



9/11 +20 years

Remembering that tragic day

Coming this Saturday in the Palatka Daily News.

PALATKA DAILY NEWS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

PUTNAM COUNTY'S COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER

\$1

Man sought after attack on woman

Palatka Daily News

Authorities are searching for an Interlachen man they say attacked a woman and started a fire at a home.

During the evening of Sept. 2, deputies said Jordan Green, 33, set fire to a room in the house and battered a woman.

According to the Putnam County Sheriff's Office social media post, the victim told deputies Green came to an Interlachen residence to start an argument and then he struck her in the head.

The victim fled from Green, gathering her children and locking herself in a bedroom. According to deputies, the victim said she smelled smoke and left the bedroom, but found a room in another part of the house on fire.

Deputies said the victim took her children and ran to a neighbor's home and Green left the home. The victim also said Green entered the residence



Green

See **ATTACK**, Page 5A

Dairy Queen co-owner Barbara Smothers dies

Palatka Daily News

Barbara Smothers, co-owner of the Dairy Queen in Palatka for 25 years with her husband, has died.

Dairy Queen manager Brittany Green said Smothers died Monday following a brief illness. She was 73, according to Green.

Smothers and her husband, Howard, became owners of the Dairy Queen at 822 St. Johns Ave. in 1996. The business is an icon in downtown Palatka, opening in 1952.

"Miss Barb really left her mark in the community," said Green, who has worked at the business for 12 years. "She loved going to schools and reading to students and left her mark with the roundup she did with eyeglasses for the Lions Club.

"She was a very patient woman and she will definitely be missed."

The Palatka Dairy Queen opened in 1952 and was owned by Roger and Opal Shotwell.

Friday's edition of the *Palatka Daily News* will include more about Smothers.

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9/11 Remembrance Ceremony set



File photo

A giant American flag flies from a Palatka ladder truck prior to last year's 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at the Putnam County Government Complex.

Event will mark 20th anniversary of terrorist attacks

By SARAH CAVACINI
Palatka Daily News
scavacini@palatkadailynews.com

Residents are invited to attend the Putnam County 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony on Saturday but are encouraged to do what is best for their safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Those planning to attend should

arrive by 9:45 a.m. at the Putnam County Government Complex, 2509 Crill Ave.

Organizer and county Fire and EMS Battalion Chief Paul Flateau said officials plan to stream the ceremony on the Putnam County Fire Rescue Local 3529 Facebook page for residents who cannot attend in person.

"We want people to come, but we

also want people to feel safe," Flateau said.

Residents need to take their seats no later than 9:53 a.m. because American Legion Honor Guards will enter three minutes later. A moment of silence will follow at 9:59 a.m. - marking when the first World Trade Center tower fell on Sept. 11, 2001.

See **9/11**, Page 5A

School district seeking to expand career, technical education options

Superintendent Rick Surrency discusses the school district's building and construction technology, flanked by Director of Career and Technical Education Renee Hough and district board Chairwoman Holly Pickens.



NICK BLANK/Palatka Daily News

By NICK BLANK
Palatka Daily News
nblank@palatkadailynews.com

The Putnam County School District is hoping to push building and construction fields into its classrooms as it seeks to expand career and technical education for students next school year.

The district is seeking \$500,000 from the state Legislature for a Building Construction Technologies

pathway at Interlachen Junior-Senior High School and potentially Palatka Junior-Senior High School for the 2022-2023 school year. The fields addressed will be carpentry, masonry, HVAC, plumbing and electrical.

The Frank V. Oliver Foundation also bestowed the district \$100,000 toward the effort.

District officials plan to partner

See **OPTIONS**, Page 5A



Congratulations!

Joel Price

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PLANNING AHEAD

TODAY

■ Crescent City Commission meeting, 6 p.m., Crescent City Hall.
 ■ Palatka City Commission, special-called workshop concerning American Rescue Plan funding, 4 p.m., City Hall.
 ■ Palatka City Commission meeting, 6 p.m., City Hall.

SATURDAY

■ 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony, 9:45 a.m., Putnam County Government Complex.

MONDAY

■ Putnam County Board of Commissioners, special called meeting, 11 a.m., Putnam County Government Complex.

TUESDAY

■ Interlachen Town Council meeting, 7 p.m., Town Hall.
 ■ Pomona Park Town Council meeting, 6 p.m., Town Hall.
 ■ Putnam County Board of Commissioners meeting, 9 a.m.; workshop, 2 p.m., Putnam County Government Complex.
 ■ Welaka Town Council meeting, 6:30 p.m., Town Hall

ROAD WORK UPDATE

CITY OF PALATKA

■ 14th Street and 15th Street from Crill Avenue to St. Johns Avenue are limited to local resident traffic only due to roadwork.

PUTNAM COUNTY

■ South Providence Church Road from Bardin Road to North Providence Church Road is closed until further notice. Only local traffic will be permitted.

STATE PROJECTS

■ Baden Powell Avenue at State Road 20. Road closure at State Road 20 through late September for reconstruction work related to the State Road 20 widening project. Detour via Chesser Monroe Road and East Washington Avenue.
 ■ State Road 20 from Southeast 65th Lane to Gordon Chapel Road. Daytime lane closures weekdays from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. for work related to the widening project.
 ■ As part of the Dunns Creek roadway widening project, temporary median closures along U.S. 17 at Hoot Owl Road, Islander Road and San Mateo Road/Magnolia Trail have been extended through mid-September for paving.

BACK WITH PALATKA POLICE DEPARTMENT



Submitted photo

Brian Keith, left, was sworn in Wednesday at the Palatka Police Department as an auxiliary officer. He started his career with the agency in 1982 and retired as a lieutenant in 2003, before a stint with the Putnam County Sheriff's Office from 2011-2021. At right is Palatka Police Department Chief Jason Shaw.

Pomona Park Town Council adopts budget

By AL KROMBACH
 Special to the Palatka Daily News

POMONA PARK — In a public hearing spanning less than 15 minutes, the town council adopted its \$1.5 million, 2021-2022 budget Wednesday on first reading.

“For anyone who’s been here for a number of years, this has been quite a process,” Mayor Joe Svingala said, citing the previous weeks of negotiations and planning. “I’m thrilled with what’s going on here.”

Svingala praised Town Clerk Andrea Almeida, who’s been employed by the town only a few months, and Assistant Town Clerk and Treasurer Kelly Krupski for their hard work in pulling the numbers together.

The town adopted an ad valorem tax rate of 5.0493 mills, the rollback rate, based on a taxable value of \$36,852,351. Last



Pomona Park Town Hall

AL KROMBACH/Special to the Daily News

year’s rate was 5.2974 mills.

A rollback rate is a tax rate that is calculated to generate the same income as the previous year’s rate.

The 2021-2022 Pomona Park budget amounts to \$1,598,015.

The second and final public hearing and budget vote is scheduled for 6 p.m., Tuesday,

Sept. 21. The council is to meet for its regular monthly session at 6 p.m. Tuesday.

Both meetings will be at the town hall council chambers and will be available via teleconferencing.

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Police plan to reinstall US Capitol fence

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Law enforcement officials concerned by the prospect for violence at a rally in the nation’s capital next week are planning to reinstall protective fencing that surrounded the U.S. Capitol for months after the Jan. 6 insurrection there, according to a person familiar with the discussions.

Though no specific measures have been announced, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi hinted during her weekly press conference Wednesday at extra safety precautions for the Sept. 18 rally by saying: “We intend to have the integrity of the Capitol be intact.” Briefings for lawmakers, including congressional leaders, are expected in coming days.

A security plan that is being finalized calls for a fenced perimeter on the streets immediately surrounding the Capitol building and the Supreme Court, though not around the congressional office buildings nearby, said the person, who spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity ahead of an official announcement.

The Capitol Police formally requested the fence to the board that oversees it, and it is likely to be approved, according to a House Democratic aide who spoke on condition of anonymity to talk about private discussions.

Police continue to track intelligence indicating far-right extremist groups like the Proud Boys and Oath Keepers are planning to attend

next week’s rally, which is designed to demand “justice” for the hundreds of people who have been charged in connection with January’s insurrection. Proud Boys leader Enrique Tarrio, however, has said he doesn’t expect his membership to attend.

On Wednesday, meanwhile, the FBI released new information in hopes of catching the person suspected of leaving behind two pipe bombs on Capitol Hill the night before the riot, one of the enduring, unsolved mysteries of that chaotic week.

The potential presence of the extremist groups at next week’s event is concerning because, while members and associates of Oath Keepers and Proud Boys make up just a fraction of the nearly 600 people who have been charged so far in the riot, they are facing some of the most serious charges brought.

Those charges include allegations that they conspired to block the certification of Biden’s victory. Several Oath Keepers have pleaded guilty to conspiracy charges and are cooperating with investigators in the case against their fellow extremists, who authorities say came to Washington ready for violence and willing to do whatever it took to stop the certification of the Electoral College vote.

The fence had been a stark symbol of the fear many in the Capitol felt after the mob pushed its way past overwhelmed police officers, broke through windows and doors and ransacked the Capitol as Congress was voting to certify Joe Biden’s electoral win.

Tourism agency: Variant a ‘bump’ in recovery

By JIM TURNER
 News Service of Florida

TALLAHASSEE — Florida travel-industry leaders expect the surge in COVID-19 cases linked to the delta variant to cause only a brief slowdown in the state’s tourism rebound, as they seek more federal money to lure families and winter visitors.

Meeting Wednesday at the Diplomat Beach Resort in Hollywood, the Visit Florida Board of Directors approved plans for the state’s tourism-marketing arm to apply for a \$14.8 million federal grant to help the state try to attract travelers from other parts of the U.S. That money is tied to \$3 billion in grants made available in July through the U.S. Department of Commerce’s Economic Development Administration.

“These funds are not yet received. Actually, we haven’t even applied for them yet,” Visit Florida President Dana Young told board members. “We feel confident, because this money has already been allocated, that we will receive them.”

The goal is to maintain the pace of recovery that the leisure and hospitality industry has seen this year after COVID-19 caused massive economic damage in 2020, when the state ended 10 years of steadily

increasing tourism numbers.

