

# gateway **NEWS**

MAY-JUNE 2011

A Bi-monthly Publication of  
the Iberville Chamber of Commerce

## NEW MEMBERS

AT&T  
225.382.0182

Humana  
225.362.1664

Main Hall LLC  
225.687.4110

Supreme Chevrolet  
Cadillac of Plaquemine  
225.687.9244

Swamp Shop  
225.205.2319

West Side  
Visitation Center  
225.247.0841

## Chamber to Chamber **After Hours**

Wednesday, June 22

6-8 p.m.

**The Island Country Club  
23550 Myrtle Grove Road  
in Plaquemine**



Meet other business owners and representatives in a casual setting while enjoying some great food! Join us as we welcome the Baton Rouge Area Chamber and the West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce to Iberville.

*Complimentary food sponsored by The Island Country Club, cash bar.*

(Reservations required)

## Iberville MSA is tops in the nation!...



*The Iberville Math, Science, and Arts Academy - West received two Awards of Excellence, including the "New and Emerging School of Merit Award of Excellence" from National Magnet Schools of America at its conference in Indiana in May. Some of the faculty travelled to receive an excellence award and discovered the school had also been chosen the best new magnet program in America. Elvis J. Cavalier and staff members accepted the award during the national presentation. Cavalier praised the faculty, parents and students for their highly focused efforts on excellence. Accepting the award were faculty members from the school, top left: Danielle Butcher, Shalonda Skidmore, Candice Breaux, Kelli Vaughn, Kari Johnson; bottom left: Chandler Smith, Jeanne Bass, Alicia Franklin, Dr. Robert Brooks of Magnet Schools of America, Elvis J. Cavalier, Kristal Yush, and Emily Weathers. Congratulations to the Iberville MSA on this great achievement and the recognition it has brought Iberville Parish.*

# Executive Director's Desk



*Dear members,*

The verdict is still out on whether the Legislature will strip La.'s economic development mega-fund used to attain new industry here, and the regional Tier 1 funding from the state budget. These funds are critical to creating more and better jobs for the citizens of our state, region, and parish.

The \$82 million dollars in the State's mega-fund has been committed to over a dozen large projects that could create thousands of new jobs around the state. Stripping the funding sends a bad message to site consultants and investors that our State cannot be trusted to keep its promises. It is the hope of the Chamber that these critical economic development dollars are left in tact.

I'd like to congratulate our education award winners for the 2010-2011 school year. Education is looking up in Iberville, and we are happy to honor both the students and teachers who excelled this year.

I'd also like to ask our Chamber members to please attend the Chamber-to-Chamber function at The Island on June 22. (See page 1). This is another way we're trying to help our members build relationships with other businesses. Please come out for an enjoyable evening of networking.

Finally, I hope everyone has a fun summer. It will go quickly.

Thanks,  
*Hank Grace*



*Hank Grace, Chamber Executive Director and Kellie Miller*



*Elizabeth Bueche*



*McKenzie LeBlanc*



*Abby Verret*



*Genesis Allen*

*Kaleb Banks*

## Chamber honors students, teachers of year

The Iberville Chamber of Commerce presented its annual education awards in May, honoring outstanding students and teachers for the 2010-2011 school year.



*Leslie Hebert*

The Iberville Chamber of Commerce recognized the teachers and students of the Year as one aspect of its partnership with both the Iberville School System and St. John School. Teachers of the Year were presented with a plaque and a \$250.00 grant. They are:

**Kellie Miller** – St. John School Teacher of the Year

**Leslie Hebert** – Iberville Parish School System Teacher of the Year

Each High School Student of the Year received a plaque and a \$250.00 scholarship. Each Elementary and Middle School Student of the Year was presented with a plaque and a \$100.00 savings bond for their efforts. They are:

**Elizabeth Bueche** – St. John Elementary School Student of the Year

**McKenzie LeBlanc** – St. John Middle School Student of the Year

**Caroline Delahaye** – St. John High School Student of the Year

**Abby Verret** – Iberville Parish School System Elementary Student of the Year, MSA West

**Genesis Allen** – Iberville Parish School System Middle School Student of the Year, MSA West

**Kaleb Banks** – Iberville Parish School System High School Student of the Year, Plaquemine High School

Congratulations to all for their excellence in education.



