



Lipstick mission founded for victims of violence

METRO, 3A



The Florida Times-Union

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Condo search will take weeks

Death toll reaches 90 in collapse of tower

Freida Frisaro and Bobby Caina Calvan
ASSOCIATED PRESS

SURFSIDE— Authorities searching for victims of a deadly collapse in Florida said Sunday they hope to conclude their painstaking work in the coming weeks as a team of first responders from Israel departed the site.

Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella

Levine Cava said 90 deaths have now been confirmed in last month's collapse of the 12-story Champlain Towers South in Surfside, up from 86 a day before. Among them are 71 bodies that have been identified, and their families have been notified, she said. Some 31 people remain listed as missing.

The Miami-Dade Police Department said three young children were among those recently identified.

Crews continued to search the remaining pile of rubble, peeling layer after layer of debris in search of bodies.

The unrelenting search has resulted in the recovery of over 14 million pounds of concrete and debris, Levine Cava said.

Miami-Dade Fire Chief Alan Cominsky said it was uncertain when recovery operations would be completed because it remains hard to know when the final body would be found.

When the recovery phase began Wednesday, officials were hoping it could be done within three weeks. In an interview Sunday morning near the site, Cominsky said it might now be as few as two weeks, based on the current pace of

work.

"We were looking at a 14-day to 21-day time frame," he said, adding that the timeline remained "a sliding scale."

Surfside Mayor Charles Burkett stressed the care that rescue workers are taking in peeling back layers of rubble in hopes of recovering not only bodies but also possessions of the victims. He said the work is so delicate that crews have found unbroken wine bottles amid the rubble.

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Sam Newby wants rising neighborhoods

David Bauerlein
Jacksonville Florida Times-Union | USA TODAY NETWORK

New Jacksonville City Council president aims to build strong backbone of minority-owned businesses

Jacksonville City Council President Sam Newby stopped at the Johnson Family YMCA on his first day as council president. The YMCA is a short distance from his childhood home, so he went there often while growing up and later served as chairman of its board before running for council. BOB SELF/FLORIDA TIMES-UNION



Before Sam Newby became "Mr. President" of the Jacksonville City Council, he was "Mr. Chairman" at the James Weldon Johnson Family YMCA. • It was a natural fit. The YMCA was where he spent many a day while growing up in the neighborhood off 45th Street and Cleveland Road. He then returned to the YMCA as an adult volunteer who coached youth teams and served as board chairman from 2010 to 2012.

• He said those experiences — first as a young person seeking guidance and later as an adult mentor giving it — stick close to him as he begins his term as City Council president.

"Without me being here at the Y, I would never be where I am today because the Y helped shape and mold me and my life," he said during a stop at the Johnson YMCA on his first day as council president.

"So when I make decisions, especially for our at-risk kids, I think of my days at the Y when I was an at-risk kid, and if it wasn't for the Y, I probably would have a different direction," he said.

That connection to Northwest Jacksonville makes Newby, 58, a rarity among City Council presidents who have usually come from other parts of the city. That background hasn't drawn as much attention as the historic nature of him being

the third Black council member in city history to become president and the first Black Republican to gain the gavel. But it factors into Newby's work on council.

He lives now in downtown with his wife in an apartment building off Riverside Avenue, but Newby said he wants to make headway in improving neighborhoods like the one where he grew up. It will be a difficult undertaking.

The Economic Innovation Group, a nonprofit that focused on finding ways to help struggling

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Sam Newby
President of the Jacksonville City Council

Branson's plane reaches edge of space, returns safely

Billionaire and crew experienced about four minutes of weightlessness

Algernon D'Amassa and John Bacon
USA TODAY

TRUTH OR CONSEQUENCES, N.M. — Billionaire entrepreneur and adventurer Richard Branson's dream of space travel was realized and celestial tourism took a leap forward Sunday as Virgin Galactic's rocket ship reached the edge of space during a historic flight from Spaceport America.

