

**No Masks Required in Central Schools This Fall**



**See Page 3**

Rare Veto Session to Consider 28 Bills Vetoed by JBE

# It's Liberal Gov. John Bel Edwards Vs. Conservative State Legislature

Transgender Sports, Gun Control, Privacy, Voting Integrity Will Be Tested at Session

**Woody Jenkins**  
 Editor

**BATON ROUGE** — Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards has vetoed 28 bills passed by the Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature, including 12 conservative bills authored by Republican legislators who oppose much of Edwards' agenda. Edwards raised eyebrows by vetoing these bills:

- To allow the Republican and Democratic parties to appoint poll watchers at each precinct and early voting site in the state.
- To prohibit private money from Mark Zuckerberg and others being used in elections by state and local election officials.
- To allow Louisiana citizens to carry weapons concealed on their person or property.
- To prohibit men who call themselves women from competing in women's sports.
- To prohibit vaccine status being listed on a person's Louisiana drivers' license.

See 12 MAJOR on Page 4



**LIBERAL DEMOCRATIC GOV. JOHN BEL EDWARDS** (left) and Rep. Blake Miguez, House Republican leader, appear headed for a showdown on Tuesday, July 20.

Plan of Government Changes

## Plan for 13th Metro Council Member Draws Opposition

**BATON ROUGE** — A series of public meetings is being held across East Baton Rouge Parish to gauge voters' reaction to far-ranging proposed changes in the City-Parish Plan of Government.

So far, one of the most significant changes — adding a 13th Metro councilman elected parishwide — doesn't seem to be getting much traction.

See 13th COUNCILMAN Page 13

## Rally to Override Vetoes Monday at Capitol

**BATON ROUGE** — The Republican Party of Louisiana is sponsoring an Override the Vetoes Rally at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, July 19 on the steps of the State Capitol in Baton Rouge. The Louisiana Legislature is expected to convene in

a Veto Session at 12 noon the next day, Tuesday, July 20.

Conservative leaders from across the state are expected at the rally, which is intended to draw attention to the Veto Session and the issues legislators will face.

Speakers will include Louis Gurvich, chairman of the Louisiana Republican Party; former Rep. Woody Jenkins, parish Republican chairman from East Baton Rouge, and legislators who authored bills that were vetoed.

# Plans for Hooper at Sullivan Move Forward

School Board Plans Administrative Office At Old Middle School

**Woody Jenkins**  
 Editor

**BATON ROUGE** — The southeast corner of Hooper at Sullivan roads has long been identified with the Central community. From 1880 until 2012, it was the site of Central School, then Central High School and finally Central Middle School.

Parts of the old Central Middle School were condemned in 1989 because of asbestos and roof leaks. However, the school continued to be used and wasn't torn down until the new state-of-the-art Central

See STILL LOTS on Page 2



**CENTRAL SCHOOL SYSTEM OFFICES** — View of the proposed Administration building for the Central Community School System from the intersection of Hooper and Sullivan roads. Supt. Jason Fountain hopes to have the design complete and go out for bids by the end of 2021 with completion during 2022. The facility will include offices for 30 administrators and school board meeting room.

### School Board Ready to Move Forward with Administrative Offices

# Still Lots of Options for Hooper at Sullivan: School Board Office, City Hall, Stadium, Track



ARTIST CONCEPTION OF AERIAL VIEW of new Administration Building for the Central School System showing Wildcat Stadium in the background. The scene is from above Hooper at Sullivan roads looking southeast. No decision has been made on uses for the rest of the 28-acre site. In the discussion have been a new City Hall, governmental complex, high school track and sports complex.



View from Hooper Road of the proposed Administration building for the Central Community School System

Continued from Page 1

School Complex was ready for the fall of 2012.

The new school complex, which includes Central Intermediate School and Central Middle School, is located at the intersection of Sullivan and Gurney roads.

★★★

The year 2012 marked the first time in 132 years that there was no school on the southeast corner of Hooper and Sullivan roads!

All that remains today at the old Middle School site is Wildcat Stadium, where Central High School and a host of youth leagues continue to play football and soccer. The stadium just underwent a \$1.3 million facelift, which included putting artificial turf on the field and moving the field 10-15 feet closer to the Central High sidelines on the south side of the stadium.

The 28-acre site is considered one of the most historic, strategic, and valuable places in the City of Central. It is owned by the Central Community School System.

★★★

The debate about what to do with the site has been raging for decades, both publicly and behind the scenes.

From the beginning, the site has played a major role in Central, even giving the community its name!

It also played an important role in the creation of the City of Central and the Central Community School System.

In 1880, the area in what is now the City of Central between the Amite and Comite rivers was a series of isolated rural communities. Each had its own one-room school house. The people wanted to build a high school but couldn't agree on

a location. Location was important because transportation in those days was so slow and difficult. Going to school 10 or 15 miles away was no easy task. Ultimately, the representatives of the various communities decided to build the high school at the corner of what is now Hooper and Sullivan roads.

The site was chosen because a family was willing to donate some land. It was named the Central School, because it was centrally located among the one-room school houses. As the years passed, the community became known as Central. When it was incorporated in 2005, it was named the City of Central.

★★★

In the 1930's, Central was racked by deep divisions between Long and anti-Long factions. In 1938, it boiled over at Central High

School, then located at Hooper and Sullivan. Older boys hung the principal, an anti-Long man, in effigy.

The East Baton Rouge Parish School Board knew a strong hand was needed to bring order to Central High School. They found that strong leader in J.A. Smith, then serving at principal at North Highlands Elementary.

On his first day at Central, he looked out his office window and saw 100 or more boys lining Hooper Road, smoking and carrying on. He went out and told them smoking would no longer be allowed before school and that they were to report to class when they arrived every morning.

The second day, sure enough, the boys were standing out on Hooper Road again and smoking. They hadn't taken Mr. Smith seriously. That was a mistake. In minutes, he went out, had all the boys drop their pants, and gave them each a lick or two on their bare butts. After that, there was no more smoking at school, and Mr. Smith was in total charge.

For the next 30 years, J. A. Smith molded two generations of unruly young people into real scholars. Because of the discipline and leadership provided by Mr. Smith, his staff and teachers and the support of parents, Central was changed into a community that highly valued education.

★★★

Here's how the site at Hooper and Sullivan roads played a major role in the creation of the City of Central and the Central school system.

In 1989, the auditorium at Central Middle School, then located at Hooper and Sullivan, was condemned. A giant hole developed in the roof. The entire school was filled with asbestos. Despite constant pleas from the Central community, the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board did nothing to improve conditions.

Central was known as a conservative stronghold that would not approve a tax increase. However, in 2003, the school board proposed a tax increase and bond issue to build new schools, and a new Central Middle School was part of the plan. To the surprise of many, Central voters approved the tax.

As early as the 1970's, some Central residents had been talking about the need for Central to have its own city and its own school sys-

See FUTURE on Page 13



ARTIST VIEW of proposed entrance to Wildcat Stadium (left) and proposed new concession stand (right). The Central Community School Board received bids for the concession stand. However, the lowest bid was over \$600,000, and the board rejected it. The building is now being redesigned to cut the costs.

# Commemoration of Battle of Baton Rouge At Historic Magnolia Cemetery on Aug. 7

**BATON ROUGE** — The annual Battle of Baton Rouge Commemorative Ceremony will be held in the Historic Magnolia Cemetery at Florida Boulevard and 19th Street, on Saturday, August 7. The event will mark the Battle of Baton Rouge during the Civil War, which took place on August 5, 1862.

At 9 a.m., displays will include funeral memorabilia, Civil War artifacts, model ships, period maps and photographs. At 10 a.m., the guest speaker will be Richard Holloway with the Office of State Parks.

Holloway will discuss civilian life in Baton Rouge during the War with information from letters from that period which are in his possession. Tents, chairs and water will be placed under the oak trees of the historic cemetery.

Some of the Battle of Baton Rouge took place on the grounds of Magnolia Cemetery. At 4 a.m. on the day of the battle, Major General John C. Breckinridge and his 2,600 Confederate troops entered Baton Rouge, trying to reclaim the city from Union occupation.

The Confederate Army forced the Union troops back toward the Mississippi River. An integral part of the Confederate battle plan was the prompt arrival of the ironclad ram, the *C.S.S. Arkansas* to destroy Union ships on the river.

However, the *Arkansas* suffered engine trouble and ran aground. Its crew burned it and set it adrift.

Unharmed, the *U.S.S. Essex* and other Union gunboats bombarded the Confederate troops until they withdrew and marched out of Baton Rouge that same day.



