



Photo by Woody Jenkins

WILDCAT ASHTON STOKES during first day of spring training Monday.

## Central Wildcats Opened Spring Training Monday

**CENTRAL** — Central High head football coach Sid Edwards welcomed 110 student athletes to Day One of the Wildcats' spring training Monday. The team, which has

won five straight District 4-5A championships, held a brisk workout. Coach David Dykes said the program is beginning to pay dividends. See photos on page 16.



SCRIMMAGE — From the sidelines, players watched Wildcats' scrimmage Monday.

## Board Considering Bond, Tax Election

### Existing Tax Would Fund Renovations; New Tax Would Pay For Salary Increase

**CENTRAL** — Central schools Supt. Mike Faulk has asked the Central Community School Board to consider placing on the October election ballot four bond and tax proposals to fund the next steps in his plan to upgrade the Central school system.

Faulk is proposing three bond issues for capital improvements. These would be funded by existing taxes and would not represent a tax increase. However, he also wants the board to consider a fourth proposal, a salary increase for teachers and school employees, which would be funded by a six-mill property tax increase. Faulk issued the following explanation of his proposals:

Currently \$16.2 million dollars are available in increased bonding capacity from the millage approved by voters in the election held in 2009. Voters must approve

the issuing of additional bonds.

The current millage of 23.65 would remain and there would be no increase in property taxes. There would be three individual propositions. Those propositions would be:

## School Board Offers Land, Building for City Complex

### Free Office Space Totalling 26,000 sf For City Hall Plus State, C-P Offices

**Woody Jenkins**  
 Editor, Central City News

**CENTRAL** — Central schools Supt. Mike Faulk appeared before the Central City Council last Tuesday and presented the school board's offer to provide the City of Central with 26,000 square feet of office space free of charge.

The school board has been wrestling with what to do with the old Central Middle School property at the corner of Hooper and Sullivan



ENTRANCE to proposed City Hall

roads. At the same time, the city has been considering whether to develop a city center. Faulk said the school board felt the donation of space to the City of Central was in the best interests of the Central  
 See **SCHOOL** on Page 8

**PROPOSITION 1:** Up to \$5.0 million in General Obligation Bonds to renovate portions of the former Central Middle School for Central Office Operations, Alternative/Discipline Center, Central Purchasing and Receiving, Technology Operations, demo-

lition of buildings for which no further use is warranted, removal of asbestos where necessary, and dressing up of parking areas for offices and sporting events.

**PROPOSITION 2:** Up to \$8.5 million  
 See **VOTERS** on Page 9



Photo by Woody Jenkins

**FESTIVAL OF TWO RIVERS** — The Festival of Two Rivers at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church drew a packed crowd to the annual event last weekend. Participants enjoyed food, music, carnival rides, and raffles. Deacon Robert Kusch said the event was a success.

# COMMUNITY PRESS, LLC

CAPITAL CITY NEWS

Vol. 22 • No. 9

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Baton Rouge, LA 70806

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Email stories and photos to [capitalcitynews@hotmail.com](mailto:capitalcitynews@hotmail.com) or [centralcitynews@hotmail.com](mailto:centralcitynews@hotmail.com)

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Capital City News is a continuation of the South Baton Rouge Journal, which went on hiatus in 2008 during its 20th year of publication. The Capital City News resumed publication of the Journal with Vol. 21, No. 1 on Aug. 16, 2012. The Leader was founded April 30, 1998, and the Central City News was founded April 21, 2005. They merged May 4, 2006. Community Press also publishes the Central Community Directory and other publications.

Editor & Publisher  
Business Manager  
Graphic Artist  
Business Specialist



Woody Jenkins  
Candi Lee  
Terrie Palmer  
Jolice Provost

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Photo by Woody Jenkins

**PROUD TO BE AN AMERICAN** — Retired Judge Luke Lavergne told the Patriots Day Luncheon at the LSU Rural Life Museum that he is proud to be an American and that he was honored to serve his country for 26 years in the United States Air Force.

## Country Living in the City

# Sale of Advocate: Capital Follows Population

### As Population, Outlook For Orleans Declines, Capital Seeks Markets With Brighter Prospects

**Woody Jenkins**  
Editor, Capital City News

**BATON ROUGE** — The headline in Wednesday's Advocate was remarkable: "Georges Buys Advocate". Now, after more than 100 years, the most important medium in the capital city of Louisiana is under new ownership.

People are wondering, "Who is John Georges?" and what will his ownership of the Advocate mean to our city?

Long-time employees of the

Advocate are wondering what the future holds for them? Will they be packing up and leaving soon?

Everyone knows that John Georges is a successful businessman. Everyone knows that he ran for governor and mayor of New Orleans. Perhaps because he ran for political office, some question his motives in buying the Advocate.

Is the Advocate intended to be a stepping stone for him to run for high office?

Frankly, that's ridiculous. John Georges is a businessman, and you can be confident that he will make decisions in a business-like manner when it comes to the Advocate.

While he will certainly hope to influence things, you can be sure that he didn't buy the Advocate in order to run for something.

As publisher of the Advocate, he will have far more influence over

the direction Louisiana takes than he could in any public office.

Time will reveal a lot, and a year from now we will all know a lot more about how this drama will play out and how it will affect our state and our community.

But one thing is being completely ignored in regards to the sale of the Advocate.

It is simply this: Capital follows population.

New Orleans has been dying for the past 50 years. Katrina was simply the coup de grace.

Consider the Times-Picayune. Do you really think the Picayune went to three papers a week because of competition from the Internet? That too is ridiculous.

The Picayune went to three days a week because its advertising base has collapsed. There are not as many people in the New Orleans area and not as much retail spending as there was 10 years ago, 20 years ago, even 50 years ago.

Going three times a week was a cost-cutting measure, pure and simple.

Publicly, it was promoted as a way to put the Picayune at the forefront of the digital world. We're leading the pack. We recognize that newspapers are dying, etc.

But newspapers aren't dying.

Hardly any have closed their doors and turned off their lights, which is something that cannot be said for most businesses in this depressed economy.

Newspapers have a great future, IF they serve their communities and do what they do best — cover the people and events in their own hometown.

Look at what Mr. Georges has done. He took Imperial Foods far beyond the New Orleans market. It now operates in a dozen states.

He has Harrison Foods, a "super regional" food distributor in Bossier City. Far beyond New Orleans.

He bought Galatoire's Restaurant, a New Orleans legend, and brought it to... Baton Rouge!

Look at what he has. Imperial Foods, 98 years old. Harrison Company, 91 years old. Galatoire's, 108 years old. The Advocate, 171 years old.

Mr. Georges wants quality companies, which have been around forever. And it is absolutely certain that New Orleans will not be an anchor around his neck.

Instead of thinking about the purchase of the Advocate as a political event, although it partly is, think of it for what it primarily is — an economic event of some significance.

The capital region is attracting capital because our population is growing. Now, we have to be sure that WE don't become another New Orleans!



Woody Jenkins

## Community Press 2013 Publication Schedule

**Capital City News - Published Every Other Thursday from January to August, Every Thursday from September to December**

Deadline: 5 p.m. Monday before publication  
Capital City News is distributed in South Baton Rouge

**Central City News - Same as Above**

Deadline: 5 p.m. Monday before publication  
Central City News is distributed in the City of Central

Thursday, May 2	Capital City News Central City News	Thursday, May 30	Capital City News Central City News
Thursday, May 16	Capital City News Central City News Graduation Edition	Thursday, June 13	Capital City News Central City News

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# Central City News, Capital City News Sweep Top Press Association Awards



Photo by Catherine Wheeler

**LOUISIANA PRESS ASSOCIATION AWARDS** — Community Press, LLC, publisher of the Central City News and the Capital City News, received 35 awards at the Louisiana Press Association Annual Convention at the Baton Rouge Hilton last weekend. Sharing honors were account executive and photographer Jolice Provost, graphic artist Terrie Palmer, editor and publisher Woody Jenkins, and business manager Candi Lee. The LPA represents 110 daily and weekly newspapers and other publications.

## 35 Awards for State's Best Non-Daily Community Newspapers

### Central City News

#### GENERAL EXCELLENCE

1st Place – Central City News

#### EDITORIAL

##### Best News Coverage

1st Place – Staff, Central City News

##### Community Service - Service to Readers

1st Place – Staff, Central City News - For gathering more than 1,000 comments from readers on Baton Rouge Loop for submission to FHWA

##### Best Front Page

2nd Place – Woody Jenkins

##### Best News Story

2nd Place – Woody Jenkins, Story of Survival: Central Girl Survives Colorado Shooting  
3rd Place – Woody Jenkins, Key Issues Facing Legislature

##### Best Lifestyle Coverage

3rd Place - Staff, Central City News

##### Best Breaking News Story

2nd Place – Woody Jenkins, Supreme Court Candidates Object to Obamacare Ruling  
3rd Place – Woody Jenkins, Coach Sid Is Back

##### Most Effective Use of Graphics on a Single Page

1st Place – Woody Jenkins, Central High Graduation  
2nd Place – Woody Jenkins, School Complex Nearing Completion on Sullivan Rd.  
3rd Place – Woody Jenkins, \$46 Million Central School Complex

##### Best News Photo

2nd Place – Jolice Provost, Heck Yea!

