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City of Central • 2005-2019
Birthday Edition
Coming July 18

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107th Central High Annual Graduation Ceremonies

Central Graduates 305

Photo by Woody Jenkins

CENTRAL HIGH CLASS OF 2019 celebrated receiving their diplomas at Graduation ceremonies in Hammond.

4,000 Gathered At Southeastern To Honor CHS Class of 2019

HAMMOND - Central High School's 107th graduating class was honored May 21 during Graduation ceremonies at the University Center at Southeastern Louisiana University in Hammond.

A total of 297 seniors crossed the stage to received their diplomas as more than 4,000 family and friends watched. Eight other seniors earned their di-

See 2019 on Page 8

Central High Graduation Point Phone at QR Code

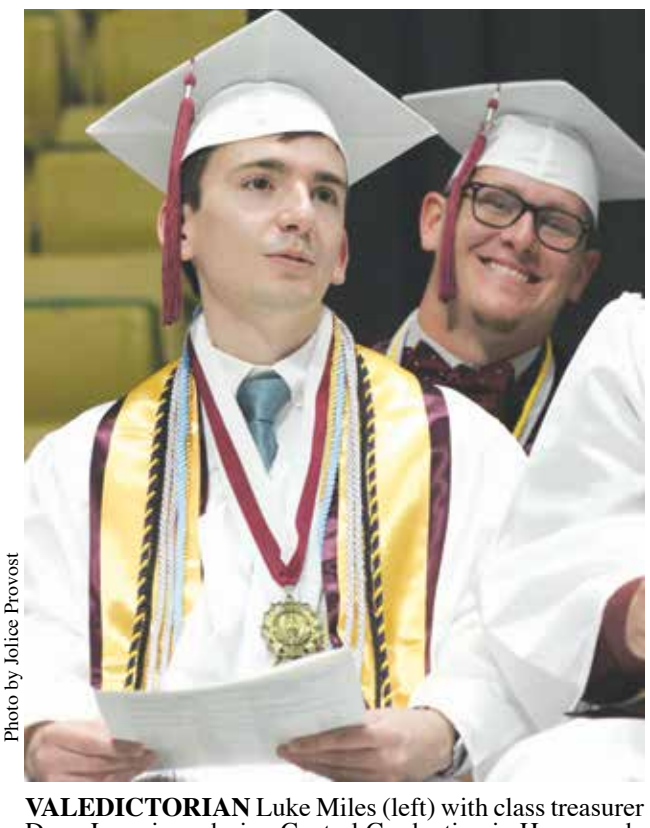


Photo by Jolice Provost

VALEDICTORIAN Luke Miles (left) with class treasurer Drew Lasseigne during Central Graduation in Hammond.

14th Anniversary Of City of Central To Be Honored in Special Edition

CENTRAL - The 14th anniversary of the founding of the City of Central will be commemorated with the annual Central Birthday Edition of the *Central City News* on July 18. Last year's featured the popular **"50 Things to Know About Central."** This year's will feature all-new **"50 *More* Things to Know About Central."**

It is one of the largest and best read papers of the year! To advertise, call Kim Powers at 921-8784 or 261-5055

Scott Wilson Passes Early Voting in Central for Fall

CENTRAL - Voters in Central will be able to stay close to home and still participate in early voting, thanks to an ordinance approved by the Metro Council May 22.

The Council voted for a proposal by East Baton Rouge Parish Mayor Pro-Tem Scott Wilson (R-Central) to provide up to $62,000 in one-time money to wire and equip the Central Library for early voting on a permanent basis. The library is located at 11260 Joor Road, just north of Hooper Road.

Before the Council action, early voting was held at

- Registrar of Voters office at 222 St. Louis St., Suite 201
- 2250 Main St. in Baker
- Fire Station, 11010 Coursey
- State Archives, 3841 Essen

The Central Library on Joor becomes the fifth location in the parish.

Wilson said he was motivated by the fact that relatively few Central voters participate in early voting. He hopes the new location will change that. He thanked Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin, Mayor-President Broome and her staff, the Metro Council, and Registrar Steve Raborn for their assistance.

Early voting in Central will begin with the Oct. 12 primary and will be held for that election from Saturday, Sept. 28 to Saturday, Oct. 5.

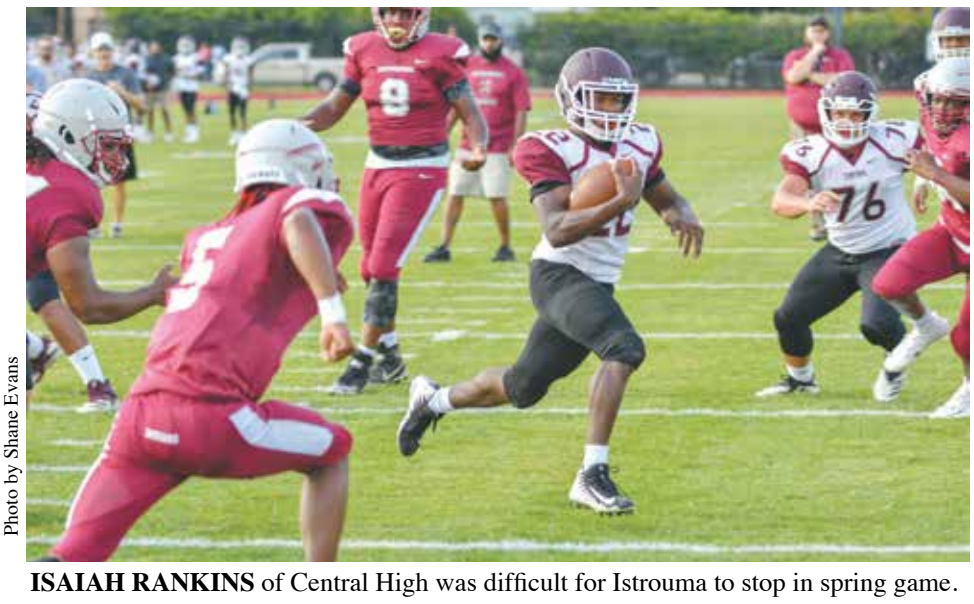


Photo by Shane Evans

ISAIAH RANKINS of Central High was difficult for Istrouma to stop in spring game.

Central-Istrouma Spring Game Shows Potential of Both Teams

BATON ROUGE - The Central High football team, Coach Sid Edwards, and the Wildcat coaching staff helped bring varsity football back to Istrouma High School May 16 by participating in Istrouma's Spring Game at the new Istrouma football field on Winbourne Avenue. It was the first varsity game or scrimmage for the Indians since 2013.

Central's Coach Sid said he felt both teams acquitted themselves well. He spoke highly of Istrouma's coaches and players. "The Is-

See CHS on Page 16

Spring Game CHS-Istrouma Point Phone at QR Code

Mike Forbes, Who Coached CHS To State Baseball Titles, Resigns

Woody Jenkins
Editor

CENTRAL - Central High head baseball coach Mike Forbes resigned last week after eight seasons and two State Championships.

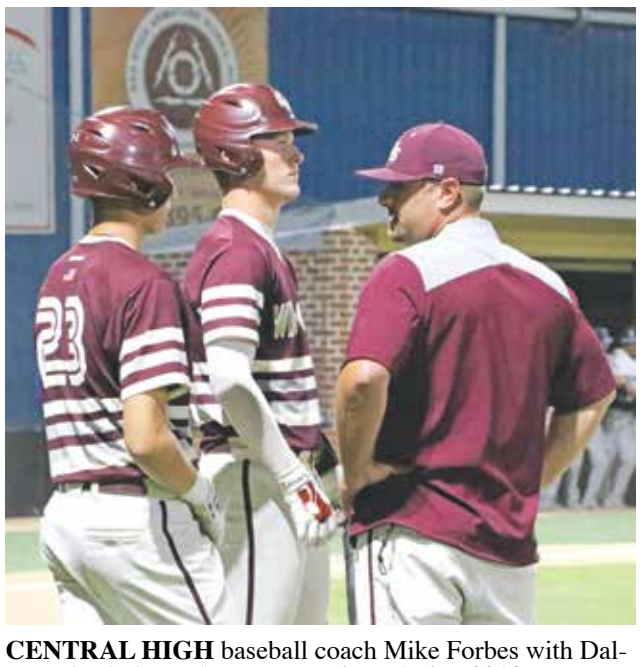
The veteran coach has accepted an offer to become head baseball coach at Brusly High.

Forbes compiled a record of 149 wins, 134 losses, and one tie for the Wildcats. He said he is very grateful for the opportunity afforded him in Central. "I was a young, unproven coach who was given the chance to build a program at a major 5A school and was allowed to run the program," he said. He said he enjoyed working with his players and coaches and will always be grateful to them.

