

50 Things You Should Know About Central Especially if You Live Here!

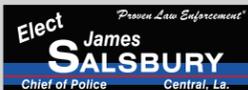
Central Was Incorporated July 11, 2005

City of Central Turns 13

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TOP SCHOLARS — Central High School valedictorian Justin Nijoka and salutatorian Raegan Willis were at Central High graduation ceremonies last month at SLU.

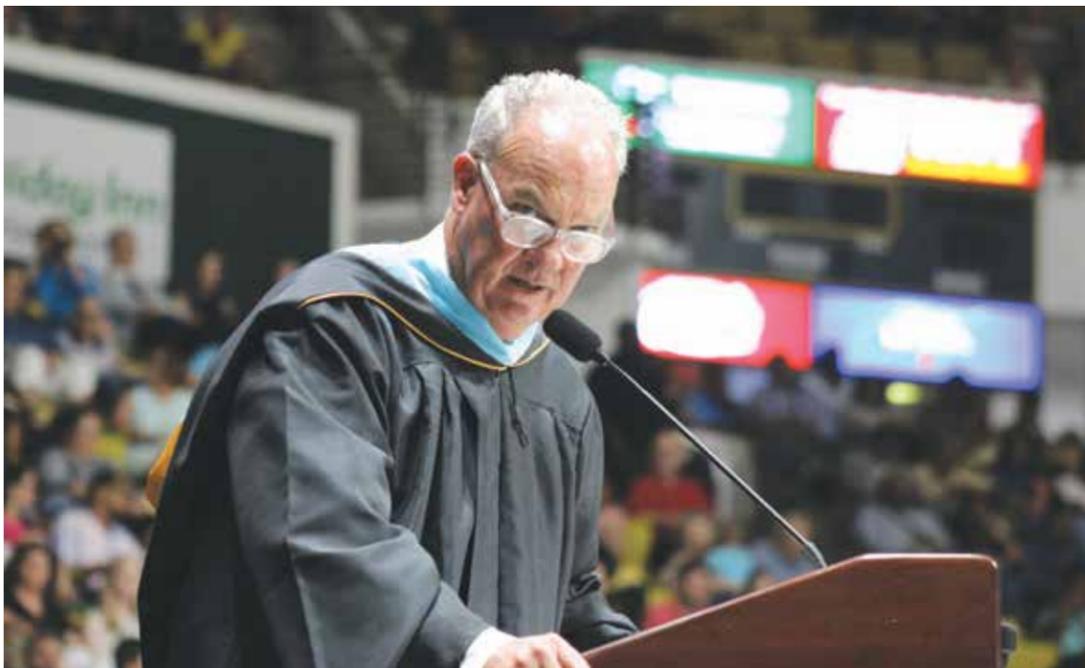
4th of July Celebration Will Honor Birth of USA, Central City

CENTRAL - Thousands of Central residents are expected to attend the 13th Annual City of Central Birthday Celebration beginning at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 4 at Wildcat Stadium...

Central Mayor Jr. Shelton, who is heading up the celebration, has urged everyone to bring folding chairs and blankets for the music beginning at 7 and the fireworks beginning at 9 p.m.

Beloved Coach, Principal Has 38 Years in Public Schools

David Prescott Retires as Central HS Principal



PRINCIPAL DAVID PRESCOTT — Central High School David Prescott addressed more than 4,000 teachers, students, and family members who attended graduation at SLU.

CENTRAL - On June 30, Central High School principal David Prescott will retire after 38 years in public education including 15 years at Central High, the last five as principal.

Coach Prescott was eligible to retire eight years ago but loved the kids at Central High too much to quit!

His career has included teaching, coaching, or being an administrator at Woodlawn High, Tara High, Live Oak High, and Central High.

Prescott attributes much of his professional success to his coaches, administrators, and teaching colleagues.

Chief among his mentors is B.L. Fairchild, his football coach at Tara High School. When he was 20, Prescott married Coach Fairchild's daughter Vickie!

B. L. Fairchild was famous in the Baton Rouge area as quarterback of Istrouma High's greatest backfield with Billy Cannon in 1955.

Both my parents died on Dec. 20, 1985, and B.L. and the Fairchild family really made me part of their family. He's a great role model. He's the man, that's for sure!" Prescott said.

Growing up in Westminister subdivision in Baton Rouge, Prescott was friends and classmates with Bill Cassidy, Col. Mark Vaughn, Frank Spruill, and Carl DeJohn.

As a student athlete at Tara High, David Prescott was All-District in basketball. See PRESCOTT on Page 25

City of Central's 4th Annual



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13th Anniversary of Founding of City of Central

50 Things You Should Know About Central, Especially if You Live Here!

Woody Jenkins
Editor

CENTRAL - Do you live, go to school, or work in Central? Do you have family here? Are you thinking of starting a business in Central? Or do you just want to understand more about the City of Central and its 28,000 people?

Then here are 50 things you should know:

-1-

When did Europeans first explore what is now the City of Central?



Woody Jenkins

No one knows for sure. However, the Comite River first began appearing on maps in Europe around 1720, meaning that someone had to explore and map the region before that.

-2-

What flags have flown over Central?

Six flags have flown over what is now the City of Central. We were part of the French colony of Louisiana before 1765 (although the area was very sparsely populated); British West Florida from 1765 to



WEST FLORIDA — A British colony 1765-1779 and a Spanish colony 1779-1810

1779; Spanish West Florida from 1779 to 1810; the Republic of West Florida in 1810; the United States from 1810 to 1861; the Confederate States during parts of the Civil War, and again the United States after the Civil War.

-3-

What was West Florida?

Your American history books taught you that at the time of the American Revolution there were 13 British colonies in America. But they were wrong! There were 15, including British East Florida and British West Florida. West Florida



Copyright by David Norwood

FIRST BATTLE OF BATON ROUGE — Spanish soldiers overthrew British Fort Richmond in 1779, ending British control of West Florida. It became a Spanish colony. began at the Apalachicola River in today's Florida and included

the panhandle of Florida, the Gulf coast of Alabama and Mississippi, and the southeastern part of Louisiana north of Lake Pontchartrain, including the area we now call the City of Central. Even today, Southeast Louisiana is called the Florida parishes.

British West Florida had English common law and an elected Assembly — the first democratically elected body in Louisiana. The Assembly sat at varying times in Pensacola, Mobile, Biloxi, and Baton Rouge. In 1776, British East Florida and British West Florida were so far removed from the war that information about the Revolution and communication with the other colonies was extremely slow or nonexistent. However, in 1779, the Spanish in New Orleans joined with some of the Americans living in Baton Rouge to storm British Fort Richmond. It was occupied mainly by German mercenary soldiers who ultimately surrendered.

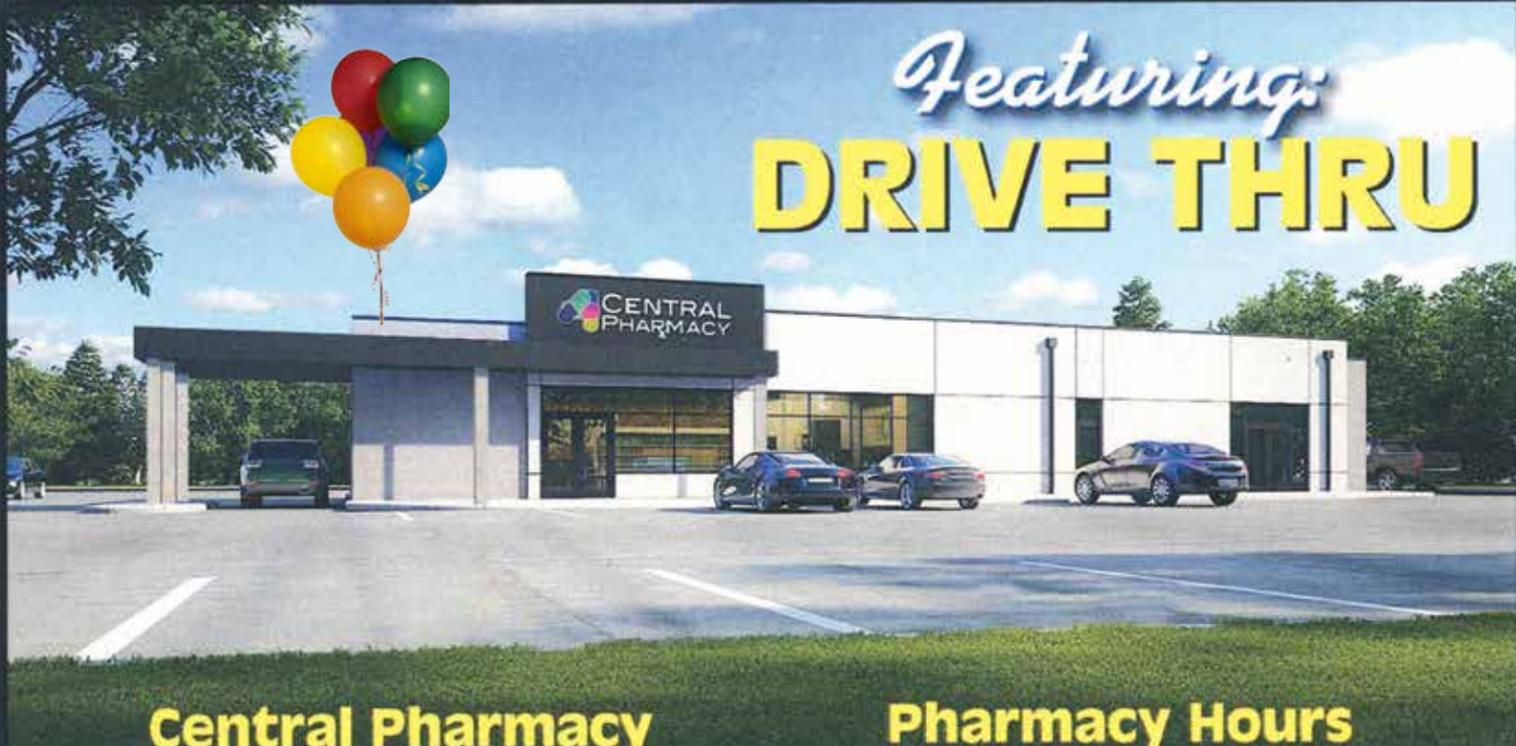
After the Spanish victory, West Florida became a Spanish colony, separate and distinct from Spanish Louisiana. In 1803, Spanish Louisiana was sold from Spain to France to the United States. However, West Florida remained a Spanish colony until the West Florida revolution in 1810, when the people living here rose up and

See 50 THINGS on Page 5



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50 Things: British, Spanish Colony

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REPUBLIC OF WEST FLORIDA — Artist David Norwood depicted the capture of Fort San Carlos in Baton Rouge in 1810. At right, the Capitol of the Republic in St. Francisville.

Continued from Page 3

overthrew the Spanish garrison at Fort San Carlos. They established an independent country, the Republic of West Florida. Today, many land titles in Central originate from land grants from the crown during the existence of British West Florida or Spanish West Florida.

—4—

What is Central's connection to Mexico?

In the late 1700's, Mexico, California, Texas, Louisiana, and West Florida — which included present-day Central — were all Spanish colonies. El Camino Real, or the Royal Road, was a series of roads maintained by the Spanish government that began in Mexico City and fanned out to all the colonies.

Dr. Jesse L. Fairchild, Jr., author of *A Historical Sketch of Greenwell Springs, 1850-1950*, maintained that a branch of El Camino Real came to West Baton Rouge, continued on the east side of the river through Baton Rouge and then out Greenwell Springs Road. It ended, he said, on the banks of the Comite River where there was a trading post. El Camino Real would have effectively ended in Louisiana in 1803 at the time of the Louisiana Purchase but the portion here probably was used by the Spanish governor of West Florida until the West Florida revolution of 1810.

—5—

What is the oldest structure in Central?

The oldest structure and the oldest

home we have been able to find in Central is a log cabin built around 1803. It has been partially preserved and integrated into the home of Dr. Nunnally on Greenwell Springs Road south of Hooper.

—6—

Why is Central's water aquifer so good?

Central is part of the Southern Hills aquifer that includes all of Southeast Louisiana. It is the same as the water in Kentwood and Abita Springs. The water in the aquifer is "almost exclusively a soft, sodium bicarbonate type with an average dissolved-solids concentration of about 220 milligrams per liter." One report showed more than 1,000 water wells in Central. The water quality of the aquifer should not be confused with problems the water company has with its delivery system.

—7—

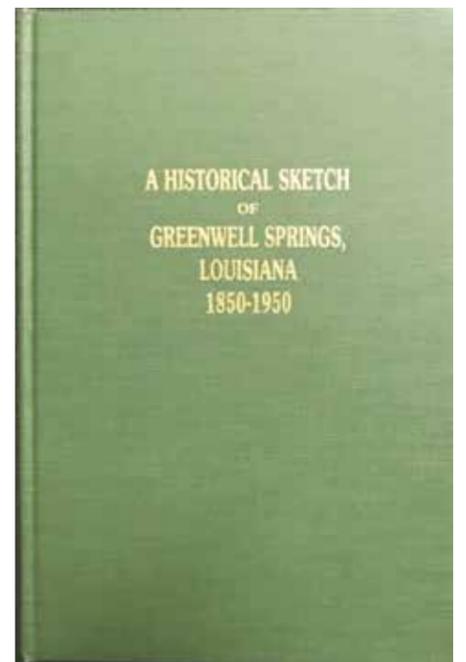
Why do some people say that, historically, Central was a point, not a community?

For decades, "Central" referred only to the corner of Hooper and Sullivan roads where the school was located — not to the larger area.

—8—

How did Greenwell Springs get its name?

In 1853, Robert Greenwell purchased the land where the springs are located. He owned the land for only a year or so before selling it to a developer who opened the springs to the public and built the Greenwell Springs Hotel. However, in the short time he owned the springs, it became known as Mr. Greenwell's Springs. The name stuck and remains to this day as Greenwell Springs. Robert Green-



A HISTORICAL SKETCH of Greenwell Springs, Louisiana, 1850-1950 by Dr. Jesse L. Fairchild, Jr. is the definitive work on local history. Long out of print, it can be read at local libraries.

well is buried in a small cemetery on Denham Road just before Denham meets Greenwell Springs Road.

—9—

Why hasn't Central's potential for tourism as a Civil War site been developed?

Central was the scene of some important events during the Civil War. There were several skirmishes in present day Central. However, the most interesting part of our history occurred at the site of the village of Greenwell Springs, where there was a resort and hotel centered around the natural springs there. In late July and early August 1862, Brig. Gen. John Breckin-

See 50 THINGS on Page 7

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BATTLE OF BATON ROUGE— Central played a key role in the battle because the Greenwell Springs Hotel was a staging ground and later a hospital treating the wounded.

