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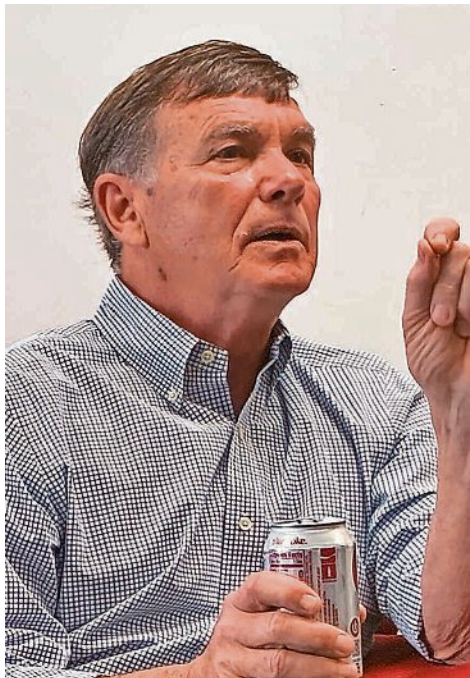
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The News Leader

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Political fallout intensifies



Sixth District candidates from left to right: Ken Mitchell, Ben Cline and Beth Macy. PHOTOS BY LYRA BORDELON/THE NEWS LEADER

Uncertainty in sixth district after court voids election results

Lyra Bordelon Staunton News Leader | USA TODAY NETWORK

The political fallout from the Supreme Court of Virginia's decision to void the results of the April 21 redistricting election continues. • Candidates in the Sixth Congressional District, currently represented by Republican Ben Cline, are once again deciding which district they will – or will not – run in. • So far, Beth Macy and Cline have confirmed they would run in the sixth district. What about the other candidates? • Meanwhile, Virginia Democrats are asking the Supreme Court to reconsider the Virginia court's decision.

Ken Mitchell rejoins the sixth district race

Ken Mitchell, the 2024 sixth district Democratic nominee who had intended to run in the redistricted seventh district before the Virginia Supreme Court decision, is back in the sixth. On May 8, his campaign posted a statement to social media confirming he was still in the race.

"The 6th Congressional District was and will still be my home," wrote Mitchell. "I love the people, communities, and culture that define the Alleghany Highlands and Shenandoah and Roanoke Valleys, and commit to fight for them just as I have up until now," said Mitchell. "Rural Virginia deserves a

champion, which is why I'm continuing my campaign to represent Virginia's 6th Congressional District in Congress."

He also lamented the court's decision, calling May 8 a "dark day for democracy in Virginia."

"The Supreme Court of Virginia has overridden the voice of millions of Virginians who voted in favor of the recent referendum," Mitchell wrote. "Though disappointed by this ruling, I am sadly not surprised. Powerful interests have from the beginning done everything possible to keep Republicans clinging to power in the House of Representatives,

See **ELECTION, Page 2A**

Two dead in Verona as sheriff's office investigates

Brad Zinn
Staunton News Leader
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office said it's investigating a double homicide after two people were found dead in Verona following a welfare check.

Shortly before 1:15 p.m. on May 11, authorities responded to the 700 block of Indian Mound Road and found an elderly man and woman, both deceased, a press release said.

The sheriff's office was asked to go to the property by family members to conduct a welfare check.

The Staunton-Augusta Rescue Squad, Verona Volunteer Fire Company, and Staunton Fire and Rescue responded to the scene to assist.

The Augusta County Sheriff's Office Criminal Investigations Division remains on scene and is actively investigating the incident.

See **HOMICIDE, Page 3A**

THE AGENDA

Proposed McIntosh Village to come before city council

Lyra Bordelon
Staunton News Leader
USA TODAY NETWORK

It's meeting week in the Staunton, Augusta County and Waynesboro area. Here's what's on THE AGENDA.

McIntosh Village comes to the Staunton City Council

In March, the Staunton Planning Commission reviewed a proposed housing development that could bring 267 new single-family homes to a 77-acre property between Middlebrook Avenue, the Shenandoah Heights neighborhood and the Green Spring Valley neighborhood.

The developer, Staunton Augusta Properties, also proposed common-area amenities, including a 2,000 square-foot patio with a fire pit, a gazebo with four picnic tables and benches, a playground with commercial-grade play equipment and walking trails.

Now that same project, McIntosh Village, is coming before the Staunton City Council for approval or denial on Thursday, May 14.

See **THE AGENDA, Page 6A**

Redistricting wars in uncharted waters

Susan Page
USA TODAY

The redistricting wars are raging. What happens next?

History provides little guidance, because never before has there been a cross-country campaign to redraw congressional districts at mid-decade and on the fly. But the repercussions, both immediate and far-reaching, are likely to bolster Republican prospects in the midterms, weaken the political middle, reduce minority representation in Congress and intensify the nation's polarization.

Texas Republicans, urged on by President Donald Trump, began the redistricting bidding last August. California Democrats responded in kind. And a U.S. Supreme Court ruling April 29 opened the floodgates even as the November elections loom.

See **REDISTRICTING, Page 2A**



Democratic State House Rep. Justin Pearson of Memphis marches to the Tennessee state capitol building in Nashville with demonstrators protesting efforts by the state's GOP leadership to redraw U.S. House districts. SETH HERALD/REUTERS

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