

Dukes shock Spiders with last-second punt return



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GM, Chrysler in merger talks **A4**

Richmond Times-Dispatch

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Market plunge is hitting localities

Governments facing shrinking tax revenues find it difficult to borrow

BY DAVID RESS
Times-Dispatch Staff Writer

Wall Street's worst tumble since the 1930s and the mortgage meltdown that set it off are biting into state and local governments' coffers.

And they might bite taxpayers, too. Cities, counties and states are having a tough time borrowing. Wall Street's panic over the wild mortgages its former high-fliers used to make has slashed deep into local and state governments' tax bases.

RT-D FIRST So far, the deepening crisis has Richmond officials watching nervously, knowing the city needs to borrow millions soon to tide it over during its usual autumn cash squeeze. Petersburg officials wonder if their plans to sell \$3.3 million of bonds next month will stay on track.

Henrico County last week postponed borrowing \$95.8 million for major construction projects, and the state's Virginia College Building Authority canceled plans to sell up to \$305 million in bonds to finance 29

See LOCALITIES, Page A23

Impact by locality

• See how the economy is affecting Richmond-area governments. Page A23.

Local revenue database

• How much does your local government get from real estate and car taxes, and how much from the state? Visit inRich.com, keyword: Data Center.

Economic leaders vow to work together

From Wire Reports

WASHINGTON — President Bush and financial leaders from nations rich and poor pledged yesterday to intensify their efforts to unblock a frozen financial system before it does more damage to an increasingly shaky global economy.

While there were no concrete offers of new moves, Bush vowed anew that his administration was doing everything possible to halt the biggest market disruptions since the Great Depression.

Bush started the day shortly after daybreak with a Rose Garden appearance with finance ministers from the world's richest countries and later made an unexpected evening visit to the headquarters of the 185-nation International Monetary Fund near the White House.

With Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr. and Federal Reserve Chair-

See ECONOMY, Page A22



DEAN HOFFMEYER/TIMES-DISPATCH

Yesterday's crowd at the Richmond Folk Festival enjoyed the Dan Tyminski Band as well as the fine weather.



Crowd is proof: The more the merrier

Campaign 2008

Hampton Roads vote seen as key

'Microcosm' of state could decide if Obama or McCain carries Virginia

BY JIM NOLAN
Times-Dispatch Staff Writer

Business has been slow lately at the Advanced Temporaries agency on Church Street in downtown Norfolk.

But it's not for lack of available labor. "Right now, there are more people than jobs," said Maury Hardy, 38, standing outside the Church Street temp office the other day, in a dark-brick strip mall across the street from the hardscrabble Young's Terrace neighborhood.

"You see people holding off," adds worker Henry Dewitt, 41. "Where they used to hire 10 people, now they're using five."

As Republicans John McCain and Sarah Palin head to a rally tomorrow in Virginia Beach, the economy and the plight of urban areas are not the only key issues in Hampton Roads — an amalgam of 17 cities and counties and 1.6 million people in southeastern Virginia.

A large military footprint makes the war in Iraq and national defense a factor. A socially conservative evangelical presence could swing votes on family values issues.

"All of Virginia comes together in

See CAMPAIGN, Page A12

About this story

This is the second in a four-part series examining the political climate in four regions of Virginia that could play key roles in the fight for the state's 13 electoral votes on Nov. 4 — Southwest Virginia, Hampton Roads, Northern Virginia and central Virginia.

Southwest Va.

• Read last week's installment on Southwest Virginia on inRich.com. Keyword: politics.

Faith and politics roundtable

As voters focus on the nation's economic troubles, issues such as abortion and same-sex marriage, often rooted in religious beliefs, have taken a lower profile this election season.

But faith communities remain a major factor in American politics. As in 2004, religious groups overall tilt Republican; a large majority of white evangelicals favor Sen. John McCain, but black Protestants overwhelmingly prefer Democratic Sen. Barack Obama, according to a recent survey by the Pew Research Center for the People and the Press.

Still, people of faith often resist being labeled, decry polarization and talk about the need to find common ground on important issues.

The Richmond Times-Dispatch recently gathered a group of people from diverse religious backgrounds to discuss the role of religion in politics and how their faith informs their political decisions. To read excerpts of what they said, see Page A17.

Join the discussion at inRich.com

• Should the separation of church and state apply to the presidential campaign? Find out what others think and share your thoughts. Keyword: politics.



McCain

• Republican shifts his focus to the economy. Page A6.



Obama

• Democrat cites fewer attacks by McCain. Page A7.

An estimated 85,000 find there's 'something here for everyone'

BY MELISSA RUGGIERI AND KATHERINE CALOS
Times-Dispatch Staff Writers

Angie Frame stood under a tree near the Genworth Foundation Family Area, with several family members and friends sprawled on a nearby blanket.

"I had no idea it was going to be this big," the first-time folk festival attendee from Powhatan County said, her eyes widening.

For those who never attended the past three years of the National Folk Festival, yesterday's second day of the inaugural Richmond Folk Festival — the locally produced effort that mirrors its predecessor in every way — was probably an overwhelming experience.

Venture Richmond, the organization that produced this free Richmond festival in conjunction with the National Council of the Traditional Arts, estimated yesterday's attendance at 85,000.

Lisa Sims, director of events for Venture Richmond, said the crowds were the most dense she's seen on the downtown riverfront site, even compared with last year's record-breaking three-day

See FOLK, Page A10

Planning to go?

• The festival continues today. Find parking information, a map and a full schedule on Pages A10-11.

A festive time

• Hear the music and share the fun from the Richmond Folk Festival on inRich.com. Keyword: folk festival.

Today's weather
55 71 76 74
9 a.m. noon 3 p.m. 6 p.m.
Weather report, Page A2



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