

The Ouachita CITIZEN

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National Signing Day



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INSIDE...

Thursday, February 7, 2013

75 CENTS

Alert FM System implemented

The Ouachita Parish Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness announced Monday that the parish had successfully implemented Alert FM as part of its parish-wide notification capabilities.

Alert FM will allow the parish's Homeland Security agency to notify residents of emergency information via Alert FM receivers.

See Page 2A

Council OKs park water line

The Monroe City Council on Tuesday waived its own purchasing procedures so a water line can be extended to a new business in the Charleston Industrial Park.

The industrial park is located south of Richwood.

See Page 7A

Norris: WM doing well

Although West Monroe is making progress economically, pension costs are eating into the city's bottom line, according to Mayor Dave Norris.

Norris delivered his annual state of the city address hosted by the West Monroe-West Ouachita Chamber of Commerce at the West Monroe Convention Center last week.

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NEVILLE CHARTER

Ludley: 'That charter is dead'

By Zach Parker
The Citizen

Monroe City School Board members say it is time to move past the controversy surrounding the effort to convert Neville High School into a charter school.

Board members convened an executive session during their regular meeting Tuesday to discuss Neville's Type-2 charter application that the School Board rejected Dec. 18.

Spearheaded by the Neville Alumni and Friends Association, the Neville charter endeavor was subsequently rejected Jan. 18 by Neville High School faculty and staff.

Neville's faculty and staff voted not to pursue a Type-2 charter designation for the high school, which would place Neville directly under the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education instead of the Monroe City School Board.

School Board Vice President Mickey Traweek offered the motion to convene the executive session during Tuesday's meeting.

School Board attorney Doug Lawrence said the executive session was necessary for him to speak candidly with the School Board about the Neville charter application.

In spite of the Neville charter application earning the endorsement of BESE President Chas Roemer, School Board member Glynn Ludley says the Neville charter application was "dead."

"To me, that charter is dead," Ludley said. "Neville's faculty voted it

Please see
NEVILLE / 13A



BLAIR DAVID shows off the West Monroe High School STEM robot, which is currently under construction. The 12,000 square-foot building that houses the STEM project is virtually complete and is already housing classes and labs. (Citizen photo)

STEM program growing

West Monroe High School's new STEM building, home of the MagnaTech Academy, stands to benefit from tonight's Big Event sponsored by the West Monroe High School Foundation.

The 12,000 square-foot building is virtually complete and already housing classes and labs. The foundation's support helps with the purchase of equipment and supplies needed for the new high-tech curriculum. Tonight's fundraiser features former NFL star Archie Manning, and proceeds from the event will help the foundation in its support of the STEM

program.

STEM stands for Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math. Blair David, Director of MagnaTech, said funding for the building came from the Qualified School Construction Bond program, a federal stimulus fund.

David said West Monroe decided on STEM to address the perceived need to prepare students for careers in that lucrative field.

"A lot of kids, they can think, they can read, but they never get to put their hands on anything," David said. "They don't know how to use a screwdriver, it's to that level.

And when they can, they're totally enthralled with what they do."

Assistant Principal Dan Lane agreed, saying the field is wide open because the need is so great.

"Civil to programming to aerospace, we're not producing our own hometown engineers," he said. "And for a country that leads the world in innovation and technology, that does not bode well. That's our national security as well as our economy."

David said the \$1.68 million

Please see
STEM / 11A

Johnson to summon grand jury

SINYALE MORRISON PROBE

District Attorney Jerry Jones says the state Attorney General's office will take part in presenting testimony to the upcoming grand jury probe of former city of Monroe engineer Sinyale Morrison.

Assistant District Attorney Neal Johnson said he will call the grand jury into session "within the next week or two." He will likely be joined by Mike Ruddick, who recently joined

Attorney General Buddy Caldwell's staff to represent northern Louisiana. Ruddick retired last year from the district attorney's office.

Morrison resigned in November from her six-figure job as the city's on-staff engineer after being investigated for more than two years for public payroll fraud. Monroe Mayor

Jamie Mayo said she resigned "to pursue other interests."

Neither Jones nor Johnson would discuss just what role Ruddick will play.

The payroll fraud investigation began in October 2010 when Division of Administra-

Please see
PROBE / 13A

'I think the opportunities are just limitless'

Hanson hits ground running in first weeks as LDCC chancellor

By Sunny Meriwether
The Citizen

Dr. Barbara M. Hanson said she'll be spending the first few weeks at her new job of Louisiana Delta Community College Chancellor getting to know Delta's campuses, students and faculty.

Hanson came to LDCC from Pasadena, Texas, where she was Vice President for Learning at San Jacinto College-Central Campus. She holds a PhD. in Educational Leadership, with a specialization in Language and Culture, from Northern Arizona University, as well as two Master of Arts degrees. Her 25-year career in community colleges ranges from positions as a full-time faculty member to Chief

Please see
LIMITLESS / 13A



DR. BARBARA Hanson discusses her new position as chancellor of Louisiana Delta Community College.

