

Access to Public Records in Privatized City

CH2MHill to Release Documents In Central Public Records Case



PUBLIC RECORDS REQUESTS — In 2010, Central resident Mike Mannino (right) made public records requests of the City of Central. The city generally complied with his requests. However, the city contractor, CH2MHill, rejected public records requests from the *Central City News*. Also shown: Ashley Porche, then of CH2MHill, Ross Dooley, attorney for the city, Lisa Lee of CH2MHill, and R. J. Saucier.

Giant Firm Signs Settlement, Pays Attorney Fees of Central City News

BATON ROUGE — On Tuesday, 19th Judicial District Judge Kay Bates signed an order compelling CH2MHill to produce public records requested by the *Central City News* in 2010.

The newspaper sued CH2MHill in April 2010, saying that the \$6 billion-a-year company that ran the City of Central from 2007 to 2010 under a privatization agreement, was subject to Louisiana's Public Records Law, because the company was functioning as the City of Central and performing sovereign acts on behalf of the city.

The case, *Community Press v. CH2MHill*, has received considerable statewide and even national attention. The Louisiana Press Association filed an *amicus* brief supporting the *Central City News*' position. Press organizations saw the case as important because they fear politicians will farm out the administration of local and state government to private companies and use privatization to circumvent the Public Records Law and keep the public's business secret.

Over the past two years, the case went to Louisiana's 1st Circuit See **CH2MHill** on Page 10

Central City News' 3-1/2-Year Battle Shows Cost of Protecting People's Right to Know

CENTRAL — Freedom isn't free, and neither is justice. That could be one of the messages coming out of the *Central City News*' suc-

cessful battle to apply Louisiana's Public Records Law to private entities that perform governmental functions, such as CH2MHill, the

private company that administered the City of Central from 2007 to 2010. The cost of establishing this

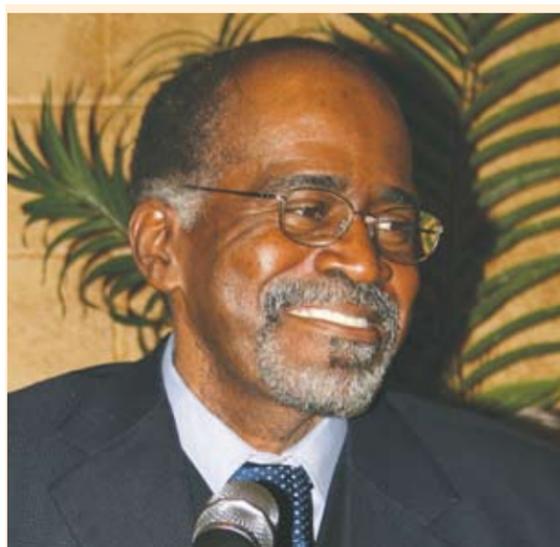
See **PROTECTING** on Page 11

CCN v. CH2MHill Strengthens Citizen Rights To Access Public Records After Privatization

CENTRAL — The settlement reached in the case of *Community Press, LLC, v. CH2MHill* could have far reaching impact on how Louisiana's Public Records Law is applied to private companies and other legal entities that perform the functions of local or state government.

Under the judgment signed by District Judge Kay Bates, a private company, CH2MHill, will turn over to the *Central City News* the company's internal documents which the newspaper said were public records under Louisiana law.

Central City News editor Woody Jenkins distinguished two situa-



“ This is an important decision that strengthens the public's right to know what their government is doing and prevents the politicians from hiding behind private companies.”

— Mayor Pro-Tem
Ralph Washington

tions that can occur. “No one is saying that if Barber Brothers Construction contracts to repair Hooper Road that its records fall under the public records law. That is a private company contracting to provide a specific, targeted service for government. But if a company is hired to actually administer the government or a major part of it and run it on a day-to-day basis, then its records that relate to providing those services are public records. Government officials are not allowed to circumvent the public records law by contracting with a private company. Quite simply, if a document would be a public record in

See **CASE** on Page 11

COMMUNITY PRESS, LLC

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FEDERALIST SOCIETY — U. S. Supreme Court associate justice Antonin Scalia will help launch the Baton Rouge Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies. Justice Scalia will be honored Friday, Oct. 11 with a reception at the Governor's Mansion. Only a limited number of tickets are still available. The event is open only to attorneys. For information, email BRFedSoc@gmail.com.

Country Living in the City

Central City News v. CH2MHill Was Case Of David versus Goliath with High Stakes

Privatization: No Excuse to Hide Public Business From the Public

Woody Jenkins
 Editor

Our newspaper's battle for access to public records of CH2MHill appears to be coming to an end. After three and a half long years of legal battles, CH2MHill has agreed in court filings to provide the public records which we requested in March 2010.

We are supposed to receive those records today. We have already received a check to reimburse the newspaper for our attorney fees.

This was really quite a mismatch. A small hometown community newspaper took on a major international corporation that grosses more than \$6 billion a year.

It is the kind of outcome that is not predictable because the common wisdom is that the big boys always win.

We took up the challenge of fighting for public access to public records for a number of reasons.

In assessing the difficulty of challenging CH2MHill, we thought of someone else — the average citizen of Central who might someday need to see city records in order to protect his home, business, or other rights.

If we, the local newspaper, couldn't

get simple public records, how could he?

If we had to fight a multi-billion corporation for ordinary public records, how could the average citizen hope get to see records he needed.

People just don't have the money to fight such battles. Unfortunately, neither did we.

But we determined to make a stand, risk everything, and fight for what we believe is right.

Privatization can be a very good thing. It can lower costs and make it unnecessary to fund gigantic retirement programs for public employees.

But privatization should never be used to shield the public from the knowledge of what their government is doing to them. Privatization should not be a means for powerful politicians to get a private company to do what they as government officials are prohibited from doing.

Three and a half years ago, Central had become a company town, where a large multinational corporation exercised amazing influence and power, in cooperation with a handful of more than willing local officials. The potential for corruption was enormous.

Fortunately, that episode is over. CH2MHill was ousted as the city contractor, and secrecy and power politics appear on the way out.

It is good to see justice done.



Woody Jenkins

However, justice has been a long time coming and at a high price.

We just hope and pray that we have established a precedent that local officials across Louisiana will understand — that privatization cannot be used as a way to circumvent the public records law.

We hope this case shows that substance is more important than form. In other words, public officials can't avoid public disclosure by placing money and power in the hands of private contractors who perform public responsibilities.

As one judge said, if they are getting the public's money, they should be answerable to the public.

While the privatization of a city government is something new in Louisiana, the principle that the public has a right to know what private entities do with public money is not.

For example, in 1984, a private corporation, the World Exposition Authority, wanted to put on a world's fair in New Orleans. They went to the legislature and got \$20 million to help them put on the fair. Later, the Advocate was investigating some alleged wrong doing at the World Exposition Authority and they requested public records. The authority said no, we're private and you can't see our records.

The case went to the Louisiana Supreme Court, which said, you took the money, now let the public see how you spent it!

There have been a number of other pertinent cases in Louisiana, all with the same result.

When a private company begins to take on the administration of an entire city and consume 80 percent of the

city's budget, it was only natural that people would want to know what they are doing and who might be pulling their strings.

So, now we will review the requested records and report back to you on what, if anything, is there.

