



Christmas Parade: Pretty Girls and a New Santa

Central Readies for Christmas

Coach Simoneaux's Christmas Trip to Georgia Was About More than Football

ATHENS - Central High head football coach and AD David Simoneaux is just back from a visit to the Athletic Department at the University of Georgia, but it wasn't really about football.

Coach Simoneaux went to visit one of his former players — Devon Gales — who was graduating from UGA. It is 10 years after a tragic injury in a game between Southern University and Georgia left the former Central High star paralyzed and bound to a wheelchair.

Graduating from college was a huge accomplishment for the young man some said would not live, much less prove to be an inspirational leader of men.

Simoneaux's trip with his two sons, age 6 and 8, was a living example that being a high school coach is a lifelong commitment. It's really not about football, but about the young men you are privileged to coach, mentor, and sometimes be a father figure for.

The coach said it was an emotional experience, especially when Devon's

See **DEVON** on Page 9



AVA BRADFORD
Central Private Homecoming Queen



NEW SANTA CLAUS
2025 Central Christmas Parade

Conservative, Pro-Life Physician Named State's Surgeon General

BATON ROUGE - Gov. Jeff Landry has named Dr. Evelyn Griffin as Louisiana Surgeon General. Dr. Griffin, an OB-GYN with strong ties to Central, is a conservative and pro-life. She became well known during COVID for her efforts in support of early treatment and to make sure that the COVID vaccine was based on informed consent. Upon her appointment, Louisiana Right to Life said, "Dr. Griffin's appointment underscores Louisiana's pro-life priority to care for pregnant women and babies, and highlights our state's continued commitment to advancing maternal health and protecting unborn children."

See **DR. EVELYN** on Page 10



DR. EVELYN GRIFFIN
Louisiana Surgeon General

Mayor Wade Evans Says Christmas Here Is about Our Savior And Spirit of Giving

CENTRAL - Families in Central are busy getting ready for Christmas 2025!

The Central Christmas Parade, sponsored by the Central Chamber of Commerce, was a huge success with an estimated 3,000 adults and children lining the parade route down Joor Road from Zoar Baptist to Lovett Road.

The *Central City News* provided live coverage of the parade, which was held on Saturday, Dec. 6. It is still available online at *Central City News* on Facebook.

Central Mayor Wade Evans and Mayor-President Sid Edwards presided over the lighting of Central's Community Christmas Tree that evening.

Mayor Evans said, "Christmas is a time to reflect on the birth of our Lord and also to promote the spirit of giving. Central is the Community that Cares. One way we are doing that is helping needy kids in our community. So far, the Central Toy Box and others have given enough toys for 800 children this Christmas."

Mayor Evans said there will be another toy giveaway at 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. this Saturday, Dec. 20 at the Central Police Station.

Taxpayer Suit Challenges Spending, Seeks Sanctions

While Cutting the C-P Budget, Metro Council Created New \$2.7M Slush Fund for Themselves

La. Const. Art. 7 §14 Prohibits Donation of Public Funds by State Or Local Government

Woody Jenkins
Editor

BATON ROUGE — Delegates to the Constitutional Convention of 1973 were very deliberate in prohibiting politicians from giving away public funds. Art. 7, Section 14 of the

Suit Challenges \$2.7 million Slush Funds for Metro Council
2026 City-Parish Budget Has \$220,000 for Each Councilman to Spend as He Pleases

Issues Raised in Suit:

- **La. Constitution Art. 7, Section 14 prohibits the donation of public funds**
- **Much of the money spent by Metro Council members were donations.**
- **Many of the expenditures appear to be illegal on their face, "Sponsorship" of some particular organization or activity. These appear to be for the political benefit of the Metro Council member, not for a legitimate public purpose.**
- **Separation of powers and the Plan of Government forbid members of the legislative branch (Metro Council) from administering public funds.** Yet, each Metro Councilmen is administering \$220,000 on his own.

Louisiana Constitution says, "...The funds, credit, property, or things of value of the state or of any political subdivision shall not be loaned, pledged, or donated to or for any person, association, or corporation, public or private."

The Constitution then makes specific exceptions and no others. These include social welfare programs for the aid of the needy. That same section of the Constitution allows, for a public purpose, government to enter into Cooperative Endeavor Agreements. However, simply giving away money is prohibited.

Now members of the Metro Council have been sued for doing exactly that. In December 2024,

See **2025 BUDGET** on Page 4

Louisiana Supreme Court Justice EBR Family Court Needs Reform

BATON ROUGE — The following is based on a report issued by Louisiana Supreme Court Associate Justice Jeff Hughes:

★★★
**Report on Investigation
of Family Court
of East Baton Rouge Parish**
by Jeff Hughes, Associate Justice
Louisiana Supreme Court

The Louisiana Senate passed Senate Resolution 81 to study alleged problems in the Family Court of East Baton Rouge Parish.

Reps. Edmonston, Coates, Dickerson, Egan, Mack, McMakin, Owen, and Zeringue, and Senators Hodges and Selders asked me to report on the result of my part of the study and my recommendations. As a result, I offer the following:

The Supreme Court created a committee consisting of Rep. Edmonston, Senator Fields, and me. We requested that the Court appoint a supernumerary judge to study the Family Court of East Baton Rouge Parish. This was previously done in Caddo and Orleans.

Retired Judge James Kuhn was appointed for a six-month term. Judge Kuhn's findings were provided to the Legislature separately.

The Supreme Court cannot intervene in litigation unless it reaches the court via a properly perfected writ or appeal.

However, the many complaints from varied sources and my study of the practice in the family court indicate serious problems.



JUSTICE JEFF HUGHES
Louisiana Supreme Court

Family Court: A Club?

The problems are both structural and cultural. The four judges hear all family cases. A small handful of lawyers who "specialize" in family law are in court with the same judges day after day, week after week. There are reports of judges and lawyers having breakfast together at the City Club and then appearing in the same courtroom together 30 minutes later. There are reports of judges and lawyers after a day in court drinking together at the City Club. This is nothing new. In 1990 after losing a case in family court,

an attorney took his date to dinner and there sat his opposing counsel of the day, Al Fishbein, with the presiding judge, Tony Graphia.

Is Favoritism Real?

While Judge Kuhn cites a public perception of favoritism, I believe the line has been crossed to actual favoritism. In one instance, the judge *sua sponte* a status conference at night at a restaurant where alcohol was consumed. Decisions were made about the case, for example whether a certain expert witness would be allowed to testify. The "non-favored" attorney withdrew, telling her client she could not compete with that attorney and that judge. This complaint has been almost universal.

It is well known that when a certain lawyer appears before a certain judge, that lawyer never loses. Several litigants have been told this by attorneys, as reasons for not taking their case or for withdrawing after attempting to represent them. It has been suggested by more than one attorney that some sort of pay-off is involved, but there is no evidence of that other than the provision of a chauffeuring service for the judge to events where alcohol is served, such as CLE receptions and bar association social events.

Are Pro Se Litigants Pariahs?

Newer judges take their cue from the more experienced ones, as does the staff. Those in the "club" receive efficient service, while those not in the club, especially *pro se* lit-

igants who have run out of options for representation, are treated as pariahs. Staff smirk, roll their eyes, and call out "Security, Security!" when they approach.

Delays Force Stipulation

The attorney, not the judge, controls the pace of litigation. Matters that are supposed to be heard by law within days are continued for months, until the parent who has not had any contact with their children caves and "stipulates."

Attorneys Disqualified

If by chance an attorney puts up a good fight, specious grounds are urged to "disqualify" them. The judge accommodates, leaving the client lawyerless at a critical juncture.

Agree or Things Will Get Worse

"Status conferences" are used to intimidate and coerce. Clients are told they must agree with the judges' recommendation or the result will be worse, or, if they have been held previously to be in contempt of court, they will go to jail.

Contempt of Court Abused

Contempt of court is used to beat the non-favored parent into submission. Its all about the money, not the best interests of the children.