**REENACTORS FIRE CANNON** — Annual ceremonies remembering the bloody Battle of Baton Rouge during the Civil War will be held on Saturday, August 7 at Magnolia Cemetery, the site of much of the fighting. The North and the South together suffered more than 700 casualties, and the battle is generally considered a draw. Confederate soldiers pushed the Union troops to the Mississippi but were unable to hold the city because of firepower from Union warships on the Mississippi. Lt. Alex Todd was the first casualty of the battle.

Union Brig. Gen. Thomas Williams and Confederate Lt. Alexander Todd, half-brother of First Lady Mary Todd Lincoln were

among the fallen soldiers.

The Magnolia Cemetery, which was established in 1852, fell into disrepair following the war due to the poor economy. Since being restored, it was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Civil War Discovery Trail. Sponsors for the event are the Magnolia Cemetery trustees, Preserve Louisiana, Rabenhorst Funeral Homes and BREC. For further information, contact Chip Landry at 405-7607.

## Masks Not Required at Central Schools

**CENTRAL** — Central schools Supt. Jason Fountain told the Central City News that masks will not be required for adults or students in Central schools this fall.

Meanwhile, the Baton Rouge Diocese will require unvaccinated persons in 3rd grade and above to wear masks indoors. The policy is

“Anyone who provides the school with acceptable medical verification that they have fully completed the vaccination protocol does not have to wear a face mask while on campus or at a school event. All unvaccinated adults and students in Grade 3-12 must wear face masks while indoors, including classrooms. While outdoors, students and adults do not need to mask if they adhere to physical distancing of 6-feet or more.”

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# 12 Major Conservative Bills to Watch in First-Ever Veto Session of Legislature

Continued from Page 1

Now the legislature appears poised to meet in the first-ever veto session in Louisiana history. While members have until July 15 to vote against having the session. Republican leaders say the session will definitely happen. Far less certain is whether both the House and Senate will be able to get a 2/3rds vote to override any of the vetoes.

The stakes are high, because the bills cover some of the most important and controversial issues facing the state.

Here is a list of the Top 12 Conservative Bills passed by the legislature and vetoed by the governor:

1.

**HB 704 by Rep. Valarie Hodges - Poll Watchers to Help Insure Honest Elections** - To allow each of the two major parties to designate a poll watcher at each precinct or early voting site in the state. **Passed House 68-31 • Passed Senate 37-1** (Conservative Vote is Yes)

**- Gov. Edwards' Written Reason for Veto:** This bill unnecessarily politicizes the election process by inserting the state central committee of certain parties into the poll watching process. **Republican Response:** At present, candidates can appoint poll watchers, but few do because candidates normally don't have the time nor resources to recruit poll watchers. Currently, the political parties have no authority to appoint election watchers. Watchers are essential to insure transparency and honesty in elections. This does not "politicize" the election process. Rather, it prevents fraud by allowing the parties to select a trained watcher in each precinct where there are potential problems. At present, no watchers are allowed at early voting sites, even though 30 to 50 percent of voters vote early. This would allow watchers at early voting sites for the first time.

2.

**SB 118 by Sen. Jay Morris - Constitutional Carry** - To allow

any citizen to carry a concealed weapon without a concealed weapons permit. This is called Constitutional Carry. It would not apply to individuals who are disabled from owning a firearm because of felony convictions or mental incapacity. **Passed Senate 26-11 • Passed House 73-28** (Conservative Vote is Yes) - **Gov. Edwards' Written Reason for Veto:** The current law as it stands strikes the perfect balance between public safety and ensuring the Second Amendment is upheld. Allowing concealed carry without a permit would not be in the interest of public safety. **Republican Response:** The current concealed carry law has a number of problems such as making it a felony to carry in a bar room. More importantly, the right of self defense is something every person has, and citizens should not have to ask the government for permission to carry. We know criminals carry without a permit. Openly carrying a weapon can make people a target. It is not

the government's prerogative to decide whether we are armed or whether that weapon is concealed. Misuse of that weapon is what the law should prohibit and punish.

3.

**HB 30 by Rep. Blake Miguez - Prohibit Zuckerberg and Other Private Money in Administering Elections** - To prohibit the use of private funds in administering elections in Louisiana. **Passed House 69-35 • Passed Senate 26-11** (Conservative Vote is Yes) - **Gov. Edwards' Written Reason for Veto:** This bill would prevent the local VFW from passing out free donuts to election workers. **Republican Response:** The governor's absurd reason for vetoing this important legislation is disingenuous at best. Mark Zuckerberg of Facebook distributed more than \$300 million to election officials across the nation in the November 2020 election. These funds allowed Zuckerberg to determine how the election was run. They were used to pay for unsecured ballot drop boxes in Democrat areas but not Republican areas, hiring of Democrat activists as poll workers, get out the vote efforts in Democrat areas but not Republican areas, and many other things. We don't need private funds going to our Clerks of Court or Registrars of Voters and having those funds used to tip the scales of an election.

4.

**HB 349 by Rep. Kathy Edmonston - Show Us Your "Papers," Comrade!** - To prohibit printing on a driver's license whether a person has been vaccinated. **Passed House 71-18 • Passed Senate 33-3** (Conservative Vote is Yes) - **Gov. Edwards' Written Reason for Veto:** This bill contributes to the false narrative that the COVID-19 vaccines are anything other than safe and incredibly effective. **Republican Response:** It is up to each person to determine what medications or preventatives he is willing to take. Our bodies don't belong to the governor or the state. While leftist Democrats know they cannot constitutionally force anyone to take their vaccines, they would like to require people to carry a vaccine passport telling whether they have been vaccinated. This would then subject people who do not take the vaccine to every type of discrimination, indignity and humiliation. The bill prevents the state-issued driver's license from being used as a vaccine passport.

5.

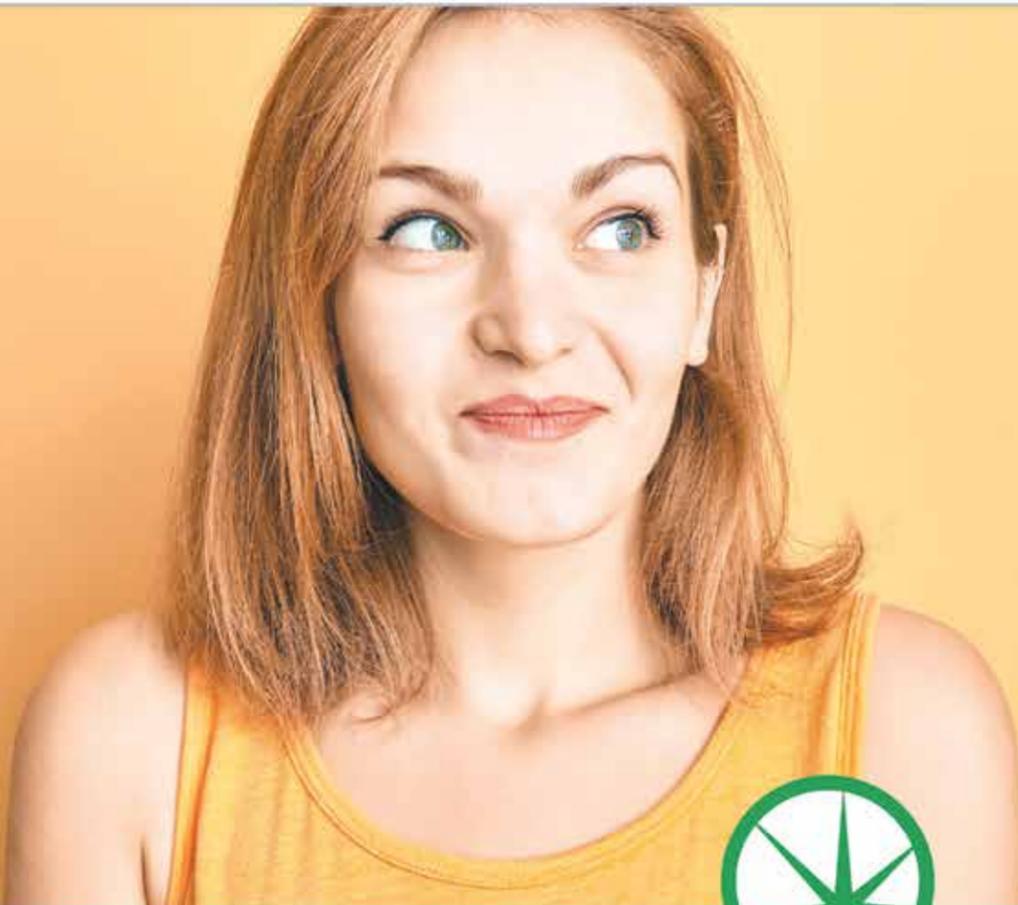
**HB 498 by Rep. Kathy Edmonston - Discrimination Against Citizens Who Don't Take Vaccine** - To prohibit discrimination by government if a person refuses the vaccine. **Passed House 70-30 • Passed Senate 26-10** (Conservative Vote is Yes) - **Gov. Edwards' Written Reason for Veto:** The attempts to undermine the public's faith in the COVID-19 vaccines and change Louisiana's approach to vaccine requirements for schools and educational facilities, which has been in place for decades without significant controversy. **Republican Response:** The governor is wrong. No one in Louisiana is now required by law to receive a vaccine. As to students, Louisiana law specifically provides that a student or his parents can opt out of any vaccine for

See AN OVERVIEW on Page 5



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SCENE AT REVOLUTION SQUARE - Life Tabernacle, corner of Hooper and Sullivan roads, apparently set a record for the largest gathering in the history of the City of Central last week as 4,000 from around the country gathered for Revolution National Youth Conference.

