

# Hokie loses captaincy

Woodson charged with DWI **SPORTS, B1**



## Rich in flavor

Teriyaki rice bowls are quick on preparation and easy on the wallet

**EXTRA, C1**

# THE ROANOKE TIMES

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Wednesday, August 27, 2025

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## ROANOKE SCHOOLS

# Community center already in use

Repurposed building has official opening this week



**Watch:** To see Roanoke schools official Corey Allder talk about the new supplies room in the Booker T. Washington Community Engagement Center, point your smartphone camera at the QR code and click to connect. **NEWSVU**



**LUKE WEIR, THE ROANOKE TIMES**

**LUKE WEIR**  
The Roanoke Times

More than 300 families have already visited the new Roanoke public schools community center since July 1, officials said during a preview tour Tuesday.

Those officials said they hope to serve generations more at the newly renovated and repurposed Booker T. Washington Community Empowerment Center, located at 40 Douglass Ave. N.W.

A ribbon cutting is scheduled for 11 a.m. Friday.

As Superintendent Verletta White noted the 300 families already served, she stopped a baby bottle rolling down the front steps and handed it back to a toddler and mother who were leaving the building.

“That really does speak to the need,” White said. “Given that we’ve already served so many families.”

Inside the building’s welcome

center, Director of Community Engagement Corey Allder said a family might stop in for one service, then end up staying or returning for other offerings. Not just services like mental health help for students, but also adult learning opportunities and financial education classes, he said.

“We have a resource room with backpacks, school supplies, hygiene supplies, all kind of things,”

Please see **CENTER**, Page A6

New signage is visible outside Roanoke Schools’ new Booker T. Washington Community Development Center. A ribbon cutting is scheduled for Friday.

## ELECTION 2025 | ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL



**MIKE KROPP, RICHMOND TIMES-DISPATCH**

Republican gubernatorial candidate Winsome Earle-Sears speaks to a crowd in the Fairfax County Republican Committee office on Aug. 2.

# Earle-Sears answers call with faith, determination

**MIKE KROPP**  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

**FAIRFAX** — An American flag draped Bill Ficken’s white front door. Another adorned the back of his old Ford Mustang in the open garage below. Leaning against the garage wall, he wiped a forming tear from his eye.

A year ago, Ficken’s adult son

passed away. The loss was still fresh in his mind as he spoke with Republican gubernatorial candidate Winsome Earle-Sears — a door-knocking encounter that quickly became personal.

Earle-Sears lost her oldest daughter, Dejon, and two granddaughters, Victoria and Faith, in a 2012 car crash, less than three

miles away.

“They’re supposed to bury us,” the lieutenant governor said.

“Who else can I lean on except God?” Earle-Sears said later in an interview with the Richmond Times-Dispatch, recalling her family’s losses. “You’re looking at

Please see **EARLE-SEARS**, Page A7

## Part 1 of 2

The candidates for governor gave Richmond Times-Dispatch photojournalist Mike Kropf access to trips on the campaign trail. Coming Thursday: On the trail with Democrat Abigail Spanberger.

# Trump’s judges lawsuit tossed

Roanoke-based judge called targeting of entire Md. bench ‘potentially calamitous’

**LEA SKENE AND SUDHIN THANAWALA**  
Associated Press

**BALTIMORE** — A Roanoke-based federal judge on Tuesday threw out the Trump administration’s lawsuit against Maryland’s entire federal bench in an emphatic ruling that underscored the extraordinary nature of the suit, slamming it as “potentially calamitous.”

U.S. District Judge Thomas Cullen, who was nominated by President Donald Trump, also criticized the administration’s attacks on the judiciary, highlighting in a footnote that White House officials in recent months had described judges as “rogue,” “unhinged” and “crooked,” among other epithets.

“Although some tension between the coordinate branches of government is a hallmark of our constitutional system, this concerted effort by the Executive to smear and impugn individual judges who rule against it is both unprecedented and unfortunate,” he wrote.

At issue in the lawsuit was an order by the chief judge of the Maryland district court that stopped the immediate deportation of migrants challenging their removals. The Justice



**Cullen**



**Trump**

# Fed governor says she won’t resign

Lisa Cook says she’ll sue Trump to stop him from firing her

**CHRISTOPHER RUGABER**  
Associated Press

**WASHINGTON** — Federal Reserve Gov. Lisa Cook will sue President Donald Trump’s ad-

ministration to try to prevent him from firing her, her lawyer said Tuesday.

“President Trump has no authority to remove Federal Reserve Governor Lisa Cook,” said Abbe Lowell, a longtime Washington lawyer who has represented figures from both major political parties. “His attempt to fire her, based solely on a referral letter,

lacks any factual or legal basis. We will be filing a lawsuit challenging this illegal action.”

Trump, meanwhile, underscored in remarks at the White House that his goal is to seize more power over the Fed to get it to lower interest rates. He previously said he would only appoint people to the Fed’s board who will support lower borrowing

costs.

“We’ll have a majority very shortly, so that’ll be good,” Trump said, referring to the Fed’s governing board. “Once we have a majority, housing will swing,” he added, blaming slow housing sales on high mortgage rates.

Trump criticized Fed Chair

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**Weather**  
Partly sunny, pleasant  
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