

2005-2019 - 14th Annual Central Birthday Edition

CENTRAL CITY NEWS
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See Page 3

10 *More Things
To Know About
City of Central
Especially if You Live Here!*

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Central's 14th Anniversary

12 Elected Officials Who Shaped City of Central



Sen. Bodi White
Author, Central School System



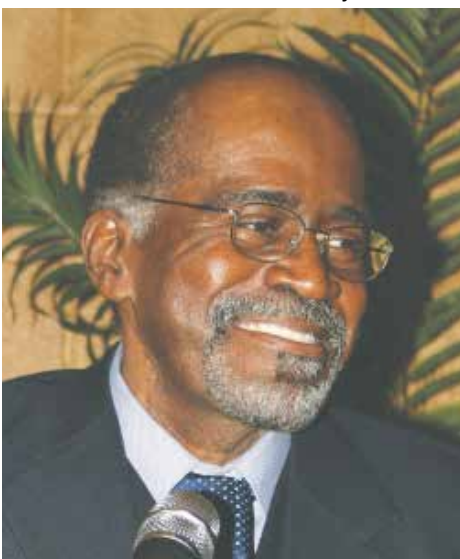
Rep. Donald Ray Kennard
Author, Central School System



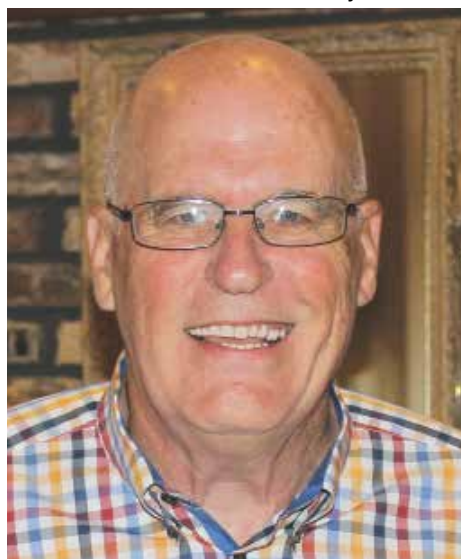
Russell Starns
Founder of City of Central



Mayor Mac Watts
Brought privatization to City of Central



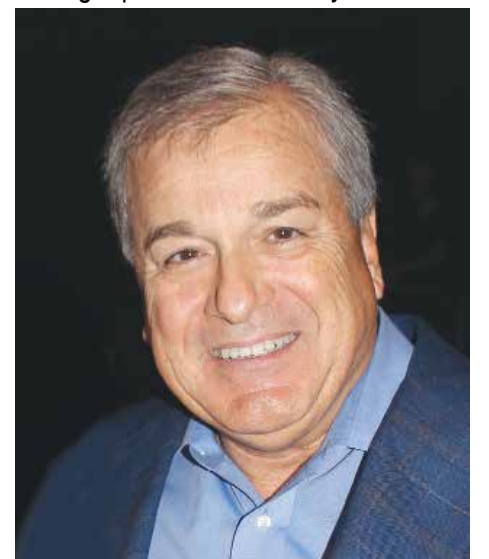
Mayor Pro-Tem Ralph Washington
Fought charge Central was racist



Mayor Jr. Shelton
Leadership during Flood of 2016



Rep. Tony Perkins
Secured Greenwell Springs Site



Sheriff Sid Gautreaux
Provides Primary Law Enforcement



Councilman (Clerk) Doug Welborn
Spearheaded Comite Diversion Canal



EBR Mayor Pro-Tem Scott Wilson
Brought Early Voting to Central



EBR Mayor Pro-Tem Joe Greco
Authored Central Thruway



Rep. Valarie Hodges
Spearheaded Comite Diversion Canal

In Digital Age, We Need Books More Than Ever

City of Central Founder Russell Starns Looks Back on Battle for Incorporation

14 Years After Historic Vote to Form City, Starns Has No Regrets

CENTRAL - Starting a new city is one of the most difficult things anyone can undertake in the State of Louisiana, but a hardy band of Central residents led by Central businessman Russell Starns did just that in 2004-2005.

Starns, a 1975 graduate of Central High School where he was a star football player, became successful in the home health business. A strong supporter of his alma mater, Starns was frustrated by the way the federal courts and the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board had damaged Central High School and other schools in Central. The schools' physical facilities were badly neglected, and school district lines were constantly changing.

The Central he and other residents knew and loved seemed to be slipping away. In 2004, Reps. Donald Ray Kennard and Bodi White introduced a constitutional amendment to create the new Central Community School District. The bill was reported unanimously by the House Education Committee and the Civil Law Committee but was short of the 2/3rds vote required for passage of a constitutional amendment on the House floor. Some legislators said



RUSSELL STARNs — Incorporator of Central and 1st president of Central School Board

they could only support the amendment if Central incorporated as a city.

That led Starns and other supporters of the proposed Central school system to begin to talk seriously about the advantages and disadvantages of incorporation.

When they looked hard at the issue, they realized that Central needed its own city almost as much as it needed its own school system.

Thus began the epic battle that led to the people of Central voting to incorporate on April 23, 2005. The city came into existence on July 11, 2005, when the first officials were sworn in.

The next year the legislature passed the constitutional amendment to create the Central Community School System, the voters agreed, and it became a reality on July 1, 2007. Russell Starns became the first president of the Central School Board.

Over the next 14 years, Starns has lived to see his dreams become a reality. The Central school system is now ranked No. 2 in the state and has a beautiful school complex. The City of Central offers safe neighborhoods, great schools, and a wonderful family atmosphere. It is the third wealthiest city in Louisiana. It is the only privatized city in Louisiana, and it runs big surpluses and has \$40 million in the bank.

Today, 14 years after incorporation, does Russell Starns have any regrets? "Not really!" he says with a smile.

12 Elected Officials Who Helped Shape Central

Woody Jenkins

Editor

CITY OF CENTRAL - On the 14th anniversary of the founding of the City of Central, the cover of the *Central City News* honors 12 elected officials — living and dead — who have made an enormous contribution of the City of Central as we know it today. There are others who have also done a great deal to make Central what it is. We invite you to tell us about them for future recognition (send suggestions to central-citynews@hotmail.com). The 12 recognized today are:

Sen. Bodi White — Bodi White was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives from Central in 2003. Upon being sworn in, he immediately introduced an amendment to the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 to create the Central Community School System. The legislation required a two-thirds' vote and narrowly failed. On April 23, 2005, the people of Central voted to incorporate Central as a new city. In the 2005



Sen. Bodi White

Baton Rouge Parish, and statewide. In the 2007 session, he passed legislation to ease the transition of Central schools from East Baton Rouge Parish to the Central school system. Since then, Rep. (now Sen.) White has been ever-vigilant in promoting the interests of Central. Most recently, he succeeded in securing funding for completion of the widening of Sullivan and Hooper roads.

Rep. Donald Ray Kennard — The late Donald Ray Kennard was elected to the Louisiana House in 1975 and was already talking about the need for Central to incorporate one day. In 2004, he joined with Rep. Bodi White to sponsor the new Central Community School System. When that constitutional amendment narrowly failed, he came back with legislation to create the new school system in the 2006 session of the legislature. A veteran legislator who was well-liked by his colleagues in the House, Donald Ray often told stories about growing up in Central to make points when he debated legislation on the House floor. Along with his father and mother, Sterling and Camille Kennard, Donald Ray and his wife Mona sponsored an annual cookout in Central for members of the legislature. As a result, legislators from all over the state had visited Central at least once and felt a kinship



Rep. D. R. Kennard

to the area. That was true of Kathleen Blanco, who had been Donald Ray's seat mate in the House. As it turned out, by 2005, she was Governor Kathleen Blanco. Even though she was a Democrat and he was a Republican, their close bonds served Central well when she as governor appointed the first mayor, city council, and school board for Central.

Central Founder Russell Starns — Incorporating a new municipality has a certain parallel to forming a new business. In both instances, there must be an incorporator — the person who actually files the papers with the office of the Louisiana Secretary of State. The incorporator of the City of Central is local businessman Russell Starns. More than that, he was the authentic leader and chief spokesman for a community-wide movement that shook the foundations of East Baton Rouge Parish and even state government. His tough-minded but fair leadership style brought together and kept together a movement that created the City of Central and the Central Community School District. He served as chairman of the City of Central Transition District and later as the first president of the Central Community School Board.



Russell Starns

Mayor Mac Watts — With his appointment as Mayor of the new

City of Central by Gov. Kathleen Blanco in July 2005, Mayor Watts became the public face of Central. Widely respected in the community, he had the confidence of the people and presented a mature, stable, and responsible image for the new municipality. One of his most important decisions was recommending that the City of Central follow the lead of Sandy Springs, GA, and become Louisiana's first and only fully privatized city. Under this model, virtually all city services are provided by a private, non-profit corporation. Privatization has allowed the City of Central to perform far more efficiently than any other municipality in the state — providing services at a fraction of their costs elsewhere.



Mayor Watts

Mayor Pro-Tem Ralph Washington — Ralph Washington grew up in Ascension Parish and attended segregated schools. He was in the first bus load of black students to integrate East Ascension High School. Despite humble beginnings, he went on to earn a degree from Southern University and to become manager of one of the largest chemical plants on the Mississippi River. After retiring, he started a business in Central and became active in the Central incorporation movement. In the first election after incorporation,

See 12 WHO on Page 14

14th Anniversary of Founding of City of Central

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

Woody Jenkins
Editor

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

Last year, the Central City News' 13th City of Central Anniversary Edition, published, "50 Things You Should Know About Central!" But there's more to know! So here are "10 More Things You Should Know About Central!"



Woody Jenkins

—1—

What is the most important thing to know when speaking to someone from Central?

That's simple!

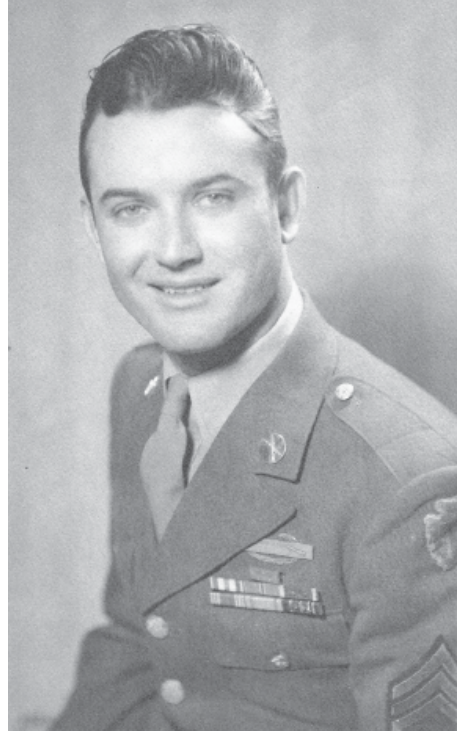
Don't say anything bad about anyone from Central to anyone from Central! They are probably related!

