

Warren Drake Takes Helm as Superintendent

# New Era for EBR Schools

## Most EBR Legislators Receive 'F' From LABI

**BATON ROUGE** - The state's top business organization has rated the Louisiana Legislature on 28 key House votes and 21 key Senate votes during the recent legislative session. And the results aren't pretty!

Only three legislators who represent East Baton Rouge Parish received passing grades. All the rest flunked and received F's!

Passing were Rep. Barry Ivey, who earned a 99 percent rating and an A All-Star rating; Sen. Dale Erdey, who received an 80 percent, or B rating, and Rep. Valarie Hodges, who scored 76 percent pro-business for a C rating.

Not doing so well were other members of the EBR delegation. See LABI on Page 8

Photo by Woody Jenkins



**NEW LEADERSHIP** — New East Baton Rouge schools Supt. Warren Drake with school board members Jill Dyason (left) and Connie Bernard at Reagan luncheon.

## Battle of Baton Rouge Will Be Remembered Saturday, Aug. 1

**BATON ROUGE** - The annual Civil War Battle of Baton Rouge commemorative ceremony, a free family oriented event, will be held in the Historic Magnolia Cemetery, Florida Boulevard and 19th Street, on Saturday, Aug. 1 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. honoring the August 5, 1862 Battle of Baton Rouge. The

guest speaker, Marvin Steinbach, Port Hudson State Historic Site Interpretive Ranger, will discuss the 9th Battalion Louisiana Infantry that participated in the Battle of Baton Rouge under the leadership of Major B. R. Chinn. Rabenhorst Funeral Home is providing two

See BATTLE on Page 8

## Neighborhood Schools One of Drake's Goals

**BATON ROUGE** - New East Baton Rouge Parish schools Supt. Warren Drake said Tuesday that finding great leaders to serve as principals and in other key positions will be critical to the school system's success. "If you find a great leader, you can put him anywhere, and he will be successful," he said.

Drake said he is looking for leaders with vision, who understand that this is not just a job but a calling.

Drake, who took office July 1, led the Zachary Community School System to be ranked No. 1 in Louisiana for 10 straight years. He will have his work cut out for him in EBR, a district with a D-ranking.

Drake launched a 100-day plan to make major changes in the school system, and that plan is already paying off, he said.

See DRAKE on Page 3



Adonica Duggan  
Communications Director

## Former Top Drake Aides Joining EBR

**BATON ROUGE** - New Supt. Warren Drake has brought in several new top administrators including Dr. Michelle Clayton as Deputy Superintendent and Adonica Duggan as Chief of Communications. Both served in the Zachary school

See WARREN on Page 8

# Istrouma Grads Back Reopening School

## Supt. Drake Hopes to Get School Back From State

**BATON ROUGE** - As more than 1,000 graduates of Istrouma High and other schools gathered for the annual North Baton Rouge Reunion at the Belle Atrium July 9, the graduates expressed their dismay at the closure of Istrouma High last fall. The mostly white group expressed solidarity with more recent, mostly black alumni groups who are demanding that the school on Winbourne Avenue re-open as soon as possible. See ISTROUMA on Page 8

Photo by Woody Jenkins



**ISTROUMA CLASS OF 1965** held its 50th Anniversary Reunion last Saturday, July 11, 2015, at Parc 73 in Prairieville. Danny and Cheryl Brown (left) chaired the event, which drew a packed house. Reunion committee member Geri Rowland Krentel (right) presented a print of the painting, "Hail Istrouma" by graduate Elayne Spinks Kuehler to the Browns in appreciation of their hard work. See www.IstroumaHighClassof1965.com.



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**FAMILY** — EBR schools Supt. Warren Drake drew a large crowd when he spoke Tuesday at the Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon. Among attendees were his daughter Claire (center) and her husband, Stevens McVea (left). All of Drake's children attended and graduated from public schools in the East Baton Rouge Parish School System.

## City of Central Was Founded July 11, 2005

# City of Central Is Building a Bright Future

### Good Decisions Made In the Past Will Serve Us Well in the Future

**Jr. Shelton**  
 Mayor, City of Central

**CENTRAL** - There is an old saying, "time flies when you're having a good time". Well, 10 years have flown by for the City of Central and there have definitely been some good times. From the beginning, our city planners used forward thinking for the future of our city.

The efforts of many people helped steer Central in the right direction. For a week now, I have been reviewing the history of our incorporation and the massive effort has paid off in spades. To begin a new city takes detailed planning and I can assure you that while our incorporator, Russell Starns, humbly says we probably made some mistakes, those mistakes were few and far between. This city was founded on "heart". And the heartbeat of our city is the citizens' involvement. Sitting on my desk is an exhaustive list of the committees formed to move toward the founding of our city. No less than nine commit-

tees, comprising over 70 persons, dedicated to working for all of the thousands of citizens were used to structure our city.

Streamlining Central was a priority that still exists. The idea of privatizing our City Services, was in a word, "genius". Perhaps no other city in America can claim to have their entire city privatized. There is a statistic that says for every one private employee, it would take a municipality four employees to cover the same amount

of work. By privatizing, we deliver services, quicker, more efficiently and certainly at a cost savings to the citizens. The work of IBTS, our City Service provider, is seamless and works to Central's benefit.

I would be remiss, not to thank our first Mayor and Council who were appointed by Governor Blanco in 2005 for the trailblazing work they did to ensure Central's success. Mayor Watts went on to serve two elected terms and oversaw the making of our Master Plan that guides our city growth today. His vision and conservative approach to city matters has propelled us into the 21st century. The \$18 million surplus he amassed while serving will give us stability for a long time to come. The work of our appointed Council of Pete Humble, Carolyn Patterson, Louis DeJohn, Joan Lansing and Ralph Washington, took on a job

few were prepared for, but they did an exemplarily job in forming the backbone of our new city. Our first Chief of Police, Doug Browning, set in motion the beginning of what is now our police department, serving the citizens of Central.

The Councils that served later included Lucky Ross, Aaron Moak, Dr. Tony Lobue and Wayne Messina. These city servants took what was handed them and improved upon our city. Today, we are led by Council members Wayne Messina, Dr. Kim Fralick, Shane Evans, John Vance and Jason Ellis. Our Chief of Police is James Salisbury. The work of our predecessors is not only appreciated, but we owe them a great deal of gratitude for taking on the responsibility of forming a new city, of embarking upon an adventure that had many pitfalls in the path, but working with a single purpose in mind of creating not just a city, but a "model city", that would be the envy of Louisiana.

We all know that in 2007 our highly successful Central Community School System was born and like the city, has enjoyed great success. We are deeply indebted to many of the same people who formed the city for working diligently to create our school system too. The school system and the city are entwined together and the success of each depends on the other. Thank you, school board members and Mr. Faulk for leading us to the top!

As the next few years come and go, we will always be able to look back to the year 2005 and attribute what successes we enjoy to the brave men and women who stood up for the citizens of Central. Our future is in our hands. May God bless those who saw the future and acted on it!



**Jr. Shelton**  
 Mayor, City of Central

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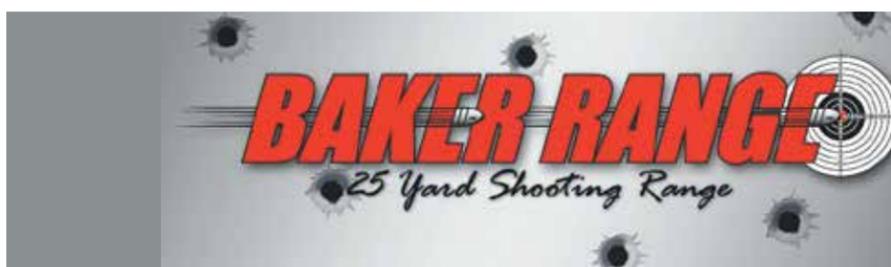


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New Supt. Led Zachary to No. 1 Ranking in State

# Drake Provides Vision for Future



SUPT. WARREN DRAKE outlined his vision of the future for attendees at the Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon sponsored by the Republican Party of East Baton Rouge.

Continued from Page 1

One immediate change is focusing on "customer service," just as a successful business would do. Drake said school employees have to treat taxpayers and parents as though they are the owners of the schools, because they are.

Another immediate change is a focus on the physical appearance of each school from the road. Drake said schools must be clean and well maintained in order to instill pride in students, faculty, parents, and the community. He is working with principals and the maintenance company to upgrade the appearance of district schools. Anyone visiting a school will also see that the dress of teachers will improve.

One of the most significant changes is restoring discipline in the classroom, he said. When a student disrupts the ability of others to learn, he must be re-

moved from the classroom and placed elsewhere, Drake said.

The goal is to create an environment where teachers can teach and students can learn, he said.

The new superintendent said he is not against charter schools, private schools, or home schools. "The reason we have them is that our public schools are not performing the way parents want," he said. "But our schools are going to become better and better, and there will be less need for alternative schools," he said. "Competition is good, and we have to get better," he said.

The superintendent said he understands how important his job is and how much the Baton Rouge community is counting on him.

The superintendent said people might be surprised to learn that he believes three of the most important peo-

ple on any high school campus are the football coach, the band director, and the custodian. He said he wants more men involved in the system, both as teachers and as mentors. "Our youngsters need father figures today," he said.

On the issue of St. George, Drake said he wants the same thing that supporters of St. George want — quality, neighborhood schools.

"I want you to be able to move into a neighborhood and know where your child will go to elementary school, middle school, and high school," he said.

Neighborhood schools are now one of the six priorities of the East Baton Rouge Parish School System, he said.

"Football Friday nights with Memorial Stadium packed out were one of the great events of this community. And we're going to bring those days back," he said.

Metro Councilman Ryan Heck asked the superintendent his policy on magnet schools. Heck said none of the high performing school districts in the Capital area has magnet schools. He wanted to know how Drake could rectify having neighborhood schools with having magnet schools.

Drake said outstanding school districts generally don't have magnet schools. He said he would be looking closely at magnet schools and at the gifted and talented program. "Frankly, it's all convoluted right now," he said. "Baton Rouge High Magnet is not going away, but nothing is being taken off the table."

The superintendent said many changes will be made before the school year begins in August but many more changes can be expected by August 2016.

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# Shaffers of Central Saved 130 Lives from



Jesse Shaffer IV and Jesse Shaffer III were commissioned as Plaquemines sheriff's deputies one before Hurricane Isaac hit. At right, Isaac at daybreak on Aug. 29, 2012.

**Woody Jenkins**

Editor

## CENTRAL'S GREATEST HEROES

**BRAITHWAITE** — On Monday, March 25, 2013, Jesse Shaffer III and his son Jesse IV were honored at Arlington National Cemetery with one of the nation's highest civilian awards, the Citizen "Service Before Self" Award from the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. Jesse III, 54, a native of Central and 1976 graduate of Central High School, and Jesse IV, 26, saved 120 of their neighbors on Aug. 29, 2012, during Hurricane Isaac in Plaquemines Parish.

In Central, the Shaffer family is known as cabinetmakers. B&B Cabinets is located at 15053 Greenwell Springs Road next to the Shaffer home. Shirley Shaffer and her late husband Jesse Jr. had five children — Jessie III, Charles, Darryl, Jeff, and

Lisa — and "We're proud of all five of them!" she said.

But Miss Shirley's heart unquestionably beat with a little extra pride on March 25 when Jesse III and Jesse IV were two of the four people in



Jesse Shaffer III  
1976 Central yearbook

America honored at Arlington National Cemetery during Medal of Honor Day. The wreath-laying was at 2 p.m. and the awards ceremonies at 2:30 p.m.

The Congressional Medal of Honor Society was created by Congress to recognize winners of the Congressional Medal of Honor. The Society in turn created the Citizen

"Service Above Self" Award to recognize civilians who have shown extraordinary courage.

After Hurricane Katrina devastated much of South Louisiana in 2005, a 26-foot high protective wall was built to protect residents of St. Bernard Parish. But nearby residents of the community of Braithwaite in Plaquemines Parish were just outside the wall's protection. They had only an eight-foot levee to protect them.

On the evening of Aug. 28, 2012, Hurricane Isaac was pounding Plaquemines and St. Bernard parishes. Plaquemines Parish was under a mandatory evacuation order. The Shaffer family decided to split up. Wife Suzanne and daughter Amanda evacuated, while Jesse III and son Jesse IV stayed at home to try to pro-

tect their property. They were within a few feet of the 26-foot high protective wall and felt they could make it to safety if necessary.

The Shaffer's home had been destroyed during Hurricane Katrina in 2005. They were afraid of losing everything again.

Braithwaite was in a dangerous position — much like a soup bowl. If water topped the levee, it would fill up the bowl and be slow to drain off. During the early morning hours of Aug. 29, 2012, the flood waters did top the levee and rushed over Braithwaite, reaching a depth of 18 to 20 feet. By 3:30 a.m. the Shaffer's home was inundated. Many of their neighbors had also stayed behind, and Jesse III and Jesse IV knew that those neighbors were in peril.

Acting on their own and without help from government, Jesse III and Suzanne's brother Lanny LaFrance commandeered a boat and

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# Rising Floodwaters of Hurricane Isaac

went to search for neighbors. Jesse III wouldn't let Jesse IV go with him until daylight. Jesse III tried to call neighbors by phone, while Jesse IV stayed in their truck behind the protective wall and sent messages on Facebook by text, trying to find out who was trapped in their homes.

In the surging waters, heavy rain, and high winds with downed power lines all around, Jesse III and Lanny went from house to house, looking for neighbors.

After the sun began to provide a little light, they were joined by assistant volunteer fire chief Jimmy Kamm and Jesse IV in a second boat.

The volunteer fire department and the sheriff's office were unable to enter the area.

With each load, the Shaffer's team brought eight to 10 people to the safety of the St. Bernard side of the 26-foot high floodwall.

People were stranded on rooftops and in attics. In some cases, the team had to break through the roofs to let stranded neighbors out of their attics.

Some of those who stayed behind were elderly and suffered from heart problems, diabetes, and other ailments.

During one rescue, the boat was full and Jesse IV stayed on the rooftop for 90 minutes, waiting for the rescue boat to return for him.

Suzanne Shaffer told of her husband's actions. "Down here, everyone knows everyone. He couldn't let them drown!"

Two parish workers had stayed to work in the pumping station. But the water came too fast, and they couldn't get to safety. They had been floating on a spare tire for two hours when Jesse III found and rescued them.

In perhaps the most dramatic and



**CONGRESSIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR** winner Leo Thorsness (2nd from left) congratulates Jesse Shaffer IV upon his receiving the Citizen Service Above Self Honor Medal from the Congressional Medal of Honor Society. Jesse III (left) holds his award.

moving rescue, Jesse III was looking for a family of five. It consisted of the husband and wife and their three children, all under six and two of them in diapers.

Just as daybreak was coming, he heard screams for help. When he arrived, he found the family of five on top of a trailer with the water rising over the top. With the help of the Shaffers, they made it to safety.

The high winds and pelting rain continued all day. By 7 p.m., the Shaffers and their team had rescued more than 120 people — one of the greatest rescue efforts in American history!

It was all done by individual citizens working on their own, risking

everything to save their neighbors.

Remarkably, thanks to these extraordinary efforts, only two people died. Both apparently died in the initial surge of water.

