

MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

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TOURISM

Poladian named new Webster Parish tourism executive director

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Amie Poladian, the current executive director of Springhill Main Street, has been selected as the new executive director of the Webster Parish Convention and Visitors Commission. She will assume her new role on July 1, 2025.

The decision was made during the commission's regular meeting, held Tuesday, May 21. All board members were present except Rachel Miller. All agenda items, including the hiring of Poladian, were approved unanimously following an executive session.

Poladian has served as Executive Director for the City of Springhill since 2023, where she has led downtown business development initiatives and secured partnerships with local businesses, government agencies, and nonprofits. Her efforts in historic preservation and community engagement have contributed to the city's economic growth. Under her leadership, Springhill Main Street was named Business of the Year in 2023 by the Springhill-North Webster Chamber of Commerce.

During her tenure, Poladian managed grant See, **TOURISM**, Page 3

LOCAL LEADERSHIP



Graduates of the Leadership Webster Class of 2025 pose for a group photo following the graduation luncheon held May 20 at the Community House in Minden.

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

The Leadership Webster Class of 2024-25 was honored during a graduation luncheon held at the Community House in Minden on Tuesday, May 20, catered by Geaux Fresh.

Stephanie Barnette, president and CEO of the Greater Minden Chamber, welcomed attendees and expressed appreciation to families, employers, and supporters of the graduates. "While they may have stepped away from the office one day

each month, they were stepping into a deeper understanding of local industries, service, mentorship, and community deeds with one goal in mind: becoming transformational leaders," Barnette said.

She described transformational leaders as those who "dream bigger, reach higher, and see the possibilities where others see limits." She encouraged the graduates to remain connected and continue working together to strengthen the community.

Graduates Katie Tip-

pen and Jason Medcalf delivered remarks reflecting on their experiences in the program. Tippen, a lifelong Minden resident, said, "It really made me appreciate where I come from." Medcalf added, "It's been a real privilege to be able to come here and be part of this program, and really become much more involved in this community."

Guest speaker Pastor Trey Waller of Living Word Minden shared insights on leadership and influence, drawing from personal ex-

perience as a baseball coach. "If you're influencing somebody, you're a leader," Waller said. He recounted a story of a young athlete whose actions influenced teammates, underscoring the responsibility that comes with leadership. "In that moment, that boy realized that he needed to do something with what he had." Waller also referenced leadership principles from the Craig Groeschel Leadership Podcast, stating, "Leaders do consistently what others do occasionally." See, **LEADERS**, Page 3

CRIME

Minden man arrested after standoff; drugs, firearm seized

STAFF REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

A 51-year-old Minden man with multiple drug warrants was arrested on May 19 after a standoff with police in the 600 block of Martin Luther King Drive, according to the Minden Police Department.

Samuel Earl Elkins barricaded himself inside a trailer in the 600 block of Martin Luther King Dr. Monday morning as officers attempted to serve seven active warrants for drug distribution. Police surrounded the residence and made a public address call for Elkins to exit. A woman exited the home and confirmed to officers that Elkins was still inside.

After continued unsuccessful attempts to call Elkins out, officers obtained a search warrant for the residence, which included permission to search for Elkins, narcotics, and firearms. The department's Special Response Team (SRT) was activated and deployed gas into the home twice, but Elkins did not surrender.

Following a warning that a K9 unit would be used, officers entered the residence and located El-

See, **CRIME**, Page 3



ELKINS

EDUCATION

NLTCC celebrates spring 2025 graduation with record number of adult education graduates

KELSEY MESHELL
Special to the Minden Press-Herald

Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College (NLTCC) celebrated its Spring 2025 Commencement Ceremony on May 19th, proudly graduating 181 students.

This year's ceremony was especially significant as NLTCC recognized its largest class of WorkReady U graduates to date. A record 53 students earned their high school equivalency, highlighting the life changing impact of WorkReady U and NLTCC's commitment to supporting learners at every stage of their journey.

Erin Landry, State Director of Adult Education at the Louisiana Community and Technical College System (LCTCS), commended the graduates and their determination. "Watching adult education graduates walk across the stage is always emotional—it represents second chances, renewed hope, and a better future. I'm incredibly proud of the WorkReady U team at NLTCC for supporting students with such dedication and heart. Louisiana has an urgent need for adult education, and NLTCC is showing what's possible when we invest in people and meet them where they are."

WorkReady U at NLTCC provides adult learn-

ers with free instruction, flexible scheduling, and personalized support to help them reach their educational and career goals. Whether students are preparing to enter the workforce, pursue higher education, or set a new example for their families, WorkReady U helps build a strong foundation for lifelong success.

Joni Nelson, Director of WorkReady U at NLTCC, emphasized the significance of seeing students reach this milestone. "We are so proud of all our graduates, but it's especially moving to see our adult education students cross the stage. These individuals have overcome obstacles, shown incredible perseverance, and demonstrated the power of second chances."

As the summer semester approaches, NLTCC remains committed to creating opportunities for every learner. With career-focused training, a wide range of program options, and personalized support, the college helps students reach their goals and prepares them for high-demand, high-wage careers.

The summer semester kicks off May 27th, with fall classes starting August 11th. To learn more about how to apply or explore NLTCC's programs, visit nlccc.edu or call 318-371-3035 to connect with our student services team.

RIBBON CUTTING



Lauryn Cain cuts the ribbon at Little Believers Childcare Center, located at 303 Sibley Road in Minden, during the grand opening ceremony held May 22.

Little Believers Childcare Center open for learning

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

A ribbon cutting was held Thursday morning for Little Believers Childcare Center, a new faith-based daycare facility located at 303 Sibley Road in Minden.

The center is owned by Lauryn Cain and will serve children ages 6 weeks through 4 years old. The facility is currently accepting applications, and organizers said many visitors at the event were filling out enrollment forms. The daycare aims to begin operations by mid-June.

"I just want kids to

grow up knowing the Lord," said Lauryn Cain. "We're just so excited to bless this community and be a light." She added, "Our vision is to educate, care, and encourage kids in a Christ-like calling; we want to push them toward their calling to Jesus."

Cain, who will serve as the center's director, said the daycare will feature security cameras in each room, allowing parents to monitor their children via smartphone throughout the day. The center plans to implement the Frog Street curriculum beginning in August.

"This is a Christian

facility," Cain said. "We will do Bible studies in the classroom, our music will be worship music, and our teachers will pray over these kids."

Cain is a Minden native and a graduate of Louisiana Tech University. Her background includes serving in children's ministry at local churches and teaching kindergarten at Evangel in Shreveport. She described the daycare as both a professional endeavor and a ministry.

For more information, visit the Little Believers Childcare Center Facebook page or call (318) 639-9023.

COMMUNITY

Minden REC offers free week of youth swimming lessons

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

The Minden REC will offer a free week of beginner swimming lessons to youth residents of the City of Minden as part of a six-week summer program.

The lessons, which run from the end of May through mid-July, are available for children ages 5 to 12. The first week of lessons will be free for city residents.

