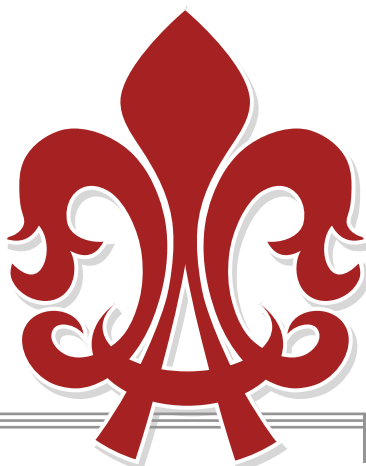




Acadiana HS football aims to win the trenches this season

SPORTS, 1B

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Louisiana Congresswoman Julia Letlow, R-Baton Rouge, speaks to an audience at Louisiana Tech University on Aug. 25. GREG HILBURN/USA TODAY NETWORK

Congresswoman Letlow still mulling senate bid

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana Congresswoman Julia Letlow said she is still contemplating the 2026 U.S. Senate race but put no timetable on her decision with qualifying for the Republican primary just five months away.

“I’m humbled by the outpouring of support,” Letlow said in an interview with USA Today Network. “I’m praying about it, but I don’t have a dead-

line.”

Letlow is considered the wildcard in the race in which a group of MAGA Republicans already have said they will run against incumbent GOP Sen. Bill Cassidy.

They say Cassidy’s guilty vote in President Trump’s 2021 impeachment trial disqualifies him for reelection, although the incumbent has more than \$9 million in campaign cash on hand to defend his seat.

Among the leading MAGA challengers already in the race are state

Treasurer John Fleming, Acadiana state Sen. Blake Miguez and Public Service Commissioner Eric Skrmetta, all touting their ties to Trump.

Letlow has the unique profile of being supportive of the president and previously endorsed by Trump without being exclusively defined by MAGA standards.

“Everybody is waiting to see what Julia is going to do,” one Republican state lawmaker said this week.

See LETLOW, Page 2A

CDC chief calls notice of firing ‘legally deficient’

Joey Garrison and Ben Adler
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – The White House said it fired Susan Monarez, the director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, amid a policy disagreement with Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., yet she is refusing to step down from her post.

Official notification of her termination from the White House came late on Aug. 27 after her attorneys denied she had been ousted, even after HHS announced earlier in the day that Monarez was no longer the CDC director.

But attorneys for Monarez said as a presidentially appointed and Senate-confirmed official, only President Donald Trump can fire their client. They said notice from a White House staffer in the personnel office did not

satisfy that requirement.

“For this reason, we reject the notification Dr. Monarez has received as legally deficient and she remains as CDC Director. We have notified the White House Counsel of our position,” Monarez’s attorneys, Mark Zaid and Abbe Lowell, said in a statement.

Monarez’s attempted ouster, less than one month after the Senate confirmed her to the role, was followed by resignations from three other top CDC officials in protest of Kennedy’s leadership, including his directions on vaccines.

Zaid and Lowell, in an earlier statement, accused Kennedy and HHS of “weaponizing public health for political gain and putting millions of American lives at risk.”

They said Monarez was targeted because she “refused to rubber-stamp unscientific, reckless directives and



Susan Monarez’s attempted ouster, less than one month after the Senate confirmed her to lead the CDC, was followed by resignations from three other top agency officials.

KEVIN MOHATT/REUTERS FILE

fire dedicated health experts.”

The White House responded with a statement shortly afterward.

“As her attorney’s statement makes

See CDC CHIEF, Page 2A

Ranking Top 30 fishing spots in the state

Presley Bo Tyler
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana is often called “Sportsman’s Paradise,” reflecting the state’s reputation for abundant opportunities when it comes to hunting and fishing.

With its diverse landscapes, such as coastal marshes, bayous and woodlands, the state harbors excellent habitats for various game and fish.

As for fishing, Louisiana offers both freshwater and saltwater opportunities, with its Gulf Coastline, marshlands, as well as numerous lakes and rivers.

Best fishing lakes in Louisiana according to Fishmasters.

Fishmasters has released a list of the top 30 fishing lakes in Louisiana and, through talking with local anglers and individuals who spend ample time on the water, popular lakes have been

See FISHING, Page 2A

LPSS seeks parents’ feedback via survey

Aaron Gonsoulin
Lafayette Daily Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Lafayette Parish School System is asking parents and families to share their experiences when visiting campuses through a new visitor survey.

The effort is part of the district’s focus on culture, one of its core values, aimed at ensuring schools are not only centers of learning but also welcoming environments for families.

“We want every parent and visitor to feel comfortable and welcome when they walk through the doors of our schools,” Superintendent Francis Touchet Jr. said.

“Your feedback helps us continue building a culture where students and families know they belong.”

QR codes are posted at school entrances, giving parents quick access to the short survey by scanning with their phones. The district says responses will help shape how schools foster a warm and inviting atmosphere.

According to LPSS, the survey provides a clearer picture of what it’s like to visit local campuses and helps strengthen the connection between schools, students and families.

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