

Christmas in Minden 2024: A festive weekend despite the Grinch's antics



STAFF REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

Christmas in Minden 2024, held December 13-15, brought holiday cheer to the community, undeterred by rain and an unexpected visit from the Grinch.

The City of Minden kicked off the weekend with the annual tree lighting ceremony at the Civic Center, but not without drama. Earlier in the week, the city reported that the Grinch had “kidnapped” Santa Claus and a local dachshund

named Winnie, who resembled the Grinch’s dog, Max. The Grinch threatened to keep them unless the tree lighting ceremony was canceled. Thanks to the Minden Police Department, both Santa and Winnie were rescued just in time, ar-

iving with flashing blue lights as the ceremony was about to begin.

With Santa there to throw the switch and Winnie returned to her owner, the tree could be lit. “When we light the tree, to us it represents the Light of the world,

which is Jesus,” Mayor Nick Cox shared during the ceremony, emphasizing the event’s meaning to the community.

The festive weekend featured a wide array of events, including Hot Chocolate & Pastries at Brick Street Coffee,

a Holiday Wine Walk downtown (with proceeds benefiting a local charity), the Presents on Pearl Craft Vendor Market, and the Reindeer Games children’s area. Highlights included the

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GOVERNMENT

Synergy Sports proposes upgrades to Minden REC Center to City Council

STAFF REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

Jason Boudrie, founder and CEO of Synergy Sports, gave a presentation to the mayor and city council to gauge their interest in the prospect of renovating the REC Center to be able to hold bigger sports tournaments and focus on bringing in tourism to generate revenue. This partnership would lead to a balance between the private sector and the public sector of the REC Center. The private side would focus on making money from these tournaments that would draw in a lot of people from out of town. The civic side would focus on developing and bolstering the existing programs that are offered to local residents.

“We were asked to look at what the impact would be of sports on the Minden region if the sports complex were going to be renovated to be more



PENDER-GRASS

of a tournament revenue economic catalyst, sports tourism-focused facility, while still retaining a lot of the great things you guys do with local parks and rec and the local community,” said Boudrie.

“That’s what our task was, to figure out if there is an opportunity to capitalize on sports tourism and create amazing facilities for local youth and families.”

“Based on our experience and expertise, we believe that you can renovate the sports complex to be a sports tourism asset and continue to be a quality-of-life amenity for the community, without having to come out of pocket or out of general funds to support any of those costs.”

Boudrie stated that a diamond facility in Minden could attract families from up to five and a half hours away on average, reaching as far as Hous-

ton. Councilman Andy Pendergrass agreed, giving a personal perspective from their son’s all-star team’s recent trip to the World Series in Mississippi.

“I would’ve eye-rolled this a year ago and said no way people would come from Dallas or all these places. They would come, 100%,” said Pendergrass.

“My son’s little all-star team had just come out of Minden, they made the World Series in Laurel, Mississippi. The World Series was in Laurel, which is about the size of Minden. We had to stay in Hattiesburg, and Laurel’s got way more places to stay than Minden does. That was about a \$3000 ordeal, and that was one family, and we’re talking about 500 families in the area, for one weekend.

“This is real, there is merit to this, and we do not have enough hotels, restaurants, and gas stations to accommodate what this would call to our

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WPSB

Webster Parish School Board tables controversial sick leave policy for further review

WILL PHILLIPS
Minden Press-Herald

Forethought Consulting presented several policy proposals to the Webster Parish School Board for consideration. Out of more than twenty policies, the school board approved all but one, tabling the policy related to employee sick leave and the school system’s sick leave bank.

The proposed policy would require employees to have more than fifty sick days in order to donate their sick days to other employees.

“This policy, as it stands and as it’s written, does not reflect the values of Webster Parish. It imposes limitations on how employees can use their sick leave,” said Bernard Friday, who represents the Webster Federation of Teachers and School Employees. “Forethought brought this policy to you all, as well as to many other

districts. It’s up to you, along with your lawyers, to tailor it to your needs. It could be a better policy that addresses the needs of your people.”

School Board Attorney Jon Guice provided perspective on the policy, explaining that its intent was to encourage employees to save their sick days and avoid donating them until they have enough to sustain themselves.

“Somewhere in the middle is probably where we’ll end up. The concern is that if employees start giving away their sick leave days, they may deplete their own balance and leave themselves without support when they need it. Then they’ll have to rely on the sick leave bank. The goal is to find a balance where employees protect themselves as well,” said Guice.

Business Director for the school board, Crevonne Odom, also shared her thoughts on

the policy, noting that it would help prevent employees from feeling coerced into donating their sick days to others.

“A lot of times, people are coerced or pressured into giving up their days for others, and then they’re left without enough to cover themselves if something happens. The thought process was that if you have fifty or more days, you can donate. But if you have fewer than fifty days, sound judgment would suggest keeping those days for yourself,” said Odom. “Fifty days can go very, very quickly when you’re dealing with recuperation or rehabilitation, which can last anywhere from six to eight weeks.”

Ultimately, the board decided to table the matter for further discussion. It’s likely that the policy will be revised and reintroduced at the next school board meeting.

Minden Press-Herald

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WEBSTER & MORE

EMPLOYEE OF THE MONTH

WPSB Employee of the Month: Ametrica Jones

WILL PHILLIPS

Minden Press-Herald

The recipient of the Employee of the Month for the Webster Parish School Board during their monthly meeting for December was Ametrica Jones, a teacher at North Webster Upper Elementary School. The award was presented by Kevin

Thompson of Taylor and Sons. “Mrs. Jones always goes above and beyond for her students and coworkers. She always takes the initiative by finding fun and creative ways to promote a positive learning environment, one example is her Wacky Wednesday,” said Thompson.

“I view Mrs. Jones as my mentor. She played an important role in welcoming me and guiding me into the teacher I am today. She is one of the most organized and hard-working people I know. She shows acts of kindness to teachers by giving small gifts to remind them they are very important.”



NLTCC

Graduates shine at NLTCC's second Power Line Worker Rodeo

Special to the Minden Press-Herald

Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College (NLTCC) held its second Power Line Worker Rodeo on December 12, 2024, at the Shreveport campus. The event highlighted the skills of the graduating line worker students, giving them a platform to showcase what they've learned throughout the program. During the rodeo, students demonstrated a bell change out, switch change out, pin change out, and participated in a timed Hurtman Rescue race. The graduating class includes Brad Branch, Tyler Moore, Noah Wilson, Kerry Alex, Zack White, Karson Hartsell, and Aaron Sawangsri. Led by James Barlow, an instructor and AEP SWEPCO alumni, the Power Line Worker Program at NLTCC equips students with technical skills while fostering a strong sense of responsibility and community service. Through hands-on training and immersive learning experiences, students develop the confidence and competence required to excel in the demanding profession of linework. Students in the

program earn a number of credentials, including their Class A CDL (Commercial Driver's License) and CPR certification. “Our program is all about putting the skills and the certifications within reach of Ark-La-Tex students to enhance their overall employability and ensure they are job ready,” said Dr. Jayda Spillers, NLTCC Chancellor. “We believe we have the opportunity to deliver a program that meets the needs of our local residents and employers.” The next class for the Power Line Worker program begins in August 2025. Entrance requirements include being 18 years old, having a current driver's license, undergoing a DOT physical, having a high school diploma or equivalent, and not fearing working at high elevations. Additionally, applicants must pass a DOT drug screen, with associated costs covered by the student. For more information, visit nltcc.edu. NLTCC is proud to be the only provider of line worker training in Northwest Louisiana, offering a pathway to a rewarding career in this vital industry.



COMMUNITY

DAR introduces six new members

Special to the Minden Press-Herald

The Dorcheat-Bistineau Chapter DAR met on November 2 at the Webster Parish Library. Hostesses for this month's meeting were Cindy Madden, Caldwell Colvin, and Nancy Procell. Six new members were introduced to our chapter. Julia Allen: her patriot ancestor is Corporal John Gill, who was born in 1754 in Craven Co, South Carolina. He served in the South Carolina Militia in Col. William Thompson's 3rd Regiment in 1778. He died in 1828 in Lawrence Co, Mississippi. Samantha Lewis and her daughter Brianna Schumacher: their patriot ancestor is Capt. John Willey, who was born on Oct 11, 1732 in Hartford Co, Connecticut. During the Revolution, he served as a Captain in Col. Joseph Spencer's Regiment during the Lexington Alarm. The Lexington Alarm was an urgent call to arms that spread throughout the colonies on April 19, 1775, signaling the start of the

Revolutionary War. Shannon McFate: her patriot ancestor is Aaron Vincent, who was born around 1747 in North Carolina. During the Revolution, he served as a Constable and Justice of the Peace in Johnston County, North Carolina, and he registered for military service in 1781. He died in Johnston County in 1791. Susie Reynolds: her patriot ancestor is Jeremiah York, who was born June 22, 1762 in Virginia. In his Revolutionary War pension application, he stated that he joined the army in 1780 and was stationed at Fort Pitt, which is now Pittsburgh. He served as a Private in Capt. Uriah Springer's 8th Regiment of the Continental Line. Jeremiah died on September 10, 1835 in Perry County, Indiana. Tammy Trainor: her patriot ancestor is Abraham Southard, who was born on August 5, 1758 in New Jersey. He served during the Revolution as a Private in Captain Mott's 3rd Battalion in the Continental Line. Captain Mott's

battalion was involved in various actions, including harassing British forces during British foraging expeditions in New Jersey. Abraham died at the age of 96 in Ohio. The new members were presented by Chapter Registrar and Historian Donna Sutton, and were given the Oath of Membership by Chapter Chaplain Kathy Johnson. Each new member was presented with a gift bag. After the ceremony, Chapter Regent Cindy Madden gave a presentation to show new members how to access and use the DAR national website. Because DAR is a service organization, it is important for members to log their monthly volunteer service hours. The website also has a genealogy section with a wealth of records and information including genealogy instructional videos called Genie Clips, copies of members' Bible records, transcribed Revolutionary War records, and proven lineages to Revolutionary War patriots.