"The City Council, the Minden Recreation Department, and I are committed to ensuring every child's safety and confidence in the water. By teaching our kids to swim, we are building a stronger, safer community. That's why, this year, we're proud to offer free swimming lessons to all Minden resident children ages 5-12," Mayor Nick Cox said.

The REC also offers intermediate- and advanced-level lessons, though these are not included in this special offer.

Registration for the program opens May 27. For more information, visit MindenREC.org or call (318) 371-4235.



COX



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WEBSTER & MORE

EDUCATION

Future line workers showcase skills at NLTCC rodeo

KELSEY MESHELL

Special to the Minden Press-Herald

Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College (NLTCC) held its third Power Line Worker Rodeo on May 15, 2025, at the Shreveport campus. The event celebrated the accomplishments of the graduating class by showcasing their technical skills and training in front of friends, family, and industry professionals.

During the rodeo, students demonstrated a bell change out, switch change out, pin change out, and the crowd-favorite Hurt Man Rescue race. Each exercise tested the students' speed, accu-

racy, and safety—qualities that are critical in the power line industry.

This year's graduating class includes Bryson Baker, Landon Coburn, Koby Copeland, Josh Flowers, Clayton Goodwin, Nathan Peoples, David Weaver, and Grayson Williams.

Led by instructor and AEP SWEPCO alumnus James Barlow, NLTCC's Power Line Worker Program offers students hands-on training and the opportunity to earn industry-recognized credentials such as a Class A Commercial Driver's License (CDL), CPR certification, and more. The program prepares stu-



dents for success in a physically demanding and essential field.

The next Power Line Worker class begins in August 2025. To apply, students must be 18 years

old, hold a valid driver's license, complete a DOT physical, have a high school diploma or equivalent, and be comfortable working at high elevations. A DOT drug screen

is also required, with associated costs covered by the student. For more information, visit nlcc.edu or call 318-676-7811 to speak to a member of the student services team.

NLTCC remains the only provider of line worker training in Northwest Louisiana, offering a unique and rewarding pathway into the utilities industry.

COMMUNITY

Bites & Beats returns to Miller Quarters with food, fun, and live music

AMBER MCDOWN

Minden Press-Herald

Residents gathered at Miller Quarters Park on Monday evening for the return of Bites & Beats, a community event featuring food vendors, family-friendly activities, and a live performance by Monroe-based musician Josh Love.

The event, free to attend, began in the early evening and drew a steady crowd of attendees enjoying mild spring weather. Families and friend groups gathered in the park while children and adults played cornhole.

Josh Love, known for his versatile guitar work and dynamic covers of artists ranging from John

Mayer and Jimi Hendrix to Paramore and ZZ Top, played a crowd-pleasing set. His mix of pop, rock, blues, and R&B covers kept the audience engaged throughout the night.

Food trucks and vendors offered a wide selection of fare, including chicken, hot dogs, Latin cuisine, and fresh lemonade. Alcoholic beverages were also available for purchase.

The relaxed atmosphere and accessible setting made the event appealing to all ages. Organizers hope the Bites & Beats series continues to grow in popularity as more residents experience its blend of entertainment and community connection.



Attendees relax at Miller Quarters Park during the Bites & Beats event Monday evening in Minden. The free event featured food vendors, games, and live music by Josh Love of Monroe.

ARTS

Alligator painting raffle to benefit Cultural Crossroads arts program

AMBER MCDOWN

Minden Press-Herald

A painting of an alligator by well-known local artist Jennifer Heard is being raffled to raise funds for Cultural Crossroads' "Art At The Farm" program.

The painting, described as "quintessentially Louisiana," was donated by Heard, who also serves as an instructor for the

program. The raffle is part of a fundraising effort for The Farm of Cultural Crossroads, supported by a matching grant from the Shreveport Regional Arts Council, the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

Raffle tickets are available online for a \$10 donation per chance or \$50 for six chances.

The winner will be

drawn on Sunday, June 1.

Cultural Crossroads, Webster Parish's only 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization, was established in 1994 by founder Chris Broussard and a group of local business leaders. The organization's mission is to preserve cultural heritage and promote the arts throughout the region. Its roots trace back to 1993 with the inaugural

"Patches and Pictures" event, which celebrated Minden's history and laid the foundation for the organization's ongoing work.

For more information or to get involved, visit Cultural Crossroads' website at www.culturalcrossroadsfominden.org or check out their Facebook page: The Farm of Cultural Crossroads.



An alligator painting by local artist Jennifer Heard is being raffled to benefit Cultural Crossroads' Art At The Farm program.

WEBSTER 4-H

4-H Club hosts meeting for prospective livestock program members

AMBER MCDOWN

Minden Press-Herald

The 4-H Club, sponsored by the LSU AgCenter, held an informational meeting at the Webster Parish Extension Office on May 20 to address questions from students and parents interested in joining the Webster Parish Livestock Program.

"We're always trying to

find kids to show and get that new experience," said John Monzingo, the Webster Parish 4-H Livestock Agent.

Current participants in the program demonstrated how livestock competitions operate and shared their experiences. One brought a hen and another brought a rabbit to illustrate the handling and care involved. They

explained that showmanship competitions emphasize the student's knowledge and ability to care for and present the animal, rather than the animal's pedigree.

Although high-quality animals can be costly, Monzingo said they are not required for participation.

"I'm more concerned with what the child is get-

ting from the program," Monzingo said. "I want them to walk into a show ring and impress that judge with their knowledge, with their ability to take care of an animal. Bring what you've got; we'll learn."

Monzingo emphasized that many in the livestock community are willing to help new members. He provided parents with

contacts of current 4-H livestock participants for further assistance.

Taylor Rayner, one of the youth at the meeting, summarized the spirit of the program: "The whole point of 4-H is not to win or to buckle. It is to have fun."

Monzingo echoed that sentiment, noting that children often form lifelong friendships through

4-H, as he has from his own time in the program.

Regular meetings for the Webster Parish Livestock Program will begin in August. For more information or to register, visit the Webster Parish 4-H Facebook page or contact John Monzingo at the extension office at (318) 371-1371.

WEBSTER & MORE

OBITUARIES



Robert J. (Bobby) Smith

Robert J. (Bobby) Smith, aka “Saint” by his trucking company, sadly passed away on Sunday, May 18, 2025, at the age of 71 with his sister, Sandra and nieces Robin and Lisa by his side. He was born in New Orleans LA on November 7, 1953, to Verna Wale and Orville (Nick) Smith.

Bobby was a lifetime cross country truck driver most of his life. His happiest years were the last 9 spent driving for PMI, owned by his friend, Kerry Bryce. He was awarded with special gifts and awards while with Werner Trucking Co., including his “Million Miles Accident Free” award.

Bobby is preceded in death by his parents, sister, Joe Ann Neilson and brother-in-law Raymond J. Rush, Sr. He is survived by 3 children, Tessa Smith Chabarria,

GA, Janelle Smith Warren (Charles), South Carolina and Brett J. Smith, Minden, LA.

Also survived by 3 grandchildren, Savannah and Ava Warren, South Carolina and Zoe Smith, Minden, LA. Sisters, Sandra Rush, Minden, LA and Pamela Badeaux (Ronald), Mobile, AL. Several nieces, nephews and friends.

