



Inauguration **Edition** January 2024 Governor **Jeff Landry Central City News**

January 2024 · Vol. 27 No. 1 · 20 Pages · CentralCityNews.us · Central City News on Facebook · centralcitynews@hotmail.com · 225-261-5055

Conservative Republican Leaders Sworn In

Gov. Landry Takes Oath

Statewide Officials

State of Louisiana **Swearing In Ceremonies** Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024 **GOVERNOR**

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Jeff Landry LT. GOVERNOR

Billy Nungesser

SECRETARY OF STATE Nancy Landry

ATTORNEY GENERAL

Liz Baker Murrill

TREASURER

John Fleming **AG COMMISSIONER**

Bill Strain

INSURANCE COMMISSIONER

Tim Temple

Monday, Jan. 8, 2024 **LOUISIANA SENATE District 6**

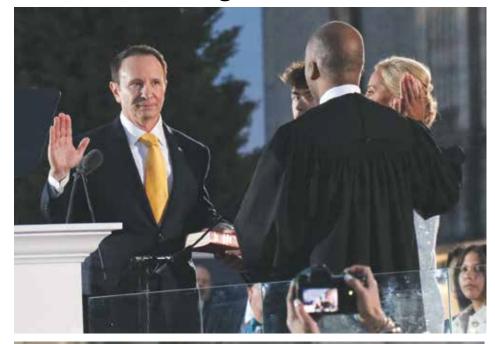
Rick Edmonds

LOUISIANA HOUSE

District 64 Kellee Hennessy Dickerson

District 65

Lauren Ventrella





GOV. JEFF LANDRY takes oath of office at Louisiana's new governor.

Expectations High For Conservative Change After Years Of Democratic Rule

Woody Jenkins

BATON ROUGE — Before 4,000 of his friends and a handful of foes on the steps of the State Capitol, Jeff

Landry took the oath of office as the 57th governor of Louisiana.

The Inauguration occurred on a beautiful but chilly Sunday evening a day earlier than the Constitution requires in a successful attempt to dodge a winter storm that arrived on the day the oath-taking was supposed to take place.

After raising his hand and promising to uphold the constitutions, the new governor, only 53, launched his Inaugural address, best described as a love song about Louisiana and its

Born in St. Martinville where the Cajuns first arrived, Landry sang a song that evoked the images impressed on every Cajun boy and girl. He spoke of the common man, of humility. He said Louisiana is your home. We take you in. We share our table. He spoke of immeasurable love and unrivaled determination. He spoke of the battlefield of life.

See INAUGURATION on Page 8

200+ FBI, Other Agents Posed as MAGA, Facilitated Invasion

Federal Agents Dressed as Trump Supporters Were Inside Capitol to Serve as Provocateurs

Cong. Clay Higgins Says FBI Recruited Trump Supporters To Enter U.S. Capitol

Woody Jenkins

Congressman WASHINGTON Clay Higgins (R-LA) made international news this week by revealing that hundreds of FBI agents and other federal assets dressed as Trump supporters were deployed inside the U.S. Capitol building and mixed in the crowds outside the Capitol dur-ing Jan. 6. Higgins said he, other Congressmen, and House staff have developed a great deal of evidence, which they will be rolling out.



CONGRESSMAN CLAY HIGGINS tells Tucker Carlson that massive documentation shows the FBI and other federal operatives conspired to create Jan. 6 invasion of Capitol.

Higgins revealed the findings in an exclusive interview with Tucker Carlson, which has been viewed 12 million times in six days.

"Deep state actors within the federal government set the stage to entrap thousands of Americans from across the country," he said. An agent provocateur is a person who commits, or who acts to entice another person to commit, an illegal or rash act or falsely implicates them in partaking in an illegal act, so as to ruin the reputation of, or entice legal action against, the target, or a group they belong to or are perceived to belong to. Wikipedia

Higgins said the federal plan began months earlier as federal agents imbedded themselves in chat groups against Covid restrictions. The feds planted seeds of a radical occupa-tion of the Capitol and worked to find those willing to respond.

"The level of corruption at the highest levels of the FBI has been deeply troubling for me as a law

See HIGGINS on Page 15

Attorney Sues Blue Cross to Stop

Attorney Tut Kinney Leading Opposition By Blue Members To Sale to Elevance

Editor's Note: Attorney Tut Kinney has filed suit on behalf of Blue Cross members and policy holders to stop Blue Cross from ending its status as a mutual insurance company and selling to a giant out-of-state insurance company.

Henry "Tut" Kinney

BATON ROUGE — The proposed sale of 100-year-old, member-

The Louisiana Dept. of Insurance gives notice of a public hearing at 10 a.m. on Feb. 14 and 15, 2024, on the proposed conversion of Blue Cross from a mutual company to a stock insurance company. The hearing is on whether the plan of reorganization protects the interests of policy holders and members. Comments will also be received at Box 94214, Baton Rouge 70804 until 4:30 p.m. Feb. 5.

owned Blue Cross/Blue Shield system in Louisiana is bad for the members and bad for the state.

The basic plan is to sell this institution, which is owned and managed by its members and serves almost 80 percent of the health insureds in Louisiana, to a for-profit insurer, Elevance, formerly Anthem.

This stock company will raise rates to recoup its investment of \$2.5 billion dollars. Overnight, the members will lose control of the management of their health insurance and costs. They will be forced to cede control to Elevance.

What is almost as harmful to the members is that the proceeds will not be shared with them. Instead, the board of Blue Cross has created a "foundation" to bank the proceeds and use as they see fit. This is a dou-

ble-whammy bad idea. **History of Blue Cross in LA**

In 1927, a group of doctors in Louisiana banded together to start a self-regulated, nonprofit entity to provide healthcare insurance for the citizens of the state. One of the key reasons for its formation was that it would not have to make a profit to distribute to shareholders. Sure, it had to make enough revenue to cover expenses, but "just enough." The financial base of Blue Cross

was not created to make the most that it could, but to be financially sound for the benefit of its membership and policy holders.

The board was elected by its members and was supposed to act only in the best interests of its members — not to distribute profits, but to provide the best and most reasonably priced health insurance. It was also designed to fairly reimburse providers

The Blue Cross model worked exactly as designed. Its finances are in great shape, and its fiscal projections through 2024 are solid. Members, policy holders, and providers are all satisfied. As they say, "if it ain't broke, don't fix it."

The Plan

However, in late 2022, the Board of Blue Cross decided to demutualize the member-owned entity. Demutualization occurs when an entity ceases to be governed by its membership and becomes a stock company governed by its shareholders.

The overwhelming majority of

The overwhelming majority of Blue Cross members are unsure regarding the need for the breakup of their company. It was not a decision based on financial soundness nor something that Blue Cross members have as yet approved.

bers have as yet approved.

The CEO of Blue Cross of Louisiana, Dr. Steven Udvarhelyi testified to a Joint Louisiana Legislative Committee on August 16, 2023, that the system was financially sound and that there was no immediate need to sell the company.

Both member and providers were satisfied with the current system. Yet, the Blue Cross board nevertheless concocted a plan to sell the members' assets to Elevance and break up the member-owned mutual company. Morever, the board of Blue Cross never really explained the reasons it wanted to sell.

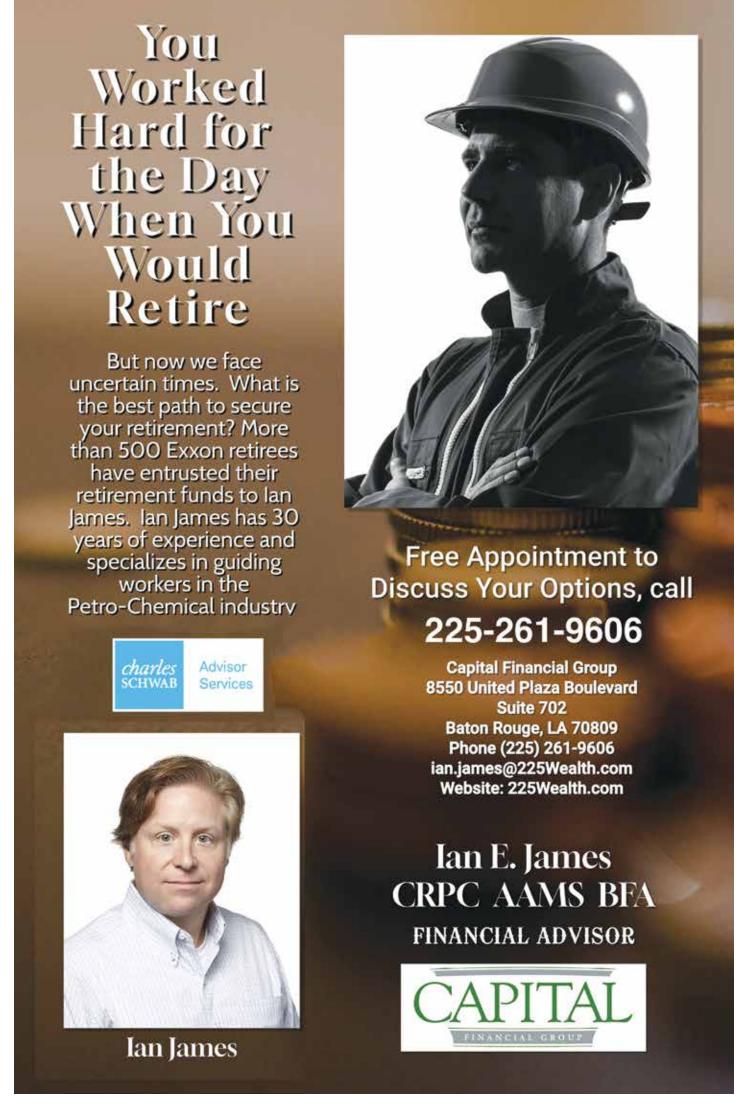
There were statements such as, "Elevance can better manage your diabetes care." This has alarmed the many informed policy holders since the last entity that they want "managing" their healthcare is Elevance.

