

MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

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INSIDE TODAY'S EDITION

Honoring the class of 2025 across Webster Parish

JOSHUA SPECHT
Minden Press-Herald

This week, the Minden Press-Herald is proud to present our 2025 Graduation Special Edition, available now in print and online at press-herald.com. This cherished tradition shines a spotlight on the remarkable young men and women from across Webster Parish who are celebrating one of life's great milestones: high school graduation.

Inside this special edition, you'll find the names

and schools of hundreds of graduates from Minden High School, Lakeside High School, North Webster High School, Glenbrook School, Doyline High School, and Mt. Olive Christian School. It's a testament to the strength of our schools, the dedication of our teachers and parents, and most of all, the resilience and drive of our students.

Each name represents a story, of perseverance, of growth, of late nights spent studying, early mornings heading

to practice, and countless memories made in classrooms and hallways. These students now take their first step into a world of new opportunities, responsibilities, and possibilities.

To the Class of 2025, Congratulations. You've worked hard, you've earned this moment, and we couldn't be prouder to celebrate your accomplishments within our pages.

On behalf of our entire team at the Minden Press-Herald, thank you to the

families and schools who made this edition possible, and thank you to our readers for continuing to support our efforts to recognize and uplift the young leaders in our communities.

We encourage everyone to take a moment this week to pick up a copy or view it online, and join us in celebrating these outstanding graduates. The future is bright, and it starts right here in Webster Parish.



COMMUNITY

Leading Legacies: Women in Business event brings empowerment, insight to Minden

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

The Greater Minden Chamber hosted its inaugural "Leading Legacies: A Women in Business Event" on Friday at the Minden Civic Center, drawing professional women from across the region for a day of workshops, leadership development, and community-building.

The event featured a series of interactive sessions, including a table talk speed networking segment and two deep dive discussions. Attendees explored "The Art of Saying No: Boundaries for a Healthier Work-Life Balance" and "Fearless Leadership: How to Lead with Confidence & the Power of Paying It Forward." Additional topics presented during the event included women's health, navigating male-dominated industries,



Attendees take part in the inaugural **Leading Legacies: A Women in Business Event**, held May 9 at the Minden Civic Center and hosted by the Greater Minden Chamber.

balancing career and family, and fostering collaboration over competition in business.

Lauren Haydel, founder and Chief Treasure Hunter of Fleurty Girl, delivered the keynote address, sharing personal insights and professional experiences that have shaped her entrepreneurial journey.

"Our inaugural Leading Legacies Women in Business Event was a beautiful success, and we are incredibly grateful to every woman who attended and to those who led meaningful discussions throughout the day," said Stephanie Barnette, president of the Greater Minden Chamber. "We hope each guest

left feeling empowered, encouraged, and truly loved. This event would not have been possible without the support of our amazing sponsors—especially our presenting sponsor, Catherine C. Hunt, Realtor. Together, we created something special that we hope to build on and will inspire for years to come."

CRIME

Minden traffic stop leads to drug and firearm charges

STAFF REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

A traffic stop conducted on the evening of May 6 resulted in multiple felony charges for a Minden man after police reportedly discovered drugs and a firearm during a vehicle search.

According to a report from the Minden Police Department, an officer observed a red Jeep Cherokee make an improper turn from Sheppard Street onto Shreveport Road, entering the right travel lane. The officer initiated a traffic stop near the intersection of Shreveport Road and West Street.

The driver, identified as Michael Taylor, 55, immediately informed the officer that he did not possess a valid driver's license and instead presented a Louisiana-issued identification card. While searching for his vehicle's registration and insurance documents, Taylor opened the center console, where another officer observed a silver handgun in plain view. Taylor was instructed to close the console and keep his hands visible, and the firearm was secured for officer safety.

Taylor gave verbal consent for officers to search the vehicle. During a frisk

of Taylor, officers found a clear plastic bag containing suspected crack cocaine in his front pocket. He was detained and informed of his Miranda rights before being placed in the back of a patrol vehicle.

A subsequent vehicle search led officers to discover an open container of alcohol inside a blue cup. No other illegal items were found.

Taylor was transported to the Minden Police Department for booking. While in a holding cell, a further search reportedly uncovered synthetic marijuana in Taylor's right sock and natural marijuana in his left sock. The crack cocaine weighed 10.17 grams and the synthetic marijuana 2.01 grams. The natural marijuana was destroyed per department policy. The seized firearm was identified as a Smith & Wesson SD9VE.

A criminal history check revealed that Taylor is a convicted felon who pleaded guilty in 2024 to distribution of a Schedule I controlled dangerous substance. He is not legally permitted to possess a firearm until August 2036 under Louisiana law.

Taylor is facing charges including possession of Schedule II crack cocaine

See, **CRIME**, Page 3

MINDEN FEATURED

Filming showcases Minden for promotional videos

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

A KTAL film crew was in downtown Minden on Thursday afternoon capturing footage for a series of promotional videos designed to highlight the city's culture, businesses and community spirit.

The project, initiated by the City of Minden, aims to feature local residents in commercials and videos that will promote the area to a broader audience. Filming on May 8 ran from 12 PM to 4 PM at multiple locations

throughout the downtown area.

Crews began filming at several local eateries, including El Santito on the patio, Orleans Bistreaux, Underdaws and Woo's Bar. The production then moved to the Dorcheat Museum on Pearl Street and nearby retail shops, capturing scenes of shoppers and historic exhibits.

Later that afternoon, filming shifted to Bayou Dorcheat to capture footage of paddling on the scenic waterway. The day concluded with scenes

at Shug's Ice Cream Parlor, featuring the theme "Where life's a lil sweeter."

The city had invited residents from Minden and surrounding areas to participate in the project, encouraging community representation across all ages and backgrounds. According to city officials, the videos will spotlight local landmarks, events and the overall character of the community.

It was a clear spring afternoon for filming, adding to the backdrop for the first day of produc-



AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

Community members and film crews participate in the first day of filming for promotional videos highlighting the culture, businesses and landmarks of Minden on Thursday, May 8, in downtown Minden.

tion. Additional sessions are planned at various locations around town to accommodate interested

participants. The final videos will be used in commercial and promotional campaigns

to present Minden as a welcoming and vibrant place to live, work and visit.



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WEBSTER & MORE

WPPJ

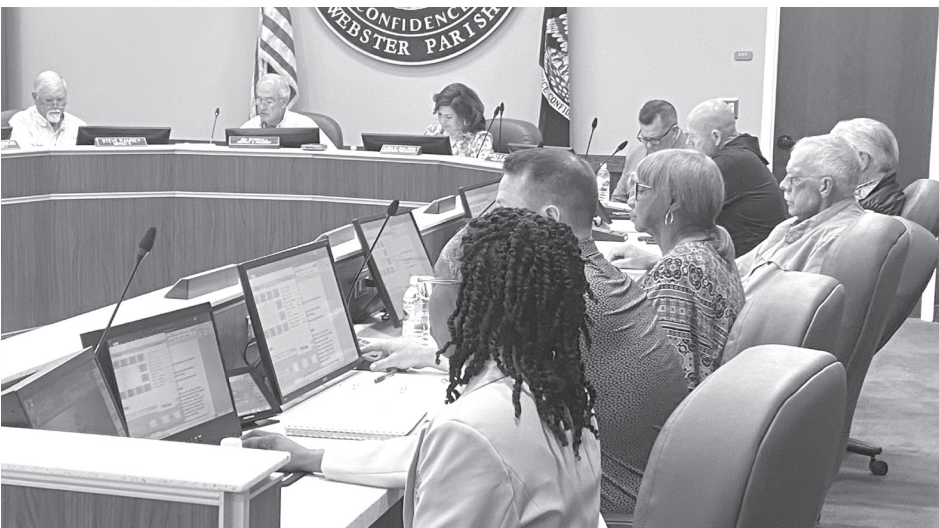
Webster Parish Police Jury approves all agenda items in May meeting

