

Istrouma Journal

Celebrating the Past and Building the Future of North Baton Rouge

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\$24 Million Renovation of Istrouma High School

Construction Nearly Done

ISTROUMA SMOKE SIGNALS

By Woody Jenkins

DIXIE - St. Gerard Catholic Church will honor and pray for our law enforcement officers, firefighters, EMS, and other first responders at a mass this **Sunday, July 16 at 10 a.m.** St. Gerard is located at 5354 Plank Road. Everyone is invited to come and show support for these faithful men and women.

★★★

Did you know you can get a **Krispy Kreme app** for your phone? When the donuts are hot at the corner of Plank Road and Hollywood, it will start beeping like crazy! It's the last thing I need, but I have one! LOL

★★★

Did you know the **Istrouma Journal** is named after the **North Baton Rouge Journal**, which my wife and I published from 1966 to 1969?

★★★

The **Istrouma Journal** has identified more than 40 businesses north of Choctaw and inside the Airline Highway that have been in business **more than 50 years!**

Some you might want to visit this month are Herb's Trailers, Brunson Safe and Lock, HiNabor, Piccadilly, and Krispy Kreme.

★★★

Speaking of donuts, do you remember **Tony's Donuts?**

★★★

You can subscribe to the **Istrouma Journal** by mailing your check for \$18 to Istrouma Journal, 910 North Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

★★★

With the reopening of Istrouma High School, there are **many financial needs** — some large and some small at the school. The big things are remodeling of the Annex,

See **ISTROUMA** on Page 9



COACH GRADNEY HAD A BOY — Istrouma football coach Jeremy Gradney, his wife Kodia and daughter Kelsie look at their new baby boy, Jeremy Jr., undoubtedly a future Istrouma Indian.

Istrouma to Re-open August 9

BATON ROUGE — Principal Reginald Douglas expects to get the keys to the newly-renovated Istrouma High School from contractor Lincoln Builders on Monday, July 24, which will give his new faculty and staff a little over two weeks to move in and set up before the first day of class on Wednesday, Aug. 9.

The opening of school

this fall resurrects the historic school founded in 1917 from near destruction.

Istrouma has gone from the largest school in Louisiana with 1,900 students in grades 10 to 12 and an illustrious history in sports and academics to its being declared a failing school by the state and eventually being closed.

Many thought Istrouma would fade into history and be bulldozed, but a determined superintendent and thousands of alumni who wouldn't accept defeat never gave up.

When Istrouma was shuttered in May 2014, it left North Baton Rouge without a public high school and without an anchor to hold

See **FINAL** on Page 8



Reggie Jackson
Istrouma Band Director

New Band Director Has Big Plans for Istrouma HS

BATON ROUGE - Starting a band program from scratch might seem too challenging for most band directors, but not for Istrouma High's new band director, Reggie Jackson. He's already done it once before with great success!

When Jackson became band director at St. Helena College & Career Academy, only seven students came out for band, but three years later, the band had 90 members and a load of champi-

See **JACKSON** on Page 9



AERIAL VIEW OF ISTROUMA HIGH SCHOOL where construction is almost complete on the newly-renovated school.

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SCOREBOARD FOR SALE — Workers took down the scoreboard at the Istrouma football stadium to make way for a new one. Now as a fundraiser effort, the old one is for sale to the highest bidder. For information, call Wayne Messina at 505-7137.

Independent, Unelected Boards Skim Cream Off the Top

Pockets of Prosperity in Struggling City-Parish

Agencies Flush While Need for Drainage, Roads Continues Unmet

Woody Jenkins
 Editor

BATON ROUGE — For years, there have been well-justified complaining that too much of our state budget is tied up in so-called dedicated funds. This is money locked up by the Louisiana Constitution or state statutes, which can only be used for certain specified purposes — not necessarily for what the greatest needs in the state may be.

