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THE TOWN TALK

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 9, 2026 K1 PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

ALEXANDRIA-PINEVILLE, LOUISIANA

Note to readers
Due to the impacts of Hurricane Isaias, delivery of weekend editions may be delayed until conditions are safe.



An evangelism team, led by Johnson, traversed Main Street from Louisiana Christian University to the Alexandria-Pineville bridge, ministering to people and praying for the people and businesses along the route.
PROVIDED BY JACOB SIMONET

LCU students serve area through SendLA

Elizabeth Barfoot Clarke
LOUISIANA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

Hundreds of Louisiana Christian University students, faculty and staff spent Tuesday afternoon serving communities across Central Louisiana through SendLA, the university's semester outreach initiative. The day began with a commissioning service during chapel before participants divided into groups and headed to service sites throughout the region. "SendLA is about more than what we accomplish in a single day; it is

about the change that happens in our students when they are serving others," said LCU President Dr. Mark Johnson. "This semester, our students served throughout Central Louisiana, neighborhoods, nonprofits, the Red Cross, pregnancy centers and other community organizations." Participating organizations included First Baptist Tioga, Main Street Mission, Rolling Hills, Pineville Park Baptist, Philadelphia Baptist Alexandria, Rapides Parish Library, Cenla Pregnancy Center, Family of Grace, Hope House, Food Bank of Central Louisiana, Fostering Community and

Faith Baptist. Johnson led an evangelism team, while LCU's nursing department conducted a campus prayer walk. Emma Allison, a sophomore social work major, volunteered at Fostering Community's care closet, which provides clothing for foster families. "Foster kids and their families came in while we were there, and they were excited to pick out new clothes and just to get a new pair of socks," she said. "It was a great opportunity to actually see those who benefit."

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LA officials: Consumers should avoid raw milk products

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana health officials are advising people not to consume raw milk cheese products that have been recalled by the Sierra Nevada Cheese Co. after at least 13 people have been sickened by E. coli infections in nine state. Officials said the products should be thrown away or returned to the place of purchase for a refund. Though no illnesses related to the Sierra Nevada Cheese recall have yet been reported in Louisiana, last summer at least 11 Louisianians were sickened from drinking raw milk. Raw milk is illegal to sell for human consumption in Louisiana, but it became legal to sell for animal or pet consumption with a law passed in 2024 by the Legislature and signed by Gov. Jeff Landry.

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Sierra Nevada Graziers raw milk cheeses were recalled on Sept. 24, following a multistate outbreak of E. coli infections. PROVIDED BY U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

Report: LA is named 49th-ranked safest state

Presley Bo Tyler
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

In the U.S., a violent crime occurred every 25.9 seconds in 2024, according to FBI crime statistics released in 2025. This fact can make citizens fear for their own safety and their loved ones. However, depending on where you live, you may be safer than other areas. To determine where people are the safest, WalletHub compared states across key indicators of safety like assaults per capita, the total loss from climate disasters per capita and unemployment rate. Louisiana ranked 49th on WalletH-

ub's list of the safest states in the, making it the second least safe state in the U.S. The state also ranked 37th for personal and residential safety, 49th for financial safety, 42nd for road safety, 43rd for workplace safety and 49th for emergency preparedness. Within the study, Louisiana was found to have the third-most law enforcement employees per capita, third-most assaults per capita and the highest total loss amount from climate disasters per capita. In comparison, Vermont ranked as the safest state in the U.S., as it has the

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Sen. Kennedy considers run for president in 2028

Presley Bo Tyler
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Sen. John Kennedy appeared on NBC News "Meet the Press" on Sunday Oct. 4, where he discussed education, the economy and affordability, as well as upcoming elections. Kennedy talked about his time actively campaigning in various states in support of GOP candidates up for election and he talked about his own reelection in 2028. Kennedy said he will seek another term when his seat in the Senate is up for election in 2028, but he also said he's considering running for President.



Kennedy

During NBC News' "Meet the Press," moderator Kristen Welker asked Kennedy if he was considering running for President in 2028, to which Kennedy replied "yeah." "My plans right now are to run for reelection. But as I've said before, if I don't think I can be effective in the Senate anymore, I would consider it," said Kennedy. Ultimately, Kennedy said he has not made a concrete decision about running for President, but it's a possibility.

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