



Who Hasn't Seen Her Twins in Two Years and Goes to Prison on Weekends to Pay Her Husband's Lawyer

Health Freedom Day Is Friday, April 19

What Happened to Those Who Defied Mandates, Lockdowns

Dr. Peter McCullough Headlines Conference Health Freedom Day At Revolution Square

Woody Jenkins
Editor

CENTRAL — Registration is continuing for the 3rd Annual Louisiana Health Freedom Day, which is planned for Friday, April 19 at Revolution Square, 9500 Blackwater Road in Central.

Renowned physician Dr. Peter McCullough, who led the fight for early treatment of Covid-19, will be the keynote speaker for the event, which will be from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Registration is \$40 through Friday, April 12. The fee includes lunch and an autographed copy of Dr. McCullough's book, *The Courage to Face Covid-19*. Register at <https://tinyurl.com/yz8yv8cr>.

After Friday, April 12, registration will be \$60.

The theme of the one-day event will be celebration of the victories that came as a result of those brave souls who stood up to the medical tyranny and the illegal government mandates of 2020 and 2021.

Among the speakers will be

- Dr. Rhett Bergeron, M.D., a native of Baton Rouge who practices functional medicine in Atlanta;
- State Treasurer John Fleming, M.D., who was deputy Chief of Staff for President Trump;
- Conference host Rev. Tony Spell, pastor of Life Tabernacle, the church that never closed during the pandemic;
- Attorney Jeff Wittenbrink who successfully defended pastor Spell in the Supreme Court;
- Dr. Evelyn Griffin, who lost her

See TIME on Page 4

LOUISIANA HEALTH FREEDOM DAY
Keynote Speaker
Dr. Peter McCullough

LOUISIANA HEALTH FREEDOM DAY
Friday, April 19, 2024
11 a.m. - 3 p.m.
Revolution Square
9500 Blackwater Road
Central, LA
\$40 a person
After April 12, \$60
Register Here

As It All Turned Out, Those Who Fought Covid Tyranny Came Out Pretty Darn Well

Woody Jenkins
Editor

CENTRAL — Soon after March 2020 when Gov. John Bel Edwards began his attack on the Constitution with his illegal orders to close churches and businesses except for those he deemed “essential,” compliance was almost universal.

Churches closed, “non-essential” businesses closed, people wore masks, and the world seemed to grind to a halt.

Yet, there were hardy souls who never complied with Edwards’ orders or yielded to his illegal commands in any way. There were still others who complied in part but found ways to quietly resist.

Now, four years later, those who fought Gov. Edwards’ commands appear to have fared very well. Here are a few examples:

• **Governor.** The most vocal opponent of Edwards’ mandates — then Attorney General Jeff Landry — replaced John Bel Edwards and is now the Governor of Louisiana.

• **Attorney General.** The person who led the fight in court against Edwards’ usurpation of the Constitution — then Solicitor General Liz Murrell — is today the Attorney General of Louisiana.

• **Freedom.** The only person to be arrested in Louisiana and put in jail for refusing to close his church — Central’s Rev. Tony Spell — has had a series of triumphs. In *Louisiana v. Pastor Tony Spell*, the Louisiana Supreme Court dismissed all criminal charges against the pastor

See WHAT on Page 4

Assessor Brian Wilson Opens Office on Wax Rd. in Central

CENTRAL — East Baton Rouge Parish Assessor Brian Wilson has opened a branch of the Assessor’s office here in Central. The office is located at 14790 Wax Road, Suite 109 in the shopping center just west of the old Sammy’s Restaurant.

Assessor Wilson said he is excited about being able to provide more convenient service to the people of Central. “As a resident of Central, I am especially happy to have a presence here and provide this service,”

he said.

The office is now open, and the assessor invited residents to come in whenever it is convenient. He said the most common services utilized are:

- Applying of the \$75,000 homestead exemption.
- Applying for special property tax exemptions for veterans, senior citizens, and the disabled.

Hours are Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Phone 389-2022.

Constitution, Cost Hamper Central City Court

BATON ROUGE — Rep. Lauren Ventrella (R-Central) succeeded in passing HB 636 to create a City Court for the City of Central out of the House Judiciary Committee last Friday, but the bill faces an uncertain future.

Rep. Ventrella and Central Police Chief Roger Corcoran presented the bill. It now goes to the House floor.

However, the Louisiana Constitution of 1974 and high costs could cause problems for the bill.

Article 5, Section 15 of the state constitution forbids the creation of any new judgeships unless they have parishwide jurisdiction.

City courts in existence prior to 1974 were grandfathered in but the creation of new city court judgeships is prohibited. This was designed to prevent the proliferation of costly judgeships where the workload does not justify the expense. At that time, legislators were creating many new judgeships often

for their law partners or friends.

Under the legislation, a City Court would be created in Central with a number of employees:

- An elected City Judge;
- A clerk of court;
- A city marshal,
- Court reporters, and
- Such other employees as may be deemed necessary.

For years, some officials in Central have said a city court would help keep money in Central, but the

bill’s fiscal note suggests otherwise:

• City officials in Central estimate the cost of the court at about \$420,000 a year. The District Attorney estimates expenses of \$222,000 to \$253,000 a year. The Public Defender estimates \$67,000 a year.

• The City of Central estimates revenue of \$150,000 to \$230,000 a year. The Sheriff’s office predicts loss of revenue of \$101,000 to \$123,000 a year.

See REP. VENTRELLA on Page 18

Central City News Investigative Report

Judges Baker, Green Haven't Allowed Mom To See Her Twins in More than Two Years

Katherine Diamond Wasn't Convicted Or Even Charged With Any Crime

Woody Jenkins
Editor

BATON ROUGE — Bright and early on Saturday morning, Dec. 2, 2023, Katherine Diamond was hard at work on the riverfront in downtown Baton Rouge, picking up trash. She had on her yellow vest, as did the others who were there for a variety of wrongs, such as shoplifting, drug abuse, or DWI.

However, unlike others who were sentenced to "community service" for committing crimes, Katherine Diamond hasn't been convicted of anything. In fact, she hasn't even been charged with a crime.

Diamond is not an alcoholic nor has she ever undergone treatment for alcoholism. She's never been a drug user or had a drug problem.

She's never been accused of child abuse by the state.

Yet, Katherine Diamond, the mother of two 12-year-old twins, has not been allowed to see her children since January 2022.

Besides continuing her "community service" in December, Family Court Judge Erika Green began sending Katherine Diamond to Parish Prison every Saturday.

In Ms. Diamond's words, "My life is over. I'm in living hell. Will no one in this city or state stop and listen to what has happened to me? Is the system so broken and so corrupt that there is no way to get justice?"

Katherine Diamond does indeed have a story to tell.

Her case for the custody of her



PICKING UP TRASH — Katherine Diamond has been ordered to go to Parish Prison on Saturdays and to do 200 hours of "community service" picking up trash — in large part for failure to pay her ex-husband's attorney bills.

children was handled by Family Court Judge Pam Baker for six years and the past six months by Family Court Judge Erika Green.

Since this case began, her legal bills to try to see her children have totalled well over \$150,000 and another \$200,000 in legal services have been donated. She has gone



IN HAPPIER TIMES — Katherine Diamond with her two twins. They are now 12. Ms. Diamond said she has not been allowed to see her children for the past two years. All this even though she has not been convicted or even charged with a crime. Her husband alleges that she is guilty of child abuse but a video of the alleged abuse reveals nothing even close to abuse.

Readers Can View Alleged Abuse, And Make Their Own Judgment

BATON ROUGE — Everything done to Baton Rouge mom Katherine Diamond by Family Court judges Pamela Baker and Erika Green goes back to an allegation of child abuse made by her husband. This allegation has never been investigated by the Sheriff's office, the District Attorney, or the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. It is simply an allegation.

Fortunately, the **Central City News** has obtained a copy of the video of the alleged abuse made by and edited by the husband.