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

All members of the Webster Parish Police Jury were present for its regular monthly meeting Tuesday, May 6, where each agenda item was approved unanimously. Jurors approved the May 8 invoice payments pending review by Juror Allen Gilbert and adopted the minutes of three April meetings: the Road Committee, Finance Committee, and Regular Meeting. A Multi-Jurisdictional Consortium Agreement for the Police Jury was approved, as was the call for a public hearing scheduled for June 3 at 10:30 AM. The hearing will address the potential enactment of a local hospital assessment ordinance, as authorized by Louisiana law. Representatives will be present at that meeting

to respond to questions from the public. The jury also adopted Ordinance 1023-002, authorizing the sale of adjudicated property at 113 Jessica Drive in Springhill following a public auction held April 14. Additionally, Ms. Linda Reed was appointed to the Webster Parish Library Board of Control to fill the position formerly held by Ms. Ethel Smith. Reed's term will expire December 31, 2028. Committee reports highlighted recent accomplishments and ongoing initiatives. Head Start reported favorable audit results and noted its students are touring the schools they will attend next year. Parent training is also being offered. The Webster Parish Library system is preparing for its summer Discovery Camp. Construction at

the Doyline branch is progressing with sheetrock installation underway. The Springhill branch was recently honored as Chamber Ambassador of the Year. Sheriff Jason Parker reported that Deputy David Dick has replaced the recently retired David Robinson in animal control. The Sheriff's Office has purchased the former Sarepta library building, which already includes a substation, and plans to open a full-service office and training center. An existing building in the area will be sold, with the expected financials balancing out. Angie Chapman, director of Webster Parish 911, shared that hang-up calls continue to rise. To verify the nature of these calls, dispatchers are now sending text messages in addition to deploying law



enforcement. Chapman also updated the jury on upcoming requirements for all 911 centers to join ESInet, a nationwide emergency telecommunications network. "They want each 911 center to be its own network and to network with all the parishes around it so that you have this giant network," Chapman said. She warned the initiative

could prove costly due to insufficient infrastructure in many areas. A general discussion followed regarding the condition of parish roads and the damage caused by heavy trucks. Jurors discussed potential future measures such as imposing weight limits with steep fines and converting some lesser-used roads to gravel until fund-

ing becomes available for paving. No specific roads were identified and no action was taken. The Webster Parish Police Jury meets the first Tuesday of each month at 10:30 AM in the Courthouse Annex, located at 401 Main Street in Minden. Meetings are open to the public and streamed online at www.webster-parishla.org.

WPCOA

Bill could boost meals-on-wheels funding for local seniors

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Seniors in Webster Parish could soon see improved services from the Webster Parish Council on Aging if a bill aimed at increasing state funding for local councils is passed by the Louisiana Legislature. House Bill 126, introduced by Rep. Lyons on March 25, seeks to amend

the state's current funding formula for parish councils on aging. If approved, the bill would raise the minimum annual funding to \$150,000 or \$2.50 per resident aged 60 and older, whichever is greater. Currently, councils receive a base allocation of \$100,000 per year. Johnny Johnson, executive director of the Webster Parish Council on Aging, said the potential funding increase would

go directly toward addressing local needs. "HB 126 is intended to increase funding for every parish COA. This funding is referred to as PCOA (Parish Councils on Aging) funding. Right now, we are allocated \$100,000 per year from this state grant. If the bill passes, we look to receive an extra \$50,000 per year," Johnson said. "For us, right now, the extra \$50,000 would be allocated directly to

meals-on-wheels, which is where we have our largest budget shortfall." The meals-on-wheels program provides hot meals to homebound seniors, many of whom rely on the service as their primary source of nutrition. Johnson noted that increased funding would allow the council to serve more residents. The proposed legislation comes amid rising concerns statewide

about the adequacy of support for aging populations. Louisiana's senior citizens are expected to increase in number over the next decade, placing added demand on existing services. Supporters of HB 126 argue that the funding boost would help parish councils like Webster's better serve the community's elderly residents by expanding access to services such as meals,

transportation, and social activities. Opponents have raised concerns about the potential strain on the state budget. As debate on the bill continues, local officials and senior advocates are watching closely. The outcome could directly impact the quality and availability of services for seniors across Webster Parish. A vote on HB 126 has not yet been scheduled.

We Will Always Remember

Their Courage & Sacrifice



The Minden Press-Herald will be running a
MEMORIAL DAY SIG PAGE on May 21st.
Deadline to get your business listed is May 16th.
CALL NATHAN OR CURTIS - (318) 377-1866

WEBSTER & MORE

OBITUARIES



Melba H. Morgan

Funeral Services for Melba H. Morgan were held Saturday, May 10, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. at Rose Neath Funeral Home Chapel in Minden, Louisiana with Bro. Rubin Weaver officiating. Interment followed at Gardens of Memory in Minden, Louisiana. The family received friends Friday, May 9, 2025, from 5:00 until 7:00 p.m. at Rose Neath Funeral Home in Minden.

Melba was born October 2, 1944, in Minden, Louisi-

ana and went to be with the Lord, May 5, 2025, in Minden, Louisiana. Melba was a teacher for 38 years and thoroughly enjoyed guiding and mentoring her countless students through the years. She cherished her many years with her husband, Harry, and she loved her kids, Kelly and Kris, and especially her grandkids, Morgan and Logan and great grandchild, Hudson. Above all else, she really loved the Lord with all her heart.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Paul and Annie Camp, Brothers, Raymond, Donald, and Randal, and sisters Shirley, Betty, and Evelyn.

She is survived by her son, Kris Morgan; daughter, Kelly Nelson; grandchildren, Morgan Nelson, Logan Nelson, and great-grandchild, Hudson Woodall.



C. C. "Cat" Cox

C. C. "Cat" Cox went home to Jesus on Thursday, May 8th at age of 96. A celebration of his life was held on Saturday, May 10, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. at First Baptist Church in Cotton Valley. A graveside service followed at the Cotton Valley Cemetery. The family received friends Friday, May 9, 2025 from 4:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden, Louisiana. Cat was born to Ira and Blanche Cox on January 9, 1929 in Cotton Valley, Louisiana. As a child, he remembered loving to walk with his dog to the mill pond and going fishing rather than attending school. He learned to play dominoes at an early age and continued in his later years playing in domino tournaments.

He met his wife, Gladys Loriece Young Cox, in 1949 on a blind date. They married on April 9, 1949 and went on to have two children, Naomi Cox Coyle and Ouida Cox Garner. Cat and Loriece were married 72 years. He and Loriece faithfully attended and supported the Cotton Valley First Baptist Church for nearly 50 years.

Cat began his career by purchasing a Cities Service Station. He talked about washing Sally Baker's car and

how even though he was a grown man she still scared him. While working at the station, he also drove a Webster Parish school bus. An accident on the way home from a fishing trip led to a career in politics. His uncle who was the police chief was injured in the wreck so Cat was appointed to serve the term which ended being 26 years of service as well as on the Webster Parish Police Jury for 26 years. His last years of service were being a Cotton Valley Alderman and Mayor and serving on the Webster Parish Office of Community Services Board of Directors.

Cat is preceded in death by his mother, father, brother, and sisters. He is survived by his daughters-Naomi Coyle and Ouida Garner, sons-in-law-Zeke Coyle, and Danny Garner, two grandsons-Doug Coyle and his wife Sheli and Bryan Coyle and his wife Deena, five great grandchildren-Luke Coyle, Logan Coyle, Embeth Coyle, Landon Cox Coyle, and Reagan Coyle.

The pallbearers for the service are Nick Cox, Logan Coyle, Luke Coyle, Hank Haynes, Lutellis Smith, and John Welsh. Honorary pallbearers are Judge Jeff Cox, Landon Cox Coyle, and Colonel Carl Thompson.

The family would like to thank all the people who helped to make his journey to heaven easier. In lieu of flowers, the family suggests that memorial donations be made to First Baptist Church, Cotton Valley, LA 71018.



Kenny Smith

Funeral services for Kenny Smith were held Tuesday May 13, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. with a visitation beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Rose Neath Funeral Home Chapel in Minden, Louisiana. Officiating was Pastor Murray Twyman. Interment followed at Pleasant Valley Cemetery in Minden, Louisiana.

Kenny was born April 15, 1967, in Shreveport, Louisiana and went to be with the Lord on May 7, 2025, in Minden, Louisiana. Kenny was a successful business owner and loved by many in the community. He was

a loving father, husband, and Papa. Kenny was an avid outdoors man who could always be found hunting and fishing with friends and family. He never met a stranger and always had a smile on his face. He leaves behind a beautiful legacy.

Kenny was joined in death by his wife, Melanie Smith and preceded by his parents, Bobbye Smith and D.D. "Bud" Smith, brothers, Dennis Smith, and David Smith, and sister, Debbie Smith.

He is survived by his children, Conner and Blakley Smith of Minden, Kirsten and Kaleb Smart of Sibley, and Josh and Carrie Madge Todd of Baton Rouge; grandkids, Manny Higginbotham, Wiley Higginbotham, Eli Todd, Hayes Smart, and Isla Smith; brother, Allen and Dianna Smith, and many nieces, nephews, and special friends.



