



MINDEN PRESS-HERALD

WEDNESDAY, JULY 2, 2025 | \$1.00 | MINDEN, LA | SERVING GOD & OUR COMMUNITY | VOL. 56 NO. 27

press-herald.com

CRIME

Former Webster Parish deputy arrested on forgery, misconduct charges

STAFF REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

A former Webster Parish Sheriff's Office detective has been arrested following an internal investigation that revealed falsified documents and led to multiple felony charges.



WHITE

Spencer White, who was terminated from the Sheriff's Office on Monday, was taken into custody Wednesday at the WPSO headquarters. His arrest followed the issuance of a warrant by the 26th Judicial District Court.

"Former Deputy White's employment was terminated by the Webster Parish Sheriff's Office as a result of an internal affairs investigation in which potential misconduct was identified," said Sheriff Jason Parker in a statement Wednesday.

According to the Sheriff's Office, suspicious documents were found during a final inventory of White's office. These included a forged incident report stating that White's vehicle had been burglarized. See, **CRIME**, Page 3

COMMUNITY

Community gathers for food, fellowship at Serving the Community event



AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTOS

Youth from Project Reclaim hand out chili dogs, nachos, and drinks during the Serving the Community event at The Farm on Saturday, June 28, hosted by Food 4 the Soul and Project Reclaim.

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Neighborhood residents turned out Saturday afternoon for Serving the Community, an event hosted by Food 4 the Soul and Project Reclaim at The Farm, where free food and fellowship brought people together from across the area.

From 2 to 5 PM, the atmosphere was upbeat as youth from Project Reclaim flagged down

passing cars and welcomed visitors, handing out chili dogs, nachos, chips, cookies, drinks and more. The outreach event drew a steady crowd of neighbors who stopped by to eat, visit and enjoy the warm, welcoming environment.

Barbara Goston, founder of Food 4 the Soul, said the turnout reflected the heart of the mission.

"I would give them food and let them know

that I care and that I'm here," Goston said. "I don't have much, but God has given me something, and I'm willing to share it."

Goston began serving food to the homeless in 2020. In 2022, she made her work official by forming the nonprofit organization Food 4 the Soul, which operates under the motto, "Changing lives one meal at a time."

Saturday's event appeared to be a success,

with many participants expressing appreciation for both the food and the sense of community. Goston said the experience continues to be rewarding.

"I've met some amazing people," she said.

Organizers plan to host another community event in the near future. For more information, visit the Facebook page for Food 4 the Soul.

FEEDING THE COMMUNITY

Joe LeBlanc Food Pantry faces funding shortfall for summer feeding program

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

The Joe LeBlanc Food Pantry is asking for community support as it works to sustain its Summer Feeding program, which has already surpassed its projected budget with one month remaining.

The pantry served meals to nearly 100 families in a single day last week, and they need assistance if they are going to be able to continue serving people this summer.

According to a recent social media post from the pantry, the organization estimated it would need \$18,000 to fund the entire summer effort. However, current expenses have already exceeded \$20,000, with the program scheduled to continue through the end of July — three weeks beyond the conclusion of the Webster Parish Schools' summer feeding program, which ends July 7.

"So far we've spent \$20,919.78," they stated. "In addition to all of the hours and the volunteers that drive the program, it takes real money, and a lot of it!"



Breakdown of expenses included:
\$9,601.59 for the first month's supplies from Sam's Club
\$9,962.72 for the second month
\$516.50 for an emergency run
\$764.90 for 9,000 paper bags
\$74.07 for spoons

Organizers are encouraging donations to help cover remaining costs. Contributions are tax deductible and may be made in the following ways:

By check to JLFP, 814 Constable St., Minden, LA 71055

PayPal: @JLFP318
Venmo: @Joe-LeBlanc-22

The Joe LeBlanc Food Pantry will be closed during the week of the Fourth of July holiday. For more information, they can be contacted at 318-299-6375.

WPL



AMBER MCDOWN/PRESS-HERALD PHOTO

Discovery Camp participants get a closer look at some reptiles during Steve's Snaketuary presentation at the Minden Library Branch on Monday, June 16.

Discovery Camp welcomes Steve's Snaketuary to Minden library

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

The Minden branch of Webster Parish Libraries hosted Steve's Snaketuary on Monday, June 16, as part of 2025 Discovery Camp.

The event drew a large

crowd of campers, who appeared highly engaged as they learned about reptiles and the important role snakes play in the ecosystem. The presentation featured live snakes and educational demonstrations that allowed children to interact safely

and ask questions.

Steve's Snaketuary is one of several special programs scheduled throughout Discovery Camp, a four-week summer initiative designed to promote reading and STEM learning among school-aged children.

4TH OF JULY

American Legion to hold annual patriotic ceremony at Eagle Park

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

The American Legion will hold its annual Independence Day ceremony at Eagle Park on Turner's Pond at 9:00 AM on Friday, July 4, 2025.

The observance will include the traditional Changing of the Flags, a guest speaker, the placing of a memorial wreath, and the playing of taps to honor the nation's fallen service members.

Paul Kitchens will serve as guest speaker and will share reflections from his trip to Normandy in May, where he took part in events commemorating the anniversary of D-Day.

Mike Holomon will perform taps during the ceremony, and Les and Sue Williams of VFW Post #2885 will place the memorial wreath.

The public is invited to attend and take part in the annual tribute to American veterans and military personnel.

COMMUNITY

Duck Derby returns July 3 with fun, food and fireworks

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

The countdown is on for one of Minden's most anticipated summertime events. The 7th Annual Minden Duck Derby Extravaganza is set to take place Thursday, July 3, beginning at 5 PM in downtown Minden.

This family-friendly evening will feature live music, a children's parade, contests, food and craft vendors, a fireworks show, and, of course, the main event: the Duck Derby race.

Tickets are on sale now, with multiple options for participants to adopt racing ducks. Prices range from \$5 for a single duck to \$100 for a "Flock of Ducks" (25 ducks). Prizes for the top finishers include \$1,000 for first place, \$500 for second place, and \$250 for third.

This annual event has continued to grow in size and popularity, drawing crowds from across the area. Presented by The Mosaic Company, supporting sponsors of this year's festivities include b1BANK, Under Dawgs Sports Grill, Gibsland Bank & Trust, Barksdale Federal Credit Union, Jeanne Martin State Farm Insurance, Denise Edwards - Webster Parish Assessor, Interstate Building Materials, Senator Adam Bass, The Villas at Spanish Court, and Ace Hardware.

Sponsorship opportunities are still available. For details or to adopt a duck, visit greatermindenchamber.com/duckderby or contact the Greater Minden Chamber.



8 95634 00207 6

Submit your news at
press-herald.com/submissions

WEBSTER & MORE

LIONS CLUB

Kitchens shares reflections from 81st D-Day anniversary ceremony

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Paul Kitchens, a member of the Minden Lions Club, served as guest speaker at the club's noon meeting on June 19, where he shared reflections from his recent trip to Normandy, France, for the 81th anniversary commemoration of D-Day.

Kitchens traveled to the ceremony with two other veterans, representing the Minden Lions Club. The group was given reserved seats at the event. "We had made arrangements for us to be recognized and have a place on the platform for the ceremony," Kitchens said.

While in Normandy, the veterans met Lt. General Antonio Aguto Jr., a three-star general who served as

the keynote speaker. The Minden Lions Club was also recognized during the presentation of floral tributes. "You were well represented in the floral arrangements," Kitchens said with a laugh, referring to the large arrangement provided by the club. He later presented club president Rick Buckner with the ribbon from the flowers as a keepsake.

Kitchens described the emotional impact of looking across the 9,387 graves of American soldiers buried in Normandy while Taps played. "There wasn't a dry eye in the house," he said.

He also spoke about the story of the Niland brothers, whose experiences inspired the movie Saving Private Ryan, and noted the broader human cost of the Normandy cam-



Veterans salute the flag as Taps is played to conclude the June 19 meeting of the Minden Lions Club, where Paul Kitchens shared his experience at the D-Day commemoration in Normandy.

paign. "There were 1,500 brothers who were killed [at Normandy]," Kitchens said. "These are not just crosses on the ground; they are people that are represented." He added

that between June 6 and August 25, 1944, approximately two million troops landed in Normandy, and the U.S. lost about 206,000 men—roughly 10% of those who arrived.

The meeting closed with a playing of Taps, during which the veterans in attendance saluted the flag.

The Minden Lions Club hosts weekly meetings

each Thursday at noon at the American Legion Memorial Home, located at 119 W. Pine St. in downtown Minden.

The Annual WEBSTER PROUD Special Supplement is Coming to the Minden Press-Herald on July 30th!

WEBSTER Proud

SPRINGHILL
CULLEN SHONGALOO
SAREPTA
COTTON VALLEY
MINDEN DIXIE INN
SIBLEY DOYLINE DUBBERLY HEFLIN

A look at what makes Webster Parish a great place to live, work, worship, and play.

A Special Supplement to the Minden Press-Herald

*A Look At
What Makes
Webster Parish
An All-Around
Great Place!*

**To Be Included
In This Special
Section,
Just Give Us
A Call!
Deadline: July 23rd**

Nathan Mills
Regional Advertising/Marketing Manager
(318) 377-1866
nathan@press-herald.com

Curtis Mays
Advertising Consultant
(318) 377-1866
advertising@press-herald.com

WEBSTER & MORE

OBITUARIES



Mr. R.O. Machen, Jr.

Funeral services for Mr. R.O. Machen, Jr. were held graveside at the Springhill Cemetery in Springhill, La. on Friday, June 27th at 10:00am. Visitation was at the Rose-Neath Funeral Home in Minden, La. on Thursday, June 26th from 6:00 to 8:00pm.

At the time of his death, Mr. Machen was officially retired as of January 2010 as Vice President and Webster Parish Administrator for Gibbsland Bank & Trust. He continued to support his many friends and customers after his retirement. Mr. Machen was born in Springhill, La. on May 7, 1942, to Robert Odell Machen, Sr. and Lela Martin Machen.

He graduated from Minden High School in 1960 and is a 1964 graduate of Louisiana Tech with a B.S. degree in accounting. His banking career began in 1964 At Louisiana Bank & Trust Co. in Shreveport. He joined Peoples Bank of Minden in 1967 at their Cotton Valley Branch. Over his career, he attended numerous seminars and schools. He graduated from The Banking School of the South at LSU in 1970. In 1971, he moved to Minden to work in the main office. He joined Gibbsland Bank & Trust in November of 2000.

Mr. Machen was also the owner of Machen Firefighting Products Co. and was instrumental in the establishment of the Evergreen Volunteer Fire Department and Fire District #1 in 1979. Evergreen was the first fire district formed in North Louisiana and the first to use dry hydrants, water shuttles for PIAL credit, crossing parish lines into Claiborne Parish with the fire district, to pass an ad valorem tax to fund the district, and to become one of the first to receive a class 4 PIAL rating for a rural fire district. Mr. Machen served as President and Chairman of Evergreen Fire district for some 40 years. Mr. Machen shared his knowledge of Rural Firefighting and helped establish some 30 fire districts in North Louisiana. He addressed the Governor’s Conference on Rural Fire Protection in Alexandria in 1994, and in 1995 was recognized by the Louisiana Senate for

his work in rural firefighting. After eleven years, he saw his efforts come to fruition with the opening of the Pine Country Education Center at Camp Minden in 2007. This marked the beginning of the LSU Fireman Training Center for North Louisiana.

Mr. Machen was named “Minden’s Man of the Year” in 2002 for his community service work throughout the years with the Jaycees, Boy Scouts, United Way, Pregnancy Aid Center, Minden Downtown Lions Club, Leton Water System, Shongaloo PTO, and summer recreation program. Along with grant writing for summer recreation programs, and fire departments.

In 2012, he received the Chamber of Commerce “Lifetime Achievement Award” for community service. He and Barbara sponsored a little league baseball team each summer during the 80’s and 90’s. He was the past chairman of the Board of Deacons of the Evergreen Union Church. He enjoyed his Mustang Muscle cars and was a member of the Red River Classic Mustang Club.

The R.O. Machen, Jr. Fire Training and Community Center was dedicated in 2019 in honor of Mr. Machen. Located in the community of Evergreen, north of Minden, La.

Mr. Machen’s greatest enjoyment was his wife of 45 years, Mrs. Barbara Fountain Machen, his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister Ann Harrison and her husband Tine Harrison. Cousins, Matt Martin and Martha Jane Horne.

