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METRO & virginia

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SMOKING TRENDS



EVA RUSSO/TIMES-DISPATCH

VCU students Jordan Magalis of Front Royal and Mike Walsh of Petersburg (right) are regulars at the hookah bar at Sahara near campus.

Health and hookahs

As the use of water pipes grows in college towns across U.S., some question their safety

BY JILL SAKAI
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

Smoking tobacco with a hookah is catching on in the U.S. despite a lack of information about potential health effects.

Hookahs, traditional Middle Eastern water pipes, are becoming increasingly popular among young Americans. Hookah bars and cafés are popping up in cities and college towns across the country, including Richmond, Charlottesville and Fairfax County. Many users view hookah smoking as a safe and relaxing activity.

"It's a social thing," said Jordan Magalis, 20,

a student at Virginia Commonwealth University, as she enjoyed a hookah with friends at Sahara Mediterranean restaurant. "It's like a special occasion."

Along with its exotic allure, hookah use may present an underestimated and growing health risk.

In a hookah, charcoal indirectly heats a bowl of tobacco, and the smoke generated passes through water in the bottom of the pipe. Smokers inhale the smoke through a long hose attached to an air chamber above the water.

Hookah smoke differs from cigarette smoke because the tobacco burns at a lower temperature. Water in the pipe also cools and moisturizes the smoke.

These differences create what hookah users say is smoother and less-irritating smoke. But experts say these differences also lead to the common but mistaken belief that hookah smoke is less harmful than cigarette smoke.

Comparing smoking hookahs with ciga-

Hookahs vs. cigarettes

A major difference between hookahs and cigarettes is the amount of smoke exposure. An average cigarette smoker takes 10 puffs over five minutes and inhales just over a pint of smoke. In a recent study in Lebanon, hookah smokers took about 100 puffs over 45 minutes and inhaled an amount of smoke equivalent to 25 2-liter bottles — like smoking 100 cigarettes in a row.

rettes, Magalis said: "I don't feel as guilty. There's no chemicals in it, it's just tobacco."

However, recent studies show the perception of safety is unfounded and misleading.

VCU pharmacologist Thomas Eissenberg collaborates with researchers in the Middle East to study tobacco use and dependence, in-

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You, too, can help prevent flooding B3

At least 25 vehicles vandalized near Maymont B3

Families upset with program

Some parents of birth-injured kids argue for place at planning meetings

BY BILL MCKELWAY
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

Families that were promised lifetime medical care for their catastrophically injured children say they are being left out of key meetings that could determine the compensation program's future.

More than \$125 million short of cash, according to financial studies, and dependent on legislative action to increase income, the state's 18-year-old Birth-related Neurological Injury Compensation Program is at a crossroads.

But some families assert that decisions affecting the program's future are hobbled by conflicts of interest, that families already are losing benefits and that the program has focused more on obstructing children's entry into the program than on addressing the program's long-term health.

In a letter signed by more than a dozen families and being sent to Gov. Timothy M. Kaine this week, the parents argue that they were not notified until recently of long-planned meetings among health-care providers and insurers about the program's future.

The first meeting was held June 7 and attended by about two-dozen lobbyists and health-care executives, including administrators from the birth-injury program. The next meeting is tomorrow.

"We are coming to you for your help, guidance and assistance in constructing and enacting legislation that is in the interests of the children," the letter to Kaine states.

Parental criticisms of the program have been longstanding but don't necessarily reflect a consensus; some

SEE PROGRAM, PAGE B4 ▶

Best gift for one dad: Make him a grad

Families give fathers their due with treats, games and great gifts

BY AARON KREMER
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

Earlie Hayes Lanier may just be the oldest to ever receive a Henrico County diploma.

Sharply dressed and accompanied by daughter Paige Chargois, who didn't forget the green cap and gown, the 90-year-old Lanier received an honorary high school di-

ploma at the Fifth Baptist Church Father's Day service.

