

Istrouma Journal

Celebrating the Past and Building the Future of North Baton Rouge

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Jeremy Gradney to Lead Indians

Istrouma's Football Coach

Indians' Goal: State 4A Championship Football

Woody Jenkins
Editor, Istrouma Journal

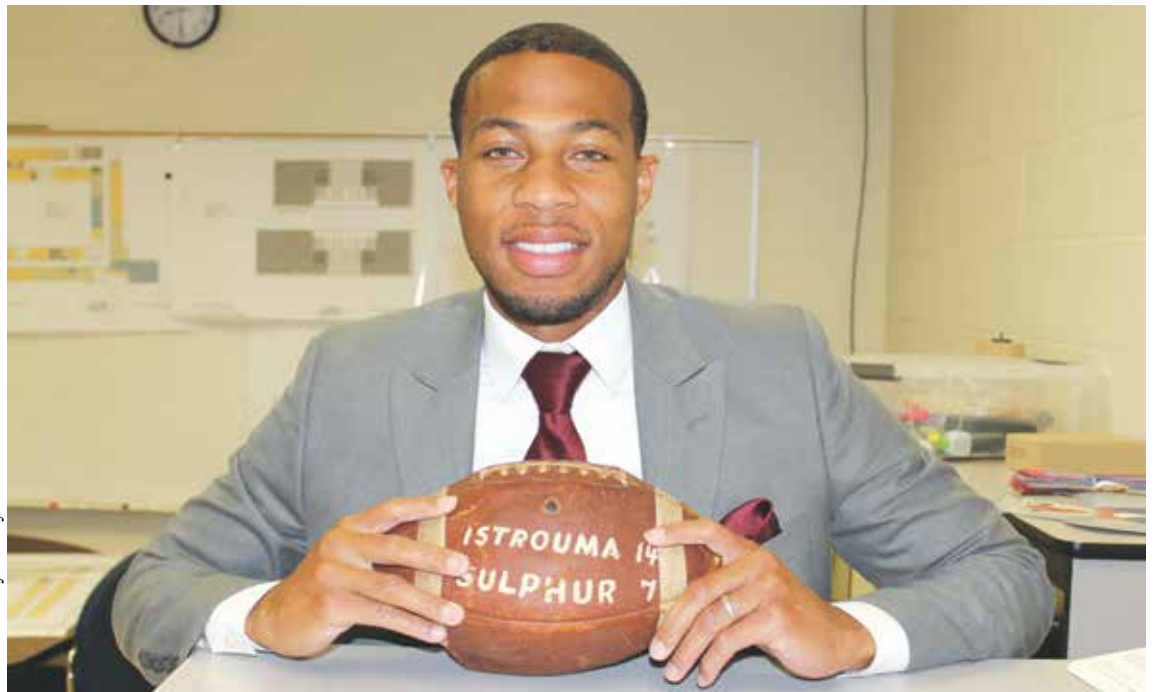
BATON ROUGE — Istrouma High School has hired Jeremy Gradney to be the school's new head football coach when it re-opens in August after being closed since 2014. Gradney will have responsibility for recreating the school's football program. Istrouma had one of the top football teams in the state for many years and nine state championship teams, but football ended when the school closed.

- Other new coaches are:
- Xavier Johnson, assistant football coach
 - Demetrius White, girls basketball coach
 - Bill Umstetter, baseball coach
 - Shirnell Jackson, girls track coach
 - Andrés Serna, wrestling coach
 - Ebony Noah-Williams, volleyball coach
- Coach Gradney gradu-

ated from Woodlawn High School and Southern University. He has coached at both the high school and collegiate levels. He was an assistant coach at Belaire, defensive coordinator at Capital, head coach at Mentorship, and strength coach at Southern University. Coach Gradney and his wife have one daughter and a son on the way.

His mother passed away when he was very young, and his father raised him and his three siblings. His dad

See COACHING on Page 16



NEW ISTROUMA football coach Jeremy Gradney with Istrouma football from 1962 State Championship

How Supt. Drake Found \$24 Million

BATON ROUGE — A major construction program is going on at Istrouma High School to enable the historic North Baton Rouge school to re-open on August 15 in time for the school's 100th anniversary.

Total cost: \$24 million
One of the amazing things about the project is that it is

all being done without a tax increase.

Many voters are asking how was that possible?

Basically, it all goes back to careful planning and some major economies by Supt. Warren Drake and the East Baton Rouge Parish School Board.

In an interview with the

Istrouma Journal, Supt. Drake said, "Basically, we have been able to pull the funds out of two years of summer projects that normally go for maintenance plus by saving a bit here and a bit there. We also got \$900,000 from the state."

