

BRCC Plans Helicopter Maintenance Training At Hooper Rd Campus
 See Story on Page 1



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Existing Taxes Would Fund New Construction

Bond Election Nov. 16



Photo by Woody Jenkins

CENTRAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL BOARD president Dr. Jim Gardner (left) with vice president Will Easley, coach Brandon Lo-Groue, and school board member Jim Lloyd. The school board has called a bond election for Nov. 16 for school improvements.

Voters Will Be Asked to Okay \$13 Million in Improvements

CENTRAL — The Central Community School Board has called a bond election for Saturday, Nov. 16, to ask voter approval for the issuance of \$13.1 million in bonds to finance school improvements.

No new taxes would be authorized. The funds would be used for the following projects:

- Construction of a new Ninth Grade Academy on the campus of Central High School
- Improvements to the parking lots at Central High School
- Installation of lighting at the Central High baseball and softball fields
- Removal of buildings no longer in use on the campus of the old Central Middle School

No funds would be authorized for renovations or new construction at the old middle school.

Under the plan, the existing 23.65 mill property tax would decline over the next 20 years.

Details of School Board Bond Issue on Nov. 16 Election Ballot

- Election to authorize issuance of \$13.1 million in new bonds with no tax increase
- Funds would build new Ninth Grade Academy, re-do parking lots, and install lighting at ballparks at Central High; also remove unnecessary buildings at old Central Middle School

Improvements Could Alter Traffic Flow in Central

Traffic Study Predicts Future Growth

Extension of Hooper Road Across Amite Major Option

CENTRAL — A consulting firm conducting a study of Central's future transportation needs gave the Central City Council a look at some of its work at Tuesday's City Council meeting.

Neel-Schaffer, a civil engineering firm with offices in Baton Rouge and nine Southern states, used Central's proposed Master Plan as the basis for explaining options for the future. Neel-Schaffer said it expects to complete Phase I of its study within the next three months.

The firm said Central's population could double by the year 2037

See **PLANNING** on Page 8



Photo by Woody Jenkins

NORTH BATON ROUGE REUNION — Frank and Elaine Lamb of Central were among 700 who attended the annual NBR Reunion July 11 at the Belle Atrium.

BRCC Plans Helicopter Training Here

CENTRAL — Monique Cross, vice chancellor for academic affairs at Baton Rouge Community College, said Tuesday the college will begin helicopter maintenance training classes at a facility on Hooper Road beginning in August.

Cross told the Central City Council it will be just the first of the training programs which will be coming to Central.

BRCC offers an associate degree in the Applied Science of Helicopter Pilot Operations.

Central city administrator David Barrow said there is only

See **BRCC** on Page 9



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KNIGHT OF THE YEAR
— Wayne Messina was named Knight of the Year by the Knights of Columbus. The award was presented by Grand Knight Vance Thomas.

Country Living in the City

Baton Rouge's Stagnant Population Growth Sends Warning: Don't Follow Path of Detroit

Creation of SE School District, New City Could Signal Turnabout

Woody Jenkins
Editor

It's not very popular and certainly not politically correct to talk about the problems in your own community. But if we aren't honest with ourselves, the consequences will be very grave indeed.



Woody Jenkins

Despite all the hoopla and Chamber of Commerce rhetoric, this parish and this city are so close to tipping over the edge and becoming another New Orleans or even Detroit that it's not even funny.

Families have been fleeing East Baton Rouge Parish and especially the City of Baton Rouge for 30 years now.

Fewer and fewer families with children live here.

Population growth in the City of Baton Rouge is nil, and population

Population City of Baton Rouge 30 years of No Population Growth

Year	Total
1960	152,419
1970	165,963
1980	219,419
1990	219,531
2000	227,818
2010	229,493

growth in East Baton Rouge is the worst it's been in 200 years.

Look at the population growth in East Baton Rouge Parish in the 1940's and 1950's. We averaged from 4.5 to 7.9 percent growth **annually!** It was a boom time, and new construction and jobs were everywhere.

But by the late 1970's, we had killed the goose that laid the golden egg. Good public schools with high academic standards and strong discipline in the classroom became a thing of the past. Growing crime

left citizens living in fear behind locked doors and barred windows.

Not integration but cross-town busing led to a mass exodus from public schools by most white families with children and an increasing number of black families.

As crime rates rose, people stopped going out so much, they didn't know their neighbors as much, and we began to lose the sense of community.

Today, Baton Rouge is a collection of people, mostly good people, who no longer know one another. The sense of community that we once shared is largely gone.

Now there is so much distrust and fear. Where I live, there is hardly a week that goes by that I don't hear gunshots. Sometimes it's multiple times during one night.

Meanwhile, our neighbors in Livingston and Ascension are now booming. Within East Baton Rouge Parish, Zachary and Central are booming. Where there are good public schools and low crime rates, there is growth, prosperity, and also something even more important — a sense of community.

Where there are good public schools, people send their children to public schools, and parents get to know each other. They have the sense that we're all in this together.

In Baton Rouge, our days are numbered. What is wrong here is epitomized by our failing parish public school system, which adamantly refuses to reform itself. What is wrong here is also epitomized by the CATS board and the recent CATS tax.

Urban socialism is taking hold. We saw where things are going in the election results in 2012, with Obama carrying East Baton Rouge Parish by over 10,000 votes. This was at the same time that Romney carried Louisiana in a landslide.

The greatest hope we have going in this parish right now is the citizen-led movement in Southeast Baton Rouge. Local Schools for Local Children, led by Norman Browning, is offering a large part of this parish the opportunity to start its own independent school district, just as Zachary and Central have successfully done. Now his group is also considering attempting to incorporate Southeast Baton Rouge as a city.

To me, this is the most encour-

Population Growth East Baton Rouge Parish — Boom to Bust — Last 30 years Worst Growth in 200 Years

Census	Population	Growth %
1810	1,468	N/A
1820	5,220	255.6%
1830	6,698	28.3%
1840	8,133	21.4%
1850	11,977	47.3%
1860	16,046	34.0%
1870	17,816	11.0%
1880	19,966	12.1%
1890	25,922	29.8%
1900	31,153	20.2%
1910	34,580	11.0%
1920	44,513	28.7%
1930	68,208	53.2%
1940	88,415	29.6%
1950	158,236	79.0%
1960	230,058	45.4%
1970	285,167	24.0%
1980	366,191	28.4%
1990	380,105	3.8%
2000	412,852	8.6%
2010	440,171	6.6%

aging thing happening in our parish. For 100,000 or more of our residents, it would mean a return to neighborhood schools and, in all likelihood, a strong bulwark against crime. The creation of the Southeast Baton Rouge School District and the incorporation of that new city would send a strong message that we've had enough and the tide has turned. That would be cause for great hope and optimism.



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Pushed Through Bill Which Gov. Jindal Vetoed

'Together Baton Rouge' Fought to Take Away BR Metro Council Oversight of CATS Board

Governor Was Condemned As Against Transit Reform

BATON ROUGE — On Monday, Together Baton Rouge held a news conference to express its lack of confidence in the current board of the Capital Area Transit System and called for the resignation of board chairman Isaiah Marshall.

