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Meet the Modest Attorney Who Takes on the Big Guys and Wins

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Group Needs 18,000 Signatures for Nov. Vote

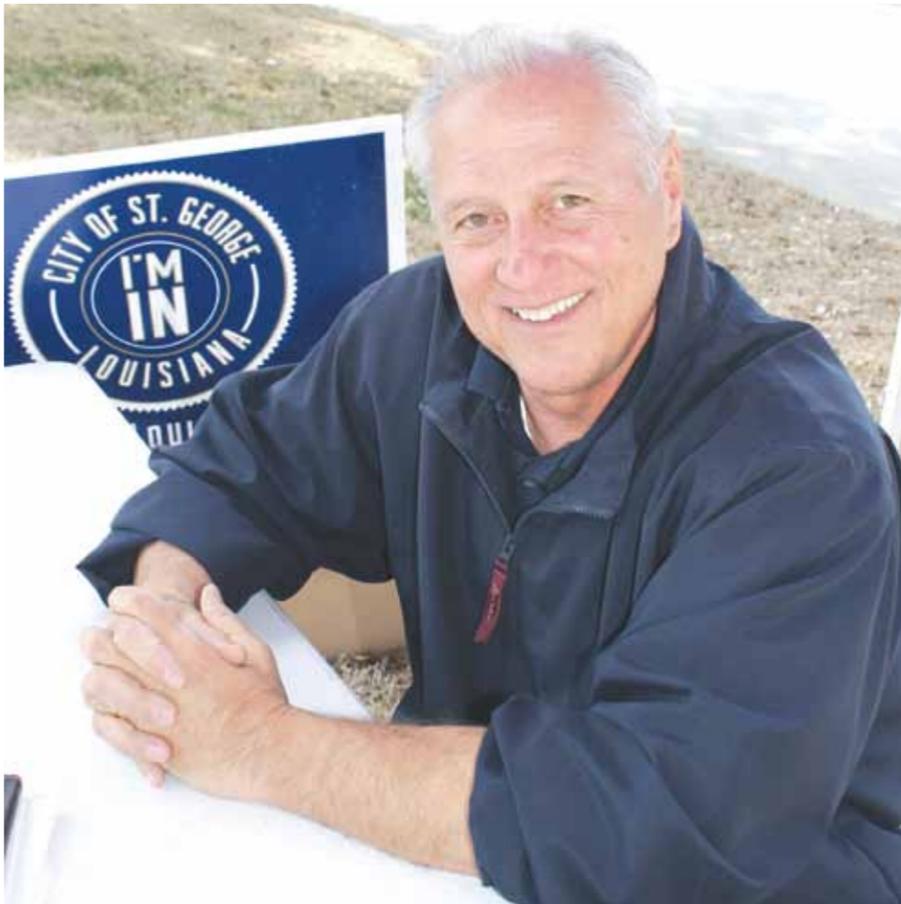
GOP Backs St. George

New Plan To Create 4 Districts In EBR

BATON ROUGE - Sen. Bodi White has introduced SB 484 in the current session of the Louisiana Legislature that would revamp the governance of the East Baton Rouge Parish school system. The bill would create four subdistricts within the system:

- Southeast Baton Rouge School District
- South Baton Rouge District
- Mid-City School District
- North Baton Rouge School District

Central, Zachary, and Baker school system would be unaffected. Under the legislation, See Page 3, Col. 1



Norman Browning, leader of movement to incorporate City of St. George

Parish Republican Party Supports Petition Drive

BATON ROUGE - The effort to incorporate the proposed City of St. George (pop. 107,000) has picked up a new ally — the Republican Party of the East Baton Rouge Parish.

The GOP has announced its endorsement of efforts to put the proposed incorporation on the election ballot. St. George leader Norman Browning said his group is aiming for a public referendum on Tuesday, Nov. 4, 2014, the same day as U.S. Senate and Congress.

The Republican Parish Executive Committee voted to support placing incorporation before voters.

In a statement, the GOP said, “Hundreds of volunteers have been working for months to secure 18,000 signatures on a petition to call an election on incorporation.”

“The pro-St. George movement has demonstrated important points that every citizen should consider: “St. George is the fast- See Page 4, Col. 1

Jr. Shelton Endorsed For Mayor of Central

CENTRAL - The Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish has endorsed businessman Jr. Shelton for Mayor of the City of Central in municipal elections set for Saturday, April 5.

The action was taken by the Republican Parish Executive Committee or PEC, the 17-member elected body established by state law to govern the party in the See Page 5, Col. 1

\$228 Million in BREC Taxes on April 5 Ballot

BATON ROUGE - Voters throughout East Baton Rouge Parish will face property tax renewals totalling \$228 million for

BREC, the Recreation and Park Commission for the parish, in the April 5 election. The tax includes 6.2 mills in

property taxes that raise \$22.8 million a year for 10 years. The tax would be used to operate BREC, acquire new

parks, and operate existing parks. Voters in all four cities in the parish and in unincorporated areas will vote.

The action was taken by the Republican Parish Executive Committee or PEC, the 17-member elected body established by state law to govern the party in the See Page 5, Col. 1

Former Mayor Moon Landrieu Has Advice for His Embattled Daughter

‘Mary, come on home, girl! There’s another life!’



Mayor Moon Landrieu

The Landrieu family business is politics, and the patriarch of that family knows there’s an end to every good run. He spoke out to the *New York Times* and had some surprising advice for his daughter, Mary Landrieu, who faces tough reelection.

Poll Shows Voters Dissatisfied With Landrieu’s Tenure As State’s Senator

NEWORLEANS - Incumbent U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu is running for reelection this fall, and so far the race looks like a toss up. A mid-February poll by Democratic pollsters Public Policy Pollsters (PPP) showed Landrieu having only a narrow lead over much lesser known Republican opponents.

PPP showed Landrieu ahead of Congressman Bill Cassidy 45-44. She was leading Col. Rob Maness 47-42 and State Sen. Paul Hollis 48-42.

All of the polls taken



indicated the likelihood of a runoff. That almost always spells trouble for an incumbent.

Meanwhile, in an interview with the *New York Times*, Sen. Landrieu’s father, former New Orleans Mayor Moon Landrieu made an amazing admission — that he advised his daughter either not to seek reelection or at the least to prepare for defeat.

Moon Landrieu said, “I have at times said, ‘Mary, come on home, girl. There’s another life out here.’” he said.

Asked why his children keep running, the elder Landrieu said, “That’s our business. That’s what we do.”

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Editor & Publisher
Business Manager
Business Specialist



Woody Jenkins
Candi Lee
Jolice Provost

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PULLING A LOOSE TOOTH — Greg Smith works on 7-year-old daughter Hannah's loose tooth. "Just wiggle it, daddy, don't pull it!" she begged. "Oh, I won't!" he promised. Then whap! he pulled it! "But you said you wouldn't!" she cried. "I didn't pull it, just wiggled it hard!" he said.

Photo by Lori Smith

Country Living in the City

How to Have a Better Facebook Experience

When in Doubt, Leave It Out!

— Prof. Nick Plasterer

Woody Jenkins
 Editor

When I was about four, I said something I shouldn't have. My mama gave me a spanking (to help me concentrate LOL) and told me to "think before you speak."

Over the next 60 years, she repeated those words to me many, many times. "Think before you speak!" Indeed!

When I was six, she found something I had written that was ugly and showed it to me. I was embarrassed. She said, "Don't write anything down unless you'd like to have it published on the front page of the newspaper!" I was only six, mind you, but that's what she said! I never forgot that.

When I went to the LSU School of Journalism, Prof. Nick Plasterer said, "There are many important rules of

writing, editing, and publishing, and we're going to spend most of four years teaching them to you. But the most important rule is this: When in doubt, leave it out!"

Your instincts will probably tell you that you are about to make a mistake in writing something. Listen to your instincts. If they are telling you this is a bad idea, listen! It probably is much worse than you think!

Someone once told me, "You may look a fool, but why speak and remove all doubt?" Hmmm. That's pretty good!

If you really don't know what you're talking about, why expose that fact to thousands of people?

Ridicule and sarcasm are poison. Avoid them like the plague. Being curt and mean-spirited only reveals the personality problems of the curt, mean-spirited writer.

Remember, you have every right to unfriend or ban from your page and your life anyone that brings you down. So there's no need to put up with people who misuse Facebook.

Okay, those are some things to avoid. But on the positive side, how can we make our experience on Facebook bet-

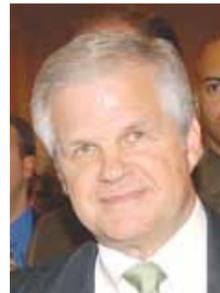
ter? "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you!" The Golden Rule! It applies to all of us all the time, even on Facebook! I think of my friends on Facebook as a group of us sitting at my kitchen table. It's a time for fellowship, an exchange of information, and inspiration. It's a great chance to build friendships and grow in our knowledge and enjoyment of life. If we think of Facebook as all of us sitting at the kitchen table in one of our homes, it is a very different experience. We treat them with the respect we would if they were guests in our home.

When people have other ideas about Facebook and misuse it, I send them personal messages and try to clear up misunderstandings. Often, people are totally opposite in their messages than in their posts. They can be mean as fire in their posts but sweet and kind in their

personal lives and in their messages. Reach out to the real person in messages in order to resolve differences or smooth things over. Why can't we be kind in our posts and comments? Of course we can! That doesn't mean we can't disagree and disagree strongly.

On Facebook, minds are almost never changed by critical comments, rude remarks, or back-and-forth tit-for-tat exchanges. But thoughtful, intelligent, respectful and pleasant exchanges present the opportunity to learn and grow. "When in doubt, leave it out!" Yes, a great rule. And it also applies to mistakes we made in the past.

When something is printed in the newspaper, you can make a retraction or an apology, but things are never quite the same. But on Facebook, you can go back and delete a post that you made that was ill-conceived or mean. Just go back and hit delete! I can say this about Facebook: I have never regretted going back and deleting an inappropriate post or comment. There's actually something very liberating about it. It's a way to say, I was a wrong, will you forgive me? And most people will. "Think before you speak!" Yes, mama, I will!



Woody Jenkins

Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon

Tuesday, Mar. 11, 2014

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Central City News - Special Election Edition
Thursday, March 20, 2014 - Ad Deadline 5 p.m., Monday

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Would Not Affect Central, Zachary or Baker Schools

Bill Creates 4 EBR School Sub-Districts

Neighborhood Schools Goal Of Legislation

Continued from Page 1

each subdistrict would have its own deputy superintendent and some limited autonomy. The deputy superintendents would be appointed by the parish superintendent of schools. Each deputy superintendent shall draw school attendance zones within his subdistrict and appoint principals and other personnel.

