CLASS OF GRADUATION



Mellon Learning Center



Crescent City Jr/Sr High School



Interlachen Jr/Sr High School



Palatka Jr/Sr High School



Q.I. Roberts Jr/Sr High School



Peniel Baptist Academy

A Special Publication Of

PALATKA DAILY NEWS







Ieremiah Blocker



W. Iason Odom



Christopher LoBianco



Ierrod Williams



Kevin Sharbaugh



Morgan Peacock



John Steinmetz



Marcus Duffy



Ian Pickens





John Schaller



Holly Southworth



S. Garrett Lee

117 N. 2nd Street, Palatka, FL 32177 • 386.530.2955 www.DHClawyers.com

Looking beyond grades to succeed

School district offers variety of paths for students to excel

By Peter Willott Palatka Daily News pwillott@palatkadailynews.com

As the 2024-2025 school year draws to a close, Superintendent Rick Surrency has a message for the community: the Putnam County School District is no longer defined by limitations but by opportunity, achievement and forward-thinking innovation.

"This has been one of the most exciting and impactful school years I've experienced as superintendent," Surrency said in an interview at the district's headquarters earlier this month. "From national recognition to individual student success stories, our district is showing what's possible when you believe in your students and prepare them for the real world."

Putnam County's accomplishments didn't go unnoticed. The district was named Cambridge District of the Year in the small district category, a distinction awarded by Cambridge University Press & Assessment. Putnam was one of only three districts nationwide to receive the honor, which recognizes a deep and consistent commitment to academic excellence, innovation and access to college-level curriculum.

"This is the first time our district has received this level of national recognition," Surrency said. "It's a testament to our teachers, students and staff who have worked to raise the bar."

Among the most celebrated achievements this school year were two students – Anahi Lugo of Crescent City Junior-Senior High School and D'Montay Barnes of Palatka Junior-Senior High School – receiving the prestigious Gates Scholarship. The highly selective, full cost-of-attendance award is given to just 750 high-achieving minority students nationwide out of more than 48,000 applicants.

The district also celebrated over 70 students earning Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education diplomas, which qualify them for full state of Florida Bright Futures Scholarships. Fourteen seniors earned their associate degrees from St. Johns River State College through dual enrollment, and 21 seniors in the Take Stock in Children program were awarded 60-credit scholarships for post-secondary education.

"This year's senior class has more college and career opportunities than any group before them," Surrency said. "And it's not just about college, we're also preparing them to enter high-demand, high-wage careers."

Under Surrency's leadership, the district has prioritized

career readiness. Through its career and technical education offerings, students can access numerous career pathways, including aerospace, building construction, welding, emergency medical technician and firefighter training, health sciences, agri-science, advanced manufacturing, robotics and computer science.

"We're giving students more than just a diploma," Surrency said. "We're giving them certifications that lead to real careers."

The aerospace program, which this year saw numerous students complete their first solo flights, thanks to partnerships with Embry-Rid-

dle Aeronautical University and airports in Palatka and Keystone Heights.

"Imagine being a high school student and flying a plane by yourself," Surrency said. "It's incredible, and we're one of the only districts in Florida providing this opportunity."

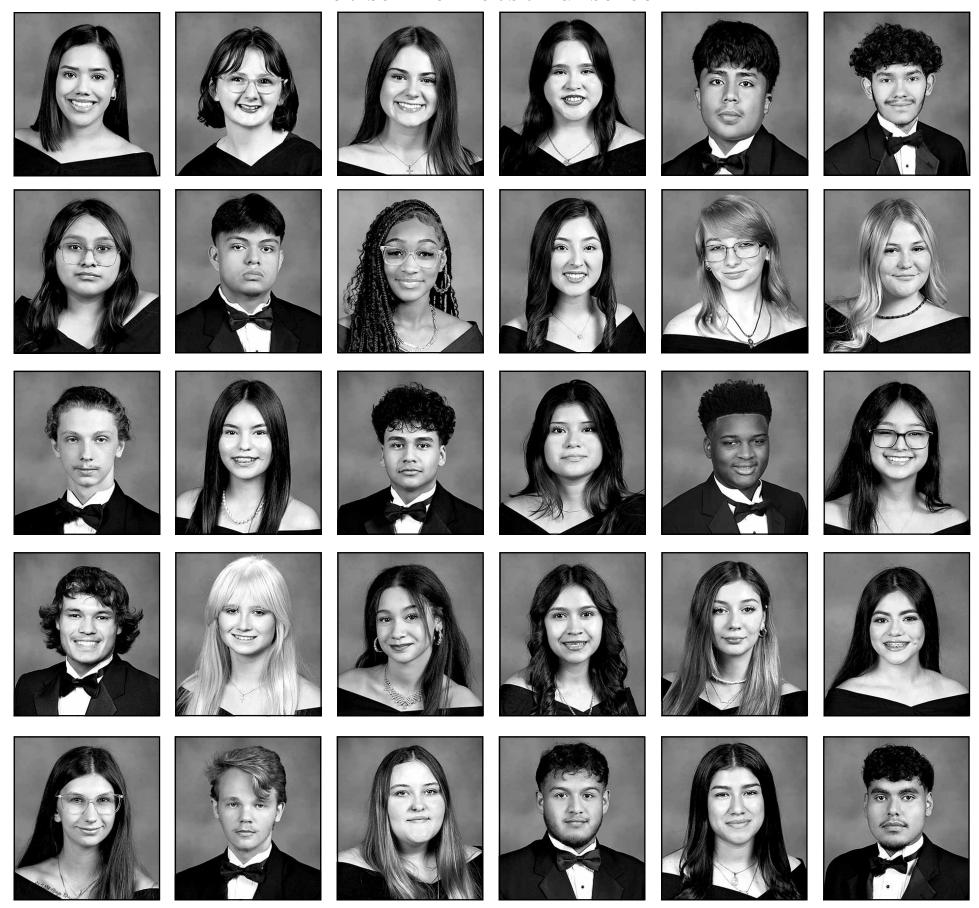
Students at Q.I. Roberts Junior-Senior High won a national Esports championship, defeating high school and

Continued on page 33



Peter Willott / Palakta Daily News hool District headquarters in Palatka

Superintendent Rick Surrency stands outside the Putnam County School District headquarters in $\rm \check{P}alatka$ earlier this month.



