

WEBSTER & MORE

SHUGS TURNS 1

Shug’s Ice Cream Shop celebrates first anniversary

AMBER MCDOWN

Minden Press-Herald

Shug’s ice cream shop marked its first anniversary Saturday, welcoming families to celebrate with ice cream for breakfast in downtown Minden.

The event, which coincided with National Ice Cream for Breakfast Day, drew customers in their pajamas for a morning

filled with sweet treats, including ice cream and waffles, cereal milkshakes, and doughnut ice cream sandwiches.

Shug’s, a family-owned and operated shop, has become a community staple since opening last year. As part of its celebration, Shug’s announced a fundraiser, Scooping for St. Jude, set for next Saturday. The shop will donate

\$1 for every scoop sold that day to benefit St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital.

“Thank you for an amazing first year—we couldn’t have done it without you!” owner Mandi Hart said.

The ice cream shop opened at 8 AM for the event, serving breakfast-themed frozen treats to a crowd of families and supporters.



CRIME

Minden police arrest wanted suspect on racketeering warrant

STAFF REPORT

Minden Press-Herald

A wanted suspect was taken into custody Friday morning following a search by Minden Police and Louisiana State Police.

Georgerick Coleman, 33, of Homer, was arrested at a residence on Madison Avenue in Minden after officers located his vehicle at the address. According to police reports, Coleman was wanted on an active warrant for racketeering activity along with other co-conspirators.

Authorities had previously searched Coleman’s residence in Haynesville but did not locate him. At approximately 6 AM on January 31, Minden officers, along with Louisiana State Police, surrounded the Madison Avenue home and conducted a call-out. After several attempts, a man exited the residence and was taken into custody, later identified as Coleman. A woman and child also exited the home and complied with officers’ commands.

Due to the nature of the racketeering case, officers conducted a safety sweep of the home, during which they discovered multiple vacuum-sealed bags in a basement closet. After being advised of his Miranda rights, Coleman admitted the bags contained narcotics, according to police.

A search warrant was obtained and executed at the residence, leading to the discovery of:

- Four large vacuum-sealed bags of suspected marijuana, weighing approximately two pounds each
- \$3,590 in U.S. currency found on a master bed
- A money counter
- Three Apple iPhones

A woman at the residence denied knowledge of any narcotics and was released without charges. Coleman was transported to the Minden Police Department, where the marijuana was weighed and valued at approximately \$12,800.

Coleman was booked on charges of possession of a controlled dangerous substance (Schedule I) with intent to distribute and for being a fugitive from Louisiana State Police.

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

CRIME

Two teens arrested in connection with assault, Ringgold shooting

STAFF REPORT

Minden Press-Herald

Two 17-year-old males are in custody following early morning raids on January 30. Minden Police Department officers executed warrants at two residences, one in the 100 block of Millard Fuller Drive and the other in the 1000 block of Tillman Drive, in connection with a January 18 assault and a recent shooting in Ringgold.

Officers arrived at both locations simultaneously, announcing their presence with sirens and flashing lights. Both suspects were apprehended without incident. During the search of the Tillman Drive residence, police recovered a magazine and an upper receiver for an AR-15 rifle. The teen residing at the Tillman Drive address is known as “Little Man,” while the teen from Millard Fuller Drive is known as “WOP.”

The January 18 assault occurred outside Abraham’s Food Mart. The victim told police that as he was walking from the store, “WOP” and “Little

Man” approached him. “They called his [the victim’s] name and, when he looked back, WOP hit him in the head with a firearm, busting his head open,” said Detective Hicks. “The victim took off running; as he was running, Little Man manipulated the slide, and they both ran after him.” The victim was unsure of the motive, whether it was an attempted robbery or simply assault.

“Little Man” has been charged with criminal conspiracy to aggravated 2nd degree battery, aggravated 2nd degree battery, and aggravated assault with a firearm. “WOP” has been charged with criminal conspiracy to aggravated 2nd degree battery, principal to aggravated 2nd degree battery, and principal to aggravated assault with a firearm. Both teens were transported to BDCC for booking. The investigation into the Ringgold shooting is ongoing.

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

SCHOOLS

Continued from Page 1

improvements include replacing two press box buildings and the restroom and concession building.

A number of expenditures were also approved, using district maintenance funds to enhance school campuses across Webster Parish.

In other business, the board recognized Victoria Young, a teacher at North Webster Upper Elementary School, and Tina Wilkins, a teacher

at Jones Elementary School, as Employees of the Month for January and February, respectively. Nina Willis was also honored as the district’s first Reach University graduate. These stories will appear in an upcoming Minden Press-Herald article.

The board approved six faculty members from Jones Elementary School to travel to Atlanta, Georgia, in May to participate in The Ron Clark Academy, funded by Title I. Several student field trips

were also approved, including the Minden High School Nature Club’s trip to Hot Springs, Arkansas, North Webster Upper Elementary’s fifth-grade trip to the NASA Science Center in Houston, Texas, and North Webster Junior High’s trip to Dallas, Texas, for an educational visit to Medieval Times and the Dallas Mint Bank. Webster Junior High School will be taking about 35 students to the Dixie Center for the Arts in Ruston on February 8.

A resolution was adopted identifying the completion of Continuing Learning Units by school board members in 2024, and a revised Sick Leave Bank Policy was approved, which allows employees to voluntarily donate accumulated sick leave to another employee.

The Webster Parish School Board’s next meeting is scheduled for March 3 at its Shepard Street office, and the public is invited to attend.

ONE OF OUR MOST POPULAR
SPECIALS OF THE
YEAR!

RESERVE
YOUR SPACE NOW!
CALL NATHAN - 377-1866

RESERVE
YOUR SPACE NOW!
CALL CURTIS - 377-1866

PROFILE

2025

A COMMUNITY REVIEW
INCLUDING:
• Economy • Living • Growth

A Special Supplement to the

Minden
Press-Herald

DEADLINE: February 13, 2025
PUBLICATION: February 26, 2025

For more information, pricing and sizes
call
(318) 377-1866

Nathan Mills
Regional Advertising/Marketing Manager
(318) 377-1866
nathan@press-herald.com

Curtis Mays
Advertising Consultant
(318) 377-1866
advertising@press-herald.com

WEBSTER & MORE

OBITUARIES



Howard Pryor McMurrian

Minden, LA

Howard Pryor McMurrian, 73, of Minden, Louisiana passed away on January 24, 2025 in Shreveport after a brief illness.

Howard was born in Monroe, Louisiana on May 4, 1951 to William Chapman and Ethel Auger McMurrian. While growing up in Farmer-ville, Howard was an Eagle Scout and an avid high school basketball player. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Accounting from Louisiana Tech University and earned his Certified Public Accountant credential soon after. He moved to Shreveport and was a partner at the firm Cole, Evans & Peterson. He was very proud to serve his profession as a member of the Auditing Standards Board of the AICPA .

Throughout his life he lived and worked in many places including Fort Worth, Texas, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Redmond, Washington and Sibley, Louisiana. He owned multiple businesses including GEM Shav-

ings and FunRent in Washington and most recently Country Market in Sibley. He loved getting to know all the folks who ultimately became not just customers, but his dear friends. The staff were not just employees, but family. Howard was always about helping people to develop to their maximum potential.

Howard loved his church, St. John’s Episcopal Church in Minden. He served in many capacities including multiple terms as Sr. Warden. He cherished the friendships he had with many of the members.

