





# WEBSTER & MORE

COMMUNITY

## Project Reclaim receives accolades and additional funding for youth program

AMBER MCDOWN  
Minden Press-Herald

Project Reclaim has received an additional \$10,000 in funding for its Louisiana Youth For Excellence (LYFE) program following an unannounced site visit from LYFE Executive Director Dr. Amanda Shackelford and Program Manager Tressa Dunbar.

The organization, which previously received a \$40,000 LYFE grant, provides training sessions for youth in fifth through eighth grades through its Starting Point program and for participants ages 9 through 20 in its Advanced program. The curriculum focuses on developing and maintain-

ing healthy relationships, making smart decisions, avoiding risky behaviors, setting goals, and recognizing self-worth.

During Project Reclaim's recent LYFE graduation ceremony, Dr. Shackelford evaluated the program and announced the additional funding to further support its initiatives.

"The LYFE program has now graduated our second group of youth participants. They have all done an outstanding job throughout the course of the program," said LYFE Program Coordinator Zaria Stephens. "I am proud to be a part of helping our youth reach their full potential and to help them live their best LYFE."



CRIME

## Minden woman charged in stabbing incident

STAFF REPORT  
Minden Press-Herald

A Minden woman was charged with felony domestic abuse battery with a dangerous weapon after allegedly stabbing her significant other during an altercation, according to police reports.

Officers responded to the Minden Medical Center emergency room at 8:37 PM on March 4 after receiving reports of a man with a stab wound. Upon arrival, officers interviewed Dwight Thomas, who stated that his significant other, Takrystal Bradford, had unintentionally stabbed him.

Thomas sustained a single stab wound to the abdomen, and images of his injuries were documented. Medical staff then informed officers

that Bradford was in the hospital lobby.

When officers approached Bradford, they observed a laceration above her left eye. She was calm during the interaction and was advised of her rights under Miranda. During questioning, Bradford admitted to the stabbing, stating, "Straight up, y'all, I stabbed him. I did." When asked why, she responded, "Because he hit me."

Bradford recounted that she and Thomas had been arguing over the phone before the incident, with Thomas accusing her of infidelity. She said that upon arriving home, Thomas confronted her again, demanding to know who she had been seeing. When she did not respond, Thomas allegedly slapped her.

Bradford stated that she then retrieved a knife from the kitchen, knowing Thomas was following her. She said that as he continued yelling, she stabbed him. After the stabbing, Thomas fell to the ground and requested police assistance.

Bradford told officers she transported Thomas to the hospital and, before doing so, picked up her child from a friend in the same apartment complex. She also claimed to have contacted authorities regarding the incident.

Bradford was taken into custody and charged with domestic abuse battery with a dangerous weapon.

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

ELECTION

## Louisiana voters to decide on four constitutional amendments, local proposition

AMBER MCDOWN  
Minden Press-Herald

Louisiana voters will decide on four proposed constitutional amendments and a local millage continuation during the March 29, 2025, election. Below is a breakdown of what each amendment means.

**Amendment 1: Supreme Court Jurisdiction Over Out-of-State Attorneys and Specialized Courts** A vote YES means the Louisiana Supreme Court would have the authority to discipline out-of-state lawyers for unethical legal practices in Louisiana. It would also allow the legislature to create trial courts with limited or specialized jurisdiction. A vote NO means the Louisiana Supreme Court would not gain this authority, and the legislature would not have the power to establish specialized trial courts.

**Amendment 2: Tax and Revenue System Revisions** A vote YES means

Louisiana would revise Article VII of the state constitution, including lowering the maximum state income tax rate, increasing income tax deductions for citizens over 65, limiting government growth, modifying the operation of certain constitutional funds, maintaining property tax exemptions such as the homestead exemption, and ensuring a permanent teacher salary increase by requiring surplus payments to teacher retirement debt. A vote NO means the current tax and revenue structure would remain unchanged.

**Amendment 3: Juvenile Felony Prosecution as Adults** A vote YES means the legislature would have the authority to determine which felony crimes committed by individuals under 17 years old may be prosecuted in adult court. A vote NO means the existing laws governing juvenile prosecution would remain unchanged.

**Amendment 4: Judicial Election Dates for Vacancies** A vote YES means judicial vacancies would be filled using the earliest available election date. A vote NO means the current system for scheduling judicial elections would remain unchanged.

**Local Proposition: Fire Protection District No. 2 (Sibley) Millage Continuation** A vote YES means Fire Protection District No. 2 in Sibley would continue levying a 10-mill property tax for 10 years to fund fire protection facilities, equipment, and services, including purchasing firetrucks and securing water for fire protection. A vote NO means the tax would not be renewed, potentially impacting fire protection services in the district.

Voters are encouraged to review the amendments and proposition carefully before heading to the polls. Early voting opens on March 15 with the election scheduled for March 29.

SPRING  
Home  
IMPROVEMENT  
2025

*A Special Publication of the  
Bossier Press-Tribune & Minden Press-Herald*

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# WEBSTER & MORE

OBITUARIES



## Helen Marie Allison Obituary

December 24, 1926 - March 3, 2025

Helen Marie Allison, affectionately known as Skeeter in her younger years, passed away peacefully on March 3, 2025, at the age of 98, in her hometown of Minden, LA. Helen was born on December 24, 1926, in Bienville, LA, and lived a life full of love, dedication, and joy.

Helen was preceded in death by her beloved husband, Robert Earl Allison; her parents, Thomas (Virgie Mae) Davis; her brother, J.T. (Bertie Mae) Davis; and her sisters, Mary (Horace) Baten, Marolyn (Bob) Carpenter, Martha (Wilson) Hudson, and Kathleen (Milton) Garland.

She is survived by her sister, Carolyn (late husband John) Hughes, and her loving daughters, Valeria (late husband Bud) Corley, Renee (Scott) Jones, Jonie (David) Starks, and Janie (Murray) Sparks. Helen also leaves behind her cherished grandchildren, Allison (Jeff) Harrell, Jason Corley, Jeremy (Drury) Corley, Brian (Stacey) Sparks, Benjamin (Kayla) Sparks, Dustin Ford, Nathan (Jackie) Ford, and Amber (Russell) Stephens, along with numerous nieces, nephews, and great-grandchildren who will carry on her legacy.

After high school, Helen worked at Thad's Café and The Shell Plant. With enthusiastic pride, she often touted her ability to buy a shiny new bicycle and treats, which she cleverly hid from her sisters. Her life took an unexpected turn when she met Robert Earl; they married just two weeks after meeting.

As newlyweds, Helen and Robert Earl moved into company housing at Woodard Walker Sawmill of Lincoln Parish, where they lived with his parents. It was here that Helen begrudgingly learned to make a fresh pan of biscuits, a skill that would prove invaluable in her future ventures. Eventually, the couple moved into their own company house and began building a family.

Helen had a natural talent for making a business successful. Her entrepreneurial spirit began to bloom with the purchase of The Friendly Grill in Bossier City in the late 1950's. After a brief residency in New Orleans for Robert Earl's offshore job, they relocated to Minden. In Minden, Helen leveraged her business acumen to create one of the most successful enterprises in downtown Minden.

She purchased a small consignment shop named Mod-o-Day on Main St in 1975 before branching out to the retail industry. While searching for a wedding dress for her daughter Jonie, she stumbled upon a liquidation sale with a large collection of wedding dresses. Seeing an opportunity, she bought them all. With this expanded inventory, Helen changed locations and built the bridal & formal wear legacy that would eventually become Her's Bridal. Upon her retirement, the reins were passed to her daughters, Janie and Jonie, who inherited not just a thriving enterprise, but a treasure trove of life lessons rooted in hard work, dedica-

tion, and an unyielding focus on customer service.

Helen was exceptionally proficient at identifying and neutralizing shoplifters more efficiently than any modern security camera system. It was her superpower. Her journey from odd jobs to a successful businesswoman showcases her determination, resourcefulness, and entrepreneurial spirit. Her ability to turn a simple opportunity into thriving business left a legacy in historic downtown Minden.

Helen had a zest for life and enjoyed many hobbies, including fishing, softball, and jigsaw puzzles. Though not witnessed by many, she hinted at being able to do the jitterbug in her youthful days. Her favorite destination was Branson, MO, where she delighted in the local entertainment. From the Presleys to the Baldknobbers, she watched these shows over and over with the same zeal as the first time she saw them. However, her greatest joy came from spending time with her family, creating precious memories that will be treasured forever.

Most of all, she cherished the time spent with her grandchildren who often spent more nights with their grandmother than in their own house. Though many of her days were filled with the obligations of matriarchal life, her nights were content with reading books to her grandkids and drifting to sleep watching Hee Haw reruns and cackling at Sophia on the Golden Girls. Grandmother was too formal. She felt it made her feel old. She was a daughter, a mother, an aunt, and a friend to many but to her grandchildren, she was "Honey." Honey's home was more than just a place; it was a haven filled with love, laughter, and warmth.

Helen's daughters can still hear the retort of these resounding words, "Pretty is as pretty does" and "I can't hear what you say because what you do speaks so much louder." These little sayings offer morsels of wisdom that will eternally echo in her sentiment. She was a pillar of strength, a guiding light in their lives. Those who knew her will never forget her witty comebacks. She was never short of a clever retort and always knew how to lighten the mood. She was an amazing cook and a resourceful steward. She will be remembered for her strength, love, and kindness. Her legacy will live on in the hearts of her loved ones. She will be remembered for her dedication to faith, which was her most treasured survival skill and her foundation in life.

