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# BRIEFS

## On the cover:

The cost of spaces in parking garages on campus could go up as much as 10 percent next year.

Photo by Chris Conway

## Local & VCU

### Two police officers wounded during standoff in city

Two Richmond Police Department officers were shot Saturday afternoon during a standoff in the city's South Side and were treated for injuries that were not life-threatening.

Later in the day, a male and a female were found dead inside the house in the 3900 block of Rusk Avenue after a SWAT team fired tear gas into the residence.

"We are looking at this as a murder-suicide," Deputy Chief John Buturla said Saturday evening at the close of the hours-long standoff that brought dozens of police officers to the neighborhood, closed surrounding streets and prompted evacuations of neighbors.

On Saturday night, police had not released the identities of the two people found dead in the house.

The incident began after police received a call about 1:30 p.m. from a family member or friend who was concerned about the welfare of someone in the house, said Gene Lepley, spokesman for the Richmond Police Department.

Unsuccessful at getting someone to answer the door and concerned about a person inside, police broke into the house. The two officers were shot and then transported for treatment at VCU Medical Center.

*Brief by the Richmond Times-Dispatch*

### Police search for suspect in attempted kidnapping

Richmond police are searching for a man suspected in an attempted abduction of a teenage girl.

The incident unfolded about 11 a.m. Thursday on the 2500 block of Semmes Avenue in South Richmond.

"He forcefully tried to get her to walk down the street around the corner with him," said James Mercante, a police spokesman.

Authorities said the suspect is a black man with light skin in his 30s with green eyes, who is about 5-foot-10 with a medium build. He was described as bald with no facial hair, and he was wearing blue jeans and a black T-shirt and was carrying a white construction-type helmet. He also was wearing a backpack.

*Brief by the Richmond Times-Dispatch*

### Richmond School Board steps back to take in long view

After nearly four months of nonstop action, the Richmond School Board paused Saturday to try to figure out what it wants to accomplish during its four-year term.

During a five-hour retreat at Broad Rock Elementary School, the board set aside its daily duties and let two facilitators lead in-depth discussions on beliefs, goals and strategies.

"I'm so glad we're right here," Vice Chairman Donald L. Coleman of the 7th District said early in the session. "This board inherited a strategic plan. At some point, this board has to have something that says, 'This is where we're heading.'"

The board has seven newcomers among its nine members, and it has been clamoring for big change since it was seated in January. It received a pretty clear signal its call had been heard early in the week when Superintendent Yvonne W. Brandon announced her resignation, but there was barely a mention of that during the retreat.

The only talk of Brandon's impending departure came three hours in, when Tichi L. Pinkney Eppes of the 9th District suggested fast-tracking changes in human resources policy because of the need to hire a superintendent.

The topic died quickly and did not resurface.

*Brief by the Richmond Times Dispatch*

## National & International

### Boston bombing suspect remains in serious condition

As the lone surviving suspect in the Boston Marathon bombing lay hospitalized under heavy guard, the American Civil Liberties Union and a federal public defender raised concerns about investigators' plan to question 19-year-old Dzhokhar Tsarnaev without reading him his Miranda rights.

What Tsarnaev will say and when are unclear. He remained in serious condition Sunday and apparently in no shape for interrogation after being pulled bloodied and wounded from a tarp-covered boat in a Watertown backyard. The capture came at the end of a tense Friday that began with his 26-year-old brother, Tamerlan, dying in a gunbattle with police.

U.S. officials said an elite interrogation team would question the Massachusetts college student without reading him his Miranda rights, something that is allowed on a limited basis when the public may be in immediate danger, such as when bombs are planted and ready to go off.

*Brief by the Associated Press*

### Small fires delay West, Texas residents from going home

After days of waiting, the first group of residents who fled their homes when a fertilizer plant exploded were given permission to go home, a town official said Saturday.

The news came after a nervous day in which officials told residents packed in a hotel that leaking gas tanks were causing small fires near the blast site, keeping authorities from lifting blockades. But officials stressed that the fires were contained.

"It is safe, safe and safe," City Council member Steve Vanek said emphatically.

Those being let back in Saturday were subject to an evening curfew and were warned to stay in their homes.

Roughly 80 homes were damaged after the blast Wednesday night at West Fertilizer Co. that killed 14 and injured 200 more.

State and federal investigators have not yet determined the cause of the disaster, which occurred after a fire broke out at the site after work hours. But safety inspections were rare at the fertilizer company. That is not unusual.

*Brief by the Associated Press*

### Strong quake jolts China's Sichuan, killing 156

Residents huddled outdoors Saturday night in a town near the epicenter of an earthquake that struck the steep hills of China's southwestern Sichuan province, leaving at least 179 people dead and more than 6,700 injured.

Saturday morning's quake triggered landslides and disrupted phone and power connections in mountainous Lushan County five years after a devastating quake wreaked widespread damage across the region. The village of Longmen was hit particularly hard, with authorities saying nearly all the buildings there had been destroyed in a minute-long shaking.

Tens of thousands of people moved into tents or cars, unable to return home or too afraid to go back as aftershocks kept jolting the region.

The quake — measured by the administration at magnitude-7 and by the U.S. Geological Survey at 6.6 — struck the steep hills of Lushan shortly after 8 a.m. Its shallow depth, less than 8 miles, likely magnified the impact.

*Brief by the Associated Press*

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# NEWS

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PHOTO BY CHRIS CONWAY

Prices for on-campus parking in garages and lots will likely go up next year according to David Hanson, VCU's senior vice president for finance and administration.

# Proposal would raise parking costs

Amir Vera  
Staff Writer

Students, faculty and staff will likely have to pay more to park in VCU parking lots or garages for the 2013-2014 school year, according to an email sent by David Hanson, VCU's senior vice president for finance and administration.

The cost to park in a VCU lot or garage could increase by an anticipated 8 percent for students and 10 percent for full-time faculty and staff, according to the statement. If approved, the increase would go into effect July 1 and would likely include further increases of about 3 percent per year through 2018 for all parking permit holders.

"The university has worked diligently to outline a combination of approaches to reduce the support needed for parking, including some rate increases, technology enhancements that will allow for reduced staffing and improvements to our facilities to reduce operating costs," Hanson wrote in the email.

