



St. George Leader

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All State, Parish Offices at Stake in Oct. 14 Primary

Early Voting Set Sept. 30-Oct. 7 For Governor, State Legislature

Two Members of Louisiana House Seek Senate Seat Held by Sen. White

Woody Jenkins
Editor

BATON ROUGE — Two incumbent members of the Louisiana House of Representatives are running for State Senate District No. 6, which includes Central, in the Oct. 14 primary — Rep. Barry Ivey, who has represented Central in the House since 2013, and Rep. Rick Edmonds, who has represented the St. George area in the House since 2015.

The two are vying to succeed Sen. Bodi White, who is term limited.

The Senate district begins in the southeast portion of East Baton Rouge Parish, continues to Central, then to St. Helena Parish, and finally to the eastern edge of Livingston

See NO RUNOFF on Page 10



Rep. Rick Edmonds



Rep. Barry Ivey



CLERK OF COURT DOUG WELBORN AND SHERIFF SID GAUTREAUX are the only parishwide elected officials who have opposition in Oct. 14. Assessor Brian Wilson and Coroner Dr. Beau Clark were elected without opposition. Gautreaux and Welborn are heavily favored in their races. If reelected, they will insure Republican control of all four parishwide elected offices — Sheriff, Assessor, Clerk, and Coroner. Gautreaux and Welborn are the two long-serving elected officials in the parish. Gautreaux was elected Baker Chief of Police in 1979, and Welborn was elected to the Metro Council in 1980.

Atty. Gen. Jeff Landry, Dem Shawn Wilson Appear Likely to Lead Field in Oct. 14 Race

Woody Jenkins
Editor

BATON ROUGE — Mail ballots for the Oct. 14 election were sent last week to voters who are over 65 or disabled. In-person early voting will begin Saturday, Sept. 30 and continue through Saturday, Oct. 7.

The most important race on the Oct. 14 election ballot will be governor. Republican Attorney General Jeff Landry and Transportation Secretary Shawn Wilson have been endorsed by the Republicans and Democrats respectively. According to most polls, Landry and Wilson are likely to run first and second, although not necessarily in that order. That would place the two of them in the Nov. 18 runoff five weeks later. No Party candidate Hunter Lundy



Jeff Landry



Shawn Wilson

See JEFF LANDRY on Page 10

Four Running for House from St. George

All Four Candidates Court Conservative Voters in St. George

ST. GEORGE — Four candidates are running in House District 66 to replace Rep. Rick Edmonds, who is running for the State Senate.

Candidates are spending money on mailings, yard signs, and some media, but mostly the campaign is about knocking on doors and meeting the voters on their doorsteps.

All of the candidates are political newcomers and strong conservatives. They are:

• Hollis “Bubbe” Day, radio commentator specializing in financial analysis. He has a large following outside of politics. He has been



Hollis Day



Richie Edmonds



Emily Chenevert



Drew Maranto

endorsed by the Freedom Caucus.

• Richie Edmonds, local contractor and businessman. His dad is Rep. Rick Edmonds, the incumbent representative from the district. Richie has been endorsed by

the Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish.

• Emily Chenevert who has worked extensively in the film industry and is president of Moms for Liberty. She speaks out for

family values.

• Drew Maranto, who has worked in politics and business. He currently owns Titan Coffee and directs a small brewery.

See REPUBLICANS on Page 10

Vote YES Amendment No. 2 • Religious Liberty • Saturday, Oct. 14, 2023

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Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish • Livingston Parish Republican Party
Louisiana Home Builders Association PAC • Americans for Prosperity
ABC Contractors PelicanPAC • EAST PAC /LABI • Incumbent Sen. Bodi White



Loyal Supporter of St. George

Sid Gautreaux, Doug Welborn Seek Reelection as Sheriff, Clerk of Court



CLERK OF COURT DOUG WELBORN (left); Dr. Beau Clark, East Baton Rouge Parish Coroner, and his wife with Doug Welborn; and Welborn with Sheriff Sid Gautreaux and wife Suzi and former Rep. Woody Jenkins, the parish Republican chairman. Jenkins said the party’s goal has been to reelect all four Republican parishwide elected officials.

BATON ROUGE — Late in 2022, the East Baton Rouge Republican Parish Executive Committee, the governing body of the party here, met to set priorities for the 2023 election year. The group unanimously agreed the party’s No. 1 priority should be reelection the four parishwide constitutional officers —

- Sheriff Sid Gautreaux
- Assessor Brian Wilson
- Clerk of Court Doug Welborn, and
- Coroner Dr. Beau Clark.

Republican parish chairman Woody Jenkins said, “These four positions are so fundamental that they are established in the Louisiana Constitution, and the truth is that the livability of this parish can be greatly affected by who holds those offices.”

All four are Republicans, and two of them — Assessor Brian Wilson and Coroner Dr.

Beau Clark — have already been reelected, because they were unopposed.

“The sheriff is critical to maintaining law and order. If the sheriff is viewed as tough on crime, citizens have more confidence living here and criminals tend to go elsewhere. Sheriff Gautreaux is seen as a conservative Republican but fair across the board. We felt it was most important that he be reelected.”

“The Clerk of Court, Doug Welborn, administers the filing of legal documents, the conduct of elections, and many other important functions. It is critical that he be reelected.”

Jenkins said the No. 1 goal of the party remains reelecting Gautreaux and Welborn Oct. 14. “We’ll have a Republican governor and legislature, because the state is conservative. Elections are much closer in this parish, which is why we are focused on these two.”



Parish Assessor Brian Wilson qualifying with Jeff Hickerson.

St. George Leader

Parkview Football

2023 HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL LINE UP



Parkview Baptist Eagles

Sept. 1	Dunham	52-46 W
Sept. 8	Catholic New Iberia	14-10 L
Sept. 15	Brusly	27-0 W
Sept. 22	Madison Prep*	Home
Sept. 28	Glen Oaks*	Home
Oct. 6	Collrgiate*	Home
Oct. 13	Broadmoor	Home
Oct. 20	Mentorship Academy*	Home
Oct. 27	Port Allen*	Home
Nov. 3	University Lab*	Away



Norman Browning
Co-Founder of City of St. George




BACK SIDE OF ST. GEORGE PETITION as proved by the Secretary of State and the Attorney General. La.R.S. 33:1 requires that the boundaries of the municipality be listed, as well as a map of the proposed city. These two items, even in very small print, take one side of the petition, which was approved by the Secretary of State and the Attorney General.

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Remember to Vote Oct. 14. Design by Becky Fos.

