

**weather**  
**WARMER, SUNNY AND MORE HUMID**  
 Evening storm possible.  
 High of 94, low 65. **A4**

**crime**  
**CHILD-BEATER SHOT BY POLICE OFFICER**  
 Policeman kills man who kicked child to death. **A5**

**health**  
**TOO FEW DOCTORS HAVE THE BIG TALK**



Study finds not enough physicians are frank about terminal cancer. **A5**

**world**  
**PAKISTAN GETS STERN WARNING**  
 Afghanistan's president says he may send troops across the border. **A7**

**NEWS BITES**

**box office**  
**MARVEL 'HULKS' OUT WITH \$54.5M OPENING WEEKEND**



**LOS ANGELES**—The Incredible Hulk was a box office bruiser, yanking in \$54.5 million over opening weekend and laying to rest the stigma of his unappreciated big-screen adventure five years ago.

"This was a big question mark going in," said Paul Dergarabedian, president of Media By Numbers. "The film had a history or a checkered past."

Marvel Studios, which financed "The Incredible Hulk," hopes the new movie, starring Edward Norton, will have a longer life than director Ang Lee's "Hulk" did in 2003.

**regulation**  
**HIGHER TAX HELPS SMOKERS QUIT?**  
 New York smokers have been sent outside in all kinds of weather, coughed at in disdain, and now they are burdened with the most expensive cigarette taxes in the nation. Now, to add cost to injury, the state is declaring its highest-in-the-nation cigarette tax a success.

The number of calls to the state's Smoker's Quitline quadrupled to nearly 10,000 the week of June 2, when the full \$2.75-a-pack tax kicked in, Health Commissioner Richard Daines said. Fewer than 2,300 people called in the same week in 2007. —The Associated Press

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**HOW DARE THEY!**  
 COWBIRDS USE OTHER BIRDS' NESTS  
**D1**  
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**AN OPEN PLAYOFF**  
 WOODS, MEDIATE VIE FOR TITLE  
**B1**  
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# The Free Lance-Star

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**PURPLE HEART >> GIFT GOES TO HOLOCAUST MUSEUM**

## German artist uses jewel to say 'thanks'



Sgt. Myles Beecham presents the National Guard Team Medal to German goldsmith Ludwig Stoeckl, who created the Purple Heart Jewel that was presented to the 42nd Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation.

BY CATHY JETT  
 THE FREE LANCE-STAR

The 42nd Rainbow Division battalion soldiers who helped liberate Dachau on April 29, 1945, were horrified by what they found.

The oldest Nazi concentration camp in Germany was not only crammed with more than 30,000 emaciated prisoners, but there were roughly 40 railroad cars filled with the bodies of others who hadn't survived a four-week train trip there from Buchenwald.

James "Pete" Pettus, who was in one of two other 42nd battalions that arrived on the heels of the liberation, said that his group showed military footage of the atrocities at every German village and town they marched through afterward to sear the images in people's memories.

Yesterday, Pettus, now a 42nd Rainbow Division Veterans Memorial Foundation reunions officer, was on hand for a ceremony at Hurkamp Park in Fredericksburg to honor both those who took part in the liberation and all soldiers who sacrifice their blood and, in some cases, lives to preserve freedom and democracy.

He accepted a diamond-studded, 18-carat gold replica of the Purple Heart medal created by the 42nd Rainbow Division.

**PITTS AND SKINNER RAN FOR ELECTION LAST YEAR ON IDEA OF HAVING THE COUNTY JOIN VIRGINIA RAILWAY EXPRESS**

BY DAN TELVOCK  
 THE FREE LANCE-STAR

Spotsylvania County supervisors may vote on joining Virginia Railway Express by the end of the summer.

Supervisors Benjamin Pitts and Gary Skinner, who made joining the rail service a centerpiece of their cam-

paigned last year, said this week that they are laying the groundwork for a VRE vote. Supervisor Hap Connors also supports VRE. They need one more vote.

Even though voters approved a \$144 million 2005 bond referendum that included \$12 million for a VRE station, a majority of supervisors have so far been unwilling to join. In 2007, a VRE survey showed 874 riders



The Purple Heart Jewel, a representation of the Purple Heart award, was made of 18-carat gold and 29 diamonds.

**ONLINE >>** Read Ludwig Stoeckl's speech from yesterday's ceremony at [fredericksburg.com](http://fredericksburg.com).

native and master goldsmith Ludwig Stoeckl, and presented it to Jay Ipson, executive director of the Virginia Holocaust Museum, where it will go on display along with Rainbow Division memorabilia.

"My gift shall be a sign of thankfulness and remembrance to

the 42nd Rainbow Division," said Stoeckl, addressing a crowd of about 100 people as the division's flag fluttered behind him.

"It is also my wish that this Purple Heart Jewel is understood as sign of friendship between the people of the United States and Germany, a friendship that I want to affirm herewith," he said. "And it shall be also a sign of thanks and honor of all

SEE JEWEL, BACK PAGE

## More clinics coming to area

MEDICORP FACILITY WILL OPEN TODAY IN HARRISON CROSSING; THERE ARE AT LEAST NINE URGENT-CARE CENTERS IN THE AREA

BY JIM HALL  
 THE FREE LANCE-STAR

An urgent-care clinic opens today, and more are on the way.

MediCorp Health System enters the market with a walk-in center off State Route 3 in the Harrison Crossing shopping center in Spotsylvania County.

The parent company of Mary Washington Hospital also plans two more of these clinics in Stafford County.

They'll be joined this summer by three MinuteClinics inside CVS pharmacies, and in September, by another Prime Care center in Spotsylvania County.

The region has at least nine urgent-care centers, from North Stafford to Lady-smith to the Spotsylvania Courthouse.