The marketing agency estimated travel into Florida, driven by tourists from other states, was 223.4 percent higher in the second quarter of 2021 than during the same three-month period in 2020. Young prefers to focus on domestic travel from April 1 through June 30. Those numbers were 6∞ higher than in the same period of 2019, the final year of growth.

The state attracted 31.7 million domestic and international visitors during the second quarter of 2021, an overall 2.2∞ below where the state was in 2019.

Concerns have been raised as Florida is a hot spot for COVID-19 because of the highly contagious delta variant of the coronavirus. Since the second half of July, Florida has recorded more than 10,000 new COVID-19 cases a day.

Jacob Pewitt Yancey, Visit Florida’s director of consumer insights and analytics, said recent surveys have shown only a slight indication of people altering travel plans made for the next six months.

“Yes, people are concerned about the delta variant. Yes, that is having an impact in the short term on people’s travel plans. But people in general, travelers seem to be very confident that

this is just a temporary bump in the road,” Pewitt Yancey said. “Once you start to look out to a more medium length time horizon, people seem to believe that either the situation will pass, or they will travel anyway, even if it hasn’t passed.”

Not everyone agrees.

The American Hotel & Lodging Association, continuing to push Congress for assistance for the industry, issued the results of a survey on Tuesday that said U.S. leisure travelers are scaling back travel plans as COVID-19 cases increase nationally.

“With COVID-19 cases rising and travel concerns mounting as we enter the fall and winter months, the hotel industry is at a pivotal point,” association President and CEO Chip Rogers said in a prepared statement. “Unless Congress acts, pandemic-related travel reductions will continue to threaten the livelihoods of hundreds of thousands of hotel workers.”

Visit Florida spent \$19.2 million on its “rebound” campaign, while waiting for the reopening of international markets.

Part of the upcoming marketing includes \$1.25 million for digital ads aimed at international markets and \$3 million for advertising campaigns in Canada and Latin America.

Pet of the Day

ARCHIE



Please share Archie for FOSTER or ADOPTER. Housebroken, easy on leash, quiet and well behaved. A gentleman. Seems good with cats but we would have to see how he does at home. Archie is not a first date huggler or kisser. HE doesn’t like chaos or commotion. Volunteer Bob took Archie to the groomers last week — he looks great & must be much cooler! Yesterday, they took him to the beach — he was awesome — at all times he was a gentleman on the beach, the walk back to the picnic area, polite during our little picnic and in the car.

If you can give this pet a home please contact SAFE. For information text or call and leave a message at 904-325-0196. One of our volunteers will get back to you as soon as they can. All of our animals are spayed/neutered, microchipped and current on their age appropriate vaccinations. Please visit our SAFE Adoption Center at 819 S. Moody Road in Palatka. Website www.safe-pet-rescue-fl.com SAFE is run entirely on donations.

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Today’s Lesson:
 The Newspaper

1. Builds vocabulary
2. Improves reading skills
3. Promotes critical thinking
4. Brings ideas and current events to life
5. Builds global awareness
6. Makes learning fun!

Newspapers in the classroom deal with reality, in what is happening here and now in their local community. Newspapers contain practical vocabulary, words that students will use over and over again throughout their lives. Newspapers improve students’ reading achievement, retention and comprehension. In one study, reading skills increased by two grade levels for students who used the newspaper, compared to students using traditional methods.

Newspapers in class influence students’ attitudes towards reading and improves their competencies in reading newspapers.

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4A IDEAS & OPINIONS

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

PALATKA DAILY NEWS

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OTHER VIEWS

Afghanistan war has reshaped US, the world

Is America safer after its 20-year war on terrorism in Afghanistan has resulted in the Taliban's victory? The answer, like the war itself, is muddled. The lack of resolution should cause considerable discomfort to Americans who lived through the trauma of 9/11 and cheered the U.S. military's quick routing of al-Qaeda and its Taliban hosts in 2001. After the World Trade Center's collapse, Americans had every right to believe President George W. Bush's declaration from atop the wreckage that the United States would make the terrorists pay.

Instead, radical Islamist terrorism has metastasized beyond all recognition. Extremist groups seem to be trying to one-up each other, as if they're in competition to see who can be more devout, more oppressive or even more horrific in their zeal to impose their will on others. Hezbollah in Lebanon tried to exceed the outrages of their Palestinian mentors by using kidnappings and, in 1983, the suicide bombings of the U.S. Embassy and Marines barracks in Beirut. Al-Qaeda and Taliban members found ways to exceed the outrages of Hezbollah. Islamic State founders have tried to go even further while exploiting power vacuums in Iraq and Syria to create a radical Islamic caliphate.

As Americans now know from watching the Taliban's resurgence, sending a terrorist group into remission isn't the same as annihilating it. Even though the Taliban is now in control in Afghanistan, it lacks aerial surveillance and eavesdropping capabilities, meaning its leaders probably have no idea what new atrocities might be hatching in the remote areas where other radical groups, such as Islamic State-Khorasan, are encamped. Al-Qaeda remains active as well. And all are vying internationally for new recruits.

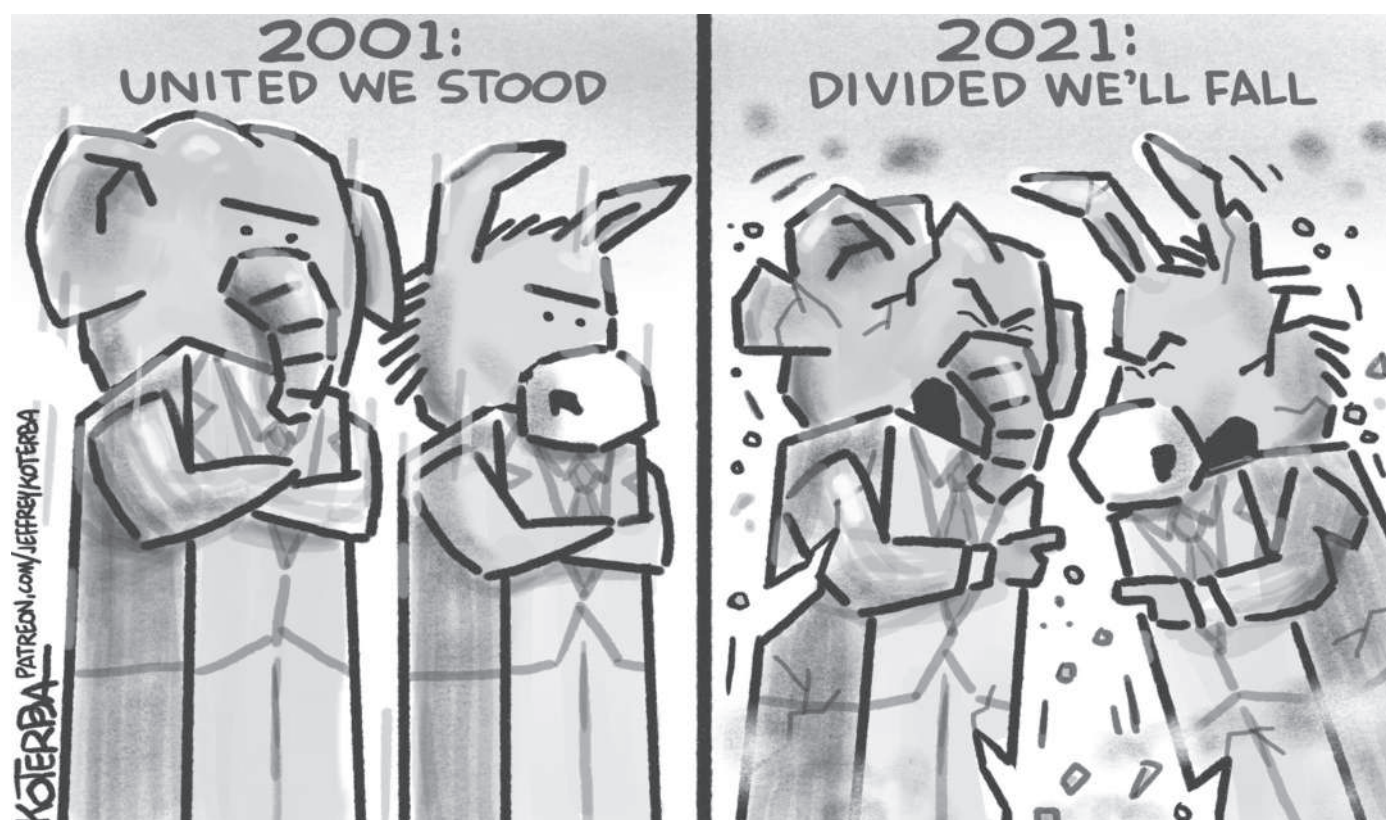
The United States has learned the hard way since 9/11 to dramatically tighten its defenses and deploy more nimbly on foreign turf to hunt down enemy fighters. In sharp contrast to the current debate over the freedoms of Americans opposed to masks and vaccines, Americans have gladly ceded all kinds of freedoms to advance the anti-terrorism cause. There's rarely a peep of protest over partially disrobing at airports or submitting to searches at government buildings, concerts and sporting events.

As a result, Americans are far safer – and smarter – than they were in 2001. But they also are more Islamophobic than before, with hate crimes against people perceived to be Muslims having risen significantly since 2001.

Hate and discrimination serve as potent recruiting tools for radical groups abroad. So do the spectacles of America's rushed retreats from Afghanistan and Syria, along with the abandonment of those who worked with U.S. forces.

So the answer is yes, conditions are safer today at home. But the 9/11 attacks and their aftermath have given rise to a bigger, bolder, more radical Islamist threat abroad. The world out there today is a far more dangerous place.

– Boston Herald



Hunt for the near-perfect September Saturday



The NeSmith Boys – young and old – enjoy being together, especially hunting and fishing. Seated, from left, are grandsons William, Bayard and Fenn, along with Bayard's Boykin Spaniel, Best. Standing, from left, are Alan, Grandpa and Eric. Grandsons Wyatt, Hayes, Henry and Smith Wilson, along with their dad Tom, could not be with us at this year's opening-day dove shoot.



DINK NESMITH

Wyatt, Hayes, Henry and Smith, could not be with us and take part in the camaraderie.

