



RB Hawkins thrills Va. Tech coaches

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THE ROANOKE TIMES

Saturday, July 18, 2026

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roanoke.com

ROANOKE CITY COUNCIL

Nash: Comment had ‘racial undertone’

Interaction between council members Volosin, Nash captured on meeting livestream

NORA SHELLY
The Roanoke Times

Roanoke City Councilman Phazhon Nash said Friday that Councilman Peter Volosin made

a comment to him evoking racial undertones after a meeting last week.

Nash in a Facebook post alleged that Volosin in part said the words “owns you” to him at the end of a tense meeting July 6 where the council discussed changes to the 2024 zoning reforms that spurred pushback from some in the city. The two sit next to each other at city council meetings.

Nash, the only Black council

member, said in an interview Friday that he was packing up his stuff when the incident happened, and he wasn’t paying attention when he first noticed Volosin lean in his ear. He missed the first part of his comment, but heard the words “owns you.”

“The comment immediately struck a nerve,” Nash wrote in his post. “Regardless of the intent behind it, I cannot ignore language that, for me, carries and

invokes a feeling of racial undertone and historical significance.”

Volosin, who is running for reelection, declined to comment when reached via email Friday.

The interaction between Volosin and Nash was captured on the livestream of the meeting on the city’s YouTube channel.

Since it was the end of the meeting, a semi-transparent overlay screen reading “Thanks For Watching” covered the video

feed before the interaction took place, somewhat obscuring the scene.

Volosin can be seen standing

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WATCH: For video of Volosin’s interaction with Nash, point your smartphone camera at the QR code, then tap the link.

NEWSVU

ROANOKE LIBRARIES



THE ROANOKE TIMES, FILE 2013

Roanoke artist David Ramey, then 74, is pictured sketching in his kitchen. A self-taught artist, he made drawings and paintings from memory, with most of the works depicting Henry Street in its glory days.

‘A record of memory’

Online archive of works by David Ramey is set to launch soon

NORA SHELLY
The Roanoke Times

When David Ramey moved from small-town Martinsville to Roanoke as a child, he could step out on his family’s back porch and see much of Henry Street, the bustling center of the city’s Black community.

From the front of the house, he could look down the hill and see Gainsboro Library — a place he loved and visited frequently. The small, brick building figured prominently in Ramey’s drawings, many of which documented

the historic Black neighborhood as it was before the destruction of urban renewal.

Now, hundreds of his prolific drawings and writings are being stored in that library, which has also worked to digitize the collection for an online archive. On Wednesday, the city will celebrate the launch of the archive, and a traveling exhibit, at 4 p.m. at the Gainsboro Library.

“There’s no doubt in my mind my father’s ghost is in this building, his spirit is in this building,” said Ramey’s son, David Ramey Jr. “Because all of his work is here, the writings, everything that he talked about, and it meant everything to him.”



DAVID RAMEY

Pictured is one of David Ramey’s drawings, which will be in an online archive held by the Gainsboro Library.

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TRUMP SPEECH | 5 TAKEAWAYS

President alleges election weaknesses

PHILLIP M. BAILEY
AND JOEY GARRISON
USA Today

President Donald Trump, in a primetime address Thursday,

sought to further sow distrust in U.S. elections, claiming broad vulnerabilities with voting systems and potential for interference from other nations.

Trump specifically pointed to China, alleging it interfered with the electoral process in 2020.

“Every American deserves to know that when they cast their

vote, that vote will be counted accurately in a system, and that is to make that system secure — one

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Air Quality Alert issued

VIRGINIA, A2

Israeli airstrike hits funeral in Gaza

NATION & WORLD, B6

Weather

Humid; a p.m. t-storm
High: 91 **Low:** 72
Forecast: A10

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