CENTRAL CITY NEWS & The Leader

2025 Newspaper of the Year
Louisiana Press Association

Central City News
Election Edition
Nov. 3, 2026 • Early Voting Oct. 20-27

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SAMPLE BALLOT

City of Central and Nearby Areas

Tuesday, Nov. 3, 2026
Early Voting Oct. 20-27

Candidates in **RED** have been endorsed by Republican Party, in **BLUE** by Democratic Party. One star is by Parish GOP, two stars by State GOP, three stars by both Local and State. The **Central City News** supports all of the endorsed Republican candidates plus outstanding candidates in **GREEN**

U. S. SENATE

Jamie Davis	D
Julia Letlow**	R

CONGRESS (2nd District)

Lisa Ballay	L
Walter "Rocky" Beach	N
Troy A. Carter, Sr.	D
Renada "Honey" Collins	N
Rev. Peter Williams* CCN	R

CONGRESS (6th District)

Monique Appeaning* CCN	R
Chauna Banks	D
Rufus Craig	L
Larry Davis III	R
"Rick" Edmonds*** CCN	R
Patrick "Pat" Forbes	D
Lindsay "Rubia" Garcia	D
Michael Mebruer	R
Blake Miguez**	R
Stephen Wagley CCN	R

DISTRICT COURT
Parishwide • Division B

Winston DeCuir, Jr	D
Justin DeLaune* CCN	R

DISTRICT COURT
District 1 (Western) Div. L

Elzie Alford CCN	D
Jermain Guillory	D

DISTRICT COURT
District 1 (Western) Div. M

ReAzalia Allen	D
Allison "AJ" Sabine	D
Vernon Thomas CCN	D

DISTRICT ATTORNEY
Parishwide • ES 1, Div. M

Hillar Moore III CCN	D
Ryan Thompson	D

FAMILY COURT
Division A • South BR

Joseph Cataldie	R
Judge Caulette Guillard CCN	D

FAMILY COURT
Division C • Central & Zachary

Lawrence "LT" Dupré CCN	R
Wendy Edwards Morice	R

Central School Board
District 1

Jeffrey LaCour CCN	D
Jason Leaphart CCN	R

Constable
Justice of the Peace Dist. 2

Dwayne Rogers CCN	R
Lee Russell	N

Justice of the Peace
District 3

LaShawn Goodwin	D
Mark Miley CCN	R
Henrietta Williams	D

Constable
Justice of the Peace Dist. 3

Sheila Freeman	D
Gordon Hutchinson, Jr. CCN	R
"Chris" Johnson	R

Races for U.S. Senate, Congress Top Ballot

Turnout Election

CHRISTIAN LEADERS praying over Republican Senate nominee Julia Letlow during the annual Louisiana Family Forum Banquet Sept. 17 at Healing Place Church on Highland Road.

Only One Thing Seems Certain: Election Is All About Whose Supporters Bother to Go to the Polls

CENTRAL - Central voters face an important election Nov. 3 that will decide whether a Democrat or Republican will replace Sen. Bill Cassidy in the United States Senate. The vote could have national consequences because control of the Senate is hanging by a vote or two.

Jamie Davis
D-Senate

Republican Julia Letlow has pledged to support President Trump while the Democrat, Jamie Davis, would give control of the Senate to the Left.

The fight for Congress from the 6th District pits Central State Sen. Rick Edmonds against Central native Stephen Wagley and Baton Rougean Monique Appeaning. Sen. Blake Miguez of New Iberia is the other major Republican candidate. They face Democrats Chauna

See ELECTION on Page 5

Leading Republicans for Congress-6

Monique Appeaning (R)

Rick Edmonds (R)

Blake Miguez (R)

Stephen Wagley (R)

Leading Democrats for Congress-6

Chauna Banks (D)

Patrick "Pat" Forbes (D)

Lindsay "Rubia" Garcia (D)

Additional Congressional Candidates on Page 30

GOP Endorses Candidates in Nov. 3 Election

BATON ROUGE - The Louisiana Republican Party and the Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish have made the following endorsements on the ballot in Central:

- **U.S. Senate** - Republican voters nominated Julia Letlow.
- **Congress-6** - Monique Appeaning (EBR-GOP), Blake Miguez (LA-GOP), Rick Edmonds (both)
- **Mayor of Central** - Lon Vicknair (LA-GOP)

See GOP on Page 8

City of Central

Mayor
City of Central

Geno Guercio	R
Aaron Moak	R
Lon Vicknair** CCN	R
Despo "D'Ann" Wells	R

Police Chief
City of Central

Roger Corcoran	R
Paul Kimball CCN	R
Larry "Lew" Walters, Jr. CCN	R

Central City Council
District 3

Hannah Brown	R
"Dave" Freneaux	R

Mayor of Central

GENO GUERCIO

AARON MOAK

LON VICKNAIR

DESPO "D'ANN" WELLS

Constitutional Amendments

EBR Republican Party Opposes No. 2.
Central City News Opposes No. 2
But Supports the Other Nine

No. 1 Transfer Property Tax Break for Spouse of Vet	Yes
No. 2 Higher Property Tax without Vote of People CCN	No
No. 3 Tougher Bail for Certain Crimes against Juveniles	Yes
No. 4 Two-terms for Governor	Yes
No. 5 Prioritizing Debt of State Retirement Systems	Yes
No. 6 Local Government Can Offer Tax Exemption for 65+	Yes
No. 7 Public Funds to Replace Water Lines on Private Land	Yes
No. 8 Foreign Adversaries Can't Expropriate Private Land	Yes
No. 9 Protects 65+ from Higher Property Taxes	Yes
No. 10 Lower Property Tax on Rehabilitated Property	Yes

Rep. Tony Perkins Brings Together over 20 Pastors

Central Pastors Hear Lon Vicknair Speak About Faith and Future of City of Central

Vicknair Says Life in Military, Business, Family Prepared Him for this Moment in Time, Service as Central Mayor

Woody Jenkins
Editor

CENTRAL - Twenty pastors from across Central gathered to fellowship with Mayoral candidate Lon Vicknair and to pray that the Lord would give him and his family good health and wisdom as he embarked on his campaign.

The event was organized by former Rep. Tony Perkins, who is himself an ordained minister.

Vicknair is Catholic but the ministers represented all the various Protestant faiths in Central.

When he spoke to the pastors, he recounted his own spiritual journey, especially his 20 years in the Navy and the challenges he faced in some of the most dangerous and hostile countries in the world.

Lon Vicknair said his family moved to Central when he was 8 years old, and he went to Central schools, graduating from Central High School in 1999. He joined the Navy shortly after graduation.

He talked about the importance of infrastructure in Central and recounted his own family's loss of so much as a result of the flood of 2016. He said the need for infrastructure is not something theoretical but very real for every family in Central.

He said that as a young man, he used to pray for personal things, such as how to get out of problems he'd gotten himself into. But, as he experienced many things in the military, he began to feel the call of God on his life, and everything changed.

Today I am so grateful for all our blessings, especially my wife, who is my rock, he said.

Vicknair said his campaign for Mayor is based on four pillars: Christ, Community, Commerce, and Crime. The spiritual aspect of life is what makes everything else meaningful, he said. During his time in the Middle East, he learned what it was like to fight for Christian values, and that is a battle that continues in Central.

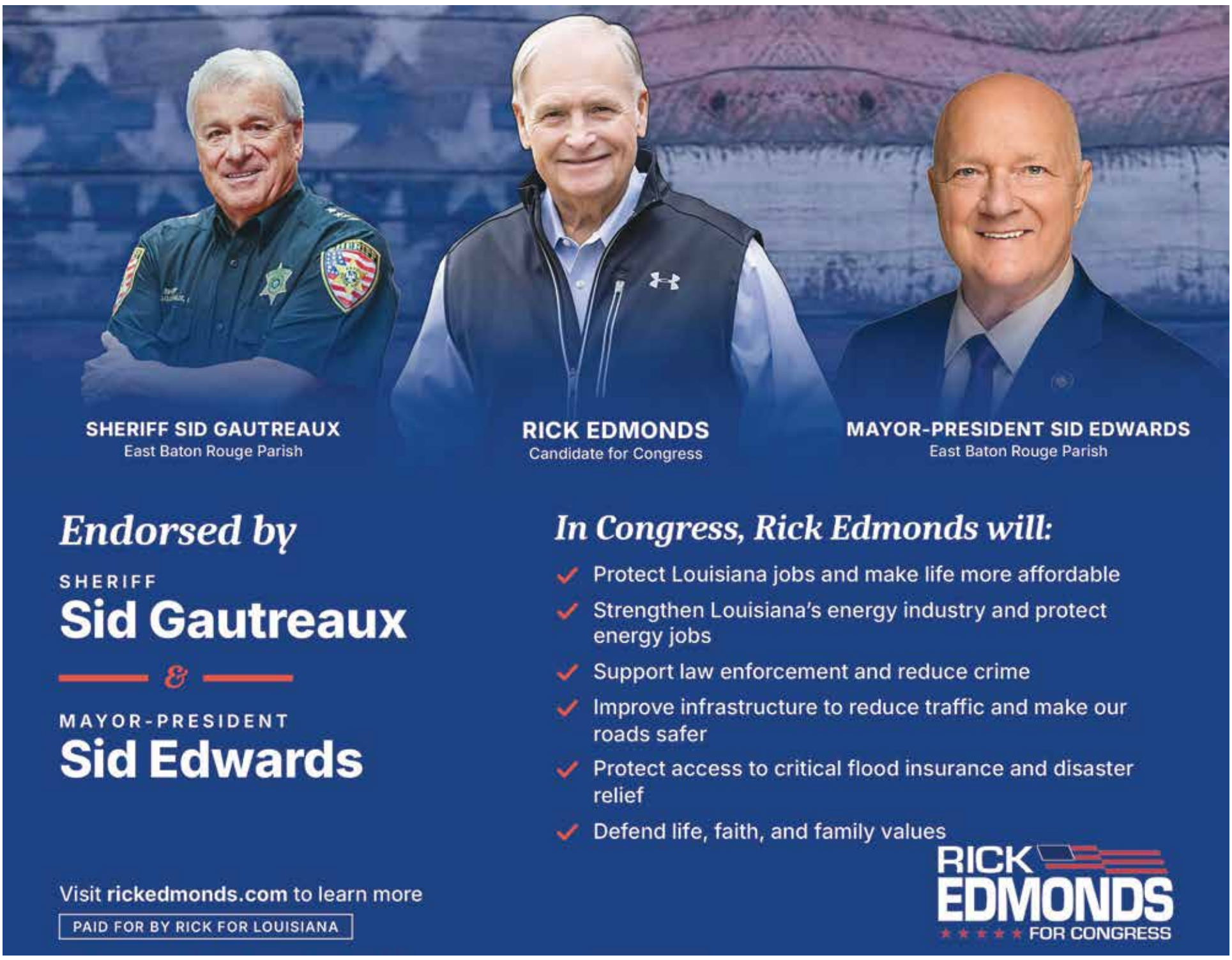
"This is not theoretical," he said. "Central is a conservative, Christian community, and that's why we have what we have. It didn't just happen. Long before we were here, others stood for faith and community, and that's why Central is what it is."

For more of Vicknair's remarks, click the QR code at left and watch his meeting with the pastors.

Lon Vicknair Meets with Central Pastors • Hosted by Rep. Tony Perkins
Video by Central City News

PASTORS' BREAKFAST — More than 20 Central pastors, representing most of the churches in Central, gathered to get to know Mayoral candidate Lon Vicknair better. The breakfast was hosted by Rev. (and former Rep.) Tony Perkins. The pastors got to hear Vicknair tell about his life's experience growing up in Central, spending 20 years in the Navy, pursuing a second career in business, and then serve as Chief of Staff for Mayor-President Sid Edwards for the past two years. The pastors asked questions and contributed their ideas about the future of Central. Perkins said he has high hopes that Vicknair can have a lasting impact of the City of Central.

LON VICKNAIR — Rep. Tony Perkins had a dialogue with Lon Vicknair, candidate for Mayor of the City of Central. Vicknair, a retired Navy officer, served as Chief of Staff to Mayor-President Sid Edwards. 20 Central pastors attended.



89-Yard Punt Return Against Ole Miss Built the Legend

Anniversary of Famous Billy Cannon Run Coming Up Halloween, Saturday, Oct. 31

Defending National Champ LSU Was Down 3-0 When Istrouma's Billy Cannon Made the TD of the Century

Woody Jenkins
Editor

BATON ROUGE - Saturday, October 31, 2026, is the anniversary of the most celebrated game in the annuls of LSU football.

Today, only five percent of Louisianians are old enough to remember a football game played in 1959. Statistically, of the 64,000 people in Tiger Stadium for the game, fewer than 4,000 are alive today.

It was Halloween night — Saturday, October 31, 1959 — and the game was a clash of titans.

LSU was the defending National Champion, undefeated, ranked No. 1 in the nation, and arguably one of the greatest teams in the history of college football.

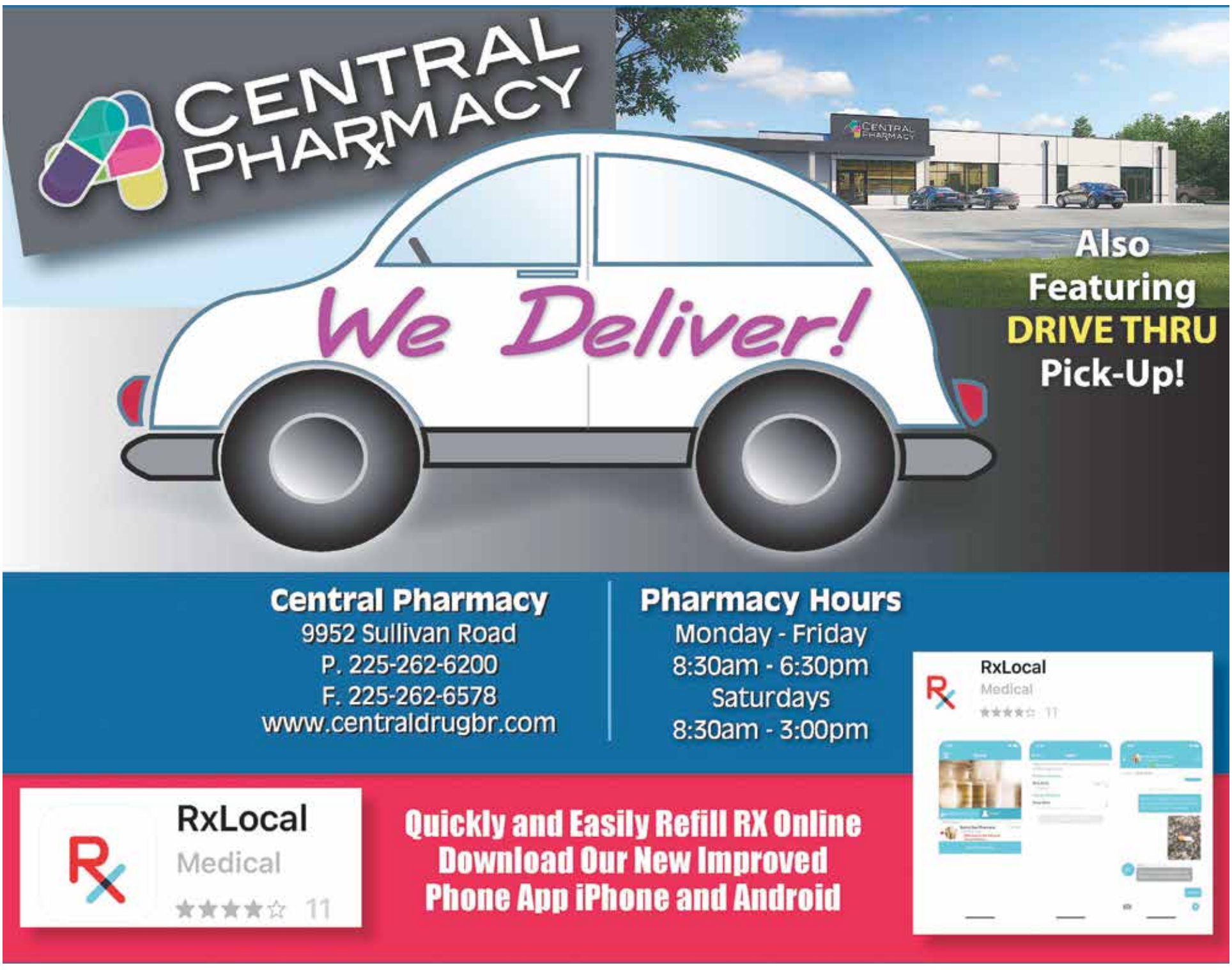
However, the Tigers, led by Coach Paul Dietzel and the legendary Billy Cannon, who won the Heisman Trophy that season, were a three-point underdog to the visiting Ole Miss Rebels.

Why? Ole Miss, coached by Johnny Vaught, was also undefeat-

See BILLY on Page 35

Louisiana History Brought to Life • An Illustrated Collection by Woody Jenkins © 2026

BILLY CANNON'S 89-YARD TOUCHDOWN RUN — The winning touchdown on Halloween night, Saturday, Oct. 31, 1959, in the game between the defending National Champion LSU Tigers, ranked No. 1 in the country in 1959, and their arch rivals, the Ole Miss Rebels, ranked No. 3 in the country. In the 4th quarter, Ole Miss was leading 3-0 and faced 3rd down and 17 yards to go on their own 42 yard line when Ole Miss coach Johnny Vaught decided to punt. Cannon, with his blazing speed, took the punt by Rebel quarterback Jake Gibbs and ran 89 yards for a touchdown. He scored with 10 minutes left on the clock. However, the tables soon turned and, with only seconds left, Ole Miss had the ball on the LSU goal line. On fourth down, Billy Cannon and Warren Rabb combined to stop backup Ole Miss quarterback Doug Elmore, sealing the LSU victory. Ironically, Billy Cannon was the greatest star in the history of Istrouma High School, while Warren Rabb was one of the greats in the history of their crosstown rival, Baton Rouge High. The Istrouma-Baton Rouge combination of Cannon and Rabb in this historic game helped seal forever the legendary rivalry of the two schools. The illustration above is from **Louisiana History Brought to Life, An Illustrative Collection by Woody Jenkins**. Historical research, narrative, and creative direction by Woody Jenkins. Illustrations created with generative AI under his direction.



Central City News Endorsements

Lon Vicknair Is a Good Choice For Mayor of the City of Central

CENTRAL - Rarely does a community have the opportunity to elect a Mayor who brings so much to the table as Lon Vicknair. A graduate of Central High School, a retired Navy officer with 20 years' experience in some of the most dangerous and difficult places in the world, a successful businessman, the former Chief of Staff for Mayor-President Sid Edwards, and a devoted husband and father, Lon has everything a wonderful conservative Christian community like Central needs.

