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ECC TEAM

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THE COVER

Experience the breathtaking thrill of a rocket launch under the captivating night sky at Manatee Park in NSB, captured by local photographer Chris Kirk. With an impressive track record of cover features for our magazine spanning 8 years, Chris's exceptional talent continues to amaze. Follow him on Instagram for more of his extraordinary work. @ck_outside Turn to page 29 for upcoming rocket launches.



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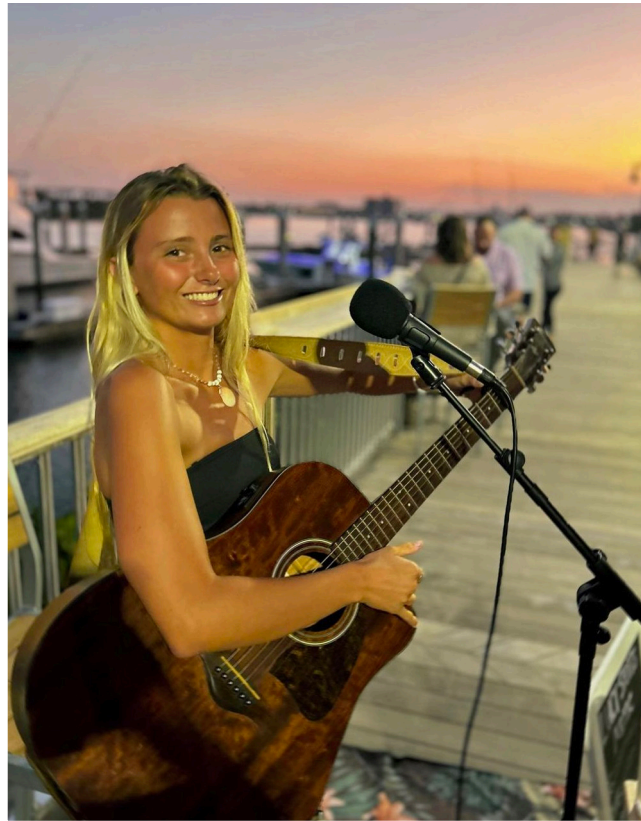


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Meet Local Musician & Surfer Lucy Spotts

A Vibrant Soul Making Waves in our Community

As the editor of the East Coast Current, one of the most rewarding aspects of my job is getting to connect with the incredible individuals who make up our community. I am always thrilled when readers reach out to share their stories, and it was through one such interaction that I had the pleasure of meeting Lucy Spotts, a talented local musician and surfer.

Lucy experienced struggles with anxiety and depression, but she found solace and healing in the ocean through surfing.

Her story of learning to surf went viral on Instagram, garnering attention from international surfing magazines such as Surfgirl Magazine. Another article featuring Lucy's inspiring journey is yet to be published, but it can be found in her Linktree account.

When I asked Lucy about the number of songs she had written, her response astonished me. With a sweet smile, she revealed that she had written around 300 songs, although she modestly admitted that only about 100 of them were completed. This level of dedication and creativity is truly remarkable.

To stay updated on Lucy's monthly shows and music releases, make sure to follow her on Facebook @LucySpottsMusic, where she shares all the latest information. You can also scan the QR code provided for access to her additional online platforms and music.

We are incredibly fortunate to have Lucy Spotts as part of our community - a beautiful soul committed to sharing her gifts with those around her.



Lucy's mom, Colleen, reached out to me, and we agreed to meet at Island Roasters coffee shop in New Smyrna Beach. From the moment we met, I could feel the vibrant energy that Lucy and her mother exuded. Our quick meeting turned into a gab sesh that lasted two hours, and could have easily lasted two more.

Lucy's journey led her back to Florida in 2019, after spending some time in Jackson Hole, Wyoming. Although she was born in Orlando, it was her return to the Sunshine State and the coastal beauty of New Smyrna Beach that sparked a transformation in her life.

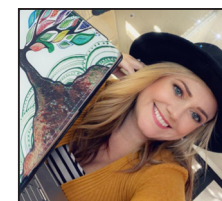
Surfing became a form of medicine for Lucy. The therapeutic benefits extended beyond the waves, as she also found solace in music, guitar playing and songwriting. For the past two years, Lucy has been sharing her singing talent locally, starting at places like GoJuice and Beachie Beans and then she quickly gained a following and now performs at a variety of different venues in NSB, Daytona, Ormond and St. Augustine.

From Outriggers (pictured above) and Riverdeck to Crimson House and Red Dog Surf Shop, Lucy's soulful voice and heartfelt performances resonate with audiences. Lucy's commitment to her craft is evident as she dedicates herself to singing full-time and constantly seeks new opportunities to share her music.

While many locals inquire if Lucy plans on moving to Nashville or Los Angeles to pursue a larger audience, her response is always a delightful surprise. She expresses her love for the present moment and the beach life she has in New Smyrna Beach. Fame is not her driving force; instead, she appreciates the beauty of her life as it is. This humble and genuine approach is what endears Lucy to her fans and the community.

Lucy's single, "Fishin' Spot," recently dropped on May 19. This country-flavored song is her first fully produced track on her music platforms. She has exciting plans to follow it up with an album of new, fully produced originals.

Scan the QR code to find out more about this amazing local and for her schedule!



Tiffany Evers is the editor and co-owner of East Coast Current magazine. In 2014 she was recognized by Editor & Publisher Magazine as one of the "25 Under 35" innovators in the newspaper industry. She currently serves on the Chair of the Recreational and Cultural Services Advisory Board for the City of Edgewater.

1700s NSB Turnbull Canal used Ancient Egyptian Methods



Turnbull Canal System currently function as water-control devices that carry stormwater and runoff to the Intracoastal Waterway (Indian River) or Turnbull Bay, which empties into the river via Spruce Creek.

The historical accounts state, "It is presumed that Andrew Turnbull's workers hand dug the canals to drain swampy land, irrigate agricultural fields and transport people and goods. In 1774, Turnbull adopted the, "Egyptian mode of watering" after a severe drought. In a time before modern machinery, using ancient Egyptian methods of crop irrigation, the network of historic canals is one of the most influential infrastructure upgrades that resulted from the Turnbull Settlement during the late 1700s."

"This is stunning to me. I never thought I'd see the day and I'm stoked," remarked Athearn to city commissioners during the city commission meeting. "This could be the largest historic restoration project of the oldest Egyptian irrigation system on U.S. soil."

Historic archives report that two eighteenth century maps document Turnbull's canal system, now known as Gabardy Canal. Turnbull's Grand Canal is shown on an 1803 Spanish map.

According to a city news release, future milestones on the project's timeline before work begins include holding a pre-design conference within 30 days of the agreement's execution, obtaining permits, survey and design, finalizing plans, soliciting bids, and awarding a contract to perform the work.

Currently, the city is planning a separate dredge project to clean and restore the portion of the canal system located from Old Mission to Jungle Road and has allocated the funding. For links to city happenings, agendas and meetings, follow the city of New Smyrna Beach at CityofNSB.com and across social media platforms.

Scan the QR Code to see the Turnbull Creek Canal System map.



Mimi McKee is a Realtor with Ocean Properties & Management Inc. and a member of the NSB Board of Realtors. She relocated from Atlanta, GA in 2005 and is "Loving Living at the Beach." 386-576-7722 | @NSBMimi

NEW SMYRNA BEACH: The New Smyrna Beach City Commission voted to accept over \$1.3 million dollars in the form of a grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Program. The funding will be used to help clean and restore approximately 1.3 miles of Turnbull Canal from State Road 44 to its endpoint at Old Mission Road. The vote was unanimous and took place at the city commission meeting held on June 13, 2023.

The portion of the canal system qualified for a watershed program grant, a 75 percent cost share. According to a recent press release by the city, as part of the agreement, the city will receive technical and financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service and will contribute \$407,057 towards the project from its Stormwater Utility Fund.

"The canal system has been neglected for at least 50 years," expressed resident Donna Athearn at the Turnbull Creek Land Preservation Committee's meeting held on June 19th. "The canals are eight feet wide or more. Heavy barges traveled through with lumber and harvested cabbage palms." Athearn serves as chairwoman of the city's TCLPC. The public can access the video replay of the committee meeting at the city's website, CityofNSB.com, under the agenda and minutes tab.

The Turnbull Canal System is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. According to the national archives, all of the canals in the

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FEATURE



The Chapters of Our Life

We all possess a book of our life, a collection of chapters that begins with our birth and continues until the day we depart from this world. These chapters encompass various aspects such as childhood, teenage years, love, marriage, family, travel, careers and hobbies. To preserve our life book, we keep journals, photo albums, and pass on stories from one generation to the next. It is essential for our family history to endure.

