

# MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

WEDNESDAY, JULY 24, 2024 | \$1.00 | MINDEN, LA | SERVING GOD & OUR COMMUNITY | VOL. 55 NO. 30

press-herald.com

WPL

## Webster Parish Libraries honor outstanding kids at 2024 Discovery Camp ceremony



WILL PHILLIPS/PRESS-HERALD PHOTOS

Webster Parish Libraries held a ceremony to recognize the kids who went above and beyond this year in their 2024 Discovery Camp. Those present were treated to a book reading by Sylvia Lee from the Wildlife and Fisheries Office, as well as meeting Smokey the Bear in person. “Discovery Camp 2024 has been an exceptional experience. It has given us the opportunity to connect deeply with our community, especially the children, and to see their eyes light up with curiosity and wonder. Our staff has worked very hard, and serving our local communities in this meaningful capacity has filled our hearts with joy and pride, knowing that we are making a lasting impact on their lives. This camp has not only strengthened our bond with the community but also reaffirmed our passion for fostering a love of learning and discovery. We are truly honored to be a part of their growth and to witness the incredible potential of each and every young participant,” said Kim Sentell, director of marketing for Webster Parish Libraries.

TOURISM

## Executive director of Webster Parish Convention and Visitors Commission announces resignation

**AMBER MCDOWN**  
Minden Press-Herald

Serena Gray, executive director of the Webster Parish Convention and Visitors Commission (WPCVC), has announced her resignation. Gray has served as the executive director for the past six years, leading the Commission through a period of growth and innovation. Gray has accepted a position as vice president of marketing and communications for Visit Shreveport-Bossier. “The opportunity aligns very well with the progression of my career development,” said Gray. Her last day will be July 26.



GRAY

During Gray’s tenure, the WPCVC has seen remarkable achievements in community engagement, creative initiatives, and development projects that have bolstered Webster Parish’s See, **TOURISM**, Page 3

SOFTBALL

## Minden shines on national stage

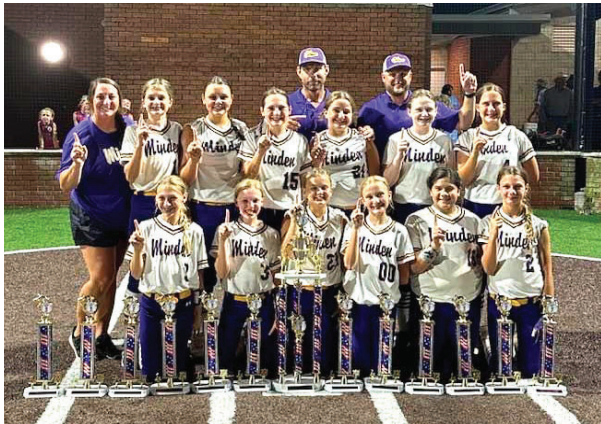
Softball teams head to Dixie Softball World Series

**WILL PHILLIPS**  
Minden Press-Herald

This week, Minden will have four teams representing the city and the state of Louisiana in the Dixie Softball World Series. The four teams include the Sweetees, Ponytails, Angels, and Darlings. These teams and each of their members worked hard throughout the 2024 season to earn their spots on the field and are sure

to put on a performance that will make Minden proud. Making up this year’s Sweetees are team members Emersyn Biles, Paisley Harlon, Elizabeth Fox, Hope Lincoln, Adalyn McClaran, Jincie Ogwyn, Magnolia Chapman, Posey Bell Boyd, Alina Jordan, Millie Hayden, Brylee Jo Holly, and Steely Jarvis. One of the team’s coaches, David Fox, shared some comments about how it has been coaching the team through this year’s season. “We have had so much fun coaching these Sweetees, and they are a blast to watch. They’re as tough as they are cute. We’ve got a young team, but the older girls have done great jobs in key positions and have shown real leadership through the hot weather

See, **TEAMS**, Page 3



COMMUNITY

## Tourism unveils development plans for Miller Quarters Park at public forum

**AMBER MCDOWN**  
Minden Press-Herald

The Webster Parish Convention & Visitors Commission held two public forums on July 18 to present development plans for Miller Quarters Park and gather feedback from the community. Representatives from Parish Line Architects and CARBO Landscape Architecture provided a detailed slideshow illustrating the proposed areas and features of the project. The projected costs for the park range from \$7

million to \$10 million, with plans to build the park in stages. Notably, Miller Quarters is owned and will be developed by the Commission, using funds from occupancy taxes collected from visitors. “This is a Tourism project. The funds that we used to purchase this project were funds that had been saved based on the revenue that occupancy taxes provide for our community,” said Tourism Executive Director Serena Gray. “Occupancy taxes are taxes paid by visitors. It’s visitors See, **QUARTERS**, Page 3



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WEBSTER & MORE

CANDIDACY ANNOUNCEMENT

Chief Judge John Michael Guidry announces his candidacy for the Louisiana Supreme Court

Special to the Minden Press-Herald

Chief Judge John Michael Guidry, a Democrat, announces his candidacy for election to the District 2 Seat on the Louisiana Supreme Court.

Chief Judge Guidry has served as an appellate court judge on the Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal for 26 years. On January 1, 2023, he made history when he became the 15th Chief Judge of the Louisiana First Circuit Court of Appeal and the first African American to hold that position in the

more than 100-year history of the court.

Prior to his election to the appellate court, Chief Judge Guidry served as a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives and the Louisiana State Senate. Chief Judge Guidry is also a former commissioner on the Greater Baton Rouge Port Commission and the Greater Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport Commission. He currently serves as an adjunct professor at the Southern University Law Center and formerly served

as an adjunct professor with the Nelson Mandela School of Public Policy on the Baton Rouge Campus of Southern University.

Chief Judge Guidry is a member of the Council of Chief Judges of the State Courts of Appeal (where he serves as Secretary/Treasurer and Chairman of the Finance Committee), the American and National Bar Associations, the Louisiana Judicial Council of the National Bar Association (where he sits on the Executive Committee), and the American Judges As-

sociation. He formerly served as the representative to the Louisiana Judicial Council for the Louisiana Conference of Court of Appeal Judges and was appointed twice by the Louisiana Supreme Court, on the recommendation of its Chief Justice, to serve on the governing body of the Louisiana Judicial College. He is also a member of the Louisiana Domestic Violence Judicial Curriculum Advisory Committee and a member of the Baton Rouge Bar Association Pro Bono Committee.

Chief Judge Guidry obtained his juris doctorate degree, graduating cum laude, from the Southern University Law Center in 1987. He is also a graduate of LSU, where he obtained a bachelor's degree in political science in 1983.

Chief Judge Guidry, 62, is married to the former Carol Fowler of Maringouin, Louisiana, with whom he has a son, John Morgan, and a daughter, Kennedy Michelle. He is also an ordained deacon and the former Sunday School Superinten-



**GUIDRY**  
dent at Fairview Baptist Church in Baton Rouge.

COMMUNITY

Tamerion Phenix holds second annual School Supply Drive

**AMBER MCDOWN**  
Minden Press-Herald

Tamerion Phenix is conducting his second annual School Supply Drive, accept-

ing donations until July 30. The supplies will be distributed on July 31.

Phenix aims to prepare 25-50 backpacks

filled with school supplies and is welcoming donations of school supplies, backpacks, and cash. "It would be great to have any members of

the community who would like to help come out and support us," said Phenix. Teens seeking community service hours are encouraged to

participate. Donations can be dropped off at 604 Wood Street in Minden. The distribution will take place in front of Abraham's Food Mart at 1707

S. Talton Street from noon to 4 PM on July 31. For more information, call Phenix at (318) 268-2482.

This initiative highlights Phenix's dedi-

cation to supporting local students and ensuring they are equipped for the upcoming school year.

LIONS CLUB

Gene Reynolds speaks on Wildlife and Fisheries changes at Minden Lions Club

**AMBER MCDOWN**  
Minden Press-Herald

Gene Reynolds, vice-chair of the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, addressed the Minden Lions Club on July 18, discussing recent departmental changes. Reynolds, a Dubberly resident and former Louisiana House of Representatives member, was elected vice-chair in January and has served on the Commission since 2021.

Reynolds outlined the structure and responsibilities of the seven-member Commission, which includes industry representatives and at-large members. The Commission, which sets departmental policies, can be overruled by the legislature or governor.

Madison Sheahan, the new Department of Wildlife and Fisheries secretary, was praised by Reynolds for her intelligence and energy. "Very smart, very energetic, and I think

she's doing a really good job," he said.

Significant policy changes include adjusting the fishing distance for pogies, or menhaden, to half a mile from the coast for most of the state and one mile in certain areas. This aligns Louisiana's regulations with other states. Additionally, new data showed declining speckled trout populations, leading to a uniform limit of 15 trout statewide with a size limit of 13 inches. "I think this is going to make the speckled trout population rebound for us," Reynolds commented.

