



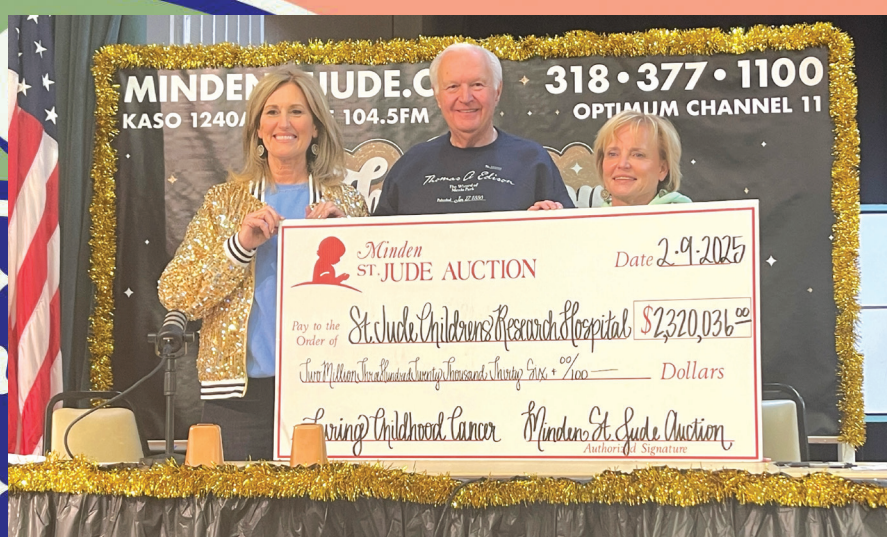
# MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

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**press-herald.com**

MINDEN ST JUDE AUCTION 2025

**Thank you for being a \$2.3 million friend**



**STAFF REPORT**  
Minden Press-Herald

The Minden St. Jude Auction raised a total of \$2,320,036 this past week, continuing its legacy of community-driven philanthropy. On top of this monumental achievement, the auction was also celebrating its 50th anniversary.

"We're celebrating our fiftieth auction. We have some special things to look back on, we've had some special things to look forward to, and we just want to say thank you for being a friend to the Minden St. Jude Auction. It's been awesome," said Laura Hollingsworth.

The Minden St. Jude Auction began in 1976 as a one-day radiothon, founded by Pete and Pam Treat alongside KASO Radio and community members. Their daughter, Anne Treat, was treated at St. Jude before her passing in

1977, inspiring the family to give back. The first auction raised \$10,000, surpassing expectations.

Throughout the decades, the auction evolved from radio to television broadcasting, expanded to multiple days, and incorporated raffles. The 1990s saw the introduction of computer systems, streamlining operations, and adding events like chili cook-offs. The 2000s brought live streaming, allowing the auction to reach a global audience.

"The beauty of this thing for 50 years, some people can give money, some can give time, some can give talent, and some can give all, but every person in this community wants to participate and wants to help in some fashion," said Mike Harper. "It's incredible the moving parts that come together for the sum of the total effort because

everybody is critical. If one cog breaks down in one of these areas, it stops the auction. It's a remarkable experience and I'm proud to be part of it and thank you for letting me do that this year."

The event featured the Minden Run for St. Jude, kicking off Saturday morning with clear skies and warm temperatures. A mix-up in the 5K route resulted in runners covering 4.2 miles instead of the intended 3.1 miles, yet participants persevered. The winners of the mismeasured 5K were Nathan Vogel of Campti in first place, Luke Stanford of Minden in second, and Spencer Smith of Ruston in third. Kevin Vines of Shreveport won the 10K race, followed by Trent Clemons of Minden and Jason Engle of Haughton. In the Kid's Fun Run, a half-mile race, the top three finishers all came from

the 9-year-old boys division. A. Ramsey of Minden took first place, followed by B. Marks of Haughton in second and E. Harmon of Minden in third.

The Minden St. Jude Chili Cook-off set a new record with 36 teams competing and raising \$14,139 — surpassing their goal by \$4,000. “That’s \$4,000 over our goal and the most we’ve ever raised,” said Randy Stevenson. Cast Iron Chili took first place in Best in Show, Chili of the Ages claimed the top spot for People’s Choice, and the overall 2025 Chili Champ title went to Chili Man Chili Man.

Minden native and PGA professional Blake Thomas hosted a three-day golf fundraiser, "Swing for a Cure," at Minden Presbyterian Church. Thomas offered private golf lessons, with proceeds supporting the

See, **AUCTION**, Page 2



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# WEBSTER & MORE

## AUCTION

Continued from Page 1

Some of the big ticket raffles including the Partner In Hope went to Ashley Buffington, Alice Fanning, and Jessica McCain. The Grand Prize raffle winner was Mark Brown. The winner of the playhouse raffle was Erin Ramsey.

Near the end of the

auktion, co-chair Melisa Brown shared some memories of her time with the event. "I just think back on all the years that Laura and I have been here. I think of all the friends we've made and friends that aren't here with us and the ones far and the patients that aren't here with us and the ones that are success stories," said Brown.

"It's true. Every person, every family in our community has played a part in one form or fashion to the success of this auction. Hopefully, we won't be doing this for another fifty years, we won't have to. But until that day, we'll work like we did this weekend to reach that goal."



### COMMUNITY

## Rural disaster recovery course held in Webster Parish

**WILL PHILLIPS**  
Minden Press-Herald

This past week, Webster Parish's Fire District 7 hosted a one-day management-level course designed for public officials, community leaders, and private sector representatives in rural communities who play key roles in disaster recovery. When disaster strikes, preparation is key, and this class aimed to equip local parishes with the knowledge to proactively plan for such situations.

"It's about teaching our local responders and our local emergency managers how to help recover a rural area," said Neal Brown with the Governor's Office of Homeland Security.

"Of course, this is an entirely different recovery effort in a rural area than it is in an urban area. People are so spread out, you have a lot fewer resources, and help is further away. It's a different situation all the way around."

Recovery efforts include addressing key challenges such as relocating displaced citizens and managing widespread power outages. These challenges can be particularly severe during extreme weather conditions.

"If any type of event comes through, let's say hurricanes, tornados, earthquakes, whatever it may be for this area, your citizens are going to be displaced. You could have large-scale power outages. That's not as bad in

the summer, but if it were to be in the winter with the weather that we had a couple of weeks ago when it was in the tens, a large-scale power outage would be really bad," said Brown. "All of those things are taken into account in the preparedness plan, which is basically the parachute for parishes around here."

The class was not limited to Webster Parish alone. Emergency responders from surrounding parishes also participated, reflecting a broader regional effort to enhance disaster preparedness.

"I think it's a great class, and as you can see, you've got a lot of local people from around the region. There are firefighters in there, there are some sheriff deputies, and emergency managers from several parishes around here," said Brown. "The idea here is to make a comprehensive area plan so everyone would be able to help each other."

Ultimately, the goal of the course was to ensure that participants could take what they learned back to their communities and start working on their own preparedness plans.

"That's what this whole thing is about, learning how to manage and make it with what we have," said Brown. "To get people thinking and then when they leave here, go back to their individual parishes and start working on their preparedness plans."

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# WEBSTER & MORE

## OBITUARIES



### Nancy Thomas Boddie

Funeral services celebrating the life of Nancy Thomas Boddie were held Friday, February 7, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. at Rose Neath Funeral Home Chapel in Minden, Louisiana with Pastor Judy Bazer and Jimmy Woods officiating. Interment followed at Providence Cemetery in Ringgold, Louisiana. The family received friends on Thursday, February 6, 2025, from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. at Rose Neath Funeral Home in Minden.

Nancy was born June 6, 1952, in Shreveport, Louisiana and went to be with her Lord on February 4, 2025, in Dubberly, Louisiana. She enjoyed camping, family reunions, watching westerns and especially her grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents Oliver and Nancy Thomas.

