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Richmond Times-Dispatch  
SECTION B

## METRO &amp; virginia

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## Police: Girl a factor in shooting

They say the boy who was shot was trying to defend her against the shooter

BY JIM NOLAN  
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

A teenager shot Saturday night outside the Boys & Girls Club of Metro Richmond's facility in the Fan District had come to the defense of a female friend, police said. They said the girl allegedly had been hit by the shooter during a dance inside the club moments earlier.

Shortly after the incident outside the club at 2601 Kensington Ave., a 17-year-old boy was arrested by Third Precinct officers. He was charged with malicious wounding and using a firearm in a felony.

The victim, also a 17-year-old boy, was released from the hospital Sunday after treatment for a gunshot wound that grazed his chest and caused no internal injuries, police said. "He was very lucky," said Richmond Det. James Baynes, who investigated the case.

Boys and Girls Clubs officials said the incident began when three boys who were not members of the club, and not guest of members, were turned away from attending a teen dance at the facility. The dance was a fundraiser for the Keystone Club, a character-and-leadership-development program for 14-to-17-year-olds.

In a statement, the organization said about 70 teens attended the event — 50 of whom were club members, and 20 of whom were guest of members. Seven adult chaperones and two armed security officers were also present to check for identification and screen for weapons.

### Three boys turned away

When the three boys were turned away at the door, they sneaked around the facility and entered through a back door that was mistakenly opened by another teen. According to the organization, the chaperones and security saw the boys and moved across the gym to eject them.

Two of the boys left through the back door without incident. A third, according to officials got into an altercation with a girl who was a guest at the dance.

"According to the witnesses we spoke with, people started flashing gang signs," Baynes said. "The suspect apparently attacks one of the girls who was in the victim's party. The victim jumps in, and he's trying to break up the fight."

The security guards at the dance then ejected both boys from the dance through the main entrance of the building. Moments later, police said, the boy who had crashed the party pulled out a gun and shot the other boy before fleeing.

Witnesses provided a description of the shooter to police. Later that evening, patrol officers Michael Rogers, Thomas Obenrader and Brian Shows saw a person fitting the description walking near Third Precinct headquarters and took him into custody.

### Suspect said he was at dance

The suspect, who had a noticeable bump on his head, allegedly admitted to detectives that he had been at the dance. Investigators said yesterday that they believe they have forensic evidence linking the suspect to the shooting.

The statement from the Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Richmond expressed regret for the shooting at its facility, saying that while very unfortunate, it was an isolated incident. Interviews with police familiar with the area and the Kensington Avenue location agreed, saying the location has rarely warranted their attention.

"We feel through continuing education and mentorship, we will be able to address some of the violence and social issues that our young people face today," the statement read. "This incident only reaffirms the need for organizations such as [Boys and Girls Clubs of Metro Richmond] to be present and working with our young people."

Yesterday afternoon, the club was a summer oasis of activity in air-conditioned quarters, with 200 children between ages 6 and 16 happily playing games, watching TV and shooting baskets in the gym.

Said one relieved worker at the facility: "We're just glad it's over."

• Contact staff writer Jim Nolan at jnolan@timesdispatch.com or (804) 649-6061.

## Runaway monkey roams Roanoke

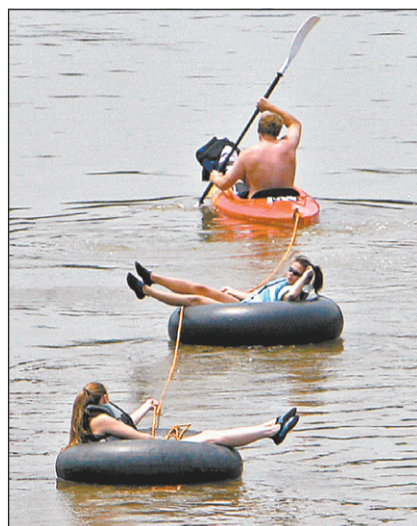
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## FOP group asks Barber to resign

B3

## Pool vandalized in western Henrico

B3



P. KEVIN MORLEY/TIMES-DISPATCH

**A little ingenuity kept these James River tubers close to their tug just west of the Huguenot Bridge yesterday. More fun-seekers have been drawn to the river, now that its level is lower than it was last week.**

# Approach with care

The James is lower and may look tame, but the current can still be strong

BY SHAUN BISHOP  
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

If you're planning to cool off in the James River today, your swim may be riskier than expected.

The high is forecast to be 98 degrees in the Richmond area, and hundreds of relief-seekers are expected to use the river for some Independence Day swimming, rafting and relaxing.