CRIME

Texas women arrested for cruelty to juveniles

STAFF REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

Officers from the Minden Police Department were dispatched in reference to a disturbance that was reported in the 800 block of Center Street. Once officers arrived on the scene, they made contact with Theresa Muse. “Muse stated her and her daughter ... got into an argument and fell and

hit her head on the table. Muse stated she held (her daughter) and tried to calm her down,” the booking report stated. Police noted in the arrest report that Muse had evidence of multiple defensive wounds on her, including scratch marks on her chest, a red scratch on her head, and her nose was red and purple like she had been hit in the nose.

The daughter later gave officers a different perspective on the event, stating, “her and T. Muse got into an argument. (The daughter stated that T. Muse slapped her and she fell and hit the table.” Muse was arrested on charges of cruelty to juveniles and transported to the Minden Police Department while awaiting transportation to the BDCC.

EMPLOYMENT TYPE:
PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE /
CAREGIVER

JOB HOUR PER DAY: 5 HOURS
SALARY: \$30.00 PER HOUR.
WORKING HOURS : DAYS FLEXIBLE
DUTIES: Medication reminders,
Maybe a meal prep,
Some Light House Cleaning,
Personal Care and Transfers.

CONCERNED JOB-SEEKER SHOULD
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(perezwsalgado@gmail.com)

WEBSTER & MORE

OBITUARIES



Digna Castro

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Digna Castro, a beloved sister, mother, grandmother, and friend. Digna entered into rest peacefully, surrounded by love, on December 9th, 2024, leaving behind a legacy of kindness, strength, and unwavering devotion to her family.

Born on October 19th, 1945, Digna was a beacon of love, wisdom, and generosity to all who knew and loved her. She is survived by her three siblings, Esther Castro, Chithim (Tina) Maldonado, and Gloria Castro, her four children, Diana Ortiz, Doris Margarita Ortiz (Crespo), Elizabeth Toledo (Laput), and Alberto Sanchez, and her twelve grandchildren, twenty great grandchildren, and one great-great grandchild. They will all carry for-

ward her lessons of compassion, resilience, and the importance of family.

Digna's life was defined by her generosity, warmth, and her famously sharp mind. Whether through her encouraging words, loving presence, or the countless moments she dedicated to her loved ones, she touched the lives of many. Her strength in the face of life's challenges was an inspiration to everyone around her.

Her memory will continue to live on in the hearts and minds of her siblings, children, grandchildren, and the abundant friends and family members who were fortunate to know her.

Digna was mourned privately by her immediate family as she wished. Friends and family are encouraged to honor her memory and find comfort by sharing the stories of her various adventures, life lessons, and the enduring bonds she created among those whom she knew and loved.

Long will you be loved and remembered, Digna Castro.

WPPJ

WPPJ approves 2025 budget, discusses constitutional amendment impacts

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

The Webster Parish Police Jury (WPPJ) held its regular meeting on December 3 at the Courthouse Annex. Board members Beverly Kennon, Allen Gilbert, and Adam Lee were absent, and all agenda items were approved unanimously. The meeting began with a public hearing to invite comments on the proposed 2025 budget. No comments were offered, and the budget, along with accompanying notes, was approved following the routine approval of invoices and committee reports.

The jury made several appointments and reappointments during the meeting. Melinda Davidson was approved as director of the WPPJ Office of Community Services for 2025 and granted signature authorization on behalf of the organization. Mickey Chandler was appointed to serve a two-year term on the board of Webster Parish Fire District #7, with the term expiring December 31, 2026. Sara McDaniel,

Kyle Robertson, and Rachel Longfellow Miller were appointed to two-year terms on the Webster Parish Convention & Visitors Commission board, starting January 1, 2025.

Reappointments included Lisa C. Balkom, Jim Bonsall, and Col. Carl Thompson to one-year terms on the Pine Country Education District board. Brian Williams and Tynesa Grigsby were reappointed to four-year terms on the Webster Parish Communications District board. Linda Watson was reappointed to the Webster Parish Library board for a five-year term, and Nancy Hines was appointed to replace Jim Bonsall on the same board.

In other business, the jury approved Resolution 008-2024 to call for an election in Fire Protection District No. 2 (Sibley) on March 29, 2025. This election will allow voters to decide on the renewal of a special tax.

Several community leaders shared updates on local developments. Groundbreaking has begun for a new library in

Doyline, while the 911 dispatch center has reported an increase in hangup calls. The assessor's office is busy managing property tax collections ahead of the end of the year. Shakra Williams from the LSU Ag/Extension Office announced several upcoming activities, including a gingerbread decorating event on December 18. The office is also accepting applications for paid summer internships, with a March 7, 2025 deadline. Other opportunities include an open position for a SNAP Ed instructor and new participants for the Master Gardeners program.

State Senator Adam Bass addressed the jury to share updates from the recent legislative special session. He noted that a proposed constitutional amendment, set for a March 2025 vote, could provide financial benefits to Webster Parish. If passed, the amendment would include permanent pay raises for teachers of up to \$2,000 and double the standard deduction for seniors to \$12,000. Other changes would in-

clude the removal of the franchise tax, a reduction of personal income tax to 3%, a corporate income tax rate of 5.5%, and an increase in sales tax to 5%. Bass highlighted the amendment's provisions for severance tax revenue, which would uncup funds for entities like the Webster Parish Police Jury.

A key element of the amendment involves lithium deposits recently discovered in the parish. Under the proposed changes, the revenue split from these deposits would shift from 80/20 in favor of the state to an even 50/50 split, with potential for significant local revenue. Bass emphasized his commitment to localized government, stating, "My goal is to make government more localized, and I think that, the smaller that we get, the more those needs are not only known but oftentimes met."

The WPPJ meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:30 AM in the Courthouse Annex located at 401 Main Street. The public is encouraged to attend.

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SPORTS

Continued from Page 1
town currently."

This led the conversation into how the development of a tourism-focused sports facility could be a driving force to inspire other developments to take place locally. The idea was that, if businesses knew that Minden would see high turnouts for their tournaments, they would be more likely to develop more businesses like hotels, restaurants, gas stations, etc.

"Development needs a catalyst. Development doesn't just happen. There has to be a reason for a hotel. There are very few things outside of building an amusement park or a water park that are going to bring in more visitors and have more economic impact than sports, especially youth sports," said Boudrie. "Once that catalyst is activated, that's going to lead to that secondary development, along the service road."

"More importantly, it's going to support the local businesses that are already there. When you have a couple hundred thousand people coming and staying in the region, that's more money coming into the region in local businesses and national businesses, and everything from a Starbucks to a sporting goods store that now wants to be located there."

Making the necessary renovations to the REC Center wouldn't come

cheap, with ballpark estimations of the cost adding up to \$15 million. However, Boudrie was confident that the revenue generated would be able to offset this cost and even lead to Minden seeing a return on their investment within the first year.

"What this financial model for operations tells us is that the facility revenue can support the facility's operating expenses," said Bourdrie. "So we're not in a situation where expenses, like it currently is, exceed revenue, because it's more of a public amenity and the city is subsidizing those operating expenses to cover the loss."

"By renovating the fields and bringing in these tournaments, we can produce positive cash flow from operations, and return some of this cash flow to the city."

Not even considering the additional taxes that are coming into Minden because of the spending, we get to about \$1.1 million in available revenue. The debt service on that amount is about \$750,000 which, if you do that math, will return about \$350,000 to the city in the first year.

The council found the presentation from Boudrie to be promising, and while nothing is set in stone as of yet, they did agree to further discuss the prospect after Synergy Sports works on a more detailed official proposal in the near future.

CHRISTMAS

Continued from Page 1
Holiday Trail of Lights
Hayride, which welcomed
about 550 riders from
Minden and beyond, and
a fireworks display light-

ing up the sky.
Saturday's activities
continued with a Festive Christmas Brunch at
Geaux Fresh, a Kids Hot
Chocolate Bar at First

Methodist Church, photos with Santa & Mrs.
Claus at Shug's Minden,
and ornament crafting
at the Dorcheat Museum. The Christmas Pa-

rade, themed "Candyland Christmas," wound
through downtown, concluding with the parade
awards.
On Sunday, the week-

end wrapped up with the
Christmas Tour of Homes,
offering attendees a
glimpse of the season's
spirit through beautifully
decorated residences.

Minden's resilience
and holiday spirit shone
brightly throughout
the weekend, ensuring
Christmas in Minden
2024 was a festive success.

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MINDEN PRESS-HERALD
covering local...
Obituaries

John F. Kennedy
John F. Kennedy of Brookline, Massachusetts. Services were held at Cathedral of St. Matthew (the Apostles), 1725 Rhode Island Avenue NW, Washington DC on November 25, 1963 at 11:00 a.m. Interment was at Arlington Memorial Cemetery.

Richard Belzer
Richard Belzer, the longtime stand-up comedian who became one of TV's most intelligible stars and "Law & Order" star, died at his home in Reservoir-sur-Mer, in France, on August 5, 1992, at the age of 59.

Marilyn Monroe
Marilyn Monroe was born Norma Jean Mortenson on June 1, 1918, in West Covina, California. She died on August 5, 1962, at the age of 34, in her hotel room in Paris, France.

