



WildHorse Arena Ribbon Cutting and Dedication

December 18, 2013 Dubach, LA – A ribbon-cutting and dedication ceremony for the newly constructed WildHorse Arena, was recently held at the Louisiana United Methodist Children and Family Services’ Outdoor Wilderness Learning Center (OWL), located in Dubach.

WildHorse Resources, LLC, the exploration company conducting most of the petroleum activity in the area around the Outdoor Wilderness Learning Center, provided the leadership and the majority of the funding to construct a 100’x80’ covered, lighted horse arena at the OWL for its Equine Therapy program. Now that the covered arena is complete, more sessions of Equine-assisted psychotherapy will be available throughout the year. A lighted cover will eliminate the cancellation of sessions after rainfall because of unsafe footing conditions and also make the arena functional during the hot days of summer and the early dark evenings of winter.

Murphy Bros Construction and Pro Build of Homer, along with several other sponsors, have joined WildHorse in helping to make the new arena possible. Murphy Bros donated their services to grade and level the arena and Pro Build discounted the cost of constructing the cover. New signage for the arena was donated by All Star Signs and Specialties.

The ceremony opened with a ribbon-cutting by Judy Copeland, President of the Ruston-Lincoln Chamber of Commerce and was followed by a riding demonstration by some of the youth of Louisiana Methodist Children’s Home in Ruston, which the OWL Center serves.

Upon completion of the riding demonstration, Rick Wheat, the Home’s Chief Executive Officer, opened the dedicatory portion of the ceremony with a gracious welcome. Director of Pastoral Care, Rev. Edith Finch led attendees in prayer. Following the opening prayer, Rev. Ellen Alston, Monroe District Superintendent made a formal declaration of the building. Chairman of the Board of Directors Richard Lewis presented the building to Dr. Donald C. Cottrill, Provost/Director of Connectional Ministries for the Louisiana Conference of the United Methodist Church. Dr. Cottrill responded with a Dedicatory Litany, and a benediction was given by Rev. Alston.

Following the ceremony was a special time of thanks and recognition of participants and sponsors by Cindy Croft, Director of the OWL Center, Samantha Lutrell, Equine Supervisor, and Jay Graham, President of WildHorse Resources. The staff of the OWL Center and of Louisiana Methodist Children’s Home look forward to expanding our equine therapy program, and to providing therapeutic riding to members of the community with physical, developmental, and emotional challenges.

Lunch, catered by Moon’s, was served at the OWL Center’s Henning Conference Center.

For more information about our Equine Therapy program, call Samantha Lutrell at 318-777-3460 or visit <http://www.OWLCENTER.com>

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