### Dora gets a celebration

Pint-sized pioneer turns 25 years extra, di



## The gurus of groundstrokes

The 2025 All-Timesland Tennis Team SPORTS. BI

### **Business** Cycle

Plans for boutique hotel halted in Soro Business, C2

## THE ROANOKE TIMES

Sunday, July 13, 2025

— WHERE YOUR STORY LIVES —

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#### **CRAIG-BOTETOURT SCENIC TRAIL**



**HEATHER ROUSSEAU, THE ROANOKE TIMES** 

A 'DeRail the Trail' sign is seen on a homeowner's property Friday facing a section of what will be part of the Craig-Botetourt Scenic Trail on Old Rail Road in Eagle Rock. Some property owners along the trail have raised concerns about the 26-mile project.

# Project moves forward with public hearings

Trail will run between Eagle Rock and New Castle

LILY KINCAID The Roanoke Times

The Virginia Department of provide information to the pub-

from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday at cording to VDOT. Craig County High School.

public hearings this week to Rock and Craig County High across Virginia, one of which School in New Castle. It will being the Craig-Botetourt trail.

lic and gather feedback regarding follow the former Chesapeake That same month, VDOT held VDOT will hold one meeting railbed and right of way, which the trail in both counties. from 4 to 6 p.m. Tuesday at Ea- was donated to Virginia in 1961 gle Rock Elementary School in for "for such public use as Com-Botetourt County, and another monwealth may determine," ac-

In September 2023, the Gen-

the Craig-Botetourt Scenic Trail. and Ohio Craig Valley Branch informational meetings about

The Commonwealth Trans portation Board has allocated \$19.5 million for the trail, which VDOT anticipates will be enough to construct around 20 miles, The 26-mile trail will run be- eral Assembly put funds toward from Craig County High School Transportation is holding two tween Last Lock Park near Eagle five multi-use trail projects to the end of state maintenance

Please see TRAIL. Page A13

#### **FERRUM COLLEGE**

### Faculty at odds with current president

Calling on board of trustees to remove Mirta Martin

**JASON DUNOVANT** The Roanoke Times

FERRUM – Ferrum College faculty members took a vote of no confidence in President Mirta Martin's leadership as the academic year concluded and have urged the college's board to remove her from the position.

A May 6 letter obtained by The Roanoke Times shows a clear division between faculty and Martin, who became Ferrum College's 13th president in 2023 after serving in an interim role. In the letter, Martin is said to foster a "toxic work environment and culture of fear" among staff at the college.

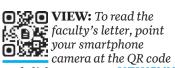
letter states that faculty held a May 2 vote of no confidence in Martin's leadership. Of the 44 faculty members present for the vote, 87% voted no confi-



Jamison

Abigail Jamison, chair of the faculty council, sent the letter on behalf of the faculty to W. Jeffrey Booker, first chair of the college's

Please see **FERRUM**, Page A6



and click to connect. **NEWSVU** 

### Patient's bill slashed

emember Ricky Rucker, the Southeast Roanoke resident who got charged nearly \$5,000 for a routine ambulance ride in September?

7 miles. At the time, Rucker was not on life-support, or oxygen, or hooked up to an EKG, or a blood pressure cuff. He didn't even have an oxygen sensor on his finger. The ambulance provider

The distance was

was Colorado-based American (Anthem) paid \$871. Medical Response. In January,

> AMR sent Rucker a bill for \$4,942, which worked out to more than \$700 per mile for that ride. The transport took 15

minutes, Rucker said. He contacted yours truly in March. By then, AMR was dunning him by text for \$4,070.68, claiming that was Ruck-

er's out-of-pocket cost, after his out-of-network insurer

To put it mildly, that bill seemed bizarrely excessive.

In part, it's because AMR is not in Anthem's provider network. (In Virginia, AMR's sole "in-network" insurer is Aetna.) So that



Rucker



**DAN CASEY, THE ROANOKE TIMES** 

An American Medical Response ambulance, spotted outside a convenience Please see CASEY, Page A8 store on Starkey Road in the Tanglewood area.

### **UVa faculty wants** answers about Ryan

VIRGINIA, A2

Israeli airstrikes kill 28 in Gaza

Weather Thunderstorms around High 88 • Low 71

FORECAST • A16

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