The biggest single savings was deferring the con-

version of antiquated heating and cooling systems to more modern equipment. That will still be done but two years later.

Supt. Drake said he still needs to find about \$4 million to renovate the Annex at Istrouma, which will provide permanent space for Istrouma Middle School.

Istrouma Enrollment Already at 430

9th-10th Graders Only; 1,000 Expected by 2019

BATON ROUGE — New Istrouma High School principal Reginald Douglas has officially been on the job only a couple of weeks but he has already hired most of the faculty and staff for the North Baton Rouge school, which is set to re-open on August 15.

Istrouma will be open to 9th and 10th graders during the 2017-2018 school year.

On Tuesday, June 6, the school's administrative staff opened a temporary office in Room 156 at Winbourne Elementary School and began registering students for this fall. By Tuesday, June 13, staff members had already enrolled 430. Most of

these students attended Belaire High School in 2016-2017, while others residing in 70805 are leaving a number of public and private schools in order to attend Istrouma.

One parent said, "We want our child to get his diploma from Istrouma because it has a good name!"

The surge in enrollment has Mr. Douglas and other staff members very optimistic. They had wondered

See THREE on Page 16

ISTROUMA administrators will include (left to right) Yolanda Brown-Matthews, school counselor; Sandra Moore, executive school secretary; Brian Foreman, assistant principal, and Pamela Talbert, dean of students.



How to Enroll In Istrouma High School

BATON ROUGE — Enrollment for Istrouma High School is continuing in Room 156 at Winbourne Elementary School, located at 4503 Winbourne Ave. or for information, call 508-4549.

Enrollment for Istrouma Middle Magnet is at McKinley Middle Magnet, 1550 Eddie Robinson. For information, call 389-0089. It is open for students parishwide with a 2.5 GPA who score Basic or higher in English, language arts, and math.

Office hours are 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. from Monday to Thursday at both locations.

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Popular miniature railroad at the Baton Rouge Zoo near Baker

Another Wacky Idea from Secretive Billion-Dollar BRAF

Will BREC Move Zoo to Iberville Parish Line?

Unelected Rulers Exercising Undue Influence in EBR

Woody Jenkins
 Editor

BATON ROUGE — Now the Board of Commissioners of BREC is considering a plan to move the Baton Rouge Zoo from its home in North Baton Rouge to a site in the southern part of the parish, possibly near L'Auberge Casino on the Iberville Parish line — 22.7 miles and at least 34 minutes from the zoo's present home near Baker.

It would be a major blow to North Baton Rouge and would put the zoo far from the population center of the

parish. That particular site would also isolate the zoo from the Interstate. It is 8.6 miles of tough traffic congestion and at least 20 minutes driving time from L'Auberge to I-10 at Essen.

Moving the Baton Rouge Zoo out of North Baton Rouge is another wacky brainchild of the super wealthy secretive group known as the Baton Rouge Area Foundation. With more than \$1 billion in assets and a real estate empire, the ostensibly non-profit, non-political BRAF calls many of the shots in Baton Rouge.

BRAF never met a tax it didn't like. In fact, BRAF was the chief architect of Kip Holden's \$1 billion Alive Riverfront tax, the CATS tax, the Council on Aging tax, and the mental health tax, which would have gone to BRAF's coffers. BRAF is the big player behind the opposition to incorporation of St. George



Entrance to Baton Rouge Zoo

and the Southeast school district. BRAF was also the architect of the Gay Rights "Fairness" ordinance rejected by the Metro Council.

As BRAF CEO John Davies says, "We've helped in a small way to advance a progressive [left-wing] agenda for Baton Rouge!" Indeed they have!

So now the \$110 million plan to uproot the Baton Rouge Zoo from North Baton Rouge and send it perhaps as far away as the Iberville Parish line is in the hands of the Board of Commissioners of BREC while the unelected BRAF tries to call the shots from the sidelines.

North Baton Rouge and fiscal conservatives may complain but let's face it, too often BRAF has the money and makes the rules!

Four BR Area Republicans Join Dems on Budget

BATON ROUGE — Four Baton Rouge area Republican lawmakers broke ranks with their Republican colleagues to support the state budget proposed by Democratic Gov. John Bel Edwards. They were:

- Rep. Franklin Foil
- Rep. Kenny Havard
- Rep. Barry Ivey
- Rep. Rogers Pope

The bill passed 56-46 and crushed the more conservative plan developed by House Republicans.

Baton Rouge Area Foundation Agenda for Capital City

Kip Holden's \$1 billion "Alive" Riverfront tax • CATS tax • The "Fairness" Gay Rights Ordinance • Council on Aging tax • BRAF Mental Health tax • Opposition to Incorporation of St. George • Move BR Zoo to Iberville Parish line. "We've helped in a small way to advance a progressive agenda for Baton Rouge," said John Davies, CEO, BRAF.

