



DRAFT BOUND

Fournette announces departure on Twitter

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ELECTION 2016

ALL EYES ON STATE RUNOFF

La. voters get final word on US Senate

GREG HILBURN
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana will be the last state in the country to choose a new U.S. senator, and though Saturday's election between Democrat Foster



Foster Campbell



John Kennedy

Campbell and Republican John Kennedy won't tip the balance of the chamber as once thought possible, it has drawn the nation's attention because of its solitary spot on the American ballot. None other than Republican President-elect Donald Trump weighed in on the race Saturday through his Twitter account: "State Treasurer John Kennedy is my choice for US Senator from Louisiana."

That social media blast coincided with Vice President-elect Mike Pence's visit to New Orleans for a Kennedy rally.

National Republicans want to press their advantage. "It's the only show in town," said Mississippi U.S. Sen. Roger Wicker, chairman of the National Republican Senatorial Committee.

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Joy Fund

Today's donations

- » 12 Ladies Leaping \$200
- » Gretchen Bell \$50
- » Ruth Erlinger \$100, in memory of Donald R. Erlinger
- » Adelaide & Shelby \$250
- » Sherry Blackwood \$200, In Loving Memory of Kaede Dwayne Williams from his Speech Pathologist.

Goal: \$100,000

Today's total: \$800

Total to date: \$5,176

The Times' Joy Fund is accepting donations. Mail checks or money orders to Joy Fund, The Times, 222 Lake St., Shreveport, LA 71101. Online donations may be made to shreveporttimes.com/joyfund. Or they may be dropped off in the lobby at The Times. Credit cards are accepted there.

'You belong'

NWLA NATIVE TAKES STAND AGAINST ISLAMOPHOBIA

SEGANN MARCH SEGANN.MARCH@SHREVEPORTTIMES.COM

A Natchitoches native's personal message against religious discrimination and in support of acceptance has gone viral on social media and traditional media outlets are also taking notice.

Justin Normand, 53, isn't satisfied with the election results and he fears for his Islamic neighbors. The graphic designer, who has relocated to Texas, decided to create a sign that read: "You belong. Stay strong. Be Blessed. We are one America." He then drove to the nearest mosque, The Islamic Center of Irving, and stood outside for hours to share the peace with his neighbors.

"This came from an urgent need that I had to do something," Normand said. "It was the most immediate evident right thing to do because there is a false narrative in this country about

Muslims in particular and other groups also. That false narrative links the victims in with the perpetrators. No one community is more the victim of Islamic terrorism than the Muslim community."

