



Tanglewood Students Score Highest in State

Top 3rd Graders

TANGLEWOOD ELEMENTARY TEST SCORES BLAST AWAY

Tanglewood 3rd Graders

No. 1 in State in English

No. 1 in State in Science

No. 1 in State in Social Studies

No. 3 in State in Math

Out of 300 3rd Graders, Only 1 Failed to Test at or Above Grade Level



STUDENTS checked out Miss Cyndi Farris' science lab at Tanglewood. Her students were No. 1 in state in science.

Overall, State Ranks Central Schools No. 3

Woody Jenkins
 Editor, Central City News

BATON ROUGE — For the second straight year, 3rd graders in the Central Community School System were the highest performing in the State of Louisiana, according to test results announced by the State Department of Education.

State department numbers also showed Central as tied for 3rd Place among the 70 public school systems in the state, based on percentage of students at or above grade level in Spring 2011 testing.

See **CENTRAL** on Page 3

City of Central Office to Move to 6703 Sullivan

CENTRAL — The City of Central signed a master privatization agreement with the Institute of Building Technology & Safety (IBTS) Wednesday morning. The pact will allow the non-profit organization to provide City Services in Central for the next five years at a cost of

under \$3.1 million a year.

The new agreement represents a savings of about 15 percent in comparison with the current contractor, CH2MHILL. The new contract will take effect July 1.

IBTS will establish a new City of Central Municipal Services



Center at 6703 Sullivan Rd., which is in the shopping center with Cactus Cafe and Central Perk. The current municipal services center is located at the corner of Hooper and Greenwell Springs roads.

Signing the document were
 See **CITY** on Page 15

Their Mother, Father Died in Fiery Plane Crash

Central Adopting Adalee, 3, and Smith, 2

Woody Jenkins
 Editor, Central City News

CENTRAL — Their mother and father were killed in a tragic plane crash on April 10, but Adalee and Smith Pickett have found a new home and a new life here in Central.

Their mother, Laura Ballard, grew up in Morgan Place West in Central and attended St. Isidore Elementary and Redemptorist High. She went to live with her mother in Kentwood for her senior year and graduated from Summer High.

Laura met and fell in love with Dr. Taylor Pickett. They married and had Adalee, now 3, and Smith Pickett, now almost 2. Dr. Pickett was a well-known cardiovascular



ADALEE AND SMITH PICKETT with their grandfather, David Ballard, and their aunt and uncle, Katie and Ben Foret. Their parents were killed in a plane crash April 10.

and thoracic surgeon who practiced in Houston and Lufkin, Texas.

The couple lived an exciting life. Dr. Pickett was an experienced pilot who used his plane to fly to emergencies. A Lufkin TV station reported the case of a physician who had performed life-or-death surgery for 24 hours continuously. Summoned to help, Dr. Pickett jumped into his plane, flew to the hospital, relieved the physician, and completed the surgery.

But it was a flight in Dr. Pickett's private plane that led to tragedy.

Dr. Pickett, Laura, and Laura's
 See **THE PICKETTS** on Page 6



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LAST SUNDAY, FRANCE HONORED THE 1,811 U. S. MARINES who died fighting at Belleau Wood in World War I. The Marines stopped the German offensive and saved France.

Country Living in the City

Central Schools Are Transformative

Public Schools: A Success Story In City of Central

Woody Jenkins
Editor, Central City News

CENTRAL — For the principal at Tanglewood Elementary, Sandy Davis, and her staff of more-than-extraordinary teachers, their work is not about a paycheck but about a commitment.

“We’re a team, and we work together, but we want to take it to a higher level,” she said.

Taking it to a higher level is not easy when you’re already No. 1, but Sandy Davis has a plan to do it.

★★★

Tanglewood is one of the reasons something truly amazing is going on in Central.

The public schools in this community are transformative.

In other words, the young people who walk in the door on their first day of class undergo a remarkable and positive transformation by the time they walk out the door as graduating seniors.

As I watched the Central High School graduation ceremonies two weeks ago at Bethany, I was amazed at the quality of the 262 graduates. They were every bit the equal of Catholic High or Parkview

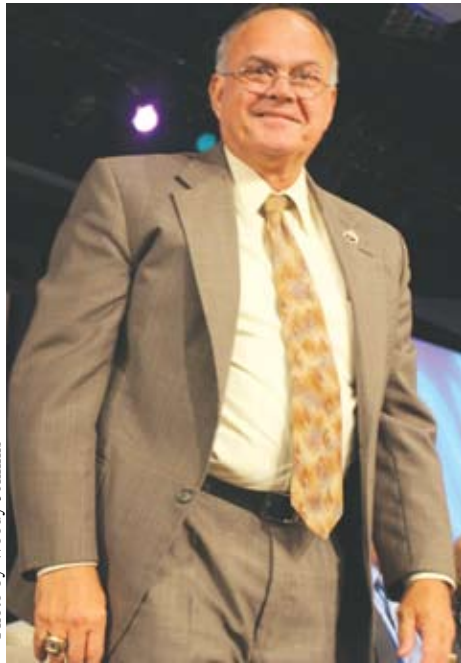


Photo by Woody Jenkins

SUPT. MIKE FAULK has put together a great team, kept politics out of the school system, been fiscally conservative, and fostered a commitment to excellence. At the same time, he has kept the human touch, responding with sincerity and warmth to concerns of students, parents, faculty, and the public. Day by day, step by step, he is building a great school system. After only four years, Central is tied for No. 3 among the state’s 70 public school systems.

or any of the top 10 private schools in Louisiana.

To the world, it all seems so natural. Central appears to be a middle to upper income community. So it seems natural to the world that Central High graduates would be outstanding.

What the world doesn’t understand — and even many people

Watching Class of '11 Cross the Stage, One Would Never Guess 57% of Their Families Are at or Near the Poverty Line

in Central don’t realize — is that Central is not a middle-to-upper income community. On the contrary, it is a relatively poor community.

Don’t be deceived by Comite Hills or Oak Cluster or some of the fine homes on Greenwell Springs Road. Get off the main roads, and you will learn more about the struggles that our citizens are facing.

The records at the Central Community School Board tell the true story: The income levels of a majority of our people are at or below the poverty line.

For example, at Tanglewood, 350 of the 610 students qualify for the federal free or reduced lunch program. That means 57 percent are at or below the poverty line.

But the problems are much more serious than poverty. Teachers at Tanglewood will tell you the reality of the situation — that too many students come from dysfunctional homes. In a way, this is more about what is going on in America than about Central in particular. But we are talking about drugs in the home, a parent in prison, or a host of other serious issues.

★★★

For the 2nd straight year, Tanglewood has amazed the experts.

This spring, the 3rd graders at Tanglewood scored higher than any other school system in the state on the Louisiana Department of Education’s statewide standardized iLEAP tests.

Tanglewood students were No. 1 in English and language arts.

They were No. 1 in science. They were No. 1 in social studies.

And they tied for No. 3 in math. Out of 300 3rd graders, only one failed to test at grade level or above.

“I’m familiar with the one student who did not achieve grade level, and he is doing fine. He just misunderstood the instructions,” Mrs. Davis said.

★★★

See **TANGLEWOOD** on Page 9

NOW PLAYING!