A Bill-by-Bill Analysis of the Measures Governor Wants to Kill

# An Overview of Why Gov. Edwards' Vetoes Should Be Overridden When Session Meets

Some Vetoes Based On JBE Leftist Ideas, Others Were Political, Targeted Republicans

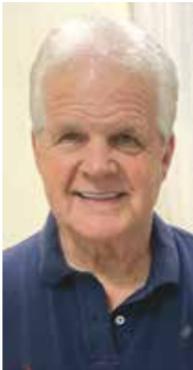
Continued from Page 4

religious reasons, health reasons, or no reason at all. However, some leftist Democrats such as Edwards want to prohibit people who choose not to be vaccinated from attending public meetings, entering public buildings, accepting employment with the government, going on cruises, flying on airlines and any manner of other ordinary activities. This bill prohibits that.

**6. HB 149 by Rep. Larry Friedman - Allow Legislature to End Any Part of an Emergency Order** - To allow the legislature to terminate any part of an emergency order. **Passed House 58-33 • Passed Senate 25-12 (Conservative Vote is Yes) - Gov. Edwards' Written Reason for Veto:** This bill was the latest attempt by the Legislature to remedy the obvious and adjudged defects in the petition signed by some House of Representatives members last October attempting to terminate the COVID-19 public health emergency and did not sufficiently improve the vetoed bill from last year. **Republican Response:** Current law allows either house of the legislature to end a state of emergency after 30 days. The Louisiana House of Representatives did just that, but Edwards ignored their decision and violated existing law. This legislation pro-

vides that both houses would have to concur to end an emergency, but that they could also suspend parts of an emergency order, instead of the entire order. For example, this would have allowed the legislature to end Edwards' mask mandate without ending the emergency order entirely.

**7. SB 156 by Sen. Beth Mizell - Prohibit Men Who Consider Themselves Women from Competing in Women's Sports** - To prohibit biological males who "identify" as female from competing in women's sports. **Passed Senate 29-6 • Passed House 78-19 (Conservative Vote is Yes) - Gov. Edwards' Written Reason for Veto:** The bill unfairly targets children who are going through unique challenges and offers solutions to an issue that does not exist in Louisiana. **Republican Response:** The governor is promoting the fantasy that if a male believes he is female, he should be allowed to function as a female including participating in high school and college sports against women. This absurdity is a good example of just how twisted leftist Democrats like John Bel Edwards will try to make our society.



Woody Jenkins

**8. HB 103 by Rep. Danny McCormick - Intimidation of Businesses that Refuse Vaccine Mandates** - No business can be held liable for failing to mandate vaccines. **Passed House 65-27 • Passed Senate 23-12 (Con-**

**9. servative Vote is Yes) - Gov. Edwards' Written Reason for Veto:** This bill is not necessary; it contributes to false narrative that the COVID-19 vaccines are anything other than safe and effective; and it does nothing to protect the health and safety of the public. **Republican Response:** The bill makes it clear that a private business cannot be sued because they refuse to make their employees or their customers take a vaccine. The bill supports freedom of choice, while the governor wants private businesses to impose his choice on their employees and customers.

**9. SB 224 by Sen. Heather Cloud - Making Sure Absentee Ballots Are Requested by the Actual Voter and Not Harvested by Political Operatives** - To require that the flap on absentee ballots contain the driver's license number and last four digits of a person's social security number. **Passed House 68-27 • Passed Senate 36-0 (Conservative Vote is Yes) - Gov. Edwards' Written Reason for Veto:** It would make the application to vote absentee by mail more stringent than what is currently required to actually vote absentee by mail. **Republican Response:** What it does is make it more difficult for individuals to illegally apply for absentee ballots for persons other than themselves.

**10. SB 220 by Sen. Heather Cloud - Maintaining Election Records in Case of Election Challenge** - To require each parish Registrar of Voters to maintain the original absentee ballots, applications for ballots, spoiled ballots, and applications for candidacy, commissioners, and watchers for two years after an election. **Passed House 68-28 • Passed Senate 27-10 (Conservative Vote is Yes) - Gov. Edwards' Written Reason for Veto:** This bill possesses separation of powers issues and adds an additional layer of bureaucracy to the elections process. **Republican Response:** There are no questions of separation of powers or bureaucracy in this bill. The records in question already have to be kept for six months. This simply extends the time to two years. The purpose is to make sure election records are available during the course of any investigation.

**11. HB 138 by Rep. Les Farnum - Annual Canvass of Voters to Insure They Reside Where Listed** - To require the Registrar of Voters to annually canvass the voter rolls and send a supplemental verification postcard to persons who are listed by the Post Office as no longer at that address or who have not voted in 10 years. The purpose is to identify registrants who have moved and need to update their voter registration records to reflect their current addresses. **Passed**

See PAST YEAR on Page 7

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## Used Football to Train Future Leaders at Central High School

# Coach Sonny Jackson Left Mark on Central

Known for Building Character, He Went On to Success in College Coaching

Woody Jenkins

Editor

**CENTRAL** — Former Central High football coach, baseball coach, and athletic director William “Sonny” Jackson passed away Saturday, July 10, 2021, after a long bout with cancer.

After coaching at Central High in the mid-1970’s, Coach Jackson went on to coach at the college level and was the winningest coach in the history of Nicholls State, his alma mater.

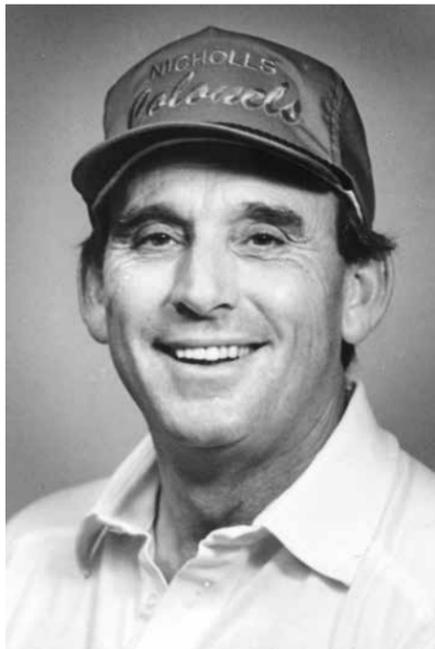
The celebrated coach was inducted into the Central High School Hall of Fame.

Far more important than his won-loss record was his impact on the lives of thousands of young men. City of Central founder Russell Starns said, “He was a very special man, a mentor for me, and I owe much of my success to him. He taught me so much more than just athletics.”

Sen. Bodi White also credits much of his success to Jackson. Today, some in Central may remember that Sen. White was an All-District and All-State player at Central High, as well as being Captain of the team. What few know was that Bodi White only played football one year.

“I had gone out for football but quit. I just wasn’t interested. Coach Jackson came and talked to me and inspired me. He became like a dad. He taught me leadership and how to be a man. I owe so much to him!”

Sen. White said he, Russell Starns, and Steve Ensminger recently visited Coach Jackson. “We were close friends until his death,”



Coach William “Sonny” Jackson coached many of Central’s leaders.

he said.

Steve Ensminger was a star quarterback at Central High under Coach Jackson. He later starred at LSU and had a celebrated career in coaching. He retired from LSU where he was offensive coordinator. One of his success stories was Heisman Trophy winner Joe Burrow.

Starns recalled the countless young men reached by Jackson, including many still active in Central today. They include Jon Simmons, the Cothorn brothers who own Cothorn Tires, Brent Carpenter who owns a business on Hooper, Keith Kepper of Design Fab, and many others. Some have gone to top positions outside Central, such as Mike Morain at Turner Industries and Mark Wilson at Dow.

### SONNY JACKSON

William “Sonny” Jackson, also known as “Coach” by many and “Poppa” and “Chief” by his grandkids, went to be with the Lord on Saturday, July 10, 2021 at the age of 82. Sonny was a successful coach, both on and off the field.