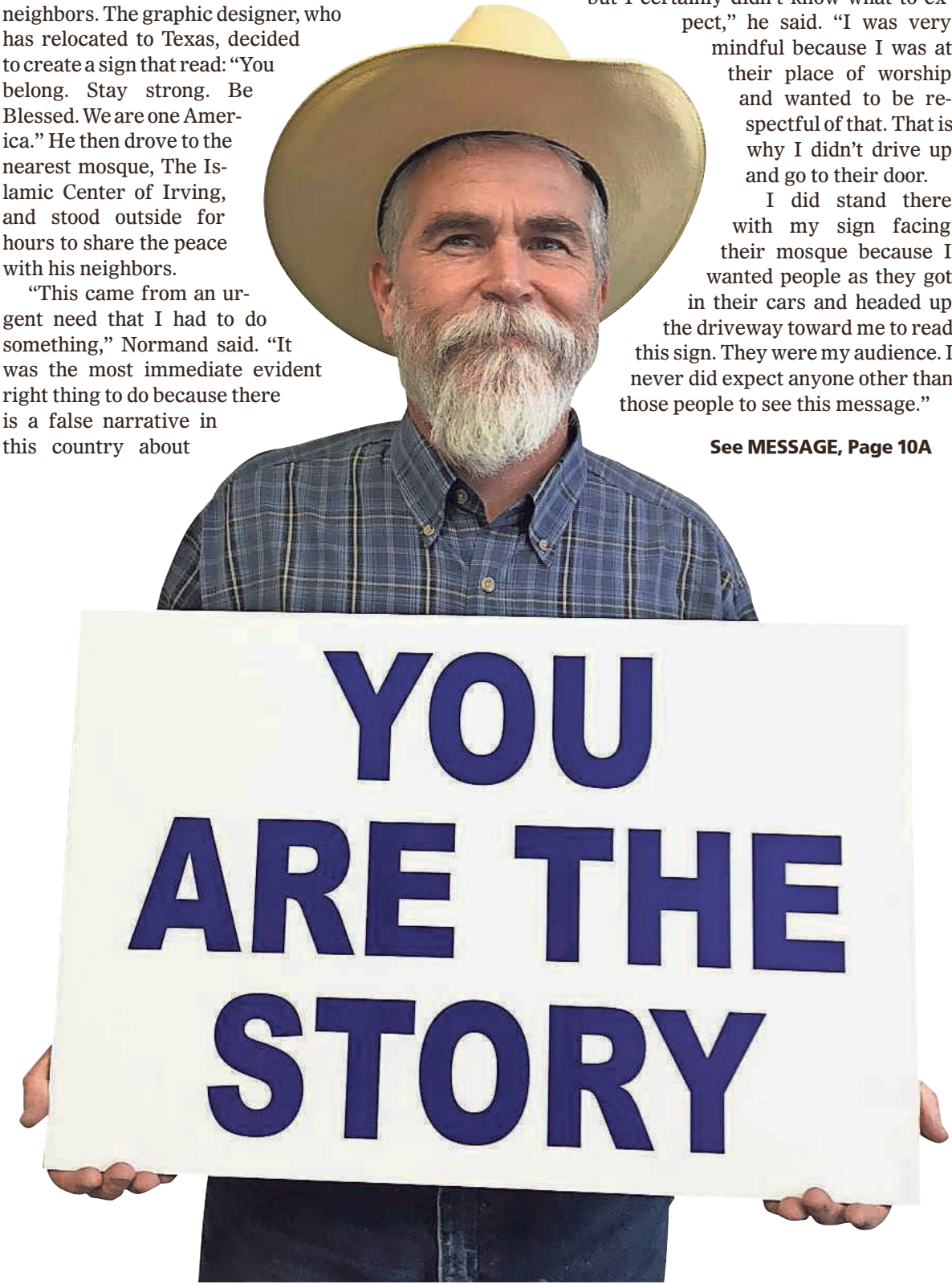
Normand said the people inside the mosque were kind to him.

"I was not intimidated going there because I've learned not to be so suspicious of people, but I certainly didn't know what to expect," he said.

"I was very mindful because I was at their place of worship and wanted to be respectful of that. That is why I didn't drive up and go to their door.

I did stand there with my sign facing their mosque because I wanted people as they got in their cars and headed up the driveway toward me to read this sign. They were my audience. I never did expect anyone other than those people to see this message."

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COURTESY OF JUSTIN NORMAND

Justin Normand, 53, is taking a stand against Islamophobia.

The Adopt A Family campaign provides gifts for homeless families in the Providence House Program. Your gifts bring joy to all during the holiday season!

Adopt A Family Today!

For more information contact Rhonda Watts at (318) 221-7887 or visit www.theprovidencehouse.com



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Pricing details, Page 2
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HIGH 58 | LOW 44
Partly cloudy, Page 2

Winner

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Caddo Middle Magnet Principal Robin DeBusk said she has lots of ideas for the cafeteria’s renovation.

“One of the things we’re looking at is putting in speakers for music, so we can play music while the kids eat,” DeBusk said. “We’ll switch up some of the paint and the tables to make it less of a school cafeteria and more fun to encourage them to eat. I’ve known for about two weeks and I had to keep it a secret.”

The Davis family cooked the Meatballs and Rice recipe a few months ago, Davis said. Davis’s mother, Roslyn Davis, said this is their second time entering the contest.

“All of our family came to the house and we cooked and had such a great time,” she said. “My dad also came. We entered one of the photos from that evening and then a month later, we found out that we were one of the finalists. We were super excited because we had never made it to the finals be-

fore. At that point, our community and family rallied around us and voted, and even though that was just a part of the 100 percent makeup, we wanted to make sure that we did our part.”

This isn’t the first time Davis’s cooking skills have been recognized.

In 2015, Davis was selected to participate in first lady Michelle Obama’s “Kids’ State Dinner” where he represented Louisiana in Washington, D.C.



