



'Not done marching'

CROWD GATHERS IN NORFOLK TO 'RALLY FOR ROE' IN RESPONSE TO LEAKED SUPREME COURT DOCUMENT THAT COULD OVERTURN ROE V. WADE

SUPREME COURT ABORTION HISTORY

Legal experts: Case doomed from the start

Right to abortion not in Constitution, scholars point out

By David G. Savage
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — Roe v. Wade, the Supreme Court's best-known decision of the past 50 years, is also its most endangered precedent.

It gave women a nationwide legal right to choose abortion, but the backlash reshaped the nation's politics. The landmark ruling now faces being overturned by conservative justices appointed by Republican presidents to do just that.

What went wrong with Roe? Why did the court's effort to resolve the abortion controversy in 1973 lead instead to decades of division?

Legal scholars and political scientists point to major missteps at the start that left the decision vulnerable.

In Roe, the justices announced a broad new constitutional right to abortion that is not explicitly



Supreme Court justices include, seated from left, Samuel Alito, Clarence Thomas, Chief Justice John Roberts, Stephen Breyer and Sonia Sotomayor; back, Brett Kavanaugh, Elena Kagan, Neil Gorsuch and Amy Coney Barrett. ERIN SCHAFF/GETTY

found in the words or the history of the Constitution.

Justice Harry A. Blackmun, who authored the long Roe opinion, included the medical history of abortion, citing the views of Persians, Greeks and Romans, and quoting two versions of the Hippocratic oath and early English authors dating back to the 17th century.

He did not, however, quote a provision in the Constitution that protected abortion rights.

That omission is cited in the draft opinion being circulated by conservative justices as they prepare to overturn Roe.

Turn to History, Page 4

By Caitlyn Burchett — Staff Writer

NORFOLK — More than 1,000 people gathered in front of the federal courthouse Tuesday to rally for Roe in protest of a draft Supreme Court opinion that would throw out the landmark Roe v. Wade abortion rights ruling that has stood for nearly a half-century.

Chants for the government to get its bans off women's bodies could be heard down Granby Street as the crowd amassed.

One protestor said she can't believe she is still fighting for women's reproductive rights more than 50 years after she made her first sign and marched her first march.

"I have been doing this since before most of them were born," said Bobbie Fisher of Norfolk as she motioned to the chanting crowd.

"Rally for Roe" was organized at federal courthouses in Norfolk and Richmond by Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia. The rallies come as activists organize pro-choice marches across the country in response to a copy of Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr.'s draft opinion on Roe v. Wade that was obtained and published Monday night by Politico's Chief

"If I had not had an abortion, my child would have died and I would have died. I did not have a choice. But this is what we are now talking about. No exceptions for rape, no exceptions for incest, no exceptions for someone like me."

— Bobbie Fisher of Norfolk

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Above: Liz Peterson, of Newport News, holds her 4-year-old daughter, Avery, on Tuesday in front of the federal courthouse in Norfolk. Peterson came to protest the apparent decision of the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade decision of 1973. The Rally For Roe protest was organized the Planned Parenthood Advocates of Virginia. At left is Carrie Short of Norfolk. BILL TIERNAN/FREELANCE

Paving way for new rule

Starting in July, no cars in yards; city may help pay for gravel driveway

By Jessica Nolte
Staff Writer

HAMPTON — Hampton has a message to homeowners: Get your cars off your lawns.

Beginning July, people will no longer be allowed to park on their front yards if street parking is available. To help with the transition, the city is offering grants to help eligible residents pay for a new driveway.

The City Council voted in December to change the rules because of residents who complained that yards full of cars were unsightly and lowered property values.

"To tell me I cannot park in my own yard that I pay taxes on seems to me an injustice," Hampton resident Ketra Honeycutt told the council at their

December meeting.

While no one is required to install a driveway, the city wants to offer assistance to individuals and families to offset the cost for those who choose to add one. The lawn parking ban also applies to side yards for homes on corner lots.

The ordinance does not apply to residents in areas where street parking isn't available. It also still allows people to temporarily park on their lawn in the case of flooding or street sweeping. People can also park in the grass while washing their vehicle and while loading or unloading it.

Anyone can apply for the grant funds, but individuals and families at or below the area median income — about \$40,000 for a single-person home or \$50,000 for a four-person home — will be first in line.

Not everyone who applies for the grant is guaranteed to receive

Turn to Driveway, Page 4

INSIDE

Russia steps up bombardment

Ukraine railroads, supply lines across the country targeted in latest attacks. **Page 10**

Interest rates up a half-point

Federal Reserve intensifies fight against the worst inflation in 40 years. **Business, Page 11**

Grizzlies come roaring back

After a slumbering start, the Grassfield High softball team has won 11 in a row. **Sports**

SUN THEN CLOUDS, COOL High: 68 Low: 53

Details on the back of news



Ready to get back home

Portsmouth native to start as city attorney in June after a complicated hiring saga

By Peter Dujardin
Staff Writer

PORTSMOUTH — A Portsmouth native with experience on the prosecutorial and defense sides of the courtroom will begin work as the new city attorney in her hometown next month.

