

## GOVERNOR REFUSES TO RESIGN OVER RACIST PHOTO

# Northam: 'It's not me'



BOB BROWN/TIMES-DISPATCH

## Fairfax: Ready to be governor if needed

JOE MAHONEY/TIMES-DISPATCH

He walks back previous comments that he was one of the men in picture

GOVERNOR, Page A12

## Blackface appears elsewhere in medical school yearbook

NORFOLK — Even as Gov. Ralph Northam backtracked Saturday and claimed he was not in the photo showing one man in blackface and another in a Klan outfit, he acknowledged that the presence of a racist picture appearing in his medical

YEARBOOK, Page A11

In Nation &amp; World | Huge protests, general's defection beset Venezuela's Maduro | Page B1



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Congo Masks: Masterpieces from Central Africa is organized by the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in partnership with the Congo Basin Art History Research Center and Tribal Arts, S.P.R.L., Brussels, Belgium, and Ethnic Art and Culture Limited, Hong Kong. The exhibition program at VMFA is supported by the Julia Louise Reynolds Fund.



# Richmond Times-Dispatch

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TWO GUNSHOTS,  
ONE MURDER  
AND AN  
UNANSWERABLE QUESTION:  
**WHY WAS HER  
SON KILLED?**



ALEXA WELCH EDLUND/TIMES-DISPATCH

Mother of Norfolk State football player  
may never know what led to his death

BY ERIC KOLENICH • Richmond Times-Dispatch

**NORFOLK**  
**R**uth Ackies gathered a black leather baseball mitt and a navy blue No. 77 football jersey, and placed the memories of her son in a cardboard box. She has lived almost two years without her son Nick, and now as she prepared to move, she packed his possessions into about 20 boxes and stacked them along the wall. The items that brought her joy, like the glass-cased baseball marked “home run,” she kept. The ones that brought sadness, like the Lucky Brand blue jeans Nick was wearing when he was discovered by police, still stained with blood, she threw in the garbage. During the past month, Ruth has relived the memories of her son’s life and death as Jaquan Anderson, 24, the man who shot him, went on trial for first-degree murder. Anderson had been a Norfolk State football player, too. Although they didn’t play on the team at the same time, Anderson knew Nick and they thought of each other as teammates. He said he loved Nick, just as he loved all his teammates. It was self-defense, Anderson claimed. He had no choice. So at 6:01 p.m. on Oct. 27, 2017, as Nick

UNANSWERABLE, Page A10

Ruth Ackies holds a photo of her son Nick Ackies, a former Douglas Freeman High School football player who was killed his freshman year in college.



FAMILY PHOTO

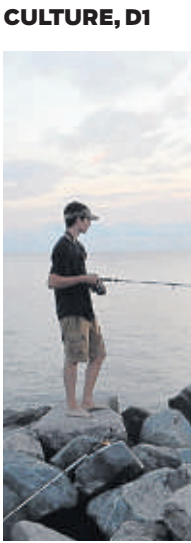
Nick Ackies was fatally shot by a former Norfolk State University football player nearly two years ago.

**NATION, B1**  
**5 killed, more than 20 injured in Texas shooting**



**Hokies stumble**  
Five turnovers doom Tech in loss to B.C. in season opener

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Today’s paper contains no coupons because of scheduling. Nonetheless, savings can be found throughout the Times-Dispatch.



**Riding a wave of tourism**  
Small-town Cape Charles attracts Richmond vacationers

## Chesterfield’s prosecutor and police clash over drug program

It’s a local example of a nationwide battle about decriminalization of some offenses

BY MARK BOWES  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Chesterfield County Commonwealth’s Attorney Scott Miles has riled members of the county’s law enforcement establishment, who say he has acted unilaterally in implementing his own drug diversion program without any buy-in from county judges, the police, the sheriff’s office or the administrator of the county’s existing Drug Court program that’s been in place for nearly two decades. Miles, who is acting on his campaign platform of criminal justice reform, argues that he is well

**Commonwealth’s Attorney Scott Miles** says he’s within his bounds. within his authority as the county’s top prosecutor. Chesterfield law enforcement officials say Miles failed to consult them about the program and did not alert them when it went into effect. They contend he’s acting without regard to the other stakeholders in Chesterfield’s criminal justice system. “The complete absence  
**CHESTERFIELD, Page A13**