HD Movie
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Central City News
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www.centralcitynews.us
Photography by
Woody Jenkins and
Jolice Provost

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Elementary Schools Laying Foundation

Central in Top Tier of School Systems

Analysis Shows It Takes Time to Integrate Pupils Into Culture

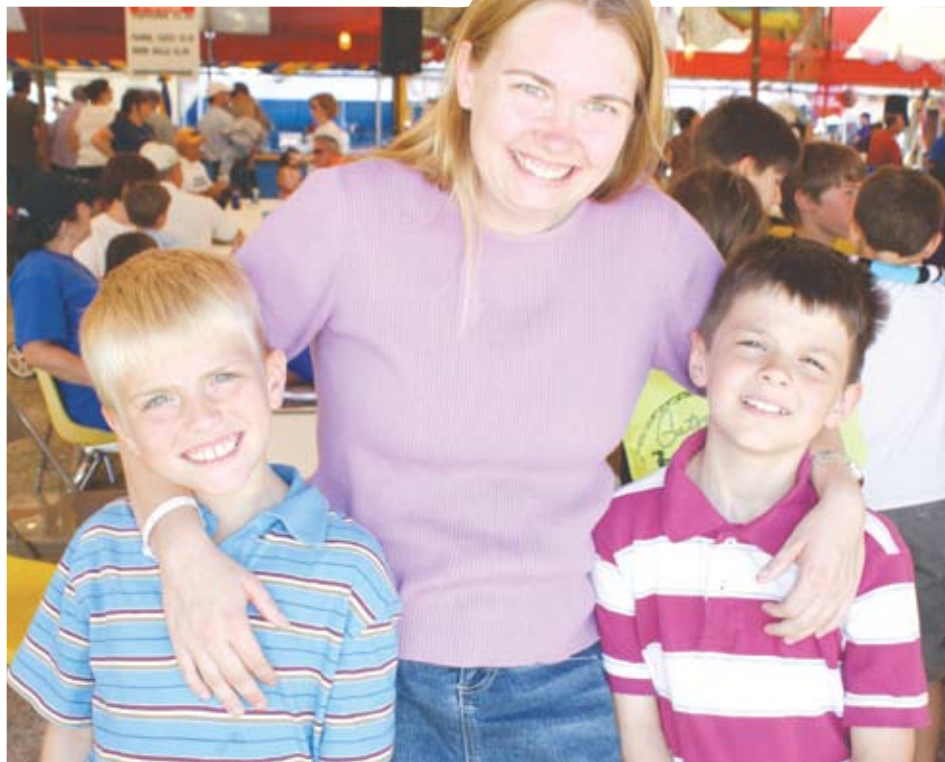
Continued from Page 1

The 3rd Place ranking is premised on excluding the results from Orleans Parish, where most schools have been taken over by the state. Excluding Orleans Parish, the top school systems in the state are:

| District | % Students at Basic or Above |
|--------------------|------------------------------|
| Zachary | 85 |
| West Feliciana | 81 |
| Central | 79 |
| Livingston Parish | 79 |
| Plaquemines Parish | 79 |
| Vernon Parish | 79 |
| St. Tammany Parish | 78 |
| Allen Parish | 78 |
| Jeff Davis Parish | 78 |

These numbers mean that 79 percent of the students in the Central Community School System are performing at or above their grade level.

Meanwhile, an analysis of the test results show that student achievement level would be even higher in Central if it weren't for the large growth in student enroll-



3RD GRADER DARRYL WILLIAMS (right) was one of this year's Best in the State at Tanglewood Elementary. Shown with mom Amanda and brother Hunter, a new 2nd grader.

ment.

Central's school enrollment has grown by 60 percent in the past four years. When the test results are broken down based on how long students have been in the system, they show that the new students are not performing nearly so well as students who have been in Central schools over two years.

"It takes awhile for new students to become accustomed to the school culture in Central," Central

schools Supt. Mike Faulk said. "As long as we have such rapid growth in enrollment, we will be working hard to help new students perform at a higher level than they may have been used to."

Reached at his office in Zachary, Zachary schools Supt. Warren Drake said he was pleased with the Zachary Community School System's overall ratings, which once again placed Zachary with the No. 1 districtwide ratings in the state.

When asked how Zachary consistently does so well, Drake said he is never quite sure how the

numbers will work out and that he doesn't believe the test results are the final measure of a school district's success. But he did say he is very proud of his teachers and professional staff in Zachary. "It's really all about the people!" he said.

Drake commended Central on its No. 1-in-the-state ranking for its 3rd graders. "Central is doing a great job, and the Central community should be very proud," he said. He said he and Supt. Faulk are in frequent communication.

Overall, 42 of the 70 school districts improved their test scores between 2010 and 2011.

Statewide, 66 percent of public school students were at or above their grade level. That's up from 60 percent in 2008.

The Louisiana Department of Education said,

"Each year, students in 4th and 8th grade participate in the high-stakes LEAP test, which determines whether they will be required to attend summer school or be retained. Students in the 3rd, 5th, 6th, and 7th grades take the state's iLEAP test, which is designed to measure student progress but does not determine whether they will be retained in their current grade. High school students in 10th and 11th grades take Louisiana's Graduation Exit Examination, or GEE, which they must pass at some point in their high school career to earn a standard diploma. Until this year, 9th graders also participated in the state's iLEAP test. However, the Class of 2014 will be the first to meet Louisiana's new requirement for graduation — a passing score on three of the state's End of Course (EOC) tests: English II or English III, Algebra I or Geometry, and Biology or American History."



TANGLEWOOD HONORED — Earlier this year, Tanglewood Elementary was honored for Exemplary Academic Growth. The school has the state's highest performing 3rd graders, based on the state iLEAP test. Shown are Supt. Mike Faulk, principal Sandy Davis, and assistant principal Jason Fountain.

Photo by Terrie Palmer



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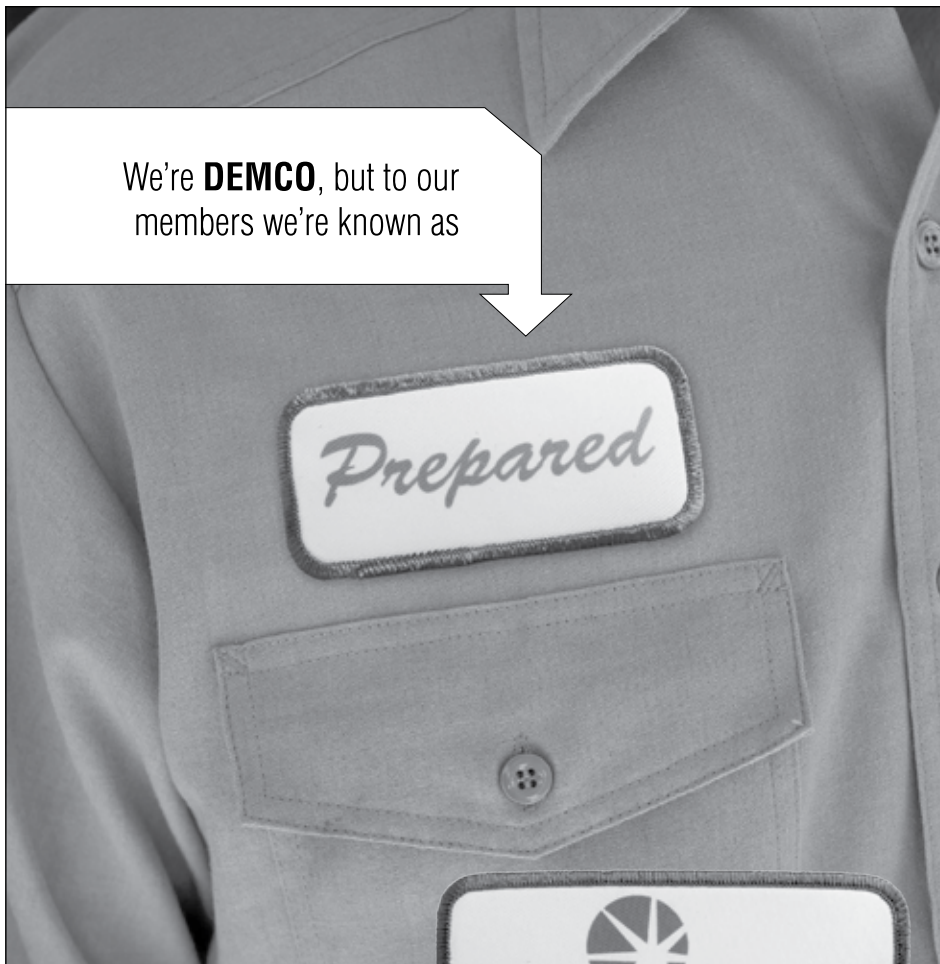
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'50 Years from Now, What Will Remain Is the Love'

