

Where things went wrong for LSU in Kiffin's debut season

SPORTS, 1B

THE TOWN TALK

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ALEXANDRIA-PINEVILLE, LOUISIANA

8-year-old held by ICE returns home



U.S. Rep. Juan Vargas, D-California, second from right, and Guerline Jozef, executive director of the Haitian Bridge Alliance, left, greet an 8-year-old Haitian boy and his uncle on Nov. 16 after the child was released from federal custody.
PROVIDED BY CARTER MACLEOD

Haitian boy's release follows public outcry

María Luisa Paúl
USA TODAY

An 8-year-old Haitian boy who was placed in federal custody after an immigration check-in in San Diego earlier in November was reunited with his family.

His Nov. 16 return, confirmed by Democratic Rep. Juan Vargas of California and Guerline Jozef, executive director of the Haitian Bridge Alliance, came nearly two weeks after federal officers took the third grader from the uncle who had been raising him.

The detention drew swift backlash from his school district, local officials and members of Congress, who wrote to Homeland Security Secretary Markwayne Mullin and Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. demanding his release.

"My heart breaks thinking about what he endured," Vargas said in a statement. "I'm so grateful that he's home, but this should have never happened in the first place. I have serious questions about how this was handled, and I will be pushing the Administration for answers."

The child, who has not been identified by name, is among the children caught up in the Trump administration's immigration crackdown, with

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These 5 grocery stores are offering meal bundles for Thanksgiving

Presley Bo Tyler
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

With Thanksgiving next week, people are starting to stock up on ingredients to make their holiday dinners.

Planning and cooking a Thanksgiving meal can be quite stressful, especially if you find yourself missing an item that's sold out.

For those looking to relieve such stress, a number of grocery stores chains offer Thanksgiving meal bundles that include everything you'll need to make dinner, and at a great price.

Target Thanksgiving meal deal

At Target, you can get a complete

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For those looking to relieve such stress, a number of grocery stores chains offer Thanksgiving meal bundles that include everything you'll need to make dinner, and at a great price. GETTY IMAGES

RPSB is told to use data center payment to cover gaps

Melissa Gregory
Alexandria Town Talk
USA TODAY NETWORK

Rapides Parish School Board members got a recommendation Tuesday to use the first $4.94 million PILOT payment from the Boyce-area artificial intelligence factory data center to fill gaps in its budget.

Superintendent Jeff Powell said the budget deficits are from decreased enrollment and rising healthcare and retirement costs.

"And so what this would allow us to do is to continue current operations for the remainder of the fiscal year 26-27 without having to make cuts immediately," he said.

It was just one of the options board members received during a finance committee meeting. After almost an hour of discussion, committee members agreed to take the information Powell had given them under advisement before taking up the issue again at its regular Dec. 1 meeting.

The England Economic & Industrial Development District is set to vote on

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Rep. Carter celebrates historic House vote

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana Democratic Congressman Troy Carter cast a historic vote for Hakeem Jeffries of New York to become the first Black speaker of the House in history when the new Congress convenes Jan. 3.



Jeffries

"The Democratic Caucus has spoken," the New Orleans congressman said in a post on X after the Democrats voted Nov. 18. "My friend, colleague, and Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity Inc. brother Hakeem Jeffries is officially our nominee for Speaker. When elected, he'll make history as the first African American Speaker of the U.S. House. I'm proud to stand with you, Brother Jeffries, Mr. Speaker!!

"We run to win, we win to Govern"!

Jeffries won't officially become the next speaker until the full House votes Jan. 3. He will take over from Shreveport's Mike Johnson, who led the House for three years before the Democrats won the majority in the Nov. 3 midterm elections.

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