Melanie Jackson Smith

Funeral services for Melanie Jackson Smith were held Tuesday May 13, 2025, at 12:00 p.m. with a visitation beginning at 10:00 a.m. at Rose Neath Funeral Home in Minden, Louisiana. Officiating was Pastor Murray Twyman. Interment followed at Pleasant Valley Cemetery in Minden, Louisiana.

Melanie was born March 2, 1962, in Shreveport, Louisiana and went to be with the Lord on May 7, 2025, in Minden, Louisiana. Melanie was a loving mother, Nana, and wife with one of the kindest souls imagin-

able. Her smile could brighten the darkest of days. The love she showed her family was unparalleled. As the Webster Parish Registrar of voters for over 20 years, she undoubtedly touched many hearts in the community. Her memory will live on in the kindness we share and the love we give.

Melanie was joined in death by her husband Kenny and preceded in death by her father, Bill Jackson.

She is survived by her mother, Linda Jackson; children, Josh and Carrie Madge Todd of Baton Rouge, Conner and Blakley Smith of Minden, and Kirsten and Kaleb Smart of Sibley; grandchildren, Manny Higginbotham, Wiley Higginbotham, Eli Todd, Hayes Smart, and Isla Smith; brother, Mark and Melissa Everitt; sisters, Sandy and Patrick Humphrey and Lori and Brian Hollenshead, and many nieces, nephews, and special friends.

COMMUNITY DAY

Regions hosts Open House & Community Day in Minden



Vendors participated in Regions Bank's Open House & Community Day on Friday, May 9, at the Minden branch on Homer Road. The event featured local food trucks, community organizations including the Gingerbread House Children's Advocacy Center and United Way of Northwest Louisiana, and a giveaway for a Regions bike.

DEPENDABLE CAREGIVER SEEKING WORK.

Have references if needed.
Call **318-224-3813**
or **318-268-8842.**

Leave message if no answer.

Allen Ross Culpepper



Captain, Army of the United States
Xuan Loc, Long Khanh Province,
South Viet Nam
Distinguished Service Cross, Bronze Star
21 July 1944 – 18 May 1969

CRIME

Continued from Page 1

(felony), possession of drug paraphernalia, possession of a firearm by a convicted felon (felony), possession of a firearm in the presence of a controlled substance (felony), no driver's license, improper turn, open alcoholic container, and possession of Schedule I synthetic marijuana.

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

STATE WARNING

Scam alert: Louisiana OMV warns of phishing scheme targeting drivers

State officials are warning Louisiana residents of a new scam involving fraudulent text messages that falsely claim to be from the Louisiana Office of Motor Vehicles (OMV).

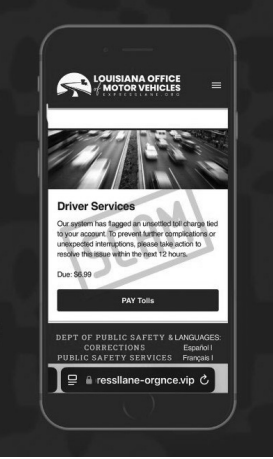
According to a public alert issued by the OMV, the scam messages allege unpaid toll charges or vehicle-related violations and direct recipients to click on links to avoid fines or license suspension. The agency emphasized it does not collect toll violation fees or send such notices by text or email.

"This is a scam. Do not click on the link or share personal information," the OMV stated in a Facebook post accompanied by examples of the deceptive messages. "These texts are part of a phishing scheme designed to trick recipients into sharing personal or financial information or clicking malicious links that can install malware or steal data."

The OMV has directed residents to avoid responding to or engaging with any suspicious messages. Instead, individuals are advised to report the scam to the Federal Trade Commission at reportfraud.ftc.gov.

Gov. Jeff Landry also urged caution, noting the messages include a spoofed link and false toll penalty, which cybersecurity experts warn may be a ploy to collect personal data. "Louisiana OMV does not use text messages for collection purposes," the statement read.

Residents who are uncertain about the status of their driver's license can verify it at www.expresslane.org/DLstatus. For any toll-related concerns, the OMV advised contacting official tolling agencies directly.



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AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

OPINION

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

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

OPINION

U.S. Supreme Court to Hear Religious Liberty Case Involving Religious Charter Schools

It is interesting when cases of this kind come before the U.S. Supreme Court. This case involves the collision of free exercise of religion and the prohibition of government establishment of religion. The case I am referring to is Oklahoma State-wide Charter School Board v. Drummond. I think it will become a landmark case. Firstly, the friction that perpetually exists between the two religion clauses in the First Amendment is to be expected. On the one hand, we have our cherished right to religious liberty and the free exercise of religion. On the other, how far does our right to free exercise extend before it collides with the prohibition of government establishment or advancement of a particular religion? Second, previous U.S. Supreme Court cases involving the public funding of religious activity were based on a tedious and complicated legal framework. However, I am delighted to share that, in 2022, in the Supreme Court case of Kennedy v. Bremerton School District, the Court broadly abandoned that analysis. Instead, the Court held that Establishment Clause challenges should be evaluated by lower courts by referencing America's "historical practices and understandings," looking to "original meaning and history." That is completely in keeping with the view of Thomas

Jefferson who's "wall of separation between church and state" was designed to protect religious freedom from government. Jefferson believed the federal government should never intrude upon or restrict the activities or beliefs of the faithful, or provide any special favors to any particular sect. Thus, no religion would be favored or disfavored. All religions would have an equal opportunity to flourish in the public square. Jefferson, an enlightened Deist, also believed that no nation could be governed without religion, and he believed as most of the Founding fathers did that 'Religious belief --freely chosen and given wide public space--nurtured morality and thus supported a free society.' Now to this case. This Oklahoma Statewide Charter case concerns St. Isidore, an online school proposed by two Catholic dioceses in Oklahoma. The issue before the U.S. Supreme Court is this: does a church have a First Amendment right to open a taxpayer funded charter school? The current Supreme Court has been receptive to

free exercise of religion and those precedents include the Trinity Lutheran case (2017) wherein the Court held that the state of Missouri could not deny grant money for playground resurfacing to a church-run preschool. In the Espinoza (2020) and Carson cases (2022) the Court held that families given state money to attend private schools may pick religious schools. Chief Justice John Roberts wrote in Carson that "we have repeatedly held that a State violates the Free Exercise Clause when it excludes religious observers from otherwise available public benefits." The issue here is whether this principle also applies to an entity seeking direct taxpayer funding to run a religious charter under a state contract. St. Isidore describes itself as a private nonprofit but argues that no students will be forced to attend St. Isidore and public funding for it would be based upon enrollment--the dollars would follow the student. St. Isidore also argues that while it is a private contractor, it will nevertheless comply with the requirements of the state charter school law and, like regular public schools, will be free of charge and accept students regardless of their faith. The Wall Street Journal characterizes St. Isidore's argument in this way: "the real First Amendment violation is excluding the faithful:

Oklahoma's charter options include schools 'focused on science, engineering, math, fine arts, language immersion, tribal identity, and more' but the state has forbidden one type of private entity--religious institutions--from participating," (WSJ, 4-28-25). That's right, of course. What the Framers of our Constitution were concerned about was the establishment of a state religion of the kind they fled when the Pilgrims came to America in the first place. That is also why the Framers would not recognize the hostility to religion that is so common in America today. The Supreme Court should rule that a church has as much of a First Amendment right to open a taxpayer funded charter school as any other entity. Based upon the Court's new legal standard of looking to "historical practices and understandings" and "original meaning and history," (i.e. Thomas Jefferson) allowing public dollars to flow to charter schools that are privately run and freely chosen cannot fairly be construed to constitute an establishment of religion.

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

We should talk about mental illness

Rick Warren, best selling author of The Purpose Driven Life, said, "we shouldn't hide mental illness." His youngest son, Matthew, a mental illness victim, committed suicide in 2013, having battled mental illness for years. When Rick shared his tragedy, he said he received more than 10,000 letters of sympathy. Sharing our pain lifts the load making our loss more tolerable. I would like to talk about some of the benefits of writing. Dr. Molly Harrower Gaines, psychiatrist and author of Therapy in Poetry wrote "Long before there were therapists there were poets and from time immemorial man has struggled to cope with his inevitable, inner turmoil. One way of so coping has been the ballad, the song, the poem. Once crystallized into words, all engulfing feelings become

manageable, and once challenged into explicitness, the burden of the incommunicable becomes less heavy." I cannot begin to tell you how many times I have quoted her when I hosted my own cable talk show and when I spoke to local groups because her words helped me to grapple with my own emotions when I was literally going off the deep end during my nervous breakdown in 1981 after one too many moves. There's just something about writing your thoughts down that relieves pent up pain and then when you dare to send your words out for publication, being published lends dignity to your pain and the more you write

you polish your skills and give others the courage to write because we will all undergo difficult periods in our life when we need to relieve our pain and reach out for support. Had it not been for God, for faith, and for the ability to draw others into my life, I can't imagine what might have happened to me. It's just like the Erma Bombeck told me in a letter "it's not the money you make writing but knowing your words have touched people you've never met." That's the jest of why writing is important. Writing not only bridges gaps but acts as a safety valve to keep us from going off the deep end. There's nothing like writing to relieve emotional pressure that wells up inside. Someone has said that "the key to happiness is having someone to love, something to do and something to hope for!"

