

MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

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COMMUNITY



Despite the challenging weather, the Scottish Tartan Festival attendees and participants embraced the festivities. From the lively performances to the competitive games and unique showcases, the event once again proved to be a highlight of the local calendar. For more photos, visit our website at press-herald.com.

AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTOS

Getting back to your Scottish roots

Scottish Tartan Festival draws crowds despite stormy weather

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

The Scottish Tartan Festival in downtown Minden on April 20 faced bands of thunderstorms, but attendees were undeterred by the rain and cold. Although heavy rain forced the outdoor stage to shut down, per-

formances seamlessly moved into the Civic Center. Even the Highland Games paused briefly for the worst of the weather before the tough competitors completed the contest in the pouring rain. Fortunately, the dog show concluded before the rain intensified. In

the Scottish Breeds division, Rue, a Border Collie, and Sadie, a West Highland Terrier, took 1st and 2nd place respectively. The All Breeds division saw Gizmo, an Australian Cattle Dog / Pitbull mix, clinching 1st place, followed by Lollipop, a Yorkie mix, in 2nd place, Rudy, a Yorkie-poo, in 3rd place, and Bug-in-a-Rug, a mixed breed, in 4th place. Trey Campbell secured his third consecutive victory in the haggis eating contest, devouring one

pound of haggis in 29.93 seconds. The Bonniest Knees competition was canceled in order to adjust the stage schedule. The festival's large crowd was entertained by various performers, including Ally the Piper, The Rogues, Dead Reckoning String Band, the Gems Dance Company, the Thistle Dancers & Pipers, the Jackson Irish Dancers, and harpist Miriam Bennett. Attendees also witnessed a traditional handfasting, a Highland wedding tradi-

tion, along with storytellers, blacksmiths, birds of prey, and medieval combat demonstrations. "Although the weather was not the best we could have hoped for, by moving several events indoors, attendees were still able to enjoy some fabulous dancers, our young harpist, the clan tents and much more," said Sheila Hoh of the Scottish Society of Louisiana Highlands. "The crowd really loved Ally

See, **TARTAN**, Page 3

INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION



LIONS CLUB

Minden Lions Club semi-annual Chicken Charbroil this Saturday

STAFF REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

The Minden Lions Club will be hosting their semi-annual Chicken Charbroil this Saturday, April 27. The event will take place at the Walmart parking lot, with tickets for the \$10 plates currently available for purchase from Lions Club members. The Minden Lions Club, like other Lions clubs around the world, is dedicated to improving health and well-being, strengthening communities, and supporting those in need through humanitarian service and grants. The club is actively seeking new members to join their efforts in supporting the local community. For more information about the Chicken Charbroil or membership opportunities, please contact the Minden Lions Club.

VOTING

Webster Parish Schools proposals on April 27 ballot: What voters need to know

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

The upcoming Municipal General Election on April 27, 2024, holds significant importance for Webster Parish schools, with three key propositions on the ballot. These proposals aim to renew millages and issue bonds crucial for supporting public education in the parish. Here's a breakdown of the propositions: Parishwide School District Proposition (Millage Renewal): The Webster Parish School District seeks to renew a special tax of 2.81 mills on all taxable property in the district. This tax, estimated to generate \$743,102 annually, will provide essential support for maintaining and operating public schools across the parish, covering expenses such

See, **VOTE**, Page 3

EXPANSION



AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

Fibrebond Corporation's \$50 million expansion of its production facility in Webster Parish is expected to retain over 450 existing jobs and create nearly 650 indirectly supported jobs in Louisiana, bolstering the region's growing data center sector.

Fibrebond Corporation Announces \$50 Million Expansion in Webster Parish

Minden - Fibrebond Corporation, a leading industrial manufacturer, has unveiled plans for a \$50 million expansion and enhancement of its production facility in Webster Parish. The move, which underscores Fibrebond's commitment to growth and innovation, is poised to have a transformative impact on both the local economy and the broader manufacturing landscape across the United States.

The expansion project, announced by Fibrebond Corporation, will fortify its support for data center, telecommunications, industrial, and utility projects nationwide. With an emphasis on bolstering its production capabilities, the investment will see the construction of a new 297,000 square foot facility, slated to commence in June 2024 and expected to be operational by September 2025. "This significant in-

vestment underscores Fibrebond's unwavering dedication to advancing manufacturing excellence," remarked Graham Walker, President and CEO of Fibrebond Corporation. "We are proud to reaffirm our commitment to Webster Parish and the state of Louisiana as we embark on this pivotal expansion journey." The expansion initiative is anticipated to result in the retention of

See, **EXPAND**, Page 3

CRIME

Minden police investigate theft from Ace Hardware; Two suspects detained

STAFF REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

Minden Police Lieutenant Griffith initiated an investigation on April 15 regarding a theft at Ace Hardware. The suspect, identified as Melanie E. Hall, 46, of Hodge, Louisiana, was accompanied by Brandon Lee Lowery. On April 18, Detective Jason Lee detained both suspects during a traffic stop on Fort Street. They were escorted to the police headquarters for further questioning. Lowery

admitted during an interview, after being read his Miranda rights, that Hall had taken a belt from Ace Hardware without paying. Hall also confessed, post-Miranda, that she stole the belt intending to gift it to Lowery. Lowery, however, remarked that the belt didn't fit him. Hall was booked for theft, while a warrants check revealed that Lowery was a fugitive from Bossier City with existing warrants from the Bossier Sheriff's Office.



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press-herald.com/submissions

WEBSTER & MORE

SHOPPING

NLTCC Spring Market attracts community with shopping, food, and fun

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College (NLTCC) welcomed the community to its Spring Market, a lively event organized by the Student Government Association (SGA) on Thursday, April 18.

The market featured a

diverse range of vendors offering various shopping opportunities. Additionally, food trucks were on-site, offering a delicious array of foods to satisfy visitors' appetites. Kids were delighted to play in the bounce house, adding to the festive atmosphere.

In the spirit of giving back, attendees were encouraged to bring a

canned or nonperishable food item to support those in need and to enter a raffle, promoting a sense of community and generosity.

The event exemplified NLTCC's commitment to engaging with the community and providing a fun experience for all who attended.



MINDEN LIONS

Owner of Brick Street Coffee shares passion for coffee with Lions Club

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Derek Peris, the proprietor behind Barnyard Roasters and Brick Street Coffee, captivated attendees at the Lions Club's noon meeting as the guest speaker. He delved into the origins of coffee, the intricate roasting process, and its journey to the consumer's cup. Peris showcased his inaugural roaster alongside green and roasted beans as part of his presentation.

Peris's journey into the world of coffee was sparked by his wife, Debbie, who gifted him a mini roaster in 2015. By

2018, he had expanded his arsenal to include two larger roasters. The onset of the pandemic in 2020 resulted in the loss of Derek's sales job, prompting him to transition into a full-time business, supplying two coffee brands to grocery stores, cafés, and coffee stands across the Pacific Northwest.

In 2021, the Peris family felt a strong calling to depart from the Pacific Northwest, eventually settling in Minden. The following year, they acquired the former Crichton Hardware building, where they opened Brick Street Coffee in October

2023.

Today, the coffee business has become a family affair, with Derek, Debbie, and their four children all contributing to the roastery and bistro.

During his talk, Peris shared intriguing insights into coffee production. He explained that coffee is cultivated near the equator, thriving in various climates that impart distinct flavors to the beans. The two primary types of coffee beans are arabica and robusta, with green, unroasted coffee being traded as an agricultural commodity through brokers.

Committed to sustainability, the Perises exclusively purchase organically grown coffee. Derek emphasized, "We try to promote organic coffee to limit the use of pesticides in coffee-growing countries." By supporting organic growers, Peris provides an alternative to those who might otherwise resort to pesticide use for profit, benefiting both the environment and consumers. He suggested that individuals experiencing headaches or stomach aches from regular coffee consumption may find relief by switching to organic coffee.

While many in Minden enjoy Brick Street Coffee, some are unaware that the Perises also operate under the name Barnyard Roasters, producing and distributing roasted coffee from their downtown Minden facility.

The Perises take pride in roasting and blending all their coffee, including specialty blends tailored to specific clients, such as the Villas at Spanish Court. They also offer naturally decaffeinated coffee.

"I'll blend several beans together to cater to someone's taste of what they

expect coffee to taste like. We've developed several blends to compete with other product lines," said Peris.

Brick Street Coffee, situated at 509 Main Street, welcomes customers Monday through Friday from 7 AM to 2 PM and on Saturdays from 8 AM to 2 PM.

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

GARDEN

Piney Hills Louisiana Master Gardeners to hold annual Trails & Trellises garden tour

STAFF REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

This weekend, the Piney Hills Louisiana Master Gardeners will be hosting their annual Trails & Trellises garden tour, offering an array of themes for attendees to enjoy. The

event promises a blend of natural, educational, and beautiful gardens, inviting visitors to stroll, sit, and savor the surroundings. The tour is scheduled to take place from 9 AM until 3 PM, regardless of weather conditions. This year, all four featured

gardens are conveniently located within the City of Minden.

The tour sites include the following:

The Evelyn Dandridge garden, situated at 702 Elm Street.

The David and Donna

Scheerer garden and home, located at 706 Elm Street.

The Charlotte Jones garden, nestled at 1300 Broadway.

The Brenda Perryman garden, found at 118 Colony Lane.

Tickets for the tour are

available for \$10 in advance from any Master Gardener or by contacting the Webster Parish Extension Office at 371-1371. For those who prefer to purchase tickets on the day of the tour, they will be available at any garden on the tour for \$12.

Attendees can expect a delightful day surrounded by nature's beauty and inspiration at this year's Trails & Trellises garden tour.

BLOTTER

Recent Arrests in Webster Parish

■ April Booth, 46, of the 300 block of Greenhill Road, was arrested for theft.

■ Dekarlos Harrison, 36, of the 200 block of Abney Street, was arrested for domestic abuse battery with strangulation.

■ Johnnie McCaleb, 31 of the 100 block of Oaktree Lane, was arrested for driving under suspension or failure to yield for an emergency vehicle.

■ Melanie Lope, 36, of the 600 block of Constable Street, was arrested for possession of a schedule II substance and possession of drug paraphernalia.

■ Sara Mireles, 25, of the 800 block of Fincher Road, was arrested for theft and possession of a legend drug.

■ Jerrica Larkins, 35, of the 100 block of Emerald Drive, was arrested for loitering in a parking lot, obstructing the investigation, and resisting an officer.

■ Shicarrion Noles, 24, of the 600 block of Sunset Lane, was arrested on multiple warrants.

■ Carlos Hages, 63, of

the 100 block of Eisenhower Drive, was arrested for possession of a schedule II substance, possession of drug paraphernalia, obstruction of justice, and resisting with force or violence.

■ Joseph Fullwood, 42, of the 700 block of Yale Street, was arrested for resisting an officer, possession of a schedule II substance, obstruction of justice, possession of drug paraphernalia, and on a warrant.

■ Charles Wood, 29, of the 300 block of Terrell Road, was arrested for possession of a schedule I substance with intent to distribute, possession of a schedule I substance, resisting by flight, and proper equipment required.

■ Steven Cooper, 42, of the 600 block of Highway 531, was arrested for disturbing the peace.

■ Charles Sanderford, 26, of the 2900 block of Highway 371, was arrested for riding on roadways with a bicycle, bicycle ramps, and resisting arrest.

■ Jamarcus Reamer, 43, of the 600 block of Durwood Road, was arrested for a hit and run and domestic abuse battery.

■ Demarcus Miller, 35,

of the 600 block of Hillside Lane, was arrested for driving under the influence first offense, driving with an open container, possession of a schedule I substance, and possession of drug paraphernalia.

■ Raymond Pulley, 52, of the 1000 block of Yellow Pine Road, was arrested on a warrant.

■ Jacob David, 33, of the 200 block of Forest Glades Drive, was arrested for failure to appear in court.

■ Laeverettica Allen, 34, of the 600 block of Horton Street, was arrested for possession of a schedule I substance with intent to distribute, introduction of contraband, possession of a schedule II substance, and multiple warrants.

■ Kaitlyn Kirkpatrick, 23, of the 2400 block of Highway 2, was arrested for aggravated assault.

■ Larry Allums, 62, of the 300 block of Lake Road, was arrested for speeding and possession of stolen things.

■ Edwards Clifton, 56, of the 500 block of Highway Alt 2, was arrested for domestic abuse battery and aggravated assault with a firearm.

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WEBSTER & MORE

OBITUARIES



Rebecca Lowrey Earp

Funeral services for Rebecca Lowrey Earp will be held on Saturday April 27th 2024 at 10:00 a.m., with visitation starting at 9:30 at first United Methodist Church at 201 John Wesley boulevard in Bossier City Louisiana 71112. Officiating the service will be Reverend David Dietzel with family members and Friends.