For the late-afternoon return to the dove field, I joined 10-year-old Fenn at a round hay-bale blind. He was patient as I preached the same safety sermons that his dad, Alan, and Uncle Eric had heard. Rather than give shooting tips, I decided to wait and

watch. Bang! Bang! Two doves dropped. No advice needed. How much more fun can a grandpa have than watching that?

But if you care anything about college football – especially the Georgia Bulldogs – you knew the game in Charlotte could be the icing on Saturday's cake. The Dawgs were aiming to declaw the Clemson Tigers. Indeed, the game turned out to be a nail-biter. But we chewed boiled peanuts instead.

Standing in a hot shower, just before midnight, I thought about what the oldtimer had said so many years ago in Baker County's backwoods. I am grateful that Alan, Eric and son-in-law Tom endorse the tobacco-spitter's hunting philosophy, too.

What a near-perfect September Saturday. Oh, yeah. Georgia won, 10-3.

Turning out the light, I was ready to hunt, again.

This time for my pillow.

Dink NeSmith is co-owner of Community Newspapers Inc., which owns the Palatka Daily News. He can be reached at dnesmith@cni newspapers.com.

PUBLIC FORUM

Palatka should offer more support for city-owned cultural institutions

It is budget time and Palatka is threatening to cut support of cultural institutions housed in city property. At the best of times, staying afloat is difficult for these groups. Kicking them during the pandemic economy is short-sighted and destructive.

Palatka is most fortunate to have beautiful and useful historic buildings, run by dedicated volunteers. These are treasures that money can't buy.

Instead of cutting modest arts spending in

a down economy, local government must consider the necessity of supporting arts and culture to the fullest extent. Cultural institutions are not a quality of life frivolity, they are important economic drivers. The arts mean business.

According to a 2020 survey by the National Endowment for the Arts, monies spent supporting US cultural institutions earn a 3% return, topping current interest rates. In 2019, the arts contributed over three billion dollars to the national economy.

Palatka owns historically significant buildings like the Bronson-Mulholland House and the Larimer Arts Center. The city's expenses are maintenance and in some cases, opera-

tional. Management is volunteer and at no cost to the city. What a bargain!

Were these institutions sold, the process would be long term and difficult, the rewards minute. Community bonds would be shattered, resident enrichment opportunity slender, history lost.

A sensible city government regards supporting the arts as money well spent, an investment that provides continuing returns.

Instead of trying to shake pennies out of cultural institutions, it would be refreshing to see city officials on their knees, giving thanks and generous support.

Lynn Roberson
Palatka

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WRITE TO US

The Palatka Daily News welcomes letters to the editor and will print as many as possible in a timely manner. Letters must be no more than 425 words and are subject to standard copy editing. Writers are limited to one letter every two weeks.

We reserve the right to reject any letter and will not print personal attacks on private individuals or businesses.

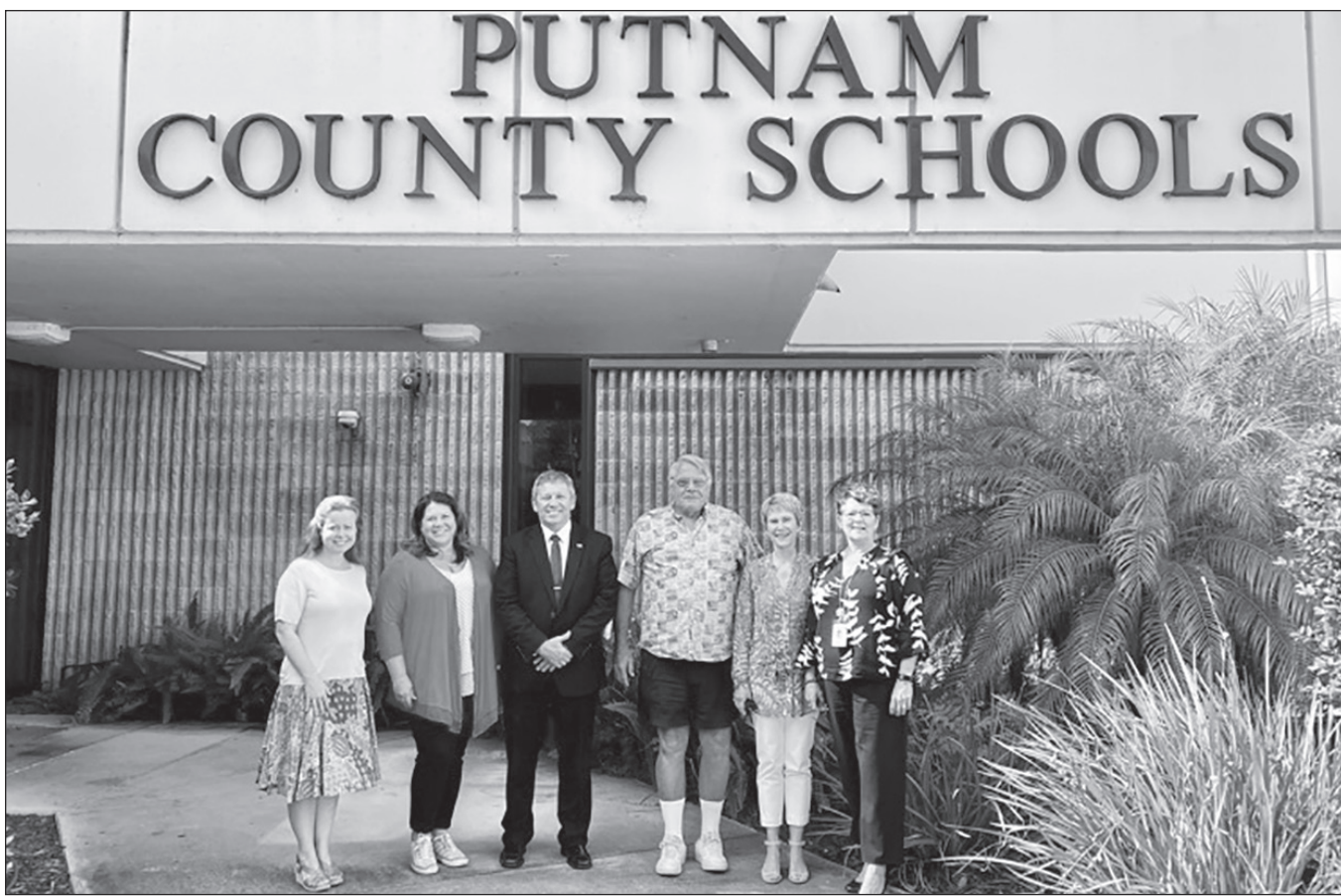
Letter submissions must contain the writer's name, city or community of residence, and a current telephone

number for verification. Phone numbers will not be published. Please submit by email or a typed or neatly written letter.

Preference will be given to Putnam County writers and local topics. Thank you for contributing your letters to the editor.

Send your letter to:
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Putnam County School District Executive Director of Federal Programs Melissa Coleman, Assistant Superintendent of Curriculum and Instruction Laura France, Superintendent Rick Surrency, Charles Smith and Joyce Oliver of the Frank V. Oliver, Jr. Foundation and district Director of Career and Technical Education Renee Hough stand outside of district headquarters. The foundation bestowed the district \$100,000 toward expanding career and technical education for students.

Submitted photo

Options

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

with the National Center for Construction Education and Research for curriculum and training.

Director of Career and Technical Education Renee Hough, who has been in the position since 2013, said the goal is linking up with community partners. The district appropriation request had letters of support from local businesses and the Putnam County Chamber of Commerce.

"They're having a hard time finding people to work," Hough said. "Our partners have really stepped up and are really interested in it."

Hough said the district has applied for other grants through the state Department of Education. She said district students can receive industry certifications for fields such as welding, advanced manufacturing or automotive manufacturing among others.

"If we do get the appropriation, we can purchase the equipment for our building and construction workshop," Hough said. "Hopefully, we can do something at all three (junior-senior high schools)."

At Tuesday's district board meeting, Superintendent Rick Surrency said the construction fields are a major need in the county despite the start-up costs of the academy. He called the initiative exciting and thanked the Frank V. Oliver Foundation for their gift.

"We anticipate a lot of new construction. We're building new schools and are going to need that workforce," Surrency said. "Our community has really cried out for that."

Frank Oliver, the late philanthropist whose foundation has given millions to various causes, was a selfless giver, board member David Buckles said.

"He was such a neat guy because he would sponsor kids to college who never knew," Buckles said.

Armstrong Roofing President and co-owner Les Sims and co-owner Gina Sims, in a statement, said industry leaders

are concerned about how the county will train students to fill construction jobs. They called for an adequate and prepared workforce.

"It is our hope that this academy will train the students in our county to become a model workforce in the future capable of serving the needs of our county's citizens," Armstrong Roofing's letter said.

Putnam County Chamber of Commerce President Dana Jones said not every student goes to a four-year university and Putnam County needed to have vocational offerings.

She said supplying the labor for construction fields is a challenge and the county can get a step ahead with a homegrown talent pool.

"We support (the district) for the future of the workforce in the county," Jones said. "It's a great opportunity to help students be ready for a good paying career and to have people in our own labor pool at home."

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Robert E. Lee statue comes down in former Confederate capital

Associated Press

RICHMOND, Va. — A statue of Gen. Robert E. Lee that towered over Richmond for generations was taken down, cut into pieces and hauled away Wednesday, as the former capital of the Confederacy erased the last of the Civil War figures that once defined its most prominent thoroughfare.

Hundreds of onlookers erupted in cheers and song as the 21-foot-tall bronze figure was lifted off a pedestal and lowered to the ground. The removal marked a major victory for civil rights activists, whose previous calls to dismantle the statues had been steadfastly rebuked by city and state officials alike.

"It's very difficult to imagine, certainly, even two years ago that the statues on Monument Avenue would actually be removed," said Ana Edwards, a community activist and founding member of the Virginia Defenders for Freedom Justice & Equality. "It's representative of the fact that we're sort of peeling back the layers of injustice that Black people and people of color have experienced when governed by white supremacist policies for so long."

Democratic Gov. Ralph Northam ordered the statue's removal last summer amid the nationwide protest movement that erupted after the murder of George Floyd by a police officer in Minneapolis. But litigation tied up his plans until the state Supreme Court cleared the way last week.

