## Hokies hunt **NCAA** bid

Baseball team eyes 2nd berth in row sports, BI





# THE ROANOKE TIMES

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## Plant cited over 'forever chemical'

EPA takes action on W.Va. company tied to Roanoke Valley water contamination

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The Environmental Protection Agency has ordered a West Virginia chemical plant to curtail pollution from a contaminant that made its way into the Roanoke Valley's public drinking water.

ing a so-called forever chemical, cleaned the equipment. The Chemours Co. was cited for the Ohio River from its plant in Parkersburg.

years shipped industrial equipment from the same plant to a company in Elliston for cleaning. Wastewater containing GenX - aheat - and water-resistant compound used in the manufacture and find ways to reduce the levels. of many consumer goods – from the process was inadvertently

first enforcement action involv- to ProChem, the company that

Asked about that case Thurssaid a "significant amount of investigation and fact gathering" Separately, Chemours for seven is being conducted across a wide region.

As part of an agreement with the EPA, Chemours will take steps to analyze the amount of GenX released from its Parkersburg plant

per- and polyfluoroalkyl sub-

In what the EPA said was its the Roanoke River, according linked to health problems that taminants," Ortiz said. include liver, kidney and immune system complications. PFAS are also called forever chemicals beexcessive releases of GenX into day, EPA spokesman Roy Seneca cause they can linger for many years in the environment.

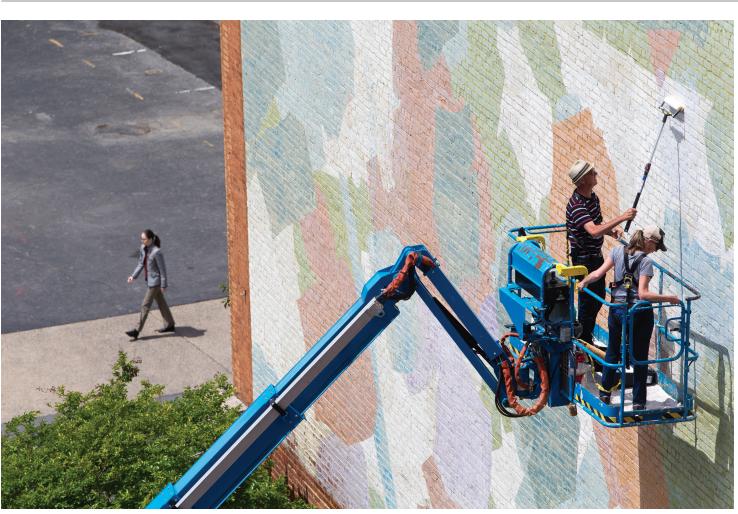
"The Parkersburg community has a long history with this facility and the ever-present threat of PFAS pollution," EPA Mid-Atlantic Regional Administrator Adam Ortiz said in an announcement of the enforcement action.

GenX — one of thousands of EPA will take action to safeguard public health and the environreleased into the South Fork of stances, or PFAS - has been ment from these dangerous con-

At what's known as the Washington Works plant, Chemours uses GenX in the manufacture of fluoropolymers, which can repel heat, oil and water and are common components of non-stick cookware, waterproof clothing, carpet, upholstery and other consumer products.

The company said in a statement that its products are also used in semiconductor manufac-"This order demonstrates that turing and in emerging technologies such as hydrogen production.

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**SCOTT P. YATES PHOTOS**, THE ROANOKE TIMES

### **REVIVING ART 'FORMS'**

Above: Artist Jack Fralin of Best Bet Arts & Media and his partner, Dana James, apply one of multiple coats of primer and sealer over Dorothy Gillespie's 1979 abstract mural "Accentuated Forms in Space" on the corner of 312 Second St. S.W. on Tuesday in Roanoke. Fralin and James will rise repeatedly in an 85-foot boom lift nearly 70 feet above the ground and across the 50-foot-wide mural to revive the piece to its original

**Right:** A reference photograph of Dorothy Gillespie in front of her



### Donham, whose words doomed Emmett Till, dies at 88

Till's 1955 lynching helped galvanize Civil Rights Movement

**EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS Associated Press** 

IACKSON, Miss. — The white **Donham** woman who accused Black teenager Emmett Till of whistling



vanized a generation of activ-Movement – has died at age 88.

sissippi and gal-

Carolyn Bryant Donham died in hospice

lynching in Mis-report filed Thursday in the Calcasieu Parish Coroner's Office.

Her death ends the last chance

Till's mother, Mamie Till Mo-Chicago so the world could see at and accosting her - which care Tuesday night in Westlake, her 14-year-old son's mutilated

caused his 1955 Louisiana, according to a death body, which was pulled from a river in Mississippi. Jet magazine published photos.

In August 1955, Till traveled for anyone to be held account- from Chicago to visit relatives ists to rise up in able for a kidnapping and brutal in Mississippi. Donham — then the Civil Rights murder that shocked the world. 21 and named Carolyn Bryant – accused him of making bley, insisted on an open-casket improper advances on her at funeral in their hometown of a grocery store where she was

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#### **SWVA WEATHER**

### April showers to lead into May

Soaking weather, perhaps more than 2 inches of rain are possible in some spots

riday will start wet across virginia, and even though the most consistent rain will end shortly after daybreak in Roanoke, several smaller showers



SUBLETTE

will move in and out until late afternoon. This will be the

largest soaking rain we have had in a while, between 1 to 2 inches as a first guess. But as is typical in these large storm

systems, there will be pockets of heavier rain mixed within the larger system, so more than 2 inches are a distinct possibility in a few locations before a much longer break in the rain comes later Friday evening.

In the counties and cities that border the east side of the Blue Ridge Parkway, rainfall totals are expected to be higher. The southeast wind bringing the rainfall will be forced up the eastern side of the mountains, leading to higher rain rates and the risk for some small-scale flooding of streams and creeks. Widespread flash flooding is not expected, as the ground has not been especially wet for the past several weeks, but along the stretch from Nelson to Floyd Counties, 3 to 4 inches of rain cannot be ruled out.

Saturday will be the quiet day between the two systems and the better day to be outside. Clouds will break for some sunnier periods, and the threat of rain - while not quite zero - isespecially low. Temperatures will return to the middle 70s in the afternoon, but the dance with the warmer and drier weather of Saturday afternoon will be short-lived.

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#### 2 wounded in separate **Roanoke shootings**

**Jerry Springer** dies at age 79

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