



Our Pride

# POINTE COUPEE

A quarterly publication for  
Pointe Coupee Parish residents  
by your public agencies

JANUARY 2024

## DID YOU KNOW?

You can request  
mosquito treatment,  
pay your parish utility bill,  
submit a work order, and  
get garbage info on the  
parish website!

[www.pccparish.org](http://www.pccparish.org)



**Feb. 11** – Livonia Mardi Gras  
Parade, 1 pm

**Feb. 13** – Community Center of  
Pointe Coupee Parade, New Roads,  
11 am

**Feb. 13** – New Roads Lions Club  
Mardi Gras Parade, New Roads, 2 pm

## EVENT INFO

**Jan. 26 & 27** – Family Resource  
Fair, Scott Civic Center, 9 am both  
days, Early care and pre-school info

**February** – Registration for PC  
Recreation tee-ball/baseball/softball  
leagues. Go to [pccparish.org](http://pccparish.org).

**February 1-8** – Mardi Gras Shoe  
Box Float Contest at PC Library

**Feb. 16-18** – Acadian cutting  
horse show, Multi-Purpose Facility

**Feb. 24** – Team roping at Multi-  
Purpose Facility

**March 14** – Leprechaun Hunt at  
PC Library

**March 23** – Easter Egg Hunt at  
PC Library

## Numerous projects will begin this year!

The parish is gearing up for a big year, with numerous construction projects that had been in the planning phases set to break ground and get underway. Following is a listing of the biggest projects coming to Pointe Coupee in 2024:

### **Gravity Drainage District for Atchafalaya Basin -**

\$400,000 project to restore drainage that had been impeded by roads and pipelines along the Basin floodway, Hwy. 190 corridor. It is out for bid with construction expected to begin by March.

### **Portage Canal & Multi-waterway drainage project -**

\$6 million project to restore weirs, and de-slag and clean outfall canals, including Grosse Tete and Choctaw Bayous, False River Outflow Channel, and Portage and Bayou Cholpe Canals. Surveying and plans are underway. Construction expected to begin in late fall.

### **Ventress Drainage Project -**

\$400,000 project to make improvements to the existing drainage structures in the Ventress area. Project will advertise for bid this Spring, and will be underway by summer.

### **District #1 Sewer Improvement Project-**

\$4.2 million project to eliminate two old and inefficient small treatment facilities; and pipe waste from those facilities to the District #1 treatment facility, along with improvements. Project will advertise for bids by April, and will begin by summer.

### **Water District #1 Consolidation Project -**

\$12 million project to expand and upgrade Water District No. 1, including the consolidation of False River Water Works into Water District No. 1 and upgrades to the system, including new water wells, a new water storage tank, stand-by generators and more. Surveying work is underway and projects are expected to begin by the fall.

### **Courthouse Improvements Project -**

\$3.1 million in state grants will fund renovation of courtrooms, restrooms, security, lighting, ceilings and American Disability Act updates. Project is out for bid now, construction expected to begin in March.

### **Blighted property demolition project -**

\$500,000 state grant to demolish blighted property in the parish. Expected to go out for bid by the fall.

### **Sewer hook-ups at PC Multi-Use Facility -**

\$380,000 for sewer hook-ups for the 42 RV spots at the Multi-Use Facility RV Park. Goes out for bid by late fall.

### **False River restoration project -**

Includes completing the bulkhead and Lighthouse Canal outflow improvements, expected to go out for bid by late Spring.



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# Gift of Giving expands holiday giving to children

Sheriff Rene' Thibodeaux and the Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office hosted the annual Gift of Giving event on December 22, with everyone enjoying holiday cheer.

Every year, with the help of very generous sponsors and CHSPC sophomore Colby Canezaro, toys are given out to children across the parish. This year the efforts were expanded to provide a toy to all Pre-K and kindergarten children in the parish during the week of Christmas. In addition, Christmas gifts were provided for five families in the parish, and 100 bikes were given to local children.

