

Cignetti boast of a big game, but the Hoosiers won't play a big name

SPORTS, 1B

Savannah Morning News.

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NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION ACT OF 1966

Local groups oppose potential changes

Evan Lasseter
Savannah Morning News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Savannah-area preservationists are sounding the alarm over potential changes to rules governing the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

The potential changes, proposed by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, would alter the stakeholder and community engagement components of what is known as the Section 106 review process. Savannah preservation advocates, along with state and national groups, have criticized the proposal as gutting a core portion of national preservation protections.

"The bottom line that people can really connect with is that the National Historic Preservation Act is a commitment from the federal government to use people's tax dollars responsibly, and to not use those dollars to destroy our nation's history," said HSF President and CEO Collier Neeley."

"These (proposed) rule changes are breaking that promise."

The Section 106 review process is required for any projects that involve federal funding or approvals and could impact historic assets; Neeley described the process as one aspect that gives the NHPA its teeth. Common projects with Section 106 reviews could be building demolitions or interstate road projects.

The proposed changes were initiated by the federal Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in an effort to cut red tape, something even critics of the changes admit is a problem with the process. The ACHP voted on July 24 to

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After the Postal Service made changes earlier this year that affect how quickly mail is postmarked, some states are urging voters to be cautious when putting ballots in the mail. MATTHEW DAE SMITH/LANSING STATE JOURNAL FILE

Officials seek to stop mail-in ballot rules

States warn of potential for midterm vote 'chaos'

Sarah D. Wire
USA TODAY

Less than 90 days out from the midterms, election officials are pleading with the Supreme Court to block the Trump administration from making changes that would allow the U.S. Postal Service to decide who gets mail-in ballots.

And after the Postal Service made changes earlier this year that affect how quickly mail is postmarked, some states are urging voters to be cautious when putting ballots in the mail.

Many voters expect that their ballot will be postmarked the same day they place it in their mailbox, but that is no longer guaranteed under the new rules.

"We, and me personally as a messaging issue, encourage people to use our ballot drop boxes rather than the mail system – just to avoid any potential delays or errors or frankly, at this stage, attempts to interfere by the federal government," Washington state Attorney General Nick Brown told USA TODAY. "Our ballot boxes are locally controlled and operated and don't involve the federal government. We generally encourage that as the best way to get people's votes in."



President Donald Trump issued an executive order in March that instructed the Department of Homeland Security to compile lists of confirmed U.S. citizens eligible to vote. EVAN VUCCI/REUTERS

President Donald Trump issued an executive order in March that instructed the Department of Homeland Security to compile lists of confirmed U.S. citizens eligible to vote for states to consult and ordered the U.S. Postal Service to deliver ballots only to voters on each state's approved mail-in ballot list.

The move, part of his second-term efforts to extend more federal authority over how states run elections – plus the postmarking changes – put the Postal Service at the center of the fight over who will control the House and Senate for the final two years of Trump's presidency.

Trump, who has voted by mail himself, has zeroed in on absentee ballots, which he says without proof are often fraudulent.

The Justice Department has argued that a lower court acted too soon in blocking the executive order because the Postal Service has not finished writing the rules that would put it in place.

See BALLOTS, Page 4A

Hutchinson Island poised for growth

Evan Lasseter
Savannah Morning News
USA TODAY NETWORK

Two undeveloped land tracts totaling 100 acres on Hutchinson Island may soon be primed for redevelopment.

The Chatham County-Savannah Metropolitan Planning Commission recommended approval Wednesday of major master plan amendments to the Savannah Harbor Planned Development on Hutchinson Island. The changes would position the large tracts for residential and "resort-oriented" mixed-use development.

The amendments would permit a maximum of 1280 units on the two tracts, which are adjacent to the existing Silas Park apartments and along the Savannah Back River. The approval recommendation was approved unanimously by the Planning Board without any discussion.

The amendments were sought because the previous master plan was outdated, having been originally approved in the late 1990s, said Ryan Thompson, a land planning and landscape architecture manager with Thomas & Hutton who represented the developer at MPC. The original plan was also adopted before the City of Savannah overhauled its zoning code in 2019.

"Understanding what the old development standards are under the old (planned development) is very difficult if not impossible," Thompson said. "So that's what we're doing, establishing the allowed uses."

The proposed amendments will go before Savannah City Council for final approval.