Recently, my husband and I embarked on a new chapter. The 60s have presented us with challenges, including the pandemic, moving into a new house, embracing a new daughter-in-law, welcoming another grandson, and the loss of David's father. We have slowed down a bit, and I find myself missing the company of my theatre friends, family and clients. I realize that I don't spend nearly enough time with my children and grandchildren.

In this chapter of my life, I have come to understand that I may not grasp some of the current generation's language or technology, but I am making an effort to adapt. We were raised in a different era, yet we possess wisdom gained through years of life experiences. Finding a middle ground and respecting one another is crucial.

Recently, I had the pleasure of meeting up with several of my NSB Little Theatre friends to watch a comedy and catch up. As we shared our stories, I realized that I was not alone. Many of my friends were going through similar life chapters. It was comforting, and I believe such gatherings should occur more often.

To maintain happiness and good health, it is

important to remind yourself of what you have accomplished and the life you have lived thus far. Frame or display your memories, travels, or anything that holds significance to you. Surrounding yourself with these reminders will reinforce how truly amazing you are. It is often said that when you enter someone's home, you can gain insight into the person who resides there based on the way they decorate and showcase their cherished memories.

According to Becca Levy, a professor at Yale, having a positive attitude towards aging can reduce the risk of developing dementia by 40 percent.

In this chaotic world, many people struggle with anxiety and depression. It is time to make life changes in this chapter. Reduce the amount of time spent watching the news and instead indulge in programs that bring you joy. Surround yourself with the people you love and distance yourself from toxic relationships.

Above all, laughter is the best medicine for every stage of life and should be present in every chapter. Laughter can strengthen your immune system, lower blood pressure, and alleviate stress, anxiety, and depression. I personally find myself laughing a lot. Have you met my family?



Karin Jenkins is a Licensed Esthetician, Makeup Artist, and the author of the book, "Pageant Land and the Family Who Lived There." She has been involved in all aspects of the beauty industry and in show business for over 30 years. Karin is the mother of two and the grandmother of four.

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Experience the Enchanting Pacific Islands at the Polynesian Fire Luau in Daytona Beach

Did you know that the sights and sounds of the Pacific Islands are right here in Daytona Beach? While I had heard about Polynesian Fire when it was beachside, it was not until this past spring, after it moved Downtown to 180 Beach Street, that I was able to attend. I enjoyed it so much as a date with my husband that I went back about a month later with friends!

You will need to make a reservation ahead of time by phone or on the website, as there is assigned seating. When you arrive, you'll be greeted with a lei and led to your seat. I did not realize until my second visit that the lovely men and women taking you to your seats are actually the performers, a Samoan family from the island of Tutuila, American Samoa. So please be extra polite as these are the folks that will be handling fire in front of you very soon!

Dinner is first with a buffet of options. There are salads, fried rice, meats like pulled pork and teriyaki chicken, and steamed vegetables. Dessert and drinks like tea, soda and lemonade are included in the meal. There is a cash bar with some of Daytona's finest bartenders behind it, too! I highly recommend the Funky Monkey as the perfect chocolate and banana dessert drink to sip on during the show.

My first visit was in April for my birthday. You can write on your reservation on the website when booking tickets if you are celebrating anything special, like birthdays or anniversaries. Don't skip this line as the performers will announce, by name, all the special occasions during the musical portion of the show, while eating dinner. They called my name and others and then led the audience in singing, "Happy Birthday" to us in two different languages!

Getting into the show portion and speaking of multiple languages, I really enjoyed how each island we "visited" was introduced by teaching us a greeting in a native tongue. The

most well-known probably being "Aloha!" when in Hawaii. The dances were explained before being performed, too. As examples, traditional hula dances include a big smile on the dancer's face while a warrior dance demands no smiling at all.



Besides audience participation in learning new phrases, we were taught how to dance ourselves! The men were invited to learn a Haka, as tribes in New Zealand would, and the women learned how to Hula. I really need to work on my moves, but it was a great way to get out of our seats and take part in the fun of the evening!

"Fun" really is my key takeaway from both visits. You can feel the heat of the fire as multiple dances include clubs, knives or torches lit up in seemingly dangerous and yet beautiful displays. The performers tell jokes along the way and stay after the show for pictures. Everyone does a great job of welcoming locals and tourists into this new 'Ohana, or family, where Polynesia meets Daytona Beach!

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CASSIE GONYER lives in Daytona Beach with her husband, three daughters, two housemates, and a "doug" (dachshund-pug mix dog). She loves exploring and promoting the food, shops and events that Daytona has to offer. You can follow her local adventures on Instagram at @CassGoAroundDaytona



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Mark your calendars and spread the word. The EDGEfest Back to School Backpack and School Supply Giveaway is happening on Saturday, August 5, 2023, at the Southeast Volusia Family YMCA, located at 148 West Turgot Avenue. The fun kicks off bright and early at 9 a.m., so don't be late!

This is the highlight of The EDGEfest event series as they aim to distribute 500+ backpacks and school supplies to local students. Be sure to arrive early as backpacks and school supplies will be distributed on a first come, first served basis. Each child must be present with a parent or guardian.

Other fun activities include:

- Free haircuts for kids
- Free swimming until noon
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CityOfEdgewater.org



REGROW THE LOOP CAMPAIGN LEADS THE CHARGE ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

Volusia County Government has launched ReGrow the Loop to learn about conservation and beautification efforts along the Ormond Scenic Loop & Trail. The first in a series of free, monthly educational activities and events happened in June at the Ormond Beach Regional Library, 30 S. Beach St. and there will be more informational events to follow.

The county has partnered with the UF/IFAS Extension Volusia County and other local organizations to:

- Eradicate invasive plant species,
- Increase native vegetation,
- Attract more wildlife and pollinators,
- Share information about sustainable practices to residents

Residents who live along the loop - and anywhere in Volusia County - can get involved by signing a pledge, attending a workshop, and organizing or participating in a loop volunteer event. Each participating household will receive a ReGrow the Loop sticker and a native three-gallon tree at one of the tree giveaway events that will be scheduled this fall or summer 2024.

Scan the QR code to register for upcoming events.



For more information, email Volusia@ifas.ufl.edu or contact Sheila Hutchinson at (386)822-5778.

Volusia.org



DAYTONA BEACH INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT CELEBRATES NEW NONSTOP FLIGHTS ON AVELO AIRLINES

Members of the Volusia County Council, the leadership team at Daytona Beach International Airport and representatives with Avelo Airlines celebrated the start this June of two new, nonstop flights to/from New Haven, CT and Wilmington, DE.

In a news release, Avelo Airlines Chairman and CEO Andrew Levy said the airline is excited to begin service to Daytona Beach.



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During the ceremony prior to the flight arrival, Airport Director Karen Feaster thanked the airport and airline implementation team for all the work leading up to inaugural day and highlighted the positive economic boost of two new flights.



"The economic impact of these two new weekly Avelo flights is estimated at more than \$5 million annually," said Feaster. "We are hopeful these two new flights are just the beginning of expanded service options here and we are looking forward to a great partnership with Avelo."

The overall yearly economic impact of Daytona Beach International Airport is \$3.2 billion, according to the 2023 study by the Florida Department of Transportation.

Flights to/from New Haven are Thursdays and Sundays; flights to/from Wilmington are Fridays and Mondays. Avelo is the first ultra-low-cost-carrier to serve DAB.

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SUMMER FERTILIZER ORDINANCE IN EFFECT

To protect Volusia County's springs and surface waters from nutrient pollution, the Volusia County Council has adopted a summertime fertilizer ban and initiated other restrictions to protect the county's waterways.

Non-point sources of pollution, which include fertilizer runoff, contribute significant amounts of nutrients to our water bodies. Runoff from improper use of fertilizer can contribute to nitrogen and phosphorous pollution in surface waters and ground water.

Ordinance 2014-09 applies to all homes and businesses in Volusia County, except those in Deltona, which has its own fertilizer ordinance. Gardens and compost are exempt.

Under the ordinance, the application of fertilizers containing nitrogen or phosphorous is prohibited from June 1 through September 30 of each year, during flood watches and on saturated soils.

Other provisions include:

Fertilizer may not be applied within 15 feet of water bodies.

The application of fertilizers containing phosphorous is prohibited unless a deficiency is verified by a soil or tissue test. (The University of Florida's Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences offers tests for phosphorous, potassium, calcium and magnesium content in soil.)

Fertilizer containing nitrogen may be applied only between October 1 and May 31 and must contain no less than 50 percent slow-release nitrogen.



Find more information on local ordinances, ways to "Floridify" your yard and a listing of where to find lagoon-friendly fertilizers online at:

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Diving headfirst into this season's biggest trend, we find ourselves in a world of statement hats. As I've mentioned time and again, accessories possess a magical quality, effortlessly elevating even the most basic of outfits.

