



Will Kiffin lead LSU to CFP in the '26 season?

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Details finalized on another \$10 billion AI data center

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana has finalized details on another \$10 billion data center, this one from Hut 8 in West Feliciana Parish., Hut 8, which develops and operates an integrated portfolio of power, digital

infrastructure and compute assets, said more than 1,000 construction workers will be on site of its River Bend artificial intelligence (AI) data center campus at its peak. Anthropic, an artificial intelligence company whose flagship chatbot is Claude, has signed a long-term deal to use the facility, Hut 8 and the state an-

nounced Dec. 17. “It’s a transformational and generational project for our parish and region,” West Feliciana Parish President Kenny Havard said in an interview with USA Today Network. “The possibilities really are endless.”
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Key driving laws for Louisiana

Ian Robinson
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

From cellphone use to lane passage, expanded driving laws in Louisiana are changing what motorists can and cannot do behind the wheel.

Hands-Free Phone Law

Drivers can no longer hold or use a phone or handheld device while driving including texting or browsing apps.

Left lane driving

Drivers can get pulled over driving under the posted speed limit in the left lane, unless they’re actively passing. Fines start at \$150 and can rise with repeat offenses.

Window tint

The legal light transmission requirement for front vehicle windows has changed from 45 percent to 25 percent.

Insurance & liability

The state expanded its “no pay, no play” rules meaning uninsured drivers pay out-of-pocket for damages up to \$100,000, even if you’re not at fault.

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Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop Bar on Bourbon Street is one of the oldest bars in America, and the oldest in Louisiana.
CHRIS GRAYTHEN/GETTY IMAGES

Louisiana's oldest bar predates the country

Presley Bo Tyler
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

In the colonial days of U.S. history, taverns served as the primary drinking spots, as these simple establishments offered food, drink and lodging. Today, modern bars and clubs may dominate the social-drinking sphere, but many of those stripped-down establishments from the nation's early days are still standing and serving.

What is the oldest bar in Louisiana?

Jean Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop in New Orleans, built between 1722 and 1732 by Nicolas Touze, is the oldest bar in Louisiana, according to VinePair. The Colonial-style building was originally built as a familial residence and

later became a place of business under new ownership. Between 1771 and 1791, the building is believed to have been used by brothers Jean and Pierre Lafitte, as a New Orleans base for their Barataria smuggling operation, says Explore Louisiana. **Where is Jean Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop?** The Lafitte brothers are said to have operated a blacksmith shop as a front for selling illicit goods they plundered from ships within the Gulf. Today, Jean Lafitte's Blacksmith Shop still keeps the old-timey buccaneer spirit alive with only candlelight, lanterns and a fireplace illuminating the rough-hewn wood and exposed brick interior. It's located today at 941 Bourbon Street in New Orleans.

The oldest bar in every state according to VinePair

1. Alabama: The Peerless Saloon (1899)
2. Alaska: B&B Bar (1906)
3. The Palace Restaurant & Saloon (1877)
4. Arkansas: Ohio Club (1905)
5. California: The Iron Door (1852)
6. Colorado: Buffalo Rose (1859)
7. Connecticut: Griswold Inn Tap Room (1776)
8. Delaware: Kelly's Logan House (1864)
9. District of Columbia: Old Ebbitt Grill (1856)
10. Florida: Palace Saloon (1903)
11. Georgia: The Pirate's House (1753)
12. Hawaii: Smith's Union Bar (1935)
13. Idaho: White Horse Saloon (1907)

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LA grocery bills are some of highest

Presley Bo Tyler
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

While grocery prices still seem on the rise throughout the U.S., there are some states that face increased financial pressure at checkout. High grocery prices can be a result of a number of factors, like high import costs because of location, cost structure within large metro areas and price mark-ups within rural coverage gaps. In order to show consumers which states experience the highest prices, WorldAtlas identified the ten states with the highest grocery bills.

Louisiana has the 10th-highest grocery bills in the U.S. according to WorldAtlas. What to know

Louisiana is the state with the 10th highest grocery bill in the U.S., with residents spending a weekly average of \$282.95 on groceries, according to WorldAtlas. The average weekly grocery bill in Louisiana is elevated mostly because of structural weakness within the state's food distribution network, high vulnerability to weather disruptions and limited retail competition in many regions, says WorldAtlas. Since a large portion of the state's population is spread across small and

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