These kinds of statements also alarmed the Louisiana State Medical Society and the Louisiana Hospital Association, which filed opposition to the plan and have raised serious questions about the plan respectively.

The Blue Cross board said the plan would enhance "digital access." However, the Blue Cross plan failed to state any inadequacies or complaints about the digital services currently provided by Blue Cross. It also ignored the question whether such issues should have been previously addressed if they were real. And it ultimately ignored the fundamental question, "Should this 100-year-old company be dismantled and sold in order to up-

grade its digital function?"

Blue Cross provides health insurance to 1.9 million people in our state which has a total population of 4.6 million. This is about 80 percent of the fully insured market and



See GIVING on Page 3

Giving \$3.4 Billion to Foundation

Proposed Sale Would Take \$2.5 Billion from Members, \$900 Million From Reserves to Give To Massive Foundation

Continued from Page 2

55 percent of the self-insured market. Blue Cross employs more than 3300 employees in its Baton Rouge office alone. What happens in the proposed demutualization will have an enormous impact on Louisiana.

If we keep the current Blue Cross system, the membership and policy holders can continue to enjoy exemplary health insurance and continue to control the delivery of their insurance.

Blue Cross can continue to run the company to ensure just enough is charged to continue financially, and providers are fairly compensated. This is understandable, since the providers are their neighbors and community stalwarts. Or, Blue Cross members can allow the board to sell their company to Elevance, which will run the company for its own purposes.

Interestingly, when Blue Cross and Elevance were listing the benefits of demutualization and the sale, they did not claim there would be lower premiums, more competitive rates, or better payments to healthcare providers.

In fact, the proposed demutualization and sale offer no benefits to the Blue Cross members. Furthermore, no member or policyholder is even promised continued health insurance after the expiration of their one-year policy period.

The Money Flows to the Handpicked Foundation Board

In this proposed convoluted financial transaction, Elevance is buying Blue Cross's membership assets for \$2.5 billion dollars, but they will not be paying this money to the member-owners of the com-

Instead, they will pay these billions to an entity that Blue Cross board members have created, The Accelerate Initiative of Louisiana, Inc. This was formed a few months ago as a Delaware 501(c)(4) entity, with a board of directors made up of four current Blue Cross directors.

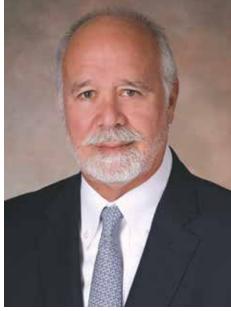
This foundation has nothing to do with the current members of Blue Cross. In fact, there is not a single word in the charter of the new entity that mentions Blue Cross or its former members. The supposed job of this foundation would be to do "good" for the people of Louisiana, not the members or policyholders.

The board of Blue Cross will also "give" to the foundation an additional \$900 million dollars, resulting in the foundation walking with \$3.4 billion dollars — while not having contributed anything for this money.

Of the sale price, the members, who are the actual owners will be paid only \$337 million!

According to Blue Cross and Elevance, under the current proposal, Blue Cross members will get only nine percent of the sales price and the foundation will get 91 percent.

One of the foundation's board



Attorney Henry "Tut" Kinney

members, Tim Barfield, said The Accelerate Initiative will be one of the top 10 largest foundations in the United States.

At the Louisiana Joint Insurance Committee on August 16, 2023, Barfield said he will be president of The Accelerate Initiative and that he wants to be paid in a similar manner to the directors of the 10 largest foundations in the U.S.

Status of Process

This plan was originally submitted to the Louisiana Department of Insurance in January 2023. It was twice scheduled for public hearings in the summer and early fall last year but was derailed by determined opposition and by the objection of then attorney general of Louisiana, and now Gov. Jeff Landry.

Substantial questions raised by the attorney general, and by the U.S. Department of Justice, concerning the potential anti-competitive effects of this takeover by Elevance. These issues are still un-

Additionally, a class action lawsuit has been filed to stop the Delaware-based foundation from collaborating in the scheme to terminate Blue Cross and to take money that they have no right to collect. There is nothing good in this plan for members, policy holders, or the citizens of Louisiana.

A public hearing on plan to strip Blue Cross of the members' assets will by held Feb. 5 and 6 at the Louisiana Department of Insurance. Anyone may come and testify at the hearings or file comments before Feb. 4 at La. Dept. of Insurance, 94214, Baton Rouge 70804

If and when Blue Cross members receive a ballot on whether to approve demutualization of the company, they are well advised to vote No!

About the Author

Henry W. Kinney is the founding partner of Kinney & Ellinghausen. He has served as general counsel for the Audubon Commission since 1976 and as special counsel for the Board of Commissioners for the Port of New Orleans and the Housing Authority of New Orleans, and as special counsel to the State of Louisiana, Division of Administration. Prior to entering private practice, he was an assistant city attorney for the city of New Orleans. Kinney has extensive trial and appellate experience in all of Louisiana's courts, including the Louisiana Supreme Court and the U.S. Court of Appeal for the Fifth Circuit. He has also handled matters in the Supreme Court of the United States. Kinney received a bachelor's degree in political science and a law degree from Tulane University in 1969 and 1973 respectively



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It's Your Money

Treasury: Louisiana's Biggest 'Bank'

La. State Treasury Handles \$60 Billion In Deposits, Invests \$16 Billion Annually

Dr. John Fleming

Treasurer, State of Louisiana

BATON ROUGE — It was an honor to be sworn in as Louisiana's Treasurer by our new Speaker of the House, Congressman Mike Johnson. Mike is very special to me. Not only are we close friends, but he succeeded me as Congressman from the 4th District eight years ago. Together, we have had the privilege of representing the great people of Northwest and Central Louisiana and parts of Acadiana in our nation's Capitol for the past 16 years.

I want to thank you for choosing me as your state Treasurer! It is a wonderful opportunity and a tremendous responsibility.

Many people probably think the Treasurer's job is mainly ceremonial and that he simply affixes his signature to checks and other documents. The truth is, there is much more to it than that.

Complying with State Law

The Treasurer's signature is indeed attached to almost every check issued by the State of Louisiana, and more than \$60 billion in checks are written by the Treasurer every year. That's \$60 billion with a B!

More importantly, the Treasurer is responsible for making sure that those state funds are spent in accordance with the Louisiana Constitution and statutory law. On some days, the Treasurer writes more than \$400 million in checks! All expenditures have to be authorized by appropriation bills passed by the Louisiana Legislature.

The Treasurer also collects \$60 billion in revenue each year. In fact, everyday at the close of busistate agency is zeroed out and the funds are transferred at that moment to the state's General Fund maintained by the Treasurer.

Technically speaking, the state Treasury is not a bank, but if it were, it would be by far the largest bank in Louisiana.

Staff Doing Good Job

Since being elected your Treasurer in November, I have been preparing to make the transition. I want to thank Treasurer John Schroder and the staff at the Department of Treasury for the good job they have done and for their cooperation and help during this period.

As a young doctor just out of medical school, I learned the importance of surrounding myself with a strong team of professionals. The good news is, we have a strong team of professionals in place in the Treasurer's office.

We have inherited an agency with a history of success and without major scandals. I do not plan major upheavals in the department but rather to find ways to build on that history of success.

In Louisiana, we have had conservative Republican Treasurers for the past 20 years (John Kennedy and John Schroder) and, even before that, our Treasurers made many important improvements to the office. Two of our last three United States senators from Louisiana were state Treasurer before their election to the Senate — John Kennedy and Mary Landrieu.