Lavonda Graham Williams is returning to her roots after years of living in the Washington area.

"I just want to say it's good to be back home," she said at the Portsmouth City Council meeting April 28 when members voted to appoint her.

The post has been a revolving door of sorts since the council ousted longtime City Attorney Tim Oksman in 2017 with seven

people holding the job on a permanent or interim basis since. The last person to hold the job on a non-temporary basis, Solomon Ashby, was fired by a council vote in September 2019.

But after 18 months and an at-times controversial hiring process, council members believe they've finally got the right pick.

Graham Williams attended Portsmouth High School in Portsmouth before getting undergraduate degree at George Washington University and a law degree at the College of William & Mary. She then worked for years as a lawyer in the Washington region.

She's most recently been a

Turn to Attorney, Page 4



Graham-Williams

WAR IN UKRAINE

Vote begins under gun

Armed police join officials in going to homes with annexation ballots

By **Hanna Arhirova**
Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — A Kremlin-orchestrated referendum got underway Friday in occupied regions of Ukraine that sought to make them part of Russia, with some officials carrying ballots to apartment blocks accompanied by gun-toting police. Kyiv and the West condemned it as a rigged election whose result was preordained by Moscow.

In a grim reminder of the brutality of the seven-month-old invasion, meanwhile, Ukrainian officials pointed to new evidence of Russian war crimes in the eastern city of Izyum, where they said a mass burial site in the eastern city of Izyum held hundreds of bodies, including at least one displaying signs of torture.

The referendums in the Luhansk, Kherson and partly Russian-occupied Zaporizhzhia and Donetsk regions were widely seen as a prelude to Moscow annexing the regions. The voting, overseen by authorities installed by Russia, is scheduled to run through Tuesday. It is almost certain to go the Kremlin's way.

Authorities in the Kherson region said residents of a small Moscow-controlled area of the neighboring Mykolaiv province also will be able to vote, and that small area was incorporated into Kherson until all of Mykolaiv is taken over by Russian forces.

Ukraine and the West said the vote was an illegitimate attempt by Moscow to slice away a large part of the country, stretching from the Russian border to the Crimean Peninsula. A similar referendum took place in Crimea in 2014, before Moscow annexed it, a move that most of the world considered illegal.

Election officials carried ballots to homes and set up mobile polling stations in the four-day voting period, with officials citing safety

Turn to Ukraine, Page 4



'THIS IS MY FAMILY. I LOVE THEM.'

Facing mounting bills, home health care agency struggles to stay open

By **Caitlyn Burchett** Staff Writer

Black and white photos line the shelves at A Hand in Need residence in Norfolk. Alzheimer's disease and dementia have left the three elderly women who live there with fleeting memories, if any at all, but the personal photographs give them a sense of belonging.

"This is their home," said Tiffanie Smith, founder of A Hand in Need, a local nonprofit that provides elderly or disabled veterans and military spouses with residential health care.

But mounting utility bills depleting Smith's finances threaten to close her three group homes, which would force residents into assisted living facilities.



Smith opened A Hand in Need in 2011 as a home health care agency. She quickly saw the need not only for in-home health care, but for a home away from home for the elderly veteran community. Smith rented three homes, two in Norfolk and one in Chesapeake, and began working with Virginia's Adult Protective Services and local hospitals such as the Hampton VA Medical Center to place seniors in the residences.

Thirteen seniors reside in A Hand in Need homes, each of which are staffed with home health care nurses 24 hours a day. The seniors pay rent with their social security income, which averages \$1,000 per resident, while payroll for Smith's employees is mostly covered by Medicaid. But the money doesn't stretch, Smith said, with the cost of employee

Top: Caretaker Pamela Hoagland gives A Hand in Need resident Margaret Knight water through a syringe. Mounting bills have jeopardized the future of the nonprofit that helps care for elderly or disabled veterans and military spouses. **Left:** A Hand in Need owner Tiffanie Smith peeks into the living room to check on residents. **STEPHEN M. KATZ/STAFF PHOTOS**

Turn to Agency, Page 4

Developer disputes details about park

Group at odds with resolution about financing Va. Beach project

By **Stacy Parker**
Staff Writer

VIRGINIA BEACH — The developers of the Oceanfront proposed surf park disputed key financial details about the project that were unveiled in a city document from the Virginia Beach Development Authority this week.

On Tuesday the authority approved a resolution which lays out the intent of the development and ownership of the planned surf lagoon to a nonprofit organization, PXP Foundation LLC.

The surf park is one aspect of the mixed-use



The surf park is one part of the proposed mixed-use Atlantic Park project on the former dome site between 18th and 20th streets at the Virginia Beach Oceanfront. **STEPHEN M. KATZ/STAFF FILE**

Atlantic Park project on the former dome site between 18th and 20th streets.

The resolution, which was released Sept. 15, stated the project developer encountered difficulty finding conventional financing mechanisms for the surf park and, as a result, indicated to the authority the success of the entire mixed-use project might be threatened.