SEGANN MARCH/THE TIMES

Caddo Middle Magnet Principal Robin DeBusk thanks Samuel Davis for winning the school \$30,000.

His submitted dish, Sam’s Southern Savoring Salmon Supreme, landed

him as the Louisiana winner of the 2015 Healthy Lunchtime Challenge, a nationwide recipe competition for children ages 8-12.

The Healthy Lunchtime Challenge promotes healthy eating and cooking.

Earlier this year, Davis spoke during the 2016 “Kids’ State Dinner” and introduced Michelle Obama, where he encouraged students to be the “healthy hero” of their own hometown.

Road

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The result

The area of Knight Street is one city officials are already planning to repair and improve.

Westerman said improvements are being purposefully delayed because of the major renovation project taking place at the intersection of Kings Highway and Youree Drive.

“We’re very considerate of the Youree-Kings

construction and don’t want to compete with that project at this time,” Westerman said.

The city engineer added that the city will begin accepting bids for the work on Knight Street after the area’s Mardi Gras parades next spring.

Followup

Just before Thanksgiving, Get ‘er Done featured a story on a section of E. Washington Street in Anderson Island.

Shreveport City Council District B Representative, Jeff Everson, reached out to The Times after reading

about the issue.

He said that the area is one that the city already plans to address.

“It’s part of the asphalt arterial repair schedule that is underway now, so it will be fixed soon,” Everson said.

Westerman said this portion of the repair schedule will possibly begin within the next two to three months.

Have a tip for Get ‘er Done? Email us at geterdone@shreveporttimes.com. Include your name, phone number and email address. We’ll contact you before publishing anything.

Message

Continued from Page 1A

“I just went there for them to know it.”

His open-minded message began spreading across the nation through multiple media outlets and social media sites.

People Magazine will feature him in a article available only in New York on Wednesday. The article will be available nationally on Friday, according to public relation officials. There is already an article about Normand on People.com.

Representatives from People said they are not able to comment on the article until Wednesday.

He also caught the eye of independent filmmaker, Rod Blackhurst, who directed an original Netflix documentary, Amanda Knox. Blackhurst plans to edit the film and present it to the New York Times for its consideration. If the New York Times picks up the mini documentary, then Jus-



COURTESY OF JUSTIN NORMAND

Natchitoches native, Justin Normand, 53, stood outside a mosque for hours holding a sign that read: You Belong. Stay Strong. Be Blessed. We are one America.

tin’s message will go even further, he said.

“When I had heard the story of what Justin had done last week, I talked to my contact at the New York Times and said ‘I would like to go to Louisiana and follow this story to see if there is something that we can make out of it.’”

Blackhurst added, “It would be a short piece, probably no more than two minutes long. It would be a portrait of who Justin Normand is and why he felt compelled to do this. My reaction is that he felt like he needed to do something personally and it became a public thing, but then it was meant to be a

private gesture for a group of marginalized people.”

Normand’s husband, Gary Cathey, said Normand’s message was a selfless act. He said Normand was unaware of the photo taken until later that day, when it went viral on social media.

“He just stood there

with his sign pointed toward the mosque,” Cathey said. “The sign was not for the passersby, the message of belonging and inclusion was meant for the people who were worshipping at the mosque. He felt like they were a targeted group of people in the current heated rhetoric.”

He said the photo first went viral on Reddit, which then closed on comments on the photo.

“Our minister sent something to us early afternoon that said ‘this looks like Justin,’” Cathey added. “I texted her back and said ‘That is Justin.’ When I got home that night, Justin said ‘let me tell you what I did’ and he was really excited about it. So many people had come out and been so welcoming and nice to him.”

Normand said he hasn’t always been an advocate for the underrepresented, but time changes things.

“That was a process for me because I grew up in a family in a higher economic class and I attended a whites-only private

» Special Awards \$1,000 The Marilyn Willis Fund

The gold, silver and bronze medalists will perform with the Shreveport Symphony Orchestra, and the gold medalist will perform with the South Arkansas Symphony Orchestra, the Northwest Florida Symphony Orchestra and the Lancaster (PA) Symphony/Endless Mountain Music Festival – and recitals at the Dame Myra Hess Memorial Concert Series, Chicago; The Emmett Hook Texas Street Arts Series, Shreveport; the Noel Foundation Inc. Chamber Music Series, Shreveport; and the Downtown Piano Works Fine Artist Concert Series, Frederick, Maryland.

