

metro

SPRING PARK
Kids play on despite crews
working on new pool **Photos, B-8**



IN GEORGIA
Inmate escapes after his
appearance in court **Story, B-3**

3 youths injured in shootout a day after melee

Witnesses call it 'retaliation,' fear there's more to come

By Dan Scanlan & Garrett Pelican
The Times-Union

A shootout at the Azalea Ridge apartment complex on Alderman Road that police said sent three teenagers to the hospital Thursday afternoon, one of them in critical condition, may have been payback for a fight that broke out nearby a day earlier.

Whatever sparked Thursday's gunfire, described by neighbors as a scene from the Wild West, isn't over, according to a witness, who said she anticipates that there will be further retaliation.

The shootings prompted Duval County Public Schools to place

three schools in the surrounding area — Terry Parker High, Arlington Middle and Parkwood Heights Elementary — under a Code Red lockdown, during which elementary students said they were told to lie down on the floor.

In addition to the three gunshot victims, all boys in their mid- to late-teens, detectives brought in four more people for questioning in connection to the incident, said Lt. Rickie Valentine with the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office.

Valentine said detectives are looking into possible links between the shooting and Wednesday's fight. He couldn't comment

on the motive, but said there was no threat to the general public.

"There's nothing that says this is a random act of violence," he said.

No suspect information was released.

Valentine said officers were initially called about 1:40 p.m. to a shooting at the apartment complex, but while on the way they learned there were multiple victims being taken to the hospital in vehicles seen leaving the complex.

A witness Thursday told the Times-Union she was lying down

SHOOTING continues on B-2



Curious residents, some of whom could not get to their apartments, walk near the scene Thursday where the Jacksonville Sheriff's Office responded to a multiple shooting at the Azalea Ridge apartments on Alderman Road. (Bob Mack/Florida Times-Union)

Council members debate best path for ordinance

Gulliford plans to propose change that would let voters decide on HRO

By Christopher Hong
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Jacksonville City Councilman Bill Gulliford said Thursday he wants voters, not the City Council, to decide whether to enact discrimination protections for LGBT people.

To hold the county-wide referendum, Gulliford said he plans to propose a significant

change to legislation that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity, which is under consideration by the council.

Quoting Thomas Jefferson on the principle of majority rule, Gulliford pushed back on an argument often made by critics of the referendum that it's unjust to place civil rights for minority groups in the hands of a popular vote.

"I think to say that we can't trust the voters is a pretty sad statement on our society," said Gulliford, who opposes the legislation. "I'm going to make sure that this is a debated and discussed item. If it gets voted down by the council, it gets voted down."

The announcement came at a meeting Gulliford organized about the legislation, which is often referred to as the human rights ordinance, or HRO. No votes or legislative action were taken at the meeting.

While it's still unclear whether there is enough support for the legislation

to pass, the option of a referendum would add even more uncertainty to its fate.

After Gulliford announced his intentions to push for a referendum, Councilman Reginald Brown, who has expressed support for the anti-discrimination law, said the issue needed to be decided by lawmakers.

"I'm not confident had we put it before the people in 1964 and 1865 it would have been favorable," Brown said in reference to the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the abolition of slavery, both passed by acts of Congress.

Councilman Tommy Hazouri, who is a co-sponsor of the legislation, called the referendum option a "cop-out."

"We were elected to make the hard decisions, the tough decisions," Hazouri said. "Those who don't want to vote on the bill, they need to man up."

Council members Al Ferraro and Sam Newby, who both attended Thursday's meeting, said they both supported the referendum and had concerns about the anti-discrimination legislation.

Gulliford wouldn't say exactly when he would make his move to change the current anti-discrimination legislation. He could either do so next week, when several council committees will debate the legislation, or on Feb. 14, when the council is set to take a final vote.

The referendum's emergence now places the council in a similar situation it faced last year, when Gul-

HRO continues on B-2

Army veteran given a place to call home



Juan Cabrera-Rosario, a wounded Army veteran holding Mojo, and his fiancée Carrie Moffitt received a mortgage-free home from Wells Fargo and Military Warriors Support Foundation on Thursday. (Photos by Bruce Lipsky/Florida Times-Union)

Wells Fargo, Military Warriors aid man wounded in Iraq

By Joe Daraskevich
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Juan Cabrera-Rosario retired from the U.S. Army after being injured when a bomb inside a truck exploded during his deployment to Iraq.

The pain that forced him to leave the military eased a little Thursday when he accepted the keys to a home in a sprawling community near Jacksonville's River City Marketplace.

