

VIRGINIA

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STATE BRIEFS

FROM WIRE AND STAFF REPORTS

Lynchburg, Norfolk veterans to get clinics

WASHINGTON — The Department of Veterans Affairs plans to open new outpatient clinics in Lynchburg and Norfolk.

The Lynchburg clinic will serve roughly 5,300 patients and will have 25 staff members.

"For too long our central Virginia veterans have been forced to travel long distances to other facilities to receive treatment and medication," said Rep. Robert W. Goodlatte, R-6th, in a statement with Rep. Virgil H. Goode Jr., R-5th.

The Norfolk clinic will serve about 6,300 patients and will have 34 staff members.

Dale Chapman, adjutant of the American Legion's Virginia Department, applauded "good news for the Virginia veterans."

The American Legion has 57,000 Virginia members. More than 750,000 veterans live in the state.

No mechanical woes found in Learjet crash

GROTON, Conn. — The Learjet that crashed in heavy fog into Long Island Sound on June 2, killing two Virginia men, had no mechanical problems, according to a preliminary report released yesterday by the National Transportation Safety Board.

The plane was making an instrument-guided approach to Groton-New London Airport when it hit three light poles in the water near the runway, according to the report.

Killed were Robert Janule, 59, of Hampton and Michael Kiser, 55, of Suffolk, who were at the plane's controls when it crashed. Three passengers were injured.

Visibility on the water was limited to about 15 feet because of fog, according to another witness interviewed by the NTSB.

Janule and Kiser were veteran pilots and certified instructors.

Office mix-up cited in mistaken cremation

FRANCONIA, Va. — The Maryland medical examiner's office mixed up the bodies of two drowning victims, resulting in the wrong man being cremated, officials said yesterday.

John E. Walker, 48, and William M. Heislup, 47, both of Arlington, drowned June 17 in the Potomac River near Oxon Hill, Md., after apparently falling out of their bass boat, authorities said.

After their bodies were sent to the medical examiner's office in Baltimore, their identities were mixed up, officials with the office said.

Heislup's family discovered the mistake Wednesday at a viewing when they discovered Walker's body in a casket intended for Heislup.

Walker's remains were to be cremated.

Ex-nurse pleads guilty to drug embezzlement

DANVILLE — A former Danville Urologic Clinic nurse pleaded guilty Thursday to charges that she embezzled drugs.

Amy Digman Dodson, 37, pleaded guilty in Danville Circuit Court to 12 felony charges of obtaining drugs by embezzlement and 26 misdemeanor charges of adulterating/misbranding a drug. Dodson will not be prosecuted on an additional 41 felony charges.

Danville Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney Leslie McCann said in court that Dodson's crimes began in late May 2004 and were uncovered in late September 2004.

Defense attorney John Edwards said his client had been suffering from serious pelvic pain and was under the care of a gynecologist at the time of her crimes. He said she used the clinic's morphine because the pain medication that she had been prescribed was not sufficient.

Dodson's case had been scheduled as a two-day jury trial to begin Thursday. She will be sentenced Aug. 29.

Police seek wounded suspect

Authorities say his leg was injured Tuesday in Fredericksburg shootout

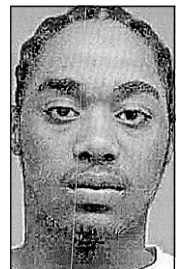
BY KIRAN KRISHNAMURTHY
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

FREDERICKSBURG — Police were looking last night for an injured suspect who displayed a handgun as detectives approached his car while investigating an earlier shootout.

Ricky Edmonds, 18, is believed to have been injured in a Tuesday shootout at the Heritage Park apartment complex in Fredericksburg, said police spokesman Jim Shelhorse.

Officers found shell casings from

two weapons in different locations, two vehicles that had been shot, and a trail of blood leading from the parking lot into an apartment and out a rear window. But everybody was gone, Shelhorse said.



Edmonds

On Thursday, detectives were back at the complex after learning that one of the injured shooters was in the area in a late-model gold-colored rental car. As detectives approached the vehicle, Shelhorse said, Edmonds brandished a handgun and the vehicle sped from the parking lot.

A female passenger in the car could

be heard screaming, "It's the police. Stop," police said. She jumped out of the vehicle while it was moving and was struck by the car but refused medical help, police said.

