



Woody Jenkins Elected
President, Convention of States
at Colonial Williamsburg

See Pages 10, 38

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How Could Quality of Health Care Be Maintained?

Policyholders Question Sale Of Blue Cross to For-Profit

Questions to Answer
On Proposed Sale
Of Blue Cross to
For-Profit Company

Woody Jenkins
Editor

BATON ROUGE — Insurance executive Derek Babcock testified last week before the Joint Legislative Committee on Insurance on the proposed sale of Blue Cross to a for-profit corporation.

Babcock did not state a position on the sale but said policyholders should be asking questions like these:

- Why is the sale proceeding so rapidly?
- Is the \$3,000 payment to policyholders equitable?
- Is the payment being used as a distraction from the merits?
- How would the sale affect coverage and rates?
- Would payments be timely?
- How will provider networks be affected?
- How will change from non-profit to for-profit affect rates?
- What will be the effect on the Louisiana economy if the new owner lays off Louisiana workers?
- Will the new company work with agents?
- How would the foundation be managed?



PROS AND CONS OF SALE OF BLUE CROSS — Dr. Richard Atkins, a member of the board of a new foundation which would receive \$3.2 billion from the sale of Blue Cross, explains the plan, while Cecil Cavanaugh and Metro Councilman Jen Racca watch.

\$3 Billion to Go to Foundation Run by Four Board Members

BATON ROUGE — Four members of the Board of Directors of Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Louisiana have resigned their positions to serve as initial Board members for a new foundation called Accelerate Louisiana Initiative.

The new foundation would receive \$2.5 billion from the sale of Blue Cross to insurance company Elevance and \$770 million from the reserves of Blue Cross to fund

its work. Foundation acting chairman Tim Barfield said the funds will be used to address health inequalities across the state. "We plan a small set of focused initiatives," he said.

The foundation incorporated in Delaware last December as a 501(c)(4) corporation.

Barfield said the foundation will begin its work only if the sale goes through and provides the funding.

Opponents Say Rates
To Rise So Buyer Can
Recoup \$2.5 Billion,
Plus Make a Profit

Woody Jenkins
Editor

BATON ROUGE — The proposed \$2.5 billion sale of non-profit Blue Cross/Blue Shield to Elevance, an out-of-state, for-profit insurance giant, has been delayed by opposition from policyholders and legislators. The proposed transaction had smooth sailing until a letter announcing the sale was received by policyholders on August 15. Then "all hell broke loose"!

Blue Cross is a mutual company owned by the policyholders. It serves 1.9 million of Louisiana's 4.4 million citizens and generally gets high marks from its insured. Roughly 84 percent of its revenues are paid out for medical providers, hospitals, and pharmaceuticals.

Most opposition to the sale has centered on these facts:

• Policyholders, almost all of whom are residents of Louisiana, would lose control of the 90-year-old mutual company. In turn, control would be turned over to an out-of-state, for-profit company.

• Policyholders would receive less than 9 percent of the \$2.5 bil-

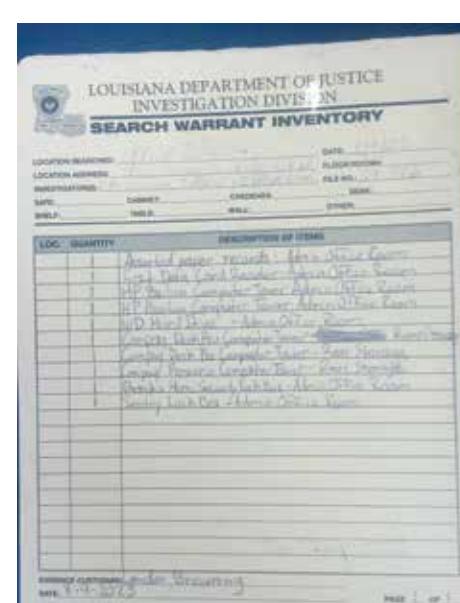
See OPPOSITION on Page 4

Attorney General Raids Abortion Clinic

Newspaper Story
Leads AG to Seize
Files, Computers
At Abortion Clinic

BATON ROUGE — An investigative report in the **Central City News** in July revealed that thousands of patient files and other personally identifiable medical records were abandoned at Delta Women's Clinic on Colonial Drive in Baton Rouge.

Now as a result of the reports, the Louisiana Attorney General's office has begun a criminal investigation and seized documents and computers at the scene of the infamous abortion clinic, where more



A SUBPOENA from the Attorney General signed by District Judge Louise Hines.

than 40,000 unborn children were killed from 2001 to 2022.

Richard Mahoney, the pro-life advocate who helped acquire the former abortion clinic, had asked that the Attorney General secure the area and take the records into custody.

The **Central City News** was the first news outlet given access to the abortion clinic after the building was purchased. The old owner of the clinic, Leroy Brinkley, had his staff move everything of monetary value out of the clinic, but left virtually everything else. This included medical records, tax records, and confidential information on the operation of an abortion clinic. Because it is an ongoing investigation, the Attorney General made no comment on what was found.

Rick Edmonds

State Senate

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► INVEST IN CRITICAL TRAFFIC AND INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

I WILL WORK HARD TO SECURE MILLIONS OF DOLLARS FOR LOCAL PROJECTS.



ENDORSEMENTS



Demutualization of Blue Cross of LA Raises Serious Questions of Fairness

Blue Cross Sale Actuarial Review Provided to State Dept. of Insurance

BATON ROUGE — Hause Actuarial Solutions provided the following analysis of the proposed sale of Blue Cross to Elevance and the transfer of Blue Cross funds to a new foundation.

Executive Summary

- The \$2.5 billion valuation of the company as derived in the Cain Brothers' opinion appears to be within a reasonable range of values.

- The proposed plan of the sponsored demutualization does not conform with general practices in a sponsored demutualization; however, several similar demutualizations funded foundations.

- The allocation of ownership of the demutualization to eligible members does not consider the actuarial contributions of eligible policies; and unlike most sponsored demutualizations, it does not allocate the net proceeds of the sale of the company to the owners of the organized for-profit stock company.

- The plan of reorganization does not address or compensate eligible policyholders for the future profits expected to be generated



METRO COUNCIL MEMBER JEN RACCA (second from left) raised questions about the proposed sale of Blue Cross to a for-profit mega insurance company, Elevance at the Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge Parish meeting last week. Shown with her were (left to right) Brian Kelly of Blue Cross, Racca, Brent McCoy, and Dr. Richard Atkins, both members of the Blue Cross board of directors who resigned to be members of a new foundation they hope will receive \$3.2 billion from the sale of Blue Cross.

for the benefits of stockholders of Elevance instead of providing reduced premiums for members.

- The plan of reorganization does not recognize that the purpose of a mutual insurer's surplus is to provide security for paying future claims which may be higher than expected, or to reduce future premiums of members' policies.

- The opinion provided by Chaffee & Associates, a qualified investment banker, meets the technical requirements of La. R.S. 22:236.3.A.(2); however, it does not, in my opinion, satisfy the requirement of La. R.S. 22:236.3.A.(1) which states, "In effecting a conversion of a reorganizing mutual, each eligible member shall be entitled to consideration in an amount equal

to his or its equitable share of the value of the reorganizing mutual as provided in the plan or reorganization. "The value of the reorganizing mutual was established as \$2.5 billion after its surplus is reduced by approximately \$600 million, but the total consideration to eligible members is approximately \$307 million.

- The actuarial opinion provided by Brian M. Callender, FSA MAAA, a consulting actuary with Deloitte Consulting LLP (the "actuarial fairness opinion" or "opinion" in context), on the fairness of allocation of considerations meets the technical requirements of La. R.S. 22:236.3.B.(2); however, the opinion relies on several questionable assumptions provided by BCBSLA to the opining actuary. I

believe it accepts without due support that the total amount of the consideration is correct, it accepts without adequate justification there should be no variable component to the consideration, and it accepts without adequate justification that members' interests in BCBSLA are limited to their voting rights. Based on my reading and understanding of the Louisiana Demutualization statutes, the guidance provided by Actuarial Standard of Practice No. 37, the American Academy of Actuaries' Practice Note on Demutualization, and the historical execution of other sponsored demutualizations, in my opinion the three prescribed assumptions are unjustified and incorrect.

—Hause Actuarial Solutions, Inc.

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Opposition to Blue Cross Sale Boils Over

Continued from Page One

lion sale price of the company. More than 91 percent of the sale price of the company would be given to a foundation being formed by four members of the Blue Cross board of directors. Policyholders would have no control over that board.

• Policyholders would also lose their rights to more than \$900 million in reserves of the company, much of which would also be turned over to the new foundation.

• Blue Cross has said the sale will result in thinning down expenses of the company but promised there will be no layoffs or rate

increases. However, the language in the mailing sent to policyholders says there will be no layoffs or rate increases "during the current contract year." The contract year ends Dec. 31.

• Blue Cross president/CEO Steven Udvarhelyi said he expects premiums paid by Blue Cross policyholders to increase by more than 8 percent next year, even without the sale of the business.

Shortly after the letter from Blue Cross arrived at the homes of policyholders, the Joint Legislative Committee on Insurance held a hearing on the proposal, which resulted in blistering criticism by some lawmakers.

Sen. Jeremy Stine (R-Lake Charles) said his office has been bombarded by constituents with questions about the sale. At the hearing, Sen. Stine said, "There's one thing I agree with that I've heard today. It was when the president of Blue Cross said there is no need to do this today!"

Attorney Gen. Jeff Landry also raised questions and called for a

delay in the approval process.

In the ensuing turmoil, State Insurance Commissioner Jim Donelon decided to delay a hearing he had set on the matter for August 21-22 to Oct. 5-6. Meanwhile, Blue Cross had already mailed out ballots to more than 90,000 policyholders with voting rights, asking them to send their proxies to the management team at Blue Cross.

Before the company could be converted from a non-profit mutual insurance firm to a for-profit stock corporation, two-thirds of Blue Cross policyholders would have to vote to approve the deal.

Meanwhile, in its mailing to policyholders, Blue Cross failed to provide policyholders with a fair description of the reasons to vote against the sale.

In addition, as the company attempted to secure votes in favor of the proposed sale, it used automated calls to policyholders which encouraged the policyholders to vote by punching Yes on their phone. However, this system provided even less information to policyholders and provided no safeguards to guarantee the sanctity of the votes cast.

Those votes have now been thrown out by Commissioner Donelon, and future voting has been delayed until Donelon holds a hearing on the proposal.

At a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge Parish last week, Blue Cross spokesman Brian Keller said the sale was necessary in order to plan for the company's future but in fact the company has revealed no such plan, other than selling out to insurance giant Elevance, formerly Anthem, which has 47 million policyholders.

In testimony before the Joint Legislative Committee on Insurance, New Orleans attorney Henry Kinney called the Blue Cross proposal "dishonorable" and "a usurpation of the rights of policyholders."

Kinney said, "The board of Blue Cross is selling the assets that belong to the policyholders and offering to pay them \$3,000 when they are worth over \$30,000 per policyholder. Then they want to turn around and give that money to a self-appointed, self-perpetuating board of a new foundation. It was never their money to give! It belongs to the policyholders."

"What information have they given us that this will benefit the policyholders? The ones promoting this sale are the members of the Board of Blue Cross, each of whom will get \$1.05 million or more over the next 10 years under the terms of the deal," Kinney said. "The chairman of the Board will get a minimum of \$1.3 million over 10 years. How can these individuals render a neutral opinion about this sale? Yet, that's who's telling us this deal is good."

Kinney said, "As far as giving \$3.2 billion to four members of the Blue Cross board to form this new foundation, you will be making them some of the most powerful people in Louisiana."

The public may testify at the hearing of the Commissioner of Insurance on Oct. 4-5 or file statements. If the Commissioner approves the sale, another vote of policyholders will be held. If two-thirds of the policyholders vote yes, the proposal will go back to the Commissioner for a second set of hearings.

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Sale Would Grab \$3,200,000,000 and Hollow Out Blue Cross

Proposed Sale of Blue Cross Deserves A ‘No’ Vote from Policy Holders in LA

It's a Money Grab Of Colossal Size, The Dream of Vast Wealth for People Who Didn't Earn It

Woody Jenkins
Editor

BATON ROUGE — It is marvelous to listen to the four who resigned their \$105,000-a-year seats on the Board of Directors of Blue Cross talk about the future. If they have their way, they will soon control \$3,200,000,000 that rightly belongs to the policyholders of Blue Cross.

Ahhh, the dreams they have!

Earlier this year, the Board of Blue Cross decided to sell the 90-year-old mutual insurance company owned by people across Louisiana. They learned that Elevance, a mega insurance company with 47 million policyholders, would pay them \$2.5 billion for Blue Cross.

But how would that serve the 1.9 million policyholders of Blue Cross in Louisiana? Well, it really wouldn't, but think of all the money that would be generated!

\$2.5 billion is indeed a lot of money. Plus Blue Cross has about \$1.8 billion in reserve. That's over \$4.3 billion altogether! 4,300 millions!

Of course, Blue Cross is doing a good job and doing well financially. So why sell? Well, actually, there's no reason... except one! Money.

So, as part of this ingenious plan, the proceeds of the sale, \$2.5 billion and about \$700 million from Blue Cross reserves — \$3.2 billion — would be given to a new foundation called Accelerate Louisiana Initiative.

That makes sense, right? Don't give the money from the sale to the owners of the mutual insurance company! No, set up a new foundation that we brilliant minds control, and give the \$3.2 billion to us!

It was incorporated in the State of Delaware last December. The officers and basic documents are not available online, but will certainly

include the four Blue Cross board members who resigned their seats on the board.

