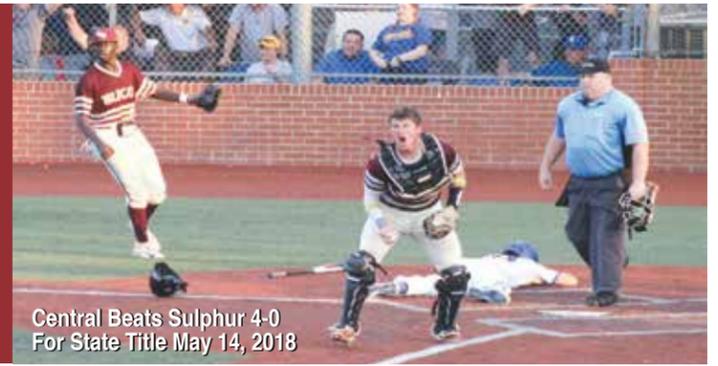


Defending State 5A Champion Central Wildcats Are Back!

See Photos of Seniors, Schedule on Page 14



Central Beats Sulphur 4-0 For State Title May 14, 2018

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Mayor David Barrow on Where City of Central Stands

The State of the City



STATE OF THE CITY — Only one month into his new role as Mayor of Central, David Barrow issued his first State of the City. The mayor outlined some of the issues facing the city, including his appointments, city budget, IBTS contract, backlog of work orders, flood recovery funds, CSRS work, Master Drainage plan, culverts, drainage mapping, Corps projects, the Parish Road Plan, and more.

CENTRAL — Newly-elected Central Mayor David Barrow gave his assessment of the City of Central and where it stands in his State of the City report issued last week. The full text follows:

STATE OF THE CITY OF CENTRAL
 by Mayor David Barrow

Today marks exactly one month since City Council members, our chief of police, and I officially took office. It has been quite a month transitioning into office, rekindling old friendships with other governmental officials across the parish and state, and having many meetings. The support and patience from the community has been overwhelming and much appreciated.

Since taking office, I have had nearly two dozen scheduled meetings as well as numerous phone calls with other local, parish, state, and federal government officials, business owners, consulting firms,

homeowners associations, and everyday citizens.

We have had two Council meetings so far, and I would like to commend our Council members for getting off to a great start. It's not easy trying to learn ordinances, rules, protocol, and more while seated before standing-room only crowds, but they have handled themselves with decorum and professionalism as well as open dialogue. One of the first issues they tackled was the appointment of two Planning & Zoning members. They chose to reappoint T.J. Johnson as well as appointing new member Steven Lumpkin.

See **CENTRAL** on Page 2

Mayor Says City Hall Still On the Table

CENTRAL - Despite the controversy over building a new City Hall for Central during recent city elections, Central Mayor David Barrow said the idea of building a new City Hall is very much alive. He said he wants to work closely with the school board to ascertain their views. However, he said a building of 3,500 to 4,000 square feet could serve the needs, and it would not necessarily be located at Hooper and Sullivan.

He said he has asked former Mayor Mac Watts to volunteer his time to work on the project.

Wildcat Cheerleaders Win National Title



Central High Wildcat Cheerleaders won the National Championship in Orlando last weekend.

ORLANDO — The Central High Wildcat cheerleading team has won their second consecutive National Championship during competition at the ESPN Wide World of Sports complex in Orlando this past weekend.

The competition was for Game Day Large Varsity Non-Tumbling cheerleading. The Wildcat cheerlead-

ers competed with other schools from across the country.

Varsity sponsor for the team is Sharon Ball. Team captain is Camille Provost, and co-captains are Bailee Bagley and Peyton Dowden.

Amy Stevens is coach of the varsity cheerleading team. She also helps coach younger cheerleaders.

Central was also represented by the Cats (10 and under) who placed 6th in the nation, and the Wildcats (14 and older) who placed 7th in the nation in a very tough senior division.

The competition is held every year under the auspices of the National High School Cheerleading Competition.

Willie Entertains Basketball Crowd



Central High mascot Willie the Wildcat

Mayor Barrow: The State of the City

Continued from Page 1

Appointments. The council also confirmed my appointments of three key city personnel. Mark Miley will remain City Clerk. Ti Barnes will remain Administrative Hearing Officer to enforce local code enforcement violations within the city. I am also pleased to bring back Sheri Morris as City Attorney. Her wealth of knowledge is a true asset to the city. I also reappointed Mark Balkin as City Attorney for Planning & Zoning matters, and Suzonne Cowart will remain our Finance Director. I have also hired Terri Parnell to be my Executive Assistant.

I truly look forward to the future of Central and serving the public. I realize there are a lot of wants and needs out there. There are 66 square miles of coverage and nearly 28,000 citizens to represent. Some issues can be handled through simple solutions and are easy to solve. Other issues can be complicated and may not have an immediate solution, but I, along with our other elected officials, will do our best to stay on top of things.

City Budget. Our annual budget year starts on July 1 of each year and ends on June 30 of the following year. For the 2018-19 fiscal year, general sales tax revenues are expected to generate approximately \$5.6 million dollars. Automobile sales taxes are expected to generate approximately \$1.4 million dollars, and other tax revenues will generate approximately \$350,000. This total projection gives us a tax revenue budget of nearly \$7.4 million. The city collects a two percent general sales and use tax. The city does not collect a property tax. I will provide a monthly sales tax press release giving updated revenue amounts to the local newspapers and our website.

IBTS Contract. A large portion of our expenditures goes towards paying IBTS, our city services contractor, to handle many of the day-to-day operations of the city, including public works, planning and zoning, permits and inspections, engineering, licenses,



code enforcement, and more. That contract amount for the 2018-19 fiscal year is a little over \$4.1 million dollars. The new contract with IBTS went into effect July 1, 2018, and will increase a little over \$100,000 each year for the next 5 years. I have already taken steps to reorganize and make improvements at IBTS which have already resulted in better efficiency.

Backlog of Work Orders. Late last year, IBTS had a backlog of 944 work orders. As of this week, we have been able to reduce that to 344 work orders, which is a decrease of 63 percent in a short period of time, while still keeping up with existing work orders. Very soon, we will be placing the Public Works Work Orders on our website so that the public can see what work was performed each month. I also plan to put our monthly Financial Report on the website as well so that you can see how your tax dollars are being spent. Our website address is www.centralgov.com.

Flood Recovery Funds. I recently learned through one of my conversations with a state employee that the City of Central had over \$600,000 in funding from the state available to help recover costs from expenses in the flood of 2016. I submitted the request this week, and I look forward to receiving these funds to have deposited into the city's bank account.

CSRS Firm. CSRS, a local engineering and consulting firm, was hired



FLOOD OF AUGUST 2016 has had an enormous impact on Central's priorities.

“We welcome new development, but we need to make sure that we do not overburden our existing infrastructure (water, sewer, roadways, drainage systems). We must also work with the Central Community School System to handle the effect of developments on the school system.” — Central Mayor David Barrow

by the previous administration to handle recovery efforts from the flood of 2016 as well as designing a Master Drainage Plan and providing technical assistance to the city on future drainage projects and grant funding. They have done an excellent job, and the City Council recently voted to extend their contract through September 2019.

Master Drainage Plan. I look forward to the results on the Master Drainage Plan within the next 60 days. There will be many projects recommended in the plan. Some will be small projects that can be locally funded through our dedicated drainage fund account, and other projects will require new funding methods for which CSRS will assist us with grant opportunities. We obviously will not be able to fund all projects recommended in the plan at this time, but as with any planning project, we will at least have a starting point and a plan to guide us in the future.

Drainage Culverts. I was recently informed this week that a project submitted last year through the Hazardous Mitigation Grant Program for federal funding for drainage improvements to culverts at almost 150 locations throughout the city has now shown that only four of the culverts submitted will actually produce the benefits necessary to move forward in FEMA's evaluation process. I have a meeting scheduled soon with members of GOHSEP (Governor's Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness) to discuss funding op-



FLOOD OF AUGUST 2016 caused damaged to most homes in Central. In the aftermath, Central has had to consider flood prevention, drainage issues, road and bridge construction, economic development, and now a development code.

portunities and other applications for which we can apply to make drainage improvements within the city.

Mapping Project. Our Flood Inundation Mapping Project for the Amite River will be ready soon. It is the first and only early warning system for river flooding in the State of Louisiana. This system is designed to give advance warning of potential life-threatening flood conditions that may occur during heavy storm events. I will be scheduling a public meeting along with the City Council to provide a demonstration of the mapping when it is ready. More public meetings to discuss drainage plans and projects will be scheduled as well.

Corps Projects. I have already had three meetings with the Corps of Engineers and City-Parish officials regarding the parishwide drainage channel improvements which includes two projects within the City of Central: Beaver Bayou and Blackwater Bayou. These meetings with the USACE have been very positive. This estimated \$72 million project for our two channels is part of a parishwide nearly \$225 million project which requires a 25 percent local match, which for Central represents approximately \$18 million dollars. This is a very complicated project, and we are currently working with the City-Parish and CSRS on seeking grant funding for our match share. The City-Parish is also seeking grant funding to cover their share.

Parish Road Plan. As for transportation, the MovEBR half-cent sales

tax passed in December 2018. It is expected for the parish to begin collection of this tax in April 2019. The City of Central is expected to receive approximately \$1.3 million per year from this tax. This dedicated tax must be used on roadway construction and improvements only. We will be using our share of the half-cent road tax to plan and design intersection and widening improvements at some of the locations contained in our Transportation Plan. Turning lanes and/or roundabouts will be considered to improve the flow of traffic at select intersections. Currently, with the use of local revenue, we are performing street repairs and overlays in a number of locations throughout the city.

Sullivan Road Widening. The Sullivan Road widening project from Wax Road to Hooper Road is moving along. Utility companies are still relocating lines. Once their work is complete, DOTD will advertise for construction bids. Once completed, the roadway will be four lanes with a center median and dedicated turning lanes at select locations, and sidewalks will be installed on both sides of the roadway. Additional turning lanes will be added at the intersection of Hooper and Sullivan.

Hooper Road Widening. As part of the MovEBR sales tax, improvements to Hooper Road will also be scheduled at a date yet to be determined. Hooper Rd will be widened to four lanes from Blackwater Bayou to just east of Sullivan Road. A bicycle path will be added from the Blackwater Conservation Area to the Hooper Road Sports Park in addition to sidewalks.

Thibodeaux Road. We have received MPO (Metropolitan Planning Organization) funds for improvements to Thibodeaux Road. A resolution to sign the Entity/State Agreement for this project will be placed on an upcoming council agenda. This project is part of our Transportation Plan and involves improving this collector roadway by widening the lanes a few feet, improving safety, as well as installing four larger cross-drains under the roadway to provide better drainage. I will be asking the City Council to approve funds for engineering work on this project and scheduling a letting date in early 2021 hopefully. Doing this project with our own funding would cost us approximately \$1.4 million. By using MPO funds, the costs to us will be less than half of that amount according to estimates.