The couple was meeting at a parking lot for the routine transfer of the children from the husband to Mrs. Diamond. Instead of assisting his ex-wife with getting the children into her car, the husband was busy filming the event and doing nothing to encourage the children to go with their mom.

The beginning of the video is edited to make it appear the daughter is being choked, when in fact that was not the case. The **Central City News** has blurred the faces of the children to protect their privacy, but the unblurred version shows the daughter smiling and happy, as though they have

just pulled off what was planned.

There is no other evidence of child abuse on the record, except this video.

After the event, the husband did not report child abuse to any law enforcement agency nor was it investigated.

At one point in the proceedings, Judge Baker said this video was serious evidence of child abuse. Judges are required to report child abuse to the Department of Children and Family Services under Children's Code Article 609. However, Judge Baker never reported the alleged abuse so the matter could be independently investigated.

By failing to report the alleged child abuse, Judge Baker appears to have violated Children's Code Article 610 and could be subject to the criminal penalties in R.S. 14:403(A)(2), which applies to anyone "who knowingly and willfully obstructs the procedures for receiving and investigating reports of child abuse or neglect or sexual abuse."

The point is that if judges have evidence of child abuse, they are required to report it, so it can be investigated by Child Protective Services. But this was never done.



Alleged child abuse by Katherine Diamond as she picked up her kids

First Amendment? Judge Bans Mom From Social Media Or Talking to Press

through a litany of attorneys who have so far been unable to get her children back.

To add insult to injury, she has even been ordered to pay more than \$70,000 of **her husband's** attorney fees! That's something rare.

Yet, failing to pay for her husband's attorney fees is the reason Judge Erika Green has been sending Ms. Diamond to Parish Prison. The judge is trying to force her to pay money which Ms. Diamond says she doesn't have — much like debtor's prison in centuries past.

Having to spend part of her weekends in "community service" with criminals is another way Judge Green is trying to force Ms. Diamond to pay her husband's legal bills.

But what's really at the bottom of this! Why were Katherine Diamond's children taken from her? And why can't she get them back?

Katherine Diamond lost the right to see her children and hasn't been able to get it back because she has been **accused of child abuse by her ex-husband!** However, the ex-husband never reported the alleged abuse to police, the District Attorney, or the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services.

So the accusation hasn't been investigated by the police, the District Attorney's office or the Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services. In fact, Katherine Diamond says she has never been questioned by the government at all. Nor



KATHERINE DIAMOND loading trash into a trailer on the banks of the river.

have the children ever been interviewed by DCFS or any representative of state or local government.

Exactly what kind of child abuse has Katherine Diamond been accused of?

Family Court Judge Pam Baker said in open court that Katherine Diamond's is a terrible case of child abuse. So exactly what did Katherine Diamond do? What do you have to do for a Family Court judge in East Baton Rouge Parish to say that

See **KATHERINE** on Page 19

Interview with
Baton Rouge Mom
Katherine Diamond
Before Reporting to
EBR Parish Prison
Jan. 27, 2024



Interview with
BR Attorney
Susan Rayborn
Analyzing Arrest of
Katherine Diamond-
Jan. 27, 2024



Governing Body for Republican Party of EBR Parish

Republican Parish Executive Committee

Republicans Elect Six New Members To Leadership of EBR Parish GOP

BATON ROUGE — Under state law, the Republican Party is governed at the parish level by the East Baton Rouge Republican Parish Executive Committee.

Louisiana law provides that the committee will be composed of 17 members — five elected parish-wide and 12 elected from the 12 Metro Council districts. Members are elected by Republican voters at the time of the Presidential Primary every four years.

On March 23, Republican voters chose the following members of the committee for the next four years: At-Large Businessman Jerry Brouillette; CPA Cecil Cavanaugh; Women’s Republican leaders Lynn Coxe Graham and Jamie Pope, and political consultant Scott Wilfong.

District winners were: District 1 Metro Councilman Brandon Noel; District 2 TV executive Edress Landry; District 3 contractor Richie Edmonds; District 4 businessman Lon Vicknair; District 5 pro-life leader Barbara Thomas; District 6 *Central City News* editor and former Rep. Woody Jenkins; District 7 Women’s Republican leader Christy Haik; District 8 Rev. Tommy French; District 9 businessman Jay Lindsey; District 10 former Rep. Shirley Bowler; District 11 former Sen. Dan Claitor, and District 12 farm director Danny Hoover. They will serve for four years.

REPRESENTING PARISH AT-LARGE *Newly elected • Sen. Claitor served previously



Jerry Brouillette* Cecil Cavanaugh Lynn Coxe Graham* Jamie Pope* Scott Wilfong



Brandon Noel Metro District 1 Edress Landry Metro District 2 Richie Edmonds Metro District 3 Lon Vicknair Metro District 4 Barbara Thomas Metro District 5 Woody Jenkins Metro District 6



Christy Haik* Metro District 7 Tommy French Metro District 8 Jay Lindsey Metro District 9 Shirley Bowler Metro District 10 Dan Claitor* Metro District 11 Danny Hoover* Metro District 12

French; District 9 businessman Jay Lindsey; District 10 former Rep. Shirley Bowler; District 11 former Sen. Dan Claitor, and District 12 farm director Danny Hoover. They will serve for four years.

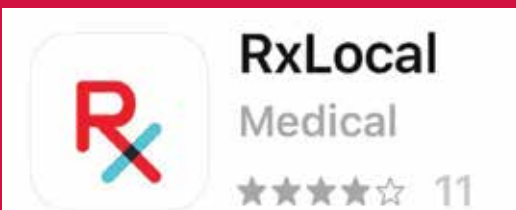
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What Happened to Those Who Resisted?

Continued from Page 1

and ruled everything Gov. John Bel Edwards did to Rev. Spell and Life Tabernacle was illegal and unconstitutional.

• **Constitutional Protection.** The people of Louisiana voted by a 75 percent margin to amend the Louisiana Constitution to prohibit worship services from ever being closed again. It should probably be called ‘**The Spell Amendment.**’ Now it is almost impossible for a governor to ever again order churches closed in Louisiana.

• Life Tabernacle Church has grown from a small local church to a nationwide ministry. Since March 2020, it has met continuously and held 600 worship services.

• More than 3,000 people have been baptized.

• **5,800-Seat Conference Center.** The church has built Revolution

Square conference center seating 5,800 and held three national conferences serving more than 15,000.

• The church has grown from 34 to 41 acres and the bus ministry from 27 buses to 47 buses.

• The Haven café has opened.

• **Allies Prosper.** Pastor Spell’s attorney, Judge Roy Moore of Alabama won an \$8 million libel judgment against the DNC. He was represented by Rev. Spell’s other attorney, Jeff Wittenbrink.

• The church is seeking civil damages against John Bel Edwards.

• Pastor Spell says many miracles have occurred in the church and many people have been healed.

Rep. Beryl Amedee pointed out other positive results:

• People have awakened. They realize we have been lied to and cannot trust the government.

• People are doing their own re-

search about things like their health and education.

• When children were learning remotely, parents got to see what their children were studying, and they didn’t like it and got involved.

• Out of the disaster, much good has come.

Others made these observations:

• Irrational things were said by people we respected — things that were clearly wrong but that we were expected to accept.

• We learned the obvious — just because someone says something doesn’t mean it’s true.

• We realized there is a time to resist, as our parents and grandparents learned long ago.

• We saw public opinion swing back and forth but ultimately the people landed on the side of common sense and freedom.

At the *Central City News*, we

were named Newspaper of the Year in Louisiana for the past three years, in large part because of our coverage of the pandemic and especially Life Tabernacle Church, the story of the decade in Central.

Time to Register for Health Freedom Day

Continued from Page 1

job with Oschner’s because of her refusal to take the vaccine;

• Jill Hines, head of Health Freedom Louisiana who fights for freedom of choice in the legislature;

• Talk show host Jeff Crouere;

• Woody Jenkins, editor of *Central City News*.

