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Central High Wins State 5A Baseball Championship

State Champions *Again!*

Photos by Jolice Provost



Central's Dalton Aspholm won semi-final game in relief, had game-winning hits against Zachary, Sulphur.



Central's Brant Husser led Wildcats in pitching (9-2) and hits (44).



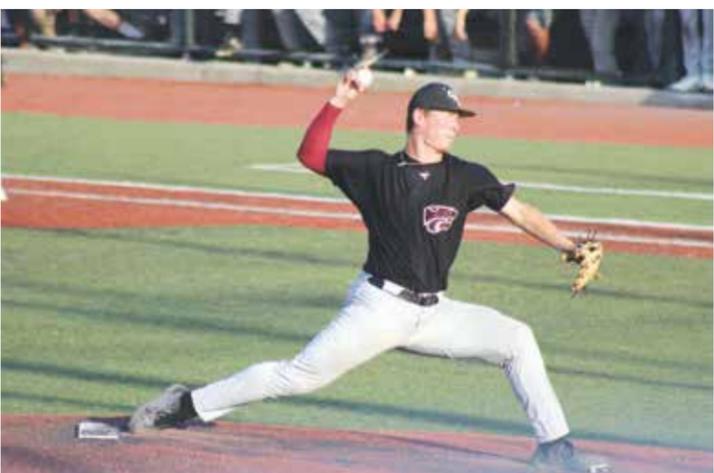
Central's Hunter Arnold shut out Sulphur 4-0 for state championship.



Central catcher Drew Lasseigne tagged out Sulphur runner to end rally



Brant Husser: Baseball Star of Stars



Drew Lasseigne (7-2, 1.728 ERA) pitched perfect game in Mandeville.



Sam Kennerson led team with .362.



RF Quint Guerin led Wildcats in runs (37) and BB (27).



Central Wildcats won their 2nd straight 5A State Championship.



Central's 9-3 victory in Game One in Zachary was pivotal moment.

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REGIONAL 5A CHAMPIONS
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Central 14 • Parkway 6
Central 13 • Parkway 1
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Central 9 • Zachary 3
Zachary 10 • Central 5
Central 7 • Zachary 2
SEMI-FINAL 5A CHAMPIONS
Central 10 • Barbe 5
STATE 5A CHAMPIONS
Central 4 • Sulphur 0

School Board Transfers Land for City Hall

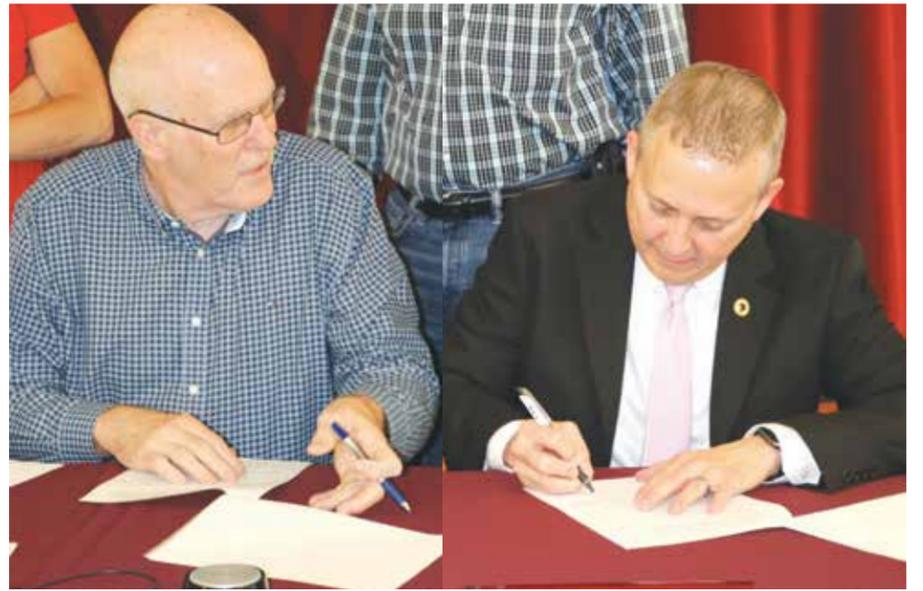
Photos by Jolice Provost



Central Community School Board members Jim Lloyd, Roxanne Atkinson, Will Easley, and Dr. David Walker with Supt. Jason Fountain as they discuss land sale to City of Central.



Central Community School Board president Dr. David Walker discussing the land sale.



SALE — Central Mayor Jr. Shelton and Central schools Supt. Jason Fountain signing documents to authorize sale of parcel from school system to City of Central for City Hall

CENTRAL - After years of discussion, the Central Community School System made it official by selling a parcel of land at the corner of Hooper and Sullivan roads to the City of Central for construction of a new City Hall. The City Hall will include the Mayor's office, a City Council Chamber, which will also be used for school board meetings, and offices for IBTS, which provides city services for Central.

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New Central High School Principal

Brandon LeGroue: A Passion for Kids

Woody Jenkins
Editor

CENTRAL - After graduating from Denham Springs High School, Brandon LaGroue entered LSU and earned a degree in biochemistry. It seemed like the logical thing to do. Several members of his family were physicians, and a career in medicine seemed like the next step. Or perhaps he would earn a PhD in biochemistry.

The problem was, Brandon LaGroue had little interest in medicine and less in biochemistry.

"I had always played sports growing up but what I really enjoyed was coaching the Bidy baseball team or mentoring in kids!" LaGroue, now 36, said Saturday, just after learning the news that Central Supt. Jason Fountain had named him the new principal at Central High School.

"What I really wanted to do was teach and coach!"

Brandon's grandfather and grandmother had moved to Central in the 1950's, and his dad graduated from Central High School in 1977. Brandon often visited his grandparents in Central, and he always thought Central was special.

An opening came at Starkey Academy. He was armed with his degree in biochemistry. Headmaster Steve Whitlow said, "You will be our science and math department!"

Right away, he was named Starkey's head girls basketball coach, head softball coach, and assistant



BRANDON LAGROUE at left in 2012 asking school board to keep the 9th Grade Academy at Central High and at right Saturday after his appointment as principal for Central.

football coach. "I took every opportunity they threw at me!" he said. "That was also the year we had our first child. So there was very little sleep." He was making a little over \$20,000. "Frankly, I loved it and would have worked for free if I could!" he said.

Unfortunately, Starkey closed, and Brandon was left looking for a job. The Central school system had been created the year before. He was hired to work in a summer program at Central High. Not as a

teacher but just to help out.

He worked out of the same office as then principal Ronnie Devall. Some of the students were involved in a summer science program but didn't have a teacher. LaGrone stopped in and started answering their questions and teaching them science.

It wasn't long after that that Mr. Duvall and the new principal, Bob Wells, offered him a job at Central High. He was also coaching football, baseball, and basketball.

Eager to take on responsibilities, he made himself available wherever needed. Teaching at Central High meant he would have to go back and be certified through an alternative certification program that was being offered. He weighed into that, eventually also getting certified in administration.

He became a familiar face to students and also to parents because he was coaching so many sports.

In 2012, the Central school system considered creating a 9th grade academy and moving it to the old Starkey Academy location.

LaGroue loved the idea of the 9th grade academy but hated the idea of moving the kids off the campus. He felt it would cut them off from the mainstream of student life at Central High School.

When a public forum was called on the issue, LaGroue bucked protocol, went to the meeting, and spoke out strongly against moving the 9th grade academy off campus.

His passion and courage gained the attention of then-Supt. Mike Faulk, Mr. Wales, and other school leaders. When the 9th grade academy was established, Brandon LaGroue was named administrator of the 9th grade academy, a position he enjoyed.

During 2017-2018, he was promoted to assistant principal at the high school. Then when Central principal David Prescott announced he was retiring, Brandon was one of three applicants for

See **BRANDON** on Page 12



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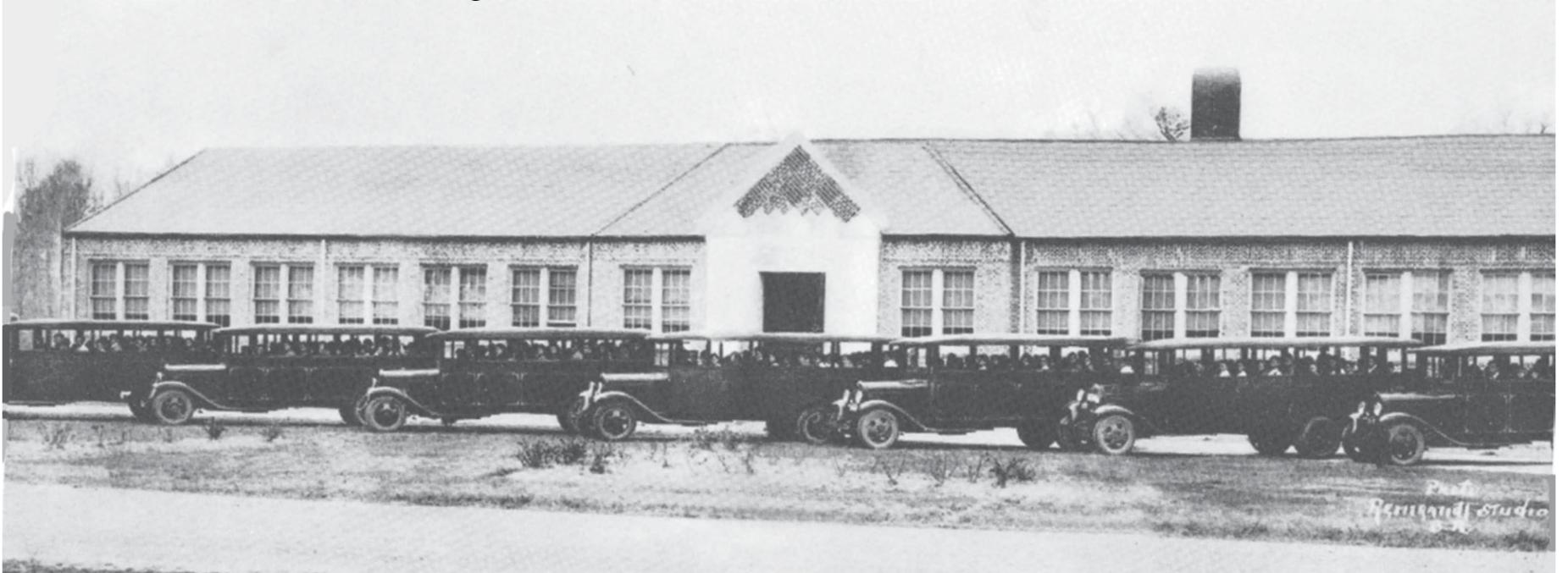
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Central City Hall Will Be Cornerstone



Central High School at the intersection of Hooper and Sullivan roads in 1929. Those are the new buses that just replaced horse-drawn 'hacks' that hauled kids to school.

Central — Specifically Meaning the Corner of Hooper and Sullivan — Got Its Name Because It Was 'Central' to One-Room Schools in Area

CENTRAL — In 1857, there were many close knit communities in the area now known as Central. Huge farms and public lands are shown on a map of that period. Some of the prominent names were Evan Vaughn, Nathan Baker, William Sullivan, Peter Delorroche, Joseph Carter, Rachael Dally, William Edwards, and others. Waterways had been named as White's Bayou, Hurricane Creek, Comite River, Amite River, and Blackwa-

ter Bayou.

There was no consolidated school in the area and small children were taught in the homes as older children walked to near-by one room schools. Four of the longest lasting schools were Pucket on the north, Greenwell Springs on the east, Frenchtown on the south, and Woodland on the west. As the children increased and outgrew the schools, the four neighborhoods of parents agreed to consolidate their

schools into one centrally-located and easily-accessible by wagon. It was decided to place the school at the junction of Settlement Road, which is now Sullivan Road, and Canal Road, which is now Hooper Road. William S. Edwards owned the property on all four corners and donated thirty acres on the south-east corner as a permanent site for the school. In donating the land William Edwards stipulated that should there cease to be a school on the property, the property would revert back to him or his heirs.

In 1884, a two-story frame building was erected by the men of the community and it was named Central High School. This was the first consolidated school in East Baton Rouge Parish and later was the first school to have a motorized school bus which was called a school van. Originally, children were transported to and from school by buggy and school wagon.

As time passed, Central outgrew the framed building and in the mid-1930's a large brick school was constructed. The frame gymnasium, constructed earlier for boys' basketball, was left standing. The new school boasted of adequate chalk boards, cloakroom for each spacious classroom, a complete chemistry laboratory, and home economics department. Girl's basketball was permitted in the gym by this time.

On weekends, the school grounds became a community cen-

ter where children could go to play on the grounds or shoot goals in the gym. On Saturday nights, the gym became a community meeting hall when a member of the community would travel to Baton Rouge and rent a silent movie for entertainment of the whole community. Plays and minstrels were performed on the gym stage with the actors being adults and children from the community. Later, Central began holding community dances in the gym, often with only a record player for music and using the bleachers for chairs. This continued until 1948.

Graduation has always been an exciting function at Central. Earlier classes were seated on stage in the gym for the ceremony. As the number of graduates increased, the ceremony was moved to the front porch of the gym and spectators were seated in folding chairs on the school ground.

In the 1970's, a completely new school complex was erected on the grounds and the old brick building demolished. The old gym was preserved and continued in use. The complex as it stands today contains three classroom buildings, cafeteria, gymnasium, manual arts building, and the old gym. The facility now house the Central Middle School, and Central High School has been moved to West Brookside Drive in Central.

An anonymous history of Central schools, circa 1974.



Students and teachers posed for this photo in front of the Central School at the intersection of what is now Hooper and Sullivan roads. Photo taken around 1906.

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of Town Center Where Central Began



New Central City Hall will be located at the intersection of Hooper and Sullivan roads, where 'Central' has been centered for 134 years.

Tradition Continues: Town Center and City Hall Will Be Located at Hooper at Sullivan Roads Where 'Central' Has Been for 134 Years

CENTRAL — The decision by the City of Central to build the Central City Hall at the corner of Hooper and Sullivan roads continues a tradition that goes back at least 134 years.

In fact, the land at that intersection was "Central" before there was a community called Central.

In the 1800's when representatives of the small one-room school houses in the area debated where to put a new consolidated school, the issue was settled when land was donated for the new school at the intersection of Settlement and Canal roads. The people decided to name it the "Central School" simply because it was centrally located among the various one-room school houses in the area.

It wasn't until about the 1930's that people began referring to the area as "the Central area" or "the Central community."

Settlement Road later became Sullivan Road, and Canal Road became Hooper Road.

