

Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish

GOP Backs Landry for Gov

Life Tabernacle Plans Appeal to Supreme Court

CENTRAL — Life Tabernacle and Rev. Tony Spell are headed to the United States Supreme Court in their quest to get justice as a result of violation of their constitutional rights by Gov. John Bel Edwards during the pandemic.

The Louisiana Supreme Court has already ruled that Edwards’ efforts to close the church and that the arrest of the pastor by Central police chief Roger Corcoran were “illegal and unconstitutional” — in the words of the court. Now the issue in federal court is whether they are entitled to compensa-

See AFTER BIG on Page 16



Atty. Gen. Jeff Landry during his meeting with the Republican Executive Committee

Crime No. 1 Issue For AG Jeff Landry As Governor’s Race Kicks into Full Gear

BATON ROUGE — Crime is the No. 1 issue facing East Baton Rouge Parish followed closely by transportation, and those two issues were pivotal in helping the Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish decide to endorse Attorney General Jeff Landry for Governor, according to parish Republican chairman and former Rep. Woody Jenkins. The election is Oct. 14.

Observers believe the Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish is the most influential local Republican Party in the state and that its endorsement is second only to the Louisiana Republican Party in its impact. This endorsement effectively closes the door on other Republican candidates who may choose to challenge Landry, Jenkins said.

Jenkins issued the following statement on behalf of the Republican Party: “Jeff Landry grew up in St. Martinville in the heart of Cajun country. His roots in our state go back nearly 300 years. He is truly a man of the people. He began by working in the sugar cane fields and joined the Army National Guard while still in high school. His 11 years in our military included service as a decorated veteran of Desert Storm.”

“Jeff Landry began in law enforcement as a St. Martin Parish sheriff’s deputy, which gave him first-hand experience fighting crime on the streets. Along the way, he earned his Bachelor of Science degree from the Univer-

See AG STARTED on Page 2

Mayor Wade Evans Says City to Earn \$5,480 a Day by Money Management

\$45 Million Moved From Checking to Interest Accounts

CENTRAL — Mayor Wade Evans announced this week that Central has moved \$45 million in city funds from a low-earning checking account to a higher-earning money market account, which will result in earnings of more than \$2 million a year for the city. This is new revenue for the City of Central and amounts

to about \$5,480 a day, he said.

The mayor said he is holding weekly or biweekly meetings with his team of advisors and money managers to insure that the taxpayers get the best possible return on money that is being held for future use. City funds continue to be held at Hancock Bank but in different accounts and under different terms.

As a result, earnings on city funds will increase from \$150,000 a year to more than \$2 million.

Evans said these additional revenues will help the City of Central embark on a Pavement Management Plan approved by the City Council Feb. 7 that will allow continuous repair of city streets more aggressively than ever before. Improvements will be based on data from a Capital Region Planning Commission study, safety data, traffic counts, and geographical data.

At its meeting Tuesday, March 14, the City Council voted 5-2 to raise the Mayor’s annual salary from \$55,000 to \$85,000. The mayor said it is based on inflation from incorporation in 2005 to present. The mayor says he hopes citizens already see he is earning his keep.

Central Schools Honor Students of the Year



2023 Central High School Student of the Year
Kaiden Lang and Principal Brandon LaGroue



2023 Central Middle School Student of the Year
Anna Bordelon and Principal Kaleb Shows



2023 Central Intermediate Student of the Year
Eliana Mansur and Principal Julie Stevens



2023 Tanglewood Elementary Student of the Year
Brady Pinegar and Principal Maegan Brown



2023 Bellingrath Elementary Student of the Year
Maisyn Young and Principal Erin Bonaventure

AG Started Fighting Crime as Deputy Sheriff

Continued from Page 1

sity of Louisiana in environmental and sustainable resources with a minor in biology. He then began his own oil and gas environmental service company. He also served as the executive director of the St. Martin Parish Economic Development Authority. These experiences helped him understand the effect of overregulation on the oil and gas industry, which is so vital to the Louisiana economy.”

“With a strong desire to protect individual rights under the Constitution, Jeff worked his way through the Loyola University Law School, working during the day and going to school at night. He graduated with his Juris Doctor degree in



Atty. Gen. Jeff Landry after interview by Republican Party leaders in Baton Rouge.


2004. He practiced law until his election to the United States Congress from Louisiana’s 3rd District in 2008 and served two terms in Congress, where he was considered one of the most conservative members.”

“In 2015, he was elected Louisiana Attorney General, a position which allowed him to earn a place of honor in state history as a result of his stand for the Constitution during the lockdown of the state beginning in March 2020.”

“Attorney General Jeff Landry was the only statewide elected official in Louisiana who stood up against Gov. John Bel Edwards’ illegal, unconstitutional orders locking down our cities, ordering businesses to close, shutting down churches across the state, closing schools, ordering millions of our citizens to wear worthless masks, and trying to force people to get vaccines they did not want.”

“General Landry not only spoke
See REPUBLICAN on Page 16

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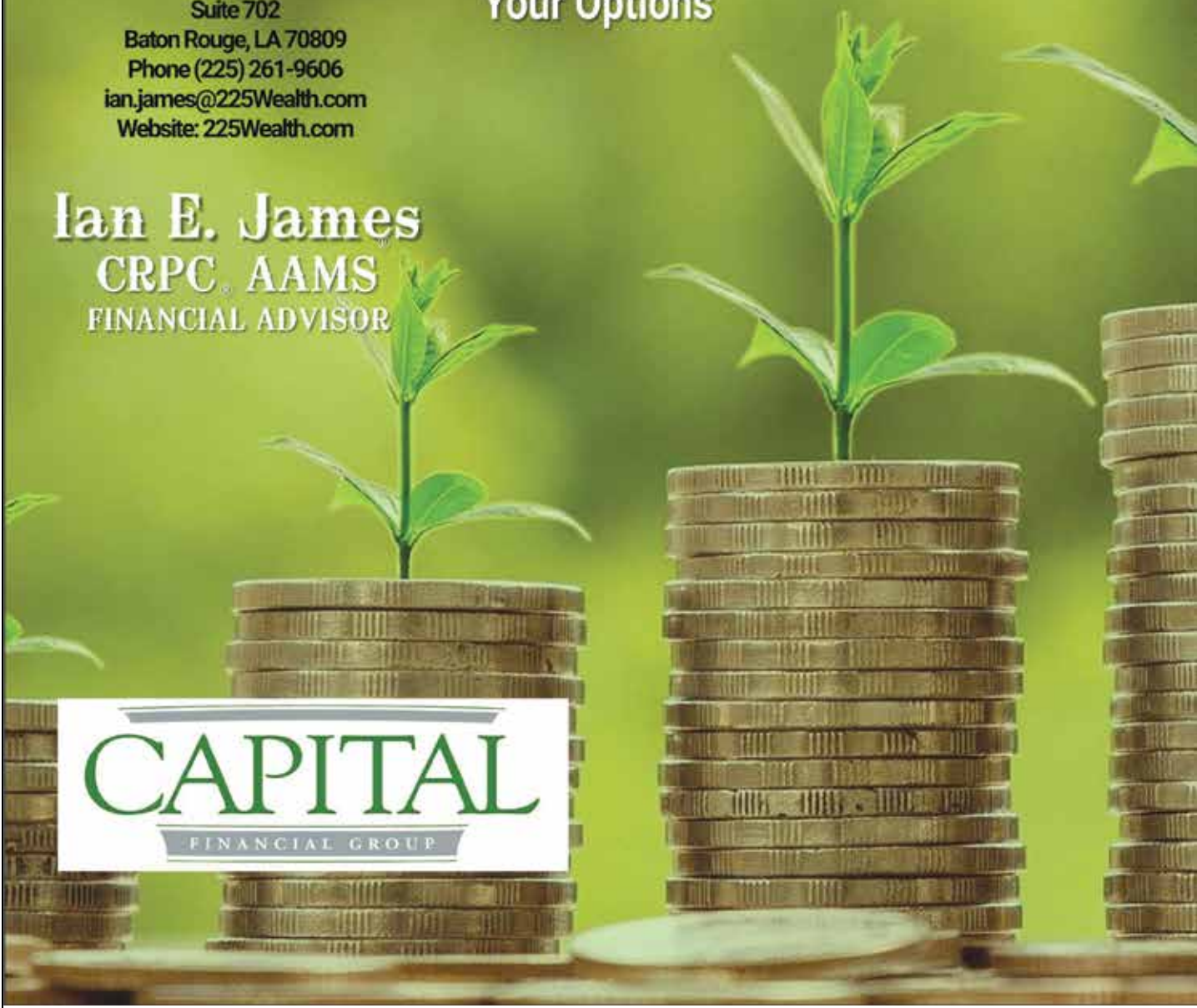
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Candidates