Think of it! If you are on the board of a non-profit, mutual company owned by policyholders, you have a fiduciary responsibility to make decisions in their interests — not your own! You're not there to take control of their money or feather your nest. Your job is exactly the opposite — to make sure that doesn't happen!

The chairman of the new foundation is an otherwise good man who seems to have been mesmerized by this idea. Another member of the board of the new foundation gushes that the new foundation, which by the way has never raised a penny or administered anything — a foundation with no track record or experience — is ready for the job! In fact, they've travelled to Washington, one of the four bragged, and met with Mitch Landrieu, with Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack, and with Elizabeth Cousens of the UN Foundation! They all agree this new Louisiana foundation, which will be one of the 25 largest foundations in the United States, is a marvelous idea.

Of course, he admits, "The foundation is an empty shell right now, as it has no money unless the sale occurs." Nevertheless, "The mission of the foundation is to improve the health and lives of Louisiana!" A grand idea indeed!

This board assures us that the way to do that is to populate the board of the new foundation with

"every race, gender, and geography." Of course, those are the things that make a board great.

The chairman of the new foundation says the foundation will aim its work at addressing "Health inequalities across the state"!

So the problem is not poor health but making sure there are no "inequalities" in health across the state. Actually, if you look at the "mission" of Healthy Blue, the joint venture between Blue Cross and Elevance, you will see that it is "diversity, equity, and inclusion." I think I see where this is going.

As New Orleans attorney Henry Kinney told the Joint Legislative Committee on Insurance, "The Board is selling assets that belong to the policyholders. They have no expertise. Yet, they will be doling out hundreds of millions or even billions of dollars as they see fit. Blue Cross is not the Community Chest, designed to be a welfare agency. It is to provide for the health care of the members."

The Board members of the new foundation have no salary at present, presumably because the foundation has no money. But what will happen if they do have the money? The Board members talk about hiring consultants for everything including finding new Board members. Surely they will have to do a nationwide survey on what Board members and the president of the foundation should be paid.

We're talking about a foundation of colossal size — four times larger than the Baton Rouge Area

Foundation. Surely the president/CEO will earn in the \$400,000 to \$500,000 range if not more. And Board members? Well, we know the pay of Blue Cross Board members is \$105,000.

The four members of the new foundation's board have complained that they had to beg people to serve on the board of the new foundation!

Really? The ability to hand out hundreds of millions of dollars every year makes a person very popular. Power like that tends to ripple through every aspect of one's life.

So why all the discussion of the foundation?

It's very simple. The sale of Blue Cross would not be happening but for the foundation.

Just ask any of the Board members if they would support the sale if the proceeds were going to the actual owners of Blue Cross, instead of being placed in the hands of the four Board members of the new foundation. You will be met with derision.

The foundation is the reason for the sale!

So here we are — policyholders of Blue Cross — watching all of this play out. If you are happy with your coverage with Blue Cross, your best bet is to vote No!

Keep Blue Cross a Louisiana company answerable to the policyholders.

Keep the company strong and keep it here! That's the best way to make sure our health insurance is reliable and affordable.

And I have to say there's something else. I'm deeply concerned about how health care can be used to control us. We saw that during Covid. Our best chance to make sure health care is not used as a stick against us is to keep it here as a mutual insurance company.

JEFF CROUERE

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Voters in East Baton Rouge Parish and Statewide Go to Polls

Qualifying for October 14 Election



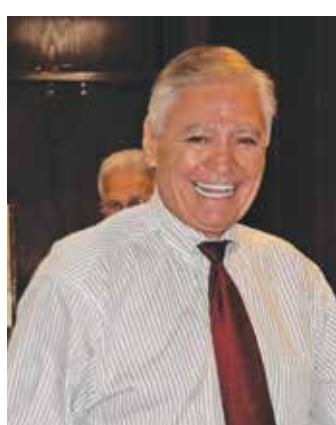
EAST BATON ROUGE ASSESSOR BRIAN WILSON (left) qualified for re-election and was unopposed. Dr. Beau Clark (center) with his wife Vanessa, Fred Sliman and Clerk of Court Doug Welborn. Qualifying again was Sheriff Sid Gautreaux (right) with his wife Suzi and Doug Welborn.



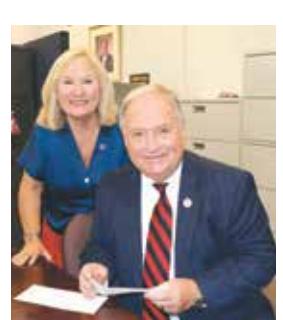
SEN. CLEO FIELDS (left) of Senate District 14 was unopposed. Jeffry Sanford (left/center) with his wife and Clerk of Court Doug Welborn. Richie Edmonds (right/center) candidate for House of Representatives, Dist. 66, with his children Sullivan, Ramsey and Stella and his father Rep. Rick Edmonds, candidate for Senate District 6 and his mother Cindy, with Clerk of Court Doug Welborn. Brandon Ivey (right) qualified to run in House District 65. He held in his hands two sets of qualification packets because he also qualified his identical twin brother Rep. Barry Ivey to run for Senate District 6. If elected, Brandon Ivey would replace his brother in the House.



STEVE WHITLOW (left) candidate for House District 65 with his wife Sharon, daughter Sarah, and his sons Sam and Jackson. Jamie Pope (left/center) with her daughter Adi, qualified to run for State Representative in District 65. Also running for House District 65 was Lauren Ventrella (right/center) with her husband Adam Brister shown with Doug Welborn holding their daughter Vivian Rae. Metro Councilman Aaron Moak (right) with Clerk of Court Doug Welborn also threw his hat in the ring for House District 65.



SEN. REGINA BARROW (left) was unopposed in District 15. Candidate for Family Court Judge Kyle Russ with his wife Lindsey and their two children. Family Court Judge candidate Laurie Nelson Marien (center) with her husband Jason. Clerk of Court Doug Welborn (right/center) qualified for re-election. Sen. Franklin Foil (right) was unopposed in District 16.



SHERIFF SID GAUTREAUX (left) with young admirers. Clerk of Court Doug Welborn with Sclynski "Lyn" Legier, candidate for 19th JDC. Doug Welborn's office full of memorabilia. Daniel Banguel (right/center) who qualified for House District 62, is shown with ReAzalia Allen, candidate for District Judge. Rep. Rick Edmonds and his wife Cindy as he qualifies for Senate District 6. Rick has served in the Louisiana House for the past eight years, representing South Baton Rouge. He is seeking to replace Sen. Bodi White.

My Plan for Representing You

For too long, elected officials have made promises during election season and then failed to keep them. Instead, they often pass laws that actually impose **greater burdens** on residents and make it **more difficult** for us to be successful in our business and personal lives. My plan is simple: Prioritize our efforts on issues that are most impactful to our Citizens and our District: Public Safety, Flood Prevention, Road Repair, Economic Development, Education, and Health Care. At the same time, we must limit government's intrusive involvement in other areas of our lives.

I will not make grand promises in this campaign. But I will assure you of this: I am committed to bringing your voice to the halls of the State Legislature. For the past year, I have been meeting with the residents and business leaders of District 65, attending local council meetings, and discussing the issues that are most important to you. I commit to sponsor bills which reflect **local priorities** and will **solve local problems**.

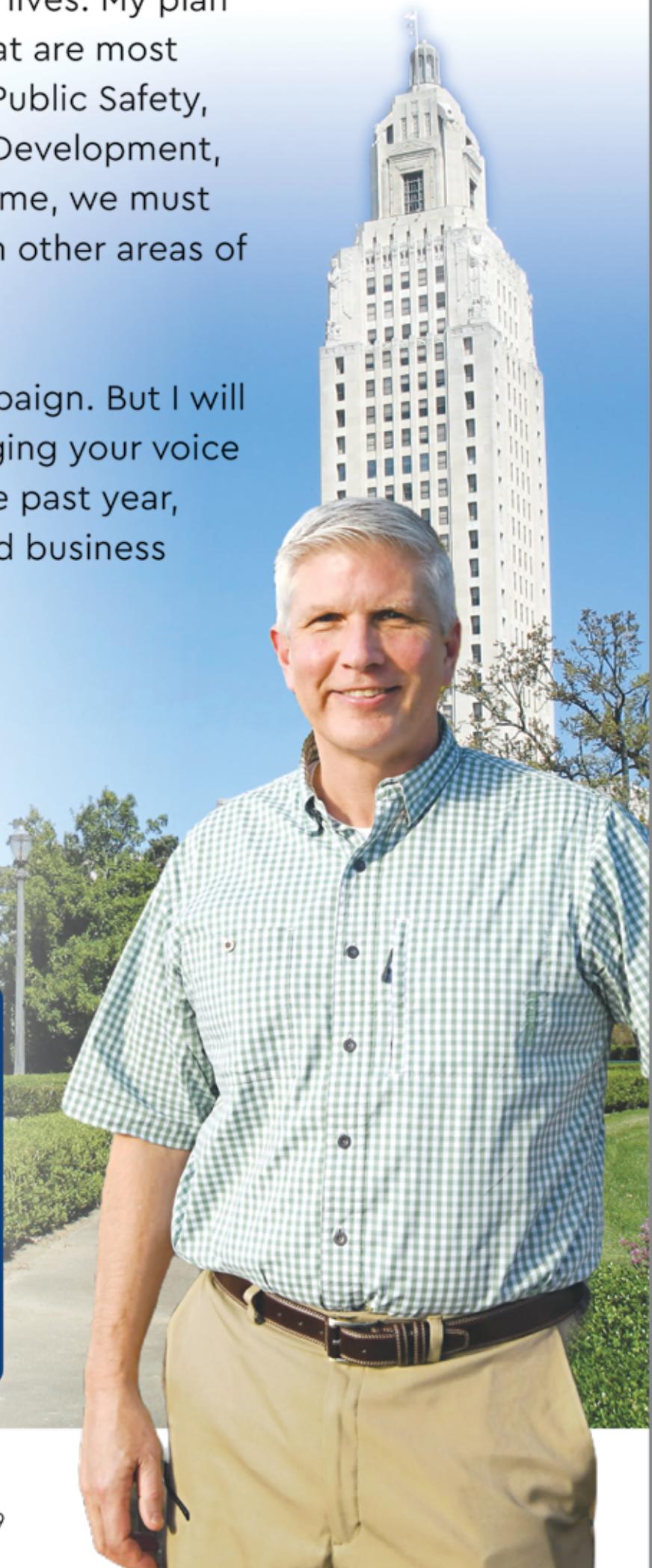


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Your Voice Heard - **TWICE!**

USE AND BARRY IVEY IN THE STATE SENATE

Special Interest and Swamp Management will have Politics and Policies that are keeping Louisiana down in ~~re~~ destroying opportunities for our children!



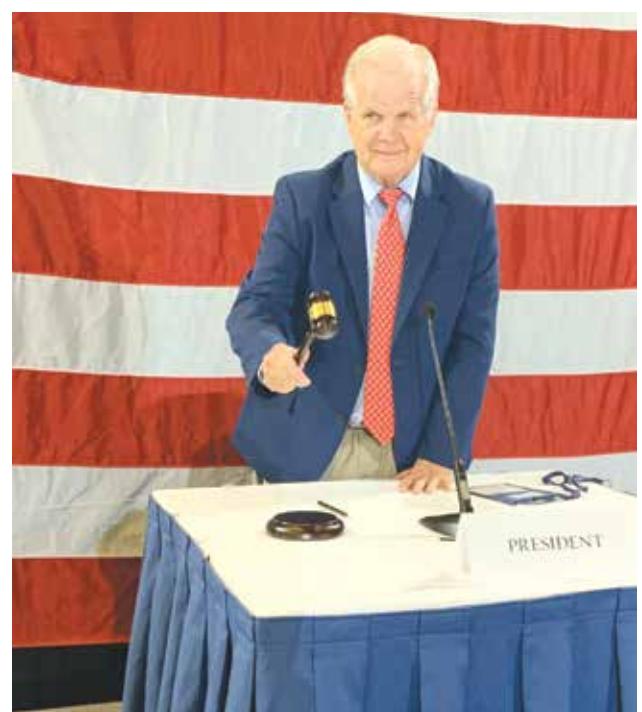
Having served as your State Representative, Barry Ivey has built a reputation as one of the strongest voices against Deep Pocket Special Interests, Establishment Politics, and an apathetic legislature, particularly when THEIR interests don't align with YOUR interests. Barry even called them "the laziest group of people I've ever worked with" in a chamber speech. Barry knows we must overcome our FAILED status-quo and focus on POLICY to truly transform Louisiana. Like you, Barry is tired of Louisiana continuing to fail our children and grandchildren by robbing them of hope and opportunity. Barry will continue fighting the Louisiana Political Establishment and continue working to build a heritage of blessings for our children and grandchildren through POLICIES that generate HOPE and produce OPPORTUNITIES here at home!

