

Central's New City Hall



ARTIST'S RENDERING of the proposed Central City Hall, which is planned for the corner of Hooper and Sullivan roads. The \$4.5 million, 17,000-square-foot facility will house Central City Services operated by IBTS, the City Council Chamber, and the Mayor's office.

Facility to House Central City Hall, Council Chamber, All City Services

CENTRAL - The City of Central is expected to advertise for bids for a new City Hall located on the corner of Hooper and Sullivan roads, according to Mayor Jr. Shelton. The 17,000 square foot facility will run parallel to Sullivan. The front and rear of the building will look the same. It will include City Services, where IBTS will be located, City Council chamber, and the Mayor's office. The Central Community School Board is considering offering to sell one and a half acres of land to the city for its appraised value, which is reportedly over \$200,000.

See **ARTIST** on Page 13

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Proposal to Save City \$4 Million Over Five Years

IBTS Wins New Five-Year Contract

CENTRAL - IBTS, the non-profit organization that has provided city services to the people of Central for the past seven years, has been asked to continue serving the city for another five years. Central Mayor Jr. Shelton approved the selection of IBTS over the other bidder, CSRS, after IBTS' bid was nearly \$4 million less than CSRS.

Shelton's decision was approved unanimously by the Central City Council. Shelton and members of the Council had high praise for IBTS. Shelton praised the company's integrity and Council members recognized IBTS' help for Central citizens after the flood of August 2016. A committee composed of former East Baton Rouge

Parish Public Works Director Fred Raiford, former Councilman Louis DeJohn, and business owners Brennan Easley and Gil Matherne reviewed the competing bids. Mayor Shelton said price was the largest difference between the two bids with IBTS' bid being \$700,000 to \$900,000 a year lower. The bid by CSRS provided as follows:

Year 1 - \$4,573,000
Year 2 - \$4,733,000
Year 3 - \$4,898,000
Year 4 - \$5,070,000
Year 5 - \$5,247,000
Meanwhile, the bid by IBTS was as follows:
Year 1 - \$3,873,000
Year 2 - \$3,990,000
Year 3 - \$4,100,000
Year 4 - \$4,233,000
Year 5 - \$4,360,000

David Ratcliff, project manager for IBTS in Central, said he was gratified by the decision and that IBTS will work even harder for the people of Central.



David Ratcliff
IBTS

Gentle Giant Brings Attention to CHS Frosh

Ethaniel Rizan, 6-10, A Good Student at Freshman Academy. Likely to Hit 7 Feet

Woody Jenkins
Editor

CENTRAL - Central High basketball coach Brian Hargroder has noticed the lanky young man on the freshman team who stands 6-10. "I think he will top 7-1," coach Hargroder said, "but more than that, he's a good kid." His name is Ethaniel Rizan, also known as E or Ethan to family and friends. Coach Hargroder said, "Ethan is a good student, someone who is kind to everyone, and he's passionate about doing the right thing."



He's a perfectionist. I don't believe he would knowingly break a rule." "As far as basketball, it's not easy when you are that tall. People expect a lot but the reality is you have to grow into your body and that takes a few years," he said. "He has a tremendous opportunity but he needs to work on jumping and on adding strength so he can fight for possession under the basket. He has at least three years of hard work ahead." Height runs in Ethan's family. His dad Andre Rizan stands 6-9 and his mom, Sarah Martin, Central High Class of 1999, stands 6-5. For more on Central's Ethaniel Rizan, see Page 15.

At left, Central High freshmen including Ethan Rizan (52) at Central-St. Amant game Monday night.

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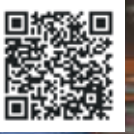
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Photo by Jolice Provost

Central Supt. Jason Fountain with board member Dr. Jim Gardner and Republican leader Scott Wilfong, who is running for state Republican chairman



2018 Will Be a Year of Decision in City of Central Voters to Elect Mayor, Council, School Board

Woody Jenkins
Editor

CENTRAL — This year for the first time, elections for both the City of Central and the Central Community School Board will be held at the same election.

Qualifying will be held July 18-20 for

City of Central

- Mayor
- Police Chief
- Five City Council members elected from five single-member districts
- Two City Council members elected at-large citywide

Central Community Schools

- Seven School Board members elected from seven single-member school board districts.

This election will also mark the first time that Central's City Council will be elected from single-member districts. Up until now, the five members of the City Council have been elected at-large citywide.

Now there will be only two at-large seats with the remainder elected from districts.

One confusing thing about the

election is that the City Council districts do not coincide with the School Board districts. There are five City Council districts and seven School Board districts.

How Many Votes Will You Have

— Each voter will cast the following votes:

- One vote for Mayor
- One vote for Police Chief
- One vote for a City Council member from the Council district where you reside
- Two votes for City Council members at-large citywide
- One vote for a School Board member from your district.

Of course, this assumes that every race will be contested, and that is seldom the case.

