



Win vs Arkansas means ‘everything’

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Is it crawfish season yet?



The seventh annual Cajun Crawfish & Music Festival featured a crawfish boil by Louisiana John along with plenty of other dishes from New Orleans. SHUTTERSTOCK

When crustacean peaks in LA

Presley Bo Tyler
Shreveport Times | USA TODAY NETWORK

During crawfish season in Louisiana, it’s tradition to take part in crawfish boils with family and friends, or head to a restaurant and enjoy several pounds of the crustacean. Historically, crawfish were a readily available and cheap food source for residents, particularly within Cajun country. Crawfish season generally runs from late November through early July, with peak season occurring from March to May.

Why is it better to eat crawfish when it’s in season vs. out of season? What to know

Eating crawfish when they’re in-season is recommended because that’s when the crustaceans are of the best quality, as they are large in size, more tender and their shells are easier to peel.

November to January marks the early season for crawfish, however, catches are not as abundant or as large during this time. Peak season, which is March to May, is the best time for crawfish, as catches are large and plentiful during this time. During late season, which is June through July, availability of crawfish becomes more sporadic and catches can depend heavily on weather patterns.

While crawfish can be found and eaten year-round, they’re more enjoyable to eat, not to mention cheaper, when they’re in season. *Presley Bo Tyler is a reporter for the Louisiana Deep South Connect for Gannett/USA Today. Find her on X @PresleyTyler02 and email at PTyler@Gannett.com*

Landry appoints Kilshaw to key role

Will link roads, rail, ports and airports

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry has named Andrew Kilshaw to lead the Office of Multimodal Commerce, a key appointment to connect the state’s economic development infrastructure including ports, rail, highways and airports. Kilshaw had been serving in the governor’s office as an adviser on infrastructure and healthcare issues. His previous experience includes managing operations for the Louisiana Ports and Waterways Investment Commission and as a member of the Southern Rail Commission. While working with the Louisiana Ports and Waterways Investment Commission, Kilshaw helped broker the first unified marketing strategy for the state’s five lower Mississippi River ports. “Louisiana’s prosperity depends on a strong, connected transportation system — one that efficiently links our ports, railways, highways and airports,” Kilshaw said in a statement. “I’m committed to advancing that mission to ensure Louisiana remains a leader in multimodal commerce.” The Office of Multimodal Commerce is located within the Department of Transportation and Development. Landry said Kilshaw’s experience made him an ideal choice to lead the office as its commissioner. “Andrew knows what it takes to keep Louisiana moving,” Landry said. “He understands that when our ports, highways, rail and airports work together, our whole economy benefits.” *Greg Hilburn covers state politics for the USA TODAY Network of Louisiana. Follow him on Twitter @GregHilburn1.*

These are the 11 best middle schools in Louisiana

Presley Bo Tyler
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

When it comes to primary education, choosing the right middle school is just as important as choosing the right elementary school. In order to make it easier to find the middle school that’s the right fit, U.S. News & World Report analyzed 103,391 pre-K, elementary and middle schools in Louisiana. **The best middle schools according to U.S. News & World Report** In order to find the best middle schools in Louisiana, U.S. News & World Report analyzed the state’s share of students who were proficient or above proficient in their mathematics and reading assessments.

- 1. Haynes Academy School for Advanced Studies**
Haynes Academy School for Advanced Studies in Metairie is ranked by U.S. News & World Report as the best middle school in Louisiana. This public school serves grades sixth through 12th and has a student population of 900, with a student-teacher ratio of 18:1. Here, 98% of students score at or above the proficient level for math and 97% scored at or above the proficient level for reading.
- 2. Caddo Parish Middle Magnet School**
Caddo Parish Middle Magnet School in Shreveport is ranked as the second best middle school in Louisiana by U.S. **See SCHOOLS, Page 2A**



Hands of Gratitude founder Matt Campana watches as Harmon Middle School sixth graders Aria Day, Olivia Erickson, Eleanor Powell and Sofia Zakrajsek follow detailed plans for building a prosthetic hand. PROVIDED BY KAREN SUNDERHAFT