Many of the current staff were hired by John Kennedy, and I am very impressed with a program begun under Mary Landrieu, which is called Bank-at-School. Under this program, community banks in our state have established branches in many schools. This allows students to open a bank account and learn the value of savings and handling money carefully.

Reaching Young People

Bank-at-School, which is strongly supported by the Louisiana

ness, the bank account of every Bankers Association, fits well with a bill passed by the legislature last year requiring that every student in Louisiana public schools pass a one-year course on Financial Literacy in order to quality for TOPS. The new course starts this fall.

I am excited that the Treasury will be involved in developing this course. Hats off to Rep. Nicky Muscarello, the members of the Louisiana Legislature, and Gov. Edwards for approving this important legislation. Also to State Education Supt. Cade Brumley and his staff for their work on this course. **Investing the People's Money**

Another very important duty of the state Treasurer is investing

\$16

billion in state funds. The Investments Division of the Treasury a fascinating place where decisions are made almost everyday that affect the financial health of our state.

nearly



State Treasurer Dr. John Fleming and wife Cindy

How those funds are invested is controlled by state law, but the Treasurer sometimes has the discretion to make policy decisions regarding these investments. In recent years, the legislature and the Treasurer have divested funds that discriminate against Israel or penalize gun manufacturers or dealers.

We intend to look more closely at such issues as well such as how more of our investment dollars can be moved to community banks serving Louisiana citizens and businesses.

State Bond Commission

The Treasurer serves as chairman of the State Bond Commission. In this way, he plays a very significant role in the approval or disapproval of the issuance of debt by the state, state agencies, local governments, and even some private entities. Local tax elections also have to get approval of the bond commission. The staff of the commission works within the Treasurer's office.

State law requires the Treasurer to serve on 30 different boards and commissions. Besides the bond commission, the Treasurer serves as president of the Louisiana Asset Management Pool, or LAMP, and as a member of important boards such as the Interim Emergency Board, the State Employees Retirement System, the Teachers Retirement System, and many others.

Unclaimed Property

Without question, the most popular function of the Treasurer's office and the one that gets the most public attention is the Unclaimed Property Division, which helps Louisiana citizens and businesses claim property which they have lost track of, such as old bank accounts, forgotten deposits, and tax refunds. So far, Louisiana's Treasurers and the hard-working staff at Unclaimed Property have helped get more than \$700 million into the hands of the rightful owners.

Over the next four years, we will work to find ways to provide all of these services to the people of the state even more efficiently.

Cutting Waste, Fraud

We also want to be a force for finding ways to save taxpayer dollars and eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse from state government.

It is exciting to be part of a new team of statewide elected officials in Louisiana. We plan to work closely with Gov. Jeff Landry and all of our statewide officials and the legislature to provide excellent service to the people of our state. **Stay in Touch with Us**

Please follow us on Facebook at Louisiana State Treasurer and subscribe to our new YouTube channel, Dr. John Fleming, Louisiana

State Treasurer. If you have ideas or suggestions for the Department of the Treasury, please email me at comments@Treasury.la.gov.

Ben Aguiñaga Named State's Solicitor General

Julie O'Donoghue

Louisiana Illuminator

BATON ROUGE — Republican Attorney General-elect Liz Murrill has tapped fellow LSU Law School graduate Benjamin Aguiñaga to replace her as Louisiana's solicitor general.

"I am grateful to the Attorney General for the opportunity to serve the people of Louisiana as the next Solicitor General," Aguiñaga said in an email.

A Texas native, Aguiñaga graduated from LSU in 2015 and became the Law Center's second alumnus ever to win a U.S. Supreme Court clerkship. He worked for Justice Samuel Alito during the court's 2018-2019 term.

As solicitor general, Aguiñaga will represent Louisiana in federal court, including possibly in front of the U. S. Supreme Court. He is expected to handle lawsuits Murrill's predecessor, Gov.-elect Jeff Landry, brought against President Joe Biden's administration, as well as high-profile issues such as legal disputes over Louisiana's Congressional districts.

Murrill considers the incoming solicitor general to be one of the most important people in her administration.

'I continue to believe we need to be very, very vigorous and attentive in fighting federal overreach and I don't think that fight is going to go away," she said at a meeting of the East Baton Rouge Republican Party. "I intend to build that staff up as well."

Aguiñaga is a rising star in conservative legal circles.

In addition to his work for Alito, the LSU alum served as a law clerk for Judge Edith Jones, a conservative Ronald Reagan appointee on the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, and Judge Don Willett, then on the Texas Supreme Court. (Willett was appointed to the 5th Circuit by President Donald Trump in 2017 after Aguiñaga worked for him.)

Aguiñaga was also a member of



New Solicitor General Ben Aguinaga

U.S. Sen. Ted Cruz's Senate Judiciary Committee staff and chief of staff in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice during the Trump administration.

He currently works in Dallas for Jones Day, a law firm with offices around the globe. In that job, he handles appellate matters as well as environmental, social and governance (ESG) issues for corporations.

Former LSU law professor Scott Sullivan described Aguiñaga as "the definition of extraordinary.

Aguiñaga took five of Sullivan's classes at LSU and, in two, scored so high on the class exam that his marks had to be left out of the final grading pool because it would have skewed the bell curve for other students. "I've never had another student like him," Sullivan

Michelle Stratton, the only other LSU law school graduate to land a Supreme Court clerkship, also praised Aguiñaga. Stratton, who is now a partner in a Houston law firm, worked for Justice Clarence Thomas in 2011.

"I have full confidence in his ability to completely excel," she said. "He is not only whip smart, but also very kind, very courteous and very collegial.

COMMUNITY PRESS, LL

St. George Leader Vol. 3 • No. 1 Post Office Box 2 City of St. George, LA 70801

The Leader Vol. 27 • No. 1 • CCN No. 484 Post Office Box 1 City of Central, LA 70739

ISTOUMA JOURNAI 910 North Foster Drive Baton Rouge, LA 70806

Vol. 4 • No. 3

Phone (225) 261-5055 • Entire contents © 2023 Email stories and photos for all papers to centralcitynews@hotmail.com **Published Monthly**

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



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FULL-BLOODED CHERO-**KEE RESIDES IN CENTRAL**

- R. W. Chair was born in Tahlequah, Okla. and raised in a log house in the woods by Joe Adair, an Indian boxer. He is a member of the Cherokee Nation and Cherokee is his native tongue. Mr. Chair went to Cherokee schools and didn't speak English until he was in high school. Exxon gave him a test, and he did well. The company gave him an opportunity to work in Baton Rouge. Many workers at the plants have 'plant names." His name at Exxon was "JoeChair". Today he works as an instrument tech about half time and is on the road a lot. He and his wife Margaret have lived in Central since 2005. Central has another member of the Cherokee Nation, Joe's daughter Rebecca, who is half Cherokee. She works at STAT Care. Mr. Chair also has sons Travler and Matt.

Proponents May Not Realize The Challenge They Face

Carbon Capture vs. Louisiana Constitution

Author of Right to Property in State's Constitution Says It Poses a Barrier

Woody Jenkins

Editor, Central City News

BATON ROUGE — Outgoing Louisiana Gov. John Bel Edwards has promoted carbon capture projects for years. Somewhat surprisingly, new Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry also gave carbon capture his fullthroated endorsement on Friday, Dec. 29, 2023, just days before being sworn in as governor.

Carbon capture is the process of separating out CO₂ during the burning of fossil fuels, transporting it, and burying it underground, which is called carbon sequestration. Carbon sequestration has been especially controversial in Livingston, St. Helena, and Tangipahoa parishes where carbon capture projects have been proposed.

Citizens of these areas are in an uproar over these projects. They say CO2 is not a pollutant and that there is no justification for the projects, which they describe as having unknown risks. Developers of carbon capture projects will be paid hundreds of millions by the federal government, but property owners in the areas affected say it is a gigantic boondoggle and that they will receive few benefits but have lots of risk.

Last year at the Louisiana Legislature, big energy companies hired an army of lobbyists to kill legislation that would have stopped or restricted carbon sequestration.

Also, they were able to bottle up in committee legislation by Rep. Robby Carter to prohibit the expropriation of the surface or subsurface of private lands for carbon sequestration. Rep. Carter said Shell and Exxon each have 25,000-acre carbon sequestration projects set for St. Helena Parish,

The purpose of this article is to discuss the barriers posed by the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 to any effort to expropriate private property for carbon capture or sequestration projects.

In 2020, Sen. Sharon Hewitt passed Act 61, which broadened

involved in carbon capture to expropriate private property for their projects. The expropriation could include the taking of subsurface rights under homes, businesses, or agricultural property.

How do takings of private property for carbon sequestration square with the Louisiana Constitution?

As the author of Article I, Section 4 (Right to Property) of the Declaration of Rights of the Constitution, I have to say there could be big problems for developers.