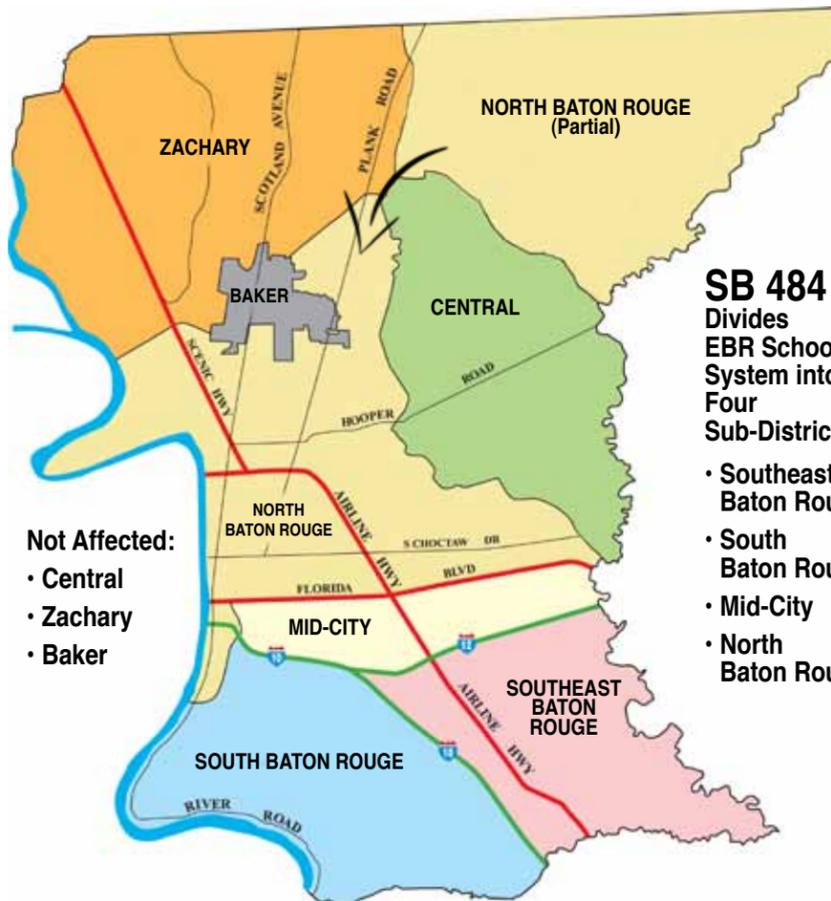
State funds would be allocated to the subdistricts based on the Minimum Foundation Program, while parish funds would be allocated on a per pupil basis.

In an interview Friday, Sen. White said many details of the legislation still have to be worked out.

Norman Browning, chairman of Local Schools for Local Children and leader of the movement to incorporate the proposed City of St. George, said SB484 is consistent with his groups' efforts.

"Whether the legislature acts this session or not, we are continuing full speed ahead with the effort to incorporate the City of St. George and to implement the Southeast Community School System." He said White's bill could provide a measure of autonomy

Plan to Divide EBR School System into Four Sub-Districts



Not Affected:

- Central
- Zachary
- Baker

SB 484 Divides EBR School System into Four Sub-Districts:

- Southeast Baton Rouge
- South Baton Rouge
- Mid-City
- North Baton Rouge

for schools in the southeast part of the parish until a new separate school district is implemented.

SB484 is an ordinary bill, rather than a constitutional amendment, and will only take 20 votes in the Senate

and 53 votes in the House. The bill provides as follows:

§58.4. East Baton Rouge Parish School Board and school system; subdistricts; duties; responsibilities; funding

A. (1) The East Baton Rouge Parish School Board shall develop and implement a plan to divide the East Baton Rouge Parish School System into four subdistricts and

provide for an equitable allocation of school facilities and student population to each subdistrict.

- (2) The four subdistricts shall be designated as follows:
- (a) The North Subdistrict.
 - (b) The Mid-City Subdistrict.
 - (c) The Southeast Subdistrict.
 - (d) The South Subdistrict.

(3) Each subdistrict shall have at least one magnet program at the elementary, middle school, and high school level.

B. The East Baton Rouge Parish School Board shall:

- (1) Provide policy and administrative support for the school system, including payroll, retirement and health insurance benefits for teachers and other school and school system employees, and student transportation and school nutrition programs.

(2) Receive payments from the state pursuant to the Minimum Foundation Program and allocate these funds to each school in accordance with the dollar amount generated for each individual student enrolled in the school by the Minimum Foundation Program formula, including any additional funds generated by additional weights based upon student characteristics. Locally generated revenues shall be equitably allocated to each school on a per pupil basis. The school board may retain a maximum of three percent of the total per-pupil amount established for each student enrolled in the school system to cover administrative costs and central office functions.

C. The superintendent of schools for East Baton Parish shall:

- (1) Hire and provide administrative support to a deputy superintendent for each subdistrict.
- (2) Supervise and coordinate all functions for which the school system is responsible.

D. The deputy superintendent for each subdistrict shall:

- (1) Establish attendance zones for each school located within the geographic boundaries of the subdistrict for which he is responsible and exercise general supervision over these schools.

(2)(a) Hire a principal for each school located within the geographic boundaries of his subdistrict. (b) The principal of any school that receives a school performance letter grade of "F" for two consecutive years shall be replaced.

E. The principal of each school shall:

- (1) Hire and make all employment decisions relative to teachers and other personnel employed at the school.
- (2) Supervise the school's instructional program and exercise administrative responsibility for all school related activities.

(3) Manage the budget for the school and oversee all school related operational functions, including transportation, food service, and facility maintenance. The principal may purchase these services from the parish school board or enter into contracts with private providers, as deemed necessary and appropriate.

F. The provisions of this Section shall be implemented not later than the beginning of the 2015-2016 school year.

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Republican Party Supports St. George Effort to Get on Ballot This November

At Present Rate. Proponents May Have Signatures By Late Spring

Continued from Page 1

est growing area of the parish, except Central. Yet, its infrastructure has been neglected for decades.”

“With 107,000 residents, St. George could be the 5th largest city in Louisiana and control an annual budget of more than \$52 million. Yet, the reality today is that the tax dollars collected in St. George are not being spent there. Rather, these tax dollars are shipped to the City of Baton Rouge where they are spent.”

“The irony is that the citizens of St. George are paying taxes to support a city but it’s not their city. It’s the City of Baton Rouge.”

“The City-Parish budget shows \$82 million collected in the unincorporated areas of the parish. Of those funds, \$17 million is used to pay 100 percent of the expenses of constitutional offices in the parish, such as the 19th Judicial District Courts and the District Attorney. St. George residents don’t pay their *share* of parishwide expenses for constitutional offices. Instead, they pay 100 percent of the cost of these constitutional offices! Residents of Baton Rouge, Baker, Zachary, and Central pay zero toward the cost of the court



system. This an amazing and possibly illegal arrangement that unduly burdens the citizens of one area of the parish and requires them to pay a burden that should rightfully be shared among all the citizens.”

“Another \$12 million collected in St. George is used to pay 100 percent

of the cost of other parishwide offices, such as the Parish Prison and Animal Control. Again, 100 percent of the expenses of these governmental agencies are paid by taxes collected in the unincorporated areas of the parish. These expenses should be assessed parishwide. The people in St. George should not have to pay 100 percent of the cost of the Parish Prison and Animal Control, but they do now!”

“Incorporation would allow St. George residents to control Planning &

Zoning in their area.”

“If St. George follows the lead of the City of Central and privatizes city government, the cost of running the City of St. George would be kept to a minimum, and there would be no reason to raise taxes.”

The Republican Party said it will be working more closely with leaders of the St. George movement, in order to help get the proposal on the ballot, so that it can be more fully discussed by the electorate.



SUMMER CAMPS

Registration begins March 15.

East Baton Rouge Parish Residents:
Sat., March 15 from 9 a.m.–1 p.m.

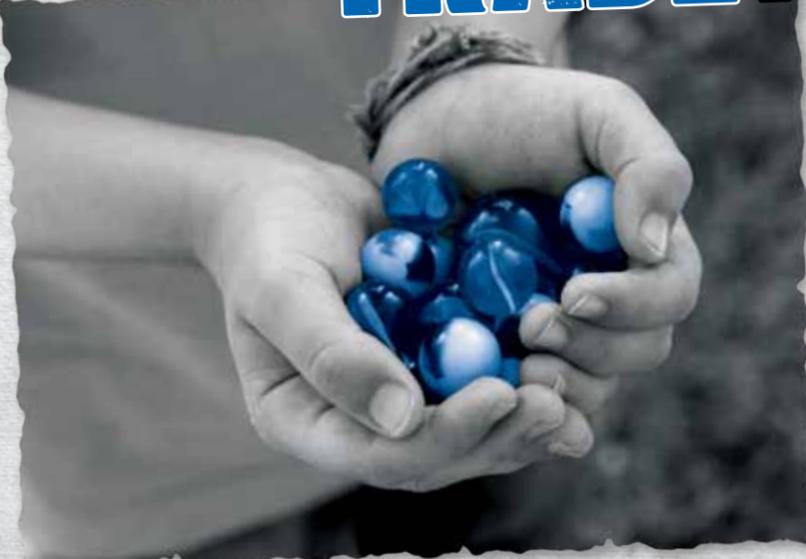
Out-of-Parish Residents:
Tues., March 25 from 3:30 p.m. until the close of each facility

All camp sites will be open for walk-in registrants.
Visit the site at which you want to attend camp and register in person. Spaces are limited; first come-first served.



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Central's Municipal Elections Set April

GOP Endorses Shelton for Central Mayor

Candidates Face Heavy Schedule Of Campaigning

Continued from Page 1

parish.

The party issued a statement saying Shelton is a man of character with a positive plan for the City of Central.

Shelton narrowly lost the mayor's race in Central to incumbent Mac Watts four years ago by 300 votes out of 8,000 votes cast. Watts is not seeking reelection.

Jr. Shelton is a native of East Baton Rouge Parish. He graduated from Broadmoor High School and earned a B.S. in business administration from LSU. He and his wife Rita have been married for 39 years and have resided in Central for the past 36 years. They have four children and six grandchildren. He has been a deacon at Broadmoor Baptist Church for 41 years.

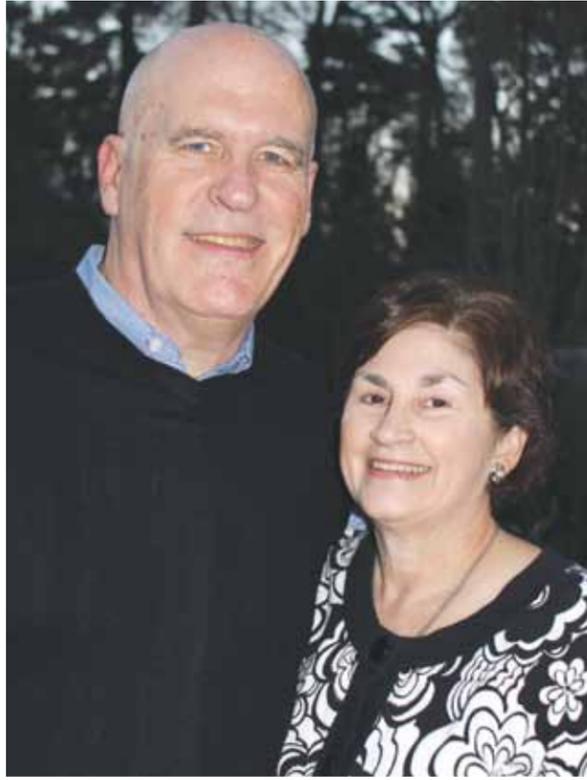
Shelton's family owned Shel-Boze lighting company for 56 years, and he co-owned the business for 37 years of those years. The company

Republicans Endorse 8 In Central Elections

The Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish has endorsed the following candidates in the April 5 election:

MAYOR
Jr. Shelton
POLICE CHIEF
James Salsbury
CITY COUNCIL
(Vote for five)
Shane Evans
Dr. Kim Fralick
Wayne Messina
Harry Rauls
John Vance
Ralph Washington

Photo by Woody Jenkins



Jr. Shelton, candidate for Mayor, with wife Rita

Candidate for Mayor Described as Man of Character with Positive Plan



JR. SHELTON, candidate for Mayor of the City of Central

closed during the recession in 2009. He is a realtor with C. J. Brown and last year served as chairman of the C.J. Brown Agents Council. He served on the Board of Central Pri-

vate School for 16 years.

