



Groundbreaking Ceremony Launched Construction

# New City Hall Underway



Mayor Jr. Shelton (2014-2019)



Mayor Wade Evans (2023-present)



Mayor Mac Watts (2005-2014)



Senator Bodi White (2012-2024)

**CENTRAL CITY HALL GROUNDBREAKING** — The City of Central broke ground for a new City Hall on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025. The site is at Hooper and Sullivan roads next to the Central Community School Board office and in front of Wildcat Stadium. A host of current and former Central elected officials were on hand for the ceremonies. They included former Mayor Jr. Shelton, Mayor Wade Evans, former Mayor Mac Watts, and former Sen. Bodi White. See story and photos on Pages 2, 9-11.

Tens of Thousands Expected March 20-23 at 9500 Blackwater Road

# Vietnam Veterans Memorial Coming Here



**THE WALL THAT HEALS** — Revolution Square, 9500 Blackwater Rd. will host a 3/4 scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, March 20 to 23. Tens of thousands of visitors are expected to attend and view the etched names of 58,281 men and women who lost their lives in Vietnam. It includes an Education Center, providing an opportunity for students of all grade levels to understand the sacrifices made during the Vietnam War. The massive size of the wall at 375 feet in length often evokes an emotional response. The Wall will be open 24 hours a day. The nearby Haven Café will also open 24 hours a day. The Wall will be met by a motorcycle escort at 12 noon on Tuesday, March 18 at I-12 at O'Neal Lane. It will head north on O'Neal to the Central Thruway and Sullivan Road and then west on Hooper Road to Life Tabernacle Church. Citizens who want to honor those who died should line the route from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and wave American flags. To volunteer to help with the Wall, contact Cindy at 225-776-1380 or ccbergeron\_7@hotmail.com. To schedule a tour, contact Emily at 225-315-8206 or emily.mayfield14@yahoo.com. For more information or to donate, go to [TheWallThatHealsBR.org](http://TheWallThatHealsBR.org).

# Central Breaks Ground for City Hall

**CITY OF CENTRAL** — The City of Central took a major step forward on Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025, as Mayor Wade Evans, alongside past and present elected leaders, broke ground for Central’s first city-owned City Hall. Mayor Evans welcomed leaders who have played a role in Central’s journey since its incorporation. Chief among them were former Central Mayors Mac Watts and Jr. Shelton.

“This groundbreaking is more than just the start of construction. It is the foundation of our future,” Evans said. “For 20 years, we have built this city together, and today, we take another step forward in making Central an even better place to live.”



A shovel used in groundbreaking

The new City Hall will stand as the northern anchor of the Mainstreet 2030 Vision, a long-term plan to enhance the heart of Central with economic and community-driven development.

During the event, Mayor Evans apologized for his previous stance on building a City Hall, saying the division had set the city back six years and \$3 million. He said there was too much infighting but now the city is unified.

Designed as more than just a government facility, the City Hall property will serve as a central gathering space for both the City of Central and the Central Community School System.



ARCHITECT’S DESIGN for new Central City Hall. Groundbreaking was held Tuesday, February 11, 2025.

Plans include areas for community events, civic engagement, and celebrations that bring residents together, further reinforcing Central’s sense of community.

“City Hall will be more than a building—it will be a place where people come together,” Mayor Evans added. “It will be a hub of activity, where our citizens can connect, celebrate, and engage with their local government.”

Construction of the new City Hall is expected to be completed in April 2026, with further developments to follow as part of the Mainstreet 2030 Vision.



Former Central Mayors Jr. Shelton and Mac Watts with Mayor Wade Evans



## MEET *Dr. Ariel Brown*

Dr. Record & Staff  
Would Like to  
Welcome  
**Dr. Ariel Brown**  
Back to the  
City of Central



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Dr. Ariel Brown joined the staff at Record Dental Center in October 2024 and is happy to be back in the Central area. Ariel was a 2007 Central High graduate where she enjoyed playing soccer, cheerleading, running track and playing in the marching band and concert band. She attended Zoar Baptist Church. Currently, she helps with cheerleading for The Upwards Sports program at Zoar.

After graduating from Central High, she continued her education and graduated from the University of Louisiana-Monroe with a Bachelor of Science degree and then received her Doctorate of Dental Surgery at the LSU School of Dentistry in New Orleans. She has practiced dentistry for 10 years and was excited to have the opportunity to join the Record Dental Center practice. Coming back home to Central and seeing so many familiar faces has been very rewarding already. Knowing that she can help her community with her skill set and knowledge is very special to her.

Dr. Brown and her husband Daryl are expecting their first child later this year. Gus and Sherby, their dog and cat respectively, will have to make room for the additional bundle of joy heading their way.

Come by and see Dr. Brown. The city might have changed a little, but the community and the friendships are still there. She’s glad to be home.



Dr. Brown and her husband Daryl



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## Plan Would Use Surplus Funds, Prioritize Spending

# Coach Sid to Reform Parish Budget

### In Dramatic Speech to Chamber EBR, Mayor Outlines New Direction For City-Parish Budget

**Woody Jenkins**  
Editor

**BATON ROUGE** — Facing his first real controversy as Mayor-President, Coach Sid Edwards walked into a packed meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge Parish on Tuesday, Feb. 25. It was a standing room only crowd composed of all major news outlets in the Capital City, a large number of elected officials, and a host of supporters and opponents of his budget reform plan.

The legendary coach, a newcomer to politics, launched into the topic at hand — the East Baton Rouge Parish Library tax — and handled it like a seasoned pro, making jokes and handling questions with ease. If anyone expected the new Mayor-President to fall on his face, they were severely disappointed. The crowd burst into applause numerous times, and he seemed to persuade all but his most committed opponents.

Since taking office Jan. 2, Edwards' team has been analyzing the various departments of City-Parish

See **COACH SID** on Page 20



**MAYOR-PRESIDENT SID EDWARDS** explains his plan to reform the City-Parish budget process.

**MAYOR'S PLAN**

**Library Surplus \$116 million** would be used as follows:

- \$53.2 million debt reduction
- \$9.5 million public safety
- \$11.5 million economic development
- Funds retained by Library

**Annual Revenue from Tax** would be used as follows:

- \$38 million Library budget
- \$21 parishwide public safety, road maintenance, drainage, and mental health
- \$9.6 million stabilize budget



**MEMBERS** of the Mayor-President's staff, elected officials, and business owners watch as Coach Sid explains the importance of being able to move some funds from overfunded agencies such as the Library Control Board to underfunded necessary city services, such as law enforcement and debt service. He spoke during the Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge Parish meeting at Café Américain.

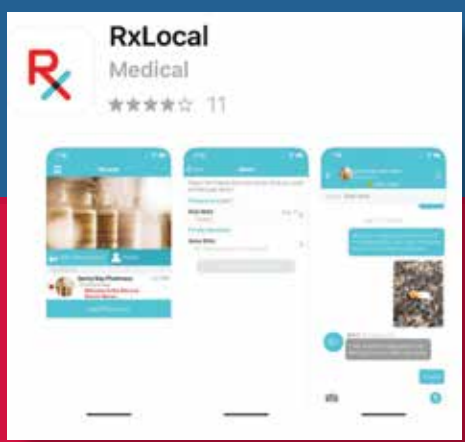
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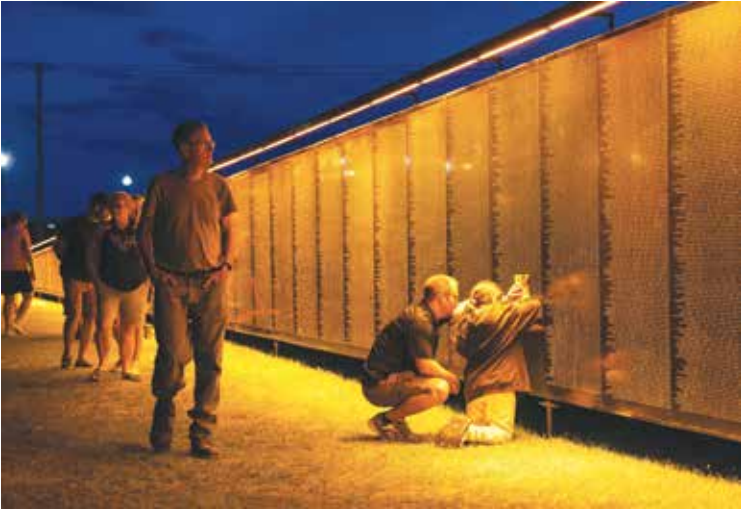
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# Everyone Is Invited to Vietnam Veterans Wall, A Life Changing Event March 20-23 in Central

**CITY OF CENTRAL** — The Wall That Heals, a 3/4 scale replica of the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington, is coming to Louisiana from March 20 to 23 at Revolution Square, 9500 Blackwater Road in Central.

It will be open 24 hours a day and free to the public.

The Wall honors the three million Americans who served in the U.S. armed forces in the Vietnam War, and it bears the names of the 58,281 men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice in Vietnam.

