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# The Florida Times-Union

SATURDAY, JUNE 13, 2026 | JACKSONVILLE.COM

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## 1st UF Jacksonville classes set for August

Official: Site will be 'more than a graduate campus'

**David Bauerlein**  
Jacksonville Florida Times-Union  
USA TODAY NETWORK

The University of Florida will kick off its first classes in August at its new downtown Jacksonville campus by using an office building UF is spending \$4.6 million to renovate for four classrooms.

The two-story building will be the starting point for a campus whose initial phase along West Bay Street will be fi-

nanced by \$300 million from the state, the city and private donors.

During a presentation to the University of Florida board on June 11, Vice President for Strategic Initiatives Kurt Dudas said the campus will feature professional education classes and advanced research including the planned Applied Research for National Security Laboratory.

See **UF JACKSONVILLE**, Page 6A



A blue University of Florida banner hangs June 11 on a construction fence marking the 801 W. Bay St. office building that UF is renovating for classrooms and offices. DAVID BAUERLEIN/FLORIDA TIMES-UNION



## MAYPORT'S FINAL LCS HAS ARRIVED

The Freedom-class littoral combat ship USS Cleveland (LCS 31) and its crew arrive at their homeport of Naval Station Mayport on June 11. The ship was commissioned in Cleveland, Ohio, on May 16. U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLER 1ST CLASS DANIEL DEJESUS, MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST

### Freedom-class vessel brings LCS total at naval station to 10

**Steve Patterson**  
Jacksonville Florida Times-Union | USA TODAY NETWORK

The U.S. Navy's final Freedom-class littoral combat ship, the USS Cleveland, arrived at Naval Station Mayport on June 11, almost four weeks after its commissioning in Ohio.

The ship's arrival caps a complex roll-out for the distinctive vessels that began around 2010, when Mayport was named as the East Coast homeport for LCS.

The addition of the Cleveland leaves 10 LCS homeported at Mayport following decommissionings of several others earlier in this decade.

See **MAYPORT**, Page 7A



A crew member from the littoral combat ship USS Cleveland gets a welcome kiss after coming ashore at Naval Station Mayport on June 11.

U.S. NAVY PHOTO BY MASS COMMUNICATION SPECIALIST 1ST CLASS ANDREW WATERS

## Prevent dog bites, keep mail coming

USPS has tips to defend against delivery attacks

**Amelia Espinales**  
Jacksonville Florida Times-Union  
USA TODAY NETWORK

Your local mailman getting bitten by the neighbor's dog is no longer just a silly joke.

Dog bite incidents are on the rise not just in Florida, but in Jacksonville specifically. The United States Postal Service recently announced National Dog Bite Awareness events that began June 1 and released new rankings of states and cities for dog bite incidents.

Dog bite incidents have been slowly creeping up over the past two to three years in Florida. In 2025, Florida ranked seventh among the top 10 states with the highest number of mail carrier dog bite incidents, counting 183 cases in the latest USPS release. Jacksonville ranked as the third most impacted city in Florida and 18th nationally. Since 2023, Florida has consistently ranked nationally among other states with the highest number of reported dog bite incidents involving mail carriers.

The USPS has provided tips to prevent or defend against dog bite attacks, and mail carriers go through extensive safety training.

### How USPS carriers prevent dog bites

● Announcing entry by making a non-threatening sound announcing their presence in the yard

See **DOG BITES**, Page 7A



President Donald Trump announced June 11 that peace could come as soon as this weekend with the signing of a memorandum of understanding with Iran. EVAN VUCCI/REUTERS FILE

## Pakistan indicates Iran deal is at hand

**Bart Jansen, Joey Garrison and Michael Loria**  
USA TODAY

Pakistan's Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif said June 12 the text of a peace deal between the United States and Iran "has been reached," and Iran's foreign minister said a deal has "never been closer," raising hopes for a genuine set-

tlement to wind down the three-month war.

"The Islamabad Memorandum of Understanding has never been closer. Pending its finalization, the media should refrain from entering speculation about its content," Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi said on X.

President Donald Trump reposted Araghchi's statement.

"Setting aside the noise, we can confirm that a final, agreed upon text of the peace deal has been reached and Pakistan is now working closely with both sides to finalize the next steps," Sharif said on X. "Peace has never been this close as it is now."

Sharif noted what he described as an

See **IRAN**, Page 4A

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