Abraham Lincoln
Abraham Lincoln was born February 12, 1809, in Hardin County, Kentucky. He was the 16th President of the United States, serving from March 4, 1861, to April 4, 1865. He was assassinated on April 4, 1865, at the end of the Civil War. Lincoln was shot and killed by John Wilkes Booth at Ford's Theatre in Washington, D.C.

MINDEN PRESS-HERALD
covering the...
Daily Report

Minden man arrested on drug charges
By Minden Press-Herald - Feb 20, 2023

A Minden man was arrested on drug charges after a Minden police officer spotted the man's erratic driving.

Jakoren Jones, 28, of the 600 block of Goodwill Street was initially seen running the stop sign at Pershing and East Street.

"I observed a silver Ford Fusion run the stop sign at Pershing and East Street," the officer reported. "The car struggled to maintain its lane and

OPINION

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OPINION

Foresight of Gov. Kathleen Blanco Leads to Meta/Facebook Facility

I was thrilled to read that Meta (Facebook) had selected Holly Ridge in Richland Parish (near Monroe, Louisiana) as the site of its planned \$10 billion Artificial Intelligence data center. Governor Jeff Landry stated that “this investment is a game changer for our state.” He further noted “this project is expected to be the largest private capital investment in the state’s history.” Wow!

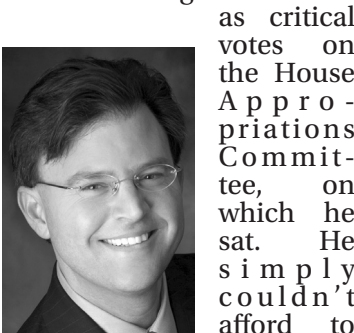
However, this tremendous success is nearly two decades in the making.

In 2006, I was serving in D.C. as Chief of Staff for U.S. Congressman Rodney Alexander (no relation). One of the many projects Congressman Alexander was working on was assisting Governor Kathleen Blanco with preparing the Holly Ridge, Louisiana mega site location in Congressman Alexander’s 5th Congressional District.

The late Governor Blanco recognized early on that this large piece of land, situated as it was on Interstate 20 and within the proximity of Interstate 49 in Shreveport, could provide an ideal location for some major industry. So, Gov. Blanco pushed her Department of Economic Development to focus on getting the land certified as “site ready.” She then sought potential suitors and led an economic development trip to Asia for that purpose. (During her tenure, one of Gov. Blanco’s

signature achievements was landing Union Tank Car Co. in Alexandria, LA, also in Congressman Alexander’s congressional district).

Governor Blanco invited Congressman Alexander to accompany her on the Asia trip, but he was unable to do so due to several major votes in Congress as well



ROYAL ALEXANDER

as critical votes on the House Appropriations Committee, on which he sat. He simply couldn’t afford to be away. So, I volunteered

to travel with Governor Blanco in support of the 5th Congressional District.

What a trip.

One event involved Governor Blanco and our group meeting with the Vice President of Toyota Motor Company. I remember being briefed on the way over that the Japanese people are a shy, highly respectful people and not to be loud or overly expressive in the typical American and Louisiana way! However, Coach Raymond Blanco, the Governor’s husband, departed our plane and immediately provided a bear hug to the leader of the greeting party at the airport who seemed at first

taken aback but then smiled warmly. I got the feeling we were not the first Americans who had not adhered to the “hands off” protocol.

Toyota appeared genuinely receptive to our pitch and had a number of questions for Gov. Blanco and her economic development team, headed by Michael Olivier, who was well prepared. I remember my one utterance was to tell the VP of Toyota that “there really is no place as special as Louisiana and no potential plant site as promising for Toyota as our Holly Ridge site.” (I also note the years of lobbying by economic developer, Tana Trichel, to bring this project to fruition).

Next, we headed to Beijing, China. I noticed that the moment we had gotten into Chinese air space all our phones and electronic devices said “China” on them. I realized that our devices were likely being monitored by the Chinese communist government.

In Beijing, we toured several major industries. I was reminded that in a communist country there is no need for permits, environmental impact statements or any other delays. Once the government decided a project was needed, it was undertaken and completed. One evening we were invited to a formal dinner. I sat down and looked around. It struck me that I had never before, and likely never would

again, eat dinner in a room full of communists. It was surreal. I remember Gov. Blanco and her staff enthusiastically pitching, through interpreters, Louisiana generally and our mega site location specifically.

Gov. Blanco emphasized that Louisiana would be a great business partner and would offer very competitive economic incentives to Chinese companies that located to Louisiana. I felt the Chinese leadership at the table were listening closely.

Returning home, I was hopeful about the prospect of Asian investment in Louisiana, and especially at the Holly Ridge site. That didn’t happen at that time but the extensive preparation that went into getting the property “site ready” is what made this decision possible by Meta. Without the foresight of Governor Blanco and the unconditional support of Congressman Alexander, this decision by Meta could not have occurred.

I also salute Governor Landry and his staff for doing the work necessary to cross the finish line of this unprecedented economic victory for Louisiana.

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

Christmas Evokes Memories From 1955

Christmas evokes many memories because children thrive on make believe, knowing Santa Claus will come whether they have reason to believe in him or not.. (In 1975 when we lived near Cleveland, Ark., our two older children remember the night that they heard sleigh bells ringing, not knowing it was me pulling out toys from under the house near the spot where the old whiskey still once stood. I was eight months pregnant at the time)

As a child I believed in Santa Claus even though we were told he didn’t exist. One time I crept outside and placed a paper grocery bag on the porch, knowing he dared not step inside. Even though it remained empty I continued to believe.

One of my sweetest Christmas memories occurred in 1955 when I was in the first grade. There were two little girls, Marilyn and Blythe Epperly. Their parents owned an IGA country store in South West City, Mo., They lived over the store as was the custom years ago.

The girls came with their mom to our house with two

dolls for my sister and myself. Those gifts planted wonder that led me to locate Marilyn and Blythe fifty years later because they moved back to Nashville,

Tennessee, on Marilyn’s eighth birthday in 1956.

Being a sleuth, I had little trouble finding them because I remembered their father’s name from so many years ago.

To my surprise, she and her younger sister Blythe remembered the gifts that their mother brought to us. I assumed the dolls were from their store — not so. Marilyn explained that their parents felt that they had received too many gifts from family members and requested the girls choose a doll to give to us because they sensed our need. She went on to say that the reason their family moved was they could barely make a

living in our rural area so they understood what doing without might mean.

What a sweet ending to the story as we rekindled childhood friendships. Marilyn added with fondness then that she fantasized running away to come back to see her friends as she watched her baby sister LuEllen sleeping on the back seat of the car in a baby bed inside a huge Jello box from their country store but Marilyn soon learned that God had a hand in their move because their mom had emergency heart surgery that could never have been performed in our rural area.

One of the best gifts we can give others as well as ourselves may be listening with the heart, of loving another unconditionally and without judgment. Some friendships come easily because we are magnetically drawn to others as we find soul mates and kindred spirits but sometimes friendships require courage, of making the first move, of picking up the phone to call, to extend oneself as we make ourselves vulnerable but the price is worth the effort because life would be dull with-

out friends who know who we really are.

Having lost close friends I’m reminded that this life is not forever and that if we want to do something for a friend or relative we better do it now lest we live in regret of wasted opportunities -- besides we just can’t have too many friends whether they are older or younger than ourselves.

We can never replace departed friends but life can still be beautiful as we respond to friends God places within our paths.

The Bible still says “as iron sharpens iron so a man’s countenance sharpens his friends countenance.”

Friends add a glow to our face and put a sparkle to our eyes.

One dear departed friend, Joyce Duke Moore, quoted an unknown source who wrote “our friends help us test the water.”

Luciano De Crescenzo wrote “we are angels with only one wing and we can only fly embracing each other.”

CONTACT SARAH AT SARAH@AOL.COM

203 GLEASON STREET

A Season of Presence: Embracing the Magic of Christmas

As we approach Christmas, the final days leading up to the holiday are often filled with a whirlwind of activities. We rush to finish shopping, wrap gifts, prepare meals, and attend gatherings. But in the midst of all this hustle, it’s easy to lose sight of what truly matters—the time spent with our loved ones and the deeper meaning of the season.

This week, I want to encourage everyone to be fully present with their families. It’s easy to get caught up in the stress of the holidays, feeling the pressure to make everything

perfect. But let’s remember, Christmas isn’t about perfectly wrapped presents or flawlessly executed meals—it’s about love, connection, and celebrating the gift of Christ’s birth.

The magic of Christmas is found in the simple moments: the laughter shared around the table, the joy of seeing a child’s face light up when they open a gift, and the quiet

moments spent together reflecting on the year gone by. These are the moments that fill our hearts with warmth and gratitude. It’s easy to forget, amid the whirlwind of preparation, that the beauty of Christmas lies not in what we do, but in who we’re with and what we share.

At the heart of Christmas is the birth of Jesus, the ultimate gift of love and hope for the world. As we celebrate His arrival, let’s pause and reflect on what that means for us. Jesus’ birth reminds us of the importance of humility, compassion, and grace. It

reminds us that the most precious gifts in life—love, family, and faith—are free and everlasting. When we keep this perspective, it becomes easier to let go of the stress and distractions that can cloud our holiday season.

This Christmas, I encourage you to slow down and truly savor the moments. Let the magic of the season remind you of what’s truly important. Whether you’re surrounded by family, friends, or enjoying quiet moments alone, take time to appreciate the present. As we reflect on the birth of Je-

sus, let it be a reminder to cherish the blessings we have, to love one another well, and to share the spirit of Christmas with those around us.

Wishing you a season of peace, love, and joy. May you find the true magic of Christmas in the moments spent with those you love and in the heart of the season itself.