Rebecca was born on June 12th 1942 to Francis Marion and Modena Adkins Lowrey in Minden Louisiana and passed away on April 5th 2024 at Willis Knighton Piermont hospital in Shreveport Louisiana.

Rebecca was married to the love of her life, Wayne Lee Earp on July 24th 1964 in Lisbon Louisiana. She

had one son David Baxter Earp , who she loved and adored.

Rebecca was a first grade school teacher for 36 years and retired from the Bossier Parish School board in 2000.

She love crocheting and spending time with her family and friends. Playing bunco and mahjong was a favorite pastime of hers later in life.

Rebecca was preceded in death by her parents and sister Marilyn Myers of Lisbon Louisiana. She is survived by her brother John Lowrey and his wife Kris of Simi Valley California, husband of 59 years Wayne Earp, son David Baxter Earp and daughter-in-law Andrea Watralik Earp. She loved and adored Andrea, who became the daughter she never had. Rebecca has numerous cousins nieces and nephews who she adored and many wonderful friends.

In lieu of flowers, please make a contribution to the charity of your choice.



Sue Lene Dyke Davis Waibel

Sue Lene Dyke Davis Waibel was born in Clinton, Louisiana, on March 3, 1942, to Robert and Vollie Dyke and went to be with the Lord on April 22, 2024, in Minden, Louisiana.

Mrs. Sue was a retired receptionist at Borden’s Dairy in Monroe, Louisiana after 27 years of service. Sue grew up in Benton, Louisiana until she met her husband, Robert Holland Davis. She Spent her life as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother. She was an active member of First Baptist Bossier and the Diamond Set Sunday School class. Her joy was watching the children or activities that gave way to her gifts. Her favorite was her Operation Christmas Child which in turn, gave great joy to certain children in certain parts of the world, who had nothing and her Praying Bears she distributed to the patients in the hospital. She loved spending time with her family, great-grandchildren, and her closest friends. She loved people and was a social butterfly, there was not a stranger that she did not meet. She was always sweet and kind and full of the love of God! Sue was a strong Christian woman and was not scared to let you know how she felt about the Lord.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Robert George Dyke and Vollie V. Smith Dyke, her eldest son, Robert Kevin Davis in 2017, her sisters Gloria J. Dyke and Robbie Roderick, and her second husband Ronald Waibel.

She is survived by her daughter, Karen Davis Upchurch (Tommy) and their children, Ashley Upchurch Norman (Clay) and their children, Edmond and Nash, Joshua Paul Upchurch (Kathryn) and their children, Bear and Alexandra; daughter, Miyo Cox Waibel Brown and late husband (Kenny) and their children, Lisa Reber (Brandon) and Stephen Howell; daughter-in-law, wife of the late Kevin Davis, Leigh Davis and their children, Alan Davis, and Katherine Davis Mixon and her children, Elizabeth, Matthias, and Victoria Mixon; sister, Dottie Stroud; father of her children, Robert Holland “Bob” Davis, and a host of nieces and nephews.

Services for Sue will be held at 2:00 p.m. Saturday, April 27, 2024, with visitation beginning at 1:00 p.m. at First Baptist Bossier Chapel in Bossier City, Louisiana with Rev. Brad Jurkovich officiating. Interment will follow at Gardens of Memory in Minden, Louisiana under the direction of Rose Neath Funeral Home in Minden, Louisiana.

Memorials may be made to Operation Christmas Child-First Baptist Bossier Church.

Pallbearers will be Josh Upchurch, Clay Norman, Alan Davis, Stephen Howell, Hayden Mixon, and Brandon Reber.

COMMUNITY

Simply Southern Cottage to host Simply Southern Saturday

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Sara McDaniel, owner of Simply Southern Cottage, invites everyone to mark their calendars for Simply Southern Saturday on April 27. This event offers a unique opportunity to tour the Fuller White house, featured on the Magnolia Network, and enjoy a delightful day in Minden, including the Piney Hills Louisiana

Master Gardeners Trails and Trellises tour.

There are three ways to participate:

Free Admission: Visit Parish Design Co between 11 AM and 1 PM to view the new rug collection and explore the mini-market featuring LaMay Farms, The Louisiana Scarboroughs, Sugah Cotton Candy, Five Acre Farm, and more. Brunch will be available at Geaux

Fresh.

VIP Experience: Purchase a ticket for the VIP hour (10-11 AM) at Parish Design Co. This ticket includes a light brunch, mimosas, and a swag bag with items like a Simply Southern Saturday t-shirt, Niven Morgan Bath, Body and Home Fragrances, and Brick Street Coffee. The ticket also includes a tour of the Fuller White house.

Exclusive VIP Week-

end Experience: For the ultimate experience, purchase a VIP weekend package that includes a stay at the Villas and everything offered in the VIP Experience.

For tickets and more information, visit Parish Design Co or Accelevents.

McDaniel expressed excitement about the event, stating, “It’s going to be such a fun day, and we would be honored to host and see you.”

CRIME

Minden inmate faces extended sentence for attempted contraband smuggling

STAFF REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

A Minden man, already incarcerated at Bayou Dorcheat Correctional Center (BDCC), found himself in deeper trouble after allegedly attempting to arrange the smuggling of illegal substances into the facility. Webster Parish Sheriff Jason Parker announced that Deshun Hendon, 36, facing an aggravated flight charge, now faces additional counts that could prolong his stay behind bars. Hendon is accused of possession of CDS Sch. I (synthetic marijuana) with

intent to distribute and introduction of contraband into a correctional facility.

Hendon reportedly contacted an individual inside the prison, offering payment for smuggling contraband. Upon receiving this information, the sheriff’s drug enforcement unit, led by Capt. Bobby Igo III, organized a sting operation involving an undercover agent and Hendon’s alleged accomplice, 34-year-old Laverettica Allen.

Igo stated that officers used audio and video surveillance, including

listening devices and drones, to monitor the meeting between the undercover agent and Allen. The recordings reportedly show Allen handing over a bag containing two decks of playing cards and cans of tobacco. Upon inspection, it was discovered that the lids of the tobacco cans had been tampered with, with two containing smoking tobacco and two containing synthetic marijuana intended for smuggling.

A warrant was obtained for Allen, who was apprehended the next day in the courthouse parking

lot. A search of her vehicle yielded a small amount of marijuana and pills believed to be methamphetamine. Allen faces charges including possession of methamphetamine, three traffic warrants, and introduction of contraband into a correctional facility.

Hendon has since been transferred to another correctional facility. Sheriff Parker emphasized the efforts to prevent contraband smuggling, crediting the diligence of prison staff and the successful operation by the drug unit for the arrests.

SUPPORT

Glenbrook School rallies around student with weekly support days

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Glenbrook School in Minden has united in support of 8th grader Dalton Harber, who is currently undergoing treatment at St. Jude. To boost his spirits, the school has organized “Dalton Harber Day” every Tuesday, with each grade taking turns

bringing items for Dalton during his treatments.

Last week, the 8th grade initiated the effort by presenting Dalton with a Glenbrook blanket signed by all students in grades 7 through 12. They also included restaurant gift cards for Dalton’s enjoyment.

This Tuesday, the 12th grade is slated to bring

some of Dalton’s favorite snacks, while students in grades K through 6 will be signing a blue Glenbrook blanket for him. The upcoming weeks are similarly themed, with 7th graders bringing games on April 22, 9th graders offering books on April 29, and 10th graders providing shopping gift cards on May 7. The 11th grad-

ers will wrap up the support initiative on May 14 by bringing gift cards for online games.

The entire student body and faculty at Glenbrook School are eagerly anticipating Dalton’s return and continue to show unwavering support for their fellow student.



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TARTAN

Continued from Page 1

the Piper. Everyone appeared to have a great time. We’ve had nothing but positive feedback in spite of the weather conditions.”

In the Highland Games, celebrating its second year at the festival, a good-sized group competed, including both seasoned travelers and local newcomers. Nathan McKnight claimed 1st place with 11.5 points, with Zach Taylor securing 2nd place with 12 points, and Brady Simmons

taking 3rd place with 18 points.

Despite the challenging weather, the Scottish Tartan Festival attendees and participants embraced the festival’s traditions and festivities. From the lively performances to the competitive games and unique showcases, the event once again proved to be a highlight of the local calendar, bringing people together to celebrate Scottish culture and heritage in a memorable and enjoyable way.

VOTE

Continued from Page 1

as cleaning supplies and fire alarm testing. The renewal period spans 10 years, from 2026 to 2035.

Springhill School District No. 8 Proposition No. 1 (Millage Continuation): Residents of Springhill School District No. 8 will decide on continuing a special tax of 7.69 mills, estimated to yield \$328,450 annually. This levy, also for a duration of 10 years from 2025 to 2034, includes a .60 mills increase due to reappraisal.

Springhill School District No. 8 Proposition No. 2 (Bond): The Springhill School District No. 8 proposes issuing bonds not exceeding \$11,000,000, with a maximum 20-year term and interest rate not exceeding 7% per annum. The purpose of these bonds is to finance capital expenditures for school purposes, including repairs, upgrades, and improvements. The bonds will be payable from ad valorem taxes, with an estimated increase of 12.75 mills in the first year above the current 28.50 mills being levied.

The capital would be used for much needed repairs and upgrades to the two elementary schools in Springhill: Browning Elementary

and Brown Upper Elementary. Both schools have serious roof issues that have gone years with patch jobs, and both schools need more parking. Beyond this, there is a need for new windows, awnings, woodwork, and paint.

This money would also be used to make improvements to the athletic facilities at North Webster High School. The facilities there were not updated when the new school was built over a decade ago. Projects include upgrading the running track, which the school and community use, building a new field house and adding some visitors’ restrooms and concession area for the football program, as well as renovating the backstops, restrooms, and concession area at the baseball/softball facilities.

Superintendent Rowland and the Webster Parish School Board are urging voters to support these propositions, emphasizing the critical need for these improvements in Springhill.

On election day, April 27, the polls are open from 7 AM to 8 PM. Voters are encouraged to participate in this election to support the improvement of education and facilities in Webster Parish schools.

EXPAND

Continued from Page 1

more than 450 existing jobs in the Northwest Region, while Louisiana Economic Development estimates that nearly 650 indirectly supported jobs will be created statewide. Susan B. Bourgeois, Secretary of Louisiana Economic Development, lauded Fibrebond’s contribution to the state’s economic prosperity, stating, “This project is especially exciting because it capitalizes on Louisiana’s existing manufacturing strength to create new opportunities in emerging markets such as data center and telecommunications infrastructure. That is a winning formula for Louisiana.”

Fibrebond, a family-owned enterprise and the largest employer in Webster Parish, has been a cornerstone of the local economy for decades. Mayor Nick Cox of Minden expressed his appreciation for Fibrebond’s enduring partnership with the community, highlighting the company’s pivotal role in driving economic growth and

prosperity.

To facilitate the expansion, Louisiana Economic Development offered a competitive incentive package, including a performance-based Retention and Modernization Tax Credit valued at nearly \$1.7 million over five years, contingent on investment, job retention, and payroll targets being met.

Justyn Dixon, President and CEO of the North Louisiana Economic Partnership (NLEP), hailed Fibrebond’s continued investment as a testament to the company’s ability to thrive in the region. “We celebrate the continued success of companies like Fibrebond, knowing that their achievements contribute significantly to the overall vitality of this region,” Dixon remarked.

With this latest expansion, Fibrebond’s manufacturing and warehousing space will surpass 1 million square feet on its 254-acre campus, positioning the company for sustained growth and leadership in the industrial sector.

OPINION

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OPINION

Liberal Bias in the National Media, and We're Paying for it with Our Tax Dollars

Americans have suspected, probably since the early 1980s when the last real "just the facts" journalism existed at the national level, that there is an overriding liberal bias in national "media." We have now, again, had that suspicion confirmed.

Publicly funded National Public Radio, better known as NPR (or "National Proletariat Radio" as it has been referred to for years due to its Leftist bent) has suspended veteran editor Uri Berliner after he detailed his employer's "absence of viewpoint diversity."

Berliner authored an expose in the Free Press that "criticized NPR's coverage of Russiagate, the COVID lab leak theory, Hunter Biden's scandalous laptop, embrace of the theory of systemic racism, and accused the organization of downplaying antisemitism following Oct. 7." (Fox News, Brian Flood, April 16, 2024). The Berliner article further notes that "registration records in 2021 showed an astonishing disparity between Democrats and Republicans in the NPR newsroom" and also indicated an "open-minded spirit no longer exists" at NPR. (Id.)

In fact, Berliner's research concluded that there are 87 Democrats and zero Republicans employed on the editorial staff at NPR's Washington, D.C. office. This ideological uniformity and close mindedness of NPR's Thought Police destroys

viewpoint diversity and raises red flags about the network's objectivity and evenly balanced viewpoint representation. Further, it exposes to the bright light of day the fraud at a taxpayer funded national radio station at which the flagship morning show is laughably entitled, 'All Things Considered.'