But last year, Together Baton Rouge sponsored and lobbied hard for House Bill 865 by Rep. Regina Barrow of Baton Rouge. That legislation, which narrowly passed the House and Senate, would have removed the Metro Council's oversight over the CATS board and made it for all practical purposes an independent agency of state government. Under the legislation, Together Baton Rouge and groups closely associated with it would have had control of the board.

The bill passed the House 55-44 and passed the Senate 20-15, despite opposition from most of the legislative delegation from East Baton Rouge Parish. Voting FOR the bill were Reps. Regina Barrow, Dalton Honore, Ted James, and Pat Smith. Voting AGAINST were Reps. Franklin Foil, Hunter Greene, Kenny Havard, Valarie Hodges, Eric Ponti, and Clif Richardson.

In the Senate, those voting FOR the bill were Sen. Sharon Broome, and Yvonne Dorsey-Colomb. Voting AGAINST were Sens. Dan Claitor, Dale Erdey, and Bodi White.

After the bill passed both houses, Gov. Bobby Jindal vetoed the bill, and it did not become law.

During her arguments for HB



Photo by Woody Jenkins

865, Rep. Barrow said, "Give our citizens the opportunity to have a robust transit system."

During the debate, Rep. Ted James said both Mayor-President Kip Holden and his Republican opponent at the time, Mike Walker, supported the bill. Walker later issued a statement angrily denying James' claim.

Rep. Franklin Foil took the mike during the debate and said, "This is a public bus system supported by taxpayer dollars. I believe our council should have some oversight."

After Gov. Jindal vetoed the CATS bill, Rep. Pat Smith called

for the legislature to hold a veto session to override his action.

A TURTLE LOOKS AT STATE CAPITOL — A turtle from Capitol Lakes stole a glance at the Louisiana State Capitol as he scurried back to the lake. Last year, the legislature passed a bill sponsored by Together Baton Rouge to take away the Metro Council's oversight of the CATS board. Gov. Jindal vetoed the bill.

Rep. Barrow had asked the Metro Council to endorse the legislation but the council refused.

Members of Taxbusters of Baton Rouge and members of Republican Women's Clubs in Baton Rouge had urged Gov. Jindal to veto the bill.

CATS Tax Suit Now Pending in Court of Appeal

BATON ROUGE — A suit challenging the constitutionality of the CATS tax is now pending in the 1st Circuit Court of Appeal, and a decision is expected any day. Milton Graugnard challenged the 10.6 mill in the City of Baton Rouge in *Graugnard v. CATS*. The basis of the suit is violation of equal protection because people outside the City of Baton Rouge receive bus service, while only people in the city pay the tax. The Louisiana Supreme Court ruled against a similar tax in *Arkansas & Louisiana Railroad v. Goslin*.

The Court of Appeal will rule on whether the suit was filed timely. District Judge Todd Hernandez ruled that it was.

See Page 11.

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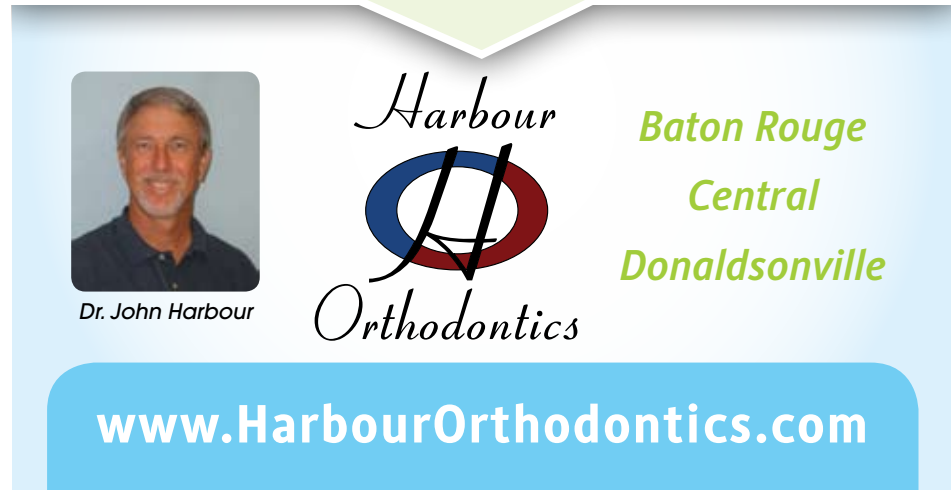


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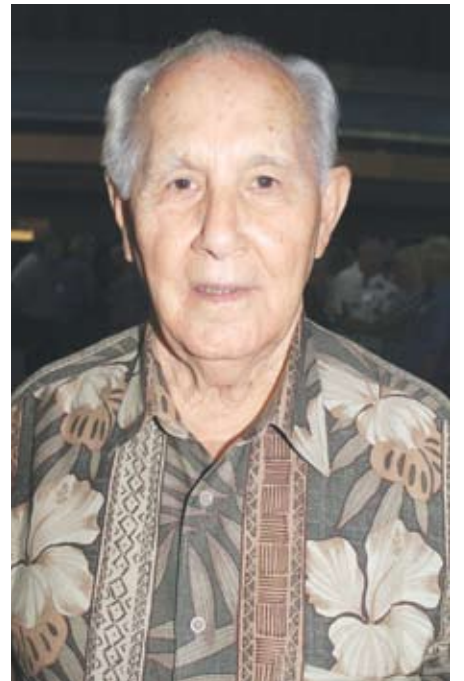
Annual North Baton Rouge Reunion



Frank Feduccia, Redemptorist 1951



NORTH BATON ROUGE REUNION organizers Jim Carruth, Wayne Price and Haskell Douglas



Bill Abadie, Istrouma 1943



Ann Borskey, Istrouma graduate



Peggy Binning, Pam Cox Causey, and Ruth Kelley Young of Istrouma



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North Baton Rouge Reunion
July 11, 2013 • Belle Atrium • Photos by Woody Jenkins

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Bobby Hudson (Central Class of 1958) and Wayne Messina (Istrouma 1964)



Michael and Carol Conerly Hopper (IHS 1963)



David and Valarie Taylor Calloway



Jim Bridges (Istrouma Class of 1965) and Red McCrary (Istrouma 1963)



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Some of the Central residents attending North Baton Rouge Reunion

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Students from Istrouma, Redemptorist,



JOHN WILLIAMS, Istrouma Class of 1944 (center) with Michael Quinn (Istrouma 1960) and Dr. Charles "Trey" Thomas of Southern Lab and the LSU Tiger football team. Note: That's a Coke!



NATIONAL YO-YO CHAMPION Jim Johnson displays his skills, just as he did during recess at Istrouma High School, as Danny Brown watches.



LINDA LANGLOIS, Istrouma Class of 1967, Roy Langlois, Redemptorist Class of 1968, Larry Amedee, Istrouma Class of 1967, and Joyce Major Amedee, Redemptorist Class of 1968.



ISTROUMA HIGH SCHOOL GRADS Layne Broussard, Donald Dickerson, and Raymond Fisher, all from the Class of 1959.



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CARROLL COTTON, Istrouma Class of 1958, with Woody Jenkins, Istrouma Class of 1965. They worked together in the advertising business in the 1970's. Cotton is retired.

