



THE **SUNDAY**

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ALEXANDRIA-PINEVILLE, LOUISIANA

# Man gets 3 years probation in crash

Retired LSP trooper in wreck that killed man

**Melissa Gregory**  
Alexandria Town Talk  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Billy Cayer called the retired Louisiana State Police trooper who killed his father a “coward,” a man who knew the law but “refused to lay off the booze for even one day” before hitting his dad on Horseshoe Drive as he bicycled with him and his younger brother.

Cayer’s charged victim impact statement, and those of other family members, were a far cry from the letters sent to ad hoc Judge Jimmie C. Peters that

characterized David Brett Westmoreland as an upstanding family man who had served as a trooper and juvenile probation officer for the 9th Judicial District Court.

Westmoreland accepted a plea deal on a lesser charge in March.

The judge also heard from Westmoreland’s defense attorney, Mike Small, who said his client’s only thought on that day was helping his elderly mother, and the two Rapides Parish assistant district attorneys who handled the case,

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A cross remembering Donnie Cayer stands at the site where he died on Horseshoe Drive in Alexandria. The cross was put there by a friend of Cayer's, who replaces it each time it's removed. Days after this photo was taken, the cross was gone. MELISSA GREGORY/THE TOWN TALK



Caddo Parish Magnet High School graduation. HENRIETTA WILDSMITH/ USA TODAY NETWORK

# Best high schools in Louisiana ranked

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

When it comes to choosing the best high school in Louisiana, factors like education proficiency and college preparedness are often things to consider.

U.S. News & World Report has made it easy to find schools that excel in such matters, ranking high schools based on college-level exam scores, graduation rates and more.

On U.S. News & World Reports’ ranking, top schools’ proficiency in subjects like mathematics, reading and science can also be found.

**U.S. News & World Report: 10 best high schools in Louisiana**

In order to rank the best high school in Louisiana, U.S. News & World Report analyzed schools’ graduation rate, performance on state-required tests and how well schools prepare students for

college.

**1. Benjamin Franklin High School**

Benjamin Franklin High School, located at 2001 Leon C Simon Dr. in New Orleans, is ranked as the number one high school in Louisiana. Here, the Advanced Placement (AP) participation rate is 91% and 78% of students passed at least one AP exam. The school’s

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# Lt. Gov. Nungesser rips Mayor Cantrell

**Greg Hilburn**  
Shreveport Times  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana Lt. Gov. Billy Nungesser ripped indicted New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell, saying she should resign amid corruption charges that have cast a “black eye” on the state’s signature city.

“If she had one ounce of doing what’s best for the city, she would resign immediately,” said Nungesser, the state’s chief tourism officer, in an interview with USA Today Network.

Cantrell was indicted April 15 by a federal grand jury on 18 counts.

A spokesman for the two-term mayor said she has no intention of resigning.

“Mayor Cantrell will continue to work to do the job she was she elected and reelected to do,” communications director Terry Davis said in an email to USA Today Network. “The city continues to move forward with improvements in key quality of life areas, and city government is fully operational to support our citizens.

“As the city approaches the (Hurricane) Katrina 20 Commemoration, our community culture of resilience and unity will be on full display and that represents the true spirit of the City of New Orleans.”

Nungesser has clashed with the mayor throughout her tenure.

He criticized Cantrell for questionable travel expenses and contract awards and blames her for safety lapses that led to the New Year’s morning terrorist attack that killed 14 victims and injured scores more.

“Corruption runs so deep,” Nungesser said. “It’s an embarrassment. To me her performance is a crime in itself.

“For years I begged her to step up and do the right thing for public safety. Thank God (Gov. Jeff Landry) put the State Police down there.”

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