##### Best Feature Photo

3rd Place – Jolice Provost, Fall Festival at St. Alphonsus

#### ADVERTISING

##### Advertising Sweepstakes

1st Place – Central City News

##### Best Retailer Ad

1st Place – Terrie Palmer, Nagoya Restaurant

##### Best Services Ad - Non-Retail

1st Place – Woody Jenkins, The Tree Men  
3rd Place – Terrie Palmer, Lewis Wrecker Service

##### Best Ad Campaign

1st Place – Terrie Palmer, Central Physical Therapy

##### Best Staff-Generated Color Ad

2nd Place – Terrie Palmer, Wall Decor and More

##### Best Classified Section or Page

1st Place – Terrie Palmer

##### Best Special Section Advertising

1st Place – Staff, Central City News, Graduation Guide

### Capital City News

#### GENERAL EXCELLENCE

2nd Place – Capital City News

#### EDITORIAL

##### Best News Coverage

2nd Place – Staff, Capital City News

##### Best Investigative Reporting

1st Place – Woody Jenkins, The Coming Boom

##### Best Front Page

1st Place – Woody Jenkins

##### Best Continuing Coverage of a Single News Event

2nd Place – Woody Jenkins, CATS Tax

##### Best Regular Column

Honorable Mention – Woody Jenkins, BRHS Auditorium and Proof of Angels

##### Best Feature Photo

2nd Place – Woody Jenkins, Little Rascals at Baton Rouge Christmas Parade

##### Best Photo Package

3rd Place – Ron Moore, Parkview Football

##### Best Special Section Editorial

3rd Place – Staff, Capital City News, Capital Election Guide

#### ADVERTISING

##### Best Retailer Ad

2nd Place – Terrie Palmer, Integrity Glass

3rd Place – Terrie Palmer

##### Best Services Ad - Non-Retail

2nd Place – Terrie Palmer, Scott Angelle for PSC

##### Best Ad Campaign

2nd Place – Terrie Palmer

##### Best Staff Generated - Color

1st Place – Terrie Palmer, Central Stat Care

##### Best Classified Section or Page

2nd Place – Terrie Palmer

##### Best Special Section Advertising

2nd Place – Staff, Capital City News, Capital Area Prep Football Guide

# DOTD Planning Hooper Rd. Extension

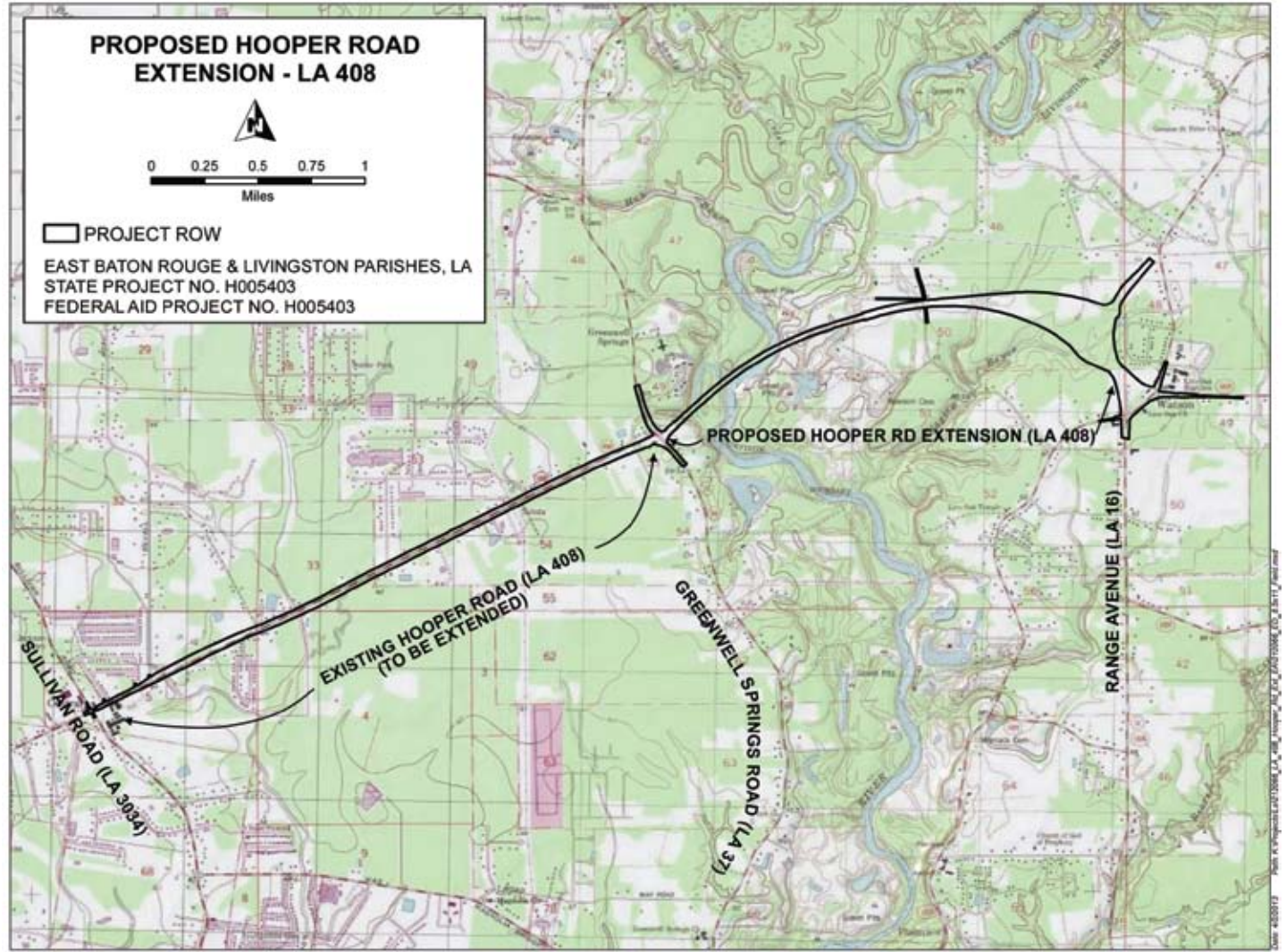
## Though Project Is Not Fully Funded, Planning Process Is Moving Ahead

**BATON ROUGE** — A traffic study conducted by the Baton Rouge Area Chamber in 2010 identified the extension of Hooper Road across the Amite River to Watson as the second most important project in the Baton Rouge area.

Now the Hooper Road Extension project is under study by the Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development in conjunction with the Federal Highway Administration.

The proposed widening of Hooper Road would begin at Sullivan Road on the west and continue to Greenwell Springs Road on the east. The proposed extension of Hooper Road would start at Greenwell Springs Road on the west, cross the Amite River into Livingston Parish, and end either at LA 16 or LA 1019 on the east. The total length of the project would be approximately 5.5 miles.

DOTD is currently conducting an environmental assessment of the project.



**HOOPER ROAD WIDENING AND EXTENSION** — The Louisiana Department of Transportation and Development is conducting an environmental assessment of the proposed widening and extension of Hooper Road from Central to Watson. It would be 5.5 miles.

 5:30 to 10 a.m. Murphy, Sam, and Jodi 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Michelle Southern 2 to 7 p.m. Scotty Mac 7 p.m. to midnight Delilah	 5:30 to 10 a.m. Walton & Johnson 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Darren Gauthier 2 to 7 p.m. Scotty Drake 7 p.m. to midnight Dan Day	 5 a.m. to noon Tiger Wakin' Krewe Noon to 6 p.m. Devan Adams 6 p.m. to midnight Abby Theriot Midnight to 3 a.m. Belle	 5 to 9 a.m. Big D & Bubba 9 a.m. to noon Kristen Gates Noon to 3 p.m. Austin James 3 to 7 p.m. Sam McGuire 7 p.m. to mid Michael J. Show	 5:30 to 10 a.m. Kidd Kraddick 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Libby Davis 3 to 7 p.m. Ryan Seacrest 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. JoJo Wright	 5 to 9 a.m. Brian King 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Roland's Swamp Pop Café 2 to 6 p.m. James Gilmore 6 to 9 p.m. Savannah Walker	 5:30 to 10 a.m. Matt Kennedy & Brian Haldane 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Clarence Buggs 1 to 4 p.m. Dave Ramsey 4 to 6 p.m. Bill Profita 6 to 9 p.m. Dennis Miller	 5:30 to 9 a.m. Kevin Meeks & Karen Henderson 9 to 11 a.m. Glenn Beck 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Rush Limbaugh 2 to 5 p.m. Sean Hannity 5 to 7 p.m. Michael Berry
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# Principal Bob Wales to Move to Administrative Post

## Central High Student Honors Principal

**CENTRAL** — Members of the Central Community School Board heard a Central High junior step forward Monday night to pay tribute to outgoing Central High principal Bob Wales. Christopher Harris made these remarks:

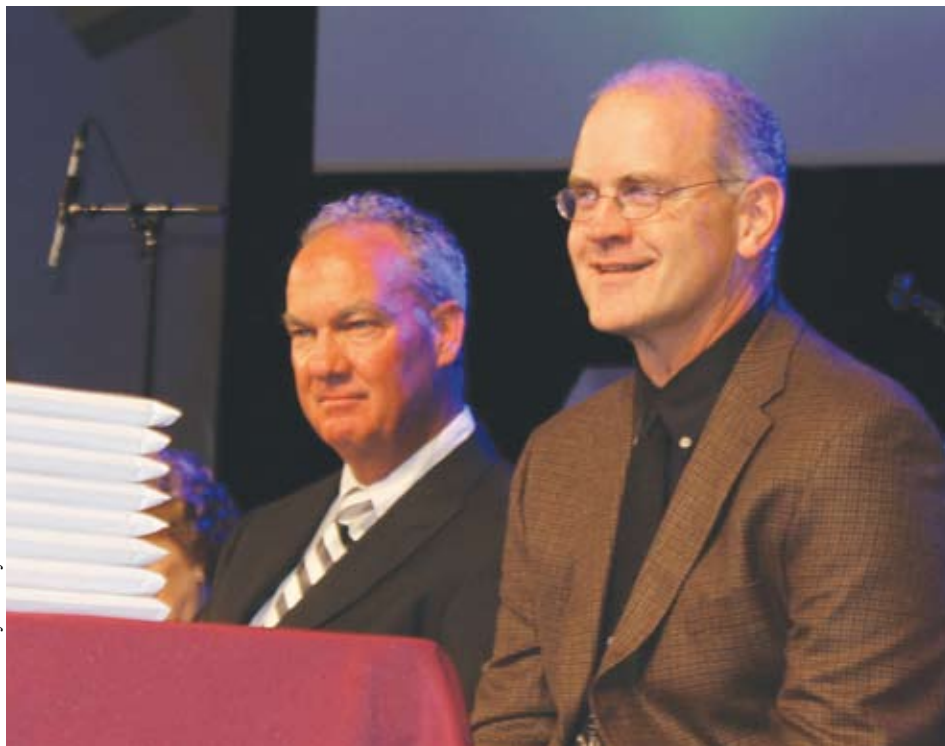
Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen, my name is Christopher Harris, and I am a junior at Central High School. First, I would like to thank the members of the school board for giving me the opportunity to speak here tonight.