The land was the site of a school from the 1880's until 2013. For the past eight years, city leaders have been talking about making the historic site into City of Central's Town

Center based around a City Hall. With the decision by the City of Central and the Central Commu-

nity School Board to locate City Hall there, it appears that Hooper at Sullivan roads will continue to

be "Central" to the Central community for at least another generation or two.



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Photo by Woody Jenkins

QUINT GUERIN — Winner of Charles Kinsley Award, 35 years after his dad received it!

How Many Violent Criminals Will Be Allowed to Walk Free?

Juror Intimidation, Rogue Jurors Will Take Center Stage If Unanimous Juries Required

Court Dockets Will Be Clogged as Selection Of Jury Drags Out to 5 Days for All Felonies

Woody Jenkins
Editor

BATON ROUGE - One phone call to the right juror or the juror's mama is all it will take to make sure that juror holds out for acquittal. If the juror does hold out, the guilty thug on trial — the very one who had the call made — will walk free! That is what will happen if a Constitutional Amendment headed to the Nov. 6 ballot is approved by voters. It requires that 12 of 12 jurors must vote for conviction in **all** felony cases, not just capital cases!

The amendment leaves in one person's hands the fate of the defendant and the victim! And that person may very well have motives or fears that go far beyond the facts of the case!

How many violent criminals will continue to wreck havoc on our communities if this amendment is approved by voters? No one knows.

But there is one thing we do know: The members of the legislature including many "conservatives" ran and hid when SB243 by Sen. J. P. Morrell came up. They were too afraid of being called racists to speak up and tell the truth about a bill that could have devastating consequences for all of us.

Present law in Louisiana provides that 12 of 12 jurors must vote to convict in a capital case but only 10 of 12 are needed to vote to convict in other felony cases.

The Advocate newspaper, which has devoted countless pages to telling one side of this story, says that the current law can be traced back to the 1890's and Jim Crow, as though every bill passed by the legislature in that period was about race.

Well, you don't need to go back that far, because the current Louisiana Constitution was drafted in 1973. I served on the Committee on Bill of Rights and Elections, which drafted the Declaration of Rights in the current constitution. That committee was chaired by the late Rep. Alphonse Jackson, a close friend of mine who was a liberal black Democrat. The 10-member com-

mittee included Novyse Soniat, a black delegate from New Orleans; Kendall Vick, the senior counsel for the ACLU; Tony Guarisco, who later served in the Louisiana Senate and was one of the more liberal members ever to serve in the legislature; Alexandria attorney Chris Roy, a prominent trial attorney, and Rep. Ford Stinson, a criminal defense attorney. All 10 members of the committee supported the Declaration of Rights as well as the requirement of 10 of 12 jurors to convict in non-capital felony cases. Understand that the 10 of 12 vote is a vote to convict OR to acquit! In



Woody Jenkins

our state, a person is acquitted if 10 jurors vote for acquittal. Otherwise, there is a hung jury. In many other states, it takes 12 of 12 to acquit.

At the Louisiana Constitutional Convention of 1973, the Committee on Bill of Rights and Elections could have easily voted to require that all felony trials be unanimous. But we didn't, because we thought that would be wrong. We weren't persuaded because 48 other states do things a certain way. That's an absurd argument! Our job was to make sure we have a criminal justice system that is fair and works.

If you think a 10 of 12 vote is racist, don't blame someone back in 1898! Blame our Committee on Bill of Rights and Elections — one of the most liberal, non-racist bodies ever assembled in this state.

Every one of us on the Committee on Bill of Rights and Elections understood that a certain percentage of the public are criminals (8 percent are felons), mentally unbalanced, emotionally unstable, or downright corrupt. People can be bribed or intimidated, and some of these folks are sitting as jurors. They sit not only to protect the rights of the defendant but the victim as well.

Intimidation is the greatest problem. As one prosecutor told me recently, he sees it even in the courtroom itself. Gang members are showing up for the trial. Their mere presence in the courtroom can cause panic by witnesses and jurors.

Right now, of course, if one or two jurors are intimidated, the de-

“If you want to understand why Louisiana requires 10 of 12 to convict and not a unanimous jury, look **not** to the Constitutional Convention of 1898 but to the Constitutional Convention of 1973. We're the ones who put it there and there are reasons why! First, it was part of a strategic compromise to balance the rights of defendants and victims. Defendants have the right to trial by jury under the federal constitution but no right to a trial by judge. But we provided that the defendant — and not the state — gets to choose trial by jury or trial by judge! This is a powerful right. In the federal system and 30 other states, the defendant cannot choose to be tried by a judge unless the state agrees! This Constitutional Amendment tremendously tilts the balance to the criminal defendant and away from the victim. The Advocate wants to talk about 48 states that require unanimous juries but fails to mention the feds and 30 states that give the prosecutor the power to decide whether to allow a trial by a judge.”

— Woody Jenkins, Delegate, CC/73, and author, Declaration of Rights, Louisiana Constitution

endant can still be convicted, if at least 10 jurors are convinced beyond a reasonable doubt.

We recently faced this problem at Istrouma. A young man was murdered at a convenience store on Prescott Road. There were more than a dozen young people who witnessed what happened. So far, not one will tell the police who did it! They are afraid, and they have every reason to be, because if they testify, there is no one to protect them.

So is the legislature proposing to protect jurors who are threatened because of how they vote? Absolutely not! The legislature is doing nothing to protect jurors! They apparently believe jurors will simply do their duty, return to their communities, and everything will be fine. No, the reality is, some jurors simply won't vote to convict — no matter what the facts of the case are — because of well-justified fear.

The problem of rogue jurors or wing nuts is another major problem. It is impossible to know the hidden motives of people. There are people who hate cops. There are child molesters who make it to the jury pool. There is every kind of bias. That's why you can't leave the decision in one or two people's hands.

How will prosecutors react if this passes with voters Nov. 6?

They will do whatever they can to get a good jury. At present, it takes about two days to choose a jury in an ordinary felony case. But it takes a five days in a capital case. Why? Because the prosecutor is doing ev-

everything he can to find 12 jurors who are unbiased and cannot be intimidated. That is a very difficult task!

So with unanimous juries required for ALL felonies, how long would jury selection take for those cases? Close to five days! That's the only way to sort through and find a good jury.

The result of that would be a collapse of the criminal justice system.

There is no money now for the indigent defender fund to pay all the expenses. Imagine how it would be if every felony trial required five days of jury selection!

Imagine the cost to the District Attorney's office!

Who will pay for all of this?

One thing is certain.

Prosecutors would have no choice but to charge fewer serious offenders with crimes and release more and more of the guilty. Otherwise, the criminal justice system will simply not be able to handle the cases.

It's very similar to what happens every time an illegal alien is apprehended. Each one is supposed to have a trial but the volume is so great, they are simply released.

A great many criminals will simply never be billed and will be left free to prey upon us!

Be assured that we will hear a lot more one-sided arguments in favor of this Constitutional Amendment between now and Nov. 6.

However, I hope you will join me in letting people know the truth — this is a very bad proposal!

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Danny & Cheryl Brown: A Love Story

Both a Bit Shy, They Never Dated Much; It Seemed Like Love Wouldn't Find Them

Woody Jenkins

Editor

BATON ROUGE - The passing of Danny Brown last month could be reported as a loss to Baton Rouge of a master photojournalist who covered such historic events as the Apollo moon landings and the career of LSU All-America Pistol Pete Maravich.

Or the focus might be on the intimate access he had at the Governor's Mansion during the terms of Govs. Edwin Edwards and Dave Treen, which allowed him to chronicle their activities as no one else.

Or it might focus on the way he volunteered freely for a variety of causes including Istrouma High.

But in reality the story of Danny Brown is a love story — a love story that's worth telling.

As a student at Istrouma High school, he discovered an interest in photography. Soon he was taking photos for the *War Whoop* newspaper, which published 36 issues his senior year. But processing his photos was costing the *War Whoop* a small fortune. So to save money for the paper, he set up a dark room at home and was able to print his own photos.

In the *Pow Wow*, the Istrouma yearbook for 1965, you'll see a picture of Danny Brown on the *War Whoop* staff page right next to a young lady named Cheryl Cannon. They were just friends and never dated. Danny was overweight and that made him a bit shy with girls.

Cheryl said, "In high school, I had a boyfriend and in my mind we were either going to get married or I was going to die," she laughed. "Well, we didn't get married. I dated a little bit but not a lot. Over the years, I never found anyone I was interested in."

Danny and Cheryl graduated from Istrouma in 1965 and went to LSU. Danny enrolled in the LSU School of Journalism. He continued to volunteer to help Ms. Sandra Polick on the



Danny and Cheryl Cannon Brown at North Baton Rouge Reunion in 2016



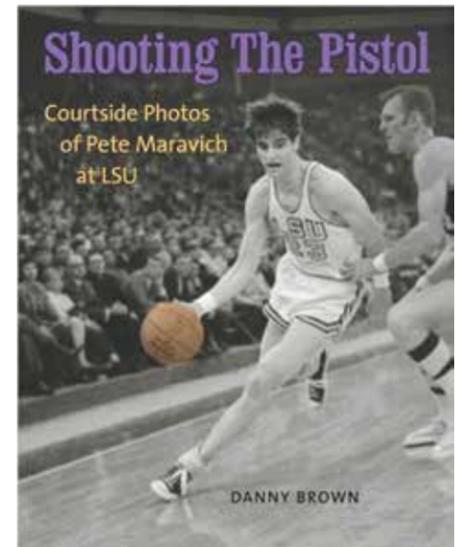
Danny and Cheryl on *War Whoop* staff

Pow Wow staff and would attend Istrouma High football games and take photos for the yearbook.

Then as fate would have it, there

was a controversial call on the last play of the game between Istrouma and Catholic High — a big rivalry. Istrouma had gone ahead with 1:30 left in the game. Then on the last play, Catholic appeared to score, but the referee said no. The stadium went crazy with controversy. Danny had taken photos of the Istrouma TD and everything after that. He was the only photographer in position to get the last play, and it showed the ref was wrong — that Catholic did score!

Danny thought for a moment about his loyalty to Istrouma... and



Danny's iconic book on *The Pistol*

then about his possible photography career and his loyalty to the truth. He remembered the number for the *Advocate*, walked over to the pay phone at Memorial Stadium, and called the Sports Desk! Jim Faulkner answered.

"I have some photos you might be interested in!" Danny said.

Faulkner said bring them! He hired Danny as a stringer on the spot! "We pay \$5 a photo!" he said. Danny could cover two or three games on a Friday night and make \$25. It was good money!

When summer came, they hired him to fill in for photographers who went on vacation. Finally, there was a full-time opening. John Dobbs left, and Danny applied for the job.

Bernell Ballard told Danny what happened in the meeting, which was chaired by the legendary editor Maggie Dixon. The editors all had their say and agreed Danny was too young and inexperienced to be an *Advocate* photographer.

Maggie Dixon heard all the arguments and frowned. Then she slammed her notebook closed, stood up, and said, "Danny Brown is our new photographer!"

Not too long after that, there was an opening for a general assignment reporter and Danny applied to the new editor, Jim Hughes. Hughes said, "Well, yes, but it pays \$15 less than being a photographer and I'm still going to make you take photos."

Danny said, "It's a deal!"

One day, they had Danny working on the wire desk with Jim Johnson. It was the day of the first moon landing — Apollo 11 on July 20, 1969. Danny ran home to watch on TV. As Neil Armstrong was about to step on the moon, he realized, "What a great picture!" So he took a shot of the TV screen and raced back to the newspaper office.

As it turned out, his photo was better than the AP photo. So the *Advocate* used his! But as late as last month, he was still complaining, "They left out my byline!" and laughed.

After that, Danny claimed to be the resident astrojournalist. When Apollo 12 came along, he learned they were issuing credentials to journalists but you had to have a letter from your superior. So he went to the managing editor, Ernest Gueynard and asked for permission. Danny said he would pay all his own expenses if they would just keep paying his salary. Gueynard agreed!

At Cape Kennedy, Danny met astronauts, NASA officials, high ranking government leaders, and pillars of the national press, and he got great photos! Most importantly, he picked up one particular souvenir — the Parking Pass for Space 12, which was as close to the launch site as the press could get!

For the next three Apollo launches, everybody at the *Advocate* wanted to go to Florida, but every time, Gueynard sent Danny! "They didn't know my secret! I told the editor that there

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See DANNY on Page 12

Central, Istrouma Principals Battled over Teacher

When Legendary Principals Clashed

Fuzzy Brown Fought His Close Friend, J. A. Smith, Over Best Teacher in EBR

Woody Jenkins
Editor

BATON ROUGE - In the history of public education in East Baton Rouge Parish, there have been many great principals. Two that stood out in the mid-20th century were Little Fuzzy Brown at Istrouma High and J.A. Smith at Central High.

They were titans in their day. Little Fuzzy came to Istrouma in 1935 as head football coach and almost immediately won a State Championship. He became principal in 1953 during the era of Billy Cannon and led the school until 1972. In those years, Istrouma strived to be the best at everything. From 1950 to 1962, it won eight state championships. It was the largest high school in Louisiana with 1,800 students in grades 10-12, and it was strong academically.

One of Little Fuzzy's close friends was J. A. Smith, the legendary principal at Central High. Mr. Smith had come to Central as principal in 1937 because they needed a very tough leader, and he was tough indeed.

J.A. Smith served as principal until 1967 when he moved to Central Private School. He was principal at CPS until 1977 — making 40 years serving the people of Central.

At Central, he probably had the strictest discipline in the state, and every adult living today who attended Central High in those days was greatly influenced by Mr. Smith.

Of course, strong-willed leaders like Mr. Brown and Mr. Smith can also be tough competitors.

Unfortunately, they finally butted heads at the beginning of the 1964-1965 school year.



LITTLE FUZZY BROWN
Coach at Istrouma High for 18 years and principal for 19 years

At Istrouma, Little Fuzzy Brown was always looking for the best students and the best athletes to enroll at Istrouma. It was not unheard of for him to help someone from Mississippi get a job at Exxon or one of the other plants, especially if the man had a son who was an outstanding football player!

Mr. Brown also recruited the best teachers to come to Istrouma. He pursued excellence in every aspect of Istrouma, and he knew that the best teachers would get the best results.

It was great for Istrouma students and the Istrouma community, but it sometimes caused problems with other principals who suddenly found themselves without their top teacher.

Of course, that just didn't happen with Central High School. Mr. Brown certainly was not going to go after any of Mr. Smith's top teachers, or so Mr. Smith thought.

But at the beginning of the 1964-1965 school year, tragedy struck Istrouma High School. Mrs. Mildred Creaghan Robichaux, one of the most esteemed members of the Istrouma faculty, was struck with a brain aneurism and died almost immediately. I was in her class. The 1965 Istrouma yearbook is dedicated to her... "Outstanding Teacher of 1964 - Mildred Robichaux - The Great Books... Linguistics... Symbolism... Ideas... all bring to mind the memory of Mrs. Mildred Robichaux. It was through her that many of us came to know the true nature of literature and language.