The Picketts: Full of Love for Adalee, Smith



DR. TAYLOR PICKETT with his wife, Linda Ballard Pickett of Central, with their children Adalee and Smith. Dr. and Mrs. Pickett died in a plane crash on the morning of April 10.

Continued from Page 1

sister-in-law, Jacky Ham, had flown to New Orleans, where Laura, a talented singer, performed with Michael Vincent Liuzza, a well-known artist who performed on American Idol.

In the early morning hours of Sunday, April 10, Dr. Pickett decided to fly Laura and Jacky from New Orleans to McComb, where the couple owned a home.

They never made it. The plane crashed and burned a few miles south of McComb. Federal investigators are attempting to determine the cause of the crash.

Laura's father, David Ballard, who is disabled, still lives in Morgan Place West. He has been dis-

“ We don't know all the circumstances of the accident. Federal officials are investigating the causes. What we do know is Dr. Pickett was an excellent surgeon, he was a good pilot, and he was a great father to his children.”

*David Ballard of Central
Father of Laura Ballard Pickett*

traught over the tragedy. He has felt responsible for the care of his grandchildren and for holding the family together. “You can't imagine the stress of this. There has been no time to grieve, as we have had to care for the living,” he said. Ballard, who stands about 6-4, has gone from 230 to 180 pounds in two

months.

David Ballard's other daughter, Katie, is married to Sheriff's deputy Ben Foret, who works in uniform patrol out of the Sheriff's Zachary substation. Katie is an RN at Woman's Hospital. Two weeks before the crash, Katie learned she was pregnant with their first child.

When news of the accident reached the family, they left for McComb and stayed there for days. Funeral services for Laura were held in Kentwood. Dr. Pickett was cremated, and services were held in his hometown, Mobile.

Katie and Ben Foret returned with the two children. This week, they completed the paperwork and filed for adoption of the children.

“With Adalee and Smith and a new baby on the way, we're going to have a ready-made family,” Ben Foret smiled. Katie, Ben, Adalee, and Smith have been staying at David Ballard's home in Morgan Place West but hope to move into a home

See TRAGEDY on Page 7

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The late Laura Ballard Pickett with her son Smith. At right, Dr. Pickett's hand, Smith's feet.

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Laura's Sister Katie and Husband Ben Seek Adoption Tragedy Turns to Hope for Small Children



ADALEE PICKETT (left), Ben Foret, Adalee, David Stauss, Carla and Robert Kusch, Smith Pickett, Rachelle Kusch, Adalee, and Katie Ballard Foret at St. Alphonsus' Festival of Two Rivers

Continued from Page 6

three doors down the street on June 15. Being close together should help, Ballard said.

Dr. Pickett had a large income from his medical practice and owned several properties.

Unfortunately, his properties were heavily mortgaged, leaving no net assets. The Picketts' home in McComb has been seized by the bank, and there was no life insurance.

David Ballard said there was a vehicle that the family thought the Picketts owned free and clear, but it turned out that it was owned by another doctor and had to be returned. As a result, there are no assets to support Adalee and Smith, other than what David Ballard, who is totally disabled, and deputy Ben Foret

can put together.

Friends and family have been trying to help. They held a jambalaya fundraiser at Winn-Dixie in May.

Other than a small notice in the Central City News, there was no publicity. But friends called one another, and the fundraiser got a big response.

David Ballard said, "There was a pot of jambalaya this big!" His arms spread wide apart. "And we sold out every dinner!" Ballard choked a bit and said, "People drove by and stuck their hands out the window and said, 'Here, take this. I don't need any jambalaya.'" Ballard said they handed over \$50 or \$20 or whatever they could.

"So many came that we raised more than \$4,200," he said. "I've never seen anything like it! There's

really no place like Central!"

Ballard said, "You know, I was never that kind of person. I would never walk up and give money. I was more of an agnostic. I didn't really believe. But this whole thing has really changed me, especially seeing how much people have cared for us. I just want to find ways to give back. I know there is a God. That's for sure!"

Katie Ballard Foret said people have been so wonderful to her family. "As hard as this is on us, we see God's work being done through the hands of the people around us, and it's breathtaking," he said.

Dr. Pickett has two children from

a previous marriage. They are aged 16 and 18. Last week, their mother and the two children came and stayed at David Ballard's. "We all got along well," he said. "We want the four children to be close."

David's sister is Carla Kusch, the wife of St. Alphonsus deacon Robert Kusch. Deacon Kusch said of his great nephew and niece: "That little Smith is easy-going and quiet but Adalee is outgoing and the life of the party!" he said.

A family friend said, "The only thing that will really matter 50 years from now is the love — the love they had from the parents and the love we all give them now."

Raffle to Raise Money for Pickett Kids

VENICE — Seven charter fishing boat captains out of Venice, Louisiana, are donating the use of their boats and crews to help raise money for Adalee and Smith Pickett, whose parents were killed in a plane crash on April 10.

Raffle tickets are being sold in Central for \$20. They provide a chance to win a day of charter fishing for a group of four. Seven winners will be chosen, and each winner will get to sponsor a party of four.

The drawing will be held July 15, 2011. For more information, send an email to adeleand-smith@hotmail.com.

The boat captains are

- Captain Eddie Burger 985-788-5080
- Captain Lee Mclean of Blind Faith Charters
- Captain Michael Pittman
- Captain Hunter Caballero of Paradise outfitters
- Captain Damon McKnight of Super Strike Charters
- Captain Larry Hooper of Our Freedom Charters
- Captain Jerry Allen of Poco Loco Charters

The boats are twin engine boats which range in size from 26 to 36 feet.

Adalee and Smith's grandfather David Ballard can be reached at 12022 Wickwood Ave., Central, LA 70818.

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Marinos Purchase Central Florist



Photo by Connor Lloyd

Trey and Aimee Marino

CENTRAL — The Marino family is back in the florist business in Central.

Trey and Aimee Marino have purchased Central Florist, corner Hooper and Sullivan roads, from Marty and Melissa Guilbeau.

The new business will be called Trey Marino's Central Florist & Gifts.

For Trey Marino, it is a return to the florist business. His father, Sam Marino, Jr., and his uncle, Lawrence Marino, started Marino's Florist at the corner of Greenwell Springs and Joor roads in 1978. The business moved to O'Neal Lane,

and the family sold it about five years ago.

