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## FASHION

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## EVENTS

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THE SANDLOT MOVIE

## LOCAL

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- Brown Butter Fig & Pear Baked Brie

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Nothing marks the holiday season quite like the sparkle of twinkling lights. The Central Florida Zoo in Sanford takes this to a whole new level with a dazzling immersive display that combines Asian culture with the shimmer of the season.

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## ECC TEAM

**Owners:** Tiffany Evers & Kelsey Walters

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## THE COVER

Photographed by Kelsey Walters

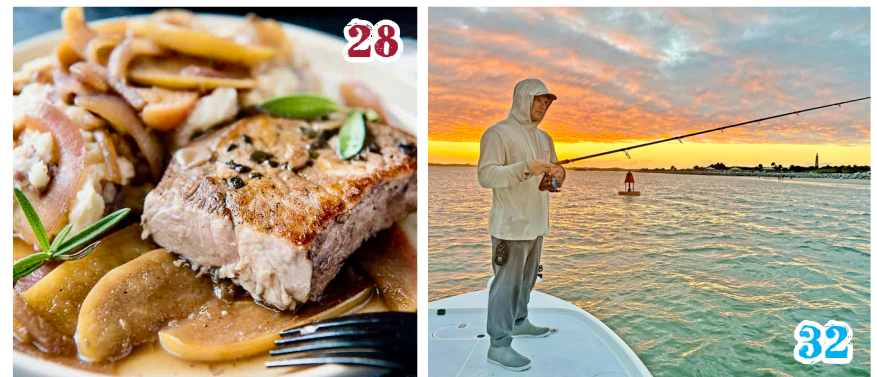
Dive into the vibrant world of boho chic with Randie Bloomhall, the fearless trailblazer and creative mind behind Boho Collective Company! Randie has taken the bohemian lifestyle to a whole new level with her eclectic boutique – and guess what? This is her second enchanting haven! Boho Co. is now open in NSB and DeLand.



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### The Sandlot Movie Cast Members Reunite in Southeast Volusia for a Weekend of Events

Celebrate the 30th anniversary of The Sandlot movie with an epic weekend you won't want to miss. The Table 2 Committee, in collaboration with the East Coast Current, has organized "The Sandlot Reunion Weekend" set for Friday, December 15, and Saturday, December 16, 2023. Get ready for an action-packed weekend full of nostalgia, fun, and of course raising money for local youth sports programs.

#### PRIVATE SCREENINGS WITH THE CAST

Picture this: you, and five of the cast, and The Sandlot movie all under the same roof! Two private screenings of the movie are scheduled at the New Smyrna Beach High School auditorium on Friday, December 15th, and Saturday, December 16th, both starting at 5 PM. Doors will open at 4:30 PM. Tickets are priced at \$20 per person in advance and \$25 at the door. This is your chance to watch the movie with the stars themselves. Secure your tickets before it is too late! After the Friday screening, food trucks will be on-site during a meet and greet. You'll have the opportunity to ask questions, get autographs, and bask in the charm of the cast and writer/director/narrator, David Mickey Evans.

#### CELEBRITY SOFTBALL GAME

Saturday, December 16th, promises to be an unforgettable day. The five cast members from The Sandlot movie will participate in a celebrity softball tournament, where they'll face off against local talent. The friendly competition is expected to be a thrilling spectacle for fans of all ages. Tickets for the game are only \$5 each.

#### HOW TO JOIN THE GAME

If you've ever dreamed of stepping onto the same field as the legendary cast of The Sandlot, now's your chance! We have two exciting sponsorship packages available for those eager to play against the celebrity team!

To purchase your tickets to the movie screenings, softball game and sponsorship/vending packages please visit the official website.

[Table2Events.com/sandlot](https://Table2Events.com/sandlot)

### After Body Meals Expands to New Smyrna Beach: Fresh Grab-and-Go Delights Await at NEW Location!

After Body Meals is thrilled to announce the grand opening of its newest location in New Smyrna Beach, located at 308 N. Causeway. As a leading provider of healthy and gourmet meal options, After Body Meals has built a reputation for crafting delicious, nutritious meals made from scratch, with a commitment to supporting local farms.