**Endorsed by
Republican Party
Of East Baton Rouge Parish**

**Saturday, March 25, 2023
Special Election
District Judge
Southern Sub-District**



Jordan Faircloth



Johanna Landreneau

Faircloth Landreneau

**Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023
Governor**



Landry

**East Baton Rouge Parish
Sheriff**

Sid Gautreaux

Brian Wilson

Doug Welborn

Dr. Beau Clark

Assessor

Clerk of Court

Coroner



Wilson



Gautreaux



Clark



Welborn

Keynote Speakers: Dr. Peter McCullough, Jeff Landry, Liz Murril

Health Freedom Day Conference April 21

CENTRAL - Dr. Peter McCullough, internationally-known cardiologist and the leading proponent of early treatment of COVID, will be keynote speaker during the 2nd Annual Louisiana Health Freedom Day at 1:45 p.m. on Friday, April 21.

The **Central City News** and Real Health Medical are sponsoring Louisiana Health Freedom Day at Revolution Square, corner of Hooper and Blackwater roads in the City of Central.

The event begins at 10 a.m. and will end at 6 p.m. Other featured speakers will be Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry, the leading candidate for Governor in the Oct. 14 statewide election, and Louisiana Solicitor General Liz Murril, who is running for AG.

Dr. Rhett Bergeron, who is co-sponsoring the conference through Real Health Medical, will speak



Atty. Gen. Jeff Landry will speak at 1 p.m. and introduce Dr. McCullough. The host of the conference, Rev. Tony Spell, pastor of Life Taberna-

cle Church, the Church that Never Closed, will also speak. He will tell of being arrested and imprisoned for the crime of holding church.

Speakers will include

- Jeff Wittenbrink, constitutional law expert who represents Pastor Spell and Danielle Bunch
- Jill Dillingham Hines of Health Freedom Louisiana
- Columnist Jeff Crouere
- Rep. Valarie Hodges, who is running for the State Senate
- Former Rep. Woody Jenkins, conference founder and MC. He authored much of Louisiana's pro-health freedom legislation.

Registration is \$35. Please register online at centralitynews.us by Monday, April 17 or by mailing your check to Central City News, 910 N. Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806. Children are \$10 payable at the Welcome desk.



Keynote speaker Dr. David McCullough will speak at 1:30 p.m. Rep. Valarie will also address the Health Freedom Day Conference.

Registration fee includes lunch, including the children's registration fee. For information, email centralitynews@hotmail.com.



Dr. Rhett Bergeron, Rev. Tony Spell, and Dr. Peter McCullough at last year's conference



Solicitor General Liz Murril will be luncheon speaker at noon, Friday, April 21.

**CENTRAL
PHARMACY**

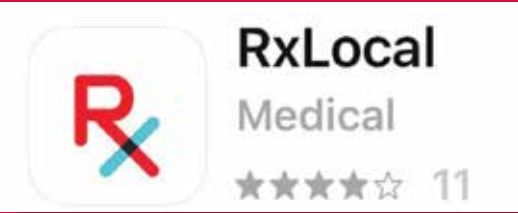


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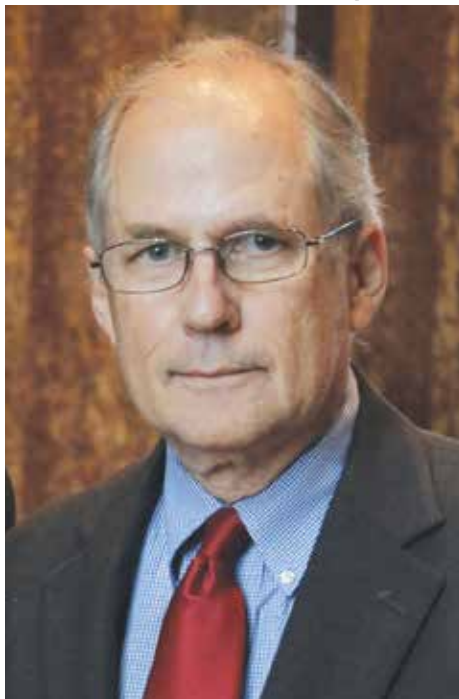
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Conservative Leader Passed Away Last Week in Lake Charles

Sen. Dan Richey: Renaissance Man

BATON ROUGE — Scholar, basketball star, high school teacher, coach, soldier, attorney, legislator, historian, orator, author, newspaper columnist and editor, TV news director, political consultant, jokester, prankster, master storyteller, mentor, role model, spokesman for traditional values and the right to life, world traveler, gardener, devout Catholic, prayer warrior, devoted husband, father, and grandfather, former Sen. Daniel W. Richey of Ferriday has been described as a Renaissance man, and indeed he was. He passed away on Sunday, March 5, 2023 at St. Patrick's Hospital in Lake Charles at the age of 74. He had experienced declining health since his wife Jessie passed away nearly five years ago.

Photo by Jolice Provost



Daniel Richey
Oct. 31, 1948 - Mar. 5, 2023

several years ago and his brothers John, Tom, and Bob over the past 16 months.

