

POINTE COUPEE

OCTOBER 2024



Our Pride

False River Park master plan to guide additions

The Pointe Coupee Parish Recreation Department has developed a master plan for the 70 acre False River Park, and it will be the planning mechanism for all future additions to the park, said Recreation Director Paul Armand.

"We were building facilities that we knew were needed and wanted by residents, but we needed a comprehensive plan for the future," he said. "This is a huge site, and following this layout will be more efficient and serve the community better."

Short term additions to the park include additional pickleball courts, renovation and reorganization of the soccer complex, a dog park and sidewalks in various areas of the park. These projects are planned for 2025. Long-term projects include adding additional youth ball fields and the construction of a gym. The planning included citizen input, with about 500 residents completing a survey in 2023 to provide input on what they wanted at the park.

COMING EVENTS

Oct. 22 4-H Pet Show Costume Contest

Oct. 28-31 Pumpkin decorating contest - See page 5

Oct. 31 Trick or Treat hours - 6-8 pm

Oct. 31 Livonia Party at the Park - 6-7:30, Glaser Park

Nov. 1-3 Harvest Festival - See page 7

Nov. 5 Election Day

Nov. 10 Fall Festival at Batchelor Park

1-6 pm

Nov. 11 Veterans Day

Nov. 22-24 Market at the Mill - See page 7

Nov. 27 Christmas Ornament Decorating

Contest - See page 5

Dec. 14 Light Up the Holidays, Poydras Center

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!

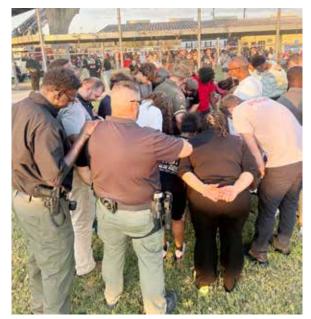
www.pcparish.org



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POINTE COUPEE SHERIFF'S OFFICE

First Responders Night Out a big success



First responders pray before the start of First Responders Night Out.

National Night Out is held nation-wide as an opportunity to First Responders to have a night of fun and build relationships with our communities. Locally, National Night Out was held on October 2 at the Livonia Community Center.

The Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office, Livonia Police Department, and all of the Fire Districts came together to host a memorable evening for our community. Many vendors participated as well, including Arbor Family Health, Walker's Pharmacy, Crime Stoppers, CASA of the 18th JDC, Probation and Parole, Every Day Counts Therapy, STEM Magnet Academy, Livonia Library, and others. First Responders played kickball against the kids, gave K-9 and drone demonstrations, and a good time was had by all.

"Building relationships with the community is such an important piece of what we do in law enforcement," said Sheriff Rene'Thibodeaux. "It helps our residents see that was are here to protect and help them. Events like this build that positive rapport, especially with our youth. We look forward to hosting this event annually."



Families enjoy the festivities.

Part of the crowd attending the Sheriff's Office first SALT Luncheon for seniors.

Sheriff hosts seniors at luncheon

Sheriff Rene Thibodeaux held his first SALT (Seniors & Law Enforcement Together) Luncheon on August 22, hosting more than 150 parish seniors for lunch, learning and fun.

They heard a presentation by Louisiana Attorney General Liz Murrill, Dianne Cashio of the Louisiana Attorney General's Office, and Cpl. Yvonne Bowie of the Pointe Coupee Parish Sheriff's Office on elder fraud. They also enjoyed a great meal and playing bingo.

Some Elder Fraud prevention tips discussed were:

- Designate someone you trust as your financial power of attorney.
- Appoint a trusted contact for accounts and investments.
- Sign up for a service that tracks your bank accounts, investments, and credit cards.
- · Stav in touch with older loved ones.
- Get to know your loved one's caregivers.
- Shred receipts, bank statements, and unused credit card offers before throwing away.
- Lock up your checkbook, account statements, and other sensitive information when others will be in your home.
- Regularly review your credit report.
- Seek outside perspectives and consult with an attorney or trusted family member before making significant financial decisions.

