and fell rushing into an AT&T store in Shreveport -- but not seriously injured.

Nobody's to blame except me. I tend to become careless when I walk too fast, as is my genetic nature!

You should have seen my four feet eleven inch mother who run-walked every where she went.

And on December 30th I tripped over a pair of shoes, fracturing three toes on my right foot, hopefully giving me a wake up call that I need to slow down, leading me to ask am I an accident waiting to happen?

Trying to be more careful I have obtained a cane, a walker but the best piece I have found is a shopping

cart because not only makes me feel more stable and allows me to run walk wherever I go!

I hope the readers will find some answers to the challenges that the golden years provide.

At the age of 76 my children want me to live to 107, because my oldest son, Perry, says he won't miss me so much because he will be in his eighties.

It does make me feel more secure to be loved.

I appreciate my children's encouragement.

I know that Jesus is in control because He the same yesterday, today and forever and He always gets me to the right place at the right time.

Without Him I can do nothing.

CONTACT SARAH AT SARAH9957@AOL.COM

KEEP THIS IN MIND

Reflections on the Greater Minden Chamber 82nd Annual Awards Gala

Last week, Minden witnessed a gathering of remarkable individuals and businesses at the 82nd Annual Awards Gala hosted by the Greater Minden Chamber. This event, a cornerstone of our community, not only recognizes outstanding achievements but also highlights the collective efforts that make Minden such a vibrant and dynamic place to live and work.

As we reflect on the gala, it's important to acknowledge the dedication and vision of our past chair, Jennifer Spurlock. Under her leadership, the Chamber achieved significant milestones, including a record number of ribbon-cutting ceremonies, a surge in membership, and prudent financial management leading to the payoff of the Chamber building.

Jennifer's tireless commitment to our community has set a high standard for future leaders to follow.

Stepping into the role of chair for the upcoming year is Mandi Hart, who brings with her a wealth of experience and a fresh perspective. I have every confidence that Mandi will build upon the foundation laid by Jennifer and lead the Chamber to even greater heights.

I am particularly proud to see the growth and progress that has taken place since my tenure

as Chairman in 2020 and 2021. The Chamber's unwavering dedication to fostering economic development, supporting local businesses, and promoting community engagement has undoubtedly contributed to Minden's continued prosperity.

Now, let's take a moment to celebrate the remarkable individuals and businesses honored at this year's gala:

Small Business of the Year: Under Dawgs Sports Grill, for their transformation of an old bank into a beloved restaurant, enriching our downtown area.

Business of the Year: La State Realty, whose exceptional performance in real estate sales has elevated our community and enriched the lives of countless families.

Businessperson of the Year:

Mike Elshout, whose entrepreneurial spirit and commitment to excellence have left an indelible mark on our business community.

Community Partner of the Year: The Minden Foundation, for their unwavering support and dedication to assisting residents and businesses in times of need.

Hometown Hero: Colin Campbell, whose courageous actions on an ordinary day saved lives and reminded us of the extraordinary power of compassion.

Lifetime Achievement Award: Jack E. Byrd Jr., a true pillar of our community whose leadership and contributions have left an enduring legacy.

In addition to these deserving honorees, we also applaud Charlotte Jones and Larry Mil-

ford, recognized as the Woman and Man of the Year, respectively, for their outstanding service and contributions to Minden.

The Chamber Awards Gala not only celebrates success but also serves as a reminder of the importance of community and collaboration. Together, we can continue to build a brighter future for Minden, where everyone feels welcomed, valued, and proud to call home.

Congratulations to all the winners, and thank you to the Greater Minden Chamber for hosting such a memorable event.

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



DAVID SPECHT

SPORTS

Russell Hedges, Sports Editor
rhedges@spechtnewspapers.com

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL



DOUGLAS BLOW/PRESS-HERALD
Minden's Darnell Morris puts up a shot against Carroll in the second round of the non-select Division II playoffs last week in Monroe.



DOUGLAS BLOW/PRESS-HERALD
Minden senior Maurice Rabb shoots a free throw last week against Carroll. He scored 13 points in the 64-48 loss.

Minden, Doyline fall in second round

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

The curtain came down on the basketball season in Webster Parish last week. The Minden Crimson Tide and Doyline Panthers both lost second-round playoff games. Minden, the No. 14 seed, fell to No. 3 seed Carroll 64-48 in non-select Division II in Monroe. Doyline, the No. 5 seed, fell to No. 12 Hicks 53-49 in non-selection Division V at Doyline. The Panthers finished another very good season 24-4.

Minden closed its first season under Head Coach Jacob Brown 15-9. It's the Tide's first winning season since 2016 when they went 15-13. That was also the last time Minden made the playoffs. The Tide's first-round victory over Leesville was their first playoff win since 2011. Minden put up a good fight against Carroll, which went on defeat defending state champion Bossier 53-43 in the quarterfinals. The score was tied at 13 late in the first quarter but the Bulldogs hit back-to-

back 3-pointers for a 19-13 lead at the end of the first. The game was a defensive struggle early. Battles for rebounds were fierce on both ends of the floor with Minden winning its share. The Tide only scored six in the second quarter but they limited the Bulldogs to eight and trailed 27-19 at the half. Minden came out strong in the third quarter, scoring the first five points to get within 27-24. But Carroll scored six straight to go up by nine. The Bulldogs then got hot from 3-point range.