Attorneys fees in connection with contempt proceedings are routinely awarded in the \$10,000 range. In one case, an attorney's fee of \$28,000 was awarded. Judgments are rendered where more must be paid in attorneys fees than the child

See **BEST INTERESTS** on Page 3

GLORY TO THE Newborn KING

"And He will be called Wonderful,
Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting
Father, Prince of Peace."
Isaiah 9:6

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Happy New Year!

Coach Sid

Coach Sid Edwards
Mayor-President

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‘Best Interest of Child’ Often Ignored

Continued from Page 2

support arrearage. In one case, attorneys fees of nearly \$80,000 have been awarded. It cannot be in the best interest of children to have one parent pay the attorney for the other parent \$80,000.

Professional Fees Used to Punish

Economic leverage is applied through counselors, therapists, and psychological evaluations. Like so many things in family court, these are in the judges’ discretion whether to order or not, and are rarely reviewed.

An example is worth mentioning. A certain lawyer requested and a certain judge ordered that a parent undergo a psychological evaluation before that parent could exercise visitation. The evaluator was picked by the judge. When the judge asked about the evaluation, the attorney for the parent being evaluated responded, “You will be able to read it for yourself. She- She’s not required to be on medication, she’s not required.”

He was interrupted by the judge: “All right. I don’t want to know that. I just want to know if it’s completed.”

Apparently, the content of the report was not important, just that the hurdle had been crossed.

Those Labeled Abusers Pay More

Furthermore, once a parent has been labeled an “abuser,” they must by law bear all the costs for these add-ons, including the other side’s attorneys fees if they happen to resist and attempt to litigate. While perhaps well-intentioned in con-

ception, this law is likely unconstitutional and needs to be amended. The threat that a parent seeking visitation will end up paying for multiple experts and the other parent’s attorneys fees is another form of coercion.

Creating a False Narrative

Another tactic is the formation of a narrative to smear the opposing litigant, not through evidence from the witness stand, but from letters and emails and in status conferences suggesting the other parent is troubled, needs counseling or therapy, or is even dangerous.

As the case is continued month after month, without an actual hearing the narrative is built with no real evidence to support it.

Isolating, Abusing Other Party

Another tactic is the closing of the courtroom to isolate and intimidate. The non-favored litigant can be screamed at and threatened with jail when no one is there to witness. Family, friends, legislators, and journalists have all been ordered out of the court room.

To this day observers are required to stand and identify themselves, as a matter of practice separate and apart from a valid motion to sequester.

Misusing Rules of Procedure

Procedure is at the whim of the family court judge instead of the Code of Civil Procedure. One party files a motion for contempt because they are not receiving the visitation ordered by judgment. The response is a motion for contempt or some other motion from the other (favored) party. The first-filed motion

is never set for hearing, or both motions are set for the same day and heard “together,” thus depriving the first party of the moral force of their presentation.

Endless Litigation Enriches Attorneys, Harms Children

Family law has been turned on its head. The best interests of the children are supposed to be paramount. The parents, by law, are supposed to facilitate the relationship of the children with the other parent. Instead, we have endless litigation which makes review economically and practically difficult and seems only to enrich the attorney.

In many cases, there appears to be a wealthy family on one side willing to pay the bill. In more than one case there is valuable community property, including equity in the family home. This wealth can be attached by the attorney holding judgments for attorney’s fees for contempt findings.

Family court cases are supposed to be handled swiftly, in “summary” proceedings. This is best for the parents and the children, so that school, activities, health needs, and schedules can be set and adapted to. Instead, matters are litigated to the Nth degree. Simple requests that would normally just be a formality are met with discovery requests, expert witnesses, and stacks of (largely irrelevant and duplicative) exhibits because, as openly threatened, the “abuser” will have to pay for it all including the fees of the other attorney.

Sacrificing children to make money is immoral.

Recommendations

1. Actual favoritism where a *quid pro quo* can be shown would best be handled by criminal authorities.

2. Civil Code Article 135 should be amended to provide that a custody hearing may be closed to the public only if all parties agree in writing.

3. All proceedings in the EBR Family Court, including status conferences, shall be live-streamed effective August 1, 2026.

4. Amend LSA-R.S. 46:2135 (E) to delete the language “unless good cause is shown for further continuance.” Twenty one days plus 15 days is still too much for parent to be separated from child without an opportunity to speak, but at least multiple abusive continuances will be prevented.

5. Amend LSA 46:2136.1 as follows: Add to subsection A, “After the initial hearing contemplated by 46: 2135, all costs will be assessed as in any other civil proceeding, and each party will be responsible for its own attorneys fees.”

This will protect one who has truly been abused but will level the playing field for one wrongfully accused of abuse.

Worth Noting

1. The Family Court is illegally charging \$6.50 per page for transcripts with the court collecting part of the money. By statute they may only charge \$1.50 per page.

2. A judge may not be removed from office during his or her term. The term of all family court judges ends on December 31, 2026. By majority vote, the Legislature could dissolve The Family Court.



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2025 Budget Gives Each Metro Councilman \$220,000 to Spend as He Chooses... for Now

Each Councilman Is Creating, Administering Own Budget, Despite Separation of Powers

Continued from Page 1

after Sharon Weston-Broome had been defeated for reelection, there were a few weeks when the Mayor-President's office was very weak and the Metro Council was able to do things a strong executive could have prevented.

One of the things the Metro Council did was extend Entergy's franchise for natural gas, while at the same time imposing a 4 percent tax on gas utilities. Entergy opposed the tax, which is expected to raise \$4 to \$5 million a year from about 30,000 households in certain unincorporated areas. The money was supposed to be used for crime control and community services.

There were two big catches to this plan. First, Entergy would simply pass the tax along to homeowners. Second, a large portion of the new tax would be paid directly to members of the Metro Council.

The Council appropriated themselves \$105,000 each for 2025 or about \$1.2 million total. In the budget just approved two weeks ago for 2026, they appropriated themselves \$220,000 each or \$2.7 million total.

Many citizens have labeled these pots of money as slush funds. Others

have said it is illegal, even criminal. Basically, they say, it boils down to "We'll extend your franchise, but only if we get \$220,000 each to personally spend as we please."

This doubling of the Metro Council budget came during consideration of the City-Parish budget, which includes serious cuts in most departments and agencies, layoffs of personnel, and failure to fund urgent needs such as the Baton Rouge Police Department, which is 150 officers short.

Last week, former Metro Councilman Darrell Glasper challenged the slush funds in a suit brought against Mayor-President Sid Edwards and the 12 individual members of the Metro Council.

Elbert Guillory, attorney for the plaintiffs, issued the following memorandum in support:

Memorandum in Support of Suit Against Metro Council

A. Article VII, Section 14 Strictly Prohibits Donations or Misuse of Public Funds

Article VII, Section 14(A) provides that no public funds may be loaned, pledged, or donated except as provided by the Constitution. Courts have held that an expenditure is unconstitutional unless:

1. A public purpose exists
2. It is legally authorized, and
3. A proportionate public benefit is received.

The expenditures described in the Petition fail all three prongs.

B. Council Members Have No Authority to Individually Spend Public Funds

Under the Plan of Government, the Metro Council is strictly a legislative body. It may not administer or disburse public funds. Spending is an administrative act reserved for authorized City-Parish departments.

C. Mislabeling the Budget Supplement as "Contractual Services" Violates Law

Budget Supplement 9088 falsely labeled political discretionary funds as "Contractual Services," violating:

- The Local Government Budget Act
- Procurement laws, and
- Financial transparency requirements.

No contracts or services existed. D. Restricted Franchise-Fee Revenue Cannot Be Diverted

The Entergy franchise-fee ordinance earmarked funds for crime prevention and community services. Diverting these funds to discretionary political spending violates:

- Article VII, Section 14
- Ordinance restrictions on revenue use,
- Fiscal-management principles.

E. Discretionary Political Expenditures Are Unconstitutional

Louisiana Attorney General Opinions repeatedly held that elected officials may not:

- Sponsor events
- Direct donations

- Provide gifts
- Promote themselves or their office using public funds.

The expenditures identified by Plaintiffs meet these prohibited categories.