In addition to his 5A State Championships in 2017 and 2018, Coach Forbes won Bi-District Championships in 2015

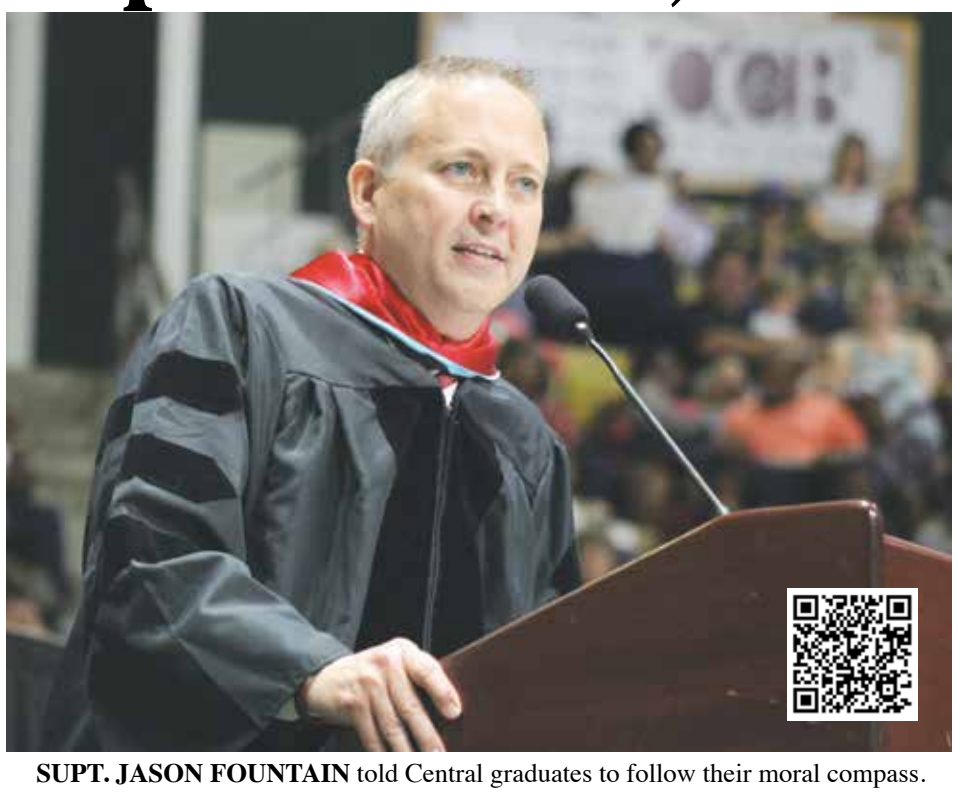
See COACH on Page 18

Interview with Coach Forbes Point Phone at QR Code



CENTRAL HIGH baseball coach Mike Forbes with Dalton Aspholm and Drew Lasseigne during 2018 season.

Supt. Fountain, Principal LaGroue Inspired



SUPT. JASON FOUNTAIN told Central graduates to follow their moral compass.

PRINCIPAL BRANDON LeGROUE told graduates they are part of something great.

HAMMOND - In his address at Central High School Graduation Ceremonies in Hammond, Supt. Jason Fountain told graduates they don't need a map for the rest of their lives because they already have a better tool — their internal compass.

Dr. Fountain told the story of a master home builder who was retiring. He was very talented and did magnificent work. However, right before retiring, his contractor gave him one final job, one final house to build. He said it is for a very special person and needs to be a special house.

However, the master builder had no enthusiasm for this final job and failed to do his usual quality work. The final house lacked heart and the beauty his work was known for. When he completed the work, he went to the contractor who gave him a box with a key inside — the key to the house. The contractor said, You deserve it for all you have done. The master builder's heart sunk! How he wished he had done his best!

Dr. Fountain said you fuel your compass with what you watch, what you read, what you listen to, who you surround yourself with, and how you talk to yourself — the things you allow into your heart.

Don't yearn for yesterday, he said, or moan about tomorrow. Rather, be your very best today in everything you do. The superintendent gave each graduate a special coin with a Power Cat on one side and a compass on the other.

HAMMOND - Central High principal Brandon LaGroue told members of the Class of 2019 that it's time to slow down, take a deep breath, and enjoy this moment! "You've earned it!" he said.

Mr. LaGroue said the seniors were true to their motto and were indeed trend-setters. "You opened the Freshman Academy, revamped the Senior Breakfast, and revitalized the Senior Walk [through Central's elementary and middle schools]!'

"Not all trails were smooth! Some were rocky. We've tried to teach you that when you get knocked down, get up and keep going! We try to remind you of the compass inside you. Now it's your responsibility to spread 'the Wildcat Way.' Let your light shine brightly! Yesterday, as you walked through the elementary schools in your cap and gown you were a rock star to 5,000 other kids, and you felt like a rock star!"

"Last night I took a puzzle and wrote 2019 on the back of each piece. Your piece is in your packet. The puzzle symbolizes our journey, and each of us is a part of it. Each piece is unique and worthwhile. It takes all the pieces of the puzzle to make it whole." Mr. LaGroue said he has a piece of the puzzle but his dog gnawed on it! "We'll all get chewed up sometime, but we overcome. You have shown the ability to unite this community. Now slow down for a moment and enjoy the journey as you find your passion!"

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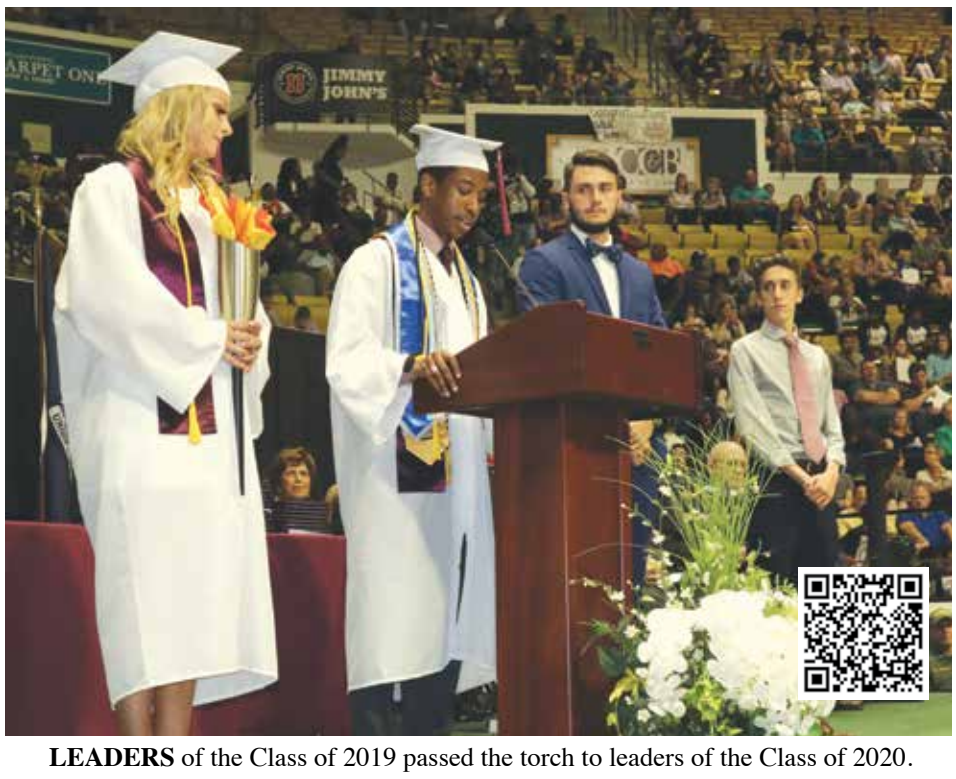
Graduates to Be Their Very Best Every Day

Photos by Jolice Provost

LUKE MILES gave the valedictory address at Central High Graduation ceremonies.



LEADERS of the Class of 2019 passed the torch to leaders of the Class of 2020.

HAMMOND - In his address at the 107th Central High Graduation, valedictorian Luke Miles reviewed the four years of the Class of 2019. He said, "We arrived here as nervous wrecks!" They were the first class to attend the Freshman Academy. The freshman year was one of Exploration, he said.

On the first day of their sophomore class, they left school expecting to return the next day. Then one of the worst natural disasters in Louisiana history occurred, and more than half the class lost their homes. When students returned, everything was different, he said. People came together and everyone was concerned about their family and friends and their well being. The sophomore year was one of Restoration and Unity.

The junior year was a year of Responsibility and Hard Work, he said. Intense study and testing. "I enjoyed every single teacher." He thanked the faculty and staff and gave special recognition to his speech teacher, Karen Bush. As juniors, we became role models for younger students, he said.

The senior year was one of Laziness and Procrastination, he said. Teachers expected us to work but we were thinking of college and the future. Tonight is a night of endings and beginnings.

He told the seniors, "We must be dedicated to making a difference in the world."

HAMMOND - At Central High Graduation ceremonies in Hammond, the Class of 2019 began a new traditional — the symbolic Passing of the Torch from one class to the next.

