

Ronald Reagan  
Newsmaker Luncheons  
Going Statewide

Now in Baton Rouge, Lafayette,  
New Orleans, and Shreveport.  
Watch at Louisiana Republican  
on Facebook • See Page 5



Presidents Biden, Trump on Ballot in Louisiana

Presidential Primary March 23

Candidates  
Central Area

Saturday, March 23, 2024

PRESIDENT

Republican Candidates

Chris Christie

R

Ron DeSantis

R

Nikki Haley

R

Asa Hutchinson

R

Vivek Ramaswamy

R

Donald J. Trump

R

Democratic Candidates

Joe Biden

D

Dean Phillips

D

Marianne Williamson

D

Republican State  
Central Committee

District 6D

Cathy Craddock

R

Wayne Messina

R

District 6E

Brandon Ivey

R

Tim Lazaroe

R

District 6F

Nick Carmena

R

Kimberly Powers

R

Republican Parish  
Executive Committee

At Large Parishwide  
Vote for Up to 5

Jerry Brouillette

R

Cecil Cavanaugh

R

Lynn Coxe Graham

R

Jamie Messina Kitchin

R

Jamie Pope

R

Debra Moore Richard

R

Dr. Lewis Richerson

R

Dwayne Rogers

R

Scott Wilfong

R

Metro Council Dist. 1  
(Central north of Denham Road)

Christopher Lemoine

R

Brandon Noel

R

Metro Council Dist. 5  
(west side of Comite River)

Amber Thomas

R

Barbara Thomas

R

Central City News  
endorsements are in RED.



President Donald J. Trump



President Joe Biden

Freedom of Choice vs. Government Control

Health Freedom Day  
Coming Here Apr. 19

Dr. Peter McCullough,  
World Renowned M.D.,  
To Keynote Conference

**CENTRAL** — The Central City News is sponsoring the 3rd Annual Louisiana Health Freedom Day from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Friday, April 19 at Revolution Square, 9500 Blackwater Road in Central.

For the third straight year, the keynote speaker will be Dr. Peter McCullough, world renowned physician who promoted early treatment during the pandemic and endorsed the use of hydroxychloroquine and ivermectin. A cardiologist, he was formerly professor of medicine at Texas A&M Medical School. He has more than 1,000 medical and scientific publications.

Others speaking during the con-

ference will be Dr. Rhett Bergeron of Atlanta, George; Dr. Evelyn Griffin of Baton Rouge; attorney Jeff Wittenbrink; radio talk show host Moon Griffon; Central City News editor and former Rep. Woody Jenkins, and many others.

The event will once again be hosted by Rev. Tony Spell and his wife, Sister Shaye Spell. Registration includes an autographed copy of Dr. McCullough's new book and lunch. The cost is \$40 before April 1 and \$60 beginning April 1. Register at [centralcitynews.us](http://centralcitynews.us).

The event will be held at Revolution Square, 9500 Blackwater Road.



Dr. Peter McCullough

GOP, Democrats  
Will Also Vote on  
Party Committees

Woody Jenkins  
Editor

**CENTRAL** — Joe Biden's quest to win the Democratic nomination for President was over before it began, and Donald Trump has just secured the Republican nomination. Nevertheless, Louisiana voters will still get to make their voices heard.

Louisiana's Presidential Primary will be held on Saturday, March 23. Early voting began Saturday, March 9 and ends on Saturday, March 16.

Many of President Trump's chief rivals are still on the ballot, and their votes will be counted.

President Biden had only one serious rival, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., but Kennedy announced last year that he will run as an independent. Biden's name, along with a host of unknown Democrats, will be on the March 23 ballot.

Republican voters will also choose members of the Republican State Central Committee and members of the Republican Parish Executive Committee. Likewise, Democratic voters will vote on members of the Democratic State Central Committee and Democratic Parish Executive Committee.

Before the Presidential Primary, Republican voters will elect delegates and alternates to the Republican National Convention. In East Baton Rouge Parish, that election will be held from 4:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday, March 19 at Jefferson Baptist, 9135 Jefferson Hwy.

Three delegates and three alternates will be elected from each Congressional district. Most of East Baton Rouge is in the 6th District and part is in the 2nd District, but all Republicans in the parish will vote at Jefferson Baptist and be given the appropriate ballot.

Will Louisiana Be First with Gold Currency?

Const. Art I Sec.10 Gives  
States Power to Issue  
Gold-Backed Currency  
That Will Be Legal Tender

**BATON ROUGE** — For more than 5,000 years, people have seen gold as the most secure way to preserve their wealth and protect it against inflation. Ironically, there has never been a practical way to use gold in everyday transactions. It is and always has been too valuable to carry

around and "spend."

However, that problem has been solved. Computers, the internet, and the existence of secure storage vaults now make it possible use gold as money on a day-to-day basis.

Article I, Section 10 of the U.S. Constitution gives each state the right to issue currency backed by gold and silver, which shall be "legal tender" for all debts, public and private.

Five years ago, the State of Texas authorized construction of the Texas Bullion Depository, an \$18 mil-

See HB 714 on Page 2



The State of Louisiana could use the Texas Bullion Depository, an arm of the State of Texas, to hold gold deposited with the Louisiana Dept. of Treasury. Insured by Lloyd's of London, the gold would be protected against bank failures or theft. Depositors would be issued debit cards to spend their gold or convert their gold to cash 24 hours a day anywhere in the world.



# HB 714 by Rep. Crews Offers Gold Currency

## LA Residents Could Store Gold Bullion With Treasury, Use Debit Card to Access

Continued from Page One

lion facility in Leander, Texas, near Austin. It is under the control of the State Comptroller of Texas but managed by a private company. The depository accepts gold, silver, platinum, and palladium from residents of the State of Texas and other states. It is a Texas version of Fort Knox. A company named Glint is one of several that allow gold stored in



**THE TEXAS BULLION DEPOSITORY** under the Comptroller of the State of Texas is an option the State of Louisiana has for storing gold. Precious metals stored there are insured by Lloyd's of London. For more information, go to [TexasBullionDepository.gov](http://TexasBullionDepository.gov).

secure facilities to be accessed by the owners with a debit card. This allows the use of gold as currency. Glint has more than 200,000 customers around the world who are already doing this.

House Bill 714 by Rep. Raymond Crews has been introduced in the Regular Session of the Louisiana Legislature. It would allow Louisiana State Treasurer John Fleming, M.D., to establish a relationship with a depository such as the Texas Bullion Depository and companies that deal in transactional gold such as Glint.

There would be two advantages to these relationships. First, because of Article I, Section 10 of the Constitution, the gold on deposit would qualify currency and legal tender, which would provide significant tax advantages to the owners of gold. Second, the Louisiana State Treasurer would create a significant revenue stream to fund its operations.

The Treasurer's office is already self-sufficient and needs no state general fund dollars. It covers its \$14 million budget with fees earned by bond sales and investment commissions. In addition to its budget, the Treasurer's office generates \$19 million toward the operation of state government. This year its investments will earn more than \$400 million for the state.

If Rep. Crews' legislation passes, the State Treasurer's office would not be buying or selling gold. It would be a storehouse for gold belonging to individuals and businesses. In turn, the state would contract out to storage facilities such as Texas Bullion Depository. The Treasury would not be lending gold, because the gold is owned by the depositors. Depositors would have access to their gold at any time because 100 percent of the gold would be on hand at all times.

The Treasury would earn a fee when people transfer dollars to gold or gold to dollars and when they use their debit cards.

In the 5,000-year history of gold, nothing like this has ever been done. The advent of the internet and digital services make transactional gold possible. Deposits with the Department of Treasury would be outside the banking system but not outside the legal system. Tax laws and anti-money laundering laws would apply.

Under the Constitution, only the federal government and state governments can issue currency which is legal tender.

Louisiana would be the first state to utilize the little-known right found in Article I, Section 10.

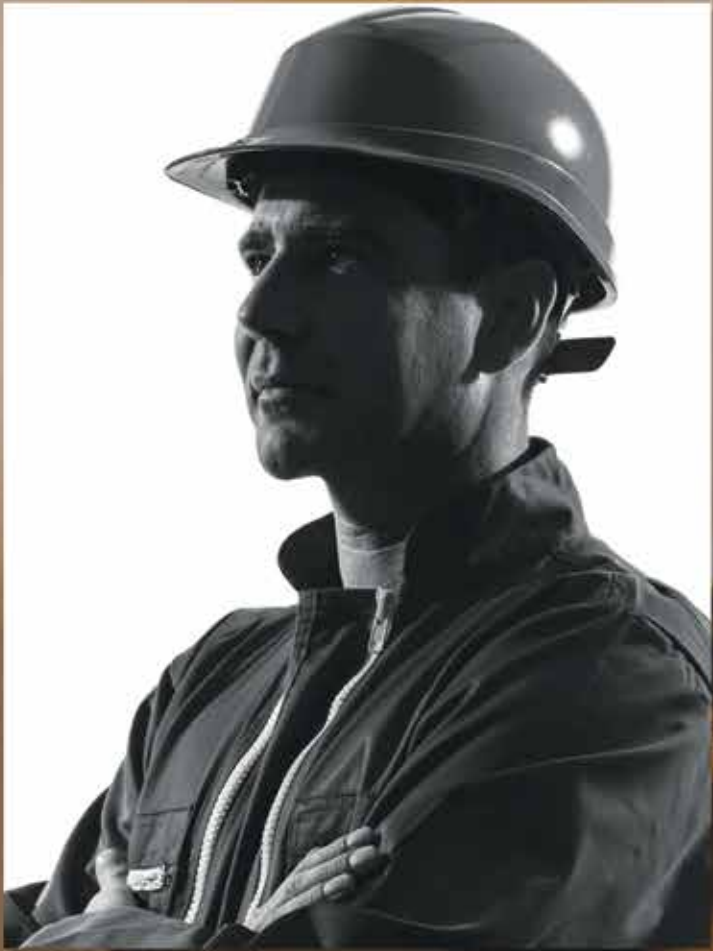
Louisiana Treasurer John Fleming, M.D., and his staff have been researching Rep. Crews' bill and so far believe it will provide Louisiana's citizens a valuable choice on how to store and access their gold.