Helen's memory will be cherished, and her spirit will remain a guiding presence in the lives of her loved ones. From the bottom of our hearts, the family would like to offer special thanks to Dr. Scott Phillips and Passages Hospice for the incredible care and compassion that was given during this tremendous time of need. Your gentle touch, unwavering support, and genuine kindness allowed us to cherish every precious moment and say goodbye with peace. A celebration of life was held at Rose Neath Funeral Home in Minden, LA on Thursday, March 6th, 2025, at 11:00 a.m. with visitation beginning at 9:30 a.m. where family and friends gathered to honor and remember the remarkable life she lived. Interment followed at Gardens of Memory Cemetery in Minden.

"His master said to him, 'Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a little, I will set you over much; enter into the joy of your master.'"

Matthew 25:21



## Darlene Curtis Bryan

Darlene Curtis Bryan passed away peacefully at her lakeside home west of Taylor, Arkansas on Sunday, March 9, 2025. She fought a valiant battle with multiple myeloma after being diagnosed in the third stages of the disease in October, 2024.

Funeral services will be held at Bailey Funeral Home Chapel, Springhill, Louisiana at 10:30 AM on Thursday, March 13, 2025 with Rev. Joseph Stacks conducting the service. Diane White will give eulogy. Visitation will be from 5:00 pm to 7:00 pm on Wednesday, March 12, 2025 at the funeral home.

Serving as pallbearers are Andy Goodwin, Mikey Whitehead, D.J. Dickinson, Marty Curtis, Cody Goodwin, and Carl Abshire. Honorary pallbearers will be George White, Wayne Schilling, and Lon Park.

Darlene was born at Minden, Louisiana on December 7, 1943 to McAdoo A. and Margaret Cox Curtis. She grew up in Cullen, Louisiana attending schools in Springhill. She began taking piano lessons at a young age and by the time she was twelve Darlene was pianist for Calvary Baptist in Cullen and soon she began playing for weddings and funerals which she continued into her eightieth year. She served as church pianist for four different churches in her lifetime.

She owned and operated Darlene's Ready to Wear in Cullen and later in Springhill for twenty years. On April 29, 1983 Darlene married Anderson Bryan. They built a home overlooking Red Branch on Lake Erling, where they lived for the rest of their life together.

Darlene's greatest treasure was her son, Timmy John Horn. Her darkest day was when she lost Tim, just twenty-one, to an accident on October 13, 1985.

In 1989, Darlene began her dream job with Mary Kay Cosmetics. She put her whole heart into her work, becoming a Senior Sales Director. Her achievements were many and very rewarding. The friendships with

customers were a great joy in her life. She was still a very active Senior Sales Director at her passing. She vowed to be active in Mary Kay until the end and she kept that vow, loving her job every step of the way. Truly beautiful to the end of her life and was, as many have commented, her own best advertisement. She was truly fabulous.

Darlene loved her home, which she called, "my paradise". She enjoyed decorating the home and tending her extensive flower beds. She was an excellent cook, well known for her Gumbo's and preparation of many delicious vegetable dishes fresh from Andy's gardens. Besides being an accomplished musician, she also wrote poetry. Known for her sense of humor and positive outlook, Darlene was a treasured friend to many.

Through the heartbreak of losing her only child and her own final devastating illness, Darlene's faith in God was unwavering. She sought to follow the teachings of her Savior. Her humanity and virtue reflected those beliefs.

Darlene is survived by her husband, Andy Bryan; sisters-in-law, Martha Peavy and Judy Bishop; brothers-in-law, Dr. Mark Bryan (Yolanda) and David Bryan (Kristine); nieces and nephews, Courtney Bryan House, Susan Curtis, Katrina Curtis Jones, Alice Bishop Clark, Todd Curtis, Allen Bishop, Bryan Bishop, and Nathan Bryan; stepdaughters, Janice Lea and Rhonda O'Glee; and uncle, Kenneth Irvin. Also many beloved cousins, and special friends, Tracie Boucher, Kim Andrepont, Diane White, and beloved caregiver, Lou Lewis.

She is preceded in death by her parents; her brother, Robert Mac Curtis; her father and mother-in-law, Hubert and Marilyn Bryan; and her brother-in-law, Dickie Bishop. She and her mother-in-law loved and respected each other deeply. Darlene's kindness to Marilyn, especially in her latter years, was a great blessing. She treated her like a cherished mother.

Special thanks to Diane, Tracie, and Lou for loving her so tenderly these last few months and for the many years of devoted friendship you provided.

In lieu of flowers please make a memorial to the charity of your choice.

Bailey Funeral Home  
Springhill, LA  
318-539-3555

EDUCATION

## Webster WORKS Program expands employment opportunities for students

AMBER MCDOWN  
Minden Press-Herald

Webster Parish students are gaining valuable work experience thanks to an innovative employment initiative known as the Webster WORKS Program. This partnership between Webster Parish Schools and Louisiana Rehabilitation Services (LRS) provides students with paid job opportunities while ensuring local businesses can support student growth at no cost.

In a significant milestone for the program, Ivan Smith Furniture of Springhill has become the first local business to partner with Webster WORKS. On February 20, North

Webster High School senior Nicavius Glover officially signed on for his first paid job with Ivan Smith, marking a new chapter in workforce readiness for Webster Parish students. Ivan Smith Manager Marty Curtis welcomed Glover, expressing confidence in his ability to contribute positively to the team.

"We are happy to have Nicavius on board and are confident he will be a solid addition to the Ivan Smith staff," Curtis said.

This opportunity is made possible through a Third-Party Contractual Agreement (TPCA) between Webster Parish Schools and LRS, allowing students to gain hands-on work experience while

their salaries are fully reimbursed. The program aims to equip students with essential job skills through counseling, workplace readiness training, self-advocacy, short-term internships, job shadowing, and paid employment.

Special Education Coordinator Jill Hunter emphasized the significance of this partnership. "Today's signing marks a major milestone and a giant step forward for the Webster WORKS program, something we have been working to establish over the past couple of years. Nicavius will thrive in his new job, and we are thrilled to have Ivan Smith as our first vendor."

Jessica McKaskle, the district's Transition Facilitator, echoed Hunter's sentiments. "I am thrilled to see Nicavius take this exciting step into the workforce through the Pre-ETS program! This opportunity not only empowers him with real-world experience but also strengthens our community."

Webster WORKS, which stands for Workforce Opportunities & Readiness for Key Skills, continues to grow, with additional vendors in Sibley and efforts underway to partner with the City of Minden. Businesses interested in participating must complete necessary paperwork, including W-9 and Vendor Request forms, before be-

ing eligible for reimbursement. Employers submit invoices at the end of each month, with LRS processing payments within 10 days.

School Board Member Debbie Thomas commended those spearheading the program. "I am especially proud of Ms. Jessica McKaskle for her hard work, along with Special Education Supervisor Mrs. Melanie Lewing and Mrs. Hunter, who have been the driving force behind this initiative. Mr. Curtis, we thank you for becoming the first partner. As a School Board member, I'm proud that North Webster Parish is leading the way, and I hope to see more businesses in Web-

ster Parish get involved to help exceptional students learn job skills that will last a lifetime."

Students enrolled in the Pre-ETS program can work up to 240 hours per job placement, with the opportunity to participate in three different employment experiences. Local businesses looking to support workforce development while benefiting from fully reimbursed student labor are encouraged to join the program.

For more information on how to become a vendor with the Webster WORKS Program, contact Transition Facilitator Jessica McKaskle at jessica.mckaskle@websterpsb.org.

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## DOGS

Continued from Page 1

tigation that led to the arrests.

While inspecting other areas of the property, deputies also reportedly found the bodies of dead animals, including dogs, a horse, and goats.

Volunteers from the animal rescue organization LaMa, assisted by nearly a dozen Webster Parish deputies and animal control officers, began removing and documenting the dogs early Friday morning. All animals will be taken to a veterinarian for inspection and preparation for potential adoption.

LaMa's rescue operation involved several volunteers and numerous animal carriers. Donations to assist in its efforts can be made by contacting the group's webpage at LaMaAnimalRescue@gmail.com.

"One of our concerns was the health of the animals, and we delivered them to a vet who helps us when

needed," Parker said. "It's good that the rescue group will see to it they're fed and housed until something positive can be done."

Deputies have provided food and water for the remaining dogs at the Crowley residence, and at least one officer will remain on-site overnight to ensure the animals do not roam. The rescue agency LaMa has agreed to pick up the animals and have them examined by a veterinarian.

In addition to the dogs, deputies previously found other animals on the property, including horses, pigs, cats, ducks, and geese. Parker said those animals appeared to be in good condition but will be evaluated as well.

"If I have my way, they'll never again be allowed to own even a goldfish," Parker said.

Authorities are asking anyone with information about the case to contact the Webster Parish Sheriff's Office.

CRIME

## Woman arrested for criminal mischief after breaking vehicle window

STAFF REPORT  
Minden Press-Herald

A Minden woman was arrested on March 4 after allegedly breaking a vehicle window during a dispute.

According to Minden police, officers responded to a disturbance at approximately 8:57 AM in the 400 block of Webb Court. Upon arrival, officers spoke with a man who reported that his ex-girlfriend, Mary Woodall, 33, shattered the window of her father's van after he refused to give her a cigarette.

