

MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

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CRIME

Kingston transferred to Minden for hearing in Hillside Apartments murder case

STAFF REPORT

Minden Press-Herald

Michael Kingston, 23, the suspect in the fatal shooting at Hillside Apartments last October, has been transferred from Shreveport to Minden for his 72-hour hearing, authorities have confirmed. Kingston, who was apprehended by U.S. Marshals in Shreveport on October 15, faces charges of first-degree murder, armed robbery, and felon in possession of a firearm in connection with the October 9 shooting death of 36-year-old Dequincy Jones. He is currently being held at Bayou Dorchet Correctional Center. The shooting occurred around 11 PM at the Hillside Apartments, where Jones was found lying in the parking lot with a gunshot wound to the head. Although a firearm was discovered near Jones' feet, an autopsy later determined the bullet that killed him was from a different caliber, leading investigators to classify the death as a homicide. Detectives say the incident stemmed from a robbery gone wrong. Jones

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COMMUNITY

New mural installed for Miller Quarters Park

AMBER MCDOWN

Minden Press-Herald



AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

The new mural on Lee Street brings vibrant color and branding to the area near Miller Quarters Park. The mural was part of a collaboration with the Webster Parish Convention and Visitors Commission and Louisiana Tech's School of Design.

designed by Louisiana Tech seniors Ellie Puljak and Paige Thomas. Both students were enrolled in the university's Fall 2024 Identity Systems Design class, which offered them the opportunity to create a visual identity for Miller Quarters Park. Their branding concepts were selected for implementation by the CVC. The mural serves as a key component of the park's branding, fulfilling a request from local tourism officials. Puljak and Thomas developed the mural design based on the branding they originally created for the park. Students from Louisiana Tech's School of Design previously played a role in the park's development, creating preliminary plans that professional architects later adapted. The finalized plans were shared with the public during the summer of 2023. The mural's installation was a team effort, involving Puljak, Thomas, and several contributors, including Jennifer Heard, Kayla Martin, Rachel Miller, Patrick Miller, Lela Margaret Miller, and Treat Miller. The addition of the mural reflects ongoing efforts to enhance the visual appeal of Miller Quarters Park and its surrounding area, further solidifying the park as a community focal point.

EDUCATION

Webster Ready Start increasing fundraising effort to support early childhood education

AMBER MCDOWN

Minden Press-Herald

Webster Ready Start, a local early childhood education program, is intensifying its fundraising campaign to meet a critical January 30 deadline for matching funds from the state. The initiative seeks to provide scholarships for children aged 0-3, enabling families to afford high-quality early childhood education while allowing parents to return to work or school. "Access to affordable childcare is essential for families in Webster Parish," said Olivia Sebald, a representative for Webster Ready Start. "This program not only helps children receive quality early education but also supports parents in pursuing their careers or education." Childcare costs often ri

See, **FUNDS**, Page 3

ST. JUDE AUCTION

Reflecting on 50 years of the Minden St. Jude Auction

WILL PHILLIPS

Minden Press-Herald

The Minden St. Jude Auction has been a cornerstone of generosity and community spirit for half a century. Beginning as a humble one-day radiothon in 1976, the event has grown into a multi-day spectacle broadcast on radio, television, and the internet. What started with modest ambitions has evolved into a powerhouse of fundraising, raising millions of dollars for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. As the auction celebrates its 50th anniversary, it's worth revisiting the incredible journey that has made it a cherished tradition. The origins of the auction trace back to 1976, when Pete and Pam Treat, along with KASO Radio, Digger O'Dell, Bo Cook, and a group of friends and family, organized the first event. "Anne Treat, the daughter of Peter and Pam Treat was diagnosed with leukemia and was treated at St. Jude's in Memphis. Sadly she passed away in 1977. However, her father, because he felt he owed so much back to the hospital, began the Minden Auction in 1976," said Melissa Brown, one of the event's organizers. Their heartfelt efforts raised \$10,000 in the first year, a sum that exceeded their expectations. Throughout the 1970s, the auction maintained its format as a radio-driven event. The 1980s, however, marked a pivotal shift with the advent of television broadcasting. "The 80s brought us into the world of cable and multi-channels on our television sets," said Brown. "We began to broadcast over the local cable channel, expanded to multiple days, and incorporated raffles. Everything was still done on paper at this point." The 1990s ushered in the computer age, revolutionizing how the auction operated. Thanks to Kenneth Greer's programming expertise, a database and software system were developed to streamline operations. The event also grew to three days, incorporating chili cook offs and other activities to engage the community further. The turn of the century brought even more advancements. Live audio and video streaming allowed the auction to reach a global audience, while the introduction of a dedicated website and computerized phone systems transformed its logistical backbone. "We had gone from mountains

See, **ST. JUDE**, Page 3

APACHE PRINCESS 2025



AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

Glenbrook School will hold its annual Apache Princess Pageant on Thursday, February 1, at 7 PM at the Minden Civic Center.

Apache Princess Pageant coming February 1

AMBER MCDOWN

Minden Press-Herald

Glenbrook School will hold its annual Apache Princess Pageant on Thursday, February 1, at 7 PM at the Minden Civic Center. The pageant, a cherished tradition for the local private school, will feature contestants from Glenbrook vying for the coveted title of Apache Princess. Competing in the pageant will be Myla Hubbard, Mollie Thurman, Mattison Fowler, Landry Edwards, Adriana Vandenoord, Ella Durden, Aynslea Maus, Scarlett O'Glee, Gracie Heard, Amelia Lott, Hannah Day, Addison Lee, Mackenzie Hooper, Lela Margaret Miller, Grace Dennin, Kynzie Smith, Piper Mandino, and Kaylee Adams. The public is invited to attend this evening of beauty, talent, and tradition. Tickets will be available for \$10 at the venue.

Officers from the Minden Police Department, in collaboration with the Claiborne Parish Sheriff's Office, served a warrant January 13 on a 16-year-old wanted in connection with a drive-by shooting in Homer. The arrest took place at a residence in the 1100 block of Madison Avenue. According to authorities, the juvenile was allegedly observed in a vehicle involved in the shooting, which targeted a home under surveillance by the Louisiana State Police. Upon arriving at the residence, law enforcement initiated a "call out" procedure, briefly activating vehicle lights and sirens before instructing the occupants to exit the home with their hands raised. The teen's stepfather was the first to comply, stepping out of the house. Officers noted that the teen's mother remained inside, as she was recovering from surgery. A few minutes later, the 16-year-old emerged and was taken into custody without incident. Officers conducted a search of the residence for weapons potentially linked to the drive-by shooting but did not recover any firearms at the address. The stepfather was released once the teen was in custody. The Minden Police Department urges anyone with information about the shooting to contact them. Sources may remain anonymous.

All subjects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.



WEBSTER & MORE

COMMUNITY

Minden Medical Center offers free program for adults 50 and older

AMBER MCDOWN

Minden Press-Herald

Minden Medical Center (MMC) is offering a free membership program called The Circle for individuals aged 50 and older. The initiative aims to help older adults stay active and healthy longer.

Membership benefits include access to scheduled events and activi-

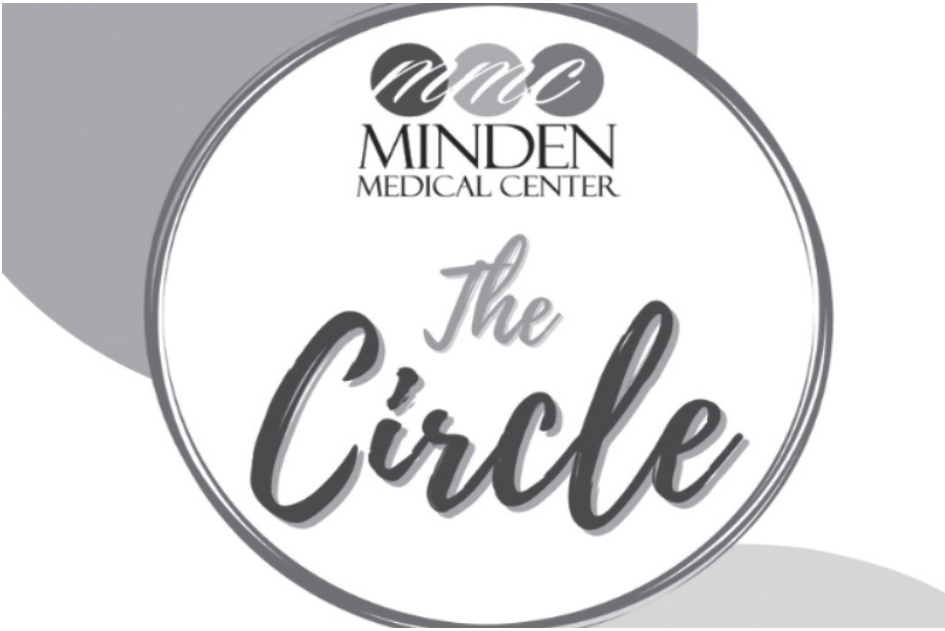
ties, a quarterly newsletter, discounts at the MMC cafeteria, and various online resources.

On January 21, The Circle hosted a meeting at the Minden library, featuring a health talk and a lighthearted game of The Price is Right. Attendees bid on small items for fun and enjoyed socializing with one another.

In February, recog-

nized as National Senior Independence Month, The Circle's quarterly newsletter will share tips for improving quality of life. Topics include the benefits of decluttering, home safety upgrades, and helpful technology devices.

For more information about The Circle, email thecircleminden@ahmgt.com or call (318) 371-3234.



RETIREMENT

Kevin McLain retires as chief civil deputy after 15 years of service

AMBER MCDOWN

Minden Press-Herald

After 15 years of dedicated service to the residents of Webster Parish, Kevin McLain has retired as chief civil deputy of the Webster Parish Sheriff's Office.

A retirement reception was held Friday at the sheriff's office headquarters, where friends and coworkers gathered to celebrate McLain's career and wish him well in retirement.

"I've never worked with a greater group of people. All of you have made my job easier over these years, and I want to sincerely thank all of you," McLain said during the event.

Sheriff Jason Parker presented McLain with a retirement appreciation plaque, commending his years of service. "I always



knew we could count on Kevin to get the job done," Parker said. "We certainly wish him well, and we hope he won't be a stranger. Come back and see us anytime."

McLain's retirement marks the end of a distinguished career, leaving behind a legacy of dedication and professionalism in service to Webster Parish.

CRIME

Traffic stop leads to drug arrest, fugitive status revealed

STAFF REPORT

Minden Press-Herald

A routine traffic stop on January 17 resulted in the arrest of an Arkansas man wanted on outstanding warrants after authorities discovered drugs and a false identity.

At approximately 3:51 PM, Minden police conducted a traffic stop on a 2014 Ford Mustang traveling 93 mph in a 70-mph zone. Upon approaching the vehicle, officers detected the odor of marijuana. The driver initially identified himself as Javonte Rochell but lacked identification.

During a search of the vehicle, officers found 28.67 ounces of marijuana in the center console. After further question-

ing, the driver admitted to providing a false name to avoid arrest due to outstanding warrants in Arkansas.

The man, later identified as Santtario Carson, 32, of El Dorado, Arkansas, had his identity confirmed by a driver's license found hidden in his shoe. Carson was arrested and booked at the Minden Police Department before being transported to the Bayou Correctional Center.

Carson faces charges of simple possession of marijuana, failure to identify, injuring public records, and being a fugitive from Union County, Arkansas.