Frenchtown Road Bridge. The Frenchtown Road bridge replacement over Beaver Bayou is expected to start near the end of this year. Current plans are to advertise for bids by late summer/early fall, with construction starting early in 2020. This project will last approximately 300 calendar days and will involve a complete road closure during that period. Residents south of the bridge will have to use Thibodeaux Road and Morgan Road as a detour route.

Economic Development. As for Economic Development, I have had several meetings with representatives from the Central Chamber of Commerce, and I look forward to working with them on business retention and development. By working with the Chamber of Commerce, I feel we can develop more local involvement and projects. I have also been meeting with a number of our local businesses seeking their guidance and input. We must support our local businesses.

Development Code. Many of our nearby cities and parishes have recently enacted new, stronger development codes to combat flooding and traffic issues. These codes include limits on the amount of dirt that can be brought on a parcel of land, increasing the storm retention guides from a 10-year storm event to a 25-year storm event, studying the effects of upstream and downstream drainage, and limiting



New Development Must Be Controlled

the number of lots that be constructed with only one entrance/exit. The City of Central has fallen behind our neighboring municipalities when it comes to strengthening our development codes. Several of our Council members have come to me wanting to make improvements to our codes to make sure that we have not only quality developments in the future but also developments that protect existing property owners nearby.

Overburdening Infrastructure. We welcome new development, but we need to make sure that we do not overburden our existing infrastructure (water, sewer, roadways, drainage systems). We must also work with the Central Community School System to handle the effect of developments on the school system.

Planning Ordinances. I will be meeting with our Zoning Attorney Mark Balkin as well as our P&Z staff to look at other changes to our Planning ordinances that they have recommended. I have also met with a number of local builders and developers who have also provided ideas that can help our city maintain a quality of life goal that is good for our citizens. Working with our City Council, I feel confident that we will enact some new ordinances that will not only provide better protection for our existing residents, but also provide more clear guidelines for developers and builders.

City Hall Funding. I spoke with Sen. Bodi White, and he advised we have several hundred thousand dollars of state funding appropriated for a new City Hall, but this funding may not be available for long if we don't use it soon due to state budget issues. It was made very clear by the public that the previously proposed \$5 million, 17,000 square foot megaplex on the old Central Middle Property was just too much. During the campaign



ROAD PRIORITIES — Widening of Sullivan from Wax to Hooper will begin soon. Widening of Hooper from Blackwater to Sullivan was recently funded by voters.

trail, I made it clear that I did not support that concept, but I did, and still do, support a smaller City Hall that would not only provide office space for city officials but also provide permanent City Council chambers that would also be used for Planning & Zoning meetings and other community meetings that we may have. Central is the only city around us that I can think of that doesn't have a City Hall.



Mayor Mac Watts This project has been in the planning stage for many years, and in speaking with the public about this issue, citizens have told me that they could support a smaller City Hall building.



Current Central City Hall



Plans for New City Hall Scrapped

Committee on City Hall. In order to avoid the possibility of losing available state funding, I will be assembling a small committee to continue looking into the construction of a new City Hall. The committee will consider property locations and building size. I feel that a building in the range of 3,500-4,000 square feet would accommodate the needed city personnel as well as Council chambers. It is important to have public input in this manner.

When this project was first considered nearly eight years ago, we had numerous public meetings, and the citizens were excited about this project. I want to bring that back. While the scope of the design and property will be reduced considerably from the initial concept, I still believe we can do this project at an affordable cost that the public will also agree. Former Mayor Mac Watts has agreed to help with the process and has offered to serve on the committee, and I could not be more excited.

Police Department. Our police department will be making some changes soon to better protect our citizens. Chief Corcoran and his staff have been doing a great job, and we have a good working relationship, and I look forward to this continuing. I also want to thank Capt. Jason Demoulin and all of the great deputies of the Sheriff's Office for their continuing protection of the city as well.

Looking to Future. I look forward to a bright future in the city. We have drainage, traffic, infrastructure, quality of life, economic development, as well as overall development issues to handle in the future. We can work on these issues together.

Remember, our City Council meets on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 6 p.m. at Kristenwood, 14025 Greenwell Springs Rd.

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WHERE IS MY COUNTRY? — Your country is where your heart is. If your heart is in America, then work for it, fight for it, and never give up on it. Liberty is our ideal, but it is not a destination. It is a journey, a battle, a lifelong fight for each generation.

Where Is My Country?

Woody Jenkins
 Editor

Benjamin Franklin said, “Where Liberty dwells, there is my country.” One of our readers, Ann Marie Perkins, asked, “So where is my country?” The answer is simple, but before giving it, we should say something about Liberty.

Liberty always begins in the heart of a man. He may be in the darkest prison where hope has been destroyed. Yet, deep inside his heart, there is a spark. That spark is love — love for his country, love for his family, love for our God. Love gives rise to inspiration, planning, determination, and hard work.

Liberty was never bought without great sacrifice. Someone has to pay the price. Sometimes a whole generation, a whole nation must pay the price. In every corner of the world, man yearns for Liberty. And he fights for it.

There is no country immune from the passion of the single man willing to give everything for a chance to breath free.

Liberty springs forth from the heart. The love of Liberty is more powerful than the greatest dictator who commands the greatest army.

On the northwest wall of the Jefferson Memorial in Washington are these words, which are a warning from Jefferson: “God who gave

us life gave us liberty. Can the liberties of a nation be secure when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just, that His justice cannot sleep forever.”

In America, we have so much and we take so much for granted. Many today say, “America is over, all is lost!” How ridiculous! How short-sighted! No hope for America? We still have every imaginable resource at our disposal — private property, freedom of speech, the right to keep and bear arms, and millions upon millions of Americans who love Liberty.

Think of the poor peasant in Southeast Asia whose village has been burned by the Communists, his family killed, his livestock destroyed. He is left with only himself and an old carbine rifle. Yet, he fights for his country and his freedom. Now that is a hopeless case. Yet, it too can turn to victory.

God said, “Know the truth, and the truth will set you free.”

To have Liberty, man must have the truth. Communication is essential in the fight for freedom. Without truth, there is confusion and dissension. But with the truth, the path to victory is often clear.

Today many Americans see their country and Liberty slipping away. They fret, they stew, they wring

“Liberty always begins in the heart of a man. He may be in the darkest prison where hope has been destroyed. Yet, deep inside his heart, there is a spark. That spark is love — love for his country, love for his family, love for our God. Love gives rise to inspiration, planning, determination, and hard work.”

their hands. They talk. But they do nothing.

“I voted!” a man says. You voted? Well, great, but what the hell else did you do? Sitting in the car listening to Rush or watching Fox News at night is not a commitment. Did you sacrifice days of your life in this recent campaign going door to door or making phone calls or waving signs? Did you give money or raise money?

Victory in everything goes to those who work their hearts out and sacrifice. Did you? Don’t say you voted. That is the utter minimum that anyone can do. Voting should be the last final act of a whirlwind of activity in helping elect Liberty-loving candidates for public office.

If you sit on the sidelines, don’t blame the liberals, the welfare cheats, the illegal immigrants, the crony capitalists or any of the other left-wing, corrupt forces that are bringing our country down. If you sit on the sidelines and do nothing, blame yourself for what happens.

All that is necessary for Evil to Triumph is for good men to do nothing. For Liberty to triumph, it’s not enough to “love” Liberty. You have to work tirelessly and sacrifice for it.

You have to be willing to do what others refuse to do in order to make a real difference. If you sat on the sidelines and watched what happened in this election, resolve never to do that again!

Be in the arena, covered with blood and sweat and tears. Then and only then will you have the right to complain about what’s happening in our country. Otherwise, your words are like clanging cymbals that have no meaning.

So the question is asked, “Where is my country?” And the answer is simple: Your country is where your heart is. If your heart is in America, then work for it, fight for it, and never give up on it. Liberty is our ideal, but it is not a destination. It is a journey, a battle, a lifelong fight for each generation.

A great part of America is continuing the fight for Liberty. The love of Liberty is expressed through action. Yes, Liberty begins in the heart of a man, and you are that man!

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 Central City News
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Mayor Shelton Named Honorary Assistants



CENTRAL — In his final act as Mayor, former Central Mayor Jr. Shelton appointed sisters Ella Olive and Sara Olive as his Honorary Executive Assistants. The two young ladies, both students at Central Intermediate School, were among the Mayor’s biggest supporters during the recent campaign. They can still be seen wearing Jr. Shelton for Mayor T-shirts.



TWO YOUNG LADIES named Douglas stopped by Krispy Kreme on Plank Road to pick up some donuts for their daddy, Reginald Douglas, principal at Istrouma High School. Sara, a 2017 graduate of Central High School, is studying broadcasting at Coffeyville Community College in Kansas where she plays on the basketball team. Naomi, Central High 2018, is studying medical lab science at ULM.

Baton Rouge Community College Athletics Are On-the-Air for Spring 2019 Season!



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| Feb. 16 | Southern-S - Men's | 4 p.m. |
| Feb. 17 | MO St. Louis - Baseball | 12 noon |
| Feb. 19 | MS Pearl River - Softball | 3 p.m. |
| Feb. 20 | LSU-E - Women's | 5:30 p.m. |
| Feb. 20 | LSU-E - Men's | 7:30 p.m. |
| Feb. 22 | Copiah-Lincoln - Softball | 2&5 p.m. |
| Feb. 27 | MS Jones Co. - Softball | 2&5 p.m. |

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Former Tara, Buffalo Bills' Star Brian Duncan

NFL Player Inspires Central Private



CENTRAL PRIVATE — Former NFL player, Brian Duncan visited Central Private for monthly devotion. Students were receptive to his message of standing up for your faith.

CENTRAL — Former Tara High and Texas Tech star Brian Duncan spoke on faith to Central Private School students and faculty attending the school's January devotion.

Duncan, who played for the Buffalo Bills in the NFL and later in the Canadian Football League was coached at Tara by David Prescott, now head of Central Private School.

Right after his appearance at Central Private, Duncan received one of the highest honors given by the Louisiana High School Ath-

letic Association — the Golden Torch Award presented annually to an athlete for his accomplishments after athletics.

Each month at Central Private, 6th through 12th grade students participate in a devotion usually led by pastors and sometimes students.

Today, as a successful business man, husband, and father of four children, Duncan uses his experiences to speak to students and groups around the region. During his devotional, he spoke to the stu-

dents about standing up for their faith and other people.

"In today's world that can be a really tough thing to do," he said. "Students should look for ways to serve others, he said. "If someone can't walk, we should walk for them, and walk proud. If someone can't speak, we should speak for them."

He spoke about his own experiences as a student and athlete involved in many different sports and activities. In high school, Duncan was MVP on the football team

and participated in basketball, wrestling, track, ROTC, band, and choir. He was also president of the senior class. Duncan told the students not to limit themselves or let anyone tell them that they cannot achieve their dreams.