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



DAVID SPECHT

SPORTS

Russell Hedges, Sports Editor
rhedges@spechtnewspapers.com

HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL

Minden Holiday Classic set to begin
24 teams to vie for titles in 33rd annual tournament

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

The 33rd annual Brown Service Center Minden Holiday Classic gets underway Wednesday.

The tournament features 12 boys and 12 girls teams. Games will be played at Minden High, the Minden Rec Center and Webster Junior High. Friday's winners' bracket semifinals and Saturday's consolation finals and championship games will all be played at Minden High.

There will be a new champion in the boys division. Calvary Baptist defeated Ringgold 52-43 in last year's title game.

Neither are in this year's field.

Minden, which is off to a 7-0 start, is a favorite. The Crimson Tide take on Jonesboro-Hodge (2-6) Wednesday at 8 p.m. with the winner advancing to the semifinals.

Lakeside (1-5), Arcadia (1-2), Homer (2-0) and Northwood (4-7) are in the top half of the bracket with Minden.

Parkway (6-5) and Lincoln Prep (6-2) are threats to reach the championship game.

Gibbsland-Coleman (9-3), which has lost to Minden twice, is another team to watch in the bottom half of the bracket which also includes Loyola (3-5), Green Oaks (7-5) and Camden Fairview, Ark. (7-3).

Minden defeated Camden Fairview 62-35 in the championship game of the Don Stahl Memorial Tournament on Nov. 23 at Lakeside.

Arcadia, which won the non-select Division IV state title last season, is back to defend its girls championship. The Lady Hornets defeated Minden 50-33 in last year's title game.

Arcadia is 9-3. One of its losses was to Camden Fairview 37-35 in the championship game of the Don Stahl Memorial Tournament.

The Lady Hornets face Simsboro (7-7) Wednesday at 4 p.m. with the winner advancing to the semifinals.

If Arcadia wins, the Lady Hornets could get a rematch with Camden Fairview (10-3).

The Lady Bulldogs take on Gibbsland-Coleman (7-6) in the first round. The winner faces the winner between North Caddo (1-4) and Green Oaks (1-8) in the quarterfinals.

Minden (5-4) plays Jonesboro-Hodge (4-5) Wednesday at 6:40 with the winner advancing to the semifinals.

Lakeside (1-7), Loyola (0-7), Mansfield (3-7) and Homer (2-4) are also in the top half of the bracket.

Note: Records are through Sunday.

Wednesday's games	
AT MINDEN HIGH	
Arcadia vs. Simsboro (girls), 4	
Parkway vs. Loyola (boys), 5:20	
Minden vs. Jonesboro-Hodge (girls), 6:40	
Minden vs. Jonesboro-Hodge (boys), 8	
AT MINDEN REC CENTER	
Mansfield vs. Homer (girls), 4	
Homer vs. Northwood (boys), 5:20	
Lakeside vs. Loyola (girls), 6:40	
Lakeside vs. Arcadia (boys), 8	
AT WEBSTER JUNIOR HIGH	
North Caddo vs. Green Oaks (girls), 4	
Camden vs. Green Oaks (boys), 5:20	
Camden vs. Gibbsland-Coleman (girls), 6:40	
Lincoln Prep vs. Gibbsland-Coleman (boys), 8	

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Glenbrook looking for new head coach

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Glenbrook Head Coach Reagan Smith has stepped down last week after two seasons.

Glenbrook Athletic Director James Thurman made the announcement last week on the Glenbrook School Facebook page.

Smith's record was 14-7. The Apaches went 8-3 in 2023 and 6-4 in 2024.

Glenbrook made the playoffs both seasons, falling in the second round in 2023 and first last season.

The Apaches finished tied for second in District 1-1A this season behind undefeated Haynesville, which fell to South Plaquemine in the non-select Division IV championship game.

"Coaching at Glenbrook and working with these great kids has been incredibly rewarding. I'll always be proud of our two years of winning records," Smith wrote in a Facebook post. "I'll also enjoy keeping track of the team in years to come. As for me, I'm very excited for what's next!"



Reagan Smith stepped down last week after two seasons as head coach at Glenbrook.

Smith replaced David Feaster following the first season Glenbrook was eligible for the playoffs.

"Glenbrook School is officially beginning the search for a new head coach to lead its football program into the 2025 season," Thurman wrote in his announcement. "After thoughtful discussions, Coach Reagan Smith and Glenbrook have mutually agreed to part ways. We are grateful for Coach Smith's contributions to our program and wish him the very best in his future endeavors."

"With this transition, Glenbrook is looking for a passionate and experienced leader to continue building on the foundation of success and excellence within our football program."

Thurman is accepting applications for head coach.

"Anyone interested in applying is encouraged to reach out directly via email at jthurman@glenbrook-school.com," he wrote.

"We are excited about the future of Glenbrook Football and look forward to finding the next great leader for our Apaches."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Louisiana Tech to play in I-Bowl

STAFF REPORTS
Minden Press-Herald

The Louisiana Tech Bulldogs have replaced Marshall in the 2024 Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl.

Tech (5-7) will face Army West Point (11-2) in the game set for Dec. 28 at 8:15 p.m. on ESPN.

Sun Belt Conference champion Marshall was announced as Army West Point's opponent on Dec. 8.

That same day, then Marshall head coach Charles Huff was announced as the new head coach at Southern Miss.

Soon after that Marshall players began entering the transfer portal. As of Sunday, more than 30 had done so, according to media reports.

Last Saturday, Marshall announced it was opting not to play in the bowl game because of player unavailability.

Louisiana Tech finished fifth in Conference USA. The Bulldogs lost three games in overtime. All seven losses were by 10 points or less.

Tech put itself in this position by winning two of its last three games, a 12-7 upset victory at WKU and a 33-0 shutout win against Kennesaw State in the regular season finale.

"We are excited to accept the opportunity to play in the Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl against a fantastic and storied program as Army," Vice President and Director of Athletics Ryan Ivey said.

"I believe our football program is moving toward positive structure and the opportunity to play in this bowl adds to that momentum. We are looking forward to being in Shreveport for this matchup."

The Bulldogs will be going bowling for the first time since 2020.

OUTDOORS

Winter weather means bird feeding time

GLYNN HARRIS

The weather is starting to turn cold, skies are gray and we're finding ourselves looking for a warm fire and a good meal. There's nothing like settling down in front of the fireplace in a favorite recliner with a hot cup of coffee or hot chocolate to take the edge off the weather.

While you're sitting in that recliner by the fire, take a peek outside towards your back yard. Chances are, you'll see a kaleidoscope of flitting color as songbirds scratch and hurry about looking for something to sustain them during this cold weather. Birds are adaptable little creatures. They can usually scratch out enough bugs and seeds to keep their little heaters going. However, when there is snow or ice on the ground, or when it's extremely cold, grubbing out a meal can be quite a task.

If you do not regularly feed birds in winter, this would be a good time for you to consider starting it. All I have to do to know that this is a welcomed practice is to glance outside my office window to the feeders I keep filled. The colder it gets, the more birds flock to it and demonstrate just how thankful they are to be fed.

This time of year, I can count several species of birds that I can identify that help themselves to the black oil sunflower seed and bird seed mix I put out for them. The most obvious ones are those with the most color. Male Cardinals, in brilliant red plumage, for instance, are easiest to spot. Some years, the cardinals stay in the woods until late



Male cardinals are among the most colorful birds that visit your feeders in cold weather."

winter because of an abundance of wild food but in other years, they can be all over my feeders.

I asked someone once what species of birds they had visiting their feeders and the answer was not unexpected..."Lots of brown ones", was the reply.

Most of the birds that visit my feeder are "brown" ones, but they are of several species. For example, I see several species of sparrows with the chipping sparrow being the most predominant. There are white-throated sparrows, and when the weather gets real cold, sometimes fox sparrows visit. Among the "brown" birds on my feeders now are birds that won't be brown once springtime arrives. Goldfinches are rather drab in appearance this time of year but once they get ready to head for northern breeding grounds, their brilliant yellow color will catch your eye.

Another small dark colored bird around the feeder is one I knew as "snow bird" when I was a youngster. I know them today as juncos with black backs and bibs and white underparts.

I see chickadees, titmice, mourning doves and an occasional nuthatch. Red bellied woodpeckers and downy woodpeckers visit along with the ever-present and loud-mouthed bluejays.

One species of bird I'll be looking for if we get snow is the rufous-sided towhee, a bird I've seen a lot of in winter but not in my yard. While sitting on deer stands near dense thickets, these shy black, white and chestnut-colored birds often flit in and out of the foliage.

Setting up feeding stations is an easy task. The most obvious method is to use commercial bird feeders. However, most types

Fishing Report

BLACK BAYOU – No report. Contact Honey Hole Tackle Shop 323-8707 for latest information.

BUSSEY BRAKE – Bass fishing is best flipping soft plastics along the wind rows and tree lines. With water temperatures falling, best to slow down retrieve. Some nice sized crappie are hitting shiners and jigs around deep brush along the flats. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole at 323-8707.

OUACHITA RIVER – The river is still low. Very few are trying the fish so reports this week are spotty. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE D'ARBONNE – The lake is down 5 feet with draw-down continued another 15 days or so. Crappie are starting to bunch up and cold weather should put them in bunches. Some are caught along the stump lines on shiners and jigs. Bass fishing has been best fishing the points with soft plastics or crank baits. Bream are slow; catfishing good off the banks. For latest information, call Anderson Sport Center at 368-9669 or Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE CLAIBORNE – Crappie fishing has been good

with some slabs caught fishing shiners or jigs around the deep tops. With the water cooling down, bass will be best fishing the docks with Carolina rigs, square bill crank baits and Shaky Heads. Bream are slow. For latest information, call Kel's Cove at 927-2264 or Terzia Tackle at 278-4498.

