

EXCLUSIVE NEWS

STATE NEWS RETURNS ALUMNI, STUDENTS, AND CONTRIBUTORS TO STAFF

Reflections on Time As A Tiger and Life After Central High

Daisy Bates' beloved print publication, the Arkansas State News, Returns, today!

Producing "Special Editions" to commemorate the annual anniversary of the historic efforts achieved by the integration of Little Rock Central High, the State News will be staffed by alumni and current students, invited to contribute stories on their time at the school, and their lives after graduation.

"Central High is a special experience that many of us come to appreciate more and more after graduation," says Darren Dickerson a contributor (Class of '86).



CENTRAL HIGH STUDENT PRESENT FOR CHAOS OF 1957, SHARES NEW POV

The indelible image of the 1957 integration of Little Rock Central High is a scene of racial chaos.

However, the daily lives of the students is often overshadowed.

In an interview with a white student, Dale Wilcox shares a new perspective, a student POV on '57.

"We were looking forward to the chaos," says Wilcox about his family's preparation for day one.

CLICK THE IMAGE: Watch Wilcox give his firsthand account.



Arkansas State News Revived To Commemorate The Little Rock Nine

As the 70th anniversary of the integration of Central High fast approaches in 2027, which also marks the 100th anniversary of the school, the Arkansas State News will produce special commemorative editions to celebrate the life and legacy of the students and their leader-Daisy Bates-who risked their lives to advance Civil Rights and help end Jim Crow.



U.S. Troops Invade Little Rock; Take Over Central High School

Faubus Withdraws President Orders National Guards Negro Children in

Monday Gives Police Busy Day as Blood-Thirsty Mob Takes Over

If there were ever a man who basked in glory over his creation, it was Arkansas's governor, Orval Faubus, as he stood in Sea Island, Georgia, with his Ocker grin gleaming over the flare-up of violence in the Little Rock Central high school area.

Faubus was in Georgia with his favorite associates being crowned with laurels for his recent disgrace of Arkansas and embarrassment to the United States, for his recent creation of racial violence in one of the most decent cities of the South.

Late in August following a visit with Georgia's hate masters, Marvin Griffin and Roy Harris, Faubus created a non-existing state of violence in Arkansas, that has thus far been supported only by a Negro-public listed weekly, which Faubus used consistently, to call in the state National Guards to prevent Negro students from entering.

PAY YOUR POOL TAX

Main St. Clothier

Aids Bias Group

In Racial Strife

Cainness Replaces Violence as Troops Make Position Clear

President Eisenhower took positive action Tuesday and federalized the Arkansas National Guards then rushed 1,200 integrated federal troops into Little Rock to see that the integration of Central high school was carried out immediately and without violence.

After three weeks of defiance of a federal approved gradual integration plan of the Little Rock school board, President Eisenhower dispatched fifty-two plane loads of battle-equipped paratroopers C-119s and C-124s from the famed 101st Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky with Major General Edwin A. Walker in command, to Little Rock with orders to take all steps necessary to put the Negro children in the high school of Little Rock.

After a hectic day Monday when a mob of people gathered around Central high school to prevent the Negroes from entering

Negroes in the area (See related story, this page) the Negroes entered the once all-white school Wednesday in an atmosphere of calmness that they have displayed throughout the school controversy.

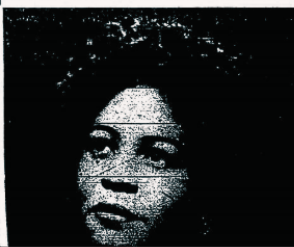
One of the first moves of Major Walker was to issue his proclamations in compliance with President Eisenhower's which was issued Monday. The proclamation reads in part:

Pursuant to the authority vested in me, I hereby order all persons who are obstructing the enforcement of the orders of the United States District Court of the Eastern District of Arkansas with respect to enrollment in and attendance at the public schools of Little Rock, Arkansas, particularly Central High School, to cease and desist from such obstruction forthwith and to disperse and retire peaceably to their abodes. I have ordered the troops under me, commanded to take all steps

ARKANSAS State Press

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PRICE TEN CENTS



Eisenhower's Proclamation

Here is the text of President Eisenhower's proclamation regarding the Little Rock school situation:

"Obstruction of Justice in the State of Arkansas.

"By the President of the United States of America.