Police said Edmonds, who has a gunshot wound to his right leg, should be considered armed and dangerous. Police also are looking for the driver, a 26-year-old woman they identified as Disha Lashley.

Anyone with information on the suspects is asked to call Fredericksburg Crime Solvers at (540) 372-1055. A reward of up to \$1,000 is available for information leading to their arrest. All information is kept confidential.

• Contact staff writer Kiran Krishnamurthy at kkrishnamurthy@timesdispatch.com or (540) 371-4792.

Webb opposes resolution setting Iraq pullout date

BY TYLER WHITLEY
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

Democratic Senate candidate Jim Webb said yesterday that he would have voted against a Senate resolution calling on U.S. troops to withdraw from Iraq by July 2007.

Webb declined to answer how he would have voted on a nonbinding Senate resolution that called for troops to begin withdrawing this year but set no timetable.

"I don't think an artificial timeline emanating from the Senate is a workable concept," Webb told reporters at an impromptu news conference with Gov. Timothy M. Kaine.

Kaine, elected governor last November, said he would do all he can to help Webb defeat Republican Sen. George Allen this fall.

Admitting that it will be tough to unseat an incumbent, Kaine said "ever since David walked out with stones on the battlefield against the big guy, the underdog has come through."

The two met for about 45 minutes to talk about campaign strategy at Kaine's political committee office in the James Center yesterday morning.

"He has a remarkable record," Kaine said. "I am in awe of his accomplishments."

Asked why he wants to see Allen defeated, Kaine said, "I want a senator who can look you in the eye and say he will be a senator for a full term."

Allen is considering seeking the Republican presidential nomination in 2008, while also running for re-election to the Senate.

Allen and fellow Virginia Republican Sen. John W. Warner voted against both Democratic-sponsored resolutions in the Senate on Thursday.

Webb spoke out against going to war in Iraq before the U.S. invaded the nation.

"It was a strategic error that got us into this situation and we have a country that is being in many ways held at risk because of this policy," the 60-year-old former Marine said. "We want something good to come out of this. Now that we are in Iraq, we have to be able to exit Iraq in a way that maintains stability in that region."

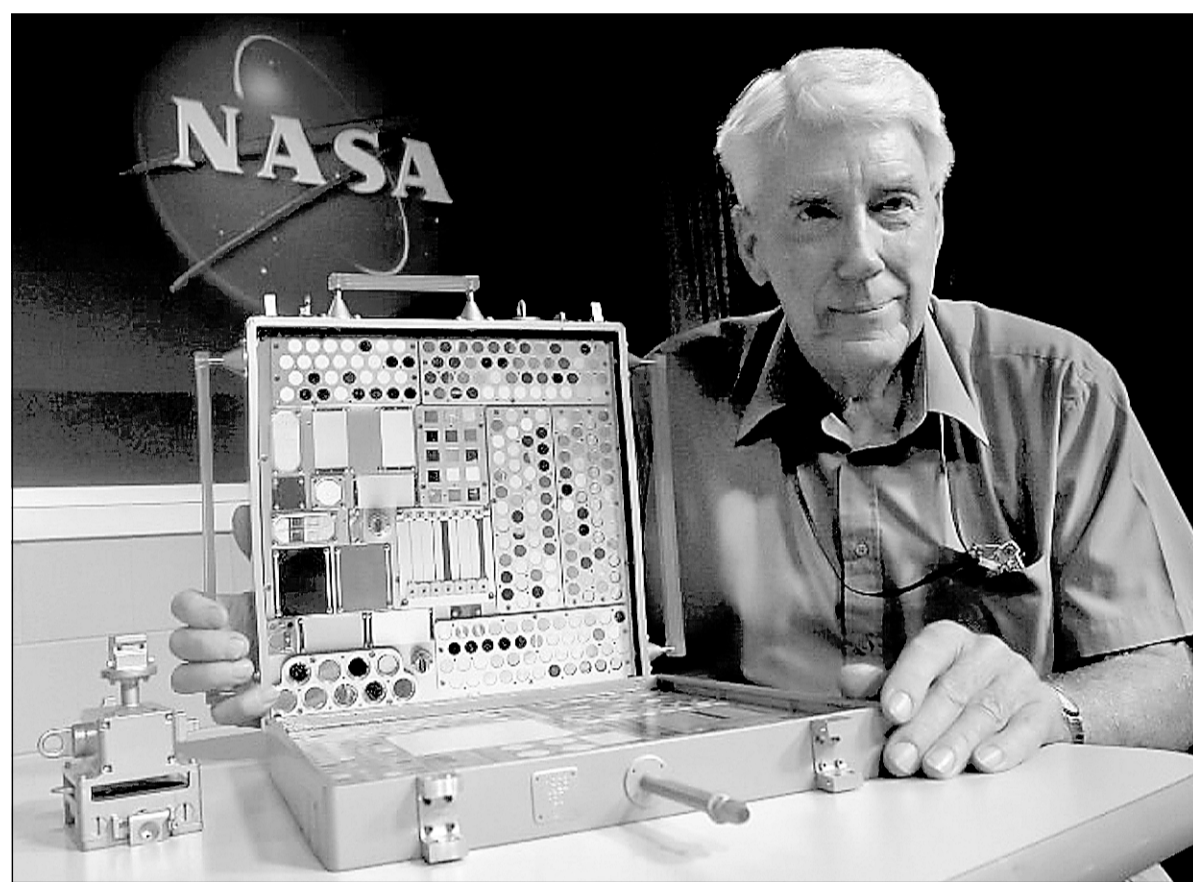
The resolution that Webb would have voted against was proposed by U.S. Sen. John Kerry of Massachusetts, the Democratic presidential candidate in 2004. Kerry endorsed Webb in the Democratic primary.