To understand their dilemma, it is essential to realize the United States Constitution does not recognize the Right to Property in the Bill of Rights. That right is protected only in a back-handed sort of way.

Article 5 the U. S. Constitution provides that "No person shall be... deprived of... property without due process of law, nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation." These federal protections were made applicable to the states by the 14th

On the other hand, the Louisiana Constitution includes the Right to Property in the Declaration of Rights. The protections provided are very extensive and supercede the limited protection of property rights in the U.S. Constitution.

Unfortunately, even some Louisiana attorneys think of expropriation cases only in terms of meeting "due process" standards and making sure so-called "just compensation" is paid. However, under the state constitution, there is much more to be considered.

Article I, Section 4 of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 provides that private entities which attempt to expropriate private property must have a "public" and a "necessary" purpose. It further provides that "whether the purpose is public and necessary shall be a judicial question." In other words, it is up to the judge to decide the issue, without respect to any declaration in the statue or any permit issued by the state.

Is there a "public" purpose served by carbon sequestration? Attorneys opposing expropriation for this purpose would argue no. However, the concept of "public purpose" has been interpreted so broadly by the courts that they would likely say the purpose is indeed "public.

However, can an expropriation for a carbon sequestration project the authority of private companies meet the test of being "necessary"?

In general, our courts limit expro-priation for highway or pipeline purposes to only such property as may be necessary to get from point A to point B.

So how can it be argued that a carbon sequestration project must be at a specific location in, say, Livingston Parish. Why not in another spot in Livingston where a sale could be negotiated? Or why not in Lincoln or Tensas Parish?
The question of whether a pri-

vate party could prove to the judge that a taking is "necessary" in a specific spot seems unlikely. Similarly, how could it be proven that expropriation is "necessary" at all when there are hundreds of thousands of acres of land across the state?

The fact is, there are many tracts

of land where carbon sequescould tration occur. So meeting the requirement that it is "necessary" to locate in a particular spot may be a tall order.

However, suppose that a judge in Liv-

ingston rules that the proposed expropriation for carbon sequestration is both "public" and "necessary." (An unlikely assumption!)

The next major problem is 1) who

will determine the compensation to be paid to the property owner, and 2) what legal standard will determine the amount of compensation?

Under the Louisiana Constitution, the amount of compensation in expropriation cases must be determined by a jury if either party requests a jury trial. Article I, Section 4 provides that "In every expropriation, a party has a right to trial by jury to determine compensation...

It can be assumed without much fear of contradiction that a jury is much more likely to come back with a favorable sum for the property owner than a judge would. Bear in mind also that the trial would probably occur in a parish such as Livingston, St. Helena, or Tangipahoa, where public opposition to carbon capture is widespread.

Perhaps the proponents of carbon capture have not thought this through, but the potential for enormous judgments seems very likely.

Finally, consider the legal standard by which the amount of compensation shall be determined. This is important because it is key to whether a higher court might attempt to overturn a generous judgment by a jury.

What is the legal standard for compensation in expropriation cases established by Article I, Section 4? I wrote a law review article that

covered this subject immediately after the adoption of Louisiana Constitution of 1974. The article appeared as part of a symposium on the new Constitution by Loyola Law Review. Gov. Edwin Edwards wrote the lead article and I wrote the article on the Declaration of Rights.

In that article (Loyola Law Review, Spring 1975), I said,

The amount of compensation to be paid when property is taken is not merely "just compensation" as that term has been understood under the fifth and fourteenth amendments of the Federal Constitution and the 1921 State Constitution. Instead, the owner must be compensated "to the full extent of his loss". This is intended to include things "which, perhaps, in the past may have been considered damnum absause injurie such as cost of armumal". que injuria, such as cost of removal", attorney fees, inconvenience, loss of aesthetic value or business profits and so forth. The loss to be measured is the loss sustained by the owner himself. The Section very carefully says that the owner is to be compensated "to the full extent of his loss" instead of "to the full extent of **the** loss" (emphasis added). In other words, the compensation is to be determined subjectively with emphasis on the value placed on the property by the owner instead of on its so-called market value or replacement cost. This emphasis will generally require compensation to be much greater than in the past.
Being quite candid, I wrote in the

article that the tilt of the new Constitution was very much against expropriate, saying,

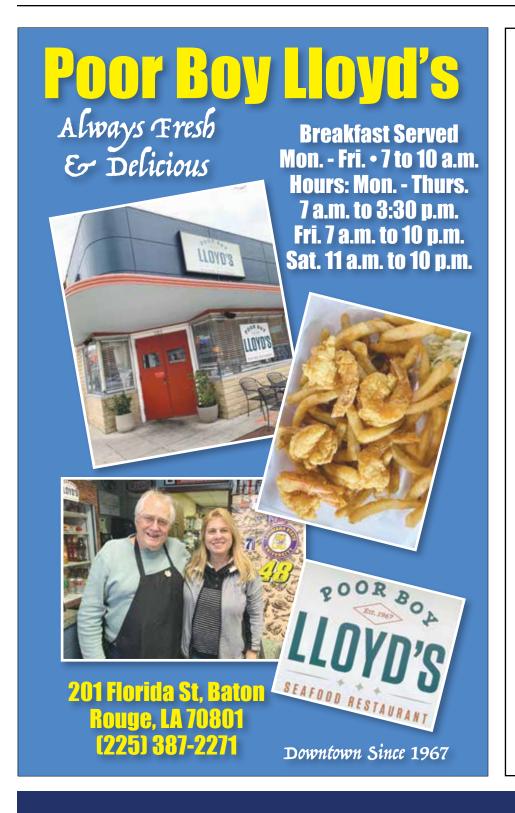
Of course, the award of large sums by generous juries could have the effect of preventing the taking altogether. Moreover, the committee did not intend the finding of facts in such jury trials to be reviewed by the courts, because the right to trial by jury in this instance is established by the Constitution, instead of by the statutes, as is the case in other civil jury trials. In fact, the purpose of permitting jury trials was to encourage more substantial awards instead of placing the authority to decide compensation in the hands of a judge, who is an instrumentality of government paid by the state and the local police jury, either of which may be a party to the suit.

The bottom line is, carbon capture and sequestration can proceed, but the Louisiana Constitution in Article I, Section 4 could make it very expensive to expropriate property in the process of securing sites. Juries in places such as Livingston Parish are likely to see to that!

Former Rep. Woody Jenkins was a delegate to the Louisiana Constitutional Convention of 1973 and authored the Declaration of Rights of the Louisiana Constitution. woodyjenkins2020@hotmail.com



Woody Jenkins



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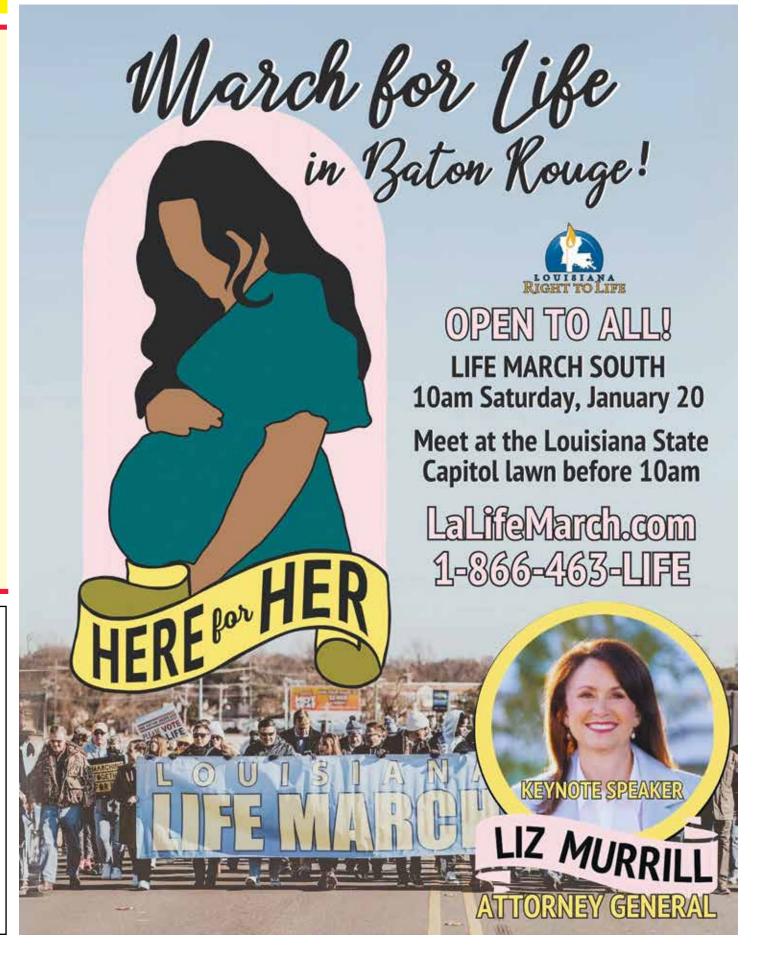
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Final Score Crusaders 8 - Dragons 6

Crusaders Slay the Dragons



THE CRUSADERS FOOTBALL TEAM, A COMBINED TEAM of St. Alphonsus School and St. Jean Vianney School, led by head Coach Chad Simmons and assistant coaches Kyle Nichols, Steven Johnson, Trey Rufini, and Jeff Carcuff had a successful season with a record of 8-1. They were one of four teams invited to participate in the annual Warrior Bowl Championship Game hosted by St. Michael's High School. The Crusaders took on the St. George Dragons 6th grade team on Nov. 11. After four hard-fought quarters, the Crusaders came out victorious with an 8-6 win.