J. A. SMITH
Principal at Central High for 30 years and Central Private for 10 years

Now our inspiration has gone... It remains for each of us whose life she has touched to continue to uphold the high standards of excellence which she exemplified."

Her students were devastated. It seemed surreal that she was gone!

The next day, we had a substitute. Then the very next day, we were surprised that we already had a new and permanent replacement for Mrs. Robichaux.

Her name was Mrs. Marjorie Hall and it was obvious that she too was extraordinary. She told us how much she admired Mrs. Robichaux and how no one could ever replace

her. But she assured us that despite this great tragedy, our work would continue, and we would have a successful year.

Mrs. Hall was an amazing teacher who brought out the best in us. She soon had us memorizing long passages of literature every day. Things we thought impossible, we were doing!

She was an expert in Shakespeare and made us memorize some famous passage from Shakespeare everyday and then recite it in class. It's amazing but we were able to do it.

A funny story. One of my best friends was Greg Ellison, who was our only National Merit Finalist. He was brilliant but very unconventional, to say the least. If you gave Greg a test, he would make an A+ but he simply wouldn't do homework. It's not that he was being recalcitrant. Rather, he would just forget. He was

sent to the office countless times, where Mr. Clyde Lindsey, assistant principal would have to deal with him. If you average out A+ on tests and zero on homework, you probably come out with a D or an F, and those were Greg's grades.

But there were a couple of other things about Greg.

He was very creative, and he could think on his feet as no one I have ever seen before or since. So, for example, if asked to recite a bit of Shakespeare, he would literally make up the quote as he spoke. It was so authentic sounding that even an expert would think he was correct. Mrs. Hall was an expert.

Another thing about Greg Ellison, he was world class gymnast! In fact, he won the national championship in rope climbing. He was a wonder to watch! Perhaps most astounding was his back flip. There are people who can do a standing back flip. In other words, you're just standing in place, and you do a back flip. A few. But in the entire world, there were only three people who could do a double standing back flip where you stand in place, leap straight up in the air and do two back flips. He was one of them! In fact, he would do it sometimes at recess for us!

One day Mrs. Hall asked us to go home and memorize a lengthy quote from Shakespeare. Any quote we desired — it just had to be perfect!

Of course, the next day, Greg had forgotten to prepare, but no problem. When she called his name, he bounded out of his desk in the back of the room and like an antelope in two giant leaps he was nearing her desk when in mid-air he did a single forward



Greg Ellison
Istrouma High National Merit Scholar

flip and landed on top of her desk! He landed perfectly — with legs and arms apart — ready to recite! He proceeded to recite the most magnificent Shakespearean prose. The class applauded wildly as did Mrs. Hall. He

flipped off desk, leaped twice, and was back in his seat!

I whispered to him, "What was that from? I didn't recognize it!" He whispered back, "I made it up!"

Mrs. Hall complimented him, said she loved that bit of Shakespeare, and went on with the class!

She never reported him for failing to turn in homework.

See TITANS on Page 13

What's Happening

35th Anniversary Celebration
May 27 • 10 a.m.

Cornerstone Fellowship

Services will begin at 10 a.m. with lunch and fellowship to follow. All current and former Cornerstone members are invited to attend.

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105th Anniversary of Central Class of 1913

Advice from Central's 1st Valedictorian

A Young Woman Said We Will Build Future Through Hard Work, Courage, Intelligence, And Determination

CENTRAL — In May 1913, Pearl Elizabeth Felps walked to the podium as the valedictorian of the first graduating of the new Central High School, located at the corner of Canal (now Hooper) and Sullivan roads. A copy of her speech was discovered in 2009 and given to the *Central City News*.

It is a timeless message that resonates as well today as it did 101 years ago. She spoke of the importance of hard work, courage, intelligence, and determination. Pearl Elizabeth Felps earned her place as Central's first Valedictorian seven years before women got the right to vote in United States on Aug. 26, 1920. Imagine this young woman rising to the podium in front of the high school at Canal and Sullivan. It was not the busy intersection it is today. Children played in these roads and were known to lay down and take a nap in the street without the slightest fear of a motor car coming along. Horse-drawn buses called "hacks," carried students to school, and people generally walked or rode on horseback wherever they needed to go.

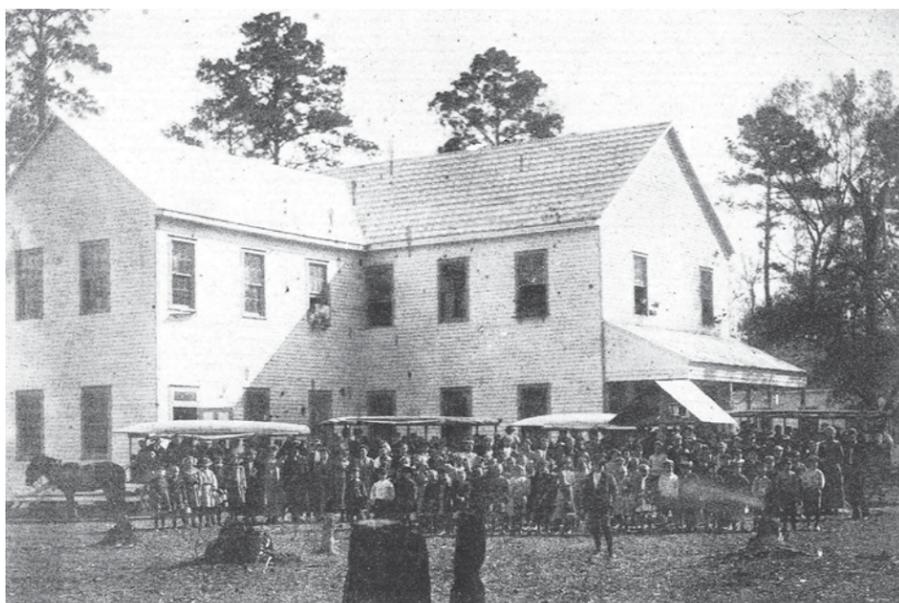
On this day, the entire Central community gathered for the graduation ceremonies, and Miss Felps was ready. Here's what she said:

NO VICTORY WITHOUT LABOR
by Pearl Elizabeth Felps
Central High Valedictorian 1913

The boys and girls of today are standing with reluctant feet **where the brooks and rivers meet**; ready to step out into the busy world, each to seek his vocation in life. We might hold to the past, were it possible, and let our famous men and women of this day and time still carry on the progress of nations. But ever since the dawn of civilization, God has so willed it that each generation has its part to contribute to the great revolving cycle of progress. This is the period of our lives where, at last, the round of changes has carried us to **the vast river whose current is moving steadily and surely into the mystic future**. Can we proudly stand and meet the responsibilities thus forced upon us? To do so, we must buckle on **the armor of labor**. Fortune smiles only on those who, with up rolled sleeves and willing hands, put their shoulders to the wheel and brave the storms. There is no other road to success.

Fortune is a fickle goddess, and one must woo long and patiently who would win her smiles. "When you start upon a road, keep a comin', Throw away your prop and goad, but keep a comin', Though the way seems hard and long, Bear in mind you must be strong, lend a hand to all the throng, and keep a comin'."

Adam and Eve were thrust from the garden of Eden with these words, "By the sweat of thy brow, thou shall earn thy



CENTRAL SCHOOL in the early 1900's. In May 1913, Pearl Elizabeth Felps was the Valedictorian of the first graduating class. Her Valedictory address, No Victory without Labor, counseled hard work, courage, intelligence, and "invincible determination." This advice by a young woman was tendered seven years before women got the vote.

Profile:
Pearl Elizabeth Felps (Ott)

Born: 1893 Died: 1980 High School: Valedictorian, Central High Class of 1913 College: Silliman Institute in Clinton. Teaching career: Central High and Live Oak. Husband: Rev. Albert D. Ott, who was an early minister at Amite Baptist Church. Children: Five. One of them, Jodie Lee Ott (who was named after Central's Jodie Edwards) married Amos Ponder Jones. They had four girls: Lynne Jones, CHS 1965; Carolyn Ann Jones Sanchez, CHS 1968; Susan Harris, CHS 1970, and Beverly Jon Bonnebel, CHS 1975. Susan provided Pearl's Valedictory Address for this article to Roxanne Atkinson who provided it to Central City News.

bread." There was divine eternal love in this seemingly harsh command, for labor has ever been the workshop from which has evolved models of pure gold, refined and tempered by the conflict in which even "the stars in their courses seemed to fight against Sisera."

History tells us of no advance that has been made over the plain of progress, except by labor. If we have intelligence, Slowly and steadily moves earth, sea and time, onward, still onward and upward is the clarion call.

Our graduation day may be compared to a horse race, each with an equal start, each bound for the goal; one, two, three years pass; one or two ahead, three or four close behind, some slothful, others diligent and some dropped out entirely. But **the race is "not to the strong,"** but to the one who labors long and earnestly and trustfully. There is no boy or girl, if he has the element of ability about him, who cannot make some success in life. Where there is a will, there is a way.

What has labor done for our grand old America since our first discoverers landed here in such frail and unsafe boats? It has leveled the cliffs to build upon; smoothed the plains and felled the forests; seized disease and throttled its venom. Not only converted it from the desert abode of savages to the beautiful houses of civilization, but has gone down into **the bowels of the earth** and revealed the wonderful treasures hidden there.

It has converted the little unsafe boats of our discoverers into steel ships a thousand feet long, carrying hundreds of passengers. Not only have **our oceans been underlaid with cables**, but this majestic

steamer is outfitted with **wireless telegraphy**. The railroads and telegraphy bring the ends of the earth together.

In 1914, labor will again give to us one of the most wonderful changes in commerce, the completion of the **Panama Canal**, where the waves of the broad Atlantic will flow to meet those of the deep Pacific. And where will the nation gain her victory? All will answer by labor.

It is no doubt true that the boys and girls of today have the advantage of our forefathers, for we have so many models from which to fashion our patterns. But **we must remember that one week of life now has almost as much possibility in it as the year had a century ago.**

We are living in one of the most wonderful ages in the history of the world. There has never been an age when such great things were in the making, and the call is for boys and girls willing to labor in the coming contest.

Never before has there been such opportunities for boys **and girls**, and the boys **and girls** of today will be the citizens of tomorrow. Let us pick up Daniel Webster's quotation in his **eloquent oration at Bunker Hill**: "Let our age be an age of improvement. Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up and promote all of its great interests. Let us extend our ideas over the whole of the vast field in which we are called to act."

See if the greatest men and women that have ever lived cannot be the men and women of tomorrow.

Labor is the rainbow of promise to every aspiring youth, and the hope of our world's greatest nation.

— • —

LOOKING BACK 105 years, do you understand Miss Felps' speech?

Consider these questions:

1. What is the place **where brooks and rivers meet**?
2. Why does she talk about a **river whose current is moving** us into the future?
3. When she urges buckling on **the armor of labor**, why would her audience be familiar with a similar phrase?
4. Who was **Sisera**?
5. When she says the race is "**not to the strong**," where did she get that quote?
6. What are **the bowels of the earth** where wonderful treasures are hidden?
7. Why were the **oceans underlaid with cables** and when?
8. What is **wireless telegraphy**?
9. Why would the **Panama Canal** give us "wonderful changes in commerce"? How did she know it would happen in 1914?
10. Why was it possible to do in **one week** what would have taken a year a century before?
11. Why does she specifically mention opportunities for **girls**?
12. What was the significance of **Bunker Hill** and when did Daniel Webster give his speech?
13. Why is **labor the rainbow of progress for aspiring youth**?

Questions by Woody Jenkins, editor, *Central City News*

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Central High Honors Kinsley Award

Photos by Woody Jenkins



Raven Alexander • Charles T. Kinsley Award Winner



Tejah Scott • Charles T. Kinsley Award Winner

Brandon LaGroue Named New Central High Principal

Continued from Page 3

principal. Supt. Jason Fountain and a team of administrators interviewed the applicants.

Late Friday afternoon, Fountain announced LaGroue was chosen.

In an interview Saturday, Brandon LaGroue talked about his reaction to the announcement:

- “Dr. Fountain said we are going to be a world class school system, and that’s the way it should be!”
- “Central is a storied community. People are proud to say they are from Central. With hard work, guts, and courage, we can show the

world what we can do!”

- “This is a great opportunity to be a servant-leader to everyone in the school and the community!”
- “We’re here to give back!”
- “Can you imagine if we could all put aside self? When it’s not about self, we can fly!”
- “There is no cap on what we can do together.”
- “It’s about being part of a team. Not only football or basketball or baseball, but also the band or the cheerleaders. The entire school. If we think of ourselves as a team, we can overcome any obstacle.”

When LaGroue was shown the article on Page 16 by Todd Lasseigne, he said, “I had the privilege of coaching Todd for four years. He’s a great kid but, more than that, he’s the ultimate teammate. He’s a great athlete but didn’t really get to play much in the State Championship. Yet, that didn’t matter. He saw himself as a part of the team. He cheered for every other player on and off the field. He sees the community as a team. That’s what Todd Lasseigne is all about.”

Brandon said one of his goals is to be like his grandfather, who was a deacon at Greenwell Springs Baptist Church. “He never met a stranger. He recognized the importance of other human beings. He was a people person and saw the importance of human interaction. I’ve had great parents and grandparents! They work hard and have strong values. I just want to be like them!” Principal LaGroue will announce some of his plans in the coming weeks.

Danny and Cheryl: A Love Story

Continued from Page 8

were no more parking passes for the press and that I was the only one who could get in! It sounds crazy, but he bought it!”

After the Advocate, Danny went to work for DOTD, which happened to be right next door to the Governor’s Mansion. Gov. Edwards found out he was available and issued standing orders to send Danny over to take pictures! That continued throughout Gov. Treen’s administration and a few times in the Roemer administration.

Danny usually took the lead in planning class reunions for the Istrouma Class of 1965. Then in 1995, on the 30th anniversary, Cheryl Cannon came to the planning meeting at Danny’s house.

They were both 48. Neither had ever married and rarely dated, but they decided to go out after the meeting. Then over the next few months, they started seeing each other more and more frequently.

They kept their romance a secret from family and friends. “You know how people talk!” Cheryl said, “We didn’t want any pressure.”

Everything was going along swimmingly until one day they were riding down Florida Boulevard and Danny’s nephew saw them! The cat

was out of the bag! Pretty soon everyone knew something was going on! “We knew we had to get married!” she said.

They got married and Cheryl moved into Danny’s house. “Can you believe, everything was brown!” [Danny Brown, get it?] “He said, ‘Well, you can change anything you want except my office!’ I went in there and he had this horrible shag carpet. I got rid of it!”

