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The Augusta Chronicle

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025 | AUGUSTACHRONICLE.COM

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President Donald Trump has attended multiple UFC events as president. MANDEL NGAN/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

Trump to host UFC fight at White House in 2026

Event continues presidential sporting tradition

Bart Jansen
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON – Beyond grappling with Congress and foreign adversaries, President Donald Trump will be hosting the White House’s first UFC fight in the summer of 2026.

Trump, a longtime fan of the Ultimate Fighting Championship, planned the event for up to 20,000 spectators

and a live television audience. The slate of mixed martial arts fights will be part of the yearlong celebrations for the country’s 250th anniversary.

While building an eight-sided cage on the South Lawn or weighing athletes at the Lincoln Memorial for the UFC would be unusual, the historic grounds have routinely hosted sports ranging from tennis to T-ball.

President Theodore Roosevelt built a tennis court in 1902 near what is now the West Wing, in the shadow of the office building that housed the State, War and Navy departments, according to the White House Historical Association.

Sports could be dangerous even without brawling in UFC’s eight-sided

cage known as the Octagon. In 1924, President Calvin Coolidge’s namesake son blistered his foot while playing tennis and died of blood poisoning at 16, according to the historical association.

On the milder side, bowling lanes were first installed indoors in 1947, and President Richard Nixon was an avid bowler. President Dwight Eisenhower installed a putting green during the 1950s that Trump has embellished.

The South Lawn occasionally became the coolest place for ice skating, when Presidents Jimmy Carter in 1980 and Joe Biden in 2023 built temporary

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ELECTION OVERHAUL

Absentee ballot limits upheld by court

Dave Williams
Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA – A federal judge has upheld a portion of a controversial 2022 Georgia election law dealing with absentee ballots.

In a 50-page ruling issued this week, U.S. District Judge J.P. Boulee declared that the state had a “compelling governmental interest” in restricting the distribution of absentee ballot applications by third-party voting rights activists. He ruled that the state was justified in enacting restrictions aimed at “reducing voter confusion, enhancing voter confidence and increasing electoral efficiency.”

The absentee ballot restrictions were part of a broad overhaul of Georgia election procedures the Republican-controlled General Assembly passed in 2021

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HEALTH SCORES

Japanese restaurant scores low in inspection

Jennifer Miller
Augusta Chronicle
USA TODAY NETWORK

The following is a list of restaurants in Richmond and Columbia counties that were inspected Aug. 29 through Sept. 5, accompanied by their scores and, in some cases, the health infractions that lowered those scores.

Disclaimer: On any given day, an establishment may have fewer or more violations than noted in its most recent inspection. An inspection conducted on any given day may not be representative of the overall, long-term conditions at the establishment. A few more recent follow-up inspections may not be included here.

See **INSPECTIONS**, Page 2A

\$5K reward offered in May shooting

Donnie Z. Fetter
Augusta Chronicle
USA TODAY NETWORK

Augusta authorities are offering a \$5,000 reward for information that leads to an arrest and conviction of suspects involved in a May murder on Riverfront Drive.

Zyshawyn Franklin, 26, of Augusta, was fatally shot and pronounced dead at about 9:15 p.m. on May 4, noted Richmond County Coroner Mark Bowen at the time.

Another victim, Trequan Allen, 20, was shot but survived, noted the Richmond County Sheriff’s Office in a notice issued Wednesday.

The shooting occurred at what the sheriff’s office described at the time of the shooting as “a large unpermitted gathering” at about 8:20 p.m.

Those with information concerning this case should contact a violent crimes Investigator at the sheriff’s office by calling (706) 821-1000 or (706) 821-1020.

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Volume 240 | No. 216
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