Congratulations to the People of the City of Central on Your 13th Anniversary as a City!

Remembering...

CABA

Central Area Business Association

Long before there was a City of Central (July 11, 2005), there was a great business community in Central! Starting in the 1980's, they organized CABA, or the Central Area Business Association, which worked hard to make Central a great place to live and work. Many members of CABA were the same people who helped found the City of Central and the Central Community School System. When I first opened for business on Wax Road nearly 25 years ago, I joined CABA and so enjoyed the relationships! The members elected me as Treasurer of CABA, a position I held for many years. Now all of us 'old timers' can look back with pride on all that has been accomplished in this beautiful place called Central!



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50 Things: Greenwell Springs Resort

Continued from Page 5

ridge, former Vice President of the United States, planned a surprise attack on Baton Rouge, which had fallen to the Union earlier in the year. The plan was to time the attack to the arrival of the powerful Confederate ironclad, the *Arkansas*. More than 2,600 poorly armed soldiers marched rapidly from Amite down the Greenwell Springs Road, stopping to rest briefly at the Comite River on Monday afternoon, Aug. 4, 1862. The battle occurred early the next morning. The Southern soldiers drove the Union troops to the river but had to retreat because of shelling from Union warships. The *Arkansas* had engine problems and had to be scuttled and could not neutralize the Union vessels. After the battle, Breckinridge's men camped at the Greenwell Springs resort. The hotel was used as a hospital for both Confederate and Union soldiers. The Union men who died there were buried on the property near a grove of beech trees but the exact location has been lost to history. The hotel burned mysteriously before the end of the war and the last building was torn down in August 1865. It was the end for a time of an interesting and beautiful little community carefully laid out according to plan.



Brig. Gen. John Breckinridge

In modern times, little has been done to preserve the site of the Greenwell Springs Hotel and resort. It was used for decades by the State of Louisiana as a mental institution. BREC developed plans to create an historic site and recreational area there but never did anything. The property has recently been transferred to the Central Community School Board. The village of Greenwell Springs could be restored and made into quite a tourist attraction.

—10—

How did people come from Baton Rouge and New Orleans to the resort at Greenwell Springs? Stage coaches! During the height



THE SPRING HOUSE at the Greenwell Springs Hotel in the 1850's may have looked somewhat like these dance pavilions of the early 1900's. The Spring House was built above the springs themselves. Gay parties were held into the night at the Spring House.



of the Greenwell Springs resort era in the 1850's, there were many regular stage coach runs from Baton Rouge to carry people to and from the resort. In 1854, Hutchinson's Livery Stable was running omnibuses and stages at a cost of \$1 one-way or \$1.50 round trip. In 1855, three other companies began providing daily service, carrying passengers and supplies. In 1856, John Pleasant had wagons hauling freight and furniture to the resort.

—11—

What was the appeal of the

springs?

There were 10 or 12 separate springs, each flowing to the surface from a different depth beneath the ground. The water from one spring was good for drinking, another for bathing, another for hot baths, still another for dipping pets, and so on. A concrete structure the size of a very large swimming pool was built over the springs, so that the water from each spring flowed into a vertical tub where a person could be immersed. The water quality was analyzed, and chemists declared that it had the best mineral

content of virtually any spring in the United States. Bottled water was shipped to New Orleans. Tourists came from across the country.

—12—

What was the grandest night in the history of Central?

Perhaps the evening of June 1, 1854, which celebrated the opening of the Greenwell Springs Hotel, the Spring House, and cottages. Nearly 400 people, many from Baton Rouge, attended. They "barbecued among the pine trees and danced at the Spring House to the

See 50 THINGS on Page 9

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Mayor Jr. Shelton
City of Central

Report from Indian Mound

They Found Bones!

By Woody Jenkins, Acting Bureau Chief, Indian Mound

INDIAN MOUND — There's not usually much activity at our news bureau in Indian Mound, except when the Boy Scouts are doing something at Bethel United Methodist or when Jimmy Santangelo is making deer sausage at Indian Mound Grocery. So you can imagine my surprise when one of our leading citizens called me last week. I was napping.

In a very low voice, he said, "You can't quote me on any of this. I just want to stay out of it!"

"Out of what?" I asked.

Then he shouted into the phone, "Bones! They found bones!"

"Who found bones?" I asked.

"It was Cheyenne Fleniken. He was riding his dozer, clearing land next to the Greenwell Springs Hospital. He found thousands of bones! They don't know if they are Indian bones or maybe Confederate bones or some kind of mass grave. I'm just letting you know. Don't mention me!"

"Okay," I said.

I forgot about the call. I'm not about to go poking around in some mass grave. I put my boots back on my desk and went back to sleep. But an hour later, the phone rang again.

"They've brought in the Face Team from LSU," the voice said.

"Who's the Face Team?" I asked.

"You know, it's like the team they have on TV that can take a skull and create a computer-generated face. They're sure there's foul play here. This is going to be the biggest story ever to come out of Indian Mound," he said.

I said, "I'm afraid this is out of my jurisdiction. The hospital's not really in Indian Mound. I think my territory ends somewhere around Denham Road."

"Listen here, Jenkins!" the voice said, "Get your lazy behind over to the hospital to check out those bones!"

I started to tell him about the fact that I had slept through lunch and was feeling light-headed when he said, "Never mind, I've gotta take this call." And he hung up, just like that!

Mrs. Buhler brought in a "Lost and Found" item. It seems someone opened the gate to her dog pen, and her Catahoula cur named "Heart-broke" escaped. I promised we



Bones can be deceiving.

would run a notice about "Heart-broke" in the Central City News.

One hour later, my friend called back. "Well, they know it's not Confederate bones or slaves. But I think somebody was doing away with some of the patients at the hospital and hiding the bodies. I talked to Cheyenne. They were buried four to six feet deep. So they were serious about hiding! I'll call you back."

Two more hours passed, and I was getting kinda curious. So I called my friend back. "So did the LSU people figure it out yet?" I asked.

"Oh, I thought I told you," he said. "It was just cow bones, all neatly cut up the same size, maybe for ribs or something."

I said, "Well, I guess there's no story there. I was kinda thinking it was Indian bones."

"Yeah, well, it wasn't! You newspaper guys are always trying to stir things up and make something out of nothing. Besides, if it was Indian bones, they'd probably be putting a casino here in Indian Mound!" he said.

I said, "Yeah, well, I'm glad it wasn't! Sorry to bother you!"

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GRIERSON'S RAIDERS — 1,000 men strong — ravaged Confederate supply lines from LaGrange, TN, to near Baton Rouge in April-May 1863. The raid ended on Greenwell Springs Rd. at the Comite River. John Wayne portrayed Grierson in *Horse Soldiers* in 1959.

'The Past Is a Foreign Country: They Do Things Differently'

50 Things: The Grandest Night

Continued from Page 7

music of a brass band.”

—13—

What was the Spring House?

During the 1850's, a beautiful gazebo was built above the springs suitable for dancing or political speech making. Stories abound as to the beauty of the spring house. Greenwell Springs historian Dr. Jesse Fairchild said, "If the site is turned into a tourist attraction, the top buildings for reconstruction would be the Spring House and after that the hotel."

—14—

What was the greatest musical performance in the history of Central?

Perhaps it was one Saturday night in 1855 when the Army band from the federal garrison in Baton Rouge came to play at the Spring House. Dr. Jesse Fairchild wrote, "Night events at Greenwell Springs were always held in truly spectacular settings. The main approach to the hotel from the Greenwell Springs Road (probably Magnolia Street) and the road from the hotel to the Spring House were brilliantly illuminated by bonfires on elevated platforms. Pine-knot fires lighted the other streets and tallow candles provided light in the cabins. Many individual cabins had their own bonfires."

Dr. Fairchild wrote, "To view the

resort from the Greenwell Springs Road at night was to behold awesome beauty. The dazzling displays of swirling smoke among the tall pine trees and the flickering shadows of blazing bonfires and torches created a grand spectacle."

On this particular evening, both officers and men of the federal Army had been invited to the barbecue and dancing. By midnight, "the field band was unable to break up the dance, even with the playing of sacred music. Merriment abounded." The event continued, as they sometimes did, long into the night. In the morning, many awoke just in time to catch their stage coach back to Baton Rouge.

—15—

Why did the Greenwell Springs Hotel close? Are the springs still flowing?

The first Greenwell Springs Hotel, built in the 1850's, was a popular resort, and the spring waters drew travelers from far and wide. However, the Civil War brought a time of great economic hardship and crisis. No one was travelling for pleasure. Ultimately, in 1865, the hotel burned and was not immediately rebuilt. Then in 1910, there were new owners with an influx of capital. A new hotel was built and began operations. However, this time the spring waters were much weaker, and the spring

Black History in Central

—17—

What is known about black history Central?

Prior to the Civil War, most black people were slaves and lived on large plantations devoted to cotton and other cash crops. But the soil in what is now Central would not support cotton plantations. As a result, there were few if any slaves in Central. In 2007, the *Central City News* interviewed Mrs. Mary Fisher, who had just had her 106th birthday. An African American and lifelong resident of Central, she said there had been no slaves in Central. She said most black people lived near St. Luke's Methodist Church on Greenwell Springs Road, which was founded in 1867 by "free people of color."



MARY FISHER — Interviewed on her 106th birthday in 2007, Mary Fisher explained that there were no slaves living in Central prior to the Civil War. Blacks living here were free people of color, she said.

could not support the activity at the resort. It soon closed. Around 1920, the vacant hotel burned. Today the springs are still flowing but the flow is very weak.

—16—

Where did the people of Central come from?

Before 1765, the area was basically unoccupied. After the area

became the British colony of West Florida in 1765, some pro-British Americans, or Tories, began to move to West Florida. Some settled in the area now known as Central. In the 1790's a wave of Americans from the Carolinas and Virginia began arriving, often in covered wagons.

After the West Florida revolution and the founding of the Republic of West Florida in 1810, the area was incorporated into the United States, and more settlers began to arrive. In 1839, some Louisianians of French origin moved from Iberville Parish to Frenchtown Road.

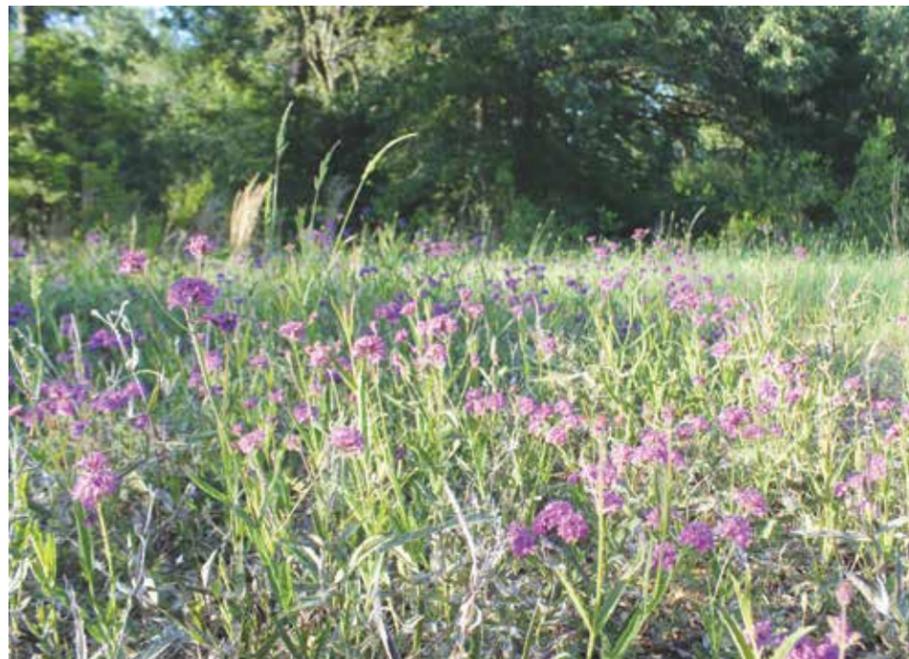
From the 1910's to the 1960's, some people moved to Central so they would be close to their jobs at Exxon and other plants. Many of them came from Mississippi or the Florida parishes of Louisiana.

In the 70's and 80's, some people moved to Central seeking better schools. Since the founding of the Central school system in 2007, a large number of families have moved here from Livingston Parish. Many are former Central residents who went to Livingston for the schools but moved back to Central when the schools here improved.

—18—

In 1866, Congress passed the

See 50 THINGS on Page 15



MR. GREENWELL'S SPRINGS— The springs at Greenwell Springs (left) are flowing again, if only a trickle. The grounds of the late Greenwell Springs Hotel and the Greenwell Springs Mental Hospital are now waiting to be put to good use by Central.