If you were to ask players and coaches who were part of his pro-

grams, you would hear more about what he taught them about life than about football. Sonny had a beautiful ability to bring out the best in people.

His life went from a home with a single mom to a home filled with lots of family and love. He was a man who picked up many hobbies from surf fishing in Grand Isle to refurbishing furniture and he also thought he was pretty good at boiling crawfish.

If there was one thing that truly defined him, it would be the motto he truly believed in “tough times don’t last, tough people do.” He overcame a lot in life through hard work and dedication. Sonny was born in Texarkana, TX on September 24, 1938, the only child of Ida Lee Opal Hudgins - a woman whom he admired and cherished his whole life.

Sonny graduated from Texas High School in Texarkana, TX. After graduating high school, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps.

After leaving the Marine Corps, Sonny attended Nicholls State University where he was a member of the baseball team. He held a couple of records after his career was over that have since have been broken. After graduating from Nicholls, he worked in the medical field in Little Rock, AR before getting into coaching.

His first job in coaching was at St. Joseph Benedictine High School in Chauvin, LA. He served as Head Football Coach, Assistant Football Coach, Head Baseball, Athletic Director and Principal. His teams won many district championships and competed deep into the state playoffs every year.

His next step was at Central High School, where he served as Head Football, Head and Assistant Baseball Coach and Athletic Director. Again, his teams won many District Championships and competed in state playoffs for several years.

He was inducted into the Central High School Hall of Fame in the year 2000. During both of his

high schools stints, he was honored with numerous “District Coach of the Year” honors.

Coach was one of the founding members of the Louisiana Athletic Director’s Association. He was honored as a distinguished member in 2000.

Sonny made the jump to college football by accepting an assistant football position at Northeast Louisiana University (ULM) under John David Crow in the 1979 and 1980 seasons.

In 1980, he accepted the head football coaching position at Nicholls State University in Thibodaux, LA. While there, he compiled a record of 39-28-1. Sonny remains the winningest football coach in Nicholls history. His teams captured a Gulf Star Conference Championship in 1984 and his 1986 team went 10-3, and then advanced to the quarterfinals of the 1-AA playoffs.

Sonny was honored with the Louisiana Sports Writers Coach of the Year Award in 1986. He coached multiple All-Americans and NFL players there. He was inducted in the Nicholls State Athletic Hall of Fame in 2004.

In 1987, Sonny accepted the head coaching position at McNeese State University through the 1989 season. His overall college coaching record is 52-48-1.

He retired from coaching in Louisiana 1990, and then took the Athletic Director Position at Lamar Consolidated Independent School District in Richmond/Rosenberg, TX. During his time there, he helped establish an exceptional athletic program that was filled with outstanding coaches, many who were former players of his.

After retiring in Texas, he started a letterman jacket and bleacher business called Jackson Bayou Boys.

After this successful run in business, he retired in 2018. Sonny will be missed by his loving wife of 10 years, Sandy Daughtry Jackson; her sons, Chad (Tonya) Pousson of Lake Charles and Scott (Jessica)

See **COACH JACKSON** on Page 7

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## Coach Jackson

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Pousson of Lake Charles; eight grandchildren, Brittany (Chance), Devaney, Brooke, Morgan, Kade, Kennedy, Sydney, and Collin; three great-grandchildren, Braxtyn, Elynn, and Clarke.

Sandy's dedication to Sonny's wellbeing during his battle with cancer over the last four years was amazing.

He was preceded in death by his first wife of 48 years, Barbara Ann Dugas Jackson; his mother, Ida Lee Opal Hudgins; and his canine companion, Starr.

He is also survived by his son, Hud (Patricia) of Monticello, AR; his grandchildren, Alexis (William) Alberson of Little Rock, AR, William Jackson III of Little Rock, AR, and Baleigh Jackson of Monticello, AR; three daughters, Sherri (Mike) Dugan and her children Mason (Shelby) Thompson, and his child Shepard, and Brannon Thompson; Angele (Clint) Conque, and her children, Chasse (Lisa) Conque, and his children Julianna, Sydney, and Adeline; Benton (Morgan) Conque, and his daughter Scarlett; Zachary (McKenzie) Conque; and daughter, Sunny Raye (Troy) Bourgeois, and her son Brogan. He will also be missed by his brother, Norman Jackson of Bullard, TX.

Although Sonny's time on earth has ended, his spirit and legacy will remain in the hearts of all those who love him.

Visitation will be held at Thibodaux Funeral Home on Sunday, July 18, 2021 from 5 to 8 p.m. Visitation will resume at St. Joseph Co-Cathedral on Monday, July 19, 2021 at 10 a.m. until the Mass of Christian Burial at 11.

Honorary Pallbearers will be all of his fellow coaches who worked with Sonny throughout his coaching years.

The family would like to extend their gratitude to Dr. David Hanson, Malorie Erwin, Above and Beyond Sitters, and Pinnacle Hospice for their care and compassion for Sonny.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Mary Bird Perkins Cancer Center in Baton Rouge.

"Believe in yourself so you can make people around you feel good about themselves" — Sonny Jackson.

Online condolences can be given at [www.thibodauxfuneralhome.com](http://www.thibodauxfuneralhome.com). Thibodaux Funeral Home is in charge of arrangements.

# Central's BriAnna McRae 4-H District Horse Show Winner



BriAnna McRae and her 6 year old mare Lucky Twisted

**CENTRAL** — BriAnna McRae is 11 years old and has been riding horses since she was 4. She lives with her parents and siblings and attends Central schools.

She is a member of the Livingston Horse Show Association (LHSA) and a member of the Greenwell Springs Youth Riders (GSYR), a mounted drill team. She was the LHSA 2019 Peanut Champion and 2020 Peanut Reserve Champion.

At the 2021 4-H District Horse show in June, BriAnna took 1st Place in Western Pleasure and Trail and qualified in Horsemanship. She competed at the state level and won Grand Champion in the Trail Class, which qualified her for the 4-H- Southern Regionals Horse Championship in Perry, Georgia July 28 through Aug. 1. Trail is a judged class, by a National Approved Judge, on maneuvers on horseback such as loping over

## Content Standards For Social Studies

**BATON ROUGE** — The Louisiana Department of Education has a committee reviewing content standards for all high school social studies courses statewide. The 25-member committee has become a hotbed of discussion of Critical Race Theory. The committee appears to be taking a liberal approach to the subject. The next meeting will be at 9 a.m. Saturday, July 31 at The Claiborne Building, 1201 N 3rd St. The public is invited to attend.

logs, crossing a bridge, pivots in small area and open/closing a gate.

Bri is riding a 6-year-old registered quarter horse mare named Lucky Twisted, whose barn name is Rosie. Bri showed Rosie's mother, Lucky Miss Kitty, to win her 2019 LHSA championship. These two horses were raised and trained on her place. A 6-year-old horse is not as seasoned as older horses in the show pen. This makes BriAnna's efforts worth celebrating.

Congratulations, BriAnna McRae and good luck in the future!

## Past Year Revealed Gov. Edwards Is Not The Moderate He Has Pretended to Be

Continued from Page 5

**House 64-30 • Passed Senate 28-10 (Conservative Vote is Yes) - Gov. Edwards' Written Reason for Veto:** The registrar of voters in every parish is already required to do an annual canvass of all registered voters under current law. **Republican Response:** The current system misses a large number of voters who are on the voter rolls illegally.

**12-HB 38 by Rep. Rick Edmonds - Online Access to School Board Spending Records -** To allow any citizen to have online access to the spending records of each local school board with 2,500 or more students enrolled. **Passed House 76-27 • Passed Senate 20-14 (Conservative Vote is Yes) - Gov. Edwards' Written Reason for Veto:** Local school systems do not have the resources or technology to comply with this unfunded mandate. **Republican Response:** Testimony in committee showed local school boards can comply at minimum expense. Furthermore, taxpayers have the right to know how their tax dollars are being spent.

While John Bel Edwards ran as a moderate to conservative Democrat, his actions during the pandemic and the recent legislative session reveal a political figure very much in line with the national Democratic Party. The Veto Session may demonstrate how those policies play in Louisiana.



# IT'S TIME TO OVERRIDE!

## Help to Override Vetoes Of John Bel Edwards

**When: July 19**  
**Time: 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m.**  
**Where: State Capitol Steps**

John Bel Edwards is now unmasked. He is openly trying to bring Washington-style politics to Louisiana, pushing the AOC agenda of endangering our daughters, persecuting our gun owners, and destabilizing our elections. Join the LAGOP and Help us to override John Bel Edwards' vetoes of common sense Republican legislation! We need to do all we can NOW to help Keep America Great. Start fighting the radical Democrats TODAY!