On behalf of the Class of 2019, president Harlan Jerro and vice president Camille Provost passed the Torch to Class of 2020 president Andrew Medine and vice president Miguel Castro III.

Harlan Jerro said, "This year's senior Student Council leaders have done their best to pave the way for future graduating classes. The Class of 2019 is starting a new tradition at Central High School — the Passing of the Torch. The Torch symbolizes Leadership, Knowledge, and most importantly Hope for the student body. This eternal flame is held high and acts as a guide for the student body. But if the flame is mishandled or falls, Hope is diminished. This is why we must carefully pass the flame of Hope to the leaders of the next student body. Now as we pass the Torch, let us give our support to the new leaders of Central High School."

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Secretary • Victor Lopez
Treasurer • Drew Lasseigne
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Leadership Board • Natalie Hollis
Mary Pollard • Luke Miles
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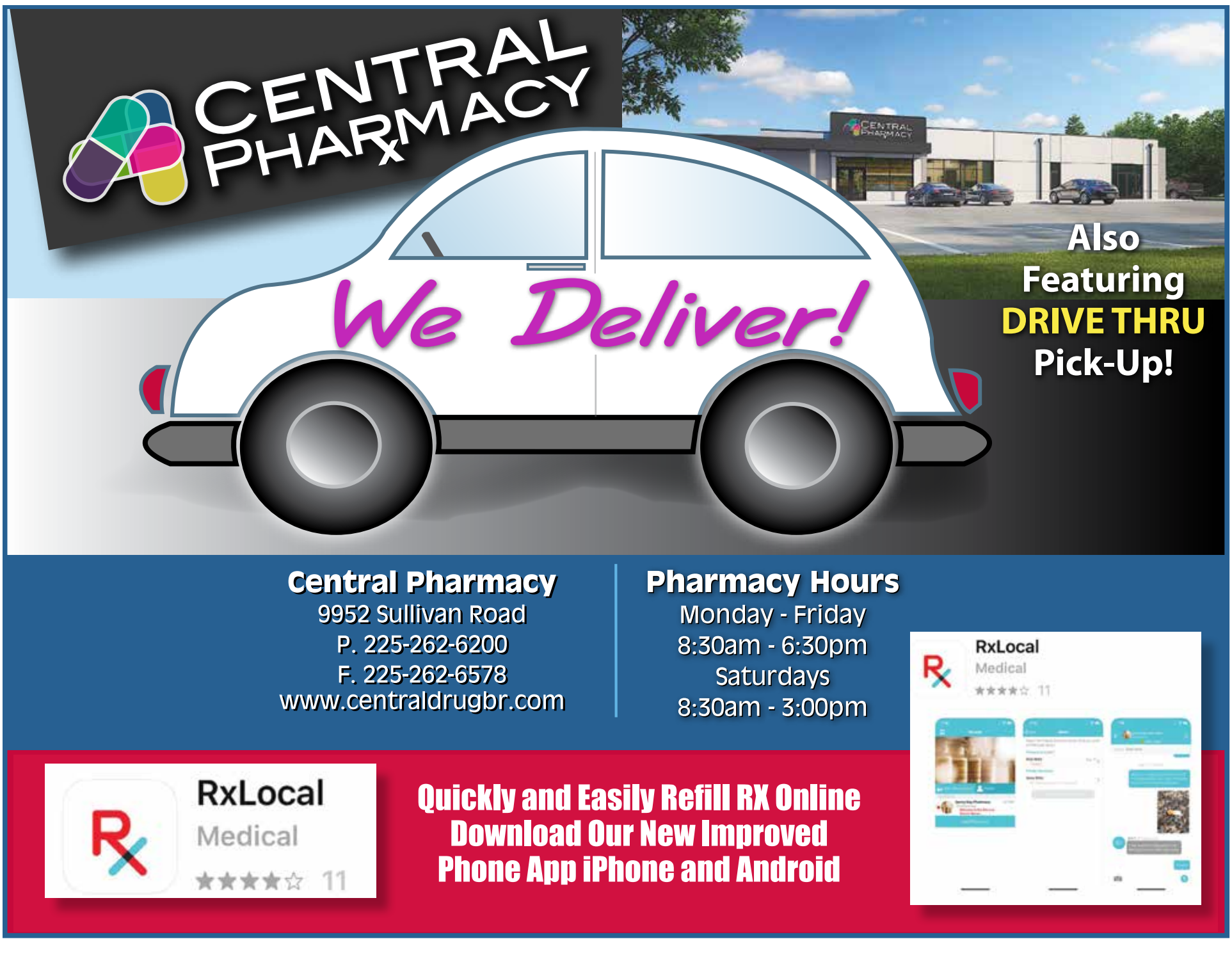

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CENTRAL CITY NEWS ALUMNI — Daughters of three current and former members of the *Central City News* staff graduated from Central High last week. They are Mary Pollard, daughter of Shara Caballero; Ashley Hess, daughter of Brenda Bohrer; and Camille Provost, daughter of Jolice Provost. All plan to attend SLU in Hammond. Congrats!

Or, Why the Democrats Will Lose to Trump Again

Democrats Have Yielded Their One Advantage

Woody Jenkins
Editor

CENTRAL - There was a time not so very long ago — 2016 — when Democrats in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives from conservative or middle-of-the-road states or districts could have it both ways. They could go to Washington and compile a very liberal voting record. Then at election time, they could miraculously change their stripes and proclaim themselves to be moderate or even conservative Democrats.

At election time, the liberal Democrat would announce that while a Democrat, he is pro-life, pro-gun, and pro-traditional marriage. Then he could back that claim with a couple of million dollars in TV advertising and direct mail. Swamp the airwaves and voters' mailboxes with his propaganda! After all, he only had to persuade a handful of conservative voters that he was really a conservative despite his Democratic affiliation. If he could convince as few as 10 percent of conservatives to swing his way, he was elected!

"There was a time not long ago when Democrats could vote liberal in Washington but say they were pro-life, pro-gun, and pro-traditional marriage at election time. Those days are gone. Today, in order to have the support of the national Democratic party, they must publicly embrace the entire crazy, unpopular, socialist agenda. They have lost the ability to lie about what they stand for. As a result, they have abandoned the center and ceded the election to President Trump."

Those days are gone.

The Democratic Party at the national level allows no dissent. You must not only be pro-abortion. Now you must be for killing babies after birth! You must support not only gun control but gun confiscation. You must not only affirm the lifestyle of every oddball sexual perversion, you must give them special legal protection and punish anyone who disagrees.

Furthermore, if you are a national Democrat, you must be for open borders and abolishing ICE.

You must oppose the death penalty for murderers (while allowing it for babies!). Higher taxes. Socialized medicine. And basically every other crazy leftwing idea spouted by people who hate America.

That's why the Democrats will lose in 2020. They have given up their greatest advantage — the ability to LIE about what they believe!

No longer can they be a "common sense Democrat" or a "pro-life Democrat" or a "pro-gun Democrat." Rather, they have to publicly endorse the entire socialist agenda. In moderate and conservative districts, that will be the kiss of death. The Democrats have abandoned the center to President Trump, and they are headed to a massive defeat in 2020!

Republicans Are Wrong About Early Childhood Ed

Woody Jenkins
Editor

CENTRAL - Parents have every right to send their children under 6 to daycare, pre-K, kindergarten, or preschool. And they have the right to keep them at home until the first grade if they desire. At least they have that right at present! Some people would like to make early institutionalization of children mandatory. Their idea is that if we just got children into a school setting early enough, that would solve many of our social ills. With that notion, we couldn't disagree more!

Now enter the Republicans in the Louisiana House of Representatives. Last week, they went to the mat for a wrong-headed idea. They proposed cutting the state sales tax and devoting more than $50 million to "early childhood education" — pre-K, kindergarten, and preschool. This reveals a massive misunderstanding of human development, education, and the source of peer dependency that leads to crime, drugs, promiscuity, and death.

Dr. Raymond Moore wrote two monumental books, ***School Can Wait*** and ***Better Late Than Early***, which compiled all the research on early childhood education. What they showed was that taking children out of the home and putting them in institutions — daycare, pre-K, kindergarten or pre-school — was destructive of both their educational and social development, even in the case of Headstart.

"The research shows that while there is no educational benefit to early institutionalization of children, children having serious problems with alcohol, drugs, crime, and promiscuity at ages 12, 13, and 14 — *because of peer dependency* — were institutionalized at ages 3, 4 and 5. That is where they learned that the people who matter are their peers, not their parents. However, children who start school late — at 7 or 8 — almost never have those problems. By then, they have absorbed the values of their parents."

For example, in the case of reading, the child who is taught reading at age 4 or 5 will naturally test better at age 6 than a 6-year-old who is just learning to read. However, by age 8, they will be on the same level, no matter when they started. There is zero demonstrable long-term educational benefit to early institutionalization of young children.

Even some organizations that advocate for early schooling of children freely admit that forcing kids to read before they are ready is harmful.