This event is always near and dear to Sheriff Thibodeaux's heart, as he was a DARE officer in our parish for years. We, at PCPSO, understand that our youths are our future. Nourishing the minds of children, providing safety, comfort, and establishing positive relationships between law enforcement and the community help the fundamental development of children and society as a whole.

Most importantly, who doesn't want to see a child's face light up when they experience a little Christmas magic. In addition to the toys, 900 plates of jambalaya were given out to the public as a way to show appreciation to our community. We would like to thank all of our sponsors, the cook team, and the deputies for making this event possible.



Sheriff Thibodeaux, second from right, and some of the volunteers who prepared and served 900 plates of jambalaya as a thank you to the community.



The bike give-away during the Gift of Giving event.

## Keeping Mardi Gras safe

The Mardi Gras season is rapidly approaching. This year Fat Tuesday falls on February 13th. In Pointe Coupee, we like our hometown, family oriented Mardi Gras festivities. The Livonia Mardi Gras parade will roll on Sunday, February 11th, and the two parades in New Roads will roll on Tuesday, February 13th. While this is a time of fun for all, we want to stress the importance of safety during the Mardi Gras festivities! Let's keep it safe and fun for all!

### Mardi Gras Safety

- NEVER ALLOW CHILDREN IN THE STREET
- NEVER FOLLOW BEHIND FLOATS, BANDS, ETC.
- NEVER THROW ANYTHING AT THE RIDERS
- DO NOT CROSS BARRICADES
- FOLLOW THE LAW
- DRIVE AND PARK RESPONSIBLY



# Planning for the future takes the forefront in 2024

## A message from Parish President Major Thibaut

Happy New Year to everyone! 2024 promises to be a great year for Pointe Coupee Parish, with numerous infrastructure improvement projects getting underway. The parish has obtained millions in state grants for these projects, and it is exciting to see the months and years of planning now culminating in construction getting underway.



Parish President Major Thibaut

These projects are all necessary to address the significant backlog of infrastructure work needed in our parish when I became Parish President in 2020. That infrastructure work has been my top priority for the last four years. Now that we have done the extensive work of obtaining funding and are getting these projects underway, and I begin my second term as Parish President, we will begin to look toward creating a road map for our future.

**We will be determining several things on the economic front as we begin to create that road map for our future:**

**1) Taking a deep dive into finances and revenues for parish bodies to determine if funding is sufficient and where reallocation may be initiated to better serve our citizens.**

We hope to have the results of an independent, outside study of revenues and funding needs by this summer. The results of this study will lead our discussions within Parish Government and with other parish agencies on planning for future funding needs.

**2) Determining where we can make investments that will promote economic development, business opportunities, and quality of life for our citizens.** On the economic development front, we are excited about the sale of Cleco to Atlas this summer. It is a great opportunity for us to welcome a new community partner who is looking to reinvest in the plant and bring new revenue and opportunities to our parish.

In addition, the Nextera solar farm will get underway this year, bringing new investment and tax revenues for our parish. These funds are sorely needed after losing \$5.6 million in annual revenue when Kirby Barge line left our parish at the end of 2023.

**3) Developing ways we can use our Industrial Development Board to benefit our parish.** The Pointe Coupee Industrial Development Board was a significant part of developing the Nextera package that helped us land that solar farm. We will look at using the capacities of this agency again to help bring other industry here.

We must think creatively, and be open to new industry, technology and ideas in order to diversify our tax base; and to provide a stronger economy for our future generations. That focus will serve Pointe Coupee well, and will be at the forefront of my priorities for 2024 and beyond.

# Batchlor Park now open

Batchlor Park was formally opened with fanfare, a ribbon cutting and the 1st Annual Mingle & Jingle on Dec. 9. Dozens of local community leaders and business owners came together to sponsor a Christmas event with food and gifts for local children and families. Special thanks to Mrs. LaRae Wells for coordinating the "Mingle & Jingle" and Council Member Jimmy Gaspard for donating a pastalaya. The park was made possible by a Love Louisiana Grant.



