

COUNCIL

City Council charts course for \$4.1M allocation from American Rescue Plan Act

WILL PHILLIPS
Minden Press-Herald

The Mayor and City Council met on Monday evening to hold a workshop where they discussed their plans for allocating the funding from The American Rescue Plan Act for the city of Minden. As a result of the act, the city is given \$4,100,000 to put towards making improvements in the community, including projects like replacing water lines, improving community facilities such as the REC Center and community house, and enhancing the animal shelter, among others.



COX

Mayor Nick Cox created a working budget that provided rough estimates of how much the ARPA money would be used for each project. He made it clear that these estimates were ballpark figures and were subject to change as more solid estimates became available.

"I gave a lot of thought

See, **COUNCIL**, Page 3

RESURRECTION



Living Word Minden hosted The Road to Resurrection this past weekend where over 300 attendees got to see live renditions of stories from scripture.

WILL PHILLIPS/PRESS-HERALD PHOTOS

The Road to Resurrection

WILL PHILLIPS
Minden Press-Herald

The Bible came to life this past weekend at the Minden Living Word Worship Center where they featured "The Road to Resurrection," a walk-thru event that teaches biblical history in a unique way. Guests took a 30-minute tour through the 'museum,' seeing ancient artifacts and learning some biblical history through the live recounts from those who witnessed Jesus

firsthand. "Everyone needs to hear and see the redemptive story of Christ, but few will get to walk through it. It's the most wonderful story of love, forgiveness, and power to ever take place on planet Earth!" said the pastor of Living Word Worship Center, Trey Waller.

The production ran three times over the weekend, twice on Saturday and once on Sunday, seeing over 300 attendees throughout the

weekend. "For the most part, people are coming out and saying that this is the best production they've ever seen. Like it's just tugging at their heart, because the actors that we have, when they're doing their part, it's scripture, it's the Word, and the Word is



WALLER

alive. So as people are going through there, it's like the Bible is coming to life for those that see it," said Waller.

Pastor Waller also expressed his gratitude for those who led the production as well as the volunteers who helped it to run smoothly.

"Michael Anglin was our head. He organized everything. He helped with writing scripts and with practices. All of our team, they've been prac-

See, **ROAD**, Page 3

CRIME

Dallas man arrested on drug and weapons charges on Pearl Street

STAFF REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

A Dallas man was arrested on Pearl Street in Minden on March 23, following a routine traffic stop that escalated into a significant drug and weapons bust. De'Audrick Gill, 23, was taken into custody after officers discovered a cache of illegal substances and firearms in his possession.

The incident began when an officer patrolling the area of East Union Street near Main Street observed a black Chrysler 200 failing to properly change lanes after turning left onto Main Street. The officer initiated a traffic stop and, as he approached the vehicle, the passenger was seen attempting to reach for something. A subsequent search of the vehicle revealed a small plastic bag of marijuana in the passenger's possession.

Gill, the driver, was instructed to exit the vehicle and was found to be in possession of more drugs. Gill claimed all responsibility for the contents of the vehicle. He admitted to having additional marijuana, Xanax, Promethazine, and two firearms under his driver's seat. A search of the vehicle uncovered a significant

See, **CRIME**, Page 3

COMMUNITY

Local Easter celebrations and events this Holy Week

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

As Easter approaches on March 31, local churches and communities are gearing up to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ with a variety of events and activities.

Easter, also known as Resurrection Sunday, commemorates the resurrection of Jesus from the dead, as described in the New Testament. It marks the culmination of Holy Week, which begins with Palm Sunday and concludes on Holy Saturday.

Many area churches and communities have planned special events to mark this significant Christian holiday. Some of the highlights include: Easter Carnival in Springhill: On March 30, from 1-3 PM, City Park in Springhill will host an Easter carnival, offering games, music, and fun for the whole family.

Easter Egg Hunt at House of Peace Minis-

tries: Located at 680 Lee Street in Minden, House of Peace Ministries will be hosting an Easter egg hunt on March 30 starting at 2 PM. The event will feature games, music, food, and photos with the Easter bunny.

Easter Egg Hunt at Warsaw Park: On March 31, from 2 PM until 5 PM, Warsaw Park, located at 615 Walnut Street in Minden, will be hosting an Easter egg hunt for children of all ages.

Community-wide Egg Hunt in Haughton: First Baptist Church of Haughton will be holding a community-wide egg hunt at 105 E. Washington Avenue in Haughton from 10 AM until noon on March 30.

Musical Drama at Pine Grove Methodist Church: Pine Grove Methodist Church, located at 4549 Highway 159 in Minden, will be presenting a musical drama about Jesus'

See, **EVENTS**, Page 3

RIBBON CUTTING



AT&T held ribbon cuttings in Dixie Inn and Minden on March 22 to celebrate the expansion of the fiber optic network in Webster Parish.

AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

Ribbon-cutting ceremonies celebrate completion of latest GUMBO project and fiber expansion in Minden

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Ribbon-cutting ceremonies were held in Dixie Inn and Minden on the morning of March 22 to mark the collaboration between

the state of Louisiana and AT&T on a plan to bring a state-of-the-art fiber network to homes, businesses, and farms in parts of thirteen Louisiana parishes. The \$22 million project is contingent upon a final

contract between the state of Louisiana and AT&T, with the telecom giant boasting extensive experience deploying fiber-optics across Louisiana.

See, **FIBER**, Page 3

CRIME

Two women arrested on outstanding warrants after traffic stop

STAFF REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

Two women were arrested on March 21 following a traffic stop in Minden when an officer observed a black Chevy Tahoe with an obscured dealer tag.

According to the police report, the officer noticed an overwhelming odor of natural marijuana emitting from the vehicle and observed four unrestrained children in the backseat. The driver, identified as Jaleshia Sims, 27, claimed the smell was due to her smoking earlier in the day and denied the presence of any illegal narcotics or weapons in the vehicle.

Upon further investi-

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WEBSTER & MORE

GOVERNMENT

Seeds Women's Center director advocates for pregnancy center funding bill

AMBER MCDOWN

Minden Press-Herald

In a heartfelt testimony last week at the Louisiana State Capitol, Amber Bradford, executive director of Seeds Women's Center, shared her personal journey of how a pregnancy clinic changed her life 17 years ago when she was pregnant with her daughter. Bradford, now leading Seeds Women's Center, spoke passionately about the impact of such centers and advo-

cated for the passing of SB 278, a bill proposing state funding for pregnancy centers, adoption centers, and maternity homes.

Bradford highlighted the success stories from states like Texas, Kansas, Nebraska, and Oklahoma, where similar bills have helped these centers thrive and serve more individuals in need. She emphasized the importance of providing a safe and non-judgmental space for women facing difficult decisions, much

like the one she found at a pregnancy clinic years ago.

"My journey as a director at Seeds I can relate, understand, and share my story of how I made it and so can the women who are scared, upset, and not sure where to turn, have a safe, non-judgmental place as I did to be a part of like Seeds," Bradford said.

Bradford's testimony, along with that of another client from Life Choices, a Monroe-based pregnan-

cy center, resonated with legislators, leading to the unanimous amendment of the bill by the House of Representatives Appropriations Committee and the Senate Health and Welfare Committee.

"This bill does not affect our ability to share God's love by asking to pray with our clients and patients, sharing baby items that are donated to our center through our learn to earn programs, or hindering us from partnering with any faith-based programs,"

Bradford clarified.

Currently, Seeds Women's Center and 32 other pregnancy centers in Louisiana rely solely on donations. Bradford expressed her gratitude for the community's support and urged continued backing for Seeds Women's Center. If passed, SB 278 would enable these centers to expand their services, including educating women on prenatal and postnatal care, providing alternatives to abortion, and offering

mom and dad classes.

"This was an amazing experience, and I am so humbled to be a part of it to help not only pregnancy centers but help be the change for Moms, Dads, and children," Bradford concluded.

The bill now moves to Finance or to the Senate floor for a 2/3 vote. If it proceeds to Finance, Bradford will be invited back to share further insights with legislators about the crucial need for the bill's passage.

WPSO

Webster Parish Sheriff's Office unveils new firing range

AMBER MCDOWN

Minden Press-Herald

The Webster Parish Police Jury approved the allocation of a portion of the old penal farm for the development of a firing range for the Webster Parish Sheriff's Office (WPSO) last year. Sheriff Jason Parker envisioned the facility benefiting local law enforcement, area officers, and the local community.

Officers from the Minden Police Department recently utilized the range on Penal Farm Road for firearm qualification, obviating the need for journeys to ranges beyond the parish.

"This is what Sheriff Parker wanted, a facility that can be used by law enforcement officers to conduct their firearm proficiency training or to simply put in the practice they need," stated Capt.

Joel Thomas, WPSO firearms instructor. "We will make the range available for departments in the parish, plus any from surrounding parishes."

While the range remains in its nascent stages, Thomas affirmed the area's suitability and security for weapons training. Planned enhancements encompass a dedicated training building onsite, with designated instructors and range safety of-

ficers poised for assignment upon the facility's formal inauguration.

Training offerings will encompass low-light and nocturnal firearm drills, decision-making exercises, and leveraging cover and concealment for tactical advantage. Additionally, instruction in less-lethal munitions employment will be available.

Beyond serving law enforcement personnel, the

range will extend its accessibility to the public, functioning as an arena for education and training. The department aims to establish scheduled windows during which the public can access the range under the supervision of a WPSO firearms instructor. Moreover, initiatives are underway to furnish firearms safety and self-defense courses, with considerations being given to the provision of

hunter safety instruction for youth.

"Sheriff Parker believes well-informed, professionally trained citizens are an asset," articulated Thomas. "We will be hosting firearm safety training to the public, and we'll open the range for them at various times throughout the year."

MPD

Minden Police Department goes cashless for public transactions

AMBER MCDOWN

Minden Press-Herald

The Minden Police Department (MPD) is transitioning to a cashless system for all general public transactions, such as reports and bonds. According to MPD Lieutenant Kendrick, this move is aimed at administrative compliance with state audits and other requirements. "This is for admin-

istrative purposes just to keep things compliant with state audits and things like that," said Lt. Kendrick.

In a statement issued last week, the MPD stated that the shift to a cashless system aligns with their vision of modernizing financial processes, enhancing efficiency, and fostering greater transparency and accountability. The department aims

to streamline administrative tasks, reduce security risks, and better serve the community by greatly reducing cash transactions.

Once the transition is complete, the MPD plans to make an additional public announcement regarding the cashless system. The department will accept only credit cards, money orders, or cashier's checks for these transactions.

Key benefits of the transition include streamlined operations, enhanced security, improved record-keeping, transparency, accountability, and cost savings. Electronic payment methods will expedite various transactions, reduce wait times, and improve overall service delivery. Digital transactions offer heightened security features, minimize risks associated with cash

handling, and generate detailed, easily traceable records. This facilitates accurate financial reporting and compliance with regulatory audit requirements.

"We understand that this transition may require some adjustments, but we believe it will ultimately lead to a more efficient, secure, and inclusive service for all residents of Minden," the department

stated. "We remain committed to serving and protecting our community to the best of our abilities, and we believe that this move towards a cashless system will contribute to achieving that goal. We thank you for your continued support and cooperation."