The primary election will be held on Tuesday, Nov. 6, 2018 at the same time voters across the nation go to the polls to elect members of Congress and U.S. Senate.

The runoff, a feature of the election unique to Louisiana, will be held on Saturday, Dec. 8, 2018.

Who's Running — So far as we know, the following incumbents are planning to run for reelection:

Mayor — Jr. Shelton

Police Chief — James Salsbury
Council Members at Large (Elect Two) — Wayne Messina (R)

Council District 1 — Incumbent Council member Wayne Messina resides in this district, but he will seek an at-large seat.

Council District 2 — Incumbent John Vance has not stated his intentions.

Council District 3 — Incumbent Dr. Kim Fralich has not announced her intentions.

Council District 4 — Incumbents Shane Evans and Jason Ellis have not announced their intentions

Council District 5 — No incumbent

Central School Board. All of the following members of the Central Community School Board are believed to be running for reelection:

- District 1 — Jim Lloyd
- District 2 — Roxanne Atkinson
- District 3 — Dr. David Walker
- District 4 — Will Easley
- District 5 — Dr. Jim Gardner
- District 6 — Ruby Foil
- District 7 — Sharon Browning

No Special Requirements to run for office. In general, any registered can run for any of the offices on the ballot.

Board of Ethics Requirements.

Many individuals who are considering running for office may not realize that a candidate for public office in Louisiana has to file

- An income disclosure form and
- Comply with Campaign Finance Laws

These requirements affect different people in different ways, depending on their sources of income, the assets they own, and the specific office they are running for.

Central City Council member Wayne Messina said citizens thinking about running should do their homework and study the regulations, so that they are not embarrassed later.

He said you need to understand how the office would affect your job, your family life, and your time.

Messina said, "You must have a thick skin, be able to make tough decisions, and take the heat!"

While there are many negatives to serving in public office, the rewards that come from serving the people of your community are great. It is an opportunity to serve the people you most care about and make a positive difference in their lives.

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19-Year-Old Son of Rep. Tony Perkins Was Joining Guard

Good Samaritan's Arm Crushed While Helping Woman Change Tire on Joor Rd.



Former Rep. Tony and Lawana Perkins with their family. David is wearing glasses.



The Central Fire Department and other first responders were there immediately.



The Central Fire Department used rescue bags to lift the car off David Perkins. EMS then transferred him to hospital, while a firefighter finished changing the tire.

CENTRAL — David Perkins, the 19-year-old son of former Rep. Tony Perkins and wife Lawana is apparently “a chip off the old block.”

Last Friday, Perkins, who was scheduled to report for National Guard training in February, stopped to help a lady who had a flat tire on Joor Road. However, something went wrong, and the car fell off the jack, trapping Perkins' arm between the fender and the tire. Perkins was quickly rescued by the Central Fire Department and EMS but ended up with two broken bones in his arm and had to undergo surgery.

His mother Lawana said his family is very proud of David and his willingness to help those in need.

The Central Fire Department report read as follows:

“Just prior to 11 this morning, Engine 353, Rescue 318 and Chief 305 were dispatched to Joor Road just south of Lovett Road for a male trapped under a vehicle after the vehicle fell off a jack. On scene, firefighters discovered a person driving on Joor Road had stopped

to help another driver change a flat tire. As the samaritan was placing the good tire on the car, the jack slipped pinning his arm between the tire and fender. Firefighters quickly freed the samaritan using rescue airbags. Injuries were not life threatening. Once the samaritan was turned over to EMS, firefighters finished changing the tire. Good quick work by all!”

After the event, David Perkins said, “Well, I’ve had an interesting weekend. After going to breakfast with my dad on Friday I was on my way home coming down Joor, and I saw two ladies on the side of the road with a flat tire. I made the quick decision to stop and help. As I began changing the tire, I didn’t think that I would be altering my plans for the year as I was shipping out to basic training on February 7 with the Army National Guard.”

“As I was placing the spare tire on the car, the jack slipped crushing my arm between the tire and the fender. I asked one of the ladies

to call 911 and then to retrieve my phone from my pocket so I could call my dad. The fire department quickly arrived on the scene and used airbags to free my arm. I was then transported to the Lake. There I found out that I broke both bones in the center of my right arm.”

“As I was laying on the bed in the hallway, I called my mom to ensure to her that I was fine. She told me that I made the news, to which I responded, ‘Yeah right!’ but sure enough someone had taken pictures and dubbed me the Good Samaritan. But to me I was doing what I was supposed to do. I was being the hands and feet of Christ

to those ladies. I had surgery Saturday morning putting two plates and twelve screws in my arm.”

“I was able to talk on the phone with the lady that I had stopped to help. Throughout all this, there has been something good. I’m keeping my head up as God used me to show the love of Christ to those ladies and even while I was trapped I had a peace about it all, and it spoke volumes to the ladies!”

“I’ve got a six to eight week recovery time and it’s going to be a bumpy ride. But as always, To God be the glory!”

