

Richmond Times-Dispatch

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MONUMENT AVENUE'S LAST CONFEDERATE

LEE'S STAND ENDS



DANIEL SANGJIB MIN/TIMES-DISPATCH

A crane lifted the top part of the 12-ton statue of Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee on Monument Avenue in Richmond on Wednesday after the statue was taken off its pedestal.

With the Lee monument dismantled, it's time to build a better Richmond

OPINION **W**hat was most surprising was how meekly Robert E. Lee surrendered.

Stonewall Jackson dug in deep before relinquishing his pedestal after a daylong siege.

On Wednesday, Lee bent to the

will of construction workers in less than two hours — his statue harnessed and hoisted from its perch as the sun burst through an overcast sky.

The Confederate general will no longer cast his long shadow on Richmond's Monument Av-



Michael Paul Williams

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Editor's note

In June, Michael Paul Williams won the Pulitzer Prize for Commentary for his Times-Dispatch columns on last summer's protests and the removal of Confederate statues.

ence. But the ideology that erected his statue looms large in Richmond and beyond. You can see it in the attempts to keep Black people from voting in places like Georgia and Texas, and in the white supremacists impulses driving the Jan. 6 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol.

Even as workers cut Lee down to size, Richmond residents faced eviction proceedings in a downtown courthouse. Some of the protesters who fought to bring those monuments down remain traumatized

WILLIAMS, Page A5

Reactions

Political figures and Richmond-area residents reflect on history and Lee's removal. **Page A19**

Schapiro column

In Va.'s laws and the way its government works, monuments to the old status quo remain. **Page A19**

See more

Watch videos of the removal and reactions to it, and view dozens of additional photos at Richmond.com.

Removal of statue seen as a catalyst for change

Onlookers welcome progress, recognize work that remains

**BY C. SUAREZ ROJAS,
MEL LEONOR
AND SABRINA MORENO**
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Amanda Lynch's eyes welled with tears Wednesday morning as a crane heaved the 12-ton tribute to Robert E. Lee from the 40-foot pedestal where it stood over Monument Avenue for more than a century.

She felt weightless as the statue drifted from its base and the crowd around her started to cheer.

Her teenage daughter was part of the summer of protest last year that transformed the former capital of the Confederacy, compelling politicians to dismantle the monuments that many thought would outlast them.

"It almost felt like a pressure valve being released," she said of seeing the statue come down. "I really wish my grandparents were here

STATUE, Page A7

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PRO-TRUMP MOB OVERRUNS U.S. CAPITOL

INSURRECTION



Police held back a pro-Trump mob outside the Capitol Rotunda on Wednesday, but rioters overwhelmed security and broke inside as Congress debated the 2020 electoral votes.

COVERAGE INSIDE

Pence defies Trump

Vice president says he will not toss out votes. [Page A7](#)

Reaction in Virginia

Lawmakers across aisle decry mob attack. [Page A9](#)

Ga. Democrats prevail

Runoff wins give the party control of Senate. [Page A12](#)

Republican objections

Electoral College challenge halted by siege. [Page A17](#)

Woman dies after being shot inside building; suspected bombs defused

BY REBECCA TAN, PETER JAMISON, RACHEL CHASON, MARISSA J. LANG AND JOHN WOODROW COX

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — After President Donald Trump told a sprawling crowd outside the White House that they should never accept defeat, hundreds of his supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol on Wednesday in a chaotic, violent scene like none other in modern American history.

The insurrection brought to a sudden halt the congressional certification of President-elect

Joe Biden's electoral victory.

With poles bearing blue Trump flags, the mob bashed through Capitol doors and windows, forcing its way past police officers unprepared for the onslaught. Lawmakers were ushered away shortly before an armed standoff at the House doors.

Canisters of tear gas were fired across the Rotunda's white marble floor. At least one person, a woman, was shot and rushed to an ambulance outside the building. She later died.

"USA! USA!" chanted the mob.

INSURRECTION, Page A17



THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Supporters of President Donald Trump broke into the Capitol and were confronted by Capitol police outside the Senate chamber on Wednesday.

Northam vows to speed up delivery of COVID-19 vaccine

Avula will leave local post temporarily to guide process for Va.

BY MEL LEONOR

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Lagging COVID-19 vaccination progress in Virginia has prompted changes to

the state's approach, including new leadership for the effort and penalties for distributors that don't use the vaccines quickly enough.

Gov. Ralph Northam on Wednesday tapped Richmond and Henrico Health Director Danny Avula to lead the state's COVID-19



Avula

vaccination effort. He leaves his local post temporarily, one in which he has served a crucial role guiding the area through the pandemic. More than 116,200 Vir-

ginians have been injected with the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, which represents 24% of the roughly 482,000 doses the state has received so far. That number pales compared to the rate of vaccination other states are reporting and the national average of nearly 31% re-

ported by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention on Wednesday. Northam early in December had suggested that supply was Virginia's only barrier to getting shots in arms.