ROYAL ALEXANDER

that "Americans these days just don't trust the news." (The Hill, Roger Ream, 04/11/24). The Hill article pointedly asks:

"How did journalism get to this point? Many Americans feel the news today doesn't treat both sides fairly. They think it reflects deep-seated liberal biases, puts its finger on the scale for progressive policies and looks down on those with traditional or conservative beliefs. They're not wrong; Uri Berliner joins a growing list of journalists at mainstream publications ... who have publicly lamented how the news has abandoned its journalistic values." (Id.)

What is so concerning today

is that most national "news" organizations appear far more interested in advancing Woke, progressive policies than they are in faithfully adhering to the time-honored values of journalism, including objective fact-gathering within a paradigm of fairness and balance.

The topics of media bias Berliner lists in his expose are all hugely significant—Russia Collusion, the COVID lab leak theory, Hunter Biden's scandalous laptop, embrace of the theory of systemic racism and downplaying antisemitism following Oct. 7. However, I want to present one unassailable example of the gravity and damage this kind of dishonest leftist orthodoxy practiced by mainstream "media" can do.

The Hunter Biden laptop. What exacerbates the media bias, dishonesty and complicity is the fact that polling reflects a full 16% of Biden voters would have changed their minds and not voted for Joe Biden for president had they known of the laptop and its contents, news regarding which was completely frozen out by national media and social media just prior to the election. In an election decided by 42,000 votes in Wisconsin, Arizona, and Georgia, without this subject matter and viewpoint discrimination the electoral college and the 2020 election would have swung to Trump.

Thomas Jefferson once wrote that if he had to choose be-

tween "newspapers without a government" or "a government without newspapers" he would not hesitate to choose the former. With great respect to Mr. Jefferson, he could not have imagined what attempts to pass as "news" these days. We do know and we should reject it and demand that so-called news organizations actually, genuinely gather information and disseminate it impartially.

Subject matter honesty and impartiality are especially vital at news organizations like NPR and PBS and other public news outlets that are funded by our tax dollars.

The 'honesty and impartiality' principle should also apply to the broadcast news outlets—NBC, ABC and CBS—which utilize U.S. broadcast airways that are owned by the public for, originally, the purpose of providing unbiased information to Americans that is 'in the public interest.'

Even with Jefferson's brilliance and foresight, he could have never anticipated the rise of the willful and agenda-driven corruption of public information engaged in by NPR, CBS, NBC, and ABC. Their licenses should all be revoked "in the public interest."

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

She laughed to keep from crying

She laughed to keep from crying, and it became a way of life as she enriched millions of lives, including mine.

Though she's been gone since 1996, she will live forever in my heart.

The legacy of Erma Bombeck lives on and on because she not only laughed to keep from crying but she turned that laughter into words to uplift and feed the spirits of millions.

She laughed to keep from crying because her tears began early when her father came home from work one day, went into the hospital, and died the following day. She was nine years old.

Erma was left to a mother who grew up in an orphanage, the same as I did, after the death of my father. Erma saw her mother go bankrupt, losing all of their worldly possessions.

Yet Erma was strengthened by using her talents, by

honing her skills as a writer that began in a Dayton, Ohio, junior high school paper.

She found humor to be a way of dealing with her life -- of coping with a step father who she long resented before she finally let go and realized how much he loved her as his own.

She first wrote obituaries, and once commented that she could make them die in alphabetical order. She wrote for a local newspaper before gaining national syndication.

I, too, wrote to keep from crying after I suffered a nervous breakdown in Moun-

tain Home, Arkansas, after one too many moves, as a minister's wife, in 1981. I wrote to survive.

I wrote to Erma Bombeck because I instinctively knew that I needed a mentor, someone far more successful than myself who would encourage me in my wild pursuit as a writer.

She always wrote back, herself, not through a secretary.

She encouraged me. She knew what she was doing!

Writing to Erma became a turning point in my life!

With each letter I was strengthened. I jumped for joy! I went into orbit with her words of encouragement.

Once she said, "If you have talent, it can't be held down." Another time she said "Just think what you could write if you gave up defrosting and flushing." And she was known to say "If you do housework right it will kill you!" She also said, "Noth-

ing would please me more than seeing Sarah Hudson Pierce's picture on a book jacket." Once she wrote "it's not the money you make but knowing that your words have reached people you will never meet."

Although I'd published numerous poems and columns for publications that paid in copies only, it wasn't until late 1986 I finally sold my first poem for \$5.

I sent her a photocopy of that check. She quickly wrote back and told me that I'd inspired her February 26 1986, syndicated column that was published in over nine hundred newspapers.

I was ecstatic! I knew I'd make it with her encouragement.

Erma Bombeck made a difference to everyone she touched.

CONTACT SARAH AT SARAH9957@AOL.COM

KEEP THIS IN MIND

The Advocate: Louisiana's plenty of problems, libraries aren't one

Louisiana's got some big problems that demand the Legislature's attention, from unaffordable property insurance to crippling out-migration to dilapidated infrastructure.

You know what's not a big problem? What's going on at local libraries across the state.

And yet some lawmakers have put the state's librarians in their crosshairs. It's all part of a misguided movement led by a loud but limited minority to police what kids can read — which has gained a foothold in places like Lafayette, Livingston and St. Tammany.

Two bills on the subject are scheduled to be heard before

the House Administration of Criminal Justice Committee on Tuesday. House Bill 414 by state Rep. Josh Carlson, R-Lafayette, and House Bill 545 by state Rep. Beryl Amedée, R-Houma, would amend the state's obscenity law to remove libraries and school libraries from a list of exempt places that include government agencies, churches, museums, hospitals and "recognized and established schools," a category that would no longer include public K-12 schools under the proposed rewrite.

The proposals would expose librarians to fines and up to three years in prison — despite the fact that there's no evidence libraries stock

the sort of materials covered by the criminal statute.

These aren't the only proposals filed that would expose librarians to criminal penalties. Another bill, absurdly, would threaten librarians with potential prison time for seeking reimbursement for professional training through the American Library Association, whose policies some conservatives have assailed. House Bill 777 by state Rep. Kellee Dickerson, R-Denham Springs, has not been scheduled for a hearing.

There's also a bill that goes right to the local controversies that have sprung up; House Bill 640 by Jay Gallé, R-Mandeville, would allow

parish or municipal officials to remove members of library control boards without cause, which would only serve to further politicize the governing of libraries.

Proponents of measures like these don the mantle of parental control, but in doing so, they seek to govern not just what's available to their own kids but to others' as well. And their tactics are becoming more and more intimidating; What else can you say about threats of imprisonment to librarians for doing their job? That comes in the wake of the tip line set up by then-Attorney Gen. Jeff Landry for complaints about library materials.

Last year, the Legislature

passed a law that requires libraries to put in place a new card system allowing parents to stop their children from checking out books they consider inappropriate and to limit minors' access to material that describes "sexual conduct," as spelled out in the law.

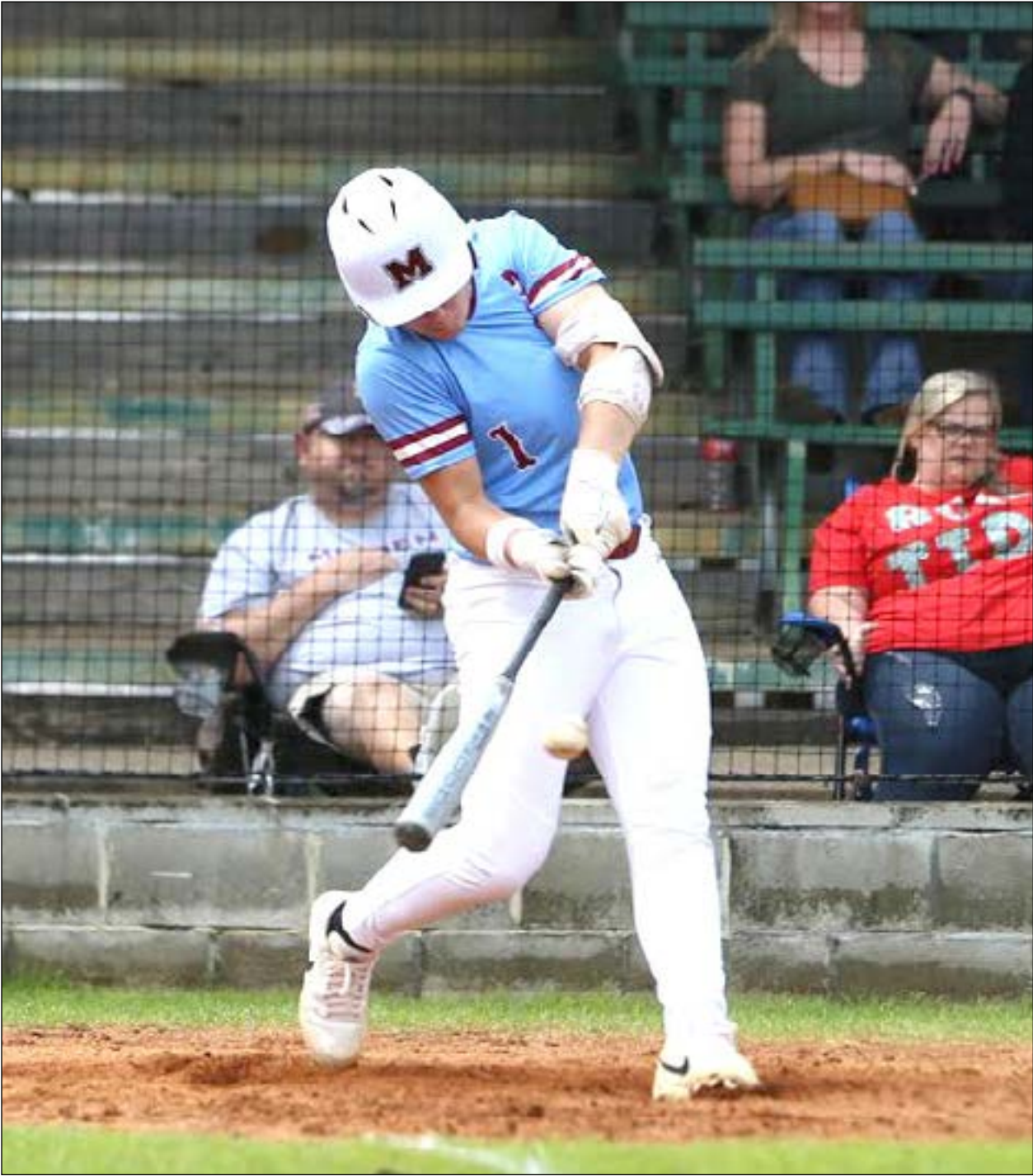
We'll say it again: Libraries are a haven for kids that allow them to explore their larger world.

It's sad that the idea behind most of these bills is nothing more than fear-mongering that seeks to undermine one of the most vital institutions in our communities.

SPORTS

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HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL



Landyn Huddleston, shown batting during a regular-season game, was one of several Minden players who came up big in the first round of the non-select Division II playoffs last week. The Crimson Tide visits No. 3 seed Brusly in the second round.

ROBERT SUMMERLIN/PRESS-HERALD

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

The Minden Crimson Tide will be looking for an upset in the quarterfinals of the non-select Division II playoffs this week.

Minden (23-9), the No. 14 seed, visits No. 3 Brusly (23-6) for a best-of-3 second round series. Game 1 is scheduled for Friday at 6 p.m. Game 2 is scheduled for Saturday at 11 a.m. Game 3, if necessary, is scheduled to follow at 2.

The Tide advanced to the second round last week, defeating No. 19 Beau Chene two games to one.

Minden won the first game 4-2 Thursday. Beau Chene took Game 2 2-1 in eight innings Friday. That set up a decisive Game 3 immediately after. The Tide bounced back with a 5-3 victory to keep their season alive.

Beau Chene, the designated home team, scored a run in the bottom of the

eight to force the decisive Game 3.

The Tide took a 1-0 lead in the bottom of the second on Zander Rowell's RBI-single with two outs. Landyn Huddleston led off with a single, moved to second on Hudson Brown's sacrifice bunt and reached third on Jaxon Smith's groundout.

Beau Chene tied it in the top of the third.

Jakobe Jackson broke the tie with a leadoff home run in the bottom of the inning.

Landon Brewer scored on Bryson Ranger's single to make it 3-1. Brewer walked and moved to second on Brody Bower's sacrifice bunt.

The Tide tacked on another run in the fifth. Bower scored on a wild pitch and error. Huddleston had a single.

The Gators cut the lead to one with two runs in the top of the sixth.

Brewer moved from

third base to the mound with a runner at third and one out. He proceeded to get back-to-back strikeouts.

Minden added its final run in the bottom of the inning on a double by Bower with two outs. Bray Winston, who drew a walk with one out and reached second on a wild pitch, scored.

