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ALEXANDRIA-PINEVILLE, LOUISIANA



LOVE,
ALWAYS

Dolly Parton started her singing career when she was just 13, recording her first single “Puppy Love” at the Goldband Records in Lake Charles. CATHAL MCNAUGHTON/REUTERS

Country legend Dolly Parton dies at 80;
she recorded first song in Louisiana

Makenzie Boucher
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Music legend and philanthropist Dolly Parton has died at 80, her family announced Tuesday, Aug. 25, on a video message on her social media page.

“Dolly has lived in the light, and is in the arms of Jesus, surely met by [her husband] Carl, her parents, and countless others who have watched her and longed for her to meet them in the heavens,” Parton’s nephew Bryan Seaver said in the video.

According to USA TODAY, during her 60-year-career, Parton used her twang-laced soprano voice on hits-turned-classics such as “Jolene,” “I Will Always Love You,” “9 to 5” and “Coat of Many Colors.”

Parton started her singing career when she was just 13, recording her

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Bryan Seaver
Dolly Parton’s nephew said in the video.

first single “Puppy Love” at the Goldband Records in Lake Charles, Louisiana.

Tennessee native Parton was 11 years old, when she wrote “Puppy Love” with her uncle, Bill Owens. Two years later in 1959 she recorded it in a small studio in Louisiana.

“Puppy Love,” Parton’s first single, was a rockabilly-style song that showcased the hot and cold emotions of young love.

But why Louisiana?

Parton’s uncle Robert Henry was

stationed in Lake Charles at the time and sent Parton and her grandmother, Rena Owens money to visit. Following a 30-hour bus trip Parton made a visit to Goldband Records.

Goldband Records was founded by Eddie Shuler, who would later record artist such as Boozoo Chavis and Phil Phillips.

“Puppy Love” came eight years before the American singer-songwriter debut her album “Hello, I’m Dolly.” This album resulted in huge success which carried on until the 1990s.

LA to get
\$247M
as Meta
settles
lawsuit

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana will receive as much as \$247 million following a landmark multistate settlement with Meta Platforms, Attorney General Liz Murrill said Aug. 26.

Meta Platforms agreed to pay a maximum \$16.68 billion as part of a settlement to resolve claims brought by states across the country that the company designed Facebook and Instagram to addict children, misled consumers about their safety and improperly collected personal data of children who used its platforms, court papers show.

The settlement was reached during a California federal trial over claims brought by 29 states, averting one of the highest-profile tests yet of allegations that social media companies harmed young users.

Meta also agreed to make changes for teenage users of Facebook and Instagram nationwide, including daily usage limits and nighttime blocks, court papers show.

“This settlement is an earthquake when it comes to child safety reforms and Big Tech accountability,” Murrill said Wednesday. “This isn’t a payoff — it’s meaningful reform that gives Louisiana the tools we need to focus on the safety of our children in the digital world.”

The Meta settlement is the largest state consumer protection settlement in history outside the Big Tobacco settlements of the 1990s.

Murrill said the settlement will be paid out over nine years. She said Louisiana’s legal action was handled within her agency with no outside counsel fees.

USA Today contributed to this report.

Greg Hilburn covers state politics for the USA TODAY Network of Louisiana. Follow him on Twitter @GregHilburnL.

NSU offers class on how to
handle venomous snakes

Melissa Gregory
Alexandria Town Talk
USA TODAY NETWORK

If you want to learn how to handle venomous snakes, a class offered by Northwestern State University will show you how to do so safely so you can earn a certification.

NSU’s Department of Biology and Microbiology is hosting a Rattlesnake Conservancy workshop on its Natchitoches campus from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30

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If you want to learn how to handle venomous snakes, a class offered by Northwestern State University will show you how to do so safely so you can earn a certification. PROVIDED BY NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY

State officials reopen
red snapper season

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Anglers will get two more chances to fish for prized red snappers in Louisiana’s rich coastal waters beginning this weekend after state officials closed the season early on Aug. 9 with an emergency order.

Red snapper season will reopen at 12:01 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 27 through 11:59 p.m. Aug. 30, 2026 and again from

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Louisiana’s coastal waters are considered the epicenter for red snapper fishing.

GREG HILBURN/USA TODAY NETWORK