Seniors names are listed on page 9



Seniors names are listed on page 9



Seniors names are listed on page 9



Seniors names are listed on page 9



Seniors names are listed on page 9

ACUNA-RIOS, FRANCISCO AGUILA FARIAS, JUAN ALBARRAN, AIDETH ALBARRAN, BRISA ALLMON, ALYSSA ALVARADO-OTERO, MARISOL ALVAREZ, ARLETTE ALVAREZ, REBECCA ALVAREZ-RAMIREZ, ANTHONY AMBRIZ, JULIZA ARNOLD, ALLISON ARROYO, RILEY AVILA, PRINCESS AVILA-RODRIGUEZ, OSCAR BAIZAN, ALONDRA BALTAZAR-MORALES, FRANCISCO BANKS, CHRISTE'ANNA BENITEZ, JOHANNA BOHANON, EMILY BROWN, ZACHARY BUENO-ARREDONDO, MONCERAP **BUENO-GONZALEZ, AALAN** CABRERA-SOTO, KACEY CALLWOOD, JADEN CASTELAN-BARRERA, CYNTHIA CASTRO, ZAMARA CHANDLER II, HEROLD (DAVID) CHARLES, ARYANNA CISNEROS-PONCE, JOSE CONSUELOS. FLORESITA CORTEZ-FLORES, MAYTE COYLE, ALEXIA CREWS, JOE CRIBBS, EMMALEIGH CRUZ, LEONARDO CRUZ-RAMOS, PAOLA CRUZ-SAGRERO, ERIC **CUMMINGS, JONAH** DELANEY, SHAE DOMINGUEZ, MIGUEL EARNEY, TROY **ENCARNCION, SCARLETT** ERKMAN, THOMAS FITZGERALD, AIDEN FOJTIK, TAMERA

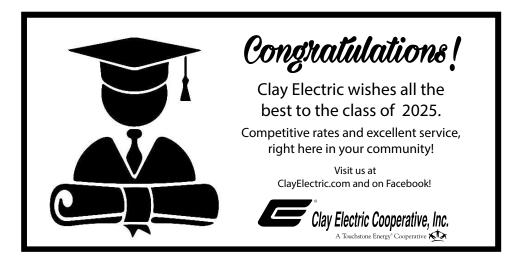
FULLER, JA'MARIS

GALARZA, ARIEL GARCES, TRINITY GARCIA, DIANA GARCIA, VALERIE GARCIA-JAIMES, SEBASTIAN GILL. NAHJAI GODINEZ MARTINEZ, JOSE GOFF, CAYLEE GOMEZ, MELANIE GOMEZ-LIRA II, CHRISTOPHER GOMEZ-MORENO, CASANDRA GONZALEZ, EVA GONZALEZ, JAYCOB GONZALEZ, MYRANDA **GUERRERO VALLADARES, WILBER** GUEVARA, ISAI GUILLEN-ROCHA, GUADALUPE HARRIS, TAYLOR HERNANDEZ, ISAI HERNANDEZ, MICHAEL HERNANDEZ-ALFARO, NATASHA HERNANDEZ-GOMEZ. ALEXIS HURTADO, IVETTE ISLAS TERRAZAS, NAOMI JENKINS, JULIETTE JENKINS JR., ERIC JONES, JEWEL JUAREZ-GONZALEZ, JARED KAY, SHELBY KLOTH, KAYLINDA KRAWCZYK, JACOB LOCKARD, GARRETT LOPEZ, BRYAN LOPEZ, RUBEN LUGO, ANAHI MADDEN, WYATT MADEYA, COLE MAJOR JR., FREDDIE MANCILLA, YANELI MARTINEZ, ASHLEY MARTINEZ, AUSTIN MARTINEZ-AGUILAR, RICHARD MCCANTS, BE'ASIA MCCARTNEY, ALAN MEDINA, ABIGAIL

MILLARD, ABIGAIL

MOORE, NYEEM MORALES, RACHEL MUNOZ-ALVAREZ, YAHIR NOYOLA ZAMORATEGUI, JUAN OFFORD, GABRIELLE PAUL, MITHILA PENA, LESLIE PEREZ-CUENCA, CAMILA PEREZ-LIRA, DAVID PEREZ-LUGO. ELIZABETH PEREZ-VAZQUEZ, EDGAR PEREZ-VERDUGO, ELKIN PFEIFER, HAILEY QUINTANA, DAVID RAMIREZ, CARLOS RAY, ELIZABETH RICHARD, ASHLEY RIFE, JACOB ROBINSON, JAKE RODRIGUEZ, ILAI RODRIGUEZ, MELINDA RODRIGUEZ-GOMEZ, JOANA ROULHAC, JY'NAYA SAMFORD, COLEMAN SANCHEZ, JENNIFER SANTANA, VIVIANA SANTIAGO, LAELA SANTOS, JULIANA SAYLER, LIAM SERRANO-SANTANA, FELIPE SERVIN-QUINONEZ, UYLESES SERVIN-SANTANA, BELINDA SHARPER, MALAYA SMITH, JA'MARIYA SOBOTKA, ALEXANDER

SOLIS, JOSELYN SOLIZ, ADRIAN SOLIZ, ALIZEY SOTO, DANIELA STABLES IV, DONALD STANTON, LILLI STOLTZ, MYCAH STRONG, JORDAN STUCKEY, MACY SULLIVAN, LOGAN TESSARO, MADALYN TRAWICK, SHAE UTLEY, ANTHONEY VARGAS-OCAMPO, SAMUEL VAZQUEZ-ORTIZ, DARWIN VAZQUEZ-PEREZ. MAGALIE VERDE-ROBLES, ERICA VERDUGO, LISANIA WASHINGTON, KALANA WAUGH, TOBIAS WELLS, AUDREY WELLS, JEFFREY WILLIAMS, ARZAVIAN WILLS, CALEB WINSTEAD, CHARLES WORLOW, TRAVIS ALVARADO, JACOB BAHENA, STEVEN CHANDLER, KIRA NEARING, KEATON RIOS-ACUNA, ELISABETH WILLIAMS, ARDIANA





Seniors names are listed on page 15





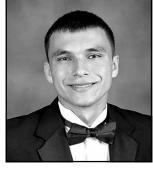












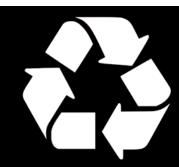








Seniors names are listed on page 15



1st Coast Recycling, Inc. TOP \$\$\$\$ PAID

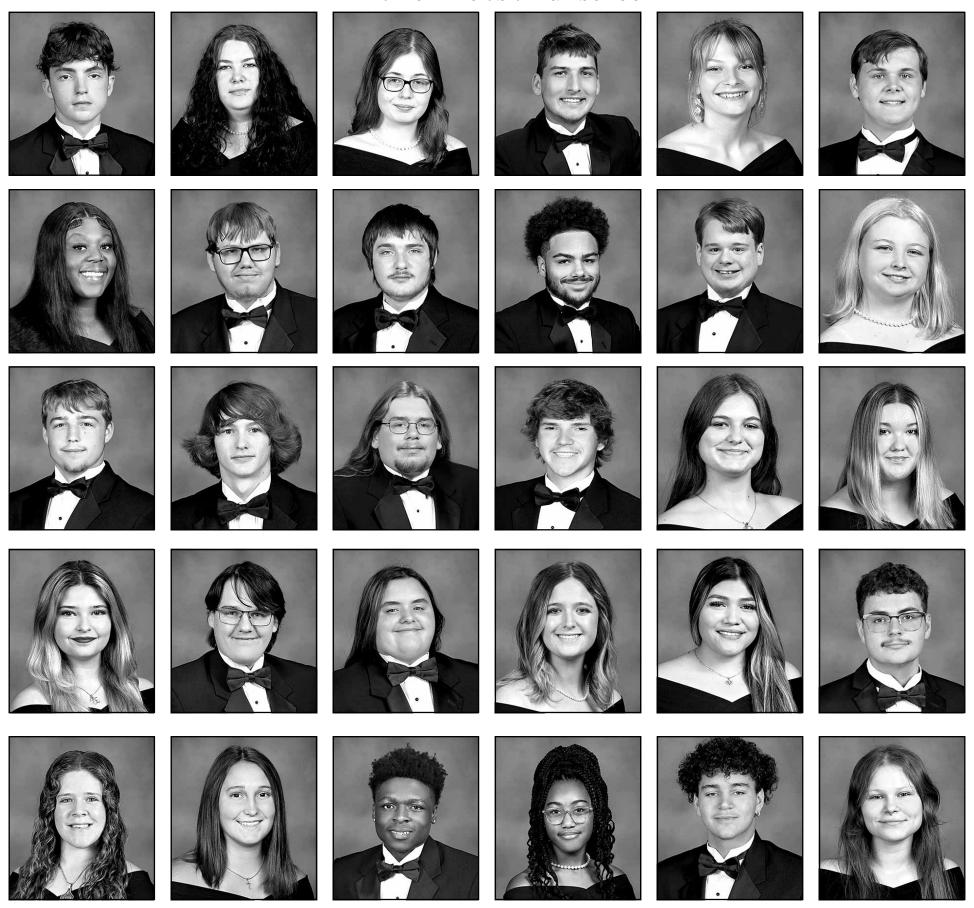
Aluminum • Aluminum Cans • A/C Coils
Radiators • Brass & Copper
Batteries • Electric Motors • Stainless Steel
Lead • Insulated Copper
Litho • Steel & Cast Iron • E-Scrap



