

Edwards' Actions Ruled Illegal, Unconstitutional

Supreme Court Frees Pastor

Rev. Spell Speaks On Major Decision By Supreme Court

CENTRAL — In a letter to his supporters, Rev. Tony Spell of Life Tabernacle Church reacted to last week's Louisiana Supreme Court decision, which found unconstitutional Gov. John Bel Edwards' mandates against churches and threw out the criminal case against the pastor. Here is what he said:

"I am relieved and happy to let you know the Louisiana Supreme Court has rendered its decision in the criminal case against me for the crime of holding worship services during the pandemic. This case has gotten worldwide attention and been a rallying point for Christians. Now the results are in and they are stunning! In the case of *State of Louisiana v. Pastor Tony Spell*, the Louisiana Supreme Court has ruled

See **CENTRAL** on Page 2



Photo by Kim Powers

Attorney Jeff Wittenbrink (left) and Rev. Tony Spell after Supreme Court victory.

Court Ruling Is Must Reading

NEW ORLEANS — The Louisiana Supreme Court was the scene last week of a major victory for religious liberty in a case out of Central. In *State of Louisiana v. Pastor Tony Spell*, the court struck

down Gov. John Bel Edwards' emergency orders closing churches and ended criminal charges against Rev. Spell, the pastor of Life Tabernacle Church in Central. It reads:

See **READ** on Page 8

Landmark Ruling Protects Religious Liberty, Ends Case Against Rev. Spell

Woody Jenkins
 Editor

NEW ORLEANS — In an historic 5-2 decision, the Louisiana Supreme Court last week ruled that Gov. John Bel Edwards' edicts closing churches and the subsequent arrest of Rev. Tony Spell for holding church services were illegal and unconstitutional. This means the pastor's arrest, imprisonment, house arrest, being fitted with an ankle bracelet, order not to hold church, and prohibition from leaving the state for the past two years were all illegal.

The court, with Justice Will Crain writing for the majority, said any attempt to limit the free exercise of religion is subject to "strict scrutiny" and the governor's decrees failed to meet that

See **LANDMARK** on Page 3

Two Years of Hell for a Crime That Doesn't Exist

How Could So Many Officials Go Along with Persecuting Pastor for A Protected Activity?

CENTRAL — After more than two years of arrests, handcuffs, fingerprinting, imprisonment, home incarceration, ankle bracelets,

surveillance, hearings, meetings with judges, and travel restrictions for a crime that doesn't exist, Rev. Tony Spell is a free man.

Last Friday, the Louisiana Supreme Court threw out the criminal charges against the Central pastor as illegal and unconstitutional. His arrest was based not on a crime defined by the legislature but an edict of Gov. John Bel Edwards.

You can look in the Criminal

Code of Louisiana or the Revised Statutes for as long as you please, and you will not find a crime called "Holding Church Services Without Permission of the Governor" or any such crime by any other name.

It simply doesn't exist!

Freeing Pastor Spell from the restrictions he has been under was part of a landmark 20-page opinion that determined Edwards' decree closing churches was unconstitu-

tional.

The fact that the Sheriff, Police Chief, and Mayor-President would all join together behind the Governor to prosecute a pastor for a constitutionally protected activity and a crime that doesn't exist raises many questions. Was it all just politics? The Governor asked them to go after the pastor, so they did? Or did they actually

See **SUPREME** on Page 5

What's Next: Deprivation of Civil Rights, Libel

Pastor Tony Spell Has Powerful Legal Options To Use in Addressing Violation of His Rights

Woody Jenkins
 Editor

CENTRAL — In the aftermath of the Louisiana Supreme Court decision in the case of *State of Louisiana v. Pastor Tony Spell*, many people have asked what Rev. Spell's legal options are. Both state and federal law provide powerful remedies to use when government



Photo by Woody Jenkins

FUN AND GAMES — It may have seemed like fun and games for local law enforcement to arrest and handcuff a pastor and then take his Bible in the sanctuary of his church on March 17, 2020, and again on April 21, 2020, but it could be a federal civil rights violation.

officials violate a citizen's rights. One of the most important is 42 USC 1983, which provides people the right to sue local officials who act "under color of law" to deprive people of their civil rights. Typically, these officials rely on state law to violate federal civil rights.

The Supreme Court decision spells out in considerable detail how Rev. Spell's rights were violated. In fact, the court's opinion tracks very closely the requirements of 42 USC 1983. However, new litigation is unlikely because Rev. Spell filed federal and state lawsuits two years ago that make the necessary claims. What could

See **WHAT** on Page 5

Central Pastor Reacts to Court Decision

Pastor Spell Takes Solace from Words of Supreme Court After 2 Years of Torment

Continued from Page 1

by a vote of 5-2 that the emergency orders of Gov. John Bel Edwards purporting to limit in-person church services were **illegal and unconstitutional**. Furthermore, the charges against me have been thrown out, and I am a free man! The case represents a total victory for Life Tabernacle! It is final and cannot be appealed.”

“Our attorneys tell me this 20-page opinion of the Supreme Court is so well researched and so well written that it will be the standard that courts across the nation will likely use to analyze issues of religious liberty for generations to come!”

“On Friday, May 13, 2022, the day the opinion was issued, the Louisiana Supreme Court advanced the cause of freedom in the United States and the world! In a remarkable, precedent-setting verdict, the court said the executive orders applied to us violate our freedom of religion and are thus unconstitutional. The court said, ‘No liberty is more essential to the continued vitality of a free society, which our Constitu-

tion guarantees, than is religious liberty.’ ‘The most sacred right to practice religious liberty is fundamental and inalienable.’ It must be ‘preserved inviolate by the state.’”

“Friday, May 13, 2022, was a bad day for socialism, communism, tyranny, and Satan but a landmark day for freedom, religion, the Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Word of God! The Supreme Court said, ‘As judges we have no more solemn duty than to protect the fundamental rights reserved by the people from government overreach.’”

“This is the day we have been praying for! This is the judicial opinion we have been praying for.

However, even in our prayers, we never imagined God would be so good as to give us this unapologetic, unambiguous, and resounding endorsement of religious liberty and support for our rights!”

“The First Amendment said, ‘Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof or the right of the people peaceably to assemble or to petition their government for a redress of grievances.’ The Declaration says ‘All men are created equal.’”

“However, for 27 months, equal protection of law was denied to Christians, although it was allowed for liquor stores, abortion clinics and night clubs.”

“Since March 17, 2020, we have held 336 worship services in this sanctuary and have broadcast them around the world! We have preached and sang in church 336 times. The Governor said we couldn’t assemble or preach or sing in church. All the while he was letting thousands of babies be killed in the abortion clinics, which he kept wide open!”

“When the enemy thought he could silence the pulpit...when the government thought it could tread on holy ground...when evil tyranny and government powers that are contrary to the American way of life thought they could silence the church, the church may have been afflicted, but the church multiplied and grew! The church was not silenced. The church grew louder. It grew in strength. The church became more evangelistic. The church became more sacred.”

“On March 17, 2020, when the first citation was issued, we were shaken. The mobs, the District judges, the bad laws, and the illegal mandates shook us to our core. One of the most egregious things was members of Life Tabernacle being fired by their employers — all for the crime of attending this church!

Church members had friends walk out of their lives and family members who excommunicated them from their family. It seemed the entire world had lost its collective mind. It was all coming from the Governor and the perverse media. Fear is the most captivating and paralyzing emotion known to man, and they used fear to the ultimate. However, instead of allowing fear to rule them, the people of Life Tabernacle and those who have joined us from all 50 states and around the world, used love to conquer the fear. Where the spirit of God is, there is liberty and courage! God is greater than all persecution!”

“At Life Tabernacle, we know what it is like to go to a place of business or a courthouse or a job and be denied because we did not have a vaccine in our blood or a mask on our face. We know what it is to go to a family gathering at Christmas, Thanksgiving or Easter and get the cold shoulder and be put in another room or not even invited to be with our family.”

“The devil sat on our shoulder or in the backseat of our car or in our bedroom on our pillow soaked with tears and told us you’re doing the wrong thing by putting God first. He tried to convince us

See WHAT on Page 6

Considering Retirement?



Are You Retiring?
Do You Need Experienced
Investment Advice?
Are You Already Retired And Would
Like An Experienced 2nd Opinion?

We have a limited number of openings for accepting new clients. Call us today to schedule a free consultation at (225) 261-9606 or email us for a face-to-face appointment at ian.james@225Wealth.com

CALL 261-9606

For Free Appointment To Discuss
Your Options

Ian James

Capital Financial Group
8550 United Plaza Boulevard
Suite 702

Baton Rouge, LA 70809

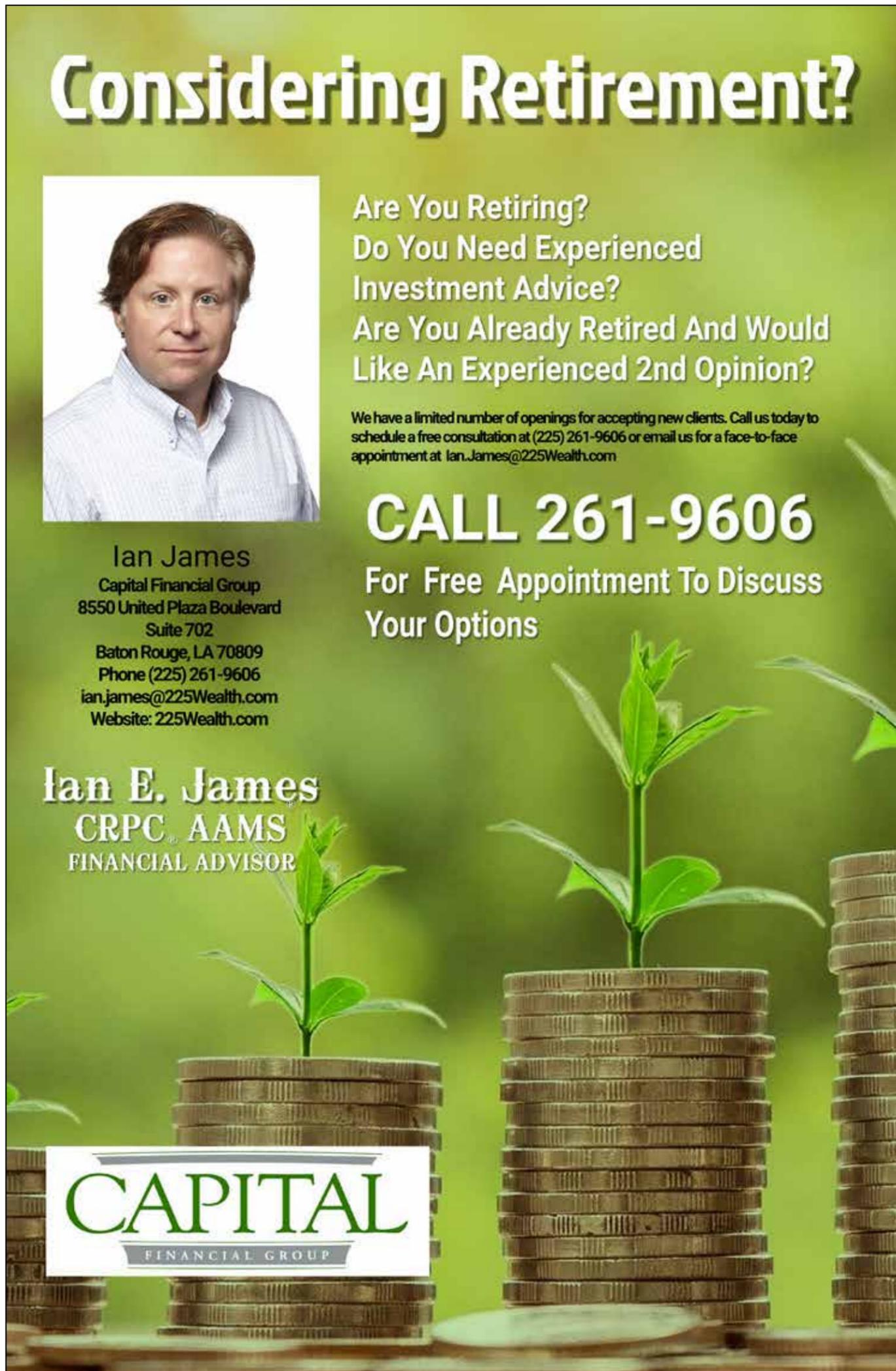
Phone (225) 261-9606

ian.james@225Wealth.com

Website: 225Wealth.com

Ian E. James
CRPC, AAMS
FINANCIAL ADVISOR

CAPITAL
FINANCIAL GROUP



Landmark Decision on Religious Liberty

When Rights at Stake, Officials Must Apply Strict Scrutiny, Least Restrictive Means

Continued from Page 1

test. Equally unacceptable were the efforts of the governor to impose greater restrictions on churches than on private businesses and government activities, the court ruled. Important points in the decision included:

- While statutes passed by the legislature are presumed to be constitutional, that does not apply when they infringe on a fundamental right. Thus, the state had the “heavy burden” of proof in this case, which it failed to meet.

- The most sacred right to freely exercise one’s religion is both fundamental and inalienable.

- A law that substantially burdens the free exercise of religion violates the First Amendment.

- The order that churches close while others were open is in no sense “neutral” toward religion.

- While fighting Covid was a compelling state interest, the closing of churches was not the least restrictive means of addressing the problem.

- The limits on gathering in Executive Order 30 JBE 2020 and the limits on gatherings and the stay-at-home mandate in Executive Order 33 JBE 2020 are unconstitutional as applied to Rev. Spell.



THE CHURCH THAT NEVER CLOSED — Sister Shaye Spell of Life Tabernacle Church made clear her family’s commitment to keep their church doors open early in the pandemic. She is shown here during a rally at the Governor’s Mansion in April 2020.

The trial court erred in dismissing the pastor’s Motion to Quash the charges, and the Motion to Quash is granted.

Moon Griffin, Doug Welborn Featured at Reagan Lunch

BATON ROUGE — Radio talk show host Moon Griffin and Clerk of Court Doug Welborn were featured at this month’s Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon. Welborn spoke on the workings of his office, while Moon spoke on the failings of the Biden and Edwards administrations. To watch, click the QR codes below:

Doug Welborn Speech:



Moon Griffin Speech:



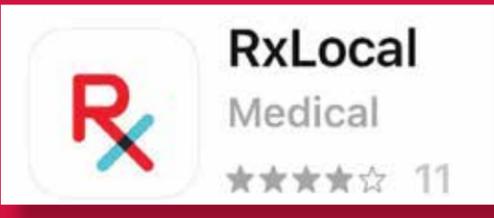
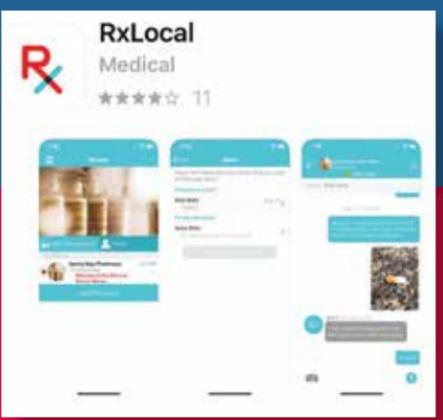
CENTRAL PHARMACY

We Deliver!

Also Featuring **DRIVE THRU** Pick-Up!

Central Pharmacy
9952 Sullivan Road
P. 225-262-6200
F. 225-262-6578
www.centraldrugbr.com

Pharmacy Hours
Monday - Friday
8:30am - 6:30pm
Saturdays
8:30am - 3:00pm



Quickly and Easily Refill RX Online
Download Our New Improved
Phone App iPhone and Android

Central High School Class of '62 Celebrates 60-Year Reunion



CENTRAL — The Central High School Class of 1962 celebrated their 60-year class reunion. The Class of 1962 had 22 classmates attend its reunion Saturday, April 23, 2022, at Duke's Seafood & Steakhouse on Hwy. 16 in Watson.

Shown left to right on bottom row are Wanda Browning Christy, Janet Rowland Anderson, Jo Ann Primm Gross, Judy Sicard Turcotte, Amelia Parr Pecoraro, E.J. Ashford, and Gloria Swain

Yost. Second row: Charles McCaskill, Phyllis Cobb Martin, Mary Margaret Allen Burns, Linda Varnado Fabre, Jimmy Gross, Janis Wilson Crosbie, Russell Bourke, Claudia McAdams Delahaye, and Gail Higgins McDonald. Third row: Wayne McLean, Jimmy Lapeze, Charles Sides, Ray Ramsay, Terry Browning, and John Hooper. There was a drawing for door prizes, and after the meal everyone enjoyed cake to commemorate 60 years.



I'm proud to announce I am now part of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices United Properties.

As a proud member of the Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices United Properties team, I now represent a brand whose namesake is Berkshire Hathaway Inc., one of the world's most trusted and respected brands. And that means you can be assured of receiving exceptional service, extensive expertise and world-class professionalism when it comes to serving your real estate needs.

Andrew Medine
Sales Associate
andrew.medine@bhhs-united.com
www.andrewmedine.soldbyunited.com
(225)405-3611

Chase Pino
Broker
www.berkshirehathawayhs.com/
(225)615-8055

Licensed in the state of Louisiana.
Each office is independently owned and operated.



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY
HomeServices
United Properties

4545 Bluebonnet Boulevard Suite B Baton Rouge, LA 70809

St. Alphonsus School's Art Show Success

CENTRAL — St. Alphonsus is definitely creating a buzz this year with its new Art Club.

The SAS Art Club is made up of 4th and 5th graders who share a love of art and want to help foster that love throughout the school and community.

The Art Club sponsored the SAS Art Show in the Courtyard as a way to showcase all of the wonderful talents at SAS.

Every student in 1st - 8th grade was able to show off his favorite projects during show. Parents and friends were invited for the evening to walk around and see the artwork adorning the walls of the courtyard. Along with the artwork, guests were invited to participate in several art activities and were served refreshments. The turnout was beyond all expectations and St. Alphonsus is excited to continue this new tradition and watch it grow along with the talent of its students and art program.



EYEMAX
FAMILY OPTICAL

David P. Fargason, M.D.
Robert Geier, O.D.

Services:

- NEW LASER Cataract/Implants Tecnis Multifocal and Toric Lenses for Astigmatism
- Glaucoma/Laser
- LASIK BLADE FREE
- Eye Examinations
- Contact Lenses
- Optical
- Diabetic Eye Exams



Call to Schedule Your Eye Exam
225.262.8141

Central Professional Plaza
11424 Sullivan Road



Any size storage to fit any need...



- 24 Hour Access Gate
- Climate Control & Regular Storage Available
- Manager on site

12526
Hooper Rd.
261-7357

Find Central City News Online
Website: centralcitynews.us
Facebook: Central City News
Archives: centralcitynews.net

COMMUNITY PRESS, LLC
St. George Leader Vol. 2 • No. 2
 Post Office Box 2
 City of St. George, LA 70801

CENTRAL CITY NEWS &
 The Leader Vol. 25 • No. 5 • CCN No. 464
 Post Office Box 1
 City of Central, LA 70739

Istrouma Journal 910 North Foster Drive
 Baton Rouge, LA 70806 Vol. 4 • No. 2
 Phone (225) 261-5055 • Entire contents © 2022
 Email stories and photos for all papers to centralcitynews@hotmail.com
 Published Monthly

The Leader was founded April 30, 1998. The *Central City News* was founded April 21, 2005. They merged May 4, 2006. The *South Baton Rouge Journal* began publication in 1989. It went on hiatus in 2008 during its 20th year of publication. It resumed publication as the *Capital City News* on Aug. 16, 2012, with Vol. 21, No. 1. The *North Baton Rouge Journal* began on August 11, 1966 and went on hiatus in 1976. It resumed publication as the *Istrouma Journal* on April 6, 2017.

Editor & Publisher: **Woody Jenkins**
 Advertising Manager: **Kim Powers**

Member, Louisiana Press Association and Chamber of Commerce of EBR Parish
 Deadline for news and advertising: 5 p.m. Friday before publication
 \$24 a year by subscription in advance • \$36 a year outside East Baton Rouge



Photo by Jolice Provost

CHAMBER EBR — Radio talk show host Moon Griffon (left) and Clerk of Court Doug Welborn headlined the Chamber of Commerce of EBR Parish. Woody Jenkins (center)

Supreme Court Refused to Allow Prosecution Of a Pastor for a Crime That Doesn't Exist

Continued from Page 1

think it through? What were the real motives of the Governor and the others? Where are they getting their legal advice? And do they understand or care to understand the most basic principles of the American constitutional system? Even non-lawyers know the Governor can't make law. The Louisiana Constitution is quite clear about that. Article II of the Constitution provides for three branches of government and a separation of powers among those branches. It says,

The powers of government of the state are divided into three separate branches: legislative, executive, and judicial... no one of these branches, nor any person holding office in one of them, shall exercise power belonging to either of the others.

Article III of the Constitution vests the legislative power in the Louisiana Legislature.

Every elected official and law enforcement officer has an obli-

gation to understand who has the power to make the laws because these officials are bound to obey and enforce the law. Each official begins his service by taking an oath prescribed by the Louisiana Constitution in Art. 10, Sec. 30:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support the constitution and laws of the United States and the constitution and laws of this state..."

What Are Pastor Spell's Legal Options?

Continued from Page 1

be new is libel suits against national news outlets that subjected the pastor to a raft of defamatory accusations.

The pastor has no skeletons the media could find after two years of probing. Rev. Spell pastors a church that is 50-50 black and white. Yet, he was portrayed as everything from a mass murderer to a white nationalist. As the lawyers review the countless defamatory

statements made by the national and international news media, it will be interesting to see which they choose to litigate.

So every elected official and law enforcement officer has to know that the legislature makes laws and defines crimes — not the governor. Nevertheless, a Central pastor has been persecuted for more than two years for violating a law that doesn't exist — the crime of holding church services without the permission of the governor.

At this point, the public doesn't

know what went on behind the scenes to put so many officials in lock step with the Governor and his illegal and unconstitutional decrees.

However, as these officials are subpoenaed to testify and bring their records and documents, we will hopefully know much, much more about what went on in the halls of power in our state for the past two years.

his attempts to close Life Tabernacle and put Rev. Tony Spell in prison.

Each one of the state and local officials who took part in violating the pastor's right to freedom of religion took an oath to uphold and defend the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of Louisiana.

Often, public officials claim qualified immunity for their actions, but that does not apply when they violate a person's constitutional rights.

Integrity Glass Works

Commercial and Residential

Emergency Service

225-268-8800

Regular Service

225-261-8800

Fax

225-261-7881

8931 Greenwell Springs Rd.

Bruce Medine and
Linda Medine, Owners



Your Metro
Baton Rouge
Shower Door
Specialist



www.integrityglassworks.com
service@integrityglassworks.com

What It Was Like to Be Target of Governor,

Constant Harassment, Surveillance, Threats, Restrictions on Travel, War on Congregation

Continued from Page 2

that our troubles will never end. But the Bible says we must not stop just because there is trouble on every side. So we just kept on going! We kept on believing, kept on going to church, kept on praying despite our fears, and kept on holding on to God despite our doubts. We are persecuted but not forsaken. We are cast down but not destroyed. In 1931, Chief Justice Hughes of the United States Supreme Court said, 'Throughout the ages, men have suffered death rather than subordinate their allegiance to Almighty God to the authority of the state.' Throughout the ages, men like Daniel kept on praying. They would not bow, they would not bend."

"There are some things worse than dying. There's a church at Hooper and Blackwater roads that understands that. There are some things worse than a virus. There are some things worse than going to jail. There are some things worse than losing our jobs. And that is forsaking God, because God is our refuge and the source of our strength. God is our help in time of trouble. When everyone walks out on us, God is still with us. When



ARREST IN CHURCH — Central Police Chief Roger Corcoran arresting and fingerprinting Rev. Tony Spell in the sanctuary of Life Tabernacle Church on March 17, 2020. The pastor was charged with holding church in violation of the Governor's decrees.

we thought we could count on the Constitution and the Bill of Rights, tyrants fell on us. However, remember this: No dictator, no governor or anyone else can take away our right to worship God! This great decision by the Louisiana Supreme Court stands for that."

