



Jacob Bridgeman wins Genesis Invitational

SPORTS, 1B

Independent Mail

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2026

INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

GREENVILLE'S BLACK SHEEP MARKET



'Overall, we are underrepresented'

From Bi-Lo and Piggly Wiggly to community hub

A.J. Jackson

Greenville News | USA TODAY NETWORK - SOUTH CAROLINA

If not for the closing of Bi-Lo on Pleasantburg Drive in 2021, one of Greenville's most popular Black-owned meat and butchery stops may have never opened.

During their liquidation, Patrick Cheatham used a \$1,200 budget to purchase a discounted meat-cutting machine, valued at around \$10,000, from the longtime southeastern grocery store chain to start what is now known as Black Sheep Market, located at 2301 Wade Hampton Blvd.

"Hey, kid," Cheatham recalled the store salesman yelling at him after rejecting his initial offer. "Come on, you can get it," Cheatham said, in explaining how the salesman changed their mind.

The unfortunate demise of Bi-Lo turned out to be a blessing for Greenville's Black community and

See MARKET, Page 4A



A family picks up an order at the Black Sheep Market in Greenville.

TOP: Patrick Cheatham, owner of the Black Sheep Market GVL at 2301 Wade Hampton Blvd. in Greenville. PHOTOS BY KEN RUINARD/KEN RUINARD/ USA TODAY NETWORK - SOUTH CAROLINA

ABOUT POLITICS

Mace slams magazine article, more

Bella Carpentier

Greenville News

USA TODAY NETWORK - SOUTH CAROLINA

U.S. Rep. Nancy Mace is calling a recent piece by New York Magazine a "national hit job."

New York Magazine released an article in early February titled "Nancy Mace is not Okay." The article was largely based on allegations against Mace made by anonymous former staff members, which Mace has disputed on social media.

This week's *About Politics* examines why South Carolina politicians are making headlines this week—from Mace to a podcast that highlighted a local mayor's work to create a thriving downtown.

Staff accusations make international headlines

U.S. Rep. Nancy Mace, R-District 1, called a recent report by New York Magazine in early February a "national hit job" after the publication ran allegations of mistreatment made against her by unnamed former staffers.

Mace responded to the New York Magazine article a day before publication, saying she has been targeted by the "establishment" for not conforming to the rules.

See POLITICS, Page 4A



U.S. Rep. Nancy Mace, candidate for South Carolina governor, speaks with the media Feb. 16, Presidents Day banquet at Spartanburg Memorial Auditorium.

ALEX MARTIN/GREENVILLE NEWS

SC gambling bills face setbacks amid economic concerns

Bella Carpentier

Greenville News

USA TODAY NETWORK - SOUTH CAROLINA

Two gambling-related bills introduced in South Carolina's 2026 legislative session are already encountering early setbacks.

Efforts to legalize gambling have largely been controversial in South Carolina. While lottery tickets remain the only form of legalized gambling in South Carolina, lawmakers are considering two bills that would expand gambling options in the state.

Senate Bill 444 which would legalize

sports betting, and House Bill 4176 which would allow construction of a casino on Interstate 95, are sitting in legislative committees and have seen little progress since being introduced.

Greenville businessman Wallace Cheves is among people pushing to legalize gambling in South Carolina. Cheves was significantly involved in launching the Two Kings Casino in Kings Mountain, North Carolina.

He has also spent the past seven years developing plans for a casino in Santee on I-95, but whether that casino will be built depends on the passage of H.4176.

"It has been a dream of mine to bring economic development in the from the gaming world to South Carolina," Cheves said.

House lawmakers heard H.4176 in late January, but the bill was referred back to the House ways and means committee.

Despite that setback, Cheves is optimistic about the bill, especially with a proposed amendment that would allocate 35% of revenue from the casino's privilege tax to the state's Conservation Bank and another 30% of privilege tax revenue to the Veterans' Trust Fund.

"Surprisingly, I've had folks that are

staunchly against the bill that have resurfaced and asked us about the amendment," Cheves said. "That has actually motivated some people to take a second look at the bill."

Cheves' argument for legalized gambling centers around an economic benefit for the state and for Santee, where the casino would be based.

According to Cheves, an economic development study estimates the casino would generate more than \$100 million annually in tax revenue.

Despite arguments about a possible

See SETBACKS, Page 4A

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to independentmail.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 127 | No. 94
Subscribe 844-900-7102
©2026 \$2.00



8 10499 02228 1