Open Monday - Friday 8am - 4:15pm • Closed Saturday & Sunday

108 Seaboard Dr., Palatka (Hwy 17N on right, 1 mile North of Hwy 19)

386-326-6061



Seniors names are listed on page 15



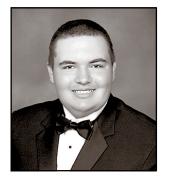




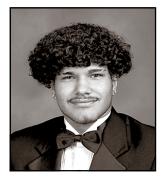






























Seniors names are listed on page 15





Seniors names are listed on page 15

AGUILLEN, NATHALEE KRYSTAL ANGLES, CONNER RAY ASTIN, DANTE' JOSE' BEACH, JAELYN ALYSSA BIFARO, WAYLON JASON BOGDEN, TANNER JOSEPH BOISVERT, EMERY MARSHALL BRAGG, MIRANDA STARR BREWER. ZOE LEANNE BRILLHART, MELODY ANN BROWNE, EMMITT BENNETT CABAN, TITO ERNESTO, IV CARBAJAL, ALEXIS CERRO, JOSUE ALBERTO CEYLER, CAITLYN NICOLE CEYLER, DYLAN ROBERT CONE, MARANDA LEE CORDERO ASENCIO, ANGEL YADIEL CRAWFORD, BRIDGETTE SHAYLIN CRAWFORD, MARK ANTHONY, II CRAWFORD, SHYANNE ELIZABETH CRUZ, ISAIAH WILLIAM CYR, KAITLYN MARIE DAVIS-SHANKS, A'ZIAH SAMANIAE DAVIS, ALEXANDER SCOTT DELANCEY, ANTHONIE MICHAEL DEVEAU, MARIAH MAE EDWARDS, ANTHONY TYRONE, II EILAND, ZACKARY JASON ELLIOTT, DESIRAY ROSE MARIE ELLISON, JA'LACIA **ENNIS, ANTHONY CHARLES** ENNIS, PAYTEN CHRISTOPHER FARLEY, BRENT DOUGLAS FARWELL, JERAMIAH JOSEPH FONTANEZ, ISABELLA CELESTE GAFFNEY, MORGAN DONNA LYNN GANION, LILLY ANN GARCIA, ANGEL MARIE GASKIN. LILIANA LYNN GEDDES, LANDON JARED GEORGE, HAYDEN ADAM-JEFFREY GERING, MICHAEL CHRISTOPHER GLEASON, MAELYNN NICOLE GONZALEZ-GINEZ, ROGER **GUNTER, BRYCE JONATHAN GUZMAN. CAMILO** HAMLIN, HAILLIE MARIE

HARRIS. DIAMOND ALEXUS HEADLEY, ISAIAH MICHAEL HEITZMANN, CARLA MARIA HERSHBERGER, ERIC ADAM, JR. HILDEBRANT, TIA JANE HISAW, ELISSA FAITH HOFFMAN, MILES WAYNE HOOD, CHRISTOPHER JESSE HOWARD, LEAH MORGAN HUNTER, CALEB ANTHONY HYATT, RONNIE HARRISON, JR. IRIZARRY, JUNIOR MANUEL IRIZARRY, MILLIEANA LEE IVEY-WILLIAMS, JULLISSIA THOMA JANSEN, ALEX WILLIAM JOHNSON, AIDEN JOSEPH JOHNSON, GIOVANI LYETON JOHNSON, MAXWELL BROOKS JOHNSON, TYLER ERNEST JUSTYNSKI, BRAEDYN AVA KEEN, GARY ALLEN, JR KELLY TAYLOR, KYLIN ANTHONY KING, DAVID WADE KING, TRACE TODD KIRKLAND, EMILEY HOPE KNOWLES, AVALON KRISTIAUNA LAWS, AUTUMN BRI LEGERE, LEWIS ROBERT LEGERE. STEVEN EDWARD. III LEONG, ALEXIS TAYLOR LITZELL, AVA ISABELLA MACIAS, ODALIS MALEY, JACOB ANTHONY MALOY, TANNER RAGAN MANNING, WILLIE TIMOTHY MCCOLLUM, PAIGE ELIZABETH MCKINNON, TYSON MITRELL MCNAIR, TAVEON JA'KEEM MELENDEZ, DIAVVIAN MO'NAE SHAP MELVIN, COLE HIRAM MISHOE, CLOE MARIE MITCHELL, BYRON RESHARD, JR. MITCHUM, JUNE ALEXANDRIA MITCHUM, SOPHIA ADRIANA MOFFET, ELIZA MAY MOSELEY, RANDALL SETH MOSLEY, DESTINY ANNE

MOSLEY, KAVARIONA LAFAITH JANA

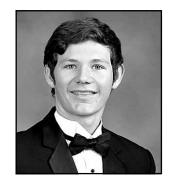
MURRAY, JAMES CARL NIXON, JAQUEVIS TRAVON NODA, ROSEMARY LYNN NORMAN, STARLA LYNNE ORTIZ, JADEN RAYMOND ORTIZ, MARIANA PARRISH, ERYN DANIELLE PAULINO, MIKAYLA YEZIKA PAVLIK, JACK MERRIL PELLETIER, CHLOE MARIE PELLETIER, KYLE FLOYD POOLE, ASHLYNN JADE RAYHORN, EVERETT JAMES REED, GREGORY ALYN RICHARDS, JESSE EUGENE, JR RICHARDSON, TATEI'ONNA CHRISTI RIDDLEY, HEAVYN DIANE RIVERA, JAYDEN SCOTT RODRIGUEZ, JULIANETE ROLON, NICO RAMONE ROSADO, JANIE NOEMI ROSALES, ISIS GABRIELA **RUTH, MARTAVIUS ANDRES** RUTLEDGE, RODERAS EUGENE, JR SANCHEZ, CHRISTIAN, JR SANDERS, JOHN LOGAN SANTIAGO-CRUZ, JASMINE SANTIAGO, YANELIS SAVINCKI, ALEXANDRA ROSE ARLEN SCOTT, EMILY LORRAINE SEBREE, JORDYN ALISSA SHORTER, SANIAH SY'TERIA SIMPSON, HUNNI CHERI SLEDGE, DANNI MICHELE