Being married agreed with the Browns, and they loved each other and their life. Their strong bond was tested when Cheryl developed cancer and almost died. Danny was her caregiver. Then a couple of years ago, Danny got cancer. He fought as hard as he could. By last year he had lost 80 pounds. He suffered a lot, and she lost him last month. They were married 22 years.

Now Cheryl’s cancer has come back with a vengeance and she is struggling. The doctors tell her they have one more treatment to try.

“I love him so much! No matter what happens, I know we’ll be together again!”

Woody Jenkins graduated from Istrouma High with Danny Brown in 1965 and from the LSU School of Journalism with him in 1969.

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Winners for Athletics, Scholarship

Photos by Woody Jenkins



Raegan Willis • Charles T. Kinsley Award Winner



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2018 Charles T. Kinsley Awards
Raven Alexander • Tejah Scott • Raegan Willis • Hunter Arnold
Todd Lasseigne • Quint Guerin
Central High School • Central, Louisiana

Titans Battled over Who Would Get Best English Teacher

Continued from Page 9

Years later, when I was in the legislature, I would often get lengthy letters from Mrs. Hall correcting some statement I had made to the media. She would cut articles from the newspaper and mark them in red, kindly telling me how I must improve my grammar or whatever!

In 2005, when we started the Central City News, I got to know school board member Sharon Browning and learned that Marjorie Hall had taught her at Central High.

More than that, she said Mrs. Hall was her mentor and was the most important person in helping her decide to become a teacher.

She laughed as she recalled that Mrs. Hall also sent her little notes correcting her mistakes right up until her death.

We all were surprised when the Advocate ran a front page story on Marjorie Hall and all the letters she

had written to them correcting their mistakes!

So how did Little Fuzzy Brown get Mrs. Hall to drop everything and leave Central High and Mr. J. A. Smith to teach Honors English at Istrouma High School?

Teachers didn't generally have contracts in those days and theoretically, a teacher could leave at any time.

Sharon Browning said friction had been building between Mrs. Hall and Mr. Smith for a long time, but she would never have left under normal conditions.

However, she had a funeral (not Mrs. Robichaux's) to go to, but Mr. Smith refused to let her go. When she learned of Mrs. Robichaux's death, she called Mr. Brown to see if he needed help.

We abruptly quit Central and came to Istrouma. She taught three more years and finished her career

at Istrouma High School with Little Fuzzy Brown.

What happened to Greg Ellison? First, assistant principal Clyde Lindsey allowed Greg to graduate, even though he was delinquent on lots of his work. "He'll probably pull some stunt at graduation," he said. Mr. Lindsey's fears were justified. Just as Greg left the stage, he did a standing

forward flip in full cap and gown! After graduation, Greg knocked around in various jobs, before finding his niche with Bill Gates in the early days of Microsoft. He knew Gates personally and reportedly did some groundbreaking computer research for Microsoft. Unfortunately, he passed away perhaps 10 years ago. He left five children.



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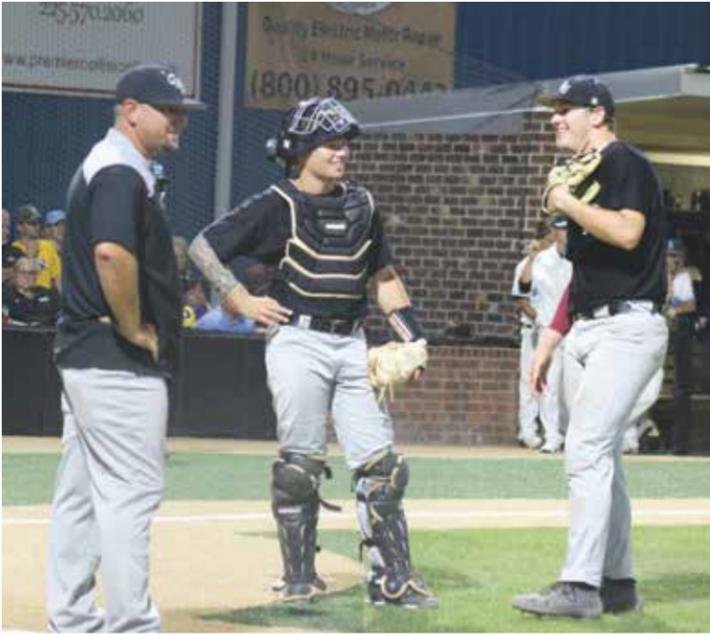
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Photos by Jolice Provost



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2018 Charles Kinsley Award Winner

What We Can Learn from How Central Won State's 5-A Baseball Championship

To Be Part of a Championship Team, We Must Focus on the Game and Supporting Our Teammates; We Play For Something Bigger than Ourselves And Always Trust the Next Man Up

Todd Lasseigne

Member, Central's 2017-2018 State 5A Championship Teams

One the greatest sports movie ever made and a personal favorite of mine is "The Sandlot." This movie follows a group of young boys who come together every day and play neighborhood baseball—no score, no set teams, and no worries in the world.

This year the Central High School baseball team had a similar mindset. Instead of focusing on individual stats, we played for the love of the game and the love of each other.

This team of baseball players had evolved into a family. In the movie when the boys are visited by the ghost of Babe Ruth, he imparts a valuable lesson. He states, "Heroes get remembered but legends never die."

That quote embodies what this year's baseball team was pursuing. Becoming state champions made us feel like he-



Photos by Jolice Provost

Senior Todd Lasseigne • Member, 2017 and 2018 State 5A Baseball Championship teams at Central High

ros last year, but this year we wanted to do something that would create a legacy in our community. But a legacy is impossible without people to carry on your story, and that is what this town has provided for us.

When we showed up on game-day and saw the stands full of people — from little kids in their own jerseys to our grandparents who have supported us since we were born, we knew that we were playing for something bigger than ourselves!

This community supported us without fail, and that was more vital to our success than any practice or drill.

This team played baseball the right way — we hustled on every pitch and we played unselfishly, always trusting the next man up.

We played to create a legacy that will last forever, but ultimately how we will be remembered is up to the citizens of Central.

I hope that we represented you well, and in turn I hope your support of Central athletics never wavers because without you, championships would not be possible.

Thank you and as always GO WILDCATS!

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— *Central Community School System*



Central High senior and National Merit Finalist Justin Nijoka with parents Chris and Kim



Central Student of the Year

Justin Nijoka

Class of 2018

Central High School



CENTRAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD — (Left to right) Jim Lloyd, Vice President Roxanne Atkinson, Board President Dr. David Walker, Willard Easley, Dr. Jim Gardner, Ruby Foil, and Sharon Browning.



CENTRAL ADMINISTRATORS AND PRINCIPALS — (Left to right) Supt. Jason Fountain of Central Community Schools; David Prescott, principal of Central High; Susan Watts, principal at Central Middle School; Rhonda Taylor, principal of Central Intermediate School; Jeremy O'Banion, principal at Central Middle; Julie Stevens, principal of Tanglewood Elementary; Laura Gehling, principal of Bellingrath Hills Elementary, and Associate Supt. Sandy Davis.

Central High School Class of 2018

Mr. and Ms. Central High School



Julia Aaron



Jared Abbott



Madelyn Antle



Hunter Arnold



Amber Baggett



Alexis Bailey



Photo by Woody Jenkins

MR. AND MS. CENTRAL HIGH — Central High principal David Prescott presented awards to Jackson Seidel and Hannah Wall for being named Mr. and Ms. Central High.



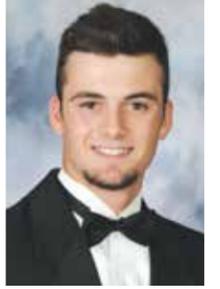
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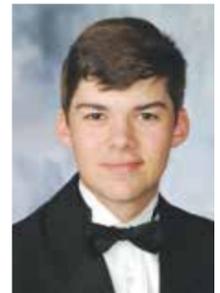
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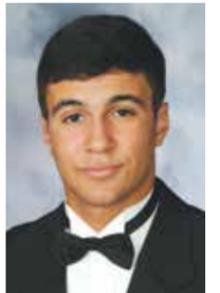
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Annie Grace Barth



Kaleb Batiste



Ethan Batrous



Skyler Battieste



Kennedi Beardon



Brittnee Bell



Jasmine Bell



Morgan Bellot



Emily Bennett



Dawson Blair



Behtany Blount



Bryson Borne



Kinley Borskey



Laura Bouquet

Congratulations, Class of 2018! from Central City News



Istrouma principal Little Fuzzy Brown with Woody Jenkins, Istrouma student body president, 1965



Central City News business manager Jolice Provost, editor Woody Jenkins, and ad manager Kim Powers at LPA

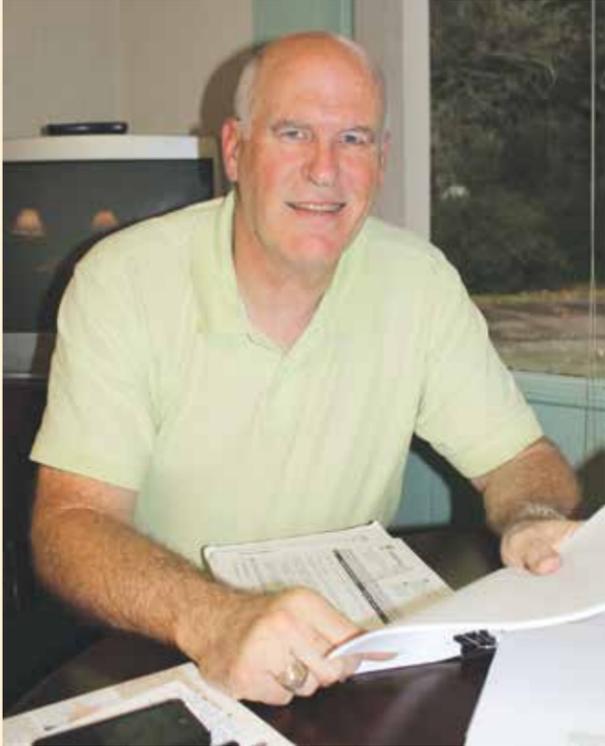


Jolice Provost
Glen Oaks Class of 1984

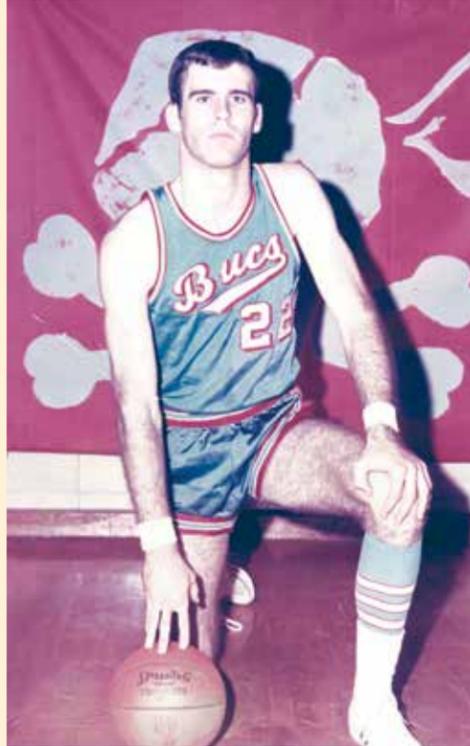


Kim Powers
Slidell High Class of 1991

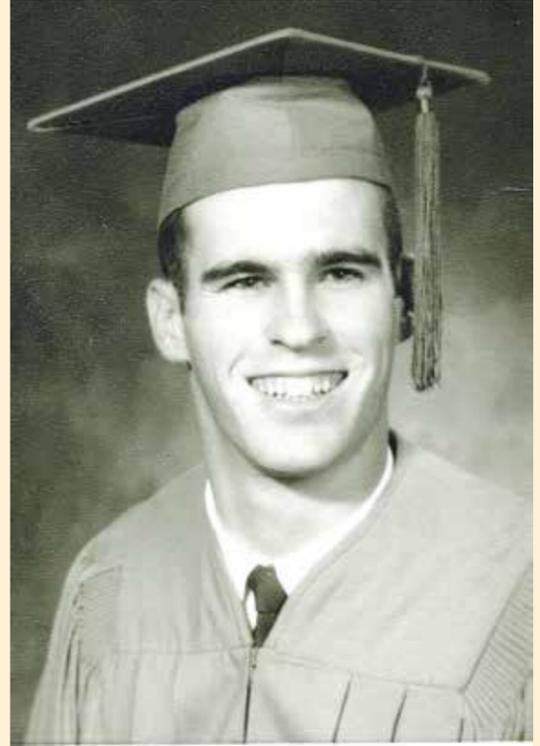
Central Mayor Jr. Shelton Says Congratulations, Graduates! Your First Step Toward a Bright Future



Jr. Shelton, Mayor of City of Central



All-State Star Jr. Shelton in 1968

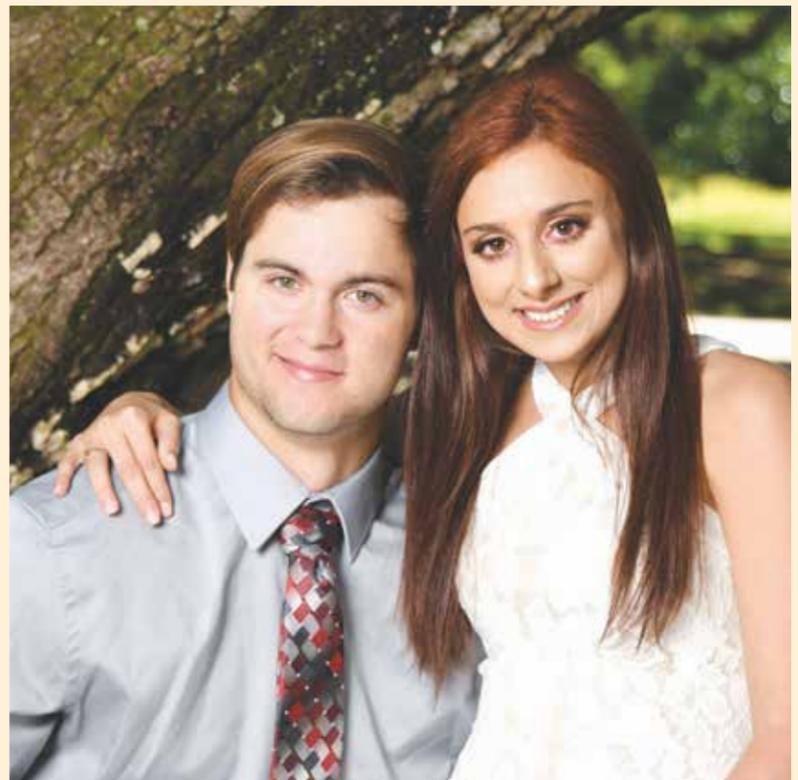


Broadmoor High Class of 1969

The City of Central is blessed to have two great high schools — Central High School and Central Private School — and we are so proud of this year’s graduates! The Class of 2018 is filled with great potential. We urge the graduates to follow your dreams. Whether you decide to go to college or enter the workforce or go into business for yourself, please remember that Central is your home. We hope that you will continue to invest your time, talent, and resources here and make our city the best place to live and work in America! Best wishes for success, God bless you, and please let me know how we can help!