Lon and his wife Rebecca are really a package deal. She is a hero in her own right — a career Navy veteran, a patriot, an articulate spokesman for the principles that make this country and this community great, a leader of Republican women, and most important a dedicated wife and mother.

After retiring from the Navy, Lon could have gone anywhere, but he chose to bring Rebecca and their children back to Central.

What a vote of confidence that is for Central and what a blessing they are to this city!

After returning to Central, Lon was successful in business and supervised a national company with offices in several states. While doing that, he gave of his time to serve for years as a reserve officer for the Central Police Department.

When Sid was elected, he brought Lon Vicknair in as his right-hand man, serving as Chief of Staff, overseeing our City-Parish government with its $1 billion budget and more than 4,000 employees.

Lon has also served on the Board of Commissioners of BREC.

All of that prepared Lon for the exciting challenge of being Mayor of this great city.

We applaud Lon and Rebecca for offering themselves and are proud to endorse them.

Together Lon and Rebecca will be great representatives of the Central community and role models who young people will be able to look up to for years to come.

Central City News Recommends

L.T. Dupré, Judge Twin Guillard Endorsed for Family Court Seats

CENTRAL - For years, the readers of the ***Central City News*** have learned about problems in the East Baton Rouge Parish Family Court.

Now there's a chance to do something about those problems!

There are two outstanding candidates running for two separate seats on the Family Court:

• **Judge Caulette "Twin" Guillard** is the new Family Court judge from **Division A**, which covers the Mid-City area of Baton Rouge down to the western end of the City of St. George.

Judge Guillard was elected in a special election May 15 to fill the remainder of the term of Family Court Judge Pam Baker who retired under fire. Judge Guillard is now running for the full term Nov. 3.

• **Zachary City Prosecutor L.T. Dupré**, who is running for the Family Court seat from **Division C**, which includes Zachary, Central and most of the City of St. George.

There are many problems in Family Court but probably the most important is the fact that there has been a special relationship between some of the Family Court judges and a handful of attorneys who practice family law.

Basically, if you are a member of the "in crowd" in the Family Court bar, you may fare much better than others.

The issues involving Family Court are not about Republicans or Democrats or blacks or whites, but rather about fundamental fairness before the law.

The case of Katherine Diamond of Baton Rouge is a good example. Mrs. Diamond is the mother of twins, a boy and a girl, both now 15. Years ago she was falsely accused of child abuse of the daughter.

We say "falsely accused" because a video of the alleged abuse has been shown countless times and there is clearly no abuse. At a scheduled exchange of the children, she is simply trying to get her daughter in the car.

Family Court Candidates

Judge "Twin" Guillard Division A

Lawrence "L.T." Dupre Division C

The father took the video and made the allegation of abuse. However, neither he nor anyone called law enforcement, the District Attorney, Child Enforcement, or anyone else, and no one from the government ever interviewed the children or the mother. It was simply his statement and nothing else.

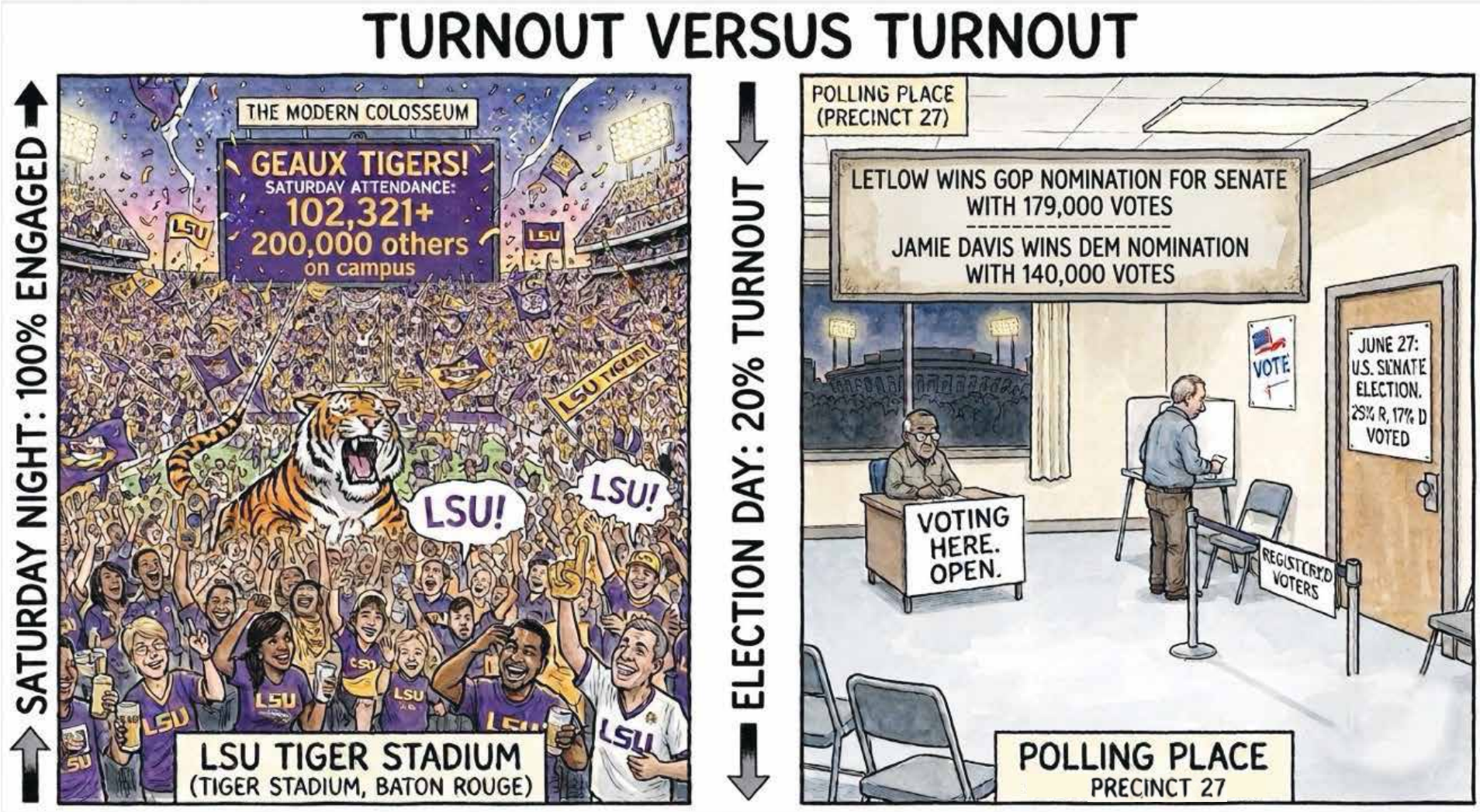
As a result of this ludicrous allegation, Mrs. Diamond has not been allowed to see her children in years.

Moreover, she was sent to Parish Prison by the judge on numerous occasions and made to pick up trash on the levee many times — not for child abuse but for failure to pay her husband's attorney fees of $70,000!

The intent of some of the attorneys practicing in Family Court with the assistance of some judges seems to be to impoverish and criminalise parents who have done nothing wrong.

It's time for a change. Judge Guillard, a Democrat, and attorney L.T. Dupré, a Republican, are a good start. They are of high character and not part of the problem in Family Court.

The ***Central City News*** is proud to endorse Judge Twin Guillard and attorney L. T. Dupré on Nov. 3.



Great Turnout at Tiger Stadium but a Disturbing Turnout at Polls

The Roman Colosseum, LSU Tiger Stadium, And Louisiana's Lack of Civic Engagement

A Great Turnout at LSU Has No Impact on Future But a Low Voter Turnout Can Destroy Our Nation

Woody Jenkins
Editor

If You Have any Sense of Patriotism or Love of Country or Self-Respect, You Will Take Time to Study the Candidates and Vote!

BATON ROUGE - What do the Roman Colosseum, LSU Tiger Stadium, and the Senate election of June 27, 2026 have to do with one another? A lot!

Think of the Roman Colosseum — not as history but as a mirror.

The Roman Colosseum was completed in 80 AD. It seated up to 80,000 spectators. For 400 years, it was used to entertain the people of Rome and to distract them from the real issues facing the empire and their own future.

Woody Jenkins
Editor

The Colosseum was the pinnacle of Roman Emperors' and politicians' tactic of using **"bread and circuses"** to pacify the people.

An estimated 500,000 people, including early Christians, were killed there and more than one million animals. Apparently, over time, that works to draw a crowd.

Our Own Colosseum. LSU Tiger Stadium is one of the largest stadiums in the world. It seats 102,321 people. But on game day as many as 200,000 additional people come onto the LSU campus for the incredible scene. Estimates range from 250,000 to 300,000 on campus at one time.

But Saturday night at Tiger Stadium is not about one day.

For weeks, people prepare for game day. New clothing is purchased. Food is ordered and prepared. RV's and other vehicles are decorated and made ready for tailgating. Families plan their schedule around going to Baton Rouge. Millions of dollars are spent on concessions. Businesses gear up to try to get some of the spillover.

The LSU coach is paid $91 million with many bonuses available. LSU players are paid as much as $4 million or more a year to play college football, a sport that has suddenly become professional.

For us in Louisiana, Tiger Stadium on Saturday nights is the pinnacle of our Louisiana "community." For a few hours, there is the illusion that we are "one people."

Then the game is over and people fight the crowds and the traffic to return home.

Yet, all the problems in our city and state remain.

The athletic complex at LSU is lavishly appointed. Fit for a king. Actually, few kings in history have enjoyed such a level of luxury. The investments in the athletic complex flow in, seemingly without end.

Yet, a few blocks away, our streets are full of potholes. The grass on public spaces is unmowed. The woody waste is rarely picked up. In Baton Rouge alone, more than 5,000 houses are empty and blighted. Dependence and grinding poverty embrace much of our population.

Manufactured Unity. The investment in athletic facilities concentrates great wealth while important matters of state are underfunded or not funded at all. Examples are the lack of mental hospitals in this state and the desperate need for a new parish jail, not to mention our broken infrastructure.

Yes, for a few moments we are "Tiger Nation." But are we really?

Turnout on Saturday night at Tiger Stadium is amazing? Almost every seat is often filled!

However, unfortunately, when we have an election, **most people** are suddenly very busy and AWOL. They have family commitments or whatever. The sense of "community" is suddenly gone.

The Roman Colosseum was and Tiger Stadium is a ritual of unity. It is a great spectacle, and we are the spectators.

But citizenship is not a specta-

See IF YOU on Page 9

Election Nov. 3, Vote Early Oct. 20-27

Continued from Page 1

Banks, Lindsay Garcia, and Pat Forbes. Other candidates in the race are Republicans Larry Davis III and Michael Mebruer and Libertarian Rufus Craig.

In Central, the hottest race is for Mayor to fill the vacancy caused by Mayor Wade Evans' decision not to seek reelection. Four Republicans are seeking the seat — businessman Geno Guercio, Metro Councilman Aaron Moak, Mayor-President Sid Edwards' Chief of Staff Lon Vicknair, and Central City Council member Despo "D'Ann" Wells. Another major race is for Police Chief. Incumbent Roger Corcoran is challenged by Paul Kimball and Larry "Lew" Walters.

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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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"I'M RUNNING FOR CONGRESS BECAUSE WASHINGTON IS FAILING OUR FAMILIES.

This is the fight of our lives for our kids' future—and saving the country starts right here in Louisiana."

-Stephen Wagley

STEPHEN WAGLEY
FOR U.S. CONGRESS

CHRISTIAN • CONSERVATIVE • OUTSIDER • BUSINESSMAN

ELECTION DAY IS NOV. 3RD

GEAUX VOTE STEPHEN WAGLEY FOR CONGRESS.

EARLY VOTING: OCT. 20TH – 27TH

PAID FOR BY WAGLEY FOR CONGRESS

ELECT LARRY "LEW" WALTERS FOR CENTRAL POLICE CHIEF

EXPERIENCE ★ LEADERSHIP ★ DEDICATION

ENDORSED BY RETIRED SENATOR MACK "BODI" WHITE

"A strong, fair Chief of Police and protector of our Central Community"

ENDORSED BY LOUISIANA LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSOCIATION

REPRESENTING MORE THAN 2,500 RANK-AND-FILE LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS ACROSS LOUISIANA

ENDORSED BY BATON ROUGE UNION OF POLICE LOCAL 237

28 YEARS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

- ★ PATROL
- ★ INVESTIGATIONS
- ★ FUGITIVE TASK FORCE
- ★ LEADERSHIP

A CAREER OF SERVICE

1995 • WEST BATON ROUGE PARISH SHERIFF'S OFFICE

I began my law enforcement career at the age of 20, on August 1, 1995, serving as a Deputy Sheriff with the West Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office. Early in my tenure, I was promoted to Corporal and appointed as the Operations Manager of the Work Release Center.

1995-2000 • PATROL & SWAT

After turning 21, I was transferred to Uniformed Patrol and completed the LSU Basic Training Academy. Over the next four years, I served in patrol operations and as a member of the Crisis Response (SWAT) Team, gaining valuable experience in tactical response and community protection.

2000-2005 • BATON ROUGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

On August 14, 2000, I joined the Baton Rouge Police Department, completing the department's academy and serving in the 3rd, 2nd, and 4th Districts during my Field Training Officer period. From 2001 to 2005, I worked in Uniformed Patrol at the 4th District, rotating through various shifts—from evening shift to dog shift—where I developed a strong foundation in patrol work and community engagement.

2005-2010 • ARMED ROBBERY DIVISION

In 2005, I was assigned to the Armed Robbery Division as a Detective, investigating a wide range of cases, including bank robberies, personal robberies, and other major theft-related crimes. This role allowed me to sharpen my investigative skills and play a vital part in solving serious offenses affecting our community.

2010-2014 • U.S. MARSHALS FUGITIVE TASK FORCE

In 2010, I was honored to join the United States Marshals Fugitive Task Force as a Task Force Officer, where I was responsible for locating and apprehending dangerous fugitives. I served in that capacity until 2014, when I returned to Uniformed Patrol and was promoted to Sergeant at the 4th District. After several years of leadership in that role, I was promoted to Lieutenant and transferred to Uniformed Patrol at the 1st District, where I continued serving with dedication and professionalism.

2023 • RETIREMENT & NEXT CHAPTER

After 28 years of service, I retired on September 22, 2023, to focus on my next chapter—continuing the pursuit of my business, Lew's Firearms, and spending more time with my family while embracing new opportunities and future adventures.

PROVEN EXPERIENCE. ★ DEDICATED SERVICE. ★ A SAFER CENTRAL.

St. Alphonsus Catholic School

13940 Greenwell Springs Road
Greenwell Springs, LA 70739
225-261-5299 stalphonsusbr.org
Kristy Monsour, Principal

Who Are We?

- Religious Education
- Weekly Mass
- Dyslexia Lab Program
- GRACE Special Education Program
- Reading and Math Intervention
- Counseling Program
- Morning and Afternoon Care Program
- Computer Lab
- Hands-On Interactive Science Lab
- Spanish 2nd-8th grade
- High School Credit in Algebra 1, Physical Science, and Spanish 1
- Summer Camp
- Athletics 3rd-8th grade
- Extracurricular activities/clubs

Candidates for District Court Judge

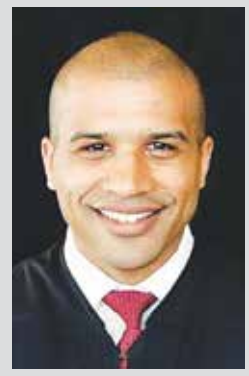
EBR Parishwide District Judge 19th JDC Division B

Winston DeCuir, Jr.

Justin DeLaune

District 1 (Western) District Judge 19th JDC ES 1, Division L

Elzie Alford


Jermaine Guillory

District 1 (Western) District Judge 19th JDC ES 1, Division M

ReAzalia Allen

Allison "AJ" Sabine

Vernon Thomas

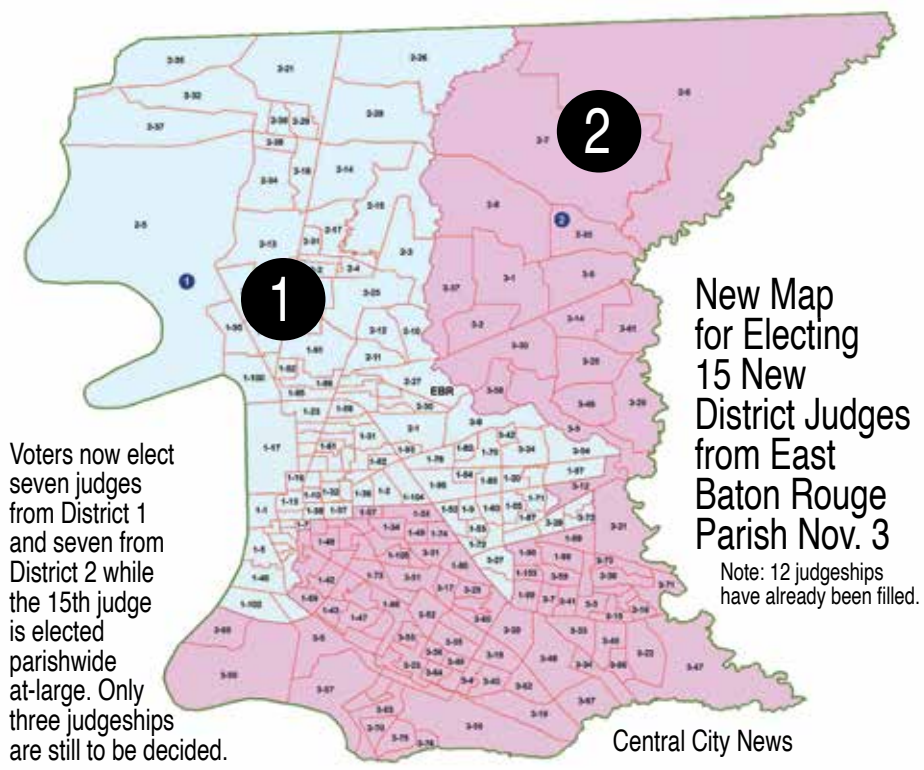
BATON ROUGE - All 15 District Court judgeships in the 19th Judicial District (East Baton Rouge Parish) are up for election Nov. 3. Because of mandatory retirements and a new reapportionment plan, the district court is likely to have a more conservative tilt.

The current court has 10 judges who come from majority black districts and five from a majority white district.

Voter registration in the parish is 47 percent white and 44 percent black.

Under the new reapportionment system, seven judges will be elected from District 1, a Democrat-leaning majority black district, and seven judges will be elected from District 2, a Republican-leaning majority white district. The 15th judge will be elected parishwide.

Ten incumbent judges were unopposed for reelection, and two of the five vacant seats have only one candidate. As a result, there are only three judgeships still to be decided in the parish Nov. 3.