All subjects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

CRIME

Man arrested in Springhill following rollover crash

STAFF REPORT

Minden Press-Herald

A 32-year-old Springhill man involved in a single-vehicle rollover crash on 7th Street SW was arrested Sunday after authorities discovered he was wanted in another state.

Anthony D. Dillard was checked by emergency medical services at the scene and cleared of any injuries. During a routine identification check, officers discovered that Dillard was wanted out of Lafayette County, Arkansas, on charges of posses-

sion of a firearm by certain persons and theft by receiving.

Dillard was taken into custody and transported to the Springhill Police Department for booking. The Lafayette County Sheriff's Office was notified of the arrest and coordinated with authorities to transfer Dillard to Bayou Dorcheat Correctional Center (BDCC). Arrangements are being made for his extradition to Arkansas.

All subjects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

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WEBSTER & MORE

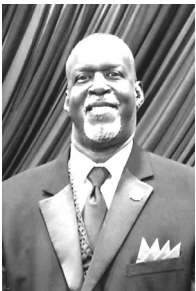
OBITUARIES



Edwina Calhoun Whitlow

Edwina Calhoun Whitlow was born in Minden on January 15, 1955 and went to her heavenly home on January 22, 2025. She was preceded in death by her parents, Earnest and Mary Calhoun, her brother, Edward Calhoun, and her cousin, Sandra Sparkman. Edwina worked in accounting for over 40 years, first serving as the bookkeeper for Shuler’s Dixie Dandy for over 25 years and later managing the accounting for the Shreveport Mudbugs. She enjoyed spending her free time loving on her grandchildren and working in her yard, even becoming a Master Gardener. Edwina was a member of the First Baptist Church of Minden for over 40 years, and attended Sunday school there until

she was no longer able to due to the progression of her Alzheimer’s disease. She is survived by her loving husband, David Whitlow, her son Spencer Smith (wife Bethany) of Ruston, her daughter Sara Rouse of New Orleans, her step-daughter, Tara Smith (husband Trey) of Ruston, and her grandchildren, Alyssa, Mallory, Noah, Adalyn, and Avery. Visitation was at Rose-Neath on Saturday, January 25th from 5:00-7:00pm. Services were held at First Baptist Chapel in Minden on Sunday, January 26th at 1:00pm, and burial followed at Minden Cemetery. Pallbearers were Robert Carnahan, Lance Carnahan, Noah Smith, Mike Spillers, Mark Gibson, and Gene Sparkman. The family would like to thank the staff at Willow Ridge in Arcadia and Passages Hospice for their care. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to St. Jude.



Derrick Marcel Williams

A Celebration of Life for Derrick Marcel Williams, Sr., 66, will be held at 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, February 1, 2025 at First Baptist of Minden, 301 Pennsylvania Ave., Minden, Louisiana. Visitation will be held from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. on Friday, January 31, 2025 at Mt. Zion CME Church, 414 E. Union St., Minden, Louisiana. An additional visitation will be held Saturday from 10:00 a.m. until time of service. Burial will be held at Point Pleasant Cemetery in Homer, Louisiana. Officiating the service will be Reverend TJ Davis. Derrick was born August 6, 1958, to loving parents in Prichard, Alabama. He was the second born of five. Derrick was a fun-loving man who believed in family first. He never met a stranger or anyone who did not perceive him as a friend, a mentor, or a big brother. Derrick’s principle belief, of which he lived, “Friendship is Essential to the Soul.” His status, reflected by his intelligence, was not his priority in life. Derrick accepted Christ at an early age. He was baptized and received spiritual leadership from Rev. Leroy Boykins (deceased), Pastor, Central Missionary Baptist Church, Prichard, AL. He later united with Bethel AME Church, Ann Arbor, Michigan. After his retirement, he settled with his wife and family in Shreveport, Louisiana, and attended Mt. Zion CME in Minden, Louisiana. His elementary education was received at Ella Grant School, Prichard, AL. Derrick maintained above average grades in every subject, thriving in math and science. Upon completion of the sixth grade, Derrick attended and graduated in 1976 with honors from Mattie T. Blount High School, Prichard, AL. He received a full academic, four-year scholarship, tuition, books and fees to Clark College, Atlanta, Georgia, (Clark Atlanta University) receiving a BS in Finance and Accounting. He later obtained a Master of Art degree in Business Administration from Central Michigan University, Mount Pleasant, Michigan and an Executive MBA degree from Wharton School of Business at University of Pennsylvania. Immediately after receiving his BS degree (1981), Derrick received many employment offers and accepted an amazing offer in Toledo, OH, joining the Hydraulic division- which later became Powertrain starting his long career with General Motors. He quickly advanced and transitioned up to the Corporate Business Support for North American Operations staff. In 1998, Derrick joined Delphi Steering in Saginaw, Michigan as assistant finance director. He became finance director North American Operations, at Delphi Packard

Electric Systems in Warren, Ohio the following year. He was named assistant treasurer and later was appointed executive director of finance results for Delphi Corporation, Jan. 2003-June 2005. Derrick retired in 2011 from the corporate office, Luxembourg, Germany as Vice President, Finance and Planning, for Delphi Powertrain Systems and Vice President of Finance for Delphi Europe, Middle East and Africa Delphi Corporation. In 2004, Derrick became a Board of Trustees member of Clark Atlanta University, a position he maintained until his passing. Derrick established the Doris Faye Williams Memorial Scholarship Fund, awarding scholarships to minority students attending four-years colleges or universities. He was a recipient of the Powell Williams Holly Alumnus of the Year Award and Omega Unsung Hero of the Year, 2022. Some of his organizational memberships included The National Association of Black Accountants, and National Black MBA Association. He was a “genuine 100% Omega Man”, life member, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc. Honoring Derrick as pallbearers will be Wayne Bogan, Morell Boone, Ronald Sloan, Carlton Mitchell, ShoMichael Stephens, Willie Siglar, Darick Hollins and Ashton Pennywell. Serving as honorary pallbearers will be Derrick Williams II, Darryl Williams, Maurice Stewart, Gregory Harris Esq, Darryl Hollins, Steve Deal, Denny Calloway, Brandon Williams, Elijah Williams, Jarvis Williams, Leandrew Pears, Etienne Winzer “Randy”, Willie “TouPie” Winzer. Derrick was preceded in his journey to heaven by his mother, Doris “Faye” Williams; his daughter, Deirdre Monique Williams; youngest sister, Joann Williams (Alvin, deceased) Duffey; grandmother, Estelle Anderson; uncle, James William Livingston; aunt, Minnie Livingston; great-aunt, Mayme Cunningham and niece and nephews, SaVongah Williams, Lamar Williams, Antron Willis, and Jaeden Williams. He leaves to cherish his memories, his wife of 33 years, Sandra Willams; sons, Derrick (Andretta) Williams II of Cypress, TX and Darryl (Sara) Williams of Minden, LA; daughters, Brittany Williams of Fort Worth, TX and Deandra Williams of Shreveport, LA; younger and only brother, Roderick (Dazzetine, “Dazz”) Williams of Ashburn, VA; sisters, LaRhonda Stewart (Leandrew) Pears of Mobile, AL and Cynthia Brown of Prichard, AL; grandson, Duke Marcel Williams; granddaughter, Adele Marsell Williams; uncle, Willie Anderson of Prichard, AL; aunt, Vivian Hollins of Mobile, AL; his father and mother in-law, Theron (Bertha) Winzer; sister-in-law, Stephanie Winzer of Minden, LA; “special brother”, Denny (Stacy) Calloway of Little Elm, Texas; special “lil sister”, Leslie Best of Detroit, Michigan and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, and members of Rho Omega Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc.

LIONS CLUB

BDCC warden speaks at Lions Club

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Scott Tucker, warden of the Bayou Dorcheat Correctional Center (BDCC), addressed the Lions Club on January 23, providing insights into the facility’s operations and programs. Tucker, who has worked in Webster Parish law enforcement for 31 years, became warden last September. BDCC houses approximately 600 inmates in four dorms, each accommodating 100 inmates, and two cell blocks holding around 25 inmates each. Additionally, Tucker highlighted two work programs at the facility. The work crew program includes 56 inmates who perform tasks like roadside cleanup under supervision. The transitional work program, for inmates in the final years of their sentences with good behavior, houses about 120 men. These inmates are transported to regular jobs, pay room and board, and contribute to savings accounts. Tucker noted some have saved up to \$70,000 upon release. Female inmates are currently housed on the fourth floor of the Web-

ster Parish Courthouse, which can hold up to 64 women. However, Tucker avoids filling the facility to capacity due to poor conditions. A new facility on Penal Farm Road is under construction to provide better accommodations and educational opportunities. The facility’s kitchen, managed by BDCC, prepares 1,800 meals daily at an average cost of \$5 per inmate by using basic ingredients. To maintain order, meals are served in groups of 100, with staggered seating for efficiency. Recent upgrades include a surveillance system purchased from the Youth Challenge Program, which has improved monitoring capabilities. BDCC also offers educational and rehabilitative programs, including HiSET classes, anger management, and substance abuse treatment. One dorm is dedicated to sex offenders, who can participate in specialized programs. Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College (NLTC) recently secured a grant to offer training, starting with a heavy equipment operators class for 12 female



inmates. Tucker emphasized the importance of expanding opportunities for female inmates, citing limited job prospects in the current work-release program. “The only job I can offer our female work-releasers is working at a fast food restaurant so, when they get out, they don’t really have a lot of money built up on their books. But if I can get some of them heavy-equipment certified, they can have some money in their pockets when they get out and not have to depend on the same old guy.” NLTC is also working toward providing “second chance Pell Grants,” while local organizations like Mercy’s Closet and Regions Bank contribute by providing clothing and

financial education. Recovery programs, including AA, are also available. “I’m trying to get every program I can out here,” said Tucker. Despite the positive initiatives, Tucker acknowledged the presence of high-risk inmates, including gang members, at BDCC. “We do have some of the worst of the worst. A lot of our TTS gang members are out there; the shooting in Dubberly — I’ve got all them out there,” he said, adding that inmates causing disruptions are often transferred. The Lions Club meets every Thursday at noon at the American Legion Memorial Hall, 119 W. Pine Street, and is seeking new members.

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CRIME

Continued from Page 1

had reportedly arranged to meet someone from Shreveport to purchase a gun. Witnesses helped identify Kingston as the suspect, and a warrant was secured within 72 hours of the initial investigation. Deputy Chief Harrison praised Detective Hicks, the lead investigator, for his role in the case. “Hicks did an amazing job,” Harrison said, noting the detective’s work

gathering evidence and conducting interviews. In addition to the charges in Minden, Kingston faces charges in Shreveport, including felon in possession of a firearm, flight from police, and forgery. His hearing in Minden will determine his next steps in the legal process.