Faculty members who park on campus currently spend between \$39 to \$80 each month on parking, according to the

parking and transportation services website. On-campus student parking ranges from \$175 to \$310 per semester, although different rates apply for overnight or commuter passes.

In the email, Hanson said VCU has worked to subsidize parking and that there have been efforts to improve parking, but the administration has to focus the university's resources on academic priorities.

Some students believe the cost of on-campus parking is high enough already. Junior criminal justice major Tim Howell, who decided not to bring his car back to campus because of the current prices, said increasing the prices will do nothing to help with the budget.

"I feel the 8 percent increase in the student parking rates is unnecessary. The prices are already high as is," Howell said. "I believe it may hurt VCU because other universities do not charge that much for parking in a garage. If (a) student needs their car while staying on campus, they may choose other places to park."

Other places to park are limited though, said junior psychology major Katherine Higgins.

"With the increased street parking limitations I feel like my options are very limited," she said. "I can either buy a pass or choose not to have a car on campus."

In recent months, more restrictive parking regulations have been put into place on popular street parking spots on and near the Monroe Park Campus, such near the Cary Street gym.

"Street parking for me is just unreliable and too time consuming," Higgins said. "For many students we need to have a car on campus for different reasons and I think that the increase puts students in a difficult position."

These changes to parking come amid difficult discussions on budgeting which VCU has been struggling with the past few months. Proposals to help ease the university's budgetary woes currently include a 4 percent increase in tuition and changes in the tuition payment structure to a per-credit structure for the 2013-

2014 academic year.

Earlier this month, Gov. Bob McDonnell released a statement asking college presidents and Boards of Visitors at Virginia's state colleges and universities to limit future tuition increases for Virginia residents.

In the statement, McDonnell said he is "concerned about the affordability of post-secondary education for the young people of Virginia" and will continue to fight against tuition increases for the 2013-2014 school year.

The College of William and Mary's governing board on Friday approved a 14 percent increase in annual tuition and fees for incoming Virginia students. While prices continue to change across campuses in Virginia, Hanson said the Board of Visitors will discuss the cost of parking and other proposals on May 10. **BT**





A therapy dog named Moose visited VCU Medical Center patient Jesse Crabtree during his recovery in the Rehabilitation and Research Center.

# Dog therapy program prescribed to patients

Zoë Dehmer  
Staff Writer

Dr. Jones is just the kind of doctor you want to see. When he and his team come to visit, he makes patients feel comforted and relaxed, and occasionally he will perform a miracle to help them get better.

At less than 10 inches tall, weighing about 10 pounds, Dr. Jones is a Pekingese therapy dog at the VCU Medical Center. He once visited a patient who had been in an accident and hadn't moved since he entered the hospital; doctors were afraid the patient's condition wasn't going to improve when they prescribed Dr. Jones.

"(The nurse) put the dog down on the bed and said, 'Sir, there's a dog here to visit you,' and he raised his hand to try and pet the dog," said Denise Ekey, program coordinator for the Center for Human-Animal Interaction.

Amid the often unfamiliar, sterile environment of the hospital, patients can find comfort in a furry friend when therapy dogs come to visit.

VCU's Center for Human-Animal Interaction (CHAI) provides a therapy dog program called Dogs on Call. Volunteers and their dogs roam the hospital halls visiting patients that need to see a friendly face.

CHAI was founded in 2001 in VCU's School of Medicine with a mission of improved human health and wellbeing through animal interaction. Dogs on Call, the dog therapy program, is offered through the hospital's clinical services.

For a dog to become certified for Dogs on Call, it has to pass certain tem-

perament and obedience tests. Within 24 hours of each visit, the dog has to be bathed and groomed to avoid bringing in unwanted bacteria to the hospital.

Dogs and their owners can volunteer for the program to help patients around the VCU Medical Center. "It's actually a very realistic thing and it helps a lot of people," said rising fourth-year VCU medical student Jessica Hupe.

Hupe has been volunteering with her golden retriever, Mona, for the past several years while in school to become a doctor with a specialty in physical medicine and rehabilitation. She plans to continue volunteering throughout the remainder of medical school and come graduation and hopes to work in a hospital where she can be involved in a similar program.

"I think it really helps (patients) a lot to have something or someone there that doesn't talk to them and try to explain what's going on with their illness or how they should be feeling, but just kind of chills out with them and understands without words. I think it's really important for their healing," Hupe said.

Patient visits with dogs like Mona, however, do more than just cheer people up. In addition to facilitating Dogs on Call through VCU, CHAI conducts research about the physical and mental effects visits with a therapy dog can have on a person.

Hupe said that as a student, participating in the program is just as therapeutic for her as it is for patients.

"I think it's mentally changed my perspective on everything," she said. "I

think it's made me a more well-rounded person to have other things to focus on outside of being a medical student. ... At home, Mona is as good therapy to me as she is to patients when I take her into the hospital. I'm a busy person, but definitely a happy person."

Kelley Snowe, a research associate for the center, explained that a big part of the mission of CHAI is analyzing those effects.

One study that CHAI has completed was research analyzing the effects of human-dog interaction on healthcare professionals in the workplace. The study showed that as little as five minutes interacting with a therapy dog was comparable to 20 minutes rest as far as reducing stress while working.

"So that's really powerful if you think about it," Snowe said. "Nursing is obviously a stressful job, you're on the go a lot, so if you can just take five minutes ... and interact with a dog, you're going to be less stressed going on to the next patient."

One current investigation is collaboration with the Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics in the VCU student survey "Spit for Science." The purpose of the study is to determine what factors contribute to how well students do during their college years and beyond. As a part of the survey, CHAI has added questions about pet ownership.

"We're going to be looking at the data as a whole and contrasting those things with things like alcohol use, depression, and family support," Snowe said.

Lauren Nutile, a first-year medical

student at the VCU School of Medicine, said the program partially influenced her decision to come to the university.

"VCU was actually the only one that had an animal therapy program. I love animals so I thought that was awesome. It actually played a little into my decision to come here," Nutile said.

Since being accepted at VCU, Nutile has become president of a newly formed student-run group for CHAI that makes it easier for medical students to get involved with the program.

