

MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

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GOM 2025

Grilling on Main brings big crowds and local wins to downtown Minden

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Downtown Minden was filled with the sound and smell of sizzling meat over the weekend as Grilling on Main brought barbecue lovers, music fans, and community members together for a packed two-day celebration.

The annual event kicked off Friday evening with live music, vendors, and fireworks, and continued through Saturday with a full schedule of competitive cooking. A pop-up thunderstorm briefly interrupted festivities on Saturday, but the weather didn't keep crowds away.

"We had an amazing turnout. Weather was a concern, but we made it," said event organizer Brian Meeker. "We had over 800 people participate in People's Choice. That's amazing; that's the biggest that's been here ever. Like double."

Little Grillers showcase young talent

One highlight of Friday night's events was the Little Grillers competition, which gave

youth ages 6-18 the opportunity to fire up the grill and show off their culinary skills. Divided into Junior (ages 6-12) and Senior (ages 13-18) divisions, contestants were each provided with two 1-inch thick pork loin chops, a grill, and all necessary supplies. Event sponsor Ace Hardware supplied the gear, and Hugh Wood Catering and Specialty Meat supplied the chops.

Competitors were required to do all cooking and preparation independently, with only limited assistance allowed to help start the fire.

In the Junior Division, Triton Kirkland took first place, with Taylor Watkins in second. In the Senior Division, Emerson McLelland earned first place, and Raeley McNeil placed second.

Community-centered competition

This year marked the first time Grilling on Main dropped Barbecue Competitors Alliance (BCA) sanctioning. The change, according to organizers, was made to focus more on the local

community and keep prize money in the region.

"This is a local competition. We're having fun. We're hanging out. We're doing the backyard thing, and the money's going back to y'all," Meeker said.

A \$1,500 grill donated by Traeger and Ace Hardware was raffled off during the weekend. The winner was Reggie, a recent transplant to Haughton from Virginia.

People's Choice Winners:

1st - The Roosters
2nd - Rouxgoroux
3rd - Bearded Que

The first-place team received a light-up commemorative Grilling on Main sign and \$1,000.

Meat Category Winners:

Chicken:
1st - The Long Shots
2nd - Rouxgoroux
3rd - Low and Slow

Ribs:
1st - Rouxgoroux
2nd - The Roosters
3rd - Parts to Parts

Brisket:
1st - The Roosters

See, **GRILL**, Page 3



AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTOS

Crowds gathered in downtown Minden for the annual Grilling on Main event, featuring live music, local vendors, competitive barbecue, and family-friendly fun.

COMMUNITY

KTBS Community Caravan wraps up successful visit in Minden

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

The KTBS 3 Community Caravan wrapped up a weeklong visit to Minden on Thursday, highlighting local culture, cuisine, and community stories.

The Caravan began Monday, June 9, with visits to the Dorcheat Museum and downtown Minden, where KTBS staff met with residents and explored the city's historic charm.

On Tuesday, El Santito Mexican Restaurant was featured on Rick Rowe's "Tasty Tuesday" segment. The downtown eatery, known for its Latin, Mediterranean, and Mexican dishes, received regional attention during the televised spotlight.

The Germantown Colony Museum was the focus of Wednesday's visit, offering viewers a look at one of Webster Parish's

key historic sites.

Thursday began with a 5:30 AM grilling event on Main Street, followed by breakfast and ice cream at Shug's. KTBS also visited The Farmer's Daughter boutique and Hers Bridal, adding to the day's local coverage.

The week concluded with a community lunch at Orleans on Main Bistreaux. Residents were invited to meet KTBS staff and share what they love about Minden. Some of those comments aired during KTBS's evening newscasts.

The KTBS 3 Community Caravan visits towns across the ArkLaTex each month, bringing on-air personalities and production staff to spotlight the people and places that define the region.

The Minden episode is available for viewing at ktbs.com/community/community_caravan.



AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO
Rick Rowe visits Orleans on Main Bistreaux during the KTBS 3 Community Caravan. The Caravan spent the week highlighting local landmarks, restaurants, and community members throughout Minden.

ST. JUDE FUNDRAISER

Rain can't stop turnout for Stanton Haynes St. Jude Diamond Open

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Despite thunderstorms on Saturday, the eighth annual Minden St. Jude Diamond Open went forward this past weekend with strong participation and community support, raising funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in memory of Stanton Haynes.

The tournament, held June 14-15 and sponsored by Town & Country Health & Rehab of Minden, was impacted by rain but still drew teams and supporters for a successful weekend of youth baseball and softball.

"I would like to thank everyone who came out and helped — and all the teams that came and played," said tournament organizer Jeff Haynes. "We rained out on the first day but still had a good weekend for St. Jude thanks to my title sponsor Town and Country Health



AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

Young athletes take the field during the Minden St. Jude Diamond Open, held June 14-15 in memory of Stanton Haynes. Despite rain delays, the tournament brought together baseball and softball teams to raise funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital.

and Rehab!"

This year marked the first inclusion of a softball division in the tournament. The girls' games were held at Cantrell Fields in Shreveport and

concluded Sunday with a strong turnout.

Haynes plans to announce the total raised during this event at the next Minden St. Jude Auction. In memory of Stan-

ton Haynes, this annual tournament continues to grow, uniting the community for a cause that supports children and families fighting serious illness.



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WEBSTER & MORE

EDUCATION

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

The nonprofit organization 22 Hands Up hosted a tour of Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College (NLTCC) on June 2, offering middle and high school students a closer look at the college's available programs.

Participants were introduced to courses in industrial instrumentation, electrical technology, practical nursing, and welding. Students had the opportunity to speak with instructors and administrators about curriculum, tuition costs, and program expectations.

Following the tour, attendees enjoyed a meal and fellowship.

22 Hands Up aims to foster a commitment to all young people that pro-

Students tour NLTCC with nonprofit 22 Hands Up

motes prosocial behavior, strong interpersonal skills, and a sense of hope for their future. The organization focuses on building personal relationships that encourage responsibility and support youth as they transition into adulthood with pride and accomplishment.

The nonprofit was developed in response to the increasing number of young people struggling in school or entangled in the juvenile court system. It identifies youth in need of support and provides positive reinforcement to help them avoid pitfalls and make constructive life choices.

For more information about 22 Hands Up, contact Executive Director Darrell Hampton at (318) 268-2223.



AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

Students participate in a tour of Northwest Louisiana Technical Community College, hosted by the nonprofit 22 Hands Up, to learn about academic programs and career opportunities.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Road dispute raises concerns over industrial access near I-20

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

A Webster Parish property owner is questioning the state's plans for a roadway that services several industrial businesses along westbound Interstate 20, raising concerns about access, maintenance, and long-term investment potential.

Craig Watson of Impressions Advertising, who purchased the property adjacent to the road in 2020, said he has been working to resolve the status of the heavily used access route, which is currently covered in crushed asphalt. The property, home to businesses such as Ram Z and Silver Logis-

tics, sees daily traffic from semi-trucks and heavy equipment. However, drivers have reported vehicle damage, and Watson said the road's condition is deteriorating due to its industrial use.

Watson wants Webster Parish to take over and maintain the road through the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development's Road Transfer Program, which allows parishes and municipalities to assume control of certain roadways in exchange for state road credits. According to the program, the aim is to "right-size" the highway system by reducing the number of miles managed by the state and

enhancing local government autonomy.

Watson believes the parish could benefit from approximately \$900,000 in road credits through the program and better address maintenance needs for what he describes as a critical industrial corridor.

"I don't want them to do this for Craig Watson; I want them to do it for Webster Parish," said Watson. He noted that he pays nearly \$20,000 annually in property taxes and is aware of investors willing to commit more than \$25 million in development if the road issue can be resolved.

Despite presenting the proposal to the Webster

Parish Police Jury, Watson said the outcome was not what he anticipated. Instead of the parish acquiring the road, he said he received a letter from the state outlining plans to realign the roadway into a 40-foot right-of-way, which he interprets as a single-lane road.

Watson believes this plan would hinder access for the approximately 70 people working on the property and fall short of industrial requirements. He cited Louisiana's minimum roadway width of 65 feet for industrialized areas and expressed concern that the state's proposal would not accommodate the size and weight of regular traffic in

the area.

However, according to the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development, the proposed road will consist of 12-foot-wide travel lanes with 4-foot-wide shoulders and will be built to current construction standards. The project, estimated to cost \$2.5 million, is scheduled to go to bid in September 2025. Construction is expected to begin roughly three months after the contract is awarded and should take 6 to 9 months to complete.

The department confirmed that the work will take place within the existing state right-of-way and is not expected to

require the use of private property. It also stated that the completed road will be suitable for industrial traffic, including heavy trucks and construction equipment.

Watson remains unconvinced, saying the proposed specifications are not sufficient for the type of use the road sees daily. He also voiced concern about the potential relocation of utilities if the road is altered under the state's plan.

The situation remains unresolved as Watson continues to advocate for local control, which he argues would better serve both the parish and the businesses operating along the corridor.

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WEBSTER & MORE

CRIME

Man arrested after alleged vehicle theft, dragging incident on Rayner Road

STAFF REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

A Minden man was arrested after reportedly stealing cash from a vehicle and dragging the vehicle’s owner down a driveway while fleeing the scene. According to the Webster Parish Sheriff’s Office, a deputy was dispatched around 1 PM on June 9 to the 200 block of Rayner Road in response to a theft complaint. Upon arrival, the complainant

was observed with apparent injuries, including blood and scratches on both knees and a scratch on her right hand. Deputies noted rutted tire tracks leading from the area near the complainant’s vehicle to the roadway. The complainant told deputies she witnessed 57-year-old Daniel Wayne Hair enter her vehicle, search her purse, and take \$384 in cash. She reported that as Hair attempted to leave in a Honda Pilot, she grabbed

the door handle. He then allegedly drove off, dragging her down the dirt driveway and causing her injuries. Deputies made contact with Hair at his residence in the 300 block of Lorex Road. He stated he had not left home that day and that no vehicles had departed from the property. However, deputies found a Honda Pilot in the driveway with an engine that was hot to the touch. A second vehicle parked beside it in the

same unshaded area had a noticeably cooler engine compartment. Hair’s girlfriend confirmed to deputies that he had left the residence in the Honda approximately one hour prior to their arrival. Hair was transported to the parish jail and booked on charges of simple burglary and reckless operation. *All subjects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

CRIME

Man arrested in domestic violence incident reported on Constable Street

STAFF REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

A Minden man was taken into custody June 5 in connection with a domestic violence incident that occurred earlier the same day on Constable Street. According to Minden police, officers observed Jeremy Clark standing near the intersection of Clerk Street and Constable Street at approxi-

mately 9:15 PM. Clark was wanted in relation to a domestic incident for which complaints had been filed. He was taken into custody without incident, advised of his rights, and transported to the Minden Police Department for booking. Earlier that day, officers responded to Louisiana Probation and Parole on Industrial Road, where a woman reported being physically assaulted by Clark, her boyfriend. The

victim told police that Clark, 32, became verbally and physically aggressive during an altercation. She stated he slapped her in the face and threw water on her. When she attempted to defend herself by throwing a board at him, Clark reportedly picked it up and threw it back, striking the back of her head and causing bruising and swelling. The victim also told police she fired a BB gun at Clark twice during the

altercation after he continued to throw objects at her. Officers noted visible bruising on her chest, arms, and legs. A previous incident involving the same individuals had been reported on May 17. Clark was transported to the Minden Police Department and booked in connection with the incident. *All subjects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

CRIME

West Monroe man arrested after disturbance at Minden restaurant

STAFF REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

A West Monroe man was arrested late after allegedly refusing to leave a local restaurant and resisting arrest, according to Minden police. Officers were dispatched to El Santito Restaurant around 10:15 PM on June 9 in reference to an intoxicated individual who would not leave the premises after

being asked several times by employees. Upon arrival, officers made contact with Elijah Kojdecki, 24, inside the restaurant. Police reported that Kojdecki appeared unsteady on his feet, had bloodshot eyes, and was leaning against a wall for balance. When asked to step outside, Kojdecki allegedly refused and assumed a fighting stance toward officers. Officers gave additional

verbal commands, which Kojdecki reportedly continued to ignore. As an officer attempted to take hold of his right arm, Kojdecki pulled away and grabbed the officer’s vest, knocking the officer’s body camera to the floor. Police then took control of his left arm and placed him against the wall in an attempt to handcuff him. Kojdecki continued to resist during the arrest process, according to the report.

