

THE REGION

LOCAL DIGEST

THE REGION

'Bike and ride' set for College Park station

Metro is constructing a secure bike corral at the College Park rail station to encourage bicycle use.

The 2,400-square-foot room with steel-mesh walls will be the system's first "bike and ride" area. The corral will accommodate 120 bikes, Metro said.

Officials said that about two-thirds of Metro's College Park customers travel fewer than three miles to the station by car.

"By providing customers with enhanced security and convenience, our hope is that more College Park customers will consider bike access," said Nat Bottingheimer, Metro's assistant general manager of planning.

Customers can register to use the area and will receive an access card or fob. The fee will be 35 cents per hour, Metro said, but free bike racks will still be available at the station. The College Park bike facility is expected to be completed by early next year.

— Dana Hedgpeth

Metro disruptions this weekend

Riders on Metro's Green, Yellow and Orange lines will face disruptions this weekend as the transit authority takes advantage of the long Columbus Day weekend to shut some stations while workers install equipment and conduct repairs.

The work is scheduled to start at 10 p.m. Friday, with the system returning to normal service at 5 a.m. Tuesday.

On the Green and Yellow lines, the Shaw, U Street and Columbia Heights stations will be closed while workers install new track switches. Free shuttle buses will replace trains between Georgia Avenue and Mount Vernon Square.

On the Orange Line, buses will replace trains between East Falls Church and West Falls Church while crews work on the Dulles Metrorail project to link the new line with the Orange Line. Buses will be used between the stations, which will remain open for transfers.

Throughout the weekend, customers should add 20 minutes or more to their travel times.

Metro suggested that Green Line passengers traveling to and from stations north of Georgia Avenue can avoid the work zone by traveling on the Red Line, which does not have any track work scheduled for the weekend.

— Staff reports

THE DISTRICT

2 pedestrians killed in separate incidents

Two pedestrians were killed Thursday in separate incidents in Northwest Washington, D.C. police said.

Trudith Rishikof, 64, who is listed in online records as living in the 4200 block of Massachusetts Avenue NW, was struck by a 2008 Toyota Highlander as she crossed the street in the 3100 block of Connecticut Avenue about 11 a.m., said Officer Paul Metcalf, a spokesman. She was taken to a hospital, where she died.

The vehicle stayed at the scene, and police were investigating.

About 4 p.m., a man was killed on 14th Street between Webster and Allison streets when he was struck by a hit-and-run driver, said police officials who declined to be named. News of the death had not been publicly announced by D.C. police last night.

The department's major crash and homicide units were investigating the incident. Witnesses told police the man was fighting with other men in the block and was chased into the street. Police think a Jeep deliberately ran over the man as he tried to escape the attackers, the officials said.

Officials did not give a detailed description of the vehicle, which fled the scene.

— Clarence Williams

MARYLAND

Sports manager gets three years for fraud

A 41-year-old Silver Spring sports manager was sentenced to three years in prison after pleading guilty to tax evasion and conspiracy to commit bank and wire fraud.

Nathan A. Peake, who ran a company called Peake Management Group that managed professional boxers and basketball players, was sentenced Wednesday in U.S. District Court in the District.

Peake managed former NBA All-Star and Maryland native Steve Francis, who was Peake's business partner.

According to court documents, Peake did not file income tax returns from 2000 to 2007. During that time, he diverted \$5.8 million in management and agent fees from his business to personal and commercial bank accounts.

Peake admitted to evading more than \$1 million in income taxes and faced a maximum of 10 years in prison.

— Maggie Fazeli Fard

VIRGINIA

Swamp fire is still smoking

Blaze is on pace to be longest burning since refuge designation in '74

BY DARRYL FEARS

The stubborn wildfire in the Great Dismal Swamp National Wildlife Refuge began in the usual way, with a bolt out of the blue.

From that spark in Virginia's Tidewater area on Aug. 4, the blaze has grown into the largest ever at the refuge, burning more than 6,300 acres. It is on pace to be the longest-burning fire since the swamp was designated as a refuge in 1974.

As of Thursday, it had burned for more than two months, even after a hurricane and tropical storm dumped about four months' worth of rain within weeks.