AIRPORT

Minden airport to close temporarily for taxiway repairs

AMBER MCDOWN

Minden Press-Herald

Minden airport will temporarily close, except for helicopters, starting at 8 AM on Tuesday, March

26, until 5 PM on Tuesday, April 9, to allow for the taxiway contractor to begin laying asphalt, installing electrical, and making additional repairs to the

airfield. The airport may reopen prior to April 9 if conditions allow. For the most up-to-date information, please contact the Minden airport directly.

PUBLIC NOTICE



The full text of the Acts from the 2024 Second Extraordinary Session of the Louisiana Legislature may be viewed on the website of the Official Journal of the State at www.theadvocate.com.

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WEBSTER & MORE

OBITUARIES



Virginia Dare Reese Kirkikis

Virginia Dare Reese Kirkikis of Minden, Louisiana was born September 7, 1929, to John B. Reese and Margaret Krousel Reese in Ruston, Louisiana. She was a resident of Minden since 1949. She passed from this life on Wednesday, March 20, 2024. She is preceded in death by her parents, husband A.G. "Ike" Kirkikis, brother J.B. Reese, Jr., brother-in-laws and sister-in-laws, Billy Edwards, Dr. Steve and Maria Kirkikis, Leon and Pauline Demopolos and Harry Plomarity.

Those left to cherish her memory are sons, Stan Kirkikis and Wife Cindy, Dr. John Kirkikis and wife Kristin, grandchildren, Ike Kirkikis and fiancée Michelle Brewster, Tiffany Kirkikis, Jennifer and husband Kirk Savoy, Leah and husband Shaw Williber and great grandchild Parker Williber. Bonus grandchildren, Chelsea and husband Larry Anderson and children Gabby and Garrison, Josh Broadway and son Jace, Taylor Ryder and daughter Elizabeth, sister Patricia Edwards, sister-in-laws Peggy Reese and Thalia Plomarity, numerous nieces, nephews, cousins, special neighbor Blanche Monday and longtime caregivers Katie Foster and Sandy Stone.

Graveside services will be held Saturday, March 30, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at Gardens of Memory Cemetery in Minden, Louisiana under the direction of Rose Neath Funeral Home in Minden.



Betty Shaw Benedict

Betty Shaw Benedict passed away March 17th in Ruston, Louisiana. Betty was the daughter of Keenie and Iva Lee Knighton Shaw of Taylor, Louisiana. A graduate of Gibsland High School, Betty played basketball for the Gibsland Lions and was All-State guard. A talented musician, Betty played the French horn in high school and college. She taught piano lessons while living in Minden and was the organist for several churches in Minden and Baton Rouge.

Betty relocated to Baton Rouge in 1977 and began her new life as a passionate LSU fan. She predicted a

victory for LSU in all sports endeavors, especially football. An animal lover, Betty had many animal friends in her life, especially cats.

A gourmand, a stylish dresser, Betty enjoyed all things beautiful and was fastidious in keeping things tidy. She loved keeping up with politics and served as an election worker for many years in East Baton Rouge parish.

Our family owes special thanks to the friends Betty had in Baton Rouge. The kindnesses of Larry, Jane, Dennis and Nadia helped her stay in Baton Rouge for over twenty years. Tina Morrow was her wonderful friend and caregiver in Ruston. Betty is preceded in death by her parents and siblings, Keenie Lee Shaw, Alta Studds, and Drew Shaw. She is survived by her children Debra Benedict Venker (Mike) and Thomas Benedict (Marsha) and two very loved grandchildren, Mike and Erin.



Barbara Lynn Simmons

Barbara Lynn Simmons of Brackettville, Texas, passed away peacefully with family by her side, joining her beloved Neal, on March 20, 2024. She was born to parents Finis and O'Neil Langheld on December 6, 1941. Minden, Louisiana, was home throughout her childhood, spending it with her sisters, Bobbie and Sandra.

A chef at heart and in practice, Barbara fed many mouths and souls through her culinary gift. She picked up an international culinary flare via her travels throughout Southeast Asia and Europe while living abroad in her twenties and thirties. She opened many "Barbara's" restaurants stretching from South Carolina to Texas, with the most recent being Barbara's Table in Brackettville, Texas.

Barbara met the love of her life, Neal, in her later years. Married at 40, Neal adopted her son Caric Biles. They then expanded their family with a second son,

Barkley Simmons. Neal both supported and shared in Barbara's culinary gift with their Louisiana and Texas restaurants. Caric and Barkley both later joined their parents in the family's Texas restaurants.

Never meeting a recipe she couldn't put a personal touch to, Barbara also never met a room she couldn't revamp and added an elegant and sophisticated country look to each home Neal remodeled for them. Every place they called home was made beautiful by Barbara's personal design touch - the most recent being their historic late 1800's rock building in the heart of Brackettville. They transformed the building from their former restaurant by remodeling it into a primary residence with the commercial kitchen remaining, along with Barbara's passion and love for good food.

Barbara Simmons lived a full life, cooking up a storm for patrons well into her seventies. She was proud of her family and her and Neal's hard work. She is survived by her sister, Sandra Chanler, and husband, Bert of Minden, her son Barkley Simmons, and daughter-in-law Amanda, of Brackettville, Texas, all of whom invite you to share your memories at her Celebration of Life to be held on the lawn at the Simmons residence in downtown Brackettville, 112 North Street, at 3:00 pm March 30, 2024.



Jerry Wayne Johns

Funeral services for Jerry Wayne Johns will be held Thursday, March 28, 2024, at 10:00 a.m. at Rose Neath Funeral Home Chapel in Minden, Louisiana with Bro. Danny Warbington officiating. Interment will follow at Gardens of Memory in Minden, Louisiana. The family will receive friends, Wednesday, March 27, 2024, at Rose Neath Funeral Home in Minden.

Jerry was born July 8, 1947, in Winnfield, Louisiana and entered into rest March 25, 2024, in Minden, Louisiana.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Hurl and Thelma Johns, in-laws, James and Josephine Savell and his first wife, Wanda Johns.

He is survived by his wife Loli Savell Johns; sons, Darrell Johns (Ashley), Dawson Johns (Heather), Destry Johns, and Dusty Tucker (Niki); daughter, DeAnna Williams (Michael); sister, Debbie Janca (Chris); several nieces and nephews; grandchildren, Dillan Johns, Greg Johns, Natalie Johns (Seth), Kaydee Johns, Trey Yetman, Marissa Williams, (Michael) , Meaghan Williams, Dakota Williams, Drake Tucker, and Jase Tucker; and great grandchildren, Elena Johns, Hunter Layton, Brooklynn Woods, and Payton Wren.

Pallbearers will be Shad Sawyer, Destry Johns, Alan Myers, Dillan Johns, Robert Johns, Rusty Johnson, Donnie Johns.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

to the things that y'all wanted. The things that we, it seems like, as a group, wanted to see accomplished," said Mayor Cox. "We have one shot, probably in the history of the city, to put some money towards getting us a step ahead. Never before in the history of the city of Minden have we had a windfall like this, so we could do something good with it."

The listed items that the ARPA money is planned to be used for include the public works building, the animal shelter, the REC Department, audio and video equipment for the Civic Center, remodeling the community house, maintenance of the Shreve Water Main, airport hangars for the Minden Airport, and city cleanup and condemnations.

While going down the listed items to the Council, the Mayor gave general explanations of what the money would be used for. Regarding the funding for the REC Center, Mayor Cox was particular that he wanted the money to go towards improving the experience of the kids and citizens who utilize those facilities. "I want it spent on stuff that makes the kids have a better recreation experience," said Cox.

One of the more practical items was the maintenance for the Shreve Water Main. The Mayor gave a concise explanation of the importance of this water line, stating, "If it goes down, we are done for. That is the most practical thing on the list. That is the line that connects the water pumping to the water tower."

Another interesting item was investing in

building ten new hangars at the Minden Airport. These hangars would then be rented out to aircraft owners and generate revenue for the city. "I know that the airport is a tricky subject, but if you just look at this from a business standpoint, if we spend this money at an airport, it's the one place on this list where we actually make it back," said Mayor Cox. The hangars themselves would generate \$30,000 a year, on top of the profit from gas that the renters would also be purchasing.

In order for the city to oversee the use of the ARPA funds in some departments, special committees were made with members appointed by the Mayor. These include the Recreation and Civic Affairs Committee with Chairman Andy Pendgrass and Vice Chair Buddy Myles, the Animal

Shelter Committee with Chairman Michael Roy and Vice Chair Charlie Thomas, and the Property Standards Committee with Chairman Buddy Myles and Vice Chair Latasha Mitchell.

"It's a big number, but if y'all agree to do that, I want the way the money is spent to be approved by the Chairman of these committees," said Cox.

Near the end of the meeting, the Mayor reiterated about the working ARPA budget, "I just tried to look at all the things that y'all talk about a lot. And like I said, this is our shot to sprinkle some money through the city and hopefully it pays off in dividends." As a result of the workshop, it seems that motions to move forward with this budget will be voted on during the May Minden City Council Meeting.

ARREST

Continued from Page 1

gation, it was discovered that Sims had an outstanding fugitive warrant through the Bossier Sheriff's Office. A passenger in the vehicle, Akeilah Malone, provided a false name initially but was

later identified and found to have multiple active bench warrants and an arrest warrant through the Minden Police Department.

A probable cause search of the vehicle was conducted, resulting in

the discovery of 0.8 grams of methamphetamine under one of the children in the backseat.

Sims was charged with possession of a schedule II substance (methamphetamine), possession of a controlled dangerous

substance in the presence of a child under 17 years, and failure to restrain a child. Both Sims and Malone were arrested, advised of their rights per Miranda, and transported to the Minden Police Department for booking.



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ROAD

Continued from Page 1

ting since January, so they've been doing this for months. They've put in hundreds of hours, and we're surrounded by greatness, really. We have a great team here," said Waller.

"There's been about two dozen other volunteers building sets and other stuff behind the scenes. Pastor Jeff Scott

he was the one that was in charge of the scenes and organized the help."

Living Word Worship Center is located at 440 State Route 531 here in Minden. For more information about future events the church is planning like these, you can visit either their Facebook page titled Living Word Minden or their website at living-wordminden.org.

CRIME

Continued from Page 1

quantity of marijuana individually packaged for distribution, two bottles of Promethazine with Codeine, two bottles of Xanax, a scale, a Taurus G3 9mm, and a Smith and Wesson SD9 9mm.

Gill was charged with possession of schedule I (marijuana) with intent to distribute, possession of schedule II (Xanax)

with intent to distribute, possession of schedule V (Promethazine) with intent to distribute, illegal possession of a firearm near a controlled dangerous substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, improper lane change, and two bench warrants.

All evidence was collected and turned into the property room. Gill was taken into custody without incident.

FIBER

Continued from Page 1

The ribbon-cutting ceremony in Dixie Inn celebrated the completion of AT&T's latest GUMBO project. GUMBO, or Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities, is a program aimed at helping internet providers facilitate the deployment of broadband service to unserved areas of the state. Another ribbon-cutting ceremony took place at City Hall in Minden to celebrate the expansion of AT&T's fiber network in the Minden area, which is AT&T's private investment and not funded through the GUMBO grant.