**CHS Senior Best All Around
Carie Fralick and Jackson Seidel**



**Mr. and Miss Central Private
Cole Averette and Shelby Mouton**

Central High School Class of 2018



Haley Bourgeois



Heather Bourque



Schyan Brandstetter



Cole Brocato



El'asia Brown



Jasmine Brown



Emily Browning



Joshua Browning



Olivia Browning



Halley Bryant



Trace Bueche



Alex Busbin



Jamiah Byrd



BJ Calhoun



Jeffery Campbell



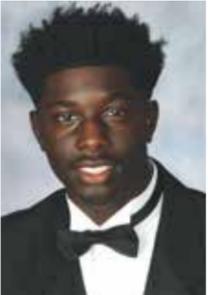
Caroline Cashio



Meredith Chenevert



Blake Clouatre



Rodrick Coffee



Anna Conques



Shain Cotten



Claire Courtney



Savanah Couvillion



Danae Cowart



Natalie Cox



Destiny Creppel



Kristen Crosthwait



Abby Crowe



Jacquieyn Dame



Emily Danehower



Bralyn Davis



Carter Davis



Gavin Debetaz



Devin Deselle



Hannah Deziel



Dell Dickerson



Tessa Dietrich



Alyssa Dixon



Andre Dixon



Naomi Douglas



Lucas Dove



Travis Dowden



Logan Downs



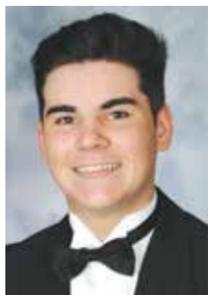
Brayten Drago



Jacob Drago



Jillian Duvic



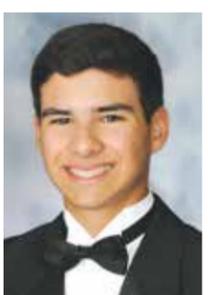
Thomas Eastwood



Kelsey Echols



Abby Ellis



Brady Ellis



Jadon Englerth



Martina Farris



Skylar Farris



Claire Fontenote



Austin Foster



Carie Fralick



Leah Freeman



Ryan Frioux



Lauryn Fry



Jessie Furr



Dean Gautreau



Megan Gavin



Kylie Golden



Hunter Gremillion

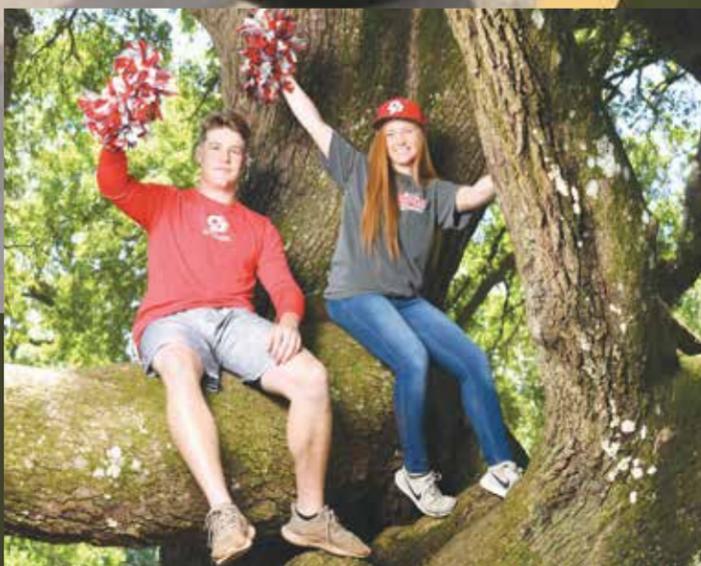


East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office

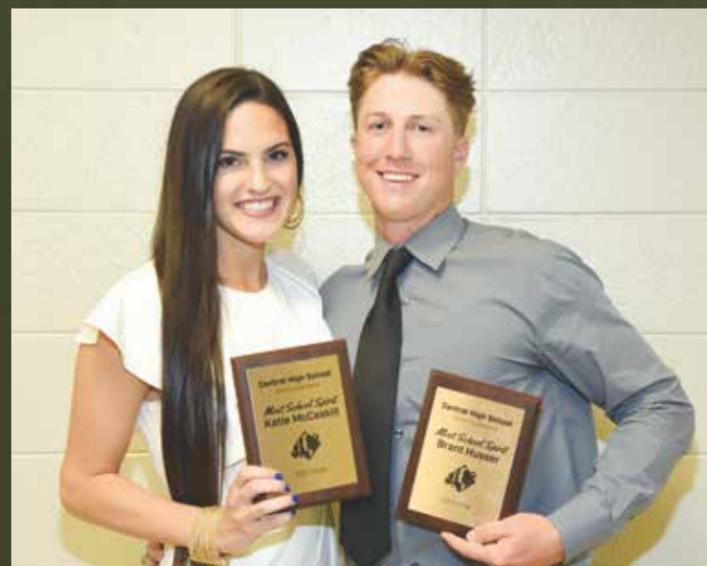


Sid Gautreaux, Baker High

Congratulations on graduating as a member of the Class of 2018! This is an important milestone in your life! In the years ahead, we at the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office look forward to serving you. If we can be of assistance, please contact us at the Central substation at 13016 Gurney Road, call the Substation at 389-5177, or in case of emergency, call 911. And if you are interested in a career in law enforcement, please contact us. Many thanks for your kind support of this office and your deputies!



Central Private's 2018 Most School Spirit
Trevor Tortorich and Danielle McNamara



Central High's Most School Spirit
Katie McCaskill and Brant Husser

Central High School Class of 2018



Austin Griscom



Quint Guerin



Cameron Guichet



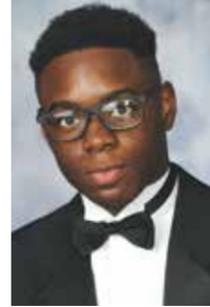
Ashley Guillory



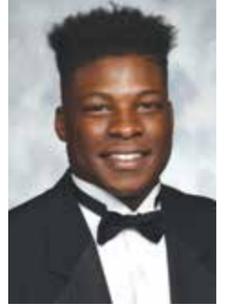
Gabriell Guillory



Trevor Hadden



Adam Hambrick



Travis Hampton



Skylar Hanna



Amber Hawkins



Kendall Hawkins



Brennen Hawkins



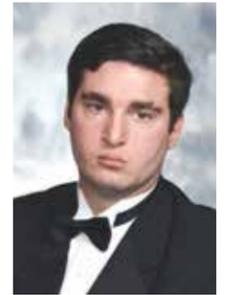
Hunter Hebert



Nicolas Henry



Rocio Hernandez



Christoher Hester



Christalyn Hill



Bryce Hoffman



Madison Hohensee



Ciara Holt



Sydni Houston



Melvin Hudson, Jr.



Brant Husser



Samara Jaffar



Bailey Jarreau



Zachary Jasso



Ashlyn Johnson



Baillie Johnson



Chante Johnson



Edward Johnson



Madelyn Johnson



Anna Jones



Haley Jones



Kameryn Jordan



Kolja Jorgenson



Brock Kaufmann



Alex Keller



Kayelyn Kendrick



Katie Kennedy



Kenah Kepper



Morgan King



Tate Kirby



Ashkey Klein



Cheramie Kravits



Kaylee Landry



Aunjell Lanford



Todd Lasseigne



Ethan Lauvray



Adrienne Lavergne



Luna Lawes



Kamryn Lawrence



Keenan Leachman



Danielle LeBlanc



Baileigh Lee



Kennedy Leger



Nathaniel Logan



Kelly Logan



Ashlyn Lord



Chapman Lowrance



Lakelyn Lumpkin



Jack Luxemburg



Kelsie Mahon



Mallory Marcotte



Mason Markins

Congratulations Graduates!



Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome

Congratulations to the Class of 2018! You have successfully completed an important milestone in your life!

Now you have important decisions to make — decisions that could affect the entire course of your life. These decisions are yours alone to make. So do your homework, think carefully, and make quality decisions that will stand the test of time.

Whatever you do in life, you will need to rely on a power higher than yourself. I read the Bible and pray daily. This guides me and comforts me during even the most difficult decisions.

Everyone needs a mentor. Perhaps that is your parent or grandparent, your pastor, or a teacher or coach. Perhaps it is your best friend or a close relative. The Bible says, “In a multitude of counsel, there is wisdom.” We all need that special person, a very wise person, to help keep us on the right track.

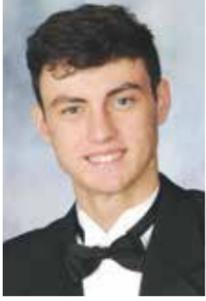
More than ever, we need strong mothers and strong fathers. I hope you will be there for your children. They are our future, but they need us everyday. The next generation, indeed the future of all mankind, is in the hands of parents who everyday decide what kind of role model they will be for their children.

No problem today concerns me more than drugs and crime. Few people realize that even one experience with certain harmful drugs can do permanent damage to your ability to think, work, and be productive. Please never ever take into your body any illegal substance or any substance if you do not know what it is.

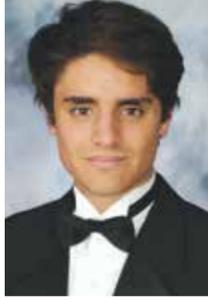
No generation has ever had so many advantages or faced so many risks! I pray that you have a wonderful life and that all your dreams come true!

Sharon Weston Broome
Mayor-President

Central High School Class of 2018



Trevor Mason



Seth May



Katie McCaskill



Kelsey McDuff



Cyndi Millican



Lynzlee Milliken



Lexie Moak



Bailey Montagnino



Jairus Moore



Austin Morris



Dalton Morris



Holden Morris



Katelyn Morris



Hannah Moses



Anna Newton



Justin Nijoka



Ana Nodine



Alex Normen



Jacob Norton



Sarah Norwood



Meagn Novo



Joshua Oliver



Tameia Oxley



Kaitlyn Page



Kayla Parker



Victoria Parker



Mikalya Pearl



Meghan Picard



Alexandra Pizzalato



Germey Porch



Kade Pruyn



Hannah Rains



Isabella Randazzo



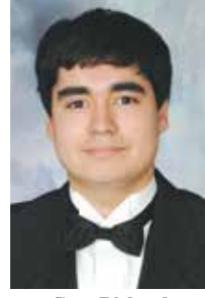
Jake Rayburn



Sarah Resnick



Chandler Richard



Cory Richards



Sid Rigdell



Justin Rivere



Landon Rivet



Claeb Robillard



Brandie Robins



Victoria Robinson



Emma Roehm



Charlie Rogers



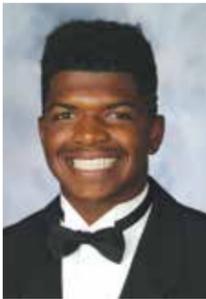
Anthony Roper



Lakeythia Ross



Journi Rowe



Trevis Rowley



Brock Russell



Shaylin Sadler



Shanice Sampson



Austin Savant



Madison Schexnayder



Catoire Miranda Scott



Jackson Seidel



Joseph Self



Justin Shaffer



Collin Sharon



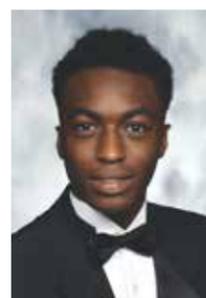
Olivia Shelton



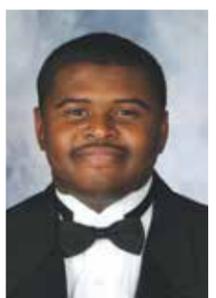
Skylar Shipley



Baleigh Shirah



Micah Singleton



Delvin Smith

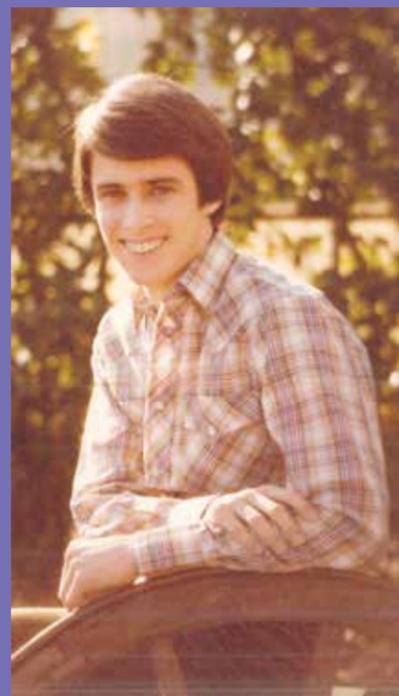
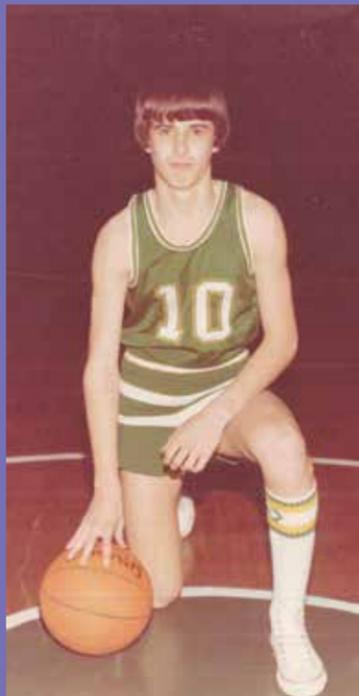
Congratulations to Class of 2018!



Commencement = A Beginning

To the graduates of 2018: As you walk across the stage and receive your diploma, you will commence a new chapter in your life. Our schools in Central have well prepared you for the next step. Once your formal education is complete, you will get a good job or start a business. Hopefully, you will become a property owner, and that will bring you into contact with the Assessor's office. Our job is to assess property fairly and equitably in accordance with law. We want you to know that when you become a property owner, our door is always open to assist you! Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve you!

— Assessor Brian Wilson



Brian Wilson (left) at Redemptorist High School; Brian and younger brother Scott in elementary school; and at right as a teenager.