In his interview with the PEC, Shelton predicted Central will become the outstanding city in East Baton Rouge Parish because of low crime, an outstanding school system, and accessibility. He said Hooper Road puts Central only seven minutes from the Baton Rouge Airport and I-110, Joor Road puts Central five minutes from Cortana Mall, and the Central Thruway now links Central directly to I-12.

Shelton said he wants to improve relations between Central and surrounding communities. He said he wants to work with officials in East Baton Rouge and Livingston parishes on matters of mutual interest.

He said his priorities include improving the infrastructure of Central, especially drainage and roads. "We have an accumulated surplus, and some of those funds should be used to provide much needed improvements, including \$3 million in drainage projects," he said.

Shelton said highway priorities include working with the state and parish to widen Greenwell Springs Road and extend Hooper Road across the Amite River to Watson. He said he wants to maintain Central's rural atmosphere and its strong sense of community.

Shelton said there is a need to build up Central's retail and commercial sectors. "There are three phases of

See SHELTON on Page 20

“I'd like our economic development to be a model for municipalities across the state. I want our citizens to have trust in their government and confidence that every decision is made in their best interests. I'd hope they would be happy with infrastructure improvements with regards to streets, drainage, and sewerage. Four years is a short time in the life of a city, and I believe we need a long-range plan that is a stepping stone to great things for Central. If we don't have a roadmap of where we are trying to go, we won't get anywhere.”

— Republican Mayoral Candidate
 Jr. Shelton of City of Central

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GOP Endorses Six for City Council

Republicans Hail Ralph Washington For Leadership As Mayor Pro-Tem

CENTRAL — The Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish has endorsed Central Mayor Pro-Tem Ralph Washington for reelection to the Central City Council.

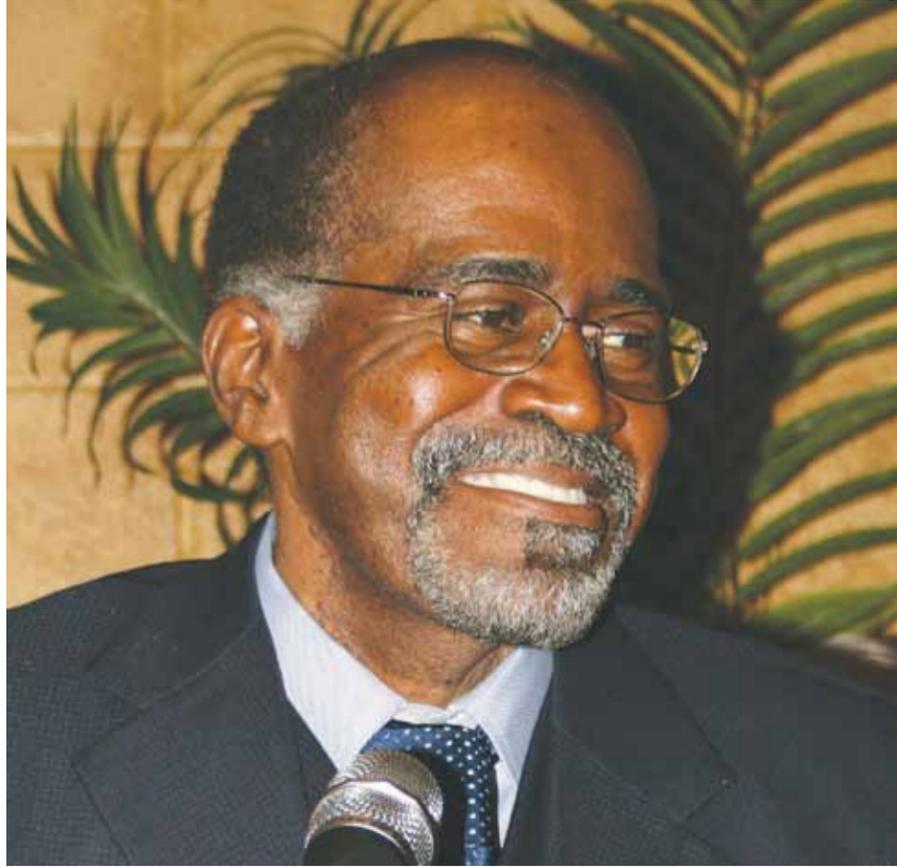
Here are some of Washington's comments from his interview with the GOP and from recent speeches:

- "Growing up in a rural area and being raised in the church, my greatest influence has always been the love of God and my desire to be a good man."

- "It has been a pleasure to be involved on the ground floor with the creation of the City of Central from the beginning. I was honored to be able to go to the legislature and defend Central when we have been attacked. As a Councilman, I have been privileged to work to create our first set of city ordinances, the Master Plan, our zoning ordinances, and the concept of privatization."

- "By keeping government small, I believe we can be closer to the people and accomplish more. My goal has been to help our citizens have a better quality of life, and I hope I have been able to do that. But we are still in the formative stage. We need to keep building a great foundation."

- "I'm running again because I feel I have made a difference, and I believe I can continue to make a



MAYOR PRO-TEM RALPH WASHINGTON spells out his views and why he is running for reelection to the Central City Council.

difference over the next four years."

- "Over the next four years, our No. 1 goal should be to build a better infrastructure. We're already seeing great improvements but much more is needed. Better sewer, better highways, better parks, better service to people."

- "I switched to the Republican Party, and I think it was the right decision. From the White House on down, we're seeing the mess the

Washington Led Fight for Access to Public Records, Ouster of CH2MHill

lives of citizens. We should be concerned with safety and physical development, but government should not be involved in people's everyday lives. Most of all, government should answer to the people, not the other way around."

- "In Central, despite our disagreements, we have kept government small. The city has not raised taxes. But we have been able to accumulate a large surplus."

- "Some of our surplus should be kept for a rainy day but some of it should be spent on some urgent needs in Central, especially roads, drainage, and better services."

- "I do believe in the importance of access to public records. That is essential in a democracy. I stood up in the Council when we directed CH2MHill to produce public records. Later, it was clear that that company needed to be replaced, and I supported opening it up to other bidders. That proved to be the right decision and save the city a lot of money."

- "I will continue to strongly support our Sheriff's Office and the Central Police Department."

Endorsed by Republican Party

Dr. Kim Fralick Got Fed Up with Central Politics, Decided to Get Involved and Make a Difference



DR. KIM FRALICK
Candidate for Council

CENTRAL — Dr. Kim Fralick has been endorsed by the Republican Party in her race for one of five seats on the Central City Council. Here are some of her statements made in public forums:

- "As the mother of five, I am very grateful for our Central community school system. Central is a God-fearing community. We're not afraid to pray or say the Pledge in this community. The greatest influences in my life are my faith in Jesus Christ, my conservative upbringing, my family and church, and my desire to live a life of integrity."

- "I graduated from the University of Arkansas-Monticello with a B.S. in animal science and the LSU Vet School with a doctor of veterinary medicine. I opened Joor Road Veterinary Hospital 17 years ago. In that time, I've learned to run a business and establish a budget. I've learned the difference between needs and wants."

- "Three years ago, I immersed myself in the City of Central and attended City Council meetings and Planning & Zoning meetings. I researched what needs to be done and what needs to be changed. Now I'd like to be on the other side of the podium, helping to make the decisions that need to be made. I believe I have enough knowledge and information to fairly represent the people of Central. I'm a fiscal conservative and realize it is a great responsibility to handle other peoples' money."

- "I have lots of ideas about what needs to be done but my real job will be to listen to the people of Central and represent them."

- "I've learned a lot out on the campaign trail, because when people talk, I listen completely. I've spent most of my time going door to door and talking to people. Somebody asked me what I do if a voter just goes on and on. I said I just stand there and listen, because that's my job — to listen to people! The only time I leave before they're finished is when the street lights come on! Then I say uh-oh the street lights are on — I better get home and feed the kids!"

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David Forbes, Owner

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in Election Set for Saturday, April 5



WAYNE MESSINA
Candidate for Council

GOP Nominee Wayne Messina Seeks 2nd Term

CENTRAL — Central City Councilman Wayne Messina has been endorsed for reelection by the Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish. Here are some of his recent public comments:

- “We’ve been married for 43 years and have two children and four grandchildren. I was educated at Istrouma High and then went to Nicholls for a B.A. in history and speech, then earned Masters in Education and Masters+30 in broadcast management.”

- “I’ve served in the public schools for 45 years as a teacher and coach at Glen Oaks, Istrouma, and Woodlawn and as principal at Baker High for nine years. Since 2003, I’ve served as director of security for the EBR school system.”

- “I’ve been active as a KC for 48 years and serve as a Eucharistic

Minister. I try to squeeze in everything I can in a 24 hour day!”

- “It’s been a privilege to serve on the Central City Council for the past four years. I’ve worked hard to repair our roads and drainage. I’m proud that we have completed the UDC Code, signed IBTS as the city contractor, saving \$500,000 a year, brought a Council on Aging to Central, and passed term limits. We also passed single-member districts, which is what the people wanted, but the Mayor vetoed it.”

- “Over the next four years, I want us to bring back Central pride, focus on economic development, pass single-member districts, and develop Greenwell Springs park, BREC parks, and an RV park.”

- “To insure that there will not be anarchy, there must be ‘law,’ but that law should not infringe on a

person’s right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. This is stated in the Declaration of Independence.”

- “Yes, I support capital punishment. And I don’t believe the answer to prison overcrowding is opening the doors and letting them out. I believe in building more prisons if they are needed.”

- “The best way to help small business grow and expand in Central is to provide a friendly, welcoming environment by the leaders of Central. We should show new businesses that we are behind them. Be business friendly!”

- “We should construct a new City Hall but development of a city center should be the responsibility of private enterprise, not the government.”

- “I oppose the Loop and Red Light cameras.”

Businessman Harry Rauls Endorsed for City Council

CENTRAL — Harry Rauls has been endorsed for the Central City Council by the Republican Party. Here are some of his recent public comments:

- “I left Louisiana several years ago and moved back to Central in 2003. I am motivated by my love of Central. You won’t find finer people anywhere. We’re very fortunate in city government because we don’t start with a lot of baggage, such as unfunded retirement programs, since we have only three city employees.”

- “Baton Rouge is getting ready to boom. Since our school system started, Central has come a long way. Good schools will bring people. We just have to be sure we don’t exceed our resources.

