

# Ga. is center of political storm over Obamacare

## ANALYSIS

BY WALTER C. JONES

Morris News Service

ATLANTA — For three days last week, Insurance Commissioner Ralph Hudgens put Georgia into the center of the political storm over Obamacare, and as is usually the case with politics, each side felt enriched by the experience.

In what may be the clearest sign that Hudgens intends to run for re-election next year, he sought an excuse to avoid approving health premiums he considers high and likely unpopular with voters. Seven insurers submitted premiums for the plans to be sold in Georgia's health exchange for individuals and small groups, and Hudgens didn't want to OK them.

Under Georgia's "file and use" law, health insurers submit the premiums they intend to charge, and they are free to

use them unless the insurance commissioner deems them excessive. He has greater freedom to reject other types of premiums, but not medical.

First, Hudgens sought cover from outside actuaries. They reviewed the proposals and concluded they were justifiable to meet the mandates in the federal law, except that one company was 11 percent higher than necessary.

He got the actuaries' reports two days before Wednesday's deadline for him to approve the premiums so they can go on sale Oct. 1 in the exchange the federal government will operate here.

"When the company says this is what they need and outside actuaries say 'These are reasonable; they're justified; they're needed, who am I to say, 'Nah, you can't do that?'" he said.

So, in another effort for political cover, he asked U.S. Health and Human Services

Secretary Kathleen Sebelius for an emergency deadline extension and to offer her reasons for him to deny the premiums.

No political lightweight herself as a former Kansas insurance commissioner and governor, Sebelius didn't take the bait. She simply didn't respond. Instead, administration officials got on the phone to spin reporters by accusing Hudgens of a political stunt.

Hudgens made himself vulnerable to the charge by citing an example he admitted was extreme of premiums 198 percent higher than what a healthy person could buy today. However, Morris News reported in July about the proposed premiums and the example of a 45 percent increase for a middle-aged couple with three children covered by Blue Cross compared to what a similar policy would cost today.

The whole point of Obama-

care, White House Domestic Policy Advisor Cecilia Munoz told reporters, is to provide insurance to the unhealthy who can't get it now and to give taxpayer subsidies to those who can't afford it. "The health care law is also improving the affordability of health care," she said, adding that HHS recently released a report finding the exchange premiums in 11 other states are nearly 20 percent lower than predicted. "And that doesn't even take into account the tax credits that many Americans are going to receive to make insurance more affordable under this law."

So, she implied, it doesn't matter how high the premiums soar because subsidies will keep them affordable.

Then Aetna decided that it and its new subsidiary Coventry wouldn't participate in Georgia's exchange after all, leaving Alliant, Blue Cross and Blue Shield, Humana,

Kaiser Permanente and Peach State. But residents in some parts of the state will now have no choice in health plans in the exchange.

In the end, Hudgens blinked and wound up approving the premiums, giving ammunition to a potential challenger, the last thing he wanted to do. Still, he gained national exposure and even landed on a few talk shows as a defiant Obamacare opponent and staunch conservative.

Obamacare supporters also gained political capital. It fanned the fires of their enthusiasm.

Friday, advocacy groups Protect Your Care and Americans United for Change held a conference call with reporters to announce joint efforts "to go on the offensive on Obamacare in Georgia." They promised to hire veteran Democratic political consultants in Georgia and other Republican states start-

ing during Congress' August recess, working along with Planned Parenthood and large labor unions.

"We're going to be running an aggressive communications operation nationally and in states to fight back against Tea Party extremists who want to take away people's health care benefits," said Eddie Vale of Protect Your Care. "This will help give air cover to the crucial grassroots groups that will be signing people up for ObamaCare benefits when open enrollment begins in two months."

Expect to hear plenty from both sides in those next two months.

Walter Jones is the Atlanta bureau chief for Morris News and has been covering Georgia politics since 1998. Follow him on Twitter @MorrisNews and Facebook or contact him at walter.jones@morris.com or 404-589-8424.

## License plate readers make impact

BY TRAVIS HIGHFIELD

The Augusta Chronicle

AUGUSTA — Local law enforcement offices could gain an additional set of eyes on the road through license plate reader technology.