Mayors and council members from both Minden and Dixie Inn, along with representa-

tives from AT&T, were present at each of the ceremonies.

AT&T Fiber, known for being the fastest among major providers, offers symmetrical speeds of up to 5-Gigs on downloads and uploads. This enhancement in speeds and bandwidth allows customers to connect multiple devices, stream multiple entertainment sources, quickly upload content to social media, and experience ultra-low lag for pro-level gaming - all simultaneously.

Residents and businesses interested in learning more about AT&T Fiber can visit att.com/fiber and sign up to be notified when service will be available at their address at att.com/notifyme.

EVENTS

Continued from Page 1

life, death, and resurrection titled "A Picture of Calvary" on March 29 at 6:30 PM.

Road to Resurrection Museum at Living Word Minden: Living Word Minden opened a Road to Resurrection museum on March 23 and 24. They will also be holding a Communion Service on March 29 at 6:30 PM and a Sunrise Service on Easter Sunday at 6:30 AM, followed by their regular service at 10 AM.

Men of Courage Holy Week Observance: Men of Courage will be meeting at the ash tree in Minden at 5:30 PM Monday through Friday of Holy Week to share insights about Jesus' activities during that week. They will also hold "One Cross One People, Walking in Unity" on March 29 from 7 AM until 7 PM. They will start at the ash tree across from the Civic Center at 7 AM, then they'll be at Save-a-Lot at 10 AM, the

Greater St. Paul Church at 2 PM, Minden Presbyterian at 4 PM, and at North Acres Church at 5:30 PM.

Movie Night at Antioch Baptist Church: On March 30 at 6 PM, Antioch Baptist Church in Dixie Inn will host a movie night featuring "The Case for Christ."

Easter EGGstravaganza at North Acres Baptist Church: North Acres Baptist Church held an Easter EGGstravaganza on March 23.

Easter Celebrations at Calvary Baptist Church: Calvary Baptist Church, located at 1400 Homer Road in Minden, will have their regular worship service at 10:45 AM followed by an egg hunt and family photos at noon. Services will also be broadcast on KBEF radio 9:30-10 AM.

These events provide opportunities for the community to come together for fun, fellowship, and worship as they celebrate the life of Jesus Christ during Holy Week.

OPINION

Joshua Specht, Editor
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OPINION

Louisiana 'Strikes a Blow' for Free Speech

Government-Coerced Private Censorship Now Before U.S. Supreme Court

The case is *Murthy v. Missouri*, a suit brought in federal court in Monroe, Louisiana by a number of states, including Louisiana. The basis of the suit involves states and individuals whose Covid posts were censored who then sued federal government officials for violating their free speech rights. Lower courts had ruled in favor of these plaintiffs, finding that certain government officials had pressured social media platforms to censor and suppress their posts.

The legal question is one regarding freedom of speech and how these enormous social media sites choose to "moderate"—in fact, censor—the content of speech and whether, either by their own doing or as a result of pressure from the federal government, or both, these tech giants are suppressing certain speech—which is virtually always conservative speech.

These "communications" reflect active coordination between Facebook and U.S. government officials, including high-ranking White House officials. In one example, after Pres. Biden claimed that social media sites and "Covid misinformation" were resulting in "killing people," a staffer at Meta (a Facebook spinoff) sent an email to U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy, which stated "it's not great to be accused of killing people" but Meta was committed to finding "a way to de-escalate and work together collaboratively."

Other such "communications" (i.e., threats) include former White House director of digital strategy Rob Flaherty and Covid adviser Andy Slavitt who "flagged posts for removal to social media employees and berated them if they didn't follow orders." (Wall Street Journal, 3-18-24). Flaherty further stated that he "also blamed Facebook for the Jan 6, 2021 riot and said it would be blamed for Covid deaths if it didn't increase censorship."

Wow. WSJ further noted that "officials reinforced these private lashings with public threats" including those of former White House press secretary Jen Psaki who stated that platforms could face "legal consequences" if they didn't censor vaccine misinformation. In keeping with the Psaki threats, more than one Biden

official strongly suggested the possibility of antitrust litigation brought against the platforms by the Department of Justice as well as removing Section 230 liability protections.

This incestuous relationship between the federal government and Facebook/Big Tech creates a toxic coordination

between government and huge social media sites to suppress critical information the public needs to make well-informed decisions. That's irrefutable censorship of free speech.

The Biden Administration claims these threats are simply "jawboning"—government speech intended to persuade and inform that is protected by the 1st Amendment. That's laughable. The U.S. 5th Circuit didn't buy it concluding that Biden officials "weren't merely out to persuade" but had instead "crossed the line by using threats of legal action." (WSJ, Id).

The greatest virtue of free speech is that all kinds of ideas are thrust into the rough and tumble of the "marketplace of ideas" where the best idea prevails and leads the nation to wise policy results on challenging national issues. That obviously cannot occur if certain speech is censored and suppressed.

Well, after arguments before the Supreme Court and the questions of several Justices, I am concerned. Several justices reflected in their questions a view of free speech antithetical to that expressed by the Founding Fathers and reflected in the Constitution—that the 1st Amendment is a limit on the Government's power to 'abridge' or censor free speech.

This unconstitutional view was articulated most clearly by Justice Jackson in her questioning but the so-called conserva-

tive Justices, including Kavanaugh and Roberts, also seemed to be leaning in the direction of supporting government censorship of free speech. Justice Jackson expressed concern that "the First Amendment will hamstring the government in significant ways in the most important time periods." She seems to have forgotten in her Constitutional Law class that "hamstringing" the federal government—beginning with that of the government of King George III—is exactly the reason why freedom of speech is the first Amendment in the Bill of Rights.

One of our most important constitutional principles is that the government cannot force private parties to do what the government is prohibited from doing on its own. Congress could not directly pass a law suppressing speech by American citizens about Covid. The law would be struck down immediately as a violation of the 1st Amendment. Well, neither can the government force Facebook and the other huge social media platforms to suppress speech. I hope the Supreme Court powerfully reaffirms that principle in this case.

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

Giving Thanks For The Angels In My Life

It was 1957 in South West City, Missouri when the twenty-two year old minister Wayne Earnest and his eighteen year old bride Linda stepped into our lives as the angels they were and continue to be in my memory today.

Time stood still. That is how it is when we are visited by beings from afar.

I sense that Wayne and Linda knew how much we needed them because it was a known fact that we were the poorest family in town who had just moved in from the country in 1955 to the top of the rocky hill because daddy knew that mother couldn't handle the horse-drawn wagon if we stayed in the country after he soon would die.

Life began to unfold. Wayne was the minister who was placed in our path to preach the word and to minister to those within his reach.

We were within his path. He visited my dad often during the last days of his life before he died on March 19, 1958 at home. He was the one who preached our dad's funeral.

They were there for us. Linda gave birth to their firstborn son, David, in the

year they were in our town. (I cherish the memory of knowing that mother sold them my out-grown baby bed which was used by both of their sons.)

The couple lived in a brownstone second story apartment near our school. My sister and I visited them almost daily as we walked by their house on our way home.

They never seemed to grow tired of us and always fixed us something to eat.

We loved them.

His kind of preaching pricked a ten year old child's heart. His sermons made me sit up and know the reality of it all. I would later become a Christian at fourteen as a result of those memories!

And then in September 1958 Wayne is called to leave our small church and to move to Florida.

The reality of their move became surreal when Brother

Earnest came to visit us on the last Sunday night after church on September 21, 1958 to celebrate my sister's thirteenth birthday.

He must have spent a couple of hours but it was never long enough.

I will always believe he was praying for our safety knowing what a vulnerable state our family was in considering that my mother had suffered a brain trauma as a young child and never fully matured thus resulting in us later going to an orphanage.

We didn't see them again but received letters from Florida.

We continued to walk by their apartment after school just hoping they might still be there. We never stopped looking for their blue and white 1950 Chevrolet.

Surely they would return. I lost track of their whereabouts.

The first time I spoke to them was in 1981, just four years before Wayne died of a massive heart attack at the age of fifty-two.

But I have gotten to visit with Linda a couple of times in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he preached. Her younger son,

Steve, still lives around Tulsa and David lives in Collierville, Tennessee. I asked her if she remembered me and her response was "I could never forget you."

Their love was stamped in my heart.

I've gone online and researched Wayne's work as a minister and it still reverberates today.

Don Bassett, the minister who gave his eulogy said "Wayne was always looking for something to do for someone in need!" And so it is with ministers and Christians who make a difference and who have a calling.

It isn't the money paid or the lack thereof but the caring in the heart that makes them go the distance.

Love is a quality that cannot be bought or sold.

I sense that Wayne never tried to shift his responsibility to someone on a committee but did more than he had to just because he cared.

Have we lost our mission today?

CONTACT SARAH AT SARAH9957@AOL.COM

KEEP THIS IN MIND

Beyond Rankings: Unveiling the True Story of Innovation

As an editor, I frequently come across rankings and reports that aim to provide snapshots of various aspects of our society. Recently, WalletHub released its report on the Most & Least Innovative States, sparking discussions and debates across the nation. While these rankings serve a purpose and offer valuable insights, they often fail to capture the full story of innovation in our country.

According to WalletHub's latest report, the U.S. ranks third out of 132 countries in the Global Innovation Index. However, when we delve into the state-level data, Louisiana finds itself at the bottom of the list. While

these rankings may seem discouraging at first glance, they only scratch the surface of the innovation landscape in our state.



DAVID SPECHT

It's crucial to acknowledge the hard work and dedication of individuals and organizations that are driving innovation forward, especially here in Northwest Louisiana. From the Cyber Innovation Center to BRF (Biomedical Research Foundation), from Louisiana

Tech's LTRI (Louisiana Tech Research Institute) to BPCC (Bossier Parish Community College) and LSUS (Louisiana State University Shreveport), our region is teeming with innovative projects and initiatives that deserve recognition.

While WalletHub's metrics may highlight areas where Louisiana falls short, they fail to capture the incredible progress and achievements happening right in our backyard. The presence of STEM professionals, the demand for STEM jobs, and the level of R&D spending per capita are undoubtedly important factors, but they do not paint the complete picture of in-

novation.

Innovation is not just about numbers and rankings; it's about creativity, collaboration, and resilience. It's about overcoming challenges and pushing the boundaries of what is possible. It's about the entrepreneurs, researchers, educators, and visionaries who are shaping the future of our state and our country.

So the next time you come across one of these "listicles," I urge you to consider the data in its proper context. While rankings may offer valuable insights, they often overlook the rich tapestry of innovation that exists beyond the numbers. Let's

celebrate the success stories, acknowledge the challenges, and continue to support and foster a culture of innovation in Louisiana and beyond.

At this newspaper, we are committed to showcasing the stories of innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship that are transforming our region. Join us as we explore the untold stories and uncover the true essence of innovation in Northwest Louisiana and beyond.

