

## Sheriff Webre's 2006 Bicycle Program a Success

This year we were able to distribute 195 bikes throughout Lafourche Parish, Grand Isle, and a Houma family service center.

Several bikes were given to kids living in FEMA trailers, some of whom were refugees from St. Bernard where they lost everything to Katrina. One elderly lady who is a cancer survivor in Leeville received a bike and said it was the only Christmas gift she would get this year. Her husband has died and she has no children. Her battle with cancer has weakened her body but not her spirit. She jumped on the bike and rode it around her driveway with a wave and a smile we'll long remember.

In Grand Isle, the mayor's secretary helped us deliver 13 bikes to kids on the island, one of which was a blind two year old. We brought him a little plastic four wheeler that could be pushed around by one of his siblings.

In South Lafourche we provide bikes to the Angel Tree program each year. They do great work here. A couple of family service centers in Thibodaux and Houma get bikes for some of the families they serve. The bulk of the bikes in Thibodaux are distributed to the families whose names are given to us by the folks with the Thibodaux Toy Drive. In Raceland the cafeteria workers at Raceland Lower Elementary give us a list to fill each year and they present the bikes at a school Christmas program. More than 100 people throughout the parish called in for bikes this year.

The Sheriff's Christmas Bicycle Program has been going on for about twelve years now. During that time we have given out over 2000 bikes to needy kids. This could not be done without the assistance of the trustees assigned to the South Lafourche Sub-station who work on bikes during their free time and on weekends for about three months before Christmas. Piecing together parts of old bikes, fixing kick stands & chains, painting and pumping air in tires are the chores they take on in a good spirit, knowing they are "giving back" to the community.

Also, the help of picking the bikes up from other offices and bringing them to South Lafourche is very much appreciated. Water Patrol Deputies, Mounted Patrol, and members of the Patrol Division along with countless others are called on each year to go beyond their regular duties in assisting with this program. Chief Bud Dill was the "enforcer" and did a good job making sure we had the help we needed. Thanks to Deputy Sgt. Elliott Day and his Explorers and Reserve Deputies who help out each year.

The Christmas Bike Program is a self sustaining project as we receive many contributions from businesses and members of the community that cover the expenses we incur. It is also one of the best public relations activities the Sheriff's Office is involved in.

So, thanks for all the help again this Christmas. It's been a great year and I'm looking forward to the next one.

## 2007 Mardi Gras Photos



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January-February 2007

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

**CRAIG WEBRE, SHERIFF**



# RAP sheet

## Officers Injured at Traffic Stop Back at Work

Just before Christmas this past year, Deputies Roland Guilliot and Bridget Rupe with the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office sustained injuries while answering a call about a stolen vehicle. Today they are back at work...Guilliot full time and Rupe (Boudreaux) is part-time.

On December 5, 2006, at 6:30 am, Deputies Guilliot (age 41) and Rupe (age 23) responded to a call that a blue pick up truck had been stolen from a local convenience store in Thibodaux, La. Deputy Guilliot observed the vehicle soon after the call and conducted a felony stop. He instructed the driver to get out and step to the back of his truck. As he was putting handcuffs on the subject, while being covered by his fellow officer trainee, Deputy Bridget Rupe, another vehicle came up alongside the other stopped vehicle. The driver fired a shotgun blast into the back of Deputy Guilliot. Another shot was fired, hitting Deputy Rupe in the left arm. Both deputies returned fire and took cover as the arrested suspect jumped in the second vehicle and sped away.

Other officers responded to the shoot-

ing and both injured deputies were airlifted to Thibodaux Regional Medical Center.

Wearing a protective vest saved Deputy Guilliot's life. He sustained injuries to his back and was treated in the hospital for a couple of days and released. He has since returned to active duty. Deputy Guilliot is married and has six children.

Deputy Rupe, who was shot in the left arm with a slug from a 20 gauge shotgun underwent eight hours of surgery to restore blood flow to her lower arm. She has had two other surgeries since the incident but is now back at work on light duty. At the time of the incident Deputy Rupe was a single mother of a three year old daughter and had just been out of the Academy a couple of months. She has since gotten married.

Deputies Guilliot and Rupe are dedicated officers who exemplify what it takes to wear a badge to serve and protect the public. They are very deserving of our admiration and respect. We've learned a lot from these officers and are proud they are on our team.

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### Rap Sheet Contributors

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### Story Ideas or Suggestions?

Please contact Larry Weidel with your story ideas at [larry-weidel@psso.net](mailto:larry-weidel@psso.net) or 985-632-5844.



Lt. Foreman greets participants along the way.

More photos from Mardi Gras inside!

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## Work Release Residents Receive Welder Training

With the combined efforts of the Louisiana Department of Public Safety, Louisiana Technical College Lafourche Campus, and the Sheriff's Office, officials have established a skills training program for Work Release residents.

The Work Release Center in Lafourche Parish is one of thirteen such facilities in the state. A total of 34 employers in Lafourche Parish employ the residents.



Sheriff Webre said he and Cindy Poskey, Dean of LTC, discussed the chances of training unskilled Work Release residents with the premise that a marketable skill increases the earning potential of a resident which, in turn, reduces recidivism and improves the chances of becoming a productive citizen.

