

# WEBSTER PROUD



**JULY  
2024**



A Special  
Supplement  
to the  
Minden Press-Herald

*A look at what makes Webster Parish a great place to live, work, worship and play.*







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# From Mayor Nick Cox

By Will Phillips  
Specht Newspapers

Mayor Nick Cox has been dedicated to optimizing city operations and enhancing the quality of life in Minden. Over the past year and a half, the administration has implemented significant changes and initiated numerous projects, all aimed at fostering a more efficient and vibrant community.

“There are countless ways to improve efficiency, and that’s been our primary focus,” said Cox. “I’m incredibly proud of the progress we’ve made in such a short time. We’ve come a long way in just a year and a half.”

Mayor Cox attributes much of the city’s progress to the collaborative efforts of a dedicated and intelligent City Council. “Our council is filled with wonderful, smart individuals who view the city as a whole. They not only represent their districts effectively but also support each other’s initiatives. We’re fortunate to have this team.”

## KEY ACHIEVEMENTS AND PROJECTS

### Hiring a Lobbyist

One of the significant decisions highlighted is hiring a lobbyist, Caroline Mladenka, to represent Minden in Baton Rouge. “Without a seat at the table, we become the meal,” said Cox. This strategic move has already paid off, bringing home \$4.5 million for improvements to Minden through collaboration with our Representative Wayne McMahan and Senator Adam Bass.

### Public Works Control Center

A major initiative is the creation of a Public Works Control Center, which will allow for greater efficiency through the pooling of manpower and equipment. “For example, instead of one department having two dump trucks and another department having three, the new plan is for the City of Minden to have five dump trucks that can be utilized wherever they are needed,” explained Cox. “These assets and employees are for the benefit of the citizens.” This consolidation will also save the city significant money. “We have public works departments spread all over town. From the old armory building, to the street department on Talton Street, to the systems monitoring on the third floor of the old steam plant. All of these buildings are very old and not energy efficient,” Cox noted. “Consolidating projects will save the city significant amounts of money.”

### Infrastructure and Community Improvements

We have also been focused on improving the city’s infrastructure and community facilities. Completed and ongoing projects include:

- New lighting and road striping in Beaver Creek subdivision
- Fundraising and planning for a new animal shelter
- Airport taxiway expansion
- Condemnation clean-up efforts
- Street and water main improvements
- Remodeling of the Community House

•Expanding the airport hangar capacity at Minden Airport

•\$3.7 million for much-needed road repairs over the next two years

•Nearly completed construction of new bathrooms on High Street



Mayor Nick Cox

## LOOKING FORWARD

Looking ahead, we are excited about several projects in progress, including upgrading the audio and video equipment at the Minden Civic Center. We are also dedicating over a million dollars to do updates at the Minden Recreation Center. We are also actively pushing LaDOTD to repair state highways that run through the city, such as Homer Road and Lewisville Road, which are in desperate need of attention.

“We’re just getting started,” said Cox. “The synergy between the council and our administration is incredible. We’re achieving a lot with the same resources we had before, thanks to a shared vision and responsible financial management.”

Mayor Cox remains committed to making Minden a better place for all its residents. “I’m proud of our progress, but I know there’s always more to be done. Let’s continue moving forward, together.”

# Sheriff Jason Parker . . .

## *dedicated to serving the parish*

By Will Phillips  
Specht Newspapers

In the most recent election, Webster Parish Sheriff Jason Parker ran unopposed, and in fact was the only sheriff in the region to do so. In a recent interview with Parker, it's clear that his dedication to serving the parish remains a top priority moving into his second term, showcasing some of the reasons Webster citizens are happy to have him continue in his role as sheriff.

"It's been an honor for me for the last four years. I truly mean this, every morning when I get up and have an opportunity to come to this office or out into the parish to serve the citizens, I think it's the best job in the world," said Parker.

While law enforcement and preventing crime is a big part of his role as sheriff, Parker also highlighted the importance of helping people with more personal issues too.

"I love helping folks," said Parker. "It may be a civil matter, it may be a child custody matter. Whatever the problem, I'm willing to lend an ear to someone, listening to what their situation is, and offering some guidance or a reference on which direction to go," said Parker.