See **HARRY** on Page 16



HARRY RAULS
Candidate for Council



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John Vance Endorsed for City Council

John Vance Served America Around the World, Then Settled In Wife's Hometown

CENTRAL — The Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish has endorsed John Vance for one of five seats on the Central City Council. Here are some of the public comments he has made in recent weeks:

- "I'm not a native of Central but my wife is. We moved here 10 years ago to get back to her hometown, because we thought it was a great place to live and raise our kids."

- "I was raised in a small town in Mississippi where the public schools were failing. So my parents sent me to private school. After graduating, I wanted to fly for the U.S. Army. I completed helicopter flight school during Desert Storm but too late to be deployed. Instead, they sent me all around the world on a variety of missions, including some that were very dangerous."

- "After seven years in the military and marrying my wife, we decided to go into the private sector. I was hired to sweep the floors in a wood chip manufacturing company. After awhile, they named me plant manager. Later, I was sent to build a plant in Natchitoches, which I did. Then they had me manage the construction of a \$20 million plant in Virginia and then a similar plant in Maine."

- "We had our first daughter, and I was on the road all the time. I came



JOHN VANCE, candidate for Central City Council, with wife Lesley and girls

A Helicopter Pilot For the Army, He Is Now Head Pilot for Air Med Service

home one day, and I told my wife that I wanted to see my kids grow up. So I quit my job, and we moved back to Central."

- "I had a job in Baton Rouge but lost it when Katrina hit, and I was out of work. To keep busy, I volunteered to fly for free anyone who needed help. Not long afterwards, I was hired by Acadian Ambulance to fly their medical helicopters. Today, I'm in charge of all their helicopters in this area."

- "I feel I can bring my leadership experience as an officer in the military and as a construction manager, to the City Council in order to serve the people of Central."

- "I have been disappointed in the way our city government operates. It seems that private interests and personal relationships have become more important than doing what is right for the citizens of Central."

- "I hope to return belief in local government to act responsibly and with integrity. The purpose of local government is to enact the voice of the people. It should protect and promote the safety, wellness, and prosperity of the citizens we represent. All of the duties should be conducted within the laws of the state and federal government and most of all, within the Constitution."

Endorsed by Republican Party

Shane Evans Stresses Crime In Race for Central Council

CENTRAL — The Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish has endorsed Shane Evans for one of five seats on the Central City Council. Here are some of his public comments during this campaign:

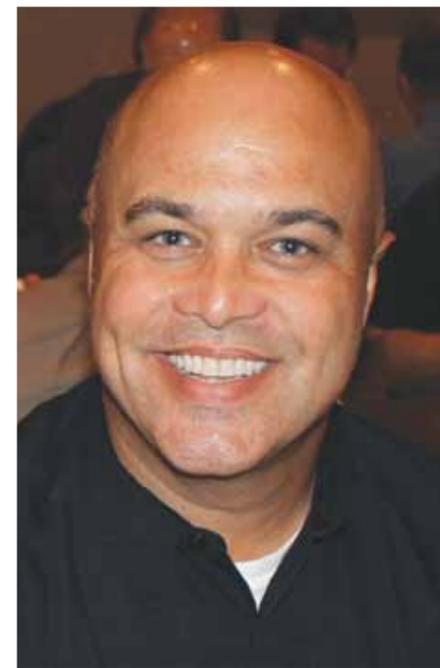
- "I grew up in Central and worked in my mother's shop, Laura's Jewelers, and I'm still her goldsmith. At the age of 20, I felt drawn to public safety and joined the Sheriff's Office, starting in corrections and then Narcotics. I was one of the youngest captains and served as SWAT commander and Narcotics commander."

- "In recent years, I joined the staff of the State Inspector General's office, investigating public corruption. I am currently chief investigator at the Coroner's office, working with Dr. Beau Clark."

- "I've investigated and arrested people for doing all the wrong things in government. Even though I have worked in government all my life, I'm very critical of government. People are surrounded by those influencing them and they lose touch with the people."

- "I'm a conservative Republican and I believe in the Constitution. The federal government has become a ponzi scheme. I'm a Second Amendment supporter and instruct people for the concealed carry permit. I believe the primary responsibility of government is to keep our citizens safe on the streets and in their homes."

- "I'm proud our city has a \$20



SHANE EVANS
Candidate for Central City Council

million surplus, but the problem is, we're not changing the oil. We need to fill the potholes and maintain our city. We also need to support our Central Police Department. The Sheriff's substation is closed at night and on weekends. We can contract for our police officers and not build up big retirements."

- "In four years, I hope to have been part of a team effort that has enhanced public safety in Central, addressed infrastructure improvements, and executed them in a fiscally responsible manner."

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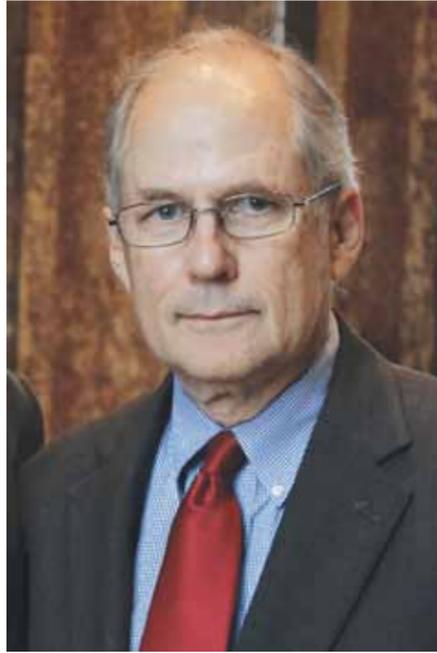
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Legislative Analyst on Bills to Watch

Former Senator Tells Bills He Plans to Follow During Session



DAN RICHEY
Former State Senator

BATON ROUGE — Former State Sen. Dan Richey follows the Louisiana Legislature in his capacity as political consultant for Louisiana Family Forum. But he also prepares a broader list of bills that he follows personally.

During the current session of the Louisiana Legislature, Sen. Richey has agreed to share with readers of the *Capital City News* his bill list.

One of the most important, Richey said, is a proposal by some Democratic lawmakers to expand the Medicaid program. "This would add more than \$1.3 billion in state spending and could endanger our ability to balance the state budget," Richey said.

Another hot topic will be the repeal or modification of Common Core. An unusual combination of conservatives and teachers unions object to Common Core.

Efforts to expand or restrict the right to keep and bear arms could be at the forefront of the session at times, but more gun control is unlikely in Louisiana, Richey said.

The legislature will consider bills to reduce penalties for possession of marijuana, he said. While that concept has some public support, it is unclear how far it can make it

through the legislative process because of concern about the harmful effect of drugs.

The Obama administration has been pushing for an increase in the minimum wage. That appears to have little chance in Louisiana but will be the topic of headlines during the session.

A new subject will take center stage for the first time — restrictions on drones flying over private property, including homes and industrial plants.

Perhaps the most unusual bill of the session is to reduce the voting age to 16, Richey said.

To do your own research, go to <http://www.legis.la.gov/legis/Bill-Search.aspx?sid=current>

Key Bills During 2014 Legislative Session

HOUSE BILLS

- Several bills allowing people with Concealed Carry permits to carry firearms into businesses
- Many bills to lessen marijuana restrictions
- Many bills to repeal Common Core
- Several bills to eliminate Tulane scholarships
- HB 96 - Remove mandatory retirement age for judges
- HB 112 - Shorter legislative sessions
- HB 125 - Statewide election of Superintendent of Education
- HB 172 - Remove union payroll deductions from public workers
- Expand Obamacare in Louisiana
- HB 187 - Gestational Surrogacy in Louisiana
- Many bills to add sexual orientation to list of discrimination
- HB 283 - Make it easier for felons to vote
- HB 292 - Calling constitutional convention for fiscal purposes
- HB 312 - Term limits for all statewide elected officials to three terms; Governor still two terms
- HB 328 - Restore electric chair
- Bills to raise minimum wage
- HB 369 - Sex education in public schools
- HB 501 - Lower voter registration to age 16



- HB 503 - Make the Bible the state book
 - Several bills to lower jury trial threshold below \$50K
 - Bills to reduce TOPS
 - Several bills to raise TOPS requirements
 - HB 521 - Closed primaries for state elections
 - Equal pay for women
 - HB 797 - Prohibit cell phone use while driving
 - HB 826 - Repeal Louisiana "Stand Your Ground" law
 - HB 896 - Prohibits speed cameras on Interstate
 - HB 952 - Welfare drug testing
- #### SENATE BILLS
- Many duplicate House bills
 - Bills to raise minimum wage
 - Change TOPS
 - Drone Prohibitions
 - SB 484 - Create four East Baton Rouge Parish school districts

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Surviving Stalin's Labor Camps of WWII

70 Years Later, Little Jewish Girl Recalls Horror Of Communism, Forced Labor

Woody Jenkins
Editor

BATON ROUGE - Author Miriam Roza Bensman survived persecution, destruction, and death under the Nazis and again under the Russian Communists. But her greatest fear is that she sees it happening all over again in the United States.

Bensman told her story to the East Baton Rouge Republican Women's Club at Drusilla Seafood last Thursday. Now a resident of Baton Rouge, Bensman has written her story in the book, *A Glimpse of Paradise*. It is illustrated by well-known Baton Rouge artist David Norwood.

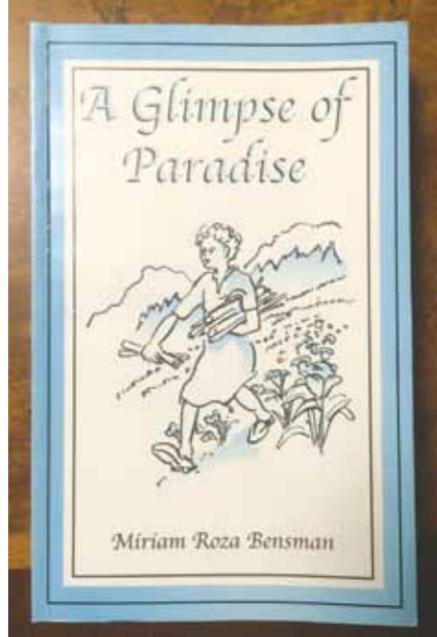
Bensman said the Nazis invaded



Author Miriam Roza Bensman

her town in Poland and seized Jewish families, beat them, and forced them across the river into territory controlled by Russian Communists.

There her mother, father, and sister were herded into railroad box cars, where they were kept locked for weeks with little food or water and no



A Glimpse of Paradise

by Miriam Roza Bensman

★★★★☆

The true story of Baton Rougean Miriam Roza Bensman whose family was taken from their homes in Poland by the Nazis, beaten, and driven across the border into the hands of the Communists in Russia. From there, they were herded into railroad box cars and sent to labor camps in distant Kazhakstan. Faced with the harsh climate, little food, and no medicine, they struggled to survive. The book is simply but beautifully written. It is a story that had to be told but which Americans will have a hard time grasping. Illustrated by former Advocate artist David Norwood. \$10. Available from the author at 225-766-6228.

— Reviewed by Woody Jenkins

sanitation. Everyday, bodies would be removed from the cars.

