

sunday in **VIRGINIA**

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**AROUND THE STATE**

A WEEKLY DIGEST OF VIRGINIA NEWS

**NORTHERN**

**STAFFORD** — Jamestown Settlement's reproduction of the Godspeed, one of the three ships that brought English settlers to Jamestown in 1607, will anchor off Stafford County this weekend. Events during Stafford's Discovery Days Festival include a flotilla honoring the ship on Saturday and pontoon rides around the ship, for a fee, throughout the weekend. Attendees will not be able to board the ship, but a special shoreside display by the Jamestown-Yorktown Foundation will feature living historians, navigational equipment and a reproduction period cannon, all part of the 400th-anniversary commemoration of the first permanent English settlement in America. Shuttles will transport visitors to the landing site. Visit [www.DiscoveryDaysFest.com](http://www.DiscoveryDaysFest.com) or call (540) 658-8681 for details.

**EASTERN**

**NEWPORT NEWS** — Police Capt. Richard L. Lauderman was named chief of law enforcement for the Virginia Marine Resources Commission last week. Warner G. Rhodes, a Virginia Marine Police veteran, was named deputy chief. Lauderman, who began his law enforcement career in 1978 in Newport News, replaces Steven G. Bowman, who was recently named Virginia marine resources commissioner by Gov. Timothy M. Kane.

**CENTRAL**

**ORANGE** — The Town Council is scheduled to vote tomorrow night on a developer's proposal to build 600 homes that could increase Orange's population by 40 percent. Developer Carl Owens is seeking rezonings to 133 acres off U.S. 15 on the outskirts of the town, which has a population of about 4,400. Michael Collins, the town's planner, has said accommodating additional children in local schools is a particular concern. The meeting will start at 7 p.m.

**SOUTHSIDE**

**FARMVILLE** — Friday is the last chance this summer for moviegoers to catch "Stars under the Stars," the town's outdoor film series. The final film is "Houseboat," starring Cary Grant and Sophia Loren. The movie will start at 8:30 p.m. at the Crute Stage at the corner of Main and Fourth streets, which will be blocked off to make more room for lawn chairs. Admission is free. Popcorn is cheap.

**WESTERN**

MEDIA GENERAL NEWS SERVICE

**President Woodrow Wilson's 1919 Pierce-Arrow led the inaugural drive along the completed Staunton Loop.**

**STAUNTON** — After almost 40 years of effort, the Staunton Loop was finally completed Thursday. Officials snipped a ribbon to open the last stretch of state Route 262, formally known as the Woodrow Wilson Parkway and locally dubbed the Staunton Loop, that arcs around the western side of Staunton.

**ROANOKE** — Roanoke's Mill Mountain Star, an 88.5-foot neon-and-steel ornament that gives the city its nickname, Star City of the South, is going dark this week as work crews make repairs. Many of the electrical components were installed when the star was first lit in 1949 and now need to be replaced. City officials hope the star, visible to aircraft 60 miles away, will be shining by Aug. 21.

**BLACKSBURG** — A 5-foot statue of a Virginia Tech Hokie Bird that was swiped from Blacksburg's Main Street this month was found Friday in a residential neighborhood. The Blacksburg Partnership, a local group that is placing 75 of the fiberglass birds downtown, offered no details on how the bird was found. Police had announced a \$1,000 award for information leading to the conviction of whoever stole the 120-pound turkey.

• From staff and wire reports.

**Two W&M students spend part of their break testing bismuth for potential uses**

BY JILL SAKAI  
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

**WILLIAMSBURG**

**F**or some, summertime conjures up thoughts of beaches, cook-outs and leisure time. For two dedicated undergraduates at the College of William and Mary, this summer was full of flasks, beakers and chemical reactions.

Heather Stevenson and Tim Brown, senior chemistry majors, devoted 10 weeks of their summer break to research in the college's chemistry department.

Under the guidance of associate professor Rob Hinkle, they tested ways in



Hinkle

which a harmless metal called bismuth could someday make drugs cheaper, safer and work faster. Their summer research was funded by pharmaceutical giants Pfizer and GlaxoSmithKline.

Drug manufacturers often use dangerous or toxic materials, such as strong acids, during the synthesis process. Companies must then check products carefully to make sure the resulting medicines are safe for consumers.

Bismuth shares some properties of the caustic materials and helps drive many of the same chemical-synthesis reactions. However, it is much safer and easier to use.

"Bismuth is a lot more benign than a strong acid," both for pharmaceutical workers and the environment, Brown said.



BOB BROWN/TIMES-DISPATCH

**College of William and Mary students Tim Brown and Heather Stevenson spent the summer researching bismuth.**

"It has the same toxicity as table salt," Stevenson said.

