

SPECIAL THANKS TO FRONT LINE WORKERS

The News & Advance

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SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2020

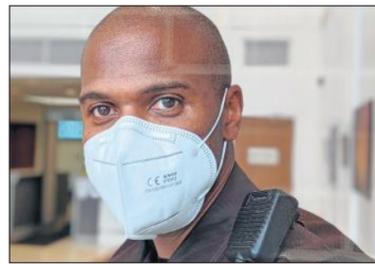
Vol. 155, No. 117, Our 153rd Year • Lynchburg, Va.



Joanna McDaniels, registered nurse



Jeremy Bryant, firefighter



Herman Brandon, sheriff's deputy



Carly Doby, paramedic and firefighter



Dr. Tom Wigboldy



K. E Young, police officer



Cherie Haskins, registered nurse



Isaac Long, registered nurse

OUR LIFELINES

To the essential workers on the front lines, we wish to pay tribute. Please join us as we salute a few of the Lynchburg-area workers who were in the field Friday, standing between us and this worldwide pandemic.

PHOTOS BY TAYLOR IRBY, RACHEL MAHONEY, JUSTIN FAULCONER AND NICK CROPPER



Louraine Stegall, registered nurse



Jennifer Broady, patient access



Andrew Turner, firefighter



Jessica Powell, paramedic



Capt. Justin Kidd, firefighter



Laurie Giudice, patient ambassador



Bryce Morcom, firefighter



Caleb Martin, police officer



Jerry Womack, fire chief



Lt. Tim White, sheriff's deputy



Mindy Merritt, physician assistant



Melissa Slayton, registered medical assistant

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<p>Clouds, some sun Weather, A12</p> <p>69° 46°</p>	<table border="0"> <tr> <td>AbbyD5</td> <td>LifestyleD1</td> <td>OpinionA9-11</td> </tr> <tr> <td>BooksD2</td> <td>Local & State B1</td> <td>Politics A7</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Classifieds C5, 6</td> <td>Lottery A2</td> <td>Scoreboard C2</td> </tr> <tr> <td>CrosswordD5</td> <td>Obituaries B2, 3</td> <td>SportsC1</td> </tr> </table>	AbbyD5	LifestyleD1	OpinionA9-11	BooksD2	Local & State B1	Politics A7	Classifieds C5, 6	Lottery A2	Scoreboard C2	CrosswordD5	Obituaries B2, 3	SportsC1	<p>Online: newsadvance.com Facebook: newsadvance Twitter: @newsadvance</p>	<p>\$2 DAILY \$3 SUNDAY</p> <p>Miss a paper? Call (434) 385-5440</p> <p>7 65161 50150</p>
AbbyD5	LifestyleD1	OpinionA9-11													
BooksD2	Local & State B1	Politics A7													
Classifieds C5, 6	Lottery A2	Scoreboard C2													
CrosswordD5	Obituaries B2, 3	SportsC1													

Stay in the know on COVID-19.

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This message has been made possible by the Centra Foundation.

The News & Advance

Vol. 155, No. 263, Our 153rd Year • Lynchburg, Va.

RUTH BADER GINSBURG | 1933-2020

Supreme Court Justice dies at 87

BY MARK SHERMAN
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON

Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg, a diminutive yet towering women's rights champion who became the court's second female justice, died Friday at her home in Washington. She was 87.

Ginsburg died of complications from metastatic pancreatic cancer, the court said.

Her death just over six weeks before Election Day likely is to set off a heated battle over whether President Donald Trump should nominate, and the Republican-led Senate should confirm, her replacement, or if the seat should remain vacant until the outcome of his race against Democrat Joe Biden is known. Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said late Friday the Senate will vote on Trump's pick to replace Ginsburg, even though it's an election year.

Trump called Ginsburg an "amazing woman" and did not mention filling her vacant Supreme Court seat when he spoke to reporters following a rally in Bemidji, Minnesota.

Chief Justice John Roberts mourned Ginsburg's passing. "Our Nation has lost

SEE GINSBURG | A3

Ruth Bader Ginsburg spent her final years on the bench as the leader of the court's liberal wing and became something of a rock star to her admirers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE



CENTRAL VIRGINIA TRANSPORTATION PLANNING ORGANIZATION

Long-range region plan adopted by board

Creates a more efficient, environmentally sensitive transportation system during the next 25 years

BY SARAH HONOSKY
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(434) 385-5556

The Central Virginia Transportation Planning Organization adopted its Connect Central Virginia 2045 Long Range Transportation Plan on Thursday.

This plan serves as a guide for the region in creating a more efficient, responsive and environmentally sensitive transportation system during the next 25 years, and represents the interests of the city of Lynchburg, the town of Amherst and urbanized portions of Amherst, Bedford and Campbell counties.

With an unprecedented amount of public input received earlier in the year, Scott Smith, CVTPO transportation planning director, said Wards Road, downtown Lynchburg, Timberlake Road and the much-discussed intersection at U.S. 501 and U.S. 221 garnered the most interest and feedback.

Smith said the almost 1,000 public comments received in January and February centered around these highly populated and often congested areas and aligned with a number of projects already underway or in development.

Some, such as the 501/221 intersection improvement, already have received funding and kick-off in the next several years. The long-awaited project is intended to relieve congestion and improve safety at the U.S. 221 intersection by splitting U.S. 501 into a one-way pair on either side of 221.

Smith said the notable increase in public comments likely was because of promotions done for the survey, as well as people's increased comfort in turning to online platforms to provide feedback.