Howard is survived by his beloved wife, Nancy Gray McMurrian, stepdaughter, Kirsten Pilgrim (John) of Junction City, Kansas, son, Wesley McMurrian of Monroe, Washington, daughter, Claire Kappa (David) of Cincinnati, Ohio, their stepmother, Sara Schaefer McMurrian and grandchildren, William, Celeste and Camille Kappa and Holland Pilgrim. He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister, Harriet Cooke and his brother, Robert McMurrian.

Services were at 2:00 PM on Tuesday, February 4 at St. John’s Episcopal Church in Minden with a reception to follow in the parish hall.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. John’s Episcopal Church, 1107 Broadway Street, Minden, LA 71055, stjohmsminden.org, the Humane Society of Northwest Louisiana, 2544 Linwood Ave, Shreveport, LA 71103, hsnwla.com, or the charity of your choice.

DEPENDABLE CAREGIVER SEEKING WORK.

Have references if needed.

Call **318-224-3813**
or **318-268-8842.**

Leave message if no answer.

COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

“I presented y’all with what I believe to be the best alternative, which is LEPA. After many, many attorneys, consultants, accountants, and a lot of hours of work, I recommend these three agreements presented to you tonight from LEPA.”

During council comments, Councilman Andy Pendergrass of District E expressed his thanks to everyone who brought the agreement to fruition.

“I just wanted to thank everybody who had a part in item number six tonight,” said Pendergrass. “It’s been a lot of work. It’s every bit as big of a deal as it seems, and we’ll release more information soon on just how significant it is.”

Councilman Buddy Myles of District A also expressed his appreciation, noting it as an example of how a unified city can bring real, meaningful change and how this is just the beginning.

“What you just witnessed was the sheer will and desire for something better for our community and doing right by the people. This achievement is a collective effort, not just from the council

and the mayor, but also from public works, lawyers, consultants, and many others,” said Myles.

“This type of commitment and unity is long overdue in our town, and what better way to bring us together than something that affects everybody? Not just one side of town—everybody was affected by this. If nothing else, this should show you the power of unity and striving for what’s right for our constituents. Let this be a reminder to each and every one of you that when we stand together, there is no challenge too great and no goal too ambitious. This is just the beginning of what we plan to do. We will continue to work side by side to build a stronger, more prosperous community for everyone in the future, and we thank y’all for your support.”

The Minden City Council meets on the first Monday of each month at 6 p.m. at the Minden Civic Center. Meetings are open to the public. For those who wish to view the meeting live or later, it is live-streamed on the City of Minden’s Facebook page and YouTube channel, titled City of Minden - Feels Like Home.

CONCERT

Continued from Page 1

of assisting women and children who have graduated from the Louisiana Teen Challenge Program. McDaniel expressed her gratitude and excitement about the project’s future impact.

“Phillip’s Cottage exists to honor the legacy my dad, Philip Carroll, leaves behind. We can’t wait to welcome our first mothers and their children later this summer. We are going to break

generational curses with this home,” she said.

The success of “Stories and Songs from the Road” not only raised crucial funds for Phillip’s Cottage but also highlighted Minden’s potential to host more high-profile music events in the future. With an enthusiastic response from the community, this could be the first of many concerts that bring music and positive change to the town.



Sondra Ann Johnston Teutsch

Graveside services for Mrs. Sondra Ann Johnston Teutsch, age 83, of Benton, LA, will be held at 11:00 am, Saturday, February 8, 2025, at the Union Springs Cemetery, Shongaloo, LA, with Bro. Billy Crosby officiating. Interment will follow under the direction of Bailey Funeral Home, Springhill, LA.

Sondra Ann Teutsch, nicknamed “Gem” by her paternal grandfather Chesley Johnston, whom she adored and with whom she spent much time, was a maven of cheerful hospitality and generosity. She stepped from her earthly life into worshipping the Lord in the radiance of His glory on Monday, February 3, 2025. The eldest daughter of four children born to H.H. “Boots” and Delphine Johnston, Sondra was born on January 14, 1942, around the time of World War II to those of the “greatest generation,” who had come through The Great Depression and then triumphed over oppressive global forces arising on the heels of a massive socioeconomic collapse. From an early age, Sondra recognized the importance of generational victories and honored those who had come before her.

Born from lines of Texas ministry and Louisiana farming, Sondra carried a work ethic alongside an integrity that were instilled by people of faith who were highly skilled in working soil of tough red clay. Like many eldest among children, Sondra rose to become a leader within her family, helping her parents with tasks around the family farm, and with the cares and concerns of senior relatives along with those of her younger siblings. From her youth, she was esteemed as one worthy of respect and trust by those she encountered.

While still a teenager, she met and married the great love of her life, Gene Teutsch, a young man from a family of three boys on a nearby farm. In 1967 they built a black brick house in Houston, Texas that mirrored the one that her parents had built back home just off LA Highway 2, and a life with Sondra working in executive office administration for a large steel company and Gene as a Houston firefighter. Together they watched surrounding fields of soybean and cotton burgeon into office buildings and subdivisions, as Houston began to emerge as the oil and gas epicenter of the nation.

While Sondra and Gene had no children of their own, they took great joy in often playing host to their siblings’ children, including nieces Karen and Laine and nephews Shane and Shannon. These children were the recipients of their lavish hospitality and gen-

erosity, which notably extended to Sondra’s legendary skills in the kitchen and Gene’s equally famous sense of humor. Sondra’s chicken fried steak and homemade rolls, along with Gene’s penchant for surprise guests such as tiny live turtles secretly tucked into Sondra’s terrarium, are well-remembered still.

During the early to mid-1970s, Sondra and Gene were highly active members of Northwest Memorial Baptist Church (now Houston NW Church) in Houston, TX, which was eventually pastored by Billy Crosby, now Pastor Emeritus of Summer Grove Baptist Church in Shreveport. Together, Sondra and Gene made multiple trips to the Holy Land with their church, fellowshipping and ministering to individuals and other couples in the Houston area, and far beyond.

When Gene’s life was tragically cut short just into the second decade of their marriage, Sondra’s family members and friends rallied around her in a time of tremendous shock and grief. Sondra began the work of mending her broken heart by determinedly honoring Gene’s memory through continuance of boundless hospitality and generosity to everyone she knew or met. As a balm to her soul during this time, Sondra lived Nehemiah 8:10: “Nehemiah said, “Go and enjoy choice food and sweet drinks, and send some to those who have nothing prepared. This day is holy to our Lord. Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength.”

Ultimately, Sondra would remarry and embark upon the next era of her life, set in a small town in Nebraska, over a thousand miles away and in many aspects likewise distant from her former life in Houston, a life that nonetheless in a sense resembled her beginnings as a small-town farmer’s daughter in Louisiana. With this husband she traveled the United States with him in his job, enjoying two of her favorite pastimes, seeing new places and meeting new people. Sondra never met a stranger nor a silence that she would falter in addressing (one of her nieces joked, waiting for Sondra in the car post-gathering, “Sondra may have missed a call as a politician”).

She is survived by her sister, Sue Kilpatrick and husband, Hershel of Benton, LA; numerous nieces and nephews and was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Gene Teutsch; and brothers, Ronnie Johnston and Randall Johnston.