As I'm sure most of you are aware, Central High's principal of five years, Mr. Bob Wales has recently been reassigned from this position. As is typical in a high school, rumors have been running rampant as to exactly why Mr. Wales has been reassigned. Although no students seem to know for certain the reason behind his reassignment, we have been able to figure out some of the duties Mr. Wales will be responsible for in his new position. As published in the 16th volume of paper number 6 of the Central City Newspaper, Mr. Wales's new duties will include:

- Directing the Advance Placement Program at Central
- Overseeing ACT testing, and
- Developing an early college academy at the school.

Although I am confident Mr. Wales would carry out these jobs well, I, as well as many of the students at Central High, feel as if he makes a much better principal. Many of us feel so strongly about this issue because Mr. Wales doesn't simply "go through the motions" as principal. He fully carries out what he must do as principal, serves as a role model for the students, and most importantly, genuinely cares for the students.

Daily, I see Mr. Wales in the halls asking students to tuck their shirts in and reminding them of their ID. But, not only this, I also see him asking students how their grades are looking, how their families are doing, and congratulating them on accomplishments they have received. These small gestures are what distinguish Mr.



**CENTRAL HIGH PRINCIPAL** Bob Wales (right) and assistant principal David Prescott at Central High School graduation ceremonies last May.

Wales as a great principal. By asking simple questions about life aside from school, students at Central are given the impression that Mr. Wales isn't solely concerned about school. By making this connection with the students, the students are placed in a more enjoyable learning environment, thus giving them motivation to work harder and make better grades. This is evident in the fact that Central's ACT scores were tied for first in the state last year, under Mr. Wales's tenure.

Not only does Mr. Wales have an established connection with the students and teachers at Central High because he has been there for 27 years, he also serves as someone we can look up to daily. I found when talking to some of the teachers that Mr. Wales is very understanding when a family emergency arises, such as a sick child or spouse because he too has a family. I also believe this is why he treats his students like he does. He is going to get on to you when you start to slack off but at the same time he is very understanding and will do anything in his power to help if a student is having problems in his/her family. The Central High School vision statement is simply "exceed expectations." Mr. Wales does this each day which distinguishes him from being a person in an administrative position who is not only worried about what the scores will look like at the end of the semester but also someone who cares personally about each and every student and how they are doing. I was getting some numbers about school rankings and test scores. He gave me some of the stats, but then looked at me and said something along the lines of, "All of those things are great because they reflect how well we do as a school, but at the end of the day I'm not going to be kept up by the fact that

not every one of my students made a 36 on the ACT; I'm going to be more worried about that family who lost their home to a house fire or lost a family member and how I can help them." Mr. Wales then goes from being the Principal of central high school to being that Great man who stands for his students, helping them and their families, and guiding his students on the right path.

Besides the fact that Mr. Wales is an extraordinary role model and supporter of the students, he is also firm. He guides the students in the right direction under a pressure that is just intense enough to make us work. That pressure is vitally important at a time in our lives when we are preparing to go into our future. The pressure Mr. Wales puts on the student body to exceed expectations acts as just a taste of what many of us will encounter down the road.

It prepares us for "real-life." It's hard to find someone who can apply that pressure to students and maintain a good relationship with them as well.

Mr. Wales' reassignment also impacts me personally. Like many kids, I was extremely anxious to grow up and get to high school, and that first day of high school my parents had to let me go into what at that time for me was "the real world". But I know no matter how much my mom cried because we were growing up she had complete trust that Mr. Wales knew exactly what he was doing to ensure mine and my brother's prosperity in high school and more importantly to ensure our safety. And after 3 years at Central High, doing the announcements every morning in the front office, and now standing as school mascot "Willy the Wildcat," I can't imagine any other person waiting for me at the end of that stage to shake my hand and give me my diploma on that life changing day next year than Mr. Wales.

So, rather than removing a beloved Principal from the high school who over the past 27 years has been a teacher, assistant principal, and now principal; why not find someone who specializes specifically in college testing and preparation? If the school board would allow Bob Wales to remain principal, it would maintain the balance that has been established. The students would not be thrown a curve ball and have to adapt and form a relationship with an entirely new principal. Mr. Wales would be able to continue doing something he loves doing and is good at: serving as principal of Central High. By hiring someone who specializes in college preparation for the new position, it would only make things easier on the students. While a specialist paves the road to college for the student body, Mr. Wales will apply the pressure to push us down that road that we are all so familiar with.

In conclusion, there is no doubt in my mind that when Mr. Wales said he there is nothing he would love more than to remain the principal at Central High, that it was truly meant from deepest part of his heart.

Again, I'd like to sincerely thank everyone here for their allotting me the time to speak tonight and for listening to my thoughts.



Central High junior Christopher Harris

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<p>#13T520</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: yellow;">NEW 2013 CHEVY EQUINOX</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$22,495</p>	<p>2 Yr / 24,000 ML Free Maintenance!</p> <p>#13T231</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: yellow;">NEW 2013 SILVERADO X-CAB</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: red;">WAS \$31,520 NOW \$23,678</p>	<p>#13C203</p> <p style="font-weight: bold; color: yellow;">NEW 2013 CHEVY CAMARO 2LS</p> <p style="font-size: 24px; font-weight: bold; color: red;">\$22,495</p>

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# Patriots Day Celebrated with Stories

Photo by Woody Jenkins



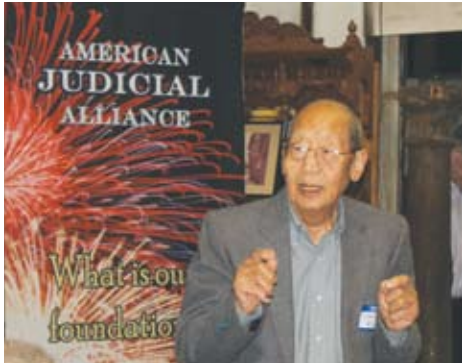
**PATRIOTS DAY** — Host Judge Darrell White with Ann Jennings, Shirley Avants, and Anna Sanders at Patriots Day luncheon at LSU Rural Life Museum.

**BATON ROUGE** — Chili Chef Extraordinaire Bill Smith confided afterwards that he had quietly prayed for good weather. And though heavy thundershowers were predicted throughout the day for Friday, April 19, by mid-morning, the ominous

gray clouds parted, and for lunchtime, the sun brought a welcome warmth to the brisk Spring noonday gathering at LSU's Rural Life Museum for the purpose of celebrating Patriots Day.

Jim Hogg and his talented son, James, joined by fiddle, Clay Johnston entertained the 70 attendees upon their arrival with a medley of patriotic tunes.

The event was sponsored by American Judicial Alliance (AJA), a non-profit organization whose mission is to awaken the conscience of one nation under God. AJA dedicates gold-imprinted commemorative Bibles to America's courts in keeping with a 100-year-old tradition begun in 1906 by Justice John Marshall Harlan (1833-1911). A little known tradition, the "Harlan



**CHRIS HSU**, who escaped from Community China, spoke on the 2nd Amendment.



**OLD FRIENDS** — Many old friends came together at Patriots Day. Shown are former Baker Mayor Pete Heine, Dr. Jere Melilli, and missionary Jack Dyer.

Bible" is maintained by the U.S. Supreme Court's Curator, and its multiple flyleaf pages bear the signatures of all justices in succession shortly following taking their oaths of office. See [ajatoday.com](http://ajatoday.com) for details.

Dr. Jere Melilli, Senior Pastor of Christian Life Fellowship, home to the Patriot Memorial Center, welcomed luncheon attendees with a purposeful invocation.

Then history buff Clay Johnston issued a stirring reminder of why Patriots Day is worthy of remembrance and celebration. For it was on April 19, 1775, that brave colonists in Lexington, Massachusetts confronted British soldiers who aimed to seize their arms and ammunition. "The shot heard 'round the world" was fired that morning and America's war for independence began.

Retired Judge Darrell White, President of American Judicial Alliance, the Luncheon's sponsor,

welcomed guests with a sobering observation, extracted from Speaker of the House, Robert Winthrop's 1849 speech delivered at the Annual Meeting of Massachusetts Bible Society:

"All societies of men must be governed in some way or other. The less they may have of stringent State Government, the more they must have of individual self-government. The less they rely on public law or physical force, the more they must rely on private moral restraint. Men, in a word, must necessarily be controlled either by a power within them, or by a power without them; either by the word of God, or by the strong arm of man; either by the Bible, or by the bayonet."

AJA's Vice-President, Bill Smith then read some reminders of how and why earlier generations of Americans revered the Bible.

Bob Bell, a retired Navy officer



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**THREE GENERATIONS** — Former LSU head coach Paul Dietzel with son Stephen and grandson Paul Dietzel III. The three generations came to Patriots Day celebration.

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# of the Sacrifice of America's Heroes



**SPOKESMEN FOR THE FAMILY** — Richard Perkins and Gene Mills of Louisiana Family Forum spoke on the importance of passing history to the young.



**COLONIAL MUSIC** — Patriots Day included some rousing music from America's past played by Clay Johnson, James Hogg, and Jim Hogg. 12-year-old James put on a one-man show.

and author of *Between Here and Eternity*, a fascinating book that recounts his near-death experience following a tragic automobile accident that claimed the lives of his wife and daughter, gave glimpses of how fortuitous circumstances during America's War for Independence often made the difference between victory and defeat.

Richard Perkins, father of Family Research Council's President, Tony Perkins, recounted the inspiring example of Declaration of Independence signer Caesar Rodney who rode 80 miles from Dover to Philadelphia through the night and in a rainstorm to break the tie vote between Delaware's other two delegates (Thomas McKean and George Read). At the time, Rodney suffered from disfiguring facial cancer by siding with the patriots he signed his own death warrant by cutting off his best source of medical treatment in

England.