He is survived by his wife Barbara. Their five children, Wess Machen and wife Sonya, Audra Sadler and husband Les, Nancy Sikes and husband James, Suzanne Blackwelder and husband Pat, and Olin Machen and wife Sherri. Fifteen grandchildren, Jake, Derek, Courtney, Haley, Devin, Caid, Roper, Reiner, Jessica, Karli, Julia, Payton, Ashton, Gaige, and Tate. Twelve great grandchildren and special nieces, Kim Moak and Taci Farnam.

Pallbearers will be Kevin Miller, Jake Poole, Gary Sexton, Grover Sikes, Devin Thomas, and James Sikes.

In lieu of flowers, the family request donations be made to the Evergreen Volunteer Fire Department at P. O. Box 873, Minden, LA 71058-0873 or a Volunteer Fire Department of the Donor’s choice.



Jan Biles Randolph

Jan Biles Randolph, a beloved wife, mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother, passed away peacefully on June 17, 2025, at the age of 84.

Born and raised in Minden, Louisiana, Jan shared her early years with her twin brother, James Biles. She attended Louisiana Tech University, where she pursued a path in education. Her talents and dedication led to a teaching opportunity in Houma, Louisiana, a move that would change her life in the best way. It was there she met the love of her life, Amos Randolph, who she lovingly called Buckie.

While she began her career in the classroom, Jan ultimately found her true calling at home, raising their three children, and later her two grandchildren, while Amos worked offshore. She poured her heart into their children and grandchildren, always present, from early morning practices to late-night pageants, cheering them on every step of the way. Her 59-year marriage to Amos was a true partnership, marked by love, resilience, and an unwavering commitment to the family they built together.

Inheriting her creative heart from her father who was a brilliant photographer, Jan had a passion for garden-

ing and home remodeling, always finding fulfillment in making her surroundings more beautiful. Over the past year, she found joy in planning her dream sunroom, a peaceful retreat she imagined down to the last detail. Though it was never built, the vision reflected her warmth, creativity, and enduring optimism. When it was time to relax, her happy place was on a dock fishing, in her later years Jan would get lost in mystery novels, watch home remodeling shows on HGTV where she’d get inspiration for her own home remodeling endeavors.

Jan is survived by her loving husband, Amos Randolph, and their three children: David Randolph, Dana Benoit and husband Johnny, and Steven Randolph and wife Kelly. She was the proud grandmother of Jocelyn Randolph and husband Rafael Aguinaga, Jacob Randolph, John Austin Benoit, Mackenzie Randolph, Katelyn Benoit, Braden Randolph, and Emerson Randolph, and a cherished great-grandmother to Helios Aguinaga-Randolph. She is also survived by her twin brother, James “Jim” Biles, and his wife, Hilary.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Mary “Rupert” Biles and James Caric Biles.

A celebration of her life will be held July 13th at 2:00 pm, Del Webb Sweetgrass (Lakehouse), 707 Del Webb Blvd., Richmond, TX 77469. In lieu of flowers, the family encourages you to honor Jan by planting something beautiful in your garden or taking time to make your house feel more like home, just as she always did.

BLOTTER

Recent Arrests in Webster Parish

- Torry Capers, 33, of the 300 block of Weston Street, was arrested for resisting by force or violence.
- Billy Wright, Jr., of the 800 block of Woods Street, was arrested on a bench warrant.
- William Hilyer, 48, of the 100 block of Yellow Pine Road, was arrested for theft and being principal to theft.
- Latravion Minix, 33, of the 600 block of Chestnut Street, was arrested on bench warrants.
- Antonio Elkins, 43, of the 500 block of Winford Street, was arrested on bench warrants.
- Tynequa Lott, 24, of

- the 600 block of Marion Street, was arrested on bench warrants.
- Darreus Dickey, 22, of the 700 block of Hillside Lane, was arrested as a fugitive from Bossier Parish and as a felon in possession of a firearm.
- Laquintonne D. King, 31, of the 500 block of Middle Landing, was arrested on a warrant and as a fugitive from the Webster Parish Sheriff’s Office.
- David Burditt, 47, of the 5700 block of E. Texas Street in Bossier City, was arrested as a fugitive from Bossier City Police Department.
- Akhyah Harrison, 32, of the 400 block of Patrick Street, was arrested as a fugitive from

- Bossier City.
- Jayshun Miller, 23, of the 500 block of Jessie T Road, was arrested on a warrant.
- Leon Jackson, 60, of the 700 block of Morris Street, was arrested for possession of a Schedule II (crack), possession of drug paraphernalia, felony obstructions, and open container.
- James Andrews II, 40, of the 100 block of Claiborne Street in Heflin, was arrested on bench warrants.
- Alfrodeo Gomez, 30, was arrested for reckless operation and resisting an officer. He was also detained for ICE.
- Aaron Fullwood Jr.,

- 46, of the 700 block of Yale Street, was arrested on bench warrants.
- Michael Vise, 43, was arrested for telephone harassment.
- Sherrie Harris, of the 600 block of Stone Street, was arrested on a warrant.
- Rotoya Edwards, 50, of the 200 block of McIntyre Road in Dixie Inn, was arrested for disturbing the peace.
- Jeremie Davis, 39, of the 100 block of Willet Road in Arcadia, was arrested as a fugitive from the Bienville Parish Sheriff’s Office.
- Vincent Fizer, 59, of the 500 block of Myers Street, was arrested on a warrant for felony theft.

CRIME

Continued from Page 1

ized and prescription medication stolen — a claim not supported by official records.

Investigators reported that the incident number on the falsified report corresponded to an unrelated case, and the document contained fabricated statements along with the unauthorized use of other deputies’ names and credentials. White reportedly admitted to creating the false document.

“This is a difficult day for our department, but accountability is non-negotiable,” said Sheriff Parker. “When the public places their trust in us, we must uphold the law without compromise. No one is above it, not even one of our own.”

Sheriff Parker added

that the matter was referred to the Louisiana Attorney General’s Office, which is now handling the criminal investigation. He said the Sheriff’s Office has recused itself from any further involvement in the case.

“As your sheriff, I remain committed to complete transparency,” Parker said. “This agency belongs to the people of Webster Parish, and they deserve honesty, trust and accountability.”

White faces five felony charges: one count of malfeasance in office, three counts of forgery and one count of filing or maintaining public records. He was booked into Bayou Dorcheat Correctional Center with bond set at \$185,000 by Judge Michael Craig.

CRIME

Doyline man arrested for felony theft of utilities

STAFF REPORT
Minden Press-Herald

removed the meter entirely.

A Doyline man was arrested June 23 after allegedly bypassing multiple water meters and accruing over \$3,200 in unauthorized water usage, according to the Webster Parish Sheriff’s Office.

Deputies responded at 7:37 PM to a report from a Jenkins Water representative regarding suspected utility theft by Scott Fuller, 61, of the 400 block of Coty Lane.

According to the representative, Fuller initially amassed a bill of \$1,308.97 and was believed to have leaked approximately 314,950 gallons of water. Although the water meter was turned off, it had not been locked, and it was later found to have been turned back on. An additional 324,960 gallons of water were used, bringing Fuller’s total bill to \$3,231.23.

The meter was then locked, but the locks were reportedly cut and the meter reactivated on two occasions. In response, Jenkins Water

The utility provider later discovered an unauthorized meter had been installed and plumbed to Fuller’s property. That meter was also removed. This pattern reportedly repeated on three occasions, with each meter found operational and in the “off” position when discovered.

When questioned by a deputy, Fuller claimed he had no water service and demonstrated a non-working spigot. However, after being shown one of the three meter boxes on his property, a deputy turned the middle meter to the “on” position and returned to the residence. Fuller was asked to turn on a spigot, which then produced water. Fuller expressed surprise and denied knowledge of the meter being connected.

Fuller was arrested and charged with felony theft of utilities.

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

EDUCATION

Webster Parish graduates awarded scholarships by Sheriff Parker

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Sheriff Jason Parker recently awarded eight scholarships to outstanding graduates in Webster Parish, presenting them to local students who have been recognized for their academic achievements and community involvement. This year’s recipients are Makayla Boyce, Hunter Evans, Leigha Kenton-Gilbert, Chelsie Hampton, Peyton Handy, Devin Harris, Preston Pope, and McKenzie Chase.

“This is our way of congratulating these students for what they have achieved and in

some small way to help them as they take the next step in their lives,”

Parker said. “We are proud to be able to give these scholarships to deserving young people who can make this a better world.”

Now in its fifth year, the scholarship program reflects the Sheriff’s commitment to investing in the future of Webster Parish youth.

“This is a program I feel very strongly about,” Parker said. “Each year we set aside what we can to fund these scholarships and help our young people. We hope this helps them achieve their dreams.”



PARKER

Submit your news at
press-herald.com/submissions

OPINION

MINDEN
PRESS-HERALD
203 GLEASON STREET
MINDEN, LOUISIANA 71055
318-377-1866
www.press-herald.com
USPS NUMBER 593-340

RANDY BROWN
*Executive Vice President
& Publisher*

JOSHUA SPECHT
Editor

AMBER MCDOWN
Reporter

WILL PHILLIPS
Reporter

RUSSELL HEDGES
Sports Editor

NATHAN MILLS
Advertising Manager

CURTIS MAYS
Advertising Executive

The Minden Press-Herald is published Wednesday by Specht Newspapers, Inc. at 203 Gleason Street, Minden, Louisiana 71055.

Telephone: (318) 377-1866.

Entered as Periodicals at the Post Office as Minden Press-Herald, P.O. Box 1339, Minden, LA 71058-1339.

Subscription rate: \$40 per year.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Minden Press-Herald, P.O. Box 1339, Minden, LA 71058-1339.

THE MINDEN PRESS-HERALD WELCOMES LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

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

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

OPINION

New York City Sends an Avowed Muslim Socialist to Its Mayoral Runoff

There are many significant events going on nationally and internationally right now that deserve our attention. However, I couldn't miss the opportunity to share a recent development in New York City.

Democrat primary voters in NYC just sent Zohran Mamdani, an avowed, self-described socialist, to the runoff election in that city's Democrat mayoral primary. I would say that I was surprised by this development but, unfortunately, I am not.

He is a doozy. He has called repeatedly for "globalizing the intifada." Although Mamdani has tried to explain this statement away as meaning nothing more than a desire for Palestinian "equality and human rights," it is actually a call for violence against Jews. In short, he sincerely believes Israel has no right to exist as a Jewish state.

An even cursory review of the history of Palestinian intifadas reveals the real meaning behind "globalizing the intifada." As described by the Wall Street Journal, "... beginning on Sept. 28, 2000, and continuing for almost 5 years, Palestinian suicide bombers and other militants associated with Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad carried out 140 terrorist attacks within Israel. The second intifada took the lives of more than 1,000 Israeli civilians and se-

riously wounded thousands more."

Sickening. The Palestinian apologists in the national media are trying to protect and soften this image of Mamdani but there is no honest way to do so. WSJ closes with the piercing observation that "those blowing themselves up on Israeli buses and in food markets, gasoline stations, hotels, cafes, and restaurants weren't acting to advance 'human rights.' They did what they did to terrorize and murder Israeli Jews."

Globalizing intifada means bringing this violence everywhere, including New York City. What is hardest for me to understand is that one of America's most prominently Jewish cities is likely going to elect a communist Muslim who hates Israel and Jews. Remember on 9-11, 2001, NYC told the world "We will never forget." Sadly, today, 9-11's Ground Zero is about to elect a Muslim jihadist. Mamdani's supporters are not primarily Jews, blacks, or Hispanics. They are largely white elites with college degrees making over \$100,000 a year.

That alone is enough to

shock the conscience but that is not all.

Mamdani, among his socialist programs, wants to raise the minimum wage to \$30-an-hour, provide free bus rides, create city-owned grocery stores and further tax already highly-taxed businesses and individuals. He will also coddle and free criminals, defund the police, and replace them with social workers.

This is where the national Democrat Party is, and who it is. Long gone are the traditional liberal versus conservative battles between the two major parties. The national Democrat Party has become the party backing the socialist worldview of AOC and Bernie Sanders—who was in Shreveport recently on his Fight the Oligarchy tour—which is hilarious given he is the embodiment of the rich white oligarch he professes to oppose.