During the event, students were pulled onto the floor to interact with each other and Duncan in order to build a sense of community. Mr. Prescott said everyone enjoyed being motivated and inspired by Duncan. Many of the students said it was the best devotional yet.

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Red River Bank Celebrates 20th Anniversary

Red River Has Been in Central For Six Years

ALEXANDRIA — A lot of things have changed since January 1999. TV screens became flatter, cell phones became ever-present, and Red River Bank grew from a single location on Alexandria's Centre Court to a statewide presence with more than 300 team members in eight parishes. And on January 14, 2019 they celebrated 20 years as a true community bank.

The last two decades' changes in technology have largely changed the face of banking, but Red River Bank president and CEO Blake Chatelain says people are often surprised most by what the bank has managed not to change in 20 years.

"No matter how many great new technologies we add," Chatelain said, "people will always be our focus. You'll always be able to walk into Red River Bank and see familiar faces—people who know you and your community."

Community, Chatelain says, is shown above right are Red River Bank's original employees (left to right) — Patsy Basco, Kim Hess, Debbie Dean, Becky Crooks, Carrie Roy, Blake Chatelain, Carla George, Isabel Carriere, Sandy Mayeaux, Tammi Salazar, and Bryon Salazar. Shown to the right are Red River Bank's employees in Central — Louis Bonfanti, personal banker; Sheena Johnson, head teller; Rosie Dunn, teller; Jennifer Bass, universal banker, and Natalie Barber, branch manager.



Original Red River Bank employees



Staff of Red River Bank in City of Central, Louisiana

what that team of more than 300 is celebrating. Looking back at this 20th anniversary of the bank's founding, the bank's president and CEO sees a growing tradition of community involvement, from team members' voluntarism in civic groups and relief efforts to free financial education through Red River Bank "University."

Chatelain says the widespread use of the Internet over the last 20 years has helped multiply the impact of the bank's outreach. "Our free seminars are more popular than ever," he says, "and we're able to reach even more people with our on-line tools."

Red River Bank's expanding sense of community—across the state and across digital platforms—points back to the ideals the bank was founded on, Chatelain says. "Our tag line says we're the bank 'Made in Louisiana' and 'Made for Louisiana,' and that's more than a slogan. It's the reason we're here."

Interviewed about the anniversary, Red River Bank branch manager in Central Natalie Barber, said, "Red River Bank has been a part of the Central community for almost six years. The bank here operates on the same philosophy as branches throughout the state -- which is putting people first and exceeding expectations every day. Decisions are made locally and the service is personalized for the customers' specific needs."

Five Red River Bank branches are in the greater Baton Rouge area.

CENTRAL PRIVATE

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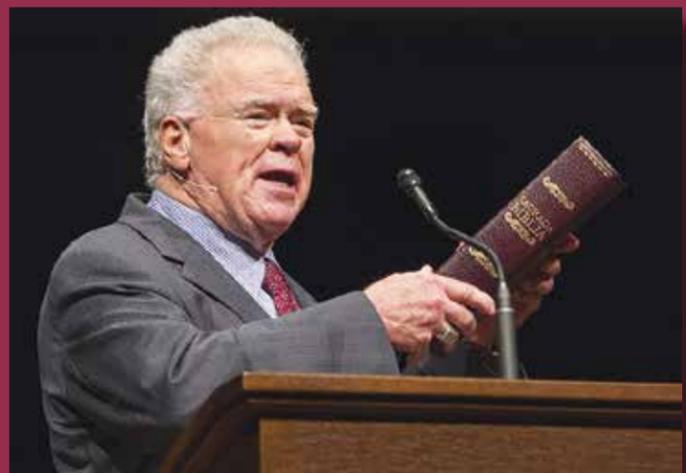
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Robert and Eloise Keating of Central Honored on Their 62nd Anniversary



CELEBRATING 62 YEARS OF MARRIAGE — Long time residents of Central, Robert Q. Keating Jr. and Eloise (Zachary) Keating, celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary on January 26. The couple was married in 1957. The family gathered at Duke's Seafood in Watson, Louisiana to celebrate with children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

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Sage Blakelyn Born October 5



Sage Blakelyn Huval

Blake and Lauren Huval proudly announce the birth of their first child, a girl, Sage Blakelyn Huval. She was born on October 5, 2018 at Woman's Hospital at 3:04 p.m. Sage weighed six pounds fourteen ounces and was 20 1/4 inches long. Proud grandparents are Ronnie and Charmon Breaux and John and Rhonda Huval, also from Central.

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Across Louisiana Thousands March for Right to Life

March for Life Rally in Downtown BR

BATON ROUGE — More than 2,000 gathered Jan. 26 on the steps of the Old State Capitol to stand up for the Right to Life and oppose abortion. People of all ages and faiths gathered to speak out against what some called the American Holocaust.

The main speaker, Dr. Alveda King, the niece of Dr. Martin Luther King, said she sees the pro-life movement as a continuation of the civil rights movement.

Many people carried signs, such as "Real Men Love Life" and "Abortion Stops a Beating Heart."

The annual march, which has been held since shortly after the Roe v. Wade decision in 1973 was both upbeat and hopeful.

The abortion issue leaped to the forefront recently when the New York Legislature passed a bill allowing abortion through the day of delivery. The far-reaching and some said murderous practice can now be performed by a physician or any other person.

Pro-lifers said the legislation legalizes infanticide and can no longer be justified on the basis of protecting a mother's mental or physical health, since the baby is already born before being killed.

They say the pro-abortion argument that such legislation is necessary to make abortion "safe" and stop "back alley" abortion can no longer be made, since the legislation allows anyone to perform an abortion in any setting.

Louisiana was in the news on the abortion issue this week as the U.S. Supreme Court enjoined a new Louisiana law requiring abortionists to have admission privileges at area hospitals. Pro-lifers say the law is necessary to protect women when the abortion creates complications for the mother.

The injunction is only valid until the Supreme Court decides whether to hear the Louisiana case.



LOUISIANIANS MARCH FOR LIFE — Thousands gathered at the Old State Capitol to protest baby killing and support life.

Louisiana Right to Life Rally
Photos by Kim Powers • Central City News

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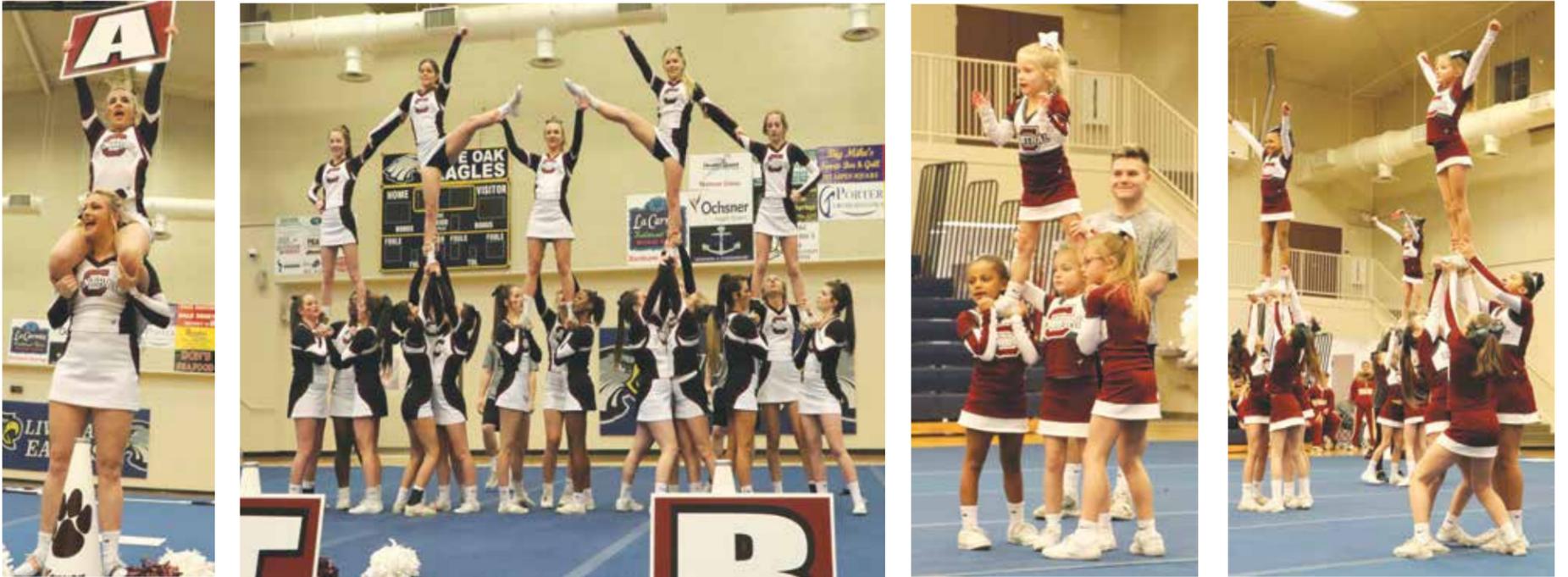


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Cheerleaders of All Ages Will Compete at Nationals

Central Cheerleaders to Orlando



Cheerleaders from Central prepared to travel to Orlando last weekend to compete in national competition.



Central Community Athletics on Joor Road sent two teams — the CCA Wildcats and the CCA Cats. The teams had extra practices and performed at showcases in the weeks leading up to the trip. The ultimate award is a white satin jacket. The teams worked hard and represented Central proudly at the National Competition.



