

Norco NEWSLINE



Dr. Rodney Lafon Honored in Dedication Ceremony



Destrehan and Hahnville High School Choirs perform "He Never Failed Me Yet" at the Lafon Arts Center dedication ceremony.

As a musician, **Rodney Lafon** dreamed of performing. He achieved that dream as a trumpeter touring with internationally recognized groups, backing up celebrities and playing closer to home for more than three decades with Luther Kent and Trick Bag as well as The Wiseguys.



As an educator, he dreamed of sharing his passion for performing arts with others by showcasing a diversity of arts in an architecturally-rich, accessible facility. That dream lives on.

On April 7, St. Charles Parish Public Schools dedicated the recently opened state-of-the-art performing arts center in honor of the late former Superintendent of the St. Charles Parish Public School System. The Dr. Rodney R. Lafon Performing Arts Center in Luling is not only enhancing the arts experience for St. Charles Parish school children, but also serving as a hub of artistic activity for the River Parishes community and beyond.



The lobby of the Lafon Arts Center displays special memories of Dr. Lafon. From left: an enlarged composition of a song written for Dr. Lafon by his friend **Charlie Brent**; Dr. Lafon's trumpet on display in glass case; portrait of Dr. Lafon etched in glass.

► The Lafon Arts Center features the 1,304-seat Shell Theatre, a 200-seat black box theatre, a large dance studio, and educational wing inclusive of multiple visual art and ensemble rehearsal studios, a television production suite, piano lab, and digital and interactive media labs.

Environmental Awareness TODAY FOR A BETTER TOMORROW



The Henderson kids learn about the environment by helping out at the family tree farm.

PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND WORK SAFELY.

If you work for Shell Norco or know someone who does, you understand the responsibility of working safely and protecting the environment. It's a commitment that Control Systems Engineer JEFF HENDERSON takes seriously at work, at home and in his volunteer activities.



Jeff Henderson works on his Mississippi tree farm making sure that a new tree is planted for each one that is cut down.

A St. Charles Parish resident, the Norco employee makes sure environmental awareness is one of the life lessons he communicates to his children. "I teach my kids about the importance of protecting the environment because it directly affects not only our quality of life but everyone else in the world, animals and our habitat," he says. "If our natural resources such as the water, soil and air become contaminated or destroyed then the food sources and drinking water we rely on will become less and less available."

An avid hunter and fisherman, Henderson also highlights animal conservation and the motto of leaving the woods and water better than when you found them. "Polluting and disposing of hazardous waste is not an option and giving back to the habit is a practice we emphasize," he says. "Our family owns a tree farm and when it comes time to harvest the pines, replacing those trees by replanting is also a must. If all we do is take, take, take, there will be nothing left for the future generation."

The Henderson family leads with an active approach to learning more about energy conservation and putting it into everyday

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Shell Norco, Staff Engineer

living. The oldest Henderson children – ten-year-old twins – are regular participants at the Swamp School Camp sponsored by Harry Hurst Middle School Wetland Watchers program each summer in the St. Charles Spillway. "I'm encouraged by the skills I see my children learning about the environment and Louisiana habitat," Henderson says. "Many young people

today demonstrate a strong commitment to environmental issues, such as global warming and energy conservation. As a volunteer for St. Martin's Episcopal School in Metairie, we had the opportunity to meet senior **Alana Tessman** who has been recognized for her work related to environmental recovery efforts. Her efforts, concern and interest in making our world a better place is a great example for all of us as families and individuals, especially those of us within Shell who work every day to protect the environment."



Alana Tessman Imagines Something Better

Living in New Orleans during the BP Gulf Oil spill disasters, ALANA TESSMAN saw first-hand the devastating effect the oil had on the Gulf of Mexico, the marine life and the surrounding community. For the past two years she has been doing something about it. Last year Alana started testing a very specific type of biological agent used to clean up oil spills on bird feathers. An enzyme additive type of bioremediation, she found it cleaned the oiled feathers and the waste water produced by the cleaning process.