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# 4,000 Attend Revolution: America's Youth Conference

## *The Shout Heard Around the*

America's Youth Conference  
Click QR Codes to Watch Conference



Rev. Bart Atkins  
Day One June 30  
Evening Service



Rev. Bart Atkins  
Day One Pt. 2  
Evening Service



Day One  
Baptisms  
June 30



Rev. Rick Mayo  
Day Two July 1  
Morning Service



Rev. George Hurt  
Day Two July 1  
Evening Service



Rev. Tony Spell  
Day Three July 2  
Morning service



Rev. Tony Spell (left), pastor at Life Tabernacle in Central, hosted Revolution, America's National Youth Conference June 29-July 3.



The five-day conference drew attendees from all 50 states and several foreign countries. There was preaching, prayer, and worship.



Rev. Bart Atkins was one of the favorite speakers at the conference. He captivated the audience with his message.



Many were baptised. After services every night, there was food, baseball, basketball, horseback riding, swimming, and more.

# Conference – Largest Event in Central History

## World! June 30-July 4, 2021



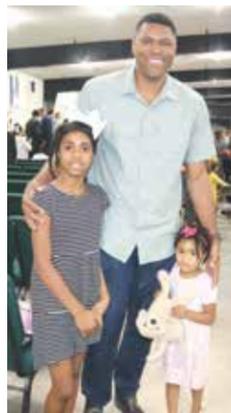
...y 4 at the new Brush Arbor Freedom Center, a conference center holding 5,000. Rev. George Hurt (above). Sister Spell is at right.



...ing and worship services each morning and evening. It was broadcast worldwide by the Central City News.



...e with his description of Roman battle tactics. There was a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit.



...g, and many other activities. Horses were provided by Frazier Homestead. Claston Bernard and family (above)

America's Youth Conference  
Click QR Codes to Watch Conference



Rev. Ari Prado  
Day Three July 2  
Evening Service



Day Three  
Baptisms  
July 2



Rev. Tony Spell  
Soul Searching  
Seminar July 3



Fireworks  
Life Tabernacle  
Midnight July 3



Rev. Tony Spell  
Independence Day  
Morning Service



Talent Show  
4th of July  
Life Tabernacle

# Community Press Wins 12 First Place Awards from LPA

# LPA Honors Central City News as

**BATON ROUGE** — The *Central City News* has been named Louisiana's Newspaper of the Year for 2021 by the Louisiana Press Association, which represents 110 member newspapers in Louisiana.

Altogether, Community Press, LLC, which owns the *Central City News*, the *Istrouma Journal* in North Baton Rouge, and the *St. George Leader* in the new City of St. George, won 12 first-place awards in competition with community newspapers across the state.

*Central City News* editor Woody Jenkins said, "We are humbled to accept these awards, especially Newspaper of the Year. 2020 was one of the most difficult years in the history of our city, state, and nation. Ironically, one of the country's biggest stories of 2020 happened in the City of Central, where the right to freedom of religion came under assault."

"We believe it is a newspaper's solemn duty to protect the First Amendment to the United States Constitution — freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, and the right to seek a redress of grievances before government."



**CENTRAL CITY NEWS** staffers Jolice Provost, Woody Jenkins, and Kim Powers won the top awards from the Louisiana Press Association, including Newspaper of the Year.

"In the past year, all of these liberties came under direct attack in our state, and there was certainly plenty of news to write about! Through it all, we tried to bring our readers the reality of what was happening

in our community and the impact it was having on our First Amendment rights." "It appears these battles have mostly been won, but we remain vigilant to make sure that our lib-

erties are protected through good times and bad."

"We are grateful to the people of Central for standing with us, even when it was sometimes difficult to see through the fog. Fortunately, I believe our freedoms are better appreciated and more firmly rooted in our minds than before the pandemic."

Here are the awards won by the *Central City News* and its sister publications, the *Istrouma Journal*, and the *St. George Leader*:

- NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR**
- **Best Overall Newspaper - 1st Place** - The *Central City News* was honored with the highest award, having been named **Newspaper of the Year** for the first time. The award is based on newspapers' news coverage, photography, sports, opinion pieces, advertising, graphic design, and internet presence. The award winners are Woody Jenkins, Jolice Provost, and Kim Powers.

- NEWS & OPINION**
- **Best News Story - 1st Place - Central City News - Hughes Wins Libel Suit** by Woody Jenkins. While the daily *Baton Rouge Advocate* has been running a series of investigative stories about Louisiana Supreme Court Associate Justice Jeff Hughes, the judge has been fighting back. He filed a libel suit against the *Advocate*, and has won a preliminary judgment against the daily paper. Yet, the *Advocate* failed to inform its readers that Justice Hughes had sued them and been winning.

- **Best Investigative Reporting, Gibbs Adams Award - 1st Place - Central City News - Race for Judge First of Its Kind** by Woody Jenkins. (See inset at left)
- **Best Investigative Reporting - 2nd Place** - Our sister publication the *St. George Leader* won 2nd Place for *Youngest Covid Victim in EBR Was 29; So Why Require Students to Wear Masks?* by Woody Jenkins. Judges' comments: "Made excellent use of statistics to raise important questions, i.e., why mask kids up? Made use of the statistics but didn't run them into the ground."

- **Best Front Page - 3rd Place - Istrouma Journal's** October 2020 Homecoming Edition won 3rd Place for Best Front Page in the state. Design by Woody Jenkins.

- **Best Breaking News Story - 1st Place - Central City News - Legislature Opens Louisiana.** written by Woody Jenkins.

- **Best Breaking News Story - 2nd Place - Istrouma Journal.** Our sister publication won with *North Baton Rouge Pastor Describes Ordeal: Gripping Testimony of Religious Persecution* written by Woody Jenkins.

- **Best Breaking News Story - 3rd Place - Central City News.** The 3rd Place award went to *Violation of Louisiana Open Meetings Law during Pandemic* written by Woody Jenkins

- **Best Regular Column, Sam Hanna Award - 1st Place - Central City News, A Stroll through the State Capitol and The Peoples' Governor: Mike Foster** by Woody Jenkins. [See inset at left]

- **Best Sports Story - 1st Place - Central City News - Central's Steve Ensminger Helped Guide LSU's Joe Burrow to Season of Greatness** written by Woody Jenkins.

See LOUISIANA on Page 11

## Central City News editor Woody Jenkins

# Jenkins Wins 1st Place for Investigative Reporting, 1st Place for Best Regular Column



**BATON ROUGE** — Once again, *Central City News* editor Woody Jenkins has won some of the top awards given each year by the Louisiana Press Association, which represents 110 of the state's daily and weekly newspapers.

This year Jenkins won the Gibbs Adams Award for Investigative Reporting for the 8th time. He carried home the award in 2020, 2019, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012 and 2009. He also won the Sam Hanna Award as the outstanding newspaper columnist. This was his 3rd time to be named Best Regular Columnist in the state. The awards are named after legends in the history of Louisiana journalism. The two awards are

- **Gibbs Adams Award for Best Investigative Journalism.** This award memorializes Adams, who was a highly-respected investigative reporter for the *Baton Rouge Advocate*. Jenkins won 1st Place for his investigative report entitled, *Race for Judge First of Its Kind*. The article revealed how the changing demographics of a judicial subdistrict appeared likely to flip a judgeship from Republican to Democrat, how a powerful Democratic judge was working to handpick the winner, and how a more conservative Democrat candidate could upset the carefully-laid plan. Note: The more conservative Democrat eventually attracted Republicans and won handily.

- **Sam Hanna Award for Best Regular Column.** This award is in memory of Sam Hanna, long-time editor of the *Concordia Sentinel* in Ferriday. Jenkins won 1st Place for his column *Gov. Mike Foster: The People's Governor*. It provides an inside look at the personality of a little known state senator who seized the moment and defied all odds to become Louisiana's working man governor for eight years. Jenkins said he was especially proud to receive this year's Best Column award because it was signed by Sam Hanna, Jr., LPA president and son of the late editor Sam Hanna, after whom the award is named.

### 1st Place Gibbs Adams Award Best Investigative Reporting



### 1st Place Sam Hanna Award Best Regular Column

# Central City News Fought for 1st Amendment in Difficult Year

# Louisiana's Newspaper of the Year

Continued from Page 10

- **Best Headline - 1st Place - Central City News - In Magazine World, Michelle Obama is Still First Lady, British Royal Family Continues Its Reign in America!** by Diane Jenkins.

- **Best Headline - 2nd Place - Central City News - Old Drug Offers New Hope and Cat Fight in Walker High's Wildcat Stadium, Central Victorious 35-28** written by Woody Jenkins.

### ONLINE NEWS

- **Best Overall Website - 1st Place - Central City News on Facebook** by Woody Jenkins, Jolice Provost, and Kim Powers. The Central City News page on Facebook has 22,000 Likes and 36,000 Followers. Last November, it had more than 3.1 million views.