The *Washington Post* reported, "Two organizations that advocate for early childhood education — Defending the Early Years and Alliance for Childhood — issued the report titled 'Reading in Kindergarten: Little to Gain and Much to Lose.' It says there is no evidence to support a widespread belief in the United States that children must read in prekindergarten or kindergarten to become strong readers and achieve academic success."

The researchers, Nancy Carlsson-Paige, Geralyn Bywater McLaughlin, and Joan Wolfsheimer Almon, found the following, as summarized by the *Washington Post*:

• Many children are not developmentally ready to read in kindergarten, yet the Common Core State Standards require them to do just that. This is leading to inappropriate classroom practices.

• No research documents long-term gains from learning to read in kindergarten.

• Research shows greater gains from play-based programs than from preschools and kindergartens with a more academic focus.

• Children learn through playful, hands-on experiences with materials, the natural world, and engaging, caring adults.

• Active, play-based experiences in language-rich environments help children develop their ideas about symbols, oral language and the printed word — all vital components of reading.

• We are setting unrealistic reading goals and frequently using inappropriate methods to accomplish them.

• In play-based kindergartens and preschools, teachers intentionally design language and literacy experiences which help prepare children to become fluent readers.

• The adoption of the Common Core State Standards falsely implies that having children achieve these standards will overcome the impact of poverty on development and learning, and will create equal educational opportunity for all children.

The *Post* said, "The report says that kindergarten has since the 1980s become increasingly academic — with big pushes from President George W. Bush's No Child Left Behind and President Obama's Race to the Top — and that today many children are being asked to do things they are not ready to do."

Other research shows a sinister side of early institutionalization of children. By age 12, 13, and 14, when children begin having serious problems with alcohol, drugs, crime, and promiscuity, the rate is extremely high for children who were institutionalized at tender ages. That is where they learned that the people who matter are their peers, not their parents. However, according to research, children who start school late — at 7 or 8 — almost never have those problems. By then, they have absorbed the values of their parents. The reality is that early institutionalization of children leads to peer dependency.

To view a short video on what researchers found about trying to make young children to read, click the QR Code below.

Research on Reading in Kindergarten
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Charles, Nancy Valluzzo Honored for Service

BATON ROUGE - St. Joseph Cathedral Parish has honored Charles and Nancy Valluzzo for their significant contributions in enriching the quality of life in Baton Rouge.

Rev. Paul Counce, cathedral pastor, bestowed the "Cathedral Community Award" upon the Valluzzos in recognition of their outstanding community involvement and philanthropy. Their work, especially on behalf of Catholic high school education and local youth causes are well-known and contribute to a more vibrant Baton Rouge community.

Business leaders for more than 55 years, the Valluzzos have owned and operated some 57 sets of "Golden Arches" throughout the area. They owned the McDonald's at the corner of Hooper and Joor roads in Central and made it a quality restaurant for the Central community.

Ever since moving to Baton Rouge, both Charles and Nancy have chaired and participated in numerous local non-profit and business governing and advisory boards and causes, which they continue to do.

The couple met and were high-school sweethearts in Michigan and graduated together from Western Michigan University.

CHARLES AND NANCY VALLUZZO honored with Cathedral Community Award.

In 1995, Charles received the Golden Deeds Award, Baton Rouge's highest honor for community service given by the Inter-Civic Council of Greater Baton Rouge and *The Advocate*.

Also in 1995, the Ronald McDonald Charities organization tapped him for its "McTLC Award," the highest honor bestowed on a McDonald's owner/operator.

The Cathedral Community Award was presented to the Valluzzos as part of St. Joseph Cathedral's "The Cathedral Evening" on May 4.

That event also honored several parish volunteers and Bishop Emeritus Robert W. Muench. Bishop Muench was Auxiliary Bishop of New Orleans from 1990 to 1996. He served as Bishop of Covington, Ky., from 1996 to 2001. He was appointed by Pope John Paul II to serve as the fifth bishop of Baton Rouge from March 2002 to June 2018 until he reached the mandatory retirement age of 75.

Photo by Troy Kleinpeter, provided by St. Joseph Cathedral.

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Krispy Kreme on Plank Road Closes

The staff of Krispy Kreme Doughnuts on Plank Road Sunday night

Lines of customers 50 to 100 people long continued from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m.

On its last day of operation, Krispy Kreme on Plank Road won the national sales competition as the top-selling Krispy Kreme in the nation.

Attorney Kristie Cross stood in line for more than an hour Sunday for Krispy Kreme. She said, "We love them, and want Krispy Kreme to rebuild right here!"

ON SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2019, THE KRISPY KREME DOUGHNUT SHOP ON PLANK ROAD CLOSED AFTER 60 YEARS OF OPERATION.

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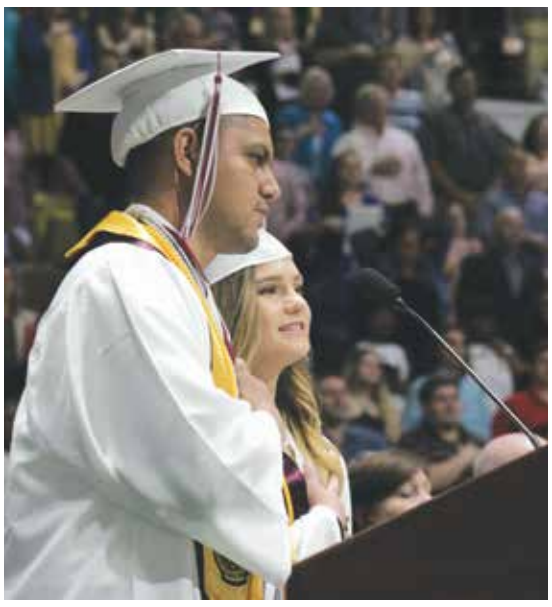
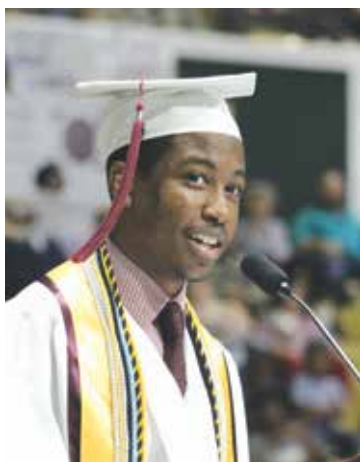
2019 Central High Graduation





Continued from Page 1

plomas but were not able to attend. They will receive them later.

The large assembly, most of whom had driven the 40 miles from Central, were treated to entertainment from the Central High Band, directed by Matthew Tuk, and Central High Concert Choir, directed by Mary Ann Russell.

Four main speakers addressed the assembly:

- Supt. Jason Fountain
- Central High principal Brandon LaGroue
- Valedictorian Luke Miles
- Salutatorian Connor DeLaune

The University Center accommodated family and friends in stadium seats, which were elevated in a circle around the entire arena. Faculty members, dressed in academic robes denoting their field of study, entered and stood by their seats on the floor of the arena. They were followed by members of the Class of 2019. The band and concert choir were also seated on the floor of the arena. Administrators and students with a role in the program were seated on the stage.

The Central High Band played Pomp and Circumstance as the faculty and graduating seniors filed into the arena.

The Central High School Army JROTC Color Guard led by Sgt. First Class Tim Dubois (retired), presented the colors with the audience still standing.

Class secretary Victor Lopez and Student Council Leadership Board member Mary Pollard led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Concert Choir sang the National Anthem.

Student Council vice president Camille Provost then gave the Invocation.

Student Council president Harland Jerro, who was recently appointed to the Air Force Academy, served as master of ceremonies and welcomed everyone to the event.

Student of the Year Marissa Huber introduced special guests.

Central High principal Brandon LaGroue, who was completing his first year as principal, addressed the audience. *See highlights of his speech on Page 2 and use the QR code to watch it on your smartphone.*

Assistant principal Lynn Younger recognized outstanding students.

Then Connor DeLaune, the salutatorian, addressed the assembly.

Dr. Jason Fountain, superintendent of the Central Community School Board, gave the keynote address of the evening. *See Page 2*

The Central High Concert Choir sang Bridge Over Troubled Waters.

Student Council treasurer Drew Lasseigne and public relations/reporter Kenneth Braxston Lee presented a gift to the school on behalf of the Class of 2019. This year's gift was a bench.

The valedictorian, Joshua Luke Miles, then addressed his fellow seniors and the assembly. *See Page 3*

The Central High administration presented diplomas to the graduates. Associate principal Nathan Corley read the names of the graduates, and principal Brandon LaGroue presented each diploma.

Graduating seniors who have enlisted in United States armed forces were recognized by a representative of their branch of service. Many received large scholarships from the military.

Student Council Leadership Board member Natalie Hollis presided over the moving of the ta ssels.