Even in the testing phase, the readers have made an impact.

On July 25, A Richmond County Sheriff's Office Dodge Charger equipped with four cameras patrolled the streets of Augusta.

As the car reached the 800 block of Laney Walker Boulevard, an alert sounded in the vehicle, notifying Deputy Terry Skinner that the Mercedes Benz M50 he just passed was wanted.

Skinner stopped the SUV, called for backup and arrested Anthony L. Hannah, 45, who had an outstanding warrant.

Skinner's patrol car is the only one at the sheriff's office outfitted with the readers. The agency is slowly acquainting itself with the technology, Lt. Lewis Blanchard said.

"Right now it's only a testing and evaluation phase," he said.

The system being tested uses four cameras mounted on the trunk. The unit snaps photos of license plates as the patrol car passes vehicles and communicates with the Georgia Crime Information Center to verify information and spot offenders,

Blanchard said.

"This tag reader can scan 1,000 cars in 10 minutes, while we can only physically scan so much," he said.

Blanchard said the units range in price from \$12,000 to \$15,000.

"It all comes down to the pros and cons," he said. "Are the benefits of this (reader) over that one worth the extra money?"

In South Carolina, the Aiken County Sheriff's Office has had its eye on license plate readers for a while, Capt. Eric Abdullah said.

"We're still researching and trying to find funding options," he said. "We had a demo, but we haven't tested any readers as of yet."

## University System tries to improve space usage

BY WALTER C. JONES

Morris News Service

ATLANTA — The state entity with the largest number of buildings uses them an average of one-quarter of the work week, leaving them empty the rest of the time, a new study shows.

The University System of Georgia studied the issue itself at all 31 of the state's public colleges and universities and found it could be more efficient.

"We think we need to do some improvement. We need to work with some institutions, quite frankly," said University Chancellor Hank Huckaby in an interview with Morris News Friday.

Much of the reason is most classes are offered Monday through Thursday between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. As a result, changes in scheduling will be critical in optimizing space.

"I think folks will be taking more Friday classes, and early in the morning and late in the evening," said Tom Jackson, vice president for public affairs at the University of Georgia.

The University System is by far the state's largest holder of building space with 70 million square feet. That's more than the space used by the nine next-largest state agencies combined, including the prison system, technical colleges and the Georgia Building Authority that leases to most state agencies.

It's no coincidence that the county with the largest number of state buildings is Clarke, home of the University of Georgia, with 702. The state capital, Fulton, only has 400, according to the 2012 annual report of the State Properties Commission.

Statewide, the University System has 352 leases for \$300 million in annual rent or 72 percent of all the rent paid by the state. And most of the system's classroom buildings are owned outright.

While the Properties Commission forced greater efficiencies on the building usage of most of state government starting in the Perdue administration, the largely autonomous Board of Regents that oversees the University System only began its space-utilization initia-

### USAGE LEVELS

A recent study by the University System of Georgia revealed the usage levels of campus classrooms and offices. For classrooms, the study shows what percentage of its capacity is used in an average, 40-hour work week. It also shows the average square footage of office space per employee.

School	Campus	Classroom use	Average Office
Armstrong Atlantic	Savannah	35.2	165.3
	Liberty	10.1	261.5
College of Coastal Ga.	Main	26.0	138.7
	Camden	23.5	1,019.0
Georgia Regents Summerville	Main	27.6	102.0
		37.2	176.1
Savannah State	Main	27.8	195.3
Univ. of Georgia	Main	30.7	178.1
Univ. of North Ga.	Oconee	84.6	83.1

Source: University System of Georgia

tive with a study completed in May. System administrators say it is the most ambitious analysis by any state and that the groundbreaking techniques are already being copied around the country.

The rising cost of high education and declining state appropriations for it squeezes college administrators into finding greater efficiencies. That's why the space study is being seen by many campus administrators as an added hurdle to their requests for new buildings.

"It's emphasized from the system to the campuses that we have to have a need and have the data to back that up. We're going to be much more attentive to data," said UGA's Jackson.