In District 1, which includes Baker, Zachary, and all of North Baton Rouge except Central and Pride, two judgeships will be decided, Division L and Division M.

District 1

Division L - Attorneys Elzie Alford and Jermaine Guillory are running for Division L from District 1.

Division M - Attorneys ReAzalia Allen, Allison "AJ" Sabine, and Vernon Thomas, also from District 1.

District 2

All judgeships from District 2 have already been filled

Parishwide

Division B - Perhaps the most interesting race will be the parishwide race for Division B featuring Winston DeCuir, Jr., a Democrat, and Justin DeLaune, a Republican. Both are considered conservative.

Candidates for Family Court

BATON ROUGE - Four Baton Rouge area attorneys are vying for two seats on the East Baton Rouge Parish Family Court in the election Tuesday, Nov. 3.

In Division A, incumbent Family Court Judge Caulette "Twin" Guillard is being challenged by Baton Rouge attorney Joseph Cataldie.

The election will be a rematch of the May 16 special election when Guillard defeated Cataldie to fill the vacancy left by the retirement of Family Court Judge Pam Baker in 2025.

This area includes South Baton Rouge, Melrose, Villa Del Ray, Broadmoor, Sherwood Forest, South Baton Rouge, and the western part of the City of St. George.

Division A has two Family Court judges. The other judge, Kyle Russ, has served since 2023. He is unopposed for reelection this fall.

Also unopposed is Family Court Judge Erika Green, who was reelected from Division B, a district which includes downtown, Baker, and parts of North Baton Rouge.

In Division C, Zachary City Prosecutor L.T. Dupré and Baton Rouge attorney Wendy Edwards Morice are running to replace Family Court Judge Charlene Day who took office in 2011 and has reached the mandatory retirement age.

This district goes from the northwest part of East Baton Rouge Parish near Port Hudson all the way to St. George in the southeast corner of the parish. It includes the cities of Zachary and Central and the eastern part of the City of St. George.

Family Court Judge Division A

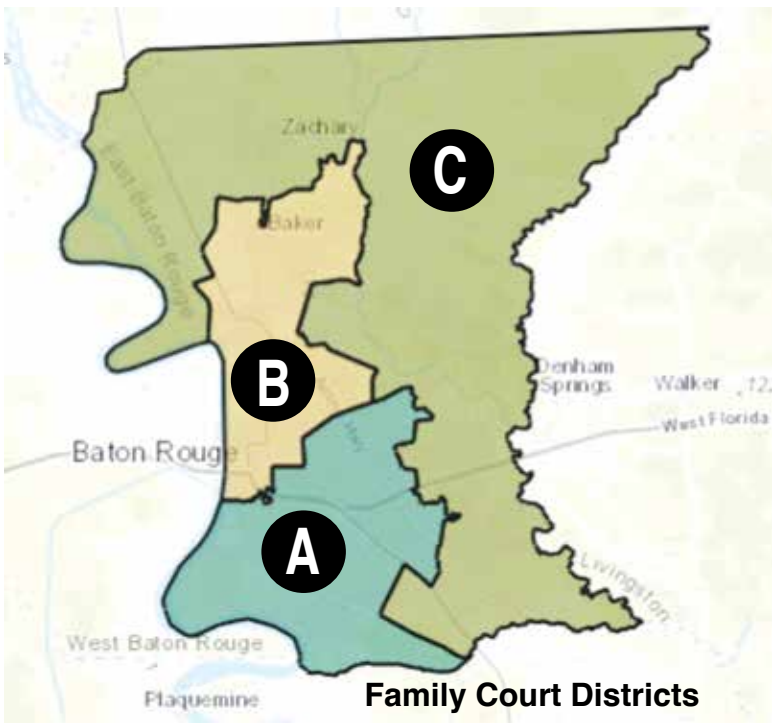
Joseph Cataldie

Judge Caulette "Twin" Guillard

Family Court Judge Division C

Lawrence "L.T." Dupre

Wendy Edwards Morice



Family Court Districts

Since only two candidates are running in each race, no runoff will be necessary.

GOP Endorsements For Races in Central

Continued from Page 1

- **District Judge (Div. B)** - Justin DeLaune (EBR-GOP)
- **Constable,** JP District 2) - Dwayne Rogers (EBR-GOP)
- **Justice of the Peace,** Dist. 3 - Mark Miley (EBR-GOP)
- **Constable,** JP District 3 - Gordon Hutchinson (EBR-GOP)
- **Constitutional Amendment No. 2** - No

In one other race near Central, the Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish endorsed:

- **Congress (2nd District)** - Rev. Peter Williams

★★★

Central City News Makes Additional Endorsements

CENTRAL - The ***Central City News*** has endorsed all of the Republican candidates listed above. In addition, it is endorsing the following candidates:

- **Congress (6th District)** - Stephen Wagley
- **District Court, Div. L** - Elzie Alford
- **District Court, Div. M** - Vernon Thomas
- **Family Court, Div. A** - Judge Caulette Guillard
- **Family Court, Div. C** - Lawrence "LT" Dupré
- **Central School Board, Dist. 1** - Jeffrey LaCour or Jason Leaphart
- **Central Police Chief** - Paul Kimball or Larry "Lew" Walters

If You Love Louisiana, You Will Vote

Continued from Page 5

tor sport. Every citizen has a role to play and voting is a very important part of that role.

Both the Roman Colosseum and Tiger Stadium pander to our tendency to be distracted by bright and shiny things while ignoring what is really important.

Yes, most people are too busy to vote, and fewer still actually take time to study the candidates and cast an informed, intelligent vote.

The governor's race in 2023 is a case in point. In the first primary Oct. 23, 2023, only 36.3 per cent of registered voters actually voted. Of those, Jeff Landry received 51.6 percent. This means he was elected by 17.8 percent of registered voters!

Imagine that! 62.2 percent of voters failed to vote at all in the governor's race! How pathetic!

In the 2023 governor's race, only 1,060,000 people bothered to vote out of 2.9 million. One political scientist said it was the most apathetic and least interested electorate he's ever seen. It was the lowest number of votes cast for governor in at least the past 50 years.

The governor is the most powerful person in the State of Louisiana. He may be the most powerful governor in the country. But people don't care enough to vote on it.

Okay, I've got it! People are really, really busy. Too busy to vote!

I also know the standard response. "There's not a dime's worth of difference!"

Really? So that's why you didn't vote? For governor? What about all the other things on the ballot down to dog catcher? Not a dime's worth of difference in any of them?

Not long ago, I asked an employee of a federal agency why her colleagues didn't do their job. She surprised me with her answer:

"Dey lazy ass!"

Yes, they are!

And if you don't bother to vote, so are you!

Contrast the sea of people at Tiger Stadium and outside tailgating to the lonely polling place where a few commissioners and a handful of voters are waiting to do their civic duty.

We treat athletes as a big deal but the ordinary citizen who works hard everyday, pays his bills, pays his taxes, and votes on election day is a nobody.

As citizens, we have many responsibilities. It's the price of freedom and living in this beautiful land.

That's why we at the ***Central City News*** run story after story about the candidates and what they stand for. So you will know!

That brings me to the Republican and Democratic runoffs for United States Senate on June 27, 2026. The Senate was and still is hanging in the balance. It could go either way. Every important policy decision in our country is on the line. So is the security of our country.

Yet, only 25 percent of Republicans voted and 17 percent of Democrats voted for United States Senate!

That means 75 percent of the Republicans stayed home and didn't vote, and 83 percent of Democrats stayed home and didn't vote.

You lazy asses out there need to wake up. The future of our country and of your family is at stake.

Turnout vs. Turnout. The turnout at Tiger Stadium is fantastic. It is wonderful for a moment and then it is gone with no lasting impact. The turnout at the ballot box has a lasting impact on the destiny of our country.

A spectacle can be a shared ritual of unity but it should not be the only time we are together. The voting precinct where we decide the future should be a place that truly brings us together.

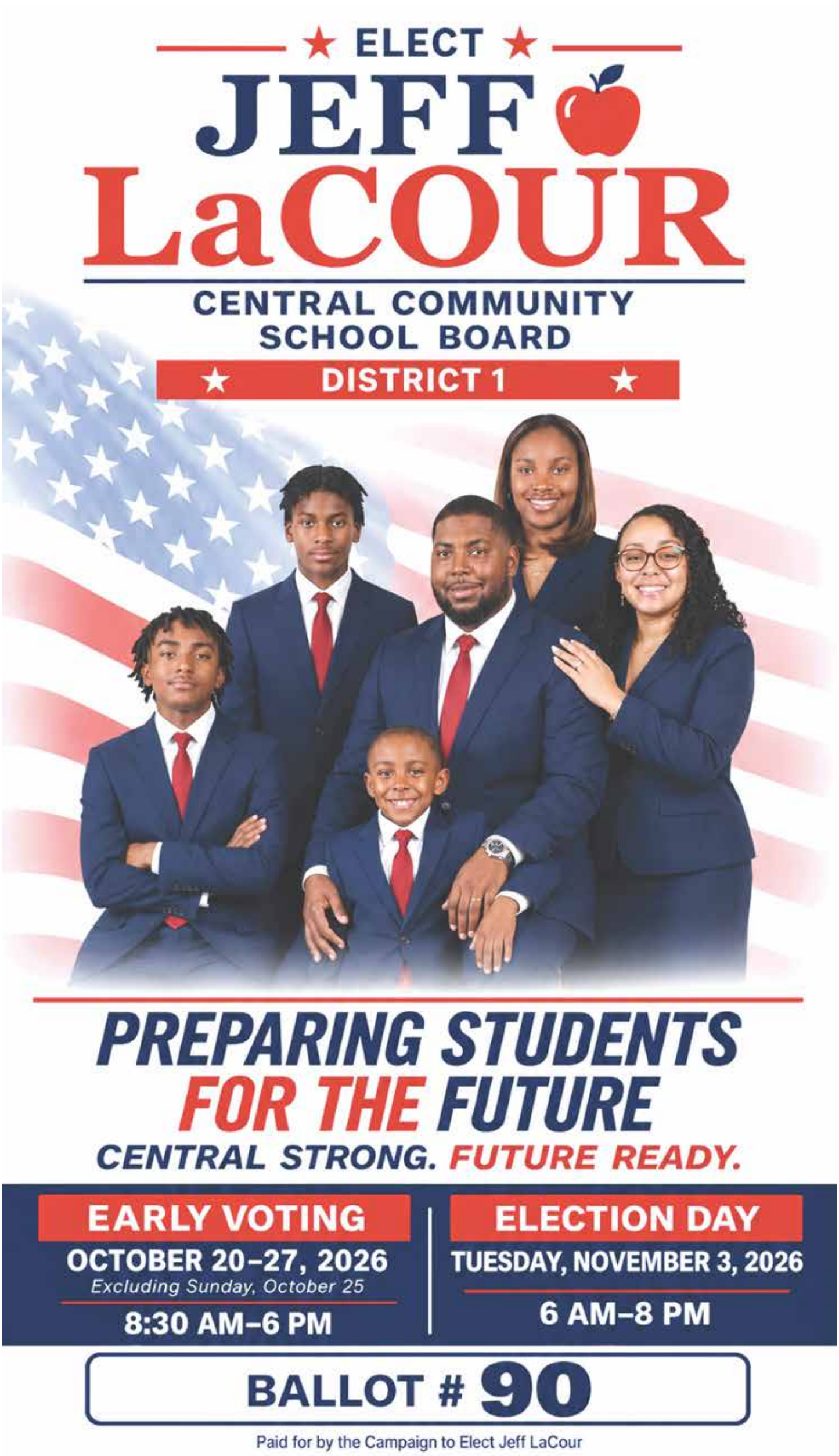
Of course, the powers that be in our state love that we love the stadium and the roar of the crowd. They also love that they have us focused on that and not the serious issues we face as a state and nation.

The bottom line is: LSU football and sports in general are great. But they are not God and they are far less important than the future of our country. So while cheering for the Tigers, keep your eye on the ball!

If you truly love our state, you won't just go to a game. You will report for duty on election day, and vote!

If you're not going to vote, at least have the decency to shut up and not complain about anything ever!

If you're not going to vote, please call the Registrar of Voters and take your name off the voting rolls, so your absence on election day won't add to the public spectacle of our apathy!



Charters of Freedom Display Unveiled On Grounds of Capitol Park Museum

CHARTERS OF FREEDOM DISPLAY features full-size, metal-etched replicas of the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. Constitution, the Bill of Rights, and the Civil Rights Amendments. The design is modeled after the National Archives setting in Washington, D.C., and was created in partnership with Foundation Forward, marking Louisiana's first Charters of Freedom setting and the 83rd nationwide. It was unveiled by Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser (right) and the Sons of the American Revolution to commemorate America's 250th anniversary (America 250) and the 247th anniversary of the first Battle of Baton Rouge in 1779, when Spanish and militia forces defeated the British and their German mercenaries.

STEVE KUBICEK, PRESIDENT, LOUISIANA SONS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION welcomed everyone to ceremonies unveiling the Charters of Freedom at the Capitol Park Museum in front of the Louisiana State Capitol. The documents will be on permanent display and are intended to last for generations. The color guard of the Sons of the American Revolution played an important role in the ceremonies, which included artillery and musket salutes.

Charters of Freedom Monument • Capitol Park Museum • Sept. 19, 2026

Photos and Video by Woody Jenkins for the Central City News

Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser, Jr. Honored At Stars and Stripes Gala 'Roast and Toast'

LT. GOV. BILLY NUNGESSER, JR. at the Annual Stars and Stripes Banquet October 5, 2026, at the Renaissance Hotel. The lieutenant governor was honored for his years of service to the people of Louisiana. As always, the event was a "roast and toast," and friends gave him a bit of a hard time, all in fun of course. In center photo, Agriculture Commissioner Bil Strain, one of Billy Nungesser's close friends, shares a laugh. At left, former Rep. Woody Jenkins who toasted the real Billy Nungesser —his father, Billy, Sr. — who was Executive Assistant to Louisiana's first Republican governor in modern times, Gov. Dave Treen. The elder Nungesser later served as State Republican chairman.

GLORIA WALL (center) who served as mistress of ceremonies was honored by fellow members of the East Baton Rouge Republican Women's Club, which hosted the event. Center right is Jennifer Richardson, chairman of Keep Tiger Town Beautiful. At right, Lt. Gov. Nungesser displays his award. At left, next to Billy is Lynn Coxe Graham of EBRWRC .

TOASTING BILLY (left) and at right Central mayoral candidate Lon Vicknair, Rebecca Vicknair, Carol Thomas, Cindy and Sen. Rick Edmonds, and Alex Foret.

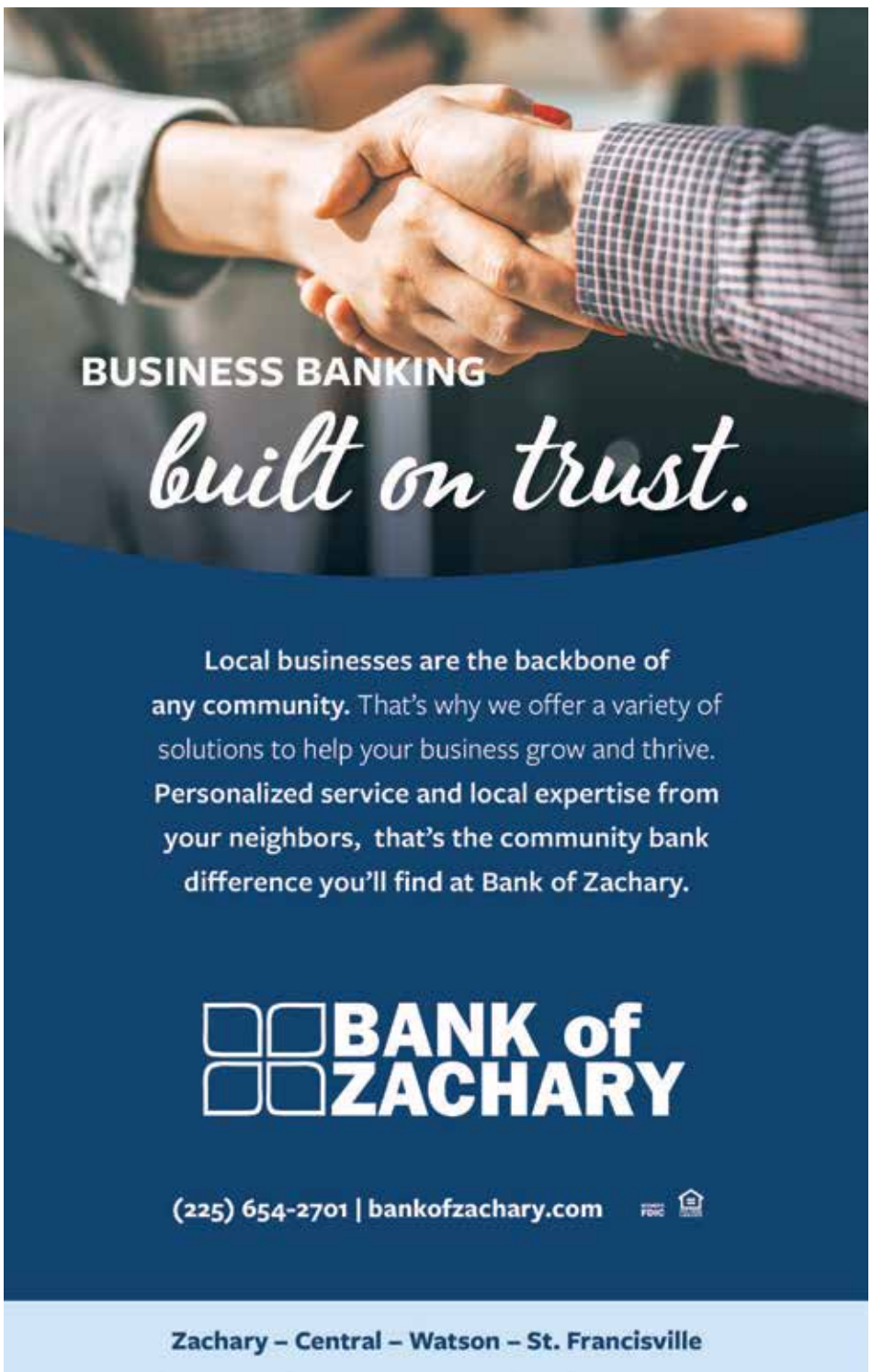
ROASTERS AND TOASTERS included Aly Brodsky, Republican National Committeewoman Gina Gore, Sen. Blake Miguez, Woody Jenkins, Liz Sumrall, and Dr. Bill Strain

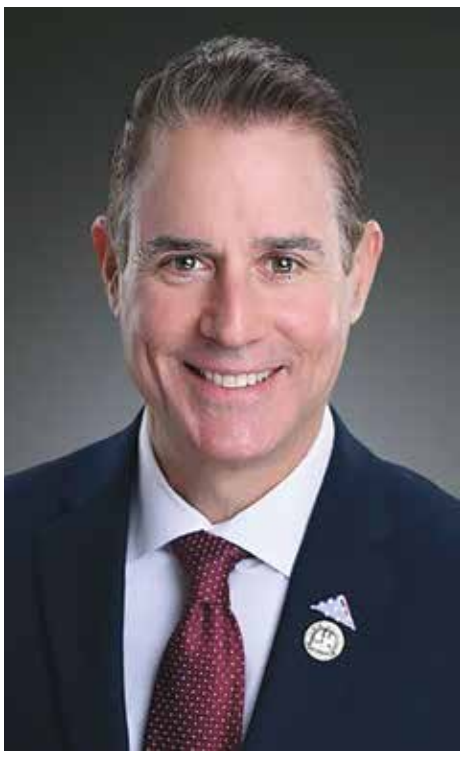
BILLY NUNGESSER, JR.
Stars & Stripes Gala
Roast & Toast
Renaissance Hotel
Video by Central City News

THEY HAD THEIR SAY about Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser — Rep. Tim Kerner, John Burge of Katrina Energy, District Attorney Hillar Moore, emcee Gloria Wall, Dr. Bill Strain, Commissioner of Agriculture, and Jennifer Richardson of Keep Tiger Town Beautiful,

Investigative Committee's Report: Massive Violation of Rights by JBE

Media Has Ignored Findings that Governor Undermined Civil Liberties and Weaponized State Agencies Against Small Business





REP. JAY GALLE, chairman of the House Select Committee on Homeland Security, and vice chairman Rep. Chuck Owen say Gov. John Bel Edwards violated our rights.