You  
Worked  
Hard for  
the Day  
When You  
Would  
Retire

But now we face uncertain times. What is the best path to secure your retirement? More than 500 Exxon retirees have entrusted their retirement funds to Ian James. Ian James has 30 years of experience and specializes in guiding workers in the Petro-Chemical industry



Ian James



Free Appointment to  
Discuss Your Options, call  
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Phone (225) 261-9606  
[ian.james@225Wealth.com](mailto:ian.james@225Wealth.com)  
Website: [225Wealth.com](http://225Wealth.com)

Ian E. James  
CRPC AAMS BFA  
FINANCIAL ADVISOR





Central’s Premiere Community Event Is Back

Cookin’ in Central March 22-23

16th Annual Event  
Bringing Central  
Together, Helping  
With a Good Cause

**CENTRAL** — The 16th Annual Cooking in Central Festival will be held Friday, March 22 and Saturday, March 23 at Amazing Place, 10305 Blackwater Road in the City of Central.

Founded after 9/11 by local contractor Louis DeJohn as a way to help New York City, the festival has grown and evolved over the years.

What remains the same is great food and entertainment that bring the Central community together for a good cause.

Cooking in Central is now an official festival which partners with the City of Central.

**Friday, March 22, 2024**

Cooking in Central will open at 5 p.m. on Friday, March 22.

The Central Jazz Band will provide lively entertainment.

Guests will begin sampling the food which will include a seafood plate, hamburgers, and hot dogs.

The auction will begin at 6:30.

The Rouge Crew Band will play beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Activities will continue until closing time at 10:30 p.m.



**COOKIN’ FOR OUR NEIGHBORS 2022** raised funds for Lower Terrebonne Parish after the devastation of Hurricane Ida. Cooking in Central has raised over \$3 million dedicated towards various educational, charitable, and disaster relief causes since 2006.



**COOKIN’ IN CENTRAL** events are great fun for the entire family with delicious food from cook offs, rides, and musical entertainment featured each day.

**Saturday, March 23, 2024**

On Saturday, March 23, the festival will open at 12 noon.

There will be special entertainment for kids from 12 noon to 2 p.m. The Chris LeBlanc Band will perform starting at 3:30 p.m.

Judging for the Cook-Off will begin at 4 p.m.

Dinner will be served starting at 5 p.m. Guests will choose from jambalaya, pork roast, pork ribs, and barbecued ribs.

At 6 p.m. winners will be announced and raffles will be held. The Chee Weez Band will perform starting at 7:30 p.m.

The festival will close at 10:30.

Cooking in Central began after the attack on New York City on Sept. 11, 2001. Thousands of people died in the attack and in the aftermath. One of the agencies hardest hit was the New York Fire Department. Many firefighters were injured or killed.

A lot of the NYFD firetrucks were destroyed. Louis DeJohn and many of his friends and employees wanted to help and decided the best way was to donate brand new fire trucks to the New York City Fire Department. The units were built in Livingston Parish and delivered to New York. Ever since then, Cooking in Central has raised money for a variety of worthwhile causes in Central and across Louisiana. Those efforts continue.

**CENTRAL  
PHARMACY**

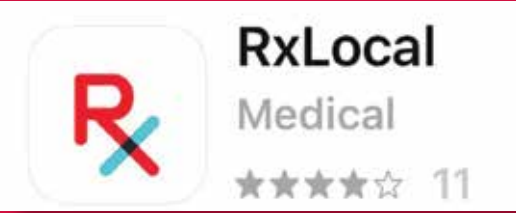




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# State of the City by Mayor Evans

## Mayor Evans Outlines Major Infrastructure Improvement Plans For Future of Central

**Mayor Wade Evans**  
City of Central

**CENTRAL** — As I sit to craft the State of the City, I recognize how grateful I am to be your Mayor. Our first year in office has been a whirlwind of activity.

As a business owner for more than 22 years, the biggest adjustment has been the speed at which things can happen in government. We began the year by having to re-establish all the City's online accounts for grants and capital outlay through the federal and state systems.

This experience slowed us down in the first three months, but it demonstrated to us that the City needed a succession plan that would ensure no administration or mayor would have to start from scratch. I will not bore you with the numbers or statistics but will instead address the high points and relevant data to give you a picture of where we are, as well as where we are going.

The City of Central is in an exceptionally good position to continue the aggressive plans of improving our roads and drainage system. Our first year has seen the largest road project we have ever undertaken, and we are nearing the completion.

Barber Brothers and Material Resources were awarded through the bid process projects to redo or preserve 16 miles of roadway in our City. I know it has been an inconvenience, but I also know that the result will be great for the next generation of residents.

Our first project was the largest we will do in our first term, and it came in at \$6.5 million. We anticipate spending from \$2 to \$2.5 million dollars annually on road improvements going forward.

Our public works crews have revamped their approach to providing services to the citizens. We now use a programmatic approach — instead of a reactive response — to maintenance issues.

We are intentionally digging ditches using modern technology,



City of Central Mayor Wade Evans

in hopes of restoring our neighborhood drainage systems to original condition. Unlike our old way of just digging, our new approach will require more revenue to complete because it involves changing culverts to the proper size and placing them where necessary.

The technology we are using creates maps and inventories our drainage system so it can be maintained accurately for many years to come. Future generations will have the access and ability to continue this program.

We have done the same with the dreaded potholes. In 2023, we repaired 969 potholes. Our efforts have reduced the number of calls for pothole repair by 50 percent.

We have made beautification a priority. Green Seasons is a corporate partner, and they are mowing

the grass on every major roadway in our City. Additionally, we use them for litter control, and the results are noticeable.

Our team has secured grant funding from Keep Louisiana Beautiful, and we have installed litter cameras at various places, as well as installed new signage to remind people not to litter.

On April 20, we will have our second annual "Love the Boot" Day. Please join us to keep Central clean. We also planted trees along Sullivan Road and will continue landscaping around the City.

New construction of houses remains slow but steady. We issued 55 new residential building permits in 2023. The City has always had a very conservative ideal for residential growth and that will continue as we move forward. In 2023, 25 residential lots were approved.

Updating the City's Master Plan will continue in March, and the focus will be to keep the area north of Hooper Road rural. We are working to develop a Light Manufacturing/Office Warehouse Zoning classification for our code in hopes of bolstering our business sector and giving service businesses a place to operate.

2023 was a year of reorganization for the City as well as the Central Chamber of Commerce. The City and Chamber have been in a partnership to promote and foster economic development in the City.

It has been my desire to spend occupational license fees on economic development. The Chamber and City collaborated with Sen. Bodi White to secure funding for a strategic economic development plan. Faith, Family, and Education will be at the center of our economic objectives. We have brought Ron

Erickson on to do economic development full time for the City.

The administration has always wanted to see development of a downtown corridor. All the way back in 2007, the City started planning and discussing the idea. We have taken those plans and created a vision.

"Mainstreet 2030" encompasses much of the heart of the City. It involves investment from State Capital Outlay and incorporates improved flood control while encouraging revitalization.

Phase 1 of "Mainstreet 2030" plan includes additional parking, a 110-acre lake, a road that will connect Sullivan Road and Wax Road at the Central High School, space for the school to relocate their baseball and softball fields in the future, a multi-use equestrian arena, a storm shelter that also houses an indoor sports arena, soccer fields, walking/jogging paths, preservation of property and greenspace.

Phase 2 will have an equestrian-friendly RV resort, as well as a Surf Lake, and space for supporting businesses and hotels.

The Central Community School System has agreed to sell the city 2.73 acres next to the new administration building for the construction of a City Hall.

We selected Grace Hebert Chen-evert Architects to design a building that is complimentary to the school administration building but is uniquely City Hall.

The City has applied for five different flood control projects along our local watersheds. The goal is to relieve flood concerns while at the same time creating areas for recreational activities for our citizens.

We received a grant from DOTD to create a pedestrian plan that will connect our City with the multi-use paths. These local watersheds will connect our flood projects and park resources through a collaborative partnership with BREC.

We are excited about the opportunities this will create for an enhanced quality of life.

The parish and state will continue working on the Sullivan Road project, as well as completing a preservation project on Joer Road from Hooper Road to Core Lane in 2024.

