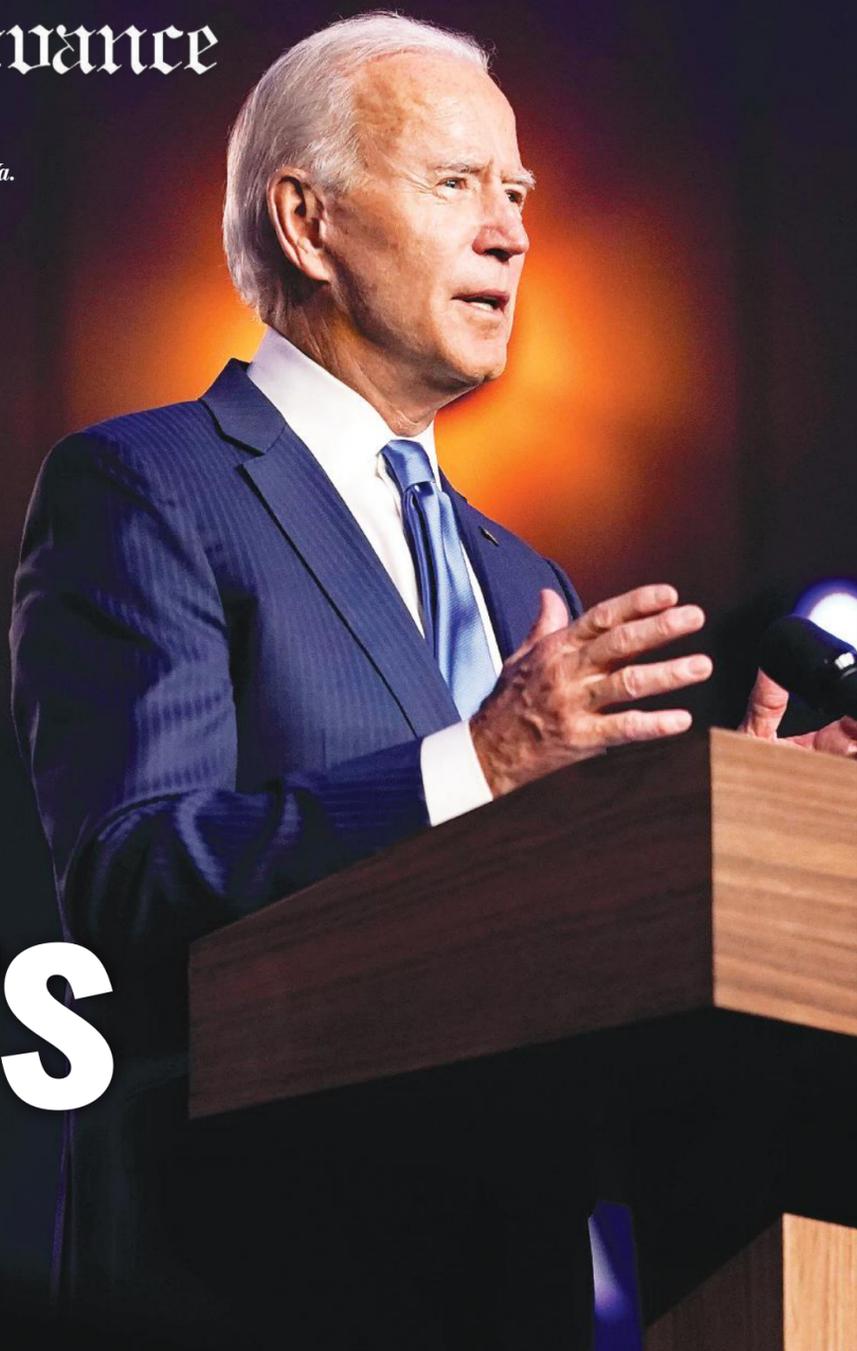


The News & Advance

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2020

Vol. 155, No. 313, Our 153rd Year • Lynchburg, Va.



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BIDEN DEFEATS TRUMP

Trump refuses to concede; Biden says it's time for the nation 'to unite and to heal'

BY JONATHAN LEMIRE AND ZEKE MILLER
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Democrat Joe Biden defeated President Donald Trump to become the 46th president of the United States on Saturday, positioning himself to be a leader who “seeks not to divide, but to unify” a nation gripped by a historic pandemic and a confluence of economic and social turmoil.

“I sought this office to restore the soul of America,” said Biden in a prime-time victory speech not far from his Delaware home, “and to make America respected around the world again and to unite us here at home.”

