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The Pointe Coupee Banner

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Thursday
April 2, 2026

Cox ends tenure as Fordoche town manager

By John Dupont
john.pcbanner@gmail.com

Justin Cox officially ended his tenure as Fordoche Town Manager on Tuesday after more than 2 1/2 years on the job.

Cox, a former Pointe Coupee Parish Police Jury and employee with Acadian Ambulance, said he

stepped down now that work is complete on the town's new water tower.

He notified town officials earlier last month that he would step down upon completion of the town water tower project.

"As I indicated in the September 2024 meeting, I committed to assisting the town through the comple-

tion of this project, with my services concluding at that time," Cox said. "The milestone has been reached."

He helped oversee the upgrades to the water system project, which cost just shy of \$2.2 million, along with funding support from a \$396,800 from the Delta Regional Authority and state funding secured by state Sen. Caleb Kleinpeter, R-

Grosse Tete, and state Rep. Jeremy LaCombe, R-Fordoche.

Cox said he enjoyed the work with his town.

"Together, we accomplished a great deal, and I am proud of what we achieved on behalf of the town," he said. "I also want to recognize the significant time and effort you all devote to making our communi-

ty better – efforts that many citizens may not fully see or appreciate."

Cox also oversaw the recent Fordoche Community Fair, an event that serves as a fundraiser to maintain and improve the grounds and amenities at the town park.

He said he has no intentions of running for mayor in the next election.

Carbon capture concerns erupt into heated debater

By Avery White and
Veronica Camenzuli
LSU Manship School News Service

BATON ROUGE —A bill to prevent the state's use of eminent domain to support carbon capture storage and pipelines failed 12-7 in an extraordinarily tense House committee hearing Tuesday.

House Bill 7, authored by House Speaker Pro Temp Mike Johnson, R-Pineville, marked an attempt to reverse a law passed in 2020 allowing the state to seize private land to bring more of the projects to Louisiana.

The House Committee of Natural Resources and Energy rejected the bill after a four-hour hearing in a room packed with landowners and lobbyists and punctuated by sharp exchanges between lawmakers and outbursts from the crowd.

The hearing marked the opening battle in what could be one of the most controversial issues of the session—the degree to which local communities and landowners can exert control over carbon capture projects in their areas.

State Senate President Cameron

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State road designations honor Ernest Gaines, "The Falcons"



Photo by John Dupont

State Rep. Caleb Kleinpeter, second from right, is shown with member of "The Falcons" at the State Capitol upon the recent approval of a proclamation naming a portion of La. 977 in their honor. Pictured, from left, are: Frankie Hillard, Paul Richard, Donald aka "Duck" Miletello, Sen. Kleinpeter, and C J Miletello.

By John Dupont
john.pcbanner@gmail.com

BATON ROUGE — One state highway in Pointe Coupee Parish could soon have the name of its most prominent author, while a designation in honor of a Louisiana Music Hall of Fame band has already been approved.

Final passage awaits the designation of La. 1 in honor of legendary author Ernest Gaines (1933-2019).

Meanwhile, The Falcons — a band founded in 1957 in Valverde — have already gained the

distinction for a stretch of La. 977 to be named in their honor.

State Sen. Caleb Kleinpeter, R-Grosse Tete, sponsored both bills.

The bill for the designation of "The Ernest Gaines Memorial Highway" will designate a section of La. 1 from La. 1 to La. 78 up to the Pointe Coupee Parish line near Avoyelles Parish in honor of Gaines.

The legislation honors the author of world-renowned books including *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*, *A Lesson Before Dying* and *A Gathering of Old Men*, among others.

His legacy has continued with the annual presentation of the Ernest J. Gaines Award for Literary Excellence, an annual national literary award designed to recognize rising African American fiction authors.

The honor, first awarded in 2007, is underwritten by donors of the Baton Rouge Area Foundation.

The United State Postal Service released a commemorative stamp in memory of Gaines in 2024.

The designation for The Falcons honors a

See **Designations**, page 2

"Old school" approach Work ethic, values among goals

By John Dupont
john.pcbanner@gmail.com

Zathan Boutan sat for an interview in a room he does not plan to use often in his new job.

The longtime law enforcement veteran whom the City of New Roads hired as police chief does not want to spend much of his workday seated at a desk.

"I don't want to waste time sitting here behind a desk," he said, "I want to be out in the community."

It plays into an "old school" ap-

proach to life for the Port Allen native, a 20-year law enforcement veteran.

Boutan, 54, grew up just outside the Port Allen city limits in the now defunct community of Sunrise, once the site of a sugar mill that produced raw sugar and molasses.

As an only child, he spent much of his time working and playing outside.

He grew up in a tight-knit community where parents and grandparents did not tolerate bad be-

havior.

Boutan knows he cannot turn back the hands of time, but he believes an "old school" approach to policing could benefit families throughout the city.

"When you see a child on the street, you're stopping someone's baby, so you call their parents," he said. "The parents also need to do their part by handling those situations calmly."

He says he wants to bring back

See **Boutan**, page 3



Zathan Boutan



Your weekend forecast

Friday 60% Thunderstorms 83°/68°	Saturday 60% Thunderstorms 82°/62°	Sunday 70% Thunderstorms 72°/52°
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More News

Pursuit of justice a challenge for children's advocacy group

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Around Pointe Coupee

Vendors promoted products at the 2026 Spring Market at the Mill

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community policing, although not necessarily in a punitive way.

"I want to be in the neighborhoods getting to know the people and I want my officers to be the same way," Boutan said. "To succeed, we need to restore the city's trust in the police department."

He wants the city to see him and his officers in the neighborhoods, but not just as police officers.

Boutan intends to reestab-

lish a community approach to law enforcement. He said he does not want residents to view him, or his police force any different than other residents.

"I want to meet the local kids, and make sure they stay in school," he said. "The biggest thing is getting them in school, getting them educated."

Boutan wants to spend much of his time in local neighborhoods where he can

meet with both the children and their parents.

At the same time, he does not want to be treated any different because of his work.

It's not much different from his great uncle, Ernest Gaines.

"He did not want to be treated any different from anyone else - and that's the same approach I have," Boutan said. "I don't consider myself any bit superior to anyone else in the community, and that's precisely how my uncle was."

It's an approach he said he will take to the streets.

Boutan wants he and his officers to have a viable presence in New Roads communities, but not in an intimidating.

He said he wants to see local kids and adolescents stay in school and avoid the temptations and bad habits that lead to a life of crime.

At the same time, the police department owes the community a force they can trust.

It starts on the streets and neighborhoods throughout New Roads, he said.

"We want to listen to them as much as we talk to them," Boutan said. "Trust and respect come from understanding."



Ernst Gaines



Pet of the week

Barbie is a young, affectionate pup with a heart full of love and a personality that shines. At less than three years old, she still has plenty of playful energy, but her gentle and sweet nature makes her just as happy to stay close by your side. She's the kind of dog who forms strong bonds with her people and thrives on companionship, always ready to offer loyalty, comfort, and a wagging tail at the end of a long day.

Whether she's exploring the yard or simply enjoying a quiet moment with someone she trusts, Barbie's easygoing temperament makes her a wonderful fit for a variety of homes. She is looking for a family who will give her the love she so naturally gives in return. If you've been searching for a devoted companion with a kind spirit, Barbie may be the perfect addition to your home.

Want to meet Barbie? Contact Pointe Coupee Parish Animal Services at 225-240-7250 or send them a message on Facebook.

Pointe Coupee Parish Animal Services

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Happy Easter!

All UMB Branches will close at 1 p.m. on Friday, April 3 for Good Friday and will reopen on Monday, April 6

ATMs, mobile banking and online banking will be available for your convenience.

UMB

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844-862-4862

Happy Easter

Notice of Holiday Closing

We will be closed
Friday, April 3 and Saturday, April 4, 2026
for banking business in observance of Good Friday and Easter.

Member FDIC

Guaranty Bank AND TRUST COMPANY

The Cottonport Bank Est. 1902

New Roads Branch
Hospital Road
New Roads, LA

We will be closed Friday, April 3, 2026 in observance of Good Friday. Regular Banking Hours will resume on Saturday, April 4, 2026

Member FDIC

Legislature: continued from page 1

Henry and House Speaker Phillip DeVillier, both Republicans, expressed concern earlier this year about letting local interests block projects that could provide economic benefits for multiple parishes or even the entire state.

Lawmakers are waiting to see how Gov. Jeff Landry weighs in on more than 20 bills that have been filed to try to provide varying degrees of local say over the projects.

Expropriation, the act of seizing private land for public use, in this case carbon capture storage and pipelines, was the only issue on the agenda. Johnson opened the hearing stating he authored his bill to right a wrong he believed he had been part of in supporting the 2020 bill that would allow the state to seize land if necessary for the projects. Johnson referred to the ratification of Amendment 5 of the Louisiana Constitution, allowing for expropriation of private property for public use. Carbon capture was later defined as a public interest.

“The government and someone that’s given the authority can use that law, can go to court, force the sale or use of the land for something you did not agree to and didn’t support it,” Johnson

said. “That could be your land. That could be your mother’s land. That could be your grandparent’s land.”

Johnson called his bill the Louisiana Landowners Protection Act. He said he did not know of any land that had been seized so far for carbon projects. But he went on to say that when the law refers to public necessity, it should be used for the construction of roads, schools and levees and not carbon capture. In his statement, he emphasized House Bill 7 was not anti-business, nor was he.

“This bill doesn’t stop any kind of industry,” Johnson said. “It doesn’t stop carbon capture. It does not stop growth, and it isn’t anti-business.

“I’m all about those things, about business and growth. I am all for it. I know you are.”

Carbon capture is the process of capturing carbon dioxide at emission sources, transporting it and then storing or burying it in a deep, underground location.

At least 65 projects are planned for Louisiana, the most of any state in the nation. The oil and gas industry favors the projects, while property rights activists, environmentalists and some lo-

cal governments oppose them.

In his opening statement, Johnson referenced the U.S. Constitution, Supreme Court Decisions and the Bible to support his opinion that the state should not have the ability to take private land for use for pipelines.

Johnson presented the Ten Commandments poster that is now required to be posted in Louisiana schools and referred to the commandments that thou shall not steal or covet thy neighbor’s possessions.

His statement was later contradicted by Rep. Jerome Zeringue, R-Houma, who stating that Johnson “conveniently skipped over nine,” the commandment that one shall not bear false witness against thy neighbor.

Johnson responded that he is not a liar.

“I would offer that we would remove the log from my eye before we start pulling out splinters,” Zeringue said.