At the *Central City News*, we want to thank a number of people whose support was so critical:

- The vast majority of the people of Central who have continued to read the *Central City News* and support its demand that people have access to public records, even when city government is privatized.

- The member newspapers of the Louisiana Press Association, who stood by our newspaper and filed an *amicus* brief with the court on our behalf.

- Carl Redmond of *The Advocate* and attorney Lloyd Lunceford for their expertise in public records law and wise counsel.

- Mike Mannino, who made public records requests of the City of Central and shared the information he gathered with us.

- Councilman Ralph Washington, Wayne Messina, and Tony LoBue for standing firmly in favor of the public's right to know.

- Mr. Will Easley for his advice and guidance.

- To the staff of the *Central City News* for their loyalty and determination.

- To our able attorneys for their belief in our case and their determination to fight the good fight, no matter how long it took.

Many thanks and best wishes from Community Press, LLC.

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Packed House at Healing Place on Highland Family Forum Recognizes Lawmakers For Their Pro-Family Voting Records

Photos by Woody Jenkins



LOUISIANA FAMILY FORUM ANNUAL DINNER— President Gene Mills (left) addresses the 700 attendees, and, at right, Gov. Bobby Jindal pledges allegiance to the flag.



CELEBRATING THE FAMILY — Scott McKay, publisher of TheHayride.com; attorney Michael Johnson; Gene Mills, and Tony Perkins of Family Research Council.

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East Baton Rouge Parish Legislators



PRO-FAMILY ADVOCATES — Receiving major awards from the Family Forum were (left to right) Rep. Barry Ivey, Sen. Dan Claitor, Sen. Bodhi White, and Sen. Dale Erdey.



LEGISLATORS receiving awards were Sen. Rick Ward, Rep. Alan Seabaugh, Rep. Steve Pugh, Sen. Elbert Guillory, Rep. Sherman Mack, Rep. Lenar Whitney, and Rep. Tim Burns

BATON ROUGE — Louisiana Family Forum honored more than two dozen state senators and representatives at its annual dinner last Thursday at the Healing Place

church on Highland Road. Legislators were cited for their outstanding pro-family voting records. LFF President Gene Mills said the recently concluded session

of the Louisiana Legislature provided hope and encouragement for pro-family forces in the state. The highlight of the event was the announcement that Gov. Bobby Jindal was the recipient of the 2013 Louisiana Gladiator Award, the organization's highest honor. Mills said Jindal has taken a consistently pro-family stand on issues. Mills said Jindal faced a particularly difficult decision on whether to veto the surrogacy bill,

which had passed the legislature. But, once again, Mills said, Jindal stood strong for family values. Former Rep. Tony Perkins, who is now president of the Family Research Council in Washington, told the more than 700 attendees at the dinner that Washington has become very divisive and that the real battles are being fought within the Republican Party that will determine the future direction of the nation. Special recognition was given to



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Receive Awards for Pro-Family Stand



PRO-FAMILY ADVOCATES — Also receiving awards were Rep. Kenny Havard, Rep. Steve Carter, Sen. Sharon Broome, and Rep. Valarie Hodges.



AWARD RECIPIENTS included Rep. John Guinn, Rep. Chris Leopold, Rep. Paul Hollis, Rep. Greg Miller, Rep. Patrick Connick, and Sen. Mike Walsworth

Sen. Sharon Weston Broome and Rep. Valarie Hodges for having authored anti-sex-trafficking legislation. Another special award was given to Sen. Neil Riser for having authored a constitutional amendment supporting the right to keep and bear arms.

2013 Louisiana Family Forum Annual Dinner
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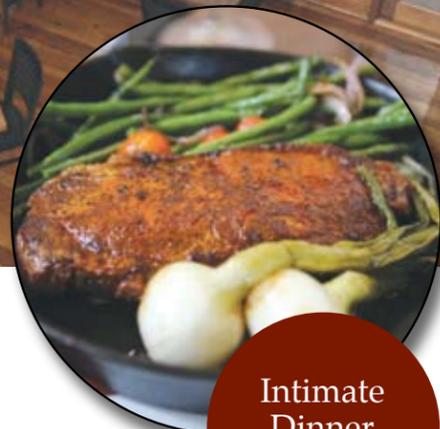
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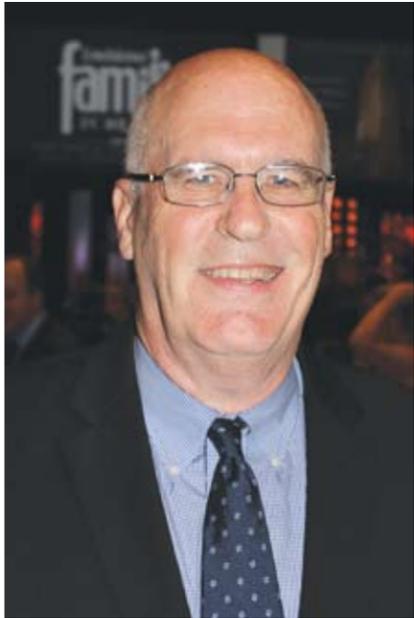
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FAMILY FORUM — Jr. Shelton of Central; Women's Republican president Peggy Vidrine; Justice Jeff Hughes; Carol Thomas; Beck and Rodney Wood, and pastor Johnny Green.



HEALING PLACE — Attendees at the Louisiana Family Forum included Jensen Young, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Smith; Linda Hogg, Robin and Ricky Wright, and Jim Hogg.

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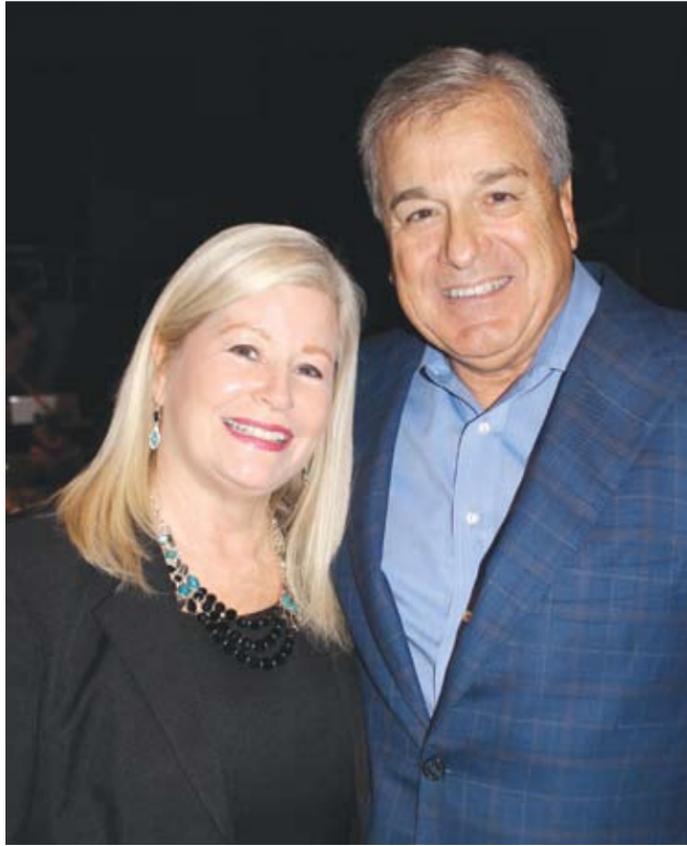
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Sheriff Seeks Tax Renewal Oct. 19

Election Ballot Also Includes Other Taxes, Ward 3-3 J-P

BATON ROUGE — Voters in East Baton Rouge Parish will go to the polls on Saturday, Oct. 19 to vote on three important property tax renewal propositions:

- Renewal of a 6.9 mill property tax levied to support the Sheriff's office. This tax produces \$25 million a year to fund law enforcement and accounts for 30 percent of the Sheriff's budget.
- Renewal of a 3.13 mill property tax to fund about half of the operating budget of the Emergency Medical Services in the parish.
- In Central, renewal of a 10-mill tax in the Central Fire Protection District. The fire department in Central operations five fire stations and responds to thousands of calls a year.