This is the face of the national Democrat Party. If there are any moderate Democrats left—I make an exception for U.S. Sen. John Fetterman from Pennsylvania—they are invisible. What should concern the national Democrat Party is that this very same radical, Woke view that benefitted Mamdani in the NYC mayor election was soundly rejected by the majority of voters last November 5th with the resounding election of Pres-

ident Trump.

One interesting point is that former New York governor Andrew Cuomo—who was expected to perform far better than he did, if not run away with the race—was a victim of his own past governance, including his Covid disaster. In fact, the big cities in the country like Chicago, San Francisco, Los Angeles, and New York City are all run by Democrats, and they are all overwhelmed with crime, homelessness, and an exorbitant cost of living. As a result, the frustrated New York population voted for Mamdani.

I think what we've just seen from NYC voters is a strong repudiation of the Leftist policies that have put the City in the shape it is in. The problem—I think those same voters will soon discover—is that the flashy Mamdani is just like, and an even more egregious example of, what they are trying to reject.

As an American, Mamdani's rise in our nation's most prominent city disturbs me. What should disturb national Democrats is that they are all going to have to answer for his insane, left-wing views.

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

If I'm not for myself, who will be for me?

Hillel, a noted philosopher, asked the poignant question, "If I'm not for myself, who will be for me, if not now, when; but if I'm only for myself, what am I?"

Because we, to a degree, invent our own destiny, create it, make it happen, manufacture it within our own brain, then believe it into existence by diligent work, creative energy that drives us to our goals, we must devise a plan of action to reach our desired destinations.

Someone has said that in order to achieve any goal, there are only two things we must do. First we must decide exactly what it is that

we want and secondly, and just as important, we must determine what price we are willing to pay to make that goal a reality.



SARAH HUDSON PIERCE

way for the man who knows where he is going."

Being rejected in any en-

deavor isn't the end, doesn't define us as a failure. Just as Fran Tarkington, the famed football player, held the record for touchdowns, he also held the record for more sacks than anyone else.

Another interesting fact is that President Ronald Reagan, was turned down when he applied for a job at Montgomery Ward. Being upset he mentioned not getting hired to a total stranger, on an elevator, who suggested that he go down to the local radio station who was hiring.

Immediately he was hired. The rest is history.

It's now what happens to

us, or how many defeats we encounter, but how many time we get up, dust ourselves off, keep trying, each time rising a little further up from which we came.

Perhaps we know deep inside that the time has come that we must reach inside, develop our gifts or die in despair.

Life has never been easy but visualizing our dreams as a reality, before the first step is taken, is what makes the difference!

CONTACT SARAH AT SARAH9957@AOL.COM

203 GLEASON ST.

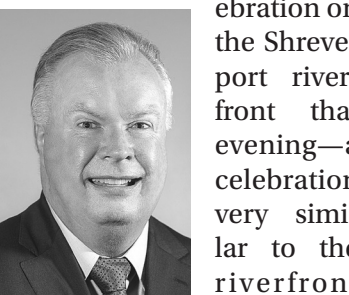
Celebrating Freedom: A Personal Reflection on America's 249th Birthday

This Friday is the Fourth of July—one of my very favorite and most memorable holidays of the year. July 4, 2025, officially marks America's 249th birthday. It was on July 4, 1776, that Congress adopted the Declaration of Independence (though history shows that the document was actually voted on and signed by the Second Continental Congress on July 2, 1776).

As I said above, the Fourth of July has always been one of my favorite holidays because of what it stands for. When I was a teenager in junior high school, I vividly remember the celebration of America's Bicentennial on July 4, 1976. I remember the months and

months of historical celebration and patriotic promotion leading up to that incredible moment.

I also clearly remember what our family did on that very day. We attended a celebration on the Shreveport riverfront that evening—a celebration very similar to the riverfront events that have taken place in recent years. It's hard to believe that was 49 years ago. Time flies.



RANDY BROWN

A few years later, I also remember my dad bringing

home two Susan B. Anthony silver dollars, which were first minted in 1979 by the U.S. Mint. In fact, I still have them somewhere. The coins were only minted in 1979, 1980, 1981, and again in 1999. One day soon, I need to find them—they may be worth something.

If you have a flag to fly this Fourth of July, I hope you'll display it proudly. If you're able to attend church around the holiday, I hope your church celebrates patriotism both in message and in song. Most importantly, I hope we give thanks to God for the many freedoms we enjoy in this country. America is truly a blessed nation. We should offer constant thanks and

praise to God for the greatness He has bestowed upon us. We are mighty, and we are free.

Of course, not all nations can say the same. And sometimes, I do worry about the erosion of our freedoms here at home. In many ways, it feels like some of our rights and privileges are slipping away right before our eyes. As U.S. citizens, we are guaranteed certain freedoms by our Constitution—especially those outlined in the Bill of Rights.

To call our Constitution a "work in progress" or to imply that our rights can be taken away depending on a particular political leader's philosophy is a dangerous

departure from the vision of our Founding Fathers. That kind of thinking echoes the tyranny our founders sought to escape when they formed this great nation.

We are the United States of America. We are proud. We are mighty. And we are free.

I hope you and your families have a very happy, safe, and fun Fourth of July. Most importantly, let's come together to celebrate what makes our country great.

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

SPORTS

Russell Hedges, Sports Editor
rhedges@spechtnewspapers.com

COLUMN

Louisiana Tech lost two legends last week

RUSSELL HEDGES
Minden Press-Herald

Dave Nitz and Dr. Billy Jack Talton, two men with different but profound impacts on Louisiana Tech, passed away last week.

Nitz, 82, was the legendary Voice the Bulldogs for 50 years. He was inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in 2019.

Talton, 85, played football at Minden High and Louisiana Tech. He went on to become a powerlifting pioneer at Tech and led the school's team to 22 national championships before his retirement in 2001.

He was a 10-time College Powerlifting Coach of the Year and is recognized as the founder of Louisiana High School Powerlifting.

Talton was inducted into the Ark-La-Tex Sports

Museum Hall of Fame and was an inaugural inductee into the USA Powerlifting Louisiana Hall of Fame. In 2023, he was inducted into the USA Powerlifting Men's Hall of Fame as a contributor after serving in many capacities including as an official for the Paralympic Games and international official for the Special Olympics.

I was lucky to cross paths with both these great men.

When I covered sports at the Shreveport Times in the late 1980s until about 2000, my main focus was high school sports.

But every now and then I would cover a Shreveport Captains game at Fair Grounds Field. Sometimes on off days I would go to games and sit in the press box with The Times' beat

writer.

In addition to his duties at Louisiana Tech, Dave was the Captain' radio play-by-play announcer.

Anytime I saw him he was always ready with a "hello" or "how you doing?" I would often stop by the radio booth before the game or between innings and say a quick hello to him.

At one point, Dave hosted a TV show that I believe was broadcast on Shreveport cable. He asked me to be a guest.

I was hesitant. I have never been comfortable in front of any kind of camera. I had never been on TV.

But I said yes. Dave knew I was nervous but he made it easy for me and I was able to relax and ended up enjoying it.

I first met Coach Talton, as I always called him,

in 1967 when I was 8 years old. He joined the coaching staff at Captain Shreve, led by my dad, the late Lee Hedges.

The 1967 season was Shreve's second. The Gators had won only one game the previous year in their inaugural season. But with the help of Coach Talton Shreve won the district championship.

He was an assistant for two more years as Shreve began to become one of the state's top programs. Two of his former players, Bo Harris and Gordon Boogaerts, served as pallbearers at his funeral.

I can still remember being around him as he became one of my dad's close friends.

His obituary mentions his "robust laugh," and "signature intensity."

Even though I was a little kid, I definitely remember those things about him and looked up to him.

After he left Shreve, he had coaching stints at Northwestern State and Cedar Creek before becoming a faculty member at Tech in Health and Physical Education.

He started the powerlifting team in 1974 and Tech competed in its first national championship event in 1976.

I saw Coach Talton only occasionally after he left Shreve, usually at a Louisiana Tech event. The last time I saw him was about two years ago at my dad's funeral.

Last weekend, the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame held its annual induction ceremony.

As mentioned above,

Dave Nitz is deservedly a member. Perhaps one day Coach Talton will become one.

Dave and Coach Talton will of course be missed, but they left marks few of us will be able to.

Coach Talton influenced hundreds as a teacher and coach.

Dave brought the excitement of Louisiana Tech sports into the homes and vehicles of those who were unable to be at games in person.

And no doubt some fans brought their radios to listen to him at games or turned their TVs down and listened to him as they watched games.

His signature phrase of "you gotta love it" when the Bulldogs performed well on the field, court or diamond is etched in Tech history.

LOUISIANA SPORTS HALL OF FAME



CHRIS REICH/NSU PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICES®
The 2025 Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame induction class (from left): Andrew Whitworth, Neil Weiner representing Dale Weiner, Dave Dixon Louisiana Sports Leadership Award winner Herb Vincent, Robert Soileau representing George "Bobby" Soileau, Joe Scheuermann, Nick Saban, Vickie Johnson, Distinguished Service Award in Sports Journalism winner Glenn Guilbeau, Robin Daniels representing DSA winner Ed Daniels, April Burkholder and Danny Broussard.

Family propelled former Tech star Johnson to Hall of Fame career

JASON PUGH
Written for the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame

NATCHITOCHES – Former Louisiana Tech women's basketball star Vickie Johnson was among 12 members of the Class of 2025 inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Saturday night.

Family forged Johnson's rise from small-town sensation in Coushatta to Tech standout and WNBA trailblazer.

Initially, Johnson's brother did not want her playing basketball with him and other family members. Johnson took the initiative and found an opening to exploit.

"One Saturday they were playing two-on-two but they only had three players," she said. "I was lurking in the wings. I secretly practiced for five or six months, because I knew the opportunity would present itself again. When it did, he allowed me to play. From that moment on, he put me under his wing and helped me get there."

That snub-turned-protector and nurturer began the push that led Johnson to become the first WNBA player to score 4,000 points, grab 1,000 rebounds and hand out 1,000 assists in a career. What it also may have birthed was a pretty effective forearm.

"My first memory of Vickie was her forearm in my hip," said current Las Vegas Aces coach Becky Hammon, a six-time WNBA All-Star. "It was a reality check. I thought, 'Oh, man, she's really strong.' I did get a lot of my points off her assists. I like to say I helped her in the assists category and she helped me in the points category. She's one of a kind. They don't make them like V.J. anymore."

Johnson fought back tears when speaking about her late mother, who passed away in 2016. It was her mother who "allowed me to dream and dream big."



CHRIS REICH/NSU PHOTOGRAPHIC SERVICES
Former Louisiana Tech women's basketball star Vickie Johnson was inducted into the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Saturday night.

It was her mother who also may have allowed Louisiana Tech to keep its nascent star.

"There was a moment at Louisiana Tech when coach (Leon) Barmore got on me good," Johnson said. "I called my mom and said, 'This guy is crazy. I need to leave.' She said, 'I'm going to ask you three questions. You wanted to go to Louisiana Tech?' I said, 'Yes, ma'am.' 'You signed a scholarship?' Yes, ma'am. 'You at Louisiana Tech?' Yes, ma'am. 'Then stay your (butt) there.'"

Former LSU head football coach Nick Saban and offensive lineman Andrew Whitworth were among the other inductees.

"A lot of people look at this state through the athletic programs at LSU," said seven-time national champion college football coach Saban, whose first title came in 2003 at the helm of the Tiger program. "When we were there, we raised the bar and the standard."

The standard raising and bearing celebrated Saturday night did not begin and end with Saban nor did it end with on-field or competitive accomplishments.

Joining Saban in the induction class was one of his first recruits – West Monroe offensive tackle Andrew Whitworth. Whitworth followed his national championship at LSU with a standout NFL career that culminated in a Super Bowl victory that came after he took home the Walter Payton Man of the Year

Award.

Saban lauded Whitworth as epitomizing what the coach wanted his players to become in their post-collegiate career.

Whitworth attributed that to his home state's culture and what it instilled in him during his formative years in northeast Louisiana.

"Culture is shared belief and values," he said. "When you have that, it makes it special. I always want to make things better than I found them, and I have been given the blessings and ability to do that. Anything I'm a part of, it will be better because I'm there. The people I do it with are what matters most. That's our way of life."

"When I think of being at West Monroe, I think about my parents and my teammates' parents. When we were really successful, they were feeding the whole team and the coaches are pouring into us. At LSU, it was the same thing. You're just further away from home, but it was a new home. Moms were having us over to eat."