**All Are Welcome at The Wall.** Pastor Tony Spell said, "On behalf of the State of Louisiana, East Baton Rouge Parish, the cities of Baton Rouge and Central, and Life Tabernacle Church, it is an honor to host The Wall That Heals. For the past five years, we have made a tireless effort to bring The Wall to our state. We welcome all Louisianans and neighbors in surrounding states to come and recognize the Gulf South's deep history of service to America. Let it serve as a teaching tool for schools, organizations and all people to learn the high cost of freedom. We are blessed to host this important event. Our city, state, and nation

all need healing. Let it begin here!"

"The Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund is pleased to bring The Wall That Heals mobile exhibit to Baton Rouge to allow local veterans and their family members a chance to experience The Wall," according to Jim Knotts, president and CEO of VVMF.

"Hosting The Wall That Heals provides an opportunity to honor and remember all those who served and sacrificed in the Vietnam War and educate visitors on the continuing impact of the Vietnam War on America," he said.

**An Emotional Experience.** The Wall replica is 375 feet in length and stands 7.5 feet high at its tallest point. Visitors will experience The Wall rising above them as they walk toward the apex, a key feature of the design of The Wall in D.C. Visitors will be able to touch the Wall and do name rubbings of individual service members.

**Hometown Heroes.** The mobile Education Center exhibit will include digital photos of some of the service members who listed their home of record in the Baton Rouge area; video displays that teach about the history and impact of The Wall; a replica of the

In Memory plaque; a map of Vietnam, and a chronological overview of the Vietnam War. The exhibits are designed to put American experiences in Vietnam in a historical and cultural context.

**Official Traveling Wall.** Since its debut in 1996, the exhibit has been on display in nearly 800 U.S. communities. The Wall That Heals is a program of VVMF, the non-profit organization that built The Wall in Washington in 1982. Two VVMF staff members will lead volunteers on site, educate visitors and students, and ensure the reflective atmosphere of The Wall. More information can be found at [www.thewallthathealsBR.org](http://www.thewallthathealsBR.org).

**Motorcycle Escort.** A Motorcycle Escort of veterans, service personnel, law enforcement, and first responders will bring The Wall to Revolution Square on the campus of Life Tabernacle Church at the corner of Hooper and Blackwater Roads in Central.

**Line the Route to Show Support.** The staging area will be at the I-12/O'Neal Lane interchange in Baton Rouge at 12 noon on Tuesday, March 18. The Wall will travel north on O'Neal, which becomes the Central Thruway and

then Sullivan Road, and then west on Hooper Road to Life Tabernacle. The public is invited to show their strong support and love of country along the escort route from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

**Schedule.** Volunteers will erect the Wall from 8 a.m. to 12 noon on Wednesday, March 19.

The Wall is constructed with a force of 30-40 volunteers. Construction begins at 8 a.m. on Wednesday, March 19 before the memorial opens to the public Thursday morning, March 20. The media is welcome to the site during the construction period and thereafter.

Mayor-President Sid Edwards will join the construction crew Wednesday morning. Volunteers will be trained at 6 p.m. that night.

Welcome Home ceremonies will be held Thursday at 6 p.m. with Col. Joey Strickland as speaker. A Remembrance ceremony will be held at 6 p.m. Friday with speakers Judge Roy Moore, a Vietnam veteran; Lon Vicknair, and Terry White. Closing ceremonies will be Sunday at 1:30 p.m. with speaker Doc Holliday. Rev. Tony Spell will host all events. Take down of The Wall will begin at 2 p.m.



YOUNG AND OLD ALIKE are excited to see The Wall That Heals. Everyone is welcome to line the route The Wall will take from I-12/O'Neal to Life Tabernacle Church.




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**ST. GEORGE LEADER**  
 Vol. 5 • No. 2  
 910 North Foster Drive  
 Baton Rouge, LA 70806

**CENTRAL CITY NEWS &**  
 The Leader Vol. 28 • No. 2 • CCN No. 497  
 Post Office Box 1  
 City of Central, LA 70739

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

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The Leader was founded April 30, 1998. The Central City News was founded April 21, 2005. They merged May 4, 2006. The South Baton Rouge Journal began publication in 1989. It resumed publication as the Capital City News on Aug. 16, 2012, with Vol. 21, No. 1. It has become the St. George Leader. 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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**Central City News**  
 1st Edition • April 21, 2005

**20th**  
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**City of Central**  
 Incorporation Election • April 23, 2005  
 City Officials Sworn In • July 11, 2005

Library Board Has an ‘Embarrassment of Riches’

# Coach Sid’s Library Tax Plan Is Essential for Much-Needed Reform of City-Parish Budget

**A Government Has to Set Spending Priorities But That Is Impossible Currently in This Parish**

**Woody Jenkins**  
 Editor

**BATON ROUGE** — The controversy over funding the parish library system is just the beginning of a conversation that has to play out over the next few years in East Baton Rouge Parish.

The reality is this: Local government has plenty of money, enough money to provide a high level of services to the public for the next generation — without raising taxes! Yet, there is a financial crisis looming.

Why? Because the parish has a number of fiefdoms (little kingdoms) our tax dollars are locked into, and those funds are not available for the highest priority needs of the parish.

The parish library system is one but by no means the only example of this. At this moment, the library system has an “embarrassment of riches.”

At a time when the City-Parish government is struggling to pay the bills, the library system is sitting on an \$116 million surplus!

Try as they may to defend the obvious irrational use of our tax dollars, library supporters seem blind to reality. No one is proposing we close the libraries or cut them to the bone. But there is no way the libraries — which are currently heavily overfunded — can barrel ahead at full speed while the rest of City-

Parish government outside the fiefdoms is having to cut budgets by 10 to 15 percent.

The Library Board is proposing that the existing system continue by renewing the library tax, which is very high, for another 10 years and dedicating that money solely to libraries. However, Mayor-President Sid Edwards has said, “Hold on! Let’s renew the tax at a lower level, put those funds in the City-Parish budget and prioritize our needs by adequately and reasonably funding all the legitimate needs of the parish, including libraries.”

The fiefdoms with their own sources of revenue operate outside any normal system of budgeting. These include the Library Board, BREC, CATS, and the Council on Aging, among others.

Each one is its own little government, operating as it pleases, outside the control of elected officials.

All of these entities should be part of the annual City-Parish budget and have their spending appropriated by the Mayor-President and the Metro Council, just like the rest of government is funded. That is certainly not the case today. The Baton Rouge Police Department could have its budget cut to zero, and the Library Board, BREC, and the others would still be flying high with 150 percent or more than is needed.

The reality is the City-Parish is losing \$48 million or more a year because of St. George getting the 2 percent sales tax, which the people

there voted to use for their own needs.

We cannot continue to operate the City-Parish the way it has been — with the fiefdoms in full swing.

The priorities of the City-Parish are police and fire protection, courts, blight and homelessness, roads and highways, drainage, mental health, and the parish prison.

The City-Parish government has many other needs and wants, and there is money for all the reasonable needs of the parish, but we have to be able to take all available tax dollars and prioritize their use.

Because so many of the fiefdoms have dedicated funds, things cannot be changed overnight. It takes time to undo a very bad system.

The library system is first up, simply because their tax is up for renewal. If we do what the Library Board wants, we will be locked into that part of the problem for another 10 years and basic city services like police will continue to suffer.

Coach Sid is proposing that the library tax be renewed but at a lower level, and that the funds produced by that tax be used not only for libraries but other vital services the people need as well.

The problem is, the library tax produces far more revenue than is needed for libraries, and it is not being controlled by elected officials who are responsible for the overall well-being of the parish.

This is NOT a new problem. On July 13, 2017, the Central City News published my column entitled, “Pockets of Prosperity.”

The sub headline was, “Independent, Unelected Boards Skim Off Top.” At that time, I said:

“We have a City-Parish government with a huge annual budget. Yet, much of the money is wasted. So the City-Parish is always short on money. However, on the other side of the coin, local government in this parish has ‘pockets of prosperity.’ These are governmental agencies that seem to defy the laws of gravity.”

“The City-Parish government may be struggling and unable to fund even the basics. Yet, these entities always seem to have plenty of money. They are flush with cash and have huge fund balances. Their employees are well paid, have top benefits, and get plenty of time off. Moreover, these entities are always building and adding more and more and more. They are indeed

‘pockets of prosperity’ in a sea of hurt.”

“Two of these entities are BREC and the Library Board.”

“Sometimes their arrogance gets away from them, such as when the Library Board decided to tear down a perfectly good library downtown and build another in its place.”

“Or BREC, which proposed tearing down the BR Zoo and moving it almost to Iberville Parish.”

“BREC has more than \$100 million in surplus. Yet, its funds, like those of the Library Board, are NOT subjected to the City-Parish budget process. They are their own fiefdoms.”

“Some of our City-Parish Council members and state legislators should sit down and come up with a plan to require these boards to come to their senses and pay their largess to the City-Parish government.”

“While making these plans, let’s add CATS and the Council on Aging to our list of ‘pockets of prosperity’ that need to share in paying for [the expenses of running the parish].”

Why do these agencies have so much money? Because they are funded by specific millage rates that produce far more money than is needed to fund their operations. They are highly overfunded, while other agencies that have to compete for a share of the general fund are in some cases highly underfunded.