Wells Fargo and the Military Warriors for Support Foundation donated the mortgage-free home on West Crestwick Drive after the army veteran and his fiancée, Carrie Moffitt, arrived with their belongings from Orlando.

Their little Chihuahua, Mojo, made the trip as well and ran around in the backyard for the



Mojo (left) joins Juan Cabrera-Rosario in their new home.

first time.

"He's never really had a back-

yard like this before," Cabrera-Rosario said as he watched Mojo inspect his new surroundings.

An American flag hanging outside the front door matches a black-and-white tattoo on the veteran's right forearm. The tattoo shows nine Army paratroopers blended with the flag and a fallen soldier battle cross.

Each parachute represents one of Cabrera-Rosario's friends from the 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment who lost their lives. They all died in combat, and Cabrera-Rosario said he could have easily suffered the same fate in 2007 when he and fellow soldiers were shooting at an enemy truck. The explosion shook the building he was standing on, wounding him in the aftermath.

MILITARY continues on B-2

Scott tries to rally support for Florida marketing funds

Enterprise Florida and Visit Florida are on legislators' chopping block

By Jim Turner
News Service of Florida

ORLANDO | Gov. Rick Scott on Thursday urged members of Enterprise Florida to lobby lawmakers as the business-recruitment agency and tourism-marketer Visit Florida have been put on the chopping block by House leaders.

Scott, who began hosting a two-day jobs summit Thursday afternoon in Orlando, continued his push for economic incentives

and tourism-marketing money during a morning meeting of the public-private Enterprise Florida at the Caribe Royale Orlando.

"Let House members in your area and your senators know," Scott said.

As he did when rolling out an \$83.5 billion budget proposal on Tuesday, Scott called tourism marketing a brace against future recessions. But he faces opposition on economic-development issues from House Speaker Richard Corcoran,

a Land O' Lakes Republican who has harshly criticized state funding for Enterprise Florida and Visit Florida.

"We don't have an opportunity every day to get a corporate office, a manufacturing plant, a regional office, a back office," Scott said. "It doesn't happen every day. You have to recruit these companies when they are ready to be recruited and when they are ready to make a decision."

Scott's comments came as a House panel is slated next week to start looking at the possibility of eliminating Enterprise Florida.

A 172-page bill, which

will go before the House Careers & Competition Subcommittee on

Wednesday, would make wide-ranging changes in economic development, including abolishing Visit Florida, repealing laws that established and govern Enterprise Florida and transferring funds related to Enterprise Florida programs to the state Department of Economic Opportunity.

The committee proposal reflects the sentiments of Corcoran, who has called



Scott

business-recruitment incentives "corporate welfare" and "de facto socialism."

During an annual Associated Press event Tuesday at the Capitol, Corcoran said "there won't be any incentives in the budget."

Scott's budget proposal, which will be considered by lawmakers during the legislative session that starts March 7, included \$85 million for business-recruitment incentives, \$76 million for Visit Florida tourism marketing and \$19.5 million for operations and "job creation" at Space Florida.

Scott's budget also in-

cludes \$23.5 million for Enterprise Florida.

The Enterprise Florida Board of Directors includes representatives of some of the most influential companies in the state, such as Florida Blue, Publix Super Markets, Gulf Power, Walt Disney Parks & Resorts, Darden Restaurants, TECO Energy, Duke Energy, Florida Power & Light and AT&T.

Scott also tried to rally business leaders before the 2016 legislative session to help sway lawmakers to approve \$250 million for Enterprise Florida. That proposal died in the Legislature.

SHOOTING

Continued from B-1

in a nearby apartment about 1:45 p.m. when she heard gunshots, then saw two teens trading gunfire.

She said the suspect had been lying in wait all morning for the victim to come home from school and when he came walking through the parking lot, both pulled guns and opened fire. The victim collapsed but kept moving on the ground as the shooting continued.

"If he hadn't been moving, he would've gotten some more bullets," she said.

She said the victim was pleading for his life with the gunman. "You're going to kill me. You got me," she said she heard.

Unable to stand by and watch, the witness said she stepped outside to intervene and implored the gunman, who she noted was being egged on by friends in a nearby car, to stop. A relative quickly pulled her back inside.

"He was going to shoot as long as he wanted," she said.

The witness said if the shooting had occurred later, children leaving area schools would have been "caught in the crossfire."

She said the violence won't end with Thursday's shooting and anticipated that there would be some kind of reprisal in the coming days. "It will be all-out war," she said.