State Law Requires the ‘Plan’ for Rendering Services to Fit on the Petition

1st Circuit Clearly Misinterpreted What Kind of ‘Plan’ St. George Had to Submit

A Detailed Business Plan Would Not Fit on The Petition and Thus Was Not Required

Woody Jenkins
Editor

BATON ROUGE — On July 14, 2023, Judge Mitch Theriot of Louisiana’s 1st Circuit Court struck down the incorporation of the City of St. George. He did so on the basis that the incorporators of the City of St. George failed to provide a ‘plan’ for rendering municipal services as required by La. R.S. 33:1. I had the pleasure of serving with Mitch Theriot when he was a member of the Louisiana House of Representatives. He is obviously a fine judge who writes well thought out, even scholarly, legal opinions. In his opinion on St. George, the judge adroitly steps through Louisiana’s law on incorporation with all its nuances. One good thing about the opinion is he ruled that Mayor-President Sharon Weston Broome was not a proper party to the suit. In order to file suit, the law is very clear that she would have to be a resident of the proposed new city, a property owner in the proposed new city, the municipality itself, or a member of the governing authority of Baton Rouge (the Metro Council). She met none of those criteria. The amazing thing is that it took the courts four years to recognize the obvious and throw the honorable mayor out of court! Unfortunately, Judge Theriot fell into error when he ruled that the incorporators did not provide an adequate plan for the new city. The district court previously ruled that the incorporators of St. George “minimally satisfies the requirements of the statutes.” Judge Theriot reversed that holding of the district court and ruled instead that “Although the petition listed the services that would be provided, the petition did not provide the necessary information to place citizens of the area to

be incorporated on notice of a plan for provision of those services.” State law provides in La.R.S. 33:1 that **the Secretary of State will provide the form for the petition to be used for gathering signatures, and that any form that does not conform to that form will be invalid.** Furthermore, the statute clearly provides **the information which must appear on each petition form.** The amount of information required to appear on each petition is very great. See opposite page. The statute provides as follows: La.R.S. 33:1: “The secretary of state shall provide **a form approved by the attorney general** to be used for the petition for an incorporation election. Such form shall be in conformity with the provisions of this Section and R.S. 18:3. All incorporation petitions shall be on an approved form or on a form which contains the same information as required on the approved form and **any petition not on such form shall be invalid.** The incorporation petition shall include the following information: (1) **A legal description of the area proposed for incorporation, a map of the area proposed for incorporation, and the statement that all lands included in the area constitute a contiguous area.** The description shall also include a list of every parish in which the proposed area of incorporation is wholly or partially situated. (2) **A statement of the number of inhabitants residing in the unincorporated area of the proposed incorporation.** Such statement shall be based on the latest federal decennial census or another current population report or count which is verifiable. (3) **A statement of the assessed value of the immovable property located in the unincorporated area.** (4) **A listing of the public services the municipal corporation proposes to render to the area and a plan for the provision of these services.** (5) **A statement of the corporate name desired for the new municipality.** (6) **The names of two persons, who shall be designated as chair-**

person and vice chairperson, for the petition for incorporation who shall serve as agents for the petitioners in all legal matters, including the receipt of notices. Notice will be sufficient if served on the chairperson or vice chairperson.” Therefore, **the entire list of services and the plan to provide those services must appear on the petition itself!** The form of the petition approved by the Secretary of State and the Attorney General is only one sheet front and back. Just the description of the boundaries and map of a proposed municipality takes up one side. And of course there must be room for printed names, addresses, and signatures of petitioners. The statute is **vague** about what is to be included in “the plan for the provision of these services” but one thing is certain: **The plan cannot be detailed, because it must fit on the petition!** If the Court of Appeal was expecting a **detailed business plan** for the new city, that is **obviously not what the law contemplates,** because, as the court notes, the law must not be interpreted to create absurd results. The law contemplates voters being handed a petition — not a 20-page booklet. In fact, the incorporators of the City of St. George did an excellent job of doing precisely what the law requires regarding the list of public services to be provided and a plan to provide those services. Here’s the list of public services which the City of St. George proposed to provide and the plan for providing those services. The **bold faced items are the public services to be provided and the italicized language is the plan for providing those services.** This appeared on every petition signed by voters. “1. **Public Safety services** through the continuation of services provided by St. George Fire Protection District, East Side Fire District, and the East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff’s Office. “2. **Sanitation and garbage collection** through the continuation of services provided by the consolidated garbage service district. “3. **Sewerage** by continuation

of services through the East Baton Rouge [Parish] consolidated sewer district. “4. **Emergency Medical Services** through continuation of service by the EBR Parish Department of EMS. “5. **911 Services** through continuation of services provided by the East Baton Rouge Parish 911 District. “6. **The City of St. George** may provide the following services through contractor(s) or municipal staff: “6a. Regulation of property use by adoption of planning and zoning ordinance. “6.b. Building Inspections. “6.c. Traffic signs and signals. “6.d. Maintenance and improvement of municipal public streets and roads. “6.e. Maintenance of right of way. “6.f. Maintenance and improvements of drainage system. “6.h. Animal control. “All services will be provided subject to **the availability of funds** derived from taxes, license fees, permits and other revenue which become available to the municipality and are authorized by state law.” For the incorporators to be expected to provide more than that and still fit on a petition is unreasonable and not what the law contemplates. The plaintiffs in this case made much of the fact that providing services depends on the availability of funds, but isn’t that always the case everywhere and for everything? The Court of Appeal can take judicial notice of the U.S. Census that provides that **the household income in St. George is over \$90,000 a year, the highest of any municipality in Louisiana.** The notion that the new city will not have enough money to provide for essential services is far-fetched indeed. The 1st Circuit should reverse its decision or the Supreme Court should overturn it. The plan for St. George is more than adequate! The petition very well describes the services to be provided and the plan for providing them **in the space available!**

Widespread Opposition to Sale to Out-of-State For-Profit

Hearing on Sale of Blue Cross Oct. 5-6

Policy Holders Can Speak on Proposal At Hearing Set by Comm. Jim Donelon

Woody Jenkins
Editor

BATON ROUGE — The Board of Blue Cross of Louisiana is moving forward with its plans to sell the non-profit mutual insurance company to a for-profit mega-insurance company called Elevance (formerly Anthem). Blue Cross has 1.9 million policy holders in Louisiana, while Elevance has 47 million policy holders nationwide.

Louisiana Insurance Commissioner Jim Donelon will hold a public hearing on the sale at 10 a.m. on Oct. 5 and 6 at 1702 N. Third St. He has the power to approve or disapprove the sale. If he approves it, it will still be subject to a vote by members, who would have to approve the sale by a 2/3rds vote.

The sale has been controversial and drawn opposition from policy holders, agents, legislators, and even the Louisiana State Medical Society.

The major points of controversy are as follows:

• **Theft from Policy Holders.** The owners of the company are the 90,000 members. The sale price is \$2.5 billion. Yet, less than 9 percent of that amount would be distributed to the members. The rest of the



METRO COUNCIL MEMBER JEN RACCA and Brian Kelly of Blue Cross discuss the proposed sale of Blue Cross at Chamber of Commerce of East Baton Rouge Parish.

sale price plus about \$900 million in reserves would be turned over to a recently-formed Delaware non-profit called Accelerate Louisiana Initiative to distribute as it desires.

Some Blue Cross policy holders have likened this use of funds as nothing less than theft. Attorney Henry Kinney said the proposal is “dishonorable” and “a usurpation of the rights of policy holders.”

Kinney said, “These assets belong to the members. The Board of Blue Cross wants to turn these funds over to a self-appointed, self-perpetuating board of a new foundation — funds that belong to the members!”

• **Destruction of a Louisiana Company.** Blue Cross is a Louisiana company with Louisiana owners and 3,500 Louisiana citizens as employees. Critics say the new owners will make their decisions out of state and can be expected to move offices out of state and



“trim” the number of employees.

• **Service Problems.** Policy holders and providers of Elevance in other states report delays in payment and approval of procedures. Many physicians report widespread dissatisfaction with Elevance.

