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St. George Leader

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HOMECOMING

St. George Royalty



2025 Parkview Baptist Queen Rylan Varnado and 2024 Queen Ava LeBlanc



St. Michael principal Jared Cavalier, 2025 Queen Lily Mouton, and 2024 Queen Ada Waguespack



Dunham School head Steve Eagleton, 2024 Queen Sheldon Gremillion, 2025 Queen Madelyn Jones, and father Ben Jones



2025 Episcopal School Queen Lauren Bradford with her family. Photo by Eye Wander



Miss Woodlawn Joi Guillory and Homecoming Queen Mariah Scott



The Duty of Our District Attorney, Our Judges, the Legal Profession, and Law Enforcement is to Render Justice

"The first duty of society is justice."

- Alexander Hamilton

"It is in justice that the ordering of society is centered."

- Aristotle

"The way to right wrongs is to turn the light of truth upon them."

- Ida B. Wells

"Right is right, even if everyone is against it, and wrong is wrong, even if everyone is for it."

- Benjamin Franklin



"I won't rest until justice is served in East Baton Rouge Parish"

Hillar Moore



District Attorney Hillar Moore

Central, Woodlawn Vie for The Mayors' Cup

Mayors of Central, St. George Start Tradition: Central vs. Woodlawn HS

Two Schools Have Played for Decades But Rise of 2 Cities Enhances Rivalry

BATON ROUGE — Central Mayor Wade Evans and St. George Mayor Dustin Yates put it all on the line Friday, Oct. 10 when Central High faced off against Woodlawn High in a district game at Panther Stadium in the City of St. George. At stake was The Mayors Cup. The winning school will be able to display the trophy for the coming year, as a symbol of the supremacy of one city over the other.

Unfortunately, Central won 38-21 but Woodlawn was ahead for much of the game and made it an exciting contest.

Yates and Evans said something else was at stake — claims to **The Sliver** that connects the City of St. George to the City of Central.

The Sliver is a narrow piece of land, mostly the west side of the Amite River, and has no population. It was part of the incorporation of St. George and was included intentionally. Who knows when it might come in handy, such



Photo by Woody Jenkins of St. George Leader

FRIENDLY RIVALRY — St. George Mayor Dustin Yates (4th from left) and Central Mayor Wade Evans (2nd from left) unveiled a new rivalry between the City of St. George and the City of Central at Dearman's Restaurant, 7633 Jefferson Hwy. last week. They were joined by Tanna McClure (far left) of Central High, Marcus Randall (3rd from left), AD at Woodlawn High, Woodlawn principal Dr. John Jenkins (2nd from right), and Woodlawn head coach Tramon Douglas (right). The battle every year will be for The Sliver that connects the two cities.

as if the two cities ever want to do something unexpected, such as form their own parish if East Baton Rouge ever falls apart!

The new rivalry was announced at a news conference held at Dearman's, 7633 Jefferson Hwy. On hand were Woodlawn principal Dr. John Jenkins, AD Marcus Randall, and head coach Tramon Douglas. The Wildcats were represented by Tanna McClure of Central High.

Mayor Evans was pretty sure his Central Wildcats, the defending State Champions, would handily defeat Woodlawn. However, the Panthers put up a good fight.

Watching the game on the sidelines were Evans, Yates, and Mayor-President Sid Edwards.

Central and Woodlawn have a long history of playing each other, going back to the 1950's. Both were rural schools on the outskirts of Ba-

ton Rouge with much in common.

The City of Central incorporated in 2005, and the City of St. George incorporated in 2024. They are the two newest cities in the state.

The two cities are both organized on a privatized model with a private, non-profit organization, IBTS, providing services.

Head coach for Central High School is David Simoneaux.

— Woody Jenkins

UPWARD
REGISTRATION
BASKETBALL AND CHEER

OPEN NOW!

WBCBR.ORG/UPWARD

Republicans Question Governor's Role In Creating Gerrymandered 6th District

Key Parties in Supreme Court Hearing Called Reagan Event

BATON ROUGE — Last Tuesday, as soon as the U.S. Supreme Court adjourned its hearing on the Constitutionality of Congressman Cleo Fields' gerrymandered Congressional district, the Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon in Baton Rouge received an important call.

The luncheon, a meeting point for Republican leaders in East Baton Rouge Parish, was devoted to the the Supreme Court hearing. The caller was Paul Hurd, the Monroe attorney who was representing the plaintiffs challenging the Constitutionality of the district.

The lead plaintiff in the case, Bert Callais, was in the audience at the luncheon, taking it all in.

Paul Hurd brought the audience up to date on what had happened in the Supreme Court.

Former Grant Parish District Attorney Eddie



Attorney Paul Hurd, lead counsel challenging Fields' district



Former D.A. Eddie Tarpley, correspondent for *St. George Leader*



Gov. Jeff Landry, who passed Cleo Fields' gerrymandered district.



Woody Jenkins, Republican Party parish chairman

Tarpley, was with Hurd in Washington, where he was serving as legal correspondent for the Community Press, which includes the *St. George Leader*.

Hurd and Tarpley alternated speaking and taking questions.

Republican parish chairman, former Rep. Woody Jenkins, presided over the meeting.

The speakers made it clear Gov. Landry and Attorney General Liz Murrill had created the problem by sponsoring the Cleo Fields'

district.

One of the governor's aides was in the audience, and he got the governor to call in and participate in the conversation. Landry said that speakers had it wrong and that the legislature had no choice but to create the Fields' district. Jenkins disagreed and produced the court order which did not mandate a second black district but ordered a trial on the merits. To hear the full debate, use your phone to click on the QR code below.



BERT CALLAIS, lead plaintiff in *Callais v. Secretary of State* challenging Cleo Fields' racially gerrymandered district with Debbie Kuehne, Lynn Cox Graham, and Susie Labry at Reagan Luncheon.

Ronald Reagan Luncheon • October 14, 2025 • Café Americain



Governor, AG Attempt to Flip Script On Cleo Fields District They Created

They Passed Thru Legislature, Then Defended in Court For Past 20 Months

Woody Jenkins
Editor

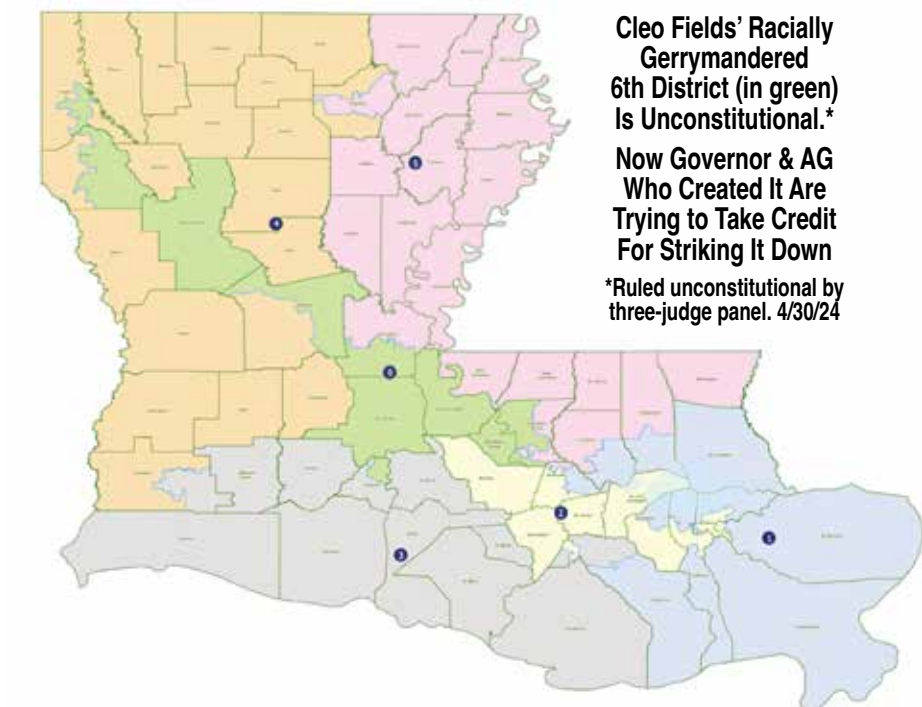
FLIPPING THE SCRIPT

It is amazing to see Governor Jeff Landry and Attorney General Liz Murrill on national television attempting to take credit for the possible overturn of Cleo Fields' racially gerrymandered Congressional district!

