



Music will keep runners, spectators energized/D20

50°

# Richmond Times-Dispatch

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## COMING TOMORROW



### 'Fever Pitch'

Daniel Neman tells us whether Drew Barrymore and Jimmy Fallon hit one out of the park.

Flair

## THURSDAY

### Prince Rainier dies

He married a Hollywood star in Grace Kelly and ruled the storybook principality of Monaco.

World /A4



### Richmond Ballet

Dancers tour Manhattan and make a TV appearance. See a slideshow and read a diary at:

TimesDispatch.com

### Young Braves

The Richmond Braves have more prospects than they've had since 1993.

Sports /E1



### Avoiding the itch

More time outdoors means more chances to come into contact with poison ivy.

Explore /F1

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## WEATHER

Thunderstorms.  
High: 73. Low: 57. /B8

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BEATRICE LARCO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Mourners fill the road to St. Peter's Square as they head to St. Peter's Basilica to say farewell to Pope John Paul II.

# Wave of mourners overwhelms Rome

Officials bar people from joining the line to pay respects to pontiff

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

VATICAN CITY — After electronic highway signs and cell-phone text messages failed to stanch the flow of pilgrims, police stepped in yesterday to turn back those mourning Pope John Paul II.

The day brought nearly 1 million people to the Vatican, including the five members of the official U.S. delegation. Shortly after arriving, they used a special entrance for VIPs to get into St. Peter's Basilica.

President Bush viewed the pope's body with his wife, Laura; his father, George H.W. Bush; former President Bill Clinton; and Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice. They knelt in a pew in front of the re-

mains and bowed their heads in prayer.

Seeking to clear the basilica by this evening so the Vatican could prepare for John Paul's funeral tomorrow, police announced they were closing the line at 10 p.m. Text messages were sent over Italian cell-phone lines. Those at the back would wait 24 hours before entering the basilica.

"We're just hoping the order can be reversed," said Federica Bruni, a 20-year-old student who came from northern Italy and was one of the first to be told to go away last night.

It took more than an hour after the deadline to set up the barricades and establish the cutoff point.

"You tell these people!" said one Civil Defense officer in frustration as the time passed for the line to end. "How can we close?"

The crowd-control problems developed hours

SEE ROME, PAGE A9 ▶

### Yesterday's developments

■ The College of Cardinals set April 18 for the start of the conclave to elect a successor to Pope John Paul II.

■ Vatican officials said that despite modern communications devices, they expect to keep the cardinals' deliberations secret.

■ President Bush and his two White House predecessors paid their respects, kneeling to pray in St. Peter's Basilica.

■ John Paul's spiritual testament was read, a 15-page document in his native Polish that he began writing in 1979, a year after he was elected.

# 16 killed in crash of helicopter

THE WASHINGTON POST

KABUL, Afghanistan — At least 16 people were killed yesterday when a U.S. military helicopter crashed in bad weather in southeastern Afghanistan, officials said. It was the most serious military accident since the arrival of U.S. troops here in 2001.

The CH-47 Chinook was one of two helicopters returning to the main U.S. base at Bagram, north of Kabul, after a routine mission when it encountered high winds, said a military spokeswoman, Lt. Cindy Moore.

The Chinook had an American crew, but the military had not released the nationalities of all the passengers.

The helicopter went down about 100 miles southwest of Kabul near the city of Ghazni, she said. Eighteen crew members and passengers were listed on the flight manifest, 16 of whom have been confirmed dead, according to officials. The other two remained unaccounted for when recovery operations ended for the night.

The names of the dead are being withheld pending notification of their families, officials said.

Moore said there was no indication the crash was caused by enemy fire. The second helicopter landed without incident.

About 17,000 U.S. troops are based in Afghanistan. According to the Defense Department, at least 122 U.S. troops had died before yesterday's accident.



BOB BROWN/TIMES-DISPATCH

Sen. H. Russell Potts Jr., R-Winchester, who is running for governor as an independent, listens to debate on whether to strip him of committee assignments.

# Potts dodges payback for independent streak

BY JEFF E. SCHAPIRO  
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITER

Conservative Republicans in the Virginia Senate yesterday failed to strip breakaway Republican H. Russell Potts Jr. of his committee assignments as punishment for his independent bid for governor.

Potts, a curmudgeonly Winchester sports promoter elected in 1991, survived on a procedural ruling by the GOP-controlled Senate's president, Lt. Gov. Timothy M. Kaine, the likely Democratic nominee for governor.