Annual North Baton Rouge Reunion • July 11, 2013

BATON ROUGE — An annual reunion for students who attended Istrouma, Redemptorist, Glen Oaks, Baker, Zachary, Central, and other North Baton Rouge schools is held on the Thursday after the 4th of July each year at the Atrium of the Belle. Students from other areas of Baton Rouge are also welcome. Photos by Woody Jenkins

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Central, Other NBR Schools Met Again



BILL DRAGO of Catholic High with Janice Kincaid Laurent, and Lee Laurent of Istrouma



EMBARRASSINGLY YOUTHFUL — Connie and Richard Cockerham of the Istrouma Class of 1965 were the “those who changed the least” at the reunion.



FORMER ISTROUMA HIGH SCHOOL student athletes Charlie Rush and Benny Griffin with all-time Istrouma great Earl Barron!

Istrouma High Was Largest School in Louisiana

BATON ROUGE — During the 1950's and 1960's, Istrouma High School was the largest high school in Louisiana. Enrollment was about 1,900 students in the 10th, 11th, and 12th grades. It won nine state football championships. The principal was Ellis (Little Fuzzy) Brown. His twin brother, James (Big Fuzzy) Brown, was head football coach.

Eaker Award Presented to Civil Air Cadet

BATON ROUGE — Cadet Mary Palasi was presented the General Ira C. Eaker Award by Louisiana Wing Commander Col. Art Scarbrough at the recent meeting of the Capitol City Squadron.

Following the award presentation, squadron members held a reception in her honor. The Wing Commander said “Her service, dedication, and devotion to her duties were far above the best.”

“We are very proud of her and we will expect that she will be just as dedicated as a senior member in

the future.”

C/Lt Col Mary Palasi of Capitol City Composite Squadron has experienced many great moments as a participant in the cadet program, recording 20 achievements, having attended five encampments

in as many states, holding staff positions as logistics, public affairs, leadership, aerospace, and operations officer, as well as being flight commander and cadet commander.

To obtain this award she had to have a resilient attitude, use empa-

thy, show responsibility, actively develop and mentor cadet officers, set long-term goals for the unit, direct multiple teams and manage multiple tasks. Cadet Palasi will be going to the UK this year in an International Air Cadet Exchange.



GENERAL IRA C. EAKERS AWARD — C/Lt. Col. Mary Palasi received the Eaker Award from Louisiana Wing Commander Col. Art Scarbrough

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		'11 Toyota Corolla \$13,995	'12 Cadillac CTS \$26,995	'12 BMW 328i Sedan \$32,995	'11 GMC Sierra Crew \$27,995
		'09 Chevy C1500 \$14,995	'12 BMW 328i Sedan \$32,995	'13 Cadillac ATS \$32,995	'12 Chevy Suburban LT \$38,995
		'12 Mazda 3 \$14,995	'13 Cadillac ATS \$32,995	'13 GMC Yukon SLT \$37,995	'12 Ford Superduty 4WD \$39,995
		'12 Dodge Avenger \$14,995	'13 GMC Yukon SLT \$37,995		
		'12 Chevy Malibu LT \$15,995			
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Planning for Central's Road Needs

Firm Looks at How to Solve Road Demands Through 2037

Continued from Page 1

if everything were built out in accordance with the Master Plan, according to Central city administrator David Barrow.

The firm is making projections that would show the results on traffic patterns if no new road construction occurred and is making other projections based on various types of new construction that could occur.

Neel-Schaffer said it would have its Phase II report complete four months after completion of Phase I. The firm is also planning to write proposed street standards for the city, as well as standards for pedestrian walkways and bicycle paths.

The firm has already assembled a series of maps showing projected traffic counts based on its assumptions.

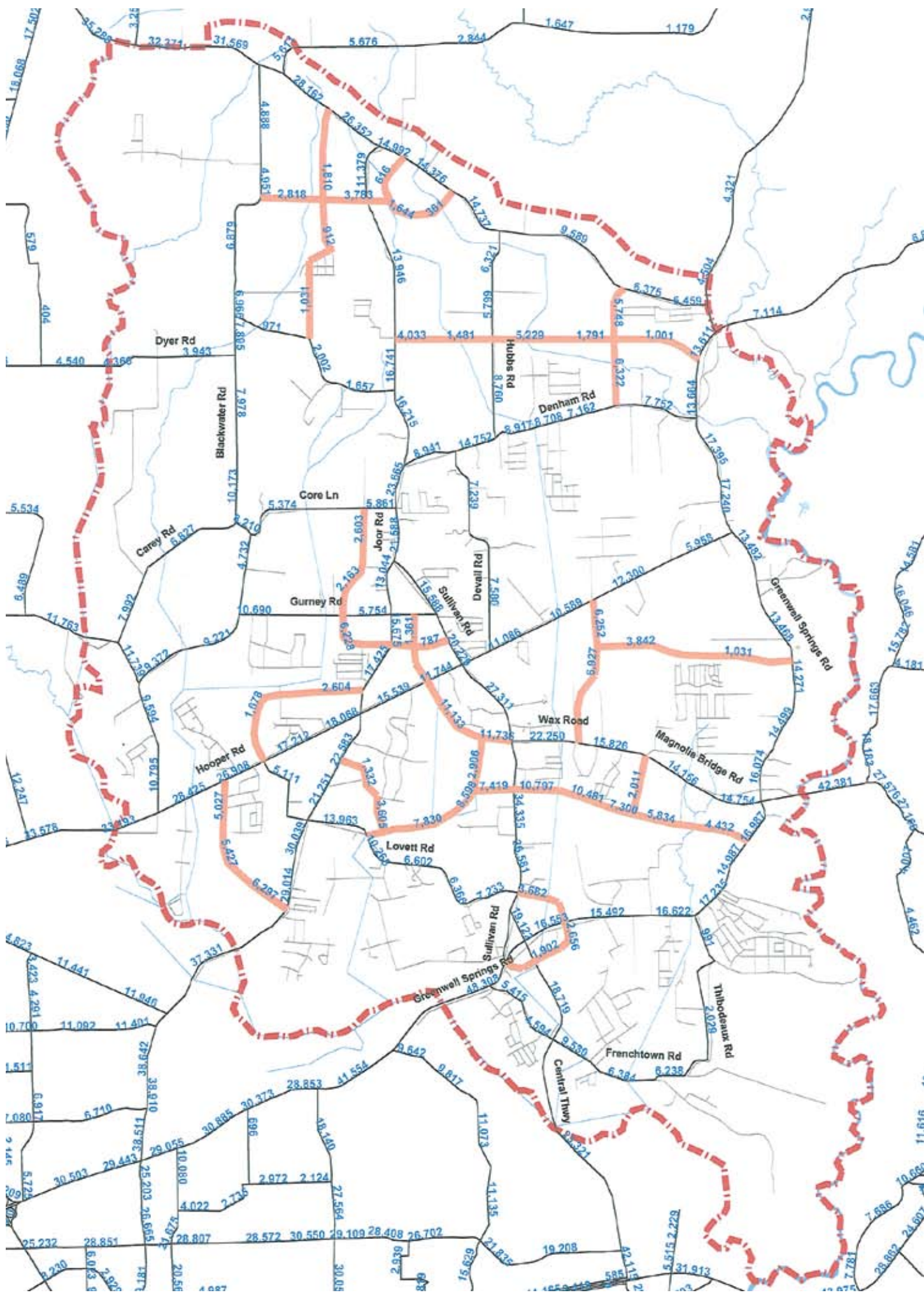
The map at left shows 2037 Collector Daily Volumes if a number of new roads were constructed. Virtually all of these proposed roads are on private property and would depend on the course of development, according to Barrow.