Richard Perkins also issued an impassioned call for older Americans to do their duty to teach patriotism to the next generation. He said, "I am reminded of the scripture, 'That the generation to come might know them, even the children which should be born; who should arise and declare them to their children.'" (Psalm 78:6).

Retired Judge Luke Lavergne, said that this is his country, and he is proud to have served 26 years in the U.S. Air Force.

AJA Advisory Board member Jerry Dumas then introduced his former LSU football coach, Paul Dietzel, a World War II bomber pilot. And Coach Dietzel in turn introduced his son, Steve Dietzel, and grandson, Paul Dietzel, III.

Ann Jennings introduced guests Anna Sanders and Shirley Avant who are members of Women Veter-

ans of Louisiana. This ministry consists of women who served in the Army, Navy, Marines, Air Force, and Coast Guard from WWII to present. Their main mission is to stand honor guard at any woman veteran's funeral in the State of Louisiana.

Ann Jennings also spoke of her mother, Irma Darphin, who served in England and France during WWII as a nurse with the 127th General Hospital.

Other speakers included Eddie LeBlance and newspaper editor Woody Jenkins.

Louisiana Family Forum's executive director, Gene Mills concluded the lunch gathering with a stirring prayer of gratitude over God's providence and blessings. Mills reminded those in attendance that the

liberties we enjoy were purchased with the blood, sweat, and tears of our forefathers and exhorted today's generation of Americans to rekindle that same patriotic courage and perseverance on behalf of America's posterity.



**BOB BELL** wrote *Between Here and Eternity* on his near-death experience.



**AMERICAN JUDICIAL ALLIANCE** sponsored Patriots Day luncheon, which included Bill Smith and coach Paul Dietzel.

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# School Board Offers Space for City H



**PROPOSED CITY HALL AND GOVERNMENTAL COMPLEX** — The Central Community School Board has proposed donating to the City of Central the permanent use of 26,000 square feet of space for City Hall, Police Station, and other uses. The city would pay for necessary renovations and assume control of the building in perpetuity. Some members of the board said they believe the city would in turn...



**CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD PROPOSAL** — The Central Community School Board has proposed to the City of Central that the city assume control of the 26,000-square-foot east wing of the old school building.

**Continued from Page 1**  
community. An intergovernmental agreement between the school board and the city would govern exactly how it would work.

The school board wants to tear down all of the structures associated with the old Central Middle School, except for three buildings

in the southwest corner of the property. The largest of these includes the administration building of the old school.

Under the school board's plan, the school system would retain the wing of the building that faces Sullivan Road, and the city would be given the free use in perpetuity

of the larger east wing that faces Hooper Road. This wing includes about 26,000 square feet of usable space, Faulk said. The city would be responsible for renovating and maintaining the space. The school board anticipates that the city would use the space for City Hall, Police Station, and Municipal Services, as well as City-Parish and state offic-

es, such as Drivers License office, Clerk of Court, Registrar of Voters, and Post Office. The city may have to offer free space to those entities, in order to attract them. After Faulk made his presentation to the Council, Councilman Tony LoBue tried to ask a question of Supt. Faulk, but Mayor Mac Watts said questions were not in order.

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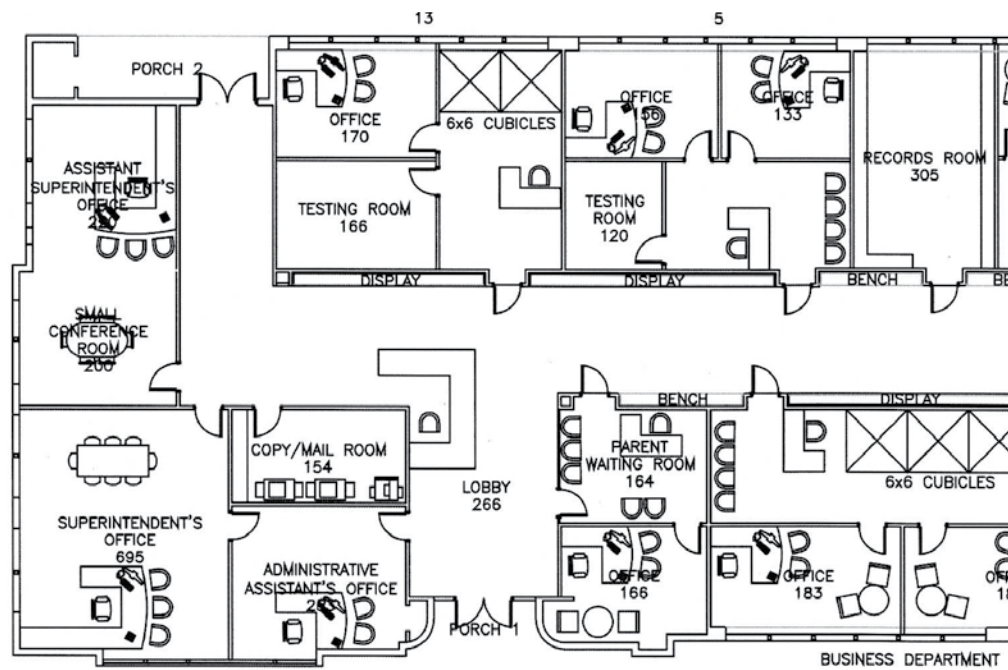
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# Hall, City Services, C-P, State Offices



are feet of office space for such uses as the city may determine, such as City Hall, Municipal Services Center, Police Station, Post Office, Drivers License Office, Clerk of Court, Registrar of need to donate office space to other entities, such as the Registrar of Voters, in order to attract them to staff an office in Central. Renovations of the building could cost \$100 a square foot.



g of the old Central Middle School building and renovate that wing. The school board would keep control of the wing of the building fronting on Sullivan Road and pay to renovate it.

## Voters Would Consider Three Bond Issues, One New Tax for Salaries

Continued from Page 1

in General Obligation Bonds to construct a Ninth Grade Academy, improve parking areas, upgrade technology capacity and provide lighting for athletic fields at Central High School.

PROPOSITION 3: Up to \$2.5 million in General Obligation Bonds to fund in-

creased bandwidth, increased technology capacity district-wide, increased purchase of hardware and software.

PROPOSITION 4: Would require a 10-year six-mill property tax. This new tax would fund salary supplements and related benefits as follows:

- \$1,500 for classroom teachers and

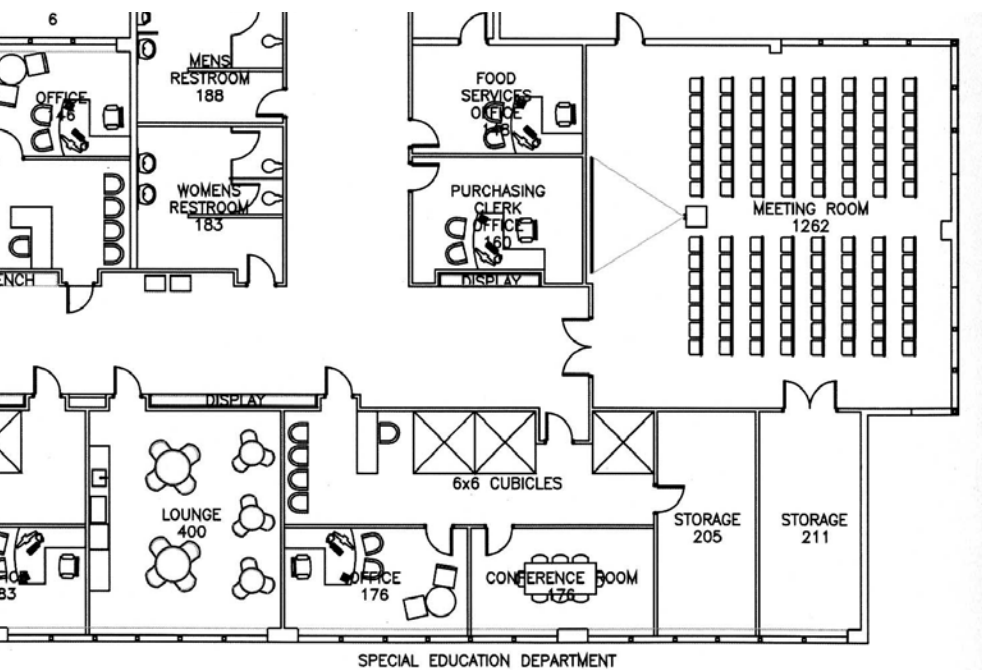
instructional personnel dealing directly with children.

- \$1,000 for personnel whose job requires a college degree.
- \$750 for support personnel who work more than 9 months
- \$500 for 9 month support person-

nel

\*Any excess funds generated will be dedicated to offset the Unfunded Accrued Liability for Health Insurance.

\*This would return the property tax rate to an amount still less than the original tax rate in 2007.



Plans for the proposed new school board offices at the old Central Middle School.



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## 125th Anniversary of Founding of Community

# City of Baker Celebrates Birthday

### Celebration Begins At 5 p.m. Friday at Baker's City Park

**BAKER** — The citizens of the City of Baker will celebrate the 125th Anniversary of the founding of their community Friday at 5 p.m. at Baker City Park.

It will be a time for people of Baker and the surrounding area to come together and enjoy music, dancing, children's games, poetry, and tailgating.

Baker is a city with a lot of history, beautiful parks, the Baton Rouge Zoo, and several nice neighborhoods.

But on Wednesday, as preparations were underway for the 125th Anniversary celebration, Mayor Harold Rideau was next door at City Hall, busily working on something that could be far more important than the celebration — workforce development.

Mayor Rideau is a man on a mission. On the one hand, he is proud of his city. "We are a safe community. It is a good place to live. Baker is ranked as the 5th safest city in America in some surveys!"

But on the other hand, he is deeply frustrated. "We did a survey, and it was clear that education is the No. 1 problem facing our community. All of us need



**BAKER MUNICIPAL CENTER** includes City Hall, the auditorium, and City Park next door. Baker has two public golf courses.