Northam, who watched the work, called it "hopefully a new day, a new era in Virginia." "Any remnant like this that glorifies the lost cause of the Civil War, it needs to come

down," he said.

The 21-foot bronze sculpture was installed in 1890 atop a granite pedestal about twice that tall. The sculpture was perched in the middle of a state-owned traffic circle, and it stood among four other massive Confederate statues that were removed by the city last summer.

A construction worker who strapped harnesses around Lee and his horse lifted his arms in the air and counted, "Three, two, one!" to jubilant shouts from the crowd as the crane prepared to wrest the statue away.

Some chanted "Whose streets? Our streets!" and sang, "Hey, hey, hey, goodbye."

Once the statue was on the ground, the crew used a power saw to cut it in two along the general's waist, so that it could be hauled under highway overpasses to an undisclosed state-owned facility until a decision is made about its future.

The job was overseen by Team Henry Enterprises, led by Devon Henry, a Black executive who faced death threats after his company's role in removing Richmond's other Confederate statues was made public last year. He said the Lee statue posed their most complex challenge.

Within hours, the pieces were gone. They were hauled away on a flatbed truck to cheers from the remaining crowd and claps of thunder from a midday storm. The pedestal is to remain for now, although workers are expected to remove a time capsule from the structure.

The work proceeded under a heavy police presence, with streets closed for blocks around the area, but no arrests were reported, and no counter protesters emerged.



Palatka Fire Department fireman Mike Vogel rings a bell during last year's 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony commemorating emergency workers who died in the 2001 terrorist attacks.

File photo

Texas man gets execution delay over pastor request

Associated Press

HUNTSVILLE, Texas — A Texas death row inmate won a reprieve Wednesday evening from execution for killing a convenience store worker during a 2004 robbery that garnered \$1.25 after claiming the state was violating his religious freedom by not letting his pastor lay hands on him at the time of his lethal injection.

The U.S. Supreme Court blocked John Henry Ramirez's execution about three hours after he could have been executed. He is condemned for fatally stabbing 46-year-old Pablo Castro, who worked at a Corpus Christi convenience store.

Ramirez was in a small holding cell a few feet from the Texas death chamber at the Huntsville Unit prison when he was told of the reprieve by Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesman Jason Clark.

"He was quiet when I let him know," Clark said. "He shook his head and said: 'Thank you very much. God bless you.'"

In its brief order, the court directed its clerk to establish a briefing schedule so Ramirez's case could be argued in October or November.

Prosecutors say Ramirez stabbed Castro 29 times during a series of robberies in which the inmate and two women sought money following a three-day drug binge. Ramirez fled to Mexico but was arrested 3½ years later.

Seth Kretzer, Ramirez's law-

yer, had argued the Texas Department of Criminal Justice was violating the death row inmate's First Amendment rights to practice his religion by denying his request to have his pastor touch him and vocalize prayers when he was executed. He called the ban on vocal prayer a spiritual "gag order."

"It is hostile toward religion, denying religious exercise at the precise moment it is most needed: when someone is transitioning from this life to the next," Kretzer said in court documents.

Lower appeals courts had rejected Ramirez's argument.

The request by Ramirez, 37, is the latest clash between death row inmates and prison officials in Texas and other states over the presence of spiritual advisers in the death chamber.

In recent years, the Supreme Court has granted stays halting several executions in Texas and Alabama over the presence of clergy or spiritual advisers in the death chamber.

Attack

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

with lighter fluid in his hands.

The State Fire Marshal's Office was assigned to the arson investigation and will determine if additional charges will be filed.

Green was on probation at the time of the attack, the sheriff's office said. In May, he was charged with felony battery of a person 65 years or older and Green received an order of no contact, according to court records. He was released July 12.

Sheriff's office spokeswoman Allison Waters-Merritt said Green was seen walking on foot in the Interlachen area. She said Green is considered a

prolific offender and convicted felon, meaning he is on the agency's radar when crimes occur near his residence.

"We've received a couple calls about him in the Interlachen area," Waters-Merritt said.

Anyone with information as to the location of Green is asked to contact CrimeStoppers of Northeast Florida at 1-888-277-8477. Tips are anonymous and are eligible for a reward if leading to an arrest.

"We would encourage anyone to contact us so we can make the arrest, let the judicial process work and give the victim some peace of mind," Waters-Merritt said.

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9/11

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1A

"We as a community don't want the rest of the community to forget," Plateau said.

Firefighter and emergency medical technician Jason Black will perform a radio remembrance call. The Putnam County Sheriff's Office will conduct a 21 Gun Salute, and Board of County Commissioners Chairman Larry Harvey will read a 9/11 remembrance address.

In previous years, Plateau said officials held an evening church service locally but canceled it this year because of the virus.

Plateau remembers being off duty 20 years ago when he had only been working as a county paramedic and firefighter for a few years. He was sleeping at home when his wife woke him up to tell him a plane crashed into one World Trade Center tower.

They watched the news as another plane hit a second tower. Plateau said the attacks scared him, and he couldn't imagine what the firefighters who responded were going through.

"I don't want people to forget," he said. "... It changed our world forever."

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MARK LONG

SEC beefs up schedules, avoids playing cupcakes

GAINESVILLE

The Southeastern Conference is moving away from early season cupcakes. It's been years in the making and probably long overdue. The powerhouse league still has a few teams lagging in the scheduling department, seemingly not quite ready to go all in for competitive reasons. But beefing up schedules is clearly on the horizon for everyone, especially once the SEC adds Oklahoma and Texas.

"You can't just open the gates and give people a 12-inch piece of wood to sit on anymore," Florida athletic director Scott Stricklin said. Stricklin called the shift in philosophy "market driven," pointing to fans, players and television partners wanting better matchups on a weekly basis.

It's hardly unique to the SEC, especially since strength of schedule plays a role in determining which teams make the College Football Playoff. And with the CFP planning eyeing expansion, there's even more reason for some of the nation's top programs – those expecting to vie for coveted playoff spots – to add more challenging games.

While fans may have gotten spoiled watching last season's all-SEC slate of games because of COVID-19 concerns, it would be hard to complain about much of the league's 2021 schedules.

Top-ranked Alabama thumped Miami. No. 2 Georgia edged Clemson. Mississippi routed Louisville. LSU lost at UCLA. And that was just Week 1.

This weekend's slate includes Pittsburgh-Tennessee, Colorado-Texas A&M, Texas-Arkansas and North Carolina State-Mississippi State.

And then Auburn plays at Penn State and Vanderbilt host Stanford in Week 3, followed by Missouri at Boston College.

"It means a lot for confidence," Georgia coach Kirby Smart said. "Confidence can help. Can overconfidence hurt? Yes, but there's a line there. The experience of the environment is what I value. Win, lose, or draw, the experience of that environment was going to make us better, and that is what I gain from it."

"Does it give some of the players more confidence? Yes, it gives them more confidence. It does, but it better not give them overconfidence because humility is one week away."

Alabama and LSU have led the league's push to strengthen schedules. The Crimson Tide have opened each of the last 10 seasons with a Power Five opponent – and won them all. The Tigers, meanwhile, have scheduled similarly for nine straight years.

The rest of the league is catching up. "One of the harder things to do is to judge what the future of college football is going to be," said Florida coach Dan Mullen, who is entering his 17th year in the SEC. "If you look and say, 'OK, six years ago, we're going to have a playoff and this is how they're going to judge it and evaluate the playoff. It's hard to judge that in the future, that far."

"And scheduling is tough. As you call people, there are a lot of people who are booked out way into the future. And then you get into the issue of how is the SEC schedule going to work four and five and six years ago from now? I know what our position is right now as a league."

Four SEC teams – Florida, Georgia, Kentucky and South Carolina – have permanent, non-conference rivalry games against the Atlantic Coast Conference that they insist make scheduling a bit more difficult. The Gators play Florida State. The Bulldogs play Georgia Tech. The Wildcats play Louisville. And the Gamecocks play Clemson.

When those SEC teams are on the road every other year, they have one fewer home game that affects the bottom line. "Our strength of schedule is kind of built in," Stricklin said. "You want to have six, preferably seven home games a year. And when you start doing home-and-homes or start giving away neutral-site games, that eats into how many home games you're going to have."

"Knowing the value of the home game to our campus and to the city, I don't know that we want to be there. We might end up being there one day, but we've not taken that approach."

Adding Oklahoma and Texas should change everything. The SEC is expected to revamp its scheduling model once the Big 12 juggernauts arrive, whether it's in 2025 as currently planned or sooner, in hopes of everyone playing each other more often.

"Scheduling is just a challenging deal and we're going to continue to work at it," Stricklin said. "We do want to look for opportunities where we can make it more interesting for our fanbase."

Mark Long is an Associated Press writer.

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PREP ROUNDUP

Raiders' Vasquez tops Rams' Price to win D&B race

IHS' Jacobsen captures girls race

Palatka Daily News

The boys cross country race at Florida Deaf & Blind School Wednesday in St. Augustine came down to who wanted it more.

In the end, one of Crescent City Junior-Senior High's newcomers wanted that first-place finish bad enough. Anthony Vasquez came across the finish line ahead of Interlachen's Tyler Pierce by one second to win the 3.1-mile race.

Vasquez won in 19:47. His teammate, Jesus Cruz, was third in 20:02. Other boys finishers were Interlachen's Adam Olalde in fifth place in 22:00 and Crescent City's trio of Esequiel Vences in sixth (23:27), Carlos Gonzalez in seventh (24:23)

and Adrian Soliz in 10th (35:07).

Winning the girls' race was Interlachen's Erin Jacobsen, who came across in 27:10, well ahead of Crescent City's Zuri Villanueva, who was second in 28:01. Interlachen teammate Susanna Dezelan was third in 28:43, followed by a group of Crescent City runners – Isabella Torres (30:06), Alma Arias (30:22), Jessica Luna (30:39), Valeria Garcia (31:11), Alizey Solis (31:14) and Mayte Cortez (31:17) – who finished fourth through ninth, respectively.

Interlachen's Graci McDonald was 10th in 31:40, then another group of

Raiders – Arasoli Solis (32:31), Paisley Flannery (32:31), Kayleen Vasquez (36:00), Jennifer Alvarado (36:00) and Jaime Torres (48:07) – ended up 11th through 15th, respectively.