BATON ROUGE - Louisiana's House Select Committee on Homeland Security has issued a blistering report on Gov. John Bel Edwards' handing of COVID-19, alleging the governor exaggerated the threat of the virus, used the event to "undermine civil liberties," attacked and intimidated small business, and used unethical tactics to push vaccination.

The report was signed by committee chairman Rep. Jay Galle of Mandeville and vice chairman Rep. Chuck Owen of Leesville.

Despite the far-reaching findings in the report, the mainstream media have failed to examine its contents.

Some of the findings were:

• From the beginning, Gov. John Bel Edwards created an adversarial atmosphere, framing the public response as a battle between compliance and defiance.

• He demonized those who disagreed with his authoritarian decrees as enemies of the common good.

• He falsely stated that rights under the Constitution are not an absolute when many of them are.

• While the Louisiana Constitution says the rights in the Declaration of Rights are inalienable by the state, he told the public to "stop worrying about their rights."

• He attempted to manipulate public perception of the problem, exaggerating the threat of SARCoV-2 to justify sweeping business closures, enforce mask mandates, and push vaccines.

• Contrary to the right to privacy provision of the Louisiana Constitution, Edwards used cellular data to monitor the movement of Louisiana residents.

• Edwards weaponized the State Fire Marshal's office against small business owners who refused to comply with his edicts and threatened them with the loss of their licenses, when they had violated no law.

• The governor used unethical tactics to push vaccination including a $1 million vaccine lottery targeting minors.

• Edwards' administration consistently denied the reality of vaccine injuries and deaths.

• Even though the vaccines were experimental, Gov. Edwards dismissed concerns that they were experimental.

• While Covid deaths were highly publicized, the Governor deliberately withheld data showing the vaccines were not performing as promised. Key statistics were apparently removed from the Dept. of Health's dashboard, possibly concealing evidence of harm associated with the vaccine.

• When the Louisiana House used the option afforded to it by law to end an emergency, the governor simply ignored their action and continued his orders.

• During Covid, the governor's power remained unchecked and unchallenged.

The report concluded by saying in the future constitutional protections must not be suspended, and all executive orders must be "measured and constrained."

LOUISIANA
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
House Select Committee on Homeland Security

Report on State Response to COVID-19 Pandemic

From the earliest days of the pandemic, the executive branch fostered **an adversarial atmosphere**, **framing the public response as a battle between compliance and defiance**. Rather than empowering Louisianans to take responsibility for their own health, the administration promoted **an exclusionary narrative—branding skeptics and dissenters as enemies of the common good**.

Governor Edwards himself reinforced this **divisive stance**, s**tating that "rights under the Constitution are not an absolute," and urging citizens to "stop worrying about their rights and do the right thing."** Such rhetoric **undermined civil liberties** and eroded the very principles that should guide leadership in times of crisis.

Article I Section 1 of the state's constitution should have been the guiding principle in every decision made during the emergency declaration.

> *"All government, of right, originates with the people, is founded on their will alone, and is instituted **to protect the rights of the individual** and for the good of the whole. Its only legitimate ends are to secure justice for all, preserve peace, protect the rights, and promote the happiness and general welfare of the people. **The rights enumerated in this Article are inalienable by the state and shall be preserved inviolate by the state**."*

Instead, **this foundational principle was ignored** as viral mitigation became the priority. The executive branch leveraged press conferences and health department messaging **to manipulate public perception—exaggerating the threat of SARS-CoV-2, justifying sweeping business closures, enforcing mask mandates, and ultimately driving vaccine uptake**. At one point, **the state used cellular data to monitor the movement of Louisiana residents**.

The State Fire Marshal was **weaponized against small business owners** who refused to comply, and restaurants were **threatened with the loss of their licenses** for standing their ground.

Governor Edwards resorted to **unethical tactics to push vaccination**, including using federal funds to finance a $1 million vaccine lottery that **shamefully targeted minors**.

The executive branch consistently denied the reality of COVID vaccine injuries and deaths. Despite the vaccines being distributed under Emergency Use Authorization, the administration dismissed concerns that they were experimental. **At no point did the Governor's Office launch a public awareness campaign to educate the public about vaccine injury reporting procedures or acknowledge the growing number of adverse events**.

While COVID deaths were routinely memorialized, **the executive branch deliberately withheld data showing the vaccines were not performing as promised**. **Key statistics were seemingly removed** from the Louisiana Department of Health's dashboard, **possibly concealing evidence of significant harm associated with COVID vaccination**.

It should be noted that under current law, **the Louisiana Legislature had the power to end the COVID emergency at any time a majority of one of the houses of the legislature would petition the governor to do so**. **On one occasion, the House of Representatives offered up a petition, but the governor summarily refused to follow the order** and the case became tangled up in court.

Leadership in the House of Representatives **refused to follow through on the legal process and the governor's power remain unchecked and virtually unchallenged**.

Going forward, constitutional protections must not be suspended in times of crisis—they should be the standard by which all emergency policies and executive orders are measured and constrained.

Rep. Jack "Jay" Gallé, Jr.
Chairman

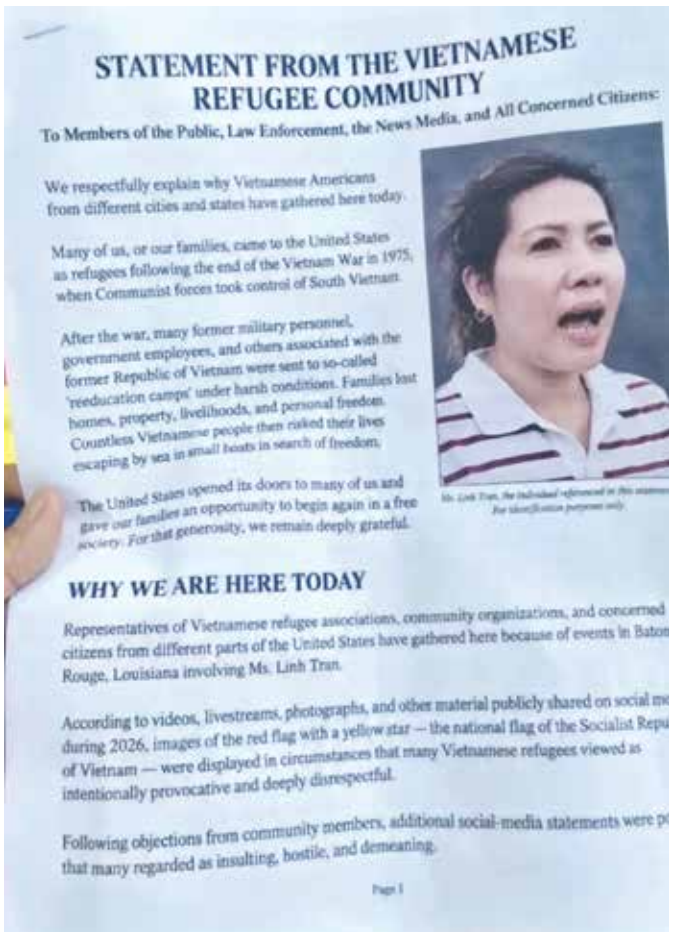
Rep. Chuck Owen
Vice Chairman

Woman Mocks Suffering of Those Who Fled Persecution

Pro-American Vietnamese Protest Communist Spokesman in Central

VIETNAMESE REFUGEES from throughout the Baton Rouge area organized a protest of several hundred people on Friday, Oct. 2, 2026, near Covers Unlimited on Hooper Road in Central. They were protesting Linh Tran, a pro-Communist Vietnamese who mocks the suffering of millions of Vietnamese after the Vietnam War and even today.

Linh Tran defends Communist Vietnam, a one-party state that persecutes political opposition, dissenting political views, criticism of the government, and advocacy of civil rights.



STATEMENT FROM THE VIETNAMESE REFUGEE COMMUNITY

To Members of the Public, Law Enforcement, the News Media, and All Concerned Citizens:

We respectfully explain why Vietnamese Americans from different cities and states have gathered here today.

Many of us, or our families, came to the United States as refugees following the end of the Vietnam War in 1975, when Communist forces took control of South Vietnam.

After the war, many former military personnel, government employees, and others associated with the former Republic of Vietnam were sent to so-called 'reeducation camps' under harsh conditions. Families lost homes, property, livelihoods, and personal freedom. Countless Vietnamese people then risked their lives escaping by sea in small boats in search of freedom.

The United States opened its doors to many of us and gave our families an opportunity to begin again in a free society. For that generosity, we remain deeply grateful.

Ms. Linh Tran, the individual referenced in this statement. For identification purposes only.

WHY WE ARE HERE TODAY

Representatives of Vietnamese refugee associations, community organizations, and concerned citizens from different parts of the United States have gathered here because of events in Baton Rouge, Louisiana involving Ms. Linh Tran.

According to videos, livestreams, photographs, and other material publicly shared on social me during 2026, images of the red flag with a yellow star — the national flag of the Socialist Repu of Vietnam — were displayed in circumstances that many Vietnamese refugees viewed as intentionally provocative and deeply disrespectful.

Following objections from community members, additional social-media statements were p that many regarded as insulting, hostile, and demeaning.

Page 1

"How can we wipe out all those anti-Communist Vietnamese maggots, all those reverse engineered mutants... those stupid foolish, stateless people longing for their homeland? I kneel before you maggots, I'm so scared you might deport me... How can we wipe out all you anti-Communist maggots?"

— Linh Tran at Covers Unlimited

This woman, who works out of Covers Unlimited in Central, calls for us anti-Communist Vietnamese to be 'wiped out'. Her hate-filled extremist message is threatening and anti-American. She is deeply disrespectful to the freedom-loving Vietnamese community here who suffered so much from Communism. We want people to know who you have in your midst. To understand, please click the QR code below and watch her video.

— Spokesman for Vietnamese Community

Linh Tran has a massive social media following of 144,000 on Facebook. Her group name is Vietnamese Communist in America.

Vietnamese Protest Communist Spokesman Who Rants Againt Pro-American Vietnamese

Protests Against Linh Tran who works at Covers Unlimited on Hooper Road

America 250: Celebrating Plaza Donated By Gras, Devall for St. Joseph's, Market

ST. JOSEPH CATHEDRAL — Fr. Cary Bani paid tribute to Don Antonio de Gras who donated the land for the church in the 1790's. Years later, he and Richard Devall donated the corners at Main and 4th streets for a market. It is still preserved today as Gras-Devall Plaza. Liz Dent Sumrall of Baton Rouge is a descendent of Don Antonio.

GRAS-DEVALL PLAZA was rededicated Oct. 4, 2026, by Liz Sumrall, Judge Toni Higginbotham, Jennifer Richardson, and volunteers who are cleaning and upgrading it.

Woody Jenkins
Writing and Photography

BATON ROUGE - The historic Gras-Devall Plaza at the corner of Main and Fourth streets was rededicated on Sunday, Oct. 4 by Liz Dent Sumrall, a descendant of Don Antonio de Gras, and volunteers who have been cleaning and improving the tiny park across from St. Joseph Cathedral.

Don Antonio de Gras was born about 1738 in Palma de Majorca, Spain. He settled in the Spanish colony of West Florida in the late 1700's and became a merchant, surveyor, and land owner.

Don Antonio donated the land for the church in the early 1790's. At the time, it was Our Lady of Sorrows.

Don Antonio's marriage to Genevieve Delatte on January 15, 1793, was the first marriage to be recorded at the church. A plaque in St. Joseph's commemorates the 200th anniversary of their marriage on January 15, 1993.

In 1809, Don Antonio de Gras and his business partner, Richard Devall, donated the four corners of the intersection of Main and Fourth. The center was to be used as a market, and the corners were for hitching horses and wagons.

Genevieve died in 1809 and Don Antonio in 1811. Both are buried at St. Joseph's on the land he donated.

Richard Devall was from Liverpool, England. He immigrated here about 1776 when this was British West Florida. A portion of what is now Baton Rouge was known as Devall Town.

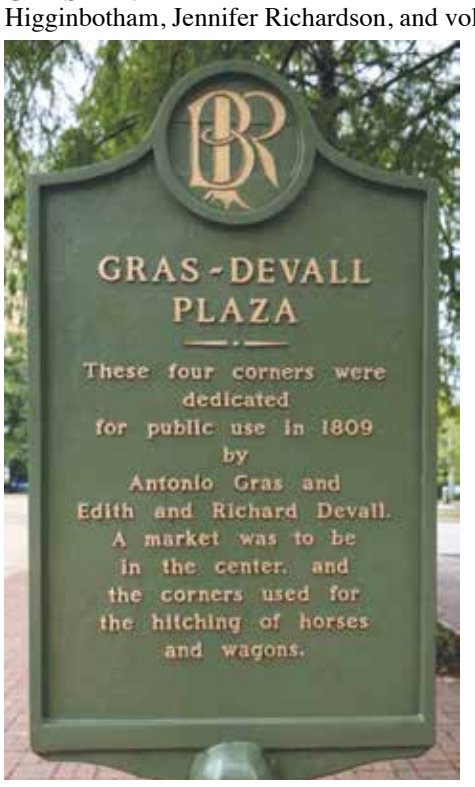
In recent years, the four corners have not been maintained as well as they should. A homeless man lived there for years. He got help not long ago and found a place to live. Unfortunately, he has since passed away.

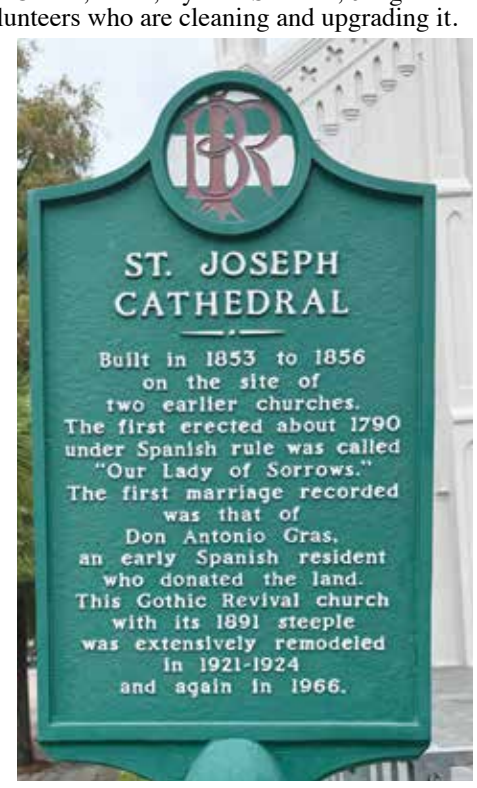
Jennifer Richardson and volunteers from Keep Tiger Town Beautiful have taken the lead in cleaning up the area. Further improvements are planned, including a mural. An accomplished artist, Kristin Cerio, has volunteered to do the mural and has already created a design for the project.

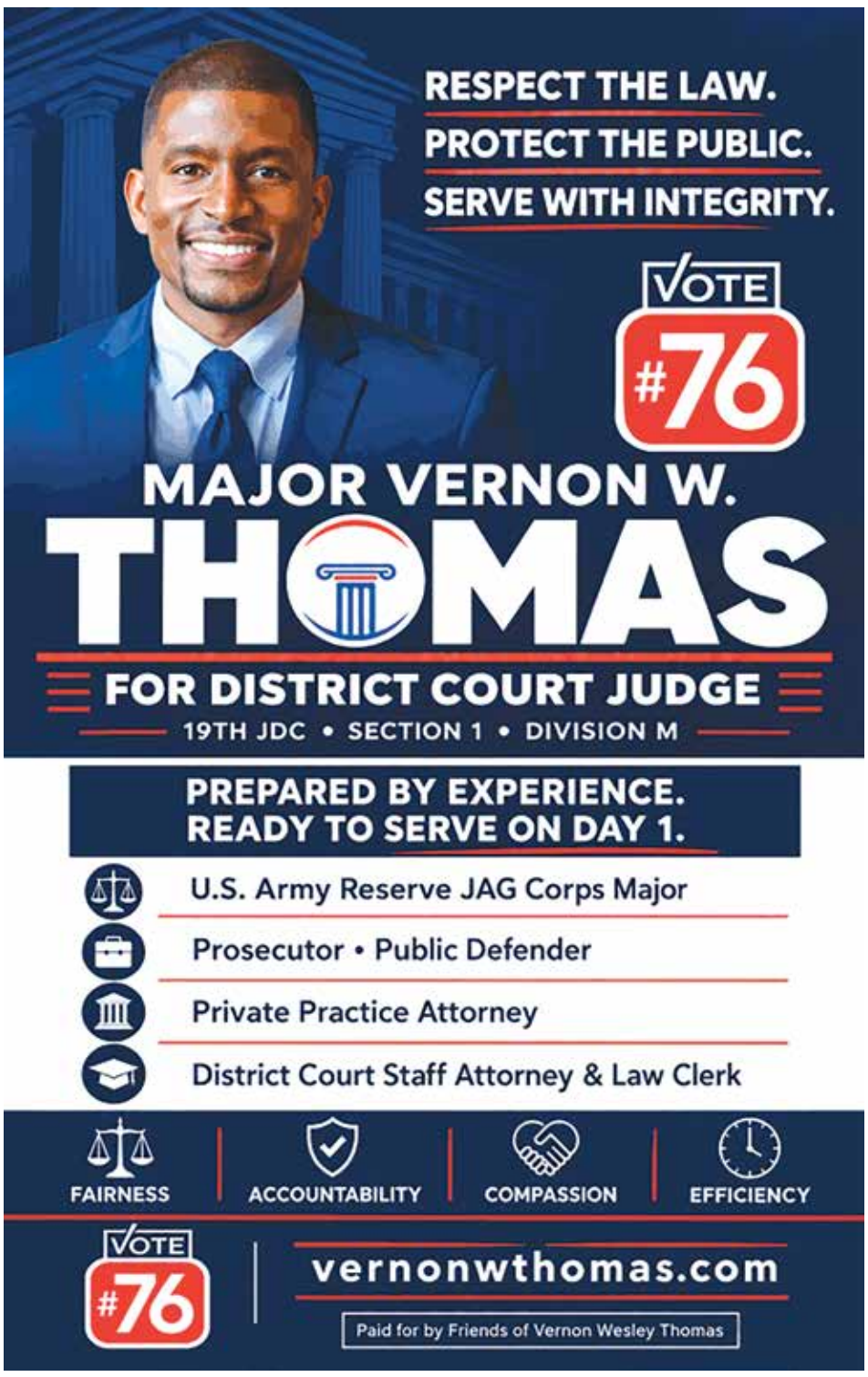
KRISTEN CERIO, an accomplished artist who has done a number of murals, has agreed to volunteer her time to improve the plaza. At left is part of her concept.

