

Northeast Louisiana a kayaker's dream

I had the opportunity to meet Stephanie Herrmann at the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries, Becoming an Outdoor Woman Program, where she is a volunteer, along with Vickie Ogle, teaching Kayaking classes all weekend. She is so passionate about the experiences of the outdoors, you just find yourself mesmerized by her stories.

one) paddling options for exploring the parish waterways.

Herrmann adds, "Our kayaking club posts at least one paddling trip every month along with kayak classes, and other opportunities for enjoying the outdoors we love."

The club over the years has offered kayaking demos, taught at summer camps, Becoming an Outdoor Woman, Wildlife and Fishing Day, and has paddled and camped together on short day paddles as well as long t w o - d a y trips down the Ouachita River!

Each summer the group hosts during the Watermelon Festival weekend, "Watermelon Wake" paddling races for all ages to promote the ease of getting started in kayaking.

The water trails map will soon be published into a brochure by Louisiana Delta Adventures and offered

through local tourism locations to promote Union Parish.

The evolution of the kayak club has moved recently into kayak fishing. As most of the recreational paddlers also enjoy fishing as well, it was a natural new endeavor.

"We just recently hosted the first kayak fishing clinic in northeast Louisiana with Wilderness Systems Pro-staff Adam Harbuck," Herrmann said. "It was our hope that we could build enthusiasm for the sport and host a kayak fishing tournament this summer." At the clinic hosted by the Union Parish Library, the group collected sponsorship and awarded two local wounded warriors with a kayak fishing boat package valued at \$800.

The clinic was a huge success and now over 20 people are members of a new group called the Bayou Pirates Fishing Club (Northeast Louisiana Chapter). I have sent my paper work in too awaiting notification. Tracey Smedley, the President of the Monroe chapter affiliated the group as a branch of an established kayak-fishing group in Shreveport. The group is still recruiting membership



JADEYN WARREN takes a kayak lesson from Stephanie Herrmann at the recent Dia la Familia event at the Lake D'Arbonne State Park. Lessons and demos are offered free of charge by the local kayak club members.

Courtesy photo by Stephanie Antley Herrman



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STORIES FROM
THE OUTDOORS

Herrmann is a librarian in Union Parish and calls Farmerville her home. Union Parish is home to the 15-acre Lake D'Arbonne, rustic creeks, scenic rivers, two national refuges, and lush bayous. For a kayaker who likes to explore, bird watch, or kayak fish...it's a dream destination in northeast Louisiana.

Stephanie Herrmann organized the D'Arbonne Kayak Club six years ago and the club has paddled together nearly every month since. The club just recently completed a water trails map of some of the top ten (plus

(which is free to join) and hopes to have a small kayak-fishing event this summer.

Kayak fishing is just one option for those who kayak Union Parish. Bird enthusiasts also find that kayaking offers a real birds-eye view!

"We just held a paddle event into the marsh of the D'Arbonne Refuge among hundreds of birds that roost there," Herrmann said. "One

of the photos we took turned out to be a Willet, which I'm told has never been spotted this far off the coast before."

This is just one of the treasures that paddling offers. John Muir is quoted as saying, "In every walk with nature, one receives more than he seeks." If that is true of walking with, paddling with nature is yet another opportunity for surprise!

"Just last Saturday night, I was kayak fishing right by my house, when two Ospreys flew over. One of them did a nosedive straight into the water and came up with a fish. He did better than I did that night, but where else could I have been in the right place in time to witness that?" Herrmann said