The event will be at Life Tabernacle, 9323 Hooper Rd. in Central.

Register at <https://tinyurl.com/yz8yv8cr>.

LOUISIANA HEALTH FREEDOM DAY

Keynote Speaker
Dr. Peter McCullough

© Peter McCullough M.D.

Includes Lunch and Dr. McCullough's book

Dr. Rhett Bergeron Physician	Dr. John Fleming State Treasurer	Rev. Tony Spell Life Tabernacle	Jeff Wittenbrink Attorney
Dr. Evelyn Griffin OB/GYN	Jill Dillingham Hines Health Freedom Louisiana	Jeff Crouere Radio Talk Host	Woody Jenkins Central City News

For information, call 225-921-1433

11 a.m. - 3 p.m. • Friday, April 19, 2024
Revolution Square • 9500 Blackwater Road • Central, LA
Register at link in story • \$40 a person • After April 12, \$60


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 The Leader Vol. 27 • No. 4 • CCN No. 487
 Post Office Box 1
 City of Central, LA 70739

Istrouma Journal 910 North Foster Drive
 Baton Rouge, LA 70806 Vol. 4 • No. 3

Phone (225) 261-5055 • Entire contents © 2024
 Email stories and photos 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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TONY PERKINS AND WOODY JENKINS will both be Trump delegates to the Republican National Convention this summer. The pair worked together at WBTR-TV in the 1990's and were seatmates in the Louisiana House of Representatives.

Article I, Section 10 of U.S. Constitution Opens the Door

Louisiana's Historic Opportunity to Become First in Nation with Gold-Backed Currency

SB 485 Will Provide People Across Nation A Safe Place for Gold, Access via Debit Card

Woody Jenkins
 Editor, Central City News

BATON ROUGE — Senate Bill 485 by Sen. Valarie Hodges (R-Livingston) and Rep. Raymond Crews (R-Benton) offers Louisianians an historic opportunity:

- To safely own and store gold and thereby protect themselves from the ravages of inflation.
- To buy and sell gold very inexpensively.
- To protect Louisiana citizens from paying the capital gains tax if they ultimately sell their gold.
- To allow citizens to access their gold 24 hours a day anywhere in the world and make everyday purchases via a gold-backed debit card.

Legalizing Gold Currency in Louisiana. The legislation, which is endorsed by State Treasurer John Fleming, M.D., utilizes Art. I, Section 10 of the United States Constitution, which allows the states to issue currency backed by gold or silver. The Constitution provides that such currency will be legal tender, which means it will be accepted for payment of all debts, public and private.

If given permission by the legislature, Treasurer Fleming intends to issue Louisiana gold-backed currency, making our state the first to take advantage of this extraordinary reservation of powers by the states found in Art. I, Section 10.

Safe Storage of Gold. For at least the past 5,000 years, man has treasured gold and tried to hoard it as a means to protect and preserve his earnings. But throughout the ages, it has been impossible for the ordinary citizen to safely keep gold.

That problem has now been solved. A few years ago, the State of Texas authorized construction of the Texas Bullion Depository near Austin. For a small annual

Legalize Gold Currency in Louisiana

Supported by State Treasurer John Fleming, M.D.

Senate Bill 485 by Senator Hodges and Rep. Crews

fee, anyone may store his precious metals in the depository. The depository is under the auspices of the State Comptroller of Texas, who inspects it regularly.

The gold on deposit at the Texas Bullion Depository is fully insured by Lloyd's of London. The gold there is the property of the person who deposited it. It does not belong to the State of Texas, and it cannot be lent out.

SB 485 will allow the State Treasurer of Louisiana to contract with the State of Texas to store

gold at their depository.

Legal Tender Makes Capital Gains Tax-Free. Because gold-backed currency issued by the State of Louisiana will be "legal tender" many believe it will not be subject to the capital gains tax. I cannot give tax advice. Ask your attorney or CPA for his opinion.

Generally speaking, the price of gold doesn't fluctuate. Rather, currency fluctuates as government increases the money supply.

Since gold is a commodity, if you buy an ounce of gold today

for \$2,200 and sell it in five years for \$10,000, you will pay a capital gains tax on your gain of \$7,800. For most people, their capital gains tax will be 15 percent, or in this case \$1,170. So even though your gold is simply keeping up with inflation, you would pay \$1,170 in capital gains tax.

However, according to many, if you are holding Louisiana gold-backed currency, the same situation should result in no capital gains tax at all because legal tender is not subject to capital gains taxes.

Accessing Your Gold 24 Hours a Day. Under the provisions of SB 485, a person would open an account with the Louisiana Department of Treasury by downloading an app such as Glint from the app store. You can transfer dollars from your bank account to your Glint account very much as you do with Venmo or a similar service. Once you have cash in your Glint account, you simply transfer your dollars to gold. The fee is one-half of one percent. When you transfer gold to dollars, you again pay one-half of one percent.

Selling gold on the market can be expensive, and you may only get 70 percent of the market price. But the price of buying and selling gold through the Louisiana Treasury is projected to be only one-half of one percent.

With a Glint or similar account, you will be issued a gold-backed debit card, so that you can access your gold 24 hours a day from anywhere in the world. If you want to receive your gold, you will be able to pick it up or have it shipped to you from the Texas Bullion Depository. If it you want dollars, you can access your dollars through your debit card. For a fee of one half of one percent, you gold will be sold for dollars and can be spent like any other funds. Glint also gives you the option to transfer your gold on deposit to Euros or other currency.

When you transfer gold to your Glint or other account that contracts with the Louisiana Treasury, your gold remains yours. Your gold

See **COMPARING** on Page 6

Comparing Louisiana Gold-Backed Currency Held in State Treasury to a Conventional Bank

Continued from Page 5

is always there. Under SB 485, your gold is automatically deposited to the gold depository and not the state treasury. Moreover, your gold can never be lent out or used by anyone else. It remains your gold, and does not belong to the State of Louisiana or the State of Texas.

Like any commodity, gold goes up and down against the dollar. However, gold has a long history of going up relative to the dollar over time. But there are no guarantees.

A deposit of gold through a Glint or other account under contract with the Louisiana State Treasury should not be looked on as an investment. It is not. It is not working to produce goods or services. Rather, it should be viewed as a potential hedge against inflation — a way to preserve and protect some of your earnings from the ravages of inflation.

We know that spending by the federal government is soaring. Deficits are out of sight. So chances are the federal government will continue to increase the money supply. If it does so, gold could be a way to preserve part of your wealth.

If SB 486 passes, anyone will be able to open a gold account from \$100 up and store some of their wealth in this precious metal.

IF LOUISIANA LEGISLATURE PASSES SB 485 FOR LOUISIANA GOLD CURRENCY

	A Typical Bank	Louisiana Treasury
What is deposited?	U.S. Dollars	U.S. Dollars which are converted to Gold
What backs it up?	U. S. government	Gold
Who is insuring it?	U.S. government	Lloyd's of London
For how much?	\$250,000	Unlimited
Does it earn interest?	Yes	No
Who owns your deposit?	The bank. You are an ordinary creditor.	You
How is it redeemable?	Paper dollars	Gold or paper dollars if desired
Is it lent out?	Yes	No
What fractional reserve ratio must be maintained on hand?	Until 2020, 10% Since 2020, 0%	100% Gold is not lent out.
Is it readily converted to gold or dollars?	No	Yes
Can you use it as debit card?	Yes	Yes
Is debit card accepted worldwide?	Yes	Yes
When can you access your deposit?	24 hours	24 hours

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Central Community School System Honors Its 2023-24 Teachers of the Year



Kelsi Silvio
Bellingrath Hills Elementary
Teacher of the Year



Laci Brice
Tanglewood Elementary
Teacher of the Year



Rondi Kennedy
Central Intermediate School
Teacher of the Year



Lindsey Corona
Central Middle School
Teacher of the Year



Kisha Wilson
Central High School
Teacher of the Year

Central Community School System Principal of the Year



Brandon LaGroue • Central High Principal
Named Principal of the Year

BATON ROUGE — Central High School's principal Brandon LaGroue has been named one of the 24 semifinalists for the Louisiana Department of Education's Principal of the Year. The finalists will be named during the live opening session of the Teacher Leader Summit on May 28. LaGroue, a Central High alum and a third generation Central Wildcat, has served as Central High School's principal since 2018.