F. Taxpayers Have Standing to Seek Injunction and Restitution

Louisiana courts grant standing when public funds are misused. Plaintiffs face ongoing harm from continued improper expenditures and imminent repetition in the 2026 budget.

G. Plaintiffs Are Entitled to Restitution

Officials who spend funds illegally may be held personally liable for full repayment with interest.

III. APPLICATION OF LAW TO THE FACTS

A. Council Members Directed Public Funds for Political and Non-Public Purposes

Exhibits show expenditures on:

- Council Member-branded events
- Payments to private organizations without agreements
- Donations lacking public purpose.

B. Council Members Exercised Administrative Power They Do Not Possess

Creation of individual "district accounts" constitutes an unlawful delegation of administrative authority.

C. Budget Supplement 9088 Was Illegally Mischaracterized

See PLAINTIFFS on Page 7




Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Wishing you a wonderful Christmas and a Happy New Year!
Thank you for your friendship over the years. Let's make 2026 the best year ever!



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Therefore the LORD himself will give you a sign. Behold, a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel ISAIAH 7:14





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Woody Jenkins, Editor • Published Monthly • Central City News on Facebook

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A RARE SPECTACLE — On November 11, 2025, atmospheric conditions were just right, and the Northern Lights made a rare appearance in Central. Photo by Woody Jenkins.

Elections Are About Identifying Your Voters and Getting Them to the Polls

Republicans Must Rediscover the Basics About How to Win Elections or Else Lose the Country

Key to Winning Is Finding Voters at Home Not Voting

Woody Jenkins
Editor

BATON ROUGE — It was the fall of 1963. Morton Blackwell and I were sitting in his car in the parking lot of Alessi's Drive-In at the corner of Florida Blvd. at North Foster. Morton was the College Republican national director, and he had just appointed me to be the first Teen Age Republican chairman for Louisiana. Alessi's was the best place to get curly Q potatoes and we were eating ours.

I was 17 and a junior at Istrouma High School.

Mr. Charlton Lyons had just run the first major Republican campaign for governor in modern Louisiana history and did a credible job. Barry Goldwater was about to make his famous run for President. I was to meet him in January 1964.

Morton had three books for me to read. The first was *Atlas Shrugged* by Ayn Rand. The second was *The Law* by Frederick Bastiat, and the third was *How to Win an Election* by the AFL-CIO COPE.

On *Atlas Shrugged*, he said, "This will help you understand what is going on in the world. You can learn a lot from Ayn Rand but don't get carried away with her. She's not a Christian and this is not the Bible. Nevertheless, she does an excellent job of putting political events in perspective."

On *The Law*, he said, "Bastiat was a member of the French General Assembly in 1848 when the Communists were on the verge of taking over France. However, his speeches against Communism on the floor of the Assembly were very powerful. They were printed and distributed across France. His arguments against tyranny resonated and France was saved from the Communists. You may serve in the legislature someday. Let

Bastiat's reason guide you!"

On *How to Win an Election*, he said, "This is the playbook of how the unions in America win elections, but this is not about unions, it's about political technology. The lessons in this book apply equally to everyone from Democrats and Republicans to unions and business. It is technology anyone can use. You must learn it and use it if you are to be successful in politics. Always remember that politics is about identifying your voters and physically getting them to the polls on election day."

Years later, Morton Blackwell went on to found The Leadership Institute. So far, it has trained more than 150,000 young conservatives to be candidates, campaign managers, or found conservative newspapers on college campuses. More than 70 sitting members of Congress attended Leadership Institute training programs when they were young people.

I was Morton's first student, and I remember his lessons well.

"Always remember that politics is about identifying your voters and physically getting them to the polls on election day."

Today, Republicans are losing because they have forgotten that simple statement. In fact, most people in politics don't really un-

derstand that statement.

Notice some of the things Morton Blackwell didn't say:

- He didn't say politics is about money.
- He didn't say politics is about polls.
- He didn't say politics is about messaging.
- He didn't say politics is about reaching out to 4's and 5's or mailing out oversized postcards or TV spots or appealing to special interest groups, ward bosses or the media.

Because it's not mainly about any of those things.

Politics is mainly about finding — by name — the specific people who **already agree with you and physically getting them to polls** on election day.

It's about having vote goals in your precinct, ward, parish, and state and working to identify the specific voters who will be part of reaching that vote goal. Then the last two weeks, it's about working to get them to the polls. On election day, it's about having a poll watcher checking off the names of each of your identified voters and making sure they vote. On the afternoon of election day, it's about calling and visiting those of your identified voters who haven't yet voted and getting them to the polls.

In the 1960's, 1970's, and

1980's, that's how Republican campaigns were run in Louisiana but not since. In Louisiana, you never hear the words anymore, "Vote ID," "vote goals," or "turning out your voters." That is also true in most of the nation.

Think of it, in Louisiana, only 45 percent of eligible voters cast a vote in the mid-term elections. Nearly 55 percent did not.

Politics is not mainly about happens occasionally but it's a tough job. Mostly, politics is about finding the people among the 55 percent who agree with you and getting them to vote. It's not a hard job, but it does require work. Mainly, you have to knock on their doors and ask them!

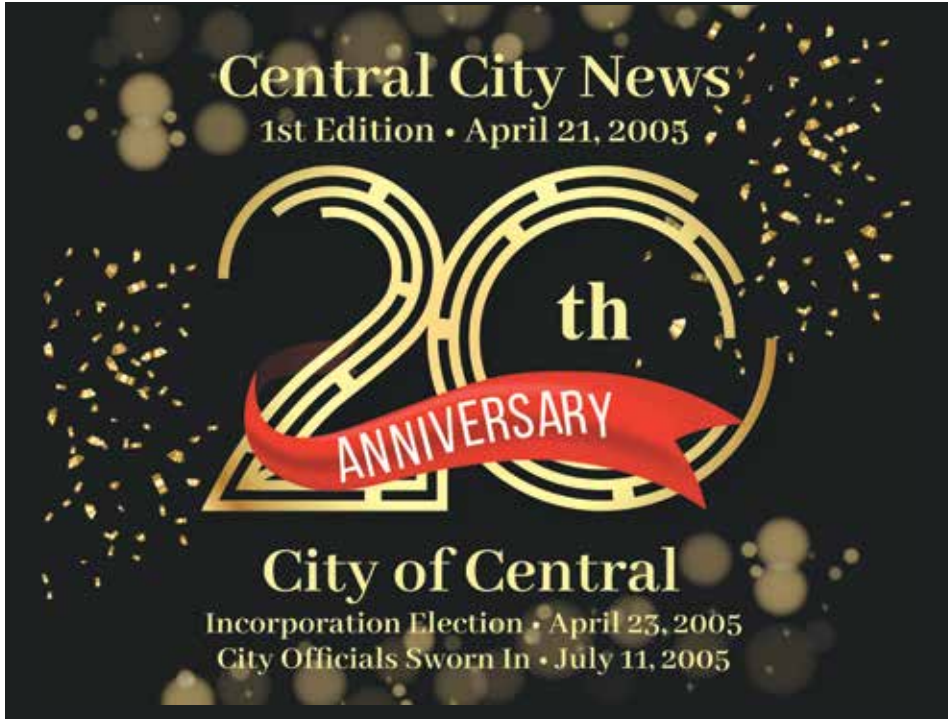
The main reason Republicans are not winning the races they should win is that they are listening to political consultants who are viewed as experts but really aren't. Typically, the consultants want you to spend money on things that will earn them a commission — not on the ground game that will win the election.

Republicans have all the votes they need to win strong majorities in the House and Senate and to win the Presidency and most governorships. But the voters who can make those victories happen are sitting at home and not voting.

I'm not talking about Independents. I'm talking about conservatives and Republicans who are sitting at home and not voting. Mostly, they are simply busy living life. The way to get their vote is to identify who they are — by name — and keep on them to vote. Overwhelmingly, if asked, they will vote!