• **If It Ain't Broke, Don't Fix It.** There is a belief among policy holders that Blue Cross is working well for them with a non-profit model based in Louisiana. So why change it?

Policy holders and members of the public had the opportunity to file public comments with the Commissioner through Sept. 18.

Those comments can be found at <https://www.lti.la.gov/bcbs-hearing-public-comments>

Two of those who filed comments in opposition to the sale were the Louisiana State Medical Society and the **Central City News**. The comments of the medical society

are found on Page 17.

The **Central City News** filed a request with the Commissioner asking him to reform the voting procedures Blue Cross is using to secure approval of the proposed sale.

The newspaper said Blue Cross sent out mail ballots with very one-sided information about the sale, and also attempted to get member approval by telephone and by voting online. The newspaper said, “These decisions involve billions of dollars and the health care of nearly 2 million Louisianians. If there is a vote, it should be fair. We ask that if you allow an election to be held that you issue an order that would include the following features:”

“Appoint a group of three opponents of the sale to draft a one sheet, front and back, to be included in the materials sent the policy holders fairly describing the arguments against the sale. That the group of opponents be approved to receive proxies from members and be allowed to submit those at the policy holders meeting.”

“That voting be similar to mail-in voting in Louisiana, where a ballot must be placed within an inner and outer envelope, which would have to be signed by the member with his mother's maiden name, and witnessed by another person. That voting by any other means except by mail or in-person be prohibited.

“We ask that you issue an order directing that the procedures outlined above be followed.”

The Commissioner is not expected to issue a decision until several days or weeks after the hearing.

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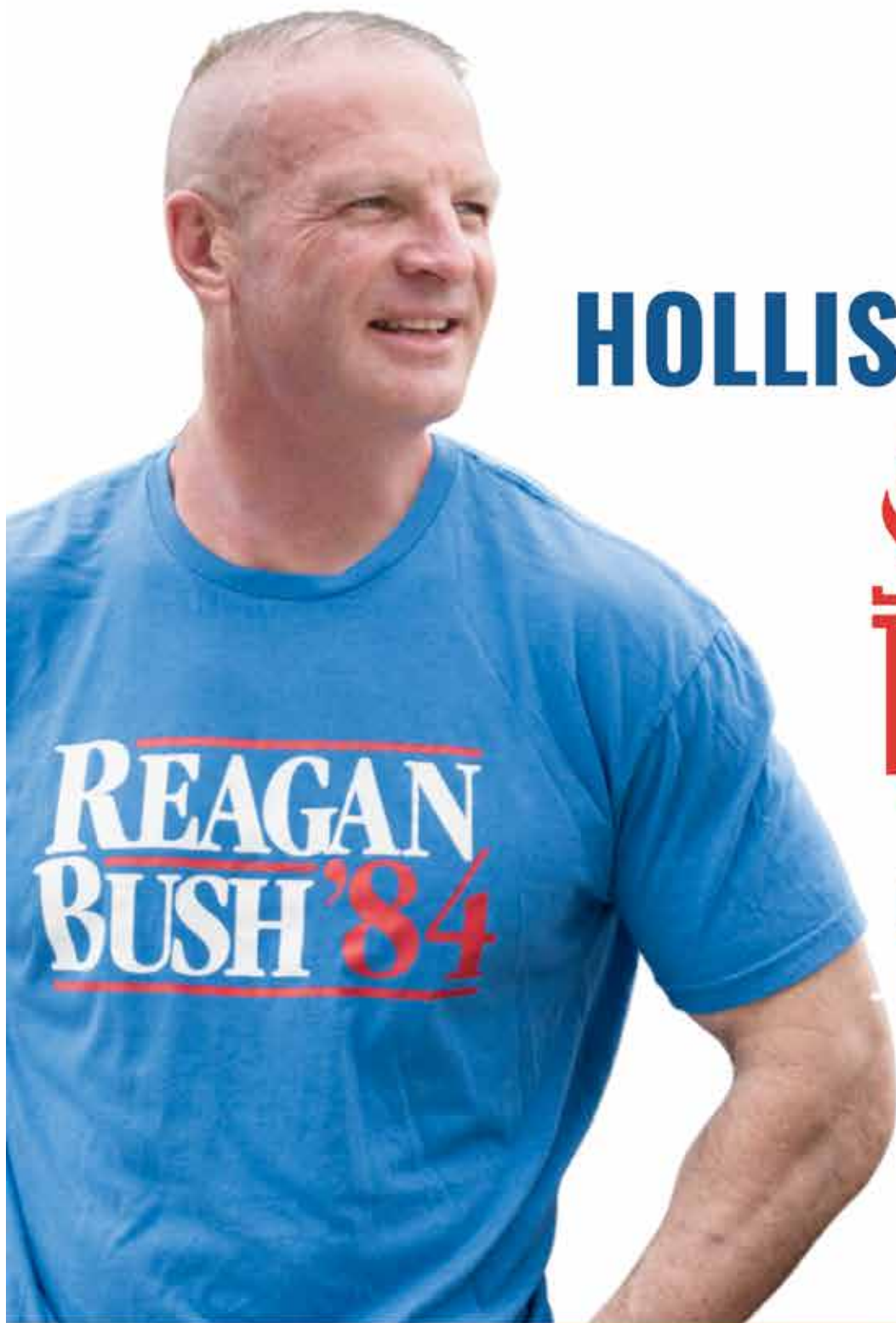
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double the trouble as the Ivey Twins fight against the P
education, healthcare, infrastructure, and a

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A successful business owner, Brandon Ivey is a proud family man from Central led by God and relentlessly driven to do good. As a contractor and developer, Brandon spends most days covered in grease and mud building the future. So, he knows how to get dirty jobs done – and nothing’s dirtier than Louisiana politics. Brandon will protect our kids from woke indoctrination, improve tax policy, and slash red tape to attract jobs to Louisiana. Like you, Brandon knows if we don’t protect our family values, we can lose our unique community spirit- where coaches still pray on the field, and kids can be anything they dream.

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USE AND BARRY IVEY IN THE STATE SENATE

Special Interest and Swamp Management will have Politics and Policies that are keeping Louisiana down in re destroying opportunities for our children!



OLDER BY
7 MINUTES



Having served as your State Representative, Barry Ivey has built a reputation as one of the strongest voices against Deep Pocket Special Interests, Establishment Politics, and an apathetic legislature, particularly when THEIR interests don't align with YOUR interests. Barry even called them "the laziest group of people I've ever worked with" in a chamber speech. Barry knows we must overcome our FAILED status-quo and focus on POLICY to truly transform Louisiana. Like you, Barry is tired of Louisiana continuing to fail our children and grandchildren by robbing them of hope and opportunity. Barry will continue fighting the Louisiana Political Establishment and continue working to build a heritage of blessings for our children and grandchildren through POLICIES that generate HOPE and produce OPPORTUNITIES here at home!

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Jeff Landry, Shawn Wilson Lead Field

Continued from Page One

is running in a distant third place in some polls, followed by former LABI president Steve Waguespack, state Treasurer John Shroder, and Sen. Sharon Hewitt, all of whom are Republicans.

In a recent development, another Republican candidate, Rep. Richard Nelson, announced that he is dropping out of the race and endorsing Jeff Landry as the best choice.

Landry has been dominating the polls and fundraising.

In the final days of the campaign, attacks on the top candidates can be expected.