It pleased the Father to place one of His priceless jewels in a field of humble Louisiana soil, glittering in the red clay and the pines, and it is to this place she now returns. Beloved by many across an expanse of land and time, Sondra’s priceless gems of personality and presence will be irreplaceably missed.

Sign our online guest book at www.baileyfuneral-home.net

EDUCATION

Lakeside FBLA excels in fundraising and competition

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Lakeside Jr/Sr High School’s Future Business Leaders of America (FBLA) chapter is making strides both in fundraising and competition as they prepare for upcoming state and national events.

The chapter recently concluded its “Soles for Souls” shoe drive, collecting 814 pairs of gently worn, used, and new shoes. The footwear will be processed through the Funds2Orgs network, which partners with micro-entrepreneurs in developing countries to help establish and sustain small businesses. Proceeds from the effort will support Lakeside FBLA members as they advance through various levels of competition.

“We really appreciate the community helping us out,” said Lesa Ward, FBLA sponsor at Lakeside. “We raise money for our students to attend various competitions throughout the year.”

That support is already proving beneficial, as Lakeside FBLA mem-

bers recently delivered strong performances at the Northeast Regional Conference, with several students earning top rankings. Superior ratings (top 10) qualify for the state conference, while excellent rankings (11-20) reflect commendable performances.

Lakeside competitors who secured Superior rankings and will advance to the state conference include:

Accounting I: Elizabeth Agribusiness: Olivia Business Law: Cameron Health Care Administration: Josh A. Help Desk: Alyssa Hospitality & Event Management: Kynsey Current Events: Kynsey, Amanda, Jaelyn (1st place) Job Interview: Abby Public Policy: Cameron Public Speaking: Jaelyn Spreadsheets: Josh A. Supply Chain Management: Isiah Word Processing: Landon, Evan Meanwhile, several students earned Excellent rankings, placing in the top 20 of their categories: Cyber Security: Josh H.



Help Desk: Olivia Intro to FBLA: Owen Journalism: Landon, Kyndall Organizational Leadership: Hayden, Faith Personal Finance: Ethan P., Abby Public Speaking: Ethan G. Spreadsheets: Josh H. Supply Chain Management: Hayden With the state conference set for late March, these students will have

the opportunity to qualify for the FBLA National Leadership Conference, scheduled for June 29-July 2 in Anaheim, California.

Lakeside is the only public school in Webster Parish that regularly participates in FBLA competitions. Given that last year’s national conference in Orlando cost approximately \$2,500 per student, the chapter continues fundraising efforts



to help cover travel expenses. Those interested

in contributing can contact Ward at the school.

OPINION

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

RANDY BROWN
Executive Vice President
& Publisher

JOSHUA SPECHT
Editor

AMANDA ANDERS
Accounting/
Circulation Manager

AMBER MCDOWN
Reporter

WILL PHILLIPS
Reporter

RUSSELL HEDGES
Sports Editor

NATHAN MILLS
Advertising Manager

CURTIS MAYS
Advertising Executive

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

Telephone: (318) 377-1866.

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

Subscription rate: \$40 per year.

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

THE MINDEN
PRESS-HERALD
WELCOMES
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

Send letters to: Letters to the Editor, Minden Press-Herald, P.O. Box 1339, Minden, LA 71055, or email to: newsroom@press-herald.com.

OPINION

Trump Spending Freeze is Perfectly Legal and Desperately Needed

I've watched with interest but not surprise the overreaction of the national media and liberal Members of Congress who decry the "great damage" President Trump's pause-and-review of some discretionary federal grants will supposedly cause. Well, President Trump was overwhelmingly re-elected based upon his promise to implement the policies he is now rapidly implementing. That certainly includes reviewing the enormous sums of hard-earned American taxpayer dollars that the federal government spends.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) memo at issue simply requires federal agencies to pause grant funding that had not yet been disbursed so Trump Administration officials could review it. In my view, it is not only perfectly legal and well within the authority of the Chief Executive to take this step, but I believe it's also an obligation of a new presidential administration to review discretionary funding to see that it complies with both federal law and Trump policies.

Specifically, the memo requires that by Feb 10th the numerous federal agencies submit to OMB "detailed information of any programs, projects or activities" that don't adhere to President Trump's executive orders, including any policies regarding so-called Diversity, Inclusion and Equity (DIE), the Green New Deal and other similarly misguided

policies.

As part of the wasteful and insane spending President Trump identified for cancellation are up to \$102 million in funding for condoms in Gaza, which are suspected to be used, not for the typically intended use, but rather for balloon bombs deployed against Israeli troops, \$180 million for diversity, inclusion and equity (DIE) training, \$40 million to the World Health Organization (WHO)—



ROYAL ALEXANDER

who has ordered the U.S. to leave, the same WHO that conspired with China to hide the fact that the China Virus that that killed one million Americans came from the Wuhan Lab, according to the CIA. He also froze a whopping \$1.8 billion in general foreign aid.

However, notwithstanding the limited and targeted nature of the directive, U.S. Senate Minority Leader, Chuck Schumer, warned that the effect would be apocalyptic and impact "disaster assistance, local law enforcement, rural hospitals, aid to the elderly, food for people in need." This is demonstrably false. Again, these are discretionary funds. Most federal dollars

fall under the category of "mandatory" spending and wouldn't be impacted by the pause.

Nevertheless, the White House soon reiterated that the pause would not affect financial assistance to individuals such as food stamps, small business grants, aid to farmers or other entitlement programs such as Medicaid and children's nutrition programs. In addition, agencies are allowed to grant exceptions on a case-by-case basis.

Our nation is \$36 trillion in debt. Extrapolating from analysis of The Heritage Foundation "for the first time ever, the government spent over \$140 billion in a single month to service its gargantuan debt of \$36 trillion. This will require by the end of this fiscal year the Treasury to spend almost \$1.2 trillion in interest alone. And the problem is getting worse. For June, not a single line item in the Treasury's monthly statement was larger than the \$140 billion interest expense. This national debt interest was larger than the Social Security Administration (\$129 billion), Department of Health and Human Services (\$90 billion), Department of Education (\$87 billion) or Department of Defense (\$63 billion)." (The Heritage Foundation, EJ Antoni, July 19, 2024).

Again, merely servicing that debt load requires a greater expenditure each year than the money our nation spends on its defense,

Social Security, and other federal spending. This is merely servicing the debt; we are not paying any of the debt down. If this continues, "by 2035 interest payments will suck up almost a quarter of federal revenues, and about two-thirds of every dollar borrowed will go to finance the debt." (U.S. Rep Jodey Arrington (TX)). This is obviously, massively, unsustainable.

Think of the critical national policy needs that could be met if the annual interest payments to service the national debt could be redirected and used for positive improvements in our country. Imagine advances in health care and cancer research, infrastructure, national defense, as well as billions in additional capital available to small business entrepreneurs in the free market.

Regardless of how this directive ends up being implemented—and a federal judge has already granted a temporary stay of the memo's effects—what President Trump has done with this spending pause-and-review is merely the first step on the long road back to fiscal sanity and economic growth.

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

Understanding is born of misery that passes through our life

The poet, Ivy Elliot, wrote "Understanding is born of misery that passes through our life."

"Understanding is born of misery that passes through our life." I must agree. I can attest to the fact that we must pass through great pain in order to grow, though at times we may feel ourselves going under for the third time.

Experiencing pain helps us to empathize with the plight of others.