The Kerry resolution failed 86-13. The second, nonbinding resolution was defeated 60-39.

Webb said that had he been in the Senate, he thinks he might have persuaded Democrats to take a different approach.

The Allen campaign said Webb has issued contradictory opinions on the war and withdrawal from Iraq.

• Contact staff writer Tyler Whitley at twhitley@timesdispatch.com or (804) 649-6780.



2005, ALEXA WELCH EDLUND/TIMES-DISPATCH
Bill Kinard, a researcher at NASA Langley and chief scientist of the MISSE project, shows the samples of materials in one of the MISSE suitcases. Next week, researchers will present their findings from the first two suitcases.

Researchers to share findings on materials back from space

Langley research team coordinating experiment on future use in space

BY JILL SAKAI
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

HAMPTON Hundreds of recent space travelers are finally ready to share their stories.

Nearly 1,000 samples in two metal suitcases spent almost four years attached to the outside of the International Space Station. The suitcases are part of the Materials International Space Station Experiment coordinated by NASA's Langley Research Center.

MISSE (pronounced "missy") is a collaboration between NASA scientists and the Department of Defense that tests durability of new materials by exposing them to harsh environmental conditions in space.

The samples were chosen based on their potential use in new space equipment such as vehicles, suits or habitats.

"The majority of them are materials that we're interested in for future

missions," said Bill Kinard, a researcher at NASA Langley and chief scientist of MISSE.

Next week, researchers from across the country will present their findings from the first two suitcases, MISSE 1 and 2, at a conference in Florida.

MISSE 1 and 2 finally returned to Earth in August 2005 on the space shuttle Discovery. They were originally scheduled to be picked up in 2003 but were delayed by the Columbia shuttle disaster.

Materials used in space must be able to withstand large temperature changes, ultraviolet radiation, being hit by micro-meteoroids and other space debris, and high levels of reactive oxygen, which is very corrosive.

"You can't just go and buy a material that's going to survive in space, you've got to specially make it," said Sheila Thibeault, a physicist at NASA Langley who is in charge of coordinating all Langley MISSE experiments.

New materials are first tested on Earth and the most promising samples are sent into orbit to see how they fare in the space environment.

"You can test a lot of these environments individually on the

ground," said Kinard. But "we can't simulate all of these things at the same time and it's the synergistic effect of all of these things at one time that cause a lot of problems."

Under NASA's Constellation Program, engineers are designing spacecraft to take humans back to the moon and on to Mars. These expeditions will require exploration and launch vehicles and crew habitats capable of functioning in space for several years.

Kinard said some of the new materials, such as some synthetic fabrics, appear promising for long-term applications.

"Many of these came back just looking like new after four years in space," said Kinard. "That's what we're looking for, we're looking for materials that are going to be stable in use for future missions. At the same time, we also saw other materials that weren't quite so good."

