

Rotation improvement
Hokies see better safety depth **SPORTS, B1**



Back in time for
‘Frontier’ family **TELEVISION, EXTRA, B8**



THE ROANOKE TIMES

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Court throws out Trump fraud penalty

Ruling spares president from potential half-billion-dollar fine

JENNIFER PELTZ AND MICHAEL R. SISAK
Associated Press

NEW YORK — A New York appeals court on Thursday threw out the massive financial penalty a state judge imposed on President Donald Trump, while narrowly upholding a finding he engaged in fraud by exaggerating his

wealth for decades. The ruling spares Trump from a potential half-billion-dollar fine but bans him and his two eldest sons from serving in corporate leadership for a few years. Trump, in a social media post, claimed “total victory.” “I greatly respect the fact that the Court had the Courage to throw out this unlawful and disgraceful Decision that was hurting Business all throughout New York State,” he wrote. The decision came seven months

after the Republican returned to the White House. A sharply divided panel of five judges in New York’s mid-level Appellate Division couldn’t agree on many issues raised in Trump’s appeal, but a majority said the monetary penalty was “excessive.” After finding Trump flagrantly padded financial statements that went to lenders and insurers, Judge Arthur Engoron ordered him last year to pay \$355 million in penalties. With interest, the sum has topped \$515 million. Additional

penalties levied on some other Trump Organization executives, including Trump’s sons Eric and Donald Jr. — bring the total to \$527 million, with interest. **An ‘excessive’ fine** “While the injunctive relief ordered by the court is well crafted to curb defendants’ business culture, the court’s disgorgement order, which directs that defendants pay nearly half a billion dollars to the State of New York, is an excessive fine that violates the

Eighth Amendment of the United States Constitution,” Judges Dianne T. Renwick and Peter H. Moulton wrote in one of three opinions shaping the appeals court’s ruling. Engoron’s other punishments, upheld by the appeals court, have been on pause during Trump’s appeal, and the president was able to hold off collection of the money by posting a \$175 million bond. **Please see TRUMP, Page A9**

ROANOKE | STATE OF THE CITY



HEATHER ROUSSEAU, THE ROANOKE TIMES

Roanoke Mayor Joe Cobb delivers the State of the City address at Hotel Roanoke on Thursday.

Mayor: Make city ‘shine’

Joe Cobb issued challenge to residents to engage, act

LUKE WEIR
The Roanoke Times

The star city shines because its people are creative, inclusive, tenacious and yearning to achieve more, Roanoke Mayor Joe Cobb said to a crowd of regional busi-

ness and government leaders. Delivering his first “state of the city” speech at Hotel Roanoke on Thursday morning, Cobb issued a challenge to everyone across the Roanoke Valley. “Think of something you can do to make Roanoke shine,” Cobb said. “Just one thing.” It could be reaching out to a neighbor, serving on a board or commission, or volunteering in the community, Cobb said.

“Maybe it’s doing what you do already every day,” Cobb said. “Whatever it is, do it. Own it. Begin. Because when you engage, when we show up – when we act – Roanoke shines brighter.” City programs and policies aren’t what gives Roanoke or the surrounding region its luster, Cobb said. Not one, solitary person makes it happen, either. “It shines because all of us together make it happen,” Cobb said.

Cobb said that in Roanoke, “city” is an acronym. “What does it mean to you for Roanoke to be Creative, Inclusive, Tenacious and Yearning to do more and to be better?” Cobb said. “This isn’t just about me giving a speech. This is about us working together to create the best city, the best region we want to be.” **Please see MAYOR, Page A6**

Black mayors tout crime declines

AAMA members determined to stop Trump from burying accomplishments

TERRY TANG
Associated Press

As President Donald Trump declared Washington, D.C., a crime-ridden wasteland in need of federal intervention this month and threatened similar federal interventions in other Black-led cities, several mayors compared notes. The president’s characterization of their cities contradicts the drop in violent crime they saw after a COVID-19 pandemic spike. In some cases, the declines were monumental, due in large part to more youth engagement, gun buyback programs and community partnerships. Now, members of the African American Mayors Association are determined to stop Trump from burying their accomplishments. They’re using the administration’s unprecedented law enforcement takeover in the nation’s capital as an opportunity to disprove his narrative about some of the country’s greatest urban enclaves. “It gives us an opportunity to say we need to amplify our voices to confront the rhetoric that crime is just running rampant around major U.S. cities. It’s just not true,” said Van Johnson, mayor of Savannah, Georgia, and president of the African American Mayors Association. **Please see CRIME, Page A9**



THE ROANOKE TIMES, FILE 2018

Randy King, who wrote about Virginia Tech, NASCAR, golf, VMI and hockey for The Roanoke Times, died Wednesday night at the age of 69.

RANDY KING | 1955-2025

Ex-Roanoke Times sports writer was ‘one of a kind’

King, who entertained readers for decades, died Wednesday at 69

MARK BERMAN
The Roanoke Times

Randy King was as funny, colorful and engaging as the articles he wrote.

King, who entertained readers as a sports writer for The Roanoke Times from the 1970s through 2020, died Wednesday night at the age of 69. “Nobody’s ever made me laugh harder — genuine, uproarious laughter,” former Roanoke Times sports columnist Aaron McFarling said Thursday in a phone interview. “He just made

you bust a gut over whatever he said. “Everybody who knew him loved him. “One of the keys to being a superstar is you have to be unapologetically you. ... Boy, was that Randy King. The guy was one of a kind. ... I miss him already. **Please see KING, Page A6**

Roanoke Co. school receives bomb threat
VIRGINIA, A2

Redistricting battle enters next phase
NATION & WORLD, B6

Weather
Stray thunderstorm
High 80 • Low 66
FORECAST • A10

Inside

Obituaries	A6	Opinion	A7	Lottery	A2
Comics	B9	World News	B6	Sports	B1
Puzzles	B9	Extra	B8	Classified	A7