"I know fathers are sick and tired of ties, so I tried to honor him," Chargois said.

Born in 1915, Lanier had to give up school in the fifth grade to help his parents work cotton, corn and peanut farms.

However, the value of education was not lost on the dropout.

"I never heard him split a verb," Chargois said. "He put both kids through college and valued education."

Lanier served in the Richmond PTA during desegregation and

worked most of his life for Reynolds Metals Co.

Lanier said he is pleased to finally receive a diploma but not much concerned about what good it can do him now.

Lanier's diploma ceremony was one of countless Father's Day celebrations taking place.

At Bev's Homemade Ice Cream in Carytown, Mike Wholey treated his two daughters — one of whom attends Virginia Commonwealth University — to ice cream before returning to Yorktown to watch the U.S. Open golf tournament on television. "No one would come see me if I

didn't come up here," Wholey joked.

The Richmond Braves' matinee attracted out-of-towners, too. "We came down to a game on Mother's Day, so here we are on Father's Day, too," said John Allwine, who came from Dahlgren.

The Walkers came up from Chase City. "We're just big baseball fans and big Atlanta Braves fans," said Frances Walker, at the game with her husband, Skinner, and their daughter, Jill. "It was actually my daughter's idea to come up for Father's Day," she said.

Contact staff writer Aaron Kremer at akremer@timesdispatch.com or (804) 649-6495.



AARON KREMER

Richmonder Luis Herrerah enjoys Father's Day at Byrd Park with his son, Kevin, 3, and daughter, Jacqueline, 5.

An apology for slavery should flow from the source: Virginia

FARMVILLE
Born white in segregation-era Virginia's heart of darkness, Ken Woodley seems miscast as an ardent advocate for a national slavery apology.

But Woodley, the crusading editor of The Farmville Herald, which once championed Massive Resistance, says his is not a story of redemptive transformation.

"I've never had an epiphany," says Woodley, 49. "I can never remember not feeling like this. Never, ever."

Woodley displays his idealism on the walls and bookshelves of his cluttered office, from the images of musicians who inspire him — Bruce Springsteen, Miles Davis and The Beatles — to a message that reads, "Do not go where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail."

For Woodley, his pen is less a sword

than a machete, whacking away at injustice and carving trails to racial reconciliation.

"If we're not going to use the pen as a sword" — he shook his head — "why are we in the business?"



MICHAEL PAUL WILLIAMS

presidential aspirant George Allen, who embraced the idea as "powerful" before equivocating.

Why the historical resistance to an apology?



2004. P. KEVIN MORLEY/TIMES-DISPATCH

"If we're not going to use the pen as a sword, why are we in the business?"

KEN WOODLEY

"For some whites, there's guilt, discomfort. For politicians, there's fear of being held accountable," Woodley said.

But, "there is no legitimate reason. And it boggles my mind that people talk

of having to build a consensus in Congress before moving forward. I don't understand why people can't simply say, 'I'm sorry.'"

For Woodley, remorse alone is not enough. An apology should be followed by reparations in the form of a Marshall Plan directed at black America, he says. Such a plan would provide additional investments in health care, education and economic-development opportunities for black Americans.

What of the folks who argue that the need for an apology ended when the last slave died?

"We are still living in the midst of the repercussions of slavery," Woodley said. "We were born into it. Racism, segregation, Massive Resistance. . . . The evils of slavery gave birth to other evils, and those evils still live today."

Woodley was born in Farmville but spent most of his formative years in Richmond. He attended various Richmond public schools before graduating from Douglas Freeman High School in Henrico County.

He moved on to Hampden-Sydney, "the only college that accepted me." But he wasn't aware that Prince Edward County had closed its schools for five years, rather than integrate, until he began working at The Farmville Herald in 1979.

"I went to college six miles down the road," Woodley said. "Nobody said a word."