Perkins was home-schooled at the family home on Liberty Road.

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A Look Back at Buckskin Bill, an Icon

EDITOR'S NOTE: Baton Rouge television icon **Bill Black**, or **Buckskin Bill**, as he was known, passed away last week after more than 60 years' service to the Baton Rouge community. Much has been written about Buckskin Bill since he died, but we wanted to offer a contemporary view of Buckskin when his show was in its prime. This story is from the archives of our predecessor newspaper, the **North Baton Rouge Journal**. It appeared in the Sept. 29, 1968, edition and was written by then-Managing Editor **Diane Jenkins**, who is today co-owner of **Istrouma Journal**, **Central City News**, and **Capital City News**.

Diane Jenkins

Managing Editor, North Baton Rouge Journal

The Buckskin Bill Show, which has begun its 14th year on the air, has the distinction of being the longest running local program on a Baton Rouge television station and has enjoyed unrivaled top ratings in its time period since it was first broadcast on August 15, 1955.

And behind the unusual success of the program is the exciting story of the man who daily creates and stars in it: William P. (Buckskin Bill) Black.

Dressed in buckskins, Bill portrays an easy-going Western character who brings light hearted entertainment to thousands of Baton Rouge youngsters each weekday. As a youth who attended school with Choctaw Indians of Oklahoma, Buckskin Bill has assumed his role as a Western character with ease.

In addition to the Buckskin Bill Show, which is aired at 4 o'clock each afternoon on WAFB-TV, Black stars in a morning show called "Storyland," for pre-school children.



BILL BLACK posed for this photo before going on camera for his first "Buckskin Bill Show" on WAFB-TV back in 1955. Black's show is the longest running program on local television and has always rated higher than any other show in its time period.

In both of his children's programs, he applies the philosophy which has helped him succeed in keeping his

audiences faithful: he displays sincere interest in children and keeps his shows entertaining as well as subtly educational. He stimulates the curious minds of youngsters by regularly introducing educational features such as "Mysteries of the Universe" and simple chemistry experiments.

Animals have traditionally played important roles in Black's shows, and currently starring with him are a dog named Blue, a goat named Billy and a chimpanzee named Candy. Bill has had a lot of fun with hundreds of different animals over the years. He and his wife have even housed a boa constrictor in their bathtub.

Black's experiences with monkeys have been both humorous and heart-breaking. Once he left his chimpanzee locked up in the bathroom while the family was gone for the day the chimp got out and gave the neighbors quite a scare when it answered the telephone and talked "chimpanzee." Before the Blacks arrived home, the chimp had opened the refrigerator and eaten all its contents.

Buckskin Bill says he's probably the only entertainer who has ever had an animal die while performing on the

air. In one of Black's early shows, he had a chimpanzee on the air when the animal suffered a fatal heart attack.

In addition to his two daily television shows, Buckskin Bill leads an active life in the civic affairs of the community. He is one of the most popular after-dinner speakers in the area and makes traditional appearances in the annual Christmas and rodeo parades and at many other such activities.

Black is in constant demand by local merchants and clubs for personal appearances. He advises and works with national educational television executives on programming for children and has conducted much research on the subject. The popular entertainer is even called upon by hospitals and parents to cheer up sick children.

Buckskin Bill's life has been anything but dull, and he has loved every minute of it. His way with children has paid off in a successful, satisfying career.

In the future, Black hopes to expand the scope of his morning show for pre-schoolers and to syndicate it through television stations nationwide.

Although Bill Black is a successful personality with a bright future, he came up the hard way in show business.

He began entertaining by accident in college when he was asked to fill in for a rodeo clown who failed to show up for a performance. He was immediately offered a job as a professional rodeo clown for a small rodeo circuit. He quit his three part-time jobs and completed his college education with the money he earned from weekend rodeo performances.

A native of Hugo, Oklahoma, Black was graduated from Arkansas College with a major in speech. After college, he worked briefly as a radio announcer before entering the Army.

While in the Army, Black learned the ropes of the entertainment business. He became the emcee and comic for the Third Army Soldier Shows, which entertained servicemen.

Black was with the show for 18 months and traveled more than 500,000 miles giving performances. He and his troupe of 14 men performed before as many as 25,000 people, and for as few as six men in an isolation ward at an Army hospital.

Black worked in almost every phase of television before he ever stepped in front of the cameras. He started as a floorman sweeping the studio and moving the props, and later as a writer, salesman and announcer.

Buckskin Bill has meant a lot of things to a lot of people in the Baton Rouge area. But almost everyone knows him as a community leader who has promoted many successful projects. As a matter of fact, he has so many projects going sometime he has a hard time keeping up with them himself.

"Baton Rouge needs a zoo," is the well-known line he has closed his



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shows with for more than nine years. As a result of his constant reminder, many local citizens give him a large share of the credit for the Baton Rouge zoo now being constructed in Greenwood Park.