Refuge manager Chris Lowie watched it with frustration while touring the swamp in a helicopter after Hurricane Irene at the end of August. "I couldn't believe it was still burning," he said. "We identified 35 to 40 spots that were still smoking."

Only the Great Conflagration — which burned from 1923 to 1926 before the swamp became a federal refuge — was bigger.

Swamp fires rarely threaten people and property, but their thick smoke concerns federal health officials. The swamp is within a few miles of downtown Suffolk, and residents of Suffolk and Chesapeake counties who suffer from pulmonary conditions were at risk during sustained periods of poor air quality.

A similar wildfire in North Carolina produced "haze and air pollution far in excess" of national air quality standards, according to a federal report.

During the Pocosin Lakes National Wildlife Refuge fire in 2008, emergency room visits for asthma, pneumonia and acute bronchitis increased significantly. Risk of heart failure increased in some counties during episodes of high exposure to smoke, compared



STEPHEN M. KATZ/THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT VIA ASSOCIATED PRESS

Smoke from the Great Dismal Swamp fire billows above the tree line in Suffolk nearly a week after the fire began. Two months later, the fire is confined to a few hundred acres of the 113,000-acre refuge.

with other days, according to data cited in the report.

In the early days of the current fire, when it burned brightest, Lowie fielded numerous phone calls from residents. "Citizens of Hampton Roads were ... saying, 'When is the fire going to be out?' 'I'm tired of the smoke.' 'I have asthma.' 'I can't go outside.' Things like that," Lowie said.

At the refuge, wildlife died. Large mammals such as bears and otters lumbered away from the flames, but reptiles, including turtles, frogs and the endangered canebrake rattlesnake, perished because they couldn't flee fast enough.

The fire killed pure stands of Atlantic white cedar, rare trees that provide the habitat that Hessel's hairstreak butterflies need to survive.

Near the end of August, the fire started to fade. It is now confined to a few hundred acres of the 113,000-acre refuge. About the same time, Hurricane Irene hit Virginia, dropping 12 inches of rain. Tropical Storm Lee came

next, pouring nearly three inches of rain. Yet the fire continues.

A wildfire in a damp bog might seem odd, but there's an explanation. Lowie said a Founding Father, George Washington, started the process of draining the swamps by using ditches to harvest timber.

Lightning fires usually erupt in a substance called peat, dead leaves and vegetation that pile up over thousands of years, Lowie said. There's not enough oxygen in the soil to breathe life into microbes that decompose it. In dry weather, it becomes flammable.

A peat fire is not like the monster wildfires that engulfed Arizona and Texas this year. It's more like a monster under your bed, burning four to six feet underground, making it hard for firefighters and storms to reach.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which operates the Great Dismal Swamp and other refuges, has spent nearly \$12 million fighting the swamp fire. Lowie and his staff of eight fire responders hope a wet winter will snuff it.

Over the past decade, officials have noticed that fires have become more frequent and harder to put out, raising concerns about climate and warming contributing to wildfires.

Lightning strikes the Great Dismal Swamp and other refuges in the Southeastern United States dozens of times a year. Lowie said his fire responders put out two fires in a day in July. But in 2004, 2006, 2008 and 2011, fires steadily grew, burned hundreds of acres and took weeks to douse.

Fires are such a concern that the Fish and Wildlife Service thins about 420,000 acres a year with controlled burns to reduce them.

The service is relying on the Nature Conservancy, which donated the land that created the refuge, to develop a plan to "make it wetter and good for people and wildlife," Lowie said.

"Looking into the future, we have to consider climate change. ... How does it affect us as a large, contiguous forest that historically was wetter than it is now?" he said.

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THE DISTRICT

2 fathers sue city over children's foster-care stays

Suit says welfare agency misinterpreted law, violated parents' rights

BY TERESA TOMASSONI

As soon as Sam Wilson learned that his daughter had been taken from her mother by the District's child welfare agency and placed in foster care, he demanded that the preschooler be allowed to live with him in District Heights.

Instead, the little girl spent the six months in foster care while Wilson, who had joint custody of his daughter, fought for his right to care for her.