They do not represent a plan for the future but simply show the impact on traffic patterns if these new roads were constructed.

New roads shown on the map at left include the following:

- Extending Wax Road east from Sullivan and then north to Hooper Road
- Extending Wax across Hooper to Gurney Road
- Building a new road south of and parallel to Wax, headed east
- Connecting Lovett to the extension of Wax Road
- A north-south road connecting Wax near Central High to Hooper
- A small loop from Sullivan at Greenwell Springs to Sullivan at Lovett
- A connection from Joor Road to Hooper south of Lovett
- A new east-west road from Greenwell Springs Road to Joor, running midway between Denham and Hwy. 64

This model does not include the extension of Hooper Road across the Amite River but other models do.



TRAFFIC COUNTS IN 2037 — This map by Neel-Schaffer shows projected traffic counts in Central in the year 2037, assuming the construction of a number of new roads and the doubling of the city's population. It does not assume building the Hooper Road bridge.

Thank you for two GREAT YEARS in the City of Central!

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261-4493 Hooper Road – Between Joor and Sullivan

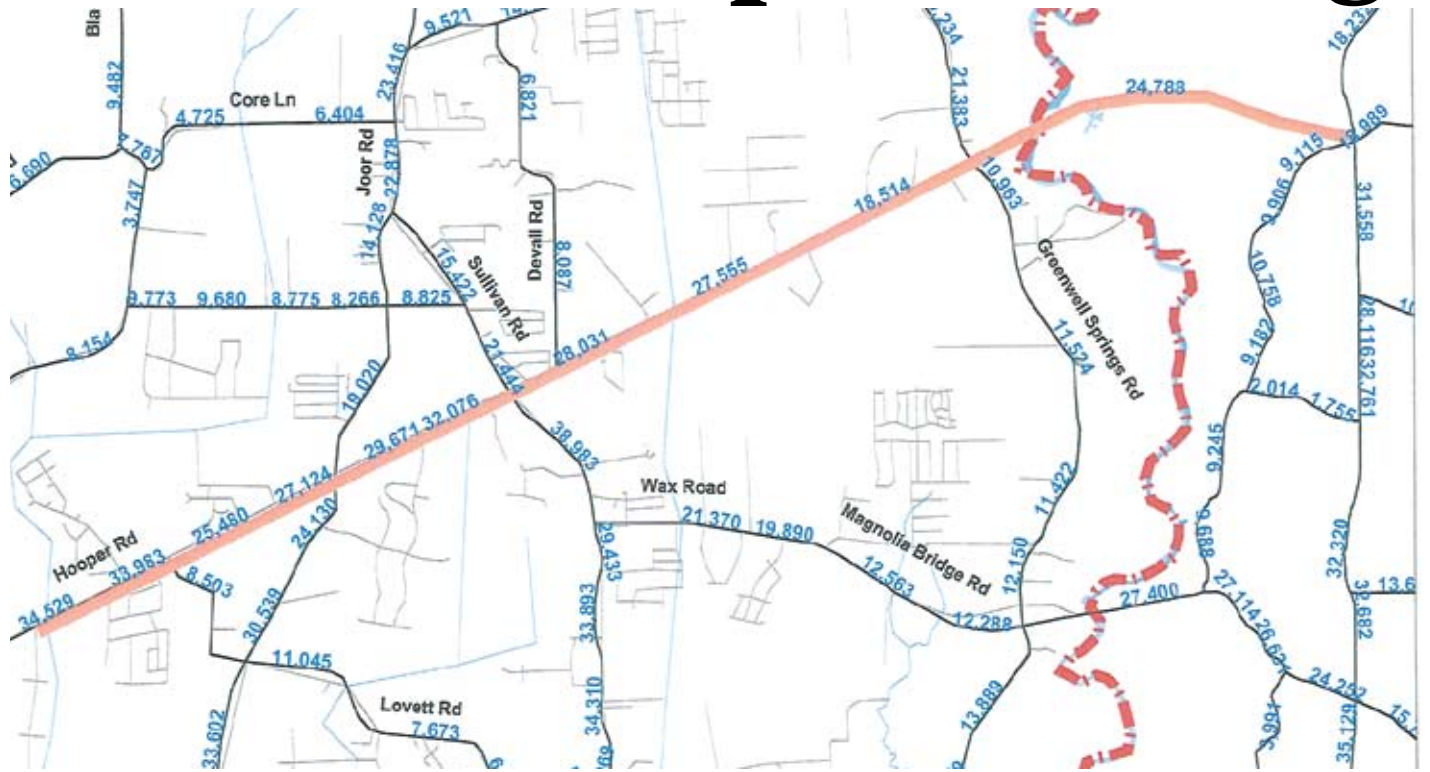


Traffic Counts for Proposed Bridge

Hooper Bridge Could Approach Magnolia Bridge In Its Importance

CENTRAL — Neel-Schaffer engineers project that construction of the proposed extension of Hooper Road to Watson could result in a major reduction in traffic along Wax Road, as traffic along Hooper increases. Assuming a doubling of Central’s population by 2037 and the construction of the bridge but no other major new roads, daily bridge crossings at Hooper would be 24,788, nearly as much as the 27,000 cars a day the firm says would cross Magnolia Bridge.

Altogether, the two bridges would serve more than 51,000 cars a day, which is more than double the current traffic count.



HOOPER ROAD BRIDGE IN 2037 — This map by Neel-Schaffer shows projected traffic counts in Central in the year 2037, assuming the construction of the proposed Hooper Road bridge but no other new roads. The firm has created maps based on various assumptions.

BRCC Helicopter Classes to Start in August

Continued from Page 1

City of Central Independence Day Set July 11

CENTRAL — The Central City Council voted Tuesday to recognize July 11 as “Central Independence Day,” in honor of the swearing in of the city’s first Mayor and City Council on July 11, 2005.

Councilman Louis DeJohn said the date should be remembered in Central history and should be a day of celebration.

The City of Central is one of Louisiana’s newest municipalities but has a population of more than 27,000, which makes it the 12th largest city in Louisiana. By comparison, Hammond has 19,000 people.

one other training facility of this type east of the Mississippi River.

Cross predicted the helicopter training program in Central would attract about 100 students. She said BRCC will offer other satellite classes in Central over the coming months, most likely in automobile mechanics and airplane mechanics. She said the college would also like to explore expanding its relationship with Central High School.

She said that within five years as many as 2,000 students could be attending junior college classes in Central.

BRCC describes its program as follows: “Baton Rouge Community College now offers an Associate of Applied Science in Helicopter Pilot Operations. In partnership with Guidance Aviation, an award-winning collegiate helicopter flight training organization, this degree program is VA Chapter 33 benefits approved for eligible U.S. Military

Veterans utilizing their Post 9/11 GI bill benefits. Graduates of this program will earn their Associate of Applied Science degree as well as become Certificated Flight Instructors with instrument rating, necessary to start their careers as professional helicopter pilots.”