—2—

Has a soldier, sailor, Marine or airman from Central ever been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor?

Yes, there was one! On Wednes-

Central's Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient Sgt. Homer Wise



SGT. HOMER WISE — East Baton Rouge Parish's only Congressional Medal of Honor winner. With wife and son after the war.

day night, Jan. 24, 1945, more than 700 Central residents gathered at the high school gym to pay tribute to Homer Wise, winner of the Congressional Medal of Honor.

Homer Wise grew up in Central and attended Central School. During World War II, he became one of America's most decorated heroes, receiving the Congressional

Medal of Honor and many other awards. The citation on the Medal of Honor says,

"Magliano, Italy, in the summer of 1944 was the scene of intensive resistance by well-trained and experienced German soldiers. Fierce machine gun fire hit the 142nd Infantry Regiment. The day was hot and artillery fire had set

the dry grass ablaze. In the heat of the battle, Staff Sergeant Homer L. Wise, squad leader of Company L, performed heroically with amazing agility and initiative. While his platoon was pinned down by intensive fire, he and three others went into the fire-swept area to bring a wounded buddy to safety.

See MEDAL on Page 4

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Central Hero Accompanied Unknown Soldiers Medal of Honor Winner Homer Wise



PRESIDENT EISENHOWER (left) addresses Medal of Honor winners at the White House. At right, the President with the two Unknown Soldiers and Sgt. Homer Wise.



ENTOMBMENT of the two Unknown Soldiers (left photo) and the Medal of Honor winners (right) chosen to accompany them. Sgt. Homer Wise of Central is first from left.

Continued from Page 3

When a German officer and two men challenged him, he killed all three. Later he obtained and fired a rifle grenade launcher upon enemy positions causing them to flee. He obtained a Browning Automatic Weapon, and neutralized the frontal fire, allowing his men to move forward. He boldly climbed on a tank, remedied a stoppage in the turret machine gun and fired 750 rounds into the enemy's positions, inflicting numerous casualties, neutralizing their fire, and allowing the battalion to continue..."

During the war, Homer met and later married Madolyn DiSesa of Stamford, Connecticut. After the war, Homer and Madolyn lived in Stamford and had one child, a son Jeffrey. Homer made a career of the Army and retired to Stamford. He passed away in 1974. Jeffrey died in 1990, and Madolyn died in 2003. Homer Wise was one of six honorary pallbearers selected by President Eisenhower for the dedication of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier at Arlington.

The Central community turned out in great numbers on the evening of Wednesday, Jan. 24, 1945, to honor Homer Wise.

In 2010, the late Preston Morgan, then 81, remembered the event clearly. He was 16 at the time. His mother, Alma C. "Ag" Morgan took the lead in organizing the event. He told the *Central City News*, "She just felt something

Sgt. Homer Wise of Central, Louisiana, served during World War II. He received the Congressional Medal of Honor, the Silver Star, two Bronze Stars, three Purple Hearts and 10 other decorations, making him one of the most decorated soldiers in American history. On May 30, 1958, when the two Unknown Soldiers of World War II were to be entombed at Arlington National Cemetery, Sgt. Homer Wise was one of seven Congressional Medal of Honor winners chosen by President Eisenhower for the high honor of escorting the bodies.

Homer Wise
Bears Unknown
Soldier I
Point Phone



Homer Wise
Bears Unknown
Soldier II
Point Phone



should be done to honor Homer Wise."

As Preston remembered it, "The old gym was full and decorated with patriotic symbols. Everyone stood as Homer Wise walked down the aisle. There were speakers honoring him, and we sang patriotic songs. It made quite an impression on a young man." Just 16 months later, Preston himself was in the U.S. Army.

The late Iris Walker was the same age as Preston Morgan and in 2010 remembered the gym being packed, standing room only. "It was quite a thing to see. It's like a dream now."

On Jan. 24, 2010, the *Central*

City News invited everyone who was there on the evening of Jan. 24, 1945 to come and reminisce and stand for a photograph in front of the old gym, then at Hooper at Sullivan. World War II veterans were also invited to come.

★★★

City Unveils Plaque Honoring Homer Wise, Medal of Honor Winner

June 1, 2013

From *The Stamford Advocate*
By Olivia Just

STAMFORD, CT - The story of Staff Sgt. Homer L. Wise of Central,

Louisiana, is the tale of so many of America's veterans, men and women who fought on foreign soil and returned home to start a family and a new life in the suburbs.

Along the way, these veterans rarely, if ever, spoke a word of what they saw or did in action.

But Wise's story has a further coda, one that began with his designation as a World War II Medal of Honor recipient by President Franklin D. Roosevelt and ended Sunday following the city's annual Memorial Day parade.

The parade, which wound down Summer and Main streets, ended its run at Veterans Park in Stamford, where a ceremony was held to unveil a plaque at the base of a 6 1/2-foot statue of Wise that has stood in the park since December.

The unveiling marked the culmination of a five-year fund raising effort led by Wise's old friend and veteran, James Vlasto.

Vlasto was joined in speaking at the event by Rabbi Phillip Schechter, Mayor Michael Pavia, Morton Dean, the former CBS and ABC news anchor, and Paul Bucha, a recipient of the Medal of Honor in 1968 for his actions in the Vietnam War.

Vlasto, Bucha and Jean Rinaldi, Wise's niece, lifted the cloth from the plaque bearing Wise's accomplishments as they were serenaded by the Stamford High School Madrigal Singers.

"This is a very historic day for Stamford," Vlasto said. "They've

See **PARK** on Page 5

Central Hero Celebrated by His Second Hometown Park, Highway Honor Homer Wise



Sculptor Janice Mauro

Connecticut City Pays Tribute to Sgt. Homer Wise

Continued from Page 4

never honored a Medal of Honor recipient. He's Stamford's only Medal of Honor recipient. When he came back a hero, he came back to Stamford."

The fact that Wise survived the war was no small accomplishment, Vlasto said, noting that the lifespan for an American soldier in combat during World War II was 14 days.

On a hot day in June 1944 in Magliano, Italy, Wise ran through German gunfire to pull a wounded soldier to safety.

Then he single-handedly held off enemy gunners with a grenade launcher, along with peppering the retreating Germans with fire from a submachine gun and firing 750 rounds from an American tank in order to allow his men to advance.

Roosevelt's citation called Wise's actions "conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity." Wise was also awarded the Bronze Star, the Silver Star and the Purple Heart.

After the war, Wise, a handsome, blue-eyed man from Central, Louisiana, came to Stamford to marry Madolyn DiSesa, whom he had met at Cape Cod during the war.

The couple had one son, Jeff, who died in 1990, and only learned about his father's medals at the age of 12 through a friend at school.

Wise was by most accounts a quiet, unassuming man, who returned to the army as a recruiter and then worked in a civilian capacity as a mail supervisor in a bank. He also waited tables for extra money. Wise died in 1974 of congestive heart failure at the age of 57.

Joe Rumore, Wise's nephew, speculated that Wise might have been a little lost for words had he been able to see the statue's dedication or the large crowd that attended the event.

"I think it's beautiful, it's a fantastic commemoration," Rumore said. "I got all choked up. He'd be



Statue in Stamford, CT, honoring Sgt. Homer Wise of Central



State Sen. Carlo Leone with Veterans Affairs Commissioner Linda Schwartz

very proud of the presentation, but I'm sure he wouldn't have much to say about it because he was a very private man. He didn't talk at all about his heroics."

Bucha, who spoke eloquently and emotionally, noted that the Medal of Honor is given to an individual, but it also represents the unsung actions of others, and the collective experience of the recipient's comrades.

After the ceremony ended and the crowd dispersed, Stamford resident Betty Hardiman was one of those who lingered for a moment.

She said the ceremony brought back memories of her grandson, U.S. Navy SEAL Brian Bill, who was killed in Afghanistan in 2011.

"Everything was just terrific," Hardiman said of Wise's commemoration. "What a moving speech."

The News with Oren Muse
Broadcast Live on WJBO Radio
12:15 p.m., Thursday, Jan. 25, 1945
(Script provided by Preston Morgan)

OREN MUSE: Did you ever meet a hero? It's quite an experience. Quite. In this case, he's just a plain American guy. A kid you used to know if you lived in the Central community. A little kid who didn't have it too easy then. Perhaps doesn't have it too easy now. But a good kid and a hero.

We are speaking of Sgt. Homer Wise. Well, last night Sgt. Homer Wise actually arrived at home. At long last. Actually. For he was on the stage at the Central High School — and all the folks he used to know, a lot of children who had just heard about him, and a lot of



Installing monument to Sgt. Wise

Watch Video at Homer Wise Memorial Point Phone

others were out last night to wish him well.

The Central school auditorium, which is also used for basketball games, was filled to overflowing with adults and children. There were those, for instance, who used to go to school with him. Billie Smith—fair, modest Billie Smith, whose husband, Teddie, is fighting in Belgium, and who had sent the original story from Stars and Stripes that got all the celebration started. There was Mrs. Joe Sanders—an attractive young woman—who held the cutest youngster you have seen on her lap. Her own. He was in red corduroy slacks and while the ceremonies to honor the hero were going on, the baby calmly took his bottle. Her husband, Cpl. Joe Sanders, is in Belgium and has never seen the baby. And what a wonderful surprise he is going to get. And then, there was West Carpenter, a former U.S. Marine who used to go to school with Homer Wise. And there was Mrs. T.J. Cobb—who took our favorite six-year-old for the duration of the program—took him over because she likes boys, and her own baby is no longer a baby. He is a sailor, bless him, sailor on Guadalcanal. His name is Edwin Cobb and like us, Mrs. Cobb showed the latest pictures of her baby to her friends and that little tow-head with us. There was Miss Hollie Smith who taught him in the first grade.

And there was Mrs. Alma C. Morgan. Proud as punch. This member of the Central PTA—who sometimes teaches at the Central School—was the moving spirit behind last night's program. She got it up. And when the band started playing — playing those songs that took us back years and years—and when the program moved like clock-work. Well. She was pretty pleased.

Incidentally, she picked out the handsome gold identification bracelet, and the bill fold—which contained folding money—which was presented to him by the principal, J.A. Smith. And, what is more, she collected the money for all of this.

See 10 MORE on Page 6

10,400 Viewers Watched on Central City News

New DEMCO CEO Discusses Reforms

BATON ROUGE - New DEMCO CEO and general manager Randy Pierce was introduced to the Baton Rouge community at the Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge Parish last month. Pierce took over daily operations of the electric co-operative late last year at what he characterized as a "time of crisis."

Since then, he has been reviewing daily operations, company policies, audits, revenues, and expenses. He said he found "many opportunities for improvement."

One of the things he's done is make personnel changes — more than 40 so far. Although some employees had to be let go, he said he found 30 employees who were ready to take on leadership positions.

In studying DEMCO's operations, Pierce said he found the company was actually understaffed. Based on national averages, the non-profit organization should have 260 to 270 employees, although it only has 216.