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Scalise: A Blue Collar Workhorse

As He Fights for His Life, Scalise Is Remembered As Ordinary Guy With Pure Heart

BATON ROUGE - When cable news networks carried the news on Thursday, June 15 that House Majority Whip Steve Scalise had been shot by an assassin targeting Republican Congressmen, many in Louisiana were heartsick. They know Scalise as a friend and colleague who is well-liked in both parties.

Two journalists associated with this newspaper, columnist Jeff Crouere and editor Woody Jenkins, wrote about the man they know.

Jeff Crouere said, "I had the pleasure of meeting Steve Scalise at numerous political forums in the fall of 1995. Both of us were candidates for the Louisiana Legislature. He was running to represent Jefferson Parish and I was running to represent Orleans Parish. Unfortunately, I lost my election to a seasoned politician named Mitch Landrieu; however, fortunately for the state of Louisiana, Steve Scalise won his election as a state legislator. It was the start of an amazing political career that is nowhere near over."

"From that early start, it was obvious Steve Scalise was destined for higher office. He has tremendous energy and boundless enthusiasm for politics. He is one of the best campaigners in the history of Louisiana



JOINT TELEVISION APPEARANCE — Last spring, House Majority Whip Steve Scalise (center) and former Rep. and newspaper editor Woody Jenkins (left) were interviewed about the Presidential race by columnist and TV commentator Jeff Crouere on WGNO-TV.

politics. He has a great and genuine ability to connect with voters.

"After 12 years in the legislature, Scalise was elected to Congress in 2008 to represent Louisiana's 1st District. It did not take him long to make an incredible impact. Within a few years, he was selected chairman of the Republican Study Committee, the conservative House caucus. Then, in 2014, just six years after being elected to Congress, Scalise was elected to the third highest ranking position, House Majority Whip.

"There is no doubt that this happy warrior will soon be back in the halls of Congress. Throughout his career, Scalise has maintained good friendships across the political spectrum. In this age of divisive partisanship, it is gratifying to know those relationships still exist. Our prayers are with Steve and all the innocent individuals injured as we wish all of them a very speedy recovery."

Woody Jenkins said, "I feel awful about what happened to Steve Scalise, perhaps because I know what a fine person he is. We served together in the Louisiana House from 1996-2000, when I was serving my last of seven terms and he was serving his first. We hit it off right away, in part because of our shared conservative values. He was for the right to life, the family, traditional values, controlling the size and cost of government, and protecting the free enterprise system. I had great admiration for him."

"Not many legislators read the bills and do their homework, but Steve does. He brings a strong work ethic to the Capitol. He is a blue collar workhorse. He isn't an attorney but he studies the bills and picks them apart. He loves his country, his state, and his family, and he is passionate about making a real difference. Steve especially hates corruption and dishonesty. He is willing to take a stand, alone if necessary for what is right. I always found him to be down-to-earth and humble — not flashy or trying to get

undue attention. He's a happy, friendly person who tries to get along with everyone. He always has a good word and is open to everyone. He is sincere, hardworking and genuine. If he tells you something, you can count

on it." "Ironically, it never occurred to me that he would run for Congress, much less become a leader in Congress. That's because he was not a political climber. Over time, he has proven to

be exactly the kind of person we need in Washington, because he's there for one reason and one reason only — to do right and serve the people of our country! Please keep praying for Steve and his family!"



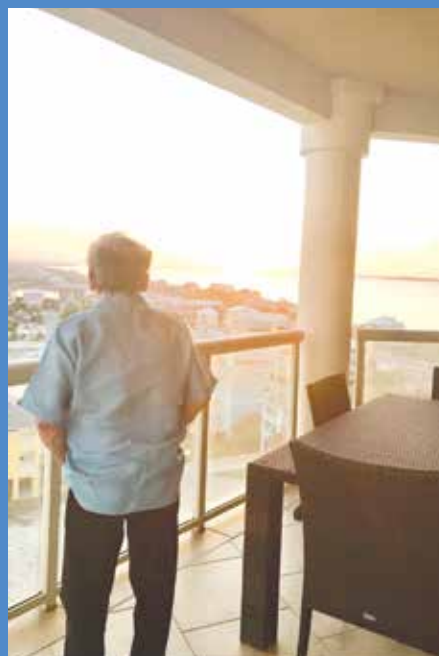
Jeannie David

Jeannie David Suffers Mild Heart Attack

CENTRAL - Jeannie David suffered a mild heart attack last Thursday. She was having massive chest pain and went to hospital where she had a heart cath, and they discovered the heart attack. Miss Jeannie lost her husband James a few weeks ago. Jeannie was able to go home Saturday and then Monday her son Chad and grandson Austin took her to Florida for a few days of rest and recuperation.