In case anyone has forgotten, it was Governor Jeff Landry and Attorney General Liz Murrill who WRÓTE Cleo Fields' racially gerrymandered District and who bullied the legislature into passing it in January 2024.

It was the Governor and the Attorney General who falsely told the legislature that they were required to pass the Cleo Fields' Congressional district because Louisiana was under court order to create a second black district. That was not true. There was no such court order.

It was Jeff Landry and Liz Murrill who engineered the ouster of



Garret Graves as our Congressman and paved the way for a racially gerrymandered district going from Baton Rouge to Shreveport to give Cleo Fields a guaranteed seat in Congress.

It was Jeff Landry who engineered the appointment of Cleo Fields, a liberal Democrat, as chairman of the Senate and Government Affairs committee in charge of reapportionment, despite a 2/3rds'

Republican majority in the State Senate.

It was Jeff Landry and Liz Murrill who bullied Louisiana legislators into passing the Cleo Fields' district even though they knew Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives Mike Johnson of Louisiana had only a three-vote majority, thereby endangering Republican control of the House.

It was Jeff Landry and Liz Mur-

rill who went into federal court in March 2024 to defend the gerrymandered Cleo Fields District. And it was Jeff Landry and Liz Murrill who continued to defend that plan for 20 months until September of this year all the way to the US Supreme Court!

It was only in September, after President Trump's people took them to the woodshed, that they flipped positions and decided that the Cleo Fields' district was a bad idea.

Even today, their position is weak. They argue that section 2 of the Voting Rights Act should be struck down, but if it is not struck down, then the Fields' district is fine.

Congratulations to attorney Paul Hurd and the plaintiffs in *Callais v. Secretary of State Nancy Landry* for the courage and constitutionally-correct arguments that they have made against the Cleo Fields' district since they filed suit against it on January 31, 2024. They have fought it every step of the way at great personal and political expense.

Congratulations too to Secretary of State Nancy Landry who has well represented the interests of the people of Louisiana in calling out the Cleo Fields' district for what it is, a racially gerrymandered district which violates the Equal Protection clause of the 14th amendment to the Constitution. She stood against a powerful governor and spoke truth.

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CAMPAGNING FOR THRIVE — Mayor-President Coach Sid Edwards, his wife Beanie, Carol Thomas, and Liz Sumrall campaigning for Thrive, which is on ballot Nov. 15.

Thrive Initiative Is on Ballot Saturday, November 15

Mayor Sid Deserves ‘Yes’ on Nov. 15

‘Yes’ for Thrive Will Reduce City-Parish Debt by \$53 Million

Woody Jenkins
 Editor

BATON ROUGE — There is a structural problem with City-Parish taxes and spending. Simply put, here is the problem:

- We have enough tax revenue to pay for the normal operations of the City-Parish government, but tax revenues are not being distributed to agencies where the need is greatest.
- Some agencies are over-funded, while other agencies are under-funded, and some of the agencies that are underfunded are the most important of all.
- These disparities cannot be corrected through the normal budget process, because some of the

revenue is produced by dedicated property taxes that can only be used for specific purposes.

- Some property taxes are producing more revenue than is needed for a particular agency, but the surplus funds cannot be used for agencies that are underfunded.
- For example, the East Baton Rouge Library Board is authorized to levy about 11 mills of property taxes. This generates far more revenue than is needed for library purposes. By way of comparison, in

New Orleans, the library budget is \$24 million a year. In Dallas, the library budget is \$35 million a year. However, in East Baton Rouge Parish, the library budget is over \$55 million a year! The library board is spending money at twice the rate of larger cities. Even more shocking, the Library Board has a surplus on hand of over \$100 million.

- At the same time that our libraries have “an embarrassment of riches,” the Baton Rouge Police

See MAYOR SID on Page 12

Blame for Cleo Fields’ Gerrymandered District Falls on Jeff Landry, Liz Murrill

Secretary of State Nancy Landry Has Strongly Opposed Cleo Fields’ District

Woody Jenkins
 Editor

BATON ROUGE — On October 15, the U.S. Supreme Court heard oral arguments on a suit challenging the racially-gerrymandered Congressional district which gave Cleo Fields a seat in Congress and eliminated the only Congressional seat centered in Baton Rouge.



Secretary of State Nancy Landry has consistently opposed the racially gerrymandered Cleo Fields’ Congressional district.

The case, *Callais v. Secretary of State Nancy Landry*, has national ramifications because it could change the balance of power in the U.S. House and result in striking down parts of the Voting Rights Act.

Fields falls squarely on Gov. Jeff Landry and Attorney General Liz Murrill, as this column explains.

For us in Louisiana’s Sixth Congressional District, it has meant the loss of our popular Republican Congressman Garret Graves, a solid conservative vote, and his replacement by a far-left Democrat, Cleo Fields, who has done nothing in his term of office except support the extreme left opposing President Trump. Cong. Fields could not even bring himself to vote for a resolution honoring Charlie Kirk!

Callais v. Secretary of State Nancy Landry has attracted the attention of President Trump who is reportedly angry at Jeff Landry and Liz Murrill for passing legislation to eliminate a reliable Republican seat and handing the seat to liberal Democrat Cleo Fields at a time when Speaker Mike Johnson and the Trump agenda have a paper-thin margin in the House.

President Trump has been asking Governors in red states to help create Republican seats where legally possible — the exact oppo-

site of what Jeff Landry and Liz Murrill did in Louisiana.

In *Callais v. Secretary of State Nancy Landry*, the lead plaintiff, Bert Callais, is one of several conservatives challenging the Cleo Fields’ district. The defendant, Secretary of State Nancy Landry, is the defendant because of the office she holds, even though she is in agreement with Callais and the plaintiffs. Landry has never supported creation of the Fields’ district.

Shortly after Callais filed suit, the NAACP joined in the suit as an **intervenor** attempting to uphold the Cleo Fields’ district.

Perhaps the most important thing to know is that Attorney General Liz Murrill also joined as an intervenor on the side of the NAACP attempting to uphold the Cleo Fields’ district. Murrill has been on the side of the far left supporting Fields!

★★★
Background. In 2022, the Louisiana Legislature passed and Gov. John Bel Edwards vetoed House Bill No. 1 to reapportion the state’s six Congressional districts in accordance with the results of the 2020 census. The Republican House and Senate then overrode Edwards’ veto.

The reapportionment bill met constitutional standards but shortly after it passed, the NAACP filed suit in U.S. District Court in Baton Rouge challenging its legality

(*Robinson v. Ardoin*).

Then-Attorney General Jeff Landry and then-Solicitor General Liz Murrill defended the 2022 reapportionment plan and made strong arguments that the plan was constitutional.

During their 2023 campaigns for Governor and Attorney General, neither Jeff Landry nor Liz Murrill gave the slightest hint that they planned to flip flop and support the NAACP’s position, but that’s exactly what they did.

The Flip Flop

Immediately upon being sworn in as Governor on Jan. 7, 2024, Jeff Landry called a Special Session of the Legislature to reapportion Louisiana’s seats in Congress.

This was completely unnecessary because Louisiana already had a plan in place, and there was no court order requiring that it be changed.