SMITH, LEIGHA JEAN SMITH, LINDSEY RENEE SMITH, TRISTAN BRYANT STONE, MADISON NOEL SULLIVAN, ALAINA ERIN THOMAS, JADEN LEE THOMAS, TYLER RAY TYRE, MICHAEL DWAYNE, III VASQUEZ, E'MYA CHRISTINA VELEZ, MISAEL HOLGUIN VICKERS, MADYSON REANN WARD, ASHTEN JOHN WAXMAN, BIANCA RAYNE WEAVER, RIAN AMBROSIA RENAE WHITMAN, SNOW MARIE WILLIAMS, CORION CHAUNCEY WILLIAMS, DEVON LE'TRELL WORMUTH, ANDREW TYLER ZABAD, ABED-ALJABBAR HUSSEIN ZABAD, ALI-ALREDA HUSSEIN





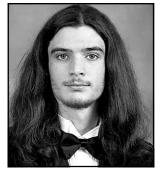
PENIEL BAPTIST ACADEMY





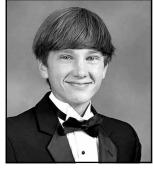


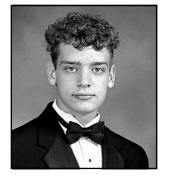










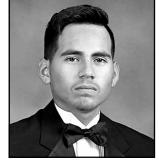
















CALEB BAKER
TRISTAN BLACKWELDER
BELLA BRYAN
EMILY DENNEY
BRIAN DOUGLAS
JENNA GEISER
JADEN HALE
SETH HALE
HAYDEN MACGIBBON
HAYLIE MACGIBBON
HOLDEN MOORE
KYLIE MUSTERED
LEXI PEACOCK
ISSAC RODRIGUEZ
LILLY ZUMBAR



MELLON LEARNING CENTER







TIMOTHY ELLIS BURKS

MASON LIHLE PAULSEN

AKKADIAN TY'SHAWN MONTIQUE SMITH

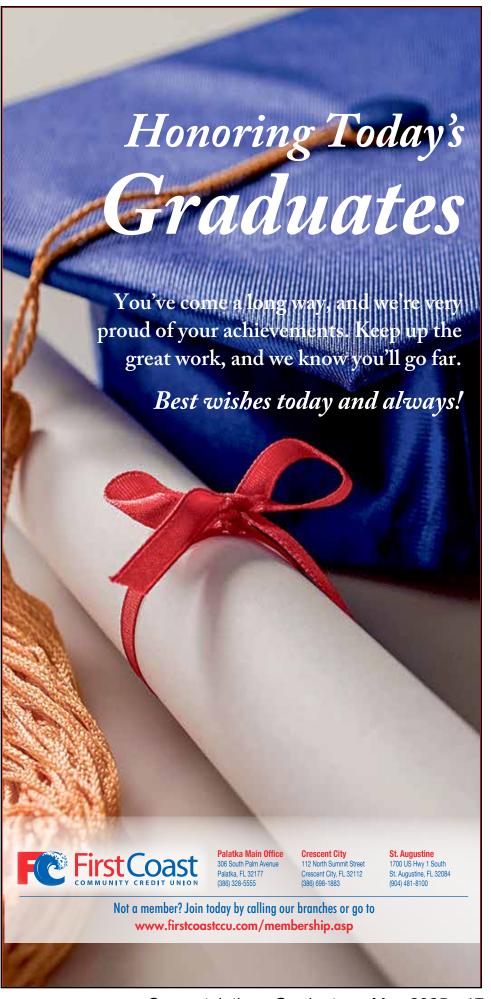
Congratulations Class of 2025!





The Clerk's Office wishes you the best for a bright future. We celebrate your hard work and achievement and hope all of your dreams come true!







Seniors names are listed on pages 27 & 28





Susan G Helwig Ins Agcy Inc Susan Helwig ChFC CLU, Agent 836 S. Moody Rd, Next to Walmart susan@susanhelwig.com www.susanhelwig.com 386-312-1002 Toll Free: 866-312-1002

State Farm Bloomington, IL 2001293

Here's the deal. I'll be there for you.

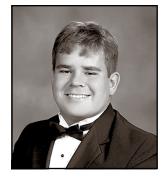
The future has a lot of what ifs, and it's a good feeling to have someone in your corner and around the corner to help you plan for them. Call or text me today.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.®

Call or Text 386-312-1002



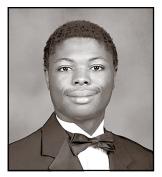


























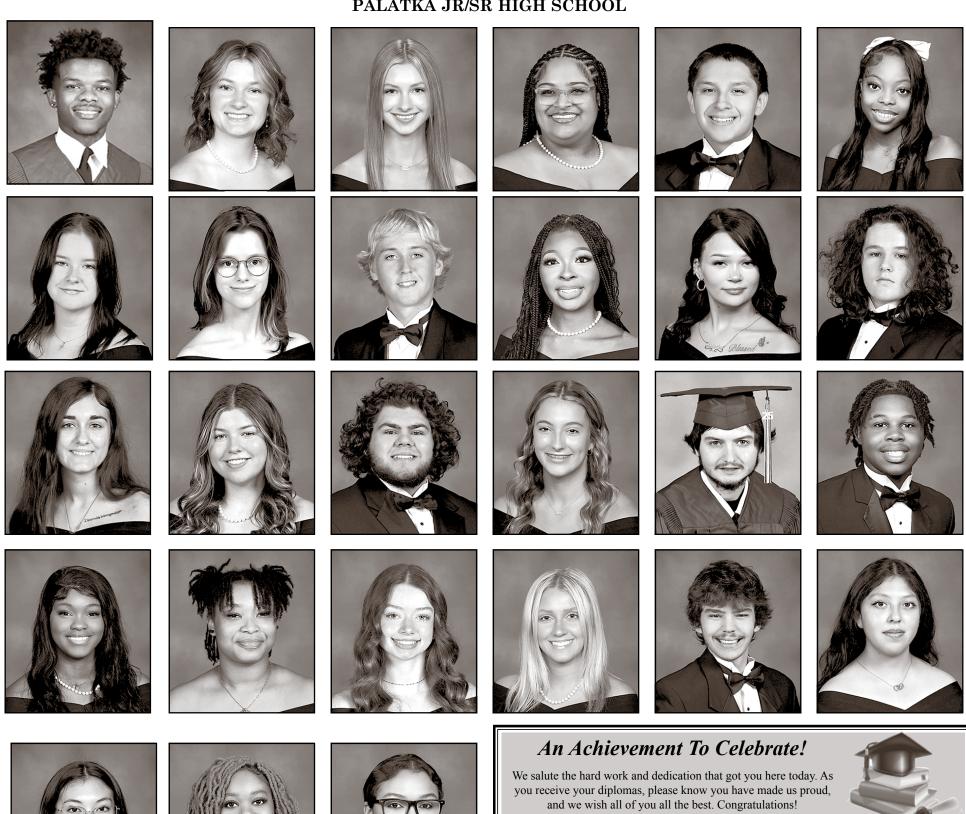
Seniors names are listed on pages 27 & 28



CONGRATULATIONS TO THE SEMINOLE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2025!