“I don’t think I’m responsible for the zoo,” he said, “Baton Rouge would have built one sooner or later. I just feel I helped it become a reality a little sooner.”

In connection with his efforts to get Baton Rouge a zoo, he and the youth of the area are collecting pennies to buy a baby elephant. More than \$600 in pennies have already been collected. When the \$2,500 needed to buy the animal has been secured, a baby elephant named Penny will be purchased and donated to the zoo on behalf of Baton Rouge area children.

Ever wondered what to do with 500,000 aspirins? Give them to Buckskin Bill! That is just what Baton Rougeans did when Black conducted an aspirin drive for an African missionary.

A Catholic missionary working in the interior of Africa told Buckskin Bill that the natives relied mainly on aspirin for medication and that often they had only a few to distribute to each family during an entire year. Needless to say Baton Rouge’s 500,000 aspirins solved the problem.

Black is about to undertake another project to buy an airplane for the same missionary so that doctors and nurses may be flown in to care for sick natives. The plane will be purchased with S&H Green Stamps.

One of the projects Buckskin Bill is most proud of is the weekly television program called “Good Morning, Angola Style,” which he started and now emcees. Inmates with musical talents from the state prison at Angola perform on the show at 6:30 a.m.



MICHAEL ANSARA, who partrayed Cochise on the former television series “Broken Arrow”, has been among Buckskin Bill’s celebrity guests on his weekday program. During his 14 years on the air he has met many television stars.

Friday mornings. “The show is my way of encouraging new rehabilitation programs in our prisons,” Black said. He feels the program offers the inmates a creative, constructive activity which will “help

them keep in touch with reality.” He works with the men individually and tries to be a friend on the outside to them. He is proud that five or six of the men who have performed on the program have been granted paroles.

Black has been commended for his constant effort to encourage good dental health habits in youngsters and for his participation in annual safety programs. He has helped Boy Scout groups, Girl Scouts, Camp Fire Girls, church groups and seemingly endless list of others.

Somewhere in his busy schedule he has raised a family of his own. He and his wife, Elma, have three children: Ann, 12, William (Bucky), 10, and Ginger, 7.

Everywhere he goes, Buckskin Bill is asked to sign autographs. One excited youngster even had him autograph his hot dog because he had nothing else available.

But Buckskin has not let his popularity ruin his charm and sincerity with the youngsters. “You just can’t fool children,” he said. “Ask any magician and he’ll tell you that his toughest audience is a kid audience. Besides, they remember everything you say or do. Don’t think for a minute I don’t realize the influence will be good.”

It’s not difficult to see why Bill Black has been loved by two generations of Baton Rouge children.

And it looks as though his popularity will continue for years to come.

Watch More on Bill Black

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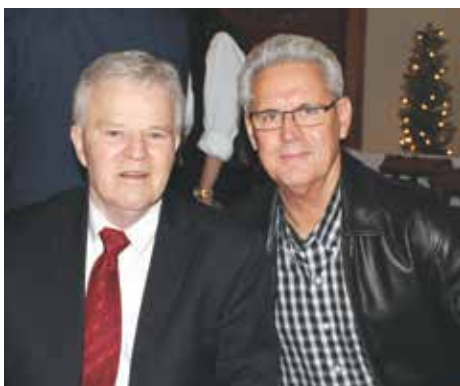
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‘Scopena’ Chronicles Growing Up in N. Louisiana

Gov. Roemer Discusses Autobiography



Roemer and Don St. Romain

BATON ROUGE - Readers expecting a review of his political career or a defense of his political philosophy might be disappointed by former Gov. Buddy Roemer's recently released autobiography, *Scopena*.

But *Scopena* is much more than that. It is a deeply personal view of the influences that made Buddy Roemer the political leader he was and the man he is today.

Scopena is the name of the Roemer family plantation, one of the



Gov. Buddy Roemer signs *Scopena* for Jolice Provost of Community Press, LLC.

largest farming operations in Louisiana, located in rural Bossier Parish in Northwest Louisiana.

Gov. Roemer discussed his book before a friendly audience at the Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon at Café Américain. The media turned out in full force to see the former governor. He did not disappoint.

Suffering from health problems mainly related to his diabetes, Roemer

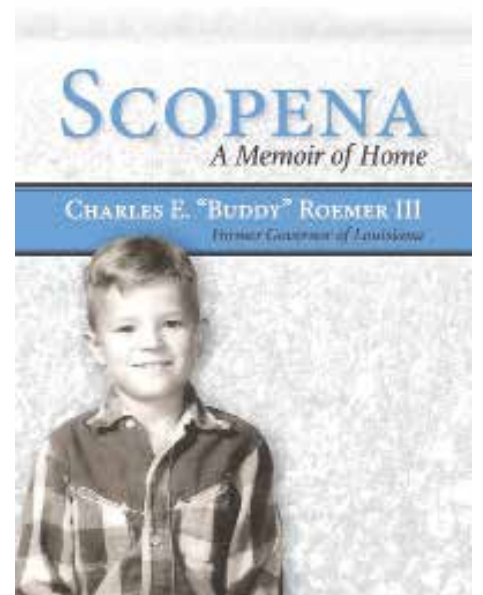
walked slowly to the podium. His speech too was slow but his clarity of thought was unchanged. As he said, "I walk and talk a little slower, but my mind is the same."