Inauguration Begins Era of Small Government, Low Taxes, Free Enterprise, Traditional Values

Persistence. Fisherman and shrimpers. Those who toil in our fields and our forests. Brave and rugged souls who risk life and limb in ship yards, drilling rigs, and plants. Cooks, waiters, and hotel maids.

"The grandeur of [the Capitol] shall never equal our worth as a people, as a culture of peace, of sharing, of patriotism, of family values, of honor and courage."

He drew a parallel between Ca-juns and blacks... "those removed to this place by forces of the past." Yet, this is our home. This is your home, he said.

We have not come here to be politicians or settle scores, he said, but to repair and reform our government, to unleash innovation, and to make a better future for our children.

Throughout his speech, he reminded listeners of their history. It was 208 years ago, he said, on this very day that the people of Louisiana gathered together to defeat the greatest army in the world at the Battle of New Orleans.

Like the first Cajuns, we "have always stemmed the rough tides and stood down the angry winds. Only to crawl back, swim back, fight back, get up, stand up, and to



NEW CENTRAL LEGISLATORS AT INAUGURATION — Rep. Lauren Ventrella (R-Central) and husband Adam Brister with Sen. Rick Edmonds (R-Central) and wife Cindy during the Inauguration of Gov. Jeff Landry and other statewide elected officials.

never ever forget who we are and why we are here." "I love Louisi-ana. If I had a hundred lives to live, I'd live them all in Louisiana!"

All of the new statewide elected officials were sworn in... Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser, Secretary of State Nancy Landry, Attorney General Liz Murrill, Treasurer Dr. John Fleming, Agriculture Commissioner Mike Stain, and Insurance Commissioner Tim Temple.

Donald Trump, Jr., son of the former President, sat in a place of honor at the ceremony with former Govs. John Bel Edwards and Bobby Jindal, and members of Congress.

Gov. Landry's Inaugural address was almost devoid of politics. Yet, as Gov. Landry spoke and Gov. Edwards listened a few feet away, it was impossible not to feel the significance of the moment.

On one side sat a governor like no other who ruled as a dictator ignoring the Constitution, closing churches, destroying businesses, and all of the other endless injustices he wrought during Covid. And there taking the oath was the very man who fought Edwards at every turn, always standing for freedom and the Constitution.

Now that man is governor.

Highlights of Gov. Landry's Inaugural Address

INAUGURAL ADDRESS Gov. Jeff Landry **State Capitol • Baton Rouge**

Sunday, January 7, 2024
To the cherished people of our beautiful state, honored guests, our heroic Veterans, elected officials, family and friends.

Welcome Home!

I am deeply humbled. Humbled first by the grace of God, humbled by your presence here today, humbled by the continual prayers that shower our loved ones, and humbled by the friendships we share.

It is fitting and appropriate that we stand today before this capitol, the sun having set on the past and where a new Louisiana day dawns.

This magnificent capitol stands as a monument to the history of our beloved state. Sculpted in the stone, wrought in the steel, captured in the décor are the symbols of our great history. The awe of this structure is inspiring at the thought of common people, those living and those gone, whose toil and suffering built it.

Not as a delusion of self-aggrandizement, but as a reflection of their hopes and dreams.

Carved in this stone is the story of Louisiana, from Native Americans, to French and Spanish Explorers, to the thousands that came from other lands, to those removed to this place by forces of the past.

This is our home. This is your

These revered and illustrative chronicles reveal just how the world has found Louisiana to be. The embodiment of a spirited people that will take you in. A people that will share their table with you. A people who will rush to console you. A people who will fight for their beliefs. A people who will not rest when you need help. A people of immeasurable love and unrivaled determination.

In the battlefield of life and in the straight face of adversity... it is Louisiana's perseverance that stands as a measure of inspiration.

From the fishermen and the shrimpers that know no toll of hour, nor individual safety, as they wrought their catch.

To the millions of our toughest that spent the largest portion of their life in our fields and forests.

To those brave and rugged souls that risked life and limb decade after decade in and around ship-yards, drilling rigs, and plants.

To the thousands of service workers, cooks, waiters, hotel maids that humbly serve others day after day and night after night... because this is their building too.

As we reflect together before this Capitol, let us remind ourselves that the grandeur of this structure shall never equal our worth as a people, as a culture of peace, of sharing, of patriotism, of family values, of honor and courage.

For ours is a culture of joy, of love, of kindness, of resilience, of diversity, and of unbridled hospitality. The beautiful and uniqu ple of Louisiana are the originators of welcome. Bienvenue.

Hospitality may have been invented in the South, but it was perfected in Louisiana.

Again, Welcome Home!

Whenever and wherever people meet crisis, they look to the people of Louisiana, who for over 300 years, have always come back. Have always measured up. Have always stemmed the rough tides and stood down the angry winds.

Only to crawl back, swim back, fight back, get up, stand up, and to never ever forget who we are and why we are here.

We know far too well why those who leave our state for other opportunities, shall always hear the whisper of the live oak to come back home! The everlasting love of our culture tugs at their heart. It speaks to their soul.

Coming home to Louisiana feeds their soul and their endearing long-



Gov. Jeff Landry at Inauguration

ing to be here — home where they belong.

To the ladies and gentlemen of our Legislature, senators and representatives from each of our 64 different and unique parishes, representing the 4.6 mill on great citizens of this beautiful State.

I stand before you, and beside you, with the complete and total realization that the people of Louisiana have designated this Capitol as the hallowed place where their voices are to be heard together; in equal and fair measure; and in its broadest format.

We are mere proxies in the living illustration of the people's chosen representative government.

It is here that we come together, so that their lives are governed evenhandedly. So that their hardearned money is spent judiciously; so that their institutions are compelled to serve them, and not disenfranchise them; so that their government fulfills the missions contrived by them; and so that their children are promised the perpetual legacy of opportunity.

The place is here, the time is now, and the challenge is ours.

And may we be mindful of the

fact that — how — we carry out our public service, is what separates politicians from statesmen.

Our people did not send us here to quarrel over the senseless, the personal, the trivial, or the political.

Our problems cannot find resolution whenever political divide becomes the antitheses to solution.

Our people did not send us here to settle scores or engage in battles created by secretly-funded manipulators that profit by dividing Americans. Instead, the people sent us here to repair and reform their government and to unleash innovation and production, so their future and the future of their children are made better. They sent us here not as politicians seeking the next vote, but as Statesmen seeking the next generation. For the people of this state are hopeful and anxious.

They demand leadership that will place the greater good of this state above personal agendas, delusional entitlements, and special interests.

Our people seek government that reflects their values. They demand that our children be afforded an education that reflects those wholesome principles, and not an indoctrination behind their mother's back. The most important voice in a child's education should be that of their parents. It is only through education without indoctrination, that a child finds his or her true potential. We must commit ourselves to the crisis that is evolving in some of our schools and restore the peace of mind that our parents enjoyed when they sent us to school each day.

We must honor our teachers by letting them teach and safeguard our schools from the toxicity of unsuitable subject matter, so that the sanctity of the student and the teacher is restored.

The people of Louisiana deserve a government just as great as they are. I fully appreciate that in governing, a difference of opinion must

See GOV. JEFF on Page 19

Inauguration Day January 7, 2024







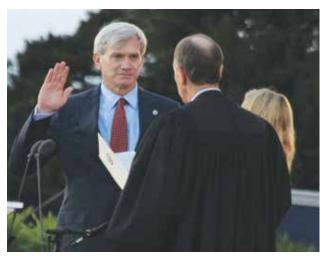
SWEARING IN OF NANCY LANDRY (left) as Louisiana's Secretary of State by Judge Phyllis Keaty of Louisiana's 3rd Circuit Court of Appeal. At center, Solicitor General Liz Murrill is sworn in as Louisiana's Attorney General by Judge Kyle Duncan of the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. Nancy Landry is the second woman to serve as Louisiana's Secretary of State. Liz Murrill is the first woman to serve as Louisiana's Attorney General. At right, a memorial honoring law enforcement officers.







