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HOME FROM AFGHANISTAN

Documents from Central Public Records Suit

CH2MHill Yielded to Pressure From Watts' Campaign Manager



Records Show Mayor's Political Consultant Did Confer on Flyer

Woody Jenkins
 Editor, Central City News

CENTRAL — Central Mayor Mac Watts has repeatedly told the news media and the general public that he knew nothing about a political flyer helpful to his March 2010 reelection campaign issued in the name of the City of Central one day before the election. But public records and interviews with witnesses indicate that it was in fact Watts' campaign manager who initiated the flyer and his political consultant who told the Marketing Department of corporate giant CH2MHill what to do.

Contract in Danger. At the time, CH2MHill held a \$4 million-a-year contract to administer the City of Central. Its contract was up for renewal and seemed to be in jeopardy when Watts was challenged by Jr. Shelton, whose major issue was high permit fees charged by CH2MHill in the name of the City of Central. The company received 90 percent of the fees, which tripled in Central after incorporation.

Panic Set in. About 10 days before the election, Watts' political consultant during his 2010 reelection campaign.

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POLITICAL INTERVENTION — Public records obtained by the *Central City News* and interviews with witnesses show a political flyer distributed one day before city elections in 2010 was initiated by Russell Starns (center). At the time, Starns was serving simultaneously as 1) the official liaison between the City of Central and then master city contractor CH2MHill and as 2) Mayor Mac Watts' campaign manager. The political flyer, which said it was from the "City of Central," was paid for by CH2MHill. According to an eyewitness, Starns ordered CH2MHill project director Tommy Higgs (right) to produce an advertising piece helpful to the mayor. Higgs wrote that he couldn't say whether it was "right or wrong" but he was charged with getting the CH2MHill Marketing Department together with Watts' political consultant Delia Taylor of Taylor Media Services regarding the political flyer. CH2MHill Vice President of Marketing Susan Mays said Delia Taylor told her and Tommy Higgs to produce a four-page color newspaper insert.

WHO'S WHO — CH2MHill - A \$6 billion international company which had the privatization contract to run the City of Central from 2007 to 2011. CH2MHill claimed many records in its possession pertaining to the City of Central were not "public records" under Louisiana law. **Tommy Higgs** - CH2MHill project manager for Central. **Mayor Mac Watts** - First mayor of Central. In March 2010, he was in a tough reelection campaign. The main issue was high city permit fees charged by CH2MHill. **Russell Starns** - In March 2010, Starns was Watts' campaign manager and also liaison between the City of Central and CH2MHill. **Delia Taylor** - Watts' political consultant during his 2010 reelection campaign.

CH2MHill Withholds Nine Email Strings Despite Judgment Ordering Their Release

CENTRAL — On Friday, March 26, 2010, one day before Central's municipal elections, a flyer identified as from the "City of Central" appeared in copies of the *Baton Rouge Advocate* distributed in and around Central.

The flyer, entitled "Setting the Record Straight on Permit Fees," was a response to an ad run the previous week by mayoral candidate Jr. Shelton. Shelton was challenging incumbent Mayor Mac Watts, a supporter of CH2MHill, the \$6 billion international company that administered the City of Central, Louisiana's first and only privatized municipality. CH2MHill received about 80 percent of the rev-

enues of the City of Central.

Two days after the election, the *Central City News* inquired of Mayor Mac Watts whether he had authorized the political flyer. His spokesman said the mayor did not authorize it or even know about it in advance. The *Central City News* then contacted CH2MHill manager in Central, Tommy Higgs, who said the flyer was authorized and paid for by CH2MHill and that it was not authorized by the City of Central. When asked why the flyer said it was from the "City of Central," Higgs replied that "We are authorized to advertise in the name of the City of Central anytime we want to."

The *Central City News* then made public records requests under the Louisiana Public Records Act for all records pertaining to the flyer. The requests were made of the City of Central and of CH2MHill. The City responded that it had no such records. CH2MHill responded that it is not subject to the Public Records Act because it is not a "public body" under the law.

The *Central City News* maintained that CH2MHill was administering the City of Central as though it were the government and thus was subject to the Public Records law. When CH2MHill refused to supply the documents requested, the *Central City News*

filed suit against CH2MHill in the 19th Judicial District, seeking the records it had requested.

Under the Public Records law, the hearing on the matter was supposed to be held within 10 days, but District Judge Kay Bates did not schedule the matter until June 2010. Central Mayor Mac Watts and CH2MHill manager Tommy Higgs were subpoenaed to testify. On the Friday before the Monday hearing, Judge Bates unilaterally postponed the hearing over the objections of the *Central City News*. That weekend, Tommy Higgs fled the state, and CH2MHill has since claimed it does not know his

See CH2MHill on Page 10

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Photo by Woody Jenkins

NEWLYWEDS — Liz Dent and Herb Sumrall recently wed and will continue to reside in Baton Rouge. Both lost their spouses in recent years. Liz Dent Sumrall is a prominent Republican and civic leader. Mr. Sumrall is retired state Civil Service Director.

Country Living in the City

40 Years After CC/73, Louisiana Constitution Still Shines Brightly, Though Delegates Fade

Fundamental Law Here Stands for Individual Rights, Perhaps Uniquely

Woody Jenkins
 Editor

A little more than 40 years ago, I had the unique opportunity as a young man of 26 to serve as a delegate to CC/73, a state constitutional convention, called by the legislature to rewrite the Louisiana Constitution of 1921, the longest constitution in the world. The work of the convention lasted for 18 months, beginning in late 1972 and continuing through early 1974.

It was one of the most demanding things I have ever been part of. A total of 132 men and women came from all

parts of Louisiana with one solitary goal — to draft a constitution that could win the support of the voters and then serve our people for generations to come.

The delegates elected officers and divided into committees. Each committee was responsible for doing the research and coming up with a proposed draft of one Article of the constitution. I requested and was assigned to the Committee on Bill of Rights and Elections.

We held months of hearings and took extensive testimony from “experts” and the general public. I read the Bill of Rights of every state and more than 100 foreign countries.

The Bill of Rights Committee had 10 members — five liberals, four conservatives, and me. If I sided with the liberals, the vote was 6-4. If I sided with the conservatives, it was 5-5. Most of the time, I sided with the conservatives, and the committee was hopelessly deadlocked. One side included Kendall Vick, the general counsel of the ACLU in Louisiana, Rep. Alphonse Jackson, a staunch liberal, Tony Guarisco, a trial lawyer and strong lib-

eral who later served in the state senate, and Chris Roy, law partner of Camille Gravel, an outspoken liberal and executive counsel to Gov. Edwards. The other side included Rep. Ford Stinson, the conservative champion in the state house, Dr. Gerald Weiss, and me, a newly-elected representative from the Istrouma area of North Baton Rouge.

The pressure was on us. If we couldn't agree, there would be no Bill of Rights and without a Bill of Rights, no new constitution. The constitutional convention would end in deadlock and failure.

After weeks of committee debate and continued stalemate, one of the liberal members of the committee looked at me and said, “Alright, you know what all of us believe by now. It may be irrec-



Woody Jenkins

onciliable. But why don't you take it and see if you can come up with a draft we can all live with?” The other members agreed and gave me the job. I worked all night for three nights, pounding away on the typewriter my Key Club adviser, Mr. Mike Chambers, had bought for me from State Surplus for \$10.