Redfish limits have also been revised to four per person, with a ban on keeping bull reds due to the harm caused by prolonged fights. Reynolds explained, "When you catch them, you fight them for about 45 minutes. After that, not many of them make it. That's your brood stock, those big females like that, and

our numbers are down." This change is part of a 25-year plan to recover the redfish population.

Other updates include a ban on flounder fishing from October 15 through November 30 during their major migration, moving the start of turkey season from the fourth Saturday in March to the first Saturday in April to accommodate nesting season, and a limited bear hunting season requested by the legislature. The bear season will allow hunting in a few parishes with only ten permits issued statewide through a lottery system.

Regarding the Lake Bistineau drawdown, gates will be opened on July 29 and closed on November 15. Reynolds emphasized the importance of projecting and releasing these dates for property owner planning.

The Minden Lions Club hosts engaging speakers every Thursday at noon at the American Legion Memorial Hall, located at 119 W. Pine Street in downtown Minden.



REYNOLDS

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EDUCATION

From NLTCC to Willis Knighton: Dustin Davis’s inspiring journey

Special to the Minden Press-Herald

Dustin Davis, a proud alumnus of Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College (NLTCC), has shown incredible resilience and determination in his journey from a career-ending injury to a successful position in Information Technology. Currently serving as a Computer Support Technician I at Willis Knighton North, Dustin has received two prestigious Gold Star awards for his outstanding performance within his first 6 months on the job.

In 2018, Dustin faced a life-changing injury at work that ended his career. With a background that included the United States Marine Corps, construction, oilfield work, and the steel industry, he had to rethink his future. “Once it was obvious that my body could no longer handle manual labor, I made a decision to get an education,” Dustin recalls. This decision led him to NLTCC.

Despite undergoing three major surgeries and 14 months of rehabilitation, during which he spent 6 months learning to walk again, he enrolled in Information Technology at NLTCC. “I signed up for two classes—Operating Systems and

Work Readiness—and aced both with an A,” he shares. Encouraged by this success, he took on more courses, gaining hands-on experience through part-time IT jobs while still a student.

The skills and knowledge Dustin acquired at NLTCC were instrumental in his career advancement. He graduated with Academic Honors, a 4.0 GPA, and several IT certifications, all of which opened doors to new opportunities. “I landed a part-time IT gig and then a 90-day contract IT job with TEKsystems,” he says. Though TEKsystems had a massive layoff, Dustin persevered and eventually found his current position.

In August 2023, Dustin applied for a position at Willis Knighton North. After multiple interviews and consistent follow-ups, he finally secured the job at the beginning of 2024. His dedication and hard work were soon recognized with two Gold Star awards within a week. “I was awarded two Gold Stars in one week—mind you, some people have been there for 10-20 years and haven’t even gotten one,” he proudly notes.

Dustin’s achievements have also brought him unique recognition. Despite his initial reluctance,



he accepted an invitation to have his photo featured on a billboard, becoming the first employee in Information Technology at Willis Knighton North to reach this level of recognition.

Reflecting on his journey, Dustin offers valuable advice to current students and recent graduates. “Find out exactly what interests you the most and pursue an entry-level position that caters to it. Be the difference, ask questions, and ignore the negativity,” he advises. He also emphasizes the importance of continuous learning and preparation for certifications, urging students to remain driven and never get comfortable or complacent. “Stay hungry and

never forget where you come from. I went from being a broken man who literally could not walk and was full of self-doubt to flourishing among my peers against all odds, and despite lacking support. Now, I am making history and being recognized across two cities by one of the most respected hospital systems.”

Dustin Davis is an inspiring example of the transformative power of education and unwavering determination. For more information about program offerings and financial aid opportunities available at NLTCC, visit [nlccc.edu](http://nlccc.edu) or call 318.371.3035 to speak to a member of the student services team.

RECOGNITION

Local attorney and judge Sherb Sentell honored at retirement ceremony as Army Reserve General

STAFF REPORT  
Minden Press-Herald

Sherb Sentell, local attorney and City Court Judge of Minden, was honored in a retirement ceremony held at the World War II Museum in New Orleans on June 28. The event celebrated his illustrious military career as he retired from the Army Reserve as a General, marking over 35 years of service.

Sentell’s military journey began on active duty as a platoon leader with the 82nd Airborne Division, where he first distinguished himself. After completing Ranger

School, he deployed to Saudi Arabia during Desert Storm, leading combat operations that earned him his first Bronze Star. He completed three years at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and later commanded a logistics unit in Iraq from 2004 to 2005, earning a second Bronze Star.

Throughout his career, Sentell received numerous accolades for his service, including two Legions of Merit for his exceptionally meritorious conduct as a senior officer. His educational achievements include earning a Master’s Degree from the U.S. Army War College in 2013.

Sentell has held command at every echelon from platoon to division, and his diverse assignments have included pivotal roles at U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) under then-Commanding General Lloyd Austin. He also served as Command Inspector General in Houston, Texas, and commanded the 95th Division at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, a drill sergeant unit he counts among his favorite assignments.

In addition to his military and judicial responsibilities, Sentell was the first assistant prosecutor for District Attorney Schuyler Marvin, spend-

ing thirteen years prosecuting cases for the State of Louisiana. He continues to practice law at Sentell Law Firm alongside his father in Minden.

Sherb Sentell, who is also celebrating his tenth year as Minden City Court Judge, has been recognized as a Distinguished Alumni of Davidson College and is a member of the LSU Law School Hall of Fame. He serves as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Directors for Bonvenu Bank and is married to Kim Sentell, the director of marketing/community liaison for Webster Parish Libraries.

TOURISM

Continued from Page 1

reputation as a top tourism destination. Under Gray’s leadership, numerous successful campaigns and events have been launched, contributing to a thriving tourism sector and increased visibility for Webster Parish.

“It has been a wonderful adventure of development, creativity, and community engagement,” said Gray. “I am incredibly grateful for the unwavering support from the board, our team, and the community. Together, we have accomplished so much, and I am confident that the Commission will continue to reach new heights.”

“We have so many people in good positions right now to move us forward. There are

definitely some wonderful people here who can fulfill this role and carry on what we’ve started,” said Gray.

The board of directors expressed its gratitude to Gray. “We are deeply appreciative of Serena’s contributions to the Commission and the community. Her efforts have left an indelible mark on Webster Parish, and we wish her all the best in her future endeavors,” said Ty Pendergrass, WPCVC chairman. The WPCVC will begin the search for an executive director immediately.

While Gray looks forward to the new challenges this opportunity will bring, she remembers with great fondness all the people she has worked with in Minden. “It’s definitely bittersweet,” she said.

QUARTERS

Continued from Page 1

who come into Webster Parish and stay at our hotels, motels, camp sites, and our short-term rentals. Those taxes are collected to help Tourism establish a marketing plan that encourages increased visitation to our community.”

Beyond occupancy tax revenue, the Commission is exploring additional funding options, including grants and sponsorships. “For this to be a reality, it’s going to take a joint effort between private funding and grants,” said Commission Chairman Ty Pendergrass.

The project aims to be inclusive and community-driven, with plans to post architectural designs and feedback forms on the Tourism website. “We want to hear what you want to see. We want to be creative. We want to be inclusive. We want this to be a beautiful asset to our community,” Gray added.

Mayor Nick Cox emphasized that the project does not use city funds. “This is not the city’s money or the city’s project. This is Tourism, and any money they raise really has no reflection on the city’s budget. That being said, this is good for the city in my opinion. This will be an asset to the City of Minden and to Webster Parish.”

The park’s design in-

cludes a promenade, walking and biking trails, water features, an amphitheater, a playground with a water fountain pad, and multiple restroom facilities. Shaded areas at a food truck pavilion, a dog park with separate zones for small and large dogs, and the use of natural materials aim to reflect the area’s history and aesthetic. The architecture will feature local styles, including shotgun houses and butterfly roofs.

Miller Quarters, purchased by the Commission in 2022, has historical significance dating back to the 1930s when Joe Miller built 60 low-income houses. The new plan includes a small museum to educate the public about this history.

The development of Miller Quarters Park promises to enhance the community’s recreational options while preserving its historical significance. The Commission’s proactive approach to funding and community engagement highlights its commitment to creating a valuable asset for Webster Parish.

Currently, the park is free to use, though reservations are required. Once developed, a fee will be charged. For more information about reserving the park, contact the Tourism office at 318-377-4240.

TEAMS

Continued from Page 1

and long practice days. A lot of these girls could have stayed down and played T-ball this season, but by choosing the X-play format, you get to really see their skills advance quickly. There’s no doubt these girls will produce more championships for Minden in the years to come,” said Coach David Fox.

Representing the Ponytails are Moose Jernigan, Erin Danzy, Brayleigh Lewis, Layla Holford, Chloe Gregg, Ella Wood, Rhea Waller, Emmaline Harmon, Jayla Joyner, Karlee Brewer, Kenzie Pamintuan, and Lola Hudleston. Coach Marcus Harmon talked about the team’s comeback to earn their spot in the World Series as well as the results of their first game, which took place on Friday.