## Mayor Rideau Emphasizing Workforce Training: "We Need Trained Workers to Attract Industry!"

to come together and address this problem."

Rideau said he has been working hard to attract businesses and industries to locate in Baker. "But, ultimately, we have to be able to offer a trained workforce. They can't come here, if we can't provide the people to fill the jobs."

As a result, Rideau is signing a Memorandum of Understanding with Baton Rouge Community College to begin a workforce training program in Baker as soon as this summer. He is hoping to renovate an old fire station as the training site. Courses could include

- Millwrights
- Machinists

- Electricians
- Welders
- Heavy equipment operators

BRCC is about to begin a training program for city employees in sewer and water system certification. "Our state is far short of certified people in this important field," he said.

City Council member Joyce

E.L. Rabel, DDS R. Brett Rabel, DDS Michael N. Rabel, DDS

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# Baker's Low Crime Rate Makes City A Great Place to Retire, Own a Home



**NEIGHBORHOODS** — Baker has many attractive neighborhoods with home prices substantially below Baton Rouge. The Baker Library (right) is modern and well-stocked.

Burges has taken a leadership role in building up the attitude of Baker's residents toward their city.

"This is a Christian community, and we have so much to look forward to. We must not be apathetic. We don't want to be a dying community. We want to be a thriving community." Burges praises the Baker Police Department and Fire Department. "They are doing a wonderful job, and we can truly be proud of them. They are Baker's finest," she said. The police department is headed by Chief Snapper Knaps. The fire department is



Council's Joyce Burges

led by Chief Danny Edwards. Burges also had praise for the City Court led by Judge Kirk Williams.

Burges said Baker's churches provide tremendous spiritual leadership.

Churches in Baker include Bethany World Prayer Center, Miracle Place, St. Isidore Catholic Church, First Baptist, Life Redeeming Fellowship, New Covenant, Harding Street Church, and others.

Burges said there is a simple formula for Baker to fulfill its potential. "I call it the ARC — Attract,

Renew, and Create."

"Cities like Baton Rouge and Baker could allow themselves to become a ghetto, but we are not going to let that happen. We will pull together. We have to!"

Burges said the future of Baker is about the children and their education. Baker has five public schools and one private school. They are

- Baker Heights Elementary
- Bakerfield Elementary
- Park Ridge Academic Magnet
- Baker Middle
- Baker High

The private school is Bethany Christian School.

The Advocate is the official journal in Baker.

Bethany operates television station WLFT-TV in Baker. It broadcasts over the air on HD Channel 30 and on Ca-

ble Channel 117. The Mayor, Police Chief, Fire Chief, and Chamber of Commerce have weekly shows on WLFT-TV to communicate with the citizens of Baker. Dr. Lucas Fry is general manager.

The sanctuary at Bethany World Prayer is one of the largest and most beautiful in the Baton Rouge



Mayor Harold Rideau

area. It is used for many outside events, such as graduation ceremonies for area public schools.

The Buffalo Festival every September attracts thousands of visitors, as does the Baker Christmas Parade.

Baker's Heritage Museum, located at 1606 Main Street, offers a look into the history of Baker and the Baton Rouge area in the 1800's. The museum and the miniature village are ideal for tourists and school field trips.

Baker has many attractive neighborhoods and offers security

for homeowners. It is a walking community and has a reputation as a great place for retirees. The parks and golf courses are attractive and popular.

The Baton Rouge Zoo is located just outside the city limits of Baker. It is a great place for kids and adults to visit.

Council member Burges says she wants Baker to grow. "When you come to Baker, you find a lot of love," she said.

If Mayor Rideau has his way, there will also be a trained workforce and a lot more jobs.

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# What's Happening Around the Capital City

**BATON ROUGE** — Events coming up in and around the capital city:

**Thursday, May 2  
National Day of Prayer  
6:30 to 7:30 p.m.**

Central residents will gather to observe the 62st Annual National Day of Prayer in the parking lot at Central Middle School, corner of Hooper and Sullivan. Sponsored by Central Area Pastors Association. For information, visit [www.nationaldayofprayer.org](http://www.nationaldayofprayer.org).

**Thursday, May 2  
Rock of Ages • 7:30 p.m.**

"Rock of Ages," a hilarious, feel-good love story told through the hit songs of iconic rockers Journey, Styx, REO Speedwagon, and many more will play the Baton Rouge River Center. Tickets are on sale at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com), 800-745-3000, all Ticketmaster outlets, and the Baton Rouge River Center Ticket Office.

**Friday, May 3  
St. Alphonsus Appreciation  
Crawfish Boil • 6:30 p.m.**

Inviting all adults who are involved in the life of St. Alphonsus parish in all the different organizations, committees, councils, boards, and ministries. Join Fr. Mike and the parish staff as we say thank you to the many generous people who have worked together in making St. Alphonsus the wonderful parish that it is! Childcare will be provided.

**May 3 and 4  
Greenwell Springs Youth Riders  
55th Annual Pro-Rodeo • 8 p.m.**

The Greenwell Springs Youth Riders' 55th Annual Pro-Rodeo will be held at the BREC Shady Park Arena off Greenwell Springs Road. Admission is \$10 for adults, \$5 for children school age, and children under 5 free. Visit [www.gsyw.com](http://www.gsyw.com).

**Saturday, May 4  
Crawfish Boil Fundraiser  
3 to 5:30 p.m.**

The LSU Performing Arts Academy, the community programs division of the LSU College of Music & Dramatic Arts, will host a crawfish



**GUN SAFETY TRAINING** — Carol Thomas, owner of TigerBucks, has announced that the Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge is offering another Gun Safety Training program. The event, chaired by former Sheriff Greg Phares, will be held from 8 a.m. to 12 noon on Saturday, May 18 at the Baker Range. Instruction is free. The range fee is \$15 and students must supply their own bullets. To register, send email to [ChamberEBR@hotmail.com](mailto:ChamberEBR@hotmail.com)

boil fundraiser to support scholarships and programs to help children take music lessons and performing arts classes at LSU. The festivities will take place under the oaks in front of the LSU Music & Dramatic Arts Building on Dalrymple Drive. Tickets are \$50 for adults and \$10 for those ages 17 and under. For information, visit [www.paa.lsu.edu](http://www.paa.lsu.edu).

**Saturday, May 4  
Fundraiser for Coach JR  
5 to 6:30 p.m.**

A MISter Gridiron Beauty Pageant fundraiser will be held for Coach JR Owens. Proceeds go to help JR to attend Project Walk, a spinal cord rehab facility in California. Tickets are \$10, which includes a pulled pork dinner. Tickets can be bought at Central



**TROOP 322 RECOGNIZES SCOUTS** — Troop 322 Boy Scouts of America recognized its scouts during Court of Honor held April 21. Scoutmaster William Shane Johnson greeted parents, guests, and Scouts. Victor Johnson and Connor Burns gave out 56 merit badges earned this year. Devon Brumfield and Hayden Johnson helped with the presentation of the badges. Receiving Rank Advancements were Caleb Barrett, Wyatt Dartz, Ross Guidry, Jacob Johnson, Joseph Scarbrough, and Nicholas Schmitt. Johnathan Ryder and Edward Scarbrough received Second Class Scouts. Connor Burns, Jonah Faulk, Caleb Johnson, and Victor Johnson received Life Scout Advancements. Shown are (left to right) Joseph Scarbrough, Jacob Johnson, Nicholas Schmitt, Wyatt Dartz, and William Johnson.

High through Matthew Edwards and at Central Oaks Dental Care through Debbie Prudhome. Call Matthew at 281-6702 or Debbie at 262-4150.

**May 4 and 5  
"Ready? Or Not?"**

Bethany Baptist Youth will present "Ready? Or Not?" Saturday, May 4 at 6 p.m. and Sunday, May 5 at 10:30 a.m. Bethany Baptist Church is located at 40963 Greenwell Springs Road, Baywood. For information, call 572-8778 or 572-8790.

**Sunday, May 5  
Spring Tea • 2 to 4 p.m.**

The Beacon House Adoption Services' annual Growing Families Spring Tea will be held at Highland Porch, 145 Ben Hur Rd. The tea will feature live music, gardening

tips by horticulturist Brook Webber of The Parish Group, LLC, and keynote speech by Scott Rogers of "The Around Town Show." Tickets are \$25. For information, contact Lauren Lambert at 753-5551.

**Sunday, May 5  
"Florals and Landscapes"**

The Art League of Central will hold its Spring Exhibit at the Central Branch Library on Joor Road throughout the month of May. The opening reception on Sunday, May 5 from 3 to 5 p.m.

**Wednesday, May 8  
Skin Cancer Screening  
1 to 3 p.m.**

A free skin cancer screening sponsored by Lane Regional Medical See **THINGS** on Page 13

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# Things to Do, Places to Go, People to See

Continued from Page 12

Center and Advanced Dermatology will be held at the office of Dr. Laurie Harrington, 20474 Old Scenic Hwy. Registration is required and space is limited. For information or to register, call 654-5263.

**May 9 and 10**

## Dear Edwina Junior, A Musical

Central Community Talented Music and Theatre presents "Dear Edwina Junior, A Musical" Thursday, May 9 at 7 p.m. and Friday, May 10 at 9:30 a.m. and 6 p.m. in the Central High Theatre. Tickets are \$5 for students and \$10 for adults. Tickets are available at Central Middle School or at the door.

**Friday, May 10  
Open House**

**7 to 9 a.m. & 4 to 6 p.m.**

Lane Outpatient Therapy Center, 4801 McHugh Rd., Ste. A, is hosting an Open House. There will be free speech screenings for children ages 3 to 12 and adults who are having difficulties communicating. For information, call 658-4578.

**Saturday, May 11**

## Meet Your Neighbor Day

A Meet Your Neighbor Day will be held at Howell Park. Area residents are invited to come out and enjoy a fun-filled day, including bar-b-que cook-off competition. This event will include a health fair, free food, face painting, educational seminars, prizes, giveaways, and games!