I don't believe we will ever gain an understanding of those who suffer, unless we, too, have passed through an equal or similar amount of tragedy within our lives.

It's my assumption that it takes feeling the rugs being jerked out from under our feet, suffering the heavy hand of grief dealt out by death, divorce or moving, etc, before we can begin to not only empathize but lessen the load, helping to

turn circumstances around for others. As we look within the eye, reach out, hold a hand, extend an ear, an arm, a shoulder in and through-out their time of need, we become more caring.



SARAH HUDSON PIERCE

When I've been held down by the devastating grief of loss whether by death or moving, I've received comfort from those who have been there, who got in there with me, who helped fight my battles with and for me, as their tears mixed with mine. Whereas those individuals who stood on the sidelines, withholding support, though they may have spoken written lines of comfort, their love

became as a "tinkling cymbal or a sounding brass," that lacked substance, that quality of realness necessary to comfort. It's this trait of compassion that characterizes the care-giving nurturer who stands by our side into the night and wee hours of morning light, being ready to take our calls at 2 O'clock in the morning if necessary. They are the ones who benefit the most as they walk with a generosity of spirit, a glow, a spring, a resilience as they exude a radiance as their faces shine as angels full of love because they have learned through the misery that has all but crushed them.

Thus my friends have been nourished in return by all they've given to me by understanding my child-like needs, a part of my spirit that refuses to grow up, to become the stuffy adult. They've comforted me when I whimpered for under-

standing, when I've felt my back against the wall, not knowing which way to turn!

Who could ask for more? Because life is reciprocal, we cannot make it alone, nor would we want to – and the ones who give out true, loving friendship, an understanding born through adversity, gets back more than they can ever give!

Pain is the the tool that breaks up our heart helping to shape us into what God wants us to be and I believe it takes drawing friends into our lives to shape us.

Love is like that! Anais Nin wrote "we are angels flying with only one wing and we can only fly embracing each other."

Because Jesus is the same yesterday, today and forever He always gets me to the right place at the right time.

CONTACT SARAH AT SARAH@AOL.COM

203 GLEASON STREET

Celebrating 50 Years of Generosity: The Minden St. Jude Auction

This week marks a significant milestone for our community—Minden's beloved St. Jude Auction is celebrating its 50th year! For five decades, this annual event has united us all in a shared mission: raising funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. This is a time when we come together, as neighbors, friends, and family, to make a tangible difference in the lives of children battling life-threatening diseases like cancer.

The theme for this year's auction is "Thank You For Being a Friend," inspired by the theme song from The Golden Girls. It's a perfect reflection of what this auction has always been about—the power of friendship and the strength of community. Over the years, this event has served as a re-

minder of just how much we can achieve when we unite for a cause bigger than ourselves.

As the auction kicks off this Thursday, I encourage all of you to participate. Whether you're a seasoned bidder or a first-time participant, there's always a way to get involved. From bidding on unique items, purchasing raffle tickets, to making donations, every contribution counts. The money raised during this auction will continue to fund life-saving research, treatment,

DAVID SPECHT

and support for families at St. Jude. The beauty of this event is that 100% of the funds raised directly benefit the children, ensuring that no family pays for their child's treatment.

What makes the St. Jude Auction so special is not just the generosity of those donating and bidding, but the spirit of community that surrounds it. This event is a shining example of what Minden is all about—compassion, generosity, and the willingness to come together to make a difference.

As we celebrate this 50th year, it's a great opportunity to reflect on all we've accomplished together as a community, while also looking forward to the work that remains. There are still children who need our help, and every dol-

lar raised brings us one step closer to finding cures and giving hope to these families.

For those who aren't able to attend in person, don't worry—you can still be a part of the event. The Minden St. Jude Auction will be broadcast/ streamed live on local cable television Channel 11, KASO/ KBEF Radio and YouTube. Tune in to see the excitement unfold and contribute to this important cause from the comfort of your own home.

I want to take a moment to thank everyone who has supported the auction over the years, and to encourage those of you who are participating this year to bring your enthusiasm and generosity to make this event a success. Whether you're bidding, donating, or simply spreading the word,

you're part of something much bigger than yourself.

So, as we celebrate 50 years of making a difference, let's continue to show the world the incredible strength and compassion of Minden. Together, we can make this year's St. Jude Auction one to remember, and continue to offer hope and support to children in need.

Thank you for being a part of this community. Let's make this year's auction the best one yet!

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

SPORTS

Russell Hedges, Sports Editor
rhedges@spechtnewspapers.com

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL



DOUGLAS BLOW/SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-HRRALD
The Minden Crimson Tide improved to 3-0 in District 1-4A with victories over Loyola and North DeSoto last week.

Minden continues dominant 1-4A run

Tide take on Bossier on road Friday

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

The Minden Crimson Tide continued to dominate in District 1-4A last week. Minden won two district road games, defeating Loyola 66-33 and North DeSoto 65-16. The Tide entered this week 17-2 overall and 3-0 in district. They were tied with Bossier (11-11, 3-0) for first. Minden was scheduled to play at Booker T. Washington Tuesday. Bossier was scheduled to play at Northwood. If both win, the Tide and Bearcats will battle for the district lead Friday night at Bossier. Minden's game against Loyola was much different

from the Tide's 42-34 non-district victory over the Flyers on Jan. 7 at Loyola. This time, Minden dominated from the get-go, cruising to a 20-2 lead after the first quarter. Cameron Parker hit three 3-pointers in the quarter. Jaiden Franklin sank a 3 and scored five points. Christian Lofton had four and Carmelo Smith two. The Tide led 33-12 at the half and 57-25 after three quarters. Ten Minden players scored. Smith had 13 points, Franklin 12, Lofton 11 and Parker nine. Twelve Minden players scored against North DeSoto. Darnell Morris led the team with 20 points.

Thirteen of those came in the first quarter. Franklin added 10 points and Parker eight. Hudson Brown knocked down two 3-pointers in the first half. Minden led 23-6 after the first quarter and 44-14 at the half. Doyline picked up a District 1-B victory last week, defeating Castor 61-49 at home. Damarion McClendon and Jay Patterson combined for 49 points to lead the Panthers. McClendon scored 25 and Patterson 24. Zach Normand added 10. Doyline led 29-24 at the half. Castor scored the first five points of the third quarter to tie it. But the Panthers went

on a 15-4 run for a 44-33 lead with just over two minutes left in the quarter. Castor closed the quarter with a 7-2 run to get within six. The Tigers cut the lead to 46-44 early in the quarter. But Doyline answered with a 9-0 run and led 55-44 with three minutes to play. Doyline also fell to Georgetown 70-61 in a non-district game. The Panthers entered this week 20-4 overall and 2-1 in district. They were scheduled to play at leader Simsboro Tuesday with a chance to grab a share of the lead. North Webster picked up its fourth victory of the season last week, defeating Providence Classical Academy 44-39 at home.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lady Tiders stay perfect in 1-4A

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

The Minden Lady Tiders remained undefeated in District 1-4A with two road victories last week. Minden defeated Loyola 38-12 and North DeSoto 48-17. The Lady Tiders entered this week 11-11 overall and 3-0 in district. Minden was tied with Southwood (19-8) and Northwood (14-9, 3-0). Minden pitched a shut-out in the first half against Loyola, rolling to a 24-0 lead. Shelby Glenn and Travesti Byrd led the Lady Tiders with nine points each. Glenn also had five assists, four steals and four rebounds. Byrd had six rebounds, five assists, four steals and three blocks. Alexi Hatter had eight rebounds, eight points and two blocks. Brooklyn Jefferson scored 26 points against North DeSoto. She also had 18 rebounds, eight steals, five blocks and six assists. Glenn had nine points, seven assists, seven steals and five rebounds.