She compared the agent to Dawn Dish Soap – the leading product used in the cleaning of oiled birds for the past 20 years. Alana found that the bioremediation agent not only cleaned the feathers more effectively, but it also had the ability to immediately reduce the toxic properties of the oil, making it safer for the responders and the birds. It also caused the oil to lose its adhesive properties so that it lifts off the feathers within less than an hour of application. This was a groundbreaking discovering in light of the fact that most oiled birds brought in for cleaning have to wait 12 to 24 hours in order to make sure they are established and hydrated before the decontamination process. Alana knew that a bird's natural instinct is to preen and attempt to clean its feathers. During the waiting period, they're likely to be ingesting the oil and/or inhaling the hydrocarbon fumes.

The experiment proved that oiled birds could be quickly freed of the petroleum sludge more effectively and with far less stress without creating toxic wastewater.

After presenting her experiment and winning at several science fair levels, Alana is continuing to conduct toxicity and adhesion tests on bioremediation agents. To find out more about Alana Tessman's work, environmental conservation and the local Wetland Watchers efforts to protect Louisiana's habitat, visit www.protectmarinelifenow.org or www.wetlandwatchers.org.

Creative Energy

EMBRACING THE *Rhythm* OF LA



▶ EMBRACING VIDEO HIGHLIGHTS THE RIVER ROAD AFRICAN AMERICAN MUSEUM

AND THE MANY WAYS SHELL
EMBRACES THIS LOUISIANA TREASURE



Video #4 of Creative Energy - Embracing the Rhythm of Louisiana, shares the story of the River Road African American Museum in Donaldsonville, Louisiana. The museum celebrates the journey of African-Americans in Louisiana. Shell has partnered with the museum since its beginning in 1994. A recent donation of \$25,000 was made to celebrate the museum's 25th anniversary. River Road African American Museum interim director **Darryl T. Hambrick** shares, "When you walk into a museum and you have some kind of experience – that's the most important part about what we do. It's creating a place where those experiences come to life."

View the video at
www.shell.us/louisiana




SHELL IS GENERATING STEAM

The "A" in STEAM is for the ARTS!

Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) are important. But the Arts take it to the next level. Shell is dedicated to **EMBRACING** the Rhythm of Louisiana through support of the culture of music as well as visual and performing arts throughout the state.