**Saturday, May 11**

## Symphony Pops • 6 p.m.

The V-Tones join assistant conductor David Torn and the Baton Rouge Symphony Orchestra for an evening of music under the stars on the beautiful grounds of the LSU Rural Life Museum for Symphony Pops. Gates open at 6 p.m. and the concert begins at 7:30 p.m. Food and beverage options will be available through on-site catering. Picnic food and beverages can be brought in. Alcohol is not allowed to be brought on property but will be available for sale. Tickets can be purchased via [www.brso.org](http://www.brso.org) or by calling 383-0500.

**May 11, 15 and 18**

## Paddle Up 1 Session

BREC will hold its Summer Paddle Up Program to teach techniques of kayaking. Paddle Up 1 session will be held at Liberty Lagoon Wa-



Photo by Woody Jenkins

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY HILLAR MOORE** held a Family Fun Day at Dixie Landing Park. Moore faces reelection next year.

ter Park, 111 Lobdell Ave. on May 11 and 18 at 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. and 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. and at Blackwater Conservation Area, 9385 Blackwater Road on May 15 at 5:30 and 6:30 p.m. For information, call 272-9200 or email [outdooradventure@brec.org](mailto:outdooradventure@brec.org).

**Saturday, May 11**

## Zoar Car & Bike Show • 8 a.m.

Zoar Baptist Church, corner of Joor and Hooper, will host its 11th Anniversary Car & Bike Show. The show is open to all classes. Vehicle pre-registration discount \$15 (includes lunch), vehicle registration fee day of car show \$20 (includes lunch). Awards will be at 1 p.m. Free admission. Free food and door prizes. For information, call 261-3434.

**Saturday, May 11**

## Plant Sale • 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A Plant Sale to benefit the American Cancer Society will be held at 15424 Beau Bois Dr. in Central. All proceeds will go to American Cancer Society.

**Saturday, May 11**

## LATAN's 5k Run • 8 a.m.

Everyone is invited to Louisiana Assistive Technology Access Network's 5K Walk/Run/Roll. Race will start on North Blvd. This will be a chip timed race. Wheelchair racers are invited. Register on-line at [www.latan.org](http://www.latan.org).

**Saturday, May 11**

## Baton Rouge Lions Expo 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A total of 18 Lions Clubs from throughout the Baton Rouge area will hold an exhibition for the general public to learn more about Lions. The event at the BREC headquarters on Florida Blvd. will include exhibits and free jambalaya. Bill Simon of EBR Lions and Deborah Todd of Downtown Lions encourage you to attend. You may be a future member of the Lions Club yourself!

**Thursday, May 16**

## LSU Spring Commencement 2 p.m.

Cokie Roberts, a political commentator for ABC News, will deliver the keynote address at LSU's 280th spring commencement exercises, which will be held in the Pete Maravich Assembly Center. Individual diploma ceremonies for each college will be held May 16 and 17. Visit [lsu.edu/commencement](http://lsu.edu/commencement) for the times and locations.

**Saturday, May 25**

## Plant Sale • 8 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The Central Bloomers Garden Club will hold a plant sale at 16524 Quiet Oaks Ave., Greenwell Springs.

**May 25 and 26**

## Hurricane Preparedness Sales Tax Holiday

Louisiana residents can save money on flashlights, batteries, generators, and other emergency supplies during the Sales Tax Holiday. Hurricane season begins Saturday, June 1.

**Sunday, May 26**

## 1966 Mustang Raffle

Raffle tickets are on sale now for a 1966 Mustang. Drawing will be held

at St. Isidore Church. Tickets are \$10 and all proceeds benefit St. Isidore Church. Tickets can be purchased in the church office or you can mail a check to St. Isidore Catholic Church to Blackwater Mustang LLC, 12318 Blackwater Road, Baker, LA 70714.

## May 28 through 30 Wildcat Baseball Camp 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Coach Mike Forbes and Central High School will host a Baseball Camp. Cost is \$100. For information, contact Mike Forbes at [mikeforbes21@yahoo.com](mailto:mikeforbes21@yahoo.com).

## June 3 through 6 Central Basketball Youth Camp 9 a.m. to 12 noon

The camp will teach young basketball players the basic skills and assist young players in improving already learned skills. The camp is offered to boys between the ages of 7-13 and is broken into two groups, SEC for younger athletes and the NBA for the older athletes. Campers will be instructed by Central High basketball staff and current players. Contact Coach Ron Lewis at [rlewis@centralless.org](mailto:rlewis@centralless.org) or 261-2780.



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**ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT** — First Baptist Church of Central is seeking a church administrative assistant. Experience preferred. Email your resumé and any questions to [amyreeves@cox.net](mailto:amyreeves@cox.net) and/or fax resumé to 225-261-6500. 05/02/13

**CAREGIVER NEEDED** for an elderly man in Central area. Two to three days a week, five hours a day. Job duties include: cooking, light laundry and ironing, light housekeeping, and driving elder to grocery. Send resumé and references to [5561summer@gmail.com](mailto:5561summer@gmail.com) or P.O. Box 53433, Lafayette, LA 70505. 05/30/13

**HOUSE CLEANING AND/OR SITTING WORK** — references on request. 225-335-0073. 05/02/13

**MOVING SALE** — 15725 El Ranchitos Ave., off Denham Road, May 3 and 4. 05/02/13

**NAME YOUR PRICE** on this gorgeous, large four bedroom home in Central. Text 225-270-2622 for information on this incredible opportunity! 05/02/13

**VACATION RENTAL** — Vacation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast. Beautiful condo two bedroom, 2-1/2 bath, balcony with ocean view, furnished. Weekend, weekly, monthly rates. 225-938-8601 or 225-324-0973. 10/10/13



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# Emily Simmers' Silver Lining

**Woody Jenkins**  
Editor, Central City News

**BATON ROUGE** — Around 6:30 a.m. on Monday, Nov. 28, 2011, Mary Simmers dropped her son off at Central High School and pulled onto Wax Road. In the fog, she didn't see the pickup truck until it slammed into her vehicle.

Her 10-year-old daughter Emily sat in her seat belt in the backseat, waiting to be dropped off at Central Intermediate School.

When son Ethan heard the crash, he ran to the car. Mary's only concern was for Emily, who was slumped over in the backseat.

When EMS arrived, they did chest compressions and rushed her to Lane Regional in Zachary. Then she was airlifted to Our Lady of the Lake in Baton Rouge.

But Emily had no brain activity. She was kept on life support until all hope was gone.

That left a grieving family and a community in shock that another one of its young people had died on Central's narrow roads. Central, which has grown rapidly, has roads that were built for another time. Roads without shoulders. Roads with deep drop-offs and no room for driver error.

But the tragedy of Nov. 28, 2011, isn't the end of the story, because there is a silver lining.

Recently, three people gathered



**SILVER LINING** — 10-year-old Emily Simmers (left). At right, (1st row) Whitney Bishop, who received Emily's heart. (2nd row) Paul Richard, who received a kidney, and Sprite Kiger, who received her liver. (3rd row) Scott Simmers, Ethan Simmers, and Mary.

at Our Lady of the Lake Hospital to celebrate Emily's life and to thank her for saving theirs.

Each one of them received an organ donated by Emily Simmers.

Present were Paul Richard, who received a kidney, Sprite Kiger, who received her liver, and little Whitney Bishop, who received Emily's heart.

Not present were Jamal Journee, who received a kidney, and Monica Rios, who received the pancreas.

Emily's mother, father, and brother were there to meet the recipients.

Mary said, "I lost Emily, but I now have more children and grandchildren. Because of my Emily and donation, these people are able to

live!"

Lori Steele of Louisiana's Organ Procurement Agency said the goal of bringing the Simmers family together with the recipients was to spread awareness of the difference organ donations can make.

For more information on donating organs, go to [www.lopa.org](http://www.lopa.org) or call 800-521-4483.

# Central High Welders Take 1st in Competition

**BATON ROUGE** — The Central High School welding team won 1st place at the Associated Builders & Contractors (ABC) Craft Competition on April 11.

The welding team competed against 21 other schools and 64 individual competitors. Each welder was required to weld a vertical and overhead open butt v-groove.

In addition to taking a written test, each weld had to be tested by x-ray. Fifteen welders advanced to x-ray and seven passed, three of whom were Central High welders.

Michael Yarbrough took 1st place in individual and team competition out of 64 competitors. He is certified in plate, pipe, and TIG welding.

He is a first year competitor and a junior at Central High. He won a \$150 welding hood, \$100 Bass



**CENTRAL HIGH WELDING TEAM** — The CHS Welding team won 1st place in the ABC Craft Competition. Shown are (left to right) Michael Yarbrough, teacher Roger Ball, Logan Burton, and Andrew Breau.

Pro gift card, \$75 American Express card, and \$50 Academy gift card. He also won welding gloves, glasses, grinder, shirts, and hats.

Logan Burton took 1st place in team competition. He is certified in plate and pipe welding, and is working on TIG.

He is a second year competitor and a junior at Central. He was on the 1st place team last year. He was first out of 21 schools. He won welding gloves, glasses, and hats.

Andrew Breau took 1st place in team competition. He is certified in plate, pipe, and TIG welding.

He is a second year competitor and a senior at Central High. Andrew was on the 1st place team and 2nd place individual last year. He was first out of 21 schools. He won welding gloves, glasses, and hats.

There is a high demand for welders in South Louisiana.

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# Milestones

Births • Engagements • Weddings • Deaths  
Anniversaries • Reunions

## PALMER, FOWLKES

Krista Palmer and Matthew Fowlkes will exchange vows May 18 at Grace UPC in Central.

## MILESTONES

Send milestones to [centralcitynews@hotmail.com](mailto:centralcitynews@hotmail.com) or mail to 910 N. Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806.



Jonathan Metz and Alexis Blackwell

## Jonathan Metz, Alexis Blackwell to Marry June 8 at Desert Plantation

**WOODVILLE, MISS.** — Jonathan D. Metz of Central and Alexis M. Blackwell of Baker are proud to announce their engagement and upcoming wedding.

