

Monroe student honored for volunteerism in D.C.

A Monroe student was recently honored as one of the state's top youth volunteers in the nation's capital for outstanding volunteer service during the 23rd annual presentation of The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards.

Olivia Cuthbert, 17, of Monroe, received \$1,000 awards and personal congratulations from Olympic gold medalist and World Cup champion Lindsey Vonn. Some 100 other student volunteers also were honored at award ceremony and gala dinner reception held at the Smithsonian's National Museum of Natural History.

In addition to cash awards,

each student received an engraved silver medallion and an all-expense-paid trip with a parent to Washington, D.C., for four days of recognition events.

"These honorees exemplify something we've known for a long time - that young volunteers have the power to bring meaningful change to their communities," said John Strangfeld, chairman and CEO of Prudential Financial, Inc.

"These students have shown leadership and determination well beyond their years, and it's a privilege to celebrate their service."

Cuthbert, a junior at Cedar Creek School, helped

sick children to express themselves creatively through an art therapy program she started last year in honor of a friend who spent much of her short life in hospitals. Cuthbert said she has always had a passion for art and so did Katie, a family friend who passed away from a brain tumor at the age of 7.

"Katie and I both took lessons from the same art studio," said Cuthbert. "During her time in and out of medical facilities, she was continuously creating different art projects in her bed to help her pass the time."

From her own experience, Cuthbert said she knew how artistic expression could

help relieve stress and how joyful she felt when she was creating art. So after Katie died, Cuthbert said she wanted to bring that feeling to kids who are confined to a hospital room for weeks or even months.

After developing a business plan, Cuthbert formed "A Work of heART" and recruited a board of directors and a small group of volunteers, then began contacting volunteer directors at hospitals in her region to arrange visits.

She also set up social media sites and spoke to civic groups to publicize her mission and find sponsors and donors.

After purchasing art sup-

plies, Cuthbert and her cohorts traveled to hospitals in Louisiana, Arkansas and Texas to conduct group and individual art sessions for the children there. As demand for her service grows, she is training more people to help, and hopes that hospitalized children in every state will one day have access to her program.

"My goal is to keep Katie's legacy alive and to allow as many children and young adults as possible the opportunity to escape the rigor of their treatments," said Cuthbert.

Youth volunteers in grades 5-12 were invited to apply for 2018 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards last fall

through schools, Girl Scout councils, county 4-H organizations, American Red Cross chapters, YMCAs and affiliates of Points of Light's HandsOn Network. More than 29,000 middle level and high school students nationwide participated in this year's program.

The Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program was created in 1995 to identify and recognize young people for outstanding volunteer service - and, in so doing, inspire others to volunteer, too.

In the past 23 years, the program has honored more than 120,000 young volunteers at the local, state and national level.

COLUMN

Something Special: Social gatherings, charity events, youth achievements

The days have been glorious the last week of April and first of May in our Monroe!

What a fun time to have Sunday Barbecue Rib Supper at Loretta Rivers' new great house in la Louisianne. The new moon was as fantastic as the food and setting! I read that one can see the soul of a person by her garden! Whatever Loretta does, it is always the best! From starched crinoline white petticoats, running fast, playing top drawer bridge, to decorating her new home, and too of course, her children!

When we are tempted to walk in fear, we can walk with courage for our God is here! We can forever trust His character and His love for us for He created us and died on the cross for our mistakes! All He wants from us is an ask from Him to see us through this life!

Invitations are in the mail for the engagement celebration for Katie Perret and Christian Sager. We have followed Christian's football career at ULL and are proud for Dawn, Harlan and Granny, Norene Smith!

The Children's Museum's Annual home tour and luncheon for patrons was Saturday with four great houses for us to see and enjoy! A new idea was for the realtors' to rec-



Martha Jane Anderson retired as Assistant Dean of Students at ULM, SGA Advisor, Alpha Lambda Delta Regional Coordinator and National Council of Mortar Board.

ommend their favorite "good buy" on the North Monroe market! Niven Morgan, the Dallas icon of fragrances, was the guest speaker and Cory Bahr was guest chef with Bruce McKoin and Ferrial Willis making it all work well for guests.