The next installment, MISSE 5, has been attached to the exterior of the space station since August 2005. MISSE 3 and 4 are in Florida awaiting the shuttle launch scheduled for early next month. They should remain in space for about a year.

• Contact staff writer Jill Sakai at jsakai@timesdispatch.com or (804) 649-6860.

McDonnell family savors reunion

Daughter of the attorney general, a platoon leader in Iraq, returns on leave

BY BILL GEROUX
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

NORFOLK — Virginia Attorney General Bob McDonnell and his family yesterday shared a happy experience familiar to thousands of Virginians: welcoming a loved one safely home from Iraq.

McDonnell's 25-year-old daughter, Army 1st Lt. Jeanine McDonnell, arrived at Norfolk International Airport on a commercial jet for two weeks' leave. She is the leader of a 25-member Signal Corps platoon that works on satellite communications for the Army around Baghdad and the Sunni Triangle, McDonnell said.

The moment Jeanine appeared on the airport runway, the attorney gen-



GARY C. KNAPP/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Bob McDonnell and his wife, Maureen, greet their daughter, Army 1st Lt. Jeanine McDonnell (left), at Norfolk International Airport.

eral, his wife, Maureen, and their four other children rushed to her and embraced her for several minutes. She said seeing her family "was the best feeling I've had in nine months."

Theirs was one of several emotional reunions of military families at Norfolk International yesterday. Bob McDonnell, a veteran of 21

years in the Army, was in the final weeks of his campaign for attorney general in October when Jeanine left for Iraq from her base in Arizona.

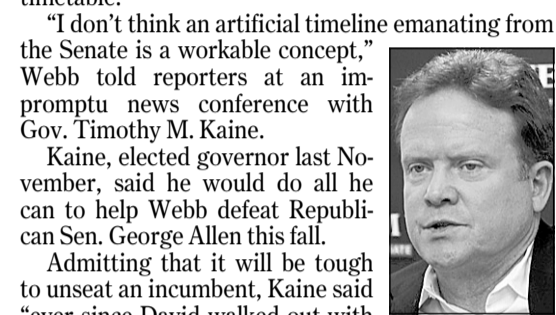
"I was really worried about her for the first month," he said.

Jeanine traveled by Black Hawk helicopter and sometimes by convoy, and at times her convoys drew small-arms fire.

Like many military families, the McDonnells have stayed closely in touch via e-mail and occasionally by phone. Now the family is planning a two-week vacation, starting in St. Martin. Then Jeanine will return to Iraq until October, when her tour ends.

Asked for his view on the war, McDonnell, a Republican, said he supported President Bush's conduct of it. "I think the commander-in-chief is doing everything he can to prevent terrorist strikes at home."

• Contact staff writer Bill Geroux at wgeroux@timesdispatch.com or (757) 625-1358.



Webb

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In U.S. Sen. George Allen's television commercial, his right eyebrow is noticeably arching.

Allen's new TV ad raises at least one eyebrow — his

BY JEFF E. SCHAPIRO
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

U.S. Sen. George Allen is the latest Virginia politician with a runaway eyebrow — his right one, of course.

In his new television commercial, the conservative Republican speaks to the camera, an eyebrow noticeably arching as he talks about protecting children from crime.

Allen's campaign manager, Dick Wadhams, laughed yesterday when asked about the Allen eyebrow, but had no explanation for the gesture: "You got me."

In the 2005 campaign, Gov. Timothy M. Kaine was ribbed by the press and GOP bloggers over a highly animated eyebrow that seemed to crawl up his forehead.

Perhaps appropriate to a Democrat, the eyebrow in question was Kaine's left.

"He's trying to impersonate a popular governor," Mo Elleithe, Kaine's former communications director, said of the Allen eyebrow.

Allen, seeking a second term while angling for the Republican presidential nomination, has been on the air since early June.

His commercials are largely aimed at heavily Democratic Northern Virginia and depict the combative partisan as a friendly family man and results-oriented former governor.

The advertisements make no reference to Allen's party affiliation.

They are produced by Scott Howell, who created ads for failed gubernatorial candidate Jerry W. Kilgore — among them, a controversial death-penalty spot.

• Contact staff writer Jeff E. Schapiro at jschapiro@timesdispatch.com or (804) 649-6814.