

DINNER WITH CLEMENTINE

See Page 1B



HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL COVERAGE

See Page 8A



The Natchitoches Times

And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free, John 8:32

Weekend Edition, September 14-15, 2013

Natchitoches, Louisiana • Since 1714

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Letters to the Editor

Let us know what you think, write a letter to the editor. See Page 4A for details.

WEATHER HIGH 90 LOW 62

Area Deaths Paul Jones, Lorene Oxley, Vernon Wester



Learn history of Sports HOF

There's probably no one who knows more about the La. Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana Museum than Doug Ireland.

2 openings on council boards

Parish President Rick Nowlin has announced his intention to make two appointments to the Natchitoches Parish District 4 Board.

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- Obituaries 2A, Editorial 4A, Annie's Mailbox 5A, Lifestyles 1B, Sports 8A

Advertisement for Jim Croce performance at Prather Coliseum on Thursday, Sept. 20, 2013. Includes a photo of Jim Croce and a newspaper clipping about him.

These articles in the NSU student newspaper Current Sauce advertise Croce approaching performance and the front page story of his death.

Festival will pay tribute to Croce; devoted fan keeping memory alive

By Leah Jackson Director of Informational Services, NSU Jim Croce, the singer-songwriter whose life was cut short in a plane crash following a concert at Northwestern State University's Prather Coliseum...

Meat Pie Festival, set for Sept. 20-21 on the downtown riverbank. Sept. 20 will be "Jim Croce Day" in Natchitoches as he and Muehleisen will be recognized by the Louisiana Music Hall of Fame.

plaque that replaces one that once hung in the Sylvan Friedman Student Union, with input from Mary Muehleisen, Maury Muehleisen's sister.

Parish Council meets Monday

The Parish Council will discuss accepting property for a park and playground in Payne Subdivision when it meets Monday, Sept. 16 at 5:30 at the Parish Council meeting room on second floor of the courthouse.

There will be a public hearing on reducing the speed on Emmanuel Road to 25 mph at 2.5 miles at La. 1 at Cloutierville to its junction with La. 490 near Chopin.

Ralph Ingram will discuss donating the property for the park and playground. Tax Assessor Dollie Mahoney will attend the meeting when the council conducts a public hearing to sit as a board of review to hear protests or complaints on property values.

The council is expected to adopt a resolution authorizing President Rick Nowlin to submit a request to transfer funds dedicated to the Vowells Mills polling place to the Marthaville Heritage Society remodeling project.

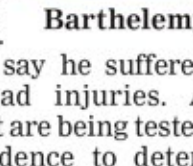
The council will discuss confirming the appoint and reappointments to the Parish Planning and Zoning Commission and Fire District 4 board.

Nowlin and his directors will give reports.

Sabine district attorney will seek death penalty in kidnapping case

MANY, La. (AP) — Sabine Parish District Attorney Don Burkett has filed notice of his intent to seek the death penalty against a Natchitoches police officer indicted on charges related to the Aug. 20 kidnapping and beating death of a Many man.

Shreveport attorney Daryl Gold is representing Barthelemy. Procell's body was discovered Aug. 25 in a shallow grave in Winn Parish.



Burkett tells The Times (http://bit.ly/18X4n0d) he reached the decision on going for death following discussions with the family of homicide victim, 24-year-old Tony Procell, and after "consideration of the facts of the case."

Barthelemy, 34, of Natchitoches, is accused of forcing Procell at gunpoint from his home then driving him to Winn Parish, where he was killed.

Indictments were handed up on Robert Barthelemy following a special grand jury session Wednesday that lasted more than two hours.

He initially denied harming Procell but then stopped cooperating with investigators. Searchers scoured areas familiar to Barthelemy in Natchitoches Parish and ultimately located Procell's body just over the parish line.

Guilty pleas draw prison terms for burglary, drugs

According to Natchitoches Parish District Attorney Van Kyzar, a Natchitoches man entered a guilty plea Monday just prior to the start of his jury trial.

Roderick Golston, 30, of 229 MLK Dr., pleaded guilty to the charge of simple burglary and was sentenced to six years in the Department of Corrections.

Golston was arrested June 28, 2012, by the Natchitoches Parish Sheriff's Office after they investigated a series of vehicle burglaries occurring on Bucktail Drive off of Hwy. 504 in the parish.

After a homeowner saw a man in his vehicle, the suspect fled on foot. Deputies located a vehicle in the area and contacted the registered owner. The owner advised that Roderick Golston had borrowed her vehicle but called her that night to come pick him up at the intersection of Hwy. 504 and Interstate-49.

In other court news, a local man was sentenced on his drug charges. Marcus Petite, 30, of 514 Pavie St., was arrested March 6 by agents with the Natchitoches Multi-Jurisdictional Drug Task Force during a traffic stop at the intersection of Dorothy Street and Berry Avenue.

Petite pleaded guilty to one count of possession of methamphetamine with the intent to distribute and received a 10-year sentence in the Department of Corrections.