Trey Marino said he was raised in the florist business and is happy to return. "As a boy, I enjoyed taking orders, cutting flowers, making deliveries, and sweeping the floors!" Since his dad sold the business, Trey has been in insurance.

His wife, the former Aimee Satterfeal, is a teacher at Live Oak Middle School. They have a daughter, Karrigan, 3.

Trey said he is excited about growing the business and serving the Central community. "We will deliver in Central, Denham Springs, Zachary, and

Baton Rouge," he said.

Sam, Jr., is now a financial adviser with Upton, Draughon & Bollinger. He said, "Trey comes from a long line of entrepreneurs."

Sam Marino, Sr., had Marino Brothers Grocery on Weller Avenue in North Baton Rouge. Trey said he grew up in that store. Sam, Sr., 84, is still active.

Trey Marino is really Sam Marino III. "Tre" is Italian for three, he said.

Trey Marino's Central Florist & Gifts is located at 13561 Hooper Rd. (phone 261-6482).



Photo by Jolice Provost

NEW SUSHI AND HIBACHI GRILL OPEN AT NINE DRAGON. A great dining suggestion for this weekend is to try out the new Sushi and Hibachi Grill at Nine Dragon Super Buffet Restaurant, corner Greenwell Springs Rd. and Sullivan Rd. Everyone loves the new setup. Great Chinese food with a Louisiana flair and a comfortable atmosphere. The buffet has many great selections and is a bargain for the entire family. Nine Dragon is open until 10:30 p.m. M-Th and until 11 p.m. on Fri-Sat. For take-out, call 262-8988.

Blueberry Farm Now Open On Greenwell Springs Road

CENTRAL — The Blueberry Farm is now open at 24393 Greenwell Springs Road.

Come out with the family and pick your own blueberries!

It is open Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 12 noon and 4:30 to 7 p.m. through the end of June and perhaps through July 4 if the berries hold out.

It is great fun, and blueberries are one of the 12 healthiest foods. And you can use the blueberries to make all kinds of not-as-healthy treats, such as blueberry ice cream, blueberry pie, blueberry muffins,



Blueberries: A Super Food

blueberry cheesecake, blueberry jam, blueberry pancakes, blueberry cobbler, and on and on.

For information, call 261-6150.

Central City News Produces HD Video for Seniors of 2011

CENTRAL — Central City News editor Woody Jenkins wanted to do something special for the Central High School Class of 2011. So he pulled together some of the Central City News' best photos from the school year and from last week's Central High graduation ceremonies and produced an HD quality video as a gift for the Senior Class. The video includes more than 500 photographs.

To view the production, go to www.centralcitynews.us.

Jolice Provost of Central City News contributed photographs.

Jenkins said, "The Class of 2011 is a wonderful group of young people, and I believe they will make a tremendous contribution to the Central community, Louisiana, and the nation. Hopefully, this video will

allow the class to preserve some of the memories that would otherwise be lost."

"We have a wealth of material to work with at the Central City News, and the new media give us the chance to get more of what we have out to the people."

Jenkins said the Central City News is fully committed to delivering news and information via the Internet as well as in print.

"So far, we have gotten a tremendous response to our Facebook news reports, our website, www.centralcitynews.us, and our Photo Gallery."

Jenkins said he has been amazed at the response to the Photo Gallery at the www.centralcitynews.us website. "In the past 30 days, we have had 82,628 photo views on our website. That is pretty staggering."

Jenkins said seniors who wants a DVD of the video should email their name and mailing address to centralcitynews@hotmail.com no later than June 30, 2011.

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Celebrating Memorial Day on Amite River



CANDI AND BYRON LEE (center photo, top row) hosted friends at their camp on the Amite River during the Memorial Day weekend

Tanglewood: A Bright Light in Public Education

Continued from Page 2

Tanglewood's School Performance scores have jumped from 102 two years ago to 112 last year to 120 this year. Excellent. "We are hoping to receive an 'A' when the Department of Education begins assigning letter grades to schools next year," Davis said.

Tanglewood also did very well with the percentage of its students achieving at the Mastery level.

★★★

Frankly, we think the state is wrong about math. Tanglewood is better than No. 3. It was, after all, only two years ago that two of Mrs. Pat Morgan's Tanglewood 2nd graders were named among the world's top math geniuses. From among two million competitors, Bilal Latour ranked No. 65 and Rosemarie Skillman ranked No. 98.

★★★

How does Tanglewood do it?

Principal Sandy Davis said, "This isn't a military camp or anything like that, but we have high expectations for the students."

The truth is, students at Tanglewood love to come to school.

A host of great teachers make it fun and interesting — everyday.

This week — two weeks after school let out — 45 Tanglewood students are back at school for Space Camp. On Wednesday morning, they were firing off homemade rockets (we're not talking fireworks) and on Friday they leave to tour NASA in Houston.

★★★

So what's the plan to carry Tanglewood to the next level?

Principal Sandy Davis is instituting "The Leader in Me" plan, which is based on Stephen Covey's best seller, *Seven Habits of Highly Effective People*.

Davis said, "We'll be implementing lots of the principles. For example, learning to be a good listener. Leading yourself. Students will be learning to be good speakers and learning to interact with adults."

"Even in kindergarten, students will have their own data books to

record their personal and academic goals. They will take ownership of their education and their lives."

"When we have Parent-Teacher conferences, the students will conduct the meeting. Every classroom will have its own greeter to welcome guests. We'll teach students to look people in the eye and have a firm handshake. It's going to be fun and carry things to the next level."

★★★

In Central, there are no atten-

dance zones. Every child attends every school in the system. Bell-ingrath Hills is for pre-K through 1st grade, Tanglewood is for 2nd and 3rd grade, Central Intermediate is for 4th and 5th grades, Central Middle is for 6th, 7th, and 8th grades, and Central High is for 9th through 12th grade.

Statewide testing begins in the 3rd grade. So Tanglewood is on the front lines. But, no worry, we're betting they'll only get better.

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Greenwell Springs: Fashionable in 1850's

BREC Says It Will Meet on Site Planning

Editor Note: In early 2008, Rep. Bodi White proposed legislation which would allow Central to withdraw from BREC and form its own Central parks commission. On May 12, 2008, Rep. White, Central Mayor Mac Watts, and BREC director Bill Palmer announced that an agreement had been reached for White to withdraw his legislation in exchange for an agreement by BREC to spend \$6.25 million for three new parks in Central — a community park, a sports park, and a historic park at the site of the old Greenwell Springs Hotel. On May 23, 2008, BREC issued a formal budget for the \$6.25 million. This budget was published on Page 2 of the June 19, 2008, edition of the Central City News (see www.centralcitynews.net). As of June 2011, little of that \$6.25 million has been spent, except for the acquisition of land near Hooper and Lovett roads. On Monday, June 6, 2011, BREC announced that planning will begin for the Greenwell Springs historic site with a public hearing set from 4:30 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, June 21 at the Central Library at 11260 Joor Rd.

Dr. Jesse L. Fairchild, Jr.

From: A Historical Sketch of Greenwell Springs 1850-1950 © 1993, All Rights Reserved

GREENWELL SPRINGS — In May 1852, Richard Odom purchased extensive land holdings from the heirs of John Sims. On August 6, 1853, Odom sold to his son-in-law, Robert W. Greenwell “250 acres of this land, containing several springs,” for the sum of \$125. Thereafter, the springs became known as “Mr. Greenwell’s springs.” Within a short time, both the springs and the community came to be known as simply Greenwell Springs.