James and Jeannie David own David's Tiger Mobil at Hooper and Joor roads.

Thank You for the Love You Have Shown for Our Son, Father, Husband — James David —



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YR's Honor Conservative Legislators

RINO's Trouble Conservatives In Local GOP

BATON ROUGE - The new Capital City Young Republican Club honored four state legislators for the conservative stand they took on many of the important issues during the recent regular and special sessions of the Louisiana Legislature. Those receiving Outstanding Legislator Awards were:

- Sen. Bodi White (R-Central)
- Rep. Rick Edmonds (R-Baton Rouge)
- Rep. Valarie Hodges (R-Central)
- Rep. Tony Bacala (R-Prairieville)

Young Republican Club president Jonathan Davis said the four had been among the most principled and consistent conservative members of the legislators.

In their remarks, several of the lawmakers warned that some "Republicans" in the legislature don't vote like Republicans. Rather, they use the Republican label to get elected and then vote with Democrats.



OUTSTANDING — Young Republicans honored Sen. Bodi White and Reps. Rick Edmonds, Valarie Hodges, and Tony Bacala.



YR president Jonathan Davis, Scott Wilfong, Matt Watson, Rick Edmonds, Tony Bacala, and Valarie Hodges

Freedom Sunday June 25

CENTRAL — Greenwell Springs Baptist Church wants to invite you to Freedom Sunday, starting at 10:30 a.m. June 25. Worship service, BBQ/food, games for all ages, and inflatables.

Bellingrath Summer Program

CENTRAL — Bellingrath Hills Summer Enrichment Program will be from 8 to 11:30 a.m. July 17-20 and 24-27. Registration is \$40 plus \$100 a week. Call 261-4093 or drussell@centralcss.org.



Scott Wilfong, candidate for state GOP chairman (center)

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Outstanding 1st Responders Honored

BATON ROUGE — For more than 20 years, Sunrise Rotary Club of Baton Rouge has recognized an outstanding member on the staff of the first responder agencies in East Baton Rouge Parish. Every year during its weekly meeting before Memorial Day, Sunrise Rotarians acknowledge the dedicated service of the men and women who protect the citizens of East Baton Rouge Parish.

At their May 25 Rotary meeting the following first responders received a plaque from their superior officer for their unselfish work:

- Baton Rouge Fire Department, - Fire Equipment Operator David Landry
- City Constable's Office - Cpl. Perry Stepter
- Probation and Parole District Office - Baton Rouge, Specialist Cass Mitchell
- Baton Rouge Police Department - Cpl. Brad Barr



OUTSTANDING FIRST RESPONDERS — Shown (left to right) are Cpl. Perry Stepter of the City Constable's Office; Specialist Cass Mitchell of Probation and Parole District Office in Baton Rouge; paramedic Demerrius Slocum of East Baton Rouge Parish Emergency Medical Services; Sgt. Darryl Galloway of Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; Fire Equipment Operator David Landry of the Baton Rouge Fire Department; Cpl. Brad Barr of the Baton Rouge Police Department; Deputy Brad Pino of the East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office, and Senior Trooper Adam Gaubert of Louisiana State Police.

- East Baton Rouge Parish Emergency Medical Services - Paramedic Demerrius Slocum
- Louisiana State Police - Senior Trooper Adam Gaubert
- Louisiana Dept. of Wildlife and Fisheries - Sgt. Darryl Galloway
- East Baton Rouge Sheriff's Office - Deputy Brad Pino



**Summer Bible School
Berean Ministries
Wednesdays thru August 2
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.**

Berean Ministries, 6565 Morgan Rd. will host a Summer Bible School for kindergarden through 5th grade. It's free! Call Pam at 241-2711 or the church at 261-1994.

**Vacation Bible School
Zoar Baptist Church
June 26 thru 30
8:30 a.m. to 12 noon**

Themed Galactic Starveyors. VBS is open to K-6th Grade. Register online at www.zoarbaptist.org. For information or questions, call the church office at 261-3434.

**Vacation Bible School
Fellowship Baptist Church
July 9 thru 14
6 to 8:30 p.m.**

Operation Arctic VBS. Family Night 7 to 8:30 p.m. on July 14. 1st to 6th Grade and Adults! Nursery is provided to those attending the adult class. Register at <https://fbc-ofcentral.myanswers.com/operationarctic/> or at 261-8903.

**Vacation Bible School
Blackwater United Methodist
July 9 thru 11
5:30 to 8 p.m.**

"Camp Out - Getting S'more of Jesus" is theme. 4 years old before Sept. 30 to register in the preschool. Younger children can attend the nursery. Crafts, games and fun. Registration at www.blackwaterumc.org.