Dan was a scholar at Ferriday High School and an All-State basketball player for his school. He had aspirations to play for LSU but had

the misfortune of arriving at LSU the same year as the legendary Pete Maravich, who remains the leading scorer in NCAA history. He was understudy to Maravich on the famous LSU freshman team in 1966-1967. He often joked that between Maravich and him, they averaged 45 points a game — 43 for Pistol Pete and 2 for Richey. He transferred to McNeese and had a successful career playing for the Cowboys. He earned bachelor and master degrees from McNeese.

Dan joined the Army Reserve during the Vietnam War, rising to 1st Lieutenant. He continued in the Reserves during and after attending Loyola Law School, where he earned his Juris Doctor degree in 1975. At Loyola, he met the love of his life, Jessie Valcarcel of San Juan, Puerto Rico. They were married in 1976. Richey's best man in the wedding was *Central City News* editor Woody Jenkins.

Dan Richey ran for and was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives in 1975 representing Concordia and Catahoula parishes. He was a staunch conservative and opponent of big government during the second term of Gov. Edwin Edwards from 1976 to 1980. He was

elected to the State Senate in 1979 and was a supporter of Gov. David Treen during Treen's service from 1980 to 1984. With the backing of a conservative Republican governor, Sen. Richey was successful in passing important landmark conservative legislation.

He practiced law in Ferriday and was a syndicated columnist whose work appeared in many newspapers. In the early 1990's, he and the family moved to New Hampshire where he was development director for Magdalen College.

The Richey's moved to Baton Rouge in 1992, and Dan became News Director for WBTR-TV, owned by Woody Jenkins. He produced an award-winning daily TV news program, *Baton Rouge Today*.

Gov. Mike Foster recruited Dan to serve as Director of the Governor's Program on Abstinence from 1996 to 2004. In 2004, he joined Louisiana Family Forum as their political director until 2019.

Dan Richey is survived by his children — Will, Joe, J.P. and Aida and numerous grandchildren. After services at St. Agnes Catholic Church, Dan was buried next to his wife Jessie in Roselawn Cemetery in Baton Rouge.



DAN RICHEY being sworn into the Louisiana House in 1976, with fellow legislator Woody Jenkins, and with wife Jessie.

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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.



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SURVIVING DELEGATES — Three of the surviving delegates to the Louisiana Constitutional Convention of 1973, or CC/73, are (left to right) Woody Jenkins, 76, Bubba Henry, 87, and Pete Heine, 94. The 132 delegates wrote the current Louisiana Constitution, which was ratified by the voters in April 1974. Fewer than 20 of the delegates survive.

In March 1973 — 50 Years Ago — Delegates Were Hard at Work

50 Years After CC/73, Louisiana Constitution Still Shines Brightly, Few Delegates Survive

Fundamental Law Here Stands for Individual Rights, Perhaps Uniquely

Woody Jenkins

Editor

BATON ROUGE — A little more than 50 years ago, I had the unique opportunity as a young man of 26 to serve as a delegate to CC/73, a state constitutional convention, called by the legislature to rewrite the Louisiana Constitution of 1921, the longest constitution in the world. The work of the convention lasted for 18 months, beginning in late 1972 and continuing through early 1974.

It was one of the most demanding things I have ever been part of. A total of 132 men and women came from all parts of Louisiana with one solitary goal — to draft a constitution that could win the support of the voters and then serve our people for generations to come.

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

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

The Bill of Rights Committee had 10 members — five liberals, four conservatives, and me. If I sided with the liberals, the vote was 6-4. If I sided with the conservatives, it was 5-5. Most of the time, I sided with the conservatives, and the committee was hopelessly deadlocked. One side included Kendall Vick, the general counsel of the ACLU in Louisiana, Rep. Alphonse Jackson, a staunch liberal, Tony Guarisco, a trial lawyer and strong liberal who later served in the state senate, and Chris Roy, law partner of Camille Gravel, an outspoken liberal and executive counsel to Gov. Edwards. The other side included Rep. Ford Stinson, the conservative champion in the state house, Dr. Gerald Weiss, and me, a newly-elected representative from the Istrouma area of North Baton Rouge.

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

After weeks of committee debate and continued stalemate, one of the liberal members of the committee looked at me and said, “All right, you know what all of us be-



THE TYPEWRITER — Delegate Woody Jenkins was only 26 in 1973 when he drafted the Declaration of Rights of the Louisiana Constitution. He wrote it on the typewriter (shown above) purchased for \$10 from State Surplus in 1964 by Mike Chambers. Chambers was faculty advisor to the Istrouma High Key Club. The typewriter was bought for Jenkins to use in his work as Key Club International Trustee.

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

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

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

When I returned to the committee, they read it, tore it up, put it back together, and then passed it on to the floor of the full convention. There it was debated for more than a week. The battles on the convention floor were bloody and stressful. Sometimes we had to vote over and over on the same thing for days in a row. But ultimately our new Declaration of Rights was adopted in a form very much like the original draft. It was a breakthrough for the convention and the beginning of many other principled compromises that led to the proposed constitution being approved with only one dissenting vote. The delegates took the pro-

See CONSTITUTION on Page 12

Congratulations to WAFB-TV on 70 Great Years!

BATON ROUGE — In April 2023, WAFB-TV will celebrate the 70th anniversary of signing on the air in Baton Rouge. The local station has had a great run and established itself as one of the top TV stations in the South. Congratulations to WAFB-TV for all it has accomplished!

By the way, I may be the only person still alive who watched WAFB-TV sign on the air for first time — in April 1953! I was 6. My dad put up an outdoor antenna in 1951 at our rent house in Rougon in Pointe Coupee Parish. He had



THREE WHO MADE WAFB-TV POPULAR were Buckskin Bill, news director Carlton Cremeens, and Sid Crocker.

it pointed directly at WDSU-TV in New Orleans. The picture was ghostly at best, and the sound went in and out. We thought that was how TV was supposed to be!

In 1953, when they announced WAFB-TV would be coming on soon in Baton Rouge as UHF Channel 28, my dad didn't know where to point the antenna so he kept it where it was. The station signed on with a test pattern which stayed up for almost 24 hours. I was glued to the test pattern the whole time, waiting for something to happen! Finally,

it came on, and it was awesome!