At Georgia Regents University, its data is the basis for drafting a master building plan following the merger of Augusta State University and Georgia Health Sciences University, according to Christen Carter, GRU director of media relations.

"One of the first steps will be to conduct a comprehensive building audit, which will be compared against projections of future space requirements," she said. "We will evaluate academically appropriate opportunities for classes on the GRU Summerville campus and continue to look for ways to meet the needs of specialized graduate, health-sciences education on the Health Sciences campus."

Huckaby said the system-wide study has already put the brakes on several proposed building projects and made school presidents more hesitant to submit new proposals

But it could have the opposite effect on some campuses, according to Edward B. Jolley Jr., vice president for business and financial affairs at Savannah State University. That's because it exposes quality differences between classrooms at some schools and those of others.

"It helps the system understand the disparity that has built up over time," he said, adding that the quality differences date back far before the current governor or chancellor.

Efforts at greater efficiency are likely to encounter resistance, Jolley notes, because professors like the flexibility of their current schedules and the convenience of having classes near their offices.

"I don't think it will be 100 percent accepted," he said. "You will have some people who are not pleased."

And Huckaby acknowledges that legislators, community leaders and college presidents take pride in "shiny new buildings."

Gregory F. Aloia, president of College of Coastal Georgia, describes his school's new buildings as critical in recruiting students and faculty following the recent transition to a four-year college.

"You look at a lot of surveys of students and 'What attracted you there?' They say the quality of the physical plant," he said.

That's a concept Huckaby is willing to challenge until Harvard tears down its ivy-covered buildings in order to get students.

"We certainly don't buy into that argument that shiny new buildings are what we need at every institution," he said.



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P. I. NUMBER: 0007631

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**Nathaniel Panther**  
**npanther@chathamcounty.org**  
**124 Bull St., Suite 430**  
**Savannah, GA 31401**

Any interested party may obtain a copy of the drawings or maps or plats or portions thereof by paying a nominal fee and requesting in writing to:

**Genetha Rice-Singleton**  
**State Program Delivery Engineer**  
**Email: grice-singleton@dot.ga.gov**  
**One Georgia Center**  
**600 West Peachtree St NW**  
**Atlanta, Georgia 30308**  
**(404) 631-1522**

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### Tax holiday too late for some students

ATLANTA — Next week-end's sales tax holiday will come too late for parents in some Georgia school districts.

Students starting school this week would have to put off their shopping until Aug. 9-13

to benefit from the tax break.

Several parents told WXIA-TV that they were shopping ahead of the sales tax holiday because it didn't make sense to split up their shopping trips.

Other parents of students who start earlier in August said they are buying essential sup-

plies now, but holding off on big purchases until next weekend.

In Georgia, businesses won't charge sales tax next weekend on clothes, shoes, school supplies and computers. There are limits. For example, a pair of shoes and an item of clothing can't cost more than \$100.

The Associated Press

## Grow jobs through manufacturing, trade

BY PENNY PRITZKER  
AND MICHAEL FROMAN

As President Obama travels across the country discussing how we can achieve a better bargain for the middle class, he's outlining steps necessary to ensure every American has a good job with a secure future.

A strong trade agenda is critical to continuing the progress we've made building economic stability and creating jobs.

Since Obama directed his administration to help more U.S. businesses sell Made-in-America products to the world, trade has been an increasingly bright spot in our economy. U.S. exports have reached record levels for the last two years despite economic headwinds from abroad, exceeding \$2.2 trillion in goods and services last year.

Most important, American exports have supported 1.3 million additional American jobs, for a total of 9.8 million in 2012. We're seeing our strongest private-sector job growth in 14 years, including the first rise in U.S. manufacturing jobs since the 1990s.

Policies that help American businesses export their products and compete globally on a level playing field are crucial to continued success. Making things in America and selling them around the world can support more high-paying jobs here at home, boost American manufacturing and spur the innovative spirit that has made America great.

U.S. businesses and workers have tremendous opportunities in the global marketplace. Ninety-five percent of the world's consumers, with 80 percent of the world's purchasing power, live

outside our borders.