Ralph White, manager of the James River Park, warns that although the riv-

### Safe on the river

Here are some tips from the Richmond Department of Parks and Recreation on staying safe while enjoying the James River:

- Never swim alone.
- Always wear shoes in the river.
- Always have young children wear life jackets.
- Don't go in if you can't swim.
- More: [www.ci.richmond.va.us/parks/riversafety.aspx](http://www.ci.richmond.va.us/parks/riversafety.aspx)

er's level has dropped from last week's flood level, it is still dangerous.

The James may look tame, but its current can still be powerful.

"People become careless and make efforts to get out and play, and all of the sudden find themselves in rapids that are much stronger than at lower levels," White said.

### INSIDE

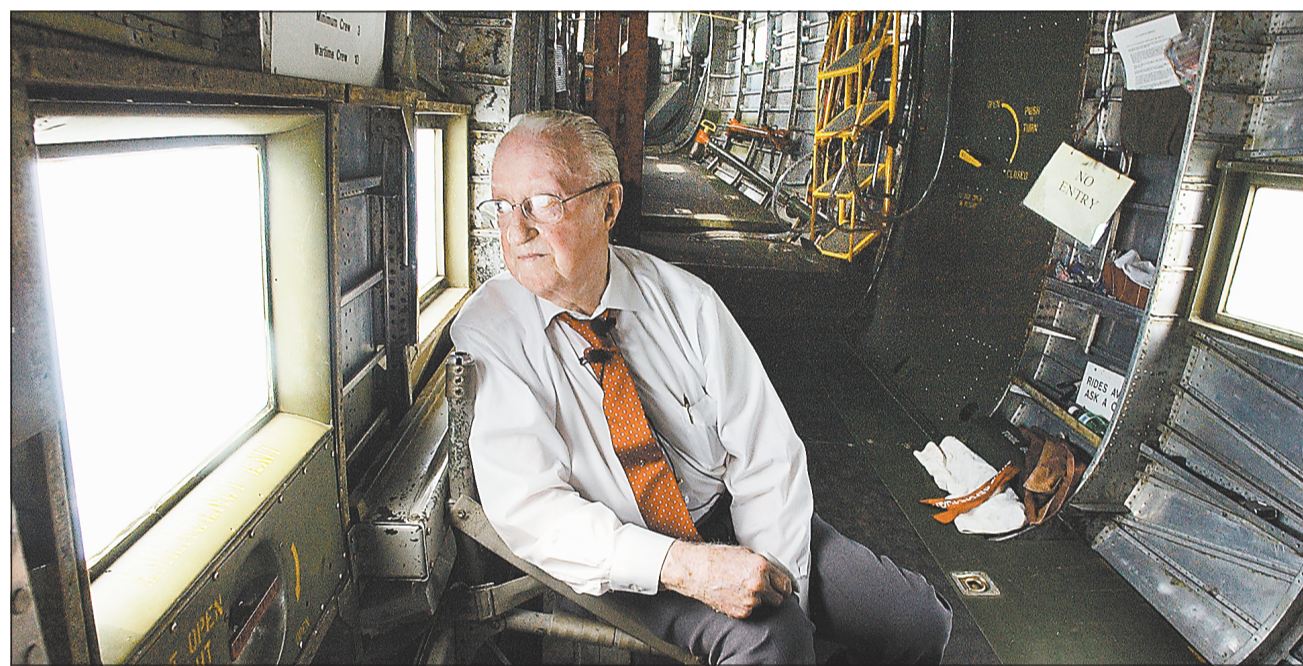
**IN VIRGINIA:** Two swimmers drown; rafter missing. **Page B2.**

He expects a lot of families to sign up for rafting today and says concerns aren't as great for rafters navigating on top of the water.

"For us doing rafting with trained and

SEE JAMES, PAGE B2 ▶

## A RIDE ON DIAMOND LIL



JOE MAHONEY/TIMES-DISPATCH

**Guy Lewis, 84, was a co-pilot on a B-24 bomber during World War II and flew 50 missions while assigned to the 15th Air Force in Italy. He was a passenger on a flight over Richmond yesterday.**

# For vet, a sensation restored

One of two B-24 bombers still flying is on display this week at museum at airport

BY JILL SAKAI  
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

**G**uy Lewis got to revisit a piece of his history yesterday.

The 84-year-old Richmond man flew circles above Richmond aboard a restored World War II bomber — a B-24, the same type of plane he flew in Italy during the war.