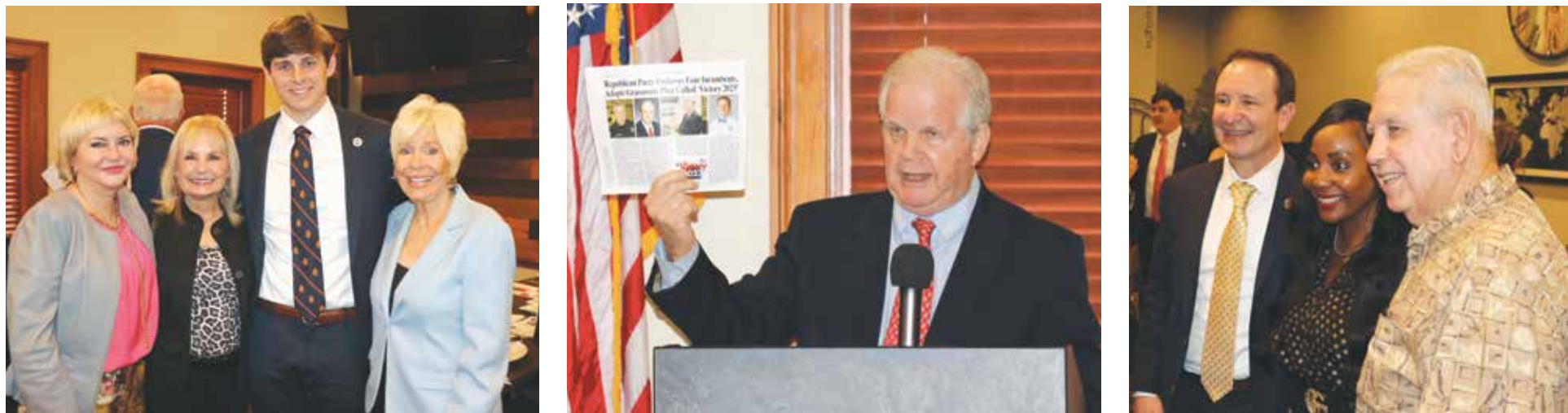
The picture was crystal clear and the sound was perfect. It wasn't long after that that Buckskin Bill had his own afternoon kids' show. We had moved to Baton Rouge by then. In 1955, when I was in the third grade at Fairfields elementary school in Baton Rouge, I was the star of our school play — the musical *Peter Rabbit*. The play got good reviews and Buckskin himself came to Fairfields to watch. He loved it and asked us to come to the studio

See GENERATIONS on Page 6

Three Gubernatorial Candidates



THREE CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR address Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon in Baton Rouge — Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry (left), Sen. Sharon Hewitt (R-Slidell) (center), and State Rep. Richard Nelson (right) (R-Mandeville). State Treasurer John Schroder was unable to attend. All four candidates are Republicans.



BATON ROUGE REPUBLICAN WOMEN (left) Debbie Kuehne, Lynn Coxe-Graham, and Carol Thomas pose with Rep. Richard Nelson. Woody Jenkins (center), chairman of the Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish, announces that the Republican Party has endorsed Sheriff Sid Gautreaux, Assessor Brian Wilson, Clerk of Court Doug Welborn and Coroner Beau Clark for reelection. At right, Attorney General Jeff Landry with Carolyn Hill and Gary Rispone.



JUDGE CANDIDATE JOHANNA LANDRENEAU (left) introduces herself to everyone at the luncheon. Hollis Day (left/center) has announced his candidacy for Louisiana House District 66. Attorney Jordan Faircloth (center), candidate for judge, talks with Dr. Evelyn Griffin. Connie Hair, director of Freedom Caucus in Louisiana and former EBR School Board member Jill Dyason (right/center) asks questions of the gubernatorial candidates. At right is Emily Chenevert, candidate for House District 66.

Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon

Café Americain • March 1, 2023

Photos by Jolice Provost • Video by Kim Powers



For Generations, WAFB Has Been a Top Station in South

Continued from Page 5

and perform a segment on his show live, which we did. It was such a hit that he had us on a second time. Little did I know that in 1965, just 12 years after WAFB signed on the air, I would be in journalism school at LSU and working at WAFB-TV as an announcer and newsmen! What a great opportunity! I got to know and become friends with Buckskin, Carlton Cremeens, Sid Crocker, the old beachcomber Bob Searce, Pete Goff who actually hired me, and

all the rest. One day I went into my boss to ask for a raise. I was making \$1.70 and couldn't pay my bills. I asked him to consider raising me to two dollars. He said two dollars! We were thinking of firing your ass! He didn't fire me but he let me know where I stood in the pecking order. I thought I was headed to be Walter Cronkite but in reality I was just a minimum wage employee. That night my future wife Diane — who worked across the street writing copy under Grace McElveen —

and I met to talk about our future. My dad always said I should be in business for myself and do what I love. He said to never worry about the money, because you're smart enough to make money doing what you love. So I took his advice and our combined savings of \$300 and launched the North Baton Rouge Journal newspaper three weeks later! It soon became a success. My days at Channel 9 were the only time in my life that I've received a W-2. Since then, I've been self-


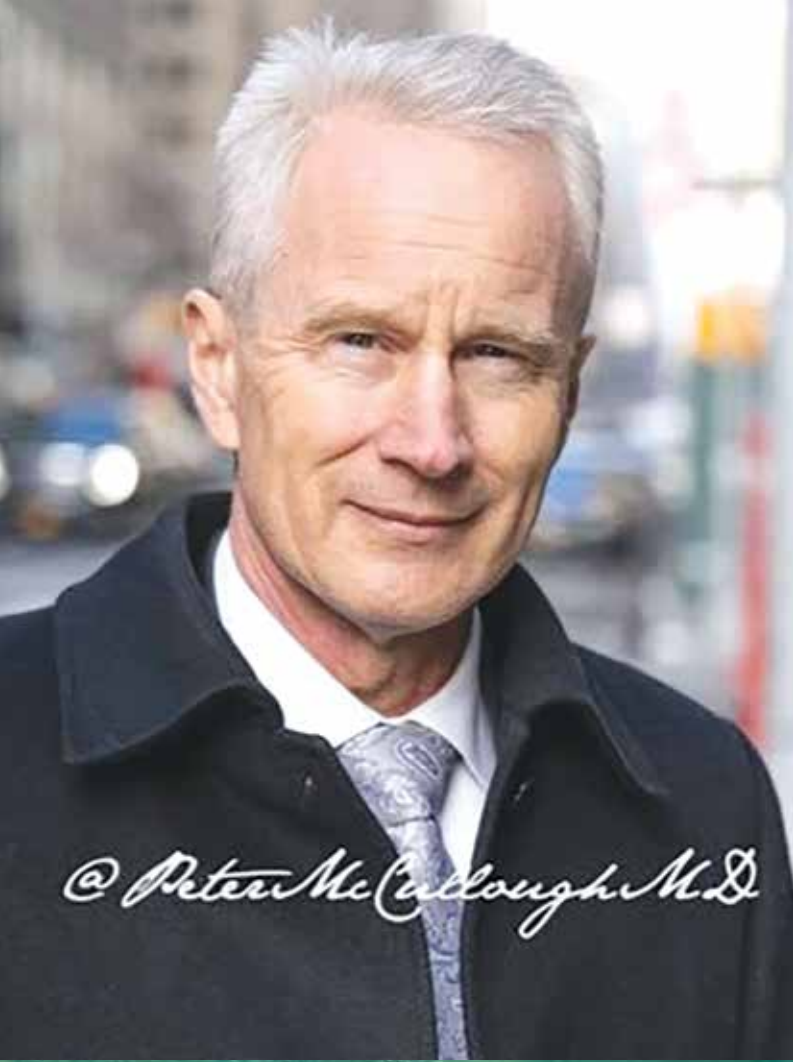
employed and pursued my own dreams. One bit of WAFB-TV history! In 1966, I introduced the first live COLOR television news broadcast in Baton Rouge history. Carlton Cremeens asked me to do the intro, which I did. "Now from the studios of WAFB-TV, Channel 9 — your Tiger in the Sky — the first live television news broadcast in Baton Rouge history in living color! Now with the news, here's news director Carlton Cremeens!"