While being escorted out of the restaurant in handcuffs, Kojdecki again pulled away from officers and fell into a table along the east wall. He was then placed into an escort position and transported to a police unit. Kojdecki was booked on charges of remaining after forbidden and resisting an officer. *All subjects are considered innocent until proven guilty in a court of law.*

VOLUNTEER

LaMa Animal Rescue in urgent need of volunteers

SPRINGHILL, La. — LaMa Animal Rescue, a newly opened shelter serving Webster Parish, is calling on the community for help as it faces a growing need for volunteers amid a surge in rescued animals. The organization currently cares for more than 130 animals and is struggling to keep up after responding to two major hoarding cases within the past three months. Despite limited staff and resources, LaMa took in the animals and helped many recover and find new homes. “Our team may be small, but our mission is big,” shelter organizers said. “Every set of desperate eyes we rescue is a promise to do better—for them and for our commu-

nity.” Founded on compassion and responsibility, LaMa’s mission extends beyond sheltering animals. It focuses on healing, adoption preparation, and educating the public about responsible pet ownership and the importance of spay and neuter programs. However, the recent expansion of their shelter has brought even more demands. Volunteer Opportunities Available LaMa welcomes volunteers of all ages and availability. Opportunities include: Cleaning kennels and maintaining hygiene Walking and socializing dogs Grooming animals Organizing supplies

and shelter upkeep Assisting with fundraising events Promoting responsible pet care in the community The shelter also needs individuals with specialized skills, such as photography, writing, construction, or grant writing. High Stakes Without Help Each year, LaMa helps save and rehome more than 1,000 animals, many through partnerships with organizations in the eastern United States. Yet for every animal rescued, many more are turned away due to lack of funding, space, or volunteers. “Without action, our community could see thousands of stray, starving, and sick animals on the streets,” organizers

said. “It’s not just an animal welfare issue—it’s a public safety and community health issue.” Unspayed and unneutered animals remain a critical concern. One unspayed female dog and her offspring can produce up to 67,000 dogs in six years. The numbers are even higher for cats. A Call to Action Organizers say no contribution is too small. “Maybe you can’t foster or adopt, but you can walk a dog. Maybe you can’t donate, but you can clean a kennel or simply offer a caring hand,” they said. To volunteer or learn more, visit LaMa Animal Rescue on social media or email lamavolunteers@gmail.com.

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Leave message if no answer.

GRILL

Continued from Page 1

- 2nd – Shake a Bone
- 3rd – Allen Smokey Pig

Each top-three finisher in the meat categories received prize money — \$500 for first, \$250 for second, and \$125 for third — along with a limited edition, signed and numbered print by Kimberly Mandino of Birdie Lu Designs. Organizers plan to feature a different local artist each year.

Grand Champion Results:

- 1st – The Long Shots (\$4,000 and a championship belt)
- 2nd – The Roosters
- 3rd – Minden Rocks

Minden Main Street Executive Director Sarah Overall credited the strong turnout and

smooth execution to teamwork and community support. “It was a huge success with a great turnout Friday night and again today to taste the BBQ,” Overall said. “It takes a huge effort from multiple groups of people to put on an event like this so thank you to those involved with planning and executing the event!” She recognized Main Street board chairman Shawn Hatcher and board members Brian Meeker and Jordan Cupples, along with Red Wolf Media, as key planners. Board members Claudine Adams, Kathy Cropper, Kasi Kendrick, and Tamra Welchins were also instrumental in the planning and execution.

RAFFLE

Alligator painting raffle raises funds for arts; damaged artwork repaired before winner drawn

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

A fundraising raffle for a painting by local artist Jennifer Heard took an unexpected turn after the artwork was briefly damaged by wind, but repairs were completed in time for the drawing, held on June 9. Catherine Hunt was named the winner. The painting, which depicts a Louisiana alligator, was created and donated by Heard to support Cultural Crossroads’ Art At The Farm program. The raffle was part of a fundraising effort backed by a matching grant from the Shreveport Regional Arts Council, the Louisiana Office of Cultural Development, and the National Endowment for the Arts. While on display, the artwork was damaged after wind knocked it over when a volunteer briefly stepped away. “That means it will be repaired OR we will get a new one painted after Jennifer has time to assess the damage,” Cultural Crossroads stated in a Facebook post at the

time. Heard later confirmed via social media that the painting had been successfully repaired. “She’s all fixed up! I’m pretty happy with the results of this repair and while I enjoyed the heck out of this process, I’m not sure I will be offering this service to the public anytime soon,” she wrote. The drawing was delayed to June 9 to allow more time for ticket sales following the incident. The final restored version was awarded to Hunt, who now plans to continue supporting the nonprofit. “I think she’s going to do her own raffle to raise more funding,” said Elaine Eaton of Cultural Crossroads. Cultural Crossroads is Webster Parish’s only 501(c)(3) nonprofit arts organization. Founded in 1994, the organization works to preserve local culture and promote the arts in the region. Its Art At The Farm program offers arts education and creative opportunities through classes and events held at The Farm.

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OPINION

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OPINION

LA Riots Copy 2020 Democrat/Antifa ‘Summer of Love’ Riots, But Who is Funding Them?

I was taken aback as I watched the riots in LA over the last few days. The facts are clear. President Trump promised that he would address the great danger and harm to America as a result of the invasion of illegals into our country over both our southern and northern borders. This would include blocking the drug trade (including enormous amounts of fentanyl), human trafficking, and terrorists, as well. To this end, President Trump declared a national emergency to stem the illegal invasion, directed military troops to the border, reinstated the highly effective Remain-in-Mexico policy, completely ended “catch-and-release,” revved border wall construction back up, designated criminal drug cartels as “foreign terrorist organizations,” and ended birthright citizenship. As a result, we have the riots in LA we are seeing now. Specifically, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents have made arrests of, primarily, criminal illegals in Los Angeles. However, these actions have been denounced by Leftists including anti-American D.C. Judge James Boasberg (a current leader in the anti-Trump Administration Lawfare I’ve addressed in a previous column), California governor, Gavin Newsome, and LA mayor, Karen Bass, who have astoundingly blamed President Trump for the riots! National Democrats don’t

seem to have learned anything about illegal immigration and crime from the sound defeat they received last November. Nevertheless, what typical Americans are seeing in LA right now is mob violence, plain and simple. The Trump Administration has the unquestioned authority to arrest illegal aliens. Yet, Governor Newsom and Mayor Bass have accused ICE agents of “targeting” illegal alien murderers, rapists, and pedophiles. How do you avoid targeting criminals?? It is their complete and reflexive opposition to President Trump that has forced them to side with illegal alien criminals in their communities, as well as the rioters and looters who are committing the violence, over law enforcement officers who are simply doing their jobs. Newsom and Bass clearly believe that in order for the riots to end and the violence to stop, ICE needs to leave, and immigration raids must end. That’s insane. Do Democrats really think most Americans are going to reject Pres. Trump’s efforts to restore order and, instead, side with these radicals who loot