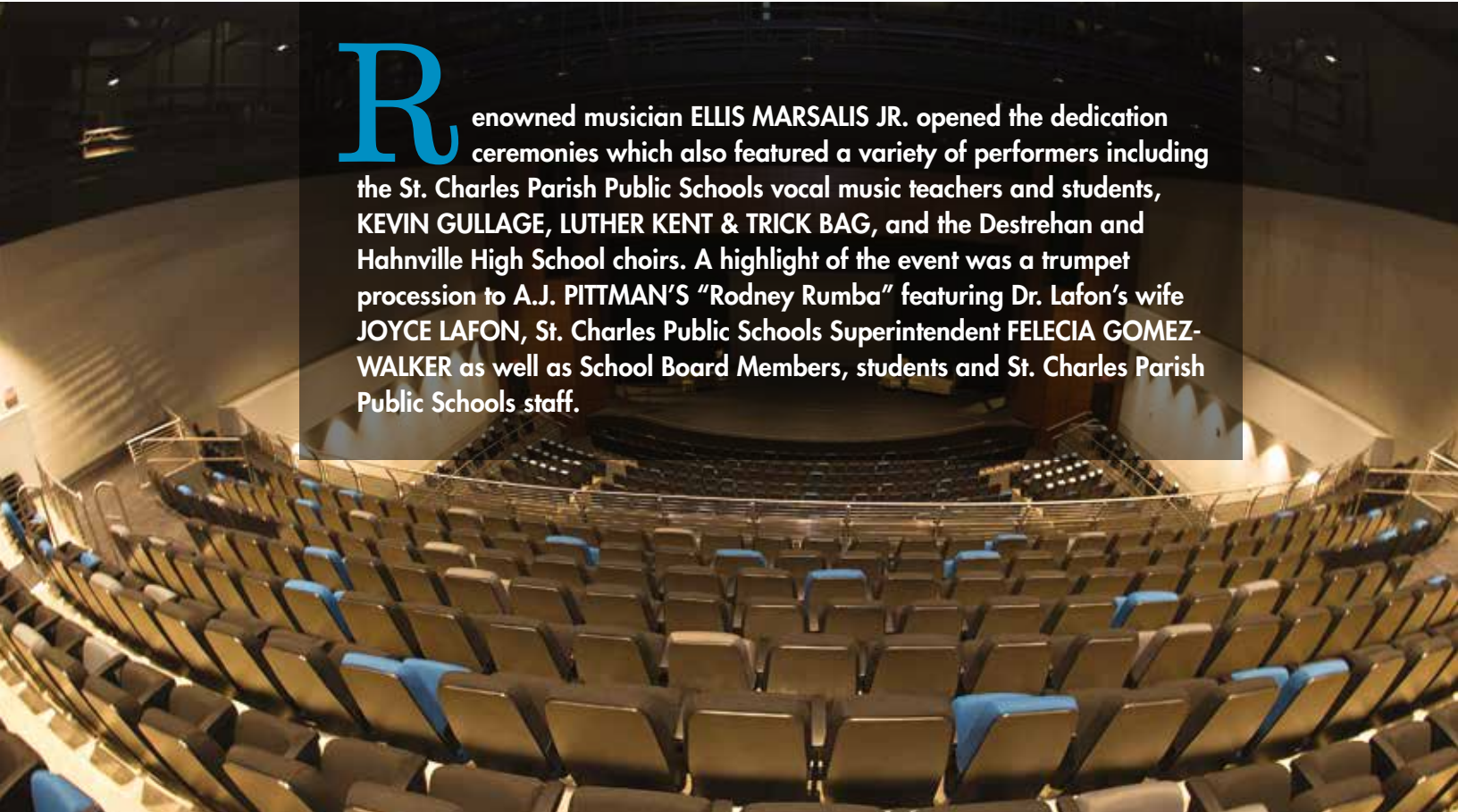
- ▶ Presenting events such as the New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival
- ▶ Creating an endowment that supports The Lafon Performing Arts Center in St. Charles Parish through The Shell Theatre
- ▶ On-going Partnership with the River Road African American Museum in Ascension Parish

We're looking
forward to seeing
just how much
STEAM
we can add to
STEM in 



ADS & BILLBOARDS REPRESENT OUR EMBRACE OF THE ARTS





Renowned musician ELLIS MARSALIS JR. opened the dedication ceremonies which also featured a variety of performers including the St. Charles Parish Public Schools vocal music teachers and students, KEVIN GULLAGE, LUTHER KENT & TRICK BAG, and the Destrehan and Hahnville High School choirs. A highlight of the event was a trumpet procession to A.J. PITTMAN'S "Rodney Rumba" featuring Dr. Lafon's wife JOYCE LAFON, St. Charles Public Schools Superintendent FELECIA GOMEZ-WALKER as well as School Board Members, students and St. Charles Parish Public Schools staff.

“If Dr. Lafon were here tonight, I know he would have appreciated the performances of the musicians we have witnessed tonight,” said Gomez-Walker in addressing the audience attending the dedication ceremony. “Rodney learned from and had a deep respect for master musicians such as the legend, Ellis Marsalis. He also supported and appreciated the talents of young, rising stars like Kevin Gullage.”

Gomez-Walker shared insight to Dr. Lafon's history as a musician, educator and man. Born in New Orleans in 1950, to Roy Henry Lafon and Yvonne Dauenhauer Lafon, he worked in his father's grocery store on White Street as a youngster and played accordion with the band, Dunc's Honkey Tonks. He also played on the streets of the French Quarter where mothers of the band members would pass the hat for tips.