To help Americans seize those opportunities, the U.S. Department of Commerce promotes U.S. exports in foreign markets and encourages foreign investment in the United States.

The United States trade representative seeks to open new markets; to level the playing field for American workers in areas like labor, the environment and intellectual property rights; and to enforce our partners' trade commitments.

The first step toward selling more American goods and services globally is to build strong businesses here.

Obama has called on Congress to help bring manufacturing jobs back to America with new tax incentives and new tax credits and to build on a successful model to create 45 manufacturing innovation institutes to turn communities into hubs for high-tech jobs.

Last year, with help from the commerce department, 5,200 American companies were able to export for the first time or sell more to new markets, including more than 4,000 small and medium-size enterprises. In 2012 alone, the department helped U.S. companies achieved \$63.3 billion in new exports for the year, which supported more than 310,000 American jobs.

We're also reeling in foreign investment and jobs to American communities and planning to grow that effort.

While Commerce advocates for U.S. companies abroad, thereby supporting job creation at home, and helps American businesses access existing export markets, the USTR is opening new ones, keeping those markets open and making sure Americans have a level

playing field on which to compete and win.

In an increasingly competitive global marketplace, America must seize every opportunity.

Through the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Trans-Atlantic Trade and Investment Partnership, we seek to open markets representing nearly two-thirds of global GDP (in current U.S. dollars).

Negotiations to further open the world's services markets to competitive American companies, facilitate trade with World Trade Organization member countries and increase trade in information technology products can all increase opportunities for American businesses and workers here at home.

The administration also recognizes that after completing an agreement, it must ensure that all commitments in the agreement are honored. That's why Obama has significantly increased trade enforcement, including by establishing the whole-of-government Interagency Trade Enforcement Center.

Our ultimate goals are fostering economic growth, supporting jobs here at home and strengthening our country's middle class. U.S. exports are helping to drive our nation's economic recovery, and more than ever, two-way trade is providing inputs for value-added, Made-in-America goods.

Putting more Americans back to work through smart incentives and responsible, jobs-focused trade policies is something we can all get behind.

Penny Pritzker is the U.S. Secretary of Commerce. Michael Froman is the U.S. Trade Representative.

## U.S. low on leverage in Arab world

BY DOYLE MCMANUS

The 'Arab Spring' may not have succeeded in bringing democracy to the Middle East. But it has provided powerful evidence of a different phenomenon: the illusion of U.S. influence over governments we once considered our clients.

Take Egypt. Before 2011, the Bush and Obama administrations tried to nudge the autocratic Hosni Mubarak toward democracy; Mubarak ignored the advice. Last year, the Obama administration pleaded (gently) with the freely elected Mohamed Morsi to make his Muslim Brotherhood government more inclusive; Morsi ignored the advice.

Now Egypt's armed forces have seized power and the United States is begging Gen. Abdel Fattah Sisi to refrain from cracking down too hard. Will he comply? Not likely.

If the United States could be expected to have influence over any institution in the Arab world, it would be the government of Egypt, which collects \$1.6 billion a year in American aid.

But two factors have diminished the leverage the United States once gained by doling out foreign aid: less money and more competition.

First, U.S. aid to Egypt

has been shrinking for most of Sisi's career. Adjusted for inflation, this year's \$1.6 billion is only about one-third as much as the United States spent on aid to Egypt in 1986.

And other powers have stepped in to fill the breach. Last month, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait announced they were rushing \$12 billion in economic aid to Egypt to help the military regime stabilize the economy.

Those gulf monarchies had an agenda too; they fear the Muslim Brotherhood, don't yearn for the restoration of democracy and would be happy if Sisi cracked down hard. If foreign aid creates leverage, the sheikdoms' \$12 billion trumps our \$1.6 billion handily. Besides, foreign influence in countries struggling toward democracy is a double-edged sword.

The Obama administration has managed to alienate both sides in Egypt's political battle. The Muslim Brotherhood thinks the United States plotted to undermine it, and the military and its secular supporters say the United States is being too hard on Sisi now.

All sides, including Sisi, cast themselves as nationalists; appearing to bow to U.S. wishes won't help the general maintain his sky-

high popularity.