## Company behind new gaming machines has deep Va. connections

BY MICHAEL MARTZ  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

When Queen of Virginia Skill & Entertainment wanted to know more about why a Charlottesville prosecutor was about to declare that its games violated state anti-gambling laws, the company turned to a politically well-connected member of its Virginia team to find out more about him. Democratic Party Chairwoman Susan Swecker,

a strategic consultant for the company in Virginia, called two state legislators for Charlottesville and a city councilman — all Democrats — on the eve of a public statement by Commonwealth’s Attorney Joe Platania that the company’s product violated state law.  
**GAMING, Page A4**

## Va. Democrats like their odds to flip state Senate, but House seems to be more of a toss-up

BY GRAHAM MOOMAW AND MEL LEONOR  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

At the unofficial kickoff of Virginia’s General Assembly campaign season, Democrats feel they have a strong chance to flip the state Senate, but the House of Delegates appears to be more of a toss-up. If Republicans hold their thin majorities in the state legislature when voters go

to the polls in two months, it will extend a stretch of divided government that dates to 2014. If Democrats take both chambers, they’ll have full control of state government for the first time since 1993. That would give Democrats the power to pass their legislative priorities — such as anti-discrimination protections for LGBTQ people and stricter gun  
**ELECTIONS, Page A11**

In Nation & World | Evacuations begin as Dorian looms over northern Bahamas | Page B1

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‘THIS IS HISTORY’

MONUMENTAL



DEAN HOFFMEYER/TIMES-DISPATCH

A crowd of 1,000-plus gathered at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts in Richmond for the official unveiling of Kehinde Wiley’s “Rumors of War” statue on Tuesday.

Sculpture raises stakes on statue question

The unveiling of Richmond’s new progressive face at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts was never going to come off without a hitch, even if that cover had cooperated in parting company with its monument. You don’t sweep away 400 years of grimy history with the tug of a string. In Virginia, the birthplace of Massive Resistance, the past concedes nothing to the present or future without putting up a fight. That cover was



Michael Paul Williams mwilliams@TimesDispatch.com

ultimately untangled from the upswept locks of the intrepid black horseman in the hoodie, ripped jeans and Nike sneakers — inspired by the Monument Avenue statue of Confederate Gen. J.E.B. Stuart. WILLIAMS, Page A6



Kehinde Wiley was inspired to create “Rumors of War” after seeing the monument to J.E.B. Stuart.

Kehinde Wiley’s statue debuts in triumphant reveal at VMFA

BY COLLEEN CURRAN Richmond Times-Dispatch

Nearly a century after the last Confederate statue was erected on Monument Avenue, a crowd massed Tuesday beneath gray skies and drizzle at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts for New York-based artist Kehinde Wiley’s response: a muscular, triumphant African American astride a horse, looking defiantly north. They cheered and held

See the unveiling

To watch a video and view more photos from the “Rumors of War” sculpture debut, go to Richmond.com.

phones aloft, hoping to snap keepsakes of “Rumors of War” as handlers tugged on a tarp that, bogged down by rain, clung to the statue’s dreadlocks. Minutes passed, but Richmond’s All City High

STATUE, Page A7

Democrats’ 2 articles of impeachment allege abuse and obstruction

Nation & World, Page A10



VUU’s Joe Taylor inducted into College Football Hall of Fame B1

Northam sets early childhood education goal

He hopes to expand access with \$94.8M in new state funding

BY MEL LEONOR Richmond Times-Dispatch

Gov. Ralph Northam is proposing an expansive investment in early childhood education that would increase the number of state-funded preschool slots for

Virginia 4-year-olds and create an incentive program for early childhood educators. Northam’s plan for infants, toddlers and preschoolers has a \$94.8 million price tag and is part of his two-year budget proposal to be unveiled Dec. 17. Northam has touted early childhood education as a top priority for his administration, one that he says will level “the playing field” for

Higher education and tech

Plan would create authority to oversee investments. Page A15

First day of school

Hanover to start after Labor Day; others review options. Page A19

Virginia families.

About one in five 4-year-olds in Virginia are enrolled in a public preschool program funded by the state

or the federal government. Many children are enrolled in private programs, but the Northam administration estimates that a quarter of 4-year-olds from low-income families, or 13,000 children, lack quality preschool. That figure is nearly 35,000 for 3-year-olds.

Northam’s proposal would serve roughly 8,000 additional 3- and

NORTHAM, Page A19

In Nation & World | Trump, Barr take aim at FBI over report on Russia investigation | Page A10

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