



# LOUISIANA DRUG GUARD

The Counterdrug Task Force Newsletter of the Louisiana National Guard

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## \$5 million drug bust closes shop on local product

LAFAYETTE---Police slammed the door on an organization distributing more than \$5 million worth of the club drug and date rape drug, GBL, in May raiding two warehouses that contained laboratories.

Much of what was seized was being sold over the Internet through various sites that advertised the GBL under product names such as "Swerve" and "Rest-EZE," a representative of the Lafayette Metro Narcotics said.

Investigators started receiving information on the drugs in January, but the efforts were delayed because law enforcement had to wait for the passage of state legislation that passed in April.

The investigation involved about 40 officers and members of the Louisiana National Guard Counter Drug Task Force.

GBL is closely related to GHB, which has gained popularity among young adults for the feeling of euphoria it reputedly gives. And the drug has been used to sedate victims in sexual assault cases, according to local and national reports.

Two suspects were initially arrested and more arrests are expected to take place in the next few months.

*Spec. Jason Escoyne supports Lafayette Metro Narcotics*

## Thou Shalt not Trespass, pot grower learns the hard way

DESOTO PARISH---When a local landowner discovered a trespasser on his property, he called the law. The trespasser told the landowner he was just looking for a place to turkey hunt.

What peaked the owner's curiosity was the fact that the individual did not have a gun but was not empty handed either. He carried a fertilizer bag and has some strange looking seeds.

He instantly thought this man was after more than just a wild bird.

At the same time the Desoto Parish Sheriff's office arrived on the scene, a car seemed to be driving extremely slow checking out the situation going on.

The trespasser tried to wave down the driver, who took off in a hurry. The vehicle was instantly pursued and stopped and upon investigation, several license plates were discovered in the truck plus a tell-tale map containing several markings of the vicinity. Could it possibly lead the investigators to the suspected marijuana patches?

And indeed it did. Agents from the La. State Police along with the Desoto Parish Deputies searched the property and discovered 192 marijuana plants. The average height of the plants were four to five feet tall. The plants were scattered in a line for close to a mile. The two suspects were arrested for cultivation of marijuana.

*Sgt. Anna Keifer supports LSP North District Narcotics.*

## Neighbors complaints lead agents to drugs

CHALMETTE---Complaints from residents throughout a neighborhood led narcotics agents with the Sheriff's Office Special Investigation Division to a Chalmette house where they arrested 11 suspects and recovered marijuana, Methadone, Vicodin and Valium in the process.

The sheriff says that those arrested in connection with the case include sus-

pects from Las Vegas, Nevada, Harvey, Violet and Poydras. The other seven suspects are from Chalmette.

Several complaints that residence over several months spurred action by narcotic agents to obtain a consent to search the residence where they discovered the drugs.

**Staff Sgt. Al Shiro supports St. Bernard PSO**

## Litterbug tosses the goods

SLIDELL---While working an insurance checkpoint, members of the narcotics bureau noticed the smell of marijuana coming from a stopped vehicle.

An officer noticed one of the passengers throw something onto the street

as he approached the vehicle. What was recovered was a bag of MDMA (Ecstasy). The officers recovered 20 pills and more than one thousand dollars on the suspect. **Sgt. 1st Class Tony Icamina supports Slidell PD**

## Dealer busted, weapons, money, drugs seized

THIBODEUX---A drug dealer was put out of business by members of the Terrebonne Parish Narcotics Task Force. After they executed a search warrant on his house, agents recovered more than 60 grams of marijuana

and close to 3 grams of crack cocaine. Three weapons, documented money, steroids and paraphernalia were also seized in the arrest. **Tech Sgt. John Fos supports Terrebonne NTF**

## No high times for marijuana cultivator

COVINGTON---Narcotics agents, acting on an anonymous tip about a small scale marijuana farm, went to investigate and discovered eight plants at a local residence. In addition to the plants, investigators recovered a bong,

marijuana seeds, plastic bags, two issues of *HIGH TIMES* magazine and an aging copy of *The Complete Guide to Growing Marijuana*. **Staff Sgt. Paul Tullier supports St. Tammany PSO**

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A word of thanks to all who helped with the production of our congressional display. With everyone's cooperation, Louisiana will, once again, out shine all other states involved. All original photographs will be returned later in the month. Thanks again for everyone's help.

***Have a safe and happy summer***

### STATE BRIEFS

GRETNA---Three suspects were arrested by the Gretna Police Narcotics division for possession and distribution of 1,388 grams of crack cocaine. This after several undercover buys took place between an undercover officer and the suspects. **Staff Sgt. Daryl Grush supports Gretna PD**

BOGALUSA--Sgt. 1st Class LaVerne Cook, Jr, has been assigned as a mentor within the Bogalusa School System. He also assisted with Project Graduation for the Senior Class of 2000, Bogalusa High and Varnado High. **Cook supports Washington Parish DTF**

KENNER---Several undercover officers with the Kenner Narcotics Division arrested an individual from Florida when he tried to sell them party drugs. The arrest resulted in the seizure of 21 tabs of Ecstasy and 8 hits of LSD. **Sgt. Paul Hooper supports Kenner PD**

CROWLEY--Acadia Parish Sheriff Deputies stopped a Ford pick-up for a traffic violation on Interstate 10. The two Texas occupants claimed to be traveling to New Orleans from Laredo. A consensual search of the vehicle disclosed 34 pounds of cocaine packed inside 12 vacuum-sealed bags covered with oil. The cocaine was found in a spare time on the underside of the vehicle. **Staff Sgt. Peter Leger supports Acadia Parish SO**