"It is so important that we stand

strong. We knew if we gave the devil one service, he would take the next! The Governor said we could meet online or at home, but it is not the Governor's right to say how and where we meet. The highest court in Louisiana said our right to worship and assemble is greater than any edict of the Governor!"

"I want to tell the Governor you had your day for 27 months, but there are judges in the highest court in our state who believe in the Constitution, and your day is done! The Governor called us a scofflaw, but who is the scofflaw now? The Supreme Court said that in fact the Governor is the lawbreaker!"

"Here is some of my favorite language from **State of Louisiana v. Pastor Tony Spell** (footnotes are omitted) signed by Justice William Crain:"

- "The free exercise of religion means the right to believe and profess whatever religious doctrine one desires."

- "The pursuit of religious liberty was a powerful force driving early settlers to this continent and remained a powerful force at the time of the founding of the American republic."

- "Nothing but the most telling

of personal experiences in religious persecution suffered by our forebears could have planted our belief in liberty of religious opinion any more deeply in our heritage."

- "James Madison, who was instrumental in drafting the First Amendment, viewed religious liberty as 'the fundamental freedom.'"

- "Similarly, Thomas Jefferson believed religious freedom to be the 'most inalienable and sacred of all human rights.'"

- "No liberty is more essential to the continued vitality of the free society which our Constitution guarantees, than is religious liberty."

- "This most sacred right to freely exercise one's religion is fundamental and inalienable."

- "The First Amendment excludes all government regulation of religious beliefs."

- "The exercise of religion, however, involves 'not only belief and profession but the performance of (or abstention from) physical acts: assembling with others for a worship service, participating in sacramental use of bread and wine, proselytizing, and abstaining from certain foods or certain modes of transportation.'"

- "The Free Exercise Clause thus embraces two concepts: freedom to believe and freedom to act."

- "A law that substantially burdens the free exercise of religion violates the First Amendment."

- "A government regulation burdening religious exercise is not neutral and generally applicable if, by granting exemptions, it treats any comparable secular activity more favorably than religious exercise."

- "The state nevertheless maintains the orders are neutral and generally applicable and that any holding to the contrary would allow the defendant to 'become a law unto himself.'"

- "The state's argument misses a crucial point. The defendant does not argue he is 'a law unto himself' or that the executive orders violate 'his own standards.'"

- "What defendant seeks — and what our Constitution ensures — is that his religious

See LAW on Page 7

Treads & Care
TIRE COMPANY

The Tires You NEED,
The Service You WANT

SERVICES:

Brakes • Oil Changes
Wheel Alignments • A/C Repair
Computer Diagnostics



(225) 331-8144

11115 PARK PLACE DR. • CENTRAL, LA
(CORNER OF HOOPER ROAD & PARK PLACE)

Victory Academy
est.1980

MINISTRY OF VICTORY HARVEST CHURCH
PRE-K - 8TH

*"A love for learning brings us together
a desire for excellence sets us apart."*

3953 N. Flannery Rd.
225-272-8339

Non-discriminatory admissions policy



Law Enforcement, and Media for 2 Years

Continued from Page 6

activities be treated no differently than comparable secular activities.”

• “Building codes and zoning laws, unlike the executive orders at issue, do not exclude secular facilities from regulation. We interpret Pastor Spell’s request not as one for special treatment, but for equal treatment.”

• “By granting preferential treatment for comparable secular activities, the provisions in Orders 30 and 33 prohibiting gatherings over a designated number of people and imposing a stay-at-home order, as applied in this case, violate the Free Exercise Clause and are subject to strict scrutiny.”

• “Specifically, the state did not show the religious exercise at issue is more dangerous than the activities allowed by the executive orders.”

• “Even in a pandemic, the Constitution cannot be put away and forgotten.”

• “Government is not free to disregard the First Amendment in times of crisis.”

• “We reject any contention that early in a crisis, the Constitution’s protection of fundamental rights must always yield to the needs of the state to respond to the crisis. A public health emergency does not relegate the First Amendment to a proposition or allow violations thereof to be judged on a sliding scale of constitutionality. The infringement of the fundamental right of the free exercise of religion, whether in times of crisis or calm, must always be strictly scrutinized by our courts.”

“The opinion concludes as follows:

“Pandemic or not, this court cannot look the other way when the state infringes upon a citizen’s fundamental right to exercise his religion.” “All government originates with the people, is founded on their will alone and is instituted to protect the rights of the individual and for the good of the whole.” La. Const. art. I, §1. “In granting power to the government, our citizens not only reserved the right to freely exercise religion, they instructed this right ‘be preserved inviolate by the state.’” La. Const. art. I, §1. “As judges, we have no more solemn duty than to protect the fundamental rights reserved by the people from government overreach. The prohibitions in the executive orders at issue violate defendant’s fundamental right to exercise religion. They do not survive strict scrutiny based on the limited evidence in the record. They are unconstitutional as applied to defendant.”

“The limits on gatherings in executive order 30 JBE 2020, Section 1; and the limits on gatherings and the stay-at-home mandate in executive order 33 JBE 2020, Sections 2, 3, and 5 are unconstitutional as applied to the defendant. The trial court erred in denying



Photo by Woody Jenkins

AFTER SUPREME COURT HEARING — Attorney Jeff Wittenbrink took a moment to report to Rev. Tony Spell and Sister Shaye Spell after oral arguments before the Louisiana Supreme Court in March 2022. Most justices seemed sympathetic to Pastor Spell.

the motion to quash. The trial and the motion to quash is court’s judgment is **reversed, granted.**”

“Sister Spell and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts for standing with us! Because we all stood, God has given us a great victory! It is a victory that should have tremendous impact on the law for generations to come. It is the most important religious liberty decision in the history of our nation.”

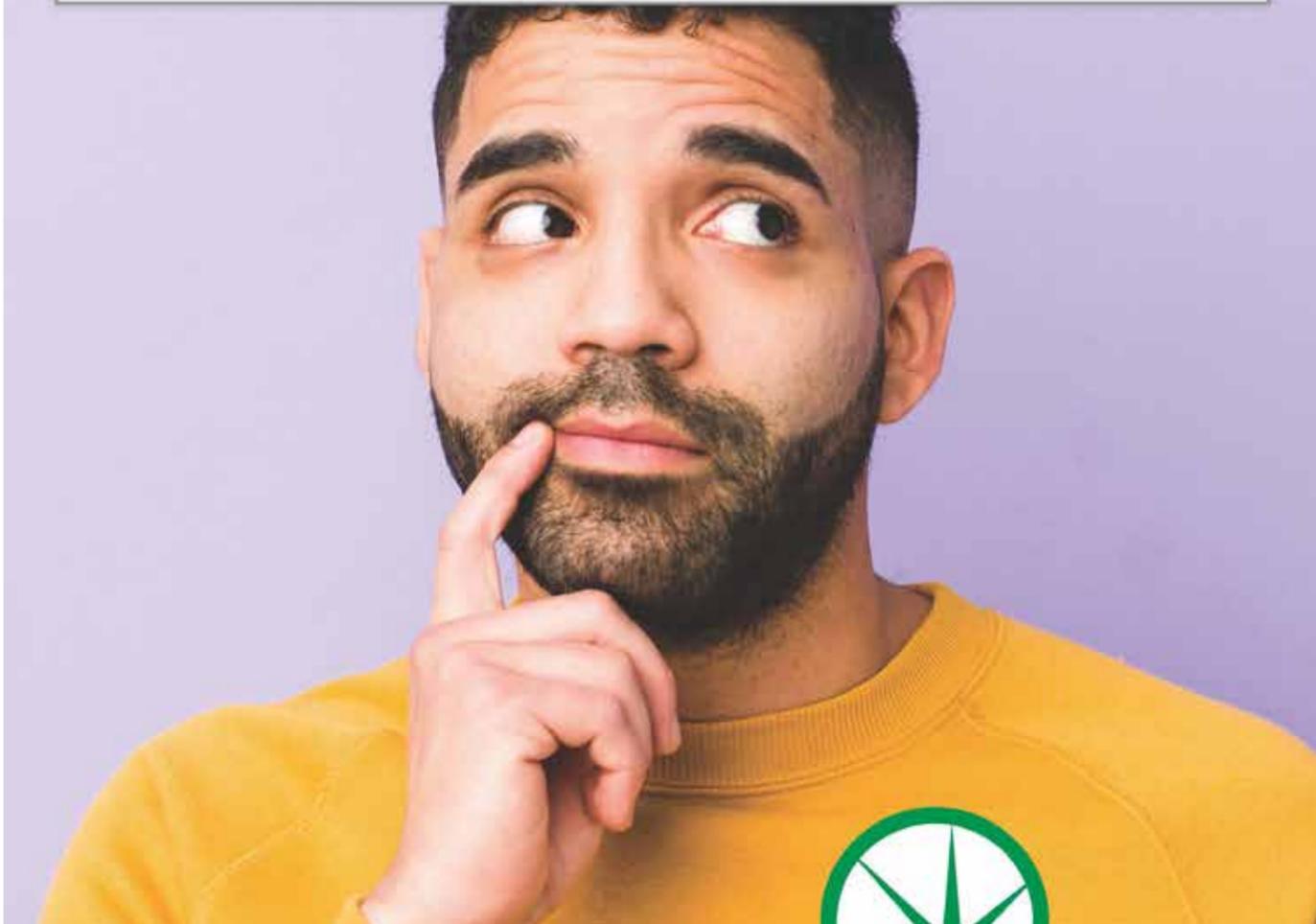
“Now we have much to decide and much left to do on the legal front. However, our priority right now is getting ready for **Revolution, America’s National Youth Conference, June 29-July 3**. We have more than a month of hard work to finish putting it together. If all goes well, more than 5,000 young people and adults will arrive here June 29. We hope you will join us, if that is possible!”

“We pray that you will continue to support this ministry — from the bus ministry to the online broadcasts to our legal battles to the construction of the Brush Arbor Conference Center for Revolution. Thank you and God bless you!”

— Rev. Tony Spell

 What are some easy ways to pay my DEMCO bill? →

DEMCO offers a variety of easy pay options. You can set your bill to autodraft from your checking account or pay by credit or debit card every month. Other options include the MyDEMCO app and online portal and payment by phone.




DEMCO

For more information, visit DEMCO.org.

 /DEMCOLouisiana

A Touchstone Energy®
Cooperative 

Read the Opinion: *State of Louisiana*

Continued from Page 1

SUPREME COURT OF
LOUISIANA
No. 2021-KK-00876
STATE OF LOUISIANA
VS.

MARK ANTHONY SPELL

On Supervisory Writ to the
19th Judicial District Court,
Parish of East Baton Rouge

In this criminal proceeding, we find certain provisions of two executive orders, as applied to defendant, violate his fundamental right to exercise religion, do not survive strict scrutiny, and are thus unconstitutional.

FACTS AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The defendant is the pastor of a church in Central, Louisiana. On March 31, 2020, he was issued six misdemeanor citations for violating two executive orders issued by Governor Edwards in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, “Proclamation Number JBE 2020-30” (Order 30) and “Proclamation Number 33 JBE 2020” (Order 33).¹

Order 30 was issued on March 16, 2020. In its preamble, the order recognizes the Governor previously declared a public health emergency due to the threat of COVID-19, which, as the order also recognizes, has “the ability . . . to spread via personal interactions.” The preamble explains the outbreak had expanded significantly and required additional measures to protect public health and safety. The first of these measures is a restriction on gatherings:

In an effort to reduce and limit the spread of COVID-19 in Louisiana, and to preserve the health and safety of all members of the public, all gatherings of 50 people or more between 12:00 a.m. Tuesday, March 17, 2020 and Monday, April 13, 2020 shall be postponed or cancelled. This applies only to gatherings in a single space at the same time where individuals will be in close proximity to one another. It does not apply to normal operations at locations like airports, medical facilities, shopping centers or malls, office buildings, factories or manufacturing facilities, or grocery or department stores. This order does not limit the ability of a local jurisdiction or political subdivision from enacting more restrictive limitations. See 30 JBE 2020, Section 1 (emphasis in original).

In addition to this gathering limitation, the Governor closed certain businesses because they presented unacceptable risks to public health and safety, including casinos, video poker establishments, movie theaters, bars, bowling alleys, and fitness centers and gyms. See 30 JBE 2020, Section 2. Restaurants, cafes, and coffee shops had to cease on-premises consumption of food and beverage but could continue take-out, drive-thru, and delivery services. See 30 JBE 2020, Section 3.

About a week later on March 22, 2020, the Governor issued Order 33. The preamble recognizes that without additional measures to slow the spread of the virus, health care facilities throughout the state were at significant risk of being overwhelmed. The closure or limitation of “non-essential businesses” was necessary, in part, “because of the propensity of the COVID-19 virus to spread via personal interactions.” The Governor tightened the restrictions on gatherings by prohibiting 10 or more people from being in a single space, but again allowed exceptions for normal operations at airports, medical facilities, office



LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT was the scene last week of a major victory for religious liberty in a case out of Central. In *State of Louisiana v. Pastor Tony Spell*, the court struck down Gov. John Bel Edwards’ emergency orders closing churches and ended criminal charges against Rev. Spell, the pastor of Life Tabernacle Church in Central.

buildings, factories or manufacturing facilities, or grocery stores. The excepted businesses no longer included shopping centers, malls, and department stores. See 33 JBE 2020, Section 2.

Order 33 also imposed a “stay-at-home order” applicable to “all individuals within the state of Louisiana,” unless the person was “performing an essential activity.” See 33 JBE 2020, Section 3. The order defines that phrase to include obtaining food, medicine, and non-elective medical care; going to and from a family member’s home; engaging in outdoor activity; and “[g]oing to and from an individual’s place of worship.” Attending or participating in a worship service is not expressly identified as an essential activity. The order also deems an essential activity to include travel to and from an individual’s workplace to perform certain job functions, including anything “otherwise deemed essential worker functions.” The order then instructs:

Guidance provided by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Cybersecurity & Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) on what workers are essential is outlined at <https://www.cisa.gov/identifying-critical-infrastructure-during-covid-19>. See 33 JBE 2020, Section 3C.

The referenced guidance is in a document titled “Guidance on the Essential Critical Infrastructure Workforce: Ensuring Community and National Resilience in COVID-19 Response.” It is qualified by an introductory memorandum stating, “[T]his list is advisory in nature. It is not, nor should it be considered to be, a federal directive or standard in and of itself.” Subject to that disclaimer, the document sets forth a list of essential workers that spans seven pages and totals 129 job descriptions in 14 different sectors. Many of the 129 descriptions cover multiple jobs. All of them, by reference, are excepted from Order 33’s stay-at-home mandate, including “[a]utomotive repair

and maintenance facilities,” “[m]anufacturers and distributors . . . of packaging materials,” “manufacturing and distribution of animal . . . bedding,” and “[c]ompany cafeterias.” The extensive list, according to the agency, is subject to change: “CISA will continually solicit and accept feedback on the list . . . and will evolve the list in response to stakeholder feedback.”

Order 33 also closed more businesses, including all places of public amusement, personal care and grooming businesses, and all malls except for stores with a direct outdoor entrance and exit that provided essential services or products. See 33 JBE 2020, Section 4. All other non-essential businesses not closed by this order and Order 30 were required to reduce operations to minimize public contact and were subject to the 10-person limitation on gatherings. See 33 JBE 2020, Section 5.

These executive orders were issued by the Governor pursuant to the Louisiana Homeland Security and Emergency Assistance and Disaster Act at Louisiana Revised Statutes 29:721-39. Any person violating an executive order promulgated pursuant to that act is subject to a fine of not more than five hundred dollars or confinement in the parish jail for not more than six months, or both. See La. R.S. 29:724E. Relying on this provision, the state charged defendant with violating Orders 30 and 33. The bills of information provide little detail other than stating defendant violated Order 30 on March 17, 2020, (a Tuesday); and twice on March 22, 2020, (a Sunday) at 11:45 a.m. and 6:50 p.m. He is charged with violating Order 33 on March 24, 2020, (a Tuesday); and twice on March 29, 2020, (a Sunday) at 10:00 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Although the bills of information do not specify which sections of the orders were violated, it is undisputed defendant continued to lead in-person worship services in the church’s sanctuary building

while each of the subject orders was in effect. It is also undisputed for present purposes the total attendance at these services exceeded the gathering limitation in each applicable order.

The defendant filed a motion to quash the bills of information, arguing the executive orders violated his fundamental right to freely exercise religion and are unconstitutional. The trial court denied the motion, and the court of appeal denied defendant’s writ application. This court granted a writ of certiorari. See *State v. Spell*, 21-00876 (La. 12/7/21), 328 So. 3d 406.

The record does not reflect if citations were issued to others in attendance at the worship services or how authorities determined defendant violated the orders by being at least the 50th person (under Order 30) or 10th person (under Order 33) in attendance at a service.

DISCUSSION

Although an executive order is under review, we are guided by jurisprudence governing constitutional challenges to statutes. The determination of the constitutionality of a statute presents a question of law subject to de novo review. *State v. Webb*, 13-1681 (La. 5/7/14), 144 So. 3d 971, 975.

I. Burden of Proof and Fundamental Right of Religious Freedom

The burden of proof is particularly important in this case because limited evidence was introduced at the hearing in the trial court. Generally, statutes are presumed constitutional, and the party challenging the validity of the statute bears the burden of proving it is unconstitutional. *State v. Hatton*, 07-2377 (La. 7/1/08), 985 So. 2d 709, 719; *State v. Fleury*, 01-0871 (La. 10/16/01), 799 So. 2d 468, 472. However, this presumption does not apply when a statute infringes upon a fundamental right. See *San Antonio Independent School District v. Rodriguez*, 411 U.S. 1, 16-17; 93 S.Ct. 1278, 1288; 36 L.Ed.2d 16 (1973); *Dunn v. Blumstein*, 405 U.S. 330, 343; 92 S.Ct. 995, 1003; 31 L.Ed.2d 274 (1972); *State in Interest of J.M.*, 13-1717 (La. 1/28/14), 144 So. 3d 853, 860. In those instances, the state bears a “heavy burden” of proving the law’s validity under the strict-scrutiny standard. See *Rodriguez*, 411 U.S. at 16-17; 93 S.Ct. at 1288; *Dunn*, 405 U.S. at 343; 92 S.Ct. at 1003. This rigorous standard is imposed because fundamental rights are “so essential to the structure of our society” and are “deeply rooted in this Nation’s history and tradition.” See *Webb*, 144 So. 3d at 978; *Washington v. Glucksberg*, 521 U.S. 702, 703; 117 S.Ct. 2258, 2260; 138 L.Ed.2d 772 (1997). This court described the state’s burden of proof as follows:

Where strict judicial scrutiny is required, [the] state is not entitled to the usual presumption of validity, [and] the state rather than the complainant must carry a heavy burden of justification[.] [T]he state must demonstrate its [action] has been structured with precision, and is tailored narrowly to serve legitimate objectives, and that it has selected the less drastic means for effectuating its objectives. In meeting this heavy burden of justification, the state’s role is to present evidence of the compelling nature of the government’s interest served by the regulation and to demonstrate the restrictions are narrowly tailored to achieve the asserted interest.

Interest of J.M., 144 So. 3d 860-61 (citations and internal quotation

See PASTOR on Page 9

v. Pastor Tony Spell Landmark Case



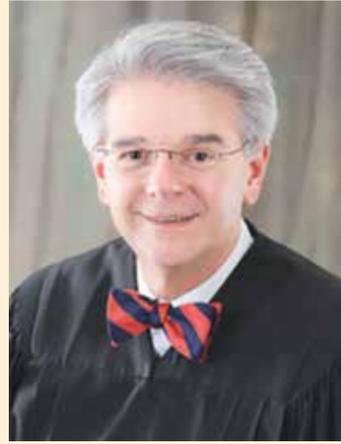
Justice Will Crain
R-Madisonville



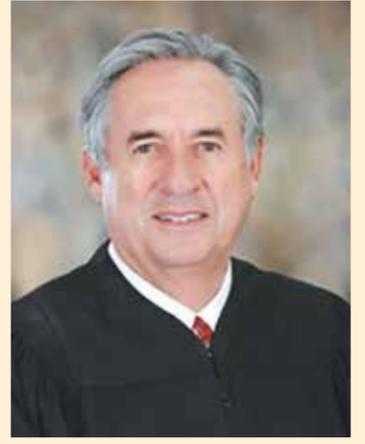
Justice Jeff Hughes
R-Walker



Justice Scott Crichton
R-Sibley



Justice Jay McCallum
R-Farmerville



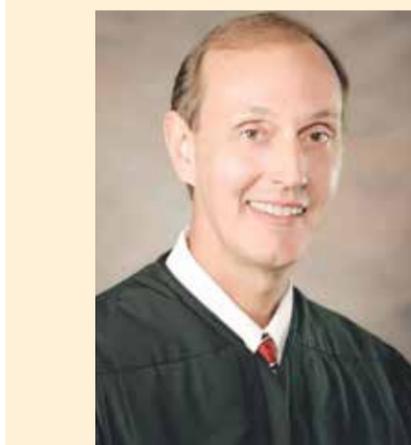
Justice Jimmy Genovese
R-Opelousas

Continued from Page 8

marks omitted). The fundamental right at issue in this case is the free exercise of religion. The First Amendment, applicable to the states through the Fourteenth Amendment, provides that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof....” U.S. Const., Amdt. 1 (emphasis added); *Fulton v. City of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*, 141 S.Ct. 1868, 1876; 210 L.Ed.2d 137 (2021). Article I, Section 8 of the Louisiana Constitution similarly provides, “No law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.”

The free exercise of religion means the right to believe and profess whatever religious doctrine one desires. *Employment Division, Department of Human Resources of Oregon v. Smith*, 494 U.S. 872, 877; 110 S.Ct. 1595, 1599; 108 L.Ed.2d 876 (1990). The pursuit of religious liberty was a powerful force driving early settlers to this continent and remained a powerful force at the time of the founding of the American republic. See Brett G. Scharffs, *The Autonomy of Church and State*, 2004 B.Y.U.L. Rev. 1217, 1230 (2004). “Nothing but the most telling of personal experiences in religious persecution suffered by our forebears could have planted our belief in liberty of religious opinion any more deeply in our heritage.” *School District of Abington Township, Pennsylvania v. Schempp*, 374 U.S. 203, 214; 83 S.Ct. 1560, 1567; 10 L.Ed.2d 844 (1963) (citation omitted). James Madison, who was instrumental in drafting the First Amendment, viewed religious liberty as “the fundamental freedom.” See Mark E. Chopko, Michael F. Moses, *Freedom to Be A Church: Confronting Challenges to the Right of Church Autonomy*, 3 *Georgetown Journal of Law and Public Policy* 387, 402 (2005). Similarly, Thomas Jefferson believed religious freedom to be the “most inalienable and sacred of all human rights.” *Id.* at 402-03. As expressed by one Supreme Court justice almost two centuries later, “[N]o liberty is more essential to the continued vitality of the free society which our Constitution guarantees than is the religious liberty.” *Sherbert v. Verner*, 374 U.S. 398, 413; 83 S.Ct. 1790, 1799; 10 L.Ed.2d 965 (1963) (Stewart, J., concurring). This most sacred right to freely exercise one’s religion is both fundamental and inalienable. See La. Const. art. I, §1. Nevertheless, it is subject to government regulation under precisely defined circumstances.

II. Regulation of Religious Acts:



Chief Justice John Weimer
No Party-Thibodaux



Justice Piper Griffin
D-New Orleans

SUPREME COURT VOTED 5-2 in support of opinion by Justice William Crane of Washington Parish. The five were Crane, Jeff Hughes, Scott Crichton, Jay McCullum, and Jimmy Genovese. The dissent by Chief Justice John Weimer was concurred in by Justice Piper Griffin. All five Justices in the majority are Republicans.