She is survived by her husband, Richard Lee Boddie of Dubberly; daughter, Catherine Cowan (Arthur) of Keithville; brothers, Charles Thomas (Paula) and Philip Thomas (Kim) all of Fryeburg; and grandchildren, Levi Cowan and Teagan Cowan.

Pallbearers were Michael Thomas, Bubba Bond, Brad Dean, Danny Dean, Clark Gilbert, and Alan Gilbert.



### Alva Burdick Franks

Alva Burdick Franks, 84, of Batesville, AR passed away Wednesday, January 29, 2025. She was born October 28, 1940 in Graham, Texas to Roy and Nettie (McGrew)Burdick.

Alva was a graduate of 1959 Graham High School. She completed her education at Hardin Simmons University in Abilene Tx which is where she met her husband of 56 years, Freddy F. Franks.

Alva was a kind woman who served along aside her husband in many churches throughout Texas and Louisiana.

She was and excellent cook who enjoyed sewing, working crossword puzzles, and watching home improvement series. She loved listening to Sunday morning church service via the internet and was a member of First Baptist Church Minden, La. Alva worked in

childcare most of her life and delighted in helping her daughter with school productions and costuming for her musicals. She also enjoyed bird watching, especially hummingbirds.

Survivors include one daughter, Dawn Franks Harris (Dr. John) of Batesville; daughter-in-law, Dr. Caroline Raines Franks of Greensboro, North Carolina; one sister, Barbara

Burdick Black of China Springs, Texas; a grandson, Manning Franks (Kimmie); three granddaughters, Farrelle Franks, Ashlyn Harris, and Haidyn Harris, and several nieces, nephews and special friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her husband, one precious son, Duane Franks; two brothers, Clyott Burdick and Don Burdick, and three sisters, Glenda Burdick, Mildred B. Smith and Wanda B. Hobbs.

A memorial service will be held on March 29th, at First Baptist Church Minden, La in the chapel. Burial will be in Tuscaloosa, Al next to her husband.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to New Hope Refuge, 10 Bell Grove Rd, Batesville, AR, 72501.

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## CRIME

### Homer man arrested for setting fire to occupied mobile home

**STAFF REPORT**  
Minden Press-Herald

A Homer man has been arrested for allegedly setting fire to a mobile home while two people were inside, according to the State Fire Marshal’s Office.

Joshua Winters, 35, was booked into the Claiborne Parish Jail on January 24 on two counts of attempted second-degree murder and one count of aggravated arson.

The Homer Fire Department responded to

a mobile home fire in the 300 block of Oil Mill Street around 8:30 PM on January 8. A man and woman inside the home were able to escape unharmed.

Investigators determined the fire was intentionally set. Through investigative efforts, Winters, a former friend of the victims, was identified as the suspect. He was taken into custody without incident.

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

## WPPJ

# Webster Parish Police Jury discusses roads, library updates, and community concerns

**AMBER MCDOWN**  
Minden Press-Herald

The Webster Parish Police Jury (WPPJ) held its regular meeting on February 4 with all members present. The agenda included routine matters such as approving invoices for payment, adopting minutes from the January meeting, and approving a resolution of support for a \$100,000 Local Government Assistance Program grant for the Town of Sibley’s water system.

The jury also approved Ordinance 1023-001, authorizing the sale of

adjudicated properties—parcels 115027 and 121806—through a public auction held on January 27.

During committee reports, Savannah Jones, executive director of Webster Parish Libraries, shared statistics on library usage and announced the integration of the library’s catalog system into a single, user-friendly system. She also provided details about the upcoming Discovery Camp, scheduled for this summer.

Johnnye Kennon, representing Tourism, reminded attendees of key com-

munity events, including the Springhill Mardi Gras parade on February 7, the Minden Mardi Gras parade on February 15, and the Greater Minden Chamber’s annual gala on February 27. She also announced an upcoming job posting for a new executive director of Tourism.

John Monzingo of LSU Ag and 4-H provided updates on the annual candy bar fundraiser and Challenge Camp, which is underway this week. Enrollment for summer camp is open, and shooting sports competitions

are scheduled for February 28 through March 9. “Shooting sports is our fastest-growing program,” Monzingo said, noting the program’s strong safety record.

During public comments, a resident voiced concerns about road conditions in District 56, particularly the lack of painted lines. Police Jury President Jim Bonsall assured the resident that while major repairs are subject to prioritization based on traffic and residential density, officials would look into repainting the stripes for safety.

Another resident inquired about assistance for a neighbor unable to repair a leaking sewage pipe due to age and financial constraints. The jury directed the individual to the Health Department for further assistance.

Residents also raised concerns about a newly constructed firing range in a rural area, citing excessive noise, potential lead contamination, and safety risks. The jury explained that Webster Parish lacks zoning regulations, and gun ranges are governed at the state level. They recommended

checking for federal permits and contacting the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) regarding lead contamination. Ultimately, Bonsall personally advised the residents to seek legal counsel, as the matter falls outside the jury’s jurisdiction.

The WPPJ meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:30 AM at 401 Main Street. The public is welcome to attend.

## EDUCATION

# WPSB recognizes first graduate of Reach University program

**AMBER MCDOWN**  
Minden Press-Herald

The Webster Parish School Board (WPSB) recognized Nina Willis as the first graduate from the district to complete a degree through Reach University during its regular meeting on February 3.

“Webster Parish has partnered with Reach University to help paras become teachers,” said Dr. Wilson, WPSB personnel director. “This is a grow-your-own program here in Webster Parish. We have 14 paras who are working on their bachelor’s degrees through Reach University.”

Webster Parish funds the monthly tuition for

participants, who earn credit for their classroom work while completing coursework and observations.

“We are using this as a major recruitment tool, and I’m so proud of what’s happening,” Wilson said. “We’re going to be doing a bigger push to help our bus drivers, substitutes, and secretaries who are interested in getting their bachelor’s degrees. Because they work for Webster Parish, we can help them.”

Willis, a longtime para-professional with WPSB, most recently worked at Phillips Elementary before earning her bachelor’s degree in liberal arts last May.



“Immediately, Mr. Lee, the principal of Central Elementary, said, ‘I want her. I know what she can do,’” Wilson said.

Central Elementary Principal Lee praised Wil-

lis’ experience and dedication.

“Paras are often the unsung heroes, especially when it comes to special education. Even though they don’t have the de-

gree, they’re doing the work,” Lee said. “I knew Ms. Willis by reputation. I knew she had a lot of experience. We’ve been very pleased with her at Central. She’s been an out-

standing teacher, and she has a great future ahead of her.”

For more information on the program, contact Dr. Wilson at the school board offices.



OPINION

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OPINION

Trump Moving Swiftly to Return America to Americans and Calm to the World

President Trump has stated numerous times that “I am going to return your country to you ... I’m going to give you back your country!” What he has done to achieve that goal in a mere 17 days is astounding. Let me recap his dizzying pace:

He demanded Mexico stop illegal immigration into the U.S and block the river of fentanyl. Mexico initially appeared to resist then quickly folded. Canada, with its flaccid, idiotic prime minister also initially resisted Trump demands, then quickly folded. Panama immediately agreed to reduce the Chinese influence in the Panama Canal. Venezuela and Colombia tried to appear defiant but soon submitted. Venezuela has even returned 6 American hostages.