Things the delegates had said rang in my mind. Each member of the committee had strong beliefs but we each wanted the convention to be a success. The one thing every member of the committee believed in was individual rights. They believed that the state existed to protect the rights of the individual citizen, not the other way around.

As I typed, the words flowed. We would make each right enumerated in our constitution an “individual” right. There would be no “group” rights. We would protect both economic liberty and social liberty. All rights would be enforceable in a court of law. They would not just be meaningless words on a page.

When I returned to the committee, they read it, tore it up, put it back together, and then passed it on to the floor of the full convention. There it was debated for more than a week. The battles on the convention floor were bloody and stressful. Sometimes we had to vote over and over on the same thing for days in a row. But ultimately our new Declaration of Rights was adopted in a form very much like the original draft. It was a breakthrough for the convention and the beginning of many other principled compromises that led to the proposed constitution being approved with only one dissenting vote. The delegates took the proposal to the voters. Our Declaration of Rights was praised as an example of how people of very diverse views could work together and accomplish something truly meaningful. The voters approved the proposed constitution, and it is today the Louisiana Constitution of 1974. Our Declaration of Rights and the convention debates have been cited by the Louisiana Supreme Court hundreds of times. It has stood the test of time. Well, for 40 years at least.

On Nov. 20, the surviving delegates, less than 40 out of 132, will gather to reminisce. It will be at the LSU Journalism Building from 5 to 7 p.m. Gov. Edwards and Roemer, chairman Bubba Henry and I will speak. You are very welcome to join us!

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Low Turnout Expected for Slim Election Ballot

Nov. 16 Election Includes School Bonds In Central, Justice of the Peace in SBR

CENTRAL — The Central Community School Board is asking voters to approve a proposition on Nov. 16 that will allow the school district to borrow up to \$13.1 million for a list of dedicated school improvements and expansions. The budgeted items include:

- Construction of a 9th Grade Academy (\$5.82 million)
- Repair of Central High School's parking lot (\$1.8 million);
- Installation of lighting at Central High School's baseball and softball fields (\$500,000);
- Upgrade of district technology to manage new mandated state assessments (\$2 million); and
- Demolition and asbestos abatement of old buildings, as well as upgrades to the property at the former Central Middle School (\$1.5 million).

The budgeted cost of the projects totals \$11.6 million. Another \$1.39 million (12 percent of the anticipated expenditures) must be budgeted as a contingency fee as required un-



RALLY FOR 'A' SCHOOL SYSTEM — The Andrews family came out Tuesday night to celebrate the Central Community School System again being named an "A" school system. Shown are (left to right) Aleece, mom Nicole, and Bryson.

der the district's risk management policy, bringing the total to \$13.1 million, according to Superintendent Michael Faulk.

"We want our community members to know exactly how we're using their money to further our school system, by creating better and safer learning environments," he said.

Early voting for that election ends Saturday.

Faulk said a 9th Grade Academy, which would be constructed at Central High School, would be the largest cost item earmarked for the new monies — approximately half of the total investment.

He said the new wing would house the school's freshmen class separately from upperclassmen, allowing better monitoring of those students and concentrated training opportunities — efforts that have proved to greatly improve academic scores and decrease dropout rates at other schools across the state and nation. Faulk said the new build-

See **MORE** on Page 12

Arbour, Spencer in Runoff for Justice of the Peace

BATON ROUGE — Voters in Ward 3, District 3 in South Baton Rouge will go to the polls on Saturday, Nov. 16 to choose a new Justice of the Peace for the area.

The Nov. 16 election will be a runoff between Jerry Arbour and Larry Spencer, both Republicans, who are seeking to fill the unexpired term of Ms. Melva Cavanaugh, who passed away in March. Gov. Jindal called the special election.

In the primary election, held on Oct. 19, Spencer and Arbour led the field of candidates.

Spencer had 616 votes, or 33 percent, to Arbour's 614 votes, also 33 percent. Other candidates were Kenesha Antoine, 328 votes, or 18 percent; Steve Myers, 102 votes, or 6 percent; Mark G. Simmons, 93 votes, or 5 percent, and Mariano Hinojosa, 90 votes, or 5 percent.

The turnout for the first primary was very low, and the turnout in the runoff election is expected to be even lower.

Justice of the Peace has special



JUSTICE OF THE PEACE candidates Jerry Arbour (left) and Larry Spencer

significance in this election. The district is located outside the city limits of Baton Rouge in the proposed City of St. George. Civil cases in the area are normally tried in District Court, rather than Baton Rouge City Court. Recent increases in the filing fees for District Court have raised them to over \$500. The justice of the peace court provides a reasonably priced and more expeditious way to deal with money disputes under \$5,000.

Arbour is an attorney and member of the East Baton Rouge School Board. He believes his experience as an attorney prepare for this judicial position. He has been endorsed by the Republican Party of East Baton Rouge.

Spencer said he was grateful to all the friends and family who helped in the primary. He said he believes his work experience will serve him well in this position. Spencer has been endorsed by the *Baton Rouge Business Report*.

Early voting ends Saturday.

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Justice Scalia Kicks Off 1st Meeting

Gov. Jindal Hosts 150 Attorneys at Lawyers Chapter

BATON ROUGE — The Baton Rouge Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy got off to a spectacular start last month.

The first-ever meeting of the organization was hosted at the Governor's Mansion by Gov. Bobby Jindal. The main speaker for the sold-out event was United States Supreme Court Associate Justice Antonin Scalia.

More than 150 Baton Rouge attorneys and law students were in attendance. Baton Rouge has had student chapters of the Federalist Society for years at the LSU Law School and the Southern Law School, but this marks the first time that practicing attorneys could be part of a Federalist chapter here.

The Federalist Society describes itself as a group of conservatives and libertarians who believe that the state exists to preserve freedom, that the separation of governmental powers is central to the Constitution, and it is emphatically the duty of the judiciary to say what the



JUSTICE ANTONIN SCALIA — U. S. Supreme Court associate justice Antonin Scalia was the keynote speaker at the first meeting of the Baton Rouge Lawyers Chapter of the Federalist Society for Law and Public Policy Studies at the Governor's Mansion on Friday, Oct. 11 with a reception at the Governor's Mansion. At right, attorney Scott Carmouche and his wife Mary Fischer Carmouche.

law is, not what it should be. The Federalist Society recognizes that the legal profession and the law schools are dominated by orthodox liberal ideology which advocates a centralized and uniform society. The Society believes that the priorities of the legal order should be

changed to put a premium on individual liberty, traditional values,

and the rule of law. Justice Scalia has been involved

1st Meeting of the Federalist Society
 Baton Rouge Lawyers Chapter • Oct. 11, 2013
 Photos by Woody Jenkins



PACKED GOVERNOR'S MANSION — Among those in attendance were members of the LSU Law chapter of the Federalist Society (left) and the Southern Law chapter (right).



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JUSTICE SCALIA with Gov. Bobby Jindal and chapter co-presidents Jason Doré, Beverly Moore, and Catherine Jenkins. At right, attorneys and ex-Marines James Baehr and Saul Newsome.