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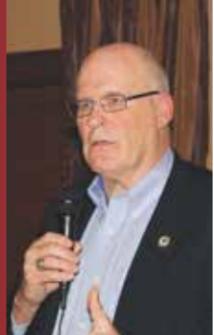


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<p>Greenwell Springs Baptist VBS June 9, 2017</p> <p>Download QR Reader SCAN HERE</p>  <p>4,100 Viewers</p> 	<p>City of Central Annual State of City Address</p> <p>Download QR Reader SCAN HERE</p>  <p>3,500 Viewers</p> 	<p>Mayor Jr. Shelton at a P & Z Meeting Oct. 26, 2017</p> <p>Download QR Reader SCAN HERE</p>  <p>1,100 Viewers</p> 
<p>Acadian Diagnostics Lab Coming to Central</p> <p>Download QR Reader SCAN HERE</p>  <p>919 Viewers</p> 	<p>Fall Festival in the City of Central Oct. 31, 2017</p> <p>Download QR Reader SCAN HERE</p>  <p>7,500 Viewers</p> 	<p>Supt. Mike Faulk Chamber of EBR Nov. 28, 2017</p> <p>Download QR Reader SCAN HERE</p>  <p>667 Viewers</p> 
<p>CHRISTMAS IN CENTRAL SQUARE December 2, 2017</p>     <p>3,100 Viewers</p> 		<p>Central's Christmas Parade Dec. 2, 2017</p>  <p>9,700 Viewers</p> 
<p>Nick Tullier Fund Raiser Dec. 2, 2017</p>  <p>8,200 Viewers</p> 	<p>Home Invasion In Central Mar. 5, 2018</p>  <p>3,700 Viewers</p> 	<p>Central's 1st Mayor's Prayer Breakfast</p>  <p>616 Viewers</p> 
<p>BREC Zoo Commissioner's Meeting</p>  <p>2,600 Viewers</p>  <p>BREC Hearing on Moving BR Zoo · March 22, 2018</p>	<p>Doug Welborn Fund Raiser May 3, 2018</p>  <p>1,000 Viewers</p> 	<p>Ronald Reagan Luncheon Central Drainage</p>  <p>1,600 Viewers</p> 



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Central City News Video Library of Football



2017 Central Wildcat Football

Aug. 25
Central 0
St. Amant 34

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SCAN HERE

13,000 Viewers

Sept. 1
Central 42
Dunham 28

Download QR Reader
SCAN HERE

5,600 Viewers

Sept. 8
Central 0
Dutchtown 27

Download QR Reader
SCAN HERE

6,700 Viewers

Sept. 29
Homecoming
Ceremonies

Download QR Reader
SCAN HERE

1,600 Viewers

Sept. 29
Central 57
Belaire 12

Download QR Reader
SCAN HERE

38,000 Viewers

Oct. 6
Central 31
Live Oak 25

Download QR Reader
SCAN HERE

29,000 Viewers

Oct. 27 Central 6 Denham 34

Part 1 Part 2 Part 3

Combined 17,000 Viewers

Nov. 3
Central 14
Walker 45

Download QR Reader
SCAN HERE

12,000 Viewers



2018 Central Wildcat Basketball

Jan. 15
Central 45
St. Amant 48

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SCAN HERE

13,000 Viewers

Jan. 19 (JV)
Central 40
Live Oak 39

Jan. 19 (Varsity)
Central 56
Live Oak 74

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SCAN HERE

3,300 Viewers

Jan. 19
Central 42
St. Amant 34
Part 1

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SCAN HERE

6,800 Viewers



2018 Central Wildcat Baseball

Feb. 19
Central 15
Mandeville 0

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SCAN HERE

14,000 Viewers

Interview Pitcher Drew Lasseigne on Perfect Game

906 Viewers

Feb. 23
Central 13
Lafayette 3

12,000 Viewers

Feb. 27
Central 8
Holy Cross 8

12,000 Viewers

March 20
Central 10
St. Amant 0

13,000 Viewers

March 28
Central 1
Denham Springs 3

10,000 Viewers

April 3
Central 3
Zachary 10

24,000 Viewers

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Football, Basketball, Baseball for 2017-2018

Football Season Videos



Sept. 15
Central 10 Jesuit 42
 Part 1 Part 2

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15,000 Viewers



Sept. 22
Central 7
Scotlandville 45

Download QR Reader


15,000 Viewers



Oct. 13
Central 34
Brusly 7

Download QR Reader


12,000 Viewers



Oct. 20
Central 0
Zachary 21

Download QR Reader


25,000 Viewers



Nov. 10
Central 15 W. Monroe 51
 Game Post Game

Combined 25,909 Viewers



Central City News
Football Photos
 by Shane Evans

1st Place Winner
 Best Sports Photo
 La. Press Association
 Division 5



Basketball Season Videos

26
Scotlandville 111
 Part 2



Viewers



Feb. 16
Central 50
Walker 76

Download QR Reader


6,800 Viewers



Central City News
Basketball Photos
 by Jolice Provost

2nd Place Winner
 Best Sports Photo
 La. Press Association
 Division 5



Baseball Season Videos

March 1
Central 4 U-High 3
 Part 1 Part 2

12,000 Viewers



March 6
Central 6 Catholic 7
 Part 1 Part 2

13,000 Viewers



April 5
Central 11
Walker 4



5,400 Viewers



April 12
Central 15
Scotlandville 7



18,000 Viewers



April 13
Central 0
Zachary 13



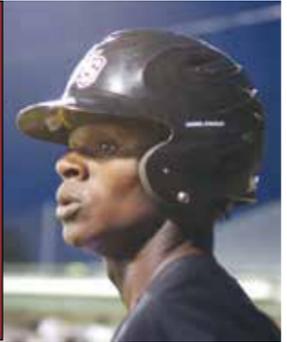
7,800 Viewers



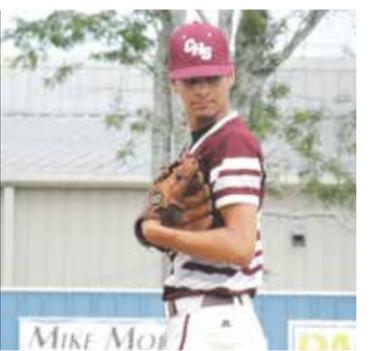
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Through the Lens of Central City News

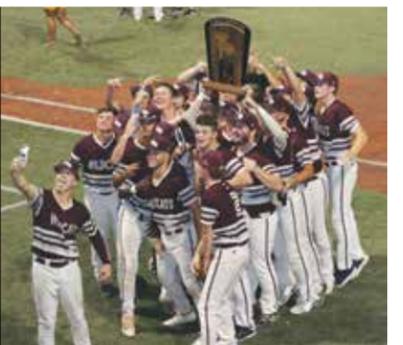
Central Wildcat's 2018 Baseball Season

<p>April 17 Central 5 Walker 2</p> <p>Download QR Reader SCAN HERE</p>  <p>8,200 Viewers</p>		<p>April 23 Central 10 Hahnville 3</p>  <p>17,000 Viewers</p>		<p>April 27 Central 0 Parkway 2</p>  <p>10,000 Views</p>	
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<p>April 28 Central 13 Parkway 1</p>  <p>9,100 Views</p>		<p>April 28 Central 14 Parkway 6</p>   <p>15,000 Views</p>	
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<p>May 4 Central 9 Zachary 3</p>  <p>15,000 Views</p>		<p>May 4 Grand Slam Dalton Aspholm</p>  <p>16,000 Views</p>	<p>May 5 Central 5 Zachary 10</p>   <p>2,900 Views</p>	
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<p>May 5 Central 7 Zachary 2</p>  <p>14,000 Views</p>		<p>May 11 CCN Staff Head to Sulphur</p> <p>Download QR Reader SCAN HERE</p>  <p>1,000 Viewers</p>		<p>May 11 CHS Coach Mike Forbes</p>  <p>2,700 Views</p>	
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<p>May 11 Central 10 Barbe 5</p>  <p>28,000 Viewers</p>			<p>May 12 Championship Game Summary by Cox</p> <p>Download QR Reader SCAN HERE</p>  <p>28,000 Viewers</p>	
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5A State Champs
Central Wildcats
Measuring for Rings

Download QR Reader
SCAN HERE



2,100 Viewers



Central City News Sports Team





THE CENTRAL CITY NEWS SPORTS TEAM includes sportscaster Woody Jenkins and executive producers Jolice Provost and Kim Powers. Jenkins provides play-by-play announcing of football, basketball, and baseball games at Central City News.

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Central City News

50 Things: Comite River Flooding



COMITE RIVER — During normal times, the Comite River (right at Blackwater Park) is peaceful and friendly. The slow moving stream is hardly more than a foot deep. But the river has another side. During floods, it can spill raging floodwaters 10 feet high or more, bringing destruction. Even worst, Central is caught between the Comite on the west and the much larger Amite River on the east.

Continued from Page 9

Post Office Act, listing the post offices in every community across the nation. The area now known as Central had two post offices. What were they?

Greenwell Springs, LA, and Magnolia Springs, LA.

—19—

Why is it called Central?

In the 1880's, the people living in area now known as "Central" lived in a sparsely-populated rural area that was not viewed as a community but several different communities, such as Frenchtown Road, Magnolia, Greenwell Springs, and Fred. Each area had its own one-room school house. Because transportation was so slow, the people in one community did not know the people in other nearby communities. Nevertheless, they had a mutual desire to build a high school for the children in the area. Representatives of the various communities met but could not agree on a location. Finally, Mr. William S. Edwards agreed to donate 30 acres on the southeast corner of Canal (now Hooper) Road and Settlement (now Sullivan) Road to build

a school. That settled the matter, and the new school was built there!

It was called the "Central" school, because it was centrally-located among the various one-room school houses. By the 1930's, some people had begun referring to the area as the "Central community." However, it was probably the 1950's or 1960's before the name really took hold. Until incorporation, many people in Greenwell Springs considered themselves part of the Greenwell Springs community, rather than "Central."

The group which has had the most difficulty referring to the city as the "City of Central" is probably the U.S. Post Office, which still has not allocated Central its own zip code. People in various parts of the city may find their address to be Baton Rouge, Greenwell Springs, Pride, Baker, or Zachary. However, the Post Office does allow residents to send and receive mail listing their city as Central so long as they use the correct zip code.

—20—

Were there cattle drives in Central?

Yes, in the period 1900-1910,

Dr. Jesse Fairchild's father organized two cattle drives every year. He drove hundreds of head of cattle down Greenwell Springs Road to Baton Rouge. Then they headed west on North Street to the river. From there, the cattle were ferried to the Port Allen side and then herded to their winter pastures in the Atchafalaya Basin. The next spring, they came back here the same way.

—21—

Central is so beautiful! Why has it never developed like other parts of East Baton Rouge Parish?

Quite simply, because it floods!

Central lies between two rivers, the Comite and Amite, which flood every few years. Old timers understood that it floods and didn't build. Modern folks know a lot more than the old timers. They build... then it floods... and they wonder why! It's a low-lying area between two rivers that have no levees.

—22—

How did people cross the Amite River and Comite rivers in 1800's?

On the Amite, there were toll

bridges at Magnolia and at Burlington. On the Comite, there were bridges at various times but they frequently washed away. People had to wade or cross on horseback or by wagon. When a rain storm or a flood came, people might have to wait hours or days until the river was shallow enough and calm enough to cross. It was common for travelers from the area to stay over with people living along Greenwell Springs Road.

—23—

How did people in what is now Central make a living in the 1800's?

People had to travel by foot, horseback, or wagon. Roads were

See 50 THINGS on Page 17

Classifieds

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

CENTRAL RENTAL HOME: Northwoods Subdivision-Available July 1, 2018 (Central School System) 16915 Fir Ave, Greenwell Springs, LA 70739; 5 Beds/3 Full Baths-Office-2,800 LA-Complete Mother-in-Law Suite-Completely furnished-Enough room for two families! NO carpet-wood-burning fireplace, crown molding, appliances remain, covered patio, double carport \$1200 Deposit Plus first month rent: \$1900/mo or \$2500 (house bills included-Demco-Cable-Sewer/Garbage) Prefer no pets-but negotiable with pet deposit fee of \$500. Lease period: 6 mos to 2 years. Call Dana: cell: 225/937-7009 and/or email: dcouvill@la.gov for showing.

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JOB LISTING: Software Developer, IRI, UL Lafayette: Software development in enterprise computing, geospatial analysis and visualization domains. BS in Computer Science or related field required. Job location Baton Rouge. More information: iri.louisiana.edu. Send to: iri.jobs@louisiana.edu.

STORAGE AUCTION: The following will be sold at public auction for unpaid rent. At Central Storage; 12526 Hooper Road; Baton Rouge, LA 70818 on Thursday, July 12, 2018 at 10:00 a.m. Cash only! We reserve the right to refuse any offer! #33 - Ashley Knapps - Furniture, household items, misc. #93 - Ashley Knapps - Boxes, misc. #118 - Paul Varnado - Misc. items. #253 - Shannon Russell - Household items, misc. #256 - Skyler Horn - Misc. items. #352 Chris Hawkins - Furniture, misc. #432 - Brittany Kirby - Furniture, boxes, misc. #462 - Vondino Murphy - Furniture, Boxes, misc.

PLOTS FOR SALE: Greenoaks, Garden of the Pines 2 plots, \$3,000 each. Call 225-978-7903.

WEDDING DRESSES FOR SALE: 2 new wedding dresses, size 10 and size 12, with accessories. Call 225-247-8945.

FOR SALE: Refrigerator - Whirlpool side by side - good condition - \$245 Call 225-328-2642.

FOR SALE: Hot tub, excellent condition \$150. Call 225-317-1019.

FOR SALE: Dog pin, chain link 10'x6'x5', \$120. Call 225-317-1019.

YARD SALE: July 6-7 from 7 a.m. to Noon at 9911 Trendale

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Sen. A. G. Crowe to Seek Secretary of State Nov. 6



Former Louisiana Senator A.G. Crowe to Seek Secretary of State Seat Legislative & Records Management Experience Touted As Strong Credentials for Office

PEARL RIVER, LA. – Former 16-year veteran legislator A.G. Crowe, (R) Pearl River, announced today that he will be a candidate for Secretary of State in the fall election.

Crowe, a graduate of the former Francis T. Nicholls High School in New Orleans and Southeastern Louisiana University where he earned his Bachelor of Business Administration degree, will enter the race with an extensive business background as the former founder and CEO of The File Depot, a records management company with 23 franchise units in 12 states. Crowe also brings an extensive legislative history to the race.

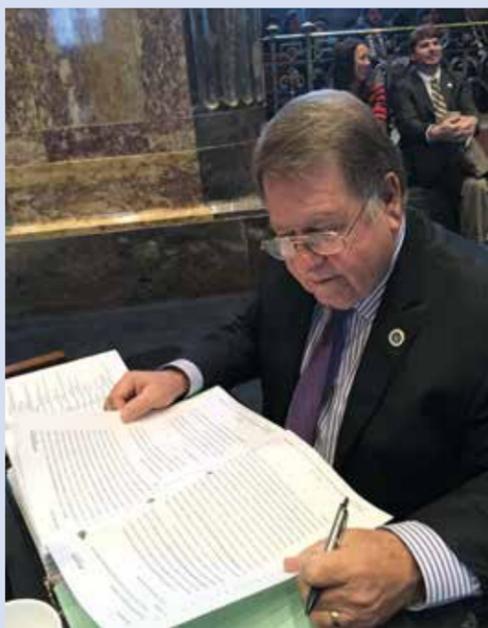
He served on the St. Tammany School Board before being elected to the state legislature in 1999 where he served as District 76 State Representative from 2000 to 2008. Crowe was elected to the State Senate in October of 2007, and was re-elected in 2011 over a term-limited State Representative by almost 75% of the vote. In June 2015, Crowe surprised Senate colleagues announcing his decision to not seek a third term. In his address to the Senate, Crowe stated, "I have come to understand that the magic number for success in this hall of government is not 20 votes, but instead one. One vote. Because when we each remain true to our purpose of representing the people who sent us to this stately chamber, then we remain true to our oath... true to our government... and most of all, true to ourselves and God."

While in the Senate, Crowe was lauded for his work to help Hurricane Katrina victims fight through government's slow response and bureaucracy. As a staunch conservative, he was a leading voice for adopting strong ethics reform measures, protecting TOPS, strengthening penalties against violent criminals, and limiting government spending as he condemned the "Fiscal Deficit Disorder" of the state budgeting process.

As Senator for District 1, Crowe represented parts of St. Tammany, St. Bernard, Plaquemines and Orleans. He served as Vice-Chair of the Senate Commerce Committee. Crowe was honored by the Alliance for Good Government as a "Legislator of the Year". He was an A+-rated legislator by the National Rifle Association, and he was an 11-time recipient of the Louisiana Family Forum Outstanding Family Advocate Patrick Henry Award. Crowe earned Family Forum's highest honor, the Gladiator Award, and upon announcing he would not seek re-election, the daily newspaper in New Orleans quoted Louisiana Family Forum President Gene Mills as stating, "A. G. Crowe is a principled man. Louisiana has benefited from his honorable service, first to the Lord, then to the people of Senate District 1."