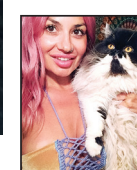
And now, these remarkable headpieces are becoming bigger and more dramatic than ever before! Cowboy hats, wide-brim styles, bucket hats, and floppy hats are taking center stage, captivating both the runways and the streets with their boldness.

Prepare to shield yourself from the sun and turn heads simultaneously, as these extra shady hats are adorned with embellishments, floral accents, leather detailing, and an array of wild features.

Pair a cowboy hat with a bohemian maxi dress and fringed boots for a modern take on western chic. Opt for a wide-brim hat with a tailored blazer and wide-legged trousers to channel a sophisticated and androgynous aesthetic. A bucket hat paired with a graphic tee and

denim shorts exudes a cool, street-style vibe, while a floppy hat combined with a flowy sundress epitomizes effortless summer elegance.

Don't be afraid to experiment with different shapes, sizes and embellishments to find the perfect statement hat that resonates with your personal style. Whether you're attending a music festival, strolling through the city streets, or lounging poolside, these hats will undoubtedly take your fashion game to new heights.



Danielle Napolitano is a designer and owner of Rockerbands, a 70s Rock'n'Roll inspired bikini and accessory line. Along with building her brand, Danielle is also a stylist at Jon Ric Salon and Spa in New Smyrna

GET THE LOOK
Hat: Urban Outfitters & upcycled by me / Top: @Knottyfoxshop / Skirt: Shein

Stylist • Model • Journalist: Danielle Napolitano **IG:** @Danielle_Napolitano_Stylist

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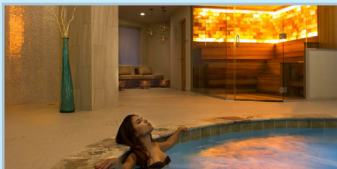


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1 SAT JULY 1
9 PM

Beachside Tavern, NSB

Burnin' Smyrnans 20th Anniversary

Celebrate 20 years of incredible local music with Burnin' Smyrnans 20 Year Reunion Show and Tru Phonic opening up the night.

1-31 JULY 1 - SEP 4 (+)

DAILY

Throughout West Volusia

Cool Craft Summer

this year's CoolCraft Summer features 17 talented CoolCrafters ready to showcase their 19 Flamingo-Inspired tropical creations with a West Volusia twist. Guests are encouraged to try each location's featured drink and then vote for the one they like best online. A mobile passport has also been designed for visitors who want to check in at each location and earn points along the way @ CoolCraftTrail.com.

1 SAT JULY 1 / AUG 5 (🔄)

10 AM - 5 PM

Canal Street, NSB

Art Stroll/Gallery Walk

Art Stroll and Gallery Walk features solo/group exhibitions, artist talks.

1 SAT JULY 1 / AUG 5 (🔄)

1 - 6 PM

Canal Street, NSB

Sip and Stroll

Sample craft beers and unique wines as you stroll! \$25 includes 12 tastings and souvenir glass.

1-30 JULY 1 - SEP 30 (🔄)

EVERY SAT @ 7:15 PM

Daytona Beach Bandshell

Star Spangled Summer

A weekly concert of the best tribute bands followed by a fireworks show over the water. Don't miss the special 4th of July fireworks show!

6-31 JULY 6 - AUG 31 (+)

Every THU @ 6:30 PM

Riverside Park, NSB

NSB Summer Concert Series

FREE weekly concerts featuring local artists. Bring a chair or blanket.

7-31 JULY 7 - SEP 22 (🔄)

EVERY FRI @ 7 PM

Hard Rock Hotel, Daytona Beach

Rock the Beach Tribute Series

\$15 and up admission for this series featuring tributes to some of the most iconic Rock and Roll bands of all times.

7-31 FRI JULY 7 - SEP 1 (🔄)

EVERY FRI @ 7:15 PM

Daytona Beach Bandshell

Sounds of Summer

A weekly concert of the best tribute bands singing your favorites. Free admission - bring your own chair. \$15 VIP includes seating.

7 FRI JULY 7 (🔄)

1st FRIDAY @ 8:30 PM

Rockefeller Gardens, Ormond Beach

Movies on the Halifax

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a FREE screening of popular movies. July movie - Disney's "Onward"

8 SAT JUL 8/AUG 12 (🔄)

1st SAT @ 3 - 7 PM

Canal Street, NSB

Classic Cars on Canal

Bring your classic car, modern muscle or any unique vehicle, or stroll the street to check out the cars! Event is free for all to participate.

10-15 JULY 10 - 15 (+)

MON-SAT @ 9 AM - 4 PM

Daytona International Speedway

Mustangs at Daytona

A week-long Mustang event at the speedway and surrounding areas! Register online at MustangsAtDaytona.net for the car show and cruise in, plus find the full itinerary of events.

13-30 JULY 13 - 30 (+)

Find showtimes online

The Little Theatre of NSB

Seussical - the Musical

A musical perfect for the whole family, Seussical takes us into the world of Dr. Seuss, where we revisit beloved characters and learn the power of being unique, and the importance of fighting for your beliefs. NSBPlayers.org.

15 SAT JUL 15/AUG 19 (🔄)

3 - 7 PM

E. Indiana Ave., DeLand

Cruise Downtown DeLand

Classic cars and hot rods line the avenue with live DJ music, giveaways, shopping and dining specials.

15 SAT JULY 15 / AUG 19 (🔄)

7 - 10 PM

Cypress Park, Daytona Beach

Midtown Music Series

Expanded streetside dining, vendors, special hours for businesses, kids' zone and specialty food vendors.

20 THU JULY 20

6:30 PM

Marine Discovery Center, NSB

Public Lecture Series: Monarch Butterflies

David and Susan Bruce work with the NSB Monarch Certification Program and will discuss how the homes of local citizens can become certified as a butterfly Sanctuary, what to do to support monarch butterflies and how to grow native plants for their food. Register for FREE by scanning below or call (386) 428-4828.

21 FRI JULY 21

6 - 9 PM

Woodland Blvd, Downtown DeLand

Tropical Nights

Everyone's favorite tropical street party featuring live music, games & a hot contest.

22 SAT JULY 22

10 AM - 6 PM

Granada Blvd., Ormond Beach

Christmas in July

Santa's back for shopping and dining! Join us for a summer celebration at our locally-owned small businesses up and down Granada Blvd. Dozens of restaurants and shops will be offering incredible deals on yummy bites, summery sips, and one-of-a-kind finds, all day long.

22 SAT JUL 22 / AUG 26 (🔄)

1 - 7 PM

Flagler Avenue, NSB

Wine Walk

Explore over 100 interesting wines inside host locations and walk the avenue. Tasting passports are \$25.

29 SAT JULY 29

11 AM - 2 PM

Riverwalk Park, Port Orange

Slide Out of Summer

Get ready for to head back to school with water inflatables, food trucks, music, and more! (This year's school supply giveaway will be on August 5th at the REC!)

3 THU AUG 3

5 - 9 PM

Flagler Avenue, NSB

NSB Shrimp and Seafood Festival

Try the best restaurants in NSB and its surrounding areas serving up sample-sized portions of their award-winning seafood dishes all priced between \$5-\$8. Restaurants will be competing for awards in 4 categories: shrimp, shellfish, fish, and specialty seafood.

4 FRI AUG 4 (🔄)

1st FRIDAY @ 8:30 PM

Rockefeller Gardens, Ormond Beach

Movies on the Halifax

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a FREE screening of popular movies. August movie - "The Princess Diaries"

4-6 AUG 4 - 6 (+)

FRI - SUN

Ocean Center, Daytona Beach

Jurassic Quest Dinosaur Show

Walk with a larger-than-life dinosaur herd, play with adorable baby dinos, excavate fossils, or even train a raptor! Get tickets at JurassicQuest.com before they go extinct!

5 SAT AUG 5

9 AM

Southeast Volusia YMCA, Edgewater

EDGEfest Back to School Party

Backpacks and school supplies will be available on a first come, first served basis while supplies last. Each child must be present with a parent or guardian. Kids can also enjoy free haircuts, free swimming until noon, a 65-ft. inflatable tropical obstacle course, raffle for free bicycles, food trucks and music!

5 SAT AUG 5

10:30 AM - 2:30 PM

Ponce Inlet Lighthouse

National Lighthouse Day

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KEY: Community Food & Drink Music Arts/
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7 FRI JUL 7/AUG 4

FRI @ 5 - 9 PM

Magnolia Ave., Downtown Daytona

Downtown Daytona Nights

Rally for the weekend at this family friendly event on Magnolia Avenue in historic Downtown Daytona Beach! Come enjoy live music, food trucks and downtown restaurants.




7 FRI JULY 7 / AUG 4

5 - 9 PM

Beach Street, Daytona Beach

First Friday Art Walk

Attention art lovers! Downtown Daytona Beach invites you to meet artists and other art lovers for an evening of stimulating art, fun, and refreshments.