Baton Rouge was part of the British colony of West Florida from about 1768 to 1779, when it was captured by the Spanish. West Florida was a Spanish colony until 1810 when revolutionaries of the Republic of West Florida freed it.

For information, contact Liz Sumrall at 225-505-3439.







Botched Execution: Injustice to Victims

Jeff Crouere
Columnist

Jeff Crouere

BATON ROUGE - On Wednesday, Sept. 30, the State of Tennessee botched the execution of convicted first-degree murderer Christa Pike. After several attempts to administer an injection of lethal pentobarbital failed, Pike was taken to a hospital and later regained consciousness.

The attempted execution was delayed for more than eight hours as the Supreme Court considered whether to halt her execution.

Pike was convicted in 1996 for the murder of 19-year-old Colleen Slemmer the previous year "in a jealous rage." Both Pike and Slemmer were Job Corps workers. Her reason for "beating, torturing, and killing" Slemmer in a remote area was that she "just felt mean that day." Pike and her boyfriend "slashed Slemmer with a box cutter and beat her with a large chunk of asphalt." The killers also carved "a satanic symbol" into her body.

Attending the planned execution in Nashville was May Martinez, the victim's mother. Ms. Martinez is angry that the execution was botched, saying that she "broke down in tears." According to Ms. Martinez, Pike was "on the table, talking, still laughing." After the failed execution, witnesses reported hearing Pike "breathing and snoring."

None of this was fair to the victim's family. Ms. Martinez rightly believes that she deserves an apology from the State of Tennessee. Sadly, no one has apologized to her for this embarrassing failure. She was only told that they did not know what would happen next.

This is cruel and unusual punishment for Ms. Martinez and her family. She said, "Here we are, 31 years, and she's laughing in my face again…All I wanted was justice." But Colleen Slemmer and her family still have no justice. It is outrageous that Pike and so many other convicted murderers remain on death row for years.

These insufferable delays are a total denial of justice. In our criminal justice system, the priority is too often placed on the convicted murderers and not the victims.

The push for lethal injections was to limit the pain of convicted murderers. Since it is difficult to secure the proper drugs, and there are obvious problems in the administration, it is time to revert to methods that are much more reliable: the electric chair, lethal gas, and the firing squad.

RE-ELECT

Mark Miley

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE · DISTRICT 3

A RECORD OF PUBLIC SERVICE

2001 **Practicing Attorney**
Miley Law Firm

2007 **Central City Clerk**
Appointed by 4 mayors, confirmed by 4 city councils

2009 **Justice of the Peace**
Proven on the bench, trusted by our community

ROOTED IN OUR COMMUNITY

- Lifelong resident of East Baton Rouge Parish
- Proud father of two Central High School graduates
- Responsible local business owner
- Christian · Pro-Second Amendment
- Committed to fairness & transparency

ELECTION DAY
Tuesday, November 3

EARLY VOTING Oct. 20–27
8:30 a.m.–6 p.m. · Closed Sunday
POLLS OPEN 6 a.m.–8 p.m.

Miley for the People

Paid for by Mark Miley

Greater Baton Rouge State Fair Coming To BREC Airline Park Oct. 22 to Nov. 1

Founded in 1965, Fair Brings Parish Together, Promotes Agriculture, Provides Entertainment

BATON ROUGE — The Greater Baton Rouge State Fair returns Oct. 22 through Nov. 1 with Human Cannonball Tina Miser, Louisiana carnival rides, a chili cook-off, musical entertainment, lots of animals, and all the great food, fun and tradition the fair brings every year.

The annual event, which has been volunteer-driven since its start in 1965, is also a major supporter of the Baton Rouge area, with all fair proceeds going back to the community. It has distributed almost $5 million since 1987, following the formation of the Baton Rouge State Fair Foundation.

"People come to the fair for a great time, and we love that. But the fair is so much more," said GBR State Fair Chairman Cliff Barton, who's volunteered with the fair for 54 years.

"Every ticket, every ride, every funnel cake supports the Greater Baton Rouge area, from high school volunteer scholarships and educational endowments to the Worthy Cause Grants that support non profits benefiting children, families and quality of life. We're proud of that commitment."

Daily and special events are free with fair admission

This year, along with daily shows from the Human Cannonball, the fair will feature educational demonstrations from Louisiana Snake ID both weekends.

It will also feature livestock shows and special events on weekends such as

- Mutton Bustin' competition for children 60 pounds and under,
- Decorate Your Goat contest
- 9th Annual Lego Extravaganza
- High School Volunteer Award Ceremony
- Chili Cook-Off
- Oyster Shell Decorating event
- Pumpkin decorating and more.

In addition to human cannonball shows, fairgoers can expect to find the following free daily attractions:

- Wild Beal Speedway Racing Pigs
- Noah's Way Petting Zoo
- Washboard Willy One-Man Band
- Magician Tim Spinosa, a caricature artist
- Clowns and more.

There will be live musical entertainment opening day and both weekends on the main stage to satisfy every musical taste.

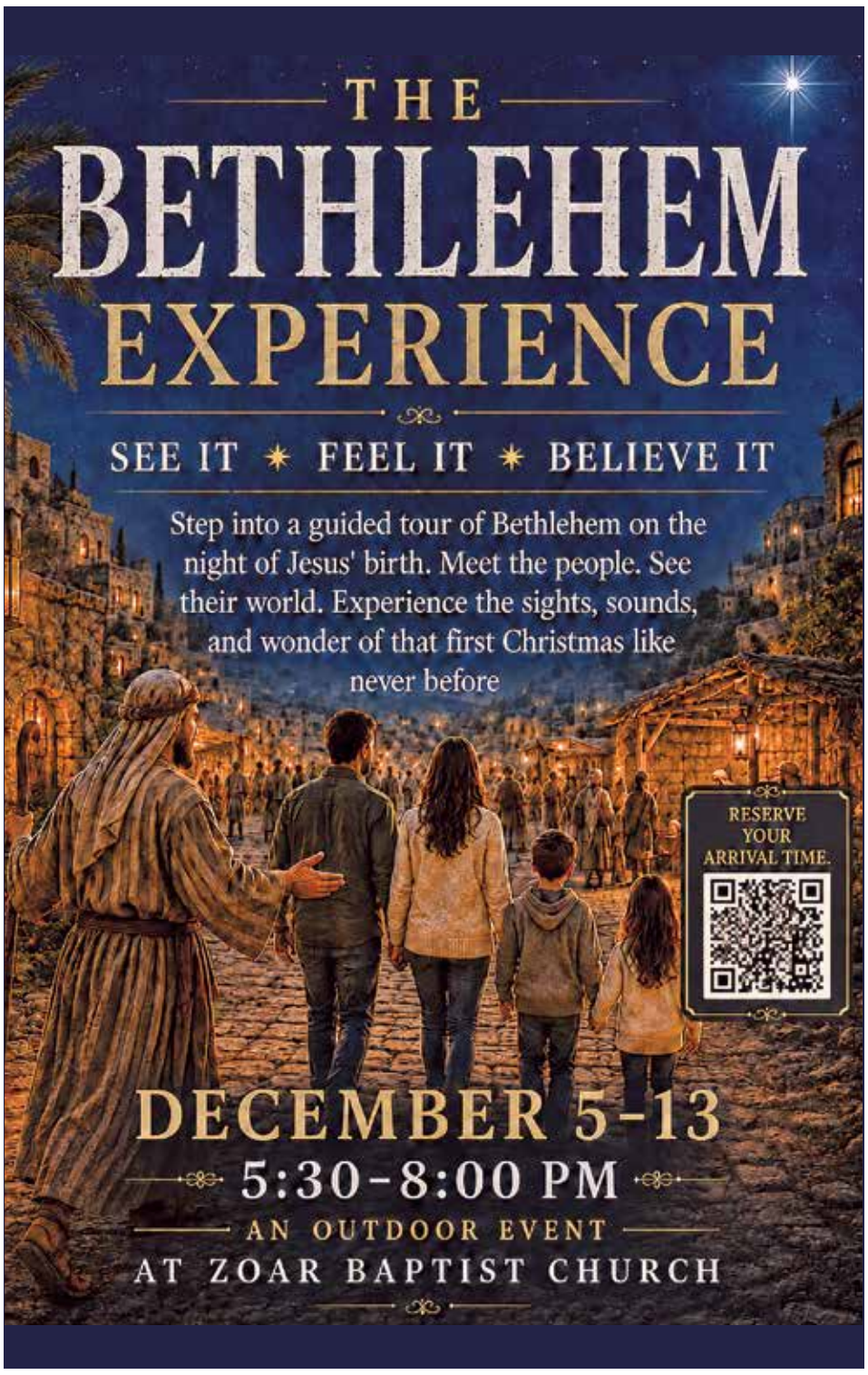
Fair Food for Every Palate

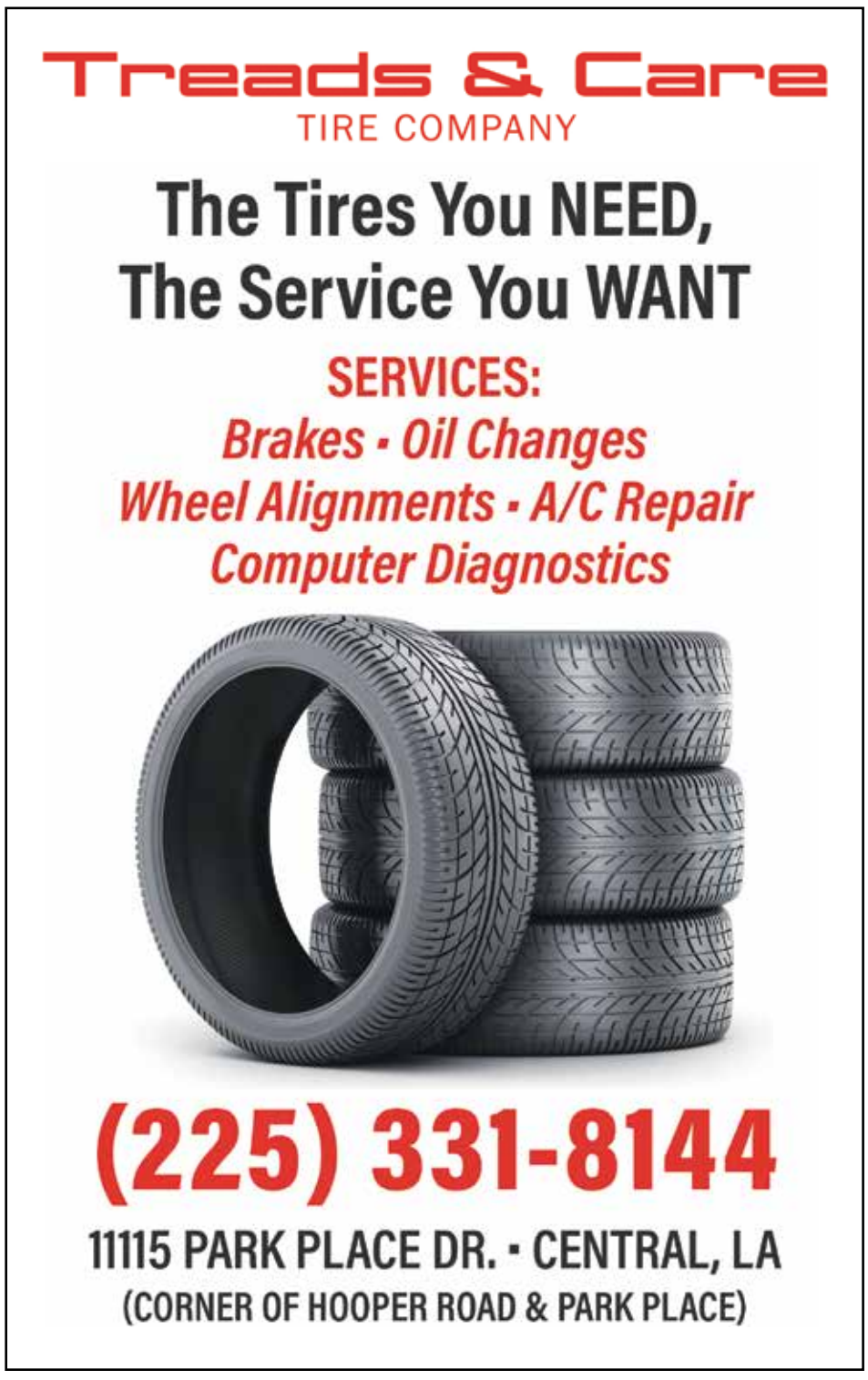
The fair's food court and concessions feature more than 100 different food items. The expansive menu includes fair favorites, as well as Louisiana/Cajun, seafood, barbeque, specialty smoked and fried meats, International fare, Mexican, American classics, frozen delights and more. Find photos and more information, at the GBRSF.com website.

Rides and Games on Midway

As always, the fair will feature the Mitchell Entertainment Midway of Slidell and the largest midway in south Louisiana with more than 40 rides and games for children of all ages.

Dairy, meat, and lamb shows will be held at 12 noon on Oct. 24-25 and at 10 a.m. on Oct. 31 and Nov. 1.





Greater Baton Rouge STATE FAIR

2026 GBR Fair Schedule
5-10 PM, M-F | 12-10 PM Sat & Sun

October 22-November 1, 2026

Daily Attractions

- Human Cannonball Tina Miser
- Wild Beal Speedway Racing Pigs
- Noah's Way Petting Zoo
- Washboard Willy One Man Band
- Magician Tim Spinosa
- Caricature Artist

Thursday, October 22 – Opening Day
(Sponsored by WVLA/Fox 44)
Discount: $10 admission/$15 ride wristbands
Christian Serpas & Ghost Town, 6:30-8 p.m.

Friday, October 23
$15 admission/$35 ride wristbands
Mutton Bustin', 6 p.m.
Blind Ambition, 7-8:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 24
$15 admission/$35 ride wristbands
Junior Dairy Cattle Show, 12 p.m.
Junior Poultry Show, 12 p.m.
Junior Rabbit Show, 12 p.m.
Louisiana Snake ID Exhibit, 2-8 p.m.
I-10 Bound Band, 2-3:30. p.m.
Lee Serio Band, 5-6:30 p.m.
Oyster Shell Painting, 5-9 p.m.
MacDaddy & The Blue-Eyed Soul Revelation, 7:30-9

Sunday, October 25
$15 admission/$35 ride wristbands
Junior Beef Cattle Show, 12 p.m.
Louisiana Snake ID Exhibit & Presentation, 2-8 p.m.
High School Volunteer Awards, 1:30-2:30 p.m.
Legos Competition, 3-5 p.m.
Uncle Paul & Bayou Blue (special guest Randy Albarez), 4-5:30 p.m.
Chubby Carrier & The Bayou Swamp Band, 7-8:30

Monday, October 26
Discount: $10 admission ($5 with Advocate coupon) and $35 unlimited ride wristbands.

Tuesday, October 27 ($2 Tuesday)
Discount: $10 Admission ($5 with Advocate Coupon)
$25 wristbands & $2 rides. Some $2 food specials.

Wednesday, October 28
Discount: $10 admission ($5 with Advocate coupon)/$35 wristbands.
Chili Cook-off, 6 p.m.

Thursday, October 29
Discount: $10 admission ($5 with Advocate coupon).
Wristbands: Two for $35. *Bring a friend!*

Friday, October 30
$15 admission/$35 ride wristbands
MTV83, 7-8:30 p.m.

Saturday, October 31
$15 admission/$35 ride wristbands
"Dress Your Goat" contest, 10 a.m.
Junior Dairy Goat Show, 10 a.m.
Halloween Pumpkin Decorating, 12-4 p.m.
Louisiana Snake ID Exhibit, 2-8 p.m.
Studio 4 Band, 1:30-3 p.m.
Rewind, 4-5:30 p.m.
Long Neck Society, 7:30-9 p.m.

Sunday, November 1
$15 admission/$35 ride wristbands
Junior Lamb Show, 10 a.m.
Junior Meat Goat Show, 10 a.m.
Louisiana Snake ID Exhibit, 2-8 p.m.
Latin Music Day, TBD
Maracas Painting, 12-4 p.m.

Children under 48 inches enter free every day!

Early Bird Combo Special until 10/21: Admission plus wristband to use any day for $40 + service charge

All fair proceeds go to scholarships and worthy causes for local children and the community.

Top High School Volunteers to Get $500 Scholarship

BATON ROUGE — The Greater Baton Rouge State Fair and Baton Rouge State Fair Foundation will honor a record 62 local high school students for service to their schools and communities. The students will be the focus of annual High School Volunteer Award Ceremony at the Greater Baton Rouge State Fair, where each will be presented a certificate of achievement and a $500 award.

