

# VIRGINIA

THE ROANOKE TIMES TUESDAY, MARCH 13, 2007

Shanna Flowers is taking a break. Her column will return Sunday.



## Sex doc says she has seen change for good

Dr. Ruth spoke Monday night to kick off Virginia Tech's first Jewish Awareness Month.

By Lindsay Key

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BLACKSBURG — Sex therapist Ruth Westheimer said that if there's one thing that hasn't changed in her field over the past 30 years, it's people's interest in sex.

Accordingly, Virginia Tech's Burruss Auditorium was packed Monday night as the educator known affectionately as "Dr. Ruth" kicked off the school's first Jewish Awareness Month.



Ruth Westheimer said she never hears a strange question.

The event was sponsored by Hillel at Virginia Tech, a Jewish-life

See DOC, 5

## Sen. Chichester won't seek re-election

The Northumberland County Republican was a chief figure in Virginia's recent budget battles.

By Michael Stuss

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RICHMOND — Republican John Chichester, the influential chairman of the Senate Finance Committee, will retire rather than seek re-election later this year, meaning the leadership of both General Assembly budget committees will change in 2008.

Chichester announced his decision Monday, saying he concluded that "the end of this term is the right one for me to step down."



John Chichester worked to preserve the bond rating.



Lacey Putney may take over the House budget committee.



William Wampler of Bristol may replace Chichester.

Chichester, 69, has served in the Senate since 1978 and has chaired the Finance Committee since Republicans took control of the Senate in 2000. He lives in Northumberland County, but built his political base in Stafford County.

In a telephone interview, Chichester described his legislative duties

as "demanding" and said he wants to spend more time with his wife, Karen. Chichester's announcement comes a week after Del. Vince Callahan of Fairfax County, the Republican chairman of the House Appropriations Committee, said he will retire. Chichester and Callahan have been the chief figures in General Assembly budget negotiations since 2000.

If the GOP stays in power after the 2007 elections, lawmakers from Western Virginia could be in line to replace them. Sen. William Wampler, R-Bristol, ranks just behind Chichester on the Senate Finance Committee. Del. Lacey Putney of Bedford, an independent who organizes with House Republicans, is the vice chairman of the House Appropria-

See CHICHESTER, 3

Inside  
this  
section

2

### SENTENCING

An ex-Roanoke sheriff's deputy convicted of dealing drugs in the jail in 2005 will serve a total of eight years in prison.

8

### EDITORIALS

Tens of thousands of American children unnecessarily were dropped from Medicaid rolls.

10

### WEATHER

Partly cloudy and unseasonably warm today with a high of 76 degrees.