Brandon LaGroue
Central School System
Principal of the Year



Supt. Jason Fountain with School Board Pres. Roxanne Atkinson and School Board member Mike Davis



Kisha Wilson's family having fun with the photo booth!



Willie the Wildcat rolled out the red carpet dressed in a tuxedo saying, "It's a great day to be a Wildcat!"



MEMBERS OF THE JAZZ BAND (left) entertaining. Central High students Rebecca Breau and Abigail Sherlin sang the National Anthem led by choir teacher Mary Ann Russell. School Board members Carol Norwood, Nick Carmena, Roxanne Atkinson, Michael Hooper, Dr. David Walker and Mike Davis.



Central Community School System Names 2023-24 Students of the Year



**Rhen Passman, Kindergarten
Bellingrath Hills Elementary
Student of the Year**



**Madison Lumpkin, 12th Grade
Central High School
Student of the Year**



**Evangeline Anderson, 5th Grade
Central Intermediate School
Student of the Year**



**Auria Johnson, 2nd Grade
Tanglewood Elementary
Student of the Year**



**Baylee Osborne, 8th Grade
Central Middle School
Student of the Year**



EVANGELINE ANDERSON CENTRAL INTERMEDIATE STUDENT OF THE YEAR (left) being interviewed by the Wildcat Scoop reporter. Bellingrath Hills Elementary Student of the Year **RHEN PASSMAN** (center) with his family. District 7 School Board member **CAROL NORWOOD** (right) being interviewed by the Wildcat Scoop reporter.



MADISON LUMPKIN CENTRAL HIGH STUDENT OF THE YEAR (right/center) offered the opening prayer. Baylee Osborne, Central Middle Student of the Year (right), led everyone in the Pledge of Alligence before the program began.

Central Community School System Support 2023-2024 Workers of Year



Christy Brown
Bellingrath Hills Elementary
Support Worker of the Year



Angie Womack
Tanglewood Elementary
Support Worker of the Year



Rheagan Pamplin
Central Intermediate School
Support Worker of the Year



Sharon Burgmon
Central Middle School
Support Worker of the Year



Angela Marcellino
Central High School
Support Worker of the Year



The 2023-24 Central Community Schools Support Workers of the Year

Central Community School System Support Workers Of the Year
March 21, 2024
At Central High
Photos by Jolice Provost



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL CULINARY ARTS STUDENTS impressed everyone with the hors d'oeuvres they prepared and served for the Red Carpet event!

Easter Celebration at Central Private



STUDENTS AT CENTRAL PRIVATE'S LOWER SCHOOL enjoyed a visit from Peter Rabbit during their Easter parties. The Easter Bunny visited the classrooms after the students dazzled their parents with their Spring Concert . Each of the grades sang about how all creation sings to the Lord. Pre-K 3 and 4 sang "Who is the King of the Jungle" by Herit Age Kids. Kindergarten sang "The Days of Creation" by Homecoming Kids. 1st Grade sang "Psalm 19 (Creation Song)" by DG Bible Songs. 2nd and 3rd Grade sang "Sing" by Ellie Holcom, the Redhawk Choir sang "All Things Bright and Beautiful" a Traditional English Hymn, 4th Grade sang "All Creatures of Our God and King" by Keith and Kristyn Getty, and the 5th Grade sang "This is My Father's World" by a New Liturgy.



PRE-K CLASSES HELD THEIR EASTER EGG HUNT IN THE LIBRARY. Each child had 12 eggs to find with their name on it. It was very exciting for them to search for their eggs. During the Easter Egg Hunt, the Easter Bunny showed up for an impromptu visit! The kids stopped to take a photo and some offered Peter Cotton Tail a high five!





FUNDING RENEWAL

Maintaining A Strong Foundation for Learning



The Central Community School Board is asking voters to renew dedicated funding for the general operations and maintenance of the school system.

CCSS district voters will vote on the renewal of a 10-year, 32.52 mill property tax on the **April 27 ballot**.

This is NOT a new tax, and it will NOT increase the amount of property taxes residents and businesses pay each year.

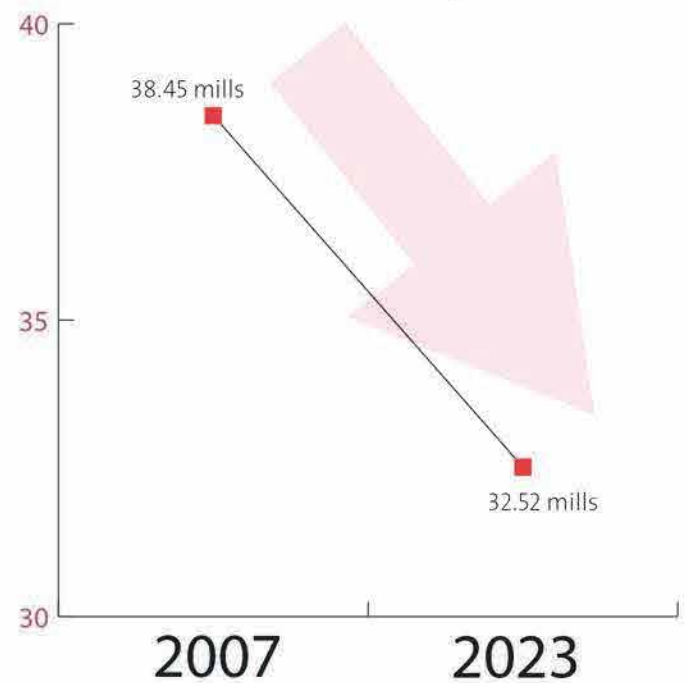
The millage generates approximately \$7.1 million annually and accounts for nearly 40% of all local funding for the school district.

The funding is necessary to maintain the district's foundation for learning:

- Strong A-rated school district
- All schools improved performance scores
- #1 overall in math scores, #2 overall in combined subjects
- #1 in students achieving Mastery & Advanced scores
- Named a Louisiana Model of Excellence School District

This local funding source was first created by voters in 2007 and it provides a strong financial foundation for learning across the district. Voters originally dedicated 38.45 mills to fund system operations and maintenance needs, but school board members lowered that rate over the years to its current level to account for growth in the district.

History of Dedicated General Operations & Maintenance Funding for CCSS



*School board members have lowered the dedicated millage rate to account for business and residential growth in the district.



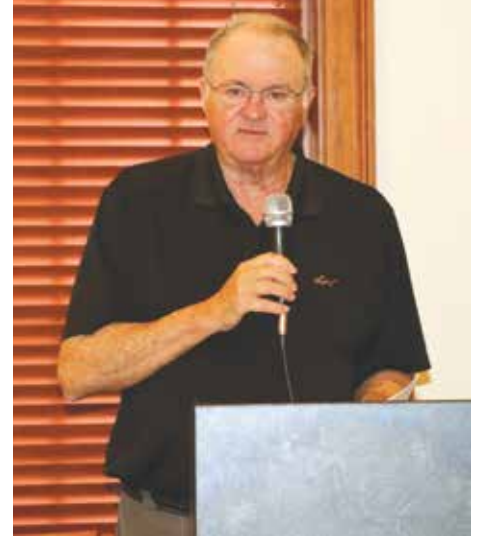
Vote April 27
(Early Voting April 13-20)

Provided as a public service by the Central Community School System

www.centralcss.org

Explains 'Louisiana Gold-Backed Currency'

Rep. Crews Speaks on His Gold Bill



REP. RAYMOND CREWS (R-BENTON) (left) explaining legislation he authored to create 'Louisiana Gold Currency' at the Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge Parish. Rep. Crews (center) with a group of local Republican ladies — Diane Cashio, Metro Councilwoman Laurie Adams, and attorney Monique Appeaning. Coleman Brown (right), ChamberEBR infrastructure chairman, gives an update on road projects, emphasizing LA 415 to Essen Lane on I-10 and I-12. The Chamber meets on the 4th Tuesday at Cafe Americain.