When he entered junior high school, his band director put a trumpet in his hands and he instantly fell in love with the instrument that is now synonymous with Dr. Lafon. After graduating from Warren Easton High School in 1968, Dr. Lafon went on to earn his Bachelor of Music Education degree from Loyola University.

He began his career in 1972 as a music teacher at St. Bernard High School, which lasted only a few months before he picked up his trumpet and joined Wayne Cochran and the C.C. Riders, an international touring band that played with the likes of James Brown, Bobby Rydel, Fabian, and the Drifters. Over the next three years, he traveled the world and assumed the role of road manager for the group. It was during this time when he met and married his wife of 39 years, Joyce Connor Lafon in 1975 and decided it was time to come back home to New Orleans.

Dr. Lafon took a position in the St. Charles Parish Public School System as a music teacher and in a 20-year span rose through the ranks to Superintendent. While working his way to the top position in the district, Dr. Lafon earned his Master's Degree in Education and Administration from Loyola University in 1978 and in 1992 he received his Doctorate in Education from Nova University.

“With tremendous community support and a commitment to continuous improvement, we stand here in the Lafon Performing Arts Center. It is the result of the hard work and vision of many as he would have described the effort – You and I, We are St. Charles Parish Public Schools.”

FELECIA GOMEZ-WALKER | Superintendent, St. Charles Parish Public Schools

While concentrating on his mission to make St. Charles Parish Public Schools the best in the state and nation, Dr. Lafon continued his passion for playing his horn as back-up for entertainers such as Wayne Newton and Jackie Wilson. As a member of the horn section with Luther Kent and Trick Bag, he played the New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival for more than 30 years.

In 2013, after 38 years of service, Dr. Lafon retired from the St. Charles Parish Public School System. He passed away on May 12, 2014, at the age of 63. It was his dream to build a performing arts center for the students of St. Charles Parish Public Schools. Soon after his untimely death, the Board had an opportunity to make Dr. Lafon's dream a reality. With tremendous community support and a commitment to continuous improvement, we stand here in the Lafon Performing Arts Center. It is the result of the hard work and vision of many as he would have described the effort – “You and I, We are St. Charles Parish Public Schools.”

“Shell is honored to support the ongoing mission of the Lafon Center and St. Charles Parish Public Schools. The center represents the community’s commitment to education and the arts. To have a world class facility right here in St. Charles Parish, honoring the vision of Dr. Rodney Lafon, is an inspiration to us all.”

BRETT WOLTJEN | Shell Norco General Manager



Shell Norco, Geismar and Convent representatives are pictured in front of The Shell Theatre during the Lafon Arts Center dedication ceremonies.



“He used to practice every day and told me many times how the trumpet made him “humble.” Music made him the perfectionist he was.”

JOYCE LAFON

WE INVITE YOU TO EXPERIENCE THE
2019-2020
 SEASON of
 MUSIC • DANCE • THEATRE

 **THE SHELL THEATRE**

SAVE THE DATE! Tickets for the 2019-2020 Season go on sale May 1, 2019. For more details, please visit lafonartscenter.org or call 985-331-3670 during box office hours.

“I know Rodney is smiling knowing what we have done for the children of St. Charles Parish Public Schools. It was never about him but what we can do to give all our children better opportunities,” said Joyce Lafon as she thanked board members, superintendent, employees, students and community members who worked to make the Dr. Rodney R. Lafon Performing Arts Center become a reality. “And thank you to Shell for their generosity in establishing the endowment that will not only benefit the students, but the entire community for years to come,” she added.

Mrs. Lafon noted Dr. Lafon’s experiences throughout the years “not only taught him to play music, but also taught him to work hard, the importance of responsibility, team building and how to work for and with everyone. He used to practice every day and told me many times how the trumpet made him “humble.” Music made him the perfectionist he was.”

“As a school system and community, we are all committed to the children of this parish. This state-of-the-art facility will provide exposure to enrichment opportunities not only in music but in all areas of the arts that will benefit our children and our community.”

For additional information about the Dr. Rodney R. Lafon Performing Arts center and a listing of upcoming performances visit lafonartscenter.org.