Bailey Morgan Tarrant, Bartram Trail High School (Rick Barlow) - Trace King, Interlachen High School (Chan Jones) - Haleigh Faulkner, Palatka High School (Charles Faulkner) - Madyson Morris, Palatka High School (Brandon Morris) - Gracie Turner, Palatka High School (Jess Turner) - Rylan Cade Vernor, Palatka High School (Kenneth Vernor) - Natalee Hardy, Putnam Virtual School (Jay Hardy) - Javen Palmer, QI Roberts (Shane Palmer)

Seminole-Electric.com



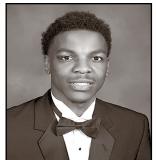
Seniors names are listed on pages 27 & 28



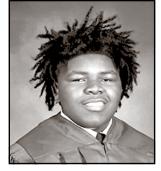


Seniors names are listed on pages 27 & 28



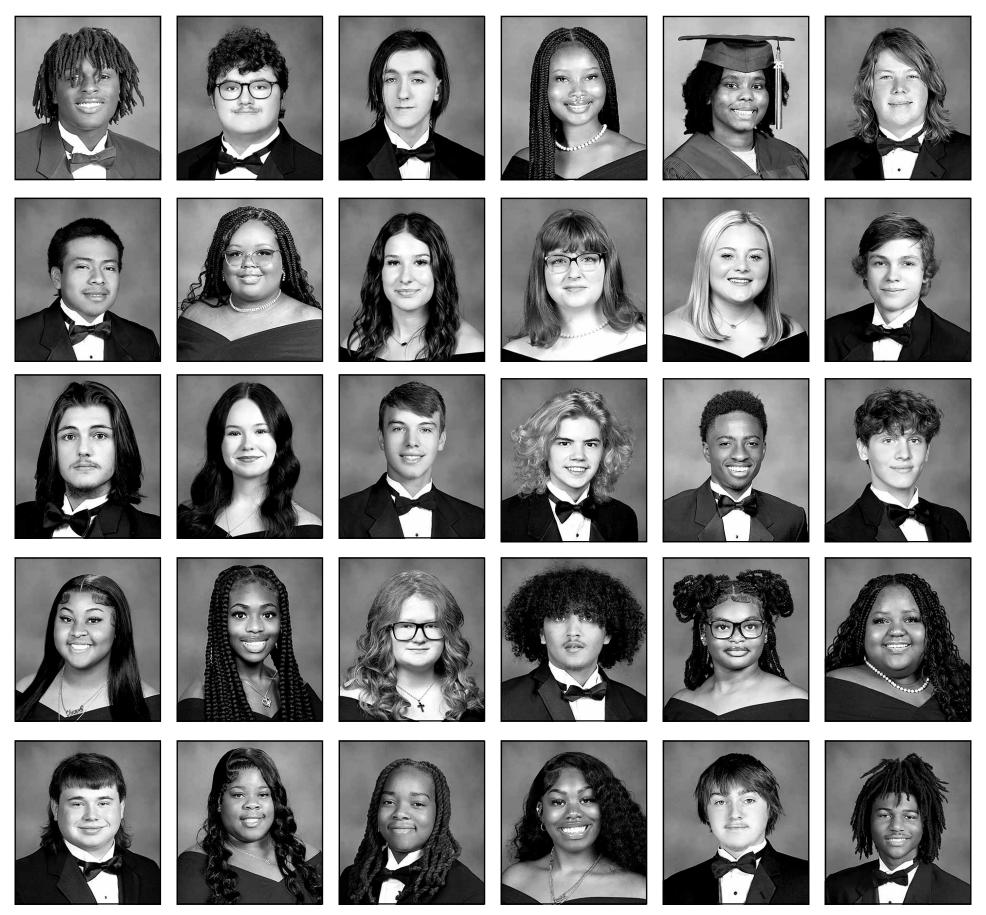




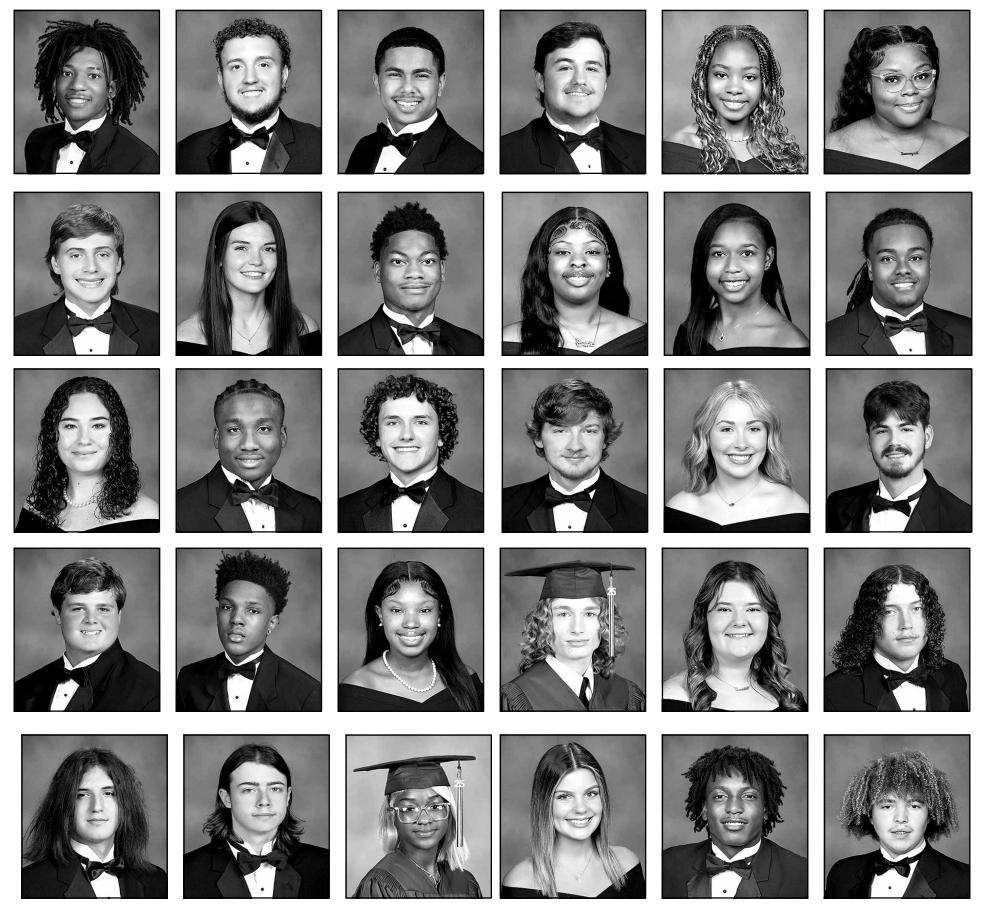


Seniors names are listed on pages 27 & 28





Seniors names are listed on pages 27 & 28



Seniors names are listed on pages 27 & 28



Seniors names are listed on pages 27 & 28

ADDISON, XAYVIER AGRON LOPEZ, YINEISHA ALESHIRE, ADDISON ALEXANDER, MYAH ALICEA, BENJERMAN ALLEN, MICHAEL ALQUISIRAS, LESLIE ALTMAN, DYLAN ANDREWS, SKYLA AYALA-RUIZ, JOSE AYALA-RUIZ, LUIS AYERS, ROXIE BAHENA, TRISTIN BARNES, D'MONTAY BASILIO-SOLANO, MOISES BAZALDUA-ANTONIO, JOSE BELL, TIANA BELTON, EARNEST, III BENNETT, KINGSTON BEVERLY, JACOB BEYER, HALEY BLOUNT, ALYSSA BOGLE, BRIANNA BRADFORD, KASON BRINSON JR., DOMONICK BRINSON, JERMIYAH BROOKER, DEBRA BROWN, DEONTAY BRYANT, DELANA **BURNETT, JUSTIN BURNETT, KAYLEE** BUSH, EVAN **BUSH, THOMAS** BYRD, ZOE CAMPBELL, ELYSHA CASIANO, IVY-LYNN CHAMBLISS, GAVEN CHANDLER, RHYANN-ELISE CHEATHAM, CHRISTOPHER CLARK, BENJAMIN CLARK, CURTIS CLARK, ZOPHIA COMER, RYAN COOLEY, GRACIE CORDOVA, JOAQUIN COTTON, REGINALD, III COTTON, RENAE COTTRELL, AVA COULTER, ANTHONY COUNTS, BRADLEY CRONK, KIRA CRUMPTON, FAITH CUMBO, LOGEN

CURRY, TO'ZAVIN DANIELS, RE'YONNA DASHER, T'AZIA DASHER, TIARA DAVIS, JOVIAN DAVIS, KALLI DEJESUS, LIBERTY DELOACH, KYNLEE DEMEO, SIENNA DIECKHOFF, KYLE DIXON, KATELYNN DODD, RACHEL DRIGGERS, PAISLEY DUCK, AURORABELLE ECHOLS, LANDEN EDWARDS, JAYLA ELLERBY, LEE'DARIUS ELLIS, JAZMINE ELLISON, TRENTON EMERICK, HUNTER ENNIS CRAVEN, BRYCE ERISMAN, CHRISTYONNA EVERETT, MIA