See CENTRAL on Page 20

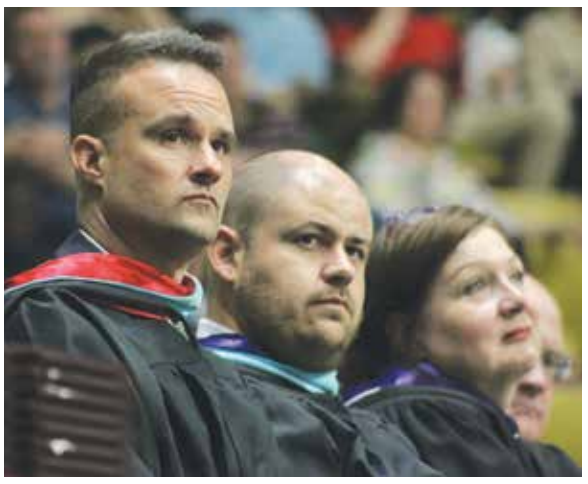
Class Motto

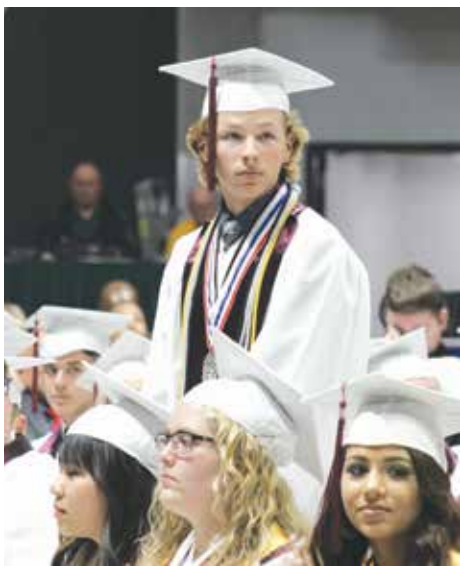
Do not go where the path may lead. Go, instead, where there is no path and leave a trail. — Emerson

Central High 2019 Graduation
Point Phone at QR Code

Through the Storm and Gale, With Loyalty We Stand

Class Celebrates Achievements





Central High Graduation Ceremonies

CHS Class of 2019 Graduation • Photos by Jolice Provost of Central City News

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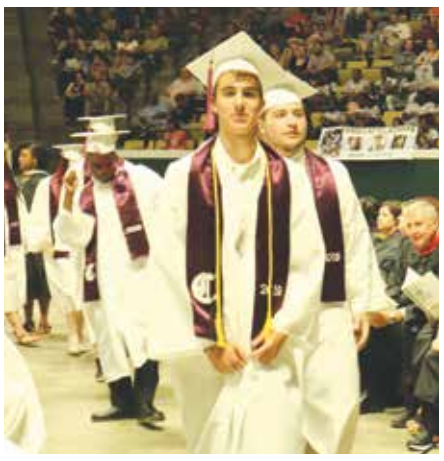
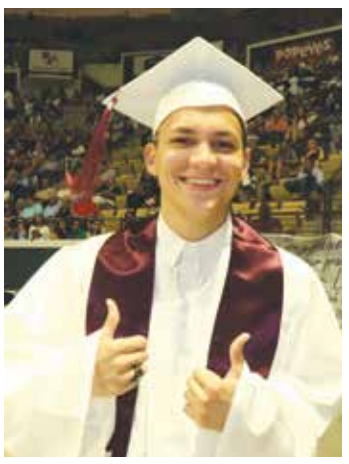
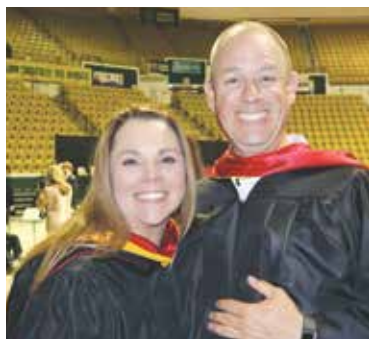






Central Dentists Training Students in Dental Assisting

Central High School Dental Assisting

Dr. Scott Browning and Bailey Mitchell

DENTAL ASSISTING PROGRAM — Dr. John Roshto and with his assistant Shelley Morris with Central High School student Samantha St. Romain

Dr. Walter Vaughan and Abigail Hebert

Dr. Rachel Beyer and Kinley Funderburk

Dr. Ben Record and Riley McLin

CENTRAL - Several Central High students are on the fast track for careers in the dental field, thanks to the Dental Assisting Program at Central High School.

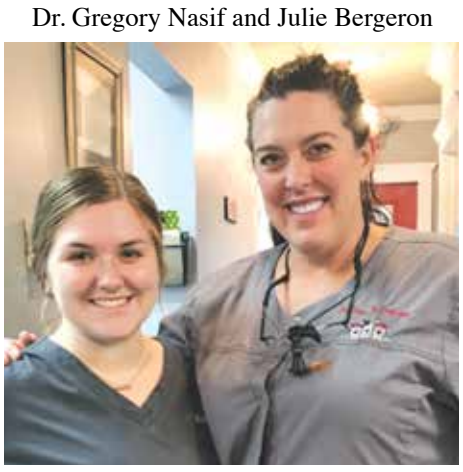
Those who complete the course will be eligible to take the certification exam offered by the Dental Assisting National Board.

Students can also opt to take an exam that is offered through the American Dental Association, called the Expanded Duty Dental Assistant. Students who complete this exam qualify for higher pay as a dental assistant.

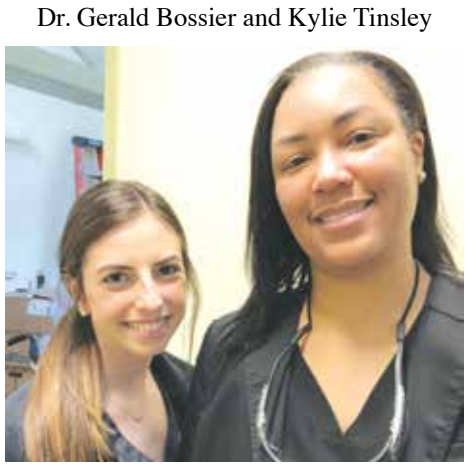
The following dentists provided internships for students during the school year: Dr. Scott Browning, Dr. Walter Vaughan, Dr. Ben Record, Dr. Gerald Bossier, Dr. Kevin Hester, Dr. Kasan Stevens, Dr. Rachel Beyer, Dr. Gregory Nasif, Dr. Amy Ferguson, Dr. Jacob Henderson and Dr. John Roshto.

Dr. Gregory Nasif and Julie Bergeron

Dr. Gerald Bossier and Kylie Tinsley



Dr. Amy Ferguson and Abbygail Wheat



Dr. Kasan Stevens and Madison Starkey

Dr. Kevin Hester and Kaylee Pendergrass

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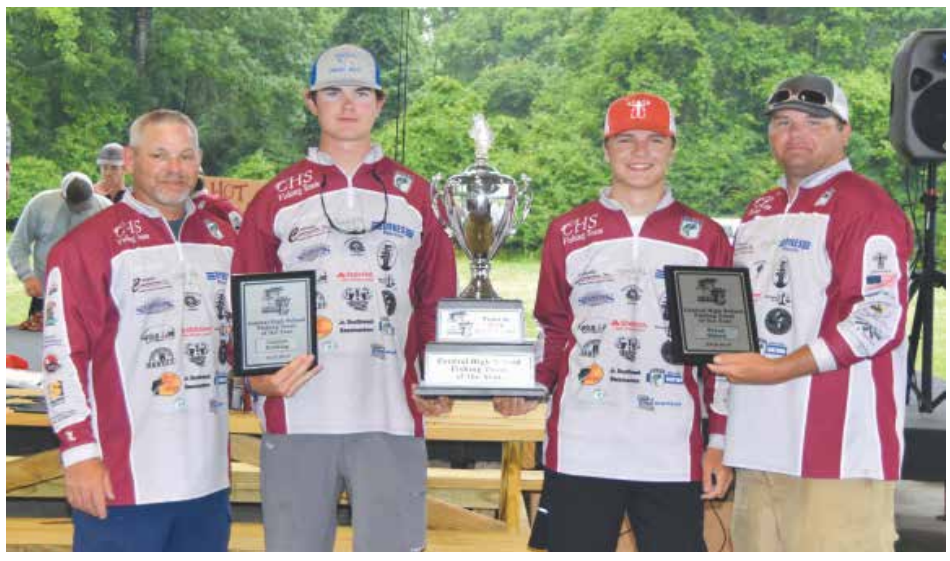
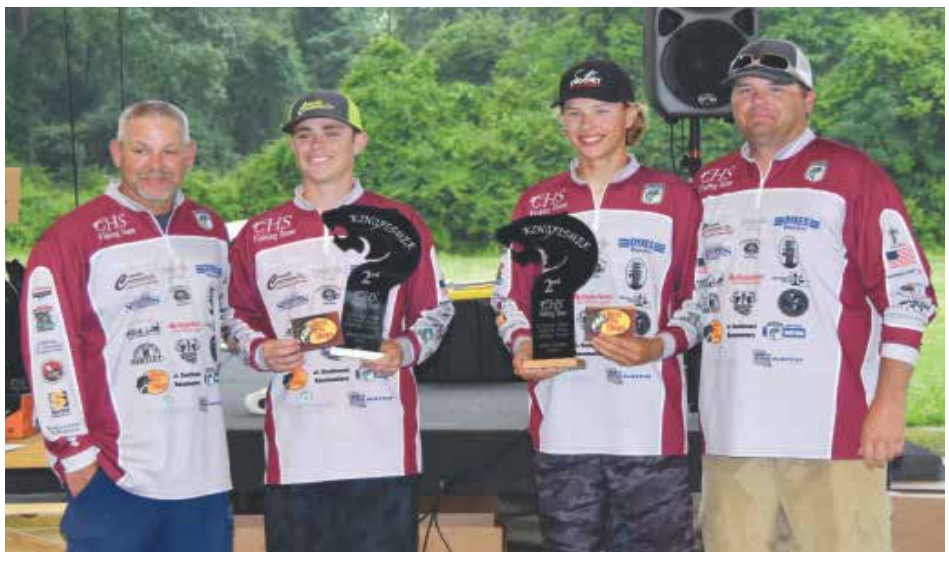
CHS Fishing Team Donated to Central Food Bank