JUSTICE JEFF HUGHES, Prof. Paul Baier; Lynn and James Moore; Justice Greg Guidry, Gov. Jindal; Leonard Leo of Federalist Society, Beverly Moore, Catherine Jenkins, and Bernie Boudreaux.

Four La. Supreme Court Justices at Federalist Society Dec. 11

with the Federal Society for years and said he was happy to be able to address the members of the bar who were present.

For more on joining the Federalist Society in Baton Rouge, go to www.brfdsoc.org or email brfdsoc@gmail.com

BATON ROUGE — The Baton Rouge Lawyers Chapter of the Federal Society for Law and Public Policy will host its first-ever Louisiana Supreme Court Roundup.

Four members of the state Supreme Court will speak at a lun-

cheon sponsored by the group from 12 noon to 1:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 11 at Galatoire's Bistro, 17451 Perkins Road. The cost is \$25.

Supreme Court associate justices Marcus Clark, Greg Guidry, Jeff Hughes, and Jeff Victory will

review the work of the court during 2013. The event is open to attorneys. Seating is limited to 50.

One hour of Louisiana CLE credit will be given, pending approval. Register at www.eventbright.com.



Justice Antonin Scalia, a hunter, was presented a Duck Dynasty cap and souvenirs.



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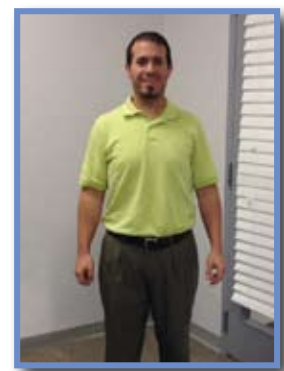
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Spc. Dylan David Back from Afghanistan

Tears and Cheers Greet Returning Soldier When He Surprises Loved Ones at Schools

CENTRAL — Spc. Dylan David, U.S. Army, had been stationed in Afghanistan since January 2013 but arrived home in early October to his bride of two and a half years, Kristin Rogillio David.

The first thing Dylan did was surprise his three brothers-in-law — at their schools.

All three young men have a special place in their heart for Dylan.

Brother-in-law Caden, a kindergarten student at Bellingrath Hills Elementary, had been marking each day off the 2013 calendar, awaiting Dylan's return.

Brother-in-law Kyle, a 7th grade student at Central Middle, started the day off being inducted into the Jr. Beta Club. After lunch, he was happy and very moved to see his brother-in-law. Dylan told Kyle he would be at his game the following week when Central Middle played Zachary. He jokingly told Kyle, "Don't hold it against me because I went to Zachary!"

Also at Central Middle, brother-in-law Cody, a new math teacher at the school and an assistant baseball coach at Central High, was relieved that a call from the principal's office didn't mean trouble but rather the arrival at school of Dylan.

After many months in Afghani-



SURPRISE — Spc. Dylan David surprised his brother-in-law Caden (left) at Bellingrath and brother-in-law Kyle at Central Middle.



Students at Bellingrath (left) saw a happy reunion; (center) Caden, Dylan, and wife Kristin; Kyle, Dylan, and brother-in-law Cody reunite.


stan, Dylan enjoyed the family time and the chance to be renewed.

Nov. 11 is Veterans Day.



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LSU J-School 100th Anniversary



NEW HALL OF FAME MEMBERS INDUCTED ON 100TH ANNIVERSARY — Kevin Reilly, Jr., accepted on behalf of his late father Kevin, Sr. from Kip Holden and Jim Engster; Dan Borné, presented by Mayor-President Kip Holden, a J-School grad and Hall of Fame member; and Prof. Jay Perkins, presented by Hall of Famer Jim Engster.



MEMBERS OF MANSHIP SCHOOL OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS HALL OF FAME — (Left to right) Dean Jerry Ceepos with Hall of Fame members Dan Borné, Jay Perkins, Brett Blackledge, Freda Yarbrough Dunn, Raymond Strother, Linda Lightfoot, Jinx Broussard, Jackie Ducote, Jim Engster, Woody Jenkins, and Kip Holden.

75 years ago we lined up a few good men.



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J-SCHOOL HALL OF FAME — Dan Borné, president of the Louisiana Chemical Association and Voice of the LSU Tigers, was inducted into the LSU Manship School of Communications Hall. Shown are daughter Rebecca, Dan, wife Lissette, son Jason with his wife Jennifer Rae and son D.J.

**LSU MANSHIP SCHOOL OF MASS COMMUNICATIONS
Hall of Fame Ceremonies
October 24, 2013 • Renaissance Hotel**



Fall Festival Fun at Zoar Baptist



Fall Festival at Zoar Baptist
Photos by Jolice Provost



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Where you're not a number, you're a friend!

With Watts' Campaign Manager and CH2MHill's Marketing Department

Higgs Gets Marching Orders

In a meeting with Tommy Higgs, director of CH2MHill's operations in the City of Central, Mayor Mac Watts' campaign manager, Russell Starns, told Higgs to answer Shelton's ad. According to a person who was present in the meeting, Starns told Higgs that Mayor Mac Watts was in danger of losing the election, and that CH2MHill had to put out an ad to respond to Shelton.

Continued from Page 1

before the March 27, 2010, election, Watts' campaign manager, Russell Starns, was in a panic. He was concerned that Shelton's message on permit fees was getting traction, endangering the Mayor's reelection campaign, which had been considered a cinch.

An Experiment. Central, which was incorporated in 2005, is Louisiana's first and only totally privatized municipality. From 2007 to 2011, CH2MHill, which is based in Denver, Colorado, provided all of the services normally provided by city government employees. The company charged a fee for its services and also received 90 percent of all permit fees. Employees of the company, rather than government employees, issued city permits.

Company Answered to Starns. Besides being campaign manager for Mac Watts' reelection campaign, Starns was also serving as the City of Central's official liaison to CH2MHill.

That placed Starns in a powerful position with respect to Tommy Higgs, CH2MHill's manager for the City of Central. In essence, Starns spoke for the mayor, and Higgs had to listen if he wanted CH2MHill to keep the city contract.

Permit Fee Issue. On Thursday, March 18, mayoral candidate Jr. Shelton ran an ad in the *Central City News* entitled, "Setting the Record Straight." The ad compared the cost of permit fees for building a \$287,000 house in Central (\$1,937)

to the cost of permit fees for building the same house in Baton Rouge (\$684).

It was an effective ad that demanded an answer from Mayor Mac Watts. But, instead, Watts' campaign manager Russell Starns decided that CH2MHill should answer Shelton's ad.

Higgs Got Marching Orders. In a meeting with Tommy Higgs, director of CH2MHill's operations in the City of Central, Starns told Higgs to answer Shelton's ad. According to a person who was present in the meeting, Starns told Higgs that Mac was in danger of losing the election and that CH2MHill had to put out an ad to respond to Shelton.

CH2MHill Gears Up. By late afternoon on Thursday, March 18, 2010, the Marketing Department of CH2MHill in Denver was working furiously to follow up on Starns' instructions.

—In emails back and forth with *Advocate* ad representative Tiffani Debetaz, Carolyn Alden of the CH2MHill Marketing Department desperately tried to get quotes for a flyer that would be almost impossible to produce in time.

Carolyn wanted to know if the *Advocate* could print the yet-to-be written flyer. What would be the cost of printing? How many copies? What's the difference in price between color and black and white? What would be the cost of insertion?

