

# The St. Bernard News

*Remembering Our Past, Building a Better Future*

[www.thestbernardnews.com](http://www.thestbernardnews.com)

Wednesday, December 28, 2016

Volume 50, Issue 52

## Knights of Columbus honors Deputy, Firefighter and Paramedic of the Year.

*St. Bernard Sheriff's Office*

Archbishop Rummel Council 5747 of the Knights of Columbus in Chalmette recognized a Sheriff's Deputy, Firefighter and Paramedic of the Year during its Christmas party on Sunday, Dec. 18 in its council hall on Paris Road.

The Knights also gave a donation to the Sheriff's Office Reserve Division.

Sheriff's Dep. Brad Alfonso, a veteran of the Sheriff's Office for more than seven years, was Deputy of the Year.

Capt. Brad Tregle, veteran of the parish Fire Department for more than 15 years, was named Firefighter of the Year.

And Steve Benci, who has worked more than 11 years with Acadian Ambulance, was named Paramedic of the Year.

Grand Knight Russell Serpas Sr. said the Knights of Columbus gives the awards "to recognize our public servants. We appreciate the work they do in this parish."

A native of St. Bernard Parish, Alfon-

so has been with the Sheriff's Office since 2009, working in the Communications Division, in the Corrections Division and now as

a patrol deputy for nearly three years.

See **HONORS** on Page 11



Shown are the Knights of Columbus Paramedic of the Year Steve Benci, second from left, and next to him Firefighter of the Year Capt. Brad Tregle and Deputy of the Year Sheriff's Dep. Brad Alfonso. At left is Deputy Grand Knight Dennis Bourgeois and at right is Grand Knight Russell Serpas Sr.

## Sheriff Pohlmann tells D.A.R.E. graduates they must make the right choices

*St. Bernard Sheriff's Office*

Sheriff James Pohlmann seemed delighted when he asked 5th-graders graduating the Sheriff's Office Drug Abuse Resistance Education program at Prompt Succor Schppl what they had learned and one boy answered "to make good choices."

It was music to the sheriff's ears because the importance of making good choices is what he emphasizes to students at each graduation of the D.A.R.E. program, taught by instructors from the Sheriff's Office to every fifth-grader in the parish.

"It's refreshing to hear they realize it comes down to making good choices in life," Sheriff Pohlmann said after the ceremony. "That's the answer you are hoping to get to that question."

D.A.R.E. is aimed at trying to keep youngsters from using drugs, including tobacco and alcohol, or taking part in violence or bullying others.

The sheriff, speaking this week at D.A.R.E. graduations and large turnouts of relatives at Prompt Succor and Gauthier Elementary, said kids can only lead productive lives if they make the right choices, including listening to their parents and teachers and deciding who they should and shouldn't associate with.

About 90 children graduated the D.A.R.E. program at Gauthier and about 50 at Prompt Succor.

The sheriff praised parents for coming out and encouraged them to continue staying focused on their children, including talking often with them and looking for warning signs to help

prevent drug use or be alerted to them actually using drugs.

If necessary, drug test kits are available at pharmacies to test young people, the sheriff told parents. If there is a problem it is important to rescue them before they become involved in the criminal justice system and end up in prison, the sheriff

said.

Educating children early on about the hazards of drug abuse is the best hope to reduce future use and a life tortured by drug addiction and criminal acts to support a drug habit, Sheriff Pohlmann said.

See **D.A.R.E.** on Page 12



Sheriff James Pohlmann addresses students and their relatives at Prompt School's D.A.R.E. graduation ceremony.

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**Church DIRECTORY**

<b>Assembly of God Church</b> 494-7378 1561 Hwy. 46, St. Bernard, Sun. services 10am & 5:30pm Wed. Bible study 7pm	Worship 9am • Sun. School 10:30am
<b>Gospel Temple</b> 272-0123 • 301 E. Morales (behind Breaux Mart) Chalmette, LA	Sunday 10:30AM • Wed. 7:00pm
<b>Greater Mount Olive Baptist Church</b> 272-0392 1904 Goodwill Dr; Violet, Sun. school 8am, worship 9am • Thur. 7pm	
<b>Greater Round Hill Baptist Church</b> 905-9162 • 2213 Canal St, Violet Sunday worship 11am Wed. Bible study 7pm	
<b>Greater South Shore F.G.B.C.</b> "Rebuilding the family Structure" 7408 west Judge Perez Dr., Arabic, La 70032 • 278-8854 Sun. worship 9:00am Wed. Bible Study (Bread of Life) 6:45	
<b>High Praise Fellowship</b> 781-4414 • 120 E. Solidelle, Ste. A, Chalmette, Sun. service 10am	
<b>Lighthouse Pentecostal Church</b> 272-0785•7724 E. St. Bernard Hwy, Violet Sun. school 10am, worship 11am Wed. Bible study 7pm	
<b>Living Cornerstone Church International</b> 714 W. St. Bernard Pkwy., Braithwaite 228-6401 Sun. service 10am	
<b>Nabi Healing Center</b> 7451 W. St. Bernard Hwy, Arabic. Sunday 5-8pm	
<b>New Birth Ministries</b> 6321 Louis Elam St, Violet, 301-9282 Wed. Church School 6pm Sun. service 10:30am	
<b>One in Christ Church</b> 530 East Judge Perez Dr; Chalmette 682-1117 Sun. service 10am	
<b>Our Lady of Prompt Succor Catholic Church</b> 271-3441 2320 Paris Rd, Chalmette masses: Sat. 4pm • Sun. 7am, 8:30am, 10:30am & 7pm (Spanish) 2pm	
<b>Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church</b> 682-7070 2621 Colonial Blvd., Violet Masses Mon., Wed., Thurs. & Fri. 8:30am • 9:30am • Sat. 4pm • Sun. 9:15am	
<b>Poydras Baptist Church of St. Bernard</b> 8213 Saro Lane. 237-3538 Sun. Bible study 9:30am, worship 10:30am	
<b>Praise Temple Fellowship</b> 650-1794 7517 E. St. Bernard Hwy., Violet Sun. 10:30am Bible Study Thur. 7pm	
<b>Second Missionary Baptist Church</b> 278-2338 2109 Caluda Lane, Violet Sun. service 8am Wed. Bible Study 7pm	
<b>St. Bernard Baptist Church</b> 881-6723 2615 Jacob, Chalmette Sun. service at 11am	
<b>St. Bernard Catholic Church</b> 281-2267 2805 Bayou Rd, St. Bernard masses Mon/Wed/Fri 8:30am Sun. 9am	
<b>St. John Baptist Church</b> 654-9567 7047 Hwy. 39, Braithwaite Sun. Sch. 10am Sun. Ser. 11am • Wed 6:30pm	
<b>St. Luke Baptist Church</b> 682-3718 or 418-7492 126 Poindexter Lane, Braithwaite Sun. worship 8am	
<b>St. Thomas Catholic Church</b> 17605 Hwy. 15, Pointe a la Hache masses: Sat. 6pm • Sun. 9am	
<b>Third Missionary Baptist Church</b> 272-0504 206 Armstrong Lane, St. Bernard Sun. worship 10am	
<b>Trumpet of Truth Ministry</b> 7451 W. St. Bernard Hwy, Arabic, Sun. School 9am • Sevice 10am Tues. & Thurs Bible Study 7pm	
<b>World Prayer Tabernacle (S)</b> 277-4555 4030 Paris Rd, Chalmette Sun. service 10am Youth Service Wed. 7pm	