Despite the master plan's original approval in the 1990s, many parcels within the plan have not seen vertical construction, according to the MPC staff report. Most of the development within the plan has occurred near the island's southern waterfront with the EmmaJames apartments, Savannah IGY Marina, and long-standing Westin Savannah Harbor Golf Resort and Spa.

Thompson said the "resort-oriented" development identified in the proposed amendments is aimed at complimenting the Westin's existing resort. The land tract includes the existing driving range for the Savannah Harbor Golf Club.

See GROWTH, Page 4A

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FIVE-DAY FORECAST FOR SAVANNAH

TODAY	TONIGHT	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
A p.m. t-storm in the area	A thunderstorm around early	An afternoon thunderstorm	A stray afternoon thunderstorm	A stray afternoon t-storm; hot	A strong p.m. t-storm in spots
High 94	Low 76	96 75	97 75	97 76	96 75
RealFeel: 106	RealFeel: 81	RealFeel: 105/81	RealFeel: 105/83	RealFeel: 108/83	RealFeel: 108/80

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ACTIVITIES TODAY

	8 am	10 am	Noon	2 pm	4 pm	6 pm
Golfing Index	7	6	5	4	0	3
Hiking Index	6	5	5	3	0	4
Fishing Index	4	4	9	9	0	4

0-2: Poor; **3-4**: Fair; **5-6**: Good; **7-8**: Very Good; **9-10**: Excellent

UV INDEX TODAY

8 am	10 am	Noon	2 pm	4 pm	6 pm
2	4	10	9	2	2

The higher the **AccuWeather.com UV Index™** number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection. **0-2** low; **3-5** moderate; **6-7** high; **8-10** very high; **11+** extreme.

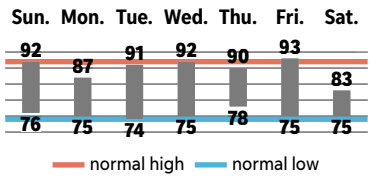
ALMANAC

Savannah Saturday

TEMPERATURES

High/low	83/75
Normal high/low	92/74
Last year high/low	82/70
Record high	100 in 2011
Record low	61 in 2004

TEMPERATURES TREND



PRECIPITATION

Saturday	0.04”
Month to date	1.42”
Normal month to date	1.43”
Year to date	16.30”
Normal year to date	30.42”

COOLING DEGREE DAYS

Index of energy consumption indicating how many degrees the average temperature was above 65 degrees for the day with negative values counting as zero.

Saturday	14
Year to date	1914
Last year to date	1834
Normal year to date	1610

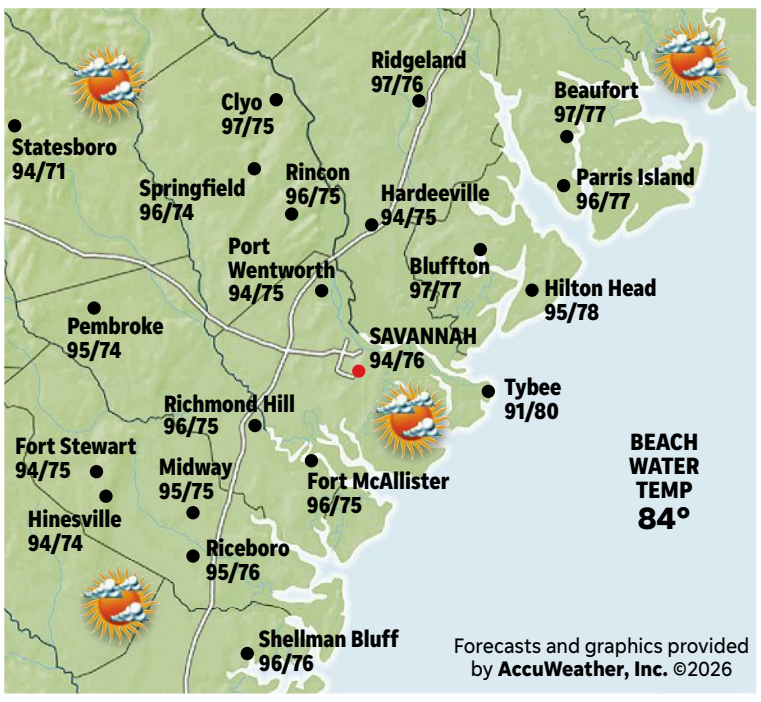
SUN AND MOON

	Today	Wed.
Sunrise	6:47 a.m.	6:47 a.m.
Sunset	8:13 p.m.	8:12 p.m.
Moonrise	5:17 a.m.	6:30 a.m.
Moonset	7:42 p.m.	8:20 p.m.