★★★

**So in reality, since 2017 nothing has changed, and nothing will change unless Mayor-President Sid Edwards succeeds in transferring the riches of the Library Board to the City-Parish budget.**

The City-Parish government is caught between raising taxes or dramatic cuts in the highest priorities. Not because of a shortage of money but the inability legally to prioritize how that money is spent.

There is no need for there to be such a dilemma. We have the money. It just needs to go into one pot and be prioritized.

The library issue is really a test. Will we buy the shortsighted argument that we must separately fund the library and keep it in a separate pot out of the control of our elected officials, or do we begin the process of bringing sanity to how our money is spent in this parish?

This is really not about libraries but about common sense and fiscal responsibility.



**Woody Jenkins**  
 Editor

**Ronald Reagan**  
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Sponsored by Republican Party of EBR

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# Billy Cannon Exhibit at Capitol Park



**BILLY'S WIFE** Dot Cannon with Istrouma alumni Fred Koch and Woody Jenkins



**Coach Sid and Jeff Taylor,** Livingston Parish assessor



**MAYOR SID EDWARDS** with Buddy Wicker



**CAROLYN HILL** with Billy Cannon's jersey and helmet



**Billy Cannon with Heisman**



**Cannon's uniforms at Oakland and KC**



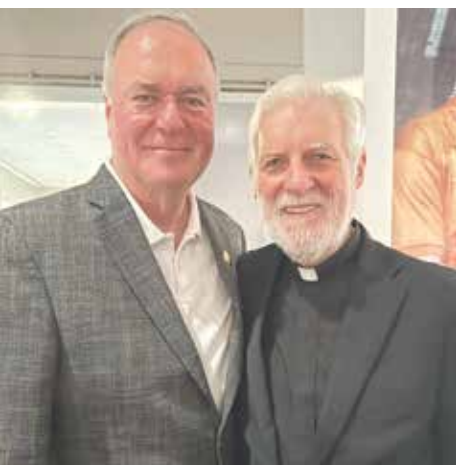
**BILLY CANNON EXHIBIT** - Opening day at the Capitol Park Museum



**ISTROUMA ALUMNI** Lulu Langlois and Walter Imahara, six-time USA National Weightlifting Champion



**With Vice President Nixon and Heisman**



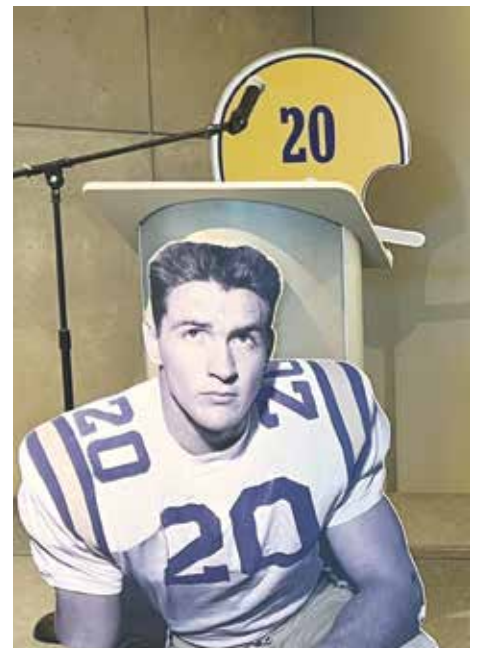
**BATON ROUGE Business Report** founder Rolfe McCollister and Rev. Rodney Wood



**CANNON'S ISTROUMA HIGH** letterman jacket and jersey

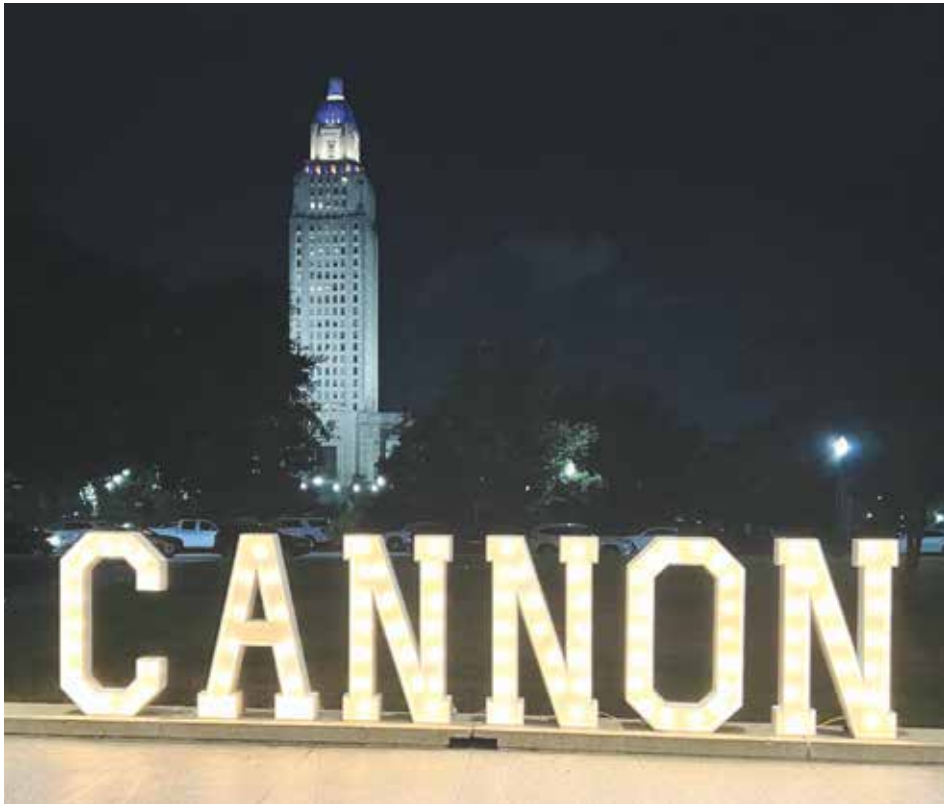


**Charles and Angela deGravelles** Charles authored *A Long Long Run*, the biography of Billy Cannon



**Billy Cannon's number 20** has long been retired at LSU

# Istrouma, LSU Great Won Heisman



**BILLY CANNON** led LSU to national championship in 1958 and won Heisman Trophy.



**ISTROUMA ALUMNI** strolled down memory lane at the Billy Cannon exhibit at the Capitol Park Museum. Some praised the massive display as worthy of the Smithsonian.



**BILLY CANNON'S PRO CAREER** began with the Houston Oilers of the AFL, then continued with the Oakland Raiders and the Kansas City Chiefs of the NFL.



**BILLY CANNON'S LSU MEMORABILIA.** A rare athlete, Cannon excelled at football, basketball, and on the track in both running and field events.



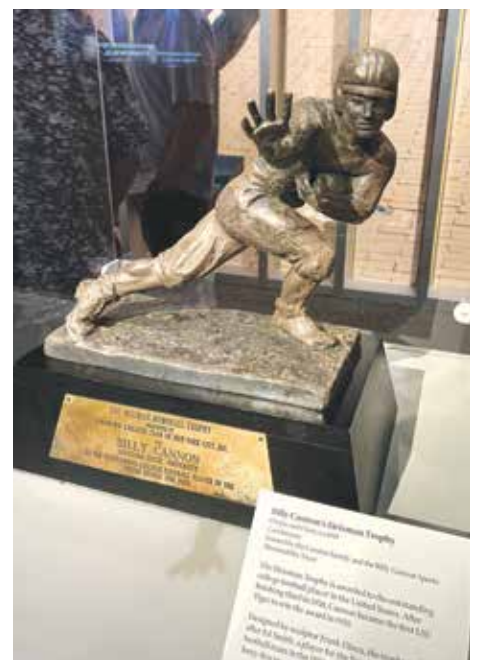
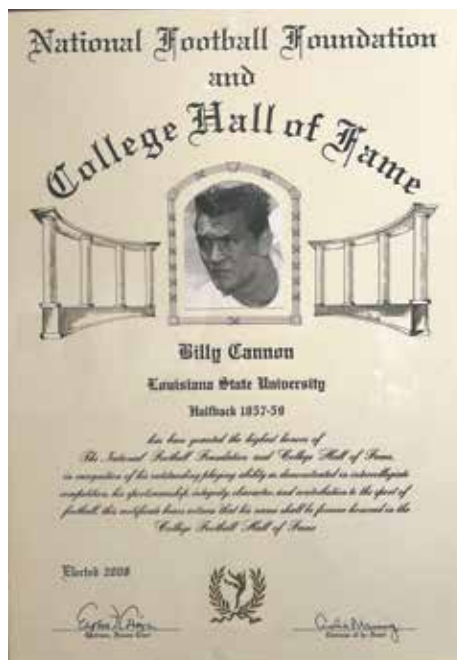
**DR. BILLY CANNON** as dentist at Angola. At right, SEC champion in 100 and shot put.



Billy Cannon's Istrouma High track uniform and Houston Oiler uniforms.