Pierce has high level experience in the electric cooperative business. For 22 years, he served as CEO of the Louisiana Association of Electric Cooperatives.

He reported that Louisiana now has the lowest electric utility rates



DEMCO CEO Randy Pierce at Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge Parish

in the country. He said utility costs have been growing much slower than other costs of living. Comparing today to 1970, he said the cost of purchasing a home or automobile has increased by 1000 percent, whereas the cost utilities is about the same as in 1970.

DEMCO is the largest of the 11 electric cooperatives in Louisiana with 114,000 members in seven parishes in the Baton Rouge. It is headquartered in Central and is one of Central's larger employers.

Pierce said the DEMCO board has been criticized but board members are only paid \$19,000 a year. The cost of operating the board is only \$250,000 out of company revenues of \$232 million a year.

When asked about the threat of EMP to the electric grid, Pierce said the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's grid security group is looking at this and other threats to our power supply.

Click to Watch
DEMCO CEO at
ChamberEBR
June 25, 2019



DEMCO's David Latona (left) introduces key members of the DEMCO leadership team and Cecil Cavanaugh. At center, Mark Ballard of The Advocate and Coleman Brown.

10 More Things You Should Know About Central

Continued from Page 5

As we said at the beginning—did you ever meet a hero? Well, when we met him yesterday afternoon, he looked just like the good kid he is. When he talked about his girl—Madolyn DiSesa—of Stamford, Conn. who incidentally will pretty soon be the "Mrs.," he was just like any young man talking about his girl. Incidentally, he has been negligent about letters—just like our favorite soldier and she got so worried up in Stamford, Conn. that yesterday she called us here at the paper, to find out if he was all right.

Well, as we said, yesterday afternoon he looked like a guy in uniform. But last night—last night when he walked in with the guard of honor from Nicholson Post of the American Legion here—he was every inch a soldier, every inch a hero. And when he stood to receive the plaudits of the crowd, when he stood at attention as the Star Spangled Banner was played—his face was so strong, so etched in strength—that he reminded you of some of the great men of other years. As Mrs. Morgan said, "He looks something like Abe Lincoln."

Last night's celebration was the first held for this returned warrior—a fighter who was something of a one-man army, himself. And though he will be honored tonight—honored at



MEMORIES — On Jan. 21, 2010, the 65th anniversary of the day Central honored Medal of Honor winner Homer Wise, these seven Central residents who had attended the ceremonies in 1945 gathered to reminisce at the old high school gym. They were (1st row) Iris Walker, Olive Campbell, Wallace Edwards, Jodie Mae Crawford, and Bob Crawford and (2nd row) Pierce Summers, Graydon Walker, Preston Morgan, and Charlie Carmena. They honored Homer Wise's bravery in World War II. At right, Sgt. Charlie Carmena, then 88, who looked fit in his World War II jacket and field hat, took the wheel of a restored World War II jeep, much as he did during the war.

The Patio by local labor groups with city, parish, and state officials—we are sure there will never be a more important program than that given last night by his own people—his own people of the Central Community—where he got his meagre schooling, through the seventh grade.

The children—the school chil-

dren—from the little tots like our favorite—to the older ones who sang so beautifully some of our favorite songs, were agog at last night's performance. They all crowded around Homer Wise to shake his hand, to ask his autograph. We wish that you could have seen it!

If there were any there whose eyes were not wet when it was all over —

any body, certainly, who has someone in the war—well, we don't know their names. That program last night to honor Homer Wise—who, in turn, asked a silent prayer for the men overseas—would have taken you right to the front lines. Take our word for it. It did us and some 700 others.

See WHO on Page 7



10 More Things to Know About Central Who from Central Served in Congress?



Congressman Richard Baker (R-Central)

Continued from Page 6

— 3 —

Has Central ever elected a member of the United States Congress?

Yes, Richard Baker of Central was elected to the United States Congress from the 6th Congressional District of Louisiana in 1986, replacing Congressman Henson Moore who gave up his seat to run for the United States Senate.

Richard Baker began his political career with his election in 1971 to represent Baker and Central in the Louisiana House of Representatives. His father was pastor of Blackwater Methodist Church. At the time of his election, he was 23 and the youngest member of the legislature.

He distinguished himself by his conservative voting record and his expertise in highways and transportation, which sprang from his desire to improve roads and bridges in his district. He championed the Highway Priority Program to take politics out of highway construction. He was soon named Chairman of the House Transportation Committee.

In the United States Congress, Baker was appointed to the House Financial Services Committee and rose to Chairman of the Subcommittee on Capital Markets. He resigned from the House in 2008 to become President of the Managed Fund Association in Washington.

He announced that he will retire from the Managed Fund Association at the end of 2019. He and his wife Kay reside in Baton Rouge.



Rebels crossing Comite.

— 4 —

What is the most historic place in Central?

Probably where Greenwell Springs Road crosses the Comite River. It is at this crossing that:

- The Spanish government oper-

ated a trading post that was the last stop on the Camino Real, the Royal Road from Mexico City to the Comite River in Spanish West Florida.

- Yankee Colonel Benjamin Grierson ended Grierson's Raid,

See 100+ WWII on Page 10

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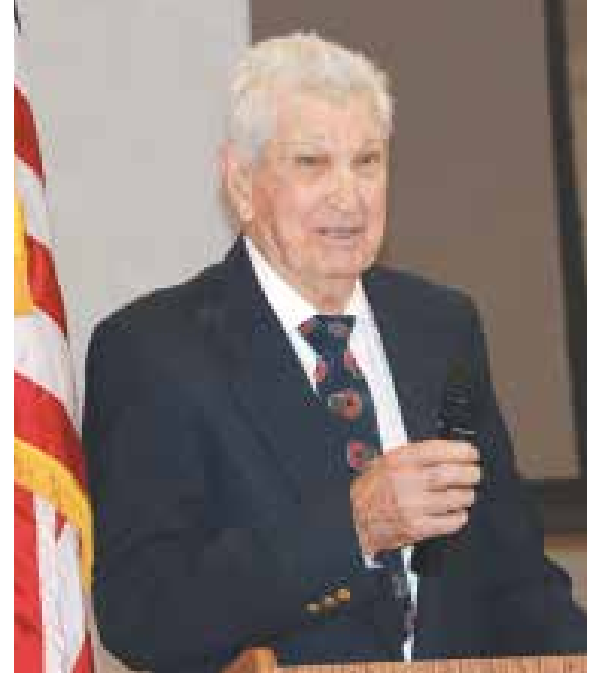
Istrouma Breakfast of Champions



Woody Jenkins, IHS 1965, MC



Keynote speaker B. L. Fairchild, QB on 1955 champions



Former Supt. and Dr. Clyde Lindsey



Current and former players mixed together at tables to get to know each other.



Former Istrouma star QB Win Turner and other Istrouma champs



Istrouma High principal Reginald Douglas, football coach Jeremy Gradney, and coach Ebony Noah-Williams



Demonstrating a lesson from process technology



Champions of 1938



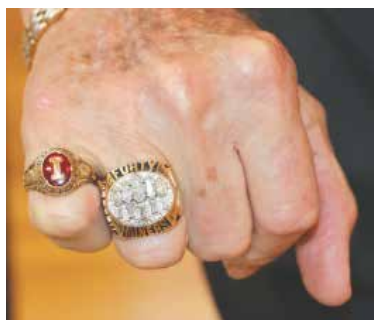
Former State Champion meeting



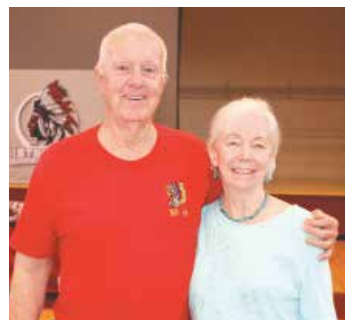
Woody Jenkins, Win Turner, and B. L. Fairchild



Istrouma alumni inspect the



Istrouma 1956 class ring with Super Bowl ring on hand of Oscar Lofton; Istrouma champions arrive at gym for breakfast.



Istrouma football player looks at Oscar Lofton

Istrouma High State Champions of 1950's and 1960

Honored State Championship Teams



Former Istrouma coach Clyde Lindsey with 1955 star Oscar Lofton



Members of Istrouma State Championship teams with current members of the Istrouma football team



The bullpen at Istrouma High



Ex-Istrouma star Carrol DeBeneditto comments



Supt. Warren Drake



Hilton of Central presenting ball to Coach Gradney



IHS star Jim Dousay



Istrouma faculty greeting members of State Champion teams



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Oscar Lofton's Istrouma ring and Super Bowl ring; assistant principal Pat Hall; an Istrouma letterman



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's Get to Know 2019 Istrouma Indian Football Team

100+ WWII Planes Downed in *Central*

Continued from Page 7

a massive calvary raid of 1,000 Union soldiers at this crossing. Grierson cut a path of destruction from Tennessee through Mississippi to the banks of the Comite.

• Confederate soldiers rested there on the morning they launched the Battle of Baton Rouge on August 4, 1862.

• Russell Starns, the founder of Central, resides at that crossing on the banks of the Comite.

• Many Central residents who commute to Baton Rouge often say as they return home to Central in the evening that when they cross the Comite they have entered their sanctuary.

— 5 —

Is it true the U.S. Army Air Corps suffered more downed aircraft in the Central area during World War II than were lost fighting in many countries in Europe?

Yes, it's true! Baton Rouge Metro Airport (then Harding Field) was a major training facility for young officers learning to be pilots. Their flight patterns usually took them over Central, and Central historian Dr. Jessie Fairchild estimated that more than 500 of them went down or crashed in Central! Many young ladies in Central were surprised and delighted when scuffed up young pilots landed in a field nearby and then walked up to the house to ask for a ride back to Harding Field!

During the course of the war, See CENTRAL on Page 11



Army Air Corps' Bob Shaw trained in his P-47 during World War II at Harding Field.



Any landing you can walk away from is...



Emergency landings were common.



Trainees managed to crash everywhere.



The field was named after Billy Harding.



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Central's Remote Location Lacked Teacher Housing

Central Teachers Lived at Teacherage



Eunie Roundsaville and Al Jarvis met while he was training at Harding Field.

The airbase was a boon to Baton Rouge businesses, which enjoyed a flood of airmen visiting their establishments in their free time. Many romances flourished, and a few of the airmen returned after the war.

For more on Harding Field, read *Harding Field: Baton Rouge's Army Airbase During World War II* by Randy Holden. Photos from *Harding Field*.

— 6 —

What President has visited Central?

President Donald Trump visited Central when he was a candidate for President immediately after the historic flood of August 2016. He greeted disaster relief workers at Greenwell Springs Baptist Church and flood victims.

In 2012, Republican Presidential candidate Rick Santorum campaigned in Central and spoke at Greenwell Springs Baptist Church. He ate at David's Mobil in Central.

Santorum won Louisiana's Presidential Primary in March 2012 with 49 percent of the vote, leading eventual Republican nominee Mitt Romney by 22 percent.