Listing additions or changes send to:  
The St. Bernard News  
1519 E Judge Perez Suite 2 Chalmette, LA 70043  
Phone: 504-832-1481 Fax: 504-837-5923  
Email: editor@thestbernardnews.com



Submit Your Events to [editor@thestbernardnews.com](mailto:editor@thestbernardnews.com) or call us at 504-832-1481.

## DECEMBER 28

- **Open Jam/Mic**, Lacy's Cue in Chalmette (701 W. Judge Perez Drive), all musicians and genres welcome from novice to pro. An opportunity for all musicians to showcase their talent at no cost. Smoke free environment. 7:30-10:30PM

## JANUARY 4-7

- **5th Annual Battle of New Orleans Historical Symposium**, January 4th at St. Bernard Historic Courthouse (former PGT Beauregard High School) – 2nd floor; January 5th at Los Isleños Museum Complex – Multi-purpose building; January 6th at St. Bernard Parish Government Complex Council Chambers; January 7th at St. Bernard Parish Government Complex Council Chambers (see full preliminary schedule at <http://bit.ly/2h4d20L>)

## JANUARY 6 & 7

- **The Cary Black Band**, Lacy's Cue in Chalmette (701 W. Judge Perez Drive), classic rock, blues, a little country and includes original music. 9:00 PM

## JANUARY 6-8

- **Bicentennial Battle of New Orleans: Chalmette**, Each year over 150 living history re-enactors come together on the Friday and Saturday closest to the Battle of New Orleans, January 8, to commemorate America's victory over the British in this final major battle of the War of 1812. Events are held at the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park - Chalmette Battlefield and include demonstrations such as cannon and musket firing and campfire cooking. One of the most amazing things about the Battle of New Orleans is the amount of different people and military groups from different races, social classes, languages, and backgrounds who came together to protect their country and their way of life. This is easily seen throughout the encampments set up

at the Battlefield during the Commemoration. The majority of the events take place during the day from 9:30am-4:30pm with special events on Friday and Saturday nights. Friday night is a re-enactment of one of the skirmishes leading up to the Battle. More information can be found on the National Park Service website which is [www.nps.gov/jela](http://www.nps.gov/jela)

## JANUARY 14 & 18

- **Nature Photography Walk**, Join local photographer Mike Murphree to discover the secrets of memorable pictures. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Free but space limited so call for reservations. Barataria Preserve of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, 6588 Barataria Blvd. in Marrero (near Crown Point). 689-3690 ext 10 or [www.nps.gov/jela](http://www.nps.gov/jela).

## JANUARY 21

- **Day at the Races**, New Orleans Fairgrounds. \$45.00 per person includes Buffet, Racing Program, Admission, Tax & Gratuity It is a Special Day "Road to the Derby Day" at the Fairgrounds. CALL SHRINE CENTER (985) 725-1716 FOR RESERVATION

## JANUARY 27

- **NE Delta HSA Tobacco Cessation Summit: A Clear New Year**, West Monroe Convention Center, West Monroe, LA. 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. This event is free of charge. Lunch will be provided! There is a 200-person capacity for this event! You must RSVP by going to <http://bit.ly/2igDccH>

## FEBRUARY 3 & 10

- **The Cary Black Band**, Lacy's Cue in Chalmette (701 W. Judge Perez Drive), classic rock, blues, a little country and includes original music. 9:00 PM

## MARCH 4

- **Shriner's Presidents & Captains Ball**,

Landmark Hotel, 2601 Severn Ave, Metairie, LA (Free Parking). Room Rates: \$110 per night or \$150 SUITE per night. Call Landmark Hotel for room reservations. Ball Tickets: \$80.00 Shriner & Lady per person. \$100 Non-Member per person \*Call Shrine Center (985) 725-1716 for ball tickets.

## MAY 26-28

- **Bayou Country Superfest**, Blake Shelton, Miranda Lambert, Brooks & Dunn, Rascal Flatts, Thomas Rhett, Hank Williams Jr., Brett Eldredge, Old Dominion and more are all coming to the air-conditioned Mercedes-Benz Superdome for the 2017 Superfest, the first-ever to be held in New Orleans. Already a Memorial Day tradition, Bayou Country Superfest will take place May 26, 27 & 28 with a free kick-off celebration on Friday, May 26 at Champions Square, located outside the Mercedes-Benz Superdome featuring Easton Corbin and more! [Saturday and Sunday two-day packages for the Superfest concerts in the Superdome go on sale Thursday, December 8 at 10:00 a.m.](#) CST on BayouCountrySuperfest.com, Ticketmaster.com, all Ticketmaster outlets, the Smoothie King Center Box Office or by calling (800)745-3000.