Shell Norco was a sponsor of the event along with St. Charles Parish Hospital and the St. Charles Public Schools Foundation.



READING is Fun!



Stacey Zeringue engages Norco Elementary School children as she reads aloud during a regular visit to the school.

Read Any Good Books Lately?

Looking for a book to read aloud to a youngster that you will enjoy, too. Try a selection from the Read for Success Book Collection recommended by the Reading is Fundamental organization (www.rif.org).

A Nest is Noisy

(K-3rd) by Dianna Hutts Aston

A Tower of Giraffes: Animals in Groups

(PreK-2nd) by Anna Wright

Best Foot Forward

(K-3rd) by Ingo Arndt

Blizzard

(PreK-K) by John Rocco

Buffalo Bird Girl: A Hidatsa Story

(1st-5th) by S.D. Nelson

Butterfly Counting

(PreK-2nd) by Jerry Pallotta

Electrical Wizard:

How Nikola Tesla Lit Up the World

(2nd-5th) by Elizabeth Rusch

Emmanuel's Dream:

The True Story of Emmanuel Ofose Yeboah

(PreK - 3rd) by Laurie Ann Thompson

Farmer Will Allen and the Growing Table

(K-2nd) by Jacqueline Briggs Martin



Remember sitting on your parent's lap listening to "Goldilocks and the Three Bears" or "Goodnight, Moon?" For many people, that reading-out-loud time is both a cherished memory and the foundation for cognitive development. Research and on-going studies demonstrate that reading aloud to children is a great way to help them reach their full potential for thought construction including remembering, problem solving, and decision-making. Additionally, it facilitates language skills, imagination and creativity, increasing their concentration and cultivating a lifelong love of reading. Shell Norco Partners in Education volunteers are supporting Norco Elementary School students in this way. For more than 10 years, Shell employees go back to school once a month to read a book to students in grades pre-kindergarten through second grade.

Partner in Education volunteer Louise Aucoin is one of several Norco employees bringing books to life at Norco Elementary.



Norco employee Angele Chauvin has as much fun as the students when she visits classrooms as a volunteer reader.

Stacey Zeringue, Senior Buyer for CP Ops and Reading Program Volunteer Coordinator, has been volunteering for seven years. "As an employee, I provide an outside resource and give the teachers a break by reading a fun story but I also love volunteering because my kids are students here and they love having their mom here reading," she smiles.

Norco Elementary second grade teacher **Gabrielle Becnel** believes that the reading sessions provide another teachable moment. "The volunteer Shell readers challenge thinking when they come in to read to the children," she says. "Having new people coming into our classroom is always exciting to them. It shows that different people are going to teach you throughout your life and that you need to follow the same expectations, even if the teacher isn't me. All the kids are super engaged and I think the program does exactly what it's supposed to do: it gets them excited about reading."

"This is a great opportunity," Environmental Engineer **Aaron Pourciau** says. "It reinforces what the school is teaching, potentially affecting the kids' future lives and careers. Not to dismiss digital things, because they can be a learning tool too, but nothing beats picking up a book. Whether you're reading alone, or with a friend, seeing the words helps you learn and remember. When we see the kids in the community, they get so excited! 'Hey! That's our Shell reader!' I've had that happen."

Other Partner in Education volunteers agree. "The kids always get so excited," Process Chemist **Kate Parenteau** says. "They see that people care about their education and that reading can be fun and exciting. I usually read to the kindergartners and when I see them in the hallways the next year they cry out 'You were my reader last year!'"

"The kids are all so lovable and entertained when you walk in," Senior Administrative Assistant **Angele Chauvin** states. "They all have a story for

you and they all want to tell you what's going on in their lives. It's awesome!"

"You have to enjoy a group that gives you a standing ovation," laughs Process Chemist **Charmaine Becnel**. "It's just as much fun for me as it is for them."

Chemist **Court Sheppard** loves that Shell gives its employees a chance to give back to the community. "You can't miss the refinery. It's right here in the kid's backyard so every day going to school or going home, or just playing on the weekends, they see it. Now, when we come to their school, they can connect a face to something they see every day."