However, the brand-new Governor and his Attorney General falsely told the Louisiana Legislature and the public that the state was under a court order to reapportion the state’s Congressional districts and create a second majority black Congressional district.

In reality, the only court order at the time of the Special Session was from the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals. It said that if the legislature took no further action, U.S. District Judge Shelley Dick was or

See LIZ MURRILL on Page 6

Jeff Landry, Liz Murrill Pushed Cleo Fields District

AG Liz Murrill Flip Flops Again, Re-Writes History

Continued from Page 5

dered to hold a trial on the merits of the reapportionment plan and give the state the opportunity to appeal that decision or draw a new map.

The actual order from the U.S. 5th Circuit read as follows:

"If no new plan is adopted, then the district court is to conduct a trial and any other necessary proceedings to decide the validity of the H.B. 1 map, and, if necessary, to adopt a different districting plan for the 2024 elections. The parties can advise the district court as to the necessary timing for completion of such a trial, with allowance for the time for appellate review."

The State of Louisiana was **not** under a court order to create a second black Congressional district!

On the contrary, Judge Dick was ordered to hold a trial on the merits.

A Valued Chairmanship

As part of his plan to give Cleo Fields a seat in Congress, Gov. Jeff Landry had Sen. Cleo Fields appointed chairman of the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, which is in charge of reapportionment.

This was a most unusual move! The Louisiana Senate has 27 Republicans and only 12 Democrats. Whoever heard of a 2/3rds Republican body putting a liberal Democrat in charge of reapportionment?

However, Senate President Cameron Henry dutifully complied with the Governor's request and appointed Cleo Fields head of the reapportionment committee.

Committee Approved District

After several meetings, the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee under Sen. Cleo Fields' direction passed a racially gerrymandered district for Sen. Fields.

There was no area in Louisiana with a community of black voters large enough to justify a new black Congressional district.

So, in order to give the district a Democratic majority, it weaved from Baton Rouge to Shreveport, picking up every possible majority black precinct along the way.

Because of the representations of the Governor and the Attorney General and intense pressure from the 4th Floor, the Louisiana Legislature approved the Cleo Fields' Congressional district in the Special Session.

The plan was perfect for Fields since it was virtually identical to a district he had represented when he was in Congress from 1994 to 1996. That plan too was racially gerrymandered and was struck down as unconstitutional in 1996.

Gov. Jeff Landry signed the new Cleo Fields' gerrymandered district into law on Jan. 21, 2024, one of his first acts as Governor.

It was no doubt the fulfillment of a promise Jeff Landry made to Cleo Fields, whose support for Landry goes back to the Attorney General's race of 2015.

Callais v. Secretary of State

Bert Callais and his group filed suit against the Cleo Fields' district on Jan. 31, 2024. It was called **Callais v. Secretary of State Nancy Landry**. The case went all the way to the Supreme Court, which heard it in March 2025.

Observers of the Supreme Court say it seems clear the court intends to do something rather dramatic in this case, perhaps even striking down parts of the Voting Rights Act

Secretary of State Nancy Landry's Position on Using Racial Gerrymandering to Create a Second Majority Black Congressional District

Brief filed by Secretary of State in April 2022 in **Robinson v. Ardoin** before the U.S. Middle District, in case where NAACP challenged Louisiana's Congressional reapportionment plan:

"...Connecting voters based on their race to other voters three and a half to four hours away would be a racial gerrymander in violation of the Fourteenth Amendment and that is exactly what Plaintiffs' illustrative plans are."

Brief filed by Secretary of State in **Nairne case** before the U.S. 5th Circuit, in July 2024. In this case, the NAACP challenged the reapportionment of the Louisiana Legislature:

"In assessing the reasonable configuration requirement, the Supreme Court has 'flatly rejected' that States should 'be forced to group together geographically dispersed minority voters into unusually shaped districts, without concern for traditional districting criteria such as county, city, and town lines.'"

On August 1, 2025, in the matter of **Callais v. Secretary of State**, the U. S. Supreme Court asked Secretary of State Nancy Landry to respond to the following question: "Whether the State's intentional creation of a second majority-minority congressional district violates the Fourteenth or Fifteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution." In September 2025, Nancy Landry responded in part as follows:

"The Secretary has taken a consistent position on the Court's August 1, 2025 question since redistricting litigation began earlier this decade— namely that the intentional creation of a second majority-Black congressional district in Louisiana violates the Equal Protection Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment. This is the position the Secretary took in the Robinson v. Ardoin litigation. But the Secretary writes separately to emphasize that, as applied to Louisiana, under 2020 Census data and the facts before this Court, Louisiana cannot constitutionally create a second majority-Black district because of Louisiana's dispersed minority population and the untenable and unyielding tension between §2 [of the Voting Rights Act] and the Equal Protection Clause."

and eliminating race as a consideration in reapportionment cases.

For more than 20 months, Attorney General Murrill has been on the same side of the **Callais** case as the NAACP. From the District Court to the Supreme Court, she has supported a racially gerrymandered Congressional district for Cleo Fields!

★★★

Another Flip Flop

Enter the President...

President Trump reportedly called Jeff Landry and Liz Murrill to Washington, had his people take them to the woodshed, and directed them to fix what they had done.

Suddenly, both Jeff Landry and Liz Murrill flipped their positions again and said the Cleo Fields' district, which they strong-armed through the legislature and continued to argue for for 20 months, is a bad thing!

Well, that's good!

However, instead of Jeff Landry and Liz Murrill admitting they were part of a sordid political deal to hand over a seat in Congress to Cleo Fields and the Democrats and delete a Republican seat, they have been trying to publicly re-write history.

Murrill says she has always been against racial gerrymandering! Seriously?

And there is more, much more.

Attorney General Liz Murrill has tried to silence the one voice of reason in the chaos — Secretary of State Nancy Landry.

On August 1, 2025, the U.S. Supreme Court asked Nancy Landry, as the lead defendant in the case,

to answer the question of whether the Cleo Fields' district violates the 14th or 15th Amendments.

Contrary to Murrill's statement that Nancy Landry "parachuted" in at the 11th hour, the Secretary of State simply did what the Supreme Court directed her to do: Answer the question. In answer to the question, the Secretary of State wrote a brief saying that indeed the Cleo Fields' district violates the Equal Protection Clause in the 14th Amendment.

Silencing Secretary of State

However, Murrill was determined that brief would not be filed. Late on the day before briefs in **Callais v. Secretary of State** were due at the U.S. Supreme Court, Murrill informed Secretary of State Nancy Landry that all of Nancy Landry's legal team was fired! Not only those assigned to **Callais** but all of her outside counsel, some of whom had worked with the Secretary of State's office for 20 years.

In addition, Murrill informed Nancy Landry that she was prohibited from filing her legal brief with the Supreme Court in **Callais v. Secretary of State**.

Bear in mind that Nancy Landry is the **defendant** in **Callais v. Secretary of State Nancy Landry**.

While the Attorney General is authorized to represent the "interests" of the State of Louisiana in any case, the State of Louisiana and the Secretary of State are different legal entities with different responsibilities and different interests.

Specifically, La.R.S. 36:741 describes the powers and duties of the

Secretary of State. The department is defined as a "body corporate," which gives it a separate existence from the State of Louisiana. The department specifically has the power "to sue and be sued." Necessary to that and inherent in that is the power to retain legal counsel.

This principle is well established in Louisiana law. In 1931, the Louisiana Supreme Court ruled in **Saint v. Allen**, that the State Highway Commission was a "body corporate," distinct from the State of Louisiana with the power to sue and be sued. The court said that implicit in that power is the right to employ counsel to represent it, notwithstanding any statute.

