Drugs, Number One Problem In Evangeline Parish

Sheriff Ramson Vidrine, in a press conference last week, told reporters that "Drugs are now the number one problem in Evangeline. For years it was prostitution that plagued our parish. Not so today."

The newly elected parish of Evangeline gave actual cases of the influence of drugs and drug related incidents: "In a period of four or five months, all suicides were not only drug related but all were under 30 years old. Cancer and heart attacks and wrecks are no longer the number one killer. Drugs are now our greatest killer in Evangeline Parish. Seventy-five to 90 percent of crimes, too, in this parish, involve 17 to 26 year olds. All are also drug related," Sheriff Vidrine added.

The sheriff struck at his own profession when he told the press that 40 percent of drug related crimes in the parish, came from prescribed drugs that came from legal channels, medical doctors mostly. Doctors prescribe drugs to unstable patients who abuse themselves or peddle them "to friends or relatives."

"So, we're making drug and drug related practices, our number one challenge to the sheriff's department," Vidrine concluded.

"We're going to enforce the one-o'clock curfew in the parish and will survey very carefully these places because that's where the gang fights happen."

In other activities, the Sheriff's Department are keeping a close watch over three or four more marijuana fields in certain wooded areas of Evangeline. Last week two deputies Charles Greer and Roland Fontenot, investigated plants that were eventually pulled out and taken to the sheriff's office. (See another article based on this report.)

SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CRACKS DOWN — Evangeline Parish Sheriff's deputies Charles Greer and Roland Fontenot have discovered a marijuana field with many large, healthy plants. Deputies pulled them up and took them to the Sheriff's Office. They are keeping close watch over a field of marijuana plans in the parish. (Staff Photo by Jenny Ann)