CANEY LAKE – Crappie fishing has been good with some slabs caught fishing shiners or jigs around the deeper tops. Bass are best fishing topwater lures and buzz baits early around the grass lines. Bass fishing has been best fishing secondary points on soft plastics and crank baits. For information contact Caney Lake Landing at 259-6649, Hooks Marina at 249-2347, Terzia Tackle at 278-4498 or the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE POVERTY POINT – Crappie have improved on both ends of the lake. Catfishing is good. No report on Bass. For information, contact the marina at 318/878-0101.

LAKE YUCATAN – The water is on a slow fall and fishing has been slow this week except for commercial fishermen who are catching lots of carp, buffalo and catfish in their nets. For info call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.

Good News

GOOD NEWS

Christmas--Anticipation, Hope, Peace, Joy and Celebrations

Remember those l-o-n-g days of December as a child, thinking Christmas would never arrive? Each evening ended with a long ‘thumbing through the Sear’s Wish Book.’ Each day was crowded with thoughts of ‘the wonders of Christmas’ through the eyes of a child! Anticipation for the Big Day! It is the same today for small children! December 1,2,3,4 and on.... soon the days begin to stack up and we all realize “Christmas is almost here”! Well, the Advent Season brings the believer back to that point of anticipation. The emphasis is on the “Coming of the Messiah,” not the childish thoughts of gifts that might be given. We must still live with anticipation!

Teachings of Old Testament prophets brought great anticipation of the coming Messiah. “Today, tomorrow? Then when?” The prophets called God’s children to live with the expectant hope that it might be anytime. Of course, we are reminded, too, “in the fullness of time (when God decided), Christ came.” God broke into history with such a force the world has never been the same. We must live with expectant hope, as well!

When we think of Christmas and all the happenings that surrounded the blessed birth of Jesus, there were few people living with the hope and joy that each new day may bring the Promised Messiah to mankind. Life, as history tells us, was very hard; difficult at best. Especially in the

area around Jerusalem and Bethlehem! Scripture tells us, “the people were groping in darkness; like sheep they just wandered around going their own way.”

Gloom filled the air just as it had for years. Roman soldiers and officials were everywhere. Religious leaders and scribes had tight control on Jewish life. The Mosaic Law had been defined and redefined to the point that “true worship” was a rare commodity, even among the Temple leaders. The sacrificial offerings were tainted either by intent or impure motives. It was at that time, God shouted. “It is time!” Then the Annunciation by the archangel to Mary, the Jewish maiden, came unexpectedly! “Oh, oh, what shall I do; whom shall I tell? Cousin Elizabeth! Ah, she will understand; I must go & go quickly!”

As she rushed over a distance to visit Elizabeth, Mary learned that she, too, was great with child. As they rejoiced with each other Elizabeth’s baby ‘jumped with joy within the womb’ and the Holy Spirit confirmed what was happening to each other. This was all in God’ plan - to bring forth a new revelation of Himself to man! Mary and Elizabeth were on ‘center stage’. Their sons would change the world! Anticipation, hope, joy & peace flood-

ed their hearts. Scripture tells us that Mary, after learning all these pieces of Good News, pondered them deep within her heart.

She and Joseph knew the Holy Scriptures of old; they had heard about the Coming Messiah and a ‘voice in the wilderness’ that would proclaim this blessed event! And it would be Elizabeth’s son, John the Baptizer! Now they all were in the midst of this history changing miracle. The world would never be the same; neither would Mary and Joseph!



Bill Crider

Marjorie Holmes (Two From Galilee) recreates the scene around the Jewish mindset in that period. We can better understand what was happening by knowing some cultural mores: How they would respond to all of this was po-

tentially disastrous to Joseph, Mary and their families! Try to convince a father that his young daughter had been visited by an angel and she is now pregnant, but not by man! Can’t you hear him asking his wife, “Hasn’t that Joseph been hanging around here a lot lately?” And Mary knew the punishment required by law for being pregnant and not married. But she protested; “the angel of the Lord appeared and told me not to be afraid...and that the Spirit of God would overshadow me and I would

conceive...and honestly father, that is what happened.” And somehow (God directing them no doubt) the parents understood and stood by their children. For this could have been a most damaging time for all. Doesn’t a baby change everything? Well, this One did!

God’s Word teaches ‘in the fullness of time, Christ came.’ It was the right time, with all conditions ‘just right’. When the world seemed to be at its’ lowest ebb, when mankind was at its’ worse, God chose to break through the shell of history and begin the redemption of man by sending “His only begotten Son-Jesus-as the sinless sacrifice for our sin.” And there He was lying in the manger, surrounded by the cattle driven inside for the night.

It was no antiseptic-pure stable. We all have been in the cattle barn and know the sights, sounds and smells. They were in that barn that night. A lonely girl without her mother to help ease the pain and calm the fright; A confused young man, wondering how all of this has really come about and what the future might hold for them; The cry of the babe drew their attention away from themselves and focused on Him -the babe -their baby. “And this is the Savior of the world?” they asked each other.

The shepherds soon appeared, sleepy, ragged and cautious. They had seen the

bright star; the angel had frightened them a bit there on the hillside. “Fear not for I bring you good news of great joy.(Ha, ha, ha....yeah, it must be good news...waking us like this...shining that bright light around...scaring our sheep). “Come and see the Savior, Christ the Lord. You will find Him in the stable over there, wrapped in swaddling clothes.” And so they went -across the way. In their mind, they may have only gone to ‘get a good look’. And then one exclaimed: “Look, there He is...but He looks like an ordinary baby...what’s so different that He should be called a King? He doesn’t look like a king to me!” Nevertheless, they knelt and worshiped Him before returning to their flocks.

Anticipation, Hope, Peace, Joy and now Celebration.... Christmas contains it all. Let’s make room once again for all these elements of celebrating the Birthday of our Lord. “Come to my heart Lord Jesus; there’s room in my heart for You”, the carol reads.

“No more anticipation - for You have come and brought to me great hope, joy and peace, once again - Jesus, the Messiah, My Lord!” May you have a blessed day of celebrating this Birthday of our King!

BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER

THE UPWARD LOOK

Darkness and Hope

“The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light: they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death, upon them hath the light shined.” Isaiah 9:2 KJV



Max Hutto

We are still living in a dark world filled with the shadow of death. Is there hope for a world filled with evil, hate, fear, grief, and despair? Yes, there is hope! Isaiah prophesied about a great light shining on those who have walked in darkness. We celebrate this light coming at Christmas. The light of

the world, the only hope for the world, is Jesus! It is only through Jesus who changes hearts and changes lives that evil and darkness will be changed to good and light.

Lord Jesus, help me to share Your great light, love, grace, and mercy with those in darkness. Fill my life with Your light and love!

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

INSPIRATION

Let it go

Lately, my messages have been about the holidays but I’m going to shift focus from this message. In the last year, many of us have suffered a burden and some form of loss. While these things are a fact of life, that fact never makes them any easier. We have multiple reactions to these moments, some are good some are bad but God has given us the solution to all of life’s situations. The Bible is full of unique people and unique situations and the solution was always prayer and faith. Jesus gives us this solution in Matthew 11:28-30 (NLT)28 Then Jesus said, “Come to me,




Bernard Harris

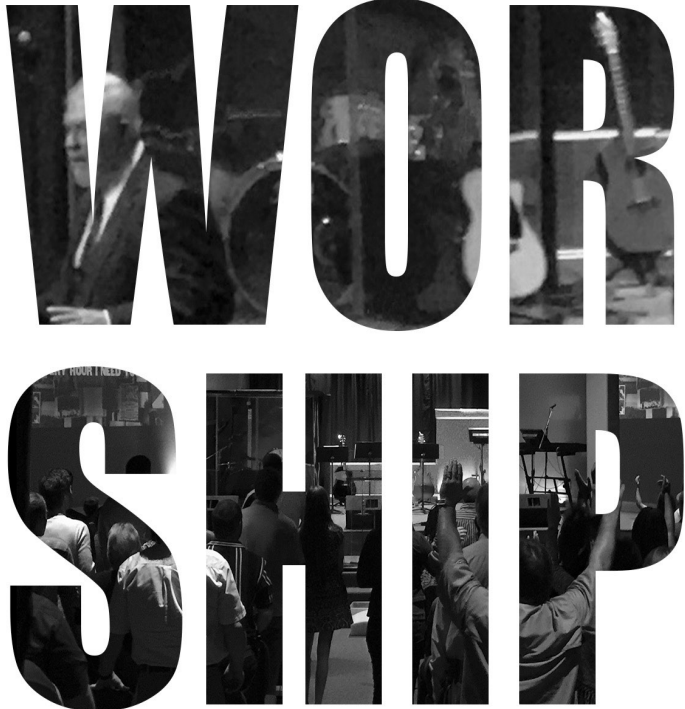
all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest. 29 Take my yoke upon you. Let me teach you because I am humble and gentle at heart, and you will find rest for your souls. 30 For my yoke is easy to bear, and the burden I give you is light.” Therefore I would like to end this message by issuing a challenge to us all. Let God be your teacher and carry your burdens so you can focus on being loved and sharing that love with the world.

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

Come

WORSHIP

FIRST
ASSEMBLY OF GOD



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

PLACE YOUR AD

classifieds@press-herald.com

Lost Puppy

Missing from downtown Minden LA.
If you find or see this puppy please ccontact
Justin Ayliffe on facebook or call
(501)213-9842



For rent 4 bedroom 1 1/2 bathrooms recently remodeled will accept section 8 tenants at 215 Pershing St. Minden, LA contact 318-843-4530.