Nutile has plans for the group to become more involved with the research and host fundraisers to buy supplies for volunteers like hand sanitizer for before and after they enter the rooms, and leashes and vests for the dogs. She also hopes to show Virginia's state legislators that they should throw the dogs a bone and support the program.

"In the summer we'll go over to the Capital and advocate for funding for animal therapy programs," Nutile said.

Nutile said that one of the most rewarding parts of being involved is getting to shadow volunteers and their dogs in the hospital.

"The patients absolutely light up when you come into their room," Nutile said. "They get more animated; they like to talk about their own pets and ask about the dog that's there."

Nutile said hospital faculty members get very excited when they see the dog team coming too. "They all stop what they're doing and come and say 'I just need five minutes to pet the dog.'" **CT**





PHOTO BY AUDRY DUBON

Volunteers at the Paint the Town Green event helped pick up trash from area neighborhoods this weekend.

# Neighborhoods get help from students, volunteers during Earth Day cleanup

Cyrus Nuval  
Staff Writer

Students and community members helped clean up neighborhoods surrounding the Monroe Park Campus this weekend during the biannual Paint the Town Green event.

Volunteers helped pick up trash and debris from Richmond's local parks and neighborhoods on Earth Day to help keep the community around VCU clean.

"By working together to maintain our neighborhood and city, the students VCU and residents of the Fan District build a sense of community," said Bill Montgomery, a representative and rising president of the Fan District Association. "By (the FDA) supporting and assisting events like this, we remind some of the students of VCU that the Fan District is ... also their community."

The morning-long project started at 9:00 a.m. and dispersed volunteers into the Fan District, Jackson Ward, Oregon Hill, Carver, Randolph and Mosby Court to pick up trash and litter.

This semester's Paint the Town Green project is somewhat different than past ones, said Joseph Quesenberry, an external affairs aid for the SGA, as students have become more involved with the event itself.

"This Paint the Town Green is more student directed; students have taken up more of the leadership roles," Quesenberry said.

Although the number of participants and volunteers has risen over the years, Quesenberry said the event was pressed for participants because of many other on-campus activities that occurred simultaneously during the day, including the Relay for Life event.

"Two semester(s) ago, we had about 250 participants ... last semester we had about 750, so we're hoping to have increasing involvement," he said. "This year is a little difficult because there's a plethora of events going on ... with so many things going on we are happy to have such a favorable turnout as I see right now."

Students from the Management 319 class participated in the event as part of their class work this semester, and have participated in the Paint the Town Green events since 2010. According to Jacob Kaminiak, a teaching assistant and project president for the class, the class helped create the original Paint the Town Green event as a more active way to teach students.

"We try to teach the student management skills by actually getting real projects from the city of Richmond," Kaminiak said. "They're not working on something that's fabricated from a textbook; they are working on something that is real and something that actually impacts the community." **CT**

## Libraries, Career Center collaborate on career research database

Amir Vera  
Staff Writer

With graduation right around the corner for thousands of VCU students, VCU Libraries and the university's Career Center have launched an initiative to help students research future careers.

Labeled as the "Use Company and Industry Research to Land a Job" website, the resource is geared toward helping students research their career choices by looking into company information and industry inquiries.

Bettina Peacemaker, a research librarian at VCU, worked to compile this information over two semesters with the assistant director of the University Career Center Kim Hanneman in an effort to better prepare students for the workforce.

"I talked with career consultants about the things employers and students want to know before the interview," Peacemaker said.

The online resource helps students to find information on companies like annual reports to on a company's financial health and industry trends. The service can help students better examine what

field of study they want to go into and information about nonprofits and government jobs.

"Whether you're in criminal justice, fashion or any other industry, you would still be working for a company and you need to do your research," Peacemaker said.

Hanneman agreed and said the site is not just for upperclassmen. Freshmen and sophomores can also benefit from it because they can see the progression of the industry they want to enter.

"It also demonstrates how associations are tied to specific industries, such as PRSSA and SPJ, and how these associations want to help young people enter into the field," Hanneman said. "They also want to provide detailed information about what's happening, what's current, what's relevant."

Since the program's launch two weeks ago, Hanneman and Peacemaker have both received positive feedback from users. Prior to the website's creation, students would have to visit to the Career Center or use Ram Recruiting to

research information on companies and industries. The new service aggregates all these resources into one place.

VCU alumnus Roy King, who graduated in December 2012 with a bachelor's of science in mass communications, said that his experience looking for jobs was arduous. He had to go to a number of sites to find information about the companies' finances and trends.

"I think it's great because we had to do a lot of legwork as far as going back and reading Fortune 500 articles and just different articles that would deal with company's progression over the years," King said.

King currently works as the sales manager at Dick's Sporting Goods in Short Pump. He said he hopes to grow with the company to one day become a district manager. King also said he owes his success to the University Career Center and help from Hanneman because they helped him to better prepare for his interview, which landed him his ideal job.

"The fact that VCU has something

like that in-house now is great for students because when it comes to applying for a job and you go in for an interview speaking the numbers — the potential and success the company has — it makes you stand out as a candidate," King said.

Students like King are just the type of success stories that Hanneman and Peacemaker want out of the help from this new website. Peacemaker said that people don't often have exposure to databases like this one often, so it's an eye-opening experience for students. Hanneman said she hopes the collaboration between the libraries and the Career Center will bring in younger students who can develop their careers from the time they step onto campus.

"It's still evolving, and that would be our ideal for students to really understand the opportunities to utilize this in a way from freshman through alumni just to help them navigate their early career," Hanneman said. **CT**





PHOTO BY AUDRY DUBON

Workers attempt to fix a broken water main on Broad Street this weekend after water was shut off to area buildings, including the Broad and Belvidere dormitory.

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## Water main repairs on Broad Street inconvenience B&B residents

Cyrus Nuval  
Staff Writer

Students in the Broad and Belvidere dormitory had their water briefly shut off on Saturday afternoon after water was cut off to a section of Broad Street.

Because of the outage, students in the dorm were unable to use the shower systems, faucets and toilets from noon to 9 p.m.

The water outage was caused in order to facilitate the repairs of a nearby water main that burst, according to an email from Sarah McClure, hall director for the dorm. McClure alerted students on Friday that the water would be cut off during the following day and advised they prepare for it the night before.