Minden was scheduled to play Booker T. Washington Tuesday and visit Bossier Friday. North Webster split non-district games. The Lady Knights lost to Summerfield 58-41 on the road and defeated Providence Classical Academy 49-47 at home. Shakyra Hawkins led the team against Providence Classical with 19 points. Nazaria Caldwell added 16. The Lady Knights trailed 30-25 after three quarters then rallied for the victory. Markiyah White hit two big 3-pointers in the fourth quarter. Caldwell scored eight points and Hawkins seven. Caldwell led the team with 23 points against Summerfield. The Lady Knights also fell to Carroll 74-43 in a District 1-3A game. Caldwell had 23 points and Hawkins 12. North Webster entered this week 13-10. According to GeauxPreps.com, the Lady Knights were No. 17 in the Division III power rankings.



DOUGLAS BLOW/SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-HERALD
Minden's Shelby Glenn goes in for a layup during the Lady Tiders' victory over Loyola last week at Minden.

HIGH SCHOOL SOCCER

Minden teams fall in first round of playoffs

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

The Minden boys and girls teams battled to the end in Division III first-round playoff matches last Friday but both came up just short. The No. 19 seed Crimson Tide fell to No. 14

Parkview Baptist 2-0 in Baton Rouge. The No. 20 Lady Tiders also lost 2-0 to No. 13 David Thibodaux in Lafayette. Both Minden teams had solid seasons. The Crimson Tide finished 7-10-1. The Lady Tiders finished 7-9-2.

HIGH SCHOOL FISHING

Lakeside duo win first event of 2025 season

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

The Lakeside duo of Jake Glass and Eli Campbell won the North Louisiana High School Fishing League Event No. 1 held Jan. 25 on Caddo Lake. Glass and Campbell caught two bass weighing a combined 11.54 pounds. Parkway's Seth Farrar and Joshua Gallman finished second with two fish

weighing 8.44 pounds. Northwood's Carter Andrews and Cole Nichols took third with three fish weighing 6.79 pounds. Only 11 of 81 teams were able to weigh in fish. The next tournament is Feb. 22 on Toledo Bend. There are four more tournaments after that culminating with the overall championship May 31-June 1 on Toledo Bend.



COURTESY PHOTO
The Lakeside duo of Jake Glass and Eli Campbell won the first event of the North Louisiana High School Fishing League's 2025 season.

1169 Sheppard St. • Minden, LA
Owner: Richard Randle
318-382-0900

**Minden Press-Herald & Holcomb's
ATHLETE OF THE WEEK**

Damarion McClendon
Doyline, Sr.

McClendon scored 24 points in a 61-49 victory over Castor. His play is one reason the Panthers have reached the 20-win mark.

The Press-Herald Athlete of the Week feature is brought to you every other Wednesday by Holcomb's Body Shop in Minden.

SPORTS

MEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Strong defensive effort lifts Louisiana Tech to victory

KANE MCGUIRE

Louisiana Tech Associate Athletic Director

Points were very hard to come by last Saturday inside the Thomas Assembly Center. But in the end, Louisiana Tech rode its stellar defense to a 66-61 overtime victory against Sam Houston to extend its home winning streak to eight games in front of a season-high 3,141 fans. The Bulldogs entered this week 16-6 overall and 5-4 in Conference USA. Much like its previous game last Saturday against Middle Tennessee, LA Tech needed a late come-

back. Down five with 6:58 remaining, the Bulldogs did not allow a single field goal by Sam Houston (8-14, 1-8 CUSA) the remainder of regulation and used a 7-0 to help force overtime. In OT, the 'Dogs used another 7-0 run to gain a four-point edge and then the clutch Sean Newman Jr. calmly sank six straight free throws to grab the victory. "It was a hard-fought game. But we fought till the end. I thought in a lot of different areas we got some good things. "When they were being physical with (Daniel) Batcho and he was strug-

gling, I thought how were we going to score. I looked up and it was 46-49 and thought this was the ugliest offensive game on television. But we started to move the ball around. Then we were able to turn some defense into offense to help get some easy baskets." Newman scored a game-high 22 points to go along with eight assists. Batcho recorded his second straight double-double with 14 points and 10 rebounds to go along with five rejections. And Amaree Abram matched his stellar defensive effort with 16 points on the offensive end.

NSU drops two SLC games

JASON PUGH

Northwestern State Associate Athletic Director for External Relations

The Northwestern State Demons lost two Southland Conference road games last week, falling to Lamar 69-59 and East Texas A&M 72-50. The Demons entered this week 9-12 overall and 6-5 in the conference. A second-half slump cost NSU against Lamar. "We didn't come out ready to go in the second half, and that's disappointing," Head Coach Rick Cabrera said. "Our guys were juiced up being up at half. We talked to them in the locker room, and I thought we'd have more pop, more effort defensively. They have some good players, and good players make

good plays. They made some tough plays in that run, and it hurt us a little bit." The turning point came out of halftime break as the Cardinals opened on an 8-1 run that erased a five-point halftime lead for the Demons. Despite Lamar's early second-half punch, the Demons answered to square things at 36 before an Adam Hamilton jumper ignited a 16-4 run that gave the Cardinals their largest lead of the game with 11:11 to play. Addison Patterson led the Demons with 14 points while Hamilton's 13-point, 14-rebound double-double put Lamar in position to win their third straight game in the series. Against East Texas A&M, NSU led 21-16 with 7:52 to play in the first

half after a Willie Williams three-point play. An 11-2 push from the Lions erased that deficit and put the home team ahead to stay. Northwestern did not score in the final 2:11 of the first half, missing eight of its last nine shots including the final six of the half. After halftime, the Lions hit 55.2 percent of their 29 field goal attempts, going 7-for-14 from 3-point range. "They are a team that shoots 3s," Cabrera said. "Over half their shots today were from 3. Our defensive assignments were bad. When we don't score, our defense gets worse. That was a prime example and a reflection of me. I'll take it, I'll fix it." East Texas A&M picked up its first conference win and only its third overall.

GSU gets SWAC victory

CURTIS FORD

Grambling Stat Associate AD for Athletic Communications

The Grambling State Tigers split two SWAC games last week. GSU started the week with an 81-77 victory over Arkansas-Pine Bluff on the road. The Tigers ended it with a 65-50 home loss to Jackson State. Grambling State entered this week 6-15 overall and 3-5 in the SWAC. Junior guard Mikale

Stevenson scored a game-high 18 points against UAPB. Stevenson, who also grabbed six rebounds, dished out six assists with one steal, led five Tigers into double-figures. Kintavious Dozier (15 points), Chilaydrien Newton (14 points), Ernest Ross (13 points) and Antwan Burnett (12 points) were the other G-Men to score in double-figures. Grambling State (6-14 overall, 3-4 SWAC) also

had one of its best nights shooting the ball, particularly from three-point range. GSU knocked down 11 threes, eight of which came in the first half, going 11-of-23 from behind the arc. The Tigers shot 52.8 percent from field (28-of-53). Dozier led GSU against Jackson State with 14 points. Daeshun Ruffin led JSU with 20 points. He also had five rebounds, four assists and three steals.