Ribbon-cutting for the opening of Batchlor Park.

# Your input wanted on False River Park master plan

The Pointe Coupee Recreation Department is developing a comprehensive master plan for False River Park, including the master gardener's facility and the Pointe Coupee Parish Multi-Use Facility. Your input is sought for this project! Scan the QR code at right to link to the survey, which can be completed in just a few minutes and will provide the parish with your ideas about improvements you want in the park.



# Twice a week garbage collection reinstated

Taking into consideration the concerns of residents regarding the reduction in garbage service to once-a-week, the Pointe Coupee Parish Council voted on December 12, 2023 to return to twice-a-week garbage service effective January 1, 2024.

With this increase in service, there will be a residential garbage fee increase of \$7.14 (\$18.86 to \$26.00). In addition to residential garbage service, the \$26.00 fee covers twice-a-month roadside debris/bulky waste pick-up and all related garbage disposal fees.

Your route will return to its previous twice-a-week days. The pickup days and routes are posted on the parish Facebook page and the parish website at [www.pccparish.org](http://www.pccparish.org).



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# 18TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY

## DA's Office takes record 32 violent crime cases to jury trial in 3 years, gets 32 convictions


District Attorney Tony Clayton took office in January of 2021, but, due to COVID, judges did not resume court proceedings until April, 2021. Since then, Clayton hit the gas on prosecuting cases, especially violent crime cases.

A record 32 criminal trials were held between April 2021 and November 2023, including murder, rape, sexual assault and pornography cases.

"The good people of Iberville, West Baton Rouge and Pointe Coupee Parishes had the faith and confidence in me to elect me as District Attorney without opposition because I promised to get these violent criminals off our streets," Clayton said. "Our excellent staff has answered the call - we have been prepared and prosecuted these cases fully."

"The other key in our success has been our residents who have made up the juries," he added. "When presented with the evidence, they have said, time after time, they will not stand for the crime, and have issued guilty verdicts over and over."

"We will continue to fight every day to keep our communities safe and to stop the influx of criminals from other communities," Clayton said. "They will know that we will prosecute them fully, we will take them to trial, and we will ask for the toughest sentences allowed by law. That's what our residents want, and that is what we will continue to deliver."



**DA's OFFICE  
VIOLENT CRIMINAL  
TRIAL RESULTS**  
April 2021-December 2023

Number of trials held	32
Murder cases resolved	28
Life sentences (Includes a 100 year sentence)	19
Major rape/sexual assault/ pornography cases	8



# POINTE COUPEE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

## Changing faces at Assessor's Office

Please join me in congratulating Delilah Polar McDowell, who recently retired from the Pointe Coupee Parish Assessor's Office with over 33 years of service. She held the position of Chief Deputy Assessor for over 20 years and displayed a level of professionalism rarely seen. Her dedication and service to this office will long be remembered and greatly appreciated. We wish her all the best in the next chapter of her life!



*Delilah Polar McDowell*

Louis A. Hebert has been appointed the new Chief Deputy Assessor for the Pointe Coupee Parish Assessor's Office. He has been employed by the office for over 27 years and possesses a vast knowledge of the entire assessment process. He has been a certified Deputy Assessor since 1998. Louis has served under two different Assessors and performed almost every duty in every department of this office. Please join me in congratulating Louis on this well-deserved promotion.



*Louis Hebert, the new Chief Deputy of the PC Assessor's Office, is shown being sworn in by Clerk of Court Lanell Landry.*




*Jennifer B. Allain*

Finally, Jennifer B. Allain has been named as the Office Manager for the Pointe Coupee Parish Assessor's Office. She has been employed with the office since January of 2019 and achieved certification as a Deputy Assessor in 2020. Please join me in congratulating Jennifer on this well-deserved promotion.