We have bolstered our relationship with these entities by stressing a spirit of collaboration in service to the taxpayers. Our relationship with our state and local leadership is strong, and I feel confident as we move forward.

Tax revenue grew at a modest 3 percent in 2023. Our investment portfolio has increased due to the City's switch to an active money management plan. We have regular meetings with our advisors to ensure that we maximize the City's investment objectives.

2023 saw interest earnings of \$2.8 million dollars. The increase in rates, as well as how our money is being managed, to provide and deliver services to the citizens.

In closing, 2023 was a remarkably busy, yet rewarding year. The City saw aggressive changes in how we serve you, and we have implemented policies and processes that will continue to improve. Our goal is to serve you to the best of our ability, and to improve every citizen's quality of life.

**Keeping Central Beautiful**

When: Saturday, April 20th  
Time: 8:00AM-10:00AM  
Where: City Hall  
(13421 Hooper Rd. Ste 8)

**LOVE THE BOOT week**

**SIGN UP TO CLEAN UP LOUISIANA!**

**APRIL 20-28, 2024**

KEEP LOUISIANA BEAUTIFUL

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**Municipal Service Center:**  
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Email stories and photos for all papers to [centralcitynews@hotmail.com](mailto: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.



Member, Louisiana Press Association and Chamber of Commerce of EBR Parish

Deadline for news and advertising: 5 p.m. Friday before publication

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Ronald Reagan

Newsmaker Luncheons

BATON ROUGE

12 noon • 2nd Tuesday

Cafe Americain • 7621 Jefferson Hwy.

Woody Jenkins at 225-921-1433

LAFAYETTE

12 noon • 4th Tuesday • Dean-O's Pizza

305 Bertrand Drive

Michael Lunsford • 337-739-3559

METAIRIE

12 noon • 1st Tuesday • Porter & Luke's • 1517 Metairie Road

Jeff Crouere • 504-669-6076

SHREVEPORT

12 noon • 1st Tuesday • Cordaro's • 3055 Knight Street

Louis Avallone • 318-470-2122



Louisiana Constitution Is the Most Protective of Liberty in the U.S.

No Conservative Should Support Holding  
A Constitutional Convention at This Time

Trust the Legislature?  
Then Why Even Have  
A Constitution? We  
Have It to Protect Us  
From the Legislature!

NOTE: The current Louisiana Constitution was written by a state constitutional convention, which was called by the Louisiana Legislature in the spring of 1972. The process began years earlier as political leaders, citizens, and the media debated the need for a new constitution. In 1971, both gubernatorial candidates, Edwin Edwards and his opponent J. Bennett Johnston, promised a new constitution. After Edwards was elected, he took the lead in promoting the idea.

The bill called for 105 elected delegates to be chosen by the voters from state House districts and 27 appointed delegates chosen by the governor and various special interest groups.

Voters elected delegates in the fall of 1972. By late 1972, delegates were meeting unofficially to get to know one another, discuss rules and procedures, and choose officers. The convention convened in early 1973 and divided into committees with each committee assigned an article of the constitution.

A large staff was chosen for research. Delegates studied all previous Louisiana constitutions, the constitutions of the other 49 states, and many foreign countries.

Delegates went on the road, and hearings were held throughout the state. Some of the committees were deeply divided and considered their articles for months.

The governor tried to weigh in and got his way on some things, but the delegates were mostly very independent.

Delegates were well aware that their job was not to please the political powers or passions of 1973 but to produce a document that would last for generations to come.

At times, it appeared they would never be able to agree. Above all, they knew the people would have the final say and the document would have to be acceptable to them.

Delegates learned that it was not about winning on every issue but constructing a constitution that could serve all the people and that everyone could live with.

To the surprise of many, principled compromises prevailed, and the entire body — liberals and conservatives, blacks and whites — agreed. The final version of the constitution was approved

with only one dissenting vote.

Then began the work of selling the proposed Constitution to the people. Delegates of all persuasions pulled together. The people distrusted the political process and were skeptical. However, on April 1, 1974, voters across the state went to the polls and approved the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 by a vote of 53 percent to 47 percent.

Fifty years later, one of the few surviving delegates to the convention is **Central City News** editor Woody Jenkins. Elected as a delegate from North Baton Rouge at age 25, he served on the Committee on Bill of Rights and Elections. After three months of stalemate, committee members asked him to write a proposed Bill of Rights of the new Constitution, which he did. The committee accepted most of his work, as did the convention as a whole. Today it is the Declaration of Rights of the Louisiana Constitution of 1974.

Woody Jenkins

Editor, Central City News

**BATON ROUGE** — The Governor addressed a joint session of the Louisiana Legislature on Monday, March 11, and outlined his goals for the Regular Session, including a constitutional convention.

No bill has yet been introduced to call a constitutional convention but reports are that the plan is for the legislature to adjourn the current Regular Session two or three weeks early and then function as a constitutional convention to draft a new Louisiana Constitution.

As one of the few surviving delegates who served in the Constitutional Convention of 1973 that drafted the current Louisiana Constitution, I would like to stress that drafting a constitution is a monumental undertaking.

While an individual might be able to write a constitution pleasing to himself in a few days, that's not how it works. In a free and open society, the entire state has to be involved.

First, there have to be very strong reasons to draft a new constitution, and there should be widespread acceptance of those reasons. A constitutional convention is usually called in a state because there are serious problems that deeply affect people and demand a solution.

It's not enough to say the Con-

No Man's Life, Liberty or Property Is Safe  
While the Legislature Is in Session

A FAMOUS BUMPER STICKER — For most of his 28 years in the Louisiana House of Representatives, then Rep. Woody Jenkins had a bumper sticker on the side of his desk in the House chamber that said, "No Man's Life, Liberty or Property Is Safe While the Legislature Is in Session." This reminder not to trust the legislature was photographed hundreds of times by the media and printed in newspapers across the country.

stitution is too long or too short. There must be substantive problems that demand such a serious, expensive, and time-consuming undertaking.

Remember, when a constitutional convention is held, everything is at stake. Every principle of government and all of our rights under the state constitution are on the table and subject to change.

In preparation, there must be town halls, hearings, and public debate. Editorial boards and civic organizations must weigh in.

Typically, before a constitutional convention is held, legislators have tried many times to amend the constitution through the normal amendment process and failed.

All of that happened before the Constitutional Convention of 1973 was called.

Most important, in 1972, the State of Louisiana was under a federal court order to reform its property tax system. At that time, Louisiana levied a property tax. However, the federal courts found that the property tax system was being administered unequally. For example, while the state property tax was the same in every parish, a homeowner with a \$50,000 home in Caddo would pay far more than a homeowner with a \$50,000 home in Jefferson Parish. The system was clearly broken and violated equal protection of the law.

Correcting the property tax system would have been very difficult through the amendment process. Of all the reasons to call a constitutional convention, complying with that federal court order was the most compelling.

It took two years from introduction of the bill for a constitutional

convention in the spring of 1972 until the people voted on the proposed constitution in the spring of 1974.

Delegates to the Louisiana Constitutional Convention of 1973, or CC/73 as it was called, soon realized that writing a new constitution was not about getting their way. They had to produce a document that most delegates would accept and that the people of the state would vote for. They learned to coalesce around the shared values that unite us all.

Over and over again, proposals were defeated because delegates realized they would not be accepted by the voters.

For most of two years, the state virtually stood still as every aspect of the new constitution was debated in the constitutional convention. It was top-of-the-front-page news almost everyday.

A staff of 75 researchers was assembled and hearings were held throughout the state. Delegates read all of Louisiana's past constitutions and the state constitutions of every other state. The constitution of virtually every nation around the world was examined.

The debates during CC/73 dealt with our fundamental rights and the great principles upon which republican government is founded.

On many occasions, it appeared the entire venture would fail.

The debates of delegates have been preserved online at the website of the Louisiana Legislature at [legis.la.gov](http://legis.la.gov). Those debates have been cited by Louisiana's courts of appeal and by the Louisiana Supreme Court on hundreds of occasions.



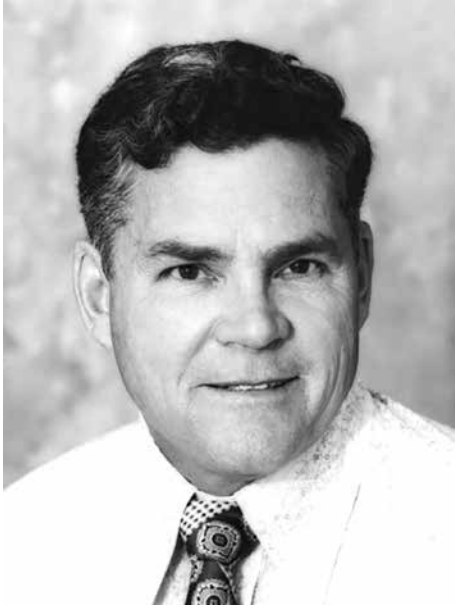
# Remembering Coach Lawrence Meares

**ZACHARY** — Coach Lawrence H. Meares went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, Feb. 27, 2024, at the age of 96. Larry, resident of Slaughter, La., was born on Jan. 29, 1928, to Hurschel and May Meares. He was a beloved husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and friend to many. He is survived by his wife of 72 years, Victoria Bergeron Meares; two daughters, Debby Brian and husband Randy, and Leslie Lofton and husband Mike; four grandchildren; Kelli Brian Cox, Erin Lofton Cain, John Lawrence Brian, Amy Lofton Hall; eight great-grandchildren, Mason Cox, Stratton Cain, Britton Brian, Emery Cox, Stella Cain, Bowen Brian, Silas Cain and Eli Hall; brother-in-law, Victor Bergeron, Jr.