"Dads were taking us to lunch, asking us what we wanted to do after LSU. It was a support system. Once you get to the league, you have to be the support system. Could I share the values I learned from Louisiana? Making others feel valued. Can you spread that love? Making everyone feel special and feel a part of something sets you up to be successful. That's our way of life in Louisiana."

Being that support sys-

tem for others came naturally to Whitworth and was on display long before his 16-year NFL career that saw him help redefine the legacy of left tackles at football highest level.

"He always poured into other guys," West Monroe strength and conditioning coach Kirk Frantom said. "Whit was always in tune with his body and always wanted to perform at his highest level, but it wasn't just the competitiveness. It was the servant's heart he has."

Whitworth's legacy extended to his final NFL stop, winning a Super Bowl with the Los Angeles Rams, a franchise that allowed him to lead almost in lock step with head coach Sean McVay. Whitworth's relationship with McVay has been well documented, and the two remain close after Whitworth's retirement from the game.

"Whit always said this is a blessing, not a burden, and that's the approach he took every day," McVay said. "He's the only person to wear the Walter Payton Man of the Year patch and go out and win a Super Bowl to go out. He is the epitome of a special one and of a Hall of Famer."

The other six inductees in the competitive class were college baseball coach Joe Scheuermann, high school basketball coach Danny Broussard, pro basketball All-Star Danny Granger, LSU gymnastics great April Burkhalter, high school football coach Dale Weiner and NCAA boxing champion and state championship George "Bobby" Soileau.

SEC Association Commissioner Herb Vincent, a former LSU sports information director, was this year's winner of the Dave Dixon Sports Leadership Award.

Longtime sportswriter Glen Guilbeau and New Orleans broadcaster Ed Daniels, who passed away this year, were the recipients of the Louisiana Sports Writers Association Distinguished Service Award.

YOUTH SOFTBALL

Minden Rec Center to host DYS state tournament

AMBER MCDOWN
Minden Press-Herald

Minden will welcome more than 30 youth softball teams and their families as the city hosts the Diamond Youth Softball Louisiana State Tournament July 3-6 at the Minden Recreation Center.

Teams in the 6U, 8U, 10U, 12U and 15U age divisions will compete for state titles, with a chance to advance to the DYS

World Series. The event is expected to bring a large influx of visitors during the holiday weekend.

"This is more than just a tournament – it's an opportunity to showcase our small-town charm, southern hospitality, and community pride," the Greater Minden Chamber stated.

Minden teams have had much success in tournaments. Last year, the 6U, 8U, 10U and 12U teams competed in World Series.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Seven Bulldogs named to Steele Preseason All-CUSA Teams

STEPHEN FEATHERSTON
Louisiana Tech Director of Strategic Communications

Seven Louisiana Tech players received Phil Steele Preseason All-Conference USA honors, led by tight end Eli Finley and linebacker Kolbe Fields on the first team, the outlet announced last week.

Following Finley and Fields on the first team was Hayden Christman (offensive tackle) who earned second-team recognition. Omiri Wiggins (running back), Landon Nelson(center) and Sifa Leota (linebacker) were named to the third team, while Cedric Woods(corner) rounded out the seven Bulldog honorees with fourth-team honors.

Finley returns for his third season with the Bulldogs after starting in all 13 games at tight end last season. The Heath, Texas, native caught 25 passes for 314 yards and two scores and earned All-CUSA Honorable Mention honors. He ranked third on the team in receptions, receiving yards, and touchdowns, and is the leading returning receiver in all three categories heading into 2025.

Fields is set for his third season in Ruston and his second in an active role after earning All-CUSA Second Team honors last season. The New Orleans native played and started in 11 games last season while registering 71 tackles (38 solo, 33 assists), nine tackles for loss, 1.5 sacks, one interception, two forced fumbles and two pass breakups.

Christman was named to the second team after playing in all 13 games with 11 starts at right tackle as a redshirt freshman in 2024. The Tioga native

took over the starting right tackle role against Tulsa and never looked back. He was a pivotal member of the offensive line, helping the Bulldogs average 223.5 yards per game through the air, the CUSA's fourth best passing offense.

Wiggins was named to the third team after a successful 2024 campaign that saw him take over the starting running back role. The junior college transfer played in all 13 games while making nine starts in the backfield. Wiggins rushed for 527 yards and four scores on 111 carries.

Nelson, who is expected to be a key piece of the offensive line at center, joins Wiggins on the offensive side of the ball with third-team recognition. The former Iowa Western CC product has appeared in 20 games over the past three seasons, including 12 games and 10 starts at center in 2024.

Leota joins Fields at linebacker with third team preseason honors. The Eulless, Texas, native saw action in all 13 games with two starts in 2024 after transferring from North Texas. He recorded 43 stops, 5.5 tackles for loss, 3.5 sacks, one forced fumble, and one fumble recovery.

Woods, who announced he was coming back for his sixth season after the Independence Bowl, earned Phil Steele Preseason Fourth Team All-Conference USA for the second time in his career. The Monroe native has played in 47 career games with 45 starts dating back to the 2020 season where he started in all 10 games as a true freshman. Woods started in 12 games last season and collected 30 tackles and five pass breakups.

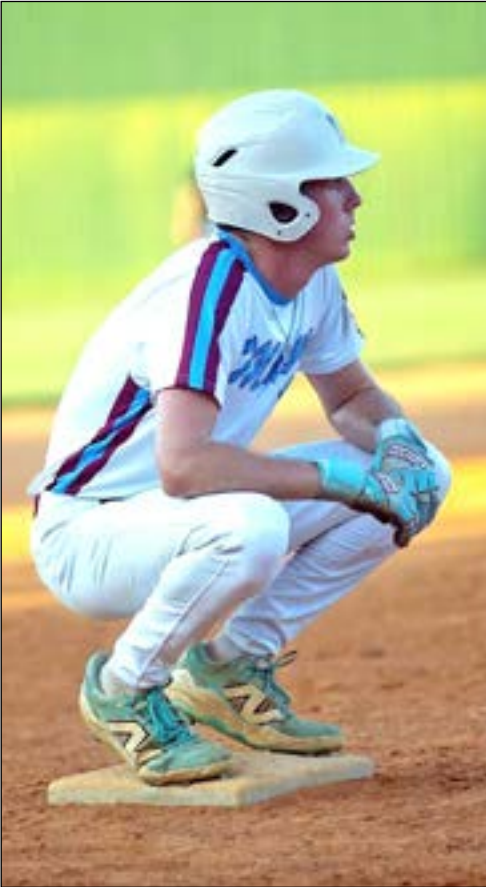
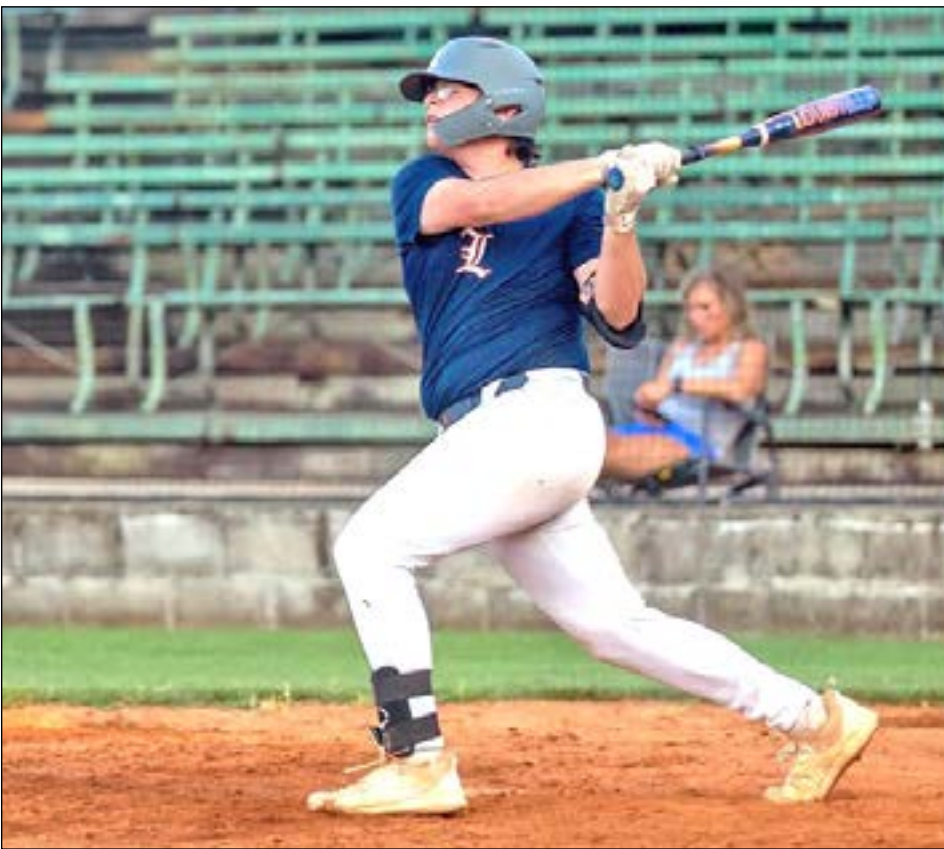
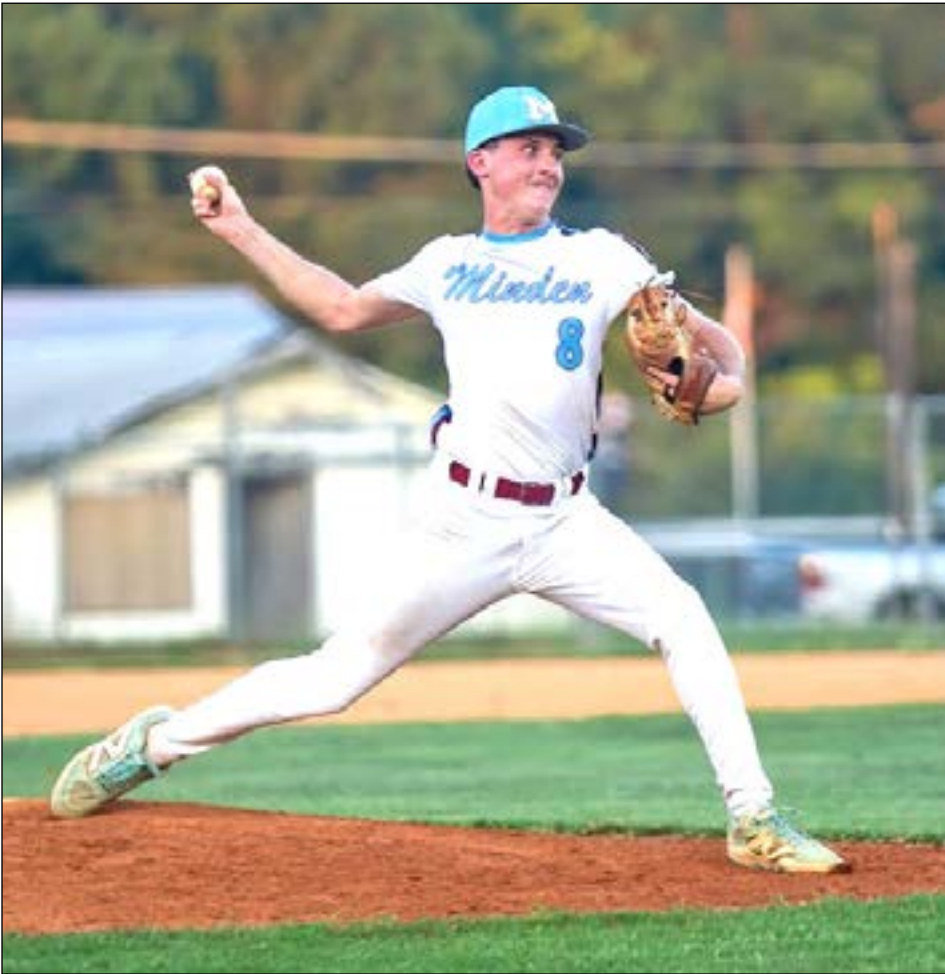
SPORTS

Russell Hedges, Sports Editor
rhedges@spechtnewspapers.com

HIGH SCHOOL BASEBALL

Minden vs. Lakeside

The Minden Crimson Tide and Lakeside Warriors battled in a summer practice game last week at Minden’s field.
Photos by Robert Summerlin/Press-Herald



OUTDOORS

Centuries of history wrapped around Natchez Trace

GLYNN HARRIS

I’ve seen the sign dozens of times traveling east on I-20. The brown Natchez Trace sign just east of Jackson point to where to get on this highway. I’d heard little about driving the Trace to spark my interest, especially the part that mentions the 50 mile per hour speed limit. Compared to the speed we can zip along the interstate, 50 is pokey slow and I like to get where I’m going quicker than 50 will allow.