Jesse III grew up on Greenwell Springs Road near Beaver Bayou and the new Central Thruway. He played football for the Central Wildcats on the 1975 team, which won the District Championship and made it to the state semi-finals. The team was led by All-State quarterback Steve Ensminger. The head coach was Sonny Jackson.

Like his father, Jesse III became a cabinet maker. He married his wife Suzanne, who was from Plaquemines Parish. Son Jesse IV is a nurse.

The Shaffers were nominated for the Citizen "Service Before Self" Award by Sen. Mary Landrieu. Sen. David Vitter joined in paying tribute to the father-son duo. Plaquemines Parish President Billy Nungesser said the Shaffers were responsible for saving many lives.

In Central, Shirley Shaffer was asked if she were surprised by the heroism of her son and grandson.

"Not at all!" she laughed. "It's something they had to do."

Central school board member Sharon Browning, who taught Jesse III at Central High, agreed and said it was just what she would expect of him.

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Central Good Samaritan Said, "I Felt God Was Using Me!"

# Brandon Gomez Rescued Three Children

**Woody Jenkins**  
Editor

**CENTRAL** — On Monday night, Nov. 2, 2009, a 25-year-old Central man decided to "get involved" and do more than just "mind his own business." As a result, five members of a family are still alive, and the worst tragedy in Central history was averted. Ironically, the man was in just the right place at just the right time to perform a heroic service involving great risk to himself.

At 10 p.m., Brandon Gomez, a Central native and graduate of Central Private School, was driving east on Hooper Road just east of Central Middle School. Suddenly, a car swerved rapidly across his path about 300 yards ahead.

Gomez described what happened this way: "I thought it might be a teenage driver who was acting up. Then I realized the car hadn't turned into a road or a driveway but into a yard. I could see that it had landed in a pond and was sinking with its lights still on. I pulled as close as I could and parked with my lights shining on the car."

"The people inside had managed to roll down their window and were screaming for help. The car was filling up with water. I jumped in the pond. It was way over my head. The woman was holding two toddlers, perhaps two or three years old. I grabbed both of them through the window and held them in one arm as I swam back to shore."

"The woman was screaming that she had a baby. I swam back to the vehicle and she pushed it through to me. It was a newborn and as light as a feather. I swam back to shore with the child. The three children and I were laying



**DIVERS** from Central Fire Department raised the vehicle the morning after a courageous rescue of three children by Brandon Gomez. The vehicle was in the middle of the pond.

## CENTRAL'S GREATEST HEROES

on the bank of the pond. By now, the woman and a man had escaped from the car, which was almost completely underwater, and were on the roof of the vehicle."

"They were completely panicked and said they couldn't swim, but I was afraid to go back to them because I didn't think I could haul back an adult in a state of panic, much less two adults. I told them to jump in the water and kick as hard as they could. They

did, and they made it to shore."

By then, a resident of a trailer nearby had heard the commotion and helped them into her home to dry off. It was 48 degrees outside, and the pond water was cold. Everyone had gotten a bad chill.

The homeowner called 911, and EMS from the Central Fire Station were soon on the scene. The family was transported to Our Lady of the Lake Hospital. By Wednesday, they

were in good condition and had all been released.

Central firefighters' underwater dive unit was on the scene Tuesday morning and pulled the vehicle from the water. A Central Fire official commended Brandon Gomez for his courageous action and said all five members of the family might have perished but for his intervention. "The adults couldn't swim and might have died trying to save the children," he said.

In an interview with the *Central City News*, Gomez said he reacted automatically and didn't stop to weigh his actions.

He told his mother, Mary Gomez, "Mama, I felt God was using me to save those people."

In the interview, he marveled at how many things came together to put him in that place at that time.

"I could have been 20 other places at that moment. I watched the first half of the Saints game and was supposed to meet a buddy at Sammy's. He didn't show up. I was halfway to my girlfriend's house when she told me she was tired and needed to go to sleep. So I was heading to my friend's house in Amber Lakes to watch the second half of the game when this happened."

Gomez, who stands 5'8" and weighs 230, is a lifelong resident of Central. He earned a degree from Baton Rouge Community College and works as an operator at Dow Chemical.



**Brandon Gomez**  
Central Hero

See **BRANDON** on Page 7



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# Ralph Washington: Servant Leader of Decade

Mayor Pro-Tem Was Top Vote-Getter with 70% of Vote in City

**CENTRAL** — The *Central City News* has named the late Mayor Pro-Tem of the City of Central, Ralph Washington, as Central's Servant Leader of the Decade.

Editor Woody Jenkins said Washington best epitomizes the ideal of a man or woman who became a great leader through humble service to the community. "I'm sure there has never been anyone quite like Ralph Washington. He was truly a great man and a great leader for this community." Here are some of the things to know about Ralph Washington:

- He grew up poor on a small farm in Iberville Parish; one of 10 children. At 14, he was in the first busload of black students sent to integrate East Ascension High School (not at his request). White students were beating on the bus and shouting racial slurs. He decided to get out of the bus and ended up as an outstanding graduate of East Ascension High School and then Southern University and earned a B.S.

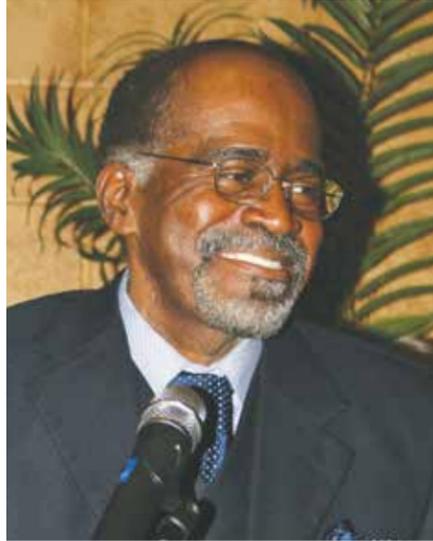
- When he was a boy, there was a major chemical plant on the Mississippi near his home. One of his friends said, "Someday I want to work in that plant!" But Ralph told him, "Someday I want to run that plant!" While working his way through Southern, he got a job at the plant sweeping floors. Over the years, he rose through the ranks and eventually he ran that plant! When the company was sold, he took a buy-out and used the money to move to Central and start Red Stick Cleaners.

- He was one of the original organizers of the City of Central who attended all the meetings and worked hard for incorporation. When the voters approved creation of the City, Gov. Blanco appointed him to serve on the interim City Council. When the first City Council was elected by the voters, he ran first among the 13 candidates. To the surprise of many, 70 percent of the voters of Central voted for a black man, more than for any other candidate. Then the new City Council elected Ralph to serve as Mayor Pro-Tem for the City of Central, the City's second highest position.

For nine years, Ralph Washington served on the City Council and as Mayor Pro-Tem. Never once was there a conflict of interest or a hint of impropriety or dishonesty. He stood forthrightly, uncompromisingly for what was right, no matter what the cost to him.

Example No. 1 - The bill to create the Central Community School System was being debated in a legislative committee. The Black Caucus was savaging not only the bill but Central, making Central look like a bastion of racism. Central is 90 percent white. This is about segregation, they roared. The bill was headed for certain defeat.

Then something happened that turned the tide almost instantly. A tall black man rose to his feet and walked to the witness chair. He wasn't supposed to speak. No one told him to speak. He got up on his own. He said, "Don't tell me about discrimination. I've been fighting it all my life. That's not the Central I know. I'm the Mayor



Late Mayor Pro-Tem Ralph Washington

Pro-Tem of Central, and this is about education — for all our children!"

Then he sat down, and everything had changed. The bill passed out of committee and then the floor! One man stood up and spoke the truth. And they KNEW it was the truth because HE said it. Many people have played a vital

## SERVANT LEADER OF DECADE

role in creating the Central school system, but had it not been for one man — Ralph Washington — the bill might never have made its way through the legislature.

Example No. 2 - At about the same time, Central was under attack in the court of public opinion. The president of the NAACP in Baton Rouge, Kwame Asante, came out to Central and went on TV the next day. He told WAFB-TV he had felt threatened in Central, being a black man at night. It was a racist place. The propaganda against Central on TV was unrelenting. Not a white person in Central could stand up and say We're not racist! They would have had no credibility.

But there was one man who could: Ralph Washington. And he did!

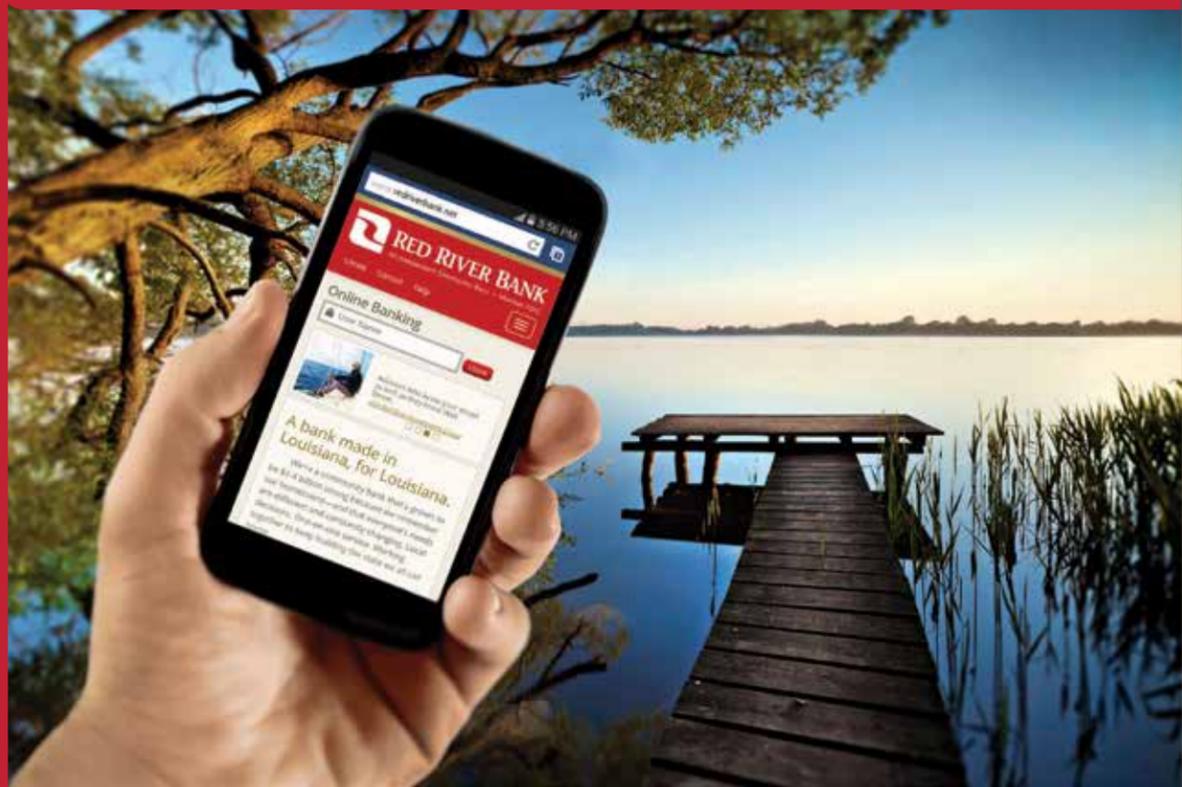
He got on Channel 9 and said, "I've lived in Central for years, and I've never seen anything like that in Central. The blacks and whites get along just fine in Central." Suddenly, it was over! Once again, Ralph Washington spoke truth and ended a crisis.

Example No. 3 — CH2MHill was making Central into a company town and making a mockery of privatization. They became secretive and refused to comply with the Louisiana's Public Records Law. But Ralph Washington spoke up on the Council and demanded that they comply with the law. At his urging, the Council ordered them to produce the records. He wouldn't sit silently and let the people of Central have their right to access to public records taken away.

Example No. 4 — When CH2MHill defied the City Council and continued to violate the public records law and refused to produce the public records, Ralph Washington led the fight to take away their contract and put it out to public bid. Once again, he was successful. Right prevailed, and Central got a new city contractor.

There were many other times Ralph Washington saved the day for this community. He stood up for Central when it counted! Ralph Washington passed away last August.

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## Brandon Gomez Risked His Life to Save 3 Children

Continued from Page 1

State police have not yet released the names of the victims or been able to explain the reasons for the wreck.

Gomez said he did not recognize them as being from Central.

Gomez lives in Carmel Acres. His email address is bgomez2355@yahoo.com.

[Editor's Note: The photo of the vehicle on the front page is a bit deceiving because it was much farther from the banks of the pond when it sank.]

# Battle of Baton Rouge Aug. 1

Continued from Page 1

tents placed under the oak trees of the historic cemetery and hand fans, and BREC is supplying chairs and water.

The Battle of Baton Rouge took place on August 5, 1862, on Magnolia Cemetery's grounds. At 4 a.m. that day, CSA Major Gen. John C. Breckinridge and his 2,600 Confederate troops entered Baton Rouge, trying to reclaim the city from Union occupation.

The Confederate Army forced the Union troops back toward the Mississippi River. An integral part of the Confederate battle plan was the prompt arrival of the iron clad ram, the *CSS Arkansas*, to destroy Union ships on the river. However, the *Arkansas* suffered engine trouble and had to be burned and set adrift. Unharmed, the *USS Essex* and other Union gunboats bombarded the Confederate troops until they withdrew from Baton Rouge that same day.

The two sides each suffered 84 killed. Union Brig. Gen. Williams and CSA Lt. Alex Todd, half-brother of Mary Todd Lincoln, were among the fallen soldiers.

The Magnolia Cemetery, established in 1852, fell into disrepair following the war due to a poor economy. Now listed on the National Register of Historic Places and the Civil War Discovery Train, the cemetery is being restored by the Foundation for Historical Louisiana, Magnolia Cemetery trustees, and BREC who are also the sponsors of the Commemoration. For further information contact the Foundation for Historical Louisiana



CIVIL WAR re-enactors like those at ceremonies commemorating the Battle of Baton Rouge at 10 a.m. Saturday, Aug. 1 at the Historic Magnolia Cemetery.

## Istrouma Grads Say Historic School Should Be Re-Opened

Continued from Page 1

as possible.

At the Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon Tuesday, new East Baton Rouge Parish schools Supt. Warren Drake expressed similar views.

Three years ago, the State Recovery School District took over Istrouma High after it was declared a failing school based on school performance scores. The state then operated it for two years before closing it in May 2014.

The state did not close the school as a poorly performing school but as an economy move because of low attendance. Only about 190 students were attending when the school was closed.

There is no public high school between Scotlandville and Capitol, and alumni say Istrouma is needed as a neighborhood school. They say the reason for low attendance under the State Recovery District was the fact that the Istrouma attendance zone was eliminated and students were told they had been reassigned to Broadmoor, Woodlawn and other schools. When Belaire hired the Istrouma band director, many of the remaining Istrouma students left for Belaire.

A proposal is also circulating among Istrouma alumni to create a Petro-Chemical Career Academy at Istrouma, in addition to the neigh-

borhood school. The career academy would serve students from across the parish and prepare them for high paying jobs upon graduation.

Supt. Drake said he is weighing the options. However, he did say he is committed to re-opening Istrouma in the fall of 2016.