He was preceded in death by parents, Hurschel and May Meares, brother Hurschel (Jug) Meares, and brother-in-law Leon Bergeron. He served his country as a member of the U.S. Army in the 151st. Paratroopers Airborne Division.

He was a graduate of Istrouma High School, Southeastern Louisiana University and received a Masters+30 from LSU. He was a long-time educator beginning his career as a history teacher and coach and finishing his 45-year career as an elementary school principal.

He was dedicated to his community and served as an East Feliciana Police Juror. He attended Redwood Baptist Church in Slaughter. He enjoyed spending time with his friends and family at his lake home



Coach Lawrence Meares

in Arkansas and dancing with his Cajun friends in Breaux Bridge. He was a man of remarkable abilities and a quick, colorful wit who will be greatly missed.

Visitation was at Charlet Funeral Home in Zachary on Friday, March 1, 2024. Burial was in Redwood Cemetery, Slaughter, conducted by Chaplain Michael Mann.

Pallbearers were his sons-in-law Randy Brian and Mike Lofton, grandson, John Brian, grandsons-in-law Marshall Cain, Brian Hall and Joe Cox. Honorary pallbearer was Mart Bickham.

In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency. Share sympathies, condolences and memories at [www.CharletFuneralHome.com](http://www.CharletFuneralHome.com).

## Mrs. Jacklyn Porta Remembered as Educator and Wife of “Coon” Porta

**BATON ROUGE** — Jacklyn Bates Porta passed away at home, peacefully, on Saturday, Feb., 24, 2024 at the age of 90. She was born in Bogalusa to Ephraim and Aline Bates. She was a graduate of Bogalusa High School and Southeastern Louisiana University. She received a Masters of Education from LSU.

She was a long time educator beginning her career as an elementary school teacher for four years, then as a junior high teacher for six years, a guidance counselor for four years, and then finishing her career in education as an elementary school principal for 23 years.

After retirement, she became a Sunday school teacher. She was preceded in death by her husband of 61 years, Ray “Coon” Porta.

She is survived by her two sons Dr. Mark Porta, Sr., his wife Sonya, their three children, Dr. Mark Porta, Jr., wife Lisa, daughter Maggie, Dr. Wes Porta, wife Leigh, son Parker and two daughters Hollis and Landry, Christy Porta Farley, husband Matthew, and daughter Charlotte; and Dr. Scott Porta, his wife Daryl, and their two children Ryan Porta and Megan Porta. Jackie was a long-time and devoted member of Jeffer-



Jacklyn Bates Porta

son Baptist Church and loved her church family.

We were so thankful for her doctors, her caregivers at Pinnacle Hospice Care, especially Nurse Norah and above all, her friend and primary caregiver, Mary Singleton, who was a blessing to the Porta family!

In lieu of flowers, donations can be sent to the “Ray and Jackie Porta Endowed Scholarship in Athletics” at SLU, Attn: Development Foundation, Box 10703, Hammond, LA 70402.

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**HOLY WEEK**  
*at Blackwater*

**YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR**  
*Holy Week Concert*  
**MARCH 28<sup>TH</sup> AT 6:30<sup>PM</sup>**

**A THEATRICAL  
AND MUSICAL  
RETELLING OF  
THE EVENTS OF  
HOLY WEEK**



**BLACKWATER**  
UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

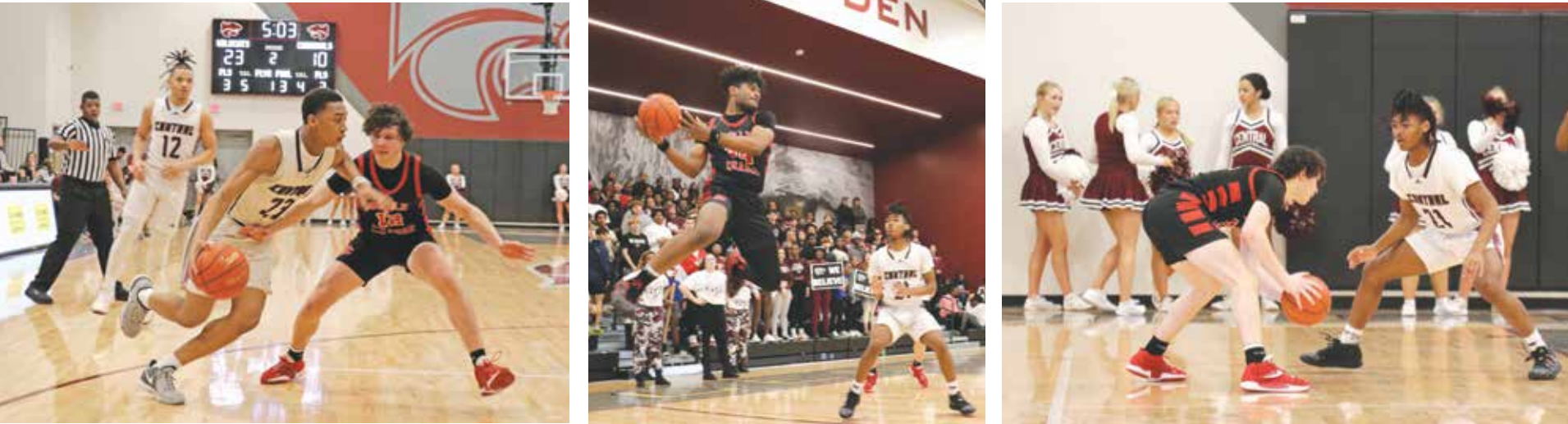
[BlackwaterUMC.org](http://BlackwaterUMC.org)  
10000 Blackwater Rd.  
Central, LA 70714



# Central Hammers Belle Chase 68-32



CENTRAL'S #2 JACE CONRAD (left) hits three slam dunks against the Belle Chase! #32 Markell Sampson (center) at the free throw line. #32 Markell Sampson (right) with two points for the Wildcats! Central defeated Belle Chase 68-32 in the first round of the LHSAA Division 1 Non-Select Playoffs. Central fell to Slidell in Round Two 59-49.



#23 KENDRICK FRANKLIN (left) fighting off a Belle Chase player. The Cardinals came fired up (center) but fell short against the Wildcats. #21 Keith Womack (right) on defense.



WILDCAT #0 MALACHI JAMES (left) stealing the ball. #12 Collin Verrett (center) up for two points for the Wildcats. #10 Alvin Stewart (right) with the layup and two points.

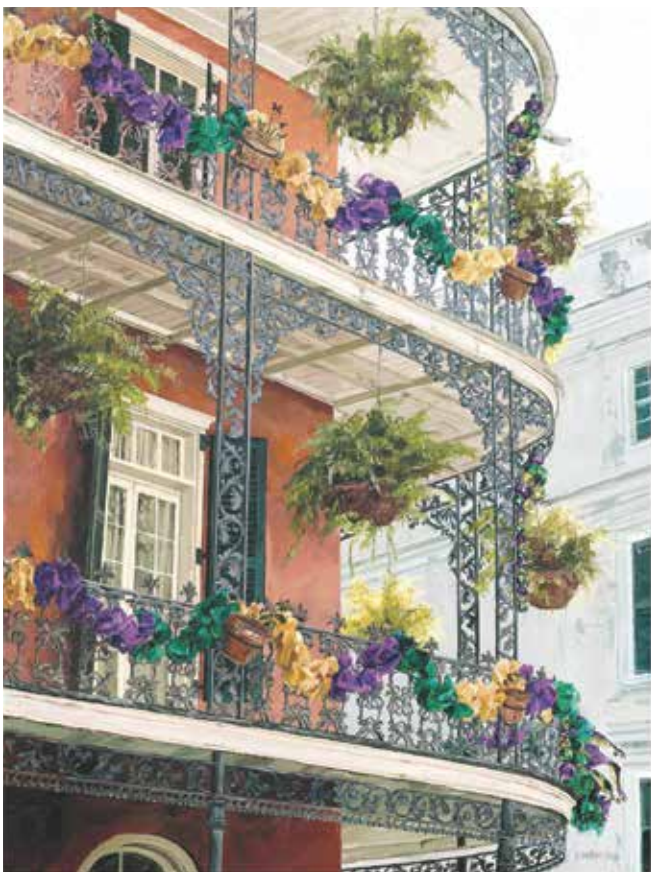


FORMER WILDCAT JORDIN WILLIAMS (left/center) recognized at halftime for being the newest inductee to the LSUA Hall of Fame. He played for LSUA from 2014-2018.