All subjects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

FUNDS

Continued from Page 1

val or exceed the cost of college tuition, but unlike higher education, grants and scholarships are not widely available to offset these expenses. In Webster Parish, the need is particularly pressing. The state’s childcare assistance program has maintained a waitlist since 2022, with 50 local children currently waiting for services—some for up to two years. Additionally, the federally funded Early Head Start program in the area is full, with a separate waitlist of 20 children. Webster Ready Start hopes to address this gap through Louisiana’s Early Childhood Education Fund, which offers a dollar-for-dollar matching program to create local scholarships. Every donation made before the January 30 deadline will be doubled, significantly increasing its impact. A \$500 donation becomes \$1,000, covering

two months of early education. A \$3,500 donation becomes \$7,000, funding an entire year of early education. “By contributing to this campaign, local businesses and community members can directly impact families in Webster Parish,” Sebald said. “This could include your employees or neighbors who are struggling with the high cost of childcare.” The program’s goal is to raise funds by Thursday, January 30, to qualify for the state match. Community members and businesses interested in contributing can visit the Webster Ready Start website for more information at websterreadystart.com or donate directly to the initiative. Donations are tax deductible. For families and employers alike, the success of this fundraising effort promises to bring significant relief and opportunities to the local community.

ST. JUDE

Continued from Page 1

of paper to a minuscule amount,” Brown explained. Sponsorships and t-shirt sales added new revenue streams, with t-shirt sales alone bringing in \$40,000 to \$50,000 annually. The auction’s impact has been staggering. In 2024, it raised a record \$2,538,444, cementing Minden’s status as the largest per capita donor to St. Jude. Over 50 years, the auction has contributed more than \$30 million to the hospital. Schools in the parish have played a significant role, collectively raising over \$200,000 in recent years. Laura Hollingsworth, another of the event’s key organizers, noted the enthusiasm of younger generations:

“We have some 3rd generation volunteers bringing in their dollars to support the auction. Our area takes great pride in the continued success of MSJ.” The ultimate goal of the Minden St. Jude Auction, however, is to render itself unnecessary. As Hollingsworth eloquently put it, “We work toward the day that childhood cancer can be cured and St. Jude can close its doors forever.” Until then, the Minden community remains steadfast in its commitment to Danny Thomas’ dream: ensuring no family ever receives a bill for treatment, travel, housing, or food. Here’s to another 50 years of hope, generosity, and making a difference.

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OPINION

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OPINION

A New Golden Age: American Exceptionalism Returns

In the whirl of President Trump's first few days back in office he is securing our borders, fully freeing the oil and gas industry to explode with growth and riding our public institutions of the poisonous Diversity, Inclusion and Equity (DIE) doctrine to name just a few. He has also done something that only a distracted First World nation like ours would need to have done—he has again declared that there are only two genders, male and female.

The “golden age of America begins now,” Trump said again last week. What does he mean by that and how does his hope for our country tie into our American Exceptionalism?

American Exceptionalism includes a strong economy, a strong national defense, secure borders, freedom of speech, freedom of religion, and guaranteeing each of us the opportunity to fully utilize our lives and God-given abilities in an environment in which every American has the opportunity to excel. I believe it also includes being proud of our national character and our extraordinary history. However, American Exceptionalism can be reduced to the most granular level.

We recall instances after hurricanes Katrina and Rita in which the owner/driver of an 18-wheeler in Oregon said he had awakened one morning and felt powerfully

moved to drive a truck load of bananas to Louisiana to help with the food problems. FEMA wouldn't accept them; finally, a group of churches did. Same story for an enormous number of donated McDonald hamburgers and over one hundred Lea's pies. These kinds of examples are too numerous to count.



ROYAL ALEXANDER

skirts of New Orleans planning to help rescue as many stranded people as they could but were told by government agencies to turn around and go back home. American exceptionalism? Who filled many of these great needs after those hurricanes and other natural disasters? Churches, families, and private businesses virtually all of whom donated their time and resources because they wanted to help their fellow Louisianans and Americans.

American exceptionalism? Internationally, how about the billions of dollars the United States has spent through American international health programs de-

signed to fight HIV/AIDS, Malaria and TB throughout Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia, which have saved the lives of over sixty million human beings.

After WWII, America was the world's lone superpower and could have become an imperial one and essentially governed the world. Not only did we not seek global dominance, we did the opposite. Through the Marshall Plan and tremendous American aid and resources we helped other countries rebuild. Why? because unless provoked or endangered, the American spirit has never sought to subjugate other countries.

How about the miracle of our U.S. Constitution which gives rise to our Rule of Law; how about our shared belief that we are endowed by our Creator with certain rights that cannot be taken—all of which gave rise to a government instituted for the preservation of liberty? Our Bill of Rights which ensures our many freedoms including the guarantee that we cannot be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law? Our 2nd Amendment?

That we cannot have our doors kicked in at 2:00 am without probable cause and a warrant? That we are guaranteed, every one of us, equal protection of the laws? Do we remember how rare all of this is?

No nation is perfect be-

cause nations are ruled by governments and governments are comprised of flawed human beings. Yet, throughout our history, we have always sought to correct our flaws as we strove for The Good, and, however imperfectly, the good was attained.

The American spirit is sterling as are the foundational ideals of liberty and equality to which we aspire. American kindness and generosity are unbounded. De Tocqueville observed that “the position of the Americans is therefore quite exceptional,” in Democracy in America, “and it may be believed that no democratic people will ever be placed in a similar one.” Why would he draw this conclusion?

Because he recognized the American spirit and the moral and religious character that anchored it. President Reagan noted many times that America is the greatest country in the world. Again, it's not perfect but it is, and remains, the last best hope of Earth. This exceptionalism is the basis of the new golden age to which Trump refers and aspires.

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

The Right Words at the Right Time

The Bible says “a word fitly spoken is like pictures of gold, in apples of silver.”

Having just read The Right Words at the Right Time, edited by Marlo Thomas, who tells how her father, Danny Thomas, told her how to win the race by keeping her blinders on, which made all the difference in her life as an actress, reminding me of Nicholas Sparks who said “we sit silently and watch the world around us. This takes a lifetime to learn. It seems only the old are able to sit next to one another and not say anything and still feel content. The young, brash and impatient, must always break the silence. It is a waste, for silence is pure. Silence is holy. It draws people together because only those who are comfortable with each other can sit without speaking. This is the great paradox.”

Max Ehrmann, born in 1872, the author of Desiderata said “Go placidly amid the noise and haste, and remember what peace there may be in silence. As far as

possible without surrender be on good terms with all persons. Speak your truth quietly and clearly; and listen to others, even the dull and the ignorant; they too have their story.”



SARAH HUDSON PIERCE

teacher, Shirl White, gave it to us.

If he wanted us to know something he would read it aloud. He was a master at keeping our attention and a role model in many ways, never counting the hours and effort he spent in nurturing our creative streak whether in acting or writing.

I have found one of the best ways to be happy with myself is to be “comfortable in my own skin.”

It took me a lifetime to learn that but it also liberates me, giving me a feeling of acceptance but also tends to help control blood pressure problems!

Why don't we know more of these great truths when we are young? Perhaps insecurity is a great driving force in our life that helps us to achieve our goals while we learn these truths as we go along.

The problem of nit picking has been an age old issue considering that the Pharisees in Jesus time thought they had it down even accusing Jesus of sin because He ate with the publicans and sinners!

This is how it is and probably always will be.

I've observed that those who are often critical will sooner or later commit the same mistakes as the ones that they were most critical.

That's my take on life.

This attitude in churches often turns the “unchurched” away.

Some of these thoughts came to me after an accident in 2013. While leaning

on my crutches, with pins still in my foot, I stopped to scribble down these thoughts that have become a part of my philosophy.

Napoleon Hill, famous American motivational speaker, said “we become what we think about.”

Our thoughts and those of others impact our lives.

Max Ehrman also said “be gentle with yourself. You are no less than the trees and the stars. You have a right to be here.”

I feel at peace when I struggle with “situations” in my life that somehow have always worked out, giving me security in life even when I've felt all alone.

With all of my struggles, I am so blessed!

As I pillow my head I know that Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever and He always gets me to the right place at the right time.

CONTACT SARAH AT SARAH@AOL.COM

203 GLEASON STREET

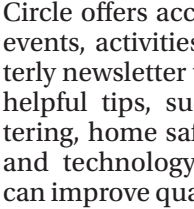
Staying Active and Connected: A Great Opportunity for Those 50 and Older

As we move through 2025, one of the most valuable assets we can invest in is our health, especially as we get older. As someone who is over 50 (I'm 55), I can personally attest to how important it is to find ways to stay active, engaged, and healthy. That's why I'm thrilled to see the initiative being led by Minden Medical Center with the introduction of The Circle, a free membership program designed for adults 50 and older.

As many of us know, the challenges that come with aging don't just affect our physical health, but also our mental and emotional well-being. We can all agree that as the years pass, staying active—both physically and socially—becomes even more essential. The Circle provides an excel-

lent opportunity for seniors to do just that.

This new program offers a wide range of benefits that can help adults 50 and older stay engaged and informed, and I am particularly encouraged by the emphasis on community and wellness. The Circle offers access to various events, activities, and a quarterly newsletter that will share helpful tips, such as decluttering, home safety upgrades, and technology devices that can improve quality of life. For



DAVID SPECHT

those who enjoy socializing and engaging in fun activities, The Circle is a great way to meet new people while learning more about maintaining your health.

On January 21, The Circle hosted a meeting at the Minden Library, where attendees not only enjoyed a health talk but also participated in a lighthearted game of The Price is Right. It was an event that combined both education and fun, demonstrating that staying healthy doesn't have to be a chore—it can be an enjoyable part of life.

Additionally, as we enter February and celebrate National Senior Independence Month, the quarterly newsletter will feature tips that further encourage individuals to improve their quality of life.

Whether it's through decluttering your home, upgrading your living space for safety, or embracing helpful technologies, these are all valuable resources to improve your day-to-day experience.

In today's world, we can sometimes feel isolated or overwhelmed by the demands of life, but programs like The Circle remind us that there's a wealth of resources available to help us thrive at any age. It's all about staying connected, whether that's through learning, socializing, or simply getting out of the house and being active.

So, to my fellow over-50 community members, I encourage you to take advantage of The Circle and all that it offers. It's a fantastic opportunity to not only stay physi-

cally healthy but also keep the mind sharp, all while connecting with others who share similar experiences. It's never too late to take control of your health and happiness, and this initiative is a great place to start.

For more information about The Circle, I encourage you to reach out to Minden Medical Center at thecircleminden@ahmgt.com or call (318) 371-3234. Let's continue to live life to the fullest and invest in our well-being—together.

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

SPORTS

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HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL



Jaiden Franklin, shown above during a game in November, scored 22 points in a 75-45 victory over Woodlawn last week at Minden.