"They are restoring the water for tonight but will have to turn it off again tomorrow, possibly around noon," McClure told students in the email. "When the water comes back on tonight, please fill your bathtubs up with water so that you can flush the toilets tomorrow while they're working on the water main."

Some students and residents of Broad and Belvidere were agitated and concerned about the outage. Junior psychology major and resident Jessica Julien said the entire situation has been an inconvenience to her and her fellow residents since much earlier in the week.

"The water has been flooding the

Broad and Belvidere intersection since Monday, but now that the pipe burst they want to take action, which is conflicting with the lives of the students," Julien said. "So if I want to shower, use the bathroom or wash my face or even cook I have to go somewhere else, which I think is ridiculous."

Julien said that she had to temporarily move out of the Broad and Belvidere dormitory in order to cope with the lack of water.

"(I've been) asking a friend if I can use their place to shower or use the bathroom when needed," Julien said. "But that is going out of my way when I already have everything I need in my apartment and I may also be an inconvenience to my friend as well."

Hafsa Adaweh, an international studies major and resident in the dorm, said that the water main repair has also been a major inconvenience.

"I am more upset than annoyed," Adaweh said. "I just wish they would have warned us earlier than they did. Not only can I not use the bathroom or even shower, my plans for this weekend have been messed up." **CT**



# SPORTS

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# Baseball takes road series against Dayton



Joey Cujas (above) went 5-for-12 from the plate in the weekend series at Dayton, scoring three runs and recording three RBIs.

**Zachary Holden**  
Staff Writer

It was a make-or-break road series for VCU baseball if they still believed they could break into the top seven and secure a spot in the Atlantic 10 tournament.

Sitting a couple spots outside of the coveted seventh place, the Rams needed at least a pair of wins against Dayton to keep their postseason hopes alive.

## Friday

VCU started the series exactly how it had hoped with a big 10-2 victory.

Dayton struck first scoring a run in the second inning after a Kyle Robinett RBI single drove in Aaron Huesman. Another run was added in the second off a Robby Sunderman single, giving the Flyers a 2-0 lead.

From there on out, it was a dominating performance from VCU. Joey Cujas' RBI double in the fifth brought in James Bunn to start the scoring.

The seventh inning was where the scoring explosion happened. With the bases loaded, Chris Ayers was walked, tying the game at 2-2 with no outs and loading the bases again. Next up was Vimal Machin who jacked a grand slam to right field, putting the Rams up four. Another run from Taylor Buran capped off the six-run inning.

VCU would add three more in the eighth. After three consecutive walks loaded the bases, Cujas sent a single into center field bringing in Nick Octavi and Bill Cullen. Bunn was driven in on the next at-bat, sealing the victory for the Rams.

Winning pitcher Heath Dwyer struck out a career-high 11 batters and recorded his second complete game of the season.

"It was a great effort from Heath Dwyer," head coach Shawn Stiffler said. "He was everything you want your Friday night guy to be."

The win gave VCU a two-game winning streak and was the first time they recorded consecutive wins since the first week of March.

## Saturday

Another big scoring day for VCU sealed the series win with an 8-1 victory.

Three runs in the first inning gave the Rams a lead they would not squander. A Cujas single and Ayers double started off the day. Machin then doubled off the center field wall to bring

in the two base runners before Buran's RBI single brought home Machin.

An extra run was added in the third after a Buran single scored Machin giving the Rams a 4-0 lead. Two more came in the seventh with an Ayers single allowing Cujas to reach home. Jordan Weymouth was hit by a pitch with the bases loaded to bring in an unearned run.

Dayton's lone run came in the eighth after Robinett hit a home run to left field.

In the ninth, VCU would add its final two runs. With two outs, Weymouth was brought in from second base after Trevor Marino doubled. He was followed by Octavi's single, advancing him to third before Cullen sent a single to right field bringing Marino home.

"It was good to come out and play well and win a series on the road," Stiffler said. "Good job today by our offense and especially with two outs."

## Sunday

Unable to complete its first sweep since St. Joseph's in February, VCU fell 4-1 to Dayton.

VCU started the scoring in the second after a Marino single scored Machin, but it was quickly erased with a three-run home run in the bottom of the second from Dayton.

Five scoreless innings passed with the Rams still trailing by two. The Flyers added an insurance run in the eighth with an RBI single from Ryan Berry.

Into the ninth, VCU needed three runs to force extra innings. Ayers singled to right field and was followed by a Machin walk giving the Rams two base runners with no outs. Buran reached first base off a fielder's choice to shortstop Luke Wolford who caught Machin heading to second.

Weymouth then grounded out to Wolford who completed a 6-4-3 double play to end the game.

VCU as a team hit just .107 on a season-low 3-for-28 batting.

"It's disappointing to end a pretty good week on a game like this," Stiffler said. "We came up to a tough place to play and a place we didn't know much about and took two of three games, but were not able to pick up the win today."

The series wins keeps VCU in ninth place in the A-10, but keeps them within two games of seventh.

Next up is Old Dominion University in Hampton, Va. on Tuesday as part of the Paul Keyes Strikeout Cancer Classic. **CT**

PHOTO BY CHRIS CONWAY



# Women's tennis wins VCU's first A-10 championship



The VCU women's tennis team garnered VCU's first-ever Atlantic 10 title Sunday.

**Zachary Holden**  
Staff Writer

Closing the regular season with nine straight wins, success in the Atlantic 10 conference tournament was expected of the VCU women's tennis team.

Success is what they got. Sweeping aside their opposition with ease in all four matches; women's tennis became the first VCU team to achieve A-10 title glory.

The conference tournament started Thursday at Boar's Head Sports Club in Charlottesville, Va. with top-seeded VCU matched against La Salle. Perfect 8-0 doubles victories from Olga Barscheuskaya/Yukako Noi and Olga Terteac/Karina Alesha got the Rams off to a quick 1-0 lead on the day.

Freshmen Barscheuskaya and Alesha got the singles matches started with a pair of 6-0, 6-0 wins that extended VCU's lead to 3-0 on the day. Terteac sealed the deal with yet another perfect 6-0, 6-0 win to give the Rams a quick 4-0 win.

Friday saw VCU matched up with Temple in the quarterfinals. A pair of early doubles wins gave VCU a 1-0 lead. One-sided victories from Barscheuskaya, Terteac and Alesha meant the Rams cruised into the semifinals with ease.