Woodall told officers she became upset when she saw her ex-boyfriend speaking with another woman outside the residence. She stated that she broke the vehicle's window out of frustra-

tion because she wanted her ex-boyfriend, who resides in a shed on the property, to take her to the hospital to visit her sick father.

Police noted that Woodall and her ex-boyfriend have had previous disputes, with officers being called to the residence multiple times. Woodall, whose official address is on Shreveport Road, has also been escorted off the property on several occasions and was previously trespassed from the location.

Woodall was taken into custody and booked at the Minden Police Department on charges of criminal mischief.

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



OPINION

MINDEN  
PRESS-HERALD  
203 GLEASON STREET  
MINDEN, LOUISIANA 71055  
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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

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WELCOMES  
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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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

President Trump’s Address to Congress Was Historic

I have sat in the U.S. House Chamber as a Congressional staffer several times for presidential addresses, and I never remember feeling more hopeful or moved by a speech than I did watching this one. The American people echoed my feeling with anti-Trump CBS’ Poll finding that a 76% Super-Majority Approved of Trump’s speech.

Trump announced that “America is back” and then detailed the dizzying pace of his first 6 weeks in office.

“I declared a national emergency on our southern border and deployed the U.S. military and Border Patrol to repel the invasion of our country. As a result, illegal border crossings last month were the lowest ever recorded.” Perhaps the best line of the night was when Trump stated “Democrats said that we needed new legislation to seal the border, but as it turned out, all we needed was .... a new president.”

He then explained he had “imposed a freeze on all federal hiring, all new federal regulations, all foreign aid and terminated the ridiculous green new scam. I withdrew from the Paris Climate Accord, which was costing us trillions of dollars that other countries were not paying. I withdrew from the corrupt World Health Organization and also from the anti-American U.N. Human Rights Council. I have also

directed that for every new regulation, ten old regulations must be eliminated.”

He also stated that he had “declared a national energy emergency. It’s called drill, baby, drill.” Trump also emphasized the \$1.7 trillion of new investment in America since his swearing in.

Let’s review these changes.

The freeze on federal hiring and the identification by DOGE of enormous



ROYAL ALEXANDER

amounts of waste, fraud and corruption have, alone, already saved several hundred billion dollars. Further, Trump’s termination of the green new scam and withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord will prevent further economic damage. It’s nonsensical to harm our economy to respond to so-called climate change when the major polluters across the world such as China and India are building new coal plants every week.

Also, Trump stated he ended the electric vehicle mandate, keeping his promise to traditional American automakers.

Trump’s mandate that for every one (1) new federal regulation imposed on

American business and industry, ten (10) regulations be eliminated will powerfully strengthen and grow our national economy.

Trump also declared that federal workers must return to the office or be fired. He then stated he had also “ended weaponized government” a/k/a as ‘lawfare,’ “where a sitting president is allowed to viciously prosecute his political opponent, like me,” that he had halted “all government censorship and brought back free speech in America.” He also signed an order making English the official language; and he stated, “we’ve ended the tyranny of so-called Diversity, Equity and Inclusion policies across the entire government.”

“You should be hired and promoted based on skill, competence, and merit, not race or gender. We have also removed the poison of Critical Race Theory from our public schools, and I signed an order making the official policy of the United States government that there are only two genders, male and female.” He has also “signed an executive order to ban men from playing in women’s sports or the schools will lose all federal funding.” As significant as these policy changes are, it’s the riveting way Trump portrayed them that is memorable.

Regarding the danger of allowing men to compete against women, Trump had

sitting in the House gallery a young lady named Payton McNabb “who had been an all-star high school athlete preparing for a future in college sports. But when her girls volleyball match was invaded by a male, he smashed the ball so hard in Payton’s face, causing traumatic brain injury, partially paralyzing her right side and ending her athletic career.”

To emphasize the danger of illegal immigration, Trump reached two of the most emotionally compelling moments of the night as he recalled, with their mothers in attendance, Laken Riley and Jocelyn Nungaray, two young women who were murdered by illegal aliens.

I realize there are stark policy differences between the two parties, but I think Democrats damaged themselves with their disruptive, disrespectful behavior including when they could not even rise and applaud a 13-year-old boy who is battling brain cancer. They did stand and clap for Ukraine but not America.

We are not only inspired by this address, but I believe we will look back and realize it was a spectacular blueprint for the coming years.

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

Writers Touch Lives —Erma Bombeck Lives on!

She laughed to keep from crying, and it became a way of life as she enriched millions of lives, including mine.

Even though I never met her, before she died in 1996, she will forever live in my heart.

The legacy of Erma Bombeck lives on because she not only laughed to keep from crying but she turned that laughter into words to uplift and feed the spirits of millions.

She laughed to keep from crying because her tears began early when her father came home from work one day, went into the hospital, and died the following day.

She was nine years old.

Erma was left to a mother who grew up in an orphanage, the same as I did, after the death of my father. Erma saw her mother go bankrupt, losing all of their worldly possessions.

Erma was strengthened by

using her talents, by honing her skills, as a writer, that began in a Dayton, Ohio, junior high school paper.

She found humor to be a way of dealing with her life -- of coping with a step father who she long resented before she finally let go and realized how much he loved her as his own.

She first wrote obituaries, and once commented that she could make them die in alphabetical order. She wrote for a local newspaper before gaining national syndication.

I, too, wrote to keep from crying after I suffered a nervous breakdown in Mountain Home, Arkansas, after

one too many moves as a minister’s wife in 1981. I wrote to survive.

I wrote to Erma because I instinctively knew that I needed a mentor, someone far more successful than myself who would encourage me in my wild pursuit as a writer.

She always wrote back, herself, not through a secretary.

She encouraged me. She knew what she was doing!

Writing to Erma became a turning point in my life!

With each letter I was strengthened. I jumped for joy! I went into orbit with her words of encouragement.

Once she said, “If you have talent, it can’t be held down.” Another time she said “Just think what you could write if you gave up defrosting and flushing.” And she was known to say “If you do housework right it will kill you!” She also said, “Nothing would please me more

than seeing Sarah Hudson Pierce’s picture on a book jacket.” Once she wrote “it’s not the money you make but knowing that your words have reached people you will never meet.”

Although I’d published numerous poems and columns for publications that paid in copies only, it wasn’t until late 1986 I finally sold my first poem for \$5.

I sent her a photocopy of that check. She quickly wrote back and told me that I’d inspired her February 26 1986, syndicated column that was published in over nine hundred newspapers.

I was ecstatic! I knew I’d make it with her encouragement. Erma made a difference to everyone she touched.

CONTACT SARAH AT SARAH@AOL.COM

203 GLEASON STREET

Grilling on Main: A New Opportunity for Minden’s Future BBQ Talent

As I read an article recently about Jena High School launching Louisiana’s first barbecue club, I couldn’t help but think about the potential for a similar initiative right here in Minden. Jena’s move to create a student-led barbecue club is a creative, exciting way to get young people involved in a pastime that is not only a beloved Southern tradition but a business and cultural driver as well.

Here in Minden, we already have something very special that draws people to our community: Grilling on Main. This annual event has become one of the hallmark occasions that make Minden stand out, filling the streets with delicious aromas and bringing together residents

and visitors alike. Grilling on Main not only celebrates our love for good food, but also showcases the sense of community that we have cultivated here.

But what if we could build on this? What if we could take the idea of Grilling on Main to the next level by starting a student-led BBQ club? Just like in Jena, a club for young, aspiring BBQers would be an incredible opportunity for Minden’s youth to engage with a culinary tradition that is central to our

region’s identity. It could offer hands-on experience in the art of grilling, but also teach teamwork, entrepreneurship, and responsibility. The best part? It would set Minden up to be known as a BBQ destination for years to come, and could turn our already thriving event into an even bigger regional draw.

Grilling on Main is a fantastic event—last year’s event alone was a testament to our community’s spirit and commitment to showcasing what makes Minden special. However, this new idea of bringing in the youth could enhance the experience and introduce our city’s name to new audiences in creative ways. Imagine a group of local high school students participating in

BBQ competitions, showcasing their skills at the event, and even competing in larger regional or national BBQ competitions. It would serve as a powerful way for our community to celebrate our traditions while investing in the future.

By fostering a student-led BBQ club, we could create a pipeline of young talent who are passionate about cooking, proud of their community, and eager to carry forward the Grilling on Main tradition. Not only would this be an exciting opportunity for the students involved, but it would help solidify Minden as a BBQ destination, making it a unique place where grilling is celebrated from generation to generation.

As we look ahead to the

next Grilling on Main, let’s think about how we can build on our successes and continue to put Minden on the map. Starting a BBQ club would be a fun, engaging, and educational way to honor our community’s passion for grilling while creating a new generation of talented young chefs.

What do you think? Could Minden become the next great BBQ destination, with a future full of talented young BBQers leading the way? Let’s make it happen.

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



DAVID SPECHT



SPORTS

Russell Hedges, Sports Editor  
rhedges@spechtnewspapers.com

HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL

State tournament bound



DOUGLAS BLOW/SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-HERALD  
Jaiden Franklin dribbles toward the basket during Minden's quarterfinal victory over Franklin Parish.