In Matthew 7:7, the Word says, **"Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks receives; he who seeks finds; and to him who knocks, the door will be opened."**

How strongly these words written 2,000 years ago apply to politics! If you want to save America, make sure you ask, seek, and knock! If you do, "the door will be opened to you," and America will be saved!

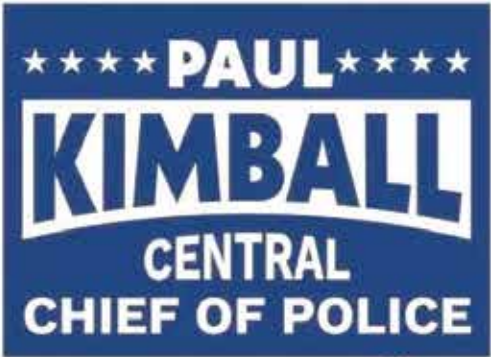




EBR REPUBLICAN WOMEN'S CLUB — New club president Jamie Pope (left) with officers and guest speakers Sen. Blake Miguez and Michael Lunsford of Citizens for New Louisiana.



Please Drive Responsibly This Holiday Season
Don't Drink and Drive!



ELECT
PAUL KIMBALL
CHIEF OF POLICE
NOV. 3, 2026

Christmas Parade



Nativity Scene at Louisiana State Capitol



CHRISTIANS once again set up a nativity scene at the State Capitol honoring the birth of Jesus.



FR. DAVID GILLIAN, pastor of Our Lady of Sorrows Chapel, North Sherwood Forest Drive, welcomed Christians who came to the Capitol to honor the birth of Jesus.

Plaintiffs Explain Slush Fund Suit Against Metro Council

Continued from Page 4

Falsely labeling discretionary funds as contractual services renders the supplement void.

D. The 2026 Budget Proposal Would Perpetuate Violations

The budget repeats the same unconstitutional structure and requires judicial intervention.

IV. CONCLUSION

These expenditures violate constitutional, statutory, and structural limits. Plaintiffs are entitled to declaratory judgment, injunction, res-

titution, and all other equitable relief.

NOTE: This case has been assigned to Judge Eboni Rose Johnson of the 19th Judicial District. For updates, read the *Central City News*

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City of Central Veterans' Ceremony



NAVY VETERAN LON VICKNAIR (left) poses for a picture with Leroy Dupuy. Owners of Cypress Roofing gave a new roof to Central veteran Mrs. Donald Duncan (right).



NAVY VETERAN REBECCA VICKNAIR (left) was the keynote speaker this year. June Dupuy and Woody Jenkins (right/center). Mayor Wade Evans (right)



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL JAZZ BAND performed patriotic music for the Veterans in attendance.

Veterans Day Ceremony at CMS• Photos and Video by Woody Jenkins

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Devon Gales Graduated from Georgia, And His High School Coach Was There



A CHRISTMAS TRIP TO REMEMBER — Central High head football coach David Simoneaux with his former player, Devon Gales, and the two Simoneaux boys, Beau, 8, and Gabe, 6. They joined Devon for his graduation from University of Georgia. He was paralyzed 10 years ago in a game between Southern University and Georgia. Devon was a star athlete at Central High School, where Coach Simoneaux was the offensive coordinator. He is now an assistant high school coach in Jefferson County, GA. He hopes for a career as a motivational speaker.

10 Years After Being Left Paralyzed by a Football Injury, CHS Athlete Is Coaching, Inspiring Young Men

Continued from Page 1

step-mom spoke to the 100 people who gathered to honor Devon on his graduation. Simoneaux said, “We had come from several states but mostly Louisiana and Georgia. His step-mom talked about every group represented there and what they had meant to Devon. Very different people, yet we had a common bond in our love for Devon. She was so grateful. There was joy in the midst of tragedy.”

Nothing has been easy for Devon, the coach said. But he was fired up because he was about to give an inspirational speech to the Georgia football team.

Coach Simoneaux took his boys Beau, 8, and Gabe, 6, on the trip. They went to Gatlinburg, Chattanooga, Rock City, and Athens.

He said they found Devon full of life and optimistic. Although confined to a wheelchair, he has a good outlook,



HEISMAN — Coach David Simoneaux with sons Beau and Gabe looking at Herschel Walker's Heisman Trophy at University of Georgia.

Coach Simoneaux said. Central coaches have had a break after playoffs ended. It was another successful year for David, who finished the regular season at 8-2 and the entire season 10-3. Central won the State Regional Championship.

Next year Central will have 8 of 11 starters back on offense and 8 of 11 back on defense.

District 4-5A has been reconfigured, and Central is working on scheduling for next season. Few teams are eager to schedule Central because it is a perpetual powerhouse, and Coach Simoneaux has won State Championships at Catholic High and Central.

The coach hopes to retain his current staff, which works well together.

“We’ll be back at work in January and continue upward,” he said.

— Woody Jenkins, editor

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year



City of Central!

As we complete another year, we're so grateful for our amazing community. Thank you for making Central a wonderful place to work, live, go to school, and retire. We wish you peace, joy, and all the best this Christmas and in the New Year.

The Matherne Family



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In Him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it.

JOHN 1:4-5



A 2022 Graduate of Parkview Baptist School

Central's Wyatt Beck Named Defensive Player Of the Year in USA South Athletic Conference

JACKSON, MS — The Mississippi Sports Hall of Fame has announced linebacker Wyatt Beck of Belhaven University as one of the nine nominees for the 2025 C Spire Conerly Trophy. This is Wyatt's second year to be nominated for the award.

Beck has led the USA South Athletic Conference in tackles the last two years. On Nov. 19, Wyatt was named Defensive Player of the Year by the USA South Atlantic Conference.

Beck, a senior linebacker from Greenwell Springs, becomes the third Blazer to earn USA South football Defensive Player of the



WYATT BECK
Belhaven University



DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR
USA South Athletic Conference

Year honors in the past four seasons. Over the regular season, Beck led the Conference with 85 total tackles which included a League-best 49 assisted take downs. He hurried the quarterback

six times, made eight total tackles for a loss, and had 2.5 sacks.

For Beck during League-play, he was third in the Conference with 57 total tackles, 6.5 of which resulted in a loss of yardage. For his efforts this campaign, Beck earned First Team All-Conference honors as a linebacker for the third consecutive season.

Wyatt Beck is a 2022 graduate of Parkview Baptist School.

He appeared in the *Central City News* as a kindergarten student when he was a page for the Homecoming Court at Central Private in 2009. He attended Blackwater Methodist Church. He is the son of Harold and Stacy Beck of Central.

R. J. Saucier, a Founder of City of Central, 86



Randolph "R.J." Saucier
April 24, 1939 - Nov. 17, 2025

CENTRAL — Randolph Joseph (R.J.) Saucier, born 4/24/39, in Houma, left a long, full life on 11/17/25. Born to Robert F. Saucier of Saucier, MS, and Inez M. Brunet of Houma.

R.J. grew up in Watson with siblings Cath-

erine Norris, Arnold Saucier, and Elaine Stevens. He was educated at LSU and Tulane. After four years on active duty in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, R.J. enjoyed a successful career as a petroleum/mechanical engineer in research and production with Shell Development-Oil Company.

Even more important to him than his career was his family. R.J. and Patricia Amond Saucier were married for almost 60 years, before her passing.

Together they enjoyed rearing their three children, Randall Patrick Saucier (Jenny), Cheli Marie Saucier, and Rebecca Lynn Owen-Saucier (Terry).

R.J. loved developing the family property to host child and family gather-

ings. He cut trails in the woods, built tree houses, pond rafts, and more. Family Easter egg hunts were epic!

He especially wanted his property to be enjoyed by his grandchildren, Ben Saucier (Anna), Amanda Story (Tommy), Jessica Roberson, Samantha Roberson, and great-grandsons, Reed and Luke Saucier.

Being an active citizen, R.J. was instrumental in developing the City of Central, faithfully attending almost every meeting and serving as a strong and independent voice for protecting the people of Central and doing the right thing.

After retirement, R.J. developed a love and talent for wood carving.

He found comfort in his faith and enjoyed studying

the Bible.

