

Richmond Times-Dispatch

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'TIMES HAVE CHANGED'

Stoney calls for taking down Monument Avenue statues, and Northam will announce Lee's removal



DANIEL SANGJIB MIN/TIMES-DISPATCH

Protesters gathered around the state-owned Robert E. Lee monument in Richmond on Wednesday. Gov. Ralph Northam will order the removal of the statue from its pedestal.

For demonstrators, statues' removal is only the beginning

BY SABRINA MORENO AND KENYA HUNTER
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Nearly a thousand people converged at the Robert E. Lee monument Wednesday evening to celebrate after the city's mayor agreed with protesters that the monuments to Confederate leaders should come down.

History is being made,

but the work is not yet done, said Ashley Roye. "The removal of the statue doesn't mean anything until we see change," she said. "A change in behavior, in what's put back into our communities. This country was built on our backs. We are disparaged."

Other demonstrators said the city can't ignore how many black people

REMOVAL, Page A6

Mayor: It's time to open the way to healing

BY MARK ROBINSON
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Growing demonstrations against racism and police brutality in Richmond have unfolded beneath the country's most iconic Confederate monuments.

Protesters decrying white supremacy have chanted for city leaders to tear them down.

Gov. Ralph Northam and Richmond Mayor Levar Stoney headed their calls Wednesday.

Northam is poised to announce on Thursday plans to remove the statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee from Monument Avenue. Stoney said he wants four other famous statues

George Floyd's death

Three other former Minneapolis officers now charged. Page A10

honoring the Confederacy removed from the strip in the wake of Black Lives Matter protests that already have left an indelible mark on a changing city.

The news came on the sixth day of local demonstrations over the Minneapolis police killing of George Floyd, a 46-year-old African American man. The death has spurred nationwide protests over police violence targeting African Americans.

Locally, it also has reignited the push to remove Confederate

iconography.

"I appreciate the recommendations of the Monument Avenue Commission — those were the appropriate recommendations at the time," Stoney said in a statement issued Wednesday afternoon, referencing a city panel that previously called for contextualizing most of the statues in place.

"But times have changed, and removing these statues will allow the healing process to begin for so many Black Richmonders and Virginians. Richmond is no longer the Capital of the Confederacy — it is filled with diversity and love for all — and we need to

MONUMENTS, Page A6

Protests expand into suburbs

Demonstrators gather in Henrico, Ashland and Chesterfield

BY JUSTIN MATTINGLY, ALI SULLIVAN, C. SUAREZ ROJAS, MARK BOWES AND JESS NOCERA
Richmond Times-Dispatch

As Richmond marked its sixth day of demonstrations against police brutality that has roiled the nation, protests expanded into the city's suburbs on Wednesday with marches, chants and prayers.

The names of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor and George Floyd rang out on Iron Bridge Road in Chesterfield County. Protesters from the Short Pump area shouted "Black Lives Matter" as they wound their way into the city limits. In Ashland, roughly 200



BOB BROWN/TIMES-DISPATCH

Protesters marched Wednesday from Willow Lawn in Henrico County to Monument Avenue for a rally. The group had originally planned to walk from Short Pump Town Center.

people knelt for 8 minutes and 46 seconds, the length of time Minneapolis police officer Derek Chauvin kept his knee on Floyd's neck nine days earlier.

Demonstrators, many of whom were white, pointed to the slaying of Arbery in February while he was out jogging

SUBURBS, Page A7

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

Facing 'two pandemics,' they pit health vs. cause

Protesting racial injustice, groups test the boundary of COVID-19's lasting threat

BY JUSTIN MATTINGLY
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Overlooking a crowd of hundreds from the steps of Richmond City Hall on Tuesday, Mayor Levar Stoney pulled down his face mask and apologized for the city's police force using tear gas on peaceful protesters the night before. The megaphone he used passed from one speaker to another. The mayor spoke with people from no more than a couple of feet away.

The protests in Richmond since

HEALTH, Page A3

VCU looks ahead

The university issued plans to reopen for summer, fall. Page A2

COVID-19 research

The state Health Department will study antibodies. Page A2

Virus numbers

As cases increase, positive rates show some decline. Page A3

In Nation & World | Trump meets pushback on idea of using military to quell unrest | Page A10

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STONEWALL FALLS



ALEXA WELCH EDLUND/TIMES-DISPATCH

More heavy lifting is still to be done

Let's start building a city that we can be proud of, writes columnist Michael Paul Williams. **Page A5**

Hundreds protest against evictions

Demonstration ends with arrests, pepper-spraying and smashed window at courthouse. **Page A7**

Stoney orders statues removed

Citing emergency power and public safety, mayor takes action on Jackson monument. **Page A8**

Onlookers chant, cheer and weep

Crowd witnesses history as Confederate general's statue is removed after a century. **Page A8**

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YEAR IN REVIEW

2020

From pandemic to protests: Richmond region, the U.S. and the world were rocked by an unpredictable, unrelenting year



The stories

The Times-Dispatch looks back on the year that was. Pages A10-A12



The pictures

RTD photographers share their best shots of the year. Pages S1-S22



Around the nation

2020 changed us in ways we never imagined. Pages R1-R24



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Local people improving the lives of others

Henrico man honors wife's memory through blankets for cancer patients

BY C. SUAREZ ROJAS
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Mike Ward was not surprised when his wife made blankets for other patients when she was undergoing chemotherapy almost a decade ago. It was that kindness that made him fall for Jill when

they were law school students at the University of Richmond over 30 years ago.

In her final years as she battled pancreatic cancer, she could not stop thinking of others who were shivering cold as the drugs went to work killing the cancerous cells in their body.

Jill Ward gave out dozens of homemade polar fleece blankets to warm those who were sitting next to her and at other hospitals and clinics in the area.

"She really enjoyed it," Ward said. "She felt like that was helping her and

DIFFERENCE, Page A6



Mike Ward runs nonprofit Jill's Blankets, which gives polar fleece blankets to chemotherapy patients.

VCU's cancer director vows to help heal broken trust in health care among Blacks

BY ERIC KOLENICH
Richmond Times-Dispatch

The building for the Massey Cancer Center sits atop a hill overlooking Interstate 95 in downtown Richmond. From his first-floor office window, Dr. Robert Winn can see the cars whizzing by, Shockoe Bottom and the place where people were sold as slaves 200 years ago.



Winn

Last year, Virginia Commonwealth University appointed Winn the director of its cancer center. Among the 71 federally designated cancer centers in the U.S., Winn, 56, is the only director who is Black.

TRUST, Page A13

In Nation & World | Three nations in EU give the bloc's first COVID-19 vaccine shots | Page B1

