



# Constitutional Writes

The official newsletter of Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site

50th Anniversary 2007



The Little Rock Nine arrive at Little Rock Central High School under federal troop escort, September 1957. Photo courtesy of the Central High Museum Historical Collections/UALR Archives.

## The 50<sup>th</sup>

In an interview with Jonathan Kozol, author of *Shame of the Nation: The Restoration of Apartheid Schooling In America*, Congressman John Lewis of Georgia, a champion for civil rights, discussed his view of commemorating milestones in the Civil Rights Movement, including the 1954 *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* decision that outlawed racial segregation in public schools, in light of the trend of schools resegregating across the nation. He said:

“What is it that we are commemorating then?...We commemorate the decision in itself. We commemorate the bravery of students who risked life and limb to act upon it after it had been decided. But in terms of making real that promise in the years that have gone by since then, I think we know it’s been betrayed. I don’t believe that this is something we can hide under the rug...As long as this continues, we will be divided as a nation. It’s in our national interest to address this and confront it openly. I don’t think we can be at peace within ourselves as a society until we do.”

September 25, 2007, marks the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the day that U.S. Army troops escorted nine African American teenagers into the formerly all-white Little Rock Central High School for their first full day of classes. As part of the commemoration events, the National Park Service will dedicate the new visitor center on September 24<sup>th</sup>. The anniversary certainly is an opportune moment to reflect on the courage of the Little Rock Nine in fighting for all of our rights and to celebrate their achievements. It is also a time for us to look to today and acknowledge that the struggle for equal educational opportunities continues.

The exhibits in the new visitor center will highlight the events of 1957 and place them in context of the larger movement to ensure civil rights for all. But we do not stop there. Our ranger-led programs and other special events are geared toward understanding how the events of the past shape us as a nation today. Perhaps one day we can celebrate, rather than commemorate, finding that peace within ourselves as a society.

We hope that you can join us as we dedicate the new visitor center. We hope that you will agree this place provides a great starting point for us to strive for a better understanding of, and personal reflection about, our nation’s continuing journey to form a more perfect union.

Laura A. Miller, Chief of Interpretation and Cultural Resources

## Places in History, Moments in Time, Beginnings for Opportunity

Welcome to Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site! We are happy that you are able to visit during this year when we commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the desegregation of Central High School. Let us know if we can do anything to make your visit more enjoyable, and please do ask a ranger if you have questions or would like to explore a thought or idea. While you are in Little Rock, we hope that you will participate in some of the events that are sponsored by others in the community to commemorate the anniversary. See the insert to this newsletter or ask a ranger for more information.

When you return home, however, please remember that the important stories and ideas that you will learn about are not limited to 1957, or to Little Rock, or to the nine African American students who bravely faced an unwelcoming and sometimes hostile environment to claim equal opportunity in education. The stage for what unfolded at Central High School in 1957 was set through decades of evolving personal beliefs, social customs, and political ideology. Changes that were inspired by the events of 1957 have, and continue to, affect the lives of individuals, groups, and communities throughout the United States and in other countries. The exhibits in our new visitor center will help you understand the connections between our nation's early years, the Little Rock desegregation crisis, and life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Of course, you also will learn a lot about the people and events that make the desegregation of Central High School one of the seminal events in the Civil Rights Movement.

Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site is one of 390 areas administered by the National Park Service (NPS). Many other NPS areas preserve and interpret chapters in the civil rights movements in the United States. I encourage you to visit these sites (in person, or via the World Wide Web) to further understand why the protection of the rights of an individual or group is essential to ensure the protection of rights for everyone. Some of these other NPS sites include:

**Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site** in Topeka, Kansas, ([www.nps.gov/brvb](http://www.nps.gov/brvb)) “commemorates and interprets the landmark Supreme Court decisions aimed at ending racial segregation in public schools. The visitor center is within the historic Monroe Elementary School.”

**Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site** in Atlanta, Georgia, ([www.nps.gov/malu](http://www.nps.gov/malu)) “honors the life of Dr. King and his leadership in the Civil Rights Movement.”

**Women's Rights National Historical Park** in Seneca Falls, New York, ([www.nps.gov/wori](http://www.nps.gov/wori)) “interprets the struggle for equal rights for women that was ignited by the people and events associated with the First Women's Rights Convention held in Seneca Falls in July 1848.”