— Woody Jenkins, Editor

LOUISIANA


HEALTH FREEDOM DAY

Keynote Speakers
Dr. Peter McCullough
Attorney General
Jeff Landry







Dr. Rhett Bergeron
Physician




Solicitor General
Liz Murrill




Rev. Tony Spell
Life Tabernacle




Jeff Wittenbrink
Attorney



Jill Dillingham Hines
Health Freedom Coalition



Jeff Crouere
Radio Talk Host



ex-Rep. Woody Jenkins
Central City News

10 a.m. - 6 p.m. • Friday, April 21, 2023
Revolution Square • 9500 Blackwater Road • Central, LA
Register at centralcitynews.us • \$35 a person • Children \$10 at door

Republicans Hear Firehouse BBQ, Judges



ATTORNEY JORDAN FAIRCLOTH (left) is a candidate for District Judge in the Special Election March 25, 2023, to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of long-time District Judge Tim Kelley. Owner of Firehouse BBQ Danielle Bunch and her attorney Jeff Wittenbrink (center) gave an update to the attendees of the Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon. Also speaking was Louise Hines Myers (right), candidate for District Judge. The election will be held in the Southern judicial subdistrict, which includes South Baton Rouge and St. George. It is a Republican-leaning district, and two other Republicans are running, Johanna Landreneau and Steve Myers. A runoff if necessary will be held April 29, 2023.



KEVIN LANDRENEAU (left) campaigns for his wife and law partner Johanna Landreneau who is running for district judge. Jill Hines Myers (left/center) former Assistant DA has taken a sabbatical to run for district judge. Scott Wilfong (right/center), who specializes in judicial elections, speaks on the importance of judicial races in East Baton Rouge Parish. Jordan Faircloth (right), former LSU baseball player and candidate for district judge. The election for district judge is Saturday, March 25.



ATTORNEY JEFF WITTENBRINK (left) explains the legal issues surrounding the Firehouse BBQ case against Gov. John Bel Edwards. The Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon (center and right) is sponsored by the Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish. The parish chairman is former Rep. Woody Jenkins.



RETIRED ARMY MAJOR GEORGE FRANCIS (left) with BR Metro councilwoman Laurie Adams and parish Republican chairman Woody Jenkins. Cecil Cavanaugh (center) with radio personality Hollis Day. Attorney Jordan Faircloth (right) with former EBR school board member Jill Dyason and candidate for LA House District 66 Ritchie Edmonds.

**Ronald Reagan
Newsmaker Luncheon
Feb. 14, 2023 • Café Americain**

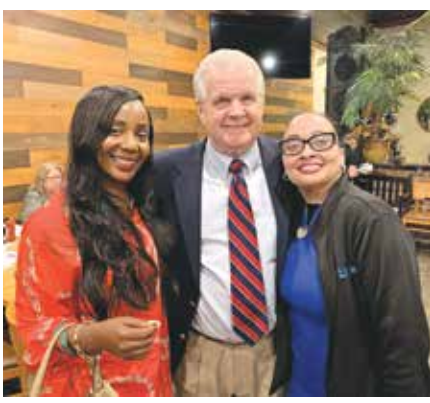
**Photos by Jolice Provost
Video by Kim Powers
For the Central City News**

Claston Bernard Opposes Deterioration of American Values

Ex-NCAA Champ Talks About Constitution



OLYMPIAN CLASTON BERNARD (left) told the Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon the United States must return to the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution if the nation is to survive. At right, Talisha Davis, Woody Jenkins, judge candidate Johanna Landreneau, Claston Bernard, and Glenda Pollard.






Video by Kim Powers
Photos by Jolice Provost

CLASTON BERNARD FANS (left) Diane Cashio, Dru Brock Lea and Diane Jenkins with Claston Bernard. Second from left, Carolyn Hill and Dr. Leah Cullins came out to hear Claston Bernard. At right, Rev. Darryl A. Tate visits with Major George Francis, deputy chairman of the Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish, with Phil Fetterman in foreground.

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Central High Wildcat Basketball Sen



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL GIRLS BASKETBALL SENIOR NIGHT Senior Tamiah Cross #10 (left) with her family. The girls basketball (team center) coached by Coach Krystal Huggins-Flowers and assistant coach McKenzie Price. Lariah Foster #11 (right) and her family for senior night.



THE LADY WILDCATS PLAYED ST. JOSEPH ACADEMY for Senior High. The final score was CHS 26 - SJA 44. Myra Talbot # 2 (left) with her family. Jaelyn LaCour #22 (center) with her family for senior night. Lady Wildcats' Class of 2023 (right) Jaelyn LaCour, Tamiah Cross, Myra Talbot, and Lariah Foster.



LADY WILDCAT #2 MYRA TALBOT (left) dribbles down the court against St. Joseph's. Jaelyn LaCour (center) during the tip off. Players gather around Coach K (right).

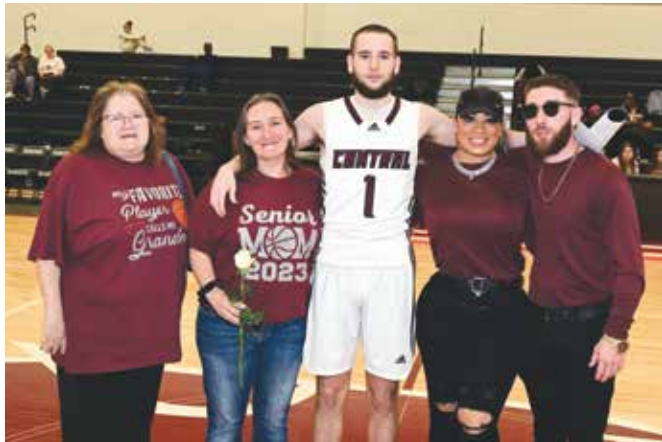


LARIAH FOSTER #11 TAKING THE SHOT (left). Tamiah Cross #10 (left/center) goes up for a free throw shot. Senior posters and gifts from family (right/center) for #10 Tamiah Cross and #22 Laelyn LaCour. Posters and gifts from family (right) for #11 Lariah Foster and #2 Myra Talbot.

Senior Night for the Ladies and the Men



CENTRAL WILDCAT BASKETBALL CLASS OF 2023 celebrated Senior Night on January 18 against GEO Next Generation. The Wildcats had a big win 71-39 over the Tigers.