The court said that while the Attorney General has the duty to represent the "interests of the state," the word "interests" has to be interpreted narrowly because otherwise, the task would be impossible. Various state agencies and other "bodies corporate" have the duty to represent the interests assigned to them.

In 2019, in **State ex rel Caldwell v. Molina**, the Louisiana Supreme Court affirmed this holding, saying, "In general, where a governmental entity has the capacity to sue and be sued, the Attorney General has no right of action." The court specifically confirmed the continued viability of **Saint v. Allen**.

The Secretary of State is not inferior to nor governed by the Attorney General. On the contrary, it is the third highest office in the state, ahead of the Attorney General.

By law, the Attorney General has to approve the Secretary of State's legal counsel. However, those counsel were already approved, in place, and working under contract. The AG has no power to fire them or to violate their contracts.

Furthermore, Murrill informed Nancy Landry that she would not be assigned counsel, leaving the Secretary of State's office without legal representation, an untenable position, and an obvious abuse of authority since the Secretary has the power to sue and be sued.

Since the Attorney General and the Secretary of State have different legal positions in **Callais**, which each is entitled to have, it would be unethical for the Attorney General to remove the Secretary of State's counsel (if she could). It would also be unethical for the AG to attempt to represent both agencies if they have different legal positions.

In any case, there is no way counsel for the Secretary of State could have dropped out of the case since they were in the midst of filing legal briefs. In order to withdraw from a case before the Supreme Court, that has to be approved by the court.

Secretary's Brief Was Filed

Despite Murrill's demands, the Secretary of State's brief was filed with the Supreme Court and is now before the Supreme Court as it considers **Callais**.

Why did Murrill attempt to stop the Secretary of State from filing her brief with the Supreme Court?

Probably because that brief outlines for the court the chronology of the case and shows Murrill's duplicity and contradictory arguments and positions in the case.

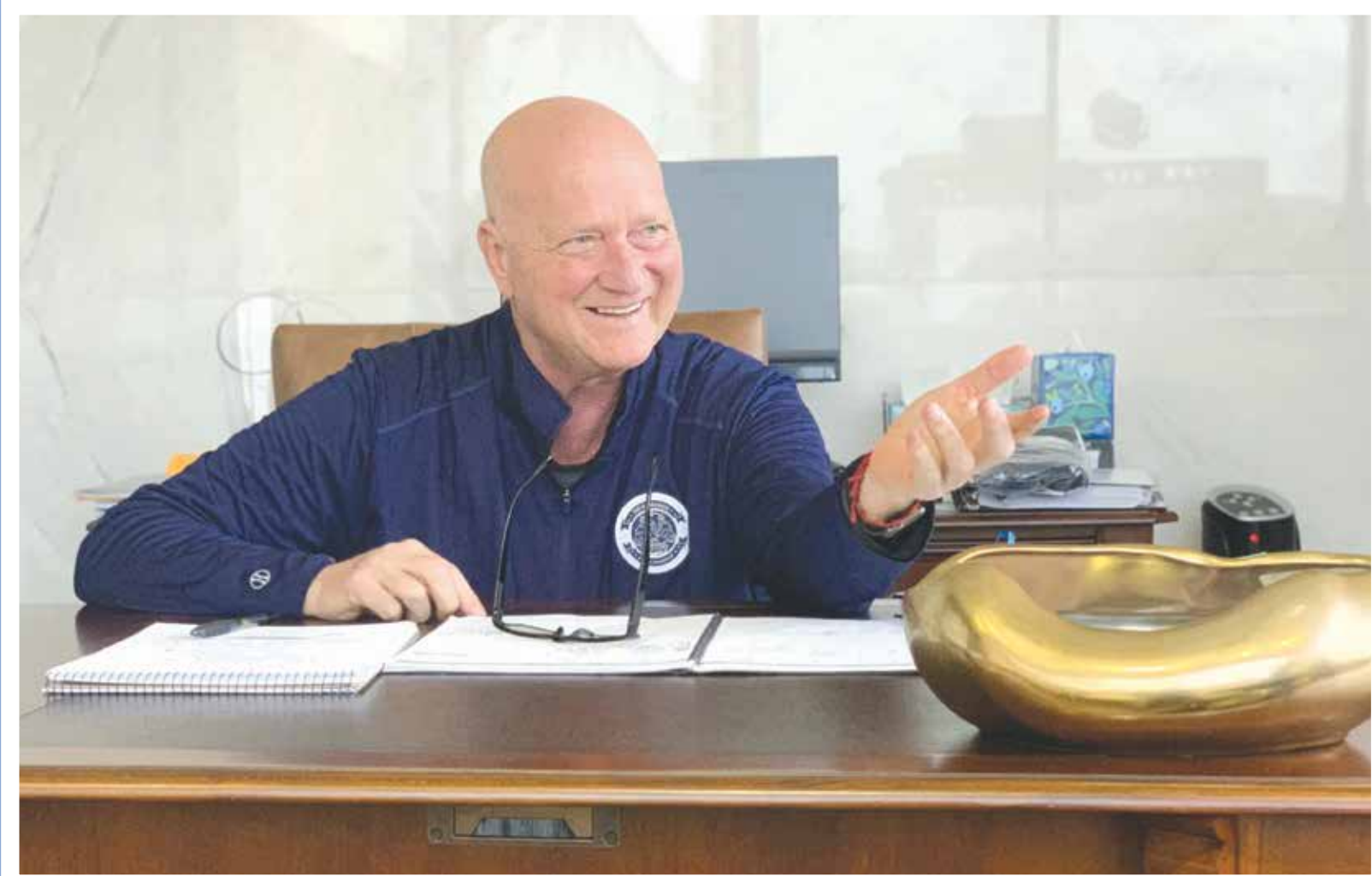
The Governor and the Attorney General have gotten a lot of heat from the public for installing Cleo Fields into office and eliminating a solid Republican seat.

Re-Writing History

Perhaps Murrill's attempt to silence Nancy Landry is as simple as trying to re-write history so that now she can appear to be the shining star who got rid of the Cleo Fields' Congressional seat.

Instead, the truth is it was she, along with Jeff Landry, who brought us a racially gerrymandered Congressional seat and deprived the people of the state of their proper representation during the current Congress, ending in January 2027.

All About THRIVE...



Mayor-President Sid Edwards

As you know, it's urgent that we address revenue shortfalls in City-Parish government without raising taxes. Help me help you by voting on the THRIVE Initiative on the ballot November 15. It is the first step in solving our budget problems!

Coach Sid Edwards



THRIVE... Here's What It Will Do i



Our Police



Praying for Our City



Lighting Up the Parish



Clearing Clogged Drains



Rounding Up 2,000 Tires



Hauling Tires to Parish Landfill



Eyesores like This Have Been Cleared



Tearing Down Blighted Houses

1 - Pay down City-Parish de

2 - Stabilize revenue for Par

3 - Protect Services for the
Mosquito Abatement

4 - Free up \$20 million for r

All of our needs can be met
passing the THRIVE Initiat

It's as simple as 1- 2 -3. Sa

Proposition No. 1 - Shall EBR Parish rededica
allow 2.80 mills to be used for general purpos

Proposition No. 2 - Shall EBR Parish rededica
and use it for general purposes of government

Proposition No. 3 - Shall EBR Parish rededica
on Aging and use it for general purposes of go

If It Passes on November 15, 2025

Debt by \$52.4 million.

Parish libraries

Council on Aging and for

necessary expenses

, but the process begins by
five.

Sample Ballot:

Allocate \$52.4 million to pay down City-Parish debt and
expenses of government? **Yes or No**

Allocate 0.50 mills previously allocated to mosquito control
program? **Yes or No**

Allocate 0.25 mills previously allocated for the Council
on Aging and for the Government? **Yes or No**



Mayor Dustin Yates of St. George and Mayor-President "Coach Sid" Edwards



Jenny Richardson of KTTB



Sandbagging in anticipation of heavy rain



Here's What You Can Do to Influence the THRIVE Initiative...