Next up was cross-town rivals Rich-

mond for a spot in the finals. Again, an early pair of doubles wins gave VCU a 1-0 lead heading into the singles matches. This time, Salome Kvitashvili and Noi joined Terteac in the straight sets wins to give the Rams another perfect 4-0 win and booked them a ticket to the A-10 finals against Xavier.

Sunday would determine if VCU could capture their first A-10 tournament title of the season after men's and women's soccer, along with basketball, made it to the championship game but could not lift the trophy.

The doubles teams of Terteac/Kvitashvili and Barscheuskaya/Noi won 8-2 and 8-4 respectively to give VCU a familiar 1-0 lead. Senior Josefin Hjertquist earned VCU's second point of the day with a 6-3, 6-2 win. She was followed by a pair of wins by Terteac and Noi to take home the trophy.

Failing to drop a single point all weekend long, the women hoisted the conference tournament trophy. It was the third time in four years the women's tennis team won a conference championship.

The quartet of victories brought their winning streak to 13 straight heading into the NCAA Tournament, which will have regional locations and dates announced on May 5. **CT**



Sophomore Salome Kvitashvili (above) was part of a winning doubles pair that helped lift VCU over Xavier in the A-10 championship game on Sunday.

PHOTO COURTESY OF VCU ATHLETICS

## VCU 4, XAVIER 0

### SINGLES

1. KATIE PLEIMAN (XU) VS. CINDY CHALA (VCU) 7-5, 1-2, DNF
2. YUKAKO NOI (VCU) DEF. ALEX BRINKER (XU) 6-4, 6-4
3. JOSEFIN HJERTQUIST (VCU) DEF. KALLY ALKIRE (XU) 6-3, 6-2
4. SALOME KVITASHVILI (VCU) VS. DANIELLA PATTON (XU) 7-5, 3-3, DNF
5. OLGA TERTEAC (VCU) DEF. ANDREA WOLF (XU) 6-1, 6-3
6. LIZZIE OOSTERBAAN (XU) VS. OLGA BARSCHEHEUSKAYA (VCU) 7-5, 1-4

ORDER OF FINISH: 3, 5, 2

### DOUBLES

1. OLGA BARSCHEUSKAYA/YUKAKO NOI (VCU) DEF. KALLY ALKIRE/KATIE PLEIMAN (XU) 8-4
2. JOSEFIN HJERTQUIST/CINDY CHALA (VCU) VS. DANIELLA PATTON/ALLYSON WESTLING (XU) 7-2, DNF (VCU LEAD)
3. OLGA TERTEAC/SALOME KVITASHVILI (VCU) DEF. ALEX BRINKER/ANDREA WOLF (XU) 8-2

ORDER OF FINISH: 3, 1

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# VCU signs 2013 guard Doug Brooks

## Staff Reports

VCU men's basketball head coach Shaka Smart and staff signed guard Doug Brooks out of Lake Wales, Fla. on Wednesday.

Brooks signed his National Letter of Intent with VCU after committing to the Rams on April 2.

"We're very excited about the addition of Doug Brooks to our program," Smart said in a release. "He is an extremely hungry, motivated young man who fits our profile on and off the court. Our fans will quickly develop an appreciation for his approach towards the game."

Brooks is a consensus three-star recruit who received interest from South Carolina, South Florida, Illinois State, Central Florida, Arkansas and others.

The 6-foot-3, 175-pound Brooks joins a 2013 recruiting class full of guards including JeQuan Lewis and Jairus Lyles along with forward Antravious Simmons.

Brooks is known for his speed and defense, which fits in perfectly with VCU's Havoc style of play.

Brooks is coming off his senior season at Lake Wales, where he helped the Highlanders to a 22-8 season and a No. 1 ranking in the state of Florida for the better part of the season.

In 2012, Brooks led the nationally ranked Highlanders to a Florida Class 5A State Championship behind a 28-4 record.

Back in December Brooks scored 23 points and recorded five steals against No. 17 Paul VI (Washington, D.C.) in the City of Palms Tournament.

Brooks scored 32 points and made 8-of-16 3-pointers to lead Lake Wales to a win over Chester (Pa.) a few days later.

He averaged 23 points and 5.3 steals over three games at the tournament.

Brooks joins the Rams, who are coming off a 27-9 season and a third straight NCAA Tournament appearance. VCU returns three starters in Treveon Graham, Juvonte Reddic and Rob Brandenburg. **CT**

**"HE IS AN EXTREMELY HUNGRY, MOTIVATED YOUNG MAN WHO FITS OUR PROFILE ON AND OFF THE COURT. OUR FANS WILL QUICKLY DEVELOP AN APPRECIATION FOR HIS APPROACH TOWARDS THE GAME." - SMART**

# Golf team takes home Black and Blue Cup

Zachary Holden  
Staff Writer

The VCU golf team ended its regular season on a high note by taking home the Black and Blue Cup over rival University of Richmond.

Held at the Kinloch Golf Club in Manakin-Sabot, Va., the Black and Blue Cup is a match-play event between VCU and Richmond to determine who reigns supreme for that calendar year.

Last season, Richmond won 4.5 to 3.5 in the inaugural year of the event. This year, VCU took the cup home with a score of 5 to 3.

The Rams had individual victories from Jake McNulty (2 and 1), Adrian Parada (2 and 1), Matt Ball Jr. (1 up),

Steffen Harm (3 and 2) and Adam Ball (2 and 1).

In rematches from last season's cup, the results were reversed in the Spiders' favor. Richmond's Danny Pizetoski and Jack Wilkes took down Simon Taylor and Rocky Khara respectively. Last year, Taylor and Khara won their matches against the two Spiders.

Richmond had the two largest margins of victory on the day as Wilkes beat Khara 6 and 5, while John David Sanderson took down VCU's Gino Vandenberg 5 and 4.

The cup win was VCU's final preparation before heading to Heron Bay, Fla. to compete in the Atlantic 10 Conference Championships April 26-28. **CT**

## RESULTS

### VCU 5, Richmond 3

Black and Blue Cup

Kinloch Golf Club (Manakin-Sabot, Va.)