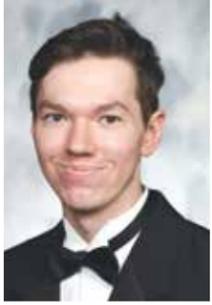
Central Private School • Most Athletic
Cole Averette and Samantha Hebert



Central High School • Most Athletic
Raven Alexander and Quint Guerin



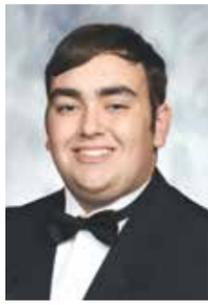
Central High School Class of 2018



Nick Smith



Tavion Snearl



Russell Sommers



Jamarcus Spears



Emma St. Romain



Morgan Starkey



Hannah Staudt



Sydney Stiles



Collin Strickland



Krystal Stubbs



Amaya Sylve



Kenneth Talbot



Briyanna Talton



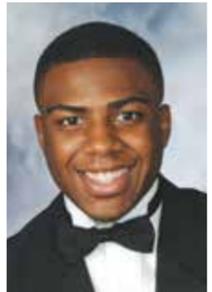
Lorren Tannehill



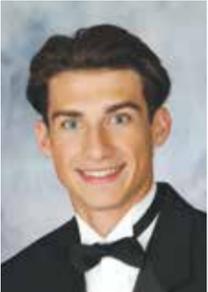
Regan Taylor



Landon Thames



Jakwante Thomas



Christian Thompson



Mason Tillman



Cassidie Tingle



Victoria Vail



Kiara Veals



Alandra Villa



Hannah Wall



Brooklyn Wascom



Brent Wheeler



Taylor-Ann Whistine



Mackenzie Whittington



Burnell Williams



Tyra Williams



Reagan Willis



Braysen Wilson



Taylor Wilson



Tyler Wilson



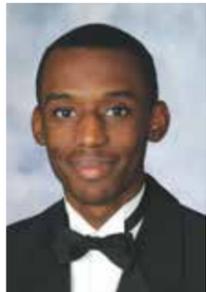
Jacob Woolie



Madelyn Wootan



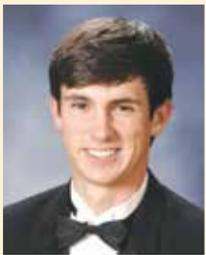
Gilnetter Wright



Deonte Young

Central High School Class of 2018
Graduation
May 22, 2018

Central Graduates from Private Schools



Wesley Jackson
Parkview Baptist



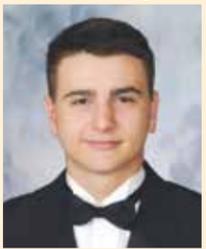
Tyler Mellion
Parkview Baptist



Casey Morgan Wilson
Episcopal High School



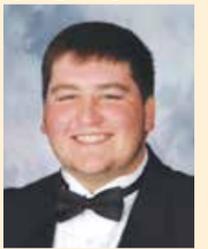
Leighton DeLaune
University Lab School



Adam Rispone
Carney Christian Academy



Gavin Young
Carney Christian Academy



Nathan Lachney
Carney Christian Academy



Hannah Carter
Carney Christian Academy

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You have tried the rest! Now USE the BEST!

How to Keep Up While You're Away

Central City News

on Facebook.com



2018



Congratulations Graduates YOU DID IT!

Congratulations to all Central area graduates of 2018! I am very proud of all of you! You have worked hard to get to this moment in your life. As an Istrouma High School graduate of 1976, I can still remember how exciting this time was for me as well as all of the friends I had made through the years. This is the time to think seriously about what you want your future to be. Your directions may change along the way and that is okay. Have fun and enjoy what life has to offer. Have a passion for what you do, and the rewards will be great!

— *James Salsbury*
Chief of Police, City of Central



Graduates, value your relationships with your friends and family. The memories made along the way are priceless. Always take time to remember your family! They have been by your side from the beginning and will continue to watch you grow!



A Badge of Honor Working Undercover Looking for Survivors

Why I Choose Law Enforcement

I chose law enforcement as my life-long career because of my passion to protect and serve my community and family. I have experienced this career at all levels from working the dangerous job of undercover narcotics to patrolling our streets to now serving as Chief of Police of the City of Central.

The funny thing is, when you get to your first high school reunion, you get to see just how much everyone has changed!

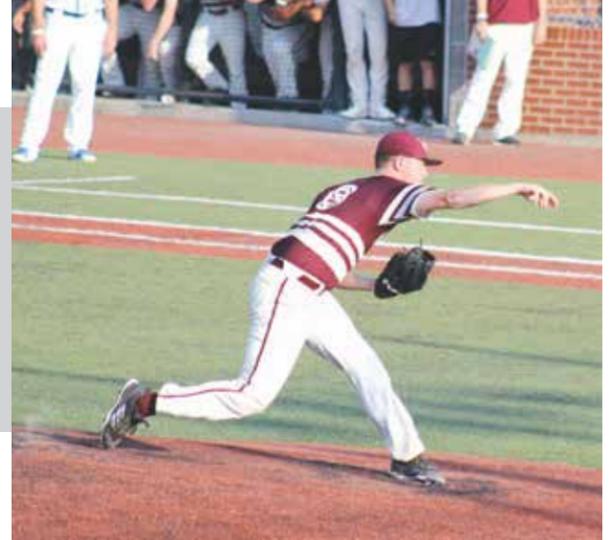
Chief Salsbury Congratulates Brooklyn Wascom



Congratulations!
Brooklyn Wascom
CHS Class of 2018
Daughter of Corporal Woody Wascom, CPD

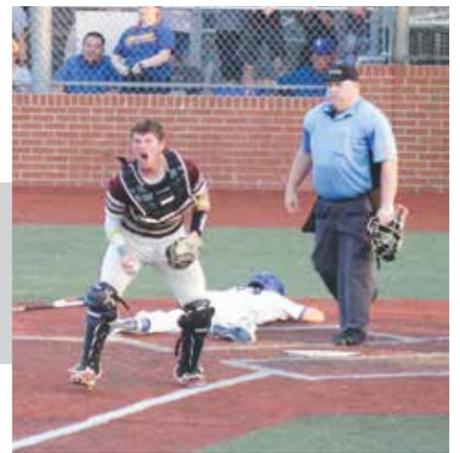
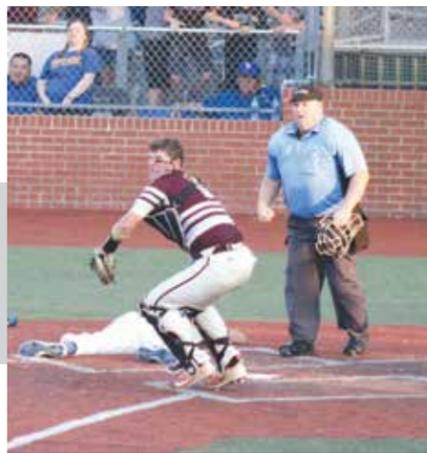
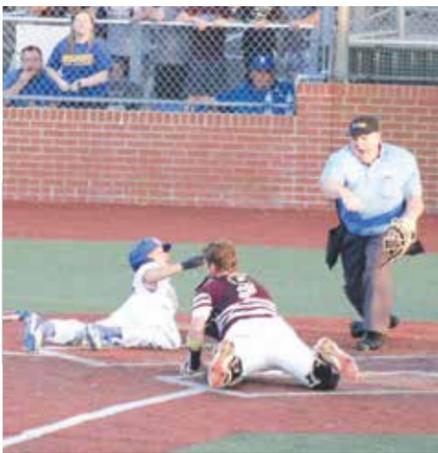
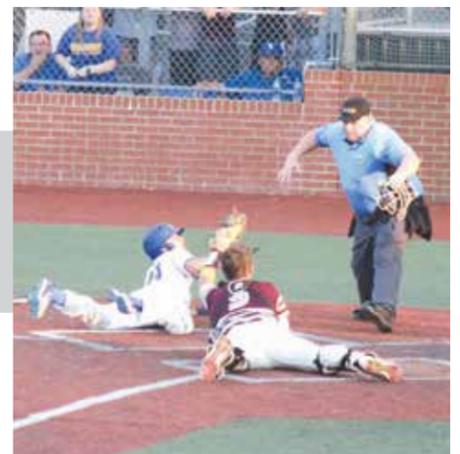
Central Beat Sulphur 4-0 to Repeat

— The Pitcher —



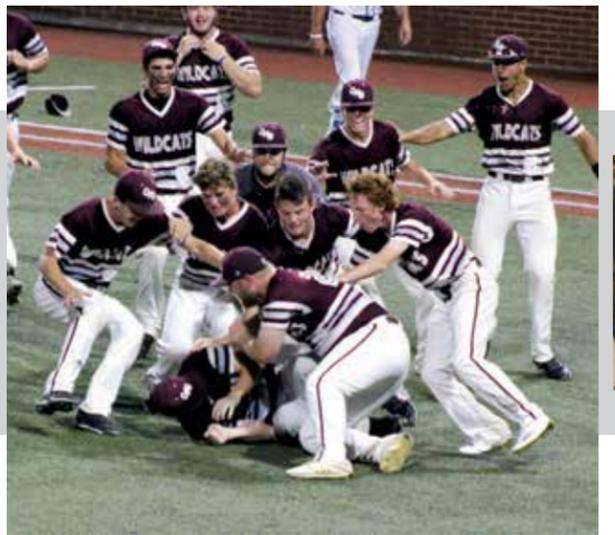
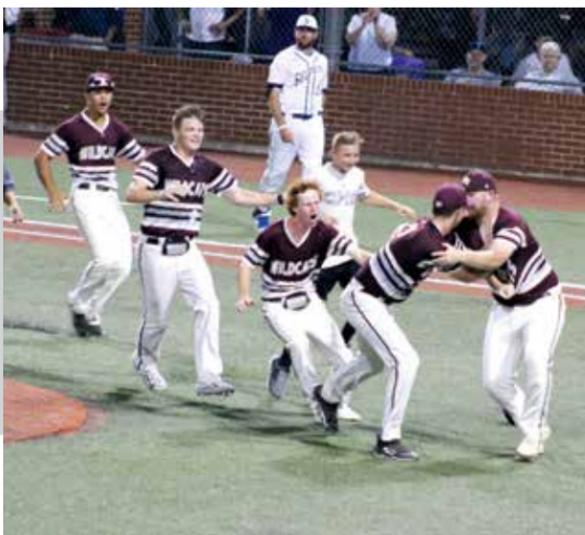
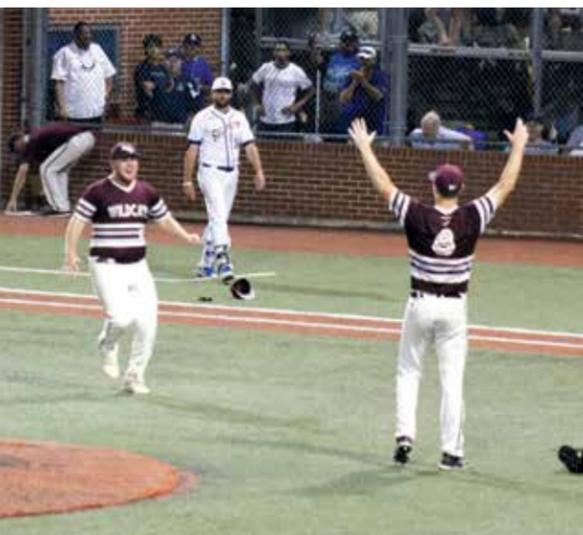
Central Pitcher Hunter Arnold Shut Out Sulphur 4-0 to Win Louisiana State 5A Baseball Championship

— The Play —



3rd Baseman Dalton Aspholm Threw to Catcher Drew Lasseigne to End Sulphur Threat in 4th Inning.

— The Celebration —



On way to Championship, Wildcats Had to Beat Hahnville

The
Photog

Joli
Prov
Centra
New

as Louisiana 5A Baseball Champion

— The Bats —



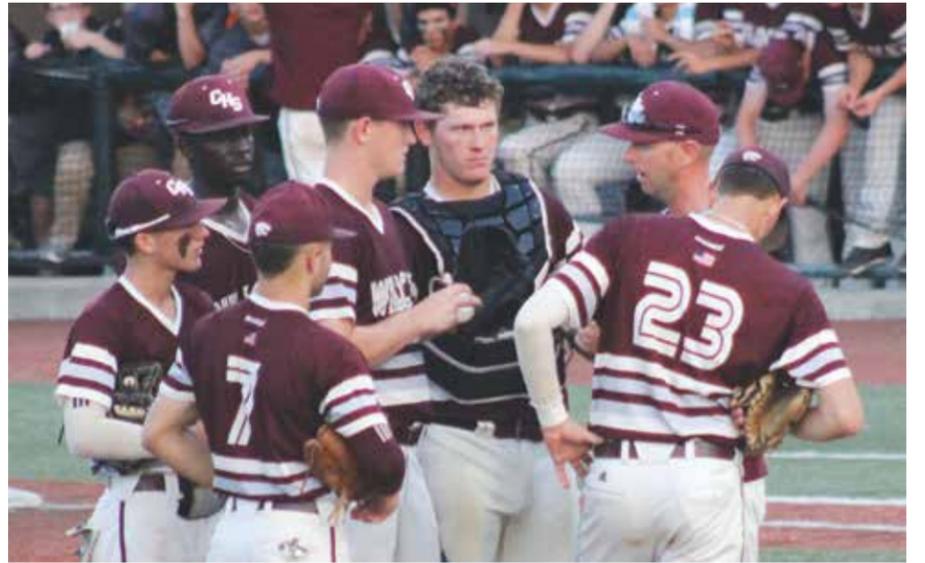
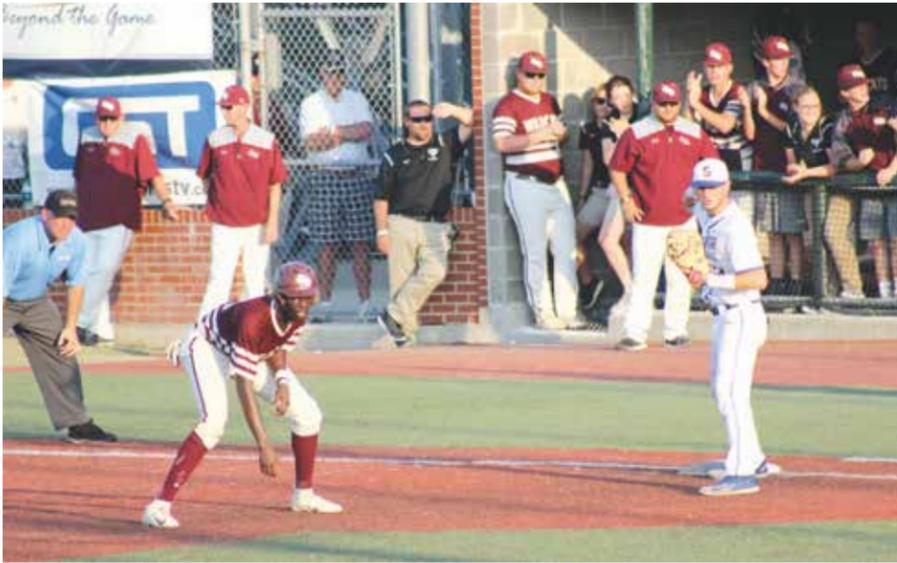
Hunter Hebert



