



INSIDE

Couple to wed in October

Page 2

YOUR FORECAST



Mostly sunny today

Low of 70 tonight, with a 30 percent chance of rain. Highs Friday in the 80s.

Complete Weather Forecast Page 2

SPORTS

Grambling's punting pianist

Page 8



Ruston Daily Leader

Thursday, September 19, 2013

Good Afternoon

www.rustonleader.com

75¢

CLEMENTINE HUNTER'S WORK REPRODUCED



Submitted photo

Pictured above is "Baptism," a recreation of Clementine Hunter's original work by Doug Gitter. This piece along with the rest of the collection is available at The Townsend House.

Pieces available locally

Artwork shows life before mechanization

By Jessica Darden
jessica@rustonleader.com

One of Louisiana's most famous artists died in 1988 at the age of 101, but her legacy lives on through her paintings.

Doug Gitter, an artist from Metairie, has spent the past four years working on reproducing some of Clementine Hunter's artwork to make it affordable for everyday people.

Gitter said a desire to take artwork which was once very affordable and make it affordable again led him to create these hand-painted ceramics, based on the works of Hunter, so that others could enjoy a piece of American history.

He shared his reproductions with local business owner Kim Birch, of the Townsend House.

"Doug contacted me about the ceramics in the past, but once I saw them I knew they would be a success," Birch said. "They strongly appealed to me because they are very exclusive. They are Southern based and I am very attached to my home state of Louisiana. Louisiana runs very deep in my family, and since this is where her paintings are based they are very appealing."

Hunter was born in Cloutierville, and at a young age moved to the Melrose Plantation where she lived and worked until her death.

Hunter first worked in the cotton

fields and pecan groves until Miss Cammie Henry, the owner of Melrose, brought her into the "Big House" to clean and cook.

Henry brought many writers and artists into her home and one in particular, Alberta Kinsley, encouraged Hunter to try painting.

Gitter said Hunter's paintings are recognized as a narrative telling the story of plantation life during the time before mechanization came to agriculture.

"Her pictures of cotton pickings, washdays, pecan pickings, weddings, baptisms, funerals and other scenes of life on Melrose, have made her

See GITTER, page 12

Glen View collaborates

School to be model site for autism project

By Elizabeth DeGrise
elizabeth@rustonleader.com

Being the largest elementary school in the Ruston district hasn't stopped Glen View Elementary from staying on top of the game.

In fact, the school was recently named as a Model Practice School Site by the Louisiana Autism Spectrum and Related Disorders project, recognizing the school as one of the top in the state in the key area of collaboration.

"It's an honor," Lisa Mangum, principal at the school, said of being chosen as a model site.

Ann Smithey, director of the LASARD project at Glen View, explained that the project focuses on helping children and families of children with autism spectrum disorders through the key areas of collaboration, environment, communication, social interaction, inclusive practices, curriculum and instruction, behavior and transition.

"I think we were most recommended because of our parent communication and collaboration," Smithey said. "Whether the parents want it or not, we try to keep in contact."

She said that the school keeps parents informed of their children's Individual Education Plan, as is required as part of all special education services. However, she said they also hold meetings and reach out to parents in numerous other ways throughout the school year.

And, that is no easy task considering that Glen View has the largest population of students with autism spectrum disorders in the parish. The school has at least seven students enrolled who have full-blown autism, and several others that fall somewhere on the spectrum.

As a model school, Glen View will be used as an example for other schools across the state. Smithey said a videographer will come to the school and teachers will share their best practices so that other schools across the state can learn from their work.

Smithey said that Glen View was the first school locally to become involved with the statewide LASARD project, which provides training to teachers.

Statedwide, she said, only nine districts are

See SMITHEY, page 12

StormWall named Top 10 finalist

Leader News Service

Ruston based StormWall Industries, a manufacturer of panel systems for both residential and commercial construction has been named a Top 10 Finalist in the first annual Cradle 2 Cradle Product Innovation Challenge.

The San Francisco based Cradle 2 Cradle Products Innovation Institute, in partnership with the Make It Right Foundation launched its first Product Innovation Challenge in November 2012. The goal of the contest is to recognize and reward extremely innovative products for creating affordable, healthy and sustainable housing. The Challenge seeks to inspire manufacturers and builders to recreate and retrofit the way products are designed, manufactured and consumed.