Of course, dedicated funds don't happen by accident. Legislators in one four-year term want to protect certain money from the whims of future legislators. So they pass a law. Dedicated funds can be good or bad but they have one thing in common. A judgment is made in the present on how money will be spent in the future.

Why doesn't the legislature sim-

ply undedicate all these funds? Well, that, my friend, is easy to say and very difficult to do!

The same political forces that got the funds dedicated emerge anytime a reform is proposed. Those who want to "reform" the system almost always lose and often quite justifiably. One example is dedicated funds for law enforcement supplemental pay. A legislator may talk big about repealing it and even offer a bill to do so. But when 400 of your local policemen and sheriff's deputies show up at the Capitol for the committee hearing on the bill, even the author is likely to vote against his own bill — just to show how sincerely he regrets such a grave error!

However, the problem of dedicated funds is not confined to state government. It is just as bad, maybe worse, at the local level here in East Baton Rouge Parish.

The City-Parish doesn't do much well and it does many things poorly but one thing it is good at is squandering money. You would think we would see something from the money they squander but in fact we see little.

Where is the money that should be spent on cleaning up the city of Baton Rouge which is overwhelmed by litter and blighted houses? Where is the money to tear down houses that were

flooded and never repaired, which now sit empty and rotting?

Most people agree we need more roads, bridges, and drainage. South of Florida Boulevard, it's impossible to go anywhere during much of the day because our roads are jammed beyond capacity. We see rural bridges closed because they are unsafe. Then we watch those bridges stay closed for months awaiting money to repair them.

We saw historic flooding last August, and we see "ordinary" flooding quite often. Sometimes it is because the money was never spent to build projects that were and continue to be desperately needed.

So we have a City-Parish government with a huge annual budget. Yet, much of the money is wasted. So the City-Parish is always short on money.

However, on the other side of the coin, local government in this parish has "pockets of prosperity." These are governmental agencies that seem to defy the law of gravity.

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

entities are always building and adding more and more and more. They are indeed "pockets of prosperity" in a sea of hurt.

Two of these entities are BREC and the Library Board.

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

Or BREC, which proposed tearing down the Baton Rouge Zoo, located in North Baton Rouge, and moving it somewhere close to the extreme southern border of the parish at the Iberville Parish line.

BREC has more than \$100 million in surplus. Yet, its funds, like those of the Library Board, are never subjected to the City-Parish budget process. They are their own fiefdoms.

Some of our City-Parish Council members and state legislators should sit down and come up with a plan to require those two boards to come to their senses and pay part of their largess to the City-Parish as their share of the roads, bridges, and drainage which serve these entities.

While making these plans, let's add CATS and the Council on Aging to our list of "pockets of prosperity" that need to share in paying for roads, bridges, and drainage.

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Central's Birthday Bash Will be Saturday, July 15

Central Has Own Independence Day

City of Central Incorporated on July 11, 2005

CENTRAL — There is no citywide 4th of July celebration in Central. Instead, the city turns out for its own Independence Day — the celebration of its incorporating as a city on July 11, 2005.

This year's event will be held from 5 to 10 p.m. on Saturday, July 15 at Wildcat Stadium, corner Hooper and Sullivan roads.

Birthday Bash is one of the premiere events held annually in the City of Central.

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 Birthday Bash will include

- Concessions 5-10 p.m.
- Activities and games 5-10 p.m. including 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. Chris LeBlanc Band
- 8:30 p.m. Ryan Broshear
- 10 p.m. Fireworks Display

Everything is free but bring lawn chairs and ice chests.



At last year's Central Birthday Bash, celebrants included Gil and Michelle Matherne and local public officials.



State and local officials always come out including Rep. Barry Ivey, Councilman Scott Wilson, and Sen. Bodi White.



Last year Mayor Jr. Shelton dressed like a rock star. Citizens got in the spirit with the band. A giant fireworks display.



Congratulations City of Central On the 12th Anniversary Of Incorporation!