**Vacation Bible School
Magnolia United Methodist
July 17 thru 19
9 a.m. to 12 Noon**

Join a free VBS at Magnolia Methodist, 16024 Greenwell Springs Rd. Cave Quest VBS is open to kids 4 to 11 years old. Call the church office at 261-2789 or email childrenofmagnoliaUMC@gmail.com.

Central Birthday Bash

July 15th * 5PM - 10PM

Central High Football Field

CONCESSIONS AVAILABLE:

5-10 PM

ACTIVITIES AND GAMES:

5-10 PM

FIREWORKS:

10 PM

90 DEGREES WEST:

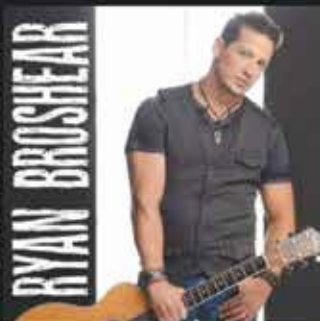
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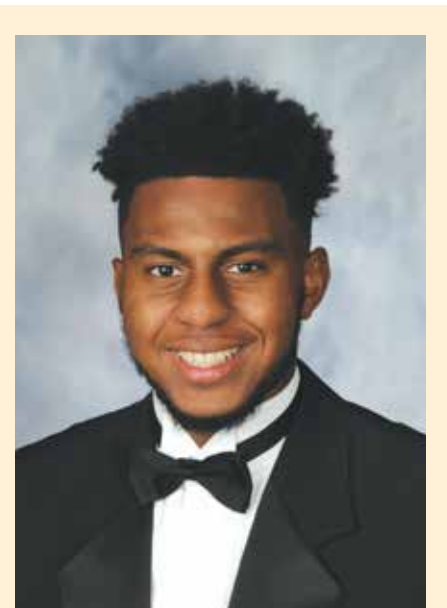
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2017 CENTRAL HIGH GRADUATE
Chance Atkins, congratulations!

School Days Are Over Until Mid-August



The boys pause for a photograph during morning recess at Central Intermediate School at the Central School Complex on Sullivan Road.

SUMMER FUN IS IN FULL SWING BUT IT WON'T LAST FOREVER!
In Central, students return on August 11, except for K and pre-K at Bellingrath. At Bellingrath, pre-K has mandatory Open House on Friday, Aug. 11 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Kindergarten has Come-and-Go Open House the Same Day from 3 to 5 p.m.

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New Istrouma High Faculty Meets for First



New Istrouma High School principal Reginald Douglas.



Dean of Students Pamela Talbert



World geography teacher Angie Baker and husband Barry



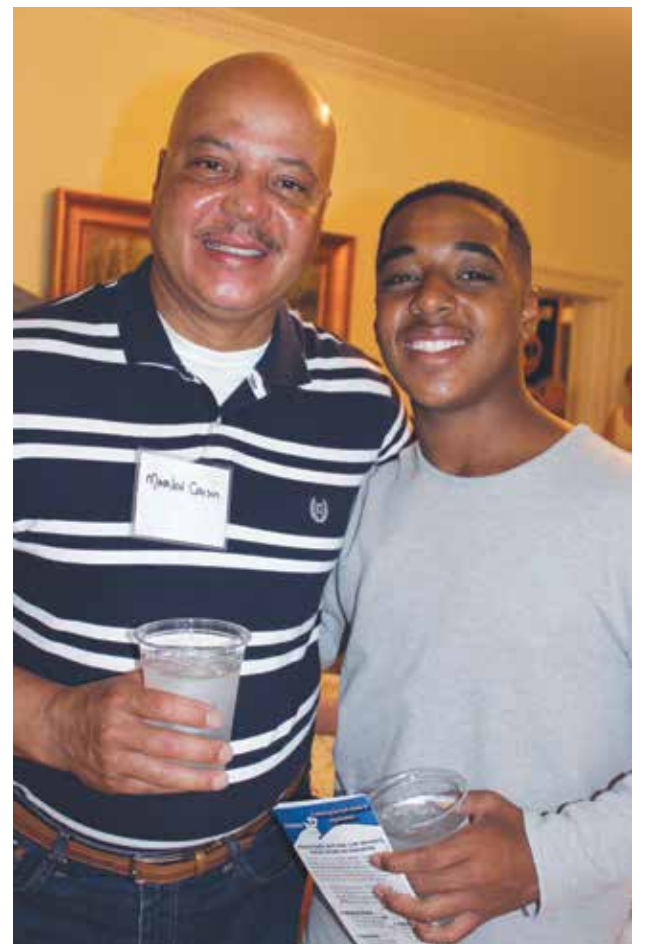
Istrouma librarian Laurie Scioneaux and fiance Ron Murray



Head baseball coach Bill Umstetter



Steve Alvarado who will teach English I



Istrouma Community Liaison Marlon Cousin and son Bryce

Istrouma High School Will Be Louisiana's 1st

Time in Anticipation of August 15 Opening



Assistant football coach Xavier Johnson will teach business computer applications.