As leverage, foreign aid can be hard to use. Threatening to cut military aid may be a useful way to get Egyptian leaders' attention, but actually reducing military cooperation could hurt U.S. interests as much as Egypt's — not only in keeping peace with Israel but also in counter-terrorism efforts across the Arab world.

That's why the Obama White House quickly walked away from the temptation to call Sisi's takeover a coup and freeze U.S. aid. For Egyptians, the message was familiar. For two decades, American politicians have threatened to pull aid if things didn't change, but they've never dared pull the trigger.

That doesn't mean the United States has no influence over events in the Arab world. "We do have leverage, but it's not where we think it is," said Tamara Cofman Wittes, who ran democracy aid programs at the State Department. "What they want is international recognition. They want to be connected to the rest of the world. And they want our blessing. That may be our most effective leverage."

Doyle McManus is a columnist for The Los Angeles Times. Readers may send him email at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.

## DOONESBURY



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State Program Delivery Engineer  
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600 West Peachtree St NW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308  
(404) 631-1522

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## GRAND REOPENING

August 16

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# FBI seeks Savannah fugitive on firearms charge

## PUBLIC SAFETY SUMMARY

### SAVANNAH MORNING NEWS

The FBI is asking the public's help in locating a Savannah man charged with federal firearms-related violations.

A federal arrest warrant was issued Aug. 15 for the arrest of 26-year-old Charles "Chuckie" Johnson for possession of a firearm by a felon, said Special Agent Stephen Emmett, an FBI spokesman.



Johnson

Johnson is also wanted for questioning in connection with seven Savannah-area bank robberies.

Agents would like to question Johnson in relation to the following armed bank robberies: July 2013 at the Savannah Bank, 100 Chatham Parkway; September 2012 at the Wells Fargo Bank, 14009 Abercorn St.; November 2012 at the Savannah Postal Credit Union, 22 Oglethorpe Professional Blvd.; January 2013 at the Colon Bank, 7011 Hodgson Memorial Drive; December 2012 at the United Community Bank, 2225 E. Victory Drive, Thunderbolt; and undated robberies of the Heritage Bank, 620 Stephenson Ave., and the First Chatham Bank, 7401 Hodgson Memorial Drive.

Johnson's last known address was at 32 Liberty Heights Drive, and Emmett described him as a black male about 6 feet tall and 185 pounds.

Anyone with information regarding this individual should contact Savannah



Photos by Corey Dickstein/Savannah Morning News

**ABOVE:** Savannah Fire & Emergency Services firefighters and Southside Fire/EMS paramedics look on as firefighters clear the area following fire in the rear of the gray building pictured here in the 500 block of Anderson Street. No injuries were reported in the fire. **LEFT:** A stalled train blocks East Bolton Street just west of Atlantic Avenue Friday afternoon. A portion of the train derailed, according to police, stalling it for hours.



**ON THE WEB:** To see pictures and details for individuals serving their initial incarceration in Chatham County, as reported by the Chatham County Sheriff's Office, go to [ChathamCountyBooked.com](http://ChathamCountyBooked.com).

CrimeStoppers at 912-234-2020 or the Atlanta FBI Field Office at 404-679-9000 or [Atlanta@ic.fbi.gov](mailto:Atlanta@ic.fbi.gov).

### Fire breaks out in east Savannah

Savannah Fire & Emergency Services firefighters were able to minimize the amount of damage a small eastern Savannah house suffered from a blaze Friday afternoon.

No injuries were reported in the fire that started in a back bedroom of a small, gray block house in the 600 block of East Anderson Street about 2:30 p.m. It appears no one was inside the structure when the blaze began, said Mark Keller, Savannah Fire spokesman.

The fire spread to a back porch off the bedroom, but it was contained and eventually extinguished by responding firefighters.

Keller said the power had to be turned off, so anyone who live in the house will be temporarily displaced.

Savannah Fire Friday evening was investigating what led to the fire.



Garcia



Pham

### Man convicted of killing SCAD student

FAIRFAX, Va. — A man who admitted to being high on PCP when he fatally stabbed a SCAD student while she gave him and his infant daughter a ride to a hospital has been convicted of first-degree murder.