I made my first trip on the Trace several years ago when a friend and I connected with the highway somewhere around Tupelo and rode it into Alabama, exiting near Sheffield. We weren’t in that big a hurry so the 50 mile per hour drive was rather nice; we even got to watch a flock of wild turkeys feeding along the roadside.

Later, Kay and I were headed southwest from Jackson for a two-night stay in Natchez. The most direct route, according to the map, was to get on the Natchez Trace near Clinton and drive the 80 miles or so to Natchez. It was a drive I’m sorry I avoided before and one I’ll for sure make again in the future.

The only negative was traveling in the middle of a July day when the temperatures approached the century mark. At 50 miles per hour, I’d like to have had the windows rolled down to get a better feel for the peaceful countryside where we drove. Even so, much of the highway was shaded, resulting in temperatures several degrees cooler than that out on the sun-drenched interstate. An-



A leisurely 50 mph drive along the Natchez Trace could give drivers chances to spot a wild turkey or two alongside the road.

GLYNN HARRIS

other plus to our trip was the absence of traffic; we probably saw fewer than two dozen vehicles over the 80 mile span.

Upon returning home a few days later, my interest in this neat little back country highway sent me to cyberspace for some research on the Natchez Trace. What I found was fascinating.

Did you know that the Natchez Trace is some 444 miles in length, stretching from Natchez, Mississippi to Nashville, Tennessee?

Do you know how the Trace was formed? I didn’t but I learned that in the early 1800s, boatmen called “Kaintucks” from the Ohio Valley floated merchandise, agricultural products, coal and livestock down the

rivers for sale in Natchez and New Orleans. Once the trip was completed, the flatboats were dismantled and the lumber sold.

Next came the arduous task of getting home via the ancient trail used by animals and humans that connected Natchez to just south of what is Nashville. If the sale of lumber was enough to purchase a horse, the Kaintucks rode back along the trail, the trip taking 20-25 days.

If there was no horse, they walked, covering the distance in 30-35 days. A trip around Wal-Mart gets me winded so it’s hard to imagine walking a trail for nearly 500 miles through sometimes hostile Indian territory where robbers often lurked with no Golden

Arches or Holiday Inn anywhere to be seen.

The trail became so well used that research indicates as many as 10,000 travelers used the old Trace in 1810 alone and by then, the Trace was the most heavily traveled trail in the Old Southwest. By 1820, more than 20 inns, or “stands” were in operation along the Trace, offering food and shelter.

The modern Natchez Trace Parkway was begun in the 1930s, paralleling the old Trace. Today, the parkway is complete, giving travelers an unhurried route from Natchez to Nashville where you won’t see many other vehicles but you just might spot a flock or two of wild turkeys or herd of deer.

Fishing Report

BUSSEY BRAKE – Bass have been good with several fish weighing in double digits caught early mornings on topwaters and on creature baits, Sinko’s and soft plastics. Bream 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 Tackle Shop 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 best in river lakes, bream are biting in the backwaters. For latest information, contact the Honey Hole Tackle Shop at 323-8707.

LAKE D’ARBONNE – Bass fishing has been best on crank baits, Wobbleheads and Ole Monster plastic worms. Crappie are suspended and best fishing has been in the hottest part of the day on 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 fair to good 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 are best at night on soft plastics and Chatter baits. Some are caught early morning around the grass on topwater lures. 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 biting. For information, contact the marina at 318/878-0101.

LAKE YUCATAN – The water is scheduled to crest this weekend but is still too high for access to landing. No fishing this week. For info call Surplus City Landing at 318/467-2259.

Good News

GOOD NEWS

IN GOD WE TRUST.....

“In God we trust, His strength is sure. His mighty hand will ever guide us; this is our motto; In God we trust.” As our nation celebrates another ‘birthday,’ and as the red, white and blue unfolds from village to cities across the country, let this motto sound out strong and clear—In God We Trust, without a trace of fear.

On our coins, from the beginning, our forefathers stamped this motto, wanting no misunderstanding of establishing the foundation of our government and laws upon this rock—“in God we trust”. So we pledge our allegiance...”one nation under God...with liberty and justice for all”, thanking God for freedoms we enjoy. And this all comes about because of Almighty God in whom we trust. Read the words to the patriotic song by the same title: “This is our country, home of the free, a land of beauty from sea to shining sea;

With lofty mountains and spacious plains, beyond all this one truth remains, In God we trust.... We are Americans, we’re proud to be; We stand for justice, we fight for liberty; We pledge allegiance, uphold her laws, and we are blessed in this because... In God we trust, He is our fortress; In God we trust, His strength is sure. His mighty hand will ever guide us; this is our motto; In God we trust. For blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord, and blessed are those Guided by His Word. His mighty hand will ever guide us; This is our motto; our true confession, our declaration: In God we trust.” (In God We Trust; Stan Pethel)

There are many Biblical references to obeying the laws and giving allegiance to those in authority. Still we must keep God’s

Commandments at life’s forefront, and our eyes fixed on Jesus our Savior, Then, we can know true freedom as Paul taught, “If He has set you free, you are free indeed.”(Gal 5:1)

We continue to be distressed about the Russian invasion of the Ukraine and the Middle East war and conflict, our country’s borders and such! Our young men and women are still in harms’ way around the world. We know the cost of freedom and our privileges that come at a heavy cost. Review facts from past wars and see how honorably we fought to protect our citizens and allies, to preserve freedoms & liberties at stake, and to prevent terror & evil forces spreading to other parts of the world. May our leaders always be willing to listen to our Heav-

enly Father when making decisions that affect so many around the world. What a disaster when God’s wisdom is not sought and applied. Praying for our president and staff is so important at this time. We must never doubt the mighty role prayer plays in God’s demonstration of His works and power. He is waiting for His children to honor Him, seek His face and call upon His name to turn our nation around. Then truly we can celebrate our freedoms – as a nation and as a holy people.

Yes, we will celebrate Independence Day again and hoist our flag high, displaying the red, white and blue colors. We will shoot fireworks and enjoy picnics with family and friends. But we must never forget our young men and women who are defending our freedoms as we celebrate. The eyes of God will be on our nation if we, but humble ourselves, pray and seek His di-

rection for our beloved country.

“If My people will pray and will bow down their hearts—And will humbly seek all that is true; If My people will turn from their ungodly ways—And acknowledge Me in all they do; Then I will hear from heaven and forgive their ways. I will bring healing to their land. If My people will pray.” (If My People Will Pray, Jimbo Stevens)

Let’s salute Old Glory; let’s commend our soldiers for their sacrifice and commitment, and let’s pray for our leaders who make tough decisions. Let’s honor our heroes, but still - may our life’s motto ever be “In God We Trust”.

This is a great nation, not because of the weapons of war, military might or our great wealth. We can only be great in that we keep our trust in God Almighty.

BILL CRIDER IS CHAPLAIN OF MINDEN MEDICAL CENTER



Bill Crider

THE UPWARD LOOK

Wicked – Chaff

“The wicked are not so, But they are like chaff which the wind drives away.” Psalm 1:4 NASB

The wicked are the ungodly ones. They are not blessed by God, nor do they delight in His Word. They are not like the tree firmly planted by streams of water. The wicked are like chaff, the useless part of grain. At harvest time, the chaff is separated from the grain by throwing it in the air. The heavier grain falls to the ground. The lighter



Max Hutto

chaff is driven away by the wind. While the wicked may flourish for a season, may even enjoy their sinful ways, and may seem to dominate over the righteous, the wicked will soon face the judgment at harvest time.

Lord Jesus, help me to warn the wicked of their fate. Let me share with them the need for repentance and faith in You.

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

INSPIRATION

Matters of Perspective

I would like everyone to take a moment to reflect on their childhood. Do you remember the hidden image puzzles that they would let you do in school or at the doctor’s office? Do you remember how to solve those puzzles? You have to press the image right against your face and slowly move it out. This allowed you to see things otherwise not visible at first glance. These puzzles were fun and extremely educational because they made you change your perception. The way we choose to look at things is very important. We sometimes look at our lives as chaotic and unbalanced.




Bernard Harris

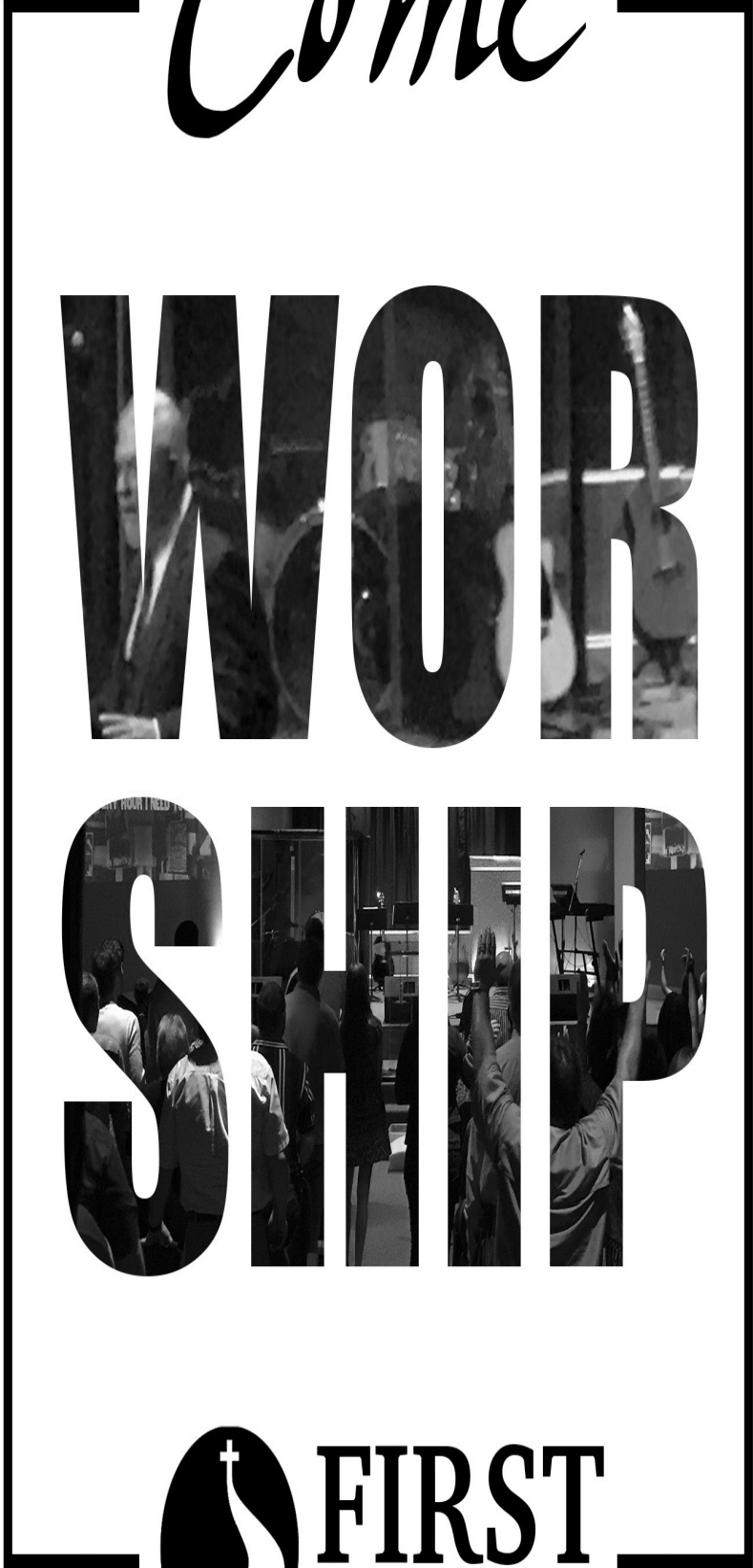
While other times we see our lives as happy and fulfilled. What we don’t realize all too often is that God is painting a portrait with our lives and he sees the end result. We need to do what we did as children. We need to step back and refocus on God and his plans. Jeremiah 29:11 NLT “For I know the plans I have for you,” says the Lord. “They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”

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

Come

WORSHIP

FIRST
ASSEMBLY OF GOD
MINDEN



How can we
pray for you?