The 2013 Challenge included approximately

100 contenders with the top three sharing \$250,000 in prize money. Winners will be announced at the Institute's Innovation Celebration in New York City on Nov. 15.

Headquartered in Ruston, StormWall has spent the past five years developing a third generation panel system engineered to withstand 250-plus mph hurricane wind speeds with numerous GREEN accreditations, including compliance with the coveted Cradle to Cradle (C2C) certification.

"The challenge has been placing a superior product in the market that is cost-comparable to traditional construction using drywall. We've now done that," said StormWall CEO Scott Graham. "Being a Top 10 Finalist in the Cradle 2 Cradle also validates our efforts to be a Green Product Manufacturer."

See MURRAY, page 12

Tech sees 20 percent increase in first-time freshman enrollment

Average freshman ACT rises

Leader News Service

Louisiana Tech University has seen a significant increase in both the quantity and quality of its 2013 freshman class.

According to the university's fall 2013 enrollment report released Wednesday, the number of first-time freshman enrolled at Louisiana Tech grew by 18.7 percent with a total of 1,552 first-time students registered for the fall quarter. This represents an

increase in headcount of 245 over last year.

In addition to recruiting and enrolling more first-time freshman, Tech is also attracting an academically stronger student as evidenced by an average freshman ACT score of 24.7 for the incoming class — the highest ever at Tech and an increase over last year of six tenths of a point. This is also the highest average freshman ACT score in the University of Louisiana System and far exceeds the state average of 19.5 and the national average of 20.9.

Of the 1,552 first-time students that comprise this

year's Tech freshman class, 88 percent qualify for the Taylor Opportunity Program for Students (TOPS), which is the second consecutive year that Louisiana Tech has reached this mark.



Guice

"The engagement and recruitment of first-time students to Louisiana Tech has been the cornerstone of our strategic focus over the past few years," said Tech President Les Guice. "The growth we have seen in our freshman class and the quality of the students that we have enrolled at Louisiana Tech can be directly attributed to the commitment of every faculty and staff member on our campus. They have embraced this campuswide effort from the beginning and have shown

what can be accomplished when we all work together in the interest of our students and our institution."

Total enrollment for Tech stands at 11,014 students, which is a decrease of 346 or three percent from last year. The drop is largely the result of a decline in part-time, masters-level, lifelong learning students whose enrollment had been supported by external grants.

"We are so proud of the accomplishments of this year's entering class," said Pamela Ford, dean of enrollment management at Tech. "It proves that great students want to go to great universities. Good luck to the class of 2017 — we will be there with you every step of the way!"

See GUICE, page 12

Ruston Daily Leader

Thursday, September 19, 2013 • Page 12



Submitted photo

Hunter painted scenes of what life was like working on a plantation.

Gitter: Pieces provide nostalgia

Continued from page 1

works coveted around the world," he said. "Clementine Hunter is considered one of the most important self-taught American artists of the 20th century. Her works can be seen in the Smithsonian Institution, The American Folk Art Museum and countless other museums and private collections."

To own an original piece of Hunter's work, Gitter said it would cost upwards of \$10,000 or more.

"When Clementine was painting she sold them for between \$50 and \$150," he said. "Her painting were from the heart. She was the first, if not the only, person to have captured what living on a plantation was like on everyday life prior to mechanization. For hundreds of things, this was how things were done."

Gitter said each piece is hand molded and hand painted, which makes no two pieces alike.

"People are purchasing these pieces because of the nostalgia they bring," Gitter said. "People are reacting to that. This is a very genuine form of art that had humble beginning."

Gitter and Birch both said the "Baptism" and "Cotton Bowl" are favorites. But when purchased each piece comes with a biography of Hunter and a photograph of the full collection.

Gitter said this was done so that if someone purchased a single piece they would be able to see what else was available. The Clementine Hunter Collection can be purchased at The Townsend House, located on Bonner Street. For more information on this collection visit www.gittergallery.com.

Smithey: Trainings are important

Continued from page 1

participating so far. Since Glen View signed up three years ago, the Lincoln Parish Early Childhood Center, Ruston High School, Cypress Springs Elementary and I.A. Lewis schools have all started participating in the project.

Smithey said these trainings are important because

special education curriculums at universities don't focus much on autism specifically.