Like his first wife said, “He was always true to himself, the real thing, take it or leave it. A good guy.”

Special thanks to ALL the ladies of Passages Hospice. They would come in and explain to him what he needed to do and he’d respond with what HE was going to do. So we really thank them for loving him and taking care of him anyways, like we did.

Bobby is loved and will be missed!

There will be a graveside only service on Saturday, May 31, 2025, at 1:00 PM at Garden of Memories Cemetery in Minden, LA.

In lieu of flowers please make donations to St. Jude’s Children’s Hospital or organization of donor’s choice.



Karla Michelle Thomas

Karla Michelle Thomas was born September 4, 1973, in New Orleans, LA to Bill “BG” Thomas and Margie Kirkley. She was raised by her beloved Uncle Louis Davis aka “Buddy Rup” and Aunt Kitty Davis in Haughton. Karla entered the

arms of Jesus Thursday, May 22, 2025, at her home surrounded by her loving and faithful family. Services were held at Kilpatrick’s Rose Neath Chapel in Minden on Tuesday, May 27, 2025, at 11:00 with visitation beginning at 10:00. Interment followed at Bethel Cemetery in Martin, LA. Officiating was Karla’s cousin Tim Yelvington.

After graduating the Bossier Life-skills Center through Bossier High School in 1995, Karla spent many years in Northwest Louisiana Special Olympics and the Law Enforcement Torch Run, where she not only carried the torch but participated in just about every activity they offered. Her favorite sports were softball, bowling and bocce. Karla won many gold medals and other awards and was named Athlete of the Year. She was the spokesperson for Special Olympics Outreach Program where she boldly spoke in front of 250 people. Karla was overjoyed at the World Games in Connecticut when Tracy Byrd placed her medal around her neck. Karla swore she would never wash the spot he touched ever again. Later, that same evening Karla would get an even bigger thrill when she got to sing on stage with Michelle Wright. She loved to dance and would often attend the formal ball with her friend Sean Paul. Her greatest loves were the Shreveport Mudbugs hockey team and Texas Walker Ranger/Chuck Norris. Chuck Norris was her inspiration to get her 2nd degree Black Belt in Karate. She even loved to refer to herself as Karla Michelle Walker or Mrs. Chuck Norris. Karla worked at Outback Steakhouse where she wrapped silverware and filled salt and pepper shakers. She

was also a member of the Barksdale Bowling League. Through her love of horses she took on the task of training miniature horses in Shreveport. She earned some treasured awards and ribbons at the Texas State Fair thanks to those tiny horses.

Karla never met a stranger. If you knew Karla, then you knew that to be in the same room with Karla always meant a great big hug was coming. She loved to hug. Karla would work a room like a politician, speaking to everyone, even the ones that didn’t want to be spoken to.

Karla was preceded in death by her Uncle Louis Davis, mother Margie Kirkland, Aunt Dorothy Trent, Uncle Coy Trent, Uncle Carl Walker, Cousin Mike Walker and step brother Paul Maxwell.

Karla is survived by her Aunt Kitty Davis, father Bill Thomas (Marlene), brothers Mark Davis (Joy) and Stuart Taylor; sister Sheryl Taylor; Aunt Sue Walker; nephews Jeremy Evans, Stetson Davis (Siobhan), and Chance Maxwell (Mallory); niece Alex Gray (Ben); great nieces and nephews Tucker Evans, Braxton Gray, Jagger Gray, Shelby Gray, Dixie Davis and Magnolia Davis; numerous cousins that Karla called her “favorite people” and best friend Jennifer D’Amato.

Pallbearers will be Karl Cockrell, Ben Gray, Scott Muscutt, Kason Muscutt, Billy Crawford and Bobby Igo III.

Honorary pallbearers will be Claude Reeves, Bobby Igo Jr., Peyton Igo, Karon Garlington, Royce Green, members of Shreveport Mudbugs organization, members of the Law Enforcement Torch Run, and members of LDWE.

The family would like to thank the staffs at the ARC of Caddo Bossier and Passages Hospice in Minden, LA for their compassionate care during Karla’s final days. You guys go above and beyond, and you are truly a blessing. Cheryl Gray and Ashley Lee, you will never be forgotten for all the love you gave Karla. Thank you.

“I have Down Syndrome.
But I am not Down Syndrome.”

Matthew 19:14:
“But Jesus said, ‘Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.’”

AIRPORT GRANT

Cassidy announces \$1.6 million for Louisiana airport improvements: Minden to receive \$585,000 grant

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

U.S. Senator Bill Cassidy recently announced \$1.6 million in funding for airport infrastructure upgrades across Louisiana, with the City of Minden receiving a \$585,000 grant for the construction of a new aircraft hangar.

According to the announcement, the grant awarded to Minden will fund the construction of a 3,600-square-foot sponsor-owned hangar for aircraft storage.

“We’re thrilled about the \$585,000 grant for Minden Airport to build two new box hangars,” said Minden Mayor Nick Cox. “This project is a big step toward making our airport self-sustaining by boosting revenue through aircraft storage. It’s an investment in our commu-

nity’s future, supporting local aviation and economic growth.”

Minden Airport Manager Molly Fowler said the expansion comes at a time of high demand.

“We are excited to receive this grant to build two new box hangars,” Fowler said. “With all thirty of our hangars fully occupied and a waiting list of over twenty people, this expansion marks an exciting step forward in our airport’s growth. These new hangars will not only help us accommodate more aircraft, but they will also contribute to increased revenue and fuel sales, supporting further growth of our operations.”

The funding is being distributed through the Federal Aviation Administration and comes from Cassidy’s Infrastructure



Investment and Jobs Act. In addition to Minden, the grants will support airport improvement projects in Shreveport, Monroe, Vivian, Mansfield, Eunice, and Reserve.

“Communities always want their airports to leave a good first im-

pression,” Cassidy said. “These investments will help them do so. They’ll boost safety, support local economies, and help smaller airports better serve their communities.”

No timeline for the start of construction has been announced.

DEPENDABLE CAREGIVER SEEKING WORK.

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

Leave message if no answer.

TOURISM

Continued from Page 1

proposals, mentored teams, and developed strategic plans to attract and retain businesses in line with Springhill’s goals.

Also during Tuesday’s meeting, the board approved an advertising grant of \$2,000 for A Taste of Market to be held June 7, 2025, and a similar grant for the upcoming Miss Louisiana Volunteer Pageant, which will take place for the first time at the Minden Civic Center this fall.

Other discussions included the hiring of Brianna Savoy of Springhill as a social media manager on a 3-month trial basis and contracting with Beth Ann Falstad as a grant writer to help secure funding for

the Miller Quarters Park project, which requires approximately \$12 million to complete.

Board members also discussed whether to place the next kayak launch at Doerge Landing or Sike’s Ferry, with Doerge Landing emerging as the likely first site. Fallen tree removal in the area was also noted as a necessary step.

The Old City Hall building in Springhill is being considered as a potential site for the parish’s north-end tourism office. The board agreed to have the building inspected before making any further decisions.

The next meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2025, at 8:30 AM at the Greater Minden Chamber of Commerce, 110 Sibley Road.