"My doors are always open. If people call and make an appointment or leave me a message, I make it personal to at least return the phone call or find a time to be accessible to the people."

Sheriff Parker emphasized the importance of ensuring his deputies are as educated and well-trained as possible.

"We're going to go into this next term and continue to make progress not only for the Sheriff's Office but anything we can do here to make ourselves better to serve the public, that's what we're going to do, we're not going to be stagnant," said Parker.

"Education and training are very important to me.



We make sure that we have enough money in the budget each year so if we have an opportunity to send a deputy off to specialize in something that we know is going to make us better at serving the citizens, then that's what we're going to do.

"Even after four years as sheriff, I'm still learning.

The things that have helped me over the last four years are the relationships I have developed with other sheriffs across the state and our elected officials."

Parker talked about how much he valued the network both for the aid that they provide and also for being able to help other departments when they're in need. These relationships that the sheriff has developed over the past few years also help in the sense that Parker has the proper connections so that, when the parish needs something, he can contact the right people, giving an example of when Governor Landry called to check up on him and his office.

"As a sheriff, it makes me feel good that he is checking on our parish and making sure we have what we need, it means a lot," said Parker.

Coming into his second term, there are twenty-plus new sheriffs who have been elected, so now, instead of being one of the new guys, Sheriff Parker is one that other sheriffs may be coming to for some guidance.

"I've offered every one of those new sheriffs my phone number and told them if they need someone to call they can reach out to me. It's always good to have someone to bounce stuff off of, especially if you have a situation that you're really not sure of, you have someone you can call who has been there, done that, and can share some guidance," said Parker.

Despite the challenges, Sheriff Parker expresses his dedication to serving the community for years to come. His active involvement in community activities and his commitment to accessibility distinguish him as a sheriff deeply rooted in his community.

"Being sheriff is an honor and I appreciate the citizens' confidence in me. If we were to have one, I'm going to continue to do all I can to be here and serve until I think it's my time to go or the citizens think it is," said Parker.



# Webster Parish Tourism hears plans for Miller Quarters Park development

By Amber McDown  
Specht Newspapers

The Webster Parish Convention and Visitors Commission met on May 16 for their quarterly board meeting, where they reviewed plans for the redevelopment of Miller Quarters Park. The architects from Parish Line presented their comprehensive design for the park, which incorporates elements from a project by design students at Louisiana Tech.

Miller Quarters, purchased by the Commission in 2022, dates back to the 1930s when Joe Miller built 60 low-income houses and rented them for \$5 a week. The new development plan includes a small museum to educate the public about this history.

The proposed design features a promenade at the main entrance and various walking and biking trails offering different experiences throughout the park. Water features such as bridges and low-head dam barriers will help with flood management and provide crossing points. An amphitheater, playground with a water fountain pad, and multiple restroom facilities are also part of the plan. The design includes entrances from various sides of the park and explores additional parking options.

Shaded areas at a food truck pavilion, a dog park with separate zones for small and large dogs, and the use of natural materials like bald cypress and raw steel aim to create a cohesive look that reflects the area’s history. The architecture will mirror local styles, including

shotgun houses and butterfly roofs.

Projected costs for the park range from \$7 million to \$10 million, with the project designed to be built in stages. Executive Director Serena Gray is researching grants and potential sponsorships to fund the project. “We went into this project saying, ‘Let’s dream big, and if we need to scale it back, we can,’” said Gray.

A mural celebrating Miller Quarters will soon be painted on a wall along Lee Street.

Tourism plans to present the project to the mayor, city council, and planning department before surveying the public for input on prioritizing development phases. A public forum will also be held on July 18 for community members to review the plans and ask questions.





# WE WENT TO THE MOON AND BACK!

# \$2,538,444

By Will Phillips  
Specht Newspapers

The Minden St. Jude Auction saw another record-breaking year with the event raising a whopping \$2,538,444 for the Children's Research Hospital. This feat was only attainable through the efforts of volunteers who worked throughout the weekend to make the auction function, the sponsors who helped the event, whether through funding, raffle items, or auction items, and most importantly the generous viewers who chose to help fight the fight against children's cancer all while taking home some great items at the same time.

Despite the adverse weather conditions, the Minden Run for St. Jude demonstrated remarkable community support, amassing an impressive total of \$100,230, underscoring the collective commitment towards advancing the cause of pediatric healthcare and research at St. Jude's Research Center.