Minden routs Woodlawn in District 1-4A opener Doyline picks up 19th victory

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

The Minden Crimson Tide opened District 1-4A play last week with a 75-45 rout of Woodlawn at Minden. Jaiden Franklin led eight Crimson Tide players who scored with 22 points. Cameron Parker added 16. Kameron Harris had 14. Parker scored nine in

the first quarter. Franklin had six and Morris five as Minden jumped out to a 20-9 lead. Franklin tallied eight in the second quarter and the Tide led 39-22 at the half. Harris and Franklin scored six each in the third as Minden continued to pull away. The Tide was scheduled to continue district play at home against Loyola Tuesday and at North DeSoto

Friday. Minden, which entered this week 14-2, bounced back from a 69-57 road loss to West Monroe. The Tide fell behind early. The Rebels led 36-26 at the half. West Monroe extended the lead to 52-37 after three quarters. Parker led Minden with 18 points. Darnell Morris and Franklin added 13

each. Kendrick Green led West Monroe with 25 points. Also last week, the Doyline Panthers defeated Weston 75-59 at Westin. Doyline entered this week 19-3 overall and 1-1 in District 1-B. The Panthers were scheduled to host Castor Tuesday and Georgetown Thursday.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lady Tiders hold off Lady Knights in 1-4A opener

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

The Minden Lady Tiders opened District 1-4A play last week with a 44-38 victory over Woodlawn at Minden. The Lady Tiders led 13-6 after the first quarter and 24-14 at the half. Minden extended the lead to 38-25 after three quarters. Woodlawn rallied in the fourth but the Lady Knights got no closer than

five. Brooklyn Jefferson led Minden with 15 points and 16 rebounds. She also had seven steals and five assists. Markeithdra Willis had 12 points, five rebounds and two assists. Shelby Glenn had 11 points, six assists, six steals and five rebounds. Minden also fell to West Monroe 61-40 on the road last week. Travesti Byrd led the

Lady Tiders with 14 points. She also had five rebounds, three assists and three steals. Jefferson had 14 rebounds, 10 points, three assists and two steals. Glenn had nine points, four steals, three assists and three rebounds. Minden entered this week 9-10. The Lady Tiders were scheduled to host Loyola Tuesday and visit North DeSoto Friday. North Webster picked

up one win last week, defeating Haynesville 42-17 on the road. Germaya Harris led eight North Webster players who scored with 11 points. Nazaria Caldwell added eight and Shakyra Hawkins seven. The Lady Knights also fell to Bastrop and Richwood in District 1-3A games. North Webster entered this week 12-8.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Minden standouts make college choices

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Minden senior Jonathan Bradford is headed to Southern Arkansas.

Bradford, an offensive lineman, helped the Crimson Tide finish 8-3 after going 3-8 in 2023. Minden finished third in the district behind North DeSoto and

Northwood. Bradford blocked for a team that averaged 211.8 yards rushing per game. He was also first-team All-District in 2023.

Minden defensive lineman Demetrius Bradford, a two-time All-District 1-4A selection, announced his commitment to Arkansas Tech on X (formerly Twitter).

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Louisiana Tech hires Luke Olson as defensive coordinator

STEPHEN FEATHERSTON
Louisiana Tech Director of Strategic Communications

RUSTON – Louisiana Tech head football coach Sonny Cumbie has appointed Luke Olson as the team's new Defensive Coordinator.

Cumbie also announced the hiring of assistant coaches Carlton Buckels and Josh Creech. Buckels will serve as the cornerbacks coach/defensive passing game coordinator. Creech will coach linebackers.

Olson brings over a decade of defensive coaching experience at the FBS level to Ruston, including two seasons as a defensive coordinator.

Familiar with Conference-USA, Olson joins LA Tech from Jax State, where he served as the defensive coordinator during the 2024 season. The Gamecocks finished with a 9-5 (7-1 CUSA) record on their way to winning the CUSA Championship.

"I'm excited to work with Luke Olson as our DC!" stated Cumbie. "Fresh off a CUSA championship as a coordinator, he knows what it takes to win at the highest level in our league. We're looking forward to having Luke, Keisha, Lane, Wells, and Worth as Bulldogs and making a difference in our community and program."

His 2024 defense was headlined by safety Fred Perry who earned All-CUSA First Team honors after registering 110 tackles, 10 tackles for loss, three sacks, two forced fumbles and one fumble recovery. Olson also coached linebacker Reginald Hughes who earned First Team honors, along with three players on the All-CUSA Second Team. Olson's Gamecock defense finished sixth in the league in points allowed per game (26.1) and fifth in yards allowed



Luke Olson

(393.0). Olson came to Jax State from TCU, where he was a senior defensive analyst during the 2023 season after an 11-year stint on staff at Tulsa. He served as the Hurricane Defensive Coordinator in 2022.

A Tulsa native, Olson started his coaching career with the Golden Hurricane in 2012 as a graduate assistant and worked his way up before being named the defensive coordinator in 2022.

Olson's 2022 Tulsa defense saw three players earn All-ACC honors, highlighted by linebacker Justin Wright and defensive lineman Anthony Goodlow on the second team. The Golden Hurricane defense allowed 33.08 points per game and 414.3 yards per outing. Wright led the team with 101 tackles and 10.5 tackles for loss from his linebacker position.

He spent the 2012 season as a graduate assistant working with the defensive line, when that unit ranked among the nation's leaders for quarterback sacks, while his defensive linemen totaled 32 of the team's 53 sacks.

Olson then assisted with the team's cornerbacks in 2013 and 2014 and spent four years as defensive quality control coach before becoming the nickel safeties coach in 2018.

The 2021 Tulsa defense ranked among the top-5 in the American Athletic Conference for scoring defense, rush defense, total defense and interceptions.

GOLF

Minden Foundation co-sponsoring event to benefit St. Jude

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

The Minden Foundation is co-sponsoring Swing for a Cure to help raise money for the 2025 Minden St. Jude Auction. Minden native Blake Thomas is offering private golf lessons open to anyone age 8 and up from Feb. 7-9. Thomas is the PGA Director of Instruction at Monterey Peninsula Country Club in Monterey, Calif. He got his start at Pine Hills Country Club and has also served at courses in Virginia, South Carolina and Maryland. Thomas has been recognized by Golf Digest as one of the 2023-2024 Best Young Teachers in America, one of the 2024-2025 Best Teachers in Maryland, and as one of the 2025-2026 Best Young Teachers in America. Lessons will be held First Presbyterian Church of Minden, 1001 Broadway Street. Cost is \$75 for a half hour lesson and \$150 for an hour. More than one 30-minute may be booked. All proceeds go to benefit the Minden St. Jude Auction. For more information and to book lessons go to mindenfoundation.org.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

Minden teams to hit road in playoffs

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

The Minden Crimson Tide and Lady Tiders are headed to the playoffs. The regular season officially ended Monday. Official pairings were scheduled to be announced Tuesday. First-round matches must be played by Feb. 2.

The top 32 teams in the final power rankings qualify for the playoffs. District champions automatically qualify. The top 16 teams host first-round

matches. Both Minden teams will be on the road. According to GeauxPreps.com, the Crimson Tide (7-9-1) were No. 19 in the Division III power rankings through Sunday. The Lady Tiders (7-9-2) were No. 20. The Minden girls finished second in Division I-III. The Lady Tiders fell to Sterlington 5-1 in a match last week that decided the title. The Minden boys picked up one victory last week, defeating Calvary Baptist 1-0.

SPORTS

MEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Louisiana Tech picks up two conference victories

KANE MCGUIRE
Louisiana Tech Associate Athletic Director

The Louisiana Tech Bulldogs won two Conference-USA home games last week.

LA Tech defeated Western Kentucky 77-67 at home and Middle Tennessee 75-69.

The Bulldogs entered this week 15-6 overall and 4-4 in the conference.

Daniel Batcho and Kaden Cooper each tallied double-doubles against Middle Tennessee.

Batcho scored 25 points and had 12 rebounds. Cooper had 16 points and 13 rebounds.

Sean Newman Jr. nearly had a double-double with 13 points and eight assists. It was his 12th double-digit scoring game and the 14th time with at least eight dimes.

LA Tech found itself

down four with 4:51 to play, but the Bulldogs finished the game on a 16-6 run to protect the TAC and claim their seventh straight home victory.

The Bulldogs trailed by three at the half.

The second half was back-and-forth for most of it, staying within four points each way. LA Tech was down four with just under five minutes to go. And then Batcho took over.

The nation’s leader in field goal percentage sparked a 10-0 run for the ‘Dogs, scoring eight of them including a massive alley-oop slam to help give the home squad a 69-63 advantage with 1:46 remaining.

Then there was Cooper who kept LA Tech in it with a made jumper and one of his three triples coupled with two made free throws that helped during the run.

The biggest shot of the

game though came courtesy of Newman Jr. who got his defender up in the air late in the shock clock, sinking the 10-foot jumper plus the foul making it a 72-65 lead.

“We got stops,” Louisiana Tech Head Coach Talvin Hester said of the final minutes. “Not only stops, but we had Kaden Cooper and Daniel Batcho flying over the rim getting rebounds to secure their misses.

“When we hold people to one shot, now it gives ourselves a chance. And in the second half, we were the free throw team I know we can be.”

After missing games on this past road trip, Jordan Crawford and Al Green made their presence known against Western Kentucky, combing for 22 points.

The first half belonged to Green who came off the bench to score eight

straight points, giving LA Tech an offensive jolt as well as its first lead of the game.

The second half belonged to Crawford who for some reason loves playing WKU in the TAC. As a freshman, he put up 11 points and six assists. Last season, he netted a career-high 25 points.

“Al (Green) was 3-for-6 from three. Jordan with 11 and nine. AJ (Bates) was a +13,” Hester said. “When you have your bench doing that, it gives you a chance to be great.

“Will Allen was a plus. When you have options on the bench, you can do different things and gives you variety. When Devin (Ree) and Kaden ere in foul trouble, Jordan Crawford goes in and plays the four. He dominates it. His rebounding was elite.”

Batcho led the Bulldogs in scoring with 18 points.

WOMEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Lady Techsters drop two games

KEVIN ALBAREZ
Louisiana Tech Associate Director of Strategic Communications

The Louisiana Tech Lady Techsters lost two Conference-USA road games last week.

The Lady Techsters fell to Western Kentucky 69-61 and Middle Tennessee 61-43.

Louisiana Tech entered this week 11-8 overall and 4-4 in the conference.

Paris Bradley scored a career-high 21 points against Middle Tennessee.

Louisiana Tech finished shooting just 27.3 percent from the field, but 40.0 percent from long range and 76.5 percent from the charity stripe.

Bradley was the only Lady Techster in double digits, while Jianna Morris added seven points and five boards. Robyn Lee finished

with 10 rebounds.

I thought our group battled today but didn’t have enough balance offensively,” Louisiana Tech Head Coach Brooke Stoer said. “Give Middle credit. You have to be extremely tough from a mental and physical standpoint to handle their runs and answer them on their home court.”

Against Western Kentucky, Louisiana Tech cut a 15-point first-half deficit to three with two and a half minutes to play in the fourth quarter, but WKU didn’t allow the Lady Techsters to get any closer.

Morris led the Lady Techsters with 17 points, connecting on 4-8 from deep. Jordan Marshall finished with her fourth double-double of the season with 15 points and 11 rebounds. Paris Bradley extended her double-figure scoring output to six games.

NSU wins two conference games

NORTHWESTERN STATE SPORTS INFORMATION

The Northwestern State Demons won two Southland Conference games last week.

NSU defeated UNO 73-61 at home and Stephen F. Austin 57-54 in overtime on the road.

The Demons entered this week 9-10 overall and 6-3 in the conference.

A second-half surge propelled NSU to the victory over UNO.

The Demons overcame a double-figure deficit to take a second-half lead then pulled away.

“Obviously, it was a tale of two halves,” second-year head coach Rick Cabrera said. “In the first half, I don’t know which team that was, and I don’t know which coach that was on the sideline.

In the second half, I know what team that was. That team, I know, can win a Southland Conference championship.

“It was so collective by everybody. We played eight or nine guys double-digit minutes, and they all played well. We have to build on this.”

After being held to 32.3-percent shooting in the first half, Northwestern went 17-for-30 from the field in the second half despite missing all six of its 3-point attempts.

Addison Patterson led the charge, hitting six of his seven second-half shots to notch his third double-double of the season. Patterson finished with 17 points and grabbed a career-high-tying 11 rebounds.