Said Crowe, "My 16 years in the legislature and more than 16 years in the records management business uniquely prepare me to serve as Secretary of State. I will protect the integrity of the elections process, streamline business services and filings, and offer innovative solutions to protect the identity of all Louisianans. I have always regarded serving the public as a privilege, and I am eager to bring my fiscal conservative management style to the office. Louisiana needs a good dose of smart management, consumer-friendly service and fiscal restraint."

Crowe is a Republican married to the former Linda McCain, a teacher from Washington Parish. They have two children and seven grandchildren. Crowe will qualify for the seat on Wednesday, July 18.



**To Get Involved, go to
AGCrowe.com or Call 504-444-2520
Please make checks payable to:
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Contributions are limited to \$5000 per legal entity (person or business) for the primary. Contributions to A.G. Crowe Campaign will be deposited according to Louisiana Election Law. All contributors should provide a valid name and US mailing address for reporting purposes. All contributions are publicly disclosed.



Some Wanted Central Named 'Greenwell Springs'

50 Things: Sugar Cane and Hacks

Continued from Page 15

poor, and travel was slow. Getting to Baton Rouge could take two or three hours on horseback or by wagon. As a result, people were not able to commute to work like they do today. There were no large plantations or farming operations. Most families in the sparsely-populated area that is now Central were small farmers. They raised enough to feed their own family and perhaps sell a little on the market. One of the things they did was clump gardening, where they planted in clumps rather than rows.

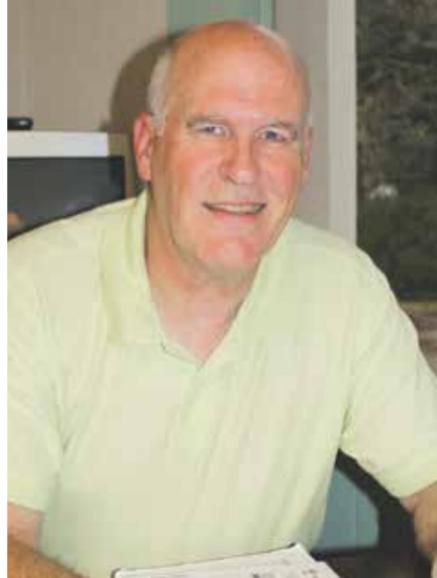
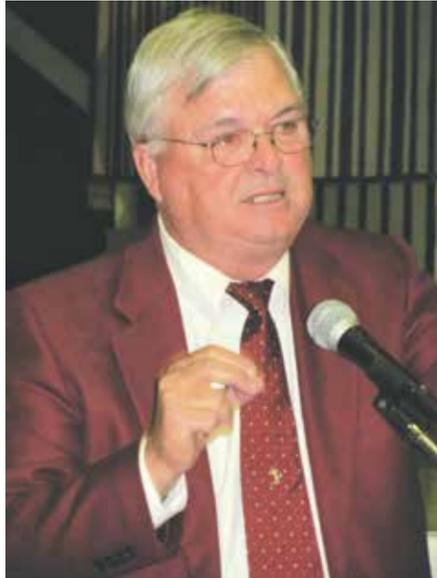
—24—

What crops were important to small farmers in Central?

There were the typical crops we have in gardens today with one major exception: Sugar cane. While sugar cane is grown commercially in West Baton Rouge Parish today, one never sees it in East Baton Rouge Parish. But in those days, everyone in Central raised sugar cane as part of their farming. There were several "sugar mills" in Central which consisted of a horse or mule driven cane grinder. The mill owner kept a portion of the cane juice for doing the grinding and gave the rest to the farmer who could use it to make sugar or syrup.

—25—

If you lived in Central in the early 1900's and were hacked, what would have happened to



MAYORS OF CITY OF CENTRAL — Since incorporation in 2005, the City of Central has had only two mayors. Mayor Mac Watts, a retired educator, was appointed the first mayor in 2005 and then elected in his own right the next year. Local businessman J. Shelton was elected Mayor in 2014 and is completing his first term in office.

you?

- A. You were the victim of a very, very early computer fraud scheme.
- B. You lost some fingers while chopping wood.
- C. You were injured at karate school.
- D. You were bused to school by horse-drawn wagon.

Well, it wasn't A or C, because there weren't any computers or karate schools in Central in the early 1900's. It could have been B, if you weren't careful, but we are

thinking of D. In the early 1900's, children in Central were carried to school by horse-drawn school buses called hacks!

—26—

When did telephone service come to Central?

It came in the 1930's. The Baton Rouge phone directory of 1938 listed 45 homes and businesses in what is now Central. The lines ran from Baton Rouge up Greenwell Springs Road. One line divided and went up Joor

to Hooper. Another divided at Sullivan and went up to Hooper. The Greenwell Springs Hospital also had phone service, but its service came from Denham Springs and across the Amite. The businesses with phones were:

- George Denham, gravel
- Magnolia Sand and Gravel
- W. D. Edwards store on Sullivan Road
- Red & White store on Hooper and another on Greenwell Springs Road
- Mrs. D.D. Smith grocer on Greenwell Springs Road
- Sam Sabella grocer, also on Greenwell Springs Road

—27—

Who was the most influential man in the history of Central?

Probably J. A. Smith, the principal of Central High School from 1937-1967 and Central Private School from 1967-1978. His strict discipline and devotion to academics changed an uneducated rural population into the leaders of a community where education and scholarship were highly valued.

—28—

Does Central have a railroad?

Yes it does!



J. A. Smith
Fabled principal

The Illinois Central railroad (now Canadian National) crosses the lower part of Central. The Natalbany Railroad was built in the 1920's connecting Greenwell Springs with Natalbany in Tangipahoa Parish to haul timber from Central to the saw mill. It ran east-west through the property formerly known as Wanetiri Lakes east of Greenwell Springs Road and south of Hooper.

In the early 1850's, a railroad called Major Raney's Line was proposed that would have connected New Orleans to Jackson, MS. The proposed railroad was to run through Central just west of the Amite River. However, it was never built.

—29—

Who was the first Central High football player to win a football scholarship to LSU and actually play for the Tigers?

Dr. James Gardner, now a member of the Central Community School Board

—30—

During the 1980's and 1990's, local businesses organized the Central Area Business Association, or CABA, but the U.S. Chamber of Commerce refused to allow CABA to affiliate as a Chamber of Commerce. Why?

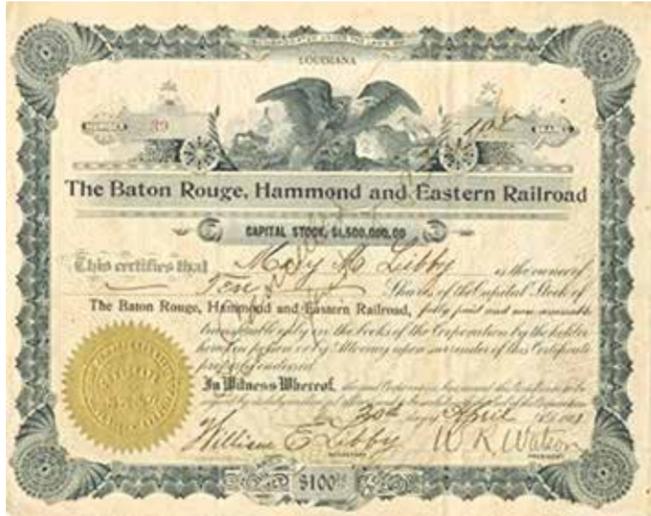
Because Central was not a city.

—31—

Prior to 1974, the Louisiana Constitution had a provision forbidding the creation of any new cities in East Baton Rouge Parish besides Baton Rouge, Baker, and Zachary. As a result, incorporating the City of Central was a legal impossibility. How did the Constitution get changed and why?

I was then a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives and a delegate to the Louisiana Constitutional Convention of 1973. As a delegate, I offered a proposed amendment to allow the creation of additional cities in East Baton Rouge Parish, citing the desire of some residents of Scotlandville led by Acie Belton to form a new city and the possibility that Central may one day want to incorporate. Afraid much heated debate, the convention adopted the amendment, and it is now part

See 50 THINGS on Page 19



CENTRAL'S RAILROAD — The Baton Rouge, Hammond, and Eastern Railroad was incorporated in 1900 to build a line from Baton Rouge to Hammond to Covington. Capitalized at \$1.5 million, it was completed in 1908 with 65 miles of track. The company was acquired by the Illinois Central in 1906 and was operated from the beginning by its subsidiary, the Yazoo and Mississippi Valley Railroad. The original line is the one that crosses the lower part of Central today.

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Privatization and What It Means to Central

50 Things: A Bridge Across Amite

Continued from Page 17

of our State Constitution. Mayor President Woody Dumas was so angry that he threatened to oppose passage of the entire constitution if that provision were not taken out. However, Gov. Edwin Edwards and the delegates refused.

— 32 —

Who led the effort to incorporate the City of Central?

Local businessman Russell Starns, who later served as president of the Central Community School Board. Legally speaking, he was the Incorporator of the City of Central.

— 33 —

When was the City of Central founded?

The people of the proposed City of Central voted to incorporate on April 21, 2005. The first mayor, Mac Watts, police chief Doug Browning, and the first city council were sworn in on July 11, 2005, which is generally considered the date of incorporation. The first city officials were appointed by then-Gov. Kathleen Blanco.

— 34 —

How many mayors has Central had?

Mayor Mac Watts (2005-2014) and Jr. Shelton (2014-present)

— 35 —

During the battle to incorporate the City of Central, some citizens suggested that a better name might be Greenwell Springs. "It sounds lovely!" one said. What other names were humorously proposed?

Because Central is located between two rivers, the Amite and the Comite, just as the Garden of Eden was located between the Tigris and Euphrates rivers, one writer in the *Central City News* suggested — tongue in cheek — that it be called, "New Mesopotamia!"

— 35 —

Why doesn't Central celebrate the 4th of July?

Prior to incorporation in 2005, Central did not have an organized 4th of July celebration. Rather, people attended the celebration on the levee in Baton Rouge. After Central was incorporated, some citizens wanted to have a special celebration of Central's own Independence Day or Incorporation Day. Most celebrations have



BRIDGE ACROSS AMITE RIVER — Residents of Central and Watson have been urging public officials since 1954 to build a bridge extending Hooper Road across the Amite River to Watson, LA. Leaders met with Gov. Robert Kennon that year. Today the project has been approved in the Capital Outlay Bill but is far short of funding.

been held on July 11. This year, the Mayor decided to hold Central's annual celebration, called the Central Birthday Bash, on July 4th, so that both holidays would be properly commemorated in Central. This year's event will begin at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, July 4 at Wildcat Stadium with music and then fireworks at 9 p.m.

— 36 —

How is Central governed?

The City of Central (pop. 28,000) is governed in accordance with state law. The applicable statute is the Lawrason Act, which applies to all municipalities that have not adopted a city charter. Under the Lawrason Act, Central has a mayor-council form of government. There are currently five members of the City Council, all elected at-large from throughout the city. However, effective with the elections this fall, the City Council will be composed of seven with two elected at large and five from single-member districts.

The City Council passes all ordinances, approves the city budget, approves proposed taxes, has final say on planning and zoning matters, and approves the contract for city services. Because of its decision to privatize city government, the City of Central is unique in Louisiana and quite different from other Lawrason Act cities.

— 37 —

Central is Louisiana's only privatized city, but what does that mean?

Historically, when a municipality was incorporated in Louisiana, it would start small and grow. The mayor and town council would levy taxes and hire city employees as needed. In many cities, this has led to a growing bureaucracy and often waste and inefficiencies.

When Central was incorporated in 2005, attorney Bob Raborn filed suit challenging the legality of the incorporation. While that suit was working its way through the court system, an unusual thing happened. Under Louisiana law, one governmental unit in a parish is

designated the "sole tax collecting agency" for all governmental bodies in the parish. The City-Parish government is the designee in this parish.

When Central voted to incorporate, Kip Holden was Mayor-President and he controlled the collection of sales taxes in Central. He said that since the incorporation was being challenged in court, there was a chance that the incorporation would be declared illegal. If that happened, the City-Parish could conceivably be sued to get the taxes back. So he refused to remit the taxes collected to the City of Central. Finally, a compromise was reached. Holden agreed that the City-Parish would continue to provide all the governmental services it had previously provided in return for 90 percent of the taxes collected. The City-Parish would remit 10 percent to the City of Central for administrative purposes. Central Mayor Mac Watts and the Central City Council reluctantly agreed.

For two years, the City-Parish provided the services it promised. In effect, the providing of government services had been contracted out to the City-Parish! This got Mayor Watts and the Council thinking. Why couldn't a private company do the same things the City-Parish was doing but do them better and for less money?

The mayor and Council read about cities that had been privatized, and Mayor Watts even visited Sandy Springs, GA, the largest privatized city in the country. He returned with glowing reports and

See 50 THINGS on Page 21

Business Directory

Automotive	Electrical
<p>North - Airline & Choctaw 225-927-2311 South - Airline & Cloverland 225-751-3656</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Simple Electric</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Installation of All Electrical Work Commercial • Residential Over 35 Years Experience • Any Size Job 225-921-2633</p>
Carpet Cleaning	Furniture
<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">BayouSteam</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Carpet, Upholstery, Tile & Grout Cleaning Locally owned and operated 225-955-6955</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">* NOTICE *</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">New Hours • Jan 1 Tues - Sat 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Sun and Mon <i>Gerard Furniture & Gallery</i> 7330 FLORIDA BLVD</p>
Dirt Work	Lawn Care
<p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">General Sand & Gravel Co. Limestone, Gravel, Mason Sand, Clay, Top Soil, Riversilt, Crushed Concrete, Tractor Work, Swimming Pool Demo & Fill-In 225-261-3953</p>	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">PRO CUTS</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">Mowing & Trimming • Tree Maintenance Flower Bed Maintenance No Contracts • Free Estimates 225-614-7496</p>
Pools	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Business Directory Advertising Rates</p> <p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">3-month contract \$50 a month 6-month contract \$47 a month 9-month contract \$45 a month 12-month contract \$42 a month Call 225-261-5055</p>
<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">Who Dat Pools Liner Install • Weekly Service Repairs and More 225-335-1018 www.wdppools.com</p>	

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Justice Jeff Hughes

Louisiana Supreme Court



Justice Jeff Hughes



The Constitution

Is it just words on paper to be changed by any judge who finds the words of the Constitution inconvenient to his political agenda?