Neutral Laws of General Applicability and Effect of Exemptions for Comparable Secular Activity

The First Amendment excludes all government regulation of religious beliefs. *Smith*, 494 U.S. at 877; 110 S.Ct. at 1599. The exercise of religion, however, involves “not only belief and profession but the performance of (or abstention from) physical acts: assembling with others for a worship service, participating in sacramental use of bread and wine, proselytizing, and abstaining from certain foods or certain modes of transportation.” *Smith*, 494 U.S. at 877; 110 S.Ct. at 1599. The “Free Exercise Clause” thus embraces two concepts: freedom to believe and freedom to act. *Cantwell v. State of Connecticut*, 310 U.S. 296, 303-04; 60 S.Ct. 900, 903; 84 L.Ed. 1213 (1940). The first is absolute, but the second is not. *Id.*

A law that substantially burdens the free exercise of religion violates the First Amendment. See *Hernandez v. Commissioner*, 490 U.S. 680, 699, 109 S.Ct. 2136, 2148, 104 L.Ed.2d 766 (1989); *Thomas v. Review Bd. of Indiana Employment Security Div.*, 718, 101 S.Ct. 1425, 1432, 67 L.Ed.2d 624 (1981); *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, 406 U.S. 205, 220; 92 S.Ct. 1526, 1536; 32 L.Ed.2d 15 (1972); *Sherbert v. Verner*, 374 U.S. 398, 403; 83 S.Ct. 1790, 1793; 10 L.Ed.2d 965 (1963). This standard, sometimes called the “*Sherbert* test,” was applied by the Supreme Court for almost 30 years to determine whether government action was subject to strict scrutiny under the Free Exercise Clause. In *Smith*, however, the Supreme Court held that, regardless of its burden on religious exercise, a law that is “neutral” and “generally applicable” does not violate the Free Exercise

Clause and is not subject to strict scrutiny. See *Smith*, 494 U.S. at 878-80; 110 S.Ct. at 1600. If prohibiting the exercise of religion is “merely the incidental effect of a generally applicable and otherwise valid provision, the First Amendment has not been offended.” *Smith*, 494 U.S. at 878; 110 S.Ct. at 1600. *Smith* effectively carved out an exception to the *Sherbert* test that allows restrictions on religious liberty that previously may not have survived strict scrutiny. After *Smith*, under the federal jurisprudence, a law burdening religious exercise is subject to strict scrutiny only if it is not neutral and generally applicable. See *Church of the Lukumi Babalu Aye, Inc. v. City of Hialeah*, 508 U.S. 520, 546; 113 S.Ct. 2217, 2233; 124 L.Ed.2d 472 (1993).³

A government regulation burdening religious exercise is not neutral and generally applicable if, by granting exemptions, it treats any comparable secular activity more favorably than religious exercise. See *Fulton*, 141 S.Ct. at 1877; *Tandon v. Newsom*, ___ U.S. ___, ___; 141 S.Ct. 1294, 1296; 209 L.Ed.2d 355 (2021) (per curiam); *Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn v. Cuomo*, ___ U.S. ___, 141 S.Ct. 63, 66-67; 208 L.Ed.2d 206 (2020) (per curiam). As *Smith* recognized, a law may violate the Free Exercise Clause and trigger strict scrutiny if “the State has in place a system of individual exemptions” from the law. *Smith*, 494 U.S. at 884; 110 S.Ct. at 1603. If the statute grants exemptions, the government “may not refuse to extend that system to cases of religious hardship without compelling reason.” *Smith*, 494 U.S. at 884; 110 S.Ct. at 1603 (internal quotation marks omitted). It is not sufficient for the

state to point out that it treats some comparable secular businesses or other activities as poorly as or even less favorably than the religious exercise at issue. *Tandon*, 141 S.Ct. at 1296. Rather, once a state creates any favored class of business, the state must justify why houses of worship are excluded from that favored class. *Roman Catholic Diocese*, 141 S.Ct. at 73 (Kavanaugh, J., concurring); see also *Church of the Lukumi*, 508 U.S. at 537; 113 S.Ct. at 2229.

Whether two activities are comparable for purposes of the Free Exercise Clause must be judged against the asserted government interest that justifies the regulation at issue. *Tandon*, 141 S.Ct. at 1296; *Roman Catholic Diocese*, 141 S.Ct. at 67. The government interest at issue in *Tandon* and *Roman Catholic Diocese*, as in the present case, was reducing the spread of COVID-19. In this context, comparability is concerned with the risks of exposure posed by various activities, not the reasons why people gather. *Tandon*, 141 S.Ct. at 1296.

In *Tandon* the Supreme Court reviewed a California state order limiting private gatherings to three households. *Tandon*, 141 S.Ct. at 1294. Plaintiffs asserted this limitation violated their right to freely exercise religion because it prevented them from holding in-home Bible studies and communal worship with more than three households in attendance. The Supreme Court observed the executive order did not place the same gathering limitation on some comparable secular businesses and activities, such as hair salons, retail stores, personal care services, movie theaters, private suites at sporting events and concerts, and indoor restaurants. *Tandon*, 141 S.Ct. at 1297. The Court further noted the court of appeal, which ruled against plaintiffs, did not expressly find those comparable activities posed a lesser risk of virus transmission than applicants’ proposed religious exercise at home. *Id.* Instead the lower court erroneously rejected these comparable activities because they involved gatherings in public buildings and not private homes. Precautions used in public venues, according to the court of appeal, might not “translate readily” to a home. *Tandon v. Newsom*, 992 F.3d 916, 926-27.

The Supreme Court rejected this rationale, stating: “The State cannot assume the worst when people go to worship but assume the best when people go to work.” *Tandon*, 141 S.Ct. at 1297 (quoting *Roberts v. Neace*, 958 F.3d 409, 414 (C.A.6 2020) (per curiam) (internal quotation marks omitted)). The Court found plaintiffs would likely suc-

Louisiana Supreme Court's Definitive

Continued from Page 9

ceed on the merits of their claim and granted an injunction pending appeal, emphasizing:

California's [order] contains myriad exceptions and accommodations for comparable activities, thus requiring the application of strict scrutiny. And historically, strict scrutiny requires the State to further "interests of the highest order" by means "narrowly tailored in pursuit of those interests." That standard is not watered down; it really means what it says.

Tandon, 141 S.Ct. at 1298 (quoting in part *Church of the Lukumi*, 508 U.S. at 546; 113 S.Ct. at 2233; some internal quotation marks omitted).

The Supreme Court granted similar relief in *Roman Catholic Diocese*. There, the governor of New York issued an executive order limiting attendance at houses of worship to no more than 10 or 25 people, depending on the classification of the church's geographical zone based on virus prevalence. *Roman Catholic Diocese*, 141 S.Ct. at 66. The order placed no admission limitations on "essential" businesses, which included, among others, acupuncture facilities, camp grounds, garages, plants manufacturing chemicals and microelectronics, and all transportation facilities. *Id.*

The Court found the order was not neutral or generally applicable and, applying the strict-scrutiny standard, found it "hard to see how the challenged regulations can be regarded as narrowly tailored." *Roman Catholic Diocese*, 141 S.Ct. at 67. The order was more restrictive than other regulations previously reviewed, and there was no evidence applicants contributed to the spread of the virus. *Id.* The Court further observed that other less restrictive measures could minimize the risk to those attending religious services, such as determining the maximum permissible attendance based on the size of the church. *Id.* While the Court acknowledged the judgment of public health experts should be respected, it stressed the Constitution cannot be ignored in times of crisis:

[E]ven in a pandemic, the Constitution cannot be put away and forgotten. The restrictions at issue here, by effectively barring many from attending religious services, strike at the very heart of the First Amendment's guarantee of religious liberty.

Roman Catholic Diocese, 141 S.Ct. at 68.

Using the analytical framework provided by these cases, we must determine whether Orders 30 and 33 violated defendant's fundamental right to exercise religion by exempting comparable secular activities from the mandated restrictions. If so, the orders are subject to strict scrutiny, which requires the offensive provisions be narrowly tailored to achieve a compelling government interest. See *Tandon*, 141 S.Ct. at 1296, 1298; *Roman Catholic Diocese*, 141 S.Ct. at 66-67. If that standard is not satisfied, the provisions are unconstitutional. *Id.*

III. Review of Executive Orders 30 and 33

The executive orders identify the government interest as the protection of the public "from the threat of COVID-19." More specifically, the gathering limits were imposed "[i]n an effort to reduce and limit the spread of COVID-19 in Louisiana and to preserve the health and safety of all members of the public." Similarly, the stay-at-home order sought to "preserve the public health and



Photo by Jolice Provost

FIGHTING MANDATORY MASKS AND VACCINES — Rev. Tony Spell at a meeting of the Louisiana Board of Elementary and Secondary Education to speak against mandatory masks and vaccines for school children in Louisiana. BESE adjourned the meeting without hearing from any of 300 or parents who came to testify.

safety, and to ensure the health-care system is capable of serving all citizens in need." See 33 JBE 2020, Section 3. Both orders, however, have numerous exceptions to their mandatory provisions. Order 30, which prohibited gatherings of 50 or more people, imposed no limitations whatsoever on "normal operations at locations like airports, medical facilities, shopping centers or malls, office buildings, factories or manufacturing facilities, or grocery or department stores." Order 33, which prohibited gatherings of 10 or more people, recognized most of the same exceptions in Order 30. The stay-at-home mandate incorporated pages of exceptions for "essential" job functions, numbering well over 100 and ranging from manufacturing animal bedding to working in a company cafeteria. More generally, and similar to the order in *Roman Catholic Diocese*, the list also includes all jobs supporting or enabling transportation functions, and all workers involved in chemical manufacturing and distribution.

We focus first on the exception for gatherings at "office buildings." The state has not demonstrated a material difference, nor can we discern any, between the risk of transmitting the virus in a gathering of people in an office building and a gathering of people in a church building. Both may involve prolonged gatherings of people in close proximity. Yet under both executive orders, an unlimited number of people were allowed to remain in a single conference room in an office building for an unlimited period of time, all in close proximity, talking, eating, and engaging in any other "normal operations" of the business. However, if ten of these individuals left the conference room, walked across the street to a church, and entered an otherwise empty sanctuary building for a worship service, they were subject to criminal prosecution for violating Order 33. Similarly, if their job was deemed "essential," their presence in the conference room would fall within an exception to the stay-at-home order; however, their presence in the sanctuary would be criminal. The same observations can be made for gatherings at other exempt venues, such as factories and manufacturing facilities, where people may gather in close proximity to work or socialize for extended periods of time; and airports, where people are funneled into crowded boarding gates where they can wait

for hours for a flight.

The state argues the exempt businesses only involve "consumer interaction . . . of a transient, in-and-out nature, such as Walmart, Target and Home Depot, activities posing markedly different risks from the extended more densely packed environments of churches."⁴ The state points to no evidence in the record proving that someone shopping in a crowded retail store for 45 minutes is less exposed to the virus than someone safely distanced, but attending church for the same amount of time. Even assuming that to be the case, there is nothing transitory about prolonged meetings in an office building, working a shift in a factory, or waiting on a flight in an airport.

The state points out the executive orders treat religious organizations more favorably than many similar secular businesses, such as restaurants and cafes, which were barred from allowing any on-premises consumption of food or beverages; and casinos, video poker establishments, movie theaters, bars, bowling alleys, and fitness centers, which were closed completely. However, "[i]t is no answer that a State treats some comparable secular businesses or other activities as poorly as or even less favorably than the religious exercise at issue." *Tandon*, 141 S.Ct. at 1296. Strict scrutiny applies when a government regulation treats any comparable secular activity more favorably than religious exercise. See *Tandon*, 141 S.Ct. at 1296; *Roman Catholic Diocese*, 141 S.Ct. at 67-68.

The state nevertheless maintains the orders are neutral and generally applicable and that any holding to the contrary would allow the defendant to "become a law unto himself" through "professed doctrines of religious belief." The state relies on *Reynolds v. United States*, 98 U.S. 145, 166-67; 25 L.Ed. 244 (1878), where the Supreme Court held a criminal law barring polygamy did not violate the religious liberty of a party whose Mormon faith permitted such marriages. To allow an exception to the blanket prohibition of polygamy, the Court reasoned, "would be to make the professed doctrines of religious belief superior to the law of the land, and in effect to permit every citizen to become a law unto himself. Government could exist only in name under such circumstances." *Reynolds*, 98 U.S. at 167. Similarly in *Yoder*, 406 U.S. at 215-16; 92 S.Ct. at 1533,

the Supreme Court stated, "[T]he very concept of ordered liberty precludes allowing every person to make his own standards on matters of conduct in which society as a whole has important interests." Citing these cases, the state contends the defendant and his church must comply with the executive orders "just as they must comply with the State's building, life-safety, and zoning laws."

The state's argument misses a crucial point. The defendant does not argue he is "a law unto himself" or the executive orders violate "his own standards." What defendant seeks--and what our Constitution ensures--is that his religious activities be treated *no differently* than comparable secular activities. Disparate treatment implicates the Free Exercise Clause. The state's example illustrates the point. While the defendant and his church must comply with building codes and zoning laws, those same laws apply equally to office buildings, factories, manufacturing facilities, and airports. Building codes and zoning laws, unlike the executive orders at issue, do not exclude secular facilities from regulation. We interpret Pastor Spell's request not as one for special treatment, but for equal treatment.

The multiple exemptions in the executive orders distinguish this case from *Reynolds* and similar cases applying blanket criminal prohibitions. As explained by one court:

As a rule of thumb, the more exceptions to a prohibition, the less likely it will count as a generally applicable, non-discriminatory law. At some point, an exception-ridden policy takes on the appearance and reality of a system of individualized exemptions, the antithesis of a neutral and generally applicable policy and just the kind of state action that must run the gauntlet of strict scrutiny.

Roberts v. Neace, 958 F.3d 409, 413-14 (6th Cir. 2020) (citations and internal quotation marks omitted).

Orders 30 and 33 contain exemptions allowing certain secular activities to proceed as normal without limiting the number of people permitted in a single space at the same time. In many of those gatherings, the risk of spreading the virus appears no less prevalent than at a comparable gathering in a church. At the very least, the state offered no evidence proving otherwise. The executive orders grant preferential treatment only to secular conduct. This disparate treatment "strike[s] at the very heart of the First Amendment's guarantee of religious liberty." *Roman Catholic Diocese*, 141 S.Ct. at 68. By granting preferential treatment for comparable secular activities, the provisions in Orders 30 and 33 prohibiting gatherings over a designated number of people and imposing a stay-at-home order, as applied in this case, violate the Free Exercise Clause and are subject to strict scrutiny. See *Tandon*, 141 S.Ct. at 1296; *Roman Catholic Diocese*, 141 S.Ct. at 67-68.

IV. Application of Strict Scrutiny Standard

Strict scrutiny is the most rigorous test for determining a law's constitutionality. *State v. Webb*, 13-1681 (La. 5/7/14), 144 So. 3d 971, 977-78. Government infringement of fundamental rights survives strict scrutiny only if the state proves its action (1) serves a compelling government interest, and (2) is narrowly tailored to serve that compelling interest. *Webb*, 144 So. 3d at 978;

See **DECISION on Page 11**

Decision on Free Exercise of Religion

Continued from Page 10

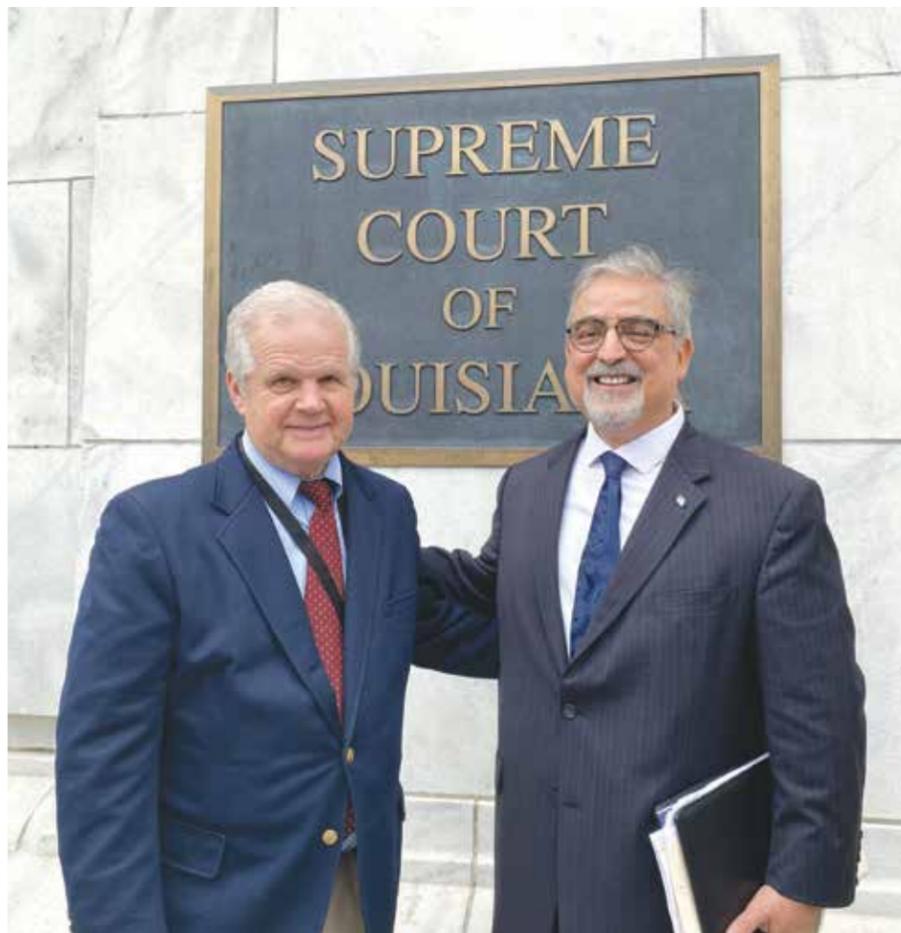
State v. Draughter, 13-0914 (La. 12/10/13), 130 So. 3d 855, 862; *In re Warner*, 05-1303 (La. 4/17/09), 21 So. 3d 218, 246.

Reducing the spread of COVID-19 is a compelling government interest. Nevertheless, the state must prove the prohibitions in Orders 30 and 33 are narrowly tailored to serve that compelling interest. To be narrowly tailored, the law must be the least restrictive means available to achieve the compelling state interest. See *Ashcroft v. American Civil Liberties Union*, 542 U.S. 656, 666; 124 S.Ct. 2783, 52791; 159 L.Ed.2d 690 (2004); *In re Warner*, 21 So. 3d at 253. To meet this burden, the state must do more than assert that certain risk factors are always present in worship, or always absent from the permitted secular activities. Tandon, 141 S.Ct. at 1296. Instead, narrow tailoring requires the government to show measures less restrictive of the First Amendment activity could not address its interest in reducing the spread of COVID-19. Tandon, 141 S.Ct. at 1296-97. Where the government permits other activities to proceed with precautions, it must show that the religious exercise at issue is more dangerous than those activities even when the same precautions are applied. Tandon, 141 S.Ct. at 1297. Otherwise, precautions that suffice for other activities suffice for religious exercise too. *Id.* The state's evidence in this case is minimal. It introduced the bills of information for the criminal charges, the relevant executive orders, and a copy of a federal district court opinion in a civil proceeding filed by the defendant against the governor. No witnesses testified. This evidence fails to establish that measures less restrictive of the First Amendment activity could not address the state's interest in reducing the spread of COVID-19. Specifically, the state did not show the religious exercise at issue is more dangerous than the activities allowed by the executive orders. See Tandon, 141 S.Ct. at 1297.

The state does not dispute this lack of evidence. Instead, it maintains a lesser standard of scrutiny or proof should apply given the dire and uncertain circumstances when Orders 30 and 33 were issued. The state emphasizes the orders were promulgated "when the pandemic was . . . in its earliest, most uncertain stages, [and] Louisiana was one of the virus hotspots." At that time, "there was no known cure, no universal or even widely-accepted effective treatment, and no vaccine for COVID-19." As a consequence, the state argues "greater leniency and deference" should be afforded to state officials in the early stages of the pandemic. On this basis, the state distinguishes the present case from Tandon and Roman Catholic Diocese, which were decided "many months after [the defendant] was served the misdemeanor summons" and allegedly under "[v]astly different circumstances."

The state relies on language in a dissent by Justice Alito from a writ denial in *Calvary Chapel Dayton Valley v. Sisolak*, ___ U.S. ___, 140 S.Ct. 2603; 207 L.Ed.2d 1129 (2020), which was handed down before Tandon and Roman Catholic Diocese were decided. In *Calvary Chapel*, a church challenged an executive order issued by the governor of Nevada that limited church attendance more severely than admission to casinos. The lower courts initially denied injunctive relief, and the Supreme Court denied plaintiff's writ application.

In a six-page dissent from the



CONGRATULATIONS — *Central City News* editor Woody Jenkins (left) congratulates Jeff Wittenbrink, attorney for Pastor Tony Spell, for his oral argument before the Supreme Court. Jenkins was the only member of the media in attendance at the hearing.

writ denial, Justice Alito concluded the plaintiff was likely to succeed and was entitled to an injunction pending the appeal. In reaching this conclusion, Justice Alito noted the order at issue was promulgated four months into the pandemic, not at the beginning of the crises when state officials faced uncertain circumstances and were often forced to adopt "blunt rules." Justice Alito explained:

For months now, States and their subdivisions have responded to the pandemic by imposing unprecedented restrictions on personal liberty, including the free exercise of religion. This initial response was understandable. In times of crisis, public officials must respond quickly and decisively to evolving and uncertain situations. At the dawn of an emergency--and the opening days of the COVID-19 outbreak plainly qualify--public officials may not be able to craft precisely tailored rules. Time, information, and expertise may be in short supply, and those responsible for enforcement may lack the resources needed to administer rules that draw fine distinctions. Thus, at the outset of an emergency, it may be appropriate for courts to tolerate very blunt rules. In general, that is what has happened thus far during the COVID-19 pandemic.

But a public health emergency does not give Governors and other public officials carte blanche to disregard the Constitution for as long as the medical problem persists. As more medical and scientific evidence becomes available, and as States have time to craft policies in light of that evidence, courts should expect policies that more carefully account for constitutional rights.

Calvary Chapel, 140 S.Ct. at 2604-05 (Alito, J., dissenting from writ denial, joined by Thomas, J. and Kavanaugh, J.).

To be clear, Justice Alito made these observations while concluding the order at issue likely violated the plaintiff's religious liberties. Notably, on remand and after Roman Catholic Diocese was decided, the court of appeal also concluded the plaintiff would likely succeed on its claim, reversed the district court, and granted injunctive relief to the plaintiff. See *Calvary Chapel*

Dayton Valley v. Sisolak, 982 F.3d 1228, 1234 (9th Cir. 2020).

We agree that state officials acting on limited information early in the pandemic may have instituted "blunt rules" that were not "precisely tailored" or failed to "draw fine distinctions." *Calvary Chapel*, 140 S.Ct. at 2605. The application of such blunt measures, although later shown to be overly broad as more expertise is gained, should be judged by the information available to state officials when the orders were issued. Reasonable reliance on an initial scientific consensus, even if later proved to be incorrect, can be relevant in determining whether the government action was "narrowly tailored" based on the information available at the time.

Here, the state has not identified any such information, or lack thereof, bearing on the decision to grant preferential treatment to secular gatherings while denying that treatment to religious gatherings. Orders 30 and 33 expressly recognize the "ability" and "propensity" of "the COVID-19 virus to spread via personal interactions." The risk of spreading the virus from personal interactions, as the orders confirm, was well known at that time. The evidentiary record is devoid of proof that in March of 2020 public health officials had information indicating unlimited personal interactions at gatherings in secular venues like office buildings and airports created less risk of virus transmission than such interactions at gatherings in a church building. In fact, the orders do not prohibit the continuation of a pre-pandemic routine of an unlimited number of co-workers gathering around a conference table in an office building for prayer, Bible study, and worship. Those religious exercises are prohibited only if they occur in a church building. Order 33 also allows unlimited persons to be transported to and from church but prohibits unlimited attendance and gathering at church. The state's disparate treatment of religious gatherings is simply not supported by any evidence.

It is also difficult to characterize these orders, one that allows for over 100 exemptions, as "blunt" or lacking "fine distinctions." Both orders crafted exemptions for a mul-

titude of secular activities. While every exempt job is important, the state offers no explanation for attributing less importance to the fundamental right to exercise one's religion. Our fundamental constitutional rights are not so numerous to prevent their consideration when constructing restrictions. The state must be sensitive to their possible infringement.