In some ways, the governor's race has never really heated up as many expected. Landry received the endorsement of the Republican Party of Louisiana late last year and the endorsement of the Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish in March. He led from the earliest polls to the present.

Some big business leaders helped fund Waguespack's entry into the race, but despite spending heavily, Waguespack campaign has not gotten the traction some of his supporters expected.

The Attorney General was endorsed early by former President Donald Trump, who remains very popular in the state. Many voters identify Landry with Trump and see him as having a similar philosophy.

On the Democratic side, Shawn Wilson has cleared the field of serious Democratic opponents. However, many Democratic leaders see the race as unwinnable, and a large Democratic turnout is not expected.

In the Baton Rouge area, the hot legislative races involve Republicans while few Democratic incumbents have opposition. At present, there appears to be far more interest in the election on the Republican side than on the Democratic side.

Republicans have a two-thirds

majority in the Louisiana House and Senate. They are expected to

hold and possibly increase that majority by a couple of seats.

No Runoff Possible in Senate 6

Continued from Page One

Parish.

Both Ivey and Edmonds have conservative voting records.

Although the district is spread over three parishes, most of the voting population is found in the St. George area and in Central.

Ivey is better known in Central, and Edmonds is better known in St. George. St. George has significantly more of the district than Central.

Edmonds got on early start on the race and appears to have made inroads with Central voters. He is endorsed by the Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish. Outgoing Sen. Bodi White has also endorsed Edmonds.

Rep. Edmonds is a retired Baptist pastor who has worked with the

Louisiana Family Forum in recent years. He is chairman of the House Committee on Municipal & Parochial Affairs and is a member of the House Appropriations Committee.

Ivey is a businessman. He is president of Pinnacle Precision Services. He is considered an independent Republican who sometimes crosses the aisle.

Both candidates are family men.

One interesting thing they have in common is that fact that each have a family member running for their House seat. Barry Ivey's twin brother Brandon is running to replace him from House District 65.

Rick Edmonds' son Richie is running to replace him from House District 66.

2 Republicans Seek Election From HD 68

Continued from Page One

BATON ROUGE — Two Republicans are seeking election to the Louisiana House from District 68. They would replace Rep. Scott McKnight, who is running for State Treasurer.

- Laurie Adams is a member of the Metro Council and a leading conservative voice. She is a Christian educator who has been endorsed by the Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish and LABI.
- Dixon McMakin is a businessman making his first run for public office. He has been endorsed by the Freedom Caucus.

Other candidates are Belinda Davis (D), Max Grodner (D), and Matt Thomas. (I)



Laurie Adams



Dixon McMakin

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Republican-Endorsed Candidates Are Featured at Ronald Reagan Luncheon



PARISH CORONER DR. BEAU CLARK (left) speaks on the fentanyl problem in Baton Rouge. Endorsed by the Republican Party, he was unopposed for reelection for Coroner. Former Congressman John Fleming (center) is the Republican-endorsed candidate for State Treasurer. He posed for a picture with Lynn Coxe Graham, president of the EBR Parish Republican Women; Debbie Kuehne, past president, and radio personality Moon Griffon. Clerk of Court Doug Welborn (right) was endorsed early on by the Republican Party.



REP. RICK EDMONDS (left) is the Republican-endorsed candidate for State Senator to replace Sen. Bodi White, who is retiring. Other Republican-endorsed candidates include attorney Steve Whitlow (left/center) for State Representative in House District 65 in Central; Jennie Seals (right/center) for State Representative from House District 70 in South Baton Rouge, and businessman Richie Edmonds (right) for State Representative from House District 66.



METRO COUNCIL MEMBER LAURIE ADAMS (left) is the Republican-endorsed candidate for State Representative from House District 68. At center, Republican-endorsed candidates for the legislature answer questions from local Republicans. BESE member Ronnie Morris (right) is up for reelection. Morris spoke on the truancy rate in Louisiana, which is at 35 percent, and discussed plans to bring this down. He said 90 percent of murderers and murder victims have an education level at the 9th grade or below.



CLERK OF COURT DOUG WELBORN (left) is shown telling Louisiana Sunshine, Susie Labry, and a member of his staff a story about Gov. Jimmy Davis. At center/left, Rep. Rick Edmonds, House candidate Steve Whitlow, and Republican parish chairman Woody Jenkins. City of St. George chairman Norman Browning (right/center) asks a question of the candidates. Moon Griffon (right) talks to candidates about the election of Speaker of the House and asks what they will do to avoid a election of a coalition Speaker.

Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon
Sept. 12, 2023 • Café Americain



Photos by Jolice Provost • Video by Woody Jenkins
For the Central City News

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THE RIGHT VALUES

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Successful Small Business Man
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Congressman Clay Higgins

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Bossier Parish • Lafayette Parish • Calcasieu Parish
East Baton Rouge Parish • St. Charles Parish
Lafourche Parish

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Sen. Bodi White, Celebrates 20 Years Of Success in Louisiana Legislature



Clerk of Court Doug Welborn with Randy and Tami Anglin at Sen. Bodi White's celebration



SEN. BODI WHITE with officers of Republican Women of Central, who hosted the event



Sen. Bodi White with Steve and Amy Enslinger



Central Councilman Joshua Roy and his wife Chelsey with Wayne and Diane Leader.



Attorney Walton Barnes, Mark Miley, Gordon Hutchinson and Tommie Morden.



Sen. Rick Edmonds (left) with Leah Veck. At right, candidate for House Dist. 65 Steve and Sharon Whitlow



Sen. Bodi White with Sheriff Sid Gautreaux at testimonial dinner honoring Sen. White held at Kristenwood on Greenwell Springs Road. Sen. White represented Central in the Louisiana House from 2004 to 2012 and from 2012 to the present in the Louisiana Senate.



June Dupuy and Betsy Barnes

Click QR Code to Watch Sen. Bodi White Testimonial Central City News



Elaine Lamb, Roxanne Atkinson, and Diane Jenkins, all Istrouma High graduates



Frankie Lamb and Walton Barnes.



Candidate for House District 65 Jamie Marie Pope (left) with her husband Ryan. Central High School varsity cheerleaders (center). Lon Vicknair and Sen. Rick Edmonds

As far back my youngest memories, St. George has literally meant family. My maternal grandparents, Louis and Agnes DiPuma, lived off Highland Road not too far from their beloved St. George Catholic Church, where they were devoted parishioners.

They would surely be very surprised at how the area, like so many, has grown in recent years. At their home, my family and I learned lessons that we've done our best to share with our children and grandchildren.

Visiting their final resting place now, along with other close friends there, is a reminder of those days. I cherish those memories and the values of serving and respecting others instilled in us all those years ago.

To the citizens of St. George and all of our parish: Thank you for the opportunity to have served you I hope to have the privilege of continuing to do so.



It's always a good day when we see old friends and make new ones as well. This was certainly the case recently when I was grateful to have the opportunity to visit with the Jones Creek Business Association meeting members as Norman Browning's guest. After a great address from my longtime friend, Sheriff Sid Gautreaux, Norman gave me the news that I have the honor of his personal endorsement.



I appreciate it deeply, as well as the warm welcome and visits with so many fine folks in the Association. I look forward to returning soon.

Doug

Early Voting
Saturday, September 30
through Saturday,
October 7 (except Sunday)

- State Archives on Essen
- ROV Office at Coursey Fire Sta.
- Central Library
- City Hall Downtown
- ROV Office at Baker OMV Bldg.