They used their quickness on defense to create turnovers that led to some easy layups. Meanwhile, Minden had trouble making shots from close range. Almost all were contested by Carroll's big post players. The Bulldogs eventually stretched the lead to 20. Maurice Rabb and Cameron Parker led Minden with 13 and 12 points, respectively. Carmelo Smith added eight and Darnell Morris seven. Lavion Owens led Carroll with 17 points. Treytan Neal added 13.

OUTDOORS

Season changes are upon us

GLYNN HARRIS

Are you seeing it? Have you sensed it? Are you starting to get just a bit more spring in your step? If so, here's a hint as to what is happening to put that spring in your step. Spring. We're on the cusp of winter giving us the ragged remains of the season, finally giving way to this beautiful enchanted season of blossoms, blooms, green grass and emerging tender green leaves. Be assured, we are not done with winter yet. There will still be frosty mornings and chilling north winds and we still have a few weeks before we celebrate March 19 as the date spring officially arrives, on the calendar, at least. My mom was one of those who kept an eye on the weather, especially if we have thunder in February. My calendar has two dates encircled for this year, February 10 and April 10. Mom always said that if it thunders in February, it will frost, or at least have a

cold spell on that same day in April. Down through the years, I have kept up with it and although it doesn't always frost in April on a date corresponding with the same date in February, there has just about always been a drop in temperatures within a few days of that date. Not all will be flowers and green grass as spring eases in. Our part of the country is blessed with millions upon millions of pine trees that provide shade for us all year long. These same pines we love for most of the year we will come to despise in a few weeks when dreaded yellow dust begins coating everything with pollen. Some complain that pine pollen causes them to start sneezing. It doesn't. Pine pollen is not the culprit. Other plants emerging in spring that cause the sneezing and itching of eyes are rag weed and pollen from oaks and other hardwoods. Brushing aside the pine pollen, there is so many positive things greeting us when spring weather is actually here.

This is the time of year when new birds begin showing up. The juncos, purple finches and white throated sparrows will be heading north where they'll spend the summer nesting and rearing their families. They'll be replaced by colorful indigo buntings, blue grosbeaks and if you're really lucky, you might get a painted bunting to visit your feeder. There is no other bird adorned with such vibrant blue, red and bright green colors. There will also be those that stop over on their way north, the rose breasted grosbeak and Baltimore oriole along with a plethora of warblers of all description. For the hunter, spring is an enchanted season when the wild turkey begins to make its presence known. Even now in early March, hunters are already going out early mornings to listen for a gobbler on the roost and scouting for turkey sign. Hunting season opens April 6 but scouting and listening for gobblers is going on right now.

Spring is also one of my favorite times of year for two basic reasons. I love to catch bluegills and I love them all crispy and fried on the platter. As water temperatures start to warm,, bluegills and chinquapins will move to the shallows to fan out beds where eggs will be deposited. This is the time of year when you can catch all you care to clean in one bedding area. Bass and crappie will also be moving onto shallow bedding areas to spawn and some real bragging sized bass and big slab crappie will be caught. One of my favorite things I like to do in Spring is to take my cup of coffee to the back porch early mornings, make sure my bird feeder is filled as I sit and sip and watch and attempt to identify birds. I know that all sorts of bad scary stuff is going on in our country and around the world but it does a body good to push it all aside for a time to enjoy this special season the Good Lord gives us. Thank God for Spring.

Fishing Report

BLACK BAYOU – Crappie fishing has been fair to good in open water and around the trees on shiners and jigs Bass are fair fishing spinners and soft plastics around shallow brush. Contact Honey Hole Tackle Shop 323-8707 for latest information. **BUSSEY BRAKE** – Bass fishing is improving with some to 11 pounds caught on spinners, jigs and flipping creature baits around the 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 high 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 from staging areas in the mouth of the creeks heading for the shallows. Jigs and shiners are picking up some nice fish. Bass are fair with best catches made on topwater lures early and swim baits and jigs later. Catfish are biting cold worms fished off the banks. For latest information, call Anderson Sport Center at 368-9669 or Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707. **LAKE CLAIBORNE** – The lake is down some three feet after the draw-

down. 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 as water temperatures continue to rise. Bass are moving shallow with some good fish caught on spinners and jigs. For latest information, call Kel's Cove at 927-2264 or Terzia Tackle at 278-4498. **CANEY LAKE** – Bass are being caught on soft plastics and jigs as they are beginning to move from deeper water to staging areas. 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 wa-

ter 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 been good as they're starting to move to shallow spawning areas. Catfishing is good. No report on bass. For latest reports, call Poverty Point Marina at 318/878-0101. **LAKE YUCATAN** – The water is falling slowly. Catfish and buffalo are being caught on trotlines and in nets. Crappie should be beginning to move up to spawning areas. For information, call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.

HGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Minden's Rowell pitches perfect game vs. Lakeside

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Zander Rowell pitched a perfect game in the Minden Crimson Tide's 6-0 victory over Lakeside last Saturday in the final game of a three-game series at Minden. Rowell threw 66 pitches. He struck out four and induced 16 groundouts and one flyout to center. Minden won the series two games to one. Lakeside won the first game 7-2 and Minden won the second 2-0. Game 3 was scoreless

through four innings. Minden scored five in the bottom of the fifth. All five came with two outs. After an error and walk kept the inning alive, Landon Brewer, Brody Bower and Bryson Ranger had consecutive doubles. Rowell brought home the final run with a single. Bower went 3-for-4 with a double and two RBI. Ranger went 2-for-3 with two doubles. Brewer went 2-for-4 with two RBI. Minden entered this week 7-1. Lakeside was 6-3.

HGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD

North Webster girls win first meet of season

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

North Webster won the girls division and finished third in the boys in the North Webster Invitational last week in Springhill. The meet was the first of the 2024 outdoor season. North Webster scored 99 points in the girls division. Haynesville was second with 89 and Sterlington third with 88. North Webster scored 88 points in the boys division. Sterlington won with 128 and Haynesville was second with 119.

Lakeside's Lexi Bradley cruised to victory in the 1,600 in 6:14.73. Lakeside's Jalacia Roberson won the 300 hurdles in 1:02.85. Lakeside's McKenzie Chase won the pole vault with a vault of 7 feet.

BOYS

Minden's Porter Neal and North Webster's Avante Curry won individual track events. Neal took the 400 in 53.04. Curry won the 300 hurdles in 42.80. Neal also ran on Minden's winning 4X400 relay team along with Kaiden Shine, Tyjaveyin McClen-don and Brayden Britton. They ran a 3:55.08. The North Webster foursome of Logan Cleveland, Micah Lorenz, Slade Lockety and Stephen Merritt won the 4X800 in 10:29.85. Minden's Cameron Mitchell took the long jump with a 19-8. Lakeside's Kentravion Miller won the shot put with a 41-3. Minden's Jonathan Bradford won the discus with a throw of 117-5. North Webster's Kemaurion Jefferson took the high jump with a leap of 5-4.

GIRLS

North Webster won the 4X100- and 4X200-meter relays. The foursome of Anekah Coleman, Tomiyah Hawthorne, DeMaiyh Moore and Tatyana Lawson took the 4X100 in 52.05. Lawson, Xhallor McGlotham, Moore and Sanders ran a 1:50.97 in the 4X200. Coleman also won the 100 in 13.13. Minden's Brooklyn Jefferson took the 200 in 27.38. Her teammate Kirby was second in 27.59.

1169 Sheppard St. • Minden, LA
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Minden Press-Herald & Holcomb's
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

Anekah Coleman
North Webster, Sr.

Coleman signed a scholarship to play softball at John Melvin University last week. She also won the 100-meter dash in the North Webster Invitational, helping the Lady Knights win the team title.

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

Good News

GOOD NEWS

FOLLOWING JESUS TO THE CROSS

It's early in the final week of Jesus' life. Mark 10:32: The disciples were on their way to Jerusalem, with Jesus leading the way. They were astonished at all Jesus had been saying, while those who followed were afraid. In 9: 2-13, Jesus took Peter, James and John with him high in the mountains. It was there, Elijah and Moses met Him and Jesus was transfigured before their eyes, but He gave them orders not to tell anyone what they witnessed.

Back to Mark 10:32 - As Jesus was going up to Jerusalem he took the 12 aside and told them what was going to happen to him when they reached Jerusalem. (V 33-34): "The Son of Man will be betrayed to the chief priests and teachers of the law. They will condemn him to death and will hand him over to the Gentiles, who will mock him and spit on him, flog him and then kill him. Three days later He will rise from the grave."

"What a load to place on the disciples as they were preparing the celebrate the Passover with him! But Jesus knew that 'other things were on the minds of the Jewish leaders.' Step aside and let's look at the unfolding drama taking place the last week of Jesus' life!

The props and players for Friday's drama are moving into position. At the Roman garrison, the 6-in spikes are in the bin. A

cross-beam is leaning against the shed wall. Thorn limbs are wrapped around a trellis awaiting the weaving of a soldier's fingers. All the players are nearing the stage. There's Pilate - concerned at the number of Pass-over pilgrims converging on the city. Anna and Caiaphas (the priests) are restless over that trouble-maker Nazarene.... making devious plans to kill him "one way or another". Judas, the betraying discipline, is waiting for his timing to lead the mob to arrest Jesus. The centurion is ready and available for the next crucifixion. It was just another day in his loathsome schedule. But he was ready. They were all ready for their part in this drama that was fast unfolding. Yet this is not a play: it is a divine plan of God. It had been set into motion before Adam felt heaven's breath and now all heaven is waiting and watching. All eyes are on Him - Jesus, the Nazarene. Hear the 'hush' as the heavenly hosts leans over the walls of heaven, observing this mounting drama below.