What a magic mix I am just so grateful for being me -- for being able to cope in the midst of storms! But for now I know that "We are angels flying with only one wing and we can only fly embracing each other." We can't make it alone nor would we want to. Writing is one way of connecting -- of giving others the courage to open up and pour out their own problems. It's just like George Eliot wrote "Oh, the inexpressible joy of feeling safe with another, being able to pour out all that's in our heart, knowing the gentlest of hands will sift out the chaff and grain together and keep what is worth keeping and blow the rest away! No matter what happens to us it can be used as a tool to help another struggling person if we only reach out. Write. It's good for your mental health.

CONTACT SARAH AT SARAH@AOL.COM

203 GLEASON STREET

Grief Has a Way of Catching You Off Guard

This past week has been a heavy one for many in our community. We've experienced tragic loss of life, the passing of long-time public servants, and--on top of that--Mother's Day. A day that brings joy to many, but for those who have lost their mothers, it can stir up waves of grief that feel just as fresh as the day they said goodbye. Grief, as I've learned, is not linear. It doesn't follow a calendar, and it doesn't always come with warning signs. Sometimes it shows up in the silence of a morning cup of coffee. Sometimes in a song on the radio. And sometimes, it crashes into us during days like Mother's Day.

I've written a lot of columns in this space--columns about business, community pride, growth, and celebration. But this week feels different. This week, I want to pause and simply say: if you are grieving, I see you. My heart is with you. Loss--whether recent or long ago--has a way of catching us off guard. And while time may dull the sharpest edges, it never truly erases the presence of someone

we love. Nor should it. We grieve because we love deeply. And that love is never wasted. In fact, I'd argue it's what gives our lives so much meaning in the first place. In recent days, we've witnessed friends and neighbors in Minden and throughout Webster Parish walking through the shadows of loss. We've seen them show up for each other, bring meals, share stories, and cry unashamedly. That's what community is all about. That's what makes this place so special. To those who are hurting today--whether from a sudden tragedy or a quiet ache that returns year after year--I want to offer a few

simple thoughts: It's okay to grieve. There is no timeline. No "right way." You are not alone. Your pain is valid, and others care deeply. Remembering is a gift. Don't shy away from telling stories, looking at photos, or sharing your heart. Be gentle with yourself. Healing isn't about being strong all the time--it's about being honest with where you are. And to those who are walking alongside someone who is grieving: your presence matters. Sometimes just showing up, listening, or offering a hug is enough. This community has always been resilient. And

in times like these, that resilience shines brightest when we hold each other up. So today, I simply want to say thank you--for caring, for comforting, for being the kind of community that doesn't ignore pain but embraces those who are feeling it. May we continue to be that kind of place. And may those who are grieving know that they are seen, they are loved, and they are not forgotten.

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
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HIGH SCHOOL TRACK AND FIELD

North Webster’s Gladney wins 100 in 3A state meet

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

North Webster senior Xaeliin won the Class 3A boys 100 and finished second in the 200 in the LH-SAA Outdoor Track and Field State Meet last week at LSU.

Gladney’s time in the 100 was 10.78 seconds. Port Allen’s Brennan Gibson was second in 10.85.

Gladney ran a 21.83 in the 200. Gibson won in 21.69.

Gladney teamed with JD Hardin, Dejuan Coleman and J’Kobe Lawson for a runner-up finish in the 4X100 relay in 42:51. St. James won in 42:30.

North Webster finished seventh in the team competition with 26 points. Lake Charles College Prep won with 65.

North Webster’s Kylee Sanders finished fifth in the Class 3A girls triple jump with a distance of 32 feet, 8.25 inches. Mamou’s Jalyssa Arvie won with a 35-6.

The foursome of Tatyana Lawson, Shakyra Hawkins, Xhailor McGlothlan and Sanders finished fifth in the 4X100 in 50.81. Lake Charles College Prep won in 48.67.

McGlothlan was sixth in the 100 in 12.65. Mamou’s Kyrionna Ardoin won in 12.10.

North Webster also finished eighth in the 4X200. Tomiyah Hawthorne was eighth in the shot put. Lawson was ninth in the 100.



North Wester senior Xaeliin Gladney, pictured in the Houghton Buccaneer Relays, won the 100 and finished second in the 200 in the Class 3A boys state meet last week at LSU.

ROBERT SUMMERLIN/PRESS-HERALD



COURTESY PHOTO

Doyline’s Jonas Florence won the discus in the Class B boys state meet last week at LSU

Doyline’s Florence takes discus in Class B state meet

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Doyline senior Jonas Florence won the Class B boys discus Thursday on the first day of the LH-SAA Outdoor Track and Field State Meet at LSU.

Florence’s winning throw went 124 feet, 3 inches.

Grace Christian’s Ben Stokes was second with a

123-2. Florence’s winning throw came on his second attempt.

He finished fifth in 2024.

Senior Zach Normand was fifth in the boys triple jump with a 39-5. Lacassine’s Gavin Dupuis won with a 42-9.5.

Junior Zach Moreno finished eighth in the boys 3,200 in 11:57.84.

Lakeside’s Bradley finishes fifth in 800 in Class 2A state meet

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Lakeside senior Lexi Bradley capped an outstanding senior season with a fifth-place finish in the Class 2A girls 800 in the LHSA Outdoor Track and Field State Meet last week at LSU.

Bradley’s time was 2 minutes, 30.16 seconds. Metairie Park Country Day’s Lorraine Goldenberg won in 2:25.28.

Bradley finished just

1.45 seconds behind third-place finisher Sophie Bruchhaus of Kinder.

Bradley teamed with Angel Collins, Bailey Mangrum and Annie Cooper for a sixth-place finish in the 4X800 relay in 11:01.77. Episcopal won in 10:08.30.

McKenzie Chase was eighth in the pole vault with a 8-5.25.

Kentravion Miller finished eighth in the boys discus with a 42-8.75.

Newman’s Dylan Kolenovsky won with a 48-1.75.



Lakeside’s Lexi Bradley, pictured competing in the Region I-2A meet, finished fifth in the Class 2A 800 in the state meet last week.

ROBERT SUMMERLIN/PRESS-HERALD

Minden’s Neal runner-up in 400 in Class 4A boys state meet

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Minden senior Porter Neal closed his outstanding high school career with

a runner-up finish in the Class 4A boys 400 at the LHSA Outdoor Track and Field State Meet last week at LSU.

Neal ran a personal-re-

cord 49.47 seconds. Breaux Bridge’s Jaboryan John in 48.15 seconds.

Neal’s previous best was 49.83.

His best this season was

50.69.

Minden senior Brayden Britton finished fifth in the 110 hurdles in 15.26. AJ Elkender’s Markus Thomas won in 14.86.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Glenbrook’s Sanders named District 1-1A MVP



ROBERT SUMMERLIN/PRESS-HERALD

Glenbrook’s Easton Sanders has been named the MVP on the All-District 1-1A team.

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Glenbrook senior Easton Sanders has been named MVP on the All-District 1-1A baseball team again.

A pitcher and first baseman, Sanders led the Apaches to their third straight undefeated district championship.

He batted .420 with 10 doubles, five home runs and 24 RBI. On the mound, he was 6-2 with a ERA of 1.898 and 90 strikeouts.

Sanders, who continuing his career at Louisiana Tech, led Glenbrook to a select Division IV runner-up finish in 2024 and a semifinal appearance in 2023.

Glenbrook finished 15-10 overall against a chal-

lenging schedule that included 11 games against teams in Class 4A and above.

Glenbrook placed six other players on the first team — infielder Jackson Waller, infielder Ryan Reagan, outfielder Seth Mangrum, utility Dawson Day, utility Preston Frye and pitcher Sam Ricord.

Waller batted .357 with seven doubles, two triples, 10 home runs and 22 RBI. Reagan batted .267 with five doubles and 13 RBI.

Mangrum batted .298 with four doubles, one triple, one home run and 17 RBI. Day batted .289 with five doubles, one home run and 19 RBI.