DOUGLAS BLOW/SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-HERALD  
Chris Harris goes up for a shot during Minden's quarterfinal victory over Franklin Parish last week.

Minden to face Bossier in semifinals Thursday

RUSSELL HEDGES  
Minden Press-Herald

For the first time in 24 years, the Minden Crimson Tide are headed to the state tournament.

In an atmosphere Minden Head Coach Jacob Brown described as electric, No. 2 seed Minden defeated No. 4 Franklin Parish 52-44 in the non-select Division II quarterfinals last Friday at Minden.

The Tide (23-3) will face fellow District 1-4A member Bossier in the semifinals Thursday at 2:45 p.m. in the semifinals at Burton Coliseum in Lake Charles, site of the state tournament also known as Boys' Marsh Madness.

Bossier (21-11), the No. 6 seed, defeated No. 14 A.J. Ellender 69-58 in its quarterfinal at Bossier.

The Bossier-Minden winner faces the winner between No. 1 Wossman (26-6) and No. 5 Brusly (25-4) for the state title Saturday at 6 p.m.

The Bearkats defeated the Tide 66-52 at Bossier on Feb. 7 in a game that decided the 1-4A championship.

Minden trailed by one

late in the third quarter, but the Bearkats got a four-point play at the buzzer. Bossier dominated the fourth quarter.

But that game or the one Thursday weren't on the minds of the Minden players, coaches and fans last Friday night. It was a time for a celebration and many congratulatory hugs.

Brown is in just his second year as the boys head coach after serving the same position with the girls team for 14 seasons.

"It's an absolute honor," he said of being able to take this group of players to Lake Charles.

"Being able to lead these guys, they're bought in. They do what we ask them to do. They did something tonight we haven't asked them to do all year and didn't bat an eye and it was probably the difference in us winning."

Brown said the game played out about like he expected.

"Our guys found a way," he said. "It wasn't going to be putting the high 60s and low 70s on the board. It was going to be low 50s and hold the team to 40s."

NON-SELECT DIVISION II SEMIFINALS  
THURSDAY  
AT BURTON COLISEUM, LAKE CHARLES  
No. 2 Minden (23-3) vs. No. 6 Bossier (21-11), 2:45 p.m.



SUBMITTED PHOTO  
Minden's Cameron Parker takes his cut to cut a piece of the net after the Tide's quarterfinal victory over Franklin Parish last week.

Minden trailed 12-10 after the first quarter. Christian Lofton knocked down a 3-pointer late in the first half and the Tide led 28-25 at the break.

Cameron Parker hit a 3 and scored seven of his 13 points in the quarter.

Minden began to get some separation in the third quarter. Darnell Morris

scored 11 of his game-high 17 points and the Tide took a 44-33 lead into the fourth.

With just over two minutes to play, Franklin Parish got within six at 46-40. A three-point play by Chris Harris pushed the lead to 49-40.

The Patriots cut the lead back to seven. Morris missed from the corner but got the rebound and scored to make it 51-42.

Franklin Parish got a tip-in with 1:15 left to make it a seven-point game again. But that was as close as the Patriots would get.

Minden forced a turnover. The Tide missed a shot but the Patriots couldn't get one to fall.

Brown said defense was the ultimate key.

"These guys, their vision and their approach to the game aligns with mine," he said. "They love to guard. Yeah, people like to score; these guys like to guard. That gives you a chance to win. We didn't have our best shooting night tonight. So the defense is what propelled us. We had some key baskets at clutch times and it was from being disciplined in the halfcourt setting."

Carmelo Smith added seven points for Minden. Chris Harris and Jaiden Franklin had five each. Lofton had three and Kameron Harris two.

Tavon Bell led Franklin Parish (17-9) with 16 points. Drew Cooper had 15.

After receiving a first-round bye, Minden had almost two weeks off before playing its first playoff game against No. 15 seed Beau Chene at home.

The Tide showed little rust, though, cruising to a 69-32 victory.

They led 19-10 after the first quarter then took all the suspense out of the game with a 20-6 second-quarter run.

There was more of the same in the third and Minden took a 60-23 lead into the fourth.

Morris and Parker led the Tide with 20 and 17 points, respectively. Kameron Harris added 13. Franklin chipped in eight.

Chris Harris had five. Hudson Brown, Carmelo Smith and Chris Harris all scored two.

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL

Greg Tibbitt returning to Glenbrook as head coach

RUSSELL HEDGES  
Minden Press-Herald

A familiar face to some Apache fans has been named head football coach at Glenbrook.

Greg Tibbitt, who led the program from 2012-13, has been named as the program's new leader. Glenbrook Athletic Director made the announcement on March 2.

Tibbitt replaces, Reagan

Smith, who ran the program the last two seasons.

Tibbitt compiled a record of 15-9 in his two seasons, including a 9-4 mark and MAIS semifinal appearance in 2013.

Tibbitt returns to Minden after serving as the head coach and athletic director at Green Forest High School in Arkansas where he led the program to its first Class 4A playoff berth in school history. Now, he's



Greg Tibbitt  
set to bring his experience, leadership and passion back

to the Apaches.

"I am excited for the opportunity to return to Glenbrook as the new Head Football Coach and eager to build upon the rich tradition and recent successes of the Apache football program," Tibbitt said in a press release.

"I will focus on continuing the momentum and working toward developing a championship-caliber program that will sustain success for years to come."

"Coach Tibbitt originally brought me to Glenbrook in 2012, and our two seasons together were some of the best years of my 24-year career," said Thurman.

"He built a culture of hard work and accountability, and every player who suited up for him respected and admired him. There's no doubt he'll instill that same standard of excellence in our program today. He's

not just coaching football—he's developing young men who will leave Glenbrook better than they arrived."

"Tibbitt's leadership was instrumental in Glenbrook's previous success, and expectations are high for his return," the press release stated. "His focus will be on instilling a winning mindset, fostering discipline, and building a culture of toughness and accountability—both on and off the field."

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Minden goes 4-0; Glenbrook, Lakeside post victories

RUSSELL HEDGES  
Minden Press-Herald

The Minden Crimson Tide went 4-0 last week.

Minden defeated Quitman 5-0 early in the week. The Tide then won three games in the Northwood tournament, defeating Cedar Creek 4-1, Montgomery 2-0 and North Caddo 11-7.

Minden entered this week 9-6.

Glenbrook opened defense of its 1-1A title with a

20-0 victory over Ringgold. In the Northwood tournament, the Apaches defeated Loyola 4-3 in a 14-inning marathon and lost to North DeSoto 6-0.

Glenbrook began this week 6-7.

Lakeside has moved from District 1-2A to 3-2A. The Warriors faced Many in their first district series. Lakeside won the first game 4-1, lost the second 6-1 and then took the series with a 10-9 victory.

Lakeside entered this week 6-8.

Doyline lost twice in the Converse tournament to Calvary Baptist 14-0 and Red River 11-1. The Panthers entered this week 4-3.

North Webster defeated Downsview 11-0 in their only game last week.

Minden's Bray Winston pitched a complete game against Quitman. He scattered six hits, struck out five and walked three.

Landyn Huddleston

went 3-for-4 with a triple, double and two RBI. Hudson Brown and Jacob Jefferson had doubles.

Jaxon Smith pitched a two-hitter with 11 strikeouts and only two walks against Cedar Creek.

Winston pitched a one-hitter with seven strikeouts and two walks against Montgomery.

Huddleston went 3-for-4 with a double against North Caddo.

Glenbrook's Seth Man-

grum went 2-for-2 with a double and four RBI against Ringgold. Sam Ricord and Hudson Glasscock had two RBI each.

Ricord did yeoman's work on the mound against Loyola. He pitched 10 innings, scattering six hits while striking out four and walking only three.

Brayden Watkins struck out four and allowed one run in 3 2/3 innings of relief.

Easton Sanders and Dawson Day both 2-for-4

and drew a pair of walks. Jackson Waller drew three walks.

Lakeside's Eli Campbell pitched a complete game in the first game against Many. He allowed five hits, struck out six and walked only one.

Jon One Dick went 3-for-3 with two doubles. Gage Williams had two RBI.

Lakeside scored a run in the top of the second to pull out the victory in the final game of the series.



SPORTS

Russell Hedges, Sports Editor  
rhedges@spechtnewspapers.com

HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD

Lakeside, Minden capture titles in North Webster meet

RUSSELL HEDGES  
Minden Press-Herald

The North Webster Relays ended in a tie for first in the boys division last week.

Minden and Green Oaks both scored 110.5 points. North Webster was a close third with 105.5. Lakeside finished fourth with 91.

Lakeside took the girls division with 138.5 points. Minden finished second with 102.

The meet was the first of the outdoor season.

Boys

ond in 3:59.41, scoring eight points.

Minden also won the 4X100 and 4X200 relays.

Jaden Johnson, Shine, Shmar George and Porter ran a 45.54 in the 4X100. The North Webster foursome of Dejuan Coleman, Jameson Harden, Jakayden Jackson and Jeremyiah Washington was second in 45.70.

Oestrieich, Shine, Britton and Porter ran an 1:33.28 in the 4X200. Green Oaks was second in 1:34.63.

Britton and Porter both won individual events. Britton took the 110 hurdles in 17.11. Lakeside's James Maxie was second in 19.61.

Neal won the 400 in 51.62. North Webster's Xaeliin Gladney was second in 54.63.

