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# THE DAILY ADVERTISER

WE ARE ACADIANA SINCE 1865 TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2026 PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## First patient ever cured of sickle cell disease in Louisiana

**Presley Bo Tyler**  
 Shreveport Times  
 USA TODAY NETWORK

Through groundbreaking gene therapy, a patient in Louisiana has become the first person to ever be functionally cured of sickle cell anemia in

the state. Daniel Cressy, 23, received curative gene therapy at Manning Family Children's in New Orleans on Monday, June 22. Manning Family Children's hospital in New Orleans is one of the few programs in the U.S. to offer FDA-ap-

proved gene altering technologies. By altering genetically modified stem cells, a patient's bone marrow will produce healthy red blood cells, treating and functionally curing sickle cell before it destroys the organs.

See **SICKLE CELL**, Page 2A



**House Speaker Mike Johnson** said "there's an expectation" of a more unified government.  
 JOSH MORGAN/USA TODAY

## Johnson reflects on balance of power

Says nation's polarization is driven by social media

**Francesca Chambers**  
 USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – It's a challenging time to be the nation's No. 3 leader, even with House Speaker Mike Johnson's political party in command.

Sometimes it's a challenging time because of that, with President Donald Trump testing and pushing the boundaries of executive power. Other times it's because of circumstances beyond any one person's control.

Johnson reflected on the tug-of-war between the legislative and executive branches in an era of intense political polarization, as he sat for an exclusive interview with USA TODAY on June 29 in the U.S. Capitol.

"There's a natural friction that is there between the branches," said Johnson, a close ally of Trump. "Sometimes there's a tug and pull, and sometimes they work in coordination better."

The voters chose to give Republicans control of the House, Senate and White House in the 2024 election.

"And when the voters deliver that kind of mandate, and they deliver unified government to one party, there's an expectation, I think, that they will work seamlessly to fix the problems," he said.

Johnson has had a front-row seat to much of the turbulence and uncertainty that Americans have experienced over the past decade, from a global pandemic and the subsequent financial crisis to the 2021 attack on the nation's Capitol that saw Trump-supporting rioters try to force their way on to the House floor.

He became House speaker in October 2023 because of the acrimonious ouster of his Republican predecessor, former Rep. Kevin McCarthy, by a hard-right faction of lawmakers.

See **JOHNSON**, Page 2A



Award-winning Louisiana filmmaker Pat Mire's *Pointe Noire* is now streaming across the U.S. and Canada after its theatrical run. PHOTOS COURTESY OF POINTE NOIRE PRODUCTIONS, LLC

## Louisiana-made 'Pointe Noire' is now streaming

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

After a successful run at film festivals and theaters in Louisiana and Canada this past January, award-winning Louisiana filmmaker Pat Mire's latest feature film, "Pointe Noire," is now available to audiences across the U.S. and Canada on multiple streaming platforms.

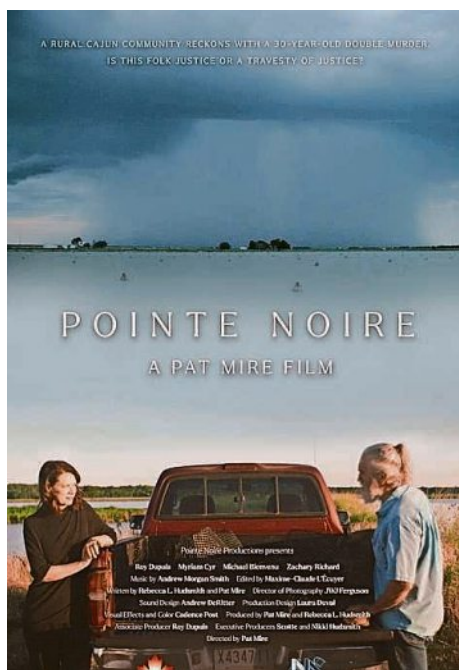
Pointe Noire Productions LLC announced that the 108-minute narrative feature has been released by Canadian distributors Indican Entertainment and Noble Arts, giving viewers the opportunity to watch the Louisiana-made murder mystery from home.

**Where the film is available for purchase, rental in the United States:**

- Amazon Prime
- Apple TV
- Google Play
- DISH
- Vimeo VOD

Canadian audiences can also stream the film, too: Apple TV, Google Play, Vimeo VOD and Rogers West VOD.

"After many incredible festivals and theatrical screenings of the film in both



The official poster for 'Pointe Noire,' the award-winning narrative feature film by Louisiana filmmaker Pat Mire, is set to open in theaters in Opelousas and Natchitoches in January.

the United States and Canada, we are thrilled to be able to share 'Pointe Noire' with a wider audience in the two countries," Mire said. "I'm very proud of this

Louisiana-made film that I directed and my partner, Rebecca Hudsmith, and I wrote together.

"Pointe Noire" was filmed at locations throughout southwest Louisiana, Mire added, and the landscape and the richness of the Cajun culture are on full display in this film.

"Plus, it is a great story, a true murder mystery set in Cajun country," Mire said.

The streaming release marks the latest milestone for the independent feature, which premiered in Louisiana theaters, including those in Opelousas and Natchitoches, earlier this year before expanding into Canada.

The film blends suspense with themes of justice, redemption and Cajun heritage while showcasing the landscapes and traditions of southwest Louisiana.

"Pointe Noire" stars Canadian actors Roy Dupuis and Myriam Cyr alongside Louisiana singer-songwriter Zachary Richard and actor Michael Bienvenu.

The story follows filmmaker and crawfisherman Louis Leger (Dupuis) and criminal defense attorney Dolores Arceneaux (Cyr) as they work to save Joel Richard (Bienvenu), a man on

See **POINTE NOIRE**, Page 2A

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