And suddenly, a joyful noise



Bill Crider

is heard. Mk-11:7-10: When they brought the colt to Jesus & threw their cloaks over it, He sat upon it and entered the city, amidst the joyous cry of the multitude. Those who went ahead & those who following were shouting, "Hosanna - Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord. Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father, David. Hosanna in the highest" (Psa 118:25-6; Isa 56:7; Jer 7:11).

He had told his disciples what was going to happen when they reached Jerusalem. Here they were entering the city on a donkey. This was not the Messiah, the Son of God, the people had expected, yet they greeted him with great excitement, laying palm limbs & their cloaks before him. But the common thought of the high priests and scribes was: "If He were the Messiah, then He would come as a conqueror with great armor and weapon, sitting high on a white stallion."

But Jesus was commonly clad (not as of royalty). He was uncommonly focused - one thing He knew - a cross was awaiting him. That day, they had left Jericho, making their way Bethany and past the Mt of Olives and now they were entering into Jerusalem for the very last time. This is the city he had wept for, the Mother of Judaism. As He entered the city, we have no evidence that He chatted with

the happy greeters, nor did He pause and wave at the crowd. He is on a journey. This is His final one and He knows it.

The angels in heaven were silently observing the drama below. They knew this is no ordinary walk! No ordinary parade! No ordinary man! No ordinary week! For the very door of all eternity is hinging on this week!

When one knows the end is near, the important things surface. Impending death seems to distill everything into just the vital matters. Trivia things disappear! Only the absolute remains! He knew the end was near. He knew that finality was before Him. He had read the last chapter before it was written and heard the final chorus before it was sung. From here each step was deliberately calculated!

Knowing He had just one week with the disciples, He still had lots to teach them. Now was crunch time. This is how Jesus approached the last week, the Holy Week.

Can you sense His passion? Maybe He was laughing as the children sang "hosanna - Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord." Feel His weeping over Jerusalem as they approached the city he loved! (Luke 19:41): "If you, even you -Jerusalem, had only known on this day what would bring you peace - but now it is hidden from your eyes." Let His passion

grip you as He prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane while his disciples slept! Hear Him say to His disciples with anguish in His voice: "Could you not keep watch for one hour? The Spirit is willing but the body is weak"

Sense His power in the closing days: Blind eyes -opened to see ; the fruitless fig tree that withered; the money changers in the Temple, scampering for safety as he overturned the tables, saying: "My house shall be a house of prayer, but you have made it a den of robbers."

During this solemn week, we will hear his promises echo. "Death has no power. Fear has no control. God has come into your world...to take you home." This is Jesus' final journey....as He travels intentionally toward the cross...on His way to the tomb and then to be resurrected and take His place on the right hand of God, the Father. He was 'homeward bound.' (John 14). By following this drama each week, we will see in these corresponding chapters of the Gospels some very important pointers to help us as we make our journey to the cross.

BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER

THE UPWARD LOOK

Shout, Sing, and Say

"Shout joyfully to God, all the earth! Sing the glory of His name; make His praise glorious. Say to God, 'How awe-inspiring are Your works!'" Psalm 66:1-3a HCSB



Max Hutto

The psalmist overflows with praise to God for His marvelous deeds. Not only the children of God but all the people of the world would hear of God's amazing glory. All the earth must be told of the wondrous works of God. The children of God must tell His story that begins with joyful praise for He is the

Almighty God. The story must continue by telling of all that God has done, including His great work of salvation. He has provided by His grace a salvation that is available to all who would place their faith and trust in Jesus.

Lord God, You are awesome, marvelous, glorious, and amazing. Thank You for the gift of salvation and eternal life through the Lord Jesus Christ.

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

INSPIRATION

Character Flaws

Many of us have heard the old adage "God doesn't call the perfect he perfects the called." You may think it sounds cliché but it is proven true in the Bible time and time again. God called several people to do incredible and amazing things and almost all of them had a major character flaw. Take for example Abram(Abraham) he lied because he thought he was protecting himself from harm. Or Moses who was a murderer. And final Saul (Paul) who was a persecutor and murderer of Christians. These men all had their character flaws but that's not where their stories end. Abraham became the father of nations. Mo-