He said about \$10 million will be needed to bring it up to standards.

Drake said he will have to convince State Supt. of Education John White to release Istrouma from the Recovery School District. So far, once the state has taken over a school, it has never been returned to the parish school system.

At Tuesday's meeting, Drake said Istrouma has a great heritage and that it is wrong to keep it closed. "I want the state to give it back with no strings attached, so that we can do what needs to be done there," he said.

Drake, who grew up in Homer before moving to Baton Rouge for high school, teased the Istrouma grads in attendance. He said Istrouma and Homer only met once on the football field, and that was in 1937 when "Homer and Gaynell Tinsley whipped Istrouma handily!"

Before the meeting, Drake talked about making Istrouma the centerpiece of public education in North Baton Rouge.

## Warren Drake Makes Imprint On Staff of EBR Central Office

Continued from Page 1

system when Drake was superintendent of that award-winning system.

Here are some of Drake's recent staff additions:

- Deputy Supt. Michelle Clayton, Ph.D., served as Executive Director of Academics in Zachary schools. She is recognized for her knowledge of the state accountability system as well as curriculum and instruction.

- Adonica Duggan Chief of Communications and Public Relations. She held position of Supervisor of Technology and Communications in Zachary Community School District.

- Executive Director of School Leadership and Professional Development Tamara Johnson

- Executive Director of Early Childhood Shenoa Webb

- Chief Technology Officer Richard Ellis who joined the staff from Iberville Parish schools where he successfully oversaw the roll out of the district's one-to-one initiatives.

Vacancies to be filled in the coming weeks are Chief of Student Support Services, Associate Superintendent of Academics, JumpStart Supervisor, and Director of High Schools.

Duggan's role will be similar to duties in Zachary, where she provided communication strategy and guidance for the superintendent, school board, and administrative team. In that capacity, she designed and developed a successful network of award-winning school district websites.

She is a winner of the National School Public Relations Association Golden Achievement Award.

Prior to joining the Zachary school system, she was editor of *Baton Rouge Parents* magazine and a graphic artist at Lamar Advertising.

She is married to Daniel Duggan, and they have four children, ages 4 to 10. She is an avid runner and triathlete. She participates in Girls on the Run and is a Rock-etkidz Foundation volunteer.

## LABI Gives F Rating To Most Legislators

Continued from Page 1

tion, including Reps. Frank Foil, 56 percent; Darrell Ourso, 53 percent; Steve Carter, 51 percent; Erick Pont, 46 percent; Dalton Honore, 35 percent; Ted James, 35 percent; Regina Barrow, 35 percent; Pat Smith, 34 percent; Alfred Williams, 31 percent, and Kenny Havard, 25 percent. Senators from EBR Parish who received an F for their 2015 voting records were Sens. Dan Claitor, 39 percent; Bodi White, 39 percent; Sharon Weston Broome, 30 percent, and Yvonne Dorsey-Colomb, 27 percent.

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# Central School Complex on Sullivan

200,000 sf Complex Houses Two Schools, Has Room for Third On Remaining Land

**CENTRAL** - The new Central School Complex on Sullivan Road, which cost \$46 million, contains two separate schools — Central Middle School and Central Intermediate School.

The new school complex includes classroom space for 1,200 students at Central Middle School and 1,200 students at Central Intermediate School. The classrooms are state-of-the-art and include presentation tables with computers for teachers, pull down screens, and wi-fi. More advanced classrooms are provided for science labs, art, band, choir, home economics, and industrial arts.

Ordinary classrooms have 750

square feet of space, and other classrooms have 1,000 or more. The complex also includes a Cafeteria which can seat 1,200 to 1,300 for lunch and 700 for banquets.

There are two gyms — a competition gym and a practice gym. The competition gym, which is better than many small colleges offer, includes additional basketball goals and volleyball. Locker rooms are elaborate, and athletic facilities include coaches' offices and advanced washers and dryers.

Each of the two schools has its own library. Teachers have many amenities, including convenient restrooms, work rooms, shared prep rooms for science labs, and much more.

The central courtyard includes a clock tower and learning displays, such as a giant map of the United States. There are also practice fields for football, baseball, and softball.

As one teacher said, "It is like



The new Central School Complex, which opened in 2012, is one of the most modern, state-of-the-art schools in the South. It is located on Sullivan Road north of Hooper.

leaving purgatory and arriving at the pearly gates of heaven!"

When she saw the finished school,

then school board president Sharon Browning said, "I teared up. It took my breath away!"

# Central Thruway Connects Central to The World



Looking south from Hooper at Sullivan toward the Central Thruway

Central Thruway Was Largest Public Works Project in History of East Baton Rouge

**CENTRAL** — The 4.1-mile \$65 million Central Thruway opened to motorists in 2013, providing a direct, Interstate-quality link from Sullivan Road to Florida Boulevard. The project provides easy access from Central to I-12.

The highway was originally pushed by former Metro Councilman Joe Greco.

Now the Central Thruway has become an integral part of Central. Still under construction north of Greenwell Springs Road, the Thruway links to Sullivan Road, which will be widened all the way to Hooper Road on the north.



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# Central Prepared for Hurricane Gustav



Mayor Mac Watts (standing at right) and Central Fire Chief Bill Poche (left at left) during preparations for Hurricane Gustav

**CENTRAL** - In September 2008, Hurricane Gustav swept through the new City of Central with winds over 90 miles per hour, and damage was widespread. Central received 10 times more damage than during Hurricane Katrina. It was Central's most destructive hurricane in living memory. But the community pulled together, and in many ways,

## CENTRAL'S WORST DISASTER

it was Central's finest hour since becoming a city. Central Fire Chief Bill Porche said large trees fell on at least 40 homes in Central. Trees, power lines, and debris were down everywhere. But no one in Central

was killed and no one suffered major injuries. By Wednesday, most residents were busy cleaning up and making repairs. Few businesses were open, and there were long lines for gasoline at the few gas stations, which were open. Overall,

the Central community appeared well prepared for the emergency. Central Mayor Mac Watts, Central Fire Chief Bill Porche, and other leading officials had met many times to plan for another hurricane or other disaster. Central recently received a grant to help create an Emergency Operations Center at the Central Fire Station on Sullivan.



Thousands of trees were down all over Central, and waters of the Comite River inundated some neighborhoods during Hurricane Gustav.

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# 90 mph Winds, Comite River Flooding



The Comite River, which is the western boundary of the City of Central, overflowed its banks, damaging some neighborhoods during Hurricane Gustav.

At 7 p.m. Sunday, Watts and Porche presided over a final planning meeting before the hurricane, which was expected to hit early Monday morning. All Central city officials and firefighters were on duty beginning at 5 a.m. Monday. They served throughout the storm, and many didn't sleep for 36 to 48 hours.

An average of 50 calls a day poured into the fire station Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday. Most were for trees on houses.

During the height of the storm, the fire department had to limit its response to life-threatening circumstances. At other times, it responded to all calls. One unusual call was for a mother who was giving birth at 3:30 p.m. — when the storm was most intense. As it turned out, the baby was born naturally, and both mother and child were doing fine. There were no major injuries reported in Central during the storm.

Wednesday night Central Mayor Mac Watts said the Central Fire Department and Central's Department of Public Works did a great job. "They had all major roads open almost immediately. They were out working, even during the storm. It's unbelievable how well they did," Watts said.

The mayor said there were many heroes, including Zoar Baptist Church's Disaster Relief Team and Central Drug Store, which opened to customers, even though it was without power. The mayor flew over the Baton Rouge area with Mayor-President Kip Holden and Zachary Mayor Henry Martinez. From the sky, Watts said the devastation was striking, especially the large number of trees down and the Comite River flooding out of its banks. Considering the power of the storm, Watts said he

was relieved that Central did not receive greater damage than it did.

The mayor asked that residents pile their debris by the side of the road. A contract was bid out for debris collection, and pickup will begin soon.

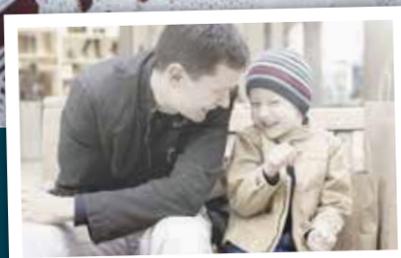
## Baker Class of 1970 Plans 45th Reunion

The Baker High Class of 1970 will hold its 45th Reunion at Lagniappe Restaurant, 14030 Plank Rd. Cost is \$23 per person which includes the meal. See Facebook at 1970 Baker High School 45 Reunion or contact Pat Bradley May at 931-8821 or Evelyn Fresina at 938-4359.



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Central Fire Chief Bill Porche and assistant chief Bobby Eller

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# When Gustav Hit with 10 Times Damage



In the aftermath of Hurricane Gustav, many streets in Central were lined with debris residents pulled out of their homes after floodwaters had receded.

**CENTRAL** — Central Fire Chief Bill Porche said many heroes emerged in the aftermath of Hurricane Gustav in Central. He had special praise for two local business owners who opened their doors to the public even before the storm had passed. Both businesses provided vital services in great demand. “David’s Tiger Express and Central Drug Store opened Tuesday morning, and they were a tremendous blessing to this community,” Porche said.

Claud Derbes of Central Drug Store was up and running, dispensing lifesaving medicines long before the chain drug stores got their act together a couple of days later. When gasoline was almost impossible to find, Tiger Express, located at the corner of Hooper and Joor roads, was serving customers

## HEROES OF HURRICANE GUSTAV

who lined up for nearly one mile on Hooper Road Tuesday morning. In many ways, Tiger Express was a model of what every business should be like in a disaster: They recognized that a hurricane was coming, they had a plan for dealing with it, and they executed their plan quite well.

David’s served well over 1,000 cars a day from Tuesday through Saturday. Owner James David said each driver was allowed to pull up to the pump by himself and pump as much gas as he needed. “We wanted to give people space, make them feel comfortable that there was plenty of gas, and not to panic,” he said. Likewise, the

David’s’ convenience store opened beginning Tuesday morning and did what could be called a “landslide” of business. Besides gasoline, the most popular products were ice, beer, milk, bread, fried chicken and snacks.

Customers praised David’s for staying open and serving the people. One said, “They did what every business should do but very few did.”

The secret to the David’s’ success was planning. James David said he focused on four things:

- “We stocked up before hand.”
- “We told our vendors in advance that we were going to be open. So they knew we would be there

waiting for them to resupply us.”

- “We told our employees that we were going to be open, and we actually went and picked them up and brought them to work, so they didn’t have to worry about transportation.”

- “We had our generator ready to go.”

- “Before the storm, we worked with first responders to develop a plan.”

James David said he had arranged in advance to provide fuel to the Central Fire Department, EMS, the Sheriff, FEMA, the Central Public Works Department, and Zoar Baptist Church’s special response team.

The major flaw in their plan was traffic control, but that was solved Tuesday. James David said he was very grateful to his suppliers, his

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# of Katrina, 2 Businessmen Stepped Up



After Hurricane Gustav, church gymnasiums became refugee centers (left), while emergency supplies of water and food were distributed to residents (right).

employees, and his customers. He had special thanks for volunteers who helped through some difficult circumstances — Todd Crafton, Glenn Bergeron, Ben Ross, and Johnny and John Brocato. Some of the vendors who were most reliable were Kleinpeter Dairy, Baton Rouge CocaCola, Baton Rouge Beer Agency, and Flowers Bakery. David said the Collette family of RAC Oil deserve special praise. They made sure Tiger Express received three truckloads of fuel a day. The Collettes live on Shoe

Creek Drive in Central, and they weren't about to abandon the community. "It was all so unbelievable," David said. At Central Drug Store, owner Claud Derbes arrived early Tuesday morning to find sheriff deputies guarding the building. Sheriff Sid Gautreaux had sent them out to make sure drug users weren't tempted to break in. "Nobody asked the Sheriff to send out the deputies — he just knew to do it!" Derbes said.

Like James David, the local pharmacist had a plan and worked it. "We had our generator in place and had alerted our electrician to be ready to connect it to our electrical system. We were back in business by 10 a.m. Tuesday morning." Derbes started serving customers by himself for medicine they forgot to order in advance. Many were not customers of his pharmacy but Central Drugs helped them all. One unexpected group of customers was medical evacuees. Central Mayor Mac Watts personally took it on himself to see that they had their medicines. "He even served as my delivery man," Derbes laughed. At one point, narcotics officers were screening incoming calls. "If a drug addict called and asked for something

suspicious, the officer just said, 'Sorry, but we're out of that.'" By Wednesday afternoon, employees had returned, and the temperatures were in the 90's. The pharmacy had power for refrigeration, lights, and phone but not for air conditioning. "It was hot!" Derbes said. On Thursday, Central Drugs got power, and things started returning to normal. That day, the drug store chains reopened. For businesses that intend to serve their customers during tough times, Derbes said, "Have a disaster plan, starting with communications. Stock up before the storm hits, and let your vendors know you'll be open. You can do it, if you really want to serve people!"



Claud Derbes of Central Drugs and James and Jeannie David of David's Mobil

## Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge

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# Congratulations, Central on 10 Great Years!

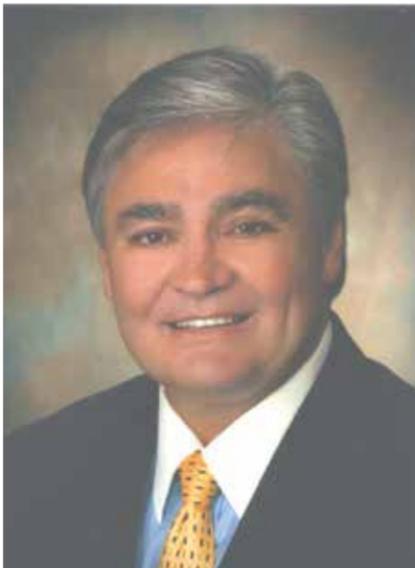
In 1967, my family and I moved from Northdale in the Istrouma area to what was a new neighborhood in the largely rural area of Central. An immediate bond was formed between this special place and my family, one that has continued on through the better part of the next five decades. Some of us have moved away and later returned to Central, and others of us have remained, but one thing has been certain: Central has and will always be home.

So many memories are near and dear to my heart: The lifelong friendships that I have made, the early school years and summer jobs, the unique spirit of teamwork that Central sports instilled. I was proud to graduate from what has always been one of our finest school systems and, years later, was proud to see my daughters graduate from it as well.

In 2005, our community became a city and what a city it has been! It continues to amaze me how we have managed to progress, attracting businesses, customers, and new residents, all the while maintaining the spirit of community, neighborliness and kindness that has always been the Central way of life.

Our city has been blessed with wonderful leadership throughout the past decade. It has had leaders throughout the community — from the churches, schools, police and sheriffs' deputies, firemen, emergency personnel, and the enormous number of caring individuals who have always worked hard to help our youth, those in need, and the populace as a whole. This was a tradition long before the city was formed and has continued strong since the City of Central was established.

I have been one of those in my family who have remained here through the long haul, and I cannot imagine anywhere else to hang my hat and call home. I am proud of where we have been, where we are, and where we are going, and I cannot wait to see the progress of the next decade and beyond. My thanks to everyone who gives so much to make our community the unique place that it is, and congratulations to one of the greatest cities in our country on its first 10 years!