Minden's Lincoln Woods took the 300 hurdles in 44.57. Homer's Kevin Williams was second in 49.04.

North Webster's Jkobe Lawson won the 100 in 11.35. Jonesboro-Hodge's

Christian McGuire finished second in 11.51.

Minden's Demetrius Robinson captured the shot put with a throw of 42 feet, 8 inches. Lakeside's Kentravin Miller was a close second with a 42-7.

North Webster's Javion Hawthorne won the discus with a toss of 128-8. Minden's Jonathan Bradford was a close second with a 125-5.

North Webster's Jamyr-ian Jackson took the javelin with a 124-3. Green Oaks' Tovaes Lee was second with a 119-10.

Lakeside's Luke Mandino won the 3,200 in 15:05.16. Haynesville's Carl Smith was second in 15:37.65.

Lakeside's Levi Bogdan took the pole vault with a 7-0. North Webster's Coleman tied for first in the high jump with a 5-8.

The North Webster foursome of Logan Cleveland, Kazavion Evans, Hawthorne and Stephen Merritt took

second in the 4X800 relay in 10:03.33. Green Oaks won in 9:28.21.

Merritt was also second in the 1,600 in 5:47.21. Green Oaks' Cyrus Wilson won in 5:46.42.

Girls

Lakeside's other individual winners were McIntosh, Abrielle Parker and Kylee Taylor.

McIntosh won the 1,600 in 7:01.38. Magnolia's Emiga Blake was second in 7:13.95.

Parker captured the 400 in 1:08.72. Magnolia's Aniyelle Kelly took second in 1:08.46.

Taylor won the javelin with an 81-5. Haynesville's Balaysia Drew was second with a 79-0.

Minden basketball standout Brooklyn Jefferson wasted no time making her presence felt on the track and in the field.

She won the high jump with a leap of 5-2 and finished second in the 200 in 27.10. The 200 finish was close with Jefferson's teammate Pryncess Lathon winning by .03 seconds.

North Webster's Kipper Wooten was second in the high jump with a 4-6.

The Minden foursome of Kiara Dixon, Mia Feaster,

Christiyonna Kinsey and Terrika Hendon won the 4X400 relay in 4:38.21. The North Webster foursome of Tatyana Lawson, Kylee Sanders, Kamaria Blakely and Xhailor McGlothran was second in 4:50.25.

Lawson, McGlothran, Sanders and Demiya Moore won the 4X200 in 1:50.12. The Minden foursome of Teijah Henderson, Erial Blake, Jefferson and Lathon took second in 1:52.09.

The Minden foursome of Maekala White, Jakeria Jordan, Blake and Lathon was second in the 4X100 in 52.63. They finished just .06 behind Magnolia.

Hendon won the 300 hurdles in 49.81. Homer's Dalisha Heard was second in 54.80.

Jonesboro-Hodge's Ciara Gray won three events — the 100 hurdles (16.61), long jump (16-7) and triple jump (35-8).

North Webster's Sanders was second in the triple jump with a 34-0.

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Glenbrook, Lakeside open district play with victories

RUSSELL HEDGES  
Minden Press-Herald

The Glenbrook Lady Apaches suffered their first losses of the season last week, but they also picked up three wins.

Glenbrook ran its record to 8-0 with victories over Southwood 18-1 and Ringgold 18-0 early in the week. The latter was the District 1-1A opener.

The Lady Apaches ran into a red-hot Benton team in their first game of the Evangel Christian tournament and fell 11-1. They also lost to the host Lady Eagles 6-2.

But Glenbrook bounced back with a 7-3 victory over Captain Shreve in their final game.

The Lady Apaches entered this week 9-2.

Lakeside has moved from District 1-2A to 3-2A. The Lady Warriors opened play in their new district with a 15-0 victory over Red River.

Lakeside suffered its first loss early in the week to Logansport 15-14. In their final game, the Lady War-



ROBERT SUMMERLIN/PRESS-HERALD  
Glenbrook's Rebecca Mosley didn't allow a hit in a three-inning victory over Southwood last week at Glenbrook.

riors suffered a similar loss, falling to Ruston 16-15.

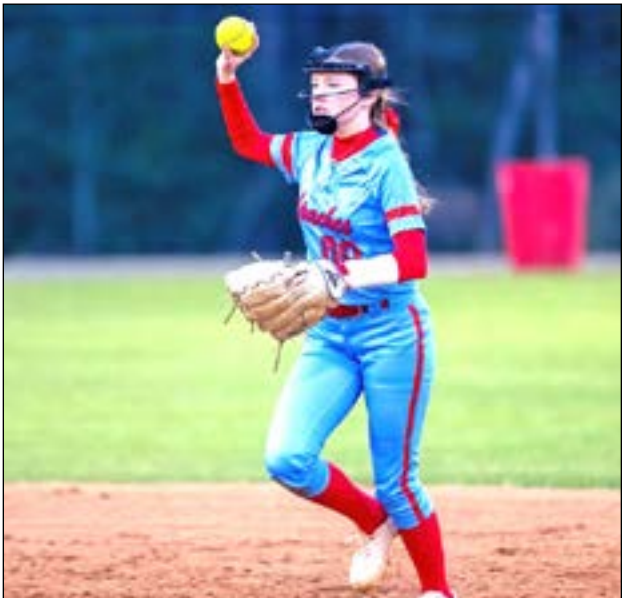
Lakeside entered this week 9-2.

Minden only played two games last week. The Lady Tiders lost to Quitman 11-0 and Zwolle 11-1. Minden began this week 2-9.

North Webster only got in one game last week. The

Lady Knights lost to Captain Shreve 11-1. North Webster began this week 0-3.

Glenbrook's Vivian Still went 3-for-3 with a home run, triple, double and four RBI against Southwood. Gabi Brown went 2-for-2 with a home run, double and two RBI. Ellie Earnhardt went 2-for-2 with a



ROBERT SUMMERLIN/PRESS-HERALD  
Glenbrook's Ellie Earnhardt went 2-for-2 with a triple and double in a victory over Southwood last week.

triple and double

Hadley Haynes had a triple and four RBI. Hallie Harmon had a double.

Rebecca Mosley didn't allow a hit in the three-inning game. She struck out three and walked two.

Nine Glenbrook players combined for 13 hits against Ringgold. Harmon

went 3-for-3 with a home run, double and four RBI. Savannah Mangrum went 2-for-2 with two RBI.

Anna Grace Vining went 2-for-2. Gabi Brown hit a three-run home run.

Mosley struck out eight and walked none. She allowed five hits and struck out eight against Captain

Shreve.

Lakeside trailed Logansport 6-5 after four innings. The Lady Warriors took the lead with four runs in the top of the fifth. But Logansport answered with eight in the bottom of the inning to go to up 14-9.

Lakeside rallied to tie it at 14 with two runs in the sixth and three runs in the seventh. But the Lady Tigers won it on a home run by Ainsley Morvan with one out in the bottom of the seventh.

Lakeside's Raleah Harris went 4-for-5 and had two RBI. Rhea Waller went 3-for-5 with a double.

Seven Lakeside players combined for 10 hits against Red River.

Emily Jones went 2-for-2 with two RBI. McKenna Chreene went 2-for-3 with a double and three RBI. Teal Austin went 2-for-3 with two RBI.

MaKensie Hamiter had a double and two RBI. Harris had two RBI.

Moose Jernigan didn't allow a hit and struck out four with no walks in two innings.

OUTDOORS

Wesley Miller: Registered nurse turned crappie guide

GLYNN HARRIS

It's sometimes amazing that the profession you get trained for winds up playing second fiddle to where your real interest lies and what you really end up doing.

I got my college degree in business education. I thought I wanted to have a career as a high school business teacher. After one year of teaching, I enjoyed the experience relating to the kids but I found that if I wanted to be able to pay my bills and eat, I needed to find something else that provided a bit more income. After trying to make ends meet for a year, I got into sales for a couple of years and found that wasn't my calling either.

On a whim, I took a civil service test that got me on the list and I was hired as a social worker, went to LSU and received a graduate degree in social work. It was during a 30 year career in the state department of public assistance that I stumbled upon the career I was put on this good Earth to do, and that was to be a writer, something I have done and loved every day of writing for over 50 years.

There is another fellow who has had similar experiences. He's 46 year old Wesley Miller who lives



COURTESY PHOTO  
Wesley Miller, aka Big Sasquatch, not only can catch crappie but is a whiz at cleaning and cooking them.

along Dorcheat Bayou in Webster Parish. Miller got his college training in nursing and for a time became a registered nurse.

There was something else that Miller loved doing in addition to taking care of his patients. He's an outdoorsman who loves to hunt and fish. Several years ago, I put my writing to good use when I did a story on him after learning he had downed a trophy buck that ended up being high on the list of bucks

taken by archery in Louisiana.

As much as he loves to deer hunt, there is another passion that is taking most of his time to the point that he put his nursing career on the shelf. That passion is guiding clients to catch crappie and today, Miller is one of north Louisiana's most popular and busiest crappie fishing guides.

"I decided that if I was going to be serious about guiding, I decided to put aside my nursing career to

see how the guiding thing would work out. So far," Miller said, "I have been as busy as I want to be guiding clients on several lakes and waterways around the state."

Starting in March, 2021, Miller went into his new profession full time, adding the name "Big Sasquatch" to his logo. One look at Miller with his full flowing beard and you nod with approval, agreeing that the name fits.

