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THE COURIER

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Juvenile cottonmouths like this example are brighter in color than adults and are often mistaken for copperheads.

BRIAN BROOM/THE CLARION-LEDGER

Cottonmouth or copperhead?

Here’s how to tell the difference in Louisiana

Presley Bo Tyler Shreveport Times | USA TODAY NETWORK

When you’re out in the woods or on the water, properly identifying snakes can mean the difference between a safe encounter and a deadly one. • Louisiana is home to 48 species of snake, but only seven are venomous, two of which are copperheads and cottonmouths. • It can be hard to identify snakes, but knowing which characteristics to look for can make identification easier.

What’s the difference between a copperhead and a cottonmouth?

Copperheads and cottonmouths are both found in the southern U.S. and are both venomous pit vipers, but differences lie in their habitat and appearance.

Cottonmouths are typically found in wet regions like swamps, marshes, rivers and lakes. This can make them easily mistaken for water snakes.

Copperheads are often found in rocky areas, such as mountains, woods, suburban wood piles

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Why these three camping spots stand out above others in the state

Presley Bo Tyler

Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Hipcamp has released its annual awards celebrating the best campsites, highlighting the best places to stay in each state.

Hipcamp is an app where people can discover and book incredible campsites, from national parks on public lands to peaceful spots on private property.

Hipcamp identified the best places to stay in each state by analyzing bookings, ratings and reviews across more than 500,000 campsites.

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Man sitting in a folding chair and woman standing wrapped in towel outside campervan on sandy beach. GETTY IMAGES

When will Buc-ee’s open in Louisiana?

Presley Bo Tyler

Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Buc-ee’s, with its beloved beaver mascot and celebrated food items, will soon open its first ever locations in Louisiana.

The chain of massive travel centers is expanding into other states and will be opening one location in Northeast Louisiana and another in the South Central region of the state.

The stores are expected to generate millions in revenue, employ hundreds of workers and welcome thousands of visitors daily.

When is Buc-ee’s location in Ruston, Louisiana expected to open?

Construction crews have begun pouring concrete and laying additional groundwork for the Buc-ee’s building in Ruston, which will be located off of Interstate 20 at the Tarbutton road exit.

Ruston’s Buc-ee’s location is projected to open mid 2027, but this could be subject to change depending on construction progress, according to the City of Ruston.

Once completed, the location will span more than 70,000 square feet and include more than 100 fuel pumps.

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TastingTable: Where to get the best ramen in LA

Presley Bo Tyler

Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

If you’re looking for great ramen, TastingTable has released a list to help those in search of the best ramen restaurant in every state.

The origins of ramen can be traced back to late 19th and early 20th century, but since then, the dish has skyrocketed in popularity, with ramen restaurants popping up all over the U.S.

TastingTable chose the best ramen restaurants based on high-quality ingredients, atmospheric dining rooms, unique menu items, as well as critical acclaim, awards and reviews from customers.

Why Nomiya in New Orleans is the best place to get ramen in Louisiana

Nomiya, located in New Orleans, was named the best place to get ramen in Louisiana by TastingTable.

Nomiya intends to meld New Orleans cuisine with Japanese, with a

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