The event, aimed at supporting the St. Jude's Research Center, commenced with the Kids Fun Run, where young athletes from the region showcased their spirit. A. Ramsey of Minden clinched the top spot, followed by B. Marks of Haughton in second place and E. Harmon, also from Minden, securing third place.

Following the youthful energy, the 10K race unfolded, witnessing Keith Pitman of Minden seizing the victory, trailed by Anna Lake Watts, also of Minden, in second place, and Kenichi Pass from New Boston, Texas, securing third.

The momentum continued with the commencement of the 5K race, where Nathan Vogel of Campti led the pack, followed by Graham Gordy of Shreveport in second place and John Hiltom Ferguson III, also hailing from Shreveport, in third.

Another big event for the weekend was the Minden St. Jude Chili Cook-off which raised a total of \$16,245 to go towards the Auction.

In the main competition, the judges selected Big Jon's Big Eats with head cooks John and Nancy Rogers as the winners for the 2024 Chili Cook-Off.

The People's Choice Winner and Best in Show awards both went to Wookie Chow, with head cooks Scott and Josh Spillers.

The Young Women's Service Club (YWSC) of Minden always loves the opportunities to be as involved in the community as much as possible and St. Jude Kids Day is no exception. This year the event was able to raise a total of \$1155 dollars for the auction despite being pushed indoors due to the weather.

"Each year, we offer an area filled with different activities for the kids to participate in. This allows us the opportunity to not only raise funds for the St Jude auction but also gives the kids something fun to do differently, creates a great experience for the kids along with their parents and also gives the parents some time to check out all of the various activities happening throughout the city that morning," said YWSC President Elizabeth Campbell.

Local students throughout the parish also made a huge impact in the fight against children's cancer. All 14 public schools in Webster Parish united in a successful fundraising drive for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, collectively donating \$149,123.57 this year. This impressive figure marks an increase of \$23,774.13 compared to the previous year's contributions.

Throughout the academic year, students and

faculty engaged in diverse fundraising activities, demonstrating their unwavering commitment to the cause. The district extends its gratitude to administrators, teachers, staff, students, and the broader school communities whose relentless dedication made this achievement possible. Every donation, regardless of size, played a crucial role in supporting St. Jude's mission.

Another big part in the auction raising so much money was some of the great raffle items that were up for grabs. Some of the big ticket raffle winners include the Partners in Hope Raffle Winners, Michael Wise winning the \$5000 cash prize, Dustin Logan winning the trip for four to Disney World, and Bradley Jordan winning the big screen TV package. Grace Eskew was the winner of this year's custom space-themed playhouse. Last but not least, the winner of the grand prize, either \$50,000 or a 2024 GMC Yukon was Kyle and Jenea Towns.

It was another record-breaking year for the Minden St. Jude Auction. This achievement was only possible due to the countless hours and hard work donated by the auction's volunteers, as well as generous contributions in the form of raffles, pledges, donations, and of course bids from all who tuned in either live or in person and, as a result, Minden once again showcased what can be accomplished when people work together for the greater good.







# MINDEN ST. JUDE AUCTION



# SETS RECORD - \$2,538,444







By Will Phillips  
Specht Newspapers

The American Legion along with participation from the VFW Auxiliary hosted a flag-raising ceremony at Eagle Park in celebration of the Fourth of July. The ceremony included the singing of the National Anthem, a prayer, the Pledge of Allegiance, recognition from the city by Mayor Nick Cox, and the presentation of the memorial wreath by DAR Chapter Regent Cindy Madden.







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# Minden Medical Center welcomes 3 new providers

## Andreka Garner Winston, PMHNP-BC, FNP-C Psychiatric Mental Health

Andreka Winston, a board-certified Family and Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner has been in the medical field for over 19 years. Andreka started as a Registered Respiratory Therapist in 2005, but later decided to broaden her horizons in the nursing field. She completed her Master of Science in Nursing-Family Nurse Practitioner from Grambling State University in 2020 and her post-master in Psychiatric Mental Health from Herzing University in 2023. Andreka's experience as a nurse has included the following: cardiac stepdown, ICU, CCU, medical-surgical, dialysis, geriatrics, behavioral health, and management. Andreka will focus on providing the appropriate care for patients suffering from various mental health disorders. Her practice will be to promote well-being in patients of all ages, through prevention and education, in addition to assessment, diagnosis, care, and treatment of mental illnesses.

