



## Leader addresses conflict in Myanmar

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# THE COURIER

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026 | HOUMATODAY.COM

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## FAA briefly closes airspace over southwest Texas



Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said there is no danger to commercial travel at the El Paso International Airport in Texas. JOSE LUIS GONZALEZ/REUTERS

### Official says cartel drones were disabled

**Cybele Mayes-Osterman and Jeff Abbott**  
USA TODAY

EL PASO, TX – The airspace over the international airport in El Paso, Texas, was briefly closed on Feb. 11 after the Pentagon disabled drones controlled by Mexican cartels that breached U.S. airspace, according to an administration official.

The military took action to disable the drones, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

“The FAA and DOW acted swiftly to

address a cartel drone incursion,” Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said on X, citing the acronyms for the Federal Aviation Administration and for the Department of War, the Trump administration’s new name for the Department of Defense.

“The threat has been neutralized, and there is no danger to commercial travel in the region. The restrictions have been lifted and normal flights are resuming.”

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said on Feb. 11 there was no information about drones on the border – if

the United States had information, it could ask the Mexican government, she told reporters.

“The Mexican airspace did not close ... We will learn what the reasons are for why the airspace closed,” she said.

Rep. Veronica Escobar, D-Texas, who represents El Paso, said at a news conference that she learned of the closure not through the Trump administration but through a contact within the federal workforce.

According to Escobar, the FAA did not notify local officials in advance and made the decision independently.

“There’s no threat. There was not a

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### LOUISIANA CRIME CRACKDOWN

## Over 490 arrested, drugs and guns seized

**Makenzie Boucher**  
Shreveport Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Over 490 arrests have been made in the Western District of Louisiana following a recent effort to fight violent crime and gangs.

U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Louisiana Zachary Keller held a press conference Monday, Feb. 9, to discuss the results of a months-long search and resource of local, state and federal law enforcement partners.

“When we work together, we maximize our impact against violent crime,” said FBI Special Agent in Charge Jonathan Tapp.

Starting Oct. 1, 2025, the FBI and local, state partners used targeted enforcement in high crime areas to get drug dealers, violent gangs and criminals off the streets.

This targeted enforcement resulted in 493 arrests in northwest and central Louisiana, with the confiscation of 109 firearms, 1.94 kg of cocaine, 9.4 kg of fentanyl, 2,000 fentanyl pills, 29.8 kg of marijuana and 43.78 kg of methamphetamine.

According to the FBI, the vast majority of deadly fentanyl in the area

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## Landry appoints familiar face chief of staff

**Greg Hilburn**  
Shreveport Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry has appointed Lafayette state Rep. Julie Emerson as his new chief of staff.

Emerson, a Republican, is serving her third term in the House, where she has been chair of the powerful Ways and Means Committee that advances state tax policy.

She replaces Kyle Ruckert, who left to chair a political organization supporting Landry’s 2027 re-election bid.

“Julie Emerson is a proven leader with a deep understanding of Louisiana’s people, our state Legislature, and the work that needs to be done to move Louisiana forward,” Landry said in a statement. “Her experience and commitment to conservative reform makes her the perfect person to help lead this administration as we continue fighting for a stronger, safer and more prosperous Louisiana.”

Emerson, 37, was a floor leader for Landry in lowering personal income and business taxes while raising the state sales tax.

“The last two years have produced some of the boldest reforms Louisiana

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## How happy are Louisiana residents?

### Wallethub says the state is pretty sad

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

When it comes to gauging happiness levels, it’s important to consider how external factors may impact the threshold for contentment.

While making positive changes in one’s personal life can make a difference, there are certain socioeconomic factors that can hinder emotional stability and, based on where you live, there could be more or less roadblocks standing in your way.

In order to find out where in the U.S. people are the most happy, WalletHub analyzed states based on environmental factors linked to overall well-being,

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Four nonprofits in Ottawa County received \$164K from CFHZ to reduce wait times, expand counseling, and improve community mental health resources.

PROVIDED BY CFHZ

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Volume 148 | No. 36  
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