Chairman Rep. Brett Geymann, R-Lake Charles, had to interrupt the hearing at times to address committee members – instructing them to take a breath – and the audience due to an outburst from onlookers who yelled that the corporations could not take

their land.

Johnson’s statements met varying degrees of support and opposition from committee members, with some concerned about the economic stability of the state if the bill were to be passed and others worried for the land of their constituents.

“We’re the Legislature... Do you think we have the right to change the rules in the middle of the game and think that we are a business-friendly state?” Rep. Marcus Bryant, R-New Iberia, said.

Rep. Shane Mack, R-Livingston, gave emotional testimony about land owned by his father-in-law and settled by his Hungarian immigrant grandparents.

“Every story told there is a reminder that this land is more than dirt,” Mack said. “It’s a memory, it’s an identity. It’s the reason a community endured.”

“I believe that HB7 protects property rights, and it’s essential to preserving communities, culture and generational continuity,” Mack said.

Paige Carter, the chief business development officer of Louisiana Economic Development, compared the public benefit of carbon capture to oil

and gas lines.

“The ability to capture and transport CO2 – and that pure CO2 – enables Louisiana products to benefit public use globally,” Carter said.

Dustin Davidson, the secretary of the Louisiana Department of Conservation and Energy, clarified that the current eminent domain policy means that companies and landowners can form a contract to use private land. It does not mean companies can take land from owners.

Most of the people who expressed support for the bill were Louisiana residents Suzanne Williams, a resident of Ascension Parish, said: “Donald Trump said that this is a hoax, with this Green New Deal.”

She expressed her concern about carbon injection wells and cited her experience as an employee with the Dow Chemical Company.

“Are any of you geologists? Or chemical engineers? You ever studied that? Well, I have.

You don’t know what you’re talking about. You got a crooked governor, and that’s what’s going on here today,” Williams said.

Boutan: continued from page 1

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“We want to listen to them as much as we talk to them,” Boutan said. “Trust and respect come from understanding.”

Office of Federal Program Initiatives

Majority-to-Minority (M-to-M) Transfer Information

A Majority-to-Minority (M-to-M) transfer allows a student in grades kindergarten through 12 whose race is in the majority at his or her zoned school to transfer to a school where that race is not in the majority, as defined by the Consent Decree.

Eligible Schools for M-to-M Transfers

- Rosenwald Elementary School (Grades K–6) can accept M-to-M transfers of Caucasian students.
- Rougon Elementary School (Grades K–8) can accept M-to-M transfers of Caucasian students.
- Upper Pointe Coupee Elementary School (Grades K–8) can accept M-to-M transfers of Caucasian students.
- Valverde Elementary School (Grades K–6) can accept M-to-M transfers of non-Caucasian students.
- Livonia High School (Grades 7–8) can accept M-to-M transfers of Caucasian students.

Additional Information: Processing Majority-to-Minority Requests

The attached application must be completed and returned to the Pointe Coupee Parish School Board Office, Federal Programs Department, on or before April 2, 2026. There will be no extension after the deadline.

Once approval has been provided, parents will need to register their child at the requested school. Once registered at the new school, children must attend that school for the entire 2026–2027 school session.

Transportation of students approved for majority-to-minority transfers shall be provided in the most cost-effective manner possible. Please note: Disciplinary problems on the bus will not be tolerated and may lead to suspension of transportation services.

If you have any questions, please contact **Karla Jack at 225-618-4821.**

POINTE COUPEE PARISH FARM BUREAU, INC.

ANNUAL SUPPER AND MEETING THURSDAY, APRIL 9, 2026 SCOTT CIVIC CENTER

Cash bar will be open at 5:00 p.m. and will close at 6:00 p.m. when the meeting begins.

Anyone wishing to run for election to the Board of Directors at the annual meeting must notify the President in writing no less than 14 days prior to the annual meeting and otherwise comply with the provisions of the by-laws and should call the parish office (225-638-8626) during regular office hours for appropriate instructions.

THANKS

The Kiwanis Club of Pointe Coupee would especially like to thank the following area businesses and groups who contributed to the success of our March 22, 2026 46th annual bass tournament as well as the 110 participating fishermen:

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Cottonport Bank

Pointes of View

Williams announce candidacy for 6th District Congressional seat

Peter Williams has announced his candidacy for Louisiana's 6th District seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. Below is his statement:

"Greetings to all families and voters in Pointe Coupee, and the newly created 6th Congressional District.

"This November, the time for real leadership has come. I, Peter Williams, have been a steady voice in this parish, and other parishes in this district for the last 30 years, dedicated to our Lord Jesus Christ, my family and community.

"Professionally, I am an agriculturist and tree farmer from Lettsworth, and

well known and respected within the agricultural and forest industry across Louisiana.

"I'm passionate for undeserved communities and have been an advocate for 40 years, speaking against different barriers used to prevent individuals, families and small business from equal access to federal, state and local programs that will afford them a better quality of life.

"My focus of advocacy work centers on agriculture, health, housing, education, transportation.

"Because of the many roads traveled and battles fought, with some

victories and some defeats, I feel the Lord has prepared me exclusively for this position I seek in Congress for such a time as now.

"I know the land, the people and the real challenges our district faces. While others in Baton Rouge and Washington lack the hands-on experience, I bring professional know-how and integrity that our community, state and nation deserve.

"I am a God-fearing man of the Apostolic Pentecostal faith and will stand for what's right.

"A proven leader with deep-rooted values, as illustrated in my commitment to church, my wife of

42 years and 11 months, and our four children that she and I raised together in rural Pointe Coupee Parish, and by God's grace and mercy, managed to send them all to college through completion.

"Now, I am ready, willing and able to fight for our farmers, small business and all our children to achieve a better quality of life. The season for real change is now. Let's begin the new district journey together.

"On Nov. 5, 2024, vote for the candidate who understands us, respects us and will serve us.

Vote Peter Williams, No. 41, U.S. Congress, District 6."



Getting to the Pointe

By John Dupont, Banner editor
john.pcbanner@gmail.com

Termination equal to lottery win for LSU coaches

Longterm financial security comes in different ways for people, some being conventional and others not so.

Most people sock away funds in IRAs, stocks and bonds and other conventional retirement plans.

For a select few, the key to a secure future comes in the form of a pink slip.

Forget huge lottery jackpots. Termination suits them fine.

Such is the case for several former LSU coaches.

Ousted Tiger basketball coach Matt McMahon is the latest member of this elite group. His buyout figure amounts to just more than \$8 million, according to his contract obtained by USA TODAY Sports.

He joins a wealthy fraternity of former

coaches whose termination came with a lofty safety net.

McMahon will join former football coach Brian Kelly, who is sitting pretty with \$54 million in buy-out money.

He was canned four years into a 10-year, \$100 million deal.

Ed Orgeron received his last payments of a \$17 million buyout in late 2025.

Newly hired football coach Lane Kiffin's seven-year, \$91 million contract (\$13 million annually) provides a buyout clause of 80 percent of the remaining salary owed if he is fired.

If he leaves voluntarily before Dec. 31 of this year, he will receive \$7 million. The figure decreases annually over the time span he remains at LSU.

Upon his return to LSU, Will Wade signed

a seven-year, \$30 million contract. He will be paid \$75 million of his remaining salary if LSU terminates him without cause.

It's hard to shed a tear for the termination of these men considering many Americans will not earn a fraction of this amount over their lifetime.

The grass is not so green for those outside the gold mine we know as the LSU Athletic Department.

LSU system president Wade Rousee, who oversees several campuses, earns \$750,000.

Full professors a reported salary of approximately \$150,000, while lower ranking professors earn less.

Those salaries don't seem paltry, but gap in compensation extends beyond just the people.

Many buildings across the campus need

upgrades and repairs. In many cases, those items have gone addressed quite a few years.

I recently walked into the LSU Library. It has undergone some upgrades over the years, but most are cosmetic.

Priorities being what they are on the LSU campus, the condition of the academic buildings leaves much to be desired. Leaky ceilings, faulty climate control and other issues have been ongoing for years across the campus.

Meanwhile, coaches who have lost their jobs enjoy lofty surroundings as they await their next payout from their settlement.

The trend of fat payouts will continue as long as the Tiger Athletic Foundation and other privately funded entities shell out the bucks.

Priorities are priorities. It's enough to make us "regular folks" cry all the way to the bank.

Running for office announcement policy

Public offices in Pointe Coupee Parish will be up for election in November. To prepare for these elections, The Pointe Coupee Banner will publish free candidate announcements.

Candidate announcements will be published in The Pointe Coupee Banner under the following guidelines.

- Candidate announcements for a public office will be published only once at no charge in the newspaper.

- The announcement should include a prepared statement and a head-and-shoulders photo of the candidate submitted to The Pointe Coupee Banner office, 123 St. Mary St., New Roads, or emailed to pointecoupee-banner@gmail.com.

- Announcements will be published on a space available, first-come, first-served basis.

- Candidate announcements will begin on the front page and continue on an inside page. Announcements are limited to 400 words.

- The deadline to submit an announcement is 3 p.m. Monday, Oct. 7. Any announcements received after the deadline will be published only as a paid advertisement.

- All announcements are subject to editorial review.

For questions about candidate announcements, contact Editor John Dupont at (225) 439-4657.

To place a political advertisement, contact Gail Hurst at (225) 638-7155.

Your public officials

Pointe Coupee Parish Government

Parish President Major Thibaut

Phone: (225) 638-9556
Mail: P.O. Box 290, New Roads, LA 70760
Physical address: 160 E. Main St., New Roads
E-mail: mthibaut@pcparish.org
Web site: pcparish.org/parish-presidents-office/

Pointe Coupee Parish Council

• Jimmie Gaspard, District A

Email: jgaspard@pcparish.org
Phone: (225) 718-5653

• Sidney LaCoste II, District B

Email: slacoste@pcparish.org
Phone: (225) 718-1644

• Edward Bazile, District C

Email: ebazile@pcparish.org
Phone: (337) 254-4656

• Charles Watkins, District D

Email: cwatkins@pcparish.org
Phone: (225) 718-8564

• Edwin Soulier, District E

Email: esoulier@pcparish.org
Phone: (225) 718-0813

• Dustin Boudreaux, District F

Email: dboudreaux@pcparish.org
Phone: (225) 276-7301

• Paul Bergeron, District G

Email: pbergeron@pcparish.org
Phone: (225) 718-1172

• Kurt Jarreau, District H

Email: kjarreau@pcparish.org
Phone: (225) 240-2337

Louisiana government

• Gov. Jeff Landry

Mail: Office of the Governor
P.O. Box 94004, Baton Rouge, LA 70804
Front desk: (225) 342-7015 or (866) 366-1121
Constituent help line: (225) 342-0991 or (844) 860-1413
Web site: www.gov.louisiana.gov
Email: Go to www.gov.louisiana.gov, fill out form.