businesses, torch cars, and attack police and ICE agents with commercial grade fireworks and rocks? As White House Press Secretary, Karoline Leavitt, stated, the highly biased Judge Boasberg and the national Democrat Party “believe the federal government is not allowed to enforce our laws and to arrest and deport illegal alien criminals. They’re attempting to use a violent mob as a weapon against their own constituents to prevent the enforcement of immigration law. This is deeply un-American and morally reprehensible.” That is what is going on, but of equal importance is, who is funding this? President Trump has posed the question himself about the rioters who appear well-equipped for their violent demonstrations, announcing an investigation into who is financing the insurrection. Trump has stated that “the people that are causing the problem are professional, paid agitators. They’re insurrectionists. They’re bad people. They should be in jail.” As a result, the Attorney General and the FBI are making it “a huge priority to identify, locate and arrest those who are involved in organizing, supporting, funding or facilitating these riots.” The disturbances appear “well-orchestrated” and “well-funded,” “So, we want to understand who these people are, and where this organization is coming from.”

This is important as the protests have spread to additional U.S. cities, resulting in dozens more arrests as demonstrators assault police. (The Epoch Times). As I wrote about the 2020 riots, the large majority of Americans understand and support freedom of speech and expression even when loud, vulgar, and caustic. However, when the first match is lit and Molotov cocktail or brick is thrown, it is no longer about freedom of speech. It has become a criminal enterprise. That is what we are witnessing. The violence must be stopped, criminal illegals arrested and then deported, and the people funding and organizing it must be exposed and prosecuted. Thank God President Trump appreciates this threat to our nation and is courageous enough to stop it. Trump stated: “Generations of military heroes did not shed their blood on distant shores only to watch our country be destroyed by invasion and Third World lawlessness, with rioters bearing foreign flags like is happening in California. As Commander-in-Chief, I will not let that happen.” Amen. 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

My Father lives on in a legacy money can’t buy

The late beloved Claudia Harvill, who was a very successful real estate business woman, was known to often say “keep it simple, stupid,” which leads me to the heart of my subject of simplicity! I think most of us destroy ourselves by fear of public opinion, of going in too many directions, trying to keep up with the Jones, of trading what we want most for what we want now, of having to have too many things regardless of who gets hurt in the process which leads me to one of my heroes of the past. Henry David Thoreau, born in 1817 and the author of Walden’s Pond, said “I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately, to front only the essential facts of life, and see if I could not learn what it had to teach, and not, when I came to die, discover that I had not lived.” He learned a great truth desperately needed today. He went apart for a year or so by himself to stay in a log cabin, located by Walden’s Pond, near Concord, Massachusetts. My Father, Roy Earnest Hudson, a native of Bethany, Illinois, an only child, born in 1895, the son of George Washington McClellan Hudson, a circuit riding minister who met

and married my namesake, Sarah Alice Ritz, while on a revival in Licking, Missouri. What a treasure trove of information in the first paragraph! I knew so little about our daddy because he was so sick during my childhood up until he died, from congestive heart failure, at home in bed in what was then called the front room on March 19, 1958. Also he was afflicted with chronic appendicitis for years. I felt rootless and drawn to delve into the old family trunk because I sensed that there was much to be learned about our genetic lineage. I was very productive after the age of thirty, in 1978, while I located living long lost relatives with the aid of directory assistance and our old family trunk which was full of old family pictures, letters and other memorabilia. Each call turned up a clue leading me to another line of our family, including the Mor-



ris line on my maternal side of the family tracing me back to the Governor Lewis Morris, an ancestor from Monmouth County, New Jersey, tracing me back fourteen generations to Monmouthshire, Wales. With each connection I was enriched because I have connected to more living long lost relatives than anyone I know. But now I know that our greatest legacy came from what my daddy gave to my sister, Alice, and myself just days before he died. He chose to speak separately to us because he knew that what he was telling us would lead us to a brighter day. His last words to my sister, Alice, and myself, just days before he died, gave us a foundation and the security that we needed to face years of suffering when we went to an orphanage after he died. Our minister, Wayne Earnest, visited with our father at least once a week up until he died. Their conversations continue to play such an important part in our future. Even though I knew little about my father until I began a family tree tracing jaunt at the age of thirty in 1978, I know he gave me what money cannot buy. Shortly before he died he told

us that he wanted us to become Christians just as soon as we were old enough to know what we were doing. Neither one of us told the other about his final request until years later even though we both heeded his advice. Having the courage to step out and be baptized as a shy undersized girl of fourteen I needed all of the courage I could muster going into the cruel abuse that we would suffer in this church run orphanage. I never questioned my faith because I knew that “all things work together for good to them that love the Lord.” Though I cried myself to sleep every nights for months on end I sensed that pain was a shaping device that God was using to bring me out stronger to a brighter day! If I could live my life over and avoid the pain but lose the joy I feel today I would not change anything in my life. It’s what we go through that makes us stronger. The lines from Steel Magnolias are so true: “what doesn’t kill you makes you stronger” but being human we try to avoid pain. It is only natural. CONTACT SARAH AT SARAH9957@AOL.COM