Wrestling coach Andrés Serna will teach Civics and U. S. Government.



Istrouma Band Director Reggie Jackson



Lorenza Toussaint will teach ESS students.



Principal Reginald Douglas and wife Deidra



Bobby Cox will teach special needs students



Volleyball coach Ebony J. Noah-Williams



Patricia Cooke (left) will teach Family & Consumer Science and Zaveloa Banguel (right) will teach mathematics.



Istrouma band director Reggie Jackson with alumni Woody and Diane Jenkins and Carol Thomas, all of the Class of 1965. Ms. Thomas played in the band.

ISTROUMA HIGH SCHOOL
3730 Winbourne Ave.
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Founded 1917
Re-Opening August 15, 2017
Watch Istrouma Return to Greatness
Photos by Woody Jenkins

Values-Based School and Will Stress Character

Rev. Dennis Terry Leading Resurgence at



Dr. Dennis Terry addressing the congregation (left) and at Milldale's Easter egg hunt

Congregation and visitors enjoying program prior to Milldale Easter egg hunt

ZACHARY — Since it was founded by Rev. Jimmy Robertson more than 50 years ago, Milldale Baptist Church has never been a typical church. Located in a sparsely-populated area north of Central and east of Zachary, Milldale was for many years the center of a worldwide ministry. Among other things, it was one of the largest publishers of Bibles in the world, having printed and distributed more than

1 billion Bibles, including millions behind the Iron Curtain. In 1973, Rev. Dennis Terry visited Milldale and fell in love with it. In 1979, he was offered a position with the church. That didn't work out, but Rev. Terry continued to have a soft spot in his heart for Milldale. Years later, Rev. Terry became pastor at Greenwell Springs Baptist Church in Central, where he oversaw a period of tremendous

growth and development. Then in 2012, Rev. Terry was called to go in a different direction. He went to Decatur, Alabama, to start a new church from the ground

up. He devoted himself to that project for four years. Then last year, Brother Terry got a call from Rev. Jimmy Robert-
See MILLDALE on Page 11



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Milldale Baptist has strong programs for youth.

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- Special items for your pet including vaccination records, toys, food and a cage/crate
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 - Insurance documents and medical records
 - Bank account numbers, online passwords and log-in information
 - Emergency contact list
- Emergency tools



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Milldale Baptist Church North of Central



Milldale volunteers



Hundreds participated in Milldale's giant Easter egg hunt.



Milldale Baptist is located in the most rural part of the parish.

son wondering if he would consider becoming pastor at Milldale. Rev. Terry accepted! He arrived at Milldale just before the August 2016 floods. As a result of the devastation, people were distracted and not

many realized the popular pastor had returned to the Baton Rouge area. In the year since he's been at Milldale, Sunday morning attendance has grown from 75 or 80 up to more than 200. Members come from

as far away as Hammond and St. Francisville.

Milldale will house Zachary Christian School starting August 9. Attendance is projected at 115 to 120.

The church has also taken responsibility for KPAE

91.5 FM and WPAE 89.7 FM. This will provide coverage from Gonzales to just south of Jackson, MS. The stations feature preaching, teaching, and music.

Milldale holds camp meetings in March and Labor

Day.

Worship services are held at 10:15 a.m. Sundays and at 6:30 p.m. Wednesdays. They are broadcast live on the radio stations and streamed on Facebook and at www.milldale.org.

Freedom Sunday July 2nd

Milldale Baptist Church
11950 Milldale Road • Zachary, LA 70791
Sunday, July 2, 2017

- 4 p.m. Picnic • Hamburgers • Hot dogs
Activities for children and teenagers
- 6 p.m. Military Flyover during National Anthem
- 8:30 p.m. Giant Fireworks Display

Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon

Tuesday, July 11, 2017



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Central's Great Birthday Bash July 15

CENTRAL — The 12th anniversary of the creation of the City of Central will once again be celebrated this year with the great Central Birthday Bash, including a giant fireworks display. The event will be held from 5 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, July 15 at Wildcat Stadium,

corner Hooper and Sullivan roads.

If the past is any indication, the year's event will again be one of the premiere events held annually in the City of Central.

Mayor Jr. Shelton thanked Amandy Moody for working so hard to make this year's event a

great success.