- **Best News Video - 1st Place - Istrouma Journal - Pastor Describes Ordeal of Arrest, Ankle Bracelet for Four Weeks** Video by Kim Powers and Woody Jenkins. This video documented the testimony of Rev. Tony Spell before the Louisiana Legislature. It is believed to be only the second time in American history that a pastor has been arrested for holding church. [See photo above]

- **Best News Video - 2nd Place - Central City News - Arrest of Rev. Tony Spell** - A news report showing Pastor Tony Spell being called out of worship services and warned by a Central Police officer that he would be arrested for violating Gov. John Bel Edwards' decree against churches holding worship services. The pastor then walked to the Central City News camera and was interviewed on what the police officer said. The video went viral and was viewed over 200,000 times. It was the first national story on efforts by Pastor Spell to keep his church open. Judges' comments: "The video captures a high-profile news event, and the reporter is able to get key individuals to speak about the issue. Despite some interference from loud vehicles, the reporter is able to incorporate even that into the story. Initial footage was a little shaky, but overall good. Great promotion of the video in print edition."

- **Best News Video - 3rd Place - Central City News - Governor Targets Firehouse BBQ in Watson** by Woody Jenkins. Judges' comments: "In another high-profile legal case for this community, the reporter inserts himself right into the thick of things and convinces a lot of people to discuss their experience on camera. The reference to this piece with QR codes was a good effort."

- **Best Web Project - 1st Place - Central City News' Public Affairs Programming** - Over 200 major video projects during 2020 by Woody Jenkins, Kim Powers, and Jolice Provost. Judges' comment: "A multitude of interesting items. Certainly the best entry!"

### PHOTOGRAPHY

- **Best News Photo - 3rd Place - Central City News - Sister Shaye Spell: We Will Never Stop Holding Church!** by Whitney Stewart

- **Best Sports Photo - 1st Place - Central City News** - by Jolice Provost - *Flipping the Coin in Rain* - Central High School playoff game against the Pineville Rebels.

- **Best Sports Photo - 2nd Place** - by Jolice Provost - *Central Wildcats Baptize Newly-Renovated*



NEWS VIDEOS ON THE ARREST OF REV. TONY SPELL won 1st Place and 2nd Place for Best News Video in the competition held by the Louisiana Press Association

- **Best Sports Photo - 3rd Place** - by Jolice Provost - *Safe at 2nd*

- **Best Sports Photo - 3rd Place** - *Football Special Section* in September 2020 (for the season that almost wasn't) and 3rd Place to **Central City News** for its *Graduation*

- **Best Special Section - 2nd**

## Jolice Provost Sweeps Best Sports Photo Awards

1st Place for Best Feature Photo • Whitney Stewart Takes 3rd



BEST SPORTS PHOTO - 1st Place - Central City News, *Coin Toss in Rain* photo by Jolice Provost. The photo was taken during Central's playoff game against Pineville.



BEST FEATURE PHOTO - 1st Place - Central City News, *Central High Cheerleaders Pump the Wildcats* by Jolice Provost. Judges said, "Love the focus on this one!"



BEST SPORTS PHOTO - 2nd Place - Central City News, *Back at Wildcat Stadium* photo by Jolice Provost. The Wildcats take the field for the first time on the new artificial turf.



BEST SPORTS PHOTO - 3rd Place - Central City News - *Safe at Second*, photo by Jolice Provost



BEST NEWS PHOTO - 3rd Place - Central City News - *Shaye Spell Never Stop Having Church*, photo by Whitney Stewart. Taken at a rally outside the governor's mansion.

Edition in May 2020.

### ADVERTISING

- **Best In-Paper Promotion - 3rd Place - Central City News, Central High Wildcat Championship Baseball Is On the Air for 2020 4-5A Season!**

### GENERAL EXCELLENCE

- **General Excellence - 3rd Place - Istrouma Journal** - In competition for the coveted General Excellence award, the Istrouma Journal, won 3rd Place in Louisiana. The Istrouma Journal is owned by Community Press, LLC, the owner of the Central City News. Judges' Comments: "This is an unabashedly conservative outlet filled with political commentary, much of it condemning the [Democrat] governor. But it is also a paper that devotes an eye-popping number of pages and photos to the goings-on of the local high school, which is all black. And, at the risk of overgeneralizing, the parents who are no doubt snatching up copies to see their kids, are likely Democrats. A hyperlocal paper, then, that serves two distinct audiences with equal verve."

# Otis's Famous Loop Dedicated in Biltmore



**BILTMORE SUBDIVISION** — Mayor Barrow unveils a sign on Banway Drive in Central honoring Otis “Dude” Forbes, a resident of Biltmore Subdivision. The sign reads, “Welcome to Otis’s Famous Loop Commemorating the thousands of miles biked by Otis “Dude” Forbes. In the center photo is Mayor Barrow with Otis Forbes and cycling friends from the City of Central Cyclist and Team Beehive Louisiana.

**CENTRAL** — Otis “Dude” Forbes is known by residents of Biltmore Subdivision for cycling around the neighborhood. Forbes rides 30 to 50 miles everyday and once a month he rides 100 miles in a one day. It’s estimated that Otis has biked 20,000 miles around the city

block in Biltmore. Residents of the subdivision, along with friends and fellow bikers showed up recently to recognize Dude’s commitment to cycling. There were T-shirts and towels made by friends to mark the occa-

sion. Otis is a member of the City of Central Cyclists and Team Beehive Louisiana. He enjoys cycling for good causes whenever he can. Last month Forbes traveled to Colorado and rode for “Peddling For Parkinson’s”.

Otis hopes in the future Central could become a bike friendly city that is safe for cyclists. While talking at the unveiling everyone remembered Baton Rouge Metro Councilman Buddy Amoroso, whose life was cut short while cycling.

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Central City News on Facebook  
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## Central High School 2010 Grad Dr. Tyler Torina, Resident Ready



**Dr. Blaine Torina**

**CENTRAL** — Tyler Blaine Torina, a 2010 graduate of Central High School, graduated on May 15, 2021 as a general surgeon.

Torina’s undergraduate degree was obtained in 2014 from LSU where he studied kinesiology. In 2017, he moved to Fort Smith, Arkansas, where he attended medical school at the Arkansas College of Osteopathic Medicine. Dr. Torina will be doing his residency for the next five years at HonorHealth John C. Lincoln Medical Center in Phoenix, AZ.

Proud parents are Lori Torina of Baton Rouge and Carl and Stephanie Torina of Central, grandparents Jimmy and Beverly Guillory of Denham Springs and Carl and Margaret Torina of Central.

Dr. Torina said, “I am excited and humbled to announce that for the next five years I will be training to become a surgeon at HonorHealth John C. Lincoln Medical Center in Phoenix, Arizona!”

“I can’t help but reflect on this entire journey. These last four years have not been easy, but they have been eye-opening. This journey has been filled with peaks and valleys, achievements and failures, blood, sweat, and tears, less sleep and more caffeine, great company and pure isolation. I’ve learned to step outside my comfort zone and ‘embrace the suck.’”

“I’ve learned to unlearn. I’ve learned that every single individual has something to teach you, and I’ve learned what giving my all actually means.”

“These last four years have been real life, but not as real as it will be starting soon as a general surgery resident. Today, I feel immense pride. I did it!”

“I also feel overwhelming gratitude. Thank you to everyone who I’ve crossed paths with along this journey!”

“Without a doubt, the support, the wisdom, the direction, the friendships, the company, the conversations, the ‘prove-you-wrongs’ and the ‘prove-you-rights,’ the kind words and harsh truths have all made this path not only possible but also incredibly meaningful. You know who you are. So thank you! WE did it!”

“I’m ready to continue this path of getting better as a man and now finally, a surgeon.”

“Congratulations to my classmates on reaching this milestone! It’s been a privilege.”

Blaine’s family added the following:

“We love you!”

From Mom, Dad, Stephanie, Blake, Erica, Mallory, Blakelee, AnnMarie, and Nolan

# Future of Old Central Middle School Site Up In the Air as Officials Try to Find Consensus

Continued from Page 2

tem. In the 1990's, the legislature submitted a proposed constitutional amendment to the voters to create the Zachary Community School System. It passed but the courts delayed its implementation until 2002.

★★★

By 2003, many in Central wanted to follow Zachary's lead and have their own city and school system. As that movement began to build community support, leaders in the East Baton Rouge Parish School System were watching and decided to delay plans to build a new Central Middle School that Central voters were being taxed for. Their attitude was, "Why should we build a new middle school, only to turn it over to their proposed new school system?"