In recent years, R. J. found companionship with Lena Lestrapes, dancing, working in the yard, and participating in general

shenanigans.

A visitation took place on Thursday, November 20 at Central Funeral Home followed by a memorial service.

Letter to the Editor

Christmas Parade: A Massive Undertaking Always Well Done

Editor, Central City News

Dear Woody,

Saturday, December 6, I participated in the 39th Annual Christmas in Central Parade.

I have served in the military, been involved in law enforcement, and worked in business here in the Baton Rouge area.

I am very familiar with the headaches of logistics, mobilization, and deployment of personnel, equipment, and vehicles.

For the first time, I was a participant in the parade rather than a bystander, and I have to tell you I was impressed.



GORDON HUTCHINSON
Constable

out a hitch.

The crowds were friendly, the marshals directing and hustling things along were polite, and all made for a delightful experience for everyone involved.

Even the good folks that had to spend a few extra minutes waiting for the parade vehicles to travel up Lovett to Hooper and make the circuit back to Zoar Church are to be commended for their good spirits in letting the parade members get back to their rally point.

From an insider's view, it looked like a flawless operation—and everyone concerned should be proud of the job they did in presenting such a heart-warming and joyful image of our city.

Thanks to you all.

Gordon Hutchinson
Proud Central Resident
Constable

Editor's Response: Amen!

Big Jim Cress, Central Star

CENTRAL — James Richard "Jim" Cress was born December 8, 1942 in Ben Hur, Virginia. Jim passed away of cancer in his home in Mesquite, Nevada, November 8, 2025.

Jim was the eldest of three children. His siblings were Johnny Cress and sister Linda Cress Robbins.

Jim grew up in Central and attended Central High where he was a star athlete. He later attended Southeastern Louisiana University where he played basketball for two years.

He earned his associates degree before moving on to semi-pro basketball. He met his first wife Jane Waldron of 60 years while attending college. Jim and Jane gave birth to Mark now 62, followed by Teri who passed away at 40.

Jim is survived by his



James "Jim" Cress
Dec. 8, 1942 - Nov. 8, 2025

son Mark and wife Sue, his grandchildren Cory Cress and Cody Carlson, and his wife Kathie Cress.

"Big Jim" as he was referred to by some, was loved by many and had a gift of "gab" in which he shared his stories with others, especially with his friends from the Senior

Center in Thayne.

He rarely met someone he did not like, and would go out his way to meet new people! He was called the "Mayor" because of his gift.

His accomplishments were many but his greatest was his first wife Jane, his children, his grandchildren, and his newly-wedded wife Kathie, who sadly were married only one year.

Jim and Kathie are members of the Emmanuel Bible Church in Thayne, Wyoming. Donations may be made to Thayne Senior Center, P. O. Box 1033, Thayne, Wyoming 83127.

A "Celebration of Life" will be held at the Emmanuel Bible Church on US Highway 89, Thayne, Wyoming at 10:30 a.m. on June 6, 2026. Please do not send flowers.

Russell Stringer, 50-Year Central Resident



Russell Lane Stringer
April 3, 1936 - Nov. 6, 2025

CENTRAL — Russell Lane Stringer of Central passed away Nov. 6, 2025, after a fully lived 89 years of life. A native of Franklinton, Russell was born to Frank Lane Stringer and Maudine Magee Stringer in 1936 and was raised alongside his beloved siblings, Larry and Cornell. Many of his best days were spent in a fishing boat with

his brother or at the Washington Parish Fair with his sister.

After graduating from Franklinton High School, Russell attended and graduated from LSU in 1960. He taught dance at Arthur Murray during his time at LSU, a memory of which he spoke fondly.

He then completed a masters degree at Southern University. Professionally, he worked in sales for Blue Plate Mayo for a time and then spent the majority of his career as an instructor at Baton Rouge Vo Tech.

Russell served in the Louisiana National Guard's 105th Anti-Aircraft Artillery Battalion 1954-1957 and was activated into the Army during the Berlin Crisis. He was honorably discharged as a Staff Sergeant in 1962.

Russell and his wife Elaine met on a blind date while attending LSU. He proposed while they were attending the Washington Parish Fair in his native Franklinton. They were married in her

hometown of Bunkie on June 19, 1960. They moved to Central in 1975 and have enjoyed "country living in the city" ever since!

They raised two sons together and he then spent his golden years catering to the whims of his eight grandchildren. The only thing that could make Russell happier than a fishing pole or golf club in hand was be-

ing surrounded by family with a grand baby on his lap. Each of them will carry his memory with them forever... as well as the memory of his legendary fried fish and homemade vanilla ice cream.

Russell was preceded in death by his parents, Frank Lane Stringer and Maudine Magee Stringer, as well as his step-father, Thurman

Knight.

He is survived by his loving wife of 65 years, Elaine Blalock Stringer; brother, Larry Stringer (Dorothy) and sister Cornell Stringer Bond (Danny); sons Scott (Lana) and Walt (Ginger) Stringer; grandchildren Cole, Victoria (Galen), Madison, London, Kylie, Sydney, Sophie, Ava; and great grandchildren Elanor and Jack.

Willie D. Lewis, Long-time Conservative Leader, Passes

CENTRAL - Willie D. Lewis, affectionately known as "W.D.," was born November 7, 1938, and peacefully passed away of natural causes on November 4, 2025, in Baton Rouge at the age of 86.

Willie leaves to cherish his memory his beloved wife, Tharis Ennis Lewis, and devoted daughter, Chenese Lewis.

He is also survived by his brother, Edward Lewis of Maringouin; sister-in-law Lillian Ennis Robinson; and brother-in-law Rev. Emile Ennis, Sr. (Sharon) of Atlanta.

Nephews Anthony H. Johnson (Karen) of New



Willie D. Lewis
Nov. 7, 1938 - Nov. 4, 2025

Roads; Robert Robinson, and Emile Ennis, Jr. (AJ) of Los Angeles; nieces

Carolyn Lewis of Maringouin and Shawn Jenkins of Beaumont; two god-daughters, Kymberli Darden (Willie) of Covington, GA, and Felicia Brumfield Gathe of Zachary, and a host of cousins, extended family, and friends who will miss him dearly.

Visitation was at Wesley United Methodist Church, 544 Government St. in Baton Rouge on Friday, November 14, 2025. Interment was at Greenoaks Memory Park Mausoleum, 9595 Florida Blvd.

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Essential Duties and Responsibilities: Assists in basic loan servicing tasks such as data entry, file maintenance, and basic reporting. Learns and applies Bank policies and procedures related to loan operations. Responds to basic customer inquiries and directs more complex issues to senior team members. Participates in training programs to develop skills in loan servicing. Ensures timely and accurate completion of assigned tasks. Maintains organized and accurate loan documentation. Performs other duties as assigned.

Education and Related Experience: High school diploma or equivalent required. Some experience in a financial institution or customer service role preferred.

Skills and Abilities: Basic understanding of PC applications. Strong attention to detail and accuracy. Good communication and interpersonal skills. Ability to follow instructions and learn new tasks quickly. Basic organizational skills.

EOE/Veteran/Disabled. Send resumes to hr@bankofzachary.com

PLOTS FOR SALE: Four plots in Resthaven cemetery for sale, Crucifixion Area. Call Rodney at 225-276-0145

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Wise Men Still Seek Him

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



Sen. Rick Edmonds
and wife Cindy



The Edmonds Family

In this season of giving, we are thankful for you! Wishing you all moments to treasure and the gift of peace that only Christ can give. May your heart always seek the Christ Child.

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Update on the City of Central from Mayor Wade Evans

Mayor Evans Addresses Republicans



MAYOR WADE EVANS (left) of the City of Central speaks to local Republicans about the upcoming election and what is going on in Central. Candidate for Cleo Fields seat **Peter Williams** (center) and EBRP Republican Chairman **Woody Jenkins**. **Liz Dent Sumerall** and her brother **David Ratcliff**.