VOLLEYBALL

Interlachen swept visiting St. Augustine Florida D&B, 25-12, 25-20, 25-22.

Leading the Rams was Brianna Webber with 18 service points, four of those aces, and two kills. Payton Alexander chipped in eight service points, all of which were aces, and two kills, Samantha Gaylord and Dixie Smith each contributed three kills and Kelli Sellers delivered four dinks and 10 assists.

"Our serving was good, but we had no offense and we still can't receive serve," Interlachen coach Tonya

Troiano. "Not having Alyssa (Matthews), who is one of our better defensive players and who we rely on a lot, hurts us a lot, especially in our service returns. We will work (today) on fixing basic stuff and also serve returns, but overall I am pleased with the win."

The Rams (4-5) host nemesis Pierson Taylor (2-1) at 6 p.m., Monday.

GIRLS GOLF

With Addy Vogt shooting a 1-over par 38, Orange Park St. Johns Country Day defeated Palatka, 220-235, at the Palatka Municipal Golf Club.

The Panthers (0-2) saw Samantha Clark lead the way with a 51, a four-shot improvement over the 55 she shot in a match Tuesday against Menendez at St. Johns County Golf Course.

Hitting Paydirt



GREG OYSTER / Special To The Daily News

Florida State starting quarterback Jordan Travis outraces a Notre Dame defender to score a touchdown during Sunday night's overtime thriller in Tallahassee.

Congrats to Everyone

Even in tough 41-38 OT loss to Notre Dame, FSU showed missing passion

Sunday night in Tallahassee was an unexpected game.

Yes, the outcome was a 41-38 Notre Dame win in overtime. Yes, weaknesses were exposed. It certainly wasn't pretty when Irish tight end Michael Mayer took a couple of passes and romped into the end zone just over two minutes off the clock. FSU quarterback Jordan Travis had three interceptions.

But you know what? This was the best game on the opening weekend of college football.

Better yet for Florida State, there is hope. No runaway win for a highly ranked Notre Dame squad. For the second time in modern Seminole history, a two-quarterback system may emerge. Transfer players made a difference – you don't have to look any further than Irish starting quarterback Jack Coan, who left Wisconsin. FSU's transfer squad collectively provided stability, leadership, key plays and encouragement to a squad that has been down and below out since Jimbo Fisher's departure.

Most press – deservedly so – was directed at McKenzie Milton, who returned to the field after three years rehabbing a horrific leg injury in the

COMMENTARY

KERRY DUNNING

last game for UCF in 2018.

All he did last weekend was finish two drives for two touchdowns to help tie the Irish.

Since you could hear the crowd cringe when Milton was tackled or forced to run out of the pocket, it's a pretty good bet Travis will get more playing time. It's not a bad thing – Travis did more running around than the running backs, and the offensive line might get better, but not stronger this season. Coaches must teach the sophomore that throwing a ball away means landing it 10 rows up in the stands.

These guys genuinely support each other, perhaps because in protecting Milton the team has developed a different competitive chemistry.

See FSU, Page 8A

Super Bowl champs set to open NFL campaign

Buccaneers ready to face Cowboys in tonight's matchup

By FRED GOODALL
Associated Press

TAMPA – Lofty, maybe even gargantuan, expectations don't faze Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The reigning Super Bowl champions open the 2021 NFL season against the Dallas Cowboys tonight, confident they have everything it takes – at least on paper – to become the first team to win back-to-back titles since Brady led the 2003 and 2004 New England Patriots to consecutive crowns.

No one knows what it's like to have a target on your back every week more than Brady, a seven-time Super Bowl winner who turned 44 during training camp – a few

days after reminding teammates the first order of business is leaving last season behind.

The Bucs return all 22 starters from a top 10 offense and defense, however Brady and coach Bruce Arians stress talent alone doesn't guarantee continued success.

"In one way, you're not really defending it much, it's kind of in the books. They can't take away what we've done. It's really just a whole other year and experience," Brady said.

"We have a lot of continuity. We have a lot of things to build on and a lot more experience together," Brady added. "That's really all you



Brady

See BUCS, Page 8A

PREP FOOTBALL

Panthers see shot at first win of season

Weeki Wachee has been outscored, 76-3, in first two losses of the year

By COREY DAVIS

Palatka Daily News
cdavis@palatkadailynews.com

The date October 30, 2020 may not ring a bell, but it is clearly in the minds of nearly every Palatka Junior-Senior High football player and coach right now.

That's the last time the Panthers won a game, a 20-15 road victory at Middleburg. The three-game losing streak that has followed since then could likely come to an end Friday night.

Weeki Wachee (0-2) comes onto Bennett-Cooper Field at Veterans Memorial Stadium Friday on the heels of being shut out, 37-0, at home last Friday by Spring Hill Springstead and

has been outscored 76-3 in its two games.

"They run a similar offense like Palatka did last year with the single-wing, (and) they will run some spread

too," Palatka first-year coach Patrick Turner said. "Defensively, they run a 4-3 and they are a tough team."

The Hornets have struggled tremendously to score points in their single-wing attack so far, which bodes well for the Panthers' defensive front seven.

"Our goal is to expose them (Weeki Wachee)," Turner said. "Eustis was very athletic and had a lot of good athletes ... against Weeki Wachee we are going to spread it out and take advantage of their coverages. We expect seven guys in the box and we will have to get the ball around the perimeter, which will help open up our offense, especially opening up our running game."

Having faced a spread passing offense in week one against Land O'Lakes and a running attack in Springstead last week, the Hornets were exposed both ways defensively, which Turner said he looks to take full advantage of.

"Our goal last week was to run for 250 and we ran for 289, although we know they will load the box and we will have to throw it a bit more," Turner said. "Land O'Lakes' quarterback was a good thrower, while Springstead was more of a run-oriented team. They were 8-3 last year. We will make it a point to run the ball also, despite them loading the box and we will have to work the perimeter and take advantage of spacing."

Which is good news for quarterback Jamarie McKinnon, tailbacks Leetrez Smith and Tyran Bush and receivers

See PANTHERS, Page 8A

SCOREBOARD

CALENDAR

Schools, leagues and recreation departments are subject to change without notice.

THURSDAY, September 9 HIGH SCHOOL

Volleyball Gainesville Countryside Christian vs. Peniel Baptist at SJR State, 6 p.m. Hawthorne at Palatka, 6 p.m. Pierson Taylor at Crescent City, 7 p.m.

FRIDAY, September 10 HIGH SCHOOL

Football Weeki Wachee at Palatka, 7 p.m. Crescent City at Interlachen, 7:30 p.m.

COLLEGE

Volleyball South Florida St. at SJRS, 1 p.m.

TIDES

Palatka City Dock

Table with tide times and heights for Palatka City Dock

St. Augustine Beach

Table with tide times and heights for St. Augustine Beach

PREP GOLF

At Palatka Municipal Golf Club Orange Park SJ Country Day 220, Palatka 235 St. Johns Country Day: Vogt 38, Pizzi 57, Morton 61, Garrison 64. Palatka (0-2): Clark 51, Giddens 61, Wilhite 61, Carnes 62.

BASEBALL

AL Standings

Table with AL Standings for East Division, Central Division, and West Division

TODAY ON TELEVISION

Table listing today's television programs including College Football, College Soccer, Golf, Hockey, Major League Baseball, National Football League, Surfing, Tennis, and WNBA.

Philadelphia (Suárez 6-4), 7:05 p.m. Washington (Feddé 6-9) at Atlanta (Ynoa 4-5), 7:20 p.m.

SOCCER

MLS Standings

Table with Eastern Conference and Western Conference MLS Standings

Table with National Conference East and West Standings

NOTE: Three points for victory, one point for tie.

Friday, September 10 Orlando City at Atlanta, 7 p.m. Portland at Vancouver, 10 p.m.

Saturday, September 11 LA Galaxy at Colorado, 3:30 p.m. Minnesota at Seattle, 5 p.m.

Sunday, September 12 Real Salt Lake at Los Angeles FC, 10:30 p.m.

NFL

Table with American Conference East, South, and North divisions

WNBA

Table with Eastern Conference and Western Conference WNBA Standings

PALATKA DAILY NEWS PIGSKIN PREDICTIONS

Table with pigskin predictions for High School, College, and NFL, including guest selector Wayne Smith.

MAJOR LEAGUE BASEBALL

Jeter, Walker reach Hall after year wait

By JOHN KEKIS Associated Press

COOPERSTOWN, N.Y. – Derek Jeter was simply Derek Jeter on his special day – smooth as silk.

On a Wednesday afternoon that turned cloudy with the temperature in the 70s and a few sprinkles in the air and adoring fans chanting his name, the former New York Yankees star shortstop and captain was inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame after a long wait necessitated by the pandemic.

Greeted by raucous cheers in a crowd estimated at 20,000 that included NBA luminaries Michael Jordan and Patrick Ewing, several of his former teammates, and Hall of Fame Yankees manager Joe Torre on the stage behind him, Jeter took his turn after fellow inductees from the class of 2020 Ted Simmons, Larry Walker and the late Marvin Miller were honored.

‘‘I’m so honored to be inducted with you guys and linked to you forever,’’ he said. ‘‘The Hall of Fame is special because of those who are in it. We’ve lost way too many Hall of Famers over the last 20 months. These are all Hall of Famers who would have or could have been here, so for that reason it’s not the same.’’

What was the same was the adoration displayed by the fans, who always marveled at his consistency.

‘‘I had one goal in my career, and that was to win more than everyone else, and we did that, which brings me to the Yankee fans,’’ Jeter said as the fans erupted again. ‘‘Without question, you helped me get here today as much as any individual I’ve mentioned.’’

He gave much of the credit to his parents, who were in the audience with Jeter’s wife, Hannah, and their two young daughters.

‘‘Mom, you taught me any dream is attainable as long as you work harder than everyone else. You drilled that in my head over and over and over and you led me to believe it,’’ Jeter said. ‘‘You told me never to make excuses, you wouldn’t allow me to use the word can’t. Dad, you’ve been the voice of reason. You taught me to be patient, to listen and think before I speak. You’ve always been there for advice and to this day you’re the first person I go to. I know when I retired you said you played every game with me and I know you recall from time to time telling me, ‘You keep building that resume.’ Look where it’s gotten us today.’’