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

PRO FOOTBALL

Kansas City trades former Minden star to Titans

Sneed reportedly gets 4-year, \$76M deal

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Former Minden High star L'Jarius Sneed has been traded from Kansas City to Tennessee, according to media reports last week.

Sneed, a cornerback, played the first four seasons of his career with the Chiefs.

He played in three Super Bowls and helped the Chiefs win back-to-back titles the last two seasons.

According to the reports, the Chiefs will receive a 2024 third-round draft pick and a swap of 2027 seventh-round picks.

According to ESPN's Adam Schefter, who was the first to report the news, the trade had been in the works for days and it will be a formality after Sneed passes his physical.

Sneed will sign a new contract and become one of the highest paid cornerbacks in NFL history, Schefter reported in a post



FILE PHOTO
The Kansas City Chiefs have traded former Minden star L'Jarius Sneed to the Tennessee Titans.

on X (formerly Twitter).

Sneed's contract will reportedly include \$55 million in guaranteed money. It is reported to be a four-year deal worth a total of \$76 million.

In early March the Chiefs placed the non-exclusive franchise tag on Sneed. That allowed him to talk to other teams and for the Chiefs to work out a trade, according to ESPN.

"Sneed" was the No. 1 trending topic on X late last Friday night and early Saturday morning.

There were many posts thanking the former Louisiana Tech star for his contributions to the Chiefs' scouting success.

Many of those referenced his big play in this year's AFC Championship Game against Baltimore when Sneed knocked the ball out of Ravens receiver Zay Flowers' hands at the goalline in the 17-10 victory.

Sneed isn't the only former star from a Webster Parish school that will be on a new team this season.

Former North Webster and LSU standout Devin White signed a one-year, \$7.6 million deal with the Philadelphia Eagles earlier this month.

White had played his entire career with the Tampa Bay Bucs and was part of one Super Bowl-winning team.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Minden enjoys undefeated week

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

The Minden Crimson Tide went 4-0 last week.

Minden defeated Loyola 3-1, Cedar Creek 5-1, North Webster 10-0 and Doyle 5-2.

The Tide, who was scheduled to start District 1-4A play Monday against Bossier, got some outstanding pitching performances.

Brody Bower pitched a four-hitter with eight strikeouts and two walks against Loyola. Jaxon Smith gave up just five hits against Cedar Creek with five strikeouts and two walks. Minden avenged a 5-1 loss to the Cougars on March 16.

Zander Rowell pitched a one-hitter with no walks in the six-inning win against North Webster.

Landon Brewer al-

lowed just two hits in 6 2/3 innings against Doyle. He struck out nine and walked three.

Bryson Ranger and Bower both had three-hit games.

Minden entered this week 14-6.

Lakeside completed a three-game District 1-2A sweep against North Caddo last week, winning the final two games 6-0 and 22-6 in a doubleheader.

The Warriors were then swept by Loyola in their second district series 5-1, 3-2 and 12-1.

Hunter Sutton gave up just two hits and struck out nine in the first game against North Caddo. Lakeside entered this week 9-9.

Glenbrook split two games. The Apaches defeated Haynesville 13-2 in a District 1-1A game and lost to Cedar Creek 5-1.

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Lady Tidlers on roll as season hits home stretch

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

The Minden Lady Tidlers went 5-0 last week last week and entered this week with a six-game winning streak.

Minden defeated North Webster 12-1 and Northwood 16-0. The Lady Tidlers defeated Family Community 8-7 then swept a doubleheader against Castor 7-3 and 10-0 in their tournament.

Lindsay Ryan pitched a no-hitter in the five-inning game against North Webster.

Kylie Ryan also didn't allow a hit in the three-inning victory over Northwood. Leigha Kennon-Gilbert went 3-for-3.

The Lady Tidlers rallied past Family Community with six runs in the bottom of the fifth and two in the sixth.

Kylie Ryan went 4-for-4 in the first game against Castor.

Minden entered this week 13-9.

Lakeside picked up three wins. The Lady Warriors defeated Green Oaks 21-0, North Caddo 28-4 and Florien 12-3.

HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD

North Webster athletes sweep 300 hurdles in Don Millen Bearkat Relays

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

North Webster senior Avante Curry and freshman Xhailor McGlothan swept the 300-meter hurdles events in the Don Millen Bearkat Invitational last week at Benton.

Curry won the boys race in 40.78 seconds. He finished .74 ahead of runner-up Tyler Stewart of Haughton.

McGlothan won the girls race in 49.46. She finished .45 ahead of runner-up Kinsley Brotherton of Haughton.

McGlothan also teamed with sophomore De'Maiyh Moore, sophomore Kylee Sanders and freshman Tatyana Lawson to win the 4X200 relay in 1:47.26. North DeSoto was second in 1:48.43.

The North Webster foursome of senior An-

ekah Coleman, sophomore Tomiyah Hawthorne, Lawson and Moore finished third in the 4X100 relay in 50.31. Mansfield won in 49.67.

The Minden foursome of Brian Turner, Kaiden Shine, Cameron Mitchell and Porter Neal took third in the boys 4X100 relay in 43.71. Northwood won in 42.55.

Minden sophomore Brooklyn Jefferson was

third in the girls high jump with a leap of 4 feet, 8 inches. Loyola's Lola Stimits won with a 4-10.

Sanders finished third in the girls triple jump with a 30-0.5. North DeSoto's Mikayla Mondello won with a 32-1.

Minden junior Brayden Britton was fourth in the boys 110 hurdles in 15.46. Minden sophomore Madison Kirby finished fourth in the girls 200 in 26.78.

OUTDOORS

It's bird watching time

GLYNN HARRIS

This is a special time of year, for many reasons. For the outdoorsman and woman, fishing is on the verge of getting white-hot and it's about time to start chasing gobblers.

There is one thing that more and more outdoor enthusiasts have taken an interest in over the past few years. Seed and feed stores will bear this out. Bird watching has grown into a sport that is attracting not only the Jane Hathaway types but good ole boys and girls as well. Birdseed, feeders and bird books are hot items today.

This is the time of year when a plethora of species make the unbelievable trek from South and Central America to move into our woods, some to nest and some to make brief stops on their way north. The best way to know just which wild bird species are paying you a visit is to get yourself prepared to view them. Here are a few essentials to make this sport more enjoyable.

BIRD FEEDERS—These come in a variety of shapes and styles. You can buy them, or you can make them yourself. My personal favorite is one I once constructed that was squirrel-proof. I nailed a 3-foot square of plywood on top of a length of old power pole that extends some five feet above the ground. Before securing the plywood, I slipped a length of sheet metal pipe, something like a stovepipe, over the pole, making it difficult for squirrels and raccoons to climb.

BIRDSEED—I use two types; a black oil sunflower and wild bird mix. Others use thistle for finches or suet for woodpeckers and nuthatches. Be sure you replenish the supply regularly,



GLYNN HARRIS
AFeeding birds, such as this beautiful male cardinal, can give outdoorsmen something else fun to do.

especially after a rain since birdseed will spoil if left wet and unattended too long.

WATER—Birds, like humans, need water. A birdbath located somewhere in the yard will attract birds that come to water and bathe. A pump in the bath that circulates water will often attract warblers and other species that are not seed-eaters.

BINOCULARS—Leave a good pair of binoculars near your easy chair or wherever you can sit and watch what goes on around your feeder. Good viewing glasses makes bird identification so much simpler.

BIRD BOOKS—I have several and these are invaluable in helping me determine which species I'm viewing. I also keep a log of new sightings to help me build a list of birds I've identified.

Another type of bird will be here any day now, but you won't find it feeding on sunflower seeds. It's hum-

mingbird time and they're easy to attract. All you need to do is hang a couple of hummingbird feeders outside your window for a colorful aerial display.

Here are some facts about these tiny creatures you might find interesting.

- Hummingbirds wings beat about 55 times per second in normal flight, and up to 200 beats per second during courtship and territorial displays.

- Top speed for the hummingbird is about 60 miles per hour.

- During migration, hummingbirds may travel 500 miles non-stop across the Gulf of Mexico.

- Their nests are no bigger than a half dollar and their eggs the size of an English pea.

FEEDER TIPS

- Make your own hummingbird food by mixing one part granulated white sugar to four parts water;

never substitute honey for sugar.

- Hang feeders in the open but shaded areas, especially under eaves next to hanging flower baskets.

- Clean your feeders every two to three days so the liquid does not ferment. Feeders should be cleaned with vinegar or bleach (not soap) and then rinsed with scalding water.

- Don't worry about when to take your feeders down. Hummingbirds know when to leave. Late season feeding of northern migrants often occurs after your resident birds have already gone. They won't stay behind and freeze.

- While hummingbirds need nectar for energy, they also rely on insect protein for body and feather growth. When insect levels fall, the birds begin to leave.

Bird watching...it's inexpensive, it's rewarding and it's fun. And I'm glad that even good ole boys can enjoy it.

Fishing Report**BLACK BAYOU**

— Bass are improving fishing spinners and jigs around the trees. Crappie are starting to move shallow and fishing is improving on shiners or jigs. Contact Honey Hole Tackle Shop 323-8707 for latest information.

BUSSEY BRAKE

— Bass fishing is good with some really nice fish caught flipping the trees with jigs, using spinners and soft plastics. Crappie are on the banks and hitting jigs and shiners. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole at 323-8707.

OUACHITA RIVER

— Water is still high and muddy with very little fishing reported this week. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE D'ARBONNE

— Crappie are good with some caught in 3 foot water while others haven't quite moved in and are in 10 foot water. Shiners and jigs are working. Bass are on the banks with males getting beds ready and big females moving in to spawn. No report on catfish or bream this week. For latest information, call Anderson Sport Center at 368-9669 or Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE CLAIBORNE

— Crappie are starting to move to the back of the creeks where spawning is starting to take place. Bass are moving shallow with some good fish

caught on spinners, soft plastics and jigs. Best catches are being made early and late in the day. Stripers are beginning to show up in open water around Kel's Cove. No report on catfish. 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 mouth of the creeks. Rat-L-Traps ripped through the grass are picking up some bass with soft plastics, square bills and topwater lures are also working. Crappie are starting to move to the back of the creeks and are beginning to spawn and hit shiners or jigs. 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 with some still holding in deeper water. Shiners and jigs are working best. Catfishing is good. No report on bass. For latest reports, call Poverty Point Marina at 318/878-0101.

LAKE YUCATAN

— The water is on a slight rise. Lots of nice catfish and buffalo are being caught in nets. The crappie haven't started biting just yet; water still too cold. For information, call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.

Good News

GOOD NEWS

If Jesus had not come... If Jesus had not died... if Jesus Was Not Resurrected!

These are some things to ponder as we celebrate this special Holy Week. We cannot imagine what life would be like today if Jesus had not come to earth to offer eternal life to mankind. As Jesus made his way toward Jerusalem in those last few weeks of his life, He wanted so much to prepare his disciples for the time when He would not be with them physically. The Gospels record their responses to His efforts. Still after these years with him, they did not comprehend what His mission truly was. Jesus' mission was to provide the ransom for sinful man so the relationship between God and man that existed in the Garden of Eden would be restored. Had Jesus not come in the form of man, this Divine Plan could not have been completed. We would not have a Savior! There would be no Redeemer! Our

sins would not be forgiven! And there would be no hope of Eternal Life.