Today Robert W. Greenwell is buried in a small cemetery on Den-



ham Road just west of Greenwell Springs Road.

The several years before the Civil War were a period of prosperity. Cotton and sugar cane had created a sizable class of wealthy citizens, and it was only natural that they would seek comfort and curative powers of the various health resorts and watering places, both here and in Europe.

The local population was already aware of the excellent health-giving properties of the waters. Thus, the stage was set for the development of a resort at Greenwell Springs. The promoters would be two distinguished gentlemen from Baton Rouge — William S. Pike, Sr., and William H. Crenshaw.

On August 9, 1853, Pike and Crenshaw jointly purchased the resort for \$1,650. They proceeded to develop it into a summer resort, utilizing the springs, the Amite River, and the beautiful virgin woodlands as natural attractions.

During the latter part of 1853, Henry and William G. Waller, surveyors and civil engineers, surveyed

Points of Historic Interest at Greenwell Springs

- 1st Hotel - 1854
- Spring House with 10 natural springs
- Gen. Breckinridge's HQ for Battle of Baton Rouge
- Burial sites of US and CSA soldiers
- Bottled mineral waters
- Natural woodlands

out a subdivision of the land between the Greenwell Springs Road and the river. It consisted of at least 125 lots. A system of streets was developed, one of which remains in use today — Spring Street.

Toward the end of 1853, samples of the spring water were sent to various chemists to ascertain the chemical analysis and the possible therapeutic value of the waters.

The results were very encouraging. Statements from famous chemists published in the Baton Rouge Weekly Comet included the following statements:

“Many renowned mineral springs in Europe are not as rich in iron as this.”

“The intelligent physician will at once perceive that this water possesses the most valuable medical qualities.”

The spring site was covered by a large shed, on top of which was built a large dance pavilion. The “Spring House,” as it was called, was constructed so as to serve as a visitor’s lounge and a meeting gallery. The gentle banks rising on either side of the Spring House created a natural amphitheater, and it was utilized as such on the occasion of public or political speech-making.

At the end of Magnolia Street and situated on the high bluff overlooking the Amite River was a large hotel, built to accommodate those who wished to board out. The ball-

See 2nd on Page 11

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2nd Greenwell Springs Hotel Built in 1911



Photo courtesy of Central/Greenwell Springs Historical Society



Photo by Woody Jenkins

1910 SPRING HOUSE — A new Spring House (left) was built in 1910. The 10 different springs, each with its own unique mineral content, were located in close proximity to one another. The mineral content varied because of the depths of the different springs. Bathers would step down into a spring to experience its healing powers. In the photo at left, some of the employees are wearing their Greenwell Springs baseball team uniforms. Photo at right shows the foundation of the Spring House as it appeared recently. The inset shows the concrete baths. The Spring House built in 1910 did not have a dance pavilion built over it, as the previous Spring House did. A new Greenwell Springs Hotel was built in 1911 — 46 years after the first hotel was torn down at the end of the Civil War. Photo at left is courtesy of the Central and Greenwell Springs Area Society for History. Photos at right by Woody Jenkins.

Continued from Page 5

room is said to have been the largest room in the parish, and the dining room is known to have accommodated more than 70 people at a sitting. Immediately in front of the hotel dining room was a large building which housed the billiard saloon and bowling alley. Bathhouses were located on the river bank for the convenience of the swimmers. The mineral bathhouse was located a short ways down the streamlet from the Spring House. Neat pine cottages were available to the visitors. Additional privately owned cottages were scattered throughout the subdivision.

Greenwell Springs was able to advertise a barbershop, a bar, a large commissary, a post office, a large stable, servant quarters, and utility buildings.

Set back a short distance from the high bluff of the Amite River was a large private school for area children.

In January 1855, Dr. F. J. B. Romer purchased for the sum of \$1,686.50 approximately 11.5 acres of the Greenwell Tract. He then established the Greenwell Springs Infirmary for the treatment of black people. It sought to utilize the medicinal values of the spring waters.

The summer season for the resort officially began either in May or June and usually lasted through September or October. On June 1, 1854, Greenwell Springs officially made her debut into the high society of health resorts and watering places under the management of Captain and Mrs. William Markham of the fashionable Harney House in Baton Rouge. The festive occasion was celebrated by some 300 to 400 people who barbecued among the pine trees and danced at the Spring House to the music of a brass band.

The interval between 1854 and 1860 was a lively period at Greenwell Springs. It was during this time that she was at the zenith of her popularity. Greenwell Springs had become an exclusive summer resort, catering to the social elite of Baton Rouge, New Orleans, and the surrounding parishes. It was the thing to do to either own a cottage or to board out at Greenwell Springs. Reservations were usually made for the entire season.

As early as May 1854, Hutchinson's Livery Stable was running daily omnibuses and stages to Greenwell Springs, leaving Harney House at dawn and returning to Baton Rouge at sundown. The

fare was \$1 each way or \$1.50 for a round-trip ticket.

The four-horse Clinton Stage could make one leg of the trip in approximately two hours. By 1855, there were at least three other stables in Baton Rouge making daily runs to Greenwell Springs, transporting the guests and supplying the provisions, ice, and the many necessary supplies for such a distinguished group.

The two hours or more necessary to make the trip would at times prove to be an ordeal, especially during times of heavy rains.

By mid-summer 1855 the gov-

ernor was in residence and detachments from the Federal Garrison in Baton Rouge, including the field band.

The census for September 1, 1855, showed a population of 163, but during the seasonal epidemics of yellow fever, the daily census was said to reach as high as 1,000. The fact that no cases of yellow fever occurred at Greenwell Springs during 1854 and 1855 helped to give importance to its popularity as a health resort.

The village itself was unique among villages. There was no form

of government. The residents lived in complete harmony and maintained their own strict code of ethics. Opportunities for swimming, fishing, and hunting were virtually unlimited.

Evening entertainment was especially impressive at the resort. The Spring House was usually the focal point of activities. It was here or in the main ballroom of the hotel that nightly dances were held. The officers and men of the Federal Garrison were often invited up to the barbecues and dances to the delight of both the men and residents of the Springs.

On one Saturday night, the field band was unable to break up the dance at midnight, even after playing sacred music. Merriment abounded.

Night events at Greenwell Springs were always held in truly spectacular settings. The main approach to the hotel from the Greenwell Springs Road and the road from the hotel to the Spring House were brilliantly illuminated by bonfires on elevated platforms. Pine-knot fires lighted the other streets and tallow candles provided light in the cabins.

To view the resort from the Greenwell Springs Road at night was to behold awesome beauty.



2nd GREENWELL'S SPRINGS HOTEL was built in 1911 but soon closed.



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MILLER, LINE

Kristin Miller and Joel Line will exchange vows June 30 at White Oak Plantation in Baton Rouge.

JINKS, DYER

Courtney Jinks and Ryan Dyer were married in an outdoor ceremony in Mandeville.

Kristin Miller, Joel Line To Wed June 30 at White Oak Plantation



Joel Line and Kristin Miller

BATON ROUGE — Kristin Nicole Miller of Central will marry Joel Christopher Line of Belleville, Ill. in a 7 p.m. ceremony Thursday, June 30, 2011, at White Oak Plan-

tation.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Robert and Kathy Miller of Central. She is the granddaughter of Bill and Joan Buzbee of St. Francisville and Don and Marian Tischbein of Fort Thomas, Ky.