The pressure was on CH2MHill. At 6:05 a.m. on Friday, March 19,

Shelton Ad 'Setting the Record Straight' on Permit Fees Nine Days Before Central's Municipal Elections

8"x10" ad which appeared in Thursday, March 18, 2010, issue of *Central City News*



Setting the Record Straight

In a Mayoral Debate held on March 11, 2010, my opponent stated:

"A building permit for a 3,500 sq.ft. home in Baton Rouge costs \$1,650 and the permit in Central costs \$900 and that is \$200 difference." In *The Advocate's* March 13th edition a quote attributed to him says Central's permit is all inclusive of electrical, plumbing, and mechanical permits.

None of this is true.

HERE ARE THE FACTS!

3,500 sq.ft. Valued at \$287,000 by Central Permit Office

Central Permit Cost:

\$1,435 Building Permit
\$502.25 Plan Review Fee
\$1,937.25 total permit fee

Baton Rouge Permit Cost:

\$624 Building Permit
\$60 Plan Review Fee
\$684 total permit fee

The difference is \$1,253, paid for by you, the citizen/homeowner.

All figures are from EBR and City of Central Websites

The city keeps only 10% of collected permit fees, paying Ch2MHill 90%!

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www.jrsheltonformayor.com

Paid for by Friends of Jr. Shelton



Carolyn Alden of CH2MHill was again emailing back and forth to the *Advocate*. Then the shocker: The *Advocate* sales person said the copy for the flyer would have to be ready for 12 noon that very day in order to be printed in time to be inserted in

the *Advocate* a week later, one day before the March 27 election.

"Well, that's not going to happen!" Carolyn emailed from CH2MHill headquarters.

Advocate Says Flyer Political. Then another shocker for Carolyn Alden: The *Advocate* had decided that the flyer was a "political" piece and would be subject to scrutiny by the *Advocate's* management.

Since the flyer would have to be printed elsewhere and shipped to the *Advocate*, the newspaper's management would have to approve the copy prior to printing. Tiffani Debetaz of the *Advocate* wrote Carolyn, "If you do go with this, I will need the artwork emailed to me for approval prior to inserting **since it is political. Everything has to be approved if it has anything to do with politics.**"

Now CH2MHill Vice President for Marketing Susan Mays, a major player in the corporation, got involved. But she didn't really understand the extreme deadline she was under. In an email to her colleague Carolyn Alden, she said the corporation may need to run an ad on Friday of the next week and do the insert the following week. But that would have meant the flyer would have arrived nearly a week after the election.

Still on Friday morning, VP Susan Mays tried to assure Carolyn Alden that the flyer wasn't political. "While it's been made a cam-

CH2MHill Refusing to Release Nine Emails

Continued from Page 1

whereabouts.

Instead of holding the hearing required under the Public Records law, Judge Bates in August 2010 dismissed the suit and ruled that CH2MHill was a private company not subject to the public records law. The *Central City News* appealed to the First Circuit Court of Appeal, which in 2011 ruled that the documents requested were indeed public records, provided that there was sufficient "connexity" between the City of Central and CH2MHill.

The Court of Appeal ordered Judge Bates to conduct a hearing to determine the degree of connexity between the two. CH2MHill appealed the ruling to the Louisiana Supreme Court, which in 2012 upheld the Court of Appeal and ordered Judge Bates to conduct the hearing.

During 2013, the *Central City News* attempted to conduct discovery and gather testimony and documents from CH2MHill. After a number of delays, the news-

paper was able to schedule Mayor Mac Watts for the taking of a deposition under oath. At that time, CH2MHill began serious talks on a settlement. In late September, Judge Bates signed a judgment, which both parties agreed to. Under the judgment, CH2MHill was to pay the newspaper's attorney fees and turn over to the *Central City News* all of the documents it had requested under the Public Records law, except those subject to the attorney/client privilege.

Pursuant to the judgment, CH2MHill did pay the attorney fees and turned over to the newspaper 54 emails which had been subject to the Public Records request.

However, in the discovery process, the *Central City News* learned of nine other email strings, which CH2MHill admitted were responsive to the Public Records request but which it says are subject to attorney/client privilege.

The *Central City News* objects to the failure of CH2MHill to release those documents, because the newspaper says they are not subject

to the attorney/client privilege.

Five of the email strings are from one CH2MHill employee to eight other employees on March 31, 2010. One of the recipients of the email was an in-house attorney for CH2MHill, and the others were not attorneys. The *Central City News* maintains that when an email is distributed to non-attorneys, it is not subject to the attorney/client privilege. The other four email strings were from one CH2MHill employee to another on April 5, 2010, and April 13, 2010. Since neither the sender nor the recipient of the emails was an attorney, the *Central City News* maintains there is no attorney/client attached to those emails. Two of the missing email strings are from Tommy Higgs, in which he discussed the Public Records requests.

Without these emails, it is impossible for the public to have a true picture of how a political flyer was distributed in the name of the City of Central one day before the municipal elections on March 27, 2010.

Political Consultant Calling the Shots, Worked to Produce a Political Flyer

City of Central Flyer 'Setting the Record Straight on Fees' One Day Before Central's Municipal Elections

Page Four of 8.5"x11" newspaper insert in Friday, March 26 issue of the Advocate

Setting the record straight on fees

From time to time, we get questions about Central's structure for permitting and inspection fees – perhaps because they're set up a little differently than those in neighboring communities. Central uses what's called a self-supporting model, where only those who use the service pay for the service. For the average Central citizen, this means you're not paying for services you're not using. All building permit and plan review fees are set up to cover all of the costs associated with administering the department (including labor), and set fees for electrical, plumbing and mechanical inspections mean no surprises. Total fees are highly competitive within East Baton Rouge Parish, and the City of Central is guaranteed 10% of every fee to invest in the community.



City of Central Municipal Services Center

22801 Greenwell Springs Road, Suites 2 & 3
Central, LA 70739
225.262.5000



New Residential Construction Permit Comparison		
	City of Central	East Baton Rouge
Subsidized	No	Yes
Living Area Sq Ft	2,090	2,090
Accessory Sq Ft	669	669
Valuation (for permit purposes only)	\$226,238.00	\$184,414.00
Building	\$1,131.15	\$468.83
Plan Review	\$395.90	\$60.00
	\$1,527.05	\$528.83
Electrical	\$100.00	
1 < 200 Amps	--	\$16.00
21 Circuit, Branch	--	\$73.50
1 Circuit Feeder	--	\$7.00
1 Motor < 1HP (Fractional)	--	\$3.60
1 Motor 3-5 HP	--	\$9.00
1 Temp Pole	--	\$23.00
Temporary Cut-in	--	--
	\$100.00	\$132.10
Plumbing	\$100.00	
1 Fixture, First	--	\$7.00
3 Fixture, Bathtub	--	\$21.00
1 Fixture, HW Heater	--	\$7.00
4 Fixture, Lavatory	--	\$28.00
1 Fixture, Shower Bath	--	\$7.00
1 Fixture, Sink	--	\$7.00
3 Fixture, Water Closet	--	\$21.00
1 Fixture, Washing Machine	--	\$7.00
1 Fixture, A/C Drain	--	\$7.00
4 Fixture, Gas	--	\$28.00
1 Sewer, Tie-in	--	\$27.50
1 Fixture Dishwasher	--	\$7.00
1 Fixture, Garbage Disposal	--	\$7.00
	\$100.00	\$181.50
Mechanical	100.00	--
AC Unit 5-9 Ton	--	\$65.00
	\$100.00	\$65.00
Additional Fees		
Traffic Impact	--	\$760.00
	--	\$760.00
Total Permit Fee	\$1,527.05	\$1,667.43

