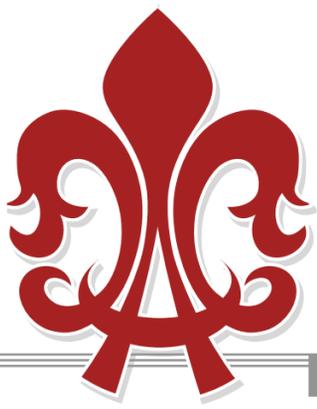




## Armed man shot, killed at Mar-a-Lago property

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WE ARE ACADIANA SINCE 1865

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PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Acadian Ambulance open house provides stakeholders up-close look

**Aaron Gonsoulin**  
Lafayette Daily Advertiser  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Acadian Ambulance recently held an open house at its National EMS Academy headquarters in Lafayette to pro-

vide a behind-the-scenes look at its operations, vehicles, and impact on education and workforce development.

About 40 guests gathered to hear from Acadian Ambulance President Justin Back, Regional Vice President Taylor Richard and Director of Staffing

TJ Dronet, according to a news release.

During the open house, Acadian leadership talked about the history of Acadian Ambulance, other divisions and services provided by Acadian,

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LOUISIANA ICE STORM

## Disaster declaration triggers assistance

**Greg Hilburn**  
Shreveport Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

President Trump has signed a major disaster declaration for nine northern Louisiana parishes that suffered the most damage during the severe winter storm that occurred Jan. 23-27 in which nine people died.

Trump's declaration triggers federal funding assistance for tribal, state and local governments and certain private nonprofits for emergency repairs and debris removal in Bienville, DeSoto, East Carroll, Franklin, Morehouse, Ouachita, Richland, Tensas and West Carroll parishes.

The storm created widespread power outages that left some people and businesses without power for as long as two weeks.

Entergy Louisiana President Phillip May told USA Today Network the damage to the utility's power grid was the worst he'd seen from an ice storm in his 40 years with the company.

Greg Hilburn covers state politics for the USA TODAY Network of Louisiana. Follow him on Twitter @GregHilburn1.

ANALYSIS



Black students who attend HBCUs are 30% more likely to earn a degree than Black students who attend other colleges, the authors say. PARAS GRIFFIN/GETTY IMAGES FILE

## Black colleges hold strong legacy

### HBCUs do more than offer youths a pathway to success

**Andrea Hagan**  
Loyola University New Orleans  
THE CONVERSATION

Historically Black colleges and universities are well known for their deep roots in U.S. higher education and proven effectiveness at graduating Black students who go on to become professionally successful.

HBCUs are colleges and universities that were established before 1964, with the mission of educating Black Americans, though now anyone can attend.

As a criminology instructor who has spent 13 years studying the relationship between educational trajectories and criminal justice – and a Black woman who grew up in the South and attended an HBCU – I believe that HBCUs offer another often overlooked benefit.

They give young people, especially Black people, a pathway in higher education that they might not otherwise receive. By opening doors to education, jobs and mentorship, HBCUs disrupt the conditions that can cause young people to get lost in the criminal justice system.

The United States incarcerates approximately 1.6 million people. Black Americans are locked up at five times the rate of White Americans. This disparity starts young: Black teenagers are

5.6 times more likely to be placed in juvenile detention than White teenagers, and people who are incarcerated as juveniles are nearly four times more likely to be incarcerated as adults. Overall, the vast majority of Black people are not incarcerated.

Attending an HBCU, or any other university, does not guarantee a stable financial future. And not graduating from high school or college certainly does not mean that someone will become incarcerated.

But research shows that education, especially a college degree, is closely linked to lower crime rates. College graduates who do commit crimes reoffend at rates below 6%, while people

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## McFarland pivotal in budget debates

**Kylah Babin**  
LSU MANSHIP SCHOOL NEWS SERVICE

BATON ROUGE — When people think of Jack McFarland, they think of the clean-cut, white-haired logger from Winnfield who knows the state budget inside and out as chairman of the House Appropriations Committee. What many don't know is that his career in politics came from something as simple as doing others' laundry.

When McFarland worked behind the drive-thru window at his dry-cleaning business in Winnfield, Louisiana, he would strike up conversations with customers, including the mayor and sheriff.

"It puts you in the middle of all the politics," McFarland said. "I met a lot of people."

He would listen to the complaints the officials had about one another. Then, he would help negotiate solutions.

It was those conversations that helped kick-start McFarland's interest

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McFarland

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