The anti-American U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) is on its way out. It’s wasteful and shameful spending is too lengthy to document. Here are only a few examples of the waste and abuse: \$1.5 million to “advance diversity, equity, and inclusion in Serbia’s workplaces and business communities,”\$70,000 for production of a “DEI musical” in Ireland, \$2.5 million for electric vehicles for Vietnam, \$47,000 for a “transgender opera” in Colombia,\$32,000 for a “transgender comic book” in Peru, \$2 million for sex changes and “LGBT activism” in Guatemala,\$6 million to fund tourism

in Egypt, hundreds of thousands of dollars for a non-profit linked to designated terrorist organizations, millions to Eco Health Alliance—which was involved in research at the Wuhan lab, hundreds of thousands of meals that went to Al Qaeda-affiliated fighters in Syria, funding to print “personalized” contraceptive birth control devices in developing countries, hundreds of millions of dollars to fund “irrigation canals, farming equipment, and even fertilizer used to support the unprec-

edented poppy cultivation and heroin production in Afghanistan,” benefiting the Taliban.

The list goes on and on—and has all been happening for decades! The 51 former intelligence officials who lied about the Hunter Biden laptop prior to the 2020 presidential election have all had their security clearances revoked. Trump this week also banned men from competing in women’s sports.

Being scrutinized are many of the FBI agents who participated in the weaponization against Trump, the J6ers, proliferators, Catholic churches, and parents—who were deemed

“domestic terrorists”—of public-school students who challenged the forced masking and vaccinations of their children during Covid and the existence of Woke, pornographic and transgender literature in public school libraries.

The Department of Education (DOE) is on the chopping block. The DOE has not been primarily focused on educating students in decades but, instead, upon indoctrinating students with Critical Race Theory madness.

Further, thousands of federal employees have been offered a buyout package but they are leaving one way or the other.

Trump’s first meeting with a foreign leader was with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and, with his typical bluntness, Trump made clear that Israel will be protected, and that the Gaza Strip will become something entirely different but never again the killing fields it has been for decades.

Trump has also reimposed harsh sanctions against Iran such that it will no longer be funding terrorist proxy groups but also said he would like to come to some sort of an agreement with Iran. However, under no circumstances will Iran possess a nuclear weapon. He further exemplified what courage and leadership look like when someone asked Trump about the continuing efforts of Iran to have him assassi-

nated. His response was epic. He stated he had already given instructions and that if Iran assassinated him “that country will be obliterated. There won’t be anything left.”

We’ve never had an American president who successfully shrunk the size of the federal government or significantly diminished its oppressiveness in our lives. I doubt the lawsuits being filed in opposition to these executive actions will get very far because the changes Trump is making fall within his core constitutional powers as the head of the Executive Branch and Commander in Chief.

This is an historic time for us to witness and be alive. There is no doubt that the relentless prayers of millions of us have put our nation in this very hopeful position. May God continue to guide, bless, and protect this nation He ordained and may the world be blessed and uplifted by the strong presence of America to which President Trump literally gives his life to ensure President Lincoln’s dream: That our,

“Government of the People, by the People, for the People, shall not perish from the Earth.”

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

On behalf of friendship

In honor of President Abraham Lincoln’s birthday we should remember what he said best:”The better part of one’s life consists in his friendships.”

Cherish your friends, your family, yourself. We are classics! There will never be a replica of any one of us.

Even with our so called flaws we should be grateful for our uniqueness. It is in our differences that we are set apart and often remembered.

God must have loved variety!

Not long ago I had a visit with one from the past, with my dear departed lifelong friend, Joyce Duke Moore of Oil City, who passed away in August 2010.

I ran into her friend from Gilliam. I met her at Joyce’s funeral in Vivian. We both gave eulogies from our seats at her funeral conducted by the minister Bill Keith.

Her friend spoke about how people often confused them for each other because of their similarities in looks and personality. Joyce would joke to her friend, “Now you be careful what

you do when your are out in public” not wanting to be blamed for what the other had done.

It was such a blessing when I met her friend and have only seen her a few times since the funeral but I continue to be amazed at how much those two resemble each other. More than physical traits they both are

women of faith who were and are unafraid to affirm their faith to even strangers they meet in Wal-Mart. Emotions washed over my spirit after seeing her friend. I still feel Joyce’s presence from our brief visit. I always look her friend in the eye and say “Hello, Joyce!”

God knew what He was doing when He made these two women to look so much alike. I met Joyce in 1979 when

we lived in Vivian. Our children attended the same school. We became fast friends.

I often quipped “all I have to do is plug in my coffee pot and Joyce will appear!” We spent so much time together drinking coffee around the table discovering more about who we are.

Once Joyce sent me a beautiful story with a woman walking out in the water while she slightly lifted her skirt to keep from getting wet. Under the picture were the words “our friends help us test the waters.”

Joyce helped me test the waters and helped me to feel safe to voice my stories aloud before I began to write them down.

I read a beautiful quote from George Eliot that said : “Oh, the comfort, the inexpressible comfort of feeling safe with a person, having neither to weight thoughts nor measure words, but pouring them all out, just as they are, chaff and grain together, certain that a faithful hand will take and sift them, keep what is worth keeping and with a breath of kind-

ness blow the rest away.”

Because I was so insecure then, only thirty-one, I needed a friend like Joyce because she helped free my personality. I found myself during those two years while we were living in Vivian.

I learned to be open in my conversation and empty my bottled up pain from my childhood. I told her things I had never told anyone – like about my mother’s head injury that stunted her emotional and intellectual growth resulting in us going into an orphanage after daddy died at home in 1958.

I read that the difference between a therapist and a friend is that a friend keeps coming back and listening without being paid.

God knew what He was doing when He sent Joyce my way along with Estelle, because 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

A Heartfelt Thank You for an Unbelievable Minden St. Jude Auction

What an incredible display of generosity and community spirit we witnessed last week! The Minden St. Jude Auction raised a staggering \$2,320,036, surpassing even the highest expectations and continuing its legacy as one of the most impactful fundraising events in our area. This achievement is a testament to the dedication, compassion, and hard work of everyone involved.

First and foremost, I want to express my deepest gratitude to the countless volunteers who made this event possible. From setting up the venue to handling the bids, running the raffles, and keeping everything running smoothly, your selflessness and commitment to the cause are what truly made this auction a success. You gave your time and en-

ergy to ensure the auction ran without a hitch, and for that, I thank you.

To the generous sponsors, whose support helps underwrite the event and make every dollar raised go toward the children and families at St. Jude, your continued dedication to this cause is invaluable. Without your financial contributions, we would not have the platform to raise such an impressive amount. Your partnership with this event speaks volumes about your

commitment to our community and the future of St. Jude.

And, of course, none of this would have been possible without the amazing donors who contributed items, services, and experiences for the auction. Your willingness to give, whether big or small, created the opportunity for so many to participate in something much larger than themselves. Your contributions helped make the auction exciting, unique, and filled with items people were eager to bid on.

Lastly, thank you to all the participants—those who came out to bid, those who made donations, and those who helped spread the word. Every bid, every donation, every share on social media brought us closer to our goal.

Your involvement made this success a reality, and for that, you have our deepest appreciation.

As we look back on the success of this year’s auction, it’s important to remember the impact it will have. The money raised will directly benefit the work being done at St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital. It will fund critical research, treatments, and support services for children and families facing life-threatening illnesses. The generosity shown by this community will help give children hope, and for that, we are all proud to be part of something so powerful.

The success of the Minden St. Jude Auction is a reflection of the strength and heart of this community. We come together in times of need, and

we rally around a cause that transcends individual differences and brings us all together. This year’s auction proves that when we unite with a common purpose, we can accomplish amazing things.

As we move forward, let’s continue to show our support for St. Jude and for one another. Whether you volunteered, donated, sponsored, or bid, your role in this incredible event helped change lives. Thank you for being a part of this success. Together, we’re making a difference that will echo for years to come.