Kathryn Ann Mancuso Central High School Class of 2016

# Hometown Artist from Central



NEW “FLIRTY FEATHERS” by Kathryn Mancuso



**KATHRYN ANN MANCUSO** (right) Central’s aspiring hometown artist, ready to create your original piece! “Ferns and Frills” (leftt) an original piece, only one available. “Sittin’ on the Dock of the Swamp” (center) an original piece by Kathryn. Visit Kathryn Ann’s website at [www.kathrynannart.com](http://www.kathrynannart.com) to see available pieces of her original work.

**CENTRAL** — In 2017, Kathryn Mancuso’s friend asked her to paint a party cup for her and it unlocked a desire to paint and create again that she hadn’t felt since she was a little girl. Ever since, she hasn’t been able to put the paint brushes down! She has built her small business up to where it is today and has created a variety of custom art pieces for people rang-



## Kathryn Ann Creates Beautiful Uniquely Painted Graduation Caps for Your Special Day



“SHORELINE WAVES” an original piece by Kathryn Ann Mancuso.



ing from graduation caps to acrylic signage and everything in between. When Kathryn isn’t fulfilling custom orders, she is creating original, one-of-a-kind collection pieces. She is inspired by Louisiana’s beauty and all that it holds. She aims to capture the essence of the South with watercolors and acrylics. These original pieces are supported on canvases, watercolor paper, or authentic cypress wood found in the swamps and bayous of Louisiana. She said she would not be where she is today without the support from her family and friends, and of course, her loyal customers! Kathryn is a 2016 graduate of Central High School where she graduated with honors. She has a bachelor’s degree in Business Administration and also earned her Masters of Business Administration at Southeastern Louisiana University. After she walked out those campus doors for the last time, she decided to take the biggest leap of her life and go full time with the small business she’s put so much effort into. She loves creating unique pieces for her customers that they can cherish forever while still making time to paint collections of original artwork. As she has taken her art to the next level, she has started to develop the style that she wants to be recognized for. Kathryn strives to put in as much detail as she can into her artwork to bring it to life. No matter what she is creating, the detail is undeniably there. She hopes to inspire and show people that you should never stop challenging yourself or put a limit on what you can do. Her message to everyone is strive to exceed your own expectations. You never know where it will lead you. Visit Kathryn Ann’s website at [www.kathrynannart.com](http://www.kathrynannart.com) and follow her on Instagram @kathrynann or email [kathrynann@gmail.com](mailto:kathrynann@gmail.com).



Legislative Updates at Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon

Sen. Thomas Pressly of Shreveport



SEN. THOMAS PRESSLY (R-SHREVEPORT) (left) giving an update on the current legislative session which convened on March 11. Sen. Pressly (center) with a group of local republican women — Diane Cashio with Attorney Liz Murrill’s office, Lynn Coxe Graham, candidate for RSCC Dist. 16C candidate and At-Large RPEC, Metro Councilwoman Laurie White Adams, and Monique Appeaning. Republican parish chairman Woody Jenkins (right) explaining why we do not need a constitutional convention.



REPUBLICAN CHAIRMAN WOODY JENKINS (left) with Dr. Lewis Richardson, pastor of Woodlawn Baptist and At-Large candidate for Republican Parish Executive Committee. Richie Edmonds (left/center), local businessman and Dist. 3 RPEC representative who ran unopposed, with Monique Appeaning and Phil Fetterman. Kathy Edgeworth (right/center), Dist. 16A RSCC candidate. Michael Chittom, member, EBR Board of Elections Supervisor, and candidate for re-election to the RPEC Dist. 7 and RSCC Dist. 14A.

Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon • March 12, 2024 • Café Americain  
Photos by Jolice Provost and Video by Woody Jenkins for the Central City News

Trust the State Legislature with Our Liberties?

Continued from Page 5  
When the proposed Louisiana Constitution of 1974 was approved and signed by the delegates, it was widely praised as the finest in the country.  
Liberals, conservatives, blacks,

whites, business, and labor all supported it.  
Yet, despite all of the massive amount of work that went into the proposed constitution and its widespread acceptance, the new Constitution passed with only 53 percent of the vote! Such was the distrust that people had of their government.  
**Is It Time for New Constitution?**  
Honestly, it is an absurd idea to have a constitutional convention that would last for the final two or

three weeks of the legislative session. That’s an insult to the concept of constitutional revision.  
Furthermore, Louisiana is a very conservative state, and no conservative could conceivably support calling a constitutional convention under the circumstances suggested today.  
Here’s why!

**We have a Constitution that is the most protective of individual rights in the United States! No state even comes close to matching the Louisiana Constitution in its support of the rights of the individual.**

**Furthermore, the Louisiana Constitution is the most conservative constitution in the nation!**

Calling a constitutional convention is like playing with fire!  
All of our hard-won liberties and all of the safeguards in the Constitution would be at stake.

Let’s review some of the things that are in the current Louisiana Constitution that would be put at risk by a constitutional convention.  
**What Would a Constitutional Convention Put at Risk?**

Let’s start with the Declaration of Rights of the Louisiana Constitution.

First, there is Article I Section 4, the **Right to Property**. Do you realize that the United States Constitution does not explicitly recognize

Chicken & Sausage Jambalaya

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# The Current Legislature Doesn't Trust Future Legislatures: Why Should We?

Continued from Page 9

and protect the Right to Property?

Furthermore, the Louisiana Constitution of 1921 was virtually silent on the Right to Property.

Under the U.S. Constitution, there is only the requirement that if your property is expropriated by government, you are entitled to "just compensation," which really means fair market value.

However, the Louisiana Constitution of 1973 provides owners of property far more protection than simple "just compensation."

If your property is taken in Louisiana today, you are entitled to compensation to "the full extent of the owner's loss." That's a very different concept. That includes environmental considerations, historical values, loss of your business, and loss of future profits.

In addition, under the new Constitution, the amount of compensation in expropriation cases in Louisiana is determined by a jury. A jury is much more likely to be sympathetic to the property owner.

That was a big change because the prior constitution did not allow jury trials in expropriation cases. So the right to property is something very well protected in Louisiana.

Then there is the **Right to Privacy**. Neither the Louisiana Constitution of 1921 nor the U.S. Constitution protects the Right to Privacy.

However, the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 certainly does! It prohibits invasions of privacy without probable cause and a warrant signed by a judge. In our world of medical tyranny, cameras everywhere, and digital spying, that is a most important right!

Our Louisiana Constitution of 1974 provides far more protection for the **Right to Keep and Bear Arms** than the U. S. Constitution. The federal constitution says, "A well armed militia being necessary to the security of a free state, the right of the people to keep and bear arms shall not be abridged."

The wording in the U.S. Constitution is problematic. It refers to "the right of the people" which has been interpreted as a group right that refers to the right of the society to arm itself. The reference to a militia only affirms that interpretation.

However, the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 says, "The right of each citizen to keep and bear arms is fundamental and shall not be abridged. Any restriction on this right shall be subject to strict scrutiny." Strict scrutiny is the highest level of scrutiny that can be applied to any restriction and is very strong protection for this right.

The Louisiana Constitution of 1974 **prohibits euthanasia** and physician-assisted suicide — one of the few constitutions to do that.

Likewise, the current constitution prohibits **excessive punishments**. To cite the example of President Trump being fined more than \$300 million for a bookkeeping error, that could never happen under the Louisiana Constitution.

The Louisiana Constitution of 1974 also protects the **Right to Life**, and there are few constitutions in America that do that.

Louisiana Constitution of 1974 also states that **marriage will be between one man and one woman**. What that means is if the Supreme Court reverses its decision

on marriage, Louisiana law on marriage will immediately go back into effect.

Our current constitution recognizes **state sovereignty**. This means Louisiana has all powers not already delegated to the federal government.

The state constitution also recognizes **access to the courts** which was very important during the pandemic.

It recognizes **victims' rights** as a constitutional right.

The Louisiana Constitution provides that every state agency will have an **administrative code**. That was not true under the old constitution and it was almost impossible to find out what regulations agencies had adopted.

The Louisiana Constitution provides that **open meetings and access to public records** are constitutional rights.

The Louisiana Constitution of 1974 provides strong protection for taxpayers and requires a **2/3rds vote of both houses of the legislature in order to raise taxes**. Believe me, that would be at risk at a constitutional convention!

The Louisiana Constitution provides that the legislature **can only raise taxes every other year**. That reduces our exposure to tax increases to half the time the legislature is in session.

The Louisiana Constitution of 1974 requires a **balanced state budget and forbids debt**. As a result, the state has no debt for operating purposes. Its only debt is for capital expenditures such as roads and bridges.

The Constitution also has a **tax expenditure limit** which limits the overall level of taxes that can be levied in any given year.

The Louisiana Constitution provides that a bill must be read on **three separate days** in each House. This forbids a bill being introduced and voted on the same day. The Constitution requires that all bills shall have a **public committee hearing and the public must be allowed to testify**.

There are a lot of people who would like to pass bills in one day. The governor would give a rah-rah speech about it, the legislature would get excited and hold a committee hearing over in the corner of the chamber, and the house would vote on it and pass it the same day. However, the state Constitution prevents such abuses.

**Is the Constitution Too Long?**

How does the length of the constitution affect anything? How does it affect our lives or our rights or the operations of government?

Believe me, the length of the Louisiana Constitution is NOT why a constitutional convention is being proposed! There is something much bigger in play.