LEADERS

Continued from Page 1

Lindsay McClaran, board chair of the Greater Minden Chamber Board of Directors, closed the ceremony. “Leadership doesn’t end with a certificate. It begins with the choice to show up and speak out while lifting up others along the way,” McClaran said.

The 2025 graduates are:

Jackson Burns, Caribbean Pool Supply
Joshua Butts, Minden Fire Department
Elizabeth Campbell, City of Minden
Ashlee Drake, City of Minden
Michael Walker, City of Minden
Brittany Harris, Minden Medical Center
Heather Hedgpeeth, Carter Credit Union
Brittany Irby, Jeanne Martin State Farm
Jason Medcalf, LA Army National Guard, Camp Minden
Morgan Monday,

b1BANK
Trevor Parrish, Regions Bank
Derek Peris, Brick Street Coffee
Rebecca Peris, Brick Street Coffee
Brandon Perryman, Perryman Welding
Katie Tippen, Greater Minden Chamber
Becky Wallace, Gibsland Bank & Trust
Leadership Webster is a nine-month program beginning in September and concluding with graduation in May. Participants meet monthly for sessions focused on areas including education, healthcare, economic development, local government, and nonprofit services. The program includes an overnight visit to the Louisiana Legislature and requires attendance at local governmental meetings. For more information, visit the Chamber’s website at greatermindenchamber.com.

CRIME

Continued from Page 1

kins hiding inside. He was arrested without further incident and transported to the Minden Police Department.

A bystander at the scene expressed to an officer that she was impressed with how the arrest was handled without injury to the suspect or officers. The officer responded that the outcome reflected their training and use of available equipment.

During a search of the residence, officers recovered a Samsung phone in a black case, a Lorcin 9mm handgun, nine live 9mm rounds, and three prescription bottles containing mixed pills. All items were found in the bedroom Elkins was occupying.

A criminal history check showed Elkins was previously convicted of illegal use of weapons in a crime of violence and sentenced to five years on June 5, 2020.

Elkins was read his rights, booked on multiple charges, and placed in a holding cell pending transfer to Bayou Dorcheat Correctional Center.

Charges include:

Four counts of Distribution of Schedule I CDS (Synthetic Marijuana)
Three counts of Distribution of Schedule II CDS (Methamphetamine)
Felon in Possession of a Firearm
All subjects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.

CRIME

STAFF REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

A Texas man was arrested May 11 after allegedly consuming two beers at a downtown Minden restaurant and leaving without paying, according to the Minden Police

Texas man arrested for allegedly skipping bar tab

Department.

Around 1:30 PM, several officers eating lunch at a restaurant in the 500 block of Main Street were approached by a staff member who reported that a man had just exited without paying for his drinks. The staff member

directed officers to the man outside the restaurant.

Officers made contact with the man, later identified as Mack Shearman, 42, of Waxahachie, Texas. According to police, Shearman was walking with poor balance and

had a strong odor of alcohol coming from his person. Officers stated that Shearman hesitated before identifying himself.

The employee informed officers that Shearman had consumed one Modelo and one Bud Light at the bar before leav-

ing without paying. Both beers, valued at \$10.13 total, were found empty at the bar where Shearman had been seated. The employee stated charges would be pursued on behalf of the business.

Shearman was arrested and charged with mis-

demeanor theft and disturbing the peace through public intoxication. He was later transported to Bayou Dorcheat Correctional Center after failing to post bond.

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

OPINION

MINDEN
PRESS-HERALD

203 GLEASON STREET
MINDEN, LOUISIANA 71055
318-377-1866
www.press-herald.com
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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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THE MINDEN PRESS-HERALD 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.

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OPINION

The Biden Health Coverup is Unnerving and Dangerous

I didn't intend to address this topic until "reporter" Jake Tapper came out with the promotion of his new book. Not only is what he says transparently hypocritical but the truth he previously attempted to obscure sets a dangerous precedent for America.

Let me recap: any one of us who observed President Biden for much of the last 4 years could recognize he was suffering from some form of mental and physical deficit. We saw him falling up the stairs, walking off from other world leaders in a group photo—requiring one of those leaders to gently grab him by the arm and lead him back to the group, struggling to merely exit a stage from which he had just spoken although there were frequently 3 or 4 well marked exits from which to do so, and regularly and awkwardly losing his train of thought—slurring and stammering in such a way he was simply not able to be understood. We saw it clearly but were attacked and then subjected to world class gaslighting by Biden supporters and the Leftist national "media" when we pointed it out.

Then came the June 2024 debate between President Trump and President Biden and the wheels came off; the lies were completely unmasked when Biden was un-

able to stand at his podium and speak coherently. However, what is astounding is how the Left is incapable of seeing itself in its true light. How it is so often wrapped up in its own fabrication and virtue-signaling that it simply cannot comprehend what average Americans see clearly—that the emperor has no clothes.



ROYAL ALEXANDER

point out that Mr. Biden wasn't up to the job, a praetorian media guard assembled to deny it. We could quote chapter and verse from many media sources, but one example worth citing is none other than Mr. Tapper" with "the CNN host casting doubt on those who cast doubt on Mr. Biden's mental fitness." (WSJ, May 18, 2025).

WSJ concluded its blistering critique of Tapper and major media by stating, "the coverup of Mr. Biden's mental decline will go down as one of the great scandals of

modern politics. By refusing to admit what voters could so clearly see, Democrats denied their party an open primary. Democrats and the press are now appalled by Mr. Trump's second term. They would do better to think upon, and seek contrition for, their own role in making it possible." Ouch.

Tapper has responded as anyone would whose tail feathers were being burned, stating he had found "tremendous humility about my coverage." I laughed out loud. If he had any humility he would never have been so smug and dishonest in the first place.

Broadly though, it makes you wonder who was making presidential decisions.

The presidential autopen scandal is being looked into now. I also recount a story Speaker Mike Johnson has related publicly, and with me privately. It involves a conservation he had with President Biden when Speaker Johnson was at the White House on a different matter. Speaker Johnson pulled President Biden aside and stated something to the effect "Mr. President, may I ask why you imposed the ban on Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) exports ... it's really hurting my state of Louisiana." To which Biden replied, "I didn't do that." Speaker Johnson respect-

fully but firmly pushed back, "Sir, it's happening in my own state. I assure you that you did impose the ban." To which Biden again stated, "I didn't do that." Speaker Johnson was truly taken aback. How could Biden not know he had imposed the ban and how many other things did Biden supposedly do that he had no idea he had done, or did not do himself at all?

This is all disturbing but what is truly worrisome is that an incapacitated Biden could have been called upon to make life and death decisions, perhaps in a crisis involving an Iranian nuclear strike on Israel, for example, or the need to send American troops to war. There are countless grave and dangerous situations with which a president must contend. To think Biden would have been faced with one or more of them in his fragile mental and physical health is alarming.

This coverup needs to be fully exposed and memorialized in hopes this kind of treachery never occurs again.