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PASTORS JONATHAN & ANGIE STOCKSTILL



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Our Baker campus is our first location. Founded by Roy Stockstill in 1963, it serves the communities of Baker, North Baton Rouge, and the surrounding areas. The Baker campus houses our administrative offices and is also home to Bethany Christian School.



### SOUTH BATON ROUGE CAMPUS

Our South Baton Rouge campus was constructed in 2000 off of Siegen Lane and I-10 to serve the communities of South Baton Rouge and the surrounding areas. This campus houses our pastoral, creative, and experience offices as well as The Warehouse, where young adult and student experiences take place.



### LIVINGSTON CAMPUS

Our Livingston campus was launched in February 2014 to serve the communities of Livingston Parish and the surrounding areas. Currently, this campus meets in the gym facilities at Walker High School, and offers a fun, energetic, family environment where people can draw close to God and grow together.



### SPANISH CAMPUS BETHANY EN ESPANOL

Our Spanish campus launched 2008 to reach out and serve the Hispanic community of Baton Rouge and surrounding areas. Spanish B-Groups meet around the city and our weekend experience is Sunday 11am in the Warehouse at our South Baton Rouge campus.



### BETHANY MID CITY

We are excited to announce that Bethany is launching a campus in Baton Rouge Mid City. Weekend experiences will take place in the Magnolia Theater at the Baton Rouge Community college.

LAUNCHING SEPTEMBER 20

FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT [BETHANY.COM](http://BETHANY.COM) OR CALL 225-293-2100

## 10th Anniversary Edition Is Dedicated to

# Central's MVP: Sheriff Sid Gautreaux

Sheriff's Agreement To Keep Providing Law Enforcement After Incorporation Made City Possible

**Woody Jenkins**

Editor

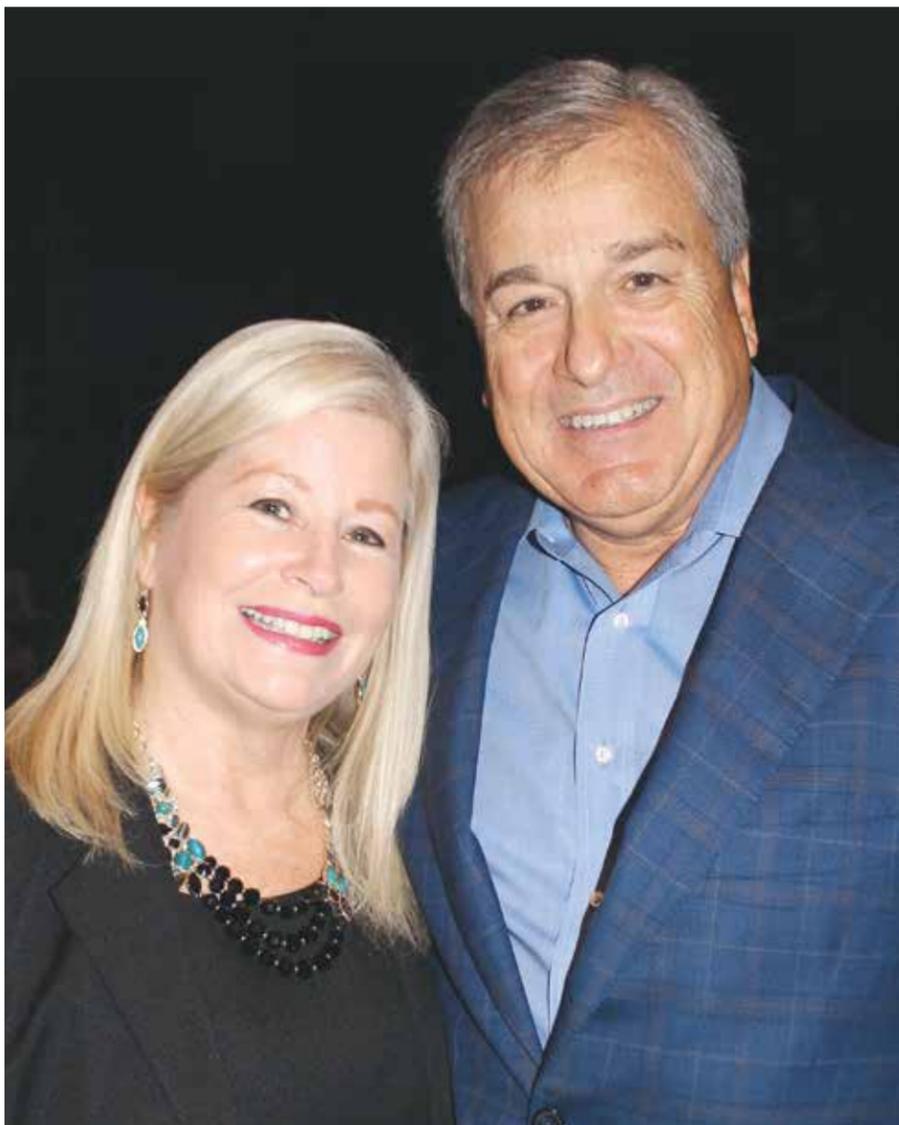
**CENTRAL** - There are many unsung heroes in the story of Central's first 10 years as a city. But perhaps the individual who has contributed the most and gotten the least credit is East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff Sid Gautreaux.

The Sheriff is rightly credited with providing a first-class law enforcement agency that does a fine job of keeping the peace in the unincorporated areas of the parish outside the city limits of any municipality.

When the City of Central was founded in 2005, Sheriff Elmer Litchfield and then Sheriff Greg Phares decided to continue their normal patrols in the City of Central.

When Sid Gautreaux was elected Sheriff in December 2007, he could have demanded that the new Central Police Department take over primary responsibility for law enforcement in the city.

But he didn't. Instead, his officers, who are based at the Central substation, have continued to patrol Central and do their jobs as before.



Sheriff Sid and Suzi Gautreaux

In addition, they have been willing to work with and assist the Central Police Department as it grows and develops.

What is generally not well understood is the critical role this plays in keeping the City of Central on a firm financial footing.

One need only look to Zachary to understand what the Sheriff's decision to continue providing law enforcement in Central means to Central's city budget.

In the City of Zachary, population 15,894, the city budget is \$13.1 million. Of that amount, \$6.2 million is spent on public safety.

In the City of Central, population 28,000, the city budget last year was only \$6.5 million. Of that amount, just \$300,000 was spent on law enforcement.

The City of Central usually runs a surplus of \$1.5 million annually, and most people attribute that to privatization, but the most important factor in Central's budget is the Sheriff's willingness to continue to serve Central.

If Central had to spend even half of the amount Zachary spends on law enforcement, the City of Central would run a \$1.5 million deficit each year.

In an interview Wednesday, Central Mayor Jr. Shelton praised Gautreaux for the enormous contribution he has made to the people of Central.

With all the Sheriff does to keep us safe and considering the important role he plays in keeping the City of Central in the black, Sheriff Sid Gautreaux is clearly Central's MVP!

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# Magnolia Square Still Gold Standard

## After Nine Years, Magnolia Square Remains Central's Top Development

**CENTRAL** — Jimmy Nunnally grew up in Central in the 1960's. His father, Dr. Richard Nunnally, who at age 87 still practices medicine, owns a log cabin on Greenwell Springs Road that was built in 1803 and is believed to be the oldest building in Central.

Jimmy always had a soft spot in his heart for Central. After developing several successful projects in Baton Rouge, he decided to undertake a small project in Central. While doing his due diligence, he came upon a large 185-acre tract for sale on Lovett Road. It was far larger than he needed, but he got excited about the possibilities.

He and partner Steele Pollard decided to build a large mixed use development they named the Village at Magnolia Square. It would be a TND, or Traditional Neighborhood Development, the first official TND in East Baton Rouge Parish. They engaged a famous designer, Steve Oubre, who planned River Ranch in Lafayette, to lead their design efforts.

In Central, the developers held a



**MAGNOLIA SQUARE** — After seven years, it's beginning to feel like home.

charette, an open house where local residents had the opportunity to review the plans and make suggestions. Oubre, Nunnally, and Pollard made every effort to include residents' suggestions.

When the proposal for the large development came before Central's Planning & Zoning Commission, it encountered no real opposition and was unanimously approved.

Steele Pollard's grandfather, O.M. Pollard, had developed Pollard Estates, and his father, Miles Pollard, had developed more than 790 acres in Slidell.

Nunnally said he knew the project would have to be done in phases.

Groundbreaking was held Feb. 22, 2008. More than 200 local officials, builders, and Central residents attended. The project was hailed as eventually including 510 classically-designed front porch-style homes as well as 15 retail shops, including a café, coffee shop, and other amenities.

Today, seven years later, the project is moving forward. Phases I, II and III of the project, which include homes and retail, are nearing completion. This includes Stab's fine dining, a bank, insurance company, day spa and salon, and legislative offices of Rep. Barry Ivey.

The community pool and pavilion for residents is scheduled to open in August.

ion for residents is scheduled to open in August.

Nunnally and Pollard have recently signed an agreement with Scott Bardwell to develop Phase IV of the Village at Magnolia Square in the Highlands District. Homes in that area will be in the \$350,000 to \$450,000 price range.

Right now, Nunnally and Pollard are looking at Phase IV, which may be called Villas at Magnolia Square with a price range of \$250,000 to \$310,000.

After those projects, there will still be another 100 acres to develop.

The Village at Magnolia Square has had a positive effect on Central. It has raised home values and shown that a high-end development can be successful in Central.

The Village has also been a boon to local builders, who have built most of the homes. Central's largest homebuilder, Steve Rabalais, has offices in the development.

In addition, the Central Community School System has benefitted because all of the homes and businesses make a significant contribution to property tax collections.

Nunnally said the opening of the Central Thruway is a major benefit to the Village at Magnolia Square, making it even more accessible to Baton Rouge and to Interstate 12.

For information on The Village at Magnolia Square, call 757-1970.

# Johnny's

## Pizza House

**Build Your Own Pizza**

Start with a single-topping Johnny's pizza by selecting one of our premium toppings. Add more toppings for just a little extra!

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Medium \$11.59  
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**Adult Buffet \$7.99** (Dine-in only)

**Kids Buffet 50¢** (Times their age, 12 & under only)

**Salad Bar**

Fresh salad bar available all day long!

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**Carryout \$6.99**

**Specialty Pizzas**

**Large \$17.49**

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**Mighty Meaty**  
Loaded up with pepperoni, ham, bacon, hamburger, sausage & mozzarella

**Chicken Ranchero**  
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Reved up with smoked ham, bacon, sausage, spicy smoked andouille, jalapeno & mozzarella

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**Maui Wowie**  
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**Bacon Cheeseburger**  
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**BBQ Blast**  
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**Veg-Out**  
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Grilled chicken with our Buffalo sauce, cheddar cheese, onion, bell pepper, jalapeno, bacon & mozzarella

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*Celebrating  
10 Years*

## A COMMUNITY THAT CARES 2005-2015

I would like to commend the City of Central for being a shining example of a 21st Century city.

I am honored and humbled to serve this great community.

I look forward to helping Central continue to move forward in the years to come.

**Senator  
Mack A. "Bodi" White  
District 6**



# *Where America Still Lives*



**All one has to do these days is turn on the television or open the daily newspaper, and you will wonder, “What is happening to our country?”**

**The principles that made our nation great are under attack — everything from the Rule of Law to the Ten Commandments to the Right to Life to Traditional Marriage to the Second Amendment.**

**We face anarchy in the streets of some of our cities and threats of terrorism from abroad.**

**But there is at least one place Where America Still Lives. A place where people still believe in God, the Bible, the Constitution, law and order, and traditional values. A place where families are safe in their homes, and public schools serve everyone.**

**That place is my hometown, the City of Central  
Where America Still Lives!**

**Congratulations on 10 Great Years!  
It is an honor to represent you!**

**Rep. Barry Ivey (R-Central)**

# ***GROWING WITH CENTRAL***



***9TH GRADE ACADEMY  
OPENING FALL 2015***

***CENTRAL COMMUNITY  
SCHOOL SYSTEM***

***10TH ANNIVERSARY  
CITY OF CENTRAL  
2005-2015***

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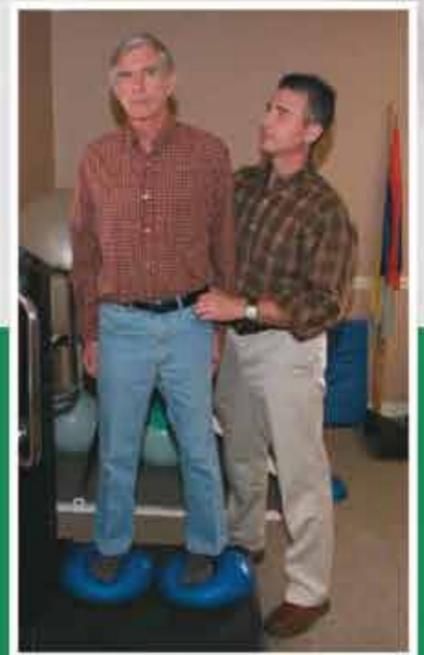
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# East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office



Your Sheriff's Office is proud to serve the people of the City of Central. On behalf of my deputies, many of whom are Central residents, congratulations on the many accomplishments of this great community. We appreciate your loyal support of the Sheriff's Office and all law enforcement. We are here to serve you. Please call when we can be of assistance.

Faithfully,  
Sid Gautreaux  
Sheriff  
East Baton Rouge Parish

**10th Anniversary • City of Central**  
East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff's Office

# THE VILLAGE AT *Magnolia* S Q U A R E



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# Romero Kids Learning Family Business

## Joseph Romero Has Built Chain Of Three Popular Stores in Central

**CENTRAL** — Business is a family affair for the Romero family, who work hard in Joseph Romero's three convenience stores in Central.

Almost any day, you'll find Shelby, 18, Samantha, 16, and Joseph, Jr., 12, busy behind the counter or stocking shelves.

Their dad, Joseph Romero, purchased his first store at the corner of Joor and Core roads in 2007. Three years later, Ken Sullivan sold Joseph his convenience store at the corner of Joor and Lovett roads. Then two years ago, he opened a store on Denham Road, when a store there closed.

It's a business that requires long hours and hard work. Joseph is at work by 4 a.m. every morning, but working with his kids makes it special. "I love having my kids work with me," he said. "We spend time together and get to eat lunch together. My kids have learned to do everything in the store, and they could run it by themselves if they had to."

Daughter Shelby was salutatorian of Central Private's Class of 2015. In her speech to the graduates, she credited her father with teaching her that money doesn't grow on trees and has to be earned. She plans to attend SLU.

Joseph and wife Pam live in the Pride area and their children are outside the Central Community School System. Joseph decided to get involved in Central Private and has served on the Board of Directors since 2007. All his kids attend CPS.

Joseph is proud of the program at Central Private and points to the



**ROMERO KIDS** — (Left to right) Samantha, 16, Joseph, 12, and Shelby, 18, all work at their dad's store. All attend Central Private.

## OUTSTANDING FAMILY-OWNED BUSINESS

school's growing enrollment, which is now up to 460.