• State Rep. Jeremy LaCombe

House of Representatives District 18
Phone: (225) 637-3803
Mail: P.O. Box 370, Livonia, LA 70755
Email: hse018@legis.la.gov
Web site: house.louisiana.gov/h_reps/members?ID=18

• State Sen. Caleb Kleinpeter

Senate District 17
Phone: (225) 246-8838
Mail: 3741 La. 1, Port Allen, LA 70767
E-mail: sen17@legis.la.gov
Web site: senate.la.gov/smembers?ID=17

The Pointe Coupee Banner

Reporting the history of Pointe Coupee parish since 1880

THE OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF POINTE COUPEE PARISH

Member of the Louisiana Press Association

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Mark LaCour	Publisher
Ashleigh Vasquez	Operations Manager
John Dupont	Editor
Lizzie Boudoin	Marketing/Advertising
Gail Hurst	Consultant

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SUBMISSIONS: News articles and photos will be accepted by The Banner and will run on a space-available basis. The Banner reserves the right to edit articles for grammar, style and accuracy.

If an article must run in a specific edition, it can run as a paid advertisement. For a price quote on an ad, email pointecoupeebanner@gmail.com.

LETTER AND EDITORIAL POLICY: Letters and editorials in the Pointe Coupee Banner expresses the views of their respective authors and not of this newspaper. The Pointe Coupee Banner makes no claim or certification as to the accuracy of the facts presented in these letters and editorials, and is not responsible for the opinions expressed. Letters must be brief, not to exceed 500 words, should be typewritten. Letters should be courteous; libelous statements and offensive personal attacks won't be permitted or published. Letters must be marked "Letter to the Editor." All communications must bear the signature, address of the author and a telephone number, not for publication, but for verification of those writing the letter. NO ATTENTION will be paid to any ANONYMOUS communications sent in.

POLITICAL AND ADVERTISEMENT TAGLINES: All political advertisement will bear the name of the person paying for the ad. The Banner will not publish an ad that bears only a business or organization's name. The president or person in charge must sign the ad and have his/her name in the advertisement. In the case of businesses that have gaming devices inside their establishment the tagline "If you or someone you know have a gambling problem call 1-877-770-STOP" must be at the bottom of the ad.

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Obituary

Higginbotham, Linda Faye



Linda Faye Higginbotham, 76, of Livonia, Louisiana, passed away on March 28, 2026, surrounded by the love of the family she adored. Born on September 1, 1949, in New Roads to Viola Cline and Edwin Mix, Sr., Linda grew up with the kind of spirit that can't be taught: sharp, funny, loyal, and always ready to make life a little lighter for everyone around her. A graduate of Poydras High School, Linda went on to build a long and dedicated career at Walmart in New Roads, where she worked as a manager for 28 years. After retiring, she and her husband, Donald "DJ" Higginbotham, kept busy running their lawn service together, proving that teamwork and a good zero-turn mower can carry a marriage through anything. Linda lived life with a joyful simplicity that made ordinary days feel special. She loved cheering on LSU football and baseball, keeping up with her "stories," notably The Young & The Restless, and never missed a good game show. But nothing lit her up more than time with her great grandbabies: her pride, joy, and favorite audience for hugs and snacks. She is survived by her husband of 56 years, Donald "DJ" Higginbotham; her daughter, Shannon Chenevert; her granddaughters, Macie Spencer, Rayvin Chenevert, and Peyton Higginbotham; her grandson in law, Devin Spencer; and her great grandchildren, Kylie, Jaysa, and Stetson. She also leaves behind her sister, Margaret Ransome; her sisters in law, Dorothy Taylor and Brenda Higginbotham; her brother in law, Joseph Higginbotham; and her best friend, Sherry Marcotte. She is preceded in death by her parents, Edwin Mix, Sr. and Viola Mix; her brothers, Edwin "Jake" Mix, Jr. and Rodney Mix; and her brother in law, Darrel Higginbotham. Linda's life was celebrated on Wednesday, April 1, 2026, at Niland's Funeral Services in Livonia, Louisiana, from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m., followed by interment at St. Frances Cabrini Cemetery. A reception was held afterward at the Higginbotham residence, where stories, laughter, and memories will be shared, exactly the way she would want it. Serving as pallbearers were Devin Spencer, Cole Schlatre, Jason Higginbotham, Bill Mormon, Scott Grezaffi, Alan Berry, and honorary pallbearer Joseph Higginbotham—a crew she would've kept in line with one raised eyebrow and a "don't start." Linda Faye Higginbotham lived a life full of love, humor, and heart. She leaves behind a family who will forever feel her presence in the small, sweet moments: a warm kitchen, a good laugh, Red Door perfume, a freshly cut yard, and a golf cart ride at sunset. Her legacy is simple and beautiful: love your people, enjoy your life, and never underestimate the power of a good driveway dance.

Time is Ticking away

Charlie Brown went to Lucy with a very deep question. He asked, "Lucy, can you tell me how I can discover the meaning of life? Lucy pondered the question and then said, "Charlie, life is like a cruise ship. Have you ever noticed people sitting in deck chairs on the ship? Some people place their deck chairs facing the back of the boat. These people think they can discover the meaning of life by reflecting on the past, the things they've already done or the places they've already been. Other people face their deck chairs toward the front of the ship. These people believe they can find the meaning of life in the future things that will happen. They look ahead to discover the meaning of life."

Lucy turns to Charlie Brown and asks, "Charlie, in this great cruise ship of life, where do you want to face your deck chair?"

Charlie thinks for a moment and responds, "Lucy, I can't even get my deck chair unfolded."

I think most of us feel like Charlie Brown. We don't know if we should look back over the past events or forward to what lies ahead, we don't even know about right now.

I, like many of you, could spend a lifetime trying to figure out the meaning of life. But will we truly be able to nail down a meaning that is a "one size fits all?"

There is an old Jewish-Christian tradi-

tion which says: God sends each person into the world with a special message to deliver, with a special song to sing for others, with an act of love to bestow. No one else can speak my message, or sing my song, or offer my act of love. These are entrusted to me.

God's unique plan for each person is different, but His gift of life is the same for all of us. The greatest sin of all would be for us to return that gift of life ungrateful and unopened.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 speaks about Life as a mix of highs and lows that will come and go throughout our lives, and most often outside of our control... "There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens: A time to be born and a time to die, a time to plant and a time to uproot, a time to kill and a time to heal, a time to tear down and a time to build, a time to weep and a time to laugh, a time to mourn and a time to dance, a time to scatter stones and a time to gather them, a time to embrace and a time to refrain from embracing, a time to search and a time to give up, a time to keep and a time to throw away, a time to tear and a time to mend, a time to be silent and a time to speak, a time to love and a time to hate, a time for war and a time for peace."

These times should encourage trust in God rather than frustration in that we can't find meaning. Every season serves a purpose in God's greater plan.

God's gift of time does not discriminate. He has given it to the rich, the poor, the educated and the ignorant. Every man, woman, and child have the same 24 hours, 1,440 minutes, and 86,400 seconds every day to find some meaning in life. It is given equally to everyone, but what we do with it is entirely up to us.

If you are the type of person who places your desk chair toward the back of the boat, trying to find meaning and purpose in the things that you have already experienced in life, then I suggest you look back over the past 12 months, 52 weeks, 365 days, 8,760 hours, 525,600 minutes, 31,536,000 seconds to gage what time has revealed.

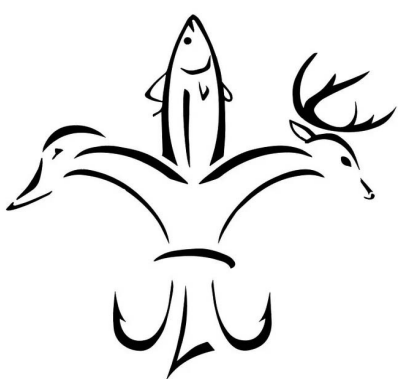
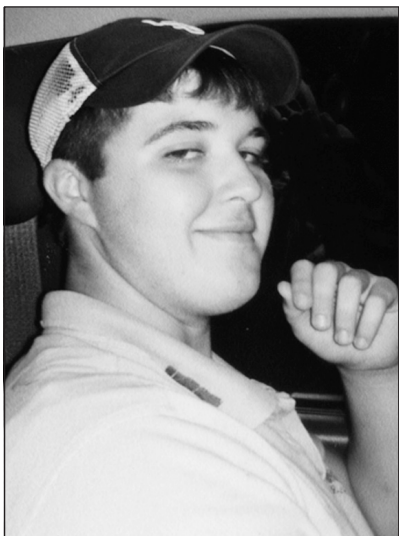
If you resonate with the people who face their deck chairs toward the front of the ship, then I suggest you forget about past mistakes and missed opportunities and focus your future time and energy on plans that make better use of your time.

If, like Charlie Brown, you can't even get your deck chair unfolded, for you, time is of the essence because you cannot slow it down, turn it off, alter it in any way, or bring back time. Once it is gone it cannot be reclaimed. Time marches on with or without you.

Regarding tomorrow, time is uncertain. You may face the future with a full set of plans in mind, looking forward to the time of your life, but you really have no guarantee that you will experience any part of the future. Eventually, time will run out for all of us.

Time is the most precious possession in our lives. We can waste it, worry over it, spend it foolishly, and spend it on nothing but yourself, or we can treasure it as a gift

**IN LOVING MEMORY OF
BLAKE BUVENS PREVOT
BORN: APRIL 4, 1989
DIED: NOVEMBER 4, 2009**



*He who we loved as a child
Will remain with us forever
For the heart never forgets.
Happy 37th Birthday
We love you Blake!
Daddy, Mama, PJ,
Reagan and Family*

Church News

St. Peter Baptist Church

The Alexandria-Thibodaux District and the St. Peter African Methodist Episcopal Church invites you to the "Good Friday" Service, the "Seven Last Sayings". April 3, 2026 at 10:00 a.m. at 506 Morningside Street, New Roads, Louisiana.

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By Chris David
CDavid@reliableproduction.com

Two cents worth

from God.

As your life unfolds and precious seconds tick away, will you carelessly toss time out the window, or will you embrace every minute as if each one has special meaning?

When your time on this earth runs out, don't let it be said, "Time has not been a friend to you." Rather, let it be said, "Time was well spent."

As the old saying goes, "Only time will tell!"

Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City of New Roads City Council will hold a public hearing at the New Roads City Hall, 211 West Main Street, New Roads, Louisiana, on Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at 5:30 p.m. for the following:

Discussion and approval of recommendation(s) of Planning and Zoning Commission for a Conditional Use Permit application for the placement of a Manufactured Home on the prop-erty owned by Mitchell War. Property address is 1011 St. Mary Street. cost \$36

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City of New Roads City Council will hold a public hearing at the New Roads City Hall, 211 West Main Street, New Roads, Louisiana, on Tuesday, April 21, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Discussion and approval of recommendation of Planning & Zoning Commission for the following:

1. Mitchell War – 1011 St. Mary Street - A conditional use permit application for the placement of a Manufactured Home on aforementioned property. cost \$36

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City of New Roads Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing at the New Roads City Hall, 211 West Main Street, New Roads, Louisiana, on Monday, April 20, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Presentation by Planning and Zoning Commission for:

1. Mitchell War – 1011 St. Mary Street - A conditional use permit application for the placement of a Manufactured Home on aforementioned property. cost \$36

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the following proposed ordinance was introduced before the City Council of the City of New Roads, Louisiana, and a public hearing will be held relative thereto at 5:30 o'clock p.m. on Tuesday, April 21, 2026 at the city council chambers, 211 West Main Street, New Roads, Louisiana, after which public hearing said ordinance may be considered for final adoption:

"AN ORDINANCE

To amend and re-ordain Sections 5-6 and 5-7 of Article I of Chapter 5 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of New Roads, Louisiana, relative to Building and Construction Regulations, to amend existing permit fees, to adopt permit fees for roofing, and to further provide with respect thereto.

ORDINANCE NO. _____

BE IT ORDAINED by the City Council of the City of New Roads, Louisiana:

SECTION 1. Section 5-6 of Article I of Chapter 5 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of New Roads, Louisiana is hereby amended and re-ordained to read as follows:

Section 5-6. Building permits required.

It shall be unlawful to construct, add to, alter, remove or demolish, or to commence the construction, addition, alteration, removal or demolition, of a building or structure, including but not limited to roofing, or install equipment for the operation of a building or structure, without first filing with the building official an application in writing and obtaining a formal permit.

SECTION 2. Section 5-7 of Article I of Chapter 5 of the Code of Ordinances of the City of New Roads, Louisiana is hereby amended and re-ordained to read as follows:

Section 5-7. Building and mechanical permit fees.

- (a) Residential building permit fees
 1. Building permit fee: Shall be determined as follows:
 - (a) Total square footage of the structure.
 - (b) Multiplied by \$82.00 or the current southern regional average cost to construct a house in a rural area as published by the National Home Builders Association, to determine the house value.
 - (c) Multiplied by the average cost of construction permit fee of \$3.50.

Example: 2000 square foot home:
2000 multiplied
by \$82.00 =
\$164,000.00 (cost
of construction)

\$164,000.00 divided by 1000

Pointes of View

God Answers Prayer in Three Ways

“In my distress I called upon the Lord to my God I cried for help from his temple. He heard my voice, and my cry to him reached his ears” (Psalm 18:6).

I have no doubt that God hears our prayers therefore, I have a confident expectancy when I enter into prayer. I believe God responds to my prayers in three ways: (1) Yes (2) Not yet (3) I have something better in mind.

(1) When God says, “Yes.”

Jesus promises in Matthew 7:7 that, “Ask and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock and it will be opened to you.” With this promise and many more written in scripture, how could I not believe that God would answer my prayers? I know He will! He is eager to fulfill any prayer if it’s for my best and highest good. I trust God. As I pray, I believe with the purest of motives and intentions; therefore, I believe what Jesus said in Mark 11:24, “Therefore, I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours.”

(2) When God says, “Not yet.”

God’s timing is perfect. If His answer to my prayer is “not yet,” then I wait. I know His re-sponse is coming. I patiently wait because I know that God is working behind the scenes on my behalf. I rest in Habakkuk 2:3, which says, “For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it hastens toward the goal, and it will not fail. Though it tarries, wait for it; for it will certainly come, it will not delay.”

So, I wait.

(3) When God says, “I have something better in mind.”

God knows my path and sees what’s best for me. I trust that



Words from Above

By **Charlotte Brian**
sharlottebrian1981@gmail.com

when my prayer is not fulfilled, He has something better in mind. In my life, I can trace back to unanswered prayer and see how the hand of God guided me in a better direction. I understand that this new course helped to fulfill my calling and purpose. And for that, I am grateful.

Next time you pray, remember that God will always answer your prayers as well. God will either grant your request immediately, He will wait for the appropriate time, or He will bless you in a way that best suits your life path. Be patient, God’s response is on its way.

Please join me in prayer: God, you know me better than I know myself. Even though I may feel impatient as I wait for my prayers to be answered, I fully trust that you always have my best interests at heart.

Until next week, have a blessed day, and thank you for sharing life with Charlotte!

Arrests

Pointe Coupee Parish March 25, 2026 – March 31, 2026.

This list is provided by the Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff’s Office. Those listed are INNOCENT UNTIL PROVEN GUILTY.

Salah Abedalaziz, 61, 16146 Woodland Trail Baton Rouge, LA., Simple Battery, \$1,000 Bond.

Roland Sept, 31, 108 Landry Street New Roads, LA., Fugitive from Dickson County Sheriff’s Office, Hold/No Bond.

Cullen Carmesin, 22, 9009 Island Road St. Francisville, LA., Distribution/Possession with the Intent to Distribute Schedule I C.D.S., Prohibited Acts, Possession of a Schedule I C.D.S. and Illegal Carry of Weapon, \$180,000 Bond.

Jacob Evans, 43, 13209 Ventress Road Ventress, LA., Probation Violation, Hold/No Bond.

Harold Mahan, 68, 3108 Pelican Street New Iberia, LA., Fugitive from Crowley Police Department, Hold/No Bond.

Joshua Curry, 43, 8593 David Street Livonia, LA., Fugitive from Iberville Parish Sheriff’s Office, Hold/No Bond.

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Shaye Smith Lockett, MD

Robert J. Geier, OD

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Pointe Coupee GENERAL HOSPITAL

Pointe Coupee General Hospital is looking for:

F/T Rehab Technician – Physical Therapy O/P

Qualifications: High School diploma required. Current CPR certification required. Previous experience in a healthcare or rehabilitation setting preferred. Basic knowledge of medical terminology and anatomy preferred.

Physical Requirements: Ability to meet physical demands of a clinical environment, including prolonged standing, walking, bending, lifting, and assisting patients during therapeutic activities. Visual, auditory, cognitive, and emotional ability to recognize patients’ needs and respond appropriately. Ability to communicate effectively, both verbally and in writing. Awareness of potential exposure to communicable diseases in a healthcare setting.

Work Schedule: Full-time; Monday – Friday. Clinic hours as required to meet the needs of the clinic. Flexibility a must.

Please visit the website, pcgh.org, to complete and submit the application form. Application deadline: **April 8, 2026**

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The Diocese of B.R. Child Nutrition Program is seeking **FULL TIME** school Cafeteria Cooks for the New Roads area.

HS Diploma or Equiv. req.
 BG Check req. Apply at www.cnpbr.org/employment

IMMEDIATE OPENING!

Admin. Assistant needed

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 Experience & references required!
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 Email resume to: adminassistantnewroads@gmail.com

Public Notice

ANYONE knowing the whereabouts of the heirs of the late Gregory Tellie, the late Eewanyia Williams Smith and the late Shari Williams Kirk please contact Demi L. Vorise, Attorney at Law, (225) 361-0424.

Arbor Family Health has an opening for a **Patient Access Clerk** to be based at our Livonia Clinic location.

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 email to gwensmith@nabt.npcam.com

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Public Notices

(to calculate per thousand dollars) multiplied by \$3.50

(\$164,000.00 divided by 1000 = 164 x \$3.50 = \$574.00 (permit fee)

- 2. Demolition Fee: \$75.00
- 3. Flood Plan Review Fee: \$45.00
- 4. Construction Plan Review Fee: \$75.00
- 5. Roof Construction and ReRoofing Fee when not Part of Residential Construction permit: \$75.00

- (b) Commercial building permit fees
 - 1. Building permit fee: Shall be determined as follows:
 - (a) \$5.50 per thousand for first \$3 million
 - (b) \$3.00 per thousand for next \$2 million

(c) \$1.00 per thousand for anything exceeding \$5 million

- 2. Demolition Fee: \$75.00
- 3. Flood Plan Review Fee: \$45.00
- 4. Construction Plan Review Fee: \$125.00 - \$350.00
- 5. Roof Construction and ReRoofing Fee when not Part of Commercial Construction permit: \$125.00

- (c) Residential Mechanical permit fees
 - 1. Mechanical permit fee: Shall be determined as follows:
 - (a) Per component: \$30.00
 - (b) Per register: \$20.00
 - (c) Complete change out: \$100.00 each

(d) Commercial Mechanical permit fees

- 1. Minimum: \$100.00
- 2. Per Ton: \$10.00
- 3. Per Register: \$5.00

SECTION 3. This ordinance shall become effective upon approval by the mayor.

SECTION 4. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

SECTION 5. Should any provisions of this ordinance, or the application thereof, be held invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this ordinance.”

cost \$240

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY
FOR PUBLIC COMMENT ON PROPOSED
SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN
THE LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL
QUALITY
AND RELIABLE LANDFILL, L.L.C.**

The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality and Reliable Landfill, L.L.C. (Respondent), Agency Interest Number 25491, have entered into a proposed settlement agreement, Settlement Tracking No. SA-MM-26-0009, concerning the State’s allegations of environmental violations by Respondent at its facility in Pointe Coupee Parish, Louisiana, which allegations are set forth in Consolidated Compliance Orders and Notices of Potential Penalty, Enforcement Tracking Nos. MM-CN-20-00143, SE-CN-22-00458, and SE-CN-23-00262; Amended Consolidated Compliance Order & Notice of Potential Penalty, Enforcement Tracking No. MM-CN-20-00143A; and Notice of Potential Penalty, Enforcement Tracking No. SE-PP-21-00428.

The Department of Environmental Quality will accept comments on the proposed settlement for the next forty-five (45) days. The public is invited and encouraged to submit written comments to the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Office of the Secretary, Legal Division, Post Office Box 4302, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4302, Attention: Oscar Magee, Attorney. All comments will be considered by the Department of Environmental Quality in reaching a decision on whether to make the settlement final.