Central High Fishing Team Awards





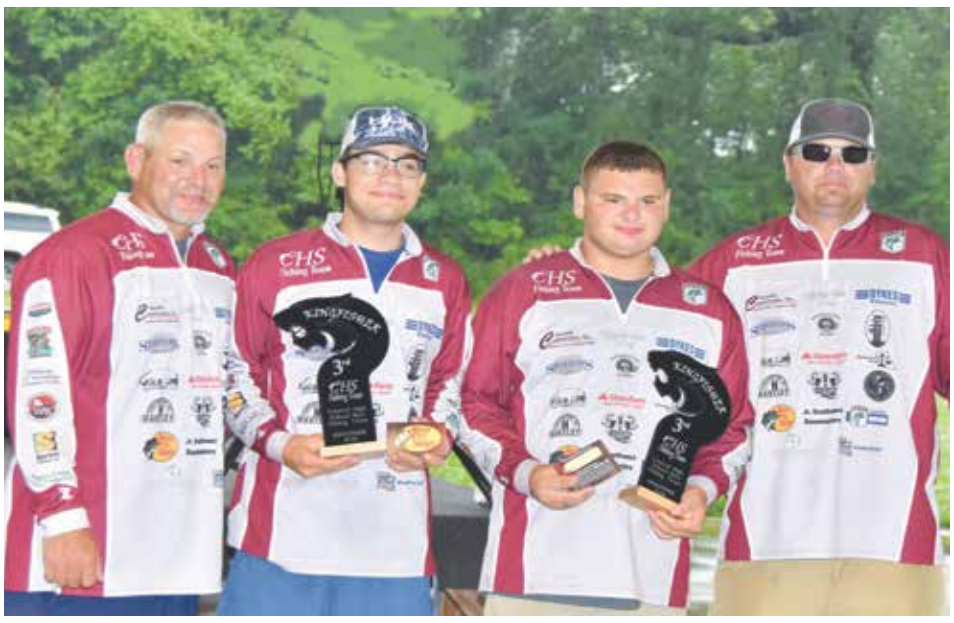
FISHING AWARDS — (Left) Philip Lemmler, Connor Rushing, Ethan Simon and Tom Ensminger. (Right) Philip Lemmler, Dawson Andrews, Wyatt Ensminger and Tom Ensminger (right).

CENTRAL — The Central High School Fishing Team held their final tournament and recognized all team members. The team of Connor Rushing and Ethan Simon were honored at Central High's Angler of the Year and Kingfisher of the Year.

The team of Rushing and Simon earned 3rd Place in Louisiana's Western Division in competition with other teams across the state. As a result, they have been invited to compete for the National Championship in Tennessee.

The team of Wyatt Ensminger and Dawson Andrews were recognized as the best Central High team in Louisiana's Eastern Division competition. They won second place as Anglers of the Year and Kingfisher of the Year.

The team of Scott Lemmler and Dakota Stewart finished in 10th place in the State Championship. Their team won 3rd place as Anglers of the Year and as Kingfisher of the Year.



Philip Lemmler, Dakota Stewart, Scott Lemmler and Tom Ensminger

As an organization, Central High caught over 250 bass legal to weigh in, with a combined total weight of almost 400 pounds! The team donated filets to the Central Food Bank. Except for that donation, the team returned 97 percent of the fish caught to swim another day.

The Central High School fishing team is coached by Philip Lemmler and Tom Ensminger.

Central High Fishing Team
2018-2019 Awards

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Best Kept Secret is Back! Second TasteTesting Pass-A-Dozen Tamales

CENTRAL - Pass-a-Dozen Tamales will hold its 2nd Tasting from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, July 12 at Suite 3 of Oak Point Plaza.

In addition to Wanda Pass's famous Louisiana Mississippi Delta Tamales, Wanda will serve her Seafood Gumbo. She will also serve Special Limited Edition Cream Cheese Jalapeño Tamales. Other featured items will be Verdi Pass's Good Ole Fashion Broccoli Hollandaise and Spanish Rice and Arleen's Delicious Shrimp Casserole. The dessert selections will be Gwen's Bread Pudding and Pecan Pie Muffins, Willie Mae's Million Dollar Pound Cake, Clodine's Strawberry Pound Cake and her New Orleans style Pralines, and Katie's Keto Rolls, Muffins and Flat Bread. Prices will range from $2 to $30 (cash or check).

Wanda's 1st Tasting March 8 drew more than 200 guests.

Customers will be able to "preorder" from June 10-28. These orders must be paid in advance and confirmed by Wanda at Pass-A-Dozen in Suite G from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. For questions, call Wanda at 225-454-6081.

Pass-A-Dozen 2nd Taste Testing
July 12 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Central's Oak Point Plaza • Suite G

Gafford Builder of the Year

Dwayne Gafford

CENTRAL - Gafford Builders, Inc. has been named 2018 Builder of the Year by the Home Builders Association of Greater Baton Rouge.

Gafford Builders is a locally-owned, family-operated business that has been building homes in Baton Rouge and the surrounding area for more than 25 years.

Dwayne Gafford has been a National Association of Home Builders board member since 2014 and is the NAHB Custom Home Builders Committee Vice Chairman for 2019.

Gafford Homes was named No. 1 Home Builder by Home Builders Digest.

Gafford Builders was named one of the Best Custom Home Builders in Baton Rouge by Custom Home Builder Digest.

Dwayne Gafford served as President of Home Builders Association of Greater Baton Rouge for 2017. He received the Home Builders of Greater Baton Rouge Outstanding Leadership Award that same year.

He is a member of the BRCC Construction Advisory Board.

For more information, go to their website, GaffordBuilders.com. or email gaffordbuilders@gmail.com.

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August 9
September 5
Pigskin Preview Edition
October 3
November 7
November 28
Christmas Parade
December 12
Christmas in Central

Deadline: 5 p.m. Friday Before
News or Advertising
Call 225-261-5055

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Clinkingbeard Receives His MD

CENTRAL - Grant Dean Clinkingbeard received his Doctor of Medicine degree from the LSU School of Medicine in New Orleans on May 16, 2019. He was hooded by his grandfather, Dr. Herschel B. Dean on May 15.

Dr. Clinkingbeard graduated from Central High School in 2011 and then continued to Baylor University in Waco, TX where he received his B.S. in Biology in 2015.

Starting in July, Dr. Clinkingbeard will begin his residency in Pediatrics with LSU at Children's Hospital in New Orleans.

Dr. Grant Clinkingbeard

Assassins Baseball 12U Select CAYL 1st Place Champions

CENTRAL ASSASSINS — Top Row (L-R): Kevin Fancher (Assistant Coach), Collin Harris, Cooper Shannon, Ben Shannon (Head Coach), Alexander Dang, Montgomery Leonard, Todd Varner (Assistant Coach) Bottom Row (L-R): Carter Fancher, Noah Landry, Clark Truett, Dylan Varner, Luke Miller, Reece Thompson

Central Classifieds

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First Turkey Kill

CENTRAL - Camden Michael Day bagged his first turkey on Sunday, May 5. He was hunting in the community of Woodlands north of Clinton. Camden is an 11-year-old student at Central Intermediate School. He was hunting on his grandparents' property with his dad when the bird was taken. The Tom had a 10 1/2" beard and 1" spurs. His parents are Dale Day and Kryste (Saloom) Day of Central.