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BREC Will Vote Aug. 24 on Whether to Move Zoo to SBR

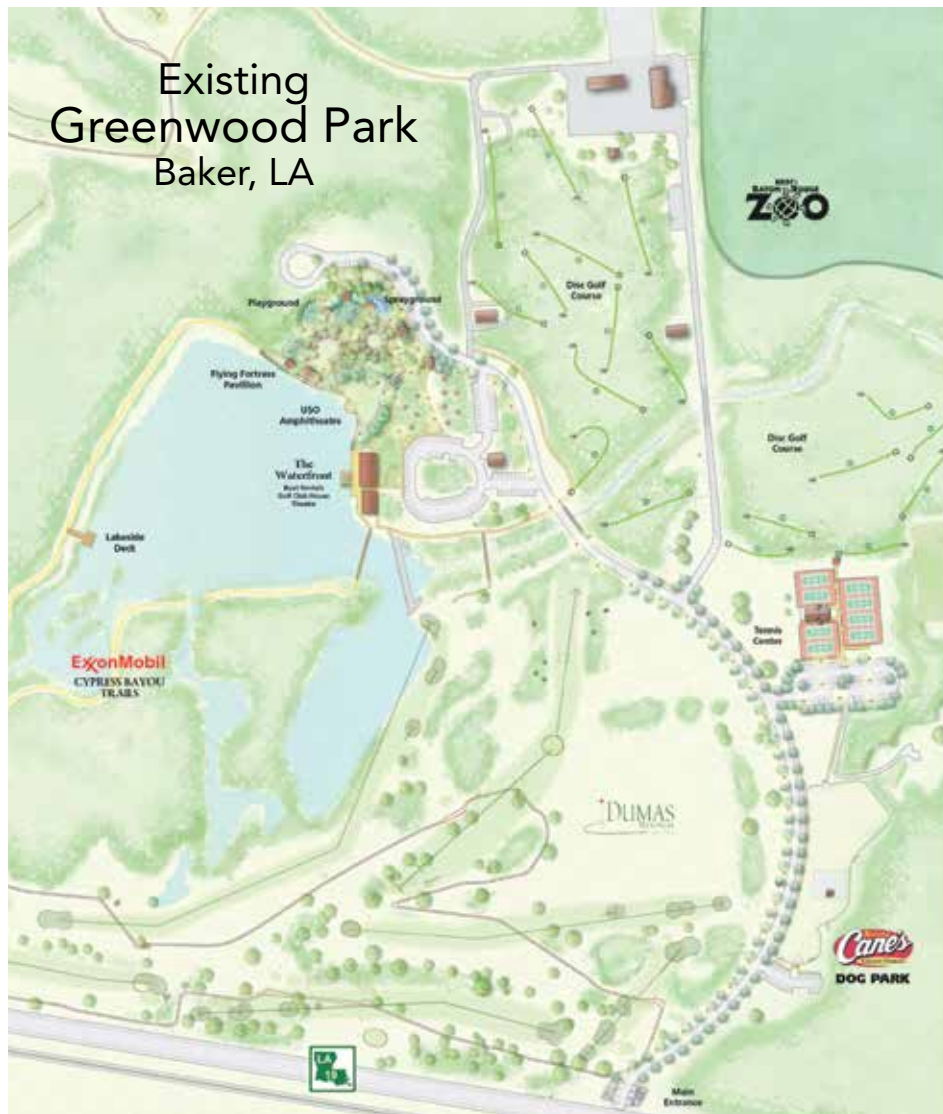
Proposal Would Keep BR Zoo in NBR, While Adding 1,200 Acres for Recreation

BATON ROUGE — The Board of Commissioners of BREC is preparing for its Aug. 24 meeting and a possible vote on whether to move the Baton Rouge Zoo out of North Baton Rouge to an unspecified location in South Baton Rouge.

Meanwhile, the Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge Parish representing small business owners across the parish says moving the zoo would be a costly, unnecessary move.