Joseph himself attended Denham Road Christian School, where he graduated in 1986. He credits the late Rev. Cliff French and his teachers there with being great role models.

Joseph says all of the employees at Romero's three locations are like family, whether they are related by blood or not.

What makes Romero's different? Joseph says there are two things: Cleanliness and customer service. His staff makes sure every store is a place where you feel comfortable that everything is sanitary and well maintained.

Customer service begins with staff saying hello to every customer



who walks in the front door. "Our friendly attitude gets noticed!" he said. "One day a top executive with a major company in Baton Rouge stopped me and said, 'Joseph, I've been sitting in that booth watching how your staff handles customers.

My company has forgotten we're in the customer service business.' A couple days later, he told me he called a meeting of all his employees and he used our store as an example of how to treat people."

There are more than 150,000 convenience stores in the United States, but in Central the biggest chain isn't Circle K or Cracker Barrel or B-Quik or 7-Eleven. It's locally-owned and family-operated Romero's — with three convenient locations!

## Women's Conference

**Kelly Minter**

"The Fitting Room -  
Clothing Ourselves With Christ"

Zoar Baptist Church

August 21 & 22, 2015

Friday ~ 7:00 p.m.

Saturday ~ 9:00 a.m.—12:00 p.m.

Tickets go on sale June 28th

To register online go to:

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\$25 for ladies age 16-23  
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\*Physical Medicine Services provided by Kasey Hill, MD

# *Congratulations, Central!*



## **10th Birthday • July 11, 2015**

Central continues to be a role model for cities across our state and nation! We are proud of our great schools, low crime, wonderful churches, our warm sense of community, and, most of all, our people who make Central one of the great places to live in Louisiana.

Thank you for allowing me to represent you!  
God Bless You and May God  
Continue to Bless Central!

*Rep. Valarie Hodges*

# Heart Cath Through Wrist Now at Lane

New Procedure Offers Fewer Complications, Allows Patients to Eat, Get Up, Use Restroom

**Woody Jenkins**

Editor

**ZACHARY** — Sometime in the next few weeks, the cardiovascular unit at Lane Regional Medical Center will do its 10,000th heart catheterization. The experience gained from seeing so many patients and the quality of its staff and facilities have helped give Lane Regional a reputation as a major provider of cardiovascular services in the capital region. Lane meets all the same national standards as much larger facilities in Baton Rouge.

Now Lane Regional has taken the lead with a new procedure that will have many advantages for patients — transradial cardiac catheterization. Simply put, the cath is done using the transradial artery in the wrist instead of the femoral artery in the groin.

The advantages are fewer complications, less bleeding, and more comfort for the patient.

Before a heart cath, patients have to fast for at least 12 hours. Then after a heart cath using the groin, patients have to stay flat on their backs for six hours. During this time, they can't eat or get up to go to the restroom.

However, using the wrist allows the patient to sit up soon after the procedure, eat, and even walk to the



**LANE CATH LAB** — Team members include (left to right) Meagan Holcomb, Tanya Bates-Phillips, Micah Potts, Cardiology Services Director Laura Peel, Taylor Kimble, Stephen Saale, Bennett Templet, and Cath Lab Manager Rob Lawrence.

bathroom.

Nationwide, 12 to 18 percent of all heart caths are done through the wrist, but at Lane Regional that number is more than 95 percent.

A heart cath can be used for a variety of diagnostic purposes as well as various treatments.

Rob Lawrence, Cath Lab manager, said transradial caths require team support and the team is very important.

Using the groin involves using the femoral artery, which is a large artery. Using the wrist involves a much smaller artery, the transradial. As a result, the tools used in transradial caths are much smaller.

Getting a cath begins much like an IV, because a needle is used to

enter an artery. Then the sheath is moved all the way to the heart.

"Fluoroscopy, which is like a moving x-ray, allows the physician to observe the movements of the cath," Lawrence said. "We select each artery and look for blockages and irregularities. From that, we determine how to proceed. Without the imaging, none of this would be possible. We would be flying blind."

Lawrence said, "There is so much cutting edge technology in this area. Every few months, there is a major advancement — a new tool or innovation. Everyone is reading the literature and keeping up. We also attend conferences to learn more."

During a visit to the cath lab, the team was doing a transradial cath on

a patient who had a heart attack three years ago. The patient, 76-year-old James Graves, was reluctant to have bypass surgery.

Team members suited up with lead shields to protect their torso and thyroid areas.

The fluoroscope showed serious blockages. When the patient awoke, CIS interventional cardiologist Dr. Mrugesh Soni, told him, "The main artery on the left side needs a bypass, not a stent. It's not an emergency to do right now. But you need to consult with a surgeon. This thing has been going on for a while. I'm going to send you home, and you should see the surgeon in a few days. The good news is, your pumping function is normal."

Two of the cath lab techs, James Pierce and Micah Potts, are Central High graduates. They said the work is very rewarding.

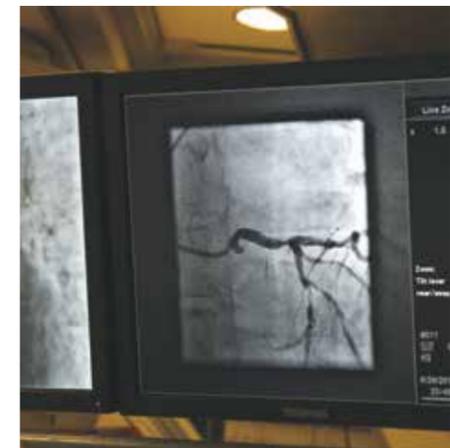
Lane Regional Medical Center is an Accredited Chest Pain Center, which means its Cardiovascular Center is efficient and effective. Nationally, the average time from arrival at the hospital with a cardiac emergency until the start of a procedure is 90 minutes. At Lane the time is only 45 to 60 minutes. In addition, since most patients live in the region near the hospital, travel time is shorter.

Lane Regional is now building a second cath lab. This will open the door for many additional services, including more lengthy vascular surgeries.

Lane Regional provides cath lab services 24/7, and a team of four is on call at all times. For a tour of the facility or a physician referral, please call Lane Cardiovascular Center at 658-6765.



Micah Potts of Central prepares to start a transradial cath through the wrist at Lane Regional's cath lab. At right, CIS interventional cardiologist Dr. Mrugesh Soni waits to get started.



**INSERTING SHEATH** — Micah Potts of Central aids Dr. Mrugesh Soni during heart cath. At center, Rob Lawrence looks on. At right, fluoroscopy shows blockages.



At left, patient James Graves, 76, wakes up from conscious sedatio. At center, Mr. Graves and his family hear from Dr. Soni. At right, James Pierce of Central and Rob Lawrence.

# 10 Greatest Central High School

## Coach Sid Names Greatest Games of The Past Decade

**Woody Jenkins**  
Editor

**CENTRAL** - In an interview with the *Central City News*, Central High head football coach Sid Edwards reminisced about the decade since the City of Central incorporated on July 11, 2005.

It has been a great decade for Central High football, he said, as he recalled some of the most memorable games. When asked to rank the 10 greatest Central High victories of the decade, he came up with this list:

**1. Miracle at Metairie.** In the playoffs in 2008, Central High faced Brother Martin on a freezing night in Metairie. With the State Regional Championship on the line, it was a classic defensive battle. In the first half, each team scored once and it was tied 7-7. By the 4th quarter, Brother Martin running back Dalton Hilliard, Jr., was running



**JOSH JOHNS** after blocking the last second field goal they led to the Miracle at Metairie

through the Central defense almost at will. With 16 seconds left in the game, Brother Martin had first-and-goal at the 9-yard-line. A Brother Martin victory seemed almost certain. They had time for one running play to try to score a touchdown. Then, if that failed, they could call time out and try the field goal. The worst that could happen for Brother

Martin would be to miss the field goal, end the game in a tie, and go into overtime. Or so it seemed.

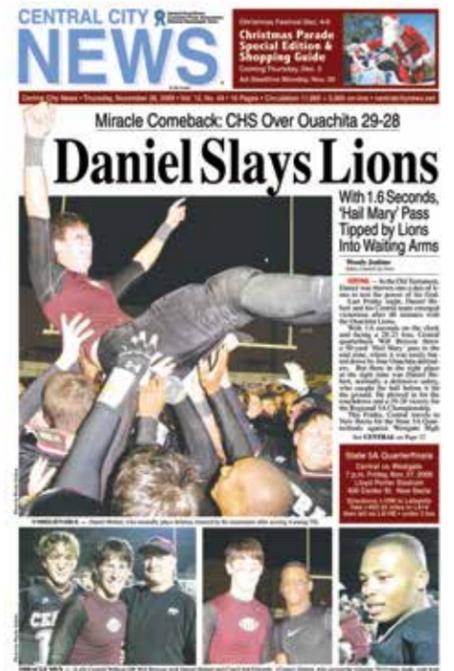
The Crusader quarterback handed off to Dante Butler, who had also been shredding the Central defense. But, whoaa, he was thrown for a 14-yard loss by Travis Watts back to Central's 23-yard-line. With five seconds left on the clock, Brother

Martin's field goal unit came onto the field. The ball was snapped, kicked, and sailed toward the goal posts. No, wait... it was blocked! Who was that? It was Josh Johns who blocked it! The ball was up in the air somewhere around the 30 yard line. Josh Veals caught the ball on the fly and took off running for the goal line. As Veals passed the Wildcat 40-yard-line, Coach Edwards said, "I lost sight of what was going on. Everybody was pushing and jumping up and down. The next thing I saw was a big pile of Central players down in the end zone. I'm thinking, well, we must have won this thing!" Players flooded onto the field. The clock had run out, and no attempt was made to kick the extra point. The Central Wildcats had won the State Regional Championship 13-7 — all because of the Miracle at Metairie, the game of the decade!

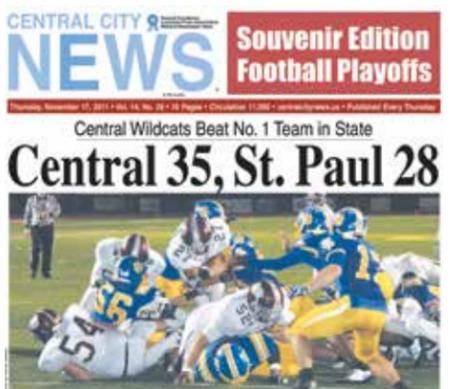
**2. Catch in the Cathouse.** Central fans and players believed there would never be a game to match the Miracle at Metairie — until the next year, when something just as astounding happened! On the cold evening of Nov. 20, 2009, at Wildcat Stadium, Central hosted the Ouachita Lions, one of the top teams from North Louisiana, for the Bi-District Championship. Ouachita's quarterback was reputed to be better than Terrance Broadway, and the previous week the Ouachita defense sacked the West Jefferson quarterback nine times.

In the Old Testament, Daniel was thrown into a den of lions to test the power of his God. And, in

**CONGRATULATIONS  
CENTRAL  
ON 10 FANTASTIC YEARS!**



The Catch in the Cathouse!



**Will Easley Says Vote 'Yes' Saturday for Lower Tax**



# Victories of 2005-2015 Decade

**CENTRAL CITY NEWS**  
 The Final Four  
 Central Wildcats Defeat Acadiana 10-7 to Reach Semi-Finals  
 Christmas Parade at 10 a.m. Saturday  
 Central High at Destrehan  
 Support the Wildcats • Come to Destrehan Friday!



A BLOCKED FIELD that led to a Central victory over Zachary

**CENTRAL CITY NEWS**  
 Columbus Day  
 Mayor-President Refuses to Debate Tax Opponents  
**No Tax Debate**  
 Central HS At Denham Tonight at 7  
 Central Takes Catholic By 60-21, Rises to No. 4  
 Country Village Preserves Central Heritage

this game, like Daniel of old, Daniel Hebert and his Central team emerged victorious after 48 minutes with the Ouachita Lions.

With 1.6 seconds on the clock and facing a 28-23 loss, Central quarterback Will Briscoe threw a 50-yard 'Hail Mary' pass to the end zone, where it was easily batted down by four Ouachita defenders. But there in the right place at the right time was Daniel Hebert, normally a defensive safety, who caught the ball before it hit the ground. He plowed in for the touchdown and a 29-28 victory for the Bi-District 5A Championship.

**3. No. 32 Seed Defeats No. 1 Seed in Playoffs.** The 2011 State 5A Championship was clearly St.

## TOP 10 WILDCAT VICTORIES

Paul's to lose. They were the best team in the state, ranked No. 1 in the polls and seeded No. 1 in the playoffs. But they didn't take account of the Central Wildcats, the No. 32 seed in the first round of the state playoffs. Actually, Central wasn't the No. 32 seed. They were No. 33 and pushed No. 32 Chalmette out of a playoff spot by virtue of being the District 4-5A Champion. On game night, St. Paul's dream of a State Championship turned into a nightmare, as Central jumped to

a 21-0 lead. St. Paul's fought back and led 28-27 before Wildcat quarterback Brett Courville engineered an 80-yard drive, ending with a 1-yard touchdown by Zack Evans and a two-point conversion by Jake Myer with 1:04 left. It was a sweet 35-28 victory for Coach Doug Dotson and the Wildcats and more than avenged two regular season losses to St. Paul's the past two seasons.

**4. Defeating Mighty West Monroe 14-0.** Central won the State Regional 5A Championship in 2013,

defeating West Monroe 14-0, the first home field playoff lost by West Monroe in decades.

**5. Defeated Defending State Champion Acadiana 10-7** in 2008.

**6. Five Straight Victories Over Catholic High** including a 60-21 victory in 2009 before the Bears abandoned District 4-5A.