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

Thoughts on Memorial Day

On Monday, Americans celebrated Memorial Day, a day to remember and honor our veterans who made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of the many freedoms we all enjoy as citizens of this great nation. No matter what anyone says, we should never doubt that we are a great and mighty nation. Furthermore, the United States of America should never have to apologize for defending itself. There are no apologies needed on any soil, foreign or domestic, for our nation being the great and mighty nation that it is. Throughout its rich and storied history, America has always defended itself, as well as many other nations. We are a proud nation and a free nation. To those whom we honor and remember each Memorial Day, we owe an immeasurable and priceless debt that can never be repaid.

Memorial Day is a day that we mourn as a nation. Many people do not realize this. During my youth, I was among them. Back then, I thought of Memorial Day solely as a day of celebration instead of a day of remembrance and mourning. Yes, there is much to cele-

brate. However, remembrance, mourning, and recognition should stand first and foremost in our hearts on Memorial Day.

I pray that we never forget the real reason for Memorial Day. The United States of America is the greatest nation in the world, the greatest nation the world has ever known. There is



RANDY BROWN

absolutely no question about it, and this matter shall never be up for debate. Memorial Day is the day we remember those who put down their own lives to help make our nation great. It has been almost 249 years since our nation declared its independence. Since then, our country has depended on those willing to sacrifice their own lives to protect our immeasurable and priceless freedoms, our way of life. The words "divine" and "providence" are often used together in defining this great nation of

ours. I use the word "ours" with heavy intent. This nation is ours. We should never permit any individual or group to take our nation away from us. This nation belongs to us all.

With that said, we all have rights. Whether or not we like what someone has to say or the cause for which they stand, they have the right to voice their opinion. We all have that freedom, not just a select few who are trying to drive the political spectrum and dialogue in a particular self-serving direction.

I love the word freedom. In this great nation of ours, we are free. Free to speak what we think and feel, free to worship when and where we choose, free to succeed with dedication and hard work, free to associate with whom we choose, free to work where we choose, and much more. These freedoms are a gift—a divine and precious gift from God and, once again, a gift afforded to us by those who made the ultimate sacrifice.

We should never lose sight of the fact that we have to work hard to succeed in striving for the many pleasures and the

way of life that we choose to live. None of us should expect anything to simply be handed to us. Hard work, dedication, and sacrifice, combined with the freedoms mentioned above, help to make our nation great. This is what sets us apart from all other nations.

Traditionally, Memorial Day marks the beginning of summer. Soon, there will be grilling, swimming, vacation travel, and more. Personally, I always look forward to the Indy 500 and Coca-Cola 600 auto races on Memorial Day weekend. But again, there is so much more to Memorial Day than this. There were also several opportunities to attend a local remembrance ceremony on Memorial Day. I hope that you and your family had an opportunity to do so. And I pray that you and your family had a great Memorial Day in remembering those who paid the ultimate price so that we can live our lives in freedom as a part of this great and mighty nation.

RANDY BROWN IS EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT OF SPECHT NEWSPAPERS, INC., AND PUBLISHER OF THE MINDEN PRESS-HERALD.

OPINION

Memorial Day: A Sober Reminder

Memorial Day is a sober reminder of the cost of freedom. Through the centuries, millions of Americans have fought and died for a republic built on the creed that "all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness".

Memorial Day is a collection of stories of courage and stories of loss. It is a day America celebrates great patriots as we grieve great loss of life and human potential. And it is a day we reflect on the values and freedoms that are the result of those sacrifices.

American's have a shared loyalty to the foundation principles in the Declaration of Independence and Constitution. The protection of freedom of speech and association and religious liberty are constant core principles in our country. The separation of powers was developed

to prevent the establishment of a ruling class and authoritarian government. The founders of our country risked their lives to put those ideas into writing during a time when the power of nations was vested only in very few.



PHILLIP ROZEMAN

In America, reasonable people may differ; open discourse is welcomed; dissent is allowed; and equal opportunity is sought. In America, power resides in the free individual; the free exercise of religion is upheld; and our rights emanate from God. America has been described as the "indispensable nation" because it is now and has since its inception been a unique force

of good in the world.

America is not perfect, but it is a nation that always seeks to improve. The abolition of slavery, civil rights, and women's suffrage were perceived as offensive to much of the population at the time these ideas transformed America. These causes and others that have changed America for the better require freedom of speech and open debate.

In the age of McCarthyism in the early 1950's, the courageous Senator Margaret Chase Smith stood up to Senator Joseph McCarthy's corrupt and manipulative "cancel culture" crusade. During Senate hearings, she said "some of the basic principles of America included the right to hold unpopular beliefs and independent thought. Exercising those rights should not cause one single American citizen his reputation or his right to a livelihood, nor should he be in danger of losing his reputation

or livelihood merely because he happens to know someone who holds unpopular beliefs. Who among us does that? Otherwise, none of us could call our souls our own".

Those we honor on Memorial Day died for a free America. They fought for an America built on a foundation of respect for genuine listening, open discourse, and allowable dissent.

All these freedoms are still strong in America but will only stay that way with an active defense by us all. Memorial Day is a day for all of us to reflect on America's past in preserving those human rights. Looking forward, it is a day we reflect on our desire that these rights and freedoms continue for our children and grandchildren.

The antidote to the current hatred, bitterness, and resentment we see too much today is the wisdom of ages. Martin Luther King said in his "I Have a Dream" speech, "we cannot

drink from the cup of bitterness and hatred" ... "we must conduct our struggle in the high plain of dignity and discipline."

The success of a democratic republic demands a moral base. It requires a large helping of God's important commandment of "loving your neighbor as yourself" and the Golden Rule of "doing unto others as you would have them do unto you". This is what so many sacrificed for me, and it is what we must preserve for our children and grandchildren.

DR. ROZEMAN IS A PRACTICING CARDIOLOGIST. HE IS FORMER BOARD CHAIRMAN OF THE GREATER SHREVEPORT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND NW LOUISIANA MEDICAL SOCIETY. HE IS CURRENTLY CO-CHAIR OF BETTER LOUISIANA — A NEW ORGANIZATION UNITING THE LOUISIANA COMMITTEE OF 100 AND COUNCIL FOR A BETTER LOUISIANA.

SPORTS

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETICS/COLUMN

Plenty of highlights in 2024-25 sports year

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

The 2024-25 high school sports year is in the books. Overall, it was a pretty good one for parish schools.

Let's take a look back starting with the fall.

The football season was mostly a success. Two teams, Minden and Lakeside, had major turn-arounds. The Crimson Tide went from 3-8 in 2023 to 8-3 in 2024. The Warriors went from 3-7 to 9-3 under new Head Coach John Ware.

All four teams made the playoffs but Lakeside was the only team that advanced past the first round. The Warriors defeated Bogalusa 37-12 before falling to eventual state champion Sterlington 49-18 in the second round.

Glenbrook went 6-4. Head Coach Reagan Smith stepped down after two seasons. Former Glenbrook Head Coach Greg Tibbitt was hired to replace him.

North Webster went 3-8 under first-year Head Coach Christopher Wilson.

The fall was also notable for the debut of volleyball in the parish with Doyline fielding the inaugural team.