Honorees from Central and nearby high schools are:

- Ascension Catholic - Cole Cassard
- Ascension Christian - Dorian Davis
- Baton Rouge High - Kamaria Jackson
- Belaire Magnet - Allie Vallian
- Catholic High - Felix Thibodeaux IV
- Central High School - Ella Wilkinson
- Central Private School - Daisy Morris
- The Dunham School - Bailey Adams
- Dutchtown High - Annika Small
- East Ascension - Elizabeth Delaney
- Episcopal High - Tiffany Foxworth
- Madison Prep - Kalurah Joy Brooks
- Parkview Baptist - Eden White
- Prairieville High - Skylar Harvey
- St. Amant High - Madelyn Muse
- St. Joseph's Academy - Aariell Martin
- St. Michael - Claire Leader
- Thrive Academy - Zyrielle Knighten
- University Lab - Connor Schilling

Bailey Adams
Dunham

Claire Leader
St. Michael

Aariel Martin
St. Joseph's

Tiffany Foxworth
Episcopal

Daisy Morris
Central Private

Eden White
Parkview

Ellas Wilkinson
Central High

A special campaign Q&A Session from Despo D'Ann Wells, Mayor for Central

ASK D'ANN WELLS

CENTRAL is Home!

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT WHY D'ANN WELLS IS DIFFERENT THAN THE REST

When I walk into City Hall, I won't owe political favors.

Q: There are four candidates. What makes your experience different?

A: I am serving Central right now.

I have spent eight years representing District 4 on Central's City Council. ***My experience is making Central's decisions here, with you, today****. My experience is working with the current council. My experience is supporting our existing projects. My experience is today's experience, not yesterday's.*

Please go to my website at wellsforcentral.com or scan the QR code below. You will see the decisions I have made, not just the promises I make.

Q: Is the Central 2045 master land-use plan here to stay the last word on our future?

A: I will meet with, you, the people and update the plan to reflect the citizens of Central's voice. My record shows it.

My position is to update the 2010 Master Plan with residents shaping the result*. I do not support replacing the community's vision with one I believe takes us in the wrong direction. A master plan is not beyond revision. There is a process we have to follow, and I want more public input and more studies before finalizing the plan. On day 1, I will plan public workshops where I will get your input on amendments to the 2045 master land-use plan.*

You've known me as the voice of the people for District 4, now let me be the voice of the people for our City.

Retired Louisiana State Senator Bodi White

"Thank you Sen. White for authoring the constitutional amendment that enabled Central to establish its own independent school system, AND thank you for your endorsement."

– D'Ann Wells

Q: What have you done when the process was not good enough?

A: I have said no.

I voted no. Reporting on the meeting records that I also sought denial for developments when the process wasn't followed. When the drainage assessment isn't completed the final approval should not go to any government board in our city. Developers should not come empty-handed without a traffic study completed on major roadways. The city should make developers do what they say they will do. ***Why are we giving developers a checklist if we are not going to make them follow it?*** *I'm not against development, I'm believe in following the process, our ordinances, and protecting Central from outside interest.*

Required studies should inform decisions, not merely complete a file. That is the standard I will bring to City Hall.

A DIFFERENT KIND OF LEADER

My difference is how I approach the job: examine the facts, question the process, protect the public's voice, and my willingness to say no when the decisions aren't best for Central.

I would be honored to earn your vote for mayor.

Q: Why should voters look at campaign money?

A: 70%+ of my campaign has been funded by me!

No big developers. No large LLC's. The PEOPLE. 100% of my campaign has been funded by local supporters*. I'm the only candidate who shows this on their public campaign finance report. And I'm proud of that!* ***No backroom deals. No special interest calling the shots.***

Q: Will you work with Baton Rouge?

A: Yes. And I will represent Central.

At the August candidate forum, it was stated, "The relationships matter." I agree that working relationships matter. Where I draw the line is simple: cooperation cannot replace independent judgment. ***I will work with parish and state leaders when our interests align****. I have worked with parish and state leaders on projects that benefit Central. When they do not, I will still be in the room speaking for Central. A partnership should benefit and add value to our city.*

I am running to be Central's mayor. Central's interests come first.

Q: What will you owe the people who elect you?

A: Listening, Accountability, Transparency, and Communication.

I am a teacher, a mother, a grandmother, and your neighbor. As mayor, I will explain my decisions, welcome questions, and discuss disagreements.

★

Today I am making a promise to you the voters that I will be a servant leader:

A LEADER WHO LISTENS

Keep this advertisement and hold my feet to the fire *if you ever feel I'm making decisions that aren't for the best interest of the people. Government works when our leaders are held accountable.*

Have a question I didn't answer? Ask me. I will.

Phone: 225-252-1318
Email: hello@wellsforcentral.com

strong roots grow thriving communities

THE CHOICE IS HOW WE GROW

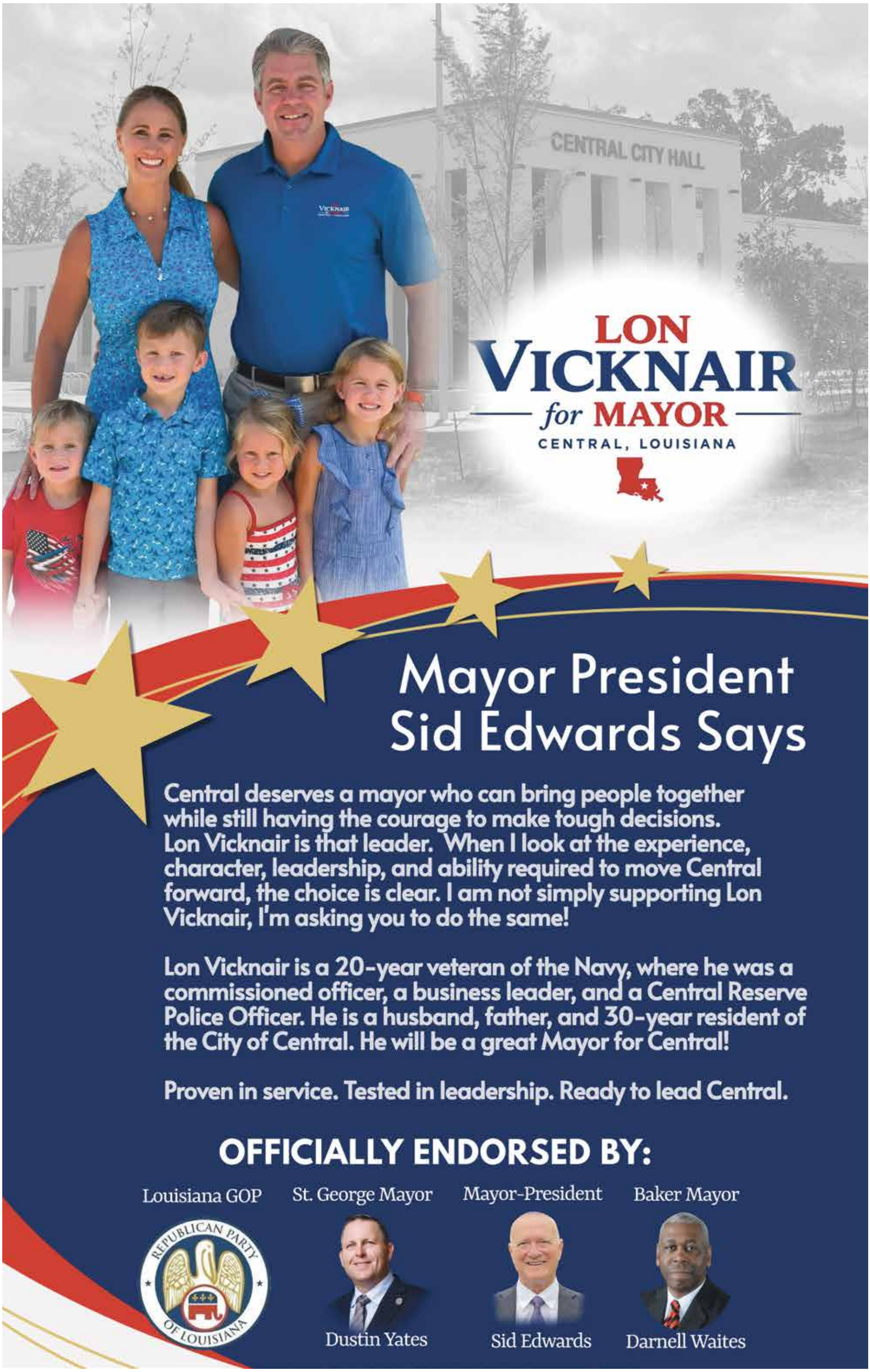
Learn more — Website

Get involved – THE PEOPLE SHOULD HAVE THE PENCIL

Join the discussion — Facebook

D'ANN WELLS
MAYOR FOR CENTRAL
wellsforcentral.com

PAID POLITICAL ADVERTISEMENT • PAID FOR BY D'ANN WELLS CAMPAIGN


CENTRAL CITY HALL
LON
VICKNAIR
for MAYOR
CENTRAL, LOUISIANA
Mayor President
Sid Edwards Says
Central deserves a mayor who can bring people together while still having the courage to make tough decisions. Lon Vicknair is that leader. When I look at the experience, character, leadership, and ability required to move Central forward, the choice is clear. I am not simply supporting Lon Vicknair, I'm asking you to do the same!
Lon Vicknair is a 20-year veteran of the Navy, where he was a commissioned officer, a business leader, and a Central Reserve Police Officer. He is a husband, father, and 30-year resident of the City of Central. He will be a great Mayor for Central!
Proven in service. Tested in leadership. Ready to lead Central.
OFFICIALLY ENDORSED BY:
Louisiana GOP
REPUBLICAN PARTY OF LOUISIANA
St. George Mayor
Dustin Yates
Mayor-President
Sid Edwards
Baker Mayor
Darnell Waites

15-Year-Old Jesse Fairchild Was at Standard Oil Station

85 Years Ago, News Changed Our World

On Dec. 7, 1941, Jesse Was Working Next to the Hospital When a Man Asked Him If He Had Heard the News

Woody Jenkins
Editor

Louisiana History Brought to Life • An Illustrated Collection by Woody Jenkins © 2026

AT THE STORE NEXT TO GREENWELL SPRINGS HOSPITAL — It was around 8 a.m. on the morning of Sunday, Dec. 7, 1941. 15-year-old Jesse Lee Fairchild was pumping gas at the small grocery at the corner of Greenwell Springs Road and Spring Street. The store was across Spring Street from the Greenwell Springs Hospital and only a block from the actual Greenwell springs. A motorist pulled up. He looked very concerned and asked if Jesse had heard the news. Jesse said he hadn't. The boy leaned forward toward the window and heard the news on the radio. The announcer said the Japanese had bombed Pearl Harbor in Hawaii. Jesse had never heard of Pearl Harbor, but the man in the car said, "This means we will be at war!" He pulled off. Little did Jesse realize that the news would change everything in his world. Years later, long after Jesse returned from the Navy, he was a medical doctor at Greenwell Springs Hospital and wrote, ***The History of Greenwell Springs 1850-1950***. He recounted the story of how he learned about Pearl Harbor to ***Central City News*** editor Woody Jenkins in 2007. The illustration above is from **Louisiana History Brought to Life, An Illustrative Collection by Woody Jenkins**. Historical research, narrative, and creative direction by Woody Jenkins. Illustrations created with generative AI under his direction.

GREENWELL SPRINGS - Dr. Jesse Lee Fairchild was best known as the Medical Director of Greenwell Springs Hospital for many years and as the author of ***The History of Greenwell Springs, 1850-1950***, the definitive history of this community during its formative years.

But in 1941, Jesse was a 15 year old boy working part-time at the gas station and general store at the corner of Greenwell Springs Road and Spring Street, the only street remaining from the Greenwell Springs resort as it existed during its prime in the 1850's.

The store was right next to the Greenwell Springs Hospital and was a place where employees of the hospital as well as visitors and members of the community could buy groceries, grab a sandwich, and fill up their gas tank.

Jesse was raised only about a block away from the store, and it was a great place to earn a few dollars during the Depression, which was still raging.

It was early morning on Sunday, December 7, 1941.

Jesse hadn't seen his first paying customer yet when a stranger pulled up in a new car. The man asked, "Have you heard the news?" Jesse said he hadn't, but the radio was playing and he leaned forward into the car. The man said, "The Japanese have bombed Pearl Harbor! We're at war!" Jesse hadn't ever heard of Pearl Harbor, but for the rest of his life he remembered that newscast. "That was when our world changed forever!" he said.

Jeffrey LaCour Seeks Seat On Central School Board

CENTRAL — My name is Jeff LaCour, and I'm running for Central Community School Board, District 1, because the future of our schools is deeply personal to me.

My wife Courtney and I have four children. Our oldest daughter graduated from Central and is now about to graduate from Howard University. Our oldest son BJ is a standout basketball player at Central High School.

Our middle son Josiah is also a standout student at Central High and is on the Power Lifting team. Our youngest son Jackson attends Central Intermediate School and is on his way to becoming a great scholar. When I think about the decisions our school board makes, I think about our city's children and the families counting on these schools every day.

As the owner of P&L Medical and a member of the Central Chamber of Commerce, I understand the vital connection between strong schools and a thriving community. Families need confidence in the quality of their children's education, and employers need graduates prepared to work, communicate effectively, solve problems, and take responsibility.

The values that guide me are straightforward: family, personal responsibility, hard work, service, and respect for others. Parents deserve a meaningful voice in their children's education. Teachers deserve support, clear expectations, and classrooms where they can teach. Taxpayers deserve careful stewardship of every dollar.

My vision is "Future Ready Central." That begins with strong instruction in reading, writing, mathematics, science, and history. It means helping students build the knowledge and habits they will need throughout life. It also means preparing graduates for several paths to success, including college, skilled trades, industry certification, military service, and employment.

Jeff LaCour
School Board

I want stronger partnerships with local businesses and the Chamber to expand job shadowing, internships, and career opportunities.

I support safe schools, consistent discipline, and fair treatment. I plan to help Central recruit and retain excellent teachers while keeping spending focused on students and classrooms.

Responsible leadership also requires transparency and visibility. Families should be able to understand what their children are learning, how school dollars are spent, and why major decisions are made.

As Central grows, our school board should continue to coordinate with the community and plan responsibly for classrooms, staffing, and transportation.

I believe people across political lines can find common ground around these commitments. We all want children who can read confidently, think independently, work hard, and graduate prepared for the future.

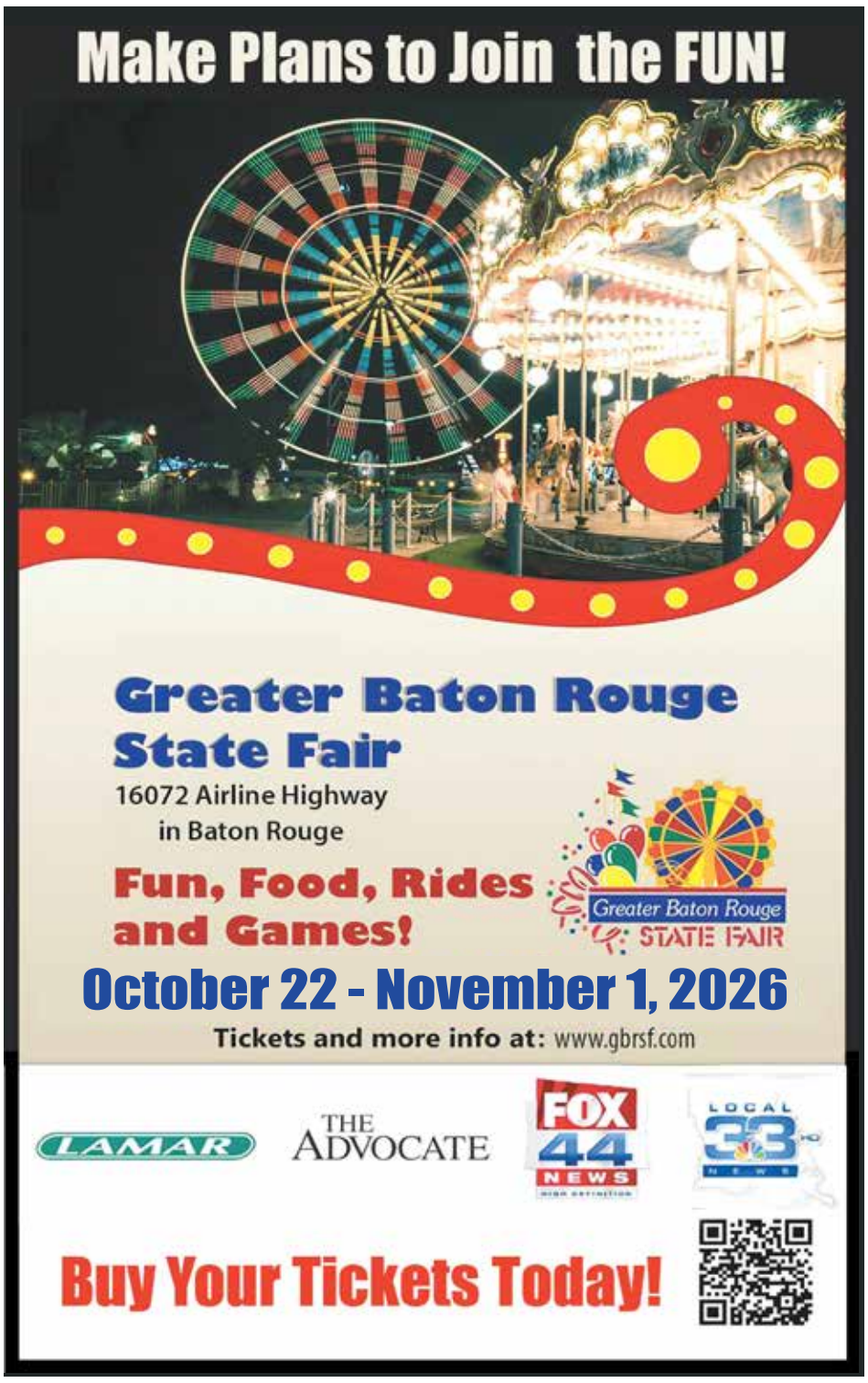
I welcome opportunities to discuss these priorities publicly, answer questions, and listen. I would be grateful for the opportunity to earn your confidence and support.

Central High Track Star
Phillip Watts

Central High Track Star Phillip Watts Breaks Two CHS Records

CENTRAL — Central High's Phillip Watts has broken two school track records listed on athletic.net. The 3-mile record was previously held by his brother, Andrew Watts. Phillip's time for the 3-mile race was 15:29.7, and his 5k time was 16:00.2.

Phillip will be competing in the 2026 Sugar Bowl LHSAA State Cross Country Meet on Nov. 16 and 17 at Northwestern State University in Natchitoches.