The event was hosted by the Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish. Party chairman Woody Jenkins who frequently crossed swords with Roemer when he was governor said that despite their disagreements Roemer is one of his favorite people.

Jenkins said Roemer has always been independent minded. He recalled being in Washington with Roemer when he arrived to take his seat in Congress in January 1981. Roemer had been deeply critical of Speaker Tip O'Neill. Despite being a Democrat at the time, Roemer voted against O'Neill for Speaker.

"He learned that day that if you are going to vote against the Speaker, you should do it *after* you've gotten your office assignment!" Jenkins said to laughter. He helped Roemer move into his office — a remote corner of a dusty attic in a House office building. "There were boxes of Henry Clay's letters up there!" Jenkins said.

One of the best stories in *Scopena* is about Roemer's first day in school. He ran away and tried to walk 12 miles back to Scopena.

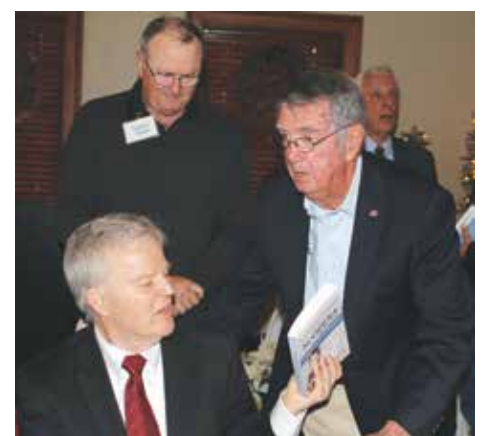


Former AG Buddy Caldwell sang.

Former AG Buddy Caldwell sang *Christmas in Dixie* and *You Are My Sunshine* for Gov. Roemer.

Scopena is available at Barnes & Noble or Books a Million for \$20.

To watch Gov. Roemer's speech, point the QR Code Reader on your phone here:



Architect Coleman Brown and Henry Grace of Louisiana Fire Extinguisher greeted Gov. Roemer.



Gov. Roemer greets state employees who came to wish him well.



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Sheriff Gautreaux Needs More Officers



Sheriff Sid Gautreaux of EBR Parish

because of the negative stereotype of law enforcement officers that has been pushed in recent years.

The Sheriff has been scandal free, and Scott Wilfong asked the Sheriff how he has been able to keep his office so clean. Gautreaux said it all begins with recruitment. “We have felons and drug dealers who apply. So we have to screen people very carefully. We look at their background. We give them a lie detector test. We hire people of character. A few may get by us. If so, they have to correct their behavior, or we get rid of them.”

“The key is hold people accountable and hold yourself accountable!” he said.



Attorney Elvin Sterling commended the Sheriff as a man of integrity

BATON ROUGE - Sheriff Sid Gautreaux told the Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon the past 18 months was the hardest in his memory. First, there was the Alton Sterling shooting, followed by protests and demonstrations. Then the assassination of three police officers. This was followed by the Great Flood of 2016, which left much of the parish in devastation.

“It was God who got us through it,” the Sheriff said, “but I hope we never have to go through something like that again.”

Sheriff Gautreaux said one of the greatest needs of his office right now is personnel. The office is short by 105 positions, he said. “We have a deficit and don’t have the money to hire them,” he said.

The Sheriff’s office is funded primarily by property taxes and has no sales tax revenue. However, property taxes have not kept up with normal growth. With the limited funds he has, it is difficult to recruit deputies, the Sheriff said, in part

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AUCTION: The following units will be sold at public auction for unpaid rent at Central Storage, 12526 Hooper Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70818 on Wed., Jan. 31, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. We reserve the right to refuse any offer. #69 - Julie Lewis, household items, totes, boxes. #134 - Tiffany Atkinson, household items. #189 - Chandron Muse, household items, boxes, misc. #260 Gary Geiger, furniture, household items, boxes, misc. #264 Derek Lambert, furniture, boxes, misc. #269 - Aubrey Mitchell, furniture, totes, misc. #319 - Brittany Evans, household items, boxes. #373 - Misty Rushing, boxspring, shelf. #459 - Danny Scott, boxes, household items, misc. #465 Cammie Mascarella, furniture, boxes, bags, books.

Central Defeats Northeast, as Wildcats Im



#21 Landon Thames, #22 Hunter Arnold and #4 Trey Johnson against Northeast High School



#42 Tyler Sherman goes up for 2 points



#22 Hunter Arnold and #20 Todd Lasseigne



Northeast Viking score two.