The Sheriff's Office will hold a SALT Expo on November 19, providing a luncheon, a variety of vendors and educational information for Pointe Coupee's seniors. See info at right.

Halloween trick or treat tips

Trick or treating should only take place when accompanied by an adult.

Put electronic devices down, keep heads up and walk, don't let kids run.

Motorists should be on high alert during trick or treat since children could cross the road unexpectedly.

Only trick or treat in well lit areas.

Candy should be inspected by an adult before it is eaten.

SENIORS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT TOGETHER

Join us on

NOVEMBER 19, 2024 9 AM - 1 PM SCOTT CIVIC CENTER 1200 MAJOR PARKWAY NEW ROADS, LA 70760

We want to help make your life a little easier so we are hosting our First Annual SALT Expo. We are bringing in various vendors to tell you a little bit about their services. Lunch will be provided and we will have a guest speaker. Join us for a fun, educational day!

POINTE COUPEE PARISH GOVERNMENT

Omega Foundation repairs wharf area cave-in as a public service

Parish President Major Thibaut and the Parish Council extends its gratitude to Omega Foundation Services and its owner, Pointe Coupee resident Andrew Bennett, for repairing the cave-in at the wharf in downtown New Roads at no charge to the parish. The company had completed a project in the area, and moved heavy equipment and materials to the site to make the repairs.

"This project would have cost the parish and City of New Roads \$100,000 or more to repair if we had contracted it out, so Mr. Bennett saved Pointe Coupee Parish and the City of New Roads a lot of money and got the job done efficiently and effectively with our parish crew assisting in the repair," said Parish President Thibaut. We thank Andrew for his generosity to his community."

The bulkhead had collapsed, and caused the sidewalk at the wharf to cave in. Even though it was roped off, the area was dangerous. The repairs took five days to complete. The parish crew continued to work at the site after the repairs were completed to stabilize the subsurface and repair the sidewalk.



Parish begins master planning process

The Pointe Coupee Council took the first step at its September meeting in developing a master plan for the parish. It has engaged the Center for Planning Excellence (CPEX) to do a parish analysis, plan and hold a visioning workshop with officials in order to determine key themes to be addressed in a master plan, and the scope of work of the

Once the parish has its report from CPEX the parish will then issue Requests for Proposals (RFP) for firms to develop the master plan. This process will include community meetings in which the public can provide its input on the needs and focus for Pointe Coupee in the coming years.

Parish President Thibaut said the parish hopes to issue the FRP in early 2025. The master planning process generally takes 12-18 months. The parish's existing plan is over 15 years old.

"This provides us with the framework to move our parish forward, along with the areas in which we need to focus our efforts," Thibaut explained. "We have focused on addressing major infrastructure and public building repairs and upgrades in recent years, and made great progress in those areas. It is time now to develop this plan to give us direction to benefit our parish and our residents in the coming years."

Stay hurricane aware

Even though the region has largely dodged two hurricanes this year, residents are urged to stay hurricane aware into November, when hurricane season ends. As Hurricane Helene showed, a hurricane can develop rapidly and cause massive damage even inland.

Hurricane Francine provided a good hurricane preparedness drill for the parish, which partially activated its Emergency Operations Center at the time. The hurricane left very little damage in Pointe Coupee. The EOC is building redundant communications via satellite systems in case of communication failures during severe weather events

PROJECT UPDATES



DISCHARGE BAYOU BULKHEAD REPAIRS... A contractor recently completed bulkhead repair of the outflow channel at Discharge Bayou and Lighthouse Canal under direction of the parish. The bulkheads had begun to fail and were at the end of their life expectancy.



GRAVITY DRAINAGE CANALS UPGRADED... A \$400,000 project to add 60 inch concrete culverts in the Gravity Drainage District is complete. The project was completed with grant funds and will re-establish drainage in the Atchafalaya Basin, which will benefit the Moraanza floodway.



JACK TORRES BRIDGE REPAIR UNDERWAY... The embankment of the bridge is being rebuilt. One third of the road was overlaid two years ago, and the remainder of the road will be overlaid in 2025.