“I’m extremely proud of this group of girls! They have had to play like a team to get to this point. They really showed some grit after dropping our first game in the State Tournament. They fought hard out of the loser’s bracket to bring home the Championship! In the World Series, we lost our first game to a very tough Virginia team, but we didn’t play our best. Rain has interrupted our bracket some, but we sent Tennessee home last night in a hard-fought 5-2 victory. Our next game is this afternoon against the host team, Prince George. This team has worked hard this summer and earned every win to this point. There’s no place I’d rather be than making memories with them at a ballpark!” said Harmon.

On the Darlings team

are Laikyn Hollingsworth, Laikyn Lewis, Aubrey Chanler, Harper Barnette, Annabel Sunderland, Avery Mills, Cheslie Darden, Lexie Perryman, Marley Bogues, Stella Perryman, Ryan Gordon, and Andi Brooke Hollingsworth. Coach Logan Hollingsworth shared his appreciation not only for his team and their hard work but also for everyone who has supported the team throughout the season.

“This all-star season, I have twelve young ladies who have worked extremely hard the last two months and have earned every accolade thus far. I am beyond proud of these girls for their hard work, dedication to their team, commitment to their teammates and parents, and their love for their city. I have the best support group: my par-

ents, girls, our city, and my coaches. These other coaches help me dedicate our time to not only make these girls better softball players but, most importantly, better young women. I want to thank all of our Minden businesses that helped all five of our World Series teams raise money to be able to go to the WS. Our community is truly one of a kind. We are proud to be representing Minden,” said Hollingsworth.

Those who will be playing for the Angels this year include Willow Still, Sadie Powell, Peyton Wood, Kynlee Garms, Eme Jernigan, Fallyn Hollingsworth, Aniston Igo, Montgomery Ingles, Marian Wimberly, Ellie Kate Perryman, Eastyn Pate, and Brooklyn Sunderland. Coach Bobby Igo shared his thoughts

on seeing his team grow throughout the season and how much the girls have truly become a team.

“It’s hard to put into words how proud I am of this group of young ladies. I’ve been able to watch most of them grow over the last two years playing softball, watching their skills come into full swing. It is remarkable to me how Minden has been able to produce this many teams that can go and win state, and compete in the World Series,” said Igo. “This group of girls has a lot of heart; there’s no quit in them. Our motto is to play to win and refuse to lose. We fire up and continue to move forward. Being able to watch these girls grow throughout their whole softball careers, how much they’ve grown has been an outstanding thing to watch. Any

coach would be happy to see a group of girls work as hard as they do on and off the field to build their skills and build the bonds and friendships to play together as sisters on that field.”

These four teams will be representing Minden and Louisiana throughout the week in the World Series. From each of the coaches, it is evident the amount of work these girls have put in throughout the season to earn their spot in the series. Not only do they get support from immediate friends and family but also from the wider community as a whole, which always bands together to help our youth sports teams thrive. The Minden Press-Herald will be covering the results of the teams as they compete in the World Series, so stay tuned for future updates.



OPINION

MINDEN  
PRESS-HERALD  
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MINDEN, LOUISIANA 71055  
318-377-1866  
www.press-herald.com  
USPS NUMBER 593-340

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The Minden Press-Herald is published Wednesday by Specht Newspapers, Inc. at 203 Gleason Street, Minden, Louisiana 71055.

**Telephone:** (318) 377-1866.

Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office as Minden Press-Herald, P.O. Box 1339, Minden LA 71058-1339.

Subscription rate: \$40 per year.

**POSTMASTER:** Send address changes to Minden Press-Herald, P.O. Box 1339, Minden, LA 71058-1339.

**THE MINDEN PRESS-HERALD WELCOMES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.**

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Letters are published identifying name, occupation and/or title and the writer's city of residence. Letters are not to exceed 500 words.

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OPINION

Assassination Attempt of Trump Shouldn't Surprise Us Given the Left's Constant Vilification of Him

President Trump could have easily died last week. The bullet whizzed by his head close enough to injure his ear. Had his head been turning in a different direction, or at a different angle, he would likely have been killed.

How did we get here? In a way it's not surprising; recall the deranged supporter of leftist Sen. Bernie Sanders who almost succeeded in killing U.S. Rep. Steve Scalise a few years ago. In this instance the verbal political attacks morphed from rhetoric to rage and last week we witnessed the violence that is its natural conclusion.

When an individual is demonized for years on end as a genuine "threat," he is unavoidably made a target of violence. That's what we have with President Trump. For years he has endured the hateful invective that he will be a "dictator," or that he is a "Nazi"—an authoritarian fascist who must be stopped at all costs" or that he is inherently "evil" or that he represents "an existential threat" to the continuation of our country. It's all demonstrably untrue but to the mentally or emotionally imbalanced, it can have a dangerous effect. My point is that these attacks on Pres. Trump are based upon him as a man, an individual.

Since he came down the escalator in 2016, there have

been numerous threats of violence from Democrats in Congress, the music industry, and Hollywood. Here, I cite only a few:

Democrat Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer threatened the life of Trump Supreme Court Nominees Brett Kavanaugh and Neil Gorsuch by screaming at a rally in front of the U.S.

Supreme Court: "I want to tell you, Gorsuch, I want to tell you, Kavanaugh, you have released the decisions and you will pay the price. You won't know what hit you if you go forward with these awful decisions."

Schumer's rhetoric bled directly into an attempted assassination of Justice Kavanaugh, with an attempted murderer, arrested outside of Kavanaugh's home, who said that he would be "shooting for 3" justices, according to the FBI's search warrant application.

I note that "these awful decisions" which prompted Schumer's violent rhetoric were decisions that sought to provide some additional legal protections to innocent, unborn Americans, like fundamental due pro-

cess and equal protection of our laws.

Further, shortly after President Trump's inauguration, Madonna said at a rally with 600,000 like-minded lunatics who cheered enthusiastically at her threat at the Women's March: 'I have thought an awful lot about blowing up the White House.' Democrat Lunatic Left Rep. Maxine Waters from California exhorted "Let's make sure we show up wherever we have to show up. And if you see anybody from that Cabinet in a restaurant, in a department store, at a gasoline station, you get out and you create a crowd. And you push back on them. And you tell them they're not welcome anymore, anywhere." Comedian Kathy Griffin elevated a bloodied and detached head of Donald Trump reminiscent of a terrorist assassination.

I recognize that the rage-filled rhetoric to which I refer is not one sided. It certainly has been spewed by Trump supporters at Pres. Biden and his candidacy but the invective hurled at Biden tends to be policy based: that he is "purposely letting millions of illegals—including violent criminals, terrorists and child traffickers—into our country so the Democrats can turn them into voters"; or that Biden seeks "unlimited abortion" or that he wants to "take away our

guns" or that he has "weakened our nation in the eyes of the world with debacles like Afghanistan", or that due to his "mental and physical deterioration that he is not even running the country." Obviously, excepting the last one these attacks are policy-based.

Not so with Trump. It's all personal.

My point is that elected officials, the press, and political commentators have driven the rage-filled rhetoric that Trump would "kill democracy" and "unleash death squads." Remember, Biden himself previously denounced Trump and his "MAGA" supporters as "enemies of the people." In fact, just this week Biden told a group of supporters on a phone call that he now needed to "put a bullseye" on Trump.

But now the Left tells us we need to "condemn political violence" in the U.S. That's rich!

We should thank God that we have been sent a warrior to save our nation, and Nov. 5 can't come soon enough for its safety and healing.

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

When God steps out of the woodwork

I don't claim to have all of the answers but I know that there are times when God steps out of the woodwork making His presence known.

As far as I know I coined that phrase.

Anyway it always gets my attention when unusual things happen to me often coming in split second timing when I needed an answer most and at other times the "coincidence" is so random as to give no rhyme or reason other than God is at work in the universe making His presence known.

I call these "God Wink" moments, a term coined by Squire Rushnell, the author of a book by the same title and the founder of Good Morning America!

Thinking back I am not sure just when my God Wink moments began but I would like to share one today that I have been working into a story recently.

Although I only attended Harding University for one year I have an unusual memory of a few of the students.

One such person was Nancy Ham Selvidge. We were suite mates for the second semester

of 1966-67.

Anyway I always knew Nancy and I were friends. I even went home with her one weekend along with our other suite mates.

After leaving Harding I had almost no contact with Nancy except for the time that she and her husband Don were missionaries in Africa. I wrote to her and she sent me a picture of her baby daughter!

I always treasured that picture of dear sweet Nancy and her daughter Donna.

Years passed and in September of 1988 we were ready to drive our two older incoming freshmen to Harding. I knew that her daughter would most likely attend Harding as well so I looked at the list of incoming freshmen that Harding sends out to the parents and lo and

behold Donna's name was on the list.

I decided to take that picture with me hoping that I might run into Nancy on the campus.

Having gotten our children settled in as best we could my husband and I and youngest son were ready to leave and all of a sudden I thought of the picture still in my Bible where it had remained for years.

So I took off knowing if I were to find Nancy I had little time to spare so I headed

to the student center and decided to just walk around talking to people and see if anyone had seen Nancy.