Several years ago, Woodley was instrumental in establishing the state's \$2 million Brown v. Board of Education Scholarship Program, which provides education money for Virginians victimized by school closings in Prince Edward and other locales.

For Woodley, a man guided by his faith and an unwavering belief in journalism as a pulpit, his current crusade makes perfect sense.

"Slavery flowed from Virginia," he said. "The healing and apology should flow from Virginia to the rest of the nation."

Contact staff writer Michael Paul Williams at mwilliams@timesdispatch.com or (804) 649-6815.



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Governor Kaine's decision to delay Percy Walton's execution for six months may not be personal, but I ask, *what's the point?* If all you need to do is satisfy whether the condemned understands the severity of his punishment, simply put him to the test. Strap this genius in a chair, attach him to the most advanced polygraph monitoring equipment, and then play a sequence of projection movies starting with the good old days, and ending with carnage and execution. Throw in a bag of popcorn, and analyze that.

— **Edward K. Johnston Jr., Midlothian**

Immigrants in U.S. military. Where have you been? This is not a new topic. While working at Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., in the '60s, there were U.S. soldiers from both Cuba and the Philippines who were in the military and would become U.S. citizens.

— **Fran Altman, Chester**

I'd like to thank all the policemen in the area for doing a good job in spite of controversy they encounter from time to time. Where would civilization be without law enforcement?

— **Rick Parker, Richmond**

Mr. Jay Miller of Glen Allen is correct. English is this country's official language. Does he think we should dial 1 in order to speak in our native language? It is insane for an American in America to have to dial any number to converse in our native tongue.

— **Arthur Bennett, Chesterfield**

It is great that the Markel Building near Willow Lawn is being recognized as a historic structure but it is also a great design for a building. Most buildings are just rectangular boxes and this one adds some spice to the area. But the quote "I am not ahead of my time. Everyone else is just standing still," by Haigh Jamgochian is great and more of us need to live by it. Thanks, Mr. Jamgochian, for what you have done and hopefully someone will get you to design another building soon.

