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# Richmond Times-Dispatch

Thursday, May 28, 2026

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## CHILDCARE ASSISTANCE



MIKE KROPF, TIMES-DISPATCH

Ella Gilbreath, 5, covers her eyes as Gov. Abigail Spanberger signs legislation about childcare at VCU Health's Child Development Center on Wednesday in North Richmond. Beside Spanberger are the bill's sponsors, Del. Adele McClure, D-Arlington, (left) and Sen. Lashrecse Aird, D-Petersburg.

# ‘3rd time’s the charm’ for new Va. program

Spanberger signs bill into law after 2 previous vetoes

ANNA BRYSON  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

After two vetoes under the previous governor, Virginia has now adopted an employee

childcare assistance program that aims to incentivize employers to contribute to the childcare costs of their employees.

Under the new program, the cost of childcare for some Virginians will be split between a parent’s employer, the family and the state. The details on which employers will participate and how the cost will be split have



**MORE:** See a full photo gallery from Wednesday’s ceremonial bill signing at a childcare center in Richmond. Point your cellphone camera at the QR code and click the link. [NEWSVU](#)

not yet been worked out. Del. Adele McClure,

D-Arlington, has introduced the bill each year since she took office in 2024. She joked that “third time’s the charm” before the governor ceremoniously signed the bill Wednesday afternoon at a childcare center in North Richmond.

Gov. Abigail Spanberger

Please see **CHILDCARE**, Page A4

## UNEMPLOYMENT

# VEC lax at recovering its money

Audit finds millions in overpaid benefits

DAVE RESS  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

When Virginia pays someone more unemployment benefits than they’re entitled to, it’s been lax about trying to recover the money, a new Office of the State Inspector General audit says.

Reviewing the quarterly financial reports that the Virginia Employment Commission filed with the U.S. Department of Labor from July 2023 through September 2025, the audit found the agency wrote off \$300 million of overpayments while recovering only \$6 million.

“VEC is not performing several procedures that would increase their recovery of overpayments,” the audit found.

VEC’s management concurred with the audit findings.

“This report examines actions and operational challenges that largely occurred during an

Please see **AUDIT**, Page A4

## JOHN MARSHALL HS Fights disrupt graduation at Siegel Center

Several arrests, but no weapons found

SAMUEL B. PARKER  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Richmond Public Schools Superintendent Jason Kamras on Wednesday afternoon said a fight had broken out during John Marshall High School’s graduation ceremony at VCU’s Siegel Center.

“Obviously, this was an unfortunate disruption,” Kamras said, noting that no weapons were found at the scene and that a suspect had been taken into custody.

The incident prompted a

Please see **GRADUATION**, Page A6

## UNIVERSITY OF RICHMOND

# Ex-Spider in NFL says ‘hard work works’

Musically talented lineman returned for speech to grads

JOHN O’CONNOR  
Richmond Times-Dispatch

Originally, Kobie Turner’s

dream job was high school choir director.

He arrived at the University of Richmond as a walk-on defensive tackle from Centreville High School in 2017. As their first preseason camp began, Turner and the other Spiders freshmen took part in a talent show, an

icebreaker for the amusement of returning players.

“He got up there and sang,” Russ Huesman, UR’s coach since December 2016, said of Turner, whom Huesman invited to Richmond. “He had everybody mesmerized. They were waiting to make fun of him. He

got a standing ovation. Couldn’t make fun of him.”

Turner, now a Richmond graduate who majored in music and math, came to UR able to sing beautifully and also play piano and guitar. No football star then,

Please see **TURNER**, Page A6



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### Framework deal includes Iran restoring shipping to prewar levels

PAGE A8

### Weather

Less humid with some sun  
**High 84**  
**Low 55**  
**Forecast • A12**

A News	Entertainment	A9	B Sports	C This Weekend
Lotteries	Business	A10	Scoreboard	B2 Comics C5
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