Dalton Aspholm's grandparents from Calgary, Alberta, Canada



R. J. Coffee and Sam Kennerson



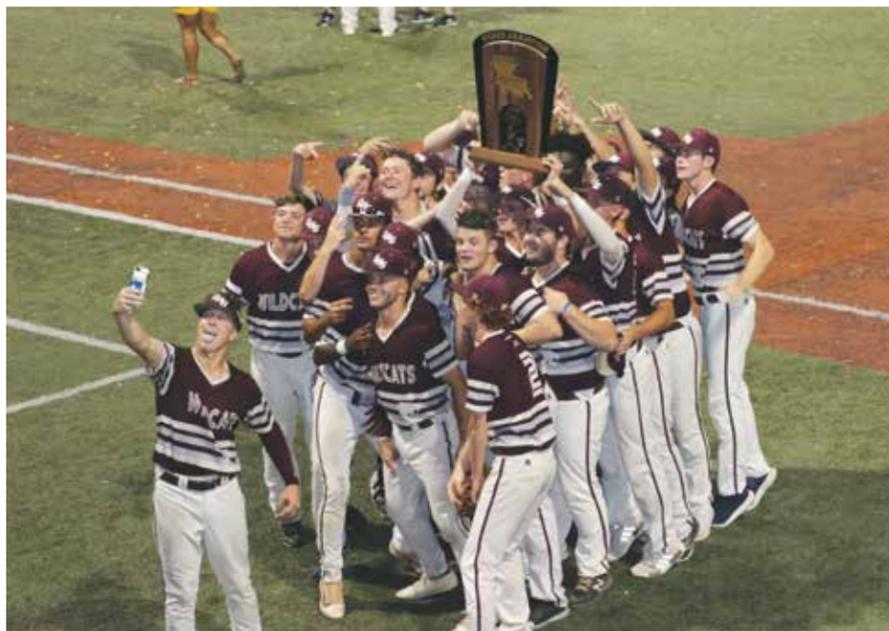
Big Bats from Hunter Hebert, Dalton Aspholm, R. J. Coffee, Sam Kennerson, and Brant Chauvin

The Coach



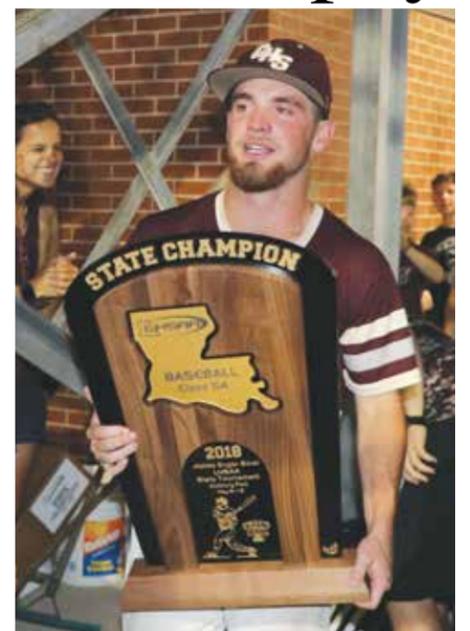
2-time State Champ Coach Mike Forbes

The Team

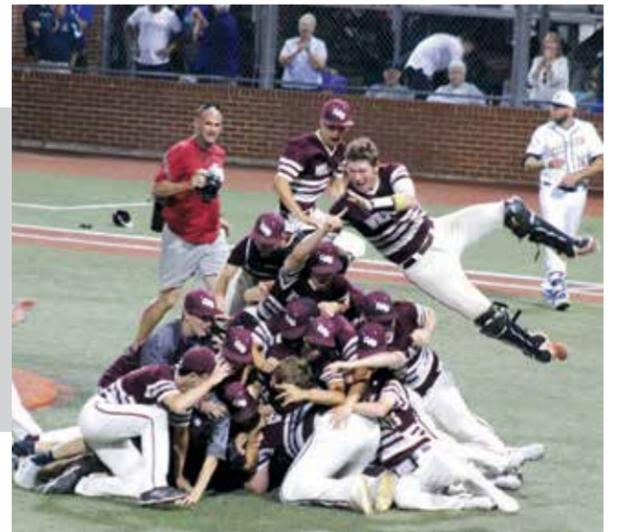
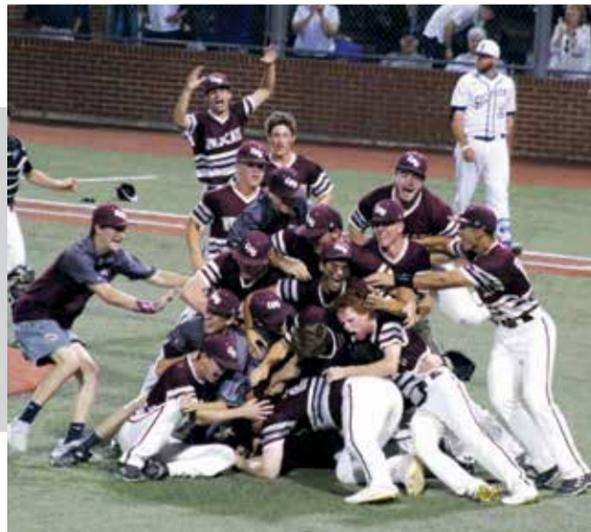
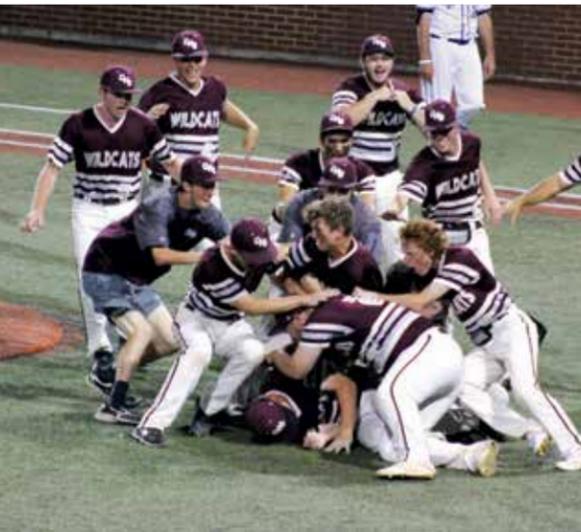


State 5A Baseball Champions Central Wildcats

The Trophy



Quint Guerin holds trophy



le, Parkway (twice), Zachary (twice), Barbe, and Sulphur

Central High School Awards Ceremony



Ahlaya Washington
English I Award



Diamond Dixon
English I Honors Award



Connor Cassels
Allen's All-Star Award



Cade Monte
Golden Brain Award



Jessie Smith
Most Valuable Player Award



Carley Devall
"You Can Do It!" Award



Luke Miles
English III AP Award



Jake Raborn
Editor Extraordinaire



Alex Clement
Spotlight Award



Dai'sai Augustus
Most Likely to Succeed



Jacob LeGrange
The Producer Award



Madeline Shaffer
Rising Star Award



Jacob Ensminger
Gifted Independent Research



Kyle Stewart
Gifted European History



Hannah Stuart
Class Combo Award



Ashley Hess
Clinical Excellence Award



Mary Pollard
Slaving in the Saliva Award



Shaun Breen
Sunshine Award



Vincent West
Survival of the Fittest Award



Bailey Jarreau
Environmental Science



Connor Delaune
Chemistry II DE Award



Marissa Huber
Chemistry Award



Mason Harris
Honors Biology I Award



Sarah Norwood
AP/DE Physics Award



Madelyn LeBlanc
Environmental Science



Haley Bourgeois
Wildcat Pride Award



Jasmine Brown
Most Diligent Worker



Bryce Hoffman
Most Improved Student



Ethan Raborn
BCA Arard



Sarah Grace Lieux
Algebra I Award



Anna Cattar
Geometry Honors Award



Anna Sanches
Geometry Award



Grace Robertson
Algebra II Honors Award



Brandie Robins
Algebra III Award



Tailor Tolar
Algebra II Award



Ethan Robinson
Computational Thinking



Jayden Broussard
Auto Correct Award



Luna Lawes
Calculus II Dual Enrollment



Raven Alexander
FAME Math Award



Natalie Cox
Athletic/Academic Excellence



Jack Seidel
Scholar Athlete Award



Raegan Willis
Scholar Athlete Award



Kodee Hurston
World Geography Award



Connor Delaune
U.S. History Award



Ashlyn Courts
Civics Student of the Year



Dalton Patterson
World History



Myrissa Eisworth
AP Govt. & Politics



Luke Miles
AP U.S. History Award



Tyler Tullier
AP Psychology Award



Vincent West
Spanish II Award



Nyah Fields • Most
Enthusiastic Spanish Student



Cameron Besse
Spanish II Award



Kyle Williams
Spanish III Award



Kelsey McDuff
Spanish IV Award



Luke Jones
Welding Tech Award



Nicholas Olinde
Welding II Award

Some Graduates Have Been in Central School System for 11 Years

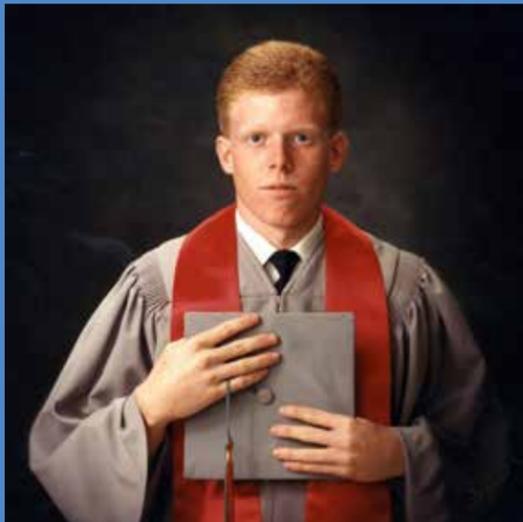
Congratulations Class of 2018



A few of Trade Construction Company's Central High School and Central Private alumni.

FREE ENTERPRISE is the economic engine that allows the American people to enjoy unprecedented prosperity and human liberty. As you consider your future, I hope you will consider getting into business for yourself! America is still the land of opportunity where hard work can make you successful. My family is living proof of that! Trade Construction was founded here in Central in our dad's backyard! Through hard work, perseverance, and the help of many great employees, friends, suppliers, and clients, Trade Construction has grown tremendously — now with more than 250 employees. We encourage all graduates to pursue your dreams! You CAN and WILL achieve success in this Land of the Free!

— Brennan Easley, President/CEO, Trade Construction



Brennan Easley, CPS Class of 1991



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and industrial construction. Quality
work that meets your expectations.**



Brennan Easley today



Central Private • Most Likely to Succeed
Caitlyn Junot and Joey Torres



Central High • Most Likely to Succeed
Jamarcus Spears and Grace Bartel

Recognized Academic Achievements



Abby Crowe
English IV Award



Kinley Borskey
English 101 Dual Enrollment



Emma St. Romain
English 102 Dual Enrollment



Hannah Wall
English IV AP Award



Taylor Whitstine
Jump Start to Your Future



Myrissa Eisworth
English II Honors Award



Jamiya Johnson
I Your Glass Award



Mallory Kendrick
Talented Art 1 Award



Grace Lagattuta
Talented Art 2 Award



Emily Shane
Talented Artist IV



Skyler Farris, Staff Sgt. Stewart, Abby Ellis
Four-year college scholarships for \$76,000 from U.S. Army



Ashlyn Rogers
First Responder Award



Grace Overhultz
Sports Medicine Award



Diamond Dixon
Honors Environment Science



Ethan Raborn
Biology I Award



Hannah Deziel
Biology II Award



Jade Savant
Physical Science Excellence



Justin Nijoka
Chemistry II AP Award



Luke Miles
AP/DE Biology Award



Madelynn Wootan
Physics Award



Carter Davis



Cassidy Young
Accounting I Award



Mason Markings
Accounting II Award



Mackenzie Whittington
STAR II Award



Gayle Fondren
Customer Service Award



Kaylee Pendergrass
Personal Finance Award



Grant Dunn
IBCA Award



Amber Hawkins
Most Improved Math Award



Abby Crowe
Advanced Math Award



Chamyria Muse
Advanced Math Dual Enr.



Jusitn Nijoka
AP Statistics Award



Nicholas Whittington
Math Essentials



Gabriela Ivey
Make a Difference Award



Diamond Dixon
Intro. to Engineering Award



Hunter Arnold, Quint Guerin, and Todd Lassegine
Charles T. Kinsley Memorial Award



Raven Alexander
Charles T. Kinsley Memorial Award



Tejah Scott
Charles T. Kinsley Memorial Award



Raegan Willis
Charles T. Kinsley Memorial Award



Abigail Williams
Bible History



Gayle Fondren
Teddy Roosevelt History Award



Danielle LeBlanc and Arielle Anders
Eugene Sledge Award



DJ Gautreau, Skylar Shipley, Xandria Scott-Catoire, and Joshua Meyer
French I, II, III, and IV awards



Victoria Pursifull
Spanish I Award



Cade Cassels
Welding I Award



Caleb Robillard
Advanced Drafting Award



Cameron Guichet
Advanced Woodworking



Victor Lopez, Kade Pruyn, Benjamin Mitchell
National WWII Museum Quiz Bowl Finalist



Todd Lassegine
Allen Award



Katja Jorgenson
Art III Award

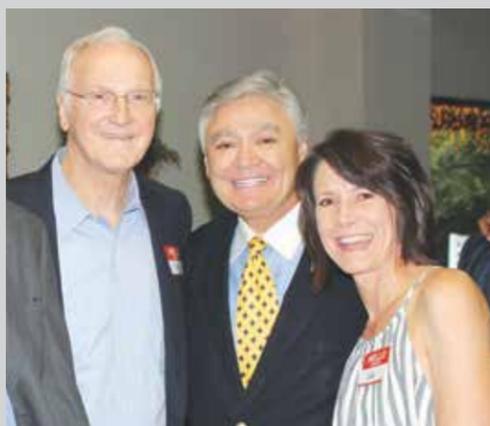
Best Wishes All of Central's Graduates of 2018



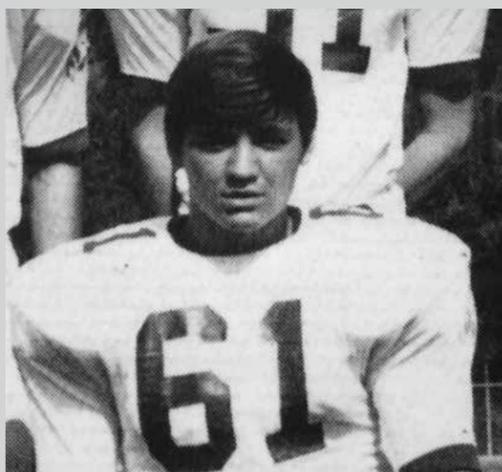
Clerk of Court Doug Welborn and family



Clerk of Court Doug Welborn



Congratulations to LSU great Jerry Stovall whose number is being retired!