Class of 2023
#1 Jax Johnson and his family.



Class of 2023
#2 Braxton Rizzutto and his family.



Class of 2023
#12 Michael Manchester and his family.



Class of 2023
#13 Charles Rawls and his family.



Class of 2023
#20 Trevor McBride and his family.



Class of 2023
#50 Ethan Chaney and his family.



Class of 2023
#23 Noah Pedeaux and his family.



Class of 2023
#11 Gage Burkhalter and his family.



Central Wildcats Basketball
Class of 2023

Central High School Boys Basketball Senior Night
January 18, 2023 • Photos by Eric Frank Photography

Stephanie Stafford, Justin LaFleur to Wed April 15

HAMMOND — Mr. and Mrs. Randall and Eunice Stafford of Ponchatoula are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Stephanie Michelle Stafford, to Justin Paul LaFleur, son of Mr. and Mrs. Mark and Jackie LaFleur of Central.

Stephanie is the granddaughter of Joyce Stafford and the late Joe Stafford of Hammond, LA, and Petra Borgo and the late Vicente Borgo of Venezuela. She is a 2015 graduate of Ponchatoula High School and graduated from Southeastern Louisiana



Justin LaFleur and Stephanie Stafford University in 2017 with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. She also graduated from Loyola University New Orleans College of Law in 2021, where she received her Juris Doctor. She is employed as an Attorney with Parker Layrisson Law Firm in Ponchatoula. The Groom to be is the grandson of Vaunice Tate and the late James Tate of Central and the late Jane and Wilber LaFleur of Lafayette. Justin is a 2013 graduate of Central High School and a graduate from Southeastern Louisiana University

in 2017 with a Bachelor's degree in Political Science. He also graduated from Loyola University College of Law where he received his Juris Doctor. He is employed as an Attorney with Seale & Ross in Hammond. The couple will wed on April 15, 2023, at Hemingbough in St Francisville.

'New' Constitution: 50th Anniversary

Continued from Page 5

posals to the voters. Our Declaration of Rights was praised as an example of how people of very diverse views could work together and accomplish something truly meaningful. The voters approved the proposed constitution, and it is today the Louisiana Constitution of 1974. Our Declaration of Rights and the convention debates have been cited by the Louisiana Supreme Court hundreds of times. It has stood the test of time. Well, for 50 years at least. No other state has been able to write a new constitution since Louisiana's was adopted.

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2023 Central Teachers of the Year



2023 Central High School Teacher of the Year
Caitlin Winter and Principal Brandon LaGroue



2023 Central Middle School Teacher of the Year
Alaina Laperouse and Principal Kaleb Shows



2023 Central Intermediate Teacher of the Year
Kristy Barker and Principal Julie Stevens



2023 Tanglewood Elementary Teacher of the Year
Jeanie Tucker and Principal Maegan Brown



2023 Bellingrath Elementary Teacher of the Year
Devin Arceneaux and Principal Erin Bonaventure



2023 Central Office Support Worker of the Year
Becky Easterling and Barbara Guyon



2023 Central High School Support Worker of the Year
Vicki White and Principal Brandon LaGroue



2023 Central Middle School Support Worker of the Year
Destiny Purser and Principal Kaleb Shows



2023 Central Intermediate Support Worker of the Year
Rebecca Rittell and Principal Julie Stevens



2023 Tanglewood Elementary Support Worker of the Year
Brandy Singleton and Principal Maegan Brown



2023 Bellingrath Elementary Support Worker of the Year
Kortnee Kleinpeter and Principal Erin Bonaventure



Central Chamber President Ron Erickson and some of the sponsors of the Central Community School System Students, Support Workers and Teachers of the Year ceremony. Sponsors include First Student, Red River Bank, Ross Tire and Service, DEMCO, Louisiana Office Supply, Central Athletic Foundation and Central Chamber of Commerce.



On display at the event were CCSS art student's recent work. This piece of art is by Ethan Rispone.

Greenwell Springs Youth Riders Donate Bags for Homeless



GREENWELL SPRINGS YOUTH RIDERS donated bags for the homeless to St. Alphonsus Catholic Church. Thanks to GSYR Pro Rodeo sponsors, the organization is able to support local causes such as this. GSYR appreciates everyone's continued support and look forward to seeing the Central community May 5-6, 2023, at the Greenwell Springs Rodeo.

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Dental Caries

Tooth decay, also known as dental caries, is a common dental problem that affects people of all ages. It is caused by the breakdown of tooth enamel due to the presence of bacteria in the mouth. When sugar and starches are consumed, they combine with the bacteria in the mouth to form a sticky film called plaque. This plaque produces an acid that can damage the enamel and cause cavities.

The symptoms of tooth decay vary depending on the severity of the condition. In the early stages, tooth decay may not cause any symptoms at all. However, as the condition progresses, the affected tooth may become sensitive to hot or cold temperatures, sweet foods, or pressure when biting down. You may also experience pain, swelling, or discharge around the affected tooth.

The risk factors for tooth decay include poor oral hygiene, a diet high in sugar and starches, dry mouth, and certain medical conditions such as diabetes. Children, teenagers, and older adults are also at a higher risk of developing tooth decay.

Preventing tooth decay is essential to maintaining good oral health. This includes brushing your teeth twice a day with fluoride toothpaste, flossing daily, and limiting your intake of sugary and starchy foods. Regular dental checkups are also important to catch any signs of tooth decay early on.

Treatment for tooth decay depends on the severity of the condition. In the early stages, a fluoride treatment or dental filling may be sufficient to repair the affected tooth. However, if the decay has progressed significantly, a root canal or tooth extraction may be necessary.

In conclusion, tooth decay is a common dental problem that can be prevented through good oral hygiene and a healthy diet. Regular dental checkups are essential for catching any signs of tooth decay early on and preventing more severe dental problems in the future.



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After Big Victory in State Supreme Court, Church Takes Case to U. S. Supreme Court

Continued from Page 1

tion from Edwards and other defendants.

Edwards has argued that even if the church’s rights to assemble and exercise their freedom of religion were violated, he is immune from personal liability on grounds of “qualified immunity.”

Qualified immunity is based on the antiquated concept in English law that “The king can do no wrong.” Since we live in the United States and there is no king, the concept has been controversial for a long time.

The U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals in Fort Worth heard the case of **Life Tabernacle & Pastor Tony Spell v. Gov. John Bel Edwards** in September. In an unusual opinion issued in last month, the court held that Life Tabernacle was almost certain to win its case if it had

argued that under the First Amendment it was treated more harshly than businesses. For example, since Wal-Mart was allowed to stay open, then the church should have been allowed to stay open, the judge said. However, the church purposefully refused to make that argument. The result of that argument would be that if the state closes Wal-Mart, then it would be all right for the state to close the church. Rev. Spell said that is not the meaning of the First Amendment, and he could never agree to that concept.