Branson and his crew experienced about four minutes of weightlessness before their space plane smoothly glided to a runway landing. The entire trip, delayed 90 minutes because of bad weather the previous night, lasted about an hour. An ecstatic Branson hugged family and friends who greeted him after landing.

"It was just magical," Branson said. "It's 17 years of painstaking work, the occasional horrible down and large ups with it. And today was definitely the biggest up."

Branson, who turns 71 this week, and a crew of two pilots and three mission specialists were carried to an altitude of more than 8 miles by the aircraft VMS Eve, named after Branson's mother. Live video then showed the space plane VSS Unity release from between the mother ship's twin fuselages, using rocket power to fly to the boundary of space, more than 50 miles above Earth.

Tributes — and criticism — rolled in on social media.

"Congrats to @richardbranson & the entire team @virgingalactic!" tweeted Gen. Jay Raymond, chief of space operations for the U.S. Space Force. "Your years of hard work & dedication paid off today with a flawless flight to the edge of Space."

Vermont Sen. Bernie Sanders was less impressed: "Here on Earth, in the richest country on the planet, half our people live paycheck to paycheck, people are struggling to feed themselves, struggling to see a doctor — but hey, the richest guys in the world are off in outer space! Yes. It's time to tax the bil-

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METRO

Inmates sent into quarantine

Duval County Jail has COVID-19 resurgence

Anne Schindler
First Coast News

A resurgence of COVID-19 at the Duval County Jail is causing the cancellation of some criminal court proceedings and forcing officials to create a new rapid testing process for defendants.

According to 4th Circuit Chief Judge Mark Mahon, two-thirds of jail inmates are currently on COVID quarantine, complicating efforts to get criminal court calendars moving again.

“It’s very disappointing,” he told First Coast News. “We thought we were going to be back to full operations.” Instead, he said, “it’s kind of back to two steps forward, one step back.”

According to a Friday morning memo from Circuit Judge Adrian Soud, defendants must now be rapid tested before their final pre-trial appearance, and again right before jury selection. If they

test positive, the trial will be postponed.

The rise in COVID cases among in-custody defendants coincides with a resumption of in-person court. After a year and a half of Zoom court, the Duval County Courthouse ended virtual court just in the past few weeks. Misdemeanor court resumed in-person proceedings on June 28, and felony court resumed on June 21.

COVID cases are also rising in the wider community. Duval County has a 12 percent positive test rate — the highest since January 2021, before most vaccinations began.

Mahon said that corresponds to the COVID outbreak at the jail. “The jail is the first indicator of what’s going on in the community from our experience,” he said.

The timing of the outbreak so soon after in-person criminal court resumed is unfortunate. Mahon insisted the courthouse will not return to a fully Zoom criminal court, but said a hybrid

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Duval County jail in downtown Jacksonville BOB SELF/FLORIDA TIMES-UNION

Mural Olympics celebrates power of the arts



Tabitha Skye of Jacksonville brushes more paint onto her creation along with several other artists during Saturday’s Mural Olympics at The Performers Academy that celebrated its years of sharing the power of the performing arts.
PHOTOS BY FRAN RUCHALSKI/FOR THE TIMES-UNION



Dejane Anderson, a Navy corpsman at Naval Air Station Jacksonville, takes a minute to evaluate her artwork Saturday during a Mural Olympics at The Performers Academy on Beach Boulevard. The event celebrated the academy’s 10 years of sharing the power of the performing arts with the community and the underserved.



Chris Clark adds more paint to his mural of his niece, comparing it to the picture on his phone. He was competing in Saturday’s Mural Olympics.

Florida woman founds lipstick mission for domestic victims

Beth Reese Cravey
Jacksonville Florida Times-Union
USA TODAY NETWORK

Lipstick has magical powers.

Sheryl Kurland, a certified domestic violence advocate from Longwood, first discovered its sway after a 2015 workshop she had at a Central Florida domestic-violence shelter. She gave each survivor a tube of lipstick, a small gesture she hoped would help them “feel ... fabulous” again.