**Manzanar National Historic Site** in Independence, California, ([www.nps.gov/manz](http://www.nps.gov/manz)) One of ten camps where Japanese American citizens of the United States and resident Japanese nationals were interned during World War II.

**Selma to Montgomery National Historic Trail** in Alabama; visitor center in White Hall, Alabama, ([www.nps.gov/semo](http://www.nps.gov/semo)) commemorates the events, people, and route of the 1965 Voting Rights March.

**Eisenhower National Historic Site** in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, ([www.nps.gov/eise](http://www.nps.gov/eise)) “preserves the home and farm of the 34<sup>th</sup> President of the United States. Interpretive programming includes discussion of his role in the Little Rock crisis and in other civil rights issues.”

R. Michael Madell, Superintendent

## *If not us, then who? If not now, then when?*

Congressman John Lewis (D-GA) will join members of the Little Rock Nine as keynote speaker for the formal dedication ceremony of the new Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site visitor center on Monday, September 24, 2007.

Lewis was at the forefront of some of the most significant civil rights struggles. He was born the son of sharecroppers outside of Troy, Alabama, in 1940. From a young age, he had a passion for education. He was inspired by the Montgomery Bus Boycott and the leadership of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in 1955.

Lewis was a part of the Nashville sit-in movement. He was also a Freedom Rider who, in 1961, challenged segregation in interstate travel in the south. The Freedom Riders were beaten and jailed despite their conscious commitment to non-violence. When older civil rights leaders questioned Lewis about why he and the other young people were willing to risk their lives to stage the Freedom Rides, he said, “if not us, then who? If not now, then when?”



From 1963 to 1966, Lewis was Chairman of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), which he helped form. In 1963, at the age of 23, Lewis helped organize the March on Washington. He was the youngest speaker on the podium. As Chairman of SNCC, he had a prominent role in Bloody Sunday in Selma, Alabama, in 1965.

Bloody Sunday began as a peaceful protest to obtain the vote for blacks in Alabama. On March 7, hundreds of people gathered for a peaceful march from Selma to the state capital in Montgomery, Alabama. Marchers were brutally attacked by troopers with the Alabama State Police when they walked across the Edmund Pettus Bridge. The brutal images exposed the state government-sanctioned violence against the marchers.

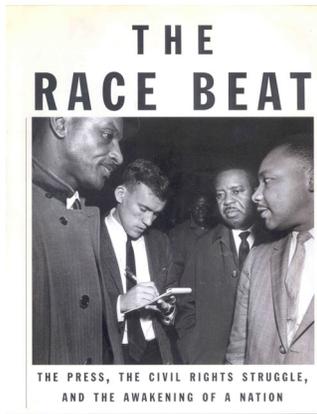
Two weeks later, under the protection of the Alabama National Guard ordered by President Lyndon Johnson, about 3,500 people marched 54 miles from Selma to Montgomery. On August 6, 1965, President Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act. Forty years later, hundreds of people returned to Selma to commemorate Bloody Sunday and the enactment of the Voting Rights Act. President Clinton, who was among the marchers said, “It was signed in ink in Washington, but it first was signed in blood in Selma.” The route taken by the marchers is now a National Historic Trail, and a unit of the National Park System.

Lewis explained why he persisted to fight the system of segregation. “Many of us came to the point that we didn’t have any choice. We didn’t like segregation, we didn’t like racial discrimination...It was just plain, ordinary people, young people, some so young...but they made up their minds. They were inspired and they literally put their bodies on the line.”

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# Bookstore Browsing

*The Race Beat* - Gene Roberts and Hank Klibanoff



GENE ROBERTS  
AND HANK KLIBANOFF

An engaging introspection of the media coverage of the major events that made up what is now known as the Civil Rights Movement, *The Race Beat* covers an almost forgotten vantage point in civil rights history. Roberts and Klibanoff, having both been print journalists, provide sharp analysis of how and why the attention of the white press was finally drawn to the events the black press had covered for so long. The 1957 crisis at Little Rock Central High School is highlighted as a turning point in how both print and television journalists changed their coverage of race-based stories. White journalists, like *New York Times* education reporter Dr. Benjamin Fine, who reported on the events in Little Rock, found themselves involved in, rather than outside observers of civil rights events. For black journalists, Little Rock represented losing their front-row seats to the unfolding civil rights drama.