OUTDOORS

Snow storm adds extension to some hunting seasons

GLYNN HARRIS

We in north Louisiana did not get to enjoy all that takes place when we get snow, which we didn't get this time around. Folks in the southern portion of the state were busy making snowmen, having snowball fights, making snow ice cream and in one of the most extreme things I have ever heard, skiing and ice skating on Bourbon Street in downtown New Orleans of all places. There is one thing, however, we upstate folks can share with our snow-bound neighbors to our south. We all get some hunting seasons extended. According to a press release from the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, because of unusual weather conditions that put a stop to hunting for a few days, it noted that maximizing hunting opportunities is a priority of LDWF and according to Secretary Madison Shehan she has extended certain seasons. Quail, rabbit and squirrel seasons always end on the last day of February. This year, those hunters who go after quail, chase bunnies in the briar patches or follow a squirrel dog to the tree he says the squirrel is hiding have



GLYNN HARRIS

Because of inclement weather, hunting seasons have been extended to March 2 for rabbits, quail and squirrels. a couple of extra days to pursue their sports. This year only, these seasons are extended to March 2. Also, deer hunters who prefer to pursue their quarry with stick and string usually see archery season come to a close at the end of January. This year, the archery season is extended to February 2. Since this year rabbit hunters get a couple of extra days to do it, let's talk rabbit hunting for a second. Have you ever hunted rabbits with a pack of beagles? I have and it's one of the most fun hunting ventures you can be part of. Here's how it works; someone with half a dozen or so of those miniature dogs invites you to join friends on hunt rabbits. How do you hunt rabbits? Do you sneak around trying to spot a cottontail or swamper and take a shot before it vamooses? No, that's not how you do it. You and your partners surround a spot, usually the thickest briar patch in the area, and let the beagles do their work. When the little dogs are released, they get to use what the Good Lord gave them, and that's sets of lungs that produce squeals

WOMEN’S COLLEGE BASKETBALL

Techsters fall on the road

KEVIN ALBAREZ

Louisiana Tech Associate Director of Strategic Communications

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — Louisiana Tech dropped the road contest to Sam Houston 70-65 on last Saturday at the Bernard G. Johnson Coliseum. The Lady Techsters entered this week 11-9 overall and 4-5 in Conference USA. Jordan Marshall led LA Tech with 18 points while adding 12 boards for her fifth double-double of the season. Sydney Thomas was the only other Techster to finish in double figures with 11 points. Louisiana Tech didn't allow Sam Houston to score until three minutes into the game. However, the Lady Techsters offense could only score one basket until that point.

Paris Bradley stole the ball from the Bearkats, pushed it upcourt, and found Sydney Thomas open in the corner for a three. That ignited a 12-0 run by the Techsters over a two-and-a-half minute span, including four points from Bradley and another triple from Thomas. SHSU used an 8-2 run over the final three minutes of the quarter to cut the deficit to 16-14 after one. Turnovers started to play a significant factor for LA Tech. After committing nine in the first quarter. The Techsters had eight more in the second but, thanks to a 42.3 percent shooting clip, still held on to a 29-24 lead heading into the locker room. Louisiana Tech cut down on the turnovers but still finished with five in

the third while giving up seven offensive boards. Bradley accounted for seven of her team-high 18 points in the stanza as the Techsters held on to a 45-43 lead heading into the fourth. The turnovers came back to hurt Tech as the Techsters finished with eight in the final stanza, which allowed Sam Houston to score 27 points in the quarter to take the game. "Keeping them off the offensive boards, taking care of the ball and defending without fouling was the focus all week," Louisiana Tech Head Coach Brooke Stoer said. "I didn't do a good enough job of pounding home the importance of those three things because we lacked consistency in those areas today. It's hard to win games turning the ball over 30 times."

NSU notches two SLC wins

JONATHON ZENK

Northwestern State Assistant Director of Communications

The Northwestern State Demons won two Southland Conference games last week, defeating UTRGV 73-66 at home and East Texas A&M 61-50 on the road. NSU also fell to Lamar 59-55 on the road. The Demons entered this week 10-10 overall and 7-4 in the conference. Mya Blake scored 31 points to lead NSU against UTRGV. The Demons led by as many as 19 points, but held on after UTRGV ut

the deficit to four with 2:54 remaining. Northwestern State went scoreless for 5:02, but the reliable defense would not let the Demons lose. "There was a lot of grit," NSU Head Coach Anna Nimz said. "There was a lot of defensive grit and showed some resiliency down the stretch. The game got a little too close for comfort and then we locked down. Overall, we showed a lot of resiliency, but also a lot of fight today. The Demons used a balanced scoring effort to defeat East Texas A&M..

Three players scored in double figures and one more was on the cusp, as the Demons used a third quarter run to separate themselves and held the Lions offense down to escape with the victory. Blake led the Demons with 16 points, including 11 in the fourth quarter. Jasmin Dixon scored a season-high nine points to go along with 13 rebounds and led the charge defensively with three more blocks, putting her just three from the top five in school history. Sharna Ayres added 14 points. Nia Hardison scored a season-high 12.

GSU nabs conference victory

LEON MITCHELL

Grambling State Athletic Communications

The Grambling State Tigers split SWAC home games last week. GSU defeated Alcorn State 82-69 and lost to Jackson State 67-56. The Tigers entered this week 8-12 overall and 5-4 in the conference. GSU set the tone early against Alcorn State with a high-scoring first quarter, taking a 29-22 lead. The Tigers extended their advantage to 46-35 by halftime, fueled by efficient shooting and strong defensive play.

Grambling continued to control the game in the third quarter, outscoring Alcorn State 20-16 to take a 66-51 lead into the final period. Despite Alcorn State's late efforts, the Tigers maintained their double-digit advantage to close out the win. Kahia Warmesley led Grambling with 18 points, knocking down three three-pointers while adding seven rebounds and two steals. Zaria Johnson contributed 11 points, five rebounds, and two steals, while Arianna Mosley also added 11 points. Claire

Simmons finished with 11 points, four assists and three rebounds. Jackson State snapped GSU's three-game winning streak. The visitors controlled the game from the opening tip, jumping out to a 17-8 lead after the first quarter. Grambling State struggled offensively in the opening period, shooting just 26.7% from the field. The Tigers found some rhythm in the second quarter, but Jackson State maintained a 35-21 advantage at halftime. Douthsine Prien led GSU with 11 points, five rebounds, and four assists while adding six steals.

Fishing Report

BUSSEY BRAKE – Anglers are catching some really big crappie on jigs and shiners in open water. Bass are best flipping soft plastics. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole at 323-8707.

OUACHITA RIVER – The river is rising. A few catfish are being caught. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE D'ARBONNE – catfish. Crappie have moved to the deepest water in the channels and have been fair to good on shiners and jigs. Bass are still deep and soft plastics are picking up some nice fish. No report on bream or For latest information, call Anderson Sport Center at 368-9669 or Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE CLAIBORNE – Crappie fishing has been best with some slabs caught fishing shiners or jigs just out from the dam in 32-25 foot water. Bass have been best fishing

the deeper areas on deep diving crank baits. No report on bream, catfish or stripers. For latest information, call Kel's Cove at 927-2264 or Terzia Tackle at 278-4498.

