

# PALATKA DAILY NEWS

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## Getting his kicks - Not!

By NICK BLANK  
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It was a busy weekend into early Monday morning for local law officers, highlighted by the arrest of a 31-year-old who was too eager to kick up his heels.

Satsuma resident Bobby Wise faces several charges related to damaging and entering a Putnam County Sheriff Office deputy's car early Monday morning, an agency report said.

Wise was charged with burglary, resisting an officer with violence and property damage.

Deputies said they received a call about

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## Student charged after knife found at school

Palatka Daily News

INTERLACHEN - A 14-year-old student at C.H. Price Middle School was arrested Monday for bringing a fixed blade knife onto campus.

The Putnam County Sheriff's Office said in a social media post that the student had the knife in his pocket. Youth resource deputies on campus were notified and took the student into custody, according to the sheriff's office. He was released to custody of a parent and will receive a court date. No additional information was available by press time.

It is the second time in less than two weeks a student has been arrested at C.H. Price for having a weapon on campus. On April 22, two students received felony charges after a meat cleaver was found in one of their backpacks.

## (Too) Smooth Sailing



A sailboat is pulled back into the tray Saturday morning as the 67th Mug Race gets underway. Due to weak wind, 36 competitors did not finish the race.

## Inconsistent weather conditions greet sailors for return of Mug Race

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The 67th Mug Race's Saturday start in Palatka felt like a return to normal for sailors and organizers with a fun day on the water and inconsistent weather conditions.

The 2020 Mug Race was canceled

due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Mug Race Chairwoman Donna Mohr said sailors started off strong, yet they experienced a lack of wind during the middle portion of the 38-nautical mile course on the St. Johns River. Thirty-six of the 76 racers did not finish.

"It was the kind of wind favored by small, lightweight boats," Mohr said. "One experienced racer told me the

first few miles determined who finished and who didn't."

The race is held by the Rudder Club of Jacksonville with assistance from Palatka Yacht Club members in Putnam County.

The first racer to cross the finish line in Orange Park was Jim Zellmer, of

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SARAH CAVACINI/Palatka Daily News

Bread of Life volunteers talk Monday in the new Fifth Street building after serving meals for the first time since construction was completed in the organization's revamped center.

## Bread of Life gets fresh start to combat local hunger

By SARAH CAVACINI  
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Fresh coats of gray and orange paint on a Fifth Street building in Palatka mark a place where people can receive a hot meal five days a week.

Members of Bread of Life's board of directors officially opened the organization's revamped headquarters Monday at the 320 N. Fifth Street location.

Renovations were ongoing for more than a year, beginning in 2019, according to board President Cliff Lyda. During renovations on the Fifth Street building, volunteers served hot meals out of the First Presbyterian Church of

Palatka's Westminster Hall on Second Street.

Lyda said volunteers served hamburger meals to 40 people Monday and today's dish will be Salisbury steak. Meals are served 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, with extra food given out Friday to last the weekend, he said.

Although the coronavirus pandemic caused some shutdowns and not as many volunteers could help, Lyda said not everything was bad because the Bread of Life team learned a lot.

"The pandemic has given us a lot of gifts. And one of the gifts was we refined this process during that time," he said. "So, now we come over here (and) what we refined over there is the

perfect way to serve here."

Anyone can receive a meal with no questions asked or identification taken, Lyda said. And the new center has picnic tables behind the building for people to sit and eat.

Kim Daley, Bread of Life's community resource liaison, said working on this project was one of the greatest community ventures she has been involved with.

"This was a mission that was destined to close, and even pre-pandemic," she said about the building before renovations. "(There) was just part of this community that needed, deserved the opportunity to be renewed."

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## Crime News

### 'Please help. He's coming back.'

A Palatka man is accused of threatening a woman with a knife and saying he would torch their apartment down Saturday.

Danny Felder, 67, was charged with aggravated assault and attempting to smuggle a weapon into a detention facility, according to a Palatka Police Department arrest report.



Felder

Officers were dispatched to the house at 11:58 p.m. Saturday in response to a man threatening a woman with a knife and a large metal pipe before punching a hole in the bedroom wall.

"Please help. He's coming back," dispatchers were told during the 911 call.

The report said Felder left and returned to the apartment with a gas container. He told the victim if she left he would pour gasoline on the front and rear door of the apartment and set it on fire. Witnesses said Felder left again to visit a home near Kennedy Street. Officers later located Felder near the Taco Bell on Crill Avenue.