"A Proclamation:

"Whereas, certain persons in the State of Arkansas, individually and in unlawful assemblies, combinations and conspiracies, have wilfully obstructed the enforcement of orders of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Arkansas with respect to enrollment and attendance at public schools, particularly at Central High School

"Whereas, such wilful obstruction of justice hinders the execution of the laws of that state and of the United States, located in Little Rock School District, Little Rock, Ark.; and

LITTLE ROCK CENTRAL HIGH'S 68TH ANNIVERSARY, TIME TO BROADEN THE STORY OF BATES & THE NINE?

Very Little Is Known About Central High Beyond The Civil Unrest

Three years after the passage of *Brown v. Board of Education*, in 1957 nine Black students took a bold step by integrating one of Arkansas' most prestigious institutions.

Governor Orville Faubus ordered National Guard troops to block the entrance of the school, a mob gathers to help enforce the Jim Crow law, until the President is forced to intercede.

After Governor Faubus refused to allow **The Little Rock Nine** to enter Central High, then President Dwight Eisenhower federalized the Arkansas National Guard, Faubus' troops were used to quail the violence and unrest.

Daisy Bates, the editor of the *State News*, and leader of the Little Rock Nine, had Ku Klux Klan crosses burned on her lawn, survived bombing attempts, and her family faced constant death threats.

Few people know about Bates struggles for justice.

Each of the Little Rock Nine have shared their personal accounts and harrowing experiences from the first days of the integration.

The "most popular" stories of Central High always center on the racist reaction of the violent minority -- outside agitators trucked in to stoke unrest -- at the heart of resistance to Civil Rights.

For the remainder of the 1957 school year, troops escorted the Little Rock Nine to classes to protect the teens from racial violence.

However, despite the drama that plagued the start of the school year, eventually the crowds dispersed, camera crews left, and life began to return to some sense of normalcy -- theoretically.

Games, Parties, Prom, the most memorable times of a student's life happened, and biracial friendships were formed, but those stories were not reported.

For the hundreds of students attending Central High, graduation remained the top

priority, along with getting into college, and/or starting their adult lives.

There are few details on how the Little Rock Nine navigated school dances and events like homecoming. By all accounts that first year for them was a whirlwind of high profile events like trips to the White House, or meeting the most dynamic African American leaders like Justice Thurgood Marshall.

Achieving a major milestone, in May of 1958, one of the Little Rock Nine completed the all his necessary course requirements to graduate on time. **Ernest Green** is the first Black student to graduate from Central High.

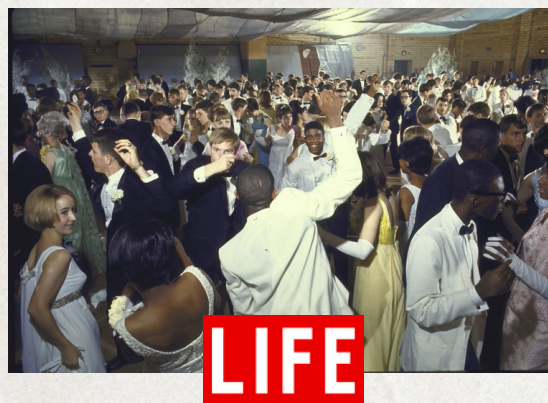


THE LOST YEAR
1958 CENTRAL CLOSED



CHEERING BLACK FIRSTS
HIGH STEPPERS INTEGRATE

EXERT



EXERT

After the Breakthrough: Desegregation at Little Rock's Central High

Ten years after the school was desegregated, students danced at the prom at Central High School in Arkansas, 1967. In a story on the process of desegregation, LIFE noted that many white students left the dance early to attend private house parties. The fight of the Little Rock Nine to integrate Central High School in Arkansas in 1957 is one of the defining moments of the civil rights movement. LIFE chronicled the Black students' courage in the face of resistance as they made they way to class, and returned the next year when the first of those Black students graduated.

And in 1967 LIFE was back to Central High to ask—ten years later, how's it going?



1927 Finished construction



\$1.5 Million cost to build



1977 National historic site bestowed



1955 Named Central High



America's Most Beautiful High School

FUN FACTS ABOUT Central High



Four figures over the front entrance. represent Ambition, Personality, Opportunity and Preparation.



Designated a National Historic Landmark in 1992, a National Historic Site in 1998.



The US Mint honored the Little Rock Nine with a commemorative silver dollar.



The US Postal Service honored the Little Rock Nine in 2005 with a commemorative stamp.



Ernest Green is the first African American student to graduate from Little Rock Central High.



Hail to the old Gold
Hail to the Black. Hail alma Mater. Naught does she lack.



