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The News & Advance

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'Just hoping for something'



TAYLOR IRBY/THE NEWS & ADVANCE

Lynchburg Hillcats assistant general manager Matt Klein pressure washes in the stands at Bank of the James Stadium, previously known as City Stadium, in Lynchburg on Thursday.



THE NEWS & ADVANCE FILE

Jerry Fortuna (front row, from left), Betty Cauley, Norma Glass, Bill Jefferson (back left) and Pat Jefferson (back right) cheer during a 2018 Hillcats game. The group is made up of longtime and diehard fans who've cheered on the Hillcats for decades.

Hillcats fans await the return of baseball

By Emily Brown
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Between the cleaning, trying to fit pieces of her puzzle together and occasionally watching TV, Norma Glass fills her time with phone calls.

As she and friends connect about their lives, disappointment occasionally creeps in. The coronavirus pandemic, of course, has kept them and others away from the things they enjoy. So from time to time, their phone conversations turn to one thing they miss now especially.

"We bemoan the fact that we don't have baseball," said Glass, who this week became one of hundreds of thousands of Minor League Baseball fans who won't get to see their teams in action.

Major League Baseball was set to start more than two weeks ago, before COVID-19 brought the sports world to a halt. Last Thursday, Minor League Baseball joined the club when its Opening Day went by without a single pitch. The MiLB is on hold now, too.

Officials with the minor leagues have said they were hopeful for a June start date,

but Lynchburg Hillcats assistant general manager Matt Klein said last week July seems more plausible.

The Hillcats were supposed to have their home opener Monday. Glass had planned to make her way to the ballpark to watch her favorite team.

Instead, she'll be at her home.

"Still be stuck in the house, I guess," she said of her now-altered plans. "Just be staying at home wishing I was out there. But it is what it is."

SEE **HILLCATS** | A4

Richmond facility devastated by COVID's hidden spread and the delays in testing

By Michael Martz
Richmond Times-Dispatch

RICHMOND — The day after Canterbury Rehabilitation & Healthcare Center announced the first two deaths from COVID-19 at the skilled nursing facility in western Henrico County, Henrico emergency management officials said they

offered kits to test all of the residents and staff for the disease caused by the coronavirus.

It may not have mattered. Canterbury already had secured a newly approved rapid testing technology from the same Innsbrook-based technology company used by the county, but the push to test everyone in the stricken reha-

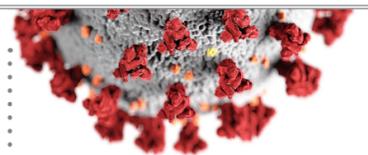
bilitation facility was stymied by then-current guidance from national and state public health officials to confine testing to those who showed typical symptoms of the disease.

"I don't think we understood at that point how much spread could be," said Dr. Danny Avula, director of the Henrico and

Richmond Health Districts, part of the Virginia Department of Health, who has worked closely with the center's medical staff since the first confirmed COVID-19 case there March 18.

Canterbury and health department officials realized the magnitude of the policy

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