According to the BRCC website, persons interested in apply-

ing for the program should contact Shondra Johnson, coordinator for technical education at 225-216-8289 or aviation@mybrcc.edu.

For more information, go to the college’s website at www.mybrcc.com and search for “helicopter.”

Baton Rouge Community College is an open admissions, two-year post-secondary community college.



A helicopter maintenance training program will begin in August in Central.

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What's Happening Around Capital Area

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

**Saturday, July 27
4 p.m.**

The Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge will celebrate a Humanae Vitae Mass in honor of the 45th anniversary of Humanae Vitae. The mass will be held at St. Patrick Church, 12424 Brogdon Lane, Baton Rouge. For more information, contact Danielle Van Haute, Respect for Life Coordinator at 225-242-0164 or dvanhaute@diobr.org

**July 29 through October 19
Centuries of Style Exhibit Baton**
LSU Libraries Special Collections will present the exhibition "Centuries of Style: A Retrospective of Dress" on display in Hill Memorial Library. Visitors to this free exhibition will be treated to a cornucopia of costumes, illustrations, and photographs of clothing selected from a variety of LSU Libraries collections. For information, call 578-6544

**August 2 through 30
Friday Night Worship
Foster Road Baptist Church**
For the month of August join us for a Fellowship Meal and Worship Service on Friday Nights. 6 p.m. meal and 7 p.m. worship, August 2, Bro. Josh Burnham, Pastor, FBC Gramercy, August 9, The Tero Family, Old Paths Baptist Church, Clinton, August 16, Bro. George Guillory, pastor, Glen Oaks Baptist Church, August 23, Bro. and Mrs. Wilton McMorris, student pastor at Greenwell Springs Baptist Church and August 30, Bro. Keith Horton, Pastor, FBC, Plaquemine.

**Sunday, August 4
Blessing of New School Building
10 a.m.**
Everyone is invited to join the St. Alphonsus School family as Fr. Mike Moroney blesses the new classroom building and kicks off the school's 50th anniversary. Principal Cindy Ry-



CENTRAL FOXES ASA CLASS B 14U 2013 STATE CHAMPS — The Central Foxes participated in the American Softball Association tournament held in Hammond July 6th and 7th. They won 1st place in the 14 and under age group. Team members are (top row left to right) Woody Wascom, Michael White, Ciera Peel, Mary Fralick, Hannah Cowart, Carie Fralick, Anne Landry, Destinee White, Haylee Hebert, Madison Bridges Brian Cowart, and Kandyce Cowart. (Bottom Row) Brooklyn Wascom, Madyson Goudeau, Chloe Mouton, Kendall Hawkins, Heather Edgens, Micah Danos, and Robert Bridges.

als said the new classrooms will house 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students as well as an art classroom and laptop lab.

**Sunday, August 4
G.I.V.E. Blood Drive
9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.**

GIVE, a community volunteer ministry of Grace Church will be hosting a blood drive. A United Blood Services Bloodmobile will be on site at 13845 Hooper Rd. The summer is historically a time when blood donation slows, but the need does not take a vacation. Everyone is invited to come out and support this life-saving cause. Walk-ins are welcome or you can contact 225-485-9067 for more information or to schedule an ap-

pointment.

**August 5, 6 and 7
Central Intermediate School
Open House
3 p.m. to 6 p.m.**

Meet teachers, drop off school supplies and buy a snow cone before you leave. Monday, August 5-3rd grade. Tuesday, August 6-4th grade and Wednesday, August 7- 5th grade.

**Saturday, August 10
Nurse Betsy Braud • 10 a.m.**
Watercolor — Experience the joy and freedom of watercolor painting in a family art workshop inspired by Walter Anderson. This Saturday Arts for Families program at the LSU

Museum of Art, located in the Shaw Center for the Arts, 100 Lafayette St., is free and takes place on the fifth floor. All ages welcome.

**Monday, August 19
Festival of Two Rivers
Golf Tournament
8 a.m. Tee Time**

St. Alphonsus will host the Festival of Two Rivers Golf Tournament at Oaks At Sherwood. Tournament is a four man scramble. The fee is \$500 per team. For more information call Bobby Templet at 225-445-2677

Classifieds

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

BASEBALL TRYOUTS — Through Aug. 10th, Scrappers Baseball 9AA/AAA tournament team for 2013-2014 season. For more info call Joey Samson 225-247-9822 or Tiger Holt 225-276-5367 or email scrappersbaseball@yahoo.com. 08/01/2013

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How to Get Your CATS Tax Back

Only Taxpayers Who File Protests Will Get Refund If Tax Invalidated

BATON ROUGE — If you own residential or commercial property inside the city limits of Baton Rouge or Baker, you could be getting a property tax refund, if the 10.6-mill CATS property tax is ruled unconstitutional in the pending legal case of *Graugnard v. CATS*.

However, even if Milton Graugnard, the plaintiff in the suit, wins, the only way to be certain you will get your refund is to file a letter of protest at the time you pay your property taxes each and every year.

The reason is that CATS is spending the tax money it receives as it is collected. If CATS loses the suit, it will probably have no way to repay taxpayers for the taxes illegally collected.

CATS is a creation of the state government. So the City-Parish government and the Metro Council have no obligation to pay its debts. Likewise, the State of Louisiana is probably not liable for CATS' debts.

Under Louisiana law, a property taxpayer can protest what he believes to be an illegal tax, and that tax payment will be held in escrow until pending litigation involving

LETTER OF PROTEST

[NAME OF TAXPAYER]
 [Address of Taxpayer]
 Baton Rouge, Louisiana [Zip Code of Taxpayer]

[December XX, 2013]

East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff Sid J. Gautreaux, III
 222 Saint Louis Street 2nd Floor Room 238
 Baton Rouge, LA 70802-5823

Re: Payment Under Protest of 10.6-Mill CATS Tax;
 Notice # [Taxpayer Tax Notice Number]

Dear Mr. Gautreaux:

I have received the above-referenced notice reflecting 2013 property tax in the amount of \$_____ [Find this amount on back of tax notice] attributable to the 10.6-mill tax levied by the Capital Area Transit System ("CATS").

By virtue of this letter, please consider that portion of my 2013 property tax, whether submitted by me or by someone else on my behalf, to be remitted under protest in accordance with the provisions of La. R.S. § 47:2134.

The subject CATS tax violates my constitutional rights for the same reasons set forth by the plaintiffs in *Graugnard v. Capital Area Transit System*, Suit No. 614,152, currently pending in the Nineteenth Judicial District Court. In light of that existing suit, please segregate and hold this disputed portion of my 2013 property taxes, pending resolution of that litigation. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
 [NAME OF TAXPAYER]

the tax is resolved. In the case of the CATS tax, East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff Sid Gautreaux is holding in escrow

all payments made by parish taxpayers under protest.

About \$400,000 is now being held in that account. It will be distributed either to CATS or to taxpayers, depending on the outcome of the suit.

If a taxpayer filed a protest last year, he must file again this year and every year until the matter is resolved. The attorney for Milton Graugnard said Tuesday that the litigation could drag on for two years or more.

If a taxpayer did not file a protest last year, he can still file one for this year and again each subsequent year.

The letter at left is a sample of what could be filed by a taxpayer. If cannot be filed until the taxpayer has received his tax notice for the year, because it must include the number found on the property tax notice for the year.