7-31 JULY 7 - AUG 18

Every FRI @ 7 - 10 PM

ONE DAYTONA

Summer in the Circle Concert Series

Weekly concerts will take place at the Victory Circle Stage and are FREE and open to the public! Bring your chair and the entire family for this family-friendly event. Visit OneDaytona.com for lineup.




14-28 JULY 14, 21 & 28

6 - 8 PM

Rockefeller Gardens, Ormond Beach

Summer Sounds Concert Series

Grab a lawn chair or a blanket, and come celebrate summertime with a FREE night of great music.




14-31 JULY 14 - AUG 6

Find showtimes online

The Athens Theatre, DeLand

Escape to Margaritaville

As the weather gets warmer and the days get longer, visions of frosty cocktails begin to dance in our heads! Jimmy Buffet's Escape to Margaritaville is the perfect mini-vacation your tropical-lovin' heart is looking for! AthensDeLand.com



15 SAT JULY 15

10 AM - 3 PM

Museum of Arts & Sciences, Daytona

Summer Florida History Con

An all-day celebration of Florida history with guest speakers and interactive exhibits.




22 SAT JULY 22

8 PM - 11 PM

Muldoons Saloon, Winter Park

5 Time Shag

Join the boys of 5 Time Shag for a night of live music and at Muldoons Saloon, known as an unfussy, neighborhood hangout offering cocktails, brews & pub eats, plus a backyard with live bands.



23 SUN JULY 23

11 AM - 4 PM

Flagler Avenue, NSB

Flagler Avenue Market Days

Shop alongside Living Windows from selected retailers, watch live Pop-Up Sidewalk Fashion Shows, see artisans in action in their studios, get great gift ideas from merchants and in-store specials! Fashion show tickets @ EventBrite.com




28 FRI JULY 28

7 - 10 PM

Center at Deltona, 1640 M.L.K. Blvd.

Latin Night

The hottest Latin Night in town will be an electrifying evening filled with sizzling rhythms, contagious energy, and non-stop dancing. Tickets online @ EventBrite.com for \$15 or \$20 at the door.



12 SAT AUG 12

4 PM

Whistle Stop Park, Edgewater

Summer BBQ

Join the Edgewater Police Department for FREE food and drinks, K-9 and SWAT demos, games and plenty of vendors!




25 FRI AUG 25

8 PM

Ocean Center, Daytona Beach

Katt Williams: 2023 and Me Tour

Tickets are on sale NOW @ TicketMaster.com - the comedic powerhouse will perform an all-new show following the success of his "World War III" tour. \$59 and up.




25-26 AUG 25 - 26

FRI - SUN

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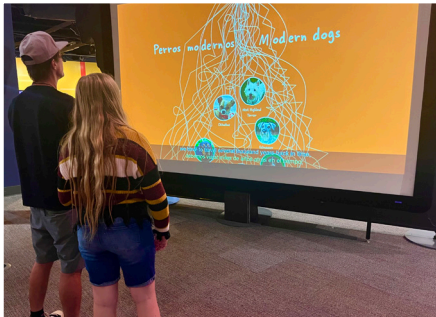
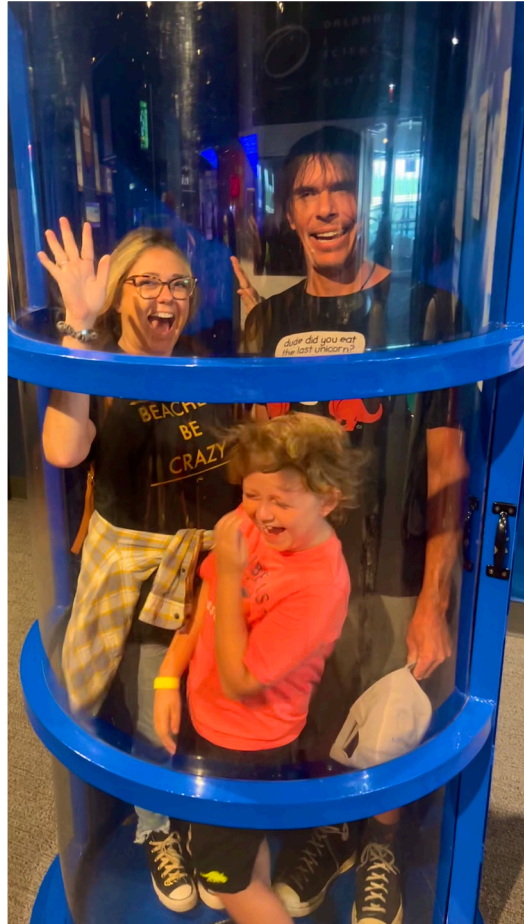


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Bobby G Takes on The Orlando Science Center

Photos by: Tiffany Evers

This month I'm taking on the Orlando Science Center near downtown Orlando. It's been raining all week and Tiffany and I want to get the kids out of the house and off their digital distractions for the day. The Orlando Science Center is a perfect choice! It's only an hour or so away from where we live, plus it offers fun for everyone and has so many interesting educational experiences that have to do with science.

The science center was incorporated in 1955 as the Central Florida Museum and opened in Orlando Loch Haven Park in 1960. The existing facility opened in 1997 and has undergone numerous major renovations to keep content current.

Our walk to the entrance tells me that we have definitely made the correct choice for our rainy day excursion. We cross the street from the 2nd-level of the parking garage, which is enclosed in glass, providing the perfect photo opportunity. While entering the ticket counter informs us of all the

spectacular shows and exhibits available for us to experience and how to get to them.

We are starting on the 4th level and working our way down. Porter is especially excited that we are starting on floor 4 because he loves dinosaurs and there are



so many great exhibits, replicas and actual fossils of some of his favorite types of dinosaurs. I find myself gravitating towards the lunar simulation - see what I did there? Am I some kind of lunatic? All bad jokes

aside, the simulation of landing a rocket is out of this world! Sorry, I had to sneak in one more.

What I am really enjoying is the educational value of every stop we make, like how a tornado forms, what types of structures can last through an earthquake and the force of howling winds against sand forming dunes.

One floor down and we arrive at Dogs: A Science Tail, a new exhibit that will run through September 4th. Ready, set, go! Porter and I are running in a dog race so to speak, actually we are being clocked against the top speed of various dogs. Porter's top speed was 12.3 mph, which is faster than a pomeranian. I clocked in at an incredible 7.8 mph, which is as fast as a basset hound. Woof! While Porter keeps trying to break the corgi speed record I do some dashing myself to another side of the floor and find Bailey ready to simulate a weather forecast complete with green screen

and teleprompter. She is a natural and finding it hard to believe but still reporting a snowstorm headed to central Florida. How's that for climate change?



Fun, exciting and interactive, the shows throughout the tour have provided so much entertainment and education on all different aspects of science. The staff is friendly, knowledgeable and informative.



Our stomachs are telling us it's time for a quick bite, which is perfect because the 4 Roots Cafe is right on our way. A living wall of ingredients used in their salads and sandwiches are perfectly complimenting their locally grown vegetables. Every bite of my Greek sandwich (pictured below) is delightful and so fresh.



If you are eating, also check out Food Heroes, a perfect compliment exploring the complexities of our food system and how we can make it more sustainable.

The Great Barrier Reef is beginning and it is in an 8-story, 360-degree theater that is being narrated by actor Eric Bana, Australian actor and co-star in the movie Troy. I especially enjoy that the children are learning how important the reef is to our ecosystem and the importance of protecting and conserving this natural phenomenon.

The OSC has scheduled events, summer camp programs and new and upcoming exhibits that you can find on their website.

One of their new exhibits soon to be up and running later this year is called, "Animals. Humans. Climate. Life." It will tell the story of conservation through the animals that share our planet. Visitors will better understand how their actions affect all living things.

Learning, playing, getting out of the house and away from the computer. We are each taking with us our own favorite parts from the experience at the Orlando Science Center together. I highly encourage all to do the same for you and yours.

Until next month, "Keep your feet on the ground and keep reaching for the stars."

* If any one of our readers can name the person behind that quote there will be a special shout out and a free ECC t-shirt (like the one I am rocking below) for the first person that sends the answer to the editor!

ORLANDO SCIENCE CENTER

Website: osc.org
407.514.2000
777 E. Princeton St.
Orlando, Florida 32803



Scotty Sudakis AKA Bobby G is a freelance writer and frontman in 5 Time Shag. If you have anything you'd like to see Bobby G "take on" in a future article please email the editor directly at: ECCurrentEditor@gmail.com

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TASTE Raspberry Chipotle Slow Cooker Chicken Tacos



You only need 3 INGREDIENTS to whip up these unique Raspberry Chipotle Slow Cooker Chicken Tacos! Topping these healthy tacos with Raspberry Pineapple Salsa and a sweet & tart crema really makes the flavors shine.