Assistant District Attorney Lala Sylvester prosecuted the cases for the State.



Clerk of Court Louie Bernard swore in coroner Dr. Bret Ferguson and chief deputy coroner Roy L. Ceaser at the Natchitoches Parish Courthouse, Sept. 11. Friends, family and fellow colleagues attended the brief ceremony.

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Lifestyle The Natchitoches Times

Amanda Franko-Tobin Lifestyle Editor (318) 352-3618 e-mail: lifestyleeditor@natchitochestimes.com

Christmas Pageant set for Sunday

The Miss Merry Christmas Pageant will commence Sunday, Sept. 15 at the Natchitoches Events Center. The pageant starts at 5 p.m. Admission is \$5. The Boys and Girls Club will sell refreshments.

Bake sale will coincide with soccer game

Kids from the Modern Woodmen of America youth service club will sponsor a fundraiser Saturday, Sept. 21 to benefit the Natchitoches Humane Society.

Plans for the fundraiser include a huge bake sale in conjunction with the Natchitoches Soccer League Jamboree at the John Storrs Soccer Field. There will be delicious home-baked goodies for every taste from 9 a.m. - noon.

The money raised will be matched by Modern Woodmen's home office, up to \$500, through the fraternal benefit society's Matching Fund Program. Proceeds will be used for construction of a quarantine room for sick animals at the Happy Tails facility operated by the Humane Society.

The Matching Fund Program offers Modern Woodmen members nationwide the chance to show their support for a community cause, organization or individual in need by holding fundraisers. These fundraisers contribute \$9 million to community needs across the country each year.

"With this project, every dollar truly counts," says Mary Squyres, local Modern Woodmen youth club leader. "It's exciting to be involved in a project that is so important to our community."

The Natchitoches club is one of approximately 900 clubs nationwide that provide young Modern Woodmen members with opportunities to volunteer, be patriotic, learn new skills, make friends and have fun. Club members donate more than 300,000 hours of volunteer service each year.

For more information or to get involved, contact Squyres at 318-663-6407.

Fitness and fund raising will fuel Tour

Laissez les bicyclettes rouler! Bicyclists can raise money and enjoy a scenic competition at Le Tour de Bayou, held Saturday, Sept. 21. Registration is \$50 for a 27, 63 or 84 mile circuit; \$30 for a 10 mile circuit; \$25 for a 5K run/walk and \$20 for a 2 mile family fun ride.

Dinner set features Hunter's art

By Amanda Franko-Tobin

As cotton swells to a head and hopes of fall rustle like so many pecans on a tree, images that are captured in Clementine Hunter's artwork seem destined to reappear. In a strange conglomeration of fate and economics, Hunter's work now graces a set of ceramic serving pieces. It's a new viewing platform for the renowned artist. Hunter's work translates well into home items, lending cheerful bursts of bright color and bold figures to the otherwise typical lines of squares, rectangles and circles. What seems odd is the choice of product, given Hunter's years of labor in the kitchen and fields of Melrose Plantation.



"Baptism On Cane River"

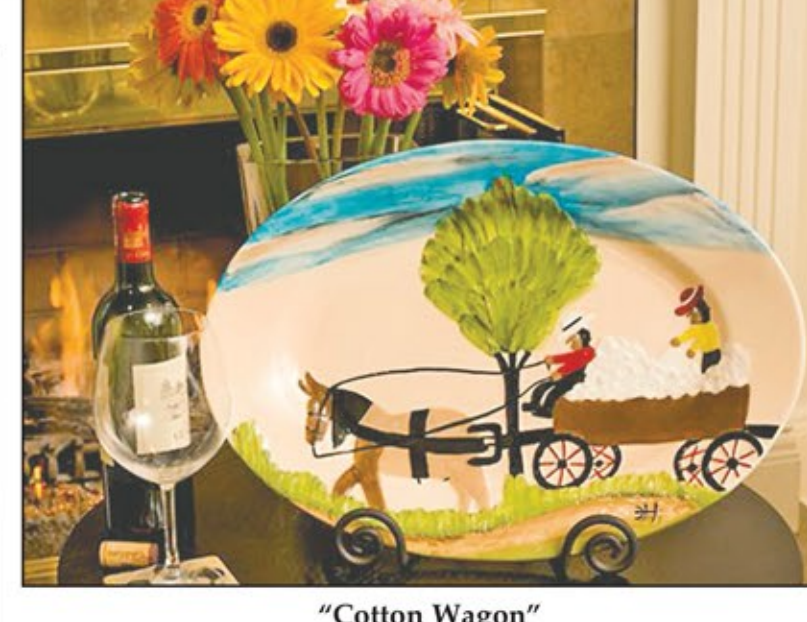


"Zinnias"

According to the creator of the collection, Doug Gitter of Gitter Gallery, the table set is meant to appeal to an American public that favors large, unique pieces over matching china. A collector of folk art for 25 years, Gitter is familiar with the processes of reproduction and commercial sale. Gitter Gallery offers giclees - canvas copies of original paintings - on its eponymous website. About ten artists' work are represented in the giclees, yet only Clementine Hunter has a collection of ceramics.