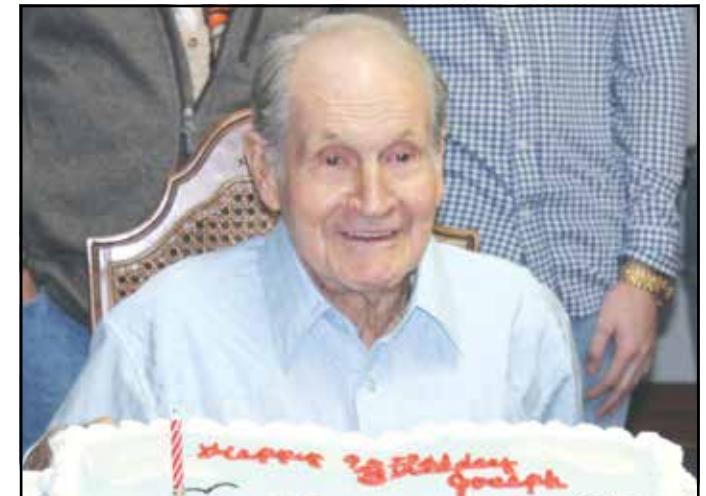
## Daily

- **Battle of New Orleans Talk**, Chalmette Battlefield, 8606 W. St. Bernard Hwy., Chalmette, 10:45AM and 2:45PM. FREE. (no talk Sunday, December 25; visitor center closed for Christmas)

- **Walk the Wetlands** - Explore Louisiana swamp and marsh on a ranger-guided walk 10:00 a.m. Wednesday-Sunday. Free. Barataria Preserve of Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, 6588 Barataria Blvd. in Marrero (near Crown Point). 689-3690 ext 10 or [www.nps.gov/jela](http://www.nps.gov/jela).

# Boatman celebrates 90th Birthday

Joseph Gonzales recently celebrated his 90th birthday. He was surrounded by family and friends in the home he built for his family in Yscloskey over 60 years ago. Born and raised in Yscloskey, Joseph is known as the boatman. The nickname is in reference to the documentary published in 2016 by Zack Godshall. The documentary spans over 30 years highlighting the story of the oyster boat Joseph has been building. It's a true story of endurance, love and fortitude after years of living outside the flood walls in Yscloskey, Louisiana. The documentary can be found on YouTube by searching: boatman yscloskey.



# Community

*Events, Organizations, Obituaries, Classifieds, News*

## Carl Gaines, Jr. Joins the St. Bernard Parish School Board



Carl Gaines, Jr. joins the St. Bernard Parish School Board as the District 10 Representative following Ms. Judy Nicosia. (L-R): Darleen Asevedo, Donald Campbell, William Egan, Joe Long, Clifford Englande, Diana Dysart, Carl Gaines, Jr., Judy Nicosia, Doris Voitier, Sean Warner, Katherine Lemoine, Hugh Craft

At a December School Board meeting, members said goodbye to District 10 representative Judy W. Nicosia and welcomed Carl Gaines, Jr.

Nicosia filled the District 10 seat in March of 2016 following the untimely death of her husband, long-time board member Ronald J.

See GAINES on Page 10

## Archbishop Rommel Ladies Auxiliary donates hand sewn blankets to the Animal Shelter



Pictured are Fran Bourgeois and Virginia Randazzo from Archbishop Rummel Ladies Auxiliary and Charlotte Luna shelter manager.

St. Bernard Parish Animal Shelter would like to extend a special thank you to the Archbishop Rummel Ladies Auxiliary for their generous donation of hand sewn blankets, cat toys and cleaning products. St. Bernard Parish Animal Shelter feels blessed to be one of the many organizations that the Ladies Auxiliary donates to during the holiday season.

## BREWSTER'S Fun, Food & Spirits

8751 W Judge Perez Dr. Chalmette, Louisiana  
(504) 309-7548

### JOIN US FOR HAPPY HOUR!

Monday - Friday 3PM - 7PM

Saturday 10AM - 6PM • Sunday - All Day!

\$1.50 DOMESTIC BEERS • \$0.50 OFF ALL IMPORTS  
\$1 SCHNAPPS SHOTS

# 2017

Have a Safe & Happy New Year!

We will be  
**CLOSED**  
New Year's Eve  
and New Year's  
Day.

FRIDAY  
**\$2 SHOTS** of  
Fireball, Rumpleminze  
and Barenjager  
all day and night!

SATURDAY  
**\$3 Margaritas**  
SUNDAY  
**\$3 Bloody  
Mary's**

KITCHEN OPEN  
till 11PM on  
Saturday!



## C.O.P.S. for Christmas program and parish Battered Women's Shelter get donations of stuffed animals to give to families

If it's December, Michael B. Chutz is in the Christmas giving mood and the Sheriff's Office's C.O.P.S. for Christmas program



Michael B. Chutz holds up a bag of stuffed Teddy Bears he donated to the C.O.P.S. for Christmas program at the Sheriff's Office.

and the parish Battered Women's Shelter are the beneficiaries.

This is the fourth Christmas season that Chutz, a Reserve Division sheriff's deputy and a volunteer and board member of the Kiwanis Club of St. Bernard-Arabi and its foundation, has been buying and donating stuffed Teddy Bears for children.

Funding comes from the Michael B. Chutz Fund in the St. Bernard Kiwanis Foundation.

"This is the fourth Christmas I have donated stuffed animals to the St. Bernard Battered Women's Shelter for the children of the families there and the third year to the C.O.P.S. for Christmas program with the St. Bernard Sheriff Office," said Chutz,

who is retired.

The C.O.P.S. for Christmas program, which started in 2010, finds families who need help through social agencies and donates presents for the children and a Christmas tree or food for the holidays for the families. The Battered Women's Shelter, as its name suggests, helps women and their families who have been the victim of domestic problems.

Chutz donates six dozen of the Teddy Bears to help the two causes.

Whatever the C.O.P.S. for Christmas program doesn't use goes to the Sheriff's Office Juvenile Division or Reserve Division for deputies to give to children they encounter in the course of their duties.

"I enjoy giving back to St. Bernard and bringing a little joy to a child at Christmas," said Chutz, who said both the Battered Women's Shelter and C.O.P.S. for Christmas are among many worthwhile causes in the parish.

"Merry Christmas to St. Bernard and I hope these little gifts of mine spark others to pay it forward," Chutz said. "Thanks for all the fond memories of growing up in Da Parish."

Anyone interested in donating to the C.O.P.S. for Christmas program can call the St. Bernard Sheriff Office at (504) 271-2501 or to donate to the Battered Women's Shelter call (504) 277-3177.



Michael B. Chutz, who donated stuffed Teddy Bears to the Sheriff's Office C.O.P.S. for Christmas program which helps several families with presents for children, a tree or food for the holidays, is shown with officers with the program. At left is Sgt. Shannon Cooper and at right is Maj. Angela Huff.

**Dale Carnegie course on public speaking and leadership had a positive effect for a Sheriff's Deputy**



Carlo Cacioppo has received training of many types as an agent with the Sheriff's Office Street Crimes Unit.

But a different type of training has had a positive effect on him, Cacioppo said.

He recently completed the Dale Carnegie course in public speaking and leadership training, something Sheriff James Pohlmann has approved for several deputies in recent years.

The idea is to aid officers in dealing with the public and to promote professionalism, Sheriff Pohlmann said.