Sheriff Sid Gautreaux issued the following statement regarding his proposed tax renewal: "This month the community

SHERIFF SID EDWARDS AND WIFE SUZI — East Baton Rouge Parish sheriff Sid Gautreaux appeared before the Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge last Tuesday seeking support for a renewal of law enforcement property taxes to fund his office. No taxes would go up under the plan. The election is scheduled for Oct. 19.

will have the opportunity to renew an existing millage that currently accounts for 30 percent of the Sheriff's Office operating budget. The millage has been in place for almost 20 years."

"It is used for community safety efforts, patrols, criminal technology, school outreach programs, and other public safety operations."

"To put it in tangible terms, it is roughly equivalent to the starting salary and benefits of 544 deputies. To lose this millage would be detrimental to our department, and I believe the community."

"It would mean substantially cutting back on deputies and services to the parish. I want to reiterate that this is a renewal and will cost no additional money. I hope that on Oct. 19th, the community will vote for the renewal and keep the Sheriff's office working. Sheriff Sid Gautreaux."

Also on the ballot will be the election of a new Justice of the Peace in Ward 3-3. The candidates include Kenesha Antoine, Jerry Arbour, Mariano Hinojosa, Steve Myers, and Larry Spencer.

Republican Party of EBR Endorses Arbour for Justice of the Peace

BATON ROUGE — The Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish Monday endorsed Baton Rouge attorney Jerry Arbour in his race for justice of the peace from Ward 3, District 3 in the special election coming up Saturday, Oct. 19. The vacancy was created by the death of long-time justice of the peace Melva Carpenter, 74, who passed

away in March. Justice of the peace is an increasingly important office in East Baton Rouge Parish because of higher filing fees and delays in cases heard by the 19th Judicial District Court. The JP court has jurisdiction outside the city limits of Baton Rouge in most civil suits when the amount in controversy is under \$5,000. The

court has criminal jurisdiction only in cases involving littering. Filing fees are much lower than in the district court, and cases are heard very quickly. The decisions of the justice of the peace are enforceable by the constable and the Sheriff's office.

Arbour has practiced law in Baton Rouge since 1975. He has served on the East Baton Rouge

Parish School Board since 2005 and was board president for three years. He formerly served as Republican parish chairman and currently serves as deputy chairman of the Louisiana Republican Party.

Arbour's private practice of law has spanned five decades, and he handles the kind of cases heard in JP court daily, the party said.

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Maury Drummond Is Retiring After

Drummond Led Team That Made Naval Museum A Reality Here

BATON ROUGE — Maury Drummond was a basketball star at Istrouma High and earned a scholarship to LSU, where he won All-SEC honors and was twice named LSU's MVP. After his freshman year at LSU, something happened that changed his life forever.

One of his teammates, Bobby Fedder, invited Maury to spend time with his family in Blackstone, VA. While he was there, Fedder's mother took him all over Virginia, touring Civil War and Revolutionary War battlefields and historic sites. By the time the trip was over, Drummond had decided to change his major at LSU to American history. He had famous LSU professors such as T. Harry Williams and loved it.

After graduation in 1964, he accepted a position as head basketball coach back at his alma mater, Istrouma, and taught American history. He ended up marrying another member of the faculty, Margaret Jones. Today they have five children and 11 grandchildren.

Drummond's love of American history led him to the building of model ships and membership in the Baton Rouge Model Ships Association. When Congressman Henson Moore secured the USS Kidd for Baton Rouge, Maury was one of the volunteers who got involved early on. The Kidd opened to the public in 1983. Over the years, Drummond



MAURY DRUMMOND has led the Louisiana Veterans Memorial Commission for the 20 years and served before that as a volunteer.



USS KIDD was acquired by Congressman Henson Moore and opened to visitors in Baton Rouge beginning in 1983.

was a commissioner and then chairman of the Louisiana Veterans Memorial Commission. In the 1980's,

the building which now houses the Louisiana Naval Museum was vacant and about to be leased out for

offices. But a model boat show was held there, which drew 10,000 See **LIFETIME** on Page 9

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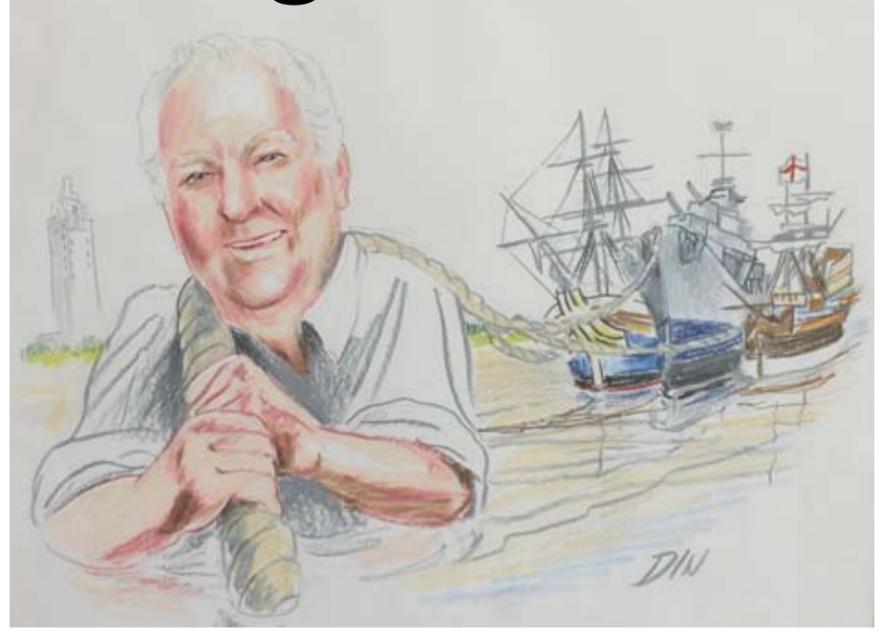
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MAURY DRUMMOND (left) admiring one of the model ships he has built for the museum. At right, a David Norwood cartoon on historic ships Drummond has brought here.



guests. It showed the community's interest in Naval history. Maury and other volunteers then went to

work, filling the building with historic artifacts and memorabilia honoring Louisiana's veterans. By the

early 1990's, Maury had been hired as the full-time director of the Louisiana Veterans Museum. See **DRUMMOND** on Page 12



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CH2MHill Agrees to Turn Over Records Sought by Central City News Since 2010

Privatization Could Deny the Public Access to Records

Continued from Page 1

Court of Appeal and the Louisiana Supreme Court, which had agreed with the newspaper on most points of law. Further depositions, at least one hearing, and further appeals were still likely in the case.