The highlight of the winter sports season was Minden's run to the boys state tournament. The Tide went 21-3 in regular season and finished runner-up to Bossier in District 1-4A. They earned the No. 2 seed in the non-select Division I playoffs.

Minden received a bye in the first round and defeated Belle Chasse 69-32 in the second. The Tide then defeated Franklin Parish 52-44 in the quarterfinals, advancing to the semifinals and state tournament for the first time in 24 years.

The Tide got a rematch against Bossier, but the



DOUGLAS BLOW/SPECIAL TO THE PRESS-HERALD
Minden's run to the non-select Division II semifinals was a highlight of the 2024-25 sports year.

Bearkats came out on top 51-35.

The Doyline boys continued their string of successful seasons, finishing 22-9.

The Minden Lady Tidlers came very close to winning the District 1-4A championship. Minden finished 6-1 in district play, falling to champion Northwood by a single point.

Minden went into the playoffs as the No. 24 seed and upset No. 9 Northwest 57-55 in the first round. The Lady Tidlers fell to No. 8 Bastrop in the second round.

Minden is the only parish team that competes in soccer. The boys and girls teams both made the playoffs and lost to higher seeded teams in the first round.

In the spring, Lakeside won the District 3-2A softball championship and came very close to making it to the state tournament.

The Lady Warriors, who went 26-6, went into the playoffs as the No. 2 seed

in non-select Division IV. They received a first-round bye then defeated Ringgold 17-2 in the second.

The Lady Warriors led Mangham 2-1 through six innings in the quarterfinals and were one strike away from victory in the top of the seventh.

But Mangham scored three runs and went on to win 4-2.

Glenbrook had another very good season. The Lady Apaches went 25-9 and reached the select Division IV quarterfinals, falling to eventual runner-up Opelousas Catholic 3-1.

In baseball, Glenbrook continued its domination of District 1-1A. The district was tougher with the addition of Cedar Creek, but the Apaches claimed the title with a three-game sweep of the Cougars.

Playing against a tough schedule, Glenbrook finished the regular season 15-9 and earned the No. 5 seed in the select Division IV series. But the Apaches

couldn't duplicate their 2024 run to the title game, falling to eventual runner-up Ouachita Christian 7-2 in the second round.

Minden had an up-and-down season, but the Tide made the playoffs and finished with a winning record at 21-16.

Doyline came very close to knocking off No. 3 seed Family Community in the second round of the Class B playoffs, falling 6-5 in eight innings.

North Webster shined in outdoor track and field. The Knights finished fifth in the Class 3A boys meet.

Xaeliin Gladney won the 100 meters and finished second in the 200. He also helped the Knights finish runner-up in the 4X100 relay.

Doyline's Jonas Florence won the discus in the Class B state meet. Minden's Porter Neal was runner-up in the Class 4A boys 400.

That's a wrap on 2024-25. It all starts again in a little over three months.

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Five parish players make All-Region I team

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Five players from parish schools have been named to the Louisiana Baseball Coaches Association All-Region I team.

They are Glenbrook senior pitcher Easton Sanders, Glenbrook senior infielder Jackson Waller, Minden senior outfielder Landyn Huddleston, Doyline senior pitcher Landon (Noah) Spears and Lakeside senior Jon Jon Dick.

The All-Region I team includes players from Northwest Louisiana in all classes. The players selected were nominated by their coaches.

Sanders, a Louisiana Tech signee who also was a first baseman, 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.

Waller batted .357 with seven doubles, two

triples, 10 home runs and 22 RBI.

Huddleston batted .467 with 19 doubles, one triple, three home runs and 29 RBI. He led the Tide in all four categories. Huddleston also had a fielding percentage of .986 with only one error in 70 total chances.

Spears, a Northwestern State signee, had a 1.248 ERA with 125 strikeouts in 67 1/3 innings. He was 7-5 pitching against the Panthers' toughest competition.

In his five-year career, he had a 1.718 ERA with 557 strikeouts in 378 innings.

Dick, who made the team at designated hitter, batted .505 with 12 doubles, five triples and 31 RBI.

Haughton senior Christian Turner, an Arkansas signee, was named Hitter of the Year. Benton senior Thomas Allen, a ULM signee, was named Pitcher of the Year.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Former Minden star Lathan transfers to Northwestern State

JASON PUGH
Northwestern State
Associate Athletic Director
for External Relations

NATCHITOCHES – Former Minden standout Je'Careon Lathan has transferred to Northwestern State.

Lathan, a 6-1, 182-pound senior defensive back, spent the 2024 season at Texas State, recording two tackles in six games. He previously played at Old Dominion and Trinity Valley Community College.

In two seasons at ODU, Lathan appeared in 12 games, recording five tackles. In his lone season at Trinity Valley, Lathan recorded 40 tackles (one for loss), three pass breakups and a blocked kick.

During his prep career at Minden, Lathan was a two-time, first-team

all-district selection who scored 11 touchdowns and recorded three interceptions for the Crimson Tide.

"Je'Careon, like (Southern Miss transfer) Kolbe (Cage), brings some immediate relief in the secondary," NSU second-year Head Coach Blaine McCorkle said. "He and Kolbe are both older players who we expect to make immediate impacts on the back end."

Others joining the Northwestern roster for the upcoming 2025 season are linebackers Kabriel Anderson-Dale (North Texas), Ben Bienvenu (UL Lafayette), Barrett Newman (Liberty), defensive linemen Quintin Cook (Texas Southern), Elijah Sims (Abilene Christian), Cage and kicker/punter Cooper Evans (South Florida).

OUTDOORS

The old man's place revisited

GLYNN HARRIS

(Following is a chapter in my new book, "Fathers, Sons and Old Guns". The book, containing 50 of the columns I have written over the years is available from Amazon.com)

I met the old fellow once way back in the woods as he ground his pick-up to a rattling halt and stopped to chat when he noticed me walking along the woods road, shotgun over my shoulder on my way home from hunting squirrels.

He told me he lived in Texas but that he owned a little piece of land back there in the woods and that he had planned to dam up the little creek on his place and build a pond.

"I've got an old camping trailer I'm going to bring over here so I can have a quiet little place to come on weekends," the old man

said.

The next year as I hunted these woods, I came across the little camper and an old dozer and it was evident that the old guy was true to his word. Dirt had been pushed up along the creek and the dam was indeed taking shape. Having found the site, I'd occasionally swing by the place at the end of my hunting trips to check on the old gentleman's progress.

Better hunting territory beckoned me elsewhere and I soon forgot the old man and his special little spot back in the woods. It was not until some five years later that I recognized his name in the obituary column. Even though I only saw him that one time, I was saddened by the news of his death, regretting that I hadn't gotten to know him better.

Awhile back, I returned to the old man's woods to hunt when I remembered

the camper and the pond. Picking my way along the road, now choked with briars and brush, I stepped into a little clearing at the base of the dam. Relieved that the earthen levee had withstood recent floods, I threaded my way through the thicket that had grown up on the dam. My vision was obscured by the brush and I didn't see the little trailer until I was almost on it.

I stopped and remembered – it had been at least five years ago that the old man had parked the camper under the big beech across the dam. It was still there just as he had left it when he returned to Texas for the last time, not knowing he'd ever again sit under the beech in the cool of the evening to drink in the wild sounds of an uncluttered forest a mile from civilization.