As I walked inside the door I kept the picture hidden and walked over to the first table and as I looked at the diners I gasped "Has anyone seen Nancy Ham" as I looked into the blue eyes and sweet smile that was still the same as it was in 1967.

Since that day Nancy and I have had minimal contact but we have developed a friendship for life because she loves my writing and affirms that I have a calling in sharing my stories.

But just this week I had a desire that I must reach Nancy again and had lost her number in Mattoon, Illinois so I called the chiropractic clinic where Nancy and her husband were doctors.

Long story short the answering service gave me her cell phone number and we rekindled our friendship! As it turned out they retired from their practice and her husband woke up one morning and said "I want to go into preaching."

They are now in Metropolis, Illinois where he is preaching. She told me that reaching out to the down-trodden was his desire --- which I can easily testify is most needed today!

I can speak from experience. Had it not been for a minister and his wife, Wayne and Linda Earnest, who reached out to our poverty-stricken family I cannot imagine where my sister and I would be today!

After all the Bible still teaches 'if you want to be great become a servant!'

CONTACT SARAH AT SARAH9957@AOL.COM

OPINION

A Call to Prayer in Times of Political Turmoil

In recent weeks, the landscape of American politics has been shaken by events that underscore the fragility of our national peace and the divisions that threaten it. The assassination attempt on Former President Donald Trump, the GOP nominee for president, and President Joe Biden's exit from the presidential race, endorsing Vice President Kamala Harris as his successor, are not just pivotal political moments; they are stark reminders of the deep fissures in our society.

Amid such turmoil, it's more important than ever to seek a foundation stronger than political alliances and deeper than ideological divides. As a nation, the path forward requires hu-

mility, prayer, and unity—principles deeply rooted in our spiritual heritage and beautifully articulated in the scriptures.

2 Chronicles 7:14 offers a powerful directive that feels particularly pertinent today: "If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." This passage calls

us not only to pray but to turn inward and amend our ways as a prerequisite for healing and forgiveness. It reminds us that healing is a divine interplay between human actions and divine grace.

Equally compelling is the message of Psalm 133:1, which paints a vivid picture of unity: "How good and pleasant it is when brothers live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on Aaron's beard, down upon the collar of his robes." Unity is depicted not merely as a state of agreement but as something sacred and enriching, akin to anointing oil, symbolizing blessing and consecration.

These scriptures not only

offer comfort but also challenge us. They call us to reflect on our individual and collective roles in forging a society that values life, respects differences, and seeks reconciliation. In times of political strife, the urge to divide further can be strong; however, the wisdom of these passages urges us toward the harder, more rewarding task of seeking common ground and reconciliation.

In response to these turbulent times, let us therefore come together—not as partisans, but as a united people under God. Let us pray earnestly for the safety of our leaders, the peace of our nation, and the healing of our divisions. Let us commit to acts of humility and seek unity, not just in words, but

through our deeds and interactions with one another.

As we navigate these challenging times, may we remember that the strength of our nation lies not just in the robustness of our debates or the vigor of our political contests, but in our ability to live out the profound truths captured in these scriptures. The road to healing is long and often arduous, but it is the path we must choose if we are to fulfill the promise of our shared destiny.

Now, more than ever, let us pray for our nation, that we may embody the spirit of unity and healing that our times so desperately need.

DAVID SPECHT IS PRESIDENT OF SPECHT NEWSPAPERS, INC., PUBLISHER OF THE MINDEN PRESS-HERALD, BOSSIER



DAVID SPECHT



ROYAL ALEXANDER



SPORTS

Russell Hedges, Sports Editor  
rhedges@spechtnewspapers.com

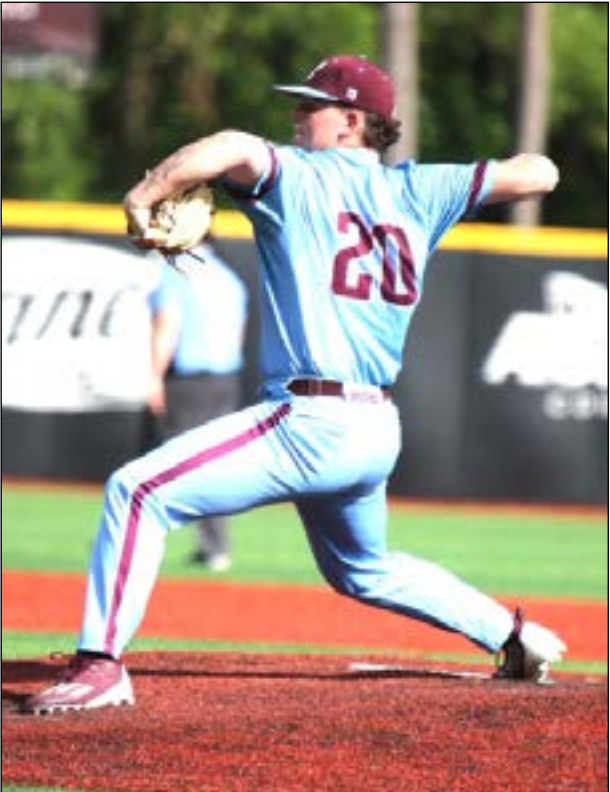
BASEBALL



GINGER SWANSON/SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-HERALD  
The Bossier Phillies participate in pregame ceremonies last week at the American Legion state tournament in Lafayette.



GINGER SWANSON/SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-HERALD  
The Bossier Phillies' Hudson Brignac (3) takes a tumble at first during the American Legion state tournament last week.



GINGER SWANSON/SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-HERALD  
Former Minden star Brody Bower turned in an outstanding performance in the American Legion state tournament championship game.

Bower, Sanders help Bossier win Legion state tournament

RUSSELL HEDGES  
Minden Press-Herald

Former Minden High star Brody Bower and current Glenbrook standout Easton Sanders helped the Bossier Phillies win the American Legion Baseball State Tournament held July 13-17 at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette's ML "Tigue" Moore Field.

Bower, a 2024 graduate headed to Bossier Parish Community College, started on the mound in the Phillies' 5-4 victory over New Orleans Jesuit-based and defending champion Retif Oil in the title game.

He gave up three hits, struck out eight and walked three in 5 2/3 innings, per the Phillies' GameChanger site. Abel Theftford relieved him with two outs in the sixth. He didn't allow a hit

in 1 1/3 innings.

Sanders, a rising senior who has committed to Louisiana Tech, had a double.

Bossier advances to the regional tournament Aug. 7-11 in Washington, Mo.

The Phillies are comprised of current and former high standouts from Northwest Louisiana. Three are from Northeast Texas teams.

Other team members are Colton Smith (Parkway), Tanner Webb (Benton), Cade Moore (Carthage, Texas), Abel Theftford (Parkway), Hayden Millen (Benton), Griffin Sibley (Benton), Kade Bryant (Benton), Jackson Jones (Benton), Tucker McCabe (Northwood), Hudson Brignac (Benton), Blayne McFerren (North DeSoto). Britain Pipes (Liberty-Eylau, Tex-

as), Bryson Pierce (Benton) and Ty Boozer (Pleasant Grove, Texas).

Coaches are Dane Peavy, Jonathan Boucher, Jonathan Orr and Seth Bearden.

Bossier trailed 4-2 after five innings against Retif in the title game. The Phillies scored three in the top of the fifth to take the lead.

Jones had a two-RBI single to tie it. McCabe brought home the go-ahead run with a double.

Bossier opened the tournament with a 10-1 victory over St. Thomas More Navy.

Sanders started and allowed just two hits in 6 innings. He struck out seven and walked one. He also had two RBI.

The Phillies suffered their only loss in their second game, falling to the

Crowley Millers 9-2.

They bounced back with a 5-1 victory over the Lafayette Drillers. Sanders drew a walk and had an RBI.

Bossier then handed Retif Oil its first loss 10-0, in five innings. Sanders had a single and an RBI.

Bossier then won a 3-2 thriller over the Terrebonne Parish-based Southland Hogs in another elimination game and advanced to the championship game.

The Phillies scored a run in the bottom of the sixth to tie it. Brignac scored the winning run on a bases-loaded walk by Sanders with two outs and two strikes.

Sanders went 5 2/3 innings. He struck out five and walked nine. He also had a single, drew a walk and had three RBI.

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS

Minden, Lakeside add coaches

RUSSELL HEDGES  
Minden Press-Herald

Minden and Lakeside have added coaches.

Former Minden player Madison Smith has been named head girls soccer coach at her alma mater, Athletic Director Dean Francis said.

Smith is a 2020 Minden graduate. She will be joining the school's English department.

Smith, an All-District selection during her playing days, is a recent graduate of Northwestern State.

"We're excited to have her join the Tide family," Francis said.

Minden is coming off an 8-11-3 season. The No. 23 seed Lady Tiders lost to No. 10 South Terrebonne 2-1 in overtime in the first round of the Division II playoffs.

Lakeside has hired Blake Branch as a football coach.