The wedding will be Saturday, June 8, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. at Desert Plantation, just past St. Francisville in Woodville, Miss., with dinner and dancing to follow.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Lynn and Tammy Blackwell of Baker. Alexis is a graduate of Bethany Christian School and will

graduate May 16 from Louisiana State University School of Dentistry with a bachelor of science degree as a registered dental hygienist.

Her fiancé is the son of Richard and Jackay Metz of Central. Jonathan is a graduate of Bethany Christian School and Louisiana State University with a bachelor of science degree in construction management. He is employed by ISC Constructors of Baton Rouge as a project coordinator.

## McKenzie McNeal and Brad Manuel Exchange Vows April 13 at White Oak

**BATON ROUGE** — McKenzie Brooke McNeal and Brad Allen Manuel were married April 13, 2013, at 6:30 p.m. at White Oak Plantation. The ceremony was officiated by Pastor Terry Workman of Victory Harvest Church.

The bride is the daughter of Stephen and Gwendolyn McNeal of Pell City, Ala.

The bride was attended by maid of honor and sister, Melanie McNeal. Bridesmaids were sister-in-law, Jessica Alvarez-McNeal; Ester Ellis; Erin Spangler, and Cecilia Jones.

The groom is the son of Ronald and Darlene Geddes of Baton Rouge.

The groom was attended by his cousin, Brett Manuel and friends, Charlie Cambre, John Shirley, Justin Cox, and Lance Craft. His brother, Brandon Manuel, was his best man.

The couple honeymooned in



Mr. and Mrs. Brad Manuel

Negril, Jamaica, before returning to Prairieville, where they plan to reside.

## Lauren McKenzie, Benjamin Sagona Will Be Married June 1 at Oak Lodge

**BATON ROUGE** — Lauren Ashley McKenzie of Central and Benjamin Paul Sagona of Baton Rouge will marry in a 7 p.m. ceremony Saturday, June 1, 2013, at Oak Lodge in Baton Rouge.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Mark and Shelia McKenzie of Central. She is the granddaughter of the late Otis and Versie Sharp of Central and Lois McKenzie and the late Derrel McKenzie of Homer.

Lauren is a graduate of Central High School and Louisiana State University.

Her fiancé is the son of Paul and Charmagne Sagona of Central. He is the grandson of Frederic and the late Catherine Copponex of Baton Rouge and Rooney Sagona and the late Sam Sagona of Baton Rouge.

Benjamin is a graduate of Tara High School.



Benjamin Sagona and Lauren McKenzie

## Krista Palmer, Dr. Matthew Fowlkes To Exchange Wedding Vow May 18

**CENTRAL** — Krista R. Palmer of Central and Dr. Matthew W. Fowlkes will marry Saturday, May 18, 2013, in a 6 p.m. ceremony at Grace UPC in Central.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Chuck and Chawan Palmer of Central. She is the granddaughter of Patsy Palmer of Central and the late W.C. Palmer and the late James and Alma Bryan of Bogalusa.

Krista is a graduate of Central Private School and Our Lady of the Lake College with a bachelor of science in nursing. She is employed by Oschner Medical Center of New Orleans working in the operating room department.

Her fiancé is the son of Wayne and Carolyn Fowlkes of Amory, Miss. He is the grandson of the late Ray and Lois Fowlkes of Amory, Miss. and the late Evans and Elaine McGhee of Aberdeen, Miss.

Matthew is a graduate of Amory High School. He graduated with a B.S. in biochemistry from Mississippi State University. He received a doctorate of dental medicine from the University of Mississippi Medical Center in Jackson, Miss. before receiving his doctorate of medicine from the Louisiana State



Krista Palmer and Dr. Matthew Fowlkes

University Health Sciences Center in New Orleans. He is finishing a residency in oral and maxillofacial surgery at LSU in New Orleans.

Immediately following the ceremony, a reception will be held at Stage One Wedding and Reception Hall in Baton Rouge.

The couple will honeymoon in St. Lucia and will reside in New Orleans.

## Class Reunions

### Saturday, June 15 Bellingrath Reunion 4 to 8 p.m.

There will be a Bellingrath Reunion at the new Middle School cafeteria. It will be for faculty, staff, students, parents, and grandparents who were involved with Bellingrath from 1966 to 2000. Only adults are invited. Go to [www.Bellingrathreunion.webs.com](http://www.Bellingrathreunion.webs.com) to register and get more information. If you are inter-

ested in helping with the reunion, there will be a meeting at Berean Ministries Sunday, April 7 at 2 p.m.

### Saturday, August 17 Istrouma Class of '73 Reunion

Istrouma High Class of '73 will have a reunion at Kristenwood, 14025 Greenwell Springs. Contact Rhona C. Watson, 654-7716 or [rcw51055@aol.com](mailto:rcw51055@aol.com) or Debbie or Danny Wellman, 261-8358 or [dwell96@bellsouth.net](mailto:dwell96@bellsouth.net).

## Births

### Scarlet Isabella Overhultz

Jacob and Russchelle (McLin) Overhultz of Denham Springs are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Scarlet Isabella. She was welcomed home by big brother, Jackson Cash.

Scarlet was born Feb. 11, 2013, at Woman's Hospital. She weighed six pounds, six ounces, and was 19.5 inches long.

Proud grandparents are Gerry and Robin Overhultz of Baker, Russell McLin of Denham Springs. Great-grandparents are Mary Lewis of Ethel and Kathryn Harkum of Baton Rouge.



# Central High Launches Spring Training

Photos by Woody Jenkins



Wildcat head coach Sid Edwards



Spring training began Monday. Central has won five straight District 4-5A titles.



First day's practice was at full throttle.



Wildcat coach J. R. Owens (left) talks with Ashton Stokes.



Quarterback Tyler Sansone



At the end of a hard day's practice. 110 are out for football.

# Capital City Graduation Guide

Thursday, May 16, 2013

Catholic High • St. Joseph • Parkview • Episcopal  
Baton Rouge High • Christian Life • Hosanna  
Dunham School • University High • St. Michael's  
Redemptorist • Boadmoor • Tara • Woodlawn  
McKinley • Central High • Central Private

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1/4 Page (if purchased separately)	400
1/4 Page (with purchase of Quarter Package)	287
1/8 Page	212

Deadline: 5 p.m. Monday, May 13, 2013

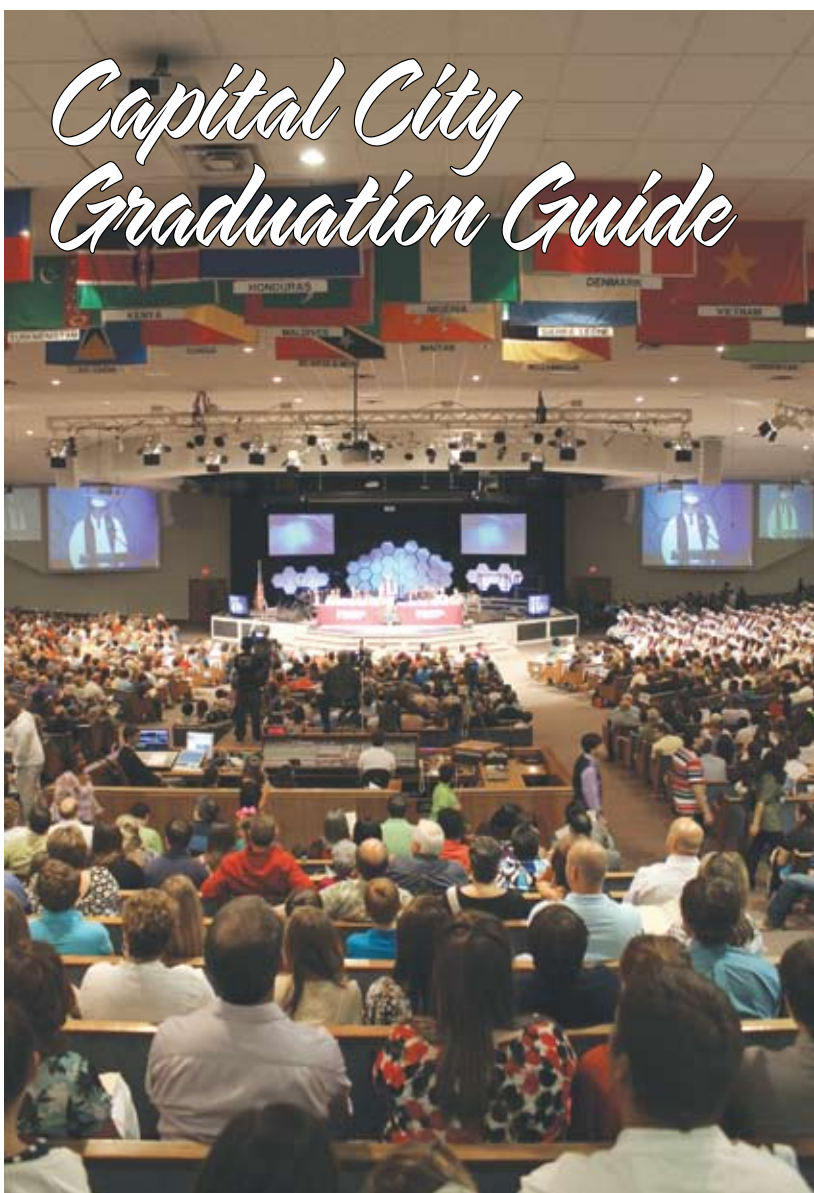
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**Southeast Baton Rouge School District**

# Senate to Vote Tuesday

**Fiscal Office Says EBR Would Gain \$255 per Student Per Year from MFP**

**BATON ROUGE** — The Legislative Fiscal Office this week issued a fiscal note for SB199 by Sen. Bodi White, which would create the Southeast Baton Rouge Community School District. Here are some of the conclusions:

- While the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board would lose \$19 million in state general funds, it would actually receive \$255 per student more than it currently receives.

- The new school district would have revenue of \$20 million in MFP funds and \$52 to \$56 million in local revenue. Enrollment was estimated at 6,800.

- The fiscal note says the new school district would be responsible for its share of legacy costs and on-going construction costs.

