

# Ormond Publix robbed, police seek suspect

By Nancy Niles  
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Police are seeking the public's help in identifying a man who held up the Ormond Towne Square Publix and made off with an undisclosed sum of money.

At 6:23 p.m. Tuesday, police say the man walked into the Publix

and asked to speak with the manager.

"When the manager arrived, the suspect displayed a firearm and demanded the manager take him to the cash office," police spokesman Keith Walker wrote in a news release. "The suspect made the manager and clerk, who was in the office, lay down while the

suspect exited the store."

Police were unable to find the suspect who was described as wearing "black Nike sneakers, jeans, a dark blue shirt, a surgical face mask and a black ball cap with the word 'CAT' on it."

Anyone who may have information regarding this incident is asked to contact Detective Shane

Jarrell at 386-676-3518 or by email at Shane.Jarrell@ormondbeach.org.

Those wishing to remain anonymous, can call Crimestoppers at 277-TIPS or toll-free at 888-277-TIPS. Those who provide information to Crimestoppers can qualify for a reward up to \$1,000.



This surveillance image provided by Ormond Beach police shows a man police say robbed the Ormond Towne Square Publix at gunpoint and made off with an undisclosed sum of money. (PHOTO PROVIDED)

## Food Brings Hope receives \$40K grant

By Victoria Villanueva-Marquez  
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Food Brings Hope announced Wednesday that it has received a \$40,000 grant from Truist Financial Corporation to support its food assistance program, which has seen a notable surge in demand amid the coronavirus pandemic.

With children no longer able to access school meals and parents faced with serious economic setbacks, food assistance programs across Volusia

and Flagler counties have seen more and more people reaching out for help.

"The grant allows us to provide food and basic necessities to a vast number of children and families during this very difficult time," said Food Brings Hope founder and CEO Forough Hosseini in a press release.

Food Brings Hope has 1,700 children who participate in its after-school program, and many of them receive a free bag of food each week.

In addition to providing groceries for children

and their families, Food Brings Hope sponsors two drive-through food distribution sites at the San Jose Mission in Pierson and at Mainland High School in Daytona Beach. More than 1,200 bags of food are distributed at these two sites, the release said.

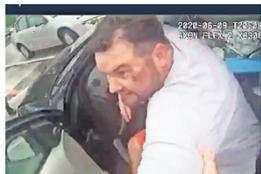
The grant is part of the Truist Cares initiative, a \$25 million philanthropic pledge announced in March to support basic needs, medical supplies and financial hardship relief amid the pandemic.

"During this difficult time, many families

are struggling to fulfill basic needs," said Will Landreth, market president for Truist. "Food Brings Hope is helping to provide for those in our community who are struggling due to the pandemic, and we are proud to support their efforts."

## Prison guard arrested on charge of molesting girl

By Patricio G. Balona  
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**Anthony Checchi, a prison guard at Tomoka Correctional Institution, was arrested and charged with lewd and lascivious molestation on a child. Volusia County deputies had been investigating him since May.** [VOLUSIA COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE].

with the agency's Child Exploitation Unit, Williams said.

Detectives have been investigating allegations

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of sexual abuse involving Checchi since late May. He is known to the girl he molested, Williams said.

Checchi was arrested in Holly Hill and transported to the Volusia County Branch Jail, where he was held Wednesday on \$25,000 bail.

The investigation is continuing, and anyone with additional information is asked to contact the Sheriff's Office Child Exploitation Unit at 386-323-3574.

## Salvation Army store reopens in Holly Hill

By Victoria Villanueva-Marquez  
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HOLLY HILL — With added safety precautions in place, the Salvation Army thrift store in Holly Hill has reopened its doors and resumed residential pickups amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The thrift store on 1415 Ridgewood Ave. has opened at 25% capacity and will operate just three days a week. People can stop in from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Thursday through Saturday.

Social distancing will be practiced inside the store, and staff members will be seen wearing face masks and gloves. All employees will also have their temperatures taken before starting their shift.

With the store now open, staff members will be sorting through donations again. Items can be dropped off from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

"It's been going well," said Maj. Caleb Prieto, corps officer of the Salvation Army of Daytona Beach. "The community has been very

supportive."

The Salvation Army uses store profits to fund services like its food pantry, which has seen a surge in demand during the pandemic, Prieto said.

The thrift store has also resumed residential pickups. But people are now asked to place their donations outside, as staff members will not be entering homes to reduce their risk of serious infection.

For more information or to schedule residential pickups, contact 386-672-1848.

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