

FRIDA

beyond the myth



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Self-Portrait with Loose Hair (detail), 1943. Frida Kahlo (Mexican, 1907-1955), oil on masonite. Private Collection © 2023 Banco de México Diego Rivera Frida Kahlo Museums Trust, Mexico, D.F. / Artists Rights Society (ARS), New York

'I THINK IT'S THE FUTURE'

COSTAR MAKES BIG BET ON OVERTAKING ZILLOW



MARGO WAGNER, TIMES-DISPATCH

CoStar Group's 21-story tower on South 5th Street is expected to open in May of next year. It will be the second-tallest building in the city, behind the James Monroe Building, which could be demolished.

## CEO Florance envisions new Richmond tower as both corporate hub and urban attraction

**ERIC KOLENICH**  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

CoStar Group introduced its newest product during the 2024 Super Bowl, in a series of celebrity-filled ads. CoStar believes its website Homes.com will up-end the homebuying market, and the announcement had to be big.

Andy Florance, the founder and CEO of CoStar, which has a large and growing footprint in downtown Richmond, has set his sights on ousting Zillow as the premier home-buying website in the United States.

CoStar has dumped billions of dollars into its investment, building a \$750 million riverfront tower and hiring an expected 4,000 employees here. The company has developed a reputation as a place where employees work hard and earn a high wage.

But Homes.com underperformed at the start of the year, leading to hundreds of layoffs. The company's share price has stagnated, and an investor has urged CoStar to change direction. Zillow is a behemoth with a large financial lead, and some believe it is too well entrenched to defeat.

But Florance has a steadfast belief in his product.

"I think we have a better site," he said. "I think it's the future."

At age 7, Florance was homeless and living in Richmond. In 1971, police took custody of him, and he never saw his mother again, he told Virginia Commonwealth University graduates at the 2019 commencement ceremony. As a middle

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## ELECTION 2025

# Reid hits the road for votes

### LG nominee open about challenges of campaign

**ANNA BRYSON**  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Every morning, John Reid, the GOP nominee for lieutenant governor, wakes before dawn, gets in his 2017 Ford Explorer and drives around Virginia trying to meet and talk to as many people as possible.

It's advice he heeded from former Gov. Doug Wilder, who in 1990 became the nation's first elected Black governor. Wilder's 1985 statewide auto tour was credited with helping remove racial barriers to his election as lieutenant governor, in which his chances of winning were viewed as so slim that some Democrats attempted to find an alternative candidate.

Reid faces an uphill battle in more



Reid

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## CHESTERFIELD

# Hearing set for planned gas turbines


### Dominion plant would only see part-time use

**THAD GREEN**  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Supporters and detractors of Dominion Energy's planned gas plant in Chesterfield will soon have another opportunity to speak up.

The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality will hold a public hearing at 5 p.m. Monday at the SpringHill Suites by Marriott Chester to accept oral comments on the proposed gas plant that Dominion calls

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