DR. JOHN FLEMING (left) was sworn in as Louisiana State Treasurer by U.S. Speaker of the House Mike Johnson. At center, Dr. Mike Strain was sworn in as Louisiana's Commissioner of Agriculture by Louisiana Supreme Court Chief Justice John Weimer. At right, Bishop Tom Watson of Watson Memorial Teaching Ministries offers a Prayer of Hope on Inauguration Day 2024 on the steps of the Louisiana State Capitol.







HONORABLE TIM TEMPLE (left) was sworn in as Louisiana's Commissioner of Insurance by Louisiana's Supreme Court Chief Justice John Weimer. At center, Billy Nungesser was sworn in as Louisiana's Lt. Governor by Judge Joy Lobrano of Louisiana's Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal. Gov. Landry's former Congressional colleague Steve Southerland (right) sings Amazing Grace just before his friend is sworn in as the 57th governor of Louisiana.









CLASTON BERNARD (left), NCAA national decathlon champion, with Debora Todd and Ursula Anderson. Louisiana Republican National Committeeman Roger Villere (left/center) with National Committeewomen Lenar Whitney and Heather Sellers. Charlie Davis and his wife Ellen (right/center). At right, Mike Chittom and Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin.











JEFF CROUERE (left), host of *Ringside Politics* on *Central City News* on Facebook 7 to 11 a.m. with wife Mimi. Central residents Maria and Alan Cayer with their son Joshua (left/center). Robert Holmes, East Feliciana Republican leader (center). Susie Labry "Louisiana Sunshine" (right/center). At right, Metro Councilman Aaron Moak.

Inauguration of Louisiana Go









LOUISIANA'S FIRST FAMILY STANDS FOR THE NATIONAL ANTHEM (left) at the Inauguration ceremonies. Jeffery Martin Landry (right/center) was sworn in as the 57th





LOUISIANA CITIZENS BEGAN ARRIVING as early as 1:30 p.m. to find a seat for the inauguration ceremonies (left).









PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE SONG BY LOUISIANA LEADERS OF TOMORROW (left) warmed the hearts of everyone. Presentation of The Ceremonial Saber (left)







GENA GORE (left), LFRW Representative in red, and to her right Republican leader Rhett Davis. A young family enjoys the ceremony. One man stood (left/center) during Gov. Lan

vernor Jeffrey Martin Landry









Governor of Louisiana Sunday, January 7, 2024. The American flag, the Louisiana State flag and the P.O.W. flag were raised (right) for the first time under the Landry administration.







THE CITY OF CENTRAL was represented at the Inauguration by Mayor Pro-Tem Aaron McKinney and his wife Hannah, Councilman Tim Lazaro and his wife Anita, and Mayor Wade Evans. At right, attendees pledge their allegiance to the flag of the United States.









eft/center). Presentation of the Colors by Washington Artillery Louisiana National Guard. At right, Louisiana Leaders of Tomorrow participated in Inaugural ceremonies.







dry's Inaugural address. Sen. Valarie Hodges (right/center) in red was sworn in on Monday, Jauuary 8, 2024. Gov. Landry (right) turns to smile at Speaker of the House Mike Johnson.

Inauguration Day January 7, 2024



Gov. Jeff Landry and First Lady Sharon Landry pose for a picture after the Inaugural ceremony.



Donald Trump, Jr. taking a selfie with a supporter



The Louisiana State Capitol on Inauguration Day



Marines attending the Inauguration of Gov. Landry



Former Gov. Jindal talks with Woody Jenkins











Gov. Landry (left) with Rep. Roy Adams. Claston Bernard and his daughters (center) with Donald Trump, Jr. Woody and Diane Jenkins (right) with Speaker Mike Johnson.







Congressman Garret Graves, former Gov. Bobby Jindal, Treasurer John Fleming, and former Gov. John Bel Edwards (left) all in one photo. A large crowd at Inauguration.













ENJOYING INAUGURATION CEREMONIES were La. Supreme Court Justice James Genovese and Mrs. Genovese, Sen. Rick Edmonds, Sen. Alan Seabaugh, Troy McCullen, Rep. Kathy Edmonston, Ola Mowas, John Sinquefield, Eddie Rispone, Lane Grigsby, and Sen. Blake Miguez. Eddie Rispone and Lane Grigsby are leaders of transition teams.











LEGISLATORS AND STATE OFFICIALS— Senate President Pro-Tem Regina Barrow and Woody Jenkins, Sen. Blake Miguez, Republican leader Rhett Davis, Sen. Mike Fesi, State Treasurer Dr. John Fleming, his wife Cindy, and his family, and Rep. Danny McCormick and Mrs. McCormick

Former Congressman Won 65 Percent Statewide

Treasurer Dr. John Fleming Makes First Speech After Inauguration at Ronald Reagan Luncheon



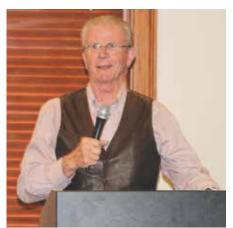






LOUISIANA TREASURER DR. JOHN FLEMING with former State Rep. Woody Jenkins, Cox Communications Sr. Vice President Anthony Pope, and Cecil Cavanaugh, president of the Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge Parish. Dr. Fleming was sworn in Sunday, Jan. 7, 2024, and made his first speech before the Ronald Reagan luncheon.

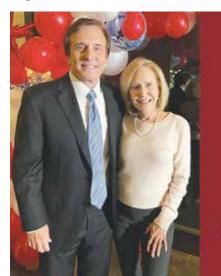








JOHN FLEMING (left) with Gary Rispone after the Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon. Hank Henagan (left/center) offers the prayer. Metro Councilwoman Laurie Adams (right/center) was the emcee for the meeting of Republicans. At right, a faithful reader of the Central City News after the meeting.



LIVE at Louisiana Republican on Facebook

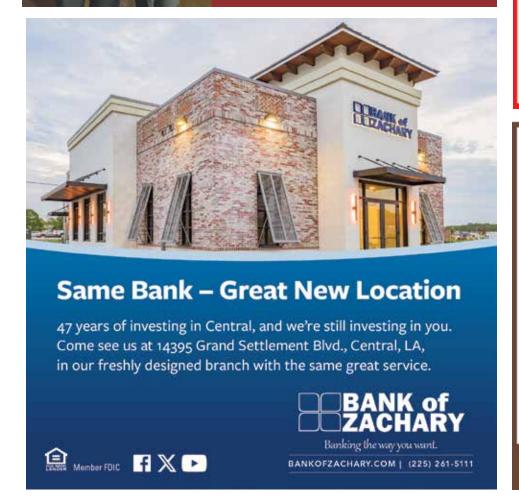
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Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon

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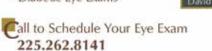
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Central City News: Year in Review January 2023 February 2023 March 2023 April 2023



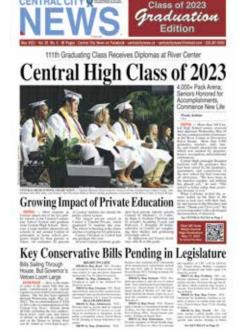
Read January 2023 Edition

Mayor Wade Evans Sworn in • Aaron McKinney named Mayor Pro-Tem • Five new School Board members take office • David Simoneaux named new Central football coach • GOP endorses Sheriff, Assessor, Clerk, Coroner • Nativity Scene installed at Capitol • Mayor begins dialogue with Pastor Spell • State of City by outgoing Mayor David Barrow • Central Christmas Parade • Central High grand opening • New welding, culinary, and health sciences classes • Walk-On's coming • City swearing in ceremonies • GOP Women's gala • Ian James' book tops chart • Rev. Tommy French: 64 years a pastor • Defense law-yers honor Jeff Wittenbrink • Bill Simon tells secrets of business success • Central Private homecoming queen and court.



Click to Read January 2023 Central City News

May 2023



Read May 2023 Edition

Central High Class of 2023 • Growing Impact of Private Education • Conservative Bills pending in Legislature • Five Candidates vie for State House • Attorney Alex St. Amant: Warrior for Justice • Why is Central so different? Fathers! • 54 percent of Louisiana Children are without fathers • Health Freedom Day at Revolution Square • Tragic Loss for beloved Central Family with Close Ties to Law Enforcement • Dr. Clyde Lindsey, 99, Legendary Player at LSU, Coach at Istrouma, EBR Superintendent • Donnie Shaffer: pastor, missionary, and teacher • Central High Superlatives • Central Cheerleaders at Nationals • Central Private Class of 2023 • Coach Williams: Why I Love Central • Harlan Jerro graduating from Air Force Academy.