FARMER, ZETHAN FAULKNER, HALEIGH FLETCHER, TREVEN FLORENCE, MALACHI FRANCIS, ANTONIA FRAZIER, XARIA FRISVOLD, SOPHIA GABORIAU, JOLI GALL, ZACHERY GARCIA ALFARO, MARCELA GELIS, KATHLEEN GIBBS, BRIANNA GILYARD, LAYLAN GIVENS, CHARITY GOODE, JOLENE GORDON, TY GREEN, MATILDA GREENE, SHAKAYLA **GRIFFIS. ASHLEY** HACK, MATTHIAS HALL, JA'KAI HALL, KEYMARI HAMMOND, KENDRA HANNA, SAMANTHA HANSEN, CARLEY HANSFORD, LEXINGTON HARRELL, OWEN HARRIS, DA'MARION HARRIS, MO'LASIA

HARRIS, RUSSELL, III

HENDRITH, KALIEF HENRY, JOSHUA HERNANDEZ-PEREZ, JENI HILL, AALEEYAH HILLIGUS, RYAN HINES, JAMAR HODGE, HANNAH HODGE, MADALENE HUBERT, RENISSA HUDSON, ASIA HUDSON, JOHN, JR. HUERTA, ABIGAIL HUTTER, TAITUM IMAI, CARRINA JACOB, ANDREW JAMES, GABRIEL JANUS, ROY JOHNS, BRAYDEN JOHNS, CALEB JONES, CALIYA JONES, KEY'ASHIA JONES, LULA KALFS, ALDEN KAUFF, WILLIAM, III KEMP, JOHNNIYE KEY, RANDALL KEY, TAYSHANNA KOHLER, JALEIGH KRISER, KIEREN LANDRY, AIDAN LANDS, HAYDEN LAWSON, TEFARRIYAH LEE, J'TAZIAH LEE, JA'SHARA LEONARD, AMAURI LEWIS, JA'QWON LINDSEY, MICHAEL LINEBERGER, LOGAN LLOYD, TANNER

LOGAN, DERRELL LOYLESS, KAMERON LUMPKIN, ETHAN MALINAK, DAVID MARRERO, JOSEPH MARTIN, TY'DARIOUS MARTINEZ, LILLY-ANNA MATHEWS, JAMARIE MAXWELL, AMARAYAN MCCLURE, ADAM MCCLURE, AVERY MCCRIMMON, WILLIAM MCDUFFY, SHA'NYLAH MCKINNON, JAMIYA MCQUAIG, NICKOLAS MEJIA-SOTO, KEVIN MENDEZ-PEREZ, DARVIN MENDEZ, CEYLA MILLER, JAYLA MITCHELL III, TERRY MOESLER, MALANA MORGAN, GENNA MORRIS, MADYSON MORRIS, TREVIN MOSES, MICAH MULLINS, JOSSELYN MULLIS, CODY MURRAY, LUCAS MUSE, CHANDLER MYERS, BRAYDEN MYLES, CHERISH MYLES, KAMEYIA NESBITT, MAKAYLA NOVAK, LAUREN O'NEAL, CAMERON PAGE, RA'NIYA PASSMORE, ALANDRIA PAULEY, JEFFERY, JR.

continued on page 28



PEEPLES, MIKHIA PEEPLES, TITIANA PEREZ-PEREZ, BEZALEEL PHILLIPS, RA'LIA RAY-DOSE, CHRISTIAN REGISTER, ASHTON RICH, GREGORY, JR. RICH, SHA'MARRION RICHARDSON, TYLER RIVERA, ELIU ROBBINS, JAMES RODGERS, AVRE'YANA ROSE, SANJAIA RUSSELL, EMMA SANTIAGO, SABIEN SANTIAGO, YANELIS SCOTT, SAMAYAH SCREEN, CLAYTON SEARCEY, TRYSTON SEEBACHER, WHITNEY SHAKIR, KH'MONTRE SHARON, SHAW'NIYA SHIVERS, YAZMINE SMART, ANTORRIEN