LSU National Championship ball and Cannon's signature Number 20



**BILLY CANNON'S** College Hall of Fame certificate and 1959 Heisman Trophy

**Billy Cannon Exhibit**  
 Capitol Park Museum  
 Open until Jan. 10, 2026  
 Photos by Woody Jenkins

**Louisiana Public Broadcasting**  
 Segments on Cannon Exhibit

Part One  Part Two 

# Dr. Peter McCullough Keynote Speaker 4th Annual Health Freedom Day April 5

### Two New Things in '25: Conference Will Be Held on a Saturday And Free Registration

**CENTRAL** — Registration is continuing for the 4th Annual Louisiana Health Freedom Day, which is planned for Saturday, April 5 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 free. To register, go to [ltcbr.com](http://ltcbr.com).

The theme of the one-day event will be new opportunities for health freedom in the era of President Trump.

Among the speakers will be:  
• 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 Louisiana Supreme Court;

• Dr. Evelyn Griffin, who lost her job with Oschner's because of her refusal to take the Covid vaccine;

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

• Talk show host Jeff Crouere;

• Reps. Beryl Amedee and Kathy Edmonston, who have championed health freedom in the legislature

• Former Rep. Woody Jenkins, who authored numerous successful bills protecting health freedom when he was in the Louisiana House, including legalizing acupuncture, chiropractic, midwifery, and the ability of optometrists to prescribe drugs; the prohibition against mandatory vaccination in public and private schools, and strong limits on the Governor's power to violate the Declaration of Rights in the Louisiana Constitution during an emergency. He is now editor of the **Central City News**.

The event will be held at Revolution Square behind Life Tabernacle Church at 9500 Blackwater Road in Central.

Registration for the event is free. Lunch will be available during the event at The Haven Café next to the Revolution Conference Center.

To register, go to [ltcbr.com](http://ltcbr.com).



**Dr. Peter McCullough**  
Keynote Speaker



**Rev. Tony Spell**  
Life Tabernacle Church



**Jeff Wittenbrink**  
Constitutional Attorney



**Jill Dillingham Hines**  
Health Freedom LA



**Jeff Crouere**  
Talk Show Host



**Dr. Evelyn Griffin**  
Physician

# LOUISIANA HEALTH FREEDOM DAY

**Keynote Speaker**  
**Dr. Peter McCullough**

*@ Peter McCullough M.D.*

<b>Rev. Tony Spell</b> Life Tabernacle	<b>Jeff Wittenbrink</b> Attorney	<b>Jill Dillingham Hines</b> Health Freedom Louisiana
<b>Dr. Evelyn Griffin</b> OB/GYN	<b>Jeff Crouere</b> Radio Talk Host	<b>Woody Jenkins</b> Central City News

**For information, call 225-921-1433**

**11 a.m. - 3 p.m. • Saturday, April 5, 2025**  
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**Constitutional Amendments**  
**Recommendations**  
**of Central City News**

**CA No. 1 - NO**  
**CA No. 2 - NO**  
**CA No. 3 - YES**  
**CA No. 4 - YES**



# 20 Years to Central City Hall

## Getting a City Hall Has Been a Long And Winding Road For City of Central

**Woody Jenkins**  
Editor

**CITY OF CENTRAL** — On Tuesday, Feb. 11, 2025, the City of Central broke ground for a new City Hall. The facility is scheduled for completion in April 2026.

At last, Central will have its own City Hall instead of relying on donated or leased space.

Getting its own City Hall has indeed been a long and winding road.

The people of Central voted to incorporate as a municipality on April 23, 2005. Gov. Kathleen Blanco appointed the first city officials — Mac Watts as Mayor, Doug Browning as Police Chief, and Louis DeJohn, Pete Humble, Joan Lansing, Carolyn Patterson, and Ralph Washington as members of the first City Council.

City officials were sworn in on July 11, 2005, which is generally considered the date of incorporation of the City of Central.

After the people had voted to incorporate but before swearing in ceremonies, Central attorney Bob Raborn filed suit to stop the incorporation. That suit was pending when city officials took their oaths of office.

Mayor Watts and the City Council could meet and pass ordinances, but there was literally no money in the bank. Moreover, with a suit pending against the legality of the city, it seemed unlikely that there would be any money soon.

There was no appropriate office space in Central to house a City Hall and no money to pay rent.

As a result, we at the **Central City News** offered Mayor Watts the opportunity to use the newspaper office then located at 12023 Sullivan Road. He accepted and the **Central City News** office became Central's first City Hall.

Mayor Watts moved in and used a folding table as his desk. New City Clerk Steven Stockstill also had space, as did the Mayor's new assistant, David Barrow.

For the next three months, city business was conducted out of the new City Hall, which was donated by the **Central City News**.

The Mayor held meetings and news conferences at the office and made appointments to boards and commissions. The staff drafted city ordinances and resolutions and issued occupational licenses and permits.

With a newspaper and a City Hall in the same small building, it was a very busy place.

By September, a larger space was located when Ken Montgomery offered to donate the use of his former residence at 9339 Sullivan Road. On Sept. 22, 2005, the city moved in and it officially became Central's second City Hall.

The larger space enabled meetings of the City Council, Planning & Zoning Committee, and Board of Adjustments to be held at the new City Hall. Ken Montgomery never asked the City of Central to

### 1st Central City Hall - Space donated by Central City News in its office at 12023 Sullivan Rd. - July 11-Sept. 22, 2005



**FIRST CITY HALL** - Former Central Mayor Mac Watts (left) mounts the Central City Hall sign on **Central City News** office in July 2005. At right, Mayor Watts, Police Chief Doug Browning, City Clerk Steven Stockstill, and assistant David Barrow meet at City Hall.



### 2nd Central City Hall - Space donated by Ken Montgomery at 9339 Sullivan Rd. - Sept. 22, 2005-Feb. 5, 2009



**SECOND CITY HALL** - In September 2005, Ken Montgomery donated the use of his former home at 9339 Sullivan Road to serve as Central's second City Hall.

### 3rd Central City Hall - Leased space in shopping center located at 13421 Hooper Rd. - Feb. 5, 2009-Present



**THIRD CITY HALL** - Since February 2009, Central has leased space at 13421 Hooper.

## Central's New City Hall



**WATCH LIVE**  
**Wildcat Basketball**  
Central City News on Facebook - 7:30 p.m.  
Jan. 19 Live Oak - Jan. 22 Denham Springs  
Jan. 26 Scotlandville - Feb. 9 Zachary

January 2018 - Vol. 21, No. 1 - 16 Pages - Circulation 15,000 - 50,000 online - www.centralcitynews.com - 225-261-5055

### Proposal to Save City \$4 Million Over Five Years

### IBTS Wins New Five-Year Contract

### Gentle Giant Brings Attention to CHS Frosh



**Central City News • January 2018**

Building a new Central City Hall was proposed by Mayor Jr. Shelton in January 2018 and approved by the City Council. However, it became a major issue in the 2018 Mayor's race. After Mayor Shelton lost that race to David Barrow, the project was abandoned.

## CENTRAL CITY NEWS ELECTION GUIDE

Property Across Sullivan Road from Wildcat Stadium

### Central Buys City Hall Site



### Wildcats Are a Long Shot to Provide Coach Sid's 16th Trip to State Playoffs



### Large Turnout in Early Voting at Central Library



**Central City News • November 2022**

In November 2022, with approval from the City Council, Mayor David Barrow purchased 9.36 acres on west side of Sullivan Rd. for a new City Hall. After he lost the mayor's race to Wade Evans, the project was abandoned. The new mayor and Council considered a new site.

pay rent.

In the spring of 2005, after the vote for incorporation, the Louisiana Legislature passed a bill creating the Central Transition District to assist with the creation of the city. While the legislature provided no funding, it authorized the district to borrow up to \$100,000.

The transition district, chaired by Central incorporator Russell Starns, was able to secure a loan, which helped with startup expenses.

State law provides that in each parish, there shall be only one entity that can collect local sales taxes. The taxing authorities in the parish chose the City-Parish Finance Department as that entity.

As a result, Mayor-President Kip Holden had control of sales taxes collected in Central.

When Central officials asked to receive Central's share of sales taxes collected here, Holden said no, because the suit was pending against the very existence of Central.

Finally, a compromise was reached which allowed the City of Central to receive 10 percent of the 2 percent parish sales taxes collected in Central. This provided the city several hundred thousand dollars a year.

It was not until 2008 that the Louisiana Supreme Court ruled that Central had been created legally and Central began to receive its full share of sales taxes.

Late that year, office space for lease was found in the shopping center at 13421 Hooper Road. Thanks to the donation of more than \$100,000 in materials and labor by Will Easley of Trade Construction and others, the offices were built out. The third Central City Hall opened on Feb. 5, 2009 under the direction of Mayor Mac Watts.

In January 2018, Central's second Mayor, Jr. Shelton proposed building a new City Hall at the corner of Hooper and Sullivan roads. It would include 17,000 square feet of office space and cost \$4.5 million, mostly provided by state funds secured by Sen. Bodi White.

At that time, the City of Central had surplus funds on hand of over \$40 million. The City Council approved the project. However, the project became controversial and was probably the No. 1 issue used to defeat Mayor Shelton in November 2018.

After the election, Mayor Shelton believed the people had spoken and did not want the City Hall as approved by the Council. The purchase of land from the school board was cancelled, and the project was abandoned.

