



The Lawman

The Newsletter of the Bossier Sheriff



Volume 11, Issue 12

News and Information From Your Sheriff

December 2009



From the Sheriff

Larry C. Deen

Christmas food program is part of year-round effort

On Dec. 23, the Bossier Sheriff's Office delivered approximately 550 Christmas food boxes to needy people in Bossier Parish.

It is estimated each box contained enough food to feed a family of six, meaning our agency distributed about 3,300 meals. It was the final push of "Operation Blessing: Bossier Parish" in 2009.

I am proud to know our deputies and Posse members played a part in helping those, who through no fault of their own, have fallen on hard times.

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Sheriff Deen presents the Sheriff's Commendation Award to maintenance garage supervisor Gary Plunkett at the annual Awards Ceremony Dec. 18 at the Northwest Louisiana Criminal Justice Academy.

Plunkett receives Commendation Award

Bossier Sheriff Larry Deen presented the agency's highest form of recognition during an awards ceremony Dec. 18 at the North Louisiana Criminal Justice Academy.

The honor went to Deputy Harlan Eugene Dredge, who signed on with the agency three years ago.

In presenting the award, Deen said Dredge earned the star for "an act of heroism demonstrating an extraordinary initiative, performed at great personal risk in carrying out the duties of the Bossier Sheriff's Department."

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THE PEOPLE PAGES



Terry Temple was promoted to sergeant of Patrol in November.



Roy Colvin retired, and was honored in November with a plaque by Chief T.C. Bloxom.



Robert Maule was promoted to sergeant in November.

BSO deputies and families have transitions, honors

The girls of the Benton Tigers soccer team, aged 9-11, coached by deputies **Jeff Humphries** and **Josh Cathcart**, finished this impressive fall season undefeated at 8-0. The team scored a total of 37 goals and only gave up 7 goals all season.

In the last three seasons, the team has only been defeated twice. Among the team members were Josh Cathcart's daughter **Grace**, Jeff Humphries' daughter **Courtney**, **Jonathan Jackson's** daughters **Aubrey** and **Lexie** and **Rebecca Preibus' daughter Casey**.

Deputy **Chris English** and his wife **Stephanie** have a new daughter, **Lexi Reagan English**, born Dec. 1, weighing seven pounds, six ounces. She was welcomed home by big brother, **Luke**, who isn't sure that he's going to share his



Four deputies were sworn in recently. From left are reserve deputy **Jim Clark**, **Mike Halbrook**, **Sheriff Deen**, **Jonathan Stiles** and **Stephen Hoff**.

toys with her.

Bailiff **Mark Toloso** bested more than 500 golfers from 15 states in Hilton Head, S.C., to become National Champion of the Men's Amateur Golf Association

B-Flight.

The Records Division scored a perfect 100 percent accuracy on information that is reported to the state. The staff is very proud of this accomplishment.



Class 002 of the North Louisiana Criminal Justice Academy graduated Nov. 13. They are, in alphabetical order, Michael Almond, Michael Basco, Charlie Bean, Will Brantley, Jason Brown, Forrest Collins, William Davidson, Erica Evans, Beckie Fohl, David Fox, William Franks, Troy Hughes, Kenneth James, James Bryan King, Michael Lombardino, Jerry McCoy, Elantieikei McDaniel, Ryan Nealy, Thomas Neuroth, Janet Pierce, Jerry Ray, Gary Roberts, Todd Roberts, Jay Schott, Audry Seegers, Marvin Shoemake and Judy Williams.

NLCJA class 002 graduated in November ceremony

The North Louisiana Criminal Justice Academy held its second fully-certified Peace Officers Standards and Training academy graduation Nov. 13.

Class 002 consisted of 27 recruits from various agencies across north-

west Louisiana including the Bossier Sheriff's Office, Lincoln Parish Sheriff's Office, Webster Parish Sheriff's Office, Bienville Parish Sheriff's Office, LSUHSC Police, City of Grambling Police, City of Minden Police, City of Homer Police, and the State of Louisiana Office of Juvenile Justice.

There were four awards given at today's ceremony. The firearms award went to Jason Schott. The physical fitness award went to Charles Bean. The academic award was given to Michael Lombardino Jr., and the honor graduate award was given to Judy Williams, class president.



Four graduate from Shreveport Academy

Four Bossier deputies graduated from the Shreveport Police Academy. From left are Chief Tom Myrick, Deputy Charlie Myrick, Deputy Joey Bowen, Deputy Jared Whitard, Deputy Corey Maclsaac, Chief T.C. Bloxom and Chief Julian Whittington. Deputy Charlie Myrick won the Distinguished Marksman award.