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

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
301 Pennsylvania Avenue • Minden, LA



CLASSIFIEDS

PLACE YOUR AD

classifieds@press-herald.com

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

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

FREE 2 Akc Registered Male & female yorkies puppies are ready for Adoption Raised in a loving home. Friendly and playful, great with kids and other pets. Small size, perfect for apartments For Free if interested contact:danamorgan189@gmail.com

LEGALS

SHERIFF'S SALE

UMB BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS LEGAL TITLE TRUSTEE OF LVS TITLE TRUST XIII VS.
DONALD RAY ODOM A/K/A DONALD R. ODOM A/K/A DONALD ODOM AND COURTNEY CHARLES ODOM A/K/A COURTNEY C. ODOM A/K/A COURTNEY ODOM, HEIRS OF R. L. ODOM
In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 81720,
By virtue of a WRIT OF FIFA issued out of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, in the above styled and numbered suit and to me directed, I have seized and taken into my possession and will offer for sale at public auction to the last and highest bidder for cash WITHOUT the benefit of appraisalment and according to law at the principle front door of the Courthouse in the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana, on WEDNESDAY, July 9, 2025,
During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:
Land referred to in this commitment is described as all that certain property situated in the County of Webster, and State of LA and being described in a deed dated 07/23/1994 and recorded 01/17/1995 in instrument number: 391973 among the land records of the county and state set forth above, and referenced as follows:
Excepting therefrom deed instrument no. 391386.
Situated in the Parish of Webster, Louisiana:
Beginning at a point 220 yards east of northwest corner of Section 11, Township 17 North Range 9 West, this being the northwest corner of that certain property acquired by Sam Tillman in partition deed recorded in conveyance book 97-55 records of Webster Parish, Louisiana run south 198 feet, more or less to the north right of way line of Mt. Lebanon, Spart Road; thence run east along said right of way line 425 feet, thence run north 198 feet, more or less, to the north line at said Section 11, thence west along the north line of said Section 11, 425 feet to the point of beginning containing two acres more or less in the north west quarter of north west quarter (NW/4 of NW/4), Section 11, Township 17 North, Range 9 West, Webster Parish, Louisiana, together with all improvements thereon and all rights thereto belonging.
Less and except
West one acre tract;
Commencing at the northwest corner of Section 11, Township 17 North, Range West, Webster Parish, Louisiana, and run east 660 feet to the point of beginning; thence run south 198 feet, more or less, to north right-of-way of Mt. Lebanon- Sparta Road, (60 feet right-of-way), thence run easterly along said right-of-way 212.5 feet, thence run west 198 feet, more or less, to the north line of Section 11, thence run west 212.5 feet, more or less, to the point of beginning, together with all iraprovements thercon and all rights thereto belonging.
SOLD SUBJECT TO ANY SUPERIOR LIENS, MORTGAGES OR PRIVILEGES THERETO.
Said property seized is that of the defendant and will be sold to satisfy a judgment rendered in our Honorable Court.

JASON R. PARKER Sheriff & Ex-Officio Auctioneer
Webster Parish, Louisiana
Pan Brand less
Pam Brantley - Deputy

June 4, 2025
July 2, 2025
Minden Press Herald

SHERIFF'S SALE

NORTHSTAR MORTGAGE LLC VS.
BRIAN PAUL BOULAS
In the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, No. 81940.
By virtue of a WRIT OF SEIZURE AND SALE issued out of the Twenty-Sixth Judicial District Court of Webster Parish, Louisiana, in the above styled and numbered suit and to me directed, I have seized and taken into my possession and will offer for sale at public auction to the last and highest bidder for cash WITH the benefit of appraisalment and according to law at the principle front door of the Courthouse in the City of Minden, Webster Parish, Louisiana, on WEDNESDAY, July 9, 2025,
During the legal sale hours, the following property, to wit:
Begin at the Southwest corner of a lot sold to Ford C. Davis by the Home Owner's Loan Corporation and run South D degrees 33 minutes West along the Lewisville Road 211.5 feet; thence run South 89 degrees 59 minutes East 100 feet; thence North 5 degrees West 80 feet, thence North 88 degrees East 171 feet; thence North 0 degrees 22 minutes East 121.5 feet to the Southeast corner of the Ford C. Davis property, thence North 69 degrees 59 minutes West along the South line of the Ford C. Davis lot 266.5 feet to the point of beginning; and ALSO: Begin at the Southwest corner of Lot #30, Webb Place, a subdivision located in the Southeast Quarter of the Northwest Quarter of Section 22, Township 19 North, Range B West, Winden, Webster parish, Louisiana, as per map and plat thereof on file and of record in the office of Clerk of Court, Webster Parish, Louisiana, in Map Book 1, Page 48; thence run North 0 degrees 50 modenales West 250 feet; thence run South 88 degrees 11 minutes West 89.3 feste to the point of baglining: Ihanca continue South BB degrees 11 minules West 81.7 feet; thence run South 4 degrees 40 makes East 82.5 feet, thence run North 86 degrees 18 minutes East 77.55 feet; thence run North 1 dugrue 00 minutes West 79.5 feet to the point of beginning.
SOLD SUBJECT TO ANY SUPERIOR LIENS, MORTGAGES OR PRIVILEGES THERETO.
Said property seized is that of the defendant and will be sold to satisfy a judgment rendered in our Honorable Court.
JASON R. PARKER Sheriff & Ex-Officio Auctioneer
Webster Parish, Louisiana
Pam Brantley - Deputy

June 4, 2025
July 2, 2025
Minden Press Herald

Public Notice

The Town of Sibley declared the item referenced below as surplus at its June 9, 2025 meeting and has authorized the LPS Municipal Surplus Property Program to sell the property through online auction. Unless extended, bidding will end on Friday, July 18, 2025 at 5:00 p.m. Bidders must go to <https://lamats.net/surplus> and access the designated link to register and to place bids. The Town of Sibley reserves the right to review and approve all high bids and to relist or dispose of the item if not sold.

2004 Ford F-250 Pickup Truck

July 2, 2025
Minden Press Herald

Curator Legal Notice

The following individuals have been named in a lawsuit in Webster Parish styled Regions Bank vs THE UNOPENED SUCCESSION OF TAMMY RENEE POOLE (A/K/A TAMMY POOLE, TAMMY R POOLE) AND PEGGY JOYCE BEAIRD POOLE #81932, to-wit: Peggy Beaird Poole. Anyone having information about the whereabouts of these named parties or potential heirs/relatives please contact Danielle Smith or Michael R. Smith, Attorneys at Law, via Telephone (318) 775-0557 or email OfficeWide@SmithLaw.net.

July 2, 9, 16, 2025
Minden Press Herald

PUBLIC NOTICE

The budget of the Webster Parish Sheriff's Office covering fiscal year 2025/2026 has been adopted after a public meeting held on June 23, 2025. This notice serves as certification that all statutory requirements have been met in accordance with RS 39:1307

July 2, 2025
Minden Press Herald

PROCEEDING OF THE VILLAGE OF HEFLIN

STATE OF LOUISIANA, TAKEN IN REGULAR MEETING HELD ON JUNE 5, 2025.
The Heflin Town Council met at Town Hall, Heflin, Louisiana beginning at 7:42 p.m. with the following members present: Mayor Ralph James council members Matt Austin, Hallie DeMoss, Robert Stachowicz, Chief of Police Paul Miguez, Water System Operator Jesse Williamson and Village Clerk Sherry Limosnero.
The meeting was opened with prayer offered by Hallie DeMoss, and Matt Austin led the Pledge of Allegiance. Mayor Ralph James welcomed everyone to the meeting.
Upon motion by Matt Austin and duly seconded by Robert Stachowicz, the council adopted minutes from May 8, 2025, at the Council Regular Meeting held on June 5, 2025, as presented; the motion was approved unanimously.
Robert Stachowicz moved to accept May 2025 Operating Financial Statements as presented; the

motion was duly seconded by Hallie DeMoss. The motion was approved unanimously.
Upon motion by Hallie DeMoss and duly seconded by Matt Austin, the council unanimously approved Water System Reports for May 2025.
Matt Austin moved to accept the May 2025 Police Department Reports as presented; the motion was duly seconded by Robert Stachowicz. The motion was approved unanimously.
Robert Stachowicz moved to accept the May 2025 ARP Report as presented; the motion was duly seconded by Hallie DeMoss.
The motion was approved unanimously.
Upon motion by Hallie DeMoss and duly seconded by Matt Austin, the council unanimously approved Resolution 2025-003 THE RESURFACING PROJUCT AT THE TOP OF THE HILL ON NORTH MAIN STREET. Said Resolution #2025-003 is attached to and made a part of these minutes.
Matt Austin moved to accept Minden Press Herald as the Village of Heflin's official journal for 2025. The motion was duly seconded by Robert Stachowicz as presented; the motion was approved unanimously.
Upon motion by Robert Stachowicz and duly seconded by Hallie DeMoss, the council unanimously approved Wise, Martin, & Cole L.L.C. as the Village of Heflin official Auditor for 2025.
Hallie DeMoss moved to accept Stewart Beatty and Paul Miguez as 2025 and 2026 Fire District 12 Board Members. The motion was duly seconded by Matt Austin as presented; the motion was approved unanimously.
Council comments were heard; public comments were heard. There being no further business to come before this Council meeting adjourned by Council Member Robert Stachowicz.

Attest by: Sherry Limosnero, LCMC, Village Clerk
Adopted:

July 2, 2025
Minden Press Herald

PROCLAMATION NUMBER 17 JML 2025

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

SPECIAL ELECTION – JUSTICE OF THE PEACE, JUSTICE OF

THE PEACE DISTRICT 1, PARISH OF WEBSTER

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the office of Justice of the Peace, Justice of the Peace District 1, Parish of Webster, because no one qualified for this office during the January 29-31, 2025 qualifying period for the March 29, 2025 election;
WHEREAS, R.S. 18:621 requires the Governor to call a special election to fill the vacancy in an existing judgeship when more than twelve (12) months of the term remain unexpired, in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. 18:621 and/or the dates for elections set forth in La. R.S. 18:402.
NOW THEREFORE, I, JEFF LANDRY, Governor of the State of Louisiana, by virtue of the authority vested by the Constitution and laws of the State of Louisiana, do hereby order and direct as follows:
Section 1: A special primary and general election for the unexpired term shall be held throughout the jurisdiction of the Justice of the Peace, Justice of the Peace District 1, Parish of Webster, for the purpose of electing a justice of the peace to fill the vacancy in the office.
Section 2: Any qualified person desiring to become a candidate for the office shall file a notice of candidacy, accompanied either by a qualifying fee or a nominating petition, as required or authorized by law, with the appropriate election official in the manner and form, and under the procedures and conditions, provided by R.S. 18:461 et seq., and all other applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, R.S. 18:1 et seq., during the period commencing Wednesday, July 9, 2025 and ending Friday, July 11, 2025.
Section 3: The special election shall be held and conducted under the applicable provisions of the Louisiana Election Code, La. R.S. 18:1 et seq.

Section 4: The primary election shall be held Saturday, October 11, 2025, and the general election shall be held Saturday, November 15, 2025, at the times and places and in the manner, prescribed by law.
Section 5: The Secretary of State, Commissioner of Elections, Parish Board of Supervisors, Clerk of Court, Registrar of Voters, and all other persons charged with any power, function, right, duty or responsibility in conducting elections in the jurisdiction of the Justice of the Peace, Justice of the Peace District 1, Parish of Webster, are hereby authorized, requested, directed and empowered to exercise every lawful function and to do every act necessary to conduct the special election, to cause the returns to be made, to canvass and promulgate the results, and to perform all related and incidental functions.