A Fairfax County jury on Thursday night convicted 27-year-old Julio Blanco Garcia for the June 2010 slaying of Vanessa Pham of Falls Church, Va.

Pham was 19 when she was killed. She was heading into her sophomore year at

the Savannah College of Art and Design and was home in Fairfax County on break when she died.

Pham was found dead in her car in a ditch. Blanco Garcia was arrested last year after police found DNA evidence linking him to the killing.

Prosecutors say Blanco Garcia planned to kill Pham, whom he stabbed 13 times.

The jury recommended a sentence of 49 years for Blanco Garcia. A judge will sentence him on Oct. 18.

### Train derailment blocks eastside traffic

No one was injured, but several intersections in eastern Savannah were blocked for hours Friday after a train derailed between East Park Avenue and Wheaton Street.

The train blocked traffic on East Waldberg Street and East Bolton Street at least until the evening.

Savannah-Chatham police spokesman Julian Miller said

a couple of the train's wheels slipped off the track. No train cars, however, tipped over.

As of Friday evening, there was no available timetable indicating when the train might be moved.

### Police academy cadets to raise funds for animal shelter

Police recruits with the Garden City Georgia Public Safety Training Center will gather at the Savannah-Chatham Animal Control Center today to collect donations, foods or other essentials for the animals currently housed there.

Dubbed Cadets for Critters, the members of Class 269 will be at the shelter off Sallie Mood Drive from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Along with taking donations, they will sell hot dogs for \$1 each with the money benefitting the animals.

There are currently 81 dogs and 79 cats living in the facility, police spokesman Julian Miller said.

The animal control center has allocated funds for food and supplies for the animals during the time they are required to be held before adoption or euthanization, but many animals are not adopted during those times. The additional food and supplies enable the animal control staff to maintain the dogs and cats longer to facilitate the adoptions.

In addition to cash, cadets also hope to collect donations of meat-flavored baby food, dog treats (peanut butter, cheese, rawhides and pigs ears); dry or canned puppy or kitten food (Pedigree preferred), flea and tick shampoos, towels of any size, combs and nail clippers, dog and cat toys, new or gently used crates, puppy milk replacement, bleach, laundry or dish soap, disinfectant wipes, paper towels or gift cards to PetSmart, Kinkos, Wal-Mart or any pet superstore or print shop.

### Delays expected over weekend on Diamond Causeway due to paving

Georgia Department of Transportation contractors today and Sunday will pave an intersection on the Diamond Causeway, likely causing delays in the area.

From 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. both days workers will pave the intersection of Diamond Causeway where it joins with Whitefield Avenue at Ferguson Avenue, weather permitting.

The paving operation will impact motorists with delays at the intersection. Police will be used to direct traffic through the work zone and motorists should expect delays.

Compiled by Corey Dickstein and the Associated Press.



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2012 Infiniti FX35



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650i Convertible Trim, Auto, Leather, Navigation, PW, PL, Pwr. Seats, Pwr. Top, Premium Sound System, Alloy Wheels, Luxury Loaded, 64,014 miles. Stock #: 7CN84541

\$38,886

RX330 Trim, 6 Cyl, Auto, Leather, Moonroof, CD/Cassette, PW, PL, Pwr. Heated & Cooled Seats, Full Power, Alloy Wheels. Stock #: 5C063910

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S550 Trim, Entertainment System, Front Dual Zone A/C, Leather Steering Wheel and Upholstery, 4 Wheel Disc Brakes, ABS Brakes. Stock #: 7A127663

\$38,444

E350 Trim, Navigation, Power Moon Roof, Keyless Start, Premium Sound, Leather, Power Seats. Stock #: 7B123690

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# Man hospitalized after being shot near Frazier Homes

## PUBLIC SAFETY SUMMARY

### SAVANNAH MORNING NEWS

One man was rushed to Memorial University Medical Center on Monday evening with life-threatening wounds after being shot near Frazier Homes.

Savannah-Chatham police spokesman Julian Miller said the victim is in his early 30s, but no further information about his condition was available late Monday.