Chamber East Baton Rouge Luncheon • March 26, 2024 • Café Américain
 Photos by Jolice Provost and Video by Woody Jenkins for the Central City News



East Baton Rouge Parish Republican Women



MICHAEL LUNSFORD OF CITIZENS FOR A NEW LOUISIANA (left) explained his organization, which fights for transparency and accountability in local government in Louisiana in a speech before the Republican Women of East Baton Rouge Parish. Jill Hines (right) of Health Freedom Louisiana discussed her landmark case before the United States Supreme Court challenging censorship of conservatives by social media giants like Facebook. Attorney General Liz Murrell was at the Supreme Court in Washington to help present the case of Louisiana and Jill Hines.



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Republican State Central Committee Elected New Leadership for LA GOP



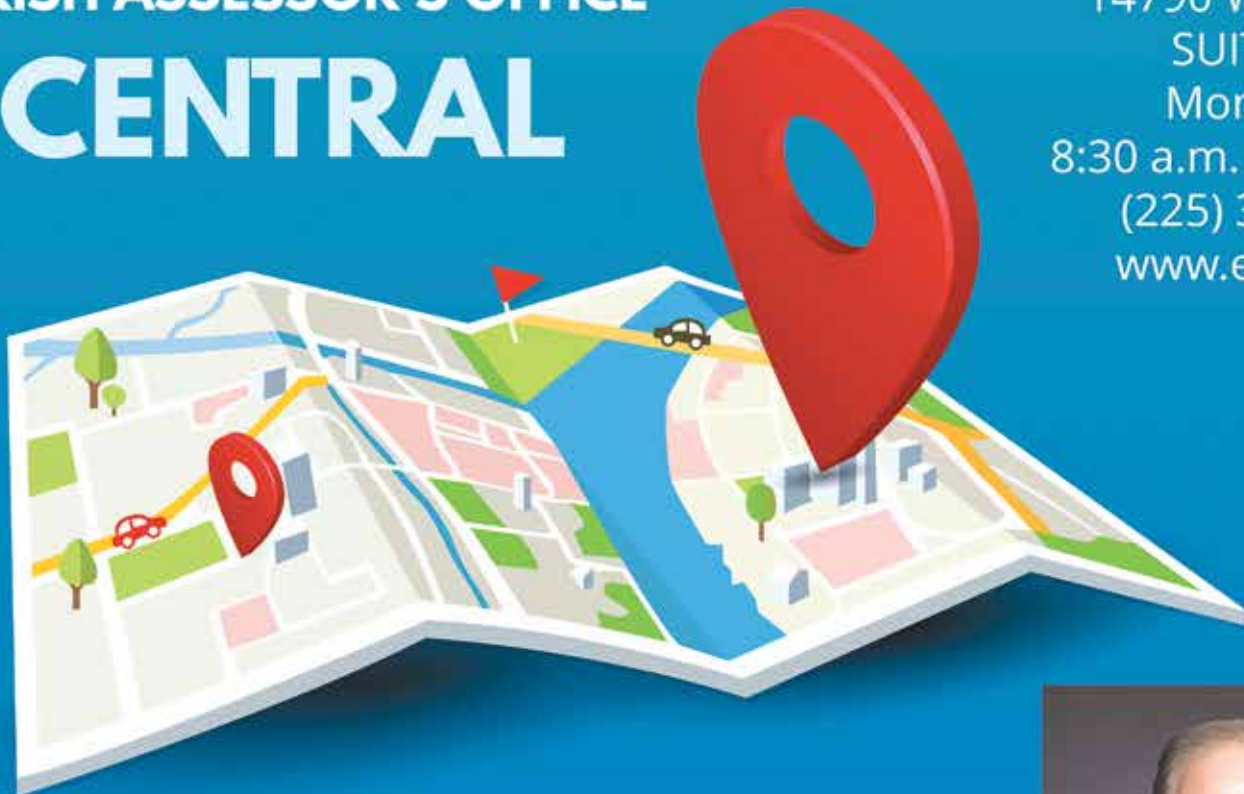
LOUISIANA REPUBLICANS MET SATURDAY at the Downtown Hilton to elect new party leadership. Shown (left) are East Baton Rouge Parish Republican chairman Woody Jenkins with Tony Perkins, president of the Family Research Council, former District Attorney Eddie Tarpley and attorney Tom Angers. At center, State Treasurer John Fleming with newly-elected Republican state chairman Derek Babcock. Also shown are Republican State Committee member Lynn Coxe Graham and newly-elected National Committeewoman Gena Gore.



Those visiting afterwards included State Treasurer John Fleming, Solange Noriega, party consultant Rhett Davis, RNC Vice Chairman Mike Chittom, and PSC member Eric Skrmetta.

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Brian Wilson, EBR Assessor

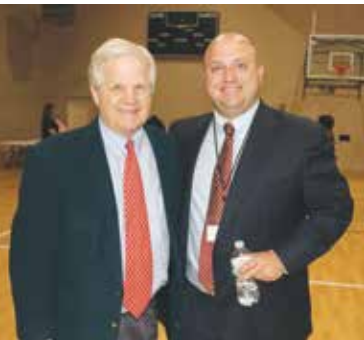
GOP Caucused to Choose Delegates



METROCOUNCILMAN DWIGHT HUDSON AND DAUGHTER SARAH (left) attending the Greater Baton Rouge Republican Caucus March 19. Posing for a photo (center) are Diane Cashio of the Attorney General’s office, Lynn Coxe Graham, Debbie Kuehne who was elected as a delegate from Congressional District 6, with Linda and Eddie Rispone. Monique Appeaing (right) signs one of the voting boxes after inspection. ,



MICHAEL VINCENT, GREATER BATON ROUGE CAUCUS DIRECTOR (left/center) inspected the voting boxes prior to the start of the election. Councilman Dwight Hudson (center/right) checks behind the folds of the box to ensure nothing was present in the box before giving his signature. Each district’s box was inspected, resealed, and signed by three to five people witnessing the inspection.



EAST BATON ROUGE REPUBLICAN CHAIRMAN WOODY JENKINS (left) with Greater Baton Rouge Caucus Director Michael Vincent. Jenkins will be representing Congressional District 2 as a delegate to the Republican National Convention. Former Secretary of State Kyle Ardoin (center) poses for a photo with his grandson and friend, Dru Lea. Republican PEC member Barbara Thomas (right/center) volunteered at the caucus. Sarah Hudson (right) had the privlidge of engaging the process and witnessing the box inspection.



CAROL THOMAS AND VICKIE DAVIS (left) getting a little help from Vickie’s granddaughters! Dwight Hudson and attorney Todd Gaudin (left/center). Todd is the son of the late E. Clark Gaudin, the first Republican legislator from EBR Parish. Woody Jenkins with Durk and Laura Krone. Old friends at the caucus (right), Cindy Edwards and Diane Jenkins.