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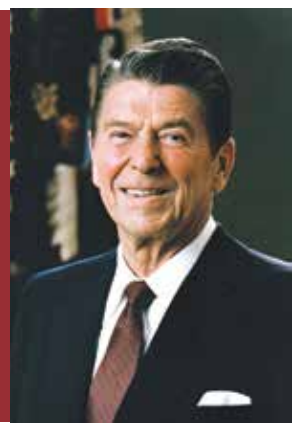

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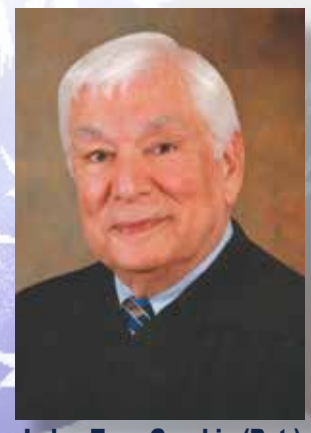
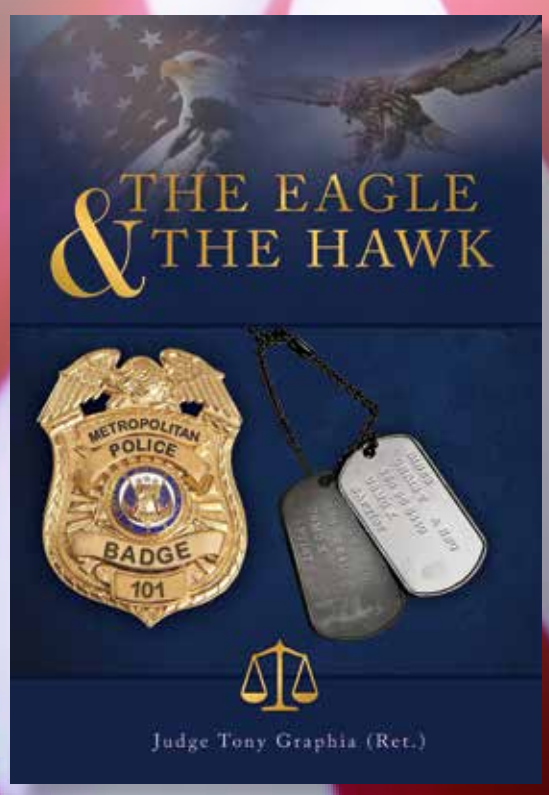


Judge Tony Graphia (Ret.)



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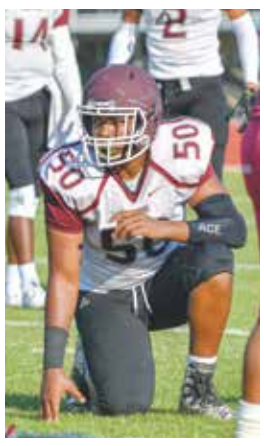
CHS, Istrouma Tie 8-8 in Spring Game



Continued from Page 1

trouma team was impressive. "It was fun watching the Indians. They have talented skill players and good size in other positions. They did not look like a team that had only played JV until now."

"Istrouma appeared disciplined, poised, and well coached. Because they had only played JV the past two years, there was no way to measure them until you see them. They obviously have done a good job in the weight room."

"In their new 4A District, they have a shot to do really well. Plaquemine has to be the favorite in their district, but Istrouma has all the talent and coaching they need to be a contender."

Coach Sid said he was happy with the good turnout at the game by Central fans.

He was pleased with the Wildcats' performance. "Both teams can be proud," he said. In one regular quarter of play, each team scored 8 points.

"Based on our performance, we have an opportunity to do well this year. We should do better than we have the past few years. Our district has gotten stronger and stronger. Last year, we were 2nd in district and made the playoffs."

Coach Edwards, who has won two State Championships in football and one in basketball, said, "What happens up front will determine our season. We have an outstanding quarterback, running backs, and receivers. But our fate is resting on our line."

Sid: Both Teams Could Be Contenders

Spring Game • Central at Istrouma • May 16, 2019
Photos by Shane Evans for Central City News

Watch Spring Game
Central at Istrouma
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‘Best Decision for Central High and My Family’

Coach Mike Forbes Accepts Position at Brusly High

MIKE FORBES, head coach at Central High, watches the action.

BRANT HUSSER, one of Coach Forbes’ All-Staters, signing scholarship.

Continued from Page 1

and 2019.

Forbes coached many outstanding players including LSU star and major league baseball prospect Ma’Khail Hilliard who made All-State under Forbes. A recent All-State player was Brant Husser who played on Central’s 2017 and 2018 State Championship teams.

Forbes himself played at Central High as an outfielder from 1997 to 2000 and was District MVP, Baton Rouge Baseball Player of the Year, 1st team All-State, and a participant in the All-Star game.

Forbes played for Bossier Community College, where he was 1st Team All-Conference, and later for Delgado Community College, where he was Conference MVP, All-Regional, and Honorable Mention All-American. He was a member of the NJCAA All-Star team that represented the USA against China.

After the 2003 and 2004 seasons at UNO, Coach Forbes played for the Winnipeg Goldeyes, St. Paul Saints, and River City Thunderbolts of the professional Independent League.

Forbes was assistant baseball coach at Central in 2008-2009. He left to become head coach at Silliman Institute, where he compiled a record of 24-19, until returning to Central in 2011.

Forbes said he is looking forward to coaching at Brusly High, which has had a lot of success in recent years. “Brusly is a very special community, and they are willing to do whatever it takes. Spending time with people there, I realize it will be a good fit for me and my family.”

Recalling some of the more memorable games of his career coaching at Central High, Coach Forbes cited Game One in the 1st round of the playoffs in 2015. No. 26 Central was paired with No. 6 Sam Houston, which was posed for a championship run. With Ma’Khail Hilliard on the

Ma’Khail Hilliard — One of Coach Forbes’ premiere players

mound for Central, the Wildcats beat Sam Houston handily. “It was at that moment that I realized we had a very special group of young men,” he said. Central won the first round!

“It was also a thrill for us to host the regional playoffs in 2017 and 2018,” he said.

In 2017, Central found itself in a three-game playoff series against Live Oak, its Livingston Parish rival from across the Amite River. Winning the playoffs was essential to making it to the quarter finals. Game Two went into extra innings, and Central finally won in the 13th inning. “I was overcome with emotion and felt so much pride for our athletes and our community.”

Most memorable of all was Central’s State Championship game against West Monroe, which was ranked No. 1 in the nation. “If you stacked us up player by player, nobody in the State of Louisiana thought we could win that game — except that our team believed in themselves!

“We lived the dream!”

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Congressman Graves Gives Central PD Flag Flown over Capitol in Washington

AN AMERICAN FLAG flown over the U.S. Capitol being presented by Congressman Garret Graves to Chief Roger Corcoran, as Mayor David Barrow and staff look on.

CONGRESSMAN GRAVES presented certificate of authenticity for the flag to Chief Corcoran and Debbie Daughert. Flag at half staff for Lt. Steve Whitsine

CENTRAL - Congressman Garret Graves presented the Central Police Department with an American Flag that was flown over the U. S. Capitol building in Washington. It was in honor of first responders. Central's Chief of Police, Roger Corcorn accepted the flag.

DEMCO and Action Advertising donated a flag pole and necessary lighting for the flag to fly over the Central Police Department.

Many came to the police station for the presentation including, Central Mayor David Barrow and Fire Chief Stephen Branscum.

The flag was flown at half staff in honor of EBR Lt. Steve Whitstine.

Central Police Department Flag Dedication
Photos by Jolice Provost
Video by Kim Powers of Central City News

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Central Private Now the Redhawks

CENTRAL PRIVATE REDHAWKS — On May 23 Central Private revealed a new mascot for the school. Students met the new mascot at the announcement ceremony.

CENTRAL - Central Private School will now be known as the RedHawks. At a Mascot Reveal Celebration held on campus last week, school officials unveiled their new mascot selection.

Since the school's inception in 1967, Central Private has been known as the Rebels with Colonel Reb as their mascot. Earlier this year, the Central Private School Board decided it was time to change the mascot. In a letter that was sent at the beginning of the year to students and parents, the board said, "While we are very proud of our rich, 50-year history, Central Private has a unique opportunity to increase its visibility and position within the region. Because of this opportunity, the timing is right for us to capitalize on upcoming initiatives; relocating to a more visible site; building a new campus; transitioning to the LHSAA, and changing the mascot, while at the same time preserving our school culture and promoting student and school achievements. Our new focus on branding and marketing of the school is necessary to continue to grow and ensure our future viability."

Shortly thereafter, a mascot committee was formed that included parents, alumni, students, and teachers. Members of this committee represented different viewpoints on the decision to change the mascot. As the committee began to come together to review pros and cons of over 50 mascot options, the decision was made to separate into two smaller focus groups to review all possibilities. Each focus group was then tasked with providing the Board with their top two choices for a new mascot. Throughout this process, the committee has received many suggestions and spoken to peer groups, marketing professionals, pastors, and branding professionals. The focus groups each presented their top choices to the Board and Administration after months of hard work. The Board then held an anonymous vote on a new mascot out of the choices given by the focus groups.