#40 Jalyn M



20 Todd Lasseigne



#12 Quint Guerin and #20 Todd Lasseigne



#10 Destin Franklin



Wildcats variety cheerleaders s



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Robert Geier, O.D.

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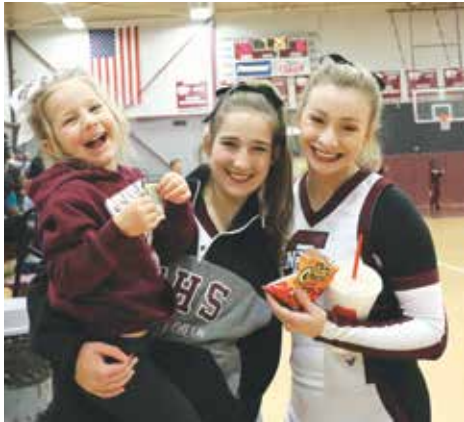
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David P. Fargason, MD



Central 68 vs Northeast 39
January 9, 2018 • Central High Gym
Photos by Jolice Provost • Central City News

Improve Their Game on Way to District Play



#10 Destin Franklin, #21 Landon Thames and #4 Trey Johnson



#22 Hunter Arnold and #20 Todd Lasseigne



Murphy



#21 Landon Thames



#4 Trey Johnson



Wildcats score two points



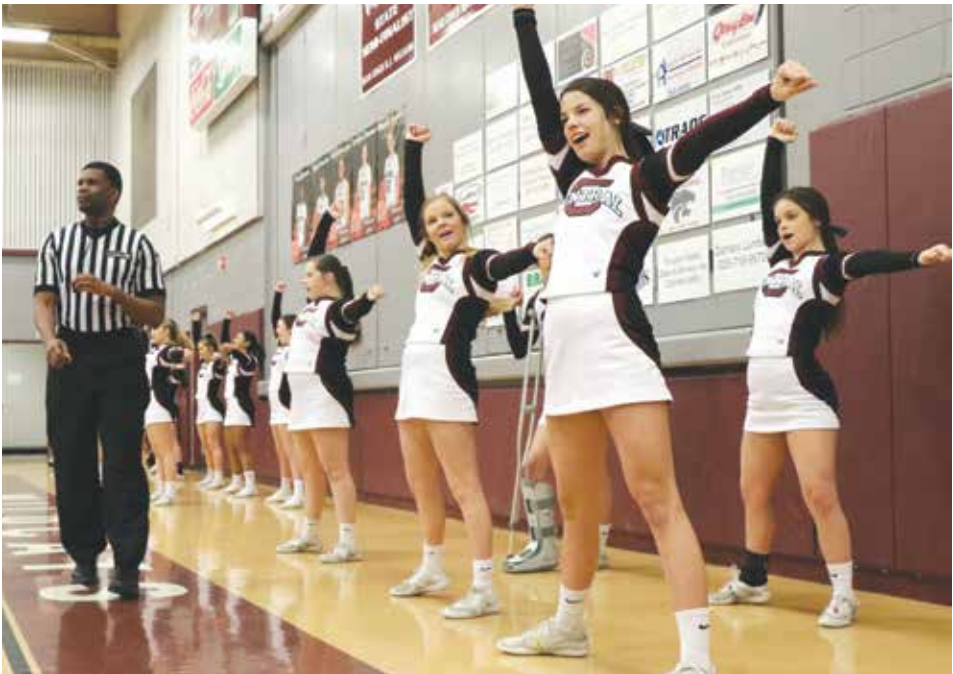
unting at the home game.



#42 Tyler Sherman, #4 Trey Johnson and #40 Jalyn Murphy



Wildcats wait for a chance to get in the game.



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BLACK KNIGHTS (left to right) Cole Averette (20) of Central Private, Jonathan Scott (18) of Woodlawn, Percy Butler (4) from Brusly, AJ Riley (5) of McKinley, Cole Averette (20), kicker Preston Stafford (23) of Catholic High, Trae Shropshire (1) of Zachary, Percy Butler (4) of Plaquemine and Cedric Anderson (29) of East Feliciana



RED STICK BOWL 2017 (left to right) Black Knights Codi Willis (44) of Plaquemine, Thomas Gaspard (56) of St. Michael's, Hunter Fuselier (55) of Catholic - PC, Max Rogers (75) of Central Private, Chandler Perer (61) of East Ascension, Luke Ory (68) of St. Amant, Rattler coaches on sidelines, and Zack Morris offensive coordinator for the Rattlers



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL (left to right) Varsity Cheerleaders cheered for the Rattlers; Captain Hannah Wall with Co-Captain Hannah Rains and Kennedy Leger, Julia Gullet and Kalynn Taylor. Cadets being sworn in during half time.