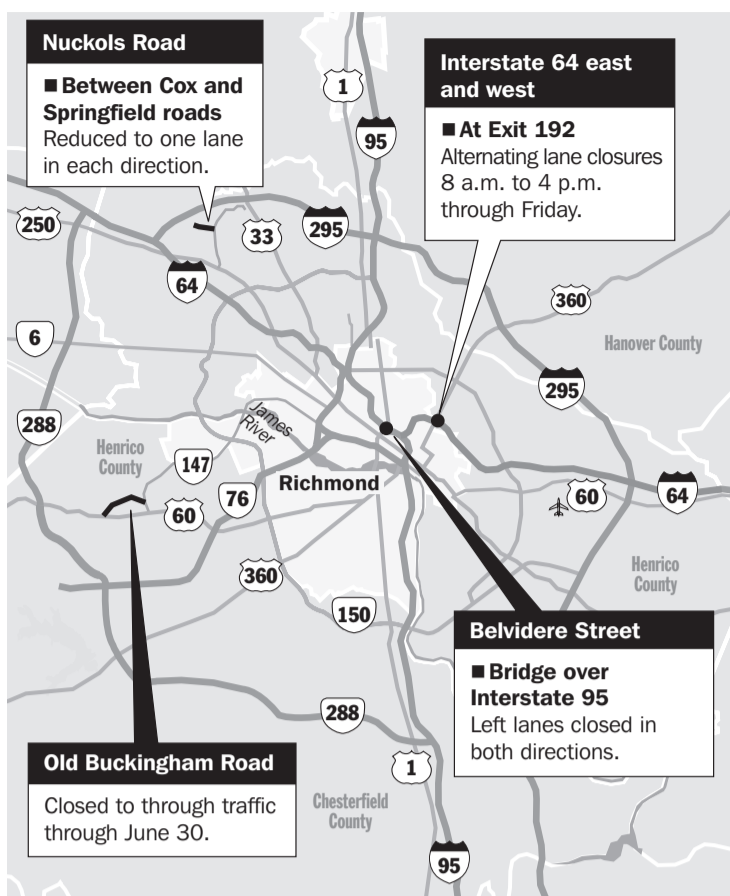
— **Steve Burton, Glen Allen**

Upon hearing of the motorcycle accident of Ben Roethlisberger, I am saddened. His injuries are complicated due to him not wearing a helmet. Being well-off and talented — blessed. Listening to people like Del. Bill Janis who advocates not wearing one and taking unnecessary risks with your life — priceless. Money is not a substitute for common sense. Remember, your life is not always about you, it's also about family and friends.

— **Ron Melancon, Glen Allen**

Back to the concern about the location of the Museum of the Confederacy and its invisibility and inaccessibility. I walk around downtown Richmond and notice that all those nice directional signs that lead tourists to other attractions do not include the White House of the Confederacy. My suggestion is, because I think that moving it is not the proper solution, is to put canopies or arches or something over the street at 10th and Clay, 11th and Broad and 10th and Marshall; to make it easier for tourists to find it. And to certainly add it to the signs that are already in existence that are pointing people to the State Capitol and the Virginia State Library, and other things such as that. I think that's the least we could do.

— **Phil Wallace, Chesterfield**



TIMES-DISPATCH

City tries to keep storm drains clear

Q. Do you want to learn how to swim? Well, come to 24th and M streets on a rainy day. The sewer on the northeast corner is always stopped up.

— **E.W.**

A. Surely you exaggerate. They don't actually offer swimming lessons, do they?

I mentioned the problem to Britt Drewes of the city's Public Works Department. She said that crews from her department are cleaning storm-water basins in the area once a month. "This helps keep the basins clear of the debris that can cause clogs," she said. "It also serves as a reminder to urge folks to throw their trash away in designated cans. Often we find these basins are filled with litter." So I think I'll pass on the swimming lessons.

Q. When you're traveling west on Laburnum Avenue at the A.P. Hill statue, it's very hard to see oncoming traffic when you are trying to make a left turn onto Hermitage Road. Trees with low branches block the view.

— **David M.**

A. Good news. The city is currently pruning all city trees along Laburnum. "We started slightly farther west than the A.P. Hill statue but should be there to prune those particular trees back within the next week," said

Drewes.

Let me know if you don't see an improvement. And especially let me know if you don't see the traffic.

Q. When driving east or west on Interstate 64 and getting off at Staples Mill Road, the signs all say east or west to Staples Mill. The problem is, that you actually go north or south on Staples Mill. (I understand that farther north the road does turn.) I have to get off I-64 at this exit every couple of months and have gotten off going in the wrong direction 90 percent of the time, thereby having to find a place to turn around. Can you find out why they can't get this right or at least say "north/east" or "north/west"? It's very upsetting.

— **Mary F.**

A. I can find out why. But the Virginia Department of Transportation doesn't want to change the signs, unfortunately.

"Staples Mill Road does go north/south when it runs through Richmond," said VDOT's Dawn Eischen. "However, Route 33 is primarily an east/west road. It begins in Gloucester County and continues west through Rockingham County into West Virginia. There are no plans to change the signs to say north/south because it would not be consistent with the direction of the road throughout the rest of the state."

Traffic alert: Expect heavy traffic on roadways near Richmond International Raceway during the SunTrust Indy Challenge IRL IndyCar Series events on Saturday, June 24.

• Got a question for Street Beat? Contact Patrick Owens at streetbeat@timesdispatch.com or (804) 649-6802

Hookahs

— **FROM PAGE B1**

cluding hookahs. They have found that hookah smoke contains high levels of carbon monoxide, tar, nicotine and cancer-causing substances.