We further agree that early in this pandemic, state officials had to respond quickly and decisively to an evolving and uncertain situation. In those early weeks, authorities did not have the luxury of waiting for therapeutics, vaccines, or additional expertise gathered from comprehensive studies or revealed by the passage of time. It was an emergency. State officials had to act quickly and did so in an effort to curtail one of the greatest public health emergencies ever confronted. We do not minimize the magnitude of that challenge; nor, with the benefit of hindsight, do we judge the effectiveness of measures undertaken early in the crisis.

Rather, we are called upon to determine whether some of those actions violated a party's fundamental constitutional right. "[E]ven in a pandemic, the Constitution cannot be put away and forgotten." *Roman Catholic Diocese*, 141 S.Ct. at 68. "Government is not free to disregard the First Amendment in times of crisis." *Roman Catholic Diocese*, 141 S.Ct. at 63 (Gorsuch, J., concurring). We reject any contention that early in a crisis, the Constitution's protection of fundamental rights must always yield to the needs of the state to respond to the crisis. A public health emergency does not relegate the First Amendment to a proposition or allow violations thereof to be judged on a sliding scale of constitutionality. The infringement of the fundamental right of the free exercise of religion, whether in times of crisis or calm, must always be strictly scrutinized by our courts. See Tandon, 141 S.Ct. at 1296-98; *Roman Catholic Diocese*, 141 S.Ct. at 68.

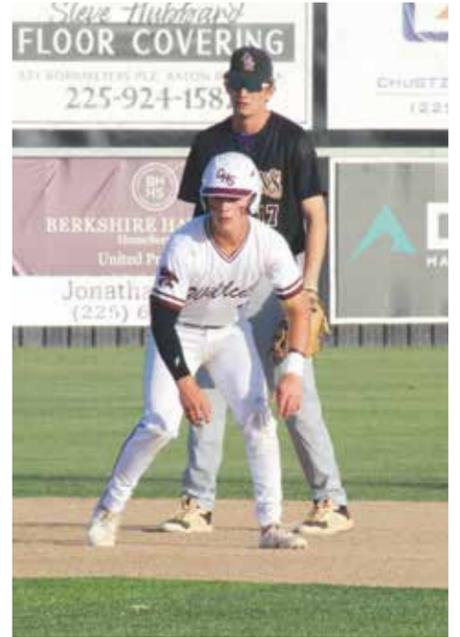
Pandemic or not, this court cannot look the other way when the state infringes upon a citizen's fundamental right to exercise his religion. "All government originates with the people, is founded on their will alone and is instituted to protect the rights of the individual and for the good of the whole." La. Const. art. I, §1. In granting power to the government, our citizens not only reserved the right to freely exercise religion, they instructed this right "be preserved inviolate by the state." La. Const. art. I, §1. As judges, we have no more solemn duty than to protect the fundamental rights reserved by the people from government overreach. The prohibitions in the executive orders at issue violate defendant's fundamental right to exercise religion. They do not survive strict scrutiny based on the limited evidence in the record. They are unconstitutional as applied to defendant.

CONCLUSION

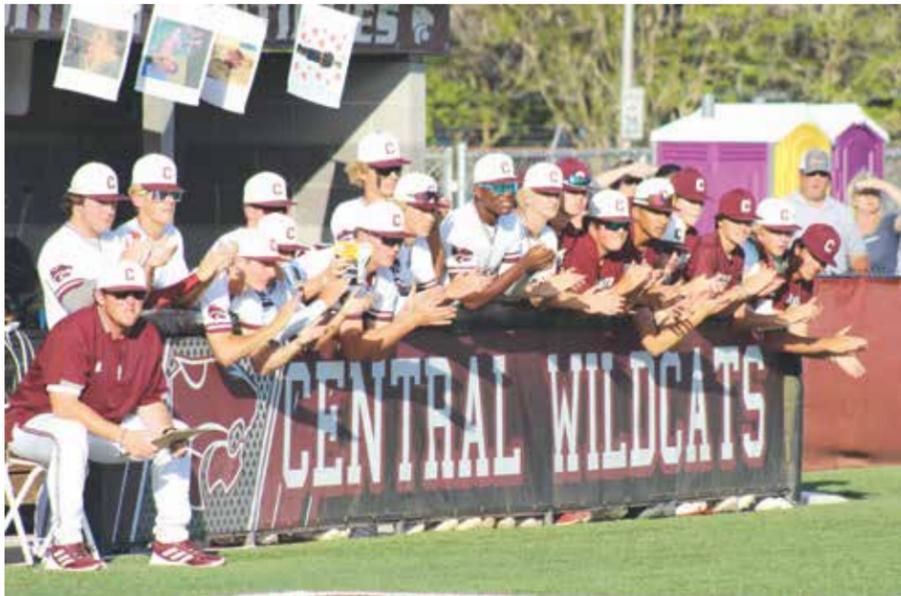
The limits on gatherings in executive order 30 JBE 2020, Section 1; and the limits on gatherings and the stay-at-home mandate in executive order 33 JBE 2020, Sections 2, 3, and 5 are unconstitutional as applied to the defendant. The trial court erred in denying the motion to quash. The trial court's judgment is reversed, and the motion to quash is granted.

TRIAL COURT JUDGMENT REVERSED; MOTION TO QUASH GRANTED.

Wildcats Top Alexandria 7-1 in 1st Round



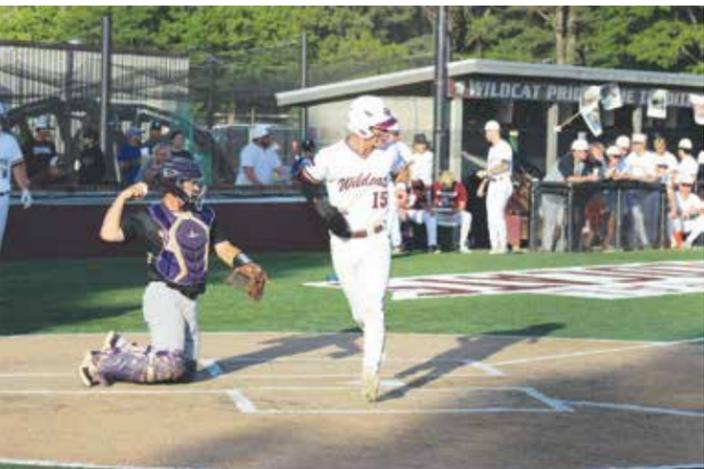
ZACH JUNEAU #14, Wildcat second baseman warms up to bat. Jimmie Johnson #17 on the pitcher's mound for Central. Taylor Walters #15 takes a lead on second base.



CALEB EASTERLING #18, Central's catcher, at bat. The Wildcat dugout cheering on the batter. Landon Chutz #7 is ready at first base for the Wildcats against Alexandria.



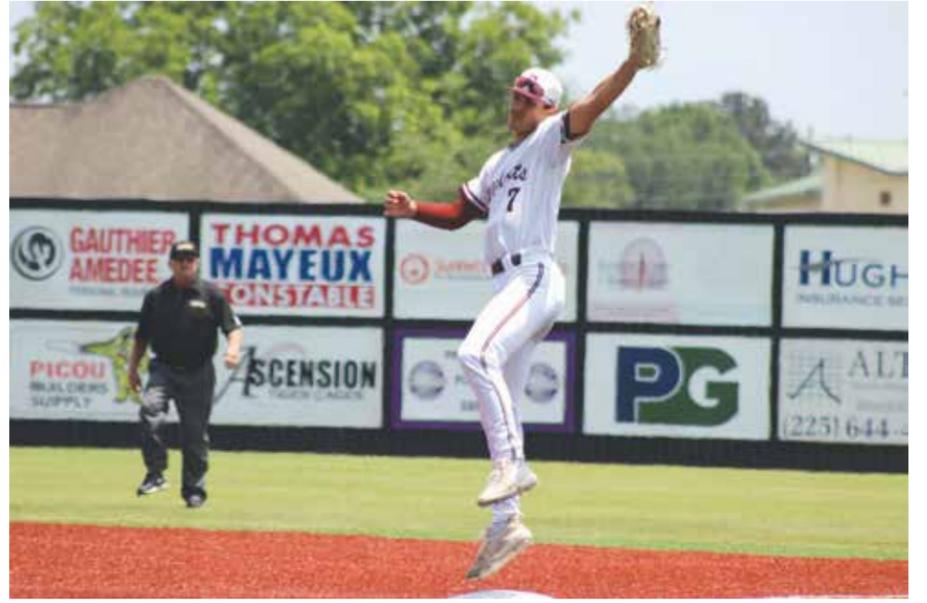
CENTRAL WILDCATS during the National Anthem. Jimmie Johnson. Connor Alsept #13 waits for Alexandria batter to hit the ball.



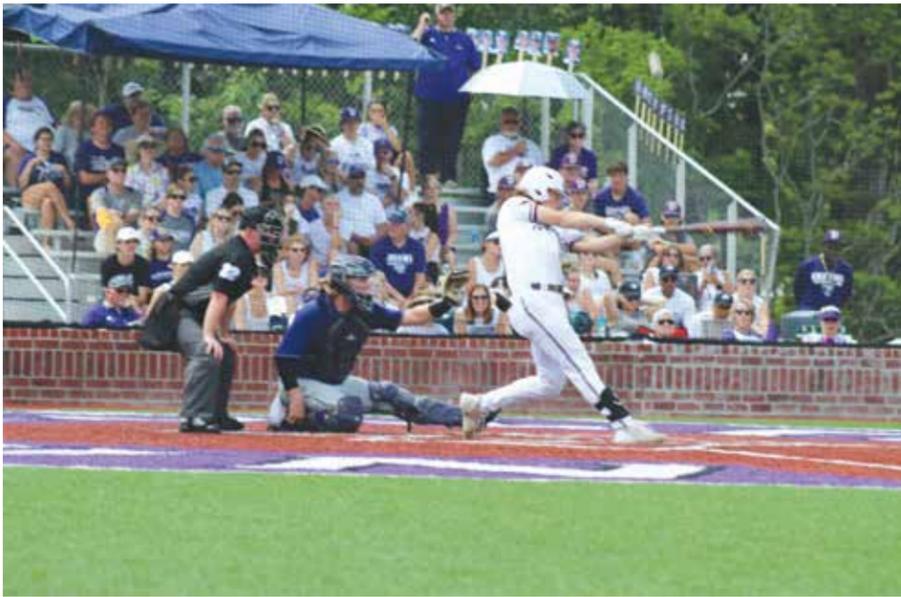
CONNOR ALSEPT #13 crosses homeplate with a run for the Wildcats. Coach McClure counsels a batter. #32 Cade Furr enters the game as pinch runner.

Central Later Defeated Haughton, Moved on to the Semi-Finals

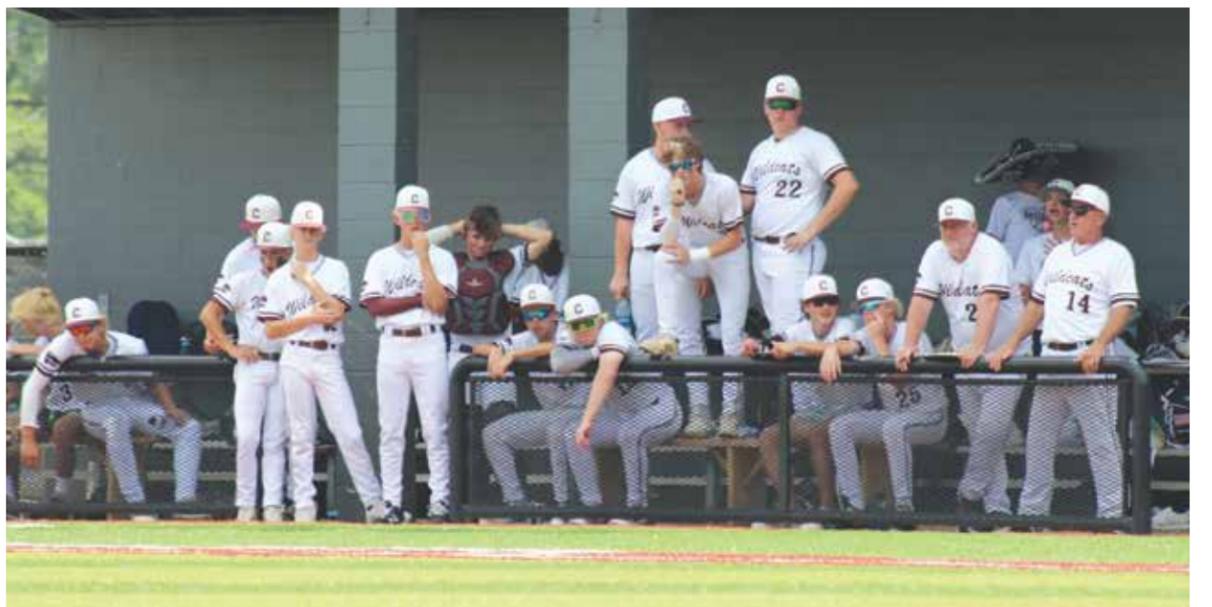
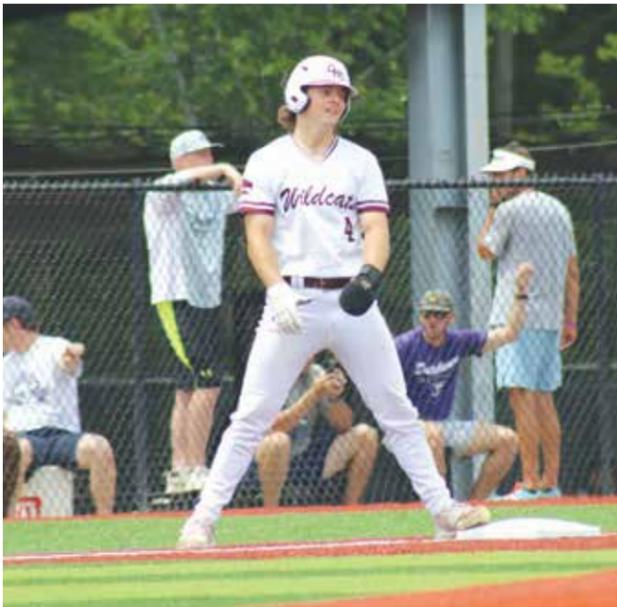
Central Falls 6-1 to Dutchtown in Semis



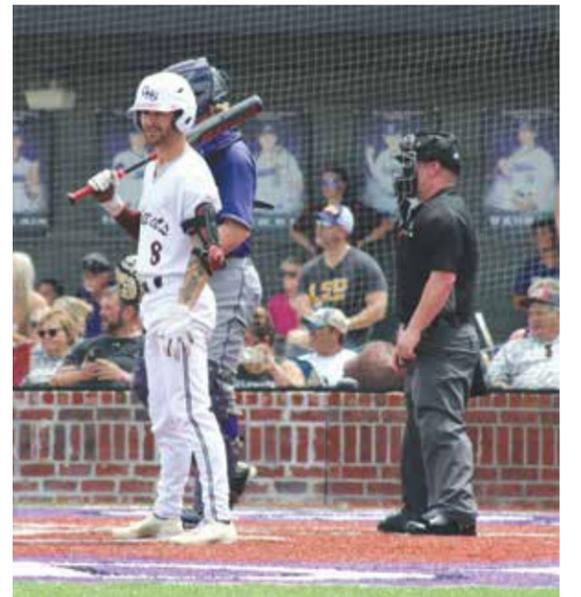
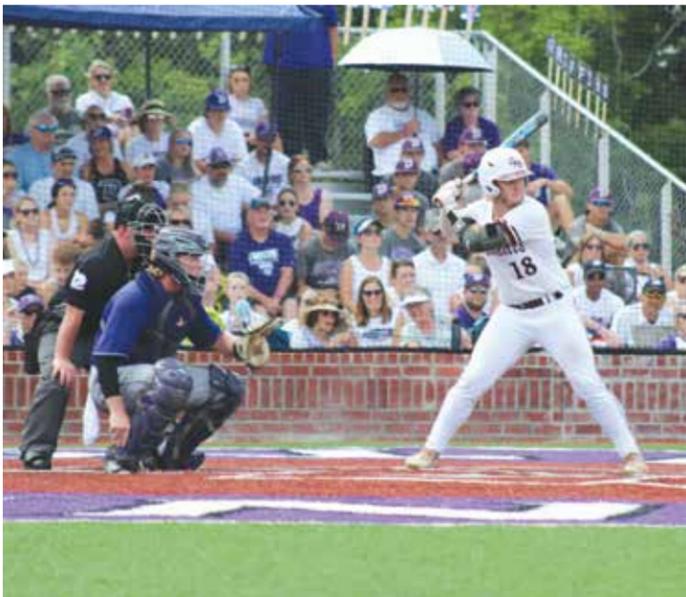
#15 Taylor Walters with an out for the Wildcats at second base. First baseman #7 Landon Chutz catches a fly against Dutchtown in Game Two. The Wildcats end the season with a final record of 28-9.



#4 DJ Primeaux with a hit for the Wildcats. #17 Jimmie Johnson starts off on the mound for the Central Wildcats at Dutchtown. Final score of Game Two was 6-1 Dutchtown.



#4 DJ Primeaux On third base. The Wildcat dugout during the hottest game of the season.



#18 Caleb Easterling at bat for Central (left). #16 Grayden Harris closes the game on the mound for Central. #8 Jude Gremillion getting instructions from Coach McClure.

Premier TIRE & AUTO

Monday - Friday 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Saturday 7:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.
Closed Sunday



12470 Hooper Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70818

Wheel Alignment
Tire and Lube
Brakes and
Suspension
Oil Changes



Locally Owned and Operated
225-372-2659

Photo by Woody Jenkins



ST. GEORGE SPOKESMAN — Andrew Murrell, spokesman for the City of St. George, told the Chamber of Commerce of EBR he believes St. George will win a big victory in the trial on incorporation just completed. To watch, click the QR Code above.

TODD NETHERLAND THE TREEMAN

Fully Licensed and Insured



“Todd Netherland Treeman” • FREE ESTIMATES

“Chainsaw Tracy” 225-788-1997

“Todd Netherland Treeman” • Established in 1969

Same Guy • New Numbers • **FREE ESTIMATES**

Same Guy • New Numbers • **FREE ESTIMATES**

Owner Todd Netherland • Central Native and Licensed Arborist



Take Down
That Tree or
Trim That
Tree Before It
Takes Down
That House!

Our Trucks
Remove
Debris
Required by
Law! You
Don't Get
Stuck with
Clean Up!



WATCH WHAT THE
TREEMAN DID WHEN
THE HURRICANE
WAS APPROACHING
AND THIS TREE WAS
MENACING A HOME
AND A FENCE!

DOWNLOAD A QR
CODE READER TO
YOUR PHONE AND
WATCH THIS:



Don't Trust Your Home and Your Family to an Unlicensed, Uninsured, Out-of-State Operator!
Owner Todd Netherland • Central Native and Licensed Arborist

Todd Netherland 225-788-1997

City of Central Business Directory

3 months @\$50/month
12 months @\$42/month
centralcitynews@hotmail.com

Automotive



North - Airline &
Choctaw
225-927-2311
South - Airline
& Cloverland
225-751-3656

Dirt Work

General Sand & Gravel Co.
Limestone, Gravel, Mason Sand, Clay, Top Soil,
Riversilt, Crushed Concrete, Tractor Work,
Swimming Pool Demo & Fill-In

VISA 225-261-3953 MasterCard

Electrical

Simple Electric

Installation of All Electrical Work
Commercial • Residential
Over 35 Years Experience • Any Size Job
Parking Lot Lights, Security Lights, and Video
225-921-2633

CentralCityNews.us



BLANCO'S
ROOFING & SHEET METAL

The BEST Price In Roofing
& Sheet Metal Services

Serving Central and the
Surrounding Area
Since 1990

Our Top Priority Is Your
Complete Satisfaction

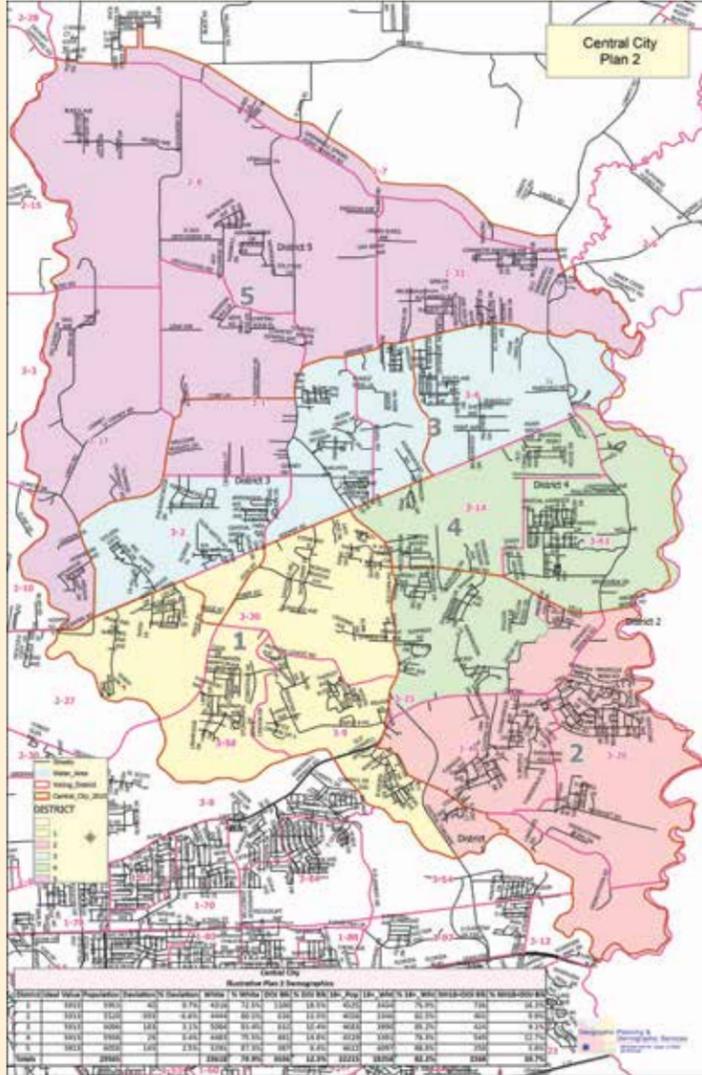
**COMMERCIAL &
RESIDENTIAL**

(225) 262-1980

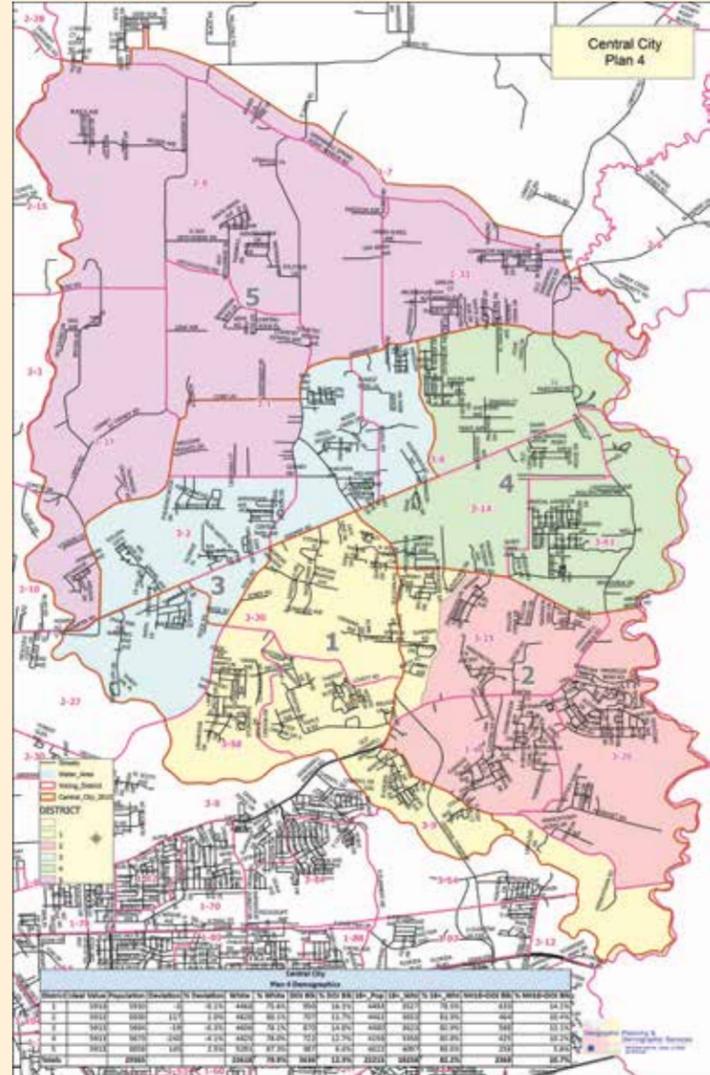
13653 Devall Rd • Central
www.blancoroofing.com
Colette@blancosroofing.com

Central City Council Redistricting Plans

Map 2
Proposed by Councilman Dave Freneau



Map 4 - Proposed by
Councilmembers Tim Lazaroe and D'Ann Wells



REMAINING CITY COUNCIL PLANS — Map 4 came about as a result of public input at the May 2 redistricting meeting. The City Council will vote on a map to redistrict at the Council meeting May 24. The maps are available at www.centralgov.com

Meristem Tree Company



Colton Busby, Owner

**Take Down
and
Haul Off**

**Stump
Grinding**

Trimming

**Emergency
Hazardous
Tree Jobs**

Central Based Company

Free Estimates

Call or Text 225-480-5998



**Fully Licensed
and Insured**



**Congratulations
Central
Graduates!**

And be not conformed to this world; but be transformed in the newness of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and the acceptable and the perfect will of God.