Of course, the Louisiana Constitution was not very long when it was passed by the people in 1974. Since then, the legislature by a 2/3rds' vote has amended the constitution many times.

Why has the Louisiana Constitution been amended so many times? There is a simple answer to that!

**The reason so many amendments have been adopted is the current legislature never trusts future legislatures!**

So they embed their policies in

the Constitution. Quite often these policies involve retirement systems or trusts or property rights that legislators fear future legislatures will raid or destroy.

**You see, legislators know that legislatures cannot be trusted!**

**To anyone who says "Trust the legislature," I say if you can trust the legislature, why even have a constitution?**

The Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution and the Declaration of Rights of the Louisiana Constitution are fundamentally a list of don't's for government. These restrictions on government say over and over again "No law."

**A Constitution is meant to restrict and control the government and especially the legislative branch of government.**

**I want to ask you this: If the legislature of today does not trust the legislature of tomorrow, should we?**

Legislators know themselves and they know how the legislative process works. They know it can move very quickly, and it can be done rather carelessly.

During legislative session, there are hundreds of lobbyists. There are donors. There is a governor, often quite powerful. There are back room deals and corruption.

Of course, if you try to conduct a constitutional convention using the existing legislature, all those influences are present.

A constitutional convention is supposed to be different. It should be a place where people are chosen based on their wisdom and their ability to deal with constitutional issues.

**The Real Reason for Calling A Constitutional Convention**

With all of these considerations, why would anyone want to call a constitutional convention today?

I met with a friend of mine who is one of the leaders promoting a constitutional convention, and he told me the real reason. I think you will be shocked!

I asked him what he wanted to accomplish with a constitutional convention.

He said "Well, the first reason is to do away with homestead exemption!"

I said, "Do away with the homestead exemption? You have to be kidding!"

He said, "No I'm not! If we bury that in the proposed constitution, it won't get a lot of attention, and we will be able to pass the whole thing with some things that people wouldn't necessarily like."

I said, "You realize the homestead exemption was passed in the 1930s after tens of thousands of families lost their homes for nonpayment of property taxes? In part because of homestead exemption, Louisiana has the highest rate of homeownership in the United States! That's a good thing!"

My friend said, "Homeowners are not paying their share of the taxes. Business pays too much."

I said, "Homeowners are the backbone of America. They pay all the taxes through income taxes, sales taxes and business taxes. Homeowners aren't on welfare or involved in crime. They take care of their property and contribute to the community!"

I've been an advocate for 50 years of doing away with the state personal and corporate income tax. But my intention all along was to cut government — to cut government equal to the amount that we cut income taxes. But that's not what they're talking about at the State Capitol right now. They're talking about repealing the personal and corporate income tax, and raising property taxes in their place.

Mainly, they want to raise the property tax and shift the tax burden to homeowners.

In my view, there is no good tax, but the sales tax is probably the fairest because everybody pays it and if you're buying something at least you have some money and there's an incremental cost.

The next best is probably an income tax because at least you're making money and you have some money you might be able to pay the income tax with.

The property tax is probably the worst tax because if your property taxes go up, you don't necessarily have the money to pay for those higher taxes. You may be on a fixed income. You may be elderly or just not have a source of income to pay higher property taxes.

So now you're down at the courthouse for a tax sale on your home. That will not build a better state. It will move us in the wrong direction away from home ownership.

When I first arrived at the Capitol as a new legislator in 1972, the budget was \$1.6 billion. Today it's pushing \$50 billion. Inflation might justify a \$10 billion budget but not \$50 billion.

Government has grown exponentially over the last 50+ years. So if we eliminate the income tax, we need to cut government spending accordingly.

I asked my friend what's the second reason for wanting to call a constitutional convention? The first reason is not good.

He said, "Well, we need to do away with supplemental pay for policemen and firefighters."

I said, "What? You can't be serious!"

He said, "Yes, look at a town like Simmesport. Their police are getting supplemental pay. The state is subsidizing the police force in that town. The town should take over responsibility for that pay at the local level."

I said, "Wait, let me ask you a question. What laws do you think the police in Simmesport are enforcing? They are mostly enforcing **state** law! At least 80 percent of what they enforce is state law. You don't think the State of Louisiana should pay part of the cost of those police enforcing state law?"

I said, "I thought we were against defunding the police?"

He said, "We're not defunding them. They will be paid by higher property taxes at the local level. We're going put the homestead exemption, supplement pay for police, and a lot of things in the statutes and we will be able to abolish them with a 2/3rds vote of both houses of the legislature instead of a constitutional amendment."

I said, "Well, that's no real protection for the homestead exemption or supplemental pay for police. Those things should be in the Con-

See WILL NEW on Page 16



# Mardi Gras at Central Private



Central Private Mardi Gras • Photos by Jolice Provost for the Central City News



# Retiring #18 to Honor Caleb Easterling



**CENTRAL HIGH BASEBALL TEAM MET AT THE YARD** to retire the jersey of #18 Caleb Easterling. Caleb’s parents, Becky and Casey (left), embrace after throwing the opening pitch. The Wildcats sported custom jerseys in Caleb’s honor with #18 on the back and PLAYLIKECALEB. On the front of the jersey was angel wings and the #18. The team also all wore “Blessed” headbands like the one Caleb wore. Central High principal Brandon LaGroue presented the Easterlings (right) with Caleb’s jersey in a shadow box with photos, his “Blessed” headband, and the #18 pendant and chain he wore. Caleb Easterling tragically lost his life in an automobile accident on Thursday, July 13, 2023.



**CENTRAL’S HEAD COACH LEO MCCLURE** (left) explains that when Dunham’s head coach, Wes Theriot, found out Central was remembering Caleb Easterling at the game he reached out to Central and wanted to be a part of the ceremony. Coach McClure said, it showed the upstanding character of the Dunham coaches and team. As the celebration took place the Central baseball team formed a one on the field while the Dunham team formed an eight together making Caleb’s #18 on the center of the baseball diamond (right).



**CENTRAL’S MAYOR WADE EVANS** (left), after giving the invocation, stands with the Easterlings and Coach McClure for the Pledge of Allegiance. During the pregame the Wildcats took the field with the LOPA (Louisiana Organ Procurement Agency) Donor Hero flag flying (center) to honor Caleb’s having been an organ donor. To learn more about organ donation, go to [www.lopa.org](http://www.lopa.org). #16 Tucker Pitre (right) was the opening pitcher. In a close game the Wildcats brought on the “W” defeating Dunham 4-2 in Caleb’s memory.





# Central Bloomers Club Meets Monthly



**THE 2024 CENTRAL BLOOMERS GARDEN CLUB OFFICERS** (left) were installed at their February meeting: Treasurer Mary Legendre, Secretary Debra Dixon, President Nancy Hicks, and Vice-President Pattie Riché. Refreshment Committee (left) Mandy Harlan, Ashley Fornea, and Debbie Moak, and host Julie Folse. The Central Bloomers Garden Club met at the home of Julie Folse for their February meeting, Dan Weber, a beekeeper in Central, spoke on how to be a beekeeper and what plants we should grow to attract pol-linators, like bees and butterflies, to our yard.

# Ty'Reona Sibley Headed to Southeastern



**#20 TY'REONA SIBLEY THE 5'8" GUARD/FORWARD FOR CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL** has signed a commitment to Southeastern Louisiana University. Ty'Reona is the daughter of Brittany Sibley and bonus daughter of Coach Krystal Huggins-Flowers and Jamar Flowers. She previously won honors before transferring to Central High School, District 5-5A Co-MVP and 1st Team All State. This season she was named District 4-5A MVP, and 1st team all district. She was also chosen to play in the LHSBCA East and West All Star game that will be held at 1 p.m. March 16 at Louisiana College in Pineville. Ty'Reona will be attending Southeastern on a full basketball scholarship. She plans to major in engineering. She currently has a 3.6 cumulative GPA.

# Coach Efferson Marks 300 Wins!



**COACH EFFERSON HAS SURPASSED HER 300TH VICTORY** (322 to be exact) as head coach of the Central Lady Wildcats. That number continues to rise! With Coach Efferson are CCSS Supt. Jason Fountain, CHS principal Brandon LaGroue, Sen. Bodi White, Central Mayor Wade Evans, and assistant principal of discipline Bob Wales.