Central Cheerleading Photos by Jolice Provost • Central City News



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Denham Springs Yellowjackets 63 • Central Wildcats 57

Central Falls to Denham in Close Game



Destin Franklin and Tyler Sherman putting the defensive pressure on the Yellowjackets (left), Nah'landr Stinson with a lay up shot (center), Braxton Lee at the free throw line



Malik Hilliard races down the court for the Wildcats (left), Tyler Sherman puts points on the board for Central (center), Raylen Walker ready to steal the ball (right)



Wildcats take a time out during a close game against Denham Springs (left), Malik Hilliard tips the ball away from the goal (center), and Willie the Wildcat with young fans



Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge

Topic: BTR Airport
Tuesday, Feb. 26, 2019

Lunch 12n \$19 • Café Américain
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www.ChamberEBR.com



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Central High Honored Lady Wildcats during Senior Night

Lady Wildcats Fall Short Against Eagles



Madison Branch #12 dribbles down the court under pressure from the Eagles (left), Wildcats congratulate the Eagles' win 37-24 (center), Shanice Wilson #5 on defense (right)



Morgan Rabalais #23 on offense for the Wildcats (left), Lani Morris #13 (center), Morgan Rabalais #23 and Kayla Williams #34 putting pressure on Live Oak (right)

Central Wildcat Boys and Girls Basketball Photos by Jolice Provost • Central City News

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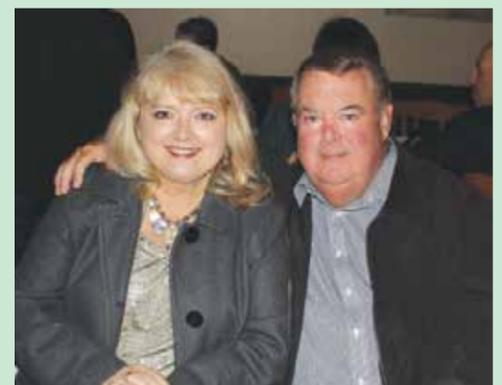
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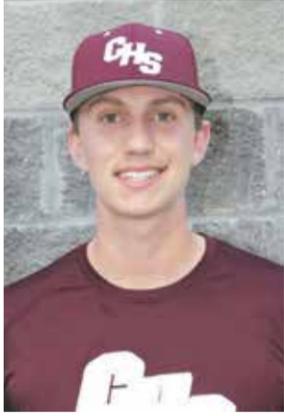
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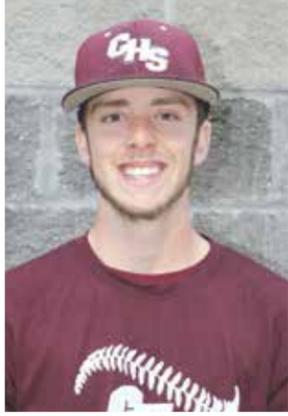
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2019 Central Wildcat Baseball Begins CHS Plays St. Amant to Start Season



Dalton Aspholm Senior



Parker Austin Senior



Gabe Baggett Senior



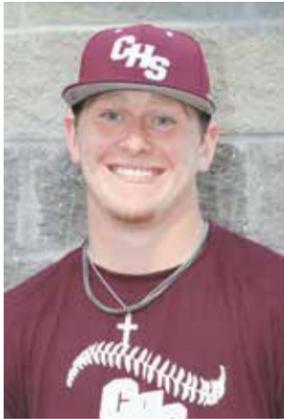
Max Bryant Senior



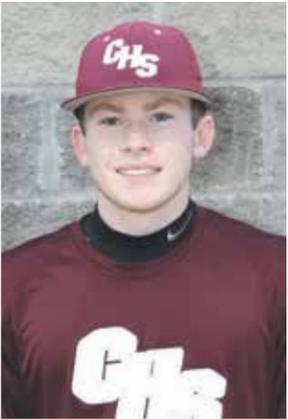
Brant Chauvin Senior



De'Onte Dotson Senior



Drew Lasseigne Senior



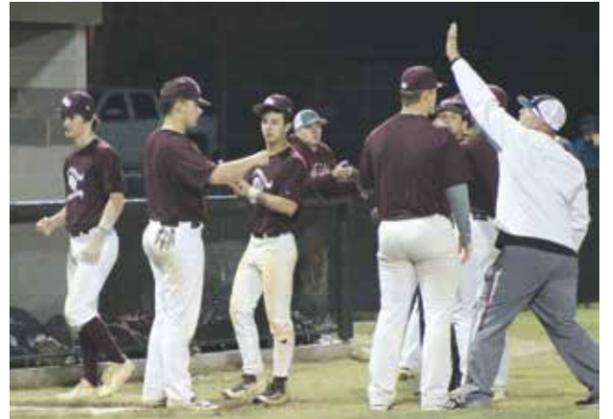
Nick Noble Senior



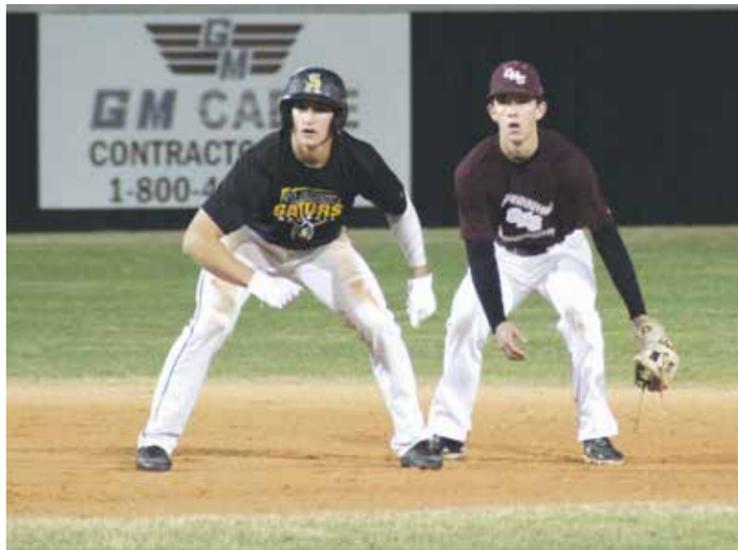
Eddie Pezant Senior



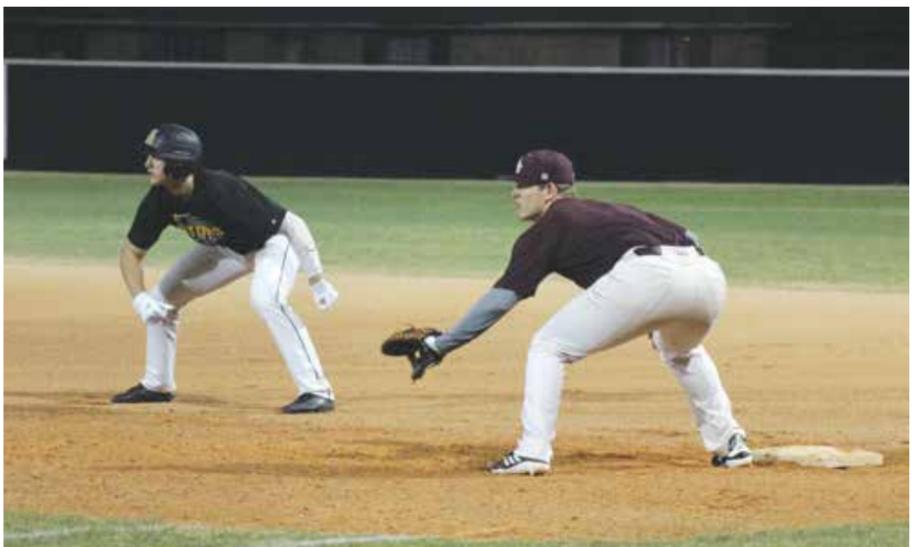
Mike Forbes Head Coach



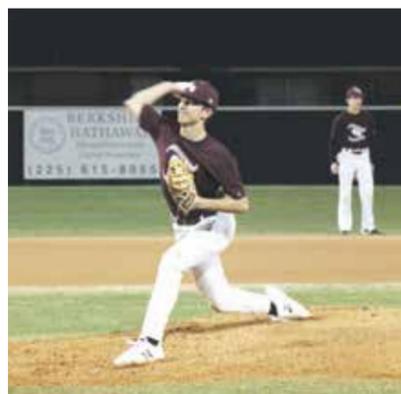
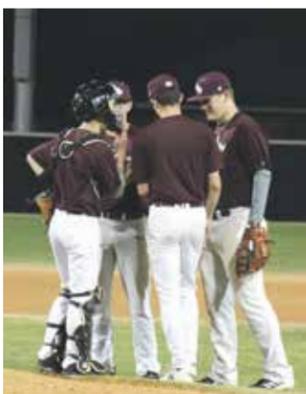
Coach Forbes instructing players after an error



During the scrimmage game Dalton Aspholm was steady at third base (left), Conner Cassels at second base (center), and on the mound was freshman Jimmy Jones



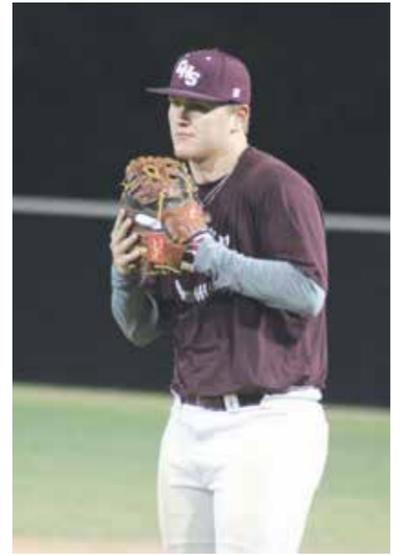
The Wildcats starting catcher behind the plate was Tyler Furr. Drew Lasseigne held down first base for Central.



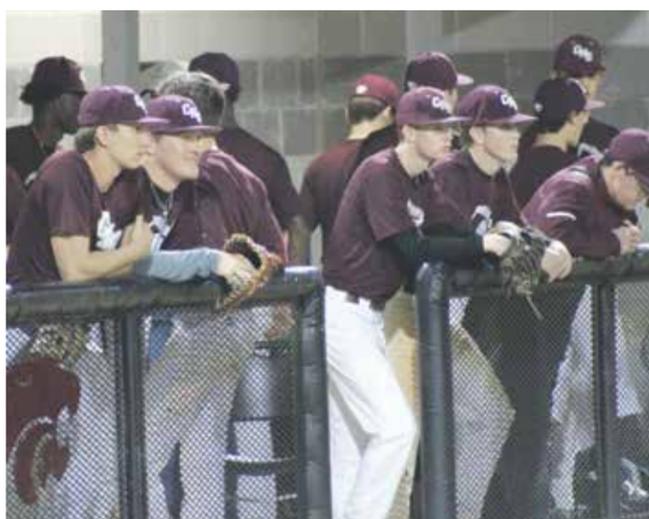
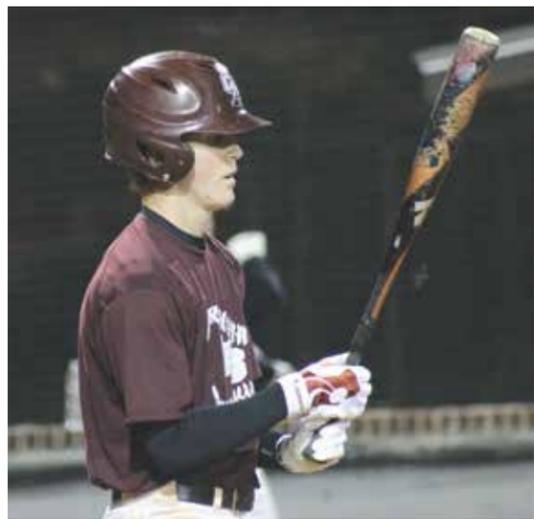
Nick Noble at bat for Central (left), meeting at the pitchers mound (right/center), Jimmy Jones (right/center), Tyler Furr (right).