Romans 12:2

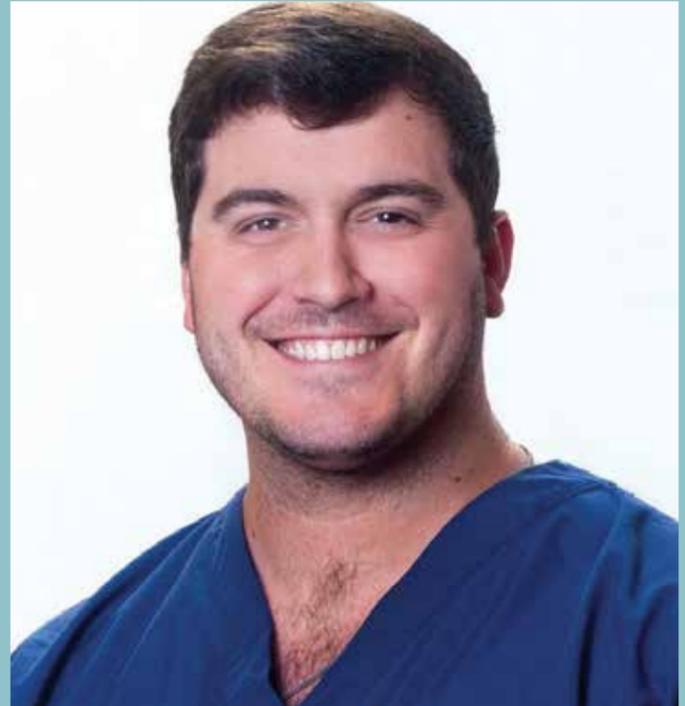


Brandon Noel
Metro Council District 1

A MESSAGE FROM DR. JOHN ROSHTO



Since purchasing Central Oaks Dental Care from Dr. David Prudhome in 2018, we have been overwhelmed with the wonderful reception you have given us! As a proud native of Central and graduate of Central Private, it is great to be home. Now please join me in welcoming the newest member of our team, Pride-native Dr. Landon Broussard. You will love him!



MEET OUR NEW DENTIST DR. LANDON BROUSSARD

Hello, Central Community! My name is Landon Broussard, and I am a new General Dentist coming to Central Oaks Dental Care in May. I was born and raised in Pride, Louisiana; though, I often feel as if I grew up in Central. Having attended St. Alphonsus, playing in the CAYL baseball league, and being active in many other community activities, the Central Community holds a special place in my heart. I attended Catholic High School in Baton Rouge following St. Alphonsus. I then achieved my Bachelor of Science with a Minor in Business Administration from Louisiana State University. I will be receiving my Doctor of Dental Surgery degree from LSU Dental School in New Orleans in May.

Moving back home and closer to family and friends is very exciting for me and my wife, Alyce, who is a Registered Nurse from Baton Rouge. We were married in December of 2020 and have a precious chocolate lab named Briar.

I am truly excited and driven to provide exceptional, compassionate, and gentle care for our patients. I strive to treat each patient like family and to ensure that their visit is as comfortable and pleasant as possible. I am looking forward to making even more connections with our great community, and I look forward to our future in Central!



MEET OUR ORTHODONTIST DR. JOSH PARKER

Dr. Parker was born and raised in Central, Louisiana. He is a graduate of Central Private and has been practicing orthodontics since 2014. To demonstrate the absolute highest level of patient care, Dr. Parker has voluntarily completed hundreds of additional hours of preparation to become a board-certified orthodontist. Also, Dr. Parker volunteers his time at Children's Hospital on the cranial facial team.

Outside the office, Dr. Parker enjoys golfing, running, and cheering for the LSU Tigers with his wife, Dr. Erin Maturin. Most of his free time is spent with his children, Jolie and Jackson.

Providing orthodontic services on Fridays, Dr. Parker looks forward to meeting you and your family at your next visit.



16606 Greenwell Springs Rd, Greenwell Springs, LA 70739

centraldentaloaks.com
info@centraldentaloaks.com
225.262.4150

parkerorthola.com
frontdesk@parkerorthla.com
225.923.2060



WE ARE IN NETWORK WITH MOST MAJOR INSURANCE COMPANIES!

110th Graduation Held at RiverCenter Downtown

Central High Class of 2022

302 Graduates Earn Degree, Honored at River Center in BR

Woody Jenkins
Editor

BATON ROUGE — The Central High School Class of 2022 received their diplomas and celebrated their achievements during Graduation ceremonies at the River Center in Baton Rouge.

It was the 110th graduating class for Central High School.

Cayden Marc Walls was honored as Valedictorian and spoke to his fellow seniors and thousands of their family member in attendance. Wells also gave the invocation.

The co-Valedictorian, Faith Risponne, also spoke. The two top graduates were among a host of seniors with major accomplishments who were honored.

The Central High Band got things started with Pomp and Circumstance. Nia Jerro welcomed everyone. The Central High Concert Choir sang the National Anthem, and Koen Roberson led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance. Emma Dungan introduced guests including members of the Central School Board — Dr. Jim Gardner, Sharon Browning, Ruby Foil, Dr. David Walker, Roxanne Atkinson, Dr. Keith Holmes, and Kim Powers.

Central High principal Brandon LaGroue was the keynote speaker.

Kaleb Shows made special recognitions.

The Central High Concert Choir returned to sing The Climb.



2022 CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATION — The Baton Rouge River Center downtown was packed Tuesday night, May 17, 2022, as Central High School graduated 302, including 289 who walked across the stage and 13 others who were eligible to.

Dylan Bergeron presented the class gift.

Diplomas were presented by Central High assistant principal Lynn Younger.

Moving of the Tassel was led by Nia Jerro and Emma Dungan.

Camdyn Fehr led the benediction. Principal Brandon LaGroue may closing remarks.

The Cap Celebration was led by Allie Slater and Autumn Vessier.

The Central High Concert Choir led the audience in the Central

High School Alma Mater.

The Central High School Band played Fanfare and Recessional as graduates filed out of the meeting place.

In addition to the Valedictorian and co-Valedictorian, there 42 *summa cum laude* graduates (3.9 to 4.0 average) in the Class of 2022.

Another 21 seniors graduated magna cum laude (3.7 to 3.8).

Recognition for graduating cum laude (3.5 to 3.6) was given to 26

members of the Class of 2022.

Dr. Jason Fountain, superintendent of schools for the Central Community School System, told the Central City News that 302 seniors graduated in the Class of 2022. A total of 289 were present to receive their diplomas Tuesday. Another 13 were unable to attend for a variety of reasons, but will receive their diplomas.

Many thousands attended Central graduation ceremonies, and traffic was challenging.

Ex-Police Chief James Salsbury to Seek Old Job

During His Term, He Had No Controversies Or Litigation Involving Central Police Dept.

Woody Jenkins
Editor

CENTRAL — Local businessman and former Central Police Chief James Salsbury has announced his candidacy for the office of Central Police Chief in citywide elections scheduled for Nov. 8, 2022.

Chief Salsbury served from 2014 to 2018. He lost to current

chief Roger Corcoran in 2018.

Salsbury said that at the urging of many residents of Central, he has decided to seek the position again this fall.

He said, "I want to put the Central Police Department back on the track of controlled, sustainable growth, fiscal responsibility, and increased presence that was started during my administration."

"More traffic control and more man-hours patrolling the streets of Central are desperately needed to combat rising criminal activity," Salsbury said, "and I will increase both, without increasing the administrative budget of the department. I will work closely with the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's



Former Police Chief James Salsbury

Office to best serve the taxpayers of Central."

In his previous four-year term, the chief negotiated an agreement with the Sheriff's office to provide that Central would handle all traffic issues in the City of Central, thus freeing up the Sheriff's office.

During his term, he had no controversies or litigation against the chief, his department, or the city stemming from the department. He drew a salary of only \$99 a month.

Chief Salsbury said, "I humbly ask the citizens of Central for the opportunity to return sound leadership to the Central Police Department in the election November 8, 2022."

Congratulations, Graduates!



This is me, Sen. Bodi White, at the ground breaking of the Central School Board administration building and improvements to Wildcat Stadium. I was able to secure \$3.4 million for the project. I look forward to seeing this important project completed for the Central community.



Central schools Supt. Jason Fountain congratulating our granddaughter, Faith McKnight, for being named Bellingrath Hills Elementary Student of the Year! We are very proud of Faith.

We love you, Faith!
Paw Paw and Grannie

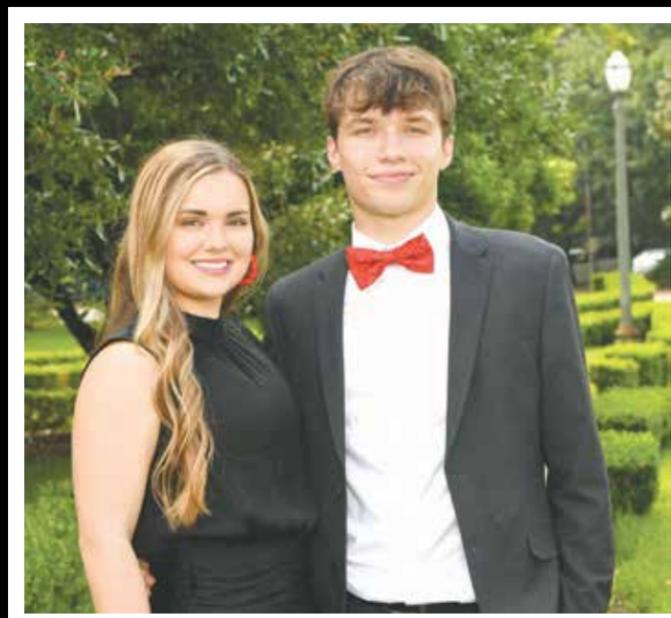
I would like to congratulate the 2022 graduates from the City of Central! May you all know the value of hard work and continue to pursue your dreams. Always consider Central your home and be proud of the progress we are making to bring our city into the future! We learned in our fight to create the Central Community School System that, in the words of Winston Churchill, "Never, never, never give up"!

— *Sen. Bodi White*

Best Wishes for Success in the Future!

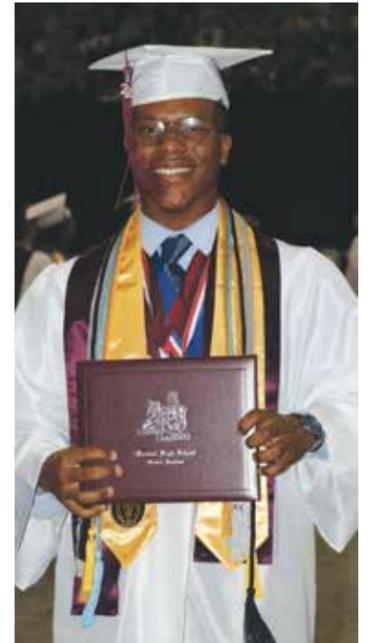


2022 Mr. and Ms. CHS
Justin Babin and Hayley Wall



2022 Mr. and Ms. CP
Zoie Landry and Zacc Landry

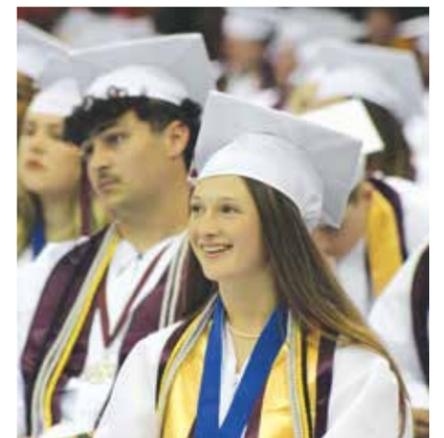
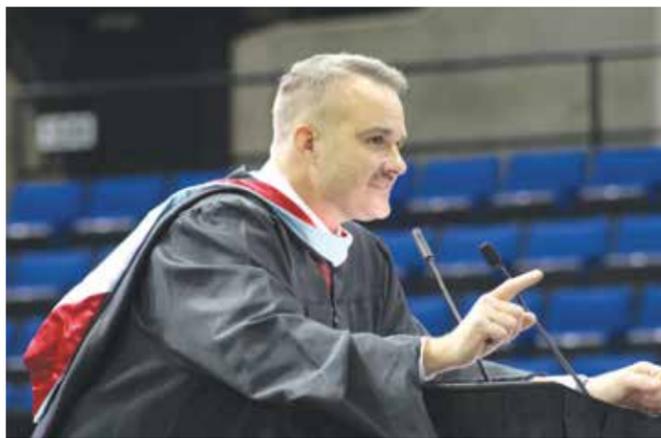
2022 Central High School Graduation



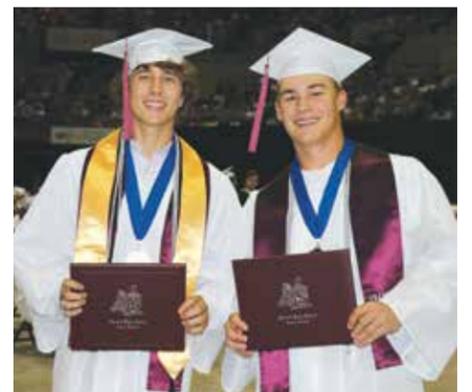
CHS 2022 Valedictorian Cayden Walls and Co-Valedictorian Faith Rispone (left). The Alma Mater one more time (center). Dylan Bergeron, Minority Rep (right).



CHS 2022 Valedictorian Cayden Walls, Co-Valedictorian Faith Rispone, Central School Board members Kim Powers, Roxanne Atkinson, Ruby Foil and Dr. Keith Holmes. and Dylan Bergeron



Morgan Lavergne, CHS principal Brandon LaGroue addresses the Class of 2022, and Student Council President Nia Jerro



Sign language interpreter, friends pose for a graduation picture, JROTC Instructor, Timothy Dubois, and Rebekah Slocum



Central High Class of 2022 Motto: "To accomplish great things, we must not only act, but dream; not only plan, but also believe." — Anatole France

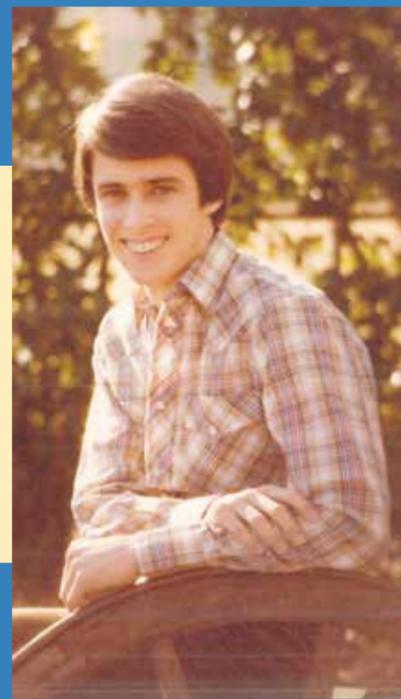
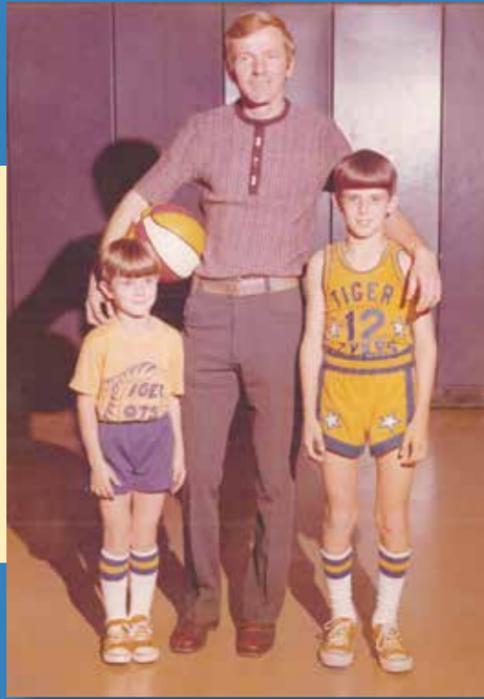
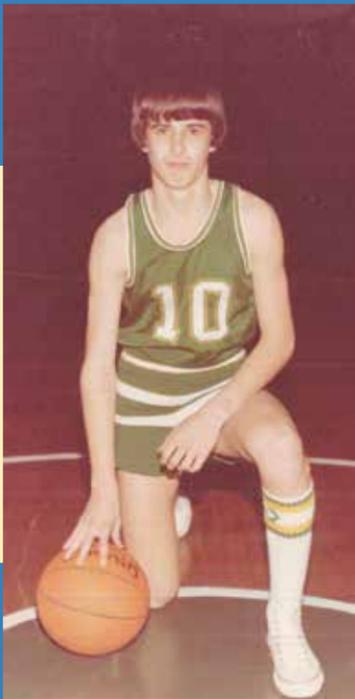
Congratulations to Class of 2022!



Commencement = A Beginning

To the graduates of 2022: As you receive your high school diploma, you will commence a new chapter in your life. Our schools in Central have well prepared you for the next step. Once your formal education is complete, you will get a good job or start a business. Hopefully, you will become a property owner, and that will bring you into contact with the Assessor's office. Our job is to assess property fairly and equitably in accordance with law. We want you to know that when you become a property owner, our door is always open to assist you! Thank you so much for the opportunity to serve you!

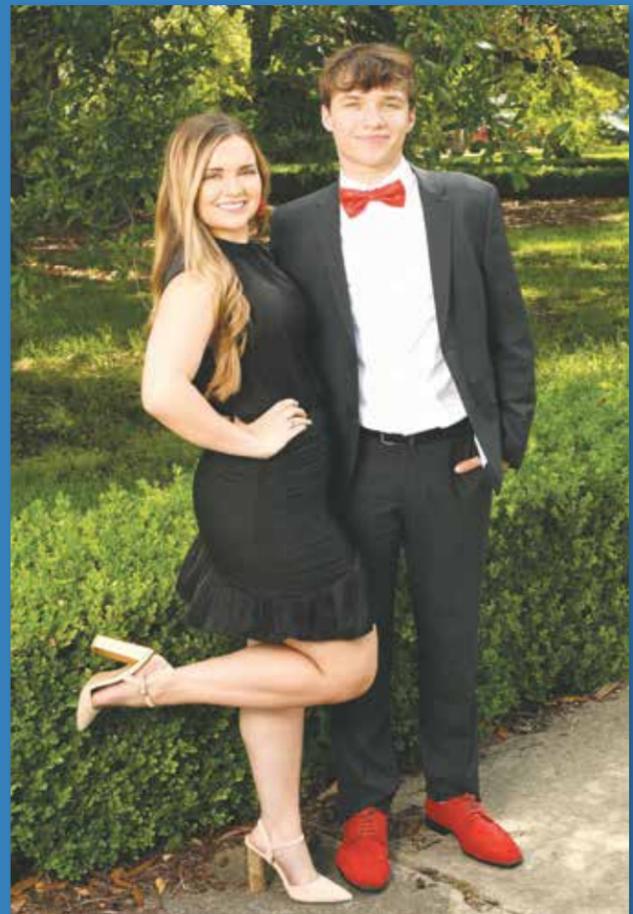
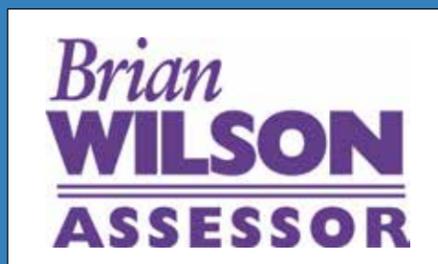
— Assessor Brian Wilson



Brian Wilson (left) at Redemptorist High School; Brian and younger brother Scott in elementary school, and at right as a teenager.

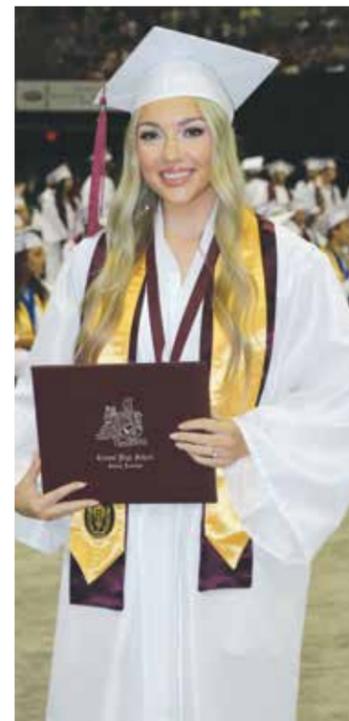


2022 Central High • Friendliest
David Carmon, Kallie Watts and Justin Babin



2022 Mr. and Ms. Central Private
Zoie Landry and Zacc Landry

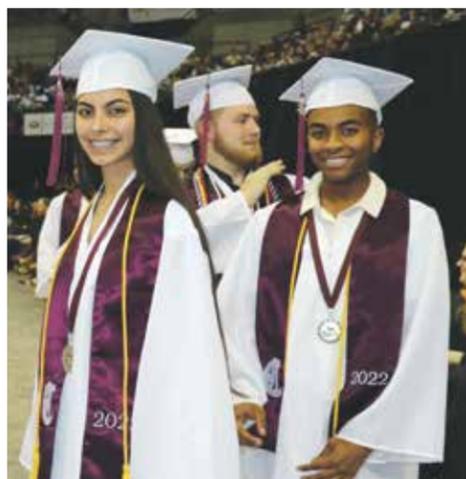
289 Students Walk Across the Stage



Student Council President Nia Jerro (left). Celebrating graduation night with a traditional toss of the hat (center). Makayla Smith (right).



JROTC Color Guard before the Pledge of Allegiance (left). "With loyalty we stand for thee, our Alma Mater, Hail (center). Azia Jones (right).



The Central High School Class of 2022 all smiles after receiving their diplomas



The Central High School Class of 2022 won many honors.

Best Wishes to All of Central's Graduates of 2022

Graduation season brings together the joyful memories of the past, the excitement of the present, and the promise of the future in a hard-earned and well-deserved celebration like no other.



Doug Welborn, Class of 1972



Clerk of Court Doug Welborn and family



The Sporting Days



Clerk of Court Doug Welborn

The time is here, and the unmistakable electricity is in the air! Our graduates have worked diligently toward the big day and I join a huge number of family, friends, and community members who could not be prouder of their accomplishments. Much has changed in the 50 years since my class walked the stage, but Central's support of its graduates has only grown stronger by the year.