203 GLEASON ST.

Thank You for Showing Up for Grilling on Main

If you happened to be anywhere near downtown Minden this past weekend, chances are the aroma of smoked brisket, grilled chicken, and sizzling sausage greeted you before you ever saw a grill. That’s because Grilling on Main returned in full force, filling our streets with laughter, local flavor, and a sense of community that you just can’t fake. And despite the weather’s best attempts to throw us off course, Minden showed up—and showed out. Grilling on Main has quickly become one of our community’s signature events. What began as a fun local gathering has grown into a must-attend celebration that draws people from all over

the region. It’s not just about food—though the food was certainly top-notch. It’s about what happens when people come together, rain or shine, to celebrate the heart and soul of their hometown. Let’s start with the people who made it happen: the volunteers, organizers, and sponsors. These events don’t just materialize. They take months of planning, long hours of coordination, and dozens—if not hundreds—of people working behind the scenes. From



setting up tents and signage to arranging safety logistics and kids’ activities, there was no shortage of effort invested in creating a memorable experience for everyone involved. To each of you who gave your time, talents, and resources—thank you. You’re the reason this event keeps getting better every year. And let’s talk about those who attended. You braved the heat, you waited patiently in lines, you voted in the People’s Choice competition, and you did it all with smiles on your faces. Events like this thrive because people are willing to participate and show their support. From families pushing strollers to grandparents sharing barbecue with grandkids,

the crowd was a true cross-section of our community—and it was beautiful to see. A special shoutout goes to the Little Grillers, who kicked things off Friday night. These young competitors brought their A-game and reminded us that the future of barbecue—and Minden—is in good hands. It’s one thing to enjoy an event; it’s another to pass along the tradition to the next generation. That’s exactly what’s happening here, and it deserves to be celebrated. Even the weather couldn’t stop us. While conditions weren’t ideal at every moment, folks still came downtown, umbrellas and all, proving once again that Minden’s community spirit isn’t dampened by a few drops of

rain. Grilling on Main is more than a festival. It’s a reflection of who we are as a town. We come together, we support one another, and we make memories that last long after the smoke clears. Events like this help us showcase what makes Minden special—not just to ourselves, but to the world around us. Thank you again to everyone who played a part in this year’s success. I can’t wait to see how we build on it in the years to come. DAVID SPECHT IS PRESIDENT OF SPECHT NEWSPAPERS, INC., PUBLISHER OF THE MINDEN PRESS-HERALD, BOSSIER PRESS-TRIBUNE, AND BIZ MAGAZINE.

SPORTS

Russell Hedges, Sports Editor
rhedges@spechtnewspapers.com

HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL



RUSSELL HEDGES/PRESS-HERALD
North Webster competed in the NWLA 7on7 Charity Invitational last Friday in Bossier City. The Knights are hosting the first Main Street Invitational 7v7 Tournament Saturday. Ten teams are scheduled to compete.

North Webster to host 7on7 tourney Saturday

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

North Webster is hosting the first Main Street Invitational 7v7 Tournament Saturday.

Teams competing along with the host Knights are Haughton, LaGrange, Booker T. Washington, Homer, Calvary Baptist, Magnolia (Ark.), Huntington, Woodlawn and Carroll.

Action is scheduled to begin at 9 a.m. in Baucum-Farrar Stadium and on the practice field.

7on7 tournaments have been a summer staple for teams preparing for the fall season for decades.

The games involve mostly passing but hand-offs are allowed behind the line of scrimmage.

Players wear helmets, t-shirts and shorts. Tackles are made by pulling a flag.

The games, which last about 20 minutes, are generally played on a 40-yard field. First downs can be made by reaching the 25 and 10.



ROBERT SUMMERLIN/PRESS-HERALD
Haughton is among 10 teams scheduled to compete in the Main Street Invitational Saturday.

Blocking is not allowed and quarterbacks must get of passes within 4 seconds.

Teams can score points with touchdowns. There can go for a 1-point conversion at the 5 or a 2-point conversion at the 10.

The defense can score points with interceptions.

North Webster competed in the 25-team NWLA 7on7 Charity Invitational Presented by the Louisiana National Guard last week at Freedom Fields in Bossier

City.

Haughton, Homer, Calvary Baptist and Huntington also competed.

Evangel Christian won the tournament. The Eagles defeated Alexandria in the finals.

OUTDOORS

A question begging for an answer . . . why?

GLYNN HARRIS

Why? What makes a normal law-abiding person do some incredibly stupid things when it comes to wildlife?

I can't point a finger at anybody else until I confess a crime I committed as a pre-teen on a beautiful oriole. This handsome black and orange bird was singing its heart out from atop a big oak in my grandparent's yard when I raised my Daisy Red Ryder to my left shoulder – I shoot right-handed – didn't even aim, and fired off a pellet. I was mortified when the oriole tumbled out and hit the ground dead at my feet.

Why did I do it? To this day seven decades later, I still don't know. How was I able to put a pellet into the little bird so high in the tree from my left shoulder without aiming? Maybe it was allowed to happen to teach me a lesson; songbirds must never be shot even by 10 year old boys with BB guns. It was a lesson that stuck because I never shot another songbird. That, however, didn't bring the oriole back to life.

There are some people today who do stupid things when it relates to wildlife, and they're not ten year olds.

I think of a good friend who lived outside Monroe, a dedicated hunter although he was confined to a wheelchair by a degenerative disease that later took



GLYNN HARRIS
Boys with BB guns should never shoot songbirds, such as this beautiful orchard oriole.

his life. Jimmy had been granted approval to keep deer in a pen next to his house. One night, someone slipped up to the fence, shot his prized buck with an arrow, cut the fence and hauled the buck away, undoubtedly boasting to his friends about the fine buck he had taken. Why? How in Heaven's name could he brag about bagging a big buck when he knew in his heart the dastardly circumstances under which the deer was slain?

The shooter was later arrested and had to make restitution for his act. That was little solace, however, for Jimmy and his pet buck.

Former NBA star and Ruston resident, Karl Malone, had something similar happen to him.

On his big buck sanctuary in Union Parish, he has deer with superior blood lines, capable of producing Boone and Crockett antlers. Someone shot one of his prized bucks, cutting the fence and making off with the deer. He, too, was caught and had to make restitution. Again.....why?

If you have read many of my articles, you know of my love for hunting wild turkeys. I was literally thrilled to my soul one morning when driving by a woodlot a mile from my house, I saw something that caused me to stop and back up for a closer look. At the back of the woodlot on private property with "No Hunting" signs, a gobbler in full strut was displaying for two hens. Right

here close to my house... ..I couldn't believe it. Two granddaughters came for a visit a few days later and I was able to show them the gobbler and hens as they were on display just about every morning.

As much as I enjoyed watching the turkeys, a gnawing feeling began creeping in because the turkeys were so visible. Folks would stop and watch the turkeys that were undisturbed by vehicle traffic. I hoped that nobody with the stupidity of a ten year old boy with a BB gun would do as I had done years ago. My fears escalated when the gobbler suddenly disappeared. He had been there every day for a week or more and abruptly vanished.

I was talking with a neighbor later who mentioned that during the time the turkeys were so visible, he heard a gunshot one morning. After the shot, the turkeys simply vanished not to be seen again. I don't know what happened but I can hazard a guess. Some opportunistic person with the stupidity of a ten year old with a BB gun probably saw the gobbler, rolled down his window, shot and made off with his prize.