All feature evening and weekend hours, accept most insurances and don't require appointments. Many have lab and X-ray capability, and now boast electronic record-keeping.

The clinics are staffed by doctors or nurse practitioners, who specialize in the treatment of minor illnesses and injuries. Parents also use them for sports or school physicals for their children. Employers purchase drug screening for their employees.

Many times the clinics also become the medical home for patients with chronic problems, such as high blood pressure or diabetes.

"Patient like the convenience," said Dr. Cliff Sheets, one of the owners of Prime Care. "They like the ability that they can walk in when they're sick and be seen when they're sick."

MediCorp will operate its clinics in partnership with NextCare Urgent Care.

The Harrison Crossing center is NextCare's first in Virginia and 31st overall. The company is based in Arizona, with other clinics in

SEE URGENT CARE, BACK PAGE

## Spotsy supervisors try to line up board support for VRE

**COULD VRE FUNDS HELP PAVE COUNTY ROADS?**

BY DAN TELVOCK  
 THE FREE LANCE-STAR

Isabell Washington doesn't want to drive on a road that feels like a washboard. She's not alone.

Last week, for the third time since November, a crowd of residents appeared at a Spotsylvania County Board of Supervisors meeting to plead for a

dirt road to be paved.

This time, it was residents of Belfonte Road, which is east of Lewiston Road—State Route 601. Before that, it was residents on Towles Mill and Grand Brooks roads.

"All you can see is dust flying, and the potholes are unreal," Washington said. "I bought my land in '06,

and I was told when we bought it that they were going to fix that road."

The Belfonte Road residents handed supervisors a third petition demanding that the slightly more than half-mile road be paved. According to the 2005 bond list, the project would cost about \$300,000.

SEE PAVING, BACK PAGE

**URGENT CARE: JEWEL:** German artist's wife just missed being in New York City on Sept. 11

MediCorp will own 80 percent of a new clinic

**FROM PAGE A1**  
Colorado, Georgia, Texas and North Carolina.

MediCorp will be 80 percent owner of the Fredericksburg-area clinics, said Dr. John Shufeldt, Next-Care's chief executive officer.

"Without MediCorp, we wouldn't be here," he added.

**PATIENTS "LIKE THE ABILITY THAT THEY CAN WALK IN WHEN THEY'RE SICK AND BE SEEN WHEN THEY'RE SICK."**

— DR. CLIF SHEETS

Dr. Sebastian Sicari will be medical director for the three Fredericksburg centers.

For the last nine years, Sicari has worked with Dr. Phil Bustin at the Medical Center of Stafford on Garrisonville Road.

He is board certified in family practice and a resident of Spotsylvania County.

MediCorp's two other walk-in centers are expected to open late this year and early next year. They will be



Jay Ipson, Virginia Holocaust Museum director, addresses the crowd after receiving the jewel.

**FROM PAGE A1**

those who fought and presently fight for freedom, liberty and justice."

The hour-long ceremony also kicked off a fund drive to help the 42nd Infantry Family Readiness Group, a volunteer organization that provides a support network for soldiers and their families.

Stoeckl, who attended with his wife, Evelin, said afterward that he decided to create his one-of-a-kind version of the Purple Heart after his wife just missed being in New York City on Sept. 11, and German chancellor Gerhard Schröder opened his 2002 election campaign by saying he'd refuse to provide troops or money to invade Iraq. "I was angry. My friends in Germany were angry," said the 47-year-old artist, whose father was persecuted because he didn't support Hitler. "I thought, 'You have to stand up for your friends.' That was the start of the Purple Heart Jewel."

Yesterday's event drew such dignitaries as City Councilman Matt Kelly, who told the crowd that it was fitting that it be held in the place known as "America's most historic city," Del. Rob Wittman, R-Montross; and George Schaefer, a retired direc-

tor of the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Also on hand were Sgt. Maj. John Willsey of the 42nd Infantry Division, Mechanized, who accepted a \$1,000 check for the Family Readiness Group, and several Iraq war veterans.

Four costumed impersonators representing famous Revolutionary War leaders participated, as well. Among them was Dr. David Valuska as Gen. von Steuben, who said it was important to remember Germans' contributions to this country, and Greg Fisher as Gen. George Washington, who described his creation of what would become known as the Purple Heart.

Originally known as the Badge of Military Merit, Washington established it on Aug. 7, 1782, to honor any soldier, regardless of rank, for a singularly meritorious action. It was a revolutionary idea in an age when such awards and promotions went to aristocrats, not the common soldier.

"As you see today, that medal has certainly changed from that humble piece of white and purple cloth," he said, "but its meaning has not."

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**VRE:** Lifetime contract is another sticking point for some supervisors

**FROM PAGE A1**

were from Spotsylvania. To join VRE, a locality must enact a 2 percent gasoline tax. After the locality pays its share of VRE operations, the leftover funds can be used on local transportation projects.

Another problem for some supervisors is the lifetime contract with VRE.

Now that gasoline has hit \$4 a gallon, the sales pitch won't be any easier.

"What we are really trying to come up with is a plan of attack of how we want to approach VRE," Skinner said.

The strategy is trying to figure out who would be the most likely swing vote.

"I think those that are involved are trying to figure out who is the best person to talk to about getting the swing vote. It is going to be either Jerry Logan or Gary Jackson," Pitts said.

Logan and Jackson said no one has approached them about VRE.

"It is not very high on their agendas apparently because, if they are working toward bringing the board back to

**PAVING:** Estimates show Spotsy could bring in \$3 million a year with tax

**FROM PAGE A1**

Could joining the Virginia

goes to other transportation needs within that jurisdic-

roads, even if the two supervisors who have all the

"I am not going to support joining VRE just be-