I still remember the excitement that I felt upon joining my fellow graduates on the stage that night. After years of study and sports (My track days seem so long ago!), we were a little nervous but very optimistic and excited about what the future held. Even today, I remember the guidance and wisdom of so many who led by example and shaped our lives.

Years later, I was filled with even more pride as I watched my daughters graduate from Central High. In the years since, they have continued to make me just as proud as I was then. I know I join countless other parents here who realize how important a great school is to our community.

In 1991, I had the privilege of becoming the first parishwide elected official from Central. In 2000, my induction into the Central High Hall of Fame was among the greatest honors of my life. I mention these achievements to illustrate this — that through hard work and determination, you can accomplish anything and assure for yourself a wonderful future!

My congratulations and best wishes are with all members of the Class of 2022 in the Central community and throughout our parish. You have reached an important moment in your life! I hope that you enjoy your summer and the terrific future that lies ahead!



East Baton Rouge Parish
Clerk of Court Doug Welborn

Central High School Class of 2022



Skyler Acosta



Logan Adams



Central High School Mr. and Ms. CHS Justin Babin and Hayley Wall



Connor Alsept



Gracie Aulds



Seth Austin



Kaylee Babcock



Justin Babin



De'Sean Bailey



Keiaja Bailey



Olivia Baker



Brendan Barnes



Marquise Barrett



Brianna Bell



Jackson Bell



Miles Bell



Brynn Bellelo



Dylan Bergeron



Samantha Blount



Courtney Bonadona



Jason Bonadona



Marshall Boudreaux



Trelon Bradford



Rachael Brecheen



Tucker Breeden



Elizabeth Briley



Greyson Broussard



Gabrielle Brown



Michael Brown



Jonathan Brue



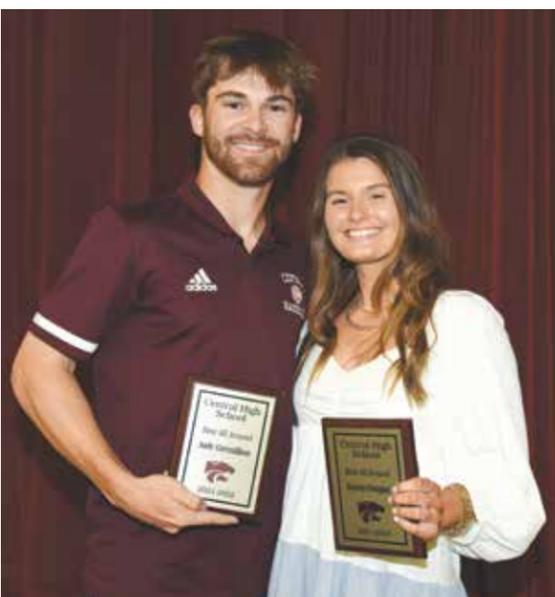
Trevor Bryan



Jakob Bueche



Chloe Buhler



Central High School Best All Around
Jude Gremillion and Emma Dungan



Central High School Most Likely to
Succeed, Nia Jerro



Central High School Best Personality
Orielle Moore and Tate Eisworth

Congratulations Grads: Job Well Done!

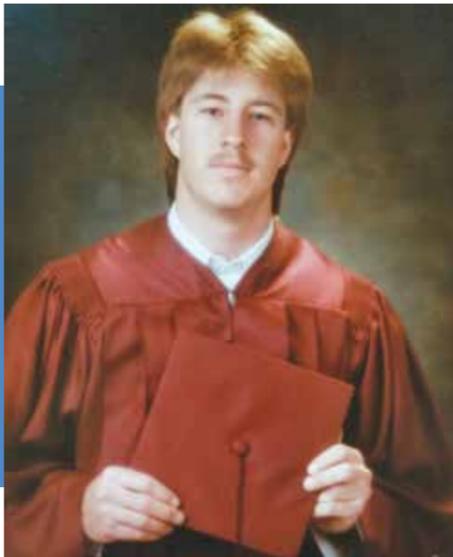
from

Central Plumbing Co.

Radio Dispatched Plumbing
Shops On Wheels
Licensed • Bonded • Insured



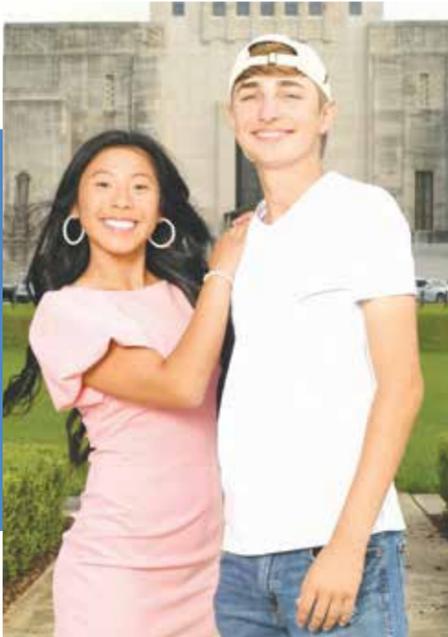
JAY PAYNE
Central High School
Class of 1985



ZACK PAYNE
Central High
Class of 2008
with Principal
Ronnie Devall



Friendliest
Makenna
Gregoire
and
Cade
Genovese
Central Private
Class of 2022



Friendliest
Cami Castro
and
Elderg Reyes
Central High
Class of 2022

Visit our Showroom for Discount Prices on All Major Brands of Faucets, Fixtures, and Whirlpool Baths

LA MASTER PLUMBER # 1959

7000 Greenwell Springs Road
Baton Rouge, LA 70805
(3/8 Mile West of Airline Between Wooddale & Lobdell)

24 HR EMERGENCY SERVICE

925-8552

www.centralplumbing.org

Central High School Class of 2022



Bre'Lyn Calhoun



Hannah Campbell



Central High Most Intelligent Faith Rispose and Cayden Walls



Samantha Carcamo



Klaydi Canales



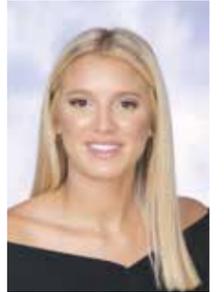
Zachary Carline



David Carmon



Daniel Carney



Cameron Castro



Reese Chambers



Margie Chauvin



Endia Clark



Kindal Clarke



Ryan Clifton



Sydney Coates



Stormy Cochran



Calvin Collier



Garrett Comeaux



Ashton Constantin



Jimena Corona



Jacob Cotten



Jayce Cotten



Andrew Coward



Layla Crain



Gabriel Creel



Cadence Creppel



Victoria Creppel



Baylee Crochet



Jayden Davis-Augustus



Jyjuan Davis



Cadyn Day



Grace Denicola



Hermione Dinger



Andrew Ditcharo



Skye Dix



London Dixon



Haylie Downey



Randy Duncan



Emma Dungan



Dilon Ealy



Sam Eames



Caleb Easterling



Tristen Eaton



Bryson Edwards



Madelyn Edwards



Congratulations, Graduates!



District Judge Tiffany Foxworth

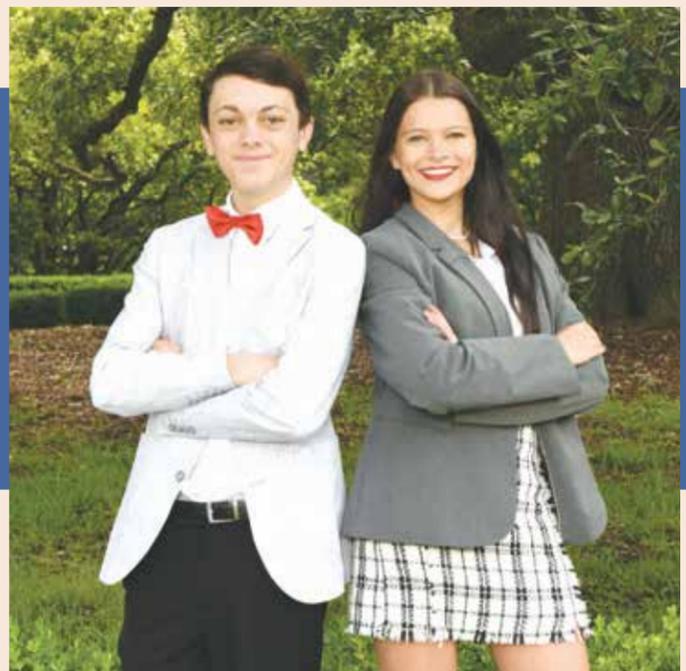
My wish for you is that you move confidently toward your dreams. Move forward and work hard for the life you imagine for yourself. Believe deeply that you can accomplish your goals and know that you are capable of achieving anything you put your mind to!

*“For I know the plans
I have for you,
declares the Lord,
plans to prosper you,
and not to harm you,
plans to give you
hope and a future”*

Jeremiah 29:11



2022 Most Dependable • Central High School
Marquise Barrett and Morgan Fresina



2022 Most Likely to Succeed • Central Private
Brennan Anders and Isabella Edwards

District Judge Tiffany Foxworth

Central High School Class of 2022



Myrielle Esworth



Walter Esworth



Eric Farmer



Camdyn Fehr



Nathan Feierabend



Carley Ferguson



Ethan Ferguson



Keara Field



Brinley Forman



Morgan Fresina



Alexander Garcia



Mary Grace Furr



Layton Gibson



Amber Gill



Kyndall Gilmore



Morgan Gilpin



Cannon Glass



Colby Godso



Alyssa Gonzalez



Juliette Gregoire



Jude Gremillion



Olivia Groetsch



Nathali Guevara



Abby Guidry



Annie Guidry



Brady Guillot



Skyler Hale



Easton Hamilton



Wayne Hamilton



Brayden Hamner



Tori Hannon



Derrick Harrell



Kennedy Hatler



Tyler Heil



Kevin Henderson



Jaden Hill



Jourdan Hill



Lucas Hill



Zack Hemphill



Peyton Hohensee



Anna Holmes



Da'Myia Howard



Caleb Howell



Brantley Hughes



Derrick Hunt



Rachel Hunter



Bryce Hymel



Gavin Impson



Christian Ivey



Joseph Ivey



Nia Jerro



Justo "David" Jimenez



Erin Jines



Cassidy Johnson



Dreon Johnson



Jimmie Johnson



Katelynn Johnson



Tylan Johnson



Amelia Jones



Azia Jones



William Jones



Zachary Juneau



Evan Kelley



Landon King

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL CENTRAL GRADS



CABLING SERVICE

VOICE, DATA & VIDEO NETWORKS + DIRECTIONAL BORING
OUTSIDE PLANT DESIGN & CONSTRUCTION
FIBER OPTIC DESIGN & INSTALLATION + AERIAL CONSTRUCTION

NETWORK DESIGN:

LAN/WAN + DESIGN & ENGINEERING
CCTV/VIDEO SURVEILLANCE



261-9800

WWW.GMCABLE.COM
9232 JOOR ROAD
CENTRAL, LA 70818

Congratulations Braxton!



Our grandchildren are a blessing to us!



Braxton Matherne
2008-2009



Braxton Matherne
Senior 2022

Braxton,

We are so incredibly proud of you. You continue to amaze us with your energy, your talent, your determination and your love of life! Keep on on like you are and there will be no limits!

Congratulations and Love Always!

Memaw, Pawpaw, and the whole gang

Central High School Class of 2022



**Central High School Most Attractive
Taylor Walters and Logan Redding**



**Central High Most Athletic
Jonathan Swift and Autumn Vessier**



**Central High School Class Comedian
Mallory Wheat**



Lailyn Kleinpeter



Colin Lagattuta



Lexi Lambert



Logan Langley



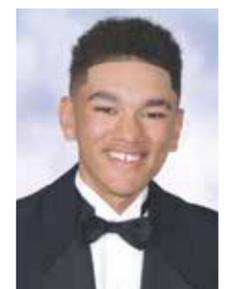
Morgan Lavergne



Haley LeBlanc



Lacey LeBlanc



Zachary LeDuff



Colby Leiva



Nathan Lemoine



Lauren Lindsay



Naylea Lopez



Maelyn Lord



Dustin Luxemburg



Tanajah Manchester



Aaron Maples



Braxton Matherne



Eddie Maxwell



Jayce McKay



Matthew McClung



Skyler McManus



Ashlyn Meyer



Emma Millican



Demi Mills



Orielle Moore



Madison Morse



Emily Moss



Chaquoyia Muse



Madelyn Myrick



Keyli Navarro



Evan Newman



Dylan Norwood



Kyleigh Ogle



Evelyn Patout



Charles Pederson



Joshua Phenald



Jeanne Phillippe



Annabelle Poissot



Andrew Porche



DJ Primeaux



Elvin Pruitt, III



Hollie Raborn



Matthew Raborn



Wendy Ramirez



Logan Redding



Elderg Reyes



Gracie Reyes



Savannah Richard

Central High School Class of 2022



Taylor Richard



Christian Riles



Faith Rispone



Brenda Rivera



Koen Roberson



Donald Roberts



Mya Robertson



Blake Robinson



Ulises Rodriguez



Janie Rogers



Joshua Rogers



Christopher Roman



Anne-Marie Ross



Cullen Ross



Mya Rovira



Mirakle Sampson



William Samuels



Abby Samuels



Kaeden Santangelo



Laithan Seal



Hayden Sides



Allie Slater



Sarah Sloan



Rebekah-Ann Slocum



Kyron Smith



Brenden Smith



Makayla Smith



Karrington Spears



Jamyia Spruel



Madison Stanford



Hayden Starkey



Brayden Stevens



Jaylan Stevenson



Jordan Stevenson



Jonathan Swift



Meng Tang



Brennan Tarver



Michael Tarver



Caleb Taylor



Jeanne Templet



Pilar Terry



Cody Thibodeaux



Jamya Thomas



Brennan Tillery



Karsyn Tourere



Kenneth Tran



Kitt Truett



Nelson Urrutia



Blake Vassar



Keylin Vega



Autumn Vessier



Kirian Villanueva



Yenis Villatoro



Hayley Wall



Cayden Walls



Hayden Walls



Taylor Walters



Caleb Ward



Kallie Watts



Grayson Wendt



Mallory Wheat



Thomas Whittaker



Parker Will

Central High School Class of 2022



Atyra Williams



Destiny Williams



Joie Williams



Cameron Willis



Ayana Wilson



Dylan Wilson



Ryan Withers

2022 Graduates not photographed: Luis Barraza, Hayden Bates, Emily Benoit, Adrian Bonds, Seth Brignac, Guy Brimage, Dylan Butler, Kira Chapman, Keagan Chenier, Paul Clark, Jonathan Compton, Brendon Cothell, Lilian Rodriguez-Diaz, Arriana Disedare, Kelly Diaz Dixon, Shameitha Dock, Preston Duff, Jordan Edmonds, Ysabella Edwards, Kelupb Fabiano, Amyriah Foster, Samuel Frith, Jordan Gallo, Alexander Garcia, Gasen Gilbeaux, Isabella Gonzales, Jackson Grayer, Kayla Hall, Landen Hall, Zack Hemphill, Alex Holden, Aaron Hunt, Skyleer Ioppolo, Darren Jarvis, Tylajah Jolla, Tyler Joseph, Bailey Kenyon, Nicholas Mayeux, Ashlyn McBride, Bruce McDaniel, Dylan McPhate, Brianna Melancon, William Milling, Nathan Minson, Jaden Minton, Jenna Morton, Christopher Orillion, Jadin Pilet, Aron Rodriguez Ramos, Everson Reyes, Alyssa Roberie, Kade Robillard, Trenton Robinson, Ethan Rogers, Mario Romero, Fernand Anariba Rosales, Cadence Sanchez, Lance Scott, Justice Smith, Collin Story, Gabriel Summers, Davey Thorton, Caira Vallee, Ryan Withers, Ariyone Wyre.

Central High School Superlatives



Central High Best Sense of Humor
Jayden Davis-Augustus and Madelyn Myrick



Central High Most Talkative
Cannon Glass and Mary Grace Furr



Central High School Most Talented
Dylan Bergeron and Bre'Lyn Calhoun



Central High School Most School Spirit
Hayley Wall and Ethan Ferguson



Central High School Most Photogenic
Skyler Acosta and Tyler Heil

Central High School Senior Awards



Charles T. Kinsley Award
Autumn Vessier



Charles T. Kinsley Award
Caleb Ward



Scholar Athlete Award
Rachel Hunter



Scholar Athlete Award
Lauren Lindsey

Central High School Senior Awards



Scholar Athlete Award
Ethan Ferguson



Jessica C. Aiton Award
Hayley Wall



Pipe Fitter 2 Award
Chaquoyia Muse



The Renaissance Woman Award
Lauren Lindsey



Industrious Therefore Enlightened Award, Lacey LeBlanc



Excellence in Teaching Award
Olivia Baker



Concert Choir Award
Justin Babin



Excellence Award
Samantha Carcamo



Algebra 3 Award
Karrington Spears



Advanced Math Award
Kindal Clarke



Senior Engineering Design Award
Jakob Bueche



Taking it to the Limit Award
Rebekah Slocum



Champion of the Earth Award
Demi Mills



AP Environmental Science Award
Ashton Constantin



English IV DE Award
Lauren Lindsey



English IV Award
Savannah Richard



AP European History Award
Mya Rovira



AP Research Award
Skyler Hale



THE World History Award
Hayley Wall

CENTRAL PRIVATE



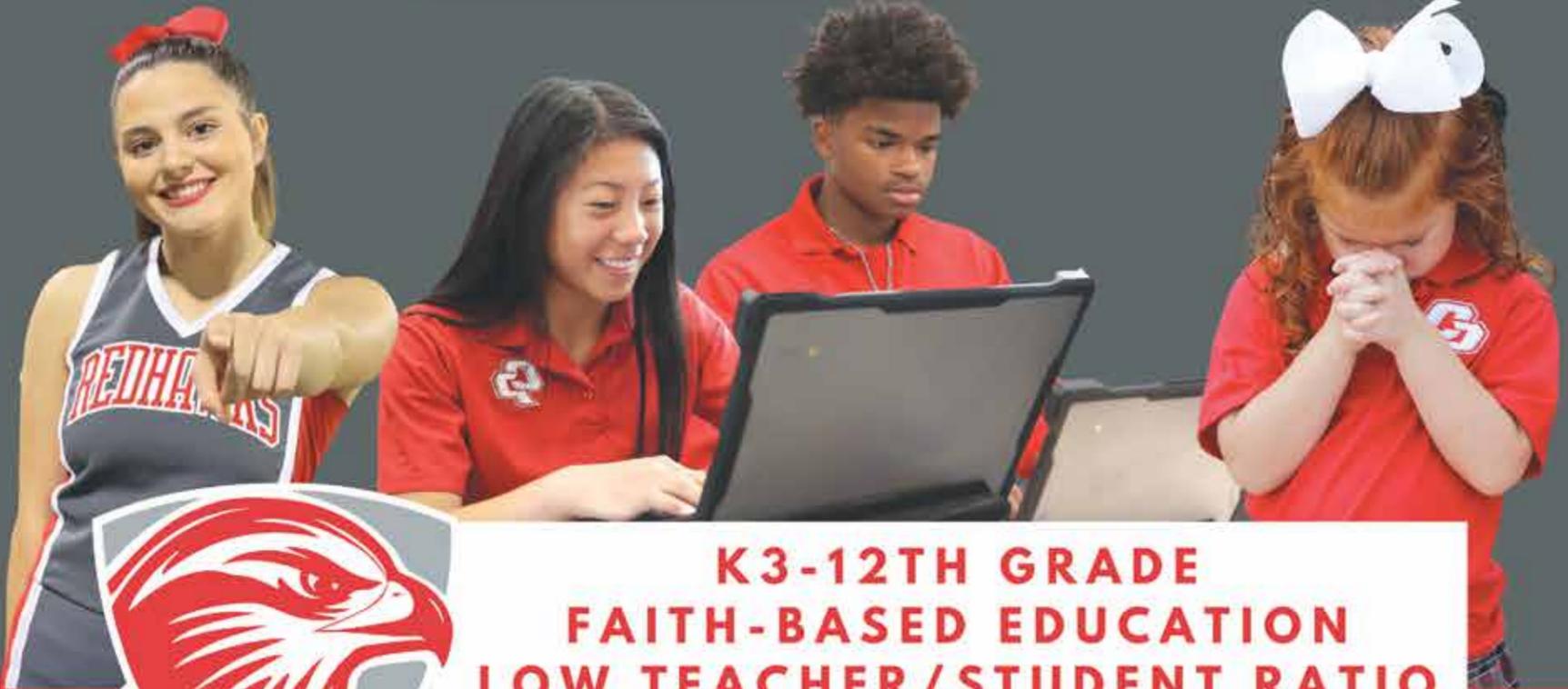
Apply Today!

LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE FOR 2022-23

TRADITIONAL VALUES

MODERN METHODS

CALL FOR
A TOUR!



**K3-12TH GRADE
FAITH-BASED EDUCATION
LOW TEACHER/STUDENT RATIO
FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE
BRAND-NEW CAMPUS**

6TH-12TH: 12650 GURNEY ROAD
PREK3-5TH: 12801 CENTERRA COURT
225.261.3341 WWW.CENTRALPRIVATE.ORG

Central Private does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin.

Congratulations, Central Graduates!



David Barrow
Mayor of Central

A warm salute to the graduates of 2022! Your hard work has paid off! Continue to strive for excellence as your journey continues! I wish you well in your future endeavors and hope you will stay and make Central your home for a lifetime!

BEST WISHES TO YOU ALL!
City of Central Mayor
David Barrow

Before you act, listen. Before you react, think. Before you spend, earn. Before you criticize, wait. Before you quit, try.
—William Arthur Ward

Congratulations Class of 2022!



As a new member of the Central Community School Board, I am honored to represent you, the people of Central! Please contact me when I can be of any assistance.

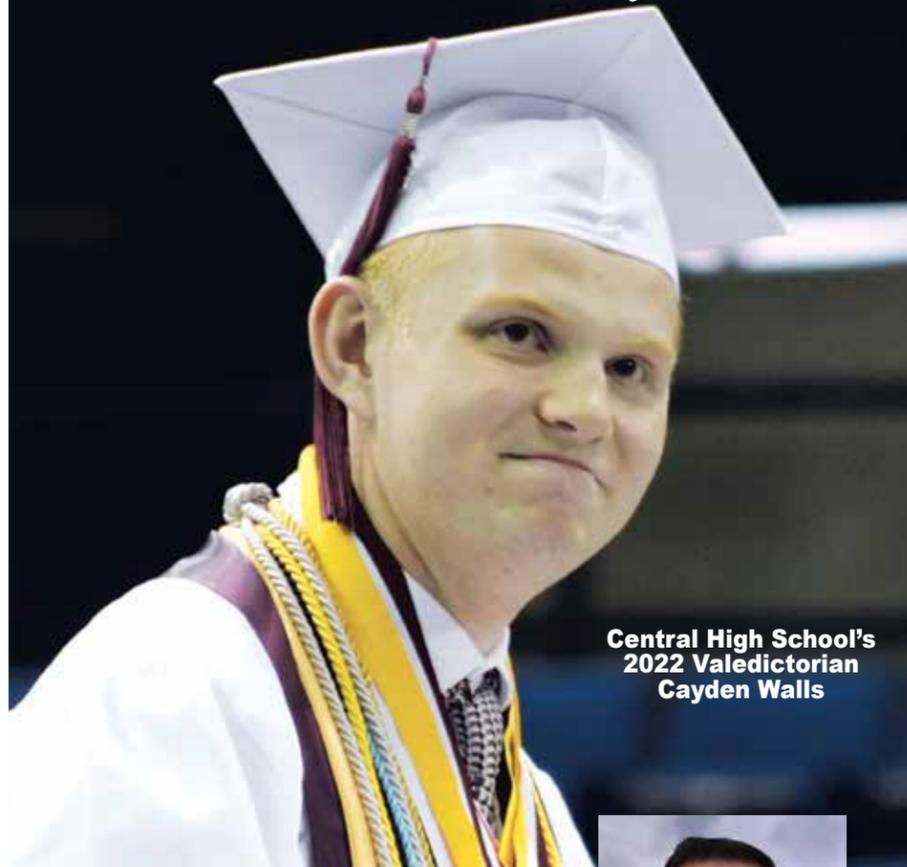
Kim Powers
Central Community School Board
225-921-8784
kpowers@centralcss.org

“Commit thy works unto the LORD, and thy thoughts shall be established.” — Proverbs 16:3



CONGRATULATIONS TO
Peyton Hohensee, CHS Class of 2022!
You inspire me, and I am proud of your accomplishments. Your future is bright!