RED STICK BOWL • December 16, 2017 • Rattlers 44 - Black Knights 38
Photos by Jolice Provost • Central City News

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Rattlers to Red Stick Bowl Victory



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL was represented at the Army Red Stick Bowl by (left to right) Kennan Leachman (5) and Carson Balthazar (14); coach Frank Fresina, head coach of the Rattlers, and offensive coordinator Coach Morris with players, support staff and trainers. At right, the Balthazar Family



RED STICK BOWL (left to right) head coach of the Rattlers Frank Fresina of Central High School was honored in post-game ceremony; Kennan Leechman of Central High celebrates after recovering a fumble for the Rattlers; Carson Balthazar of Central intercepts the ball for the Rattlers.



RED STICK BOWL (left to right) Nathan Holliday (88) and Codi Willis (44) with the family of officer Matthew Gerald; Garret Roberts (44) and Andrew Gauthier (33) with the family of Corporal Montrell Jackson's wife, Zack Johnson (8) and Damian Johnson (10) with Deputy Brad Garafola Sr.'s family; and Rattlers after the half.



Scotlandville Marching Band drum major Scotlandville Brass Black Knights rest during halftime.



Bailey Creppel, Grace Knapps, Camille Provost, and Morgan Kennedy Olivia Browning, Heather Bourke, Kennedy Leger and Lexi Balley Bailey Mitchell and Addison Porche Bailey Creppel and Kennedy Leger

Icy Winter Mix Blanketed Parish



THE CITY OF CENTRAL was pelted by rain, sleet, and snow on Monday and Tuesday, followed by temperatures in the 10's and 20's. The result was spectacular!



DESPITE ITS BEAUTY, the winter mix created hazardous road conditions, resulting in many bridges being closed and most people staying indoors for two days.

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Artist Renderings of Central City Hall



CENTRAL CITY HALL as it will look from Sullivan Road. Bids will be received in February with ground breaking by summer.



VIEW OF CENTRAL CITY HALL from parking lot east of Sullivan Road. The clock tower will be at corner of Hooper and Sullivan.

CENTRAL — The City of Central is preparing to build a new City Hall at the corner of Hooper and Sullivan roads. Since the city incorporated in 2005, City Hall has been located either in donated or leased space. Mayor Jr. Shelton said the \$4.5 million facility will provide 17,000 square feet of space, mainly for Central Municipal Services, the City Council Chamber, and the Mayor's office.

He said the city is negotiating with the Central Community School Board for the purchase of land at the site. He expects to go out for bids in February and to break ground in late spring or early summer.

The architect for the project is Josh Hoffpauir. Mayor Shelton said, "He did a wonderful job!"

The mayor said City Hall was designed to match Central Middle School, which is about a mile north of Hooper at Sullivan.

He said the City Council Chamber will also be made available to the Central Community School Board for its meetings until they build their own space.

The first Central City Hall was donated by the *Central City News* at its offices then located at 12023 Sullivan Road. Mayor Mac Watts started attending to city business on a card table in that office. City Hall was located there for two months.

The site for City Hall is appropriate. In the 1880's, it was chosen as the site for the first Central School, so named because it was centrally located among the many one-room school houses in the area. At that time, "Central" did not yet exist as a community. The southeast corner of Hooper at Sullivan was simply a spot called Central.



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Central City News Sees Facebook Live as New Medium

13,000 Viewers for 1st Televised CHS Game

Central-St. Amant Game Was First Live Broadcast of Central Basketball

DUTCHTOWN — Central High narrowly lost its overtime battle against St. Amant Monday night at Dutchtown High School in a non-district game. But something perhaps more important was happening at the same time.

The game was being broadcast live on the Internet — the first time a Central High School basketball game has ever been broadcast live in its entirety.

What a success that telecast was! During the game and in the first 48 hours after the game, more than 13,500 people watched!

The Central City News is pioneering broadcasting on Facebook Live, and viewership numbers are amazing!

Now the Central City News is offering readers (or viewers, depending on what you want to call them) five more Central High regular season away games this season.

Central City News editor Woody Jenkins said, “We see Facebook Live as a whole new medium. We are able to deliver a high quality television picture to huge numbers of viewers and document exactly how many people are watching!”

“In reality, the numbers dwarf over-the-air and cable coverage. The reason is simple. Far more people are on their phones and other devices than are watching conventional TV. Furthermore, the average TV set offers 100 or more choices. The people who are watching TV are very segmented. It is rare for any particular program to draw large numbers.”

Most importantly, over-the-air and cable shows generally aren’t “shared” the way Facebook Live is.

“One of the astounding things today is how many young people don’t even own a TV and how many who have a TV never watch it.”

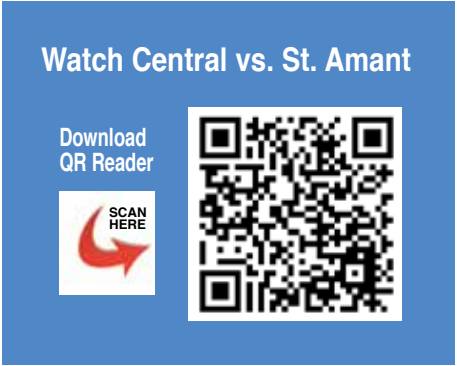
“Our first dramatic experience with Facebook Live was when we broadcast play by play of the State 5A Championship baseball game between Central and West Monroe last spring. To our amazement, the game had 94,000 viewers. This



EXCITING ACTION captured by Shane Evans included Destin Franklin (10), Jalyn Murphy (40), and Landon Thames (21).