Valentine said officers



Two Jacksonville Sheriff's Office units stand by at the Arlington Eagle Apartments where a wounded suspect and several other people were taken into custody after the original shooting call. (Bob Mack/Florida Times-Union)

were investigating several crime scenes, but the only shooting occurred outside the apartment complex in the 8100 block of Alderman Road. He said one victim was taken to UF Health Jacksonville in a car, another was intercepted by paramedics and a third was located nearby.

One of the victims remained in critical condition Thursday evening with multiple gunshot wounds, the lieutenant said. He said a second victim was treated, released from the hospital and held for questioning. A third was undergoing treatment.

The shooting forced the three schools nearby into lockdown for the second consecutive day. The same thing was done Wednesday morning during a fight that occurred across from Parkwood Heights on Lansdowne Drive.

Valentine said the Sher-

iff's Office dive team was called in to check a neighboring drainage pond to see if any evidence was dumped in the water. He confirmed investigators recovered shell casings from multiple guns at the scene, but said they have not yet located any guns.

"There was more than one weapon," he said. "I don't know the caliber or types."

It was not clear how many shots were fired. Witnesses reported hearing about 10 shots and said there were four guns visible or used.

The shooting comes after a brawl involving as many as 20 people on Lansdowne Drive about 8:20 a.m. Wednesday. Officers saw multiple people fleeing the scene as they arrived, but could not locate anyone injured in the fight. Police said no shell casings were found in the vicinity, but a

witness reported hearing two shots fired during the melee.

Witnesses to Thursday's shooting said students from Lone Star High School, a charter school just northwest of the Azalea Ridge complex in a Lone Star Road shopping center, "jumped" Terry Parker High School students the previous day.

Valentine urged anyone with information in either case to call the Sheriff's Office at (904) 630-0500 or First Coast Crime Stoppers at (866) 845-8477 (845-TIPS) to remain anonymous and be eligible for rewards. Or email JSOCrimeTips@jaxsheriff.org or rewards@fccrimestoppers.com.

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First Coast Happenings

Compiled by Cindy Holifield, the Times-Union

FRIDAY

AKC Pals and Paws Agility Trials, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Friday, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Sunday, Equestrian Center of Jacksonville, 13611C Normandy Blvd. Open to AKC-registered dogs over and through a variety of obstacles. Spectator admission and parking free. (904) 573-3163 or palsandpawsagility.com.

UniverSoul Circus, 10:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. Friday, noon and 4 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 1, 4 and 7 p.m. Sunday, across from the Prime Osborn Convention Center. \$12-\$40. universoulcircus.com.

The Peter and Will Anderson Trio, 11 a.m. and 7:30 p.m., Friday Musicales, 645 Oak St. Features Peter Anderson, saxophonist and clarinetist; Will Anderson, saxophonist, clarinetist and flutist; and Adam Moezinia on guitar. Free. (904) 355-7584 or fridaymusicales.com.

French Connection, presented by the Jacksonville Symphony, 11 a.m. Friday, 8 p.m. Friday-Satur-

day, Times-Union Center for the Performing Arts, 300 W. Water St. jaxsymphony.org.

Author Discussion, 3 p.m., St. Johns County Administration Auditorium, 500 San Sebastian View, St. Augustine. Features Tim Dorsey, author of "Florida Roadkill" and "Coconut Cowboy," with his newest book, "Clownfish Blues." Free. (904) 827-6940.

"A Closer Walk with Patsy Cline" starring Gail Bliss, meal 6:30 p.m., show 8 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays; meal 11:15 a.m. and 6:30 p.m., show 1:15 and 8 p.m. Saturdays; meal 12:15 and 6:30 p.m., show 2 and 8 p.m. Sundays; Alhambra Theatre & Dining, 12000 Beach Blvd. Show runs through Feb. 19. Reservations, (904) 641-1212 or alhambrajax.com.

Fax to (904) 359-4478 or email events@jacksonville.com. To put your event in the free online calendar, go to events.jacksonville.com.

HRO

Continued from B-1

lilford introduced the referendum to compete with an anti-discrimination bill similar to this year's version that was introduced by Hazouri.

Hazouri withdrew his legislation after it became unclear whether it had enough support to pass, and the council voted to also withdraw Gulliford's bill.

At the meeting, Gulliford also arranged for a group of local and out-of-town pastors and lawyers and two businessmen, all opponents of the legislation, to voice their concerns about the impact to small businesses and religious liberty.

Roger Gannam, an Orlando attorney for the group Liberty Counsel, noted that exemptions for businesses with less than 15 employees would only apply to employment matters. He said business owners would be in violation of the proposed law if they tried to prevent transgender men from using women's restrooms.

Darnell Smith, chairman of the Jax Chamber board of directors, which supports the legislation, said protecting all people from discrimination is a primary concern for lead-

ing companies when they decide where to do business.