CANEY LAKE – Crappie fishing has been good with some slabs caught fishing shiners or jigs out in front of the dam. Some big bass are hitting jigs and deep diving crank baits fished in deep water. No report on bream or catfish. For information contact Caney Lake Landing at 259-6649, Hooks Marina at 249-2347, Terzia Tackle at 278-4498 or the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE POVERTY POINT – Crappie are fair on the south end fishing mostly with shiners in 18-20 foot water. No report on bass. Catfish continue to bite. For information, contact the marina at 318/878-0101.

LAKE YUCATAN – The water is on a slow fall. A few catfish are being caught. For info call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.

Good News

GOOD NEWS

GOD’S PROMISES AND BLESSINGS ARE SURE

When God made a promise to Abraham, He said, “I give you my Word; Surely with my blessings, I will bless you and I will multiply your seed.” So, after Abraham had patiently endured for years, he obtained the Promise of God. Throughout the Bible, we see it is full of such promises of blessings, to those who put their trust in God.

These blessings are only limited by our willingness to trust

Him. Abraham believed God, even as he and Sarai aged that ‘God would bless them with a son and God delivered on that promise.’

At the age of 100 (Abraham) and 90 (Sarai), Isaac, the son of promise, was born and it was through this lineage that Jesus was born centuries later. (Matthew 1) Throughout the Bible,

God shows us how He loves to bless. The key to God’s blessings is FAITH. Scripture: “Without faith it is impossible to please God.” (Heb 11:6) Only He is trustworthy of our faith. He is Truth and His Word is true. The question is not whether God will bless us, but “Do we trust Him for a blessing?” If so, are we willing to pass that blessing on?

We are to be conduits of His love and blessings – we are to pass it on so we may bless others. Bible: It is more blessed to give than to receive. Give and it shall be given unto you, pressed down, overflowing the blessings will come back to you.” There again, the key word is faith. We must trust God, the giver of promises and blessing.

So, our Prayer today is: “Lord, multiply your blessings as we pass them on to others we encounter today, especially those who know You not as their Heavenly Father. We praise you as the ‘giver of good gifts’ for You gave us the greatest gift that could be given: Your only begotten Son, our Savior. (John 3:16) We pray this in his holy name. Amen.”

BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER



Bill Crider

THE UPWARD LOOK

Grace and Love

“Grace be with all those who love our Lord Jesus Christ with incorruptible love.” Ephesians 6:24 NASB

Paul’s final blessing reiterates that God’s grace would be abundantly evident and overflowing in the life of the believers. A person receives forgiveness, is redeemed, and inherits eternal life by God’s amazing grace through personally placing their complete faith and trust in Jesus, His sacrificial death and His glorious resurrection. God’s gracious gift of salvation is an expression of His great love. The believer responds by loving the Lord Jesus Christ with a pure, sincere, undying, imperishable, incorruptible love.

Lord Jesus, I love You because You first loved me and gave Your life for me. May my life overflow with Your great love and amazing grace so that in all I do I may glorify You.

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



Max Hutto

INSPIRATION

Character Flaws

Many of us have heard the old adage “God doesn’t call the perfect, he perfects the called.” You may think it sounds cliché but it is proven true in the Bible time and time again. God called several people to do incredible and amazing things and almost all of them had a major character flaw. Take for example Abram (Abraham) he lied because he thought he was protecting himself from harm. Or Moses who was a murderer. And final Saul (Paul) who was a persecutor and murderer of Christians. These men all had their character flaws but that’s not where their stories end.

Abraham became the father of nations. Moses followed the call of the lord and spoke to pharaoh as his name which resulted in him leading the children of Israel out of Egypt. And Paul became one of God’s most faithful apostles and author of much of the new testament. I give these examples to encourage everyone to let God use you. Don’t let the mistakes of the past or the problems of the present hinder your future in Christ.


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



Bernard Harris

Come

WORSHIP

 **FIRST**
ASSEMBLY OF GOD
MINDEN

How can we pray for you?

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
301 Pennsylvania Avenue • Minden, LA

Locally Owned & Operated

S

SPEER
ROOFING
& Construction, LLC



Serving Minden
and surrounding
areas since 2004!

Free Estimates
Phone (318) 371-0008

Owner **Daniel Speer**

Pruitt
Home



Renovations

Your Local One Stop Home Improvement Contractor

• Licensed and Insured •

For a **FREE** estimate, just give us a call!

Abraham Pruitt Teddy Pruitt

(318) 382-3272

find us on facebook @pruithomerenovations

The
Community
Plumber LLC

Lic. Master Plumber 4306



(318) 382-3272

Pruitt Family Owned Business

BLJJ ROOFING

LARRY BURRELL - OWNER

639-0090

**FREE
INSPECTIONS**

THE
Tree
Guys

Licensed & Insured Arborists

Locally Owned
& Operated

Minden, LA

Jon Conway & Kevin Crawford

601 Howell St. • Minden, LA 71055

Jon **(318) 517-3069**

Kevin **(318) 780-0765**

jon.threetreeguys@gmail.com • Like Us on Facebook @threetreeguys18

Mobile Powerwash
Service

"CLEAN YOUR HOME
WITH POWER"

• Houses • Mobile Homes
• Driveways • Pool Decks, etc.

**BILLY'S
INDUSTRIAL
CLEANING**

CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

**318-965-9002 OR
CELL 318-455-4685**

"Come Ride With Us"

Webster Parish Police Jury
Office of Community Services
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION



Medical appointments,
work, shopping, banking or
visiting. From Springhill to
Shreveport and all points in
between we will get you
there with dependable,
courteous services.

For information or to schedule a ride
318-377-7022 - Minden
318-539-5696 - Springhill

Handicap & wheelchair accessible
Equal opportunity employee/services

Monthly
Bus Passes
Available

MITCHELL
DIRT & ASPHALT

> Asphalt & Concrete Paving
> Dirt Work & Hauling
> Demolition



Contact Keith
377-8594 or 470-0812

DALE'S PAVING INC.

ASPHALT & CONCRETE

747-3140

WWW.DALESPAVING.COM

• Asphalt Paving • Concrete Paving
• Crack Sealing • Seal Coating
• Parking Lot Overlay

Like us on facebook

Have you been thinking about

DIGITAL MARKETING?



Let us take the
guesswork out of it
with:

Digital Ads
Landing Pages
Sales Funnels
Retargeting

Minden
Press
MEDIA

mindenpressmedia.com

Your Ad | Two Newspapers |
Two Websites | All Business

Minden
Press
MEDIA



Scan the QR Code
to get started

Vote For Your Favorites!



Name: _____

Telephone number: _____

Entry Deadline February, 26, 2025 - 4 p.m.

Everyone has an opinion and now it's time to give yours. Vote for your favorite business in Webster Parish! The winners will be announced in the Readers' Choice edition on Wednesday, April 9, 2025. You may drop the ballot off at the Minden Press-Herald office at 203 Gleason Street in Minden or mail it to the Minden Press-Herald, P.O. Box 1339, Minden, LA 71055. Only one ballot per person will be permitted.

No reproductions or faxes will be accepted.