Jimmie Gaspard District A jgaspard@pcparish.org (225) 718-5653



Sidney LaCoste, II District B slacoste@pcparish.org (225) 718-1644



Edward Bazile District C ebazile@pcparish.org (337) 254-4656



Charles Watkins District D cwatkins@pcparish.org (225) 718-8564



Edwin Soulier District E (225) 718-0813



Dustin Boudreaux District F esoulier@pcparish.org dboudreaux@pcparish.org pbergeron@pcparish.org kjarreau@pcparish.org

(225) 276-7301



Paul Bergeron District G (225) 718-1172



Kurt Jarreau District H (225) 240-2337

18TH JUDICIAL DISTRICT ATTORNEY

The three P's of the District Attorney's Office

The DA's number one responsibility is keeping our communities safe. "We do that in three basic ways that we call the three P's," said District Attorney Tony Clayton. "They are: Prosecute criminals who break the law, work to Prevent crimes from happening in the first place, and Protect and support the victims of crime and make sure their voices are heard."

PROSECUTE: Prosecution is a big part of the DA's job, with the power to hold criminals accountable under carefully defined laws and ethical responsibilities. "When someone is arrested, we carefully review the facts and the evidence. We can only file the criminal charges we believe we can prove beyond a reasonable doubt," DA Clayton said. "Our job includes protecting the rights of the innocent, as well as those we charge with a crime."

Then, the case moves to the justice system, which provides checks and balances – and accountability. Public defenders, criminal defense attorneys and judges all play a role in how each case will resolve. Prosecutors alone don't determine a person's punishment if they're convicted. That's up to a judge and jury once the DA's Office has proved its case.

PREVENT: As prosecutors, DAs also have the ability to give people second chances. That's why DA Clayton works with special courts that steer people away from jail, still holding them accountable, but getting them the help they need to break the cycle and stay out of jail. This help includes mental health treatment or kicking a drug or alcohol addiction. That's one way DAs prevent crime, but there are lots of others. "We work with youth to help them make good choices and stay in school," Clayton said. "We support programs that help people who are coming out of prison to find jobs."

PROTECT: The third part of the DA's job is protecting and supporting victims of crime. In a typical year, the DA's office comes into contact with thousands of victims, and the DA's Office helps them in lots of ways. "We get them emotional support, and we help them even when we can't file charges against the person who hurt them," DA Clayton said. "We sometimes even use therapy dogs to help them testify in court. We do all of this on behalf of you, the people. After all, we are here to keep our communities safe, and we are accountable to you."



POINTE COUPEE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE

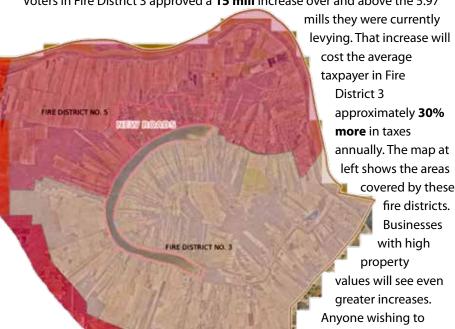
Millage increases will impact tax bills

Dear Fellow Citizens of Pointe Coupee Parish,

As mentioned in the last newsletter, millage increases in two fire districts will have a significant impact on property tax bills that go out next month. Although 2024 was a reassessment year, our parish suffered a significant decrease in Public Service values which are controlled by the Louisiana Tax Commission. This is causing several other taxing districts to increase their millages to meet their budget requirements.

Voters in Fire District 5 approved a 3 mill increase over and above the 5 mills they were currently paying. The move to 8 mills will increase the average taxpayer's bill by about 5%.

Voters in Fire District 3 approved a 15 mill increase over and above the 5.97



check in advance to view their increase is encouraged to contact our office after October 21, when all values will be finalized. You can reach us at 225-638-7077 or look up your assessment on our website at www.ptcoupeeassessor.com.

Property owners that currently have the Special Assessment or "freeze" on their homestead property will see an increase in their bill because of these millage increases. The freeze prevents any increases in value but does not protect homeowners from millage increases.