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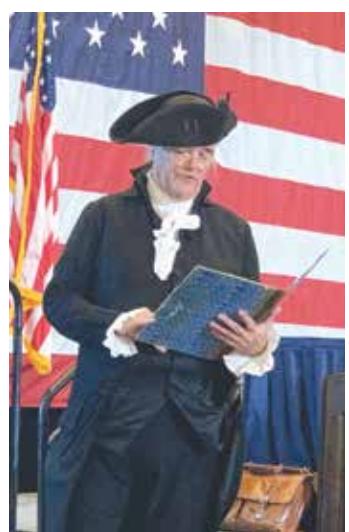
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& SECURE ELECTIONS | SOUND THE SAME ON THE PHONE | OBVIOUSLY LOOK THE SAME

Former Rep. Woody Jenkins Elected President in Williamsburg, VA

Article V Simulated Convention of States



CONVENTION OF STATES 2023 — Delegates from 49 of the 50 states gathered in Colonial Williamsburg, Virginia, for a simulated Convention of States, a trial run at an actual Convention of States sometime in the near future. The delegates were almost all sitting state senators and representatives, along with a few former legislators. One of them, former Rep. Woody Jenkins of Baton Rouge was elected President of the Convention of States. He presided over the two-day session where delegates approved six constitutional amendments. A total of 19 of the required 34 states have passed resolutions necessary to activate calling of a convention.



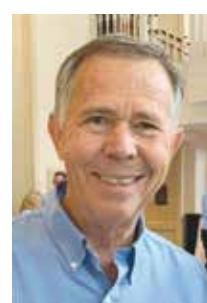
PATRICK HENRY REENACTED HIS FAMOUS “GIVE ME LIBERTY OR GIVE ME DEATH” SPEECH to the delegates. Shown at center are Convention of States senior vice president Rita Peters; Convention of States 2023 president former Rep. Woody Jenkins; former Sen. Rick Santorum, and Arkansas Sen. Jason Rapert, convention vice president. At right, members of National Conference of Christian Lawmakers with their president, Sen. Jason Rapert (fifth from left)



Kelly Quinn (NV)



Sen. Vicki Marble (CO)



Sen. Kevin Lundberg (CO)



Rep. Steven Johnson (MI)



Rep. Tim Ginter (OH)



Rep. Donna Rozar (WI)



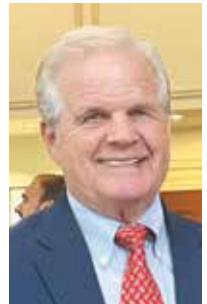
Rep. Jaime Greene (MI)



Rep. Dennis Ross (FL)



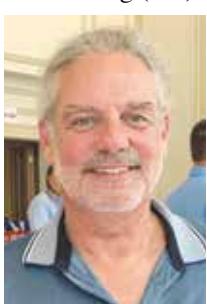
Rep. Geoffrey Diehl (MA)



Rep. Woody Jenkins (LA)



Sen. Andrew Mathews (MN)



Sen. Cal Bahr (MN)



Gary Porter (VA)



James McMahon (MA)



Sen. Tom McGillvray (MT)



Sen. Cris Dush (PA)



Rep. John Wills (IO)



Rep. Randall Harrington (ME)



Convention of State 2023 before opening session



Sen. Jason Rapert (AR)



Sen. Shelley Hughes (AK)



Rep. Christy Stutzman (IN)



Continental soldiers



Convention of States

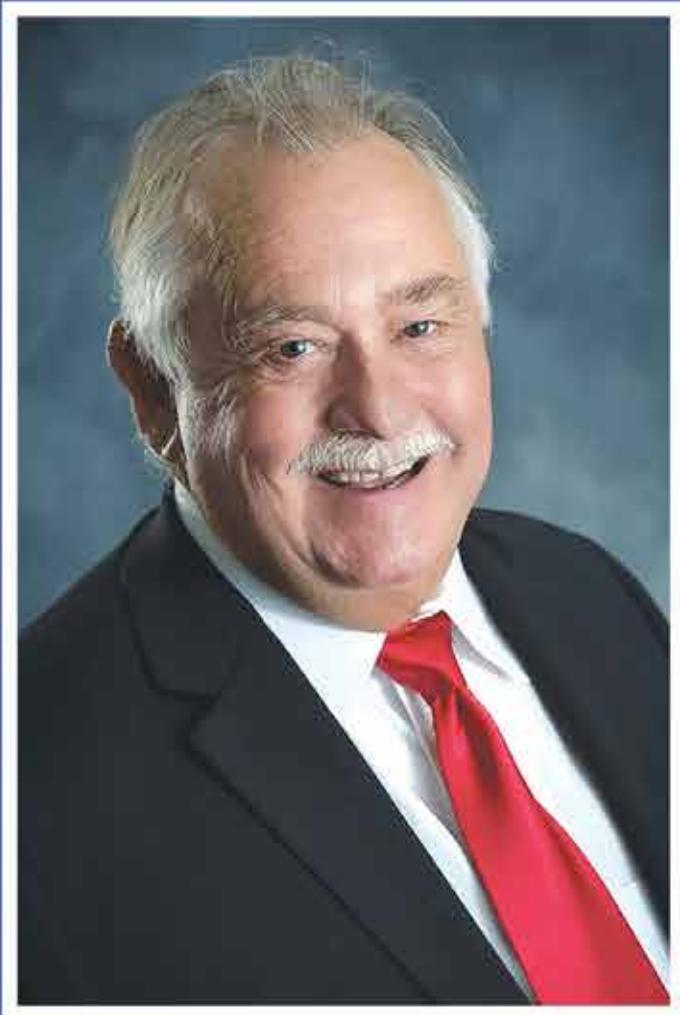


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Election
Oct. 14

Secretary of State



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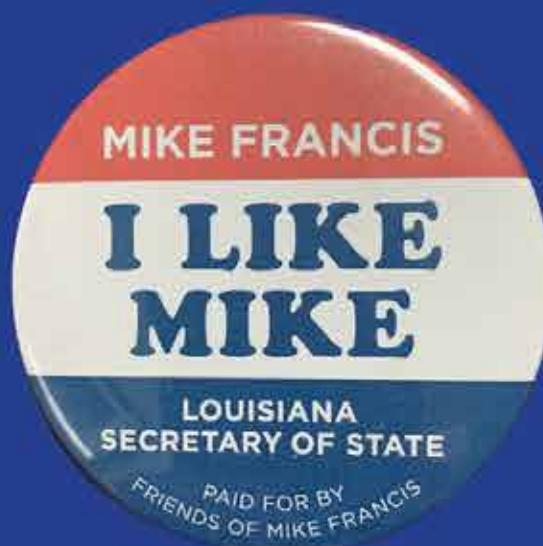
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Email MikeGFrancis@yahoo.com

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Dr. Rick Rigsby, Author “Lessons from a Third Grade Dropout

Central School System Convocation



CENTRAL HIGH TALENTED THEATRE PROGRAM performed their popular Newsies number at the Central Community School System's annual convocation.



FEATURED SPEAKER DR. RICK RIGSBY — A renowned motivational speaker and author of *Lessons From a Third Grade Dropout*, Dr. Rick Rigsby touched those gathered for the convocation with his humor and heartwarming testimony of getting back to the basics. Learn more about Dr. Rigsby at rickrigsby.com. J'Nyla Foster (right/center), a senior at Central High School, welcomed everyone to this year's convocation.



CENTRAL COMMUNITY SCHOOL SYSTEM TEACHERS (left) during the Pledge of Allegiance. Dr. Rick Rigsby with Alice Frank and Deanna Johnson, kindergarten teachers at Bellingrath Hills Elementary. Central Community School Board members Jason Leaphart (District 1), Carol Norwood (District 7), Mike Davis (District 5), Nick Carmena (District 4), board president Roxanne Atkinson (District 2) and Dr. G. David Walker (District 3).



CENTRAL SCHOOLS SUPT. JASON FOUNTAIN (left/center) gives his message to the crowd and reveals the LEAP results. Mayor Wade Evans (right/center) was called up to the stage with Dr. Rigsby. Antonio Warner (right), a junior at Central High School, introduces the guest speaker.

Central School System Convocation • August 7, 2023
Greenwell Springs Baptist Church

Photos by Jolice Provost for the Central City News
Dr. Rigsby's Viral Video "3rd Grade Dropout to Ultra Successful"



JOHN
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East Baton Rouge Parish • St. Charles Parish
Lafourche Parish

Central Ranks #1 in Key Measures Earns #2 Rank Overall Statewide

CENTRAL — Central Community Schools consistently earned the state's top scores in various academic categories of the spring 2023 LEAP assessment, growing the district to #2 overall in the state, according to a report released this week by the Louisiana Department of Education.

The results are based on the percentage of students who scored Mastery and Advanced in the categories of English/Language Arts (ELA), math, science, and social studies for grades 3-8 and high school. The state reports student scores on five levels: Unsatisfactory, Approaching Basic, Basic, Mastery or Advanced. Students scoring Mastery or higher are considered proficient.

Fifty percent (50%) of all students in Central schools who took the 2023 LEAP assessment scored Mastery or Advanced, qualifying as the state's second-best academic performance. The district's performance far outpaces the state's average for 33 percent of students scoring Mastery or Advanced.

In addition to the overall combined scores, Central schools outperformed the state on each of the LEAP tests. Central schools ranked #1 in math with 52 percent Mastery and above; and ranked #2 in science with 48 percent, #3 in ELA with 57 percent in ELA and #4 in social studies with 40 percent.



A breakdown of subgroup results shows Central's students earned the state's top ranking in several academic measurements that reflect significant achievements and were incorporated into the overall score.

Those areas where Central ranked #1 include: the overall percentage of students scoring Mastery and Advanced in grades 3-8; the overall percentage of students in all grades scoring Mastery and Advanced in the subject of math; the percentage of economically disadvantaged students scoring Mastery and Advanced; the percentage of students with

disabilities scoring Mastery and Advanced; the percentage of 5th graders who earned Mastery and Advanced in all four subject areas; the percentage of 7th graders who earned Mastery and Advanced in ELA and math; the percentage of 4th graders who scored at the highest levels in science, and the percentage of 3rd graders who did so in science and social studies.

"We are very proud of the high academic performance shown across our district. These scores reflect the hard work and dedication of our students, parents, teachers, and staff, as well as the unwavering support of the Central commu-

nity," Supt. Jason Fountain said.

"We want to celebrate this accomplishment, but as we begin a new school year, we remain committed to helping all our students attain Mastery," he said.

To download all LEAP data for Central Community Schools, visit <https://louisianabelieves.com/resources/library/elementary-and-middle-school-performance>.

For more information about Central Community Schools, visit www.centralcss.org.



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A governor who will fight for you.

The people of Louisiana deserve results, not more party fights.

Tired of partisan politics that don't get education improved, or crime reduced, or teachers, police, and firefighters being paid what they're worth?

Hunter's with you.

Hunter is running as an independent.

As governor, he'll fight for you. For Louisiana. Not for a political party or for special interests.

Louisiana needs:

- Strong local schools.
- Teachers who are better paid. We rank 35th in the nation for teacher pay, and that's a failing grade.
- To pay the people who keep us safe. We're 48th in police pay and dead last for firefighters.
- To break the cycle of poverty.

As an independent governor, Hunter will fight for a better Louisiana.

Hunter's plan will create the building blocks for

boosting economic opportunity and strengthening our business climate.

As Louisiana's next governor, Hunter will also:

- Eliminate the state income tax for people 65-plus who make under \$250,000.
- Encourage private investment and private-public partnerships to build economic opportunity statewide.

Hunter will fight for what's best for Louisiana and its hard-working people, guided by his Christian values and his lifelong work ethic.

Hunter will be an independent on your ballot — and your chance to fix things that the political parties haven't, and won't, and can't.

**Be part
of the movement.**



Hunter Lundy
GOVERNOR

LundyforLouisiana.com
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Doug Welborn has continued to provide the citizens of East Baton Rouge Parish the Clerk of Court's Office they deserve...

- ✓ Effective preservation and digital imaging of records dating back to the 1800's
- ✓ Fast and friendly service including marriage licenses, birth certificates, and passport assistance
- ✓ The latest in technological conveniences of electronic filing and electronic recording as well as online research
- ✓ Fully staffed Domestic Violence Office, assisting those in need in obtaining temporary restraining orders through the courts
- ✓ Electronic data sharing with law enforcement agencies to expedite filings; paperless transmission of court matters through the system for improved efficiency
- ✓ Years of experience in quality public service and community outreach, including the popular Kids ID Program



Clerk of Court Doug Welborn

DOUG
WELBORN
 CLERK OF COURT

PROVEN LEADERSHIP

Letter to the Citizens of EBR Parish

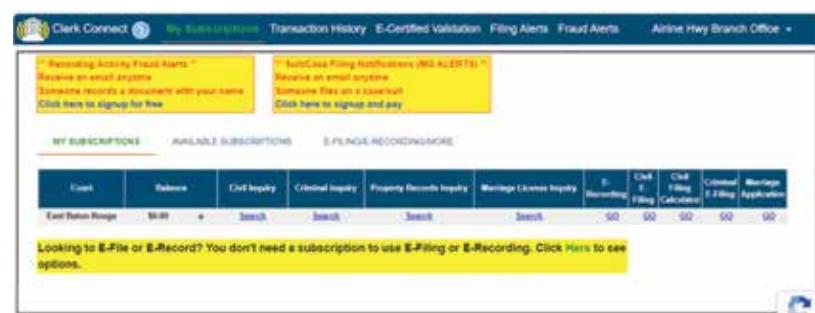
It has been my honor to serve as your Clerk of Court for East Baton Rouge Parish. Over the years, our goal has been to pursue the latest and best advancements in technology, but always with the belief that it should supplement personal service but never replace it.

That's why if you want to take advantage of our popular electronic filing or recording services or make use of our extensive online research capabilities, you're in the right place.

But if you still enjoy the time-honored tradition of "service with a smile" in which we take pride, you're still in the right place. Our friendly team will be glad to see you and go over and above to ensure that you leave with a smile.