Read February 2023 Edition

Central Schools Headquarters Building almost ready • How to end cell phone addiction • Paper ballots, voting machines, or a combination • Should you be armed to drive through Krispy Kreme • Dancing Jeff: Why he dances • National Conservative Caucus reestablished in Louisiana • Rep. Hodges and Rep. Edmonds seek Senate seats • Understanding the work of Doug Welborn as Clerk of Court • Kellee Dickerson and Kellie Alford seeks House District 64 • Central drops basketball heartbreaker to Catholic • Signing Day at Central High CHS Kittens perform for community Cheerleaders are Disney ready • Central Middle Katz and Cheer Perform • Livingston Chamber honors Rep. Hodges • Central, Central Private baseball schedules.



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June 2023



Legislature OKs Const'l Change To Ban Closing Churches in LA



Read June 2023 Edition

Legislature OKs Constitutional Change to Ban Closing Churches in Louisiana • Voters to Decide Oct. 14 • 5,000 Coming to Revolution 2023 at Life Tabernacle • Candidates for Secretary of State, Treasurer at Reagan Luncheon • Family Research Ribbon Cutting • What Is "Pride Month" Really About? • First Meeting of New Istrouma I-Club • What a Difference Three Years Make • Conservative Caucus Rates Legislature • St. Alphonsus Celebrates Feast of Corpus Christi • Geaux Seven Blue Star Moms • Central City News to broadcast Central Private, Istrouma games • Central High, Central Private and Istrouma football schedules • Life Tabernacle honors graduates • Funeral services for Dr. Clyde Lindsey, retired parish superintendent.



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Read March 2023 Edition

Republican Party endorses Jeff Landry for Governor • Mayor Wade Evans says city to earn \$5,480 a day by money management • Life Tabernacle plans appeal to Supreme Court • Central Schools name Students of the Year • Health Freedom Day set for April 21 • Sen. Day Richey, Renaissance Man, passes away • 50 year after CC/73, Louisiana Constitution still shines brightly, few delegates survive • Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon hear from candidates for Governor • Ex-NCAA Champ talks about Constitution Central High basketball Senior Night 2023 Teachers of the Year • CHS Dental Assisting Class • Tractor Supply coming to Hooper at Sullivan • Congratulations to WAFB-TV on 70 Great Years.



Click to Read March 2023 **Central City News**

July 2023



Read July 2023 Edition

Delta Women's Abortion Clinic Left Patient Records • An eerie look inside clinic where 40,000 babies died • Delta Women's Clinic facilitated rape of minors for decades • Abortion clinic owner could face fines in millions for violating patients' privacy • Convicted mass murderer Dr. Kermit Gosnell worked at Delta Republican Party endorses six additional candidates • Revolution 2023: America's National Youth Conference held in Central Chamber EBR discussed Carbon Capture • Candidates for State House District 66 • Alyssa Hollingsworth live a full life • Courage and Heart: Jackson Blayne Griffin • Central remembers Caleb Easterling • Central City News named Newspaper of the Year for 3rd consecutive year.



Click to Read **July 2023** Central City News



Central City Hall: A New Vision



Open House for Schools' New Central Office

Read April 2023 Edition

Central City Hall: A New Vision • Central softball wins Bi-District championship defeating Covington High • Open House of Schools' Central Office • Springs Is Well Underway at Plant World • Attorney General Candidate Forum • Fundraiser for Jeff Landry for Governor • Doug Welborn campaigning • Trump Rally on Steps of State Capitol • National Conservative Caucus debuts at luncheon • "The Crucified Christ" at St. Helena Catholic Church • Two Central High students among six who won DEMCO Essay Contest, trip to Washington • Coach Sid named head coach at Istrouma High • Central vs. Zacharv meet April 20-21 for Bi-District • The Decision to publish "The Crucified Christ" • Louise Blalock new manager at Red River Bank.



Click to Read **April 2023 Central City News**

August 2023





Read August 2023 Edition

Policyholders Question Sale of Blue Cross to For-Profit Out-of-State Insurance Giant • \$3 billion to go to new foundation instead of being paid to Blue Cross owners • Demutualization of Blue Cross leads to serious questions of fairness • Proposed sale of Blue Cross deserves a "No" vote from policyholders • Attorney General raids abortion clinic • Candidates qualify to Oct. 14 election • Article V simulated Convention of States elects Woody Jenkins chairman • Central School System convocation • Central ranks No. 1 in key measures, No. 2 overall • Republicans finalizing endorsements • Tractor Supply opens store in Central • First Day for 1st graders at Tanglewood • 2023 Central Football Edition • Meet the Wildcats.



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Click to Read May 2023 Central City News

2023: A Year of Progress in Central September 2023 October 2023 November 2023 December 2023



Read September 2023 Edition

Early voting Sept. 30-Oct. 7 for Governor, Legislature • Two House members seek Senate seat held by Sen. Bodi White • Five running for House seat from Central • Sid Gautreaux, Doug Welborn seek reelection as Sheriff, Clerk of Court • Norman Browning reports on status of St. George incorporation • 1st Circuit clearly misinterpreted "plan" of St. George incorporators • Hearing on sale of Blue Cross • Wildcats in dogfight with DeLaSalle • Lauren Ventrella announces • Sale would take \$3.4 billion from members of Blue Cross • Louisiana Medical Society opposes sale of Blue Cross • Fete-Dieu du Teche Boat Parade • Supt. Cade Brumley visits Central • Wildcats top West Feliciana • Sen. Bodi White honored • Sports Hall of Fame honorees.





Read October 2023 Edition

Decision Time is October 14 • Candidates on ballot • Blue Cross withdraws proposed sale... for now • U.S. Supreme Court refuses to hear Pastor Spell case but state suit continues • Jeff Landry endosed as "Guardian of Liberty" • Elbert Guillory: a Real Life Freedom Fighter • Mike Francis fights for election integrity • Liz Murrill: The Bad Guys Worst Nightmare • Chamber EBR discusses Blue Cross sale • St. Alphonsus' new activity center • 2023 Central High Homecoming • Homecoming Queen Kaylen Dillard • Wildcats sweep Redhawks 3-0 in volleyball • Central Private Homecoming • CP falls to Northeast • Istrouma High Class of 1966 reunion • Central tames Capitol • Dr. John Fleming: Right for Treasury • EBR GOP endorses.



Click to Read October 2023 **Central City News**



Read November 2023 Edition

A New Day for Louisiana • EBR Parish ends up not being the "Promised Land" for Democrats: Parish now "leans Republican" Brandon Ivey, Lauren Ventrella face off Nov. 18 • Governor-Elect speaks on Liberty • 10-Point Plan to Save EBR Parish • Ventrella highlights Bodi's support • Brandon Ivey focuses on job creation • Game to Remember in Wildcat Stadium: Catholic 42, Central 38 • Central Schools: A Model of Excellence • Central girl named Miss Louisiana Christian University • Runoff candidates address Chamber EBR • Passage of Amendment No. 2: Vindication for Rev. Spell • Zachary claims Central 35-8 • Alumni Night • Archie McClure officially a Wildcat • Redhawks Senior Night • CHS Class of 1963 60th anniversary.



Click to Read **November 2023** Central City News



Read December 2023 Edition

Christmas in Central • Veterans Day ceremony • Election of Rep. Lauren Ventrella, Rep. Kellee Hennesey Dickerson, and Sen. Rick Edmonds • Conservative Republicans sweep statewide offices • 10 Issues Facing Louisiana in 2024 • Nativity Scene at State Capitol • Central Christmas Parade Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon featuring Secretary of State-elect Nancy Landry • Central Community School System maintains "A" rating, all five schools improve scores • Central's Jackson Whitlow named Student of the Year at Catholic High • 2024: A Year of Great Change • Groundbreaking for park for children with autism • Central High signature playoff victory over No. 2-ranked Neville • Central coach David Simoneaux reviews season



Click to Read December 2023 Central City News

Higgins Reveals FBI Plan to Destroy Trump Movement

Continued from Page One enforcement officer," he said, "Yet,

we must follow the evidence. "American patriots assembled at the U. S. Capitol to appropriately protest Covid restrictions and a compromised election, but imbed-

ded with them were FBI assets who manipulated them," he said.

Agents planted in chat groups told people what gear to wear and

encouraged people to push the limits of peaceful protest, he said.

By the time Jan. 6 arrived, everything was set, Higgins said. Agents dressed in MAGA clothing waved people into the building and then guided them to places most likely to bring condemnation. "The Capitol is very confusing, and there is no way a person who has never been there can go directly to the Speaker's office or such spots. But federal agents dressed as Trump supporters took them to where they would be filmed. "Come in, follow us" was

their message, he said.
The federal agents knew they were setting people up to be arrested and prosecuted, he said. FBI assets across the country can be activated on a moment's notice, he said.