Peering through the window of the trailer, the

scene I saw told a story in itself. Although spider webs and dust had created a lacy veil over everything, I had the eerie feeling that the old man had just stepped out back for a moment and would be coming down the trail at any minute. I resisted the strange urge to knock and call out to him.

There was an open jar of mustard on the cabinet, spider webs clinging to a skillet on the stove, a plate on the dining table. To the rear was a bed with a crumpled quilt let in disarray when he crawled out for the last time one morning five years ago.

I walked away with the feeling of reverence; a sense of peace. The old man's hideaway had become as much a part of the wild woodlands as the silvery beech beneath which it sits in decay.

Sir, may you rest in peace...

Fishing Report

BUSSEY BRAKE – Bass have been good with some fish over 10 pounds caught on soft plastics and spinners. Crappie are on the flats suspended 4 feet in 12 foot water and are fair on shiners or jigs. The bream are bedding around the edges of the brush. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole at 323-8707.

OUACHITA RIVER – High water. Some bass caught in river lakes. Others are slow. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE D'ARBONNE – Bass are scattered with

some along banks early on topwater lures and some on the secondary points on crank baits, spinners and Rapalas. Crappie are suspended 8 feet in 14 foot water and taking jigs and shiners. 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 CLAIBORNE – 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 – Bass have moved up around the grass and Texas rigged plastic worms are taking some fish around the boat docks as well as on secondary points using crank baits. Some schooling activity is being noted with fish hitting shad imitations. Crappie are around the deep tops and jigs and shiners are taking some. Bream both chinquapins

and bluegills are on the beds and hitting crickets and worms. 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 are best bets this week. Bass and crappie are fair. For information, contact the marina at 318/878-0101.

LAKE YUCATAN – The water is high but on a slow fall. Still too high for fishing. For info call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.



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

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



Xaeliin Gladney
North Webster, Sr.

Gladney won the 100 meters and finished second in the 200 in the Class 3A state meet earlier this month 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.



Good News

GOOD NEWS

A Time To Say “Good-bye”

In this world, it is true – “you only live once”; but also true is the statement: “you only die once.” So, when should we begin planning for this special event? With so many of our family and friends ‘passing on,’ we all are more aware of our need to put some final plans together than ever before. If we have learned one thing over past two years (Covid-19) it is this: tomorrow is not promised; life is fleeting; here today – gone tomorrow! The door to the end of life’s tunnel is nearer today for each of us than it has ever been. Each day many friends, family members and acquaintances ‘walk through the gate in life’s wall and enter eternity.’ Who knows, we may be next on the ‘grim reaper’s list?’

in the book – You Only Die Once, Margie Jenkins offers many thoughtful hints on how to prepare for this eternal destiny. Consider these thoughts as you begin to make your Preparation Notebook: Do it right; It is a wonderful gift to give your family; My cherished possessions - what shall I do with them,

writing my biography for the grandchildren, and planning your ‘going away party.’

With Memorial Day right around the corner, many folks will gather at the cemeteries where loved ones are buried to remember them with special programs, lunch with other families there and lay plans to perpetuate care for the graves of their loved ones. My guess is, that few of them were buried with ‘all the strings tied to their liking’ before they died.

Now before you decide this is too grim for you to do, think back through these suggestions and ponder how much this would have helped you and your siblings if your parents had put left you some of these details in print. Think about what a blessing it would be to have a detailed biography of your grandparents and their days of childhood, passed on by your parents; some

fun times they remembered and wanted your children to know about. Well, unless someone sits down and writes such notes, date them and compile it in some kind of order, all of this is lost to posterity....it is gone with the wind.

Remember when family members died suddenly and no one knew about insurance, whether or not burial plots or burial insurance or funeral plans had been made? So many details we have to face at the most emotionally draining time in life – and we don’t know what to do, where to turn for answers or cost involved!

Your attorney or financial planner can help you begin with a will, some directives, insurance, burial plans, estate planning, and other details. This really is a gift we give ourselves and our family. With chosen Bible passages, hymns or other music for the service,

ministers and pall bearers in writing, one can relax some and know that some of the desires of the deceased will be honored. This gives the family great release from having to guess-work with such details.

Now, with all in your hands, or the safety deposit box, or in the hands of your attorney, we can relax and face our last days with a peace of mind. We can release the anxiety of what a family deals with when ‘death knocks on the door’ unexpectedly or when it is inevitable due to long-term illnesses.

There have been some funerals I have helped with where such things, like those mentioned above, have all been set in place, even down to the music and Scripture to be read and preached. One such service I remember had time allotments for each person involved. He knew that this would at least help in controlling the length of the service, due to winded speakers. Ha.

Whatever one does NOW in preparing for THEN will be seen

as a GIFT to the family. Also, it will help the planner seek DIVINE LEADERSHIP in all areas of life as he/she approaches the final stage. Fear of dying can be lessened by proper planning. Of course, as believers we know that God’s perfect love casts out fear – of death and of eternity. Jesus covered all these cares by His victory over death. He brought reassurance to our faith by His resurrection. And He will make all things new – even our resurrected body when we meet Him in that great reunion in glory.

Let’s run the race before us, looking to Him for guidance through these trying times as we head to the finish line. He will guide us as we seek to live these last days, facing death with a smile on our faces. I dare you to attack this project and allow God to walk you through this special assignment, knowing it is a gift you are giving yourself and your family. May our Heavenly Father be glorified.

BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER



Bill Crider

THE UPWARD LOOK

Hope During a Dark Night

“Let me hear Thy lovingkindness in the morning; For I trust in Thee; Teach me the way in which I should walk; For to Thee I lift up my soul.” Psalm 143:8 NASB



Max Hutto

In the darkest night of despair and difficulty, what brings us hope? David writes this Psalm while being persecuted by his enemy. During the gloomy night he longed for the presence of God. He yearned to experience God’s faithful, steadfast, unfailing, love and kindness in the morning. He trusted God to see

him through the darkness and into the light of day. David desired to know and follow God’s ways. He sought direction and guidance from God as he sincerely called to Him in prayer.

Lord Jesus, in the midst of gloom and despair, I find hope in You. Fill me with Your love, mercy, and grace as I seek to follow Your way.

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

INSPIRATION

No Greater Love

We began this week in memoriam of those that sacrificed their lives for our freedoms. I would like to start this writing by saying thank you

to anyone who has made that sacrifice. While I was driving to work on Monday I couldn’t help but compare the sacrifices of our troops to the sacrifice that Christ made for us. Just like a soldier Christ stepped in for

our defense knowing that death, pain, and the grave were a strong possibility. This sacrifice is the greatest gesture of love that can be made. As a matter of

fact Jesus exclaimed this in John 15:13 “There is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends.” Jesus not only

called us his friends but he did so without any reason to other than love. That is why in closing this week’s article I would like to encourage everyone to reflect on the sacrifices made for their lives and freedom.



Bernard Harris

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

Come

WORSHIP



FIRST
ASSEMBLY OF GOD
MINDEN

How can we pray for you?