Terms and conditions of the proposed settlement agreement may be reviewed on the Department of Environmental Quality’s website at www.deq.louisiana.gov, by selecting About LDEQ, Enforcement, and Settlements. The document may also be viewed at, and copies obtained from, the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality, Public Records Center, Room 127, Galvez Building, 602 North Fifth Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802. To request a copy of the proposed settlement, submit a completed Public Record Request Form (DEQ Form ISD-0005-01). The form and instructions for completion may be found on the DEQ Website at the following address: <http://deq.louisiana.gov/assets/docs/General/PublicRecordsRequestForm.pdf>, or by calling the Customer Service Center at 1-866-896-5337.

Pursuant to La. R.S. 30:2050.7(D), the Department of Environmental Quality may hold a public hearing regarding this proposed settlement when either of the following conditions are met: 1) a written request for public hearing has been filed by twenty-five (25) persons, by a governmental subdivision or agency, or by an association having not less than twenty-five (25) members who reside in the parish in which the facility is located; or 2) the secretary finds a significant degree of public interest in this settlement.

For further information, you may call the Legal Division of the Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality at (225) 219-3985.

Although it is believed not necessary, out of an abundance of caution notice is hereby given, pursuant to Article IV, Section 21(D)(1) of the Louisiana Constitution that on March 25, 2026, Entergy Louisiana, LLC (“ELL”), a public utility providing retail electric service in various parishes throughout the State of Louisiana, filed with the Louisiana Public Service Commission (“LPSC”) its Application for Approval of Generation and Transmission Resources and Other Relief Pursuant to the Commission’s Lightning Initiative, and Request for Timely Treatment.

The filing seeks certification of various generation and transmission-related resources needed in connection with extending service to a new customer proposing to site a facility in northeast Louisiana. The filing sets forth that no new rate schedule or rider is being proposed for those resources and that the recovery of costs for those resources is anticipated to come at no additional cost to ELL’s existing customers, but rather from the new customer through a Contribution in Aid of Construction Agreement and revenues received from the customer’s participation in ELL’s standard Large Load, High Load Factor Power Service Rate Schedule. The filing sets forth the various customer protections and benefits that result from ELL’s service agreement with the customer and from the proposed resources presented in ELL’s filing, including estimated benefits to customers of more than \$2 billion. The filing further outlines the Company’s execution plan for the construction of the relevant facilities.

For questions and comments regarding ELL’s filing, please call the LPSC toll free at (800) 256-2397. Additionally, the filing, including its attachments may be viewed in the Records Division of the LPSC at the following address:

Records Division
602 N. 5th Street, 12th Floor
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70802
Telephone: (225) 342-3157

ENTERGY LOUISIANA, LLC

MINUTES

POINTE COUPEE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD
337 Napoleon Street
New Roads, LA 70760

REGULAR SCHOOL BOARD MEETING
Thursday, February 26, 2026

The Pointe Coupee Parish School Board met for their regular monthly meeting on Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 337 Napoleon Street in New Roads, Louisiana 70760. President Frank R. Aguiard, Jr. called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Mr. Frank Aguiard offered the invocation, and Mr. Chad Aguiard led everyone in the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States of America.

Members of the School Board present when the roll was called: Chad Aguiard, Frank R. Aguiard, Jr., Lisa Loupe-D’Aquila, Walter Grezaffi, Aubry Hendricks, and Thomas Nelson.

School Board Members Anita LeJeune and Jason Lemoine were absent.

President Aguiard announced a quorum of six members are present.

Central Office Administrative Staff in attendance: Kim Canezaro, Superintendent; Natalie Aguiard, Director of Human Capital; Dawn Albert, Supervisor of Exceptional Student Services; Ms. Tonya Burgess, Administrator of Virtual Academy of Pointe Coupee; Marcie Cazayoux; Supervisor of Data & Accountability; Andrew Duhe, Supervisor of Maintenance and Support Services; Amanda Fontenot, Supervisor of HeadStart; Brandi Forbes, Chief Academic Officer; Karla Jack, Director of Federal Programs/Assistant Superintendent; Stephen Langlois, Chief Financial Officer; Tabitha Ransom, Supervisor of 21st CCLC Program, Kate Roy, Supervisor of Child Nutrition; and Dr. LaShonda Victorian, Supervisor of Child Welfare and Attendance.

School Administrative Staff in attendance: Bridget Bush, Assistant Principal of STEM Magnet Academy of Pointe Coupee; Dr. Rosie Courville, Principal of Livonia High School; LaMonica Edwards, Principal of Rosenwald Elementary; April DosRamos, Principal of Rougon Elementary; Sara Taylor, Principal of Valverde Elementary, and Carolyn Wells, Principal of Upper Pointe Coupee

Expression of Sympathy – On a motion by the six members of the School Board present, and seconded by those board members, condolences were offered to the family of:

David H. Major, the husband of Fran Major, the Attendance Coordinator for the Pointe Coupee Parish School Board.

Remarks from the Superintendent-

- Ms. Canezaro stated notice was received today that the state has no objection to the school district advertising bids for the relocation of the central office building. Members of the Board will be sent a copy of the advertisement prior to being published in the local journal, The Pointe Coupee Banner.

- Superintendent Canezaro mentioned that although it was announced earlier this week, she would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge that Ms. Marcie Cazayoux will officially begin her role as Chief Program Administrator of STEM on Monday, March 2, 2026. Ms. Cazayoux has been working with STEM over the last several years as the Supervisor of Support; therefore, I am confident that this will be a smooth transition. I am also confident that she will continue the great things that are already in place along with bringing her own leadership initiatives which will only further our success so Congratulations to Mrs. Marcie Cazayoux on her new role!

Consent Agenda- Mr. Thomas Nelson offered a motion, seconded by Ms. Lisa Loupe D’Aquila to approve the consent agenda items. Hearing no opposition, the motion was carried by a unanimous vote of the six members of the Board present and voting.

- Approval of the minutes from the regular School Board meeting of Thursday, January 22, 2026.

- Approval of the Executive Committee meeting minutes of Thursday, February 19, 2026.

Receive the Head Start Supervisor’s Monthly Report – Ms. Amanda Fontenot announced the Head Start Supervisor’s Monthly Report was placed on BoardDocs for review and will be happy to answer any questions regarding the report. Ms. Fontenot informed the Board the Office of Head Start Program Performance Summary Report is also on BoardDocs She mentioned that due to the short timeline to correct the deficiency specified in the report, she is recommending the Board approve a request for a 30-day extension to submit the corrective action plan addressing the deficiency regarding the incident that happened.

Mr. Thomas Nelson made a motion to grant permission for Ms. Fontenot to submit a letter to the Office of Head Start Oversight Division requesting a 30-day extension to prepare the Corrective Action Plan regarding a deficiency noted in the monitoring review. Mr. Walter Grezaffi seconded the motion. Hearing no opposition, the request to submit a 30-day extension letter to the Office of Head Start was approved by a unanimous vote of the six members of the Board present and voting.

Ms. Lisa Loupe D’Aquila offered a motion to approve the January 2026 Head Start Monthly report prepared by Ms. Fontenot. Mr. Walter Grezaffi seconded the motion. Hearing no opposition, the report was approved by a unanimous vote of the six members of the Board present and voting.

Approval of Request to Advertise Bids for Child Nutrition Program for 2026-2027 School Year- Mrs. Kate Roy stated she is making a standard annual request to start the bid process to advertise items for the child nutrition program for next school year. Mr. Frank Aguiard stated although his company is not going to bid, he would like the records to reflect that he recused himself from voting on this agenda item.

Ms. Lisa Loupe D’Aquila made a motion, seconded by Mr. Aubry Hendricks, to authorize Mrs. Kate Roy to advertise bids for bread, food, large equipment, milk, and non-food items/supplies for the child nutrition program for the 2026-2027 school year. The motion carried by a vote of YEAS: 5; 1 recusal; and 2 members of the Board were absent.

Approval of 2026 Summer Feeding Program – Mrs. Kate Roy stated she would like to start planning for the 2026 summer feeding program and will submit information to the LDOE in early March as they requested. Mrs. Roy is asking the Board for approval for feeding sites at Livonia High School, Rosenwald Elementary School, Rougon Elementary School, STEM Magnet of Pointe Coupee, Upper Pointe Coupee Elementary School, and Valverde Elementary during the summer of 2026.

Mr. Walter Grezaffi made a motion, seconded by Ms. Lisa Loupe D’Aquila, to approve the 2026 summer feeding program at the following sites: Livonia High School, Rosenwald Elementary School, Rougon Elementary School, STEM Magnet of Pointe Coupee, Upper Pointe Coupee Elementary School, and Valverde Elementary. Hearing no opposition, the motion carried by a unanimous vote of the six members of the Board present and voting.

Discussion and/or Action Regarding Monthly Financial Information and Budget to Actual Reports- Mr. Stephen Langlois stated the monthly financial information and budget to actual reports have been on BoardDocs. Mr. Langlois mentioned the school system received the large Ad Valorem check from the Sheriff’s Office that we receive annually at this time. It is for the 2025 Ad Valorem collections. He inquired if there were any questions regarding the financial reports. Having no questions, President Aguiard entertained a motion.

Mr. Thomas Nelson made a motion, seconded by Mr. Aubry Hendricks, to adopt the monthly financial report and the budget to actual reports as prepared by Mr. Stephen Langlois. Hearing no opposition, the monthly financial report, and the budget to actual reports, were adopted by a unanimous vote of the six members of the Board present and voting.

Discussion and/or Action Regarding Extension of Contract with First Student, Inc.- Mr. Stephen Langlois announced that, as discussed at last week’s Executive Committee meeting, he and Superintendent Canezaro have been in negotiations with First Student, Inc. regarding an extension of the company’s contract for student transportation. He mentioned the pricing information for the two proposals are on BoardDocs, and it is their recommendation to continue the good relationship they have with First Student and are recommending the five-year extension starting next year.

President Aguiard stated it has been a really good working relationship with First Student; he mentioned two representatives from First Student, Inc. have accompanied Mr. Brad Darensbourg, the location manager in New Roads and asked if they wanted to introduce themselves.

Mr. Tony Vidrine, Sr. Vice President, stated it has been a while since he has attended a Pointe Coupee Parish School Board meeting. He mentioned they have had a long relationship with the Board, is glad they are satisfied with the services they provide to the district and thanked them for their support. Mr. Charles Holmes announced that he is the new Area General Manager, from New Orleans, and is looking forward to working with Mr. Brad Darensbourg as another resource for the Board. Mr. D’Arensbourg mentioned that most everyone knows him. He thanked Superintendent Canezaro and Stephen for working through the new proposal and also thanked the Board and Administrators for being great to work with. He mentioned that he is looking forward to continuing the relationship.

