



Loser mentality prevails at MLB trade deadline

SPORTS, 1B

The News-Star

THURSDAY, AUGUST 6, 2026 | WWW.THENEWSSTAR.COM | PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Raw milk puts 2 people in hospital

Presley Bo Tyler
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Since April 23, 11 people have become sick in Louisiana after drinking raw milk, with two becoming hospitalized, There have been no deaths as a result of consuming raw milk reported by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), but the sick individuals tested positive for campylobacteriosis and/or cryptosporidiosis.

Those who became ill reportedly consumed raw milk from three different milking operations in Louisiana, according to the LDH. The LDH did not include information on the three dairy op-

erations linked to the illnesses caused by raw milk.

Is it illegal to sell, consume raw milk in Louisiana?

While there is no law explicitly prohibiting human consumption of raw milk, under Act 699, producers can sell raw milk for animal feed and pet food purposes.

Distribution of raw milk is authorized, as long as the warning statement, "WARNING: NOT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION-THIS PRODUCT HAS NOT BEEN PASTEURIZED AND MAY CONTAIN HARMFUL BACTERIA," is displayed in a visible manner on the prod-

uct.

Louisiana state law does not permit the sale of raw milk for human consumption. Only Grade A pasteurized milk is allowed to be sold to human consumers, according to the LDH.

Why is drinking raw milk dangerous? Potential illnesses

Raw milk is unpasteurized, meaning it has not been heated to a specific temperature for a specific duration of time in order to kill off disease-causing bacteria.

Raw milk can contain bacteria and parasites like campylobacter, cryptosporidium, E. coli, listeria, brucella and

salmonella, according to the LDH.

Symptoms of both campylobacteriosis and cryptosporidiosis include diarrhea, fever, stomach cramps, nausea and/or vomiting, with symptoms starting two to 10 days after exposure and lasting one to three weeks. Some individuals could develop complications with lasting impacts.

Even if farms have safe practices that reduce contamination, there is no guarantee that the unpasteurized milk will not contain harmful germs.

Presley Bo Tyler is the Louisiana Deep South Connect Team reporter for USA Today Network. Find her on X @Presley-Tyler02 and email at PTyler@Gannett.com



LSU Health Shreveport and Louisiana Tech University signed a Memorandum of Understanding, establishing a new framework for collaborative research, student training and shared access to specialized research facilities.

MAKENZIE BOUCHER/SHREVEPORT TIMES

LSU Health, Louisiana Tech expand partnership

Makenzie Boucher
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Two prominent research enterprises signed a formal agreement Tuesday morning in Bossier City.

LSU Health Shreveport and Louisiana Tech signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Aug. 4 at the Louisiana Tech Research Institute in Bossier City. This agreement will strengthen the long-standing relationship between both institutions by creating new opportunities for faculty, students and researchers.

Under the agreement, students and researchers from both universities will be able to participate in collaborative research projects, access specialized laboratories and equipment and receive training and mentorship from faculty at both institutions.

"We have some communal opportunities and some communal goals that we

certainly should earn together," Senior Vice Chancellor of LSU Health Shreveport Dr. Lester W. Johnson said.

"We are about to invest \$150 million or so over at the St. Vincent Mall in Shreveport on a world class research center for the health sciences, and we want to make it available for the great researchers that we have in northern Louisiana," Johnson said. "Enough of these zero-sum games."

The partnership brings together LSU Health Shreveport's strengths in biomedical, clinical and translational research with Louisiana Tech's expertise in engineering, biomedical engineering, micromanufacturing, advanced manufacturing and technology development.

"We both do historically great work in complimentary fields," President of Louisiana Tech Dr. Jim Henderson said. "So, creating that framework will allow our faculty and our research experts to leverage their collective expertise, to do

things that are a greater scale than ever before."

"This will open new avenues for collaboration and increase our competitiveness for various funding opportunities on the horizon," Louisiana Tech Interim VP for research Dr. Ramy Ramachandran said. "This agreement is a big win for researcher teams at both institutions."

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Research at LSU Health Shreveport Oren Rom, PhD, RD said, "This agreement connects the complementary expertise, technologies and research of two major institutions."

He continued, "Federal agencies increasingly seek multidisciplinary teams, shared infrastructure, workforce development and meaningful regional impact."

Makenzie Boucher is a reporter with the Shreveport Times. Contact her at mboucher@gannett.com.

Flooding kills 800 queen bees

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Flooding from Tropical Storm Arthur on June 18-19 created more than \$112 million in agriculture losses in Louisiana from row crops to beehives, where more than 800 queens were lost, according to an LSU AgCenter survey and Agriculture Commission Mike Strain.

The most extensive damage occurred in Avoyelles Parish, where nearly 30 inches of rain in 24 hours drowned crops, animals, equipment and infrastructure, but producers in Catahoula, Concordia, Evangeline, Pointe Coupee, Rapides and St. Landry parishes also suffered losses.

"The vast majority of losses were concentrated in Avoyelles, St. Landry and Rapides parishes, which together

See FLOODING, Page 2A

Tax free weekend not returning in 2026

Presley Bo Tyler
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

As students return back to school in the coming days in Louisiana, many parents will likely be shopping for back-to-school necessities.

Louisiana at one time had a sales tax holiday in August, giving shoppers a break from sales taxes on school supplies for one weekend.

These tax holidays are also typically implemented in order to encourage consumer spending on specific goods.

Why did Louisiana get rid of its back to school tax free weekend?

Consumers in Louisiana will go without a back-to-school tax free

See TAX, Page 2A