— 7 —

What was the Teacherage?



The Teacherage provided housing for Central teachers on Sullivan Road.

In the first half of the 20th century, Central was still a rather remote location with little in the way of affordable rental property. In addition, pay was low for public school teachers. As a result, it was difficult to recruit teachers for Central schools. Simply put, little housing was available, and what was available, teachers could not afford.

The solution was the Teacherage, which was in effect a dormitory for teachers from outside Central. At the time, Central High School was located at the corner of Hooper and Sullivan roads. The Teacherage was across Sul-

livan Road, where the veterans memorial is now located.

— 8 —

Who needed to be dipped?

Cattle! Texas tick fever threatened Louisiana cattle, and strict rules were adopted by the Louisiana State Board of Agriculture and Immigration under Gov. Murphy Foster. In a bulletin published in 1899, the board said Texas tick fever has prevented the importation of cattle from Northern states and the sale of Southern cattle in Northern states.

Dipping vats were established, and all cattle had to be dipped in a solution to kill the ticks. Central

See CENTRAL on Page 13

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Happy Birthday Central

Congratulations on 14 Years as a City!

GREATER THINGS ARE STILL TO BE DONE IN THIS CITY!



Brian Wilson
East Baton Rouge Parish Assessor

I am proud to represent such an amazing city! The people of Central are a strong and determined people who are passionate about their city. Central’s citizens are what makes this city such a special place. Since the flood of August 2016, it has been a privilege for my staff and me to work with so many of you to make sure your property was assessed fairly during this difficult period. We are proud to have assessed more than 40,000 pieces of property, including most of yours, which were damaged by the flood.

Communities like Central have the ability to offer something for everyone, especially when everyone works together! Central embodies the best Louisiana has to offer — strong families, safe streets, great schools, and wonderful places of worship.

As Central celebrates its 14th year as a city, I send everyone my warmest wishes!

Proudly Representing East Baton Rouge Parish

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

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

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

– Brian Wilson



Click QR Code to Watch Assessor Brian Wilson

Brian Wilson • East Baton Rouge Parish Assessor
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10 More Things to Know About Central Central's Most Popular Resort, Dance Hall

Continued from Page 10

was conveniently served by the Graham dipping vat by Magnolia Bridge and the Morgan dipping vat on Greenwell Springs Road across from Monterey.

—9—

What was the most popular resort in Central?

"On the banks of the Comite a short distance from Baton Rouge is located a pleasure resort equipped and furnished to meet the requirements of the most critical or exacting amusement seeker.

We refer to Riverside Park to which a representative of Woman's Enterprise recently paid a visit to be delightfully surprised at the magnitude of the undertaking. The Park was found to be planned and constructed upon a magnificent scale embracing the very latest and best ideas of what a pleasure resort should be.

— Woman's Enterprise, 1922

Hardly a man or woman is still alive who can remember a wonderful resort that existed here in the 1920's on the banks of the Comite River near Hooper Road.

It was called Riverside Park. A feature story in the September 1922 edition of the *Woman's Enterprise*, a Baton Rouge newspaper at the time, heralded the beautiful beaches, clear river, "sylvan retreats," restaurant, bathhouse facilities, and the 3,600-square-foot Dance Pavillion, which was cooled with "an air typhoon cooling system" that was driven by an eight-horsepower engine that delivered "11,000 cubic feet of cool air every minute."

Wow, on these hot days in 2011, we'd all like to experience that!

An ad in the same issue of the *Woman's Enterprise* invited Baton Rougeans to "Riverside Park on the



DON'T FORGET LABOR DAY—MORRIS' ROUGH RIDERS

Breezy Comite, Take Plank Road to Howell's Store, then Hooper Road."

The ad promoted "Dances every Sunday night from 8 to 12 p.m." with "Music by One of the Best Jazz Orchestras in the State."

The ad warned, "Objectionable Characters Barred"! Mr. T. H. Daigre was listed as the proprietor.

In 2011, Charlie Carmena, who was 89 and had lived his entire life on Blackwater Road and Comite Drive, remembered at age three passing by the park with his dad on the way to Baton Rouge.

"I begged him to stop but I don't think he ever did. A lot of people in our area didn't approve of the park because of the dancing," he said. Mr. Carmena said the park was located on the south side of Hooper Road on the west side of the Comite River.

Ms. Ned Carpenter, 91 in 2011, grew up just north of the park but said, "My daddy wouldn't let us go there." However, Mr. Walter Bliss, who was 92 in 2011, grew up on Hooper Road, remembered the Riverside Park

clearly. He said in those days Hooper Road was a bit farther south from where it is now and followed what is now called South Blackwater Road. Riverside Park was about 100 yards south of Hooper, which was a gravel road, he said.

"It was a nice park with a café to eat in and also a dance hall. They were owned by different people. Lots of people would come from Baton Rouge. There was a sand bar in front of the cafe, and there was entertainment on the sand bar, including a water slide."

"When the Comite would flood, the cafe would be damaged or destroyed, and they would have to rebuild. Finally, the owner of the cafe gave up because of the cost. But the dance pavillion continued in operation. Some of the neighbors were set against it, especially when the café closed. We were never allowed to go back after that," he said.

After the Riverside Park closed, Mr. Bliss said people continued to come to the site to swim. "There was no swimming in Baton Rouge, and this was the best place to come." "Every weekend, there were lines of cars parked up and down Blackwater Road as people came to picnic and swim," he said. On Labor Day 1922 — 89 years ago — Morris' Rough Riders performed in the Dance Pavillion at Riverside Park, according to the ad.

It's a shame that more of us don't take time to enjoy the beautiful Comite River. A nice beach is available at the Blackwater Conservation Park on Hooper Road.

—10—

What was the most famous dance hall in Central?

In about 1929, the dance hall at Riverside Park was disassembled and, in deference to flooding along the Comite, moved to Greenwell Springs Road near Sullivan. It was renamed Beech Grove. The Eisworth store was nearby.

A few old timers are still alive you can remember the Beech Grove dance pavillion. Beech Grove was a happy, lively place from 1929 until the 1940's.

Many a first love blossomed at a party at Beech Grove.

Lance Butler Buys Zachary Feed Store

ZACHARY — Zachary Feed and Seed has a new owner — Lance Butler of Sullivan Hardware in Central. Now the store is getting an interior facelift and expansion of retail products for customers.

New owner Lance Butler took over and started eagerly greeting customers. Butler intends to continue the same philosophy he has had in the hardware business for the past 27 years. "We want to be the first stop for all your livestock needs and agricultural services. We are a family-run business and excited for the growth and potential we see in Zachary, which is where I grew up and graduated."

Central customers can order through Zachary Feed and pick up their products at Sullivan's Hardware. Zachary Feed is located at 20987 Plank Road, 654-6052.

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12 Who Made a Lasting Contribution

Continued from Page 2

all five members of the City Council were elected citywide. Central is overwhelmingly white and Republican. Washington was black and at that time a Democrat. Some people said Central was a “racist” place that would never elect a black man to anything, and they gave him no chance of victory. But Washington ran a strong first among the 14 candidates and was easily elected in the primary. The newly-elected City Council chose him Mayor Pro-Tem. During his nine years on the Council, he had many accomplishments.

However, one thing happened very early on that earned him the undying gratitude of every resident of Central for all times. In 2006, when a House committee was considering whether to approve the constitutional amendment creating the Central school system, the bill was in deep trouble and was about to fail. A black legislator on the committee appeared to seal its fate when he said, “Central is a racist place, and this is a return to segregation!” At that moment, Central Mayor Pro-Tem Ralph Washington leaped to his feet and said, “Mr. Chairman, I can’t sit here and listen to this said about my community! My name is Ralph Washington, and I’m the Mayor Pro-Tem of Central. I know what discrimination is because I’ve lived it! I was the little boy on the bus that integrated East Ascension High School, but Central is not like that! I was the leading vote-getter out of 14 candidates for the City Council and my colleagues elected me Mayor Pro-Tem. I haven’t experienced racism in Central, and that’s not what this constitutional amendment is about. It’s about good schools for all our citizens, regardless of race!” And with those words, the battle was won! The bill passed out of the committee and eventually into the Louisiana Constitution.

Central Mayor Jr. Shelton — Jr. Shelton was elected mayor of the City of Central at a time when confidence in city government was at a low point. He restored confidence and brought a positive image to the city. However, in August 2016, disaster struck Central on a massive scale. A 1,000-year flood engulfed the city, destroying or badly damaging 85 percent of the homes. During this terrible time, Mayor Shelton worked tirelessly almost around the clock for months. He systematically helped every family who called on him, meeting with them or visiting their homes until they got the help they needed. Countless Central residents were able to return to their homes and pull their lives back together thanks to the tireless efforts of Mayor Shelton.

After the flood, Mayor Shelton oversaw the removal of 4.7 million pounds of vegetation and foreign matter along 248,000 linear feet (47 miles) of waterways in Central. He

also represented Central in Washington, testifying before Congress on the urgent need to provide additional assistance to flood victims in Central and the surrounding area.

Rep. Tony Perkins — Former Rep. Tony Perkins represented Central in the Louisiana House from 1996 to 2004, immediately before the incorporation movement began. However, while in the House, he accomplished something that could have long-term consequences for the Central community. He passed legislation removing the historic Greenwell Springs Hospital site from the State of Louisiana and into the hands of BREC. Then two years ago, further legislation was passed to transfer the property to the Central Community School System. The site is under consideration for use for the new Central High School and/or for the development of a historic site preserving Greenwell Springs’ history as an Indian village, resort based around the springs, and civil war site. Thanks to the dedication of Rep. Tony Perkins, ownership of this important area is now in the hands of Central.

Sheriff Sid Gautreaux — Perhaps more than any other single public official, Sheriff Sid Gautreaux has made it possible for the City of Central to be a success. He has done that by 1) making it financially possible for the City of Central to operate well in the black and 2) by making sure that Central is a safe place to live, work, raise a family, and go to school. In other municipalities, the police department is the largest expenditure in the city budget. For example, in the City of Zachary (pop. 16,700), the total budget is \$12.6 million. Of that amount, the Zachary Police Department costs \$3.8 million. In Central, which has a much larger population of 28,000, the total city budget is only \$8.6 million and the budget for the Central Police Department is \$770,000. This is possible because Sheriff Sid Gautreaux decided that the Sheriff’s office would continue to serve as the primary law enforcement agency in Central, even now 14 years after incorporation. Most of the Central Police Department’s budget goes to compensate the Sheriff’s office for additional patrols it provides. In turn, the Central Police Department supplements the work of the Sheriff’s office, taking some of the workload off the Sheriff’s office. The result of the Sheriff’s policy and the hard work of the Central Police Department combine to provide the people of Central with outstanding law enforcement protection at minimal cost.

