



Mayor, Police Chief, Seven Councilmen Take Office

Mayor Wade Evans Sworn In

Council Chooses Aaron McKinney As Mayor Pro-Tem

CENTRAL — The Central City Council held its first meeting of the new four-year cycle Tuesday, Jan. 10 and chose Councilman-at-Large Aaron McKinney as Mayor Pro-Tem.

He replaced Pro-Tem Wade Evans who was elected mayor. Evans replaced outgoing Central Mayor David Barrow.

Officials appointed by Mayor Evans at the meeting were Mark Miley, city clerk; Suzanne Cowart, finance director; Kyle Celestin, city attorney; Mark Balkin, planning and zoning attorney, and Ti Barnes, administrative hearing officer.



New Central Mayor Wade Evans

Mayor-Elect Evans Emphasized Faith While Preparing For Role as Mayor

Woody Jenkins
Editor

CENTRAL — Clerk of Court Doug Welborn swore in Central Mayor Wade Evans, Police Chief Roger Corcoran, and four members of the Central City Council in ceremonies Friday, Dec. 30, 2022, at Kristenwood conference center, 14025 Greenwell Springs Rd. in Central.

Welborn swore in Councilmen-at-Large Josh Roy and Aaron McKinney, Councilman J.D. Lavergne and Councilman Tim Lazaroe.

Justice of the Peace Larry Spencer, who is also a minister, swore in Dr. Kim Fralick to the Council. Council members D'Ann Wells and Briton Myer had to be out of

See WADE EVANS on Page 2

Simoneaux Head Coach at CHS

Leaves Catholic High, Replaces Coach Sid To Lead Wildcat Team

CENTRAL — Catholic High head football coach David Simoneaux has been named Athletic Director for the Central Community School System and head football coach at Central High School.

He replaces Coach Sid Edwards, who has been head coach or Athletic Director since 2007.

Edwards is the winningest active head football coach in the Baton



New Central AD David Simoneaux

Rouge area and one of the winningest in the State of Louisiana.

Coach Sid is staying on with the Central school system, at least for awhile. He will have as yet undesignated responsibilities, assisting with athletics.

Coach Simoneaux is no stranger to Central. He served as offensive coordinator here under former Central head coach Doug Dotson and Coach Sid. Simoneaux started his football career at Parkview Baptist under Coach Kenny Guillot.

Simoneaux was team captain and led the Eagles to their first

See COACH on Page 14

GOP Plans Grassroots Effort to Get Votes Out

BATON ROUGE — The GOP will have Neighborhood HQ's across the parish this fall. See page 3.



School Board Takes Office with Five New Members

Big Turnover Leaves Central School Board With Only 2 Veterans

CENTRAL — City Clerk Mark Miley swore in all seven members of the Central Community School Board Monday night in ceremonies at Central High School.

Only two incumbent school board members — Roxanne Atkinson and Dr. David Walker — returned for another term. Five newcomers joined the board — Jason Leapheart, Nick Carmena, Michael Davis, Michael Hooper, and Carol Burton-Norwood.

Ms. Atkinson was elected board president, and Dr. Walker was cho-



CENTRAL SCHOOL BOARD MEMBERS sworn in Monday were (1st row, left to right) Carol Norwood, Nick Carmena, Roxanne Atkinson, Dr. David Walker, and Supt. Jason Fountain and (2nd row) Michael Hooper, Jason Leapheart, and Mike Davis. Board members elected Ms. Atkinson as president and Dr. David Walker as vice president.

sen vice president. Outgoing board members Dr. Jim Gardner, Sharon Browning, Ruby Foil, Dr. Keith Holmes, and Kim Powers came to congratulate the new members.

Dr. Gardner, Ms. Browning, and Ms. Foil were original members of the Central School Board appointed in 2006 by Gov. Blanco.

Central High School has just undergone a \$22 million renovation that has turned the facility into virtually a new school. That is one of four major projects the outgoing school board planned and oversaw. The others are

- Renovation of Tanglewood Elementary School
- Renovation of Wildcat Stadium
- Construction of the School Administration building at the intersection of Hooper and Sullivan.