

Reveal
by KOHLER

THIS MONTH ONLY

GET 50% OFF INSTALLATION

of Your KOHLER® Walk-In Bath + NO INTEREST FOR 12 MONTHS*

 | 

Call today for your **FREE** in-home quote!

(864) 256-3543

*For as long as the original purchaser consumer owns his or her home. For complete warranty details, visit KOHLER.com/Warranty.

†Offer ends August 31, 2026. Participating dealers only. Not available in AK; HI; Nassau Cty, Suffolk Cty, Westchester Cty, or City of Buffalo, NY. 50% off installation labor applies to the installation of the KOHLER walk-in bath and may exclude costs associated with plumbing and electrical. Cannot be combined with any other advertised offer. Contact Reveal by KOHLER Authorized Dealer for financing details.

Independent Mail

MONDAY, AUGUST 24, 2026

INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

Trump urges support for Darline Graham

Bella Carpentier
Greenville News
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

President Donald Trump has taken the stage at the Myrtle Beach Convention Center as he attempts to rack up support for Sen. Darline Graham leading up to the runoff on Aug. 25

Trump joined Graham for a rally on Aug. 21, amplifying his support for her

candidacy in the days leading up to the runoff election against U.S. Rep. Ralph Norman. The president has been vocal in his support for Graham, starting soon after her brother Lindsey Graham’s death on July 11.

The president took the stage around 7 p.m., walking out to a drone of applause from the event audience. He began his address by joking about Myrtle Beach’s golf courses and thanking the

state for its firm support, before transitioning to the South Carolina Senate race.

“We’re going to elect Darline Graham to fight, fight, fight for South Carolina and to always put America first,” Trump said.

Leading up to the event, hundreds of people lined up outside the Myrtle Beach Convention Center, waiting to see the president campaign on Graham’s

behalf.

People decked out in red, white, and blue and wearing Graham and Trump merchandise filed into the convention hall in the hours leading up to the event. The event space was decorated with American flags and signs stating, “South Carolina is Graham Country.”

Bill Balmeri, a resident of Myrtle

See TRUMP, Page 2A

Larry Miller, president of Greenville Technical College, speaks during a ribbon cutting celebration introducing the Greenville Tech Brashier Campus Center for Welding and Automation in Simpsonville on Aug. 20.

PHOTOS BY KEN RUINARD/USA TODAY NETWORK SOUTH CAROLINA

Greenville Tech opens \$32M welding center

Simpsonville facility is home to first AI welding lab in the country

Ruth Cronin
Greenville News
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

Greenville Technical College celebrated the opening of its new \$32 million Center for Welding and Automation Excellence (CWAE) on Aug. 20.

The 44,000-square-foot Simpsonville facility is home to the first AI welding lab in the country and is touted as the largest welding campus in the Southeast and the second largest in the country, officials said. It will increase Greenville Tech’s welding capacity by more than 300%, according to Greenville Tech.

“We’re opening the most advanced, best-in-class center for welding and automation in the United States,” Greenville Tech president Larry Miller said.

See WELDING, Page 2A

Fanuc America Robot CTX101A in a robotics lab seen after a ribbon cutting celebration introducing the Greenville Tech Brashier Campus Center for Welding and Automation in Simpsonville on Aug. 20.

DEA joins investigation into death of Hayden Panettiere

Terry Benjamin II
Greenville News
USA TODAY NETWORK – SOUTH CAROLINA

A federal agency is assisting Greenville police as authorities continue investigating the death of actress Hayden Panettiere, whose official cause and manner of death remain pending.

According to USA Today reporting and several media outlets, the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency has joined the investigation with the Greenville County Sheriff’s Office and Greenville Police Department in Panettiere’s death.

Panettiere died on Aug. 16 after first responders found her in cardiac arrest at the Judson Mills Lofts.

The coroner’s office declared her dead at 2:31 p.m.

Additional testing, including toxicology, is pending. Authorities have said there are no indications of foul play. The autopsy report could take weeks to months to complete, according to the coroner’s office.

The agency, which operates under the U.S. Department of Justice, enforces the country’s controlled substance laws and regulations.

A redacted Greenville Police Department incident report released on Tuesday, Aug. 19, provided additional details about what happened after officers and emergency personnel arrived.

A responding officer encountered Brian Hickerson and his brother, Zach Hickerson, at the apartment. The report states that Brian Hickerson and Panettiere were dating at the time.

Brian Hickerson’s attorney, Sloan Ellis, released a statement on his behalf to TMZ Thursday, Aug. 20.

“Hayden’s death remains under investigation, and it is important to allow that investigation to proceed,” Ellis said. “As has been publicly reported, police confirmed there were no signs of foul play.”

“Out of respect for Hayden’s loved ones and the ongoing investigation, there will be no further comment at this time,” the statement concluded.

USA Today contributed to this article

More inside

Panettiere’s boyfriend breaks silence after her death

Page 3A

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. 248
Subscribe 844-900-7102
©2026 \$2.00