Kristin is a 2006 graduate of Central Baptist School and is May 2011 graduate of Our Lady of the Lake College of Nursing.

Her fiancé is the son of Brett and Dana Line of Belleville, Ill. He is the grandson of Pastor Scott Baker and Jann Baker of Belleville, Ill. and Jan Line and the late Larry Line of Peoria, Ill.

Joel is a 2006 graduate of Faith Baptist Academy in Belleville, Ill. and a 2010 graduate of Pensacola Christian College with a bachelor's degree in business management. He is employed with Aquasystems.



Mr. and Mrs. Ryan Dyer

Courtney Jinks, Ryan Dyer Wed In Mandeville

MANDEVILLE — Courtney Lynn Jinks of Lake Charles and Ryan Evan Dyer of Central were married in an outdoor ceremony on March 26, 2011, in Mandeville.

The bride is the daughter of Teilla Noel of Lake Charles. She is the granddaughter of Mr. and Mrs.

Jimmy Jinks of Johnson Bayou, Mr. Jimmy Noel of Lake Charles, and Ms. Ruetta Noel of Lafayette.

The groom is the son of Roger and Terry Dyer of Central. He is the grandson of Dorothy Anderson and the late Charles Anderson Jr., formerly of Sulphur and Marjorie Dyer and the late Reginald Dyer of Baton Rouge.

The bride was escorted by her brother, Brent Noel. She was attended by her maids of honor, Kadey and Ashley Noel of Lake Charles; matron of honor, Rachel Schlatre of Central, and bridesmaids, Ashlie Boteler of Slidell, Tina Rafferty of Baton Rouge, and Callie Tranchina of Central. The flower girls were the bride's niece Ava Frederick and the groom's niece Laurel Schlatre.

The groom was attended by his best men, Roger Dyer of Central and Jared Panepinto of Central; groomsmen, Beau Schlatre of Central, Frank Canella of Central, Brett Poche of Dallas, and Brett Tranchina of Central. Ushers were Kevin Williams of Denver and Bryan Poche of Dallas.

The ceremony and reception took place at the Fleur de Lis Event Center in Mandeville.

Following a honeymoon in Mexico the couple resides in Central.

Kaley Caballero, Derrick McClure To Wed June 17 at St. Alphonsus

CENTRAL — Kevin and Mary Caballero of Monroe and Melissa Day Caballero of Columbia are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Kaley Rene Caballero of Monroe to Derrick Tanna McClure of Greenwell Springs, son of Archie Leo McClure Jr. of Hoschton, Ga. and Brenda Wilson McClure of Baker.

The bride-elect is the granddaughter of Mary Day and the late Don Day of Monroe and Marlene Caballero and the late Rene Caballero of Baton Rouge.

Kaley is a graduate of Ouachita Parish High School and attended the University of Louisiana at Monroe where she earned a bachelor of science degree in nursing. She is employed as a registered nurse in labor and delivery at Woman's Hospital.

Her fiancé is the grandson of Jewel and Barbara Wilson of Baker and Carmel and the late Archie McClure of Baton Rouge.

Tanna is a graduate of Central



Tanna McClure and Kaley Caballero

High School and Southeastern Louisiana University where he earned a degree in general studies. He is employed with Forest Pharmaceuticals as a pharmaceutical sales representative.

The couple will marry in a 7 p.m. ceremony Friday, June 17, 2011, at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church.

The couple will make their home in Greenwell Springs.

Abigail Brooke Samson

Jay and Ashley Samson of Central are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Abigail Brooke. She was welcomed home by big brothers, Andrew, Joshua, and Shaun. Abigail was born April 11, 2011, at 1:22 a.m. at Lane Regional Hospital. She weighed eight pounds, two ounces, and was 20.25 inches long. Proud grandparents are Kate and Mark Saniford of Central, Fred and Andrea White of Watson, and Jack and Lauren Samson of Pride.



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Mandi Liddell, Brent Charlet Wed In Ceremony at Old State Capitol

BATON ROUGE — Mandi Lynn Liddell and Brent Joseph Charlet were married in a 4 p.m. ceremony Nov. 14, 2010, at Louisiana's Old State Capitol in Baton Rouge. Bro. Jimmy Babin officiated.

The bride is the daughter of Brian and Karie Liddell of Zachary. She is the granddaughter of Larry and Sarita Tridico of Branson, Mo. and the late John and Vera Liddell of Baker.

The groom is the son of Gerald and Susan Charlet of Denham Springs. He is the grandson of John and Peggy LeBlanc of Baton Rouge, the late Henry Chifici of Donaldsonville, and Lucy Charlet and the late Gerald Charlet Sr. of Brusly.

The bride was attended by her matron of honor, Mandi May and her maids of honor, Magahan Ward and Ashton Gomillion. Bridesmaids were Brooke Knaps, Amanda Charlet, Katie Everitt, Holli Drane, and Abbi Broussard.

The groom was attended by his



Mr. and Mrs. Brent Charlet

best man, Chris Murphy. Groomsmen were Chad Bradley, Tobo Gautro, Justin Peck, James Peck, Jake Everitt, Eric Liddell, and Brian Wright.

A reception immediately followed. After a trip to Bora Bora, the couple resides in Denham Springs.



Caden James Austin

Josh and Brandi (Guedry) Austin along with big sisters, Anna and Bailey, are proud to announce the birth of Caden James. Caden was born March 14, 2011, at 4:34 p.m. at Woman's Hospital. He weighed seven pounds, two ounces, and was 20 inches long. Proud grandparents are Stan and Patti Guedry of Central and the late Marshall and Violet Austin of Pride. Great-grandparents are Warren and Ethel Guedry and the late Claude and Ida Jeffers of Central, and the late Willie Jay and Joyce Austin of Pride.

Bruce Paul Villemarette

Robbie and Brandi (Bush) Villemarette proudly announce the birth of their baby boy, Bruce Paul. Bruce was born at Woman's Hospital on March 27, 2011, at 3:30 p.m. He weighed six pounds, 12 ounces, and was 19.5 inches long. Proud grandparents are David and Tammy Bush of St. Amant and Bobby and Marisa Villemarette of Central.



High School Class Reunions

CENTRAL — Local high school reunions coming up include:

Friday, June 10 Central High Class of 1965 11 a.m.

The Central High School Class of 1965 will meet for lunch at Sammy's in Central. Lunch will be Dutch treat. There will be a lot of good conversation and laughter. Plan to attend, bring your spouse or a guest. If you are planning to attend or need information, call or email Norman Schlatre at 261-7558, norms26@cox.net or Wanda at 261-3570.

Saturday, July 9 Istrouma High Class of 1961 6:45 p.m.

The Istrouma High School Class

of 1961 will hold their 50th reunion at Forrest Grove Plantation, 8743 Stephenson Dr. south of I-12 off Pete's Highway in Denham Springs. For information, call Marilyn at 751-7222 or marilyntillery@cox.net.

Saturday, Sept. 9 Pride High Class Reunion 7 to 10:30 p.m.

The Pride High School Reunion Committee is looking for school faculty, graduates, and attendees for this year's reunion. The reunion will be at Forest Grove Reception Center, 8743 Stephenson Dr. in Denham Springs. Absolutely no reservations accepted after July 1. Make payment to Veronica Gregory, memo/note PHS Reunion, and send to P.O. Box 25, Pride, LA 70770.

Obituaries

Helen Mildred Watts Schlatre

Helen Mildred Watts Schlatre, 84, a resident of Baker, died Friday, June 3, 2011, at Harvest Manor Nursing Home. She was an employee of the U.S. Postal Service for more than 20 years.