Bernard Harris

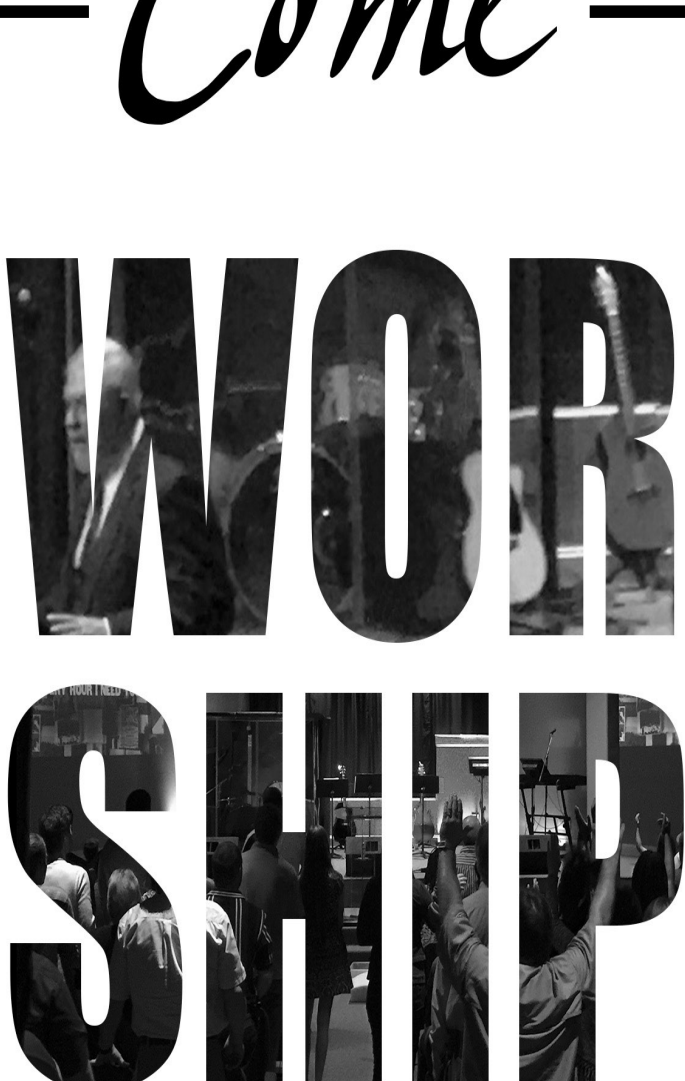
ses followed the call of the lord and spoke to pharaoh as his name which resulted in him leading the children of Israel out of Egypt. And Paul became one of God's most faithful apostles and author of much of the new testament. I give these examples to encourage everyone to let God use you. Don't let the mistakes of the past or the problems of the present hinder your future in Christ.

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

Come

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ASSEMBLY OF GOD
MINDEN



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

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“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.

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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

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

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

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2022 KENWORTH IS STORED AT 1422 SIBLEY RD, MINDEN, LA, 71055

IF ALL CURRENT CHARGES ARE NOT PAID AND VEHICLE CLAIMED BY THE OWNER BY MARCH 21, 2024 A PERMIT

TO SELL MAY BE OBTAINED.

March 6, 2024
March 13, 2024
Minden Press Herald

NOTICE OF EXTREME PUBLIC EMERGENCY

By action taken by the Webster Parish Police Jury, on behalf of the Saltworks Water System, on March 5, 2024, an extreme public emergency was declared due to the urgency to drill and complete a new potable water well and associated appurtenances before the summer months.

Resulting from the Saltworks Water System not being able to negotiate a new lease with the landowner of the original well site, the Webster Parish Police Jury applied and received a Louisiana Community Development Block Grant to drill two new water wells and associated appurtenances. Test holes were drilled on two sites, and both proved unsuitable for a production well.

As the expiration date on the Saltworks Water System's original well site drew near, The Town of Sibley fast-tracked installation of a 6" main to the Saltworks Station to enable the customers of the Saltworks Water System to have treated water.

Utilization of the Town of Sibley's existing water supply to meet water demand for customers in the Saltworks Water System service area for an extended period appears unsustainable in its current condition. Should the Town of Sibley experience any disruptions in its water supply, it will be forced to immediately discontinue potable water to the Saltwork Water System, which will create a health/ safety hazard for its customers.

The purpose of the declaration of the extreme public emergency is to allow the Webster Parish Police Jury, on behalf of the Saltworks Water System, to drill a new well and associated appurtenances on a site in the vicinity of a proven well, without the necessity of advertisement of same under the provisions of Louisiana R.S. 38:2212 et seq. and to utilize for its Environmental Review Record "Exempt Activities - 58.34(a) relative to the site of the new well and associated appurtenances. A conventional time schedule to accomplish these tasks is inadequate to remedy the situation.

Jim Bonsall, President
Webster Parish Police Jury
Post Office Box 389
Minden, Louisiana 71058-0389
(318) 377-7564