Cacioppo, who has been with the Sheriff's Office for seven years, said he found the course that is taught one night a week for eight weeks was interesting and informative.

In fact, he won the highest award for achievement in his group.

"I was selected by the commanders" to take the class, Cacioppo said. "I didn't know anything about it."

But it had a positive effect on him, he said. "No doubt it was one of the best training classes I have ever had," Cacioppo said.

Dale Carnegie, who passed away years ago, perfected the technique that helps people who may even have had fears about public speaking become poised and polished.

The group's web site says they use techniques including voice modulation, attention focusing and idea pyramids for creating impact and audience persuasion.

## NARFE Chapter 1398, St. Bernard, swears in new officers



(L to R) Sylvia Keller, Treasurer; Ellen Barrois, Vice-President; Michael Bendich, President; and Kim Janneck, Secretary.

NARFE (National Association of Active and Retired Federal Employees) Chapter 1398 meets on the second Wednesday of the month. Any active federal employee and their spouse or federal retiree and their spouse are eligible and encouraged to join NARFE. NARFE is the only organization whose mission is to preserve the pay and benefits of federal employees, federal retirees, and their survivors!

# Community

*Events, Organizations, Obituaries, Classifieds, News*

## Refuse to be a Victim lecture provides safety knowledge



Capt. Charles Borchers shows the Refuse to be a Victim class an item he recommends for security.

There are several things which scare away burglars that home or business owners should remember when they look at their vulnerability to criminals, according to Capt. Charles Borchers of the Sheriff's Office.

"They don't like to be slowed down, and they don't like noise or lights," Borchers told participants in the annual Refuse to be a Victim class recently held by the Sheriff's Office. "They don't want anything that attracts attention."

Alarm systems that make noise, lighting around a home or business, motion detectors and anything that would slow down a burglary increase an owner's chance of avoiding becoming a victim, Borchers said.

That was some of the numerous tips Borchers and Dep. Eric Eilers had for St. Bernard Parish residents who turned out Dec. 7 for the Sheriff's Office free crime prevention program called Refuse to be a Victim.

Capt. Borchers, longtime crime prevention director for the department, and Eilers engaged participants and gave tips on strategies for being aware of your surroundings to avoid becoming a crime victim.

Call Borchers at (504) 278-7628 or Eilers at 278-7799 to start a Neighborhood Watch group in your area or learn about other free programs the Sheriff's Office holds for residents.

Borchers stresses in the Refuse to be a Victim course that, "You have to have a mental plan of action" at home or when traveling in order to be alert for potential criminals. Seminar topics include safety at home, as well as phone, technology, travel and personal security.

He recommends double cylinder deadbolt locks with large screws put an inch into a large, solid frame so a door can't be easily kicked open.

Use strong locks and place peep holes on home doors, Borchers said. Light-timers such as for lamps, alarm systems, video surveillance and motion sensors are all sound anti-crime strategies, he said.

"Why did we ever get away from chain locks?" he asked. "They let you open a door a small ways so you can see who is there."

And he said peep holes made for doors today offer a much wider view of the outside area to better see who is there.

See **SAFETY** on Page 10

## Stitch in Time Club 2016 Christmas Luncheon

Stitch In Time Club, an organization under the St. Bernard Volunteers for Family & community, that is sponsored by the LSU Ag center, recently held their Xmas Luncheon at Windsor Court, New Orleans.



## KIWANIS KORNER



Santa speaks to the Kiwanis Club of St. Bernard at their December 13th meeting.

*Submitted by Amanda J. Hardesty*

At the December 13th meeting, we the Kiwanis Club of St. Bernard hosted a very special guest: Santa! The Chalmette "Cinema Santa" stopped by this month's night meeting at Rocky & Carlo's Restaurant to take special requests from the children and answer questions about his very important job this holiday season. He shared stories about the reindeer, discussed his favorite cookies, and sung Christmas carols with the members.

The Kiwanis Club of St. Bernard-Arabi wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

## Lillian Anna Stoltz Cantu



Lillian Anna Stoltz Cantu passed away peacefully on Monday, December 19, 2016 at the age of 83. She was the cherished wife of the late Kenneth F. Cantu, Sr.; mother of Kenneth F. Cantu, Jr. (wife, Sharon) and Kathy Cantu Espunge (husband, Steven).

She is also survived by one granddaughter, Kristina Espunge Terry (husband, Michael) and three precious great-grandchildren, Kennedy, Mason and Kingston Terry.

Daughter of the late Albert B. Stoltz, Sr. and Lena Geissler Stoltz.

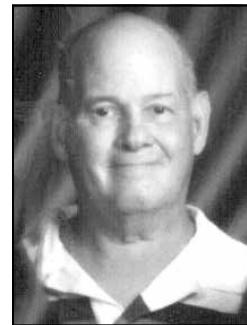
Sister of the late Albert B. Stoltz, Jr. (Miriam), William R. Stoltz, Sr. (Justine), David E. Stoltz, Sr. (Lois), Florence "Sis" Stoltz Farmer (Wesley), Marcella Stoltz Kern (Wilbert), and Herbert L. Stoltz (Merline).

She is also survived and fondly remembered by two step-granddaughters, Alyria and Erica, and their children, Conner, Brianna and Kaleb, along with many nieces, nephews, and dear friends.

Lillian was a native of New Orleans, LA and a longtime resident of Chalmette, LA before settling in Lacombe, LA. She attended Redemption Church in Lacombe and was a former member of St. Bernard Baptist Church, First Baptist Church of Chalmette and Trinity Baptist Church, where she was employed for many years as the school secretary. She was also employed by Ozone/Kentwood Spring Water and Cantu Acceptance Corporation, where she worked alongside her loving husband.

Her favorite pastimes included watching television and playing cards with both her family and her lady friends (The Golden Girls). She was a woman of strong faith, well loved by many and most certainly a precious gift to her entire family. She will be deeply missed however, without a doubt she has been welcomed with open arms into the kingdom of heaven by our Lord and Savior.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the visitation at St. Bernard Memorial Funeral Home, 701 W. Virtue St., Chalmette, LA on Thursday, December 22, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Funeral services will begin in the chapel at 12:00 p.m. followed by her being laid to rest with her beloved husband in St. Bernard Memorial Gardens. In lieu of usual remembrances, contributions to Redemption Church Building Fund, 27351 Hwy. 190, Lacombe, LA 70445 would be greatly appreciated. To view and sign the family guestbook, please visit [www.stbernardmemorial.com](http://www.stbernardmemorial.com).