Then, like 25 million Russians, they were forced onto collective farms where they performed forced labor for the Communist state. They were slaves, and for their toil from sunrise to sunset, they received nothing, not even food. Everything they ate, they had to produce on small private plots at night. Millions were worked to death and millions more died of starvation and disease, she said.

vation and disease, she said.

"The current state of America brings back memories of my life in Soviet Russia under Joseph Stalin, one of the most murderous dictators in history," she said. She recalled the death of her father, who contracted typhus and died because there was no medicine. She too got typhus and lingered for weeks between life and death with no medicine.

"Somehow I survived," she said,



East Baton Rouge Republican Women listen to author Miriam Roza Bensman.

“If you feel deprived, if things are missing in your life, read this book, and you will know how richly you are blessed, and your heart will overflow with gratitude.”

— Author Miriam Roza Bensman

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Paid for by Harry Rauls Campaign



EBR REPUBLICAN WOMEN OFFICERS — The officers of the East Baton Rouge Republican Women's Club, which recently celebrated its 60th anniversary in existence. Last week, the club honored author Miriam Roza Bensman for her book, *A Glimpse of Paradise*.

"perhaps to bear witness to the evils of Communism. Shoes were a great blessing, but lives were worthless. The rulers had total control over us. The students were taught that Russia was the wealthiest and best country on earth. Lies were essential to Marxism. Class warfare was the tactic. Take from some and give to others. An ideology such as this can only survive on lies."

"Under Stalin, God was rejected, and we saw the personality cult of the leader. Under Obama, we are seeing much of the same. Barbara Walters referred to him as the Messiah. You see the complete destruction of the truth," she said.

"The lies are endless but include shovel-ready jobs. Benghazi was caused by a movie. If you like your health care, you can keep it. He violates the Constitution daily. He changes laws passed by Congress. He says he has a pen and a phone. He can make whatever laws he desires. His behavior reminds me of Soviet lawlessness. America is the hope of the world if we can somehow preserve it."

Mrs. Bensman is available for speaking engagements. She can be reached at 225-766-6228.

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Chief Bill Landry, Ret.	Marshal J. Denton - Denham Springs Marshal
	Constable R. Brown - Baton Rouge Constable

Court Strikes Down Rouzan Rezoning

Development Surrounds Two Other Homes With Servitudes, Leaving TND Without Control

BATON ROUGE - In a major decision, Louisiana's First Circuit Court of Appeal ruled that the rezoning of the proposed Rouzan traditional neighborhood development was illegal.

The controversial TND, which has been opposed by some area residents, would be on the south side of Perkins Road east of Glasgow Avenue.

The court sided with two property owners whose land is within the development proposed by Rouzan owner Joseph Spinoza. The court said the TND did not meet the requirements of law, in that Spinoza did not have complete ownership and control of the entire 124 acres.

At the time of her death in 2003, Mary Bordelon Ford owned all 124 areas. She left five acres to Bob Welch and Daniel Hoover. The remaining 119 acres, which was sold to Spinoza's company, 2590 Associates, surround the property of Welch and Hoover.

In her will, Ms. Ford provided that the 119-acre tract would be burdened with a servitude allowing Welch and Hoover access to their property. By law, this includes passage and utilities.

The City-Parish ordinance on TND's provides that the developer must have complete control of the TND property. The Court of Appeal ruled that the existence of the servitude makes it clear that Spinoza does not have complete control of the property.

As a result, the rezoning of the property in 2008 was invalid, the court said. The decision by Judges Kuhn, Pettigrew, and McDonald also overturned a number of rulings by District Judge Wilson Fields.

Alex St. Amant, the attorney for Welch and Hoover, hailed the ruling as a victory against "crony capitalism." The court decision leaves the future of the Rouzan property in doubt.

To read the court decision, click here: <http://www.la-fcca.org/opiniongrid/opinionpdf/2012%20CA%201440%20Decision%20Appeal.pdf>

Michael Berry Coming to BR For Rob Maness Senate Event

BATON ROUGE - Radio talk show host Michael Berry is coming to Baton Rouge on Friday, March 21 for a fundraising event honoring Col. Rob Maness, candidate for U.S. Senate against Sen. Mary Landrieu.

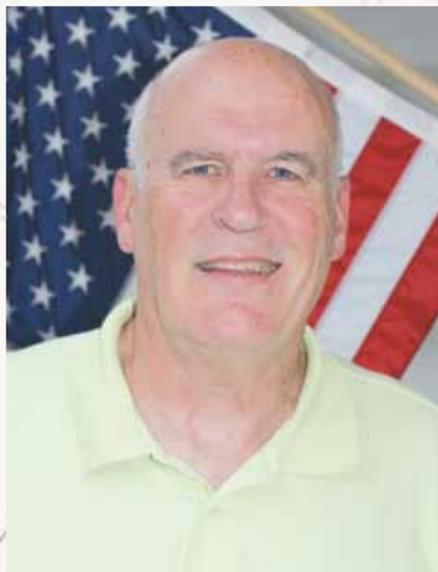
The event will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. at the Station Sports Bar & Grill, 4608 Bennington Ave.

For ticket information, go to www.eventbrite.com



ON WAY TO SATSUMA — This F-4 Navy Phantom jet arriving in Satsuma in Livingston Parish, where it will be painted, lit, and placed a permanent public display. Some of the local people involved in bringing the plane to Livingston Parish are parish president Layton Ricks, Town of Livingston Mayor Deral Jones, Garry Lewis, Marvin Henderson, Al Suggs, Jr., and many volunteers. The F-4 is a fighter-bomber introduced in 1960 by McDonnell and used by the Navy, Air Force, and Marines during the Vietnam War. It had a speed of Mach 2.2.

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Courage Under Fire Is Nothing New for

Woody Jenkins
Editor, Capital City News

CENTRAL — The effort last week to target Central Mayor Pro-Tem Ralph Washington and have him removed from the April 5 election ballot is something many in Central are still contemplating.

Why was he targeted for supposedly failing to pay a questionable \$100 fine from the Board of Ethics for late filing of a campaign finance report four years ago?

How could the right of Central's citizens to reelect one of their most popular officials be taken away in such an unexpected and cavalier way?

One thing is certain: Courage under fire is nothing new for Mayor Pro-Tem Ralph Washington, who has served as mayor pro-tem and on the City Council for the past nine years..

For his first five years on the Council, the popular City Councilman often stood alone during City Council debates. His questioning of the city's privatization contract with CH2MHILL earned him the undying opposition of the company's defenders.

His business, Red Stick Cleaners, has been subject to an on-going boycott by some high-placed elected officials in Central.

Yet, through it all, Washington has maintained his calm, gentlemanly manner while consistently speaking out for the things he believes in, especially transparency in government. "I am opposed to secrecy in city government. If people know what's going on, they will make good deci-



Ralph Washington as a children (left), after high school graduation (center), and as a newly wed with wife Carolyn.

“It was August 1969. I didn't really understand why we had to go through all this. But I found myself in a bus packed with other black kids on the way to a new school. We had been ordered to leave our brand-new school, John F. Kennedy, and become the first black kids to integrate East Ascension High School. My dad and some other fathers had shotguns and were riding in a car in front of the bus. As we pulled into East Ascension High, our parents had to stay on the street. Once we were on the campus, our bus was surrounded by angry white kids, cursing and shouting the N-word. They pounded the bus. When we got out, they began pushing and shoving...”

— Mayor Pro-Tem Ralph Washington describing events when he was 15

Washington was the top vote-getter among the 12 candidates for five seats on the Central City Council. Not bad, considering that only about six percent of Central's voters are black. The City Council voted to make Washington the Mayor Pro-Tem.

In the municipal elections in 2010, two incumbent Councilmen were defeated. But Washington ran 2nd in the field of nine candidates, earning about 60 percent of the votes cast.

Washington's life has taken some surprising twists.

He was born at Charity Hospital in New Orleans in 1954, one of 10 brothers and sisters. His father was a farmer and construction worker in the small unincorporated community of Darrow in Ascension Parish. His mother cleaned houses. Neither made it past the 8th grade.

Darrow was more than 90 percent

sions," he said.

Despite the controversies, Ralph

Washington remains one of the most popular leaders in Central. In 2006,

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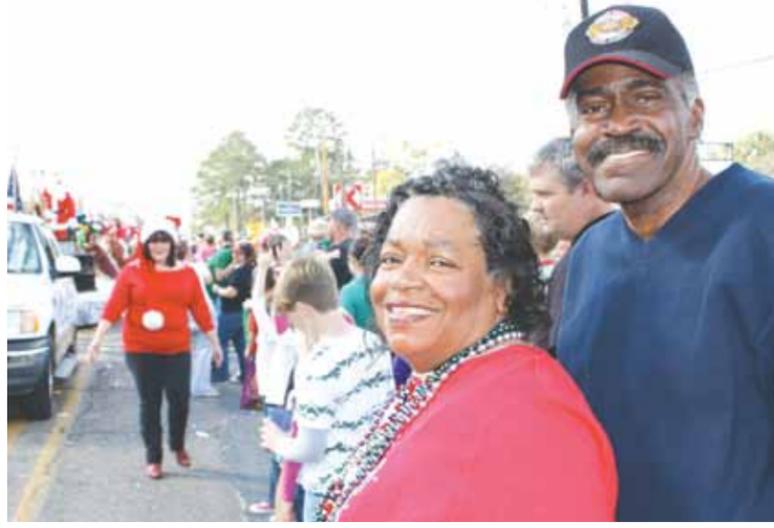
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the Mayor Pro-Tem, Ralph Washington



Ralph Washington presiding at a Central City Council meeting (left) and at the Central Christmas Parade with wife Carolyn.

black, but Washington's next door neighbors were white, and Ralph's dad farmed with Chester LeSage, a white farmer. As a teenager, Ralph worked at Percy Waguespack's grocery store, sweeping the floors and stacking groceries.

It was during the time of segregation, and he attended all-black schools. He was happy when Ascension built a brand-new school for the blacks, John F. Kennedy High School. But in the fall of 1969, he found himself pushed into a controversy that was not of his making. The federal court ordered integration of the schools in Ascension.

Young 15-year-old Ralph Washington was on a school bus filled with other black kids, headed for all-white East Ascension High School. There had been death threats and cross-burnings in Darrow.

Not knowing what to expect, Ralph's dad and other black fathers rode in a car in front of the bus with their shotguns. When the bus entered the campus of East Ascension, the fathers had to wait on the street. The bus pulled up to the school entrance where an angry mob of white students was cursing and shouting the N-word. They pounded on the bus.

"We didn't want to get out of the bus. I sure didn't," Washington said. "Finally, a few of the black students got out, but they were pushed and shoved by the white students. They got back in the bus. Then the bell rang, and the white students went to class. Everything was quiet. So we got out of the bus and went to class too!"

On that first day, his shop teacher announced to the class, "None of you black students will make more than a 'C' in this class!"

After a few problems the first week, things were calm, Washington said. For three years, the blacks and whites kept to themselves. "I didn't make a single white friend the entire time, but I had plenty of friends and I wasn't miserable or anything like that," he said.

Nevertheless, he was able to dis-

“Ralph Washington is the ultimate public servant. He puts the citizens first and is a shining example of what public officials should be like. He's not just a fine Councilman — he's a fine gentleman as well. Truly one of the great individuals I have ever met.”