Patterson led the Demons in rebounding, but

it was a collective effort that helped Northwestern build a plus-17 advantage on the boards. Junior forwards Willie Williams and JT Warren combined for 13 rebounds with Warren delivering five of his six boards on the offensive end.

NSU also rallied against SFA, which led by as many as 12 points.

“It was an ugly win, but a great win despite that,” Cabrera said. “Our guys competed, we found a way to win despite shooting 28 percent from the field. I don’t think I’ve ever been a part of a game like that. But it was a great win for our guys.”

A 15-1 run to start the second half gave SFA a 35-23 lead.

After a Patterson tough layup and three-pointer, the Demons started the game-changing run that

put themselves back in the game. A 22-9 stretch over the ensuing eight minutes cut the lead to three after a Love Bettis free throw at the 7:15-minute mark.

The game went into overtime tied at 49.

The Demons locked in defensively through the bulk of the five-minute overtime, allowing just two made field goals, on nine attempts. Their from the charity stripe proved the difference maker with a duo of free throws from Patterson and Bettis put the Lumberjacks away.

The Demons went 4-for-5 from the stripe in the period while the Lumberjacks missed the front end of two different one-and-ones within the 90 seconds of the period and did not take another shot from the line the rest of the period.

Patterson led the way for the Demons putting up a double-double with 19 points and 10 rebounds.

JONATHAN ZENK
Northwestern State Assistant Director of Communications

NACOGDOCHES, Texas — Mya Blake dropped a career-high 37 points, but the Northwestern State fell in 67-65 in a hard-fought contest last Saturday afternoon.

NSU entered this week 8-9 overall and 5-3 in the Southland Conference.

Blake scored 24 of her 37 in the second half, but the Demons (8-9, 5-3) could not hold a late lead.

Blake’s 37 points are the most by a Demon since Angela Simpson dropped in 45 in a Southland Conference Tournament game against Texas State on March 7, 1996.

Her point total is also the most points scored in

the Southland Conference this season.

“I felt that our girls deserved to win tonight,” Head Coach Anna Nimz said. “I’m really proud of them. Mya was absolutely tremendous. She always is. She is a winner.

“Our defense was fantastic. I’m proud of the defensive effort tonight. This group is special.”

Northwestern State led 58-53 with three minutes to play following Nia Hardison’s only bucket of the game before an 8-0 run with four coming on one possession following a technical foul.

SFA (15-5, 5-4) never relinquished the lead from there. Faith Blackstone scored nine of her 17 points in the final quarter

Grambling State downs MVSU

CURTIS FORD
Grambling State Associate AD for Athletic Communications

ITTA BENA, Miss. — Grambling State found its way back into the win column after defeating Mississippi Valley State 65-54 last Saturday night.

The Tigers entered this week 5-14 overall and 2-4 in the SWAC.

GSU trailed at halftime,

but breezed past MVSU (2-18, 0-7) with an early second-half surge.

The Tigers got a career-high 12-point effort out of junior guard Emareyon McDonald, who entered the game off the bench. Grambling State’s reserves played a pivotal role in the victory, accounting 31 points.

Antwan Burnett also added 12 points for GSU,

while Mikale Stevenson contributed 11.

With GSU trailing 16-14 with 6:17 remaining in the first period, McDonald knocked down a deep 3-point from the wing to give the Tigers a 17-16 lead.

MVSU responded with an 8-0 run, highlighted by a pair of threes by Arthur Tate, to grab a 24-17 lead 3:04 on the clock. Tate scored 16 of his 21 points in

the opening period.

Flippin scored GSU’s next six points during a 6-1 spurt to make it a 25-23 game with 1:11 until halftime. The Delta Devils led 27-23 at the break.

Grambling State came out of the locker room on fire, opening the half on an 18-4 run to grab its first double-double digit lead of the contest, 41-31, with 12:12 left.

LEON MITCHELL
Grambling State Athletic Communications

The Grambling State Tigers won two SWAC road games last week.

GSU defeated Arkansas-Pine Bluff 64-57 and Mississippi Valley State 69-62.

The Tigers entered this week 7-11 overall and 4-3 in the conference.

Kahia Warmasley

scored a season-high 27 points against MVSU on 11-of-20 shooting, including 3-of-7 from beyond the arc. She also grabbed eight rebounds and added three steals.

Warmasley scored a game-high 18 points and grabbing seven rebounds. Lydia Freeman added eight points to go along with nine rebounds.

GSU shot 33.3 percent from the field.

OUTDOORS

Blizzard on the coast; no snow in Ruston

GLYNN HARRIS

Mother Nature can do some strange things. She can send us enough heat in August to make us think we’re in the Sahara Desert. She can send us a drought as serious as folks are experiencing now in California; she can drench us with floods that virtually cover lake-side homes and wash out bridges on country roads.

It’s in winter, though, when she saves her neatest tricks. A plethora of song birds respond to the cold icy weather as having high metabolism they’re born with, they need plenty of food to keep their little motors running. My bird watching had gotten a bit boring during the mild winter so far. I love the cardinals, titmice and chickadees that visit my feeders every day but I eventually got tired of looking as I saw no other birds except for these three species.

Let the weather turn icy though like we’ve lived

through for the past week or so, and the thickets give up the variety of birds where until now, they find all the comfort they need. Put out feed and here they come – purple finches, gold finches, blue jays, woodpeckers, fox sparrows and the occasional towhee. When we had a big snow a couple of winters ago with snow and ice covering my feeders, I put out feed on the floor of my back porch and it was like a zoo. My wife was less than enthusiastic about the mess the birds left as they gobbled down the seeds I had scattered on the porch, thanking me by leaving their droppings to be cleaned up.

When I was a kid growing up out on the rural route, getting to see and experience snow and watching the big flakes flutter down was a special treat. Goldonna seldom got snow but on those rare occasions when we did, it was like Christmas.

One particular snowfall remains in my memory to



COURTESY PHOTO

This writer as a 12 year old is shown enjoying a big snow fall he once experienced.

this day. I don’t know what year it was but I was maybe 12 years old and we got a serious one. Next to our home was a pine thicket and the tender pine branches were bent to the ground with the weight of a foot of snow.

We had neighbors living just on the other side of the thicket with a path that led from our house to theirs. I

dug through my photo files and found a photo of me standing on the path next to one of the snow-laden pines.

Enough about the past. Let’s look at what has been going on around our state with this current artic blast. Although I don’t get as excited today as I once did at the prospects of getting to

see snow, I admit I was just a tad disappointed when the weather folks said that north Louisiana might see a dusting of snow, if any at all. I still enjoy watching big feathery flakes drift down, provided it’s all gone by tomorrow.

The rare phenomenon was what was forecast for the southern part of our

state when up to a foot of snow fell as far south as the Gulf coast.

On Tuesday morning, the little kids in places like Houma, New Iberia, Hackberry et al got to play and romp in snow, something many of them had never seen.

My daughter, Cathy, lives just outside Baton Rouge in the city of Central and she sent me a video of their snow covered yard with big feathery flakes still floating down. Six inches had fallen in her yard with another three inches forecast. I saw a photo of two guys on skis on snow-covered Bourbon Street of all places! They actually had blizzard warnings for areas along the coast. Crazy weather for sure and all we have up here is a drab landscape to look at and frigid temperatures but lots of birds.

I pledge to never complain about hot dry weather again. I’m so ready for spring.

Good News

GOOD NEWS

We Are Never Too Old To Serve the Lord (and others)

As we grow older, often times we become unsure what our role is in the community, church or friendship circles. Many of our friends are unable to participate in activities and we, too, see limitations circling our own lives, tightening our sphere of involvement and making certain demands on our time and energies. Consider some of the Biblical characters who continued to serve God in meaningful ways as they aged.

Abraham and Sarai were 100 and 90 years of age when God made a covenant with him. “You will be the father of many nations.” (Gen 17: 4). So Sarai conceived and soon Isaac joined their family and the covenant was put into action. And so it was in the generations to come. Moses was a mere 80 years old when God called him out of exile to lead the Children of Israel through the wilderness for 40 years to possess the Promised Land. The covenant with Abraham was being extended through Moses. (Ex 3). God prepared Joshua to lead His people across the Jordan River into the land promised after Moses’ death. His instructions to Joshua was to “possess the Promised Land; just as I was with Moses I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. So be strong and courageous for you will lead My people to inherit the land promised to their forefathers.” (Josh 1: 2-6). Joshua now was about 80 years old, as was his assistant Caleb.

Many of the prophets were ‘elderly’ and faithfully served the Lord, calling His people back to repentance and commitment. Through the Old and New Testaments, we find no hint that ‘retirement’ from the Lord’s work or service is discussed. The call of discipleship is a life-time commitment, to the very end. The Great Commission Jesus gave His disciples seems to answer that question. (Matt 28: 16-20).

There are two elderly saints mentioned in Luke’s Gospel (2: 25-38) who missed the retirement message or party. They continued in their old age to serve the Lord as they always had done. (Simeon and Anna) We find them worshiping, praying and encouraging others at the Temple day after day. Because they ‘lived so close to God,’ they recognized Jesus as the Messiah (even as a babe) when his parents brought him to the Temple to be named and circumcised (according to the Law of Moses). The Spirit of God so filled them they recognized Him as the promised “Consolation of Israel – the Messiah” and offered prayers and blessings over Him.

Paul, as an old worn-out traveling evangelist and missionary, wrote these words to his young pastor friend -Timothy: “I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time for my departure is near. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now I am ready for the crown of righteousness which the Lord will award me on the day of my departure.” At an old age, He served the Lord, spending his last days in a Roman prison. (2 Tim 4).

The Apostle John, in his old age, was caught up in the Spirit and wrote (in exile) a glorious account of the New Jerusalem coming down out of heaven – “a new heaven and a new earth.” The early Councils that met to examine the manuscripts they “considered inspired by the Holy Spirit of God,” selected his work to include in the collection of our Biblical Canon. Yes, God still uses folks our age (80’s 90’s, and even 100 and beyond).

“Whatever your age today, plan on remaining faithful and active your entire life. If you are available, God will use you to bless someone, even today. “The only aged saints who don’t get used by God are those who have removed themselves from service.”*

You may not be asked to serve anymore in areas you feel you are qualified at church. You may not be called on to voice a prayer, sing in the choir though you love music, serve food at special functions, or participate in activities you long have favored. Don’t lose heart; create your own ministry list. Make a list of homebound persons or bereaved families (or others in need) that you can share treats with, call or write. Consider visiting those confined to a nursing home or assisted living areas. Adopt a college student, a young family or single adult with children to minister to from time to time. Cut fresh flowers and share them with ill neighbors or friends. Bake your favorite cake or pie to share with folks on your “ministry list”.....and on and on. See there is no limit! Just because you feel neglected sometimes is no reason to stop serving your Lord.

Defeat this feeling; this attitude is not consistent with Biblical teaching. Choose to ‘look upward and not down at the floor.’ The Lord will bless you and you will draw new strength just knowing you can still be effective in serving the Lord in your latter years. Now is a good time to begin. Step 1 is to pray; then make your list of names, list things you can do for others, make a schedule and begin. Consider ‘one contact a week’ to begin this new adventure of usefulness. The Lord will truly bless.

Don’t stop, don’t sit down, don’t settle for a rocking chair to watch TV all day long. The Lord is not through with us yet, even though someone keeps reminding us we are getting old! Don’t let that capture your thought processes! Instead change that statement to something like: ‘not older just wiser and better, or just more mature, etc.’