Frye batted .265 with one double and 12 RBI. Ricord was 5-1 with a 3.479 ERA and 27 strikeouts.

Glenbrook duo fare well in Class 1A meet

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Glenbrook eighth-grader Trent Clemons finished fifth in the Class 1A boys 3,200 last week in the LHSA Outdoor Track and Field State Meet at LSU.

Clemons’ time was 11 minutes, 3.46 seconds. That was about 50 sec-

onds faster than his time in the Region I-1A meet two weeks ago..

Highland Baptist Christian’s Tyler Blissett won in 9:48.40.

Glenbrook sophomore Ella Heflin finished sixth in the girls discus with a throw of 84-6.

Central Catholic’s Addison Griffazzi won with an 125-6.

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

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

Trent Clemons
Glenbrook, 8th

Clemons capped an outstanding track season with a fifth-place finish in the Class 1A 3,200 at the state meet in Baton Rouge.

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

SPORTS

Russell Hedges, Sports Editor
rhedges@spechtnewspapers.com

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Hall of Fame coach Mack Brown to be featured speaker at Independence Bowl Kickoff Dinner

ERIK EVENSON
Radiance Technologies
Independence Bowl
Director of Communications

Mack Brown is a college football legend – a College Football Hall of Famer, two-time Coach of the Year and BCS National Champion – and will be the featured speaker at the 15th Annual Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl Kickoff Dinner on Monday, August 18.

“I can’t wait to kick off the season at the Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl Kickoff Dinner,” said Brown. “It will be an exciting way to start the 2025 college football season.”

Brown has been a staple of the college football coaching world over the past 47 years with five stops in 36 years as head coach at four different universi-

ties – Appalachian State (1983), Tulane (1985-1987), North Carolina (1988-1997 and 2019-2024) and Texas (1998-2013).

During his 36-year head coaching career, Brown compiled a 288-155-1 record. His 288 wins rank him seventh on the FBS all-time wins list. He is a two-time National Coach of the Year – winning the 2005 Paul W. “Bear” Bryant National Coach of the Year Award and the 2008 Bobby Dodd National Coach of the Year Award.

He won the 2005 BCS National Championship with the Longhorns in one of the most memorable games in college football history.

“We are very excited to host Mack Brown in August to help the Shreveport-Bossier City community kick off football season and the countdown to the 49th

Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl,” said 2025 Independence Bowl Foundation Chair Sarah Giglio.

“Coach Brown is a legend of our sport and one of the 28 College Football Hall of Famers to coach or play in our game. I can’t think of a better person in our sport to help us ring in the new season in our community. I can’t wait to hear all of the amazing stories from Coach Brown’s illustrious career.”

The 2025 Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl Kickoff Dinner featuring Mack Brown is set for Monday, August 18 at the Shreveport Convention Center. Doors will open at 6 p.m. for a cocktail hour and dinner buffets will open at 6:15 p.m. The program will begin at 7 p.m. with a Q&A to conclude.

Individual tickets to the event are on sale for \$50

apiece, and a table of eight is \$400. Tickets can be purchased at RadianceTechnologiesIndependenceBowl.com/shop or by calling the Radiance Technologies Independence Bowl office at 318.221.0712 or toll-free at 888.414.BOWL.

Brown got his first taste as a head coach at Appalachian State in 1983 – going 6-5 that season. After a year as Oklahoma’s offensive coordinator in 1984, he became the head coach of the Tulane Green Wave in 1985.

He improved the team drastically from 1-10 his first season in 1985 to 6-5 heading to the 1987 Independence Bowl against Washington – the Green Wave’s fifth bowl game since 1940. That season earned Coach Brown a spot in the Independence Bowl Hall of Honor in 2002.

Following the 1987 In-

dependence Bowl, Brown headed to Chapel Hill for his stint as head coach of the North Carolina Tar Heels. He led Carolina to a record of 69-46-1 (.599) from 1988 to 1997 – including three 10-win seasons, six consecutive bowl games, a Top-Five finish, a Top-10 finish and two Top-20 finishes.

Brown’s tenure at Texas spanned from 1998 through 2013 and resulted in him becoming the second-winningest coach in Longhorns history – only nine wins behind Darrell Royal.

After his time in Austin, Brown was one of just four active coaches to reach the 200-victory plateau. He was also one of only two coaches nationally to lead his teams to 21 bowls in 22 seasons, and the only one to have 23 winning seasons in the previous 24 years. His 225 wins from 1990 to

2013, which combined the last eight years of his first stint at UNC and his entire Texas tenure, were the most of any coach in the country.

Between his Texas tenure and second stint with the Tar Heels, Brown was a staple on ESPN’s college football coverage as both a studio analyst and color analyst.

In his six seasons at UNC from 2019 through 2024, Coach Brown brought the Tar Heels back into the college football spotlight – leading them from a two-win team the year before his arrival to a team that appeared in six consecutive bowl games.

They played in an Orange Bowl, Holiday Bowl, Military Bowl, Fenway Bowl and two Duke’s Mayo Bowls in his six years at the helm and compiled a 44-33 record.

COLLEGE SOFTBALL

Former Glenbrook star Martin shines in final college game at Louisiana Tech

STEPHEN FEATHERSTON
Louisiana Tech
Director of Strategic
Communications

BOWLING GREEN, Ky. — Louisiana Tech finished third in the Conference USA Tournament last week after falling to No. 1 seed Liberty 2-1 in 10 innings.

Former Glenbrook star Alyssa Martin saved her best career performance for her last, as the senior logged her first complete game while setting a new career-high in innings pitched.

Martin logged 9.1 in-

nings in the circle while holding the Flames to two runs.

The Bulldogs registered six hits in the loss. Claire Raley and Heng had two apiece.

The Bulldogs loaded the bases in the top of the eighth with two outs but were unable to push across any runs.

Liberty won it on a bases-loaded single in the bottom of the 10th.

LA Tech finished the year at 32-25 (15-12).

The Bulldogs played 18 innings of softball on the day, first defeating the

host school and No. 2 seed Western Kentucky 6-4 in eight innings;

LA Tech’s extra-innings win over the Hilltoppers propelled the Bulldogs to a shot to advance to the championship game in their matchup against Liberty.

Allie Floyd took the circle against Western Kentucky just two days after she left the WKU Softball Complex on crutches due to a calf strain suffered in game one against New Mexico State.

The junior right-hander responded with her lon-

gest outing of the season, tossing her 18th complete game and picking up her 22nd win. She pitched all eight innings while giving up four runs on nine hits with five strikeouts.

The Bulldogs outthit the Hilltoppers 14-9, tying their season-high for hits in a game.

LA Tech had five players register multi-hit games as Addison Snyder led the way with her first career three-hit game. Alexis Gilio, Reagan Marchant, Alannah Rogers and Heng all had two hits apiece.

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Eight Glenbrook players first-team All-District 1-1A

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Runner-up Glenbrook placed eight players on the All-District 1-1A first team selected by the district’s coaches.

They are catcher Vivian Still, first baseman Anna Grace Vining, second baseman Ellie Earnhardt, shortstop Gabi Brown, third baseman Chloe Gregg, outfielder Colby Hollis, utility Hallie Harmon and pitcher Rebecca

Mosley.

Outfielders Gracie Heard and Hadley Haynes and pitcher Savannah Mangrum were named to the second team.

Glenbrook went 25-9 and reached the quarter-finals of the select Division IV playoffs. The Lady Apaches fell to eventual runner-up Opelousas Catholic 4-1.

Eighth-grader Presley Wall of district champion Cedar Creek was named MVP.

OUTDOORS

Setting the woods on fire the right way

GLYNN HARRIS

Y’all may not be old enough to remember it but I still do. Hank Williams had a bunch of hits back in the day as his twangy voice sang all sorts of sad love songs, such as “I’m so Lonesome I could cry”, “Love-sick Blues”, “Mansion on the Hill”. But he had one that was a jumpy little ditty about taking his girl friend out for a date where they’d be, in the title of the song, “Settin the woods on fire.”

I saw on the news last week about a wildfire in New Jersey where a young man was arrested for doing just that to the forests in his state. He was guilty of “setting the woods on fire”, and I don’t think it was the same sort of fire that old Hank was singing about.

For someone to deliberately set fire to the woods because he has a grudge against a property owner or just has a screw loose and likes to see things burn, that’s some seriously bad stuff. However, there are some who set fire to the woods for a good cause; they’re professional foresters who know how to set a controlled or prescribed fire for the purpose of improving the habitat by removing dead underbrush and duff from the forest floor to allow tender plants that are desirable to grow in place of the no-good stuff.

Retired wildlife official, David Moreland had an article on controlled fire in a recent edition of LA Sportsman magazine that piqued my interest, so I read the article to get more information on the subject of prescribed fire.