CHAMBER EAST BATON ROUGE CHAIRMAN (left) **Cecil Cavanaugh** asks Mayor Evans to talk about their budget and surplus. As a CPA, Cavanaugh said he is amazed by Central's form of government and the responsible manner in which Central manages the citizens' money. **Gary Rispon** and **LAGOP Vice Chairman Jerry Brouillette** (center).

Ronald Reagan Luncheon • November 11, 2025 • Café Americain

Joy to the World!

"for to you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger." **Luke 2:11-12**

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Clerk of Court Doug Welborn Guest At Ronald Reagan Dec. Luncheon



EAST BATON ROUGE CLERK OF COURT DOUG WELBORN (left) shares with local Republicans tales of Thanksgiving and Christmas cheer! Rev. Timothy Spell offers the gift of music to the group as he sings hymns of the birth of Jesus Christ our Savior!



BRANDON ABADIE (left) administrator of elections for East Baton Rouge gives an update on the coming elections; deputy clerk Jeff Hickerson; archives director Brian Hastings, and personnel director Eric Coleman.



DENNIS MCCAIN (left) of the City-Parish public information officer. East Baton Rouge Republican Parish Executive Committee members (center) held their monthly meeting following the luncheon. Sister Jeannie and Rev. Timothy Spell pose for a Christmas picture with Jeff and Tamara Wittenbrink.

Ronald Reagan Luncheon • December 9, 2025 • Café Americain
Photos by Jolice Provost • Video by Woody Jenkins for Central City News



Meeting



Medley

In Memory of Col. Gordon Jenkins

BATON ROUGE — Family and friends of the late Col. Gordon Jenkins, USAF (retired) gathered to honor him Sunday, December 14, 2025, at the home of his first cousin, Woody and Diane Jenkins. Gordon was a 1960 graduate of Baton Rouge High where he played football and participated in track and field. He went on to LSU where he joined the Corps of Cadets and enrolled in the officer training program. At LSU, he was commander of the Pershing Rifles precision drill team that won the Southeastern Conference championship. Upon graduation, Gordon qualified as a fighter pilot and ended up in Thailand, running missions over North Vietnam. After more than 105 combat

missions, he was the most decorated lieutenant in the Air Force in Vietnam, winning two Silver Stars. On one occasion, an American pilot was downed and about to be captured by North Vietnamese soldiers. He began scrafting the enemy and was taking heavy ground fire. He was ordered to return to base but he ignored the order at great personal risk to himself, and the pilot was rescued. After retiring, he became a test pilot for Northrup, flying some of the world's most advanced aircraft. His loving wife Mary Pat died four years ago. He is survived by his sister Jan and many nieces, nephews, and cousins.



THE JENKINS FAMILY AND FRIENDS celebrate the life and accomplishments of Colonel Gordon Jenkins, highly decorated fighter pilot from Baton Rouge.

Taxpayers Sue to Invalidate LSU Tax Approved without Vote of the People

BATON ROUGE — Former Baton Rouge Metro Councilman Darrell Glasper, Sr. sued the new LSU Economic Development District, contending that the district violated the Louisiana Constitution when the district board imposed a sales tax on local businesses near LSU without a vote of the people.

According to some estimates, the tax will take approximately \$160 million from roughly 100 businesses near the LSU campus over a 30-year period.

The lawsuit addresses two governmental bodies - the Louisiana State University Economic Development District and the LSU EDD Athletic Subdistrict - created by a 2023 law called Act 203. The two districts are controlled by the President of LSU, who appoints all members of the districts' boards, which are empowered to raise sales and hotel occupancy taxes.

Constitution Requires Voter Approval for New Sales Taxes. The Louisiana Constitution requires that taxing bodies must hold an election to if local sales taxes would exceed three percent.

But Law Creating LSU District Takes Away Tax Election. Despite the Constitution, Act 203 defined these two districts to exclude any location where voters might have lived in June 2023, on



DARRELL GLASPER
Former Councilman Files Suit

the theory that if there are no voters, the districts can avoid a voter referendum on the tax increase.

LSU Conspired to Avoid Voter Approval. The exclusion of voters was intentional. A slide prepared by LSU before the districts were created said, "There will be no registered voters in the proposed district. Importantly, the new tax can be levied against businesses in the EDD because a business is not a voter."

Glasper points to text messages and emails that he says reveal

the "secret plan" for the taxpayer money - to funnel much or all of it to the private developers of the new to-be-constructed LSU sports arena.

Public Statements vs. Private Emails on Use of Tax. Glasper's lawsuit highlights the difference between public statements about the taxpayer money, like a statement that "no use [has] been determined right now", with private emails and text messages like one saying that the arena "project gets both cents of new taxes. That has been the deal from day one."

Glasper's suit points to emails indicating an effort to keep the plans secret from the public, like one that reads in all caps, "PLEASE DO NOT SHARE THIS WITH ANYONE AT LSU. WE CANNOT EXPOSE THIS TO A PUBLIC RECORDS REQUEST."

Communications directly with LSU, a state entity, would be subject to public records requests.

Secret Plan Was Illegal. The lawsuit concludes that the districts' "effort to secretly give millions of dollars of taxpayer money to private developers without voter approval or knowledge is illegal and unconstitutional."

Glasper contends that he is "not seeking to stop anyone from building the arena," but rather pointing out that "if a private arena is going

to be built, it should not be secretly funded with taxes that have not been approved by the voters."

Glasper, said, "It is disheartening to witness the level of deception and dysfunction in government. It seems that the very purpose of government, to work for the betterment of the people, has been lost in the pursuit of personal gain and power."

Attorney William Most said, "Democracy does not come with loopholes. If the LSU president wants to raise local taxes, he has to ask voters to approve it - because that is what the law requires."

La. Const. Art. 6 §29 Prohibits Sales Taxes Over 3% without Levy Of Tax by Council

BATON ROUGE — Central City News editor Woody Jenkins, one of the authors of the Louisiana Constitution, cited another flaw in the sales tax being imposed in the LSU district. Jenkins said, "Art. 6, Section 29 of the Constitution requires that a sales tax in excess of 3 percent must be levied by the Metro Council, not a special district. However, the Council did not pass an ordinance to levy the tax."

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us (and we saw his glory, the glory as it were of the only begotten of the Father), full of grace and truth." John 1:14





JOHN C. FLEMING, MD
Louisiana State Treasurer



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year Central!





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Central Chamber of Commerce Holds 39th Annual Central Christmas Parade



Oh, Come Let us Adore Him



Merry Christmas

May the Prince of Peace be in your hearts always





More than 3,000 Turnout for Parade




39th Annual City of Central Christmas Parade • Dec. 6, 2025 • Photos by Jolice Provost for the Centrtal City News

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Kicking Off Christmas Season Here



39th Annual Central Christmas Parade

Photos by Jolice Provost for the Central City News

Watch Live Coverage of Parade



Video by Katherine Diamond

Album by Rev. Tony Spell Released, Jumps to No. 12 in Its 1st 16 Hours

Spell Trio's First Album, 8 Months in Production, Includes Favorite Songs Of Life Tabernacle

Woody Jenkins
Editor

CENTRAL — The Tony Spell Trio released its first album Wednesday. It reached No. 12 on the chart of Christian music worldwide after only 16 hours. After 24 hours, it was at No. 10 and rising.

The trio includes Rev. Tony Spell, his wife Sister Shaye Spell, and Tony's father, Rev. Timothy Spell.

The album includes eight songs, all of which are favorites of the congregation of Life Tabernacle, the church the Spells pastor in Central.

The album has been eight months in the making and included a live recording session in the sanctuary of Life Tabernacle over the July 4 holiday. After that, the Spells had to lay down audio tracks in studio, followed by audio work in Nashville by some of the top people there.

The album is now available for purchase on 26 venues, including Spotify, Apple Music, and iTunes. The album can be purchased for \$7.95 or an individual song for 99 cents.

Every time one of the songs is purchased or played it helps the album rise on the charts.

At this time of the year, many people are purchasing or listening to Christmas music, and five of the albums currently ahead of the Spells are Christmas albums.

