



### 3 U.S. states form vaccine alliance

INSIDE, 3A

# Savannah Morning News.

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2025 | SAVANNAHNOW.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## ‘You can literally go anywhere’



Dora Jenkins holds the first design of her shoe company, Sole of a Blaq Pearl. DESTINI AMBUS/SAVANNAH MORNING NEWS

### Savannah shoemaker hopes to empower women who need larger shoes

**Destini Ambus**  
Savannah Morning News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

In the fifth grade, while other girls her age were buying cute shoes like leather Mary Janes styled with ruffled socks for their impending graduation, Dora Pearl Jenkins was struggling. Her mother could not find any shoes to fit her, because her feet were already size 7—at

just age 10. “People are like, oh your shoes and your feet look like boats,” Jenkins said. “And all the things and bullying that came with that, but that’s what is empowering me to do what I’m doing now.” What Jenkins is doing now is empowering herself and others through her shoe brand, Sole of a Blaq Pearl, designed for women like herself who were struggling to find cute shoes in larger

sizes. Her shoe sizes range from 8 to 13. “Shoes are very much like fabric, so when you start getting to those larger sizes, you don’t really see interesting styles or vibrant, exciting colors,” Jenkins said. “Colors that you would see on, maybe, a 6 or 7. My brand of luxury, elegant, it’s for the businesswoman that you can wear all day.” Though she remembers having to wear “grown women shoes” for her fifth grade graduation as the moment that sparked her passion, it was really

See SHOES, Page 4A

### Liberty County Job Fair announced

**Joseph Schwartzburt**  
Savannah Morning News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Data shared by the Liberty County Development Authority (LCDA) stated that approximately 40% of the 300 people employed at the DS Smith/International Paper containerboard and lumber mills in Riceboro, Ga are residents of Liberty County. Thursday, Aug. 27 International Paper announced plans to close its Riceboro and Savannah facilities, which will lead to roughly 1,100 layoffs in the region. Less than a week after the announcement, the response so far from regional workforce and economic development leaders has led to two career fair events. The first, announced Tuesday, is the Regional Industry Support Enterprise’s (RISE) Job Palooza scheduled for Sept. 11 and 12 at the Enmarket Arena in Savannah. The second, announced Wednesday, will be the Sept. 10 Liberty County Job Fair hosted by LCDA. The authority has partnered with RISE as well as DS Smith (Riceboro’s International Paper owned employer), the City of Riceboro, Savannah Technical College, and WorkSource Coastal Georgia. Liberty County as well as its recreation department and chamber of commerce have also signed on as fair partners. A press release for the event states that it “will support employees impacted by the recent closure, but all job seekers are welcome.” The fair aims to connect job seekers with resume-writing support and job search resources, information on open positions across industrial sectors, and possible on-site interviews with ready-to-hire employers.

See JOB FAIR, Page 2A

## Residents trapped in homes, on roads by CSX trains

**Destini Ambus**  
Savannah Morning News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

A missed 30-year high school reunion. A job lost to repeated tardiness. Missed weddings, church engagements, funerals, doctor’s appointment—all lost due to trains stopping for hours on the tracks of the railroad crossing intersecting Priscilla D. Thomas Way

in Garden City. Garden City officials and residents gathered there Thursday evening to discuss the ongoing challenge, stretching back to 2011. Last Friday’s blockage lasted for 3 hours and 17 minutes, and prompted the press conference, but District 3 Councilmember Natalyn Bates Morris said that she had been calling for a solution since she was elected in 2018. “My concern here today is to point

out to CSX that we need help,” Morris said. “We need solutions. We don’t need excuses anymore. We’ve been hearing excuses since 2018.” The railroad blockading the 20 homes on Priscilla D. Thomas Way and even more homes on Big Hill Road, is owned by CSX Transportation, a freight railroad company that serves the Georgia Ports Authority. CSX said they were working toward

ensuring a lengthy blockage doesn’t happen again. Although the problem isn’t new—residents vividly remember when a person had to be passed under the train during a medical emergency in 2018—city leaders and residents say that the situation has only worsened in the last nine months.

See TRAINS, Page 2A



**SEPTEMBER 12 - 14**

PRE-OWNED  
**ROLEX**  
WATCHES

**TACORI VERRAGIO**  
BRIDAL

**3 YEARS NO INTEREST • UP TO \$1500 IN GIFT CARDS**  
DON'T MISS OUT - 3 DAYS ONLY

349 Mall Blvd., Savannah, GA 31406 | 912-354-4344 | ShopIDC.com

Financing subject to credit approval; min. purchase and down payment may apply (30% on pre-owned Rolex Watches). 36-month financing not available on all pre-owned models. Not valid on prior purchases or with other offers. \$1,500 in gift card savings valid on loose diamonds \$2,500+ or Tacori/Verragio bridal Terms and exclusions may apply. See store for details. IDC not affiliated with Rolex Watch USA. Expires 9/14.





**IDC**  
LOCAL DIAMOND EXPERTS