Preparation: Prep Time: 10 minutes • Cook Time: 4 hours • Servings: 6-8

Ingredients:

- 1 1/2 pounds boneless skinless chicken breasts or thighs, fresh or frozen
- 1/4 cup Raspberry Chipotle seasoning
- 1 cup salsa or tomato/chilies or tomato/chilies blend
- For topping: tortillas or taco shells, shredded lettuce, sliced avocado, cilantro, lime wedges

RASPBERRY PINEAPPLE SALSA

- 1 cup fresh raspberries
- 1 jalapeno, seeded and diced
- 1/4 cup red bell pepper, diced
- 1/2 cup fresh pineapple, diced
- 1/4 cup sweet onion, diced
- 3 tablespoons fresh cilantro, minced
- 1 lime, zested and juiced
- Pinch salt

LIME RASPBERRY CHIPOTLE CREMA

- 1/2 cup Greek yogurt or sour cream
- 2 teaspoons Raspberry Chipotle seasoning
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- 1/2 teaspoon coarse sea salt



INSTRUCTIONS

Place chicken into a slow cooker, top with salsa, and sprinkle with seasoning. Close the lid and cook on high for 3-4 hours, or low for 6-8 hours, until chicken is cooked completely.

Remove chicken from the slow cooker. Use two forks to shred the meat.

Return chicken to crock and stir with remaining liquid. Cover and keep warm in the cooker until ready to serve. Serve in tortillas or taco shells with desired toppings.

RASPBERRY PINEAPPLE SALSA

Combine all salsa ingredients in a small bowl and stir well. Refrigerate, covered, until ready to use.

LIME RASPBERRY CHIPOTLE CREMA

Combine all crema ingredients in a small bowl and whisk well. Refrigerate, covered, until ready to use. Drizzle on tacos before eating.

NOTES

Leftover chicken can be stored, covered, in the refrigerator for up to 4 days.

Leftover salsa and crema can be stored, covered, in the refrigerator for 1 day.

Nutrition facts do not include nutrition in tortillas or additional toppings.



Erica Acevedo is an NSB native and recipe developer, blogger and food photographer at TheCrumbyKitchen.com. A published cookbook author with a bad case of wanderlust, she loves to get creative in the kitchen with her husband, Abe, and best friend, Lara, with whom she also runs Fork & Lens Photography Studio. TheCrumbyKitchen.com

Mexican Street Corn Salad

When you're tired of the same old thing, a bowl of Creamy Mexican Street Corn Salad will spice up your menu! This fun summer side dish is loaded with freshly grilled corn, chunks of ripe avocado, juicy tomatoes, and all the street corn toppings you want!



Preparation:

Prep Time: 15 minutes • Cook Time: 10 minutes • Servings: 4

Ingredients:

- 4 ears of corn, husked
- 1 avocado peeled, cored, and chopped
- 2 jalapeno peppers, minced (seeds optional)
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 cup cherry tomatoes, quartered
- 1/4 cup green onion, chopped
- 1/3 cup Mexican crema or sour cream
- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 1/4 cup Cotija or Feta cheese
- crumbled, plus more for garnish
- 2 tablespoons fresh cilantro chopped, plus more for garnish
- 1 lime juiced
- 1 teaspoon lime zest
- 1/2 teaspoon chili powder or cayenne pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1/4 teaspoon paprika plus more for garnish
- Kosher salt to taste

INSTRUCTIONS

Remove husk and all corn silk from ears of corn. Place ears of corn in a large bowl, fill with water until covered, and add a sprinkle of salt. Allow to soak for 20-30 minutes.

Rub grill grates with oil, then heat to medium-high (450 degrees F). Grill corn, uncovered, over direct flames, 8-10 minutes. Turn occasionally, until tender and charred in spots. Let cool until touchable, then carefully cut kernels from cobs into a mixing bowl. Add avocado, jalapeño, garlic, tomatoes and green onion to a bowl with corn. Gently stir to combine.

Whisk crema, mayonnaise, cheese, cilantro, lime juice and zest, chili powder, cumin and paprika together in a small bowl. Season with salt to taste. Add dressing to a bowl with vegetables and stir gently to combine. Top with additional cheese, cilantro and paprika, then serve with lime wedges on the side.

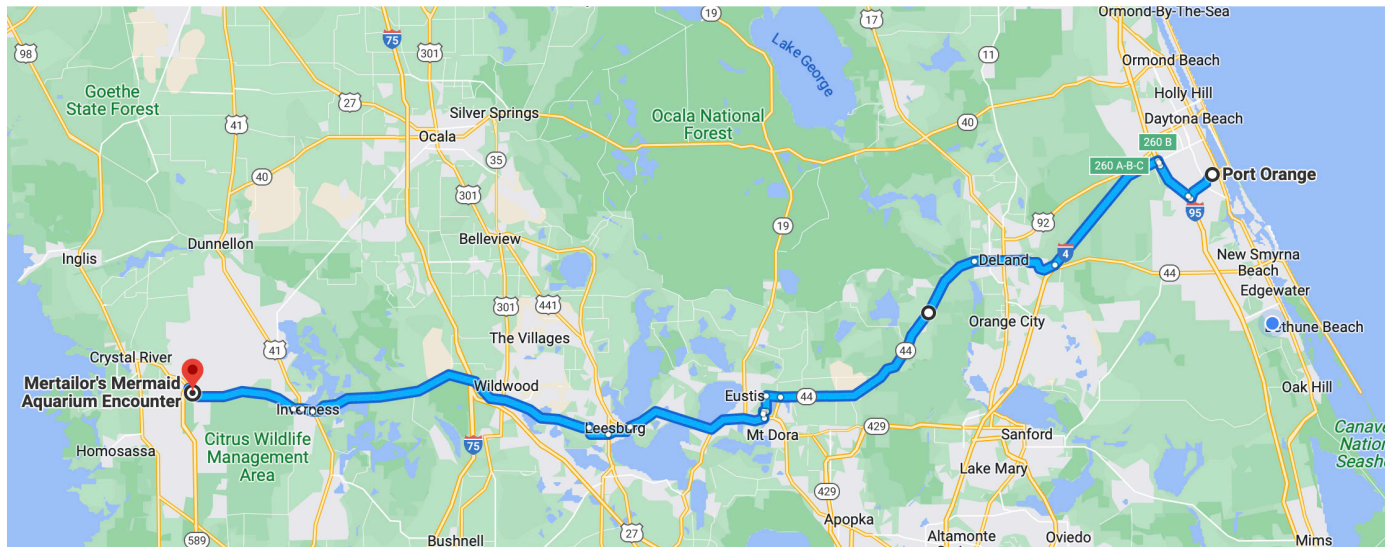
NOTES

Crema dressing can be made 2 days ahead, stored in a sealed container in the refrigerator. Corn can be grilled up to 1 hour ahead of preparation. Store leftovers in a sealed container in the refrigerator for up to 2 days.



Dive into a Magical Mermaid Oasis: Mertailor's Mermaid Aquarium Encounter

Article & Photos by: Kelsey Walters



Holy cow, it is hot. With summer just barely begun and temperatures soaring into the 90s daily, it's been sweltering and sticky throughout Florida. Don't get me wrong, our family is spending plenty of (sweaty) time outdoors, but sometimes you just need a break from the heat.

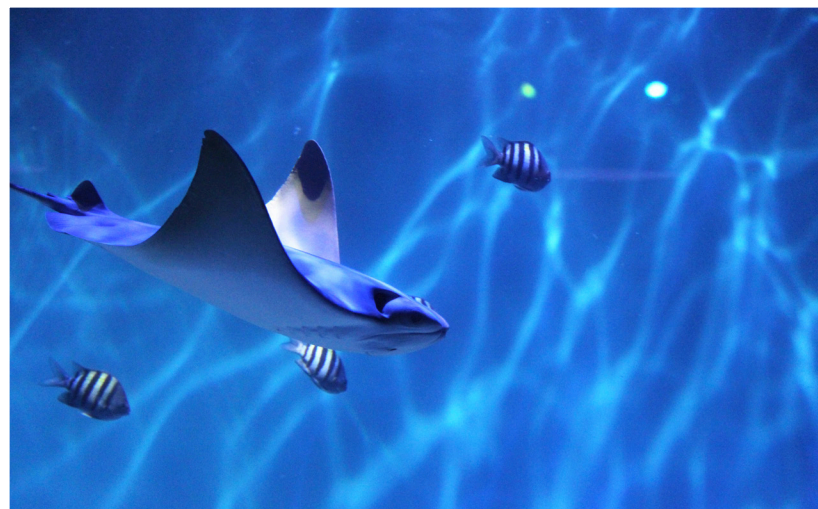
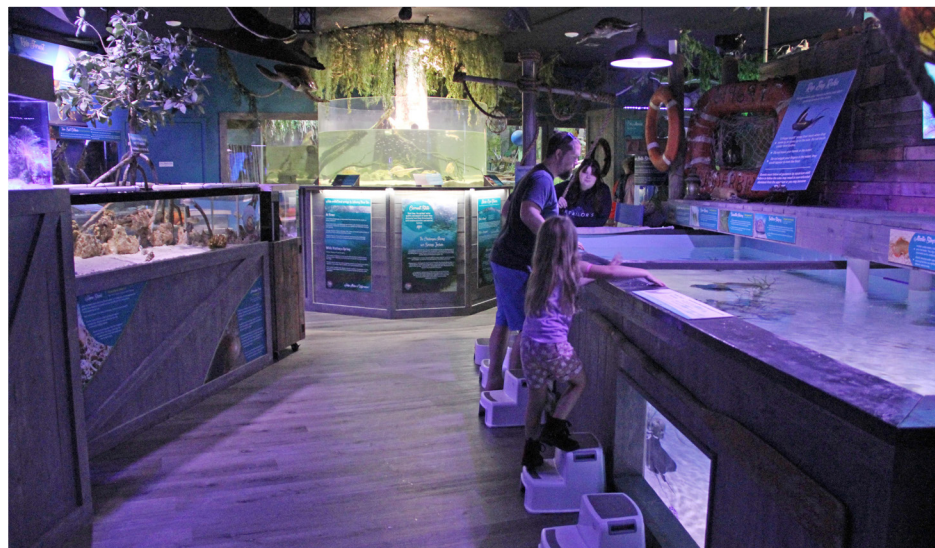