Election Day
Saturday, October 14

#94

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Re-Elect **2023**
Sid Gautreaux
S H E R I F F

Together, we have accomplished so much, but there is much left to do. I humbly ask for your continued support as your East Baton Rouge Parish Sheriff.



Sid J. Gautreaux, III

PLEASE VOTE
October 14, 2023

Safer, Stronger, Better Together

Right in the Open Before Our Very Eyes

Sale Would Take \$3.4 Billion from Members Of Blue Cross and Give It to New Foundation

Blue Cross Proposes to Take Over Members' Ownership of Company, Give Its Proceeds to Delaware Foundation

Woody Jenkins
Editor

BATON ROUGE — Some con games are pretty sophisticated. The taking of \$3.4 billion from the owners of Blue Cross/Blue Shield is not one of them. On the contrary, this slight of hand is quite simple, and it's out in the open for anyone to see — if they bother to pay attention to what is happening.

Blue Cross is a non-profit mutual insurance company. It serves 1.9 million policy holders in Louisiana. On its website, Blue Cross says, "Blue Cross is Louisiana-owned and -operated. It is a non-profit, fully taxed, mutual company owned by its policy holders — not shareholders."

The Board of Blue Cross has proposed selling this Louisiana company, which employs nearly 3,500 Louisiana citizens, to Elevance, a for-profit, mega-insurance company with 47 million policy holders across the nation.

The sales price is \$2.5 billion. What is most unusual about the proposed sale is that the \$2.5 billion sales price would not go to the 1.9 million policy holders of Blue Cross or to the 92,000 members with voting rights.

Rather, the \$2.5 billion sales price would go to a new non-profit foundation, which was recently organized in the State of Delaware.

Earlier in the year, the Board members of Blue Cross, each of whom receive \$105,000 a year for sitting on the part-time board, gave its members the option to become initial members of the Board of the new foundation, which incorporated in Delaware under the name The Accelerate Louisiana Initiative.

The articles of incorporation of Accelerate have not been available online, nor have the officers or board members been announced.

However, in testimony before the Joint Legislative Committee on Insurance, Tim Barfield, who was listed as Chairman of the Blue Cross Board of Directors, said that he is Acting Chairman of the new Accelerate foundation.

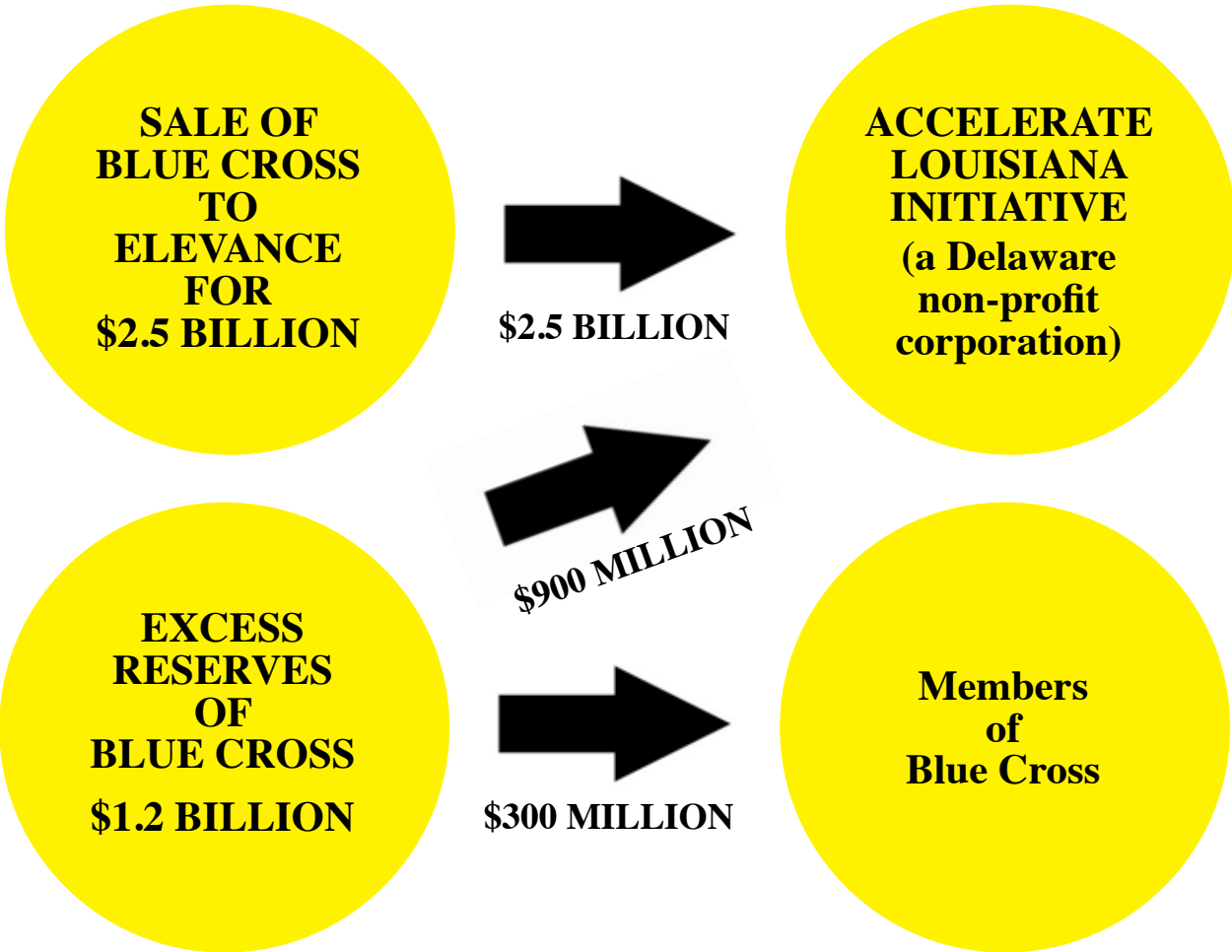
As of Sept. 21, 2023, Mr. Barfield is still listed on the Blue Cross website as a member of the Blue Cross Board of Directors.

The proposed sale of Blue Cross to Elevance is fully described in documents available on the Louisiana Department of Insurance website. One of those documents is the The Agreement and Plan of Acquisition, which is found at

https://ldi.la.gov/docs/default-source/documents/legaldocs/public-comments/plan-of-reorganization.pdf?sfvrsn=1d8f4652_0

The Agreement and Plan of Acquisition, is an agreement among three parties:

See BLUE CROSS on Page 20



HOW THE BOARD OF BLUE CROSS plans to sell its business and distribute most of the proceeds to a newly-formed Delaware non-profit foundation, instead of distributing the proceeds to the policy holders or the members, who are owners of the mutual company.

Louisiana Medical Society Opposes Proposed Sale of Blue Cross of LA

BATON ROUGE — The Louisiana State Medical Society has announced its opposition to the proposed sale of Blue Cross to a for-profit, out-of-state company.

In a letter to Louisiana Commissioner of Insurance Jim Donelon, Dr. Richard J. Paddock, president of the society, wrote as follows:

"On behalf of Louisiana physicians and the patients we care for, I would like to express our collective apprehension related to the pending acquisition of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Louisiana (BCBSLA) by Elevance Health."