March 6, 2024
Minden Press Herald

FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF PRECINCTS AND POLLING LOCATIONS

| | | |
|-----|--|-------------------|
| 1 | SPRINGHILL CIVIC CENTER | 101 MACHEN DR |
| 1A | SPRINGHILL CIVIC CENTER | 101 MACHEN DR |
| 2 | SPRINGHILL CIVIC CENTER | 101 MACHEN DR |
| 2A | SPRINGHILL CIVIC CENTER | 101 MACHEN DR |
| 2B | SPRINGHILL CIVIC CENTER | 101 MACHEN DR |
| 3 | SPRINGHILL CIVIC CENTER | 101 MACHEN DR |
| 4 | SPRINGHILL CIVIC CENTER | 101 MACHEN DR |
| 5 | SPRINGHILL CIVIC CENTER | 101 MACHEN DR |
| 6 | CULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING | 405 COYLE AVE |
| 8 | SAREPTA COMMUNITY BUILDING | 210 VINES ST |
| 9 | NEW SHONGALOO CIVIC CENTER | 119 HWY ALT 2 |
| 9A | NEW SHONGALOO CIVIC CENTER | 119 HWY ALT 2 |
| 10 | NEW SHONGALOO CIVIC CENTER | 119 HWY ALT 2 |
| 11 | SAREPTA COMMUNITY BUILDING | 210 VINES ST |
| 12 | NORTH WEBSTER UPPER ELEMENTARY | 6245 HIGHWAY 160 |
| 13 | NORTH WEBSTER UPPER ELEMENTARY | 6245 HIGHWAY 160 |
| 14 | EVERGREEN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT | 1853 EVERGREEN RD |
| 15 | PLEASANT VALLEY UMC ACTIVITIES BLDG | 16835 HWY 371 |
| 16 | MINDEN COMMUNITY HOUSE | 711 GLADNEY ST |
| 17 | J E HARPER PATHWAY TO EXCELLENCE SCHOOL | 618 GERMANTOWN RD |
| 17A | J E HARPER PATHWAY TO EXCELLENCE SCHOOL | 618 GERMANTOWN RD |
| 17B | J E HARPER PATHWAY TO EXCELLENCE SCHOOL | 618 GERMANTOWN RD |
| 17C | J E HARPER PATHWAY TO EXCELLENCE SCHOOL | 618 GERMANTOWN RD |
| 18 | WEBSTER COURTHOUSE ANNEX (WEST ENTRANCE) | 401 MAIN ST |
| 18A | WEBSTER COURTHOUSE ANNEX (WEST ENTRANCE) | 401 MAIN ST |
| 22 | MINDEN CIVIC CENTER | 520 BROADWAY ST |
| 22A | MINDEN CIVIC CENTER | 520 BROADWAY ST |
| 24 | MINDEN CIVIC CENTER | 520 BROADWAY ST |
| 24A | MINDEN CIVIC CENTER | 520 BROADWAY ST |
| 25 | PHILLIPS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | 811 DURWOOD DR |
| 25A | PHILLIPS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL | 811 DURWOOD DR |
| 26 | MINDEN CIVIC CENTER | 520 BROADWAY ST |
| 27 | MINDEN CIVIC CENTER | 520 BROADWAY ST |
| 28 | MINDEN COMMUNITY HOUSE | 711 GLADNEY ST |
| 29 | J E HARPER PATHWAY TO EXCELLENCE SCHOOL | 618 GERMANTOWN RD |
| 29A | J E HARPER PATHWAY TO EXCELLENCE SCHOOL | 618 GERMANTOWN RD |
| 31 | MINDEN COMMUNITY HOUSE | 711 GLADNEY ST |
| 31A | MINDEN COMMUNITY HOUSE | 711 GLADNEY ST |
| 32 | DUBBERLY FIRE STATION | 838 HIGHWAY 532 |
| 33 | MINDEN CIVIC CENTER | 520 BROADWAY ST |
| 34 | MINDEN CIVIC CENTER | 520 BROADWAY ST |
| 35 | SIBLEY CIVIC CENTER | 127 SE FOURTH AVE |
| 36 | DUBBERLY FIRE STATION | 838 HIGHWAY 532 |
| 38 | HEFLIN CIVIC CENTER | 116 N MAIN ST |
| 39 | HEFLIN CIVIC CENTER | 116 N MAIN ST |
| 40 | SIBLEY CIVIC CENTER | 127 SE FOURTH AVE |
| 41 | DOYLINE HIGH SCHOOL | 376 COLLEGE ST |
| 42 | DOYLINE HIGH SCHOOL | 376 COLLEGE ST |
| 43 | FIRE DISTRICT #7, FIRE STATION #5 | 11217 HIGHWAY 80 |

This is for the MARCH 23, 2024 and APRIL 27, 2024 elections.

March 6, 2024
Minden Press Herald

February 23, 2024

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

STATEWIDE FLOOD CONTROL PROGRAM

AIRPORT CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY PROGRAM

PORT CONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT PRIORITY PROGRAM

SHORT LINE RAILROAD INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

To review the Statewide Flood Control Program, the Airport Construction and Development Priority Program, the Port Construction and Development Priority Program, and the Short Line Railroad Infrastructure Improvement Program as follows:

BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA: 9:00 A.M., Thursday, March 7, 2024, Louisiana State Capitol, House Committee Room 6.

These Public Hearings will be conducted in accordance with Act 351 of the 1982 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature by the House and Senate Legislative Committees on Transportation, Highways, and Public Works and in accordance with Acts 451 and 452 of the 1989 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature by the House and Senate Legislative Committees on Transportation, Highways and Public Works and in accordance with Act 222 of the 2019 Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature by the House and Senate Legislative Committees on Transportation, Highways and Public Works.