2026 Central Private Homecoming Court

Annie Choate • Senior
Father Chris Choate

2026 CENTRAL PRIVATE HOMECOMING QUEEN ZOEE DUTSCH
with 2025 CP Homecoming Queen Ava Bradford

Zoee Dutsch • Senior
Father Derrick Dutsch

Gracelyn Hart • Senior
Father Jason Hart

Avery Brown • Sophomore
Father Bryan Brown

Adelyn Brown • Freshman
Grandfather Lionel Lancon

Stella Simmons • Junior
Father Trez Simmons

Emma Broussard • Junior
Father Michael Broussard

Aubrey Lane Watts • Sophomore
Father Lane Watts

Anna Claire McCumsey • Freshman
Father Matt McCumsey

2026 Central Private School Homecoming Court

CENTRAL - Central Private has announced the 2026 Homecoming Court and Queen. Here is the script of Homecoming ceremonies:

From the freshman class is **Adelyn Rose Brown**. Adelyn is the daughter of Bryan and Jenny Brown. She is escorted by her grandfather, Lionel Lancon. She has attended Central Private for three years.

Adelyn is enrolled in all honors courses and is a member of the National Junior Honor Society. She represents Central Private as a member of both the softball and basketball teams. Outside of school, she plays competitive softball with the Blazers Softball Organization.

After graduation, Adelyn hopes to earn a four-year bachelor's degree while continuing her softball career at the collegiate level. She enjoys playing golf in her free time and watching Dance Moms. When asked what she appreciates most about Central Private, Adelyn says it is the school's athletic programs and coaches.

Also from the freshman class is **Anna Claire McCumsey**.

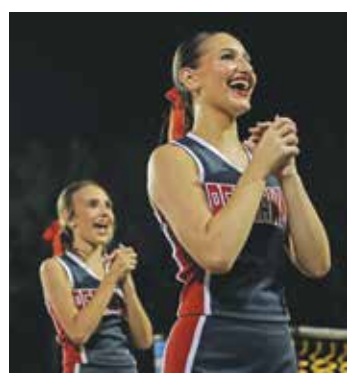
Anna Claire is the daughter of Matt and Becky McCumsey. Anna Claire is escorted by her father, Mr. Matt McCumsey. She has attended

See CENTRAL on Page 25

Central Private Homecoming Court • Oct. 8, 2026

CP 46 - Ben Franklin 18• Photos by Lionel Selser Photography

Central Private Tops Ben Franklin 46-18



Continued from Page 24

Central Private for four years.

Anna Claire is enrolled in all honors courses and has earned recognition on the All-A Honor Roll. She has been a member of the Junior BETA Club for three years, including one year of service as vice president. She is also a member of the National Junior Honor Society, where she serves as secretary. Anna Claire has participated in Youth Legislature for two years and has received both the Hall of Fame Award and the Ripple Impact Award. She is also a member of the Central Private volleyball team.

Anna Claire attends Live Oak Church and is active in the Journey Movement Youth Group. After graduation, she plans to attend college and pursue a degree in either healthcare or psychology. Something you may not know about Anna Claire is that she has never had a soda.

When asked what she appreciates most about Central Private, she says, "The small environment and the friendships. I love that everyone knows each other and feels so close."

From the sophomore class is **Avery Renee Brown.**

Avery is the daughter of Bryan and Jenny Brown. She is escorted by her father, Mr. Bryan Brown. She has attended Central Private for three years.

Avery is enrolled in all honors courses and represents Central Private as a member of both the basketball and softball teams. Outside of school, she plays competitive softball with the Blazers Softball Organization.

After graduation, Avery plans to continue her academic career at the collegiate level and hopes to play college softball. Something you may not know about Avery is that she enjoys fishing with her cousins in her spare time. When asked what she appreciates most about Central Private, she says it is "the small, friendly environment where everyone knows each other and it feels like family."

Also from the sophomore class is **Aubrey Lane Watts**. Aubrey Lane is the daughter of Lane and Angel Watts. She is escorted tonight by her father, Mr. Lane Watts. Her favorite subject is Science. Aubrey Lane has attended Central Private for 11 years, beginning in kindergarten. This is her first year serving on the Homecoming Court.

Aubrey Lane has earned a place on the Honor Roll every year since kindergarten. At Central Private, she is a member of the Beta Club and Student Council, and she serves as a leader for the Middle School Girls Bible Study. She is also a member of the Varsity Softball team and both the Junior Varsity and Varsity Volleyball teams.

Aubrey Lane is an active member of Cornerstone Fellowship Church and its youth group, as well as a member of Elon Cotillion.

After graduation, Aubrey Lane hopes to play softball at the collegiate level, attend physician assistant school, and eventually build a home next door to her mom and dad.

Something you may not know about Aubrey Lane is that she had wanted a kitten all her life. Last school year, her parents promised her one if she earned straight A's. Aubrey Lane talked them into two cats instead, and now she has Figgy and Frank. When asked what she appreciates most about Central Private, she says, "I love Mrs. Parolli's Biology class, getting to see my best friends every day, and Mrs. Misty's crispitos."

From the junior class is **Emma Grace Broussard**. Emma Grace is the daughter of Michael and Brittany Broussard. Emma is escorted by her father, Mr. Michael Broussard. She has attended Central Private for two years.

Emma Grace represents Central Private as a member of the Varsity Cheer team. She is also an active member of Bethel Tabernacle.

After graduation, Emma Grace plans to attend Southeastern Louisiana University, where she hopes to earn a nursing degree. Her goal is to become a NICU nurse at Woman's Hospital. Something you may not know about Emma Grace is that she participated in competitive gymnastics for ten years. When asked what she appreciates most about Central Private, she says it is "the lifelong friendships I have made — and Mrs. Misty's boudin egg rolls."

Also from the junior class is **Stella Claire Simmons**. Stella is the daughter of Claire and Trez Simmons. She is escorted by her father, Mr. Trez Simmons. She has attended Central Private for five years.

At Central Private, Stella is a member of the Varsity Volleyball team and the BETA Club.

After graduation, Stella plans to attend nursing school. Something you may not know about Stella is that she has traveled with her family to 49 of the 50 states.

When asked what she appreciates most about Central Private, Stella says it is "experiencing high school with my sister, London, and being able to laugh with her and always count on her."

From the senior class is **Anniston Paige Choate**. Anniston is the daughter of Chris and Rebecca Choate. Anniston is escorted by her father, Mr. Chris Choate. She has attended Central Private for five years.

Anniston serves as captain of the Varsity Cheer team and is a member of the Varsity Track team and Spirit Squad. She is president of the National Honor Society and is also a member of the Beta Club, Student Council, and P-SALT. Anniston serves as a leader for both the Middle School Girls Bible Study and the Sophomore Girls Bible Study.

After graduation, Anniston plans to attend college and major in business. Something you may not know about Anniston is that she has a cousin, Allie Petit, who is only one day younger than she is. When asked what she appreciates most about Central Private, Anniston says it is "being able to openly talk about my faith."

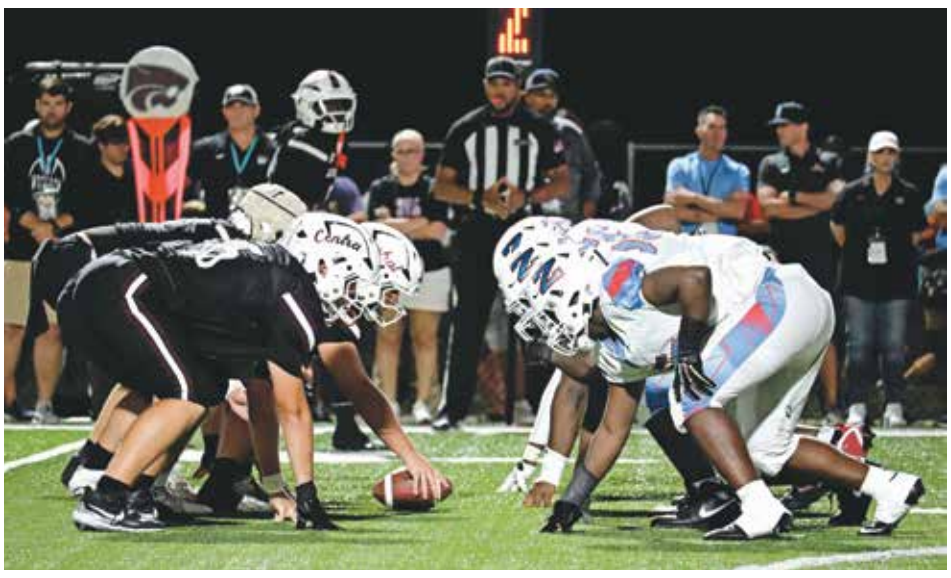
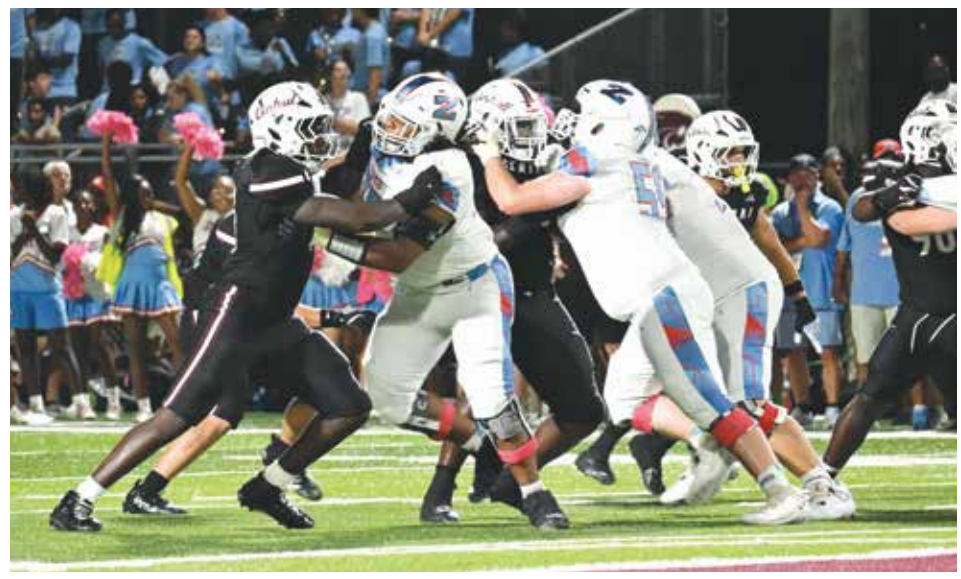
See HOMECOMING on Page 33

2026 Central Private Varsity Football

Sept. 9	St. Thomas	L 59-16
Sept. 11	Ascension C	L 26-22
Sept. 18	St. John	L 56-24
Sept. 25	Centerville	W 33-14
Oct. 2	Highland	W 42-0
Oct. 9	Ben Franklin	W 46-18
Oct. 16	Kentwood*	L 52-0
Oct. 22	E. Feliciana*	H
Oct. 30	Varnado* (Sr Night)	H
Nov. 6	Catholic PC*	A

* Indicates District 9-1A games
Head Coach: Cole Holden
Principal: Dana Russell

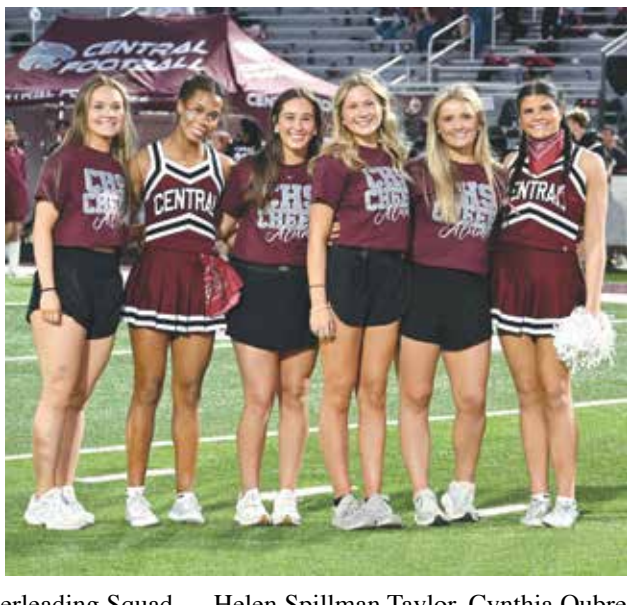
Central and Zachary Battle It Out

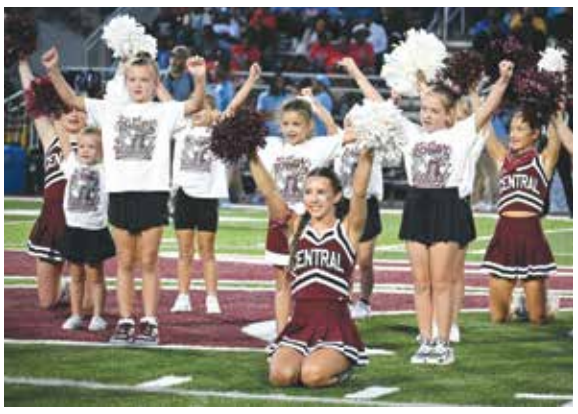
Zachary 31 Central 21 • Wildcat Stadium • Oct. 9, 2026

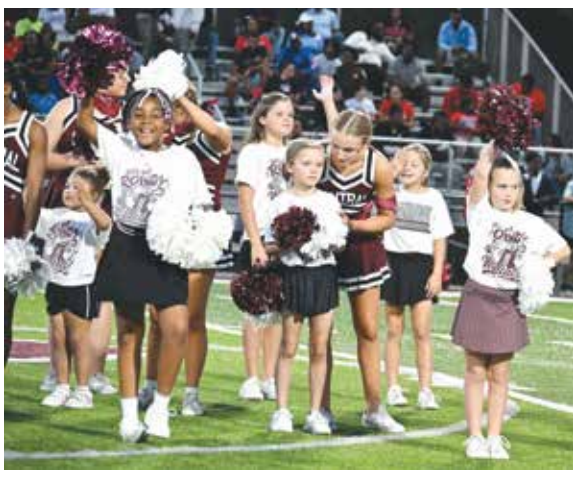
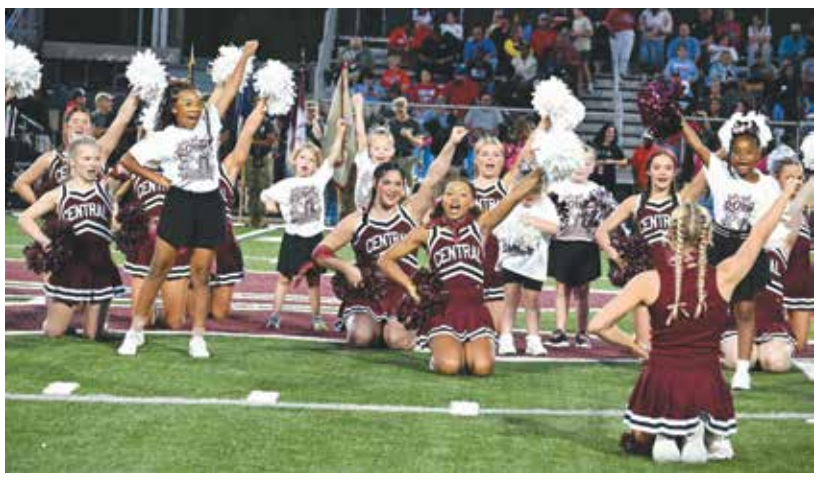
Photos by Jolice Provost for the Central City News

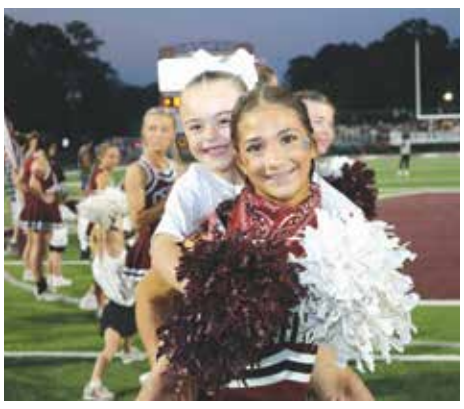
Alumni/Biddy Night at Wildcat Stadium

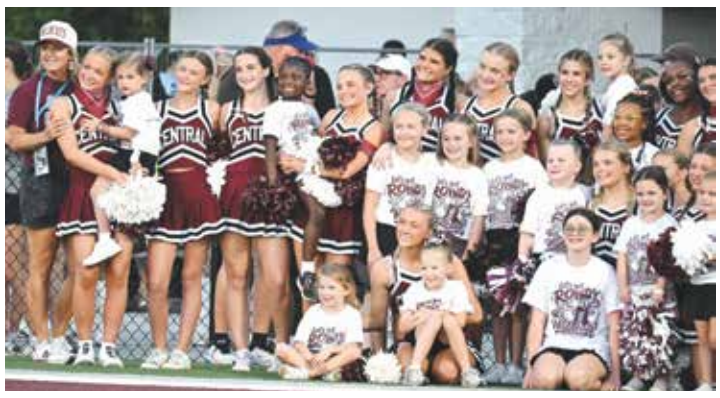


CELEBRATING ALUMNI NIGHT AT WILDCAT STADIUM — Everyone honored members of the 1966 State Cheerleading Squad — Helen Spillman Taylor, Cynthia Oubre Heck, Linda Stilley Aaron, and Mary Abadie Odom. The 1966 team (center) included Liz Hardesty, Mary Abadie, Cindy Oubre, Kathleen Faust, Helen Spillman and Lindsay Stilley. Current and alumni cheerleaders (right) were Jaden Roy, Erin Jackson, Bailey Logsdon, Harlee Loupe, Lucy Mire, and Julianne Jarreau







CHS Wildcat Band's Halftime Show

2026 Central High Varsity Football

Sept. 4	Acadiana	L 47-35
Sept. 11	Denham Sprgs	W 38-7
Sept. 18	John Ehret	W 55-0
Sept. 25	West Monroe	L 42-36
Oct. 2	Ouachita	W 42-21
Oct. 9	Zachary*	L 31-21
Oct. 16	OPEN	O
Oct. 23	Catholic*	A
Oct. 30	Liberty* (Sr Night)	H
Nov. 6	Woodlawn*	A

*District 4-5A Games

Head Coach: David Simoneaux

Principal: Brandon LaGroue

Wildcat Stadium • Oct. 9, 2026 • Central High Marching Band

Photos by Jolice Provost for the Central City News

Candidates for Police Chief

Roger Corcoran (R)

Paul Kimball (R)

Larry "Lew" Walters, Jr. (R)

Justice of the Peace - Dist. 3

LaShawn Goodwin (D)

Mark Miley (R)

Henrietta Williams (D)

City Council - Dist. 3

Hannah Brown (R)

Dave Freneaux (R)

School Board - Dist. 1

Jason Leaphart (R)

Jeffery LaCour (D)

Constable, JP Dist. 2

Dwayne Rogers (R)

Lee Russell (NP)

Constable, JP Dist. 3

Gordon Hutchinson, Jr. (R)

"Chris" Johnson (R)

Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge

Tuesday, October 27, 2026

Lunch 12n $25 • Café Américain
7521 Jefferson Highway
Baton Rouge, LA 70806
www.ChamberEBR.com

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE of EAST BATON ROUGE PARISH
FAITH • FAMILY • COMMUNITY
FREE ENTERPRISE

Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon

Tuesday, November 10, 2026

Sponsored by Republican Party of EBR

11:45 Reception • 12 Lunch • $25
Café Américain • 7521 Jefferson Hwy.
No Reservation Necessary

"Like" Capital Republican on Facebook or go to CapitalRepublican.com

Candidate Forum at Café Américain

RONALD REAGAN NEWSMAKER LUNCHEON provided a forum for Republican candidates running in East Baton Rouge Parish in the Nov. 3, 2026, election. At left, Constable candidates Constable David Wade, Constable Gordon Hutchinson, Ron Reynolds, John Kay, Tucker Sharer and Dwayne Rogers. At right, Justice of the Peace candidates Justice of the Peace Mark Miley, Dajuana LeDuff W. Moore, J. Andrew Murrell, Judge Toni Higginbotham, and Robert Ainsworth.

