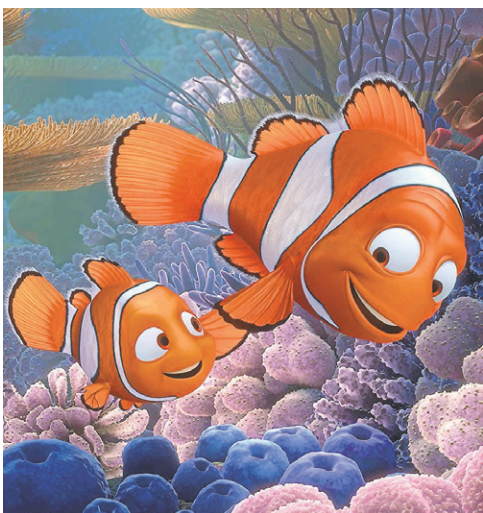


CELEBRATE FATHER'S DAY  
WITH A DAD COMEDY  
MARATHON >>> **EXTRA**



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EARLY BELMONT  
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# THE ROANOKE TIMES

SUNDAY June 21, 2020

roanoke.com

ROANOKE, VIRGINIA \$4

What happened during Roanoke's May 30 day of demonstrations



DAVID HUNGATE | Special to The Roanoke Times  
A crowd listens to speeches during the May 30 rally at Washington Park sponsored by Roanoke's chapter of Black Lives Matter.

## 11 hours of protests

It was a day of prayer and profanity, slogans and speeches, confrontation and peacemaking.

By **Ralph Berrier Jr., Alicia Petska**  
and **Jeff Sturgeon** | The Roanoke Times

The protest that swept through Roanoke on May 30 started not long after a Roanoke minister prayed for justice and unification.

"Bless us now, oh God, as we leave this place," the Rev. David Jones invoked before a large crowd gathered at Washington Park.

"But we never leave the place of solidarity, the place of unity and the place of love and peace. A place where we continue to seek the welfare of all people, regardless of color, regardless of age, regardless of gender, regardless of sexual orientation, regardless of political affiliation."

Hours later, after midnight, the long day of protests ended with a Black man lying on his stomach on the sidewalk of Salem Avenue, his hands cuffed behind him as he was arrested by Roanoke police.

In between, people marched, prayed, shouted and chanted, and some were even pepper-sprayed. People who had never protested a day in their lives took to Roanoke's streets yelling at police. Officers trained to protect and serve the public stood shoulder to shoulder in defense of their own police station as their fellow citizens massed in front of them.

Six days after the death of George Floyd, a Black man in Minneapolis who died while a white police officer kept a knee on his neck, protests over his killing unfurled across the



STEPHANIE KLEIN-DAVIS | The Roanoke Times  
Roanoke City Police Chief Sam Roman addresses the media at a news conference May 31 concerning the protests. He is flanked by Mayor Sherman Lea (left) and City Manager Bob Cowell.

## Use of pepper spray under police review

By **Jeff Sturgeon**  
jeff.sturgeon@roanoke.com  
981-3251

A police inquiry aided by citizens will examine a complaint challenging the use of pepper spray to temporarily halt a Black Lives Matter event in Roanoke last month.

But unless an exception is made, the confidential investigation won't produce a public report. Though it involves one of the few civilian review boards in the state, the review is taking place behind closed doors.

Officers deployed pepper spray four times and fired pepper balls at the ground eight times for crowd control during the events of May 30

and 31, police spokeswoman Caitlyn Cline said. The deployment of what she called "less lethal options" occurred on Campbell Avenue, the scene of a standoff between police and the public, and on Salem Avenue, Cline said.

Mayor Sherman Lea said Friday that he believes police officials have already resolved "to a degree" questions about the appropriateness of police use of these tools. That occurred as some city council members privately viewed video footage of the incidents, he said. Lea, who has not seen the video, referred a reporter to Chief Sam Roman for details.

See **REVIEW, 8**

## 4 Dems vie for ballot in 5th

Democrats are hoping to capitalize off the division among Republicans after a controversial convention.

By **Amy Friedenberger**  
amy.friedenberger@roanoke.com  
981-3356

Democratic voters will head to the polls on Tuesday to pick their congressional nominee in what suddenly became an open seat in central Virginia.

The winner of the primary will take on Republican Bob Good in November in a race that Democrats are planning to sink money into to win the seat. Democrats are hoping to capitalize off the division among Republicans after Good defeated first-term Rep. Denver Riggleman, R-Nelson, in a controversial convention June 13.

See **PRIMARY, 3**

## Trump touts his 'silent majority'

The president is again positioning himself to oppose cultural change.

By **Julie Pace**  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — It was June 2015, and Democrats felt the nation's political and cultural winds blowing their way.

**MORE INSIDE** The Supreme Court ruled in President Trump holds rally in Oklahoma Page 10 Barack Obama's favor on landmark gay marriage and health care cases. The

White House was awash in rainbow light, a symbol of a liberal cultural takeover that seemed unstoppable.

The following year, Donald Trump was elected president,

See **CULTURE, 4**



Associated Press

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) students celebrate in front of the Supreme Court after the Supreme Court rejected Trump's effort to end legal protections on Thursday.

Where is it?  
Here's your guide  
to what's inside.

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### WEATHER

Roanoke	New River
85 67	82 64
HIGH LOW	HIGH LOW

Full forecast  
and weather data.  
**VIRGINIA 12**