Vaccine distribution challenges come as the state reported a record number of

VACCINE, Page A5

COVID-19

Victim of virus

Hopewell nurse was "terrified," her mom says. [Page A4](#)

Another record

Virginia reports 5,387 new cases in one day. [Page A5](#)

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MEMORY LOSS?

Are you experiencing memory loss? Is it getting worse?

Memory specialists at the Alzheimer's Research Center are conducting a research study to see whether a new, investigational medication can slow the progressive loss of memory. And they are looking for volunteers to help.

ALZHEIMER'S RESEARCH CENTER

Where tomorrow's medications are being developed today
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INSIDE TODAY

VIRGINIA'S NEWS LEADER

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CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

"Hearing about the latest place that's closed is miserable. Over and over. Friends' places, places owned by people I have looked up to for years, places I never would have thought ... the damage is immense, and as of now, immeasurable."

Patrick Stamper of En Su Boca and Beauvine Burger Concept



Bobby Pate "looked out for everybody," said his wife, **Melissa Pate**. Bobby tested positive for COVID-19 just before their November FaceTime wedding and died Dec. 6.

Grief profound as COVID-19 steals Chesterfield pair's dream wedding

They overcame a host of obstacles, but the coronavirus had other plans

BY HOLLY PRESTIGE

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Bobby Pate couldn't say much. Two days before he was supposed to marry his sweetheart, Melissa, Bobby was attached to a breathing machine in the intensive care unit at Johnston-Willis Hospital.

COVID-19 left him struggling to breathe, but while he could still speak, he and Melissa tied the knot.

It was Thursday, Nov. 19 — four days after the Sunday wedding the Pates had been planning. Melissa was

at home, unable to be by her groom's side in the hospital. A pastor friend married them by FaceTime.

There were no heartfelt vows, no first kiss as man and wife.

It was quick and official. They both said, "I do." They both said, "I love you."

Last week by phone, Melissa cried softly as she recalled that she would speak to her husband for the last time two days after they were married.

Two weeks later, she'd say goodbye.

WEDDING, Page A4

This is what **2020** was like for Richmond restaurant owners – in their own words.

Heartbreak rampant as experts warn of more closures

BY KARRI PEIFER • Richmond Times-Dispatch

In October 2019, Virginia tourism officials gathered in the dining room of a restaurant in downtown Richmond to launch the state's newest branding campaign: "Virginia is for Restaurant Lovers."

The goal of the campaign was to raise awareness about the importance of Virginia's restaurants to the economy.

In 2019, the restaurant industry in Virginia generated \$18.1 billion, and its 14,000 restaurants were responsible for more than 378,000 jobs, representing 9% of employment in the state.

"Virginia is for Restaurant Lovers" was set to officially launch in 2020. But 2020 had other plans.

RESTAURANTS, Page A9

INSIDE

U.K. variant

Over 30 nations have reported cases of the strain. **Page B1**

Dining in 2020

It's not what we wanted; it's what we needed it to be. **Page E1**



Cory Johnson, 52,

is due to be executed on Jan. 14 for the drug-gang murders of seven people in 1992.

Pending execution recalls deadly era of city's drug gangs

10-year span was marked by rise of crack cocaine, homicides, legal backlash

BY FRANK GREEN

Richmond Times-Dispatch

Cory Johnson was sentenced to death a generation ago during a murder wave that swept Richmond and the rest of the country, triggering law-and-order crackdowns in Richmond and Washington.

In the decade that started in 1988, there were at least 100 murders per year in the city, a per capita homicide rate that perennially ranked among the highest in the U.S. The toll peaked at 160 in 1994, with many of the killings drug- and firearm-related.

JOHNSON, Page A11

NFL's unusual regular season ends today with a wild day in NFC East

BY MICHAEL PHILLIPS

Richmond Times-Dispatch

When the Washington Football Team gets national attention, it's usually for a controversy or a playoff run.

This time, it's both.

On Sunday night in Philadelphia, a Washington victory would mean an NFC East title, and the team's third home playoff game since 1999.

Not coincidentally, that's the year owner Dan Snyder purchased the franchise. Snyder, whose family owns about 60% of the team, has been feeling heat this season as he continues to battle in court with the three men who own minority stakes.

They've accused him of mismanaging the team's finances, refusing to allow them to sell

NFL, Page A11

WHAT WAS THE HARDEST THING ABOUT 2020?

WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE DIFFERENTLY?

WHAT'S A KINDNESS YOU EXPERIENCED DURING THIS TIME?

WHAT'S SOMETHING YOU LEARNED?

WHAT BREAKS YOUR HEART ABOUT THE PAST YEAR?

WHERE DO YOU SEE HOPE?

In Nation & World | Cruz leads GOP effort to hold up Biden win in Electoral College | **Page B1**

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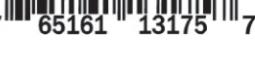
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