In November 2022, then-Mayor David Barrow secured City Council approval to purchase 9.55 acres on the west side of Sullivan Road for \$594,000 from the Devall family. However, shortly after the purchase, Mayor Barrow was defeated for reelection.

The new Mayor, Wade Evans, decided not to move forward with the planning and construction of a City Hall on that property.

At ground breaking ceremonies for the new City Hall, Mayor Evans apologized because he said his opposition to City Hall over the years had cost the citizens of Central \$3 million and six years of delay.

If all goes well, the new Central City Hall will open in April 2026, almost exactly 21 years after the people of Central voted to incorporate as a new city.

# Historic Day in the City of Central



THE CITY OF CENTRAL TOOK A MAJOR STEP FORWARD in its 20-year history, breaking ground for its first city-owned City Hall. Lauren Ventrella, Sen. Rick Edmonds, Metro Councilman Aaron Moak, former Mayor Jr. Shelton, former Sen. Bodi White, current Mayor Wade Evans, Sen. Lazaro, District 5 councilman Briton Myer, Councilman-at-large Joshua Roy, and District 4 Councilwoman D’Ann Wells. This historic day marks the beginning of a new chapter for the City of Central.



CITY OF CENTRAL MAYOR WADE EVANS welcomed leaders who have played a role in Central’s journey since its incorporation, recognizing their contributions in shaping the city’s future. “We take another step forward in making Central an even better place to live.” The new City Hall will stand as the northern anchor of the Mainstreet 2030 Vision, a long-term plan to enhance the city’s quality of life and economic activity, where our citizens can connect, celebrate, and engage with their local government.” Construction on City Hall is expected to be complete in April 2026, with further projects to follow.



CENTRAL COMMUNITY SCHOOLS SUPT JASON FOUNTAIN (left) attended the ceremony. Attendees included longtime community activists Tommie Morden and Joan Lansing.

## City of Central Breaks Ground at New City Hall Sight • Corner of Hooper Rd and Sullivan

# Central Groundbreaking on City Hall



Current and former elected officials participated in the event. Shown (left to right) are Central’s first Mayor, Mac Watts, Rep. Wade Evans, District 3 Councilwoman Kim Fralick, District 2 Councilman J.D. Lavergne, District 1 Councilman Tim Lazaro, and current Mayor Wade Evans. The long-awaited event marks a turning point for the community, symbolizing both progress and unity.



progress. Mayor Evans said, “This groundbreaking is more than just the start of construction, it is the foundation of Central’s future. For 20 years, we have built this city together, and today we are building the heart of Central with economic and community-driven development. Evans said, “City Hall will be more than a building – it will be a place where people come together. It will be a hub for the community as part of Mainstreet 2030 Vision. At right are Central’s first Mayor, Mac Watts, with original elected Council members Louis DeJohn, Joan Lansing, Aaron Moak and Lucky Ross.



JoAnn and Mike Stein, and Russell Starns who headed the movement to incorporate the City of Central and served on the first school board president. Sitting next to Russell Starns are JoAnn and Mike Stein.

# Central Wildcat Basketball 2024-2025



WILDCAT SENIORS • CLASS OF 2025



## 2024-2025 Central High Boys Basketball Scores

Nov 18	CHS 56	Crecent City 57
Nov 26	CHS 62	Hammond 48
Dec 3	CHS 73	IDEA Bridge 26
Dec 5	CHS 73	Istrouma 40
Dec 11	CHS 76	Tara 51
Dec 12	CHS 48	Parkview 39
Dec 13	CHS 44	St. Michael 43
<b>KINSLEY TOURNAMENT CHAMPS</b>		
Dec 17	CHS 46	F. Douglass 38
Dec 19	CHS 85	Walker 33
Dec 27	CHS 54	Ouachita 64
Dec 28	CHS 79	West Monroe 65
Jan 1	CHS 61	Southside 56
Jan 3	CHS 61	Newington 49
Jan 7	CHS 50	St. Paul 42
Jan 10	CHS 48	Madison Prep 44
Jan 14	CHS 53	Rummel 46
Jan 17	CHS 73	White Castle 38
Jan 18	CHS 63	Donaldsonville 33
Jan 25	CHS 78	Denham Springs 64
Jan 28	CHS 69	Live Oak 44
Jan 29	CHS 65	Dutchtown 42
Feb 4	CHS 42	St. Martinville 30
Feb 7	CHS 74	Woodlawn 43*
Feb 11	CHS 57	Catholic 51*
Feb 14	CHS 45	Liberty 55*
Feb 18	CHS 78	Zachary 71*
Feb 21	CHS 45	Scotlandville 51*

Head Coach Scott Osborne  
Principal Brandon LaGroue

\* Indicates District Game  
Record 22-4

Central Wildcats Now Rank 2nd  
in State Going LHSAA Playoffs



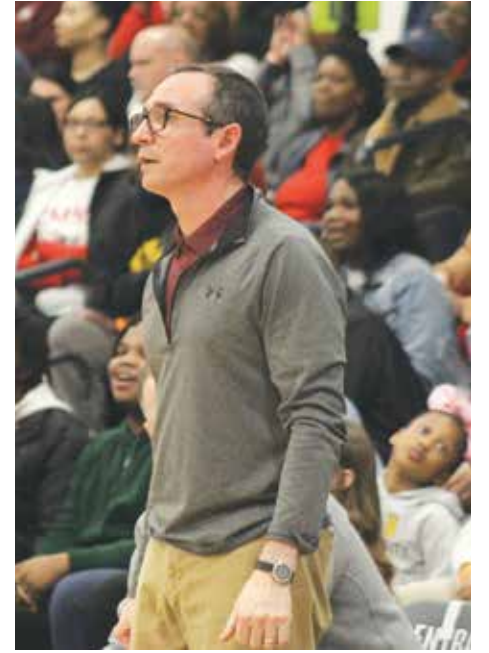
CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL 2024-2025 VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL 2024-2025 JUNIOR VARSITY BASKETBALL TEAM

**Team Photos by Eric Frank Photography**

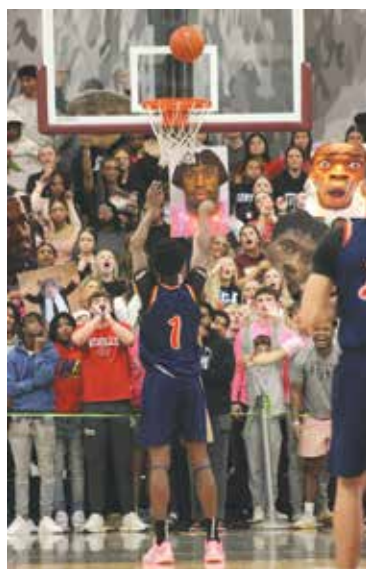
# Classic Duel: State's No. 1-Ranked Central vs. No. 1-Ranked Liberty



**BATTLE OF STATE'S BEST** — On February 14, 2025, the Central High Wildcats, ranked No. 1 in Louisiana among 5A non-select schools, hosted the Liberty High Patriots, ranked No. 1 in the state among 5A select schools. Liberty left with a hard-fought 55-45 victory. At left, #24 Ked Franklin scores a point for the Wildcats! Central heads into the playoffs ranked 2nd in State. After a bye in Week One, Central will face Parkway, which defeated Fontainebleau. The Regional game will be March 4 at The Den! The Wildcats' head coach Scott Osborne is shown at right.



**CENTRAL'S #1 STEVEN RANEL** (left) with two points for the Wildcats. #23 Markell Sampson (right) seems to fly to the goal as the other players watch.



**#21 KEITH WOMACK** (left) for a jumpshot for the Wildcats. Central's student section makes noise to distract the free throw. #23 Markell Sampson fights for the ball.



**CENTRAL WILDCAT FANS** (left) cheer on the No. 1-ranked team! Follow Central High Basketball on Facebook.

# Central Private Basketball 2024-2025



## 2024-2025 Central Private Boys Basketball Scores

Nov 19	CP 67	Christ Episcopal 57
Nov 21	CP 48	Independence 36
Nov 23	CP 64	Pine Prairie 30
Dec 3	CP 75	Independence 49
Dec 9	CP 71	North Iverville 57
Dec 12	CP 52	Ascension Christian 67
Dec 13	CP 54	St. John 46
Dec 20	CP 55	Mamou 66
Dec 21	CP 50	St. Joseph 37
Dec 30	CP 61	Loranger 48
Jan 3	CP 66	Ascension Catholic 68
Jan 8	CP 74	La. School for Deaf 4
Jan 10	CP 47	Springfield 54
Jan 13	CP 79	False River Academy 23
Jan 15	CP 45	Albany 62
Jan 17	CP 69	Jeanerette 54
Jan 20	CP 66	False River Academy 33
Feb 1	CP 32	Southern Lab 56
Feb 3	CP 65	North Iberville 32
Feb 7	CP 34	Covenant Christian 47
Feb 11	CP 55	Port Barre 47
Feb 13	CP 59	St. Joseph 32
Feb 17	CP 36	West Feliciana 46
Feb 20	CP 54	West St. John 45

Head Coach Brennon Courville  
Principal Dana Russell

\* Indicates District Game  
Record 17-8



Central Private Boys Varsity Basketball Team  
Head Coach Brennon Courville • Asst. Coach Keith Fogle

