



Protesters try to save tree from border wall

NEWS, 5A

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‘HISTORIC DOES NOT MEAN DEAD’



Historic signs of Savannah's civic center and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Arena were staged outside the building on Aug. 20 at a commemoration event honoring the site's history before it is completely torn down next year.

EVAN LASSETER/SAVANNAH MORNING NEWS

Savannah honors legacy as MLK Jr. Arena faces demolition

Evan Lasseter

Savannah Morning News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Just outside the Martin Luther King Jr. Arena's Mason Room Thursday morning were two pallets of Savannah Grey brick. To the left were black-and-white photographs of King and the civic center, including one of workers installing the sign on the original marquee. The pallets of brick were pulled from inside the arena itself, salvaged from ongoing deconstruction, a sign of the city's march of progress. The signs drew on the site's over 50-year legacy in light of that progress. The City of Savannah and residents looked back while moving forward

Thursday morning at a commemoration event honoring the arena's legacy before it is gone. The arena is slated for full removal by the first quarter of 2027 as the site inches towards redevelopment. "Historic does not mean dead," said Savannah Mayor Van Johnson. "Historic means you keep growing and building not only by preserving history, but you also do it by creating new history." Roughly 100 current and former city officials, residents and Civic Center employees gathered at the site's parking lot for the event. Attendees were able to take one brick, paired with a certificate of authenticity, from the pallets. The bricks were removed and salvaged from the arena's Exhibition Room during the deconstruction.

Savannah Mayor Van Johnson also removed two bricks from the arena's exterior. Johnson extracted the first brick via crowbar, pulled it from the building then ceremoniously passed it through multiple council members to Savannah City Manager Jay Melder. Melder then presented the brick to the city's Municipal Archives and History Officer Luciana Spracher. The brick will stay in the Office of Municipal Archives and History for display in a future exhibit on the Civic Center. "Today, while we remove a brick from the arena's wall, we place another brick in Savannah's history, building our community stronger and taller for

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Man arrested for allegedly scamming Chatham County victim out of \$35k

Ansley Franco

Savannah Morning News
USA TODAY NETWORK

A 21-year-old has been arrested by the Chatham County Police Department (CCPD) in connection with a financial scam that cost the victim over \$35,000. Jama Pierre Louis was charged with felony theft by deception by CCPD's Criminal Investigations Division. He was arrested in Florida by the Broward County Sheriff's Office on July 31 and extradited to Chatham County on Aug. 16.

The investigation into Louis began in January when CCPD patrol officers responded to a report of a victim who had transferred \$35,565 from their bank account after receiving a phone call from someone who claimed to be the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), law enforcement said in a press release. CCPD said Louis allegedly told the victim there was an issue with their account and convinced the victim to transfer large amounts of money to the scammer. "This case is a reminder that we all

need to be suspicious the moment anyone calls unsolicited to discuss money. We cannot be too careful," CCPD Chief Jeff Hadley said. Here are three steps the CCPD reminds everyone to take to lessen the chances of being victimized: STOP: Pause long enough to take a breath and calm down when you are approached. Many scammers rely on a sense of urgency or fear to lower the guard of their victims. See ARRESTED, Page 4A

NORTH BRYAN COUNTY

Commercial, residential project proposed

Latrice Williams

Savannah Morning News
USA TODAY NETWORK

A proposed 126-acre mixed-use development could bring new housing options and businesses to Ellabell, raising questions about how the project could change the community's landscape and character. During Tuesday's Bryan County planning and zoning meeting, Joshua Yellin, who practices commercial real estate for Hunter Maclean, represented landowners Brooks Warnell and Timothy and Randall Goodwin for a rezoning request for agricultural to general business. "We are not seeking conditional use approval tonight - our intent is to make sure this property is suitable for the zoning that we were requesting so that then we can find the right developers to come in and actually develop this site," Yellin told the board. During the meeting in Richmond Hill, county officials revealed that an error made by staff may have prevented some residents from being aware of the rezoning request. "The UDO (unified development ordinance) requires if a property has two noncontiguous road frontages that two signs have to be posted and we failed to have two signs posted for this project," said Brett Kohler, planner for Bryan County. "Because of that, we

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GEORGIA GOVERNOR CANDIDATE

Jackson pitch: Earn more and pay less

Ty Tagami

CAPITOL BEAT NEWS SERVICE

ATLANTA — Facing renewed pressure over his business dealings as he runs for Georgia governor, Republican Rick Jackson pledged to end his healthcare contracting with the state by Dec. 31 if he wins the election against Democrat Keisha Lance Bottoms. Appearing at an Atlanta barbershop with a handful of supporters Thursday, Jackson also pledged to cut taxes and the state budget during an event billed as a partial reveal of his affordability agenda. If elected, he said he would eliminate state taxes on the electricity and natural gas delivered to residences. He said he would gradually cut the state income tax in half and also eliminate the state income tax on tips, building on the limited exemption passed into See JACKSON, Page 4A

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