We have plenty of wild game to be hunted during legal hunting seasons so the question as to why some people resort to cheating begs for an answer.....why?

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Teams preparing for 2026 season in summer ball

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

The 2025 season ended just over a month ago, but parish high school baseball teams are already preparing for the 2026 season.

The month of June is basically high school baseball's offseason with practices and scrimmage games.

Winning isn't the main objective. Coaches use the time to evaluate new starters and see where they best fit. Veteran players may try out new positions.

Minden returns several key players off last spring's team that went 21-16. They include pitcher/outfielder Bray Winston, pitcher/shortstop Landon Brewer, catcher Hudson Brown, pitcher/infielder Keegan Pope and infielder Topher Wilson.

Brewer played for the North squad in the Underclass Games held at ULM June 9-11 at ULM.

Potential new starters

include pitcher/infielder/catcher Barron Bower, infielder Gavyn Clark and outfielders Jamall Carey, Jacob Jefferson and Dakota Streetman, pitcher/outfielder Kyler Ray, infielder Cody Pruitt, Kaiden Kinsey and Eli De Los Santos.

Lakeside also has a solid core group returning from the 2025 District 3-2A co-championship team.

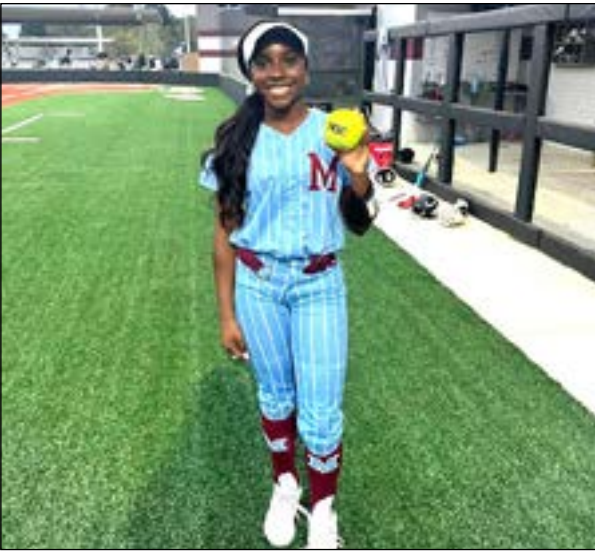
Among those are pitcher/outfielder Brock Case, pitcher/shortstop Gage Williams, designated hitter Drake Chreene, pitcher/outfielder Noah Redding, pitcher/catcher Jake Glass and outfielders Eric Jones and Maddox Cascio.

Glenbrook played in the 2D I-20 All-Turf Championship held in Ruston and Monroe last weekend.

Returning starters include infielders Ryan Reagan and Darron Hollingsworth, pitcher/infielder Sam Ricord, outfielder Hudson Glasscock and designated hitter Eli Still.

HIGH SCHOOL SOFTBALL

Honorable mention Class 4A All-State



COURTESY PHOTO
Leigha Gilbert, a 2025 Minden graduate, has been named honorable mention on the Louisiana Sports Writers Association Class 4A All-State team. Gilbert is continuing her career at Southern Arkansas.

Fishing Report

BUSSEY BRAKE – Bass have been good with some nice fish up to 12 lbs caught early mornings on topwaters and on soft plastics and spinners later. Crappie are on the flats and some big ones are biting 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 but on a slow fall. Some bass caught in the cuts and in the back water on buzz baits and spinner baits. Crappie are fair; bream are biting in the backwaters. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE D'ARBONNE – Some really nice bass were caught during last weekend's Majestic tournament. A couple over 10 pounds were weighed in.. Crappie are suspended on the flats 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 schooling 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 topwater lures are working early while Texas rigged plastic worms and crank baits are taking some fish on secondary points. Some schooling activity is being noted with fish hitting shad imitations. Crappie are around the deep tops and jigs and shiners are taking some big ones. 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 with another rise on the way. Still over the road to the Landing and too high for fishing. For info call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.

Good News

GOOD NEWS

I REMEMBER DADDY

My Daddy was born in 1899 and always said he would like to see ‘part of three centuries,’ but he was not quite able to make it. He died in 1982 just before his 83rd birthday. My mother had preceded him in death (1979). His last years were not fruitful ones, spending them in the Delhi nursing home.

The older I get the more I look and act like him (per Sondra). Put a big-brimmed hat on me, place a big smoking pipe in the side of my mouth, let me grin a little, and ‘yep, that’s a John Crider makeover’ folks would say. Daddy worked very hard as a share-crop farmer with seven children to feed. He had the same expectations from his children. He did not quote a lot of Scripture, but he knew that one Paul wrote in 2 Thess 3: 10 - “He who does not work, does not eat.” Although we thought he ‘favored our youngest brother,’ we now realize that as Daddy grew older and the farm machin-

ery improved, the kind of work around the farm changed also. About the only constant thing was milking the cows and maybe a few such chores.

My Daddy did not become a ‘professing Christian’ until I was in college. After that, he and Mama attended church faithfully until their ‘bad health chased them down.’ (His quote). He loved the Sunday night meeting of the men’s Brotherhood group (Church Training). He claimed the back pew of the church with a friend – Bruce Parker– both were pranksters, even in church. (Boys will be boys).

Daddy was an active member of the Delhi Masonic Lodge (32nd degree). He faithfully served and enjoyed every aspect of it: training the new members, conducting funeral rites for mem-

bers and serving many years as secretary/ treasurer. He also served as Justice of the Peace for some 24 years. (We got to witness several late-night weddings of young couples eloping).

He knew how to use the razor strap (strip of leather used to sharpen razors and for punishment) as well as persimmon sprouts in the cotton fields. They were his ‘motivators’ he would say. The last time Daddy ‘motivated me’ was when I was a senior in high school. He needed me to help change some plows on the tractor; I was changing clothes getting ready to go to a ball game. I replied, “I will come and help you when I get ready.” He thought I was saying, ‘I will come when I get ready to come.” Miscommunication can cost dearly. Big time...and it hurts also! I made sure there were no

more misunderstandings from that time on.

I miss Daddy more as I grow older. I regret I was always living a far distance from home after college and never really was able to spend much time with him. Though he did not outwardly express his love for the children, we knew he cared deeply by remarks neighbors would say to us. It is easier sometimes to share such thoughts with others, I suppose, than with those you love the most. But he grew up in a different time and culture than we live today.