No, the Constitution is more than that! Much more! The Constitution is the compact among all of us. It holds our society and our government together. It has meaning, a purpose, and a plan.

I believe the words of the U.S. Constitution — and our Louisiana Constitution as well — are to be interpreted in accordance with the original intent of those who wrote it. That gives us the Rule of Law and a free and democratic society. The alternative is to make everything political and ultimately it is to allow our society to descend into chaos.

Our Founders gave us a great blueprint to establish our government, limit its powers, and protect our rights. As your voice on the Supreme Court, I will continue to protect the Constitution!

Congratulations, Central, on Your Birthday!

MY IMPRESSIONS OF CENTRAL

As a native and lifelong resident of Livingston Parish, I have never lived in Central but I have lots of distinct impressions based on my many visits and my friends there, many of whom were former adversaries when they played for Central and I played for Denham Springs. To me, it is a wonderful community composed of hard-working Christian men and women who love our country and our state. Central has low crime and great schools. It is an incredible place to raise a family, work, or own a business. Central may not be Mayberry RFD but it's pretty darn close! My hope is you will keep doing what you're doing and continue to make Central a model for us all! Happy Birthday, Central! And may you have many more to come!

50 Things: The Great Flood of 2016

Continued from Page 19

said it could work here!

Under privatization, a city contracts out some or even most city services for an annual fee. The privatization contract can have many options and unique provisions.

Once the Louisiana Supreme Court upheld the legality of Central's incorporation, the Central City Council issued a request for proposals, inviting companies to apply to be Central's contractor. Ultimately, the contract was awarded to CH2MHill, a multi-billion dollar company based in Colorado.

When the contract with CH2MHill expired in 2010, it went out for bid again. This time IBTS won the contract. That was renewed in 2013 and again in 2016.

In Central, the private contractor handles public works, including roads and drainage; planning; building permits; code enforcement, and staffing of City Council and Planning and Zoning commissions. It does not administer City Hall or the Police Department.

—38—

Is privatization good or bad?

The *Central City News* has always supported privatization in Central but has recognized that it does have its flaws. On the one hand, it can allow the city government to operate more like a business, rather than a bureaucracy. But there are dangers to guard against.

For example, all governmental bodies are subject to the public bid law, which means that governmental contracts are issued through an open, public bidding process. Then the contract is awarded to the lowest responsible bidder. However, when a company has the master contract for a privatized city, it can contract out work to other vendors without going through the process of public bidding. This leaves room for favoritism and the awarding contracts to the friends of the politicians who awarded the original contract.

Similarly, local government employees are subject to Civil Service laws and protection. Most government jobs must be filled from among the top applicants. In addition, Civil Service employees cannot be fired without good cause. However, employees of a private contractor can be hired and fired at will. This enables the contractor to easily fire bad employees, but it also allows local politicians to lobby for the contractor to hire their friends and relatives.

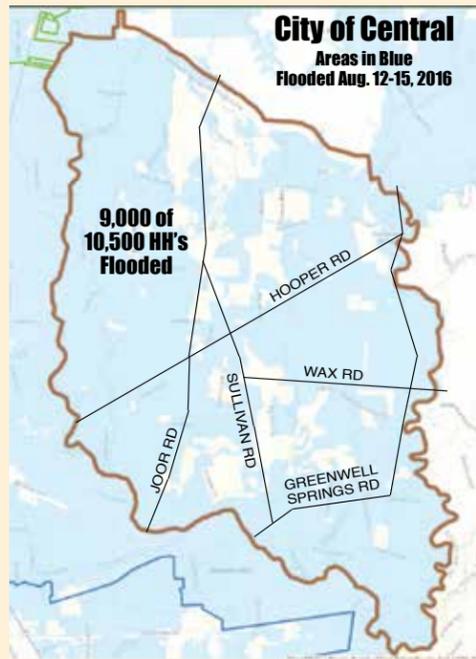
One of the keys to making privatization work is making sure the master contractor is subject to the public records law so that the public is aware of contracts entered into by the master contractor and the hiring and firing of employees.

—39—

How does privatization work

Central's Greatest Natural Disaster

Great Flood of August 2016 • Flooded Areas in Blue



Frenchtown at Frenchtown Acres

Photo by Roxanne Atkinson



House flooded at corner of Frenchtown Road and Central Thruway

Photo by Sally Guardado

in Central, compared to ordinary cities its size.

A good comparison is the City of Hammond, LA (pop. 20,000) It has 325 city employees and a city budget of over \$32 million a year. It continuously fights deficits. Most of those 325 city employees will someday retire at taxpayer expense. On the other hand, the City of Central (pop. 28,000) has three or four city employees and a city budget of \$7.4 million. It runs regular surpluses and has roughly \$40 million in the bank. Only a couple of Central city employees could potentially retire at taxpayer expense. All city services are provided by IBTS employees.

While it would be very difficult if not impossible to change a traditional city to a privatized city (for political reasons), a new city government should consider privatization as the 21st century model, instead of the traditional 18th century model for cities.

—40—

Who is responsible for roads and bridges in Central?

Basically, there are three types of roads in Central — state roads, parish roads, and city streets. The Louisiana Department of Transportation is responsible for state roads, such as Greenwell Springs Road, Hooper Road, Wax Road, Hwy. 64, Joor south of Hooper, and Sullivan from Hooper to Wax. The parish Department of Public Works is responsible for the Central Thruway, Joor north of Hooper, Sullivan from Greenwell Springs Road to Wax and north of Hooper, Comite

west of Blackwater, and Dyer west of Blackwater. The City of Central is responsible for all other roads in Central — roughly 130 miles of roads.

—41—

How do we pay for the City of Central?

Unlike the City of Baton Rouge and most other cities, the City of Central does not levy a property tax. It is funded by a 2-1/2 cent sales tax — the same as was levied before incorporation — plus franchise fees on utilities such as Entergy and Cox and state and federal grants. The city has not raised taxes since it was created in 2005. More than half the revenue of the City of Central comes from Wal-Mart.

—42—

What project was identified by the BRAC, the Baton Rouge Area Chamber, as the most needed in East Baton Rouge Parish?

According to the BRAC study, the most needed project in the parish is a bridge across the Amite River extending Hooper Road to Watson. Projections show it would accommodate 25,000 cars a day and remove that traffic from I-12, Florida Boulevard, and Magnolia Bridge. The Hooper Road bridge has been a priority for Central since 1954 when a group of concerned business owners met with Gov. Robert Kennon to ask that the project be built.

—43—

When was the Central Community School System created?

The Central school system was created as a result of a constitutional

amendment authored by then-Rep. Bodi White (R-Central). It was approved by two-thirds' vote of the both house of the Louisiana Legislature and then ratified by the voters of the State of Louisiana, the Parish of East Baton Rouge, and the City of Central in November 2006. The governor appointed the seven members of the school board in January 2007. They hired as their first employee, Supt. Mike Faulk, who began to hire personnel and create a new school system where none had existed before.

The Central school board officially took control of the four schools which existed at that time — Bellingrath Hills Elementary, Tanglewood Elementary, Central Middle School, and Central High School — on July 1, 2007. Because of growing enrollment and the extremely poor condition of some of the schools, the school board proposed a capital improvements tax and bond election to build new schools. As a result of that election, many improvements were made to the existing schools and a new school, Central Intermediate, was created. The school board used some of the funds to build a state-of-the-art facility called the Central School Complex. It was completed and occupied in 2013 and now includes Central Intermediate School and Central Middle School.

—44—

How is the Central school system doing?

In a word, great! After leaving the East Baton Rouge Parish school system, which was ranked No. 58 in the state, Central has progressed and is now ranked No. 2 in the state in most categories behind No. 1 ranked Zachary. Overall, Central residents express a high level of satisfaction with the Central school system.

—45—

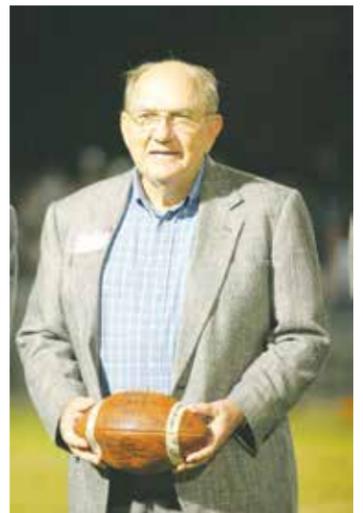
What are the politics of Central?

Central is politically very conservative. The vast majority of voters are Christian, conservative and Republican. There are 35 churches serving a city of 28,000 people living in 66 square miles. They often — but not always — agree on the candidate. In national elections, the Republican may well beat the Democrat 90-10 or close to it. However, at the city level, there are often serious differences of opinion. One difference that sometimes arises is between those "born and bred" in Central and "newcomers." Differences also sometimes arise based on whether they favor "no growth" or "slow growth."

—46—

What was Central High's best-ever football team?

See 50 THINGS on Page 23



STATE CHAMPS — Members of the Central High School's 1967 State Championship football team with coach O. R. Smith holding the game ball from the championship at right.

Happy July 4th Central Congratulations on 13 Years as a City!



“All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.”

—Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776

1) Our rights come from God. 2) Those rights, which are unalienable, include but are not limited to, Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. 3) The purpose of Government is to secure these God-given rights. 4) Government can only derive its powers with the consent of citizens.



As a taxpayer and property owner in East Baton Rouge Parish, each individual is concerned with being assessed fairly. The laws governing property assessments are enacted by the Louisiana Legislature. The guidelines for assessors to follow are formulated and administered by the Louisiana Tax Commission. All property taxes are calculated by using the assessed value of a piece of property and the current millage rate in the area in which it is located. All millages are voted on by the residents of East Baton Rouge Parish.

It is my desire as your assessor to properly interpret these laws, to assess all property in this parish fairly and equitably, and to serve the citizens of this parish in an effective, responsible, and courteous manner.

As your assessor, I want to assure you that I will always have an “open door policy.” If at any time my staff or I can be of assistance to you, please don’t hesitate to call.

— Brian Wilson

**Brian
WILSON
ASSESSOR**

**Brian Wilson • East Baton Rouge Parish Assessor
222 ST. LOUIS STREET • BATON ROUGE, LA 70802
PHONE: 225-389-3920**

Qualifying July 18-20 for Nov. 6 Election

Candidates for Central City Offices

Ryan Meador to Seek One of Two At-Large Seats on Council

Ryan Meador

Candidate, Central City Council at Large

CENTRAL - My name is Ryan Meador and on behalf of my wife of 11 years, Dixie Meador, and our two children Lucas and Lily, I am putting my name in to be one of your next Central City Councilmen at large.

I am a conservative Republican with traditional values and an active parishioner at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church. I believe that all life is sacred and created by one God, the Father, and his son Jesus Christ.

I have a passion to serve and to help those who are in need. I've aided in both rescue and rebuilding



Ryan Meador, wife Dixie and kids

of homes in Louisiana and Texas. I'm also a member of CIA (Cast Iron Assistance), an organization that cooks and feeds people, raises money for law enforcement, and serves selflessly to the hurting.

I believe in our law enforcement and a strong military. I served this great country in the Marine Corps for five years with a tour of duty in Iraq and have been given a key to the City of Baton Rouge for this service.

Currently, I am employed by Sunbelt Supply in outside industrial sales. I love my job and even more the people I work for.

In the beginning of this announcement I said I was putting my name in to be your next Central city councilman, but most importantly, I want to end it with giving you my word on it as well.

My name is Ryan Meador and I want to be your next Central City Councilman.

Josh Roy Is Running for Central City Council from District 2

CENTRAL - Joshua "Josh" Roy was born and raised in Baton Rouge and has resided in Central, Louisiana for nearly 10 years. Josh received his JD *magna cum laude* from Southern University Law Center graduating 1st in his class. Josh also graduated from of LSU in political science. He is an attorney at the Maughan Law Firm.

Josh serves on the board of directors for Central Tigers, Inc., a local non-profit baseball organization dedicated to teaching youth baseball fundamentals and life lessons, and The Kiwanis Club of The Oaks, "a global organization of volunteers dedicated to improving the world, one child and one community at a time." Josh is an Eagle Scout. The central theme be-



Josh Roy, candidate for District 2

hind Josh's community service is to improve the community and its residents.

Josh is an active member in his community and the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints. He resides in the Bellingrath Es-

tates neighborhood with his wife, Chelsey and four sons, Braydon, Camden, Anthony, and Easton. Chelsey is a lifelong resident of Central.

Josh is a Republican candidate seeking your support to be councilman for District 2. He maintains a commitment to always look out for the best interests of its citizens and to listen to the concerns of his constituents. He believes government must live within its means and save for the future. Having flooded during the Great Flood of 2016, Josh is committed to improve drainage. Josh believes in applying "best practices" for smart growth while not overwhelming the City's infrastructure, school system and other public services

Charles Lee Hinton Says He Will Run in City Council District 5

Charles Lee Hinton

Candidate, Central City Council, District 2

CENTRAL - If you elect me to represent Central City Council District 5, serving you will be my full-time occupation. I will have an open door policy. Any time you want to call me with your concerns or just visit with me, I'll be available. My home telephone number is 261-3000, my cell phone number is 405-9675, and my email address is Teddie70815@aol.com.

Here are a few facts about me:

- Republican
- Graduate of Central High and LSU, Industrial Technology
- Master's in Administration and



Charles Lee Hinton, District 5 Supervision

- Retired after 25 years of teaching and coaching
- Retired from U.S. Navy after 20 years of service
- Outstanding Recruit in Basic

Training

- Served aboard the aircraft carrier USS Essex
- Served with the 28th Seabees
- Four-time recipient of the Naval Meritorious Service Medal
- Responsible for the Central Veterans Memorial
- Married to Teddie deLuca Hinton for 53 years
- Two sons: Jason, who is married to Jennifer and has two sons, Briggs and Stratton, and Jeremy, who is married to Dusty and has a daughter, Londen; and a son-in-law, Matt Corkern. Londen and Matt will soon have a daughter.
- Member of Galilee Baptist in Central

Candidates Based on Public Statements

Qualifying July 18-20
Tuesday, November 6, 2018

Louisiana Supreme Court
Jeff Hughes R

Secretary of State
A. G. Crowe R
Rick Edmonds R

Mayor City of Central
David Barrow R
Jr. Shelton R

Police Chief City of Central
Roger Corcoran R
James Salisbury R

City Council at Large Vote for Two
Ryan Meador R
Wayne Messina R

City Council District 1
Charlie Habig D

City Council District 2
Josh Roy R
John Vance R

City Council District 3
Kim Fralick R
Dave Freneaux R

City Council District 4
Shane Evans R
Marcella French R

City Council District 5
Charles Lee Hinton R
Briton Myer R

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Central Birthday
Bash ?
Watch LIVE at
7 p.m. July 4
Central City News
on Facebook

50 Things: Baseball Dynasty and Football Champions

Continued from Page 21

The Wildcats only state football championship was in 1967.

