



Kelly apologies for outburst after LSU's Florida win

SPORTS, 1B

The News-Star

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025 | WWW.THENEWSSTAR.COM | PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

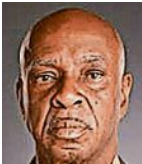
Gaines: 'Right wing extremism' to blame

LA Democratic chair says 'hostile political climate' responsible for increase in violence

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana Democratic Party Chairman Randal Gaines blamed "right wing extremism" for a contentious political climate after the party's headquarters was vandalized in the wake of the Charlie Kirk assassination.

Democratic Party officials discovered the word "murderers" written in red spray paint on the office parking lot when they came to work on Sept. 12, two



Gaines

days after conservative activist Charlie Kirk was assassinated on a Utah college campus.

Gaines said he can't say with certainty the incident was connected to the Kirk murder, but "I can say there has been an increase in the hostile political climate" in an interview with USA Today Network.

Gaines sent the following email to party officials and members Sept. 12: "In the late hours of last night to early

morning, an offensive message reading 'murderers' was painted on the property of our Party Headquarters. In light of the hostile and contentious political climate being fueled by right-wing extremism, I strongly urge our Democratic leaders and our Democratic voter base to take all threats and any suspicious behavior seriously, and to report such actions immediately to the appropriate authorities."

Kirk's accused killer was not a registered member of a political party. "I can't say they are at fault for every-

thing, but I do believe right wing extremists have been strong catalysts for the dangerous political climate," Gaines said. "I'm not blaming anyone but the shooter (for the Kirk murder), but the environment they created has escalated the contentious environment.

"Blame is not the ultimate goal of the discussion, but we should seek ways to calm and deescalate the hostility and I think we can achieve that together."

Gaines called the vandalism "a

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At a Sept. 16 Senate Judiciary Committee hearing, FBI Director Kash Patel defended the work of his agency in tracking down a suspect in the fatal shooting of conservative activist Charlie Kirk. JOSH MORGAN/USA TODAY

Suspect in Kirk shooting charged

Congress questions FBI head about investigation

Thao Nguyen, Jeanine Santucci, Christopher Cann, N'dea Yancey-Bragg
USA TODAY

Utah officials on Sept. 16 formally charged the man accused of killing conservative activist Charlie Kirk with murder and other crimes ahead of his first court appearance.

Tyler Robinson, 22, was charged with aggravated murder, felony discharge of a firearm, obstruction of justice, witness tampering, and the commission of a violent offense in the presence of a child, Utah County Attorney Jeff Gray announced at a news conference. Gray also announced his intention to seek the death penalty, calling Kirk's killing "an American tragedy."

Find more online

Read the latest in the investigation into Charlie Kirk's death at usatoday.com and in the Nation & World Extra section, a subscriber-only feature in your eNewspaper.

"I do not take this decision lightly and it is a decision I have made independently as county attorney based solely on the available evidence and circumstances and nature of the crime," Gray said.

Robinson is accused of firing a single bullet that lanced Kirk's neck during a public appearance on Sept. 10 at Utah Valley University in Orem, Utah, about 40 miles south of Salt Lake City. Gray said DNA consistent with Robinson was found on the trigger of the rifle believed to have been used to kill Kirk.

This comes after FBI officials on Sept. 15 announced that Robinson's DNA was found on a towel wrapped around the rifle and a screwdriver found on the roof

where police say the fatal shot was fired.

Gray said Robinson later directed his roommate to "delete his incriminating texts" and "stay silent" under police questioning, leading prosecutors to charge him with witness tampering.

Robinson's mother recognized her son in images released the day after the shooting and expressed to Robinson's father that the suspect looked like their son, Gray said. Robinson's father agreed.

"Robinson's mother called her son and asked him where he was. He said he was at home sick and that he had been home sick on Sept. 10," Gray said at the news conference.

Patel testifies before Congress

The charges come after FBI Director Kash Patel faced questions by members of Congress about the

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How much does LA vaccinate?

Presley Bo Tyler
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Vaccinations serve as one of the most significant advancements in modern medicine, greatly reducing the occurrence of numerous diseases.

Vaccines have been created to fight against a number of diseases, including polio, tetanus, measles and chickenpox, with smallpox having now been completely eradicated.

It's estimated that approximately four to five million lives are saved each year by vaccines, with vaccine-related deaths occurring rarely, according to the World Health Organization.

How much does Louisiana vaccinate? What WalletHub study says

WalletHub examined states and the District of Columbia across 16 metrics to determine which states are most responsible, with the data set ranging from the rates of children, teens and adults vaccinated against various diseases to the share of people without health insurance.

On WalletHub's study, Louisiana ranked 34th overall for vaccination rates, with a children and teenager immunization rate rank of 20, an adult and elderly vaccination rate rank of 38 and an immunization uptake disparities and influencing factors rank of 27.

While Louisiana was not the lowest state for these ratings, the state did rank among the lowest for flu vaccination coverage rate among adults and for the share of adults with tetanus vaccination.

Conversely, Massachusetts is the state that vaccines the most, as it requires children to be vaccinated against common diseases before attending kindergarten and is one of 18 states that allow minors to receive vaccinations without parental consent, according to WalletHub.

States that vaccinate the most and least in 2025 according to WalletHub

1. Massachusetts
2. New Hampshire
3. Washington
4. Connecticut
5. Rhode Island

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Volume 96 | No. 237
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