The images below illustrate both: a staff that I consider second to none and the home screen to Clerk Connect, the gateway to e-filing, e-recording and the research of holdings dating to the earliest days of our parish. I would appreciate the opportunity to continue to bring you the quality public service that you deserve and the privilege of your vote this election season.

Doug Welborn



Friendly, dedicated customer service or the convenience of technology — the choice is always available at the Clerk's Office

Early Voting Dates

Saturday, September 30 - Saturday, October 7 (except Sunday)

Locations

At City Hall downtown, State Archives on Essen Lane, ROV Office at Coursey Fire Station, ROV Office at Baker, OMV Building and Central Library

Re-Elect
Sid Gautreaux
2023
S H E R I F F

**Together, we have
accomplished so
much, but there is
much left to do. I
humbly ask for your
continued support as
your East Baton Rouge
Parish Sheriff.**



Sid J. Gautreaux, III

**PLEASE VOTE
October 14, 2023**

Safer, Stronger, Better Together

Central City News

Central Football Edition

2023 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL LINE UP

Central High • Central Private • Istrouma



Central Wildcats

Sept. 1	De La Salle	Home
Sept. 8	West Feliciana	Home
Sept. 15	Slidell High	Home
Sept. 22	East Jefferson	Away
Sept. 29	Capitol High	Home
Oct. 6	Scotlandville High*	Away
Oct. 13	Catholic High*	Home
Oct. 20	Zachary High*	Away
Oct. 27	Woodlawn High*	Home
Nov. 3	Liberty Magnet*	Home



Central Private Redhawks

Aug. 31	Central Catholic	Away
Sept. 8	St. John High	Home
Sept. 15	Gueydan High	Away
Sept. 22	Northeast High	Home
Sept. 29	Springfield High	Away
Oct. 6	Southern Lab*	Home
Oct. 13	Slaughter Charter*	Away
Oct. 19	Thrive Academy*	Away
Oct. 27	Ascension Christian*	Home
Nov. 3	Kentwood High*	Away

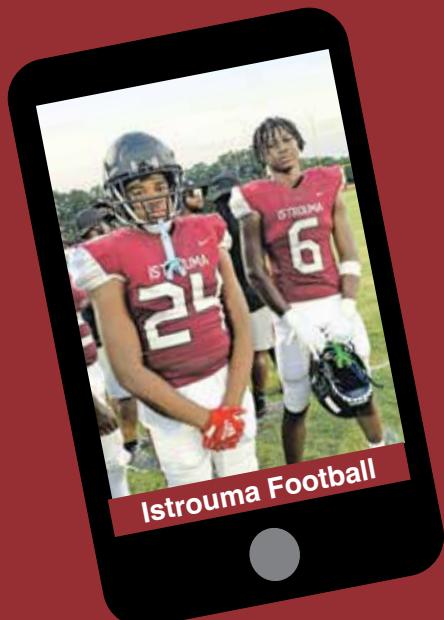
Broadcast Play by Play by Ken Bush
Central City News on Facebook



Istrouma Indians

Sept. 1	Capitol High	Away
Sept. 8	Belaire High*	Away
Sept. 15	Broadmoor High*	Home
Sept. 22	Plaquemine High*	Home
Sept. 29	West Feliciana*	Home
Oct. 5	McKinley High*	Away
Oct. 13	Tara High*	Home
Oct. 20	Bonnabel High	Away
Oct. 26	St. Michael High*	Away
Nov. 5	Brusly High*	Home

Broadcast Play by Play by Ron Skains
Central City News on Facebook



Istrouma

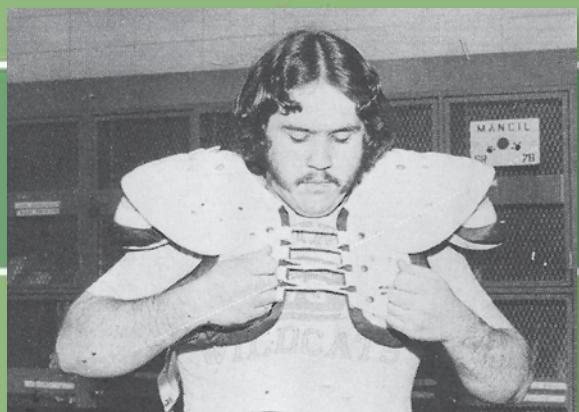
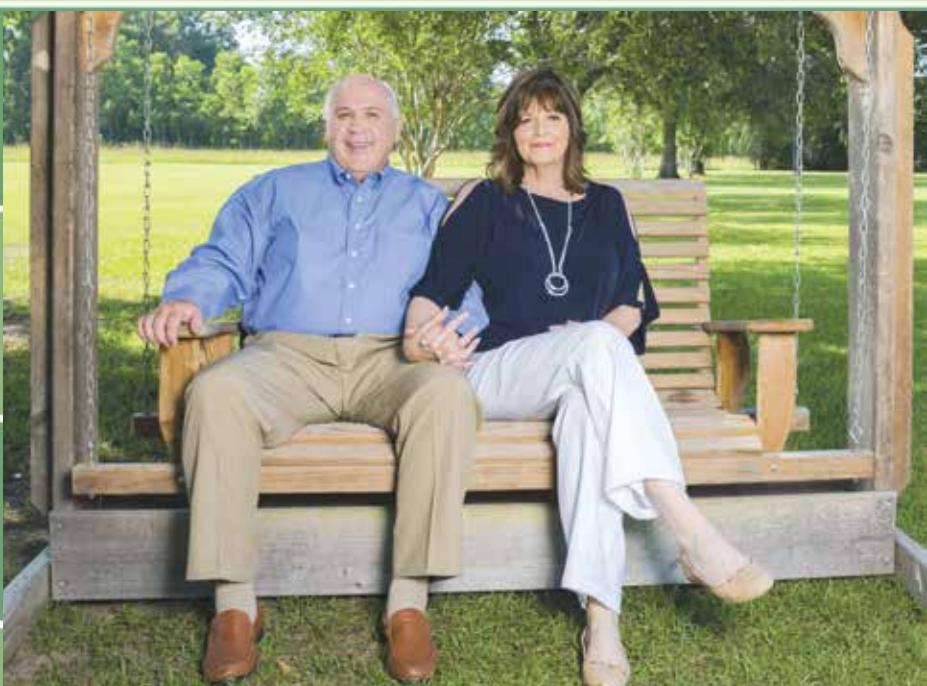


Central Wildcats



Sen. Bodi White

Thank you for 20 great years
in the Louisiana Legislature!



Bodi White
ALL-STATE
Central
High
School

**“Upon the fields of friendly strife are
shown the seeds that on other days, on
other fields will bear the fruits of victory.”**

— Gen. Douglas MacArthur
speaking on the role of athletics in training
future American officers at West Point

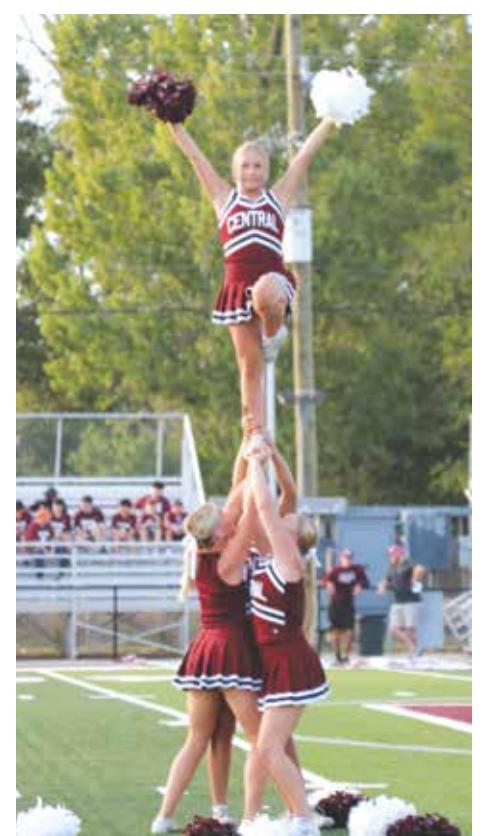
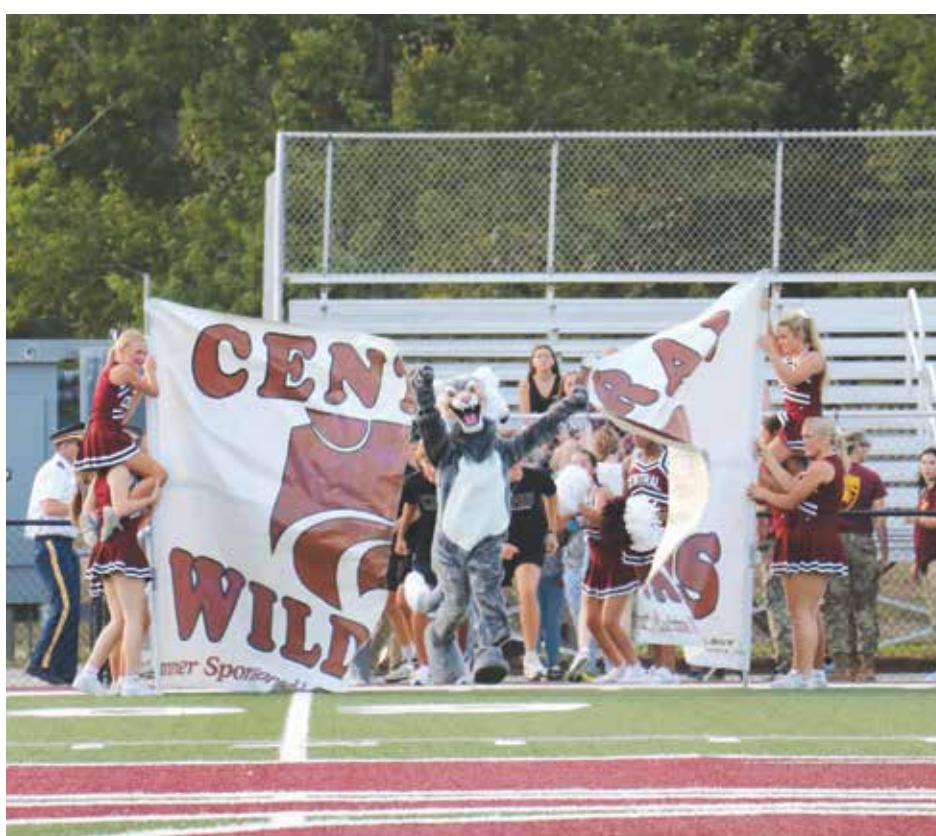
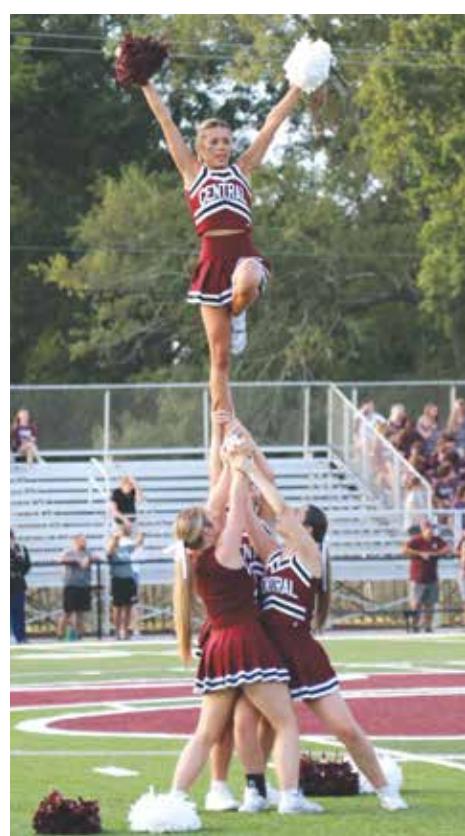
Central Wildcats



Great Crowd for Meet the Wildcats



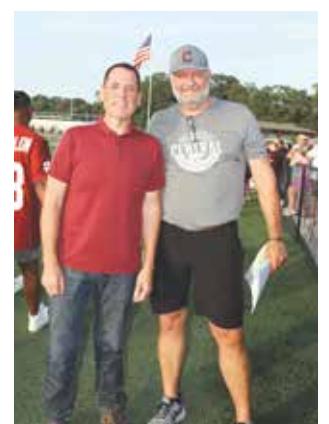
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL welcomed the community to Wildcat Stadium to celebrate all sports and meet the teams at the annual Meet the Wildcats.



WILLIE THE WILDCAT along with varsity and JV cheerleaders were there to lead the crowd in cheers.



CENTRAL MAYOR WADE EVANS emceed the event with Kaylynn Knippers. Central High School's principal Brandon LaGroue (left/center) welcomed everyone to Wildcat Stadium. Opening prayer was offered by Ava Nehring (right/center). The national anthem was sung by Caitlyn Hopwood (right).

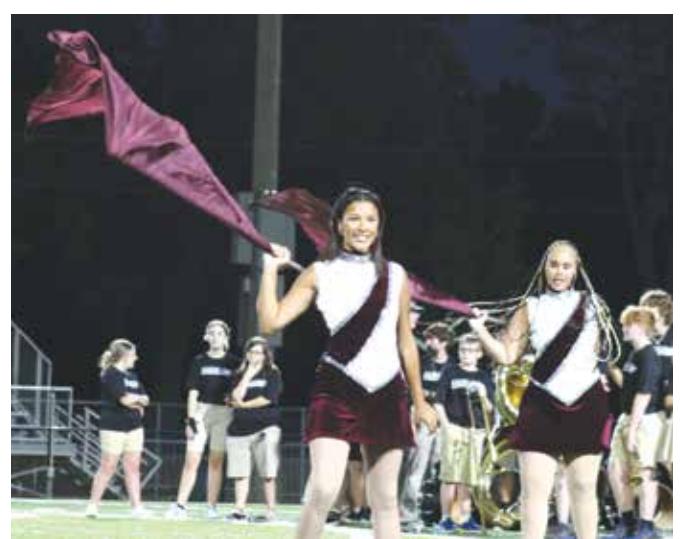


THE WILDCAT MARCHING BAND played the National Anthem as the JROTC presented the flags. Metro Councilman Aaron Moak posed with Mayor Wade Evans (right).