Visitation was at Galilee Baptist Church on Sunday, June 5 and Monday, June 6 until services were conducted by the Rev. Ron Lowry and assisted by Deacon Phil BeJeaux. Burial was at Hillcrest Cemetery in Baker.

She is survived by three sons, Norman R. Schlatre III and his wife Paula Hughes of Baker, Donald Schlatre and his wife Meg McCulloch of Montgomery, Texas, and Michael Schlatre and his wife Cynthia Stroder of Central; two sisters, Elaine Holstein and Sue Clayton, both of Baker; nine grandchildren, Jason Schla-

tre and his wife Shan, Ryan Schlatre and his wife Jocelyn, Amanda Schlatre, Kristen Schlatre, Brittney Faulkner and her husband Brock, Micah Schlatre, Emelie McLellan and her husband Ray, Beau Schlatre and his wife Rachel, and Logan Schlatre; eight great-grandchildren, Emery Faulkner, Lyla Kate Faulkner, Laurel Ann Schlatre, Paige Schlatre, Savannah Schlatre, Kim Bruce and her husband James, and Cole Schlatre; and a great-great-grandson, Bryson Bruce. She was preceded in death by her husband, Norman R. Schlatre Jr. and her parents, Odie Watts and Mildred Robinson Watts.

Pallbearers were Logan Schlatre, Ryan Schlatre, Aaron Goolsby, Beau Schlatre, Jason Schlatre, Micah Schlatre, Ray McLellan, Brock Faulkner and Steve Davis.

She was a graduate of Central High School, Class of 1944.



Cain Michael Engels

Chad and Kellie Engels of Central proudly announce the birth of their son, Cain Michael. Cain was born at Woman's Hospital on Jan. 12, 2011, at 7:49 p.m. He weighed six pounds, 12 ounces, and was 19.5 inches long. Proud grandparents are Kenny and Mary Miller of Central and Mike and Jami Engels of Central. Great-grandparents are Bob and Marilyn Miller of Central, Carolyn Crochet of Baton Rouge, John Sanchez of Clinton, and Henry and Beverly Engels of Central.

Central Office now Open

Dr. Keith Elbourne and Dr. Joshua Best are now seeing new patients in Obstetrics and Gynecology at both locations, Central and Zachary.

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St. Jude Bike-a-Thon Saturday, June 11

CENTRAL — Events coming up in and around Central:

**Saturday, June 11
St. Jude Bike-a-thon
8:30 a.m. to 12 noon**

The 28th Annual St. Jude Bike-a-thon will be held at Bellingrath Elementary School. Rain or shine! Prizes will be awarded. For details, call Chuck at 261-0555 or 603-6100 or Dr. Tony LoBue at 261-6000.

**Saturday, June 11
Karney Jambalaya Benefit
10 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

A jambalaya benefit for the Charles "Charlie" Karney family will be held at Oak Point Fresh Market. For information, call Leigh Karney at 261-5758.

**June 11 and 12
12th Annual Tour of Ponds**

Harb's Oasis and the Deep South Koi and Pond Society will host the 12th Annual Tour of Ponds Saturday, June 11, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday, June 12, 12 noon to 6 p.m. Three ponds on the tour are located in Central: the Nicholson's pond at 14985 Greenwell Springs, the Cobb's pond at 16524 Quiet Oaks Ave., and the Williams' pond at 6718 Bryce Canyon Dr. For tickets or information, including the bus tour available on Saturday, call 756-2720 or visit www.br-pond-tour.org.

**June 11 and 25
Central Area Horse Show • 4 p.m.**

The Central Area Horse Show, sponsored by the Deep South Stock Horse Show Association, will be held at the Shady Park Arena on Greenwell Springs Road. Judged and timed events in four age groups. Beginners welcome. For info, www.dsshsa.org.

**June 12 through 15
Vacation Bible School
5:30 to 8:10 p.m.**

Don't miss the boat this year! The ship sails with the High Seas at Zachary United Methodist Church, 4205 Church St. in Zachary. Dinner will



PAUL DIETZEL VISITS THE PRIME TIMERS — The Prime Timers, a 60 plus group at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, hosted a meatball and spaghetti dinner with guest speaker former LSU Coach Paul Dietzel. Coach Dietzel spoke on his early days in football and how he became the head coach at LSU in 1955. Pictured are (left to right) John Culmone, Barbara Culmone, John Desselle, Shirley LaPorte, Coach Dietzel, Gilbert Ardoin, Marie Lee, and Fr. Mike Moroney.

be served each night at 5:30 p.m. Ages of shipmates are 4 years to 5th grade. Register in advance at www.zacharyumc.com.

**June 13 through 15
Coach Doug Dotson Youth
Football Camp • 6 to 8 p.m.**

Central High School will hold Coach Doug Dotson Youth Football Camp. Guest coach will be NFL star Todd McClure. Ages are seven years through incoming freshmen. Cost: \$20. Register online at www.CentralYouthFootball.com

**June 13 through 17
Vacation Bible School
12 noon to 2 p.m.**

Blackwater United Methodist Church, 10000 Blackwater Road, invites all children to Vacation Bible

School — PandaMania: Where God is Wild About You! PandaMania is for kids kindergarten through 5th grade. The cost is \$18 per child or \$40 per family. For information, call 261-4646.

**Tuesday, June 14
Diabetes Support Group
6 to 7:30 p.m.**

You're invited to Lane Regional Medical Center's Diabetes Support Group at 6300 Main St., Zachary. Registration is not required. For information, contact Sherri Brady, R.N. at 658-4583.

**Saturday, June 18
Creative Filmmaking • 1 to 5 p.m.**

Teens will learn the basic steps in creating an original short film at the Pride-Chaneyville Branch. As a group, they will create an original script, assign duties to each other, and shoot their original short film. For information or to register, call 658-1550.

**Sunday, June 19
CPR Training • 2 p.m.**

The Central Fire Department, Hooper and Sullivan, will hold a community CPR training course. The cost of the class is \$18, includes workbook and American Heart Association CPR card. Class size is limited. For information or to sign up call, 261-2000.

**June 20 through 24
Vacation Bible School
9 a.m. to 12 noon**

St. Alphonsus Catholic Church, 14040 Greenwell Springs Road, invites everyone to Vacation Bible School for children 4 years of age

through 6th grade. For information or to register, call 261-4650 or visit www.st-alphonsus.net.

**Tuesday, June 21
Across the Border with Javier**

In Across the Border with Javier Juarez, audiences will discover the unique and exciting traditions of Mexico from the pre-European colonization to our modern time. Juarez takes children ages 5-11 on a journey through dance to several different regions in Mexico. Javier Juarez will visit the Pride-Chaneyville Branch at 10 a.m. and the Central Branch at 2:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, June 21
BREC Public Meeting • 4:30 p.m.**

Planning for the Greenwell Springs historic site will begin at a public meeting at the Central Library, 11260 Joor Rd. BREC's proposed Greenwell Springs Park at 23260 Greenwell Springs is an 80-acre parcel of land alongside the Amite River that was once the camp for Confederation soldiers who fought in the Battle of Baton Rouge during the Civil War. BREC invites the public to attend the meeting to discuss the project.

**Wednesday, June 22
Gaming Mania • 3:30 p.m.**

Bring a friend and have some fun with Rock Band at Central Branch Library, 11260 Joor Rd. For information or to register, call 262-2640.

