

GARBAGE continued from Front Page

The parish has a total of 10.45 percent sales tax and of that amount collected 1.25 percent is paid to Concordia Parish School Board for collecting the tax and expenses acquired. The Town of Jonesville has a sales tax of 11.45 percent. The Catahoula Parish Sheriff Office receives three percent of the taxes collected and CPPJ receives two percent of the 11.45 percent tax in the parish.

The parish also battles a problem of littering. Catahoula Parish Sheriff Office has three crews that pick-up trash along highways throughout the parish every weekday if the weather permits. Officer Shelby Trilser keeps

a record of how much trash his crew picks up and since October 2020 a total of 1356 bags have been collected. The other two crews pick up an average of 25-30 bags a day.

Simple littering carries a fine of \$150.00 and the second offense is a \$900.00 fine. Wildlife and Fisheries also works details of gross littering which carries a higher fine.

Sheriff Toney Edwards stated, "I think littering fines should be higher. It is hard to catch someone littering unless people are willing to turn them in or they can be identified by mail found in the garbage. We have a beautiful parish and with a little help from

motorist we can keep it that way. As your sheriff I will put forth every effort I have available to help keep our roads as clean as possible. Thank you all for your patience until we can get to your road. God bless." Littering can be reported to 318-744-5411, a license plate number is helpful.

Communities throughout the parish have held special days for residents of the parish to get out and pick up trash. The Harrisonburg Service League and Village of Harrisonburg help maintain a dumpster at the old Harrisonburg High School and upkeep of the Harrisonburg cemetery.

STIMULUS continued from Front Page

for students and a portion of the cost of a year of the internet service for those devices. ESSER Incentive funds also had strict guidelines on the use of the funds. The district utilized the \$102,708 allocation for online licenses for Tier I programs for students, supplies for Tier I programs, and contract services for teacher professional development. The ESSER I funds had the most lenient guidelines and was the largest amount of CARES ACT funds, coming in at \$515,894. The district was able to use the funds for a wide variety of things including Chromebooks for students and teachers, a hand sanitizer program with Cintas that provides a dispenser in each classroom and common area, water for dispensers in each school, more MiFi devices for students and teachers and internet service for those for the 2020-2021 school year, pandemic cleaning supplies and other items needed such as masks. The system was also able to use the funds for carpet cleaning in those schools with carpet, retaining a bus driver position and preschool paraprofessional position that were facing elimination, online licenses for supplemental programs to help with teaching virtually, and more contracted professional development.

In December of 2020, the district was allocated a total of \$2,275,294 from the CRRSA. Although the district was allocated the funds, the LDOE has only released and approved half of that amount to the school system. The funds do not end until September of 2023 and the LDOE is set to release the other half to the system in January of 2022. These funds have one area of expenditures allowed that all of the other funds

do not. These ESSER II funds may be used for building repairs and improvements that impact the prevention of disease spread. The school district has been able to budget funds to repair and/or replace HVAC systems and to repair roof issues at a school. Other than those expenditures, the first portion of ESSER II funds have been budgeted to continue all of the programs of the Cares Act ESSER I funds, including internet service, Cintas hand sanitizer program, water, and cleaning supplies. The district was also able to pay a one-time pandemic stipend to every employee that worked in 2020-2021 due to the extra duties of the employees having to work full-time during the pandemic. Also, the school system has been approved to purchase five used buses to replace old buses that have increasing maintenance costs. Every teacher in the district will also be receiving a new printer and scanner for their classroom.

The largest pot of funds allocated to the school system came with the ARP funds. The district has been awarded \$5,109,983 from this act. Twenty percent of these funds must be spent on evidence-based activities and that is the only portion of the funds that have been released to the school system. These funds do not expire until September of 2024 and the LDOE plans to release at least a portion of the remaining funds in March of 2022. When budgeting the ESSER III Evidence Based funds (20% amount), the district made a three-year budget plan. The funds were budgeted to pay for the Accelerate Summer Program that the system operated this summer for not only this year, but

for three more summers. The funds also cover an area that the LDOE has promoted regarding student engagement by funding a portion of a supervisor position that will have these duties added to the position. It will also pay for contracted social work for the next three years as needed. This portion of the funds will also cover contracted professional development for the teachers in the system related to curriculum implementation.

While the school system has a large amount of funds allocated to them, they have yet to receive the majority of the funds with \$5,225,633 held back by the LDOE. When those funds are finally released to the system, a multi-year plan will be budgeted with the main focus on continuing those things that were put in place with the original Cares Act funds, while ensuring that the students and teachers all have the technology in place that they need to succeed.

Superintendent Ronald Lofton stated, "We are grateful for all three stimulus acts. They have provided the funding needed to make sure we have what we need for these unprecedented times without having to put the school system in a financially distraught position. All of these funds are being used to best impact student and staff protection along with increasing student achievement over the next three years."

CPSB is scheduled to receive 7 million dollars. The Catahoula Police Jury will also receive federal stimulus funding. According to Senator Glenn Womack's office the amount will be known next week.

Catahoula Parish Library introduces mobile checkout, virtual library cards as part of new library app launch

On July 10, 2021, Catahoula Parish Library began offering mobile checkout of ebooks and audio to all library users through the cloudLibrary app.

With cloudLibrary, a patron's library card is just a touch away, eliminating the frustration of a forgotten or misplaced card. The virtual card can be used for any library transaction that traditionally required a physical card. In addition, users can add multiple cards and switch between accounts with ease.

CloudLibrary users can favorite, mark as read, sort and filter a digital record of their library borrow history. This helps Catahoula Parish Library users manage the items they've borrowed and remember which books they've already enjoyed. The app also allows library users to view and cancel current hold items, renew currently borrowed materials, and receive due date reminder notifications- helping users avoid late fees and return items on time. CloudLibrary's My Book Bag feature offers busy library users a fun and functional way to ensure they have all of their returning items before visiting the library. Great for parents with kids who checkout many books during each visit, the My Book Bag feature allows users to mark which items they've physically collected before leaving home.

Mobile checkout eliminates the need to visit the circulation desk to borrow digital items. Using cloudLibrary, patrons can check out digital materials using their own digital device.

"We're excited about this service and the increased convenience it provides for our patrons both in and outside of our library walls," says Catahoula Parish Library.

The new service is offered at no cost to all Catahoula Parish Library patrons, requiring only a valid library card. Bibliotheca's cloudLibrary

app is available for free through Apple App Store or Google Play Store or by visiting www.yourcloudlibrary.com. Users will then need

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