

Gazette Photo by Linda Meaux



Lowry's Printing and Copying donated \$10,000 to University of Louisiana at Lafayette Athletics recently, becoming a Louisiana Classics Platinum member. The Lowry family made a check presentation to university officials at the Athletic Complex. On hand for the presentation are (front row, from left) Claire Lowry, Kathy Lowry, William Lowry, Betty Lowry, UL President Dr. Ray Aument, Bridget Lowry; (second row, from left) Mella Lowry Viera, Raul Viera, Marybeth Lowry, Jeffery Lowry and Louie Lowry.

Pediatric orthopedic surgeon joins W&CH

Gabriel Dersam, M.D., is providing the latest pediatric surgery in Lafayette at Women's & Children's Hospital, where he has joined the medical staff as a pediatric orthopedic surgeon.



Gabriel Dersam, M.D.

Dr. Dersam specializes in diagnosing, treating and managing a wide range of children's musculoskeletal problems.

This includes conditions present at birth and those that arise later because of injury, stroke or a neuromuscular disorder.

The scope of medical services provided include orthopedic complications related to cerebral palsy; spina bifida; spinal conditions; upper- and lower-extremity conditions; developmental dysplasia of the hip, and limb-length discrepancies; acute musculoskeletal conditions; and sports-related injuries specific to children.

"When treating or-

thopedic issues in children it is important to remember they are not small adults," Dr. Dersam said. "Their bones and joints are younger and not fully developed which requires a very different and unique approach to treatment."

This highly specialized care of children is learned from advanced training and experience. Dr. Dersam earned his medical degree from the University of Arizona, College

of Medicine. He completed his residency at the University of Minnesota and a fellowship in pediatric orthopedic surgery at Gillett Children's Hospital in St. Paul, Minn.

Dr. Dersam recognized the great need of this highly specialized field in Acadiana, and moved his family here to begin his practice in partnership with Women's & Children's Hospital.

"We are committed to our promise to offer quality, comprehensive pediatric care for children in Acadiana," said Kathy Bobbs, CEO of Women's & Children's Hospital. "And we are very excited to be the only hospital in South Central Louisiana to offer this service."

If your child is injured or has a condition that requires the attention of a pediatric orthopedist, call Dr. Dersam's office at 337.989.7144.

Gazette Photo by Linda Meaux

Boutique has special Allure

By Linda Meaux
Gazette Reporter

Lafayette's newest strip mall on West Pinhook Road is home to Allure Boutique, Joette Michel's family-owned business.

Jennifer Michel, the boutique's manager, is a 27-year-old who became frustrated in finding age appropriate clothing for her petite frame.

"Too old for junior fashions," is how Jennifer describes her predicament.

The idea to open her own boutique came after a few brainstorming sessions with her mother, Joette, and sister Heather.

Allure Boutique occupies 1,500 sq. ft. but looks much larger once you're inside.

"The trendy collection has pieces that are age appropriate," Jennifer said. "You're able to be wear the same pieces during the day and at night. The styles appeal to women of all ages, with prices ranging from \$15 to \$150."

As the shopper moves about, the eye focuses on contemporary artwork for sale by local artists, then onto the makeup counter, where it lingers on displays of Bare Essentials and MD Formulations'



The Michels (from left), Jennifer, Joette and Heather, await customers at Allure Boutique, noted for its trendy looks and great prices.

facial cleansing line.

This is where the trained staff, including owner Heather Michel, assist with color-matching and full makeup application. The cosmetics are 100 percent mineral based without any preservatives or fillers.

The shop also offers such wares as Soda Blu, Sweet Pea and Level 99 Premium Denim.

Allure also offers clothing from Witness, a Christian-based T-shirt and tank company, accessories, belts and Tiger Lily interchangeable flip-flops known

as switch-flops.

The shop also offers such items of décor as Magnetic Memoories, decorative magnetic picture frames, Woodwick candles, reed diffusers and car scents.

In fact, when it comes to looking good and feeling good, Allure Boutique can be your one-stop shopping experience.

Allure is open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday-Friday and from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Saturday. For more information, call 337.267.SHOP (7467) or visit www.allureboutique.com

Home Bank converts to stock institution

Home Bank, a federally chartered savings bank headquartered in Lafayette, has announced that its Board of Directors adopted a plan to convert Home Bank ("Plan of Conversion") to a stock institution.

In accordance with the Plan of Conversion, Home Bank will become a wholly owned subsidiary of a stock holding company and the common stock of the holding company will be offered to depositors of the bank and others in the manner and subject to the priorities set forth in the Plan of Conversion.