Instead, BREC should spend some of the \$150 million it plans to spend on a new zoo on upgrading the existing zoo, developing 1,200 acres to the west of the zoo for recreational purposes, and publicizing and promoting what is already in Baker. Those sentiments were expressed by architect Coleman Brown, chairman of the Infrastructure Committee of the Chamber EBR.

Brown said the existing zoo has easy Interstate access and is located in Baker, which has the lowest crime rate in the state. “The problem is, BREC has neglected the zoo and failed to keep up with the times. The zoo already attracts 250,000 visitors and would attract far more if BREC would spend a small fraction of what it proposes to spend at the unknown site in



South Baton Rouge.”

Brown said Greenwood Park adjacent to the Zoo is the best-kept secret in the parish. BREC facilities there amount to about 640 acres including the Zoo, Dumas 18-hole golf course, Clark nine-hole golf course, a driving range, a putting area, Cane’s dog park, tennis courts, a disc golf course, an amphitheater, marina, boat rental, and splash pad.

Brown said the park is magnificent and hundreds of thousands of people would use it if they knew if were there, but he said BREC has not spent the necessary resources to publicize it. “The entire park is well maintained but poorly promoted.”

The marina is especially noteworthy, Brown said. “The Waterfront Cafe has the best cheeseburgers in Baton Rouge!” The meeting facilities are good, and Exxon regularly holds meetings of 200 employees there, he said.

Brown said one of the first things to do is change the entrance to the zoo. “People should enter from Highway 19 on the road across from New Rafe Mayer Road. This now goes to the marina and golf clubhouse and splits off to become the commercial entrance to the

See CHAMBER EBR on Page 5





JULY EVENTS

- Baton Rouge Bicentennial Sundays** July 2 | 1-4 p.m.
Magnolia Mound Plantation
- Sunset Paddle** July 5 | 7-8:30 p.m.
Milford Wampold Park
- Make it a Movie Night: Disney’s Finding Dory** July 7 | 7 p.m.
Independence Park Theatre
- Movie at the Lagoon** July 15 | 7-9 p.m.
Liberty Lagoon
- Movie in the Park** July 20 | 7:30-10:30 p.m.
Flanacher Road Park
- Community Music & Heritage Festival** July 22 | 1-7 p.m.
Anna T. Jordan Community Park
- Solar Viewing** July 29 | noon-2 p.m.
Highland Road Park Observatory
- Zumiez Best Foot Forward** July 29 | 3 p.m.
Perkins Road Extreme Sports Park
- Adult Leisure Weekend Tea Dance** July 29 | 1-3 p.m.
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Says Without Maintenance, Promotion, No Zoo Will Prosper

Chamber EBR Says Improve Existing Zoo, Add Recreational Facilities to West of Zoo



GREENWOOD PARK adjacent to the Baton Rouge Zoo is the “best-kept secret” in the parish, according to Coleman Brown. He says improve the zoo and expand the park.

Continued from Page 4
zoo. That should be made the main entrance. In addition, the zoo needs to be more friendly to visitors. For example, at present, families cannot picnic on the grounds at the zoo. They have to purchase their food at the zoo. There is no basis for this.”

Brown also says CATS should begin bus service to the zoo, which has never had it.

Coleman Brown proposes upgrading the zoo at the existing site, integrating the zoo with Greenwood Park and adding about 1,200 acres to the east of the zoo.

He points to three sites that could be

available to BREC. He says each site is roughly 400 acres:

- 400 acres of wetlands across from Greenwood Park on the west side of Hwy. 19.
- 400 acres of land owned by Southern University adjacent to and northwest of the wetlands area. This currently has an equestrian facility.
- 400 acres at Jetson Correctional Facility across the Baker Canal.

Brown says this land would allow an amazing range of recreational opportunities including a waterpark, trails for horseback riding, running and walking, and waterways for canoeing and kayaking.

Brown says the advantages of upgrading the existing zoo and developing the recreational areas to the west of the zoo are overwhelming and would provide a much more economical and appealing way to serve the recreational needs of the parish.