"Hundreds of federal assets nation," he said.

dressed as MAGA were deployed," he said. This was designed to cause the mass arrest of Trump supporters. "The purpose of this operation was to destroy not just Trump but the Make America Great Movement. The goal was to forever stain the patriots associated with the America First movement and portray the movement as a threat to the



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We are committed to treating each patient with compassion, dignity, integrity, understanding, and joy.

We will work to provide patient centered care in a thorough, prompt, enthusiastic manner using the highest quality, state of the art procedures and materials.

We are confident that treating each patient and each other as an individual forms the cornerstone of success.

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CENTRAL'S #1 JALEN THOMAS (left) with a slam dunk for the Wildcats! #23 Kedrick Franklin (center) keeping the ball in bounds. The Wildcats with two points (right).







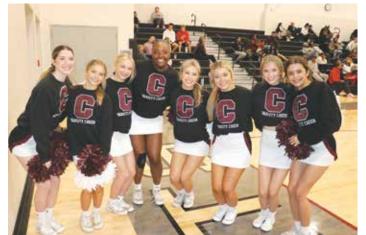
WILDCAT'S #2 JACE CONRAD (left) on offense. #12 Collin Verrett (center) skillfully dribbles down the court. #2 Jace Conrad (right) hits for three points for the Wildcats!







#10 ALVIN STEWART AND #12 COLLIN VERRETT (left) on defense for the Wildcats. It's #2 Jace Conrad (center) again with two points for the Wildcats. #12 Collin Verrett (right) smiles and walks off the court after making a full court basket at the halftime buzzer. Everyone was amazed and excited!







WILDCAT VARSITY CHEERLEADERS (left) cheered on the Wildcats. The C-Town Stompers (center) making noise and offering support to the Wildcat basketball team.

Inauguration Ceremonies Jan. 7, 2024 • State Capitol

Gov. Jeff Landry Inaugural Address

Continued from Page 8

exist for there to be deliberation. And it is our duty to deliberate respectfully and productively to deliver solutions our people seek. It is in that spirit that I welcome your thoughts; I value your opinions; I respect your ideologies; and I sincerely invite your ideas.

To the Legislature; I ask you to help me help you, and together help them... for our failure is not an op-

tion.

To my fellow citizens; I pledge to you an open door. I welcome anyone and everyone to the table of thought with an open ear. I have learned by listening to the voices of those that long to be heard. I sadly hear the victims of crime whose compelling voices have gone unheard for far too long, squelched by the misguided noise of those who had rather coddle criminals than live in peace. I mince no words about the consequences that I feel are wholly appropriate for those who commit violent crime in our state. For it comes from listening

to the innocent victims of the senseless, uncivilized, and outrageous violence that too many have suffered.

Families ripped apart; loved ones taken from us by people with no conscience who do not deserve the privilege of freedom. Those victims speak out for justice and it is our duty to act, so that others are spared that same burden of pain.

We owe no higher obligation as public servants than to fix this. To fix it now and to fix it for good.

To the men and women who protect us, who stand firmly on that thin blue line. Our appreciation is expressed today in the rows of flags that have been placed on these sacred grounds and this profoundly empty chair. We know too well the sacrifice you give every day, and the risk you endure to protect us from those who will not follow the laws of society.

Our police officers, our correctional officers, and our deputies deserve our gratitude, our respect, and our support. For I have stood in their shoes and my love and support

for them shall never waiver.

The concern of our families for their own safety in their own neighborhood has been heard loud and clear and will be addressed by whatever legal means necessary from this day forward.

There is no greater gift we can give to a person than to provide the opportunity for their labor.

To enable their own self-sufficiency and in doing so, we revel in the thriving of our economy. As we shape policy and seek solutions to the challenges of energy, exploration, production, conservation practices, and the protection of our precious environment.

We are mindful that America is a nation of small businesses. As a small business owner myself, I understand, I appreciate, and I fully support any Louisiana citizen with the courage to risk their precious capital to pour their heart and labor into an idea, working tirelessly to make a dream a reality. You are the people who built this country. For you generate revenue for state and

local governments, and pave the way to prosperity for all Louisiana citizens.

Exactly 208 years ago at this very time, the most powerful armed force in the world were mobilizing around the city of New Orleans to conquer Louisiana, to hopefully rescind the Louisiana Purchase, and to claim our rivers, our cities, our towns, and our settlements to serve their King.

Tomorrow morning marks the anniversary of that fateful sunrise attack. The untrained and outnumbered Louisiana militia of 1,000 men, were logistically no match for the superior British force of 6,000 highly trained and perfectly

equipped soldiers.

Those Louisianians represented the magnificent diversity and courage of our state that exists today. They were men of all colors, ethnicities, backgrounds, status, and religions. There was the wealthy few, the working poor, many were farmers, shop keepers, enslaved men who were readily armed and fought valiantly, some were fishermen, boat builders, clergymen and pirates side-by-side, shoulder to shoulder. The bravery of Louisiana that day, stunned the world with a crushing defeat of King George's army. It is a story of courage, of optimism, of how a group of people with extremely different opinions; set aside their differences, embraced one another's courage, and demonstrated to the world the power of unity.

Theirs is a story of defeating fear and adversity — with courage and diversity. This story is our story. We are the same Louisiana people

of that fine hour.

Then as now, we love to love, and we love to argue. More importantly, we still love when we finish arguing. It is that indomitable spirit so deeply rooted in the DNA of Louisiana that motivates us, that reminds us that we can do anything, that we can solve any problem, that we can count on one another, that whatever befalls one of us rallies all of us.

That is who we are.

If America is a melting pot, Louisiana is the gumbo that fills the pot.

To the people of Louisiana, there is something quite extraordinary about you. What kind of people could make mosquito infested marshes and swamps their productive, beautiful, and thriving home?

What kind of people could fabricate industry along the bayous, rivers, and a turbulent gulf? What kind of people could tame the wilderness and the vast forests?

What kind of people could lead the world in energy and provide the technical force that lifted the world from mud and poverty?

What kind of people could master the land and produce an agricultural abundance to feed the world?

What kind of a people could master the violence of our sea and rivers to create commerce and trade?

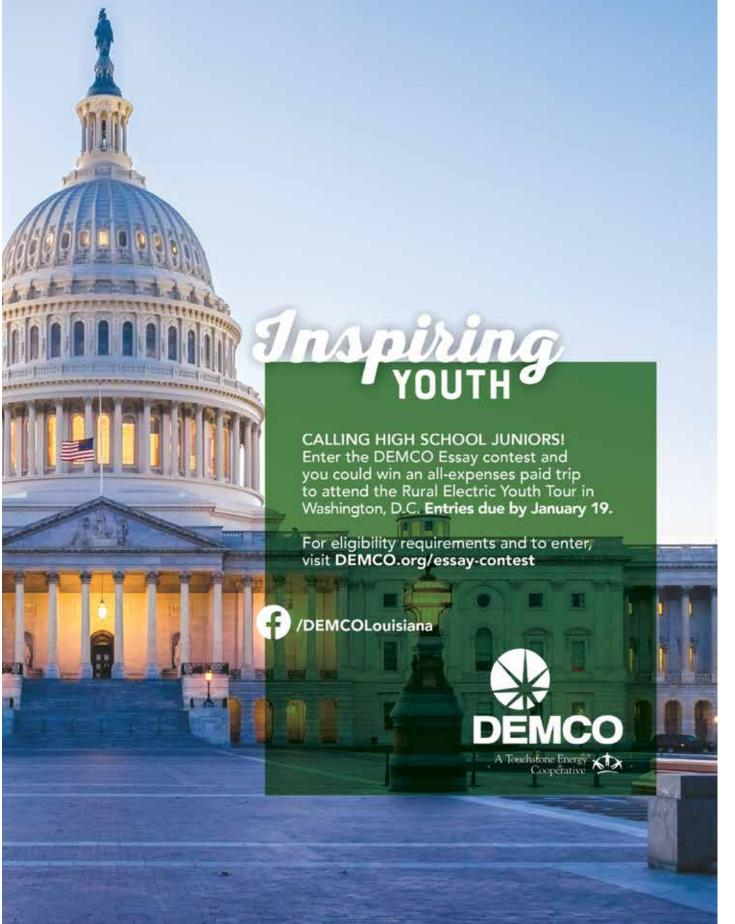
Only you, the amazing and wonderful people of Louisiana.

Only you, could turn your exile into a garden of Eden and a place where the entire world celebrates the unique culture we have created.

There is no place like Louisiana and nowhere are there fabulous people like you.

I love Louisiana. If I had a hundred lives to live, I'd live them all in Louisiana!

Again, welcome Home!

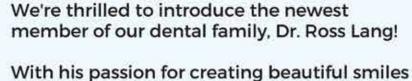


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