LEGALS

Public Notice

NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY
FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRON-
MENTAL QUALITY AND DORCHEAT OIL &
GAS, LLC

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and Dorcheat Oil & Gas, LLC (Respondent), Agency Interest Number 167091, have entered into a proposed settlement agreement, Settlement Tracking No. SA-AE-24-0046, concerning the State's allegations of environmental violations by Respondent at its facility in Webster Parish, Louisiana, which allegations are set forth in Notice of Potential Penalty, Enforcement Tracking No. AE-PP-23-00799.

The Department of Environmental Quality will accept comments on the proposed settlement for the next forty-five (45) days. The public is invited and encouraged to submit written comments to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of the Secretary, Legal Division, Post Office Box 4302, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4302, Attention: Jay L. Glorioso, Attorney, All comments will be considered by the Department of Environmental Quality in reaching a decision on whether to make the settlement final.

Terms and conditions of the proposed settlement agreement may be reviewed on the Department of Environmental Quality's website at www.deq.louisiana.gov, by selecting About LDEQ, Enforcement, and Settlements. The document may also be viewed at, and copies obtained from, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Public Records Center, Room 127, Galvez Building, 602 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802. To request a copy of the proposed settlement, submit a completed Public Record Request Form (DEQ Form ISD-0005-01). The form and instructions for completion may be found on the DEQ Website at the following address: <http://deq.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/General/PublicRecordsRequestForm.pdf>, or by calling the Customer Service Center at 1-866-896-5337.

Pursuant to La. R.S. 30:2050.7(D), the Department of Environmental Quality may hold a public hearing regarding this proposed settlement when either of the following conditions are met: 1) a written request for public hearing has been filed by twenty-five (25) persons, by a governmental subdivision or agency, or by an association having not less than twenty-five (25) members who reside in the parish in which the facility is located; or 2) the secretary finds a significant degree of public interest in this settlement.

For further information, you may call the Legal Division of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality at (225) 219-3985.

December 18, 2024
Minden Press Herald

LEGAL NOTICE

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT THE WEBSTER PARISH ASSESSOR HAS COMPLIED WITH LA REVISED STATUTE 39:1306 RELATIVE TO PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN THE BUDGET PROCESS FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2025. NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION, PUBLICATION OF BUDGET SUMMARY AND PUBLIC HEARING WAS HELD IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE APPLICABLE STATUTES.

DENISE G. EDWARDS, CLA
WEBSTER PARISH ASSESSOR

AS PUBLISHED on December 18, 2024.

December 18, 2024
Minden Press Herald

Minutes

Town Of Sibley
P.O. Box 128
345 N Main Street Sibley, Louisiana 71073
Phone (318) 377-0345
Fax (318) 377-0361
MAYOR Robert Smart
TOWN CLERK Sherry McCann, LMMC
ALDERMEN Wayne Bolton Helen Chanler Richard Davis Keith Merritt Alan Myers

December 9, 2024
The Sibley Town Council met in regular session on Monday, December 9, 2024, at 6pm at Sibley Town Hall.

Members present were Mayor Robert Smart; Aldermen: Wayne Bolton, Helen Chanler, Richard Davis, Keith Merritt and Alan Myers. Mayor Smart opened the meeting in prayer; then led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Wayne Bolton motioned to adopt the minutes to the November 11, 2024. Regular Meeting as read. Helen Chanler seconded. Motion carried. No New Items were added to the agenda. There were no Public Comments.

Richard Davis motioned to go into a Public Hearing for Proposed Ordinance No. 160 titled AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF, FOR THE TOWN OF SIBLEY, LOUISIANA, AND PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY OF THE DIFFERENT SECTIONS HEREOF, AND PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL OR PARTS OF ALL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES, Keith Merritt seconded. Motion carried.

Keith Merritt motioned to exit the Public Hearing and return to the Regular Meeting, Wayne Bolton seconded. Motion carried.

Richard Davis motioned to adopt proposed Ordinance No. 160; Alan Myers seconded. Roll call vote: YEAS: 5-Wayne Bolton, Helen Chanler, Richard Davis, Keith Merritt, Alan Myers NAYS: 0

ABSTAIN: 0
Ordinance No. 160 was adopted with a unanimous vote.
ABSENT: 0

Asst. Fire Chief Richard Davis gave the November 2024 activity report for the Sibley Volunteer Fire Department.

No one was present from the Sibley Police Department for the November 2024 activity report. The Board acknowledged receipt of the November 2024 Financial Statements.

Mayor Robert Smart recognized and thanked Helen Chanler and Alan Myers for their dedicated years of service to the Town of Sibley. This institution is an equal opportunity provider and employer
Alan Myers motioned to adjourn; Helen Chanler seconded. Motion carried.
Meeting adjourned.

original signed
Robert Smart
Robert Smart Mayor
Attest:
original signed Sherry McCann
Sherry McCann Town Clerk

December 18, 2024
Minden Press Herald

TOWN OF SIBLEY ORDINANCE NO. 160

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING A POLICY FOR WATER AND WASTEWATER SERVICES AND PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION THEREOF, FOR THE TOWN OF SIBLEY, LOUISIANA AND PROVIDING FOR THE SEVERABILITY OF THE DIFFERENT SECTIONS HEREOF, AND PROVIDING FOR THE REPEAL OF ALL OR PARTS OF ALL CONFLICTING ORDINANCES
BE IT ORDAINED AND ENACTED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Town of Sibley, Louisiana in regular session duly convened herein on the 9th day of December, 2024 as follows, to-wit:

SECTION I.
The Town of Sibley, Louisiana owns the Town of Sibley Water and Wastewater System and is responsible for the management, maintenance, care and operation of the water supply and distribution under the direction and control of the Mayor and Board of Aldermen. These systems are central to human life, health and well-being.
SECTION II.
Water / Wastewater policies are essential tools to maintain consistency and control over operations, ensure compliance with laws and regulations and to streamline internal processes and set clear customer expectations and understanding. For customers, policies govern interactions and transactions and enhance accountability.

SECTION III.
The Town of Sibley Board of Alderman adopts the Town of Sibley Water / Wastewater Policy effective January 1, 2025. This policy will be available at the Sibley Town Hall during office hours and on the Town of Sibley website. This policy shall be implemented in fairness and transparency.

SECTION IV.
The Town of Sibley Water / Wastewater Policy shall be modified hereafter, without the need of an amended ordinance, by resolution of the Board of Aldermen.

SECTION V.
All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith or inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION VI.
If any provision or item of this ordinance or the application thereof is held invalid, such invalidity shall not effect any other provisions, items or applications of this ordinance, which could be given effect without the invalid provisions, items, or applications and to this end the provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared severable.

SECTION VII.
This ordinance shall become effective on January 1, 2025

Proposed Ordinance No. 160 was introduced at the November 11, 2024 Regular Meeting of the Sibley Board of Aldermen, a public notice was posed on November 12, 2024 and published in the Minden Press Herald on November 20, 2024. A Public Hearing was held on December 9, 2024 during the December Regular Meeting. Ordinance No. 160 was read, considered and adopted on December 9, 2024 upon a motion made by Richard Davis seconded by Alan Myers with the following vote:

YEAS: 5- Wayne Bolton, Helen Chanler, Richard Davis, Keith Merritt, Alany Myers NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

original signed
Robert Smart
Robert Smart Mayor
attest:
original signed
Sherry McCann
Sherry McCann Town Clerk

December 18, 2024
Minden Press Herald

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROCEEDINGS OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
OF THE WEBSTER PARISH SALES AND USE TAX COMMISSION MEETING

December 5, 2024

The Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission held a Public Hearing on the Proposed 2025 Budget at 10:00am on Thursday, December 5, 2024, at the Webster Parish Police Jury Office in Minden, Louisiana. There were no comments or concerns.

The Board of Commissioners of the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission met at the Webster Parish Police Jury Office in Minden, Louisiana, on Thursday, December 5, 2024, at 10:30am.

Commission Members Present: Lisa Balkom, Webster Parish Police Jury; Shelli Malone, City of Springhill; Sherry McCann, Town of Sibley; Kevin McLain, Webster Parish Sheriff's Office; Tiffany Parish, Town of Cotton Valley, Melaney Langford, City of Minden; Dominique Parish, Town of Cullen and Cyndy Herrington, Sales Tax Commission.

Commission Members Absent: Mayor Peggy Adkins, Town of Sarepta; Crevonne Odum, Webster Parish School Board; Myra Kilburn, Village of Doyline; Alicia Ware, Village of Dixie Inn; Myra Kilburn, Village of Doyline and a representative of Webster Parish Convention & Visitors Commission.

The December 5, 2024, regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners of the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission was called to order by Lisa Balkom, President.

Kevin McLain motioned, seconded by Tiffany Parish, to approve the minutes of the June 26, 2024, Meeting of the Webster Parish Sales and Use Tax Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Sherry McCann motioned, seconded by Tiffany Parish to approve the audit contract as of and for the year ending December 31, 2024, with Wise, Martin & Cole, L.L.C. Motion carried unanimously.

Tiffany Parish motioned, seconded by Kevin McLain to approve the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire. Motion carried unanimously.

After reviewing, Tiffany Parish motioned to adopt the Attorney Resolution for 2025 to retain to employ Jennifer McKay and the law firm of Colvin, Smith, McKay & Bays as special counsel. Dominique Parish seconded. Due to a conflict, Kevin McLain abstained from the vote. Motion carried.

Cyndy Herrington, Webster Parish Sales & Use Tax Commission Administrator led a discussion of the Financial Audit Findings for period ending 12/31/23. No action was necessary.