- 1 - Please know that we have structural problems in how City-Parish property taxes are levied, collected, and distributed. We will not need more taxes if we can properly distribute the taxes we already collect to the highest priorities.
- 2 - Please let your friends know THRIVE is NOT a Tax Increase!
- 3 - Please ask FIVE FRIENDS to vote early or go to the Polls and Vote on the Thrive Initiative on Saturday, November 15.
- 4 - Whatever your feelings, get involved in the process! Get a yard sign, wave signs on street corners, and work on Election Day, Nov. 15th.
- 5 - Please know that the THRIVE Initiative is just the first step in the process of reforming the finances of the City-Parish. We will be asked to make further changes, each one moving us in the direction of fiscal responsibility and a successful future!

Thank you for your consideration and help!

Coach Sid Edwards

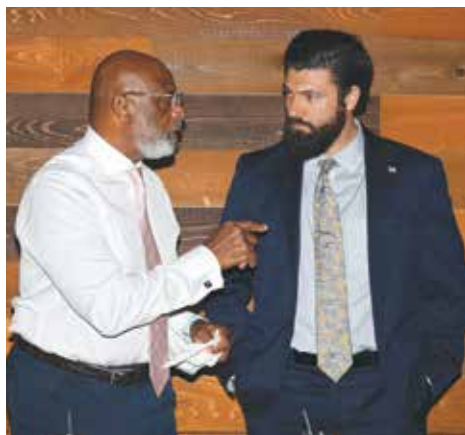


Sheriff Sid and Mayor Sid

Republicans Oppose LSU Sales Tax



FORMER REP. WOODY JENKINS (left) and **FORMER METRO COUNCILMAN DARRELL GLASPER** (center) discuss the sales tax that has been imposed on the LSU campus without a vote of the people. At right, Phillip Lillard asks a question about alleged corruption related to Oak View Group, the proposed developer for the LSU Arena.



SCOTT WILFONG (left) explained the legislature’s decision to reapportion the District Judgeships in the 19th Judicial District. At center left, Darrell Glasper and Baton Rouge businessman Stephen Wagley. At center right, Woody Jenkins congratulates Carolyn Hill, the new 2025 Miss Louisiana For America Strong. At right, Rep. Barbara Freiberg.

Ronald Reagan Luncheon • August 12, 2025 • Café Americain
Photos by Jolice Provost • Video by Woody Jenkins for Central City News



Mayor’s CEO Lon Vicknair on Thrive



CHAMBER EBR CHAIRMAN CECIL CAVANAUGH (left) and Lon Vicknair (center), Chief of Staff to Mayor-President Sid Edwards, talk about the Thrive EBR Campaign. He said it will bring about 1) Better Libraries, 2) Fight Mosquitoes, and 3) Better Serve the Elderly. Metro-Councilwoman Jen Racca, District 12 (right) explaining that all together the Thrive plan will pay-off \$53 million in City-Parish debt and provide more funding for City-Parish services.



ATTORNEY BRENDEN CRAIG (left), candidate for Baton Rouge City Court Judge. Four candidates for District Judge in the 19th Judicial District (center) Dele Abebamiji, Elzie Alford, Jr., Vicky Jones, and Vernon Thomas. The election was Saturday, October 11, 2025 for both races. At right, Liam Combs of WAFB-TV.

ChamberEBR Luncheon • August 26, 2025 • Photos by Jolice Provost





**Louisiana Law,
Different by Design**
By Angela Decoteau
Estate Law Solutions

Q1: Is my out-of-state will valid in Louisiana?

A: Maybe not. Louisiana law can override your will with forced heirship rules.

Q2: What is forced heirship?

A: It may require part of your estate to go to certain children—even if you say otherwise.

Q3: Can I avoid probate in Louisiana?

A: Sometimes. But the tools are different here. Know your options.

Q4: Do I need a trust in Louisiana?

A: You might. Don't rely on old myths—Louisiana is not like other states.

Q5: Can I leave everything to my spouse?

A: Not always. Usufruct laws can create complex splits with children.

Q6: Are handwritten wills legal here?

A: Yes—but only if they follow very specific rules. Don't assume yours will hold up.

Q7: My estate is small—do I still need a plan?

A: Absolutely. Small successions only work in certain cases. Don't guess.

Q8: I have children from a prior marriage—what should I know?

A: Blended families face unique risks under Louisiana succession law.

Q9: Can I disinherit a child in Louisiana?

A: Sometimes. But not if they're a forced heir. You need to plan carefully.

Q10: Will my power of attorney from another state work here?

A: Not always. Louisiana's civil code has different requirements.

ESTATE LAW SOLUTIONS
Angela Decoteau
Attorney at Law
324 E. Worthy St.
Gonzales, LA 70737
225-647-8502

For an appointment, call Angela

Disclaimer: For informational purposes only. Not legal advice. Filing No. LA-25-18850

Mayor Sid Deserves 'Yes'

Continued from Page 5

Department is 150 officers short, and police pay is very low and not competitive with some surrounding communities.

- However, at present, even though the Library Board is overfunded, those excess funds cannot be used to meet other urgent needs of the City-Parish, such as increasing police pay or hiring more police officers.

- The Thrive Initiative alone will not solve this problem, but it is the first of several steps that will have to be taken.

- As to the East Baton Rouge Parish Library Board, Thrive moves \$52.4 million out of the Library Board's \$100+ million surplus fund and uses that to pay off \$52.4 million in City-Parish debt. This will reduce operating costs of the City-Parish by an estimated \$9 million a year.

- The next thing the Thrive Initiative does is dedicate a little over

2 mills of the Library tax to the general fund of the City-Parish, producing about \$10 million.

- Those two changes will cut City-Parish expenses and raise City-Parish revenues by a total of about \$20 million a year.

- Thrive allows the Library Board to keep the rest of its surplus funds and operate on an annual budget of \$45 million a year, still a very generous amount compared to other cities.

- As to the Council on Aging, a tiny part of that agency's annual property tax collections will go to the City-Parish general fund.

- Likewise, a tiny part of the annual property tax collections of the Mosquito Abatement Commission will go to the City-Parish general fund.

All three agencies — the Library Board, the Council on Aging, and the Mosquito Abatement Board — support the Thrive plan.

Likewise, all 12 members of the Metro Council support the plan, as

do Mayor-President Sid Edwards, Central Mayor Wade Evans, Zachary Mayor David McDavid, and St. George Mayor Dustin Yates.

What remains is approval by the voters of East Baton Rouge Parish in an election Nov. 15.

The reason Thrive is on ballot now is because the Library property tax expires December 31, and the Library Board needed to ask the voters to renew the tax for a 10-year period. In order to reform how this tax is levied and distributed, it was now or wait 10 years.

The Thrive Initiative is the first of several steps that will have to be taken to straighten out City-Parish finances. It does not solve this problem, but it is the beginning of a solution.

Coach Sid is off to a great start and he is making many needed changes in City-Parish government. Thrive is something we can do to help him help us, and we recommend voting Yes on all three propositions.

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Longest Serving Member of Republican PEC of EBR Rev. Tommy French, 95, Honored



REV. TOMMY FRENCH (left) founded Jefferson Baptist Church in 1958. Dr. French was honored for his 67 years of service to Baton Rouge at the Ronald Reagan Newsmaker Luncheon Sept.9. Rev. Tommy French, 95, is the longest serving member of the Executive Committee of the Republican Party of East Baton Rouge Parish. He was first elected in 2000. At center, Dr. French is with Republican leader Scott Wilfong, former Rep. Woody Jenkins, and local businessman J.D. Perry.