If Jesus had not died for our sins, life would be miserable the older we get. We would still be slaves to the sin in our lives. Life would be hopeless; we would be

aimlessly wandering through life like "sheep without a shepherd." The Cross, the spilled blood, the sacrifice Jesus made would all be done in vain... useless, meaningless and of no value to the redemptive plan of God, our Heavenly Father.

If there had been no 'open, empty tomb,' if the body of Jesus had been found in the tomb, and if there had been no evi-

dence of Jesus' resurrection, the hope of Eternal Glory would be just a wishful thought. All the promises of our Lord, found in the Bible, would be false hope leading us nowhere. But praise God, Jesus did come from heaven in the form of a babe; and He did die for our sins on a Roman cross. He was crucified with two thieves, being taunted by the soldiers, the Jewish leaders and others who gathered around the cross that day. (All of this was prophesied in the OT.) Salvation would not be possible. We would have no personal relationship with God, the Father and the promise of Eternal Life would be empty, if Jesus had not been resurrected.

But praise to the Father, in the name of Jesus, that all of these are historical facts. According to the Gospels we can know for certain we are saved relying on

the promises of Jesus who is identified as the 'Savior of the world.' As we celebrate Easter in the coming weeks, consider sharing these thoughts with others who are not clear in their thinking of the significance of this Holy Week and what it means to believers.

EASTER IS MORE THAN....

A dogwood in bloom; but It is about the Empty Tomb;

It's more than the bunnies, eggs and all that fuss;

It's all about Jesus' sacrifice for us,

About His death on Calvary's cross -

For you and me, no matter the cost.

It's all about His Resurrection on Easter Day -

The New Life and Hope -A New Way!

It's His Way of showing us His great love,

And the rewards awaiting us in heaven above.

It's God's way of revealing His loving care and more -

Forgiving our sins and opening the door

To His eternal kingdom prepared for you and me,

Through Jesus' Resurrection that sets us free.

Easter is all about the Christ, the Messiah, our Holy King - our Redeemer, Great Shepherd, our Everything!

So early on Sunday morn, we can rise to sing -

"Happy Easter to all - Christ has risen indeed!"

BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER



Bill Crider

THE UPWARD LOOK

The Marriage Relationship

"But as the church is subject to Christ, so also the wives ought to be to their husbands in everything." Ephesians 5:24 NASB



Max Hutto

Throughout this whole passage Paul intertwines the relationship of the church and Christ with the relationship of the wife and the husband. It should be noted that this analogy amplifies the importance and significance of the marriage relationship. Marriage is not to be taken lightly or flippantly. Too often in today's culture, people run in and out of a marriage or a

cohabitational relationship almost like running in and out of a store or a restaurant. Marriage should be regarded as a serious and sacred relationship.

Lord Jesus, help me to take both my relationship to my spouse and my relationship with You and Your church seriously, giving them importance and preeminence.

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

INSPIRATION

Happy Easter

The time is finally here and with it comes a great celebration and reflection. Many of us are thinking why should I celebrate? What in this troubling time gives me a reason to celebrate? I say read carefully because your Bibles have the answers. Avid readers of the Bible and churchgoers know that this is the time we recognize the death and resurrection of our savior. Jesus the perfect man died to save the imperfect and give us the holy spirit. I know Easter Sunday feels a little early this year. However, the purpose and the meaning remain the same. I would like to encourage everyone to celebrate and reflect on the



Bernard Harris

sacrifice of our savior. Jesus never gave up on us so let's continue to be faithful to him. Mark 8:31 NLT says "Then Jesus began to tell them that the Son of Man must suffer many terrible things and be rejected by the elders, the leading priests, and the teachers of religious law. He would be killed, but three days later he would rise from the dead."

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

Come

WORSHIP

SHIP

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

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PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!
377-1866

SHERIFF'S SALE

CENTRIC FEDERAL CREDIT UNION VS. LAURA MICHELLE FAULK AKA LAURA FAULK

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. CV81034.

By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE issued out of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, in the above styled and numbered suit and to me directed, I have seized and taken into my possession and will offer for sale at public auction to the last and highest bidder for cash WITH the benefit of appraisal and according to law at the principal front door of the Courthouse in the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana on WEDNESDAY, April 3, 2024, During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

2021 PUMA 32BHFS TRAVEL TRAILER, VIN #4X4T-PUH22MP089275

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

March 27, 2024 Minden Press Herald

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE OF LA STATE CIVIL SERVICE STATUS

Public Notice is hereby given that during the 2024 Legislative Session beginning March 11, 2024 and ending June 3, 2024, a bill in collective efforts with Louisiana Housing Council will be introduced on behalf of the Minden Housing Authority to provide status relative to LA Civil Service for employees of the housing authority and to provide related matters.

March 20, 2024 March 27, 2024 Minden Press Herald

SHERIFF'S SALE

FIRST TOWER LOAN, LLC, D/B/A TOWER LOAN OF BOSSIER CITY VS. GEORGIA M. HUDSON, DECEASED

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

By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE issued out of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, in the above styled and numbered suit and to me directed, I have seized and taken into my possession and will offer for sale at public auction to the last and highest bidder for cash WITH-OUT the benefit of appraisal and according to law at the principal front door of the Courthouse in the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana on WEDNESDAY, April 3, 2024, During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

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

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

PROPERTY LOCATION: 203 Williams Street, Cullen, LA

SOLD SUBJECT TO ANY SUPERIOR LIENS, MORTGAGES OR PRIVILEGES THERETO.

Said property seized is that of the defendant and will be sold to satisfy a judgment rendered in our Honorable Court.

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

Pam Brantley - Deputy

March 27, 2024 Minden Press Herald

PUBLIC NOTICE

Minden Planning Commission Meeting

April 4, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.

Pelican Room - Minden City Hall

On the agenda is a request from Braley Raborn (owner of BAR Interests, LLC.) for a zoning change from R-2 (Single Family Residential) to R-4 (Multi Family Residential) on property owned by him located on Beck Street.

The purpose of this zoning change request is for the proposed construction of multiple duplex (3 units) on the property.

Legal Description: 0.77 ACRES - TRACT 334.80 X 135 X 60 X 5 X 28.53 X 75.11 X 35 X 193.17 X 119.56 X 109.85 X 89.84 X 45 X 90 X 104.98 X 149.84 FT. IN SW/4 OF NW/4 SEC. 22-19-9, LESS LOT FRONTING 44 FT. ON BECK AVE. SOLD, LESS LOT 45 X 90 FT. SOLD, LESS LOT 45 X 110 FT. SOLD(2.06 ACS), & LESS 1.29 ACS SOLD

All interested parties will be given a chance to be heard.

March 13, 2024 March 20, 2024 March 27, 2024 Minden Press Herald

PUBLIC NOTICE

Minden Planning Commission Meeting

April 4, 2024 - 10:00 a.m.

Pelican Room - Minden City Hall

On the agenda is a request from Jitendra Kumar for a parking variance on property owned by him located at 806 Homer Road.

The purpose of this parking variance is to reduce the number of parking spaces that is required.

Legal Description: 0.42 ACRES - LOT 71.01 X 19.11 X 233.28 X 70.19 X 248.45 FT. IN SE/4 OF NW/4 SEC. 23-19-9 (BEING 244.70 X 525.44 X 224.71 X 327.39 X 19.11 X 233.28 X 70.19 X 248.45 X 780.22 FT. IN NE/4 OF SW/4 & SE/4 OF NW/4 SEC. 23-19-9, & LESS LOT 244.70 X 525.44 X 224.71 X 256.38 X 20 X 780.22 FT. IN NE/4 OF SW/4 SEC. 23-19-9 SOLD)

All interested parties will be given a chance to be heard.

March 13, 2024 March 20, 2024 March 27, 2024 Minden Press Herald

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed bids will be received for the State of Louisiana by the Division of Administration and shall be directed to the Office of Facility Planning and Control, 1201 North Third Street, Claiborne Office Building, Suite 7-160, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70802 or P.O. Box 94095, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70804-9095. The deadline for receipt of bids is 2:00 PM on Thursday, April 18, 2024, at which time bids will be opened and read aloud in a public meeting in the Claiborne Office Building, Conference Room 1-145.

ANY PERSON REQUIRING SPECIAL ACCOMMODATIONS SHALL NOTIFY FACILITY PLANNING AND CONTROL OF THE TYPE(S) OF ACCOMMODATION REQUIRED NOT LESS THAN SEVEN (7) DAYS BEFORE THE BID OPENING.

FOR: Road Repairs Lake Bistineau State Park Doyline, Louisiana PROJECT NUMBER: 01-107-18-02, F.01004440

Complete Bidding Documents for this

project are available in electronic form. They may be obtained without charge and without deposit from Mohr and Associates, Inc.. Printed copies are not available from the Designer but arrangements can be made to obtain them through most reprographic firms. Plan holders are responsible for their own reproduction costs.

Questions about this procedure shall be directed to the Designer at:

Mohr and Associates, Inc. 1324 North Hearne Avenue, Suite 301 Shreveport, LA 71107-6529 Telephone: 318-470-0638 E-mail: Donald F. Barker, III (dbarker@mohrandassoc.com)

All bids shall be accompanied by bid security in an amount of five percent (5.0%) of the sum of the base bid and all alternates. The form of this security shall be as stated in the Instructions to Bidders included in the Bid Documents for this project.

The successful Bidder shall be required to furnish a Performance and Payment Bond written as described in the Instructions to Bidders included in the Bid Documents for this project.

A PRE-BID CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD AT 11:00 AM on Thursday, April 04, 2024 at Lake Bistineau State Park, Entrance Station, 103 State Park Road, Doyline, LA 71023.

Bids shall be accepted from Contractors who are licensed under LA R.S. 37:2150-2192 for the classification of Highway, Street, and Bridge Construction. Bidder is required to comply with provisions and requirements of LA R.S. 38:2212(B)(5). No bid may be withdrawn for a period of forty-five (45) days after receipt of bids, except under the provisions of LA R.S. 38:2214.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids for just cause. In accordance with La. R.S. 38:2212(B)(1), the provisions and requirements of this Section and those stated in the bidding documents shall not be waived by any entity.

When this project is financed either partially or entirely with State Bonds or financed in whole or in part by federal or other funds which are not readily available at the time bids are received, the award of this Contract is contingent upon the granting of lines of credit, or the sale of bonds by the Bond Commission or the availability of federal or other funds. The State shall incur no obligation to the Contractor until the Contract Between Owner and Contractor is fully executed.

Facility Planning and Control is a participant in the Small Entrepreneurship (SE) Program (the Hudson Initiative) and the Veteran-Owned and Service-Connected Disabled Veteran-Owned (LaVet) Small Entrepreneurship Program. Bidders are encouraged to consider participation. Information is available from the Office of Facility Planning and Control or on its website at <https://www.doa.la.gov/doa/fpc/>.