"This is the only project that does (autism-specific) training for teachers," Smithey said. "Special education college degrees focus on mild to moderate learning disabilities."

Smithey said that autism

disorders have seen a marked increase in the recent years, with statistics now revealing that 1 in 55 children has some form of autism.

According to AutismSpeaks.org, autism is a neurological disorder that results in varying degrees of difficulty in social interaction, verbal and nonverbal communication and repetitive behaviors. The disorders can also be associated with intellectual disability, difficulties in motor coordination and attention, as well as physical health issues.

For example, Smithey said some children with autism become very upset when their schedule is changed abruptly and "they have to be well prepped."

Guice: Tech poised for growth

Continued from page 1

Total undergraduate enrollment increased by 241 students, or 2.7 percent, to 9,215 while graduate enrollment declined by 587. Louisiana Tech's College of Engineering and Science saw the fall's largest increase of 122 students (amongst those who have declared a major) followed by the College of

Business, College of Liberal Arts, College of Applied and Natural Sciences and College of Education.

The increase in enrollment was accompanied by an increase in the retention of students to Louisiana Tech, from the 2012 freshman cohort. Seventy-eight-point-six (78.6) percent of new students in fall 2012 returned to Tech,

which is an increase of 1.4 percent over last year. This also represents the highest freshman cohort retention rate in the University of Louisiana System.

"Louisiana Tech is poised for continued growth thanks to the success our faculty and staff have had in attracting the best and the brightest students to our university,"

Sportsman's Expo set for Saturday

Leader News Service

The fourth annual Sportsman's Expo will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday at the Willie Davis Jr. Recreation Center, located at 116 Cox Ferry Road in Farmerville.

Admission for ages 12 and up is \$5 and children 11 and under are free. There will be approximately 50 vendors along with country music performer, Katie Knight, as the guest announcer for a Duckmen Look-Alike Contest. Prizes will be awarded to the best "Look-Alike" in the adult category (ages 18 and above) and in the youth category (ages 17 and below).

Youth events include — instruction in archery, shooting, casting and padding. There will be duck and turkey-calling contests as well as a wildlife coloring

contest with prizes awarded to the winners.

See the victors of the wildlife photo contest sponsored by The Gazette. Cash prizes and gift certificates will be given to those selected.

This year's event is in honor of Lake D'Arbonne's 50th anniversary and memorabilia will be displayed.

Cedar Hill Game Calls is the Trophy Wall Sponsor. Contact Peyton McKinnie at 557-7173 as soon as possible for more information. He is looking for some of the largest fish caught in Lake D'Arbonne or Ouachita River. If residents know of someone with a large bream, white perch (croppy) or bass mounted, contact him if interested in having it displayed.

McKinnie would also be interested in any old photos of large fish, catfish, buffalo alligator or gar caught on the

lake since it was formed, as well as large white tailed deer, an albino mount or anything unusual.

The Blowin' Smoke Corporate BBQ Competition has been cancelled, but food will be available for purchase.

Schedule of Events

- 9 a.m. — Doors Open
- 10 a.m. — D'Arbonne Martial Arts Demonstration
- 11:30 a.m. — Duck Calling Contest (all ages)
- 12:30 p.m. — Turkey Calling Contest (all ages)
- 2:30 p.m. — Duckmen Look-a-like Contest
- 3 p.m. — Youth Archery Competition
- 4 p.m. — Wildlife Artist Contest — winners announcement
- 4:30 p.m. — Gun Raffle Drawing; "People's Choice" winner announcement of Wildlife Photo Contest
- 5 p.m. — EXPO Ends

Murray: Panels can stand abuse

Continued from page 1

StormWall panels are produced with a carbon neutral process that reverses green house gas pollution (CO2) caused by standard building materials. Their composite panel delivers 300 percent better R-Value than 1/2-inch drywall and significantly reduces on-site construction times, bringing savings to both contractor and the homeowner. StormWall panels combine framing and pre-finished interior wall surfaces that replace framing and drywall within the home, delivering an impact and mold resistant surface.

Katelyn Buildings, also of Ruston represents StormWall for modular options, including vacation homes, elderly care units, hunting and fishing camps, or restaurant and retail applications. "StormWall panels can withstand abuse that drywall can't," said Katelyn founder Michael Murray. "Homes that flood can be washed out and the interior surfaces repaired without the need for expensive replacement of interior walls."