He will be the offensive coordinator, new Head Coach John Ware said.

Branch comes to Lakeside from North Webster where he was an assistant to Ware, who stepped down after 12 seasons earlier this year.

Ware was named head coach at Lakeside in February.

Branch was part of a staff that helped North Webster go from 2-8 in 2022 to 7-5 last season.

Lakeside also hired Jamey Garner. He will be an assistant football and softball coach.

Earlier this month, Minden hired two other coaches.

Kenny Stewart joined Head Coach Spencer Heard's football staff. He is coaching the defensive secondary and assisting with special teams. He will also be the girls track and field coach.

Stewart was at Lakeside last year.

Kelsey Chanler will serve as an assistant to new softball Head Coach Maggie Watts.

She will be teaching civics Francis said.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

QB Turner among Bulldogs on CUSA's preseason watch list

STAFF REPORTS  
Minden Press-Herald

Conference USA released its preseason watch list selected by the league's 10 head coaches last week.

Five players from each team were selected.

Louisiana Tech was represented by defensive linemen Jessie Evans, linebacker Kolbe Fields,

return specialist Demarcus Griffin-Taylor, offensive lineman Bert Hale and quarterback Jack Turner.

The Bulldogs, coming off a 3-9 season, were picked to finish seventh in conference.

Liberty was selected as the favorite with Western Kentucky picked to finish second.

OUTDOORS

An upclose look at nature in action

GLYNN HARRIS

It's summer time; it's hot and outdoors activities are best confined to early and late in the day. It's proper to sit back under the cooling hum of the air conditioner and remember how special the outdoors can be and to be reminded of events of the past that-made impressions of me.

I remember once when visiting my hunting club in later summer, I experienced something that was news to me. I was privileged to see two wild turkeys take to the air from the back side of the goat weed patch, climb nearly a hundred feet high to sail over the tops of the pines at the edge of the field. Turkeys are not known as strong fliers and I had no idea they could fly that high with such ease.

The most fascinating thing I saw, though, was right here in my own backyard. Living in the country working from my home office, I'm often privy to nature doing what nature does. I'll hear a commotion outside the window and it'll be two hummingbirds undergoing a kamakazi attack on each other. Something scratches on the side of the house, I'll go out and a squirrel will scurry away. Looking across the pasture when I walk out for the morning paper, I'll frequently see a red-coated doe browsing along pasture's edge.

Recently, I saw something that at first baffled me. My interest was piqued when I noticed a mound of sand pushed up against the concrete slab of the back porch from under the ajuga plants growing there. I assumed it was the mole that has given us fits this summer. I was about to fetch the mole trap when a creature crawled out of a hole in the middle of the sand



COURTESY PHOTO

Cicada Killer Wasps are 2 inches long and look like a hornet on steroids.

pile and flew away.

It was the biggest wasp I'd ever seen. It looked like a hornet on steroids. Colored yellow and black somewhat like a yellow jacket or guinea wasp, the creature was a good two inches long. I was baffled and I'll admit, a bit shaken. What if a colony of super-sized hornets or yellow jackets had chosen this site for their home? I could forget about relaxing on the porch under the ceiling fan. I live too far from the emergency room to enjoy that privilege.

When I spotted a cicada lying in the sand next to the wasp's entry hole in the sand, a light bulb came on in my head. I had read an article sometime ago about cicada killer wasps that inhabit our area.

A trip to cyberspace revealed that the creature

which had troubled me was indeed a cicada killer. Photos accompanying the articles I read confirmed it. Here's what I learned from a University of Kentucky website about these interesting bugs.

"Also known as sand hornets, these wasps attract attention due to their large size, the burrows that they dig in home lawns, and their buzzing flights over the lawn. These insects occur in all states east of the Rocky Mountains and prefer to dig their burrows in sandy, bare, well drained soil exposed to full sunlight. The wasps feed on flower nectar while the immature or larval stage feeds primarily upon cicadas that are brought to the burrow by the adult.

"In spite of their large size, the wasps usually ig-

nore people but they can give a painful sting if bothered. Mating males are aggressive and more easily disturbed."

According to the article, the females search tree trunks and lower limbs for cicadas. The wasp stings its prey, turns the victim on its back, straddles it, and drags it or glides with it to the burrow. Each cell is furnished with at least one cicada (sometimes two or three) and a single egg before being sealed off. Two to 3 days later the egg hatches. Depending on the number of cicadas in its cell, the larva feeds for 4 to 10 days until only the cicada's outer shell remains.

And I thought a high-flying wild turkey was going to be the highlight of my week!

Fishing Report

**BLACK BAYOU** – Lots of moss and pads. Bream hitting on crickets. Contact Honey Hole Tackle Shop 323-8707 for latest information.

**BUSSEY BRAKE** – Big bass to 12 pounds continue to come in on jigs and oversized plastic worms with topwater lures best early. Crappie fishing has been good fishing around deep brush. Bream fishing has slowed. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole at 323-8707.

**OUACHITA RIVER** – Bass fishing has improved fishing shad imitation lures in the cuts. Crappie fishing has been quite good fishing shiners or jigs in the sloughs. Some bream are being caught up the bayou. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

soft plastics and crank spinners and crank baits. Some have been caught early mornings on topwater lures. Crappie have moved deep and are best around submerged brush on shiners and jigs. Better fishing has been late afternoons. Bream are fair around shallow bedding areas and hitting worms and crickets. No report on stripers or catfish. For latest information, call Kel's Cove at 927-2264 or Terzia Tackle at 278-4498.

**CANEY LAKE** – Bass fishing has been good at night on oversized plastic worms and deep diving crank baits with some big fish reportedly caught. During the day, deep diving crank baits and soft plastics fished on underwater humps is producing. Bream fishing is beginning to slow down as the weather and water temperatures are heating up. Crappie are best fishing jigs or shiners around submerged tops. 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** – Bream and catfish are biting best on the south end of the lake. Bass and crappie have slowed. For latest reports, call Poverty Point Marina at 318/878-0101.

**LAKE YUCATAN** – The water is on a slow fall and overall, fishing is slow. For info call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.

**LAKE D'ARBONNE** – Bass have been best early morning on topwaters. swim baits and square billed crank baits fished around the edge of the grass. Soft plastics, swim baits and crank baits working best later. Crappie are good on the flats and along the edges of the channels and hitting shiners and jigs. Bream are off the beds and scattered. Catfishing is good fishing cold worms off the banks. For latest information, call Anderson Sport Center at 368-9669 or Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

**LAKE CLAIRBORNE** – Bass fishing is best at night fishing



# Good News

GOOD NEWS

## ALIVE AND ACTIVE

We see small children at times and think or comment, “My, they surely are active”. That’s how we describe ‘the preacher’s children in church’....alive and active. But we could point that finger to any child one time or another. That is the way we want them to be – active and alive, but manageable. That’s the way God wants His children to be – alive and active, but under His control.

The Biblical writers spoke of the importance of God’s Word and how we should use it as a defensive weapon. Jesus, facing temptations in the wilderness, used Scriptures to combat Satan. Throughout His ministry, Jesus spoke Scriptures to His disciples to



Bill Crider

help them understand how to defeat Satan and his demons. The Holy Spirit will come to ‘lead you into all truth’ (John 16:13), and to be your shield against the wiles of Satan.’(Psa 28:7). The Spirit guards us at all times. Our Lord never sleeps nor slumbers (Psa 121:3). He is our complete Protector and Energizer!

Therefore, we are challenged to be alive and active under His leadership. There is work for us to do, mountains to climb, rivers to span, and blessings to reap under His divine leadership. We are children of the living God, which enables us to discern truth from error. This is how we defend ourselves against the temptations each day. This is a mark of a maturing Christian.

Paul encourages us to ‘be strong in the Lord; to put on full armor that God provides us’(Eph 6: 11-18). Don’t forget to have that breastplate of righteousness in place, the mighty belt of truth secure, the helmet of salvation fitted just right, the sword of the Spirit (God’s Word) ready for combat. We must have our feet fitted with the readiness of peace. When we are covered with the shield of faith to dispel the continuous spray for flaming arrows of Satan, we know we are ready for action! Let the Spirit guide and

lead us as we use our energies to serve the Lord.

Yes, the Word of God is alive and active. It judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. (Heb 4:12). If we are accused of being overly alive and active, let it be because we are under the influence of the Holy Spirit to ‘do good works, to serve others and to love the Lord and others with a pure heart.’ He can direct our energy to do far greater than we ever hope or dreamed. He will expand our territory of influence -- as Jabez prayed. (1 Chron 4:10 ).

BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER

## THE UPWARD LOOK

### Work as to the Lord

*“With good will render service, as to the Lord, and not to men,” Ephesians 6:7 NASB*

Believers should render service, doing all their work with goodwill toward others. Working with the attitude of goodwill should include being friendly, courteous, polite, respectful, considerate, cooperative, and dependable. Believers should show kindness toward others while working, not because they are trying to please other people, but because they are serving



Max Hutto

the Lord. No matter what the task, the motivation for doing any work is to please, to honor, to glorify the Lord.