STATE OF LOUISIANA DIVISION OF ADMINISTRATION FACILITY PLANNING AND CONTROL ROGER E. HUSSER, JR., DIRECTOR

March 20, 2024 March 27, 2024 April 3, 2024 Minden Press Herald

SHERIFF'S SALE

FEDERAL HOME LOAN MORTGAGE CORP. AS TRUSTEE FOR FREDDIE MAC SEASONED CREDIT RISK TRANSFER TRUST, SERIES 2023-1 VS. MELBA HOLCOMB MORGAN

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 81272.

By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE issued out of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, in the above styled and numbered suit and to me directed, I have seized and taken into my possession and will offer for sale at public auction to the last and highest bidder for cash WITH the benefit of appraisal and according to law at the

principal front door of the Courthouse in the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana on WEDNESDAY, May 1, 2024, During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

A CERTAIN PIECE OR PORTION OF GROUND, TOGETHER WITH ALL THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON, AND ALL THE RIGHTS, WAYS, PRIVILEGES, SERVITUDES, ADVANTAGES AND APPURTENANCES THEREUNTO BELONGING OR IN ANYWISE APPERTAINING, SITUATED IN THE PARISH OF WEBSTER, STATE OF LOUISIANA, LOT TWENTY (20), PRAIRIE GROVE ESTATES, A SUBDIVISION, LOCATED IN THE NORTH HALF OF THE NORTHEAST QUARTER (N1/2 OF NE 1/2), SECTION 28, TOWNSHIP 18 NORTH, RANGE 9 WEST, A SUBDIVISION OF WEBSTER PARISH LOUISIANA, AS PER THAT PLAT RECORDED IN BOOK 4, PAGE 1 OF THE CONVEYANCE RECORDS OF WEBSTER PARISH, LOUISIANA; SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS, SERVITUDES, RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND OUTSTANDING RIGHTS OF RECORD AFFECTING THE PROPERTY.

547 SE 5TH AVE, SIBLEY, LA 71073

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

March 27, 2024 April 24, 2024 Minden Press Herald

Village of Dixie Inn Regular Session March 12, 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 March 12, 2024, at 5:00 p.m. in the Village Hall, Dixie Inn, Louisiana with the following members present: Mayor Donna Hoffoss, Aldermen Nell Finlay and Lance Milligan.

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

There were no public comments.

A motion was made by Nell Finlay and seconded by Lance Milligan to add Item E, "The Purchase of a New Credit Card Processing Machine," to the agenda. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

Mayor Donna Hoffoss welcomed guests.

A motion was made by Nell Finlay and seconded by Lance Milligan to adopt the minutes of the regular session of February 13, 2024. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

A motion was made by Lance Milligan and seconded by Nell Finlay to adopt all financial statements for February 2024. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

Department Reports: Mike Chreene reported all is well with the water department.

Chief Robert Davis reported that new striping with the Dixie Inn Police logo was completed on the '18 Tahoe and that he is, "very pleased with the design".

Alderman, Lance Milligan, expressed gratitude for Louisiana's broadband grant program, Granting Unserved Municipalities Broadband Opportunities (GUMBO), bringing fiber internet to the area. Milligan reported being incredibly pleased with his fiber internet provided through AT&T.

Mayor Donna Hoffoss reported the village will be participating in the third annual Love the Boot Week held by Keep Louisiana

Beautiful April 20-28. Love the Boot is a campaign to clean up, recycle, and beautify Louisiana's towns and cities, and is also the last requirement of the Healthy Communities Grant awarded to the village for the purchase of a new maintenance trailer. Mayor Hoffoss announced AT&T is currently installing fiber internet service throughout the area. Information about AT&T's service is available at Village Hall. Mayor Hoffoss noted the Historic Hwy 80 Sale will be the weekend of April 19-21. Also noted, the Louisiana Ethics Financial Disclosure is due May 15, 2024. Ethics training can be found on the Louisiana Ethics Administration Program website. Sexual harassment prevention training can be found on the Louisiana Municipal Association's website.

New Business:

Mayor Hoffoss closed the regular session and opened a public hearing for an open discussion and public comments on proposed Ordinance 132. Mayor Hoffoss read the proposed ordinance aloud in parts. Chief Davis addressed questions about the automated traffic program.

Mayor Hoffoss closed the public hearing and opened regular session to adopt Ordinance 132. A motion was made by Lance Milligan and seconded by Nell Finlay to adopt Ordinance 132: to provide for the enforcement of certain traffic violations by automated means and provide for civil penalties for those certain traffic violations enforced by automated means. Vote on the motion was unanimous having: 2 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Absence, and 0 Abstains.

Mayor Hoffoss read aloud Resolution No. 06-03122024. Nell Finlay made a motion to adopt Resolution No. 06-03122024 adopting the LCDBG-CV Procurement Policy. The motion was seconded by Lance Milligan. Vote on the motion was unanimous, having 2 Yeas, 0 Nays, 1 Absence, and 0 Abstains.

A motion was made by Nell Finlay and seconded by Lance Milligan to approve the purchase of fiber internet through AT&T for the village office. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

The council discussed using a lease program for future police vehicles but decided to table the matter until the next council meeting.

A motion was made by Lance Milligan and seconded by Nell Finlay to approve the purchase of a new credit card processing machine for the village office. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

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

ATTEST: Donna Hoffoss Mayor

March 27, 2024 Minden Press Herald

Village of Doyline Minutes February 2, 2024

Meeting was called to Order by Mayor Gates. The Invocation was offered by Jackie Daniels and carried, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Village of Dixie Inn on March 12, 2024.

Upon motion by Nell Finlay, duly seconded by Lance Milligan and carried, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Village of Dixie Inn on March 12, 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 the 12th day of March 2024.

Alicia Ware, Clerk

March 27, 2024 Minden Press Herald

ORDINANCE NO. 132

AN ORDINANCE OF THE VILLAGE OF DIXIE INN TO PROVIDE FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF CERTAIN TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS BY AUTOMATED MEANS AND PENALTIES FOR CIVIL PENALTIES FOR THOSE CERTAIN TRAFFIC VIOLATIONS ENFORCED

Bridwell, seconded by Jackie Daniels to accept the bid offered of \$2577.77 by JJ Merchants. Motion carried.

Travis Moorehart, CPA offered his findings for the 2022-2023 Audit.

Motion was made by Steve Bridwell, seconded by Jackie Daniels to raise the fee for Community House rental from \$50.00 to \$100.00, leaving the deposit set at \$50.00 refundable.

Mike Dunaway reported he had been seeking relief for the water supply issue at the Sewer Pond. A fresh water supply is needed to keep the aerator parts working as needed for proper maintenance. The council suggested we look into the possibility of a well.

Chief Hayden reported he had contacted TICO regarding vests and they should be contacting the clerk.

Motion was made by Jackie Daniels, seconded by Steve Bridwell to adjourn, motion carried.

Mayor, Crystal Gates

Clerk, Myra Kilburn attest

March 27, 2024 Minden Press Herald

NOTICE

NOTICE is hereby given that a proposed ordinance bearing the title "AN ORDINANCE PROHIBITING STORAGE OF ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLES, JUNK VEHICLES, JUNK (discarded or abandoned major appliances, machinery, other metal, tin, or other items), MOVEABLE PROPERTY, EQUIPMENT ON PUBLIC PROPERTY, HIGHWAYS OR STREETS, OR VEHICLES OF OTHERS ON PRIVATE PROPERTY WITHOUT CONSENT OF PROPERTY OWNER IN THE TOWN OF COTTON VALLEY.

The said Board will consider the adoption of the proposed ordinance at its regular meeting place in the Town Hall of Cotton Valley, Louisiana, on the 9th day of April, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.

March 12, 2024

Tiffany Parish, Municipal Clerk

March 27, 2024 Minden Press Herald

LCDBG-CV Procurement Policy Resolution No. 06-03122024
By the Village of Dixie Inn

WHEREAS, the Village of Dixie Inn has been afforded the opportunity to apply and participate in the State of Louisiana Community Development Block Grant-Coronavirus (LCDBG-CV) Program administered by the Division of Administration; and,

WHEREAS, the State of Louisiana requires the establishment of uniform procedures in compliance with OMB Circular A-102;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, by the Village of Dixie Inn, that the attached policy entitled "LCDBG-CV Procurement Policy" is hereby adopted.

Upon motion by Nell Finlay, duly seconded by Lance Milligan and carried, the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Village of Dixie Inn on March 12, 2024.

Mayor of Dixie Inn.

Owner shall mean the owner of a vehicle as shown on the vehicle registration records of the Louisiana Office of Public Safety, Office of Motor Vehicles, or the analogous office or agency of another state or county.

Photographic Vehicle Speed Enforcement System or system shall mean a system consisting of an electronic process which is capable of producing one or more recorded images depicting the license plate attached to the rear of a vehicle being operated at a speed in excess of the speed limit. The speed measurement component of the system shall be properly calibrated on a regular basis as determined by the Chief and the records of such calibration shall be maintained with the Village of Dixie Inn Police Department.

Recorded image means an image recorded by the system depicting the rear of a vehicle which is automatically recorded

Continued on Next Page....

BY AUTOMATED MEANS, AND OTHERWISE PROVIDING WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, data collected on behalf of the Village of Dixie Inn Police Department indicates a high incidence of drivers disregarding speeding laws on the streets of the Village of Dixie Inn; and

WHEREAS, the Village of Dixie Inn Council finds controlling speed on the streets of the Village of Dixie Inn through a program utilizing photographic evidence and enforcement through the imposition of civil penalties will help promote and protect the health, safety and welfare of the children and all citizens of the Village of Dixie Inn.

BE IT ORDAINED by the Village of Dixie Inn Council of the Village of Dixie Inn, Louisiana, in due regular and legal session convened, that Ordinance 132 is to read as follows:

CHAPTER 1-TRAFFIC AND VEHICLES

ARTICLE I-TRAFFIC REGULATIONS ON PRIVATE STREETS

SECT. I - Speed Limits on Private Streets

(a) In accordance with R.S. 32:41(E), the owner of any private street or streets within the corporate limits of the village may apply to the village to have speed limits established on said streets. Such speed limits may be established by the adoption of an ordinance by the Village Council if it deems such speed limits appropriate.

(b) In the event speed limits are established by ordinance on said streets, it shall be unlawful for any person to drive or operate a motor vehicle in excess of the limits set by the ordinance.

(c) In the event the Village Council adopts an ordinance to establish stop signs or speed limits on a private street, the owner shall remove all private stop signs and speed limit signs on that street.

ARTICLE 2-ELECTRONIC TRAFFIC ENFORCEMENT

SECT. II - Definitions.

The following words, terms and phrases, when used in this article, shall have the meanings ascribed to them in this section, except where the context clearly indicates a different meaning:

Administrative Adjudication Hearing shall mean an administrative hearing of violations conducted by the Mayor's designee.

Chief shall mean the Village of Dixie Inn Chief of Police or his designee.

on a photograph or digital image, which also depicts the recorded speed, date, location, and time of the recorded image.

System location means the roadway location toward which a photographic vehicle speed enforcement system is directed and in operation or a segment of roadway on which a vehicle speed enforcement system is in operation.

Speed limit shall mean the established regulatory speed limit on the subject roadway.

Violation shall mean the notice of civil violation for speeding for this Chapter.