— Jr. Shelton

tinguish himself. He was chosen to represent East Ascension High at Pelican Boys State, where he met Jay Dardenne, Louisiana's current Lt. Governor. Ralph was also a member of Key Club and FFA. He was nominated for Most Successful, Most Intelligent, and Most Likely to Succeed.

To make money, Ralph worked summers picking up trash. He picked blackberries, and in the fall he picked pecans.

He earned a scholarship to Southern University, which was still all-black. There he worked in the Athletic Department and washed dishes in the cafeteria. At Southern, it was a time of demonstrations and protests, and Washington took part in them. "For the first time, I had a sense of who I really was — not someone weak, not someone who couldn't do anything, but someone who was strong," he said.

Washington earned a B.S. from Southern in 1975. He put in applications at industries along the river.

When Ralph was a boy at all-black schools, the teachers would ask the kids what they wanted to be when they grew up. "I remember one boy said, 'I want to work at the bus station.' But our teacher said, 'No, you want to drive the bus!' That impressed me!"

"As a boy in Ascension Parish, I would often see the big industries along the river. But I didn't dream of simply working at one of those plants. I wanted to run the whole place!" Ironically, Ralph Washington was on the track to allow him to do just that!

He took the test for a job at Liquid Carbonic. He did well and a relative spoke up for him in the plant. He was

hired as a Utility Operator. Within two years, he was a Shift Foreman. Some people said he was too young. Others complained because he was hired above others with more seniority.

"I looked at my check for \$750, and said, 'Man, this is amazing!'" Soon he got a \$100 raise. Then \$200.

Ralph met his future wife, Carolyn Franklin, a native of South Baton Rouge and a graduate of McKinley. They were married and began raising a family. "We lived in a little trailer in Darrow," he said. "It was three bedrooms, two baths, very nice, and only

\$200 a month."

The trailer was located on his grandmother's land — 17 acres in Darrow. The land has been in his family's name since the 1800's. And that land led Ralph Washington to information that changed his perspective.

"My mother never told me this, but I found out on my own that my great-grandfather was white. He was an Irishman who came to live in Darrow. What was unusual was that my white great-grandfather, and my great-grandmother, who was black, were married. That was almost unheard of in the 1800's, but I found their marriage certificate in the Ascension Parish courthouse!"

The Irish great-grandfather came into some ill-gotten money, which caused a split in the marriage. He departed but left behind the house, the land, and a few dollars.

Ralph's wife Carolyn earned her degree at Southern and taught special education at Buchanan Elementary, Southdowns Developmental Center, and Westdale Special Ed. The family moved to South Baton Rouge. Daughter Marquesa (now 29) and son Ralpheal (now 27) were born.

At Liquid Carbonic, Ralph was promoted several times and rose to assistant plant manager, which meant he ran the plant whenever the plant manager was off-duty.

Then, after years in supervision, Ralph faced a major challenge. The company was sold three different times, and the last owner decided to bring in his own people. Ralph had a big decision to make.

"I told Carolyn I wanted to be in business for myself. I'd cut lawns if I had to. We ended up buying Red Stick Cleaners," he said.

See WASHINGTON on Page 14



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Washington: A Key to City's Success

Continued from Page 13

In 1996, the Washingtons wanted to move to the country. Ralph told his brother-in-law, "We're moving to Central!" The brother-in-law said, "Central? Are you sure?"

The Washingtons love their home in Comite Hills. "It backs up to the woods. It is peaceful!" Ralph said.

Ralph and Carolyn were active at their children's schools, serving as PTA and PTO presidents and helping lead Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops.

When the movement began to incorporate Central as a city, Ralph was encouraged to participate.

"I saw it as a way to give back to this community," he said.

When Gov. Kathleen Blanco appointed the first mayor and City Council in 2005, Ralph Washington was appointed to the Council. The voters elected him in 2006 and re-elected him in 2010.

The last nine years have been spent helping to create a new city and have been one hectic blur of meetings and public events.

Ironically, most people in Central

don't see Ralph Washington in racial terms but simply as a dedicated public servant.

Local realtor Jr. Shelton summed up the feelings of many when he said, "Ralph Washington is the ultimate public servant. He puts the citizens first and is a shining example of what public officials should be like. He's not just a fine Councilman — he's a fine gentleman as well. Truly one of the great individuals I have ever met."

City Councilman Tony Lobue, the only Councilman candidate to poll higher than Ralph Washington in the last election, said, "Ralph Washington is a man of great character. His character exceeds anything I've seen. He doesn't waiver. He's a hard worker. He gets up at 4 a.m. to go to work at his store and then will work right through to a Council meeting late at night. He always does what he thinks is right for the people of Central. He's a great father and a great husband. He is very knowledgeable because of his years in industry. And he never forgets who he is or where he came from. He was the little boy on the bus who

had to confront the reality of segregation. But he's also the family man, the businessman, and now a role model for our community."

Washington said he's surprised by how well he's been received in Central. "When people stop you in Wal-Mart and thank you for what you're doing, it means a lot. They're judging you not for your color but for what you stand for."

Only once since he's been elected has Ralph Washington been known to use his race.

In April 2006, the House Committee on Education was considering whether to approve a constitutional amendment to create the new Central Community School System. A parade of opponents, including black leaders, condemned the proposal as an attempt to create an "all-white" school system.

The bill seemed to be in jeopardy and about to fail. Then Ralph Washington rose to speak. With calm eloquence, he told the committee that he was the Mayor Pro-Tem of Central. He spoke about his childhood and the

racism he faced growing up. He said he had lived in Central for 10 years and that he'd never had a problem here based on race. He said that this proposal wasn't about race, but about what was best for the children of the Central community.

The day was saved. The committee approved the bill, and the rest is history.

The past four years have been very difficult times on the City Council for Ralph Washington. The new City Council that took office in July 2010 reelected him as Mayor Pro-Tem, but things were very different in Central. The private company, CH2MHill, that ran the City of Central seem to come more and more under the control of a small clique that was attempting to control Central. The company intervened in the Mayor's race and tried to get the incumbent Mayor reelected. This led to public records requests by the *Central City News* to try to determine how CH2MHill was being used.

As Mayor Pro-Tem, Ralph Washington and two other members of the Council, Dr. Tony LoBue and Wayne Messina took the position that the records in question were public records and should be provided by CH2MHill. The Council voted to require CH2MHill to comply, but the company refused. Ultimately, the Council, again led by Washington, refused to renew CH2MHill's multi-million contract with the city.

As a result, Washington was threatened, and leaders of the political clique began a boycott of his business, which is still continuing. Finally, Washington had to move his business, Red Stick Cleaners, to a location on Greenwell Springs Road, outside the city limits of Central. But the mayor pro-tem never bowed to that group and maintained his independence on the Council.

In May 2013, Ralph Washington joined with other black conservative leaders at the At-Large Conference, a national leadership group for black conservatives.

At the group's national meeting, Washington announced that he could no longer be part of the Democratic Party and all it stands for. So he switched his affiliation to Republican.

He is today the highest ranking black Republican elected official in any city in Louisiana.

Now he is running for reelection to the Central City Council in the April 5 primary.

[Note: Red Stick Cleaners is located at 10211 Greenwell Springs Rd.]

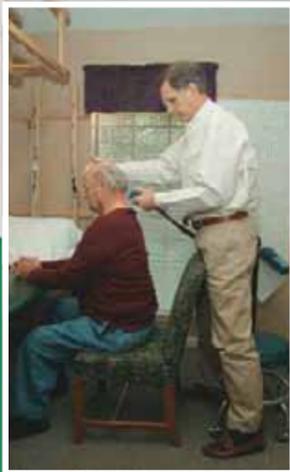


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David vs. Goliath:
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BATON ROUGE - What are the odds?
A small town newspaper takes on a \$6 billion international corporation over access to public records.

The small town newspaper wins!
A black city councilman is sued by the Louisiana Board of Ethics for allegedly making false statements on his qualifying form. The Board asked that he be disqualified from running for office. The white Republican judge says that's really not what happened.

The city councilman wins!
Two homeowners are surrounded by a \$100 million development that city government badly wants to see built. The homeowners sue to stop the project.

The homeowners win!
All of these cases have been handed down in past few months, and they have one thing in common: A long-time but little-known Baton Rouge attorney named Alex St. Amant.

For most of his career, he's been a one-man law firm. Some would say a "one-man army"! A few years



ATTORNEY TOPPLES THE BIG GUYS — Attorney Alex St. Amant (left) and Cecil Cavanaugh at a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge (the conservative, small business-oriented Chamber in the parish). Cavanaugh is the group's chairman.

ago, one of his daughters, Sacha Tessier, joined him. Now the firm is St. Amant & Tessier.

After 40 years of practicing law, Alex St. Amant still works in the same modest 800-square-foot office on North Boulevard he's been renting from his father since graduating from the LSU Law School.

His wife, Floris Cespedes St. Amant, who fled with her family years ago from Communist Cuba and retired from the LSU Library staff, is

his receptionist and legal secretary. Floris sometimes babysits the grandkids at her desk in the front office.

There are more than 3,000 attorneys in East Baton Rouge, but there's something different about this one: He specializes in beating some of the biggest and most powerful adversaries in Louisiana, and his clients are almost always the little guys.

For Alex St. Amant, it's not about money but about doing justice for

his clients.

"He's the best lawyer I know!" said *Capital City News* editor Woody Jenkins, who graduated from law school with St. Amant in 1972.

Last year, after a four-year battle, \$6 billion corporate giant CH2M-Hill — the former city contractor that ran the City of Central — finally yielded to St. Amant and turned over public records it had been fighting to withhold since 2010. Like so many other cases, *Community Press LLC v. CH2M Hill* ended in victory for St. Amant's clients.

For Alex St. Amant, it was as much a cause as a legal case. He was concerned that a big, out-of-state company could take over a city in Louisiana and decide who had access to public records and who didn't.

Then this past week, St. Amant scored two more big victories.

On Tuesday, he saved the political life of his client, Central Mayor Pro-Tem Ralph Washington, when District Judge Tim Kelley booted the State of Louisiana out of court in its efforts to have Washington disqualified from reelection to the Central City Council in the April 5 primary.

St. Amant was upset to see one of Central's top officials and the highest ranking black Republican city official in the state targeted and persecuted for doing nothing wrong.

Then on Thursday, St. Amant won

See **MEET** on Page 17



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Claitor, Hollis at Reagan Luncheon

Campaigns for Senate, House Seek to Reach GOP Leaders

BATON ROUGE - State Rep. Paul Hollis of Mandeville, a candidate for U.S. Senate against incumbent Sen. Mary Landrieu, and State Sen. Dan Claitor, a candidate for U.S. Congress from the Sixth District, will address the Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon Tuesday, March 11 in Baton Rouge.

The event, which will be held at Café Américain, 7521 Jefferson Hwy. is sponsored by the Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish. The reception begins at 11:30 a.m. and lunch is at 12 noon.

Hollis launched a statewide television buy to begin his campaign last month. Other U.S. Senate candidates include Congressman Bill Cassidy of Baton Rouge and Col. Rob Maness of St. Tammany.

Claitor, who represents Baton



Sen. Dan Claitor and Rep. Paul Hollis to address Ronald Reagan Luncheon.