THE FRENCHS (left) Tommy and his bride Carolyn Sue French. Moon Griffon (left/center) with Cecil Cavanaugh and Rev. Tommy French. Louisiana Sunshine Susie Labry with Rev. Tommy French, Carolyn French and Julie Sandifer. Close friend and colleague retired Judge Darryl White (right).

Ronald Reagan Luncheon • September 9, 2025 • Café Americain





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Greater Baton Rouge State Fair

Fun, Food, Rides At Family-Friendly Annual Celebration

BATON ROUGE — The Greater Baton Rouge State Fair is back again for its 60th year, from Thursday, Oct. 23 through Sunday, Nov. 2.

The fair is located at 16072 Airline Hwy. It will feature fun, food, and rides for the entire family.

The Opening Night Special offered tickets for \$10 each with rides for \$25. Tickets can be pre-purchased at gbrsf.com.

Live music will be available every night, starting with the South of Central Band from 6 to 8 p.m. on Thursday night, Oct. 23.

Daily attractions include:

- Petting zoo
- Hot glass academy
- Magician Tim Spinosa
- Mitchell Brother amusements
- Swifty Swine racing pigs
- Turbo Tyler globe of death
- Washboard Willy

The fair will feature livestock shows on Saturdays and Sundays.

The 8th Annual Logo Extravaganza will be held at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 26.

The fair will offer a wide array of food trucks.

So far, more than \$4 million has been donated by the Fair to worth-



GREATER BATON ROUGE STATE FAIR MAP - Use it to navigate the fairgrounds October 23 to Nov. 2, 2025.

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October 23 - November 2, 2025

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while community organizations.

Every year, a \$500 scholarship is awarded to one student from each participating high school.

The Fair began in 1965 as a project of the Jaycees.

One unique feature of the fair is that no one is paid! It's an all-volunteer project. All volunteers are exactly that and members of the board serve without remuneration.

The Fair has a significant economic impact on the Baton Rouge community. In addition to the rent paid to BREC for use of the Fairgrounds, purchases from local individuals and businesses of materials, supplies, and professional services required to operate the fair return over \$200,000 per year to the local economy.

Larger grants include \$100,000 to the Baton Rouge Zoo for the Children's Playground and for signage improvements; \$75,000 to BREC for park improvements, and \$50,000 to Baton Rouge General Hospital for remodeling the Burn Center.

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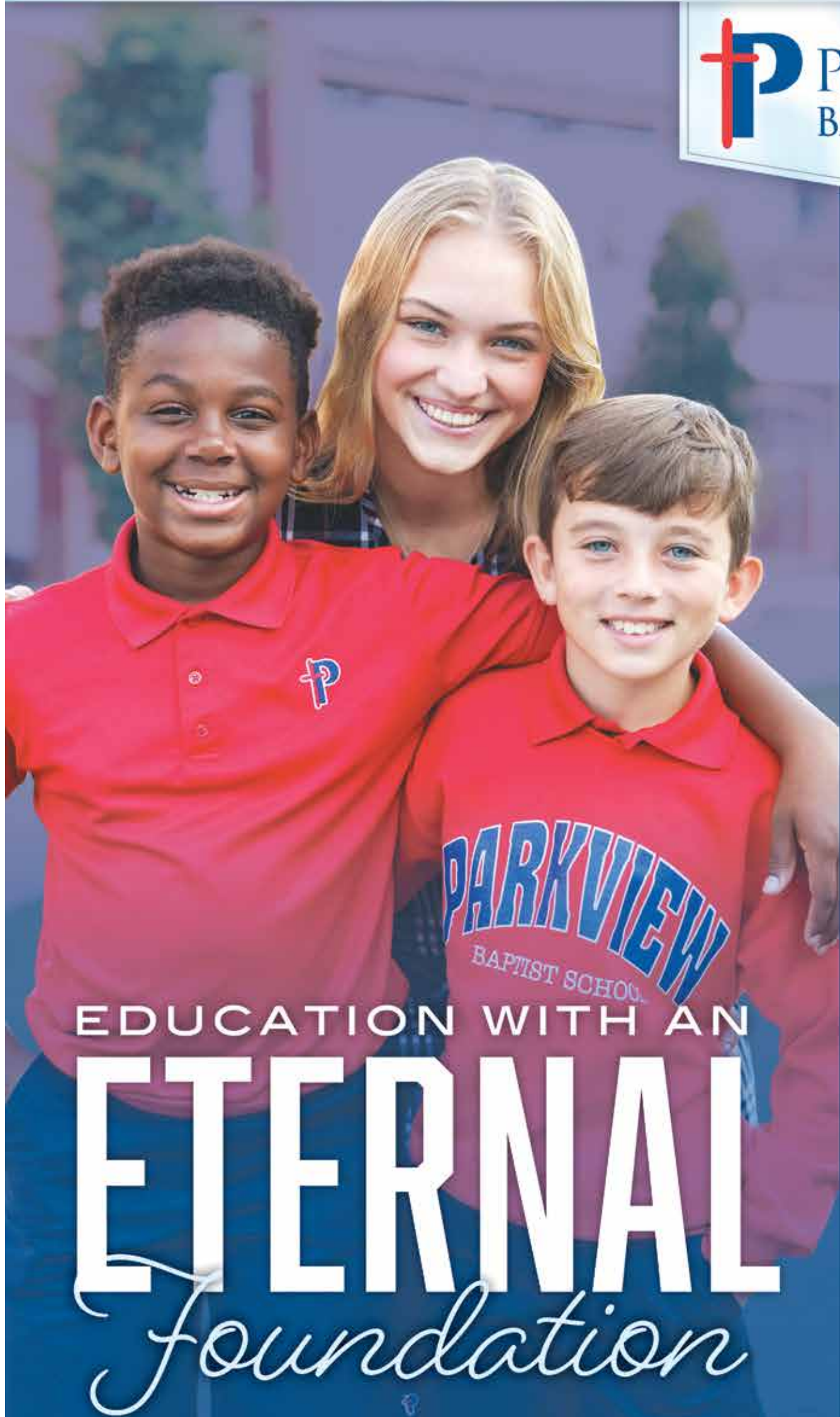
Treasurer John Fleming served as right-hand man to President Trump in the White House. Served as Deputy Chief of Staff in the West Wing 40-feet from the Oval Office.

Dr. John Fleming was endorsed by President Trump for State Treasurer and received 65% of the vote.



JOHN C. FLEMING, MD
Louisiana State Treasurer

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Parkview Baptist Homecoming Court



Freshman Quinn Saucier



2025-2026 Homecoming Queen Rylan Varnado



Freshman Brielle Shipp



Sophomore Berkli Bencaz



Sophomore Adalie Pino



Junior Vivienne Bastin and Dad



Junior Ella LeFors



Senior Norah



Senior Jana Thymes



Senior Ryleigh Moore

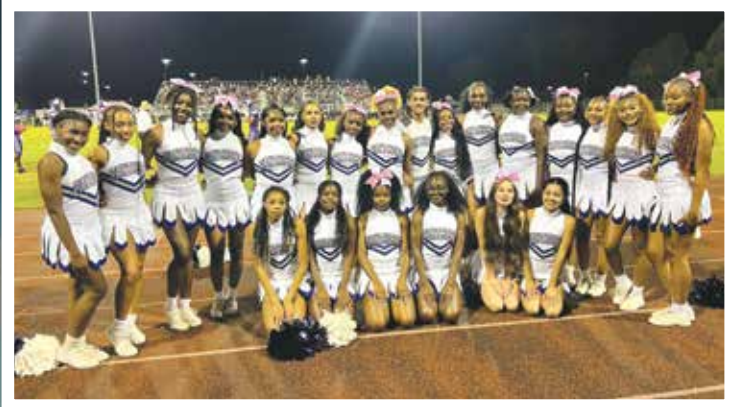


Senior Georgia Theriot



**Parkview Baptist
2025-2026
Homecoming Court**

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Central Wildcats blast into Wildcat Stadium