Veteran Attorney Predicts Sale Will Be Rejected after Hearing

BATON ROUGE — Attorney Henry "Tut" Kinney, who has practiced law more than 50 years, predicts the proposed sale of Blue Cross will be rejected. "Honestly, the legal barriers are just too great for this sale to go through," he said.

Kinney said, "Under Louisiana law, specifically La.R.S. 22:232.1, Blue Cross has to show the benefits and risks of this proposed reorganization and sale. The statute requires they show the immediate and long-term benefits to policy holders. They can't do that because there aren't any. Similarly, the law provides that when the Commissioner of Insurance holds a hearing on a

"We have all been told that 'nothing will change' or 'it's business as usual' after the sale is completed... We have multiple concerns related to increased premiums, reduced benefits, and limited access to care for our patients."

"Additionally, we are acutely aware of what has transpired in other states where multiple lawsuits have been filed with specific allegations of underpayment and inappropriate denials. These concerns are even more critical when you consider BCBSLA will transfer over 60 percent of the private

health insurance market in our state from a home-grown, not-for-profit company to a publicly-traded one, where profits and shareholder value are cherished above all else."

"As the state that ranks last in every significant health care metric, it would be detrimental to put our patients' health at risk to achieve exorbitant profits for a corporation."

"While we applaud your decision to delay any possible decision on the final approval of the proposed acquisition, we still believe this is happening too fast and should be delayed even further."

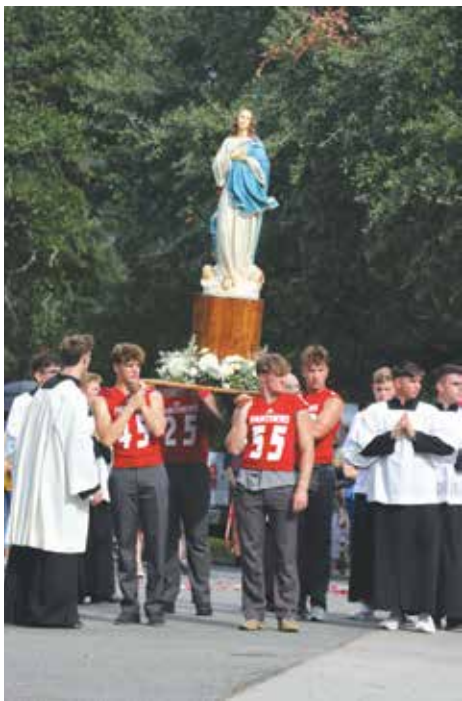
"We welcome the involvement and scrutiny of Attorney General Jeff Landry's office, as well as, the United States Department of Justice, as the final decision of this sale will impact every single resident of Louisiana and the maximum amount of due diligence, and caution, should be exercised."

"At this time, the Louisiana State Medical Society, as one of the approximately 90,000 policy holders, who owned an in-force BCBSLA policy issued on January 23, 2023, and is considered a 'voting member' on the proposed plan of reorganization regarding the conversion from a mutual insurance company to a stock insurance company, will be voting No."

"Sincerely,
"Dr. Richard J. Paddock, President, La. State Medical Society"

Next Year the Boat Procession Begins in Baton Rouge

Fête-Dieu du Teche Eucharistic Boat Procession On the Feast of the Assumption August 15



THE NINTH ANNUAL FETE DIEU DU TECHE began this year in Franklin at the Church of the Assumption with Holy Mass offered in French by Bishop John Douglas Deshotel, D.D. It ended in New Iberia at St. Peter's Catholic Church for Solemn Vespers and Final Benediction. More than 50 boats traveled a 37-mile procession with four stops along Bayou Teche to celebrate the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Patroness of the Acadian people and of Acadia. This year marked the 258th year since the French-Canadian immigrants arrived in Louisiana. In 2023, a different route is planned along the Mississippi River. It will begin in Baton Rouge.



NEXT YEAR THE TENTH ANNUAL FETE-DIEU will be held on the Immaculate Conception River (aka the Mississippi River). The celebration will last two days beginning on August 14 at St. Joseph's Cathedral in Baton Rouge. The next stop will be Donaldsonville, then on to Convent for the night. On August 15, the procession will leave Convent and travel to Luling, finally arriving at the New Orleans Riverwalk at 5 p.m. Follow Fête-Dieu du Teche on Facebook for updates and information.



9th Annual Fête-Dieu du Teche • August 15, 2023
Photos by Jolice Provost for the Central City News



Watch the Born on the Bayou Promotional Video
For Next Year's Fête-Dieu

LAURIE WHITE ADAMS

For a Better Louisiana



LAURIE WHITE ADAMS ★★ ★

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See Laurie’s Plan for Louisiana Visit lauriewhiteadams.com
Contact me at LaurieWhiteAdams@gmail.com • My Cell 225-235-1554



Endorsed by the Republican Party
of East Baton Rouge Parish

Early Voting: Sept. 30-Oct. 7
Election Day: Oct. 14

SCAN FOR
WEBSITE



Republican Party of EBR Parish Has Endorsed These Candidates



Jeff Landry
Governor



Mike Francis
Secretary of State



Liz Murrill
Attorney General



Dr. John Fleming
Treasurer



Rick Edmonds
Senate District 6



Steve Whitlow
House District 65



Richie Edmonds
House District 66



Laurie Adams
House District 68



Jenny Seals
House District 68



Brian Wilson
Assessor



Sid Gautreaux
Sheriff



Dr. Beau Clark
Coroner



Doug Welborn
Clerk of Court

GET OUT THE VOTE

Sat., Oct. 14

Early Voting Dates

Sat., Sept. 30 and Oct. 2 - Oct. 7



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David P. Fargason, MD

Blue Cross Would Divert \$3.4 Billion From Owners

Continued from Page 18

- Blue Cross/Blue Shield of Louisiana
- Elevance Health, as parent, and ATH Holding Company LLC, as purchaser
- The Accelerate Louisiana Initiative, Inc., as the foundation

Under the terms of the Agreement and Plan of Acquisition, the purchaser will pay for “the extinguishment of the membership interests of the Company held by the Eligible Members.”

In other words, Blue Cross is selling the membership interests of the members of Blue Cross.

An examination of the Plan of Acquisition shows the following:

- The sales price of \$2.5 billion will be paid by Elevance’s holding company to The Accelerate Louisiana Initiative foundation.
- In addition, out of Blue Cross’ excess reserves, approximately \$900 million will be paid to The Accelerate Louisiana Initiative foundation, and approximately \$300 million will be paid to eligible members of the Blue Cross, or about \$3,000 each.

It has been estimated that the pro-rata share of the purchase price if allocated to each member would be in the range of \$35,000 to \$40,000.

The remaining reserves of Blue Cross would be transferred to Elevance.

It must be understood that the Agreement and Plan of Acquisition do not spell out exact amounts to be paid or transferred. The amounts here are based on the best information which is publicly available.