However, the newspaper and CH2MHill agreed last week to settle the case and submitted a proposed judgment to the court.

Under Judge Bate's order, the company certified that it had provided a list to the newspaper and the court of all documents in its possession that are responsive to the public records request.

In turn, CH2MHill said it would provide all of those documents to the newspaper immediately, except those subject to the attorney/client privilege.

An attorney for CH2MHill said Wednesday that he will provide the documents in the form of a CD to the newspaper today.

CH2MHill was also ordered to pay the newspaper's attorney fees.

Attorney fees, which were substantial in the case, had become a major issue between the parties. Throughout the trial, CH2MHill argued that the newspaper should pay the company's attorney fees.

At the same time, Community Press argued that the Public Records Law does not allow the public body to get attorney fees but that a citizen seeking a public record is entitled to attorney fees in certain cases. In 2010, CH2MHill told the court that it had already racked up \$70,000 in attorney fees.

Other than attorney fees, the newspaper did not seek monetary damages in the case.

Under the stipulated judgment, each party paid its own court costs.

The controversy began one day before Central's municipal elections, which were held on Saturday, March 27, 2010.

Central Mayor Mac Watts was running for reelection against challenger Jr. Shelton. Both are Republicans. Shelton had made a major campaign issue out of high permit fees in the newly-incorporated City of Central. He argued in his campaign speeches and newspaper ads that the permit fees, which were being collected by CH2MHill, which kept 90 percent of the proceeds, had risen enormously since the city was incorporated in 2005.

Watts disagreed and said they were quite reasonable.

Then, on the day before the election, 5,000 flyers were inserted in *The Advocate* newspaper for delivery in and around the City of Central. The flyers argued against Shelton's position on permit fees. The flyer said it was from "The City of Central."

On the Monday after the election, *Central City News* editor Woody Jenkins called David Barrow, executive assistant to Central Mayor Mac Watts, to learn if the City of Central had in fact authorized the advertising flyer. Barrow said that the city had not authorized



Central Mayor Mac Watts

the flyer and that he knew nothing about it.

Jenkins then called Tommy Higgs, the manager of CH2MHill's operations in Central, to ask about the flyer. Higgs said that yes, CH2MHill had authorized the flyer. When asked how CH2MHill could advertise in the name of the "City of Central" without the knowledge or permission of city officials, Higgs said, "We have authority to advertise in the city's name anytime we want."

In fact, the contract between the City of Central and CH2MHill provided that CH2MHill could not advertise to the people of Central without the written permission of the Mayor of Central.

CH2MHill had just completed an advertising campaign entitled "We Are Central." In the ads, employees of CH2MHill were featured and portrayed as representing Central, as though CH2MHill and its employees were indistinguishable from the city government.

Central City News editor Woody Jenkins said, "It became clear that a private company and the city government had, for all practical purposes, become one. CH2MHill named the Public Works director of the City of Central and other high ranking officials. Permits were being issued not by city officials but by employees of a private company. Advertising in the name of the City of Central was being placed



CH2MHill manager Tommy Higgs

apparently without the approval of city officials. Central had become a 'company town,' and that company was a multi-billion dollar international company based out of state that was not answerable to anyone here."

"Our position was that if a private company begins to exercise the powers and duties of government, it should be held to compliance with Louisiana's Public Records Law. We felt that the people of Central should have the same right to access public records that they would have if they lived in Baton Rouge or any other city in Louisiana. Clearly, if the City of Baton Rouge placed an ad in *The Advocate*, we could go down to the Governmental Building downtown and get a copy of those records. But in Central, that wasn't true."

The *Central City News* filed formal public records requests with the City of Central and CH2MHill requesting access to all documents pertaining to the advertising flyer that had run in the *Advocate* the day before the election. Public records requests are supposed to be honored immediately or within three days at most.

About a week later, the City of Central responded that it had no records pertaining to the advertising flyer. About the same time, CH2MHill responded that it was a private company and not subject to the public records law.

Jenkins said this alarmed him for two reasons. "First, when a body receives tax dollars and performs governmental functions, it is subject to the public records law. Second, the contract between the City of Central and CH2MHill had specific language requiring CH2MHill to subject itself to the public records law and respond immediately to public records requests."

"So CH2MHill was obligated to respond to our public records requests not only because state law requires it but also because their contract requires it. We made repeated requests from counsel for CH2MHill that they provide the documents. We asked the mayor and members of the City Council to intervene. Nevertheless, CH2MHill adamantly refused to provide the documents. This left us with no choice but to file suit under Louisiana's Public Records Law."

In late April 2010, Community Press, LLC, the owner of the *Central City News*, filed suit against CH2MHill, asking that the company be required to provide the documents subject to the public records request.

Under Louisiana law, a hearing on a public records suit is supposed to be tried within 10 days. Nevertheless, Judge Bates did not set a date for a hearing on the case until June 10, 2010. The *Central City News* subpoenaed Mayor Mac Watts and CH2MHill manager Tommy Higgs to testify at the hearing.

On the Friday before the scheduled Monday hearing, Judge Bates called the parties to say that she was postponing the hearing. The *Central City News* strongly objected to the postponement and refused to agree. Nevertheless, the judge postponed the matter.

Meanwhile, that weekend, Tommy Higgs, who had been duly served with a subpoena, fled the state. Since then, he has been in seclusion and inaccessible. Attorneys for CH2MHill have said the company has no knowledge of where he is.

Six weeks later, Judge Bates held a hearing on a motion for summary judgment by CH2MHill, asking that the case be dismissed. This was not the 10-day hearing mandated by state law, that would have allowed for the testimony by witnesses and the introduction of evidence. Rather, it was a motion by CH2MHill asking that the case filed by the *Central City News* be summarily dismissed.

Judge Bates granted CH2MHill's motion and threw the newspaper out of court. CH2MHill asked that the newspaper be assessed with more than \$70,000 in attorney fees. *Central City News* objected, saying that public bodies cannot collect attorney fees under the terms of the statute.

Community Press then sought writs from the 1st Circuit Court of Appeals, asking that Judge Bates' ruling be overturned.

In 2011, by a 3-0 vote, the appellate court agreed with the newspaper and overturned Bates' decision. CH2MHill appealed the appellate decision to the Louisiana Supreme Court. In 2012, the supreme court affirmed the 1st Circuit decision and sent the case back to Judge



CH2MHill Paid Attorney Fees This Week, Scheduled to Produce Documents Oct. 3

Continued from Page 10

Bates. The 1st Circuit had agreed with *Central City News'* interpretation of the public records law and agreed that private companies such as CH2MHill are subject to the public records law of the state if the connexity between the City of Central and CH2MHill was great.

Because no evidentiary hearing had been held by Judge Bates, there was nothing in the record to answer the appeal court's question. For example, they wanted to know what percentage of the city budget went to CH2MHill. Counsel for the *Central City News* told the court it was 82 percent. Counsel for CH2MHill said it was closer to 80 percent.

The appeal court ordered the case back to Judge Bates to determine the degree of connexity between the city and CH2MHill. The supreme court decision affirmed that approach. Since early 2013, Community Press has been seeking to get information from CH2MHill in order to answer the appeal court's questions.