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Episcopal High Cheerleaders



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Dunham School Homecoming Court



Senior Campbell Banks and father Judson Banks



Senior Madelyn Jones and father Ben Jones



Senior Anna McIlwain and father Mitch McIlwain



Senior Presleigh Hand and father Jeff Hand



Senior Stella Turner and father Charlie Turner



Junior Olivia Kidder and father Jake Kidder



Junior Lily Grace Rolling and father John Mark Rolling



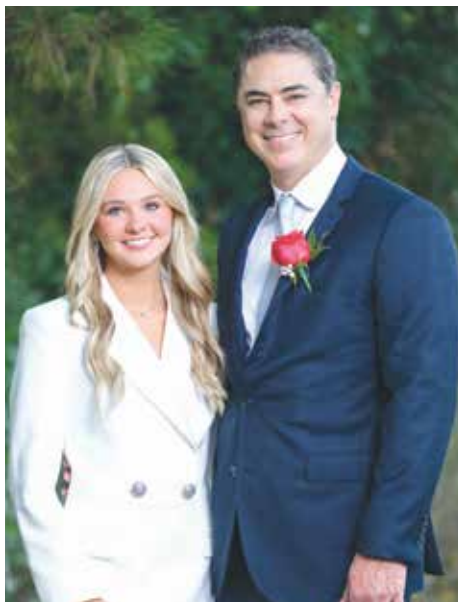
Junior Charlotte Slaton and father J.B. Slaton



Sophomore Joanie Bernhardt and father Tom Bernhardt



Sophomore Delaney Dantin and father Ryan Chenevert



Freshman Oakley Gremillion and father Blair Gremillion



Freshman Jesse Harrell and father Kris Harrell

Woodlawn High School 2025 Homecoming Court



2025 WOODLAWN HIGH SCHOOL HOMECOMING COURT (left to right) Jaleyia Woods, Kaycee Minor, 2025 Homecoming Queen Mariah Scott, Miss Woodlawn Joi Guillory, Aubrie Battley, and Zoe Hoston.

2025 Woodlawn High School Homecoming Court

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Episcopal School of Baton Rouge 2025 Homecoming Court



Senior Anne Bradley Ewing



2025 Episcopal Homecoming Senior Queen Lauren Bradford



Senior Gigi Litel



Junior Harper Inzer



Junior Riley Juban



Sophomore Neva Lambert



Sophomore Elle McCann



Freshman Jeanne Bosworth



Freshman Kadie Sumbler

Photos by Episcopal School of Baton Rouge

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BROOKLYN MATHERNE

AVA MCANALLY

LILY MOUTON

ALEXIS WAGNER

2025 HOMECOMING COURT
Senior Maids

St. Michael the Archangel High School 2025 Junior Homecoming Maids



**St. Michael the Archangel High School
2025 Homecoming Court**



Parkview Baptist 2025-2026 Homecoming Court



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Leadership and Vision

At the helm of the school is Director Tia LeBrun, a Louisiana native, member of the United Houma Nation, and an educator with a record of innovation and community leadership.

She has more than 20 years of experience in education, from classroom teaching to district-level leadership. LeBrun has served as a school founder, curriculum designer, and policy advocate for equitable education.

She has led successful initiatives in multilingual and cultural education, early childhood programs, and teacher development.

Two upcoming publications



with ULL Press will feature chapters she authored on language learning.

Her work has been recognized at local, state, and national levels, and

she is currently pursuing a doctorate in education.

LeBrun's vision for SGI centers on "opening the world to children through language, culture, and civic understanding." She believes the benefits of immersion extend far beyond simply speaking another language—they transform the way children think, learn, and connect with the world.

Research shows that learning multiple languages stimulates the growth of healthy brain tissue visible on MRI scans and that students who begin early in life develop stronger executive functioning skills such as time management, creative problem-solving, and adaptability.

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SGI is known for its unique focus on multilingual learning, preparing students to thrive in our increasingly interconnected world.

Children as young as six weeks to two years are fully immersed in Spanish each day. Preschoolers in Pre-K3 and Pre-K4 continue in Spanish but also begin introductory French and Chinese. From Kindergarten through 7th grade (expanding to 8th next year), students learn in all three languages daily.



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- Big Buddy Program
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- Key Clubs & Builders Clubs
- McMains Children's Developmental Center
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 GreatHeartsHarveston.org
 Mascot: Hawks
 Enrollment: Approx 658
 Head of Upper School:
 Drew Thomas
 Head of Lower School:
 Julie Harris

History

Great Hearts Harveston is a part of the Great Hearts Academies network of schools. Great Hearts Academies was founded in 2002 with the mission to cultivate the minds and hearts of students through the pursuit of Truth, Goodness, and Beauty.

Today we are the largest brick-and-mortar K-12 classical education provider and one of the largest, fastest-growing, and best-performing charter networks in the nation. As the leading provider of classical education in the country, as of the 2025-26 school year, Great Hearts educates over 30,000 students

Great Hearts Harveston opened its doors to the Baton Rouge community in the fall of 2023 as the first Great Hearts academy in the Louisiana region. Our Harveston family has gradually grown from serving grades K-7 in our first year to serving grades K-9 in the 2025-2026 school year. We will continue adding one grade level each year until we grow into a K-12 academy by 2028 and look forward to providing more students with a tuition-free, classical education.



Great Hearts Harveston • 11801 Bluebonnet Blvd. • Baton Rouge 70810



Julie Harris
Lower School



Drew Thomas
Upper School

About

A classical education develops students into wise and virtuous individuals who seek what is true, good, and beautiful. Through this approach, students learn to think deeply, ask meaningful questions, and live fully as thoughtful, compassionate people.

With rich, challenging academics, screen-free classrooms, and daily immersion in every subject, students experience a seamless journey that deepens both knowledge and character year after year.

Two teachers in every K-5 classroom ensure that students receive personal attention essential for growth, while uniforms and orderly routines create the calm needed for confident voices and vivid imagination to thrive.

In the classrooms, our highly qualified teachers guide students through Socratic discussion, a teaching method that involves asking questions rather than simply relaying information. Literature, history, mathematics, science, and the fine arts are taught in dialogue with the great ideas of Western tradition,

awakening wonder, and cultivating disciplined, joyful minds.

Tuition

Great Hearts Harveston is a tuition-free academy. We offer private-school-caliber education, without the burden of tuition.

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- Athletic Programs
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- English Language Learner Services
- Extracurricular Clubs
- Free Full Day Kindergarten
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Athletics

Flag football, cross-country, track and field, basketball, volleyball, soccer, dance

Extra-curricular Activities

Girls on the Run, theater, Young Rembrandts, art club, chess club

Enrollment Process

If you are interested in joining us for the 2026 – 2027 school year, the best time to submit your application is during open enrollment (November 3rd - December 19th). Applications for the 2026-2027 school year will be live on our website (GreatHeartsHarveston.org) on the first day of open enrollment, Monday, Nov. 3.



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Parkview Baptist Alumni Hall of Fame

Abundant Life | Chase Duplessis



Chase Duplessis, Class of 2002

Chase Duplessis, a 2002 graduate of Parkview Baptist School was chosen as the newest member of the Parkview Alumni Hall of Fame. Chase had this reaction:

“Parkview has been a part of my life for as long as I can remember.

For the past 16 years, I’ve had the privilege of teaching and coaching here—walking alongside students as they grow not just in knowledge or athletics, but in their faith. In total, I’ve spent 18 years in education, and I can honestly say there’s nothing more rewarding than helping young people discover who they are in Christ.”