Beau Chene got a lead-off walk in the seventh. But Brewer struck out the next two batters and induced a groundout to end the game.

Starting pitcher Rowell and Huddleston both went 2-for-2. Bower went 1-for-1 and drew two walks.

Rowell allowed five hits and one earned run in 5 1/3 innings. He struck out three and walked two.

Smith went the distance in the 2-1 loss. He allowed just two hits, struck out five and walked two. He also had two of the Tide's five hits.

In Game 1, Bower pitched a complete game. He allowed five hits, struck

out nine and walked three.

Beau Chene got on the board first with two runs in the top of the fourth.

The Tide answered in the bottom of the inning.

Brewer led off with a single. He advanced to second and third on an error off a grounder by Bower, who reached second.

Brewer scored on a passed ball and Jamall Carey, running for Bower, moved to third.

Huddleston drew a walk to load the bases. The Gators turned a double play but Carey scored to tie the game at 2.

Minden broke the tie in the sixth.

Ranger singled with one out and advanced to third on a double by Huddleston.

Brown then brought both home with a single to center field.

Bower struck out the first two batters in the bottom of the second. After a single, he got another strikeout to end the game.

Spears' gem helps Doyline roll into second round

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

The No. 12 seed Doyline Panthers advanced to the second round of the non-select Division V playoffs with a 6-0 victory over No. 21 Ebarb last week at Doyline.

Doyline (14-13) will visit No. 5 Quitman (15-10) in

the second round Thursday at 6 p.m. The Wolverines received a first-round bye.

Quitman swept Doyline 7-1 and 3-1 in their District 1-B series in the regular season.

Elsewhere, No. 24 seed North Webster was eliminated from the non-select Division III playoffs. The Knights were swept by No.

9 Loreauville 7-1 and 11-0. North Webster closed its season 16-17.

At Doyline, Noah Spears tossed a two-hitter with 13 strikeouts and only one walk.

The Panthers got off to a fast start, scoring three in the first and two in the second.

In the first, Spears dou-

bled with one out. He and D Galvez scored on Cayden Mingo's bunt single. Mingo scored the third run on a passed ball.

Jonas Florence and Kenneth Lee walked to start the second. They scored on Galvez's one-put single.

The Panthers scored their final run in the sixth.

Glenbrook, Lakeside to open playoffs

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

The Glenbrook Apaches and Lakeside Warriors play their first playoff games this week. Both teams received byes in the first round.

Glenbrook (13-10), the No. 11 seed, travels to the southeastern part of the state to take on No. 6 St. John (22-10), which also received a first-round bye, in a select Division V sec-

ond-round game.

Lakeside (15-14), the No. 5 seed, is scheduled to host No. 12 Logansport (13-13) in a non-select Division IV second-round game Wednesday at 5. Logansport defeated No. 21 LaSalle 14-11 in the first round.

Glenbrook is looking to reach the quarterfinals for the second year in a row. Last year, the Apaches reached the semifinals, fall-

ing to Ascension Catholic 4-1.

St. John finished third in District 8-A behind champion Ascension Catholic and runner-up Ascension Christian.

The Eagles struggled late in the season, losing five in a row. But they won their final two regular-season games.

St. John lost to Ascension Catholic 6-5 in the second round last year.

Lakeside also went into the playoffs as the No. 5 seed last year. The Warriors lost to No. 12 Mangham 4-2 in the second round.

Logansport reached the semifinals last year as the No. 2 seed.

The Tigers, who lost their final four regular season games, finished third in District 3-1A this season behind champion St. Mary's and runner-up Montgomery.

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Parish teams fall in second round of playoffs

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

The curtain came down on the 2024 season last week as all three parish teams remains in the playoffs fell to higher-seeded teams on the road in the second round.

Minden, the No. 13 seed, lost to No. 4 North Vermilion 5-0 in non-select Division II. The Lady Tiders finished 18-12.

Lakeside, the No. 11 seed, dropped a 3-2 heartbreaker to No. 6 Merryville in non-select Division IV. The Lady Warriors closed their first season under Head Coach Brittany Frazier Smith 16-17.

Glenbrook, the No. 13 seed, fell to No. 4 St. Frederick 7-0 in select Division IV.

The District 1-1A Lady Apaches finished 17-14.

At North Vermilion, Minden stayed within striking distance, but the Lady Tiders didn't have an answer for North Vermilion sophomore pitcher Kallie Gibson.

Gibson pitched a no-hitter with 14 strikeouts and three walks.

The Lady Patriots had six hits. They also took advantage of eight walks and two hit-by-pitches.

Zoe Harrington went 3-for-4 with a home run,

double and two RBI.

North Vermilion scored two in the second and third. It remained 4-0 until the Lady Patriots tacked on one in the sixth.

At Merryville, Lakeside trailed 3-0 after six innings then almost came back in the top of the seventh.

Mackenzie McCoy's one-out RBI-double got the Lady Warriors on the board. Then back-to-back singles by Rainie Hughes and Raleah Harris cut the lead to 3-2 with runners at first and second.

But Merryville's Leighlah Pruitt induced a popout and groundout to end the game.

Lakeside finished with six hits. McKenna Chreene had a double. Emily Jones and Teal Austin had singles.

Hallie Sutton allowed just four hits and one earned run in six innings. She struck out eight and walked two.

At St. Frederick, Abigail Creighton limited the Lady Apaches to two singles.

She struck out nine and walked none.

Vivian Still and Gracie Heard had Glenbrook's hits.

St. Frederick hit four home runs.

Avery Houser had two of those and four RBI.

Glenbrook dominates All-District 1-1A team

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

District champion Glenbrook dominated the All-District 1-1A softball team.

Junior catcher Vivian Still was named MVP. She batted .889 with four home runs, one triple, two doubles and 11 RBI.

She was one of eight Lady Apaches named to the first team. The others were infielders Gabi Brown, Ellie Earnhardt and Anna Grace Vining, outfielders Hadley Haynes and Colby Hollis, utility

Emma Garner and pitcher Rebecca Mosley.

Glenbrook's second-team selections were infielder Chloe Gregg, outfielder Savannah Mangrum and utility Gracie Heard.

Honorable mention selections were utility Kynzie Smith, outfielder Sydney Lee, utility Addison Chanler, utility Izzy McMillon and outfielder Amelia Lott.

Glenbrook finished 17-14 overall and 4-0 in d. The Lady Apaches outscored their district opponents by a combined 85-0.

HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD

North Webster third in District 1-3A girls meet

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

North Webster finished third in the District 1-3A girls meet last week at Wossman in Monroe.

The Lady Knights scored 90 points. Sterlington won with 182 and Wossman was second with 136.

North Webster was fifth in the boys division with 49 points. Carroll won with 155. Sterlington finished second with 137, Bastrop third with 105 and Wossman fourth with 50.

The top four individuals and relay teams in each event qualified for the Region I-3A meet scheduled for Wednesday at Carroll.

strengths this season and that was the case last week.

The foursome of Tomiyah Hawthorne, Anekah Coleman, De'Maiyh Moore and Tatyana Lawson finished second in the 4X100 relay in 50.50. Wossman won in 49.11.

Moore, McGlothlan, Kylee Sanders and Lawson combined for a runner-up finish in the 4X200 in 1:45.80. Wossman won in 1:43.83.

The foursome of Nyla Willis, Naja Willis, Sanders and McGlothlan took third in the 4X400 in 4:26.89. Wossman won in 4:15.89.

Sanders also finished second in the triple jump with a 33 3 1/2, just two inches shorter than the winning throw by Sterlington's Layla Crawley.

Natalie Maness won the wheelchair shot put.

GIRLS

Xhailor McGlothlan continued her outstanding season with a victory in the 300-meter hurdles.

She ran a 47.59, which would've been good enough for a fourth-place finish in last year's state meet.

McGlothlan won easily, finishing 3.02 seconds ahead of runner-up Za'Myriyha Banks of Carroll.

Relays have been one of the Lady Knights'

BOYS

Kedrien Cody finished runner-up in the 110 hurdles in 16.28. He finished just .01 behind Union Parish's Tyqueries Wilson.

Third-place finishers were Avante Curry (300 hurdles, Xaeliin Gladney (400), Bryan Briggs (discus) and Slade Lockey (pole vault).

SPORTS

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HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD

Doyline’s Harris wins four events in District 1-B meet

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Doyline senior Izayla Harris won four events in the District 1-B meet for the second straight year last week in Quitman.

She took the 100 in 12.22, the 200 in 25.26 and the 400 in 1:00.98. Harris won those events for the third straight year and is the Class B record holder in all three.

She also won the triple jump with a 35-5. She finished second in the event in the state meet last year.

Harris cruised to victory in all four events. She finished .1.54 seconds ahead of Weston’s Keeley Davis in the 100, 2.45 ahead of Quitman’s Sunni Altheimer in the 200 and 6.37 ahead of Quitman’s Rylee Kelley in the 400.

Her distance in the

triple jump was 4 feet, 9 inches farther than that of runner-up Sky McMullan of Castor.

The top four individuals and relay teams qualified for the Region I-B meet which was scheduled for Tuesday at Castor.

Nadia Lara qualified in the girls 300 hurdles with a third-place finish and the 800 with a fourth-place finish.

The Lady Panthers’ 4X100, 4X200 and 4X400 all qualified.

In the boys division, Jonas Florence won the district title in the discus with a 115-0.5.

Zach Moreno had a very good meet. He finished second in the 1,600 in 5:32.21 and 3,200 in 12:48.6 and third in the 800 in 2:25.69.

Quitman’s Gage Horton won the 800 in 2:14.73 and the 1,600 in 5:05.38.



ROBERT SUMMERLIN/PRESS-HERALD
Doyline’s Izayla Harris, shown above in the Airline meet, won four events in the District 1-B girls meet last week at Quitman.

Minden athletes post high finishes in 1-4A meet

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Minden’s Jonathan Bradford won the discus in the District 1-4A boys meet last week at North DeSoto.

Bradford’s winning throw went 126 feet, 7 3/4 inches. Northwood’s Chris Graham finished second with a 114 1/2.

Minden’s Porter Neal and Brayden Britton posted runner-up finishes.

Neal was second in the 400 meters in 50.45 seconds, just .13 slower than Huntington’s Preston Summage.

Britton took second in the 110 hurdles in 16.55. North DeSoto’s Dale Howard won in 15.82.

Neal, Carmelo Smith, Christian Lofton and Kaiden Shine combined to finish second in the 4X400 relay in 3:33.58. North DeSoto won in 3:30.64.

The top four individuals and relay teams in each event qualified for the Region I-4A meet scheduled for Thursday at Lee Hedges Stadium in Shreveport.

Minden finished fifth with 55 points. North DeSoto won the district championship with 150. Huntington was second with 127.

The Minden foursome of Mia Feaster, Jollee Dixon, Bradi Lee and Terrika Hendon finished second in the 4X800 in 11:40.33 in the girls division. North DeSoto won in 11:18.64.

Lakeside third in 1-2A boys meet

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Lakeside finished third in the boys division and fourth in the girls in the District 1-2A meet last week at Lee Hedges Stadium in Shreveport.

Lakeside scored 95 points in the boys division. Green Oaks won with 163 and Loyola was second with 129.

Lakeside had 74 points in the girls division. Loyola won with 188. D’Arbonne Woods was second with 118 and North Caddo third with 78.

The top four individuals and relay teams in each event qualified for the Region I-2A meet Wednesday at Mansfield.

BOYS

Tamarjah Ferrell and Caleb Barber won district titles.

Ferrell took the 200 meters in 23.74. He was .30 faster than runner-up Montavious Kelly of Green Oaks.

Ferrell also finished second in the triple jump with a 40-9. Green Oaks’ Cortaveous Dorsey won with a 42-6.

Barber won the discus with a toss of 122-7. His throw was 13 feet, 1 inch farther than that of runner-up Cavon Foster of Green Oaks.

Chad Davis and Willie Jenkins finished 2-3 in the javelin with throws of 147-7 and 121-6, respectively.

D’Arbonne Woods’ Weston Jones won with a 147-9.

Kentravion Miller and Barber finished 2-3 in the shot put with tosses of 41-5 and 40-4, respectively.

Landon Anderson was second in the high jump with a 5-6. Loyola’s Easton Baker won with a 5-10.

James Maxie finished third in the 110 and 300 hurdles. He finished just .01 behind runner-up Jomariyion Collins in the 110.

Jermemiah Allen and Collin Walker finished 3-4 in the long jump.

ond in the 1,600 in 6:07.84 and third in the 800 in 2:45.18.

She also teamed with Bailey Mangrum, McKenzie Chase and Annie Cooper for a runner-up finish in the 4X800 relay in 11:24.05.

Bradley finished 23.16 seconds ahead of runner-up D’Arbonne Woods in the 3,200. She finished 6.70 seconds behind Loyola’s Mary Elbersen in the 1,600.