Children, Adolescence and Adult Visits Evaluation and Treatment Medication Management for Various Mental Health Illnesses ADHD Management.

Andreka sees patients at Minden Medical Clinic of Haughton and Minden Primary Care in Minden.

Education: • Post-Master Psychiatric Mental Health Nurse Practitioner, Herzing University • Master of Science in Nursing Concentration: Family Nurse Practitioner, Grambling State University • Associate Degree in Nursing, Southern Arkansas University • Bachelor of General Studies, Louisiana Tech University - Ruston • Associates Degree in Respiratory Therapy, Southern University, Shreveport

Membership she is involved in: • American Association of Nurse Practitioners • American Nurses Association • Louisiana Association of Nurse Practitioners • Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing • Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc



## Michelle Pittman, MD - General Surgery, Trauma and Surgical Critical Care

Bringing a wealth of experience and knowledge with her, Dr. Michelle Pittman is happy to announce her affiliation with Minden Medical Center as a Board-Certified General Surgeon. Her practice includes treatment of surgical diseases of the abdomen, such as gallbladder and bowel problems, as well as different kinds of hernias. She has a special interest in surgeries necessary to treat breast cancer. She performs upper and lower endoscopies to examine the stomach and the colon for digestive tract disorders.

Dr. Pittman finished her medical school training at LSU in Shreveport, followed by a Surgical Residency at LSU and Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit. She completed additional training with a Fellowship in Trauma and Surgical Critical Care at the

University of Tennessee. Because of her interest in bringing quality surgical care to areas of need, she has spent the last decade in rural and smaller city settings ranging from Louisiana to Arkansas to New Mexico and Arizona. She continues to teach Advanced Trauma Life Support at LSU in Shreveport.

Having grown up in the small town of Dubberly, Dr. Pittman's lifelong dream has been to provide quality medical care in the Minden area. She is excited to be part of Minden's medical community helping to provide that care.

Dr. Pittman will be seeing patients at 812 Broadway Street, Minden, LA. For an appointment call 318-377-4534.

Education: • Fellowship in Trauma and Surgical Critical form University of Tennessee in Knoxville • Residency in General Surgery at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit • Residency in General Surgery from LSU Health Sciences Center in Shreveport • Doctor of Medicine from LSU Medical School in Shreveport, • Bachelor of Sciences in Nursing from Northwestern State University.

## Kevin J. Bunn MD - Orthopaedics

Coming the fall of 2024, Board certified Orthopaedic Surgeon Kevin J. Bunn, MD has been specializing in Orthopaedic Surgery, Adult Reconstructive Surgery, and Joint Replacement Surgery since 2015. Operating in Louisiana since 2018, Dr. Bunn is a member of prestigious organizations such as the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, the American Association of Hip and Knee Surgeons, and the Louisiana Orthopaedic Association. With a passion for research, Dr. Bunn has presented at international Orthopaedic Surgery conferences and has published research articles in various medical journals.

Specializing in robotic total hip and knee replacements, Dr. Bunn is the exclusive surgeon in Northeast Louisiana performing direct anterior total hip replacements. Committed to providing top-notch care, Dr. Bunn treats his patients with the same level of care he would want for his own family. When he's not in the operating room, he enjoys spending quality time with his wife and sons.

Look for specifics on clinic location and phone number to make an appointment in the Minden Press-Herald.

Educational background includes: • Fellow Training in Adult Reconstructive Surgery at Houston Methodist Hospital • Orthopaedic Surgery Residency from University of North Carolina Hospitals in Chapel Hill, NC • Medical Degree from University of North Carolina School of Medicine • MA in Sports Medicine from University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill • BS. Ed (Exercise & Sport Science) University of Georgia, Athens