Clerk of Court Doug Welborn — Doug Welborn is the longest-serving elected official in Central and, for that matter, in all of East Baton Rouge Parish. First elected to the Metro Council from Central in 1980, Doug Welborn has been a key

player in making Central a great place to live for the past 39 years. Early on, he saw the importance of building the Comite Diversion Canal, and was the first chairman of the Amite Basin Commission. In 1992, he was elected Clerk of Court for East Baton Rouge Parish. In that capacity, he has had responsibility for conducting all elections in the parish. When Central voted on incorporation, forming the Central Community School System, and electing the city’s first officials, it was comforting to know that the election was being conducted by an honest public official who had the best interest of Central and the parish at heart.

East Baton Rouge Parish Mayor Pro-Tem Scott Wilson — Scott Wilson is now completing his third 4-year term on the Metro Council and his first term as Mayor Pro-Tem. Having a staunch conservative as the No. 2 man in parish government and the presiding officer of the Metro Council has done a lot to calm fears about the direction of parish government. While the Mayor-President may be more liberal, the police department may be under attack, taxing authorities such as CATS and COA may be out of control, nevertheless, Wilson has held together a slim conservative majority on the Metro Council, which has prevented a lot of problematic things happening. Among those are requiring that Baton Rouge Police and Fire live in the city limits of Baton Rouge. Another is helping to kill new LGBTQ legislation. Recently, Mayor Pro-Tem Wilson succeeded in getting funds to make the Central Library into an Early Voting Center, which should enhance turnout from Central voters. Throughout his tenure on the Council, he has been a steady hand that could be counted on to support the City of Central and the Central Community School System.

EBR Parish Mayor Pro-Tem Joe Greco — Long before he ran

for public office, Joe Greco was well known as the owner of Greco’s Drug Store and later Greco’s Pet and Veterinary Supply. After being elected to the Metro Council to succeed Doug Welborn, he became a great advocate for Central. He was an early and ardent supporter of building the Central Thruway. The Thruway has made it much easier to get to and from Central and is today a tribute to Joe Greco’s foresight. Likewise, Councilman Greco advocated building the Central Walmart. It was controversial at the time and he took a political risk supporting it. Had he opposed it, as the Councilman from the area, it almost certainly would have failed. The Walmart in turn became the economic base for the new City of Central. The Central Thruway is still today the largest public construction project in the history of the parish.

Rep. Valarie Hodges — Rep. Hodges, who is completing her second term in the Louisiana House of Representatives, has been the most vocal advocate in recent years for completing the Comite Diversion Canal. She has sponsored and passed legislation, offered resolutions, held countless meetings and news conferences, and stayed on top of governors, senators, Congressmen, and legislators, demanding that they complete the Diversion Canal. Her voice has been one of the strongest and most consistent in support of this very important flood control project. Her dedication and persistent is one of the reasons it came to President Trump’s attention and it was fully funded.

Perhaps even more important is Rep. Hodges’ unwavering support for family values. She is the primary author of the Heartbeat Bill and has fought human trafficking. Her legislation has been recognized nationally as a model for other states to follow in addressing these important issues of life and human rights.



Ralph Washington



Rep. Tony Perkins



Doug Welborn



Joe Greco



Sheriff Gautreaux



Scott Wilson



Rep. Valarie Hodges



Mayor Jr. Shelton



David P. Ferguson, M.D.

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Happy 14th Birthday CITY OF CENTRAL



Citizens of Central,

On the occasion of the 14th Anniversary of the City of Central, my best wishes are with all of you who make the City of Central your home. As a resident of Central since childhood, my family and I have seen it progress and grow while still maintaining its unique spirit. After serving on the Metro Council representing our area from 1980 to 1991, I was proud to have been the first parish-wide elected official from Central to become Clerk of Court.

Throughout the years, I have seen first-hand the differences being made by so many who have worked hard to make the City of Central all that it has become today. The schools are better than ever, business thrives in so many areas and the churches continue to be the foundations in our community. Friends and neighbors are like family and a helping hand for those in need is never far away.

I am proud to call Central home and look forward to seeing what the future holds for the place that we love. From my family, my office family and me - best wishes and congratulations on the Anniversary!

Doug Welborn



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 Phone: 225-654-8291



Historic Break-Through Sets Stage for Bridge to Watson

Legislature Funds Hooper to GS



Sen. Bodi White (R-Central) reviewed the legislative session with Rep. Tony Bacala (R-Prairieville) and Sen. Rick Ward (R-Maringouin) at Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon.

BATON ROUGE — The Louisiana Legislature has approved funding to complete four-laning of Hooper Road in Central — not only from Blackwater to Sullivan but also from Sullivan to Greenwell Springs Road. New funding, not previously reported by the media, was in the state capital outlay, Sen. Bodi White said in an interview with the *Central City News*.

Sen. White said \$20.5 million has been approved to widen Hooper from Sullivan Road to Greenwell Springs Road and to start work on the Central-Watson Bridge over the Amite River. \$15.5 million is to four lane Hooper, and \$5 million can be used to build the intersection of Hooper and Greenwell Springs.

White said the funding became

available during the regular legislative session thanks to hundreds of millions of dollars the state received from the BP oil spill.

Another \$12.2 million has been approved to widen Hooper from Blackwater to Sullivan, he said. This will supplement local money from Greenlight 1.

He said a total of \$15.8 million has been approved to complete Sullivan Road from Wax to Hooper. That contract should be let early in 2020, he said.

Sen. White said capital outlay includes \$1.325 million toward a new Central City Hall. However, he said that money must be spent soon or it will revert to the state.

White said many long-time needs will be met with this money.

Central Schools' Student Enrollment to Experience Slow Growth Between Now and 2030, Study Says

CENTRAL - A demographic study commissioned by the Central Community School Board shows student enrollment in Central's five public schools is likely to grow over the next 12 years, although slowly. The school system will grow by less than two percent a year or 800 to 1,000 students by 2030, according to Michael Heffner, chief demographer of Geographic Planning & Demographic Services, LLC, which conducted the study.

School Population

Central schools had 4,769 students for the 2018-2019 school year. That number would grow to between 5,579 to 5,786 students by

2030. These projections are based on the number of students currently in each grade, past enrollment growth by grade, and the number of houses available or approved for construction in the city.

Using the highest projections, school enrollment would grow from 2018 to 2030 as follows:

School	2018	2030
Bellingrath K	502	636
Tanglewood 1-2	662	855
Central IS 3-5	1,114	1,279
Central MS 6-8	1,103	1,268
Central HS 9-12	1,388	1,749
Total	4,769	5,786

Facilities

Based on those projections, CIS and CMS will be at capacity in

2027 and Central High will be at capacity in 2030.

Housing

Housing has been growing slowly in Central. In the current decade, fewer homes have been constructed than at any time since the 1960's.

The study show that the 11,088 housing units in Central were built in the following decades:

Before 1940	117
1940-1949	121
1950-1959	446
1960-1969	526
1970-1979	3,300
1980-1989	2,523
1990-1999	1,580
2000-2009	1,490
2010-2018	985

Unbuilt Lots in Central

The study shows lots in the City of Central unbuilt or under construction consist of

Bellingrath 4th Filing	36
Willow Grove	479
Magnolia Square	202
Miscellaneous	212
Total	929

Builders anticipate building and selling these over the next five to 10 years.

Types of Housing in Central

Of the 11,088 housing units in Central, 8,894 are single-family homes. A total of 1,646 are mobile homes. There are 493 multi-unit housing units in Central.

— Woody Jenkins, editor

Malapportionment of Judicial Sub-Districts Could Give Dems 10 of 15 District Judgeships

CENTRAL —Chaos has reigned in judicial circles in East Baton Rouge Parish in recent weeks, as some sitting district judges have realized that their seemingly safe judicial seats aren't safe at all, others have simply felt it is time to retire, and some attorneys have sensed the winds of opportunity blowing.

Although they are not up for reelection until next year, four sitting district judges have retired or announced their retirement this

year— Judges Todd Hernandez, Mike Erwin, Lou Daniels, and Mike Caldwell. Another sitting district judge, Judge Beau Higginbotham, is considering running this fall for a different district judge seat.

Malapportionment of the parish's three District Court subdistricts is at the heart of the upheaval.

Voters in East Baton Rouge Parish elect District Judges from three separate subdistricts — an inner city Baton Rouge subdis-

trict, a northern parish subdistrict, and a southern parish subdistrict. Each subdistrict elects five District Judges at the time of the Presidential election.

The judicial subdistricts were created in the 1990's to insure minority voters had the chance to elect judges, and the inner city Baton Rouge subdistrict was designed for that purpose. However, the subdistricts are now severely malapportioned.

As a result of the malapportion-

ment, the parish, which has a majority of white voters and slightly more than half of elected officials are Republicans, could end up electing 10 Democrats to fill 15 district judgeships.

The southern parish subdistrict has 127,820 voters and five district judges — one district judge for every 25,564 voters. The subdistrict has 90,610 white voters, 28,581 black voters, and 8,629 voters of other races. Based on population,

See JUDICIARY on Page 30

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Oct. 11	Denham Springs*	Away
Oct. 18	Scotlandville*	Away
Oct. 25	Walker*	Home
Nov. 1	Zachary*	Home
Nov. 8	Live Oak*	Away

* District Game

Produced by Jolice Provost & Kim Powers
for Central City News



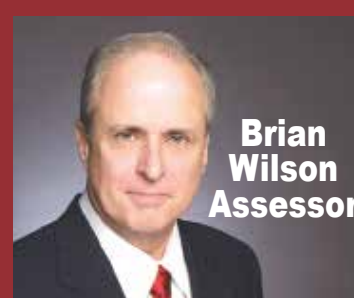
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Assessor



Wascoms Celebrating 70 Years of Marriage

CENTRAL - A celebration was held on June 16 to honor Alfred Dawson Wascom and Maudie Powers Wascom for their 70th wedding anniversary. The couple was married at Judson Baptist Church in Walker on June 16, 1949. They have lived in Central City over 45 years. They have three children, a son Carroll and wife Kitty of Baton Rouge and two daughters, Rhonda Michalski and husband John of Baker, and Diane Lea and husband Gil of Walker. They have six grandchildren and five great grandchildren. They are members of Zoar Baptist Church. A wonderful example of true love and devotion. Congratulations on 70 years of marriage!



Alfred and Maudie Wascom celebrate 70 years together.

Central Classifieds

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

HOUSE CLEANING: Christian lady for hire to clean homes. Call NORMA at 261-3754 or 485-1084.

LAWN SERVICE: Dawn Till Dusk Yard Service LLC 225-439-6475 Lawn Cutting, Landscaping, Tree Work, Pressure Washing, Lawn Service. Will beat competitors pricing by 10% Locally Owned. David Vest

FOR SALE AT TRACTOR SUPPLY CO: Happy Jack®Stardex®: greaseless, odorless way to treat and manage. Kills fleas. At Tractor Supply (www.happyjackinc.com)

FOR SALE AT TRACTOR SUPPLY CO: Use Skin Balm® to treat dogs and cats for "hot spots" and skin allergies without steroids. At Tractor Supply (www.kennelvax.com)

FOR SALE: TidalFit Exercise Pool 2017 Model. Full warranty, hydrotherapy system, 28 helix jets, 2 whirlpool jets, dual swim jet system, twin benches, Bellagio FALL water feature. 13 ft. x 8 ft., above ground, with custom stairs, perfect condition. Central resident asking \$14,000, new unit sells for \$22,000. Call 225-954-0655.