When the BREC Board of Commissioners meets on Aug. 24, Brown said he will be there to represent the Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge Parish to oppose moving the zoo and urge BREC to expand facilities at Greenwood Park. For information, contact Coleman Brown at coleman@colemanbrown.com. The Chamber is at ChamberEBR.com.



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Panel to Speak on Investigative Reporting

BATON ROUGE — Four Baton Rouge journalists will discuss the role of investigative reporter in Louisiana's capital city at the Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge Parish meeting. The meeting will be held at 12 noon Tuesday, July 25 at Café Américain, 7521 Jefferson Hwy.

Top journalists Chris Nakamoto of WBRZ-TV, Andrea Gallo of *The Advocate*, and Stephanie Riegel of *The Business Report* will speak and answer questions. Woody Jenkins of the *Capital City News* will serve as moderator.

Participants will discuss what is investigative reporting, how to report effectively, and the ethics of investigative reporting.

Admittance will be by reservation only. Lunch is \$19 a person payable at the door. Make reservations by emailing woodyjenkins2016@gmail.com. The participants:

- Chris Nakamoto of WBRZ-TV provides award-winning investigative reporting that changes



Panel will include Woody Jenkins, Andrea Gallo of *The Advocate*, Chris Nakamoto of WBRZ, and Stephanie Riegel of *Business Report*.

laws and changes lives. He earned the prestigious Edward R. Murrow Award this year and an EMMY award last year.

- Andrea Gallo covers City Hall for *The Advocate*. She has written stories showing that the Mayor-

President's top hire lied on his resume and that a lack of emergency room care in the northern part of Baton Rouge was leading to longer ambulance transport times.

- Stephanie Riegel of *The Business Report* is a journalist with

more than 25 years' experience covering business, politics and food in Baton Rouge and New Orleans. She has won nearly a dozen awards over the years from the Alliance for Area Business Publications

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Final Sprint as Istrouma Principal, Staff, I



Istrouma High principal Reginald Douglas and McKinley Middle principal Sean Joffrion discuss middle school



Istrouma High assistant principal Brian Foreman and Executive Director of High Schools Ben Necaise



Istrouma High principal Reginald Douglas

Continued from Page 1

the community together.

Supt. Warren Drake, who put together \$24 million to renovate Istrouma without a tax increase, said North Baton Rouge, which is plagued by crime and blight, can never make a comeback without a great public school at its center.

“First a school, then a community,” he said, and a cooperative school board has supported him.

The superintendent appointed the Istrouma Advisory Committee to make recommendations on all aspects of re-opening the school.

The new principal, Reginald Douglas, was successful in turning around the St. Helena College and Career Academy. This year the school showed the greatest academic improvement of any school in the state.

Establishing a New Culture at Istrouma

BATON ROUGE — In an address to the Istrouma Advisory Committee which met Monday night at Winbourne Elementary School, Istrouma principal Reginald Douglas said one of the most important things the school will do is establish a new culture among the students.

“The essence of our culture at Istrouma will be academic excellence. That is something you should be able to feel as you visit Istrouma. The environment of the school will build the culture. You’ll see teachers in class talking about

academic topics. You’ll see kids in there listening. You’ll see kids walking in the hall knowing how to act and talk,” he said.

“When you reach higher, it hurts a little bit. We’re going to create something special. It will all center around academic excellence. We are going to get a school performance score, and it will be tied to what our kids do academically. We are going to give them everything they need to be successful,” he said.

How Istrouma Will Be A Values-Based School Where Character Is 1st

BATON ROUGE — During the question-and-answer session after his address to the Istrouma Advisory Committee, principal Reginald Douglas was asked how he plans to make Istrouma High School the first “values-based” school in Louisiana.

He said, “We are going to set aside time everyday to build character. It will be set in stone and part of the daily schedule. This is key to creating the right climate in the school. It determines how the kids interact with their teachers and with each other. Every morning we will teach values.”