President Aguiard asked if any Board members had questions or comments. Ms. Lisa Loupe D’Aquila stated that she would like to ask the Superintendent for her recommendation. Ms. Canezaro stated she is happy to recommend the five-year contract with First Student. Mr. Aguiard stated that he would like to entertain a motion on Superintendent Canezaro’s recommendation of a five-year contract extension with First Student.

Mr. Aubry Hendricks made a motion, seconded by Mr. Walter Grezaffi, to approve Superintendent Canezaro’s recommendation of a five-year contract extension with First Student, Inc., effective July 1, 2026 through July 30, 2031. Hearing no opposition, the motion carried by a unanimous vote of the six members of the Board present and voting.

Discussion and/or Action Regarding Lawn Maintenance Contract for School Campuses- Mr. Stephen Langlois stated as discussed at last week’s Executive Committee meeting, the current contract for lawn care and grounds maintenance services is scheduled to end on April 29, 2026. Mr. Langlois mentioned that it has been a good working relationship with Reliance One Scape. Mr. Langlois stated he spoke with the owner, and they are willing to maintain the same pricing, if the Board approves utilizing one of the two 12-month extension options that is specified in the contractual agreement.

Public Notices

Mr. Langlois also stated the company is very willing to accommodate the school system with any additional cuts and/or service other locations (athletic fields, LaBarre site, STEM, Livonia) upon request. Mr. Langlois stated it is his recommendation to execute one of the two options to extend the contract with Reliance One Scape for a 12-month period, maintaining the same pricing. He mentioned the Board can revisit this in a year to determine what they would like to do going forward.

Board Member Chad Aguillard asked about the sites the company services and the number of cuts they provide. Mr. Langlois stated the company (Reliance One-Scape) services Rosenwald Elementary; Rougon Elementary; Upper Pointe Coupee Elementary, and Valverde Elementary, with 38 minimal cuts per year at these four sites, but upon request can cut other sites as well. Mr. Langlois announced they cut Livonia and STEM campuses upon request, which has been requested a number of times. Board Member Chad Aguillard questioned if the administrators at the sites have been spoken to regarding their satisfaction of the service. Mr. Langlois announced that school administration notifies him if there is a problem, and he addresses it with Reliance One Scape to let them know they need to speed up the cut or inquire as to why they missed a cut. Mr. Langlois explained that athletic fields are not included in the contract; they are cut upon request. Superintendent Canezaro stated Administrators are asked to attend School Board meetings for representation of their campus. Administrators in attendance said they are happy with the service being provided by the company. Mr. Aubry Hendricks inquired if anyone is keeping up with the 38 number of cuts. Principal Sara Taylor stated Mr. Andrew Duhe's secretary sent a log to track the number of cuts and her custodian tracks the cuts every time they service the Valverde campus; however, they do come on weekends. Principal Carolyn Wells suggested that the company be given the cell number for each administrator to notify them if they plan to service the campus on the weekend. Mr. Langlois announced that each company vehicle is equipped with a global position system recorder, and we can request a report that will show us a lot of information regarding where the vehicles have been and how often they go there by offering another tracking method. Board Member Aubry Hendricks inquired about use of the tractor the school system purchased a few years ago. Mr. Andrew Duhe' stated it is used for the UPCE campus, the property at the LaBarre site, the old Morganza school site, and the School Board Office; he stated the LaBarre site was mowed today.

Ms. Lisa Loupe D'Aquila made a motion, seconded by Mr. Aubry Hendricks, to approve the recommendation from Mr. Stephen Langlois to utilize one of the options to extend the contract agreement for 12-months (effective May 1, 2026 – April 30, 2027) between the Pointe Coupee Parish School Board and Reliance Once-Scape for lawn care and grounds maintenance services. Hearing no opposition, the motion carried by a unanimous vote of the six members of the Board present and voting.

Discussion and/or Action Regarding Adoption of a Resolution to Approve Assignments of State Agency Lease 21603 to Single Barrel Partners, LLC- Mr. Stephen Langlois announced an email was received from a law firm (Ottinger Hebert in Lafayette) overseeing the oil and gas lease that was sold to a new company requesting the School Board adopt a Resolution to approve an assignment of State Agency Lease 21603. The information is on BoardDocs.

On a motion by Ms. Lisa Loupe D'Aquila, seconded by Mr. Aubry Hendricks, the Pointe Coupee Parish School Board voted to adopt Resolution No. 3 of 2026 approving a series of assignments of State Agency Lease 21603 to Single Barrel Partners, LLC. Hearing no opposition, the resolution was approved by a unanimous vote of the six members of the Board present and voting.

Discussion and/or Action Regarding Awarding Bid for Physical Security Improvements at Livonia High School/STEM Magnet Academy of Pointe Coupee Under the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools Grant Program- Mr. Stephen Langlois stated as was explained at the Executive Committee meeting last week, the school district applied for a federal grant to update the security and surveillance technology on all six campus sites. He stated the federal government awarded \$50,000 in funding under the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools Grant Program for two of the six sites - Valverde Elementary School- Grant Award Number FY266-LCSSGP-0027-131, and Livonia High School - Grant Award Number FY26-LCSSGP-0027-130, divided equally between two campuses - Livonia High and the STEM Magnet Academy of Pointe Coupee.

A Resolution proposal of \$70,000 for security equipment devices, including a 1-year service agreement, was presented with American Integration Contractors, LLC as the contractor; the company is on state contract and complies with all state and federal laws. Information is posted on BoardDocs (Resolution No. 2026-05).

Mr. Langlois stated he is asking the Board for permission to approve a Resolution authored and proposed by Mr. Craig Schwartzberg for American Integration Contractors, LLC (AIC), to do the work utilizing \$50,000 in grant funds and \$20,000 from capital outlay funds for the security equipment devices for both Livonia High School/STEM Magnet Academy.

On a motion by Mr. Thomas Nelson, seconded by Mr. Aubry Hendricks, the Pointe Coupee Parish School Board voted to approve Resolution No. 2026-05 awarding the bid to American Integration Contractors, LLC (AIC) for physical security improvements at Livonia High School/STEM Magnet Academy of Pointe Coupee, utilizing \$50,000 in federal grant funds (Livonia High School - Grant Award Number FY26-LCSSGP-0027-130) under the Center for Safe Schools Grant Program, divided equally between two sites to include the STEM Magnet Academy of Pointe Coupee, and also approving \$20,000 from the capital outlay fund account for the balance in cost. Hearing no opposition, the Resolution was approved by YEAS:6, NAYS:0, ABSTENTIONS:0, and ABSENT: 2.

Discussion and/or Action Regarding Awarding Bid for Physical Security Improvements at Valverde Elementary Under the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools Grant Program-

Mr. Stephen Langlois stated as was explained at the Executive Committee meeting last week, the school district applied for a federal grant to update the security and surveillance technology on all six campus sites. He stated the federal government awarded \$50,000 in funding under the Louisiana Center for Safe Schools Grant Program for two of the six sites - Valverde Elementary School- Grant Award Number FY266-LCSSGP-0027-131, and Livonia High School - Grant Award Number FY26-LCSSGP-0027-130, which is split between two sites to include the STEM Magnet Academy of Pointe Coupee.

A Resolution proposal of \$65,000 for security equipment devices, including a 3-year service agreement, was presented with American Integration Contractors, LLC as the contractor; the company is on state contract and complies with all state and federal laws. Information is posted on BoardDocs (Resolution No. 2026-04). Mr. Langlois stated he is asking the Board for permission to approve a Resolution authored and proposed by Mr. Craig Schwartzberg for American Integration Contractors, LLC (AIC), to do the work utilizing \$50,000 in grant funds and \$15,000 from capital outlay funds for the security equipment devices for Valverde Elementary School.

On a motion by Mr. Thomas Nelson, seconded by Mr. Aubry Hendricks, the Pointe Coupee Parish School Board voted to award the bid to American Integration Contractors, LLC (AIC) for physical security improvements at Valverde Elementary School, as specified in Resolution No. 2026-4, utilizing \$50,000 in federal grant funds (Valverde Elementary School- Grant Award Number FY266-LCSSGP-0027-131) under the Center for Safe Schools Grant Program, and approving \$15,000 from the capital

outlay fund account for the balance in cost. Hearing no opposition, the Resolution was approved by YEAS:6, NAYS:0, ABSTENTIONS:0, and ABSENT: 2.

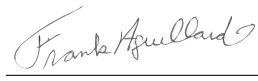
Consider Adoption of the 2026-2027 School Year Calendar; the 12-month Employee Holiday Calendar for July 1, 2026 - June 30, 2027, and the 2026 Summer Work Schedule for 12-Month Employees – Mrs. Marcie Cazayoux stated the proposed calendars are on BoardDocs. She mentioned the 2026-2027 school year calendar is a standard calendar similar to last year. Holidays will be the same as last year, including an election day holiday on November 3, 2026. She referenced the color-coded information on the top of the proposed calendar for school year '26-'27. Mrs. Cazayoux announced there are 182 days for teachers (Tuesday, August 4, 2026, is the beginning date for teachers and Tuesday, May 25, 2027, is the ending date for teachers). Mrs. Cazayoux also announced the first day for students is Monday, August 10, 2026 and the last day for students is Monday, May 24, 2027; there are 174 instructional days for students (three are remote learning, and two are early dismissal days, with three (3) contingency days built into the calendar. Information regarding 12-month employee holidays, and the 2026 summer work schedule for 12-month employees, were also posted on BoardDocs for consideration of adoption.


On a motion by Mr. Walter Grezaffi, seconded by Ms. Lisa-Loupe D'Aquila, the 2026-2027 school year calendar, the holiday calendar and the 2026 summer work schedule for 12-month employees were adopted by a unanimous vote of the six members of the Board present and voting.

Consider Adoption of New Policy EFAB (Employee and Student Acceptable Use Policy for Artificial Intelligence) - Superintendent Canezaro stated that policy EFAB is on BoardDocs; it is a new policy that pertains to employee and student acceptable use of artificial intelligence. She mentioned other school districts in the state have adopted this policy, and it is her recommendation that the Pointe Coupee Parish School Board adopt the policy for our district.

On a motion by Mr. Thomas Nelson, seconded by Ms. Lisa Loupe D'Aquila, New Policy File: EFAB (Employee and Student Acceptable Use Policy for Artificial Intelligence) was adopted by a unanimous vote of the six members of the Board present and voting.

Adjournment - On a motion by Mr. Thomas Nelson, seconded by Mr. Chad Aguillard, the meeting adjourned at 5:54 p.m.