In addition to safety issues, the cheap and plentiful metal could make drug development and production faster and more efficient by requiring less purification and testing.

This summer, they worked on ways bismuth could be used to make a structure that is a building block in many common drugs, including several antibiotics, antidepressants and anti-cancer medicines.

By focusing on the synthesis process,

Hinkle said, they hope to design general methods that will be broadly applicable to making many drugs.

Bismuth already is used in a variety of consumer products, including pearlized car paints, cosmetics and Pepto-Bismol.

In addition to organic chemistry, Brown and Stevenson learned a lot about the scientific-research process.

"Some things work; some things don't," Stevenson said. "A lot of chemistry is trial and error, and you don't always get what you want."

For example, "There's one drawback

to bismuth: It likes to trap water," including humidity in the air, Brown said. August days were not very productive in the lab, they discovered.

They will resume their research in the fall to work on senior honor theses. Each plans to pursue a career in chemistry research.

Hinkle praised the students' accomplishments. "Chemistry is so labor-intensive, there's absolutely no way a professor can do all the work," he said. "I couldn't be as productive without all the help."



KEVIN REMINGTON/WASHINGTON AND LEE UNIVERSITY

**WESTERN VIRGINIA****At W&L, it's time for class, tea, tradition**

BY CALVIN R. TRICE  
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

**LEXINGTON**

**A** host walks into a Japanese alcove with guests behind him. Each takes a turn to admire a scroll painting with a Buddhist scripture.

All are seated on mats with their legs tucked beneath them, and a charcoal fire is lit. It's the opening of a Japanese tea ceremony. And it's class time at Washington and Lee University.

The school had an authentic tea room built this summer as a cultural exhibit and an instructional tool to help students learn about Japan in the context of an important ceremonial tradition.

"I really like to think of it as study abroad without ever leaving Virginia," said Janet Ikeda, associate dean of the college and professor of East Asian Languages and Literature.

The tea room has been a goal of Ikeda's since arriving at Washington and Lee in 1999 and will be the only such

functioning room at a Virginia college or university.

"I want to get students to step out of their comfort zone and watch and listen," she said.

The Japanese tea ceremony, or Chanoyu, is a performance and art form carried on by families and schools that teach it. Ikeda studied it at the Uransenke School of Tea in Kyoto before she earned her doctorate from Princeton University in 16th-century Japanese literature.

Far more than eating and drinking, the ceremony is a microcosm of Japanese culture. The greetings, motions, the art surrounding the people on scrolls, ceramics and gardens, and the spiritual invocations are a window into Japanese traditions, Ikeda believes.

"It's tied to almost every aspect of Japanese culture that you can imagine," said Ikeda, a Japanese-American who learned her Japanese secondhand.

She plans to use the room for her class, "Food and Tea in Japan."

W&L's Reeves Center for Research and Exhibition of Porcelain and Paint-

ings funded the tea room construction in the Watson Pavilion. The center hired master tea room carpenter and tea performer Seiji Suzuki to construct the exhibit and class "lab."

The rooms are typically built with paper-covered sliding doors, a cedar ceiling, a round window and staggered shelves of cherry, ash, fir and other woods. Walls are made of plaster and mud. The school had 700 pounds of Japanese mud shipped in for the project,

Ikeda said.

School officials hope the tea room helps bring to life the Watson Pavilion, a small structure that opened 13 years ago, but has since been a mystery to many W&L students. It is usually unoccupied and always locked, said Peter Grover, the school's director of special collections.



Grover

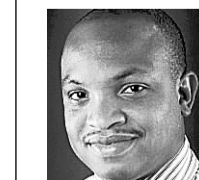
"This gives us the opportunity to open

the doors and allow students and the public to come in," Grover said.

Hank Dobin, W&L's dean of the college, is an enthusiast of Japanese culture who threw his weight behind Ikeda's tea room project. Americans traveling abroad often learn native cultures the hard way, he said.

The future professionals at Washington and Lee will now have a tool to help them function as citizens of the world, Dobin said.

"This is a wonderful example of that, and a very tangible example of Washington and Lee's commitment to that kind of education," he said.



Valley.

Staff writer Calvin R. Trice reports from The Times-Dispatch bureau in Harrisonburg. He covers the Shenandoah

**Washington and Lee University professor Janet Ikeda (left) says the tea room allows students to sample a microcosm of Japanese culture. Master carpenter Seiji Suzuki (above) built the Japanese tea room in the Watson Pavilion. The walls are made of plaster and Japanese mud that was shipped in for the project.**

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