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SPORTS, 1B

THE TOWN TALK

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ALEXANDRIA-PINEVILLE, LOUISIANA

Johnson won't seek House leadership spot



Mike Johnson at his watch party on Nov. 3 at the Shreveport Convention Center. HENRIETTA WILDSMITH/THE TIMES

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Speaker Mike Johnson of Shreveport-Bossier won't run to lead Republicans in the House after Democrats flipped the majority in a blue wave in the Nov. 3 midterms.

Johnson informed his staff of his decision Wednesday morning in the wake of massive Republican losses in Congress.

It's unclear whether Johnson intends to serve out his new term in the House after his reelection to Louisiana's 4th Congressional District Tuesday.

USA Today Network is seeking comment from the speaker.

The past five Republican speakers — Newt Gingrich, Dennis Hastert, John Boehner, Paul Ryan and Kevin McCarthy - have all either retired or resigned from Congress after they lost or gave up the gavel.

Johnson, a reliable ally to President Trump, unexpectedly secured the gavel three years ago and has guided the House ever since while Republicans held the majority.

In an interview with Fox last month Johnson suggested he might leave Congress "and go back to my hometown of Shreveport" if Republicans lost the majority and he lost the gavel.

"Heaven forbid, if we lose this majority or whatever, I don't know what my next chapter of life is," Johnson said in the interview with Aishah Hasnie. "If God moves on our hearts and says we should, you know, go back to my hometown of Shreveport and start a lawn business, I'll do that with equal fervor. I mean, I just want to be of my highest and best use to God and to my country."

Greg Hilburn covers state politics for the USA TODAY Network of Louisiana. Follow him on Twitter @GregHilburn1.

Mayor, council member in runoff

Melissa Gregory
Alexandria Town Talk
USA TODAY NETWORK

Alexandria Mayor Jacques Roy will face District 1 Councilman Malcolm Larvadain in a runoff after none of the three candidates secured a majority on on Tuesday.

And, in Boyce, voters elected a new police chief while at the same time approving a proposition that will allow the aldermen and mayor to appoint one instead.

Roy was the top vote getter in the three-man race, receiving 49% of the votes. Larvadain was second with 41%, while Lorenzo Davis received 10%.

Unofficial turnout in the race was only 46%, according to the Louisiana Secretary of State's office. All results are complete, but unofficial, until verified.

Two Rapides Parish School Board members lost their seats, too. District H member George Johnson and District F member Marie Ashmore were defeated by Greg Hackney and Roosevelt Johnson, respectively.

Alexandria City Marshal Jerome Hopewell bested two challengers to win re-election with 51% of the vote. Cedric Green received 41% of the votes, while Raymond Eli Smith got 7%.

In Glenmora, the mayoral race was decided by just three votes. Jeffrey Botson won the contest with 255 votes, compared to 252 votes for Garry Goynes.

Here are the complete, but unofficial results:

Alexandria city marshal

- Cedric Green, Democrat: 41%, or 7,275 votes
- Jerome Hopewell, Republican: 51%, or 9,063 votes

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LSUA event highlights Day of the Dead traditions

Melinda Martinez
Alexandria Town Talk
USA TODAY NETWORK

LSUA students learned about the vibrant Mexican holiday Día de los Muertos, or Day of the Dead, during International Education Week. The celebration honors and remembers deceased loved ones while recognizing the importance of life, family and tradition.

"The Day of the Dead is a celebration of life," said LSUA senior Cecilia Lopez, who was dressed as La Catrina, the traditional Mexican representation of death.

According to history.com, the

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For a presentation on Dia de los Muertos, LSUA senior Cecilia Lopez dressed as La Catrina, the traditional Mexican representation of death.
MELINDA MARTINEZ/THE TOWN TALK

Republican Letlow wins Louisiana Senate race

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana voters promoted Republican Congresswoman Julia Letlow of Baton Rouge to the U.S. Senate Nov. 3 after she held off Democratic farmer Jamie Davis with President Donald Trump's backing in a squeaker.

Letlow was leading Davis 52% to 48% with all but Orleans early voting reporting late Tuesday night. She will join Louisiana Republican Sen. John Kennedy, who wasn't on the Tuesday ballot, in the Senate.

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Louisiana Congresswoman Julia Letlow qualifies for the U.S. Senate race on Feb. 13.
GREG HILBURN/USA TODAY NETWORK

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