**7. Central's Victory Over St. Thomas More** in 2013.

**8. Defeating Scotlandville for Three Straight Years** by 1 Point in 2011-2012-2013.

**9. Overtime Victory Over Denham Springs** in 2011.

**10. Central's Overtime Victory Over Zachary** in 2010 when Cooper Moore intercepted in the end zone to end the game.

*17613 Lake Pass Drive*  
*Bellingrath Lakes Subdivision*

**Executive Home With Pool in Central Community School District**  
 4 Bedrooms, 2.5 Baths with 2,388 sq.ft. living area

- Large Master Suite with Jacuzzi tub and his/her closets
- Spacious backyard with salt water pool
- Large kitchen with granite countertops and stainless appliances
- Laundry room with sink
- Gas fireplace and lanterns
- Two car garage with storage
- Separate office with built-in desk
- Stained and scored concrete floors throughout, carpet in bedrooms
- Includes a formal dining room, breakfast area, and keeping room
- Great features

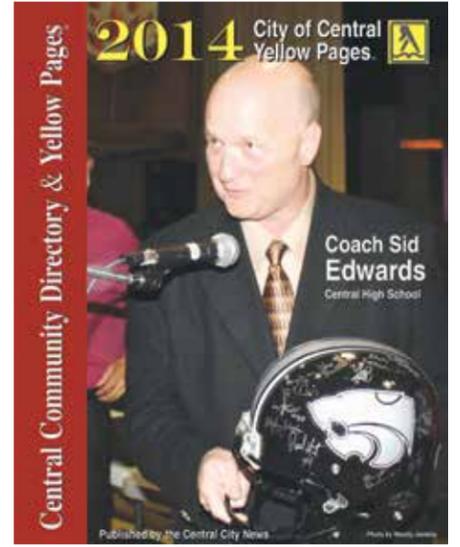
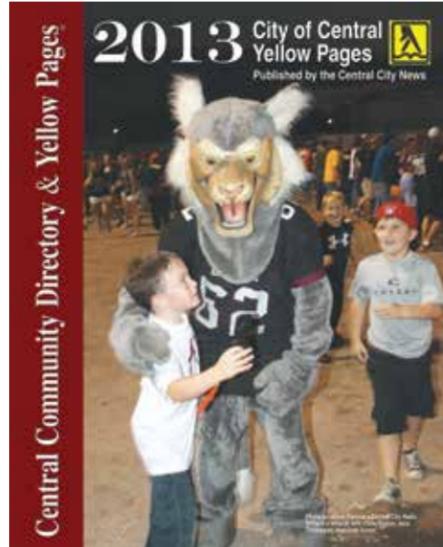
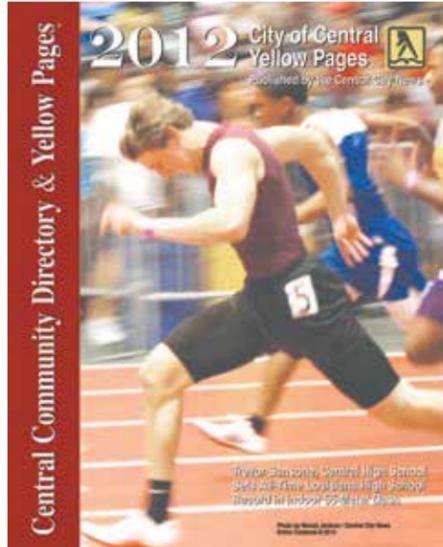
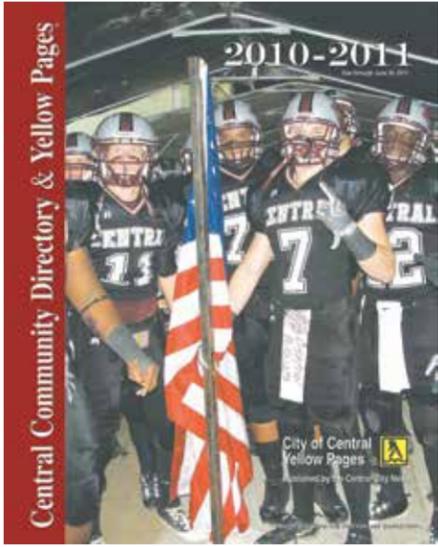
For Sale \$335,000  
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 By appointment only,  
 Pre-Approval Required  
 Realtors Welcomed at 2%

*Central City News*  
**2015 Back-to-School Edition**  
 Coming August 6

*Central City News*  
**2015 Football Preview**  
 Coming September 3

To advertise, contact Central City News  
 centralcitynews@hotmail.com  
 or call 261-5055, 921-8784 or 405-8894

# Central Directory: The Go-To Source



**CENTRAL** — AT&T doesn't publish a telephone directory for the City of Central, and the *Central City News* filled that gap years ago when it began publication of the annual *Central Community Directory & Yellow Pages*. The directory is a traditional telephone directory with both Yellow Pages (a listing

of all businesses in the community, organized by type of business) and White Pages (an alphabetical listing of all businesses and households).

But it is much more than just a phone book!

It is a "Community Directory" that includes:

- A map of Central showing zip

code areas

• Photos and contact information for all public officials serving the City of Central, including state legislators, Metro councilmen, Mayor and city council members, and Central Municipal Services Center.

- Central school board members
- Central's public and private

schools

- Central's churches
- Chamber of Commerce of EBR

The deadline to advertise or update a listing in the 2016 Directory is November 30, 2015.

For more information, call Kim Powers at 921-8784 or Jolice Provost at 405-8894,

**Now Available at Stores Throughout Central**

## 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary City of Central 2015

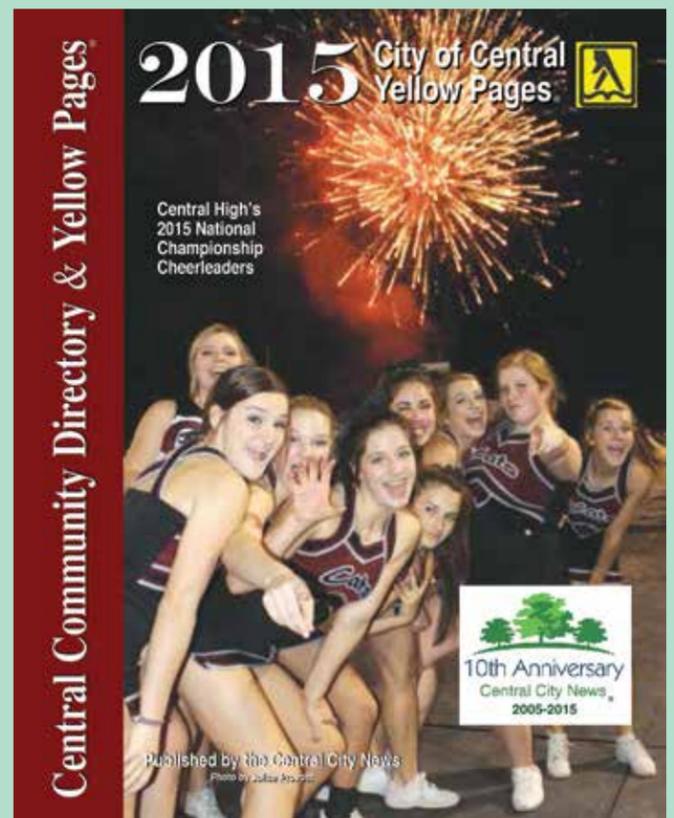
### Central Community Directory & Yellow Pages<sup>®</sup>

Photos and Features Dedicated to  
the City of Central's 1st 10 Years

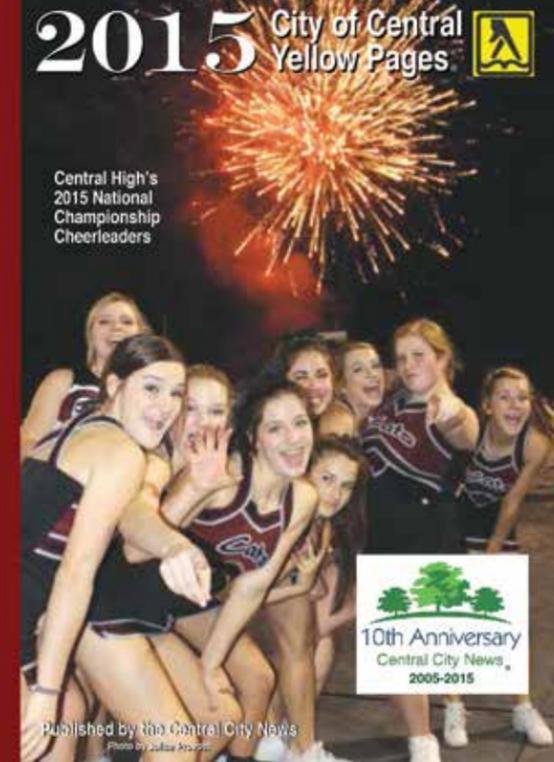


## City of Central Yellow Pages<sup>®</sup>

A Great Way to Keep Your Message  
Inside the Homes and Businesses  
of Central 365 Days a Year!



Central Community Directory & Yellow Pages



Published by the Central City News



Business Owners: Start Planning Your Ad in the

### 2016 Central Community Directory & Yellow Pages<sup>®</sup>

Access Central Community Directory On-Line at [www.centralcitynews.us](http://www.centralcitynews.us)  
P.O.Box 1 • Central, LA 70739 • (225) 261-5055 • [centralcitynews@hotmail.com](mailto:centralcitynews@hotmail.com)  
To Advertise, Contact Kim at 921-8784 or Jolice at 405-8894



Kim Powers



Jolice Provost

**Published Annually by Central City News**

# 10 Years Ago Their Lives Were Destroyed by Katrina



SEPT. 16, 2005 — Sumich family supermarket destroyed by Hurricane Katrina.



CHRISTMAS 2005 — Sumich family vowed Katrina won't steal Christmas!

## But Today They Are Central's 'New Business of the Decade!'



The Sumich family today



Oak Point Fresh Market, the Sumich family supermarket in Central today

### The Sumich Family

"I know the plans I have for you, said the Lord. They are plans for good and not evil. They are plans to bring you a hope and a future, and in those days when you Pray, I will listen. And when you seek me, you will find me when you seek me in earnest." Jeremiah 29:9-11

John Sumich said, "Thank you, Central, for letting us be part of this great community!"

## Is It time for help with YOUR TAX DEBT?

OWE THE IRS AND CAN'T AFFORD TO PAY?

BEING AUDITED?

WAGE GARNISHMENTS DUE TO BACK TAXES?

OWE BACK TAXES FOR YOUR BUSINESS?

RECEIVING THREATENING LETTERS FROM THE IRS?

YEARS OF UNFILED RETURNS?

**OUR ENROLLED AGENTS & TAX RESOLUTION SPECIALIST CAN HELP RESOLVE YOUR TAX PROBLEMS**



Member of Central Chamber of Commerce

**Free Consultation Call 225-925-8298**

www.eagleeyetax.com  
4756 Monticello Blvd.

# Will Briscoe: Central Athlete of Decade

His Senior Year, Briscoe Had 48 TD's, 3080 Yds, Only 2 Interceptions, Led Wildcats to State Regional Championship

**CENTRAL** - Louisiana's top quarterback of 2008 and 2009 was Central's Will Briscoe, whose extraordinary performance gained national attention. Briscoe was 1st team All-State as a junior in 2008 and the Advocate's All-Metro MVP.

But in 2009, Briscoe had an even more impressive year. He guided Central to the State 5A Regional Championship and was responsible for 48 touchdowns. He completed 188 passes on 283 attempts for 3,080 yards with the accuracy of a jungle sniper. He had only two interceptions all year.

Briscoe passed for 39 TD's, ran for eight, and even caught a touchdown pass on a trick play. He could lob the ball or send it 60 yards down field with a high degree of reliability. An able field general, Briscoe helped the Wildcats average 46 points a game.

His exciting brand of play kept fans in the game, except when he carried things to extremes. During one five-minute period, he passed for four touchdowns, and fans started paying more attention



Wes Briscoe, Coach Doug Dotson, and Will Briscoe

to the band than the game. Because the Wildcats were usually so far ahead by half-time, Briscoe played little in the 2nd half most of the season. So the full extent of his abilities was seldom tested and his numbers were far less that they could have been. On those occasions when the

Wildcats were under pressure in the 2nd half, he proved to be as cool as a cucumber and never folded. If the Wildcats needed an 80-yard touchdown in, say, 20 seconds, he made

it happen. Will Briscoe was blessed with four of the state's top wide receivers — Shedrick Davis, Jae Cutno, Gregg Morris, and Will's twin brother, Wes Briscoe.

Coach Sid Edwards said of Will Briscoe: "A rare athlete who has all the qualities of a winner. I have 100 percent trust in him. When he is in the game, it is impossible to believe you will lose. I've coached some great quarterbacks, but he is the best ever!"

## Most Potential: Reagan Willis

**CENTRAL** - It's not often that a freshman athlete gets mentioned with the "greats" such as Will Briscoe. But there's a Central athlete worth watching. Last year as a freshman Reagan Willis tore up the softball diamond and set a record in powerlighting. Now she's only a sophomore. Did we mention she has a 4.5 GPA?



Reagan Willis  
Top 9th Gr. GPA 4.5

**A & B Lawn Care**  
225-305-3035  
lawncare\_ab@yahoo.com  
Pressure Washing • Clean Up  
Lawn and Flowerbed Maintenance  
**MENTION THIS AD AND GET \$5 OFF**

## Classifieds

\$6 for first 10 words. \$10 for 11 to 20 words, \$15 for 21 to 30 words. \$20 for 31 to 40 words. \$25 for one column inch classified display ad. Call 261-5055. Must be paid in advance. To pay by credit card, go to www.centralcitynews.us and click "Pay Now" on the left. Then email ad copy to centralcitynews@hotmail.com. Or mail or hand deliver check and ad copy to Central City News, 910 N. Foster, Baton Rouge 70806

**HOME FOR RENT:** 3BR & 2BA in Central area. Appliances included. Monthly rent \$1100 / S/D \$500.00. Contact 561-352-3790 for inquires.

**PLANNER (Baton Rouge, LA):** Develop regional long range plans & priorities for land use in towns, cities, & counties

for transportation. Conduct highway, public transit, & /or bike/pedestrian studies, incl. detailed specification of land use problems. Apply computer models, analysis & review, & reporting of results, for urban plan development & recommendations for transportation project implementation. Req: Mstr's degr in Urban Planning or Civil Engineering w/1 yr of work exp in transportation planning. Send resumes of Director of Transportation, Capital Region Plannng Commission, 333 N. 19th St., Baton Rouge, LA 70802

**FOR SALE: PORCELAIN DOLL COLLECTION** best offer call 225-261-1631

**GARAGE SALE:** 3 Family Garage Sale Saturday July 11, and July 12th 2015 7 a.m.-4 on Saturday and Sunday until noon. 11605 Deveraux Ave Zachary, La 70791 Plantation Way Subdivision

**Reaching Central... and the World with Social Media**

**centralcitynews.us**  
Official site for latest news, weather, sports

**centralcitynews.net**  
Archives for last seven years of Central City News

**cityofcentral.com**  
All About "Central Today" TV Program

**Central City News on Facebook**  
The most popular Facebook site in the City of Central — check it out!

**animoto**  
We use animoto to produce professional quality video for news, features, and for our advertising clients — HD quality that can be used worldwide on the web! Check out our videos at Central City News on Facebook.

Where are the thousands of great photos we don't have room to publish? Go to centralcitynews.smugmug.com and download your favorites for FREE!

Read Central City News on-line or on your cell phone. Go to centralcitynews.us and click "Current Print Edition"

**Central City News**  
Post Office Box 1, Greenwell Springs, LA 70739  
225-261-5055  
www.centralcitynews.us  
centralcitynews@hotmail.com

Greater Baton Rouge American Italian Association



## Italian Heritage Festa

(formerly Columbus Day Festa)

Sunday July 26, 2015

**FREE ADMISSION**

11 am to 5 pm

The Belle of Baton Rouge Casino & Hotel Atrium

**"An offer you can't refuse"**

**"A dinner dance and show" with Lena Prima (Daughter of Louis Prima)**

Saturday July 25, 2015, at 6:30pm  
The Belle of Baton Rouge Casino & Hotel Atrium

Individual show and dinner tickets

\$20

For show and dinner tickets call 225-293-2551.

**Hotel Package**

1-night Saturday hotel stay, two tickets

\$99

(Friday and/or Sunday special room rates are available)

For hotel reservations call 1-800-266-2692.