The authors specifically focus on *Arkansas Gazette* editor Harry Ashmore's involvement in public policy (including the *Brown* decision) and his daily editorials in September 1957, which earned him the Pulitzer Prize. L.C. and Daisy Bates' roles are not

forgotten, from their opposition to Orval Faubus' gubernatorial candidacy, through their financial struggles of the *Arkansas State Press* after segregationist-led boycotts against their advertisers.

The strong historical analysis, combined with a journalistic knack for thoughtful details and covering all sides of the story make *The Race Beat* a welcome addition to the Central High School National Historic Site bookstore.

Alyssa Warrick, Park Guide

All of the items along with other educational materials about the Civil Rights era are available for purchase at the park bookstore. You can also browse our website for bookstore selections by going to [www.nps.gov/chsc](http://www.nps.gov/chsc) and clicking on Bookstore!

**Ruby Bridges, A Real American Hero;** 90 minute DVD produced by *The Wonderful World of Disney* (\$19.95.) Inspiring true story of a little girl whose strength and courage helped change history in the 1960's by integrating her local elementary school in New Orleans.

**Biography of Thurgood Marshall, Justice For All;** 50 minute DVD of archival footage, period accounts, and candid interviews with colleagues and family produced by ABC News Productions and A & E Television Networks (\$24.95.) In the 1940's and 1950's, Thurgood Marshall as a civil rights lawyer used the floor of the Supreme Court as his personal battleground and presided over some of the most influential decisions in American History. Thurgood Marshall became the first African American to sit on the Supreme Court.

**Separate But Equal;** 193 minute DVD (\$16.95.) The true story behind the most important legal battle of our time, *Brown vs. Board of Topeka*, featuring Thurgood Marshall, played by Sidney Poitier, as the NAACP lawyer who took the struggle for equal rights to the highest court in the land.

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## Volunteers Needed for the 50th Anniversary Events!

The National Park Service cares for more than 390 of our nation's most important natural and cultural sites, including Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site. This year, we need volunteers more than ever to help us with the visitor center dedication and the 50th anniversary.

If you are interested in the Volunteers-In-Parks (VIP) Program please contact volunteer coordinator Spirit Trickey at (501) 374-3067 or e-mail her at [spirit\\_trickey@nps.gov](mailto:spirit_trickey@nps.gov) to get started as a VIP! To learn more about NPS volunteer opportunities, go to [www.nps.gov/volunteer](http://www.nps.gov/volunteer) or [www.volunteer.gov](http://www.volunteer.gov).



# 50th Anniversary Calendar of Events

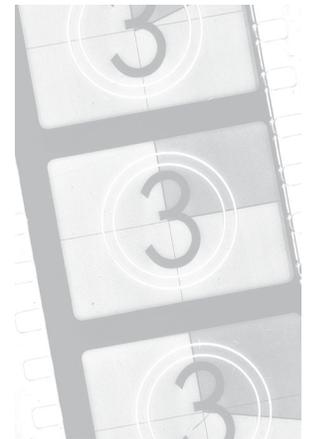
## Commemorating Integration at Central High School

March 10-11, 2007

### Reel Civil Rights Film Festival

Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site in partnership with Market Street Cinema and Ozark Foothills Film Fest presents “*The Reel Civil Rights Film Festival*” at Market Street Cinema, located at 1521 Merrill Drive, Little Rock. Feature films include: Disney’s *The Ernest Green Story* and *Ruby Bridges*, *Journey to Little Rock: The Untold Story of Minnijean Brown Trickey*; *A Time of Fear*, a film about the experience of Japanese Americans interned in Arkansas during WWII; *The Little Rock Nine*; and *The Lost Year*; which will be followed by a question and answer session with director Sandra Hubbard. The festival also includes two student-produced short documentaries - *Separate But Equal: The Ruling that Changed the Future* and *A Girl Like Me*.

Tickets are free, but space is limited. Limit 4 tickets per person. They can be obtained at the Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site visitor center located at 2125 Daisy Gatson Bates Dr., across the street from Central High School anytime before March 10 and at Market Street Cinema on the days of the event. For more information, please visit [www.nps.gov/chsc](http://www.nps.gov/chsc) or call 501-374-1957.



