

SPORTS

Naomi Osaka pulls out of French Open, cites depression **B2**



UVA defends lacrosse national championship

Men's team holds off Maryland's late rally for 17-16 victory **B1**

VIRGINIA'S NEWS LEADER

Richmond Times-Dispatch

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"All these guys you see on the wall here made the ultimate sacrifice."

Gary W. Wiltshire, a retired Air Force staff sergeant and Midlothian resident



DANIEL SANGJIB MIN/TIMES-DISPATCH

'Long after we are gone, these names will remain'

After last year's virtual event, hundreds gather at memorial to honor Va.'s war dead

BY ALI ROCKETT
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Brenda Reese May held in her lap a pillow that said "My Son, My Hero" as his name was read aloud during the Memorial Day ceremony at the Virginia War Memorial on Monday.

"Donald C. May Jr. killed in action in Iraq, from Richmond," recited Clay Mountcastle, director of the memorial.

A bell tolled, signaling that the Marine staff sergeant's name had been added to the memorial's panels, which honor the approximately 12,000 Virginians who have died in wars ranging from World War II to the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East.

"As often is the case, the names are not the most recent losses to a war, but identities that were brought to our attention



ALEXA WELCH EDLUND/TIMES-DISPATCH

ABOVE: Flags decorated each grave at Seven Pines National Cemetery in Sandston on Monday.



May Jr.

TOP: Retired Air Force Staff Sgt. Gary W. Wiltshire scanned the names at the Shrine of Memory at the Virginia War Memorial in Richmond.

by families or friends during the year and that we were able to verify and finally add to their rightful place of remembrance," Mountcastle said with a nod to May. "These names

are here now permanently. They will endure. Long after we are gone, these names will remain."

The 31-year-old May was killed on March 25, 2003, when his tank was

blown off a bridge during a sandstorm as U.S. forces advanced toward Baghdad. Navy divers found the tank upside down on the bottom of the Euphrates River.

May said she later found out that her son's name hadn't been added to the state's memorial because he was still classified as missing in action. She contacted memorial staffers, who helped get her son's status changed to killed in action.

A Vietnam War-era Marine Corps veteran herself, May said she wasn't sure that she would come to the Memorial Day ceremony this year until a friend, Katie Suttles, gave her the pillow she held in her lap. She said she knew then that she had to come.

"I knew they were going to announce my son's name for the first time

MEMORIAL DAY, Page A4

Richmond will expand bike-share program

Free memberships for RRHA residents under consideration

BY C. SUAREZ ROJAS
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Three years after delaying expansion of RVA Bike Share, the city is planning to add new stations and bikes to the system later this summer.

While city officials started installing upgrades to the existing network of 20 docking stations and 220 bikes last fall, the administration is nearly ready to double the program's size and launch a pilot that will allow Richmond Redevelopment and Housing Authority residents to use the bikes for free.

Dironna Clarke, director of the Office of Equitable Transit and Mobility, said she and others conceived the idea for the

BIKES, Page A6



BOB BROWN/TIMES-DISPATCH

Most of the RVA Bike Share stations are downtown, along Broad Street and around VCU, like this one at 1111 W. Broad St.

In-state tuition eludes Bird grad, other noncitizens

BY ERIC KOLENICH
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Alan Velasquez was 17 when he came to the United States seeking asylum. He landed at Washington Dulles International Airport with his brother and parents, carrying as many possessions as he could squeeze into one suitcase.

His father, a political activist, had been shot with a rubber bullet at a protest in Venezuela and decided he was done taking risks.

Now 21, Velasquez is planning a career in computer science and taking classes at John Tyler Community College in Chesterfield County. But the cost feels

TUITION, Page A5

New evidence could prove man's innocence in 1999 fire that killed son, 1

BY FRANK GREEN
Richmond Times-Dispatch

New evidence the Virginia Attorney General's Office has characterized as compelling could prove that a fatal Augusta County fire did not happen the way a jury was told it did more than two decades ago.

That jury convicted Michael Leroy Ledford, 44, of arson and murder in the Oct. 10, 1999, blaze that asphyxiated his son, Zachary, hours

after his 1st birthday party. Ledford is asking the Virginia Court of Appeals to grant a writ of actual innocence to clear his name and free him from a 50-year prison sentence.