FROM THE SHERIFF *(Continued from page 1)*

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Many of those who received help during the year from “Operation Blessing” and those who received a food box on Dec. 23 are dealing with financial, emotional and/or physical problems.

Deputies and Posse members began loading the boxes at 9 a.m. Dec. 23 at the Bossier Sheriff’s Substation in Bossier City. From the substation, they fanned out across the parish to deliver the boxes, which included a supply of staple goods, along with a fresh hen.

The food in the boxes came from a variety of sources, with the bulk of it coming from schools in the Bossier Parish system.

Brookshire’s Food Stores in Bossier Parish provided the boxes, some of the staple goods and the hens. L.J. Earnest of Benton made an 18-wheeler trailer available for

use as a storage facility.

The process of collecting the food began just before Thanksgiving when barrels were placed in the schools. ***Later, the barrels were reclaimed, which were full of canned goods, thanks to the students.*** The barrels were then transported to the 18-wheeler trailer where they were stored, and later, the staple goods were sorted, separated and boxed.

Deputies and Posse members arrived, loaded the boxes and delivered them.

It is important for people in Bossier Parish to understand, Operation Blessing: Bossier Parish was not designed to help the needy *only* during the holidays. The program has functioned year-round since coming into being in November 1998.

Its food bank is run by the Bossier Sheriff’s Posse and Auxil-

iary volunteers. The program’s hours of operation for qualifying and food distribution are 9 a.m. until noon every Wednesday. Applications must be made in person and applicants need to bring their social security card, their current utility bills, proof of income and/or food stamp verification.

Operation Blessing is a non-profit corporation which operates without tax dollars and is underwritten by individuals and area businesses.

Non-perishable food donations from the public are welcome.

I want to thank everyone connected with the Bossier Sheriff’s Office who gave so generously of their time. The willingness of people to volunteer their time is one of the essential elements of this program.

I also want to thank the schools, businesses, churches and individuals in the parish for their support.



Benton Middle School donated \$500 to Operation Blessing. From left are Wallace Martin, BSO school resource officer for Benton Middle School, Sheriff Larry Deen, Benton Middle School Principal Dwayne Slack, and eighth graders Christian Rawls and Megan Fream.



Brookshire's on Barksdale Boulevard donated more than \$2300 and more than 550 hens to the Bossier Sheriff's Office Operation Blessing Spirit of Christmas Food Drive. From left are manager Gary Lenderman and Maj. Don Burling.

Seven receive Outstanding Performer awards (Continued from page 1)



Brandon Coker



Donna Fair



Nathan Eddy



Robert Teague



Shannon Mack



Robert Stevenson



Mabria Grosjean

(Continued from page 1)

Dredge was sent to a bayou that flows under Sligo Road at 3 a.m., Dec. 15, where a resident had reported someone yelling for help. When Dredge reached the water's edge, not hearing anything, he jumped into the frigid bayou and found Nathan Thomas Hart clinging to a bridge piling. Hart ended up in the water after he lost control of his pickup and it plunged into the bayou.

Dredge put Hart over his shoulder

and carried him to safety. Doctors at Willis-Knighton Pierremont say Hart would not have survived 10 more minutes in the cold water.

"Deputy Dredge did what he was trained to do," said Deen. "Giving no thought to his own safety, he saved the life of a man who was already suffering from hypothermia and probably wouldn't have lasted much longer in the freezing water. Due to his quick, heroic action, I am honored to present the Star of Valor

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Deputies cited for years of faithful service (Continued from page 5)

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to Deputy Dredge.”

Deen also presented the agency’s 2009 Medal of Commendation during the awards ceremony. The honor, which is the Bossier Sheriff’s Department’s second highest form of recognition, outranked only by the Star of Valor, went to Deputy Gary Plunkett, the supervisor of the agency’s maintenance garage. He has been with the department for 23 years.

In giving Plunkett the award, Deen said “this honor is granted for displaying a high level of knowledge and high degree of leadership, for dedication to duty over a long period of time and for meritorious service rendered above and beyond routine call of duty. There is no doubt Deputy Plunkett has earned the Medal of Commendation.”

In addition, awards were given for Outstanding Per-

former of the Year. In the Criminal Operations Division, the awards went to Deputy Robert Teague and Deputy Shannon Mack. In the Criminal Operations Division, the awards went to Sgt. Robert Stevenson, Deputy Brandon Coker, Deputy Nathan Edie and Mabria Grosjean. In the Support Services Division, the award went to Donna Fair.

Also honored during the ceremony for 20 years of continuous service were Tommy R. Beasley Jr., Michael R. Smith and Walter Dement.

Deputies were also cited for years of faithful service. Given recognition for 15 years of continuous service were Clarence “Buck” Wilkins, Don Burling, Donna Fair, Doug Lauter, Billy Jones, James Chreene Jr., Robert Funderburk, Kenneth Gay, Linton Jacobs, Jr., Carl Jones, John “Jackie” Loveless,

Donald Williams and Eileen Tinker.