The sale of Blue Cross to Elevance and the payments to All-evate Louisiana would result in the following:

- Blue Cross of Louisiana as we know it would no longer be a Louisiana business based in Louisiana. Elevance, a for-profit company, would be able to move its headquarters and offices anywhere. The nearly 3,500 Blue Cross of Louisiana employees would have no guarantees as to their future.
- The valuable asset which Blue Cross members currently have — an ownership interest in a multi-billion Louisiana company worth an estimated \$35,000 to \$40,000 per member — would be lost.
- A new foundation with \$3.4 billion in assets would emerge, controlled by four members of the Blue Cross Board of Directors and whoever they choose to put on the Board. The assets would amount to 3,400 millions, making it one of the 25 largest foundations in the U.S.
- The new foundation currently has no assets, no history of raising or managing funds, or clear publicly available statement of its goals and purposes.
- Statements by the acting chairman, Mr. Barfield, indicate the foundation would focus on addressing health “inequality” in the state.

PUBLIC HEARING

10 A.M. OCT. 5-6

DEPT. OF INSURANCE

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GARAGE SALE: Large Garage Sale, Sat., Sept. 2 from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., Central Masonic Lodge, 11525 Sullivan Road, Central, LA. Lots of items. All proceeds will be donated to benefit Michael LeBlanc, a 1 year old who has had leukemia since he was born.

JOB OPENING: FINANCIAL COMMERCIAL LENDER with the Bank of Zachary. EDUCATION: Bachelor’s Degree or 7+ year professional equivalent. EXPERIENCE: 5+ yrs in banking, financial services and/or business development. Sales, business development, underwriting, and/or financial analysis experience preferred. JOB REQUIREMENTS: Maintain a high level of confidentiality. Reliable transportation necessary. Current NMLS account. Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, AND ABILITIES: Effectively prioritize, multi-task and work independently. Strong understanding of Microsoft Suite, Outlook, and Adobe Pro. For a full job description, see our careers page at www.bankofzachary.com. EEO/AA/M/F/VETERAN/DISABLED. Send all resumes to hr@bankofzachary.com

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State Supt. Cade Brumley Visits CCSS, Reveals District to Receive High Honor



LOUISIANA STATE SUPT. CADE BRUMLEY (center in photo at left) recently visited Central and toured Central Intermediate School. He is shown in photo at left with Amie Starks, math instructional coach; Kristine Hargrave, director of special programs; Ronda Williams, literacy coach; Asst. State Supt. Trey Folse, Office of School System Relations; State Supt. Cade Brumley; Central schools Supt. Jason Fountain; Dr. Jennifer Tuttleton, deputy assistant state superintendent, Office of School System Relations; Julie Stevens, director of principal supervision; Erin Bonaventure, Central Intermediate principal; and Monique Wild, director of instructional development. **Shown at right** are CIS principal Erin Bonaventure; Central schools Supt. Jason Fountain; Ashley Davis, 4th grade teacher at CIS; Rachel Robertson, also 4th grade teacher at CIS; and State Supt. Cade Brumley.



AMONG THOSE MET BY SUPT. CADE BRUMLEY were (left to right) Rachel Robertson, 4th grade teacher at Central Intermediate; Hope Carline, 3rd grade teacher at CIS; Supt. Cade Brumley; CIS principal Erin Bonaventure, and Ashley Davis, 4th grade teacher at CIS. Supt. Brumley informally announced that Central schools will be honored soon.


CENTRAL — The Central Community School System was honored last week with a visit by State Supt. of Education Cade Brumley. Brumley has been visiting classrooms throughout the state and had a particular interest, he said, in Central’s math programs. The state education leader was hosted by Central schools Supt. Jason Fountain who introduced him to central office staff and administrators and teachers at Central Intermediate School. Supt. Brumley was pleased with what he saw and made an informal announcement, which will be made official in October, he said. The Central Community School System will be named a Model of Excellence during ceremonies being planned for Oct. 12. Details

The state superintendent made several statements this week recognizing Sept. 18-22 as Celebrate Freedom Week in accordance with Act 370 of the 2022 regular session of the Louisiana Legislature. Dr. Brumley said, “We are so fortunate to live in the greatest country in the world. The pursuit of a more perfect union relies on well-informed citizens who have a deep appreciation for their country and a sound understanding of how our government functions. This is a privilege we must never take for granted. As President Ronald Rea-

gan aptly stated, ‘Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction.’” Under Dr. Brumley, the Louisiana Dept. of Education has developed a resource guide for school systems for use in planning lessons and events during Celebrate Freedom Week. One way Supt. Brumley said he is celebrating freedom this week is by returning to his trade as a teacher of civics and history. He’s taking time out this week to teach civics in several high schools around the state.



Celebrate Freedom Week
September 18-22, 2023



will be announced soon.

It was good news for Supt. Fountain who was himself named Regional Superintendent of the Year in the spring.

Supt. Brumley brought with him Assistant State Supt. Trey Folse and Dr. Jennifer Tuttleton, deputy assistant State Superintendent.

Dr. Brumley visited several classrooms including those of Rachel Robertson, Hope Carline, and Ashley Davis.



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- As our next Governor, Jeff will reverse the policies which release criminals back into our neighborhoods.

★ **GROWING OUR ECONOMY**

- As a Parish Economic Development Director, and as a small business owner, Jeff helped create hundreds of jobs for Louisianans.
- Our state deserves a great economy. As Governor, Jeff will cut red tape harming our job creators.

★ **IMPROVING EDUCATION**

- A father and son of a schoolteacher, Jeff believes every kid deserves a great education.
- We must protect kids from harm, Jeff knows that includes ending woke politics in the classroom.

VOTE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14TH
Early Voting Dates 9/30-10/7

Paid for by Landry for Louisiana

JeffLandry.com

Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame Banquet Honors Baton Rouge, Istrouma Legends



LOUISIANA SPORTS HALL OF FAME honored Baton Rouge legends at recent ceremonies in Natchitoches. Among them were Paul Mainieri, Walter Imahara, and M. L. Woodruff.



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEE WALTER IMAHARA of Istrouma High School, winner of more than 100 national and international weightlifting championships. During World War II, Walter Imahara and his family were interned in a concentration camp in Arkansas with other Japanese-Americans. After their release, the Imahara family came to Baton Rouge.



HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES M. L. Woodruff of Parkview Baptist School and Paul Mainieri of LSU baseball at the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame in Natchitoches



Shown at Sports Hall of Fame (left to right) Olympian Bill Hardin, Walter Imahara, M.L. Woodruff; Skip Bertman and Woody Jenkins (not a Hall of Famer, LOL) and Paul Mainieri

CONSERVATIVE **RICHIE EDMONDS**

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Richie Edmonds knows we must get our crime problem under control if we want Baton Rouge to grow and become a prosperous place for our kids to learn and one day stay and build a future.

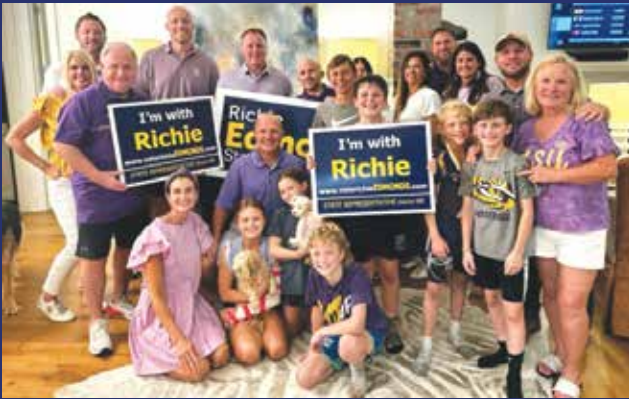
He is committed to supporting law enforcement and giving them the tools they need to put violent criminals behind bars where they belong.