Istrouma Looking for Game

BATON ROUGE — Istrouma coach is looking for an opponent for Wednesday, Sept. 13. Under LHSAA rules, the school can only play junior varsity games for two years. Coach Gradney can be reached at 225- 303-8447.



2017 Istrouma High Football Schedule All Games Away

Aug. 30	Capital High	5 p.m.
Sept. 6	Tara High	4:30 p.m.
Sept. 13	TBA	
Sept. 20	Belaire HS	6 p.m.
Sept. 27	Broadmoor	6 p.m.
Oct. 4	Baker High	5 p.m.
Oct. 11	Northeast	6 p.m.
	Homecoming	

Note: As a new school, Istrouma can only compete at the junior varsity level for its first two years, under LHSAA rules.



Istrouma Athletic Director John Jenkins

Istrouma Will Include a Traditional High School

Faculty Prepare for School Opening Aug. 9



ISTROUMA ADVISORY COMMITTEE appointed by Supt. Warren Drake has charted the way for the reopening of Istrouma High School. The 12-member body, chaired by Dr. Jackie Mims, is composed almost entirely of Istrouma High alumni. It has served much like a school board but is advisory only. It has made recommendations on the curriculum of the school, the physical facilities, and countless details such as school mascot (the Indians), school colors (maroon and gray), and fundraising. It also interviewed the six finalists for principal and recommended the appointment of Reginald Douglas. With few exceptions, the superintendent has followed the recommendations of the advisory committee. Shown in photos are (left to right) Tamera Horner-Cipero, Istrouma principal Reginald Douglas, and Carnell Washington. At right are Michael Stewart, Marcus Hall, Tarlette Thomas, and Anissia Mims Green.



KEY ADMINISTRATORS — Shalonda Simoneaux, director of high schools for the East Baton Rouge Parish School System, formerly served as principal at Broadmoor High School. Ben Necaise, executive director of high schools for the parish, formerly served as principal at West Feliciana Middle School in St. Francisville.

Jackson Left Mark at St. Helena

Continued from Page 1

onship trophies — 13 to be exact, including a couple of national championships.

With only seven kids out for the band, it was hard to put a band on the field at the first football game, but Jackson had a drum line instead. People loved it! At the second game of the season, he added horns. By the end of the first season, he had a full band on the field!

How did he do it! He says it was by constantly promoting the band, but actually there was a lot more than that. Reggie Jackson is quite a musician himself and can play every instrument in the band.

To encourage kids to join the band, he asks every kid in school to come by the school band



Reggie Jackson created a championship band in St. Helena in less than three years.

room — 20 students at a time. Mr. Jackson explains each instrument to the students and then plays it, often with extraordinary results. He likes to focus on the less popular instruments and highlight them. The result? A total of 90 band members in a student body of 400 students!

Under Jackson's leadership, St. Helena won first place in Houston at the MLK Battle of the Bands. The flag and dancers won 1st and 2nd place. At the parish fair in Tangipahoa, St. Helena 1st place in five categories.

Today, Reggie Jackson is facing the same challenge — making something out of nothing. He's busy trying to raise money and find band equipment for the Istrouma Indian Band.

To help him, call 985-974-8958.

ISTROUMA SMOKE SIGNALS

BY WOODY JENKINS

Continued from Page 1

which will eventually house **Istrouma Middle Magnet**; the auditorium, and the weight room for athletes. The small things range from band equipment to athletic equipment to furnishing the Alumni Center, which will be located next to library.

There will be a vast number of ways to give, including giving large sums to name an industrial bay or a building, and smaller sums for naming a hallway or a door. There will also be brick pavers honoring alumni for \$200 each, \$100 for 100 Years, and just simple cash donations. In the meanwhile, if you'd like to give now, send your check made out to Istrouma High School and mail it to 3730 Winbourne Ave., Baton Rouge, LA 70805 after August 1. If you want the donation to be designated, write a notation to that effect, such as "athletic equipment."