"We are pleased and excited about the prospect of operating as a stock company," said John W. Bordelon, president and chief executive officer of Home Bank, "as it will provide support for our lending activities and facilitate our growth through the development of additional new branches and facilities as well as possible acquisitions in the years ahead."

Michael Maraist, chairman of the Board of Directors of Home Bank, also applauded the move.

"The Board of Directors believes the significant increase in the Bank's capital as a result of the Conversion will permit the Bank to better serve our customers and the communities in which we currently operate but also permit us to expand into new markets as well as offer new products and services," Maraist said.

The Plan of Conversion is subject to approval by the Bank's members as well as the Office of Thrift Supervision.

A proxy statement setting forth detailed information relating to the Plan of Conversion will be sent to members for their consideration prior to a special meeting called to consider the Plan of Conversion.

Depositors will continue to hold accounts in Home Bank as a stock institution identical as to dollar amount, rate of return and general terms (other than voting and liquidation rights).

Borrowers' loans will be unaffected by the conversion and will remain contractually fixed as they existed prior to the conversion.

The normal business of Home Bank of accepting deposits and making loans will continue without interruption in its existing offices.

Home Bank anticipates filing the requisite regulatory applications in the near future.

The offering of shares pursuant to the Plan of Conversion will be made only by means of a prospectus in accordance with the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and all applicable state securities laws.

Home Bank, which is celebrating its 100th year in business, serves the communities of Lafayette, Broussard, Carencro, Crowley and Scott, and is building its 10th full-service location in Baton Rouge, to open in fall 2008.



Megabyte Technology's assistant manager, Don Pete, and technician Alex Duchaine are at home in their new office in Broussard Commons. Not pictured is owner Michael Bounpheng.

Take a Megabyte out of your Technology troubles

By Linda Meaux
Gazette Reporter

Technology is advancing so rapidly that keeping up with changes in the way the world does business can be daunting. With so many offerings — computer services, managed IT services and support, technology consulting Point-of-Sales and website designing and hosting — Megabyte Technology can help you take a byte out of those problems.

Owner Michael Bounpheng, assistant manager and technician Don Pete and technician Alex Duchaine stand ready to tackle any challenge your IT network (even if that's just one computer) can throw at you.

All three technicians are local guys from St. Martinville whose motto is, "We strive to meet our clients' needs and exceed their expectations," according to Pete.

They will install a single PC, design an entire business network — or anything in between.

Computers are part of daily life in every aspect, so when they are not functioning as they should Megabyte is there to troubleshoot, do repairs, offer tech support, install peripherals, hardware and software, perform virus removal, or help with spyware, security and networking.

Megabyte can network computers so that your staff can share files, printers and other resources. This kind

of set-up can mean big savings for small businesses that are trying to accommodate the needs of their staffs and customers.

"Reaching your customer with that new product or service is easier with a custom-designed website, e-mail hosting and webhosting," said Bounpheng. The company guarantees 99.9 percent uptime for these services, meaning your customers can access these area anytime.

Megabyte also has special applications for the food industry or retail business owners.

It can install a point-of-sale system that integrates with such software as Intuit QuickBooks, Peachtree by Sage and Microsoft Office Accounting. Support and training on the system of the client's choosing is provided.

Megabyte Technology is at 811 Albertson Parkway, Suite L, and will participate in this coming weekend's grand opening of Broussard Commons. During the grand opening, the company will offer 25 percent off virus and spyware removal and a year of free hosting along with the purchase of a website design.

The store is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday and by appointment on weekend. For more information, go to www.megabytetech.com, email emais@megabytetech.com or call Don Pete at 337.330.2555.

Updated Resource Directory offered

The Lafayette Commission on the Needs of Women is offering its free updated Resource Directory for Women and Children to women in Lafayette parish.

The Directory lists nonprofit organizations, agencies and services; low income,

special needs and elderly housing information; child care centers, including mother's day out programs and church owned centers and pre-schools; and hospitals.

For more information, call Sandra Moore at 337.291.8447.

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Area Valpak has new owner

Valpak of Acadiana has a new franchise owner. Shannon Stone acquired the Acadiana franchise and has opened an office in Lafayette at 318 Guilbeau Road, Suite A. She was previously employed as a corporate trainer with AT&T.

Acadiana continues to experience tremendous growth in new businesses and new families moving to the area. Valpak reaches those households with targeted offers through direct mail.

Headquartered in Largo, Fla., Valpak is owned and operated by Cox Target Media, one of the leading direct marketing companies in North America. For more in-



Shannon Stone

formation, call Stone at 337.456.2737.

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