

# Daily Press

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## Spending standstill in Richmond

### Budget talks stall after getting a tad testy, but backup plan emerges

By **Kate Seltzer**  
STAFF WRITER

RICHMOND — Democrats in the General Assembly don't appear to be any closer to reaching a budget deal. Money committee chairs Sen. Louise Lucas of Portsmouth and Del. Luke Torian, Prince William, met Friday morn-

ing with Gov. Abigail Spanberger. The conversation didn't go well. "Today, the Governor and House decided that they did not want to alter the freeloading policy for data centers," Lucas said in a statement Friday afternoon. "They decided that this was far more important than having data centers pay their fair share to provide services to the people of the Commonwealth for the next two years."

The Senate budget proposal would end the sales and use tax from which data centers currently



Lucas Spanberger

benefit, which could generate \$1.6 billion annually by some estimates. Without intervention, the sales and use tax exemption wouldn't end until 2035. But Spanberger and the House have been hesitant to

end existing business agreements. Separately, all of the budget conferees from the House and the Senate were supposed to meet to begin hammering out the differences in the existing budget proposals. But that conference didn't happen. Two sources briefed on the discussions confirmed that Lucas walked out of the initial meeting. And the conferees went home no closer to reaching an agreement.

Facing a June 30 deadline, when state funding runs out, one

option the legislature is considering is a "skinny budget" that would fund core government services and legislation signed by Spanberger that is required by law to be funded.

The General Assembly could resume talks after that, but if lawmakers don't, any individual member budget amendments not tied to legislation could be dead until the legislature comes back in January.

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Gas prices have risen nearly 30% from April 2025 to this April. ODU economist Robert McNab said it would not be surprising if they rose to \$5 a gallon on average nationally this summer. **NAMY. HUH/AP**

## High prices creating very low confidence

### Old Dominion professor says consumer sentiment on economy at all-time low: 'Americans aren't very happy'

By **Sandra J. Pennecke**  
STAFF WRITER

NEWPORT NEWS — Consumer sentiment is at an all-time low because of inflation, economist Robert McNab said Friday during Old Dominion University's annual midyear forecast.

"That's not just a low for this decade. It's not just a low for this century," McNab, professor and



McNab Agarwal

director of ODU's Dragas Center for Economic Analysis and Policy, told attendees at the Newport News Marriott at City Center.

"It is literally the lowest value ever recorded in the history of the survey over six-plus decades."

McNab was referring to survey-based data released by the University of Michigan that showed consumer sentiment fell to 44.8 in April, down from 52.2 a year earlier.

"Americans aren't very happy about the state of the economy," McNab said. "We hate volatility."

That was just a smidge of the

disheartening news about the regional, state and national economy shared during the morning event. McNab and fellow economist Vinod Agarwal took turns providing insights.

Fluctuating and rising gas prices makes it hard to plan, which leads to uncertainty and changes in consumer behavior, McNab said.

"This is just a warning of what's to come," he said, noting the war with Iran and resulting energy price shock will impact prices well beyond the end of any conflict.

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## Va. Beach faces \$25M lawsuit after 2024 death

### Father of man who died in custody alleges systemwide failures

By **Nori Leybengrub**  
STAFF WRITER

The father of Rolin Hill, a 34-year-old who died while in the custody of sheriff's deputies, filed suit against Virginia Beach, the city's police department, Sheriff's Office, jail and 911 call center for \$25 million, alleging that systemwide failures caused his son's death two years ago.

The wrongful death lawsuit was filed May 29 in Virginia Beach Circuit Court by Stanley Hill. It alleges that dispatchers, police, deputies and their superiors were deliberate or indifferent in their failure to identify and secure care as his son experienced a mental-health crisis.



Neudigate

Employees, the lawsuit says, acted against city policies regarding the use of force and crisis intervention, diverting Rolin Hill away from critical care and into the judicial system.



Holcomb

The lawsuit's nearly two dozen defendants include director of the city's Emergency Communications and Citizen's Services Jada Lee, Police Chief Paul Neudigate, Officer Justin Ford and Sgt. Michael Dougherty, as well as Sheriff Rocky Holcomb, Deputies Eric Baptiste, Michael Kidd, Kevin Wilson and Sgt. Marlon Ramirez.

Hill was at the 7-Eleven on Brigands Way, just blocks from his Virginia Beach home, when someone called 911 on June 4, 2024, to report he was being disorderly while trespassing, the lawsuit says.

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## Senate OKs bill for Border Patrol, ICE

### But several efforts to permanently ban \$1.8B fund rejected

By **Mary Clare Jalonick** and **Joey Cappelletti**  
ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — The Senate passed legislation to fund President Donald Trump's immigration enforcement agencies early Friday, after weeks of delays and fierce backlash to an unrelated \$1.776 billion settlement fund that threatened to derail the bill.

Senators voted 52-47 to pass

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Judge nixes Trump team's tighter immigration policy. **Page 6**

the \$70 billion legislation to fund Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Border Patrol for the next three years, through the end of Trump's term, after Democrats blocked the money for months. The bill will now head to the House, which is expected to take it up next week.

The final vote came just

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Senate Majority Leader John Thune, R-S.D., speaks to reporters following a vote on Capitol Hill in Washington, on Thursday.

**MICHAELA. MCCOY/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

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### COASTAL QUALITY

U.S. News & World Report lists the Outer Banks as one of the country's best vacation spots. **Page 2**

### REDISTRICTING RESPONSE

As Republicans break up majority-Black House districts, Democrats must decide how to proceed. **Nation & World, Page 8**

### ROUSING RALLY

Poquoson will open state playoffs at home after coming back from seven runs down to win region softball title. **Sports**

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