New	First	Full	Last
Aug 12	Aug 19	Aug 28	Sep 4

REGIONAL FORECAST

Shown is today’s weather, today’s highs and tonight’s lows.



Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2026

City	Today Hi	Lo	W	Wed. Hi	Lo	W
Albany	95	74	t	93	75	t
Americus	93	74	t	91	73	t
Athens	94	72	t	94	72	t
Atlanta	91	74	t	92	73	t
Augusta	95	72	t	97	73	t
Brunswick	95	79	t	95	77	t
Charleston	95	76	t	97	77	t
Chattanooga	92	72	t	93	73	t
Columbia	96	74	t	99	75	t
Columbus	92	73	t	92	75	t
Covington	92	71	t	90	72	t
Decatur	90	72	t	92	71	t
Dothan	93	75	t	92	74	t
Douglas	93	74	t	92	73	t
Dublin	93	73	t	92	71	t

City	Today Hi	Lo	W	Wed. Hi	Lo	W
Greenwood	94	72	t	95	73	t
Griffin	89	70	t	89	71	t
Jacksonville	96	76	t	95	75	t
La Grange	90	72	t	89	72	t
Macon	93	73	t	92	71	t
Milledgeville	93	73	t	92	74	t
Montgomery	92	73	t	93	74	t
Myrtle Beach	94	77	t	96	78	t
Rome	92	71	t	91	71	t
Tallahassee	95	73	t	94	75	t
Tifton	93	74	t	91	73	t
Tuscaloosa	91	73	t	93	74	t
Valdosta	95	73	t	94	74	t
Waycross	95	75	t	94	75	t
Winston-Salem	92	73	t	91	72	t

RIVERS AND LAKES

In feet as of 7 a.m. Saturday

River / Station	Flood stage	Sat. stage	24-hr change
Ogeechee			
Eden	11	4.90	+0.76
Altamaha			
Doctortown	12	6.63	+0.36
Savannah			
Burton’s Ferry	15	6.05	+0.37
Clyo	11	4.74	+0.13
Butler Creek	117.5	97.64	-0.73
Ohoopee			
Reidsville	11	5.84	+0.50

Lake	Full pool	Sat. level	24-hr change
Thurmond	330	322.84	-0.27
Oconee	435	434.88	-0.10

TIDES

At the mouth of the Savannah River.

	High	Ht.	Low	Ht.
Aug. 11	7:26 a.m.	7.0	1:32 a.m.	0.1
	7:54 p.m.	8.5	1:41 p.m.	-0.5
Aug. 12	8:23 a.m.	7.3	2:26 a.m.	-0.1
	8:46 p.m.	8.5	2:37 p.m.	-0.6
Aug. 13	9:16 a.m.	7.5	3:16 a.m.	-0.3
	9:36 p.m.	8.4	3:31 p.m.	-0.6

MARINE FORECAST

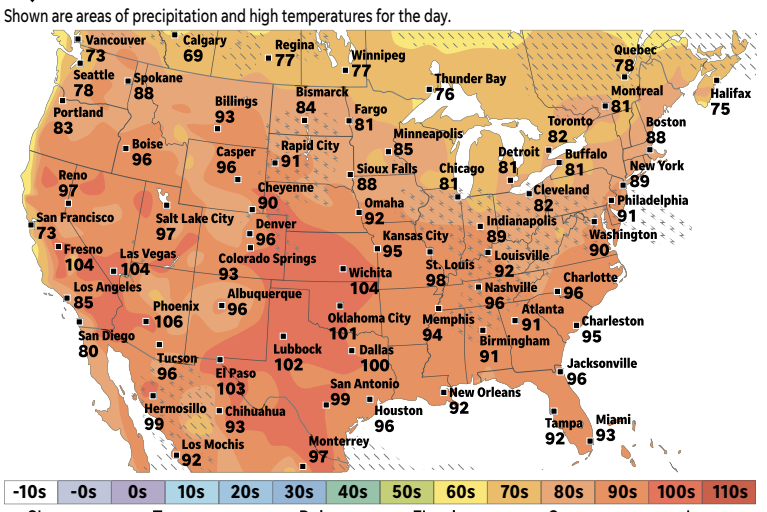
Wind southwest 8-16 knots Tuesday. Seas 1-3 feet. Visibility under 2 miles in a thunderstorm.

