



## No. 1 UGA football team finally looked the part against Kentucky

SPORTS, 1B

# Savannah Morning News.

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 10, 2023 | SAVANNAHNOW.COM

LIGHT OF THE COASTAL EMPIRE | PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

## Coastal Empire Habitat recognizes 40th anniversary



Future homeowner Tasha Johnson is joined by her family during a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of her new Coastal Empire Habitat for Humanity home on Friday. RICHARD BURKHART/SAVANNAH MORNING NEWS

## Groundbreaking ceremony held Friday in Savannah

Destini Ambus

Savannah Morning News | USA TODAY NETWORK

As the Coastal Empire Habitat for Humanity celebrates its 40th anniversary serving communities across the empire, they broke ground on a new house in Savannah on Friday. It is the house number 158 to be built since Habitat Savannah's inception in 1983.

"I really want to thank the City of Savannah," said Zerik Samples, the CEO of Coastal Empire Habitat for Humanity.

"We've had a great partnership with them over the 40 years that we've been in existence."

According to data collected by Habitat Savannah, 158 families representing 171 adults and 343 children own safe, affordable, energy-efficient homes. Forty-six partner families have already paid off their mortgages, and purchasing a Habitat house generally reduces household shelter and energy costs by \$1,200 per year.

Samples said during a short ground-

breaking program that the home built for Tasha Johnson and her family will be the first four-bedroom home built in Savannah in more than 10 years.

"We're not going to build the shell of a house, but we actually believe in building a home that fits the needs of the family," Samples said about building the home.

Johnson recently moved to Savannah and joined the Habitat program

See HABILITAT, Page 4A

## Employers showcased at SCCPSS job fair

Joseph Schwartzburt

Savannah Morning News  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Savannah-Chatham County Public School System's Fall Student Job Fair at the Lower Woodville Campus provided employers and recruitment officers an opportunity to meet sophomores, juniors and seniors from all SCCPSS high schools. Employers ranged across industries with professional representing the likes of Gulfstream, local governments, JCB, the United States Postal Service, and Seoyon E-HWA (a Korean automotive interior parts company).

Angie Lewis, the SCCPSS executive director of college and career readiness, said the event had about 70 vendors attend.

See JOB FAIR, Page 2A



New Hampstead student Ronnie Talton holds a helmet from a bomb suit while visiting the Army recruiting booth at the SCCPSS Fall Ready to Work Job Fair on Thursday at Woodville Lower Campus. RICHARD BURKHART/SAVANNAH MORNING NEWS

## Startup of Unit 4 nuclear reactor at Plant Vogtle delayed to 2024

Dave Williams

Capitol Beat News Service

ATLANTA – Georgia Power reported Friday the discovery of a malfunctioning coolant pump at the second of two new nuclear reactors being built at Plant Vogtle, forcing a delay in the completion of the unit.

The news came one day after the Atlanta-based utility announced it has settled a lawsuit with Oglethorpe Power Corp., one of Georgia Power's three minority partners on the nuclear expansion underway at the plant.

The problem in one of the reactor's four pumps was found during pre-operational testing and startup of the unit, which had been expected to go into service as soon as the fourth quarter of this year. Instead, the reactor now is forecast to begin operations in the first quarter of 2024.

The first of the new reactors went into service at the end of July, seven years after originally scheduled and at more than double the original cost estimate.

See REACTOR, Page 2A

## Israel vows complete siege of Gaza

John Bacon

USA TODAY

The Israeli military's effort to hunt down militants intensified Monday and Israel's prime minister promised to "defeat them forcefully," as the death toll on both sides from the three-day war rose above 1,200, including at least nine Americans.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant ordered a "complete siege" on Gaza, pledging to cut electricity and cut off food and fuel into the impoverished enclave that is home to more than 2 million Palestinians. The Israeli military, which called up 300,000 reservists, pounded Gaza with an aerial assault aimed at halting Hamas rockets targeting Israel's border towns.

The Israeli military said it had largely gained control in its southern towns where it had been battling Hamas gunmen.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu,

See ISRAEL, Page 3A



Israeli firefighters battle a fire Monday at a site struck by a rocket fired from the Gaza Strip in Ashkelon, southern Israel. TSAFRIR ABAYOV/AP

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# PIRATES TAKE OVER THE STREETS OF TYBEE ISLAND DURING ANNUAL PARADE



Above, thousands of people made their way to Tybee Island Saturday for the 2023 Pirate Fest. At right, Dillon Patel, left, and Natasha Navon wave during the Pirate Fest Parade. They were named king and queen of this year's parade. PHOTOS BY CASEY JONES

FOR THE SAVANNAH MORNING NEWS



# WIENER DOG RACES RETURN FOR OKTOBERFEST AT PLANT RIVERSIDE



Shown above is a big turnout at the Savannah Wiener Dog Races at Plant Riverside on Saturday. Shown at right is a pup slowly making his way to the finish line.

PHOTOS BY ROSANA LUCIA FOR SAVANNAH MORNING NEWS



**Future homeowner Tasha Johnson speaks during a groundbreaking ceremony for the construction of her new Coastal Empire Habitat for Humanity home on Friday.** RICHARD BURKHART/SAVANNAH MORNING NEWS

## Habitat

Continued from Page 1A

just over a year ago.

"I want to say thank you to God for waking up to see this actually happening for me and my family," Johnson said. "I want to thank Habitat and the workers for giving everybody out here a chance to get a home. They do a lot of stuff, and I appreciate Habitat."

To qualify for a home through Habitat for Humanity, residents can go

through the application process that lasts between 12 and 18 months. There are several criteria for approval, such as living in overcrowded conditions or are paying rent more than 30% of the household income.

Individuals must be willing to partner with Habitat in obtaining 350 hours of sweat equity and attending financial education classes. Finally, individuals must be willing to pay, and Habitat only works with individuals who make between 35% to 80% of the area median income.

Samples encourages the public to be-

come involved with Habitat, whether that's through participating in Savannahology or attending the Home for the Holidays Gala on Dec. 1.

The gala is meant to be a night of remembrance of the past and fortifying the future for another 40 years. Savannahology is an opportunity to take action and build community, according to Samples. Thirty artists have taken snapshots of iconic Savannah places and have created an item that can be sold, and part of the proceeds go to Habitat for Humanity. Savannahology is on Oct. 13.

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11705 Mercy Boulevard

**St. Joseph's/Candler Imaging - Bluffton**  
at Belfair Towne Village East  
10-A Oak Forest Rd, Bluffton

**Telfair Breast Imaging Center - Eisenhower**  
527 Eisenhower Dr.

**St. Joseph's/Candler Imaging - Pooler**  
101 St Joseph's/Candler Dr.  
Pooler

**Mobile Mammography**  
Plant Riverside  
400 River St.

Registration is required. Call (912) 819-7465 (PINK) to register for the special October 30th date, or call 912-819-6800 to schedule your screening mammogram for another date at any of our facilities.\*

Note: This is a screening mammogram only. Those who have had a mammogram in less than one year do not qualify.



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