“The women were just completely transformed. No more pain, joy happened,” Kurland said. “They became different women. ... It was just incredible.”

The magical power of lipstick continued at subsequent workshops.

“Every single time it got the same reaction,” she said.

That experience led Kurland to found a nonprofit, Find Your Fabulosity, that collects and donates new lipsticks to domestic-violence

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FIND YOUR FABULOSITY

To make a monetary donation online, go to <https://findyourfabulosity.org/lipsticks>. Send new or never-used lipstick donations in a padded envelope or box to Sheryl Kurland, Find Your Fabulosity, P.O. Box 915666, Longwood, FL 32791. For more information, go to findyourfabulosity.org, call (407) 786-7747 or send an email to Sheryl@FindYourFabulosity.org.

Florida’s domestic violence hotline is (800) 500-1119.

HOMICIDE TRACKER

2021: 70
2020: 105

CRIME SCENE DO NOT CROSS

This is the unofficial number of Jacksonville homicides today and at this time last year. Data may vary from official figures due to reporting delays.

Lipstick

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survivors at women’s shelters across the country. The volunteer-based group has since distributed at least 70,000 lipsticks to shelters, including Hubbard House in Jacksonville, Betty Griffin Center in St. Augustine, Lee Conlee House in Palatka and Micah’s Place in Fernandina Beach.

A tube of lipstick is small, Kurland said, but for women who may have lost everything, including their self-esteem, that burst of color reminds them who they used to be.

“It gives them a little pizzazz, a little bump in their step,” she said.

Many of them wanted colors with pizzazz.

“They asked, ‘Have you got red? Purple?’ Those women still have it going on,” she said.

Shelters marvel at the transformation

Leaders at area shelters that have received donated lipsticks from Kurland’s nonprofit said their value went far beyond their minimal cost.

“Survivors often leave their abuser with nothing but their lives, their children and beloved pets,” Hubbard House CEO Gail Patin said. “Feel-good donations like lipstick provide a much-needed boost at a difficult time.”

Lori Slaven, executive director of the Lee Conlee House, agreed.

“Many of our women come to us at their lowest point, they are in an unfamiliar environment and are afraid,” she said. “When they are gifted with items such as the lipsticks, it provides a measure of comfort to them and gives them an opportunity to briefly step out of their situation and just enjoy the act of choosing a lipstick.”

The women, she said, “come together and bond, not in their shared trauma, but in their shared joy at the simple task of choosing a lipstick. This is truly something to see and those who donate have no idea how healing choosing a lipstick can be.”

At Micah’s Place, survivors’ reactions to the free lipstick “has been nothing but joy and excitement,” said outreach director Cassie Ott. A woman who had escaped an abusive marriage said using her free lipstick led to “the first time I’ve felt beautiful in 20 years,” Ott said.

“A young mother preparing for a job interview said, ‘I can finally feel confident in how people see me. I have done so much work on the inside, I am so grateful to actually be able to make the first impression I know I deserve,’” she said.

The lipstick also represents freedom, said Betty Griffin Center CEO Joyce Mahr.

“Often survivors say their abusive partner wouldn’t let them wear any makeup, so the lipstick represents a small step toward feeling free to make their own decisions,” she said. “It may seem like a small thing, but it’s a gift that sends the message to survivors that people care about them.”

Where it all began

Founding “Find Your Fabulosity” is the latest of many life chapters for Kurland, 64.

She began as a writer.



Sheryl Kurland shows some of her lipsticks she and her nonprofit, Find Your Fabulosity, collects and donates to domestic-violence survivors. PHOTOS PROVIDED BY FIND YOUR FABULOSITY

After interviewing 75 couples, she wrote a coffee-table book called “Everlasting Matrimony: Pearls Of Wisdom From Couples Married 50 Years Or More,” published in 2007. That led to a career as a college speaker — “I knew everything there was to know about relationships,” said Kurland, who is married with a grown daughter.

The summer of 2015, with colleges on break, she did something she had always wanted to do: enroll in the Seminole County Sheriff’s Department’s Community Law Enforcement Academy. The civilian course’s session on domestic violence and dating violence, which included listening to 9-1-1 calls from actual cases, was life-changing, she said.