I'd like to wish everyone a safe and prosperous New Year, and thank you for allowing me to serve as your Assessor for over 14 years. It is an honor for which I am extremely grateful.

You can contact our office by phone at 225-638-7077 or by email at [pcassessor@bellsouth.net](mailto:pcassessor@bellsouth.net). I can be contacted personally by phone at 225-240-9974 or via email at [jimmypca@att.net](mailto:jimmypca@att.net). Our website is [ptcoupeeassessor.com](http://ptcoupeeassessor.com).



**Pointe Coupee Parish  
Assessor's Office**

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*Assessor Jimmy  
Laurent, Jr.*

## A special thank you...

As another year begins, we would like to thank our customers for their loyalty and dedication to our Library System. We also wish to recognize and thank our generous donors who have contributed to the success of our year-long programs.

Thank you to the Catholic of Pointe Coupee School Student Book Club for its annual book drive; the Stuart Family of Lakeland and the Book Club of New Roads for their monetary contributions towards our children's programming; and the many who have contributed to our Memorial Book donations over the years.

These wonderful contributions have allowed us the opportunity to once again place books into the hands of all of our parish's 3 and 4-year-old children. Thanks to these donations, we were also able to bus children to our library so they could enjoy the magic of Ms. Happy's Christmas. The joy on their faces was priceless. We are so very grateful for your consideration and thoughtfulness.

We also would like to thank our community partners: Arts Council of Pointe Coupee; Greater Baton Rouge Food Bank; Pointe Coupee 4-H; Pointe Coupee Sheriff's Office; LSU Ag Center; Pointe Coupee Home Health; all Pointe Coupee Fire Departments; LA Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; LA State Museum; and LA Endowment for the Humanities. We are happy to announce the LSU OLLIE program will begin scheduling its programs throughout our parish libraries in 2024.

Our wish for you and your families is a year full of good will and many blessings. Please continue to visit our libraries and web sources as you "Check Us Out!"

Melissa Hymel, Library Director



**SCENES FROM HOLIDAY FUN...**  
 Top left: Polar Bear Express Movie Night at Innis Library; top right: a staffer clowns with the snow monster; bottom left: the big crowd for Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer Movie Night at New Roads Library; above: winners of the Christmas ornament contest; and at right, the Livonia Book Club.



**Your 24/7 On-line Library - [pointe-coupee.lib.la.us](http://pointe-coupee.lib.la.us) - Check out the databases, books, magazines and newspapers, homework help, research info and more of our on-line collection!**

## Branch location, contact information

**Pointe Coupee Parish Library**  
 201 Claiborne Street, New Roads  
 Phone: 225-638-9847  
 Open: Monday-Thursday 9 am - 6 pm  
 Friday & Saturday 9 am - 1 pm  
 Sunday Closed  
[www.pointe-coupee.lib.la.us](http://www.pointe-coupee.lib.la.us)

**Innis Branch Library**  
 6444 La Hwy 1, Innis  
 Phone: 225-618-1070  
 Open: Monday-Thursday 9 am - 6 pm  
 Friday 9 am - 1 pm

**Morganza Branch Library**  
 221 So. LA Hwy. 1, Morganza  
 Phone: 225-694-2428  
 Open: Monday-Thursday  
 10 am - 5 pm  
 Friday 10 am - 2 pm

**Julian Poydras Branch Library**  
 4985 Julian Poydras Lane,  
 Rougon  
 Phone: 225-627-5846  
 Open: M-F 8 am - 4 pm

**Livonia Branch Library**  
 8247 Norwood, Livonia  
 Phone: 225-637-2987  
 Open: Monday-Thursday 9 am - 6 pm  
 Friday 9 am - 1 pm

### Julian Poydras Branch events

**Learn to Crochet adult class**

Mondays from 9:00-3:30 - All supplies are furnished to make a basic crochet wash cloth. Please call to save your seat - 225-627-5846.