I keep up with Miller and his phenomenal success guiding clients to catching crappie and watching his video clips of cleaning crappie for his clients. I visited with him to pick his brain a bit on his method of cleaning, videos that are available for anyone to watch.

"I don't use a filet knife; they burn out too quickly" he said. "I use a Fredrick's filet knife with an 8 1/2 inch blade. The steel in the blade is easy to sharpen and holds an edge better than most others."

When he cooks crappie, Miller also has some pointers that produce the best fresh crisp filets.

"I combine yellow corn meal, enough salt for taste and add two tablespoons of cayenne pepper. It has a slight bite but really enhances the taste," he said. "Never put all your filets

**Fishing Report**

**BUSSEY BRAKE** – The bass are becoming more active. Flipping soft plastics seems to be the best bet. Crappie have yet to move and they're still deep and fair on shiners and jigs. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole at 323-8707.

**OUACHITA RIVER** – The river is high and rising. No fishing report. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

**LAKE D'ARBONNE** – Crappie have started to move up from the deep channels to 12-14 foot water and hitting shiners and jigs. Bass are slow to fair and responding to soft plastics fishing very slow. No report on catfish or bream. 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. Bass are responding to a crawfish colored Jack Hammer chatter bait. 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. Best bet for bass are to fish soft plastics or a deep diving crank bait on the deeper humps and ridges. 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** – High winds are keeping anglers off the lake. No fishing report this week. For information, contact the marina at 318/878-0101.

**LAKE YUCATAN** – The water is high and rising and will continue to rise as the Mississippi river will be bringing down lots of new water which has shut things down for awhile. For info call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.

to expert crappie guide, I'm thinking Miller made the right choice when he went all out on doing what he really loves to do, and that's locate and catch crappie.



# Good News

GOOD NEWS

## MARCH MADNESS IS ABOUT TO BLOW UPON US!

If you are a high school or college basketball fan, you are in luck! Things are beginning to “pop”. The state playoffs are in high gear now, leading to the state finals soon. Several area teams are still in the chase and there is a good chance a couple of them might bring a big trophy home with them.

On the college scene, we have seen several ‘big upsets’ recently that has mixed up a lot of prefixed brackets. The ‘experts’ would have us to believe they know who is going to land “where” in the big tournament. But there seems to always be one Cinderella team that silently puts a hurt of the giant and eases past several teams, surprising even the experts. Over the years we can name these - LA Tech, Coastal Carolina, Loyola of Chicago and several ‘smaller schools’. Baylor is also a dream team, beating out the consensus favorite from time to time. Gonzaga has been one

of the ‘crowd pleasers’ too. This year seems to be open season both for the women and men’s teams. Perhaps the races will be open until the very end - creating suspense right down to the wire. Let’s hope we will not have a “Super Bowl ending!”

I have favorite coaches as well as teams. Bill Self (Kansas), Bruce Pearl (Auburn), Rick Barnes (Tenn), Scott Drew (Baylor), Jon Scheyer (Duke), Mark Few (Gonzaga), Todd Golden (Fla) and Mike White (Georgia). I try to check on these teams each week just to keep abreast of how they are doing. Teams I have followed over the years include -Kentucky, Duke, Clemson, Kansas, Texas and Tennessee. Most recently, I have added: Auburn, Florida, Southern Miss and a few more. So with all these ‘favorites’, you can see I am setting myself up to (hopefully) to have at least a couple of them to make the top 16. We’ll see!

In the lives of most athletes, when asked, “Who has influenced you most?” almost always the answer is “Coach.” Usually that title is spoken with reverence and with heartfelt emotions attached. I enjoy reading books about ‘coaches and their influence on their players.’ Michael Lewis in his book (COACH), writes about the great baseball coach Billy Fitzgerald who coached I. Newman High School in New Orleans for years. Read how he ‘touched’ so many young men and made a difference in their lives.

Brian Kilmeade (Fox News Channel) compiled interviews with many of America’ high profilers on ‘the power of sports and coaches’ in his best seller, “The Games Do Count.” Oliver North, Bill O’Reilly, Condoleezza Rice, George W Bush, and Hannah Storm are among those he interviewed. All agreed “my coach made the difference.” Many young men and women today have similar reflections about their coach. Many of us have a ‘coach to thank’ for what he/she has done to help mold character, to develop loyalty and to learn the importance of teamwork and trusted relationships.

Parents understand the sacrifice and commitment involved in coaching through long seasons, winning or losing. If dealing with one or two teenagers at home brings stress and frayed emotions from time to time, try to be understanding when ‘coach’ is dealing with 15-20 basketball players, 25-30 baseball players or 40-60 young men of the football team. (The same goes for the women coaches who have the same challenges). Let’s

use this special time of “March Madness” to say “Thanks Coach for spending time with our kids; thanks for the difference you are making in their lives.”


As we watch these exciting games throughout the tournament, consider isolating some of the outstanding players and coaches, identify some positive traits and actions of players and coaches....and drop a note of encouragement to some of them. Google can provide the mailing address of the coaches and teams. You may never receive a response, but don’t be surprised if you do. Everyone likes to be complimented from time to time.

BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER

### THE UPWARD LOOK

#### The Lord is Good

*“For the LORD is good; His loving-kindness is everlasting And His faithfulness to all generations.” Psalm 100:5 NASB*



**Max Hutto**

The Lord is worshiped and praised because of who He is. His character, His very essence and nature proclaim He is good. He is morally correct and pure, completely devoid of any evil or corruption. He is consistently and everlastingly loving and kind, full of never ending steadfast mercy and compassion. He is persistently faithful and trustworthy, always the same from moment to moment. From generation to generation there is no change in Him.


Lord God, I worship You, blessing and praising Your name, lifting my voice in song and obediently serving You, for You are good, loving, kind, faithful, full of mercy and grace.

MAX HUTTO IS A BAPTIST MINISTER AND A RESIDENT OF MINDEN. MORE INFORMATION CAN BE FOUND AT [WWW.UPWARDLOOK.ORG](http://WWW.UPWARDLOOK.ORG).

### INSPIRATION

#### Hope, Faith, and Trust

The famous author Dr. Seuss once said “When something bad happens you have three choices. You can either let it define you, let it destroy you, or you can let it strengthen you.” For the last two weeks, we have faced a new and very difficult situation. Our reactions to this situation have varied but one thing remains true: God is in control. Throughout human history, we have been faced with numerous situations that seemed impossible. However, we have a God that doesn’t know impossible and is always working things out for our good. So I would like to encourage everyone this week to not have a spirit of fear but one of hope, faith, and trust in God and His perfect will. Let us all take this situation as an opportunity to be a light for those trapped in darkness. 2 Timothy 1:7 NLT says “For God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity, but of power, love, and self-discipline.”