Mike Culpepper, a managing partner with Venture Realty Group,

the lead partner in the project, wrote in an email Wednesday that the development group has never attempted to obtain conventional financing for the surf park.

He also wrote that he is not aware of anyone in his development group indicating to the authority that difficulty in securing conventional financing for the surf park might threaten the development.

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INSIDE

House GOP's midterm plan

Pennsylvania's Kevin McCarthy rolls out agenda as he eyes speaker's gavel. **Page 6**

Who is he?

If he does his job well, ODU's B.R. Hatcher, a long snapper from a South Carolina town, remains anonymous. **Sports**

Make it homey

Temporary tweaks can turn the bland and basic into hip and homey and make a rental space your own. **Home + Living**

SUNNY AND PLEASANT

High: 77 Low: 60 Details on back of news



Local leaders zero in on crime

Mayors, city managers meet to discuss priorities for next legislative session

By **Jane Harper**
Staff Writer

Seeking to work together to address the region's crime and policing issues, several Hampton Roads mayors and city managers met Thursday to put together legislative priorities to push forward during the next General Assembly session.

The list included four main goals: reducing the amount of time police officers must spend handling mental health detention orders so they can focus on other duties; providing conflict resolution and mediation skills training in public schools; getting authorization to allow retired law enforcement officers to assist local departments and agencies; and identifying barriers and opportunities for using technology to address



Bunting



Chapman



Glover



West

violence and crime. The ideas were discussed during a work session of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission. The session was the third gathering the group has held in recent months to come up with ideas on how to tackle rising gun violence in the area.

Turn to Crime, Page 4

The Virginian-Pilot

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2022 | PILOTONLINE.COM | Our 158th year | \$4.50

Walmart manager kills 6, then himself in Chesapeake store

Shooting is Virginia's third mass killing in past three weeks



Police wait Wednesday morning outside the Chesapeake Walmart, where seven people died the night before in a mass shooting. **BILLY SCHUERMAN/STAFF**

'HE JUST OPENED FIRE'

By Caitlyn Burchett, Ian Munro and Gavin Stone
Staff Writers

CHESAPEAKE — The Walmart on Sam's Circle would have been filled Wednesday with last-minute Thanksgiving cooks and people dashing in for a sweet potato pie from the deli.

Instead, the parking lot was sparse as police, Walmart employees and concerned residents drove by and dropped off balloons and flowers for a makeshift memorial or just paused and stared in disbelief at the site where a 37-year-old manager, Andre Bing, shot and killed six employees, then himself late Tuesday night.

Police say Bing opened fire with a pistol in the break room.

Janis Strausburg, 47, of Chesapeake worked maintenance at Walmart until June but is now a Lyft driver. She was

dropping someone off at the store shortly after the shooting ended.

She said the timing coincided with a shift change during which a large group of staff would be meeting in the breakroom or in a back hallway area. The area is also where employees clock in and out, Strausburg said.

She saw police dragging a body, they were doing CPR on him. A woman fainted and the woman next to her was screaming we need an ambulance, she said. Then I saw maybe five cops went in the store and they very quickly came out and they had a body in the shopping cart.

Stausburg used to speak with Bing frequently, she said, even inviting him to church before they had a falling out when he began to gossip about her, which was common for him, she said.

Turn to Shooting, Page 8



Chesapeake Police Chief Mark G. Solesky speaks at a news conference Wednesday morning. **MIKE CAUDILL/FREELANCE**

PORTSMOUTH

Chapman wants investigation into COVID funds

City manager: Money potentially unaccounted for under predecessor

By Natalie Anderson
Staff Writer

PORTSMOUTH — Portsmouth City Manager Tonya Chapman is calling for an independent investigation and potential forensic audit, alleging that about \$1 million in COVID relief money might not have been accounted for under her predecessor.

In a work session before the City Council meeting Tuesday, Chapman said an internal investigation found thousands of dollars in gift cards earmarked for direct relief to seniors and

other residents struggling from the impacts of the pandemic weren't securely stored or might not have been properly accounted for under Angel Jones, whom Chapman replaced in June.

Jones has since filed a lawsuit against the city alleging that several council members received bribes in connection with job openings or projects that need council approval.

Chapman said it's unclear whether the gift card distribution violated city policy, but that she reported the so-called "improprieties" to proper authorities. She said the list of residents who received the cards included duplicate names and IDs, and whether they received more than one card is still being investigated.

Turn to Funds, Page 8



Portsmouth City Manager Tonya Chapman told City Council members that thousands of dollars in gift cards weren't accounted for under her predecessor, Angel Jones. She says the matter is being investigated and was reported to authorities. **STAFF FILE**

Putting foes in undesirable spots

Bolstered by Australian Ethan Duane, Old Dominion's punt unit has been a consistent highlight this football season. **Sports**

They'll be on parade in New York City

Grafton High School cheerleader, dancers are ready for worldwide performance in the annual Macy's Thanksgiving Day event. **Page 6**

PARTLY SUNNY

High: 65 Low: 44



Details on the back page of news