After reviewing, Tiffany Parish motioned to adopt the amended 2024 Budget. Sherry McCann seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

After some discussion, Dominique Parish motioned to approve hiring an Administrative Assistant to begin training for the position of Administrator upon the retirement of Cyndy Herrington, current Administrator. Shelli Malone seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Kevin McLain motioned to adopt the proposed salary schedule for the Webster Parish Sales & Use Tax Commission employees. Dominique Parish seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

After some discussion, Tiffany Parish motioned to adopt the 2025 Budget and Budget Resolution. Sherry McCann seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Sherry McCann motioned, seconded by Tiffany Parish, to appoint Lisa Balkom as Chairperson for the Webster Parish Sale & Use Tax Commission for 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Shelli Malone motioned; Kevin McLain seconded to appoint Sherry McCann as Secretary for the Webster Parish Sales & Use Tax Commission for 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

There was no Old Business.

There being no other business to bring before the Commission, Dominique Parish motioned to adjourn the meeting, Shelli Malone seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

/s/Lisa Balkom, Chairperson
Cann, Secretary

This is to certify that the Webster Parish Sales Tax Commission has complied with Louisiana Revised Statute 39:1307 relative to public participation in the budget process for the Year Ended 12/31/25. Notice of availability for public inspection and public hearing was held in compliance with applicable statute. Cyndy Herrington 12/09/24

December 18, 2024
Minden Press Herald

NOTICE

The 26th Judicial District Attorney's Office has scheduled a public hearing to be held December 19th, 2024, at 1:00pm, in room 204, Webster Parish Courthouse, Minden, LA, to consider amendments to the 2024 Operating budget and to adopt the 2025 proposed operating budget for the 26th Judicial District Attorney's Office.

December 18, 2024
Minden Press Herald

SHERIFF'S SALE

US BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION.
NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT
SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR
VRMTG ASSET TRUST
VS.

ROGER D. GODWIN
In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 81422.
By virtue of a WRIT OF FIFA issued out of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, in the above styled and numbered suit and to me directed, I have seized and taken into my possession and will offer for sale at public auction to the last and highest bidder for cash WITH the benefit of appraisal and according to law at the principle front door of the Courthouse in the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana, on
WEDNESDAY, January 22, 2025,
During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

Begin at the Southwest corner of the Southwest Quarter of Northwest Quarter (SW/C of SW/4 of NW/4), Section 31, Township 23 North, Range 10 West, Webster Parish, Louisiana and run North a distance of 420 feet to the point of beginning of the property herein conveyed, thence run East 420 feet; thence run North 210 feet; thence run West 210 feet; thence run South 105 feet thence run West 210 feet; thence run South 105 feet to the point of beginning; subject to restrictions, servitudes, rights-of-way and outstanding mineral rights of record affecting the property.
SOLD SUBJECT TO ANY SUPERIOR LIENS, MORTGAGES OR PRIVILEGES THERETO.
Said property seized is that of the defendant and will be sold to satisfy a judgment rendered in our Honorable Court.

Publication Dates: December 18, 2024
January 15, 2025
JASON R. PARKER Sheriff & Ex-Officio Auctioneer
Webster Parish, Louisiana
Pam Brantlee
Pam Brantley - Deputy

December 18, 2024
January 15, 2024
Minden Press Herald

SHERIFF'S SALE

CARTER FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
VS.
SLACK PROPERTIES, LLC

In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. CV81822.
By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE issued out of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, in the above styled and numbered suit and to me directed, I have seized and taken into my possession and will offer for sale at public auction to the last and highest bidder for cash WITHOUT the benefit of appraisal and according to law at the principle front door of the Courthouse in the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana, on
WEDNESDAY, January 22, 2025,
During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:

SEE ATTACHED PROPERTY DESCRIPTION*
SOLD SUBJECT TO ANY SUPERIOR LIENS, MORTGAGES OR PRIVILEGES THERETO.
Said property seized is that of the defendant and will be sold to satisfy a judgment rendered in our Honorable Court.
Publication Dates:
December 18, 2024
January 15, 2025
JASON R. PARKER Sheriff & Ex-Officio Auctioneer
Webster Parish, Louisiana
Pam Brantley
Pam Brantley - Deputy
Loan Number:
EXHIBIT "A"
TRACT A

A one acre tract, more or less, located in the Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NE/4 of NE/4) and in the Northwest Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NW/4 of NE/4), Section 31, Township 23 North, Range 10 West, Webster Parish, Louisiana, described as follows:
Begin at the Northwest Corner of the South Half of Northeast Quarter of the Northeast Quarter (NW/cor. of S/2 of NE/4 of NE/4), Section 31, and run East 132 feet; thence run South 205.76 feet to the point of beginning; thence continue South 122.3 feet; thence run West 396.26 feet; thence run North 33 degrees 09 minutes East 146.1 feet; thence run East 316.4 feet to the point of beginning. (Assessment # 118240)
Purported to be municipally known as 423 Morgan Road, Sarepta, Louisiana 71071

TRACT B
Plat of survey of tract located in the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SW/4 of SW/4), Section 30, Township 23 North, Range 10 West, Webster Parish, Louisiana, and more particularly described as follows:
Commencing at 1 inch iron pipe located at the Southeast Corner of the Southwest Quarter of the Southwest Quarter (SE/cor. of SW/4 of SW/4), Section 30, Township 23 North, Range 10 West, and run North 718.8 feet; thence run West 324.51 feet to 1/2 inch rebar located on the South right of way on Kings Corner Road for the point of beginning; thence run South 20 degrees 45 minutes East 100.79 feet to 1/2 inch rebar; thence run South 2 degrees 16 minutes West 59.96 feet to 1/2 inch rebar; thence run North 76 degrees 43 minutes West 159.2 feet to 1/2 inch rebar; thence run North 13 degrees 07 minutes East 137.09 feet to 1/2 inch rebar located on South right of way of Kings Corner Road, thence run South 80 degrees 01 minutes East along said right of way 91.87 feet to the point of beginning; together with all improvements located thereon and all rights thereto belonging. (Assessment # 119967)
Purported to be municipally known as 561 Kings Corner Road, Sarepta, Louisiana 71071

December 18, 2024
January 15, 2024
Minden Press Herald

MINDEN CITY COURT

The 2025 budget and the 2024 amended budget will be available for review on
December 20, 2024 between 2:00-4:00 p.m.

December 18, 2024
Minden Press Herald

Minutes

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF MINDEN, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN IN REGULAR SESSION HELD ON DECEMBER 2, 2024

The Minden City Council met at City Hall in Minden, Louisiana, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Nick Cox, Carlton Myles, Levon Thomas, Latasha Mitchell, Michael Roy, and Andy Pendergrass. Absence(s): None. Mayor Cox welcomed everyone to the meeting. Prayer was offered by Michael Roy and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Andy Pendergrass. It is noted for the record that Mayor Cox allowed both council and public comments prior to every vote.

Michael Roy moved to adopt the minutes of the Minden City Council Regular Session held on November 4, 2024, as presented. The motion was duly seconded by Andy Pendergrass and the vote was unanimously in favor. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): None.

Latasha Mitchell moved to adopt a Resolution to Amend the City of Minden 2023-2024 Budget, as presented. The motion was duly seconded by Michael Roy and the vote was unanimously in favor. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): None.

Upon motion by Levon Thomas and duly seconded by Carlton Myles, the council unanimously adopted a Resolution to Amend the City of Minden 2024-2025 Budget, as presented. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): None.

Andy Pendergrass moved to adopt a Resolution Adopting the Louisiana Compliance Questionnaire for the Audit Period of 10/01/2023 – 09/30/2024, as presented. The motion was duly seconded by Levon Thomas and the vote was unanimously in favor. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): None.

Upon motion by Carlton Myles and duly seconded by Michael Roy, the council unanimously adopted a Resolution Authorizing Mayor Cox to Be Designated and Given Full Authority on Behalf of the City of Minden to Execute and Submit Any and All Documents Pertaining to the DRA Fiscal Year 2024 Grant and Guarantee that the City of Minden Provides Matching Funds, as presented. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): None.

Upon motion by Andy Pendergrass and duly seconded by Latasha Mitchell, the council voted unanimously to table a Resolution Authorizing Nicholas A. Cox, Mayor of the City of Minden, Louisiana, to Execute a Dedication of a Public Street by Richard Kevin Sanders for further review. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): None.

Michael Roy moved to award Bid No. 04-2025 – Aerial Bucket Truck to the lowest qualified bidder meeting all requirements, Altec Industries, Inc. The motion was duly seconded by Andy Pendergrass and the vote was unanimously in favor. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): None.

Andy Pendergrass moved to adopt a Resolution Regarding a Lease Purchase Agreement for the Purpose of Financing an Aerial Bucket Truck, as presented. The motion was duly seconded by Carlton Myles and the vote was unanimously in favor. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): None.

Upon motion by Carlton Myles and duly seconded by Andy Pendergrass, the council unanimously adopted Ordinance No. 1149 – An Ordinance to Amend and Reenact the Code of Ordinances, City of Minden, State of Louisiana, Chapter 2, Administration: Article III, Officers, Division 5., Part-Time Fire Chief; Part-Time Assistant Fire Chief; Part-Time Minden District Fire Chiefs, Section 2-117. – Appointment, as presented. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): None.

Latasha Mitchell moved to adopt Ordinance No. 1150 – An Ordinance to Amend and Reenact the Code of Ordinances, City of Minden, State of Louisiana, Chapter 34, Criminal Code: Article II, Offenses Affecting Governmental Functions: Section 34-54. – Fire Hydrants; Tampering with, Operating, Obstructing, as presented. The motion was duly seconded by Carlton Myles and the vote was unanimously in favor. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): None.