Sec. III - Imposition of Civil Violation Penalty for Violations Enforced by a Photographic Speed Enforcement System.

a. The Village of Dixie Inn Council finds and determines a vehicle traveling over the speed limit for the vehicle's direction of travel damages the public by endangering vehicle operators, passengers and pedestrians alike, by increasing the number of serious traffic crashes, and causing public safety agencies to respond at the expense of the taxpayers thereby decreasing the efficiency of traffic control and traffic flow efforts.

b. Except as provided in subsection (c) below, the owner of a vehicle is responsible for a civil violation penalty as shown in the following tables if the vehicle is traveling at a speed in miles per hour (mph) greater than the speed limit as shown when captured by the system in accordance with the vehicle's recorded speed and the corresponding speed limit of the roadway where the notice of civil violation was issued.

MPH OVER SPEED LIMIT

9 MPH to 10 MPH	11 MPH to 20 MPH
21 MPH to 30 MPH	31 MPH to 100+ MPH

FINE
\$100.00
\$120.00
\$140.00
\$150.00

Following the guidelines as established by LaDOTD, the following thresholds shall be established (≥ shall mean greater than or equal to):

Posted Speed Limit (Miles per Hour)
15
35
45
50
55

Minimum Speed for Violation to Be Issued (Miles per Hour)
≥21
≥51
≥56
≥61

c. Any photographic vehicle speed enforcement system which is hand-held, mounted in or on a trailer or in a fixed position shall be deployed at the discretion of the Chief of Police, who shall deploy such systems in his discretion within the Village of Dixie Inn. For each speed enforcement system which is hand-held, mounted in or on a trailer or is otherwise considered mobile, portable or easily transported to a different system location, the Department or its designee shall clearly and conspicuously mark on the outside of the apparatus that contains the speed enforcement system that the system is the property or under the control of the Village of Dixie Inn Police Department.

Sec. IV - Late Payments.

An owner who fails to pay a civil violation penalty beyond 30 calendar days from the date of mailing the civil notice of violation, inclusive of weekends and legal holidays, shall be subject to a late payment penalty of \$30.00 (e.g., original fine amount + 30 = total civil violation amount including late payment penalty). A notice of civil violation under this article is presumed to have been received on the tenth calendar day, inclusive of weekends and legal holidays, after the date the notice of civil violation is mailed.

Sec. V - Enforcement; procedures.

a. The Department is responsible for the enforcement and administration of this ordinance, or the Department may enforce and administer this ordinance in part or in whole, through one or more contractors selected in accordance with applicable law. The actions which can be used to enforce the payment of this civil penalty and related fees include but are not limited to: referring the debt to collection agencies; and/or initiating actions through a court of competent jurisdiction, or any other lawful means, all in accordance with applicable authority, laws, and procedure.

b. In order to impose a civil violation issued under this article shall contain the following:

- (1) A description of the violation alleged
- (2) The date, time, and location of the violation;
- (3) A copy of the recorded image of the vehicle involved in the violation;
- (4) The amount of civil violation penalty to be imposed for the violation;
- (5) The date by which the civil violation penalty must be paid;
- (6) A statement indicating the person named in the notice of civil violation may pay the civil violation penalty in lieu of appearing at an administrative adjudication hearing;
- (7) Information informing the person named in the notice of civil violation:

(a) Of the right to contest the imposition of the civil violation penalty in an administrative adjudication hearing;

(b) Of the manner and time in which to contest the imposition of the civil violation penalty; and

(c) Failure to pay the civil violation penalty or to contest liability within thirty (30) calendar days from the date of receipt of the civil notice of violation, inclusive of weekends and legal holidays, is a waiver of the right to appeal.

(8) A statement that a recorded image is evidence in a proceeding for the imposition of a civil violation penalty; and

(9) A statement indicating failure to pay the civil violation penalty within the time allowed shall result in the imposition of an additional late penalty for each such violation.

d. A notice of civil violation under this article is presumed to have been received on the tenth calendar day, inclusive of weekends and legal holidays, after the date the notice of civil violation is mailed.

Sec. VI - Administrative Adjudication Hearing

a. A person who receives a notice of civil violation may contest the imposition of the civil violation penalty by providing all of the following within thirty (30) calendar days, inclusive of weekends and holidays, after the notice of mailing of the notice of civil violation:

(1) A request in writing for an administrative adjudication of the notice of civil violation; and

(2) Posting of a cash bond of \$50.00. No request for administrative adjudication shall be processed until due proof has been furnished indicating the amount of the cash bond that has been paid.

b. Upon receipt of a request and cash bond within the prescribed time period within this paragraph, the office shall notify the person requesting such hearing of the date, time and/or manner of the administrative adjudication hearing. If after the adjudication hearing, the person is found not liable by the adjudication officer, the cash bond of \$50.00 will be refunded to that person. If that person is found liable, he or she may ask that the cash bond of \$50.00 be used towards the payment of the civil violation.

c. A person is found liable after an administrative adjudication hearing or who requests an administrative adjudication hearing and thereafter fails to appear at the time and place of the hearing shall forfeit their cash bond amount.

d. Administrative adjudications of violations shall be conducted by the hearing officer designated by the mayor. In conducting administrative adjudications of violations, the hearing officer shall have the following functions, powers, and duties:

(1) To administer oaths, to accept admissions to, and to hear and determine contests of violations herein.

(2) To require the attendance of persons to give testimony at hearings, and to require the production of data and information, to the extent permitted by law.

(3) To adjudicate violations for which a notice of civil violation has been issued herein.

(4) To compile and maintain accurate records relating to notices of civil violations, violations and/or dispositions of violations and notice of civil violations.

(5) Upon request of the Department or a person charged with a violation, or his attorney, to prepare or

provide transcripts or audio records of hearings conducted by the hearing officer or to furnish such transcripts or audio records to the requesting person a reasonable cost.

(6) To designate an individual or individuals with the responsibility to answer, within a reasonable period of time, relevant and reasonable inquiries made a person charged with a violation, or his attorney, concerning the violation.

(7) The functions and duties in (4), (5), and (6) identified herein may be performed by representatives of the Department, as directed by the hearing officer.

(8) To prescribe regulations for the presentation and the conduct of hearings which need not necessarily be in strict conformity with the usual rules of evidence and technical rules of procedure, however, the fundamental principles governing a fair and impartial hearing or trial and due process of law must be reasonably and substantially adhered to.

e. Except as provided in subsection (i), failure to pay a civil violation penalty or to contest liability beyond 30 calendar days from the date of mailing of the notice of civil violation, inclusive of weekends and legal holidays, constitutes a waiver of the right to contest under subsection (a.).

f. The civil violation penalty shall not be assessed if after a hearing, the hearing officer enters a finding of no liability.

g. In an administrative adjudication hearing, the issues must be proved at the hearing by a preponderance of the evidence. The reliability of the system used to produce the recorded image of the violation may be attested to in an administrative adjudication hearing by affidavit of a law enforcement officer or a representative of the Department, or by actual testimony by either of them. An affidavit of a sworn law enforcement officer or representative of the Department, or actual testimony by either of them, that alleges a civil violation occurred based on an inspection of the pertinent recorded image is admissible in a proceeding under this article and is prima facie evidence of those facts contained in the affidavit or testified to. Testimony by any person shall be taken under oath or by affirmation, except to the extent such testimony is allowed by affidavit as provided above. The person charged with the ordinance violation may present any relevant evidence and testimony at such hearing.

h. Adjudication by mail.

(1) In cases where a person charged with a violation shows good cause for not attending a hearing, either personally or through a representative, the hearing officer may permit the matter to be adjudicated by mail which adjudication shall be made within 60 days of the date of the citation. Letters, memoranda, affidavits, photographs, or other documentary materials shall be admissible as evidence for the purposes of adjudications by mail. The hearing officer may exclude any material which is not relevant to the adjudication of the alleged violation. Failure of the person charged to proceed with an adjudication by mail after requesting a receiving permission to adjudicate by mail shall constitute an admission by the person charged of liability of the violation and shall subject the person who requested the adjudication by mail to the appropriate fines and costs assessed by the adjudication bureau.

(2) If a hearing examiner determines that an adjudication cannot proceed by mail, the adjudication bureau shall advise the person charged by first class mail that he must appear to answer the charge at a hearing.

i. It shall be an affirmative defense to the imposition of civil liability under this article, to be proven by a preponderance of the evidence, that:

- (1) The operator of the vehicle was acting in compliance with the lawful order direction of a law enforcement or public safety officer;
- (2) The operator of the vehicle violated the speed limit so as to move out of the way or an immediately approaching authorized emergency vehicle;
- (3) The vehicle was being operated in accordance with La. R.S. 32:24, and the operator was acting in compliance with La. R.S. 32:24;
- (4) The vehicle was being operated in accordance with La. R.S. 32:300.3 – Funeral

Processions; however, the operators are not exempt if they fail to comply with division 2, vehicle speed.

(5) The vehicle was being operated by a commissioned law enforcement officer performing authorized/assigned tasks;

(6) The vehicle was being operated during a bona fide medical emergency which is documented with adequate and sufficient evidence from a medical care facility, as determined by the Department;

(7) At the time of the violation, the vehicle was in the care, custody, or control of another person:

(a) As set forth in the owner's signed affidavit, identifying the name and correct mailing address of the person or entity who had the care, custody and control of the vehicle at the time of the violation.

(b) As set forth in the owner's signed affidavit stating that at the time of the violation the motor vehicle or the license plates of the motor vehicle involved were stolen or were in the care, custody, and control of some person who did not have the owner's permission to use the motor vehicle, or that the motor vehicle or license plate of the motor vehicle was stolen before the violation occurred and was not under the control or possession of the owner at the time of the violation. In order to demonstrate that the motor vehicle or license plate was stolen before the violation occurred and was not under the control or possession of the vehicle owner at the time of the violation, the vehicle owner must submit proof that a police report, incident report/general offense report about the stolen motor vehicle or license plate was filed prior to the violation or within 48 hours after the violation occurred.

(c) As set forth in a document, or "Transfer of Liability", signed and dated by the person, or a representative of the entity, who had the care, custody, and control of the vehicle at the time of the violation, indicating his/her responsibility for the violation and listing his/her name and mailing address. Responsibility for the violation shall in such a case be transferred to the person identified in the "Transfer of Liability".

(d) The tender of a statement of "Transfer of Liability" shall be for the sole purpose of identifying the person who is assuming responsibility for the violation identified in the notice of civil violation, but all defenses that may be asserted by the person alleged to be responsible are reserved and are not waived by the tender of such document.

(e) As set forth in a lease, rental contract, or other agreement, listing the name and mailing address of the person or entity who had the care, custody, or control of the leased or rented vehicle at the time of the violation. Responsibility for the violation shall in such a case be transferred to the lessee.

j. Notwithstanding anything in this article to the contrary, a person who fails to pay the amount of a civil violation penalty or to contest liability is entitled to an administrative adjudication hearing on the violation if:

(1) The person files an affidavit with the office stating the date on which the person received the notice of civil violation mailed to the person; and

(2) The person files a request for an administrative hearing within 30 days from the date of receipt of the notice of civil violation, as stated in the affidavit.

k. The decision of the hearing officer shall be the final decision in the hearing.