Rouge in the State Senate, is seeking to replace Cassidy from the newly-redrawn Sixth Congressional District. The new district is more conservative and has far few Democrats.

The event is open to registered Republicans, guests, and members of the

media. The lunch is \$15, payable to the restaurant. Lunch is complimentary for members of the working media.

For more on the Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish, go to www.CapitalRepublican.com

Harry Rauls: After We Fight, Shake Hands

Continued from Page 7

- "I have served on the Planning & Zoning Commission since 2010 and have participated in the Master Plan, the new Comprehensive Zoning Plan, and the government and school system committees."

- "I believe Central is positioned and has all the attributes to be one of the leading cities in the state. But we must insure uncontrolled growth does not overwhelm our resources and Central's quality of life. The Councilmen we elect are vital to successful future growth of the City of Central. I believe I have the maturity, experience, integrity, independence, fiscal responsibility, moral character, and the commitment to serve only in the best interest of the citizens of Central."

- "I like to reach across the aisles. One of our problems in Central is people get mad about something and they don't get over it. If I lose, I don't come back and try to tear down. If we had a fight last week, let's shake hands and go on."

- "We need to work with people who may have problems with the Master Plan."

- "I am very concerned about insurance rates. We need \$22 million to finish the Comite Diversion Canal."

- "My goals over the next four years include a more equal representation of citizens via districts or possibly home rule charter; completed or improving street and sewer infrastructure projects and improved flood control; expanded professional, business, educational, and economic development; improved community sports, music, arts, cultural and entertainment areas for area youth; community college; community center with city offices, meeting rooms, and community areas; fiscal responsibility and balanced city budget, and secure and safe city with great police and fire protection."

- "We need more communication with our citizens. We have experts in Central on just about everything. We need to utilize their expertise and get them involved."

Meet Rep. Paul Hollis of Mandeville

About State Rep. Paul Hollis:

At 41, Paul Hollis brings a lot to the table for serving the people of Louisiana in the U.S. Senate. He's a successful businessperson. His business, Paul's an expert in rare coins and precious metals.

After starting at the bottom and working his way up at Louisiana's largest coin firm in New Orleans, Paul Hollis opened his own business at 29 years of age. Interestingly, Paul got into the business of coins as a young boy when his grandmother gave him a rare coin. Paul Hollis knows the private sector of our nation's economy like no other Senate candidate!

Not only has Paul been successful in the tangible assets business, but he's an acknowledged expert on the evolution of America's currency and monetary system. His book, "Ameri-

can Numismatist", has won praise and was named the "U.S. Coin Book of the Year" by one Literary Guild. Paul is also a national Board Member of the Industry Council for Tangible Assets.

Paul Hollis is lifetime Louisiana! Born and raised in Metairie in Jefferson Parish, Paul has family in Monroe and Alexandria where he often spent vacations and summers visiting and meeting relatives. He is the third son of the late Ken Hollis, and Judy Hollis. His dad, Ken, was a State Senator for a number of years, representing Jefferson Parish in the Louisiana Senate. He is a 1990 graduate of Grace King School in Metairie where he served as student body president his senior year. He then graduated from LSU.

Two years ago, Paul Hollis was elected to represent the good people

of District 104 in St. Tammany Parish as their State Representative. Paul hit the ground running in the Louisiana Legislature. While Paul's district is in Southeast Louisiana, he received the "Business Champion Award" from the Southwest Louisiana Chamber of Commerce. He's also been recognized as an "Outstanding Family Advocate" by the Louisiana Family Forum. Paul stands for his conservative principles and people notice. Paul Hollis is independent and will quickly stand up for Louisiana, not for the Washington insiders and powerbrokers.

Paul and his wife, Ashley, have been married for 12 years. They have been blessed with two children, a daughter, Bree, and a son, Zachary. They live near Mandeville, in St. Tammany Parish. Paul is an active member of St. Timothy United Methodist Church in Mandeville.

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Al Moreau to Lead State P-T Board

Central Entrepreneur Chosen by Peers To Lead State Board

BATON ROUGE - Central businessman and physical therapist Al C. Moreau, III, PT, has been elected chairman of the Louisiana Physical Therapy Board of Examiners, the state board which regulates physical therapists in Louisiana.

Moreau was appointed to the board by Gov Bobby Jindal on Nov. 18, 2010, for a three-year term and reappointed to serve a second term effective Dec. 6, 2013.

Al III is the president of Moreau Physical Therapy, which was started by his father in the 1970's in Zachary. They opened their Central location in 1984, and Moreau Physical Therapy is now one of the oldest businesses in Central. Al III joined the business in 1999. It now includes eight locations and some contract locations, mainly in East Baton Rouge and St. Landry parishes.

All III has been an active support-



WILDCAT MEDICAL TEAM — Dr. Michael Romaguera, Dr. David Rabalais, Al Moreau III, and Ryan Bozant, PT manned the sideline during a Central High game. Moreau has been elected chairman of the Louisiana Board of Physical Therapy. He is president of Moreau Physical Therapy in Central and seven other locations.

ers of the Central High School athletic program and often helps on the sidelines at Central games.

The Catholic High graduate grew up in Zachary. He received his Master of Physical Therapy degree from

Louisiana State University Medical Center School of Allied Health in New Orleans in 1999.

He is a member of the American Physical Therapy Association, Louisiana Physical Therapy Association,

and the Private Practice section of the American Physical Therapy Association.

Al and his wife have an 11-year-old daughter and two sons, aged four and six.

Can You Help Save Central's Old Girls Gym?

CENTRAL - Can you or an organization you represent save the Old Central Girls Gym? It may cost several hundred thousand dollars.

The Central Community School System is currently advertising for the demolition of several buildings on the old Central Middle School site.

One of the buildings is the Old Girls Gym. Before the school board considers bids for the project, they would like to know if there is any interest by either an individual or a group of individuals in acquiring the old gym for the purpose of preserving it.

Should an individual or a group of individuals have any interest, please contact Central schools Supt. Michael Faulk at 225-650-2900 or mfaulk@centralcss.org. Supt. Faulk asked interested parties to say what they would propose to do with the building.

Life of Single Mom Luncheon May 8

BATON ROUGE - The Life of a Single Mom Ministries will hold its 2nd Annual Fundraising Luncheon Thursday, May 8 at 11:30 a.m. at the beautiful Country Club of Louisiana, 18400 Boulevard de Louisiana in Baton Rouge.

Former LSU soccer star Mo Isom will be the main speaker for this event. Mo was an All-American goalkeeper for the LSU Women's Soccer team and the first female to ever try out for an SEC Division I Men's football team. She was also crowned LSU's 2011 Homecoming Queen. Beyond that, Mo is a woman of God who has used her own story

of a debilitating eating disorder, the suicide of her father, and a horrific car accident to change lives.

Tickets are available for \$50 a person at info@thelifeofasingle-mom.com or (225) 341-8055.

Meet Attorney Who Blocked Rouzan Project

Continued from Page 15

a six-year battle against developer Tommy Spinosa, when the Louisiana 1st Circuit Court of Appeal ruled that the Metro Council's rezoning of the Rouzan development on Perkins Road was illegal.

St. Amant did for his clients — two homeowners who were surrounded by Spinosa's 119-acre development — what many thought impossible: The Court of Appeal reversed six years of decisions by District Judge Wilson Fields.

The case had gotten St. Amant's dander up. He was upset that his clients had their natural gas cut off for more than a year simply because their homes were inconvenient to Spinosa and his development.

Now St. Amant is preparing for Spinosa's likely appeal and preparing for a companion case before District Judge Janice Clark.

His clients will be seeking damages from Spinosa for the six years of turmoil they have had to endure.

It's all in a day's work for Alex St. Amant, attorney at law and one-man army. On Monday, he'll be back in his office, planning his next crusade.

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Nathan Reynerson Gets a Little Taste

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Nathan Reynerson
Reynerson Gunsmith

BATON ROUGE - Growing up in South Louisiana comes with certain expectations when you travel to other parts of the world. We strive to treat our guests with "Southern hospitality," making sure they eat good food, experience the local culture, and have a good time doing it.

Having been to 15 different countries all over the world, I have come to the realization that not everyone feels the same way when Americans decide to stop in their neck of the woods and stay for a while.

Some of the people I meet in other countries are minimally tolerant of Americans, and most are curious to see if we are anything like the movies they see on television.

This was my first visit to South Africa, and I was pleasantly surprised to find that the people I met were some of the most hospitable and kind people in the entire world! They were gracious hosts who wanted me to see the best of what their country has to offer, and make sure my short business trip was the bait that would get me to come back for a longer stay!

I think I just found the Louisiana of Africa!

As I started my trip, I spotted a group of men congregating in the airport terminal. Each one was wearing some sort of camouflage clothing, and they weren't hiding the fact that they were flying to Africa for one reason. After boarding, the guy sitting next to me was quick to tell me about his hunting prowess with various North American animals, and before I could even ask, he started spouting off all the different species he planned on shooting in Africa. By all forecasts, it was going to be a long flight from Atlanta to Johannesburg.

Actually, after the adrenaline rush of the plane taking off and exchanging the obligatory truncated life story with my new best friend for the



Bebe, the Bernard family warthog, is much like a golden retriever.



Arno Bernard and his four sons



Flying over Bethlehem, South Africa



The small building where the expensive knives are made.

“ A Baton Rouge dealer travels to the heart of South Africa to visit the Arno Bernard family which makes some of the finest hand-made knives in the world. Along the way, he met zebras, warthogs, and baby lions, traveled to Joburg, and ate lots of biltong. ”

next 16 hours, I found myself a bit envious of my fellow passenger.

A safari deep in the bush of Africa would be the ideal reason behind suffering a long plane flight, but I was on a business trip that would let me get barely acclimated from the jet-lag before I had to make the return flight.

I began to doubt that my first African experience would even be worth mentioning when I got home. What did Africa have to offer someone who wasn't going on safari? I was about to find out.

I had prepped myself before I left for the fact that I would probably not see the Africa I had read about my whole life, but that still didn't deter the good-natured ribbing I was planning on giving my host for the week.

After exiting the baggage claim, I asked him where all the elephants and giraffes were? I mean surely I should have seen one or two of those

huge animals while flying over the plains of South Africa...right?

Arno chuckled, shook his head, smiled and mumbled something under his breath about "muricans".

Riding down the main highways of South Africa, I found myself curiously ogling the people and the landscape. The three-hour drive from Johannesburg to Bethlehem was enough to have me itching to see more of this beautiful country and comfortable enough to start using local words - like "Joburg" and "biltong." For you who don't know what biltong is - it is similar to beef jerky in the USA, only better! If you happen to be in Africa and someone offers you a piece of biltong, just take it! You can thank me later.

The day I arrived just happened to be a holiday. It was National Heritage Day, but most of the country celebrated by cooking outdoors, so it

is unofficially National Braai Day (U.S. translation: National BBQ Day).

The whole Bernard family was there - Arno, Sr. and his wife Antjie; Arno, Jr., his wife Zine, and their three kids, Like, Arno, and Mia; Franco and his new bride, Alta; Juan, Eleanor, and their two sons, Juandre and Lucian, and the youngest son Ruan and his fiancée, Nicolene.