The ceremony was delayed a year because of the coronavirus pandemic and it didn’t matter much to Walker, the second Canadian elected to the Hall of Fame.

SPORTS BRIEFS

COLLEGE VOLLEYBALL

No. 1 SJR State sweeps Webber JV

The new No. 1 team in the state junior college Division II poll had little trouble living up to that bill Wednesday night.

St. Johns River State College took down Webber International’s junior varsity team, 25-23, 25-16, 25-17, at Tuten Gymnasium to improve to 6-1 on the year and make it four straight victories.

Kendall Hatchett delivered seven kills, Juliann Lindsey handed out 21 assists and Tara English recorded five digs and two service aces for the Vikings, who will host South Florida State in a Sun-Lakes Conference match Friday night.

RECREATIONAL SPORTS

Putnam Lanes hosts two-day tourney

The Putnam Lanes Bowling Alley will host a two-day Strike Against Children Cancer Bowling Tournaments Saturday and Sunday sponsored by The Bowlers Hut Pro Shop.

On Saturday, there is a \$110 entry fee with optional \$5 brackets to enter the Singles Scratch Tournament, which starts at 10:30 a.m., with a \$2,000 first cash prize.

On Sunday, the entry fee is \$120 per team (\$60 each bowler) to enter the Baker Doubles-Handicap Tournament starting at 10:30 a.m., with a \$1,000 first cash prize.

Ten dollars from each entry fee will buy toys for Children’s Cancer Unit at Shands Hospital. For the last eight years this tournament has raised over \$15,000. For more information contact Mike Preston at (352) 538-3133.

NFL

Lawrence named one of 7 Jags captains

JACKSONVILLE – Rookie quarterback and No. 1 overall pick Trevor Lawrence was voted one of Jacksonville’s seven team captains for the season.

Coach Urban Meyer unveiled the list during a team meeting Wednesday by showing a 3-minute video featuring friends and family members breaking the news to the newly crowned captains. Meyer then presented each player with a teal jersey that had a C sewn on the front.

‘‘It was great,’’ Lawrence said. ‘‘It’s a really cool feeling, especially as a younger guy just having that support from my teammates. Being named a starter and now a captain, nothing changes. Same expectation and now it’s time to go out there and win some games.’’

‘‘But I’m really excited. It’s definitely an honor. It’s a cool moment for me to be named a captain with those other guys, just a bunch of great guys in the locker room. We had a ton of guys that got votes but definitely really cool.’’

The Jaguars open the season at Houston on Sunday. Linebacker Myles Jack, pass rusher Josh Allen, cornerback Shaquill Griffin, safety Rayshawn Jenkins, receiver Marvin Jones and center Brandon Linder are the team’s other captains. Linder became the franchise’s first five-time captain.

Jack was the top vote-getter, Meyer said, adding that Lawrence was third.

- Staff, wire reports

FSU

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7A

There are other highlights, including the fact that the Seminoles came back from an 18-point deficit late in the third quarter to have a chance to win. This wasn’t a squad that got sloppy. FSU methodically worked its way back into a chance to win – no flukes provided by Notre Dame.

Notre Dame averaged 2.6 yards per carry (adjusted for sack yardage) at the same time Jashaun Corbin ran 89 yards to tie the score at 7-7 in the first quarter. He’s worth a story to himself having originally signed with FSU,

but went to Texas A&M when Fisher left, only to leave College Station and return to Tallahassee.

Defensively, FSU is light years ahead of some disappointing seasons. Georgia transfer Jermaine Johnson had 1.5 sacks, 2.5 tackles for loss, and seven tackles overall.

While head coach Mike Norvell deserves all the credit for this team’s turnaround, there were some costly moments squarely on his shoulders. By the way, he’s standing by his decision.

Trailing by 11, FSU tried to get a first down from its own 33 on a fourth-and-2 play.

It failed. It wasn’t so much the play, though it felt forced as much as the play that was called. More importantly, Norvell ended up

icing his own field goal kicker.

In overtime, Ryan Fitzgerald, who had already kicked a 50-yarder was lined up when Norvell questioned the officials’ ruling on where the ball was spotted. In other circumstances, it would be comical as they marched the ball back to the original scrimmage line back to where it had been placed, and then back to the line of scrimmage again.

He missed the 43-yarder. Notre Dame made theirs.

All in overtime and the Irish won.

Let’s just say congrats to everyone, but coaches and players have some maturing to do.

Kerry Dunning covers Florida State for the Palatka Daily News.

Bucs

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7A

can ask for as players is to be in the position that we’re in. I’d just like us to go out and take advantage of that.’’

With Brady entering his second season working with a bevy of play-makers that includes receivers Mike Evans, Chris Godwin and Antonio Brown, tight ends Rob Gronkowski, Cameron Brate and O.J. Howard, the Bucs think they can be even more potent on offense.

The defense returns intact, too,

with linebackers Devin White, Lavonte David, Jason Pierre-Paul and Shaquil Barrett leading the way and a youthful group of cornerbacks and safeties looking to make names for themselves.

TONIGHT

Cowboys at Buccaneers, 8:20, NBC

‘‘As good as we played with the same group of guys, I’d love to see where we can get this year,’’ Brady said.

‘‘Again, all of it is earned. There’s nothing given. It’s not about a bunch of hype or a bunch of build-up. We have to go do it,’’ Brady

added. ‘‘I think that’s about a bunch of guys that are really mature and see ourselves as professional athletes. We want to go out there and put our best out there.’’

The Cowboys are coming off a 6-10 finish in which they played most of the season without quarterback Dak Prescott.

Prescott returns Thursday night for the first time since suffering the severe ankle injury that ended his year last October. He didn’t play in the preseason, either, after straining his right shoulder early in training camp.

Cowboys coach Mike McCarthy is excited to get Prescott back on

two-way lineman along with middle linebacker Joseph Chavis, the reigning Gulf Coast Eight Conference Defensive Player of the Year after accumulating 80 tackles, 11 tackles for loss, four sacks, three forced fumbles, one fumble recovery and two interceptions in just six games.

Defensively, Jason Purcell, Majiyah Brown, Derrick Washington, who all made big

plays, and Passmore, who had an 82-yard interception return for a touchdown last week, will all be counted on for the Panthers.

One thing that will have to certainly change this week is protecting the ball on offense, which gave Eustis great field position and cost the Panthers points as well.

‘‘We will have to put our defense in better positions,’’ Turner said.

FLORIDA LOTTERY WEDNESDAY

Table with lottery results including Midday Evening, Pick 2, 3, 4, 5, Fantasy 5, Lotto, and Powerball



Haven Hospice Roberts Care Center in Palatka.

File photo

3 Palatka business leaders help form Haven Hospice Foundation

Palatka Daily News

Three Palatka business leaders helped form a North Central Florida nonprofit foundation dedicated to working with Haven Hospice.

Danny Martinez, Putnam Community Medical Center trustee and president of the Rodeheaver Foundation, serves as chairman of Haven Hospice Foundation board of directors.

The foundation will focus on fundraising programs, grant applications, and "a full range of giving options."

"Having experienced Haven services, I know the importance of financially supporting a local legacy hospice," Martinez said in a statement. "Health care and hospice are on the cusp of significant change in the years ahead."

Vice President of Beck Automotive Group Wayne McClain was named the foundation's vice-chair. And Norlene Roberts, who owns Roberts Ranch with her husband, Irving, serves as a board member. She also serves on Haven's Palatka Community Advisory Board.

"With the aging of America, Florida and North Central Florida, there is a greater need for Haven care and services, a greater opportunity for Haven to fulfill its mission and meet growing community need for hospice and palliative care for patients wherever they reside," McClain said.

Haven Hospice touts being the "oldest and only



locally governed hospice and palliative care provider" in North Central Florida. The organization helps patients and families in 18 different counties through services beyond hospice care,

such as grief support and seminars for caregivers. Locally, Haven Hospice Roberts Care Center in Palatka reopened March 2020 after closing for renovations in December 2019.

Facility improvements included wall, floor, room and paint job upgrades. Employees from Palatka Flooring helped work on the 18-patient center located at 6400 St. Johns Ave.

Additional Haven Hospice facilities are in Lake City, Gainesville and Orange Park.

As hospice care heads toward "value-based care," Martinez said that the foundation would continue to serve the community.

"As a result of these changes, Haven needs to be able to invest and evolve to adapt to these new reimbursement models all while continuing to meet the needs of a growing North Central Florida."

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Panhandle in path of Tropical Storm Mindy

Associated Press

MIAMI — A swath of the Florida Panhandle was under a tropical storm warning as Tropical Storm Mindy neared landfall Wednesday night.

Mindy could cause as much as 6 inches of rainfall across the Florida Panhandle and portions of southern Georgia and South Carolina through today, the National Hurricane Center said. Scattered flash, urban, and small-stream floods are possible.

The storm on Wednesday night was about 25 miles west-southwest of Apalachicola, Florida, and moving northeast at 21 mph with maximum sustained winds of 45 mph forecasters said.

The tropical storm warning is in effect from Mexico Beach, Florida, to the Steinhatchee River to the east.

That area is about 300 miles east of southern Louisiana, where Hurricane Ida made landfall late last month.

The region is still recovering from the deadly and destructive Category 4 storm.

Mindy is the 13th-named storm of what has been another busy Atlantic hurricane season.

According to a tweet from Colorado State University hurricane researcher Phil Klotzbach, the average date for the 13-named storm from 1991-2020 was Oct. 24.

Judge: Florida can't enforce ban on school mask mandates

By Curt Anderson
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG — A Florida judge ruled Wednesday that the state cannot enforce a ban on public schools mandating the use of masks to guard against the coronavirus, while an appeals court sorts out whether the ban is ultimately legal.

Leon County Circuit Judge John C. Cooper lifted an automatic stay of his decision last week that Republican Gov. Ron DeSantis and state education officials exceeded their authority by imposing the blanket ban through executive order and tagging defiant pro-mask local school boards with financial penalties.