Three weeks ago, the *Central City News* was scheduled to take depositions from Central Mayor Mac Watts and Central's chief administrative officer, David Barrow. As the date of the depositions approached, CH2MHill counsel became more interested in talking settlement. After much negotiation, the parties agreed to a settlement, which was submitted to the court.

The judgment submitted to Judge Bates and signed by her was very similar to the original relief sought by the *Central City News*, namely that CH2MHill would produce the documents responsive to the newspaper's public records requests and reimburse the *Central City News* for its attorney fees.

Earlier this week, CH2MHill sent to counsel for Community Press, LLC, the settled amount for attorney fees.

The plaintiffs were represented in the case by St. Amant & Tessier and Savoye & Wheeler. The defendant was represented by Baker Donelson.

COMMUNITY PRESS, LLC
d/b/a CENTRAL CITY NEWS
(Plaintiff)

Versus

CH2M HILL, INC.
(Defendant)

NUMBER 589-971 SECTION 26

19TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT COURT

PARISH OF EAST BATON ROUGE

STATE OF LOUISIANA

STIPULATED JUDGMENT

The parties, having reached an agreed upon settlement, and this Court being in favor thereof, stipulate to the following judgment:

IT IS ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that in response to a public records request made for public records of the City of Central by CCN and pursuant to a settlement reached by CCN and CH2M HILL; CH2M HILL will produce internal documents and communications, with the exception of those which are exempt as their attorney/client privileged communications, and which documents are identified in the list attached herewith;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the documents are to be produced by CH2M HILL to counsel for Community Press, LLC upon the entry of this judgment;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that by the delivery of said documents, CH2M HILL does certify to the court and the plaintiff that these are all of the non-privileged documents responsive to the public records request;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that CH2M HILL will pay the Plaintiff's attorney fees as agreed to by the parties as part of their settlement, with each party to bear its own costs;

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED that the remaining claims of both parties are dismissed with prejudice.

Judgment read, rendered and signed this 1 day of October, 2013 in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Honorable Kay Bates
Judge, 19th Judicial District Court

Case Likely to Be Cited by Those Seeking Access Public Records In Private Hands

Continued from Page 1

Baton Rouge, it should be public record in Central. The fact that Central has privatized city services should not diminish the right of the people to access those records."

Jenkins said there is much more to a "democratic" government than elections. "Elections have to be free and fair. Freedom of speech and of the press have to be respected. Likewise, the public must have the right to attend open public meetings of governmental bodies, have due notice when public bodies are meeting, and have access to public records."

Jenkins said, "The handwriting was on the wall a long time ago in this case. Louisiana's Public Records Law is a very strong law and very clear. I don't believe there was ever any doubt that the law was on the side of public access. After the decision of the 1st Circuit Court of Appeal and the Louisiana Supreme Court on this case, no one could ignore the reality that our highest courts favor public access to public documents. The only real question from the beginning was whether our small community newspaper could stick it out and fight to the end against a major international corporation with unlimited financial resources."

Because the judgment in this case is based on an agreement between the parties, it will not be a "reported" case. Nevertheless, because of the widespread publicity the case has received, it will undoubtedly be cited by attorneys for years to come in cases involving public records law as it applies to private entities and privatization of governmental functions.

Protecting People's Rights Isn't Free or Quick

Continued from Page 1

principle was great for all concerned.

For *Central City News*, it was a battle that at times almost put the newspaper out of business.

Supporters of the Mayor subsidized the creation of a competing newspaper.

The Mayor's supporters organized a boycott of the *Central City News* that continues to this day. They have threatened advertisers who continue to advertise in the *Central City News*.

The *Central City News'* revenues has been cut by 50 percent, even though readership and circulation have remained about the same. People pick up about 12,000 copies of every issue, and readership of the print edition is estimated at 30,000. Meanwhile, more than 30,000 copies of the *Central City News* are delivered on-line.

At the same time, the *Central*

City News was honored with the Freedom of Information Award by the Louisiana Press Association, the highest honor given by the organization, which represents 110 daily and weekly newspapers in



Central City News fought for access to public records.

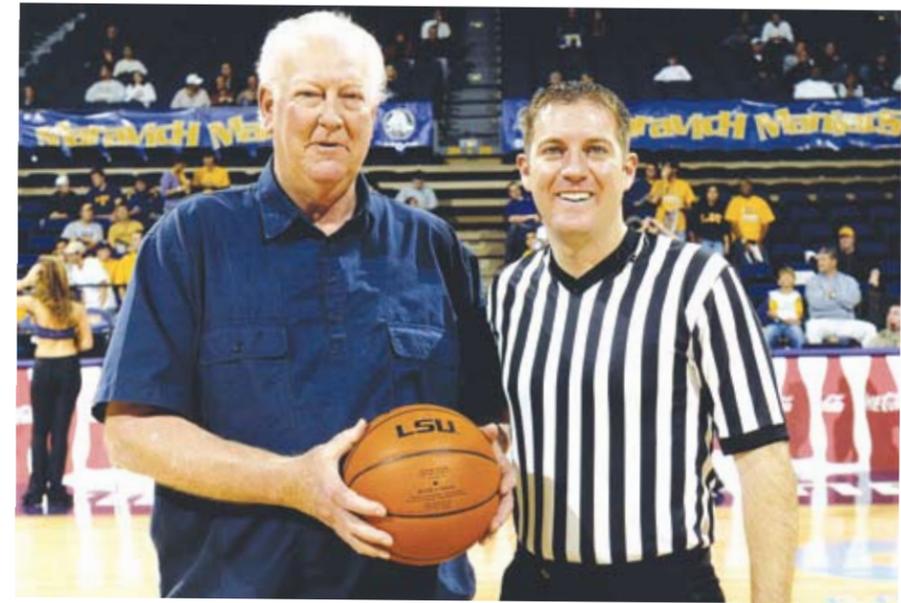
the state. The National Newspaper Association named the *Central City News* one of the four best community newspapers in the country.

Central City News editor Woody Jenkins said, "While the cost of standing up for the public's access to public records has been high, we don't regret it at all. We believe that government in Central has already opened up tremendously, and we think that trend will continue. People have their eyes open and expect transparency in government here. Beyond Central, this case has gotten statewide and national attention, because the problems we have experienced with privatization have been experienced in many other places too. Privatization has many good features. But when a state or a local government moves in the direction of privatization, it must never sacrifice the public's right to know what's going on!"

Drummond Helped Make USS Kidd,



MAURY DRUMMOND — (Left to right) Maury Drummond as All-SEC star at LSU; David Norwood painting an historic aircraft, and Maury Drummond in a World War II fighter.



MEMORIES — Maury Drummond and wife Margaret. They have five children and 11 grandchildren. Maury at LSU game. Joe Foretich and Maury inspect an historic plane

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Continued from Page 9
siana Veterans Memorial. It was a job he relished, especially the opportunity to meet thousands of great Louisiana servicemen and women who had given so much for their country. It was a chance to honor them and memorialize their courage and sacrifices for future generations to know and respect. Along the way, Drummond took on hundreds of projects, including bringing warplanes for display at the memorial. One plane was in pieces at LSU. He got it to Brian Harris Chevrolet on Florida Boulevard where the mechanics there put it together in their spare time. He arranged to have another plane shipped by barge down the Mississippi from Memphis. Drummond oversaw the creation of historic displays for Louisiana's war heroes and an impressive display of historic ship models, including

two models that he personally built. Maury has brought three historic ships to Baton Rouge. Each one created quite a sensation — the tall ship Elissa, which is a replica of the Golden Hinde; the caravel Nina, a replica of Columbus' ship, and a replica the HMS Bounty. Every year since 1987, Drummond has produced Baton Rouge's Star Spangled Celebration on the 4th of July. Drummond has served as president of the Historic Naval Ships Association, which includes 119 historic vessels like the USS Kidd, which are on display across the nation and even in foreign countries. Health problems have slowed Maury down a bit, and he has decided to retire later this year. But a lot of people in Baton Rouge want to say to Maury Drummond, "Thank you, my friend, for all you've done for our veterans and for Baton Rouge! Thank you for a job well done!"