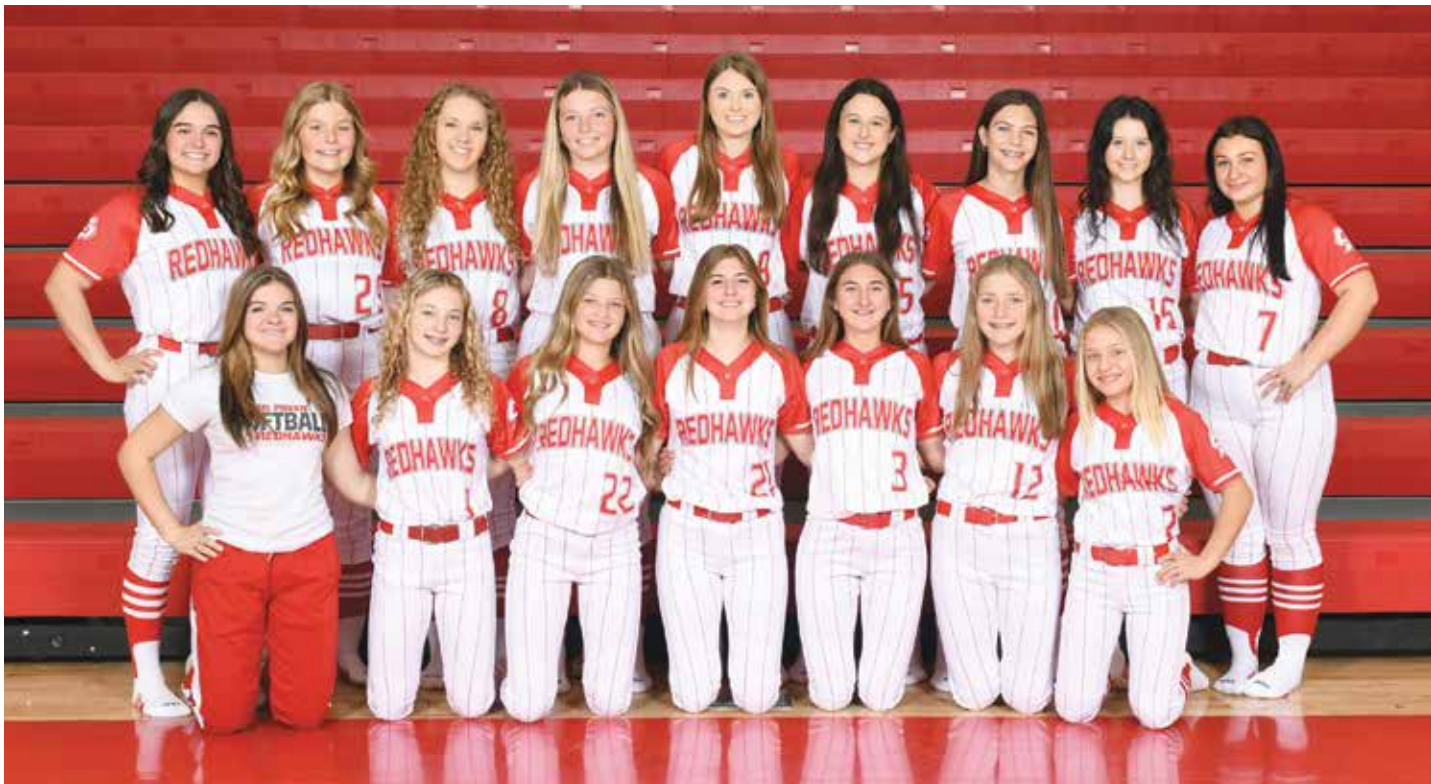


# Redhawk Baseball and Softball Teams



2024 CENTRAL PRIVATE REDHAWK BASEBALL TEAM AND COACHES Brian Brown, Randy Sandifer, James Calliouet, Hudson Martin, Parker Austin, Clay Polk.

## Lady Redhawks Advance to #3 in District



2024 CENTRAL PRIVATE LADY REDHAWK SOFTBALL TEAM head coach Julie Hawkins, assistant coaches Brent Lax, Chris McCaskill, and Chris Piper. As of March 13, the Lady Redhawks have a record of 9-1 and have captured the No. 3 spot in their district. Follow the team on Facebook at Central Private Softball for rain out information and updates on games.

### 2024 Central Private Varsity Baseball Schedule

Mar 15	Catholic PC	A
Mar 16	Beau Chene	A
Mar 19	Kentwood*	A
Mar 21	Kentwood*	H
Mar 23	Catholic PC*	A
Mar 26	Slaughter*	H
Mar 27	Houma Christian	A
Mar 28	Slaughter*	A
Mar 30	Brusly	H
Apr 1	Maurepas	A
Apr 4	Loranger	A
Apr 6	St. Micahel's	H
Apr 8	Springfield	A
Apr 9	Southern Lab	H
Apr 11	Southern Lab	A
Apr 12	Parkview	A
Apr 13	Loranger	H
Apr 15	W. Feliciana	H

Head Coach: Sham Gabehart  
Asst. Coaches: Brian Brown, Randy Sandifer, James Calliouet, Hudson Martin, Parker Austin, and Clay Polk  
Principal: Dana Russell

### 2024 Central Private Varsity Softball Schedule

Mar 15	False River	A
Mar 19	Episcopal	A
Mar 21	Slaughter*	A
Mar 23	U-High	A
Mar 26	Slaughter*	H
Mar 28	Slaughter*	A
Apr 4	St. Thomas	A
Apr 5	Dunham	A
Apr 8	Port Allen	H
Apr 9	Thrive*	H

Head Coach: Julie Hawkins  
Asst. Coaches: Brent Lax, Chris McCaskill, and Chris Piper  
Principal: Dana Russell



Congratulations  
To the Lady  
Redhawks!  
Best of Luck  
As Your Season  
Continues!





# Central High’s Dental Assisting Class



Dr. William Chakar, D.D.S., M.S.  
and Anna Lambert



Dr. Jacob Henderson, D.D.S.  
and Adelia Vance



Dr. Manal Ayoub, D.D.S.  
and Ja’Nyah Walker



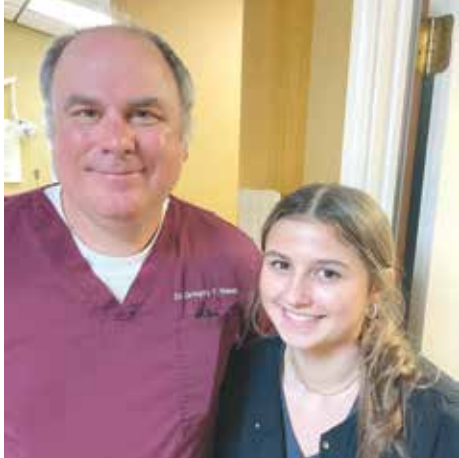
Dr. Kasan Stevens, D.D.S.  
and McKenzie Banks



Dr. Scott Browning, D.D.S.  
and Mackenzie Broussard



Dr. Benjamin Record, D.D.S.  
and Camille Wright



Dr. Gregory Nassif, D.D.S.  
and Blair Plauche



Dr. Richard Cangelosi, D.D.S.  
and Ella Saccaro



Dr. Mark Garon, D.D.S.  
and Anna Lambert

**CENTRAL** — Several Central High School students are on the fast track for careers in the dental field, thanks to the Dental Assisting program at Central High School.

Students participate in classroom learning during the Fall semester and then go on to internships in dental offices during the Spring semester, thanks to the many dental offices that participate in the program.

On completion of the course, students are eligible to take the Expanded Duty Dental Assistant course which qualifies them for higher pay as a dental assistant.

2023-2024 Central High School  
Dental Assisting Students and  
Local Participating Dentists



Dr. Ross Lang, D.M.D.  
and Saniyah



Dr. Eric Hayes D.D.S.  
and Kaleigh Brister

## Braelen George Commits to Grambling University



**CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL’S #89 BRAELEN GEORGE** commits to playing football with the Grambling State University Tigers. Braelen was thankful to his coaches and teammates for believing in him and sticking by him through good times and bad. George is excited to be able to play at the next level and continue his football career.




# Central High JROTC Raiders Win 2nd Place



**THE CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL JROTC RAIDER TEAM** (center) took 2nd place overall at the Central High School JROTC 2024 Spring Raider Challenge. The meet was held on Saturday, February 24. The Wildcat Battalion Raider Team battled five other teams from three area high schools to bring home the overall 2nd place plaque. The Central Raiders also won first place in two of events — One-Rope Bridge and the Obstacle Course. The Raider Challenge competition is an all-services Junior ROTC extracurricular outdoor sporting competition, made up of five events involving teamwork, obstacle courses, and other technical skills. Raider Challenge competitions occur throughout the school year.


## Central Wins 1st in One-Rope Bridge and Obstacle Course



# WE POWER POTENTIAL


Member-students can apply for one-year scholarships of \$1,250 for each of two consecutive semesters awarded in a random drawing at the DEMCO annual membership meeting. **The DEADLINE is May 6, 2024.**

For eligibility requirements and to enter, visit [DEMCO.org/Scholarships](https://DEMCO.org/Scholarships)



## DEMCO

A Touchstone Energy Cooperative

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### Will New Constitution Defund the Police, Scrap the Homestead Exemption as Hoped?

Continued from Page 10

stitution. We have a different world with a partisan legislature. Now 2/3rds of the House is Republican and 2/3rds of the Senate is Republican. Basically, a lot of the time, you only need three people to get a 2/3rds vote — the governor, the speaker of the House, and the president of the Senate. A 2/3rds vote is not the protection it used to be. But why should our home owners or our police have to fight that battle? Keep the homestead exemption and supplemental pay in the Constitution and leave them alone!”

I said, “You know, repealing supplement pay for police has been tried before, don’t you? I remember the day the bill was supposed to be heard in committee. That day, hundreds of police officers came to the Capitol in full uniform. Do you know what happened? You could not find a single member of the House or Senate who knew a thing about that bill! Even the author of the bill said he didn’t know a thing about it!”