EBR also charges a sewer impact fee of \$2,150.00 if connecting to the Parish Sewer System. Sources: City of Central Permit Ordinance 2006-21, EBR Inspection Division Permit - Record Copy

Mayor's Political Consultant

On Thursday, March 18, 2010, the political consultant handling Mayor Mac Watts' reelection campaign told CH2MHill what she expected. Delia Taylor of Taylor Media Services was handling media for Watts' campaign and working closely with Russell Starns. CH2MHill Vice President of Marketing Susan Mays wrote on Friday, March 19, 2010: "Based on my/Tommy's conversations with Delia Taylor, we're looking at a four-page color insert — essentially a four-page brochure."

use stock but we can't include people in those," she wrote to Carolyn Alden.

'A Scary Prospect.' Alden expressed her frustration to her boss, VP Mays. "There is no room for error here...which is a scary prospect in my opinion," she said. "I would need the art completely done and approved by the end of the day Monday to hand off to printer...for them to run Tuesday morning and get to Fedex for Wed morning (before 12 delivery)"

Mayor's Political Consultant. On Thursday, March 18, the political consultant handling Mayor Mac Watts' reelection campaign told CH2MHill what she expected. Delia Taylor of Taylor Media Services was handling media for Watts' campaign and working closely with Russell Starns.

CH2MHill Vice President Susan Mays wrote on Friday, March 19, 2010: "Based on my/Tommy's conversations with Delia Taylor, we're looking at a four-page color insert — essentially a four-page brochure."

Higgs Backs Away. Just a few minutes later, CH2MHill's director in Central, Tommy Higgs, began backing away from the project. He made it clear he was just doing what

Taylor Media Services

Delia Taylor, owner of Taylor Media Services of Denham Springs, received payments from Mac Watts' 2010 campaign for Mayor of Central in the amount of \$2,500 on Feb. 17, 2010; \$2,579 on March 15, 2010; \$5,900 on March 30, 2010; and \$2,011 on April 5, 2010, according to the Louisiana Board of Ethics. Over the years, Taylor has also represented Sen. Bodi White and Russell Starns. She is currently representing Dave Freneau for Mayor and the Central School Board.

he had been ordered to do, apparently by Russell Starns.

"I was simply 'charged' with getting our [CH2MHill] Marketing Dept. and Ms. [Delia] Taylor [the Mayor's political consultant] in contact with each other," Higgs wrote to a group of CH2MHill's top officials.

"Aside from that, I am simply trying to do my best to get Ms. [Susan] Mays [CH2MHill Vice President for Marketing] the things she is requesting."

Moving still farther away from the project, Higgs wrote, "So there is no misunderstanding here, I have

See CH2MHill on Page 20

paign issue, it's not a political ad," she said. But she resigned herself to the fact that, "This will require additional time," she wrote.

Mays decided the now-political flyer would have to be printed in Denver and shipped to the Advocate in Baton Rouge — no small feat, considering the short timetable involved.

Looking at the zip codes to be covered in Central, Mays and Alden decided that 7,500 copies would have to be printed.

Not Enough Time. As far as content was concerned, there were

serious problems. "There's no time to hire a photographer," CH2MHill VP Susan Mays said.

She thought about using photos from Sandy Springs, GA, where CH2MHill also had a privatization contract. "I'm thinking some of the Centennial/Sandy Springs images" such as "plan intake and review, payments, code enforcement officer, traffic light repair," and so on. But, shortly thereafter, in another email, she worried that people in Central would realize the people in the photos weren't from Central. "If we're using 'generic,' we can

The Mystery of Tommy Higgs

CENTRAL — Tommy Higgs, the former CH2MHill manager for Central, is not listed in the FBI Missing Persons Bureau, but perhaps he should be. Higgs is at the center of the controversy involving the political flyer created by CH2MHill in the 2010 Mayor's race in Central.

Higgs and Mayor Mac Watts were subpoenaed to testify by the Central City News in the public records hearing scheduled in early June 2010. On the Friday before the Monday hearing, District Judge Kay Bates abruptly cancelled the hearing despite objections from the Central City News.



Tommy Higgs Missing since 2010

That weekend, Higgs fled the state, and the Central City News was able to find him to serve him with a subpoena. Since he was an employee of CH2MHill and a vital witness, CH2MHill had the obligation to produce him in a civil suit. However, they claimed that they did not know his whereabouts.

Higgs has a Facebook page, but it provides little information to those who are not his "Friends." One of the four photos posted on the page shows a large "No Trespassing" sign that reads, "What Part of NOG-D-Trespassing Don't You Understand."

Higgs Backs Away from Project

By the morning of Friday, March 19, 2010, CH2MHill's director in Central, Tommy Higgs, began backing away from the project. He made it clear he was just doing what he had been ordered to do, apparently by Russell Starns. In an email to a group of CH2MHill's top officials a week before the election, he wrote, "I was simply 'charged' with getting our [CH2MHill] Marketing Dept. and Ms. [Delia] Taylor [the Mayor's political consultant] in contact with each other." Moving farther away from the project, Higgs wrote, "So there is no misunderstanding here, I have no opinion regarding the right or wrong, good or bad of Ms. [Delia] Taylor's ideas."



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Central Celebrates 'A' School Rating

Thousands Hail Central Schools' Top Rating from Education Dept.

CENTRAL — Nearly 4,000 Central students, parents, teachers, and administrators gathered at Wildcat Stadium Tuesday night to celebrate the Central Community School System's being rated as an 'A' school system for the second straight year.

The district celebrated accomplishments in Academics, Athletics, Arts and Awareness from the community. They also had a lot of fun doing it! Each of Central's five public schools competed in a spirit contest for prizes and bragging rights.

Each school adopted a theme for the night, and students, parents, and teachers dressed the part. Bellingrath Hills Elementary students were farmers, and principal Laurie Gelding arrived driving a tractor. Tanglewood Elementary students were construction workers, and principal Kitty Ainsworth arrived in a hardhat. Central Intermediate School students were cowboys. Principal Rhonda Taylor apparently doesn't like horses, because she ar-



CELEBRATING Tanglewood Elementary Tuesday night were teachers Annette Bourgeois, Pattie Richie, and Michelle Ensminger.

rived on a wooden horse. But assistant principal Jeremy O'Banion arrived riding a real paint horse. Central Middle School students

were race car drivers, and principal Jason Fountain arrived on the football field in a race car. Central High students were... well, we're not sure, but principal David Prescott arrived wearing leather and driving a Harley!

In the end, Central Middle School students, parents, teachers, and administrators were the loudest and won the competition, according to the three judges, all of whom are

real-life judges. Court of Appeal Judge Toni Higginbotham, District Judge Chip Moore, and Family Court Judge Charlene Day made it all official.

Supt Mike Faulk said, "While our teachers, administrators, parents and students are working together to move the bar higher, we could not be as successful as we have been without the tremendous support of all our community members."