Instead, the pastor argued the church has the absolute right under natural law and the First Amendment to open its doors and conduct worship services, and the state has no jurisdiction to close the church.

In a letter to supporters, Rev. Tony Spell wrote the following:

“After waiting for 135 days, the

U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals has finally rendered a decision in the case of **Life Tabernacle & Pastor Tony Spell v. Gov. John Bel Edwards**! As you know, we won the criminal case against us in state court. This case in Federal court is our civil case against the Governor to hold him personally financially accountable for the damage he did to our Freedom of Assembly as a church, as members of the congregation, and as pastor.”

“However, last Friday, the 5th Circuit ruled against us by a vote of 3-0. At first blush, that appears a setback, but that is far from true! It is exactly what we wanted! It sets up Life Tabernacle to go directly to the U.S. Supreme Court to decide one of the most important cases in history!”

“There were two arguments we could have made in this case. The

first argument comes from the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution — the “equal protection” clause — which basically says, if you let Wal-

See REV. SPELL on Page 17

Republican Party Of EBR Endorses Landry for LA Gov.

Continued from Page 2

out against these blatant violations of the U.S. Constitution and the Louisiana Constitution, but he sprung into action. He went into court, filing numerous suits and friend of the court briefs to fight violations of the First Amendment, Freedom of Religion, Freedom of Assembly, the Right to Property, and the Right to Privacy. Moreover, many of those suits have been successful, ending vaccine mandates not only in Louisiana but nationwide. In fact, he has successfully sued the federal government for violating the Constitution more than any Attorney General in the United States.”

“As Attorney General, he has continued fighting crime. He created the Louisiana Bureau of Investigation to carry the fight against crime to a higher level and the Louisiana Solicitor General’s office to handle major litigation in cases that impact Louisiana as they make their way to the U. S. Supreme Court.”

“We are very impressed by Jeff Landry’s opposition to Shawn Wilson’s bizarre \$1.6 billion plan for Interstate 10 in Baton Rouge. This \$1.6 billion plan would tear down I-10 from the bridge to the I-12 split, take 16 years, and reduce traffic on the Interstate to one or two lanes for years. This would virtually destroy the Baton Rouge economy. We favor a reasonable plan for \$100 million that would simply add one lane on each side of the Interstate, while keeping our economy running.”

“As President of the National Association of Attorneys General, Jeff Landry has been a strong and influential leader. He has used those outstanding connections to form alliances with attorneys general from other states in his suits against the overreach of the federal government.”

“Jeff Landry has the conservative philosophy, the character, and the courage to help Louisiana fulfill its potential, creating a prosperous, safe, moral, and compassionate place to live, work, and raise a family.”

“Republican Parish Executive Committee members interviewed Jeff Landry for 90 minutes and were very favorably impressed by his grasp of the important issues facing the state and his vision for the future. He fully responded to the party’s questionnaire with answers that showed his commitment to conservative principles.”

“The Republican Party believes Jeff Landry is the best candidate for Governor and one of the finest candidates for any office we have seen in years, and we fully support him,” Jenkins said. “We will be campaigning for him at the grassroots level in East Baton Rouge Parish and do everything in our power to help him be elected.”

For information, contact Parish Republican chairman Woody Jenkins at woodyjenkins2020@hotmail.com.

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Rev. Spell on Going to Supreme Court

Continued from Page 16

Mart and abortion clinics stay open during a pandemic, you can't close down a church. The equal protection clause guarantees that people in similar situations are treated the same. It would have been appealing for Life Tabernacle to use that argument in this case, but it would have been a huge mistake!"

"The second argument — which is the far more powerful argument — comes from natural law and the First Amendment, which says, 'Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.'"

"In our briefs and in our oral argument, Life Tabernacle deliberately avoided making the 'equal protection' argument. Why? It was clearly a 'winning' argument in the sense that the court would have ruled in our favor! The reason we didn't use that argument is simple: If our argument is 'equal protection,' we are saying that if you close Wal-Mart, you can close the church! We will never agree to that!"

"Tying our right to hold worship services to how commercial businesses are treated is like saying the First Amendment does not exist. Either the First Amendment gives greater protection to churches, or it is of no value at all! Properly understood, the First Amendment guarantees that the church cannot be

closed, even if you close Wal-Mart."

"In his oral argument before the 5th Circuit, our senior counsel, former Alabama Chief Justice Roy Moore, specifically told the court that we are waiving our claims under equal protection and are making our case strictly on the First Amendment. During that argument, those of us in the courtroom could tell that the judges of the 5th Circuit were visibly shaken! They could not believe we were engaging in such folly! To give up an argument that would clearly give us a decision and likely a large sum of money was beyond their understanding. In their opinion issued Friday, two of the judges made special reference to this! Circuit Judge Andrew Oldham said, 'Had Pastor Spell's counsel not affirmatively waived the *Lukumi* argument, his victory was all but assured... But, oddly, Pastor Spell's counsel insisted on taking a loss.'"

"Judge Elrod said during the hearing, Are you going to pass on the win? If the case law is that there is no impregnable barrier between church and state, but the law instead is that you can't treat religious entities different than other entities, if that is the law in the United States, are you saying that you don't wish to argue that? Even if you could argue that and prevail. Even if we could give you millions of dollars, you're saying you would forfeit it?"

"Our counsel, Judge Roy Moore, responded that it would not be a win! The judges on the 5th Circuit Court of Appeals are truly brilliant attorneys, and I don't want to take

anything away from them. However, we believe that we have solid grounds for the United States Supreme Court to take up this case and reverse their decision. Let me explain why."

"Judge Elrod is wrong. On Feb. 10, 1947, Justice Hugo Black's majority opinion in *Everson v. Board of Education* said, 'The First Amendment has erected a wall between church and state. That wall must be kept high and impregnable.' The case law is clear. There is still that wall of separation, and the government has no jurisdiction over assembly by a church."

"This is a pure case of Freedom of Assembly. Think about the facts of the case. The Governor issued an order saying that church services had to be limited to 10 people — regardless of the size of building! As District Judge Fred Crifasi, who handled the case in its early stages, said, 'You could be in the Superdome, and the limit would still be 10 people!'"

"The Superdome covers 3.6 acres. There are 166,000 square feet under roof. That's 16,000 square feet per person in a church service there! That shows the Governor's order had absolutely nothing to do with public health and safety. To have 10 people meet in a closet is very different from 10 people meeting in the Superdome. The Governor's order was about controlling our citizens and specifically about controlling the church. **He made the church a special class he called 'non-essential.'** He showed

that he was in charge and could order anything he wanted and force compliance — even to the point of violating Freedom of Religion and Freedom of Assembly! That's not the rule of law but of man!"

"The Governor's orders were similar to those of the Chinese Communist Party when it announced a ban on gatherings of 15 or more people in House Churches in China. Those orders had nothing to do with health or safety — only an attempt to place churches under the control of the Communist state."

