

Luis officially added to LSU's 2026-27 roster

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LA Tech's next president to be named this week

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Two finalists were named for the Louisiana Tech University's president's job late Nov. 17 following two days of on-campus interviews of four semifinalists by faculty, students and members of the search committee.

The two finalists, one of which will be chosen Nov. 19, are:

- Lt. Gen. Jason Armagost, who holds a leadership position at the Barksdale Air Force Global Strike Command;
- Matthew Napoli, a Tech graduate and U.S. Senate-confirmed executive leading the Office of Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation who was appointed by President Trump;

One of them will replace President Jim Henderson, who is on leave for the rest of the year until his retirement takes effect.

The University of Louisiana System Board of Supervisors will meet at 11 a.m. Nov. 19 in Baton Rouge to interview the two finalists and name a new president.

Dickie Crawford, senior vice president for student advancement and chief operating officer at the university, is the acting president.

The other two finalists were:

- John Flake, a Tech graduate and associate vice chancellor for research and professor of chemical engineering who is executive director of the LSU Energy Institute;
- Brett Welch, provost and vice president for academic affairs at Lamar University.

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

Metal Shark lands more Bangladesh patrol boat work



Metal Shark boats are built in Jeanerette and used by military and government agencies worldwide. Bangladesh has operated the Louisiana-built vessels for more than a decade as part of its maritime security fleet.
PHOTOS PROVIDED BY METAL SHARK

'An exceptionally important partner'

Aaron Gonsoulin
Lafayette Daily Advertiser
USA TODAY NETWORK



A Metal Shark patrols the open water. The Louisiana-based company recently received new orders from Bangladesh for additional patrol vessels that will be built at Metal Shark's Jeanerette facility, extending a defense partnership that has spanned more than 15 years.

South Louisiana military boatbuilder Metal Shark has secured new orders to build 38 additional Defiant patrol boats for Bangladesh, reinforcing a defense partnership spanning more than 15 years and bringing continued manufacturing work to the company's Jeanerette production facility.

The latest agreement expands a fleet of Metal Shark-built vessels already in service with Bangladesh's Army, Navy and Coast Guard, where the boats are used for maritime security, patrol, interdiction and coastal defense missions, according to a prepared statement.

Bangladesh has purchased more than 50 Metal Shark patrol boats since the relationship began in 2011, making the nation one of the Louisiana company's most significant international customers.

The new vessels will be built at Metal Shark's shipyard in Jeanerette, where the company has produced hundreds of 38 Defiant patrol boats for military and government customers in the United States and abroad.

What the new Bangladesh order means for South Louisiana

For Acadiana and the broader Gulf Coast manufacturing sector, the new contract represents more than an international defense sale.

The additional orders help sustain high-skilled jobs in South Louisiana's shipbuilding industry, supporting

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Early holiday forecasts predict some rain

Presley Bo Tyler
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Thanksgiving is next week, Thursday, Nov. 26, and The Old Farmer's Almanac previously released its predictions on what the weather will be like for the holiday.

Mostly seasonable weather is expected across the South on Thanksgiving, with conditions largely expected to be mild and pleasant.

As for the North, conditions will be mixed, as some areas will some rain and others will see snow flurries.

Thanksgiving 2026 weather forecast from The Old Farmer's Almanac

The Old Farmer's Almanac predicted Thanksgiving in Louisiana to be cool, temperature wise, and the weather to be nice and sunny.

Clear skies will make outdoor dining possible, but temperatures will be cool, so you may want to wear an extra layer if you're planning to be outside, says The Old Farmer's Almanac.

AccuWeather tells a different story, though, regarding precipitation, as the site's long-range forecast shows chances of rain on Thanksgiving Day.

This could change, possibly, since the Farmer's Almanac says widespread storminess does not stand out at this time.

The outlooks do agree on cool weather in Louisiana on Thanksgiving, as AccuWeather is predicting temperatures in the low-to-mid 60s.

What will the weather be like on Thanksgiving in Shreveport?

In Shreveport on Thanksgiving Day, the weather will be mostly cloudy with the chance of a little rain. The high will be 61 degrees and the low will be 44 degrees. There is a 30% chance of precipitation and cloud cover will be at 76%, according to AccuWeather.

What will the weather be like on Thanksgiving in Monroe?

On Thanksgiving Day in Monroe, the high will be 61 degrees and the low will be 46 degrees. The weather will be mostly cloudy, with 79% cloud cover, and there will be a 30% chance of a little rain, says AccuWeather.

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