**PRESIDENT OF THE LOUISIANA CHEMICAL ASSOCIATION SPEAKS AT CHAMBER BREAKFAST MEETING...**

*Dan Borne', President of the Louisiana Chemical Association, which represents the interests of over 60 chemical manufacturing companies that operate at more than 90 locations in the state, was the guest speaker at the May 10th breakfast meeting of the Iberville Chamber of Commerce. The meeting was held at The Island Country Club and sponsored by the Dow Chemical Company. Pictured at the event are, from left: Juan Carrillo, The Dow Chemical Company; Guy Ruggiero, Ruggiero and Associates Insurance, and Chamber Chairman of the Board; Borne'; and Hank Grace, Chamber Executive Director.*

**Congratulations to the St. John High School Class of 2011**



**St. John Elementary/ Middle School Recognition**

- ▶ 89% of the 7th & 8th Grade Students Received the Taylor Scholars Award
- ▶ 57% of the 8th Grade Students Qualified for the Duke University Talent Identification Program (DUKE TIP)
- ▶ 24% of the DUKE TIP Scholars Received State Recognition for High Performance on the ACT Test

- ▶ Over \$724,000 in Scholarship Offers
- ▶ 84% of the Seniors Qualified for a TOPS Award

College Acceptances to: Alabama Southern Community College, Baton Rouge Community College, Lon Morris Community College, Louisiana State University, Louisiana Tech University, McNeese State University, Nicholls State University, Northwestern State University, Our Lady of the Lake College, Southeastern Louisiana University, Spring Hill College, Tulane University, University of Louisiana – Lafayette, University of Louisiana – Monroe, University of South Alabama

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR**

**Business Expo**



**Thursday, September 8**

This is a joint expo with the West Baton Rouge Chamber of Commerce to give you the most bang for your buck! Don't miss this great business networking opportunity!

*Carl Grant Civic Center  
in Plaquemine.*

**Leadership Iberville looks for sponsors**

Sponsors and donors are being sought to help build leaders from the business community for Iberville Parish. The new Leadership Iberville program kicks off in September and applications will be taken beginning in July.

The Chamber is seeking donations or \$400 scholarship sponsorships to assist those with leadership potential in attending the program. The program includes nine classes on topics including team work, communications, listening, ethics, critical thinking, parish and state government, economic development, education, healthcare, and social and environmental matters.

For more information on the program, call Brenda Ourso at the Chamber, 687-3560.

## Ohmstede

German immigrant August Ohmstede founded the company in 1905 as a small auto repair and job shop in Beaumont, Texas. Discovery of oil at Spindletop in 1904 placed Beaumont at the center of the east Texas oil boom. Ohmstede quickly adapted by offering metal fabrication services to the rapidly growing oil industry. The result was the expansion of Ohmstede's business, currently with five locations along the Gulf Coast, including the site on Hwy. 30 in Saint Gabriel, which opened in 1969. It is now part of EMCOR, a Fortune 500 company.



Ohmstede specializes in the manufacturing and repair of custom shell and tube heat exchangers, ranging from pipe-sized lube oil coolers to giant 120-inch diameter, 40-foot styrene condensers. Materials of construction range from carbon steel to high nickel alloy and reactive metals. Ohmstede's specialized services include: a clean room for welding reactive metals such as titanium, heat treating ovens for stress relieving, and decoking ovens and hydroblasting equipment.

Ohmstede provides both in-shop and on-site services. Ohmstede uniquely provides integrated field maintenance and turnaround services with state-of-the-art fabrication under "one roof."

For more information, contact Kell Bosarge, Estimating Manager at 642-5401 ([kellb@ohmstede.net](mailto:kellb@ohmstede.net)) or Yvonne Panepinto, Plant Manager at 642-5401 or [yvonnep@ohmstede.net](mailto:yvonnep@ohmstede.net).

## The Plantation Florist, LLC

Did you know that a full service florist is located at Nottoway Plantation? Owner and master florist Kali Soulier provides delivery to all areas in this region, including Baton Rouge.

She offers a wide variety of flowers, and can custom design any order.

**THE PLANTATION FLORIST, LLC**

Some services include holiday and every day bouquets, centerpieces, and special event bouquets including weddings, funerals, showers, parties and much more. Among its other items are flowers to wear and cake flowers.

The Plantation Florist is unique in both its custom design abilities. Kali also takes pride in going to the home of a customer to meet about the customers floral needs.

Prior to establishing The Plantation Florist, Kali was co-owner of Trinity Flowers in Baton Rouge, which did weddings and special events. "I was approached by Nottoway Plantation and asked to be their on-site florist," she said. "They had seen my work and chose me, which was quite an honor. I truly love what I do and will go above and beyond to make sure my customers are pleased."

For more information, call The Plantation Florist at 225-772-6970, or call 225-545-2730 to be connected through Nottoway's main line. Check out the website at [www.theplantationflorist.com](http://www.theplantationflorist.com).

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