I told this particular gentleman, “You should not get Jeff Landry in trouble by proposing doing away with the homestead exemption or supplemental pay for fire and police. Those are terrible ideas, and you will not be able to sneak these things into the constitution and expect that constitution to pass, I promise you!”

The predicate has not been laid for constitutional revision. You have to show the need and that you have tried to change the constitution through the normal means through amendments and failed.

Conservatives cannot support a constitutional convention, and it’s best to leave it alone, at least for the foreseeable future.



# Central High’s First Homecoming Queen And First Yearbook Editor Laid to Rest

**CENTRAL** — Dorothy "June" Eisworth Theriot passed away at her home on Sunday, Feb. 18, 2024 at the age of 90. She was born in Baker to George Sr. and Minette Eisworth and was the oldest of four siblings. She resided in Central all her life.

June had poise, beauty, a heart of gold and was always helping those in need. She was a woman of strong faith accepting Christ at 12 years old. For 78 years, June called Zoar Baptist her church home, where she served on numerous committees and could always be found helping serve whatever the need was.

June graduated from Central High School in 1951, where she met her husband, J.G. He was a football player, and she was the first homecoming queen elected at Central High. She was also the first editor of the Central High School yearbook.



Dorothy “June” Eisworth Theriot

Whether June was in the yard working, at the grocery store or

attending church, she was always dressed to the nines and never left home without her lipstick and earrings. She was a classy woman!

With a strong passion for education, June worked as a school secretary with East Baton Rouge Parish for many years. Upon retirement, she and J.G. loved to travel the country in their RV.

June is survived by her sons and their spouses, John Jr. and his wife Gwen and William Justice "Bill" and his wife Lynn, grandchildren Tasha Buchler and Beau Theriot and great-grandchildren, John Theriot, Madison Claire Buchler, and Brandon Buchler, in addition to her sister, Mary Ann Eisworth Morris, brother-in-law Jim Fitch and sister-in-law Beryl Eisworth.

She is also survived by many nieces and nephews who were very special to her. In addition to her mother and father, she was predeceased by her husband of 62 years, John Gerald "J.G." Theriot, Sr., sister Cynthia Eisworth Fitch, brother George "Bubba" Eisworth Jr., brothers-in-law Ted Morris and Horace Theriot Jr., sisters-in-law Elfleda Nevils, Norma Ory, Neva Von Monarch, Bernadette Rice Mills, June Phelps and Shirley Browning.

Visitation was held at Zoar Baptist Church and religious services followed conducted by Bro. Glenn Miers and music by Bro. Kevin Hand. June was laid to rest at the Zoar Baptist Church cemetery.

Memorial donations may be made to a charity of your choice. June left this world as gracefully as she lived! To view and sign the on-line guestbook, please visit [www.centralfuneralhomela.com](http://www.centralfuneralhomela.com).



JUNE THERIOT being honored at the 2021 Central High Homecoming game escorted by Autumn Vessier.



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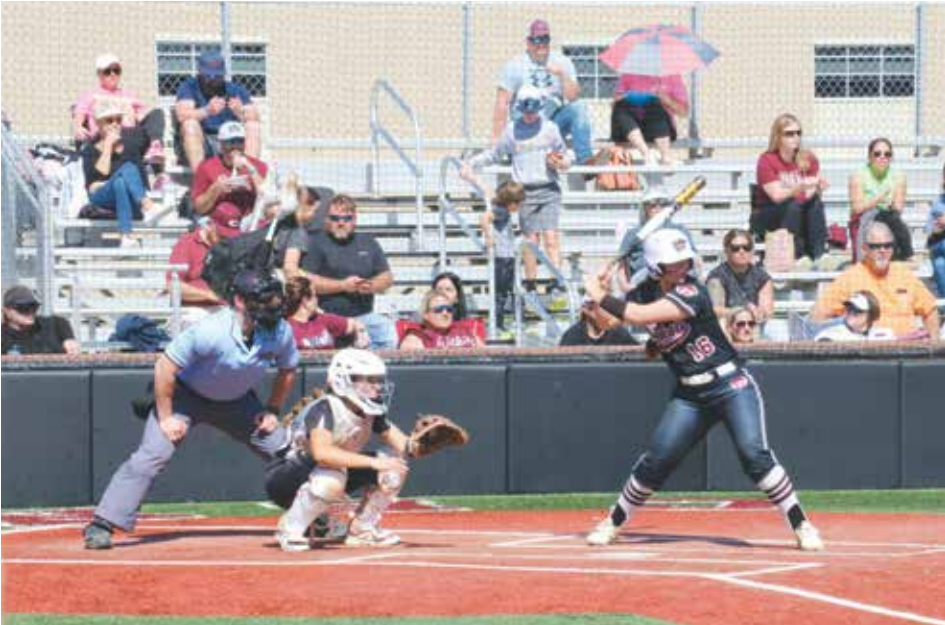


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# Central Overcomes Lakeshore 9-1



CENTRAL’S #16 TRISTAN ALLEN (left) before hitting a home run in the game against Lakeshore. The Lady Wildcats welcome #16 Tristan Allen (right) at home plate after her home run. Central went on to defeat Lakeshore 9-1. You can follow the Central softball team on Facebook at Central Wildcat Softball.



CENTRAL’S #21 ADDIE PAULK (left) on the pitchers mound for the Lady Wildcats. Coming soon, Central High School’s new softball field house (center). The 5,563 sq. ft. facility will include a new locker room and indoor batting cages. In addition, the weight room is also in the process of being renovated. The total budget on both projects is \$3 million, the expected completion is late September. These funds were secured by Sen. Bodi White from state funding. #00 Kam Eaton (right) on deck.



HIGH FIVE’S ON THE PITCHERS MOUND (left) during the Lakeshore game. The dugout seems at ease (center) as the Wildcats rack on more points. #17 Ava Nehring (right) heads for home plate to score another run for Central.



#35 JULIE STEVENS at bat.



2024 Central High Varsity Softball Schedule

Mar 16	Cecilia	H
Mar 19	District Tourney	TBA
Mar 23	Walker	H
Mar 26	District Tourney	TBA
Mar 28	Albany	H
Apr 5	Live Oak	H
Apr 6	Denham Springs	A
Apr 9	Ascension Catholic	A

Head Coach: Michele LeBouef  
Asst Coaches: Robbie Yellot, Sarah Hunt, Kamryn Fury, and Jacoby Davis  
Principal: Brandon LaGroue



#7 LEXIE GUERCIO scores and #35 Julie Stevens gives her a high five!



#12 HILEY MOUNCE on deck.





Miguez on Constitutional Carry and Stine on Blue Cross

# Senators at Chamber of Commerce EBR



SEN. JEREMY STINE (R-LAKE CHARLES) (left) offers his thoughts and warnings on what Louisiana can do to protect against the takeover of Blue Cross by outsiders. Sen. Blake Miguez (R-New Iberia) gives the status of constitutional carry in Louisiana and other bills that incentivize citizens to seek concealed carry permits even with constitutional carry and gun safety/education classes. Coleman Brown (right), chairman of the ChamberEBR Infrastructure Committee, gives an update on the Washington St. exit.



REP. KATHY EDMONSTON (R-GONZALES) (left) speaks on the 2nd special session of the Louisiana Legislature. Scott Wilfong (left/center) talks on judicial re-districting. Debbie Kuehne (center) asks a question regarding Blue Cross. Cecil Cavanaugh (right/center), chairman of the ChamberEBR, comments on the Blue Cross deal as a CPA.

Chamber of Commerce East Baton Rouge • Feb. 27, 2024 • Café Americain

Photos by Jolice Provost • Video by Woody Jenkins for the Central City News

50 YEARS

Istrouma HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 1974

Saturday, April 20, 2024, 7:00 pm to 11:00 pm

Kristenwood Reception Hall

14025 Greenwell Springs Road, Central, LA 70739

Cost \$160/couple or \$80/individual

Pay by VENMO by March 20, 2024 to @keith-lefeaux or mail check to: Keith Lefeaux 14111 Beckett Ave., Pride, LA 70770. Questions call (225) 281-1618

Please provide name, (including maiden) and guest name in notes.

Please do not let cost be the reason you do not attend. Call Keith at (225) 281-1618 for a confidential conversation.

Catered buffet will be provided with a cash bar. No ice chests allowed.

SPREAD THE WORD so we reach as many classmates as possible including Sharing on your Facebook. We look forward to seeing everyone!

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PARTNERING WITH CITY OF CENTRAL

FRIDAY & SATURDAY March 22 & 23

LOCATION: Amazing Place 10305 Blackwater Road Central, La. 70714

FRIDAY

5:00pm FESTIVAL OPEN

5:00pm Seafood Plate, Hamburgers & Hot Dogs

5:00pm Central High School Jazz Band

6:30pm Auction Starts

7:30pm Rouge Krew Band

10:30pm Festival Closes

SATURDAY

12:00pm FESTIVAL OPEN

12pm-2pm Kids Entertainment

3:30pm Chris LeBlanc Band

4:00pm Cook-Off Judging Dinners

5:00pm Dinners (Jambalaya, Pork Roast, Pork Ribs, BBQ Chicken)

6:00pm Announce Winners & Raffles

7:30pm Chee Weez Band

10:30pm Festival closes

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