We would like to remind the public that all property taxes are paid at the Sheriff's Tax/Civil Office located directly behind the Courthouse. The Assessor's Office does NOT accept property tax payments. The Sheriff is the official tax collector for the Parish. The Tax/Civil Office number is 225-638-5433.

The Assessor's Office feels it is important to point out these upcoming increases so affected property owners can prepare for the new tax amounts.

If you'd like to discuss your individual property listings, call 225-638-7077 from 8 am to 4 pm Monday thru Friday or email pcassessor@bellsouth. net. Our temporary office location is 3422 Ewing Drive in New Roads.

Jimmy Laurent, Pointe Coupee Parish Assessor

Trabona gets deputy certification

Please join us in congratulating Lauren Trabona for achieving her designation as a Certified Louisiana Deputy Assessor. Lauren completed all the courses and tests to achieve this title, which is administered by the International Association of Assessing Officers (IAAO). This designation is also recognized by the Louisiana Assessors Association and IAAO members. Congratulations Lauren on this impressive achievement!



POINTE COUPEE PARISH LIBRARY

PC Library to get video conference technology from Southern grant

Pointe Coupee Library locations will be the recipient of high definition video conferencing equipment to receive content and programs from Southern University and Southern Law Center's legal and business education clinics. Three library sites also will have the ability to generate programs and content with this equipment.

The project is part of a grant awarded to the Southern University Law Center (SULC) by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) Distance Learning & Telemedicine (DLT) program.

Through this grant, SULC will empower rural communities with the education and resources necessary to enable informed legal decisions. SULC's legal and business education clinics will connect educational and medical professionals to students, teachers, and patients. The goal is to promote equity and economic opportunity in rural America.

"SULC is honored to be one of few law schools in the country to help meet the legal literacy needs of rural citizens through these USDA DLT grants," said Lata Johnson, SULC associate vice chancellor and deputy chief information officer. "By providing video conferencing equipment to various rural locations, we can provide content and experts face-to-face with folks miles away from our campus. The grants allow SULC to continue reaching communities within the state within its many legal clinics." The project will take place over the next three years.

Storytime with Ms. Happy

Be sure to bring your 3 and 4-year-olds for Storytime with Ms. Happy on Thursday mornings from 9:30-10:30 am. at the New Roads Library. Ms. Happy will also be at New Roads Boo & Brew on Oct. 27!



Do you need a safe place to study, meet with friends to work on a project, conduct a ZOOM session or just read in a comfortable chair? We have numerous study rooms at the New Roads and Livonia libraries, and a large meeting room at our Innis Library. Security can be provided at no cost to you. So please check us out. Use of our facilities is always FREE and we provide free Wi-Fi.

LIVONIA BRANCH ACTIVITIES

Pumpkin Decorating Contest

Pumpkins can be carved or decorated. Drop off pumpkins between Oct. 28 and 3 pm on Oct. 30. Judging is at 4 pm on October 30. Categories: Most Creative, Smallest, Largest, Scariest, Most Traditional, Cutest, Best Carved, Best Character and Best Painted. Pumpkins must be removed by Nov. 1. For more info call 225-637-2987.

Christmas Ornament Contest

Ornaments can be painted or decorated. Drop off between Nov. 25 and Nov. 27 by 3 pm. Judging is at 4 pm on Nov. 27. Categories: Most Creative, Best Painted, Most Colorful, Most Traditional, Cutest, Best Overall, Best Decorative and Most Unique. Ornaments must be removed by 1 pm on Nov. 29. For more info call 225-637-2987.



LSU-OLLI chair and mat yoga classes at the New Roads Library.

Special thanks!

A special THANK YOU to our sponsors for the annual Christmas book gifting program. They are: the Stewart Family of Alma Plantation; Catholic High of Pointe Coupee Book Club and the New Roads Book Club for their generous donations. Every child in pre-K and Kindergarten attending one of our local schools, daycares or home school programs will receive their very own book compliments of these wonderful sponsors. This will be our 3rd year to place a forever book into the hands of our local children at Christmas.



