

## Letters...We Get Lots and Lots of Letters

By Larry Weidel

Each month letters and notes come in to the Sheriff's Office complimenting the performance and professionalism of our deputies. Here's a sample of a few we received recently...

August 3, 2006 - I want to express my thanks for the hard work, preparation, and cooperation of the officers who worked this case (State vs Leroy Lebouef). In particular, **Robert Mason, Verna Dufrene, Adam Dufrene, Lemann Howard, Jeff Provos, Kim Pitre** all worked closely with the DA's office in preparation for this trial, sometimes at inconvenience to themselves, and at all times were professional and helpful.

Please thank them for a job well done. (After commencement of the trial the defendant pled guilty to simple rape and was sentenced to six years.)

Rene' C. Gautreaux  
Assistant District Attorney

August 2, 2006 - Thank you so much for your so well trained deputies. I am a 76 year old single lady who was stranded on a dark, hot Hwy. 90 one night. I just moved here from Metairie and know all about the kooks we have lurking about. I was so scared to be stranded on the highway at dark that I called 911 and asked for help. The operator was so sweet and kind and hooked me up with the La. State Police. I told him of my dilemma and he calmed me down and said he would send help to me. He sent a Lafourche Parish Deputy who stayed with me for 3 hours until AAA could pick up my car and tow it to Houma, then was kind enough to drive me home since I had no one to call to pick me up.

You have no idea how kind, caring, concerned, and considerate **Deputy Shane Campo** was to me. He kept in touch with his superior, Sgt. Mark Adams, who showed the same concern and consideration that Deputy Campo did. It is such a good feeling to know we have such protective, caring deputies around us, especially for little old ladies like me.

Again, thank you for training your deputies so well.  
Jeri Gillaspie  
Houma, La.



### Deputy Jim Soignet

On August 16th we received the tragic news of the loss of one of our friends and co-workers. The announcement of Jim Soignet's death came from Sheriff Craig Webre...

"It is with the utmost regret that I inform you of the passing of Dty. James "Jim" Soignet, yesterday

evening. Jim was at home mowing his lawn when he was discovered lying on the ground unresponsive near his lawn mower. He was transported to Thibodaux Health Center where he was pronounced dead of a suspected heart attack.

July 24, 2006 - On behalf of the Professionals in Pretrial Services Association, I want to thank **Sgt. Walter Tenney** for the presentation entitled "Domestic Violence - Investigating Predominant Aggressors" at our conference recently held at the Royal Sonesta Hotel in New Orleans, Louisiana. The presentation was very enlightening and informative.

I hope to have the pleasure of being at one of your presentations in the future and will definitely keep you in mind when planning future conferences.

Kevin C. Guidry  
President

July 27, 2006 - On behalf of the Let Freedom Ring Festival committee, I would like to thank the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office for all the hard work performed at the Let Freedom Ring Festival. The officers who performed the 21 gun salute did a valuable service for this year's festival. The employees of the sheriff's office were very courteous and a pleasure to work with. We also thank Sheriff Craig Webre for participating in the auction.

The festival was a success and enjoyed by everyone. The intention of the festival is to celebrate the freedoms we enjoy so much in America. Thank you for helping us celebrate these freedoms with the families of the Thibodaux area.

Leland Hoffmann, Jr.  
Festival Chairman

**Lucie Morvant** - Thanks for all the time you and all the instructors spent teaching the RAD class. It was run in such a professional way. You and all of the instructors were very respectable to us. I feel so much more confident of my daily surroundings, and I also changed a few things around the house. I was so glad (my daughter) took the class before going to LSU. Thanks for coming out of your office to talk to me about the class when I went to register. The class was everything and more than I expected! Thanks.

Jo-Ann Haydel

As most of you know, Jim came to the LPSO nineteen years ago after a long and distinguished career as a Probation and Parole Officer. He spent the vast majority of his career working in the Court Division as the Div. "C" Bailiff where he was regarded as a dedicated and highly competent public servant. When not working, Jim was an avid tennis player for most of his life and played regularly well into his senior years. He and his wife, Betty, were the parents of five sons (two doctors - John & James, one pharmacist - Thomas, one attorney - Joseph, and an engineer - Gerard, who tragically and unexpectedly passed away eight weeks ago)

Lets all of us keep Jim's family in our thoughts and prayers..

