

Report: La. car crash injuries at record low

Impaired driving fatalities an increasing problem

BY ALYSE PFEIL
Staff writer

Louisiana saw the fewest injuries from vehicle crashes in state history last year, according to data released this week by

the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission.
In 2025, 54,684 people were injured in motor vehicle crashes, the lowest number of recorded injuries since Louisiana began keeping detailed records, accord-

ing to data compiled by the Center for Analytics and Research in Transportation Safety at LSU.
“We saw a record low number of injury crashes last year, which is tied to more people wearing their seat belts,” Lisa Freeman, executive director of the Highway Safety Commission, said in a statement. “Wearing your seat

belt is the difference-maker that allows you to walk away unhurt from a crash.”
A total of 35,197 crashes resulted in one or more injuries in 2025. That figure represents 25% of all motor vehicle crashes, the lowest proportion on record. The other 75% of crashes in Louisiana last year involved property damage

but not injuries, according to the commission.
However, the commission’s news release also notes that Louisiana continues to see problems with impaired driving.
There was a year-over-year increase in DWI fatalities, with

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6:30 p.m. • ABC

THE GAME TO WATCH

After all of the anticipation, vitriol, hand-wringing and shenanigans, LSU coach Lane Kiffin’s return to Oxford, Mississippi, has arrived. The Rebels faithful await armed with animosity and the No. 8-ranked college football team in the nation. Who will win the first top-10 matchup of old rivals LSU and Ole Miss since 1962? A captivated nation is about to find out.

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- Southern looks to take down NAIA foe Louisiana Christian **Page 4C**

STAFF PHOTO BY MICHAEL JOHNSON

Healthy Blue ending state Medicaid plan

Nearly 300,000 residents will need to choose new coverage

BY ALYSE PFEIL
Staff writer

About 290,000 people who get Medicaid through the Healthy Blue plan will soon have to choose a new insurer after one of the five companies that offer Medicaid in the state decided to pull out of Louisiana.
The Louisiana Department of Health announced this month that Healthy Blue, which is owned by parent company Elevance Health, will no longer provide Medicaid coverage in Louisiana beginning Jan. 1.
The Health Department is working to ensure doctor’s visits and medications stay covered for the roughly 290,000 people switching plans, Health Secretary Bruce Greenstein told a panel of state lawmakers Thursday.
In Louisiana, about 1.3 million are on Medicaid, a government-funded health insurance program for poor and disabled people.
Healthy Blue members will have the option to select one of Louisiana’s four other Medicaid plans during a special enrollment period Oct. 15 to Nov. 16, Medicaid Director Seth Gold said.
Aetna, AmeriHealth Caritas, Humana and Louisiana Healthcare Connections will continue to offer plans in Louisiana, which state officials are set to renew for 2027.
For anyone who misses the sign-up window

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Officials will scrutinize spending in two school districts

Leaders believe expenditures may have been incorrectly reported

BY PATRICK WALL
Staff writer

Louisiana’s education chief will hire consultants to probe the finances of two school districts that failed to spend a mandated proportion of their budgets on teachers, books and other instructional expenses.

It will mark the first time the state has used its legal authority to enforce the state spending rule.
Superintendent of Education Cade Brumley informed the St. John the Baptist Parish and City of Bogalusa school systems this week that he is taking the unprecedented action of appointing chief

operating officers to examine the districts’ spending practices. The districts must share their financial records with the officers, who will identify “the causes of continued noncompliance” and develop corrective measures, Brumley told the districts.
A 2024 state law authorizes the



Brumley

Spending on teachers and principals, textbooks and classroom tech-

intervention when school systems fail for two consecutive years to ensure that at least 70% of the state and local funding is spent on school-level instruction or administration.

nology, tutoring and other support for students counts toward the 70% rule, while spending on transportation, building construction and district-level staffing does not.
The move comes as state lawmakers scrutinize public school funding, which Gov. Jeff Landry has argued too often goes toward “waste and bureaucracy.”

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WEATHER

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