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SPORTS, 1B

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Georgia’s high-stakes Senate race heats up



Supporters wave signs and flags as U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff speaks during his Rally for Our Republic on July 12 at the Kehoe Iron Works in Savannah. PHOTOS BY RICHARD BURKHART/SAVANNAH MORNING NEWS

Ossoff takes aim at Trump during rally

Ansley Franco
Savannah Morning News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Standing before a crowd of 1,000 attendees, U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff took the stage on Saturday and began laying the foundation for his re-election campaign, paving the way for a high-stakes Senate race next year against local Republican Congressman Buddy Carter. Carter, now in his sixth term representing coastal Georgia, is mounting a challenge to unseat the Democratic incumbent. In 2020, Ossoff won against Republican David Perdue in a runoff, and gained nearly 60% of Chatham County’s vote. During Saturday’s rally at Kehoe Iron



A supporter cheers during U.S. Sen. Jon Ossoff’s Rally for Our Republic at the Kehoe Iron Works.

Works in downtown Savannah, Sen. Ossoff addressed familiar party-line rhetoric such as government corruption, President Donald Trump’s tyranny and political greed. However, he also shifted focus to a more immediate issue for many Georgians: healthcare. Following the narrow passage of

H.R.1, or the “One Big Beautiful Bill Act”, an estimated 750,000 Georgians could lose health coverage over the next 10 years due to changes to the Affordable Care Act and potential cuts to Medicaid. For local OB-GYN Dr. Aryana Graham, the implications of recent legislation go beyond partisan politics. “The newest law passed a little over a week ago creates more hurdles to qualify for Medicare and to keep Medicaid coverage,” Graham said. “This will leave a number of our state’s poorest women without access to pregnancy prevention services, cervical cancer screening and just preventative healthcare. Georgians are also facing an OB-GYN shortage, Graham said. 82 out of 159 counties do not have an OB-GYN, according to the Georgia Public Policy Foundation.

See RACE, Page 4A

Horse carriage heat rules face vote

Evan Lasseter
Savannah Morning News
USA TODAY NETWORK

A standing-room-only crowd turned out at the Whitney Administrative Complex for Savannah City Council’s meeting July 10 as city leaders considered proposed ordinances reducing the maximum temperatures at which horse-drawn carriage tours can operate. But the folks at Thursday’s meeting will have to wait until August 14 for public comment ahead of council’s vote on proposed changes. Council held a first reading of the ordinances Thursday, which serves as public notice of the considered changes. “We did not advertise it as a public hearing, so therefore, it will be a first reading where no action or comment will be taken,” said Mayor Van Johnson at the meeting. The significant turnout at the meeting, representing both members of the carriage tour industry and animal welfare advocates alike, showcased the high interest in proposals being considered by council. Council has three potential changes to the regulations up for consideration, where the current ordinances state horse-drawn carriage tours must cease at temperatures of 95 degrees Fahrenheit or a heat index of 110 degrees or more. Two proposed changes include lowering that threshold to 85 degrees or 92 degrees Fahrenheit, respectively. A third proposal, which has been recommended by Savannah City Manager Jay Melder, would move from an air temperature method to a Wet Bulb Globe Temperature set at a 91-degree limit. The WBGT is a method often used to assess heat safety for “strenuous outdoor activities,” according to the NWS. “Savannah has the opportunity right now to position itself as a responsible tourism destination by having higher animal welfare standards,” said Robyn Lowe, an animal welfare advocate who supports the reduction to 85 degrees. Those advocating for reductions

See VOTE, Page 4A

Back-to-School open house schedules now released

Joseph Schwartzburt
Savannah Morning News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Fourth of July firework sulfur dust may still be settling to the ground, but its time to think about heading “Back to School.” Too soon? Not in Chatham County, where public school children will be sharpening their pencils and scooting up to their desks in just under four weeks. The Savannah-Chatham County Public School System’s online Back to School Hub went live this past week. The hub has detailed information on registration, open houses, bell times,

supply lists, uniform guidelines and school nutrition (lunches are free for all this school year, which begins Aug. 4.).

Registration

Families who need to register students can do so now at www.sccpss.com/families/registration. More information will be forthcoming about registration events schedule for later this month. Families who are new to the district and need guidance for online registration, families with expired provisionals/affidavit, or families with updated addresses should prepare required docu-

ments such as proof of residence, birth certificates and parent identification documentation. Families can get registration assistance by scheduling an in-person appointment at the district’s Student & Family Service Center, 400 E. Broad St. (A previous version of this article noted that the registration office was located at 768 Grant St., which was a former location for student services. School district officials noted that the information has been updated on the district’s website, as well.) For more information or to set up an appointment call 912-395-5584 or email enrollment@sccpss.com.

Open Houses but no Expo this year

The school district will not hold its annual Back to School Expo this year. The district will hold its school-specific Open Houses, however. Find your student’s school below or at sccpss.com and mark your calendars.

Elementary School Open Houses

Bloomingdale Elementary
101 E. Main St., Bloomingdale, 31302. This location was updated from a

See SCHEDULES, Page 5A