Please request code "FEST2"

Presentation of Italian Maids

Italian 101 with Dr. Joe Ricapito

Free Face Painting 225-278-6936

Little Italy shopping Village

Wonderful Italian Food Desserts and Drinks

Italian Genealogy & History by Sal Serio

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Bocce Ball

Music by The New Orleans Express

Vino Stroll To Benefit the McMains Developmental Center

For more information visit [www.GBRAIA.org](http://www.GBRAIA.org)

Special Thanks to our Sponsors!



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*Love* WHERE YOU SHOP

Featuring:

Fresh Meat & Produce

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Beautiful Floral Items



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COME BY TRY OUR  
FRESH SUSHI • SALAD BAR  
MEALS TO GO  
FRESH FRUIT CUPS

BE ON THE  
LOOKOUT FOR  
EXCITING CHANGES  
IN THE NEXT FEW MONTHS

# Congratulations

## To the Citizens of the City of Central for Building A Model Community



## New Conservative Leadership

**Pro-Life  
Pro-Business  
Pro-Gun  
Pro-Traditional Marriage**



District 13 • October 24, 2015

# Romero's

## FOOD MART

### 3 Locations Serving the City of Central

261-0080  
13921 Joor Rd  
at Core Lane

261-6053  
14447 Denham  
Road

262-1837  
9150 Joor Rd  
at Lovett

**Summer Grilling Season is Here!!**  
**Check Out Our Specialty Meats at Our Denham Rd. Location**

- Frog Legs
- Quail
- Rabbit
- Sirloins
- Bacon Wrapped Chicken Thighs Stuffed with Cream Cheese & Jalapeños
- Jalapeño and Cheese Stuffed Sausage
- Cajun Stuffed Boneless Chicken
- Chicken
- Ribeyes
- T-Bones

**We Cut Our Own Meat so it's Fresh for You!**



**We are Proud to be Part of the Central Community!**  
**Happy 10th Anniversary Central!**  
**Joseph Jr., Shelby, Joseph, and Samantha Romero**



# Capital City News Wins 1st Place as Best Community Newspaper in State

**NEW ORLEANS** — For the second straight year, the *Capital City News* won the Louisiana Press Association's highest award for community journalism — 1st Place for General Excellence.

This award takes into account the newspaper's news coverage, photography, editorial comment, layout, advertising, and all other factors.

More than 110 daily and weekly newspapers and specialty publications are eligible to participate in the competition.

No one in Louisiana is involved in the judging. Each year, the LPA partners with a newspaper association in another state. Editors from Louisiana judge that state's contest entries, and editors from that state judge Louisiana's entries. This system is designed to keep bias and favoritism away from the judging.

The *Capital City News* is a newcomer to statewide competition. It began publication in 2012. However, it is a continuation of the *South Baton Rouge Journal*, which went on hiatus in 2008.

Judges in the General Excellence category made these comments about the *Capital City News*:

- "The layout/design make me want to look at each page and not just scan through."
- "Color photos really bring the content to life."
- "Excellent ratio of editorial content to advertising. Makes the content feel less 'heavy' and more fun to read."



### Voters Face Important Decisions On Nov. 4

**BATON ROUGE** — There is a lot of important decisions on the Nov. 4 ballot. But news is more important than the U.S. Senate seat. The Senate seat is important because it will determine whether the state will be a Democratic or Republican state. If Mary Landry is re-elected, she will continue to represent the state. If she is not re-elected, she will be replaced by a Democrat. The state's future is in the hands of the voters. The voters will decide whether the state will be a Democratic or Republican state. The voters will decide whether the state will be a Democratic or Republican state. The voters will decide whether the state will be a Democratic or Republican state.

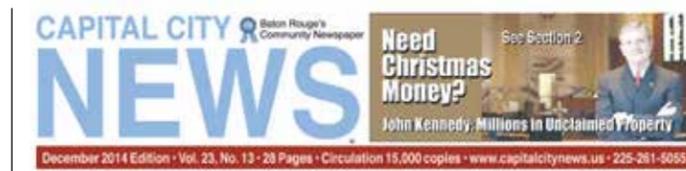
### St. George Q&A: Understanding What's Proposed

**ST. GEORGE** — Based on interviews with Mayor Bruce Browning and other leaders of the movement to incorporate the proposed City of St. George, here are answers to some of the questions people are asking about St. George.

**Q: Why incorporate the City of St. George?**  
**A:** First, it will allow the people of our area to elect an independent school district. Second, it will allow people in St. George to have a greater control of their tax dollars and get more for our money. Q: How does this get us a school district?

**ST. GEORGE** — Leaders of the movement to incorporate the proposed City of St. George say they plan to organize the new city based on a 21st century model, rather than the 19th century model used in the vast majority of American cities.

Mayor Bruce Browning and other leaders of St. George, that means privatization, or contracting with private



### Conservatives Rally Behind Bill Cassidy

## GOP Unity in Senate Race

**Huey Long Senate Seat May Pass to Republicans On Dec. 6th**

**BATON ROUGE** — Sen. Mary Landry is badly trailing conservative Republican Bill Cassidy on the eve of Louisiana's runoff election for U.S. Senate Dec. 6. If Landry loses, it will mean the seat once held by Huey Long will pass into Republican hands for the first time since popular election of the Senate began.

Also on the ballot Tuesday are runoff for Congress in the 5th and 6th Congressional districts, as well as some judgeposts and school board seats.

In the 6th District, former Gov. Edwin Edwards (D) faces Carter Green.

For more, see Pages 5-13

### Christmas Festivities in Baton Rouge

**Christmas Train**  
 The Kansas City Southern Christmas Train leaves Baton Rouge at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 13, for its annual run through downtown Baton Rouge. The train will stop at the Baton Rouge and Central Street stations.

**Christmas Parade**  
 Starts at Old State Capitol, then north on River Road, then east on Convention, north on Fourth St., west on Laurel St., south on South Street, west on North St., and north on Lafayette to Capitol.

**BATON ROUGE** — The 46th Annual Christmas Parade will roll through downtown Baton Rouge Saturday, Dec. 13 at 5:30 p.m. For more, see Page 8.

**THE CHRISTMAS TRAIN** of the Kansas City Southern railroad will roll through Baton Rouge Friday. For photos and more, see Pages 7 and 28.

### Is Baton Rouge the Best, the Worst or What?

**Here's the Good News...**

- Louisiana: No. 1 in Church Attendance
- Louisiana: No. 1 in Natural Gas Reserves
- Louisiana: No. 1 Best State to Start Business
- Louisiana: 2nd Best Place to Retire
- Louisiana: 2nd Lowest Property Taxes
- Baton Rouge: 2nd Best City to Raise Your Children
- Baton Rouge: 4th Highest City in America
- Louisiana: 4th Most Courteous State
- Louisiana: 5th Lowest Taxed State
- Louisiana: 5th Most Business Friendly

The editor of both is Woody Jenkins. They are owned by Community Press, LLC, which is based in Baton Rouge, and are published on the first Thursday of each month, except January when they are published on the second Thursday. To send news or to advertise, email [centralcitynews@hotmail.com](mailto:centralcitynews@hotmail.com).

**LIVING FREE ... A LIFELINE FOR PERSONAL STRUGGLES.**

**THREE COURSES OFFERED**

**LIVING FREE TRAINING** is a one day seminar to show how Living Free ministry addresses Life Controlling Problems  
**July 25, 2015; 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM**  
**Lunch provided**  
**\$15.00 Love Offering requested to cover materials and meals.**

**Free to Grow** is a group study designed to help us overcome disappointments and setbacks that have stopped or are hindering our emotional and spiritual development. This study helps participants understand how to be free from past setbacks so they may grow and become all that God wants us to be.

**Sunday nights, Aug 23 – Nov 15**  
**6:00 – 7:45 pm**

**Stepping into Freedom** is a Christ-centered twelve-step approach to helping those who are struggling with a life-controlling problem like drug addiction, gambling or workaholism.

**Wednesday nights, Aug 19 – Nov 11,**  
**7:00 – 8:45 pm**

A meal will be provided at 6:30 in the Fellowship Hall (Wed night only).

**COVENANT COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
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 CENTRAL, LA 70739  
 225-261-3088  
 CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT  
[WWW.COVENANTCENTRAL.COM](http://WWW.COVENANTCENTRAL.COM)

**We use materials developed by Living Free Ministries of Teen Challenge.**

**Living Free is not a substitute for medical or psychological care.**

### Photography Awards Louisiana Press Association

**Best News Photo - 1st Place**  
 Jolice Provost  
 Central City News

**Best Feature Photo - 1st Place**  
 Jolice Provost  
 Central City News

**Best Feature Photo - 2nd Place**  
 Woody Jenkins  
 Central City News

**1st Place - Best News Photo - 927th Eng.**

**1st Place - Best Feature Photo - St. Alphonse Easter Egg Hunt**

**2nd Place - Best Feature Photo - Sean Hannity interviews Phil Robertson**

## Louisiana Press Association Honors Local Paper

# Central City News Sweeps LPA Awards

**NEW ORLEANS** — The *Central City News*, which is published by Community Press, LLC, dominated the Better Newspaper Awards competition at this year's Louisiana Press Association annual convention in New Orleans.

The Central paper won both the Advertising Sweepstakes and the Editorial Sweepstakes, meaning that it won more awards than any other newspaper in the state in each category.

Among the awards won by the newspaper (not otherwise listed on Pages 40 and 41) were:

**Editorial**

- **Best News Story - 1st Place** - Report Card on School Board by Woody Jenkins. Judge's comment: "I like the entire package, photos, layout and boxed items. Use of bullets is effective."

- **Best News Coverage - 2nd Place** - Staff of *Central City News*. Judge's comment: "Clearly, there's a lot going on in this community. The paper does a good job of handling it all."

- **Best Photo Package - 1st Place** - New Ship Cruises from New Orleans by Woody Jenkins. Judge's comment: "Great action in these. The collection had real emotion and made me feel as if I were there."

- **Individual Feature Writing by a Non-Staff Writer - 1st Place** - A Taste of Real Southern (African) Hospitality by Nathan Reynerson.

**Advertising**

- **Best Ad Campaign - 1st Place** - Reynerson's Guns & Gunsmithing by Candi Lee. Judge's comment: "This series adequately displays the product and keeps it in the consumer's mind. An old idea on steroids!"

- **Best Retail Ad - 1st Place** - Mike Anderson's by Candi Lee. Judge's comment: "Good use of photography and layout."

- **Best Services Ad (non-retail) - 1st Place** - Sinclair Dental by Candi Lee. Appeared in *Capital City News*.

- **Best Staff Generated Color Ad - 1st Place** - Cottage with Acreage by Woody Jenkins. Judge's comment: "Beautiful! Front porch got me!"

- **Best In-Paper Promotion - 1st Place** - Central Wildcat by Woody Jenkins

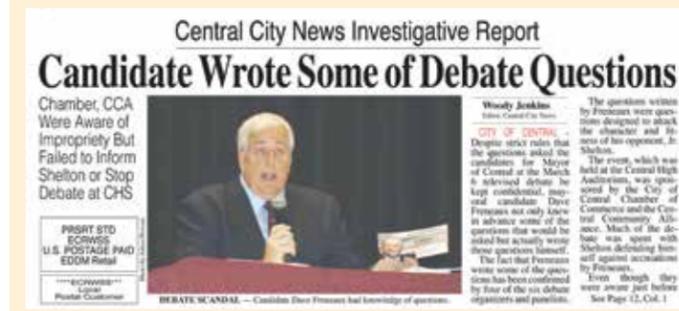
**Community Service**

- **Best Community Service - 1st Place** - 2014 Central Election Guide by staff of *Central City News*. Judge's comment: "Hands down the best entry! The staff there did an awesome job with this section — makes me wish I had the staff to do it here! Great job!" "Election coverage isn't an original idea but presenting it in a special section is a nice way to separate it from general news. The amount of different editorial provided gives the readers a variety of topics to read about. Election information can be boring but this section makes it more appealing."



Central City News staffers Kim Powers, Jolice Provost, and Woody Jenkins receiving LPA awards from Jeff Zeringue of Daily Iberian.

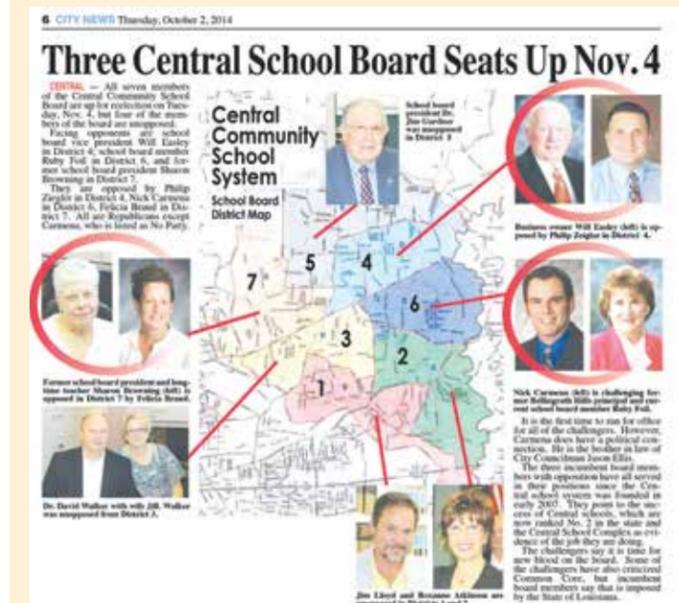
## Jenkins Wins Triple Crown: Awards Named For Gibbs Adams, Sam Hanna, Gary Hebert



**1st Place Gibbs Adams Award - Best Investigative Reporting**



**1st Place Sam Hanna Award - Best Regular Column**



**1st Place Gary Hebert Award Best Use of Graphics**

**NEW ORLEANS** — Once again, *Central City News* editor Woody Jenkins has won some of the top awards given each year by the Louisiana Press Association, which represents 110 of the state's daily and weekly newspapers.

This year Jenkins scored a first by winning three of the LPA's most prestigious awards in three quite different areas of journalism. The awards, each named after a legend in the history of Louisiana journalism are:

- **Gibbs Adams Award for Best Investigative Journalism.** This award memorializes Adams, who was a much respected investigative reporter for the *Baton Rouge Advocate*. Jenkins won 1st Place for his report documenting how a candidate for Mayor wrote some of the questions asked of his opponent in a debate. Judges comment: "After hearing a candidate had written questions for his own debate, the paper used email records and interviews with debate organizers to reveal that several people knowingly allowed the tainted questions. The reporting did a service to the public, shedding light on their leaders before an election."

- **Sam Hanna Award for Best Regular Column.** This award is in memory of Sam Hanna, long-time editor of the *Concordia Sentinel* in Ferriday. Jenkins won 1st Place for his column on Central Mayor Pro Tem Ralph Washington and a column called Let's Go Snake Hunting at the Capitol. Judges comment: "Tightly written. Makes the points clearly."

- **Gary Hebert Award for Best Use of Graphics.** This award honors the memory of Gary Hebert of the *Plaquemine Post* who was known for outstanding graphic design. Jenkins won 1st Place for a graphic he designed showing Central's school board districts, incumbents, and challengers.

# Central Athletes to Be Pre-Tested for Concussions

## Central PT: State's Only Certified Clinic For Concussions

**CENTRAL** - Athletes at Central High and Central Private School will be pre-tested later this month as part of a program to make sure athletes with head injuries do not return to the playing field prematurely.