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
301 Pennsylvania Avenue • Minden, LA

Maximum residual disinfectant level (MRDL) – The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary for control of microbial contaminants.

Maximum residual disinfectant level goal (MRDLG) – The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Level 1 Assessment – A study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system.

Level 2 Assessment – A very detailed study of the water system to identify potential problems and determine (if possible) why an E. coli MCL violation has occurred and/or why total coliform bacteria have been found in our water system on multiple occasions.

During the period covered by this report we had the below noted violations.

Compliance Period	Analyte	Type
6/30/2024	CONSUMER CONFIDENCE RULE	CCR REPORT

Our water system tested a minimum of 2 sample(s) per month in accordance with the Total Coliform Rule for microbiological contaminants. With the microbiological samples collected, the water system collects disinfectant residuals to ensure control of microbial growth.

Disinfectant	Date	HighestRAA	Unit	Range	MRDL	MRDLG	Typical Source
CHLORINE	2024	1.4	ppm	0.11 - 2.34	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes

In the tables below, we have shown the regulated contaminants that were detected. Chemical Sampling of your drinking water may not be required on an annual basis; therefore, information provided in this table refers back to the latest year of chemical sampling results.

The State of Louisiana regularly monitors source water per State and Federal Regulations. Treated water samples are monitored to further evaluate compliance.

Source Water Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
FLUORIDE	4/10/2024	0.2	0.2	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Treated Water Regulated Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source

NITRATE-NITRITE	4/10/2024	0.1	0.1	ppm	10	10	Runoff from fertilizer use; Leaching from septic tanks, sewage; Erosion of natural deposits
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Source Water Radiological Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
COMBINED RADIUM (-226 & -228)	4/10/2024	0.631	0 - 0.631	pCi/l	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS BETA PARTICLE ACTIVITY	4/10/2024	0.873	0 - 0.873	pCi/l	50	0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
RADIUM-228	4/10/2024	0.631	0 - 0.631	PCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits

Lead and Copper	Date	90TH Percentile	Range	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
COPPER, FREE	2023 - 2024	0.5	0 - 0.7	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
LEAD	2023 - 2024	2	0 - 4	ppb	15	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits

Disinfection Byproducts	Sample Point	Period	Highest LRAA	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAAS)	ADKINS AND WEST ROAD	2023 - 2024	4	3.9	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAAS)	HWY 160 AND COX ROAD	2023 - 2024	6	6.3	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
THM	ADKINS AND WEST ROAD	2023 - 2024	14	14.1	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
THM	HWY 160 AND COX ROAD	2023 - 2024	26	26.1	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Source Secondary Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	SMCL
CHLORIDE	4/10/2024	34	26 - 34	MG/L	250
HARDNESS, TOTAL (AS CaCO3)	4/10/2024	10.2	6.1 - 10.2	MG/L	0
IRON	4/10/2024	0.03	0.03	MG/L	0.3
PH	4/10/2024	8.21	8.07 - 8.21	PH	8.5
POTASSIUM	4/10/2024	1.7	1.5 - 1.7	MG/L	0

SODIUM	4/10/2024	116.2	113.5 - 116.2	MG/L	0
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Treated Secondary Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	SMCL
IRON	4/10/2024	0.03	0.03	MG/L	0.3

Unresolved significant deficiencies that were identified during a survey done on the water system are shown below.						
Date Identified	Facility	Code	Activity	Due Date	Description	
3/6/2024	MAIN STREET PLANT	200T1 01	GWR ADDRESS TT45 DEFICIENCIES	6/15/2024	LAC S1.XII.319.D.24 - System shall ensure that no critical water system component is in poor condition or defective.;	
3/6/2024	MAIN STREET PLANT	200T1 01	GWR APPROVED CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN	11/15/2025	LAC S1.XII.319.D.24 - System shall ensure that no critical water system component is in poor condition or defective.;	

*****Environmental Protection Agency Required Health Effects Language*****
Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate means to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbial contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline (800-426-4791).

Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and young children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. COTTON VALLEY WATER SYSTEM is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact COTTON VALLEY WATER SYSTEM and BRUCE LEE BUS Phone: 318-832-4283. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure is available at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/lead>.

There are no additional required health effects notices.

There are no additional required health effects violation notices.

Thank you for allowing us to continue providing your family with clean, quality water this year. In order to maintain a safe and dependable water supply we sometimes need to make improvements that will benefit all of our customers.

We at the COTTON VALLEY WATER SYSTEM work around the clock to provide top quality drinking water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect and conserve our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life, and our children's future. Additional information on the water system can be found at www.lvh.la.gov/watergrade. Please call our office if you have questions.

May 28, 2025
Minden Press Herald

PUBLIC NOTICE

Minden Planning Commission Meeting

June 5, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.

Pelican Room - Minden City Hall

On the agenda is a request from New Cingular Wireless PCS (option holder for lease) for approval to build a 195' self-support telecommunications tower with 4' lightning rod and associated structures on property owned by Ronald and Norma Semmes located at 252 Shirley Drive. The property is zoned R-2 (Residential).

Legal Description: 24 ACRES - TRACT 943.93 X 295.35 X 310 X 140 X 50 X 434.22 X 715.03 X 1.72 X 216.59 X 63.86 X 191.87 X 1,174.26 FT. IN SW/4 SEC. 16-19-9

All interested parties will be given a chance to be heard.

May 21, 28, 2025
June 4, 2025
Minden Press Herald

Public Notice

Cotton Valley Cemetery Association, Inc. Annual Meeting will be held June 5, 2025, 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall, First Baptist Church, 120 Baptist Drive, Cotton Valley, LA.

May 21, 28, 2025
June 4, 2025

Minden Press Herald

Advertisement for Bid

Webster Parish Police Jury
401 Main Street --- P.O. Box 389
Minden, Louisiana 71058-0389
Phone# 318-377-7564 Fax# 318-371-2366
lbalkom@suddenlinkmail.com

May 8, 2025

INVITATION FOR BID

The Webster Parish Police Jury solicits sealed bids for the following:
2026 MV607 SBA (MV607) Truck (equal to or greater than)

The bid must be in the hands of the undersigned no later than 2:00 p.m., Wednesday, June 18, 2025 at the Courthouse House Annex 401 Main Street, Minden, Louisiana 71055. The bid form and specification sheets are available at no charge in the office of the Secretary-Treasurer, Webster Parish Policy Jury. Successful bids will be approved at the Regular Meeting, Webster Parish Police Jury on July 1, 2025.

The Webster Parish Police Jury is a tax-exempt governmental agency.

The Webster Parish Police Jury abides by the requirements of the Louisiana Bid Law.

ALL BIDS SUBMITTED MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED.
Webster Parish Police Jury – “BID ENCLOSED”

The Webster Parish Police Jury is a tax-exempt governmental agency. The Webster Parish Police Jury complies with the State of Louisiana Public Bid Law as stated in LA R.S. 38:2211. The Webster Parish Police Jury reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive informalities or to accept the bid, which may best serve its interest.

Lisa Balkom
Secretary- Treasurer

May 21, 28, 2025
June 4, 11, 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. 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

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

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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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