It has been a difficult year for Central with a 1,000-year-flood inundating most of the city. But this will be a time to celebrate the fact that the vast majority of citizens are well on their way to recovery.

The people of Central voted to

form their own city in April 2005. Incorporation officially occurred on July 11, 2005, which some citizens call Central's Independence Day. The people of Central went to the legislature and proposed a constitutional amendment to allow Central to form its own school system. That was approved by the legislature and voters statewide. The Central Community School System officially took over the public schools in Central on July 1, 2007.

The Birthday Bash will include

- Concessions 5-10 p.m.
- Activities and games 5-10 p.m. This will include bungee trampoline, rock wall, and games by BREC.

• Photos with Princess Moana and Princess Ariel

Entertainment will include:

- 5 p.m. 90 Degrees West
- 6:45 p.m. The Chris LeBlanc Band
- 8:30 p.m. Ryan Broshear
- 10 p.m. Giant Fireworks Display

People should bring lawn chairs and ice chests.

Everything is free for the entire family.



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Darian Edwards Tired of Drug Dealers, Black-on-Black Crime

One Man with Courage Standing Against Evil

Woody Jenkins
Editor

BATON ROUGE — Darian Edwards is on a one-man crusade to rid North Baton Rouge of drug dealers, black-on-black crime, and illegal foreign workers who take the jobs of poor people.

So day after day, he carries signs protesting what is going on all around him. His signs say:

- “I am a working man! Drug dealers, your drugs do more damage than a racist cop.”

- “Do not tolerate the evil of the drug trade.”

- “After big business and foreign workers pay no taxes, the

Louisiana working man must make up the shortage.”

- “Edwards Broome lawmakers living the good life while poor neighborhoods are a cesspool of crime and violence.”

Darian, who works full time, spends much of his free time carrying signs at the intersection of North Foster and Gus Young, North Foster at Florida, downtown, and on the campus of Southern University.

In an interview, Edwards said, “When a white cop kills a black man, everyone protests, but when a

black man kills another black man, no one says anything, and that is far more common. I want to stand up for all the people.”

“I’m asking people to take a stand against drug dealing and for jobs, peace, and nonviolence!” he said.

Edwards also has a message for drug dealers. “You’re destroying your life with drugs and alcohol. Don’t throw your entire life away.”

He also challenged political leaders in Baton Rouge, saying “You need to focus on getting jobs for our people and getting rid of the drugs, murder, and theft. Drive

around once or twice and you will see where it is.”

Edwards said he gets mostly a positive response, but while standing on the corner of North Foster and Florida one afternoon, this reporter saw him attacked verbally and physically. A carload of young women who stopped at the light pelted him with obscenities.

A few minutes later, a panhandler lunged at him with a knife. We videoed the attack, filed a report with City Police, and told them the video existed, but the police never contacted us again.



DARIAN EDWARDS protests drug dealers, black-on-black crime, and foreign workers.

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HELP WANTED: New salon opening in Oak Point Shopping Center, *Industry Salon*. Experienced stylist wanted call Debbie Forbes 225-603-9971 or Jill Whittington 225-921-7945.

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2nd Graders Learn How Forefathers Lived Pioneer Day at Tanglewood Elementary



PIONEER DAY AT TANGLEWOOD gave students a chance to experience the life of their ancestors including the use of the straight razor and a clothes wringer.



TANGLEWOOD STUDENTS got to climb in a covered wagon, wear bonnets and straw hats, cook pioneer food, and design a quilt.

CENTRAL — Students in the Central Community School System missed many school days because of the flood last August. The impact was the greatest at Tanglewood Elementary School, which

Pioneer Day at Tanglewood • Photos by Woody Jenkins
flooded and had to be completely rebuilt. Some of the schools' special events had to be cancelled.

That almost resulted in the cancellation of the Annual Pioneer Day at Tanglewood, but faculty members simply wouldn't allow that to happen. As a result, 2nd graders once again had the opportunity to experience vignettes of the lives of their forefathers including clothing, food, and daily chores.

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Newspaper Genealogy

North Baton Rouge Journal
1942-1951

No connection

North Baton Rouge Journal
1966-1973

Same Owner

Istrouma Journal
2017-present

The Leader

Founded April 30, 1998

Central City News
Founded April 21, 2005

Merged May 4, 2006

South Baton Rouge Journal
1989-2008

Same Owner

Capital City News
2012-present

BATON ROUGE — Community Press, LLC, a Baton Rouge company owned by Woody Jenkins, publishes three community newspapers here:

- *Central City News* in the City of Central
- *Capital City News* in South Baton Rouge
- *Istrouma Journal* in North Baton Rouge

The total readership of the print editions of the three newspapers is estimated at more than 45,000 with another 50,000 readers online.