Jake McNulty, VCU def. Nick Austin **2 and 1**

Adrian Parada, VCU def. Austin Romeo **2 and 1**

Matt Ball Jr., VCU def. Colin McDade **1 up**

Steffen Harm, VCU def. David Germann **3 and 2**

Adam Ball, VCU, def. Daniel Walker **2 and 1**

Danny Pizetoski, UR, def. Simon Taylor **1 up**

John David Sanderson, UR, def. Gino Vandenberg **5 and 4**

Jack Wilkes, UR, def. Rocky Khara **6 and 5**

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# SPECTRUM

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Record Store Day promotes vinyl record sales • 13



PHOTO BY FORREST NGUYEN

David Robert, a VCU alumnus and RVA Beard League member, stood at the Earth Day Bazaar on Friday with a styled beard to promote the 2nd Annual Mid-Atlantic 'Stache and Beard Championships.

## Beard League hosts second annual championships

**Samantha Foster**  
Spectrum Editor

More than 200 men and women will take the stage at the Canal Club to show off their beards as the RVA Beard League hosts the 2nd Annual Mid-Atlantic Beard and 'Stache Championships.

The RVA Beard League, formerly known as the Follicles of the James 'Stache and Beard League, is a collection of men who have grown out their beards, mustaches and sideburns, and women who have made their own beards out of natural or hilariously fake materials. They then compete with their beards across the country, even going as far away as Las Vegas for a recent competition.

The 2nd Annual Mid-Atlantic Beard and 'Stache Championships will be held on April 27 to benefit the Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Richmond.

The Richmond City Council also recently named April as Richmond Facial Hair Appreciation Month. The council recognized the RVA Beard League for their beard growing abilities.

Stephen Brown, who sports a waxed mustache, is a VCU alumnus and the

RVA Beard League vice president.

Brown will also host the championships

"The first competition I went to, I went as a photographer. I didn't even go to compete, but I just saw what it was all about and then wanted to try it so I tried to grow a mustache," Brown said. "I had never had facial hair before, so I just started growing and competing since then."

Brown competes in the styled mustache category. For national competitions, the categories are narrowed down even further, so Brown competes in the Dali mustache category. This year at the 2nd Annual Mid-Atlantic Beard and 'Stache Championships, two new categories have been added, sideburns and full beard under an inch, which Brown thinks will encourage those who are new to growing to their beards out to compete.

"A lot of people say that they can't grow a beard or they can't grow anything. You have to get past that six-month mark and see where you are at," Brown said. "You can't say 'I'm just going to trim it once.' You have to just let it keep growing and see what your face will let you do."

The 2nd Annual Mid-Atlantic 'Stache and Beard League Championships will be judged by local legends, including the drummer for the band Lamb of God, Chris Adler. The judges will decide the winner in each category based on who they think has the better beard. They will also decide the "Best in Show" award from the category winners, which include full beards, mustaches, partial beards and fake beards.

VCU alumnus and RVA Beard League treasurer Travis Oliver, whose beard reaches about halfway down his chest, sees the competition as something fun to do with his free time. After being laid off from his job four years ago, Oliver decided to start growing out his beard.

"I had never grown a beard, so I just wanted to see what would happen. I just started growing it and I've only shaved it a couple times since then," Oliver said. "The competition thing you just kind of find out about when you start growing a beard. People tell you, 'hey, we're having a competition; you should come.' It sounded like a fun thing to do."

At last year's Mid-Atlantic Beard and 'Stache Championships, more than 90

people competed but more than 200 people were turned away from the competition location, Strange Matter. This year, Brown estimates that there will be more than 200 people competing and more than 500 people at the Canal Club to watch the men and women show off their facial hair.

David Roberts, a VCU alum and RVA Beard league member, was sporting his beard in a styled perfect circle Friday afternoon at the 2nd Annual Community Bazaar, which was the first time he had ever tried such a feat. Roberts grew his beard as a bet two years ago, but then shaved it for the movie "Lincoln." After meeting the other members of the RVA Beard League, Roberts decided to grow his again and compete as a hobby.

"It's not too hard, although styling it is a little bit of a challenge," Roberts said. "It's a nice way to go to a different place you've never been to. You kind of build friendships across the state. It's always fun looking at everyone else's styles of beard." **CT**





Student vendors sold handmade items and homegrown plants at the Earth Day Bazaar this past Friday.

# Students sell homemade wares for Earth Day

Alex Carrigan  
Staff Writer

Paintings of Ron Burgundy, hand-made cups and crocheted creatures filled tables outside the amphitheater behind Hibbs as part of Earth Day last Friday. Students and vendors gathered to sell homemade crafts, jewelry and other wares as part of the second annual Earth Day Bazaar.

Sponsored by Green Unity of VCU, the event allowed students to buy and sell homemade products by some of the more hands-on students of VCU.

Melissa Lesh, a senior painting and printmaking student and president of Green Unity, said this year's bazaar had more vendors than the last year's event, with 34 vendors compared to last year's 26.

"The bazaar is a place to engage in

creativity, sustainability and community," she said. "We wanted to have more commerce on campus and connect with students."

The student vendors assembled their stands in hopes of selling their hand-made goods. Each stand had its own unique merchandise, ranging from hand-crafted jewelry to homemade soaps. One vendor sold coffee from Jamaica while playing reggae records at his stand, and another sold hand-decorated hula hoops.

Students could also bring old T-shirts to the event and learn how to recycle them into shopping bags.

"I'm really happy to see all kinds of things," Lesh said. "It's a real diverse array of people. It shows a real dedication to the event."

Tereza McInnes, a sophomore international studies and French major, had

a table covered in crochet animals and objects, including crochet elephants, gnomes and cacti.

"I get struck by imagination," McInnes said. "I crochet what I want to crochet and that's how I decide on what I sell."

The bazaar was not just a chance for VCU students to sell their crafts. Some people came to the plaza with other items to sell or promote. These groups included a technology repair stand that offered to fix laptops and iPhones. International social justice sophomore Amelia Kirby promoted her plan to spend 10 weeks this summer biking from North Carolina to California, with pit stops to help build homes with Habitat for Humanity.

Another notable group at the bazaar was the RVA Beard League, a group of individuals who sport impressive beards

and mustaches, promoted their upcoming championship competition.