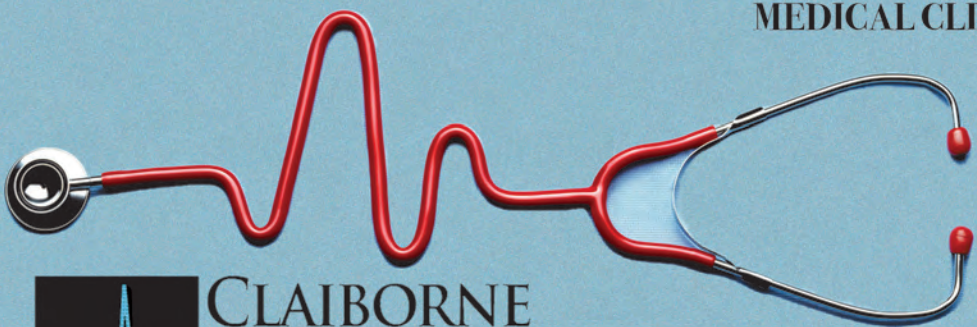


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*Beloved mayor and community leader,*  
**Jimmy Williams,**  
*remembered for dedication and service*

By Amber McDown  
Specht Newspapers

Jimmy Williams, a cherished figure in Webster Parish, renowned for his multifaceted roles as a father, grandfather, mayor of Sibley, businessman, and friend, passed away on Saturday, January 20, 2024, at the age of 68.

Williams, born in Minden in 1955, dedicated the last two decades of his life to the Town of Sibley, where he served as mayor since 2009. His profound impact on the community manifested through numerous achievements, including enhancements to the Sibley water system, facilitation of economic growth, and the establishment of a new subdivision at the town's north entrance.

Notably, in 2019, Williams was elected as President of the Louisiana Municipal Association (LMA), assuming a pivotal role as an advocate for villages, towns, and cities statewide. His exceptional leadership during the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic earned him the LMA's prestigious President's Award in 2022.

Williams's commitment to service extended beyond municipal boundaries, as evidenced by his active involvement with the LMA Executive Committee and his representation of Louisiana and Sibley on a national scale.

A cornerstone of the Minden business community, Williams played a pivotal role in the success of Minden Athletic, contributing five decades of service to the establishment. His entrepreneurial spirit also led to the founding of Williams Silkscreen, a venture that left an indelible mark on the local athletic apparel industry.

As a proud member of the 1972 Minden High School State Championship Baseball Team, Williams's passion for baseball endured throughout his life, as he continued to engage with the sport both as a player and a coach.

Beyond his professional and athletic endeavors,

Williams's devotion to his faith was palpable, as he actively participated in the Minden Presbyterian Church and generously shared his handyman skills to enhance its facilities.

However, Williams's greatest source of joy resided in his family, particularly his role as "Poppie" to his beloved grandchildren. His home served as a beacon of warmth and hospitality, fostering countless cherished memories for his loved ones.

In the wake of his passing, tributes poured in from

across the community, underscoring the profound impact Williams had on the lives he touched. From expressions of grief to fond recollections of his kindness and leadership, the collective mourning reflected the enduring legacy of a remarkable individual.

Williams's legacy as a compassionate leader, devoted family man, and cherished friend will continue to resonate throughout the Minden community and beyond, serving as a testament to a life well-lived and a spirit deeply cherished.



**W**illiams's greatest source of joy resided in his family, particularly his role as "Poppie" to his beloved grandchildren. His home served as a beacon of warmth and hospitality, fostering countless cherished memories for his loved ones.



# - PEARLS OF PURPOSE -

**P**earls of Purpose, the nonprofit behind the popular Witches Ride, proudly allocated checks of \$5,000 each to We're Here We Care and the Miller Quarters renovation. The funds were raised during the event held on October 19 in downtown Minden, where over 400 participants congregated.

Sarah Overall, representing Pearls of Purpose, expressed appreciation for the community's support in making the event a resounding success. "This event was executed in a few short months; it took a lot of

hard work," Overall stated. "We had over 400 participants show up on October 19 in downtown Minden. We feel like it was a great success."

Emphasizing the altruistic spirit of Pearls of Purpose, Overall spoke of the motivation behind the chosen beneficiaries. "We're all, pretty much, health-care providers, and we wanted to be able to give back," she explained. "We like the mission of We're Here We Care, and we like the fact that he helps children. Since it was a bike ride parade, we chose him to be able to buy bikes for Christmas for kids."