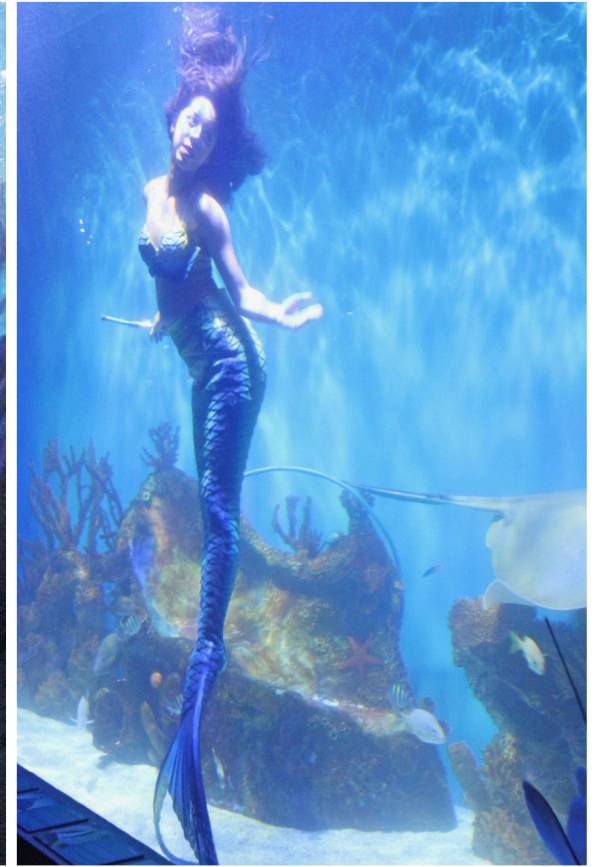
In Lecanto, a tiny town just outside of Crystal River on the west coast, a unique underwater oasis that combines the magic of the sea and something even more magical - air conditioning - awaits.

Just over 75 years ago, Weeki Wachee Springs laid claim to the title of Mermaid Capital of the World with the original underwater mermaid show right in the natural spring. To this day, the shows still go on and guests are invited to swim in the fresh cool water just outside the show area. It's here where one of the world's largest mermaid outfitters, Eric Ducharme - AKA the Mertailor, got his start at just 16 years old as the youngest merman at the springs and went on to become a legend in the mer-community.

Years later, he fulfilled his lifelong dream and combined his fin-crafting skills with his fin-flipping skills and the magic of Mertailor's Mermaid Aquarium Encounter was born. This unique experience, which opened in 2020 with the help of one of the OG Weeki Wachee mermaids, was recently featured on Netflix's newest documentary, "MerPeople." The documentary follows the lives of several "merms" living out their dreams and seeking to live in a community of like-minded indiFINduals. Mertailor houses Eric's production of fantasy tails, ranging from "Guppy" tails for kiddos all the way to high-end silicone tails, as well as a sprawling aquarium and Eric's own choreographed mermaid show.

Here you'll find not only several local Florida species highlighted, but many tropical oddities as well. A winding path leads you from tank to tank, with dim mood lighting setting the underwater scene. Avery, a lifelong mermaid herself, which she may have inherited from me, and lover of all animals, was thrilled to come face-to-face with creatures like eels, sharks and rays. She danced and sang with a flock of rescued macaws





and parrots, then it was on to the touch tanks where she parked herself for most of our visit.

She has several pet snails at home in her aquarium, so the chance to touch a real life giant sea snail was almost more than she could bear. Alongside the snails were huge squishy starfish and prickly sea urchins. Nearby, a larger tank swirled with manta and sting rays gliding beneath eager little hands.

Four times a day, the largest tank comes to life as the watery stage is set for a glittering 20-minute mermaid show. Grab your seat early as they fill up quickly! Kids are invited to sit up front and center on the floor, giving them the perfect view as two mermaids (and if you're lucky, even Eric himself!) dive in. Avery's face lit up as the mermaids flipped among the fish, swirled with the sharks and rays and blew underwater kisses to modern mermaid/ocean-themed pop songs.

Since this is a smaller tank than the likes of Weeki Wachee, it offers a more intimate experience and



allows the mermaids to interact with the audience. Avery squealed with delight as one of the mermaids returned her wave hello and blew her a kiss. After the show, guests are invited to take their photo with the mermaids inside the tank.

If you get the chance, be sure to watch "MerPeople," as the documentary follows Eric's journey to open this special spot and the details of his process to find the perfect mermaids from all over the country. Avery's back home now, flipping her fins (pictured right) in the bathtub and getting ready for her audition!

MERTAILOR'S MERMAID AQUARIUM ENCOUNTER

4100 W Gulf to Lake Hwy, Lecanto 34461
(352) 513-3278

MermaidAquariumEncounter.com

Open Mon – Sun: 11 AM – 4 PM

Mermaid Shows: 11:30 AM, 1 PM, 2:30 PM and 4 PM

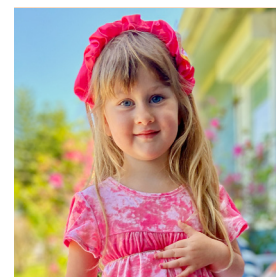
Admission: \$17.50/adult; \$12.50/child ages 4 – 12;
discounts for seniors and veterans



Kelsey Walters is the CFO and one of the co-owners of East Coast Current. She is a professional photojournalist with a BS in Photography from the University of Central Florida. Her work focuses on travel and documentary photography.



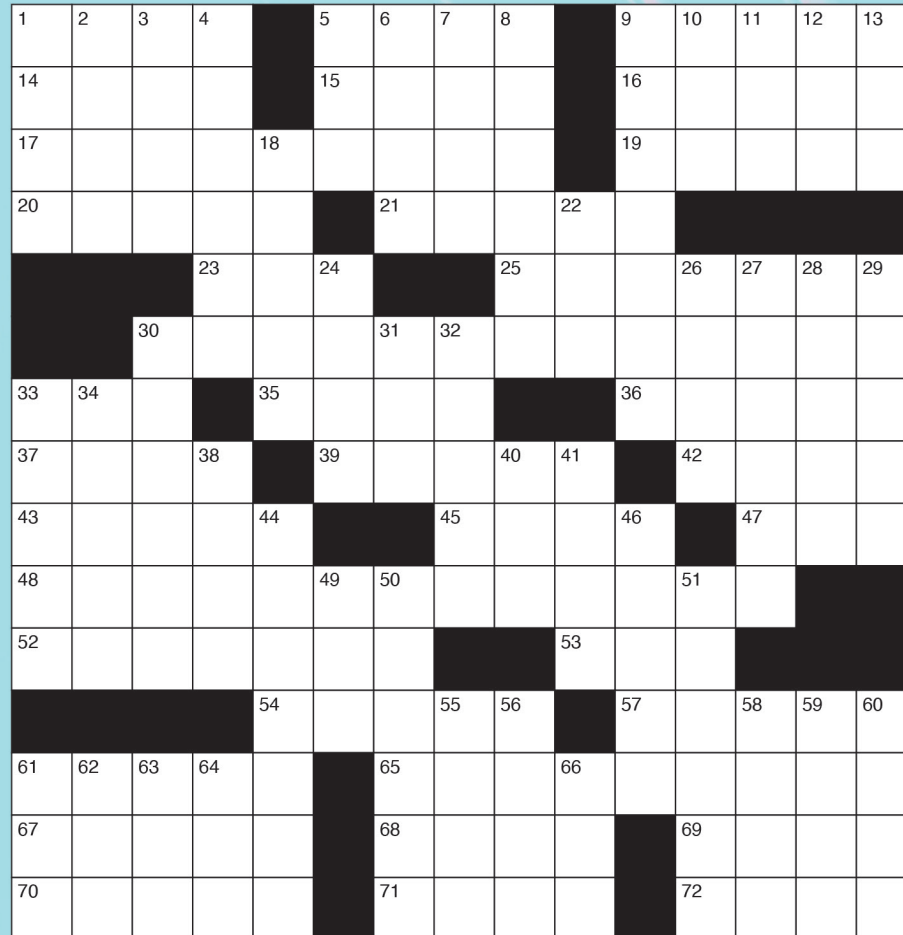
Scott Walters is Kelsey's husband of six years and Avery's proud father. He is originally from Connecticut and has lived in Florida since he was 11 years old.