More Details on School Bond Vote In Central Next Saturday, Nov. 16

Continued from Page 3

ing's location, which will be away from the main building of the high school, would also help alleviate traffic congestion during the morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up.

He said the funding request also will allow the district to remove old buildings from the district's former middle school site and expand park-

ing near the football stadium. He said the improvements would make the site safer and better prepared for future improvements.

"Right now, we have to insure and maintain these vacant buildings, including running electricity and water to them. We need to get rid of the buildings that are beyond repair, to minimize our costs and liability, and clear the way for whatever this school board and community decide is best for that property in the future," Faulk said.

"At the same time, we need extra parking on site to accommodate the many activities at the stadium. Right now, families are having to park along a very busy road and walk in traffic - most of the time after dark. The new parking space will make coming to our stadium a safer activity, and we will have the parking for future use of the site."

He said the improvements at the high school, including the new parking lot and the installation of lighting at the baseball and softball fields, are "much overdue."

"The crumbling concrete and enlarging potholes in the parking lot have caused some problems in the past with damage to cars. We need to fix that," he said. "Meanwhile, it's time we invested in our athletics program, particularly adding lights to our fields, so our teams can compete on their home field rather than travel, or so games can start in the evening, after work, rather than in the middle of day. We hope to have that fixed by this spring if the prop-

See **APPROVAL** on Page 13

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Chief D. McDavid - Zachary PD	Chief H. Brignac - French Settlement PD
Chief M. Lee - Walker PD	Chief R. Dufrene - Livingston PD
Chief S. Jackson - Gonzales PD	Marshal M. Zito - Port Allen Marshal's Office
Chief Bill Landry, Ret.	

with 4,000 People at Wildcat Stadium



CENTRAL INTERMEDIATE principal Rhonda Taylor and assistant principal Julie Stevens; Central Middle principal Jason Fountain with teachers, and CIS's Jeremy O'Banion



TANGLEWOOD principal Kitty Ainsworth; Ashley Tingle; Central High principal David Prescott with the Harley, and Bellinger Hills principal Laurie Gehling with students.



CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD members and Supt. Mike Faulk; Central High head football coach Sid Edwards, and Judges Toni Higginbotham, Chip Moore, and Charlene Day.

Approval of Bond Issue Would Allow More Construction without a Tax Increase

Continued from Page 1
 position passes.”
 Faulk said the technology component of the new funding is needed to add wireless capacity to the schools for classroom instruction

and assessments. He noted that state testing will be “completely computerized” and the district must install software applications and invest in some of its hardware components to ensure the programs are ready

for teacher and student use. He said school districts across Louisiana are asking for additional funds from the Department of Education to cover these “mandated costs,” but at this point, no funding has been allocat-

ed nor have state officials given any indication that they will be.
 “Our students need to be ready to compete. We can’t just wait and hope someone else will pick up the tab for our students.”

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GREATER BATON ROUGE AMERICAN ITALIAN ASSOCIATION sponsored another successful Festa on Sunday, Oct. 20 at Belle of Baton Rouge Hotel Atrium.

'Lives That Will Never Rust' by BR Author Danny Brown

"LIVES THAT WILL NEVER RUST" The remarkable love story of Col. James Hamilton Beard and his family — Hero at the Battle of Mansfield — Last major Confederate victory

by Danny Brown

(Softcover: \$12; Oct. 16, 2013)

BIC Media Solutions, a sister company of BIC Alliance,

"LIVES THAT WILL NEVER RUST" is the true story of Col. Beard, who was killed at the Battle of Mansfield, La. "The story of James Beard couldn't be told without fully chroni-

cling the lives of his wife Kate and his brother Ned, two people he loved dearly and who returned that love," Brown said. He adds the story is not unlike that of the title characters in Margaret Mitchell's "Gone with the Wind."

"James Beard, like Rhett Butler, was a prosperous self-made Southern gentleman. Patriotic, he organized the Shreveport Grays Militia Unit and served as their first captain. And then there is Kate, his loving wife, who overcame numerous tragedies to leave an enduring legacy. And finally, younger brother Ned, who was at James' side when he was killed and who would go on to leave his own notable legacy. It is an extraordinary story," Brown said.

The book is now available online from Amazon and BIC Alliance (www.bicalliance.com), and will soon be available in bookstores and from other retailers. For information or to schedule interviews with Danny Brown or Earl Heard, contact Earl Heard at (225) 751-9996 or earlheard@bicalliance.com.

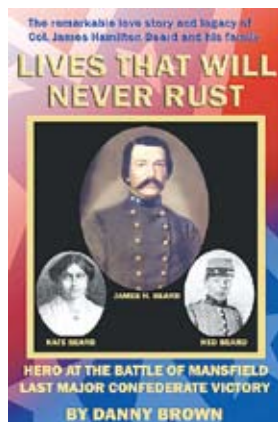
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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

A professional journalist and photographer, Danny Brown twice served as president of the Baton Rouge Civil War Round Table.



Author Danny Brown (left) and BIC Media Solutions publisher Earl Heard



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Zachary head coach Neil Weiner and Central head coach Sid Edwards



CENTRAL WILDCATS' Jake Myer — One of his many gains against Zachary.



Central has its sights on playoffs



CENTRAL HIGH CHEERLEADERS

**Central High School
District 4-5A Champs
8-1, 5-0
Photos from Central's
35-0 Win over Zachary**
Photos by Woody Jenkins



Dr. David Rabalais and Dr. Michael Romaguera



Central coach Sid Edwards prepares to address his team after Zachary victory.



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Central's Mayor's Race Underway

Shelton Says He Would Focus on Improving City's Infrastructure

CENTRAL — Central's April 5, 2014, municipal elections are already underway. Central voters will elect a mayor, five city council members, and a police chief.

Mayoral candidates Jr. Shelton and Dave Freneau have already put up campaign signs along Central's major thoroughfares, and they are busy campaigning and raising money.

Shelton narrowly lost the race for mayor nearly four years against incumbent Mayor Mac Watts. He surprised many by his strong showing. Shelton subsequently was elected to the Republican Parish Executive Committee from Central and served as Republican chairman for the city until two months ago.

Freneau, the founder of *Central Speaks* newspaper, has been closely aligned with Watts since starting his newspaper.

Shelton and Freneau have been on opposite sides of many issues facing the City Council since 2010. One of the most controversial was the Baton Rouge Loop. The Central City Council debated and ultimately passed a resolution blocking the Baton Rouge Loop from passing through Central. Shelton strongly opposed the Loop and tes-



CAMPAIGN UNDERWAY — Candidates for Central mayor, police chief, and city council have already started putting up signs in preparation for April 5, 2014, election.



JR. SHELTON, candidate for mayor, studying CH2M Hill records this week.



DAVE FRENEAU, speaking for the Baton Rouge Loop in January 2012.

tified for the resolution. Freneau opposed the resolution and said the Loop should be studied more and the door left open for it to come through Central.

Freneau started his newspaper the week after the *Central City News* made public records requests from CH2M Hill in March 2010.