Meet the 2023 Central Wildcats



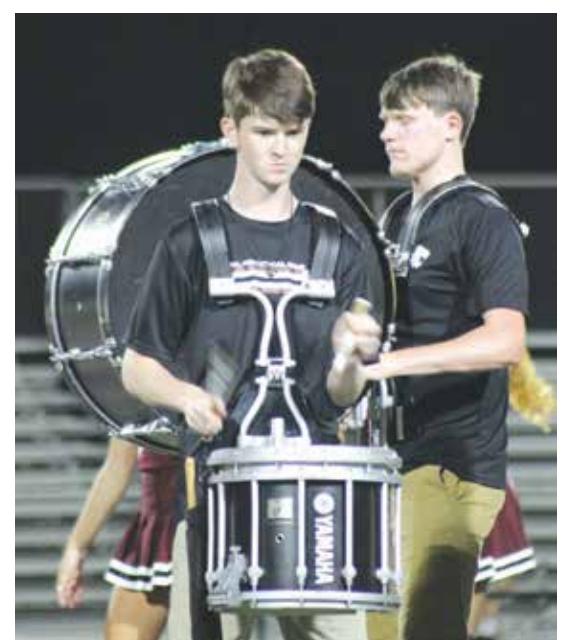
CENTRAL HIGH GIRLS BASKETBALL TEAM (left) will be coached by Mrs. Krystal Huggins-Flowers. Stay tuned to the Wildcat Scoop for when tryouts will be held. The Wildcat Boys Basketball Team (center) are making tremendous improvement. Last year they finished one spot out of the playoffs. Tryouts for new students including freshman will be in early November. The Wildcat JV Football Team (right) is coached by Frank Fresina, Josh Martin, and Darryl Lavigne.



CENTRAL HIGH VOLLEYBALL TEAM (left) will be led by Coach Michele LeBouef and assistant coaches Amy Rawlins, Cameron Clement, and Hayden Alsept. There are four seniors returning. The first home match is Thursday, August 31. Central High Silks Color Guard (center and right) faculty sponsor is Mrs. Susie Rigaud. Choreographer for the Silks is Mrs. Tia Weather. The 2023-2024 Captain is Clare Norwood (center) and the Co-Captains are Elly Manson and Chloe Richardson. The guard routinely receives superior ratings in fall competition and has been successfully competing on the Louisiana-Mississippi Color Guard and Percussion Circuit for the past two years.



CENTRAL HIGH SILKS AND FOOTBALL TEAM (left) at the conclusion of the Alma Mater. Central High Kittens (right) performed for the fans at Meet the Wildcats. The Kittens are led by Captain Jayden Debetaz, Co-Captain Samantha Vaughn, Lieutenant Taylor Easley, choreographer Madolyn Brumfield, and faculty sponsor Mrs. Alison McCauley. The girls attended UDA Camp this summer where they earned a Superior Trophy for all superior performances, the 110% Award given to only one team at camp, the spirit stick, and had five All American Dancers. They also earned a bid to Nationals in February 2024.

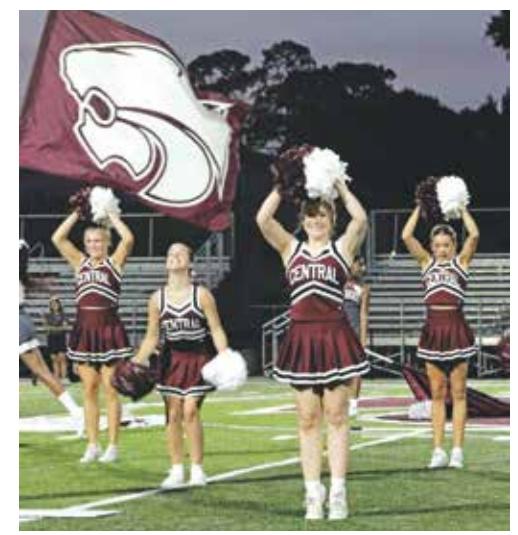
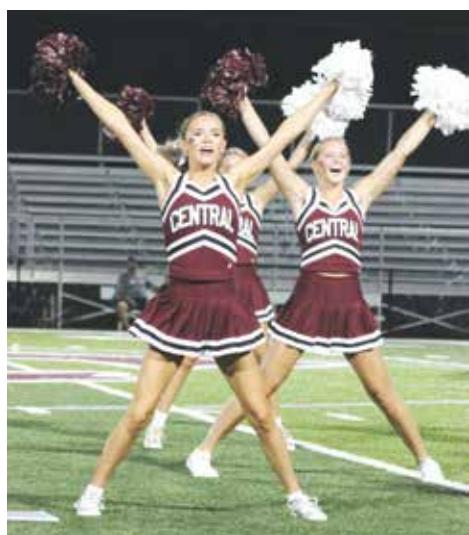


CENTRAL HIGH DRUMLINE is an important part of the Wildcat Marching Band, under the direction of Mr. Ty Lege. At the Classic on the Cane at NSU, the band earned Excellent Ratings in music, effect, and Percussion Performance and Superior Ratings in music, visual effect, and auxiliary. In Class II, our auxiliaries placed 1st (Silks, Kittens, and Twirler), and the Wildcat Band finished 2nd overall. This past year the band also earned Superior Ratings in all categories at the Battle of the Bayou by Terrebonne High School. In addition, the Wildcat Band won Best Auxiliary and Best General Effect in Class A.

Meet the 2023 Central Wildcats



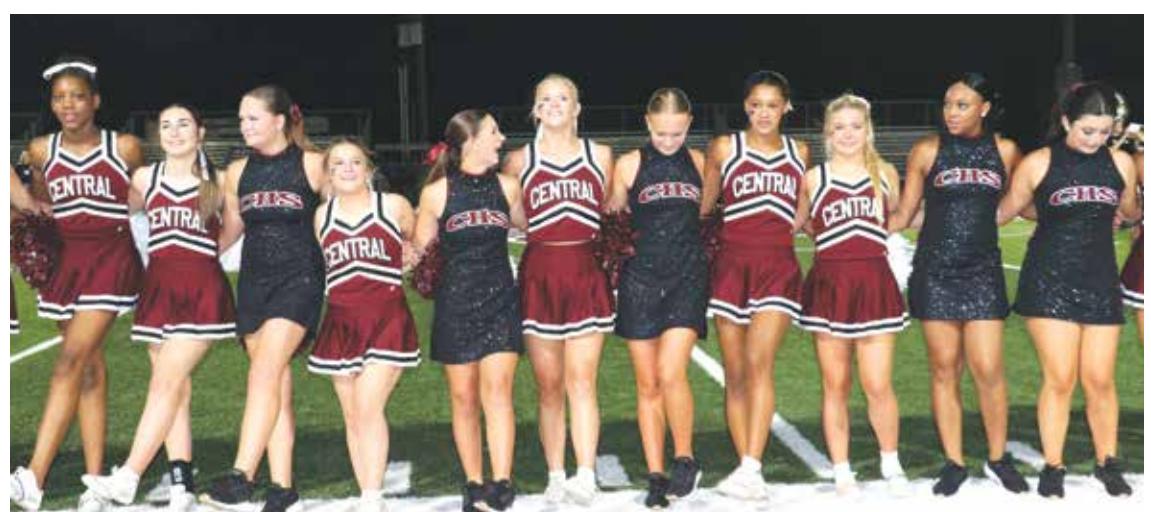
CENTRAL HIGH SWIMMING TEAM (left) will be coached by Daniel Newman and sponsored by faculty member, J'eannell Boudreaux. During the 2022 CHS Swim Team season, Millen Fehr qualified for Finals at the City Meet and also qualified to compete in the State Championship. The girls 200 freestyle competed at the state meet. With the addition of three new swimmers to the Wildcat Swim Team, we look forward to a great season. Wildcat Cross Country coaches Travis Johnson and Jessica Schwendimann look to qualify both boys and girls teams for state this year. They open their season Sept. 2 in the St. Michael's Bayou Boogie Classic. Myah Chenier leads the girls team as the first state championship qualifier in school history. Luke Robinson and Blaise Gregoire look to lead the 14th-ranked boys team back to the championship race. Our Wildcat Football Team (right) is led by Head Coach David Simoneaux with assistant coaches Zack Morris, Hunter Edgens, Justin Hutchinson, Gregg Morris, Trenton Guay, Robbie Yellott, Jivaun Wade, Anthony Camp, Joey Jarreau, Khalil Thomas, Kevin Henry, and Chance Atkins.



CENTRAL HIGH VARSITY CHEERLEADERS are coached this year by CHS Alumni Amy Stevens and Cassidy Young and sponsored by faculty member Sharon LeBlanc. The 2023-2024 Wildcats are led by the Captain, Senior Kaylynn Knippers, Co-Captain and Senior Riley Duncan, and Junior leader Madilyn Birch. In addition to supporting our Wildcat sporting events last year, cheer had a very successful regional season and a top 10 finish at nationals. They are looking forward to supporting the Wildcats again this year.



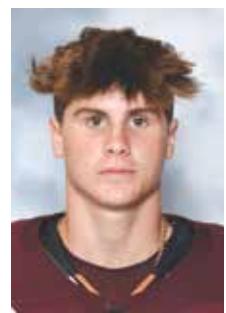
WILDCAT POWERLIFTING TEAM (left) is coached by Joey Jarreau and welcomes back state qualifier Arden Lang and 19 returning lifters including 10 seniors, Henry Lagatta, Landon Wegner, Kasey Smith, Waylon Bennett, Nguyen Tran, Addie Lawless, Grace Neyland, Jessa Banjavich, Heavenly Erwin, and Taytum Ward-Roberts. Central High Track and Field Team (center) is led by Myah Chenier, who finished 11th in the nation for the steeplechase, and Andrew Readinger who is also ranked in the top 50 nationally in multiple events. Track and Field will begin in the spring. If you are interested in being part of the team, touch base with head coach Travis Johnson soon.



CENTRAL HIGH LACROSSE TEAM (left) is led by Head Coach Mike Wilson with two alumni players returning as assistant coaches Darren Jenkins and Terrell Stubbs. Their faculty sponsor is Ms. Lori Devall. The team is in the process of rebuilding. If interested in playing, stop by and see Ms. Lori anytime during the day in the Counselors office.