Avery Walters is Kelsey and Scott's 5-year-old daughter. She loves to tag along on their monthly adventures throughout the state and play with her dogs, Kodi, Bluey and BamBam.

Across

1. Bingo call
5. Actress Pinkett Smith
9. "___ the Line" (Johnny Cash hit)
14. Dresden dear
15. City on the Rhone
16. Japanese fighter
17. Position of those who say "Shh!"
19. Dreadful feeling
20. Operatic voice
21. Languedoc town
23. Little, in Nice
25. Suggests
30. Like a toilet in a showroom
33. ___ mai (pork dumplings)
35. Playground retort
36. Mollusk creation
37. Mary ___ Lincoln
39. Electronics giant
42. "The Wind in the Willows" creature
43. Prima donna performances
45. Cut back
47. Convened
48. Morning beverage for those in a rush
52. Harvest goddess
53. Fan ___ (lit. genre)
54. Like the author of "R.U.R."
57. Melvin of the Nixon cabinet
61. Flower bed covering
65. Garden State
67. Neaten
68. Bull
69. Russian council
70. Stop ___ traffic
71. Skater Brinker
72. Board game turn

**Down**

30. Naturist's policy
31. "Born in the ___"
32. Like a sexist joke
33. Strait-laced
34. Glinda in "The Wiz"
38. Desert fruit
40. Basketball's ___ Ming
41. Composer of "Carmina Burana"
44. Louis Armstrong's nickname
46. Cyber-send to the I.R.S.
49. Pince-___
50. Warfare variety
51. Online birthday greetings
55. Actor Michael of "Juno"
56. Old Korean dough
58. Bats now
59. Notes before fa
60. Cannon of Hollywood
61. Brit. Motor Co. car of the 1950s
62. Giant vase
63. Former Israeli airport name
64. Important part
66. Wedding figs., sometimes

Down

1. Not keep a secret
2. Turner who sang "Private Dancer"
3. Moistens
4. San Luis ___, California
5. "Selena" star's nickname
6. 16th Hebrew letter
7. Part of a square-dancing call
8. Iron-poor
9. Overwhelmed and confused
10. Be champ
11. "The Hulk" director Lee
12. Seafood chain monogram
13. Krazy ___ (cartoon feline)
18. Extremely, informally
22. First responder
24. Roswell sightings, briefly
26. Rich soil
27. Paychecks
28. "Copperhead Road" singer
29. Winter precipitation

JUNE 2023 ANSWERS

Find the answers to this crossword puzzle in next month's issue.



Adventures of a Modern Pirate

We snorkeled down to the Santa Maria Teresa enough times to see the old wreck before lunch was called. Between all of us, we caught a batch of fish large enough to feed us all for days. I let Jim and my uncle do the cleaning and filleting, as they were very adept.

My limbs were tired and my skin salty, but nothing could take away from the sheer fun we were all having in the warm tropical water. On deck, towels were passed around and we sat on the trampoline with our drinks in hand waiting for the grill to get hot. Beneath us, I could see the colorful array of fish darting around in the water. A dolphin appeared, sending all the fish racing away, and just like that, they disappeared.

Once the grill reached optimal temperature, our hostess packed it with fillets grilling to perfection. Lemon and onion wedges garnished the fish followed by spices strewn on top to seal the meal. Plates were chockfull of the steaming grilled fish and toasted buttered bread on the side followed by the quintessential chilled beers that were clinked in unison.

Cheers were pronounced as the festivities continued. After lunch, cleaning up was an all-hands-on-deck affair, and before we knew it, we were back on the trampoline enjoying more chilled beers as the beauty of the ocean lay just below us to enjoy.

It had been an ending that my uncle and I knew was fast approaching and had finally arrived when I heard him and Jim discussing our departure. We would be dropped off at the same spot we had all met, where we would wait for Peter to return in a vintage seaplane - Little San Salvador Island. Although I was excited to see both Peter and the seaplane, I was not happy to be leaving the Double Pleasure and our new friends. It was going to be a bittersweet parting of the ways. I was torn between the lovely hostess, the big boat and the old classic seaplane. In the end, the old vintage gal won the mental battle brewing in my young mind.

A little more luxuriating went on before we finally hoisted the anchors, stowed the lines, and set sail for San Salvador Island. The adults made their way into the air-conditioned cockpit to map and chart the course, and I found myself alone on the trampoline staring into the deep blue sea.

Gotta get back to my coconut concoctions...

**This column is part of an ongoing story of tales from the past that continues each month for going on eight years now.*



Joshua MacLeod is a NSB local and a Florida native. He is the author of *Savage Tango* and *Chasing Latitudes*. He lives with his dogs, Durango, Higgins and Oscar.

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WAVE

Fishaholic: July Report

Captain Austin here once again bringing you the fishing report for the New Smyrna Beach area.

It's tarpon time here! If you are like me, tarpon are an addiction. I wait all year for the conditions to get just right to target these silver gladiators. What's not to like about these amazing fish? They get well over 100 pounds, they jump like crazy and pound-for-pound are one of the strongest fish anywhere. Perhaps the most interesting fact about tarpon is that they have been around since the time of the dinosaurs - about 120 million years ago!

In our area, it's possible to catch tarpon all year, however, the summer and fall months are by far the best. For as incredible as they are, tarpon can be the MOST difficult fish to hook and land! Sure, there are times when all you have to do is throw a bait in the water and it gets engulfed instantly, but more often than not you really have to work for your bites. Here in our area you can catch them in the intracoastal, inside the inlet and my favorite - off the beach. The most consistent bait to use is live bait like mullet, pinfish, croakers, shrimp and crabs.

Fishing in the backwaters and the creeks has been truly amazing when you fish in the right conditions. Along with the weather, the tide plays a vital role in your success. Top water lures are scoring big right now and if watching a redfish or snook blow up on the surface doesn't wake you up in the morning, I don't know what will.

One thing that everyone is raving about is the water conditions (pictured top right). It seems the water is clearer than it has been in years and this is translating into better

fishing. We are seeing the return of seagrass in many areas and with that, the critters that



thrive in the grass.

Back in the intracoastal and inlet area, the snook and redfish bite has been solid and this should continue. On days when the weather cooperates, fishing a few miles off the beach can produce action with all kinds of fish and my clients enjoy the variety of catching everything from snapper to bonito. Speaking of snapper, Governor DeSantis opened the season from June 16 to July 31.

As always, we'd love to take you out fishing but our availability is limited so please don't wait till the last second to call to book a charter! Until next month... good luck out on the water.



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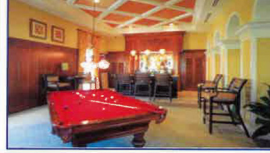
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Ponce Inlet July Tide Chart

WAVE



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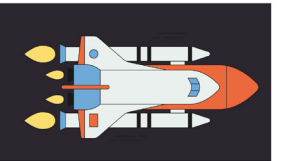