"VCU is a great place to interact with Richmond, and selling T-shirts is a great way to get the word out," said RVA Beard League member Chad Roberts.

Green Unity, who sponsors the event, does hold other markets for their homegrown food, but Lesh said she would love to see the bazaar become a more frequent event, whether it be a few times a semester or in a permanent location.

"I'd like to expand this into an ongoing space," Lesh said. "If we can create a space indoors, then students and young entrepreneurs get their work out and connect to their community." **CT**



# Record Store Day shows rise in vinyl sales

**Ember Casler**  
Contributing Writer

The sixth annual Record Store Day inspired music lovers to visit their local record stores on April 20 and relive the days of buying vinyl records.

According to employee Rob Sheley, in the past Record Store Day at music store Plan 9 has received overwhelming support.

"We will have a line down the block," Sheley said.

Business hasn't always been easy for independent music stores, including Plan 9. After dealing with financial struggles and reducing their franchise locations from 14 to 2, Plan 9 is now well positioned in a growing niche of the music industry.

Customers who prefer vinyl tend to show their loyalty to independent music stores. These customers accounted for 67 percent of all vinyl sales in 2012.

When Plan 9 recently relocated, it was rumored that they were closing. "People assumed we were closing due to a sign in the window that said 'for lease,' but that was only there because the lease was expiring and we planned to move," Sheley said.

Fans and customers of Plan 9 who were concerned about the future of the business have nothing to fear. "We're working on a long-term lease with no plans to move again," Sheley said.

Sheley believes that young music lovers will still collect vinyl and keep the physical music forms alive.

"CDs and vinyl won't go away be-

cause people need to touch something," Sheley said. "There are far too (many) people with far too much money in it for it to go belly up."

The music industry has been around for decades but, due to the rise of the digital era, people no longer have to go to the store to buy new music. According to Nielsen Company and Billboard 2012 Mid-Year U.S. Music Industry Report, 2012 marked the first time in history that more albums were sold through digital stores than any other retail format, accounting for 37 percent of all album sales.

VCU student Jason Jones said he thinks CDs and vinyl records will eventually disappear.

"It's more convenient and quicker to just download music straight to your computer or cell phone than to go out and buy a CD. You're eventually going to transfer to your phone or computer anyways," Jones said.

His opinion is consistent with the overall trend in the music industry showing that physical sales are declining. However, one physical music product is very much on the rise: vinyl.

Vinyl sales have increased in each of the last five years, reaching a record high of 4.6 million in 2012, compared to 3.9 million in 2011.

Sheley said vinyl sales have come full circle and a new generation of kids are interested in records.

"Old customers bring their kids in who want a record player and vinyl for their birthday or Christmas," he said. **CT**



PHOTO BY CHRIS CONWAY

Plan 9 music store is one of the few stores left in Richmond that sells vinyl records. Vinyl record sales have risen over the past few years, thanks in part to Record Store Day, which happens on April 20 each year.

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# Theatre VCU seniors audition in New York, Los Angeles

**Samantha Foster**  
Spectrum Editor

Theater performance seniors in Theatre VCU are getting a taste of the world beyond VCU before they even cross the stage at graduation. Roughly 25 seniors traveled to Los Angeles and will be traveling to New York City this week as part of their Senior Showcase.

The Senior Showcase is an opportunity for students in theater performance to demonstrate their skills to agents and casting directors in Los Angeles and New York in hopes that getting their name and headshots in the industry early will aid them in landing an acting job post-graduation.

Theater performance senior Sean Wyland took the trip as way to accomplish his personal goal of breaking into the theater world.

"I think it's a great way to step out into the world outside of college and get a taste of the industry," Wyland said.

Earlier in the semester, students traveled to Los Angeles for nine days, during which time they participated in workshops and individual interviews with

agents and casting directors from the area. They met with Russell Scott, the casting director for "Breaking Bad" and "The Walking Dead," and Eric Souliere, the casting director for "The Mentalist" and "American Horror Story."

Byron Wigfall, one of the students on the trip to Los Angeles, enjoyed the feedback that he received from the agents and casting directors.

"It's interesting how opinions can differ so much from person to person," Wigfall said. "You get to a point where one minute, one person hates your headshot and the next person loves it."

During the workshops, students cold read scenes for the casting directors and agents. Upon returning to Richmond from Los Angeles, they received the information for agents and casting directors who were interested in them for post-graduation work.

"They say it takes seeing someone six times before they'll really bring you in and this is only our first meeting with these people, but it's still a very big deal and we work had to make a good impression," Wigfall said of meeting with the agents and casting directors.



PHOTO COURTESY OF SEAN WYLAND

**Seniors in Theatre VCU traveled to California as part of their Senior Showcase to meet with agents and casting directors.**

During this coming week, from April 21-27, the theater performance seniors involved in the Senior Showcase will be traveling to New York City to perform a set of scenes that they have been rehearsing this semester. They will be performing them once as an open showcase for any agents and casting directors who wish to come, as well as any VCU alumni living in New York City. Their second performance will be for four agents who will then critique the performances on sight.

The performances are each done in pairs, each person getting to perform two pieces. They can choose to act in both pieces or sing for one of them.

Senior Jackie Reynolds believes that working in pairs has been beneficial to the experience.

"Working with someone else does create a sense of support and team work. We all want each other to do well, so working together has been a great experience," she said.

While the funding for the trips is expensive, around \$3,500 for both, Theatre VCU does provide some help funding the trips. Wyland thinks that the trip is important to take for performance theatre majors.

"I took this trip because I (felt) ... I needed to accomplish for my own personal goals, but for others it might just not be their cup of tea," Wyland said. "This is the biggest choice a theater major will make while they are attending Theatre VCU." **CT**

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## OAP - APRIL EVENTS

### Upcoming Trips

**Weekend Canoe Trip: 4/6-4/7**

**Day Rafting: 4/7, 4/20**

**Weekend Sea Kayaking: 4/12-4/14**

**Women's Backpacking Weekend: 4/20-4/21**

**Mountain Bike Day Trip: 4/21**

**Full Moon Canoe: 4/27**

**SUP (Stand Up Paddleboarding): 4/27**

### Weekly Clinics

**MONDAY - Road Rides: through 4/29**

**TUESDAY - Kayak River Clinics: 4/2-5/30**

**WEDNESDAY - Manchester Wall Climbs: through 5/1**

**THURSDAY - Mountain Bike Rides: through 5/2**

**FRIDAY - Paddleboarding: 4/5-5/3**

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# OPINION

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ILLUSTRATION BY CHRIS KINDRED

# Defuse the domestic threats

**Shane Wade**  
Opinion Editor

We cannot let terror win.