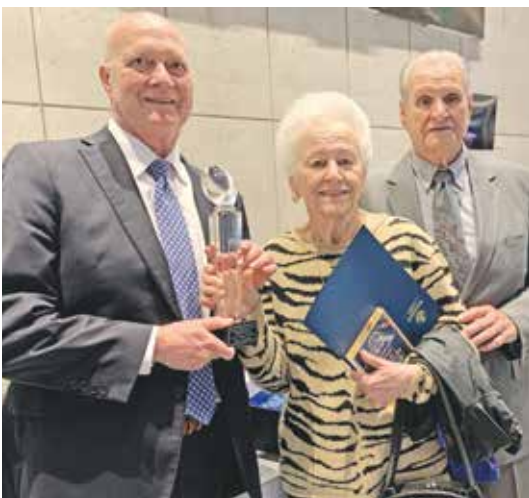


FORMER EBR SCHOOL BOARD MEMEBER JERRY ARBOUR (left) signs in to vote at the caucus. East Baton Rouge Parish Republican Women going the extra mile and volunteering at the caucus are Treasurer Amber Thomas, Parliamentarian Dru Lea, former Pres. Carol Thomas, Lynn Coxe Graham, Diane Cashio, Jill Dyson, and Pres. Debbie Kuehne.

First EBR Parish Hall of Fame Honored Cannon, Pettit, Others



MRS. BILLY CANNON "DOT" (right) was in attendance to accept the Hall of Fame award on behalf of her husband who won the Heisman Trophy. Cannon represented Istrouma. Other honorees included Harvey Adger, legendary head basketball coach at Glen Oaks for the past 53 years, former LSU/MLB baseball player Ryan Theriot of Broadmoor High, former professional basketball player Seimone Augustus, a graduate of Capitol High, Danielle Scott-Arruda, Olympic volleyball player of Woodlawn High), and Eddie Robinson III, grandson of Coach Eddie Robinson. At right, Woody Jenkins, Cannon teammate Earl Phillips, Dot Cannon, EBR schools Supt. Adam Smith, and Istrouma head coach Sid Edwards.



ISTROUMA HIGH HEAD COACH SID EDWARDS (left) with Dot Cannon and Cannon's teammate Earl Phillips. At center, East Baton Rouge Parish Hall of Fame inductees. At right, Eddie Robinson III receiving the award for his grandfather, Grambling coach Eddie Robinson.



Honoree Harvey Adger
Legendary Head Basketball Coach
Glen Oaks High 53 Years • 934 Wins



For Doug Williams (Ashley Williams)
First NFL Black QB to Win Superbowl
Northeast High School



Honoree Danielle Scott-Arruda
Olympic Volleyball Player
Woodlawn High School



Honoree Seimone Augustus
Professional Basketball Player
Capitol High School



East Baton Rouge Parish Schools
Superintendent Adam Smith



Honoree Ryan Theriot
LSU Baseball and 12 Years MLB
Broadmoor High School



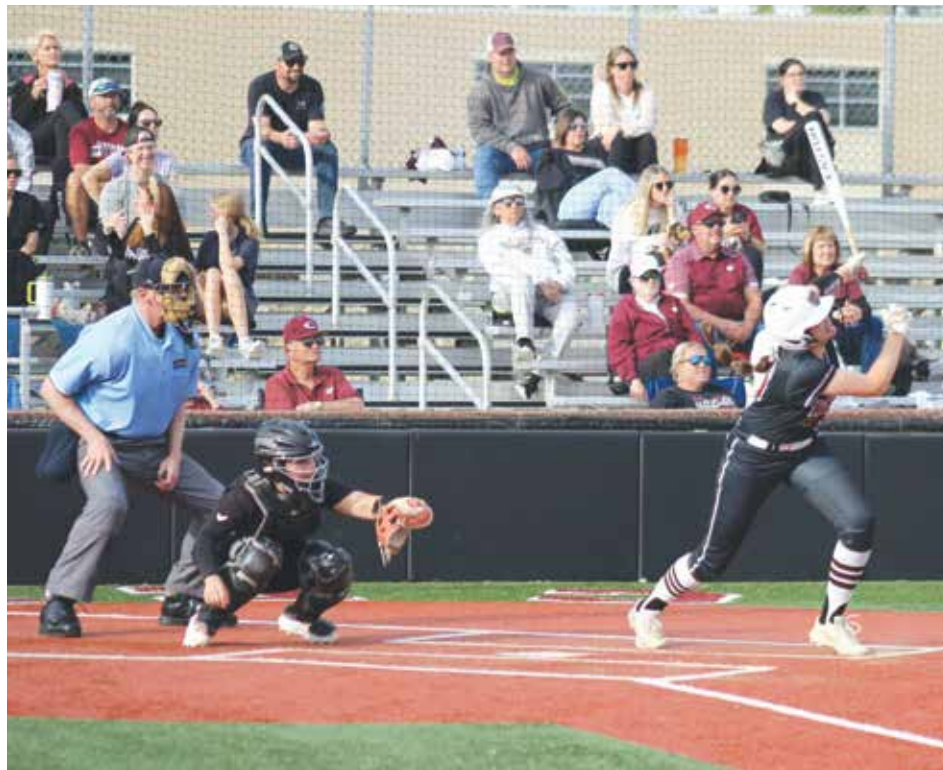
Honoree Bob Pettit • BR High
Legendary NBA Basketball Player
LSU • Milwaukee/St. Louis Hawks



Louisiana House of Representative
C. Denise Marcelle
District 61

**EBR Parish Athletic Hall of Fame Honorees: Seimone Augustus • Bob Pettit • Billy Cannon
Eddie Robinson • Ryan Theriot • Doug Williams • Seimone Augustus • Harvey Adger
Photos by Woody Jenkins for the Central City News**

First District Win for Lady Wildcats

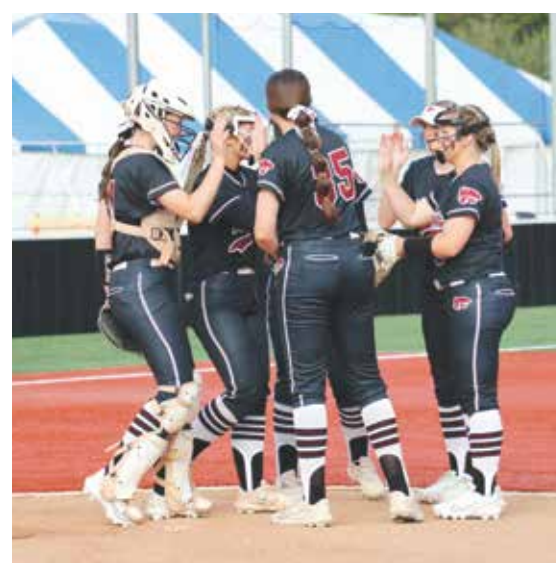


CENTRAL'S #18 ANNA CLAIRE RILEY (left) started on the mound for the Lady Wildcats. #35 Julie Stevens (center) with a stand up double for the Wildcats. Coach Michelle Efferson (right) recently celebrated over 300 wins as the Central High School head softball coach!