Wildcats Play Thibodaux Feb. 16 at Home

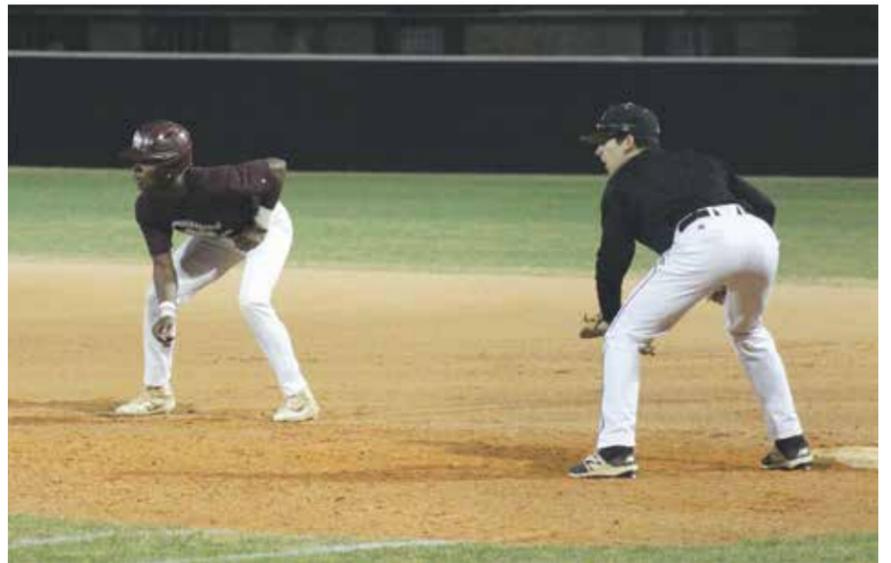
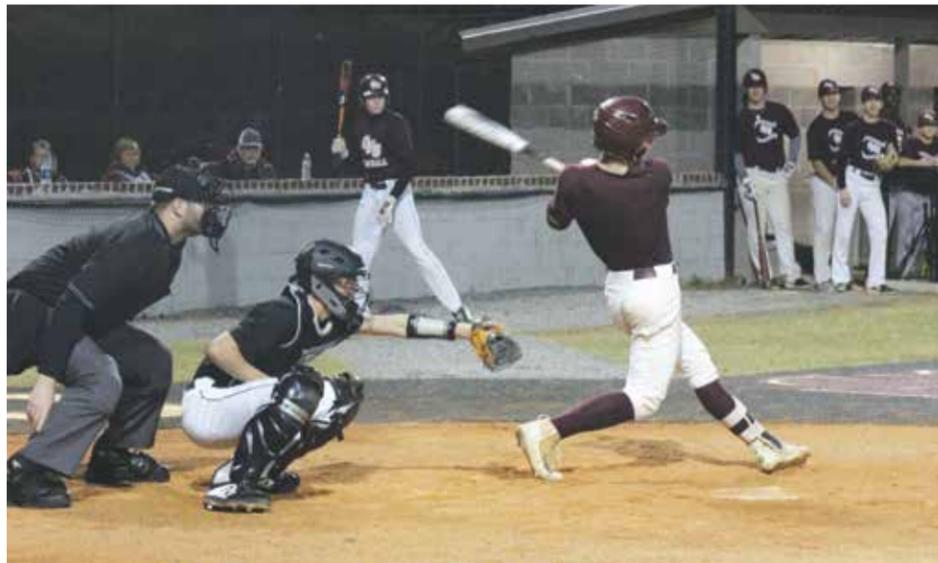
Wildcat Baseball Season in Full Swing



Brody Knapps (left) was in the starting line up for Central, along with Dalton Aspholm. Drew Lasseigne returns for his senior year as a Wildcat (right)



Central's Eddie Pezant ready to take the plate (left), the Wildcat dugout (center), Coach Mike Forbes talks with the umpires before the scrimmage game (left).



Brant Chauvin gets a hit and an RBI (left), Sam Kenerson, a junior, stole second and third base (right).

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IF**



**Joseph Battaglia III
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RHP**



**Evan Becnel
Baton Rouge, LA
RHP**



**Garrison Beiriger
Gonzales, LA
LHP**



**Trevor Benoit
New Iberia, LA
RHP**



**Kolby Blanchard
Prairieville, LA
UT**



**Christopher Bodet
Covington, LA
RHP**



**Cade Boudreaux
Abbeville, LA
INF**



**Jerry Brown III
New Orleans, LA
OF**



**Koby Cazes
New Orleans, LA
RHP**



**Tristin Cosby
Walker, LA
RHP**



**Christopher Courville
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LHP**



**Cameron Crawford
Prairieville, LA
3B/OF**



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INF**



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RHP**



**Braxton Dufrene
Paradis, LA
RHP**



**Matthew Eskew
Minden, LA
RHP**



**Brett Fisackerly
Harvey, LA
RHP**



**Juwan Fitch
Baton Rouge, LA
LHP**



**Thomas Garber
Berwick, LA
C**



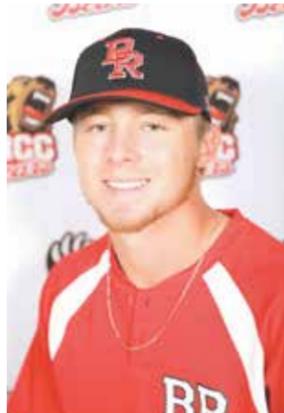
**Andre Green, Jr.
Baker, LA
INF/P**



**Brandt Guidry
Maurice, LA
RHP**



**Cameron Guitreau
French Settlement, LA
INF**



**Cole Harper
Loranger, LA
LHP**



**Samuel Jarrell
Opelousas, LA
C**



**Jacob Jensen
LaPlace, LA
RHP**



**Kendall Kennedy
Moss Bluff, LA
OF**



**Konner Leon
Lafayette, LA
LHP**

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INF



Luke Lancon
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INF



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INF



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LHP



Luis Marmolejos
Perth Amboy
INF



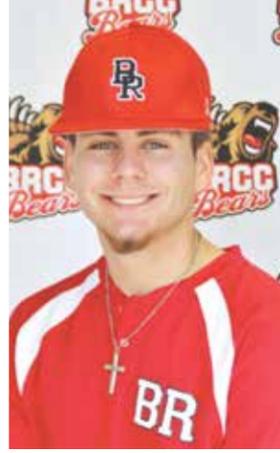
Luis Frores Martinez
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RHP



Elijah Mundy
Leesville, LA
OF/P



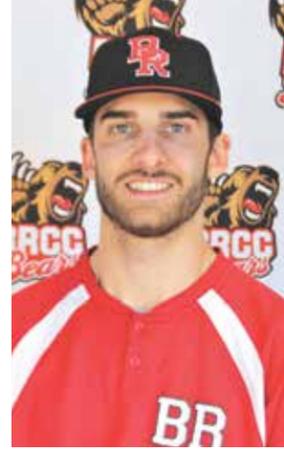
Donavon Murray
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OF



Brennon Patin
DeQuincy, LA
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RHP



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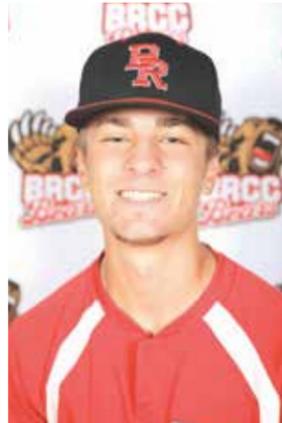
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Prairieville, LA
RHP/INF



Cooper Strong
Houston, TX
LHP



William Veillon
Rayne, LA
OF



Dane Wise
Luling, LA
RHP/INF



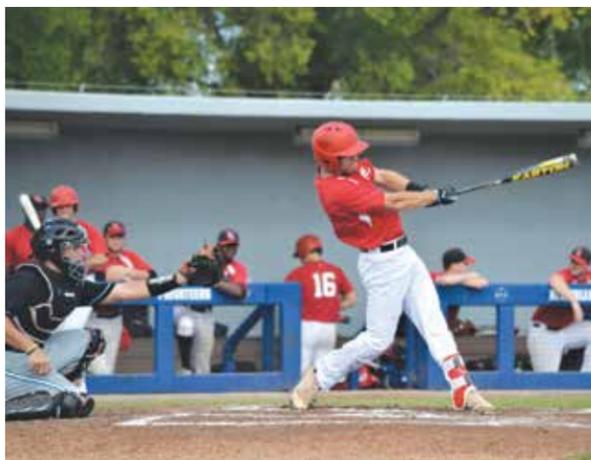
Tanner Young
Vinton, LA
RHP



"L.J." Dupuy
Head Baseball Coach



Eddie "Ricky" Brown
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INF/OF



Lacey Bonvillain
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RHP/INF



Cori Breaux
Lafayette, LA
UT



Shelby Breaux
Maurice, LA
RHP



Kelsey Cifreo
Walker, LA
1B/C



Sydnee Davis
Sterlington, LA
OF/MI



Bailey Duhon
Lafayette, LA
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Mackenzie Hebert
Krotz Springs, LA
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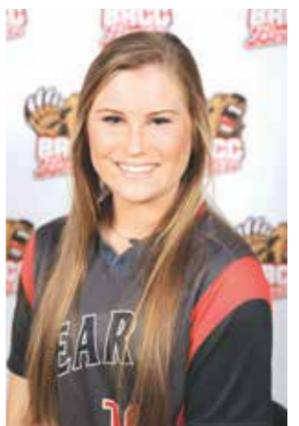
Payge Hebert
Arnaudville, LA
SS/UT



Haleigh Laylle
Hammond, LA
INF



Erika Martin
Lake Charles, LA
INF



Shelby McDonald
Franklinton, LA
3B/UT



Savanna Orgeron
New Orleans, LA
OF/2B



Courtney Ortego
Boutte, LA
INF



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Gonzales, LA
OF/2B



Lauren Price
Springfield, LA
1B



Caroline Smith
Kinder, LA
OF



Krystal Stubbs
Central, LA
C/3B



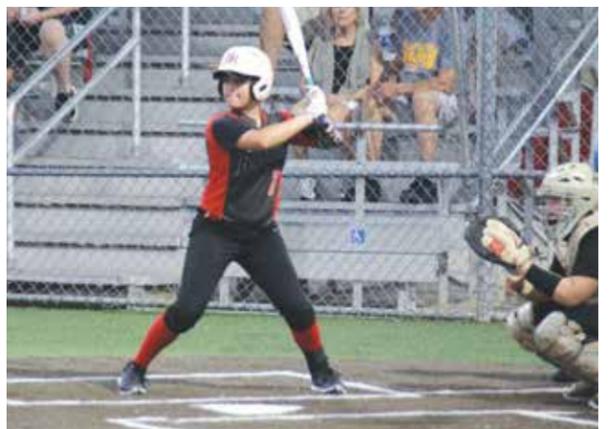
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Central High Wildcats: Two-Time State 5A Champions

Can Central Repeat as State Champ?