Meet the Wildcat Photos by Jolice Provost for Central City News

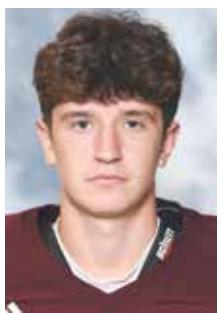
2023 Central Wildcats Football Team



#1 Jake LaLonde



#2 Kaeden Loupe



#3 Jackson Firmin



#4 Michael Pizzalato



#5 Emmanuel Williams



#6 Kyle Veal



#7 Tucker Pitre



#8 Evan Jones



#9 Cameron Patterson



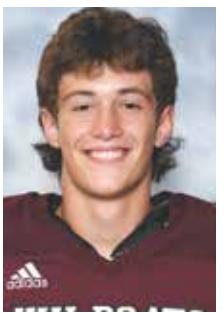
#10 Steven Ranel



#10 Cooper Austin



#11 Tyler Fortney



#12 Dalton Ruffini



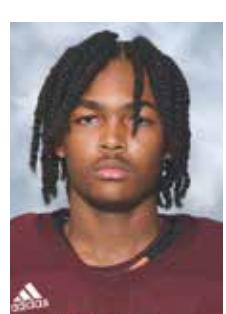
#13 Damon Blocker



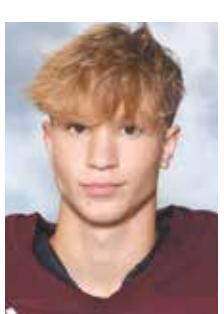
#14 Travis Bradley



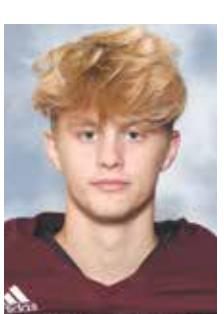
#15 Patrick Lundy



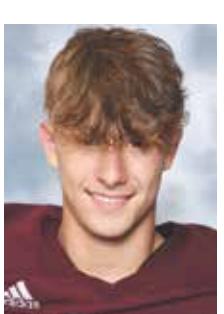
#16 Keithon Womack



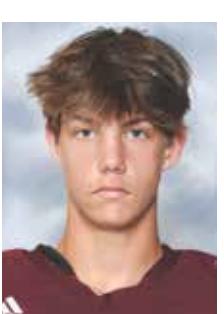
#17 Cody Paddie



#18 Reece Thompson



#19 James Hussey



#20 Blaysen Stokan



#21 Aidan Nichols



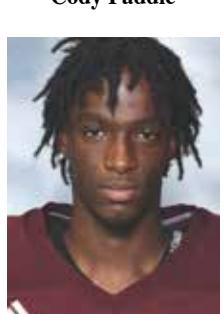
#22 Jamario George



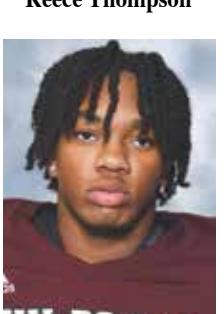
#23 Justin Williams



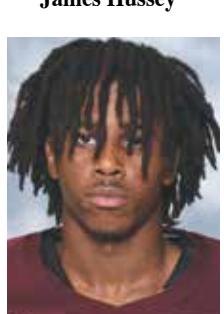
#24 Javeon Williams



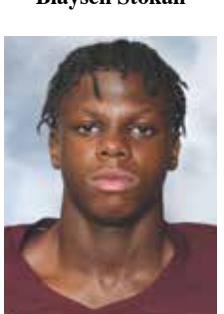
#25 Maurice Stewart



#26 Keith Williams



#27 Keon Coverson



#28 Nathaniel Dailey



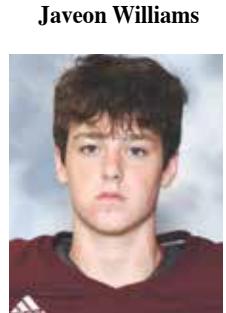
#29 Qui'Jon Williams



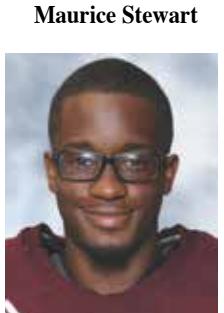
#30 Cayden Haynes



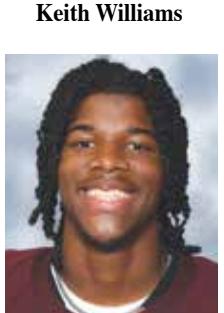
#31 Beau Hill



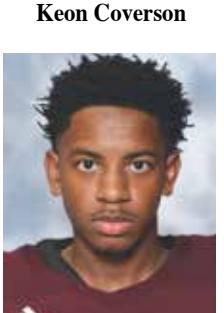
#32 Riley Rasberry



#33 Levell Gant



#34 Samuel Hemmings



#34 Denim Williams



#35 Gavin Cooper



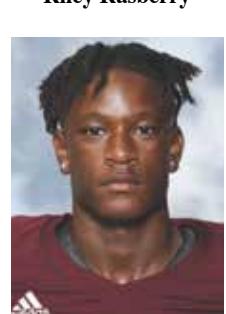
#36 Ethan Smith



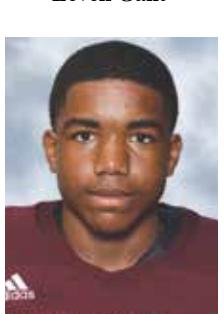
#37 Brandon Robins



#38 KD Mays



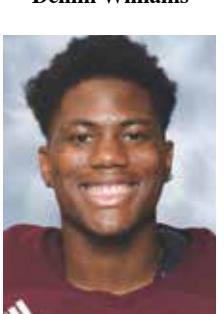
#39 Marvin Joseph



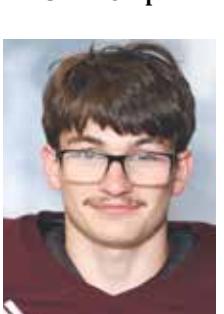
#40 Donald Hutson



#41 Nathan Zimmer



#42 Brandon Collins



#43 Stephen Lato



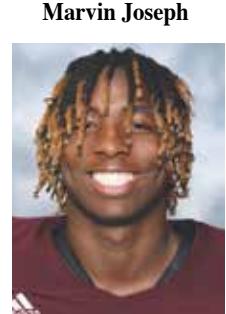
#44 Ian Lindsay



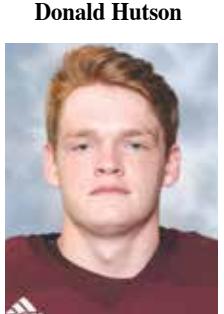
#45 Messiah Manchester



#46 Nathan Ashmore



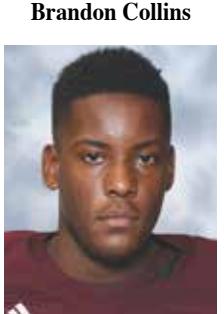
#47 DK Mays



#48 Henry Lagattuta



#49 Jake Jarreau



#51 Donald McCalope



#54 Waylon Bennett



#55 Graham Harris



#56 Noah Hurst



#57 Kasey Smith

2023 Central Wildcats Football Team



The 2023 Central Wildcat Varsity Football Team and Coaches



Central Wildcat Football Pictures by Eric Frank Photography

Central Wildcats Coaching Staff



2023 Wildcat's Coaching Staff

2023 Central High School Junior Varsity Team



The 2023 Central Wildcat Junior Varsity Football Team and Coaches

Central High School Pictures by Eric Frank Photography

Central Wildcats Varsity Cheerleaders



The 2023 Central Wildcat Varsity Cheerleaders with JV Cheerleaders and Big Brothers at Meet the Wildcats

Central High School Trainers And Student Trainers



Willie the Wildcat waving to fans at Meet the Wildcats



Bryan Hutson
Athletic Trainer



Keith Thompson
Athletic Trainer



Ainsley Black
Student Trainer



Hannah Hutson
Student Trainer



Ryleigh Hutson
Student Trainer



Lana Parks
Student Trainer



Dreamer Patterson
Student Trainer



Bria Pitts
Student Trainer



Emily Smith
Student Trainer



Justice Spears
Student Trainer

Our Next Editions

Central City News • St. George Leader

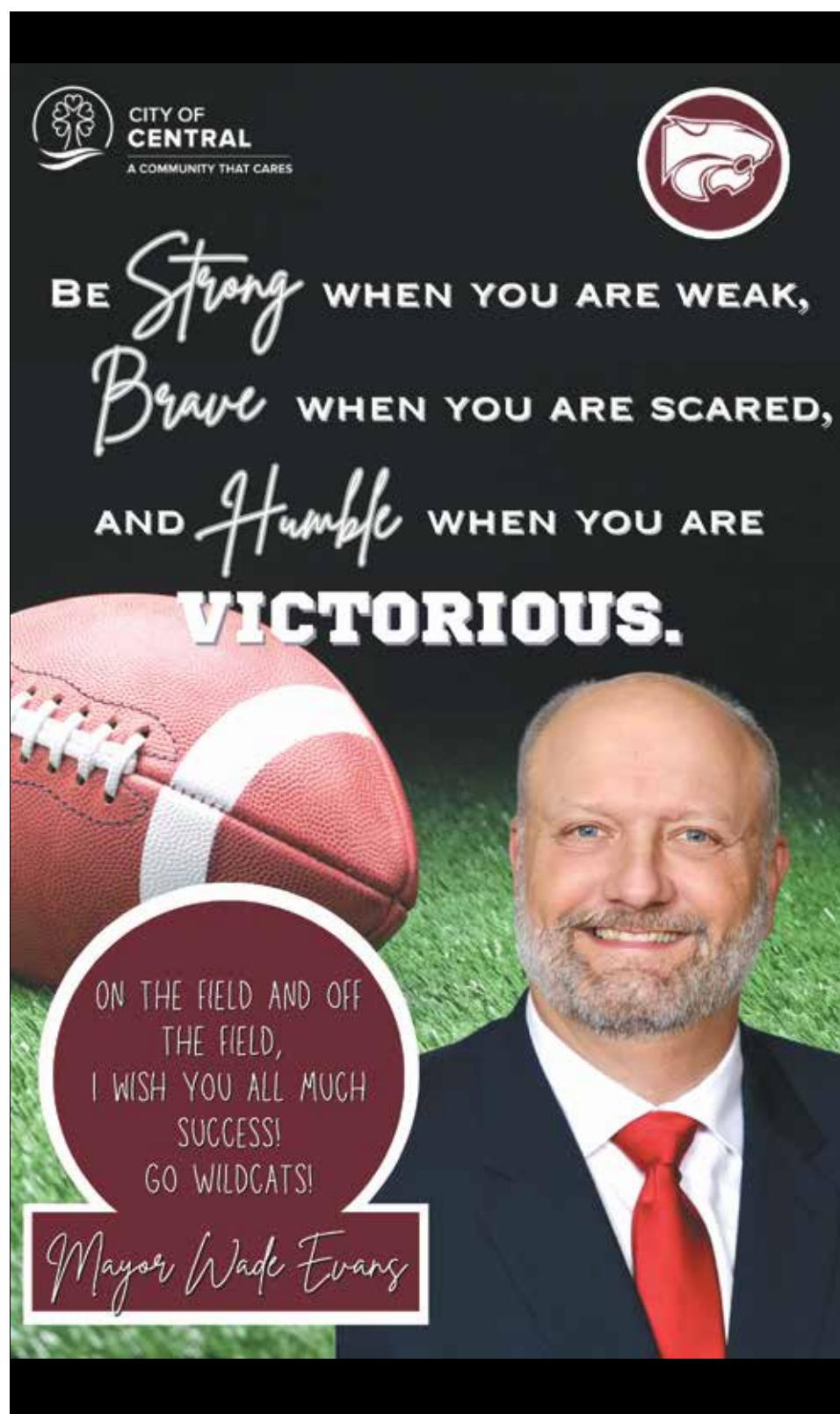
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Central High School Marching Band



The 2023 Central Wildcat Marching Band



2023 Central High Silks and Kittens



Central High School Silks Flag Corp



Central High School Kittens Dance Team

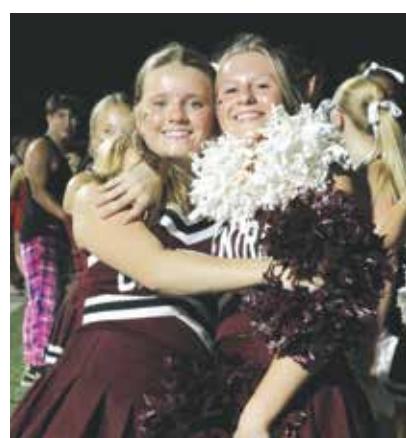
Wildcats Put Panthers to Sleep 10-0



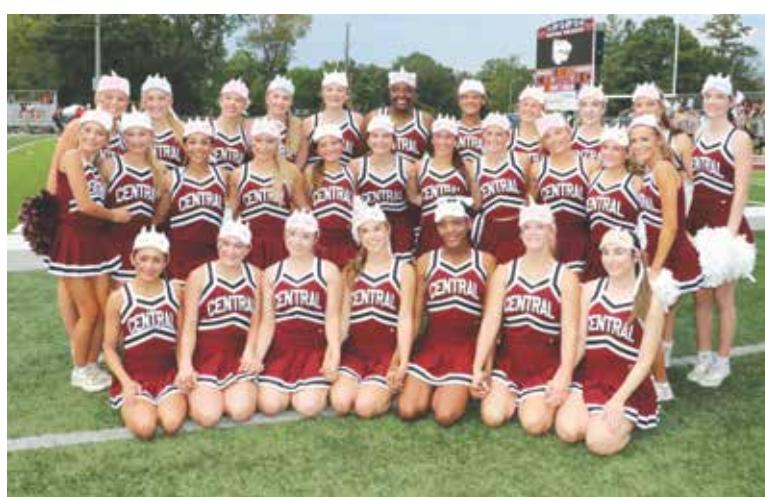
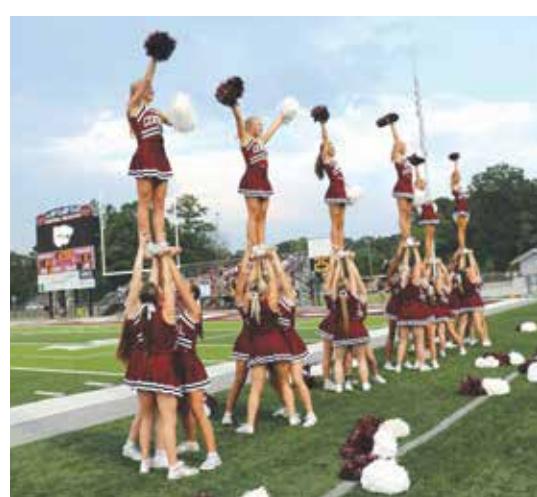
LHSAA REFEREES (left) during the National Anthem. Wildcat honorary captain (center) Tyler Sansone, Class of 2015, captain #89 Braelen George, #13 Damon Blocker, #62 and Andrew Richard and honorary captain Trevor Sansone, Class of 2011. The Wildcat JROTC presenting the flags for the singing of the National Anthem.



WILDCAT DEFENSIVE LINEMAN DK MAYS (left) makes the sack. Central QB #9 Cam Patterson (left center). Central's center, #62 Andrew Richard (right/center) holds the line for the Wildcats. Offensive lineman #54 Waylon Bennett (right) is ready for action against the Brusly Panthers.



WILDCAT KICKER #41 Nathan Zimmer (left). #6 Kyle Veal (left/center). Central's head coach David Simoneaux (center). Wildcat cheerleaders and Willie excited about the game.



CENTRAL VARSITY CHEERLEADERS (center) are game ready and sporting game night themed sleep mask, as the Wildcats plan to put the Brusly Panthers to sleep.



WILDCAT'S STUDENT SECTION was filled with that spirit! Everyone was dressed in their PJ's as the varsity team put the Panthers to Sleep 10-0 and JV got the job done 14-0.