Some hookah users believe the water in the pipe filters harmful compounds out of the smoke. On the contrary, Eissenberg said. "If you're smoking a water pipe, there's no reason to believe that you're safe from things like carbon monoxide and carcinogens."

Eissenberg plans to examine the components of hookah smoke and what ends up in users' bodies. He also wants to directly compare effects of smoking cigarettes and hookahs and whether hookah use is addictive.

The growing numbers of hookah establishments and their college-age customers have the atten-

tion of Virginia's universities, said Shawna Shields of the Virginia Department of Health's Tobacco Use Control Project. Researchers at VCU and University of Virginia are working to assess hookah use among their students.

Museif Alloush, manager of the Sahara restaurant, said his hookah-seeking customers are mostly students and that their numbers are increasing as word spreads.

Hookah tobaccos used in the U.S. are usually sweetened and flavored with essences of fruit, vanilla, coffee or mint to broaden their appeal, especially to women and nongregarious smokers.

The bottom line, Eissenberg said, is that users need more information to evaluate hookah safety.

"It's not that people are ignorant of the risks. It's that we don't know a lot of the risks."

• Contact staff writer Jill Sakai at jsakai@timesdispatch.com or (804) 649-6341.

Vehicles damaged near Maymont Park

Richmond police are asking for the public's help to catch whoever vandalized at least 25 cars in the Randolph neighborhood early yesterday.

Capt. Steve Drew said 25 to 30 vehicles in the neighborhood, near Maymont Park and the banks of the James River, had their windows shattered by pellets shot from a BB gun between midnight and 6 a.m.

Damaged vehicles were reported on the 500 and 600 blocks of South Davis and South Allen avenues and the 900 to 2400 blocks of Rosewood and Idlewood avenues, he said.

Other damaged vehicles were reported on Dakota Avenue, Kan-

sas Avenue, Hampton Street, Colorado Avenue, Texas Avenue and Addison Street, Drew added.

Officials yesterday did not have an estimate on the amount of damage that was caused.

Drew said police do not regard the vandalism as a prank. "It's a very serious crime in nature," he said, "and that's how we plan to address it."

Officers canvassed the area for witnesses yesterday. Police ask anyone with information about the vandalism to call the Richmond Police Department's 3rd Precinct at (804) 646-1211 or CrimeStoppers at (804) 780-1000.

— **Julian Walker**



ERIC DOBBS

Scott Wichmann is Grumio and Susan Sanford plays Kate in "The Taming of the Shrew" at the Richmond Shakespeare Festival.

A modern and witty take on Shakespeare's 'Shrew'

Festival's energetic production sparkles with imagination

BY SUSAN HAUBENSTOCK
SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

There are many things to love about Richmond Shakespeare Festival's "The Taming of the Shrew": a warm night, beautiful Agecroft Hall, the company's determination to mine every ounce of humor in the play. And then there's the juicy fun of watching Susan Sanford and Foster Solomon — real-life spouses and forceful actors — having a ball as Kate and Petruchio.

You might quibble with "Master of Play" Anthony Luciano's choice to set the comedy, inexplicably, in 1919, but that's what gives "Master of Costume" Rebecca Cairns the opportunity to dress the cast in knickers, argyle

and spats. Or maybe the real reason for picking 1919 is to have an excuse for Sanford to enter in jodhpurs and boots, carrying a riding crop and wearing a necktie.

Sanford makes a smashing impression in that getup. Her Kate is a modern woman, thoroughly self-possessed, with a wicked spirit. Solomon does a wonderful job of projecting Petruchio's power while letting us see his moments of doubt. And the pair's terrific chemistry makes Kate's about-face into submission entirely believable, even romantic, even if you're a feminist.

