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SPORTS, 1B

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Entergy prepares to power massive Meta A.I. data center

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Entergy officially began construction on two natural gas electricity plants in Richland Parish that will help power Meta’s massive artificial intelligence data center in Holly Ridge. The two Richland Parish plants will

begin generating 1,500 megawatts of electricity in 2028. A third Entergy plant to fuel Meta’s power needs will be built in St. Charles Parish when the company secures its permits. Entergy and Meta will cover the bulk of the cost of the \$5 billion investment in the two Richland Parish plants, the companies and Louisiana regulators said.

“I’m excited because I haven’t ever seen anything on the scale of this Meta project and what it will mean for our economy,” Louisiana Public Service Commissioner Foster Campbell said in an interview with USA Today Network. Campbell, a Democrat from Bossier

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Most festive events found in LA

Presley Bo Tyler
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

The state of Louisiana knows how to celebrate like no other and, during the holidays, there are plenty of festivities to take part in. Whether it’s visits with Santa, traditional bonfire festivals, firework shows, parades or decoration displays, there’s something for everyone to enjoy at Christmastime in Louisiana.

The 12 Days of Christmas Louisiana-style by Explore Louisiana

Celebrate the 12 Days of Christmas Louisiana-style at these events and activities from Explore Louisiana.

1. North Louisiana Christmas Celebrations

If you’re celebrating Christmas in North Louisiana, you should begin with Ruston’s Kickoff to Christmas, which features festive activities, holiday music, a tree lighting ceremony, carriage rides and a visit from Santa. Then, in Monroe, you can check out the Christmas Open House at Biedenharn Museum & Gardens, where visitors will be delighted by holiday decor, says Explore Louisiana.

2. Christmas on Caddo Fireworks Festival

On Dec. 6, attendees of the Christmas See EVENTS, Page 3A



Agents gather outside a federal building in New York City where migrants who were detained during a raid by U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement were brought in on Oct. 21. EDUARDO MUNOZ/REUTERS

Congressman: We welcome partnerships, but not occupation

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

New Orleans Congressman Troy Carter said the deployment of ICE and U.S. Border Control agents and National Guard troops amounts to a federal “occupation” of the state’s signature city. Immigration agents are expected to fan out in New Orleans this week as part of what’s being called “Swamp Sweep,” while Gov. Jeff Landry said President Trump told him National Guard troops will expand their footprint as well. “We welcome partnerships, but not occupation,” Carter said in an interview with USA Today Network. “If the president wants to help Louisiana, there are ways to do it. “He could send more funding to retain and train local police and sheriff’s

deputies. This is a disaster waiting to happen.” Landry has said he welcomes immigration agents and more National Guard troops to New Orleans and other Louisiana cities like Baton Rouge and Shreveport, although its unclear when or if agents and soldiers will be deployed in those Louisiana cities. “Thank you President @realDonaldTrump and @Sec_Noem for putting AMERICANS first,” Landry said in a post on X. “We welcome the Swamp Sweep in Louisiana.” Last spring Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry has issued an executive order directing state law enforcement agencies to assist in federal immigration operations and urging local police agencies to join the effort. Carter said he is particularly concerned about the deployment of immi-

gration agents who he said have too often detained U.S. citizens. “More and more we see someone accosted only to find out they are citizens and have every right to be here,” Carter said. “This isn’t the America we know and love.” Carter also issued the following statement. “What we are seeing unfold in our community is not public safety; it is a political stunt wrapped in badges, armored vehicles, and military uniforms,” he said. “ICE teams, Border Patrol agents and now National Guard personnel are being deployed to Orleans, Jefferson, St. Bernard and St. Tammany Parishes with almost no notice, no transparency and no meaningful coordination with local officials.

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Johnson lights up Capitol Christmas

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson of Shreveport-Bossier lit the 2025 Capitol Christmas tree Tuesday that will shine every evening until Jan. 1. Johnson was joined by the Nevada congressional delegation during a ceremony celebrating the 53-foot red fir harvested from the Humboldt-Toiyabe National Forest in Nevada. It’s the first time Nevada has provided the U.S. Capitol Christmas tree. “I know for all of us, Christmastime is a season of light and hope and renewal,” Johnson said during the ceremony. “This time invites us to pause and reflect on the many blessings that God has bestowed upon our lives and upon this great nation. “And tonight offers one of those rare moments where we can gather together and take stock of all those blessings.” Greg Hilburn covers state politics for the USA TODAY Network of Louisiana. Follow him on Twitter @GregHilburn1.