Date	High Tide				Low Tide				Sun		Moon
	AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft	Rise	Set	
1 Sat	6:54	2.6	7:37	3.8	1:05	0.4	12:50	-0.1	6:27	8:27	☾
2 Sun	7:49	2.7	8:30	4.0	2:00	0.2	1:43	-0.2	6:27	8:27	☾
3 Mon	8:45	2.8	9:24	4.1	2:52	0.1	2:37	-0.3	6:27	8:27	☾
4 Tue	9:40	2.9	10:16	4.1	3:44	0.0	3:32	-0.4	6:28	8:27	☾
5 Wed	10:34	3.0	11:07	4.0	4:34	0.0	4:27	-0.3	6:28	8:27	☾
6 Thu	11:29	3.1	11:59	3.9	5:26	-0.1	5:26	-0.2	6:29	8:27	☾
7 Fri			12:25	3.2	6:20	-0.1	6:29	-0.1	6:29	8:27	☾
8 Sat	12:51	3.7	1:23	3.3	7:13	-0.1	7:34	0.1	6:30	8:27	☾
9 Sun	1:44	3.4	2:22	3.3	8:05	-0.1	8:36	0.2	6:30	8:27	☾
10 Mon	2:38	3.2	3:21	3.4	8:54	-0.1	9:37	0.3	6:31	8:27	☾
11 Tue	3:34	2.9	4:21	3.5	9:43	-0.1	10:39	0.4	6:31	8:26	☾
12 Wed	4:34	2.7	5:19	3.5	10:34	0.0	11:40	0.5	6:32	8:26	☾
13 Thu	5:32	2.6	6:13	3.5	11:27	0.0			6:32	8:26	☾
14 Fri	6:26	2.6	7:04	3.6	12:38	0.5	12:19	0.1	6:33	8:26	☾
15 Sat	7:18	2.6	7:52	3.6	1:32	0.5	1:10	0.1	6:33	8:25	☾
16 Sun	8:08	2.6	8:39	3.5	2:21	0.4	1:58	0.1	6:34	8:25	☾
17 Mon	8:56	2.6	9:23	3.5	3:06	0.4	2:44	0.1	6:34	8:25	☾
18 Tue	9:42	2.6	10:04	3.5	3:46	0.4	3:27	0.2	6:35	8:24	☾
19 Wed	10:24	2.7	10:42	3.4	4:24	0.4	4:07	0.3	6:35	8:24	☾
20 Thu	11:05	2.7	11:18	3.3	5:00	0.4	4:48	0.4	6:36	8:23	☾
21 Fri	11:44	2.7	11:54	3.2	5:37	0.4	5:30	0.5	6:36	8:23	☾
22 Sat			12:23	2.8	6:14	0.4	6:16	0.6	6:37	8:22	☾
23 Sun	12:29	3.0	1:03	2.8	6:51	0.4	7:05	0.6	6:38	8:22	☾
24 Mon	1:06	2.9	1:44	2.9	7:28	0.4	7:55	0.6	6:38	8:21	☾
25 Tue	1:45	2.8	2:28	3.0	8:06	0.3	8:46	0.6	6:39	8:21	☾
26 Wed	2:28	2.6	3:18	3.1	8:47	0.3	9:40	0.6	6:39	8:20	☾
27 Thu	3:20	2.5	4:17	3.3	9:33	0.2	10:39	0.6	6:40	8:20	☾
28 Fri	4:22	2.5	5:18	3.4	10:27	0.2	11:40	0.5	6:40	8:19	☾
29 Sat	5:27	2.5	6:17	3.6	11:26	0.0			6:41	8:18	☾
30 Sun	6:28	2.6	7:14	3.8	12:40	0.4	12:26	-0.1	6:42	8:18	☾
31 Mon	7:27	2.7	8:10	4.0	1:36	0.3	1:25	-0.3	6:42	8:17	☾

ROCKET LAUNCHES

UPCOMING LAUNCH SCHEDULE

* Launch dates, time and viewing opportunities are subject to change. Launches can be affected by technical and mechanical issues as well as range operations and weather, either in advance or at the last minute.



Saturday, July 01

Vehicle: SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket
Mission: Euclid Telescope
Site: Space Launch Complex 40, Cape Canaveral Space Force Station
Launch Window: 11:12 a.m. ET

Saturday, July 08

Vehicle: SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket
Mission: Starlink Group 5-15
Site: Space Launch Complex 40, Cape Canaveral Space Force Station
Launch Window: TBA

Thursday, July 13

Vehicle: SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket
Mission: Starlink Group 6-5
Site: Space Launch Complex 40, Cape Canaveral Space Force Station
Launch Window: TBA

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While working at a festival this past month, Pony Tales Mobile Pony Rides and Petting Farm was approached by a police officer inquiring about a 28-year-old horse named Lil' Cloud. It just so happened that Lil' Cloud had been the officer's pet horse as a child and she had always wondered where she ended up. She and Lil' Cloud took a spin down memory lane and reconnected after many years!

Each year, our local shoreline becomes a temporary home to a gathering of manatees as they gracefully glide through their mating season. Let's ensure their safety during this special time - boaters, keep an eye out for these gentle giants! These majestic creatures were captured by local wildlife photographer Shelley Lynch in NSB. Find more of Shelley's work at ShelleyLynchPhotos.com.

Prepare for hurricane season now! In the event that you and your pet are separated, have peace of mind that you'll be reunited with a microchip. The service is available now at the Edgewater Animal Shelter for just \$20 and includes registration of the microchip. The shelter is located at 605 Mango Tree Drive in Edgewater.



The McKee family discovered a manmade rustic haven along the shoreline of New Smyrna Beach this past June. Made of palm tree trunks, palm fronds and other debris, this beach find invites us to embrace the island spirit of our own local oasis. Photo submitted by: Mimi McKee



"Seussical, the Musical," a vibrant and enchanting production directed by Rachel Terhune is coming to The Little Theatre's venue located at 726 E. 3rd St, NSB. The show will be performed on various dates from July 13 - 30, find showtimes and tickets online. Photo: Mike Kitaf



CHECK OUT WHAT THE LOCALS ARE UP TO



The iconic World's Most Famous Beach sign is back up over the beach entrance at E. International Speedway Blvd. and Atlantic Avenue in Daytona Beach. The sign was temporarily removed for repairs after damage during last year's hurricane season.

The city of Edgewater would like to express their gratitude to all the attendees who participated in the 2023 EDGEfest It's Summer Time Pool Party. It was a great opportunity to celebrate the students' well-deserved summer break. EDGEfest events are funded through sponsorships and donations. As one of the sponsors, we were thrilled to be part of the event!



This summer's Volusia County Schools Bus Brigade made its first stop at Timbercrest Elementary School to surprise Mr. Lonnie Tidmarsh and celebrate his leadership and commitment to academic excellence for being named as the Elementary Principal of the Year. The team extended their gratitude to FUTURES Foundation for Volusia County Schools for making the event possible! Photo: Volusia County Schools



The Edgewater Police Department held their recent Coffee and Conversations event at Bagel Barn Cafe and Deli. The event helped EPD engage with the community, foster relationships and discuss important issues over delicious bagels and coffee provided by Bagel Barn.



Volusia County Schools announced the start of its newest program, beginning this 2023/2024 school year - French immersion in elementary school. The first program of its kind in Volusia will begin at two elementary schools, including kindergartners! Mariella Castellanos (left) will be at Citrus Grove ES and Jacqueline Ouellette (right) will be at Spruce Creek ES.



In celebration of Father's Day, the City of DeBary extends its gratitude to all the incredible fathers, stepfathers, grandfathers and father figures in their community who go above and beyond for their families. The heartfelt connections and strong bonds that these extraordinary individuals create with their families were apparent while attending various city events throughout DeBary.

fishing Report

**All Text & Photos Provided by
Patrick "Tupat" Eichstaedt @TheRealTupat**

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Summertime is here, and the fishing action is in full swing in Southeast Volusia's backwaters. The abundant bite shows no signs of slowing down. From big snook at the inlet to early tarpon hook-ups and a continuous redfish bite, our lively beach town offers some of the finest fishing opportunities in the world. Among the roster of exceptional guides, Captain Robert McGhee (*pictured below*) stands out as one of the best and a long-time friend of mine.

With over 25 years of experience fishing the local waters, Bobby is an expert at reeling in trophy-sized fish while ensuring a fun time for his clients and friends. He is deeply passionate about introducing youth to the joys of fishing and regularly takes out special needs anglers, too.

Bobby has been on a hot streak over the past two weeks, with stellar catches to his name. He's been landing solid tarpon at the inlet and upper slop, along with impressive over-slot-sized snook. Whether you prefer night charters, morning outings or afternoon trips, Bobby can tailor the experience to match the weather, tides and your personal preferences.

For more information, please visit Captain Bob's website at FinsInLowPlaces.com or reach out to him via email at FinsInLowPlaces@gmail.com. You can also contact him directly at (386) 847-3937.

Until next issue... Cast 'em, Hook 'em and Catch 'em!



BEST DAYS TO FISH IN JULY:

2-4, 8-9, 14-20, 24-27, 31





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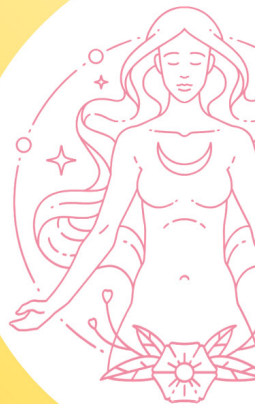
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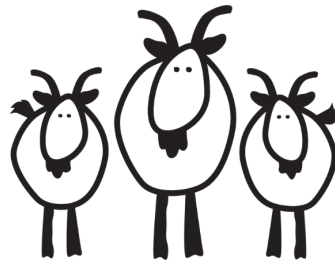
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