Lord Jesus, help me to show kindness and goodwill toward others as I serve You, doing my work to the best of my abilities. In everything that I do, may I glorify You.

MAX HUTTO IS A BAPTIST MINISTER AND A RESIDENT OF MINDEN. MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT [WWW.UPWARDLOOK.ORG](http://WWW.UPWARDLOOK.ORG).

## INSPIRATION

### Bringing the Good

In times of extreme struggle, man tends to look for someone to blame. We make great efforts to search out the negatives of our situation. Well, I’m here to tell everyone reading today that this is not the way. God wants us to find his blessing in all our situations. He wants us to seek out the good in everything. And if we search through a situation and find nothing good he wants us to bring the good. This is done through trust and faith in God’s plan. In Genesis Joseph demonstrates this flawlessly. Genesis 45:3-5 NLT “I am Joseph!” he said to his brothers. “Is my father still alive?” But his brothers were speechless! They were stunned to realize



Bernard Harris

that Joseph was standing there in front of them. “Please, come closer,” he said to them. So they came closer. And he said again, “I am Joseph, your brother, whom you sold into slavery in Egypt. But don’t be upset, and don’t be angry with yourselves for selling me to this place. It was God who sent me here ahead of you to preserve your lives.” I would like to encourage us all to be like Joseph and bring the good to our bad situations.

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

Come

WORSHIP

How can we pray for you?

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
301 Pennsylvania Avenue • Minden, LA



# CLASSIFIEDS

Classified line ads are published Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday in the Minden Press-Herald, Bossier Press-Tribune and online at [www.press-herald.com](http://www.press-herald.com)

## Classified Rates

Pricing is easy!

**\$7.75**

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

## Garage Sales

No word limit.

**\$11**

One Day

\$16.50

Two Days

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

\* Garage Sale ads must be prepaid.

## Deadlines

### Ads

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

## Public Notices

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

## Payments

Cash Checks, Billing

### Real Estate Notice

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

## Grow Your Business

Call to place your ad!

## PLACE YOUR AD TODAY!

**377-1866**

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Minden Housing Authority will hold a Public Meeting on July 29, 2024, at 9:30 AM at 1209 East Street, Minden Louisiana, to receive comments on the following:

Revised 2021 Capital Fund 5-Year Action Plan Budget/2021 Annual Statement

Revised 2022 Capital Fund 5-Year Action Plan Budget/2022 Annual Statement

Revised 2023 Capital Fund 5-Year Action Plan Budget/2023 Annual Statement

All documents will be on display and available for viewing for 45 days starting June 5, 2024 at the office of the Housing Authority at the same address above, Monday through Thursday, between the hours of 9AM and 3PM.

June 5, 2024  
June 12, 2024  
June 19, 2024  
June 26, 2024  
July 3, 2024  
July 10, 2024  
July 17, 2024  
July 24, 2024  
Minden Press Herald

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

CITY OF MINDEN  
Owner

520 BROADWAY  
Address

MINDEN, LA 71055  
City, State, Zip

Separate sealed BIDS for the construction of **MINDEN PUBLIC WORKS FACILITIES OFFICE BUILDING** will be received by the **CITY OF MINDEN** at the **CITY HALL CONFERENCE ROOM, 520 BROADWAY, MINDEN, LOUISIANA 71055** until **9:00 A.M., Monday, August 5, 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](http://www.sam.gov), prior to beginning of construction.

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 \$ 75.00 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.

Contract documents will also be available online at [www.BidExpress.com](http://www.BidExpress.com). Contractors are provided the option to submit bid for public contracts through a uniform and secure electronic interactive system as stated in Louisiana Bid Law R.S. 38:2212.1.

Bids shall be in a sealed envelope marked **“DO NOT OPEN - SEALED BID - MINDEN PUBLIC WORKS FACILITIES OFFICE BUILDING - BID NUMBER 04-2024 - ATTN: CITY CLERK”**. Bidder shall include their full company name, address and license number, as issued by the State of Louisiana Contractors Licensing Board on the outside of the envelope containing said bid documents.

July 10, 2024  
July 17, 2024  
July 24, 2024  
Minden Press Herald

1994 International Pumper Truck, 1500 gallon tank, 1200 GPM Pump” Will take Bids to purchase from the Cullen Fire Department. Contact Chief Kyle Mosley (318) 994-2554

July 24, 2024  
Minden Press Herald

Village of Dixie Inn  
Regular Session  
July 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 July 9, 2024 at 5:00 p.m. in the Village Hall, Dixie Inn, Louisiana with the following members present: Mayor Donna Hoffoss, Aldermen Nell Finlay and Judy McKenzie.

The meeting was

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

Mayor Hoffoss welcomed guests.

A motion was made by Nell Finlay and seconded by Judy McKenzie to adopt the minutes of the regular session of June 11, 2024, and special session of May 30, 2024. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

A motion was made by Judy McKenzie and seconded by Nell Finlay to adopt the financial statements for June 2024. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

Department Reports:

Mike Chreene reported all is well with the water department.

Mayor Hoffoss stood in for the police department, noting that the village is still looking for officers to hire.

Mayor Hoffoss reminded guests that qualifying dates for the November 2024 Election are July 17-19 at the Clerk of Courts Office.

New Business:

A motion was made by Judy McKenzie and seconded by Nell Finlay to approve requiring restaurant employees that work in the Village of Dixie Inn where alcohol is served, to have ABO Cards issued by the village at a yearly cost of \$25.00 per employee. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

A motion was made by Nell Finlay and seconded by Judy McKenzie to approve a water rate study from LRWA (Louisiana Rural Water Association) for the village. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

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

ATTEST:  
Donna Hoffoss  
Mayor

July 24, 2024  
Minden Press Herald

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING WEBSTER PARISH POLICE JURY  
July 2, 2024

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

**PUBLIC HEARING: To hear comments and concerns on the millage proposition for the Webster Parish Council on Aging.**

Shall the Parish of Webster, State of Louisiana (the “Parish”), be authorized to levy a tax of 1.75 mills on all the property subject to taxation in the Parish (an estimated \$500,000 expected at this time to be collected from the levy of the tax for an entire year), for a period of 10 years, beginning with the year 2025 and ending with the year 2034, for the purpose of constructing, improving, maintaining, operating and supporting facilities and programs for the elderly in the Parish through the Webster Council on Aging.

Mr. Jim Bonsall called the meeting to order at 10:30am and asked Mr. Steve Lemmons to open the meeting with prayer and asked Mr. Mike Griffith led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

There were no comments from the audience concerning the agenda.

Mr. Steve Lemmons moved, seconded by Mr. Bruce Blanton to approve invoices for payment pending review by juror Steve Lemmons. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Nancy Hines moved, seconded by Ms. Beverly Kennon to adopt the minutes of the June 4, 2024 Road Committee, Finance Committee, and Regular Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Allen Gilbert moved, seconded by Mr. Mike Griffith to Approve the contract between the Webster Parish Police Jury and Carlise Thompson, LLC effective June 23, 2024 to June 22, 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Daniel Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Bruce Blanton to Approve a Cooperative Agreement and Ordinance for the Webster Adjudicated Property Program between the Webster Parish Police Jury and E&P Consulting Services, LLC. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Steve Ramsey moved, seconded by Mr. Mike Griffith to approve to call for a Public Hearing on September 3, 2024 at 10:30AM in the Webster Parish Courthouse Annex at 401 Main Street, Minden, Louisiana to hear comments and concerns on the millage rates for the Webster Parish Police Jury. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Steve Ramsey moved, seconded by Ms. Beverly Kennon to approve general fund funding to expend \$350 for water sampling at McIntyre Road creek bank in Webster Parish. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Steve Lemmons moved, seconded by Mr. Bruce Blanton to approve to allow Cothren, Graff, Smoak Engineering, Inc. to advertise to bid the Webster Parish Women’s Jail, Webster Parish, Louisiana. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Beverly Kennon moved, seconded by Mr. Allen Gilbert to approve a Resolution 003-2024 ordering and calling a Special Election to be held in the Parish of Webster, State of Louisiana, to authorize the levy of a special election therein, making application to the State Bond Commission, and providing for other matters in connection therein. Motion carried unanimously.

**COMMENTS:**  
Denise Edwards  
Denise Edwards/Assessor  
John Monzingo  
LSU Ag/Extension Service  
Brian Williams  
WPPJ OEP/HS Director  
Jessica Gorman  
Parish Historian/  
Dorcheat Historical Museum  
Kathy Babers  
Congressman Mike Johnson  
Johnny Johnson  
Webster Parish Council on Aging

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

Ms. Beverly Kennon moved, seconded by Mr. Adam Lee to approve the action taken at the Finance Committee Meeting held earlier today. Motion carried unanimously.