April 22, 2007

### Bike with a Ranger

Ranger-Led Bike Tour in celebration of National Park Week. Rangers will lead an approximately 6 mile bike tour of various sites related to the 1957 crisis at Central High School. Some of the sites on the tour include the L.C. and Daisy Bates Home National Historic Landmark, the Terry Mansion (Decorative Arts Museum), Governor’s Mansion, and State Capitol. Park rangers have been working with students from the Little Rock Central High School E.A.S.T. Lab to develop interactive biking/driving tours, so keep an eye out for them to appear soon on our website.

May 16, 2007

### Booksigning

Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site and The Butler Center for Arkansas Studies will commemorate the 53rd anniversary of the *Brown vs. Board of Education of Topeka* Supreme Court decision, which outlawed segregation in education. Dr. Frye Gaillard from the University of South Alabama in Mobile will be the guest speaker and he will lead a discussion of his book *The Dream Long Deferred: The Landmark Struggle for Desegregation in Charlotte, North Carolina*. The event begins at 6:30 p.m. The book tells the story of the community at the center of the *Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg* Supreme Court decision that became the national test case for busing to achieve racial desegregation.

May 2007

### Commemorative Coin First Day of Issue Ceremony

As part of the panel discussion with the Little Rock Nine, sponsored by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, the National Park Service will join with the U.S. Mint to present the first day of issue for the Commemorative Coin. Check our website for date and time.

July 21, 2007

### Junior Ranger Rally

Join park rangers from 9:00 a.m.- 12:00 p.m. at the visitor center on a Scavenger Hunt to learn about the Little Rock Nine and the 1957 crisis and have an opportunity to become Junior Park Rangers.

September 14, 2007

### Democracy Center - Five Star Leader Program

This experiential learning program, developed by the Eisenhower Presidential Library, will bring together secondary school students from Central High School, Little Rock, Arkansas, and Abilene High School, Abilene, Kansas, (President Eisenhower’s own high school) to recreate the events leading up to the famous 1957 school integration crisis. The Eisenhower Library has consulted with teachers, Civil Rights authorities, and an experiential learning expert in preparing the program. Students will role-play actual historical characters, from the students, forever remembered as the “Little Rock Nine,” to President Eisenhower and Governor Faubus. Using original documents, researched and assembled by the Eisenhower Library, and dramatic recreations, students will have a rare opportunity to relive the moments in history that led to a presidential decision to order federal troops to enforce the integration of Central High School.

September 21 -22, 2007

### WorldFest - Sponsored by the Little Rock Racial & Cultural Diversity Commission

“The World is Watching Us! From Civil Rights to Human Rights: Celebrating Our Diversity” at MacArthur Park from 8:00 a.m. -

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## 50th Anniversary Events Calendar continued from pg 4.

10:00 p.m. The event is free and open to the public. WorldFest celebrates the different races and cultures that exist here in Little Rock as well as the surrounding areas through educational activities and entertainment from around the world. This year the theme will be centered on the 50th anniversary of Little Rock Central High's desegregation. For more information, please visit [rccdcworldfest.org](http://rccdcworldfest.org).

September 22-25, 2007

### Emancipation Proclamation

The William J. Clinton Presidential Library and Museum will be displaying the original Emancipation Proclamation document from September 22-25, accompanied by an exhibit titled "*The Long Struggle: Presidential Actions and African Civil Rights*" which will be on display from September 8-May 20, 2008. For more information, please log onto [www.clintonlibrary.gov](http://www.clintonlibrary.gov) or call 501-274-4242.

September 24, 2007

### Little Rock Nine Gala

The *Little Rock Nine Foundation Gala* hosted by former President Bill Clinton. For more information, please visit [www.littlerock9.com](http://www.littlerock9.com).

September 24, 2007

### Visitor Center Dedication Ceremony 10:00 a.m.

Grand Opening of the visitor center with keynote speaker Congressman John Lewis, the Little Rock Nine, and others. The new visitor center will help accommodate the growing number of visitors who are interested in learning more about the Little Rock desegregation crisis and its role in the civil rights movements in the United States.



September 25, 2007

### The Legacy Project

The Arkansas Repertory Theatre presents "*The Legacy Project*". Arkansas Repertory Theatre has partnered with Little Rock Central High School and the University of Arkansas at Little Rock to target a new diverse audience by creating a play with music about Little Rock Central High School, scene of the 1957 desegregation crisis, and its legacy for America. The project will commemorate the 50th anniversary of the desegregation at Little Rock Central High School. For more information about the Legacy Project, please contact Leslie Golden, associate producer, at 501-378-0445 ext. 210 or [lgolden@therep.org](mailto:lgolden@therep.org).