MOBILE HOME FOR SALE: 1998 Crown mobile home on 3/4 acre, 16' x 80', 3 BR, 2 baths, 10' x 50' porch, lifetime metal covering over all, 2 car carport, Central school district, asking 72,500. Call 225-654-1991 or 225-439-2913.

JOB LISTING: Computer Teacher (Baton Rouge, LA): Teach Comp at secondary sch. Bachelors in Comp Sci, Comp Engineer or Rltd Fields +1 yr exp as Comp teacher at mid or high sch level. Mail res.: Pelican Educational Foundation, 7600 Boone Ave Baton Rouge, LA 70808, Attn: HR, Refer to Ad#AG.

FOR HIRE Bank of Zachary Universal Banker: Bank of Zachary is looking for a highly motivated individual to fill a Full-Time Universal Banker position. This position offers an exciting opportunity for candidates with prior teller, cash handling, customers service, or retail sales experience who are interested in beginning a career with opportunities for growth and development. Universal Bankers perform all Teller duties along with providing support in many aspects of retail with a broad knowledge of the bank's products and services, along with account opening. Must be customer focused with ability to multi-task and perform as a team player. Stable work history and high school diploma or GED required. 1-2 years prior/current banking, sales, cash handling, and/or customer service experience required. EEO/AA/M/F/VETERAN/DISABLED. Send all resumes to hr@bankofzachary.com.

ADVERTISE IN CENTRAL CITY NEWS: Reach your best audience. Advertise in the Central City News (Central), the Capital City News (South Baton Rouge), and Istrouma Journal (North Baton Rouge). Call 225-921-8784 or 225-261-5055.

Redemptorist High School Class of 1969 • 50 Year Class Reunion

Saturday, Aug. 3 from 7 p.m.-10 p.m. • Drusilla Catering, 3482 Drusilla Lane #D, Baton Rouge, LA
\$50 Per Person • Casual Dress • Mail Check to: Diane Morales McGowan, 6513 Double Tree Drive, B. R., LA 70817-8917
or Stephanie Arceneaux, 1206 Sundance Drive, B. R., LA 70810
Or Call Diane McGowan at (225) 933-4273 or Stephanie Arceneaux at (225) 766-8899.

*** Pre-Reunion Meeting at Pastime Restaurant Friday, August 2 at 6:30 p.m.

Central Business Directory

Automotive



North - Airline & Choctaw
225-927-2311
South - Airline & Cloverland
225-751-3656

Carpet Cleaning

BayouSteam
Carpet, Upholstery,
Tile & Grout Cleaning
Locally owned and operated
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General Sand & Gravel Co.
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Central's Lady Lightning Win Silver In Close Game



LADY LIGHTNING 10U TEAM WIN SILVER — Nealey Estave, Addison Guy, Bailey Spencer, Da'Miaya Dunn, Ava Kate Phillips, Brynne Rabalais, Bailey "Kat" Santangelo, Harper Fresina, Maci, Watson, and Lexie Guercio. The team is coached by Mark Estave and Adam Rabalais.

Sen. White: Short Fuse for Use Of \$1.325 Million for City Hall

CENTRAL - Sen. Bodi White has secured a total of \$1.325 million in state funds to be used for construction of a new City Hall or administrative building for the City of Central. He said these funds must be used for construction, not land acquisition.

However, in an interview with the *Central City News*, Sen. White made it clear the city must use the funds to build the new City Hall within the next year, or the funds may be lost permanently.

"This is the third time we've been able to secure these funds, and I am very much hopeful that the city will go ahead and move forward with securing a site and letting a

contract for construction by February or March of 2020," he said.

The senator said the Governor's office will sweep up funds that are not being used, and that the City of Central may not ever get them back. He said it is very difficult to get funds like this for a local projects, and the city needs to take advantage of the opportunity that they have.

Central Mayor David Barrow said he appreciates the senator's efforts and that he is hopeful the city will be able to move forward. He said he believes the \$1.325 million is sufficient to build a City Hall that is quite adequate for the city's needs.

CHS 1st Annual Football Kick Off

CENTRAL - All past, present and future Central Wildcat football players and supporters are invited to help kick off the 2019 season by coming out to the 1st Annual Kick-Off Dinner on Saturday, Aug. 17 in the Central Middle School Dining Hall. Doors will open at 6 p.m.

All former players, coaches, cheerleaders, band members, Silks, Kittens and supporters are cordially invited to be part of what is sure to be a great night.

Jambalaya will be provided by Carlton's Seafood. The guest speaker will be Roger Cador.

The Central High Jazz Band and a silent auction will be the highlighted events. Most of important of all, it will be a chance to enjoy fellowship with members of the Wildcat Family and rekindle that Central Fight and Wildcat Pride.

Admission for this event is free. However, donations will be greatly appreciated.

Central Couple Celebrate 50 Years

CENTRAL - Gerald and Sandra Reid are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary on July 12. The couple had a small family party with close friends in Denham Springs.

Gerald was raised in Central and wife Sandra was raised in Deerford. The couple has two children, Brad Reid and wife Amanda and Lesa and David Cox. They love to brag on their children and four beautiful granddaughters — Hallie Reid, Kayla Reid, Sarah Cox and Elizabeth Cox.

Gerald's family roots go back to the 1900's. The "Reid Plantation" is on Joor Road. His grandparents lived and raised four children there. Sandra's parents lived on Peairs Road, farming and raising cattle, serving as an EBR Deputy Sheriff, assistant to warden, and in later years dairy farmer and as mother and lunchroom manager at Pride High School.

The family expressed thanks to the owner of the old plantation for allowing them to take photos at the beautifully-restored old home.



Gerald and Sandra Reid

Glen Oaks High School Class of 1974 Reunion
Saturday, July 20 • 4 to 8 p.m.

Ms. "G's" Tavern, 10070 Florida Blvd.

Casual Dress • For Info E-mail sfforester@cox.net or call Stacey Fugler Forester at (225) 939-4567

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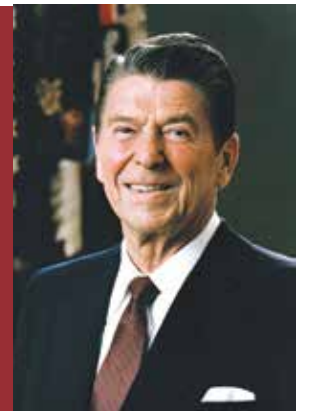


Ronald Reagan
Newsmaker Luncheon
Tuesday, August 13, 2019
Cong. Ralph Abraham

Sponsored by Republican Party of EBR

11:30 Reception • 12 Lunch • \$19.50
Café Américain • 7521 Jefferson Hwy.
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Central Private Graduating Seniors Risked Their Lives Heroic Sea Rescue by Central Private Grads



AFTER DARING RESCUE — Three graduating seniors from Central Private visit the family they saved from drowning. Parker Toural, Blake Kolb and Brant Marshall with Ryan Tran (left) and Tiffany Tran (right).

CENTRAL - Three members of the Tran Family, from Nashville, and an unidentified male teenager were rescued from drowning last month by three of Central Private's 2019 graduates who were on their Senior Trip in Destin.

A mother, Tiffany Tran, 50, and her two children; Ryan Tran, 17, Kaitlin Tran, 21, and the unidentified teen were swept out to sea by a rip current while swimming off Crystal Beach.

For the Central Private School's 2019 Graduates,

Monday, May 27 started out like most of the other days of their trip with the students enjoying a beautiful day at the beach. However, they did notice the red flags that day, a warning to swimmers of a dangerous rip current.

The group brought a pop up tent for shade while on the beach. As the day went on, the kids trickled back to their rented beach house, leaving the tent on the beach with no one left to bring it back. One of the chaperones for the trip, Mrs. Sam Kolb, was relaxing near by on

the beach and stopped several students to remind them they were leaving the tent. "Don't worry! We are going to come back later," the kids responded. "We'll pick it up then."

Around 4 p.m., the group decided to go out for dinner instead of returning to the beach. While the rest of the group was getting showered and ready to go to dinner, three of the young men on the trip; Blake Kolb, Parker Toural, and Brant Marshall, headed back to the beach to retrieve the tent that was

left behind. As the 18-year-old recent graduates were packing up the tent, they began to hear screams for help coming from the water. They turned to look but couldn't see anybody in distress. Passing it off as people just playing around, they continued to get the tent packed up. However, the cries for help became louder and more frantic. The boys knew that someone was in trouble. They Then they saw several people far out in the water who were caught up in the rip current and struggling to swim. The boys immediately sprang into action and jumped into the water to help get the people back to shore.

Blake Kolb, 18, said he first came upon a gentleman who had attempted to help the distressed swimmers, but began to struggle himself once he got out into the rough waves. Kolb was able to push him closer to the shore, where the man could stand with his head above water. Kolb then grabbed Tiffany Tran, 50, and Kaitlin Tran, 21, who were hanging on to each other, while being pulled under the water by the waves and current. Although a struggle, Kolb was able to drag the two

women to the beach. By the time they reached the shore, Tiffany Tran was non-responsive and foaming at the mouth. A bystander who knew CPR began performing chest compression and breathing techniques until emergency personnel could arrive.

In the meantime, Parker Toural, 18, and Brant Marshall, 18, swam even further out into the ocean to reach two teenage boys who had been swept further out and could not make it back to shore. Marshall swim out to Ryan Tran, 17, who had been swept the furthest out to sea. "He was about 200 yards out", Marshall estimated. When Marshall first reached him, Tran jumped on top of Marshall's shoulders, pushing him under the water. Marshall instructed Tran to flip on his back and float while Marshall pulled him to shore. About half way back to shore, Marshall became exhausted and another gentleman on a paddle board came to help float Tran back to shore. Marshall was able to slowly make his way back to the land, where he began to cough up the seawater he had inhaled during the rescue.