Citizen Photo

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Cleaning up after the hunting season

With a great season ending, you will want your next hunting season to be just as special. What better way to start your new season than by cleaning all your hunting equipment, a hefty investment, so that it's in top condition when you're ready for it again.

Just a few steps taken now will save you money and long-term heartache. If they're dirty, stored guns can pit and de-value. Batteries leaking will make your equipment inoperable.

Pull out your guns and ammo to exam for damage, dirt and debris. Cleaning your guns with the proper materials can save them from pitting and having them in tiptop shape for storage.

Cleaning materials should include: Bore Snake, available in differ-

ent sizes for your barrels. The bore generally collects more debris than any other part of your gun.

This residue can be removed with several commercially available cleaning agents. Such as Barnes CR-10, used for removing all copper brass and lead fouling. Then use Rem lubricant oil to wipe down gun and barrel for corrosion protection.

Rods allow you to reach inside the barrel to remove dirt and residue. Use cleaning cloths and patches to wipe the gun down and to attach to rods while cleaning with cleaners.

Check all the removable parts of your gun including the stock, screws, magazine, tube caps and similar parts to be sure that they are fastened tightly. Remove your bullets from your clip and clean any grit or built up debris.

I had an incident this year where a buck came out and I had him broad side for a shot and my Browning 270 went "click." I was able to pull my gun back in, kick the shell out in my hand, a reload and get ready for another shot and "click." I watched him walk off the lane while I tried to reload again. I wanted to throw

the gun out of the stand. When I got home and examined my gun, the shells had taps on the end but had not been struck hard enough. The receiver bolt to my 270 was full of grit that wasn't allowing it to close all the way. Traveling in my Teryx in the woods and not having my gun protected from dust and debris cost me this deer. It will not happen again.

Wild Game Cameras, walkie-talkies, automatic feeders need to be wiped down and have the batteries removed. Check with your manufacturer for recommendations regarding oiling and storing.

Gather all your hunting clothes and wash in a phosphate-free detergent. Then add baking soda and turn on washer for an additional rinse. Before drying, make sure there are



Citizen photo by Rene Hatten

RENE HATTEN, Outdoors columnist for *The Ouachita Citizen*, lays out her rifles and hunting accoutrements in cleaning preparation.

no dryer sheets or stick on softener in the dry. Store your clothes in a sealed container or a vacuum storage bag.

Store your doe and buck urine in a Ziploc bag in the back of the refrigerator, but not the freezer.

Don't forget your bow — take it to have it tuned and restrung. Arrows

should be on clearance after season so shop while you are there for the next season's blades.

It may also be the time to restock on your shells as the price may be more expensive come next year for hunting. I like to be prepared, buying while the prices are lower than a new season's high prices.

MARTIN

In Class A, Ouachita Christian beat Plaquemine. In 2A, John Curtis defeated Evangel. In Class 3A, Parkview Baptist took the title over Notre Dame. Class 4A saw Karr beat Neville. And in Class 5A, Archbishop Rummel defeated Barbe for the title. If you are keeping score, that's five championships won by five "select" teams.

Sebren said the ruling is unfortunate for those "select" schools that do not

use their advantages as some other schools.

"It puts a lot of people in the group that don't belong in the group," he said. "There is a difference is having an advantage and utilizing that advantage."

Last year in Class 2A, John Curtis beat Pope John Paul 64-0 in the first round, North Webster 50-6 in the second round, Riverside 62-10 in the quarterfinals, Springfield 55-0 in the semifinals and

"select" team Evangel 35-13 in the finals.

There's no doubt in my mind John Curtis and Evangel are the main reason for the recent vote by principals.

Although in Class 2A alone last year, there were 11 "select" schools in the playoffs. That number is 12 in Class 1A.

I think the only person more shocked than me is former Vidalia High coaching legend Dee Faircloth.

Faircloth has seen his postseason end to the likes of Riverside, Notre Dame, St. Louis and Christian Life.

"They all knocked out some of my better teams," Faircloth said. "We lost a lot of playoff games to the eventual state champions. I used to tell the coaches when we played them, 'Congratulations, you will win the state championship because you are playing Vidalia.' But we won twice as many as we lost to those schools in the regular season. It's going to be interesting to see what those schools do. But it does even out the playing field for the pub-

lic schools who don't have the opportunity to recruit players."

And he had the added disadvantage of losing kids to three schools in Natchez - ACCS, Trinity and Cathedral.

John Curtis and Evangel have claimed a combined 38 state championships during the past four decades.

Steven Fitzhugh, head football coach at Ouachita Christian, won the last two Class A state championships.

"I don't think football in Louisiana will ever be the same," Fitzhugh said.

OCS, which opens its season at home against Block, will not be facing John Curtis in the playoffs because Curtis voted to move up to Class 3A last fall.

Fitzhugh said he expects the separation to eventually cover all sports.