September 25, 2007

### 50th Anniversary Commemoration Ceremony 10:00 a.m.

50th Anniversary Ceremony will take place on the front lawn at Central High School. All living presidents have been invited to join the Little Rock Nine and others to commemorate the anniversary and honor the Little Rock Nine. For more information, please visit [www.arkansasglobe.com](http://www.arkansasglobe.com).

December 4, 2007

### Electronic Field Trip

Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site is pleased to work in partnership with Ball State University and the National Park Foundation to present an Electronic Field Trip or EFT. The EFT is an interactive, live educational experience that combines website curriculum and a live broadcast program to create a dynamic learning event. In recognition of the 50th Anniversary of Desegregation the EFT, tentatively scheduled for December 4, 2007, will provide content that examines the events of the Crisis of 1957. Schools from around the country will be able to access the broadcast through the internet, local PBS television stations or public cable access, and even through satellite links.

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## New Commemorative Coin for Little Rock Central High School

The first day of issue ceremony for the new *The Little Rock Nine Commemorative Coin* will be held in May 2007, at Little Rock Central High School. Authorized by Congress, the commemorative coin was produced by the United States Mint and is one of two commemorative coins produced for 2007 (the other commemorates the 400th anniversary of the founding of Jamestown). The coin was produced to recognize and pay tribute to the strength, the determination and the courage of the Little Rock Nine during the 1957-1958 crisis.



Net proceeds made through the sale of the coin are authorized to be used for the protection, preservation, and interpretation of resources and stories associated with Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site, including site improvements, development of interpretive and education programs, historic preservation projects, and the establishment of cooperative agreements to preserve and restore the historic character of the Park Street and Daisy Bates Drive corridors adjacent to the site.

The commemorative coin will be available for purchase at Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site visitor center located at 2125 Daisy Gatson Bates Dr., across the street from Central High School. For more information, please visit [www.nps.gov/chsc](http://www.nps.gov/chsc) or call 501-374-1957.

# Education Corner



It is my distinct honor and pleasure to come on board at Central High School National Historic Site at such an exciting time. The opening of the new visitor center and the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the desegregation events at the school present some powerful educational opportunities. In preparation for the anniversary events, the focus for teacher workshops will examine the past 50 years to include the historic *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* Supreme Court decision, and the events that surrounded Little Rock Central High School in 1957, as well as look how far we have come and what the future may be like. Recent Supreme Court hearings have revealed that the issue of desegregation is still an ongoing concern in school districts around the country.

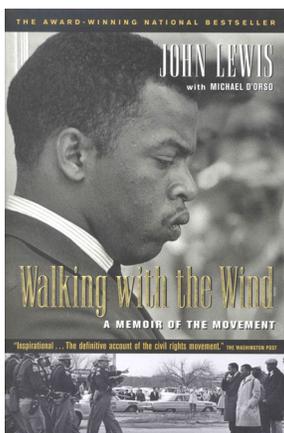
Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site will continue to offer group tours on-site, and we would be happy to visit Arkansas schools to speak with your students about the integration of Central High School and the landmark battle in the struggle for civil rights. Visit our web site to download curriculum modules to assist you in supporting state and national curriculum standards: [www.nps.gov/chsc](http://www.nps.gov/chsc). Contact Amy Garrett, Education Specialist at (501)374- 3179 to schedule a workshop or a class visit.

Amy Garrett, Education Specialist



Left: Fourth grade class at Potwin School, Topeka, Kansas, 1950. Photo courtesy of Topeka Shawnee Public Library. Right: One teacher school, Vaezy, Greene County, Georgia, 1941. Photo courtesy of the Library of Congress.

## 50th Anniversary Keynote Speaker, continued from pg. 3



On numerous occasions, Lewis has expressed his admiration for the Little Rock Nine. In his memoir, *Walking With the Wind*, he said he was inspired by “the sense of mission, of involvement, of awareness that others were putting themselves on the line for the cause-the high school showdown in Little Rock, Arkansas, was happening the fall of my freshman year-that moved me to do my part.” Both Lewis and the Little Rock Nine were committed to nonviolence as a means of social change. Their combined efforts changed the nation. Lewis has been a Congressman in Georgia’s 5th District since 1987.