- The two school systems may have to reallocate students assigned to middle and high schools.



Photo by Stacy Hudson

**SENATE COMMITTEE** — Preparing to testify in support of the Southeast Baton Rouge school district were Sherri Morris, Norman Browning, and Joshua Hoffpauir.

**Senate Passage Likely; Real Fight Looms in House**

**BATON ROUGE** — Bills to create the new Southeast Baton Rouge Community School District cleared two Senate committees this week and are now pending on the floor of the State Senate.

Sen. Bodi White (R-Central), the lead author, said the bills could come up as soon as Tuesday. SB199, a constitutional amendment, would take 26 votes, a 2/3rds majority in the Senate, but passage there seems likely.

Last year, the legislation fell four votes short of the 70 votes needed in the House, and the House is again where opponents plan to make their stand. If approved in the House, the constitutional amendment would go to the electorate for a statewide vote next year.

On Wednesday, Norman Browning, president of Local Schools for Local Children, criticized the East Baton Rouge School Board for spending \$70,000 to hire two lobbyists to fight White's bills.

# Former Gov. Edwards Returns to Capitol

**Edwin Edwards Attends Reunion Of La. Senators**

**BATON ROUGE** — Former members of the Louisiana House and Senate returned to the State Capitol Wednesday afternoon for the annual Legislators' Reunion.

Former Gov. Edwin Edwards, who was elected to State Senate in 1965, was the oldest attendee in point of service. The former governor addressed the Senate briefly.

Other well-known officials in attendance included Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne, a former senator; retired Judge Jim Dimos, former speaker of the House; former Congressman Charles Melancon, a former representative; District Attorney Charles Riddle of Avoyelles, a former representative; and Agriculture Commissioner Mike Strain, a former representative. For the event, old rivalries and disputes were set aside, and the former legislators reminisced about old times.

See photos on pages 8-9.



Photo by Woody Jenkins

**FORMER GOV. EDWIN EDWARDS** and his wife Trina in the Louisiana Senate Wednesday. Edwards attended the annual reunion of state senators. Photos on pages 8-9.

**People Gather To Thank Girl Who Saved Their Lives**

**CENTRAL** — On Nov. 30, 2011, 10-year-old Emily Simmers died as a result of a tragic traffic accident that occurred in front of Central High School.

It is said that out of even the worst tragedy, some good will occur. That proved true recently when people gathered at Our Lady of the Lake Hospital to honor Emily. Each of one of them received an organ from Emily that saved his life.



Emily Simmers

See EMILY on Page 14

# Former State Legislators Gather at



Sen. Greg Tarver, former Sens. Don Hines and Larry Bankston, former Rep. Charles Melancon, and Sen. Rick Gallo



Louisiana House Chamber



Former Rep. Pete Schneider



Former New Orleans Reps. Jackie Clarkson and Garey Forster



Former Sen. Mike Michot of Lafayette

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Former Reps. Juba Diez and Bobby Fauchaux



Former Reps. Roy Quezada and another legislator

**Louisiana Legislature  
Old Timers Reunion**  
Former House and Senate Members gathered at the State Capitol Wednesday For more photos, go to "Louisiana Legislature - Old-Timers" on Facebook.com



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# State Capitol for Old-Timers Day



er Wednesday afternoon



Former Sen. Dan Richey, Gov. and Mrs. Edwin Edwards, former Rep. Woody Jenkins



Sen. Francis Thompson



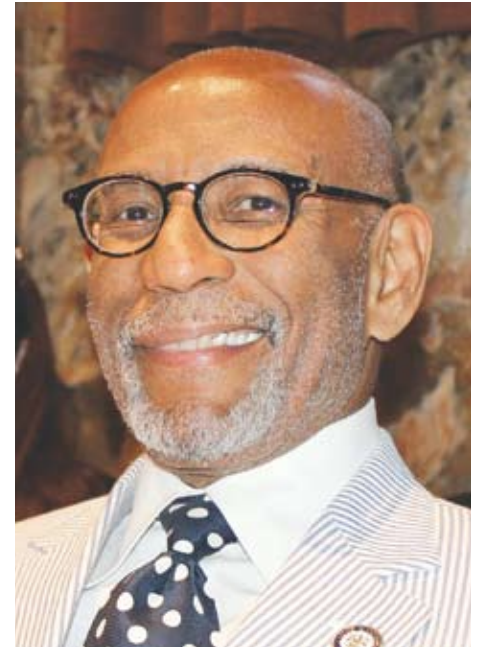
and current Sen. Neil Riser of Columbia



Mayor and former Rep. Kip Holden



Assessor and former Rep. Mert Smiley



Sen. and former Rep. Elbert Guillory



zaire and Wilfred Pierre



Ex-Sgt.-at-Arms Rudy Boudoin and Speaker Pro-Tem Kenny Leithman



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# EBR Women Republicans' 60th Anniversary

Photos by Jolice Provost



**EBRP REPUBLICAN BOARD MEMBERS** — (1st row, left to right) Peggy Vidrine, President; Jeannene Kogler, Past President; Carol Thomas, Hospitality Chair; Lou Pentecost, Senior Advisor, and Pat McLaury, Vice President and (2nd row) Terry Hagan, Treasurer; Luisa Hart, Membership Chair, and Cheryl Hall, Armed Forces Chair. (Right photo) Dwight and Stacy Hudson, Elizabeth Dent, Councilman Buddy Amorosa, and club president Peggy Vidrine.



**PAST PRESIDENTS** — (left to right) Sasha Tessier, Janiece Ferguson, Pat Templeton, Libby Doran, Joyce LaCour, Jeannene Kogler, Toni Higginbotham, and Pat McLaury. Sen. Dan Claitor, Secretary of State Tom Schedler, Lt. Governor Jay Dardenne, Louisiana Attorney General Buddy Caldwell, vocalist Kenneth Nelson, Louisiana State Troubadour Jay Chevalier, Clerk of Court Doug Welborn, Lonnie Garnier, Sen. Bodi White, Agriculture Commissioner and Dr. Mike Strain.

## Gala at Governor's Mansion Honors GOP Ladies' Service Since 1953

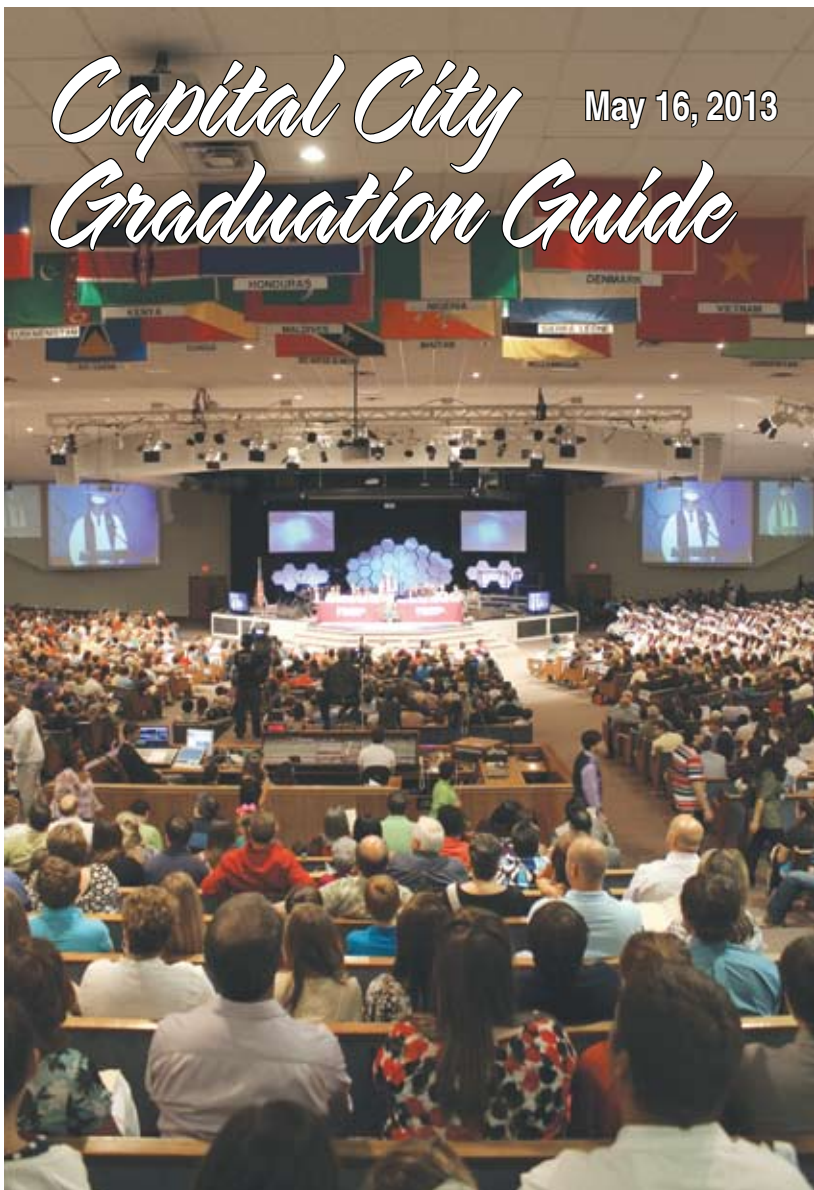
**BATON ROUGE** — The East Baton Rouge Parish Republican Women's Club has honored with a Gala at the Louisiana Governor's Man-

sion last Wednesday evening. The club began in 1953 when Republicans were rare in Louisiana. Today, the party includes all

of Louisiana's statewide elected officials. Secretary of State Tom Schedler served as emcee of the event, which recognized past pres-

idents of the club and local and state elected officials. Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne hosted the program, "A Whole Lot of History Going On!"

# Capital City Graduation Guide



Thursday, May 16, 2013

Catholic High • St. Joseph • Parkview • Episcopal  
Baton Rouge High • Christian Life • Hosanna  
Dunham School • University High • St. Michael's  
Redemptorist • Boadmoor • Tara • Woodlawn  
McKinley • Central High • Central Private

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