**Crazy about Crafting?**

Mondays from 9 am-3:30 pm- Bring your current project and supplies and meet other crafters. Call for more information - 225-627-5846.

**Learn to crochet**

Yarn and crochet hooks will be supplied. Mondays from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Please call to reserve your seat at the crafting table - 225-627-5846

**Caring caps**

Our crochet/knitting ladies will be making hats for the needy. There is a need for hats of any size from newborn to adult. If you are interested call 225-627-5846

### Livonia Branch events

**Junk Journaling**

2:30 pm - last Wednesday of each month

**Ms. Happy Story time**

10:30 am - first Monday of each month

**Great Baton Rouge food bank**

10:30 am - first Monday of each month

**Book Club**

4 pm - first Thursday of each month

### New Roads Branch events

**School Time Story Time**

9:30 am every Thursday morning in Children's Room

**Mardi Gras Shoe Box Float Contest**

Drop off beginning February 1. Judging will take place February 8.

**Leprechaun Hunt**

March 14 at 5 pm

**Easter Egg Hunt**

March 23 at 10:30 am

## Settoon named new administrator of PC Home Health/Hospice

Pointe Coupee Homebound Health and Hospice has announced Jenny Settoon, LCSW, as the new agency administrator. Settoon has worked as the agency social worker for the last 19 years. She has also served as the compliance officer and emergency preparedness manager. Settoon states, "I love the people of Pointe Coupee. I love hearing their stories and feel both honored and blessed to be a part of their care at such a precious time in their lives. I also love working with my amazing team!"



*Jenny Settoon, LCSW  
Agency Administrator*

Settoon graduated from Catholic High School of Pointe Coupee (1997), received her bachelors of Child and Family Studies from ULL, and her Masters in Social Work from LSU (2003).

When she is not at work, she enjoys gardening in her yard, cooking, cheering on her children at all their sporting events, and reading. She is married to Eric Settoon, and together, they have 3 children: Jude, Anna, and Abby.

Pointe Coupee Homebound Health has been serving the citizens of Pointe Coupee and surrounding areas for over 35 years. With a proven record of success, Pointe Coupee Homebound Health has been named to the 2023 class of Honors Elite, a prestigious honor recognizing home health agencies that continuously provide quality care as measured from the patient's perspective. It also provides compassionate hospice care for patients and families with end of life issues.

## 'Cribs for Kids' helps qualifying families

PCGH is offering the "Cribs for Kids" initiative, a program in which a baby crib is provided to Pointe Coupee families who qualify. "Cribs for Kids" is an effort to

prevent sleep-related infant deaths. The cribs provide a safe place for infants to sleep, thereby reducing the risk of sleep-related infant deaths. For more information, email the hospital administration office at [lpatterson@pcgh.org](mailto:lpatterson@pcgh.org).



*Chad Olinde, CEO, with Valerie Dee Sparks Jarreau, CNO, are seen with one of the cribs that is available for families who qualify for the "Cribs for Kids" initiative.*



*The new Physicians Clinic at the PCGH medical complex.*

## New physicians clinic opens in Feb.

The PCGH medical complex has expanded. A new state of the art building is scheduled to open in mid-February 2024 to provide two current local physicians with clinic space.

Dr. Brian LeBlanc and Dr. Rachal Dewey will relocate from their temporary offices on the hospital property into this new clinic. The clinic was built with funds provided by the Pointe Coupee Health Services District, and will accommodate these two OLOL Physician Group doctors and their staffs.

The beautiful new complex is a generous 3650 square feet, providing a comfortable space for patients of these physicians.

The office is located next to the existing OLOL Physician Group Clinic at 310 Durel Drive, the current offices of OLOL Physician Group primary care providers Dr. Louis Montelaro, Dr. Carl McLemore, Dr. Paul Rachal, Dr. Andrew Parks, and Ashley Pourciau, NP.