Cooper said the overwhelming evidence before him in a lawsuit by parents challenging the DeSantis ban is that wearing masks does provide some protection for children in crowded school settings, particularly those under 12 for whom no vaccine yet exists. The issue came to a head amid a recent surge in cases caused by the more contagious and deadly delta variant of the virus, which health statistics show has begun to wane.

"We're not in normal times. We are in a pandemic," Cooper said during a hearing held remotely. "We have a (coronavirus) variant that is more infectious and dangerous to children than the one we had last year."

Since DeSantis signed the mandatory mask ban order on July 30, 13 school boards representing more than half of Florida's 2.8 million students have adopted mask requirements with an opt-out only for medical reasons. State education officials have begun going after rebellious school board members' salaries as a form of punishment.

Jacob Oliva, public schools



News Service of Florida

A Leon County circuit judge again ruled against Gov. Ron DeSantis' attempt to prevent school mask mandates.

chancellor at the state Department of Education, said in a notice last week to local superintendents that "enforcement must cease if the stay is lifted." That includes the effort to dock salaries of school board members or impose other financial penalties.

The case next goes before the 1st District Court of Appeal in Tallahassee. DeSantis said at an appearance Wednesday in Palm Harbor that he is confident the state will prevail. The matter could ultimately be decided by the Florida Supreme Court.

The core of the governor's argument is that the recently passed Parents Bill of Rights gives decision-making authority to parents on whether their children should wear a mask to school.

"What we've found is in the trial courts in Tallahassee, state and federal, we typically lose if there's a political component to it, but then in the appeals court we almost always win," the governor said.

Cooper seemed to go out of his way to point out that he has frequently ruled in favor of Florida governors in the past, including cases involving GOP Govs. Jeb Bush and Rick Scott. Cooper has been a Leon

County circuit judge since he was first elected in 2002.

"If you look at my record, it's not somebody who runs all over the place, ruling against the governor," Cooper said. "This case has generated a lot of heat and a lot of light."

On the Parents Bill of Rights, Cooper said his previous order follows the law as passed earlier this year by the Legislature. The law, he said, reserves health and education decisions regarding children to parents unless a government entity such as a school board can show their broader action is reasonable and narrowly tailored to the issue at hand.

The DeSantis order impermissibly enforces only the first portion of that law, Cooper said. "You have to show you have authority to do what you're doing," the judge said. "You cannot enforce part of that law but not all of it."

In a separate case, parents of special needs children have filed a federal lawsuit claiming the DeSantis mandatory school mask ban violates the Americans with Disabilities Act by placing their medically sensitive children in jeopardy.

A federal judge in Miami did not immediately rule after a hearing Wednesday.

What I love about Putnam

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Photograph By
JIM BAILEY

Early morning at the Bronson Mulholland House.

How to submit your photo for What I Love About Putnam
We encourage people to submit photos for this feature to show off the natural beauty of Putnam County. Emailed pictures should be saved as .jpeg at 200 DPI and sent to pdgraphics@gmail.com. Please include caption information for the picture as well as information about the photographer. All pictures must have been taken in Putnam County. Prints can be mailed or taken to Palatka Daily News, 1825 St. Johns Ave., Palatka, FL 32177 and marked ATTN: What I Love About Putnam Photo.

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At the foot of the bridge across from Musselwhite's in East Palatka



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APPLAUSE



ARTS COUNCIL OF GREATER PALATKA'S HIGH LIFE JAZZ SERIES CONTINUES

By TRISHA MURPHY
Palatka Daily News
tmurphy@palatkadailynews.com

When Stephen Chandler Sr. got his musical start it was beating the drums at his church when he was just a little boy. Who knew he would go on to be inspired by his middle school band teacher, the late Abraham Alexander, to be motivated enough to follow music?

But he did. "I don't have any major music education, it's just a natural gift from God to be able to pick up an instrument and learn it in a minimal time frame," said Chandler, who was born and raised in Putnam County, living here for 52 years.

Today, Chandler who lives in East Palatka, plays quite a few instruments. "I started playing piano/bass when I was about 18 and have been playing the saxophone for about 7 or 8 years," he said.

Chandler is the lead in his band called Stephen Chandler and Sleek that will perform during the Arts Council of Greater Palatka's third High Life Jazz Series Concerts 7-9 p.m. Saturday at the Larimer Arts Center, 216 Reid St. in Palatka. Tickets are \$15 at the door. Seating will be in the lobby and gallery areas in an effort to allow for social distancing.

"We are looking forward to this show as it is Stephen Chandler's CD 'Love Destination' release show," said Denise Aiken, executive director of the Arts Council. "Those who know Stephen and Sleek know this show will be wonderful and those who have not been to one of their shows must come and hear what they have been missing."

Besides the concert, an art exhibit titled, "Drawing From Life" is on display for guests to see featuring the works of Michael Everett, art instructor at Palatka Junior-Senior High School. Everett's exhibit ends Saturday.

Chandler said his new CD showcases the passion of his heart through his music and all songs were written by him except the cover song. CDs will sell for \$15 at the concert.

"Love Destination I would say is directed to love and the process and journey it takes to achieve real love," he said.

According to Chandler, Sleeks name was chosen because it represents smoothness.

"That's our sound," he said. "It doesn't matter what style of song we play, it's going to come out smooth."

Band members include Edwin Givens, vocalist; James White, lead guitar; Godfrey Smith Sr., bass guitar; Willie Wright Jr., drums and center; and Chandler, piano and saxophone.

Chandler said he has several performers who come to mind as far as saxophone players who inspire him.

"Gerald Albright, Dave Koz, Boney James and Kirk See GIFT, Page 6B

NATURAL GIFT

Stephen Chandler and Sleek's
Love Destination CD release is
Saturday during concert at the
Larimer Arts Center



STEPHEN
CHANDLER



Stephen Chandler and Sleek Band members include Chandler seated. Standing from left, are Edwin Givens, James White, Godfrey Smith Sr. and Willie Wright Jr.



Elianna Ramirez is a senior on Crescent City Junior-Senior High's cheering squad. Go team!



Brothers, Gizmo, left, and Chewy, right, are all cleaned up with a trim after a visit to the dog groomer.



Snapshots

Family is everything

Area residents are invited to submit their favorite family or pet photos to publish in the Applause section as space permits. Email photos with names and details to tmurphy@palatkadailynews.com.



LeeQuisha Johnson recently came back to her hometown Palatka to celebrate her 41st birthday. The Gainesville resident had her picture taken outside the old Florida Furniture warehouse.



Grayson Bostick, 5, celebrating his birthday.



Jacob Felton received his Black Belt in karate.



Nathan Bass and mom, Crystal Collins, celebrate!



Clay Alan Wiggs, 8 months, likes getting a bath in the kitchen sink at his Granny and Pop's house.



Brailynn, 6, is ready for her first day of school.



Snickers, 1, doesn't mind sitting and posing for a photo.



Macy Gaskin is excited for her senior year at Palatka Junior-Senior High School.



Seven-month-old Mabel is all paws.



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 22 Cast a vote
 23 Punch server
 26 Up and at 'em
 29 Water, to Pedro
 30 Signaled
 31 Cashew or filbert
 33 Kind of student
 34 Pistols
 35 About 2.2 pounds
 36 Shove off
 38 In a crazy way
 39 Believer
 40 Always, to the bard
 41 Gangplank
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 10 Lisbon lady
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 22 Raw minerals
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 25 Tenderfoot

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FEEL	UNREAD	AMORE	AMORE	AMORE
LOLLE	UNREAD	AMORE	AMORE	AMORE
ONSET	UNREAD	AMORE	AMORE	AMORE

Yesterday's Answer

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
15					16			17		
18					19			20		
21					22			23		
24					25			26		
27					28			29		
30					31			32		
33					34			35		
36					37			38		
39					40			41		
42					43			44		
45					46			47		
48					49			50		
51					52			53		
54					55					

HOROSCOPE

For Thursday, September 9, 2021
 Explore possibilities, and make adjustments that encourage you to use your attributes in new and exciting ways. Update your plans, and make alterations to the way you live and how you take care of yourself, your finances and your relationships with others. Take the time to recognize what's meaningful to you, and restructure your life to fulfill your dreams.

VIRGO
 (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
 Let new energy into your life and pursue the people, places and things that bring you joy. Share your feelings with someone you love. Don't fear change; move forward with confidence.

LIBRA
 (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)
 Aim to stabilize your life and your home environment, and dedicate more time to enjoying the company of those you love. Romance is favored.

SCORPIO
 (Oct. 24-Nov. 22)
 Declutter your life, your home and your mind of stuff that belongs in the past. Learn from the lessons you've encountered, and strive for better days ahead.

SAGITTARIUS
 (Nov. 23-Dec. 21)
 Participate in discussions that interest you or spark your imagination. A chance to help someone or something you believe in will lead to a revelation that will change how you move forward.

CAPRICORN
 (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
 Double-check whatever information comes your way before you pass it along. Expect someone to use emotional tactics to swing your opinion. Do the work yourself to avoid mistakes and disappointment.

AQUARIUS
 (Jan. 20-Feb. 19)
 Make the most with what you've got. Your ingenuity and dedication will shine through and give you the platform you require to get your point across. Celebrate a victory with someone you love.

PISCES
 (Feb. 20-March 20)
 Don't feel the need to interfere when it's best to make sure you have your life in order before you judge what someone else is doing. Nurture relationships instead of trying to change them.

ARIES
 (March 21-April 19)
 You will be exhilarated by the people you meet and the prog-

ress you make. An opportunity to head in a creative direction will boost your need to explore new territory.

TAURUS
 (April 20-May 20)
 Get involved in something geared toward peace of mind, fitness and productivity. Restlessness will set in if you don't keep moving. Make decisions based on what you want, and you will excel.

GEMINI
 (May 21-June 20)
 Spend time with someone who shares your beliefs, enjoys the same pastimes and makes you feel good about yourself. Networking functions will prove to be beneficial. Romance is featured.

CANCER
 (June 21-July 22)
 Having a clear picture will help you decipher the best way to deal with problems that involve others. In the end, you are better off choosing what fits your lifestyle. Please yourself.

LEO
 (July 23-Aug. 22)
 If you get caught in someone's drama, you'll miss a chance to explore new possibilities. Personal gain, educational pursuits and finding your bliss are in your best interest.