Moreland wrote that even Native Americans learned how to use fire for clearing underbrush, opening pasture lands, providing nutrition-rich forage for deer, elk and bison.



Professional foresters who know the correct way to perform controlled burns are valuable assets to improving forest habitat.

COURTESY PHOTO

Historians today refer to this as “cultural burning”. They knew that fire would clear the grass and brush for villages and camp areas. They also knew that burning to open clearings in the forests would regenerate new plant growth that would attract animals they depended on for food and skins.

Prescribed burning is a tool regularly used by foresters and wildlife managers today. Referred to as “dormant season fires”, these fires can occur in fall and winter, the time when much of the vegetation is in a dormant condition. Prescribed fires done in spring are known as “growing season fires”.

Burning during the

growing season comes with more challenges as this time of year is when deer fawns and turkey poults are being born.

Can just any property owner decide on his own to use controlled fire on his property? They can but should fire spread to adjoining property, the landowner may be liable for expenses should he be responsible for damage to timber on a neighbor’s land.

This is why, Moreland writes, “most forest land-owners have a consulting forester to help them with their timber management needs.” The state has a program where individuals can become “certified prescribed burners”. This cer-

tification is done through the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry, a certification that must be renewed every five years.

Certified prescribed burners know when conditions are best for fire and when a particular stand of timber needs to be controlled burned. Watching for weather conditions, wind speed and direction, humidity and ground moisture all figure into deciding the best time for a fire.

Should you have land that you are considering for a controlled fire, be sure to contact experts before you proceed so that you won’t be “setting the woods on fire” like Hank or doing like that kid in New Jersey.

Fishing Report

BUSSEY BRAKE – Heavy rains and muddy water has slowed the fishing. However, some bass are still being caught fishing topwaters early around shallow brush and flipping jigs and soft plastics later. Crappie have slowed down a bit and some have moved from the shallows to deeper water. The bream are bedding around the edges of the brush. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole at 323-8707.

OUACHITA RIVER – High water and rising. However, a good many catfish are being caught in the river and bass are hitting topwaters and soft plastics in the back waters. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE BONNE – In spite of heavy rain and muddy water, bass fishing has been good early mornings on topwater lures along the banks with soft plastics, jigs and chatter baits working best later in the day away from the banks. Crappie have begun to move out to deeper water. Jigs and shiners are taking some nice fish. Bream are bedding shallow and hitting worms and crickets and catfish are good fishing off the banks. 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 good on

suspended fish on jigs and shiners. Bass are around the banks and hitting topwaters early while later hitting hit jigs, spinners and soft plastics. Bream are on the beds and worms and crickets are working on them. Stripers are beginning to school and hitting shad imitations. For latest information, call Kel’s Cove at 927-2264 or Terzia Tackle at 278-4498.

CANEY LAKE – Crappie are suspended in 12-14 foot water and jigs and shiners are taking some. The shad are spawning in the back of the coves and bass fishing has improved where the shad are located. Some schooling activity is beginning using shad imitation lures. Bream both chinguapins and bluegills are on the beds and hitting crickets and worms. No report on 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 – Catfish and bream were biting good before the heavy rains. Crappie are fair with bass best along the banks on topwaters and soft plastics. For information, contact the marina at 318/878-0101.

LAKE YUCATAN – In spite of the heavy rains, water is slowly falling but still too high for fishing. For info call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.

Good News

GOOD NEWS

A FISH TALE

With Spring in the air, the fishermen are getting their gear ready for a busy season of fishing. Toledo Bend is one of the hottest fishing spots in the South, and many fishing rodeos will be advertised at various spots along the waterway, as well as area fishing holes. It is interesting that more and more high schools have fishing clubs and colleges offer scholarships ‘to go fishing.’

In Biblical times, fishing was a very popular livelihood. Jesus surrounded himself with fishermen. In fact, He told Simon Peter and Andrew: “Come, follow me and I will make you fishers of men.” (Mark 1: 16-18). At once they left their nets and followed him.

Jesus told Peter to ‘push out into the deep water and cast his

nets once more.’ Peter replied: “we have been fishing all night long and have not caught any... but as you say – we will do.’ And they caught so many that he called his partners to bring another boat out to help. When they emptied the nets, both boats were filled. (Luke 5: 1-11).

They were amazed at what Jesus had done ‘through their efforts.’ But haven’t we all experienced that. We do all we can do. And think it’s hopeless, it can’t be done, there is no use trying any longer, but then Jesus shows up! We exercise our faith, we increase our trust level in Him, we maybe change our tactics, we choose another bait or lure, we try a



Bill Crider

different method and He works through us for better results.

Often times we feel we are ‘working for’ Jesus; what He really wants is to ‘work with Him.’ He wants us to do what we know to do and leave the results in His hands. The Bible teaches that Jesus is always at work; He bids and invites us to join Him in His work and allow Him to work through us.

We all are summoned to work with him here on earth. Consider these points:

* Jesus knows more about our jobs that we think He does. He told Peter how to fish. Yes, Peter – a professional fisherman, who had been fishing all his life, and now this carpenter is telling him

how and where to fish! What does he know about fishing? (We’ll see)!

*Jesus honors our submission to His directives when our only motivation is to be obedient. Sometimes we may say “why, why, why” or “I want to do it this way” or we may push Him to the point where we may sense He is implying “do it this way because I said so!” And like to our children, that is a satisfying answer.

Peter (under his breathe) may have said “Why, I don’t understand, How does He know what I should do? I am the fisherman; he is the carpenter.”

* We may get the job done, but by working under God’s authority and directions, our work yields entirely different results. The key to Peter’s enormous catch was not the deep water the

Lord instructed him to fish in, but that He obeyed and did as the Lord instructed.

At times, we may feel we need a new occupation, to move in a different direction - when what we need is a new fishing partner, not a new occupation. Would not Jesus have made a unique fishing guide?

Paul: Col 3: 23-24: “Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord you are serving.”

BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER

THE UPWARD LOOK

Steadfast Love

“Many are the sorrows of the wicked, but steadfast love surrounds the one who trusts in the LORD.” Psalm 32:10 ESV

In this Psalm, David draws a contrast between the wicked and the righteous. The wicked is the person who has not confessed and acknowledged his sin, who has not repented and turned away from sin, and who does not listen to the instruction and counsel of God and His Word. Because of his iniquity the wicked will experience sorrow, pain, and grief. In contrast,



Max Hutto

the one who trusts in the Lord, who has repented and turned away from sin, and who follows the instruction of God, will be surrounded by God’s steadfast, faithful mercy and love.

Lord Jesus, I trust in You, my Savior and Redeemer. I am sustained, comforted, and encompassed by Your unwavering, unfaltering grace and love.

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

INSPIRATION

Glory Days?

I would like to start this message by stating the fact that we all have a past. We can’t change it or relive it, but we can learn from it. This topic has been weighing heavy on my heart lately and it made me ask myself one specific question. Why do we call days past our “glory days”? I ask this question because to call it that is not fair especially to God. He doesn’t allow us to remember our past to lust after it or live in it he does it so we can learn from it and grow. However, I’ve found the most important reason is to glorify him. We glorify God and inspire others through our testimony a retelling of our past and how it led to our present life of serving him and building his kingdom. But that’s still not a reason




Bernard Harris

to call them “glory days”. To live in the past is to neglect the present and possibly hinder the future. If the title of “glory days” should be bestowed on any point in time it should be the present. I say this because the present is where God is making you better through his glory. Every day you wake up and step out into the world is another opportunity for a deeper relationship with God and the people he has called you to reach. So, in closing I say all this to say don’t live in the past but use it in the present to guide yourself and others to the future God has planned.

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.

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301 Pennsylvania Avenue • Minden, LA

CLASSIFIEDS

PLACE YOUR AD

classifieds@press-herald.com

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

Presbyterian Village of Homer is currently accepting applications for full-time and part-time Cook and Dietary Aid positions. Please contact Bernice Modisette at (318)927-6133.