I was also able to meet Amos, a young black man in his mid-30's who has worked for Arno, Jr., the past 11 years.

Amos is HIV positive, and the Bernard family is not just his source of income, but also his source for healthcare. Without the medication they buy for him, his quality of life and life expectancy would be drastically reduced. In my short time there, I could see that he was more than just a hired hand, but a part of the family life and community of the Bernard family.

Knowing I had less than

a week to gather all the pictures, video, and information I would need to do all of the promotion and marketing for Arno Bernard Knives next year, I had no time to waste.

So in between the tasty morsels coming off the braai, I started asking questions about how they started making knives and the philosophy behind their business. I got a lot of insight and history of the Afrikaans people and learned a lot about the Bernard family.

Arno Bernard, Sr. made his first knife about 35 years ago. He joined the Knifemakers Guild of Southern Africa in 1994 and has been making knives full-time as long as his four boys can remember.

All of them started out by just helping make knives for extra money, and now they all are in business together, a family of knifemakers.

Arno, Jr. remembered one of the first knives he ever made by himself. He said, "I was about 16 years old and made a potentially career-ending mistake. The distance between the platen and the wheel was too much. When I pushed the blade forward, the belt grabbed and pulled it between the wheel and the platen. My fingers were still on the knife. It took one year for my fingers to recover and

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A zebra in Golden Gate National Park



One of seven white lion cubs Reynerson met



Arno Bernard 35th Anniversary model, giraffe bone handle



The Bernard brothers making Arno Bernard knives

I promised myself I would never, ever make knives... famous last words!"

Juan told me his first memory of making his first knife. He said, "My dad got a machine ready for me to work on and he showed me how to grind something. The next moment the belt came loose and struck him across his arm. A few swear words later, he put a new belt on and told me, 'There you go!' as he walked off."

Juan also told me about he and his brothers having to do all the crappy jobs as kids. When pressed on what the "crappy" jobs were, he told me that the worst job was cleaning the excess glue off of the ricasso after his dad had fitted and glued the handle. He went on to tell me that he left the family business but after working for awhile as a repo-man in South Africa, cleaning knives sounded like the best job in the world!

Antjie, Arno, Sr.'s wife, had very fond memories of how all of her sons would



Nathan Reynerson
Knife Importer

pitch in to help get ready for the knife shows. Boxes and sheaths would be piled up in the middle of the living room floor. Knives would be strewn all around the house. She admitted that it probably wasn't the safest way to raise her kids, but what else would you expect from an South African knifemaker's wife?

The family spoke Afrikaans in the home, which is like Dutch. Though I wasn't

pry to everything that was happening because of the language barrier, the camaraderie of the brothers was evident in the way they served one another. I could tell that they genuinely enjoyed being with one another, and the children's love for their grandparents was seen in the way each one bounced from lap to lap as the glowing orange sun set over the mountains in the distance.

We ate, drank, and laughed together late into the night. I felt like I had been invited to a backyard barbeque in South Louisiana. The only things missing were the wrap-around porch and an ice-cold glass of sweet tea.

The stories I heard from the Bernard family painted a much different picture of South Africa than I had anticipated seeing. I thought to myself that was the part of Africa that most hunters who come for the safari miss out on. As the days flew past, I learned some interesting things about the Bernard fam-

ily as they found ways for me to experience Africa's everyday life.

Everyday life. You know, like when your next-door neighbor has a zebra named "Saartjie" (pronounced "Sarkey" with a roll of the tongue on the "rrrr") and a pet warthog named "Bebe."

The warthog was like a golden retriever — seriously! It would follow you around, want you to rub its back, and play fetch (Well, just kidding about the fetch part, but that would have been awesome!).

For the record, the warthog is one of the ugliest animals I have ever seen! I didn't have the heart to tell that poor warthog that just across the street the Bernards were using his brother's teeth to make knife handles and if he didn't learn how to fetch, he could be next!

Not far from their home, Juan and Eleanor took me on a mid-morning hike in the Golden Gate National Park.

It's not very often that I get to see a pack of 40 ba-

boons in the US, and by "not very often", I mean never!

I insisted that Juan stop the car multiple times. We watched a herd of zebra graze slowly across a lush green valley. We saw wildebeest, impala, dik-dik, bleesbuck, springbok, and some African donkeys.

One afternoon, we got a phone call, and Donnie, Arno's brother-in-law, wanted to know if I wanted to take a quick flight over Bethlehem in his small prop plane.

In my honest opinion, there is nothing more beautiful than a bird's eye view of the sun setting over the mountains in Bethlehem, South Africa!

Another short phone call led us to a farm about 20 minutes away that raised white lions, and I got to bottle-feed seven-week-old baby lions!

These were the types of experiences that made my business trip an unforgettable trip of a lifetime! And I didn't even go on a safari!

In my conversation with Arno on the way back to Johannesburg, I found out that in all the time that they had been travelling to the US, I was the first person from the US to ever actually visit and spend time with them.

My experience in South Africa was not filled with adventures with elephants and giraffes, but with something better — a good time with new friends.

I found that there is not much difference between a family living in South Louisiana and a family from South Africa.

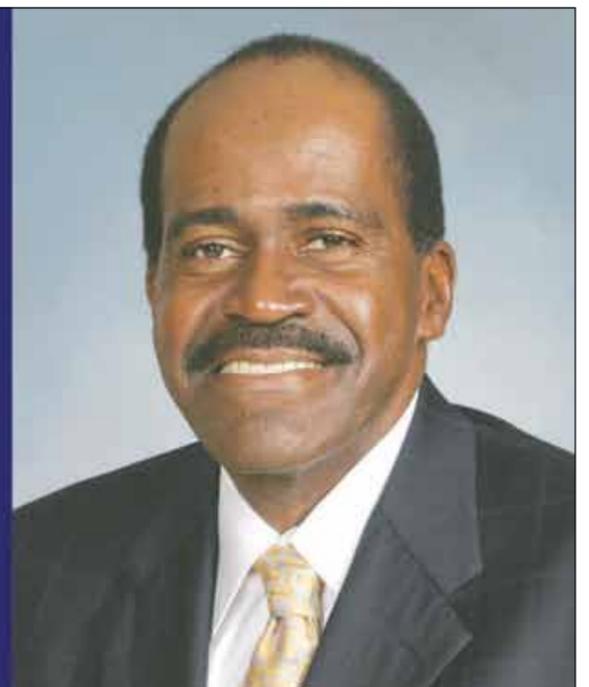
Both love good food. Both love the animals and the land that supports them. Both are fulfilling the destiny of their forefathers in the heart of the country they love.

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Nathan Reynerson is married and is the father of two beautiful girls. He loves hunting, fishing, playing guitar, and Jesus, not necessarily in that order. He is also the U.S. importer/distributor for Arno Bernard Knives (www.arnobernard.com), and works at Reynerson's Gunsmith Service, his family's gunsmithing service (www.reynersons.com), in Central, Louisiana.

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Shelton: I'll Work with Parish Officials

Candidates Face Heavy Schedule Of Campaigning

Continued from Page 5

development — residential, retail, and commercial — and they all have to grow together. Right now, our residential development is ahead of the other two. Our citizens want more retail development, and we need commercial development to provide more jobs locally. These will be priorities.”

Shelton and other candidates for police chief and city council went through the PEC's screening process, which included meeting residency and party registration requirements and verification of education and military service. They submitted a complete biographical profile and an eight-page questionnaire on their views on issues related to the office they are seeking. The final step was the formal interview and questioning by the PEC, which occurred in public at the Metro Council Chamber.

In its questionnaire, the GOP asked Shelton what he hoped to accomplish after four years as mayor. He said, “I'd like our economic development to be

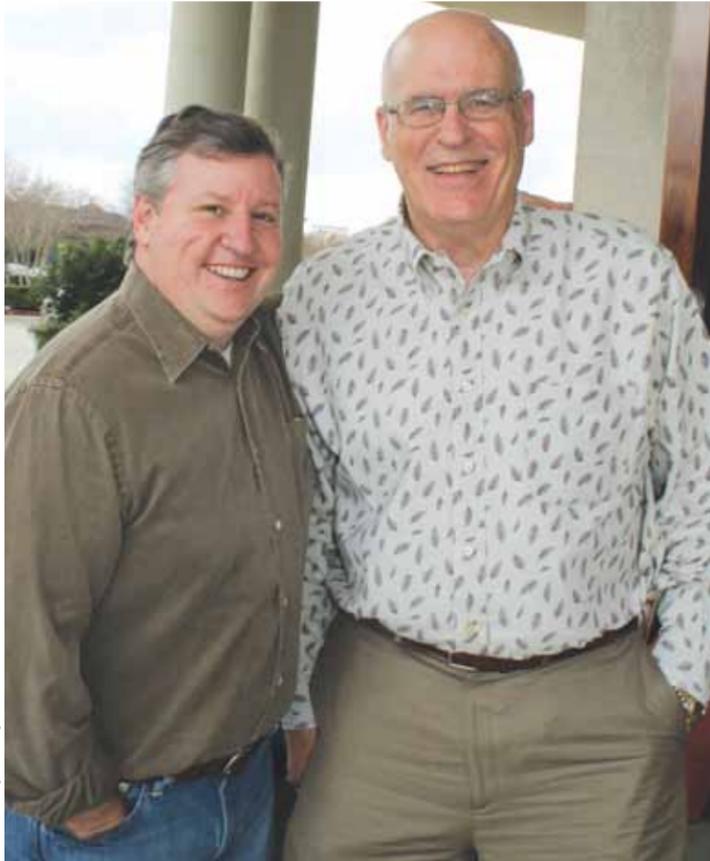


Photo by Woody Jenkins

WORKING WITH PARISH LEADERS — Republican Mayoral candidate Jr. Shelton (right) met with Baton Rouge Mayor Pro-Tem Chandler Loup, also a conservative Republican, for lunch last week. Shelton said he will work closely with other parish leaders, especially those who share Central's conservative values, on matters of mutual interest.

A Closer Look at Jr. Shelton Candidate for Mayor of Central

BR native
Broadmoor
High grad
Basketball
Star

B. A. in
Bus. Adm
from LSU

Family
business
Shel-Boze
lighting

Married
39 years

Four kids
6 grandkids

Realtor,
Chairman
Agents
Council of
C.J. Brown

39 years
in Central

a model for municipalities across the state. I want our citizens to have trust in their government and confidence that every decision is made in their best interests. I'd hope they would be happy with infrastructure improvements with regards to streets, drainage, and sewerage. Four years is a short time in the life of a city, and I believe we need a long-range plan that is a stepping stone to great things for Central. If we don't have a roadmap of where we are trying to go, we won't get anywhere.”

Shelton also discussed the purpose of government. He said, “Government should work in the background in the lives of our citizens. We should make sure citizens have the right to make the decisions in their lives without government being intrusive. Our laws should be fair and insure the peaceful living that they want. If government is working right, it is not talked about by citizens. We should be a facilitator of progress, not the determining factor in someone's success or failure. Government should not be a candy store handing out samples, but rather an entity that puts in place the mechanisms that allow citizens to live their lives without infringing on the lives of others.”

Shelton was also endorsed this week by the Capital Regions Builders Association.

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— Republican Mayoral Candidate Jr. Shelton of City of Central

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