Richie
EDMONDS
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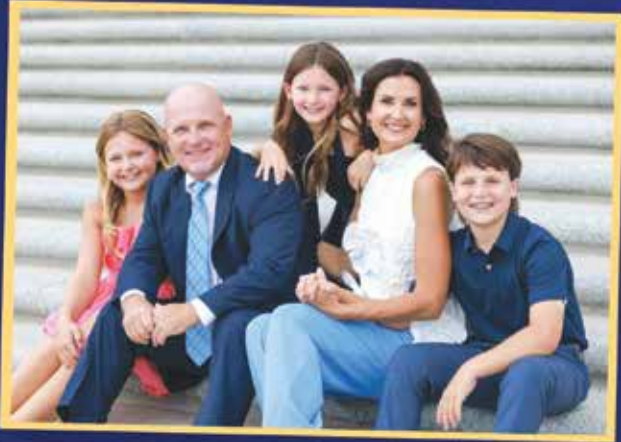
Richie Edmonds is a devoted husband, loving father, community leader and a conservative, small business owner.

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Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish
Louisiana Right to Life
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House District 66

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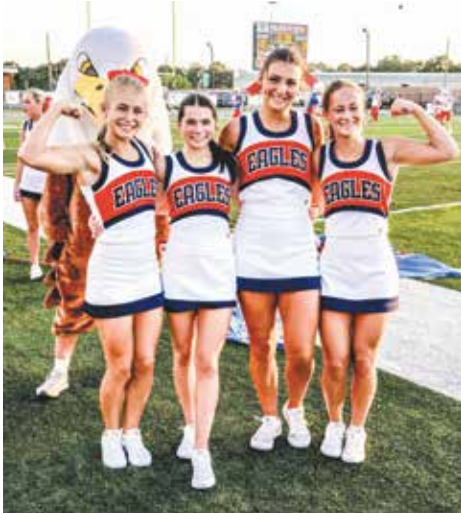
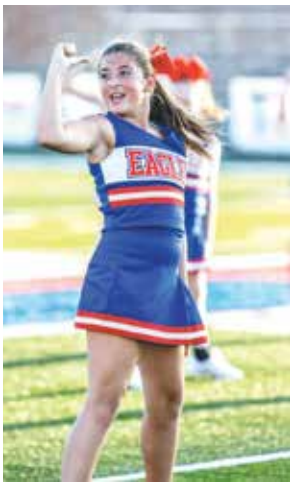


Early Voting:
Sept. 30th-October 7th

Important:
Election Day:
October 14th

VoteRichieEdmonds.com

Meet the Eagles of Parkview Baptist



Parkview Tops Franklinton 29-13



THE EAGLES TAKE THE FIELD (left) in their game against the Franklinton Demons. Captains #5 Abram Johnston, #2 Wesley Marien, and #52 Mason Marie (center) during the coin toss. #7 Kayden Tureaud running the ball and fighting off a Franklinton Demon player.



PARKVIEW QUARTERBACK #5 ABRAM JOHNSTON (left) doing a balancing act to stay in bounds. It takes several Franklinton players to bring down RB #8 Mason Warren.



PARKVIEW'S #11 HUNTER BOUDREAUX (left) and #3 Cale Bonanno dive in for a tackle that results in a fumble. #7 Kayden Tureaud gains yardage for Parkview. The Eagles recover a fumble (right) with #8 Mason Warren, #62 Victor Hollins, #13 Jacob Hess, #72 Dominic DeLeon, and #2 Wesley Marien and taking part.



PARKVIEW RUNNING BACK #7 KAYDEN TUREAUD (left) carrying the ball for the Eagles. Parkview QB Abram Johnston hands off to #8 Mason Warren as offensive line-man #55 Caleb Ordogne does his job keeping the Franklinton player away; also in the photo #2 Wesley Marien and #70 Buck Winfrey. #14 Brock Comeaux (right) goes down field.

Parkview Victorious Over Brusly 27-0



EAGLES QB #5 ABRAM JOHNSTON (left) goes back for a pass. Team Captains #33 Gavin Daniel, #8 Mason Warren and #55 Caleb Ordogne before the coin toss.



PARKVIEW BAPTIST QB #5 ABRAM JOHNSTON (left) gaining yardage for the Eagles. #14 Brock Comeaux and #10 Brant Melancon (center) celebrate a TD pass caught by Melancon. Eagle RB #8 Mason Warren (right) running the ball for Parkview.



EAGLE WIDE RECEIVER #14 BROCK COMEAUX (left) catches a pass. Parkveiw running back #7 Kayden Tureaud (left/center) on the move. #5 Abram Johnston (right/center) under pressure. #14 Brock Comeaux (right) with another reception.



PARKVIEW RUNNING BACK #7 KAYDEN TUREAUD (left) barrels through Brusly's offensive line. Defensive lineman #62 Victor Hollins (left/center) putting pressure on the Panther's QB. #14 Brock Comeaux (right/center) in the end zone. #55 Caleb Ordogne (right) Parkview's offensive lineman. Also in the photo #2 Wesley Marien on the move.

Jeff Landry: ‘We’ Are Running for Governor to Fix Our Problems in Crime, Economy, and Education

BATON ROUGE — Attorney General Jeff Landry, Republican-endorsed candidate for governor in the Oct. 14 primary, issued the following statement for the *Central City News* Election Guide:

“For far too long, Louisiana has been at the bottom of every good list and the top of every bad list. This election is our opportunity to change our State and put Louisiana on a path to success.”

“That is why when I first announced, I said WE are running for Governor. Because this race is not about me, it is about you, and the future you want to create for Loui-



Attorney General Jeff Landry

siana.”

“It is no secret our State has a crime problem, our education system is failing our children, and our economy is one of the worst in the nation.”

“As a former police officer, sheriff’s deputy, and National Guardsman, no one is better suited to address our crime problem.”

“As a business owner and former economic development director, I know what our local businesses need to succeed.”

“As the son of a school teacher, I understand that the most important voice in a child’s education are

the parents.”

“Louisianans know what is at stake in this election, and that is why we are running to be Louisiana’s next Governor.”

“I love Louisiana, and together, I know we can give Louisiana a government as good as its people — one where our children and grandchildren want to stay and build their families and businesses.”

“The time for excuses is over.”

Attorney General Files Suit to Block Clemency Efforts For Murderers

BATON ROUGE — Louisiana Attorney General Jeff Landry has filed a lawsuit to block the Governor from short-circuiting the rules and procedures of the Board of Pardons. In his court filings, the Attorney General noted that eligibility and notice rules were ignored, timeliness requirements were unlawfully waived, necessary steps in the process were skipped, and proceedings outside of the public eye were conducted when clemency hearings for death row inmates were scheduled.

“The Board of Pardons should not sacrifice the rule of law, the rights of victims, and the public’s participation simply to achieve the Governor’s political objective,” said Attorney General Landry. “The laws on our books must be enforced and proper procedure must be followed.”

“The court must ensure our clemency process advances in a legal and transparent way,” added Attorney General Landry. “The victims of Willie Tart, Larry Roy, and other murderers deserve truth, transparency, and justice; I am fighting to deliver that for them.”

A copy of Attorney General Jeff Landry’s petition may be found at <https://agjefflandry.com/Article/13165>.

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