

On Wheels
Test Drive
exus IS 250 C



RECYCLE

SAT.
CITY
YARD
9-12

PONCHATOULA BEA
HAMMOND
See Story Page A - 4

The Ponchatoula Times

BER 12, 2009

THE NEWSPAPER OF AMERICA'S ANTIQUE CITY

29th YEAR NUMBER 7

FIFTY C



Ponchatoula's Cortni April singing a Rocket ride to success

By BRYAN T. McMAHON
She has a stage name, a recording date, numerous upcoming concert performances, and a desk at Ponchatoula Junior High School.

"Cortni April," daughter of Randy and Colleen Butters, has both eyes on her musical future, all while maintaining her standing on the honor roll at PJHS. And she has wisely surrounded herself with those who can make her dream of being a famous recording artist a reality.

Asked how long she has been singing, she replies, "I've been singing since I could talk."

Peers will remember her taking part in the Martha Vinyard Chorus in fifth and sixth grades.

She not only has been singing, she has been trained by some of the finest music teachers in the area, Dr. Ted (Hudspeth M.D.)'s Music Center, SLU Professor David Bernard, and Ben Hastings of Albany's Artist Development Center, husband of her producer Brityn Lotz of the Sun Coast Music Group.

She is a member of the West Bank-based Louisiana Kids, the New Orleans division of the popular performance group, and has finished at the top of the Mandeville Idol and Crescent City Talent Showcase benefiting the Ronald McDonald House.

"She's focused and can handle both her music and her studies," says her teacher and producer Brityn Lotz. The singer lays out her immediate future with the precision of The Beatles' Brian Epstein: "The first step is recording the CD



PJHS singer-scholar releasing first CD

on an independent label, which should go on sale near the first of the year, followed by promotions and concerts."

The album will showcase her singing "covers" of other artists' works, with her own songwriting to be featured on future CDs.

The up and coming singer says her own current favorites are Taylor Swift, Britney Spears, and Carrie Underwood, and one assumes she would like to join their place in the pop firmament.

And with a Dad like Randy Butters, a Ponchatoula-based Waffle House executive who has the clout to get his daughter's first recording a place on Waffle House jukeboxes throughout the wide region, the group of fans of all ages eager to see Cortni April succeed has a devoted member. Randy Butters' cell phone ring tone is his daughter singing.

Cortni April also counts grandparents Ronald and Debbie Faciane among her biggest fans.

Buoyed by this level of support, the singer easily admits to her interviewer, "I do dream of being a famous singer." And that kind of dreaming is catching.

Her sister, stage name "Chelbi Dale," 12, is an aspiring actress.