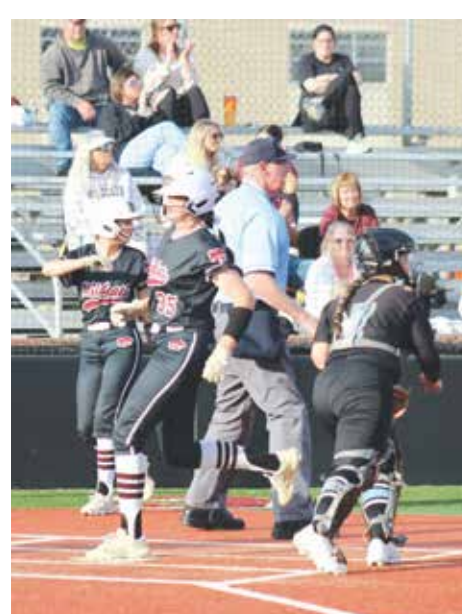
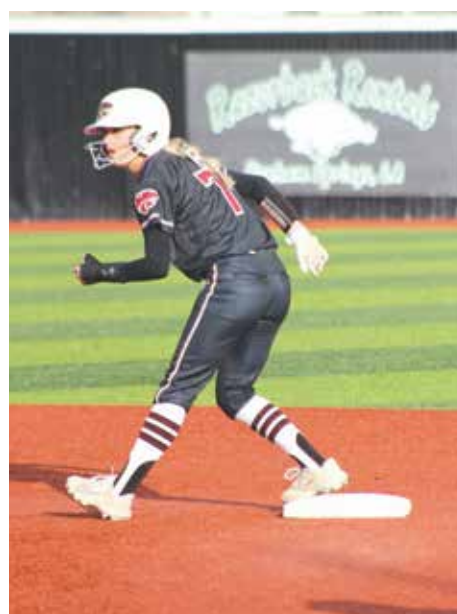
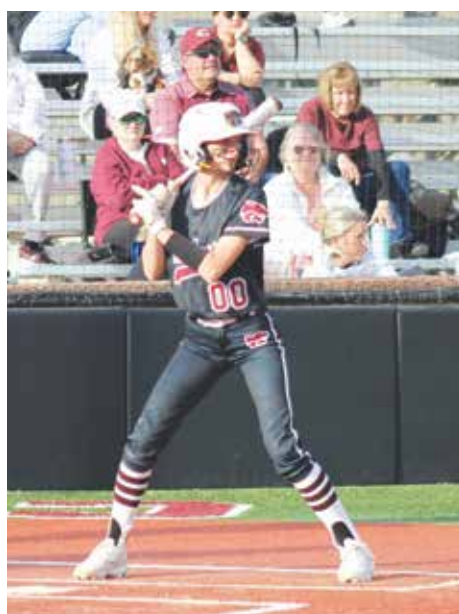
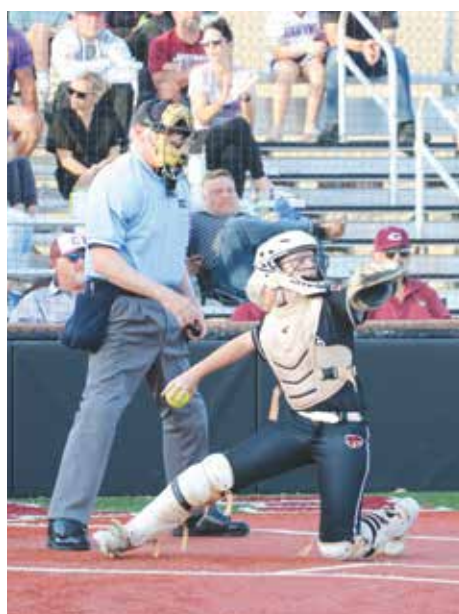


Central's Lady Wildcats
17

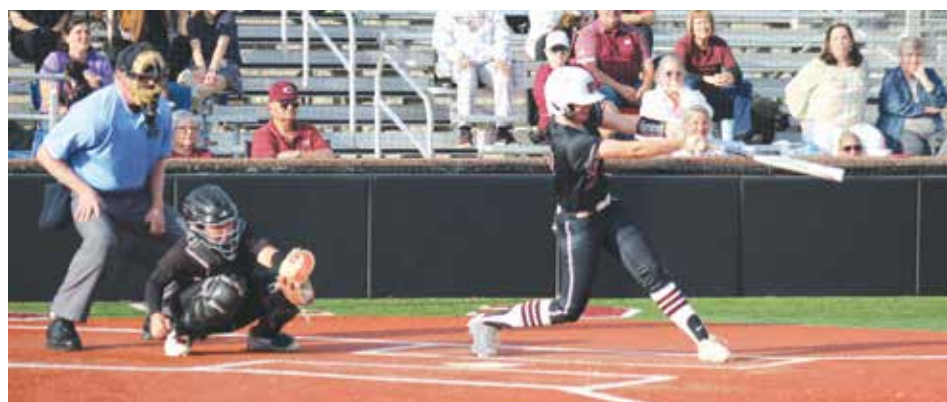
Zachary's Lady Broncos
11



THE LADY WILDCATS WITH THE NEXT GENERATION OF GIRLS (left) during pregame National Anthem. At right, the team high five's before the game (right). The final score was Central 17, Zachary 11. The game proved both teams had a great night offensively with the Wildcats prevailing over the Broncos.



WILDCAT CATCHER #17 AVA NEHRING (left) behind the plate fighting for Central's win. #00 Kam Eaton had an impressive night at the plate with three hits including a home run in the sixth inning. #7 Kexie Guercio at second base waiting for an opportunity to steal third. #35 Julie Stevens crosses homeplate and scores for the Wildcats!



CENTRAL HAS A HOT NIGHT OFFENSIVELY SCORING 17 RUNS (left) Lady Wildcats at bat. The dugout cheering on the their team as the Wildcats rack up runs early on.

Central Wildcats 17 • Zachary Broncos 11 • March 20, 2024
Photos by Jolice Provost for the Central City News

Central's Lady Wildcats District 4-5A Champs



THE LADY WILDCATS SOFTBALL TEAM wo the District 4-5A title defeating St. Joseph's Academy 10-7.

Central Bloomers Donate to Tanglewood Elementary



PRESENTING A SCHOOL GARDEN GRANT from the Central Bloomers Garden Club to Tanglewood Elementary were Nancy Hicks and Mary Legendre. Receiving the donation were Tanglewood Elementary principal Maegan Brown and teachers Meredith Hicks and Rhonda Ricketts.

CENTRAL — Each year the Central Bloomers Garden Club dedicates funds from their annual plant sale to award grants to local schools in the Central community to create school gardens for their students and teachers to enjoy. This year Tanglewood Elementary School applied and was awarded one of the grants totaling \$300. Tanglewood Elementary plans to expand their current garden by incorporating more native plants that require less water and will attract more butterflies.

Emma Elizabeth Moore Born February 26

CENTRAL — Emma Elizabeth Moore, daughter of Madison Nunnery Moore and Caleb Patrick Moore, was born at 5:28 p.m. on February 26, 2024 at Memorial Hermann The Woodlands Hospital. She weighed 6 pounds 9 ounces and was 19 and 1/4 inches long. Madison and Caleb are so happy and love their baby girl so much. They are also very excited to finally bring Emma back home to her grandparents, Michael and Karen Nunnery and Gwen and Will Moore, after living out of state. Welcome home Madison, Caleb, and Emma!



Emma Elizabeth Moore and parents Caleb and Madison Moore

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The Claiborne at Shoe Creek in Central

The Claiborne At Shoe Creek Fosters Vibrant Community Life

CENTRAL —Nestled in the community of Central, The Claiborne at Shoe Creek is brimming with life and activity, providing maintenance-free, worry-free living for seniors.

The recent arrival of Derrick Tolliver as Executive Director signals a new chapter of leadership dedicated to excellence and innovation. This is complemented by the much-anticipated return of culinary wizard Chef Buddy Wheeler.

Capturing the essence of the assisted living and memory care community, resident Jim R said, “[It’s] very peaceful, meeting all of your needs. The Claiborne has it all!”

This sentiment is a testament to the comprehensive suite of services and offerings The Claiborne prides itself in, ranging from assisted living to specialized memory care. The Claiborne is not just a place to live. It’s a place to thrive, to indulge in hobbies, and to relish in well-deserved rest.

Ellen M.’s admiration for The Claiborne underscores the integration of convenience and accessibility with upscale living.

The Claiborne at Shoe Creek’s commitment to enhancing resi-



THE CLAIBORNE AT SHOE CREEK, a senior living community, is located in the heart of the City of Central at 9750 Couret Drive, Central, Louisiana 70818



SENIOR LIVING — a harmonious blend of service, leadership and a place to call home.

dent life is evident in its proactive management and operational improvements under Derrick Tolliver’s leadership.

From more efficient service delivery to enhanced dining experiences and prompt resolution of maintenance issues, residents, families, and staff are thriving.