One of only two B-24 bombers still flying, Diamond Lil is owned by the Commemorative Air Force, a volunteer group that collects and maintains military aircraft for historic and educational purposes. She will be on display to the public at the Virginia Aviation Museum through Thursday.

Thousands of B-24 Liberators were used as long-range bombers and transport planes by Allied forces in World

War II. Diamond Lil, made in 1940 by the Consolidated Aircraft Corporation in San Diego, was the 25th of about 18,000 B-24s built. She was refurbished in 1997 and now is displayed throughout the United States.

Lewis flew 50 missions as a co-pilot of B-24s during his time in the 15th Air Force, stationed in the hills of Lecce, Italy. His missions included three runs over the heavily guarded Romanian oil refineries in Ploesti.

"It was a lot of fun really," Lewis reminisced. "Like flying a Mack truck."

The crew readied the plane for its flight, prepping the four engines by manually turning the propellers. Once everyone was on board, the engines slowly roared to life and the plane began to shake.



**Diamond Lil is readied for a flight over Richmond by flight engineer Ray Whitman. The bomber was spared from destruction after WWII and later became the personal plane for Eleanor Roosevelt.**

### Diamond Lil in Richmond

Diamond Lil is at the Virginia Aviation Museum at Richmond International Airport through Thursday.

- Hours: 9:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- Admission: To see Diamond Lil is free.
- Admission: To the museum is \$4 for ages 4-12, \$6 for 13-59, \$5 for 60 and older and \$5.50 for active military.
- Information: contact the Aviation Museum at (804) 236-3622 or online at [www.vam.smv.org](http://www.vam.smv.org)

"Will this thing really fly?" joked Lewis.

The B-24 Liberator has a gross weight of 58,000 pounds and a 110-foot wingspan. A little more than 67 feet long, it would have had a wartime crew of 10 and a large complement of machine guns. With a top speed of 275 mph, the B-24 burns 200 gallons of fuel each hour.

In past years, these historic planes were often flown by former military pilots, many with experience flying them in wars.

Nowadays, there are fewer and fewer men with experience flying these old planes, said David Hahn, assistant director of the Virginia Aviation Museum. "It's the passing of a generation."

On the ground, a man jumped out of a minivan and looked excitedly around the runway.

J.S. "Casey" Bland Jr. had heard Diamond Lil flying over his home in Varina and knew the sound was not an ordinary plane. "It was just different," he said. But he couldn't see it, so he drove over to find out what it was.

For the 87-year-old Pearl Harbor survivor, the sight of the B-24 brought back memories of his time as an army engineer stationed on Oahu. A friend of a friend flew B-24s, so one day, Bland got to take a clandestine ride. "We plunked a dollar down for a parachute," he recalled, laughing.

Once back on the runway, Diamond Lil taxied back toward the Aviation Museum. Guy Lewis deplaned and walked away, slowly.

"Just like what I remembered," Lewis said. "Except nobody's shooting at me."

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

# Getting ready for school

Children's programs of real benefit come at a price, expert says

BY LINDSAY KASTNER  
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

Advocates who want to expand opportunities for early-childhood education say it's a really good deal and a moral imperative.

But Gov. Timothy M. Kaine, who has made young Virginians a centerpiece of his gubernatorial agenda, says he knows his

early-childhood initiatives might be a tough sell with the Virginia General Assembly.

In the late stages of the long process of hammering out a budget, the House of Delegates axed millions of dollars Kaine wanted to fund child care for needy families.

Kaine said the human issue of providing working parents with the care their children need was overlooked by legislators. "So I don't underestimate the challenge," he said, speaking Thursday at an early-childhood education summit at Lewis Ginter Botanical Garden.

But Kaine said he has not given up.

This year, he established Smart Beginnings — an initiative aimed at providing a continuum of care from birth to age 5 — and he wants to see pre-kindergarten made available to all of Virginia's 4-year-olds.

"We're going to do this," Kaine said, "and the only question is are we going to do it now or are we going to wait until every other state is doing it and every other nation is doing it."

At the governor's Smart Beginnings Summit on Thursday, Dr. Jack Shonkoff presented the science behind the argument.

"You're not born with a fully developed brain," said Shonkoff, chairman of the National Scientific Council on the Developing Child.

Shonkoff said experiences early in life provide a foundation for later learning, behavior and health.

"We live with that foundation for the rest of our life," he said.

Shonkoff said poor people often have more problems in school and more physical and mental-health problems, as well as other issues that often correlate to adversity in early life ex-

SEE SCHOOL, PAGE B3 ▶

### To our readers

Ray McAllister is out of the office. His column will resume when he returns.