Upon motion by Michael Roy and duly seconded by Levon Thomas, the council unanimously adopted Ordinance No. 1151 – An Ordinance to Amend and Reenact the Code of Ordinances, City of Minden, State of Louisiana, Chapter 42, Fire Prevention and Protection: Article II, Fire Department: Section 42-34. – Private Water Sources, Section 42-35. – Access Box System, Section 42-36. – Security Gates and Limited Access Gates; Article III, Fire Prevention Code: Section 42-61. – Code Adopted, Section 42-69. – Outdoor Burning, Section 42-70. – Fire Alarm Systems, Section 42-71. – Fireworks, as presented. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): None.

Upon motion by Latasha Mitchell and duly seconded by Levon Thomas, the council unanimously adopted Ordinance No. 1152 – An Ordinance to Authorize an Act of Sale by the City of Minden to Sell Certain Adjudicated Properties (Parcels 110359 & 113906) by Public Auction; and, Further Providing with Respect Thereto, as presented. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): None.

Andy Pendergrass moved to authorize Mayor Cox to enter into an Agreement for Professional Services between the City of Minden and Atlas Community Studios, LLC, as presented. The motion was duly seconded by Carlton Myles and the vote was unanimously in favor. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): None.

City Clerk Melaney Langford presented the Budget/Financial Report for the month of October 2024. No motion was required.

Upon motion by Carlton Myles and duly seconded by Michael Roy, the council unanimously approved the Annual Fire Report for the Year of 2024, as presented.

The Police Report for the month of October 2024 was unanimously accepted, as presented, by motion of Andy Pendergrass and second by Latasha Mitchell. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): None.

Announcements and council comments were heard. The meeting was then adjourned.

Nicholas A. Cox, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melaney Langford, City Clerk

December 18, 2024
Minden Press Herald

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING WEBSTER PARISH POLICE JURY December 3, 2024

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

PUBLIC HEARING: 10:30AM To hear comments concerning the proposed 2025 Budget with Budget Notes of the Webster Parish Police Jury. No Public Comments

Mr. Jim Bonsall called the meeting to order and asked Mr. Steve Lemmons to open the meeting with prayer and asked Mr. Mike Griffith to lead 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. Daniel Thomas moved, seconded by Mr. Bruce Blanton to approve invoices for payment pending review by juror Daniel Thomas. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Bruce Blanton moved, seconded by Ms. Nancy Hines to adopt the minutes of the November 6, 2024 Road Committee, Finance Committee, and Regular Meeting. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Steve Ramsey moved, seconded by Ms. LaTanya Grigsby to approve the 2025 Proposed Budget of the Webster Parish Police Jury with Budget Notes as presented. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Mike Griffith moved, seconded by Ms. LaTanya Grigsby to approve the appointment of Melinda Davidson as Director of the Webster Parish Police Jury Office of Community Services for the year 2025. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Mike Griffith moved, seconded by Mr. Steve Lemmon to approve Signature Resolution007-2024 authorizing Melinda Davidson, Director of WPPJOCS to sign documents on behalf of the organization. Motion carried unanimously. Mr. Steve Ramsey moved, seconded by Mr. Steve Lemmons to approve Board Appointments for Pine COUNTRY Education District: Reappoint Lisa C. Balkom, Secretary-Treasurer Term 01/01/2025-12/31/2026 Reappoint Jim Bonsall, Term 01/01/2025-12/31/2026 Reappoint COL Carl Thompson 01/01/2025-12/31/2026 Motion carried unanimously Ms. LaTanya Grigsby moved, seconded by Mr. Randy Thomas to approve Board Appointments for Webster Parish Communications District: Reappoint Brian Williams to a 4-year term to expire December 2028 Reappoint Tynesa Grigsby to a 4-year term to expire December 2028 Motion carried unanimously Mr. Steve Ramsey moved, seconded by Mr. Randy Thomas to approve Webster Parish Resolution 008-2024 to approve the holding of an election in Fire Protection District No. 2 (Sibley) of the Parish of Webster, State of Louisiana, on Saturday, March 29, 2025, to authorize the renewal of a special tax therein. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Mike Griffith moved, seconded by Mr. Randy Thomas to approve Board Appointment for Webster Parish Fire District #7: Appoint Mickey Chandler to a 2-year term to expire December 31, 2026. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bruce Blanton moved, seconded by Mr. Mike Griffith to approve Board Appointments for the Webster Parish Convention & Visitors Commission: Sara McDaniel 01/01/2025-12/31/2027

Kyle Robertson 01/01/2025-12/31/2027 Rachel Longfellow Miller 01/01/2025-12/31/2027. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Daniel Thomas moved, seconded by Ms. Nancy Hines to approve to add Webster Parish Library Board of Control Board Appointments to the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Steve Ramsey moved, seconded by Mr. Bruce Blanton to approve Board Appointments for the Webster Parish Library Board of Control: Reappoint Linda Watson to a 5-year term to expire 12/31/2029 and replace member Jim Bonsall with Juror Nancy Hines. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS: Melinda Davidson

WPOCS Director Savannah Jones

Webster Parish Library Allen Mosley

WP Coroner Carl Thompson

WP Assessor, Denise Edwards Shakeria Williams LSU Ag/Extension Office Brian Williams WPPJ OEP/HS Director Angie Chapman

E911 Director Adam Bass

Senator Jessica Gorman Dorcheat Historical Museum Dean Baugh NLEP

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.

Mr. Steve Ramsey moved, seconded by Ms. LaTanya Grigsby 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/

December 18, 2024
Minden Press Herald

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MERRY CHRISTMAS TO EVERY ONE

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

It has been a great privilege for many years to share horticultural information via the local newspapers. While most of those years my weekly articles were printed in the Shreveport Times, more recently they have been in this paper.


Although retired now for 24 years, it is my hope that I will remain in good health and can continue to provide timely information in this newspaper. Furthermore, it is my wish to be able to choose subjects that will not only be interesting, but also informative, useful and relative to horticultural problems that occur in landscapes, gardens and with other horticultural crops no matter how large or small they are.

Since I possess a large collection of books and other publications on horticultural topics, I have a large supply of material to work with. However, I don't try to keep up with the always changing field of agri-


cultural chemicals and pesticides and therefore am not qualified to make recommendations for their use. Please call one of the local LSU Extension offices for that information.

On Christmas Day know that I wish all of my readers a "Very Merry Christmas" and a "Happy New Year" And may your Christmas dinner include an abundance of fruits and vegetables to compliment those tasty meats and pastries.

Lastly, I want to thank you for supporting this newspaper. It has given me the opportunity to share horticultural information that you may find useful.




JOE W. WHITE, Ph.D.



GARDENING WITH DR. JOE WHITE

HOW TO TRAVEL WITH YOUR PET DURING THE HOLIDAYS



STACEY TINSLEY
Minden Press-Herald

With Thanksgiving in the rearview mirror, the holiday travel season is ramping up again. For pet owners, this means preparing not only for your own journey but also ensuring your furry friend's safety and comfort. Here's what pet owners need to know for a smoother holiday travel experience with their animal companions.

PACKING ESSENTIALS FOR PETS

Packing for two? When your pet joins you on a holiday trip, it's important to gather the right supplies.

"Pack for your pet as well as yourself if you're going to travel together," advises Dr. Carlea Logan, a veterinarian at North Airline Animal Hospital.

Beyond pet food and medications, include medical records, an ID tag or microchip details, and basic first-aid supplies. If crossing state lines or international borders, a health certificate issued by a veterinarian is essential. For small pets, use a securely locked carrier to prevent travel mishaps.

ROAD SAFETY FOR PET TRAVELERS

For pet owners traveling by car, safety is crucial.

"Pets should always be safely restrained in vehicles, which means using a secure harness or a carrier placed in a location clear of airbags," Dr. Logan emphasizes.

Proper restraints protect pets during sudden stops, prevent driver distractions, and keep them away from potentially hazardous items like food or small objects. Small animals are also at risk of getting stuck in tight spaces, so a pet restraint system is highly recommended.

TAKE BREAKS FOR YOUR PET'S COMFORT

Long road trips can be rough on animals, so frequent breaks are essential for their well-being. Allow your pet regular stops for bathroom breaks, snacks, and stress relief.

"Never leave pets alone in vehicles, even for a short time, regardless of the weather," Dr. Logan cautions.

Even in colder temperatures, animals can experience dangerous heat buildup or stress if left unattended.

REDUCING STRESS AND PROVIDING COMFORT

Holiday travel can be as stressful for pets as it is for humans. Keep your animal's stress levels low by bringing familiar items such as toys and blankets from home.

Try to maintain their usual routine as much as possible, even in new environments. Sticking to regular feeding, walking, and play schedules can help pets feel more at ease when staying at a family member's or friend's home.

FLYING WITH PETS: EXTRA PRECAUTIONS

Air travel poses added challenges for pets, including heightened stress.

"Talk with your veterinarian to see if traveling by air is safe for your pet," suggests Dr. Logan.

If air travel is unavoidable, do your best to secure a main-cabin spot for your pet and consult the airline's pet policies in advance.

BOARDING YOUR PET

When traveling without your pet, boarding facilities are a safe option if thoroughly vetted.

"It is very important to keep up with your pet's vaccinations and routine shots," Dr. Logan notes, particularly for highly contagious diseases like kennel cough and canine influenza virus.

Make sure your pet is also taking preventive flea and tick medications. Visiting the boarding facility beforehand and asking questions about daily routines and emergency protocols can provide peace of mind.

CONCLUSION

This holiday season, careful preparation for your pet's travel needs can make all the difference, whether you're hitting the road, boarding a plane, or entrusting their care to a reputable facility.



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