The purpose of these Public Hearings is to review the Statewide Flood Control Program, the Airport Construction and Development Priority Program, the Port Construction and Development Priority Program, and the Short Line Railroad Infrastructure Improvement Program for Fiscal Year 2024 and 2025. All interested persons are invited to be present.

Oral testimony will be received. However, so that all persons desiring to speak have an equal opportunity to do so, it is requested that every effort be made to complete individual testimony as quickly as possible. Oral testimony may be supplemented by presenting written statements and comments to the Committee by mailing the same postmarked within ten (10) calendar days following the hearing to the above address. If you have any questions, please contact Ms. Elizabeth Eastwood, Department of Transportation and Development, phone (225) 379-3038.

s/Terrance J. Donahue
Terrance J. Donahue
Secretary

March 6, 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 or contact your local Registrar of Voters office at 377-9272.

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

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Name: _____

Telephone number: _____

Entry Deadline April 2, 2024 - 4 p.m.

Everyone has an opinion and now it's time to give yours. Vote for your favorite business in Webster Parish! The winners will be announced in the Readers' Choice edition on Wednesday, May 1, 2024. You may drop the ballot off at the Minden Press-Herald office at 203 Gleason Street in Minden or mail it to the Minden Press-Herald, P.O. Box 1339, Minden, LA 71055. Only one ballot per person will be permitted. **No reproductions or faxes will be accepted.**

| | |
|--|--|
| 1. Favorite Ambulance Service | 47. Favorite High School |
| 2. Favorite Apartment Complex | 48. Favorite Home Health Agency |
| 3. Favorite Appliance Store | 49. Favorite Insurance Agent |
| 4. Favorite Auto Body Shop | 50. Favorite Jeweler |
| 5. Favorite Auto Parts Store | 51. Favorite Landscaping/Lawn Care Provider |
| 6. Favorite Bakery | 52. Favorite Lawn Equipment Dealer |
| 7. Favorite Bank | 53. Favorite Lawyer |
| 8. Favorite Barber Shop | 54. Favorite Liquor Store |
| 9. Favorite BBQ | 55. Favorite Lunch Location |
| 10. Favorite Beauty Shop | 56. Favorite Manufactured Home Dealer/Supplier |
| 11. Favorite Breakfast Restaurant | 57. Favorite Mini Storage |
| 12. Favorite Buffet Restaurant | 58. Favorite Mechanic |
| 13. Favorite Car Wash/Detail | 59. Favorite Mexican Restaurant |
| 14. Favorite Casino | 60. Favorite Middle School |
| 15. Favorite Catering | 61. Favorite New Auto Dealer |
| 16. Favorite Chicken | 62. Favorite New Vehicle Salesperson |
| 17. Favorite Church | 63. Favorite Nonprofit |
| 18. Favorite Clothing Store | 64. Favorite Nursing Home/Assisted Living |
| 19. Favorite Coach (ANY SPORT) | 65. Favorite Oil Change Location |
| 20. Favorite Contractor | 66. Favorite Pawn Shop |
| 21. Favorite C.P.A. | 67. Favorite Pediatrician |
| 22. Favorite Crawfish | 68. Favorite Pest Control Provider |
| 23. Favorite Customer Service (any business) | 69. Favorite Pet Groomer |
| 24. Favorite Dance Studio | 70. Favorite Pharmacy |
| 25. Favorite Daycare Provider | 71. Favorite Physician/Surgeon |
| 26. Favorite Dentist | 72. Favorite Pizza Restaurant |
| 27. Favorite Donuts | 73. Favorite Place to Stay Overnight |
| 28. Favorite Drive Thru Restaurant | 74. Favorite Plumber |
| 29. Favorite Electrician | 75. Favorite Principal |
| 30. Favorite Elementary School | 76. Favorite Public Official |
| 31. Favorite Evening Meal Restaurant | 77. Favorite Real Estate Office |
| 32. Favorite Event Destination/Venue | 78. Favorite Restaurant |
| 33. Favorite Eye Care Provider | 79. Favorite Roofing Company |
| 34. Favorite Financial Advisor | 80. Favorite School Teacher |
| 35. Favorite Fitness Center | 81. Favorite Seafood Restaurant |
| 36. Favorite Florist | 82. Favorite Shoe Store |
| 37. Favorite Funeral Home | 83. Favorite Small Business |
| 38. Favorite Furniture Store | 84. Favorite Tanning Salon |
| 39. Favorite Gas Station | 85. Favorite Tax Preparer |
| 40. Favorite Gift Shop (Non-Florist) | 86. Favorite Tire Store |
| 41. Favorite Glass Shop - (Non-Eyewear) | 87. Favorite Tuxedo Rental |
| 42. Favorite Grocery Store | 88. Favorite Used Auto Dealer |
| 43. Favorite Hamburger | 89. Favorite Used Vehicle Salesperson |
| 44. Favorite Hardware Store | 90. Favorite Veterinarian |
| 45. Favorite Healthcare Provider | 91. Favorite Walk-In Quick Care Medical |
| 46. Favorite Heating & Air Provider | |