The ruling was affirmed by a coalition of moderate Republicans

and Democrats. Twenty-seven senators backed Kaine; nine bucked him, many of them the chamber's most vocal conservatives. Potts abstained.

The squabble spotlighted anew the GOP fissure that has scrambled a gubernatorial race that, until February, was expected to pit Kaine against former Attorney General Jerry W. Kilgore, a Republican.

Potts' candidacy as a so-called "independent Republican" has further complicated the election-year calculus. Kaine claims Potts will bleed GOP support from Kilgore, who says the third candidate forces



### Inside

■ **Victory lap:** The governor says he was successful on 98 percent of his proposed amendments. Page A8.

SEE POTTS, PAGE A8 ▶

# Wilder's budget raises bills

Plan also calls for cuts to 'nondepartmental' areas to save city money

BY DAVID RESS  
AND JEREMY REDMON  
TIMES-DISPATCH STAFF WRITERS

Richmonders — and many who live outside the city — would pay bigger bills for gas, water and sewer services, and many city residents would likely see higher real estate tax bills under Mayor L. Douglas Wilder's first city budget.

"It is sober, and it is a down payment on the future," Wilder said after outlining his two-year, 2006-07 budget at a special session of City Council last night.

That down payment would mean increased real estate tax collections, despite Wilder's recommendation that the tax rate be lowered to \$1.33 per \$100 of assessed value from \$1.37955.

The value of city properties has climbed so much that despite the lower rate, the total the city collects would rise 3.6 percent.

In addition, Wilder proposed:

- A 3 percent increase in gas rates next year and 3 percent the year after — a proposal that would affect thousands outside the city limits because the Department of Public Utilities supplies roughly 100,000 customers in the city, Henrico County and parts of Chesterfield County. It would mean an average increase of \$1.12 a month in fiscal year 2006 and \$1.19 in fiscal year 2007.
- A 6.5 percent increase in water

SEE BUDGET, PAGE A12 ▶

# Coastlines next for drilling?

As energy producers eye potential gas deposits, tourism officials worry

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORTS

WASHINGTON — Oil and gas companies, closer than ever to drilling in an Alaskan wildlife refuge, want to explore another frontier: America's coastlines.

The Atlantic and Pacific coasts and the eastern Gulf of Mexico are protected by a federal ban on new oil and natural-gas extraction. But with rising worry about the country's dependence on fuel imports and soaring prices, energy producers feel they have a unique opportunity — and a more effective strategy — to relax or eliminate the restrictions.

"Part of the solution has to be opening more access," whether it's off the coast of California or the Carolinas, said Duane Radtke, head of the natural-gas-production unit at Dominion Resources Inc. of Richmond, Va. Potential gas deposits off Virginia's coast have attracted industry attention.

Environmentalists say the industry has been emboldened to seek offshore drilling because of last month's

SEE DRILLING, PAGE A8 ▶

# Adams hints IRA fighters could disarm

Sinn Fein leader says politics an alternative to 'armed struggle'

NEW YORK TIMES NEWS SERVICE

LONDON — Gerry Adams, the leader of the Sinn Fein political wing of the Irish Republican Army, urged IRA fighters yesterday to pursue their goals through politics rather than "armed struggle."

His statement to reporters in Belfast was depicted as the closest he has come in public to urging the IRA to turn its back on violence and transform itself from a secretive, underground guerrilla force into part of an open political movement.

"The struggle can now be taken forward by other means," said Adams, speaking at the start of campaigning for elections to the Brit-

ish Parliament set for May 5.

"In the past I have defended the right of the IRA to engage in armed struggle," said Adams, who is taking part in the election to defend a seat in west Belfast.

"I did so because there was no alternative for those who would not bend the knee, or turn a blind eye to oppression, or for those who wanted a national republic," he said. "Now there is an alternative."

"I have clearly set out my view of what the alternative is. The way forward is by building political support for republican and democratic objectives across Ireland and by winning support for these goals internationally."



Adams

Adams was speaking after the IRA was blamed for a \$50 million bank robbery last December and the murder in January of Robert McCartney, threatening to discredit Sinn Fein and its efforts to build political support both in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

"Our struggle has reached a defining moment," Adams said in his message to IRA fighters. "I am asking you to join me in seizing this moment, to intensify our efforts, to rebuild the peace process and decisively move our struggle forward."

There was no immediate response to Adams' statement from the IRA. Adams is widely held by his critics and others to command senior rank in the IRA, but he has not acknowledged that in public.