*CVT providers, from left, Brandie Henry, PA-C; Michael Conners, MD; Laurel Hastings, MD; Paul Michael Davis, MD; Samantha Tiblier, FNP-C; James McNeil, MD; and Adrienne Castille, PA-C.*

## Vascular, vein, surgical group provides specialties in Pointe Coupee

Did you know the CVT Surgical Center of Baton Rouge provides specialty services right here in New Roads? Having these specialists available to the residents of our community offers a convenient opportunity for our local residents to see a vascular specialist without having to travel into Baton Rouge.

The CVT Surgical Center offers medical, endovascular and surgical management to their patients and have been instrumental in using the latest minimally invasive vascular techniques. These specialists are able to provide state of the art surgical care to patients with diseases of the heart, lungs and blood vessels.

The CVT Vascular Lab provides non-invasive diagnostic procedures administered in clinic by a Vascular Technologist and interpreted by a CVT physician. The technologist are able to use advanced technology to safely and confidently evaluate a variety of vascular conditions.

Once a need for an evaluation by a vascular specialist is established by your primary provider an appointment can be made by calling the CVT office. The number to schedule an appointment to see a vascular specialist at the PCGH Physician's Specialty Clinic in New Roads is (225) 766-0416. The Specialty Clinic is located at 160 Hospital Road in New Roads.



# \$4.5 million sewer project begins in 2024

The City of New Roads has crossed another hurdle in the \$4.5 million project to improve the sewer system, with the La. Bond Commission approving its bond request of the matching funds for the project in January.

The city received 78 percent of funding from federal funds, and the city will use its federal COVID relief funding, local funds, and some parish federal covid relief funds for the city match. The project includes new permanent lift station pumps, so the \$600,000 in annual savings from eliminating the rentals of pumps will pay the bond note.

Mayor Theron Smith said the sewer project will provide significant upgrades to the city's 13 lift stations, which are in dire need of repairs. "We have received the bids to repair the first lift station - that is the 6th Street station - because it is the most critical in our sewer system. Work is expected to begin this Spring," he said. "This is the first step in relieving the city of the high cost of renting temporary pump stations."

The new state-of-the-art permanent pumps will be more efficient, and will save on energy costs. In addition, three new permanent pumps will be installed at the lagoon lift station, which is also presently running on a back-up pump. Aerators and other improvements will also be made at the lagoon.

## Security increased for parades

The City is working with organizations holding Mardi Gras parades to increase security this year and beyond. "We will have additional officers on the parade routes to keep everyone safe," said Mayor Theron Smith. Additionally, organizations are being asked to bag candies instead of throwing out individually wrapped candies. "The individual candies get trampled and end up sticking to the asphalt, making clean up after the parades difficult," he said.

## Scott Civic Center getting facelift

The William H. Scott Civic Center is getting a facelift by city public works crews in the coming month. The city will spend about \$10,000 on painting and repairs to the facility, and will use the city crews to save on labor costs. "This facility has needed some attention, so we are getting that underway," said Mayor Theron Smith.

## More cameras coming to streets

The city is continuing its program of adding video cameras on streets as a tool to fight crime. Another eight cameras will be added in the coming months, and will be placed in the areas of greatest need, said Mayor Smith. The cameras will be portable so that they can be moved for city events or other needs. "Our goal is to add to the camera system consistently so that eventually we have a camera on every street of the city," said Mayor Smith. "They are a great tool in tracking criminals, solving crimes, and helping us maintain a safe community for our residents."

**BUILDING SOLD:** In other news, the city has completed the sale of the former Visitor Center building on Main Street to David Mougeot for \$307,000, and will be completely moved out of the building by the end of January. The city had purchased the building in 2010 to convert it into a new town hall, but discovered that it could not be used for that purpose. It was then used as a Visitor Center, but had low visitation. The new owner is considering residential housing on the top floor and commercial space, including a restaurant, at the bottom.