## Joseph Albert Gerosa, III

Joseph Albert Gerosa, III passed away on Tuesday, December 20, 2016, in Hammond, Louisiana, at the age of 66. He was born on Saturday, March 4, 1950, in New Orleans, Louisiana to the late Marie Armagnac Gerosa and Joseph Albert Gerosa, Jr. He was a former resident of St. Bernard Parish and resided in Hammond, Louisiana.

Joseph is survived by his beloved wife, Diane Clair Burleson Gerosa; daughter, Gina Marie Gerosa; sister and brother-in-law, Diane and Al Graffia; brother-in-law and sister-in-law, Raymond and Andrea Burleson; nephew and his wife, Al and Michelle Graffia; and great nephew and niece, Jeremy and Sadie Graffia. Also survived by many cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Marie and Joseph Gerosa, Jr.

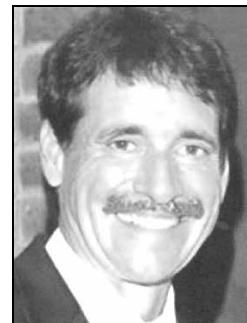
Relatives and friends are invited to attend the Mass of Christian Burial at Holy Ghost Catholic Church, 601 North Oak Street, Hammond, Louisiana 70401, on Thursday, December 22, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. Visitation will be held at Holy Ghost Catholic Church from 8:00 a.m. until the mass begins at 11:00 a.m.

Interment will follow in Rose Memorial Park Mausoleum, Hammond, Louisiana.

Arrangements entrusted to Harry McKneely & Son Funeral Homes of Hammond and Ponchatoula, Louisiana.

To view and sign the family guest book, please visit [www.harrymckneely.com](http://www.harrymckneely.com).

## Mark Vincent Domino



Mark Vincent Domino was called home on Tuesday, December 20, 2016 at the age of 47. He was born on January 18, 1969 in New Orleans and was a lifelong resident of St. Bernard Parish.

Mark graduated from St. Robert Bellermine Catholic School in Arabi and Chalmette High School. He was a dedicated employee for Coastal Electric for over 20 years.

Mark's passion in life was music. A gifted musician, Mark co-wrote songs, produced soundtracks, and played several instruments. He performed with several bands including Custard Pie, Mr. Meaner, Persuasion, and Domino Effect.

Mark was a kind and generous person. He never met a stranger and always looked to find the good in everyone he met. He will be sadly missed by all he loved and all who loved him.

Mark is survived by his loving wife Richelle Fisher Domino and their cherished daughter, Emma Margaret Domino. He is also survived by his loving siblings; Dr. Michael Domino (Gloria), Susan Bush (Earl), Anthony Domino (Cindy), Steve Domino (Leah), Marianne Domino (Richie), and Lee Domino (Denise). Mark is the son-in-law of Michael and Debra Fisher and Kathy Huff Fisher. He is the brother-in-law of Kyle and Doug Fisher, and Debbie Fisher Wanko (Chris). Mark is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, nieces, and nephews, and his special friends, Bill Laughlin and Tony St. Phillip.

Mark was preceded in death by his loving parents, Angelo and Margaret Domino and his brothers, Matthew Domino and Nicholas Domino.

The family would like to extend a sincere thank you to TKTMJ Construction, Nulite Construction, and Wayne Danna for their overwhelming generosity.

Relatives and friends of the family are invited to attend the visitation at St. Bernard Memorial Funeral Home, 701 W. Virtue St., Chalmette, LA on Wednesday, December 28, 2016 from 9:00 AM until 12:00 PM. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated in the chapel at 12:00 PM. Interment will follow in St. Bernard Memorial Gardens. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in honor of Mark to the Alzheimer's Association at [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org). To view and sign the family guestbook, please visit [www.stbernardmemorial.com](http://www.stbernardmemorial.com).

See more OBITS on Page 12

# The St. Bernard News

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[www.thestbernardnews.com](http://www.thestbernardnews.com)

All obituaries are available online on our web site.

## CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

### Services

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Kenneth's Painting & Carpentry. Remodeling, painting, interior, exterior, pressure washing, sheet rock repairs, Senior citizens discounts! 19 years experience (504) 250-3504

### Plumbing

**Larry's Plumbing, Sewer & Drain Cleaning.** Senior citizens discount. Now accepting all major credit cards and debit cards! Locally owned & operated by Larry Merritt. State Lic #LJP3610, #68 W. Claiborne Square, Chalmette, LA (504)277-1528, (504) 669-4471

### For Sale

St. Bernard Memorial Gardens, Garden of Recreation, Corridor of Hope, Tier 3, Cyprt 3, Casket Space 1 & 1, Value of over \$8600. asking \$5250. Call Mark at (504) 202-1406

DISH NETWORK, NEW FLEX PACK. Select the channels you want. Free installation, Free streaming. \$39.99/24 months, ADD internet for \$14.95 a month. Call 1-800-989-3619

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Jean Lafitte, 1 bedrooms, 1 bath,\$575.monthly  
(504)628-8376

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Rental house fully furnished. For construction workers and others. (504)682-4900

Chalmette, Two bedrooms, one bath, duplex, \$725. monthly, \$500. deposit. (504) 616-3220 or (504) 343-5277

Double house Chalmette ,3709 Juno Dr. 4 bedrooms, 3 full baths, \$1200. monthly, \$1200. deposit. 972-804-5985

Arabi half double, .(two bedroom) \$700. monthly \$700. deposit, (504) 258-5474

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Excellent Chalmette corner location, 2524 Veronica Dr. & E. Judge Perez, one block from Chalmette High School, great visibility, 1300 sq. , \$1000. per month. 430-4982

### Miscellaneous

DIRECTTV, NFL Sunday Ticket (Free!) w/Choice All-Included Package, \$60/mo for 24 months. No upfront cost or equipment to buy. Ask about next day installation! 1-800-867-9130

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# The St. Bernard News

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Published every Wednesday by  
**Roberson Advertising Service Inc.**  
190 Hickory Ave., Ste. 6 • New Orleans, LA 70123

**MICHAEL E. L. ROBERSON, SR.**  
Owner / Publisher

**DUEY ENTREKIN**  
Editor / Graphic Designer

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# Community

*Events, Organizations, Obituaries, Classifieds, News*

## Donation of doggy waste bag holder and a supply of bags



Aktion Club of Chalmette with St. Bernard Parish President Guy McInnis making donation of the first doggy waste bag dispenser. Photo by Michael B. Chutz.