 Frank R. Aguillard, Jr., President


 Kim Canezaro, Superintendent

cost \$729

MINUTES POINTE COUPEE PARISH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING February 24, 2026

The Pointe Coupee Parish Council Executive Committee met in regular session at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, February 24, 2026, at the Courthouse Annex in the Parish Council Meeting Room, New Roads, Louisiana.

Chairman Boudreaux called the meeting to order and directed Council Clerk Courtney Hurst to call the roll:

PRESENT: Messrs. Jimmie Gaspard, Sidney LaCoste, Edwin Soulier, Charles Watkins, Kurt Jarreau, Edward Bazile, Paul Bergeron, and Dustin Boudreaux.
 ABSENT: None.

APPROVE MINUTES OF JANUARY 27, 2026 MEETING

Motion by Mr. Soulier and seconded by Mr. Bazile:

RESOLVED, That the minutes of January 27, 2026 meeting of the Executive Committee be adopted as presented and published in the official journal.

Unanimously carried.

CONSIDER AMENDMENTS TO THE AGENDA

There were no amendments to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS

There were no public comments.

DISCUSSION OF A PROPOSED ORDINANCE TO CREATE CONSOLIDATED WATERWORKS DISTRICT NO. 1

Vice Chairman Bergeron initiated discussion by raising questions regarding the number of members to be appointed to the Waterworks District No. 1 Board. He also inquired about the outstanding debt between the two water districts, the contractors who will be engaged to provide services to the Parish, and the status of a rate study, including any recommended rate adjustments.

Parish President Thibaut, along with Director of Finance Tonilyn Guidry, addressed the Council's inquiries. They provided clarification on the requirements outlined in the grant for the consolidation and discussed plans for the future implementation of automated metering systems.

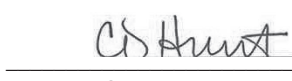
Councilman Soulier commended Director of Public Works and Utilities Nathan Cobb and his team for their exceptional performance during the recent freeze event. He noted that they did an outstanding job maintaining service continuity, keeping the lines supplied, and preventing any gas shortages.

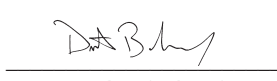
ANNOUNCEMENTS, NOTICES, MEETINGS, ETC.

Parish President Thibaut announced that the sales tax renewal is scheduled for 2027. He noted that Foley & Judell is actively working to ensure the timeline is met, with the measure currently projected to appear on the Fall ballot.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Mr. Bazile and seconded by Mr. Gaspard, the meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.


 Courtney Hurst
 Council Clerk


 Dustin Boudreaux
 Chairman

cost \$144

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING(S)

Notice is hereby given that the Pointe Coupee Parish Planning & Zoning Commission will hold Public Hearing(s) on Thursday, April 23, 2026 beginning at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Council Meeting Room at the Courthouse Annex Building, 160 E. Main Street, New Roads, Louisiana to provide information and receive public comments for the following request(s) of certain tracts or parcels of land showing:

A rezoning request into Rural Mixed Use located off of Mandela Drive at New Roads in Lot 15-A, River Road Subdivision, Section 9, Township 4, & Range 10 for Donnysius Kador.

A special use permit for a Therapeutic Group Home located off of Mandela Drive at New Roads in Lot 15-A, River Road Subdivision, Section 9, Township 4, & Range 10 for Donnysius Kador.

cost \$36

NOTICE

UPPER DELTA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT SUPERVISOR'S ELECTION

The elected position open for nomination will need to represent Pointe Coupee landowners, but the candidate may own land anywhere in the district.

**NOMINATING PERIOD
 OPENS: April 1, 2026
 CLOSES: April 30, 2026**

For individuals interested in Serving –
 Nomination Petitions can be obtained at:

Upper Delta SWCD
 377 Major Parkway
 New Roads, LA 70760

Monday through Friday between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

For more information call: 225-638-7746 ext. 3

Election will be held June 13, 2026

cost \$48

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City of New Roads Board of Adjustments will hold a public hearing at the New Roads City Hall, 211 West Main Street, New Roads, Louisiana, on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 immediately following the city council meeting.

Discussion and approval of the following Variance requests.

- L.J. Grezaffi, LJG Land Company, LLC – 2040 False River Drive
- Lucy Lieu, LLC/Ernest Peavy, III – 329-243 Hospital Road

cost \$36

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City of New Roads City Council will hold a public hearing at the New Roads City Hall, 211 West Main Street, New Roads, Louisiana, on Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 5:30 p.m.

Discussion and approval of recommendation(s) of the Planning and Zoning Commission for the following:

- Ray James – 717 Louis Street

A conditional use permit application for the placement of a Manufacture Home on aforementioned property

- L.J. Grezaffi, LJG Land Company, LLC - 2040 False River Drive

Application for a Minor Subdivision. Plat of survey showing a minor subdivision of Tract PF-2-A-1 being 0.79 acres being a portion of the original tract PF-2-A

- Lucy Lieu, LLC/Ernest Peavy, III – 329-243 Hospital Road

Application for a Major Subdivision and application for rezoning from C-3: Highway Commercial to RM: Multi-Family Residential

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the City of New Roads Planning and Zoning Commission will hold a public hearing at the New Roads City Hall, 211 West Main Street, New Roads, Louisiana, on Monday, April 6, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Presentation by Planning and Zoning Commission for:

- Ray James – 717 Louis Street - A conditional use permit application for the placement of a Manufactured Home on aforementioned property.

- L.J. Grezaffi, LJG Land Company, LLC – 2040 False River Drive – Application for a minor subdivision. Plat of survey for a minor subdivision showing Tract PF-2-A-1 (0.79 acres) being a portion of the original Tract PF-2-A.

- Lucy Lieu, LLC / Ernest Ray Peavy III – 329-243 Hospital Road – Application for rezoning and for a Major Subdivision.



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Pursuit of justice a challenge for children's advocacy group

By John Dupont
john.pcbanner@gmail.com

(Second in two-part story)

It takes only one act – sometimes in just a matter of minutes – to harm a child, but the ability to seek justices against the perpetrator could much longer.

Tonya Haas, Director of the Baton Rouge Children's Advocacy Center – which serves Pointe Coupee, Iberville and East and West Baton Rouge parishes – says that is one of the toughest parts of moving young people past incidents of abuse.

Prosecution sometimes takes years. "Imagine an 8-year-old talking about being raped, and 10 years later the perpetrator goes on trial," she said.

It's a different dynamic, for obvious reasons.

An 8-year-old will not be put on the witness stand or in the courtroom.

"But you're seeing an 18-year-old on the witness stand and that does something to them mentally," Haas said. "You can see them flinch."

CAC takes a multifaceted approach. It works with the prosecution, law enforcement to determine what the family

and the child may need.

"What do we need to do to make sure they don't fall through the cracks?" she said. "And that's the problem with a lot of things today. Children, the things that you see ... the horrible stories."

The caseload does not help matters.

"It's a very sad situation, so we work very hard not to allow that to happen," Haas said.

Services have been provided for some child as young as age 3.

"We continue to work with them until they reach their teen years unless they have some type of physical or mental infirmity that causes them to be at a younger state," she said. "We do stay through prosecution, and once they go to trial we go back with them."

Justice is not always delivered in the courtroom, Haas said.

It sometimes never reaches the courtroom.

"They may never get the perpetrator," she said. "Justice that we talk about is that child learning the tools to go on and live a happy life because they all deserve it, right."

"We try to teach them the skills to deal

with the trauma now, because if not, they're going to be dealing with it as an adult," Haas said. "We try to address it as early as possible and as close to the trauma event as possible."

Other victims may not disclose what happened for years.

In some cases, they cannot find someone they can trust to listen.

In many cases, it's law enforcement and mental health experts who help the most in those situations, she said.

The CAC in the Greater Baton Rouge region is one of only 14 in the state that has its own mental health program.

"Everyone else has to refer out, and they hope to get a trauma-focused counselor and one who takes Medicaid," Haas said.

Medicaid is crucial because 80 percent of the children are either below average income or in poverty, she said.

The Louisiana Department of Child and Family Services goes out to help recover the child victims and get them immediate help.

CAC has been accredited since 2014 with the National Children's Alliance.

"That's a standard we're held to, and we just did our reaccreditation in May of



Tonya Haas, Director of the Baton Rouge Children's Advocacy Center

last year," Haas said.

"You can have all the laws you want, but if you don't have the right way to do it, you're not going to help the children and we're not going to be effective," she said.

Officials remain cautious on closed primary election

By John Dupont
john.pcbanner@gmail.com

The Pointe Coupee Parish Registrar of Voters Office is keeping a cautiously optimistic approach to the adjustment to closed primary races in the May 16 election.

Registrar of Voters Shanika Olinde, along with Clerk of Court Becky Ewing Miller, have spent much of the last several months barnstorming the parish to inform voters of the changes that come with the transition to closed primary races.

"We've done a lot of outreach and we've added two additional commissioner classes than we usually have," Olinde said.

A small ballot helps in two ways for the Clerk of Court and Registrar of Voters Office.

It will allow both offices time to become more acclimated with the

process.

"We've been working on this over a year," Olinde said. "Hopefully, we won't have too many kinks."

The U.S. Senate race has been the biggest concern on the ballot.

Thus far, not much communication has come residents regarding the race.

"Nobody has really contacted us a whole lot except for small issues regarding the changes," Olinde said. "Nobody is questioning that."

"I'm not even sure which race they're interested in," she said.

The rewrite of election rules for congressional and senatorial elections, along with BESE, all fall under the closed party primary system which changes the sign-up process for how candidates get their names on the ballot and provide new rules for how voters participate..

Olinde advises local voters to

make certain they know their party affiliation, as well as the location of the voting precinct.

Residents can find out the information on the GeauxVote website or by calling the Registrar of Voters Office at (225) 638-5537.

The office is located on 1919 Hospital Road, Suite 1 in New Roads.

The closed party primary system will make it harder for candidates who are not registered Republican or Democrat to sign up for their races, according to Public Affairs Research (PAR) of Louisiana.

The closed primary process will change the way millions of state residents cast their ballots, limit the candidates they can choose in the primary election and possibly lock tens of thousands of voters of the primary election entirely.

Closed primaries will be used for elections to Congress, the Louisi-

ana Supreme Court, the Public Service Commission and the state Board of Elementary and Secondary Education.

All other races will continue under the open primary system

Louisiana has used for years, where all candidates, regardless of party, run against each other at the same time.

In a closed primary election, Republican candidates will face off against each other, and the winner will advance to the general election in the fall. Similarly, Democratic candidates will run against each other, with that party's winner moving to the fall ballot.