Woody Jenkins
Editor

CENTRAL — Can Central High School win the State 5A Baseball Championship for the third straight year? We posed that question to Wildcats coach Mike Forbes.

Coach Forbes said, “It’s everybody’s goal at the beginning of the season to win state, or it should be. Does that mean we have the make up right now to do it? No. However, we’ve proven it doesn’t matter if you’re the most talented club. We focus on what we do best, and give it our best shot.”

“To win state, you have to execute and you have to have some luck!”

“Right now, we’re as hopeful as everyone else.”

The Wildcats have four returning starters from last year’s State Champions — Sam Kenerson, Dalton Aspholm, Drew Lasseigne, and Brent Chauvin. All are expected to play big roles this year.

One of the factors that complicates Coach Forbes’ personnel decisions is the fact that so many of his best infielders are also among his best pitchers.

Two CHS Players Plan for Future

CENTRAL — Central High School held a ceremony in the school gymnasium for Kamrin Sartin and Anthony Shaffer, III, as they announced their choice for continuing their education and athletic careers.

Kamrin Sartin will continue by playing for Bayou Prep next fall. Kamrin was an important part of the secondary at Central High School. He participates in track and field. Kamrin will major in Mechanical Engineering. He holds a 3.0 GPA.

Anthony Shaffer, III will continue his academic and athletic career at Southern University. Anthony is an outstanding defensive back who has great cover skills and is a big hitter.

He was ranked as one of the top 10 defensive backs in the state of Louisiana. During high school, Anthony also participated in track and field.

Anthony will major in Criminal Justice at Southern University.



Central High baseball head coach Mike Forbes: Two straight State Champions

For example, Forbes’ two aces are Dalton Aspholm and Drew Lasseigne. Aspholm is also an outstanding 3rd baseman, and Lasseigne is an outstanding catcher.

Aspholm and Lasseigne will be leading the Wildcat pitching rotation. Freshman Jerry Johnson is expected to move into the No. 3 spot. Conner Cassels could be No. 4, but the list vying for No. 5 is fluid.

Drew Lasseigne has been a dominant figure as catcher when he wasn’t pitching. This year, Coach Forbes plans to use Lasseigne less

as catcher, in order to save him for his pitching responsibilities. He may use him a bit as 1st baseman.

Gabe Patterson may step up as catcher. Tyler Furr is another possible candidate for catcher.

When Lasseigne is not pitching or catching, he could be used at 1st. Nick Noble is a good choice.

Brant Chauvin is steady at 2nd. Andrew Myrick is likely to start at shortstop. However, Cassels, Aspholm, and Johnson are available.

3rd is likely to rotate among Aspholm, Johnson, and Cassels.

The speed of the outfield should rival last year’s. Sam Kenerson is steady at center.

Eddie Pezart could move to right. Scotlandville transfer De’Onte Dotson could be at left, and Brodie Knaps will be in the mix.

Looking back on last year’s championship run, Coach Forbes thinks Parklane was the most important series, particularly overcoming the no-hitter.

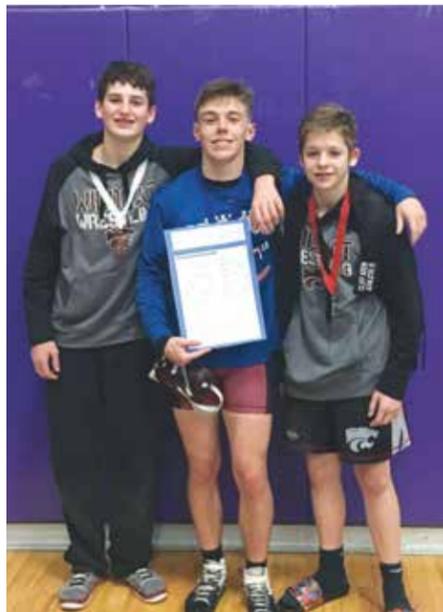
Then beating Zachary in the first game of a three-game series in the playoffs was vital to proving that Zachary could be beaten.

So where does Central stand on winning another State Championship this year?

Overall, Central is just as talented as last year.

There are so many guys on the team who can come through in the clutch.

The weakness is lack of depth. The Wildcats only have 20 play-



CENTRAL HIGH WRESTLERS — Evan Kelly (left) placed 3rd, Cade Monte (center) placed 1st, and Dallin Clark (right) placed 2nd at the Baton Rouge JV City Championships.

2019 Central Wildcat Baseball Schedule

| | | |
|-----------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Feb 2 | St. Amant | H |
| Feb 9 | W Feliciana | A |
| Feb 16 | Thibodaux | H |
| Feb 18 | Mandeville | H |
| Feb 21 | W Ouachita | Denham |
| Feb 22 | Lafayette | Denham |
| Feb 23 | Byrd | Denham |
| Feb 26 | Holy Cross | H |
| Mar 1 | Benton | Sterlington Complex |
| Mar 2 | Airline | W Monroe |
| Mar 2 | West Monroe | W Monroe |
| Mar 5 | Catholic | H |
| Mar 8 | St Louis Catholic | H |
| Mar 9 | St Louis Catholic | H |
| Mar 9 | St Louis Catholic | H |
| Mar 12 | E Ascencion | A |
| Mar 14 | St Thomas More | A |
| Mar 15 | Lafayette | A |
| Mar 16 | Lafayette Christian | A |
| Mar 16 | Acadiana | A |
| Mar 19 | St Amant | A |
| Mar 22 | Dutchtown | A |
| Mar 23 | Parkview | A |
| Mar 25 | Doyle | H |
| Mar 28 | Denham Springs | A |
| Mar 30 | Scotlandville | H |
| Apr 2 | Zachary | H |
| Apr 4 | Walker | H |
| Apr 6 | Live Oak | A |
| Apr 9 | Denham Springs | H |
| Apr 11 | Scotlandville | A |
| Apr 13 | Zachary | A |
| Apr 16 | Walker | A |
| Apr 18 | Live Oak | H |
| Apr 22-3 | BiDistrict Playoffs | TBA |
| Apr 26-27 | Regionals | Best of 3 |
| May 3-4 | Quarterfinals | Best of 3 |
| May 8-11 | State Tourney | Sulphur |

Head Coach: Mike Forbes
Principal: Brandon LaGroue

ers on their roster, and four of those are freshmen.

At least a dozen Central players have the needed experience. As long as they are healthy, Central should have a better chance than last year.

PASS-A-DOZEN

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Magnolia UMC
Farmers Market
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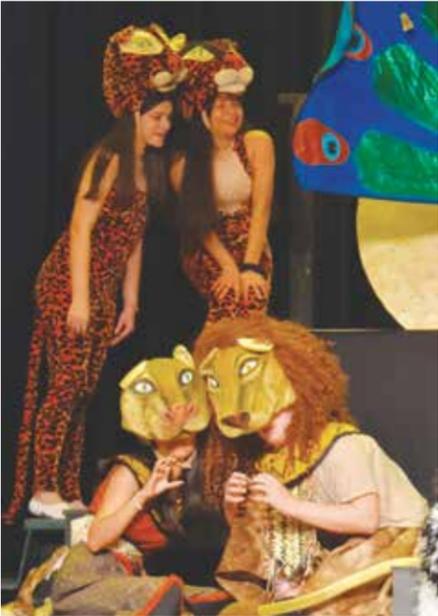
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Central, LA 70818

You have tried the rest! Now USE the BEST!

Act 1: Adam and Eve — Act 2: The Story of Noah

'Children of Eden' Feb. 14-16 at CHS



CHILDREN OF EVE — Students in the talented theatre and music programs at Central High and Central Intermediate will perform at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

CENTRAL — The Central High and Central Middle Talented Theatre and Music Programs will perform Children of Eden Feb. 14-16 at the Central High Theatre.

More than 80 students are hard at work preparing for the performances, which will begin at 6:30 p.m. all three nights.

Act One of the musical is based on the story of Adam and Eve. Act Two follows Noah and his family as they build and board the Ark.

CHILDREN OF EVE — Summary by Stage Agent — Children of Eden casts the beloved Biblical stories of Genesis through the personal lens of family. An epic musical with an original cast of sixty or more, Children of Eden starts with the creation of the universe. Father breathes life into his children, Adam and Eve, and learns that the hardest part of being a loving Father is letting go. It's a lesson that translates into the parenting of Cain, Abel, and Seth -- and is reiterated once again as Noah parents his sons Shem, Ham, and Japheth. This joyous and inspiring musical celebrates the difficulty of choice, the importance of passion, the value of questioning, and the pain in allowing those you love to take risks and face consequences.

The production features Phenix Ward as Father, Elise Darden as Eve, Jace Eisworth as Adam, Tate Eisworth as Cain/Noah, Dallin Clark as Abel, Emily Shain as Yonah, Miller Clark as Japheth, Joliet Shuff as Mama Noah, Jacob Fontenot as Ham, Zachary Carline as Shem, Mattie Simpson as Aphra, Mya Rovira as Aysha and scores of students as Storytellers.

Tickets at the door or online at ccss-talented.ticketleap.com/Children-of-Eden.

Pass-a-Dozen Tamales: 75 Years to Get to Central

Tamale Dan Walked Streets of Newellton Selling His Famous Hot Tamales in 40's

CENTRAL — Imagine the small North Louisiana delta town of Newellton in the 1940's — before television, the Internet, and life as we know it. Every evening, an elderly black man would walk the streets selling the hot tamales he and his wife Bessie made in their two-room shack.

Tamale Dan, as the people called him, was a welcome sight around dusk when Mama hadn't made supper. The children would come running, "Mama, mama, Tamale Dan's walking up the street! Can we have some? Can we?"

The secret recipe that made believers out of the townspeople was almost lost forever, because when Dan and Bessie Harris died, they left no children.

Fortunately, Verdie Robinson Pass's sister was Miss Bessie's godchild. One day the sister brought Miss Bessie a black hat she wanted, and Miss Bessie wrote down the tamale recipe for her!

That's why Pass-a-Dozen Tamales has opened in Central — to help keep Tamale Dan's secret recipe and bless people with something they will really love.



PASS-A-DOZEN hot tamales being prepared by (left to right) Miss Stephanie Alfred-Gant, marketing director; Miss Verdie Robinson Pass, and owner Wanda Pass. All three graduated from Southern. The recipe was handed from Tamale Dan's wife to Verdie's sister.

Wanda Pass is owner of Pass-a-Dozen, located in the Oak Point Shopping Center at the corner of Greenwell Springs and Sullivan roads. They are open Tuesday to Friday from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. or until the tamales are gone!

On Saturday, Wanda goes to Magnolia Methodist Church's Farmers Market, where she sells tamales from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. or until the tamales

are sold!

Miss Stephanie Alfred-Gant is marketing director for Wanda, and Wanda's mother Verdie Robinson Pass helps out when she can. Miss Pass is a former teacher at Southern University.