If property taxes have already been paid for 2012, it is too late to file a protest for that year. However, if property taxes have not been paid for 2012, the protest letter could still be filed when those taxes are paid.

The CATS property tax is 10.6 mills a year. That's about 1/10th of one per cent of the actual value of the property each year. So a property valued at \$400,000 and assessed at \$40,000 would pay about \$400 a year. Commercial property would pay about 50 percent more.

This is a news article, not legal advice. So check with an attorney if necessary.

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The Remarkable Ulysse Joubert

One Principal's Fight to Create A Great School

OPELOUSAS — Ulysse Joubert tells his students they only have 15 seconds to make an impression — for good or bad — on someone they meet.

And that is all the time it takes to size up Ulysse Joubert. His thick Cajun accent, infectious laughter, expressive face, and imposing demeanor tell you this is a truly extraordinary man! In those 15 seconds, he also makes you feel very special.

As principal of Park Vista Elementary School for 22 years, Joubert has written the book on how to build a great school. More than 70 percent of Opelousas public school students are in the free or reduced lunch program.

Everyone regardless of race fights to get into Park Vista. Now this top-rated school is doing the unthinkable — accepting school vouchers! In fact, Park Vista is the only public school in Louisiana that accepts vouchers. The result? Park Vista is bursting at the seams.

Last year, Park Vista had 740 students — an increase of 242 students over the previous year, including 106 from a failing school. In August, the genial headmaster will receive more than 1,000 students. Park Vista is racially diverse, and just over 50 percent of the student



PRINCIPAL ULYSSE JOUBERT (right), principal of Park Vista Elementary in Opelousas, shares a story with A+PEL's Charlie Davis and Kelli Bottger at Governor's Mansion.

“I tell my kids, ‘In 15 or 20 years, I want you to be able to take care of Mr. Joubert. I want you to be my doctor or my nurse or my lawyer. Don't worry about anybody else. Just take care of me!’”

— Ulysse Joubert, Principal, Park Vista Elementary

body is white. “People want to get into our school,” he said. Some of the voucher students even come from outside the parish.

“Do so many new students affect us?” he asked. “Of course they do. We can feel the difference. But we've had kids who were unsatisfactory in every subject who are now satisfactory in every subject.

Our faculty has adjusted, and everyone is being absorbed.”

“We constantly talk to the kids. I tell them, Look, here's where you stand. It's not good, but you're not going to stay in that place!”

“A lot of it is about attitude. We call it ‘Speaking Green’! I tell them... Speak Green! Make eye contact. Stick out your hand and

have a firm grip. Be somebody special. You are selling yourself, and you only have 15 seconds to make a first impression. Be presentable. In PE, they learn to set the table. I tell them, you're going to go a power lunch in New Orleans. You have to be ready.”

“I tell my kids, ‘In 15 or 20 years, I want you to be able to take care of Mr. Joubert. I want you to be my doctor or my nurse or my lawyer. Don't worry about anybody else. You just take care of me!’”

“In one of my sessions, one of the kids raised his hand and asked, ‘Mr. Joubert, can I take care of Mr. Marks too?’ Mr. Marks from our staff was standing next to me. I had to laugh. Everywhere I go in Opelousas, my kids are there to take care of me. I think we have seven physicians in town who went through our school. I was in the hospital and the nurse looked down at me. ‘Mr. Joubert,’ she said, ‘It's me! You told me to take care of you!’”

Why is Park Vista the only public school in the state to accept vouchers? “We didn't get the email telling us not to!” Joubert laughed. “I heard about the program, and asked, ‘Can we accept those?’ Nobody knew. I called the State Department of Education, and they didn't know. Finally, they called back and said we could.”

Two years ago, the school board decided to merge another school with Park Vista. It was supposed to be a disaster but it wasn't. Park Vista continued to prosper.

See **ULYSSE** on Page 13

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PARK VISTA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL where Ulysse Joubert has served as principal for 22 years. He tells students he just wants them to graduate and become a doctor, lawyer, nurse or other professional, “so they can take care of Mr. Joubert.” Many of them do just that!

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Ulysse Joubert: A Legend in Opelousas

Park Vista Is Now Only Public School In Louisiana That Accepts Vouchers

Continued from Page 12

"I tell the kids, 'Do it for you! I could flush you out to the 7th grade even if you don't know anything. But then you would drop out. On the streets, there is nothing you can do that is legal. You are supposed to finish school!'"

Joubert grew up in a poor part of Opelousas. He graduated from Opelousas High School in 1965. "I look at these kids today. If I was young now, I would be like them, because I came from the same background. That's why my heart goes out to them."

In years past, Joubert did not get to select his faculty members but he does now. What does he look for in a teacher? "I look for three things: A strong academic background, compassion, and the ability of the teacher to put himself in the shoes of the student."

Does he have many discipline problems? "A few but not many. Basically, I just have to look at them and they straighten up."

Altogether, Mr. Joubert has 45 years in education. Coincidentally, he and his wife Glenda have been married the same length of time.



ULYSSE JOUBERT — A veteran educator of 45 years, Ulysse Joubert is principal of Park Vista Elementary School in Opelousas, a school which is top-rated despite absorbing an adjacent school and accepting public school vouchers. At left, Joubert is shown with his wife Glenda. They will celebrate their 45th anniversary Aug. 18. At right, Joubert with one of his best friends, Sen. Elbert Guillory.



They will celebrate their 45th wedding anniversary on Aug. 18.

Ulysse and Glenda met in history class at USL. "I swore I'd

never marry anyone from USL, anyone who was interested in politics, or anyone who was interested in sports," Glenda Joubert said. "I struck out on all three!"

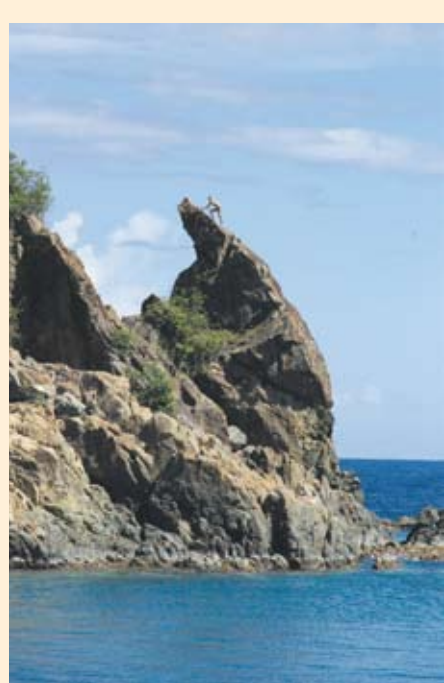
She certainly did. For their honeymoon, Mr. Joubert took his new bride to watch the Astros in Houston. It was a "baseball honeymoon," he said. The couple has four children, two girls and two boys.

Mr. Joubert is a deacon in the Catholic church. They attend Our Lady of Mercy in Opelousas. "Did

you know that there is no Catholic section in heaven?" he asked.

Mr. Joubert would have made a good lawyer, Glenda said. She also revealed that he thought about retiring. "But he loves a challenge! With all the new kids coming in August, it won't be this year!"

Ulysse Joubert is a former state president of A+PEL, the Associated Professional Educator of Louisiana and the teachers at his school are predominantly A+PEL members.