Adams told IRA fighters, who have maintained a cease-fire since before the 1998 Good Friday

peace agreement, that it was time for them to step forward "not as volunteers risking life and limb but as activists in a national movement toward independence and unity."

"Can you take courageous initiatives which will achieve your aims by purely political and democratic means?" he asked, saying that "Sinn Fein has the potential and capacity to become the vehicle for the attainment of republican objectives."

Sinn Fein officials declined to say if the statement represented a formal call on the IRA to disband at a time when Northern Ireland's peace efforts are stalled and its power-sharing authority is suspended.

In London, Prime Minister Tony Blair's office said the "key will be what the IRA does as a result and it's on that that any final judgment must be made."

## Budget

—FROM PAGE A1

rates next year and 8.25 percent in 2007, which would also affect people outside the city. It would mean an average increase of \$1.46 a month in 2006 and \$1.96 in 2007.

■ A 5.5 percent increase in waste water rates next year and a similar increase in 2007.

■ A \$3 increase in monthly trash collection fees, to \$15 next year, to be followed by a \$2.50 increase to \$17.50 in 2007.

■ A 34 cents-a-month increase in recycling fees.

"We're moving in line with what's happening in the counties," Wilder said. "This isn't revenue enhancement. This is rising costs."

Wilder also cited the need to pay for years of delays in maintenance and his goal of improving trash pickup, a sore point for many residents.

Overall, the budget calls for a 3.69 percent increase in spending this year to \$555.4 million and 0.9 percent next year to \$560.4 million.

The 2-inch-thick budget outlines increases in spending for police, schools and streets, and it sets City Hall's priorities for the two-year period beginning July 1.

"Right now, I just want to see," said Doris Murray, one of the 200 residents and city officials who crammed City Council chambers to hear Wilder's budget speech, when asked about her reaction.

The budget features deep cuts in so-called "nondepartmental" categories — entities ranging from do-good groups to essential public services, such as for mental health, to some high-profile downtown economic development deals.

All in all, those cuts would save the city more than \$10 million a year. In addition, the

previously announced elimination of four departments — customer service, traffic engineering, lobbying and management services — would save more than \$3.6 million, while Wilder proposed a more than \$400,000 cut in the economic development department.

On the rise would be the city's contribution to the school system, up 1.6 percent from this year to \$137.4 million. That's less than the School Board wanted, and it comes with a directive to save money by merging some support services with city agencies to free up additional money for classroom programs.

Other spending increases would pay for 30 new police officers and a \$7.7 million increase for the Department of Public Works, the agency responsible for a stepped-up effort to repair the city's streets.

Wilder said public safety, schools and fixing the streets were his top priorities.

"He said he's gonna run a tight ship," said Vice Mayor G. Manoli Loupassi. "We've got people hit by the tax man — hard — and they need to understand we're doing everything we can to spend money carefully."

Wilder's plan to cut the Richmond school system's support services to pay for such classroom programs as reading and math specialists and foreign languages drew praise from School Board members.

"I think that any time that we can consolidate services with the city that it's a good thing," said School Board Chairman Stephen B. Johnson. "We have to remember that this isn't our money, this is the taxpayers' money."

School Board member Carol A.O. Wolf, who represents the 3rd District, said she was "thrilled" by Wilder's proposals to increase funding for foreign languages, Communities in

Schools and the Discovery Academies.

She said she is especially pleased he is looking at changes in support services, particularly in finance.

"How many people do you need not to pay your bills on time?" she said.

But at the Greater Richmond Partnership, which would lose \$390,000 in annual city funding under Wilder's plan, it would be tough to make up for the cut, said president Gregory H. Wingfield.

"We would have to put into priority order the things we are doing. And then you have a situation of having a hole in the market effort. If the city drops out or Chesterfield drops out, how would we handle the marketing of those jurisdictions?"

Chesterfield officials are also considering withdrawing from the partnership, saying the organization has benefited the region but that benefit has disproportionately gone to Henrico.

The partnership, which has a \$3.1 million annual budget, 11 employees and overseas offices, recruits new businesses to the region with marketing materials and tours. Founded in 1994, the organization represents Chesterfield, Hanover and Henrico counties, as well as Richmond and about 300 area businesses.

City Council has its turn with the budget now. The panel has scheduled meetings to discuss aspects of the spending plan on Saturday, Monday and Tuesday, as well as April 15, April 18 and April 25. A public hearing is set for May 4 at 3 p.m. at City Hall. The council expects to adopt the budget at its May 23 meeting.

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