“It was just horrify-



The Central Florida-based nonprofit Find Your Fabulosity sends free “Get Help” gift bags to individual domestic violence victims.

ing,” Kurland said.

That session prompted her to offer her rela-

tionship-themed speaking services to a local domestic-violence shelter.

At one those workshops, she was struck by “how raw these women were,” she said. “There has got to be some way to make these women feel like women again.”

Kurland remembered some words of wisdom from her mother about how women can boost their own spirits: “Just put on a little lipstick and you’ll feel better.”

Find Your Fabulosity was born.

Gift bags too

The nonprofit sends supplies to shelters every four to five months as they get new residents and upon request sends “Get Help” gift bags to individual victims who are not in shelters. The small bags contain lipstick, lip gloss, a mini mirror compact and a “courage”

stone. They also contain a card with words of encouragement and a domestic-violence hotline number.

Kurland started sending out the gift bags during the pandemic after her workshops and speaking engagements were halted. The bags were designed for women who are victims of domestic violence but have never gone to a shelter, she said.

“It’s to help these women get started,” she said.

The gift bags were inspired by a hairstylist Kurland met in Pennsylvania. The stylist was limping and, while styling Kurland’s hair, confided that her boyfriend had beaten her after she went out with a girlfriend.

After their emotional exchange, Kurland went to a drugstore, bought some cosmetics and took them to the stylist. She also enclosed a note of encouragement and information if she wanted to seek help.

Kurland “took that little nugget” and created the gift bag distribution. Many of the gift bags go to women referred to her by survivor Facebook groups.

The lipstick has been donated or purchased with monetary donations. She has about 50 volunteers who help with packing and shipping, some are friends she enlisted, others heard about the cause and joined up.

“I tell my volunteers ... to think of the thousands of women who have been impacted,” Kurland said. “Nobody gets paid. It’s just for the love of women.”

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Obituaries



HOPKINS

Dr. Anne H. Hopkins, 79, of Jacksonville, Florida passed away peacefully on July 4, 2021. Dr. Hopkins served as the fourth president of the University of North Florida from 1999 to 2002, and as a political science professor at UNF for many additional years. Born in New York, New York to William Emmet Houghton and Marian Cadle Houghton, Dr. Hopkins earned her bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in political science from Syracuse University. Her long and storied career in higher education began in 1968 as an assistant professor of political science and department chair at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, New York. She went on to become vice provost at the University of Tennessee at Knoxville, vice president of arts, sciences and engineering at the University of Minnesota, and provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio, where, after nine months, she was asked to also serve as acting president until a new president was selected.

Under her leadership as the first female president of the University of North Florida, Dr. Hopkins focused on increasing academic excellence which took many forms including expanding student learning opportunities, the student honors program, faculty-mentored research projects and professional development, and adding new academic offerings on campus. She also worked to strengthen the relationship between UNF and the other public and private higher education institutions in Northeast Florida. Outside of UNF, her passions included supporting the Jacksonville Symphony and WJCT. She also served on the Jacksonville Super Bowl Host Committee, as president of the Peach Belt Athletic Conference, and on the board of the American Council on Education (ACE).

Dr. Hopkins is survived by her niece, Mylene Houghton (Jeffrey) Greenwood, and two nephews, William Houghton and Peter Houghton. Her brother, William (Barbara) Houghton predeceased her.

A Celebration of Life will be held at Palms Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville Beach at 10:00 am on July 16th. To register for attendance please go to: <https://bit.ly/AnneHopkinsMemorial>

In lieu of flowers, gifts can be made to the Anne H. Hopkins University Scholars Endowment at UNF. All gifts should be made payable to the UNF Foundation and either mailed to UNF Foundation, 1 UNF Drive, Building 60, Jacksonville, FL 32224 or completed online at www.unf.edu/give - for designation choose “other” and add Dr. Anne H. Hopkins’ name.

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