Sec. VII - Appointment of Hearing Officer

a. Administrative adjudication proceedings under this article shall be conducted before a hearing officer who has been licensed to practice law in Louisiana for at least two years.

b. There shall be no one hearing officer appointed for the adjudication of proceedings under this article who shall serve in accordance with a schedule determined by the village attorney.

c. There shall be one hearing officer appointed by the mayor subject to approval and confirmation of the village council who shall serve at the pleasure of the mayor.

d. Hearing officers shall be sworn before the city attorney or his/her designee to uphold the Constitution, the laws and constitution of the State of Louisiana, and the Charter and ordinances of the Village of Dixie Inn, and

to abide by the provisions of the Louisiana Code of Governmental Ethics.

Sec. VIII - Orders of the Hearing Officer

a. The hearing officer at administrative adjudication hearings under this article shall issue an order stating:

(1) Whether the person charged with the violation is responsible for the violation; and

(2) The amount of any civil violation penalty, late penalty, and administrative adjudication costs assessed against the person.

b. The orders issued under subsection (a) may be filed with the Department. The Department shall maintain the hearing officer's orders/determinations.

Sec. IX - Effect of Liability; exclusion of civil remedy.

a. The imposition of civil violation penalty under this article shall not be considered a criminal conviction.

b. A civil violation penalty may not be imposed under this article upon the owner of a vehicle if the operator of the vehicle was arrested or was issued a speeding citation and notice to appear by a law enforcement or public safety officer as a violation of any of the provisions of Subpart A, Part IV, Chapter 1 of Title 32 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes if such violation was captured by the system.

c. Upon receipt of all documents supplied to the contractor, the hearing officer may enforce collection of all unpaid fines, fees, penalties, late payment penalties and administrative adjudication fees in a court of competent jurisdiction for vehicles registered through a filing with the Louisiana Office of Revenue and the Federal Offset Program.

d. The Chief or contractor, as applicable, shall supply to the hearing officer, or outside counsel bringing suit, all materials and/or testimony necessary to support enforcement.

e. Defendants in enforcement suits authorized by this section, have until rendition of final judgment, the option of settlement by payment of all outstanding fines, fees, penalties, late payment penalties, and administrative adjudication fees, as well as court costs and filing fees incurred (whether prepaid or otherwise) in enforcement. No defendant in such suit shall be required to pay attorney's fees in connection with such settlement.

f. Any money judgment obtained in a suit to enforce fines levied for violation of this division shall be recorded in the mortgage records of Webster Parish, and/or any other parish, as a judicial mortgage against the property of the defendant.

Sec. X - Collection Fees and Costs

In the event a fine or penalty is assessed pursuant to any provision of this Code, a default in the payment of a fine, penalty or any installment of a fine or penalty may be collected by any means authorized for the collection of monetary judgments. The Department may retain attorneys and private collection agents for the purpose of collecting any default in payment of any fine or penalty imposed by the Code, or any installment of a fine or penalty. The Department shall add a 35% cost of collections to any outstanding balance that requires the Department to retain the services of a collection agency. This 35% cost includes any default in a fine, penalty or any installment of a fine or penalty that was previously referred to an attorney or private agency and the payment of which remains outstanding.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that if any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect other provisions, items or applications of this ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid provisions, items or applications; and to this end, the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall become effective in accordance with the provisions of the Village of Dixie Inn.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that all ordinances or parts thereof in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED that this ordinance shall become effective in accordance with the provisions of the Village of Dixie Inn, Louisiana.

THUS DONE AND ORDAINED by the village council of the Village of Dixie Inn, Louisiana.

The effective date of this ordinance shall be March 12, 2024.

The above and foregoing ordinance was read in sections and as a whole, on motion by Lance Milligan, seconded by Nell Finlay, and adopted on this the 12th day of March 2024 by the following vote:

Yeas: 2
Nays: 0
Absent: 1
Abstain: 0

Donna Hoffoss, Mayor

Alicia Ware, Clerk

I, Alicia Ware, certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of the original ordinance Adopted by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Village of Dixie Inn, Louisiana, at a lawful Meeting held on the 12th day of March 2024 with a quorum present.

Alicia Ware, Clerk
Village of Dixie Inn

Signed and sealed on this 12th day of March 2024.

March 27, 2024
Minden Press Herald

NOTICE OF PUBLIC AVAILABILITY

EPA ANNOUNCES THE AVAILABILITY OF THE REMOVAL ADMINISTRATIVE RECORD FILE FOR AMERICAN RECYCLING SITE, CADDO PARISH, OIL CITY, LOUISIANA

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announces the availability for public review of documents comprising the Administrative Record Files for the removal action at the American Recycling Site. The Administrative Record File includes documents which form the basis for the selection of a removal action at this site. Other documents may be added to the record files without further notice.

The Administrative Record File is available for review during normal business hours at:

Shreve Memorial Library
102 Allen Street
Oil City, Louisiana 71061

U.S. EPA, Region 6
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75270-2102

Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality (LDEQ)
Custodian of Public Records
Galvez Building
602 North Fifth St
Baton Rouge, LA 70802

Also available online at: <https://semspub.epa.gov/src/home/search.jsf>

Written public comments to this Administrative Record should be sent to:

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
ATTN: Nellie Parsons, SEDET/SEE
Response and Removal Branch
1201 Elm Street, Suite 500
Dallas, TX 75270-2102
214-665-3164
Or:
Email: parsons.nellie@epa.gov

March 27, 2024
Minden Press Herald

Town of Cotton Valley Monthly Meeting

Meeting Date: March 11, 2024

Meeting was called to order by Mayor Ashley Williams Jones Invocation and Pledge was led by Alderman R. Shaw and in unison. Roll call by municipal clerk, Tiffany Parish
1. Alderman R. Shaw (present)
2. Alderman J. Carter (present)
3. Alderman E. Parish (present)
4. Alderman C. Lewis (absent)
5. Alderman D. Hawkins (present)
We have a quorum (4) present (1) absent.

Motion to accept the March 2024 agenda. Motioned by Alderman R. Shaw and 2nd by Alderman D. Hawkins. **Motion Passed**
Motion to accept February 2024 meeting minutes, motioned by Alderman R. Shaw and 2nd by Alderman J. Carter. **Motion Passed**

Motion to pay March 2024 bills, motioned by Alderman E. Parish and 2nd by Alderman J. Carter. **Motion Passed**

Committee Report: Planning committee had a meeting, worked on planning the entire year.

Mayor's Report: Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday, April 20th town clean up day, applied for two grants, Sewer issues.

Citizens' input on the current agenda matters only. None

Old Business

New Business
1. Notice of Proposed Ordinance 250-2

Police Report

Adjournment – Motion made by Alderman J. Carter and 2nd by Alderman D. Hawkins, meeting adjourned.

March 27, 2024
Minden Press Herald

LEGAL NOTICE

Request for Proposal ("RFP") - LAMATS Administered Cooperative Purchasing Joint Commission - Fuel Card Services and Related Products

SUBMITTAL DEADLINE: April 18, 2024, 2:00 PM CENTRAL TIME - Questions regarding this RFP must be submitted by email to the Electronic Administrator, lacpc@lamats.net no later than March 29, 2024. All questions and answers will be posted to <https://lamats.eauctionservices.com> FUEL CARD SERVICES

March 27, 2024
April 3, 2024
Minden Press Herald

Town Of Sibley

P.O. Box 128
345 N. Main Street
Sibley, Louisiana 71073
Phone (318) 377-0345 Fax (318) 377-0361

March 21, 2024

The Sibley Town Council met in a Special Meeting on Thursday, March 21, 2024 at 11:00 a.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 Smart opened the meeting in prayer; the mayor then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Richard Davis motioned to reject all bids made on the 2010 Dodge Charger due to the minimum bid not being received. Wayne Bolton seconded. Motion carried.

There was some discussion on the Lane Meadows Subdivision.

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

Meeting adjourned.

Robert Smart
Mayor

Attest

Sherry McCann
Town Clerk

March 27, 2024
Minden Press Herald

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March 27, 2024
Minden Press Herald

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If anyone knows the whereabouts of the family members of Lafayette Jackson (deceased) and Velma Frazier Jackson (deceased), last known address in Webster Parish, La, please contact Attorney Kharmen Davis-Taylor at (318) 621-9400.

March 27, 2024
April 3, 2024
Minden Press Herald

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<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7745497/Minden-Press-Herald-2024-Reader-s-Choice-Ballot>



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

HERBICIDES OFTEN BEST WAY TO CONTROL WEEDS

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



Long time gardeners are accustomed to using a hoe to get rid of weeds and that still works on certain types of weeds, but there's a better way which is effective on all weeds...and that is the use of an appropriate herbicide. In spite of a bad reputation stigma, many people (both farmers and suburbanites) now use various agricultural chemicals to control not only weeds, but also harmful insects and a wide array of diseases. Regardless of what product is used, it is of paramount importance that label instructions are followed and that applications are made in such a way as to not harm the environment.

This month and most of next month is the best time to use herbicides on lawns. It's probably a little late to use a pre-emergence herbicide to control warm season weeds such as crab grass and some grass species can be damaged if herbicides are applied during hot weather. So be careful about what you use and when you use it.

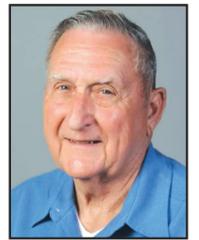
Precise calibration is more critical when using herbicides rather than other agricultural chemicals. And to prevent doing damage to your "good" crops (including lawns), tag one sprayer for use by herbicides only. Using less of a herbicide than instructions call for usually results in failure to kill the intended weeds while using more than recommended not only kills the intrusive weeds, but also other plants...as well as wasting time, effort and money.

With the beginning of April, we are truly entering our long growing season and our lawn grasses are

awakening. This situation means that we should be extra cautious and make sure we have bought the right herbicide for our particular species of grass. For example, some products that we can use on Bermuda grass and Zoysia grass may not be used on St. Augustine and Centipede grasses without causing damage. Thus, it's important to check the label before making the purchase. The labels will tell you which grasses will tolerate the herbicide in that container. And do be aware that sometimes more than one application will be needed to eradicate a certain stubborn weed. Spot treatment may become necessary if earlier applications of a post-emergence herbicide failed to do the job. For this purpose, it may require that you use a herbicide that contains glyphosate or other strong systemic herbicide.

The good thing about using these strong herbicides (although many are relatively slow acting) is that they remain in the soil only briefly before they break down.

Using herbicides correctly will almost always give the results you want as all parts of the target plants will be killed while eliminating weeds mechanically with a hoe or lawn mower typically leaves live parts of the weed plants and these have the ability to grow into brand new plants.



JOE W. WHITE, Ph.D.

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Luke 24:6-7

He is not here; he has risen! Remember how he told you, while he was still with you in Galilee: 7 'The Son of Man must be delivered over to the hands of sinners, be crucified and on the third day be raised again.'

Jeremiah 30:17

"I will restore health unto thee and heal thee of thy wounds"

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