

# Catahoula News Booster

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1 Section

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## No penalty parish tax deadline Friday

Property taxes were due in Catahoula Parish on December 31, 2021. The last day to pay your taxes without a penalty is January 7, 2022. Taxes can be paid during regular office hours on Monday though Fri-

day from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Taxes can be paid online at <https://snstaxpayments.com/catahoula> with a credit or debit card. If you pay in person you must pay with cash, check or a money order.

The taxes due are based on two factors: the assessed value of your property and the local tax rate.

Homeowners in Louisiana are eligible for the homestead exemption, which can significantly reduce property taxes owed.

Catahoula parishes median home value is \$78,700.00, the median annual property tax payment is \$223.00 according to Smart Asset.

The Louisiana Homestead Exemption exempts the payment of

property taxes on the first \$75,000 of the homes fair market value (\$7,500 off the assessed value). For example, if your home is worth \$75,000 or lower, you are fully exempt from the payment of property taxes.

Last year Catahoula Parish ranked 10th in the state for property tax value meaning property tax dollars are being spent most effectively and residents are getting the biggest bang for their property tax buck.

## Louisiana New Year's baby from Manifest makes debut on Pineville Expressway



**New Year's Day baby Isabella and parents, Amy and Josh Bordelon**

Melinda Martinez, Alexandria Town Talk

Josh and Amy Bordelon of Manifest started off 2022 with an adventure. One they'll be able to tell for years to come. Amy delivered their newborn daughter Isabella at 12:15 a.m. on New Year's Day. And on the Pineville Expressway in Josh's work truck as he drove 70 mph trying to get to CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital.

Isabella weighed 7 pounds, 11 ounces and was 19 3/4 inches long.

The story begins earlier in the night at their Catahoula Parish home. The couple and their two older daughters were getting ready for bed when Amy started having contractions.

"And I said, 'I'm just going to wait them out because my water hasn't broken,'" she said.

Eventually, she decided that they had to go to the hospital because she was in pain. The only thing they could do was send her back home and she would be fine with that.

Amy called her mother to take care of the girls while she and Josh left for Alexandria.

"We got into his truck - his work truck to head this way - and he's doing around 70, to try and hurry up and get here because we live an hour and 10 minutes away from the hospital," said Amy.

As they made their way through Rhinehart, Josh hit a deer. But even that didn't stop them.

"I was kind of all over the truck at that point," she said.

They had just arrived in Pineville on Highway 28 East when her water broke.

Isabella Bordelon was born at 12:15 a.m. Jan. 1, 2022 to Josh and Amy Bordelon at CHRISTUS St. Frances Cabrini Hospital. Amy delivered Isabella herself on the Pineville Expressway as Josh rushed to get to the hospital. He even hit a deer on the way.

"I was screaming and hollering in the truck. And I couldn't sit still. And then just when I felt her coming, my water just ruptured everywhere and I felt - like everybody talks about the ring of fire - I started feeling that," she said.

And that's when she knew Isa-

bella was about to be born.

"When we hit the Pineville Expressway, I started delivering her," said Amy. "So I just bore down and made sure there was plenty of room on the seat. And I pushed one time and the top of her head was trying to come out. So I pushed again and got to her shoulders. And I did one more big push and she came out all the way."

She had seen her other two children born but said she still didn't know what to do so she went on instinct and what she remembered from their births.

After Isabella was born, Amy grabbed her so she didn't fall off the seat put her on her chest.

"And just started rubbing her and patting her back a little bit because I didn't know what else to do," she said.

Then, Amy looked over at Josh and said, "I told you she was coming."

Josh looked right at her and gasped. "What?"

"She's here," said Amy.

He kept gasping and once they got closer to the hospital, he called and told them to meet them outside because Amy already had the baby.

Before they left for Alexandria from Manifest, Amy thought of calling an ambulance but they live far out in the country.

"By the time an ambulance would have found where we live, we'd already had the baby or been at the hospital," she said.

And even if they could have stopped and called for an ambulance, they decided to keep driving. It would be quicker to drive than stop and wait for an ambulance to reach them.

This was her third delivery but without medication. Her contractions were bad but she thought since each pregnancy is different that she was being overly dramatic.

It was an interesting experience for the couple. And the family has quite a story to tell Isabella about her birth.

"It was amazing to be able to pick her up and pull her to my chest. But it was something I would never do again unmedicated," said Amy as she laughed.

## Police Jury adopts 2022 budget and revised 2021

A special meeting was held on December 21, 2021 to adopt the amended budget for 2021 and adopt the new budget for the year 2022. Five of the nine Police Jurymen were in attendance including Jury President Harold Sones, Vice President Jerel Evans, Rodney Sones, Jeffery Estes, and Johnny Adams.

In total, the final version of the Police Jury 2021 budget projects expenditures of \$3,255,670.00. The projection of actual total revenue for 2021 is \$3,921,660.00. The total revenue for 2021 was \$665,990.00 more than disbursements of the year.

The proposed budget for 2022 estimates total revenue will be \$2,943,890.00 and total disbursements at \$3,186,600.00. The budget predicts to be in the red \$242,710.00.

The health unit fund has revenues of \$94,600.00 and will only spend \$45,500.00. The general fund is projected to be short \$33,760.00. Hard surface fund will have a total revenue of \$860,500.00 and expenditures of \$947,850.00.

The most notable on the budget is the sanitation fund showing a revenue of \$500,000.00 from the one cent sales tax that will be due for renewal in 2025 and expenditures to be \$611,000.00. The proposed budget does not include the money collected from the sanitation fee because it is in a separate account. The police jury receives \$10.75 out of the \$12.00 fee paid each month. JCP keeps \$1.25 from every bill

mailed out regardless if the bill is paid or not. In 2021 the police jury had to transfer \$3,000.00 from the sanitation fee account. It has been estimated that over 1,900 bills are sent out which would mean the police jury could get \$20,425.00 a month, if all bills are paid.

However, without a line item in the budget for the new \$12.00 monthly garbage fee, the police jury is not showing the tax payers how much money was collected each month or a total collection for 2021 or how much of each monthly collection was used, if any, to cover the revenue deficit which is the reason for the new fee.

The police jury is responsible to pay some salaries, benefits, office supplies, dues for district attorneys, phone, and internet for the criminal court. The estimated amount received from fines and forfeitures is \$75,000.00 and a total of \$70,000.00 having to be transferred from the general fund.

The police jury manages the Larto-Mayna Recreation area, monies collected do not go to the police jury but to the Larto-Mayna Recreational fund. Revenues for the fund total \$30,550.00 and disbursements total \$29,740.00. Just like the recreation fund, the police jury manages Fire District Number 2 and does not use any of the money for the police jury. Fire District Number 2 is estimated to have \$12,840.00 more in revenue than disbursements.

See full budget on Page 10A.

### Special Election Police Juror District 3

### January 15, 2022 Election

Candidates:

**Judia "Judy" Duhon #5**

**Deborah L. McCormack #3**

### Early Voting Schedule

**Monday, January 3rd thru Saturday 8th**

**Open 8:30 a.m. ~ Close 6:00 p.m. daily**

**Registrar of Voters Office**

**Catahoula Parish Courthouse ~ Room 103**