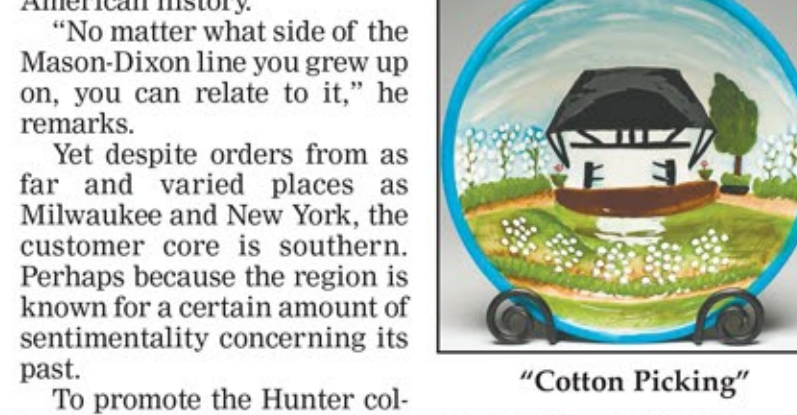


The Clementine Hunter collection by the Gitter Gallery is available at Plantation Treasures.



"Cotton Wagon"

Gitter reveals the painstaking process that went into the development of each one-of-a-kind piece. After experimenting with a direct design, Gitter decided to create a textured leaf that could be hand painted and then merged with a surface.



"Cotton Picking"

"The original design looked like a decal. It didn't create what I wanted to create with Clementine Hunter's work," Gitter remembers. He relies on artists all over the world and several different factories overseas to create a finished product with a raised texture. Touch the petals on the plate of zinnias, and "you can feel the passion of Clementine Hunter," Gitter enthuses.



"Pecan Picking"

The line has garnered considerable attention due to Hunter's highly collectible body of work. "Clementine Hunter spent part of her life working fields, picking cotton and thrashing pecans before the mechanization of agriculture. She watched a part of American history vanish before her eyes, during her lifetime, and she is maybe the only artist who captured this," Gitter says poetically.

He speculates that the Clementine Hunter serving collection appeals to people who are nostalgic about American history. "No matter what side of the Mason-Dixon line you grew up on, you can relate to it," he remarks.

Hunter's art has become out of reach," Gitter says. "This collection is a great option that wasn't on the market before. You can enjoy it and have a utilitarian use."

The hand painted ceramic line may be the newest incarnation of Hunter paraphernalia, but it can hardly be hailed as bridging the gap between expensive and affordable art. Each piece retails for over \$100.

As a memory of Natchitoches' most famous artist and a visual depiction of plantation life in the rural South before the mechanization of agriculture, the Gitter collection of Clementine Hunter tableware fulfills its purpose. A portion of each sale goes back to the Clementine Hunter estate to further promote the artist.

Artist loves city, founder; shares decades long hopes for Tri-Centennial

Despite traveling around the country sculpting busts for schools, universities and cities, Larry Crowder says there's something magic about Natchitoches. "I'm inspired to do my work as an artist because of the atmosphere, the architecture, the history and the friendliness," he says with a smile. "I appreciate every time I've come here. I've enjoyed it."

Crowder is revisiting the city since he cast the bust of Louis Juchereau de St. Denis on April 18, 1986. He remembers the project fondly. "I came to Natchitoches looking for an illustration of Demerzere," he explains. After visiting with citizens and politicians and sharing examples of his work, Crowder was commissioned to create a lasting memorial to St. Denis, the founder of the area's first European settlement.

Crowder's likeness was reproduced in two historical books, multiple tourism publications and countless webpages. A duplicate casting is proudly displayed in Beauport, Quebec in homage to the explorer's French-Canadian roots.

In many ways, the bust has become the iconic image of the city's founder. Crowder worked closely with the St. Denis Foundation. Betty Jones and Mayor Joe Sampite. A lady from the St. Denis Foundation provided a hand-drawn illustration of what St. Denis should look like, though it's a mystery where she got the drawing.

That play of past with present, all in the name of history, is why Crowder enjoys Natchitoches. He is especially looking forward to the Tri-Centennial in 2014.

"When I sculpted the bust in '86 everybody was talking about the 300 year anniversary and looking forward to

"There weren't details yet, but it was already a major event." Crowder hopes to be involved in the city's Tri-Centennial celebration. Until then, he spends his time in Decatur, Texas, pining for the relaxing change of pace that Natchitoches provides compared to the Dallas-Fort Worth area. "It's wonderful to be back, and it's changed a lot," Crowder says earnestly. "There are improvements in landscaping, gardens around the Roque House, signage. It's pleasing to an artistic eye."



Larry Crowder created this bust of St. Denis in 1986. Other works depict Lawrence Bell, Ernest Hemingway and Sam Houston.



Now a downtown landmark, the bust was unveiled with great fanfare in 1986.