Best Wishes Grads



Central High School's
2022 Valedictorian
Cayden Walls

Graduates, dream big and challenge yourself daily. Make everyday count by setting goals and exploring new paths. Remember to remain confident. Successful people take chances and are always willing to keep learning. Never give up, but most of all, enjoy life! Congratulations!



Metro Councilman Aaron Moak

Congratulations, Graduates!



Former Chief **James Salsbury**

We are very proud of you!

James SALS BURY
for Chief of Police

Experience You Can Trust

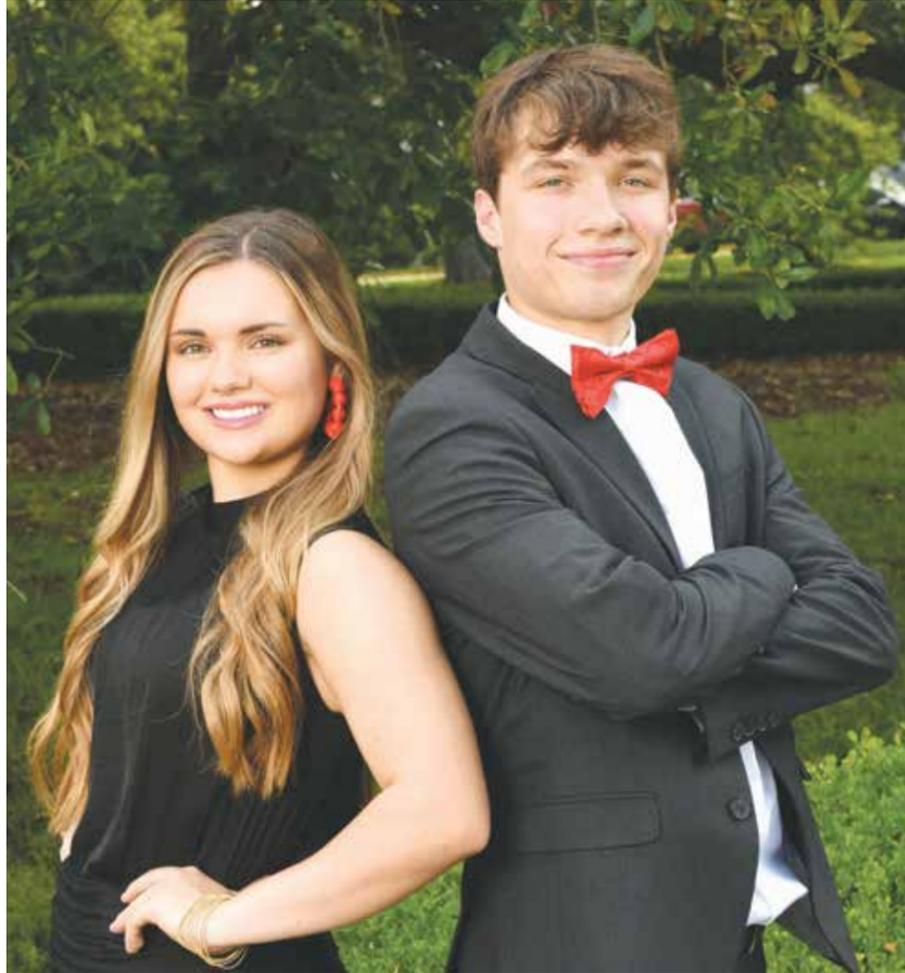
Central Private School Class of 2022



Brennan Anders



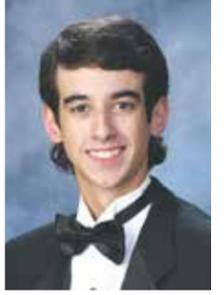
Austin Bradford



Central Private 2022 Mr. and Ms. CP, Zoie Landry and Zacc Landry



Alexander Browning



Wyatt Campbell



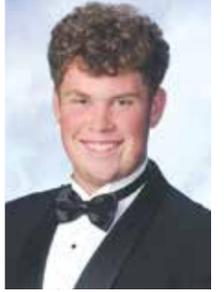
Carson Cupit



Anna Dale



Skylar David



Clay Easley



Isabella Edwards



Alexia Garner



Cade Genovese



Makenna Gregoire



Sarah Israel



Zacc Landry



Zoie Landry



Annalise Leep



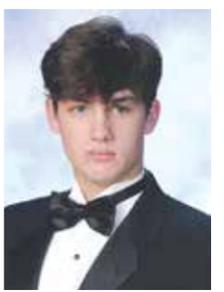
Myla Martin



Madeline Matherne



Draven McDonald



Nolan McDonald



Landry McEachern



Dylan Meliet



Svetlana Stanley



Morgan Roillard



Hank Robinson



Sadie Smith

Who's Who From Central Private



Brennan Anders



Austin Bradford



Anna Dale



Zoie Landry



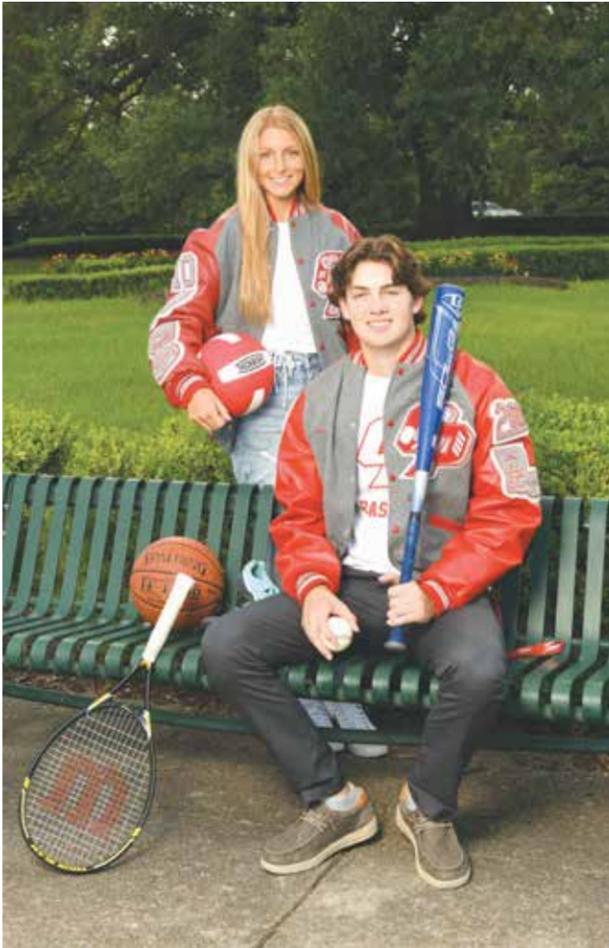
Zacc Landry



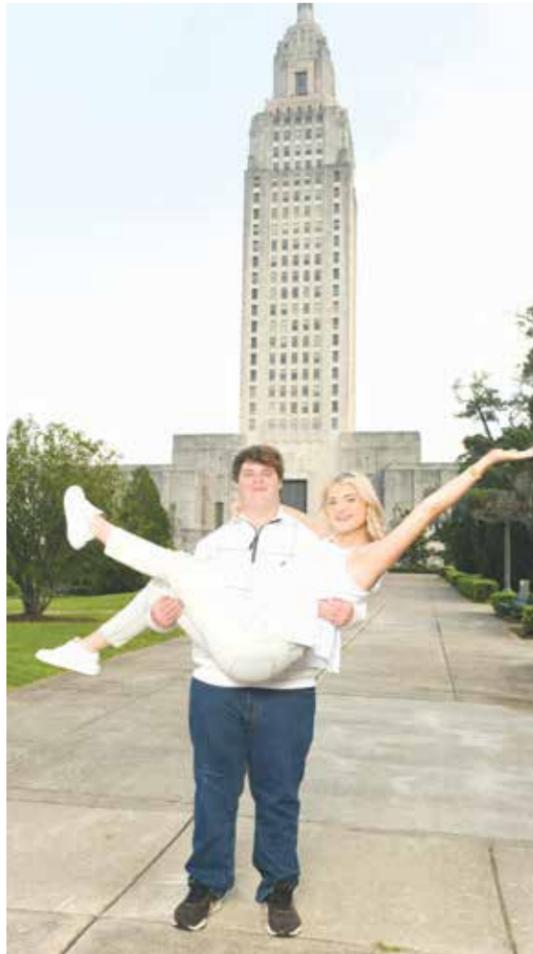
Nolan McDonald

Central Private 2022 Graduates and Superlative
Photos By Lionel Selser Photography

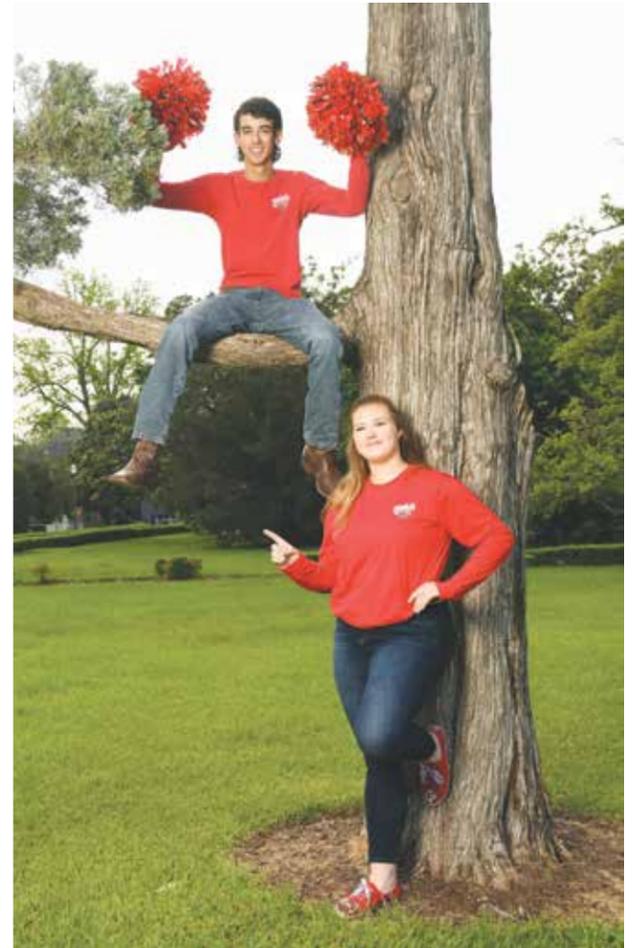
2022 Central Private Superlatives



Central Private's Most Athletic
Anna Dale and Nolan McDonald



Central Private's Most Unforgettable
Hank Robinson and Alexia Garner



Most School Spirit
Wyatt Campbell and Sarah Israel



Central Private's Funniest
Sadie Smith and Draven McDonald

Central Private 2022 Graduates and Superlative
Photos By Lionel Selser Photography

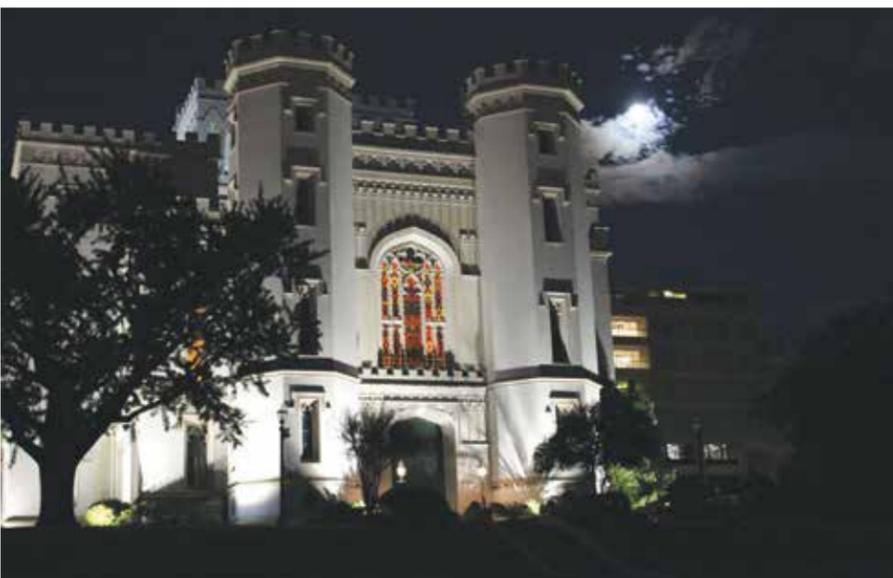


Photo by Woody Jenkins



2022 St. Joseph Academy Graduates From the City of Central



Ella Kate Aucoin



Bailey Day



Blair Entremont



Lillian Reeves



Peyton Richard



Alexandra Sanford



Amelia Sanford



Grace Toler



Aubrey Turner



Olivia Turner



Kristian Williams



For more than 150 years, St. Joseph's Academy has stood as a pillar of excellence in the Baton Rouge community. Founded in 1868 by the Sisters of St. Joseph, this premier Catholic high school for young women is a place where the bonds of sisterhood run deep, sacred threads that connect our alumnae across generations and around the world. Over 10,000 graduates are leaders in business, industry, academia, government, their churches, and communities.

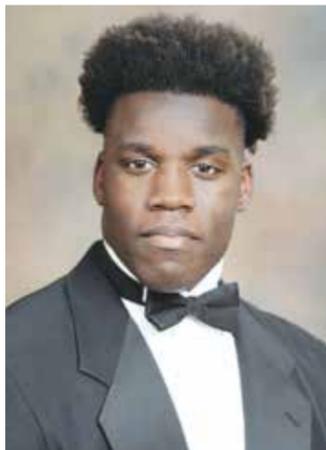
2022 Catholic High School From the City of Central



Preston Caruso



Easton Lonibos



Jermaine Vessell, II



Dalton Wilson

FOUNDED IN 1894 by the religious order of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart, Catholic High School continues today as an independent, Catholic, all-male college preparatory high school. As indicated in its mission statement, Catholic High School strives to teach gospel values in an environment of academic excellence according to Catholic tradition and the spirit of the Brothers of the Sacred Heart.



Photo by Woody Jenkins

Carney Christian Academy Seniors



Luke David



Thomas Forrester



Emma Jackson



Lia LeJeune



Gavin Ross



Emma Staudt



Caison Thibodeaux



Carney Christian Academy's Annual Art Show



CARNEY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY — Art instructor Daniel Parker, Tori Forrester, Emma Jackson, Connor Thibodeaux, Sydney Parker, Ella Claire Chapman, Mya Watson, Alleigh Albarado and Host Tracy Parker (left). The annual art show was hosted by The Spectacle in Central and judged by Ethan Paxton, Jennifer Stewart, Regan Bagley and Audrey Gaultier. The winners were Best in Show: Sydney Parker, Second place: Mya Watson, and Honorable Mention: Emma Jackson.

WHAT IS THE CENTRAL CITY NEWS? It's a newspaper published for the people of the City of Central, Louisiana. The Louisiana Press Association has named it the outstanding community newspaper in the state six of the past 10 years. Our editor is Woody Jenkins, a 28-year member of the Louisiana House of Representatives, author of the Declaration of Rights of the Louisiana Constitution, and life-long journalist. For more than 55 years, he has been a radio newsman, TV newsman, and newspaper editor. Currently, the Central City News is Louisiana's "Newspaper of the Year," according to the Louisiana Press Association. The Central City News has won more than 300 state and national awards for excellence in journalism, including General Excellence, Best News Reporting, Best Editorial, Best Investigative Reporting, Best News Photo, Best Feature Photo, Best Column, Best Ad Design, and Best Graphics. But it's more than a newspaper. It's a news gathering and distribution company. It uses print and digital to distribute news and information. It produces more than 300 videos a year, and it has multiple websites and Facebook pages. More than 4 million people a year watch its videos. Online, it has won Best Website and Best Online News Reporting from the Louisiana Press Association. To keep up with the Central City News, go to Central City News on Facebook, visit our website at centralitynews.us, and research local topics in our archives at centralitynews.net.

Zachary Christian Academy '22 Grads



Madeline Harts



Emily Persilver



Keylon Turner

Zachary Christian: Preparing for Life

Zachary Christian Academy is located on the campus of Milldale Baptist Church. The school's philosophy is that every child is special in the eyes of God and that God has a plan and a divine purpose for his or her life. ZCA is ready to assist parents with their Biblical responsibility to educate their children in the ways of the Lord and strives to provide children with a well-rounded education to live in the world with honor and integrity.

Our mission is to graduate young men and women who can live as Christians in a secular world. We accomplish this through the proven combination of a Christ-centered curriculum and the classical approach to learning. Our curriculum challenges them to listen carefully, think clearly, and apply biblical wisdom and understanding in their everyday life. It is our desire that they have the courage and determination to live their life for Christ; walk in humility and gratitude towards God; and use their talents, skills, and abilities for kingdom purposes.

ZCA is located at 11950 Milldale Rd, Zachary, LA 70791. Call (225) 570-2539 or go to milldale.org.

Parkview Baptist Graduates Four from City of Central



Wyatt Beck



Ethan LeSage



Christen Parks



Clay Petty

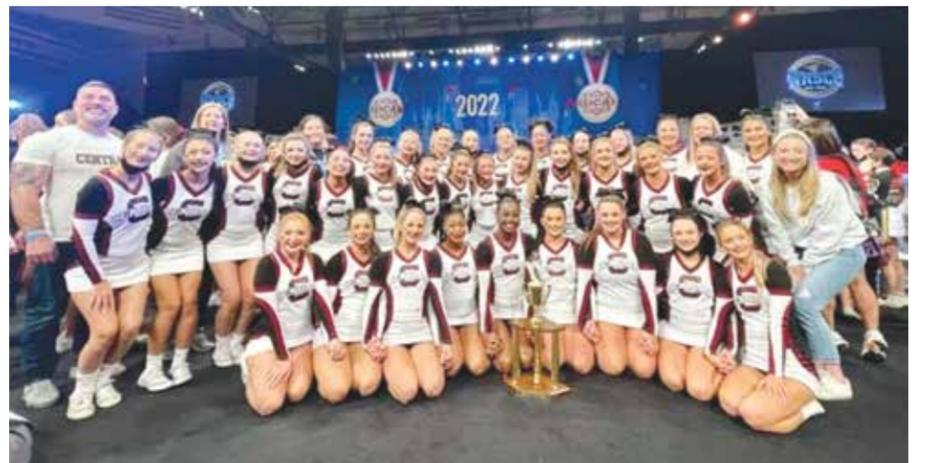
Parkview Baptist School's Christ-centered, pre-K to grade 12, college preparatory education equips students with the intellectual, spiritual, social, physical, and emotional skills necessary for college, for life, and for eternity. We are proud to be the only private school in Louisiana to receive national Blue Ribbon School recognition in 2019.

Central Varsity Cheerleaders 4th in Nation

CENTRAL — After a nearly flawless performance at the National High School Cheerleading Championships in Orlando, Central High School came home with 4th Place in the nation out of 54 teams which competed. Earlier, the Wildcats won regional championships in Jackson, MS, and Hammond, LA.

The team competed in the Large D2 gameday division as well as the Medium D1 Traditional routine division. Both divisions include tumbling which is relatively new to the Central program. Central has been competing in non-tumbling since attending NHSCC for the first time in 2014.

The program won the gameday division in 2015. The team is coached by head coach Amy Stevens and assistant coach Nathan Belanger-LeCloux. Since Amy arrived at Central in 2017, the program has been striving to build a



Central High School's 2022 Varsity Cheerleaders won 4th in the nation!

cheer program that is reputable in both gameday as well as a tumbling competitive team.

Both Amy and Nathan are coaches at Central Community Athletics where athletes can begin by age 4 and work towards com-

peting at both the middle and high school levels.

After a difficult season in 2020-21 dealing with the ups and downs of Covid, the team stayed focused on their goals this year of competing in the national finals.

Grilled Sausage Melts

MANDA
"Flavor Says It All"
SMOKED SAUSAGE
MADE WITH PORK

MadeWithManda.com

Know Your Local Public, Private and P

Bellingrath Hills Elementary Central Community School System



6612 Audusson Drive, Greenwell Springs, LA 70739 • Phone: 225-261-4093



Erin Bonaventure
Principal

Bellingrath Hills Elementary serves children from Pre-Kindergarten through Kindergarten in the Central Community School District. At Bellingrath Hills Elementary, you can count on a quality educational program that will develop and enhance the academic, social, emotional, and physical needs of each student. The school also offers gifted and talented classes, art, music, physical education, before/after school enrichment, remediation classes, computer lab, guidance and library! The school provides high standards for academic and character achievement, all teachers and paraprofessionals are highly qualified and dedicated educators. Bellingrath Hills Elementary is proud of the partnerships that they have developed with local universities and colleges enabling aspiring educators to collaborate with our Master Teachers in order to enhance learning for all.

Tanglewood Central Commun



9352 Rustling Oaks Avenue, Baton Ro



Meagan Brown
Principal

Tanglewood Elementary i 1st and 2nd graders. At present, Tanglewood in tions. This includes a 15-clas on the west side of the camp The dynamic faculty and s child-centered environment i cially, emotionally, physical demic experiences within the areas of art, computer skills, classes. Tanglewood also offe ation along with a variety of s

Central Middle School Central Community School System



12656 Sullivan Road, Central, LA 70818 • Phone: 225-261-2237



Jolena Downing
Principal

With a population of over one thousand students, Central Middle School is the educational home for all Central students in grades 6-8. The middle school boasts robust choir and band programs as well as a developed art program. Additionally, students at Central Middle School can enroll in foreign language courses, as well as other high school level classes. Students may also participate in the school's volleyball, soccer, softball, baseball, football, basketball, and track teams.

Central Hi Central Commun



10200 East Brookside Drive, Baton Ro



Brandon LaGroue
Principal

Central High School is th munity School System. At pr million renovation. Central High School is cor ing students the best high sc our community. Our profes make every day a great day. ficient, effective and fun scho all work together to make sur

The City of Central offers a variety of excellent public and p
Central is built on great education.

Parochial Schools in the City of Central

Elementary City School System



12636 Sullivan Road, Central, LA 70818 • Phone: 225-261-3454

This campus is home to Central Community School System's new elementary school under construction with \$4.8 million in renovation. A 18,421 square ft. addition to the school is currently under construction. The staff at Tanglewood provide a safe, nurturing, and challenging environment in which the students can grow academically, socially, and creatively. Along with providing elite academic instruction, Tanglewood offers opportunities in the areas of physical education, music, guidance, and library services before and after school enrichment and remedial programs to meet the needs of all learners.

Central Intermediate School Central Community School System



12636 Sullivan Road, Central, LA 70818 • Phone: 225-261-1390



Julie Stevens
Principal

Central Intermediate is home to Central Community School System's 3rd through 5th graders. They receive enhanced academic instruction but they also obtain lessons in art, music, band, physical education, computer techniques, computer keyboarding, Spanish, and library. CIS offers gifted and talented classes, before and after school enrichment classes, math and reading intervention, guidance classes, DARE instruction, and EL interventions and instruction. 5th grade students may join the 4H club and, if qualified, may join the National Jr. Beta Club. All students have the opportunity to be a part of the Wildcat Honor Society. The CIS Student Council has representatives from all grade levels. All teachers and paraprofessionals are highly qualified and dedicated educators. CIS partners with local universities to provide students majoring in education with the mentorship and experience they will need to become successful.

High School City School System



12636 Sullivan Road, Central, LA 70818 • Phone: 225-261-3438

This new campus for grades 9-12 in the Central Community School System is under construction for a \$25 million project. We are committed to providing a top-notch education, giving students the school experience possible, and being a benefit to the community. Our professional, hard-working faculty and staff work to ensure that every student can find their place.

Central Private School Opened in September 1967



12650 Gurney Road, Central, LA 70818 • Phone: 225-261-3341



Robert Martin
Head of Upper School



Central Private has two campuses, one located at 12801 Centerra Court which is the campus for the lower grades and the other at 12650 Gurney Road which is the campus for the upper grades.