His lawyers contend that scientific fire testing proves that the fire did not happen the way that Ledford, who is said to have a cognitive impairment, stated it did in a false, "coerced" confession. A timeline of events that night and expert opinions also

prove he could not have set the fire by other means, they said.

A state arson investigator changed his initial conclusions about the fire to fit the confession made weeks later, argue Ledford's lawyers with Baker Botts LLP and the Mid-Atlantic Innocence Project in their petition to the appeals court.

"Ledford confessed to something that did not happen," his petition asserts.

The case shares similarities

with — and has been likened by some experts to — the high-profile case of Cameron Todd Willingham, a Texas man executed for the 1999 arson deaths of his three daughters that numerous fire experts later concluded was not an arson.

Willingham's behavior around the time of the fire and afterward, like Ledford's, was seen as suspicious. Unlike Ledford, however, Willingham did not confess.

Authorities in Augusta

remain adamant that overwhelming evidence shows that Ledford is guilty, despite any fire test results.

And the Virginia Attorney General's Office, in its 67-page response to the petition, concluded, "Considered against the entire record, Ledford's assertion that his convictions were the result of a false confession as established by new testing is not supported by the evidence."

Nevertheless, the attorney

LEDFORD, Page A11



Michael Leroy Ledford says he is innocent in the 1999 Augusta County apartment fire that killed his son, Zachary.

In Nation & World | Hundreds gather at Tulsa prayer wall to commemorate massacre | Page A9

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ALEXA WELCH EDLUND/TIMES-DISPATCH



ALEXA WELCH EDLUND/TIMES-DISPATCH

ABOVE: A rose was left at the eternal flame, the Torch of Liberty, at the Virginia War Memorial on Monday.

LEFT: Clinton Dalton showed his wife, Janice Dalton, and their 12-year-old son, Trevor, the names of two of his classmates on the Shrine of Memory at the Virginia War Memorial on Monday. John L. Kinton and D.L. Lipscomb were killed during the Vietnam War.

Memorial Day across the U.S.

Many events resume after cancellations last year. **Page A9**

Memorial Day

From Page A1

today," May said. "My son was so proud that his father and I served; he just had to follow."

Donald C. May Sr. was awarded a Bronze Star, two Purple Hearts and the Navy Cross for his service as a Marine in Vietnam.

Donald May Jr. left behind five children — one of whom he never met, as his wife was pregnant when he deployed, his mother said.

His name along with three others were added during the past year to Virginia War Memorial's glass panels that overlook the James River:

◆ Army Pfc. Richard J. Harris of Henrico County, who was killed in action in Korea;

◆ Army Staff Sgt. Ben Maxwell of Appomattox County, who was killed in the 1983 bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Beirut; and

◆ Army Capt. Humayun S.M. Khan of Bristow, who was killed in action in Iraq.

At the memorial on Monday, Midlothian resident Gary W. Wiltshire gazed up at the names of those killed in the Vietnam War, looking for a childhood friend. The retired Air Force staff sergeant was wearing his blue uniform, though he added that it wasn't the one he had retired in 30 years ago.

"It makes you appreciate life more," he said. "All these guys you see on the wall here made the ultimate sacrifice. Being alive is a big gift and a big responsibility."

After Monday's event, the memorial's director said he was "speechless" when he saw the size of the crowd. Jeb Hockman, a spokesperson for the Virginia Department of Veteran Services, estimated that more than 800 people attended in person and thousands more watched the livestream from WTVR.

Last year's event was held virtually because of the pandemic and, up until two weeks ago, when Gov. Ralph Northam announced the lifting of all coronavirus-related restrictions, organizers had been planning an all-virtual event again



DANIEL SANGJIB MIN/TIMES-DISPATCH



ALEXA WELCH EDLUND/TIMES-DISPATCH

ABOVE: Vietnam War-era veteran Brenda Reese May, the mother of the late U.S. Marine Staff Sgt. Donald C. May Jr., held a pillow showing her son with a "My Son, My Hero" message during the ceremony at the Virginia War Memorial on Monday. Staff Sgt. May was killed March 25, 2003, while serving in Iraq.

LEFT: Flags decorated each grave at Seven Pines National Cemetery on Monday.

this year, Hockman said.

The Virginia War Memorial opened its new wing in February 2020, just before the pandemic forced its closure for several months. The \$25 million project added the C. Kenneth Wright Pavilion, a 25,000-square-foot expansion that includes a grand lobby, an exhibit hall, an art gallery, a research library and an un-

derground parking lot, as well as a new Shrine of Memory, which honors Virginians lost in the war on terrorism.