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Col. Gordon Jenkins to Be Honored at Naval Museum

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BATON ROUGE — Col. Gordon Jenkins, USAF (retired), will be honored in ceremonies at the Louisiana Military Veterans Hall of Honor at the Naval Museum at 11 a.m., Friday, Oct. 11. The public is invited. Jenkins is a 1960 graduate of Baton Rouge High and a graduate of LSU where he was commander of the Pershing Rifles. The colonel was one of the most decorated Air Force pilots in the Vietnam War. Shown at right with wife Mary Pat.



Cannons from replica of Ironsides



Model ships on display

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Catholic-Parkview Game Matched



CATHOLIC DOMINATED — Catholic High quarterback Nick Coomes led the Bears to a big victory. The Parkview Eagles could not contain the Bears' power.

BATON ROUGE — The rivalry between 5A Catholic and 3A Parkview Baptist is rapidly becoming a Baton Rouge classic. This year's game pitted Catholic, defending District 5-5A champion ranked No. 5 in the state, against Parkview, the defending state 3A champion, ranked No. 3 in the state. In a matchup between coaches such as Catholic's Neil Weiner and Parkview's Kenny

Guillot, anything could happen. The setting was neutral ground, Olympia Stadium, and the stadium was packed despite weather conditions. Yet, as it turned out, Catholic totally dominated the State Champs and walked away with an impressive 28-6 victory. Catholic High's defense and special team proved decisive in the contest. Weiner said it was a total team effort and commended

his players for scoring on offense, defense and special teams. Catholic had 233 yards of total offense, while Parkview had 185, but the difference was Catholic dominated the Eagles on field position. Parkview couldn't get the ball into Catholic territory. The exception was Aaron Leonard who galloped 48 yards for a Parkview score. Derrius Guice scored two touchdowns for Catholic. Freshman

Clyde Edwards-Helaire ran back a punt for a 72-yard TD. Connor Bowen intercepted a pass and ran it back 36 yards for a touchdown. Jack Gousoulin kicked four extra points for Catholic. Parkview had a scoring opportunity when Houston Robert had a 32-yard run but Taylor Black missed a 30-yard field goal attempt to end the drive. Both teams are well positioned to make a playoff run.

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 SATURDAY - "ROAD HOUSE" 7-10 PM
 TALENT GROUPS - SATURDAY 11 AM - 1 PM
 SUNDAY 12:30-2:30 PM

FAIR TIMES

FRIDAY - 6 PM - 11 PM
 SATURDAY - 11 AM - 10 PM
 SUNDAY - 11:30 AM - 6 PM

FOOD

FRIDAY - GUMBO COOK-OFF - 5:30 PM
 SATURDAY - JAMBALAYA COOK-OFF - 11:30 AM
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HELMET HUNT — Parkview's Justin Kairdolf lost a helmet.



POWER RUNNER — Parkview's Eric Martinez runs for gain.

Catholic 28 Parkview 6
Sept. 12, 2013 • Photos by Ron Moore

Two of Louisiana's Powerhouses



INTERCEPTION — Catholic High's Connor Bowen (No. 15) intercepts a pass and returned it 36 yards for a TD near the end of the first half, making the score 21-0.



TOUGH DEFEAT — It was a tough defeat for the State Champion Parkview Eagles and coach Kenny Guilot (right), even though Catholic is a 5A powerhouse.



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Central High Beats McKinley 42-15



CELEBRATION — Central coaching staff celebrated the win over McKinley; at right, Jake Myers scored three touchdowns for the Wildcats.



Central High head coach Sid Edwards addresses team after game



WILDCATS — James Pourciau, Tyler Sansone, and James Schoppe were all-smiles just moments before the end of Central's game against McKinley.

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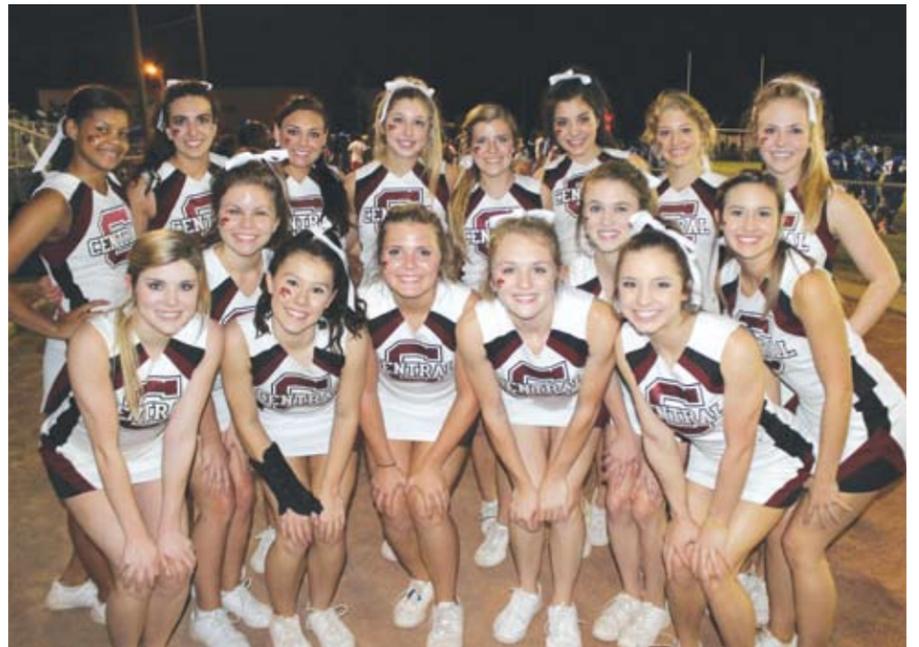
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Italian Americans to Honor Columbus

Big 'Festa' Set for Sunday, Oct. 20; You Don't Have to Be Italian to Come

BATON ROUGE — The Greater Baton Rouge American Italian Association is inviting the Baton Rouge community to the annual Columbus Day Festa. The event will be held from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 20 at the Belle of Baton Rouge Hotel Atrium. Admission is free. The event will include Italian food, music, and much more.

The association will also sponsor a dance and buffet dinner from 7 to 11 p.m. the night before in the same location. Tickets are \$30 a person. For more information, call 293-2651



CELEBRITY JUDGE Bill Profita checks out an entry in the grape stomping contest.