In Phil 3:12-14, Paul reminds us not to ‘get slowed down by those things of the past that could easily enslave us, but to continue to look to the future and trust in the Lord. Press on for He is our strength and source of power; He is our hope of eternal security. So any regrets I have as a child, any wishful thinking associated with my parents and upbringing, I have released

them all to the Lord, trusting Him to shape and mold me to become the loving, caring and trusting father for my son that I ought to be. Time will tell.

Fathers, take a few minutes to review in your mind the “Fathers’ Day” just passed. What kind of score did you make with your children/grands? Were you able to communicate what you really wanted to say to them? Did you affirm them, praise them, challenge them and set a good example as a husband, father, grandfather, etc. Perhaps we all ought to redefine ‘fathering’ in a godly manner, making amends as we move forward. Let every day be Father’s Day...a day dedicated to serving our Heavenly Father. What a difference it will make in our lives!

BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER



Bill Crider

THE UPWARD LOOK

Delight in the Bible

“But his delight is in the law of the LORD, And in His law he meditates day and night.” Psalm 1:2 NASB



Max Hutto

The person who is blessed by God is one who takes joy in God’s Word. He takes pleasure in reading and studying God’s Word. He thinks about God’s Word day and night. He digs deep in study, learning what the Bible says, and then applies it to his life. Thus, the Bible is his instruction book. He patterns his life by the principles and laws found

in the Bible. The Bible is the light for the path that he walks, guiding his every move. The blessed man does not seek counsel from the ungodly but from the law of the Lord.

Lord Jesus, I treasure Your Word, the Bible. I want to learn from it how to live my life to please You.

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

INSPIRATION

Pass it, on

Lately, almost everyone has had to wear multiple hats. One of the most important of those hats being “the teacher.” There are many friends and family members relearning skills long forgotten. We are learning new ways of solving math, reading, writing and etc. This makes me think of Jesus the ultimate teacher. Jesus taught his disciples and they had to relearn how to live. This in turn gave them the skills to teach others. Jesus instilled in them an obligation to pass knowledge to the next generation. The Same obligation has been passed to us as ministers of the word. We are here



Bernard Harris

to teach others about salvation through Jesus and how to find it. It reads in Romans 10:13-14 “ For “Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved.” But how can they call on him to save them unless they believe in him? And how can they believe in him if they have never heard about him? And how can they hear about him unless someone tells them?” We have received a priceless gift and now it’s time to pass it on.

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

Come

WORSHIP

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

ppm
0.55- 2.64
MRDL
MRDLG
Typical Source
4
4
Water additive used to control microbes

Regulated contaminants that were detected follow. Chemical Sampling of our drinking water may not be required on an annual basis, therefore, information provided 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 –

CARBON TETRACHLORIDE, Collection Date 7/24/2023, Highest Value 0.77, Range 0-0.77, Unit ppb, MCL 5, MCLG 0, Typical Source is Discharge from chemical plants and other industrial activities.
FLORIDE, Collection Date, 7/24/2023, Highest Value 0.1, Range 0.1, Unit ppm, MCL 4, MCLG 4, Typical Source is erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Source Water Radiological Contaminants
COMBINED RADIUM (-226 &-228, Collection Date 7/24/2023, Highest Value 0.966, Range 0-0.966, Unit pCi/l, MCL 5, MCLG 0
erosion of natural deposits
RADIUM-226, Collection Date 7/24/2023, Highest Value 0.966, Range 0-0.966, Unit PCi/L, MCL 5, MCLG 0
Source Secondary Contaminants:
ALUMINUM, Collection date-7/24/2023, Highest Value-0.01, Range 0 - 0.01, Unit, MG/L, SMCL, .02
CHLORIDE, Collection date-7/24/2023; Highest Value-16; Range-0 - 16; Unit-MG/L; SMCL-250
HARDNESS, TOTAL(AS CaCO3), Collection date-7-24-2023, Highest Value-1.5, Range 0-1.5, Unit MG/L, SMCL-0
IRON, Collection date- 7/24/2023; Highest Value-0.06, Range-0.01-0.06, Unit-MG/L; SMCL-0.3
PH, Collection date-7/24/2023; Highest Value-8.23; Range-7.73-8.23; Unit-PH; SMCL-8.5
POTASSIUM, Collection date 7/24/2023, Highest Value-0.8, Range 0.4-0.8, Unit MG/L, SMCL-0
SODIUM, Collection date-7/24/2023, Highest Value 71.8, Range 57.2-71.8, Unit MG/L, SMCL 0
Treated Secondary Contaminants
IRON, Collection date 2/21/2024, Highest Value 0.4, Range 0.04, Unit MG/L, SMCL 0.3
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. 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).

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.

Gilgal Water System works 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. Please call our office if you have questions. Gilgal Water System, Inc., P O Box 544
Minden, LA 71058-0544
318-299-2188 (message phone only)

June 18, 2025
Minden Press Herald

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Sealed proposals addressed to the Town of Cotton Valley for the construction of Wastewater Treatment Facility Improvements in Webster Parish, Louisiana for the Town Cotton Valley, hereinafter called "Owner", will be received at 478 Resident Street P.O Box 415, Cotton Valley, Louisiana 71018 on

Thursday, July 3, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

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 or that it is a Louisiana domiciled insurance company with at least an A rating in the latest printing of the A. M. Best's Key Rating Guide. If surety qualifies by virtue of its Best's listing, the Bond amount may not exceed ten percent of policyholders' surplus as shown in the latest A. M. Best's Key Rating Guide. The Owner hereby notifies all bidders that in regard to any contract entered into pursuant to this Advertisement, that Minority Business Enterprises will be afforded equal opportunity to submit offers in response to this invitation, and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, national origin or disability in consideration for an award. To bid and perform Work covered by these documents, the Contractor must be licensed under Classification IV- Municipal and Public Works 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. Bruce Lee, Jr., Mayor
Town of Cotton Valley

June 4, 11, 18, 2025
Minden Press Herald

The Water We Drink

SIBLEY WATER SYSTEM

Public Water Supply ID: LA1119027

We are pleased to present to you the Annual Water Quality Report for the year 2024. This report is designed to inform you about the quality of your water and services we deliver to you every day (Este informe contiene información muy importante sobre su agua potable. Tradúzcalo o hable con alguien que lo entienda bien). Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continually improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

Our water source(s) are listed below:

Source Name	Source Water Type
WELL #1 SE 4TH AVE	Ground water
WELL #3 LORI LANE	Ground water
WELL #4 5TH STREET	Ground water
WELL NO. 5 HWY 371 INDUSTRIAL PARK	Ground water

The sources of drinking water (both tap water and bottled water) include rivers, lakes, streams, ponds, reservoirs, springs, and wells. As water travels over the surface of land or through the ground, it dissolves naturally-occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive material, and can pick up substances resulting from the presence of animals or from human activity. Contaminants that may be present in source water include:

Microbial Contaminants – such as viruses and bacteria, which may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife.