In the 1940's, Tamale Dan sold his tamales for 15 to 20 cents a dozen. Dan and Bessie were frugal and saved their money. Finally, they had

made enough to build themselves country house — some called it a mansion — thanks to the wonderful recipe and hard work Dan and Bessie put into their business.

You might just love Dan's tamales too! Go by Pass-a-Dozen at 14415 Greenwell Springs Road, Suite G, and try for yourself. If you'd like to call first, call 225-335-7804.

— Woody Jenkins



Pass-a-Dozen owner Wanda Pass is working hard to bring tamales to the people of the Central.



A FREE TASTING
Friday, March 8
 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
 Local Vendors with Gumbo,
 Spanish Rice, Sausage, Desserts
Pass-a-Dozen
 14415 Greenwell Springs

Clark Family Homeschooled Their Eight in Central

Central's Billy Clark Leads Delta College To Graduate Its 100th Class of Nurses

Delta Graduates More Nurses Than Any Other School Inside Louisiana

Woody Jenkins
Editor

BATON ROUGE — Delta College of Arts and Technology has just reached a milestone. On January 31, 2019, Delta graduated its 100th class of nurses. A total of 1,600 have completed the program to prepare to be an LPN since Delta launched its nursing program in 1992.

Everywhere you go in the Baton Rouge area, you'll find Delta's nursing graduates in medical clinics, hospitals, nursing homes, urgent care centers, and rehabilitation facilities.

Today, Delta College has graduated more nurses than any other college in Louisiana.

In addition to nursing, Delta also offers training in Allied Health, medical billing and coding, dental assistant, business office administrator, and graphic arts.

The nursing program has had a tremendous impact on the Baton Rouge area and given opportunity and hope to young people who dreamed of going into the health care profession.

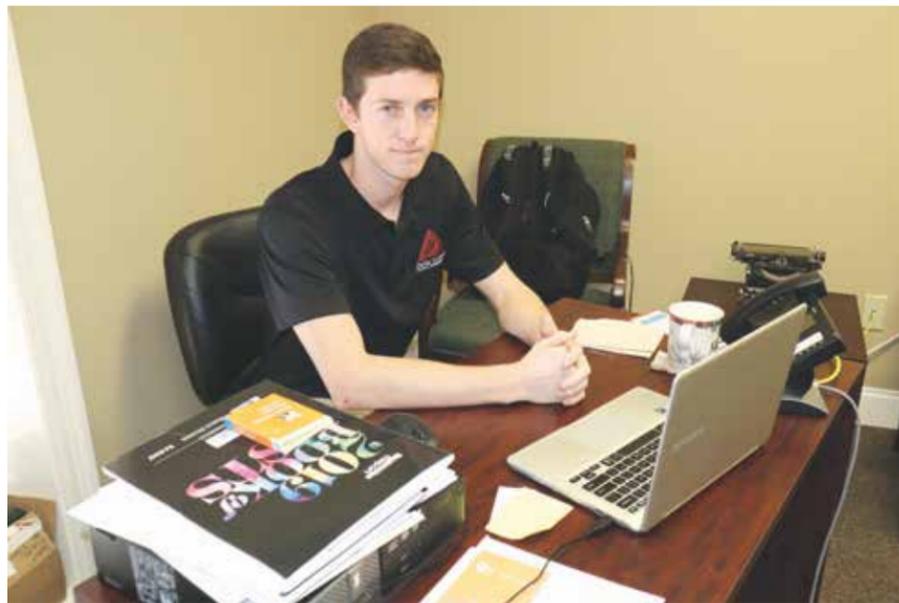
The success of Delta College in nursing education and the other courses of study it offers is really a tribute to the Clark family whose vision and hard work made Delta what it is today.

Billy B. Clark grew up in Monroe and became a business education teacher. Later he moved to the Baton Rouge and taught business education at Central High School.

Delta College was founded in 1970, and Billy B. Clark purchased it in 1973. Unfortunately, he soon learned that the debt was twice as high as he thought, and the revenue was half as great. Despite much adversity, he kept the school open and won accreditation in 1974. That same year, he moved the school to its present location at 7290 Exchange Place off Wooddale Boulevard.



Billy L. Clark is president of Delta College, founded by his dad, Billy B. Clark.



Joshua Clark, one Billy L. and Linda Clark's eight children, studies finance at LSU and works at Delta College with his father.

Since then, Delta College has grown to seven buildings on Exchange Place with 30,000 square feet. Delta College now includes seven campuses in Louisiana and Florida.

In the early days, Delta College provided business education for that era. This included key punch, PBX phones,

typing, and business machines.

As federal grants and loans became available, more and more students could take advantage of the courses Delta had to offer.

Delta College wanted to offer a nursing program and in 1992 went to the Board of Practical Nurse Ex-

aminers to express their intent. There Billy B. Clark was told that LPN programs could only be offered by public schools. The board put up road blocks, but Clark persisted. The Board said Delta would have to have at least three clinical sites. Instead, Delta offered 12.

Finally, the board voted unanimously to approve Delta's application. More than 200 students applied for Delta's first nursing class. From a class of 30, 27 graduated, and all 27 passed the LPN exam. It had an impressive start, and the board became supportive of the college.

In 1997, Billy B. Clark retired, and his son, Billy L. Clark became president of Delta College of Arts and Technology.

The LPN program offers full-time during the day over a 16 month period or by evening classes over a 24 month period. In either case, the course consists of 1,700 hours of training.

Delta College graduates hold important positions in the health care industry. Today 27 years after Billy B. Clark began to seek approval to offer LPN training, Delta is a leader in its field.

Billy L. Clark and his wife Linda reside in Central and have eight children, all of whom were homeschooled. They are Amy, who is on a mission trip to Italy; Kay Lynn, a professional photographer; Joy, who graduated from SLU and is a wife and mother; Catherine who works at Judson Baptist Retreat in Jackson; Andrew, who is handicapped; Michael, who is a mechanical engineer; Joshua who is studying finance and who works at the college, and Clara, who is in graphics arts and Christian theatre.

The national chains that compete with Delta College have now moved out of Baton Rouge.

Billy L. Clark feels that excessive regulation is pulling down the weaker colleges. However, Secretary of Education Betsy DeVos is a supporter of private proprietary schools like Delta, and Clark feels the future is bright for those who have survived the heavy regulation.

Clark says it won't be long until the 101st nursing class graduates from Delta College!

Krewe Names Leona Benoit as Queen of NO Jazz



KREWE LAISSEZ LES BON TEMPS ROULER Queen Mrs. Leona Benoit (left photo) reigned as the Queen of New Orleans Jazz. King Tommy Benoit, introduced as Old Hickory, portrayed General Andrew Jackson. At right, Hoytt Adcock, Annette Pressler, Johnny Grimmett, Meredith Cooper, Jimmy DeFranceschi appeared in all their finery.

One of Central's Premiere Events Is Sold Out

13th Annual Mardi Gras Ball Feb. 16



TABLE DECORATING CONTEST — Participants in Central's 13th Annual Mardi Gras Ball will participate in a table decorating contest. Last year's theme was "The 80's".

CENTRAL — Preparations are almost complete for Central's 13th Annual Mardi Gras Ball, which will be held this Saturday, Feb. 16 at the CCA Gym (old Starkey Academy) on Joor Road. Doors will open at 7 p.m., and the music will begin at 8.

This year's theme is the Roaring 20's, and dress will be formal or Roaring 20's. The event is presented by the Central Chamber of Commerce. Chairman John Kovalchik said this year's ball is already sold out. It was also sold out last year for the first time, he said.

There will be a table decorating contest, with tables being decorat-

ed in a Roaring 20's theme.

This year's king is Lynn Ross III, and the queen is Barbara Brown Guyon. Mr. Ross manages Ross Tire and Service, and Mrs. Guyon is CFO at the Central Community School Board office.

The Eddie Smith Band will provide entertainment.

Mardi Gras is the last day before the Lenten season. In South Louisiana, Mardi Gras is often celebrated with balls and parades. The holiday was traditionally celebrated in New Orleans and Acadiana but in recent decades, it has been celebrated more and more in East Baton Rouge Parish.



THE EDDIE SMITH BAND will perform at the Mardi Gras ball this Saturday.

Thank You Samaritan's Purse



Beginning in the early days of the August flood of 2016, Samaritan's Purse came to our community committed to not only helping with physical aid but also meeting spiritual needs as well. Samaritan's Purse is a nondenominational evangelical Christian organization that uses volunteer work teams in crisis areas around the world.

During their 2½ years of service to Central and the surrounding communities they have touched many lives:

Disaster Response
 Total Homes Assisted: 733
 Total Volunteers Who Served: 2006
 Total Volunteers Hours Served: 60,652
 Total Salvations Reported: 175

Rebuild Phase
 Total Homes Assisted: 39
 Total Volunteer Who Served: 1525
 Total Volunteer Hours Served: 65,380
 Total Salvations Reported: 3

Greenwell Springs Baptist Church has had the privilege of partnering with Samaritan's Purse with the use of our facilities as well as housing staff and volunteers from all over the country. We would like to invite the surrounding community to join us at Greenwell Springs Baptist Church on Sunday, February 17th at 10:30 a.m. as we honor and recognize their service and commitment in being the hands and feet of Jesus to our community.



JOIN GREENWELL SPRINGS BAPTIST CHURCH AS WE HONOR SAMARITAN'S PURSE
 February 17 at 10:30 a.m.
 19421 Greenwell Springs Rd.
 Greenwell Springs, LA 70739

Official Festival of the City of Central

Cooking in Central Returns March 22

CENTRAL — Cooking in Central, the Official Festival of the City of Central, returns to the Amazing Place, 10305 Blackwater Road for another round of great food, entertainment, and fellowship. Amazing Place is located on Blackwater Road one mile north of Hooper Road.

This year's event will be for one day only — Friday, March 22 from 5 to 10 p.m. Admission is free.

Food service will begin at 5 p.m. Food tickets are \$15 for the crawfish boil or seafood dinners. Hamburgers and hot dogs will also be available but only from 5 to 7.

The crawfish for Cooking in Central is being donated by Gil Matherne and Carlton Seafood. The Louisiana Seafood Association is donating oysters and shrimp.

Food tickets are being sold at all Central schools and at Ross Tire & Service. They will also be sold at the event itself.

This year, Cooking will feature the popular band Chee Weez, which will play from 6 to 10 p.m.

Entertainment for children will include pony rides, the Central Fire Department Smoke House, BREC activities, and the foam machine.

Once again, there will be live auctions and raffles, although there will no longer be a \$10,000 raffle. The auctions will likely be in two parts — 5:30 to 6 p.m. and again starting at 8:30 p.m.

Cooking in Central T-shirts are



COOKING IN CENTRAL — Pastor Dick Metz of Cornerstone Fellowship and Ron Erickson of the Central Chamber of Commerce at Cooking in Central. They are among the countless volunteers who have helped over the years. *Central City News* file photo

being sold at all Central schools. The T-shirts are donated, and all of the proceeds are kept by the respective schools.