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



DAVID SPECHT



SPORTS

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HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

Minden edges BTW, falls to Bossier in battle for 1-4A lead

RUSSELL HEDGES  
Minden Press-Herald

The Minden Crimson Tide's goal of winning the District 1-4A championship likely won't happen after last week's 66-52 loss to the Bossier Bearkats, but there is still plenty left to accomplish this season.

Minden entered this week 18-3 overall and 4-1 in district.

According to Geaux-Preps.com, despite the loss Minden was No. 3 in the non-select Division II power rankings entering this week. If the Tide can finish in the top four, they will get a bye in the first round of the playoffs then host a second-round game.

But there is still some work to do in the regular season.

Minden was scheduled to host Northwood Tuesday then visit Southwood Friday. The Tide close the regular season at Benton on Wednesday, Feb. 19.

The news wasn't all bad last week. Minden pulled out a 64-63 victory over Booker T. Washington in Shreveport.

The game against Bossier was a battle for the district lead.

The 14-point final margin against Bossier is de-



ROBERT SUMMERLIN/PRESS-HERALD  
Minden's Cameron Parker goes in for a layup during last week's 66-52 loss to Bossier in Bossier City.

ceptive. Minden trailed 44-43 with 20 seconds left in the third quarter after getting a steal and layup on an inbounds pass under their basket.

But the momentum quickly turned in Bossier's favor.

David Thomas put up a 3-pointer in the waning seconds of the quarter. It was blocked. But the ball went right back to Thomas who had just enough time to put up another 3.

This time the shot hit nothing but net with 0.7 seconds left. Thomas was

also fouled. He converted the four-point play and Bossier led by five going into the fourth.

Minden stayed within striking distance and trailed 53-47 with 3:47 left. After a timeout, the Tide had a chance to get within three but missed a 3-pointer.

Thomas then knocked down a 3-pointer from the corner to put Bossier up by nine. The Tide cut the lead to seven but that was as close as they would get.

Cameron Parker led Minden with 14 points

Darnell Morris had 11.

Kerel Dean had another big night for Bossier. He led the team with 23 points, including 19 in the first half. The Bearkats entered this week 13-11 overall and 5-0 in district.

Christian Lofton's putback with 4.3 seconds left gave Minden the victory over BTW.

Offensive rebounds were key for the Crimson Tide in the fourth quarter. The Tide got three on one possession. Jaiden Franklin finally scored to give Minden a 59-55 lead. Franklin was fouled but missed the free throw. Morris got the rebound. He missed the putback, got the rebound and scored. The Tide led 61-56 with 1:10 left to play.

But BTW wasn't done. The Lions rallied and took a 63-62 lead on a 3-pointer with 21.1 seconds left.

The Tide got the ball down the court. Franklin drove inside but missed a shot. However, he tipped the ball to Lofton who scored.

BTW called a timeout but Minden tipped a pass at mid-court and the Lions didn't get a shot off.

Franklin led the Tide with 15 points. Morris and Lofton scored 12 each.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

2025 season gets underway

RUSSELL HEDGES  
Minden Press-Herald

The 2025 baseball season is underway.

The season officially began with four games Monday and one Tuesday.

Minden begins a three-game series against D'Arbonne Woods in Farmerville Thursday. Game Two is Friday at 6 p.m. at Minden. Game Three is Saturday at 1 at D'Arbonne Woods.

Glenbrook, which reached the select Division IV championship game last season, opens a three-game series against Evangel Christian at Glenbrook Thursday at 6. Game Two is Friday at 6 at Evangel. Game 3 is Saturday at 1 at Glenbrook.

North Webster opens a three-game series against North Caddo Thursday at 6 in Vivian. The teams are scheduled to play a doubleheader Saturday at North Webster starting at 1.

Lakeside visits Benton at Thursday at 5 as part of the Many tournament. The Tigers play Jewel Sumner at 3:30 and Anacoco Friday at Many.

Doyline hosts Glenbrook Friday at 5.

Minden returns first-team All-District infielder Bryson Ranger and second-team pitcher Jaxon Smith, infielder Landon Brewer and outfielder Landyn Hudleston off last season's team that went 26-12 and reached the quarterfinals of the non-select Division II playoffs.

Also back are catcher Hudson Brown and infielder Bray Winston.

Glenbrook pitcher Easton Sanders is back for his senior year. A Louisiana Tech signee, he was a first-team selection on the Louisiana Sports Writers Association Class 1A All-State team.

Sanders threw three complete games in the playoffs to help the Apaches advance to the non-select Division IV

title game.

Also returning off last season's 16-11 team are shortstop Jackson Waller, outfielder Preston Frye, infielders Ryan Reagan, Dawson Day and Sam Ricord, and outfielders Seth Mangrum and Hudson Glass.

All of the above played in the Apaches' 3-2 victory over No. 2 seed Covenant Christian in the semifinals of the playoffs.

North Webster has several returning players off last year's 16-15 team that made the playoffs. Among those are pitcher Preston Ingle, catcher Cayden Bernard, shortstop Nathan Bernard, outfielders Dajuan Coleman and Colby Dinkins, infielders Landon Allen and Tyler Brown, and pitchers Aiden Woodall and Garritt Gillentine.

Hall of Fame Coach Bob Gray is back as head coach at Lakeside. His son, Will, stepped down after last season to accept the position of assistant principal at the school.

He will have a mostly veteran team led by first-team All-District 1-2A infielder Peyton Gray and utility Jon Jon Dick, a shortstop.

Also returning are second-team All-District infielders Eli Campbell and Gage Williams, outfielder Brock Case and utility Jake Glass, an outfielder.

Lakeside went 16-15 last season and reached the quarterfinals of the non-select Division IV playoffs.

Doyline pitcher Noah Spears, a Northwestern State signee, is back for his senior season. Spears has been a mainstay of the program since his middle school days.

Also back from last season's 14-14 squad are outfielder Dario Galvez, infielder Zach Normand and designated hitter Jonas Florence,

The Panthers lost to eventual state champion Quitman 4-3 in the second round of the non-select Division V playoffs last year.

HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL

Lady Tideters pick up two district wins

RUSSELL HEDGES  
Minden Press-Herald

The Minden Lady Tideters remained undefeated in District 1-4A with two road victories last week.

Minden defeated Booker T. Washington 49-41 and Bossier 52-45.

Minden entered this week 13-11 overall and 5-0 in district. The Lady Tideters were scheduled to host Northwood (16-9, 5-0) Tuesday with the district lead on the line. They close the regular season Friday at Southwood.

Minden and North Webster should both make the playoffs. According to GeauxPreps.com, the Lady Tideters were No. 25 in

the non-select Division II power rankings. The top 28 teams in the final rankings make the playoffs.

North Webster plays in one of the toughest Class 3A district in the state. Accorded to GeauxPreps.com, three of the teams are ranked in the top 13 in the non-select Division II power rankings, including No. 2 Sterlington which defeated the Lady Knights 56-22 last week.

North Webster entered this week 13-11 and No. 18 in the non-select Division III rankings.

Glenbrook has a chance to make the playoffs. The Lady Apaches, which defeated Lincoln Prep 44-34 last week, entered this

week No. 24 in the select Division IV power rankings. The top 24 teams in the final rankings make the playoffs.

Minden's Brooklyn Jefferson added to her total of double-doubles with 23 points and 17 rebounds against BTW. She also had five assists, six steals and two blocks.

Shelby Glenn scored 13 points. She also had five assists, four steals and three rebounds.

Travesti Byrd had nine points, six rebounds, five assists and four steals.

Jefferson led the Lady Tideters against Bossier with 16 points.

Byrd scored 11. Glenn added nine and Alexi Hat-

ter eight.

Minden hit five 3-pointers in the first quarter and raced to a 17-8 lead. Glenn and Byrd had two each and Markeithdra Willis one.

Byrd and Willis sank one 3 each in the second quarter and Minden led 32-20 at the half.