LEGALS

SHERIFF'S SALE

PLANET HOME LENDING, LLC
VS.
PHILLIP CHARLES DAVIS
In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 81660.
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 appraisalment and according to law at the principle front door of the Courthouse in the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana,
on
WEDNESDAY, June 18, 2025,
)
During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:
Lots Seventy-eight, Seventy-nine, Eighty and Eighty-one (78,79,80 and 81), Glendale Subdivision Number Three (3), located in the Southwest Quarter of Southwest Quarter (SW4 of SW/4), Section 14, Township 19 North, Range 9 West, Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana, as per Map and Plat thereof on file and of record in the Office of the Clerk of Court, Webster Parish, Louisiana, in Map Book 2, Page 72.
And also an adjoining Tract described as beginning at the Northeast Corner of said Lot Seventy-eight (78) and run East along the South line of Kennon Street 75 feet; thence run South and parallel to the East line of said lots 200 feet; thence run West 75 feet to the Southeast Corner of Lot Eighty-one (81); thence run North along East line of said lots 200.6 feet to the point of beginning, together with all improvements thereon and rights thereto belonging; subject to restrictions, servitudes, rights-of-way and outstanding mineral rights of record affecting the property.
1120 Claiborne Rd., Minden, La 71055
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 Brants
Pam Brantley - Deputy

May 14, 2025
June 11, 2025
Minden Press Herald

INVITATION FOR BID

Webster Parish Fire Protection District 10 solicits sealed bids for the following:
2024 or Newer Brush Truck
The proposal must be in the hands of Daniel Davidson no later than 5:00 PM CST June 10, 2025, at 1380 Homer Road Minden, La 71055. The bid specification sheet is available at no charge at <https://us.titanfile.com/channels/wU73RO/>. Bid opening will be on June 12, 2025, at 6:00 PM CST at 1875 Dogwood Trail, Minden, LA. The bid will be awarded immediately following at the regularly scheduled board meeting on June 12, 2025, at 6:30 PM CST at 1875 Dogwood Trail, Minden, LA.
Webster Parish Fire Protection District 10 is a tax-exempt government agency.
Webster Parish Fire Protection District 10 abides by the requirements of the Louisiana Bid Law.
All Bids submitted must be clearly marked:
Webster Parish Fire Protection District 10 – “BID ENCLOSED”
Webster Parish Fire Protection District 10 reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive informalities or to accept the bid which may best serve its interest.

April 30, 2025
May 14, 28, 2025
Minden Press Herald

Public Notice

Docket Nos. 25-142 thru 25-147

STATE OF LOUISIANA, OFFICE OF CONSERVATION, BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA.
In accordance with the laws of the State of Louisiana, and with particular reference to the provisions of Title 30 of Louisiana Revised Statutes of 1950, a public hearing will be held in the Hearing Room, 1st Floor, LaSalle Building, 617 North 3rd Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, at 9:00 a.m. on TUESDAY, JUNE 10, 2025, upon the application of AETHON ENERGY OPERATING LLC.
At such hearing the Commissioner of Conservation will consider evidence relative to the issuance of Orders pertaining to the following matters relating to the Haynesville Zone, Reservoir A, in the Jamestown, Lake Bistineau and Sibley Fields, Bienville and Webster Parishes, Louisiana.
1. To authorize Aethon to drill, designate and utilize one cross unit horizontal well as the unit well for HA RA SUY, in the Lake Bistineau Field, and HA RA SUM and HA RA SUO, in the Jamestown Field, at the location and in the general manner shown on the plat submitted with the application, and made a part hereof.
2. To authorize Aethon to drill, designate and utilize one cross unit horizontal well as the unit well for HA RA SUZ, in the Lake Bistineau Field, and HA RA SUE and HA RA SUQ, in the Sibley Field, at the location and in the general manner shown on the plat submitted with the application, and made a part hereof.
3. To establish that the proposed cross unit horizontal wells are necessary to efficiently and economically drain a portion of the Haynesville Zone, Reservoir A, underlying HA RA SUY, HA RA SUM, and HA RA SUO, including those portions within 330' of the common unit boundaries between said units, and a portion of the Haynesville Zone, Reservoir A, under HA RA SUZ, HA RA SUE, and HA RA SUQ, including those portions within 330 feet of the common unit boundaries between said units.
4. To provide that the proposed cross unit horizontal wells should be perforated no closer than 330' to any unit boundary other than to the extent to which the wells cross the common unit boundary between the units which they serve, and as necessary to approve the locations of the wells in exception to applicable spacing rules.
5. To confirm that with respect to the proposed cross unit horizontal wells to be drilled to the Haynesville Zone, Reservoir A, where the horizontal lateral portion of the well is cased and cemented back above the top of the Haynesville Zone, Reservoir A, the distance to any unit boundary and any offset well should be calculated based on the distance to the nearest perforation in the well(s), and not based on the penetration point or terminus.
6. To find that unit production from the cross unit horizontal wells should be allocated to each unit served in the same proportion as the perforated length of the lateral in each unit bears to the total length of the perforated lateral as determined by an "as drilled" survey performed after the cross unit wells are drilled and completed.
7. To provide that production from the cross unit horizontal wells shall be separated and metered individually and this information is to be reported in the manner prescribed by the Office of Conservation.
8. Otherwise, to authorize the unit allowable for these units to be recovered from the unit wells, alternate and cross unit alternate unit wells, including the proposed cross unit alternate unit wells, or from any combination of such wells, at the discretion of the operator.
9. To designate Aethon Energy Operating, LLC as the unit operator for each of said units and the cross unit well requested by it to serve HA RA SUY, HA RA SUM, and HA RA SUO, and the cross unit well requested by it to serve HA RA SUZ, HA RA SUE, and HA RA SUQ.
10. Except to the extent inconsistent herewith, to confirm and continue in effect, as applicable the provisions of (a) Office of Conservation Order No. 287-F, effective December 16, 2008, as amended and supplemented by the 287-F Series of Orders, (b) Order No. 148-M, effective May 12, 2009, as amended and supplemented by the 148-M Series of Orders, (c) Order No. 990-D, effective October 6, 2009, and (d) all applicable Statewide Orders.
11. To consider such other matters as may be pertinent.
The Haynesville Zone, Reservoir A, in the Lake Bistineau Field, was defined in Order No. 287-F, effective December 16, 2008.
The Haynesville Zone, Reservoir A, in the Jamestown Field, was defined in Order No. 999-D, effective October 6, 2009.
The Haynesville Zone, Reservoir A, in the Sibley Field, was initially defined in Order No. 148-M, effective May 12, 2009, and was redefined as to HA RA SUE in Order No. 148-M-2, effective October 13, 2009, and was redefined as to HA RA SUQ in Order No. 148-M-19, effective May 2, 2023, both redefinitions being coincident with that from Order No. 148-M-1, effective May 28, 2009, as to certain units in the Sibley Field.
A plat is available for inspection in the Office of Conservation in Baton Rouge and Shreveport, Louisiana.
<http://dnr.louisiana.gov/conshearings>
All parties having interest therein shall take notice thereof.

BY ORDER OF:
STEVEN M. GIAMBRONE

OFFICE OF CONSERVATION

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT, IF YOU NEED ASSISTANCE, PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE OF CONSERVATION-ENGINEERING DIVISION AT P.O. BOX 94275, BATON ROUGE, LA 70804-9275 IN WRITING WITHIN TEN (10) WORKING DAYS OF THE HEARING DATE.

May 14, 2025
Minden Press Herald

ADVERTISEMENT INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids are hereby invited by Webster Parish School Board for:
Bid #10-80/2025-26 Food & Supplies

Bid #20-21/2025-26 Milk & Milk Products & Frozen Dairy

Bid #60/2025-26 Bread
Bids will be received no later than 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 9, 2025, at the Webster Parish School Board Child Nutrition Dept, 1442 Sheppard St, Minden, La 71055. After stamping to acknowledge timely receipt, bids will be publicly opened and read aloud by a designated representative of the Webster Parish School Board on Wednesday June 10, 2025 at 9:00 a.m.

Any bid received after this due date and time will not be accepted and will be returned unopened.
Complete bid documents may be obtained at:
Webster Parish School Board
1442 Sheppard St.
Minden, LA 71055.
Bid shall be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked on the outside with:
1. Bidder's name

2. Bid due date
3. Project number/name: Bid 10-80/2025-26
Bid#20-21/2025-26 Milk & Milk Products or
Bid#60/2025-26 Bread

Official bid documents can be made available online at www.centralbidding.com. Electronic bids may be submitted online at www.centralbidding.com. For questions related to the electronic bidding process please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.
Bids must be submitted on the official bid form(s) furnished in the bid package. Bids submitted on any other form(s) will be rejected.
Awards will not be made at the time of the bid opening, but will be awarded by the School Board at a later meeting.
Webster Parish School Board reserves the right to reject, in whole or in part, any and all bids and to waive any and all technicalities and informalities in accordance with state law.