In an interview this week, Shelton said his priorities are infrastructure improvements to Sullivan, Wax, Core, Lovett, Gurney, Hooper, and Greenwell Springs roads and extending Hooper across the Amite to Watson. He said Central's economic development has been poor at best and the city needs commercial and retail growth. He plans to develop a drainage plan that would improve drainage and maintain it on an ongoing basis. He said Central must address the sewer system and upgrade it. Shelton said he favors continued privatization but says it must always be transparent for the citizens.

In his announcement, Freneau said he will provide a stronger voice for the people through town hall meetings. He said he has created a website and a Facebook page for greater discussion. He favors single-member districts for the city council.

Freneau kicked off his campaign with a reception at the home of City Councilman Louis DeJohn. Sponsors of the event included Russell Starns, Rodney Bonvillain, Wade Giles, and Mike Breau. He operates a delivery company. In addition to starting *Central Speaks*, Freneau founded the Central Cultural Foundation.



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What's Happening in Baton Rouge Area

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

Tuesday, November 12
Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon
11:30 a.m. • Lunch 12 noon
 Former Rep. Tony Perkins, now president of the Family Research Foundation in Washington, will be the featured speaker at the Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon at Café Américain, 7521 Jefferson Hwy. in Baton Rouge. The reception begins at 11:30 a.m. and lunch at 12 noon. Open to registered Republicans, guests, and media. Lunch \$15. RSVP to woodyjenkins@hotmail.com.

November 12 through 15
CHS Book Fair
11 a.m. to 2 p.m.
 Central High School library along with Cavalier House Books will be hosting a fall Book fair for students, faculty, and the community. This will be a great opportunity to get a jump on your holiday shopping. There will be a variety of books available including fiction, nonfiction, and AR, as well as great stocking stuffers. Proceeds will benefit the school library.

Saturday, November 16
Dinner and Show 5:30 p.m.
 The St. Alphonsus PrimeTimers are sponsoring a Dinner and Show featuring Cajun comedian Murry Conque at Kristenwood. Tickets are \$20 per person and can be purchased at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church Office. Must be 21 years of age or older to attend.

Saturday, November 16
Jambalaya Benefit
11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.
 There will be a jambalaya benefit dinner for Central residents Rusty and Susan Jacobs. Susan has been diagnosed with ALS and Rusty is a disabled veteran and has been diagnosed with Chronic Debilitating Peripheral Neuropathy. The cost is \$7 per dinner. There will be drive-thru service in front of the old Starkey Academy gym on Joor Rd. Tickets can be purchased in advance at the following locations: GM Cable, FX Salon, Jerry Lee's, Indian Mound Convenient Store, Edward Jones in Magnolia Village, Romero's at Joor and Lovett, Romero's at Joor and Core, Central Tire & Auto and Sullivan's Hardware.



ST. ALPHONSUS — Parishioners of St. Alphonsus Church in Central visiting St. Alphonsus Church in Rome, Italy, during tour.

chased in advance at the following locations: GM Cable, FX Salon, Jerry Lee's, Indian Mound Convenient Store, Edward Jones in Magnolia Village, Romero's at Joor and Lovett, Romero's at Joor and Core, Central Tire & Auto and Sullivan's Hardware.

Saturday, November 16
Wrestling Invitational
10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
 Central High School Wrestling Invitational. Come enjoy the competition and food.

Wednesday, November 20
Constitutional Convention
5 to 7 p.m.
 The 40th Anniversary of the Louisiana Constitutional Convention of 1973. Surviving delegates will discuss the work of the convention and the long-term effects of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974. Former Govs. Edwards and Roemer, convention Chairman Bubba Henry, and former Rep. Woody Jenkins will speak. Holliday Forum, Journalism Building, LSU. Make reservations at www.cc73.event brite.com

Sunday, December 8
Remembering our Children
Candlelight Service 6 p.m.
 The death of a child is devastating. The darkness that sets in when a child has died is all too well known to families who have lost a child. St. Alphonsus Liguori Church will provide the opportunity for grieving families and their friends to come together to celebrate the life, love, and light of those children gone much too soon. A reception will immediately follow the service. Everyone is invited to attend.

Baton Rouge Business Directory

3-month contract \$50 a month
 6-month contract \$47 a month
 9-month contract \$45 a month
 12-month contract \$42 a month

Advertising

Central City News
 For information on advertising in the newspaper, call Jolice or Candi at 225-261-5055

Auto Glass

ANEWER AUTO GLASS
 Wind Shield Repair & Replacement
 We Come to You • 225-791-7440

Carpet Cleaning

BayouSteam
 Carpet, Upholstery, Tile & Grout Cleaning
 Locally owned and operated
225-955-6955

Plumbing

LAFLEUR'S Plumb- #LA676
 Full Repair Service
 Monday - Saturday • Same Rates!
 Appointment Necessary on Saturday
 (Make Appointment Before Friday)
 261-2751

Aerobics

Aerobics by Roxanne
 Since 1983 • Good For Your
225-281-1623

Automotive

Simple Simon TIRE AND CAR CARE
 North Store
 7777 N. Airline Hwy.
 225-927-2311
 South Store
 12116 S. Airline

Dirt Work

General Sand & Gravel Co.
 Limestone, Gravel, Mason Sand, Clay, Top Soil, Riversilt, Crushed Concrete, Tractor Work
225-261-3953

Physical Therapy

It's YOUR choice.
CENTRAL PHYSICAL THERAPY
225.261-7094
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Amway

Need Amway Products?
 Experienced Distributor
 Can Set You Up as Customer
225-336-5885

Avon

Buy or SELL AVON
 \$10 to Start
 Independent Sales Rep
 Call Karen **225-328-1188**

Furniture

Gerard FURNITURE & GALLERY
 Good Furniture That Lasts
 7330 Florida Blvd.
225-926-0250

Snowballs

CENTRAL SNO-N-GO
 10022 Hooper Road
 (Across from Seale Funeral Home)
 Buy a LARGE shaved ice
 get one FREE!
 Open Mon.-Sat. 2-8 p.m.

Appliance Repair

Mark's Appliance Repair
225-261-2270
 Service to all major brands
 Shop Central First!

Cabinets

Thud Landaiche LANDAICHE CABINETS
 Custom Kitchen & Bath Cabinets
 landaichecabinets.com
 25 years' experience • **225-218-9399**

Painting

Randy Falcon
 20 Years' Experience
 No Job Too Large or Small
225-454-2961 (cell)

Weight Loss

The All Natural Way to Lose Weight
SLIM
 www.LiveBetterWithPlexus.com • **225-937-1903**



Central

Community School System

Investing in Our Future



On **Nov. 16**, the Central Community School Board is asking voters to approve a request to borrow up to \$13.1 million to pay for needed upgrades to school facilities.

The additional monies can be borrowed through the extension of existing construction bonds approved by voters in 2009, which will NOT increase the millage rate now paid by local property owners.

Dedicated Spending

The \$13.1 million would be dedicated to the following improvements:

- Construct a Ninth Grade Academy (\$5.82 million)
- Repair Central High School's parking lot (\$1.8 million)
- Install lighting at the Central High Baseball and Softball Fields (\$500,000)
- Upgrade district technology capacity to manage mandated state assessments (\$2 million)
- Demolition, asbestos abatement and upgrades to the Old Central Middle School site (\$1.5 million)

Total estimated costs = \$11.62 million
 + 12% contingency fee \$1.39 million
 (required under risk management policy)

= \$13.1 million



Fiscally Conservative

The proposition would enable the school board to extend existing bonds by five years and NOT increase the yearly millage rate.