"Gov. John Bel Edwards himself made our case. Because his decrees did not have anything to do with health and safety, they clearly present to the court the issue of whether his mere whim can allow him to violate Freedom of Assembly. We submit that Freedom of Assembly is outside the jurisdiction of the state or federal governments — especially given the facts of our case!"

"So our attorney will seek writs from the United States Supreme Court, and we pray that the court will see fit to consider our petition. Please pray for their intervention in this important case!"

"Meanwhile, please remember that Revolution: America's Youth Conference is June 28-July 2. Please make reservations at ltcbr.com and remember this: Conference registration is free. However, if you register by June 1, you will have lunch free for Thursday, Friday and Saturday. We love you and appreciate you! Please continue to support the mission of Life Tabernacle."



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A pet washing station and amenities are also planned.

WHAT: The new store will serve as a one-stop shop for farmers, livestock and pet owners, ranchers, hobby farmers, gardeners, homeowners, tradesmen and others.

Pet owners can use a convenient pet wash station with access to professional grade wash bays, grooming tables, tools and more.

The store's Garden Center will carry top brands including Scotts Miracle-Gro and Bonnie Plants. It will feature an expanded assortment of annuals, perennials, shrubs, decorative accent plants, fruit trees, vegetables and herbs. The Garden Center will also offer a full range of lawn and garden supplies including pots, planters, fertilizer, soil, and gardening hand tools.

The new store will be hiring new team members with firsthand experience in the Out Here Lifestyle and legendary customer service. Anyone interested in applying for a position can visit TractorSupply.com/careers.

WHY: At Central Tractor Supply, customers will be able to shop for a wide range of products at everyday low prices including zero turns and riding mowers, equine supplies, power tools, workwear and boots, pet food and supplies, fencing, welding and more.

WHERE: The Central store will be located in the Central shopping Center at the corner of Hooper and Sullivan roads.

CONTACT: Baylie Bodiford at baylie.bodiford@finnpartners.com or 615-708-2228. To learn more about Tractor Supply Company, visit TractorSupply.com.





About Tractor Supply Company

Tractor Supply Company (NASDAQ: TSCO) is the largest rural lifestyle retailer in the United States. For more than 80 years, Tractor Supply has been passionate about serving its unique niche, targeting the needs of recreational farmers, ranchers and all those who enjoy living the rural lifestyle. Tractor Supply offers an extensive mix of products necessary to care for home, land, pets and animals with a focus on product localization, exclusive brands, and legendary customer service for the Out Here lifestyle. With nearly 48,000 team members, the company's physical store assets, combined with its digital capabilities, offer customers the convenience of purchasing products they need anytime, anywhere and any way they choose at the everyday low prices they deserve. As of June 25, 2022, the company operated 2,016 Tractor Supply stores in 49 states, a consumer mobile app and an e-commerce website at www.TractorSupply.com.

Tractor Supply Company also owns and operates Petsense, a small-box pet specialty supply retailer focused on meeting the needs of pet owners, primarily in small and mid-size communities, and offering a variety of pet products and services. At June 25, 2022, the Company operated 178 Petsense stores in 23 states. For more information on Petsense, visit www.Petsense.com.

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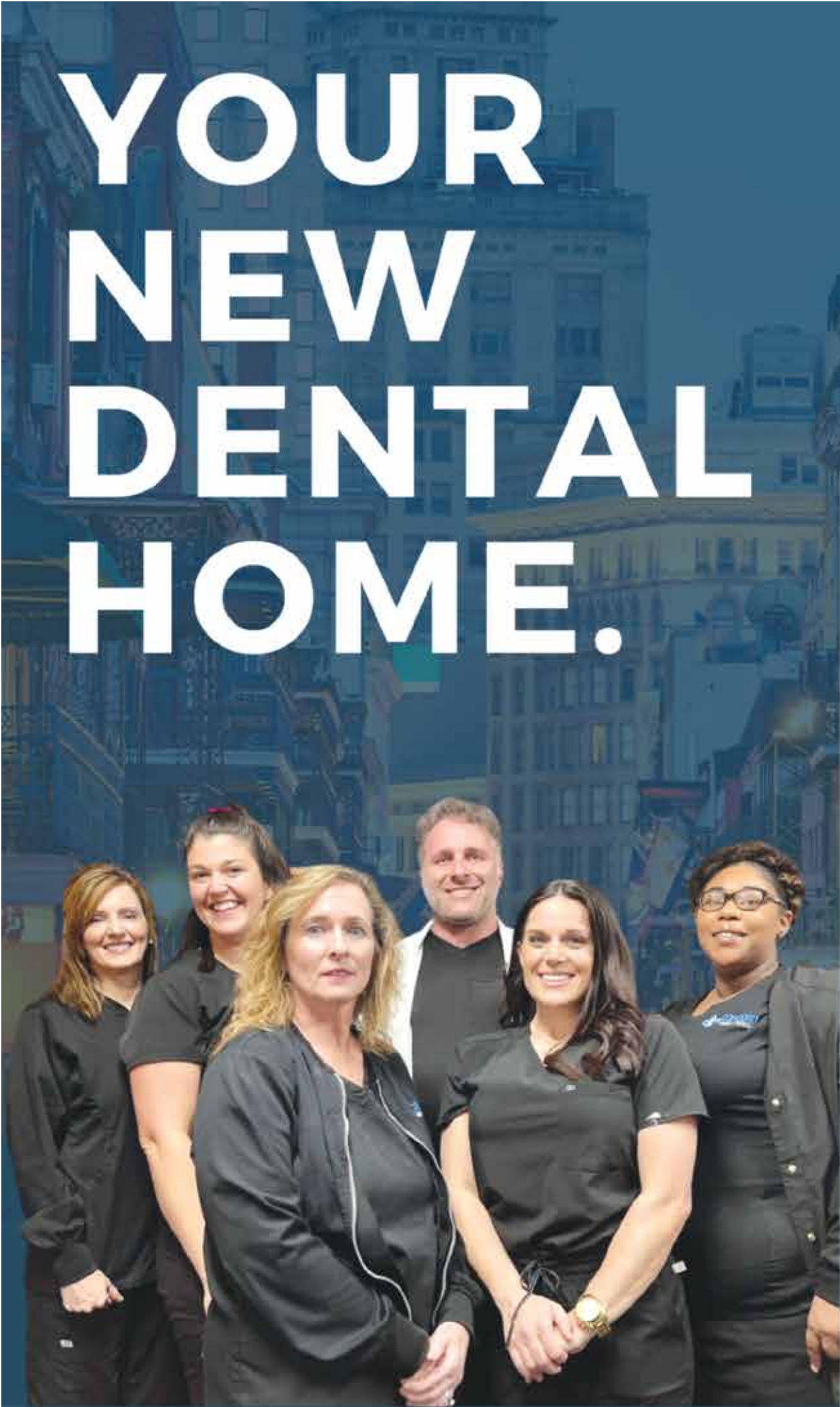
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