*Walking With The Wind: A Memoir of the Movement* by John Lewis with Michael D’Orso is available for sale in the park bookstore.

Spirit Trickey, Park Ranger

# Daisy L. Gatson Bates Holiday

On February 19, 2007, Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site celebrated the Daisy L. Gatson Bates Day state holiday with a special presentation. Character interpreter Sheila Arnold portrayed Daisy Bates in her role as President of the State Conference of NAACP Branches in 1957, her relationship with Thurgood Marshall, and the events of Central High School's desegregation in 1957.

Before presenting at the historic site, students from Parkview Magnet High School, which focuses on performing arts and sciences, had the opportunity to hear Ms. Arnold portray Bates at their school. At the end of the presentation students were able to ask questions and discuss the skills and techniques that are needed to portray historical characters. Ms. Arnold instructed them "know your subject, and then study your subject and study." Approximately 80 people attended the event at the historic site, including students from Central High School drama classes.

Arnold is the CEO and founder of History's Alive! in which she interprets the lives of historic figures such as Zora Neale Hurston, Madam C.J. Walker, formerly enslaved women, and most recently, Daisy L. Gatson Bates. Arnold has been doing character portrayals since 1998, when she took on the role of Ol' Bess, an 18th century tavern slave. She continues to perform and teach at and for the Colonial Williamsburg Foundation during its Summer Teachers Institute and at special out-of-state workshops. Arnold has twice been a featured "regional" Storyteller at the Colonial Williamsburg Storytelling Festival.

To learn more information about Daisy L. Gatson Bates, log onto [www.nps.gov/chsc](http://www.nps.gov/chsc). Teachers can also request a free site bulletin and curriculum on Daisy L. Gatson Bates.



Sheila Arnold portrays Daisy Bates at Parkview High School. Right, Arnold is interviewed by reporters at the visitor center after her program.

## Check Out Our New Website!

If you have not seen our website lately, take a look at the changes we have made. We post information about all of our upcoming special events and programs on this site and we update it regularly.

We have a lot of events planned for 2007, so bookmark [www.nps.gov/chsc](http://www.nps.gov/chsc) and keep up to date on everything that is going on here at Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site!

The screenshot shows the nps.gov website interface. At the top, it says "nps.gov (home)" and "National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior". The main heading is "Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site". Below this is a "Schedule Of Events" section. It includes a search bar, a "text size" selector, and a "printer friendly" link. The "Schedule Of Events" section has a sub-heading "Find Events at Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site" and a note: "Days with events are lit in green. Hover your mouse over them for details." Below this is a calendar for February 2007. The calendar shows dates from 4 to 28. The dates 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28 are all highlighted in green, indicating events. To the right of the calendar is a search form for events occurring from February 20, 2007, to February 21, 2007. The search form includes a "Keywords (optional):" field and a "Search" button.

# Construction Progresses on New Visitor Center!

Check out these photos of the new visitor center construction. Keep up with the progress through our website at [www.nps.gov/chsc](http://www.nps.gov/chsc).



Steel frame nearing completion, November 14, 2006.



View of interior exhibit space, January 11, 2007.



Sheathing being installed, January 12, 2007.



Roof decking, January 30, 2007.



Concrete trellis on west side of building, February 20, 2007.



South end of building, February 20, 2007.

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

Little Rock Central High School  
National Historic Site  
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## EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for the special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the  
Interior

This newsletter is brought to you by the staff of Little Rock Central High School National Historic Site.

**Editor**

Tarona A. Bennett, Park Ranger

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Email: [chsc\\_visitor\\_center@nps.gov](mailto:chsc_visitor_center@nps.gov)

## New Tours!

Join park rangers for regularly scheduled tours of Central High School. Now you can tour the school, even if you do not have a reservation. Tours are offered on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday during the school year at 9:15 a.m. and again at 1:00 p.m. The tour lasts approximately 30 minutes.

Contact the site at 501-374-1957 for more information.

Park rangers are available to give tours of the visitor center exhibit, commemorative garden and the exterior of Central High School. Off-site visits for classes or groups can be arranged as well.

The visitor center features the exhibit, "All the World is Watching Us: Little Rock and the 1957 Crisis," as well as a bookstore with a wide selection of educational materials.

Contact a park ranger for more information on program topics and scheduled events. Reservations are required for tours and can be made by calling the park at (501) 374-1957.