Ernest Green's 1957 Diploma

IGEYSER MEIDA: FREE NEWS YOU CAN USE



BLUES LEGEND JOHN LEE HOOKER STILL SERVING HITS MIXED WITH PREMIUM WHISKEY & BOURBON

Following In The Footsteps Of His Iconic Grandfather, CEO Glenn Thomas Hits The Right Notes

Despite already earning the **Platinum Medal** for design from the **Ascot Awards**, gold medals at the **2024 Los Angeles Spirits Awards** and **Ascot Awards**, and silver medals at the **San Francisco International Spirit Competition**, **New York International Spirit Competition**, **Bartender Spirits** and **American Distillery Institution Awards**, the biggest brag may be **Uproxx** placing **John Lee Hooker Boogie Chillen' Bourbon** at **#5** on its *The 10 Best Scary Good Bourbons To Enjoy Alongside Ryan Coogler's 'Sinners'* list.

Hooker is a Blues icon, and to many a guitar God. It seems almost fitting given the history of the music and the themes in the biggest box-office hit of all times, *Sinners*,

that the John Lee Hooker Bourbon would top the list.

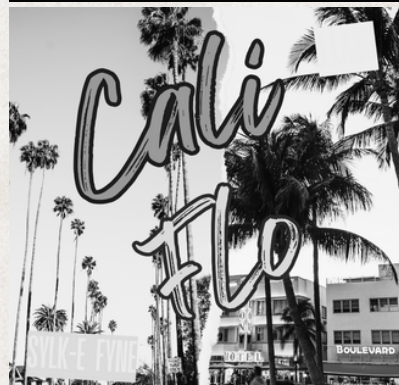
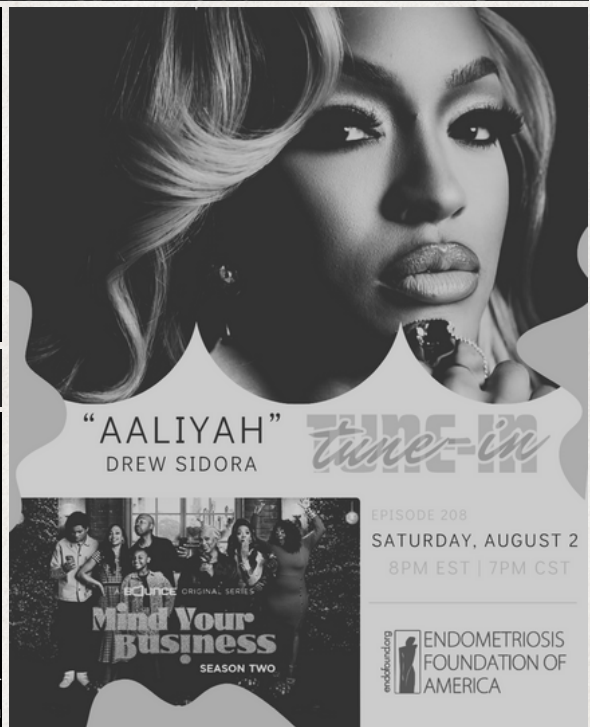
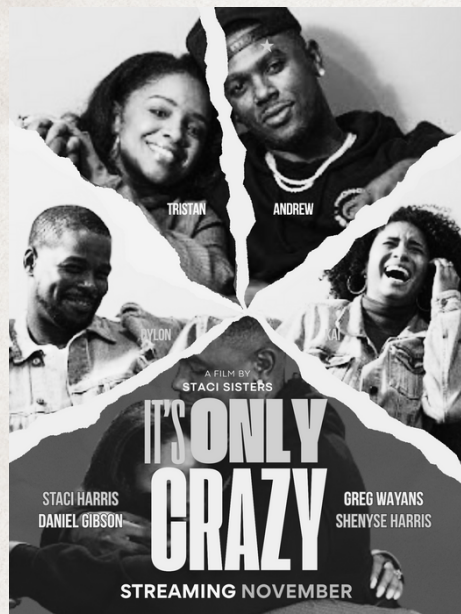
Probably the best known guitar scary-tale is about Delta blues great **Robert Johnson**. Legend has it he made a deal with the devil at the proverbial "Crossroads" to gain his level of guitar mastery. Johnson's story was made even more popular--with mainstream audiences--by the Ralph Macchio cult classic, *Crossroad* in which the star must beat the devil in a head-to-head guitar duel for his soul.

Besting better known brands to win awards and top lists, John Lee Hooker Bourbon is bursting onto the scene, taking the industry by storm, very much like the icon for whom the brand is named, so toast CEO Glenn Thomas.

CROSSWORD: FIND FIVE *Central High Ernest Melba Mercer Tigers*

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IS BACK & LOOKING FOR NEW CREATIVES**

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