Wilson and another father filed a lawsuit Wednesday in U.S. District Court, accusing the D.C. Child and Family Services Agency of violating their parental rights because they live in Maryland.

Attorneys for Wilson and Andre Adgeron of Temple Hills contend that city social workers should have handed their children over to them as soon as they were taken from their mothers. Instead, they say, the city misinterpreted a federal law designed to protect children from bad

out-of-state foster homes and adoption placements by insisting that the fathers be investigated to be sure they were fit to care for their children. There was never a suggestion that they were not.

Had the fathers been D.C. residents, the complaint said, the child welfare agency probably would have released the children into their care within 72 hours.

"They are hurting children and wrong on the law," said Judith Sandalow, executive director of the Children's Law Center, which filed the complaint with the Arnold & Porter law firm.

About 12 families each year are affected by the city's interpretation of the law, Sandalow said.

If a child is to be placed in out-of-state care, the Interstate Compact on the Placement of Children requires that the state conduct an investigation of the proposed placement before the child is moved. The lawsuit argues that the law does not apply to parents.

"Acting without authorization, CFSA has arbitrarily added the word 'parent' to that part of its Policy Statement," the complaint said.

Asked about the allegations, the D.C. attorney general's office said in a statement that "the Office of the Attorney General will defend vigorously the District, the Mayor, and CFSA's efforts to ensure that children are in a safe home."

The District is not the only place where the law is misinterpreted, advocates said.

"This is actually a problem across the country," said Vivek Sankaran, a University of Michigan law professor who has worked on cases such as Wilson's and Adgeron's for the past 10 years. A number of courts, in California, Washington state and Arkansas, for example, have ruled that the law does not apply to parents.

In the District, many children

unnecessarily wind up in foster care for prolonged periods, Sankaran said.

Adgeron's daughter was in foster care for a month. Like Wilson, Sandalow said, he had been an involved father since his daughter's birth and shared custody with the child's mother, who lived in the District.

Adgeron asked for full custody as soon as social workers deemed the mother neglectful. The child welfare agency told him that because he lived outside the District, the lawsuit says, it would have to request an investigation by Maryland authorities to see whether he was a fit parent.

Wilson fought for months to get his daughter back, attending numerous meetings and family court hearings, the complaint says. By the time he gained custody, she had spent her fourth birthday in foster care.

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LOTTERIES

October 6

DISTRICT

Mid-Day Lucky Numbers: **6-6-5**
Mid-Day DC-4: **1-5-4-4**
Mid-Day DC-5: **3-6-7-0-7**
Lucky Numbers (Wed.): **1-7-5**
Lucky Numbers (Thu.): **9-3-3**
DC-4 (Wed.): **1-9-2-2**
DC-4 (Thu.): **1-9-4-2**
DC-5 (Wed.): **2-4-8-2-8**
DC-5 (Thu.): **4-4-8-9-9**

MARYLAND

Mid-Day Pick 3: **2-2-8**
Mid-Day Pick 4: **6-5-7-8**
Night/Pick 3 (Wed.): **0-9-7**
Pick 3 (Thu.): **5-0-9**
Pick 4 (Thu.): **7-9-0-9**
Pick 4 (Thu.): **0-5-7-4**
Multi-Match: **1-9-16-20-28-31**
Match 5 (Wed.): **8-14-20-33-38 *36**
Match 5 (Thu.): **3-10-23-33-35 *16**

VIRGINIA

Day/Pick 3: **4-3-3**
Pick-4: **6-5-4-9**
Cash-5: **3-7-10-19-23**
Night/Pick-3 (Wed.): **4-6-1**
Pick-3 (Thu.): **0-8-7**
Pick-4 (Wed.): **0-2-3-1**
Pick-4 (Thu.): **9-3-2-2**
Cash-5 (Wed.): **5-9-15-31-33**
Cash-5 (Thu.): **12-17-18-22-27**
Win for Life: **10-24-26-27-34-36 *19**

MULTI-STATE GAMES

Decades of Dollars: **3-10-22-23-32-37**
Powerball: **7-20-43-46-54 **17**
Power Play: **4**
Hot Lotto: **10-15-16-21-30 16**

*Bonus Ball **Powerball †Hot Ball ‡Free Ball

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