Furthermore, the decision to contribute to the Miller Quarters renovation reflects Pearls of Purpose's commitment to enhancing the community. "We also know that there's lots of plans in the works to expand Miller Quarters, and we wanted to be able to do something for the entire community," Overall elaborated. "We're hoping that this is the jumpstart to get that process going."

Riding on this year's success, plans for next year have already begun. The 2024 Witches Ride is scheduled to take place on October 24.



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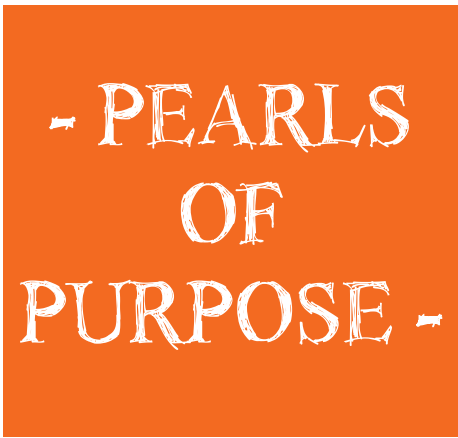
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# L'Jarius Sneed holds 2nd annual football camp at Minden High School

By Amber McDown  
Specht Newspapers

The 2nd Annual L'Jarius Sneed Football Camp took place at Minden High School on June 22, drawing over 300 youth participants. Two-time Super Bowl champion L'Jarius Sneed, alongside volunteers from across the nation, provided hands-on football training to the attendees. Sneed's family, friends, and numerous community members also contributed to the camp's success. The event concluded with autograph sessions and photo opportunities.

When asked about his motivation for starting the camp, Sneed said, "The kids and just to give back to my community. It's a way I can give back and empower them. I play football

in the NFL, and I know a lot of kids in Minden, Louisiana, want to play NFL one day, so I try to bring it back home every year."

Sneed emphasized the broader lessons he hopes the kids learn at the camp. "They're learning skills about life, not just about football, about God; about keeping Him first. What it took me to get here — the hard work and dedication, putting school first and getting good grades — it's not just a football camp. I try to empower them to be the best person they can be. The football camp is just a way to get them to come."

Reflecting on his NFL career, Sneed shared how it has shaped him as a mentor. "It's helped me to become the person who I'd never thought I'd be. Like this camp. I never

thought L'Jarius Sneed would be right here giving back to the kids. I never thought I'd be the blueprint to show them the way. It's a blessing."

Sneed offered advice to young athletes: "Keep God first. Never leave God, and always believe in yourself; never leave yourself. Don't let nobody tell you that you can't do all this."

Looking ahead, Sneed hinted at more community initiatives. "There's a couple surprises that I have going on. It's going to be pretty nice."

Sneed and his family expressed gratitude to Mayor Nick Cox, Minden High School, Marketing Manager Clint Reyes, the security detail, and everyone who helped make the camp a success.





# Maison Wilbanks crowned Miss Minden 2024

By Will Phillips  
Specht Newspapers

Saturday night the Miss Minden & Miss Spirit of Fasching Scholarship Competition, hosted by the Young Women's Service Club, took place where eight young women competed in a variety of different categories in order to determine who would be the best fit to represent our town with the titles of Miss Minden, Miss Spirit of Fasching, and Outstanding Teen. The Mistress of Ceremonies for this year's event was none other than Miss Louisiana 2023, Makenzie Scroggs.

After three rounds of competition in talent, fitness, and evening gowns, the judges selected Maison Wilbanks to be crowned as the 71st Miss Minden. Shortly after being granted the title of Miss Minden, Wilbanks had this to say.

"I'm feeling so proud, honored, and blessed, and just want to say thank you so much to God for giving me this opportunity. Always keep in mind 1Peter 3:3-4: That it's not about the gold you wear and the clothing that you wear, but it's what's within your heart, and I just empower every young girl out there that that's all that matters," said Wilbanks.

The other coveted title these young women were competing for was one that represents Minden's German heritage, that being Miss Spirit of Fasching. The judges determined this year's Miss Spirit of Fasching to be Hannah Reeder. When it came to the three young women competing for the title of Miss Minden Outstanding Teen, the judges awarded the title to Izzy Gray.