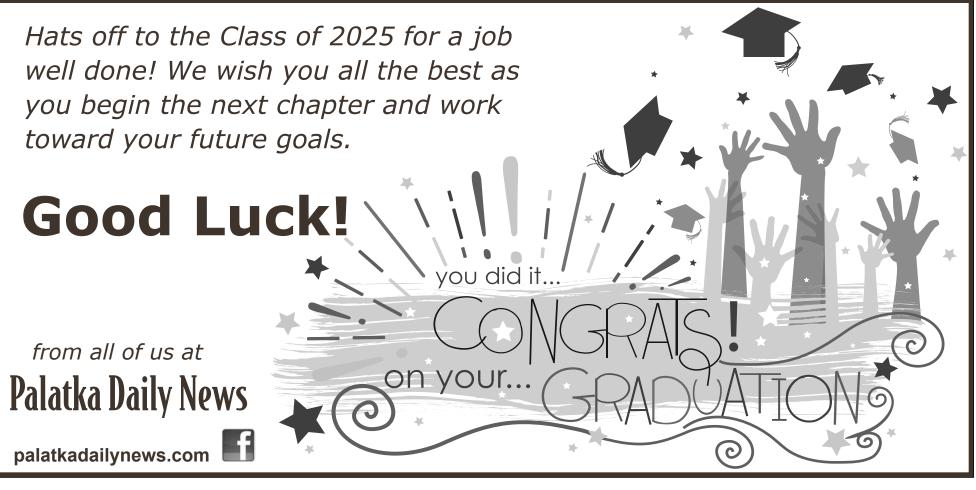
SMITH. MAKENNA SMITH, TYREEK SOLOMON, JOSEPH STALLINGS, CALEB STOUT, RILEIGH STROM, JAKE SULLIVAN, ROBERT SUMPTER, MICHAEL, III SUMPTER, MICHERIA THOMAS, GREYSON THOMAS, ISABELLA TIBBS, ETHAN TILLMAN, ALEX TRIVETTE, DANIEL TUCKER, DA'NIYA TURNER, GRACIE TURNER, TONY VEGA, AYDEN VERNOR, RYLAN VINCENT, ROBERT, JR. VOSS, CIARA WALKER, LA'KYCHA WALKER, ROBERT WALKER, SHA'MYA

WALTERS, MACEY WATTS, TRE'MYIA WELLS, RAYMOND WHITE, CALVARUS WHITE, GAGE WHITESIDE, ANGELINA WIGGINS, JADEN WIGGINS, NY'ASIA WILBUR IV, ARTHUR WILKINSON, GAVIN WILKINSON, JACK, JR. WILKINSON, KENADIE WILKINSON, MACEY WILKINSON, PEYTON WILKINSON, WALTER WILLIAMS, AREONNA WILLIAMS, DAREUS WILLIAMS, JAH'LIA WILLIAMS, JIMMIE, JR. WILLIAMS, KEITH WILLIAMS, PAYTON WILLIAMS, TIMEA WILSON, RAYVEN WISE, MITCHELL, JR.

WRIGHT, KHALIA WRIGHT, TYRAN YELVINGTON, ASHLYNN ZAHN, LARA



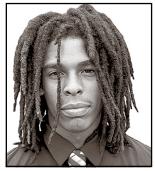




PUTNAM VIRTUAL SCHOOL

















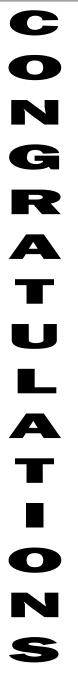






BEERS, QUAYARRA
BURL, SIERRIA
CAMPBELL, JAMIE
CANTRELL, RENEE
COLLINS, ZACHARY
DIPAULA, CLOVER
DOS SANTOS JIMNEZ, GABRIEL
GARNER, TYBAN
GRENNAN, VIOLET
HARDY, NATALEE
MOULTON, RYAN
SUGGS III, CLARENCE
WILLS, JACOB







Q.I. ROBERTS JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL



Seniors names are listed on page 32

Q.I. ROBERTS JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL



Seniors names are listed on page 32

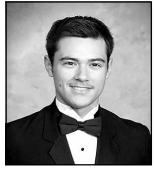
Q.I. ROBERTS JR/SR HIGH SCHOOL

























ABOYTES-FLORES, CASSANDRA AKINS, KALEB APPLING, DA'JONET BASEL, ABIGAIL BEARD, SHANE BERGEN, LUCAS BRAUMAN, ABIGAIL BRYAN, ALEX **BUCKLES, BRENT** CHAPMAN, ISABELLE CONSTANTINO, GIANNA CROFT, CAILIN DAY, BRANDON DEVERGARA, LUCAS DICKSON, BROOKS DONNELLY, MACKENZIE DYER, CALEB EDWARDS, BRYCE FENG, REBECCA FERGUSON, TRISTAN FILER, LILLIAN FRANCE, NATALIE GALLAGHER, CHRISTOPHER GILL, TILDEN HAYDEN, TAYLOR HERSEY, HAILEY HILL, TRAVIN HOBBS, CALEB HOOTEN, EVA HOWE, LILLIAN HUDSPETH, WILLIAM ISOM, TREVOR JEANSONNE BURNS, ACADIA JENKINS, CALEB

JOHNS, JALIA

JOHNTRY, KARLI JONES, RASHEAN

JURASZEK, JOSILYN KALISA, ARSENE LEMELLE, MACIE LOGIURATO, KAYLEE LOTOW, ISABELLA MARTINEZ, ANDRES, II MCCULLOUGH, JORDAN MILES, GAVIN MONTGOMERY, MADISON MORHARDT, ALEXIS NIPPLE, ISSAC NIX, KIERA NUNAMAKER, AMBER ODOM, TIFFANY OLDAKER, CYNTHIA OLIVER, SERENA OLMSTED, SAMANTHA PALMER, COLTON PALMER, JAVEN PERDUE, NOAH PERKINS, AINSLEY PLATEL, GIUSEPPE REDMAN, AUDREY SMITH, BRIANNA SOTO, ILIANIS STEGALL, GIANNA STEWART, AARON THOMAS, MACKENZIE TUCKER, MARK VIERA, EVANGELINE VIERA, IRVIN WALKER, E'MARI WALKER, LORELAI WARE, JA'MONTE WEBBER, BRIANNA WILSON, AVRYLLE

YOUNG, TYALIA



Class of 2025 continued from page 3

college teams from around the country.

"It's another example of how we're meeting students where they are and helping them turn their passions into success," he said.

The district's career and technical education programs are structured as career pathways, offering a more flexible and inclusive model than traditional academies. Students take core classes alongside their peers while also progressing through specialized courses to earn industry certifications in their field of choice.

"We've built this over the last eight or nine years," Surrency said. "And now this year's graduating class is reaping the benefits."

Student success isn't just measured in test scores. The district has prioritized mental and physical health, expanding services and embracing a proactive approach to student wellness.

This year, through the Who We Play For initiative, the district offered electrocardiogram heart screenings to more than 500 students. The screenings are available to any student who wants one.

Mental health services have also expanded significantly, with counselors embedded in schools and serving hundreds of students.

"We're addressing student wellness head-on," Surrency said. "Because if they're not OK emotionally, they can't be successful academically."

The district's wellness work has garnered national attention. In June, representatives from Putnam County will present at a national education conference in Savannah, Georgia, to highlight the district's mental health strategies.

One unique tool in the toolbox: Jazzy, a Goldendoodle therapy dog who visits schools to help comfort students.

Putnam County is also physically transforming. As part of its multi-phase school revitalization plan, the district is currently building or renovating nine schools. This year, construction began on an elementary and junior-senior high school in Crescent City, while work is ongoing on a new school where E.H. Miller School once stood.

Major projects at Melrose Elementary and Kelly Smith Elementary are next, followed by a proposed rebuild of Interlachen Junior-Senior High School, pending state funding. The district is also planning a new Palatka Junior-Senior High School and renovations to Jenkins Elementary in Interlachen and Browning-Pearce Elementary in San Mateo.

"When this plan is complete, we'll have an entirely modernized school district," Surrency said. "It's a massive undertaking, but it's necessary."

With new schools and new families moving to the area, the district is preparing for an expected surge in population, especially as property values in neighboring counties climb and infrastructure improves.