Central came within an eyelash of defeating No. 10-ranked St. Amant. Key players included Landon Thames (21) and Quint Guerin (12).



AGGRESSIVE PLAY by the Wildcats’ Hunter Arnold (left). At right, Coach Scott Osborne giving guidance.

would be far more than claimed by cable providers like ESPN.”

Jenkins said the Central City News and other publications produced by Community Press, LLC,

will continue to expand its Facebook Live coverage.

“Each of our newspapers is now a Video Newspaper® filled with QR codes, linking the reader to

video. As with Facebook Live, we see that continuing to expand,” Jenkins said.



CENTRAL HIGH CHEERLEADERS and future cheerleaders pose for a photo at Central High gym.

2017-2018 CHS Basketball Schedule

Watch Games in Yellow on Central City News on Facebook.com

Jan 19	Live Oak	A
Jan 22	Denham Springs	A
Jan 26	Scotlandville	A
Jan 30	Belaire	H
Feb 2	Live Oak (Biddy Night)	H
Feb 9	Zachary	A
Feb 13	Denham Springs	H
Feb 16	Walker	A

Head Coach: Brian Hargroder
Asst Coaches: Scott Osborne, Brandon LaGroue, Matthew Edwards, Carl DiJohn

Freshman Games at 5 p.m., JV Games at 6 p.m. and Varsity Games at 7:30 p.m.

David Family to Honor Their Beloved Father, Grandfather

Pops Plaza: New Retail Site on Joor Rd.

New Development To Offer a Variety Of Retail Options For General Public

CENTRAL — The David Family of David's Mobil, corner Hooper and Joor roads, is launching a new retail shopping center for Central, a family spokesman said Tuesday.

The shopping center, which will offer 15,000 to 20,000 square feet of shopping and offices, will be named Pops Plaza after James David, who passed away last year.

Mr. David was much beloved in Central because of the many people he helped in times of needs and his service to the community in times of natural disaster.

The family owned some property on Joor Road behind David's Mobil and purchased additional land to make the development possible.

The center is in the heart of an important shopping area with Wal-Mart Neighborhood Center, Winn-Dixie, McDonald's, Taco Bell, Sonic, and David's Mobil within a one-block radius.

The development has a clean line design and construction costs



POPS PLAZA, the new retail development to be located on Joor Road behind David's Mobil, will lease 15,000 to 20,000 square feet.

will be in the mid-price range.

The David family is looking for a mixture of Central-owned businesses and national chains to locate there. They would like a Central contractor to build the project, if possible.

The primary restriction is the family will not lease to tenants directly competitive to David's Mobil. That includes restaurants. However, the family is considering opening an Italian restaurant under

David family ownership.

"Our mother, Jeannie David, has a lot of great Sicilian recipes that the public doesn't normally get to enjoy. She would love for us to have an Italian restaurant," the spokesman said.

One of the reasons the family decided to launch the new shopping center was to honor their husband, father, and grandfather, James David. The spokesman said, "We realized how important that was when

the Central High football team turned out to line the street when our dad was in the funeral procession. It was very moving to see."

The spokesman said, "We called him Pops, not Pop. So the name of the center is Pops Plaza with no apostrophe."

The leasing agent for the center is Ransom Pipes, who can be reached at 225-278-5439. He can provide elevations and the rent structure.

Central High Band Member Just Keeps on Growing

Ethaniel Rizan Seems Headed to 7'0"

Central Freshman Has Many Interests Including Playing Central Basketball

CENTRAL — Central High's 6-10 basketball player Ethaniel Rizan, or E, loves basketball but that's just one of his many interests. He played basketball and football in Biddy League, flag football, and now basketball at Central High.

He has also enjoyed playing the drums in the Central High Band. His mom, Sarah Martin, who works for the state, says Ethan is "a great kid, a good student who has no discipline issues. He wants to be an aeronautical engineer."

Central head coach Brian Hargroder describes Ethan as "a gentle giant." The coach says, "Ethan is unique. Such a fine young man and good student. He tries to do everything Coach Mark Jeanmard says to do. We're watching him. He has a lot of potential."

Ethan is 6-10 and just seems to keep growing. His mom thinks he'll top 7 feet.

Ironically, Coach Hargroder raises Great Danes, one of largest of dogs. He said, "When they are puppies, they are very awkward. They are all feet and legs. Then one day before you know it, everything works perfectly!"

The freshmen play in a tournament at Woodlawn Saturday.



Because of his size, it's hard to ignore Central High freshman Ethaniel Rizan (52), shown here with his freshmen teammates.



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