Recognized for 10 years of continuous service were Robert P. Crawford, Pamela Crain, William D. Orr, Clenton Rambin Jr., Joe Parrish, Walt Hollis, Jr., Edward Milner, Larche Watters, Les Porter and David Miller.

Honored for 5 years of continuous service were Stacey Chiasson, Jesse Williams Jr., Jean Horne, Bronnie Tennyson Jr., Kimmi S. Hood, David Vishnefski, Christopher Green, Ted Ward, Karl Malmay, James R. Williams, Rodney Boyer, Cheryl Brady, Tempy Koglin, Shonda Lynn, Brandon Masters, Denice Parker, Robert Teague, Clayton Christian, James Toloso, Kenda Whaley, Daryl Brown, Sandra Murphy, Glen Horton, Ralph Wade Allen, Chad Gauthier, Billie McCoy, Diana Roques, Jennifer McDaniel, Elaine McLain, Dennis Kinne, Berry Shoumaker, Jesse Tallent and John J. Poole.



W.T. Lewis Elementary School donated \$1,000 to the D.A.R.E. program. From left are counselor Bethanie Williams, Sheriff Deen, principal Janiene Batchelor and assistant principal Lisa Burns.



Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 30, donated \$500 the Bossier Sheriff food bank, Operation Blessing. From left are Bill Lane, Maj. Don Burling and Mike Cox. Lane and Cox are members of the Posse.



The Posse Press

The Newsletter of the Bossier Sheriff's Posse

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News of the Bossier Sheriff's Posse

December 2009

Keener loves to meet people, 'give back to the community'

When he volunteered to go to Korea during the Korean War, Carl Keener had no idea that the alphabet would save his life. He was stationed at Barksdale Air Force Base and volunteered to be shipped to Korea.

Luckily for him, they only took the people with last names beginning in the letters A-J. Carl missed going by a letter. And the man with the last "J" name on the list was killed only two days after arriving.

Carl Spencer Keener was born Feb. 1, 1933 near Ashland, Ohio. The second of eight children, Carl was the only one of the children to leave the Ohio area and to join the military. He graduated from Ashland High School in 1950 and worked at a local foundry shoveling sand for the three months following graduation. *He quickly realized that sand shoveling was not his calling*, so he joined the U.S. Air Force in September

1950.

Carl was first sent to Lackland Air Force Base for training. Afterwards, he was stationed at Tyndall Air Force Base in Fort Walton Beach, Fla. There he trained for six weeks to be an air policeman. From there, Carl was transferred to Barksdale Air Force Base in 1953. This is where he volunteered to go to Korea but was not chosen, thankfully. Because of budget constraints, he was offered an early discharge and was released from duty.



Keener

That same year, Carl was introduced to Pam Riddle. Carl's cousin was in the military with him and had a girlfriend. *The two of them arranged a blind date for Carl* with one of the girl's friends. They married Oct. 2, 1953, two months after Carl's discharge.

In the months following his discharge, Carl worked in Minden and then at J.B. Beard & Co., doing steel and iron work. After about nine months, he left there and went to work in the filing office of the regional Veteran's Administration.

But Carl's career took another turn and landed him working for another government agency, the United State Postal Service. He worked for them until his retirement 28 years later. All together, Carl worked over 35 years in government service. After his retirement, Carl worked in Haughton at Ponder's Hardware Store part-time a few days a week. He worked there 15 years until the store closed.

In 1995 Bossier Sheriff Larry Deen formed the Posse. Carl was one of the first men to sign up. He was looking for something to fill a little of his time and a way to give back to the community. The entire time he has been with the Posse, Carl

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The Posse Press *(Continued from page 7)*

Keener helps people with household repairs

has worked the Wednesday morning shift. He said that when he worked at Ponder's, he could not work on Wednesdays because it would interfere with Wednesday night services at his church. So, naturally, a Wednesday morning shift with the Posse was perfect! Carl stressed how thankful he was that the Sheriff and the staff have been able to accommodate that re-

quest for all of these years.

Carl and Pam have two children, Gary and Sharon. Gary works for the United States Postal Service, just like Dad, and Sharon is a certified public accountant in Monroe. Between the two of them, they have five children. Those grandchildren have in turn provided Carl and Pam with three great-grandchildren.

In his spare time, Carl is usually tinkering with something. He knows how to repair a wide variety of things, including pipes, toasters and a lot of other things. He assists neighbors, friends and his 90-year-old mother-in-law whenever he can. Carl loves to help people, which is part of the reason he loves the Posse so much. He enjoys being able to get out in the community to meet people.