Celebrate life; celebrate age. For age is not selective in whom it chooses. We all are blessed beyond what we truly deserve. Abe Lincoln is credited with saying: “And in the end, it is not the years in your life that counts, it is the life in your years that is most important.” So, Seniors – let’s make a difference; let’s ‘give of our best to the Master’! *

Morning and Evening Devotions, David Jeremiah, pg. 627.

BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER

THE UPWARD LOOK

Peace, Love, and Faith

“Peace be to the brothers, and love with faith, from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.” Ephesians 6:23 ESV

Paul concludes his letter by giving a blessing benediction. He wishes all believers to have peace. They have peace with God the Father through Jesus who redeemed them through His death and resurrection. This peace from God, which passes all understanding, gives wholeness and confidence even in the midst of the storms of life. He desires all, through faith in Christ, to experience God’s love flowing in and through their lives. God transforms a life through faith in Jesus and fills it with peace, love, and grace.

Lord Jesus, continue to transform my life to bring You honor and glory. May my life of faith in You be filled and overflow with Your peace, love, mercy, and grace.



Max Hutto

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

INSPIRATION

3 Easy Steps

One of the most prominent attributes of being human is wanting to feel something. We write stories, draw images and create music all in the pursuit of invoking feelings. These things can inspire us to be brave, happy, strong, and peaceful. However, they can also inspire feelings like hate, anger, depression, and jealousy. Now I know you’re probably wondering how to ensure that I’m being influenced in the right way? The answer to that question is simply that God has a plan. God gave us three main steps to follow for a happy healthy life.

1st step pray to him about everything. 2nd step: read your Bible and learn the word. 3rd and final Gather with other people of faith to teach and support each other. If we follow these easy steps we will always move in the right direction toward a happy and prosperous life. Psalms 143:10 NIV “Teach me to do your will, for you are my God; may your good Spirit lead me on level ground.”



Bernard Harris

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

Come

WORSHIP

How can we pray for you?

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
301 Pennsylvania Avenue • Minden, LA

CLASSIFIEDS

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

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



LEGALS
SHERIFF'S SALE

21ST MORTGAGE CORPORATION
VS.
RUSTY LEE ANGLIN AKA RUSTY L. ANGLIN
AKA RUSTY ANGLIN AND AMANDA JUNE
WEAVER AKA ANGLIN AMANDA JUNE WEAV-
ER AKA AMANDA JUNE ANGLIN AKA AMANDA
WEAVER ANGLIN AKA AMANDA J. WEAVER
AKA AMANDA J. ANGLIN AKA AMANDA
WEAVER AKA AMANDA ANGLIN
In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of
Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 81832.
By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE
issued out of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District
Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, in the above
styled and numbered suit and to me directed, I
have seized and taken into my possession and
will offer for sale at public auction to the last
and highest bidder for cash WITH the benefit
of appraisal and according to law at the
principle front door of the Courthouse in the City
of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana, on
WEDNESDAY, March 5, 2025,

During the legal sale hours, the following prop-
erty, to wit:
A tract of land located in the Southwest Quarter
of the Southeast Quarter of Section 13, Township
22, Range 11 West of Webster Parish, Louisiana,
more particularly described as follows:
Begin at the Southwest corner of the Southwest
Quarter of Southeast Quarter (SW/c of SW1/4 of
SE1/4), Section 13, Township 22 North, Range
11 West, Webster Parish, Louisiana, thence
run North 420 feet; thence run East 240 feet to
the Point of Beginning of the Property herein
described; thence continue East 216 feet; thence
run South 240 feet; thence run East 216 feet;
thence run North 240 feet back to the Point of
Beginning; together with all that portion of the
North half of the alley, adjoining said land on the
South, which was abandoned by the Village of
Sarepta in Ordinance Number 20 of 1962, a copy
of which was filed in the Conveyance Records
under Registry Number 183047 together with all
Buildings and Improvements located thereon,
having a municipal address of 123 Ball Park
Street, Sarepta, Louisiana 71071.
movable property:
2017 Clayton mobile home bearing serial number
SOU016611ALA and SOU11611ALB
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: January 29, 2025 February
26, 2025
JASON R. PARKER Sheriff & Ex-Officio Auc-
tioneer
Webster Parish, Louisiana
Pam Brantley
Pam Brantley - Deputy

January 29, 2025
February 26, 2025
Minden Press Herald

SHERIFF'S SALE
COLONIAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE, A DIVISION
OF COLONIAL SAVINGS, F.A.
VS.
ROYCE B. CHAPMAN, SR & ANGELIA M.
CHAPMAN
In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of
Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 81851.
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, February 5, 2025.
During the legal sale hours, the following prop-
erty, to wit:
***SEE ATTACHED PROPERTY DESCRIP-
TION***
SOLD SUBJECT TO ANY SUPERIOR LIENS,
MORTGAGES OR PRIVILEGES THERETO.
Said property seized is that of the defendant and
will be sold to satisfy a judgment rendered in our
Honorable Court.
JASON R. PARKER
Sheriff & Ex-Officio Auctioneer
Webster Parish, Louisiana
Pam Brantle
Pam Brantley - Deputy
TRACT 1
Commencing at the Northwest Corner of the
Southwest Quarter of Southeast Quarter (NW/Cor
of SW/4 of SE/4), Section 21, Township 18 North,
Range 9 West, Webster Parish, Louisiana, and
run South 900 feet; thence run East 582.5 feet to
the point of beginning; thence continue East 200
feet; thence run North 200 feet to a 1" iron pipe;
thence run West 200 feet to a 1" iron pipe; thence
run South 200 feet to the point of beginning.
TRACT 2
Commencing at the Northwest Corner of the
Southwest Quarter of Southeast Quarter (NW/
Cor of SW/4 of SE/4), Section 21, Township 18
North, Range D West, Webster Parish, Louisiana,
and run South 900 feet; thence run East 582.5
feet to the East Right of Way of Lori Lane for the
point of beginning; thence run South along said
Right of Way 166.7 feet to cul-d-sac and 1/2"
rebar; thence run along cul-d-sac 52.36 feet to
1/2" rebar; thence run East 175 feet; thence run
North 210 feet; thence run West 200 feet to the
point of beginning.
TRACT 3
Commencing at the Northwest Corner of the
Southwest Quarter of Southeast Quarter (NE/
Cor of SW/4 of SE/4), Section 21, Township 18
North, Range 9 West, Webster Parish Louisiana,
and run South 1,320 feet; thence run East 557.5
feet to 3/8" rebar for the point of beginning;
thence run North 160 feet to 1/2" rebar located on
cul-d-sac on Lori Lane; thence run Northeastly
along cul-d-sac 78.54 feet to 1/2" rebar; thence
run East 175 feet; thence run South 210 feet to
1/2" rebar; thence run West 225 feet to the point
of beginning; subject to restrictions, servitudes,
rights-of-way and outstanding mineral rights of
record affecting the property,

January 1, 29, 2025
Minden Press Herald

SHERIFF'S SALE
CITIBANK, N.A., NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL
CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE
FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOAN
TRUST 2018-2
VS.
THE UNOPENED SUCCESSION OF AND
UNKNOWN HEIRS OF TOMMY JAMES WESS
A/K/A TOMMY JAMES WESS A/K/A TOMMY

J. WESS A/K/A TOMMY WEST AND THE
UNOPENED SUCCESSION OF AND UN-
KNOWN HEIRS OF JESSYE GOREE WESS
A/K/A JESSYE GOREE WESS A/K/A JESSYE G.
WESS A/K/A JESSYE WESS
In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of
Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 81808.
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, February 5, 2025.
During the legal sale hours, the following prop-
erty, to wit:
Lot No. 5, described as follows: Beginning at
the northwest corner of the southeast quarter of
southeast quarter (SE/4 of SE/4), Section 24,
Township 23 North, Rage 11 West, Webster Par-
ish, Louisiana; thence run south 15 feet; thence
run east 221.2 feet to the point of beginning;
thence run east 50 feet; thence run south 150
feet; thence run west 50 feet; thence run north
150 feet to the point of beginning.
SOLD SUBJECT TO ANY SUPERIOR LIENS,
MORTGAGES OR PRIVILEGES THERETO.
Said property seized is that of the defendant and
will be sold to satisfy a judgment rendered in our
Honorable Court.
JASON R. PARKER Sheriff & Ex-Officio Auc-
tioneer
Webster Parish, Louisiana
Pam Branthor
Pam Brantley - Deputy

January 1, 29, 2025
Minden Press Herald

INVITATION FOR BID
The Webster Parish FPD #6 solicits sealed bids
for the following:
Used Fire Department Ladder Truck
The proposals must be in the hands of the under-
signed no later than 10:00 am Wednesday, Feb-
ruary 10, 2025 in the Secretary Office - Webster
Parish FPD #6, 109 Coyle Ave, Cullen, Louisiana
71021. The Bid specification sheet is available at
no charge in the office of the Secretary, Webster
Parish FPD #6. Bid opening will Wednesday, De-
cember 18, 2024 via email cpfdist6@gmail.com
or posted mail P.O. Box 28, Cullen LA 71021. The
bid will be awarded at Department Board meeting
to be held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 6pm.

The Webster Parish Fire District # 6 is a tax-
exempt governmental agency.
The Webster Parish Fire District # 6 abides by the
requirements of the Louisiana Bid Law.

ALL BIDS SUBMITTED MUST BE CLEARLY
MARKED:
Webster Parish Fire District # 6 – "BID EN-
CLOSED"

The Webster Parish Fire District # 6 is a tax-
exempt governmental agency.
The Webster Parish Fire District # 6 abides by the
requirements of the Louisiana Bid Law as stated
in R.S. 38:2238.1.

The Webster Parish Fire District # 6 reserves
the right to reject any and all bids and to waive
informalities or to accept the bid, which may best
serve its interest.

December 25, 2024
January 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2025
February 5, 2025
Minden Press Herald

Bid Specifications Sheet
Used Fire Department Ladder Truck
1. 2002 or newer Ladder Truck
2. 400 HP or greater engine
3. Electric reel
4. Automatic transmission
5. On-board generator
6. 110' or greater aerial ladder
7. 2000 or less aerial hours
8. 4000 or less engine hours
9. (6) person minimum seating
10. Maximum height of 12' 10" and length of 45'

December 25, 2024
January 1, 8, 15, 22, 29, 2025
February 5, 2025
Minden Press Herald

PUBLIC NOTICE
Minden Planning Commission Meeting
February 6, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.
Pelican Room - Minden City Hall
On the agenda is a request from Dianna Jones,
real estate agent with Grand Eight Real Estate
for a zoning variance on property owned by
Elitebridge Properties, LLC, located at 901 Park
Highway. The property is zoned R-2 (Residential).
The purpose of this zoning variance request is for
the proposed construction of townhomes on the
property.
Legal Description: LOT #10, E/2 OF LOT #11,
W/2 OF LOT #11, & , LOT #12, BLK. "8" GOODE
ANNEX, STRIP 7 X 150FT. (ADJ.) (FORMERLY
AN ALLEY) IN NW/4 OF NE/4 SEC. 22-19-9
& STRIP FRONTING 24 FT. ON PARK HWY.
X 150 FT. (ADJ.) LOTS #10, 11 & 12 BLK. "8")
(FORMERLY AN ALLEY) IN NW/4 OF NE/4 SEC.
22-19-9
All interested parties will be given a chance to
be heard.