If you go

What: 2016 Wideman International Piano Competition

Where: Riverview Theater, 600 Clyde Fant Pkwy, Shreveport

When: Jan. 28
Info: widemanpiano.com or call 318-869-5235 or 601-946-2063

Election

Continued from Page 1A

On the flip side, Campbell might not be a firewall for Democrats against Trump since Republicans already hold a majority 51 seats in the Senate, but he’s their last hope after a dismal showing for the party in the national elections.

That urgency, spurred on by Campbell’s appearances with national liberal pundits and TV hosts like Rachel Maddow, helped Campbell out-raise Kennedy by more than \$1 million during the final campaign finance reporting period from Oct. 20-Nov. 20. “He’s carrying the hopes of Democrats not just in Louisiana but honestly around the nation,” Maddow told her audience.

And though he is considered the underdog by all accounts in a decided-

ly red state, Campbell and his staff believe he can replicate last year’s unlikely victory by Democrat John Bel Edwards in the governor’s race. Edwards is popular despite the dichotomy and has backed Campbell in the Senate race.

“We’re going to shock the world,” a member of Campbell’s campaign said confidently over the weekend as early voting closed.

Pearson Cross, a political scientist at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette, said there have been some surprises.

“I’m surprised by how competitive Campbell has been with fund raising,” Cross said. “I think some of that is belated push back on the Trump presidency and the last chance in this cycle to send a message. And for the Republicans to send (Pence) down is strong; it shows they aren’t taking the seat for granted.”

But much of the race has been routine.

“It would have been a different race if two Republicans made the runoff, but because he’s facing a Democrat, Kennedy can come full on with a stock Republican message,” Cross said. “Campbell has to be more creative.”

Both men are career politicians.

Campbell, who operates two insurance companies and lives on a cattle ranch in Bossier Parish, has been a member of the Public Service Commissioner since 2002 and spent 27 years in the state Senate before that. He has run previous unsuccessful campaigns for Congress in 1980, 1988 and 1990, and governor in 2007, a race won by Republican Gov. Bobby Jindal.

Kennedy, who lives in Madisonville, served on Gov. Buddy Roemer’s staff in the 1980s, was appointed secretary of rev-

enue by Republican Gov. Mike Foster in 1996 and is serving his fifth term as Louisiana’s treasurer. Yet the treasurer still tells voters he is an outsider — “I’m not party of the club,” he repeats on ads and in speeches. This is Kennedy’s third try at the Senate. He ran first as a Democrat in 2004, a race won by Republican U.S. Sen. David Vitter, who now supports Kennedy, and then as a Republican in 2008, losing to former U.S. Sen. Mary Landrieu, a Democrat.

Vitter, the incumbent, is retiring after two terms.

Though Campbell and Kennedy are lockstep opposing abortion rights, gun control and the Trans-Pacific Partnership free trade initiative, there are clear differences between the two politicians on almost every other issue.

Campbell, a populist in the vein of legendary

Louisiana Gov. Huey Long, supports an increase in the federal minimum wage and equal pay legislation for women, issues that have no traction with Kennedy.

Kennedy wants to repeal the Affordable Care Act known as Obamacare — It “sucks,” he says in an ad. Campbell supports keeping Obamacare in place and tweaking it with what he calls improvements.

Campbell believes oil and gas companies should be forced to pay for what he believes is their responsibility in destroying state’s coast. “You wouldn’t let somebody come to your house and tear up your yard, would you?” he said.

Kennedy said the energy industry is over regulated, which he believes has led in part to thousands of oil and gas jobs disappearing in the state.

Campbell has said the United States can beef up

its border security with more manpower and technology, while Kennedy supports building the wall Trump touted during his campaign.

“We’re as different as gumbo and grits,” Kennedy has said repeatedly since the two men emerged from the 24-candidate primary field.

“He represents the haves; I represent the have-nots,” Campbell said.

But while the race has captured national attention, it hasn’t inspired voters back home. Secretary of State Tom Schedler believes only about one-third of voters will cast ballots in the runoff compared to about 68 percent in the Nov. 8 primary. Only 6 percent voted early, about one-third the early turnout of the primary.

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