In retrospect, the decision by the EBR school system played an important role in what happened next. Rep. Bodi White introduced a bill for a constitutional amendment to create the Central school system. At one point, a leader of the Legislative Black Caucus told Rep. White that every school system created so far had been based around a city. He said if Central created a city, he would support legislation to allow Central to create its own school sys-

tem.

Russell Starns took a leadership role in the petition drive to create the City of Central. The first attempt failed because of technical errors in the description of the city boundaries. So Starns and his band of Central revolutionaries came back with a second petition.

While most people in Central wanted a school system, not as many wanted a city. However, the incorporation movement had to sell the merits both of creating a city and creating a school system.

For awhile, the messaging of the incorporation campaign was pushing the need for a city. That wasn't working. So they changed and focused on the need to create Central's own school system. Incorporation was pushed as a necessary step to getting a school system.

★★★

Meanwhile, voters in Central were paying the higher property they had voted for back in 2002 — higher taxes to pay for a new Central Middle School. But still there was no new middle school! By now, leaders of the East Baton Rouge Parish School System were openly saying they might never build a new Central Middle School That didn't set well with Central voters. They

certainly weren't going to be bullied by people from Baton Rouge.

So the die was cast, and the failure of East Baton Rouge Parish to follow through on its commitment to build a new Central Middle School certainly played a role in the vote on whether to incorporate the new city.

Central voters approved the incorporation of the City of Central by a margin of 63 percent to 37 percent.

After voters approved incorporated, EBR doubled down and reiterated there would be no new Central Middle School.

★★★

Rep. White and Rep. Donald Ray Kennard pushed through the legislature the constitutional amendment to create the new Central School System. It passed the legislature in the spring of 2006 and went to the voters statewide and in Central in November 2006.

In Central, voters had been backed into a corner. Staying with the East Baton Rouge Parish system was clearly untenable. There was really no choice but to take a chance and vote to create the new school system.

Central approved creating the new school system overwhelmingly. And that's how the old Central Middle School helped create both the City of Central and the Central Community School System!

★★★

Once the school system was created, there was talk of building a new Central Middle School at Hooper and Sullivan roads. However, a better case was made for building the Central School Complex further north on Sullivan Road took hold. It was completed and occupied for the 2012-2013 school year.

After the old Central Middle School campus closed in 2012, Central city officials and members of the Central school board began to consider the possibilities for the old Middle School site.

Most city officials saw Hooper at Sullivan as a prime candidate for locating a new City Hall. Some

said the City Hall should be part of a Central city center.

The new mayor, Jr. Shelton, who took office in 2015, embraced the idea. Near the end of his term, the Council proposed building a new \$4 million City Hall complex at the site. They purchased part of the old Central Middle School site from the Central school board, and were ready to let bids and begin construction.

However, some candidates running in Central City elections in November 2018 criticized the proposed new City Hall as too costly. This was one of several issues used to help defeat Mayor Shelton and all five members of the City Council. After their defeat, Mayor Shelton took the vote as a rejection of the City Hall plan by the voters, and the city sold the property back to the Central school board.

★★★

When Mayor David Barrow and the new City Council came to office in 2019, the quest for a new City Hall continued. A number of sites were considered. Finally, Mayor Barrow announced his support for building a new City Hall next to the existing City Hall behind Capitol One Bank on Hooper Road. However, a group of Councilmen who had opposed building the City Hall under Mayor Shelton decided that the old Central Middle School site was indeed the best place for City Hall, although they preferred to scale down the project.

Today, Mayor Barrow and most members of the City Council remain at odds over where City Hall should be located.

★★★

The Central school system is moving forward with plans to build Administrative offices just west of Wildcat Stadium. It will include offices for about 30 staff members and a meeting room for the Central school board. Roughly 250 parking spaces will be included. Most of these will be used for Wildcat Stadium. The design plan for the project is not yet complete and has not been approved by the board. Supt. Fountain hopes the project can be let out for bids by the end of 2021 with completion by the end of 2022.

Meanwhile, the Central School Board has indicated they are still willing to discuss the future of the old Central Middle School site with city officials.

## 13th Councilman

Continued from Page 1

Metro Councilman Dwight Hudson told the Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon that support for the proposal is lukewarm at best among Metro Council members.

At present, voters elect 12 Metro Council members from 12 single-member districts. The council has a 7 to 5 Republican majority, although members don't follow a party line. The 13th council member would be elected parishwide, which would be contrary to one-man, one-vote. Hudson said the dominant group parishwide would choose this new Super Council member, thereby giving the dominant group an extra vote.

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# Key Republican Legislators Say No to JBE's Vetos

## Veto Override Session Likely for July 20



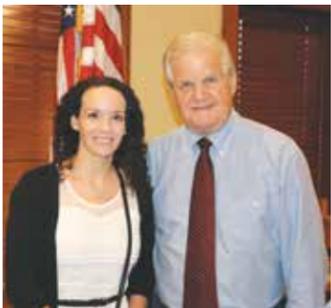
**CONSERVATIVE LAWMAKERS TALK ABOUT VETO SESSION** — Rep. Kathy Edmonston (R-Gonzales), House Republican Leader Rep. Blake Miguez (R-Abbeville), and Rep. Valarie Hodges (R-Central) tell why Gov. John Bel Edwards' vetoes of key conservative legislation must be overridden in a special Veto Session of the Louisiana Legislature starting at 12 noon on Tuesday, July 20, 2021. Legislators spoke at Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon in Baton Rouge. All of these lawmakers had bills vetoed by Edwards.



In photo at left, Rep. Blake Miguez talks with former East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff Greg Phares. At right, audience of Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon asks questions.



In photo at left, Rep. Blake Miguez interviewed by Mark Ballard of The Advocate as Republican parish chairman Woody Jenkins looks on. Sheriff Greg Phares, Blake Miguez and Sybil Allis of Lafayette (left/center). Metro Councilman Dwight Hudson, Coleman Brown and Carl Benedict (right/center). At right, Rep. Kathy Edmonston and George Francis.



At right, Metro Councilman Dwight Hudson gave an update on his proposal to rededicate funds raised by certain local governmental bodies and the proposed Plan of Government amendments including the proposed 13th seat on the Metro Council. At left, Republican parish chairman Woody Jenkins and Jamie Jackson of Denham Springs who works with Save Our Schools. Second from left, Ike Jackson of Iberville Parish asks Blake Miguez about the Zuckerberg Bill vetoed by Gov. John Bel Edwards. Third from left, attendees at Reagan luncheon.

**RALLY**  
**To Support Overriding Governor's Vetoes**  
**5:30 p.m. Monday, July 19**  
**Steps of State Capitol**  
**Everyone is welcome**

**Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon**  
**Republican Legislators on Veto Session**  
 July 13, 2021 • Café Américain • Baton Rouge  
 Sponsored by Republican Party of EBR Parish  
 Photos by Woody Jenkins and Jolice Provost  
 Video by Kim Powers of Central City News  
 To watch the meeting, go to the App Store and download a QR Code Reader. Open App and click on QR Code at right!



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### Dear Brothers & Sisters in the USA and all the world,

Independence Day has come and gone. The fireworks in the communities that I drove through were fabulous. I have never in my lifetime saw such a show. It seemed like everyone had fireworks. If this was a show of our voices, I sure wish someone took a picture of how we lit up the sky. LET OUR VOICES BE HEARD. The voices singing THE STAR SPANGLED BANNER WERE HEARD LOUD AND CLEAR! Let us also sing GOD BLESS AMERICA, especially at sporting events.

Sadly, many cities had radicals who shot and murdered a lot of people and vandalized businesses and then took what did not belong to them. Four hundred people were shot over the holiday weekend. That included some children. We the people cannot wait much longer to see justice prevail. The radicals know who they are and so do we. We also know it starts with the radicals in our government.

### Are you a Benedict Arnold or a Nathan Hale?

You either love God, family, Country and all of God's creations especially people and if you do not that's OK because we are UNITED STATES AMERICANS. We are unique because we are a free people. We love freedom but we may not like what someone said or did. We let Lady Justice take care of crimes committed if someone does something bad. Therefore, we never have anything to be concerned about, because we also have the greatest Constitution on earth that protects our freedom. Never do we hate anyone!

We do not mind paying our taxes, and we love infrastructure projects, like safe bridges, roads, and sidewalks. Unfortunately, not much of the legislation currently being considered would go to real infrastructure — at least if the radicals have their way.

Most of us believe that life begins at conception and do not like our taxes paying for abortions. We are a generous, loving people.

So, if you hate us and want to kill us, that is NOT OK! The U.S.A. is the melting pot of the world, and you would be killing one of your own.

We were born free! When you became a citizen, you automatically became free and are loved. You are no longer anything else but a U. S. American. You are not a Polish American, German American, or any other kind of country American.