His victory came after more than three days of uncertainty as election officials sorted through a surge of mail-in votes that delayed processing. Biden crossed the winning threshold of 270 Electoral College votes with a win in Pennsylvania.

Trump refused to concede, threatening further legal action on ballot counting.

Biden, 77, staked his candidacy less on any distinctive political ideology than on galvanizing a broad coalition of voters around the notion that Trump posed an existential threat to American democracy. The strategy proved effective, resulting in pivotal victories in Michigan and

SEE **BIDEN** | A4

Some Lynchburg residents celebrate, some uncertain

BY SARAH HONOSKY
shonosky@newsadvance.com
(434) 385-5556

When the news broke Saturday afternoon that Joe Biden had been declared winner of the presidential election, some Lynchburg residents erupted in cheers. For others there was disbelief, and still, more remain uncertain that this is, in fact, the end.

Skepticism aside, as the Trump campaign continues to contest elections in several states, the mood at Monument Terrace Saturday afternoon in downtown Lynchburg was outright giddy, near euphoric.

A Biden 2020 flag was draped over the terrace, beside it a pride flag, and drivers blared their car horns through the in-

MORE INSIDE

- » Harris becomes first Black woman elected VP. **A2**
- » Americans gathered spontaneously on street corners and front lawns as an exhausting four-day wait for results came to an end Saturday. **A7**

tersection of Ninth and Church streets while the gathering crowd cheered. By 4:30 p.m. about 50 people were gathered, with more trickling in.

Speakers blasting, at one point, the entire group broke out in a spirited and seemingly endless rendition of the Cha-Cha Slide.

For many there was singular reprise: “I feel like I can breathe again.”

Misty Vinson-Spitzer arrived at the terrace in a flurry of hugs and teary-eyed greetings. She was there to celebrate with the rest of the group. The call for the celebration had gone out on liberal Lynchburg Facebook pages at around 1:30 p.m. There wasn't much design behind it, organizers said — they just wanted to dance.

“I am the mother of three children that identify with the LGBTQ community, and I have so many friends that deserve to just be happy. They don't want to infringe on anybody else's rights, they just want to live their own,” Vinson-Spitzer said.

“For me, it's not just about me, it's about our world. I'm

SEE **RESIDENTS** | A3

REAL ESTATE,
DESIGN, DECOR
WELCOME HOME

MORE THAN \$300 IN
COUPON SAVINGS
INSIDE TODAY



FLAMES
VICTORIOUS
OVER VIRGINIA TECH

SPORTS | C1



Clouds and sun
Weather, A12

76°
52°

AbbyD5 LifestyleD1 Opinion.....A9-11
BooksD2 Local & StateB1 PoliticsA7,8
Classifieds.....E1 Lottery.....A2 ScoreboardC2
Crossword.....D5 Obituaries.....B2,3 SportsC1



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PLAN YOUR WEEKEND

- » **Brooklyn Rider Quartet and harpist Maeve Gilchrist** to perform at the Academy on Saturday night
- » First woman to translate the 'Odyssey' to speak at Sweet Briar
- » Little Town Players present 'I Hate Hamlet' this weekend

IN THE BURG TODAY

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THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020

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CDC computer rendering of SARS-CoV-2

CORONAVIRUS AND VIRGINIA

HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

By Justin Mattingly
Richmond Times-Dispatch

The coronavirus outbreak across the world has come to Virginia. State health officials are announcing cases every day.

"The Virginia Department of Health, hospitals, and health care providers statewide continue to work with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to identify COVID-19 cases in the commonwealth," Dr. M. Norman Oliver, the state health commissioner, said in a statement. "Through a strategic, coordinated, statewide response, the commonwealth is well-prepared to respond to positive COVID-19 cases as they occur."

Here are answers to some common questions about the outbreak.

What is the coronavirus?

Coronavirus is a family of viruses that cause illness in animals and humans. The most recently discovered coronavirus started in Wuhan, China, in December, and the illness it causes is called COVID-19.

U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Alex Azar has declared a public health emergency. The number of cases in the U.S. was 936 as of Wednesday afternoon, according to the CDC, with more than 124,000 (and an estimated 4,500 deaths) around the world.

Gov. Ralph Northam said Wednesday Virginia is not under a state of emergency, but said state officials are

"prepared to do so if needed."

The World Health Organization classified the outbreak as a pandemic Wednesday.

What are the symptoms?

COVID-19 can produce flu-like symptoms such as fever, cough and shortness of breath. Older people are more susceptible to the virus.