Champion grape stompers

Italian American Festa • Sunday, Oct. 20, 2013
Belle of Baton Rouge Hotel Atrium



St. Joseph's altar



Presentation of Italian maids



Grape stomping by the media

Greater Baton Rouge American Italian Association

Columbus Day Festa
Sunday, October 20, 2013
11 am to 5 pm
Free Admission
 Belle of Baton Rouge Casino & Hotel Atrium
 Downtown Baton Rouge

Vino Stroll
3 stations:

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Presentation Of Italian Maids

Italian 101 With Dr. Joe Ricapito

St. Joseph's Altar

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For reservations call 1-800-266-2692.
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Individual dance and buffet tickets can be purchased for \$30 each. For tickets call 225-293-2551.

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BATON ROUGE — Events coming up in and around the capital city:

Friday, October 4
St. Alphonsus Health Fair
9 a.m.- 12 noon

Sixth annual Health Roundup. Flu shots. Blood pressure. BMI. Hearing screening. Cholesterol. Vision. Much more.

Saturday, October 5
Craft Fair • 8 a.m.- 5 p.m

The Down Syndrome Awareness Group will hold its 2nd Annual Craft Fair at Woodlawn Baptist Church, 5805 Jones Creek Rd. For information, call Ruth Hood at 937-0545.

October 7 through 31
Pumpkin Patch

The pumpkins will arrive at Blackwater Methodist Church, 10000 Blackwater Rd. on October 5, and go on sale starting October 7, 2013

from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday thru Saturday and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday. For more information call 225-261-4646. There will be an Arts and Crafts fair on October 26. and we are looking for vendors. Indoor and outdoor booths are available. For an application or more information contact joanne@blackwaterumc.org.

Thursday, October 10
Redemptorist Open House
1 to 7 p.m.

Come by and see what Redemptorist has to offer. Grades 7-12.

Friday, October 11
Pink Night • 7 p.m.

Parkview vs. University High at Parkview.

Thursday, October 17
St. Joseph Open House
4:30 to 7 p.m.

Open house for girls in grades 6-8 and their parents. Meet students, faculty, and alumni. Tours available throughout the evening.

Saturday, October 19
Car Show • 9 a.m.

Blackwater Methodist Church,

10000 Blackwater Rd. is having a car show. Any and all cars welcome. Registration starts at 9 a.m. and the cost is \$20 per car. Show time will be at 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with awards being announced at 1 p.m. Awards will be given.

Sunday, October 20
Homecoming Services • 10:15 a.m.

Homecoming services at Sandy Creek Baptist Church, 22834 Liberty Road. Former ministers, Bro. Rip Moran will lead the music and Bro. Larry Evans will bring the message. There will be dinner on the ground following the service.

October 30
6 p.m.- 8 p.m

Galilee Baptist Fall Festival

Galilee Baptist Church, 11050 Greenwell Springs-Port Hudson Rd., will hold it's annual Family Fall Festival. Everyone is invited to attend. There will be carnival games, food, mechanical bull, pony rides and more. They will have door prizes which include a Flat Screen TV. Come go through the Central Fire Department Smoke House.

October 31
6 p.m.- 8 p.m

Down On the Farm Fall Festival
Victory Harvest Church

Victory Harvest Church, 3653 Flannery Rd., invites you and your family to join them for exciting games, candy, prizes, food and fun! This is a safe alternative to Halloween for your children. . All free!

October 31

6 p.m.- 8:30 p.m • Fall Festival
Greenwell Springs Baptist

Greenwell Springs Baptist, 19421 Greenwell Springs, invites you to the annual Fall Festival. This night is filled with fun activities for children 12 and under. Come join the fun! Bring a new small toy and help us fill a giant Operation Christmas Child Shoebox.

Saturday, November 2
Louisiana Strong Summit
10 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Jefferson Baptist Church Activities Building. Keynote: Michael Voris on The Influence of Saul Alinsky in Our Churches. Admission is free. Register at LouisianaStrong.com.

Baton Rouge Business Directory

3-month contract \$50 a month
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Central City News
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Central Pushes Breast Cancer Awareness

**PINK OUT NIGHT
for
BREAST CANCER
AWARENESS**

**7 p.m.
Friday, Nov. 1,
2013
Central vs. Walker
Wildcat Stadium**

BATON ROUGE — Susan G. Komen Baton Rouge kicks off National Breast Cancer Awareness Month by providing four different opportunities for the greater Baton Rouge community to show support.

The four opportunities include the following.

PINK OUT, a communitywide contest that allows business to show support by a \$250 donation and decorating their store front in pink.

Worship in Pink opportunities to congregations of all faiths. Those of interest may contact Susan G. Komen Baton Rouge to receive information or register for breast health education materials. These items are available to accompany a customized survivor celebration or educational outreach effort.

The annual Perfectly Pink Luncheon will be held on October 5th at the L'Auberge Casino and Hotel in Baton Rouge. Ticket



Central High receiver Gary Triplett

information is available at KomenBatonRouge.org October 14 and \$195 starting October 15th.

Lastly, the Pink Ribbon Bowl that will be on October 20th at All Star Lanes. Registration is \$150 before

greater Baton Rouge area. A portion of the funds will be dedicated to scientific research to find the cures.

Nancy Brinker promised her dying sister, Susan G. Komen, she would do everything in her power to end breast cancer forever. In 1982, that promise became Susan G. Komen for the Cure and launched the global breast cancer movement.

Susan G. Komen Baton Rouge is working to save the lives of those facing breast cancers in the local community. They join more than a million breast cancer survivors and activists around the globe as part of the world's largest and most progressive grassroots network fighting breast cancer.

Through events like the Komen Baton Rouge Race for the Cure® and the Pink Ribbon Bowl, the Affiliate has invested almost \$3 million in community breast health programs in the greater Baton Rouge community. Since 1995, Komen Baton Rouge has granted almost \$3 million in education, screening and treatment programs across our 10-parish service area and \$893,000 in research funding.

Classifieds

\$6 for first 10 words. \$10 for 11 to 20 words, \$15 for 21 to 30 words. \$20 for 31 to 40 words. \$25 for one column inch classified display ad. Call 261-5055. Must be paid in advance. To pay by credit card, go to www.centralcitynews.us and click "Pay Now" on the left. Then email ad copy to centralcitynews@hotmail.com. Or mail or hand deliver check and ad copy to Central City News, 910 N. Foster, Baton Rouge 70806

AUCTION — The following units will be sold at Public Auction for unpaid rent at Central Storage, 12526 Hooper Rd., Baton Rouge, La. 70818 on Tuesday, Oct. 15, 2013, at 10 a.m. **CASH ONLY.** #30 John Babin- appliances, totes, tools furniture, misc. items, #57 Damon Johnson- furniture & totes, #63 Pam Martin- appliances, tv, totes, lamps, #77 Thu-Thu Fontenot- totes, furniture, boxes, misc. items, #148 Stephanie Jennings- totes, boxes, furniture, misc. items, #265 Steven Pennington- washing machine, gun cabinet, deer stands, totes, #306 Nicole Patterson- furniture, mirrors, boxes, #300 Cynthia Brown- dishes, boxes, misc. items, #458 Laura Goins- tools, furniture, misc. items. 10/3/13

BRENTWOOD ESTATES MOBILE HOME COMMUNITY — 3 br 2 ba mobile homes for rent in the Central community. \$750-\$850 a month. Brentwood Estates is one of the nicest rental properties in Central. Lawn care included with each rental. NO PETS. Call 225-394-1701 or 225-436-9349 for a showing. 12/5/13