Violence made headlines nationwide last week, beginning with the attack on the Boston Marathon and ending in a shootout in Watertown, Mass. The suspected perpetrators, one dead and one in custody, sought to bear influence upon us through their violence, but we cannot let them win.

In the war we fight against forces bent on dismantling America and devolving the liberties we cherish, we cannot sacrifice quintessential American freedom in favor of an impossible goal of total security. Liberty and freedom are more than abstract values to be debated by talking heads; they are the characteristics of this American landscape and the guiding points for moral policies.

Fear has gripped our lives and made us reactive and cautious people. In the past week, Short Pump Mall, downtown

Richmond and a local airport have all had temporarily evacuations because of reports of an unattended package; similar instances have occurred nationwide.

The same fears of outsiders, attacks on the public and impending dooms that lingered about in the aftermath of 9/11 still haunt us to this day, but we cannot begin to let those fears define us as a people — not through public policy, not through daily behaviors and not through legislation.

Responding to acts of terror by engaging in torture, extraordinary rendition, warrantless surveillance and religious or racial discrimination and attacking civil liberties is exactly what terrorists want. It's exactly what will be our downfall.

We will, in the coming weeks, see a plethora of pledges from pundits and politicians requesting to further restrict freedoms previously enjoyed by the public. Just as they have taken our shoes and miscellaneous toiletries at the airport,

they will seek to take our bags, our hats and our glasses. Advocates of this new American pseudo-police state will ask you to “Remember Boston” and strip naked in order for us to remain safe.

That is not our America.

Our America is one that recognizes that blanket, assured security is a myth and that freedom is greater than fear. The greatest threats to America will always be domestic: Federal spending, foreign policy, extradition, militarization, unjust laws, culture wars, political stasis — these issues drag us closer to ruin. These are the issues that deserve our constant vigilance and the spotlight of our 24-hour news cycle, not celebrity gossip, political grandstanding and general derision.

Security should not be achieved through the loss of personal freedoms. London, for example, removed trash bins near major sites and public spaces years ago to prevent Irish Republican Army militants from using them as

bomb drops.

There's a philosophical, strategic and logical difference between implementing measures that inconvenience individuals and measures that limit public and personal freedom. Smart solutions exist, if only we give them our attention and credence.

Threats to American security undoubtedly threaten American liberties. Expediency to legislate safety, however, is an equally virulent threat. Policy amendments and legislation suggestions regarding recent events have been, appropriately, few and silent, but that's how the controversial Patriot Act, passed Congress.

As our defense priorities shift from al-Qaeda and the enemies abroad, a greater eye of focus must be placed upon our domestic threats: For the government, those threats are domestic and home-grown terrorist operators; for the citizenry, those threats are found no further than Washington, D.C. **CT**



# Reinforce safety regulations

**Shane Wade**  
Opinion Editor

This week has been a stark reminder that we can be our own worst enemy.

Amid the tragedies that occurred last week, West Fertilizer Co., a fertilizer plant in West, Texas, exploded. The explosion killed at least 15 people, wounded upwards of 160 and caused the evacuation of nearby homes.

Days later, the Associated Press reported that the fertilizer plant hadn't been inspected by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) since 1985. Furthermore, the site had no contingency plan with the Environmental Protection Agency in case of an emergency.

Through our lax regulatory enforcement policies, we indirectly allowed this to happen. In America, politicians constantly bemoan how over-regulation threatens the profitability of businesses and industries, but there's no voice of opposition, no voice reminding us of Upton Sinclair's "The Jungle," the evils of crony and disaster capitalism or the impending disaster that is unfettered, under-regulated industry.

Legislators and pundits like Rand Paul and Newt Gingrich talk about "the old days" of America, where kids could freely find jobs without filing loads of paperwork, the days when employers didn't offer a health insurance plan. These sentiments reinforce the ethos that government doesn't need to protect

works and consumers from businesses.

OSHA is responsible for overseeing the health and safety of more than 7 million work sites, conducting more than 40,000 inspections per year with only about 2,000 inspectors. The consistent devolution of OSHA, by corporations buying off regulators and helping to perpetuate the utterly hazardous conditions with which American workers have become familiar should alarm us to great extent.

## THE WEST FERTILIZER EXPLOSION IS A WAKE-UP CALL FOR THE SLUMBERING POLITICAL STATUS QUO PROTECTING NEGLIGENT COMPANIES.

Who – pundit, politician, CEO, leader, organization, union – has stepped forward on the national stage to introduce legislation that improves workplace safety and rearms OSHA with the resources and staffing necessary to protect the American people?

When did the defense of the American worker become a non-issue in politics and at what point will it once again become a rallying point for change? How many must suffer? How many explosions, deaths and injuries? How

many workplaces must risk disaster for the rights of the worker to rise?

The West Fertilizer explosion is a wake-up call for the slumbering political status quo protecting negligent companies. Whatever hundreds of thousands of dollars that would have been needed to resolve the plant's structural issues could have prevented this accident. The preventative cost would likely pale in comparison to the millions of dollars in property damage, as well as the incalculable loss of life we suffered last week.

In 2010 alone, nearly 4,700 people were killed at work, according to the Center of Public Integrity. Although our workforce numbers boost well into the millions and 4,700 is but a fraction, the silence and nonchalance has brought about a lax regulatory agency. In our mission for wealth and profit, we've made productivity a key factor, but forgotten the importance of regulatory oversight.

American safety has been handicapped by American productivity. While work conditions are not as outright hazardous as in the past, we as a nation have not been entirely successful; news story after news story speaks of a degradation of former regulations and standards.

With the forces of industry, lobbyists, Congress and capitalism working ideologically against American workers, the hope of salvation dissipates. **CT**

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**Mechelle Hankerson**  
Executive Editor

**Shane Wade**  
Opinion Editor

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