ADVICE BY HARRIETTE COLE

Man rejects father's qualities

Dear Harriette: There are a lot of things that I do not like about my dad. He can be very condescending and a bit of a chauvinist. I do not like the way that he speaks to my mother. She is kind and gentle, and my dad talks to her as if she's some type of indentured servant. I'm married now, and I find myself sometimes speaking to my wife in a similar manner. I don't mean to — and she checks me on it every single time. I'm glad that she does. How do I avoid becoming my father? I realize that it's probably something I'll have to actively work against in my marriage. — Dad Habits

Dear Dad Habits: It's time for you to get therapy. People commonly take on the behavioral characteristics of their parents as that is what they witnessed growing up. To break such ingrained patterns of behavior, you should get professional help. Talk to a therapist about your life, your observations of

your father, your own behavior with your wife and your desires for yourself. Be as transparent as possible. The more you share, the easier it will be to come up with a plan of action that will help you to self-regulate your behavior. Enlist your wife's support in this. If she knows that you see your flaws and are prepared to tackle them, she may be able to support your journey.

Be mindful of casting blame on your father. That will help nobody. Instead, focus on yourself, and work to control your thoughts, words and deeds.

Dear Harriette: I've recently started designing shirts and selling them online. When my girlfriend doesn't like a design I've come up with, she'll laugh and make fun of me. Her criticism is never helpful and always just makes me feel small. Is this grounds to end our relationship? — Hurtful Words

Dear Hurtful Words: Invite your girlfriend to sit down and

talk seriously with you. Remind her of how committed you are to your new business and ask her for her support. That doesn't mean you want her to be a yes-person, but tell her that it hurts your feelings when she behaves in a dismissive and mocking way about your work. Ask her to stop laughing at your designs. Instead, if she would like to offer constructive criticism, you are all ears.

Point out that you believe that she may have some insights that are worth considering, and you want to hear her, but it is impossible for you to know how to react when she makes fun of your work rather than offering any real evaluation. Tell her that you are willing to hear her criticism if she can begin to offer it in a thoughtful way. If not, ask her to keep her derision to herself.

BRIDGE

North 09-09-21
 ♠ 10 5 4
 ♥ 6 3 2
 ♦ A 7 4 3
 ♣ A 8 5

West East
 ♠ Q J 9 7 5 4 ♠ J 9 7 6
 ♥ 9 7 5 4 ♥ J 10 8
 ♦ 10 9 8 2 ♦ Q J
 ♣ K Q J 10 ♣ 9 6 4 3

South
 ♠ A K 8 3 2
 ♥ A K Q
 ♦ K 6 5
 ♣ 7 2

Dealer: South
 Vulnerable: North-South

South	West	North	East
1♣	Pass	2♣	Pass
4♣	Pass	Pass	Pass

Opening lead: ♠ K

of vegetarianism for aesthetic and moral reasons, it is my view that a vegetarian manner of living by its purely physical effect on the human temperament would most beneficially influence the lot of mankind."

Now for a slightly easier bridge problem. South is in four spades. What should he do after West leads the club king?

In an echo of yesterday's column, yes, South could have opened two no-trump. His hand does contain 7 ace-king points (2 for an ace and 1 for a king). Kaplan and Rubens deem this hand worth 20.1 points — just enough. If South had opened two no-trump, he would have been in three no-trump and

would have had to play the spade suit with the same care as our declarer in four spades.

South is certain to lose one trick in each minor suit, so he can afford only one trump loser. When the spade ace drops the queen from West, declarer must avoid the temptation to play for the doubleton queen-jack. Instead, he should continue with a low spade to dummy's 10. In a moment, when on the board with the diamond ace, South will play a spade to his eight, draw East's last trump and claim. His probability of success is nearly 82%.

The quote above was written in a letter in 1930 by Albert Einstein.

COMICS

HAGAR THE HORRIBLE

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME WE HAD A RACK OF PORK RIBS?
 LAST NIGHT!
 IT'S TIME TO HAVE THEM AGAIN!

Chris Browne

HI AND LOIS

IT'S GOOD TO HAVE YOU ALL BACK.
 COME BACK.
 ONLINE LEARNING WAS GETTING BORING.
 AND NO SNOW DAYS WAS A BUMMER.

Chance Browne

BEETLE BAILEY

I THINK THE GPS IS WRONG
 SHOULD I TURN IT OFF?
 CONTINUE STRAIGHT

Mort Walker

DILBERT

WOULD YOU PREFER THAT I COMPLETE THE ASSIGNMENTS YOU GAVE ME, OR SHOULD I DO SOMETHING USEFUL INSTEAD?
 I WANT YOU TO DO THE USEFUL THINGS I TOLD YOU TO DO.
 IN THAT CASE, I MUST BE DONE.
 ARE YOU TRYING TO TELL ME SOMETHING?

Scott Adams

JUMPSTART

Take a selfie with us!
 No! We're not friends!
 You have to get along with people even if you disagree with 'em!
 He's right.
 Sage advice from bullies.
 That label is so hurtful!

Robb Armstrong

FOR BETTER OR FOR WORSE

I WANTED TO TEACH A HIGHER GRADE, AND I WASN'T SURE I'D BE TRANSFERRED TO THIS SCHOOL!
 BUT HERE I AM, LADIES! YOU'LL HAVE THE PLEASURE OF MY COMPANY FOR A WHILE LONGER!
 WE GET MISS EDWARDS FOR MATH! THAT IS SO COOL! SHE MAKES STUFF INTERESTING REMEMBER?
 YEAH.
 ...HERS WAS ALWAYS THE TOUGHEST CLASS TO SLEEP IN.

Lynn Johnston

BLONDIE

WEEKLY CASH FLOW REPORT, BUMSTEAD?
 RIGHT-O, BOSS! WE TOOK IN \$128.50! ONCE IT'S DISBURSED, WE'LL HAVE ZERO
 WHAT?! YOU'RE TELLING ME OUR COMPANY ONLY EARNED 128 BUCKS THIS WEEK?
 I THOUGHT YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT THE FOOTBALL POOL!
 WHAP!

Dean Young & John Marshall

THE BORN LOSER

ARE YOU READY FOR THE START OF THE NFL SEASON TONIGHT?
 YOU BET!
 I EVEN BOUGHT A NEW TV WITH A SCREEN THAT'S A FOOT WIDER THAN MY OLD ONE!
 I COULDN'T AFFORD THAT, SO I MOVED MY RECLINER A FOOT CLOSER TO MY TV!

Chip Sansom

BABY BLUES

HOW'S LIFE ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL, ZOE?
 EXHAUSTING.
 YEP, THAT'S POLITICS-SHAKING HANDS AND KISSING BABIES.
 I'VE NEVER SEEN THE PRESIDENT DO THAT.
 KISS! KISS! KISS!
 DAD DOESN'T LIE.
 SHAKE! SHAKE! SHAKE!

Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman

GARFIELD

FEEL LIKE CHASING ME?
 NO
 OKAY
 SEE YOU
 SOMETIMES NATURE ISN'T CRUEL

Jim Davis

Gift

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1B

Whalum to name a few," he said.

A frequent at the Larimer Arts Center, Chandler said it is his favorite place to play.

"I like playing in Palatka because of the vibe and the appreciation of the fans and followers of myself and Sleek," he said. "Most of the band members are from Putnam County and St. Johns. Besides Palatka, we have played in surrounding cities including Palm Coast, Daytona. Nothing far, but that's my goal."

Aiken said the group has been performing for the Arts Council for a long time.

"We enjoy the energy from each and everyone of the members," she said. "Stephen has become a great friend of mine and has become a great friend of the Arts Council. He works hard to present the best show anywhere they perform. He holds his band in high regard and they are all just wonderfully talented. So no matter if Stephen is performing solo or with the band it is always a great show."

During Saturday's concert, Stephen Chandler and Sleek will also pay a special tribute to the 20th anniversary of 9/11.

"What I hope concert-goers take with them is a feeling of joy, excitement, a better outlook on life and a lot of love," Chandler said.

The Arts Council is the designated local arts agency for Putnam County and is a 501(c)(3) non-profit supported in part by the Putnam County Tourist Development Council, the city of Palatka and its programs. For details, email artsinputnam@aol.com.

Chandler describes his group's music as gospel, R&B and smooth jazz and admits he can't say he has a favorite song on the new CD.

"I would have to say all of them are my favorites because each has a unique story," he said. "I would say my signature would be love and romance."

Chandler said over the years he has developed the skill of songwriting. He admits his singing would be mostly background vocals. However, he has dabbled with lead vocals from time-to-time.

"What I love about my music is the originality of it and the way it makes me feel when I'm playing it and being able to share my heart and creativity with others," he said. "I feel like my music takes me to a different plate of life."

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LET NOT YOUR HEART BE TROUBLED

You will keep in perfect peace
Those whose minds are stayed on You.
You are God Almighty,
And there is nothing You cannot do.

I'll let not my heart be troubled,
And I will not be afraid.
I know You'll never leave me;
But be with me always.

He that endures to the end,
The same shall be saved.
I will trust in You completely;
All the way to the grave.

Then I'll live with You forever
On a happy golden shore,
Where sickness, pain,
Sighing or sorrow
Will come never more.

Joy Gallagher
San Mateo

POETRY

MY DESTINY

God, if I but live my life for me
No thought of others, even Thee
Where then does my future stand
Here on this earth without a plan
To chart my destiny?

I found that plan then studied well
Applied those lessons then with love
To be of service to our Lord
To give to others all my care
Both here at home and every where
And in these short days
before the end
Contemplate my life again.

I think about the good old days
And yes, the bad ones, too.
I shared those times with those
I love
With laughter and with tears.

But never, Lord, did I give up
Your grace did see us through.
Now I look around to see
The love surrounding me
And realize
This was My Destiny.

Margaret N.D. Campbell
Palatka

Dedicated to Homer Daniel DeLoach
Sr. (brother), July 26, 1996

GOT POETRY?

Area poets are invited to submit their original pieces to publish in the *Palatka Daily News*. Poems should include a title and the writer's name, area of Putnam County they live and a phone number in case of questions. Poetry publishes as space permits and no particular order. Email poetry to tmurphy@palatkadailynews.com.

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Restaurant Review

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