Chase won the pole vault with a 7-6, 6 inches higher than her neared competitors.

T’breyanna Williams was third in the triple jump with a 28-7. Akajah Castle finished third in the shot put with a toss of 28-1.

GIRLS

Lexi Bradley had an outstanding meet.

She won the 3,200 in 14:26.0 and finished sec-

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Glenbrook eighth-grader Carson Powell was a double winner in the District 1-1A boys meet last week at Plain Dealing.

Powell won the 800 meters in 2:21.28 and the 1,600 in 5:16.32. He finished 4.27 seconds ahead of runner-up Germarius Williams of Haynesville in the 800 and 18.49 ahead of Magnolia School of Excellence’s Hayden Lizcano in the 1,600.

Glenbrook’s Vivian Still, Anna Morales and Hadley Haynes won events in the girls meet.

Still took the 400 in 1:05.86. She finished 1.91 ahead of Haynesville’s

Aa’Mauri Jones.

Morales won the javelin with a throw of 86-8, edging Homer’s Sha’Niya Webb by 8 inches.

Haynes won the pole vault with a 6-0.

She also qualified in the 100 hurdles with a fourth-place finish.

Chase Sentell finished third in the boys triple jump with a 40-8.

Haynesville’s Isaiah Washington won with a 43-6.5.

Naci Morales took third in the boys javelin with a 105-4. Haynesville’s Yasmin Meadors won with a 133-0.

Mattison Fowler finished third in the girls 7:14.05. Magnolia’s Emiga Blake won in 6:43.37.

OUTDOORS

Brown’s trek through the outdoors includes new book

GLYNN HARRIS

There are plenty of folks who include the outdoors as a part of their lives. They hunt; they fish; they hike but their nine-to-five jobs occupy the majority of their time.

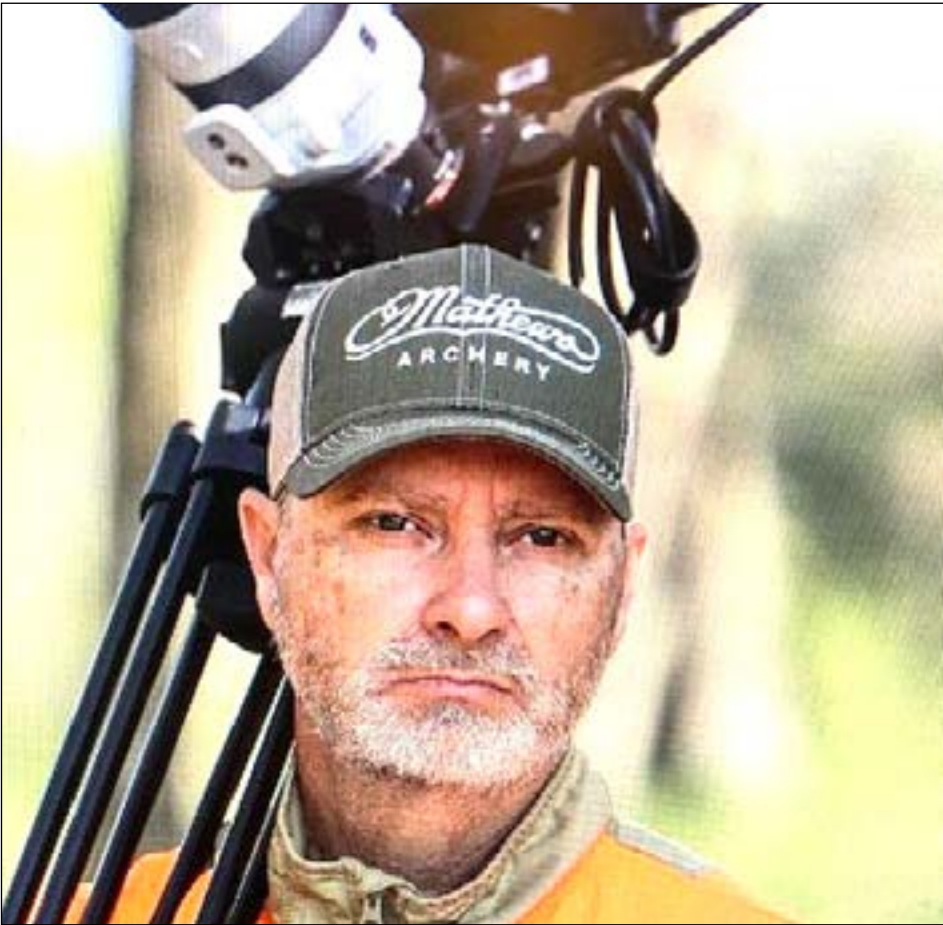
For a handful of others, the outdoors is basically their life; they’re consumed with the woods and waters. That’s why this select group can’t wait to wake up every morning and go to their job in some form of make their living in outdoor industries. John Brown is just such a fellow.

For the 57 year old Brown, it started some 30-odd years ago when he teamed up with fellow Ruston High School graduate, Rex Moncrief to plan, film produce and star in an outdoor television show, “The Outdoor News”, which ran for a few years on area TV stations.

Wanting more exposure to the outdoors, Brown had become adept at handling video equipment and he began doing free-lance video works for such outdoors-related companies as Knight and Hale, Primos, Mossy Oak. His work caught the attention of the National Wild Turkey Federation (NWTF) and for near 30 years, Brown worked with that organization eventually becoming executive producer of their television and video work.

Aside from his involvement with the outdoors, Brown developed an interest in coaching youth baseball. While living in Edgefield, SC, headquarters of the NWTF, he coached youngsters and in 2019, his team of 12 year olds won the national championship. Interestingly, the tourney was held in Ruston.

“I came to Ruston for the tournament and it was like a homecoming to me. I wanted to plant myself



COURTESY PHOTO
John Brown has retired as videographer, moved home to north Louisiana and has written a book, “Gathering Light”.

back here in north Louisiana where I was raised. I told my boss at the NWTF I wanted to take an early retirement so I could move back home,” said Brown.

After retiring, Brown and his wife, a retired school teacher, live in the country outside W. Monroe. Has he retired from his outdoors ventures? That’s not in Brown’s DNA. He writes features for LA Sportsman magazine and has taken a consuming interest in 51 acres of land in Caldwell Parish his dad had purchased before he passed away last year. Brown is converting the property his dad left him to a mecca for wildlife.

“When I first walked over the property, it was so

thick and overgrown you could hardly pick your way through it. There was no way you could think about finding a turkey track. For the past year and a half I have worked on the land, clearing brush and establishing food plots. Last week,” said Brown, “I called up two longbeard gobblers, a hen and six jakes at one time.

“I have rededicated myself to telling the conservation story that no matter if a piece of property is large or small, if you work on the habitat, wildlife will react and find it.”

Brown’s next project, which will reach fruition on April 30, is his book, “Gathering Light”, which will be released on that date.

“Before he passed away, my dad had encouraged me to write down what I had done in stories I could pass down as a legacy to my kids and grandchildren.

“I finally did it. The book tells about my growing up in Franklin Parish on the Tensas River as well as my outdoors-related work down through the years,” he said.

The hard cover book as well as in E-book form will be available starting April 30. Search for it on Amazon.com and Barnes and Noble.

This book will appeal to not only outdoorsmen and women but with John Brown’s God given ability to tell a story, it’s a book anyone will enjoy reading.

Fishing Report

BLACK BAYOU –Bream are starting to bite crickets and worms around the trees. No report on crappie or bass. Contact Honey Hole Tackle Shop 323-8707 for latest information.

BUSSEY BRAKE – Bass fishing is good with some to 11 pounds caught flipping creature baits around the trees. Crappie have moved off the banks and hitting jigs and shiners in the flats. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole at 323-8707.

OUACHITA RIVER – The water is high, rising and muddy and nobody is fishing. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE D’ARBONNE – Crappie are good with some still spawning in the shallows and some moving to the flats. Shiners and jigs are catching them. Some bass are still spawning around the grass with some moving out and hitting crank baits and soft plastics.. Catfishing is improving fishing cold worms off the banks. The bream are on the beds up and hitting crickets and night crawlers. For latest information, call Anderson Sport Center at 368-9669 or Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE CLAIRBORNE – Crappie are starting to move out to 12 foot water and are hitting mostly shiners. Bass are best fishing

Carolina rigs, spinners and jerk baits around the docks. Stripers are beginning to school and hitting shad imitation lures. Bream are on the beds and worms and crickets are working on them. Catfishing has been good on night crawlers. For latest information, call Kel’s Cove at 927-2264 or Terzia Tackle at 278-4498.

CANEY LAKE – Big chinquapins are on the beds and some real good fish are being caught on small crawfish, worms and crickets. Best bass catches are made fairly shallow on Wacky Worms, Sinko, Bandits and spinners with some moving out to deeper water. Crappie are best fishing jigs or shiners around submerged tops in 12 foot water. 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 – Catfishing is good and the bream are moving to the beds and hitting worms and crickets. Crappie have moved off the banks and are fair. No report on bass. For latest reports, call Poverty Point Marina at 318/878-0101.

LAKE YUCATAN – The water is quite high and rising and nobody is fishing. For information, call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.

Good News

GOOD NEWS

Going into all the World

Power to Go: Tarry here in Jerusalem until the Holy Spirit comes upon you...and you shall be my witnesses in Jerusalem, in Samaria, Judea and throughout the world (Acts 1:8). People Who Go: When the Holy Spirit comes into one's life and takes control, we are ready and willing to do whatever He leads us to do. We are ready and willing to go wherever He leads us.

When the early deacons were appointed, anointed and set apart, they began to do just as the Scripture said: 'they went forth (5:12-16). Deacon Stephen went forth with boldness, ultimately giving his life as a martyr (Acts 7).

After Stephen's death, the early Christians dispersed and spread out from Jerusalem. Only the apostles remained there, whereas the newly anointed deacons and other disciples soon were dispersed - going into all the corners of the world.

Deacon Phillip was a bold and

consistent witness as well. He was willing to preach the gospel to large groups or to individuals. He showed us how important it is for us to consistently spread the gospel wherever we go.

Phillip found himself in Samaria—yes, that hated area of Canaan that all Jews despised. Later (Acts 8) we find Phillip in the chariot with the Ethiopian eunuch (in the Gaza region) reading to him from Isaiah about 'the suffering Savior.' God had set the stage for Phillip to share God's plan for salvation. The eunuch understood and asked to be baptized.

As a result of his faithfulness, the Ethiopian eunuch was saved and joyfully took the Gospel with him back to Africa (Acts 8). The accounts in Acts 6-8 should



Bill Crider

dispel all doubts whether the Spirit of God can and will provide a foundation to speak boldly and consistently for Him. Wow! Just think,"that still happens today" when we go into the world equipped with God's anointing presence!

First, we read of Stephen's bold witness and then Phillip's experience with the eunuch. Acts 9 now presents Saul's (a Pharisee) unusual conversion experience. He had just witnessed Stephen's stoning. (8:1). In 9:1, Paul is presented as a wild man, going everywhere to devastate the believers, even entering their private homes and dragging out the men and women to jail them in the name of God. This had scattered the believers "everywhere." The new believers were scattered everywhere into areas they may never have gone alone. Now the energizing power of the Holy Spirit was directing them in unusual manner. The whole world was

'buzzing.'

Isn't it interesting that Phillip was lead to preach in Samaria? The Jews and Samaritans shared a mutual enmity: Jews viewed the Samaritans as half-breeds and shunned all contact with them. They were outside the covenant community; they were inferior and should be shunned. There were two different worship systems; a wall of prejudice separated them. But remember, Jesus, on several occasions, "had to go through Samaria." He was using this as great teaching tools about "witnessing to the world around us".

Stephen was led to preach to the Jewish people with blistering messages. He said things that stung them to the heart. Angry, they stoned him to death. There many miraculous signs and wonders were performed, healing many and expelling evil spirits. Now, Saul is converted in a most unusual manner.

Many times we find ourselves

in new and different circumstances: unwanted changes like death of spouse or close family members; changing health situations or financial struggles; just the wear and tear of aging. We can face these circumstances with fear and anxiety or with optimism and excitement that the Lord is opening up another chapter in our lives. As the barriers fell before these men, they began to realize the 'gospel is for all people' and not just the Jews. What was happening? The Lord was putting people in front of these men who needed to hear about Jesus. These three men were consistent in letting the Holy Spirit lead them. The challenge for us is the same: Be consistent in our witness. "Let others see Jesus in you! Keep telling the Story, be faithful and true." (Hymn; BB McKinney, Baptist Hymnal; pp. 571).

BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER

THE UPWARD LOOK

Spotless and Pure

"that He might present to Himself the church in all her glory, having no spot or wrinkle or any such thing; but that she would be holy and blameless." Ephesians 5:27 NASB



Max Hutto

In this verse Paul gives the purpose, the ultimate reason, why Christ gave Himself for the church, for all people who believe and trust in Him. That day in the future, at the end of the age, the church will be presented to Him in Heaven in all glory and splendor as the perfect bride. There

will be no spot of defilement and sin or wrinkle of age and decay. The church will stand before God as holy, blameless, and pure, sanctified and made clean and righteous by Christ Himself.

