

GATEWAY NEWS

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CAREER CONNECTIONS

Students get career options, lesson in life realities

Approximately 650 Iberville students got a dose of real life financial costs, along with information about numerous careers at Career Connections Day on February 24 at the Carl Grant Civic Center in Plaquemine.

Sophomores and juniors from public schools and sophomores through seniors from St. John participated. Students visited booths, where they received information about the educational requirements, duties and pay of various jobs from representatives of more than 50 careers. The students also participated in living within a budget based on their career pay at the "reality store." The store is designed to show

them actual living expenses of an average 29-year-old person, and the link between the income of their career choice and real life living expenses.

The event was coordinated by the Iberville Chamber of Commerce and Iberville Parish School Board. Gold sponsors were the Dow Chemical Co., Brown Eagle, East Iberville-INC, and the Iberville Parish School Board. Silver sponsors were A. Wilbert's Sons, Axiall Corp., and Shintech. The Chamber Planning Committee for the event was chaired by Grace Cryer of Syngenta. Shown are scenes from the event.



Students add up expenses of everyday life to determine if the pay of their chosen career will provide them with the income necessary for expenses and the things they want in life.

Chamber gets rave reviews on annual banquet

There was another packed house at the Iberville Chamber of Commerce's annual banquet and recognition ceremony held at Nottoway Plantation Resort on Thursday, January 28th.

Sponsoring the event this year as the platinum sponsor was The Dow Chemical Company. The gold sponsors for the event were Essential Federal Credit Union and the Iberville community banks which include Anthem Bank, Citizens Bank & Trust Co., Guaranty Bank, Iberville Bank, Plaquemine Bank & Trust Co., and The Bank of Commerce. The silver sponsors for the event were Axiall Corporation, Kelly's Industrial Services, Inc. and Ochsner Medical Complex-Iberville. The bronze sponsors for the event were Excel Group; Iberville Parish School Board; NRG Energy, Inc.; Plaquemine Truck Stop; SNF Flopam Inc; Shintech Louisiana; Tiger Truck Stop, Inc. and A. Wilbert's Sons, LLC.

New leadership takes over for Chamber

Steve Smith with The AME Group passed the Chamber Board of Directors chairmanship gavel to Jolain Landry of the Iberville Parish School Board as the incoming chairman.

Officers elected to the 2016 Executive Committee include Steve Smith, Past Chairman, The AME Group; Christina Cedotal, First Vice-Chair, The Dow Chemical Co.; and Arron Pierre, Chair-elect and Treasurer, A. Wilbert's Sons, LLC.

The Board of Directors for 2016 include Hayley Brown, Axiall Corporation; Bryan Casebonne, Shintech Louisiana; Edward Earl Comeaux, Comeaux Brothers Construction;



Steve Smith & Jolain Landry



Representing Platinum Sponsor, The Dow Chemical Co., are Justin Mendoza, Joseph Nicolosi, Christina Cedotal, Dan Bucholtz and Derek Landry.

Grace Cryer, Syngenta; Tonya Orcino, St. John School; J. Mitchell Ourso, Jr., Parish President; Larry Rouse, member of LSU faculty; and McKenzie Wille, Iberville Parish Sheriff's Office.

The Chair's appointees to the board are Chris Daigle, Daigle's Market and Iberville Parish School Board Member; David Hall, Iberville Parish Sales Tax Office; and Joycelyn Lamothe, Citizens Bank & Trust Co.

Outgoing board members recognized for their service include Steve Smith, outgoing chair; Daniel Durand, Allstate Insurance; Leslie Gallagher, Iberville Parish Sheriff's Office; Rick Gros, Shintech; Clint Seneca, Iberville Parish Tax Assessor's Office; and Frances Tempanaro, Clear Choice Communications.

Taskforce Chairmen for 2015 included Christina Cedotal - Economic Development Commission/Roof tops Chairperson, The Dow Chemical Co.; Grace Cryer - Skilled Workforce Chairperson, Syngenta; Aaron Pierre - Member Services Chairman, A. Wilbert's Sons, LLC; and Bubba Beatty - Loan Committee Chairman, Plaquemine Bank.



Representing the Bronze Sponsors are Bryan Casebonne, Shintech Louisiana, LLC; Robin Callaghan, SNF Flopam Inc.; Raul Travieso, NRG Energy Inc.; Polly Higdon, Iberville Parish School Board; Herbert Bickham, EXCEL Group; Crystal Cabrera-Thibodaux, Plaquemine Truck Stop & Travel Center; Edwin Reeves, A. Wilbert's Sons LLC; and Sharland Lasseigne, Tiger Truck Stop, Inc.