August 2006

# the RAP sheet

A publication for the employees and friends of the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office.

**CRAIG WEBRE, SHERIFF**



## New Equipment to Water Patrol Fleet

By Sgt. Jeremy Granier

The Lafourche Parish Water Patrol deputies are kept busy on calls for stranded boaters, overdue fishermen, trespassers, crab trap thieves, violators of no wake zone areas, and regular law enforcement patrols. More than a hundred people a year are rescued from the marsh and bay areas, usually at night and in very inclement weather. To accomplish their task, an

Office by the Personal Watercraft Industry Association. The goal of the association is to promote safe and responsible operation of personal watercraft and work with federal, state and local agencies which have regulatory responsibilities for recreational boating.

There are a growing number of the popular personal watercraft vessels in our area and the mission of the national association is ensuring that



Sgt. Jeremy Granier and Deputy Teddy Granier admire their new equipment to be used in Water Patrol.

assortment of watercraft is needed.

In addition to a 24' deep water Angler, several aluminum hulls, an airboat (damaged by Katrina) and an air-cooled mud boat for shallow water; the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Water Patrol fleet now consists of two new PWC's (personal watercraft). These vessels are provided to the Sheriff's

personal watercraft and personal watercraft users are treated fairly when local, state, and federal government officials consider boating regulations. PWIA supports and actively advocates for reasonable regulations, strong enforcement of boating and navigation laws, and mandatory boating safety education for all PWC operators.

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## Spotlight on Motor Pool's Ronnie Thibodaux



By Larry Weidel

You may be seeing a lot less of Ronnie Thibodaux in the months ahead...not that he is moving out of the area...but he is on a personal mission to lose weight.

Ronnie Thibodaux works at the motor pool and keeps us all on track for oil changes and tire rotations. This unflappable guy has everyone on schedule and all the auto parts needed on hand and organized.

This is nothing new to Ronnie. He grew up in the Chackbay community working at an auto salvage yard. Here, he learned a lot about automotive parts, repairs, and how to work on vehicles. When the salvage yard went out of business, Ronnie and his father bought a wrecker truck and went into the wrecker service business. After about six years, Ronnie took over the business by himself. "Hard work and fast cars was my thing back then," Ronnie said. "And it still is today!"

There was only one thing that could slow Ronnie Thibodaux down, and that was his weight. His size made it difficult to do his work. One day he talked to Sheriff Webre and before you could say "weight watchers" he had a job at the Motor Pool.

After about a year at the Motor Pool, Ronnie's weight again began to be a factor in doing his job. He found it increasingly difficult to do his work, walk, and do the things others take for granted. He talked to a doctor about by-pass surgery but the insurance company turned him down. Ronnie considered paying for the operation himself but the doctor said he would have

to lose 100 lbs. before they would consider doing surgery.

"There's no way I can lose 100 lbs.," Ronnie thought. "But, then I said to myself that nobody was going to do this for me and my health was going down. If I didn't do something I knew I wouldn't be around much longer."

The next day Ronnie Thibodaux started on his change of lifestyle.

In November, 2005, Ronnie began his journey to better health and self esteem. By September 1, 2006, just ten months later, Ronnie had lost a total of 120 lbs! He logged down everything he did on his diet so he could keep track of the progress. "It's unbelievable that I'm doing this on my own with the help and support of my family and friends and coworkers," he said. "I can't thank them enough for being so supportive of my goal to lose weight."

Ronnie Thibodaux loves his job at the Motor Pool and working for the Sheriff's Office. During his spare time he is involved in helping the local fire departments put on a car show every year to raise money to help the community. He says fast cars are still in his heart and he has been having a race car for 22 years now. When Ronnie was young he used to race on the streets but said that all changed when he met Leo Naquin and Jeff Landry about 18 years ago. He started going to racetracks so it would be legal. Since then, there has been 3 race cars in his family and they race at N.H.R. A. points meets and bracket races all over the southern states.



## Blast from the Past



Curtis and Spanky  
doing "Whatever it  
Takes!"