JUDICIAL CANDIDATES (left) L.T. Dupré (Family Court), Justin DeLaune (District Court), Wendy Edwards Morice (Family Court), and Joseph Cataldie (Family Court). At right, Congressional candidates Larry Davis III, Stephen Wagley, and Monique Appeaning, all running in the 6th District, and Rev. Peter Williams, running in the 2nd District.

Stephen Wagley (R)
6th Congressional District

Monique Appeaning (R)
6th Congressional District

Larry Davis, III (R)
6th Congressional District

Rev. Peter Williams (R)
2nd Congressional District

Larry "Lew" Walters (R)
Central Police Chief

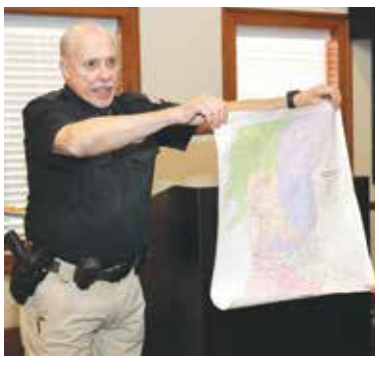
Mark Miley (R)
District 3 • Justice of the Peace

Geno Guercio (R)
Mayor of Central

Dwayne Rogers (R)
District 2 • Constable

Justin DeLaune (R)
District Court - Parishwide

Walter "Rocky" Beach (N)
2nd Congressional District



Gordon Hutchinson (R)
District 3 • Constable

"Chris" Johnson (R)
District 3 • Constable

Lawrence "L.T." Dupré (R)
Family Court Judge • Division C

Congressional Candidates

Rufus Craig (Libertarian)

Larry Davis, III (R)

Michael Mebruer (R)

Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon

Oct. 13, 2026 • Café Américain

Photos by Jolice Provost • Video by Woody Jenkins

Hard Working Honest For the People of Central

About Me

- Resident of Central for 33 Years
- Coached Little League - Jackson Park and Lovett Road Park
- Business Owner for 40 Years
- Chairman, Residential Licensing Board of EBR for Nine Years
- LA Home Builders Association SIF Trustee 30+ Years
- 1990 President, Baton Rouge Homebuilders Association

My name is Geno Guercio. I have been a resident of Central for 33 years. I'm running for mayor of Central because I believe our community deserves leadership that listens, acts, and delivers real results. Central is more than just a place to live - it's where families grow, businesses thrive, and neighbors look out for one anther. But like any growing community, we face challenges that require thoughtful solutions and strong leadership.

My vision is simple: safer neighborhoods, stronger local businesses, improved infrastructure, and a city government that is open, transparent, and accountable to its people. I'm committed to working with residents, not above them, to build a future that reflects our shared values and priorities.

This campaign is about bringing people together, focusing on what matters most, and moving Central forward -- one step at a time.

Top Priorities

- Education
- Drainage/Roads
- Safety (School & Public)
- Audit
- Represent All People

GENO GUERCIO FOR MAYOR OF CENTRAL

Geno Guercio

Follow me on Facebook at Guercio For Mayor of Central
GenoGuercio4Mayor@gmail.com

HILLAR MOORE DA

- **DISTRICT ATTORNEY FOR 18 YEARS**
- PRIORITIZING **PROSECUTION OF GANG MEMBERS**, REPEAT OFFENDERS, AND VIOLENT CRIMINALS INVOLVED IN CRIMES SUCH AS MURDER AND SEXUAL ASSAULT
- FOCUSING ON **PREVENTING REPEAT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE** BY PURSUING STRONGER PROSECUTION AND MONITORING HIGH-RISK OFFENDERS
- CREATING **SPECIALIZED PROSECUTION UNITS**, INCLUDING THE **VIOLENT CRIME UNIT** AND THE **CRIME STRATEGIES UNIT**, TO TARGET SPECIFIC CRIMES LIKE HOMICIDE, GANG ACTIVITY, AND HUMAN TRAFFICKING TO CONVICT MORE OFFENDERS

DISTRICT ATTORNEY HILLAR MOORE IS WORKING TO MAKE EAST BATON ROUGE SAFER BY USING TOUGH, INNOVATIVE CRIME-FIGHTING STRATEGIES.

HILLAR MOORE DA

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT
HILLARMOOREDA.COM

SUPPORT HILLAR MOORE BY DONATING OR ORDERING A YARD SIGN. SCAN QR CODE:

PAID FOR BY THE HILLAR MOORE CAMPAIGN

EARLY VOTING OCT. 20 - OCT. 27
ELECTION DAY NOV. 3

Zoee Dutsch: CP Homecoming Queen

Central Private Homecoming Queen Zoee Ann Dutsch

Continued from Page 25

Also from the senior class is **Zoee Ann Dutsch**. Zoee is the daughter of Misty and Derrick Dutsch. Zoee is escorted by her father, Mr. Derrick Dutsch.

At Central Private, Zoee is a member of the Track, Cross Country, and Powerlifting teams. She is a member of the National Honor Society and serves as the organization's reporter this year. Zoee is also a member of Student Council and recently began attending Istrouma Baptist Church.

After graduation, Zoee plans to attend the University of Louisiana at Lafayette and pursue a career as a dental hygienist. Something you may not know about Zoee is that she is teaching herself to play the guitar and enjoys art and scrapbooking.

When asked what she appreciates most about Central Private, Zoee says it is "the family-like atmosphere and the close friendships."

Also from the senior class is **Gracelyn Elizabeth Hart.** Gracelyn is the daughter of Jason and Alicia Hart. She is escorted by her father, Mr. Jason Hart. She has attended Central Private for five years.

Gracelyn serves as co-captain of the Varsity Cheer team and is a member of the Track team and Spirit Squad. She is vice president of the National Honor Society and is also a member of the Beta Club and Student Council. Gracelyn serves as a leader for the Middle School Girls Bible Study, encouraging younger students as they grow in their faith.

After graduation, she plans to attend college and pursue a career as either a pediatric physical therapist or occupational therapist. Something you may not know about Gracelyn is that she served Central as a legacy page when she was in kindergarten.

When asked what she appreciates most about Central Private, Gracelyn says it is "being part of a Christ-centered school where we can openly talk about our faith, as well as the small classes that allow us to get to know one another better."

Now we welcome our 2025 Homecoming Queen, Miss Ava Bradford. Ava attends Fran U where she majors in Nursing in order to one day be a Labor and Delivery Nurse at Woman's Hospital.

She definitely makes CP proud!

And now Ava will crown our new queen.

Please join me in a standing ovation for the 2026 Central Private School Homecoming Queen, the gorgeous Zoee Ann Dutsch!

WINSTON DECUIR JR.
For District Judge

RESPECTED IN THE COMMUNITY. TRUSTED IN THE COURTROOM.

FOR MORE THAN 25 YEARS, Winston DeCuir, Jr. has earned a reputation for integrity, fairness, and steady leadership. He brings extensive experience in litigation including representing LSU, Southern University, the City of Zachary and a host of local entities in complex matters.

Outside the courtroom, Winston and his wife, Jennifer, have raised three children: Winston III; William; and Mary. They are active in both Sacred Heart and St. Aloysius Catholic Church.

ELECTION DAY IS NOVEMBER 3
EARLY VOTING IS OCTOBER 20 - 27
(THE DEADLINE TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN THIS ELECTION IS OCTOBER 5)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT **DECUIRFORJUDGE.COM** OR **SCAN QR CODE** HERE:

PAID FOR BY THE COMMITTEE TO ELECT WINSTON DECUIR, JR.

Louisiana History Brought to Life • An Illustrated Collection by Woody Jenkins © 2026

Central City News Names 10 Greatest LSU Football Coaches of All Times

CENTRAL - The ***Central City News*** has chosen the following LSU head football coaches as the greatest of all times. Agree or disagree? Comment when this article is posted at Central City News on Facebook.

1. Nick Saban (2000–2004)

- Record: 48–16 (.750)
- Accomplishments:
  National Championship (2003)
  Two SEC Championships.
- Impact: Saban modernized the entire athletic infrastructure and resurrected LSU into a national powerhouse, setting the elite standard for the modern era.

2. Paul Dietzel (1955–1961)

- Record: 46–24–3 (.651)
- Accomplishments:
  National Championship (1958)
  SEC Championship
  National Coach of the Year
- Impact: Dietzel brought LSU its first consensus National Championship in school history and created the "Chinese Bandits" defense.

3. Les Miles (2005–2016)

- Record: 114–34 (.770)
- Accomplishments
  National Championship (2007)
  Two SEC Championships
  National Coach of the Year
- Impact: "The Mad Hatter" captured the second most wins in school history and maintained a high winning percentage, keeping LSU in the running for a national championship.

4. Charles McClendon (1962–1979)

- Record: 137–59–7 (.692)
- Accomplishments:
  One SEC Championship
  13 bowl appearances

COACH PAUL DIETZEL with Heisman Trophy winner Billy Cannon of Istrouma High School. Photo courtesy Ella Hall and LSU Sports Photography.

- Impact: He remains the winningest coach in LSU history, providing 18 years of consistency without a single losing season.

5. Ed Orgeron (2016–2021)

- Record: 51-20 (.718)
- Accomplishments:
  National Championship (2019)
  One SEC Championship,
  National Coach of the Year.
- Impact: "Coach O" masterminded the undefeated 2019 season, widely considered one of the greatest single-season runs in college football history.

6. Brian Kelly (2022–2025)

- Record: 34–14 (.708)
- Accomplishments:
  SEC West Division Title
  Two 10-win seasons.
- Impact: While his tenure ended abruptly, his first two years brought stability and an SEC Championship game appearance.

7. Bernie Moore (1935–1947)

- Record: 83–39–6 (.672)
- Accomplishments:
  Two SEC Championships
- Impact: Moore established LSU as a premier power in the new SEC, winning league titles in his first two seasons.

8. Bill Arnsparger (1984–1986)

- Record: 26–8–2 (.750)
- Accomplishments:
  SEC Championship
  Two Sugar Bowl appearances
- Impact: A brilliant defensive tactician, Arnsparger revived a stagnant program in the mid-1980s before becoming the school's AD.

9. Mike Archer (1987–1990)

- Record: 27–18–1 (.598)
- Accomplishments:
  SEC Championship
- Impact: Taking over at 34 years old, Archer led the Tigers to a shared SEC title in 1988.

10. Gaynell Tinsley (1948–1954)

- Record: 35–34–6 (.507)
- Accomplishments:
  Sugar Bowl appearance • AP No. 9 (1949).
- Impact: The former LSU All-American player coached the famous 1949 "Cinderella" team that earned an historic Sugar Bowl berth.

Billy Cannon's 89-Yard Touchdown Run Plus Goal Line Stand Live In LSU Football History

Continued from Page 3

ed and was ranked No. 3 in the nation. They had crushed their first six opponents.

Objective observers outside Louisiana saw Ole Miss as the best team in the country, LSU notwithstanding. The Rebels were an offensive powerhouse, but their defense was even better.

During the entire 1959 season, Ole Miss gave up only 21 points. One of the three touchdowns came on that Halloween night.

With a little over 10 minutes left in the game, Ole Miss was leading 3-0. Quarterback Jake Gibbs was sacked on the Ole Miss 42. It was third down and 17 yards to go.

Ole Miss coach Johnny Vaught saw little chance of making a first down and decided the best option was to kick the ball and hope it would put the Tigers' back to the goal line.

Quarterback Jake Gibbs punted. It was supposed to go out of bounds inside the 10.

Billy Cannon was back to receive the punt, but he was under strict orders not to try to run the ball if he received it inside the 15 yard line.

It had rained before game time and the field was a mess. The punt hit the ground and made a single slow bounce chest high.

Cannon was on the 11 yard line and ignored his instructions.

It is important to understand that Billy Cannon was a world class athlete with an unique combination of speed and strength.

At LSU, Cannon won the SEC track and field championships in ***both*** *the 100-yard dash and the shot put! No other athlete in SEC history has won both the 100 yard/meter dash and the shot put.*

Cannon grabbed the ball and one by one knocked away eight tacklers. By the time he hit the end zone, he was 10 yards ahead of the nearest Ole Miss defender.

It was an 89-yard punt return that today lives in history.

But it wasn't over. Cannon crossed into the end zone with exactly 10:00 left on the clock.

Ole Miss went to work — making it all the way to the LSU one yard line. But this was to be the greatest goal line stand in LSU history!

Billy Cannon and Warren Rabb, the starting running back and quarterback on offense, were playing defense! At fourth and one, the pair from Istrouma and Baton Rouge High surged forward and stopped the Rebels — with 18 seconds left on the clock!

LSU won 7-3. As you can imagine, Tiger Stadium went wild!

The next week, LSU lost to Tennessee on a highly questionable call by the referees.

The Tigers and the Rebels each finished the season with one loss.

In one of the worst business decisions in LSU football history, LSU agreed to play Ole Miss in the Sugar Bowl. Ole Miss won 21-0.

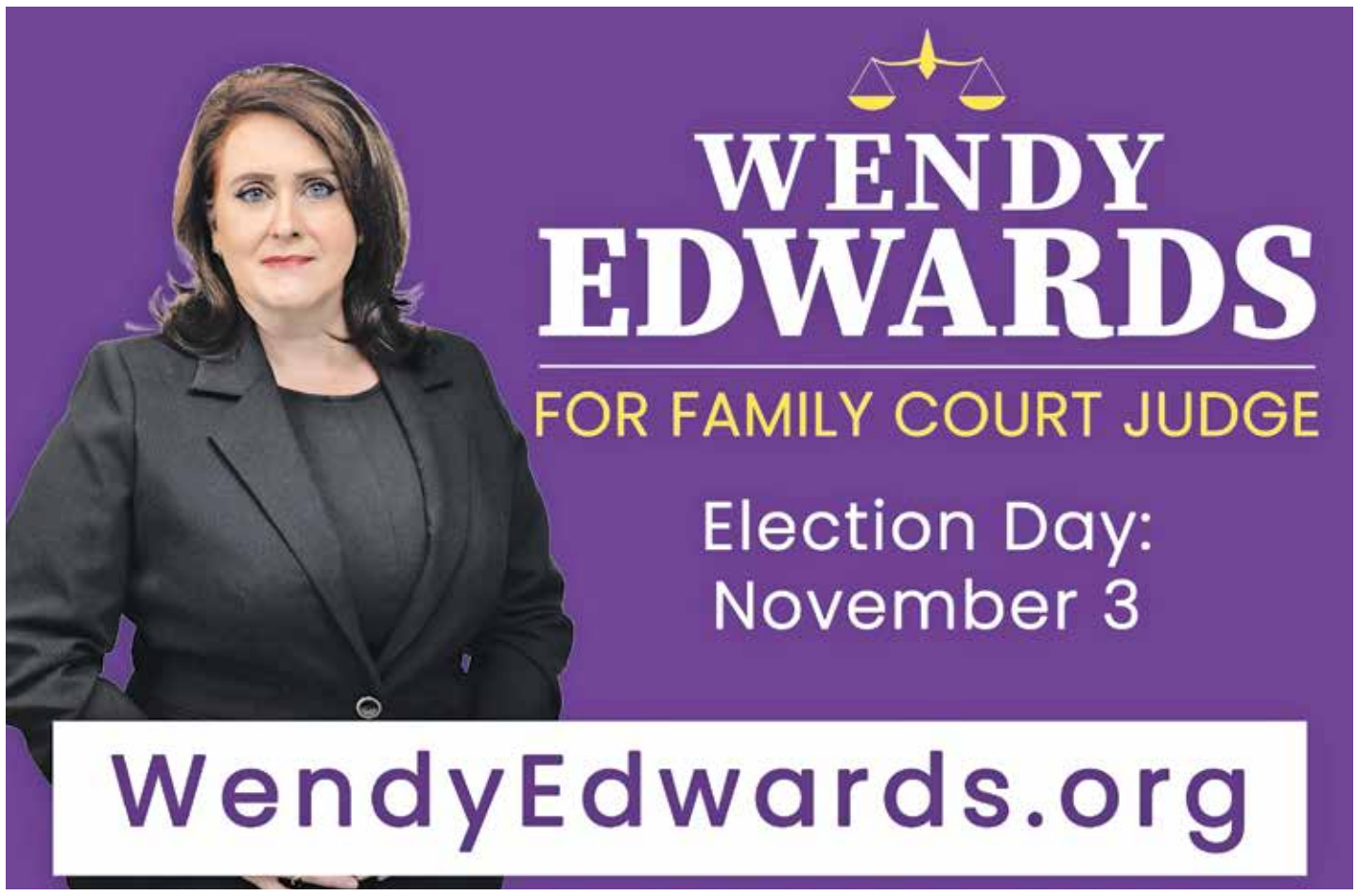
Few teams would voluntarily play a bowl game against a team they beat in the regular season. You let that victory stand. But the game was played, and Ole Miss won.

Before the Sugar Bowl, Syracuse (11-0) was declared the National Champions by the wire services, but several rating services declared Ole Miss the National Champion after the Sugar Bowl. It is a title that Ole Miss claims to this day.

Billy Cannon was named the winner of the Heisman Trophy.

The LSU-Ole Miss game played on Halloween night in 1959 remains one of the greatest and most talked about games in college sports history.

President John F. Kennedy in his Inaugural Address in 1961 - "We shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty."



NOV. 3
RE-ELECT
GORDON HUTCHINSON
CONSTABLE

40 years of Law Enforcement experience.
Worked with EBRSO and Central PD.
Served 12 years as constable for Central.

- **Central High Graduate**
- **LSU Graduate**
- **Proud U.S. Army Veteran, 82nd Airborne Division**

Veteran's Day Program at Courtney Christian Academy in Hammond, LA with my grandchildren.

Honesty • Integrity • Experience

Enforcing the orders of Justice of the Peace Court, a small claims court that makes justice affordable.