May 14, 21, 28, 2025
Minden Press Herald

ADVERTISEMENT INVITATION TO BID

Sealed bids are hereby invited by Webster Parish School Board for:
Bid #85 Cafeteria Equipment - Large
Bids will be received no later than 9:00 a.m., Thursday, May 30, 2025, at the Webster Parish School Board Child Nutrition Dept, 1442 Sheppard St, Minden, La 71055. After stamping to acknowledge timely receipt, bids will be publicly opened and read aloud by a designated representative of the Webster Parish School Board. Any bid received after this due date and time will not be accepted and will be returned unopened.
Complete bid documents may be obtained at:
Webster Parish School Board
1442 Sheppard St.
Minden, LA 71055.
Bid shall be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked on the outside with:
1. Bidder's name

2. Bid due date/
3. Project number/name: Bid#85 Cafeteria Equipment - Large
Official bid documents are available online at www.centralbidding.com. Electronic bids may be submitted online at www.centralbidding.com. For questions related to the electronic bidding process please call Central Bidding at 225-810-4814.
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Webster Parish School Board reserves the right to reject, in whole or in part, any and all bids and to waive any and all technicalities and informalities in accordance with state law.

May 14, 21, 28, 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, May 2, 2025, at 10:00 a.m. Present were board members Laura Evans, George French, Nancy Hines, Charlotte Dean, and Secretary Savannah Jones. Absent: Ethel Smith (Vacant), Linda Watson

President Laura Evans established a quorum and called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m.

Mrs. Evans asked for any additions to the agenda. There were no additions to the agenda.

Mrs. Evans asked for audience comments. There were no audience comments.

Upon motion by George French, second by Nancy Hines, the minutes of the January 31, 2025 regular meeting were approved as presented. Motion carried.

Upon motion by George French, second by Nancy Hines, the 2025 year-to-date financial report was approved as presented. Motion carried.

Upon motion by George French, second by Charlotte Dean, the 2025 amended budgets were approved as presented. Motion carried.

Upon motion by Nancy Hines, second by Charlotte Dean, the April 25, 2025 Item Surplus List was declared 'Surplus'. Motion carried.

Upon motion by George French, second by Charlotte Dean, it was voted to recommend Linda Reed to fill the vacant position of Ethel Smith (01/24 to 12/28). Motion carried.

Upon motion by George French, second by Charlotte Dean, the Board President was authorized to sign a Cooperative Endeavor Agreement with the Webster Parish Sheriff's Department to transfer surplus furniture housed within the Sarepta Library Branch.

Upon motion by George French, second by Charlotte Dean, the Archival Donation Waiver was approved as presented. Motion carried.

There being no further business, upon motion by Charlotte Dean, second by Nancy Hines, the meeting adjourned at 10:48 a.m.

President
Secretary

Date

May 14, 2025
Minden Press Herald

Whereabouts

LEGAL NOTICE: Rocket Mortgage, LLC f/k/a Quicken Loans, LLC v. Debbie Pearson a/k/a Debbie Pearson Green and JAMES GREEN; Docket No. 82023; 26th Judicial District Court, Webster Parish, Louisiana. JAMES GREEN has been named as a defendant in the above-captioned suit. Anyone knowing the whereabouts of his succession representative or any relatives is asked to contact Attorney Taunton Melville at (318) 200-0897 or TMelville@MelvilleLawFirm.com.

May 7, 14, 2025
Minden Press Herald

Whereabouts

LEGAL NOTICE
Anyone knowing the whereabouts of THOMAS E. SUTTON, whose last known residence was Haywood County, North Carolina, is asked to contact Jack W. Slaid, Attorney- at-Law at (318) 382-1177 or at 219 Main Street, Minden, LA 71055.

May 7,14, 2025
Minden Press Herald

Whereabouts

LEGAL NOTICE
Any person with knowledge or an interest in the estate of MARY LOUISE GLASS SUTTON is asked to contact Jack W. Slaid, Attorney- at-Law at (318) 382-1177 or at 219 Main Street, Minden, LA 71055.

May 7, 14, 2025
Minden Press Herald

Whereabouts

LEGAL NOTICE
Any person with knowledge or an interest in the estate of DELIA BOWEN STEGER is asked to contact Jack W. Slaid, Attorney- at-Law at (318) 382-1177 or at 219 Main Street, Minden, LA 71055.

May 7, 14, 2025
Minden Press Herald

Whereabouts

LEGAL NOTICE
Anyone knowing the whereabouts of DANIEL I. SUTTON, JR. or an interest in the estate of DANIEL I. SUTTON, JR. is asked to contact Jack W. Slaid, Attorney- at-Law at (318) 382-1177 or at 219 Main Street, Minden, LA 71055.

May 7, 14, 2025
Minden Press Herald

Whereabouts

LEGAL NOTICE
Anyone knowing the whereabouts of MARSHAYLA GREENARD whose last known information was in Atlanta, Georgia, is asked to contact Jack W. Slaid, Attorney-at-Law at (318) 382-1177 or at 219 Main Street, Minden, LA 71055.

May 7, 14, 2025
Minden Press Herald

Liquor Permit

We are applying to the Commission on Alcoholic Beverage Control of the State of Louisiana for a permit to sell beverages of low alcoholic content at retail in the Parish of Webster at the following address:
Name of Corporation: WBF Investments 3 LLC
D/B/A: EZ Fuel Stop
Address: 982 Hwy 531, Minden, LA 71055
Title: Member
Printed Name: Mustak Sunesara
Phone # (832)859-5353

May 7, 14, 2025
Minden Press Herald

Liquor Permit

We are applying to the Commission on Alcoholic Beverage Control of the State of Louisiana for a permit to sell beverages of low alcoholic content at retail in the Parish of Webster at the following address:
Name of Corporation: WBF Investments 2 LLC
D/B/A: EZ Fuel Stop
Address: 800 Lewisville Rd, Minden, LA 71055
Title: Member
Printed Name: Mustak Sunesara
Phone # (832)859-5353

May 7, 14, 2025
Minden Press Herald

Liquor Permit

We are applying to the Commission on Alcoholic Beverage Control of the State of Louisiana for a permit to sell beverages of low alcoholic content at retail in the Parish of Webster at the following address:
Name of Corporation: WBF Investments 4 LLC
D/B/A: EZ Fuel Stop
Address: 1403 Sibley Rd, Minden, LA 71055
Title: Member
Printed Name: Mustak Sunesara
Phone # (832)859-5353

May 7, 14, 2025
Minden Press Herald

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals addressed to the Town of Sibley for the construction of Street Improvements (Phase 1) in Webster Parish, Louisiana for the Town of Sibley, hereinafter called "Owner", will be received at the Sibley Town Hall, 345 North Main St. Street, Sibley, LA 71073 on

Tuesday, June 3rd, 2025 @

10:00 a.m. CST

and then publicly opened and read aloud. Any bid received after closing will be returned unopened.

The Contract Documents (including Construction Drawings and Specifications) were prepared by BALAR Associates, Inc., Consulting Engineers, 631 Milam Street, Suite 300, Shreveport, Louisiana, 71101, and may be examined without charge at their office. A full set of Contract Documents (PDF electronic format on CD or USB Drive) may be obtained upon payment of a \$ 25.00. deposit. A PDF electronic format of the Contract Documents may be emailed upon request at no charge.

A cashier's check, certified check, or acceptable Bidder's Bond payable to the Owner in an amount not less than five percent (5%) of the largest possible total for the bid submitted including consideration of alternates, must accompany each bid as a guarantee that, if awarded the contract, the Bidder will promptly enter into a Contract and execute such bonds as may be required. Sureties used for obtaining bonds must appear as acceptable in the Department of Treasury Circular No. 570.

To bid and perform Work covered by these documents, the Contractor must be licensed under Classification II – Highway, Street and Bridge Construction.

The Contractor shall begin mobilization and procurement of materials within ten (10) days of the receipt of the Notice to Proceed.

The Owner reserves the right to reject all bids. Such actions will be in accordance with Title 38 of the Louisiana Revised Statutes.

All bids may be held forty-five (45) days.

Hon. Robert Smart, Mayor
Town of Sibley

April 30, 2024
May 7, 14, 2025
Minden Press Herald

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals addressed to the Town of Sibley for the construction of Street Improvements (Phase 2) in Webster Parish, Louisiana for the Town of Sibley, hereinafter called "Owner", will be received at the Sibley Town Hall, 345 North Main St. Street, Sibley, LA 71073 on

Tuesday, June 3rd, 2025 @ 10:30 a.m.

CST

and then publicly opened and read aloud. Any bid received after closing will be returned unopened.

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All bids may be held forty-five (45) days.

Hon. Robert Smart, Mayor
Town of Sibley

April 30, 2025
May 7, 14, 2025
Minden Press Herald

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Jon Conway & Kevin Crawford

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Kevin (318) 780-0765

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