No government or big company should define us by the color of our skin, our medical history, our sexual preference or anything about our ancestors unless we freely provide that information to them. We will always love and respect our ancestors and their history.

The genes of man are imperfect, but the Spirit that God gives us is

perfect. There are a lot radicals in our government and elsewhere who are racists. I consider it to be like a fungus that will keep growing unless it is quickly stopped.

No teacher should be teaching hate of one another/or giving our children sex education at any age. That is the parents' job!

The government does not belong in our homes. Government should protect me and my home and not want to tear it down to build government housing. Now is the time to take a stand to protect this beautiful country from destruction! Most all businesses that I know pay fair wages. Personally, I do not think that all Unions are fair to business or their members. People should leave them when they think the union is not helping them. We should always be fair not only for ourselves but for the businesses that give us jobs so that we can attain that American dream and prosper.

Freedom must never be taken for granted. We must always work diligently to keep our government under scrutiny. Judicial Watch is a terrific watchdog over our government. Sadly, they have to sue to get the papers they want from the government, even though there is a law that requires them to release the requested documents and be open and honest with us. Judicial Watch is also non-profit.

We need to keep an eye on Companies that become so wealthy that they think they are bigger and better than our laws and Government. As for Governments, they should do as our forefathers did. They should consist of intelligent people hopefully, and with common sense, giving of their time to help the government because they want to give back to this great Country. They should not be there to become extremely rich, but to leave after a few years and go back home to their job/ or business. Currently, we have a lot of idiots in the White House and Congress. Now is the time to give back the White House to the actual winner. It is possible that some of you radicals could face criminal charges.

The third Cookie letter mistakenly omitted the following: We want our legislators and Governors to let us all be free prior to 4th of July. Write or send a copy of this to them. If this doesn't work, maybe impeachment for the radicals that are now in our government is a good idea.

Damn is a word used to condemn something that is bad, unfit, invalid, illegal, or a failure. Therefore, we U.S. American Patriots say Socialism be damned, Marxism be damned, and Communism be damned. While we are at it, let's add Critical Race Theory, Wokeness, the attempt to change our constitution by taking away our rights, and all the other things that the radicals are trying to change about this Country, including words in the diction-

ary, such as black lives matter, of course they do.

Dr. King must be turning over in his grave, because he taught inclusion and that all lives matter. You radicals teach exclusion! What a great man he was and is — a hero among the many others we hold dear to our hearts. Heroes the radicals want to destroy. You only want power and money. You want us all to be afraid and under your control. I have news for you. This will never be anything other than what God and our Heroes want us to be — and that is unafraid and faithful!

Many of you have sworn allegiances on your own religious bibles to our beautiful COUNTRY and to uphold our USA CONSTITUTION. YOU HAVE FAILED!

Your attempt to change it is TREASON. Our CONSTITUTION that you trample on will not protect you when you face a Military tribunal. Your ancestors' Country may not want you. If you are not happy here, we will gladly show you the way to one you might like. Just maybe we would be generous and use our tax dollars for such a great cause. Currently, the government radicals want you to think that we Patriots are a small group. You radicals are so wrong. I wonder if Hungary really wants Soros. His dual citizenship needs to be revoked and he deported to his home in Hungary. What about Fauci? Personally, I am sick of the lies fed to us. Does he not know that the masks that we wore are bad for people especially children, that God has protected them with a great immune system. Apparently, he has no children. Placing a mask on a one- or two-year-old is like putting a mask on a cat. I cannot imagine the fear of the children that this has been done to. Scientists are the only ones that wear the correct masks and they are connected to a body suit. Common sense tells me that the masks we wore did not keep any virus or bacteria out of our human bodies.

When all the information (TRUTH) comes out about how awful some of you radicals are, we will be shocked, that is if we are not already shocked. When you go to bed at night; do you repeat all for me and none for thee? Do I sound a bit angry? I want you to know that I pray for all those whom you have caused injury and death, because you did not stop the riots that need to end.

Governors and legislators need to do their job and stop the destruction of our cities and its people today! Sadly, the daily numbers of our brothers and sisters who are being beaten, killed or murdered are now higher than during the pandemic. It is unbelievable that this could ever happen in this free and god-given land of ours. How did we ever let generations of our children be taught such hateful things about us and them? How was any teacher able to teach a

child that they and we are responsible for what someone else did? Children should be taught by their parents and if the Parent is of a faith they should teach them that what they are is a gift from God and what they become is their gift to God. No one is responsible for what someone else did or said. We are all responsible for our own actions!

This Country was based on faith in God and freedom. If you do not believe there is a God, we will not ever force our faith on you or anyone else. We will still love all our brothers and sisters. Daily, I pray for all that are injured, killed or murdered, their families, and all that knew them. I pray also for all of you — for you are my brothers and sisters. If you ever wanted to come to a Christian church, you would be welcomed. Prayerfully, I would be welcomed in yours. We will always believe that God loves all of us.

Recently, a board in New Jersey voted to wipe out all holidays from the school calendar (no exclusions). It's a WOKE thing because they do not want to hurt anyone's feelings. Are they just that stupid? They have no idea how many people have hurt feelings for what they did. Do they really expect all of us to be happy? Do they not know that every holiday that we have was voted on by we the people! If you want a special holiday, put in your own request.

We must choose carefully who we place in our government. They should be experienced educated and above all have common sense. In other words, they must be mature.

1. I cried to hear that an officer in Louisiana was shot by a radical or mentally-sick person. Let's all be clear on this: Guns do not shoot or kill others. It is a sick individual or criminal who commits the crime, NOT THE GUN! Has anyone ever seen a gun jump out of a locked box or off a shelf and shoot someone? The daily shooting and rioting would stop if our Judges and courts do the right thing. Keep the criminals in jail and help the individuals who are sick. We used to have great hospitals for those who are mentally ill. Let's do the right things.

2. Why are so many people still in nursing homes where they have not been able to see or touch any of their loved ones?

3. What injustice is happening to the patriots being held in Washington, D.C.? Word is that some are in solitary confinement.

4. Why do the radicals want to change the meaning of some of our words from what they mean to something bad and double talk about its meaning?

Yours in Christ,

*Cookie*

COOKIE

This is message is from a reader of the Central City News. Cookie wishes to remain anonymous. However, Cookie can be reached by emailing [centralcitynews@hotmail.com](mailto:centralcitynews@hotmail.com). On the subject line, please write the word "Cookie". A copy of the Central City News for January 2021 can be obtained for a limited time by sending \$3 in cash or check for mailing to Central City News, 910 N. Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806

# ‘Sideline Football’ Play-by-Play Will Be Back on the Air for 2021 Season

## Central High School, Istrouma Indians, and new this year Central Private

Attend the Games or Watch LIVE on Your Phone — Go to ‘Central City News’ or ‘Istrouma Journal’ on Facebook.com • Estimated 10,000 to 15,000 Viewers a Week

### FALL 2021 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL LINE UP

For Information on Sponsorship, Call Woody Jenkins at 225-921-1433



#### Central Wildcats at 7 p.m. Fridays

Aug. 19	E. Ascension (scrimmage)	Home
Aug. 27	Scotlandville (jamboree)	Away
Sept. 3	Mentorship Academy	Home
Sept. 10	Tara High	Home
Sept. 17	Belaire High	Home
Sept. 24	Northwood High	Home
Oct. 1	South Lafourche	Away
Oct. 8	Denham Springs*	Home
Oct. 15	Scotlandville High*	Away
Oct. 22	Walker High*	Home
Oct. 29	Zachary High*	Home
Nov. 5	Live Oak High*	Away



Central High Play by Play by Ken Bush  
Produced by Sharon Bush for Central City News



#### Central Private at 7 p.m. Fridays

Sept. 3	Central Catholic	Away
Sept. 10	St. John High	Home
Sept. 17	Independence High	Away
Sept. 24	East Iberville	Home
Oct. 1	Pope John Paul II	Home
Oct. 8	Ascension Christian	Home
Oct. 15	Slaughter Charter	Away
Oct. 22	Open Date	
Oct. 29	Southern Lab	Away
Nov. 5	Thrive Academy	Home

Central Private Play by Play by Tom Baker

#### Istrouma Indians at 7 p.m. Fridays

Sept. 3	Kentwood High	Away
Sept. 10	Livonia High	Away
Sept. 18	South Plaquemines	Away
Sept. 24	Plaquemine High*	Away
Oct. 1	Liberty High*	Away
Oct. 8	Open Date	
Oct. 15	Belaire High (H)	Home
Oct. 22	Tara High (Senior Night)	Home
Oct. 29	Broadmoor High*	Away
Nov. 5	St. Michael*	Away
	District Game*	

Istrouma High Play by Play by Woody Jenkins