## 2024-2025 Central Private Girls Basketball Scores

Nov 22	CP 62	East Feliciana 60
Nov 25	CP 40	St. John 39
Dec 3	CP 41	Dunham 57
Dec 4	CP 56	Northeast 7
Dec 9	CP 48	North Iberville 11
Dec 11	CP 44	Ascension Catholic 55
Dec 12	CP 35	Ascension Christian 60
Dec 20	CP 33	Family Christian 60
Dec 20	CP 37	Ascension Christian 45
Dec 21	CP 40	Episcopal 50
Jan 7	CP 55	Episcopal 49
Jan 8	CP 51	La. School for Deaf 15
Jan 9	CP 60	Northeast 25
Jan 13	CP 57	False River Academy 18
Jan 14	CP 47	Pearl River Academy 54
Jan 20	CP 57	False River Academy 20
Jan 28	CP 61	Maurepas 28
Jan 31	CP 36	Catholic P.C. 44
Feb 1	CP 8	Southern Lab 98
Feb 3	CP 59	North Iberville 17
Feb 7	CP 45	Covenant Christian 51
Feb 11	CP 57	Slaughter Charter 33
Feb 13	CP 51	Slaughter Charter 42
Feb 14	CP 58	First Baptist 21
Division IV (Select) Playoff Game		
Feb 19	CP 32	St. Fredrick 46

Head Coach Baylen Watkins  
Principal Dana Russell

\* Indicates District Game  
Record 14-11



Central Private Girls Varsity Basketball Team  
Head Coach Baylen Watkins • Asst. Coach Stefanie Kirkwood

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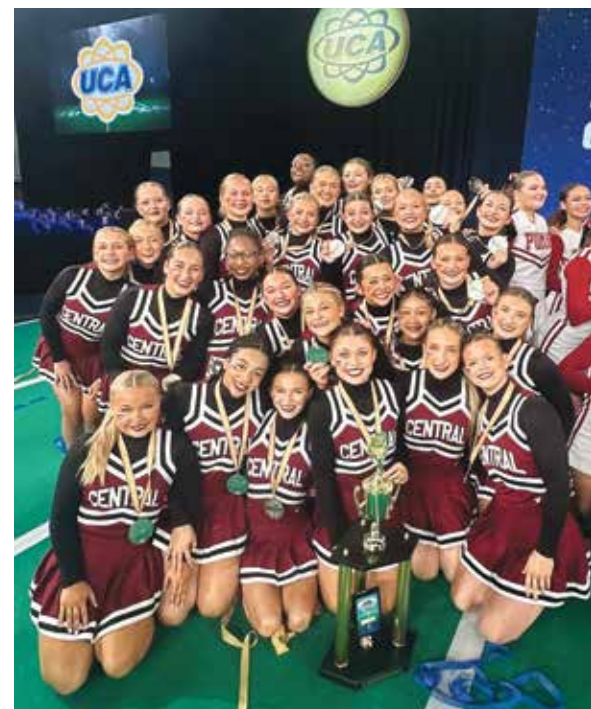
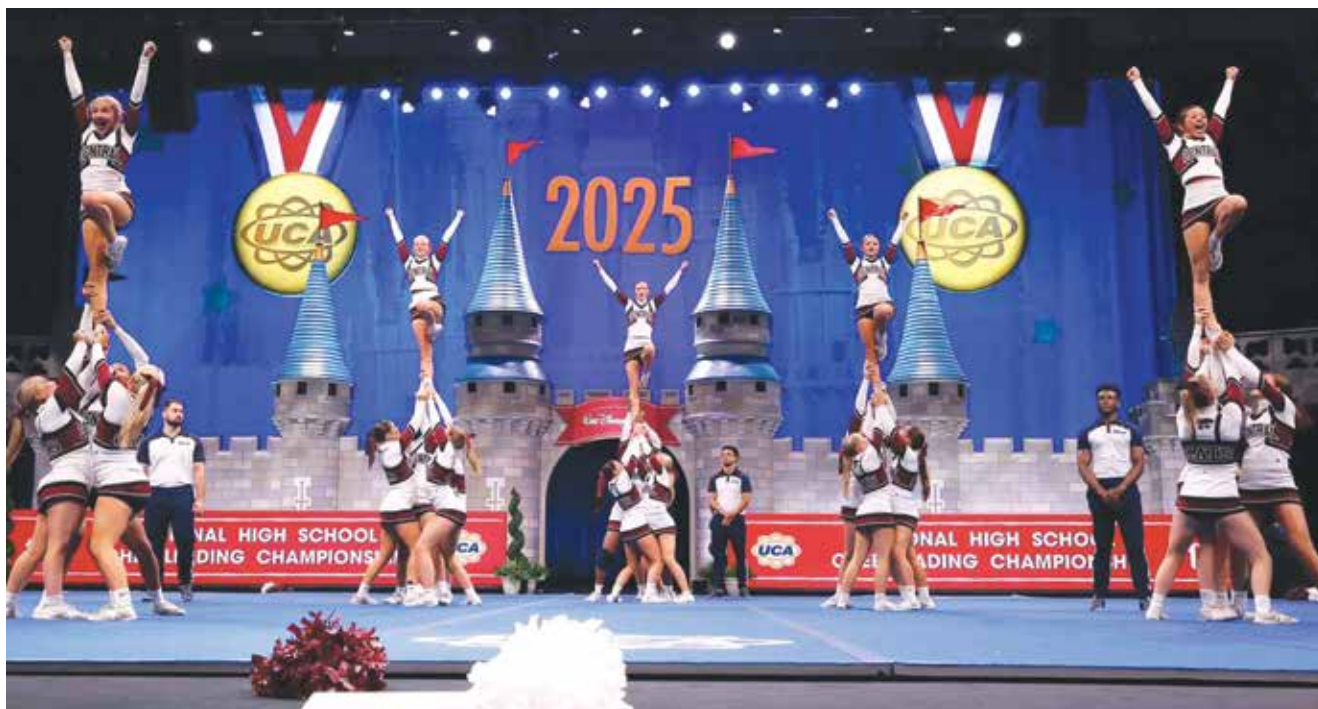
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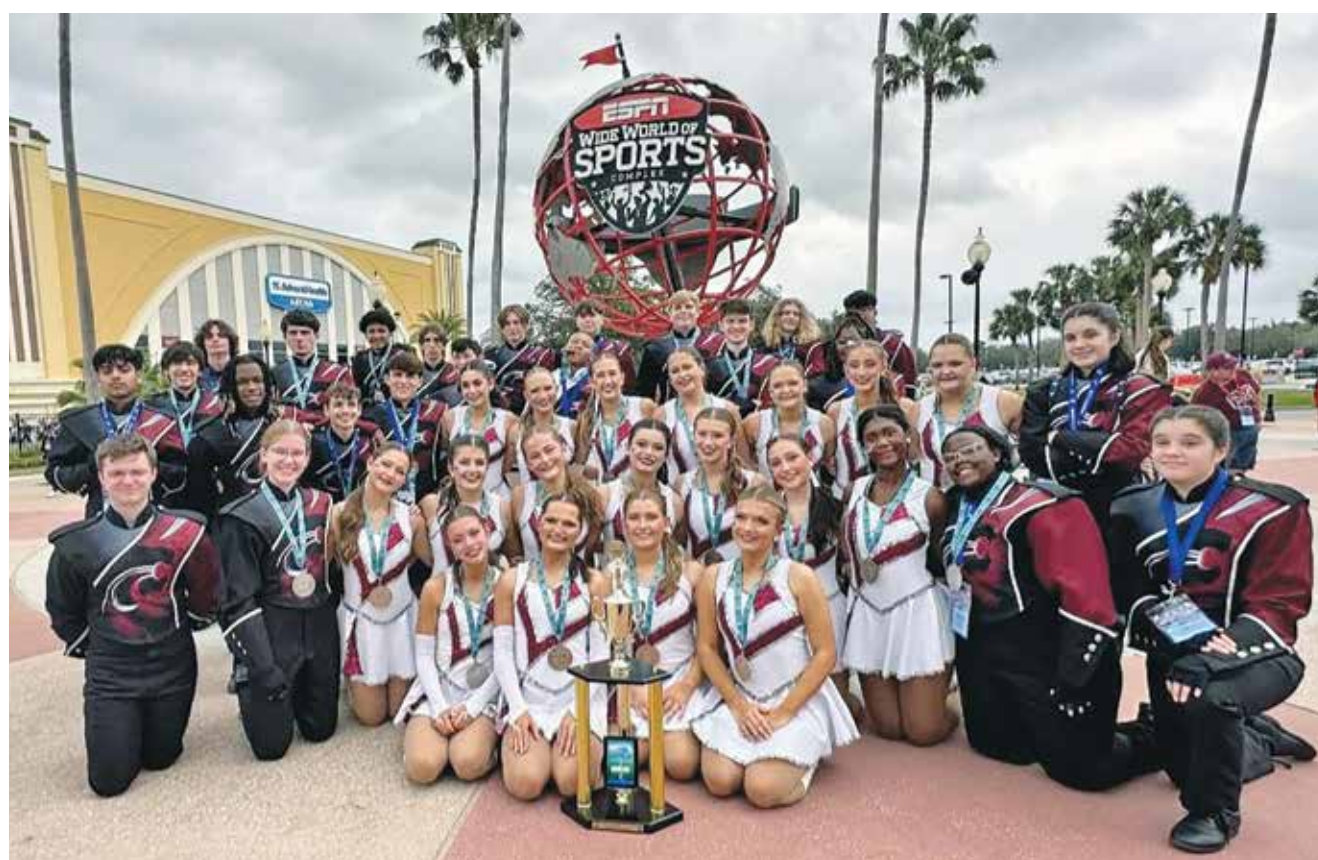
## NHSCC Silver Medal Large Varsity D1 – Game Day

# Wildcat Cheerleaders 2nd in Nation



**CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL VARSITY CHEERLEADERS** traveled to Orlando, FL for the National High School Cheerleading Championship earlier this month and brought home 2nd Place in the Large Varsity D1 Game Day Division and 6th Place in the Large Varsity D1 Traditional Division. The team is led by head coach Amy Felps Stevens and coach Cassidy Young, along with sponsor Angie Wall.