The Aktion Club of Chalmette Members here at the Arc GNO - St. Bernard Project met with the St. Bernard Parish President Guy McInnis on Friday, December 9 at 9:30 p.m. The Aktion Club falls under The Kiwanis Club of St. Bernard-Arabi. The Arc of Greater New Orleans is a day program that serves adults with developmental disabilities. We take them on outings in the community and give back to our community by doing volunteer work. One of our projects is volunteering at the St. Bernard Animal Shelter with Charlotte Luna. Some of our participants also are members of the Aktion Club of Chalmette, Michael B. Chutz is our Kiwanis Advisor in the Aktion club. Our club came up with the idea of purchasing (or raising funds to purchase) doggy waste bags to place in and around Sidney Torres Park. We would like to thank Mr. McGinnis for offering to install the doggy waste bag holder. The idea of partnering with our government to have these doggy waste bag holders placed in our Park will make it look better. We also encourage other clubs, business and pet lovers to donate or purchase doggy waste bag dispensers and bags. The dispenser in the picture is \$200.00 with a supply of bags. Alex Taisant and Stephanie Callais are the Arc's Aktion Club of Chalmette Leaders at. The Arc of GNO can take Donation for this Project they also collect to recycle newspapers & Mardi Gras beads. The Arc of Greater New Orleans St. Bernard Project is at 3700 Jean Lafitte Pkwy. Chalmette, Louisiana, 70043. Please Phone (504) 301-4360 to schedule donation.



Doggy waste bag dispenser. Photo by Michael B. Chutz.

## Sheriff's Office holds Appreciation Dinner, Meraux Foundation donation



Meraux Foundation board member Rita Gue thanks Reserve Division officers for the work they do during public events held by the foundation. With her, from left, are Floyd Gue, Capt. Charles Borchers, who coordinates the Reserve Division; and at right is Sheriff James Pohlmann.

Sheriff James Pohlmann praised the job done by officers of the Reserve Division, a volunteer group that supplements the work of the Sheriff's Office without pay during an Appreciation Dinner on Dec. 15 for the officers involved.

"Thank you for your dedication," Sheriff Pohlmann told the 28 officers of the Reserve Division, which is coordinated by Capt. Charles Borchers.

"You guys do a wonderful job. The only difference between you and full-time deputies is the pay," the sheriff said. "The training and the respect you get, not only from me but the public, is the same."

He also noted the officers' standards for qualified to be a Reserve Division member are the same as regular deputies and several who started as reserve officers have become full-time with the department.

Reserve officers are involved in patrol of the streets of St. Bernard as well as working special events such as festivals, and high school sporting events.

Also at the dinner, the Reserve Division was the beneficiary of a donation from the Meraux Foundation as thanks for the work the reserves do during public events held by foundation. They have made donations to the Reserve Donation the past several years.

Reserve Division officers have worked many public events held by the Meraux Foundation, including the Jambalya Festival and the Blues in the Parish Festival, both held at their property at Docville in Violet.

Meraux Foundation board members Floyd and Rita Gue, Chris Haines and William Haines were present for the dinner and Mrs. Gue told the Reserve Division officers, "We appreciate every one of you" for the work they do at events.

She also praised the Sheriff's Office in general, saying, "To go to bed at night and put your head on a pillow and know we are protected in St. Bernard is a great gift."

Centurion Arms and Vinson Uniforms donated gift certificates given to Reserve officers at the Appreciation Dinner.

Any St. Bernard Parish resident interested in applying to be a member of the Reserve Division can contact Capt. Borchers at (504) 278-7628 or Dep. Eric Eilers at 278-7799 for more information.

Applicants must have a clean police record, be a high school graduate who is 21 or older and have a desire to serve their community.

# Education

*Events, Organizations, Obituaries, Classifieds, News*

## Three Cabrini Teams Selected From 122 Entries



(L-R) Lemuria Clark, Hannah Susslin, Arielle Dixon

Cabrini High School students participated in the "Trust Your Crazy Ideas Challenge" sponsored by the Junior Achievement, the Drew Brees Foundation and the Idea Village. The Challenge asked local students to create either a product or an idea for a business. Students from the Greater New Orleans area competed, and out of 122 entries, three Cabrini teams have been selected for the Top 20 semi-final round.

The winning students were invited to attend a press conference with Drew Brees on December 5, where they met with Drew Brees and introduced their ideas.

Seniors Lemuria Clark, working with Kelsey Pinera, submitted a proposal for a basketball clinic for local youth groups. Hannah Susslin has created a business to make and sell headbands to raise money for charity groups. Arielle Dixon working with Juniors Karrington Keller, Abigail Martory, and Senior Taylor Mumford, proposed an idea for creating and selling organic makeup.

For the next 8 weeks, our Cabrini competitors will attend the JA Idea Accelerator workshop, an intense course where they will develop their business ideas and hone their pitch skills. The winner of the Greater New Orleans competition will win \$5,000 in scholarship money and their school will win \$2,500.

The Greater New Orleans Champion will compete against winners from Baton Rouge and Shreveport for the State Champion title and an additional \$10,000 in scholarship money. Their school will win an additional \$5,000.

The goal of the program is to educate and inspire students to trust their ideas and learn strategies to bring them to fruition. Students work in teams to create a product or service that they will produce and potentially market to the public.

The project is part of Cabrini teacher Ms. Holtgreve's Economics elective.

Cabrini High School is a private, accredited, college preparatory Catholic school for young women grades 8-12. Selective admission, an award-winning science program, and championship-caliber athletics produce the complete woman prepared for college and life. The intimate atmosphere provides an environment of one-on-one instruction and personal attention. Cabrini is located at 1400 Moss Street in historic Faubourg St. John on scenic Bayou St. John.

## Six CHS Seniors Are Posse Finalists



Six Chalmette High School seniors advanced to the final round of interviews for the highly coveted and competitive Posse Scholarship – a four-year, full-tuition, leadership scholarship to an elite university. (L-R) Kaya Lawrence, Jardin Gonzales, Hailey Marshall, Austin Mankin, Courtney Saulsman, Michael O'Neill

Six Chalmette High School seniors advanced to the final round of interviews for the highly coveted and competitive Posse Scholarship – a four-year, full-tuition, leadership scholarship to an elite university.

Chalmette High School seniors have historically earned millions of dollars in scholarships each year, and a CHS senior has been a Posse Scholarship recipient for the last two years.

This year, of the 80 regional finalists, six are from Chalmette High School and will be interviewing with the University of Notre Dame, Tulane University, Case Western Reserve University, and Illinois Wesleyan University.

