

ssion decision delays trial

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ter's psychological condition stabilizes, no decision will be made regarding whether she will be tried as an adult or a juvenile

Carter is accused of stabbing to death Debbie Morantes, a 20-year-old East St. John High School senior, in the school's cafeteria during lunch on May 9.

Witnesses have said the two girls had been arguing over a boy both had dated. Once the argument settled, witnesses said, Carter allegedly got up from her seat at the cafeteria table across from Morantes, walked around the table

and stabbed her once in the back with a 6½ -inch kitchen knife.

Morantes was rushed to River Parishes Hospital where she died on the operating table after undergoing more than one hour of emergency surgery for her wounds. According to hospital officials,

Morantes' heart was punctured by the single stab wound, and her lungs subsequently collapsed.

Carter was arrested by St. John the Baptist Parish police shortly after the stabbing incident and charged with second-degree murder.

Formosa rezoning decision upheld

By JOE BYRNES

EDGARD — A state district judge Thursday upheld a decision by the St. John the Baptist Parish Council to rezone land on the west bank where Formosa Plastics Corp. plans to build rayon and pulp processing facilities.

Ad hoc judge Remy Chaisson of Thibodaux ruled that the environmental organization Save Our Wetlands (SOW) had failed to prove that the rezoning was "arbitrary and capricious."

"This ordinance is accorded a presumption of validity and the extraordinary burden of proving the action was arbitrary and capricious has not been met by (the) plaintiff," wrote Judge Chaisson.

During the trial in May at the Edgard courthouse, SOW attorney Paul Aucoin argued that the council's decision was improperly made because councilmen lacked information and did not have expert studies on traffic and the economic and environmental effects of the rayon, pulp-

processing and — possibly — other plants at the site.

In summarizing the case, Judge Chaisson said the parish had made its own feasibility study and that officials had discussed traffic and other issues with state officials and residents. "There is no legal requirement that the Council must hire experts before it can make a zoning change," he said in the ruling.

Charles Lorio — who, with fellow assistant district attorney George Ann Graugnard, acted as attorney for the parish — said he had been confident of a favorable ruling.

"It was obvious for all parties concerned," said Lorio, "that it was a legitimate exercise of the council's authority — and even the plaintiffs should have known this."

Aucoin said Friday that SOW members had not yet told him whether they would appeal the ruling. Luke Fontana — executive attorney for SOW — could not be reached by telephone Friday.

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A BITE OUT OF

Out" crime/drug prevention event will .m. to 9:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 6. The e Watch program, a national voluntary, in St. Charles Parish from 8 p.m. to 10

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Charles Parish, "National Night Out" observed from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m. During ours, residents are asked to lock their on outside lights and spend the even