★★★

The **Istrouma Indian Jersey Club** is a group of Istrouma alumni who try to help do some small but important things at the school. We recently hosted a reception honoring the new Istrouma High School faculty. It was the first time for the faculty members to meet one another. In years past, we did things such as purchase new jerseys for the Istrouma Football Team. If you'd like to help, send your check for \$60 to Istrouma Indians Jersey Club, 910 North Foster Drive, Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

★★★

Istrouma High School is getting prettier and prettier everyday! They'll be waxing the floors this week. The furniture will arrive next week. In the new dining hall, kitchen equipment is be-

ing installed and floors are being finished. They will apply for DHH inspection probably next week and even start ordering food! The sidewalk from the main building to the cafeteria has been installed, and they are awaiting the canopy. A thousand other things are coming together, and when the doors open Aug. 9, a new chapter in the history of Istrouma High School will begin! I can't wait!

Enroll Your Child At Istrouma High Or Middle 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. After July 24, the Istrouma High School staff will be at the new high school, which is located at 3730 Winbourne Ave.

Enrollment for Istrouma Middle Magnet is at McKinley Middle Magnet 1550 Eddie Robinson. For information, call 389-0089. The magnet school is open for students parishwide with a 2.5 GPA who score Basic or higher in English, language arts, and math. In the alternative, the student may take an admission exam.

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



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Kelly NcKnight

★★★★★ I am so impressed! I took my daughter in this afternoon for an appointment with Dr. Vaughan and to get a new pair of glasses. Her appointment was at 5:00. We were out the door, with her brand new pair at 6:04. No need to miss school or wait several days for her new glasses to come in. Thank you! — **Kelly McKnight**

★★★★★ The owners were very patient with me as I tried on just about every frame they had in their store. They stayed open later than closing and never rushed me out. This will definitely be my go-to place for future eye exams and frame purchases. Highly recommended! — **Katie Vidrine**



Katie Vidrine



Nicole Norwood

★★★★★ My dad and I can't thank Tracy and Shawn enough for hooking him up so fast with his glasses!! He needed them same day due to him working out of state and they went above and beyond!!!! Many thanks!!! — **Nicole Norwood**

★★★★★ Wonderful place! Everyone was extremely helpful and patient with all three of my children. I cannot recommend this place enough! I definitely will keep bringing my kids there for all of their vision needs! Thank you again to all for such a great experience! — **Ashley Starnes Paxton**

★★★★★ First class business and FIRST CLASS people! Great service, excellent eye doctor, my glasses were made while I was there! I also bought a pair of WILEYX prescription sunglasses they are fantastic! — **Robert E. Lea**

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Battle of Baton Rouge Ceremonies Aug. 5



Union and Confederate Reenactors will take part in an educational ceremony remembering the Battle of Battle at 9 a.m. on Aug. 5 at Magnolia Cemetery downtown.

BATON ROUGE — As part of the 1817-2017 Baton Rouge Bicentennial Celebration, the annual Commemoration of the Civil War Battle of Baton Rouge will be enriched with educational displays and special guests sharing Baton Rouge and Louisiana's history, archaeology, cultural, and medical past.

The free event will take place on Saturday, Aug. 5,

at Magnolia Cemetery, 422 N. 19th Street, with exhibitions beginning at 9 a.m. and the formal program beginning at 10 a.m. Chairs, tenting, and water will be provided in a shaded area.

The event will take place on the 155th anniversary date of the Civil War Battle of Baton Rouge which took place in and around the Historic Magnolia Cemetery in 1862. The cemetery

is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is located between Florida and Main Street. Cars may enter at the 19th Street gate.

In addition to the Trustees of the Historic Magnolia Cemetery, an auxiliary of Preserve Louisiana, BREC and Rabenhorst are sponsors of this educational of-

fering. For further information contact Chip Landry at cemetery1@cox.net or Carolyn Bennett at 931.7561.