## Central High School Pep Band and Kittens 2nd in Nation in NDTC Game Day Division



**CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL PEP BAND AND KITTENS** traveled to Orlando for the National High National Dance Team Championship earlier this month and brought home 2nd Place in the Game Day Live Division. The group showed the nation what Friday nights are like at Wildcat Stadium. The Pep Band is under the direction of Alison McCauley, Madolyn Brumfield, and Ty Lege. A “pep band” is a group of musicians who perform at sporting events to get the crowd excited.

### 2024-2025 Central High Girls Basketball Scores

Nov 20	CHS 58	Collegiate BR 28
Nov 21	CHS 38	Dunham 50
Dec 5	CHS 42	West Feliciana 59
Dec 9	CHS 52	Istrouma 64
Dec 10	CHS 20	Prairieville 59
Jan 8	CHS 48	Tara 41
Jan 10	CHS 50	Belaire 20
Jan 14	CHS 40	Glen Oaks 52
Jan 17	CHS 67	Ascen. Christian 40
Jan 28	CHS 60	Independence 50
Jan 31	CHS 13	Zachary 66
Feb 4	CHS 32	Scotlandville 23
Feb 7	CHS 29	Woodlawn 79
Feb 11	CHS 48	St. Joseph Acd. 47
Feb 12	CHS 59	Northeast 19
Feb 13	CHS 20	Liberty 65

Head Coach Michelle Efferson  
Principal Brandon LaGroue

\* Indicates District Game

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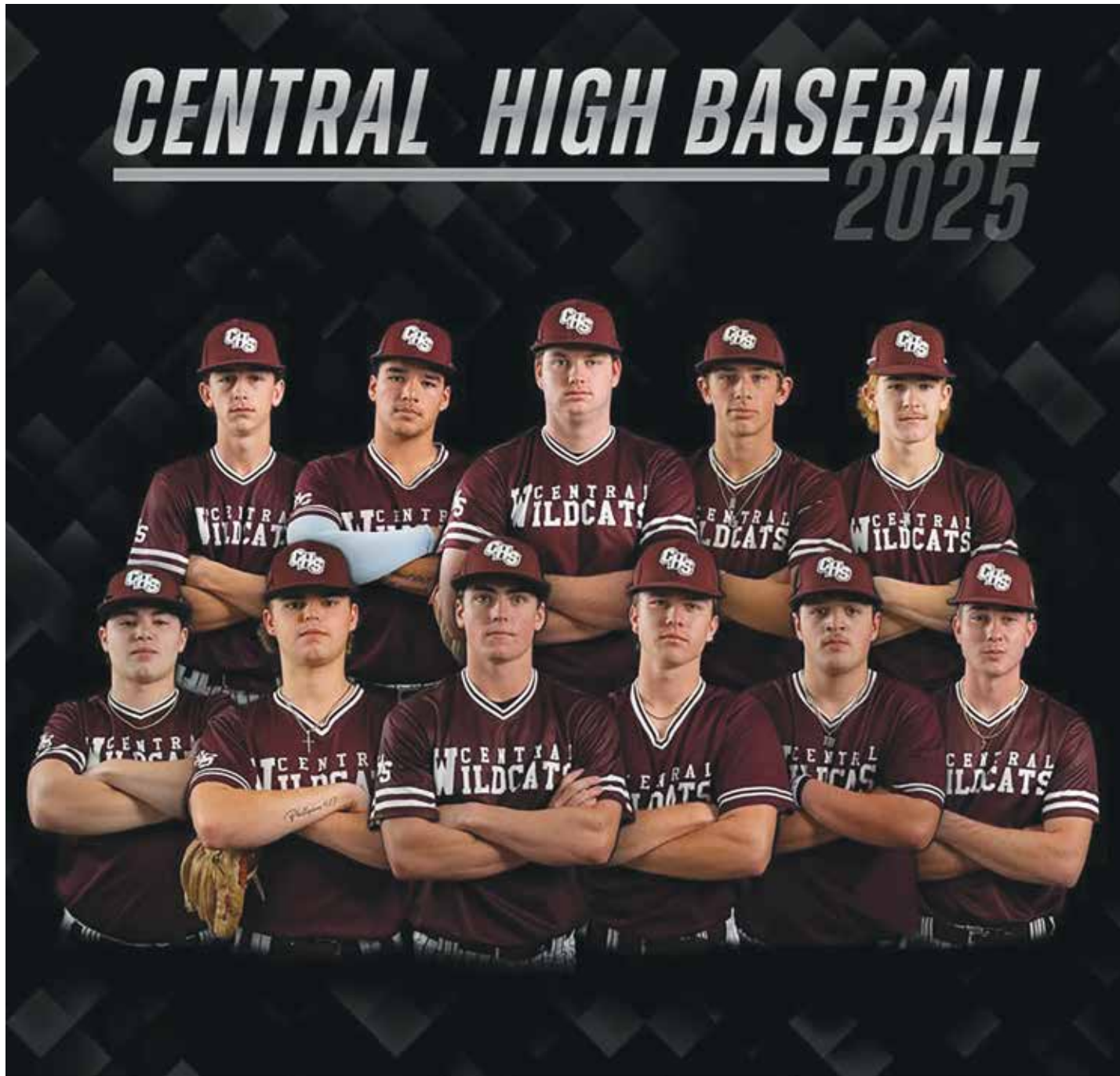
David P. Fargason, M.D.

Laurén Luckett Dardar, O.D.

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**Central High School  
2025 Varsity Baseball**

Mar 6	Sulphur	H
Mar 7	Sulphur	H
Mar 8	Sulphur	H
Mar 11	Dunham	H
Mar 13	St. Michael	A
Mar 15	Episcopal	A
Mar 17	Lafayette	A
Mar 20	Parkview	H
Mar 21	Northshore	A
Mar 22	Woodlawn*	A
Mar 25	Woodlawn*	H
Mar 27	Catholic*	H
Mar 29	Catholic*	A
Apr 1	Liberty*	A
Apr 3	Liberty	H
Apr 5	Zachary*	H
Apr 8	Zachary*	A
Apr 10	Scotlandville*	H
Apr 11	Walker	A
Apr 14	Teurlings	H
Apr 17-19	Round 1 Playoffs	
Apr 24-26	Round 2 Playoffs	
May 1-3	Quarterfinals	
May 8-10	Semifinals	
May 13-17	State Championship	

Head Coach Sham Gabehart  
Principal Brandon LaGroue  
\* Indicates District Game

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## Caroline Nunnery, Jacob Porte Plan Wedding for April 2026



Jacob Porte and Caroline Nunnery

**CENTRAL** — Michael and Karen Nunnery of Central are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Caroline Nunnery, to Jacob Porte, son of Randy and Nicole Porte of Mandeville. Caroline is a graduate of Central High School and Southeastern Louisiana University. She is a Registered Nurse at Woman's Hospital. Jake graduated from St. Paul's School and Southeastern Louisiana University and is employed with FloWorks.

A 2026 April wedding is planned

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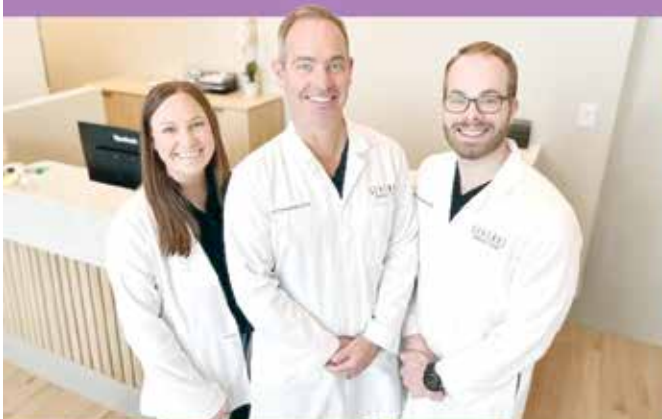
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## Churches Could Be Taxed Out of Existence

# Amendment No. 2 Threatens Churches, Non-Profits with Massive Property Taxes

### Amendment Would Narrow Protection for Churches, and Voters Not Being Told Truth

**William Most**  
Attorney at Law

Louisiana voters should beware: On March 29, 2025, they will be asked whether to approve changes to the Louisiana Constitution. But what they won't be told is that some of those changes would seriously narrow constitutional protections for church and religious organizations' property.