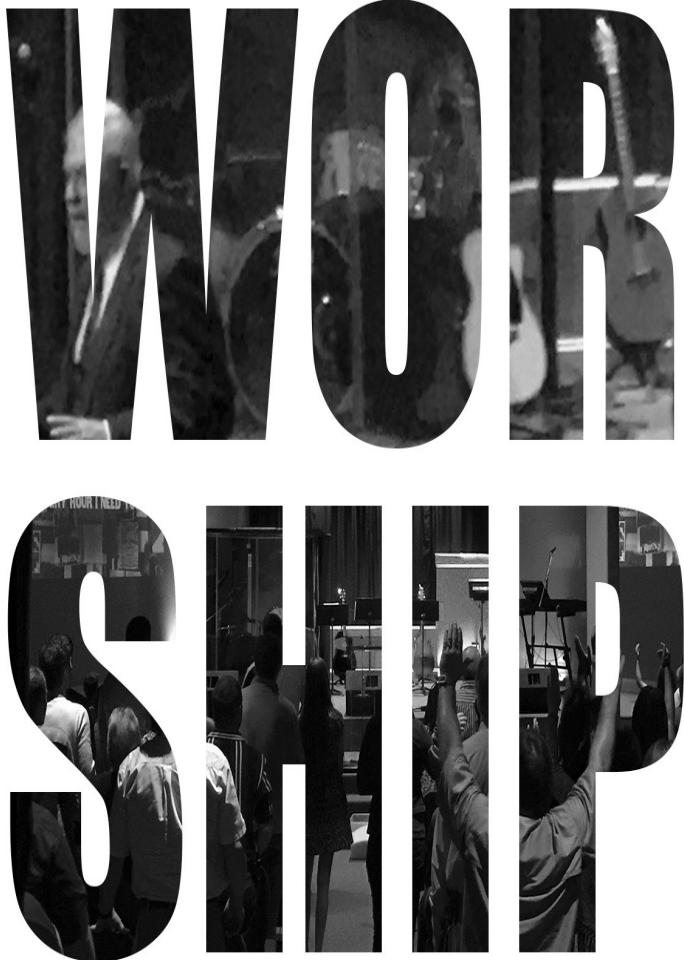
**Bernard Harris**

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

Come

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ASSEMBLY OF GOD  
MINDEN



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# LEGALS

## SHERIFF'S SALE

GIBSLAND BANK & TRUST COMPANY  
VS.  
SOUTH BEACH INVESTMENT L.L.C.  
In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 81975.  
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 appraisalment and according to law at the principle front door of the Courthouse in the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana, on  
WEDNESDAY, April 9, 2025,  
During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:  
\*\*\*SEE ATTACHED PROPERTY DESCRIPTION\*\*\*  
SOLD SUBJECT TO ANY SUPERIOR LIENS, MORTGAGES OR PRIVILEGES THERETO.  
Said property seized is that of the defendant and will be sold to satisfy a judgment rendered in our Honorable Court.  
Publication Dates: March 5, 2025 April 2, 2025  
JASON R. PARKER Sheriff & Ex-Officio Auctioneer  
Webster Parish, Louisiana  
Pam Brantley  
Pam Brantley - Deputy  
EXHIBIT 5  
PART 1:  
IMMOVABLE PROPERTY DESCRIPTION  
A 0.71 acre, more or less, tract of land located in the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, (SE/4 of NW/4), Section 23, Township 19 North, Range 9 West, Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana, more particularly described as follows:  
Begin at a found rebar located at the Southeast Corner of the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter, said Section 23, and run South 89 degrees 20 minutes 00 seconds West 10 feet to a found iron pipe for the Point of Beginning; thence run South 89 degrees 20 minutes West 59 feet to a set 5/8 inch iron rod; thence run North 18 degrees 07 minutes 19 seconds West 278.26 feet to a found rebar; thence run North 18 degrees 15 minutes 11 seconds West 165 feet to a set 5/8 inch iron rod located on the Apparent South Right of Way line of Homer Road (US Hwy 79); thence run along said Apparent Right of Way, North 71 degrees 13 minutes 59 seconds East 75 feet to a found "X" cut in concrete; thence run South 18 degrees 15 minutes 35 seconds East 164.88 fee to a found rebar; thence run South 14 degrees 30 minutes 45 seconds East 297.35 feet to the Point of Beginning, as per plat prepared by Pau W. Culpepper, Registered Land Surveyor, dated March 17, 2005, Job # 05-045D.  
(Parcel # 131932) Municipal Address being 908 Homer Road, Minden, LA 71055.  
Page 3 of 4

March 12, 2025  
April 9, 2025  
Minden Press Herald

## Public Notice

WEBSTER PARISH  
Parcel# 123309

Notice is hereby given that the Parish of Webster has received a request to sell their respective tax interest in the following listed property. This property has previously been adjudicated to the Parish of Webster for unpaid taxes. A public sale of this property will begin at 10:00 A.M. on April 14, 2025, at Webster Parish Police Jury's Office, 401 Main Street, Minden, LA 71055 in the Committee Room. The minimum bid has been set at \$3,105.78. Anyone intending to bid must deliver your intent letter and processing fee to E & P Consulting Services, LLC, at 1030 N 9th Street, Monroe, Louisiana 71201 by April 9, 2025. NO faxed, telephoned, mailed or any kind of electronic submission of intent to bid will be accepted. Any intent to bid letter received by the above deadline will allow 1 party into the bid session. If more than one offer for any particular piece of property is received, all parties who have submitted a written offer will be allowed to bid on the property. For additional information, please contact Parish Adjudicated Property Program at E&P Consulting Services, LLC at 318-807-0924 or ParishPropertyInfo@parishtaxland.com

Parcel# 123309 / Municipal Address: 413 Jessica Drive, Springhill, LA 71075  
BRIEF LEGAL: LOT 28, BOUCHER & SLACK PARK, UNIT #4  
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Lot No. 28, Boucher & Slack Park, Unit No. 4, a subdivision locate in the South Half of the Southwest Quarter, Section 1, and in the Northeast Quarter of Northwest Quarter, Section 12, Township 23 North, Range 11 West, Springhill, Webster Parish, Louisiana, as per map and plat thereof on file and of record in the Office of the Clerk of the District Court and Ex-Officio Recorder in and for said Parish in Map Book 3, Page 60; together with all improvements located thereon and all rights thereto belonging. Property Address: 413 Jessica Drive, Springhill, Louisiana 71075

March 12, 2025  
Minden Press Herald

## Public Notice

Parcel No. 123309  
ANGELA DAWN WALLER HAMILTON OR ESTATE  
TAX SALE, LLC

THIS NOTICE BY PUBLICATION IS NOTIFICATION THAT YOUR RIGHTS OR INTEREST IN THE FOLLOWING DESCRIBED PROPERTY LOCATED IN WEBSTER PARISH, LOUISIANA MAY BE TERMINATED BY OPERATION OF LAW IF YOU DO NOT TAKE FURTHER ACTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH LAW:  
Parcel# 123309 / Municipal Address: 413 Jessica Drive, Springhill, LA 71075  
BRIEF LEGAL: LOT 28, BOUCHER & SLACK PARK, UNIT #4  
LEGAL DESCRIPTION: Lot No. 28, Boucher & Slack Park, Unit No. 4, a subdivision locate in the South Half of the Southwest Quarter, Section 1, and in the Northeast Quarter of Northwest Quarter, Section 12, Township 23 North, Range 11 West, Springhill, Webster Parish, Louisiana, as per map and plat thereof on file and of record in the Office of the Clerk of the District Court and Ex-Officio Recorder in and for said Parish in Map Book 3, Page 60; together with all improvements located thereon and all rights thereto belonging. Property Address: 413 Jessica Drive, Springhill, Louisiana 71075  
Tax sale title to the above described property has been sold for failure to pay taxes. You have been identified as a person who may have an interest in this property.  
Your interest in the property will be terminated if you do not redeem the property by making all required payments to the tax collector listed below or file a lawsuit in accordance with law within sixty (60) days of the date of the first publication of this notice, or the recording of an act transferring ownership, if later.  
Webster Parish Tax Collector  
410 Main Street  
Minden, LA 71055  
318-377-1515 (ext.228).

March 12, 2025  
Minden Press Herald

FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF PRECINCTS AND POLLING LOCATIONS  
For the March 29, 2025 and May 05, 2025 (if applicable) elections:  
1 SPRINGHILL CIVIC CENTER 101 MACHEN DR SPRINGHILL  
1A SPRINGHILL CIVIC CENTER 101 MACHEN DR SPRINGHILL  
2 SPRINGHILL CIVIC CENTER 101 MACHEN DR SPRINGHILL  
3 SPRINGHILL CIVIC CENTER 101 MACHEN DR SPRINGHILL  
5 SPRINGHILL CIVIC CENTER 101 MACHEN DR SPRINGHILL  
6 CULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING 405 COYLE AVE CULLEN  
8 SAREPTA COMMUNITY BUILDING 210 VINES ST SAREPTA  
9 NEW SHONGALOO CIVIC CENTER 119 HWY ALT 2 SHONGALOO  
9A NEW SHONGALOO CIVIC CENTER 119 HWY ALT 2 SHONGALOO  
10 NEW SHONGALOO CIVIC CENTER 119 HWY ALT 2 SHONGALOO  
11 SAREPTA COMMUNITY BUILDING 210 VINES ST SAREPTA  
12 NORTH WEBSTER UPPER ELEMENTARY 6245 HIGHWAY 160 COTTON VALLEY  
13 NORTH WEBSTER UPPER ELEMENTARY 6245 HIGHWAY 160 COTTON VALLEY  
14 EVERGREEN VOLUNTEER FIRE DEPT 1853 EVERGREEN RD MINDEN  
15 PLEASANT VALLEY UMC ACTIVITIES BLDG 16835 HWY 371 MINDEN  
16 MINDEN COMMUNITY HOUSE 711 GLADNEY ST MINDEN  
17 J E HARPER PATHWAY TO EXCELLENCE SCHOOL 618 GERMAN-TOWN RD MINDEN  
17A J E HARPER PATHWAY TO EXCELLENCE SCHOOL 618 GERMAN-TOWN RD MINDEN  
18 WEBSTER COURTHOUSE ANNEX (WEST ENTRANCE) 401 MAIN ST MINDEN  
18A WEBSTER COURTHOUSE ANNEX (WEST ENTRANCE) 401 MAIN ST MINDEN  
22 MINDEN CIVIC CENTER 520 BROADWAY ST MINDEN  
22A MINDEN CIVIC CENTER 520 BROADWAY ST MINDEN  
25 PHILLIPS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 811 DURWOOD DR MINDEN  
25A PHILLIPS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL 811 DURWOOD DR MINDEN  
26 MINDEN CIVIC CENTER 520 BROADWAY ST MINDEN

27 MINDEN CIVIC CENTER 520 BROADWAY ST MINDEN  
28 MINDEN COMMUNITY HOUSE 711 GLADNEY ST MINDEN  
29 J E HARPER PATHWAY TO EXCELLENCE SCHOOL 618 GERMAN-TOWN RD MINDEN  
31 MINDEN COMMUNITY HOUSE 711 GLADNEY ST MINDEN  
32 DUBBERLY FIRE STATION 838 HIGHWAY 532 DUBBERLY  
33 MINDEN CIVIC CENTER 520 BROADWAY ST MINDEN  
34 MINDEN CIVIC CENTER 520 BROADWAY ST MINDEN  
35 SIBLEY CIVIC CENTER 127 SE FOURTH AVE SIBLEY  
36 DUBBERLY FIRE STATION 838 HIGWAY 532 DUBBERLY  
38 HEFLIN CIVIC CENTER 116 N MAIN ST HEFLIN  
39 HEFLIN CIVIC CENTER 116 N MAIN ST HEFLIN  
40 SIBLEY CIVIC CENTER 127 SE FOURTH AVE SIBLEY  
41 DOYLINE HIGH SCHOOL 376 COLLEGE ST DOYLINE  
42 DOYLINE HIGH SCHOOL 376 COLLEGE ST DOYLINE  
43 FIRE DISTRICT #7, FIRE STATION #5 11217 HIGHWAY 80 MINDEN  
As published by the Webster Parish Board of Election Supervisors  
03/12/2025

March 12, 2025  
Minden Press Herald

## PUBLIC NOTICE

(NOTICE OF INTENTION TO INTRODUCE LOCAL BILL – HLS 25RS-486)

Public notice is hereby given, as provided by Section 13, Article III of the Constitution of Louisiana, that there will be introduced at the forthcoming session of the Legislature of Louisiana, to be convened on April 14, 2025, a bill relative to the Webster Parish School Board; to authorize the board to levy an additional sales and use tax, subject to voter approval; and to provide for related matters.