**Wednesday, June 22
The Game of Quelf • 2:30 p.m.**

If you want to play the silliest game ever created, a game that makes no sense at all, but will make you laugh and laugh, come play Quelf at the Greenwell Springs Branch. For information or to register, call 274-4450.

**Saturday, June 25
Library Book Sale • 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

The East Baton Rouge Parish Library will hold a Library Book Sale at Recycled Reads, 13505 Hooper.

**Monday, June 27
Central Chamber Golf Scramble**

The City of Central Chamber of Commerce's Golf Scramble will be held at The Oaks at Sherwood. For information, call the chamber office at 261-5818.



KATIE POURCIAU SIGNS TENNIS SCHOLARSHIP — Katie Pourciau, of Central High School, signed a tennis scholarship from Louisiana College. Pictured are (1st row, left to right) Cherith Brumly, Katie Pourciau, and Alyssa Rushing, (2nd row) Betsy Burch and Tamera Shows, and (3rd row) Stephen Hudson, Emily Lansing, Kelli Elliot, Amber Shuttleworth, and tennis coach Carmen Evans.



GWEN BABINEAUX, vice president of Brownsfield Lions Club, presented Maddy Watts with a \$1,000 check toward her eye surgery. Maddy has been recuperating from a car accident since October of 2010. Any organization or individuals interested in helping Maddy, contact Gwen Babineaux at 938-9011.

Lost & Found

No charge for listing one week. Call 261-5055.

FOUND — Diamond earring at shopping center, corner of Sullivan and Hooper. Call to identify. 261-2651.

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City Transitions from CH2MHILL to IBTS

Photo by Connor Lloyd



CITY SERVICES CONTRACT — Central Mayor Mac Watts and Dr. Shyam Choudhary of IBTS signed the new City Services contract Wednesday morning. The Master Privatization agreement is for a five-year period. IBTS will replace CH2MHILL July 1.

Continued from Page 1

Central Mayor Mac Watts and Dr. Shyam Choudhary of IBTS.

The City of Central (population 27,000) is the only municipality in

Louisiana and one of the few in the United States that has totally privatized all City Services.

The agreement with CH2MHILL became controversial over issues

of transparency and costs. Nevertheless, the Denver-based firm was expected to be chosen by Mayor Mac Watts to continue.

However, when the Mayor's Committee on City Services issued a Request for Proposals, IBTS came back with the lowest bid. Another committee appointed by the mayor then came back with an evaluation of the four bid-

ders that resulted in IBTS having the highest evaluation score. The committee recommended the non-profit organization and the mayor accepted their recommendation.

David Ratcliff has been named the Program Director for IBTS and will be responsible for running the company on a day-to-day basis. All city permits, public works, and other services are included.

Debbie Johnston Surgery Set For June 17 at MD Anderson



DEBBIE JOHNSTON with daughter Kim and Brandi Mullen before she became ill

CENTRAL — Debbie Johnston, the owner of Central Perk coffee shop and restaurant at 6691 Sullivan Rd., is scheduled to undergo brain surgery next Friday, June 17 at MD Anderson Medical Center in Hous-

ton, her daughter Kim Johnston said Wednesday.

Mrs. Johnston suffered a Grand Mal seizure on April 1 while on a routine visit to Lake After Hours. MRI's disclosed the tumor. Kim said doctors are optimistic they can remove most of the tumor and treat the rest with radiation. She said Debbie wants to return to work by late summer.

Debbie purchased Central Perk in 2003. Kim said the family intends to keep the business open.

Medical bills have been heavy, and the family is accepting contributions in a jar at the store.

Debbie's husband is Ricky Johnston, who retired from Exxon. Their children are Kim and Erick.

Friends can keep up with Debbie's progress on a Facebook page called We Love Debbie Johnston.

Classifieds

\$10 for first 20 words, 50 cents a word after that. Minimum charge \$10. Call 261-5055. Must be paid in advance. No credit cards accepted. Mail or deliver check to Central City News, 13567 Hooper, Central 70818.

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HOME FOR SALE IN CENTRAL — Four bedroom/2.5 bath, 11711 N. Milstead Place. Call 225-938-5670 or FSBOBR.com 06/23/11

HOMES FOR SALE — 12500 Core Lane, 3BR/3BA, 1.3 acre, 2,232 living area, bank owned, sold "as is." 10937 Carmel Dr., Carmel Acres, 3BR/2BA, 1,448 living area, \$129,500. Acadian Realty 225-261-4670. Call Harry 225-937-7654. 06/23/11

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Central City News

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Central High Grad Goes to World Champions

Cody Hall Drafted by San Francisco

6-5, 220 Pitcher From Southern In 19th Round

Woody Jenkins
Editor, Central City News

CENTRAL — They were celebrating at the Ty and Wanda Hall home in Northwoods subdivision Tuesday night, as the news sunk in that their son, Cody Hall, was drafted in the 19th round of the Major League Baseball Draft.

And it wasn't just any major league team that wants their son but the 2010 World Champion San Francisco Giants!

It was a remarkable turnaround for Cody who didn't play baseball either his junior or senior year at Central High School and walked on at Baton Rouge Community College.

In fact, until he tried out for BRCC, he had never pitched a game. But he certainly is a pitcher now — a pitcher with a blazing 90+ mph fast ball, a curve ball, a change up, and a slider.

The fact that he's a powerful 6-5 and 220 pounds doesn't hurt either. The Giants are interested in Hall for his ability as a closer, but the truth is Hall is also strong as a starter.



Photo of AT&T Stadium by Woody Jenkins



CODY HALL (inset) has been drafted by the World Champion San Francisco Giants

Cody Hall just completed his college career at Southern University, where he was named to the All-SWAC team, along with fellow Baton Rougean and Southern teammate Frazier Hall who was SWAC Player of the Year.

Cody Hall said his experience at Southern was outstanding.

"People at Southern really treated me well. It was a wonderful experience!" he said.

Hall heaped praise on his coaches at Southern, especially head coach Roger Cador and assistant coach Fernando Puebla.

"Coach Cador is a tremendous

man with a great deal of wisdom. Every day, he taught us life lessons, using stories. He has had an enormous influence on my life," Hall said.

Assistant Coach Fernando Puebla, originally from Venezuela, knows baseball well and had a lot to do with his chance to play in the major leagues, Hall said.

At Baton Rouge Community College, coach L. J. Dupre made a great impact on Hall. "He believed in me and gave me a chance. He told me I could make it to the next level and that gave me confidence."

As a senior at Southern, Hall had a 4-1 record as a relief pitcher with 60 innings pitched, 64 strikeouts and 58 hits. His ERA was 3.71. He had two saves.

Cody Hall said, "My parents are the best people in the world. They are always here by my side. My dad was my coach and taught me so much. My mom never missed a game. They both encourage me, and they mean everything to me."

Cody Hall's father Ty is a crew leader at Georgia Pacific. His mother, Wanda, teaches at Riveroaks Elementary. She formerly taught at Central Middle.

Cody's brother, Corey Hall is 21. He played baseball for Central High but had an auto accident that slowed his baseball career. Cody said Corey hopes to play college ball.

Cody said it usually takes five or six years for a pitcher to work his way to the major leagues but he hopes to do it in two to three.

"I feel I could really benefit from the coaching I will receive. I've had great coaches but not a pitching coach at that level. I feel I have the raw ability and can become a lot better pitcher with the right coach," he said.

Cody Hall said he thinks he may be sent to play in Oregon this summer.

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