Lord Jesus, having placed my faith in You as my Savior and Lord, continue to work in me to make me spotless and pure, righteous and holy in You.

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

INSPIRATION

Armor Up

Ephesians 6:10-12 NIV says be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes. For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world, and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. I started this writing with this scripture to make one statement: God is the only way. We can't fight the war being waged on our hearts, souls, and lives without God's guidance and protection. Guidance and protection are provided




Bernard Harris

by the armor of God which is composed of 6 characteristics: truth, righteousness, readiness from the gospel, faith, salvation, and the word of God. Lately, life for many has been hard and, in some ways, it feels like a losing battle but I'm here to tell everyone God has a plan all we need to do is make sure we are wearing our armor. I would like to conclude by asking everyone to pray for our world and all of its people that God may bring them peace and hope.

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

Come

WORSHIP

FIRST
ASSEMBLY OF GOD
MINDEN

How can we
pray for you?



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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
301 Pennsylvania Avenue • Minden, LA

CLASSIFIEDS

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

Classified Rates

Pricing is easy!

\$7.75

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

Garage Sales

No word limit.

\$11

One Day

\$16.50

Two Days

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

* Garage Sale ads must be prepaid.

Deadlines

Ads

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

Public Notices

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

Payments

Cash Checks, Billing

Real Estate Notice

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

Grow Your Business

Call to place your ad!

PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!
377-1866

SHERIFF'S SALE

PENNYMAC LOAN SERVICES, LLC VS. JUAN JAMES BUSH AND LISA JEAN BUSH

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 81151.

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 Court-house in the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana on WEDNESDAY, May 29, 2024, During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

A 1.982 ACRE TRACT LOCATED IN THE SE/4 OF SE/4, SECTION 5, TOWNSHIP 17 NORTH, RANGE 9 WEST, WEBSTER PARISH, LOUISIANA, AND MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS COMMENDING AT THE SE CORNER OF SECTION 5, T 17 N, R 9 W, AND RUN N 1'00" W 500' TO 5/8" REBAR FOR THE POINT OF BEGINNING: THENCE CONTINUE N 1'00 W 362.5' THENCE RUN WEST 7.5' TO 3/4" IRON PIPE LOCATED ON THE WEST R/W OF LOUISIANA HIGHWAY NO. 7 THENCE RUN S 87'50" W 233.69' TO 1/2" REBAR, THENCE RUN S 1'00" E 353.66' TO IRON ROD THENCE RUN EAST 241.10' TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, AND ALSO THE NORTHERMOST 75' OF THE CERTAIN TRACT OF LAND LOCATED IN THE SW/4 OF SW/4, SECTION 4, TOWNSHIP 17 NORTH, RANGE 9 WEST, PURCHASED BY MELVIN T. GARCIA FROM L.T. BROWN BY DEED OF JULY 13, 1970, RECORDED OF CONVEYANCE BOOK 393 PAGE 808. WEBSTER PARISH CONVEYANCE RECORDS, SAID TRACT BEING TRIANGULAR IN SHAPE OF LYING WEST OF THE WEST R/W FOR LOUISIANA HIGHWAY NO. 7 AND TO THE EAST OF THE WEST LINE OF THE "FORTY"; SUBJECT TO RESTRICTIONS, SERVITUDES, RIGHTS-OF-WAY AND OUTSTANDING RIGHTS OF RECORD AFFECTING THE PROPERTY.

7950 HIGHWAY 371, 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

**April 24, 2024
May 22, 2024
Minden Press Herald**

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

JENKINS COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM, INC. Owner

P.O. Box 467 Address

Doyline, Louisiana 71071 City, State, Zip

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of **Contract I- New Water Wells** will be received by the **JENKINS COMMUNITY WATER SYSTEM, INC.** at the **DOYLINE TOWN HALL, 624 COLLEGE, DOYLINE, LOUISIANA 71023** until **2:00 P.M., TUESDAY, MAY 7, 2024**, and then at said office publicly opened and read aloud as permitted by public bid law. This is in accordance with La R.S. 38:2212 (A)(1)(b), the provisions of La R.S. 38:2212.

Each bidder must have an active Unique Entity ID (SAM), as

verified on www.sam.gov, within 10 days of the bid opening.

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

Copies of the CONTRACT DOCUMENTS may be obtained at the office of COTHREN, GRAFF, SMOAK ENGINEERING, INC. upon payment of \$ 200.00 for each set, which is refundable to prime bidders within 10 days after receipt of bids. Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids for just cause.

**April 10, 2024
April 17, 2024
April 24, 2024
Minden Press Herald**

I, Ricky Gryder, DOC #267646, have applied for clemency for my conviction of Manslaughter. If you have any comments, contact the Board of Pardons (225) 342-5421.

**April 10, 2024
April 17, 2024
April 24, 2024
Minden Press Herald**

I, Jason Prichard, DOC #636029, have applied for clemency for my conviction of Schedule II. If you have any comments, contact the Board of Pardons (225) 342-5421.

**April 10, 2024
April 17, 2024
April 24, 2024
Minden Press Herald**

PUBLIC NOTICE
Minden Planning Commission Meeting
May 2, 2024 – 10:00 a.m.
Pelican Room - Minden City Hall

On the agenda is a request from John D. Stielinger for a zoning change from M-1 (Light Industrial) to R-6 (Trailer Park and Mobile Home) on property owned by him located on Hollis Lane.

The purpose of this zoning change request is to use the existing mobile homes on the property as a residential trailer park.

Legal Description:
1.40 ACRES - THE NORTH 1/2 OF: TRACT 349.5 X 350 FT. IN N/2 OF SE/4 OF NW/4 SEC. 34-19-9

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

**April 17, 2024
April 24, 2024
May 1, 2024
Minden Press Herald**

I, Jorge Pineda, DOC #398184, have applied for clemency for my conviction of Schedule I: Hallucinogenic Sub. If you have any comments, contact the Board of Pardons (225) 342-5421.

**April 17, 2024
April 24, 2024
May 1, 2024
Minden Press Herald**

JADE STODDARD PERDUE, Executrix, is petitioning the Court for authority to sell succession property from the estate of DEANNA LORRAINE EDWARDS; specifically, decedents' undivided 1/3 interest in immovable property located in Webster Parish, Louisiana. Being more particularly described as all that property owned by Gerald and Elizabeth Edwards located in Section 19, Township 18 North, Range 8 West, Webster Parish and South of Rail Road.

A 4.13 acre, more or less, tract of land located in the Southwest Quarter (SW4 of NW4), Section 19, Township 18 North, Range 8 West, Northwestern Land District, Louisiana Meridian West, Dubberly, Webster Parish, Louisiana, being more particularly described as follows:

Begin at a found concrete monument marking the Southwest Corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Illinois Central Railroad, for the Point of Beginning: thence run North 00 degrees 32 minutes 35 seconds East for a distance of 125.80 feet to a set 1/2 inch iron rod at the intersection of said West line and the apparent North right of way of said railroad, and run along said apparent North right of way for the next two (2) calls;

thence run South 85 degrees 24 minutes 24 seconds East for a distance of 620.80 feet to a found 1/2 inch iron pipe; thence run South 01 degrees 20 minutes 41 seconds West for a distance of 325.08 feet to a found 3/4 inch iron rod; thence run North 99 degrees 24 minutes 11 seconds West for a distance of 422.21 feet to a set 1/2 inch iron rod; thence run North 01 degrees 48 minutes 24 seconds East for a distance of 226.74 feet to a found concrete monument; thence run North 85 degrees 32 minutes 30 seconds West for distance of 292.11 feet to the Point of Beginning.

Any opposition to this proposed sale must be filed within seven days from the date of the last publication of this notice.

**April 17, 2024
April 24, 2024
Minden Press Herald**

Village of Dixie Inn Regular Session April 9, 2024

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

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the Village of Dixie Inn met in regular session on April 9, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the Village Hall, Dixie Inn, Louisiana with the following members present: Mayor Donna Hoffoss, Aldermen Judy McKenzie, Nell Finlay, and Lance Milligan.

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

A motion was made by Nell Finlay and seconded by Lance Milligan to add Item C, Discuss Officer Crittenden's Possible Resignation/Move to Part-Time, was added to the agenda under "New Business". Vote on the motion was unanimous.

A motion was made by Lance Milligan and seconded by Nell Finlay to adopt the minutes of the March 12, 2024, Regular Session. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

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

Department Reports:

Mike Chreene reported all is well with the Water Department.

Chief Robert Davis reported all is well with the Police Department. Chief Davis noted that he and Officer Crittenden will be wearing blue badges during the month of April in support of Autism Awareness Month.

Mayor Donna Hoffoss reported Ms. Lana Noe won the holiday drawing for an Easter ham. Mayor Hoffoss reminded guests of two local upcoming events: the Historic Hwy 80 Sale April 19-21, and Love the Boot Week April 20-28.

New Business:

Mayor Hoffoss read aloud two separate Proclamations made by Governor Jeff Landry declaring April '24 as Fair Housing Month, and Community Development Month in the State of Louisiana.

The council discussed Officer Zane Crittenden's possible resignation and move to part-time employment.

Old Business:

After discussing the pros and cons of using a lease program for future police vehicles, a motion was made by Lance Milligan and seconded by Nell Finlay to table the discussion. 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

**April 24, 2024
Minden Press Herald**

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF MINDEN, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN IN SPECIAL SESSION HELD ON APRIL 18, 2024

The Minden City Council met at City Hall in Minden, Louisiana, beginning at 9:30 a.m. with the following members present: Mayor Nicholas A. Cox, Levon Thomas, Latasha

Mitchell, Michael Roy, and Andy Pendergrass. Absence(s): Carlton Myles. Mayor Cox welcomed everyone to the meeting. Prayer was offered by Mayor Cox and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Levon Thomas. It is noted for the record that Mayor Cox allowed both council and public comments prior to every vote.

Andy Pendergrass moved to adopt a Resolution Approving a Payment in Lieu of Tax in Accordance with a Term Sheet; Requesting the Northwest Louisiana Finance Authority Enter into a Payment in Lieu of Tax Agreement; and Providing for Other Matters with Respect Thereto. The motion was duly seconded by Michael Roy and the vote was unanimously in favor. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): Carlton Myles.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Nicholas A. Cox, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melaney Langford, City Clerk

**April 24, 2024
Minden Press Herald**

CITY OF MINDEN, STATE OF LOUISIANA

The following Resolution was offered by Andy Pendergrass and seconded by Michael Roy:

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAX IN ACCORDANCE WITH A TERM SHEET; REQUESTING THE NORTHWEST LOUISIANA FINANCE AUTHORITY ENTER INTO A PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS WITH RESPECT THERETO.

WHEREAS, the City of Minden, State of Louisiana (the "City"), is a political subdivision of the state of Louisiana (the "State"); and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Minden acts as the governing authority of the City; and

WHEREAS, Fibrebond Corporation, registered in and qualified to do business in the State (the "Company" or "Lessee"), desires to construct a new 300,000 square foot production building with a capital investment of \$55 million, resulting in the retention of 451 jobs with an estimated annual payroll of \$31.7 million (the "Project"); and

WHEREAS, in order to induce the Company to locate the Project in the City, the Company has requested economic development financing in the form of certain tax incentives; and

WHEREAS, the City has found and determined that attracting the Project to the City would provide substantial benefits including, but not limited to, increased ad valorem and sales and use tax revenue and the retention of high quality jobs for citizens of the City, which when taken together result in benefits to the City equal to or greater than the benefits requested by the Company; and

WHEREAS, the Northwest Louisiana Finance Authority ("NWLFA") is a statutorily authorized local public trust permitted to acquire and hold property for one or more of its public purposes as set forth in R.S. 9:2341(B) and upon acquisition by the NWLFA, such property is declared for purposes of R.S. 9:2347(M) to be public property used for essential and governmental purposes and such property is thereby exempt from all taxes of the City, the State, or any political subdivision thereof or any other taxing body; and

WHEREAS, the City requests the NWLFA take title to the Project and lease it back to the Company for a period of ten (10) years pursuant to a term sheet (the "Term Sheet"), which is attached hereto as **Exhibit A** and incorporated herein; and

WHEREAS, the City desires the Lessee to pay annually to the parish or municipal taxing authorities, and to any other taxing body in the Parish of Webster (the "Parish"), through the entity responsible for collecting ad valorem taxes for each taxing body (collectively, the

"Tax Collector"), a sum in lieu of ad valorem taxes in an amount not to exceed the amount of taxes that would otherwise be due if the Project were not owned by the Authority (a "PILOT"), in accordance with the Term Sheet, in order to compensate such authorities for services rendered by them to the Project, which sum the Tax Collector shall collect and enforce payment of in accordance with the statutory provisions of La. R.S. 39:1002 as statutory impositions, subject to the approval of the beneficiary of the Authority.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Minden, State of Louisiana that:

Section 1. The foregoing whereas clauses are hereby adopted as set forth in the preamble to this Resolution.