March 5, 12, 2025  
Minden Press Herald

## PUBLIC NOTICE

(NOTICE OF INTENTION TO INTRODUCE LOCAL BILL – HLS 25RS-369)

Public notice is hereby given, as provided by Section 13, Article III of the Constitution of Louisiana, that there will be introduced at the forthcoming session of the Legislature of Louisiana, to be convened on April 14, 2025, a bill relative to saltwater disposal wells in Bossier Parish; to provide for saltwater disposal from exploration and production waste; to provide relative to operational requirements and standards for saltwater disposal wells; and to provide for related matters.

March 5, 12, 2025  
Minden Press Herald

## Special Election

Executive Department  
Office of the Governor  
Proclamation Number 17 JML 2025

SPECIAL ELECTION – JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, JUSTICE OF THE PEACE DISTRICT 1, PARISH OF WEBSTER

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the office of Justice of the Peace, Justice of the Peace District 1, Parish of Webster, because no one qualified for this office during the January 29-31, 2025 qualifying period for the March 29, 2025 election;

WHEREAS, R.S. 18:821 requires the Governor to call a special election to fill the vacancy in an existing judgeship when more than twelve (12) months of the term remain unexpired, in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:821 and/or the dates for elections set forth in La. R.S. 18:402. NOW THEREFORE, I, JEFF LANDRY, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:

Section 1: A special primary and general election for the unexpired term shall be held throughout the jurisdiction of the Justice of the Peace, Justice of the Peace District 1, Parish of Webster, for the purpose of electing a justice of the peace to fill the vacancy in the office.

Section 2: Any qualified person desiring to become a candidate for the office shall file a notice of candidacy, accompanied either by a qualifying fee or a nominating petition, as required or authorized by law, with the appropriate election official in the manner and form, and under the procedures and conditions, provided by R.S. 18:461 et seq., and all other applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, R.S. 18:1 et seq., during the period commencing Wednesday, July 9, 2025 and ending Friday, July 11, 2025.

Section 3: The special election shall be held and conducted under the applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, La. R.S. 18:1 et seq.

Section 4: The primary election shall be held Saturday, October 11, 2025, and the general election shall be held Saturday, November 15, 2025, at the times and places and in the manner, prescribed by law.

Section 5: The Secretary of State, Commissioner of Elections, Parish Board of Election Supervisors, Clerk of Court, Registrar of Voters, and all other persons charged with any power, function, right, duty or responsibility in conducting elections in the jurisdiction of the Justice of the Peace, Justice of the Peace District 1, Parish of Webster, are hereby authorized, requested, directed and empowered to exercise every lawful function and to do every act necessary to conduct the special election, to cause the returns to be made, to canvass and promulgate the results, and to perform all related and incidental functions.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have set my hand officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Louisiana in the City of Baton Rouge, on this 28th day of February, 2025.

Jeff Landry  
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE

Nancy Landry  
SECRETARY OF STATE

March 12, 2025  
Minden Press Herald

## Regular Session

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF MINDEN, STATE OF LOUISIANA,  
TAKEN IN REGULAR SESSION HELD ON MARCH 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, Levon Thomas, Latasha Mitchell, Michael Roy, and Andy Pendergrass. Absence(s): Carlton Myles. Mayor Cox welcomed everyone to the meeting. Prayer was offered by Levon Thomas and the Pledge of Allegiance was led by Latasha Mitchell. It is noted for the record that Mayor Cox allowed both council and public comments prior to every vote.

Michael Roy moved to adopt the minutes of the Minden City Council Workshop held on February 3, 2025, as presented. The motion was duly seconded by Latasha Mitchell and the vote was as follows: Aye(s): Levon Thomas, Latasha Mitchell, Michael Roy, and Andy Pendergrass. Nay(s): None. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): Carlton Myles. The motion carried.

Latasha Mitchell moved to adopt the minutes of the Minden City Council Regular Session held on February 3, 2025, as presented. The motion was duly seconded by Michael Roy and the vote was as follows: Aye(s): Levon Thomas, Latasha Mitchell, Michael Roy, and Andy Pendergrass. Nay(s): None. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): Carlton Myles. The motion carried.

Levon Thomas 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 as follows: Aye(s): Levon Thomas, Latasha Mitchell, Michael Roy, and Andy Pendergrass. Nay(s): None. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): Carlton Myles. The motion carried.

Upon motion by Michael Roy and duly seconded by Latasha Mitchell, the council adopted a Resolution Declaring Certain City of Minden Property as Surplus and Fixing the Terms of Sale, as presented. This resolution is to surplus trucks and a limb chipper. The vote was as follows: Aye(s): Levon Thomas, Latasha Mitchell, Michael Roy, and Andy Pendergrass. Nay(s): None. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): Carlton Myles. The motion carried.

Levon Thomas moved to award Bid No. 07-2025 – City of Minden Shreveport Road Water Improvements to the lowest qualified bidder meeting all requirements, Budds Construction of Haughton, LLC. The motion was duly seconded by Latasha Mitchell and the vote was as follows: Aye(s): Levon Thomas, Latasha Mitchell, Michael Roy, and Andy Pendergrass. Nay(s): None. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): Carlton Myles. The motion carried.

Upon motion by Latasha Mitchell and duly seconded by Levon Thomas, the council appointed Sarah Overall as Main Street/Economic Development Director for the City of Minden. The vote was as follows: Aye(s): Levon Thomas, Latasha Mitchell, Michael Roy, and Andy Pendergrass. Nay(s): None. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): Carlton Myles. The motion carried.

City Clerk Melaney Langford presented the Budget/Financial Report for the month of January 2025. No motion was required.

Fire Chief Brian Williams presented the Fire Report for the month of February 2025. No motion was required.

The Police Report for the month of January 2025 was accepted, as presented, by motion of Latasha Mitchell and second by Michael Roy. The vote was as follows: Aye(s): Levon Thomas, Latasha Mitchell, Michael Roy, and Andy Pendergrass. Nay(s): None. Abstention(s): None. Absence(s): Carlton Myles. The motion carried.

Shawn Hatcher, Chairman of the Main Street Program/Downtown Development Commission, presented the Minden Mardi Gras Fasching Parade Awards.

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

Nicholas A. Cox, Mayor

ATTEST:

Melaney Langford, City Clerk

March 12, 2025  
Minden Press Herald

## Minutes

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CITY OF MINDEN, STATE OF LOUISIANA,  
TAKEN IN WORKSHOP HELD ON MARCH 3, 2025

The Minden City Council met at City Hall in Minden, Louisiana, beginning at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Nick Cox, Levon Thomas, Latasha Mitchell, Michael Roy and Andy Pendergrass. Absence(s): Carlton Myles. Mayor Cox welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The following topics were discussed: the Minden City Council Agenda, miscellaneous City of Minden business, the Minden Recreation Center Enhancement Plan, the January 2025 Police Report, the February 2025 Fire Report, and the January 2025 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

March 12, 2025  
Minden Press Herald

## Public Hearing

Minden, LA  
The City of Minden will hold a public hearing at 2:00 pm on March 20, 2025, in City Hall, 520 Broadway St, Minden, LA 71055. The purpose of the meeting is to obtain views on the housing and community development needs of the City and to discuss the submission of an application for funding under the State of Louisiana's FY 2026/2027 Community Development Block Grant (LCDBG) Program.

Information regarding the amount of funds available for proposed community development and housing activities; the range of activities available that may be undertaken, including the estimated amount of funds proposed to be used for activities that will benefit persons of low and moderate incomes; the plans of the City for minimizing displaced persons as a result of activities assisted with such funds and the benefits to be provided by the City to persons actually displaced as a result of such activities; and the City's past performance on LCDBG projects funded by the State of Louisiana will be presented.

All residents, particularly low and moderate income persons and residents of slum and blighted areas of the City of Minden are encouraged to attend this meeting.

Accommodations will be made for persons with disabilities and non-English speaking individuals provided that a three-day notice is received by the City. Those citizens unable to attend this hearing may submit their views and proposals until March 19, 2025 in writing to Nicholas Cox at the following address: 520 Broadway St, Minden, LA 71055.

March 12, 2025  
Minden Press Herald

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## Payments

Cash Checks, Billing

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“All real estate advertised here is subject to the Federal Fair Housing Act, which makes it illegal to advertise any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status, or national origin, or intention to make any such preference, limitation, or discrimination. We will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate, which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

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