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

/s/  
Lisa C. Balkom  
Secretary-Treasurer

/s/  
Jim Bonsall  
President

July 24, 2024  
Minden Press Herald

Village of Dixie Inn  
Special Session  
July 18, 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 special session on July 18, 2024 at 4:00 p.m. in the Village Hall, Dixie Inn, Louisiana with the following members present: Mayor Donna Hoffoss, Aldermen Nell Finlay, Judy McKenzie, and Lance Milligan.

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

There were no public comments

Mayor Hoffoss welcomed guests.

A motion was made by Judy McKenzie and seconded by Lance Milligan to approve Donald Jerald Myers as Village of Dixie Inn Police Chief. Vote on the motion was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Judy McKenzie and seconded by Lance Milligan to table deciding how many officers to hire and what the pay scale will be until a later date. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Nell Finlay and seconded by Judy

McKenzie. Vote on the motion was unanimous.

ATTEST:

Donna Hoffoss  
Mayor

July 24, 2024  
Minden Press Herald

Jones Albert W  
Booker Deborah C

THIS NOTICE BY NOTIFICATION IS NOTIFICATION THAT YOUR RIGHTS OR INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY LOCATED IN WEBSTER PARISH, LOUISIANA MAY BE TERMINATED BY OPERATION OF LAW IF YOU DO NOT TAKE FURTHER ACTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW:

Legal Description: Lot 48/49/50 Palmetto Beach Sub Div

Assessment# 103687, as per the assessment in the records of the Tax Assessor of Webster Parish, Louisiana.

This property was adjudicated to the Police Jury on July 8, 2024. The three year redemptive period has passed. Tax sale title to the above described property has been sold for failure to pay taxes. You have been identified as a person who may have an interest in this property. Your interest in the property will be terminated within 60 days from the date of this publication unless you redeem the property or you may otherwise challenge in a court of competent jurisdiction the potential sale or donation.

Webster Parish Police Jury  
401 Main St.  
Minden, LA 71055  
318-377-7564

July 24, 2024  
Minden Press Herald

Johnson Condee

THIS NOTICE BY NOTIFICATION IS NOTIFICATION THAT YOUR RIGHTS OR INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY LOCATED IN WEBSTER PARISH, LOUISIANA MAY BE TERMINATED BY OPERATION OF LAW IF YOU DO NOT TAKE FURTHER ACTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW:

Legal Description: Lot 50 x 50 Ft. out of Lot #8, Mariah Leary Est. Part in SE/4 of NE/4 Sec. 27-19-9

Assessment# 112293, as per the assessment in the records of the Tax Assessor of Webster Parish, Louisiana.

This property was adjudicated to the Police Jury on July 10, 2024. The three year redemptive period has passed. Tax sale title to the above described property has been sold for failure to pay taxes. You have been identified as a person who may have an interest in this property. Your interest in the property will be terminated within 60 days from the date of this publication unless you redeem the property or you may otherwise challenge in a court of competent jurisdiction the potential sale or donation.

Webster Parish Police Jury  
401 Main St.  
Minden, LA 71055  
318-377-7564

July 24, 2024  
Minden Press Herald

### ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals addressed to the Town of Cotton Valley for the construction of Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements in Webster Parish, Louisiana for the Town Cotton Valley, hereinafter called “Owner”, will be received at 478 Resident Street P.O. Box 415, Cotton Valley, Louisiana 71018 on

**Tuesday, August 27th, 2024, at 2:00 p.m.**

and then publicly opened and read aloud. Any bid received after closing will be returned unopened.

The Contract Documents (including Construction Drawings and Specifications) were prepared by BALAR Associates, Inc., Consulting Engineers, 631 Milam Street, Suite 300, Shreveport, Louisiana, 71101, and may be examined without charge at their office. A full set of Contract Documents (PDF electronic format on CD or USB Drive) may be obtained upon payment of a \$ 25.00 deposit. A PDF electronic format of the Contract Documents may be emailed upon request at no charge.

A cashier’s check, certified check, or ac-

ceptable Bidder’s Bond payable to the Owner in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the largest possible total for the bid submitted including consideration of alternates, must accompany each bid as a guarantee that, if awarded the contract, the Bidder will promptly enter into a Contract and execute such bonds as may be required. Sureties used for obtaining bonds must appear as acceptable in the Department of Treasury Circular No. 570 or that it is a Louisiana domiciled insurance company with at least an A rating in the latest printing of the A. M. Best’s Key Rating Guide. If surety qualifies by virtue of its Best’s listing, the Bond amount may not exceed ten percent of policyholders’ surplus as shown in the latest A. M. Best’s Key Rating Guide.

The Owner hereby notifies all bidders that in regard to any contract entered into pursuant to this Advertisement, that Minority Business Enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit offers in response to this invitation, and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, national origin or disability in consideration for an award.

To bid and perform Work covered by these documents, the Contractor must be licensed under Classification IV- Municipal and Public Works Construction.

The Contractor shall begin mobilization and procurement of materials within ten (10) days of the receipt of the Notice to Proceed.

The Owner reserves the right to reject all bids. Such actions will be in accordance with Title 38 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

All bids may be held forty-five (45) days.

Hon. Ashley Williams-Jones, Mayor  
Town of Cotton Valley

July 24, 2024  
July 31, 2024  
August 7, 2024  
Minden Press Herald

July 9, 2024

Webster Parish Community Action Agency is now accepting food service bids for the upcoming school year, 2024-2025. Sealed bids will be received until: 10:00a.m. August 5, 2024. All bids will be publicly opened at this time and read for the following items:

Processed Foods, Meat and Meat Products, Produce, Bread and Bread Products and Milk and Milk Products.

The undersigned reserves the right to reject any and all bids or waive informalities and accept the bid which best serves their interest. Individuals representing accept bids will be notified by telephone or by mail if not present at the bid opening. Please include a certification stating that vendor has not been debarred or suspended from receiving Federal Dollars. Be sure to complete all enclosed forms and return no later than. Please indicate on the outside of the bid envelope” Food Service Bid”.

Mail or Hand Deliver bids to: Webster Parish Community Action Agency

Office of Community Services  
P.O. Box 876 / 208 Gleason St.  
Minden, LA. 71058-0876

Please direct all questions to Webster Parish Head Start / Early Head Start at 318-377-7022 ext. 212.

Sincerely,

Melinda Davidson  
Executive Director

MD/VD

July 17, 2024  
July 24, 2024  
July 31, 2024  
Minden Press Herald

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 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

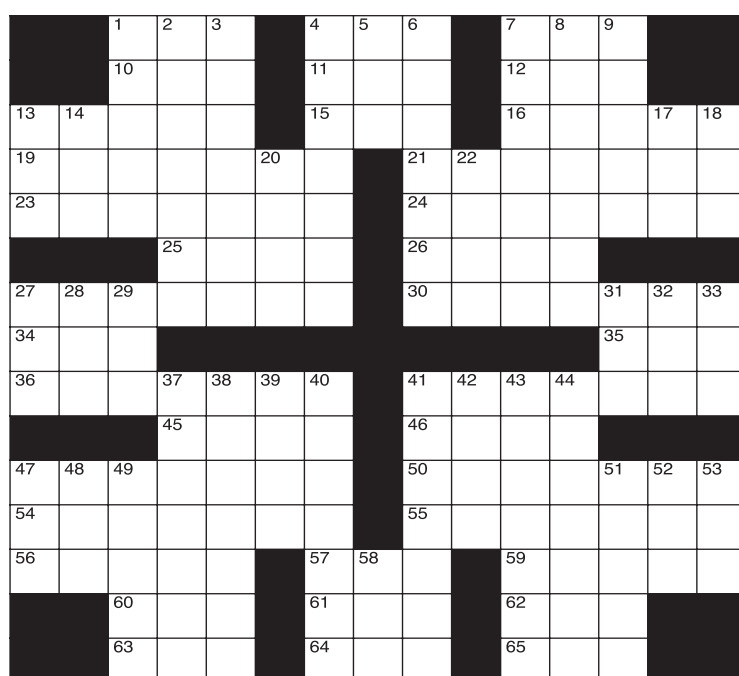
Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to the grilling.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 1 = **R**)

- A. 25 1 3 19 19**  
*Clue: Cooking appliance*
- B. 13 19 12 14 20 21**  
*Clue: Generated by fire*
- C. 2 26 16 6 2 2 1 21**  
*Clue: Not inside*
- D. 22 26 1 25 20 1**  
*Clue: Served on a bun*

Answers: A. grill B. flames C. outdoors D. burger

# FUN & GAMES



## CLUES ACROSS

1. Indicates tire pressure
4. Request
7. Clairvoyance
10. 007's creator
11. Adult male
12. Scandinavian god of battle
13. Cloths spread on a coffin
15. Breeze through
16. Ladyfish genus
19. It's good to take them
21. Noble-governed territory
23. Members of U.S. Navy
24. Card game resembling rummy
25. Affected by injury
26. Member of a Semitic people
27. Left
30. Woman's cloak
34. S. American plant
35. Prohibit
36. Offense
41. Dish soap brand
45. Ottoman military commanders
46. Ancient Greek City
47. Makes unhappy
50. Discuss again
54. Medical instrument
55. Promote
56. A beloved carb
57. Tag the base runner to get him out
59. Prehistoric people
60. Large African antelope
61. Vehicle
62. Georgia rockers
63. Scientific instrument (abbr.)
64. A major division of geological time
65. Attempt