Fill your hummingbird feeders now! Hummingbirds are on the move. Photo of a female Ruby Throat Hummingbird provided by Melissa Hymel.



POINTE COUPEE PARISH LIBRARY

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

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 9 am- 6 pm Closed Fri., Sat. & Sunday

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

Have you had your mammogram yet?

Breast cancer is the second leading cause of death in women, so getting your yearly mammogram is a high priority. For those who may not know, Pointe Coupee General Hospital has 3D mammography! We also have the smart curve paddle, which aids in decreasing discomfort from compression.

During October our radiology department will sell breast cancer ribbons for a minimum \$1.00 donation. Your loved one's name will be placed on the ribbon and it will be hung in the Radiology hallway for the month of October. All proceeds will go to the Janell Lacombe Fund. Call the Radiology Department now to make your mammogram appointment - 225-638-5703!



Shown are radiology techs, from left, Brandi Guidroz-Werchan, Erin Thibodeaux, and Alana Smith.

Prescription drug take back kiosk is open

Everyday is Take Back Day at PCGH! The Take Back Kiosk for safe drop off of unused and unwanted medications is open seven days a week from 6 am until 8 pm on the first floor near the Laboratory Department entrance.

The US Drug Enforcement Administration will hold Take Back Day from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 26 at locations nationwide. By dropping off unused and unwanted medications at PCGH, residents can prevent drug misuse before it starts.



It's flu shot time!

Flu season is beginning and now is the time to get your flu vaccine! In the photo above, Kelli Barker, RN, administers a flu vaccine to Myrna Tuminello, a PCGH Pink Lady. Flu shots are available at local pharmacies, and primary care doctor's offices.

Saving lives by teaching CPR to faculty at local schools

Pointe Coupee General Hospital is once again offering Basic Life Support (BLS) and Heartsaver Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) classes to the faculty of local schools, including the use of an automated external defibrillator (AED), which is used to shock the heart into a normal rhythm. The combination of these techniques helps save lives during cardiac arrest when the heart stops beating or beats too ineffectively to circulate blood to the brain and other vital organs.

In addition to providing education on these life-saving measures, Pointe Coupee General donated AEDs to the local schools to ensure each had the proper resources to begin CPR until emergency responders arrived.

PCGH has also offered these classes to healthcare providers and members of the community for quite some time. All of this began in August of 2020, when a student from a local school suffered a cardiac event requiring administering CPR. This event inspired local schools to inquire about CPR certification and within a month of that incident, Pointe Coupee General Hospital's BLS instructors, Dania Tolliver, RN; Darla Franklin, RN; and Megan Pourciau, RN, conducted their first class to begin certifying school faculty in CPR, which taught responders to act quickly by activating emergency services and providing rescue breathing and chest compressions.

In 2023, Louisiana officials signed into effect revisions to Louisiana law (RS 40:1137.3), mandating all elementary and secondary public and private schools develop a cardiac emergency response plan. These plans dictate steps for activating a cardiac emergency response team to respond to a sudden cardiac arrest and maintaining training for first aid, CPR, and AED use on school premises and at each school-sponsored athletic event.

To aid local schools in complying with state mandates, Pointe Coupee General Hospital donated a set of four adult manikins, four pediatric manikins, and four AED trainers. Although the schools will now be able to educate their faculty and students, Pointe Coupee General will continue to be available to assist with classes as needed.





Faculty members of various
Pointe Coupee schools and PC
General Hospital nurses and
administrators are shown
with the CPR and AED training
equipment provided by the
hospital to each school. Training
in the use of this life-saving
equipment is also taught to
school faculty members by the
PCGH staff.







Over \$5 million sewer improvement project underway

Construction to significantly upgrade the city's 13 lift stations began in October and will take about a year and a half to complete. The lift stations are in dire need of repairs, with many not operating.

"This project will go a long way in alleviating significant issues with our sewer system," said Mayor Theron Smith. "Presently



the city is renting pumps to run the lift stations, which is very costly. The rentals will no longer be necessary once the lift station repairs and improvements are made, and the city will save approximately \$480,000 per year on rental fees once this

project is complete. This will more than pay our bond issue for this project."

