



...votes during their official canvass set to begin this morning.  
 But new electoral member Mann wasn't willing to speculate how it would or could take for any results to be released.  
 For the Nov. 6, 2007 General Election, unofficial results from the election may take days rather than hours to tabulate.  
 Unofficial results will be posted on our web site at [virginiastar.net](http://virginiastar.net).

# VTC Grant Awarded for ECorridor Tech Building

**Lisa Watson McCarty**  
 Publisher

A new technology building in the county's eCorridor Park claimed the largest grant award at last Thursday's announcement of grant recipients by the Virginia Tobacco Commission.

The Scott County Economic Development Authority was awarded \$4.3 million to be used for a new technology building that will anchor the eCorridor Technology Park, adjacent to the new development created by Holston Medical Group's back-up medical data facility.

The new building will also be home to the Lenowisco Planning District offices as their building and site was sold to make way for the HMG project.

Members of the Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission presented replica checks totaling about \$16.7 million to Southwest Virginia localities and organizations. Funds presented on Thursday

were for educational, economic development and technology purposes.

The EDA also received an additional \$70,000 grant to pay for renovations at the Pioneer Center for Business Opportunity.

In Technology Grant Funds, Lenowisco was given \$3.588 million to continue its Fiber Backbone Geodesic Mesh in Lee and Wise Counties. Scott County Telephone Cooperative received \$900,000 to complete its fiber to the premises (FTTP) project in Gate City and Scott County.

The Southwest Virginia Community Development Foundation, Inc. was awarded \$50,000 for its proposed Performing Arts Center in Gate City.

Mountain Empire Community College received two grant awards from the educational category. A grant of \$120,000 will allow MECC to continue its popular AIMS High Scholars scholarship program for

tobacco families.

The college also received \$300,000 to begin a WorkForce Program for energy-related job preparation.

The biggest grant award went to Round the Mountain to build the Southwest Virginia Artisan Center on Exit 14 in Abingdon. The organization received \$6.15 million.

Other grants awarded in Southwest Virginia included: Town of Jonesville's Cumberland Bowl RV Park and Campground, \$250,000; Lee County IDA Industrial Building Acquisition, \$487,000; Oxbow Small Business Assistance Center Facility Improvement, \$5,000; Tazewell County's Bluestone Regional Business & Technology Center Project, Phase 1A, \$1.781 million; Virginia Intermont College, Retaining Higher Education Options in Southwest Virginia: The revitalization of Virginia Intermont College, \$400,000; Wise County

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## from Bench

treated. Under judicial procedure, both parties in the case should have taken part in such a call.

Shull admitted that he had decided a visitation dispute by tossing a coin. But he said he meant to encourage the litigants to settle it themselves by showing them that his decision would be as random as a coin toss.

With the coin-tossing, Shull "denigrated both the litigants and our justice system," the court said.

"A judge's act of tossing a coin in a courtroom to decide a legal issue pending before the court suggests that courts do not decide cases on their merits but instead subject litigants to games of chance in serious matters without regard to the evidence or applicable law," the court said.

"By directing [the woman] to lower her pants twice in the courtroom, Judge Shull ignored the dignity of a litigant who was not represented by counsel and who had a clear history of mental instability."

Such actions by a judge "impair public confidence in the integrity of the justice system," the court said.

In Shull appeared before the commission after a complaint was filed involving his conduct in a case with a teen-aged boy. The complaint made several allegations involving Shull's conduct.

## Former Mayor to Return to Jail

From staff reports

Gate City's former mayor who was convicted in an election fraud case that dates back to 2004 was supposed to report to jail Monday morning but health problem and an alleged prescription drug overdose forced him to seek medical care.

Last Thursday, Judge Charles B. Flanagan II of Bristol ordered Charles Dougherty Jr. to turn himself in on Monday, Nov. 5 at 10 a.m. to the Southwest Regional Jail in Abingdon to finish the remainder of his jail sentence.

Flanagan's order follows actions taken by the Virginia Circuit Court of Appeals who on Sept. 13, 2007, ordered

in the scheme to secure absentee votes.