Representing the Silver Sponsors are, from left: Casey Madere, Axiall Corp.; Kelly Kleinpeter, Kelly's Industrial Services, Inc.; Heidi Wendt, Ochsner Medical Complex-Iberville.

Spirit of Iberville Award goes to Late Mayor Gulotta

The Iberville Chamber of Chamber had the honor of bestowing the prestigious Spirit of Iberville Award to the late Plaquemine Mayor Mark A. "Tony" Gulotta during the Chamber's Annual Membership Banquet.

The Spirit of Iberville Award is the highest award given by the Chamber. It is reserved for those in the Iberville community who have dedicated their time and talents to significantly improving our community; have exhibited integrity and leadership; and have been of service to others.

Chamber Director Hank Grace said Mayor Gulotta was Plaquemine's greatest champion for almost 23 years, and was absolutely passionate in his love of his city and his desire to make a difference. Among the city's most recent accomplishments under his leadership are:

- Working to make Plaquemine's electric rates competitive with other electric suppliers in the region, and more than \$7 million in improvements to the electric system substation and lines
- \$15 million to repair sewer lines and rebuild all of the



Shown accepting the Spirit of Iberville Award in honor of the late Mayor Gulotta, are, from left, his daughter-in-law, Amy, Jeremy and Brad Gulotta and his wife of 37 years, Mayor Mary Sue Gulotta. Presenting the award is Chamber Director Hank Grace.

streets in the city, with additional curbs and gutters

- A new \$12 million wastewater treatment plant
- \$2.5 million re-routing wastewater effluent from Bayou Plaquemine to the Mississippi River
- Numerous improvements to the Plaquemine Fire and Police Departments
- The Driver's License Office in Plaquemine
- The Water Spray Park

and other improvements to Plaquemine City Park

- And his legacy project, the award-winning Bayou Plaquemine Waterfront Park, plus the \$3.6 million freshwater pump system to bring Mississippi River water into Bayou Plaquemine, restoring the water quality and habitat of the bayou for the present and future generations.

Perhaps Mayor Gulotta's greatest gift was his vision for Plaquemine. He backed that with persistence in fighting for his projects – sometimes politically, and often to fight for millions in funding needed. Ultimately, his vision and determination greatly improved the quality of life for Plaquemine residents.



Annual banquet attendees enjoyed a rousing talk by guest speaker D-D Breaux, LSU Head Gymnastics Coach. The LSU gymnastics program was ranked third in the country in early March, and has consistently ranked in the top five this season.



Representing Gold sponsor Essential Federal Credit Union are, at left, Blaine Rabalais and Lis Patrick. Representing the other gold sponsor in the photo above, Iberville Community Banks: D.J. Loland, Iberville Bank; Marjorie Landry, The Bank of Commerce; Steve Panepinto, Plaquemine Bank; Ryan Elliott, Citizens Bank; Blake Lawhon; and Debra Angelloz, Guaranty Bank.



Congressman Graves speaks at breakfast



U. S. Congressman Garret Graves addressed a packed room at the Iberville Chamber of Commerce Breakfast before Business held February 16 at The Island Country Club, and sponsored by The Dow Chemical Company. Shown at the breakfast are, from left, Chamber Chairman of the Board Jolain Landry of the Iberville Parish School Board; Chamber Executive Director Hank Grace; Congressman Graves, and Tommy Faucheux of The Dow Chemical Company.

LEADERSHIP IBERVILLE:

Cookin up some teamwork

The Leadership Iberville students enjoyed a team-building exercise at the Louisiana Culinary Institute in Baton Rouge for its February class. Pictured from left, bottom to top: Chef Instructor Patin; Kelli Cavalier-Barbee, Iberville Elementary; Anwar Johnson, Syngenta; Rene Arenas, Syngenta; Russell Wilkes, Brown Eagle Group; Addie Yarbrough-Loupe, White Castle High School; Anna Wilbert Breaux, Wilbert Services Inc.; Jertaza Williams, Cox Telecommunications; Gary Moore, Ochsner Health System-Baton Rouge; Christi Roberts, The Dow Chemical Co.; Gina LoBue, Plaquemine High School; Kyle Marino, A. Wilbert's Sons, LLC; Eric Robertson, Axiall Corp.; and Casey Madere, Axiall Corporation.



Getting updates on local efforts with crime, education initiatives

The Leadership Iberville class got an overview of law enforcement during its session in January, including talks by detectives of the Iberville Parish Sheriff's Office on trends in crime, investigative forensics, the crime patrol, and a tour of the Hunt's Correctional Facility in St. Gabriel.

At its March 9 session, the class got a lesson in education, with updates by the leaders of Iberville schools, and tours of the BRCC Westside campus, Plaquemine High, the Iberville Math, Science and Arts Academy West campus and Iberville Charter Academy.

NEW MEMBERS

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