



A door finally opens – and Dystany Spurlock is ready to

SPORTS, 1B

The News-Star

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Supreme Court expedites effort to draw new congressional map

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

The U.S. Supreme Court has fast-tracked Louisiana's effort to draw a new congressional map to increase Republican favored seats by waiving the normal waiting period for its decision to take full effect.

On April 30, the court ruled that Louisiana's congressional map is unconstitutional because the boundaries for the majority-Black 6th Congressional Dis-

trict represented by Democrat Cleo Fields constitute an illegal racial gerrymander.

That prompted Republican Louisiana Gov. Jeff Landry to suspend the state's six May 16 U.S. House elections until the Legislature can draw a new map.

Republican lawmakers, who hold super majorities in the state House and Senate, are expected to eliminate at least one, and conceivably both, of its majority-Black districts that favor Democrats.

Louisiana's other majority-Black district, the 2nd District, its represented by Democratic Congressman Troy Carter.

The Supreme Court's emergency rule issued Monday orders lower courts to apply its April 30 decision immediately.

Louisiana Republican Attorney General Liz Murrill said the court's Monday ruling "removed the usual waiting period and ensured that there

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House approves \$64M for fortified roofs

Sheldon "Trey" Vice III
LSU Manship School News Service

BATON ROUGE — The House voted 87-9 to allocate \$64 million from excess collections by the Louisiana Citizens Property Insurance Corporation to expand a program that offers \$10,000 grants to homeowners who install fortified roofs.

House Bill 1187 by Rep. Paul Sawyer, R-Baton Rouge, would reallocate surplus funds from Citizens' emergency assessment to spur the installation of more fortified roofs, which Insurance Commissioner Tim Temple said eventually would lower insurance premiums for property owners statewide.

Temple, who worked closely with Sawyer on the bill, explained at a recent hearing why the fortified-roof program is popular and how every dollar allocated from Citizens would go toward reducing premiums statewide.

"They have determined that they will have some surplus money, and we

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Local throws water at kids as they pose for photo around new splash park equipment. The Lagniappe Park Splash Pad, 258 Klondyke Road opens June 7 at 1 p.m. Left-to-right: Noah LeCompte, Bronsen Fauchaux, Jemma Fanguy, Hayes Duplantis and Harper LeCompte. COLIN CAMPO HOUMA COURIER/THIBODAUX DAILY COMET

Voters urged to cast ballots in canceled election

Greg Hilburn
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

Louisiana's two Black congressmen, Troy Carter and Cleo Fields, are encouraging voters to cast ballots for the state's six U.S. House seats even though Gov. Jeff Landry and Secretary of State Nancy Landry said those votes won't be counted.

The governor suspended the May 16 U.S. House elections April 20 after the U.S. Supreme Court ruled Louisiana's congressional map unconstitutional because the majority Black 6th District boundaries are an illegal racial gerrymander.

But the suspension of the elections happened too late to remove them from the ballot on which early voting began May 2 and mail-in ballots that were distributed in April.

"The Supreme Court ruled the map is unconstitutional, but it did not say to halt the elections," 6th District Congressman Cleo Fields said May 4 in an interview with USA Today Network. "I'm encouraging people to vote the full ticket because a final decision hasn't been made."

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SUMMER FUN

TipAdvisor says these are the 5 best water and amusement parks in Louisiana

Presley Bo Tyler
Shreveport Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

As the summer season approaches, many families will be looking for opportunities to beat the heat or for children to have some fun.

Water parks can be a great way to cool off while still having some fun, while amusement parks provide all-day activities for children in a family-friendly space.

While Louisiana may not be home to major attractions like Six Flags or a Great Wolf Lodge, there are still plenty of places where fun can be had.

Why these are the 5 best water and amusement parks in Louisiana according to TripAdvisor

These are the five best water and amusement parks in Louisiana, according to TripAdvisor, from water-parks and outdoor recreation to themed playgrounds and amusement parks.

1. Storyland

Storyland is an enchanted playground in New Orleans containing colorful sculptures and playscapes in the shape of storybook characters.

Located within City Park, at this playground, children can climb aboard Captain Hook's pirate ship, adventure into the mouth of Pinocchio's whale and take in 18 larger-than-life storybook sculptures in the likeness of nursery rhyme and folktale characters.

2. Gator Country Louisiana Alligator Park

Gator Country Louisiana Alligator Park in Natchitoches is a wildlife park featuring alligators and other animals, as well as feeding shows. This park is Louisiana's largest alligator experience and is home to over 250 American alligators. The hands-on educational sanctuary is dedicated to alligators, reptiles and wildlife conservation, offering covered walkways and viewing platforms to see live feeding shows.

3. Carousel Gardens

Carousel Gardens is a seasonally operated amusement park in New Orleans. Located within City Park, this amusement park features many rides,

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