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THEME: TV SHOWS

<p>ACROSS</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Thoroughly enjoy, as in food 6. European peak 9. Gulf war missile 13. "Howdy Doody's partner" "_____ bell" 14. Singular of #29 Down 15. _____ Apso 16. "Alf was one 17. Back then 18. Painter's support 19. "Phil, Si, Jase, Willie and Jep made one 21. "How I met your what?" 23. "Homer's exclamation 24. Physicist Niels _____ 25. Trigonometric func. 28. Cry like a baby 30. "Both Jan and Peter were this type of child 35. Eye layer 37. Like a bow string 39. Jeopardy 40. Event that fails badly 41. Match play? 43. Of the highest quality 44. One of three hipbones 46. Eye affliction 47. Classic sci-fi video game 48. "Ty Burrell to Julie Bowen, e.g. 50. Biblical twin 52. Pressure unit 53. Brooding 55. "The Closer" network 57. Neolithic tomb 60. "Game of _____" 64. Free-for-all 65. "_____-T" of "Law & Order: SVU" 67. Muse of love poetry 68. Birdlike 69. "____ Elise" 70. From the East 71. New Mexico art community 72. Asian capital 73. "Valley of the _____" 	<p>DOWN</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A large amount 2. Comrade in arms 3. "You're So _____" by Carly Simon 4. Artemis' companion 5. Kidnapping goal 6. Home versus _____ game 7. Time delay 8. Movie trailer, e.g. 9. _____ of Iran 10. Detective's assignment 11. One who takes drugs 12. Indian restaurant staple 15. Talk rapidly and angrily 20. It follows eta 22. Unit of electrical resistance 24. Bravado 25. Having three dimensions 26. Convex molding 27. 18-wheeler 29. "Storage-related conflicts 31. "They walk?" 32. Sag 33. Linoleums, for short 34. Fragrant resin 36. Adjoin 38. Misfit Island dwellers 42. Poet's "below" 45. "Draper, Cooper, Sterling 49. Poor man's caviar 51. Like emails in bold font 54. Make one 56. Body center 57. Deity in Sanskrit 58. Assortment 59. Grassy land tracts 60. Seaside bird 61. Hit this on the head 62. And others, for short 63. "____ of Anarchy" 64. Dojo turf 66. Pool stick
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See Answers on Page 2A



MONROE YOUTH softball pitcher throws a strike in a recent game between the Bob Moss Carpet One and Monroe Welding Supply, Inc. The Monroe Youth Softball League will be wrapping up its 2014 Softball season in the coming weeks.

Photo by Jimmy Touchet

ULM announces softball search committee

The ULM department of athletics has announced its five-member search committee in charge of find the next head coach for the Warhawk softball program.

The committee is comprised of: Janelle Briggs (Athletics Academic Counselor),

Bryant Carter (Associate AD / Business Operations), Camile Currier (L-Club Executive Director) Brendan Hoffer (Associate AD / External Operations / Softball Sport Administrator) and Carmen Buckles Wright (Former ULM Softball

Player / Executive Coordinator for Pegasus Emergency Group [St. Francis Hospital]).

ULM's athletic administration held a conference call with current Warhawk softball players in order to gain feedback on characteristics

they wanted in a new head coach.

To this point, the committee has received approximately 20 application. The university's goal is to hire a replacement coach soon with the tentative start date set for July 1.

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ULM Women's Basketball inks Aundrea Davis

After a stellar sophomore campaign at Eastern Oklahoma State College, Aundrea Davis will continue her collegiate career as she signed a National Letter of Intent with ULM and will join the Warhawk women's basketball program beginning this fall.

This past season, at Eastern Oklahoma State, Davis tallied four or more assists in 10 games and also recorded three or more steals in 10 contests during the 2013-14 season. She finished her sophomore campaign fifth overall in steals in Region II and the squad finished 26-6 and was the runner-up in both the Region II Conference and Region II Tournament.

"We wanted to bring in an experienced point guard that we felt could come in and compete right away for playing time," said head coach Jeff Dow. "We feel like Aundrea can help us on both ends of the floor. She is a very quick and aggressive on-ball de-

fender. Offensively she sees the floor well and can penetrate the lane to find an open teammate."

In a win against Carl Albert State, the future Warhawk dished out a season-best seven assists and also recorded three steals. She twice recorded five steals during her sophomore season, once against Western Oklahoma State, the other coming at Bossier Parish CC.

In a road game at Redlands CC, Davis poured in a career-high 18 points as she finished with five made field goals including a pair of three-pointers and six made free throws.

The San Antonio native prepped at Wagner HS where she and her teammates posted a four-year win-loss mark of 123-27. The Thunderbirds earned a berth in the 2011 Class 5A Tournament where they reached the regional final before their season came to an end.