Stacey and Leigh Ann Goff hosted my favorite evening of the year at their lovely Georgian Mansion on Park Avenue that

they call home on Friday last to honor our guest speaker.

Louisiana Endowment for the Humanities will honor Rosemary Upshaw Ewing and Randy for their Institutional Support at the Annual Awards Banquet! What an outstanding honor for north Louisiana's ideal family and friends! So proud of Randy and Rose's willingness to give back to their "roots!" Their support of the LEH and

its initiative in the Head Start Program is amazing and we say, many thanks!

Hope you've not had the hang on cough that I've experienced, but if you have, Delsym over the counter, Vic's over the back and front chest areas, Dr. Tichenor's over the counter gargle, and one's best pain remedy all at the same time! I finally slept like a baby!

One of the finest and best food luncheon's was Big Ed Seymour's Birthday on Friday last at BDCC. The guests had Tiffany engraved name cards, a hand printed menu of favorite food including: Spring Mixed Salad topped with Lump Crabmeat and Vinagrette Dressing, Entree' was choice of Filet, Grilled Redfish with lump crabmeat and Hollandaise Sauce, Large Lump Crab cake with Orange Chipotle's Sauce, Steamed Asparagus, Scalloped Potatoes and our favorite Creme Brulee. Simply tops!

The Potpourri Book Club celebrated Spring 2018, at the wonderfully decorated home and gardens of Linda and Terry Reeves on Deborah Drive. Martha Hayden Woods gave a great review of Galveston's disastrous flood. Dianne Cage presented the

Anne Nielsen book, "Angels in Our Midst," in loving memory of Suzanne Brown Wolff to her daughter, Susan Brown Snyder. The book will be placed in the Ouachita Parish Library this week!

We must share that the young and highly touted Neville Girls' Tennis Team won the coveted 2018 State Championship this week! Congratulations to the Goffs, Finchers and Grahams whose daughters were part of the 4A state championship team! This is a great variable that will keep these girls connected forever! We are so happy for the solid team effort!

News from LSU Commencement is that the Faculty Achievement Award in Accounting went to our own Neville graduate, Layne Fincher, Tri Delta daughter of Robin Kilpatrick Fincher and Michael Fincher. We are so happy for the family! "The acorn did not fall far from the tree."

Let's give our best excellence in all that we do and say and put on the whole armor of God...

Martha Jane


Septieme Society holds Game Night at church

Septieme Society met March 27 at Christ Community Church for Game Night. Hostesses Barbara Chelette, Freeda Crowell, Sandy Dufrene, Anne McDuffie, Rita McLemore, Marilyn Soigner and Bobbie Weeks served tasty refreshments to members and guests. Tables, set

up for BIN GO, were festively set with spring flowers and Easter decorations, furnished by Anne Pittard. Several games of Bingo were played with money prizes being awarded. Darlene Tippen was overall winner, winning three games. She was

awarded the top money prize.

Guest was Patricia Powell along with members Linda Hobson, Liz Billings, Shirley Rogers, Gloria Daniels, Amanda Barry, Kathy Pippen, Bonnie Crowe, Donna Payne, Judy McIntosh, Darlene Tippen and Dee Welch.



Deborah Spann
MSN, RN-BC, CEN

TALKS on TOWER


"Resources for Stroke Care in Northeast Louisiana"

Presented by:
Deborah Spann
Coordinator, LERN Regions 6, 7, 8
(Louisiana Emergency Response Network)

Thursday, May 10th
12:00 Noon - Lunch Provided

St. Francis Community Health Center
2600 Tower Drive, Monroe | Community Room, 2nd Floor

Seating is limited, so please register early.
RSVP (318) 966-4792



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