During a two-week special session last fall, the state legislature passed a bill which proposed wide-ranging revision of the Louisiana Constitution. The proposed changes span more than 100 pages. They address a variety of unrelated issues including narrowing local control over sales taxes, lowering some tax rates, liquidating education and health trust funds, allowing for taxation of take-out food, and deleting constitutional authorization for farmers' and fishermen's programs, and much, much more.

Those 100 plus pages of changes were condensed into a one-sentence ballot question supposedly describing Amendment No. 2 scheduled for the March 29 ballot, for voters to vote up or down.

However, in recent weeks, faith leaders across Louisiana have begun to raise the alarm about something disturbing: The ballot language is not truthful about the changes it would make to constitutional protections for religious property.

Specifically, the ballot language says Amendment No. 2 is "retaining the . . . exemption [from property taxes] for religious organizations." But it is not! Instead, it would drastically narrow the religious exemption. To see that, we have to compare the current constitution's language to the changes that Amendment No. 2 proposes.

The current Louisiana Constitution protects from property taxes any land or buildings owned by an association organized for religious or charitable purposes. That is to say, the protection is focused on the nature of the organization, not the use of each parcel of land.

Amendment No. 2 would entirely delete that language, and replace it with a more constricted exemption that applies only to "property owned by a nonprofit operated **exclusively** for religious purposes as a house of worship, residential housing for clergy, priests, or nuns, or a seminary or other educational institution training individuals for religious ministry."

This shifts the protection away from the organization and would require tax assessors to look at the specific uses of each piece of property by a church or other religious organization or charity. Thus, any mixed-use properties like fellow-

ship halls, cemeteries, church gardens, family centers, gyms, baseball fields or countless other uses would lose the constitutional protection – even if they are owned by a bona fide church.

Next comes the question of what would happen to the property of any church-related nonprofit ministries, like the Salvation Army, Catholic Charities, Habitat for Humanity, and Bread for the World. According to one estimate, there are more than 30,000 evangelical Christian ministries of that nature.

If Amendment No. 2 is passed and takes effect, all of those organizations in Louisiana would lose their constitutional protection from property taxation – which would be directly contrary to the ballot language's claim that it is "retaining" the "exemption for religious organizations."

That property could then be seized for non-payment of taxes.

Some people may think it is good policy to narrow the constitutional protections against property taxation of churches and eliminate it for all church non-profit ministries. Others may think that is bad policy and should be stopped. But what I think we can all agree on is that voters should be told the truth about the changes Amendment No. 2 would make to the state constitution – before voters are asked to vote on it.

*William Most is a constitutional rights attorney. His firm, Most & Associates, has filed a lawsuit challenging Amendment No. 2.*

## Bank of Zachary's Jeree Chaney Retiring after 28 Years of Service

**ZACHARY** — The Bank of Zachary has announced the retirement of Jeree Chaney, assistant vice

president and mortgage loan officer, after 28 years of service to the bank and 35 years in banking. A celebration was held at the bank's Main office in Zachary, where Jeree was surrounded by her family, fellow employees, and members of the bank's board.



**Jeree Chaney**

Bank president Mark Marionneau said her dedication and expertise have made a lasting impact on the bank and the community. He said that throughout her tenure, Jeree built strong relationships with clients, colleagues, and customers, becoming a trusted advisor and a valued member of the Bank of Zachary family. Her commitment to excellence and warm, caring presence will be greatly missed, he said. Marionneau said the Bank of Zachary extends its heartfelt thanks to Jeree for her outstanding contributions to the bank and the local community.

"Jeree's dedication and unwavering commitment to our mission have helped shape the success of the bank as a whole. We will miss her deeply," he said.

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# Coach Sid Says Some Agencies Like Library Are Overfunded, Others Are Underfunded

## EBR Library Spending \$65 Million Annually Compared to Dallas At \$43 Million a Year

Continued from Page 3

government and independent agencies. They were shocked by the budget of the Parish Library.

In East Baton Rouge Parish, the Library Control Board is spending \$65 million a year — a sum which dwarfs the spending of some of America’s large cities. East Baton Rouge Parish has a population of 448,000.

Coach Sid reported the Nashville library has a budget of \$38 million, and it serves a population of 715,000.

The Mayor-President also drew a comparison with Dallas, Texas, a city of 1.3 million people. The Dallas library operates 29 branches with 9 million visitors a year. Their budget is now \$43 million.

The public library budget in Houston with a population is 2.3 million is \$50 million.

The public library budget in Orleans Parish, population 364,000, is \$21 million.

The East Baton Rouge Parish Library Board is not under the control of the City-Parish government. It sets its own budget, which is not approved through the appropriation process. Neither the Mayor-President nor the Metro Council has any say about how much the Library Board spends or how it spends it.

The revenue for libraries in the parish is generated by a dedicated property tax of 9.89 mills. Those funds are collected by the Sheriff and disbursed to the Library Board which has sole control of them.

In addition to its high operating costs, Coach Sid said the Library Board is sitting on a large surplus. The City-Parish Finance Department says the surplus now amounts



**MAYOR-PRESIDENT SID EDWARDS** addressing the Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge Parish and members of the news media. The discussion centered on the Mayor’s plan to reform the City-Parish budget process and put funds of the Library Board under the normal budget control of the Metro Council. *Link to video of meeting below.*

to \$116 million.

The Mayor says some agencies are overfunded while others, representing some of the parish’s most urgent needs, are severely underfunded.

The millage rate of the Library Board was set nearly 40 years ago, and the dollar amount that tax generates has no relationship to the amount needed to run a library system in a city the size of Baton Rouge.

The current Library tax expires December 31, and the Library Control Board asked the Metro Council to put a proposal renewing the tax for 10 years on the ballot this fall.

Before the tax is locked in for another 10 years, Coach Sid said now is the time to correct the inequities before they get worse.

With respect to the \$116 million surplus, Coach Sid said it is important to remember whose money that is. It is not the Library Board’s, he said, but rather it belongs to the people of the parish.

The Mayor-President is proposing that \$52.6 million be used to

pay down the parish debt by \$52.6 million. This would be one-time money and would be used for a one-time expenditure.

He said reducing the debt by \$52.6 million would result in savings to the taxpayer of \$9.6 million a year indefinitely into the future.

Another \$9.5 million of the surplus would be used for one-time public safety needs including the District Attorney’s office, Public Defender, Community Policing, Youth Violence Intervention, the Gang Violence Task Force, and transforming the Brave Cave into a community space serving local residents. Another \$11.5 million of the surplus would go for economic development, primarily development of the River Center but also including an anti-blight campaign and ending food deserts.

Under the Mayor-President’s plan, the 10-year renewal of the 9.89 mill tax would be submitted to the voters at a lower rate, and the funds generated would go into the General Fund of the parish.

This recurring revenue would

generate \$68.6 million a year.

Of these revenues, \$21 million would be used for parishwide priorities, including public safety, \$10 to 10.5 million; road maintenance and beautification, \$6 to 6.5 million; drainage, \$2 to 2.5 million, and mental health and homelessness, \$1 to 1.5 million.

From this recurring money, the Library would be funded at \$38 million a year — far more than any other library system in the state and far more per capita than any large library system in Texas.

Coach Sid said that at this level of spending, the East Baton Rouge Parish Library system will not need to cut services.

The remaining \$9.6 million in recurring funds would be used to stabilize the City-Parish budget.

Most importantly, the funds formerly dedicated solely for libraries would be appropriated by the Metro Council and prioritized to meet all the needs of the parish.

As Coach Sid said, we don’t have a revenue problem. The problem, he said, is we have funds in various silos that we cannot access to meet the needs of the people of the parish.

Coach Sid said we have a great library system and we will continue to have a great library system, but there are many other needs in the parish that also need to be addressed.

The Mayor-President said the loss of revenue to the City-Parish resulting from the incorporation of St. George will not cause a crisis if his plan is adopted.

“Our problem is not St. George, but the lack of fiscal responsibility.” He said his plan is the beginning of the process of reforming the budget process and meeting the needs of the parish without higher taxes.

He said Baton Rouge is not the same as 30 years ago or even 10 years ago, but if we tighten our belt and are fiscally responsible, things will get better and better.

**ChamberEBR Luncheon • Feb. 25, 2025 • Café Americain**

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



## Central High School 2025 Varsity Softball

Mar 18	Woodlawn*	H
Mar 20	SJA	A
Mar 25	Liberty*	H
Mar 27	Zachary*	H
Mar 29	Teurlings	H
Apr 1	Scotlandville*	A
Apr 4	TBA	
Apr 5	TBA	
Apr 8	TBA	
Apr 11	Denham	A
Apr 14	TBA	
Apr 15	Belle Chasse	H

Head Coach Michelle Efferson  
Principal Brandon LaGroue

\* Indicates District Game

## 2025 Central High School Varsity Softball Team