-47-

Who was Central's only All-Pro NFL star?

Central High graduate and sports legend Todd McClure played 14 seasons as the starting center for the Atlanta Falcons and was chosen an All-Pro and played in the Pro Bowl.

-48-

Central High had a baseball dynasty in the 1990's. How many

State Championships did they win?

Four straight years, 1992, 1993, 1994, and 1995. All four teams, which were coached by Randy Blanchard, have been inducted into the Central High Hall of Fame. Coach Hutchinson coached Mike Forbes, the coach of Central High School teams that won State Championships in 2017 and 2018.

-49-

A Central High player was named the MVP in this year's

State Championship baseball series in Sulphur. Who was it and what did he do to win the honor?

Dalton Aspholm, who won the semi-final game against Barbe in relief and had the game-winning hit in the State Championship game against Sulphur.

-50-

Why was the worst natural disaster in the history of Central?

Undoubtedly, it is the Great Flood of August 2016 when more than 80 percent of the homes in Central

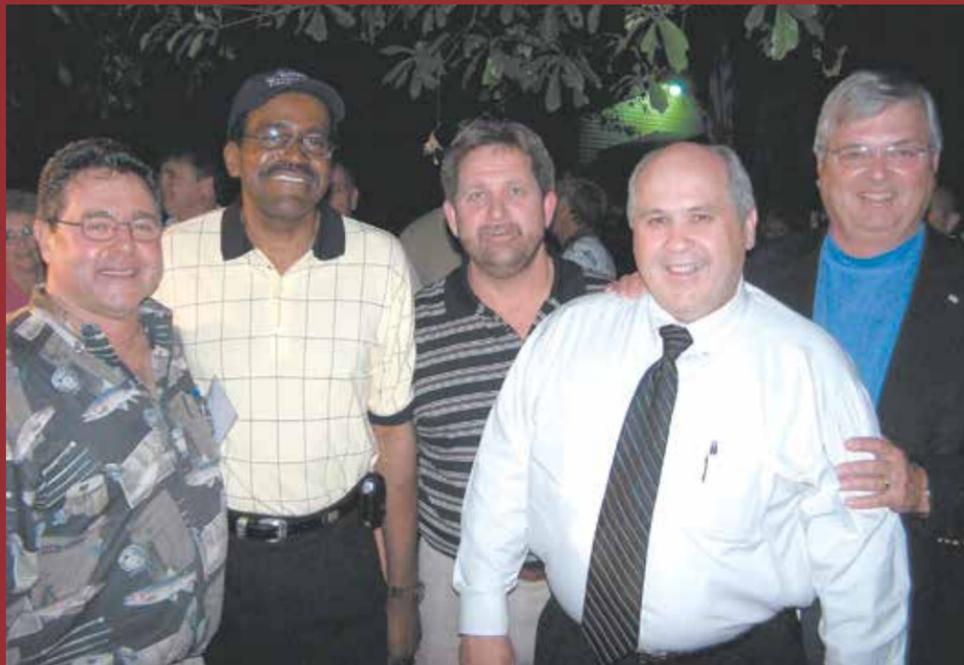
flooded. The estimated loss to the people of Central was \$100,000 per home for 9,000 homes, with the total loss exceeding \$9 billion. Nevertheless, over the past two years, the people of Central have made an amazing recovery.

NOTE: Woody Jenkins is editor of the Central City News. He served in the Louisiana House of Representatives for 28 years. His email is woodyjenkins@hotmail.com.

A Historical Sketch of Greenwell Springs is at Central Library.

Congratulations, Central On 13 Great Years!

**Always Remember We Had to Fight in the Legislature and
at the Polls to Have Our Own City & Our Own Schools!**



Then Rep. (now Sen.) Bodi White (left) testifying for the constitutional amendment to create the Central Community School System. At right Councilmen Louis DeJohn and Ralph Washington, Central incorporator Russell Starns, Rep. Bodi White, and Central Mayor Mac Watts celebrating Central's first municipal elections.



Central citizens campaigning for constitutional amendment to create Central schools and Dr. David Walker



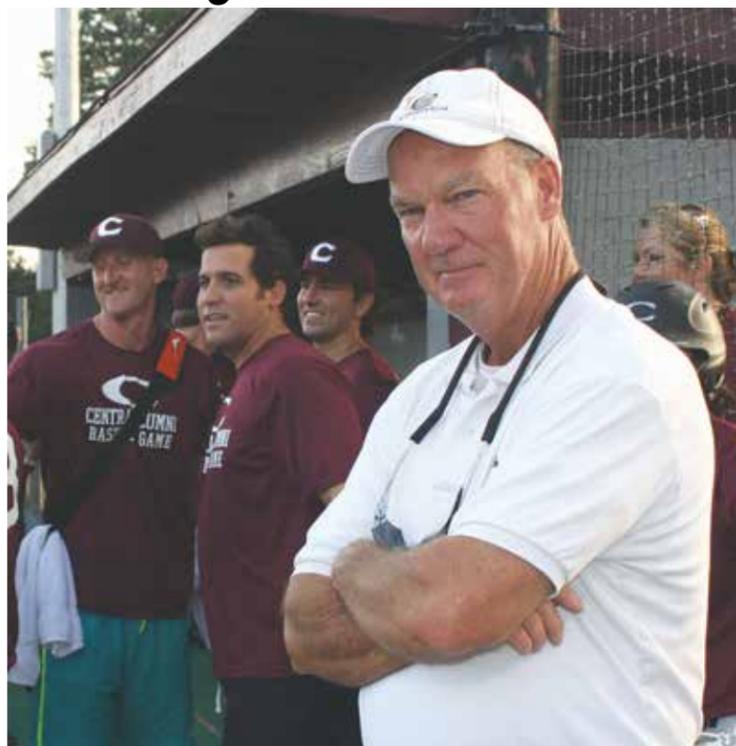
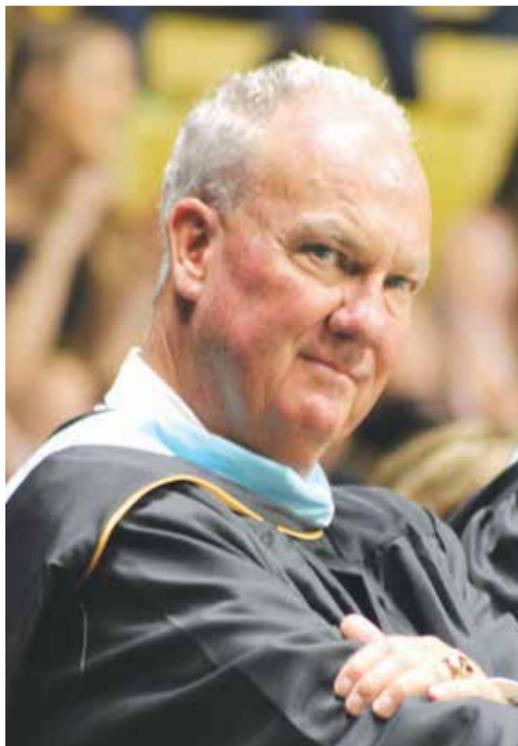
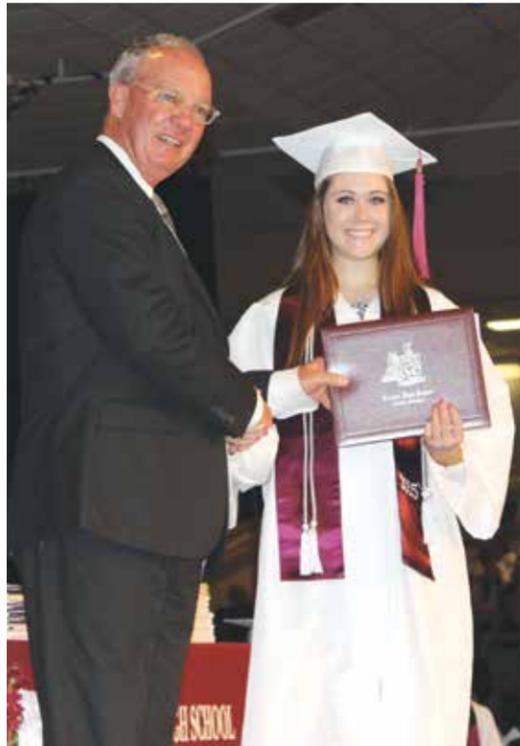
Central Councilman Ralph Washington, city attorney Sheri Morris, Rep. Bodi White, Marti Guilbeau, and Central citizens lobbying the Louisiana Legislature for the City of Central

**May God Continue to Bless America, Our State of Louisiana,
and Our Great City of Central!**

— Sen. Bodi White

Lifelong Educator to Head Central Private School

Prescott Focus Was Always on Kids



CENTRAL HIGH PRINCIPAL David Prescott is retiring after 38 years in public education. Shown at left at the 2015 graduation and at right at a Central old timers baseball game.

Continued from Page 1

ball three years and All-State in baseball two years. He scored 18 points a game in basketball and hit .434 with 11 home runs his senior year. After high school, Prescott played baseball at Southeastern.

After college, Prescott got his first big break when he was hired by Coach Kenny Guillot, then head football coach at Woodlawn High, as an assistant football coach.

Guillot is one of those great coaches Prescott credits with forming his character. Another was Kenny Almond, like B.L. an Istrouma graduate. His classmate from Tara, Carl DeJohn, was still another.

“Carl DeJohn is as good a coach as I’ve ever seen. It’s amazing how hard kids play for him. He has a no nonsense brand of football but the kids love him. He’s the greatest guy in the world, but when the bell rings, it’s all business!”

Prescott moved to Tara where he

was head basketball and softball coach and assistant football coach. In 1982, his softball team won the State Championship.

After Tara, coach Prescott returned to Woodlawn where he taught, served as head track coach and was again assistant football coach.

When Live Oak had a vacancy for head football coach, Prescott applied, even though the school had a 33-game losing streak. He was hired and broke the streak, leading Live Oak to a 4-6 record his first year and 5-5 his second year.

After two years at Live Oak, in 1998, coach Prescott moved to Central High School for the first time. He was assistant football coach for one year and then head coach at Central for the 1999 and 2000 seasons.

In 2001, Warren Drake was principal at Tara and offered coach Prescott head football coach and athletic director. He coached Tara for the next six years, making it to

“When I first interviewed Mr. Prescott, I was amazed at his depth of knowledge of everything that was happening at the school. He took charge and navigated through all the issues a principal faces, but his focus and that of his faculty was always on the kids. That’s why they have such great respect for him, and so do I!”

— Former Supt. Mike Faulk

the playoffs for all but two years. He only 25 players. had a good program despite having See PRESCOTT on Page 27



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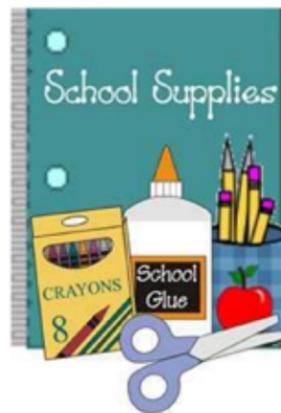
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Happy 4th of July!

Have a Fun and Safe Hoilday!



As we celebrate the land of the free and the home of the brave, we are reminded of what a special gift freedom is to our nation and our fair *City of Central!*

Independence is a precious gift from God. May we always remain independent! We hope your Independence Day day is filled with patriotic spirit! Enjoy your day of FREEDOM in the *City of Central!*



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Technology Cannot Teach Character

Prescott on Keeping the Personal Touch

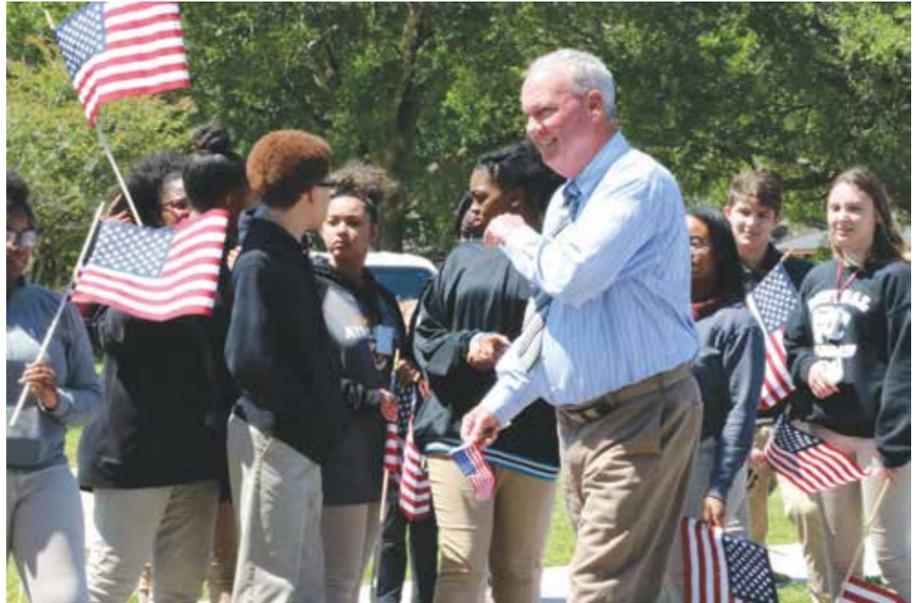
“As education was evolving, I saw that I wasn’t dealing with kids as much as I used to. There are so many directives from the State Department. Technology is high in the priorities today, but technology is not the answer to everything. A website is not the answer to everything. Some things need to change. For one thing, we need a lot less testing. And I’m not big on meetings!”
 — Central High principal David Prescott

“I couldn’t agree more! With all the standards and testing, we lose much of the opportunity for teachers to impact kids’ lives. Instead of spending so much time preparing kids for still another test, we need more time to prepare them for life. Academics is important but we should also be building good citizens, taxpayers, and family members. We should be teaching character and respect. A problem with ‘technology’ is the lack of face to face contact with people. People don’t talk anymore and so many can’t interact with a live person.”
 — Former Central Supt. Mike Faulk

Continued from Page 25

In 2006, Prescott returned to Central as an assistant coach and after one year was named assistant principal, a position he held until being named principal five years ago. One of the reasons he decided to get out of coaching was because it meant he couldn’t be with his kids on Friday nights. “When my son started playing football at Live Oak, I wanted to be able to attend his games. As a coach, I couldn’t but as an administrator, I could.” When one of his former bosses, East Baton Rouge Parish Supt. Warren Drake, heard that David Prescott was retiring, Drake was effusive in his praise. When Drake was principal at Tara High in 2001,

he hired Prescott as head football coach. “Coach Prescott took Tara into the big time from 4A to 5A and did a splendid job! He was a tough taskmaster. He had high expectations for his teams, and they had to work, but the kids loved him! Above all, he taught the kids about character and how to live life the right way,” Drake said. He said, “David Prescott is a class act in every way — as a teacher, coach, and principal! Of course, as a coach, he is part of the coaching lore of East Baton Rouge Parish.” “He contributed so much to so many young people and helped them become the successes they are today!” Coach Prescott said that on the



DAVID PRESCOTT — Central High principal David Prescott organizing students out on Wax Road to honor the funeral procession of the late Lance Cpl. Taylor Conrad.

day he was hired to be the new Central High School principal, he was called in by Supt. Mike Faulk and Assistant Supt. Sandy Davis. “They wanted to talk about goals for Central High. All of us agreed the No. 1 goal should be increasing our graduation rate!” “I feel the graduation rate is one of our biggest accomplishments! We have a very demanding school but our graduation rate has exceeded 90 percent,” he said. “I was blessed to have Nathan Corley as assistant principal. He’s the best in the business! He has a great demeanor, and the kids and teachers love him. He’s like Carl DeJohn. I would not want to be principal without Nathan Corley or someone like him.” “Gigi Starns also went above and beyond the call of duty! She really did a great job!” “Another accomplishment has been our switch to the block system. This has provided the kids with more opportunities to earn credit — 32 opportunities instead of 28. As a result, some seniors have as many as 26 college credits upon graduation. When we went to the block system, our faculty really re-focused on why we were here. It’s always been about the kids.”