Detectives and forensics investigators were on the scene Monday night.

The investigation was in its early stages and no further information was immediately available.

Savannah Alderwoman Carolyn Bell was participating in an "Ask an Alderman" session in a parking lot at West Gwinnett Street and Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, just a few blocks from the scene, when the shooting occurred.

She and residents at the event heard gunfire, she said after walking to Frazier Homes to speak with police.

"It clearly illustrates some of the concerns I've listened to today — people who are concerned about crime in this area and citywide, but particularly in this westside area," Bell said.

Anyone with information on the case is asked to call CrimeStoppers at 912-234-2020 or text CRIMES (274637).

Tipsters remain anonymous and may qualify for a cash reward.

Investigators can be reached confidentially at 912-525-3124.



Dash Coleman/Savannah Morning News

Savannah-Chatham police work the scene of a shooting near Frazier Homes on Monday.

### Police seek July 30 shooting suspect

Detectives are asking the public's help in locating a man they suspect in a shooting late last month.

Investigators believe 24-year-old Antwan



Hayward

Arkeem Hayward of Savannah is responsible for a July 30 shooting at the intersection of West 34th Street and Martin

Luther King Jr. Boulevard, said Eunicia Baker, Savannah-Chatham police spokeswoman.

Police describe Hayward as a thin black man who stands about 6 feet tall and has shoulder-length dreadlocks. Hayward is known to frequent Savannah's Cuyler-Brownville neighborhood, Baker said.

Police ask anyone with information on the case to call CrimeStoppers at 912-234-2020 or text CRIMES (74637). Tipsters remain anonymous and may qualify for a cash reward.

Investigators can be reached confidentially at 912-525-3124.

### Nighttime lane closures set this week in Bryan County

From tonight through Friday morning, the inside northbound and southbound lanes of U.S. 17/Ga. 25/Ga. 144 in Bryan County will be closed from 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. for roadwork.

The closures are dependent on weather, and motorists are advised to expect delays and drive with caution through the work zone.

### Police: 13 busted in prostitution sting

A joint operation between local and federal investigators resulted in 13 arrests related to prostitution and ordinance violations over the weekend, according to the Savannah-Chatham police department.

Metro police spokeswoman Eunicia Baker said the sting took place Friday and Saturday, and resulted in the arrests of five women

who were charged with prostitution for attempting to perform sex acts in exchange for cash at hotels along Ga. 204 near Interstate 95 and in midtown.

Additionally, two male and six female suspects were arrested and charged with escorting without a license at hotels throughout Chatham County, Baker said.

The operation targeted hotels listed in ads posted to a website, she said.

Baker said the police department, Immigrations and Customs Enforcement and the Department of Homeland Security will continue collaborating on operations with the objective of locating minors and victims of human trafficking.

### Police look for suspected auto-parts thief

Southside Precinct detectives with the Savannah-Chatham police department are investigating a theft at an automobile dealership.

At 12:34 a.m. Aug. 2, surveillance cameras at Island Motorsports on Posey Street



Photo provided by Savannah-Chatham police

Police are looking for information on the location of a white Chevy Impala or its driver in relation to an Aug. 2 auto-parts theft from Island Motorsports on Posey Street.



Photo provided by the Chatham County Sheriff's Office

Bo, a Chatham County Sheriff's Office K-9, is pictured with his partner, Sgt. Michael Street. Bo died Sunday.

recorded a man entering the property in a white Chevy Impala, said police spokeswoman Eunicia Baker. The subject removed a tire and low profile rim from a Cadillac marked for sale, left the dealership, then returned for a second wheel moments later, according to police.

Anyone with information on the whereabouts of the white Chevy Impala or its driver is asked to call CrimeStoppers at 912-234-2020 or text CRIMES (274637). Tipsters remain anonymous and may qualify for a cash reward.

### Chatham County K-9 dies unexpectedly

A Chatham County Sheriff's Office K-9 died Sunday

morning. Bo, a 10-year-old German shepherd, became lethargic and was taken to a veterinarian Friday afternoon, said Gena Bilbo, sheriff's spokeswoman. The dog was rushed into surgery, and a growth was found.