The Spells' music is filled with hope and joy. It is uplifting, and



The Tony Spell Trio — Rev. Timothy Spell, Rev. Tony Spell, and Sister Shaye Spell

people who attend Life Tabernacle often say the music alone is worth a sermon, helping them feel closer to God.

Beginning in March 2020, Life Tabernacle and the Spell Family began to get attention after Rev. Spell decided to keep his church open during Covid. Gov. John Bel Edwards ordered the pastor arrested, and he was. However, he never missed a church service and the church developed a large following across the nation and around the world. Two years later, the Louisiana Supreme Court dismissed all charges against the Central pastor and said that ev-

erything done against him and other members of the church was illegal and unconstitutional. They were simply exercising their rights under the First Amendment and should not have been disturbed.

The *Central City News* offered to broadcast live on the newspaper's Facebook page any church that decided to stay open. Two churches accepted the offer. Under pressure from authorities, the other church soon decided not to stay open. Life Tabernacle continued, and the viewing audience for church services skyrocketed, sometimes exceeding 500,000 viewers per service. As

3 free months are waiting.

1

If I Shout (Live)

...

2

Chain Breaker (Live)

...

3

Sometimes It Takes a Mountain (Live)

...

4

Funeral Plans (Live)

...

5

If I Got Jesus (Live)

...

6

His Grace Is Sufficient (Live)

...

7

Going on With Jesus (Live)

...

...

All My Hope (Live)

...

December 17, 2025

8 songs, 38 minutes

© 2025 Pivot Music

8

THE SONGS OF DAVID (From The Original Series House Of David) - EP

Michael Iskander, House of David & Work...

★★★★★ (2)

\$5.99

9

The Greatest Gift Of All

Strayer

★★★★★ (12)

\$10.99

10

The Truth - EP

Megan Woods

★★★★★ (19)

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11

King Of Hearts

Brandon Lake

★★★★★ (181)

\$12.99

12

LIVE: From The Church That Never Closes

Tony Spell Trio

\$7.92

13

Christmas in Belfast

Rend Collective

★★★★★ (1)

\$7.99

14

The Christmas Sessions

Marcy White

★★★★★ (4)

\$9.99

15

Christmas

Francesca Battistelli

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The Manger - EP

Anne Wilson

★★★★★ (19)

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churches around the world closed, the viewing audience for Life Tabernacle on *Central City News* continued to grow.

The Spells' singing and music are a big part of the appeal of the online broadcasts. Rev. Spell's following could be expected to drive sales of the album much higher.

In the 1980's and 1990's, Rev. Timothy Spell, his wife Sister Jeanie Spell, and the Spell children travelled the country singing at churches and national and regional events. They had at least 10 albums. This was in the time of cassettes before CD's came along.

Today everything is digitized and in the cloud. While more people may listen to a singer's music, the artist typically makes very little unless an album is a big hit.

Life Tabernacle offers church services at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. on Sundays and at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday. They are broadcast live at *Central City News* and at *Life Tabernacle* on Facebook, also on Life Tabernacle on YouTube.

Life Tabernacle hosts Revolution: America's National Youth Conference for five days around the July 4 holiday every year and a Health Freedom Conference

The church has many other events.

The Life Tabernacle website is at www.ltcbr.com.

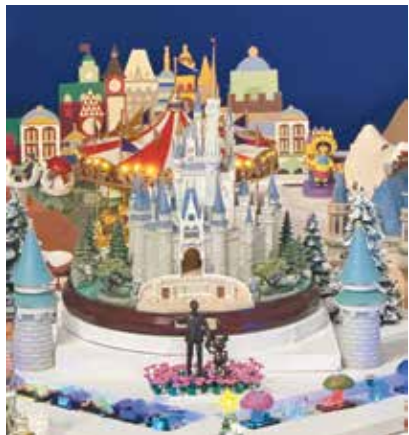
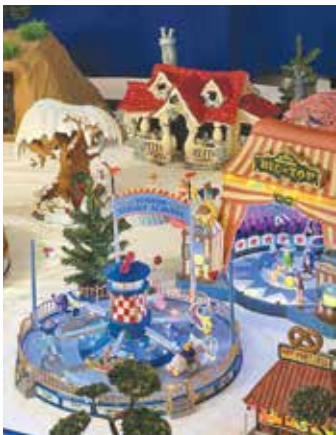
Fr. Jason Palermo's Christmas Village



63,000 piece Lego construction of Notre Dame (Paris)



FR. JASON PALERMO, pastor of St. Alphonsus Liguori parish in Central, opened his home to the City of Central to share one of his passions with everyone! His Christmas Village project that began when he was 11 years old. The labor of love of his Christmas Village began with his mother Yvonne Palermo and his great aunt Sedonia Louviere. Together they made many of the pieces out of plastic canvas needlepoint. You have to look very closely to find them among the many other traditional Christmas Village pieces. The oldest piece is the little red school house. There are three villages New York above includes a 63,000 piece replica of Notre Dame (Paris) made from Legos. Other parts of the collection include Disney theme parks complete with Magic Kingdom, Animal Kingdom, Hollywood Studios and Epcot as well as a beautiful London Village.



A Labor of Love for St. Alphonsus Pastor



Sullivan Theater Presents Elf the Musical



CENTRAL - Sullivan Theater is finishing its 2025 season with the joyful, high-energy holiday favorite **Elf the Musical**, which opened Thursday, December 4, and runs through this Sunday, December 21. Performances are Thursday through Saturday at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday matinees at 2 p.m.

Families and theatergoers of

all ages will have ample opportunity to experience the magic, music, and merriment of this modern Christmas classic.

Based on the beloved 2003 film, **Elf the Musical** follows Buddy, a human raised at the North Pole, who embarks on a journey to New York City to discover his true identity and remind the world of the importance of Christmas cheer.

Taking on the iconic role, Daniel Brandenburg makes his Sullivan Theater debut as Buddy the Elf, bringing boundless warmth and comedic charm to the stage.

Rachel Augustine stars as Jovie, Buddy's sharp-witted, yet tender-hearted love interest, and Nic Elliott appears as Walter Hobbs, Buddy's work-driven father whose world is turned upside down by his son's arrival. Together, they lead a spirited cast delivering all the joy, humor, and heart audiences expect from this holiday favorite.

This production is brought to life by a talented creative team from across the Baton Rouge, Central, and Ascension theater communities. Led by Director Amy Himel Gomez, the team includes Assistant Director Delilah Guilbeau, Music Director Keith James, Cho-

reographer Gabi Cario, and Stage Manager Matt Miyagi, all working together to bring the North Pole to the Sullivan stage.

Following a season of standout productions including **The Hunchback of Notre Dame**, **Murder on the Orient Express**, **Oklahoma!**, **Noises Off**, and **The Importance of Being Earnest**, **Elf the Musical** closes out the year with a joyful, family-friendly celebration sure to become a treasured holiday tradi-

tion for the community.

Tickets are \$35 for adults and \$25 for students and can be purchased now at www.sullivantheater.com/tickets. Seating is limited, and advance booking is strongly encouraged.

The Sullivan Theater is located at 8849 Sullivan Road in the City of Central. All performers and crew members are local volunteers from the Central community and surrounding areas.



Central Defeats E. Ascension 46-32 To Win Regional Championship



#21 Marvin Joseph catches a pass in the end zone for a Wildcat touchdown!



Taking down the Spartan's #88 Brysten Martinez



Wildcat student section wave We Believe towels!



#5 Marcus Watson with a big catch for the Wildcats



#4 Brody Diel in the end zone after a touchdown with #16 Keithon Womack



#3 Max Gassiott scrambles for yardage in the game against East Ascension



Central Falls to Zachary 31-27 in Quarterfinals in Final Seconds



THE CENTRAL WILDCATS fell to Zachary in the last 11 seconds of the game. It was a hard fought battle to the end. Junior #20 Tristan Rose (right) with a first down.



WILDCAT VARSITY CHEERLEADERS (left) cheering on the Central team! Senior #16 Keithon Womack (right)



JUNIOR #21 MARVIN JOSEPH gains yardage for the Wildcats. #39 Lane Billings (center) with a big play. #20 Tristan Rose runs up the field.



CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL CHEERLEADERS AND KITTENS performed at halftime. They will be competing together this year in Disney for the first time. Wildcat Silks Color Guard (right) during the National Anthem before the game.

Senior Night at Wildcat Stadium



Kitten Captain Christina Cotton with Chris and Chanel Cotton



Kitten Captain Jolie Patin with Blane, Tiffany and Luci Patin



Silks Color Guard Member Madeline Markey with Dan, Michaelyn, and Olivia Markey



Band Member Daniel Alba with Antonio and Elvira Alba



Band Member Jace Aucoin with Wesley and Marlene Aucoin



Band Member Braden Ballard with Brian and Kristen Shanley



Band Member Melody Crane with Vivian and Bellina



Band Member Jaykeb Fontenot with Ashley Richard



Band Member Treyden Houston with Jasmine Lyles



Band Member Taylor McGlone with Richard and Brittney McGlone



Band Member Jair Rodrigues with Juan Rodriguez and Mercades Carreno



Band Member Ma'Riyah Walker with Charika Catling and Janyah Walker

Senior Night at Wildcat Stadium



BIG BROTHERS spend Friday nights celebrating every touchdown by running the flags down the field and helping hype up the crowd. Each Big Brother is a senior athlete chosen by the senior cheerleaders. Cole Guidroz, Dawson Scivique, Peyton Walls, and Bryson Hartzog are all members of the Central High baseball team, while Jackson Ellis is a member of the Central High wrestling team.



Cheerleader Audrey Bickham with Thomas and Jennifer Bickham



Cheerleader Amelia Bossier with Todd and Leigh Bossier



Cheerleader Co-Captain Destiny Carr with Anthony Carr and Courtney Coleman



Cheerleader Co-Captain Camille Jackson with Justin and Carey Jackson



Cheerleader Captain Bailey Logsdon with Jonathan and Jessica Logsdon



Cheerleader Harlee Loupe with Ken and Kayla Dunham



Cheerleader Lucy Mire with David and Rhethe Mire



Cheerleader Lucy Patterson with Casey, Dianna, Cameron and Gabe Patterson



Cheerleader Jaden Roy with Brad and Christine Roy



Cheerleader Kylah Strickland with Eric and Holly Strickland and Kelly Anna and Baylor Dillon

Senior Night at Wildcat Stadium



Lyslye Gant with Levell Gant, Sr. and Daisy Gant



Trainer Treasure Dunn with Sharonda Cooper-Epps and Daron Epps



Trainer Destiny Hunt with Saul and Michelle Kimble



Trainer Malaysia Sander with Lindsey and Marika



Trainer Justice Spears with Jermain and Angela Spears



Trainer Taylor Tellifero with Buck and Kristen Tellifero



Trainer Raine Turner with Lloyd Turner



Sports Media Member Kamryn Brown with Jeremy, Sherry and Khloe Brown



Sports Media Member Camryn LaGroue with Brandon LaGroue



#9 Beau Hill with Cory, Danielle, and Kate Hill and Coach David Simoneaux



Sports Media Member Raegan Shook with Chad and Kristina Shook



#2 Ethen Smith with Blake, Mikelyn, Elliot, and Evan Smith and Coach David Simoneaux



#7 J. Mike Garrett with Latasha Lauderdale, Jaden Koroma, Jada Garrett, Shamika Taylor, James Lauderdale and Coach David Simoneaux

Senior Night at Wildcat Stadium



#16 Keithon Womack with Kevin, Quinetta, Jeremy, Quinton and Quinae Womack and Coach David Simoneaux



#18 Brody Knapps with Jason and Jennie and Coach David Simoneaux



#22 Alexander Stewart with Mr. Alvin Stewart, Dr. Daphne Stewart and Coach David Simoneaux



#24 Shane Brown with Shawn Brown, Sr., Shawn Brown, Jr., Destiny Washington, and Kennedy Payne and Coach David Simoneaux



#29 Aidan Smith with Justin Smith, Michelle Day, and Kendall and Charlie Smith and Coach David Simoneaux



#30 Cayden Haynes with Chris and Brandi Haynes and Coach David Simoneaux



#31 Isiah Smith with Dulan and Mercedes Hughes and Coach David Simoneaux



#33 Adam Cullen with Sean, Nikki, Isabelle and Danielle Cullen and Coach David Simoneaux



#49 Jake Jarreau with Randy, Penelope and Jules Jarreau and Coach David Simoneaux



#50 Scott Smith, Jr. with Scott Smith, Sr. and Alice Smith and Coach David Simoneaux

Senior Night at Wildcat Stadium



#55 Graham Harris with Glenn, Mandi and Grayden Harris and Coach David Simoneaux



#58 Dawson MacNealy with Zachary, Jennifer and Bryce MacNealy and Coach David Simoneaux



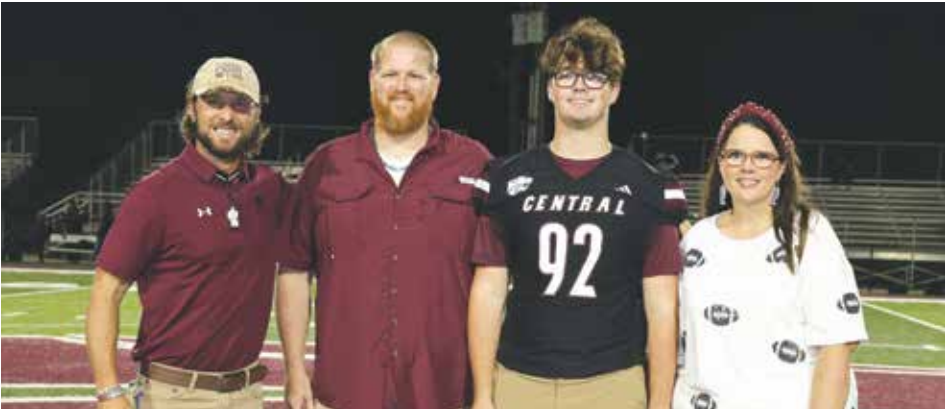
#74 Devin Reed with Lakesha Hart, Curtis and Lydia Hart and Coach David Simoneaux



#79 Wyatt Price with Kelly Price and Coach David Simoneaux



#88 Tanner André with Trevor and Heidi André and Coach David Simoneaux



#92 Evan Wood with Charles and Barbara Wood and Coach David Simoneaux



The Katz Krewe lead the Wildcat Student Section. They show up, stand proud and represent Wildcat Pride with excellence!



Student Assistant Football Coach Messiah Manchester



#96 Brody Orgeron with Chris Orgeron, Jamie Cannella and Coach David Simoneaux



Ian James Christmas Party 2025



Ian James • Capital Financial • Christmas Party
December 4, 2025 • Juban's Restaurant

Istrouma High Class of 1965 Celebrates



Larry and Candace Varnado and Mary Van Smith Mahan



Carol Crutchfield Thomas, Fred Koch, Diane Aker Jenkins, and Woody Jenkins



Jimmy and Ann Terry Borskey



Donnie and Cherie Bozeman, Dale Gray, Joe Richard, and Bobby Watts



Kate and Bobby Watts, Dona and Mike Stevens



A beautiful cake from Ambrosia honoring the Class of 1965



Deborah and Fred Koch, Sammy and Tex Tippit, and Charles Watson



Raymond and JoAnn Jensen



Susan Tinney and Diane Jenkins



Hank Henagan and Ted and Margie Long



Danny Young and Dave Rowell



Corky Olsen Chevallier



Chris and Wendell McDougald



Carol Borskey and Elizabeth Jenkins



Jean and Gene Kinchen and Diane Turcotte



Charles Watson



Geri Rowland and Becky Buckley Cowart



Jerrine Rowell and Danny Young



Carol Thomas and Woody Jenkins

Istrouma High School Class of 1965 • Celebrates 60 Years
Dec. 6, 2025 • Home of Woody and Diane Jenkins