See CPS GRADS on Page 29

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Central City News

Video Newspaper® Library Pull-Out for July 2018-July 2019

City of Central Community Events

Produced by Central City News

Council Meeting · City Hall
Councilman Jason Ellis
July 24, 2018



10,500 Viewers



35th Anniversary
Aerobics by Roxanne
Aug. 14, 2018



6,000 Viewers



Interview with
Mayor Shelton
Sept. 10, 2018



16,000 Viewers



Babies/Children Water Safety
Central Physical Therapy
Nov. 25, 2018



10,000 Viewers



City of Central
Annual Christmas Parade
Dec. 1, 2018



12,800 Viewers



Central Christmas Lights
Hohensee House
Dec. 19, 2018



9,500 Viewers



City of Central
Council Meeting
Jan. 8, 2019



4,600 Viewers



City of Central
Drainage Townhall
Jan. 28, 2019



3,000 Viewers



Sen. Bodi White
at ChamberEBR
March 27, 2019



526 Viewers



LA's Battle for Life
Woody Jenkins
April 5, 2019



5,100 Viewers



Central Private
Redhawks
May 23, 2019



1,300 Viewers



Cong. Graves'
CPD Flag Donation
May 30, 2019



537 Viewers



Steven Whistine
Funeral Procession
June 4, 2019



3,500 Viewers



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Central High Football Season Captured by Central City News

Jamboree Game
CHS vs St. Amant
Aug. 24, 2018



16,700 Viewers



Wildcat Stadium
CHS vs Dunham
Aug. 31, 2018



25,000 Viewers



Wildcats Away
CHS vs Dutchtown
Sept. 7, 2018



28,000 Viewers



Wildcats Away
CHS vs Live Oak
Oct. 5, 2018



23,000 Viewers



Wildcat Stadium
CHS vs Brusly
Oct. 12, 2018



17,000 Viewers



Wildcat Stadium
CHS vs Zachary
Oct. 19, 2018



3,600 Viewers



Central City News
Football Photos
by Shane Evans
3rd Place Winner
Best Photo Package
La. Press Association
Division 5



Playoff Game
CHS vs Alexandria
Nov. 9, 2018



17,000 Viewers



Meet the Wildcats
Central High
Aug. 21, 2018



2,500 Viewers



Central High Graduation Ceremonies Captured by Central City News



CHS Class of 2019
Bellingrath Elem.
May 16, 2019



9,200 Viewers



CHS Class of 2019
Central Middle
May 16, 2019



15,000 Viewers



CHS 2019 Graduation
Valedictorian Luke Miles
May 21, 2019



1,500 Viewers



CHS 2019 Graduation
Moving the Tassels
May 21, 2019



2,500 Viewers



Central Community School System • Go to App Store to Download

CCSS Convocation
Zoar Baptist Church
Aug. 6, 2018



4,200 Viewers



CCSS Buses
First Day
Aug. 9, 2018



3,200 Viewers



CCSB Swearing
Central High
Jan. 7, 2019



5,400 Viewers

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Central High School Football and More

... with QR Codes • Photos by Shane Evans and Jolice Provost

Wildcat Stadium
CHS vs Jesuit
Sept. 14, 2018



16,700 Viewers

Wildcat Stadium
CHS vs Scotlandville
Sept. 21, 2018



15,000 Viewers

Homecoming
CHS vs Belaire
Sept. 28, 2018



17,000 Viewers



Wildcats Away
CHS vs Denham
Oct. 26, 2018



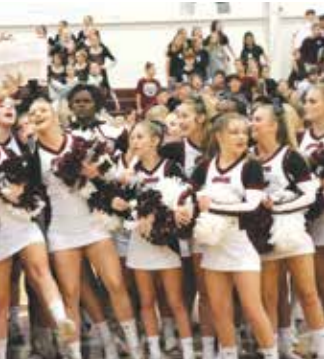
14,000 Viewers



Senior Night
CHS vs Walker
Nov. 2, 2018



17,000 Viewers



Spring Game
At Istrouma High
May 16, 2019



7,200 Viewers



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News Photos
by Jolice Provost

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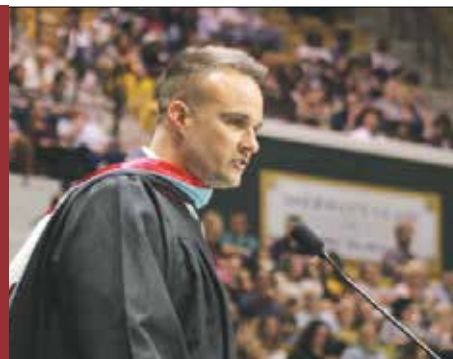
News with QR Codes • Photos by Woody Jenkins and Jolice Provost

CHS 2019 Graduation
Supt. Jason Fountain
May 21, 2019



545 Viewers

CHS 2019 Graduation
Principal Lagroue
May 21, 2019



9,200 Viewers



CHS 2019 Graduation
Passing the Torch
May 21, 2019



1,200 Viewers

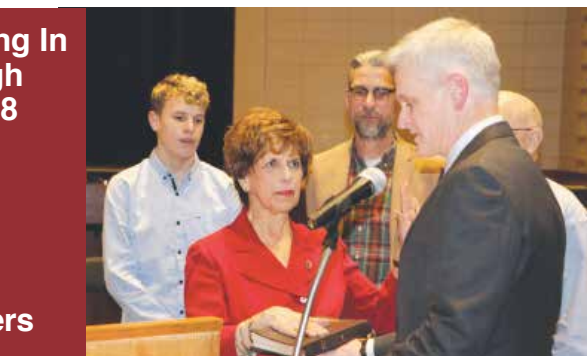
CHS 2019 Graduation
Southeastern Univ.
May 21, 2019



11,000 Viewers



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First Annual Football Kick Off Dinner

Attention Past, Present, Future Wildcat Football Players, Coaches, Trainers, Cheerleaders, Band Members, Kittens, Silks and Supporters! You are Invited

August 17 • Doors Open at 6 p.m. • CMS Dining Hall

Parish and State News from Central City News

<p>Ronald Reagan Luncheon Kavanaugh Nomination July 10, 2018</p>  <p>1,700 Viewers</p>		<p>Reagan Luncheon Congressman Graves Aug. 14, 2018</p>  <p>484 Viewers</p>	<p>Congressman Garret Graves Visits Lily Bayou with CCN Aug. 15, 2018</p>    <p>2,869 Combined Viewers</p>
<p>Chamber of EBR Fred Raiford Nov. 27, 2018</p>  <p>766 Viewers</p>	<p>Chamber of EBR Doug Welborn Dec. 18, 2018</p>  <p>11,000 Viewers</p>	<p>Tour Clerks Office Doug Welborn Dec. 21, 2018</p>  <p>8,800 Viewers</p>	
<p>Reagan Luncheon Coroner Beau Clark Jan. 8, 2019</p>  <p>4,400 Viewers</p>	<p>Sharon Weston-Broome Press Conference Exxon Jan. 28, 2019</p>  <p>13,400 Viewers</p>	<p>Reagan Luncheon Assessor Brian Wilson Jan. 8, 2019</p>  <p>6,100 Viewers</p>	
<p>Chamber of EBR Rep. Valarie Hodges Feb. 26, 2019</p>  <p>4,400 Viewers</p>	<p>Kiwanis Luncheon Coach Sid Edwards Feb. 26, 2019</p>  <p>4,400 Viewers</p>	<p>Groundbreaking Diversion Canal Jan. 8, 2019</p>   <p>2,600 Combined Viewers</p>	
<p>25th Anniversary Renovations to Old State Capitol</p>  <p>4,100 Viewers</p>	<p>Patriot's Day Rural Life Center May 3, 2019</p>  <p>531 Viewers</p>	<p>CC/73 Reunion LA Constitution May 15, 2019</p>  <p>1,300 Viewers</p>	
<p>Home Schooling Louisiana History May 3, 2019</p>  <p>23,000 Viewers</p>	<p>Chamber of EBR Tony Perkins May 3, 2019</p>  <p>3,800 Viewers</p>	<p>Krispy Kreme Long Lines June 2, 2019</p>  <p>9,500 Viewers</p>	
<p>Breakfast with Champions Istrouma High School May 16, 2019</p>   <p>2,700 Combined Viewers</p>	<p>Reagan Luncheon LA Legislators June 11, 2019</p>  <p>8,700 Viewers</p>	<p>5G Cell Towers GBR Civic Assn. June 13, 2019</p>  <p>7,500 Viewers</p>	<p>Chamber of EBR DEMCO CEO June 25, 2019</p>  <p>10,000 Viewers</p>

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Happy Anniversary Central!

We're Making Progress on Meeting Central's Infrastructure Needs

This year's State Capital Outlay Bill includes the following projects, which must be bonded, for the people of Central:

- \$20.5 million to four-lane Hooper Road from Sullivan to Greenwell Springs Road with an extension beyond
[Note: Some funding for this project is due to Deep Water Horizon Economic Damages Fund]
- \$12.2 million for four-laning Hooper Road from Blackwater to Sullivan Road
- \$15.8 million to complete widening of Sullivan Road from Wax Road to Hooper Road
- \$5 million for initial costs of Central-Watson Bridge over Amite River
- \$4 million for drainage projects in City of Central
- \$1.325 million for Central City Administration Building (Central City Hall)
- \$481,000 for Improvements to Central Community Sports Park, including turf fields for some of the baseball diamonds

Outside Central:

- \$5 million for Initial Environmental Study for New Mississippi River Bridge
- \$37 million for Pecue Lane/I-10; \$3 million for OLOL Children's Hospital



Robin and Sen. Bodi White (R-Central)

Congratulations on 14 Years as a City!



Senator Bodi White
District 6

Senator Bodi White District Office

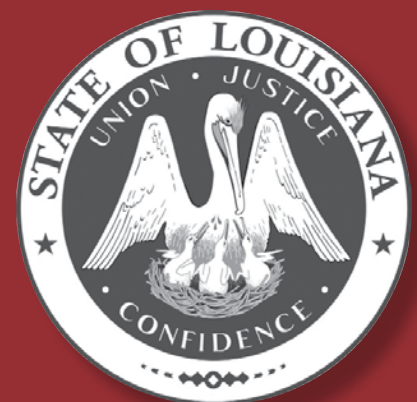
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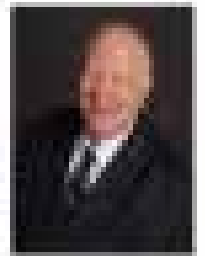
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E-mail Address • whitem@legis.la.gov

Legislative Assistant • Stacie W. Butler



How sharing our blessings is like spinach for Popeye



By CARL B. WOOD
Founder and CEO
BIC Media

Today, movies based on our beloved comic book characters are dominating the box office. With that said, my favorite comic book character growing up was Popeye. For those of you unfamiliar with Popeye, the Sailor Man, whenever he faced a great challenge (usually involving saving his beloved Olive Oyl), Popeye would turn to his many

cans of spinach. Spinach gave Popeye strength to overcome any obstacle. When I was a boy, one of my least favorite foods was spinach. I would secretly throw away my spinach when my parents weren't looking. But I can remember like it was yesterday how my mom scolded me that if spinach was good enough for Popeye to become stronger, it was

good enough for me. For decades now, I have enjoyed eating spinach. Today, just as Popeye has his spinach, BIC Media Solutions has its "Media That Matters" to help people find greater faith, strength and perseverance. Through producing "Media That Matters," I've learned how making books, watching films and TV, being kind toward others and hearing

great stories are like spinach for folks who've faced some of life's greatest challenges. Like Danny Trejo says in our "Rock Bottom & Back™" book and film, "If you think restoring an antique car is a great joy, try restoring a life."