In the teen category, the Miss Congeniality and Talent Awards went to Izzy Gray and the fitness award went to Landry Edwards. In the Miss Minden Pageant it was a blowout with Miss Congeniality, Talent, and the newly added category of the Hannah McFarland Style Award all awarded to this year's Miss Minden Maison Wilbanks.

Earlier that morning on the same day was the Little Miss Minden Pageant which saw a myriad of Miss Minden titles for different age groups. Baby Miss Minden was Rowen Smith, Toddler Miss Minden was Blakely Adams, Tiny Miss Minden was ViviAnn Rainy, Mini Miss Minden was Tessa Adams, Pre-Teen Miss Minden was Kensington Pamintuan, Junior Miss Minden was Piper Mandino, Miss Heart of Minden was Isabel Sifuentez, with the People's Choice Awards going to Joanna Bordelon and Tessa Adams.

The host of the Miss Minden Pageant, the Young Women's Service Club would like to express their thanks to the sponsors who made this event possible. The emerald sponsors include TG Companies and Defiance Energy Services, LLC. The gold sponsors include Carroway Pre-Owned, b1Bank, and Timberland Services. The silver sponsors include Waltman Law Firm, Mondays Oilfield, Webster Parish Journal, Bienville Parish Journal, Holiday Inn, Brown Chrysler Dodge, Citizens Bank and Trust, and Cindy Walker, Miss Minden 1972.





# Holli Vining

## *begins new term as Webster Parish Clerk of Court*

By Amber McDown  
Specht Newspapers

**H**olli Vining was re-elected as Webster Parish Clerk of Court on Octo-

ber 14, 2023. Vining was recently sworn in for her new term, which will extend until June 30, 2028. Her career with the Clerk of Court's office began in 1990 and, since her first election as Clerk of Court in 2004, she has taken immense pride in her achievements.

"Being sworn in to my 7th term in office is an incredible honor!" Vining expressed. "I've committed myself to the Clerk of Court's office for nearly 34 years and it has been extremely rewarding to feel like I've made a difference and that I am given the opportunity to continue to provide these services to the citizens of Webster Parish."

Running unopposed in the election, Vining attributed this to her dedicated service and efforts to enhance the office's operations. "Through my 20 years of service as Clerk of Court I have worked hard to make this office one that Webster Parish is proud of. I have employed a dedicated, hard-working staff who is welcoming and helpful to the public and I am proud of them every day. I have also created an office that is transparent, accurate, cost-efficient, and technology-driven and I think the public has recognized that."

Vining's previous term saw numerous key achievements aimed at improving service delivery. "During my previous term I was able to accomplish many things to better serve the public. I've overseen the scanning and indexing of thousands of criminal and civil records and implemented electronic filing of civil records. I've also worked with Clerks across the state to develop and implement a statewide portal where the public can search civil, criminal, marriage, and land records free of charge. A big improvement I was able to provide to the Clerk's office during my previous term is that I partnered with two other Clerks' offices to develop our own case management software. Rather than the 'big-box' system that has been previously used, this system is tailored to the needs of our office while being more efficient for my staff, user-friendly, and cost-efficient for the office which will have an impact for years to come."

Looking ahead, Vining's priorities and goals for her



workflow."

The local website, [websterclerk.org](http://websterclerk.org), provides additional information and resources about the Clerk of Court's office.

Holli Vining's continued leadership promises to bring further advancements and efficiency to the Webster Parish Clerk of Court's office, ensuring it remains a model of public service and innovation.

**"Being sworn in to my 7th term in office is an incredible honor!" Vining expressed. "I've committed myself to the Clerk of Court's office for nearly 34 years and it has been extremely rewarding to feel like I've made a difference and that I am given the opportunity to continue to provide these services to the citizens of Webster Parish."**

... Holli Vining

new term focus on enhancing public access and record preservation. "It is always a priority for me to continue to look for new ways to better serve the public by making my office user-friendly and accessible. Those priorities go hand-in-hand with the preservation of parish records. It is my goal to have every record in the Clerk's office scanned and available electronically by the end of this term."

Vining also plans to introduce several innovations to keep the Clerk of Court's office at the cutting edge of technology. "I look forward to continuing to keep my office at the forefront of technology. Some of those innovations include offering electronic marriage certificate applications and same-day alerts for property record filings. I also intend to work with our Judges' office and District Attorney's office to implement a paperless








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