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Ribbon cut on latest phase of Tide to Town network



7 miles of continuous trail connects Daffin Park to Lake Mayer

Evan Lasseter Savannah Morning News | USA TODAY NETWORK

For years Savannah's John Bennett made the "terrifying" trek across the 52nd Street bridge over Truman Parkway on his bike to work at Savannah State University. Along the winding road to the bridge the shoulders were narrow. It wasn't a pleasant experience, said Bennett, an assistant professor of public administration at SSU.

Bennett's once-intimidating bike commute is now a safer ride thanks to a newly completed protected bike lane on the bridge, a key link in the Truman Linear Trail Phase 2B of Savannah's Tide to Town network. The city cut the ribbon on that portion of the trail Monday morning officially opening the now 7 miles of continuous trail from near Daffin Park to Lake Mayer.

"It's really about connections," Bennett said. "There's a tremendous recre-

ational appeal, but this part of the trail really adds to that activity piece and shows people this is transportational as well."

Bennett added that transportation aspect was always part of the vision, having been a part of initial advocacy of the trail's early phases as co-founder and second executive director of the Savannah Bicycle Campaign (now Bike

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A new protected bike path on the 52nd Street bridge over Truman Parkway is a key part of the Truman Linear Trail Phase 2b within Savannah's Tide to Town trail network. TOP: Savannah Mayor Van Johnson and City Manager Jay Melder walk the latest portion of the Truman Linear Park Trail after a ribbon cutting on July 6.

PHOTOS BY EVAN LASSETER/
SAVANNAH MORNING NEWS

Husband charged in death of Ft. Stewart soldier

Ansley Franco
Savannah Morning News
USA TODAY NETWORK

A 23-year-old active service member was allegedly killed by her husband at a Chatham County apartment complex last week, according to police.

Denise Williams served as an Air Traffic Controller at Fort Stewart from 2021 until her passing on June 30, her obituary notes.

On the day of her death, Chatham County Police Department (CCPD) officers responded to the 100 block of Fords Pointe Circle. At the Fords Pointe Apartments and Townhomes complex, CCPD said officers found Williams, who had suffered "obvious trauma," deceased inside the residence.

CCPD detectives arrested the victim's husband, Tahj Hemphill, 23. He was booked into the Chatham County Detention Center and charged with murder.

Hemphill will appear before Chatham County Recorder's Court Judge Crystal Harmon on June 23 for his first hearing.

Williams obituary states she was from Fort Pierce, Fla, and is survived by her sister and six brothers.

"Her military service was a testament to her steadfast dedication and commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of others, reflective of her innate desire to keep the peace and make everyone around her happy," the obituary states.

GA court says family fights can turn into racketeering litigation

Ty Tagami
CAPITOL BEAT NEWS SERVICE

ATLANTA — A 1980s law originally aimed mainly at organized crime can be used in domestic disputes, the Georgia Supreme Court clarified in a ruling involving a legal clash between former spouses.

The decision last week reversed the state Court of Appeals, which had ruled that the Georgia Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act, or RICO, did not apply to domestic disputes.

Legal experts were not surprised by the high court's decision but said it preserves a powerful legal tool that could lead to more respect for civil proceedings, since the racketeering law enhances the consequences for playing fast and loose with facts and rules.

"So many of the predicate crimes to

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23-year-old man charged with murder in connection to late-May shooting

Ansley Franco
Savannah Morning News
USA TODAY NETWORK

The Savannah Police Department (SPD) arrested and charged a 23-year-old man with murder in connection to a shooting that occurred on Abercorn Street, south of Montgomery Cross Road.

SPD Southside Precinct responded

to reports of a shooting in the area of 10000 Abercorn St. on May 31 at 2:05 p.m.

When officers arrived, they found a man suffering from a gunshot wound. EMS transported the victim to Memorial Health University Medical Center for treatment, but he later died from his injuries.

Jamir Lewis was arrested on July 2 and later transported to Chatham

County Detention Center.

This is an ongoing investigation. Anyone with information is encouraged to call CrimeStoppers at 912-234-2020, or submit an anonymous tip through the SPD mobile app.

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