The new state-of-the-art permanent pumps will be more efficient, and will also 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.

The city received 78 percent of funding from federal funds, and the city will use its federal COVID relief funding, local funds, some parish federal COVID relief funds for the city match, plus a bond issue to pay the remainder of the cost for the much-needed project.

Community banner program kicks off

The City of New Roads has joined forces with local businesses and agencies to establish the Community Banner Program. In this partnership, 25 light pole banners will be hung in the downtown New Roads area.

The banners will serve a dual purpose, said Mayor Theron Smith. They will welcome visitors to New Roads and also promote local businesses and agencies. "The banners include a large photo of False River with a welcome from the city; and the other 30 percent of the banner will promote the business," he said. "The businesses pay the cost of the banners, so there was no cost to the city, and they are a great way to boost our businesses."









POINTE COUPEE PARISH SCHOOL BOARD

Farm to School helps kids make good nutrition choices

The PCPSB Child Nutrition Program celebrates National Farm to School Month in October! The Child Nutrition Program greenhouses are now operating with bell peppers, cucumbers, and tomatoes growing for school meals throughout the parish. During the month and school year, student groups will visit the greenhouse site to learn about growing food, preparing food, and making healthy lifestyle choices.

In the photo at right, students from the 6th grade garden club at STEM Magnet Academy visited the greenhouses to plant cucumber seeds and learn the health benefits of cucumbers. Back at the school cafeteria, they got to eat cucumbers and bell peppers from the greenhouses for lunch



Families get talent showcase

STEM Magnet Academy Eagles showcased their many talents and achievements during Meet the Eagles program on Sept. 24.

Meet the Eagles was an after school hours event that involved students' families watching talent events, meeting teachers, and shopping at the book fair.

Local community partners participated by having educational tables for families

such as Arbor Health, Pointe Coupee Parish Food and Nutrition, Robotics (state and national competitors) Showcase, sports reps, Girls on the Run, Art Showcase, Theater Showcase, 4-H, Student Council & P7 Club.

Performances included Elementary Beta Songfest (placed at state convention), SMA Choir, SMA Cheerleaders, LHS Prowlers & Senior Beta Poetry (state placed). Parents and kids painted "Kindness Rocks" for the school rock garden as a Leader in Me activity. The event was enjoyed by all and provided a sense of pride for SMA.



Ms. Shanna Jarreau's 2nd grade class at Rougon Elementary shows off items they purchased with their hard earned RouBucks. Students earn RouBucks for Accelerated Reader points in reading and mastering Zearn and iReady lessons in math.

After school students get latest tech

In the 21st Century After-School Program, kids are getting hands-on experience with the future of technology by flying drones! These small, remote-controlled devices give students a chance to learn about engineering, teamwork, and problem-solving while having a blast. Whether they're racing through obstacle courses or capturing cool aerial photos, the kids are developing new skills and discovering how drones can be used in real-world situations, from deliveries to exploring hard-to-reach places. The program is turning playtime into a high-tech adventure!







Books with Breakfast at Valverda Elementary School! Families gathered on October 2 for the school's monthly family engagement activity to promote literacy for our students and families.



Livonia High Homecoming Court

Shown is Livonia HIgh School's 2024 -2025 Royal Homecoming Court. They are, left to right, Amyria Porche, Dereon Joseph, Destinee White, Jordyn Templeton, A'nya Dupar, Jazmine Ficklin (Miss Freshman), Janeil Porche (Miss Sophomore), Addyson Achee (Miss Junior), Kaley Exkano, Anahi Rebollar, Chloe Bonnette, Raven Derozan, and Johnna Bazile.

Nov. 5
Election Day

Nov. 11
Veterans Day

Nov. 25 - 29
Thanksgiving
Holidays

Nov. 25-26 - District Office will be open

Dec. 20 - Jan. 6
Christmas
Holidays

Dec. 20 - Planning day for teachers Dec. 23 - Jan. 3 - All schools & district office closed Jan. 6 - District PD Day - no school for students