Dr. Tony LoBue Raising Money to Get Diabetic Service Dog for Young Man

BATON ROUGE — Dane Camus, a local 6th grader with Type 1 Diabetes, needs a special dog that will alert others if Dane slips into a diabetic coma. Dr. Tony LoBue is helping Dane raise the \$15,000 cost. Crossroads Animal Hospital is having a special fundraiser during the month of August to help Dane get a Diabetic Alert Dog. During August, 50 percent of the proceeds from all regular baths and blueberry facials will go to Dane's fund that

will help him gain independence. For more information, call Crossroads at 225-261-6000.

Central High School Class of 1997

20 Year Class Reunion

August 11

All Class Members Invited

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shannonarussell1@yahoo.com



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Happy 12th Birthday Central!

“If you always put limits on everything you do, *physical* or *anything else*, it will spread into your work and into your life **THERE ARE NO LIMITS.** There are only plateaus; and you must not stay there, you must *go beyond them.*”
—Bruce Lee



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Ron and Kathy Stewart, Beth Wesley Bennett, NBR Reunion co-founder Haskins Douglas, Carroll DiBenedetto, co-founder Wayne Price, and IHS Alumni leader Anissia Green



River Roads Coffee's John Melancon, Istrouma High assistant principal Brian Foreman, Harold Fisher, Glen Dawson, Cliff and Wanda Marvin, Lynn and Mrs. Dugas



Gary Pennington, Michael Templeton, Mike Montagne, Ron Pourciau, and Peggy Nettles Binning



World renowned yo-yo champion Jim Johnson and Penny Price Pitre



RON STEWART compares himself to his 1963 Istrouma graduation photo

BATON ROUGE — More than 500 graduates of Istrouma, Redemptorist, Central, Glen Oaks, Baker, and Zachary gathered last week for the annual North Baton Rouge reunion. Most of those in attendance were from the 1950's and 1960's along with a handful from the 1970's. The event is always held the Thursday after the 4th of July at the Atrium of the Sheraton downtown.

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Grads Gathered for NBR Reunion



Former Istrouma coach Willis Stelly and Connie Catania Stelly, Glen Oaks Class of 1965



Charlie Hinton, Baton Rouge High, and Dottie Herrin Kingston, Istrouma Class of 1963



Ann and Jimmy Borskey, Istrouma High School Class of 1965



BILL FAVARO, Istrouma High Class of 1964 and Kathy Armoney, Istrouma Class of 1963



Istrouma High football greats Earl Baron and Benny Griffin of the Istrouma state championship team

Annual North Baton Rouge Reunion
Atrium Sheraton • July 6, 2017
Photos by Woody Jenkins



Penny Price Pitre, Horace "Pete" Pitre, Carol Schittone Roberts, and Pat Thomas at North Baton Rouge Reunion at the Atrium at Sheraton.



CYNTHIA "REE" HOLDEN, Istrouma High Class of 1970, holds picture of Istrouma Class of 1937. She owns Lawns & Lace Landscaping at 916-0004.

CONGRATULATIONS
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ON 12 FANTASTIC YEARS!

Students at Istrouma Leadership Academy



Istrouma Assistant Principal Brian Foreman asked students about their interests.



Principal Reginald Douglas discussed opportunities students will have at Istrouma.

Students Learn Team-Building Leadership Skills

BATON ROUGE — Some of Istrouma's incoming 9th and 10th graders are being invited to participate in the school's Student Leadership Academy.

It's a chance for students and teachers to meet one another for the first time and get to know each other better. The students participate in exercises to help them identify what is important in their lives and prioritize them. Team-building exercises give students and adults the chance to work together, cooperate and achieve a goal.

Principal Reginald Douglas spoke to the students and challenged them to take advantage of the opportunity they have at Istrouma.



The first graduating class included Brian Ford, Precious Jackson, Charisma Kaufman, Sienna Lewis, and Stephan Landry.



Stephan Landry



Brian Ford



Mr. Douglas with Precious Jackson



Charisma Kaufman

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