THEATER REVIEW
THE TAMING OF THE SHREW

BY: Richmond Shakespeare Festival at Agecroft Hall, Courtyard Theater, 4305 Sulgrave Road
WHEN: Through July 9
TICKETS: \$13-\$23
INFO: (866) BARD-TIX or bardtix.org

As is customary for Richmond Shakespeare, the approach to verse is laced with humor and heavy on the double entendre. "Master of Verse" Gary McCown has coached the actors into precise diction and clarity. All the comic elements are ratcheted up — especially the irresistible clowning of Scott Wichmann as Petruchio's servant, Grumio. Luciano misses no opportunity to go for the laughs, including having Kate bite Petruchio's side and kneel him in the groin.

Andrew Hamm, who adds music to the production in imaginative ways, also gives an able supporting turn as Hortensio, a suitor of Amber Wiley's Bianca, and Matt Polson is appealing as Lucentio. Tony Foley makes a clever Tranio, and Freddy Kauffman is all-out funny as Gremio, another competitor for Bianca's hand. In all, 13 actors take on 23 roles, in the tradition that harks back to Elizabethan times, and they do so with competence and great energy.

IN BRIEF

FROM STAFF REPORTS

ArtsFund grants

ArtsFund, an annual campaign organized by the Arts Council of Richmond to collect contributions for the arts from businesses and employees, is handing out more than \$350,000 to a total of 18 arts and cultural organizations.

The largest amount, \$94,176, is going to the Richmond Symphony, followed by the Richmond Ballet with \$55,008 and the Visual Arts Center of Richmond with \$40,148.

Other recipients of the ArtsFund grants include Theatre IV

(\$38,734), Virginia Opera (\$30,860), New Virginia Review (\$19,339), Barksdale Theatre (\$16,732), Latin Ballet of Virginia (\$13,946) and the Virginia Holocaust Museum (\$10,215).

Also receiving grants are SPARC (\$8,684), 1708 Gallery (\$4,286), Encore! Theatre Company/Richmond Shakespeare Festival (\$3,000), Firehouse Theatre (\$3,000), Richmond Jazz Society (\$3,000) and Neighborhood School of the Arts (\$3,000).

In addition, ArtsFund is giving \$4,000 project grants each to the Cultural Arts Center at Glen Allen, One Voice Chorus and the Richmond Boys Choir.

Spending in state

The film and video industry

spent a record amount of money, more than \$104 million, in Virginia in 2005, the governor's office has announced.

The bulk of the amount, \$40 million, came from television productions, including building the sets for the yet-to-be-filmed HBO miniseries "John Adams" and the pilot for the ABC series "Commander in Chief," which was shot in Richmond.

Video programming, commercials and postproduction work also accounted for large percentages of the film and video industry's spending.

But it was a slow year for movies shot in Virginia. "Mission: Impossible III" and Clint Eastwood's upcoming "Flags of Our Fathers" each spent a few days in the state; the total amount spent by feature film projects was just \$4 million.

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Richmond, VA — A new report has been released that reveals the science behind the NASA discovery for the treatment of neck and low back pain. This FDA approved medical technology has an 86% success rate for treating debilitating back pain without surgery, even with multiple herniated discs. Find out why astronauts do not have back pain and how a NASA discovery has led to the most promising sciatica and herniated disc treatment today. For your free report entitled, "How Space Age Technology Is Solving Back Pain Without Drugs Or Surgery!" call 1-800-275-8106 and listen to the toll-free 24 hr. recorded message or on the web at www.damageddiscreport.com.

You Can Change Your Life. . .

Ray & Madge unlocked the door to a changed life for me. Not only did I lose weight but drastically changed my body composition. — Jan Makela

I lost 35 lbs. 2 years ago and have kept it off. This has been an easy lifestyle that not only makes sense - it works! — Kristen Maniscalco

Thanks to EZHI I feel like I have the metabolism I had when I was 18. Not only did I lose 24 pounds, but I greatly improved my blood pressure and cholesterol. — Marc Galt

Act now. Schedule your assessment for the July 19th Weight Management Class. The first 30 people who register receive \$75.00 off the cost of the program.

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