"Why separate one sport from other sports," Fitzhugh said.

Fitzhugh said there are still plenty of questions to be answered, such as if a team finished ranked No. 5 in Class A and No. 5 in Class 2A in "select," who

gets that spot.

"There are now 27 teams in Class A and 15 of those teams had losing records and did not make the playoffs," Fitzhugh said. "It's going to be interesting to see how that works out. But it still all comes down to hard work throughout the year. We're not going to change anything. We're a school where kids come to get an education and have a great Christian environment. We're going to work just as hard on and off the field as we have in the past."

Personally, I like the idea of the John Curtis' and Evangel's being in the LHSAA playoffs. But let them move up to 4A or 5A where they can compete.

Fitzhugh has the same sentiment.

"We're the only state that makes our best teams play down," he said.

I still can't figure out how this is going to work. The "select" teams (I hate that designation) will still compete in district play, but be split up in the post-season.

Huh?

I have to admit I loved when Ferriday drew John Curtis or watching Ouachita Christian play Vidalia (don't think you will see many more select vs. non-select games). The 1981 Class 2A semifinal contest between Ferriday and John Curtis ranks at the top of high school football games I have seen in this parish.

How is the new system going to affect the power rankings? Are you going to have less teams in the "non-select" playoffs?

"I don't get this notion that the association is split," Sebren said. "The association isn't split. It's just the playoffs. The regular season is still the same, and they have the opportunity to play us in the regular season and in district and things like that. But for championship purposes, it's not feasible for us to play against teams that can go out across the lines and be

able to grab athletes."

I took a glance at Dandy Don's top 60 players for next season and only 10 of the 60 attend a "select" school, and six of them attend John Curtis.

Will it be even less than that after the change? Who knows? And who knows what affect this change will have on the entire Louisiana high school football landscape, if any?

John Curtis, Evangel and Ouachita Christian will continue battling for titles, but is that now less an accomplishment under the new system?

And who does this now open the door for in Class 1A and 2A? Block certainly, but Mangham, Oak Grove, Haynesville have to be clicking their heels.

Right now you will no teams or a handful of teams being left at home in the non-select division if 32 teams still advance to the playoffs.

The LHSAA's Executive Committee will continue to look into potential issues moving forward, including how to determine which "select" teams made each division's bracket and whether to split the "select" schools into three divisions rather than two. Executive Director Kenny Henderson also referenced a pressing need to check with the Superdome, which typically hosts the association's state title games, as the association attempts to define a championship schedule.

Rumors of potential legislative involvement or legal action also began to circulate during the three-day convention.

There will be kinks to be worked out just like anything else new.

And there will be a lot of grumbling with how the LHSAA formats everything because if it can be messed up, Louisiana's high school association will find a way to do it.

There will be more teams playing for state football titles in 2013.

CROSSWORD

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12		
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THEME: Valentine's Day

ACROSS

- Good night kiss spot
- Old age, archaic
- De Valera's land
- "My Own Private ____"
- Big Island flower necklace
- Kind of sentence
- Things that are unacceptable
- Some watch the Super Bowl just for these
- Irregular
- "Isolde's tragic lover"
- "The man behind the massacre"
- Unagi on sushi menu
- "Stag"
- Grease holder
- Elders' teachings
- "St. Valentine's occupation"
- 7th letter of Greek alphabet, pl.
- ____ Lofgren, musician
- Banal or commonplace
- Astronaut's insignia
- To impede or bara
- America's favorite
- Extremist
- Old Russian autocrat
- Bone-dry
- A one-horse open ride
- "Iliad," e.g.
- Name fit for a king?
- Getting warm
- Bovine sound
- "Bella's choice"
- "Shall I ____ thee to a summer's day?"
- Style of abstractionism popular in 1960s
- Word of possibility
- Under deck
- Eagle's home
- Part of T.G.I.F.
- Eat away
- End of a leg
- Surf turf
- Motion Picture Association of America, e.g.

DOWN

- Bar order
- Sensory input
- Indian princess
- Selected
- Inexpensive inn, especially for youths
- Distinctive flair
- ____ Zeppelin
- Tony Manero's music
- Introduced in Europe in 1999
- One who is "____ it"
- "Most popular Valentine's Day gift?"
- Compass reading
- Student's piece
- "Dateless"
- Matterhorn, e.g.
- Bartender's soda choice
- "Cupid's mom"
- "____ costs"
- Certain buds do this
- Reduced Instruction Set Computer
- Fleur-de-lis
- Type of duck
- Mall stop
- Teletype machine, for short
- Delhi wrap
- "All My Children," e.g.
- Movie trailer, e.g.
- Related on the father's side
- Of a female
- Like a funeral procession
- Administrative
- "La Bohème," e.g.
- Fencer's weapon
- Some choose this over truth
- Court order
- Benign lump
- A bunch
- Traveled on
- Water carrier
- Dunce
- Absorbed, as in a cost

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