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The SS United States will become the world’s largest artificial reef when it’s sunk in the Gulf in November.

SS United States to be largest artificial reef

Shannon Marvel McNaught
Delaware News Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

WILMINGTON, DE – About a year and eight months after the SS United States left Philadelphia and headed to Alabama for sinking preparations, Okaloosa County, Florida, has announced the ship will be deployed in the second week of November.

“America’s Flagship” will become the world’s largest artificial reef when it’s sunk about 22 nautical miles southwest of Destin-Fort Walton Beach in the Gulf of Mexico, renamed by the U.S. government as Gulf of America.

Okaloosa County spokesperson Nick Tomecek said the deployment is dependent on weather.

The ship was originally expected to be deployed earlier in 2026. Tomecek said in July that the county was waiting on final sign-offs from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Environmental Protection Agency.

Okaloosa County representatives have previously said the 990-foot



The SS United States launched in the 1950s as both a secret military vessel and a luxury passenger ship. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY OKALOOSA COUNTY, FLORIDA

ocean liner is proposed to be sunk to a depth of 180 feet, with about 55 feet between the upper deck and the water’s surface.

Nearby rests the 911-foot USS Oriskany, which will become the world’s second-largest artificial reef, and together, the ships will make the area “a

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Georgia Republican gubernatorial candidates Rick Jackson, left, and Keisha Lance Bottoms, right. RICHARD BURKHART/SAVANNAH MORNING NEWS, USA TODAY CO.

Bottoms attacks Jackson on abortion issue

Ty Tagami
CAPITOL BEAT NEWS SERVICE

Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms attacked her Republican opponent, Rick Jackson, on data centers, fuel costs and abortion when he skipped what would have been their final debate Monday night.

Bottoms used Jackson’s absence from the Atlanta Press Club event to claim her opponent believed that women who are victims of rape should have to prove it before they can qualify for an exemption from Georgia’s ban on abortion after fetal cardiac activity is detected, typically six weeks into pregnancy.

Bottoms used the portion of the debate when candidates are allowed to ask each other questions to say, “If he were here, I would ask, how do you prove that you have been raped in order to get an abortion?”

Bottoms alleged that the wealthy entrepreneur was flying on his private jet “rather than having to answer to the people of Georgia about this irresponsible position.”

Bottoms apparently was referring to a June news report about an audio recording of Jackson at a campaign stop.

An attendee reportedly asked Jackson, who supports Georgia’s anti-abortion law, about the law’s exception for rape, according to a report

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FTC shuts down a sextortion help firm accused of fraud

Nick Penzenstadler and Rachel Hale
USA TODAY

An Ohio company that promised to help victims of “sextortion” has been shut down by the Federal Trade Commission for allegedly defrauding customers of more than \$60 million over the last three years.

The company, Digital Forensics Corporation, was the subject of a 2025 investigation by USA TODAY. That series of stories unearthed more than 100 complaints about the company’s aggressive marketing. USA TODAY interviewed three dozen customers and obtained internal sales call transcripts.

Financial sextortion is the fastest-

FTC investigators went undercover and posed as sextortion victims to reveal the company’s aggressive sales tactics.

growing cybercrime targeting children and young men in North America. It’s routinely carried out by foreign scammers who threaten to publish nude or sexual images of the victims unless they

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The Federal Trade Commission has shut down Digital Forensics Corporation for allegedly defrauding customers of more than \$60 million over the last three years. ROBERTO SCHMIDT/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES FILE