For information, call Community Press at 225-261-5055 or email centralcitynews@hotmail.com



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Istrouma Prepares for August 15 Opening

Most Key Personnel on Board at IHS



ADMINISTRATORS — Istrouma High principal Reginald Douglas and Istrouma Middle School associate principal Dr. Tongelia Rowan.



NEW ISTROUMA COACHES — Newly-appointed members of the Istrouma High School coaching staff include (left to right) Shirnell Jackson, head girls track coach; Jeremy Gradney, head football coach, and Demetrius White, head girls basketball coach. Istrouma will only compete at the freshman and JV levels for two years, according to the rules of the Louisiana High School Athletic Association.

Coaching Staff Begins to Take Shape

Continued from Page 1

was the first black athlete at Port Barre High School.

The new Istrouma coach said his top three goals are, first, to build men of character who will become great husbands, fathers, and leaders in the community; second, focus on academic success, and third, build one of the great football programs in the state.

“There are limits to what you can do with your hands, but your mind has no limits. That’s why academic success is so important,” he said.

“We use football to teach character. Years from now, you probably won’t remember what happened in a particular game, but the character you build during these formative years will serve you throughout your life,” he said.

Istrouma High School will be considered a new school by the Louisiana High School Athletic Association and will not be able to participate in varsity athletics for two years. However, it will be able to field freshmen and junior varsity teams and compete against other schools in the area. This fits well with Istrouma’s plans, because the school will only admit 9th and 10th graders during the 2017-2018 school year. It will add the 11th grade in 2018-2019, and the 12th grade in 2019-2020.

Coach Gradney said this year-by-year phase in should work. “It would be a mistake to have 9th and 10th graders compete at the varsity level the first year. They need time to develop and mature,” he said.

Working only with 9th

and 10th graders this year will also provide the coaching staff and the school administration the chance to put in place strong academic standards for the athletes.

In addition to his father, Coach Gradney said his mentors include his coaches Dru Nettles, Benny Saia, Chad Germany, and Donnel Hyde.

During his one year at Mentorship, the football team grew from 11 players to 40. Coach Gradney developed the school’s first player to win a college football scholarship as well as four All-District players. He was honored that one of the players asked him to be the godfather of his child.

He said, “I feel blessed to be part of Istrouma High School, and I will do everything in my power to make Istrouma a great success!”

Three Schools in Complex

Continued from Page 1

what the public response would be to Istrouma’s re-opening. Istrouma was taken over by the state in 2011 and the state closed it in May 2014 not because it was a failing school — it wasn’t — but because of low attendance numbers. By the end of the 2014 school year, the school had fewer than 150 pupils, despite the fact that it was the only public high school in an area of more than 30,000 people.

Istrouma will add the 11th grade in the fall of 2018 and the 12th grade in the fall of 2019. Its first graduating class will be in May 2020.

Mr. Douglas said that if the current numbers hold up, the enrollment at Istrouma by the fall of 2019 could be over 1,000 in grades 9 through 12. That would make Istrouma a large 4A high school.

In January 2018, Istrouma Middle Magnet School is tentatively scheduled to move to the Istrouma High campus. However, the timing of that move could conceivably be affected if Istrouma High’s enrollment continues to surge.

The Istrouma school complex will actually include three schools. First is the traditional high school for students residing in the area north of Choctaw Drive, east of Scenic High-

way, and inside the Airline Highway. Second is the technological institute, a career-oriented high school which is open to students from throughout the parish. Third is Istrouma Middle Magnet School (grades 5th through 8th).

Istrouma will offer a full sports program. Varsity competition will begin in the fall of 2019. Eighth graders will be eligible to compete in varsity.



NEW ISTROUMA FACULTY MEMBERS — New members of the Istrouma High School faculty gathered for a reception Saturday at the home of Istrouma alumni Woody and Diane Jenkins to meet and get to know one another. They were joined by several other local teachers. Shown above are (1st row, left to right) Ebony J. Noah-Williams, Carolyn Davis, Kista Smith, librarian Laurie Scioneaux, Tonette Washington, Lorenza Toussaint, Angie Baker, Patricia M. Coxe, Zaveola Banguel, head football coach Jeremy Gradney, and coach Jonathan Austin (applicant). (2nd row) Chanell Paten of Belaire, girls track coach Shirnell T. Jackson, Dean of Students Pamela Talbert, baseball coach Bill Umstetter, wrestling coach Andrés Serna, Steve Alvarado, assistant football coach Xavier Johnson, assistant principal Brian Foreman, band director Reggie Jackson, and principal Reginald Douglas. Attending but not shown were Marlon Cousin and Robert Cox. Istrouma alumni in attendance were Rochelle L. Elie, Carol Thomas, and Woody and Diane Jenkins.