Ms. Poskey applied for and received a grant to provide skills training to an untapped labor force. The residents, who have

regular jobs during the week, give up their weekends and attend training sessions for 16 hours each weekend for six weeks to participate in this training program. Correctional Officers transport the residents to the Technical College campus in Thibodaux for 10 hours on Saturday and 6 hours on Sunday.

The initial session began on the first weekend of December and ended the third weekend in January. Thirteen residents attended the first session and a second session began in February. A small ceremony was held recently at the Work Release Center where Sheriff Webre and Ms. Poskey were on hand to issue certificates for completion of the first course.

Sheriff Webre told the residents who completed the course and those attending the current one that the sacrifice of their weekends to improve themselves would surely place them in an elevated earning position. "Education is the key to advancement," stated Sheriff Webre. "Those who continue to learn new skills will be in a better position for gainful employment in the workforce now and when they re-enter society. Companies are always looking for skilled laborers for the workforce and the opportunities for these men of making a very good living and being productive in the community is within their grasp."

Those residents who successfully complete the first course offered may continue for more advanced training in welding and other skill programs that will be offered in the near future.

## New Wal-mart Contributes to D.A.R.E.

Lafourche Parish Sheriff Craig Webre was presented a check for \$5,000 by Annette Soignet, manager of the new Matthews Walmart store that opens Friday, January 19, 2007. The check is a donation made by the Walmart Foundation to be used for the DARE program.

DARE (Drug Awareness Resistance Education) is offered and taught by specially



trained Lafourche deputies in all elementary schools in Lafourche Parish. Its purpose is to introduce fifth grade students to the negative affects of alcohol, tobacco, and drugs while teaching them the skills and providing the tools necessary for these students to make good decisions and choices in life.

In receiving the check, Sheriff Webre thanked the Walmart Foundation and praised their continued support for programs offered by the Lafourche Parish Sheriff's Office. "Walmart has been an outstanding corporate citizen that gives back to their community," said Sheriff Webre. "Hundreds of jobs are provided by Walmart throughout Lafourche Parish and the new Matthews store will attract shoppers from all over the region."

## Employees enjoy SAINTS day!



Do what..... where?



## Sheriff Receive Martin Luther King Award

Lafourche Parish Sheriff Craig Webre was on hand at the Moses Baptist Community Center on Monday, January 15, 2007, to receive the Community Service Award from the Lafourche Branch of the NAACP. The award came after a citizen march celebrating the life and service of the



Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. on a national holiday named in his honor.

Sheriff Webre, when elected in 1992, pledged to enhance and diversify the workforce of the LPSO by recruiting and maintaining qualified employees that included all minorities. He also recognized the need for a plan such as the Work Release Program that focused on training and obtaining employment for inmates who were serving their final months of incarceration. Having money, a job, and an established work ethic helps to keep these individuals from returning to a life of crime and re-incarceration. This program has helped hundreds succeed in their re-entry into society.

Sheriff Webre has maintained an "open door" policy that includes persons of all races and has secured funds for other initiatives such as the "Weed & Seed" program developed for the Raceland area to combat crime and the social ills that affect members of that community. He has assisted and participated in many functions and events hosted by the NAACP including providing a security escort for Martin Luther King, III, during his visit to Lafourche Parish last year.

Craig Webre, who is serving his fourth term as Sheriff, continues to strive for excellence, professionalism, and equality as these character traits are the personification of his commitment to all the citizens of Lafourche Parish.

## BABIES, BABIES, AND MORE BABIES!

Word was received on November 4th that **Deputy John Hoyt** is the proud father of a baby boy (no name given). The baby was 19 inches long and weighed 7 lbs. 10 oz. Dad, Mom, & baby are all fine.

On February 5th we learned that **Sgt. John Champagne** and his wife **Marsha**, had a baby girl they named **Reese Chaney Champagne**. She weighed in at 8 lbs. 5 oz. and was 19 inches long.

Communications **Deputy Mandy Falcon** and husband **Josh** are the proud new parents of a baby girl. She arrived in the world at 12:19 pm on February 6th and weighed 8 lbs. 5 oz. and was 19 1/2 inches long. **Alyssa Nicole** was welcomed by her big sister **Kayley**.

Congratulations to **Marquisha Livas** of the Detention Center for giving birth to a healthy baby girl, **Treasure Divine Simmones**. She weighed 8 lbs. 9 oz. Baby and parents are doing fine.

## LDA Election Results

**PRESIDENT**  
**VICE-PRES.**  
**SECRETARY**  
**TREASURER**

**NICOLE FRANK**  
**KATIE DEGRUISE**  
**MONA ORGERON**  
**BARBARA MORGAN**

### REPRESENTATIVES:

**S.L. SUB-STATION**  
**THIBODAUX OFFICE**  
**NARCOTICS**  
**COC**  
**COMMUNICATIONS**  
**WHITNEY BLDG.**  
**PATROL A SHIFT**  
**PATROL B SHIFT**  
**PATROL C SHIFT**  
**PATROL D SHIFT**  
**SUPPORT SERVICES**

**BECKY CHABERT**  
**DAWN LAMKINS**  
**JOHN CHAMPAGNE**  
**MAMIE JOHNSON**  
**BRANDI**  
**CINDY SAVOIE**  
**LT. BOBBY GIDEON**  
**JAMES ENGEL**  
**SGT. RYAN DANTIN**  
**LT. MARK ADAMS**  
**JACK CULVER**



Larry Weidel receives an Employee of the Year award from a local civic organization.