The Lady Tideters cooled off in the third quarter but still led 39-30 going into the fourth.

The Lady Kats got within five midway through the fourth but could get no closer.

Lakeside won't be going to the playoffs but the Lady Warriors picked up a win in their final home game last week, defeating Winnfield 37-33.

OUTDOORS

Haunting memories of the old home place

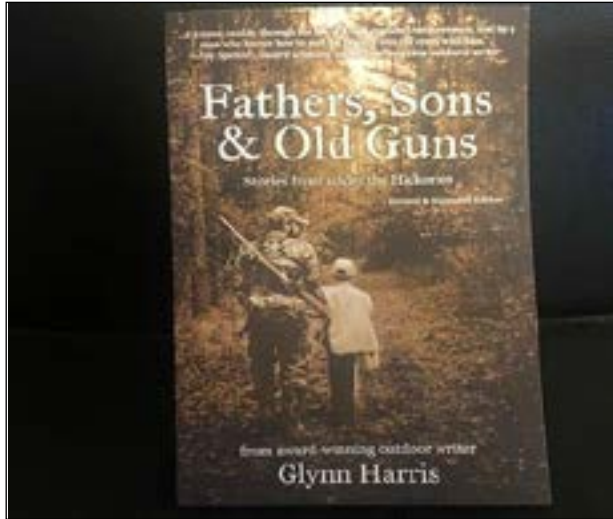
GLYNN HARRIS

(This is a chapter from the new book, "Fathers, Sons and Old Guns" by Glynn Harris. The book is now available from Amazon.com.)

It's been a long time since I last visited the home place where I grew up. I remember what it was like soon after my mom passed away; it was like the cord that had bound our family together had snapped after she was no longer there.

My sister, Linda, lived next door to our house and I remember one Christmas when I visited Linda soon after mother had died, I was not prepared for the feeling of loneliness that swept over me when I looked across her yard to the simple frame house where we grew up. On other Christmases, this would have been the scene of laughter, of sweet and tangy aromas wafting from mother's kitchen. This day however, it seemed cold and dark.

The years have soothed the pain of that first Christmas without my mother but my memories of the old home place linger like the spicy aroma of her apple-sauce cake. The old house is gone now, somebody bought it and moved it and there was nothing there but the cedar tree in the front yard, the crepe myrtles that formed a ring around the yard and the pecan tree



GLYNN HARRIS  
"Fathers, Sons and Old Guns" which is available at Amazon.com.

growing just out of the yard.

Until the house was purchased and moved, a young family rented it for awhile and I remember feeling sad and resentful that somebody else was living in what had been our family's home where we all grew up.

As I paused to reflect on the spot where our house had been, I remembered things like drawing water from the well in the back yard. The water bucket, a slender cylinder that went "gulp...gulp" when it filled and when you pulled the bucket from the well hand over fist by the rope to which it was attached, you pulled a trigger at the top to release water into the water bucket.

I remembered things like calling our old milk cow from the pasture late in the afternoon, dumping

cans of Acorn cow feed into the trough and pulling up the stool to sit and milk the cow, hoping she hadn't gotten into bitter weeds that day.

I remembered things like watching dogs with names like Boots, Rusty and Tippy waiting outside the back door for scraps from the kitchen.

I remembered how the cool green grass felt to tender feet the first time shoes were shucked in spring.

I remembered hoping it was my turn to lick the bowl after mother made a cake, and sitting on the front porch on a summer afternoon making the churn dasher slap up and down in the sour milk as it separated from the globs of butter and watching mother work the golden mound until all the buttermilk was

gone and pure, sweet butter remained.

I remembered things like listening to my uncle Sam cuss his mule over on the hill across the way as he plowed his field.

I remembered making sling shots out of slices of inner tubes and old shoe tongues attached to just the right fork of a branch you had cut for the handle.

I remembered things like digging earthworms from beneath the cow patties at the cow barn and my brother Tom and me heading for Molido Creek with bamboo poles, hook, line and sinker to fish for goggle-eyes and sun perch.

I remembered fingering the etched wooden stock on my old double barrel shotgun as I sat with my back against a beech down on Molido, listening for the scritch-scratch of a squirrel's claws on oak bark, getting out of a warm bed early fall mornings, grabbing my shotgun and heading for the Sand Flats along Saline Creek hoping for a shot at a squealer duck that flew from their roost to wing their way up the creek to feed.

Somebody else now owned our house and I knew I could never go back home again. That's how it should be, I suppose, and that's okay. I have my memories and I can take them down from time to time, dust them off and for a moment, become the little barefoot boy again.

Fishing Report

BUSSEY BRAKE

— Anglers are catching some really big crappie on jigs and shiners in open water. Bass are beginning to get in pre-spawn mode and some big ones are being caught on soft plastics and creature baits. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole at 323-8707.

OUACHITA RIVER

— The river is rising. A few catfish are being caught. Crappie are scattered and slow. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE D'ARBONNE

— 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. Catfishing is good off the banks on cold worms. For latest information, call Anderson Sport Center at 368-9669 or Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE CLAI-BORNE

— 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 spillway. Some big bass are hitting jigs and deep diving crank baits and soft plastics 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 improved on both the north and south ends of the lake on shiners or jigs. No report on bass. Catfish continue to bite. For information, contact the marina at 318/878-0101.

LAKE YUCATAN

— The water is rising and should crest and start a slow fall in a week. A few catfish are being caught. Others are slow. For info call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.



# Good News

GOOD NEWS

## FEBRUARY – A MONTH OF EXPRESSING OUR LOVE

With February ‘half-spent,’ we see ‘hearts, roses and candy’ all around, Valentine Day must be near! These three things warm our hearts and remind us of how important relationships are in living the Christian life. As a Senior Adult, we might be thinking, “I have seen all the hearts, smelled all the roses and eaten all of the candy I want”. But I hope we all can look beyond these gestures and see the true motives of why someone wants to “remember us” in such manner.

Perhaps, someone wants to tell you they really love you and wants to express it in a tangible way. It may be that you have influenced them by the way

you love, minister and serve the Lord. Some share to just say “thankyou for being so special in my life”. Of course, spouses (our age) are reaffirming that special love they’ve treasured through the years. At this point in life, what else is there to give each other? Name a star for them, a trip to Dairy Queen for a blizzard, or a warm foot massage on one of these cold nights? OK, if these are not options, look back at the hearts, roses and candy list. Time is running out!

Now think of our church family and how we may express our love to them. In your Sunday

School Class: list some ways you can minister as a class to members who have special needs; remember your class leaders and make some kind of love-expression to them (teacher, class leader, etc). Remember those

who faithfully serve: director, secretary, outreach, greeters, musicians, etc. Also, remember our Worship and Ministry Staff, Office staff, Custodial, Kitchen and the Day Care Staff. (Make a contribution to a special ministry in honor of them, share a card, give them plate of goodies, etc.) It doesn’t matter what is done, as long as love is



Bill Crider

expressed. And don’t forget our Homebound members!

Many churches use the I LOVE MY CHURCH MONTH Theme and emphasize such things as: Making a commitment to being faithful in attendance, giving and ministry. Also, we can encourage members to share love with the church family in these ways -

Week 1 Make check-up calls, expressing love & appreciation

Week 2 Send a card (valentine) or note sharing some special thoughts.

Week 3 Share a gift (goodies, lotions, flowers, candy, etc)

Week 4 Make some special visits this week ‘to check on a friend’

All members are special to the church family and make so many contributions through attendance, service, prayer ministry, giving, ministry, witnessing, missions, and volunteering. How rewarding it is to serve. Say “Thank you for all the ways you show your love to world around you.” And if you get too much candy and stuff...share it with friends in the local nursing homes. There are many there alone and will have no visitors or gifts. “God is love - Express it; Love is active - Give it away!”

BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER

### THE UPWARD LOOK

#### Joyfully Worship

“Shout joyfully to the LORD, all the earth.” Psalm 100:1 NASB

This marvelous psalm exhorts all people to worship and praise the Lord. All peoples of the earth are to shout with triumph and joy, making a joyful noise to the Lord. The people of God are to gather for worship, not with long sad faces but with excited and exuberant praise to the Almighty Lord God, our Creator. God the Father calls us to come into His holy and majestic presence because in love He pours out His mercy and grace



Max Hutto

upon us through Jesus the Son, our Savior and Redeemer. Thus we are to worship, glorify, and honor Him with joyful shouts and songs.

Lord God, as Your people gather this Sunday to worship You, may we lift our voices in joyful praise to You. May joyous worship overflow from our lives that are filled with Your love and grace.

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

### INSPIRATION

#### Be The Change

I debated with myself quite a bit about what I would say in this week’s message and the topic of change comes to mind. I have been involved in the church for a while and you hear it said so many times “ I wish things would change”. I have ministered in the world around me for years and I hear one common complaint “I wish things would change”. In my message for this week, I would like to encourage everyone to stop wishing and start doing. Jesus made a habit of leading by example. Everything Jesus taught he lived without compromise. We

need to be the change we want to see in the world. If we live out the example Christ lived out for us I honestly believe we could change the world. I know that there are many that would say this ideal is impractical or even impossible but I know that nothing is impossible when God is involved. As I close this article I encourage everyone to walk by faith and stay steadfast in the word and the rest of the world will follow.



Bernard Harris

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

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



CLASSIFIEDS

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

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



**Accepting Applications for Drivers**  
Bill & Ralph's Inc.  
118 B & R Drive, Sarepta, La. 71071  
Accepting Applications For Delivery Route Drivers with a CDL(Class A) Drivers License. Free Medical Insurance for Driver, Family Medical Insurance available. Dental and 401K Benefits. Hourly plus Incentive Pay, Yearly Safety Bonus Pay, Monthly Safety/Performance Pay. Apply at Bill & Ralph's or Contact Jason Gaines at (318)539-2071 [jason.gaines@billandralphs.com](mailto:jason.gaines@billandralphs.com)

**Estate Sale**  
Friday & Saturday February 7th & 8th 8:00 AM  
1313 East Todd Minden, Estate Sale - Everything must go, furniture, kitchen, yard, clothes and antiques. Indoor/outdoor motorized scooters and lifts for auto.

**Personal assistant needed**  
Part-Time.(full time after one month if you still choose to work for us)  
Days: 2-3 days a week  
Hours: 9 hours weekly.  
Weekly Pay: \$700 (then \$1000 weekly after 3 weeks of satisfaction on job execution and dedication)  
Interested Applicant to send resume to the email [peterbeyette1@outlook.com](mailto:peterbeyette1@outlook.com)

**Hiring**  
Presbyterian Village of Homer  
3700 US Hwy 79 South  
Homer, Louisiana 71040  
(318) 927-6133  
Now Hiring for the Following Positions:  
LPNs, competitive and negotiable wages, Full-Time benefits, Part-Time and PRN available, Day Shift/Night Shift (12-hour)  
CNAs, starting out at \$15.00 per hour, Full-Time benefits, Part-Time and PRN available, Day Shift/ Evening Shift/Night Shift (8-hour)  
Ward Clerks, competitive wages, Full-Time benefits, Part-Time and PRN available, Day Shift/ Evening Shift (8-hour)  
Dietary (Cooks, Kitchen Staff), competitive wages, Full-Time benefits, Part-Time and PRN available, Day Shift/Evening Shift (8-hour)  
Must Apply in Person.

LEGALS

**SHERIFF'S SALE**  
21ST MORTGAGE CORP VS. DAKOTA RYAN CHAMBLEE  
In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 81911.  
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, March 26, 2025  
During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:  
2023 Jessup 16 x 76 mobile home bearing serial number JHW06418TX23  
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:  
February 12, 2025  
JASON R. PARKER Sheriff & Ex-Officio Auctioneer  
Webster Parish, Louisiana  
Pam Brantley  
Pam Brantley - Deputy

**February 15, 2025**  
**Minden Press Herald**

**SHERIFF'S SALE**  
MIDFIRST BANK VS. BRANDON R GORUM AND CHASITY GORUM  
In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. CV81872.  
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 19, 2025.  
During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:  
LOT EIGHT (8), HILLSIDE SUBDIVISION, PHASE "H", SITUATED IN THE NORTHWEST QUARTER OF THE NORTHWEST QUARTER (NW/4 OF NW/4) OF SECTION 19, TOWNSHIP 19 NORTH, RANGE 4 WEST, WEBSTER PARISH, LOUISIANA, AS PER MAP AND PLAT OF SAID SUBDIVISION FILED IN CONVEYANCE BOOK 897, PAGE 489, REGISTRY NUMBER 432036 OF THE CONVEYANCE RECORDS OF WEBSTER PARISH, LOUISIANA; subject to restrictions, servitudes, rights-of-way and outstanding mineral rights of record affecting the property.  
That certain manufactured home/mobile situated on the above described property, being a 2013 Southern Estates Manufactured Home, Model No. E0908, Serial No. SOU007738, Hud Label No. NTA1592657 & NTA 1592658, which said manufactured home/mobile home was immobilized pursuant to Affidavit of Immobilization dated March 31, 2016 and filed for record as Instrument No. 558506 of the records of Webster Parish, Louisiana.  
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  
Pen Brantley  
Pam Brantley - Deputy

**January 15, 2025**  
**February 12, 2025**  
**Minden Press Herald**

**SHERIFF'S SALE**  
LOANDEPOT.COM, LLC VS. JOHN RICHARD NUGENT A/K/A JOHN R. NUGENT A/K/A JOHN NUGENT AND BICKIE SERE BARLING RYAN A/K/A BICKIE SERE BARLING A/K/A BICKIE S. BARLING A/K/A BICKIE BARLING A/K/A BICKIE SERE RYAN A/K/A BICKIE S. RYAN A/K/A BICKIE RYAN A/K/A BICKIE BARLING RYAN A/K/A BICKIE B. RYAN  
In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 80727.  
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 19, 2025.  
During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:  
Lot 100, Replat of Sportsman's Paradise, a subdivision of Webster Parish, Louisiana, as per plat recorded in Map Book 3, Page 47 of the Conveyance Records of Webster Parish, Louisiana, together with all buildings and improvements located thereon.  
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  
Pm Brantley  
Pam Brantley - Deputy

**January 15, 2025**  
**February 12, 2025**  
**Minden Press Herald**

**SHERIFF'S SALE**  
B1 BANK VS. LYNDA WOMACK, AKA LYNDA M. K. AKA LYNDA GAYLE MYERS WOMACK, DECEASED, AND AMY LYNETT WOMACK FOWLER BAKER, AND KRISTIN ANN WOMACK BARTON AND TOM BRADLEY WOMACK  
In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. CV81823.  
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, February 19, 2025.  
During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:  
A tract of land located in Section 21, Township 17 North, Range 9 West, Webster Parish, Louisiana, as described as:  
Begin at the Northwest Corner of the Northwest Quarter of Northeast Quarter (NW/cor. Of NW/4 of NE/4), Section 21, Township 17 North, Range 9 West, Webster Parish, Louisiana, and run East 938.7 feet; thence run South 488.5 feet to the point of beginning; thence run South 76 degrees 50 minutes West 415 feet; thence run South 13 degrees 10 minutes East 315 feet; thence run North 76 degrees 50 minutes East 415 feet; thence run North 13 degrees 10 minutes West 315 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 Auctioneer  
Webster Parish, Louisiana  
Pam Bunthus  
Pam Brantley - Deputy