Danielle Wright Still Lost at Sea In South Pacific

BATON ROUGE — The search for Danielle Wright of Greenwell Springs is continuing in the South Pacific. She and other members of the crew of the *Nina* have not been heard from since June 5.

Her father, Ricky Wright, now of Lafayette, said private air searches are continuing. The family needs contributions to help with the expenses. Wright said he is trying to get the U. S. Navy to aid in the search. At left, Danielle in Grenada in the Caribbean two years ago.

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Top Students from Across State Learn about Government

Family Forum Holds Youth Training



BAKER — The Louisiana Family Forum held a Youth Leadership Camp for outstanding high school and college youth from across the state. The group visited the State Capitol, LSU, and other centers of governmental activity in Baton Rouge. Speakers included Tony Perkins (left) and Gene Mills (far right).



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Milestones

Births • Engagements • Weddings • Deaths
Anniversaries • Reunions

NAQUIN, GREEN

Blair Naquin and Rory Green will marry Aug. 9 at St. James Episcopal in Baton Rouge.

SCHROEDER, COOKE

Melissa Schroeder and Cameron Cooke will exchange vows in Mandeville on July 27.

Thompsons Celebrate 50th Anniversary

CENTRAL —Don and Louise Thompson celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary with family and friends at a dinner at Sammy's Grill on June 22.

The Thompsons were married on June 22, 1963 at Trinity Lutheran Church in San Antonio, TX. She is the former Louise Fritz from Marion, TX.

The honorees have two sons, Chris Thompson and Glenn Thompson and wife, Shannon; five grandchildren, Heather Milligan and husband Justin, Jordan Thompson, Grant and Jack Thompson and T.J. Thompson; great-granddaughters, Bryleigh Thompson, Kylie and Chloe Milligan, and awaiting the arrival of Aubrie Elizabeth Milligan in Aug.

In attendance were Lt. Gov. Jay Dardenne and his wife, Cathy, and Larry and Susan Fritz from Marion, TX., the honoree's brother and wife.

Don and Louise have resided in Baton Rouge since 1963 and have lived in Central for the past 40 years. Don serves as Constable.



Don and Louise Thompson

Melissa Schroeder, Cameron Cooke To Wed This Saturday in Mandeville

MANDEVILLE — Central native Cameron Cooke and his fiancé Melissa Grace Schroeder of Mandeville will wed on July 27 at Mandeville's First Baptist Church in St. Tammany.

Melissa is the daughter of Ken and Gayla Schroeder. She is a graduate of Fountainbleau High School and a student at Louisiana State University. She works at Parkview Baptist Preschool and is pursuing a degree in elementary education.

Cameron is the son of Todd and Melanie Cooke. He is a graduate of Central High School and Louisiana State University. He is an insurance agent with Bourg Insur-



Melissa Schroeder and Cameron Cooke

ance in Central and also serves as House District 65 legislative assistant.

Following a honeymoon in Jamaica, they will reside in Baton Rouge.

Blair Naquin and Rory Green to Marry at St. James Episcopal

BATON ROUGE —Blair Naquin and Rory Green both of Baton Rouge, will marry in a 6 p.m. ceremony Aug. 9, 2013, at St. James Episcopal Church in Baton Rouge.

The bride-elect is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Al Joseph Naquin of Central. She is the granddaugh-

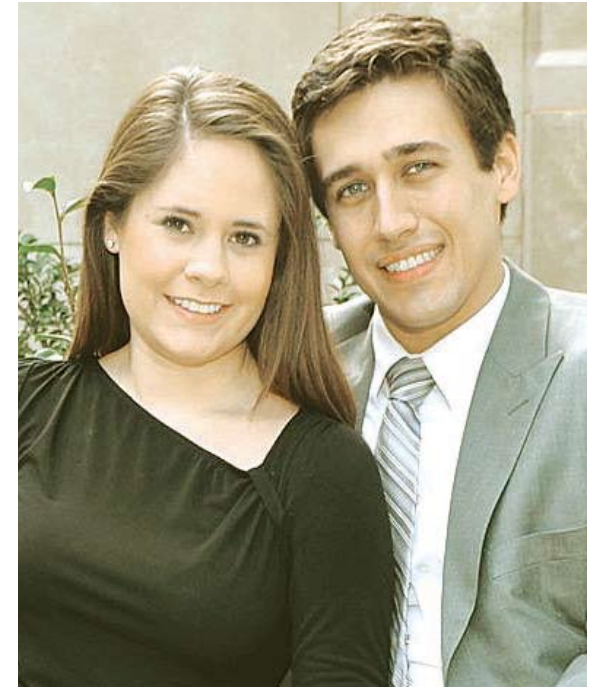
ter of Mr. and Mrs. James E. Smith, of Central and Ms. June Shaw of Thibodaux, and the late Mr. Robert Naquin.

Blair is a graduate of St. Joseph's Academy, Louisiana State University, and LSU's Paul M. Herbert Law School. She is currently

preparing for the Louisiana bar exam and has accepted a position as an associate with Johnson Gray McNamara, LLC, in New Orleans.

Her fiancé is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Rodger Gregory Green of Baton Rouge. He is the grandson of the late Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Craddock, the late Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Herbert and the late Mr. Mason Lee Green.

He is a graduate of LSU and is currently pursuing a Juris Doctor/Graduate Diploma in Comparative Law at LSU's Paul M. Herbert Law School.



Blair Naquin and Rory Green

Births

Kendall Patrick Gerald II

Patrick and Sheree Gerald of Central are proud to announce the birth of their first child, Kendall Patrick.



Kendall was born Dec. 18, 2012, at Woman's Hospital. He weighed nine pounds and was 22 inches long.

Proud grandparents are Kendall and Monique Gerald of Pride, Brenda and David Zeringue of Central, Wayne and Liz Barbin of Central and L.J. and Angie Blanchard of Baton Rouge. Great grandparents are Gaston and Lorraine Gerald, Ethel Guedry of Central and the late Warren Guedry, the late Wade and Earline Blanchard, Sue Blanchard of Texas, L.W. and Cleta McCleary of Baker, Gloria Barbin of Central, and Patsy O'Neal of Central.

Mazie James Smith

Justin and Chelsea Smith of Central are proud to announce the birth of their daughter, Mazie James. Mazie was born on May 30, 2013 at 5:45 p.m. at Woman's Hospital. She weighed 7 pounds and 2 ounces and was 20 inches long.

Proud grandparents are Jim and Michelle Robertson of Central and Gary and Winona Smith of Central. Great grandparents are Sam Robertson of Livingston, Dot Bergeron of Baker and Iva Lois Smith of Brookhaven, MS.



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 or Debbie or Danny Wellman, 261-8358 or

dwell96@bellsouth.net.

Saturday, August 17

Central Class of '88 Reunion

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Emma B. Love of Central Dies at Age 98

Emma B. Love

CENTRAL — Our precious angel has gone to be with our Lord. She is now reaping the seeds of love, wisdom and praise that she sewed here on earth for so many years.

Emma B. Love, 98, of Central, passed away on Wednesday, July 17, 2013, at her home surrounded by her family. Visitation was held at Life Tabernacle Church in Central on Fri., July 20. Rev. B.A Spell and Rev. Tony Spell officiated. Burial was at Hillcrest Memorial Garden.