GARDENING WITH DR. JOE WHITE

FLOWER BEDS

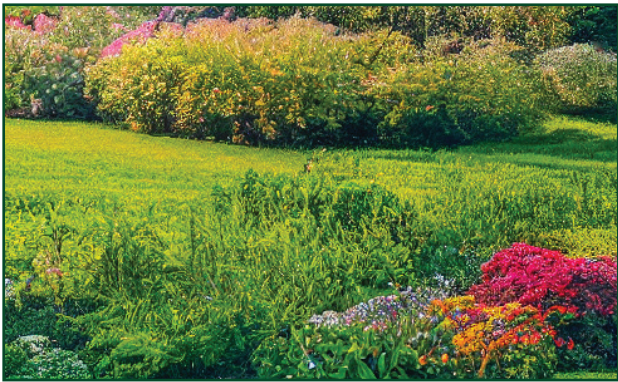
JOE W. WHITE, PH.D.
Extension Horticulturist, (ret)
LSU AgCenter
February 2024

Although there's a chance that we could have another killing frost or freeze before spring arrives, we have to live with what nature gives us. So, go ahead and get your color parade started.

One way to spruce up your landscape is by the addition of colorful flower beds. I'm sure that at one time or another we have admired the beautiful flower beds pictured in garden magazines. Actually, we could achieve such a level of success if we just took the time and effort (and expense) to provide an ideal environment for our flowerers.

While location of beds is important depending on who will view the flowers, there are other considerations that are or perhaps may be even more important. One of those factors is the amount of sunlight available in the location chosen. Most flowers usually require a minimum of six hours of sun daily and some flowers need even more than that. In general, morning sun is best especially during the summer when high temperatures can scorch the tender petals exposed to the afternoon sun.

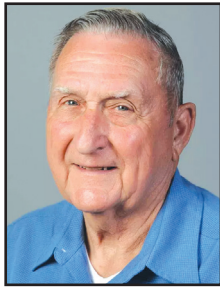
Another primary need for flowering plants is good



drainage. Not providing for good drainage can easily result in dead flowers which usually leads to a disappointed gardener. In order to avoid this problem, all you have to do is build a raised bed for them. Most southern gardeners and home owners tend to prefer an informal shape for their flower beds. Such a bed can be easily shaped by using a warm garden hose as a guide or pattern. Others would rather have a more formal appearance for the bed, usually a square or rectangle which are easy to construct. It's just a matter of deciding on what size to make the bed. Depth of beds is up to the person building the bed, but usually the sides are about a foot high. The media used is usually filled in up to an inch or two of the top of the side. Several materials are available for making the sides of the beds. Bricks that match those of the home are often chosen, but other kinds of bricks are commonly used. Other choices would include natural

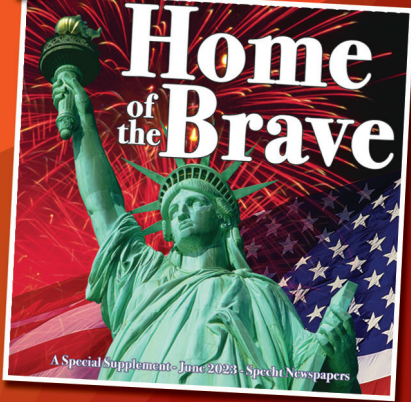
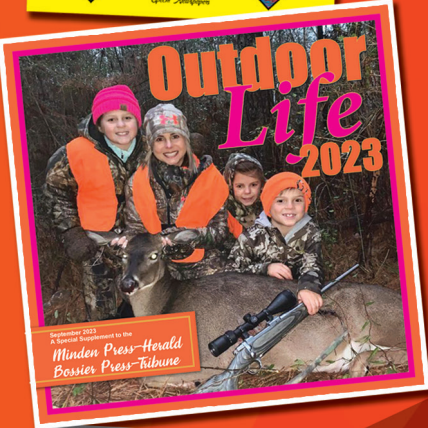
stones, cinder or concrete blocks, landscape timbers, used railroad ties and metal edgings. Regardless of the material used, it's important to make "weep" holes at the base of the wall to prevent water from being trapped in the bed and drowning the plants.

Before the bed is ready for planting the flowers, spread about two or three inches of coarse gravel over the bottom and the same amount of builder's sand on top of the gravel. Then, fill the remaining space with a good quality media. While not always necessary, it's a good practice to screen the media to remove any undesirable components.

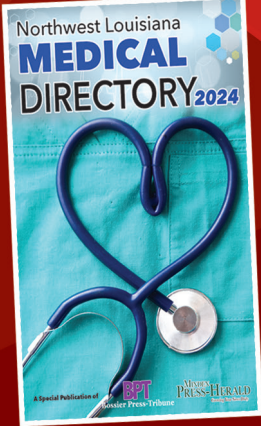


JOE W. WHITE, Ph.D.

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