“Supt. Mike Faulk was a huge blessing for me.” “I had such great opportunities in school when I was growing up. Our kids today should have those same opportunities.” So why did Coach Prescott decide to go ahead and retire from the public school system? “As education was evolving, I saw that I wasn’t dealing with kids as much as I used to. There are so many directives from the State Department. Technology is high in the priorities today, but technology is not the answer to everything. A website is not the answer to everything. Some things need to change. For one thing, we need a lot less testing. And I’m not big on meetings!” When he announced his retirement, Coach Prescott also announced he will be assuming the same position at Central Private School. Why Central Private? “There’s a need for an alternative form of education in Central. I want to be able to spend more time with the kids, and I think I’ll be able to do that at Central Private. It will allow me to get back to what I enjoy most.” “At Central Private, we offer a good Christian education. It’s a family. At 4:30 the teachers are still there. Teaching is not an eight-hour day. We want to grow but we want to keep the mission of what we are doing.” “There are 350 students pre-K to 12 or about 20 per grade. Lots of clubs and organizations, football, basketball, baseball, track, softball, and soccer.” “Central Private will continue to do a great job for our community!” he said.

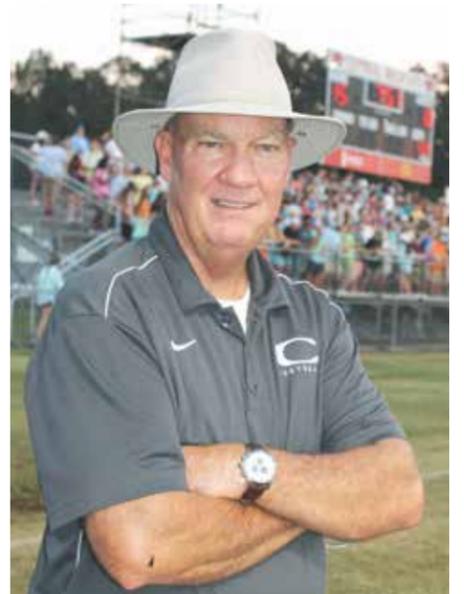
“All of the members of the Central School Board have the very highest opinion of Coach David Prescott. He’s a fine person who has earned the respect of everyone he has served. Most important to me, he is honest and straight forward. He gave us the very best!”
 — Will Easley, Member, Central School Board

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Central High principal David Prescott



MAYOR'S HURRICANE SUMMIT — Central Mayor Jr. Shelton hosted a planning meeting to prepare for hurricane and flood-related problems that could arise. More than 70 agency heads, elected and appointed officials, and private sector attended the Mayor's Hurricane Summit. Download a QR Code Reader and click



Happy Birthday, Central!

On behalf of the officers of the Central Police Department, I want to offer hearty congratulations to the people of Central who make this the best place to live in Louisiana! On our city's 13th birthday, we have so much to be thankful for! The Central Police Department would like to thank you for your loyal support, as we continue our progress to keep the City of Central a safe place to live. This is an exciting time. We are excited about where we are today, the accomplishments we have made, and our future plans! Let's work together to make Central better and better with each passing year!

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

July 17, 2016: The Day Central Police Department Stood Alone

July 17, 2016, is a day that will live in infamy in Baton Rouge. That was the day three law enforcement officers were murdered by an assassin. Here in Central, when we realized what was happening, we called our officers together and developed a plan of action. We knew that the Sheriff's Office would be totally consumed with the events that were unfolding. We also knew the Central Police Department would have to stand alone and provide protection for the people of Central without outside assistance. And that's what we did! We put five two-man teams on the street and continued our patrols until the crisis was over. We're larger now and have more resources, but that day in July 2016 was the day the Central Police Department came of age, the day we knew we could stand alone when we had to.



Briton Myer, Council, District 5

Briton Myer Seeks Seat on City Council, District 5

CENTRAL - Briton Myer is a Central native, an attorney, and a candidate for City Council in District 5. He was born and raised in Central and lives in Twin Lakes Estates off Denham Road. Choosing to remain in his hometown, he feels an obligation to the citizens of Central to ensure that they are heard and that their concerns are addressed.

Briton practices law at Clary, Suba & Associates at their downtown Baton Rouge office and plans to transition to the firm's new office on the border of Zachary and Central.

Briton received his Juris Doctorate from Southern University Law Center, graduating *magna cum laude*, and believes that his legal education and experience will enable him to be an effective advocate for the citizens of Central.

Like many, Briton believes that measured growth in accordance with Central's Master Plan is the best method to ensure Central's prosperity while avoiding the problems faced by far too many cities that out-grow their infrastructure.

As a 2016 flood victim, Briton understands the importance of addressing Central's drainage issues, and will work aggressively to formulate and employ cost-effective and efficient measures to address Central's drainage needs. Briton is confident that the seven people given the honor of serving on Central's City Council, working together, will shape Central's future for the better.

Created Locally, Recognized Statewide

Central Physical Therapy Unique in State

Woody Jenkins
Editor

CENTRAL - Helen Balzli founded Central Physical Therapy in September 2001. She was almost killed in a tragic automobile accident years ago. That accident required her to undergo years of physical therapy. But the experience helped lead her to a life of service to others and the desire to help others recover from disabilities.

Her partner in Central Physical Therapy, Tom Coplin, said, "Helen's experience and her way of helping people recover from physical disabilities is really at the heart of everything we do here."

Tom himself first came from Minnesota to Louisiana to work for Helen in the spring of 2002. He earned his Louisiana license and began working here full time in 2005. He and Helen became partners in 2008.

Central Physical Therapy built a brand new facility on Hooper in 2016, just in time for the Great Flood of August 2016. Fortunately, Tom had insisted that the building be elevated as high as possible. As a result, the flood waters missed them by six inches, which saved the new building from the devastating flood.

The new facility offers many innovative types of therapy. One of the most effective and most popular is the new aquatics therapy pool. It is not for swimming but rather for some very interesting and effective physical therapy.



PHYSICAL THERAPISTS Helen Balzli and Tom Coplin receiving the award as the Professional Practice of the Year Award on behalf of their company, Central Physical Therapy, which is now one of the premier physical therapy clinics in Louisiana. Presenting the award on behalf of the *Central City News* was Bob Breaux.

"The Aquatics Program can help so many people very effectively because of the bouyancy of the water," Tom Coplin said. "The patient can move with less pain. It can be very effective for patients with back or neck problems. It helps get pressure off the back. Results can come in minutes, rather than months."

"People with bad backs are often overweight. Using traction can be impossible because of the size and weight of the person. However, in

the pool, they can get good traction."

"We approach aquatics therapy differently. We put floats under the arms. There can be good decompression. Strength can return right away."

Coplin explained what some of the physical therapists at the clinic do. "Greta and Erik are both certified in dry needling. One of the things this can do is relax muscle spasms without the use of drugs."

He said the concussion program is one of only two in the state. "Richard and Erik can help with in-

juries stemming for car accidents, falls, and sports injuries. Neurologists often work directly with Richard for evaluation and care. It's a good program."

"We use many different approaches in treating patients but the common thread of all our physical therapists is our genuine concern for the patient. We make sure we do things right!"

"We really specialize in one-on-one care. When you visit the clinic, you will see this. You may see 12 therapists working with 12 patients. People like that. It shows that they are receiving the personal care and attention they deserve."

Tom said Central Physical Therapy interacts with patients they way Helen Balzli wants them to, based on her own years of recovery.

Tom said Central Physical Therapy keeps a light atmosphere. "A lot of patients come with great pain but we know they especially need to laugh. So we keep it light."

Tom said Central Physical Therapy keeps up with the latest advances and techniques. For example, the treatment and care after knee surgery has changed dramatically in recent years. Years ago, a patient would be in a cast from hip to knee for six weeks. Now movement and physical therapy begin immediately after surgery.

The most recent advance and perhaps the most important at Central Physical Therapy is stem cell therapy, which allows your stem cells to be implanted where the surgery occurs, such as in the knee.

For more information on Central Physical Therapy, drop by for a visit at 13111 Hooper Road or for information, call 225-261-7094.

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Lawmaker Says Most Threats to Cut Spending Were Not Real

Sen. Bodi White Reviews Recent Sessions

Woody Jenkins

Editor

CENTRAL - The final result of the recently-completed Special Session of the Louisiana Legislature proves that none of the threats used by the governor were real, according to Sen. Bodi White (R-Central).

"The threat to close nursing homes, release prisoners, shut down universities, and kill TOPS were just that — threats! But none of it was real," White said.

"We were told there was a \$1.5 billion shortfall and that we needed to renew a full penny in expiring sales taxes. Yet, it turns out that only about \$500 million was actually needed," he said.

"I lobbied to keep the sales tax renewal under 4.5 percent. It ended up being 4.45 percent, and I felt good about that."

"I strongly support the TOPS program. It is a blessing to our families, especially those who have been paying private school tuition. It's about the only thing that ordinary families get!"

"More than 85 percent of the students who start college with TOPS ultimately graduate. I see it as a return on our tax dollars."

"It has resulted in Louisiana having a relatively low student debt ratio."

During the regular session of the legislature, White said he was pleased with a number of successes he had. These included:



Sen. Bodi White (R-Central)

- \$4 million for flood controls
- \$450,000 toward a new City Hall for Central
- \$400,000 in additional bonding capacity to help with City Hall
- \$12-13 million to widen Sullivan Road. He said the construction contract will be let next year. The property has been bought, and clearing and grubbing are underway.
- With regard to the proposed new bridge connecting Central and Watson by extending Hooper Road across the Amite River, the project has been approved and is in the Capital Outlay bill, but funding is far down the list.

One of bills Sen. White is proud of this year is to permit dredging of the Comite River to help remove debris, trees, and other obstructions, in order to reduce the likelihood of flooding.

White said he would like to see the mayors of Baker, Central, and Zachary come up with a project to clean the lower Comite down to the Central Thruway.

As far as things coming up in the near future, Sen. White said

• During upcoming reapportionment, he would like to see the two precincts in Central that are now part of a Senate district in Livingston be made a part of his Senate district, in order to keep Central whole.

• If St. George gets the required signatures and is approved by voters, you can expect the matter to go to court.

• If St. George is approved by the voters, he will sponsor any needed legislation, such as the creation of a transition district to facilitate the transition of taxes from the City-Parish to the City of St. George.

Overall, White said he was pleased with the success of his legislation this year and was happy that tax renewals were kept to a minimum.

Among bills authored by Sen. White during the regular that passed into law were:

- Act 670, relative to good time and parole for sex offenders
- Act 532, relative to membership on the Sanitation Commission
- Act 565, relative to transporting

patients to other medical facilities.

• Act 386, relative to the sale of excess immovable property by DOTD.

• Act 243, relative to the registration of investment advisor representatives

• Act 387, relative to the distribution of certain fees paid by contractors to go to schools of construction management at the various colleges and universities across the state.

• Act 158, relative to recreating the Governor's Office of Homeland Security.

• Act 163, relative to exempting the Comite River from provisions of the Scenic Rivers Act.

50 Years Ago

From the Archives of the North Baton Rouge Journal

BATON ROUGE - A review of the *North Baton Rouge Journal* for July 1968 included the following:

• The *North Baton Rouge Journal* published an elaborate proposal to divide the Metro Council into single member districts.

• Mack White, father of Bodi White, was a candidate for Metro Council from Ward 2.

• Central attorney Bob Raborn was a candidate for the Metro Council from Ward 2.

• Gaston Gerald was running for reelection to the Council.

• A. T. Furr was running for a seat of the EBR School Board.