Police secured footage of the apartment complex and saw Felder, who appeared intoxicated and upset, threatening to kill a victim. After being searched, Felder told officers he did not have any dangerous items on his person. However, corrections deputies found a knife in Felder's waistband. Felder's bond was set at \$10,000.

### ID by face tattoos leads to arrest

Palatka Police Department officers said a Palatka man brought cocaine into a patrol car after he was arrested initially on a traffic violation.

Christopher Crowley, 43, is charged with destroying evidence, smuggling contraband into a detention facility, cocaine possession and driving with a license suspended.

A police report said an officer patrolling St. Johns Avenue observed a man with face tattoos driving a white Volkswagen



Crowley

5:49 p.m. Saturday matching the description of a man with a warrant. The car was registered to another person, who was a passenger during Crowley's arrest, the report said.

The vehicle was stopped near Pine Street for a dark window tint. Crowley gave officers a false name and did not present identification, the report said. The officer was able to identify Crowley and he was arrested on a probation violation.

Heading to Putnam County Jail, the officer observed Crowley messing with his handcuffs as if he was trying to conceal something, the report said. An officer pulled Crowley out of the car and saw "crumbs" of cocaine stuffed into the backseat.

Officers found 1.69 grams of cocaine brought into the car by Crowley. Crowley was denied bond on a probation violation.

- Palatka Daily News



Rudder Club of Jacksonville member Jon Hamilton gets ready to begin the 67th Mug Race near Memorial Bridge.

## Sailing

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Sarasota, in a Nacra Carbon 20 catamaran. For adjusted time, the top finisher was David Moring, Ocala, in a Flying Scot dinghy.

"Everybody who came off the water said they had a great time," Mohr said. "We were extremely happy. We cannot do this race without the Palatka Yacht Club."

"It was really nice to have as many boats that we had this year because

last year when we couldn't hold the race at all," Yacht club member David Girardin said. "Boating is a really safe activity, even with COVID going on."

Chip Laibl helmed the start boat, which carries race officials. He said the race had 120 sailors in 2019, so 76 boats after a pandemic year is a solid figure. Starting the race in downtown Palatka was a return to tradition after Hurricane Irma damaged city docks in 2017.

"You've got to remember we took a year off, and a couple years before that, we had to deal with hurricane damage," Laibl said. "Crystal Cove did a really good job (in 2018 and 2019)."

Laibl said he's competed in many Mug Races, but being an official gives him a different perspective.

He said a lack of wind may make the race twice as long. When asked about the unfortunate sailor who encountered bees, Laibl recalled past races beset by slow paces and lighting, as well as races where easterly winds carried his vessel to the finish line, in what sailors call a "sleigh ride."

"We've had some hellacious years and we've had some great years too," Laibl said.

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## Bee-aten racer flips boat to escape stings

There was a most unusual glitch for one contestant in Saturday's Mug Race.

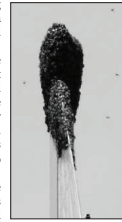
Yacht club member David Girardin saw what could be a Mug Race first: hundreds of honeybees cling to the mast of a boat and ended the boater's day.

Girardin came across the boat and wondered how it could have been flipped over with no wind. The sailor flipped the boat to get the bees away.

"We see they've got a wad of bees on the boat and we're thinking, 'What's going on here?'" Girardin said. "There must have been 500 bees on there. They just latched on."

Girardin had to tow the boat to a ramp. Girardin said he's never seen a stranger event in his 30-plus years of the race.

- Nick Blank



Submitted photo  
Bees swarm at the top of a boat during the 67th Mug Race. The boat had to be towed to a dock.

## Bread

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Daley and Lyda said they didn't know how or where to start with the project, but through grants, community volunteers and a lot of donations, it all came together.

"It was just one of those things that kept tugging at me that we could do this," Daley said. "... Seeing it right now, I couldn't even talk about it (Sunday). My heart was so full, and I wanted to just cry. But it was tears of happiness."

Despite Monday being the first day back in the building, Lyda was already thinking on plans for the building's future and putting the new commercial-grade kitchen to good use.

"One of our long-term goals is to become a place where meals are prepared for home



SARAH CAVACINI/Palatka Daily News

delivery for people who can't get out," he said. "... That's an aspiration. But that became a much greater possibility after this was done."

Bread of Life always welcomes donations or volunteers. Lyda suggested people visit the Bread of Life, Palatka, Florida Facebook page for more information.

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Cliff Lyda, president of the Bread of Life board of directors, points out different features the new Bread of Life building has Monday to maximize the number of people who can be served.

SARAH CAVACINI/Palatka Daily News

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