BIC Media's mission is to help create "more fans for your brand," and we have recently completed several exciting projects we hope will serve you like spinach helps Popeye. We recently released multiple episodes of our "Earl's Pearls" series, "The Power of Networking" and "Champions of Christian Networking." BIC Media has also joined forces with writer Ted Moon to update our first book, "It's Time We Do Together: The Crucial." This revised edition will tell the ongoing story of BIC Alliance and its strategic entities and will continue to draw upon my life and business experiences. The book is expected to be released sometime this year. BIC Media is also in the process of signing an agreement with TV networks that will triple viewership when it comes to our TV shows. In addition, I'm making "travels and strolls" along the Gulf Coast to be a part of a new TV series.

If you're looking for a great gift to give someone, I hope you will consider one of BIC Media's books or films. I believe from the bottom of my heart that if we invest the time to watch or read "Media That Matters" and share our blessings and kindness with others, we will find the "spinach" to give us greater faith, love, hope, peace and happiness. I also encourage you to remember that "Every Great Story Needs Telling," and BIC Media can help you do it through print, film, TV, video or in person, so give us a call. Your story may even help save or change a life for the better, too.

"I'm strong as the forest, cause I eat me spinach! I'm Popeye, the Sailor Man! Eat! Eat! Eat!"

For more information about BIC Media Solutions, visit BICMediaSolutions.com, call (888) 538-9996 or email carl@bica.com.

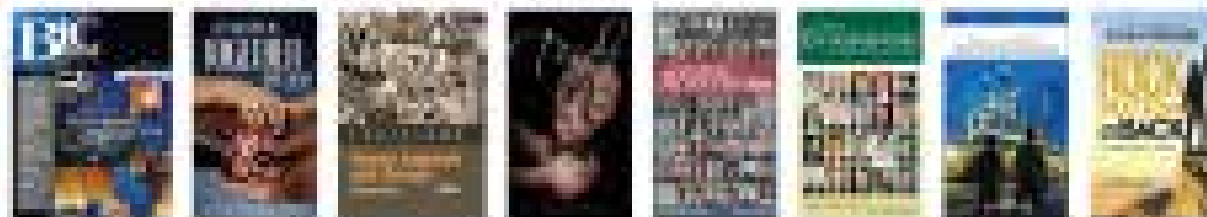
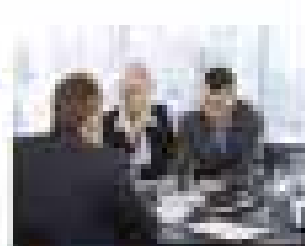
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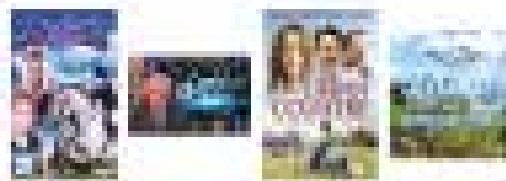
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Clerk of Court Announces Need For Election Commissioners

BATON ROUGE - Clerk of Court Doug Welborn needs commissioners to work at polling precincts on Election Day. New precincts will soon be added for the first time in several years and the pool of commissioners will have to grow with the additions.

"We are always seeking new commissioners, but the addition of the new locations puts us in more of an active search mode," Welborn said. "With the next two years of elections very busy starting this fall, we want to ensure that all of our precincts are well-staffed and ready to go."

Anyone interested should call the Elections Department at (225) 295-4765 or email elections@ebrclerkofcourt.org. Information will be provided about available class dates and polling locations.

Mayor: Central to Fix Budget

CENTRAL - The Central City Council rejected Mayor David Barrow's \$8.6 million city budget in June over a dispute involving spending by the Central Police Department

As a result, the city has been operating since the beginning of the fiscal year, July 1, without an official budget. Under state law, when a budget has not been approved by the time the fiscal year begins, spending continues at 50 percent of the prior year's budget until a budget is approved.

Now Mayor Barrow says a majority of the City Council is prepared to support the budget with some new language when the matter comes before the City Council at its August 13 meeting.

Overall, the budget anticipates revenue of \$8.6 million and spending of \$7.46 million with a surplus of \$1.16 million.

Central has an unrestricted surplus of \$21.5 million and another

roughly \$20 million in restricted funds which can only be used for designated purposes such as city roads.

City spending on the Central Police Department has increased significantly in recent years, according to Mayor Barrow, which led to some of the Council's concern, he said. The department's budget for the 2018-2019 fiscal year was \$760,000. The amended version of the 2019-2020 budget will increase by \$10,000 to \$770,000, the mayor said. His original budget had the police department budget growing from \$770,000 to \$825,000.

The mayor said about half the department's budget goes for salaries (\$380,000), payroll taxes (\$32,000), and insurance and workers comp (\$63,000). About \$85,000 is paid to the Sheriff for extra patrols. Another expense is fuel (\$35,000). The rest is spent on supplies, materials, uniforms, and miscellaneous other items.

Mayor Barrow said the Central Police Department budget has been rapidly growing. This is due to the department's taking on more and more responsibility from the State Police and the Sheriff's office.

The budget increased by 66 percent in 2015, 19.7 percent in 2016, 41 percent in 2017, 18 percent in 2018, and 12 percent in 2019, he said.

Mayor Barrow said items cut from the Central Police Department budget that had originally been included at the request of Police Chief Roger Corcoran include computers, computer programs, and some new vehicles.

The mayor praised the work of Sen. Bodi White who secured a large amount of funding during the recent session of the legislature for infrastructure improvements in the City of Central. It will make it possible to move forward on a number of important projects, he said.

- Woody Jenkins, Editor

CPS Grads Save Four While on Senior Trip in Destin

Continued from Page 22

Parker Toural came upon a distressed swimmer who has not been identified. Toural estimates he was around 15 or 16. Again, when Toural got close, the swimmer jumped on top of Toural pushing him underwater.

"We were past the second sandbar," Toural said. "The water was about 25-30 feet deep." He had to back away a bit to prevent swimmer from pulling him under." Toural stayed close to the swimmer, helping him slowly get back to the shore until the same gentleman on the paddle board who had helped to float Ryan Tran, came to help this

unidentified swimmer as well.

The rescued swimmers were transported to the local hospital as the Central Private Graduates hurried back to the house to inform the group of what had happened. Once back at the beach house, Parker Toural alerted the chaperones and told them that Brant Marshall was having difficulties breathing. Marshall's mother, Lisa, was called and she rushed over from Pensacola where she had been vacationing at the time. Lisa Marshall is an RN and had her stethoscope with her. When she arrived, she was able to thoroughly check out Brant and Blake Kolb to make sure they were okay.

While waiting for Lisa Marshall to arrive, Jill Toural, a chaperone and mother of Parker Toural, was concerned that Parker may have inhaled water during the rescue as well. She immediately brought Parker to the hospital to be checked out. Jill called from the Emergency Room to tell the boys that the family they had rescued was at the same ER as Parker Toural. Blake Kolb and Brant Marshall went to the hospital to visit with both Toural and the Tran Family.

The Tran family was extremely grateful for the heroic actions of Kolb, Toural, and Marshall. Another son of Tiffany Tran, Jordan Tran,

20, had left the beach an hour or so earlier before the incident. Jordan Tran and Blake Kolb exchanged information at the hospital and continue to keep in touch. When asked if they thought they would do it again if the occasion arises, each of the brave Central Private graduates emphatically stated they did not hesitate for a second to help.

Mrs. Sam Kolb, a chaperone and the mother of Blake Kolb, believes that it was a little more than being at the right place at the right time. She stated, "There is a reason the kids left that tent on the beach, and that those boys went to get it at that exact time. God had a bigger plan that day."

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Judiciary Races in Northern District

Continued from Page 17

this subdistrict should elect seven district judges, instead of five.

The northern subdistrict has 97,270 voters and five district judges — one judge for every 18,540 voters. It now has 46,450 whites, 46,501 blacks, and 4,339 voters of other races. Based on population, this subdistrict should elect five district judges.

However, the inner city Baton Rouge subdistrict has only 57,846 voters and five district judges — one judge for every 11,569 voters. It has 7,411 white voters, 48,455 black voters, and 1,981 voters of other races. Based on population, this subdistrict should elect only three district judges, instead of five.

The southern subdistrict has been growing in population while the inner city district has been losing. Yet, the legislature has taken no action to correct the malapportionment. It could do so by redrawing subdistrict lines and creating three subdistricts approximately equal in population or by changing the number of judges from each district.

Judge Todd Hernandez of Zachary, who would have been up for reelection from the northern subdistrict next year, announced his retirement this March. Judge Mike Erwin, also of the northern district, announced his retirement this year as well. However, he would not have been eligible to run next year because of the mandatory retirement age.

In the northern subdistrict, where voter registration is now basically 50-50, some political experts say it is almost impossible for a Republi-



LOCAL ATTORNEYS seeking judgeships include Beau Brock and Trae Welch.

can or a white Democrat to win.

Baton Rouge City Judge Tarvald Smith, a Democrat, is seeking the seat held by Hernandez. He will be opposed by Republican attorney Beau Brock.

Seeking the northern subdistrict seat held by Judge Mike Erwin this fall will be attorney Ron Johnson, a Democrat and twin brother of District Judge Don Johnson, who represents the inner city Baton Rouge subdistrict. Ron Johnson will be opposed by Metro Councilman Trae Welch, a Republican. Welch has represented Central and Zachary on the Metro Council for the past 12 years. His father is Court of Appeal Judge Duke Welch.

Political pundits give the edge to Democrats in these races because

of the strong showing of black candidates running in the northern district in 2014, when many ran underfunded campaigns without the usual signs and advertising but won 46 to 48 percent of the vote against the winning Republican candidates. Since then, the subdistrict has turned significantly more Democratic.

The pundits say the only way candidates like Brock and Welch can win is with a heavy Republican turnout in Central and Zachary.

Meanwhile, District Judge Beau Higginbotham who represents the northern district and is not up for reelection until next year, is reportedly considering running for retiring Judge Caldwell's southern subdistrict seat this fall. If successful,

that would lock him into a more Republican seat and avoid facing a possibly heated reelection campaign in the northern district in the fall of 2020.

Besides Judge Higginbotham, the other two district judges from the northern subdistrict who are eligible to run for reelection next year are Judges Richard Anderson and Chip Moore.

2019 Central City News

Publication Dates

- July 25
Central Birthday Edition
- August 15
Back-to-School Edition
- September 5
Football Edition
- October 3
Election Edition
- November 7
Fall Edition Edition
- November 28
Christmas Parade Edition
- December 12
Christmas Edition
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CHS Grads Walk Through Other Schools



Point Phone at QR Code Central High 2019 Grads Walk Through at CMS



Central High 2019 Grads Walk Through at Bellingrath Elementary



Congratulations, Seniors of 2019
from Central City News
 Photos by Jolice Provost of Central City News

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