January 22, 2025
January 29, 2025
February 5, 2025
Minden Press Herald

NOTICE
Webster Parish Special Education will be destroy-
ing all Special Education Records for students
who exited the program on or before May 2019
and/or have reached their 27th birthday (birth
year of 1997). If you would like your records,
contact the Webster Parish Special Education Of-
fice at (318) 377-7052 before Thursday, February
20, 2025. You must provide a picture ID and your
signature to obtain these records.

January 29, 2025
Minden Press Herald

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
SECTION 00020
Separate sealed bids addressed to the City of
Minden (herein referred to as Owner) will be
received by the Owner for the construction of the
project described as follows:
Shreveport Road Water Improvements
Bids shall be addressed to the City of Minden
and delivered to the City Clerk's Office located at
520 Broadway Street, Minden, Louisiana 71055
no later than 2:00 P.M. local time on Wednesday,
February 26, 2025. Shortly after the deadline
for bid submission, bids properly received will be
publicly opened and read aloud in Minden City
Hall Conference Room located at 520 Broadway
Street, Minden, Louisiana. Any bid received after
the above time will not be accepted under any
circumstances and will be returned unopened.
Faxed bids cannot be accepted and will be dis-
carded. Owner is not responsible for the timely
delivery of bids by USPS or any other carrier.
The Contract Documents may be examined at
the following locations:
City of Minden Riley Company of Louisiana, Inc.
Department of Public Works 112 East Mississippi
Avenue
520 Broadway Ruston, LA 71270
Minden, LA 71055
Copies of the Contract Documents may be
obtained at the office of the engineer, Riley Com-
pany of Louisiana, Inc., 112 East Mississippi Av-
enue, Ruston, Louisiana 71270, telephone (318)
251-0238, fax (318) 251-0239 upon payment of
\$75.00 for each set. Deposit is fully refundable
to all bona fide prime bidders who submit a bid
upon return of the documents in good condition
no later than ten (10) days after receipt of bids.

Deposit is 50% refundable to all others.
Contract documents will also be available
online at www.BidExpress.com. Contractors
are provided the option to submit bid for public
contracts through a uniform and secure electronic
interactive system as stated in Louisiana Bid
Law R.S. 38:2212.1. Electronic bids may be
submitted at www.BidExpress.com. If bidding
online, all interested parties must register with Bid
Express. If bidders encounter problems access-
ing Bid Express, please contact Bid Express at
888-352-2439.
The Owner reserves the right to waive any infor-
malities or to reject any or all bids in accordance
with state bid law.
Prime bidders for this work must be licensed
under the classification of Municipal and Public
Works. Any subcontractor submitting a sub-bid
in excess of \$50,000 to a prime bidder is required
to be licensed in accordance with the State of
Louisiana requirements.
An acceptable Bid Bond, Cashier's Check, or
Certified Check, payable to the Owner in an
amount not less than 5% of the total and, must
accompany the bid. Failure to do so will cause
bid to be rejected. Negotiable Bid Bonds will be
returned to the unsuccessful bidders as soon
as possible or not more than 60 days after the
opening of bids. Bidders failing to provide a bid
bond will be considered a "no bid".
Bids shall be in a sealed envelope marked "DO
NOT OPEN – SEALED BID – CITY OF MINDEN
SHREVEPORT ROAD WATER IMPROVE-
MENTS – BID NUMBER 07-2025 – ATTN: CITY
CLERK." Bidder shall include their full company
name, address, and license number, as issued
00020-1
by the State of Louisiana Contractors Licensing
Board on the outside of the envelope containing
said bid documents.
An acceptable Performance Bond and Payment
Bond equal to 100% of the contract price will be
required of the successful bidder.
No bidder may withdraw his/her bid within forty-
five (45) days after the actual date of the opening
thereof.
Bidders will also be in compliance with all
applicable laws and regulations of the Federal
Government, State of Louisiana, and meet all
bonding and insurance requirements.
A mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at
10:00 A.M. local time, Thursday, February 13,
2025 at the Public Works Control Center at 115
Horton Street, Minden, LA 71055.
Melaney Langford, City Clerk
Bid Number 07-2025
00020-2

January 29, 2025
February 5, 12, 2025
Minden Press Herald

Minutes
PROCEEDING OF THE VILLAGE OF HEFLIN,
STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN IN REGULAR
MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 13, 2024.

The Heflin Town Council met at Town Hall,
Heflin, Louisiana beginning at 7:20 p.m. with the
following members present: Mayor Ralph James
council members Matt Austin, Robert Stachow-
icz, Chief of Police Paul Migues, Water System
Operator Jesse Williamson and Village Clerk
Sherry Limosnero. Absent council member Hallie
DeMoss.

The meeting was opened with prayer offered
by Robert Stachowicz, and Matt Austin led the
Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Ralph James wel-
comed everyone to the meeting.

Upon motion by Matt Austin and duly sec-
onded by Robert Stachowicz, the council adopted
Minutes from December 2024 at Council Regular
Meeting held on January 13, 2025, as presented;
the motion was approved unanimously.

Robert Stachowicz moved to accept Decem-
ber 2024 Operating Financial Statements as
presented; the motion was duly seconded by Matt
Austin. The motion was approved unanimously.

Upon motion by Matt Austin and duly
seconded by Robert Stachowicz, the council
unanimously approved Water System Reports for
December 2024.

Robert Stachowicz moved to accept the
December 2024 Police Department Reports as
presented; the motion was duly seconded by Matt
Austin. The motion was approved unanimously.
Matt Austin moved to accept the December 2024
ARP Report as presented; the motion was duly
seconded by Robert Stachowicz. The motion was
approved unanimously.

Council comments were heard, public
comments were heard. There being no further
business to come before this Council meeting
adjourned by Council Member Matt Austin.

Attest by: Sherry Limosnero, LCMC, Village Clerk
Respectfully posted: 1/16/2025
Adopted:
Publish:
Minden Press Herald

January 29, 2025
Minden Press Herald

Minutes
Town of Cotton Valley Monthly Meeting
Meeting Date: January 14, 2025
Meeting was called to order by Mayor Bruce Lee
Invocation and Pledge was led by Alderman R.
Shaw and in unison.
Roll call by municipal clerk, Tiffany Parish
Alderman R. Shaw (present)
Alderman J. Carter (present)
Alderman T. Brown (present)
Alderman C. Lewis (absent)
Alderman D. Hawkins (present)
We have a quorum (4) present (1) absent.
Motion to accept the January 2025 agenda.
Motioned by Alderman R. Shaw and 2nd by
Alderman J. Carter. Motion Passed
Motion to pay January 2025, motioned by Alder-
man J. Carter and 2nd by Alderman R. Shaw.
Motion Passed
Committee Report:
Mayor's Report: Appoint a Mayor Pro Tem for
2025-2028, Alderman J. Carter nominated
Alderman R. Shaw, Motioned by Alderman J.
Carter and 2nd by Alderman D. Hawkins. Motion
Passed
Citizens' input on the current agenda matters
only. None
Old Business
New Business
Approve resolution to remove Ashley W. Jones
from the Regions Bank Accounts. Motioned
by Alderman J. Carter and 2nd by Alderman D.
Hawkins. Motion Passed
Approve resolution to remove Ashley W. Jones
from the Carter Federal Credit Union Bank Ac-
counts. Motion by Alderman J. Carter and 2nd by
Alderman D. Hawkins. Motion Passed
Approve resolution to add Bruce Lee, Tiffany
Parish and Reggie Shaw to the Carter Federal
Credit Union bank accounts. Motion by Alderman
J. Carter and 2nd by Alderman D. Hawkins. Mo-
tion Passed
Introduction of Ordinance 25-01, Brightspeed
Franchise Fee. Motion by Alderman R. Shaw
and 2nd by Alderman J. Carter. Motion Passed
Approve resolution to hire new part time police
officer pending physical. Motion by Alderman J.
Carter and 2nd by Alderman D. Hawkins. Motion
Passed

Police Report – William Ingersoll – More training
for officers, Radio's and ammunition.
Adjournment – Motion made by Alderman J.
Carter and 2nd by Alderman D. Hawkins, meeting
adjourned.
Tiffany Parish-Municipal Clerk
1/16/2025

January 29, 2025
Minden Press Herald

Whereabouts
LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT: 21st Mortgage Cor-
poration v. Rusty Lee Anglin, et al.,
Docket No. 81832-D; 26th Judicial District Court;
Webster Parish, Louisiana. Please notice that
Rusty Lee Anglin a/k/a Rusty L. Anglin a/k/a
Rusty Anglin has been named as a defendant
in the above-styled suit. Anyone knowing the
whereabouts of the defendant, Rusty Lee Anglin
a/k/a Rusty L. Anglin a/k/a Rusty Anglin, is asked
to contact Attorney Taunta Melville, at (318) 200-
0897 or email at TMelville@MelvilleLawFirm.com.

January 22, 29, 2025
Minden Press Herald

RESOLUTION NO. 01-01142025
STATE OF LOUISIANA
PARISH OF WEBSTER
VILLAGE OF DIXIE INN
WHEREAS, the Village of Dixie Inn, Louisiana re-
quests assistance from the Webster Parish Police
Jury to purchase equipment and labor to be used
to keep the streets, right-of-way, and drainage
ditches cleared and cleaned in the Village of Dixie
Inn, Louisiana, and
WHEREAS the total project cost will be deducted
from allotted annual municipality funding, and
costs over the allotted annual municipality fund-
ing will be paid by the municipality, and
WHEREAS, the total estimated project cost is
\$16,543.57, (15-ton load of SB-2 Stone-\$983.75,
14-yard load of topsoil-\$250.00, Stihl Back-
pack Blower-\$630.00, Stihl Backpack Blower
Battery-\$270.00, two (2) 5-lb. Stihl Round
Spools-\$107.98, Stihl Battery Operated Chainsaw
16" Kit-\$879.99, two (2) Stihl Weed-eater Trim-
mers (91-loop)-\$648.00, twenty-four (24) 12.8
oz./5 gallon Stihl Mixing Oil-\$119.28, forty-eight
(48) 6.4 oz./2.5 gallon Stihl Mixing Oil-\$129.60,
nine (9) bags Commercial Mulch-\$161.91, Stihl
Pressure Washer (2700 PSI/2.7 G)-\$765.00,
Stihl Weed Sprayer Battery Unit-\$360.00, four (4)
Exmark Tractus 72" Tires-\$2,916.00, Stihl AK30
Blower Battery-\$159.99, two (2) Full Chisel Green
Chains-\$62.08, Honda Generator (3200 watt)-
\$2,599.99, and cost of labor to cover up drainage
pipe behind Village Hall-\$5,500.00), and
NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, this resolu-
tion be adopted and sent to the Webster Parish
Police Jury to be placed on the agenda prior to
the Jury's regular meeting in February 2025.
THUS, DONE UPON MOTION by Lance Milligan,
duly seconded by Judy McKenzie, and carried,
the foregoing resolution was adopted by the Vil-
lage of Dixie Inn in Regular Session convened on
January 14, 2025.
YEAS: 3
NAYS: 0
ABSTAIN: 0
ABSENT: 0

Donna Hoffoss, Mayor
I, Alicia Ware, Clerk of the Village of Dixie Inn,
do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is
a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted
by the Village of Dixie Inn in regular session
convened on January 14, 2025.
Given under my official signature and seal of of-
fice on this the 14th day of January 2025.

