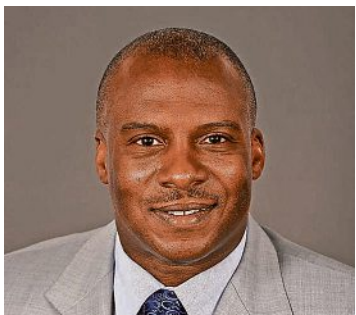
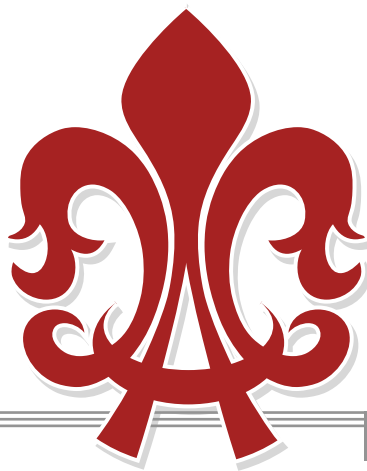




LSU to name Verge Ausberry full-time athletics director

SPORTS, 1B

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MARDI GRAS 2026

Parades returning to downtown

Aaron Gonsoulin
Lafayette Daily Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK

Lafayette's Mardi Gras tradition is taking a meaningful step back to its roots. City officials announced last week that beginning in 2026, Mardi Gras parades will again roll through downtown Lafayette — the first time the route has returned to Jefferson Street in decades. The move reconnects the celebration

with the heart of the city, where Mardi Gras festivities first began in Lafayette more than 125 years ago. Since 1897, Lafayette has celebrated the Mardi Gras season with parades filled with riders tossing beads and gifts to cheering crowds gathered to share in the festivities. Mardi Gras in Lafayette is a season steeped in community spirit and tradition, city officials announced. In 2026, that tradition will come full circle.

The route
Parades will continue to launch at the intersection of Surrey and Simcoe streets. From there, floats will turn onto North Chestnut Street, travel along West Second Street, and enter Jefferson Street at East Cypress Street. The celebration will weave through downtown before turning onto Johnston Street and ending at Cajun Field. A detailed map of the 2026 route is available at lafayettela.gov/mardigras

for residents and visitors preparing for the change.
Community and safety efforts
City leaders emphasized that this shift comes with planning and support from multiple agencies. The Lafayette Police Department, Lafayette Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness and various other
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LEFT: James Dalton was named chancellor of the Baton Rouge main campus. RIGHT: Wade Rousseau has been named LSU's next system president. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY LSU

LSU names new president, chancellor to lead university

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Wade Rousseau, a Louisiana native who spent the past year leading McNeese State, has been named LSU's next system president, while James Dalton was named chancellor of the Baton Rouge main campus in a new position created by the LSU board. The LSU Board of Supervisors hired Rousseau to lead the state's flagship university system Nov. 4 after having narrowed the field to three finalists. Dalton, executive vice president and provost at the University of Alabama, and former University of Arizona President Robert Robbins were the other two finalists. The board's decision marks the first

time since 2012 LSU has had both a president to oversee the system and a separate chancellor for the Baton Rouge campus. Board Chairman Scott Ballard said the new structure will bring "unity and alignment" to the LSU system promoting "collaboration and strength." Rousseau and Dalton take over during a time when LSU is also seeking to replace fired football Coach Brian Kelly and fired Athletics Director Scott Woodward, developments that have drawn even more statewide and national attention and interest than the presidential search. Rousseau replaces former President William Tate, who left in June to take the same job at Rutgers, and interim President Matt Lee, who applied for the permanent job but didn't make the field of finalists.

"This is truly the honor of my life," Rousseau after his appointment, saying he and Dalton "will elevate this system to world class levels." Rousseau had advocated during his interview process that LSU add a chancellor for the main campus so the president could focus on the system as a whole. "I'm so excited about it; I can't imagine a more perfect partnership with Dr. Rousseau," Dalton said. Rousseau earned his undergraduate business degree from Nicholls State in Thibodaux, La., his master's of business administration from the University of New Orleans and his doctorate from the University of Illinois at Chicago.
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SNAP BENEFITS

Temporary assistance available

Presley Bo Tyler
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) announced on Oct. 30 that, starting Nov. 1, there will be temporary state-funded assistance for residents who rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). This fund is geared toward aiding households with children, and elderly or disabled individuals. Households that consist strictly of able-bodied adults will not receive state-funded assistance, even if they receive federal SNAP benefits.
Louisiana Department of Health announces state-funded assistance for residents who rely on SNAP

Gov. Jeff Landry signed an Emergency Declaration for Louisiana on Oct. 24 to help fund SNAP benefits in the state for children, the elderly and the disabled. Approximately 53,164 able-bodied adult individuals who receive SNAP benefits do not live in a household that includes the elderly, disabled or children. These individuals represent approximately 6% of all SNAP recipients, according to the LDH. Benefits for the Family Independence Temporary Assistance Program (FITAP) and the Kinship Care Subsidy Program (KCSP) will not be impacted by the federal shutdown in November and will continue to be provided, says the LDH.
How does Louisiana's state-funded emergency SNAP assistance work?
Every SNAP-eligible household has a specific day of the month when benefits are issued. Starting Nov. 1, 25% of the SNAP benefit allowance will be provided as state-funded emergency assistance on the set date that SNAP benefits are issued, according to
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