### CLUES DOWN

1. Plant of the nettle family
2. Fit to be sold
3. Rather
4. Collected
5. A baglike structure in a plant or animal
6. Patella
7. Ageless
8. Lists of course requirements
9. Pokes at
13. TV network
14. They \_\_\_
17. Cooking hardware
18. U.S. Army title
20. Iron-containing compound
22. Swiss river (alt. spelling)
27. Former French coin
28. Electronic countermeasures
29. Taxi
31. Helps little firms
32. Woeful
33. Midway between northeast and east
37. Glowing
38. Tasks which should be done
39. An informal body of friends
40. Intrinsic nature
41. Neural structures
42. Brews
43. Where ships unload cargo
44. Singer
47. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.)
48. Southwest Scotland town
49. Most worthless parts
51. Viscous
52. Put to work
53. Old world, new
58. Swiss river

## PUZZLE SOLUTION

	P	S	I		A	S	K		E	S	P	
	I	A	N		M	A	N		T	Y	R	
P	A	L	L	S		A	C	E		E	L	O
B	R	E	A	T	H	S		E	A	R	L	D
S	E	A	B	E	E	S		C	A	N	A	S
			L	A	M	E		A	R	A	B	
S	E	C	E	D	E	D		P	E	L	I	S
O	C	A										B
U	M	B	R	A	G	E		C	A	S	C	A
			A	G	A	S		E	L	E	A	
S	A	D	D	E	N	S		R	E	A	R	G
S	Y	R	I	N	G	E		E	S	P	O	U
B	R	E	A	D		N	A	B		O	L	M
		G	N	U		C	A	R		R	E	M
		S	T	M		E	R	A		T	R	Y

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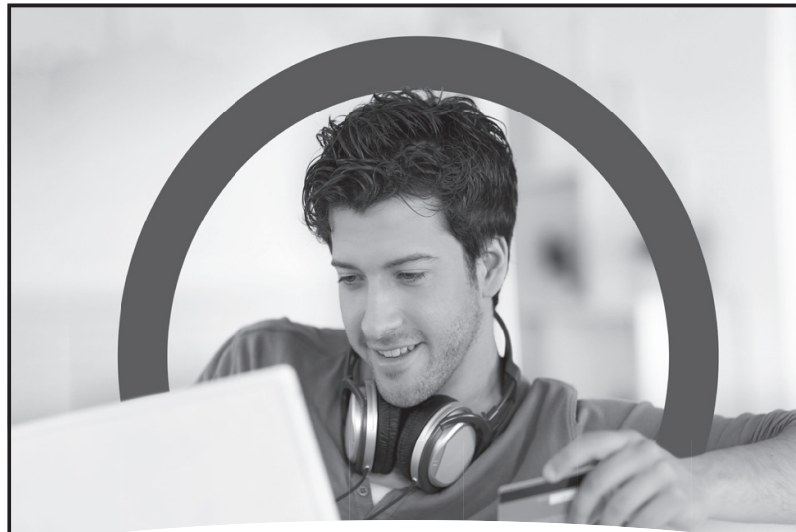
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# SUMMER STEPS TO A STUNNING FALL GARDEN

**HEATHER KIRK-BALLARD**  
LSU AgCenter Horticulturist

Summer is the best time to just sit back and enjoy your garden. While you're at it, you can start thinking about fall gardening and planning bigger landscaping projects.

You still need to keep up with watering, occasional fertilizing and weed control (mostly mechanically because chemicals shouldn't be used in the heat of summer on turfgrass, although they can be used in flowerbeds). But it is best not to take on any extensive landscape updates in the next couple of months. Phew! You're off the hook.

But if you're itching to make improvements to your landscape, know that it's probably best to hold off until cooler days. In general, planting trees and shrubs during the heat of the summer is not recommended. This is not to say that if you do plant in the summertime your plant will definitely

die. Rather, it is more of a recommendation to wait until the weather cools in the fall when the plant will have less stress and have a better chance of survival.

Planting in containers is a fine idea any time of year, making it a great way to continue gardening year-round. You will need to water and fertilize container plants more frequently in the summertime. Plants cannot cool themselves in the absence of water and will wilt quickly, as plants transpire to cool themselves just like we sweat. As you water more frequently, you will also flush out more nutrients from the pots as they drain. Use a general-purpose liquid fertilizer every seven to 14 days to help plants along.

Tropical plants do well this time of year too. Right now, you can enjoy those flowering tropicals such as hibiscus, gingers, angel's trumpet, cannas, Turk's cap, mandevilla, bougainvillea, coral vine, allamanda, passionflower, giant bird of paradise, esperanza, firecracker plant and

hummingbird bush. If you don't have some of these already, add them to your list and plant them in late September to enjoy next summer.

Existing turfgrass thrives in the summer, demanding frequent cuts with the lawnmower. Laying fresh sod in the summer, though, is a tough call. On one hand, the heat is very stressful on new turf with shallow root systems. However, roots will have more time to become established before they go dormant from November to February in Louisiana.

If you install a new lawn in the summertime, be sure it is watered thoroughly. Keep foot traffic off the sod for one week and water every day in the morning. With the heat, lots of water will be lost to evaporation, causing stress. Avoid watering at night, as the sod will remain wet, encouraging fungal diseases. St. Augustinegrass in particular is extremely susceptible to fungal diseases such as large patch and gray leaf spot. You can cut back on the wa-

tering after the first week and move to an every-other-day approach. By week three, you can water twice a week.

While you're sitting around waiting for cooler days, you can begin planning your fall garden. Now is the time to start ordering vegetable seeds. These will be our cool-season crops such as broccoli, Brussels sprouts, cauliflower, Chinese cabbage, cabbage, kale, lettuce, mustard greens and root crops such as carrots, beets and radishes. You can plant the transplants as early as mid-August, but our state vegetable specialist suggests waiting until mid-September.

In the meantime, you can still transplant tomatoes and bell peppers for a fall crop. And keep the eggplants and okra going. They should be really producing by now.

Fall is a great time for those larger landscape projects. You can brainstorm ideas now as you wait for the summer heat to wind down. Once the weather cools, planting trees and shrubs becomes a lot more ideal. Your yard is an important part of your home. It's the first thing people see when looking at your house. Work with licensed landscapers to help select your plant materials and properly install and maintain your yard.

Keep cool in these dog days of summer by staying inside during the heat of the day and drinking plenty of water when you are outside. Make your plans for your fall garden in the cool of central air conditioning. You can also focus on caring for and building your indoor plant collection.



HEATHER KIRK-BALLARD



Heather Kirk-Ballard/LSU AgCenter  
If you lay sod in the summertime, be sure it is watered. Newly installed lawns should be watered thoroughly.



Heather Kirk-Ballard/LSU AgCenter  
Summer is a great time for caring for and building your indoor plant collection.



Heather Kirk-Ballard/LSU AgCenter  
Turfgrass and tropical plants thrive in the summertime.

**Notice if hereby given pursuant to Article 7, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B) that a public hearing of Webster Parish Police Jury in Webster Parish, Louisiana will be held at its regular meeting place in the Webster Parish Courthouse Annex, 401 Main Street, West Entrance, Minden, Louisiana, 71055 on Tuesday, September 3, 2024 at 10:30a.m. to consider levying additional or increased millage rates without further voter approval or adjusted millage rates after reassessment and rolling forward to rates not to exceed the prior year's maximum. The estimated amount of tax revenue to be collected in the next year from the increased millage is \$2,857,790, and the amount of increase in taxes attributable to the millage increase is \$157,265.**

**Notice is hereby given pursuant to Article 7, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B) that a public hearing of the Webster Parish Fire District No. 3 Board of Commissioners in Webster Parish will be held at its regular meeting place, in the Office Building at Station #1, located at, 349 Main Street, Doyline, LA on Tuesday, September 10, 2024 at 6:30p.m. to consider levying additional or increased millage rates without further voter approval or adopting the adjusted millage rates after reassessment and rolling forward to rates not to exceed the prior year's maximum. The estimated amount of tax revenues to be collected in the next year from the increased millage is \$182,530.00, and the amount of increase in taxes attributable to the millage increase is \$17,330.00.**

**Notice is hereby given pursuant to Article 7, Section 23(C) of the Louisiana Constitution and R.S. 47:1705(B) that a public hearing of the Town of Sibley will be held at its regular meeting place at the Sibley Town Hall located at 345 North Main St., Sibley, LA on Monday, September 9, 2024 at 6pm to consider levying additional or increased millage rates without further voter approval or adopting the adjusted millage rates after reassessment and rolling forward to rates not to exceed the prior year's maximum. The estimated amount of tax revenues to be collected in the next year from the increased millage is \$76,295, and the amount of increase in taxes attributable to the millage increase is \$4,083.**

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