Section 2. This City does hereby request that the Northwest Louisiana Finance Authority enter into the PILOT agreement in accordance with the attached and approved Term Sheet.

Section 3. The Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized, empowered, and directed to take forthwith any and all such action as may be necessary to carry into effect the provisions of this Resolution.

Section 4. If any one or more of the provisions of this Resolution shall for any reason be held to be illegal or invalid, such illegality or invalidity shall not affect any other provision of this Resolution, but this Resolution shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal or invalid provisions had not been contained herein. Any constitutional or statutory provision enacted after the date of this Resolution which validates or makes legal any provision of this Resolution which would not otherwise be valid or legal, shall be deemed to apply to this Resolution.

Section 5. This Resolution shall immediately take effect upon adoption.

[The remainder of this page is intentionally left blank.]

This Resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows:

YEAS: Levon Thomas, Latasha Mitchell, Michael Roy, and Andy Pendergrass

NAYS: None

ABSTAIN: None

ABSENT: Carlton Myles

WHEREUPON, this Resolution was declared to be adopted by the Mayor and City Council for the City of Minden, State of Louisiana, on this 18th day of April, 2024.

s/Nicholas A. Cox
Nick Cox, Mayor

s/Melaney Langford
Melaney Langford, City Clerk

**STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF WEBSTER**

I, Melaney Langford, certify that I am the duly qualified and acting City Clerk of the City of Minden, State of Louisiana.

I further certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution of the City Council of the City of Minden, State of Louisiana, acting as the governing authority of the City of Minden, State of Louisiana, adopted on 18th day of April, 2024, entitled:

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAX IN ACCORDANCE WITH A TERM SHEET; REQUESTING THE NORTHWEST LOUISIANA FINANCE AUTHORITY ENTER INTO A PAYMENT IN LIEU OF TAX AGREEMENT; AND PROVIDING FOR OTHER MATTERS WITH RESPECT THERETO.

IN FAITH WHEREOF, witness my official signature and the impress of the official seal of said City of Minden, State of Louisiana, on this, the 18th day of April, 2024.

s/Melaney Langford
Melaney Langford, City Clerk

[SEAL]

**April 24, 2024
Minden Press Herald**

The following resolution was offered by Jane O'Dell and seconded by Lanny Moore:

RESOLUTION

A resolution authorizing the incurring of debt and issuance of Two Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,400,000) of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2024, of Cullen Fire Protection District No. 6 of the Parish of Webster, State of Louisiana; and providing for other matters in connection therewith.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Cullen Fire Protection District No. 6 of the Parish of Webster, State of Louisiana (the "Governing Authority"), acting as the governing authority of Cullen Fire Protection District No. 6 of the Parish of Webster, State of Louisiana (the "Issuer"), that:

Definitions. As used herein, the following terms shall have the following meanings, unless the context otherwise requires:

"Act" means, collectively, Article VI, Section 33 of the Constitution of the State of Louisiana of 1974, Part II of Chapter 4 of Subtitle II of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, and other constitutional and statutory authority.

"Agreement" means the agreement to be entered into between the Issuer and the Paying Agent pursuant to this Resolution, if required.

"Bond" or "Bonds" means the Issuer's General Obligation Bonds, Series 2024, authorized to be issued by this Resolution in the principal amount of Two Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,400,000), and any Bond of said issue, whether initially delivered or issued in exchange for, upon transfer of, or in lieu of any Bond previously issued.

"Bond Register" means the registration books of the Paying Agents in which registration of the Bonds and transfers of the Bonds shall be made as provided herein.

"Code" means the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

"Executive Officers" means, collectively, the Chairman and Secretary of the Governing Authority.

"Governing Authority" means the Board of Commissioners of Cullen Fire Protection District No. 6 of the Parish of Webster, State of Louisiana.

"Government Securities" means direct obligations of, or obligations the principal of and interest on which are unconditionally guaranteed by the United States of America, which are noncallable prior to their maturity, may be United States Treasury obligations such as the State and Local Government Series and may be in bookentry form.

"Interest Payment Date" means March 1 and September 1 of each year in which the Bonds are Outstanding, commencing March 1, 2025.

"Issuer" means Cullen Fire Protection District No. 6 of the Parish of Webster, State of Louisiana.

"Outstanding" when used with respect to Bonds means, as of the date of determination, all Bonds theretofore issued and delivered under this Resolution, except:

1. Bonds theretofore canceled by the Paying Agent or delivered to the Paying Agent for cancellation;

2. Bonds for which payment or redemption sufficient funds have been theretofore deposited in trust for the owners of such Bonds, provided that if such Bonds are to be redeemed, irrevocable notice of such redemption has been duly given or provided for pursuant to this Resolution or waived;

3. Bonds in exchange for or in lieu of which other Bonds have been registered and delivered pursuant to this Resolution;

4. Bonds alleged to have been mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen which have been paid as provided in this Resolution or by law; and

5. Bonds for the payment of the principal (or redemption price, if any) of and interest on which money or Government Securities or both are held in trust with the effect specified in this Resolution.

"Owner" or "Own-

ers" when used with respect to any Bond means the Person in whose name such Bond is registered in the appropriate Bond Register.

"Paying Agent" means Sabine State Bank and Trust Company in Many, Louisiana, for the Bonds purchased by said Bank, and the Secretary for the Bonds purchased by the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority, or such successor Paying Agents which may be named by this Governing Authority.

"Person" means any individual, corporation, partnership, joint venture, association, jointstock company, trust, unincorporated organization or government or any agency or political subdivision thereof.

"Purchaser" means Sabine State Bank and Trust Company in Many, Louisiana, for Bond R-1 and the Louisiana Public Facilities Authority, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, for Bond R-2.

"Record Date" for the interest payable on any Interest Payment Date means the 15th calendar day of the month next preceding such Interest Payment Date.

"Resolution" means this resolution authorizing the issuance of the Bonds, as it may be supplemented and amended.

Authorization of Bonds; Denominations, Dates, Maturities and Interest. In compliance with the terms and provisions of the Act, there is hereby authorized the incurring of an indebtedness of Two Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,400,000) for, on behalf of, and in the name of the Issuer, for the purpose of (i) acquiring, constructing and improving buildings, machinery and equipment, to be used in giving fire protection to the property in the Issuer, title to which shall be in the public, and (ii) paying the costs of issuance of the Bonds, and to represent said indebtedness, this Governing Authority does hereby authorize the issuance of Two Million Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$2,400,000) of General Obligation Bonds, Series 2024, of the Issuer.

The Bonds shall be issued in the form of two, fully registered term bonds numbered R-1 and R-2 and shall be dated the date of delivery thereof. The unpaid principal of the Bonds shall bear interest from the date thereof or from the most recent Interest Payment Date to which interest has been paid or duly provided for, payable semiannually on March 1 and September 1 of each year, commencing March 1, 2025, calculated on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months.

Bond R-1 shall bear interest at the rate of 5.00% per annum, shall be in the denomination of \$1,800,000, and shall mature in installments on March 1 of each year as follows:

Year (March 1)	Principal Amount
2025	\$18,000
2026	71,000
2027	75,000
2028	78,000
2029	81,000
2030	85,000
2031	89,000
2032	94,000
2033	99,000
2034	103,000
2035	182,000
2036	191,000
2037	201,000
2038	211,000
2039*	222,000

*Final Maturity

Bond R-2 shall bear interest at the rate of 2.50% per annum, shall be in the denomination of \$600,000, and shall mature in installments on March 1 of each year as follows:

Year (March 1)	Principal Amount
2025	\$35,000
2026	56,000
2027	57,000
2028	59,000
2029	61,000
2030	63,000
2031	65,000
2032	66,000
2033	68,000
2034*	70,000

*Final Maturity

The principal of the Bonds, upon maturity or prepayment, shall be payable at the principal office of the appropriate Paying Agent, upon presentation thereof, and interest on the Bonds shall be payable by check mailed by the appropriate Paying Agent to the Owner (determined as of the close of business on the Record Date) at the address shown on the appropriate Bond Register.

Each Bond delivered

under this Resolution upon transfer of, in exchange for or in lieu of any other Bond shall carry all the rights to interest accrued and unpaid, and to accrue, which were carried by such other Bond, and each such Bond shall bear interest (as herein set forth) so neither gain nor loss in interest shall result from such transfer, exchange or substitution.

No Bond shall be entitled to any right or benefit under this Resolution, or be valid or obligatory for any purpose, unless there appears on such Bond a certificate of registration, substantially in the form provided in this Resolution, executed by the Paying Agent by manual signature.

Prepayment Provisions. Installments of principal of the Bonds are callable for prepayment at the option of the Issuer in full or in part at any time on or after March 1, 2031, at the principal amount to be prepaid, plus accrued interest on the amount to be prepaid from the most recent Interest Payment Date to which interest has been paid or duly provided for. The Issuer may designate the principal installments to be prepaid in the event of prepayment of less than all of the outstanding principal of the Bonds. Any Bond which is to be prepaid only in part shall be surrendered at the designated office of the Paying Agent and such prepayment shall be noted on the prepayment schedule attached thereto.

Official notice of such call of any portion of the Bonds for prepayment shall be given by means of first-class mail, postage prepaid, by notice deposited in the United States mails or via acceptable means of electronic communication not less than twenty (20) days prior to the redemption date, addressed to the Owner of such Bond to be prepaid at his address as shown on the Bond Register.

Registration and Transfer. The Issuer shall cause a Bond Register to be kept by each Paying Agent. The Bonds may be transferred, registered and assigned only on the appropriate Bond Register, and such registration shall be at the expense of the Issuer. A Bond may be assigned by the execution of an assignment form on the Bond. A new Bond will be delivered by the appropriate Paying Agent to the last assignee (the new Owner) in exchange for such transferred and assigned Bond after receipt of the Bond to be transferred in proper form. Such new Bond shall be in proper denomination. The Paying Agent shall not be required to issue, register, transfer or exchange any Bond during a period beginning (i) at the opening of business on a Record Date and ending at the close of business on the Interest Payment Date or (ii) with respect to Bonds to be redeemed, at the opening of business fifteen (15) days before the date of the mailing of a notice of redemption of such Bonds and ending on the date of such redemption.

Form of Bonds. The Bonds and the endorsements to appear thereon shall be in the form acceptable to the Executive Officers, upon advice of bond counsel, and the Purchasers.

Execution of Bonds. The Bonds shall be signed by the Executive Officers for, on behalf of, in the name of and under the corporate seal of the Issuer, which signatures and corporate seal may be either manual or facsimile.

Pledge of Full Faith and Credit. The Bonds shall constitute general obligations of the Issuer, and the full faith and credit of the Issuer is hereby pledged for their payment. This Governing Authority does hereby obligate itself and is bound under the terms and provisions of law to impose and collect annually in excess of all other taxes a tax on all of the property subject to taxation within the territorial limits of the Issuer sufficient to pay the principal of and the interest on the Bonds falling due each year, said tax to be levied and collected by the same officers, in the same manner and at the same time as other taxes are levied and collected within the territorial limits of the Issuer.

Sinking Fund. For the payment of the principal of and the interest on the Bonds, the Issuer will establish a special fund, to be held by the regularly designated fiscal agent of the Issuer (the "Sinking Fund"), into which the Issuer will deposit the proceeds of the aforesaid special tax and no other moneys whatsoever. The depository for the Sinking Fund shall transfer

from the Sinking Fund to the Paying Agent at least one (1) day in advance of each Interest Payment Date, funds fully sufficient to pay promptly the principal and interest falling due on such date.

All moneys deposited with the regularly designated fiscal agent bank or banks of the Issuer or the Paying Agent under the terms of this Resolution shall constitute sacred funds for the benefit of the Owners of the Bonds, and shall be secured by said fiduciaries at all times to the full extent thereof in the manner required by law for the securing of deposits of public funds.

All or any part of the moneys in the Sinking Fund shall, at the written request of the Issuer, be invested in accordance with the provisions of the laws of the State of Louisiana, in which event all income derived from such investments shall be added only to the Sinking Fund.

Application of Proceeds. The Executive Officers are hereby empowered, authorized and directed to do any and all things necessary and incidental to carry out all of the provisions of this Resolution, to cause the necessary Bonds to be printed, to issue, execute and seal the Bonds, and to effect delivery thereof as hereinafter provided. The proceeds derived from the sale of the Bonds, except accrued interest, shall be deposited by the Issuer with its fiscal agent bank or banks to be used solely for the purposes set forth herein.