Many at Monday's ceremony had not seen the new wing since its completion.

"You just didn't know what to expect," Mountcastle said of the crowd size. "It speaks to the importance of the day that

so many would come out to remember and honor those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice."

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Legal Notice

**COUNTY OF HENRICO, VIRGINIA
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BUDGET
FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2021**

The County Manager's recommended amendment to the budget for fiscal year 2020-21 are prepared and published in synopsis form solely for the purposes of fiscal planning and public information. Publication of this proposed amendment does not constitute an appropriation of funds for those purposes by the Board of Supervisors. Funds cannot be allocated or distributed until they are appropriated by the Board. The amendment consists of estimates and is a request submitted to the County Manager with his recommendations concerning the request.

The Board of Supervisors of the County of Henrico, Virginia, will hold a public hearing regarding the proposed amendments to the budget at a meeting on June 8, 2021, at 7:00 p.m., in the Board Room at the Henrico Government Center, Hungary Spring and East Parham Roads. The public hearing will be held pursuant to Virginia Code Section 15.2-2507, and is for the purpose of allowing the public to question and comment on the proposed amendments to the budget. All citizens have the right to attend and share their views on the proposed amendments within such reasonable time limits as shall be determined by the Board of Supervisors. At the June 8, 2021, meeting, after the public hearing, the Board will consider approving the amendment to the Annual Fiscal Plan and appropriating funds, as applicable, for fiscal year 2020-21.

PROPOSED AMENDMENTS	
ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL RESOURCES	
OPERATING FUNDS	
Federal Revenue	\$ 514,752
State Revenue	8,489,345
Donations	1,910
Current Local Resources	6,565,664
Fund Balance	5,685,758
Total Operating Resources	\$ 21,257,429
CAPITAL FUNDS	
Local Revenue	\$ 2,000,000
Fund Balance	2,438,903
Total Capital Resources	\$ 4,438,903
TOTAL RESOURCES	\$ 25,696,332

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS	
OPERATING FUNDS	
GENERAL FUND	
Public Works	\$ 3,036,714
SPECIAL REVENUE FUND	
Public Library	\$ 625
Police	155,574
Social Services	5,746,338
Recreation and Parks	5,785
Mental Health/Developmental Services	140,000
Capital Region Workforce Partnership	333,963
Economic Development	314,556
Public Utilities	685,758
Education	2,663,116
Total Special Revenue Fund	\$ 10,045,715
TECHNOLOGY REPLACEMENT FUND	
Information Technology	\$ 500,000
Total Technology Replacement Fund	\$ 500,000
RISK MANAGEMENT FUND	
Human Resources	\$ 5,000,000
Total Risk Management Fund	\$ 5,000,000
FIDUCIARY FUND - OTHER POST-EMPLOYMENT BENEFITS	
Human Resources	\$ 2,675,000
Total Agency Fund	\$ 2,675,000
Total Operating Requirements	\$ 21,257,429
CAPITAL FUNDS	
CAPITAL PROJECTS FUND	
Recreation and Parks	\$ 1,275,000
Public Works	3,000,000
Non-Departmental	163,903
Total Capital Projects Fund	\$ 4,438,903
TOTAL REQUIREMENTS	\$ 25,696,332

A copy of these proposed amendments is available for inspection in the County Manager's office at the Henrico Government Center, Hungary Spring and East Parham Roads, and is also available to be viewed on the County's website at:

<http://henrico.us/finance/divisions/office-of-management-and-budget/>
Given under my hand this 27th day of May, 2021.

Tanya Brackett Harding, Clerk
Henrico County Board of Supervisors

Treasury's Unclaimed Property Program returns millions to rightful owners every year!

Look for the 2020 list of unclaimed properties in tomorrow's newspaper.

Search our free website for the entire list of unclaimed properties.

What is unclaimed property?

Inactive or dormant accounts from stocks, dividends, customer refunds or credits, uncashed payroll checks, bank accounts, safe deposit box contents, insurance policy proceeds, etc.



Virginia Department of the Treasury



ALEXA WELCH EDLUND/TIMES-DISPATCH

Willie and Margaret White brought flowers to her parents' grave in Evergreen Cemetery on Monday. The couple said they come to the cemetery every Memorial Day.