



LOUISIANA DRUG GUARD

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12 face drug-related charges in Kentwood raid

By JIM GARRETT, Daily Star Staff Writer

KENTWOOD - More than 50 law enforcement officers descended on Kentwood Wednesday night to make 12 drug related arrests.

One of the main targets was a mobile home on 13th Street - the main place of business for an alleged gang known as the 13th Street Dog Pound Gangsters, said a Tangipahoa Parish Sheriff's Deputy .

Men in handcuffs stood around a 55-gallon drum filled with burning wood to stay warm while being guarded by a bevy of differently clad lawmen and women, some armed with Colt submachine guns.

According to officials, Kentwood has only seen a rise in drug dealing and related crimes in the past year or so. Public complaints have poured

into the Sheriff's office about the alleged drug dealing on the 13th Street corner.

Investigations of the alleged Kentwood drug-dealing scene has gone on since May, with undercover officers making crack cocaine buys.

As people drove north on Interstate 55, they couldn't help notice all the police cruisers parked at the state truck weighing station. "We had them rendezvous there," said TPSO Information Officer Patti Giannoble. "All these police cars might have scared the people of Kentwood."

Ten suspects were arrested in a mobile home on state Highway 1051. Giannoble said that TPSO officers from regular patrol, the Chase Team, the juvenile division, the Kentwood, Hammond, Amite and Ponchatoula police depart-

ments, the Tri-Parish Narcotics Task Force, the Livingston Parish Sheriff's Office, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency, the St. Tammany Sheriff's Office, the Louisiana National Guard Counter Drug Task Force and Louisiana probation and parole officers participated in the raid.

As the raid progressed, the Kentwood Police Station began to look like Grand Central Station, as officers brought in suspect after suspect for questioning and processing. Those arrested on charges were taken a few at a time to the Tangipahoa Parish jail in Amite.

"The investigation is still ongoing - absolutely," Giannoble said. "We're going to keep working together with the other agencies." ©The Daily Star 2000 *Staff Sgt. Ronald Mays supports Hammond PD*

Officers show spirit of Christmas to child victim

LAPLACE---When St. John the Baptist Sheriff's deputies arrested a handful of people running a methamphetamine manufacturing lab in December, they were also able to brighten the Christmas of an 8-year-old girl who was in the wrong place at the wrong time.

The girl was in the house visiting her father and grandmother when depu-

ties arrived to make the bust.

The officers noticed there was only one present beneath the Christmas tree, so while some were making the arrests, others scrambled to find a few more gifts for the child. The deputies located gifts back at the Sheriff's office being collected for needy children.

As the officer gave the gifts to the

young girl, she expressed her gratitude and understanding of what was happening to her father and grandmother. She told the officers that the police were not bad people and they had a job to do too.

In all, five people at the house were accused of using a chemical process to make methamphetamine. *Spc. Darryl F. Vizzini, Jr. supports St. John the Baptist S/O*

State Highlights

A Christmas party was organized at Jackson Barracks in December for more than 30 young graduates of DEFY class 2000. Refreshments and gift certificates were given to the young adults by **Staff Sgt. Debra Williams, Staff Sgt. Steve Haynes**, and volunteers from the 1-141 FA BN. Lt. Donna Jones expressed thanks to Williams and Haynes and to all who made DEFY 2000 a success. An appreciative thanks goes to Staff Sgt. Cockerham for driving the bus for the past DEFY events.

The Louisiana Drug Policy Board will have a key role in overseeing the execution of an eight million dollar State Incentive Grant (SIB) received by the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals Office of Addictive Disorders. **Maj. Pete Schneider** will serve on the SIB advisory board. The grant is for new and comprehensive drug prevention strategies throughout Louisiana.

The Kenner Narcotics Division executed a search warrant at a residence in Kenner. The result was the arrest of a juvenile for possession with intent to distribute 527 pounds of marijuana. **Senior Amn Lanitra Reed** supports the Kenner Police Narcotics Section.

Congratulations to John Shelton for his promotion to E7/Master Sergeant. Shelton supports State Police SDN-Baton Rouge

This monthly newsletter is published by the Louisiana National Guard Counterdrug Task Force. Send all submissions to Tech. Sgt. Suzanne Chaillot at Shyobro@aol.com or fax 337-262-6647

Bogalusa gets assistance from small town resource team

BATONROUGE---A member of the Counter Drug Task Force assigned to the Governors Drug Policy Board paid a visit to the small town of Bogalusa in December.

Staff Sgt. Judith Merritt analyzed the drug threat in Bogalusa and identified opportunities and resources for improving the situation as part of an assistance team. Merritt presented her findings and recommen-

dations to the town leaders at a lunch meeting several days later.

In January, the town will receive a written packet with detailed information and strategies they can implement to fight the drug problem, as well as strategies for improving other areas the team covered. The Small Town Assistance program is managed by the Governor's Office of Rural Development.

Guard team keeps on truckin

NEW ORLEANS---A million dollar X-ray truck for the United States Customs Service made its first successful search of a tanker by members of the Louisiana National Guard Counter Drug Task Force. This type of container examination on a tanker at the CES facility in



New Orleans is run totally by National Guard personnel. **Staff Sgts. Paul Dey and Jerry Young; Sgts. Alexander Griffith, Emmit Brown, and John Carter; Spc, Greg Kiley and Senior Amn Jason Horne** support the Container Examination Station for U.S. Customs

Large order lead agents to funny business

NEW ORLEANS---When DEA agents in Las Vegas contacted agents in New Orleans about a woman purchasing 240 cases of pseudoephedrine at a local discount and wholesale business, they knew something didn't seem right. They knew this drug was one of the primary ingredients in manufacturing methamphetamine. At \$1,200 per case, the 3.8 million dosage units of methamphetamine precursor could yield 460 pounds of meth.

took this case and discovered that the owner of the wholesale business had legitimately purchased over 32 million pills of pseudoephedrine during a one year period.

The owner pled guilty to distribution of a listed chemical with reason to believe it would be utilized to manufacture illegal narcotics. The operation was directly linked to four or five labs in several states. **Sgt. Chris Trenticosta supports the La. Mobile Deployment Team and Staff Sgt. Kristi Moon supports GCHIDTA**

The Mobile Deployment Team