DRIVERS \$5000 SIGN-ON BONUS — Owner Op's & Lease Purchase. Home Daily & Week-ends. CDL-A. 3 yrs. exp. w/Haz/Tank end. Mike: 855-220-9716 X2 10/3/13

EXP. CAREGIVER — Seeks week day or week night work. Also available for housekeeping work. Please call 225-278-2769 10/3/13

FOR SALE — Tuff Stuff 1 Workout Set-200 lbs in weights. Orig.\$1100 asking \$350 OBO. Excellent condition. pennyfruge@gmail.com or 225-261-3226 10/3/13

FOR SALE — Greenoaks Cemetery- Garden of Valor burial for 2, \$4750. Owner finance, 12, 18 or 24 months, 0% interest. \$200 down. Call A.J. 225-718-3716 10/3/13

MOBILE HOME FOR RENT — 2 BR, 2 BA Newly renovated, located at 10852 Ridge Rd. in Central. \$650 a month with a \$325 deposit. Rental ref. required. Call 225-202-0053 10/3/13

NOW HIRING — For all positions at the NEW Mike Anderson's, Central location, 14142 Greenwell Springs Rd. next to St. Alphonsus Church. Interviews held Mon.-Wed., 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Email dustin@mikeandersons.com with any questions. 10/3/13

VACATION RENTAL — Vacation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Beautiful condo two bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, balcony with ocean view, furnished. Weekend, weekly, monthly rates. 225-938-8601 or 225-324-0973. 10/3/13

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Milestones

Births • Engagements • Weddings • Deaths
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SMITH, LILES

Lindsey Smith and Shane Liles to marry in Destin, Fla. on October 19, 2013

DEATHS

Gordon Hutchinson, Sr. passed away on Sept. 29 at age 91.

Lindsey Smith, Shane Liles To Marry in Destin on Oct. 19



Lindsey Smith and Shane Liles

BATON ROUGE — Lindsey Kaye Smith of Central, and Shane William Liles of Baton Rouge, will marry in a 5 p.m. ceremony on October 19, 2013 in Destin, Florida.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Al and Kaye Smith of Central. She is the granddaughter of Francis Schmit of Central and the late Aubrey Smith and Joel and Lurline Hilbun of Baton Rouge. Lindsey is a graduate of Central High School and Southeastern Louisiana University. She is a teacher at Bellingrath Hills Elementary in Central.

Her fiancé is the son of John William and Kaye Liles of Baton Rouge. He is the grandson of Virginia Contine of Baton Rouge and the late Isadore Contine and the late Elmer and Virginia Liles. Shane is a graduate of Baton Rouge High School and Louisiana State University. He is a processor operator with ExxonMobil.

Gordon Hutchinson, Sr. Passes Away at Age 91

BATON ROUGE — Gordon Herbert Hutchinson, Sr. was born on October 29, 1921 in Tickfaw, Louisiana, and passed peacefully into the arms of his Savior and to be with his beloved wife, Virgie on Saturday, Sept. 28, 2013. He was 91 years of age. A respected business and community leader, he was the owner of Hutchinson Tires, and the founder of Big River Tires. He was always known for his integrity and the bond of his word in all dealings with all people. He proudly represented the citizens of Central as their elected member of the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board, and was a member of the Board of Deacons and Board of Trustees of Zoar Baptist Church. A veteran of WWII, he served



Gordon Hutchinson, Sr

in the Panama Canal Zone during that conflict, and rose to the rank of Army Master Sergeant (E-8) in charge of all post recreational activities and facilities. He was preceded in death by his parents, James Herbert Hutchinson and Iva Addison Hutchinson of Tickfaw, and his beloved wife of 69 years, Virgie Lavilla Williams Hutchinson who died on February 24, 2013. He is survived by two sons and a daughter, and their spouses; Gordon Hutchinson, Jr and wife

Mary, Francis Hutchinson and wife Elizabeth, and Lola Hutchinson Hill and husband Derrell, all of the Central community; six grandchildren and thier spouses, Christopher Hutchinson, Reverend Jared Hill and wife, Michelle, Jeremy Hill and wife, Jessica, Hunter Hutchinson and wife, Faith, Brent Railey and wife, Laura, and beloved granddaughter, Jessica Hutchinson. He is also

survived by ten great-grandchildren, and numerous cousins, nieces and nephews. Visitation was held at Zoar Baptist Church on Tuesday, October 1 from 5 p.m. until 8 p.m. and again on Wednesday, October 2, from 10 a.m. until services at noon conducted by the Reverend Jared Hill of

North Carolina and Dr. Kevin Hand of Zoar Baptist Church. Interment at Zoar Baptist Cemetery. Pallbearers were Gordon Hutchinson, Jr., Francis Hutchinson, Hunter Hutchinson, Christopher Hutchinson, Jared Hill, Jeremy Hill, Junior Shelton, and Hugh Shelton. Derrell Hill and Jessica Hutchinson were Honorary Pallbearers. Special thanks to Loving & Caring Adult Care, Lifesource Hospice, Joseph Landry, and Tiffany Watson for your care through the years.

Deaths

Cynthia Eisworth Fitch

Cynthia Eisworth Fitch, 65, went to be with her Lord and Savior on Friday, September 20, 2013 at her home in Central. Cynthia was very involved with her church, Zoar Baptist Church. She enjoyed spending time with family and friends. She was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister and friend. She will be missed dearly by all those who knew and loved her. Visitation was held at Seale Funeral Home in Central on Sunday, September 22, from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. and resumed at Zoar Baptist Church on Monday, September 23, from 9:30 a.m. until service at 11 a.m., officiated by Dr. Kevin Hand. Burial will be at Zoar Baptist

Church Cemetery. She is survived by her husband, Jim Fitch; daughter, Heather Hall Corsentino and husband, Tony; sons, Drew Hall and Justin Fitch; grandchildren, Katelyn and Christian Corsentino, and Caleb and Noah Fitch; sisters and brothers-in-law, June and John Theriot and Mary and Ted Morris; brother, George W. Eisworth, Jr. and wife, Beryl; as well as numerous nieces, nephews, relatives and many other friends. She was preceded in death by her parents, George W. and Minette Perilloux Eisworth. A special thank you to the Steve Varnado Sunday School Class for their love and care during this time. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to The Cancer Services of Baton Rouge or St. Jude's Children's Hospital.

Births

Charlee Mae Walker

Matt and Jessica Walker of Central are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Charlee Mae Walker. She was born on July 29, 2013 at Woman's Hospital in Baton Rouge. She weighed nine pounds and was 21 inches long. She was welcomed by her grandparents, Mike and Joni Holaway, Mark and Jodi Beauchamp and Greg and Mandy Walker, all of Central. Great-grandparents are George and Marie Holaway of Baker, Lena Mae Aime of Sorrento, Anthony and Gayle Rodriguez and Mable Walker, all of Central.



She is the niece of Jacob Holaway, Amber Romero and Jessica Walker. Her God parents are Joey Holaway and Brittnie Crumholt.

Jackson Warren Ables

Luke and Jessica (Wellman) of Denham Springs are proud to announce the birth of their son Jackson Warren Ables. He was born on August 1, 2013 at Woman's hospital. He weighed six pounds and 12 ounces. He was 20 1/2 inches long. Proud grandparents are Wendy and Gaynell Ables and Larry and Nita Wellman all of Central.





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