The school's vision is to offer an exceptional Pre-K3 through 12th college-preparatory education for the children in the northern region of East Baton Rouge Parish and surrounding parishes in a safe, nurturing, faith-based environment. Central Private supports our mission by maintaining high academic expectations, inspiring leadership through community service, and funding dedicated faculty and staff committed to excellence. Students are encouraged to pursue individual interests beyond the classroom so that they will excel as productive leaders of the community.



Terrie Hodges
Head of Lower School



Tour Central Private's
New Campus on
Gurney Road

private schools.

Know Your Local Private Schools

Carney Christian Academy • Grades 6-12

PRIDE — Carney Christian Academy’s philosophy is to teach the mind of a child, we must first touch their heart. Believing that we plant the seeds of knowledge and learning first in the heart of a child, we must ensure that each student has a heart to receive knowledge, to ensure that it can be processed in the mind.

The school was established in 2001, Carney Christian Academy is committed to preparing students for the future in a safe, nurturing Christian environment in which students are encouraged to grow, share, and learn with a faculty dedicated to academic excellence.

For more information, visit www.carneychristianacademy.com or call 225-999-3089 for current available openings in our classes. Carney Christian Academy accepts 40 students in grades 6-12. Students must be 11 years old to enroll.

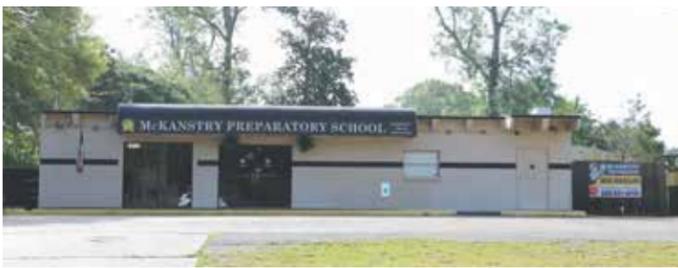


Terry Carney
Principal



Carney Christian Academy
14861 Denham Rd,
Pride, LA 70770

McKanstry Preparatory School • Pre-K - 12th Grade



14112 Greenwell Springs Rd., Greenwell Springs, LA 70739



Shelia Simon
Principal

GREENWELL SPRINGS — McKanstry Preparatory School teaches Pre-K - 12th grade. The school is a Christian private school with small group instruction. This year marks over 20 years serving Baton Rouge and surrounding areas! The school’s goal is to provide a challenging learning environment for all students; enhancing children socially, academically, and increasing cognitive skills, while learning in a nurturing Christian home school atmosphere. At McKanstry we understand that your child comes to us with unique experiences, interests and learning styles. For this reason, we offer a very small and personable learning experience that is tailored to every student’s learning style. McKanstry Preparatory School is currently registering new students for the upcoming school year. Home schoolers welcome! Call 225-272-0730 to schedule an appointment.

St. Alphonsus Catholic School • Pre-K 3- 8th Grade

GREENWELL SPRINGS — St. Alphonsus offers a Christ-centered environment that teaches Gospel values and instills within its students the realization that each student is unique in his or her own way. The mission of our school is to facilitate the development of each child spiritually, academically, physically, and culturally in an environment of academic excellence. We chose the kaleidoscope as a symbol to reflect this individual uniqueness and possibility for growth and change.

St. Alphonsus is much more than a school. It is a community of parents, teachers, grandparents, staff, parishioners and alumni working together for the good of our children. We are blessed with involved faculty and priests who work together for the benefit of our students. For information, call us at (225) 261-5299.



13940 Greenwell Springs Rd., Greenwell Springs, LA 70739



Cynthia Ryals
Principal

Victory Christian Academy • Pre-K 4 - 8th Grade



Sharon Aaron
Principal



3953 North Flannery Rd., Baton Rouge, LA 70814

BATON ROUGE — Victory Christian Academy is located at 3953 North Flannery Road and offers a full-day program for students in grades K4-8th grade. The school has approximately 250 students and the teacher to student ratio is approximately 1:16. An unashamedly Christian approach and rigorous educational standard sets Victory Christian Academy apart from others, and that mission is still at the core of everything within the school. For more information visit vcawarriors.org or call 225-273-8339.

Zachary Christian Academy

ZACHARY — Zachary Christian Academy is located on the campus of Milldale Baptist Church. The school’s philosophy is that every child is special in the eyes of God and that God has a plan and a divine purpose for his/her life. Zachary Christian Academy is ready to assist parents in their biblical responsibility to educate their children in the ways of the Lord, and strives to provide children with a well-rounded education that will enable them to function in the world with honor and integrity. Our mission is to graduate young men and women who are prepared for the challenges of living as a Christian in a secular world. We accomplish this through the proven combination of a Christ-centered curriculum and the classical approach to learning. Our curriculum challenges them to listen carefully, think clearly, and apply biblical wisdom and understanding in their everyday life. It is our desire that they have the courage and determination



11950 Milldale Rd., Zachary, LA 70791
(225) 570-2539



Sheri Granier
Principal

to live their life for Christ; walk in humility and gratitude towards God; and use their talents, skills, and abilities for kingdom purposes.

2022 Graduates From St. Michael's



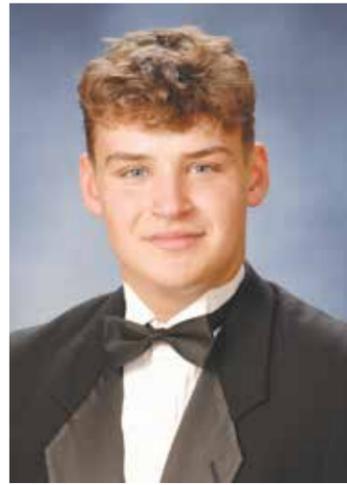
Honor Camus



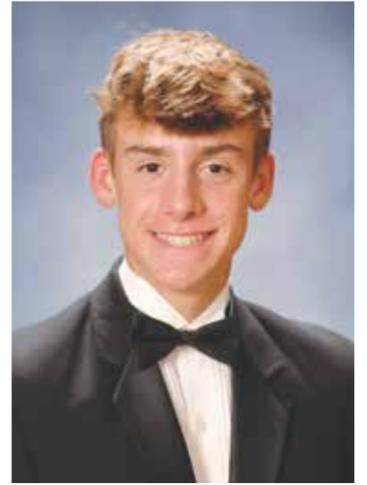
Seth Dozier



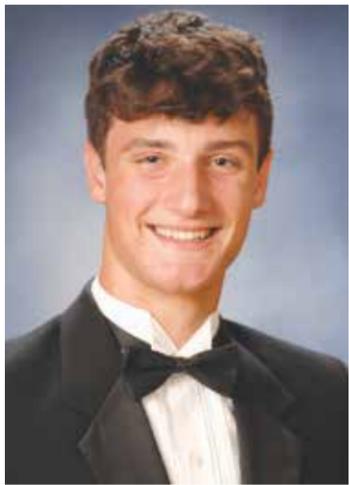
Sarah Gil



Joshua Murray



Conner Pike



Brantley Tircuit



Allyson Ramsey

St. Michael is a co-educational, college preparatory school, grades 9-12, for students who are seeking a modern, comprehensive Catholic education. With a passionate, experienced faculty and a rich and challenging curriculum, St. Michael provides the ideal environment for students to achieve their full potential. Students are encouraged to work hard, to dream big, and to see academic success as an exciting and worthwhile pursuit. St. Michael the Archangel Regional Catholic High School was established in 1984 by the Catholic Diocese of Baton Rouge.

Congratulations, Graduates!



MARK MILEY

Attorney at Law Justice of the Peace

2022 Academic Excellence Banquet



Faith McKnight
Bellingrath Hills Elem.
Student of the Year



Jaycelynn Behrnes
Tanglewood Elem.
Student of the Year



Ila Ardoim
Central Intermediate School
Student of the Year



Hunter Fuller
4.0 Grade Point Average
All Elementary Grades



Blitz Harding
4.0 Grade Point Average
All Elementary Grades



Ellie Silvio
4.0 Grade Point Average
All Elementary Grades



Natalie Zimmer
4.0 Grade Point Average
All Elementary Grades



Brock Barrett
Pre ACT Score 23



Hazel Boone
Pre ACT Score 23



Isabel Carbo
Pre ACT Score 25



Lillian Clark
Pre ACT Score 26



Christina Cotten - Pre ACT Score 24
99th Percentile - PSAT
4.0 Grades 6, 7, and 8



Adam Cullen
4.0 Average Grades 6, 7, and 8



Kevin Dang
99th Percentile - PSAT
Pre ACT Score 24



Darian Diaz
Pre ACT Score 23



Ava Dupuy
Pre ACT Score 25
4.0 Average in Grades 6, 7, 8



Ambellina Farris
Pre ACT Score 24



Isabella Farris
Pre ACT Score 23



Lillian Green
Pre ACT Score 24



Samantha Guardado
99th Percentile - PSAT
Pre ACT Score 25



Ainsley Hale - Pre ACT Score 24
99th Percentile - PSAT
4.0 Average in Grades 6, 7, and 8



Charleigh Hale - Pre ACT Score 27
99th Percentile - PSAT
4.0 Average in Grades 6, 7, and 8



Hoyt Hall
99th Percentile - PSAT



Brayson Hartzog
Pre ACT 24



Owen Hill
99th Percentile - PSAT
Pre ACT Score 23



Kaitlyn Isaac - Pre ACT Score 27
99th Percentile - PSAT
4.0 Average in Grades 6, 7, and 8



Haydon Johnson
99th Percentile - PSAT
Pre ACT Score 27



Matilyn Laird
4.0 Average in Grades
6, 7, and 8



Brody McDaniel
99th Percentile - PSAT
Pre ACT Score 24



Cohen Moody
Pre ACT Score 24

2022 Academic Excellence Banquet



Kaylen Dillard
10th Grade Top Ten GPA



Wyatt Robertson
AWS Certified Level 2 Welder



Shane Ruegg
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Allie Salter
12th Grade Top Ten GPA
Beta Club President



Rebekah-Ann Slocum
12th Grade Top Ten GPA
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Andrew Stevens
Autodesk Inventor
Certified User



Brennan Tarver
Autodesk Inventor
Certified User



Carson Truett
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Maggie Tullier
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Hayley Wall
12th Grade Top Ten GPA
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Cayden Walls - 12th Grade Top
Ten GPA, ACT Score of 27 or
Higher, Student of the Year



Samuel Vianna-Landers
ACT Score of 27 or Higher

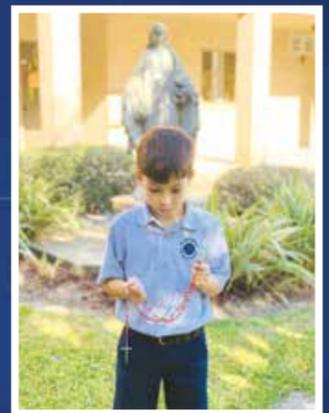


Antonio Warner
9th Grade Top Ten GPA

Limited spots open for the 2022-2023 school year!



**ST. ALPHONSUS
LIGUORI CATHOLIC SCHOOL**
Forming Faith and Future



FULL DAY PRE-K3 AND PRE-K4
SCHOOL SPONSORED ATHLETICS 3rd - 8th GRADE
EXCELLENCE IN ACADEMICS
CHALLENGING CURRICULUM
PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAM
CHROMEBOOK TECHNOLOGY IN GRADES K-8
READING LAB PROGRAM
EXTENDED DAY CARE
INTERGRATED, AGE APPROPRIATE TECHNOLOGY USE
IN ALL CLASSROOMS

13940 GREENWELL SPRINGS ROAD, CITY OF CENTRAL, LA 70739

(225)261-5299 www.STALPHONSUSBR.ORG

CYNTHIA RYALS, ED.D., PRINCIPAL



Catholic Schools do not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national, or ethnic origin in the Administration of the educational policies

2022 Academic Excellence Banquet



Baylee Osborne
Spelling Bee Winner



Beau Penton
4.0 Average in Grades
6, 7, and 8



Jaylen Perry - Pre ACT Score 23
President, Jr. Beta Club
4.0 Average in Grades 6, 7, and 8



Riley Rasberry
Pre ACT Score 23



Emma Rispono
President
Jr. National Honor Society



Joshua Rispono
99th Percentile - PSAT
Pre ACT Score 25



Caden Rogillio - Pre ACT Score 24
99th Percentile - PSAT
4.0 Average in Grade 6, 7, and 8



Jaden Roy
Pre ACT Score 23



Jesse Smith
Pre ACT Score 23



Jacob Teel
99th Percentile - PSAT
Pre ACT Score 29



McKenna Watson
Pre ACT Score 27



Mia Ackoury
9th Grade Top Ten GPA



Lexie Allen
ACT Score 27 or Higher



Parker Allen
9th Grade Top GPA



Collin Badeaux
ACT Score 27 or Higher



Jason Bonadona
AWS Certified Level 2 Welder



Dylan Bergeron
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Marshall Boudreaux
ACT Score 27 or Higher



Trevor Bryan
AWS Certified Level 2 Welder



Jakob Bueche
Autodesk Inventor
Certified User



Alexandria Cooper
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Jacob Cotten
AWS Certified Level 2 Welder



Andrew Coward
Autodesk Inventor
Certified User



Isabelle Cullen
9th Grade Top Ten GPA



Andrew Dang -ACT Score 27 or
Higher, 11th Grade Top Ten GPA,
Autodesk Inventor Certified User



Sky Dix
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Myles Dufrene - ACT Score of 27 or
Higher, 10th Grade Top Ten GPA,
District Rally Winner - Psychology



Tate Esworth
12th Grade Top Ten GPA
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Jordan Gallo
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Amber Gill
ACT Score of 27 or Higher
Adobe Video Design Specialist

Academic Excellence Banquet • May 10, 2022
Photos by Jolice Provost for the Central City News

2022 Academic Excellence Banquet



Kyndall Gilmore
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Blaise Gregoire
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Lane Gremillion
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Jacen Guardado
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Skyler Hale
12th Grade Top Ten GPA
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Easton Hamilton
ACT Score of 27 or Higher
Autodesk Inventor Certified User



Travis Hill
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Annison Hunter
9th Grade Top Ten GPA



Rachel Hunter
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Nia Jerro - Student Body Pres.
12th Grade Top Ten GPA
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Erin Jines
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Lauriel Johnson
10th Grade Top Ten GPA
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Ameila Jones
Certified Medical Assistant



Michael Kravitz
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Jae'Lyn Lacour
11th Grade Top Ten GPA



Kaiden Lang
11th Grade Top Ten GPA
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Madison Lumpkin
10th Grade Top Ten GPA
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Allie McCauley
11th Grade Top Ten GPA



Alaina McKey
11th Grade Top Ten GPA



Maycee McKnight
9th Grade Top Ten GPA



Emily Mier
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Kelsie Myrick
9th Grade Top Ten GPA



Ava Nehring
9th Grade Top Ten GPA
ACT Score of Higher



Jack Pruyn
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Trenton Reason
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Ethan Rispone
10th Grade Top Ten GPA
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Faith Rispone
12th Grade Top Ten GPA
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Keller Roberson - 10th Grade
Top Ten GPA, ACT Score of 27 or
Higher, District Rally Winner



Koen Roberson
ACT Score of 27 or Higher



Donald Roberts
ACT Score of 27 or Higher

Academic Excellence Banquet • May 10, 2022
Photos by Jolice Provost for the Central City News

The Valedictorian of Central High Class of 1913

Message to Graduates from Across Time

A Young Woman Said We Will Build Future Through Hard Work, Courage, Intelligence, And Determination

CENTRAL — In May 1913, Pearl Elizabeth Felps walked to the podium as the valedictorian of the first graduating class of the new Central High School, located at the corner of Canal (now Hooper) and Sullivan roads. A copy of her speech was discovered in 2009 and given to the *Central City News*.

It is a timeless message that resonates as well today as it did 109 years ago. She spoke of the importance of hard work, courage, intelligence, and determination. Pearl Elizabeth Felps earned her place as Central's first Valedictorian seven years before women got the right to vote in United States on Aug. 26, 1920. Imagine this young woman rising to the podium in front of the high school at Canal and Sullivan. It was not the busy intersection it is today. Children played in these roads and were known to lay down and take a nap in the street without the slightest fear of a motor car coming along. Horse-drawn buses called "hacks" carried students to school, and people generally walked or rode on horseback wherever they needed to go.

On this day, the entire Central community gathered for the graduation ceremonies, and Miss Felps was ready. Here's what she said:

NO VICTORY WITHOUT LABOR

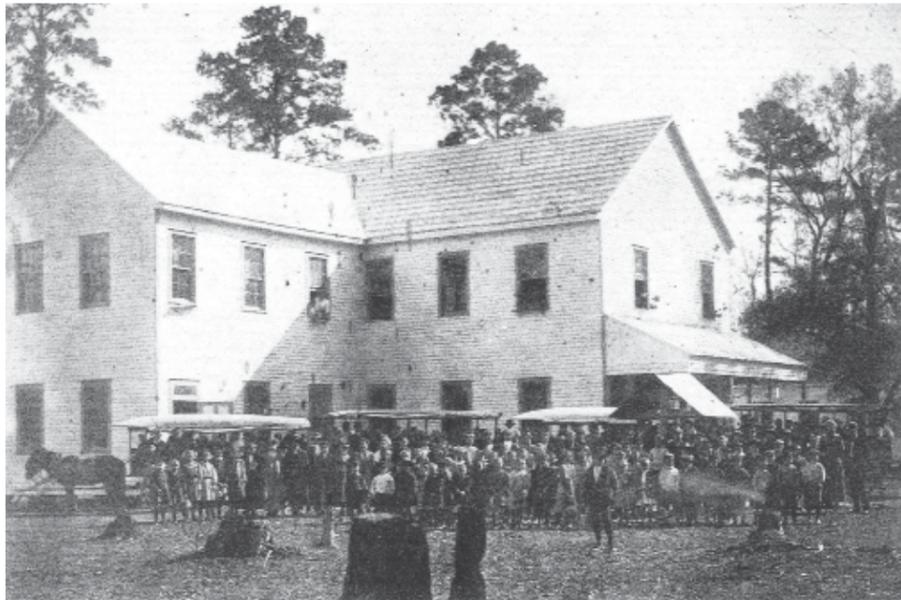
by Pearl Elizabeth Felps
Central High Valedictorian 1913

The boys and girls of today are standing with reluctant feet **where the brooks and rivers meet**; ready to step out into the busy world, each to seek his vocation in life.

We might hold to the past, were it possible, and let our famous men and women of this day and time still carry on the progress of nations. But ever since the dawn of civilization, God has so willed it that each generation has its part to contribute to the great revolving cycle of progress. This is the period of our lives where, at last, the round of changes has carried us to **the vast river whose current is moving steadily and surely into the mystic future**.

Can we proudly stand and meet the responsibilities thus forced upon us? To do so, we must buckle on **the armor of labor**. Fortune smiles only on those who, with up rolled sleeves and willing hands, put their shoulders to the wheel and brave the storms. There is no other road to success.

Fortune is a fickle goddess, and one must woo long and patiently



CENTRAL SCHOOL in the early 1900's. In May 1913, Pearl Elizabeth Felps was the Valedictorian of the first graduating class. Her Valedictory address, No Victory without Labor, counseled hard work, courage, intelligence, and "invincible determination." This advice by a young woman was tendered seven years before women got the vote.

Profile: Pearl Elizabeth Felps (Ott)

Born: 1893 • Died: 1980 • High School: Valedictorian, Central High Class of 1913 • College: Silliman Institute in Clinton. • Teaching career: Central High and Live Oak. • Husband: Rev. Albert D. Ott, who was an early minister at Amite Baptist Church. • Children: Five. One of them, Jodie Lee Ott (who was named after Central's Jodie Edwards) married Amos Ponder Jones. They had four girls: Lynne Jones, CHS 1965; Carolyn Ann Jones Sanchez, CHS 1968; Susan Harris, CHS 1970, and Beverly Jon Bonnebel, CHS 1975. Susan provided Pearl's Valedictory Address for this article to Roxanne Atkinson who provided it to *Central City News*.

“We must remember that one week of life now has almost as much possibility in it as the year had a century ago! See if the greatest men and women who have ever lived cannot be the men and women of tomorrow.”

— Pearl Elizabeth Felps, Central High's 1st Valedictorian

who would win her smiles. “When you start upon a road, keep a comin’, Throw away your prop and goad, but keep a comin’, Though the way seems hard and long, Bear in mind you must be strong, lend a hand to all the throng, and keep a comin’.”

Adam and Eve were thrust from the garden of Eden with these words, “By the sweat of thy brow, thou shall earn thy bread.” There was divine eternal love in this seemingly harsh command, for labor has ever been the workshop from which has evolved models of pure gold, refined and tempered by the conflict in which even “the stars in their courses seemed to fight against Sisera.”

History tells us of no advance that has been made over the plain of progress, except by labor. If we have intelligence, slowly and steadily moves earth, sea and time, onward, still onward and upward is the **clarion call**.

Our graduation day may be compared to a horse race, each with an equal start, each bound for the goal; one, two, three years pass; one or two ahead, three or four close behind, some slothful, others diligent and some dropped out entirely. But **the race is “not to the strong,”** but to the one who labors long and earnestly and trust-

fully. There is no boy or girl, if he has the element of ability about him, who cannot make some success in life. Where there is a will, there is a way.

What has labor done for our grand old America since our first discoverers landed here in such frail and unsafe boats? It has leveled the cliffs to build upon; smoothed the plains and felled the forests; seized disease and throttled its venom. Not only converted it from the desert abode of savages to the beautiful houses of civilization, but has gone down into **the bowels of the earth** and revealed the wonderful treasures hidden there.

It has converted the little unsafe boats of our discoverers into steel ships a thousand feet long, carrying hundreds of passengers. Not only have **our oceans been underlaid with cables**, but this majestic steamer is outfitted with **wireless telegraphy**. The railroads and telegraphy bring the ends of the earth together.

In 1914, labor will again give to us one of the most wonderful changes in commerce, the completion of **the Panama Canal**, where the waves of the broad Atlantic will flow to meet those of the deep Pacific. And where will the nation gain her victory? All will answer by labor.

It is no doubt true that the boys and girls of today have the advantage of our forefathers, for we have so many models from which to fashion our patterns. But **we must remember that one week of life now has almost as much possibility in it as the year had a century ago.**

We are living in one of the most wonderful ages in the history of the world. There has never been an age when such great things were in the making, and the call is for boys and girls willing to labor in the coming contest.

Never before has there been such opportunities for boys **and girls**, and the boys **and girls** of today will be the citizens of tomorrow. Let us pick up Daniel Webster's quotation in his **eloquent oration at Bunker Hill**: “Let our age be an age of improvement. Let us develop the resources of our land, call forth its powers, build up and promote all of its great interests. Let us extend our ideas over the whole of the vast field in which we are called to act.”

See if the greatest men and women who have ever lived cannot be the men and women of tomorrow.

Labor is the rainbow of promise to every aspiring youth, and the hope of our world's greatest nation.

★★★

LOOKING BACK 109 years, do you understand Miss Felps' speech?

Consider these questions:

1. What is the place **where brooks and rivers meet**?
2. Why does she talk about a **river whose current is moving** us into the future?
3. When she urges buckling on **the armor of labor**, why would her audience be familiar with a similar phrase?
4. Who was **Sisera**?
5. When she says the race is **“not to the strong,”** where did she get that quote?
6. What are **the bowels of the earth** where wonderful treasures are hidden?
7. Why were the **oceans underlaid with cables** and when?
8. What is **wireless telegraphy**?
9. Why would **the Panama Canal** give us “wonderful changes in commerce”? How did she know it would happen in 1914?
10. Why was it possible to do in **one week** what would have taken a year a century before?
11. Why does she specifically mention opportunities for **girls**?
12. What was the significance of **Bunker Hill** and when did Daniel Webster give his speech?
13. Why is **labor the rainbow of promise for aspiring youth**?

Questions by Woody Jenkins, editor, *Central City News*

We Build on the Shoulders of Those Who Came Before Us! Thank You for Creating a Great Tradition at Central High School!