Hilton Head Airport named one of the best for resort destinations, 2A

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The Beaufort Gazette

Hilton Head's first ALDI will open next week

BY HAYDEN DAVIS
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Hilton Head Island's new ALDI is set to open on Thursday Dec. 3, the grocery store chain announced.

The location has been in the works since early 2025 within the Sea Turtle Marketplace at 80 Matthews Drive. It's the first ALDI grocery store on the island after locations opened in Bluffton and Beaufort over the past several years.

"At our new Hilton Head ALDI store, shoppers will notice a smaller, easy-to-shop store layout filled with a carefully selected range of products to provide them with exactly what they need," Regional Vice President for ALDI J.R. Perry said in a news release. "As more people look for better ways to stretch their dollar further, we're excited to bring quality groceries at the lowest possible prices to Hilton Head."

Hilton Head's ALDI will be open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily, according to the news release. The store's grand opening is at 8:45 a.m. on Dec. 3 and will have a ribbon-cutting ceremony. The first 200 shoppers will receive gift cards and a gift bag with a sample of ALDI products, according to the news release.



HAYDEN DAVIS

The exterior of Hilton Head Island's soon-to-open ALDI grocery store.

ALDI was founded in Germany by brothers Karl and Theo Albrecht, and its first U.S. store opened in 1976. The global grocery chain's U.S. headquarters is in Batavia, Illinois, and it plans to operate around 3,200 stores in the U.S. by 2028.

ALDI stores are designed for simplicity and efficiency to keep prices low. Customers are asked to bring their own reusable bags, and products are displayed in their packing to reduce costs.



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A view of the Eugene Talmadge Memorial Bridge on July 8, 2026, looking from Jasper County, South Carolina that carries people over the Back River and the Savannah River into Savannah, Georgia.

Talmadge Memorial Bridge lanes to close indefinitely

BY DREW MARTIN
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The Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) is reducing bridge traffic to one lane on the Eugene Talmadge Memorial Bridge in each direction, starting Monday, Dec. 7, to begin maintenance.

That day, the GDOT will install temporary barricades on the outermost lanes in both directions to establish safe work zones, so workers can remove the existing underdeck access platforms, according to a news release.

The lane closures will be 24-hours a day, seven days a week. Additional work is expected to change the lane closure configurations as well as shut down the bridge to all traffic on weekends. GDOT will place portable message boards in South Carolina and in Georgia to alert drivers.

"In future phases, motorists should expect modified traffic patterns and are encouraged to plan ahead, find alternative routes, allow extra travel time, and use caution when traveling through the work zone," GDOT wrote in a press release. "Drivers are reminded to reduce speeds, remain alert, and follow all posted signage."

The Talmadge, widely referred to as the Savannah Bridge, is a major player in moving north, south traffic, including intermodal freight from the Georgia Ports Authority. The bridge connects Jasper County, South Carolina to Savannah, Georgia over the Savannah River. This project now coincides with another major north, south construction project, the S.C. Department of Transportation's widening of I-95.

GDOT plans to use a different cable system that could raise the bridge an additional 20 feet for container ships arriving at the Port of Savannah. Currently, the bridge has a clearance of 185 feet.

The goal of the project, GDOT previously told The Island Packet, is to gain as much vertical clearance as possible.

WHAT'S ALREADY BEEN DONE TO THE SAVANNAH BRIDGE

In November 2024, a 1,100-ft. concrete glare screen was installed on the bridge to reduce headlight glare from oncoming traffic. It resembles a Jersey barrier, which is used to separate lanes

SEE BRIDGE, 12A

Hilton Head's Tin & Tallow to open Bluffton location

BY HAYDEN DAVIS
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A Hilton Head Island family-owned smash burger restaurant is opening a second location on the mainland.

Tin & Tallow announced the new location this week in a Facebook post featuring owners Tyler and Josi Bowdish and their two children inside the future Bluffton location. They expect an early 2027 opening date, according to the post.

"We're feeling extra thankful and blessed right now, none of this happens without the neighbors who kept coming back and telling their friends," Tin & Tallow wrote in the post. "Y'all made this possible."

FROM FOUR WHEELS TO BRICK AND MORTAR

Tin & Tallow began in 2023 on four wheels with a popular food truck serving Hilton Head Island and Bluffton. Its first permanent location opened two years later in January 2025 at 2 Spanish Wells Road on the island.

Although Tin & Tallow haven't an-

SEE TIN & TALLOW, 2A

Ukraine battles to keep lights on in Odesa as Russia strikes power grid

BY IRYNA NAZARCHUK
Reuters

ODESA, UKRAINE

Inspecting the wreckage of a damaged electrical substation in Odesa, Dmytro Hryhoryev said the attack was part of Russian efforts to cut off the Black Sea port city - home to nearly 1 million people - from the rest of Ukraine.

Odesa, Ukraine's largest port and the gateway for its grain exports to the rest of the world, has long been a target for Russian drone and missile attacks.

But Hryhoryev, the local head of DTEK, Ukraine's largest private power company, said that Moscow has changed its tactics.

Initially, Russia sought to destroy electricity generation capacity, but Ukraine has learned to restore that quickly, he said. So Moscow began attacking power transmission systems, like this substation.

"The aim was to prevent the electricity still being generated in the country from being properly distributed between regions," Hryhoryev, 57, told Reuters, amid dangling wires and scattered chunks of concrete.

DTEK chief executive Maxim Timchenko told Reuters this month that Ukraine was generating enough electricity

SEE UKRAINE, 6A

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