“I’ve been married for almost 19 years, and my wife and I have been blessed with eight amazing children. Our family’s story—and my calling to serve—are both rooted in the same foundation that Parkview gave me years ago: Faith, family, and a life devoted to the Lord.”

“Abundant Life isn’t about accomplishments—it’s about walking daily with Christ and living with purpose. I’m grateful to Parkview Baptist for continuing to be a place where that kind of life is nurtured every day.”

Athletics | Kaylin Johnson



Kaylin Johnson, Class of 2008

A 2008 graduate of Parkview Baptist, Kaylin Johnson scored over 1,500 points in his Parkview career, averaged 18 points per game his senior year, and led the team to the Elite 8. This included an upset when Parkview overcame

a 19-point deficit to beat the No. 1-ranked team in the state.

After Parkview, Kaylin went on to play four years of Division 1 college basketball at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. While playing for Louisiana Basketball Legend Jimmy Tillette, Kaylin shot 40 percent of three-point shots his senior year, appearing in over 80 games. After his playing career, he started coaching, spending eight years as an assistant at Brevard College in Brevard, North Carolina, followed by DI Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina.

Kaylin is now an assistant coach at Colgate University in Hamilton, New York, where he lives with his wife Katie and their daughter Sophia. Kaylin’s dedication and leadership continue to reflect the strong foundation built during his time at Parkview Baptist.

Achievement | Richie Edmonds



Richie Edmonds, Class of 1992

Councilman Richie Edmonds has been a devoted member of the Parkview Baptist community for over 35 years, consistently embodying the values of excellence, service, and leadership that define

the Parkview spirit. His journey from student to public servant reflects a lifetime of commitment to both Parkview and the greater Baton Rouge community. After graduating from Parkview in 1992, Richie attended Mobile College in Alabama, where he played collegiate baseball and graduated. He later returned to Baton Rouge to continue his education at LSU and, more importantly, to continue giving back to the community that shaped him.

From 1994 to 2000, Richie served on staff at Parkview Baptist Church, ministering to youth and overseeing student activities. His influence extended across campus as he led weekly chapel services, mentored students, served as the football team chaplain, and energized school culture through events like basketball game em-

ceeding and “5th Quarter” concerts with the band 40 Day Fast.

Richie and his wife, Holly Lively Edmonds (Class of 1996), are parents to Sully (10th grade), Ramsey (8th grade), and Stella (6th grade). Richie has actively served as a coach in elementary and middle school athletics, and currently leads as the Huddle Club President for Parkview football.

His hands-on involvement includes supporting the Baseball Dugout Club, volleyball, cheer, and swim teams—always willing to step in, raise funds, or serve wherever needed. Richie’s steadfast support has made him a pillar in the life of the school.

Richie’s leadership extends far beyond Parkview. In 2024, he was appointed by Governor Jeff Landry to serve on the first-ever City Council as an At-Large Councilman for the newly-incorporated

City of St. George. In 2025, he was elected to a full term as City Councilman representing District 1 and is believed to be the only Parkview alumnus to hold elected office.

In addition to his role in city government, Richie serves on both the Republican State Central Committee and the East Baton Rouge Republican Parish Executive Committee, where he plays an active role in shaping public policy and advancing community priorities at the local and state levels.

A respected entrepreneur, Richie is co-founder and owner of Vertical Construction, LLC, a successful commercial and residential construction firm he launched over 15 years ago with fellow Parkview alumnus Jason Ryder (Class of 1993). His business success is grounded in the values Parkview instills: Integrity, perseverance, and excellence.

Academics | Katherine Smith Bligard



Dr. Katherine Smith Bligard, 2006

Dr. Katherine “Kathy” Bligard (formally Smith) is a 2006 graduate of Parkview Baptist School after attending Parkview from kindergarten through graduation. She said Parkview cultivated a deep love for learning, science, and service in Kathy that became the cornerstone of her career.

After graduation, she earned a degree in math at LSU and earned masters and M.D. at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. She completed a residency in Obstetrics and Gynecology and then pursued training in Maternal-Fetal Medicine at Washington University, where she gained

expertise in caring for high-risk pregnancies and performing complex fetal surgeries.

Today, Dr. Bligard still lives in St. Louis and is an Assistant Professor in the Division of Maternal-Fetal Medicine and Ultrasound at Washington University School of Medicine. She serves as the Associate Director of the Fetal Care Center, one of the nation’s few comprehensive centers for fetal diagnosis and therapy. In this role, she diagnoses fetal anomalies and performs cutting-edge in-utero procedures including fetal surgery for spina bifida and twin-twin transfusion syndrome. She also leads care for families navigating complicated pregnancies.

Her academic pursuits extend beyond clinical care. She has performed and published research on maternal and fetal outcomes in the face of fetal anomalies and strives to continue to improve maternal and neonatal outcomes through national and international collaborative research on innovative fetal therapies. She mentors students, residents, and fellows, fostering the next generation of physicians.

During her years at PBS, she was deeply involved in various clubs and activities, with her favorite be-

ing as a member and captain of the Blue Extreme colorguard. Kathy credits Parkview Baptist with providing the foundation and skills that continue to guide her daily. She is grateful for the education and community that helped her de-

velop both the academic curiosity and the servant-hearted approach she carries into her work today.

She married Dr. Greg Bligard, an academic ophthalmologist at Washington University, in 2015 and they have two sons, Andy, 5, and Matt, 2.

Arts | Jeff Morrow



Jeff Morrow, Class of 2003

New Parkview Alumni Hall of Fame member Jeff Morrow graduated from Parkview in 2003. He graduated from the University of Oklahoma with a degree in Broadcasting and a minor in Meteorology in 2007. Jeff said, “During my time at Oklahoma, I went on a number of storm chases, seeing a

couple of tornadoes. I also served as my fraternity’s president (Phi Kappa Psi). After graduation I got a job doing broadcast meteorology and news reporting at KKCO-TV in Grand Junction, Colorado.”

“It was cold and the food was bland! So I came home to work for WAFB-TV in Baton Rouge. I’ve been with WAFB for almost 17 years, serving as weekend weather anchor for 14 years, and now Noon and 4 p.m. weather anchor Monday through Friday. During this time, I’ve had the privilege of talking to numerous civic groups and schools, including Parkview, about weather and television news.”

“I’ve been married to my lovely wife Shanna for 13 years. We have two wonderful children, Logan and Landry, and a daschund-beagle mix named Gary. In my free time, I enjoy reading, travelling, and collecting sports cards.”

Mayors Enjoy Central-St. George Rivalry



FRIENDLY RIVALRY — St. George Mayor Dustin Yates, Central Mayor Wade Evans, Mayor-President Sid Edwards enjoy the Central Woodlawn game, which was played for The Mayor's Cup and ownership of The Sliver that connects the two cities.



Mayor Dustin Yates thanks Woodlawn principal Dr. John Jenkins for his hard work.



CENTRAL HIGH VS. WOODLAWN HIGH — Enjoying a moment at Dearman's to plan the rivalry were (left to right) Marcus Randall, Woodlawn AD, Tanna McClure of Central High, Tramon Douglas, head coach at Woodlawn. At right, Yates, Hank Henagan, and Stephen Wagley



Woodlawn principal Dr. John Jenkins

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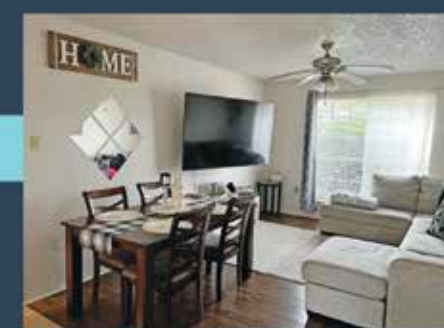
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