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

Jeff Landry
GOVERNOR OF LOUISIANA

ATTEST BY THE
SECRETARY OF STATE

Nancy Landry
SECRETARY OF STATE

July 2, 2025
Minden Press Herald

Village of Dixie Inn

Regular Session
June 10, 2025

NOTICE: THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN FORMALLY APPROVED BY THE CITY

COUNCIL.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the Village of Dixie Inn met in Regular Session on June 10, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Village Hall, Dixie Inn, Louisiana with the following members present: Mayor Donna Hoffoss and Aldermen: Judy McKenzie, Nell Finlay, and Lance Milligan.
The meeting was called to order and the invocation and pledge of allegiance were given.
There were no public comments.
Mayor Hoffoss welcomed guests.
Mayor Hoffoss closed the Regular Session and opened the Public Hearing for the 2025-2026 Budget. Mayor Hoffoss introduced the 2025-2026 Budget and asked for comments. There were no comments from attendees.
Mayor Hoffoss closed the public hearing for the 2025-2026 Budget and opened the Regular Session.
A motion was made by Judy McKenzie and seconded by Nell Finlay to adopt the minutes of the regular session on May 13, 2025, and Special Session on May 6, 2025.
Vote on the motion was unanimous.
Financial statements of all funds, including a current budget vs. actual, were presented.
A motion was made by Judy McKenzie and seconded by Lance Milligan to adopt the financial statements for May 2025. Vote on the motion was unanimous.
Department Reports:
Scott Day reported that all is well with the Water Department.
The Police Department had 37 traffic stops, 11 citations, two arrests, 12 Lemis Reports, 25 non-Lemis calls, 120 building checks, 19 backups, 28 public assists, 80 calls for service, and one accident for the month of May.
Alderwoman, Judy McKenzie, informed guests that a new heating/AC business, Pro Air Solutions, will be opening soon in Dixie Inn.
Mayor Hoffoss reported the village received a Line-Item Appropriation under ACT 776 in the amount of \$30,000 that must be spent by June 30, 2025. The mayor also reported that Dixie Inn received an "A" water grade for CCR 2024.

New Business:
A motion was made by Judy McKenzie and seconded by Nell Finlay to adopt the 2025-2026 Annual Budget of the Village of Dixie Inn, Louisiana and to adopt Ordinance No. 134 – An Ordinance adopting the Annual Budget of Revenues, Expenditures, and Appropriation for the Village of Dixie Inn, Louisiana in budget year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Vote on the motion was unanimous. Vote on the motion was as follows:

Yeas: 3 (Judy McKenzie, Nell Finlay, and Lance Milligan), Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0
A motion was made by Lance Milligan and seconded by Judy McKenzie to amend the 2024-2025 Budget. Vote on the motion was unanimous.
A motion was made by Judy McKenzie and seconded by Lance Milligan to approve Benjamin Allen's resignation from the police department. Vote on the motion was unanimous.
A motion was made by Lance Milligan and seconded by Nell Finlay to adopt the Minden Press Herald as the official journal for the Village of Dixie Inn for FY 2025-2026. Vote on the motion was unanimous.
A motion was made by Lance Milligan and seconded by Judy McKenzie to approve a quote for \$885 for a new surveillance camera. Vote on the motion was unanimous.
A motion was made by Judy McKenzie and seconded by Lance Milligan to approve using the \$30,000.00 from the Line-Item Appropriation of ACT 776 for items needed by the Police Department (bullet-proof vest, uniform for Chief, window tint on '23 Explorer, handheld mobile radios, and mobile radios for cars). Vote on the motion was unanimous.
A motion was made by Lance Milligan and seconded by Judy McKenzie to approve Mayor Hoffoss spending the excess amount left from the Line-Item Appropriation of ACT 776 on items needed for other village departments. Vote on the motion was unanimous.
There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Nell Finlay and seconded by Lance Milligan. Vote on the motion was unanimous.
ATTEST:
Donna Hoffoss
Mayor

July 2, 2025
Minden Press Herald

Public Notice

Village of Dixie Inn
Regular Session
June 10, 2025

NOTICE: THESE MINUTES HAVE NOT BEEN FORMALLY APPROVED BY THE CITY

COUNCIL.

The Mayor and Board of Aldermen for the Village of Dixie Inn met in Regular Session on June 10, 2025, at 5:00 p.m. in the Village Hall, Dixie Inn, Louisiana with the following members present: Mayor Donna Hoffoss and Aldermen: Judy McKenzie, Nell Finlay, and Lance Milligan.
The meeting was called to order and the invocation and pledge of allegiance were given.
There were no public comments.
Mayor Hoffoss welcomed guests.
Mayor Hoffoss closed the Regular Session and opened the Public Hearing for the 2025-2026 Budget. Mayor Hoffoss introduced the 2025-2026 Budget and asked for comments. There were no comments from attendees.
Mayor Hoffoss closed the public hearing for the 2025-2026 Budget and opened the Regular Session.
A motion was made by Judy McKenzie and seconded by Nell Finlay to adopt the minutes of the regular session on May 13, 2025, and Special Session on May 6, 2025.
Vote on the motion was unanimous.
Financial statements of all funds, including a current budget vs. actual, were presented.
A motion was made by Judy McKenzie and seconded by Lance Milligan to adopt the financial statements for May 2025. Vote on the motion was unanimous.
Department Reports:
Scott Day reported that all is well with the Water Department.
The Police Department had 37 traffic stops, 11 citations, two arrests, 12 Lemis Reports, 25 non-Lemis calls, 120 building checks, 19 backups, 28 public assists, 80 calls for service, and one accident for the month of May.
Alderwoman, Judy McKenzie, informed guests that a new heating/AC business, Pro Air Solutions, will be opening soon in Dixie Inn.
Mayor Hoffoss reported the village received a Line-Item Appropriation under ACT 776 in the amount of \$30,000 that must be spent by June 30, 2025. The mayor also reported that Dixie Inn received an "A" water grade for CCR 2024.

New Business:
A motion was made by Judy McKenzie and seconded by Nell Finlay to adopt the 2025-2026 Annual Budget of the Village of Dixie Inn, Louisiana and to adopt Ordinance No. 134 – An Ordinance adopting the Annual Budget of Revenues, Expenditures, and Appropriation for the Village of Dixie Inn, Louisiana in budget year July 1, 2025, to June 30, 2026. Vote on the motion was unanimous. Vote on the motion was as follows:
Yeas: 3 (Judy McKenzie, Nell Finlay, and Lance Milligan), Nays: 0, Abstain: 0, Absent: 0
A motion was made by Lance Milligan and seconded by Judy McKenzie to amend the 2024-2025 Budget. Vote on the motion was unanimous.
A motion was made by Judy McKenzie and seconded by Lance Milligan to approve Benjamin Allen's resignation from the police department. Vote on the motion was unanimous.
A motion was made by Lance Milligan and seconded by Nell Finlay to adopt the Minden Press Herald as the official journal for the Village of Dixie Inn for FY 2025-2026. Vote on the motion was unanimous.
A motion was made by Lance Milligan and seconded by Judy McKenzie to approve a quote for \$885 for a new surveillance camera. Vote on the motion was unanimous.
A motion was made by Judy McKenzie and seconded by Lance Milligan to approve using the \$30,000.00 from the Line-Item Appropriation of ACT 776 for items needed by the Police Department (bullet-proof vest, uniform for Chief, window tint on '23 Explorer, handheld mobile radios, and mobile radios for cars). Vote on the motion was unanimous.
A motion was made by Lance Milligan and seconded by Judy McKenzie to approve Mayor Hoffoss spending the excess amount left from the Line-Item Appropriation of ACT 776 on items needed for other village departments. Vote on the motion was unanimous.
There being no further business, a motion to adjourn was made by Nell Finlay and seconded by Lance Milligan. Vote on the motion was unanimous.
ATTEST:
Donna Hoffoss
Mayor

July 2, 2025
Minden Press Herald

ORDINANCE NO. 134

AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE ANNUAL BUDGET OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND APPROPRIATION FOR THE VILLAGE OF DIXIE INN, DIXIE INN, LOUISIANA IN BUDGET

YEAR JULY 1, 2025 TO JUNE 30, 2026

BE IT ORDAINED by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Village of Dixie Inn, Dixie Inn, Louisiana, convened in regular session on June 10, 2025 the following:

SECTION I: The attached detailed estimate of revenues as reflected in the consolidated statement, and such other fiscal exhibits and information as required by Louisiana Local Government Budget Act, be and the same is hereby adopted to serve as the Budget of Revenues for the Village for July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.
SECTION II: The attached detailed statement of anticipated expenditures as reflected in the consolidated statement, and such other fiscal exhibits and information as required by Louisiana Local Government Budget Act, be and the same is hereby adopted to serve as the Budget of Expenditures for the Village for July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026.
SECTION III: The adoption of the Budget of Expenditures as reflected in the attached line-item budget containing object of expenditure classifications shall be declared to be the appropriation of the amounts set therein as established in each budget classification by object of expenditure.

SECTION IV: The amounts appropriated for all accounts shall not exceed the amounts fixed therein the Budget of Expenditures. Nothing contained in this section shall be construed to prohibit the governing authority from amending or making an appropriation to and for a contingent fund to be used in cases of emergency.

This ordinance having been read section by section and having been considered in the same manner, on motion of Judy McKenzie, seconded by Nell Finlay, the vote thereon was as follows:

Yeas: (3) Nays: () Abstain: () Absent: ()
This ordinance was declared adopted on this the 10th day of June 2025.

Donna Hoffoss
Mayor
ATTEST:

Alicia Ware
Municipal Clerk
CERTIFICATE
I, the undersigned Village Clerk for the Village of Dixie Inn do hereby certify that the attached Ordinance is a true and correct copy of Ordinance No. 134 passed by the Mayor and Board of Aldermen of the Village of Dixie Inn at the regular meeting, with a quorum present, held on June 10, 2025. Dixie Inn, Louisiana this 10 th day of June 2025.
Alicia Ware, Village Clerk

July 2, 2025
Minden Press Herald

The Water We Drink

STATE OF LA MILITARY DEPT - CAMP MINDEN
Public Water Supply ID: LA1119018
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
WELL #04
WELL #18
WELL #22
Source Water Type
Ground water
Ground water
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 HARRY WILSON at 318-382-4183. 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 (ug/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
10/16/2024-10/22/2024
10/16/2024- 12/16/2024
Analyte
Type
LEAD AND COPPER RULE REVISIONS
LEAD AND COPPER RULE REVISIONS
LSL REPORTING-INITIAL
LSL 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
CHLORINE
2024
1
HighestRAA Unit
ppm
Range
0.52 -1.96
MRDL MRDLG Typical Source
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
Collection Highest Range
Date
Value
Unit
MCL
MCLG Typical Source
Contaminants
FLUORIDE
7/7/2024
0.5
0.2-0.5
ppm
4
4
Erosion of natural deposits; Water additive which promotes strong teeth; Discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories
Source Water
Radiological
Collection
Date
Highest Range Value
Unit
MCL
MCLG Typical Source
Contaminants
COMBINED RADIUM
7/7/2024
1.28
0-1.28
pCi/l
5
Erosion of natural deposits (-226 &-228)

GROSS BETA
7/7/2024
1.27
0-1.27
pCi/l
50
50
PARTICLE ACTIVITY
RADIUM-228
7/7/2024
1.28
0-1.28
pCi/L
5
0
Decay of natural and man-made deposits.
Erosion of natural deposits
Date
Lead and Copper
90TH
Percentile
Range Unit AL
Sites
Over AL
Typical Source
COPPER, FREE
2019-2022 0.2
0-0.2
ppm
1.3
0
LEAD
2019-2022
1
0-4
ppb
15 0
Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits; Leaching from wood preservatives
Corrosion of household plumbing systems; Erosion of natural deposits
Disinfection
Sample Point
Period
Byproducts
Highest
LRAA
Range
Unit
MCL MCLG Typical Source
TOTAL HALOACETIC
DINING
2023-
3
3
ppb
60
0
ACIDS (HAA5)
FACILITY
2024
By-product of drinking water disinfection
TOTAL HALOACETIC SHIPPING AND
2023-
5
4.9
ppb
60
0
ACIDS (HAAS)
RECEIVING
2024
By-product of drinking water disinfection
TTHM
TTHM
DINING
FACILITY
SHIPPING AND
RECEIVING
2023- 7
2024
7.4
ppb 80
0
By-product of drinking water chlorination
2023- 1
2024
1.2
ppb
88
80
0
By-product of drinking water chlorination
Source Secondary Contaminants
Collection Date
Highest Value
ALUMINUM
7/7/2024
0.02
CHLORIDE
7/7/2024
216
Range
0-0.02
36-216
Unit
SMCL
MG/L 0.2
MG/L 250
HARDNESS, TOTAL (AS CaCO3)
7/7/2024
57
6-57
MG/L 0
IRON
7/7/2024
0.33
0.04 -0.33
MG/L 0.3
MANGANESE
7/7/2024
0.02
0-0.02
MG/L 0.05
PH
7/7/2024
8.46
6.67-8.46 PH
8.5
POTASSIUM
7/7/2024
2.6
1.6-2.6
MG/L 0
SODIUM
7/7/2024
SULFATE
7/7/2024
301.9
16
97.9-301.9 MG/L 0
0-16
MG/L 250
Treated Secondary Contaminants
Collection Date
IRON
MANGANESE
7/7/2024
7/7/2024
Highest Value
0.37
0.02
Range
0.04 -0.37
0.01 -0.02
Unit SMCL
MG/L 0.3
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. STATE OF LA MILITARY DEPT - CAMP MINDEN 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 STATE OF LA MILITARY DEPT - CAMP MINDEN and HARRY WILSON
BUS Phone: 318-382-4183. 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.
Our water system grade is a "B". Our water system report card can be viewed at the Camp Minden post headquarters, room 206.
++
++
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 STATE OF LA MILITARY DEPT - CAMP MINDEN 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.

