



A look at the history of Jesse Cole's baseball team

SPORTS, 1B

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WHITEFIELD SQUARE



A recent archaeological survey found evidence of burial remains within Downtown Savannah's Whitefield Square.

EVAN LASSETER/SAVANNAH MORNING NEWS

Survey finds likely human remains

Evan Lasseter
Savannah Morning News
USA TODAY NETWORK

A survey to determine if human remains are still located within Downtown Savannah's Whitefield Square found multiple examples of burial remains. Whitefield Square encompasses an area formerly known as the "Negro Burial Grounds," a cemetery for persons who were enslaved and free people of color.

A ground penetrating radar survey

done by the LAMAR Institute found more than 80 potential burial "anomalies" within the square, which could be either intact human remains or empty burial shafts. There were also an additional two burial "clusters" where potential anomalies were too close together to count individually.

Although only archaeological excavation could definitively determine if the anomalies include human remains, the city is moving forward with plans to honor the site as if they do.

"We feel that even if there are some

burial shafts, there are probably some burials, too. We're going to treat this as there are remaining burials here," said the city's archives and history officer, Luciana Spracher, in an interview Friday.

City staff has recommended Whitefield Square be treated as an inactive, historical burial ground that serves as passive greenspace. The approach is similar to the treatment of Colonial Park Cemetery.

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ON OUR RADAR

37th St. project moves forward

Evan Lasseter
Savannah Morning News
USA TODAY NETWORK

One major win for the City of Savannah in 2024 was receiving a \$9.9 million federal Safe Streets for All grant for improvements to the 37th Street corridor.

The city held a public engagement session on the project last November, and a memo from January provides insight into the next steps. This installment of On Our Radar will share the updates.

Also find in this installment details on a new initiative related to Savannah's history and updates from Mayor Van Johnson on new details surrounding the removal of the Martin Luther King Jr. Arena.

If you have neighborhood updates, organization events, or news tips you think could be of service to Savannahians, send them to elasseter@usatodayco.com. Also reach out if there are stories here you would like to know more about. Deadline for the On Our Radar series will be the end of day each Friday.

Updates on key Vision Zero project

During November's engagement sessions, the city asked residents to rank the preferred safety improvements. Here is how it shook it out.

1. Bike lanes (separated and/or marked)
2. Pedestrian crossings
3. Sidewalk improvements and ADA upgrades
4. Pedestrian lighting

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Ossoff visits Savannah ahead of 'tough' 2026 re-election

Latrice Williams
Savannah Morning News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Senator Jon Ossoff visited Savannah Friday afternoon as part of a campaign stop ahead of what is expected to be a heavily contested road to re-election.

During the 2026 election come November, Ossoff will face off against sev-

en Republicans, three Independents and one Democrat.

In front of a packed house at Ralph Mark Gilbert Civil Rights Museum, Ossoff delivered remarks on a myriad of issues Democrats say are burdening millions of Americans in Georgia.

Ossoff's pit stop in Savannah follows President Donald Trump who completed a stop in Rome, Ga. as part of his tour

to rally Georgians in the swing state.

In his opening remarks, Ossoff touched on the death of Dr. Linda Davis, a schoolteacher at Hesse Elementary School who was killed when struck by Oscar Vasquez-Lopez while fleeing Department of Homeland Security/Immigration and Customs Enforcement (DHS/ICE).

"I want to take a moment to grieve

with you," said Ossoff. "The community has been shaken after the death of Dr. Davis. Savannah-Chatham County Schools are grieving and the state is in sorrow."

Ossoff then pivoted to healthcare and the lack of access to maternal care in the state.

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