**REDUCING BLIGHT:** Work on eliminating blight in the city is continuing. The city has stepped up its enforcement of city property ordinances, and is requiring those with derelict houses and buildings to bring them up to code or demolish them. The city is also enforcing its ordinances on overgrown grass and shrubs. "These efforts are helping our neighborhoods," said Smith.

NEW ROADS

MARDI GRAS

TUESDAY, FEB. 13

Community Center Carnival Parade - 11 am

Lions Club Mardi Gras Parade - 2 pm

## PC schools in state top 10 for growth in performance

The Pointe Coupee Parish School System was highlighted by the La. Department of Education for being one of the TOP 10 Most Improved School Districts in the state for growth! Our district performance score increased by four points. District Performance Scores are rated by various factors including student achievement, graduation rate, strength of diploma, student progress, and the inclusion of interests and opportunities for students in schools.

**Highlights:**  
**#9 District in the State for Growth!**  
**INCREASED:**  
 4 DPS  
 30 GRADUATION RATE INDEX  
 20 K8 INTEREST & OPPORTUNITIES  
 14 GRADUATION RATE  
 12.8 STRENGTH OF DIPLOMA  
 5.5 DCAI  
 2 PROGRESS

## Security upgrades at all campuses



Improvements are underway at all schools to secure a single point of entry to the campuses. Once construction is complete, visitors will park and enter campuses through one area that will be monitored. Funding for these improvements was provided by federal grants.

## Reading program gets big boost, gym gets facelift at Valverde Elem.

Improvements have been made at Valverde Elementary School to promote reading and the aesthetics of the gym.

Students will earn tokens to spend in the new Book Worm vending machine just installed at the school. Students will choose books that interest them to support their habit of reading for pleasure and to help build their personal libraries.

The first of its kind in Pointe Coupee Parish, the vending machine is another tool in the school's literacy program to build excitement in students around book ownership, independent reading, and overall academic success. Students will earn "book tokens" through their literacy goals that are set in the classroom and school wide based on the Louisiana state standards. The purchase of the machine was made possible by a donation of The Pangburn Group.

Also, the bleachers in the gym were recently refinished and painted! Thank you, Pointe Coupee - this project was funded by school improvement tax proceeds. Shown at right are the celebration of the new book vending machine, and the newly-painted bleachers.



## McFadden named Science Lab Challenge Winner

Faith McFadden, a teacher at STEM Magnet Academy, was recently honored as the Shell Science Lab Regional Challenge Winner. This award includes a \$20,000 prize package that provided funding for her to attend the National Science Teachers Association conference in Kansas City in October, purchase lab equipment and kits for her science classes and tools for a school garden, and for professional development and science conferences.



In the photo at left, Faith, third from right, gets her award. In the photo at right, students use some of the equipment purchased with the prize money.



Sara Taylor  
Principal of the Year



Jaci Sadden  
Elementary School Teacher of the Year



Larry Oliver  
Middle School Teacher of the Year



Anthony Turner  
High School Teacher of the Year

## PC Educators of the Year announced

The Pointe Coupee School System has announced its educators of the year. They are:

Sara Taylor, principal at Valverde Elementary School, Principal of the Year. She promotes teamwork, learning and a positive culture on campus for both the staff and students.

Jaci Sadden, a first grade teacher at Rougon Elementary, Elementary Teacher of the Year. She has been teaching 6 years.

Larry Oliver, a science and math teacher at UPCE, Middle School Teacher of the Year. He has been a teacher for 50 years.

Anthony Turner, a advanced math, algebra and financial math teacher at Livonia High, High School Teacher of the Year. He has been teaching for 21 years.

## Our Extraordinary Educator

Nikki Allen, a teacher at Valverde Elementary School, was named Curriculum Associates' Extraordinary Educator 2024! As an Extraordinary Educator, Nikki will have opportunities to network with others around the country, travel to the Extraordinary Leadership Summit in July 2024, speak at media events, and more.



Nikki Allen