July 2, 2025
Minden Press Herald

PUBLIC NOTICE

Minden Planning Commission Meeting
July 3, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.
Pelican Room - Minden City Hall

On the agenda is a request from Jim Huffman with Huffman Manor for a zoning variance on property owned by him located at 1114 Broadway Street. The property is zoned R-1 (Residential). The purpose of this zoning variance request is to use the property as a boarding house and event venue.
All interested parties will be given a chance to be heard.

June 18, 25, 2025
July 2, 2025
Minden Press Herald

PUBLIC NOTICE

Minden Planning Commission Meeting
July 3, 2025 – 10:00 a.m.
Pelican Room - Minden City Hall

On the agenda is a request from Jimmy Adams for a zoning variance on property owned by him located at 308 Emerald Drive. The property is zoned R-2 (Residential). The purpose of this zoning variance request is to operate an ATV and lawn mower repair business at this address.
All interested parties will be given a chance to be heard.

June 18, 25, 2025
July 2, 2025
Minden Press Herald

Classified Rates

Pricing is easy!

\$7.75

Per Day - Up to 20 words! Additional words are only 30 cents more!

Garage Sales

No word limit.

\$11

One Day

\$16.50

Two Days

Receive a FREE Garage Sale Kit with your two day ad!

* Garage Sale ads must be prepaid.

Deadlines

Ads

Line ads and display ads must be submitted by noon Fridays before publication .

Public Notices

Public notices must be submitted Fridays prior to publication date depending on the length. Notice may be emailed to classifieds@press-herald.com

Payments

Cash Checks, Billing

Real Estate Notice

“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.

Grow Your Business

Call to place your ad!

377-1866

Includes the Participating (in GA: Designated) Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Product not available in all states. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, NY; call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E, PA: C250G); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN); Rider kinds B438/B439 (GA: B439B).

Pruitt Home Renovations
Your Local One Stop Home Improvement Contractor
• Licensed and Insured •
For a **FREE** estimate, just give us a call!
Abraham Pruitt **Teddy Pruitt**
(318) 382-3272
find us on facebook @pruithomerenovations

The **Community Plumber LLC**
Lic. Master Plumber 4306

(318) 382-3272
Pruitt Family Owned Business

THE Tree Guys
Licensed & Insured Arborists
Locally Owned & Operated
Minden, LA
Jon Conway & Kevin Crawford
601 Howell St. • Minden, LA 71055
Jon (318) 517-3069
Kevin (318) 780-0765
jon.thetreeguys@gmail.com • Like Us on Facebook @thetreeguys18

MITCHELL DIRT & ASPHALT

> Asphalt & Concrete Paving
> Dirt Work & Hauling
> Demolition
Contact Keith
377-8594 or 470-0812

DALE'S PAVING INC.
ASPHALT & CONCRETE
747-3140
WWW.DALESPAVING.COM
• Asphalt Paving • Concrete Paving
• Crack Sealing • Seal Coating
• Parking Lot Overlay
Like us on facebook

Mobile Powerwash Service
"CLEAN YOUR HOME WITH POWER"
• Houses • Mobile Homes
• Driveways • Pool Decks, etc.
BILLY'S INDUSTRIAL CLEANING
CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED
318-965-9002 OR
CELL 318-455-4685

BLJJ ROOFING
LARRY BURRELL - OWNER
639-0090
FREE INSPECTIONS

"Come Ride With Us"
Webster Parish Police Jury
Office of Community Services
PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION

Medical appointments, work, shopping, banking or visiting. From Springhill to Shreveport and all points in between we will get you there with dependable, courteous services.
For information or to schedule a ride
318-377-7022 - Minden
318-539-5696 - Springhill
Handicap & wheelchair accessible
Equal opportunity employee/services
Monthly Bus Passes Available

Locally Owned & Operated
SPEER ROOFING & Construction, LLC

Serving Minden and surrounding areas since 2004!
Free Estimates
Owner **Daniel Speer** Phone (318) 371-0008

Have you been thinking about
DIGITAL MARKETING?

Let us take the guesswork out of it with:

DIGITAL ADS
LANDING PAGES
SALES FUNNELS
RETARGETING

Minden Press MEDIA
mindenpressmedia.com



Your Ad | Two Newspapers | Two Websites | All Business

Minden Press MEDIA



Scan the QR Code to get started

GARDENING

A POSSIBLE JULY AGENDA FOR GARDENERS

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

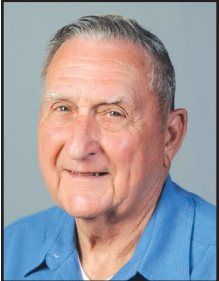
Since July is usually one of the hottest months of the year and with the kind of weather we've experienced this year, it would be a guess as to what July will deliver. So, with the probable high temperatures, what do you plan to do in your garden in July? Unless you are a very dedicated gardener, you could be tempted to take a vacation to a place with a cooler climate or at least make some visits to a local pool. However, I'm aware that there are some gardeners who may decide to defy the heat and continue their gardening activities regardless of the high temperatures. While you may already have a "to do" list, I'm suggesting a few more

items you might want to add to your current list. Most spring planted vegetables are about finished by now so just clean out the garden, re-fertilize lightly and re-plant with vegetables that possess some heat tolerance. Such crops to consider would be southern peas, squash, hot peppers and perhaps (if you can find any) some heat-resistant tomatoes. The same would be the case for flower beds. Suggestions for shady beds include coleus and caladiums. For beds with limited shade some good choices would be wax begonias, torenias and impatiens. Complete any pruning of ornamentals that's needed and it's best done before the middle of the month. With few exceptions, no more pruning should be done from mid-July to mid-October. Blackberries have finished producing by now, but the



plants will continue to grow. You should continue to top the new canes at a height of 4 or 5 feet to encourage branching which will result in an increased fruit-bearing surface. It has probably been several weeks since you last fertilized your lawn. If that's the case, the early part of July is a good time to fertilize, but make it a light application. The best fertilizers for this purpose are those that contain high nitrogen, low phosphorus and low to medium potassium. Apply dry granular fertilizers to a dry turf and then water heavily. Never put dry fertilizers on wet grass. Use supplemental irrigation if rain is absent for extended periods. Low soil moisture will not encourage plants to develop big root systems so keep an eye on plants that appear to need

water. Also check potted plants for water needs often since their low volume of soil or potting mix tends to dry out quickly. If you have crape myrtles, keep the older, dried blossom clusters clipped off at their base to encourage new blossoms to form. Check landscape plants for the presence of invading poison ivy. Use the double glove technique with an appropriate herbicide to deal effectively with this problem.



JOE W. WHITE, Ph.D.

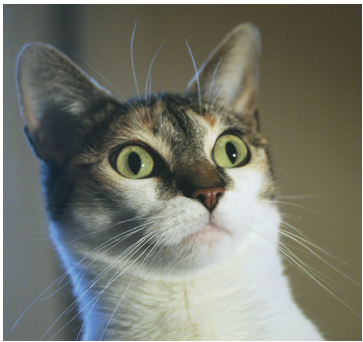
Prepare pets for Fourth of July festivities

Many people are eager for Independence Day celebrations in early summer. There is much to be excited about, as festivities often begin in the afternoon with barbecues and pool parties, and commence late at night after fireworks shows that light up the night sky. Still, not everyone enjoys the extra noise and busy nature of July 4th parties, particularly furry members of the family. Animal control services often report an increase in lost animals between July 4th and July 6th. That's because the excitement of the holiday puts pets out of their comfort zones. While pet owners need not cancel their July 4th plans, they should take heed of the many ways to keep their pets safe during the festivities.

Update identification
Be sure prior to any July 4th events that pets are wearing collars with current identification information. If an address or phone number has changed since the last time you updated microchip records, be sure to check the account is current.

Be careful with alcoholic drinks
Party hosts typically serve beer, wine and cocktails. Alcoholic beverages have the potential to poison pets, says the ASPCA. Animals can become very intoxicated, severely depressed or go into comas if they drink alcohol. Keep spirited drinks well out of reach.

Check with the vet
Many pets are prone to anxiety from loud noises, such as thun-



derstorms and fireworks, and lots of commotion — something that occurs in spades come July 4th. Some veterinarians recommend a small course of anti-anxiety medication or a sedative to help pets cope with the stimuli.

Create a quiet space
Allow pets to ride out the day in their comfortable, quiet and


cozy retreats. If necessary, create a space in an interior room. Cover the pet crate with a blanket and offer favorite toys or bedding to create a soothing environment.

Place notes on doors and gates
While it's best to keep pets in a locked room away from the fray, some pets like to socialize with guests and are not bothered by noises. However, alert guests with notes posted on doors and fence gates to check to make sure pets are not trying to escape behind them. All doors should be closed firmly when entering or exiting.

Pick up debris
Firework debris can rain down on properties even if you were not shooting off the fireworks. Curious pets may pick it up or eat

it, which runs the risk of an upset stomach or even an intestinal blockage. Check your yard before letting pets out to play.

Keep an eye on the grill
Pets can be opportunists, and those burgers and chicken drumsticks smell delicious to pets. Pets that get too close to the grill can become injured. And if pets eat leftovers, they may end up with digestive distress or even be poisoned by foods that are toxic to cats and dogs. Pets need to be protected during summertime parties like Independence Day celebrations. While pet owners need not cancel their July 4th plans, they should take heed of the many ways to keep their pets safe during the festivities.




conexon
connect


CONNECT MORE, STRESS LESS


WITH CONNECT FIBER INTERNET

- True gig speeds - no data caps or throttling
- Affordable monthly pricing
- Business services available



SIGN UP TODAY!

 ConexonConnect.com

 844-542-6663

4th of July Party Tips

More than 332 million people live in the United States, according to the most recent data from the U.S. Census Bureau. There's a good chance that, come July 4th, a considerable number of those individuals will be hosting or attending parties to celebrate American independence.

This year those planning on a July 4th fête can consider these tips as they prepare to celebrate with family and friends.

- Borrow a second grill. Those tasked with grilling often find themselves standing there for hours over hot flames. Cut down on time at the grill by adding an extra cooking surface. That's easily achieved by having more than one grill going simultaneously. Cook fast-cooking items like hamburgers and hot dog on one grill, and reserve the other for sausages and chicken, which may need more time to reach safe levels of doneness.
- Stop peeking. Resist any urge to check the food too often. Every time you flip, press or move the meats, you compromise flavor and could make the food dry out.
- Lure insects away. Bees are attracted to sweet smells, but wasps and hornets are drawn to meats. Put a saucer of very sweet soda and some chicken scraps in a far corner of your yard to attract yellow jackets and other stinging insects to that area, drawing their attention away from guests and their meals.
- Hire a lifeguard. If your party will involve time spent in a pool, consider hiring a lifeguard or designate someone to observe pool activities. Party hosts may be distracted by other duties, and one can't count on guests to watch what is going on in the pool. For safety's sake, a dedicated set of eyes on swimmers can prevent injuries and accidents.
- Give neighbors a heads-up. Parties and barbecues on July 4th are largely expected, but you can offer a courtesy to neighbors by informing them of your plans, including the start time and proposed ending time. If you are close with neighbors, consider inviting them to participate.
- Create a patriotic playlist. Use your favorite music streaming service to curate a music list that features America-specific songs, songs about summer and general party tunes. Be sure the music is in the background and does not overpower the conversation.

July 4th plans are heating up. When hosting a party or barbecue, keep it simple and safe.