"I always love an opportunity to give back to the community," adds Process Engineer **Tony Perez**. "Our company wants to show that we care about the community, the school and the students in it. We are all one. We are all community."



Aaron Pourciau welcomes the opportunity to share a love of books and reading with Norco Elementary students.

"When we see the kids in the community, they get so excited! 'Hey! That's our Shell reader!' I've had that happen."

AARON POURCIAU | Shell Norco Environmental Engineer



is Community Win!



It takes your breath away.
Looking at the Mississippi River
from the top of the Hale Boggs Bridge
is an awesome experience.



Brian Patrick and his sons are all smiles at the end of the race.

"You just want to stop, catch your breath, and take in the mile-high view," said one runner during the 23rd Annual United Way of St. Charles Bridge 5K Run/Walk this April.

Thousands of runners and walkers took in the panoramic view as they went up, over and down the bridge connecting Destrehan and Luling. And whether they ran, walked or dragged themselves across the finish line, the race participants were winners for the community. All proceeds from the event support the United Way of St. Charles effort to solve community issues in the areas of education, income and health.

Shell Norco served as the presenting sponsor of the event which also included a post-race celebration at the West Bank Bridge Park.

"Shell has a special commitment to the community as well as to health and fitness."

BRETT WOLTJEN
Shell Norco General Manager

General Manager **Brett Woltjen** joined site and community volunteers congratulating racers and medals as they crossed the finish line. "What a fun event with an extra special purpose," Woltjen said. "Shell has a special commitment to the community as well as to health and fitness. It's a pleasure to present race medals which award individual fitness and community support."



It's hugs and medals when you finish the Bridge Run.



Norco General Manager **Brett Woltjen** congratulates racers crossing the finish line.

Someone You Know Lives and Works in Norco

At right, Norco residents **MARSHALL, CLARE AND MICHELE CARMOUCHE** find a not-too-crowded spot in Disney World for a family photo. A Destrehan native, who now lives in Norco, Michele has worked at the Shell Norco site for 16 years including five years as a contractor. An Administrative Assistant, you will also see her as an active volunteer in a variety of the site's community outreach activities.



"Norco is a small close community and it takes me less than five minutes to get to work," she explains the best part about living in Norco.

A graduate of Destrehan High School and Southeastern Louisiana University, Michele is one of the site's legacy employees – her dad Larry LaBorde retired from Norco 15 years ago.

When she is not working, you will find Michele spending time with family and friends. You may run into her at a Taste of Tokyo or the River Road Market - her number one place to shop in St. Charles Parish.

FUN FACT: HER FAVORITE MOVIE IS GREASE.



Norco NEWSLINE

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Norco Newsline is published regularly to inform the community about activities at the Shell Norco Manufacturing Complex. Please address inquiries to:

Rochelle Touchard, External Relations Manager
Shell Norco Manufacturing Complex
15536 River Road | P.O. Box 10 | Norco, LA 70079
504-465-6667

Numbers and Addresses to Know:

St. Charles Emergency Operations Center..... 985-783-5050
Shell Norco Site Team Lead 504-465-7342
Shell Norco Community Information Line..... 504-465-7483

POSTAL PATRON

Who Dat Crackin'?

The biggest turnaround in Shell Norco's 90-year history is now underway. The two-month "Who Dat Crackin'?" activity is projected to continue through the first week of May.

According to General Manager **BRETT WOLTJEN**, the \$200 million turnaround includes an asset reinvestment in the longevity of the Cat Cracker, upgrades to production capacity and improvements in the safety design of the Norco cracking assets. "We are also adding oxygen enrichment equipment which will improve Norco's flexibility to run a wider variety of crude oils," he says.

- The community will notice minimal flaring during start-up of the units once the maintenance work of the turnaround is complete.
- Questions about Who Dat Crackin'?' or other activities at Norco, can be addressed by contacting the Site Team Lead at 504-465-7342.