SEE PLAN | A5

ELECTION2020

VOTING BEGINS

First day of early voting draws nearly 300 in Lynchburg



PHOTOS BY LEE LUTHER JR./FOR THE NEWS & ADVANCE

An afternoon line of voters wait their turn to make their candidate selections at the registrar's office on Kemper Street in Lynchburg on Friday. In-person early voting in the Hill City is being held at the registrar's office until Oct. 31.

BY RICHARD CHUMNEY
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Nearly 300 Lynchburg residents took advantage of Virginia's new early voting law Friday, becoming the first in the Hill City to cast a ballot in the 2020 presidential election.

At times a line of about a dozen people stretched outside the city registrar's office at Kemper Street Station. The first day of early voting in the state marked the first time voters could cast an early ballot without an excuse.

Lynchburg activist Farley Dickey, a former poll worker, was surprised to find a crowd of voters when she arrived to cast her ballot in the late afternoon.

"I've never seen anyone else in the

office voting at the same time as me," said Dickey, who regularly votes early. "When I saw a group of people outside, I was shocked."

Dickey said she was encouraged by the turnout. She said no-excuse in-person voting could help reduce the lines at the polls on Election Day and help election officials ensure enough physical distance between voters.

In-person early voting in the Hill City is being held at the registrar's office until Oct. 31. The office is open between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. every weekday and during the last two Saturdays before Election Day.

In all, 295 people voted Friday, according to General Registrar



Kim Conner has been the deputy registrar for 21 years in Lynchburg.

Christine Gibbons. In addition to coordinating early voting, election officials spent much of the day sending out mail-in ballots to voters who requested one.

Gibbons said her office has received between 6,000 and 7,000 ballot requests. She anticipates up to 10,000 city residents — or up to about one in five registered voters in the Hill City — ultimately will vote by mail this fall. In 2016, about 2,500 voted absentee.

Lynchburg NAACP President Carl Hutcherson, who has urged local residents to vote as early as possible, said the increase in ballot requests

SEE VOTING | A5

"When I saw a group of people outside, I was shocked."

— Farley Dickey, Lynchburg activist and former poll worker



Sunny, cooler
Weather, B8

65°
42°

Classifieds..... B6, 7	Lottery..... A2	Opinion..... A6
Comics..... B4, 5	Markets..... A8	Scoreboard..... B2
Crossword..... B5	Nation/World..... A7	Sports..... B1
Jumble..... B4	Obituaries..... A4	Sudoku..... B5



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NOW, WE WAIT

Record early vote leads to tranquil Election Day at polls



A demonstrator holds up a sign while waiting for election results at Black Lives Matter Plaza in Washington, D.C., on Tuesday.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Biden, Trump locked in tight races in the battleground states

BY JONATHAN LEMIRE, ZEKE MILLER, JILL COLVIN AND ALEXANDRA JAFFE
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump and Democratic challenger Joe Biden were locked in tight races in battleground states across the country Tuesday night as they concluded an epic campaign that will shape America's response to the surging pandemic and foundational questions of economic fairness and racial justice.

Trump won the key battlegrounds of Ohio and Iowa while Biden picked up Minnesota and New Hampshire, a pair of modest prizes that the president tried

SEE **WAIT** | A4

Early, absentee ballots could account for half of 2020 votes in Central Va.

BY RACHEL MAHONEY
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KENDALL WARNER/THE NEWS & ADVANCE

Cheryl Tucker votes with her son Kingsley, 9, by her side at Robert S. Payne Elementary School on Tuesday.

Though local vote counts are not yet over, it's clear turnout in 2020 surpassed 2016 levels in most of Central Virginia, with about half expected to come from early in-person and absentee voting.

Turnout for the 2016 presidential election averaged about 71% in the region, according to the Virginia Public Access Project — with 62.3% of Lynchburg residents voting on the low end and 75.1% of Bedford residents on the high end.

Voters across the political spectrum in

SEE **BALLOTS** | A5



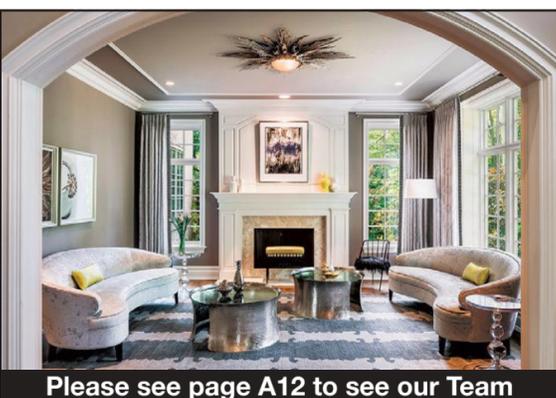
COVERAGE INSIDE

- **RESULTS:** Breakdown of how regional localities voted Tuesday | **A2**
- **5TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:** Too soon to call Good, Webb race | **A2**
- **LOCAL RACES:** Winners of town council races in Bedford, Amherst, Altavista | **A3**
- **AMENDMENTS:** Voters weigh in on redistricting referendum | **A4**
- **U.S. SENATE:** Sen. Mark Warner fends off GOP challenger Daniel Gade | **A5**

\$2 DAILY
\$3 SUNDAY

Plenty of sunshine **67°**
Weather, **B12** **40°**

LotteryA2
Obituaries...B6,7
Opinion.....A8
Sports.....B1
Markets.....B5



Please see page A12 to see our Team



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