**January 15, 2025**  
**February 12, 2025**  
**Minden Press Herald**

**Minutes**  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF MINDEN, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN IN REGULAR SESSION HELD ON FEBRUARY 3, 2025  
The Minden City Council met at City Hall in Minden, Louisiana, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Nick Cox, Carlton Myles, Levon Thomas, Latasha Mitchell, Michael Roy, and Andy Pendergrass. Absence(s): None. Mayor Cox welcomed everyone to the meeting. Prayer was offered by Carlton Myles and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Levon Thomas. It is noted for the record that Mayor Cox allowed both council and public comments prior to every vote.  
Carlton Myles moved to adopt the minutes of the Minden City Council Workshop held on January 6, 2025, as presented. The motion was duly seconded by Latasha Mitchell and the vote was unanimously in favor. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): None.  
Michael Roy moved to adopt the minutes of the Minden City Council Regular Session held on January 6, 2025, as presented. The motion was duly seconded by Carlton Myles and the vote was unanimously in favor. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): None.  
Andy Pendergrass moved to adopt a Resolution to Amend the City of Minden 2024-2025 Budget, as presented. The motion was duly seconded by Michael Roy and the vote was unanimously in favor. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): None.

Upon motion by Michael Roy and duly seconded by Andy Pendergrass, the council unanimously adopted a Resolution Showing Support of a Community Water Enrichment Fund (CWEF) FY 2024-2025 Application, and if Awarded, Granting the Mayor Authority to Execute the Contract and Any Other Paperwork, as Needed, with the State of Louisiana Office of Community Development Division of Administration, as presented. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): None.  
Upon motion by Andy Pendergrass and duly seconded by Latasha Mitchell, the council unanimously adopted a Resolution Showing Support of a Local Government Assistance Program (LGAP) FY 2024-2025 Application, and if Awarded, Granting the Mayor Authority to Execute the Contract and Any Other Paperwork, as Needed, with the State of Louisiana Office of Community Development Division of Administration, as presented. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): None.  
Upon motion by Andy Pendergrass and duly seconded by Carlton Myles, the council unanimously authorized Mayor Cox to enter into a Full Requirement Service Agreement by and between the Louisiana Energy and Power Authority and the City of Minden, Louisiana; a Hydropower Pooling Agreement by and between the Louisiana Energy and Power Authority and the City of Minden, Louisiana; and a Full Requirement Incentive Agreement by and between the Louisiana Energy and Power Authority and the City of Minden, Louisiana, pending attorney review. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): None.  
Carlton Myles moved to award Bid No. 06-2025 – City of Minden Airport Bus Hangars to the lowest qualified bidder meeting all requirements, Southern Craftsman Construction, LLC, pending grant offer from the FAA. The motion was duly seconded by Latasha Mitchell and the vote was unanimously in favor. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): None.  
Andy Pendergrass moved to approve the promotion of Minden Fire Captain Brandon Chrene to the rank of Battalion Chief, as presented. The motion was duly seconded by Michael Roy and the vote was unanimously in favor. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): None.  
City Clerk Melaney Langford presented the Budget/Financial Report for the month of December 2024. No motion was required.  
Fire Chief Brian Williams presented the Fire Report for the month of January 2025. No motion was required.  
The Police Report for the month of December 2024 was unanimously accepted, as presented, by motion of Carlton Myles and

second by Latasha Mitchell. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): None.  
Announcements and council comments were heard. The meeting was then adjourned.

Nicholas A. Cox, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melaney Langford, City Clerk

**February 12, 2025**  
**Minden Press Herald**

**Minutes**  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF MINDEN, STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN IN WORKSHOP HELD ON FEBRUARY 3, 2025  
The Minden City Council met at City Hall in Minden, Louisiana, beginning at 4:30 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Nick Cox, Carlton Myles, Levon Thomas, Latasha Mitchell, Michael Roy and Andy Pendergrass. Mayor Cox welcomed everyone to the meeting.  
The following topics were discussed: the Minden City Council Agenda, the Minden Airport hangar fees, the creation of a new position, the December 2024 Police Report, the January 2025 Fire Report, and the December 2024 Budget Report. No votes were cast during these discussions.  
There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Nicholas A. Cox, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melaney Langford, City Clerk

**February 12, 2025**  
**Minden Press Herald**

**Minutes**

The Webster Parish Library Board of Control met for a regular meeting in the Stewart Center Meeting Room on Friday, January 31, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. Present were board members Laura Evans, Linda Watson, George French, Nancy Hines, Charlotte Dean, and Secretary Savannah Jones. Absent: Ethel Smith (Vacant)

President Laura Evans established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. As required by Police Jury ordinance, the financials for April of 2024 were chosen for inspection.

Mrs. Evans called for officer nominations. Upon motion by George French, second by Nancy Hines, Laura Evans was unanimously elected President and Charlotte Dean was unanimously elected Vice President. Director Savannah Jones was appointed as secretary.

Mrs. Evans asked for any additions to the agenda. Upon motion by George French, second by Charlotte Dean, the following two additions were added to the agenda:  
11. a. Vote to approve the following policy: Self-Published Materials Selection Policy 12. a. Discuss 501c3 addition(s) under the library system  
Motion Carried.

Mrs. Evans asked for audience comments. There were no audience comments.  
Board appointments and current vacancy was discussed. No action taken.

Upon motion by George French, second by Charlotte Dean, the minutes of the October 25, 2024 regular meeting were approved as presented. Motion carried.

Upon motion by Linda Watson, second by Charlotte Dean, the minutes of the November 15, 2024 special session were approved as presented. Motion carried.

Upon motion by Nancy Hines, second by Linda Watson, the 2024 year-to-date financial report was approved as presented. Motion carried.

Upon motion by Linda Watson, second by Charlotte Dean, the 2025 amended budgets and review comparison were approved as presented. Motion carried.

Upon motion by Nancy Hines, second by George French, the Library Board President and Director were authorized to sign 2025 documents.

Upon motion by George French, second by Linda Watson, the Patron Code of Conduct Policy was approved as presented pending legal review. Motion carried.

Upon motion by Charlotte Dean, second by Nancy Hines, the following policies were approved as presented: the Public Computer Use Policy and the Self-Published Materials Selection Policy. Motion Carried.

All present 2024 board members signed the Police Jury Annual Certification form as required.

There being no further business, upon motion by Nancy Hines, second by Charlotte Dean, the meeting adjourned at 11:22 a.m.

President

Secretary

Date

**February 12, 2025**  
**Minden Press Herald**

**Minutes**

MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING WEBSTER PARISH POLICE JURY  
January 7, 2025  
MEMBERS PRESENT:  
Jim Bonsall, Steve Ramsey, Steve Lemmons, Nancy Hines, Randy Thomas, Bruce Blanton, Daniel Thomas, Allen Gilbert, Beverly Kennon, and Adam Lee  
Absent: Mike Griffith and LaTanya Grigsby

10:30 A.M.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:  
Ms. Nancy Hines nominated Mr. Jim Bonsall as President for 2025. There were no other nominations. Mr. Bonsall elected by acclamation.  
Mr. Adam Lee nominated Mr. Steve Ramsey as Vice-President for 2025. Mr. Ramsey elected by acclamation.

