

Trump’s tax plan: JD Vance to tout ‘big, beautiful’ legislation in Atlanta visit.



Coastlines on alert: Residents along Outer Banks prepare for massive waves.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

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State set to drop 478K voters from rolls

Sweep targets residents who moved or didn’t vote in recent elections; critics complain of suppression.

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Marcus Jacobs-King is a registered Georgia voter – for now. But he’s about to lose his ability to vote because he hasn’t cast a ballot in more than a decade.

Jacobs-King is one of 478,000 people whose Georgia voter registrations are scheduled for cancellation this week because they have moved or haven’t participated in recent elections. “I’m concerned about it. Like most people, I want my voting rights and want to make a difference,” said Jacobs-King, 35,

from Fairburn, who works in the cargo industry. “In most cases, I was busy and had to do something and couldn’t get to vote soon enough.” Georgia’s mass cancellation of inactive voter registrations this year – one of the largest in U.S. history – targets people who likely moved and didn’t vote in the past two general elections. But the cancellation effort comes with a

Registration continued on A6



“Clean voter rolls mean clean elections,” Secretary of State Brad Raffensperger says of Georgia’s mass cancellation of voter registrations. AJC FILE

‘Where Atlanta comes to see and be seen’



The upscale Lenox Square in Buckhead announced it has signed 18 new leases this year with retailers and restaurants, including ones new to the Atlanta market. PHOTOS BY JENNI GIRTMAN FOR THE AJC



Lenox Square has been catering to the evolving tastes of younger shoppers with a slate of new stores and restaurants, says its owner, Simon Property Group.

Lenox Square adding to tenant mix with millennial, Gen Z tastes in mind.

By Zachary Hansen
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Loyal shoppers at Lenox Square will notice a few differences this year while browsing the upscale mall. The Buckhead mall announced it signed 18 new leases this year with retailers and restaurants, including ones new to the Atlanta market. The slate of new stores furthers efforts by the mall’s owner to inject new brands to liven up Lenox Square and its

sister mall, Phipps Plaza. Simon Property Group, which owns and manages both posh properties, touts the malls among its best-performing locations. David Vinehout, vice president of leasing at both malls, said catering to the evolving tastes of younger shoppers has given the properties an edge. “We’ve definitely seen a shift in the customer profile,” he said. “You’re seeing more of those

Lenox continued on A6

Home Depot: Homeowners delaying, not axing projects

Home improvement giant reports modest growth amid economic worry.

By Amy Wenk
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Home Depot on Tuesday reported sales growth for its fiscal second quarter but said customers still are reluctant to pursue large home improvement projects because of higher interest rates and economic uncertainty. The company also noted “modest price movement” on certain goods caused by tariffs instituted by President Donald Trump. Home Depot is an economic bellwether and its financial results are closely watched as a gauge of consumer spending and the housing market. The Vinings-based retail giant said same-store sales grew 1% in its latest quarter; that didn’t meet analysts’ expectations, Bloomberg reported. Its cost of sales rose nearly 5%, to \$30.1 billion, compared to the same period last year. Home Depot kept its guidance in place, saying it still expects sales across its footprint to grow 2.8% for the fiscal year.

Home Depot continued on A6



Vinings-based Home Depot says its customers are engaging with smaller home improvement projects amid higher interest rates and economic uncertainty. HYOSUB SHIN/AJC 2024

Georgia Southern, UGA drop language on discrimination

Revised policies remove references to sexual orientation, gender identity.

By Jason Armesto
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Two of Georgia’s largest universities quietly removed language from their nondiscrimination policies earlier this year, a move some fear will lead to increased harassment of LGBTQ+ students as the new semester begins. In March, the University of Georgia updated its policy by eliminating the terms “sexual orientation” and “gender identity.” Georgia Southern University followed suit a few months later; while its previous policy said the school prohibits discrimination, harassment and retaliation based on a dozen categories, it has removed “sexual orientation,” “gender identity or expression” and “political affiliation” from the list.

Language continued on A7

SPORTS, B1

Man who made Atlanta the ‘Capital of College Football’ set to retire

Gary Stokan presided over his first Peach Bowl on New Year’s Eve 1998, when Georgia rallied to edge Virginia 35-33.



At the time, the bowl was Atlanta’s only stamp on what was then a different college football world. But Stokan had a vision for Atlanta, and largely because of his efforts, the city – home to two neutral-site season-openers, the sport’s Hall of Fame and an annual College Football Playoff game – now is what Stokan often calls “The Capital of College Football.” On Jan. 9, the Peach Bowl hosts a CFP semifinal game, and it will be Stokan’s final game as the Peach Bowl’s CEO and president. He’s retiring in June.

Ga. Senate starts push to phase out state income tax

Issue likely to be major campaign theme in Georgia races in 2026.

By David Wickert
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A Georgia Senate committee Tuesday kicked off what could be a yearslong effort to eliminate the state’s income tax. The committee heard testimony from advocates who say Georgia must eliminate its tax on personal (and possibly corporate) income to remain competitive with other states that plan to do the same. The most prominent voice at the committee’s first meeting was Republican Lt. Gov. Burt Jones, who noted legislators already have returned billions of dollars to taxpayers in recent years through tax cuts, rebates and other methods. “But we must go further,” Jones told the Senate Special Committee on Eliminating Georgia’s Income Tax. “We must seize this opportunity to lead the South, not trail behind it.” The committee also heard from Democrats concerned that eliminating the income tax will force

Income tax continued on A7

TRAVEL, A5

New ID check program opens at Atlanta airport

CLEAR+ members can scan a boarding pass and be verified via facial recognition in new “e-gate” process.



LOCAL NEWS, A12

Atlanta’s 11Alive would have new owners in media deal

TV giant Nexstar Media Group is awaiting approval for a \$6.2 billion deal to buy broadcast rival Tegna.

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