Bonds Legal Obligations. The Bonds shall constitute legal, binding and valid obligations of the Issuer and shall be the only representations of the indebtedness as herein authorized and created.

Resolution a Contract. The provisions of this Resolution shall constitute a contract between the Issuer, or its successor, and the Owner or Owners from time to time of the Bonds and any such Owner or Owners may at law or in equity, by suit, action, mandamus or other proceedings, enforce and compel the performance of all duties required to be performed by this Governing Authority or the Issuer as a result of issuing the Bonds.

No material modification or amendment of this Resolution, or of any resolution amendatory hereof or supplemental hereto, may be made without the consent in writing of the Owners of two-thirds (2/3) of the aggregate principal amount of the Bonds then outstanding; provided, however, that no modification or amendment shall permit a change in the maturity or redemption provisions of the Bonds, or a reduction in the rate of interest thereon, or in the amount of the principal obligation thereof, or affecting the obligation of the Issuer to pay the principal of and the interest on the Bonds as the same shall come due from the taxes pledged and dedicated to the payment thereof by this Resolution, or reduce the percentage of the Owners required to consent to any material modification or amendment of this Resolution, without the consent of all of the Owners of the Bonds.

Severability; Application of Subsequently Enacted Laws. In case any one or more of the provisions of this Resolution or of the Bonds shall for any reason be held to be illegal or invalid, such illegality or invalidity shall not affect any other provisions of this Resolution or of the Bonds, but this Resolution and the Bonds shall be construed and enforced as if such illegal or invalid provisions had not been contained therein.

Any constitutional or statutory provisions enacted after the date of this Resolution which validate or make legal any provision of this Resolution and/or the Bonds which would not otherwise be valid or legal, shall be deemed to apply to this Resolution and to the Bonds.

Recital of Regularity. This Governing Authority having investigated the regularity of the proceedings had in connection with the Bonds herein authorized and having determined the same to be regular, the Bonds shall contain the following recital, to wit:

"It is certified that this Bond is authorized by and is issued in conformity with the requirements of the Constitution and statutes of Louisiana."

Effect of Registration. The Issuer, the Paying Agent, and any agent of either of them may treat the Owner in whose name any Bond is registered as the Owner of such

Bond for the purpose of receiving payment of the principal (and redemption price) of and interest on such Bond and for all other purposes whatsoever, and to the extent permitted by law, neither the Issuer, the Paying Agent, nor any agent of either of them shall be affected by notice to the contrary.

Notices to Owners. Wherever this Resolution provides for notice to Owners of Bonds of any event, such notice shall be sufficiently given (unless otherwise herein expressly provided) if in writing and mailed, first-class postage prepaid, to each Owner of such Bonds, at the address of such Owner as it appears in the Bond Register. In any case where notice to Owners of Bonds is given by mail, neither the failure to mail such notice to any particular Owner of Bonds, nor any defect in any notice so mailed, shall affect the sufficiency of such notice with respect to all other Bonds. Where this Resolution provides for notice in any manner, such notice may be waived in writing by the Owner or Owners entitled to receive such notice, either before or after the event, and such waiver shall be the equivalent of such notice. Waivers of notice by Owners shall be filed with the Paying Agent, but such filing shall not be a condition precedent to the validity of any action taken in reliance upon such waiver.

Cancellation of Bonds. All Bonds surrendered for payment, redemption, transfer, exchange or replacement, if surrendered to the Paying Agent, shall be promptly canceled by it and, if surrendered to the Issuer, shall be delivered to the Paying Agent and, if not already canceled, shall be promptly canceled by the Paying Agent. The Issuer may at any time deliver to the Paying Agent for cancellation any Bonds previously registered and delivered which the Issuer may have acquired in any manner whatsoever, and all Bonds so delivered shall be promptly canceled by the Paying Agent. All canceled Bonds held by the Paying Agent shall be disposed of as directed in writing by the Issuer.

Mutilated, Destroyed, Lost or Stolen Bonds. If (1) any mutilated Bond is surrendered to the Paying Agent, or the Issuer and the Paying Agent receive evidence to their satisfaction of the destruction, loss or theft of any Bond, and (2) there is delivered to the Issuer and the Paying Agent such security or indemnity as may be required by them to save each of them harmless, then, in the absence of notice to the Issuer or the Paying Agent that such Bond has been acquired by a bona fide purchaser, the Issuer shall execute, and upon its request the Paying Agent shall register and deliver, in exchange for or in lieu of any such mutilated, destroyed, lost, or stolen Bond, a new Bond of the same maturity and of like tenor, interest rate and principal amount, bearing a number not contemporaneously outstanding. In case any such mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen Bond has become or is about to become due and payable, the Issuer in its discretion may, instead of issuing a new Bond, pay such Bond. Upon the issuance of any new Bond under this Section, the Issuer may require the payment by the Owner of a sum sufficient to cover any tax or other governmental charge that may be imposed in relation thereto and any other expenses (including the fees and expenses of the Paying Agent) connected therewith. Every new Bond issued pursuant to this Section in lieu of any mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen Bond shall constitute a replacement of the prior obligation of the Issuer, whether or not the mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen Bond shall be at any time enforceable by anyone and shall be entitled to all the benefits of this Resolution equally and ratably with all other Outstanding Bonds. Any additional procedures set forth in the Agreement, authorized in this Resolution, shall also be available with respect to mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen Bonds. The provisions of this Section are exclusive and shall preclude (to the extent lawful) all other rights and remedies with respect to the replacement and payment of mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen Bonds.

Discharge of Resolution; Defeasance. If the Issuer shall pay or cause to be paid, or there shall otherwise be paid to the Owners, the principal of and interest on the Bonds, at the times and in the manner stipulated in this Resolution, then the pledge of the money, securities, and

funds pledged under this Resolution and all covenants, agreements, and other obligations of the Issuer to the Owners of the Bonds shall thereupon cease, terminate, and become void and be discharged and satisfied, and the Paying Agent shall pay over or deliver all money held by it under this Resolution to the Issuer.

Bonds or interest installments for the payment or redemption of which money shall have been set aside and shall be held in trust (through deposit by the Issuer of funds for such payment or redemption or otherwise) at the maturity or redemption date thereof shall be deemed to have been paid within the meaning and with the effect expressed above in this Section, if they have been defeased pursuant to Chapter 14 of Title 39 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, as amended, or any successor provisions thereto.

Successor Paying Agent; Paying Agent Agreement. The Issuer will at all times maintain a Paying Agent meeting the qualifications hereinafter described for the performance of the duties hereunder for the Bonds. The designation of the initial Paying Agent in this Resolution is hereby confirmed and approved. The Issuer reserves the right to appoint a successor Paying Agent by (a) filing with the Person then performing such function a certified copy of a resolution or Resolution giving notice of the termination of the Agreement and appointing a successor and (b) causing notice to be given to each Owner. Any successor Paying Agent appointed hereunder shall at all times be a bank or trust company organized and doing business under the laws of the United States of America or of any state, authorized under such laws to exercise trust powers, and subject to supervision or examination by Federal or State authority. If required, the Executive Officers are hereby authorized and directed to execute an appropriate Agreement with the Paying Agent for and on behalf of the Issuer in such form as may be satisfactory to said officers, the signatures of said officers on such Agreement to be conclusive evidence of the due exercise of the authority granted hereunder.

Arbitrage. The Issuer covenants and agrees that, to the extent permitted by the laws of the State of Louisiana, it will comply with the requirements of the Code in order to establish, maintain and preserve the exclusion from "gross income" of interest on the Bonds under the Code. The Issuer further covenants and agrees that it will not take any action, fail to take any action, or permit any action within its control to be taken, or permit at any time or times any of the proceeds of the Bonds or any other funds of the Issuer to be used directly or indirectly in any manner, the effect of which would be to cause the Bonds to be "arbitrage bonds" or would result in the inclusion of the interest on any of the Bonds in gross income under the Code, including, without limitation, (i) the failure to comply with the limitation on investment of Bond proceeds or (ii) the failure to pay any required rebate of arbitrage earnings to the United States of America or (iii) the use of the proceeds of the Bonds in a manner which would cause the Bonds to be "private activity bonds".

The Executive Officers are hereby empowered, authorized and directed to take any and all action and to execute and deliver any instrument, document or certificate necessary to effectuate the purposes of this Section.

Bonds "Qualified Tax-Exempt Obligations." The Bonds are designated as "qualified tax-exempt obligations" within the meaning of Section 265(b)(3) of the Code. In making this designation, the Issuer finds and determines that:

(a) the Bonds are not "private activity bonds" within the meaning of the Code; and

(b) the reasonably anticipated amount of qualified tax-exempt obligations which will be issued by the Issuer and all subordinate entities in calendar year 2024 does not exceed \$10,000,000.

Disclosure Under SEC Rule 15c2-12. The Issuer will not be required to comply with the continuing disclosure requirements described in Rule 15c2-12 of the Securities and Exchange Commission [17CFR 240.15c2-12].

Post-Issuance Compli-

ance. The Executive Officers and/or their designees are directed to establish, continue and/or amend, as applicable, written procedures to assist the Issuer in complying with various State and Federal statutes, rules and regulations applicable to the Bonds and are further authorized to take any and all actions as may be required by said written procedures to ensure continued compliance with such statutes, rules and regulations throughout the term of the Bonds.

Award of Bonds. The Issuer hereby accepts the offers of the Purchasers, which offers are attached as Exhibit A-1 and A-2 hereto, and any Executive Officer is hereby authorized to execute said offers on behalf of the Issuer. As a condition to the delivery of the Bonds to the Purchasers, the Purchasers will execute a standard letter, acceptable to them and the Issuer, indicating they have conducted their own analysis with respect to the Bonds and are extending credit in the form of the Bonds as a vehicle for making a commercial loan to the Issuer.

Execution of Documents. In connection with the issuance and sale of the Bonds, the Executive Officers are each authorized, empowered and directed to execute on behalf of the Issuer such documents, certificates and instruments as they may deem necessary, upon the advice of bond counsel, to effect the transactions contemplated by this Resolution, the signatures of such persons on such documents, certificates and instruments to be conclusive evidence of the due exercise of the authority granted hereunder.

Publication. A copy of this Resolution shall be published immediately after its adoption in one issue of the official journal of the Issuer.

Section Headings. The headings of the various sections hereof are inserted for convenience of reference only and shall not control or affect the meaning or construction of any of the provisions hereof.

Effective Date. This Resolution shall become effective immediately.

This resolution having been submitted to a vote, the vote thereon was as follows: YEAS: O'Dell, Moore, Allison and Williams. NAYS: None. ABSENT: None. ABSTAINING: None.

And the resolution was declared adopted on this, the 9th day of April, 2024.

s/ Wendy Smith
Secretary

/s/ Charles Hile
Chairman

(Exhibits herein are on file with the Issuer and can be viewed during normal business hours.)

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

So, you planted some fruit trees earlier this

year, but you're not sure of how to care for them. Hopefully, you planted them (or it) in a place that receives full sun and where the soil is well-drained. If so, you have already made a good start.. If you chose a semi-

dwarf of dwarf type of tree, that was a good choice because the standard tree of most of the popular fruits gets to be much larger than expected which makes harvesting more difficult unless you have or have

access to one of those rigs that will allow you to reach the top of the tree. Apples and pears often exceed 60 feet in height, but peaches, plums and nectarines do not usually get so big

Another factor you must consider with fruit trees is pollination. Especially apples need cross pollination between two varieties or fruit set is likely to be somewhat limited. While wind may be sufficient to do the needed pollination for the home orchardist, bees are usually the major force that takes care of this requirement. There is no need to be concerned if you're growing peaches and that family of fruit as these fruits are self-fertile thus no additional pollination is needed.

While young fruit trees are getting established and growing in size, they are also developing their system of branches for bearing and supporting a crop of fruit. A crop of fruit is a heavy load and needs strong limbs to avoid breakage. Careful training of the branches during the first three years in the orchard are thus important. Proper training can be done in three ways: by selective cutting, by the use of weights and by spreader sticks.

Both apples and pears are usually trained to what is called the modified leader system. This results in a tree with a low profile and strong limbs. In this system the lowest branch should be about waist high and, when possible, face in a southwest direction. As you prune up the trunk each of the remaining branches (usually about five or six) should be spaced about a foot apart (vertically) and a quarter of a turn around the trunk. The strongest branches are those that make a 45 or 90 degree an-



gle with the trunk. Branches with narrow angles contain less wood and more bark and therefore are more likely to split away from the trunk when supporting a heavy load of fruit. Balance of the canopy should always be a consideration.

Peaches are typically trained to the "vase-shaped" system. Select three or four of the main branches near a three-foot level above the ground and radially around the trunk for your fruit production. Similar fruits are pruned the same way.

Citrus trees (though not

recommended for growing in north Louisiana) usually have a suitable system of branches when purchased, but all limbs lower than 18 inches to the ground should be removed.



JOE W. WHITE, Ph.D.

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