

Hokies hunt NCAA bid

Baseball team eyes 2nd berth in row **SPORTS, B1**



Festival in the Park

Roanoke tradition goes all-tribute with cover bands **EXTRA, B8**



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.

In what the EPA said was its first enforcement action involving a so-called forever chemical, The Chemours Co. was cited for excessive releases of GenX into the Ohio River from its plant in Parkersburg.

Separately, Chemours for seven years shipped industrial equipment from the same plant to a company in Elliston for cleaning. Wastewater containing GenX — a heat- and water-resistant compound used in the manufacture of many consumer goods — from the process was inadvertently released into the South Fork of

the Roanoke River, according to ProChem, the company that cleaned the equipment.

Asked about that case Thursday, EPA spokesman Roy Seneca said a "significant amount of investigation and fact gathering" 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 and find ways to reduce the levels.

GenX — one of thousands of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS — has been

linked to health problems that include liver, kidney and immune system complications. PFAS are also called forever chemicals because 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.

"This order demonstrates that EPA will take action to safeguard public health and the environment from these dangerous con-

taminants," Ortiz said.

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 manufacturing 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 colors.

Right: A reference photograph of Dorothy Gillespie in front of her mural.



SWVA WEATHER

April showers to lead into May

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

Friday will start wet across Virginia, and even though the most consistent rain will end shortly after daybreak in Roanoke, several smaller showers will move in and out until late afternoon.



SEAN SUBLETTE

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 — is especially 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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Donham, whose words doomed Emmett Till, dies at 88

Till's 1955 lynching helped galvanize Civil Rights Movement

EMILY WAGSTER PETTUS
Associated Press

JACKSON, Miss. — The white woman who accused Black teenager Emmett Till of whistling at and accosting her — which



Donham

caused his 1955 lynching in Mississippi and galvanized a generation of activists to rise up in the Civil Rights Movement — has died at age 88.

Carolyn Bryant Donham died in hospice care Tuesday night in Westlake,

Louisiana, according to a death report filed Thursday in the Calcasieu Parish Coroner's Office.

Her death ends the last chance for anyone to be held accountable for a kidnapping and brutal murder that shocked the world.

Till's mother, Mamie Till Mobley, insisted on an open-casket funeral in their hometown of Chicago so the world could see her 14-year-old son's mutilated

body, which was pulled from a river in Mississippi. Jet magazine published photos.

In August 1955, Till traveled from Chicago to visit relatives in Mississippi. Donham — then 21 and named Carolyn Bryant — accused him of making improper advances on her at a grocery store where she was

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2 wounded in separate Roanoke shootings

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Jerry Springer dies at age 79

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