

Slidell Sentry NEWS



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VOL. 7 | NO. 72

SUNDAY, February 12, 2012

75 CENTS

GEAUX ARTS BALL HELD

NEWS, PAGE 3A

Lancaster book presented to School Board

Brister, others in DC touting parish

Officials look to bring in new businesses, improve business atmosphere

By Erik Sanzenbach
St. Tammany News

St. Tammany Parish President Pat Brister traveled to Washington D.C. with representatives of both the East and West Chambers of Commerce last week, where they met with the Louisiana Congressional delegation and federal government

agencies to put forth the parish's needs and try and drum up ideas for economic development.

"It was a good week to be here," Brister said. "The entire delegation is here, and they are very supportive of our concerns."

Brister said the purpose of the trip was not to look for money but to talk to legislators and federal entities about changing regula-

tions that could help St. Tammany Parish improve its business atmosphere and bring in new businesses.

For instance, she spent a day at the Environmental Protection Agency to show them the parish's plan to deal with parts of the several rivers in the parish that have low oxygen content. This is caused by businesses along the

river that have wastewater runoff, which is depleting the oxygen in the water. Brister said the EPA found several hot spots on the rivers that need to be looked at. The penalties for not mitigating the situation could be financially bad for the parish.

"If we do not increase the oxygen content by 50 percent in these hot spots, then the businesses

cannot get permits to operate, and they will leave the parish," Brister explained.

She said the parish has a plan to increase the oxygen content, but it will need more time to implement it. She said the EPA was encouraged by the parish plan,

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Australian Adventure



Above, Nino Jr., Niccolo and Gabriel Bonura pose with an aborigine didgeridoo player. At right, Laurie Bonura enjoys her first Australia Day just weeks after moving to Australia with her family.

New job takes local family down under

By Suzanne Le Breton
St. Tammany News

Nino and Laurie Bonura were looking for the chance to take their children on an adventure and expose them to a different culture, so when the opportunity to relocate to Australia became available the Mandeville-area family jumped on it.

The decision was made in August, and Nino Bonura had to make the

move in November. He stayed with a coworker for a period then came back to the States for three weeks in December to tie up loose ends, celebrate the holidays and finish packing up their house.

The Bonuras rented out their Mandeville home, packed up their most treasured belongings in a ship-

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Setting priorities topic of meeting

Slidell City Council meeting Monday in special session

By Erik Sanzenbach
St. Tammany News

The Slidell City Council hopes to get some things cleared up with the administration when it comes to spending priorities for the city.

A special meeting, called by District D Councilman Joe Fraught, is planned tomorrow night. Fraught said the council, administration and department heads hold an informal meeting before the budget meetings and councilmen are given a list of things the administration wants to do.

"They are usually very productive," Fraught said.

But he thinks a forum needs to be set where the council, administration and citizens can see what really needs to be done when it comes to city projects.

"We spend money on a lot of things that do not have priority," Fraught said.

But Mayor Freddie Drennan said this meeting is nothing new. He is putting a budget together for next year, and he wants the Council's input.

"When I put together the budget, then I the council and I can suggest improvement," the mayor said. "You have to remember, we don't have a lot of money."

Fraught sees the meeting as something else.

"We need to look at real priorities and refocus our attention on real problems," he said.

For example, Fraught said the sewer system is a big priority with the city as the old terra cotta pipes are leaking. The sewer plant usually can handle the city's raw sewage, but if it rains hard, the plant backs up, and the

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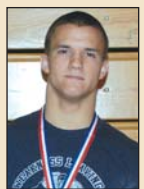
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HI 52 • LOW 27

» **TODAY'S FORECAST:**
Partly cloudy and cold

» **TO SHARE** your child's weather drawing, e-mail to stnnews@wickcommunications.com or mail to P.O. Box 90, Covington, LA 70434



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jillian Woods

Community support growing for SPD dispatcher diagnosed with cancer

By David Freese
St. Tammany News

Support is growing around town for Pauline Triolo, commander of the Communications Division for the Slidell Police Department, who announced she has been diagnosed with stage four colon cancer.

A local T-shirt shop, Custom T's, is already selling shirts in her support.

"The shirts were out (Wednesday)," said Charlene Hostetler, a friend of Stacy Davis, owner of Custom T's, 815 Robert Boulevard. "You will see a sea of blue develop all over Slidell."

The shirt's design is a tribute to Triolo's career and past accomplishments.



PAULINE TRIOLO

"We tried to find something that had a shield on it because she is a police officer," said Hostetler.

The logo for these shirts has a shield in the center and inside of it is a blue ribbon with Triolo's initials. The shield also has wings on either side with a slogan at the top that reads "One

Community Supporting The Fight." Flyers are also being tacked around town by the Slidell Police Department, Fire Department and 911 officials, according to Hostetler.

Although in the early stages of planning, the SPD is looking to develop several means of gathering donations and funds to help Triolo and her family.

"We're still in the early stages. This really came out in the last 72 hours," said Director of the Police Academy and Casualty Officer Roy McCann.

McCann said the SPD is looking to conduct a run in support of Triolo somewhere in Slidell. It will be a 3- to 5-mile run with SWAT vehicles present. The team will collect donations along

the route.

Also, a concert is in the works and will feature the band Group Therapy at Heritage Park from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on April 14. During the event T-shirts, bracelets and other items will be sold with proceeds going to Triolo and her family.

McCann reflected on Triolo's position and time at the SPD, which has been around 25 years.

"They save more lives than any officer on the street," said McCann of Triolo's position. "It's absolutely phenomenal what they do during a crisis situation...folks don't understand that. It's a real challenging position. Many can't make it, and those that can are really good at what they do."



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