The News & Advance

Black Friday shoppers are seen spending despite gloom around prices.

NATION & WORLD, PAGE A7





No. 21 Liberty has plenty to play for today when facing Missouri State.

SPORTS, PAGE B1

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VIRGINIA SUPREME COURT

Non-violent felon gun ban faces test

In case, justices question permanent disarmament

PETER DUJARDIN AND NORI LEYBENGRUB
The Virginian-Pilot

NORFOLK — The Virginia Supreme Court on Wednesday handed down a ruling that calls into question Virginia's lifetime gun ban for those convicted of non-violent felonies.

The high court did not entirely toss the state's restrictions on felons owning guns. But justices said the law was unconstitutionally applied to a Frederick County man, given that his prior felonies did not show him to be a danger to society.

As a result of Wednesday's ruling, experts said, charging a person with "possessing a firearm as a non-violent felon" will be more challenging for prosecutors. Defendants, the new ruling states, cannot be stripped of their gun rights unless a court concludes that they are a danger to others — such as by committing a violent crime.

"It's probably one of the most significant Supreme Court decisions from Virginia in recent history," said Mario Lorello, a Virginia Beach criminal defense lawyer and former prosecutor. "Because what it's doing it's fundamentally altering the way the Commonwealth can prosecute one of its most common felony offenses."

Please see **FELONS,** Page A3

LYNCHBURG



MATTHEW PERSCHALL, THE NEWS & ADVANCE

The Richard D. Apperson House, located at 1924 Rivermont Ave. in Lynchburg, is pictured Thursday, Nov. 19.

125 YEARS OF HISTORY

Historic Rivermont residence heads to auction Dec. 9

RACHAEL SMITH
The News & Advance

One of Rivermont Avenue's most architecturally distinctive historic residences is preparing to change hands, offering a rare opportunity to own a piece of Lynchburg's past.

The Richard D. Apperson House, located at 1924 Rivermont Ave., will be offered at a live and online auction on Wednesday, Dec. 9 at 11 a.m., by T&T Realty & Auction in partnership with Nicholls Auction Marketing Group, a news release states.

Constructed in 1901, the 125-year-old Queen Anne residence has witnessed generations of change in Lynchburg. Its story is intertwined with the city's early electric streetcar system, the growth of Rivermont as a premier residential neighborhood and the work of one of the region's most influential architects.

The residence was originally constructed for Richard D. Apperson, a prominent Lynchburg businessman associated with the city's street railway and electric-power industries.

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CAMPBELL COUNTY

Crafting of a draft zoning ordinance to move ahead

Some supervisors voice uncertainty about SMRs and Joshua Falls project

MARK HAND
The News & Advance

Campbell County is moving forward with crafting a zoning ordinance for a proposed small modular reactor (SMR) facility at the Joshua Falls site along the James River, with some supervisors more enthusiastic about the project than others.

Appalachian Power, a subsidiary of American Electric Power, wants to build small modular reactors at its Joshua Falls site in Campbell County. No commercial SMRs have been built in the U.S. yet.

At a board of supervisors work session meeting on Nov. 17, Spring Hill District Supervisor Kenny Brown said he would be "tickled to death" to have the first U.S. SMR built in Campbell County.

On the other side of the issue, Rustburg District Supervisor Jon Hardie said there are too many uncertainties about SMRs for the board of supervisors to allow them to be built through the creation of a new zoning code.

"The risks are very high," Hardie said. "There's not one in America."

Campbell County staff has proposed creating a new standalone zoning district called "SMR Zone" that would require companies to submit an application for a nuclear reactor that meets

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MONUMENT TERRACE

Rally a 'miracle of commitment'

25th year of weekly 'Support the Troops' assembly is marked

MARK HAND
The News & Advance

Lynchburg-area residents participated in the weekly "Support the Troops" rally at the footsteps of Monument Terrace on Friday, marking 25 years since the first rally was held in November 2001 as a counterprotest to locals demonstrating against the U.S. military attack on Afghanistan.

Twenty-five years ago, organizers of the troops rally, primarily military veterans, agreed to hold a second one a week later as a remembrance of the 60th anniversary of Japan's attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. And then the decision was made to continue holding them every Friday.

Lynchburg Area Veterans Council Vice President Steve Bozeman — a U.S. Marine Corps veteran who was awarded two Purple Hearts for his service in the Vietnam War — said at Friday's 25th anniversary rally that WLNI radio talk show host Mari White contacted him about organizing an event to support the troops.

Bozeman said he and his

Please see **TROOPS,** Page A3



MARK HAND, THE NEWS & ADVANCE

Veterans and their supporters stand at the base of Monument Terrace in Lynchburg on Friday to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the weekly "Support the Troops" rallies.

ALL ACCESS
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Weather
Partly sunny and pleasant
High: 60 **Low:** 33
Forecast: A8

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