She is survived by her three daughters, Betty J. Leteff, Carolyn J. Evans, and Patsy R. Wilkinson; her two sons, William R. "Bill" Love and Kenneth W. "Ken" Love; a sister, Myrtle Simmons; 32 grandchildren; 66 great-grandchildren; 56 great great-grandchildren; as well as numerous other relatives, friends and church family.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John William Love, a daughter, Sharon Linda O'Quinn, son's, Robert E., John E. Sr. and Glenn G. Love, grandsons William R. "Billy" Love, Jr. and Jonathan

Matthew "Matt" Love. Pallbearers were her great-grandsons. Please sign online guestbook at www.sealefuneral.com

William Earl Hoot Gibson, Jr.

GREENWELL SPRINGS — William Earl "Hoot" Gibson, Jr. of Greenwell Springs, was born on Jan. 15, 1937. He passed away at home on July 13, 2013 after a brief illness.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Gay Nell Parker Gibson; daughters, Karen Romero, Kimberly Jones (Marc), and Kelly Pardue (Jeff); grandchildren, Courtney Romero Begnaud (Kenneth "Bubba"), Patrick Romero, Tyler Jones, Leigh Anne Jones, Kyle Pardue (Katelyn), Sarah Pardue, and Anna Pardue; great granddaughter, McKenzie Begnaud; siblings, Phyllis Loupe and Jerry Gibson; and long-time friend Warren Soulier.

He was preceded in death by his parents, William Earl and Georgeanna Gibson, and son-in-law, Weston Romero.

"Hoot" was a member of IBEW Local Union 995 for over 50 years.

He joined the IBEW on Jan. 1, 1958, serving as President and on numerous committees and initiatives. He was well loved and always made his family and friends laugh. He will be deeply missed by his loving wife, adoring daughters, family and friends. Visitation was Monday, July 15, 2013 and continued on Tuesday, July 16, 2013, until the funeral service at Greenoaks Funeral Home officiated by Bro. George Threton of Greenwell Baptist Church. Interment followed at Greenoaks Memorial Park. Pallbearers were Tyler Jones, Patrick Romero, Kyle Pardue, Kenneth Begnaud, Daryl Dedon and Warren Soulier. Online condolences may be placed at www.greenoaksfunerals.com.

Emily Lea Kilcrease

GREENWELL SPRINGS — Emily Lea Kilcrease, 80 of Greenwell Springs passed away on Tuesday, July 16, 2013. A graveside service was held at Greensburg Cemetery in Greensburg on Saturday, July 20, 2013.

She retired as a Latent Fingerprint Analyst and served as an ex-

pert witness with her job for the Louisiana State Police. She was a member and former President of International Association for Identification.

She is survived by her children and their spouses, Michael and Cynthia Kilcrease, Ricky and Deborah Kilcrease, Siri and Joey Pizzoloto, and Steven Kilcrease; 11 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren; sisters and brother-in-law, Ann Fleming and Nancy and Doug Williamson; brother and sister-in-law, Frank and Nita Lea.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Henry Clayton Kilcrease; daughter, Linda Faye Kilcrease; brother, Alton Lea; nephew, Chuck Lea; and brother-in-law, Arlen Fleming.

A special thank you to all those who shared their love and care with our family including the amazing staff of St. Joseph's Carpenter House, Synergy Home Health Care, Country Manor, Central EMS and Fire Department and Seale Funeral Home. A special thank you to Dr. James Ratliff. Please sign online at

Joey D. Thompson III (Trey)

DENHAM SPRINGS — Trey passed away peacefully Friday, July 19, 2013 at his parents' home after a three-year courageous battle with a brain tumor. His courage was an inspiration to all who knew him. He was 32 years old and a resident of Denham Springs and a native of Zachary. He was a paramedic with EBR Emergency Medical Services for seven years. He was Outstanding Emergency Health Science Student of his graduating class at Our Lady of Lake College. Trey received the Emergency Medical Service Medal of Honor in August, 2008. He was a member of St. Isidore Catholic Church.

Trey is survived by his wife of four years, Casey Engels Thompson and their precious, beloved daughter Bristol Lynn; his parents, Johnny and Connie Thompson; his sister and her husband, Tara and Rob Farmer; his father and mother-in-law, Randy and Sherri Engels; his brother-in-law and wife, Renn and Amber Engels; his nieces and nephews, Ellen and Aiden Farmer and Dawson and Onaleigh Engels; his paternal grandmother, Cecile Thompson Thoms; and his maternal grandmother, Eva Farrar Welch.

He was preceded in death by his paternal grandfather, John D. Thompson, Sr. and maternal grandparents, Glen D. Farrar and Edith Behrnes Farrar.

Visitation was held at Charlet Funeral Home in Zachary on Thursday, July 25, 2013 from 5 p.m. until 9 p.m. and at St. Isidore Catholic Church on Friday, July 26, 2013 from 10 a.m. until the Mass of Christian Burial at noon with the Rev. Frank J. Bass celebrant. Pallbearers were Barry Barrett, Renn Engels, Rob Farmer, Stephen Martinez, Paul Mier, James Warner, Jay Watson and Mike Zeitler. Honorary Pallbearers were Trey's uncles, Randy Farrar, Wayne Hagg, Frank Jones, Donnie Junot, Gary Thompson, and Joey Watson.

The family would like to thank Trey's EBRP Emergency Medical Services family for their unending support throughout his illness. We are forever grateful. In lieu of flowers, the family requests that donations be made to the Bristol Lynn Thompson Educational Fund at any Chase Bank. Share sympathies, memories, and condolences at www.CharletFuneralHome.com.

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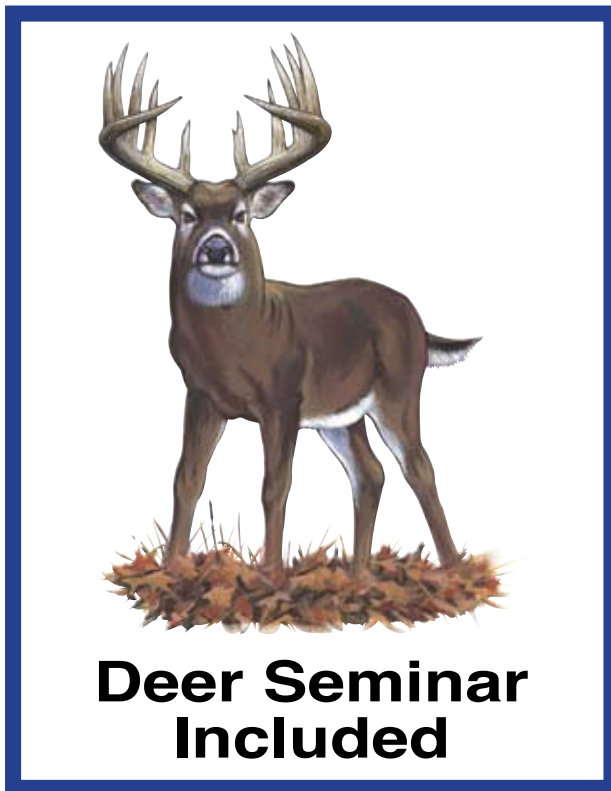
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