Four in five people recover from the disease without needing special treatment, according to the WHO. Older people and people with underlying medical problems — high blood pressure or diabetes, for example — are more likely to develop serious illness.

How does it spread?

The virus spreads mostly through respiratory droplets produced when someone who is infected coughs or sneezes, according to the Virginia Department of Health.

What is the incubation period?

Symptoms appear, according to the CDC, within 14 days of someone being exposed to an infectious person.

What preventive steps can you take?

The Virginia Department of Health suggests the following:

- » Avoid close contact with people who are sick (the WHO said to stay 3 feet away from someone who is sick).
- » Don't touch your eyes, nose and mouth.

SEE **VIRUS** | A3

AREA COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES

» The **University of Virginia** announced Wednesday it is moving classes online "for the foreseeable future, quite possibly through the end of the semester."

» **University of Lynchburg** is extending spring break and classes will be conducted online. As of March 16, all scheduled events are canceled.

» **Randolph College** also is extending spring break.

» **Liberty University** is canceling study abroad trips.

» As of Wednesday night, **Sweet Briar College** and **Central Virginia Community College** have made no such announcements, though Sweet Briar has canceled a class trip to France.

» **Virginia Tech** announced all classes for the spring semester will be transitioned to web-based formats.

MORE INSIDE

» Genworth is asking its Lynchburg employees to work from home for the rest of the week. **A2**

» Trump puts limits on travel from Europe to U.S. for 30 days. **A7**

» Only essential staff and limited family allowed at NCAA tournaments. **B1**

ATLANTIC COAST PIPELINE

US court sides with ACP project

Deals blow to Nelson County in case addressing locality's power in permitting process

By Emily Brown
ebrown@newsadvance.com

A United States District Court judge ruled in favor of the Atlantic Coast Pipeline this week, dealing a blow to Nelson County in a fight over the locality's power in the ongoing permitting process for the natural gas project.

In a 24-page ruling and an accompanying order issued Monday, Judge Norman K. Moon, of the U.S. District Court's Western District of Virginia, said the ACP will not have to comply with Nelson County regulations governing floodplain crossings, bringing a sense of finality to an issue that has stretched on for more than a year. With the ruling, the company has cleared one hurdle to construct the pipeline in Nelson County.

The judge found the federal Natural Gas Act, "preempts" the requirements of Nelson County's floodplain ordinance, which had been updated about a year before issues arose between the county and pipeline company.

"Because the [Nelson County] Floodplain Regulations and their application through the [Board of Zoning Appeals] to deny [ACP's] variance request stands as a clear obstacle to the meaning and purpose of the [Natural Gas Act], it is therefore preempted as applied to the Atlantic Coast Pipeline," Moon's ruling reads.

Changes in the county's ordinance, passed in September 2017, required ACP to obtain variances to cross certain areas in the county because the pipeline — which is slated to cross 600 total miles in West Virginia, Virginia and North Carolina and is both over budget and behind schedule — would qualify as a "critical facility" not normally allowed to be built in a floodplain.

Of the 27 miles in Nelson County the ACP is slated to cross, the pipeline and access roads for the project would cross 4½ miles of floodplain areas.

In December 2018, the Nelson County Board of Zoning Appeals voted 3-2 to deny ACP variance requests for floodplain crossings. ACP shortly thereafter took the unprecedented step of suing the county — naming the Nelson County Board of Supervisors as a defendant — over the issue, marking the first and only time the company has sued a locality.

SEE **ACP** | A3

Mostly cloudy
Weather, B8 **69°**
59°

| | | | | | |
|------------------|-------|-------------------|-------|-----------------|----|
| 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, 5 | Sudoku..... | B5 |

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SUNDAY, APRIL 26, 2020

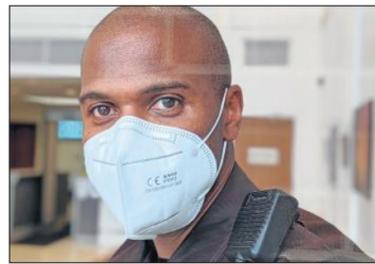
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Joanna McDaniels, registered nurse



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> |
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| CrosswordD5 | Obituaries B2, 3 | SportsC1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

Stay in the know on COVID-19.

If you are experiencing high fever, cough and shortness of breath, call our Coronavirus Care Line at **434.200.1225**. To stay up to date on all information, visit centrahealth.com/coronavirus.



This message has been made possible by the Centra Foundation.