Wednesday: Wind southwest 8-16 knots. Seas 2-4 feet. Visibility under 2 miles in a thunderstorm.

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Shown are areas of precipitation and high temperatures for the day.



-10s -0s 0s 10s 20s 30s 40s 50s 60s 70s 80s 90s 100s 110s

Showers T-storms Rain Flurries Snow Ice

NATIONAL EXTREMES

Saturday for the 48 contiguous states

High 124° at Death Valley, CA

Low 37° at Stanley, ID

City	Today Hi	Lo	W	Wed. Hi	Lo	W
Albany, NY	82	60	pc	83	64	pc
Albuquerque	96	70	t	96	68	t
Anchorage	68	55	c	66	54	c
Billings	93	61	pc	87	60	pc
Birmingham	91	73	t	90	74	t
Boise	96	63	pc	95	64	pc
Boston	88	68	pc	84	68	pc
Buffalo	81	62	pc	81	62	pc
Charleston, WV	83	69	t	83	70	t
Chicago	81	69	t	85	69	t
Cincinnati	84	71	t	87	69	t
Cleveland	82	66	t	80	65	t
Dallas	100	81	s	101	81	s
Denver	96	69	t	91	62	t
Des Moines	92	71	t	88	69	t
Detroit	81	67	t	83	65	t
Duluth	78	56	pc	76	56	pc
El Paso	103	79	s	100	76	pc
Houston	96	77	t	98	79	s
Indianapolis	89	72	t	86	71	t
Kansas City	95	76	t	93	73	t
Las Vegas	104	82	pc	101	81	t
Little Rock	97	77	s	99	79	t
Los Angeles	85	70	s	84	68	pc

City	Today Hi	Lo	W	Wed. Hi	Lo	W
Memphis	94	78	t	97	79	t
Miami	93	80	pc	93	79	pc
Minneapolis	85	66	pc	86	65	pc
Muskegon	80	63	t	80	61	t
Nashville	96	75	t	95	75	t
New Orleans	92	78	t	92	77	t
New York City	89	73	t	84	71	pc
Oklahoma City	101	78	s	100	77	s
Omaha	92	70	t	89	71	pc
Orlando	94	77	t	95	76	pc
Phoenix	106	85	t	99	80	t
Portland, ME	84	61	pc	81	63	s
Portland, OR	83	62	pc	80	60	pc
Rapid City	91	62	t	84	62	t
St. Louis	98	79	t	96	74	t
Salt Lake City	97	75	pc	91	70	t
San Antonio	99	79	s	101	78	pc
San Diego	80	71	pc	79	70	pc
San Francisco	73	59	pc	74	60	pc
Seattle	78	58	s	75	59	pc
Tampa	92	79	t	94	80	pc
Trenton	87	67	t	84	67	pc
Tucson	96	76	t	91	73	t
Washington, DC	90	76	t	87	74	t

WORLD FORECAST

City	Today Hi	Lo	W	Wed. Hi	Lo	W
Amsterdam	71	55	pc	82	62	s
Athens	96	79	s	95	77	s
Baghdad	119	92	pc	119	96	pc
Beijing	89	74	t	77	69	r
Bermuda	86	80	sh	87	80	t
Buenos Aires	53	46	c	51	47	r
Calgary	69	52	sh	62	47	t
Copenhagen	69	54	pc	68	55	pc
Frankfurt	85	60	s	90	63	s
Hong Kong	97	86	s	94	84	t
Jerusalem	92	72	s	90	71	s
Johannesburg	42	36	sh	49	36	r
Kabul	94	71	pc	94	69	pc
Lima	78	68	s	77	69	pc
Lisbon	86	66	s	89	67	s
London	82	60	s	92	65	s