Jamboree at Wildcat Stadium • Central 10 - Brusly 0 • Aug. 25, 2023
Photos by Jolice Provost for the Central City News

Meet the 2023 Central Wildcats



CENTRAL HIGH TENNIS TEAM (left) This year's captains are Madison Lumpkin and Taylor Parker. The Wildcat fishing team (left/center) will have 28 anglers this year, one of the largest teams in the state! Central's golf team (right/center) is sponsored by Mrs. Taylor Keowen. The team is looking for members. Stop by South 1 if interested. Wildcat gymnastics team head coach Amy Rawlins (right) is excited to welcome back junior Maycee McKnight. At the state meet, Maycee finished 4th in bars and 9th all around.



CHS BRINGS BACK JV CHEER this year! The JV team is sponsored by Mrs. Angie Wall and will be coached by Central alum Hannah Wall (2018). Wildcat softball team (left/center) with head coach Michelle Efferson, assistant coaches Sarah Hunt, Robbie Yellott and Kamryn Fury. The team is returning six starters with many new faces. Last year's team finished 23-5 and was ranked 6th in the state. The team looks to continue their winning tradition as spring arrives! Central High's boys soccer team (right/center) is under the leadership of Justin Hutchinson. There is still time to join the team. The Wildcat wrestling team (right) will be coached by Herb Juneau. Coach Juneau is returning after spending four years at Brusly High. The wrestling team has five returning seniors, Gage Booty, Wesley Brumfield, Titus Galloway, Stephen Lato, and Cole Jeter.



WILDCAT BASEBALL COACHED BY LEO McCLURE (left) with assistant coaches Mark Carroll and Josh Martin. This year's captains are Kade Furr, Grayden Harris, Cam Patterson and Garrett Rabalais. The baseball team will head back into action this spring in hopes of adding a Quarterfinal appearance in the playoffs for the 4th year in a row. The sports medicine team and the filming crew (center). The sports medicine crew is led by athletic trainers Bryan Hutson, Keith Thompson and Corey Elvir and the film crew is led by Coach Robbie Yellott. JROTC Wildcat battalion (right) is led by Lt. Col. Josh Germann and Sgt. First Class Tim Dubois.



CENTRAL HIGH ARCHERY TEAM (left) The team consists of 10 students and is growing. Last year, Valley Smith and Gabby Sparks both won state championships in different archery categories. In July, Gabby Sparks won her third Archery Shooters Association State Championship! Wildcat girls soccer is led by Coach Victoria Eskola. The Lady Wildcats are coming off a 10-win season! Last year, Kate Hill earned second-team All-District honors. There are seven returning seniors, Kate Hill, Emma Dupuy, Lauriel Johnson, Saige Wolfe, Camille Templet, Reagan Robertson and Kaylen Dillard. The Wildcat bowling team (right/center) is looking to fill their rosters for the coming season. Stop by and see Ms Stevens on the North 1 hallway. Hinesly Bryant (right) gives an update on the CHS Bass Fishing Team.

Meet the Wildcats • August 21, 2023 • Wildcat Stadium
Photos by Jolice Provost for Central City News

Istrouma Indians First-Year Under Coach Sid Edwards

Istrouma Indians Dominate Scotlandville 8-0 In First EBR Victory over Hornets Since 2016



ISTROUMA INDIAN VARSITY FOOTBALL TEAM making a name for themselves under the leadership of Coach Sid Edwards. The team won their scrimmage game against Collegiate Prep 24-0 and the Indians were once again victorious over the Scotlandville Hornets 8-0 in their Jamboree game. The Istrouma line averages more than 300 pounds



COACH SID EDWARDS AND COACH JERMEY GRADNEY (left) began a friendship in 2017 when Gradney took over as head coach of the Istrouma Indians and Coach Sid Edwards was starting his tenth year at Central High School. The teams practiced together and helped each other out. Members of Istrouma coaching staff (center).



ISTROUMA INDIANS ON THE WAR PATH (left/center) #77 Tyrease Tate is showing great potential early on in the season. #58 Travyon Jefferson (right/center) is part of Istrouma's defensive line. Both the Indian offensive and defensive lines are powerhouses! #24 Antonio Ransom and #6 Dyon Chavers (right).



VOICE OF THE ISTROUMA INDIANS RON SKAINS (left) will be announcing the Istrouma games this year. #7 Michael Dempsey (left/center) with a complete pass. Istrouma is making significant yardage (right/center). #1 Kyree Paul (right) ready for the next play.

Central Private vs Ascension Catholic



#11 Jacob Weaver (left) goes in for a sack for the Redhawks. #9 Aiden Pomerleau (right) gains yardage for the Redhawks



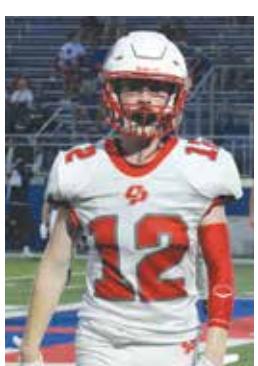
#9 Aiden Pomerleau (left) goes in for the tackle for Central Private. #77 Gage Guillory (center) on defense for the Redhawks. The Redhawks face off with the Lions (right).



Central Private's QB #4 Hunter Pourciau (left) with the carry for the Redhawks. #5 Luke Browning (left/center). #27 Laiken Laudermilk (right/center) takes advantage of a fumble and scores a TD for the Redhawks. Redhawk QB #4 Hunter Pourciau crosses the goal-line and scores two points for Central Private.



Central Private Redhawk varsity cheerleaders cheered on the team at the jamboree held at the Parkview Baptist Eagles field in Baton Rouge.



#11 Jacob Weaver, #62 Timothy Hartman, #12 Cale Peterson, #77 Gage Guillory, Head Coach Cole Holden, #4 Hunter Pourciau

Jamboree • Central Private vs. Ascension Catholic • Aug. 24, 2023
Photos by Jolice Provost for the Central City News

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to
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2023 Central Private Football

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At Central City News on Facebook • Play-by-Play by Ken Bush



Jamboree
Central Private 8
Ascension Christian 10
13.2K Views



Central Private at
Central Catholic
Aug. 31



St. John at
Central Private
Sept. 8



Central Private
at Gueydan
Sept. 15



Northeast at
Central Private
Sept. 22



Central Private
at Springfield
Sept. 29



Click Here
to Watch
Ascension
Game



Southern Lab at
Central Private
Oct. 6



Central Private at
Slaughter Charter*
Oct. 13



Central Private at
Thrive Academy*
Oct. 19



Ascension Christian
at Central Private*
Oct. 27



Central Private
at Kentwood*
Nov. 3

*District Games

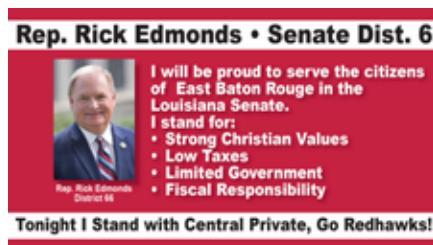
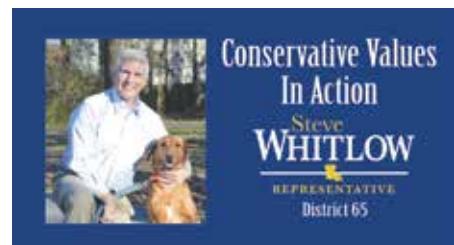
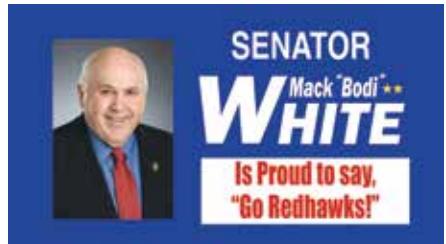
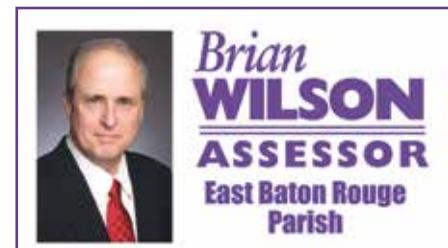
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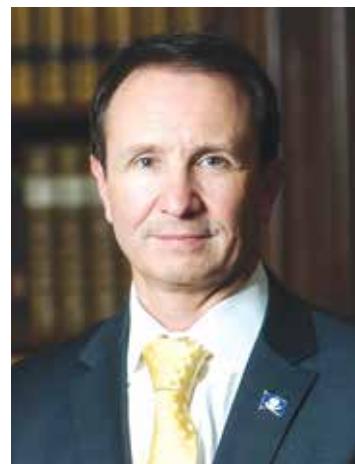
Republicans Finalizing Endorsements

Republicans Backing More Conservatives For Winnable Races In East Baton Rouge

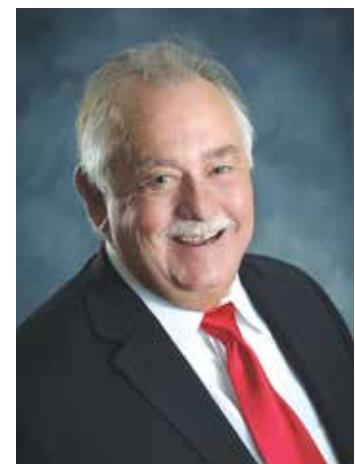
BATON ROUGE — The Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish has announced its support for conservative Republican candidates in two more races — State Treasurer and House District 70.

The party has endorsed Dr. John Fleming for State Treasurer. Dr. Fleming is a family physician who practiced medicine for many years and still does. He is successful in business having started more than 30 Subway franchises and a dozen UPS stores. He was elected to the United States Congress and served for eight years before running for the United States Senate. While in Congress, he was a founder of the Freedom Caucus. After losing the Senate race to Sen. John Kennedy, he served as head of the Economic Development Administration under President Trump and then was moved to the White House where he served as Deputy Chief of Staff to President Trump.

The parish Republican Party has also announced its support for Jenny Seals for State Representative in House District 70. Ms. Seals was a flight attendant with Delta Airlines for 25 years before retiring. She is a staunch conservative who promises to take a strong stand for fiscal responsibility, lower taxes, and family values. She is challenging State Rep. Barbara Frieberg, one of the two or three most liberal of the 70 Republicans in the Louisiana House. It is the first time the local Republican Party has opposed an incumbent Republican office holder in the parish in at least 12 years.



Jeff Landry
Governor



Mike Francis
Secretary of State



Liz Murrill
Attorney General



Dr. John Fleming
Treasurer



Rick Edmonds
Senate District 6



Steve Whitlow
House District 65



Richie Edmonds
House District 66



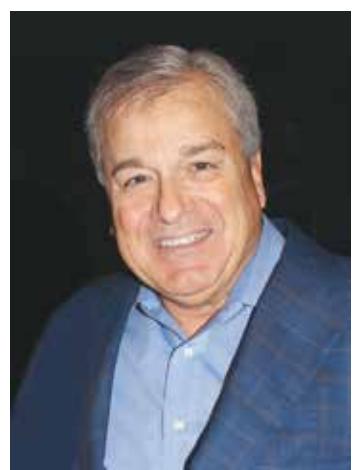
Laurie Adams
House District 68



Jenny Seals
House District 68



Brian Wilson
Assessor



Sid Gautreaux
Sheriff



Dr. Beau Clark
Coroner

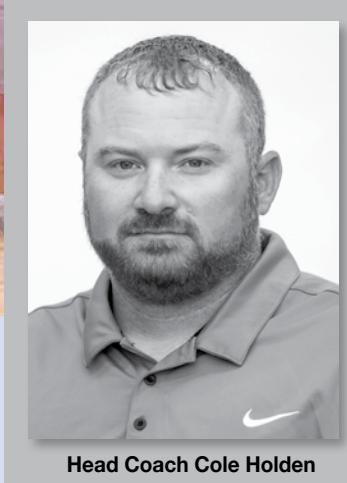


Doug Welborn
Clerk of Court

2023 Central Redhawk Football



Central Private at Central Catholic
Morgan City • 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 31, 2023



Head Coach Cole Holden

Randy, Cindy Hebert Celebrate 50th Anniversary, Plan Festivities at Later Date at Orange Beach, AL



Randy and Cindy Bryant Hebert Celebrate 50 Years of Marriage

Randy and Cynthia (Cindy) Bryant Hebert of Baker will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on Friday, Sept. 1, 2023. The couple was married on Sept. 1, 1973 at Our Lady of the Lake Catholic Church in Lake Arthur. Father Ed Degeyter performed the ceremony. Randy and Cindy have two sons, Jared Hebert of Baker and Derek Hebert and wife Danielle of Pride. They have three grandchildren, Jase, Deklyn and Sadie Jane Hebert. The couple plans a trip to celebrate at Orange Beach at a later date. They enjoy spending time with their precious grandchildren, bike riding and relaxing at the beach.

CENTRAL CITY NEWS

BROADCAST SCHEDULE

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M-F 7a to 11a

Ringside Politics with Jeff Crouere

Tues 7:30p · Sun 10a · 630p

Life Tabernacle Church Services

Friday at 7p

High School Football
All Central Private games
All Istrouma High games

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CHRISTIAN LADY HOUSE CLEANING:
Call Norma at 261-3754.

GARAGE SALE: Large Garage Sale, Sat., Sept. 2 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Central Masonic Lodge, 11525 Sullivan Road, Central, LA. Lots of items. All proceeds will be donated to benefit Michael LeBlanc, a 1 year old who has had leukemia since he was born.

RECEPTIONIST POSITION OPEN: Bank of Zachary is seeking a highly motivated, customer-focused professional to fill its receptionist position. The candidate will be the first point of contact for the Bank of Zachary, both on the phone and in person, at the Main Office. The position requires an individual with a polished, positive, and pleasant personality. The receptionist will serve customers by greeting, welcoming, and directing them appropriately, notifying employees of visitor arrival, maintaining security, and managing the phone system.