YOU CAN ALSO VOTE ONLINE AT:

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/8177380/Minden-Press-Herald-2025-Reader-s-Choice-Ballot-copy>

1. Favorite Ambulance Service	47. Favorite Landscaping/Lawn Care Provider
2. Favorite Apartment Complex	48. Favorite Lawn Equipment Dealer
3. Favorite Appliance Store	49. Favorite Lawyer
4. Favorite Auto Body Shop	50. Favorite Liquor Store
5. Favorite Auto Parts Store	51. Favorite Lunch Location
6. Favorite Bank	52. Favorite Manufactured Home Dealer/Supplier
7. Favorite Barber Shop	53. Favorite Mini Storage
8. Favorite BBQ	54. Favorite Mechanic
9. Favorite Beauty Shop	55. Favorite Mexican Restaurant
10. Favorite Breakfast Restaurant	56. Favorite Middle School
11. Favorite Car Wash/Detail	57. Favorite New Auto Dealer
12. Favorite Casino	58. Favorite New Vehicle Salesperson
13. Favorite Catering	59. Favorite Nonprofit
14. Favorite Chicken	60. Favorite Nursing Home/Assisted Living
15. Favorite Church	61. Favorite Oil Change Location
16. Favorite Clothing Store	62. Favorite Pawn Shop
17. Favorite Coach (ANY SPORT)	63. Favorite Pediatrician
18. Favorite Contractor	64. Favorite Pest Control Provider
19. Favorite C.P.A.	65. Favorite Pet Groomer
20. Favorite Crawfish	66. Favorite Pharmacy
21. Favorite Customer Service (any business)	67. Favorite Physician/Surgeon
22. Favorite Dance Studio	68. Favorite Pizza Restaurant
23. Favorite Daycare Provider	69. Favorite Place to Stay Overnight
24. Favorite Dentist	70. Favorite Plumber
25. Favorite Drive Thru Restaurant	71. Favorite Principal
26. Favorite Electrician	72. Favorite Public Official
27. Favorite Elementary School	73. Favorite Real Estate Office
28. Favorite Evening Meal Restaurant	74. Favorite Restaurant
29. Favorite Event Destination/Venue	75. Favorite Roofing Company
30. Favorite Eye Care Provider	76. Favorite School Teacher
31. Favorite Financial Advisor	77. Favorite Seafood Restaurant
32. Favorite Florist	78. Favorite Shoe Store
33. Favorite Funeral Home	79. Favorite Small Business
34. Favorite Furniture Store	80. Favorite Tanning Salon
35. Favorite Gas Station	81. Favorite Tax Preparer
36. Favorite Gift Shop (Non-Florist)	82. Favorite Tire Store
37. Favorite Glass Shop - (Non-Eyewear)	83. Favorite Used Auto Dealer
38. Favorite Grocery Store	84. Favorite Used Vehicle Salesperson
39. Favorite Hamburger	85. Favorite Veterinarian
40. Favorite Hardware Store	
41. Favorite Healthcare Provider	
42. Favorite Heating & Air Provider	
43. Favorite High School	
44. Favorite Home Health Agency	
45. Favorite Insurance Agent	
46. Favorite Jeweler	

WINNERS
WILL BE PUBLISHED
IN THE APRIL 9TH
EDITION OF THE
MINDEN
PRESS-HERALD!

GARDENING WITH DR. JOE WHITE

FOUNDATION PLANTINGS

JOE W. WHITE, PH.D.
Extension Horticulturist, (ret)
LSU AgCenter
February 2025

For years owners of homes have chosen to install plants near the foundations of their houses. Why is such a common practice still being used? Well, there are really some good reasons. Many of the older houses are supported by short posts or pillars that provide a view of the crawl space beneath the structure. Unfortunately, this space is commonly used for storage of items that are not attractive which makes concealment very desirable. Therefore, installing plants with dense foliage near the edges of the house will usually hide most of what's under the house. Evergreens are ideal and popular for this purpose as they give the desired concealment for the entire year.

Today most houses are built on concrete slabs so there is no crawl space. None-the-less foundation planting are still being used to "tie" a house to the landscape which lies beyond. If plants for using near the house are selected with as much care as those in the rest of the landscape, there are many more species from which to choose since the need for plants with dense foliage is no longer necessary. However, evergreen species may still be the best choice as they give the feeling of greater permanence compared to deciduous plants that only have bare branches to form a base for the edge of the house in the winter.

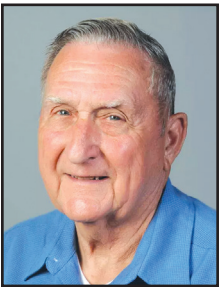
Plants to be used in foundation plantings should be of a type that is easily



pruned or not have a mature height that would block the view from windows. That problem is easy to avoid as now there are many dwarf and semi-dwarf plants in several different species and most are widely available. However, some of the dwarfs according to their attached labels are not actually dwarfs and will develop into plants that in time will require pruning. Sometimes a plant that is wanted for use at a foundation site is not available as either a dwarf or a semi-dwarf. In such cases it is important to determine the expected mature height and width and install the plant further away from the edge of the house. In regard to spacing, it is tempting to plant small plants too close to the house and because of their size they just don't give the look you envision. Generally, most plants should be placed at least 4 or 5 feet away from the foundation. Although wide spacing of

small plants may not present an attractive look initially, as they grow and their canopies spread in time you will be pleased with their appearance.

With so many plants now available for foundation sites, a homeowner can highlight certain sections with plants with lots of color either in their foliage or flowers and perhaps both. And sometimes a blank space in a foundation wall where color from annual flowers can provide a spark of seasonal color is a good and different way to develop a foundation planting.



JOE W. WHITE, Ph.D.

How to make your Valentine's Day roses last longer

Valentine's Day spending shows little sign of waning. Floral arrangements are among the most popular purchases on this special day. According to Rio Roses, customers spent \$2.3 billion on flowers for Valentine's Day in 2022. Valentine's Day tends to be the busiest day for florists as plenty of people want to surprise sweethearts with bouquets and other floral arrangements. Red roses account for 70 percent of all Valentine's Day flower purchases.

Early in 2024, Finance Buzz researched the average cost of a dozen roses in each state so shoppers could expect what they would pay to gift their loved ones, and the average price for a dozen roses in the United States was \$80.16 at that time. Pennsylvania had the most affordable roses and Hawaii the most expensive. Roses can be costly, and recipients may want to do their bests to ensure the flowers last as long as possible.

With proper care, cut roses may be able to last seven to 10 days.



Roses can be costly, and recipients may want to do their bests to ensure the flowers last as long as possible.

FOLLOW THESE TIPS

- Unwrap the bouquet from any plastic as soon as possible to let the flowers breathe. Also, recut the stems with sharp scissors at a 45-degree angle.
- Remove any leaves from the stems that would end up sitting in the water when the roses are placed in a vase.
- Wash the vessel to rid it of dirt, dust and any grime to give the roses the best start possible.
- Use lukewarm water to fill the vase. Water that is too hot or too cold may shock the blooms and shorten their life span. Fill the vase to three-quarters full.
- Use the flower food that comes with the roses. It is a good mix of nutrients to help prolong the life of the roses. A teaspoon of sugar dissolved in water also can be used in a pinch if the roses didn't come with flower food.
- Change the water every few days, especially if it is cloudy. This is a good time to re-snip the stems and add more flower food to the lukewarm water.
- Keep any cut flowers away from direct sunlight, drafts and radiators or heating vents.