City	Today Hi	Lo	W	Wed. Hi	Lo	W
Manila	88	79	r	88	79	t
Mexico City	77	55	sh	77	55	r
Montreal	81	63	sh	76	64	sh
Moscow	77	54	c	64	51	sh
Nassau	92	80	pc	91	79	s
Paris	92	64	s	98	69	s
Rio de Janeiro	70	66	sh	74	66	c
Rome	96	73	s	97	73	s
Singapore	91	79	t	90	79	t
Sydney	71	50	s	68	50	s
Tehran	98	77	pc	98	75	pc
Tokyo	86	74	r	82	75	t
Toronto	82	62	pc	78	63	sh
Vancouver	73	59	s	73	60	s
Vienna	91	62	s	87	58	s
Warsaw	73	51	pc	74	52	pc

Weather: **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **t**-thunderstorms, **r**-rain, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice



Preservation

Continued from Page 1A



Collier Neeley, President and CEO Historic Savannah Foundation, stands inside the Historic Kennedy Pharmacy. RICHARD BURKHART/SAVANNAH MORNING NEWS

move the proposed changes to an interagency review within the federal Office of Management and Budget, where the proposal currently sits.

Key concerns preservationists have raised include dilution of local voices in the review process and a narrowing definition of what can be deemed “adverse effects” on historic resources.

Currently, entities taking on a project with a Section 106 review are required to engage local stakeholders. Those often include preservation nonprofits, and specific communities or tribes potentially impacted by a project.

The process provides those stakeholders an opportunity to raise concerns about potential impacts and propose mitigation measures to reduce adverse effects of projects. In demolitions, for example, those mitigation measures could include requiring oral histories or historical markers to preserve the history of a place.

Such a process occurred locally during preparation of the Housing Authority of Savannah’s demolition application for Yamacraw Village. First Bryan Baptist Church, through local preservation consultant Ellie Isaacs, provided public comment during through the process.

The church provided numerous suggestions for mitigating factors in the event Yamacraw is demolished, one of which was retaining the Yamacraw name on whatever new development exists.

“If these changes occur, it would eliminate all of that,” said Isaacs, who works for local Landmark Preservation, at a recent panel discussion on Yamacraw Village.

But the proposed changes by the ACHP could significantly alter the level of local engagement in the process, critics say. The proposed changes could make that public engagement optional and at the discretion of the entity conducting a project, which is often a federal agency.

Kim Campbell, a senior project manager with local Ethos Preservation, is one who agrees the Section 106 review process is not perfect. Campbell often works on Section 106 reviews for Ethos and acknowledged that the length of reviews and lack of mandated timeline for completion is a common critique.

Still, Campbell said she believes the proposed ACHP changes don’t adequately address that issue, adding that reducing the number of voices in the process often produces fewer positive outcomes.

“I think most of us will agree when we rush a choice, we often don’t make the best choice,” Campbell said. “... what the section 106 process offers us is an opportunity to look at alternatives.”

The other proposed change commonly criticized by preservationists is narrowing of what counts as an “adverse effect.” As written, Section 106 allows consideration of negative impacts on more than just the physical property in question.

It can also include indirect effects such as viewsheds or tree removals. One common, yet often overlooked, example of projects with these potential impacts are cell tower installations.

Those installations require Federal Communications Commission permits that could prompt Section 106 Reviews, Neeley said. In a place such as historic Downtown Savannah, ill-placed cell towers could impact the skyline, tree canopy or “human-scale” of the Savannah plan.

But that’s often not the case thanks to Section 106.

“That is a direct benefit here of that process,” he said.

Preservationists note that more Savannah projects could be subject to the review as the city continues to grow and develop, making the proposed changes especially significant. One project frequently cited in interviews for this story was the planned removal of the Interstate 16 flyover downtown, which is part of the federal highway system.

HSF, along with the Georgia Trust for Historic Preservation and National Trust for Historic Preservation (a voting member of the ACHP), are seeking to raise awareness about the potential changes. The ACHP’s proposal will be submitted to the Federal Register for public comment after review by OMB.

Neeley said interested residents can follow their channels to know when public comment is available.

Campbell, the project manager at Ethos, summarized the local importance by noting that impacts could go beyond just projects initiated by federal agencies. Given the review process touches anything tied to federal funding, even hyperlocal issues such as stormwater projects with federal grants could be impacted.

“If you live in Savannah, whether you live in a historic district or not, I think these changes will affect you,” Campbell said.

Evan Lasseter is the City of Savannah and Chatham County government reporter for the Savannah Morning News. You can reach him at ELasseter@savannahnow.com.

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