David Bellard, English teacher at Chalmette High School, coordinates the application process for students.

"We are so proud to have these six amazing young men and women representing Chalmette High School as Posse finalists. I wish each of them luck as they conduct their final interviews later this month."

## St. Bernard Middle School's Student of the Year



Haleigh Bergeron and Angela Seibert, Principal

Congratulations to Haleigh Bergeron for being named St. Bernard Middle School's 2016-2017 Student of the Year. Haleigh is a valued member of the Jr. Beta Club, a Gifted & Talented student, and was chosen as a Terrific Teen this school year. She takes pride in her academics and lives by the Eagle Code of being Responsible, Respectful, and Positive. Haleigh is the daughter of Christal and Shane Bergeron of the Violet Community.

## Lacoste Elementary creates Gingerbread Houses

Mrs. Arnona's Kindergarten Students at Lacoste Elementary School created Gingerbread Houses to celebrate the Holiday Season! Parents were invited to come and assist with building. Students enjoyed building and snacking during the activity.



## Pet of the Week

### Max

Hey guys, check me out! My name is Max and I would like nothing better than to be a part of your family. I am about 1 years old and available for adoption at St. Bernard Parish Animal Shelter. I am spunky and playful but will be glad to snuggle on your lap for some loving. Come visit me at 5455 E.Judge Perez Drive in Violet or call 504-278-1534.



## SAFETY from Page 5

Residents should consider having sticker bushes near windows at home to discourage anyone from trying to get inside that way.

The laundry room in a home is often the most vulnerable spot for an intruder to enter because it rarely faces the front, Borchers said. But using a stick-on alarm on a window provides some protection against easy entry.

Never leave a garage door opener in an easily spotted place in an unlocked car outside the home, Borchers said. Once an intruder gets into the garage they can work unseen to get into the residence.

Borchers added, "I'm a proponent of alarm systems" at home but said he doesn't see a great advantage to having one that is monitored by a company that charges a fee and says it will call authorities if they detect a problem.

Instead, an alarm system that loudly goes off at a home will both likely scare away an intruder and, if you aren't home at the time, will alert any neighbor who is home, making it probable the Sheriff's Office will be called, Borchers said.

And he said there are motion sensors now that when tripped make a sound like a dog barking in the residence, giving a would-be intruder something to think about.

Eilers addressed the fact that in today's world people are often walking while having a conversation on a cell phone, paying little or no attention to their surroundings and making themselves more vulnerable to being assaulted.

Paying attention as you walk about makes it much less likely of becoming a victim of crime, Eilers said.

Borchers and Eilers also went over various situations with participants, such as asking what they would do if they are home and someone came to the door saying they had a package for them to sign for – but there wasn't a delivery truck outside.

Or what if a stranger comes to your door and asks to use a phone?

Borchers said if there is no delivery truck near-by it is reasonable to ask someone wanting you to sign for a package to leave what they have at your door while they stand at the sidewalk.

Same thing for someone asking to use a phone, he said. Tell them to give you the number and you will call. "You don't have to let a stranger in your home, especially if you are alone."

## GAINES from Page 3

Nicosia.

Superintendent Doris Voitier thanked Nicosia for her dedication to the students of St. Bernard.

"Ms. Nicosia has been a wonderful addition to our board these last ten months. She has been incredibly active within our school community, and we thank her for her service," she said.

Gaines joins the board as the District 10 representative. A long-time educator, Gaines began his teaching career in 1988 at St. Bernard High School and retired in 2013 from Chalmette High School.



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# Entertainment *Events, Organizations, Obituaries, Classifieds, News*

## Jazz in June concert series coming in July 2017



Photo by Lenor Duplessis

St. Bernard Parish Government is pleased to announce it has received a \$3,977 grant from ATMOS Energy to fund a new Jazz in June concert series in 2017. The grant will help fund the musical talent that will perform the concerts. "This is another way for us to improve the quality of life for our residents," stated Parish President Guy McInnis.

Jazz in June is a new program envisioned as a family-friendly free concert series in Torres Park. The concerts would be Thursday evenings at the amphitheater which is adjacent to the children's fort playground and is located directly behind the Government Complex and Civic Center. An early evening concert event is planned where families may picnic and enjoy the music while the smaller children enjoy the playground.

A variety of Jazz artists are scheduled for each Thursday of every week in June 2017. Food, artist, and craft vendors are invited to participate. Please contact Denise Montalbano, Leisure Coordinator at [dmontalbano@sbpg.net](mailto:dmontalbano@sbpg.net) for more information

The Parish Government is grateful for funding support it has also received for this new program from the State of Louisiana Decentralized Arts Funding Program. Due to State budget constraints, however, additional funds were needed to arrange this event. ATMOS Energy generously stepped in to provide this funding difference.

### HONORS from Page 1

Sheriff James Pohlmann said it's wonderful that the Knights of Columbus "recognize our public servants in St. Bernard Parish. You have some top notch people working here in the Sheriff's Office, the Fire Department and for Acadian Ambulance."

The sheriff also praised Alfonso as being dedicated to keeping St. Bernard safe and is a "great deputy, a guy young guys can look up to."

District Fire Chief Rusty Constantine lauded Tregle for the job he has done in rescue situations including immediately after Hurricane Katrina.

Benci was praised by Lamar Williams, operations supervisor for Acadian Ambulance, for his work in St. Bernard Parish.

## St. Bernard Parish Officials and local Historical Society observe anniversary of the Battle of Lake Borgne

Wednesday, December 14th marked the 202nd anniversary of the Battle of Lake Borgne, the first military engagement in the British campaign for New Orleans culminating in the Battle of New Orleans, January 8th, 1815. A British amphibious force consisting of shallow-draft vessels with canons defeated the American naval force after very fierce, bloody, hand-to-hand combat. Despite the American loss, the engagement alerted American military forces that the British had arrived in Louisiana waters and that the British land invasion was imminent. Louisianans organized a successful defense of New Orleans which secured American ownership of the Mississippi Valley.

St. Bernard Historical Society president Anthony A. "Tony" Fernandez organizes the annual anniversary observance of the Battle of New Orleans. Pat and Claire Pescay place their beautiful yacht, the September Song II at the disposal of the Society every year. "The Americans displayed unmatched courage in this important engagement" said Tony Fernandez.

The St. Bernard Parish Tourist Commission and Tourist Department support the anniversary annually. "It is so very important to remember our history and the sacrifices of American armed forces throughout our history" said Katie Tommaseo, St. Bernard Parish Director of Tourism.