Central property owners would continue to pay the current 23.65 mills per year to pay down the debt. Improved property values and new growth within the district will decrease the millage rate over time.

In fact, the Central School Board has already lowered the district's general fund revenue millage, enacted at the creation of the new school district, from 43.43 mills in 2007 to 36.75 mills in 2013.

Projected Yearly Millage Rates for Central Community Schools to Pay Off Existing and New Capital Improvements



*Summary of projected millage requirements for possible series 2014 General Obligation School Bonds prepared by Foley & Judell, LLP. Projections assume a conservative 4% annual growth rate, except for a 6% assumed growth rate in scheduled reassessment years of 2016, 2020, 2024, 2028 and 2032

**Central's actual growth rate in assessed values since 2005 has averaged nearly 8%. At the same time, the growth rate for assessed values in the scheduled reassessment years of 2008 and 2012 were 16% and 8%, respectively.

Proven Stewardship

Central Community Schools has a proven track record of investing in our children to improve their academic performance. The district continues to rank as one of the state's top-performing school systems thanks to taxpayer support.

Together, we have given our children:

- The New Central Middle School
- The New Central Intermediate School
- Significant Life Safety Improvements to District Facilities

Together, our investments have resulted in Better Learning Environments, Better Results, Better Futures for Our Children

CH2MHill Worked for Its 'Supporters'

Continued from Page 11

no opinion regarding the right or wrong, good or bad of Ms. [Delia] Taylor's ideas."

Content of the Flyer. The back-and-forth staff emails turned to the content of the flyer. Since some CH2MHill staff members' photos would be included, Marketing decided to include quotes from those employees. Susan Mayes wrote that they should include quotes from employees about working in Central "that capture the idea of local employees but also support the partnership model. For example: 'Working for CH2MHill in Central, I get the best of both worlds. I have the resources and expertise of a major company at my fingertips while I serve the citizens of my hometown.' and 'I've lived in Central all my life, and there's nothing I enjoy more than being able to deliver great service to my fellow citizens.'"

It is unclear whether the CH2MHill employees who appeared in the flyer actually said what they are quoted as saying, or whether the language was created by the Marketing Department.

No Email Record of Permit Fee Comparison. The controversial part of the flyer was the back page, which was titled, "Setting the Record Straight on Fees." It was a direct answer to Jr. Shelton's campaign ad of Thursday, March 18, which had been entitled, "Setting the Record Straight."

In the final version of the flyer, there is a comparison of the costs of permits in Central versus the cost of permits in Baton Rouge. **Yet, nowhere in the emails provided by CH2MHill is there an email**



TOASTING CH2MHill contract in 2007 were City of Central officials (left to right) Russell Starns, Aaron Moak, Ralph Washington, Sherri Morris, Mac Watts, Joan Lansing, Lucky Ross, Louis DeJohn, and David Barrow.

Higgs on Re-electing 'Our Supporters'

In an email to top CH2MHill officials, Higgs quipped, "Don't forget to come down here and vote Saturday. If you are voting for our 'supporters' it is appreciated. If you are voting against them, please only vote once!!! LOL." He sent another email to the same officials, saying "Thanks again and wish our supporters the best of luck in tomorrow's election. Tommy" While couched in a humorous vein, the messages nevertheless sent a strong message that the city contractor for Central — CH2MHill — had identified some candidates for Mayor and Council as the company's "supporters" and others who were not.

showing any such comparison. It seems to have magically appeared in the final printed version.

At a meeting of the Central City

Council, Councilman Louis DeJohn had produced and distributed a very similar comparison.

In the draft of the four-page flyer attached to an email at 11:41 a.m. on Monday, March 22, 2010, there is no comparison of permit fees in Baton Rouge vs. Central. Furthermore, the proposed flyer says that it is from CH2MHill. There is no language indicating that it is from the "City of Central."

At 12:55 p.m. on Monday, March 22, 2010, Roy Hutchinson, Central City Director of Public Works and a CH2MHill employee, wrote to CH2MHill VP Susan Mays that she should, "Stand by for Permit Comparison Breakdown..." However, based on the emails provided by CH2MHill, that comparison never arrived, or at least not from a CH2MHill employee.

At 1:19 p.m. on Monday, Susan Mays wrote to Carolyn Alden that "Brent's working on the new copy, which can either go on the back or near the community development/fee copy." However, no email from Brent or any identification of him was provided in their emails.

At 2:29 p.m. on Monday, March 22, 2010, Susan Mays sent out a copy of the proposed Central flyer. However, it was not attached to the emails which the *Central City News* was provided.

Additions to Flyer Copy. Somewhere along the way, the flyer was changed. "City of Central" was added to the flyer, making it appear the piece was from the city government itself. The permit fee comparison was added. But there is no record of where any of those changes came from.

Arrival of Political Flyers. The 7,500 printed flyers for insertion in the *Advocate* were shipped from Denver on Wednesday, March 24, and arrived at the *Advocate* on Thursday morning, just in time to be inserted in the Friday, March 26, 2010, edition of the *Advocate* headed for zip codes in and around

Central. For all their trouble, the *Advocate* was paid \$374.

The invoice for the printing of the flyer was \$5,020.12, which included \$1,403 for shipping.

After the inserts arrived at the *Advocate* printing facility in Baton Rouge, CH2MHill's Central director Tommy Higgs was in good spirits. He sent a message to top CH2MHill officials, thanking them for their hard work on the insert and inviting them to come to Central and vote in Saturday's election.

Repeated References to Candidates Who Are 'Our Supporters.' In an email to top CH2MHill officials, Higgs quipped, "Don't forget to come down here and vote Saturday. If you are voting for our 'supporters' it is appreciated. If you are voting against them, please only vote once!!! LOL."

He sent another email to the same officials, saying "Thanks again and wish our supporters the best of luck in tomorrow's election. Tommy"

In still another email to Susan Mays and Carolyn Alden on Thursday, March 25, Higgs urged them to go to the *Central City News* website to read "some very good endorsements from Contractor and the Elected Officials (who support us)."

While the emails were couched in a humorous vein, they nevertheless sent a strong message that CH2MHill had identified some candidates for Mayor and Council as the company's "supporters" and others whom they determined were not.

Missing Emails. CH2MHill provided 54 emails to the *Central City News*, in compliance with the judgment signed by District Judge Kay Bates. But a number of emails covered by the judgment have not been turned over to the *Central City News*, including the following:

- Nine email strings that were withheld, because the company claims they were subject to the "attorney/client privilege." The *Central City News* disputes that claim. See story on Page 1.
- Emails from the source of the permit comparison, which appeared on the right of the "Setting the Record Straight on Fees" flyer.
- Emails from "Brent" who was rewriting the copy.
- The draft of the flyer sent by Susan Mays at 2:20 p.m. on Monday, March 22.

Without these emails, it is impossible to get a true picture of everything that happened in the preparation of this political flyer distributed in the name of the City of Central one day before the municipal elections on March 27, 2010.

In 2011, the City of Central named a new city contractor, IBTS, which now administers the City of Central.

Buy \$25 in gift cards, GET A FREE \$5 Complimentary Card

10500 Sullivan Rd.
225-261-6446

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