REGULAR MEETING CALLED TO ORDER:

PRAYER: Steve Lemmons  
PLEDGE: Allen Gilbert

There were no audience comments

Mr. Steve Lemmons moved, seconded by Ms. Beverly Kennon to add LGAP funding and Pistol Thomas "No Thru Trucks" signs to the agenda. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Steve Lemmons moved, seconded by Mr. Daniel Thomas to approve invoices for payment pending review by juror Allen Gilbert. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Nany Hines moved, seconded by Ms. Beverly Kennon to adopt the minutes of the December 3, 2024 Road Committee, Finance Committee, and Regular Meeting and December 13, 2024 Special Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Bruce Blanton moved, seconded by Mr. Daniel Thomas to approve Webster Parish Police Jury Resolution #001-2025 Signature Authorization Resolution for the President, Secretary-Treasurer and the Asst. Secretary-Treasurer. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Beverly Kennon moved, seconded by Mr. Adam Lee to approve Resolution # 002-2025 to set the date and time for the Police Jury Regular meetings, on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:30am at the Webster Parish Courthouse

Annex located at 401 Main Street West Entrance, Minden, LA. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Allen Gilbert moved, seconded by Mr. Bruce Blanton to approve the Proposed 2025 Budget and Amended 2024 Budget for the operation of the North Louisiana Criminalistics Laboratory Commission. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Steve Ramsey moved, seconded by Ms. Nancy Hines to approve the 2025 Budget with actual brought forward figures from 2024 and End of Year Budget Amendments to include brought forward figures from 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Beverly Kennon moved, seconded by Ms. Nancy Hines to approve the following financial reports of the Webster Parish Police Jury: Financial Statement, Check Registers, and Bank Recon. for the month of November, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.

Mr. Jim Bonsall presented the December 2024 financials to be approved in February.

Mr. Allen Gilbert moved, seconded by Mr. Randy Thomas to approve the 2025 Beer & Video Poker Renewals:

Video Poker:	
*Pot O' Gold	230
Goodwill Rd. Minden, LA 71055	
*Minden Truckstop & Casino	1629 LA
Hwy 531 Minden, LA 71055	
*Timberland Truckstop, LLC	26026
Hwy 371 Sarepta, LA 71071	
*Shongaloo Crossroad Lounge	13529
Hwy 159 Shongaloo, LA 71072	
*Shongaloo Crossroad Deli	13531
Hwy 159 Shongaloo, LA 71072	
Beer:	
*E-Z Mart	26545
Hwy 371 Sarepta, LA 71071	
*Shongaloo Crossroad Lounge	13529
Hwy 159 Shongaloo, LA 71072	
*Shongaloo Crossroad Deli	13531
Hwy 159 Shongaloo, LA 71072	
*Sawmill Lounge	26026
Hwy 371 Sarepta, LA 71071	
*Timberland Truckstop, LLC	26026
Hwy 371 Sarepta, LA 71071	
*Springhill Country Club	
26746 Hwy 371 Cullen, LA 71021	
High Alcohol Content:	
*Shongaloo Crossroads Lounge	13529
Hwy 159 Shongaloo, LA 71072	
*Springhill Country Club	
26746 Hwy 371 Cullen, LA 71021	

Motion carried unanimously.  
Mr. Steve Ramsey moved, seconded by Ms. Nancy Hines to Approve to Canvass the returns and declare the results of the election for the courthouse 2.78 mill tax (passed) and the Webster Parish Council on Aging 1.75 mill tax (passed) on December 7, 2024. Motion carried unanimously.  
Mr. Steve Ramsey moved, seconded by Mr. Steve Lemmons to Approve the Resolution of Support for Community Water Enrichment Funding for Bistineau Water System for \$25,000 from the Office of Community Development. Motion carried unanimously  
Mr. Adam Lee moved, seconded by Mr. Randy Thomas to Approve the Resolution of Support for Community Water Enrichment Funding for Gilgal Water System for \$136, 847.59 from the Office of Community Development.  
Mr. Steve Ramsey moved, seconded by Mr. Daniel Thomas to approve to apply for LGAP funding for a water line for the new women's jail facility. Motion carried unanimously.  
Mr. Randy Thomas moved, seconded by Ms. Beverly Kennon to install "No Thru Trucks" signs on Pistol Thomas Road end to end. Motion carried unanimously.

COMMENTS:	
Johnny Kennon	
WP C.V.B. (Tourism)	
Jason Parker	
WP Sheriff	Denise
Col. Carl Thompson	
Edwards/Assessor	LSU Ag/
K'Lanie Gordon	
Extension Service	
Brian Williams	
OHSEP Director	Congressman
John Barr	
Mike Johnson	
Adam Bass	Senator
Jessica Gorman	
Parish Historian	
Dean Baugh	
NLEP	
Jared McIver	
Minden Police Chief	

Mr. Jim Bonsall then gave Presidents' closing remarks.  
There being no further business to bring before the Jury, the meeting adjourned.  
/s/  
/s/  
Lisa C. Balkom Secretary-Treasurer  
Jim Bonsall President

**February 12, 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 discarded. 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 Company of Louisiana, Inc., 112 East Mississippi Avenue, 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](http://www.BidExpress.com). Contractors are provided the option to submit bid for public contracts through a uniform and secure electronic interactive system as stated in Louisiana Bid Law R.S. 38:2212.1. Electronic bids may be submitted at [www.BidExpress.com](http://www.BidExpress.com). If bidding online, all interested parties must register with Bid Express. If bidders encounter problems accessing Bid Express, please contact Bid Express at 888-352-2439.  
The Owner reserves the right to waive any informalities 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 IMPROVEMENTS – 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**

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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

# PLAN TO DO ANY NECESSARY PRUNING IN FEBRUARY

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

Plants in the South (in general) and usually because of our favorable climate thrive. And due to our long growing season some plants produce a lot of vegetation. Often there is so much produced that it becomes a problem and some has to be removed annually. Unless you like the jungle effect, at some point pruning becomes necessary. For the majority of our plants and for various good reasons February is the prime time to do any needed pruning. Proper pruning allows us to control the size and shape of the various plants and sometimes there may be other beneficial effects. Because some plants grow rather slowly, they may escape annual pruning sometimes for more than a year.

Pruning should be done with a specific purpose. In the landscape it may be to open a view from a window, make a walk more passable, improve the view of street traffic or correct the size and shape of a particular plant. Other reasons for pruning include the elimination of crossing branches which rub together, thinning of overly dense canopies, removal of branches threatening to invade high wires and damage to the side of a building or roof.

Landscape plants which bloom in the spring should not be pruned until after they flower. However, fruit trees and grape vines need a February pruning to not only remove excessive growth, but also to reduce the number of fruit buds.

Tools and equipment for pruning include hand shears, lopping shears and a pruning saw. Two other useful tools could be a pole pruner and a chain saw for large limbs. Small twigs are easily handled with hand shears, but when branches reach an inch in diameter, you

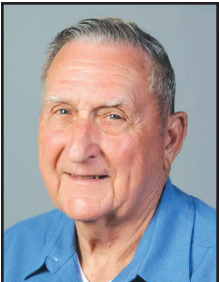


will need the lopping shears. Anything larger will probably require a pruning saw. Please know that a carpenter saw is not a suitable substitute for a pruning saw. And also know that hand shears with by-pass blades always make the best cut. If you maintain topiary designed trees, shrubs or hedges, you will need hedge shears or, better still, an electric or battery powered hedge trimmer. Power shears are not that much more expensive and will get the job done quicker and more easily.

No matter what kind of tools and equipment you have for pruning, it's best for the plants if you keep all of them sharp. Sharp tools make clean, smooth cuts which heal more quickly. The use of pruning paints and similar compounds is not beneficial for the plant and that has been proven for several years.

When pruning plants,

you should know that there are two types of cuts and each produces a distinctly different response from the plant. "Heading back" is a cut made between nodes or branches or at the tip of a branch. This type of cut encourages the activation of latent buds located under the bark and results in the development of many shoots near the site of the cut. "Thinning out" is where a branch is removed at its base. This cut does not cause any additional shoots to appear and usually is the most desirable one to make.



JOE W. WHITE, Ph.D.

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