Central Physical Therapy, 13111 Hooper Road, which is Louisiana's only fully certified concussion health center, is performing the tests free of charge in

order to help prevent athletes from experiencing life-threatening or disabling head injuries.

By testing the athletes before the season begins, Central Physical Therapy will have a baseline measurement which can be compared to testing after an athlete is suspected of having a head injury. This testing is also used to measure recovery before the athlete can be cleared to play.

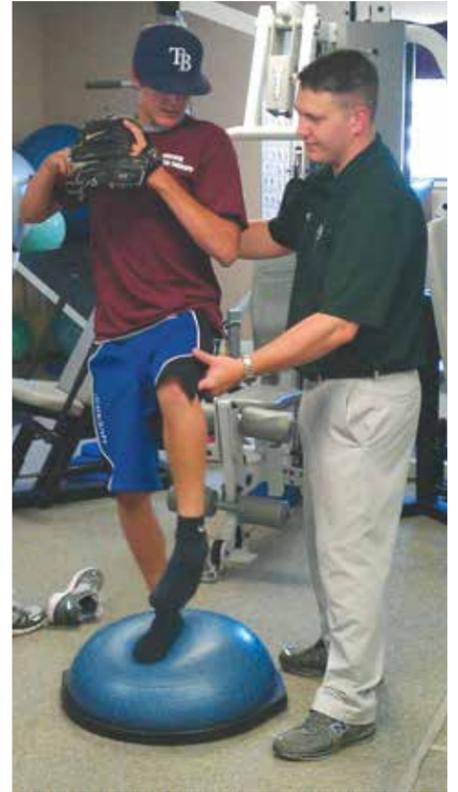
Once an athlete has had a concussion, a second concussion can be life threatening

What many people in Central do not know is that this testing is at a level that is higher than many col-

lege teams. And it is here in Central!

Central PT has advanced technology which tests balance and cognition. It also insures that, after a concussion, the athlete cannot successfully defeat the tests.

Richard O'Quinn, PT, of Central Physical Therapy is the father of three boys who played football. He serves on the sports medical staff of Central Private School. He said he is excited about the concussion program and how it can make informed recommendations on safe return-to-play time frames or help parents, coaches and doctors decide whether or not their child



**Erik Strahan, PT**  
Central Physical Therapy

should return to the playing field. Central PT owners Helen Balzi and Tom Coplin said fighting the adverse effects of concussions is one of their passions. Coplin said, "Too often, athletes return to the playing field when they still have a neurological deficit. We are protecting these kids."

Central Physical Therapy offers traditional physical therapy services, treating joint, skeletal, and muscular problems. "What really sets us apart is personal one-on-one treatment. Helen or one of our therapists is not only in the room with you but is hands-on helping your body move the way it is supposed to. To get your range of motion back, you need someone there with you hands-on," Coplin said.

Each staff member is fully qualified to provide all physical therapy services, but each one also has areas of specialty.

For patients, the first visit includes a comprehensive physical therapy evaluation and diagnosis. Then Central PT sets up an individualized program for that patient. The goal is to get the person functional again. The plan includes setting priorities, so that the most important problems are solved first.

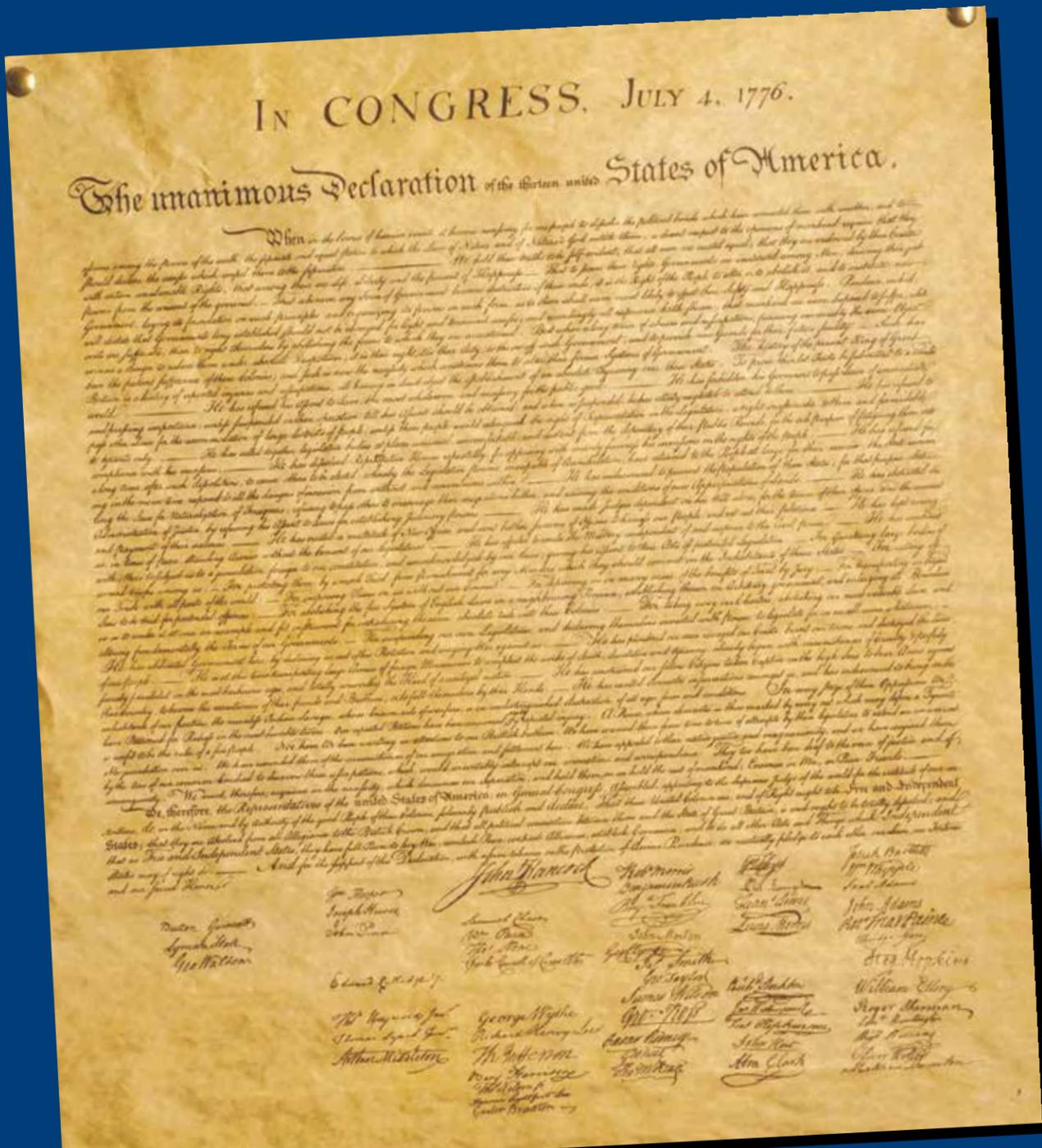
Concussion pre-testing will occur at each school, and coaches will inform students when that will occur.

Patients who want more information on Central Physical Therapy or who want to set up an appointment should call 225-261-7094.

# Declaration of Independence July 4, 1776

"All men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed"  
— Declaration of Independence

- 1) Our rights come from God. 2) Those rights, which are unalienable, include but are not limited to, Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness. 3) The purpose of Government is to secure these God-given rights. 4) Government can only derive its powers with the consent of its citizens.



A public service message by Central City News/Capital City News

## New Radio Station To Sign on the Air Friday Morning

**BATON ROUGE** — A new radio station will sign on the air Friday morning. The Mighty WSGX, 95.1 FM will serve Baton Rouge and the St. George community in the southeast part of the parish.

The station, which is licensed to the Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge, will offer news, conservative talk, and music of the 1950's, 1960's, and 1970's. For further information, contact Woody Jenkins at 921-1433.

# 50th Anniversary Reunion Istrouma High School Class of 1965

If you are not receiving information from the Reunion Committee, send your contact information to Danny Brown at drbrown7711@cox.net

**7 to 11 p.m.**  
**Saturday, July 11, 2015**  
**PARC 73 Reception Center**  
**14379 Hwy. 73 • Prairieville, LA**  
**Come on out, Indians!**

Make Reservations to Attend!  
Mail your check for \$60 after June 11 to IHS Class of 1965  
5937 Golden Pheasant Court  
Baton Rouge, LA 70717-1135



## North Baton Rouge Reunion Set July 9

If you grew up in North Baton Rouge, you should definitely plan on attending the Annual North Baton Rouge Reunion on Thursday, July 11 at the Sheraton (Belle of Baton Rouge), starting around 6 p.m. More than 1,000 attended last year, including famous Istrouma grads like Smiley Anders, the late Donna Douglas, and Billy Cannon. Please join us! Thanks to organizers of this great event!

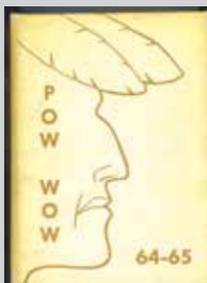


Istrouma grads take to the field at Istrouma-Central game in 2013.



## Exciting News about Statue of Nawaganti

Thanks to Wayne Messina and other dedicated Istrouma grads, Nawaganti has a new set of clothing, a new case, and soon a permanent home at the Main Library on Goodwood. Watch for dedication ceremonies coming soon.



Many thanks to the Istrouma Class of 1965 Reunion Committee who are working hard to make the 50th Anniversary Reunion a great success: Danny Brown • Rita Williams Bennett • Jim Bridges • Cheryl Cannon Brown • Suzy Hames • Raymond Jensen • Ronnie Johnson • Geri Rowland Krentel • Jerrine McCarthy • Carol Crutchfield Thomas • Carolyn Hood Sanches • Darryl Sanches

## News about Istrouma



Dear Istrouma Grads,  
All of us have been deeply concerned about the closure of Istrouma High School, and many of us have been working to get it reopened as Istrouma High School Petro-Chemical Magnet to train our young people to get great jobs in the petro-chemical industry. We think Istrouma can be re-born with support from people of all races all over this parish. The good news is EBR schools Supt. Warren Drake is committed to renovating and reopening Istrouma by September 2016. Join with us in bringing Istrouma back to life!  
Woody Jenkins, President IHS Student Council, 1964-1965  
Editor, Capital City News



Istrouma Lives in Us!



Istrouma principal Litte Fuzzy Brown and student council president Woody Jenkins

### HELP WANTED!

Technicians needed to process medical records requests in the Baton Rouge area. Basic keyboard ability, typing with accuracy, and telephone skills are required. Attention to minute detail is essential and the ability to work quietly without disrupting surrounding medical staff. Positions available for full time and part time employees. Please fax resume to 225.767.6777. Southern Medical Document Solutions www.meddocsolutions.com

## Victory Academy

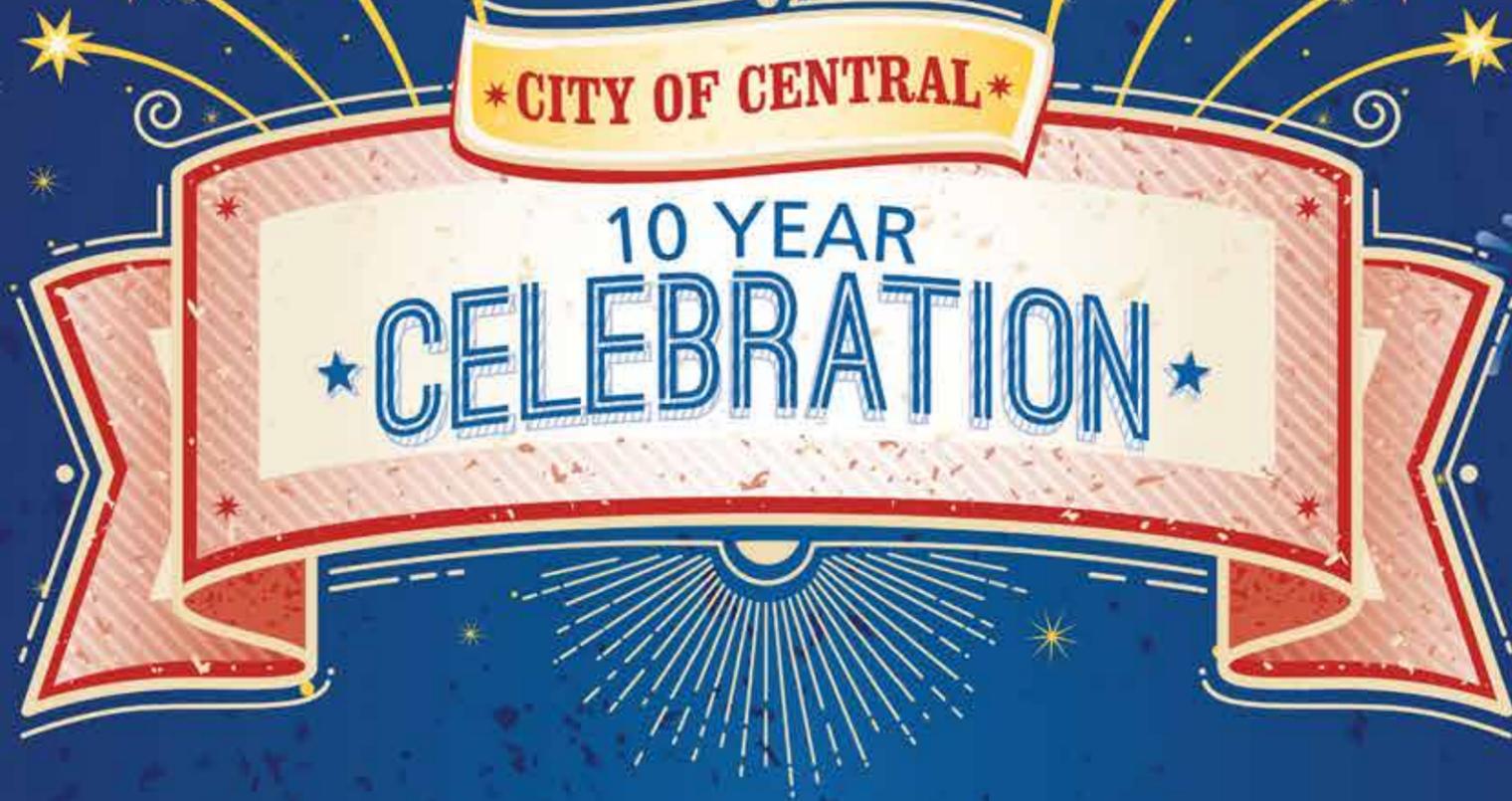
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a desire for excellence sets us apart."

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**Food Vendors**

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**Mud Pit**

**Tire Running Station**

**3 Legged Race**

**PLUS Music by Brunhouse**

FOR MORE INFORMATION:



225-261-5988



<https://www.facebook.com/events/1385756431749863>

**10 A.M.-2 P.M.**

**JULY 11**

**BREC LOVETT RD PARK**

CENTRAL HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL STADIUM, 6-9 PM



**JOIN US AT JACKSON COMMUNITY PARK FOR THE GRAND OPENING OF THE SPLASH PAD, FRIDAY, JULY 10TH AT 10 A.M.**