At the heart of this enriched living experience is Chef Buddy Wheeler, whose culinary creations bring joy and a taste of home to every meal.

Beyond the tangible offerings, The Claiborne at Shoe Creek fosters a vibrant community spirit. Engaging activities, spiritual gatherings, and entertainment are designed to enrich the lives of residents, providing joy, solace, and a deep sense of belonging.

With insightful leadership and an array of services designed to cater to every facet of resident life, The Claiborne promises not just a place to live but a place to live well. Management says it aims for a future where excellence is not just a goal, but a continuous journey, enriching the lives of those who call The Claiborne home.

To celebrate Chef Buddy’s return to The Claiborne, the Central community is invited to a brunch at 10 a.m. on Saturday, May 4.

For more information, check the website: www.theclaiborne.com/shoe-creek/events.

COME AND JOIN US!
Open House at The Claiborne
Bunch 10 a.m. Saturday, May 4

Rep. Ventrella Says a City Court Is an Option for Future

Continued from Page 1

Altogether, the fiscal note projects roughly \$700,000 to \$750,000 in expenses against income of \$130,000 to \$230,000, not counting the loss in revenue to the Sheriff’s office.

The court would have criminal jurisdiction over all offenses not punishable by hard labor and all violations of city ordinances.

It would have civil jurisdiction

concurrent with the district court in disputes up to \$50,000.

The legislation does not say who would prosecute criminal cases in the court or how that prosecutor would be chosen and paid. However, the fiscal note on the bill anticipates the District Attorney would prosecute in the court.

The city judge would be paid a salary determined by the Central City Council.

Under the legislation, the Central police chief would serve as executive officer of the court and perform all the duties of a marshal. It says that in making arrests and preserving the peace, he shall have the powers of a sheriff.

A city court judgeship is often considered a “plum” because the salary is usually close to those of district judges, but city court judges are also allowed to engage in the

private practice of law.

The creation of a new judgeship is considered a “local bill,” which members of the legislature are loath to oppose. Local bills typically fly through the legislature with little or no opposition. The result under the old Constitution was a plethora of high-paying city and ward court judgeships with little actual work to do.

In the past, the Judicial Council required that no new judgeship be created unless it is projected to be in session at least 200 days a year. Most city courts in smaller municipalities are open only a few days a month and cannot meet that requirement.

If the Central City Court proposal makes it through the legislative process, it could face a constitutional challenge to its existence under Article 5, Section 15.

At present, the 19th Judicial District and Justice of the Peace Mark Miley have jurisdiction over all matters arising in Central.

On Wednesday night, Rep. Ventrella said, “Revenue generated within the city limits of Central should be put toward improving and protecting our city whenever possible. I have worked with our local officials in order to give them the option of establishing a city court, if they see fit. We’ll continue to work together in order to ensure Central is financially strong for years to come.”

EDITOR’S NOTE: It’s easy to follow what is happening at the Louisiana Legislature. Just go to www.legis.la.gov. You can see what’s on the agenda in the House and Senate and watch committee hearings and floor action live.

with Buddy
Brunch



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Katherine Diamond Has Been Silenced But *Central City News* Tells Her Story

Continued from Page 2

it is a terrible case of child abuse? Murder? Rape? Torture? Sexual abuse? Child abandonment?

No, in this case, the allegation of child abuse is that Katherine Diamond abused her daughter when her ex-husband brought the twins to meet Katherine so she could take them for a scheduled custody exchange. The ex-husband was videoing the event. The video shows the little girl standing next to Katherine, who is trying to put her in the car. The mom struggles with the girl for about 10 seconds and then lets the girl free. The brother is pulling on his sister and tells her to get in the dad's car. She then jumps in with her dad and is smiling.

The father never gets out of the car to facilitate the exchange, never says, "Get in the car with your mother," and never intervenes to stop the alleged abuse. He just films it.

This video is the primary evidence that Katherine Diamond is a child abuser. Yet, the video does not

show child abuse by any standard.

Immediately after the incident, Katherine Diamond called the police to complain that the father failed to give her the children for custody exchange.

According to court testimony, the father said the police arrived and that he felt they were "belligerent" that he had not handed the children over to the mom. Even though the alleged abuse had just occurred, he did not report the abuse to the police at that time or at anytime afterwards. Such a report would have triggered an investigation.

So what is really going on?

Family Court is a different world. It is a place where the judge is very powerful, and higher courts are extremely reluctant to intervene. Some attorneys refuse to practice in Family Court after having seen the injustices done there.

If the Family Court judge says she found child abuse, the court of appeal is unlikely to look at the "facts" much further than that.

Because there are no cameras in the courtroom in Louisiana as there are in many states, the appellate court often struggles with the ability to determine whether an abuse of discretion has actually occurred. When they are in doubt, they often take the easy way out and defer to the trial court.

If no objective appellate court judge takes the time to review the entire record and transcript of the trial and make an independent review of the facts according to the law, then great injustices can occur.

Katherine Diamond says she knows that for certain.

Over the past two years, Ms. Diamond says the money she has been forced to spend on attorney fees exhausted all of her resources and has kept her in financial bondage.

But that is only the beginning.

In addition, there is child support. Katherine has to send a check for child support to her husband's attorney every month in the amount of \$1,000.

Then there is the matter of her ex-husband's attorney fees.

Louisiana is a state where normally each party in litigation pays his own attorney fees.

However, in Family Court in this state, it is quite possible for you to be ordered to pay your spouse's attorney's bill. And that's exactly what happened to Ms. Diamond!

So far, Judge Baker and then Judge Green ordered Ms. Diamond to pay her ex-husband's attorney fees amounting to more than \$70,000! Judge Baker and then Judge Green ordered that she be sent to jail unless she makes monthly payments to her husband's attorney for legal bills.

That leads to why Katherine Diamond is picking up trash on the riverfront. Judge Baker said she must do community service in part for being in contempt of the court for not timely paying the \$70,000 to her husband's attorney.

Judge Baker also ordered Katherine Diamond to vacate the family home and ordered a sale of the house even though there has been no trial on community property. That is on appeal right now.

"It is depriving me of all my assets, which they have done, attempting to take my home, and to deprive me of my children, while having to pay my husband's legal bills," Diamond said.

So Katherine Diamond continues life as it has become for her. Trying to work as an architectural draftsman. Writing, calling, talking to anyone and everyone who could possibly help get her children back.

"Is there no answer for a mother like me?" she asks. "I feel thrown away by our state and the world," she said. "Do I have any rights as a parent, or is it all just a sham? I've never abused my children. Will the courts do justice or just yield to whatever a biased judge says?"

That is indeed the question raised by Katherine Diamond's case.

In September, Judge Baker recused herself from the case, and it was assigned to Family Court Judge Erica Green.

However, so far, Katherine Diamond has still not seen her children, is still paying her husband's legal fees and child support, and is still picking up trash on the riverfront and reporting to Parish Prison on Saturdays.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Over the past year, the Central City News has read scores of transcripts, briefs, and motions in this case. All the while, we were seeking to understand some rational basis for the bizarre, one-sided, and unjust treatment of Katherine Diamond in this case. For a mother to be kept from seeing her children for more than two years on trumped up, false allegations of child abuse borders on criminal. For the same mom to be forced to pick up trash and go to parish prison time after time for failure to pay her husband's attorney fees is beyond tyrannical. Now, in a major blow to the First Amendment, Family Court Judge Erika Green put a gag order on Katherine Diamond, forbidding her from posting on social media and giving interviews to the media. This wildly excessive decree violates the First Amendment, Ms. Diamond's ability to defend herself, and the public's right to know what is going on in the courts.

We believe the Family Court system in East Baton Rouge Parish is out of control, deeply flawed, and should be overhauled or shut down completely and its duties transferred to the 19th Judicial District Court.

Email: woodyjenkins2020@hotmail.com



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