Bo was recovering after the growth was removed on Friday, but he became ill again Sunday before dying, Bilbo said.

Bo had been with the sheriff's office for eight years, where he worked as a drug dog on the highway interdiction team with his partner, Sgt. Michael Street.

The K-9 will be cremated and his remains returned to his partner, Bilbo said.

Compiled by Dash Coleman

### Huge fire consumes Florence County plastics plant

FLORENCE, S.C. — Every fire department in Florence County is fighting a fire at a plastics plant now used as a warehouse near the Great Pee Dee River.

A security guard noticed the blaze at the old DuPont plant around 11 p.m. Sunday. Firefighters were able to contain the fire Monday morning, but the plant was still

burning, authorities said.

"We're going to be here a while," Windy Hill Fire Chief John Delung said.

No injuries have been reported. The Department of Health and Environmental Control is monitoring air quality but hasn't reported any problems.

DuPont closed the plant several years ago and sold it to a Wisconsin plastic recycling firm in 2011 to use as a warehouse.

Firefighters are struggling to

get water to the blaze because the sprinkler system in the building has been turned off and the nearest hydrants are at least a half-mile away.

Delung said firefighters have no idea what caused the fire because they haven't gotten into the building.

More than 60 firefighters from all 11 fire departments in Florence County were helping fight the blaze. Delung estimated it was the biggest fire in the county in two decades.

The Associated Press

### U.S. Sen. Rand Paul making another South Carolina trip

COLUMBIA, S.C. — U.S. Sen. Rand Paul is returned to South Carolina on Monday, making his second trip in as many months to the state that hosts the first presidential primary voting in the South.

Paul, a darling of tea party and other conservative Republicans, is coming back to South Carolina to take part in a fundraiser for U.S. Rep. Jeff Duncan, a friend from the GOP congressional baseball team.

"Jeff Duncan is probably one of the most conservative members of the House," Paul told The Associated Press a few days before his visit to the fundraiser being held in Anderson. "I struck up a friendship with him, and he mentioned he was having this barbecue in the summer."

South Carolina primary voters won't cast their ballots for more than two years. But in the state, like others with early primaries and caucuses, Paul's name is frequently mentioned as a possible 2016 presidential contender. He's also made recent trips to other early primary states such as Iowa and New Hampshire.

Paul also endorsed former Gov. Mark Sanford's successful congressional bid this past spring, praising Sanford as an advocate for limited government and cutting spending.

The Associated Press

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## NOTICE OF LOCATION AND DESIGN APPROVAL

Project No. CSHPP-0007-00(631)  
P. I. NUMBER: 0007631

Notice is hereby given in compliance with Georgia Code 22-2-109 and 32-3-5 that the Georgia Department of Transportation has approved the Location and Design of this project.

Date of Location Approval: July 19, 2013

The project consists of the construction of a multi-use trail as part of the Coastal Georgia greenway from the end of the Phase I path located at 52nd Street and Bee Road traveling south to its termination at the existing Lake Mayer recreational facility. The project is located in Georgia Militia Districts 4 and 7, located in Chatham County. The new pathway will vary in width, with an average width of approximately 8-ft to 10-ft wide and approximately 5.9 miles long. The project will be designed in accordance with AASHTO, GDOT, ADA and Chatham County guidelines.

Drawings or maps or plats of the proposed project, as approved, are on file and are available for public inspection at Chatham County and at the Georgia Department of Transportation:

Nathaniel Panther  
npanther@chathamcounty.org  
124 Bull St., Suite 430  
Savannah, GA 31401

Any interested party may obtain a copy of the drawings or maps or plats or portions thereof by paying a nominal fee and requesting in writing to:

Genetha Rice-Singleton  
State Program Delivery Engineer  
Email: grice-singleton@dot.ga.gov  
One Georgia Center  
600 West Peachtree St NW  
Atlanta, Georgia 30308  
(404) 631-1522

Any written request or communication in reference to this project or notice SHOULD include the Project and P. I. Number as noted at the top of this notice.