

RITE NOW @ ROP



Palm Beach Youth Academy Launches “Palm Beach Press” and Vocational Training in Print and Digital Media

Palm Beach Youth Academy has launched its first in-house publication, the Palm Beach Press, a youth-led newspaper developed by residents of the program. More than just a creative outlet, the paper is part of an innovative vocational training initiative that equips students with real-world skills in journalism, graphic design, and media production.

The launch of the Palm Beach Press marks a milestone for the facility. The newspaper serves as both a platform for student voices and a hands-on training ground for print and digital media careers. Youth applied for positions on the editorial team by submitting written applications and completing interviews. Roles included staff writers, editors, graphic designers and layout specialists.

What sets Palm Beach Press apart is its integration into a broader vocational training track. Students involved in the newspaper receive hands-on instruction in:

- Adobe Photoshop for photo editing and digital illustration
- QuarkXPress for professional-grade layout and design
- Digital Design fundamentals, including typography, branding, and page structure
- Production and Print Setup, including formatting for both hard copy and web-based publishing
- Media Literacy and Digital Journalism, covering ethical storytelling and reporting

Classes are taught through one-on-one instruction and project-based learning. The first cohort of participants has already begun earning certifications that can be added to resumes and portfolios.

The inaugural issue of Palm Beach Press featured stories about student transformation, interviews with staff, coverage of outings, visual artwork and more. The publication was printed and distributed throughout the facility and also available in digital format here.

The Palm Beach Press is now set to publish on a regular basis, with each edition showcasing youth work and exploring themes such as growth, responsibility, resilience, and reentry. Facility leadership says the program aligns with the Academy’s mission to prepare youth for successful reentry and help them discover talents they didn’t know they had. “This isn’t just a newspaper,” said William Hanford, Program Director. “It’s a launchpad.”