Other funds raised by the event will go to Central schools, the Central Athletic Foundation, Cast Iron Assistance, and Central Community Assistance Foundation.

The Central Athletic Foundation has been systematically making improvements to the athletic facilities used by athletes in the Central school system. Last year, Cooking in Central helped the Foundation

make extensive improvements to the Central High Gym. The Foundation hopes to build a covered pavilion between the baseball and softball fields at the high school.

Cast Iron Assistance helps in Central as well as in Louisiana and neighboring states when there is a disaster. They helped in Houston and in North Carolina after flooding there.

The Central Community Assistance Foundation helps homeless children and others in need in Central.

Volunteers are still needed for Cooking in Central. If you'd like to help, contact Cooking in one of the following ways:

- www.cookingincentral.com
- info@cookingincentral.com
- Louis DeJohn at 933-0059 or
- Juanita Ross at 938-1753

The history of Cooking in Central began after the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Central's Louis DeJohn and a number of contractors and unions wanted to help first responders in New York City. They held a giant cookoff and raised enough money to purchase two brand-new fire engines for the NYFD.

Shortly after the City of Central was founded, Katrina hit Louisiana, causing devastation on the Gulf Coast. People in Central wanted to help a community like ours, and they picked St. Bernard Parish. Schools there had been destroyed along with all but two school buses. Cooking for Our Neighbors raised \$190,000 to purchase three new school buses for the St. Bernard school system.

Since then, Cooking in Central has continued, finding new needs and new areas of service every year.

It has been a way for the people of Central to give of themselves and help others in need.

After Central was devastated by the Great Flood of 2016, it was amazing to watch communities all over America come to Central's aid.

CRAWFISH CENTRAL

Just across the bridge at Juban Crossing!

| | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|--|
| <p>ALL DAY SPECIALS OPEN - CLOSE</p> <p>MONDAY BEER & BURGERS 1/2 Off Burgers with Fries</p> <p>TUESDAY OYSTERS 1/2 Off Oysters Raw & Charbroiled</p> <p>WEDNESDAY WINE & STEAK 1/2 Off Steaks or 1/2 Off Burgers or 1/2 Off Steaks Served with choice of side salad & baked potato</p> <p>THIRSTY THURSDAY 1/2 Off Margaritas 1/2 Off Cakes & 1/2 Off Shrimp Platter \$12.99 Served with choice of side salad & french fries</p> <p style="text-align: center;">DINE IN ONLY</p> <p style="background-color: #f1c40f; padding: 5px;">HAPPY HOUR \$1 OFF BEER, \$2 OFF LIQUOR, \$2 OFF WINE MONDAY - FRIDAY 11:AM - 6 PM</p> <p>MONDAY BEER 1/2 Off Beers & Draft Beer 1/2 Off Draft</p> <p>TINI TUESDAY'S \$1 Margarita Any Style 1/2 Off Draft</p> <p>WINE WEDNESDAY'S 1/2 Price Bottles of Wine 1/2 Off Draft</p> <p>MARGARITA THURSDAY'S 1/2 Price Margaritas 1/2 Off Draft Served on On The Rocks</p> | <p>BOILED CRAWFISH THURSDAY-SATURDAY 4PM TIL CLOSE</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold;">LIVE MUSIC ON THE COURTYARD COMING SOON</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">BEER MENU</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 10px;">ON TAP Delicious line of craft beers available</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 10px;">ICE COLD BOTTLES Miller Lite, Bud Light, Newmans, Samuel Adams Lager, Michelob Ultra, Corona Light, Dos Equis, Guinness, Anheuser-Busch, Heineken, Corona, O'Doul's</p> | <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 18px;">SEAFOOD & OYSTER BAR</p> <p style="background-color: #f1c40f; padding: 10px; font-weight: bold; font-size: 14px;">FOLLOW US FOR OUR OFF-THE-BOARD SEAFOOD LENT SPECIALS</p> | <p>NIGHTLY SPECIALS</p> <p>MONDAY BEER & BURGERS 1/2 Off Burgers & Draft Beer</p> <p>TUESDAY OYSTERS 1/2 Off Oysters Raw & Charbroiled</p> <p>WEDNESDAY WINE & STEAK NIGHT 1/2 Off Bottles of Wine Burgers or 1/2 Off Shrimp \$12.99 Served with choice of side salad & baked potato</p> <p>THIRSTY THURSDAY 1/2 Off Margaritas 1/2 Off Cakes & 1/2 Off Shrimp Platter \$12.99 Served with choice of side salad & french fries</p> | <p>LUNCH SPECIALS</p> <p>MONDAY RED BEANS & RICE Crisp fried chicken tenders served with side salad & cornbread 10.99</p> <p>TUESDAY SEAFOOD LASAGNA Crawfish, crabmeat and shrimp served with a side salad 12.99</p> <p>WEDNESDAY SEAFOOD PASTA Cream based sauce loaded with jumbo lump crabmeat, shrimp and crawfish over angel hair pasta served with a side salad & garlic bread 12.99</p> <p>THURSDAY PORK CHOP Stuffed French Pork Chop topped with Cajun sauce served with a stuffed potato, served with a side salad & garlic bread 12.99</p> <p>FRIDAY SEAFOOD PLATTER Crisp, shrimp and catfish, served with coleslaw, french fries & a hushpuppy 12.99</p> |
| <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 18px;">CAFE AMERICAIN SEAFOOD & OYSTER BAR</p> <p>27276 Crossing Circle at Juban Crossing</p> | | <p style="font-weight: bold; font-size: 18px;">WEEKLY LUNCH SPECIALS</p> <p>HAMBURGER STEAK Grilled steaks or brown gravy served with twice baked potato-cornbread & a side salad 10.99</p> <p>THE TIME SAVER A cup of soup served with choice of side salad 8.99</p> <p>1/2 PBOBY & SOUP OR SALAD Any cup of soup and your choice of half a potato 8.99</p> <p>FRIED SHRIMP PLATTER 10 battered, seasoned and fried shrimp, served with french fries, side salad & hushpuppy 12.99</p> <p>GRILLED CHICKEN BREAST Served with vegetable of the day & a side salad 9.99</p> <p>FRIED CATFISH FINGER PLATE Served with french fries, side salad & a hushpuppy 12.99</p> <p>GRILLED OR BLACKENED FISH Served with vegetable of the day & a side salad 11.99</p> <p>BLACKENED CHICKEN PASTA A/Peche sauce on top of angel hair pasta served with a side salad 11.99</p> | | |

Dylan Rathcke: 6-5, 295 with 5.08 40-Yard Dash

2-Time All-State from Central Area Passed Over by LSU, Picks Arkansas

Highly-Recruited Dylan Rathcke Had Huge Career At University High

Woody Jenkins
Editor

CENTRAL — Dylan Rathcke of Central is only 18 but he has already established himself as a football legend at the high school level in Louisiana. He was a three-year starter at University High, the No. 1 football team in Louisiana ranked No. 13 in the nation. University High was undefeated during his junior and senior seasons — 2017 and 2018 — and won the State 2A Championship both years. In the regular season, they defeated three of last year's State Champions — 5A Zachary, 3A West Feliciana, and Division I Catholic High.

Dylan was All-District his sophomore year, All-District and All-State his junior year, and All-District, All-State, and All-USA-LA his senior year. He stands 6-5-1/2, weighs 295, and runs 40 yards in 5.02 seconds.

A group of local coaches assembled by *The Advocate* unanimously called U-High a team for the ages — the best they had ever seen! And Dylan Rathcke was an indispensable part of the success of that amazing team!

Since the 9th grade, Dylan has been heavily recruited by college football coaches. In the 9th grade, he received a scholarship offer from ULM. This year, 13 Division I schools made offers.

So far, seven seniors on the University High Cub football team have signed with Division I schools. Another two or three players are likely to do so.

Besides being highly recruited, Dylan has another thing in common with his U-High teammates.

All of them were snubbed by LSU!

As a result, Dylan has signed with Arkansas. Christian Harris signed with Alabama and linebacker Bryton Constantin with National Champion Clemson. Receiver Makiya Tongue signed with Georgia, and running back and MVP of the State Championship game Mike Hollins signed with Virginia. Lineman Don-



CENTRAL WILDCAT — Dylan Rathcke started played football with the Central Youth League. He transferred from Central Middle to U-High in the 8th grade.



UNDEFEATED STATE CHAMPIONS — The U-High Cubs have won their last 26 straight games. Dylan Rathcke (75) has been All-State the past two seasons. Bryton Constantin who signed with Clemson.

Not one of them received an offer from LSU. Someone close to the players said LSU was the first choice of all of the players except

at U-High who plays soccer and tennis. Erik was an offensive lineman and defensive end for Bishop Sullivan when he was in high school.

The Rathcke family lives on the northern edge of Central near the homes of two former Istrouma High greats — Jim Dousay and Buddy Millican.

The family's roots in Central go deep. Jennifer is the daughter of Jay Devall, the former school board member who himself played football at Central High and SLU.

Dylan started the first grade at St. Alphonsus and soon became part of Central Youth Football. He attended Central Middle for the 7th grade, but then had a big decision to make.

U-High offered an amazing opportunity to be part of a program that seemed destined for greatness. Dylan and the family decided to make the switch. His 8th and 9th grade teams were undefeated. In the 10th grade, U-High lost in the semifinals to St. Thomas More. Since that sophomore year, Dylan and U-High haven't lost a game.

Along the way, Dylan had some great coaches at U-High, including head coach Chad Mahaffey.

Outside football, Dylan enjoys track and field, where he throws the shot put and discus. He's a hunter and fisherman and loves the outdoors. In his spare time, he works on his 1979 Ford F-250.

The Rathcke family visited a lot of Division I colleges and all of them were impressive, Erik Rathcke said, especially Georgia, Tennessee, Kentucky, and Arkansas. They narrowed the choice to Kentucky and Arkansas. Kentucky was especially persistent.

Finally, the family unanimously agreed on Arkansas. There were many factors — the coaches, the facilities, and the town. But at Arkansas one thing particularly stood out — the academic center. In Arkansas, the stadium, the training facility, the dorm, the cafeteria, and the academic center are beautiful and all right together. That means it's a lot easier to study and keep your grades up. There are fewer distractions and better use of time. Ultimately, that won out, Erik said.

Only time will tell if LSU made the right decision by leaving out of their equation the members of arguably the greatest Louisiana high school team ever. But you have to wonder if Alabama and Clemson took two of the youngsters, what was LSU thinking!



Dylan Rathcke is a team leader for the University High Cubs.



U-HIGH STAR GOING TO ARKANSAS— Shown (left to right) U-High coach Chad Mahaffey; Dylan, Jennifer, Morgan, and Erik Rathcke, and offensive line coach Dustin Fry.



Dylan Rathcke holding aloft U-High's Championship trophy.