If no candidate wins more than 50% of the vote in the first Democratic or Republican primary, the top two vote-getters advance to primary runoff elections to determine which Republican and which Democrat will become each par-

ty's nominee.

The top Republican and Democrat to emerge from the closed primaries will compete in the general election against any candidates who are either unaffiliated with a political party or belong to another political party that didn't have a closed primary.

The candidate who receives the greatest number of votes in the general election will win the seat.

That means a candidate could win one of the seats held under the closed party primary system without getting a majority – more than 50 percent – of the vote.

In the 2026 election cycle, seats for the U.S. Senate, U.S. House, Louisiana Supreme Court, Board of Elementary and Secondary Education and Public Service Commission will be on the ballot through the closed primary system.

Nungesser opposes naming bridge after President Trump

By John Dupont
john.pcbanner@gmail.com

Legislation to tack President Donald Trump's name to the proposed bridge between Plaquemine and Sunshine is inappropriate, according to the state official second highest in command.

No bridge or other public structure should be christened with the name of a living official, Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser said Friday during an interview with Jim Engster on "Talk Louisiana," a statewide program on Baton Rouge public radio station WRKF-FM 89.3.

"If you do good things in your life after you're gone and they want to name things in your honor, that's a great tribute to what you contributed to your state and your country," Nungesser said. "But to push the name stuff after yourself while you're alive is just, uh, I don't know, it's, it's hard to put words to it, but yeah, I think it's ridiculous."

Both men referred to Revised Statute 42.267 that stipulates "the naming of public buildings, etc.," in honor of a living person" is prohibited.

"Except as authorized or provided by law, no public building, public bridge, public park, public fish or game preserve, or public wildlife refuge owned by the state or by any political subdivision of the state or by any institution receiving its support in whole or in part from the state shall be named in honor of any living person."

The legislation refers to "the naming of any public building, public bridge, public fish or game preserve or public wildlife refuge named in violation of this Section in honor of any person who is still living shall change the name and the officer, officers, board or commission in charge of such building, bridge, park, preserve or refuge shall destroy, deface or remove all plaques, signs or other evidence of the name of such person appearing on the premises thereof."

House Bill 221, which would name the artery "The Donald Trump" Expressway, passed 68-26, includes an amendment which will include language to require federal funding is put in place by January 2029.

State Rep. Chasity Verret Martinez, D-Bayou Sorrell, opposed the measure in the full House vote.

She supported it in the House Transportation Committee on March 11 but drew criticism from constituents for crossing party lines on the vote.

State Senator Caleb Kleinpeter, R-Grosse Tete and state Rep. Jeremy LaCombe, R-Fordoché, both supported the measure.

LaCombe said the bill will lead to a lot of conversation, both pro and con.

"But we need this bridge more than anyone, and I'll do just about anything necessary to try to get the funding and to get this thing situated for the bridge."

The bridge would connect Plaquemine at La. 1 with Sunshine at La. 30.

UPCOMING ELECTION DEADLINES TO

KNOW



APRIL
15

REGISTER TO VOTE IN PERSON,
BY MAIL, OR AT AN OMV OFFICE

APRIL
25

REGISTER TO VOTE THROUGH
THE GEAUXVOTE ONLINE
REGISTRATION SYSTEM

Remember! Party affiliation will determine how you vote in closed party primary races. Make sure to double-check your registration on the GeauxVote app or through the Voter Portal at GeauxVote.com

Around Pointe Coupee



2026 Pointe Coupee Historical Society Jazz Brunch held March 29

The Lamartine Bouanchaud home in New Roads provided the setting for the 2026 Pointe Coupee Historical Society Jazz Brunch on March 29.



Photos by John Dupont

Traditional jazz music highlighted the 2026 Jazz Brunch presented by the Pointe Coupee Historical Society.



Attendees at the 2026 Pointe Coupee Historical Society Jazz Brunch toured the inside of the beautiful and historic Lamartine Bouanchaud House.



Photos by John Dupont

Kids had loads of fun and no stingers when they rode the Beehive at the Fardoche Community Fair.

Much fun was held at the 25th annual Fardoche Community Fair



Kids got their first taste of work on the open road on the 18-wheeler rides at the 25th annual Fardoche Community Fair.



The fast-moving "Tornado" provided thrills and chills for many during the 25th annual Fardoche Community Fair.



Sports

CPC Lady Hornets look for boost in momentum

By John Dupont
john.pcbanner@gmail.com

The Catholic-Pointe Coupee Hornets closed March looking to move past a two-game losing streak just as they move into the thick of the District 5-1A schedule.

The Lady Hornets gave up six runs in the bottom of the second in an 8-2 loss to Sacred Heart-Ville Platte in the district opener Tuesday.

The loss came after CPC opened with a 1-0 lead when Cameren Chapman scored on a single grounder to third with two outs.

Catholic went three-across in the top of the second before Sacred Heart mounted six singles that led to a 6-1 lead.

The Lady Hornets tried to dig themselves out the hole when Chapman scored on a sacrifice with two outs.

CPC finished with seven hits and three errors. Catholic-PC perennial state contender Parkview Baptist at press time Wednesday. CPC hosts St. Thomas More on Tuesday. First pitch is 5 p.m.

FALSE RIVER ACADEMY – A seven-run rally in the top of the sixth helped Class 4A Plaquemine seal the lid on a 14-2 win over the Lady Gators in non-district action Tuesday.

Center fielder Teryn Deville went 2-for-3 and scored both runs for False River (10-11-1).

Catcher Ramie Guidroz had three hits for FRA, while outfielder Jade Frederick and third baseman Shelby Donohue each notched one.

The young FRA squad notched seven hits against the Lady Green Devils.

False River hosts White Castle in what could prove to be a solid chance at victory for the Lady Gators. WCHS will come to New Roads with a

10-7 record after aa win over Family Christian on Tuesday.

LIVONIA – The Lady Wildcats (7-17-1) gained some momentum with back-to-back victories Mon-day and Tuesday on the heels of a two-game skid.

Livonia piled eight runs in the top of the seventh for a 16-11 win over Breaux Bridge.

A four-run rally in the fourth put LHS ahead of the Lady Tigers, but Breaux Bridge responded with five runs in the bottom of the frame.

The Lady Tigers led 8-6 before the Livonia got the last laugh before leaving the Crawfish Capital of the World.

Third baseman Addelyn Smith and second baseman Bracley Morin each finished with four RBIs.

Savvy Laprairie (3-for-5) had a double and three RBIs.

Laparie smacked a triple, while Morin had two doubles.

Right fielder Kayleigh Burke tallied two RBIs, while left fielder Sanaa Guerin had one.

Laprairie struck out two and walked five across 5 1/3 innings. Morin came in as relief midway in the fifth.

The win came one day after LHS routed Independence 24-0 (no ... it's not a football score).

Livonia led 10-0 at the end of the first quarter and piled on 14 more runs in the second.

The Lady Wildcats finished with 15 hits.

Morin was winning pitcher.

Livonia ventures to Gonzales today (Thursday) for a 5 p.m. visit to Ascension Christian. The Lady Wildcats entertain Family Christian at 4 p.m. Monday.

LHS hosts Port Allen at 5 p.m. Wednesday.

Wildcats pull past BCHS in 5-4A action

By John Dupont
john.pcbanner@gmail.com

The fifth inning was figured as the saving grace for the Livonia Wildcats in a come-from-behind win over Beau Chene in District 5-4A action last week.

Conner LaCour scored on a line-drive double to left field in the bottom of the seventh for an 11-10 week over solid BCHS squad.

The win came despite the Wildcats leaving running stranded at first and second and a strikeout that sent LHS back to the field scoreless at the end of the first inning.

A Chase Sylvain popper gave Avery Bergeron enough time to reach home for the 1-0 Wildcat lead in the bottom of the second. Livonia extended its lead later in the inning when Sylvain and Smith scored on a Hunter

Jones grounder to third.

WCA 4, LIVONIA 3

In action Monday, the Wildcats could not dig themselves from a 4-0 deficit despite two runs in the top of the sixth, which allowed Westminster Christian a 4-3 win over LHS.

LaCour and Foster each had one RBI for Livonia, which finished five hits.

CPC 14, FRA 4 -- Catholic-Pointe Coupee won two games in three days against cross-town rival False River Academy in nondistrict action last week.

Catholic-PC broke from a 1-0 lead to pile five runs in the top of the fifth four more in the seventh for an 11-0 win at Lacassine.

Carter Hotard struck out 10 in a nohitter to spark the Hornet win.

Tre Williams finished 3-for-3 – including a double and triple – along with two runs to

lead PC.

The win came two days after CPC breezed past up-and-coming Grand Coteau parochial school Berchmans Academy 17-1 in a no-hitter.

The non-district win came two days after the Hornets fell 5-2 in their 5-1A opener at Sacred Heart-Ville Platte.

CPC 17, LACCASIENE 1 – The Hornets made the most of a long trip to Jefferson Davis Parish, where Catholic-Pointe Coupee breezed past the Cardinals.

Hornets pitcher Carter Hotard held the Laccasine to two hits. He struck out 10.

The Cardinals held the Hornets to one run until the top of the fifth when CPC drove in five runs and added another five across the next two innings for the victory.

Myka Nipple led with three runs, three hits

and one RBI, while Tre Williams finished 3-for-4 with two RBIs. Williams finished with a double and a triple, along with four stolen bases for Catholic.

COMING UP ...

Catholic-PC: The Hornets (6-18) resume action Monday, April 6 when they host Patterson. CPC entertains Pine Prairie on April 7.

False River:(6-14) is set for a 4 p.m. clash today (April 2) against Southern Lab for junior varsity and varsity fare.

The Gators entertain White Castle for a 1 p.m. contest Saturday, and host Ascension Christian at 4 p.m. Monday.

Livonia: The Wildcats (11-11, 3-0) resume action Tuesday, April 7 when travel to Cecilia for district action. LHS will host the Bulldogs on April 9.



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Around Pointe Coupee



Photos by John Dupont

Sonya Memphrey of Walker and Robin Olivier of Lafayette offered honey and other items at their O' Honey booth March 27-29 during Market at the Mill, presented by the City of New Roads.

Vendors promoted products at the 2026 Spring Market at the Mill



Melissa Ellis and Craig Peterson sold their popular line of Papa Pierre's gumbo, jambalaya and cajun cream sauces during the spring Market at the Mill on March 27-29 at the historic New Roads Cottonseed Mill.



Theresa Vallery displays a sample of her fine art in her Robin's Nest booth at the 2026 Spring Market at the Mill.

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