



Jordan Charles, senior vice president of the New Glenn Business Unit at Blue Origin, gives remarks Monday morning, Aug. 31, as Blue Origin holds a groundbreaking ceremony for its new 120,000-square-foot payload processing facility on the site of former Launch Complex 18. PHOTOS BY MALCOLM DENEMARK/FLORIDA TODAY

New facilities, new jobs

Blue Origin breaks ground for new building as construction of its rocket-related infrastructure expands on Space Coast

Rick Neale
Florida Today
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Blue Origin’s growing footprint across Brevard County has surpassed 4,500 people, and a surge of rocket-related infrastructure construction projects will only expand that total moving forward, Senior Vice President of New Glenn Jordan Charles said.

And “in case anybody’s been living under a rock for the last three months,” Charles said the site of the May 28 New Glenn rocket explosion is home to an around-the-clock rebuilding campaign at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station.

“It’s a beehive of activity. We have over 1,000 people working 24 hours a day, seven days a week, to restore that launch complex to an operationally ready state,” Charles said.

“And Blue Origin remains deeply committed to our goal of launching New Glenn at Launch Complex 36A by the end of this year,” he said.

Charles delivered Blue Origin growth updates Monday, Aug. 31, during a groundbreaking ceremony for the private space company’s future \$160 million payload processing facility at the Space Force installation. He spoke at an outdoor podium flanked by a huge heap of cracked concrete and twists of metal rebar. The PPF will rise nearly two miles southwest of the under-construction New Glenn launch complex.

Measuring 120,000 square feet, Blue

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Engineered to accommodate up to 16 missions per year, Blue Origin’s payload processing facility should open in early 2028 to process national security, civil and commercial payloads.

Palm Bay woman killed in I-95 crash involving hit-and-run, alligator

J.D. Gallop
Florida Today
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

A 20-year-old Palm Bay woman died in a chain reaction crash that started when another motorist struck an alligator on Interstate 95 and the woman was hit and killed after being thrown from

her vehicle.

Florida Highway Patrol troopers are now searching for the hit-and-run driver of the unidentified car that fled from the crash on I-95 late Sunday, Aug. 30.

The deadly crash happened about 11:52 p.m. near mile marker 214 in Titusville.

The incident started as a 2010 Mer-

cedes Benz E-350 sport utility vehicle, driven by a 58-year-old man from Canada, was traveling southbound in the center lane on I-95. The driver spotted the alligator in the roadway but was unable to avoid striking it, FHP said.

The pickup truck driven by the Palm

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Health First has big plans in Brevard

New ER in Rockledge, expansion in Palm Bay

Tyler Vazquez
Florida Today
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Health First is growing on two fronts in Brevard County. The health system is staffing up for Brevard’s first freestanding Emergency Room in Rockledge, with an opening targeted for mid-December, while its flagship Viera Hospital just landed on Forbes’ new list of Top Hospitals by State.

Rockledge standalone ER staff hiring

The 13,500-square-foot freestanding ER, located at 3340 S. Fiske Blvd near the Rockledge I-95 Fiske Boulevard exit, will add 12 emergency beds.

Freestanding ERs offer the same level of care as a hospital-based emergency room without sitting on a hospital campus. There are between 800 and 900 of them nationwide, with more than 100 in Florida — but none yet in Brevard.

“We don’t want people to travel a long distance to get to emergency services,” said Mike Mullooney, president of Health First’s Hospital Division, in a provided statement.

Beyond physicians and nurses, Health First is hiring paramedics, respiratory therapists, lab professionals, technologists, sonographers,

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Iran still wants negotiated end to war

Hostilities resume as U.S. hits Iranian island

Eman Abouhassira and Phil Stewart
REUTERS

DUBAI – Iran is still seeking a negotiated solution to its conflict with the United States, President Masoud Pezeshkian said on Aug. 31, a day after the two countries resumed hostilities for the first time since late July, driving oil prices up more than 3.5%.

Pezeshkian’s comments also came after President Donald Trump posted an AI-generated video clip that he said showed Iran’s oil hub Kharg Island being destroyed. There was no evidence of any such attack, and a U.S. official said on Aug. 31 the military had not targeted Kharg Island in overnight strikes. An Iranian official dismissed Trump’s post as “laughable.”

U.S. forces on Aug. 30 struck two Iranian launchers on Iran’s Larak Island, some 410 miles east of Kharg, a U.S. official said, prompting Iran to strike two U.S. bases in Jordan, according to Iranian media.

Two people were killed and others were injured in the attack on Larak Island, Iran’s IRNA news agency quoted

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