Teacher recruitment and retention remain top prior-

ities. Thanks to the district's novice teacher mentoring program, retention has grown from 65% in 2018 to 93% in recent years.

The district is also preparing to open a free employee wellness center, offering basic health care services to all insured staff.

"We want Putnam County to be a place where educators come and stay," Surrency said. "When teachers feel supported, students succeed."

That message is resonating. The district actively recruits, attends job fairs and promotes its strengths, including small class sizes, modern facilities and a supportive community.

"We're seeing more and more people realize Putnam is a great place to live and work," Surrency said. "This isn't the donut hole of growth anymore. We're part of the movement."

What will the next decade bring? Surrency expects his current students to lead the way as adults, with the foundation of their success having been laid in Putnam

"I see tremendous opportunity," said Surrency, who was named 2023 Florida Superintendent of the Year. "Our students today will be the leaders of tomorrow, engineers, pilots, health care workers, teachers. I believe Putnam County is on the rise."

Surrency, who began his career in the district as a teacher and coach in 1986, said he's proud of how far the district has come.

"Everything we're doing now, from academics to mental health, from construction to career prep, is setting us up for long-term success," he said. "It's about building a school system and a community our kids deserve. We may be a small district, but we're dreaming big and delivering."





L-R:Jazzy, the Goldendoodle therapy dog that visits local schools to cheer up students, enjoys a bit of rest at a Putnam County School Board meeting. Putnam County School District officials and animal trainers show off Jazzy, the Goldendoodle therapy dog that visits local schools to comfort students.



File Photo/Palakta Daily New

Crescent City Junior-Senior High School senior Mithila "Mia" Paul stands with her family members and supporters after learning she won the Leaders 4 Life Fellowship as part of her participation in Take Stock



Caelan Rhinehardt, the youth football coordinator for the Jacksonville Jaguars, honors Crescent City Junior-Senior High School student-athlete Paola Cruz-Ramos, center, alongside her flag football coaches.





File Photos/Palakta Daily News

TOP: Principal Tiffany Scranton welcomes students to Middleton-Burney Elementary School in Crescent City on the first day of the 2024-2025 academic year.

BOTTOM: Leah Howard, a senior at Interlachen Junior-Senior High School, holds the certificate she received at the Putnam County School District's Top Scholar ceremony in 2025.

To graduates and families

The *Palatka Daily News* is impressed with Putnam County's class of 2025. We offer congratulations to the graduates, their parents and families for a great lifetime achievement. May this milestone be the first of many.

The newspaper has worked closely with Putnam County School District and Peniel Christian Academy in an attempt to ensure each graduate is represented in this special publication. For a few, photos were not available. We regret that. Students' names are printed as they were provided. For any whose names were left out, please know it was unintentional.

If your graduate is not listed and should be, please accept our apology and contact Publisher Jennifer Moates at 386-312-5200

or jmoates@palatkadailynews.com.

Thank you for reading the Palatka Daily News.





File Photos/Palakta Daily News

L-R: Middleton-Burney Elementary School students help break ground at the Crescent City location that will eventually house the city's new elementary school. Palatka Junior-Senior High School cheerleaders spread school spirit down St. Johns Avenue during the homecoming parade in September.





File Photos/Palakta Daily News

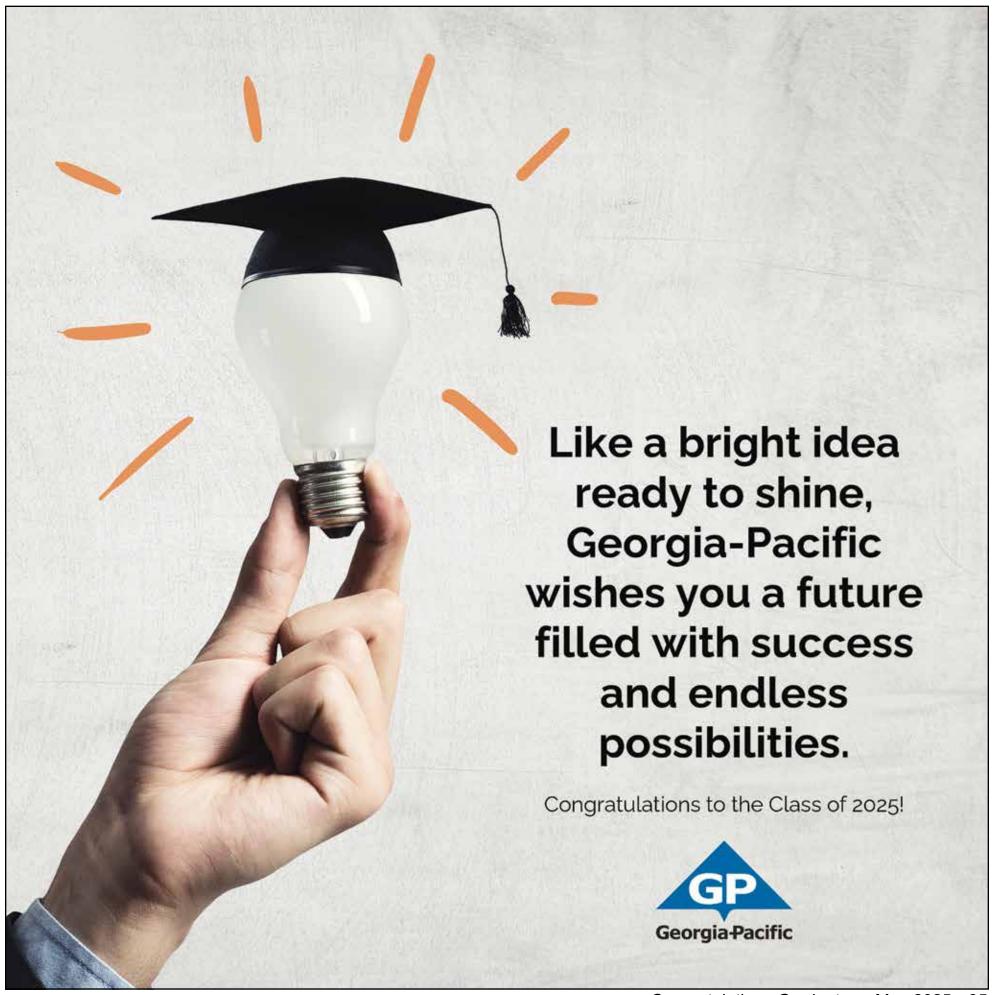
L-R: Cast members are dressed in character during rehearsal for the Palatka Junior-Senior High School Musical Theatre Department's production of "Disney Jr.'s The Little Mermaid" in December. Q.I. Roberts Junior-Senior High School esports team members show off some of the hardware they've won in previous competitions.





File Photos/Palakta Daily News

L-R: Palatka Junior-Senior High School students train as part of the career and technical education fire and emergency medical technician program. Palatka Junior-Senior High School seniors, from left, Aaleeyah Hill, Jeffrey Pauley, Aurorabelle Duck and Sierria Burl shared why they are eager to vote in the Nov. 5, 2024, general election.







CONGRATULATIONS! CLASS OF 2025

May you continue to shape the future with your passion, purpose, and perseverance. Wishing you success in all that lies ahead. Happy Graduation!