Alicia Ware, Clerk

January 29, 2025
Minden Press Herald

Minutes
Village of Dixie Inn
Regular Session
January 14, 2025

NOTICE: THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN
FORMALLY APPROVED BY THE CITY COUN-
CIL.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the Village
of Dixie Inn met in regular session on January 14,
2025 at 5:00 p.m. in the Village Hall, Dixie Inn,
Louisiana with the following members present:
Mayor Donna Hoffoss, Aldermen Judy McKenzie,
Nell Finlay, and Lance Milligan.

The meeting was called to order and the invoca-
tion and pledge of allegiance were given.

Mayor Hoffoss welcomed Mr. Travis Morehart,
CPA, of Cook and Morehart.

A motion was made by Nell Finlay and seconded
by Judy McKenzie to adopt the minutes of the
regular session of December 10, 2024. Vote on
the motion was unanimous.

A motion was made by Judy McKenzie and
seconded by Lance Milligan to adopt the financial
statements for December 2024. Vote on the mo-
tion was unanimous.

Department Reports:

Mike Chreene reported all is good with the water
department.

Police Chief Jeffrey McNeill presented the council
with the department's Activity Report for Decem-
ber 2024. During the month of December, the
department had 34 traffic stops, nine (9) citations,
six (6) arrests, seven (7) Lemis Reports, 15 Non-
Lemis calls, 96 building checks, 16 backups, 16
public assists, and 21 calls for service.

New Business:

Mr. Travis Morehart, CPA, with Cook and More-
hart presented to the Mayor and Aldermen the
2023-24 audit.

Mayor Hoffoss read Resolution 01-01142025
aloud. A motion was made by Lance Milligan
and seconded by Judy McKenzie to adopt the
Resolution for assistance from the Webster
Parish Police Jury for the 2025 year. Vote on the
motion was as follows: Yeas – Lance Milligan,
Judy McKenzie, and Nell Finlay. Nays – None.
Absentees - None.

A motion was made by Judy McKenzie and sec-
onded by Lance Milligan to appoint Mike Chreene
as Part-Time Maintenance Supervisor at 10-20
hours weekly, or as needed at \$25.00 per hour.
Vote on the motion was unanimous.

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

ATTEST:
Donna Hoffoss
Mayor

January 29, 2025
Minden Press Herald

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CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to hot breakfast.

Each number corresponds to a letter.

(Hint: $26 = \mathbf{E}$)

A. 1 7 26 6 26 22

Clue: Egg dish

B. 21 5 22 3 24 26 12

Clue: Cooking room

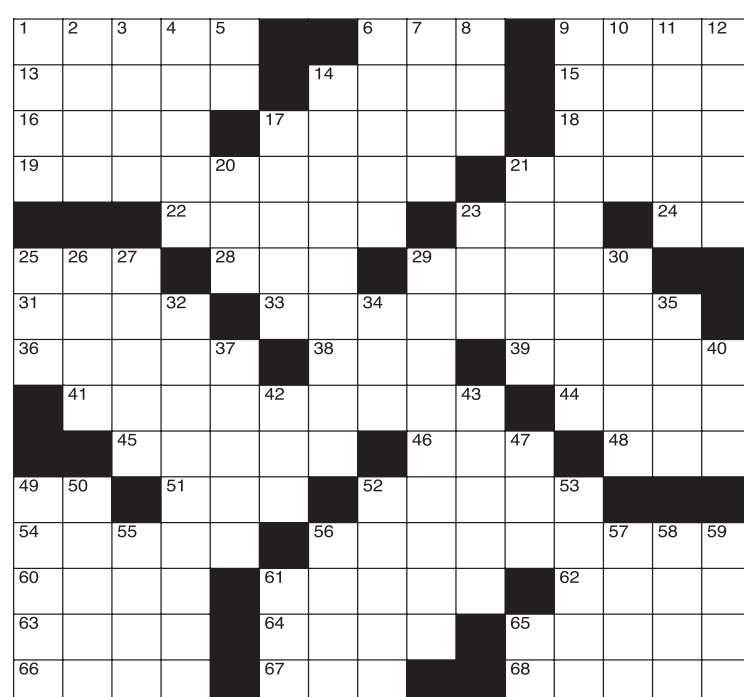
C. 2 14 26 13 21 15 13 8 22

Clue: Morning meal

D. 16 20 26 8 22 8

Clue: Visitors

Answers: A. omelet B. kitchen C. breakfast D. guest



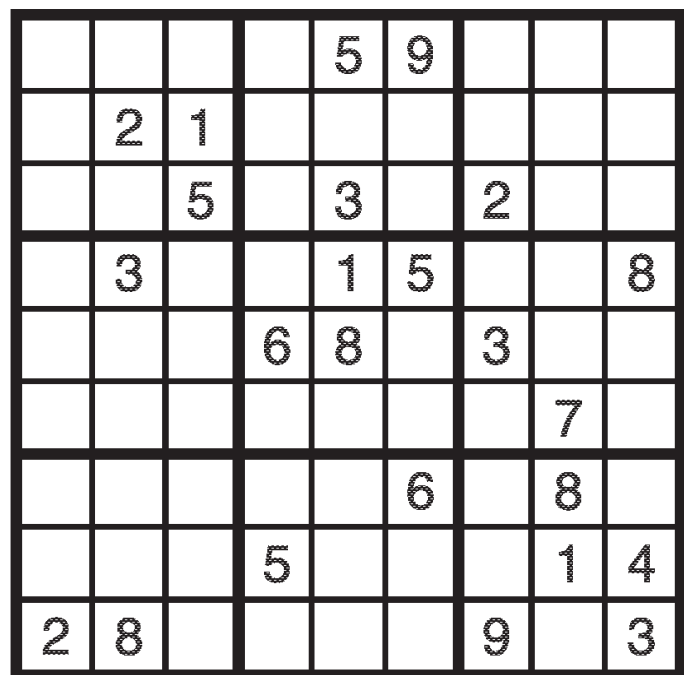
CLUES ACROSS

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Thou ___ do it | 38. Small, gray-headed crow |
| 6. Sino-Soviet block (abbr.) | 39. Vehicle type |
| 9. Brainstem part | 41. Disorders |
| 13. Town in New York state | 44. One point east of southeast |
| 14. Little (Spanish) | 45. Indian soldier |
| 15. Continent | 46. Tree type |
| 16. Retch | 48. Midway between south and southeast |
| 17. Short-billed rails | 49. It cools your home |
| 18. Small period of time (abbr.) | 51. Corn comes on it |
| 19. Confused | 52. Ship's deck |
| 21. A team needs one | 54. A way to bake |
| 22. Woman in ancient times | 56. Improvised |
| 23. Republican Party | 60. Butterfly genus |
| 24. Spanish be | 61. Baseball fields have them |
| 25. "The Godfather" character
Johnny | 62. Designated space |
| 28. Not around | 63. Discharge |
| 29. City in Zambia | 64. Two of something |
| 31. A type of beginning | 65. Once more |
| 33. Numb | 66. Part of your face |
| 36. Gurus | 67. Tax collector |
| | 68. Cassia tree |

CLUES DOWN

1. One-time Aaron Rodgers target
2. Wings
3. Overly studious person
4. They protect your valuables
5. The Volunteer State
6. Non-hydraulic cement
7. Horse mackerel
8. Jackson and Diddleley are two
9. Splendid displays
10. Mountain in NE Greece
11. A daughter or your brother or sister
12. German surname
14. Having more than one husband at a time
17. Romanian city
20. Energy
21. Makes less hot
23. Gas diffusion electrode
25. Former CIA
26. Set an example for others
27. Support of a particular person
29. One from the Big Apple
30. Mountain range
32. Violate the sanctity of something
34. Supervises flying
35. Talks
37. Persian male given name
40. Born of
42. Forcibly take one's possessions
43. Discounts
47. Knockouts
49. Posh Colorado destination
50. Form of therapy
52. British rock band
53. Type of virus (abbr.)
55. The U. of Miami mascot is one
56. Volcanic crater
57. Middle Eastern nation
58. Sinn __, Irish organization
59. Ethiopian lake
61. Bits per inch (abbr.)
65. Equally

SUDOKU



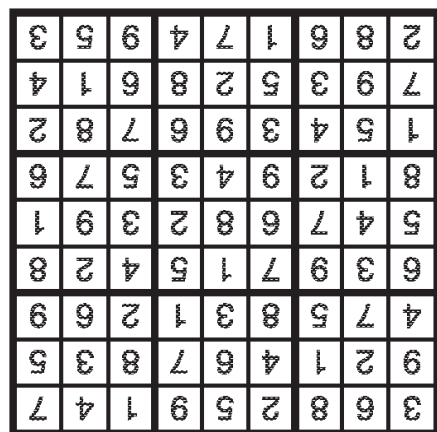
Level: Intermediate

Fun By The Numbers

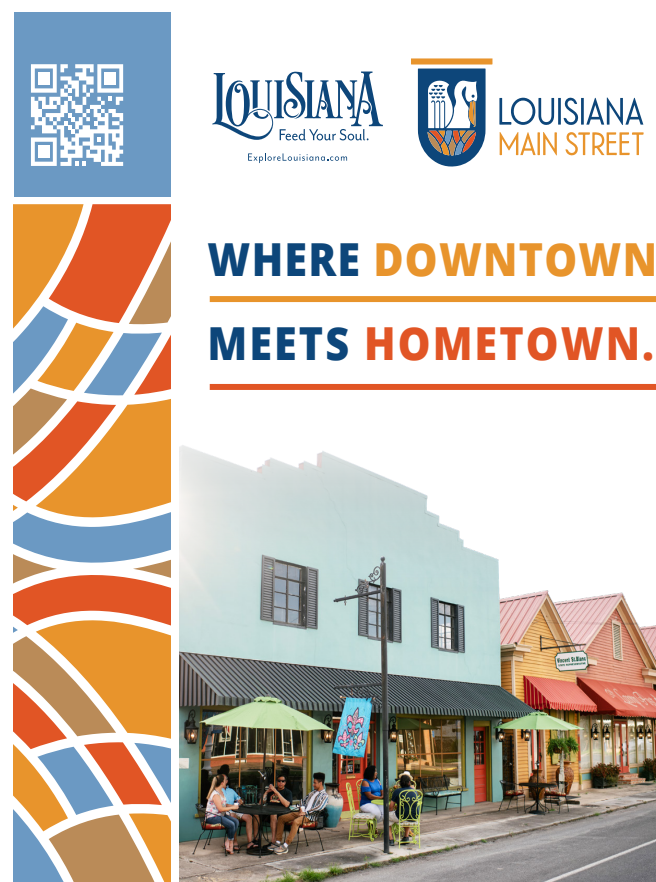
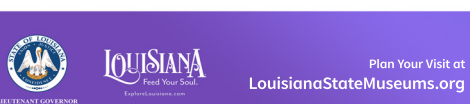
Like puzzles? Then you'll love sudoku. This mind-bending puzzle will have you hooked from the moment you square off, so sharpen your pencil and put your sudoku savvy to the test!

Here's How It Works:

Sudoku puzzles are formatted as a 9x9 grid, broken down into nine 3x3 boxes. To solve a sudoku, the numbers 1 through 9 must fill each row, column and box. Each number can appear only once in each row, column and box. You can figure out the order in which the numbers will appear by using the numeric clues already provided in the boxes. The more numbers you name, the easier it gets to solve the puzzle!



ANSWER:



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