



LSU's Perkins plans to enter NFL Draft

SPORTS, 1B

DAILY COMET

FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026 | DAILYCOMET.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

TERREBONNE SUPERINTENDENT SELECTION

Candidates draw large online audience



Three local candidates for Terrebonne Parish Superintendent wait together in the lobby of the school board, Tuesday, January 13. Left to right: Cory Butler, Sandra LaRose, and Mark Torbert. The vote and selection will take place during a public meeting Feb. 3. COLIN CAMPO HOUMA COURIER/THIBODAUX DAILY COMET

Colin Campo

Houma Courier-Thibodaux Daily Comet
USA TODAY NETWORK

Terrebonne Parish is hungry to know more about the five candidates for school superintendent. Board members say all are qualified.

Fifty people sat in the school board meeting, and more than 9,000 viewers watched the online stream as the Terrebonne Parish School Board interviewed five candidates for the district's next superintendent Jan. 13. Each candidate gave an opening statement telling members about themselves and what their plans were for the future of Terrebonne.

Three of the candidates are current employees of the district, and two were from out-of-state. Questions focused

around diminishing student enrollment, improving communication with the public and more. The school board has two weeks to consider the options and call the candidates with follow-up questions. Asked their opinion after the meeting, board members said this was going to be a tough decision.

"I thought we had five good candidates. I was impressed by all five of them," School Board Member Michael Lagarde said. "I would put one local candidate first, and one outside candidate as second."

School Board President Dane Voisin said members of the public interested in voicing their opinions about the candidates should contact the school board members. Board members' names, phone numbers and email addresses

can be found here: <https://www.tpsd.org/board/members>.

The candidates varied in their approach. The three candidates currently employed within the school district often cited specific examples of areas to improve. The two candidates coming from other states brought innovative approaches to questions posed by the school board.

The candidates themselves brought different leadership styles to the position. Marcus Jackson said he would be at the school board's command.

"I do what I am told to do," he said.

Mark Torbert said the superintendent position requires room to breathe.

See CANDIDATES, Page 3A

Shreveport attorney sworn in as federal judge

Greg Hilburn

Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Shreveport attorney Alexander Van Hook was sworn in as the newest federal judge on the Western District Court of Louisiana on Tuesday and was on the bench Wednesday morning with a docket full of cases.

"I'm ready to roll up my sleeves and get to work," Van Hook said in an interview with the USA Today Network.

But before his first full day on the job, Van Hook took in the moment Jan. 13 as Judge Donald Walter and Van Hook's wife, Patricia, also an attorney, administered the oath in the Tom Stagg Court House with the couple's son and daughter looking on.

"I want to thank Sen. John Kennedy and President Trump for giving me the honor of a lifetime to serve as a United States district judge in my hometown," Van Hook said. "I really can't find the words for it."

Van Hook, who had most recently served as Acting U.S. Attorney, was confirmed by the U.S. Senate on Jan. 8. Trump signed his commission Jan. 12.

He was nominated by Trump, while Kennedy advanced his nomination on

See ATTORNEY, Page 3A

Fake viral video shows Atchafalaya Bridge near collapse

Greg Hilburn

Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana's Interstate 10 Atchafalaya Basin Bridge connecting Acadiana's Lafayette to the state capital Baton Rouge isn't crumbling into the swamp, contrary to a viral social media video showing the columns of an unidentified bridge near collapse.

The state's transportation department and Gov. Jeff Landry reiterated that the images shown in the social media post weren't the 18-mile Atchafalaya Bridge.

"We are aware of a viral video circulating on social media showing what has been alleged as crumbling support columns on a bridge," the Louisiana Department of Transportation said Jan. 14 in a post on X. "We want to clarify that this bridge is NOT in Louisiana."

Landry shared the transportation department's post on his X account Wednesday.

See BRIDGE, Page 3A

13 LA GameStop stores will close this month

Presley Bo Tyler

Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

During the beginning of 2026, GameStop is closing a number of stores in various states in an effort to reduce costs and adapt to changing shopping habits.

On Dec. 9, GameStop said in a third-quarter earnings report that it already closed 590 stores in the U.S., Fast Company reported.

While the video game retailer has not released an official list of stores that will close, a circulating list compiled from customer emails and in-store signage suggests nearly 200 more GameStop lo-

cations will close.

Why is GameStop closing some stores in Louisiana in 2026?

Approximately 13 GameStop stores in Louisiana are expected to close during the month of January, according to an unofficial list.

In a filing to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) in December, GameStop reiterated its plan to close a significant number of additional stores during its 2025 fiscal year, with the fiscal year ending on Jan. 31, 2026, according to Fast Company.

These closures come at a time when brick-and-mortar video game retail is

threatened by the rise of digital game downloads within the gaming industry.

GameStop stores that have closed or are closing in Louisiana

- Baton Rouge: O'Neal Lane S.C., 2060 O'Neal Ln. (closed on Jan. 7)
- Broussard: Sugarcrest Center, 219 St. Nazaire St. (closing on Jan. 14)
- Covington: Stirling Covington S.C., 69240 Hwy. 21 (closing on Jan. 14)
- Crowley: Walmart Plaza, 725 Odd Fellows Rd. (closed on Jan. 7)
- Houma: Southland Mall, 5953 W.

See GAMESTOP, Page 3A

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to dailycomet.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 147 | No. 30
Subscribe 985-857-2222
©2026 \$1.25



0 90994 31001 8