## Water Patrol Cont.

The innovative personal watercraft loan program was developed in response to the growing awareness by the law enforcement community that the vessels are a useful enforcement tool. Manufacturers have loaned more than 13,000 watercraft (estimated retail value of \$65 million) to hundreds of state and local law enforcement, rescue and boating education agencies. There is no cost to taxpayers for this program.

The Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office, Water Patrol Section has recently received two 2006 Honda four stroke Aquatrax from Honda of Lafayette to use in everyday patrol, search and rescue missions and to use as an education tool during Boater's Safety classes.

PWC vessels exhibit a number of unique safety features that make them ideally suited for rescue and enforcement situations. They are quick, maneuverable and have a shallow draft that allows for operation in areas where other boats can't go. Because there are no exposed propellers or other moving parts, the risk to a swimmer or victim is significantly reduced. Additionally, PWC are easily launched from almost anywhere, and they handle well in most rough water conditions.

Many law enforcement agencies use PWC for patrolling. They are stable enough to allow officers to stand up to observe the interior of a boat they are approaching -- an

important consideration in law enforcement. And, since many boaters do not expect law enforcement officials to be riding PWC, officers are able to approach an illegal activity unnoticed. PWC are also more economical to operate than full-sized vessels, sometimes using one-quarter the gasoline of regular patrol boats.

Safe, reliable and able to be quickly deployed, the PWC is a "jack-of-all-trades" in water enforcement and rescues. Public safety agencies across the country depend on them for a wide variety of functions including:

- towing stranded boats
- pulling in tired swimmers
- searching for missing persons
- inspecting out-of-the-way waterways
- patrolling shallow lakes and bayous
- enforcing regulations in harbors and at marinas
- saving stranded surfers and sail boarders
- removing dangerous debris
- transporting paramedics

The Lafourche Parish Water Patrol deputies started using the new watercraft over the Labor Day weekend and report a very successful beginning to what they feel will be the use of a new tool in their arsenal for law enforcement patrols and search & rescue callouts on the many waterways in Lafourche Parish.

## August Telecommunicator

By Larry Weidel

Cathy Becnel was selected Telecommunicator of the Month for August. She was nominated by her peers for a call which was received on August 9th, 2006 reporting a disturbance on Lasseigne Road. Deputies were out with two subjects checking warrants and criminal histories. One of the subjects seemed to be acting a little strange with deputies. The male gave the deputy an alias name and said he was from New York and that his mother lives on Ayo St in Houma. Deputies relayed information to Cathy, who was working NCIC. Cathy's determination to find out who this person was and for officer safety, she started her researching on this individual. She remembered the conversation with the deputy in reference to where his mother lived and found a person who matched that description in the ARMMS program. Also, she noticed that the address on the individual she was researching showed Ayo St in Houma. She was able to find out the subjects real name and relayed information to the deputies. He had an active warrant for child support.

Cathy is also to be recognized for the amount of time she volunteers to work in the absence of others. This displays great work and wonderful determination on her part.

## SCUTTLEBUTT

**Lafourche Pride** - Don't Forget ... September 23, 2006 at 6:00 PM - Thibodaux Civic Center - Plantation Ball Room. Meal will be: Hamburger Steak, Cream Potatoes, Gravy, choice of green beans or corn, salad, bread pudding with rum sauce. Tea to drink. BYOL

Congratulations to **Dty. Randi Elloit** and **Reserved Deputy Kristan Elloit** on the birth of their baby boy **Kaden**, 7 lbs 4 oz 19.5 inches long. Randi and Kaden doing well.

Communications has two new employees ... **Brandi-Raye Allemann** and **Jennifer Breckoff**....Welcome Aboard. Also, Communications **Deputy Cathy Becnel** and **Patrol Dty Andrew Duplantis** are proud parents of a baby boy, **Andre Thomas** who was born on May 8th.

Former **Deputy Jerry Monier** called to tell us he is the proud daddy of a beautiful baby girl. **Mary-Katherine Monier** was born on the 22nd of August, weighing in at 9.53 pounds.

The newest face at the South Lafourche Sub-station is **Jennifer Gaspard**, a COE senior at South Lafourche High School. She is working part-time with **Beccy Chabert**.