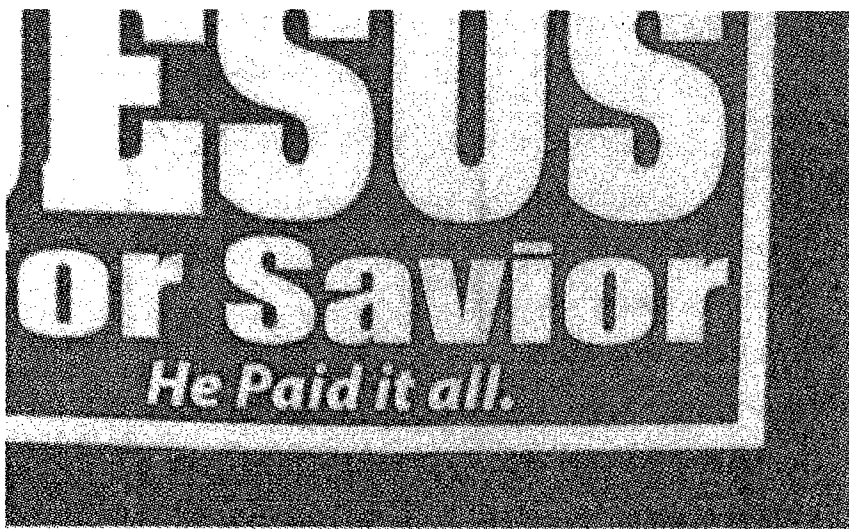
At Dougherty's final sentencing held in January, Flanagan agreed to defer the recommended jail term on six of the 13 counts after serving his sentence on seven charges if Dougherty served his term without incident.

Flanagan's sentence also included a 90-day period of house arrest following Dougherty's term on the seven counts. The remaining six charges will be reconsidered at that time. The retired judge from Bristol said the jury issued a message by recommending hefty fines in the case. A three-year post release



**Charles Dougherty Jr.**

Botetourt County Commonwealth's Attorney Joel



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 June Smith  
 al School Volunteer

Each year the Scott County Virginia Star recognizes and remembers the dedicated service provided by volunteers and veterans from Scott County in a special edition to be published November 14, 2007. Become a part of this

"We are forced to observe that Judge Shull did not heed the Commission's advice [in 2004] but has continued to demean litigants appearing before him. The misconduct before us in the present charges

The judges of the 30th Judicial District are expected to appoint an interim judge until a fulltime replacement can be appointed after the General Assembly returns for the 2008 session.

## VTC

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IDA, Lonesome Pine Technology Center, \$450,000; Wise County IDA, Appalachia America Energy Research Center, \$1 million; Farm Service Administration, Burley Region Economic Stabilization, \$500,000; Bristol Virginia Utilities, Southwest fiber routes, \$5.2 million; and Cumberland Plateau Company, Inc., Southwest Virginia Fiber Optic Backbone Phase III Funding Match, \$1.55 million.

The Virginia Tobacco Indemnification and Community Revitalization Commission is a 31-member body created by the 1999 General Assembly. Its

purpose is to make payments to farmers to compensate for the decline of tobacco quotas and to promote economic growth and development in tobacco-dependent communities.

To date, the Commission has invested more than \$408 million of grant funds in more than 925 tobacco region projects.

## MAYOR

From page 1

lems. The judge is expected to schedule a hearing on the proposed motion.

## Drivers Should be Aware of Deer on the Move

With the whitetail deer of Virginia entering the breeding season, motorists should be cautiously aware of their movement during this time of year.

From July 1, 2004 until June 30, 2005, Virginia ranked seventh in states with highest number of crashes involving deer. State Farm Insurance rank Virginia 12th in the likelihood of a collision with a deer.

"We want motorist to be aware of the potential of deer crashes during this time of year and provide them with the information that will aid them in the possible prevention of such a crash occurring" said Janet Brooking, Executive Director of Drive Smart Virginia.

These creatures, both male and female, are very unaware of vehicles on the roadways when their animal instincts come into play. Their movements increase and you should be on high alert during dusk and early evening and pre-dawn to mid-morning. Most deer stay within a one-mile radius, but they may venture further in search of members of the opposite sex, food or water. Also remember that deer roam in herds, so where you see one deer, others will be close by.

Here are tips that motorist should remember:

Drivers should keep their headlights on high beam unless they are meeting another vehicle and keep an ever watchful eye on the edges of the woods and fields next to the highway.

If a deer is seen entering your vehicle's path, apply brake without locking the brakes. You can lose traction and brakes.