**Central High
Class of 1972**

Graduation is almost here, and pride is in the air from the family and friends of this year's impressive list of graduates. Our graduates have worked long and hard toward this goal, and the future holds tremendous promise for all those who have reached this important moment.

I still remember the excitement that I felt upon joining my fellow graduates on the stage that night. After years of studies and sports (My track days seem so long ago!), we were a little nervous but very optimistic and excited about what the future held. Even today, I remember the guidance and wisdom of so many who led by example and shaped our lives.

Years later, I was filled with even more pride as I watched my daughters graduate from Central High. In the years since then, they have continued to make me just as proud as I was then. I know I join countless other parents here who realize how important a great school is to our community.

In 1991, I had the privilege of becoming the first parish-wide elected official from Central. In 2000, my induction into the Central High Hall of Fame was among the greatest honors of my life. I mention these achievements to illustrate what I want to assure you — that through hard work and determination, you can accomplish anything and assure for yourself a wonderful future!

My congratulations and best wishes are with all members of the Class of 2018 in the Central community and throughout our parish. You have reached an important moment in your life! I hope that you enjoy your summer and the terrific future that lies ahead!



East Baton Rouge Parish
Clerk of Court Doug Welborn

Central High School Awards Ceremony



Manning Lloyd
Photography Award



Xandria Scott-Catoire
Picasso Painting I Award



Raylee Browning
Picasso Painting II Award



Julia Aaron
Dynamic 3-D Design IV



Heath Soniat
Expressive Bell Ringer



Kaitlyn Mier
Art I Excellence Award



Brent Wheeler
JROTC Leadership Award



Dalton Patterson
JROTC III Leadership Award



Destiny Foy
JROTC II Leadership Award



Joseph Scarbrough
JROTC I Leadership Award



Anna Sanches
Food and Nutrition Award



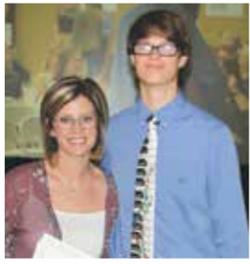
Blair Courville
PACAS II Award



Hailey Oubre
PE III Award



Dylan Scivicque
Piano I Award



Jason Blair
Piano III Award



Joliet Shuff
Piano II Award



Patricia Green
Women's Choir Award



Skylar Shipley
Concert Choir Award



Sarah Nicole
Dixon Rock Band Award



Dalton Patterson
Guitar Class Award



Madison Hohensee
District Art Exhibit

Watch Central City News Video of Central High Awards Ceremonies

Download QR Reader



Central Schools Honor Teachers, Staff



Central High School
Teacher of the Year
Karen Bush



Central Middle School
Teacher of the Year
Arnold Thomas



Central Intermediate
Teacher of the Year
Beverly Williams



Tanglewood Elementary
Teacher of the Year
Matthew Anderson



Bellingrath Elementary
Teacher of the Year
Matthew Anderson



Central Office
Employee of the Year
Marilyn Rogers



Central High Support
Employee of the Year
Amanda Navarre



Central Middle School
Support Employee of the Year
Vicky White



Central Intermediate
Support Employee of the Year
Kara Kepper



Tanglewood Elementary
Support Employee of the Year
Laina Watts



Bellingrath Elementary
Support Employee of the Year
Rosella Goyer

The Greatest Leaders Are the Greatest Servants

One Hundred Years Ago in Central 1918-2018

Central High School Class of 1918



AN ELEMENTARY CLASS AT CENTRAL SCHOOL — (1st row left to right) Jessie Eisworth, Alton Rounsaville, George Sides, Julius Gurney, Waldo Morgan, Claude Gilmore, Melvin Robinson, Stanley Carmenia, Mamie Shaffer, Margurette Edwards, Mildred Kerr, Hazel Swearingen, and Hadley Smith. (2nd row) Nattie Craig, Alberta Bennett, Susie Zachary, Ella May Young, Eva Mae Bogan, Marie Edwards, Alice Morgan, Sarah Ritterman, Aberta Edwards, Louise McAdams, Emma Morgan, Effie Browning and Ella Lee Daniels.



CENTRAL HIGH CLASS OF 1918 — (1st row left to right) Julia Allen, Margurette Bliss, Sidney Watts, Rophenia Allen, Zelpha McAdams, unidentified, and Winnie Smith. (2nd row) Sula Rounsaville, Mildred Robinson, unidentified, Lynda Lewiss, Emma Finnley, and William Bliss. (3rd row) Annie Pickett, Alma Craig, Lovie Puckett, and Hattie Hooper. (4th row) Gladys Lloyd, Alice Burnham, Ida Morgan, and Ruth Richerson.



**Central Community Schools
Principal of the Year
Julie Stevens**



Rep. Valarie Hodges



Flood Recovery

My heart and prayers go out to all of my constituents whose lives who are still being impacted by the Flood of 2016!

As chairman of the Comite River Diversion Canal Task Force, I have worked diligently to end delays in the diversion project. We have \$72 million in the Capital Outlay Bill to help complete the project. Another step forward is a bill I passed forming a Statewide Flood Plain Management Commission. HB 614 requires the commission to formulate a coordinated state-wide watershed evaluation. Together we will make our homes safer for the future!

Please contact me if you have any concerns about issues in our district and our state.

Your views are important to me as we work together to build a stronger, more secure Louisiana and create a bright future for our children!

Congratulations 2018 Graduates!

Dear Members of the Class of 2018,

As you graduate and move on to the next chapter of your life, stay positive and know that success does not come easily!

It requires hard work and perseverance!

Success achieved after hard work is very rewarding.

As you receive your high school diploma, you have every right to feel proud of this accomplishment.

Entering the next chapter of your life may feel a bit overwhelming. So set new goals and stay focused.

Chase down your dreams and reach for success in your chosen path!

You are on your way! May God richly bless you!

Valarie Hodges



“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” — Jeremiah

Classifieds

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

BUDGET ACCOUNTANT NEEDED (Baton Rouge): Prepare budget and apply prin. of accounting. Bachelors in Acct, Econ., Mngmt, Finance or Busin. Admin. + 2 yrs exp. as Budget Accountant. Pelican Educational Foundation, 7600 Boone Ave Baton Rouge, LA 70808, Attn: HR, Refer to Ad#BO

Central Private School Class of 2018



CENTRAL PRIVATE 2018 SENIOR CLASS

Song: "I'll Always Remember You" • Flower: Red Peony

Hannah Montana Motto: "Our lives are before us, our pasts are behind us, but our memories are forever with us."



CENTRAL PRIVATE 2018 SENIOR CLASS OFFICERS
Reporter Danielle McNamara, Vice President Caitlyn Junot, President Cole Averette, Secretary DeLayne Spedale and Treasurer Madison LeBlanc



MOST OUTGOING
Hunter Badeaux and Madison Michaelson



FRIENDLIEST
Jean Paul Hayes and Gabby Kraemer



WITTIEST
Megan Jordan and Nick Weaver

Central Private School
12801 Centerra Court • Central, LA
(225) 261-3341



Delicious po boys are...

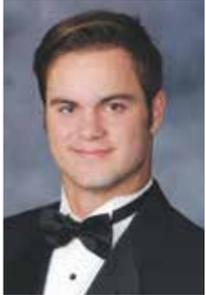
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Recipes at MadeWithManda.com

Central Private School Class of 2018



Zachary Alexander



Cole Averette



Richard Baca



Hunter Badeaux



Evan Bernard



Daniel Boyette



Madeleine Carroll



Hunter Goutreaux



Morgan Gremillion



Jean Paul Hayes



Samantha Hebert



Elise Hewitt



Megan Jordan



Caitlyn Junot



Angel Kendick



Gabrielle Kraemer



Madison LeBlanc



Molly McClain



Danielle McNamara



Madison Michaelson



Shelby Mouton



Kory Nijoka



Hallie Reid



Royce Richard



Max Rogers



Devin Simon



Dylan Soulier



DeLaynee Spedale



Ryan Torres



Trevor Tortorich



Nicholas Weaver

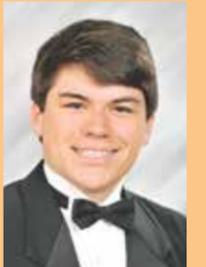


Joseph Wooten

2018 Catholic High School Graduates from the City of Central



Benjamin D'Armond
Catholic High



Brandt Boudreaux
Catholic High



Brian Dinh
Catholic High



Charles Major
Catholic High



Connor Rawls
Catholic High



Dylan Ramsey
Catholic High



Ian Thompson
Catholic High



Jacob Rhodes
Catholic High



Joseph Heine
Catholic High

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Kade Fouts
Catholic High



Nicholas Major
Catholic High



Quin Bankston
Catholic High



Sheldon Dyer, Jr.
Catholic High



Stephen Vince
Catholic High



Vernon Langley, III
Catholic High

CHEF Home School Class of 2018



Abigail Sands



Adam Haley



Ainsley Frey



Alexia Autrey



Akua Lewis



Alyssa Franklin



Anna Rainey



Austin Arnold



Autumn Canova



Brylie Aucoin



Cade McLean



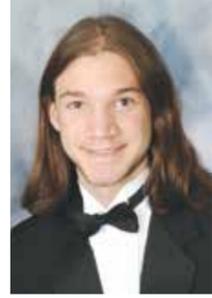
Caleb Jackson



Caleb Pajares



Chelsie Haynes



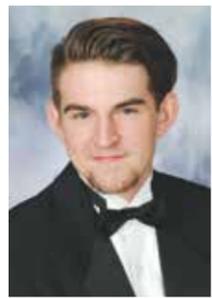
Colton Bailey



Cullen Ducote



Dalton Crain



Duncan Quantrille



Elijah Trabeau



Emilie East



Emily Booty



Emily Haynes



Erin Haynes



Erynn Christopherson



Ethan Bourque



Grayson Barraco



Gunner Jackson



James Crousillac



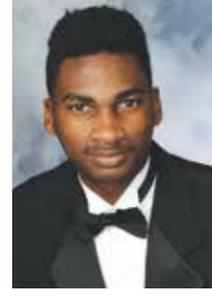
Jamie Pruitt



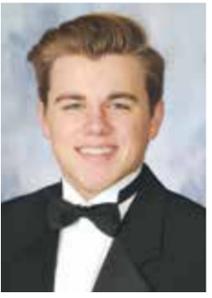
Jasmyn Jackson



Jordan Arnold



Joshua Barrow



Joshua Punkay



Kaitlyn Smith



Katherine Perez



Morgan Kennedy



Macy Williamson



Miriam Law



Nekita Pitts



Nicholas Lajaunie



Noah Foster



Paige Choppin



Phillip Mosher



Preston Chartier



Savannah Seal



Seth Richard



Silas Webb



Sophie Weeks



David P. Fargason, M.D.
Robert Geier, O.D.

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St. Joseph's Academy Central Graduates



Emma Allemond



Madison Carmena



Reygan Coxé



Skylar Culmone



Maylya Doucet



Kamryn Fouts



Kailynn Guidry



Katie Jones



Caroline Anne LeBlanc



Claire McNeely



Hannah Miletello



Hannah Moran



Sarah Summerville

St. Joseph Academy's Class of 2018

CHEF Continued



Thomas Roberts



Victoria Curter



William McGibney



Zachary Langlois



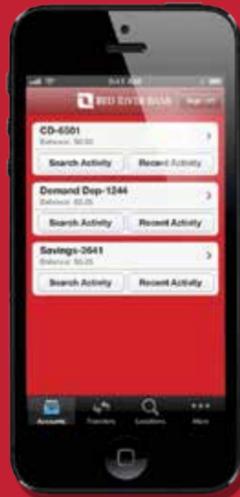
Zachary Lejeune



Nyah Fields of Central High Most Enthusiastic Spanish Student

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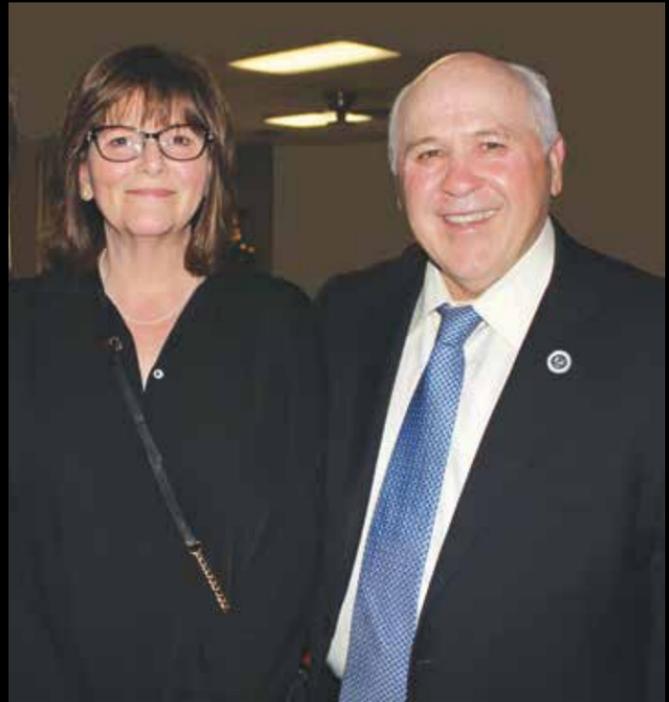


Central High Class of 2018

Just 12 Years Ago

When you were in kindergarten, something quite dramatic happened — the creation of the Central Community School System! It was May 2006 when the Legislature approved a Constitutional Amendment making it possible!

I was proud to author that bill along with my colleagues. It ultimately gave us the No. 2 school system in Louisiana! Now your dedication and hard work are making it all seem worthwhile!



Sen. Bodi White (R-Central) and wife Robin



Congratulations to Class of 2018!



2018 Central High Friendliest Seniors
Natalie Cox and Brayten Drago



2018 Central Private Friendliest Seniors
Jean Paul Hayes and Gabby Kraemer