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- Special items for your pet including vaccination records, toys, food and a cage/crate
- Flashlights, portable radio and extra batteries
- Extra set of car keys, credit cards and cash
- Important documents kept in a waterproof container or watertight plastic bag
 - Identification, copy of birth certificate, marriage certificate and Social Security card
 - Insurance documents and medical records
 - Bank account numbers, online passwords and log-in information
 - Emergency contact list
- Emergency tools



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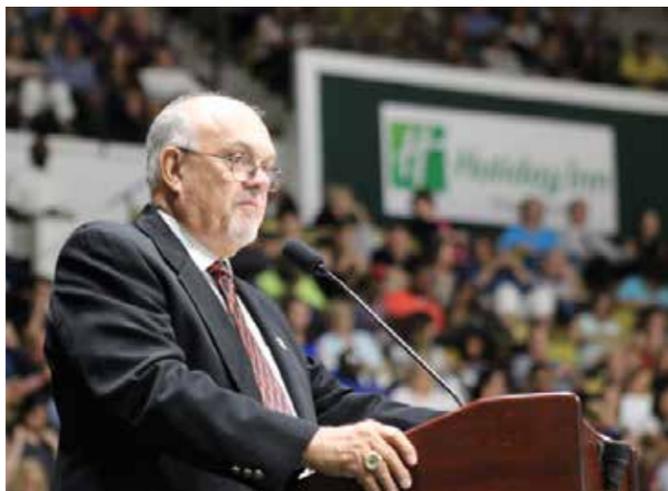
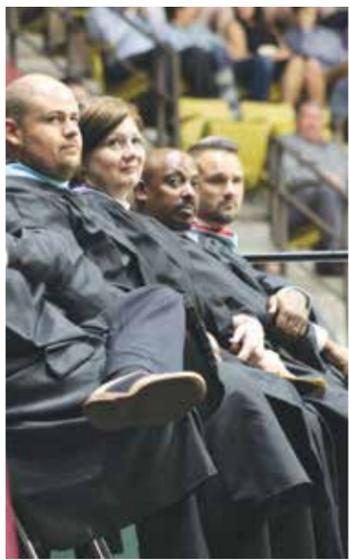
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Central High School's 2018 Graduating Class

Central High School Graduation



CENTRAL HIGH GRADUATION ceremonies at Southeastern Louisiana University featured Supt. Jason Fountain (left) and valedictorian Justin Nijoka (center)



CENTRAL HIGH GRADUATION ceremonies at Southeastern Louisiana University featured Supt. Jason Fountain (left) and valedictorian Justin Nijoka (center)

Download QR Code Reader, Click Here, and Watch Graduation

Photos by Jolice Provost • Video by Woody Jenkins • Kim Powers for Central City News



Central High School's 106th Graduation



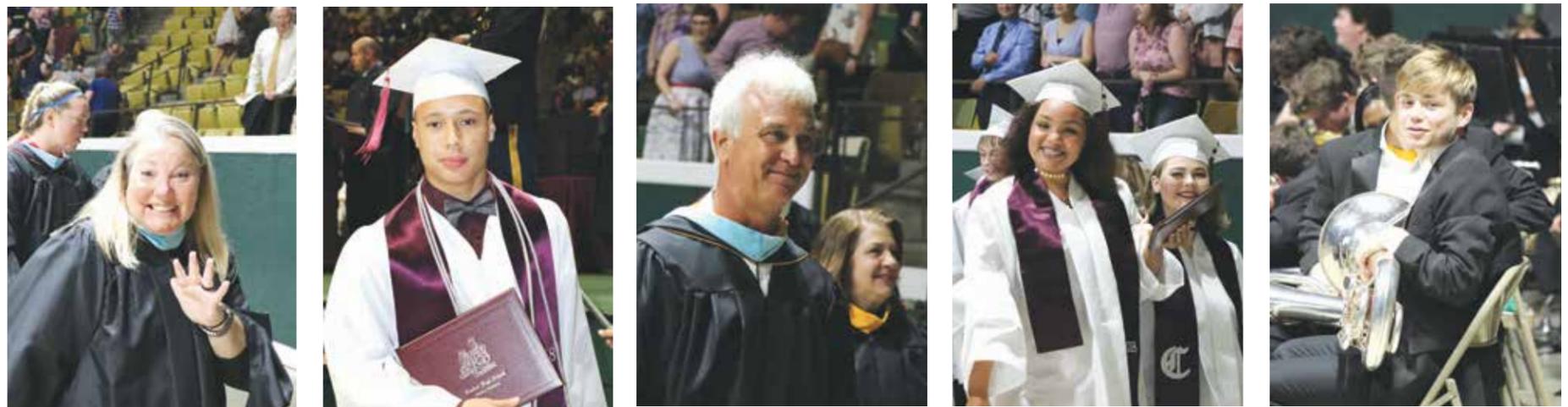
Central High School Class of 2018 Produced Academic

Held May 22 at Southeastern Louisiana



c All-Stars and a State Championship Baseball Team

Central High School Class of 2018



Download QR Code Reader, Click Here, and Watch Graduation
 Photos by Jolice Provost • Video by Woody Jenkins • Kim Powers for Central City News



Rep. Rick Edmonds to Seek Secretary of State

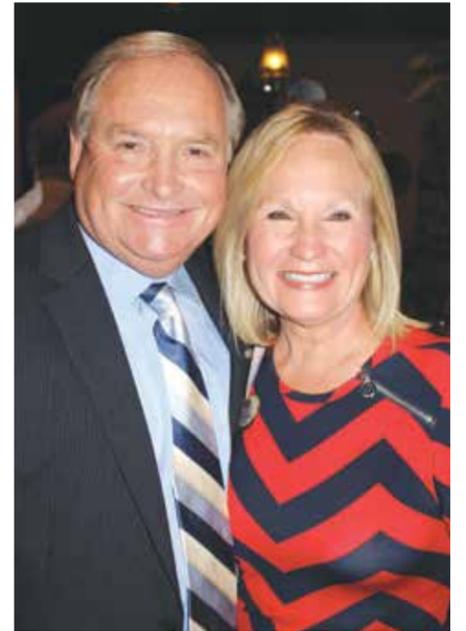
BATON ROUGE - Republican Lawmaker Rick Edmonds announced today he is a candidate for Louisiana Secretary of State in the special election that will be held Nov. 6, 2018.

Edmonds, who currently serves as State Representative in Baton Rouge's 66th District, made his announcement at the East Baton Rouge Parish Republican Women's monthly luncheon at Juban's Restaurant in Baton Rouge.

He also posted a video at www.facebook.com/RickEdmondsLA introducing himself to Louisiana voters.

"Louisiana is in desperate need for more conservative leaders," Edmonds said. "With the topics of voting and elections being so prominently discussed on the national stage, putting the right person with the right principles in this office is now more important than ever."

"As a legislator, I have served as a watchdog for the taxpayer and a fighter against out-of-control government spending," he said. "I will take this same watchdog mentality to the Secretary of State's office by doing everything I can to fight against any and all attempts to weaken secure voting. Only Americans who live in Louisiana should be voting. And, when Louisianans vote, their vote should count. End of story."



REP. RICK EDMONDS and his wife Cindy. He is a candidate for Secretary of State in the Nov. 6 primary.

Edmonds is a member of the House Appropriations, Education and Municipal committees, where he has fought hard to reduce fraud and wasteful spending and led efforts to ensure tax dollars are spent efficiently. He is a respected advocate for school choice, quality preschool programs, and stronger pro-life and adoption policies. Recently, he authored legislation to improve voter participation and cut wasteful spending across the state by eliminating low turnout election days on the calendar.

Edmonds works as a senior advisor for Bethany Church, overseeing local outreach and efforts to rebuild the academy. He felt a call to ministry as a young man, and has served congregations in Florida and Louisiana, including Parkview Baptist Church in Baton Rouge and Calvary Baptist Church and Academy in Shreveport. His job responsibilities along the way have included ministry, coaching, teaching, counseling and administrative management.

He successfully managed as many as 200 employees and a \$12 million annual budget during his tenure, and has been recognized nationally for his leadership in growing local ministries.

Edmonds holds a bachelor's degree from East Texas Baptist University and a Master's of Divinity from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary.

Edmonds and his wife Cindy recently celebrated their 44th wedding anniversary. They have four grown, accomplished sons and daughters-in-law, and eight grandchildren.

50 Years Ago

From the Archives of the North Baton Rouge Journal

BATON ROUGE - In July 1968, John McKeithen was Governor, John Rarick was Congressman, and Woody Dumas was Mayor-President.

In Central, T. H. Montgomery was on the school board. In Baker, Dewey Raborn, the first Republican elected to Metro Council, was running for reelection.

Also in Baker, Pete Heine was Mayor. Now 50 years later, Pete Heine still serves on the Baker City Council.

In Baton Rouge, Eddie Bauer was named Chief of Police, and James Robison had a revival going.

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Spring Game Left Coach Sid Excited

Woody Jenkins
Editor

CENTRAL - Central's annual spring football game left legendary Central head football coach Sid Edwards invigorated and excited about the future. He has a new squad and some additions to his coaching staff that should create a lot of excitement for Central Wildcat fans.

"Every day I come to work, I feel like it's my first day on the job! We're putting a new shine on things, and it's exciting," the former Louisiana 5A Coach of the Year said. Coach Sid's staff this year will include Ken Hilton, Justin Hutchinson, Greg Morris, Joey Jarreau, and Zach Morris.

The Central Wildcats face a district which is steadily improving and is now perhaps the strongest 5A district in the state athletically. This year the district produced two state football championships, two state baseball championships, a state basketball championship, and a state track championship.

Central High went from a position of dominating the district for five straight years to now having a very competitive situation in all sports.

Coach Sid said he liked a lot of things he saw at the Wildcats' recent spring game and is excited about his coaching staff and this fall.

★★★

The retirement of Central High principal David Prescott left Coach Sid Edwards, who also serves as Athletic Director, with a lot of emotions.

"Coach Prescott is an old school guy with old school values. It's re-



TWO FRIENDS — Central High head football coach Sid Edwards (left) welcomed Istrouma head coach Jeremy Gradney (right) to the Spring Game at Wildcat Stadium.

freshing to see that today."

"One thing is very predictable. When he makes a decision, he always makes it in the best interests of the kids. That has always been his focus, as well it should be."

"Watching Coach Prescott serve as principal really reminded me once again why I have never wanted to move into administration. When you are principal, you are surrounded by adults all day. The kids are on campus but when you're an administrator you really don't get to work

with them very much."

"A teacher might have a student for an hour or less a day but there's pressure to cover the lesson plan and get ready for the test. There's not as much interaction as you might think."

"But the coach gets to spend three to six hours a day with a kid. You know what he likes to eat, when his birthday is, and what things are like at home. This gives you the opportunity to have a positive influence on the young man or woman and

sometimes it can be life changing."

Coach Sid said he likes the vision of new Supt. Jason Fountain and new Central High principal Brandon LaGroue and said they should be good to work with.

★★★

At the Central High Spring Game, Coach Sid was visited by Istrouma Coach Jeremy Gradney, who came to enjoy the game and provide encouragement.

Istrouma High reopened last fall after being closed for four years. It had been destined to be demolished by the State Department of Education but was saved by East Baton Rouge Parish Supt. Warren Drake, who did what has never been done before — get a school that had been taken over by the state to be returned to the parish.

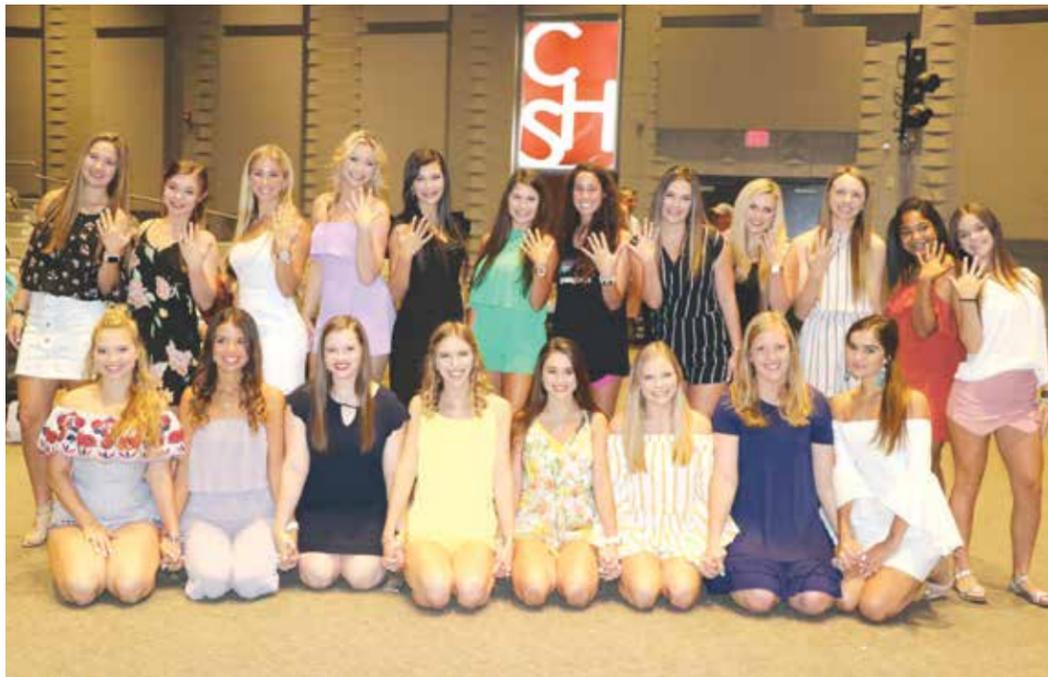
Drake oversaw a \$24 million rebuild of Istrouma High, and it is now a beautiful facility — better than ever, according to alumni. The new principal, Reginald Douglas, and his staff are doing well, as are the students, who performed well on state exams. It is now once again the public high school serving the North Baton Rouge area (70805).

Istrouma started with 400 9th and 10th graders and competed at the JV level last fall. They will do so again this fall before graduating to varsity in 2019. Coaches Edwards and Gradney have developed a strong friendship. Last year, the Central players hosted the Istrouma players for a day-long visit to Central High. Istrouma is likely to return the favor by hosting Central this fall.

Istrouma will have 700 students this fall and 1,000 by 2019. By then, it should be a 4A school.

Ring Day for CHS Cheerleaders, Game Day Champs

Cheerleaders Get National Championship Rings



CHAMPIONSHIP RINGS — The 2017-2018 Central High Cheerleaders have expressed thanks to the Central Athletic Foundation for helping to make their National Championship rings a reality. In a ceremony last week, the girls were honored with rings to commemorate their national title. They won 1st place in the Large Varsity Game Day Division in February.



LOOKING GOOD — Central High cheerleaders with their coach and sponsor took great pride showing off their rings and taking pictures with friends and family. Central's team coach is Amy Stevens, and their sponsor is Sharon Ball. The new team is working hard this summer and making plans to defend their title at Disney World in February 2019

Excitement High as Wildcats Prepare for Fall Season

Central High Intrasquad Spring Game



Central High Spring Game

May 17, 2018 • Wildcat Stadium

Photos by Jolice Provost • Central City News



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Central Head Coach Sid Edwards Sees Plenty of Potential

Central Spring Game Shows Power,

Photos by Jolice Provost



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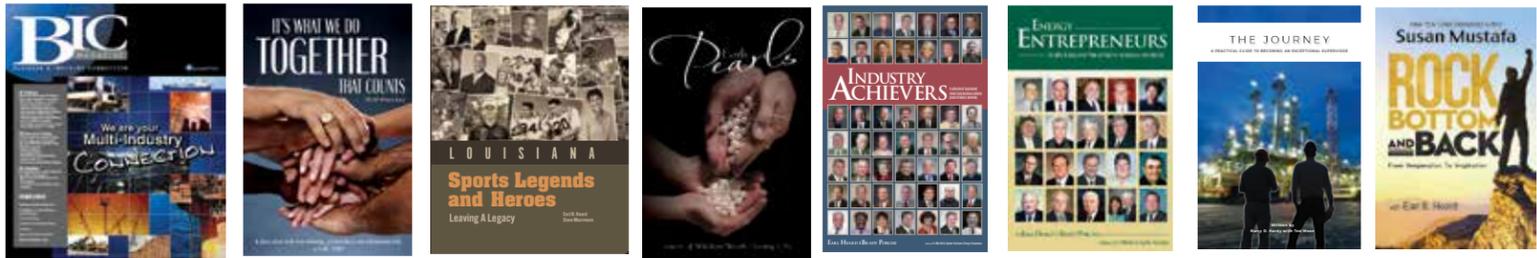


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