



## A look at local boys teams' playoff results

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A Louisiana bill that had originally proposed fines and jail time for parade float riders who throw beads and objects in a way that causes injury was pulled by Rep. Sylvia Taylor after the lawmaker said she acted rashly in filing the measure.

PHOTOS BY PAUL SCHUETZE/USA TODAY NETWORK

## Plan to punish float riders for reckless throws is nixed

**Greg Hilburn**  
Shreveport Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A Louisiana bill that had originally proposed fines and jail time for parade float riders who throw beads and objects in a way that causes injury was pulled by Rep. Sylvia Taylor after the lawmaker said she acted rashly in filing the measure.

Taylor, a Democrat from LaPlace, had filed her bill in response to widely reported incidents during at least three New Orleans Mardi Gras parades this year, including:

A child injured by a bottle of alcohol allegedly thrown from a Zulu float; Krewe of Carrollton riders accused of



The Krewe of Gemini parade on Feb. 14.

aggressively throwing beads at police officers; and Krewe of Thoth members accused and later cleared of aggressively throwing beads targeting parade go-

ers displaying signs protesting ICE.

But Taylor said she should have let her emotions cool before proposing a bill that could taint Louisiana's Mardi Gras season. "I broke my own rule," Taylor told members of the House Civil Law Committee April 7 in deferring her bill.

She said there are laws already on the books to handle such potential parade throw assaults.

"Mardi Gras is a celebration," Taylor said. "I love Mardi Gras."

Committee Chair Nicholas Muscarello, a Republican from Hammond, said the New Orleans delegation opposed the measure.

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

## Cassidy talks issues affecting livelihoods

**Colin Campo**  
Houma Courier-Thibodaux Daily Comet  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana Senator Bill Cassidy is making the rounds in Terrebonne and Lafourche.

Between bites of sweet potato puree, April 7, the discussion covered the war in Iran, the partial government shutdown, the national flood insurance, and the Houma airport.

Flood insurance was at the forefront of his mind, and he expects progress on it at a soon-to-be-scheduled Senate Committee.

"It's one of the issues I think about a lot," he said. "People from this region have helped craft the policy, so we know it will work for this region."

### Flood insurance in Louisiana

According to Cassidy, Louisiana will have a hand in crafting the national flood insurance policy. He is working with cosponsors from New York and New Jersey to craft legislation for the National Flood Insurance Program, "they got slammed in Superstorm Sandy," he said.

The next step in the process will take place at a Banking Committee hearing, but that date has not been set yet. He said for a legislation to pass it will require 60 votes, so he's working to create a coalition.

"Everyone in the Gulf coast is a Republican... so we'll get the coastal south, and now we'll get the coastal northeast," he said. "We're trying to thread that needle to get it through, and so at that point it will help our leadership on the House side, who is from Louisiana."

Residents of southern Louisiana are no stranger to the flood insurance hikes caused by FEMA's Risk Rating 2.0 which designated many areas as flood prone. Local officials say FEMA's data is inaccurate and those like North

See CASSIDY, Page 3A

## Nungesser supports open primaries in LA

**Lt. gov. seeks funding restored to state parks**

**Kylah Babin and Sheridan White**  
LSU Manship School News Service

BATON ROUGE — Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser told the Baton Rouge Press Club on Monday he hopes the Louisiana Legislature gets rid of the new closed primary system after the midterm elections this year.

"This closed primary is costing Louisiana a little over \$17 million," Nungesser said, referring to its implementation this year. "And people are confused of who can vote where and what, and that's going to be every year if we stay with a closed primary for every election."

See NUNGESSER, Page 3A



Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser spoke in favor of returning to an open-primary system in which voters can support candidates in any party in Congress for statewide offices and Congress.

SHERIDAN WHITE/LSU MANSIP SCHOOL NEWS SERVICE

## Proposal would criminalize AI-made child pornography

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

As artificial intelligence (AI) continues to develop, all 50 states have introduced some form of regulatory legislation to protect consumers.

As of 2025, 45 states have enacted laws criminalizing AI-generated child sexual abuse materials (CSAM) after numerous reports of perpetrators generating sexually explicit content of children using AI.

In 2025 alone, The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) received over 1.5 million reports of AI-generated CSAM.

LA SB42 would amend existing Louisiana law to explicitly prohibit use of AI to create child sexual abuse materials (CSAM), which is defined by any visual representation of a child under 17 engaged in a sexual performance, ac-

ording to BillTrack50.

This definition includes undeveloped film, videotape or data stored on a computer or by other electronic means that can be converted into a any form of visual image, whether computer-generated or produced by other means.

The legislation specifies that "child" includes both a natural person under the age of 17, as well as an image or other visual representation of a child under 17 that is AI-generated and is an indistinguishable depiction of a child under the age of 17, according to the bill's text.

The bill broadens Louisiana's pre-existing law prohibiting CSAM, defining the 'production' of CSAM to include digitally generated material, specifically mentioning AI. The bill was received by the Louisiana House of Representatives from the Senate and now is pending within the Committee on Administration of Criminal Justice.

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