### 2017 Battle of New Orleans Events

#### Wednesday, January 4th

**BONOH Symposium • "The Battle of Lake Borgne"**  
St. Bernard Historic Courthouse, 6:30-7:30 pm

#### Thursday, January 5th

**BONOH Symposium - "Los Islenos in the Battle of New Orleans"**  
Los Islenos Complex, 6:30-7:30 pm

#### Friday and Saturday, January 6th and 7th

St. Bernard Parish Government Complex • 8201 West Judge Perez Drive  
Welcome Center in Lobby • Food and Craft Vendors • Battle of New Orleans Merchandise



#### NPS Chalmette Battlefield • 9:00 am-3:30 pm

Public shuttle starts at 8:30 am from Government Complex • [www.nps.gov/jela](http://www.nps.gov/jela)

#### BONOH Symposium in Council Chambers from 10:30 am-3:30 pm

**BONOH Tours** at 10:30 am, 12:30 pm and 3:30 pm  
[www.LaHigherEd.org](http://www.LaHigherEd.org)

#### Louisiana National Guard Museum • Jackson Barracks, open 10:00 am-4:00 pm

Public shuttle service • Public parking, use Gate 2, 6400 St. Claude Avenue  
[www.geauxguardmuseums.com](http://www.geauxguardmuseums.com)

## Laverne Pascal Sylvera



Laverne Pascal Sylvera passed away peacefully at home, surrounded by her family, on Thursday, December 22, 2016 at the age of 80. She was the cherished wife of 50 years to the late John T. Sylvera Sr. Loving mother of Tommy Sylvera Jr. (Debbie), Vicki Kelly (Gary), Kevin Sylvera (Rhonda) and Darrin Sylvera. Daughter of the late Frank and Camille Labat Pascal. Sister of Frank Pascal Jr. and the late Jay Pascal. Proud grandmother of Tommy III (Trisha), Troy, Tanya, Kristi (Ron), Amy (Robbie), Gary Jr., Kristen (John) and Kevin Jr. Great grandmother of Kolby, Nathan, J.T. IV, Emma, Jolie, Cody, Cali, Chloe, Sophia, Ellie, Beau, Ashton and Brooks. Aunt of Rae and Guy. She is also survived and fondly remembered by many cousins, relatives and dear friends.

Laverne was a native of New Orleans, LA and a longtime resident of Chalmette, LA before settling in Abita Springs. She enjoyed the precious years of raising her children, 30+ years as an Avon representative, was a member in several social clubs including the Chalmations Social Club and Salvage One Social Club; was a member of the volunteer guild at St. Tammany Parish Hospital and a faithful member of Gethsemane Lutheran Church. In her later years enjoyed her getaways with friends to the casinos. She was well loved and will be forever remembered as a loving and loyal wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, sister and a friend of many, who treasured her family.

Relatives and friends are invited to attend a visitation to be held at St. Bernard Memorial Funeral Home, 701 W. Virtue St., Chalmette, LA on Tuesday, December 27th from 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m., followed by a funeral service in Laverne's memory beginning at 11:00 a.m. She will be laid to rest with her beloved husband in St. Bernard Memorial Gardens. To view and sign the Family Guestbook, please visit [www.stbernardmemorial.com](http://www.stbernardmemorial.com)

### D.A.R.E. from Page 1

"How do you stop the crime problem," the sheriff asked children and parents. "You've got to stop the drug problem," he answered.

The sheriff said many people have family members affected by illegal drugs or alcohol abuse.

"Drugs destroy your life, your family and your community," Sheriff Pohlmann said. The parish jail is filled with people who are there because of drug problems, either because they were

arrested with drugs or the need for money to buy drugs led them to get caught stealing or burglarizing, the sheriff said.

"If you think drugs are a non-violent offense," the sheriff said, "I can take you to cemeteries" where people who have died from using drugs are buried.

"Learn the warning signs of drug use," in young people, Sheriff Pohlmann said to parents, including:

- Loss of interest in things they used to do such as sports, dance or reading.

- Hanging around with new groups of friends unknown to parents.

- Sudden attitude or mood swings.

- Sudden problems connected with school and academics.

Talk regularly with your children and be familiar with their friends, the sheriff said.

If parents see signs of possible problems, don't be hesitant to ask what is happening. "It's not something they will grow out of and it needs to be addressed," the sheriff said.

Sheriff Pohlmann said while

## Times listed for legal use of fireworks in St. Bernard Parish through New Year's Day

By St. Bernard Parish ordinance, here are the times when fireworks can legally be used in the parish through New Year's Day.

**Through Dec. 28** fireworks can legally be used from 9 a.m. until 11 p.m.

**On Dec. 29 and 30** they can be used from 9 a.m. until midnight.

**On Dec. 31**, they can be used from 9 a.m. until 2 a.m. on Jan. 1, 2017.

**On Jan 1**, fireworks can be used from 9 a.m. until 11 p.m., **at which time all use of fireworks must end for the New Year's period.**



D.A.R.E. 1st Place essay winners at Gauthier Elementary, from left, are Madison Zalaya, Madyson Lacourse, Sydney Guerra and Harley Schiro. and 2nd Place essay winners were Shalyr Ceaser, Madilynn Moss, Olivia D'Antoni and Warren Guidroz. In back are Capt. Ronnie Martin, Principal Lisa Young, Col. Robert McNab, Sheriff James Pohlmann, Lt. Robert Broadhead, D.A.R.E. instructor Sgt. Darrin Miller and D.A.R.E. program commander Lt. Lisa Jackson.

D.A.R.E. is a good program he would like to see it expanded to be a regular course in school for grades one through 12.

That would put money on the front end of the problem to get to kids through education, perhaps giving them a chance of avoiding becoming addicted and then either getting arrested for drugs or after committing crimes seeking money for drugs. That would be better than paying on the back end for incarcerating them, the sheriff said.

Also, the sheriff said, there is a crucial need for treatment programs for addiction – especially for young people - so that it isn't available only to the rich or those with great insurance.

Also, the sheriff said he favors prison sentences for anyone who sells drugs.

Several hundred 5th-grade students graduate each semester from the D.A.R.E. program given by St. Bernard sheriff's officers Lt. Lisa Jackson, commander of the program, and Sgt. Darrin Miller. The D.A.R.E. program, held in both public and private schools, was re-established in 2009, four years after Hurricane Katrina.

*See more photos for this story and others on our web site at [www.thestbernardnews.com](http://www.thestbernardnews.com).*