The Mascot Committee Chairman, Ashley Hunt, said the RedHawk is a great selection for Central Private because RedHawks are indigenous to the City of Central. "Hawks are aggressive, determined, strong, and fierce," Hunt said. The new mascot is also unique since there ais no other school in Louisiana that has a RedHawk as a mascot.

Brennan Easley, Central Private's Board President, was present at the Mascot Reveal Celebration.

Easley said, "We want to thank all the volunteers who took the time to diligently research the topic and presented the board with some great choices. While we know this has been a topic for debate, we are excited and proud to have a new mascot selected that will represent our school."

Wes Theriot New Athletic Director for CPS

CENTRAL - Central Private School has promoted their current baseball coach, Wes Theriot, to the position of athletic director. This decision comes as Central Private prepares for its first season as a member of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association (LHSAA).

Coach Theriot joined Central Private in June 2018. His first year was exciting as he led the baseball team to the 2019 district 5-AAA title and advanced to the South State championship series. Theriot was also selected by the other coaches in the league to coach the 2019 MAIS All Star game.

The father of two daughters — Kate, 13, and Reese, 11 — he graduated from Broadmoor High in 1994 and went on to play college baseball for Panola College, the University of Louisiana Lafayette, and Southeastern Louisiana University.

Theriot has coached youth teams and has been a private hitting instructor for over 15 years. Beginning in 2016, he served as a Task Force Member for USA Baseball, assisting in the selection of the 18U National Team for two years.

Theriot has big plans for Central Private as the new Athletic Director.

He said, "My plan is to raise the standards and expectations at Central Private both on and off the field for athletes as well as coaches. We

Wes Theriot • New AD at CPS

are unique because we have a 50-year tradition of athletic success as a foundation, so we aren't starting from scratch. Throughout our history Central Private has had some outstanding coaches and athletes that knew how to compete and win. We look forward to bringing that tradition into the LHSAA."

Academic accountability, as well as encouraging multi-sport participation are top priorities for Theriot.

Central Private first competed in the Louisiana Independent School Association (LISA) until it dissolved in 1992. Central Private then joined the Mississippi Association of Independent Schools (MAIS). This has meant longer travel times to games and less class time for student athletes.

When asked about joining the LHSAA, Theriot replied, "I'm looking forward to it; I'm excited for our kids and coaches to be competing against programs and athletes who they have known for a long time."

Theriot went on to explain how joining the LHSAA allows Central Private the opportunity to play against larger, local schools in the pre-season because of less travel time so that they are prepared for games in their district during the regular season.

Central Private will compete in LHSAA district 6-A.

Central High School's 107th Graduation

Continued from Page 8

Harlan Jerro and Camille Provost represented the Class of 2019 in the symbolic Passing of the Torch ceremony. Class of 2020 president and vice president Andrew Medine and Miguel Castro III received the torch on behalf of their class. *See Page 3.*

The Benediction was led by Donald Max Bryant and the Cap Celebration by Autumn London.

The Central High Concert Choir sang the Alma Mater, and the Central High Concert Band played Fanfare and Recessional as the faculty and graduates filed out of the arena.

The event was broadcast in its entirety by the Central City News. Video and reporting by editor Woody Jenkins. Photography by Jolice Provost. Executive producers Jolice Provost and Kim Powers.

2019
Central City News
Publication Dates
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August 9
September 5
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November 7
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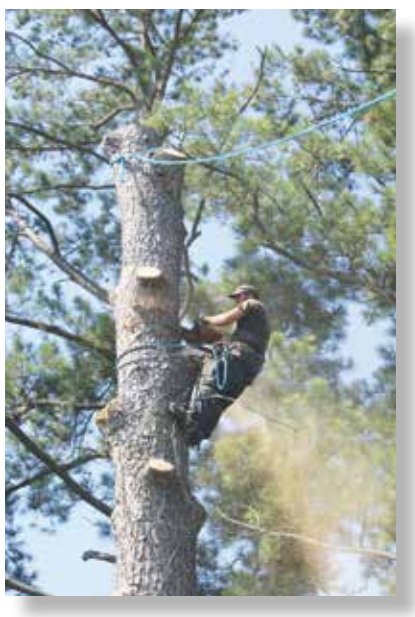

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Central Native Played at Catholic High

Central's Josh Smith Drafted by Yankees

Josh Smith playing little league with the Baton Rouge Tigers

GREENWELL SPRINGS native Josh Smith was drafted by the New York Yankees in the second round, pick number 67. (Left to Right) Scott Smith, Jenny Smith, Josh Smith, and sisters Brett and Carsyn Smith.

Josh Smith playing little league with the Baton Rouge Tigers

Photo by John Crifasi Photography

Josh Smith with his dad, Scott Smith at an LSU home game. Photo by John Crifasi

JOSH SMITH is currently LSU's shortstop, #4. The LSU Tigers will be hosting the Division I Baseball Championship Super Regionals this weekend at Alex Box Stadium at Skip Bertman Field. LSU will play Florida State at 2 p.m. Saturday, June 8.

Josh Smith with his Nana, Marlene Caballero

Josh Smith with his mom, Jenny Smith at LSU Alex Box Stadium.

Josh Smith as a toddler with NY Yankee uniform on, equipped glove, ball and bat.

Jenny Smith, Brett Smith, Claire Couvillion, Josh Smith, and Scott Smith

Josh Smith with Carter Hollis when Josh returned to St. Alphonsus for a visit on Field Day. Josh atttended St. Alphonsus from kindergarten to 8th grade.

Josh Smith in the LSU dugout with his sister Brett and her fiance, Alex Buratt

Smith Family Reaction to Draft Point and Click

LSU Regional Highlights Josh Smith 9th Homerun Point and Click

Central Residents Came Out to Honor EBR Sheriff Lieutenant Steven Whitstine

Photos by Melissa McAndrew

MORGAN PLACE WEST RESIDENTS wave flags on Joor Road to honor Lieutenant Steven Whitstine as his funeral procession passes through Central.

EBR Sheriff Lieutenant
Steven D. Whitstine

CENTRAL - Steven D. "Slim, Whit, Tex MacGyver" Whitstine, 42, born on August 3, 1976, passed away Thursday, May 30, 2019, at 6:30 a.m. His passions were his family, friends, K-9s, entertaining, art, and music. He leaves behind to cherish his life and memory his wife of 20 years, Elisha Whitstine; son and his wife, Jude and Jenna Bumgardner, and daughter, Taylor-Ann Whitstine; parents, Alvin Ray and Judy Whitstine, Zachary; brother and his wife, Christopher and Holly Whitstine, Central; godchildren Olivia and Adeline Whitstine, Central.

He is preceded in death by his paternal grandfather Alvin Whitstine and maternal grandfather Willard Neathery. Visitation was held at First Baptist Church in Zachary on June 3. Funeral services were at First Baptist Church June 4, officiated by Pastor Scott Hymel. Burial in the Greenoaks Memorial Park in Baton Rouge. Pallbearers were the EBRSO K-9 Division, Capt. James Broussard, Sgt. Jason Shows, Sgt. Shannon Graham, Sgt. Jesse Hale, Sgt. Cody Grace, Cpl. Dianna "Alé" Wales, Cpl. Laremy McGraw, Cpl. Ryan Distefano, and Cpl. Jeremy Yantis. Honorary Pallbearers were Robbie Neathery, Chris Kerr, and Frankie Cathey.

Special thanks to the entire staff of the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Department, Zachary Police Department, Baker Police Department and all other responding agencies. Thank you also for all support, thoughts, and prayers. He will be missed. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donation be made to United States Police Canine Association or Honor Bands.

Funeral Procession
Steven Whitstine
Point and Click

Central High Play-by-Play 'Sideline Football' Will Be Back on the Air for 2019 Season!

Sam Kenerson, Isaiah Rankins, Drew Lasseigne, and Parker Evans

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Aug. 30	Livonia	Home
Sept. 6	Mentorship Academy	Home
Sept. 13	Broadmoor	Away
Sept. 20	Belaire	Home
Sept. 27	Southern Lab	Away
Oct. 11	Denham Springs*	Away
Oct. 18	Scotlandville*	Away
Oct. 25	Walker*	Home
Nov. 1	Zachary*	Home
Nov. 8	Live Oak*	Away

* District Game

Sen. Bodi White

Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome

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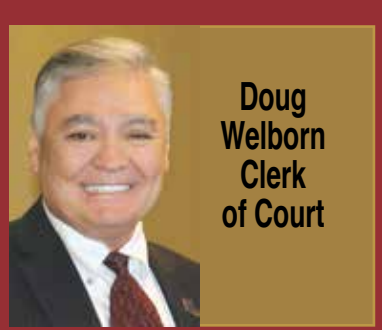

Doug Welborn Clerk of Court

Brian Wilson Assessor

MANDA
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