Inorganic Contaminants – such as salts and metals, which can be naturally-occurring or result from urban stormwater runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.

Pesticides and Herbicides – which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban stormwater runoff, and residential uses.

Organic Chemical Contaminants – including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations, urban stormwater runoff, and septic systems.

Radioactive Contaminants – which can be naturally-occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities.

A Source Water Assessment Plan (SWAP) is now available from our office. This plan is an assessment of a delineated area around our listed sources through which contaminants, if present, could migrate and reach our source water. It also includes an inventory of potential sources of contamination within the delineated area, and a determination of the water supply's susceptibility to contamination by the identified potential sources. According to the Source Water Assessment Plan, our water system had a susceptibility rating of 'MEDIUM'. If you would like to review the Source Water Assessment Plan, please feel free to contact our office.

In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations which limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. Food and Drug

Administration regulations establish limits for contaminants in bottled water which must provide the same protection for public health. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you have any questions about this report, want to attend any scheduled meetings, or simply want to learn more about your drinking water, please contact ROBERT SMART at 318-377-0345.

There is no safe level of lead in drinking water. Exposure to lead in drinking water can cause serious health effects in all age groups, especially pregnant people, infants (both formula-fed and breastfed), and young children. Some of the health effects to infants and children include decreases in IQ and attention span. Lead exposure can also result in new or worsened learning and behavior problems. The children of persons who are exposed to lead before or during pregnancy may be at increased risk of these harmful health effects. Adults have increased risks of heart disease, high blood pressure, kidney or nervous system problems. Contact your health care provider for more information about your risks.

The Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals - Office of Public Health routinely monitors for constituents in your drinking water according to Federal and State laws. The tables that follow show the results of our monitoring during the period of January 1st to December 31st, 2024. Drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that water poses a health risk.

In the tables below, you will find many terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms, we've provided the following definitions:

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L) – one part per million corresponds to one minute in two years or a single penny in \$10,000.

Parts per billion (ppb) or Micrograms per liter (µg/L) – one part per billion corresponds to one minute in 2,000 years, or a single penny in \$10,000,000.

Picocuries per liter (pCi/L) – picocuries per liter is a measure of the radioactivity in water.

Treatment Technique (TT) – an enforceable procedure or level of technological performance which public water systems must follow to ensure control of a contaminant.

Action level (AL) – the concentration of a contaminant that, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Maximum contaminant level (MCL) – the "Maximum Allowed" MCL is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCL's are set as close to the MCLG's as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum contaminant level goal (MCLG) – the "Goal" is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to human health. MCLG's allow for a margin of safety.

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
10/16/2024 - 1/28/2025	LEAD AND COPPER RULE REVISIONS	LSI INVENTORY-INITIAL

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	1.1	ppm	0.3 - 2.03	4	4	Water additive used to control microbes

In the tables below, we have shown the regulated contaminants that were detected. Chemical Sampling of our 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
BARIUM	5/19/2024	0.25	0 - 0.25	ppm	2	2	Discharge of drilling wastes; Discharge from metal refineries; Erosion of natural deposits
FLUORIDE	5/19/2024	0.1	0 - 0.1	ppm	4	4	Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories

Source Water Radiological Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	MCL	MCLG	Typical Source
COMBINED RADIUM (-226 &-228)	5/19/2024	0.822	0 - 0.822	pCi/l	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits
GROSS BETA PARTICLE ACTIVITY	5/19/2024	3.2	0 - 3.2	pCi/l	50	0	Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
RADIUM-228	5/19/2024	0.822	0 - 0.822	PCi/L	5	0	Erosion of natural deposits

Lead and Copper	Date	90TH Percentile	Range	Unit	AL	Sites Over AL	Typical Source
COPPER, FREE	2019 - 2022	0.1	0 - 0.3	ppm	1.3	0	Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
LEAD	2019 - 2022	0	0	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)	9090 HWY 371	2023 - 2024	1	0.65	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TOTAL HALOACETIC ACIDS (HAAS)	CORPORATE DRIVE	2023 - 2024	5	4.9	ppb	60	0	By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM	9090 HWY 371	2023 - 2024	2	1.7	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination
TTHM	CORPORATE DRIVE	2023 - 2024	9	9	ppb	80	0	By-product of drinking water chlorination

Source Secondary Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	SMCL
ALUMINUM	5/19/2024	0.11	0.01 - 0.11	MG/L	0.2
CHLORIDE	5/19/2024	19	0 - 19	MG/L	250
HARDNESS, TOTAL (AS CaCO3)	5/19/2024	15.1	3.8 - 15.1	MG/L	0
IRON	5/19/2024	1.81	0.39 - 1.81	MG/L	0.3
MANGANESE	5/19/2024	0.06	0.01 - 0.06	MG/L	0.05
PH	5/19/2024	5.87	5.21 - 5.87	PH	8.5
POTASSIUM	5/19/2024	3.3	1.1 - 3.3	MG/L	0
SODIUM	5/19/2024	33.2	6.6 - 33.2	MG/L	0
SULFATE	5/19/2024	15	12 - 15	MG/L	250

Treated Secondary Contaminants	Collection Date	Highest Value	Range	Unit	SMCL
IRON	5/19/2024	1.41	0.32 - 1.41	MG/L	0.3
MANGANESE	5/19/2024	0.05	0.01 - 0.05	MG/L	0.05

+++++++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. SIBLEY 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 SIBLEY WATER SYSTEM and ROBERT SMART BUS Phone: 318-377-0345. 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 notice.

The Town of Sibley Water System Grade is a "B". Our water system report card, as well, as lead data and the lead service line inventories can be found at www.sibleyla.com.

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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 SIBLEY 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.ldh.la.gov/watergrade. Please call our office if you have questions.

June 18, 2025
Minden Press Herald

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