Receptionist Job Duties include:
Welcomes customers by greeting them in person or on the telephone and answering or referring inquiries to the correct department. Maintains security by following procedures, and monitors visitor logbook. Manages phone system. Sorts and distributes mail. Maintains safe and clean reception area by complying with procedures, rules, and regulations. Contributes to team effort by performing bank-related tasks as needed, such as processing debit card/check orders, accepting change orders, answering basic account/product questions, etc.

Education & Experience: High School diploma or equivalent Previous office and/or receptionist experience preferred. EEO/AA/M/F/VETERANS/DISABLED Hours: Monday – Thursday 8:30-4:30, Friday 8:30-5:30 Send resume to hr@bankofzachary.com

JOB OPENING: FINANCIAL COMMERCIAL LENDER with the Bank of Zachary. **EDUCATION:** Bachelor's Degree or 7+ year professional equivalent. **EXPERIENCE:** 5+ yrs in banking, financial services and/or business development. Sales, business development, underwriting, and/or financial analysis experience preferred. **JOB REQUIREMENTS:** Maintain a high level of confidentiality. Reliable transportation necessary. Current NMLS account. Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Tractor Supply Opens Store in Central

CENTRAL — Tractor Supply Company, the largest rural lifestyle retailer in the United States, celebrated its Grand Opening for its new store in Central earlier this month and is now open for business.

"At Tractor Supply, we are passionate about serving the needs of those who enjoy the Out Here lifestyle. Homeowners, livestock and pet owners, gardeners, hobby farmers, ranchers, tradesmen and others rely on Tractor Supply for a wide assortment of products," a spokesman for Tractor Supply said.

"We're excited to call Central home and serve the community with the essentials you need to live life on your own terms. We're proud to hire our customers as Team Members. As experts in the lifestyle, they bring more value to our customers with every interaction."

The Garden Center at the Central store carries top brands including Scotts Miracle-Gro and Bonnie Plants, and features an expanded assortment of annuals and perennials, shrubs and decorative plants, fruit trees, vegetables and herbs. Expert gardeners with years of experience and balcony gardeners alike can find a full range of supplies to get started at the Garden Center.

The Garden Center also has the tools to make gardening easier, including pots and planters, fertilizer, soil and gardening hand tools. Other items like greenhouses, lawn tools and equipment, mowers, trimmers, edgers and more can be found for landscaping projects.

The new store comes equipped with a Pet Wash where pet owners can enjoy a convenient washing station stocked with professional grade equipment and high-quality products. The Pet Wash has elevated wash bays, grooming tables, specialty shampoos, use of brushes, combs and towels as well as a waterproof apron and professional dryer, all for just \$9.99.

Customers in the Central store can now rely on Tractor Supply for a wide range of products such as zero turns and riding mowers, equine supplies, power tools, fencing, welding and more.

Also found in the new store are:



TRACTOR SUPPLY held its Grand Opening earlier this month and is now open for business at 13533 Hooper Rd. in the City of Central. Tractor Supply says they are offering hot deals storewide all weekend, daily giveaways, and more!

- Plants and flowers from leading brands like Proven Winners, Endless Summer Hydrangeas, Southern Living Plant Collection, Encore Azaleas and Knockout Roses.
- An extensive apparel department featuring work wear and boots for Life Out Here from top brands such as Carhartt, Wrangler, Ariat and Muck Boots.
- A variety of pet supplies and accessories with toys, beds, collars, leashes and pet food from brands including Purina, Blue Buffalo and Victor.
- An assortment of exclusive brands that offer premium quality and great values including 4Health pet food, Ridgecut Workwear and Boots, Red Shed Décor, DuMor animal feed and more.
- The exclusive battery-powered Greenworks Pro 60V outdoor tools and equipment and Porter Cable cordless battery tools.
- A variety of top brands of grills like Pit Boss and Blackstone, and grill accessories.
- Convenient shopping options including Curbside Pickup and Same Day Delivery, while earning rewards with Neighbor's Club.



NEW PET STORE WITH PET WASH — Pet owners can enjoy a pet washing station stocked with professional equipment.

and FFA chapters, along with local animal shelters and veterans. Tractor Supply brings its legendary culture to the Central community, and anyone interested in joining the team can apply at TractorSupply.com/careers.

The Central Tractor Supply store at 13533 Hooper Road will be open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. Sunday. To learn more about Tractor Supply Company, visit TractorSupply.com.

About Tractor Supply Co.

Tractor Supply Company (NASDAQ: TSCO), the largest rural lifestyle retailer in the United States, has been passionate about serving its unique niche, targeting the needs of recreational farmers, ranchers and all those who enjoy living the rural lifestyle, for more than 80 years.

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 50,000 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.

On Sept. 24, 2022, the company operated 2,027 Tractor Supply stores in 49 states, a consumer mobile app and an e-commerce website at TractorSupply.com.

In October 2022, Tractor Supply acquired 81 stores from Orscheln Farm and Home that will be rebranded to Tractor Supply by the end of 2023.

Tractor Supply Company also owns and operates Petsense by Tractor Supply, 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.

On Sept. 24, 2022, the Company operated 180 Petsense by Tractor Supply stores in 23 states. For more information on Petsense by Tractor Supply, visit Petsense.com.

Bank of Zachary • Notice to Establish a Branch

In the matter of the establishment of a branch of Bank of Zachary. Notice is hereby given that the Bank of Zachary, whose main office and domicile is located in Zachary, East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana, has made application to the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Louisiana Commissioner of Financial Institutions to establish a branch to be located at 14395 Grand Settlement Blvd, Central, LA 70818

Any person wishing to comment on this application may file his or her comments in writing with the Regional Director of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation at its Dallas Regional Office at 600 N. Pearl Street, Suite 700, Dallas, Texas 75201, before processing of the application has been completed. Processing will be completed no earlier than the 15th day following either the date of the required publication or the date of receipt of the application by the FDIC, whichever is later. The period may be extended by the Regional director for good cause. The non-confidential portions of the application are on file in the regional office and are available for public inspection during regular business hours. Photocopies of the non-confidential portion of the application file will be made available upon request. A schedule of charges for such copies can be obtained from the Regional Office.

Any person wishing to comment on this application with the Louisiana Office of Financial Institutions may file his or her comments, in writing, with the Commissioner of Financial Institutions, Post Office Box 94095, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70804-9095. The Office of Financial Institutions is not required to consider any comments received more than 30 days after the date of publication of this Notice. The Public Section of the application will be available at the Office of Financial Institutions for public inspection during the regular business hours of 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

This notice is published pursuant to Part 303.7 of the Rules and Regulations of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and LAC 10:I. Chapter 5 of the "Louisiana Register".

Bank of Zachary
4743 Main Street, Zachary, LA 70791

By: Mark S. Marionneaux

A Great First Day for 1st Grade



First Day of School at Tanglewood Elementary



Convention of States Holds Trial Run, Chooses Woody Jenkins as President

David Landry

Convention of States correspondent

WILLIAMSBURG — State senators and representatives from 49 of the 50 states gathered in Colonial Wil-

liamsburg, Virginia, August 2-4 to hold a simulated Convention of States to propose constitutional amendments utilizing a never-used provision of the United States Constitution.

Former Rep. Woody Jenkins of Baton Rouge, Louisiana, was elected President of the Convention by the 109 delegates in attendance. As president, he appointed committee chairmen and presided over the simulated convention, which ended up proposing six possible constitutional amendments.

Article V of the United States Constitution provides two ways it can be amended. The first way is when a proposed amendment is approved by a two-thirds vote of both houses of Congress. The proposal then goes to the states. If both houses of the legislature in 38 states approve the amendment, it becomes part of the Constitution.

However, Article V provides another way the Constitution can be amended. If two-thirds of the states call for an amending convention, that convention, with delegates from all 50 states, could propose amendments. If 38 state legislatures approve an proposed amendment, it becomes part of the Constitution.

Convention of States Foundation has been studying how a convention of the states might work, for the past 10 years. In 2016, the foundation held a simulated convention which proved successful. This year's simulated convention was the second attempt to learn more about how a convention of the states might work.

Delegations were sent from states throughout America to attend this event as an experiment and demonstration of what could happen.

Former Rep. Woody Jenkins served in the Louisiana House of Representatives from 1972 to 2000 and was a delegate to the Louisiana Constitutional Convention that wrote our existing Louisiana Constitution in 1973. His experience and insight were helpful in setting the atmosphere of the 2023 Article V simulation.

Mr. Jenkins presided over the simulated Convention of States, directing the activities and helping to focus on proposals that might have the best likelihood of passage in a more general assembly of delegates.

He said he was honored to have

been asked to represent Louisiana and was encouraged by the outcome of the event.

Rep. Ray Garofalo (R-St. Bernard) was the other commissioner from Louisiana. He was chosen chairman of the Rules Committee of the Convention of States.

So far, 19 state legislatures have

passed resolutions calling for a Convention of States. North Carolina is very close to adding its name to the list of states that have passed resolutions calling on Congress to

Woody Jenkins

schedule an Article V Convention of States. COS activists are busy in several other states educating citizens on the constitutional provision and need for such an event.

Jenkins pointed out that every one of the participants of this simulation was already convinced of the need and importance of an Article V convention of states. With the addition of the needed 15 states, we would likely have a less "conservative" assembly of delegates, and therefore the adoption of some measures could be more difficult.

Many Americans are unaware that a convention of States option was included in Article V of the Constitution, and others fear that a convention could be hijacked to destroy our national heritage. Many are blind to our Constitution's authority being degraded and undermined daily by courts, governors, and presidential administrations.

On September 15, 1787, two days before the close of our historic Constitutional Convention, Col. George Mason questioned what would happen if the need for an amendment was Congressional corruption.

Immediately, the body recognized the likelihood that indeed Congress could be called upon to amend the Constitution in order to correct Congressional misconduct, and that they would undoubtedly be reluctant to exercise this duty faithfully.

A "convention of states" option was added to Article V and affirmed by a unanimous vote of the delegates.

The use of constitutional provisions for the defense and promotion of constitutional integrity is most appropriate, yet there are those, even those who regard themselves as conservatives, who fear the outcome of such a convention. I believe these fears to be unfounded and the product of flawed reasoning.

The Convention of States has never been used to amend our Constitution, but the threat of an Article V convention has successfully motivated Congress to pass amendments. The 17th Amendment is an example.

The voice of Americans was elevated to the point of action through the use of the Article V Convention of States process to affect a change in our Constitution according to the will of "We the People."

The violation and corruption of our Constitution has become standard procedure within the halls of government in the last hundred years, and perhaps this trend could be reversed through the use of Col. Mason's recommendation.

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Sen. Bodi White to Be Honored After 20 Years in Legislature

CITY OF CENTRAL — Sen. Bodi White (R-Central), chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, will be honored for his 20 years' service in the Louisiana House of Representatives and State Senate. A dinner in his honor is planned for Saturday, Sept. 16 at Kristenwood

Reception Hall, 14025 Greenwell Springs Road. The social hour will begin at 6 p.m. and the prime rib dinner at 7 p.m. Evening attire will be appropriate. Tickets may still be available. The deadline for tickets is Sept. 1. Call Leah Veck at 225-993-1504. The event is spon-

sored by the Republican Women of Central.

White was first elected to the Louisiana House in 2003. At that time, he and the late Donald Ray Kennard represented Central in the House. He ran for the State Senate 12 years ago, and rose to

his current position as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee. He is term limited and cannot run for another term in the Senate. During his career in the legislature, he has authored many important bills but creation of the Central school system is one of the most significant.

PLEASE JOIN THE CITY OF CENTRAL FOR A CELEBRATION IN HONOR OF STATE SENATOR



Mack "Bodi" White, Jr.

Saturday, September 16, 2023
Kristenwood Reception Hall
14025 Greenwell Springs Rd.

Social Hour 6pm
Prime Rib Dinner at 7pm
Evening Attire

Limited Seating
Cost: \$40 per person
RSVP by payment due date of September 1
Cash or Venmo @RWCLA
Questions Call L. Veck 225-993-1504

HOSTED BY: REPUBLICAN WOMEN OF CENTRAL, CITY OF CENTRAL, CENTRAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

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WHEN : Saturday, September 16th, 2023, 8 - 11am
WHERE : Moreau Physical Therapy - 11424 Sullivan Rd Bldg C, Ste A, Baton Rouge, LA 70818
COST : *FREE - 1st 100 Signed Up* (\$25 each thereafter)
REGISTER : Scan the QR code with your camera to register



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Sunday Morning Worship
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Sunday 4:30 p.m.
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Psalm 86:11*

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Amendment No. 2 Protects Worship Services

CITY OF CENTRAL — Louisiana voters can go to the polls on Saturday, Oct. 14 and make sure that no

governor can ever again order the closing of churches to in-person worship services. Amendment

No. 2 by Sen. Beth Mizell (R-Franklin) authored the measure, which passed both houses of the Louisiana Legislature with a two-thirds vote.

If voters approve it on Saturday, Oct. 14, it will become part of the Louisiana Constitution and provide clear protection against the kind of edicts made by Gov. John Bel Edwards during the Covid pandemic.

The amendment does not alter the Freedom of Religion provisions of the state constitution. In fact, it would not be in the Declaration of Rights but in the General Provisions section of the constitution.

It says, “The freedom to worship in a church or other place of worship is a fundamental right that is worthy of the highest order of protection.” Any action that attempts to violate that right will be subject to “strict scrutiny” by the courts. For further information, email centralcitynews@hotmail.com.



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Sat., Sept. 30 and
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