"It's the right thing to do, and it's the right thing to do for business," Smith said.

The Rev. Heath Lambert, an associate pastor with First Baptist Church, characterized the legislation as an attempt to "affirm" homosexuality. He said Christians believe that is a sin, and passing the legislation would be a discriminatory act against Christians.

Councilman John Crescimbeni said he "had struggles" with Lambert's arguments, and in his trademark style, tried to poke holes in Lambert's logic with a series of hypothetical questions: Should any religious view — like the belief women shouldn't work — be used to legally tolerate discrimination? Should small businesses reluctant to provide services to gay couples also be allowed to refuse service to unmarried straight couples who live together?

"I'm just curious, the butchers, the bakers and the candlestick makers — or florists — should they sell flowers to couples that live together outside the sanctity of marriage?" Crescimbeni said.

Christopher Hong: (904) 359-4272

Carrie Moffitt (from left) and Juan Cabrera-Rosario take a look with Sandy Ignaszewski, director of transition and mentoring at Military Warriors Support Foundation, at the backyard and pond behind their new home. (Photos by Bruce Lipsky/Florida Times-Union)



MILITARY

Continued from B-1

In a flash he went from doing what he always thought he was meant to do to no longer being able to serve his country.

"I loved being in the military. It felt like I was where I needed to be," he said.

His journey to a life in Jacksonville started as a boy in Puerto Rico.

Cabrera-Rosario joined the National Guard in 1993 before enlisting in the Army where his service took him to Florida, Georgia, Alaska and Italy.

He said deployments to Bosnia, Hungary, Kosovo and Iraq were opportunities to see the world, but now he hopes to lay down roots in Jacksonville where he plans to go back to school.

Wells Fargo donated the home to the Military Warriors for Support Foundation as part of the Homes4WoundedHeroes program. The program is open to anyone wounded in combat who has proper documentation from the



Juan Cabrera-Rosario has a tattoo of paratroopers on his arm to remember his fellow soldiers who died in action.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

All recipients are paired up with a mentor for three years to help with any issues that come with homeownership and to get their finances back in order. They receive the deed to the house once they complete that program.

Interested veterans can apply for consideration at militarywarriors.org.

Families get the chance to see pictures of the homes before they're renovated,

minded the happy couple how close they now live to the beach. Moffitt said she can't wait to make the short drive to the ocean, but Cabrera-Rosario cautioned her about going in the water.

He chuckled when asked if the water was too cold for swimming since the couple met in Alaska while he was recovering from his injuries. Cold water isn't really a concern, Cabrera-Rosario said.

The veteran pulled out his cellphone to open his OCEARCH Global Shark Tracker application and said they've been monitoring several great white sharks currently in the area.

"I'm not scared to go in the water," Cabrera-Rosario said. "But my wife will probably wait for the sharks to leave."

Joe Daraskevich: (904) 359-4308

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Greater Macedonia Baptist Church of Northside

located at 1880 West Edgewood Avenue will celebrate the church and pastor's anniversary. The church was established in 1914. Dr. Williams pastorate commenced 1976 to the present. The congregation of Macedonia invites the greater Jacksonville community to come share with us in our special celebration of the church and pastor's anniversary. Celebration dates February 12 and February 19, 2017 at 4:00 P.M. each Sunday.

Event: **Pastor - Dr. Landon L. Williams, Sr.**

41st Anniversary

Place: Greater Macedonia Baptist Church
1880 West Edgewood Avenue
When: **Sunday, February 12, 2017**

Guest Churches:
Phlippian Community Church - Bishop Virgil Jones, Sr.
Mt. Vernon Baptist Church - Dr. Kelly Brown
Mt. Bethel Baptist Church - Dr. Robert Herring

Time: 4:00 P.M.
When: **Sunday, February 19, 2017**

Guest Churches:
Saint Paul Missionary Baptist Church - Bishop John Guns
First Missionary Baptist Church, Jax Beach, - Dr. Marvin McQueen
Jerusalem Missionary Baptist Church - Rev. Brian Campbell

Time: 4:00 PM
Free and everyone is invited to attend.

EVANGEL temple

ASSEMBLY OF GOD

eConnect

Sunday, February 5 | 8:15am | 10:45am | 6:00pm

FEBRUARY EVENTS

PERRY STONE PROPHETIC CONFERENCE

FEB. 17 7PM	FEB. 18 10AM 6PM	FEB. 19 8:15AM 10:30AM 6PM
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HEAVEN'S GATES & HELL'S FLAMES

FEB. 26 6PM	FEB. 27 7PM	FEB. 28 7PM
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