At the new NSB location, patrons can enjoy a wide array of fresh, grab-and-go meals, juices, and treats, available seven days a week. The store operates from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays, and from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekends, providing convenient options for busy schedules and health-conscious individuals.



In addition to the new location, After Body Meals continues to serve its loyal customers at the South Daytona store, located at 933 Beville Rd. 101E. This location is open Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m., with Sunday and Wednesday hours from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



To enhance the customer experience, After Body Meals encourages patrons to download the Clover app. This not only allows customers to earn rewards but also provides them with a delightful incentive - a free homemade, healthy treat!

With a commitment to freshness, variety and community support, After Body Meals delivers to Volusia County and the greater Orlando area twice a week. Experience the joy of wholesome, gourmet meals at After Body Meals, now with a new and accessible location in the heart of New Smyrna Beach.

[AfterBodyMeals.com](https://AfterBodyMeals.com) | 386.233.3415



### Edgewater Christmas Parade Features NEW Route

This year's annual Christmas Parade is on Saturday, December 9. There will be a new location for this year's Christmas Parade. It will begin at 10 a.m. at 30th Street/Roberts Road and Hibiscus Drive and will proceed west to Silver Palm Drive. Viewing will be available from both sides of 30th Street/Roberts Road.

Parking will be available at:

- Lime Tree lake - 2900 block of Lime Tree Drive
- Hibiscus Drive on North and South sides of 30th

There was a mandatory group leader/driver meeting on Thursday, November 30 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. Among the items discussed included: coordinating a rendezvous location with your group and line up information. Floats and trailers lineup at Indian River Elementary School and larger vehicles will be directed to line up on 30th Street. All others will enter at the north gate of Whistle Stop Park at 28th Street.

It is a great family event that all ages can enjoy. There will be local school bands, floats of all shapes and sizes, local dignitaries, walking groups, emergency vehicles and of course, Santa Claus on a stopover from the North Pole. This year's theme is "A Country Christmas Back Home."

Please call (386) 424-2400 x7207 or email [SpecialEvents@CityOfEdgewater.org](mailto:SpecialEvents@CityOfEdgewater.org) for more information.

### USDA Awards \$25 Million for Lake to Lagoon Program

The Lake to Lagoon regional conservation partnership program, which includes Volusia County as a key member, has been awarded \$25 million from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to conserve sensitive agricultural lands and implement conservation and land management activities that will bolster climate resiliency.

The Lake to Lagoon area includes the low-lying counties of Volusia, Lake and Flagler, which are home to more than a million residents and a diversity of wildlife, wildlands, rural farms and timberlands.

The Alachua Conservation Trust leads the Lake to Lagoon program in collaboration with Volusia County and Stetson University's Institute for Water and Environmental Resilience. Volusia County is the largest contributor to the program, having provided \$20 million in matching funds through the voter-approved Volusia Forever program.

Other member organizations are the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, St. Johns River Water Management District, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, East Central Florida Regional Planning Council, North Florida Prescribed Burn Association, Friends of Wekiva, West Volusia Audubon, and the Riverside Conservancy.



"Through this innovative public-private partnership, Volusia County will be able to provide farmers, ranchers, and foresters with an alternative to selling their land for development and allow them to maintain it for agricultural production in perpetuity," said Land Acquisition Manager Tim Telfer.

The program will begin in 2024 and run through 2029. For more information, contact Community Services Director Brad Burbaugh at (386) 748-9120 or [BBurbaugh@Volusia.org](mailto:BBurbaugh@Volusia.org).

[USDA.gov](https://USDA.gov) // [Volusia.org](https://Volusia.org)

### Volusia County Pauses Development in Heavy Industrial Zoned Areas and Directs Enactment of a Nine-Month Moratorium

The Volusia County Council unanimously directed staff to review the Heavy Industrial (I-2) Zoning Districts and enact a nine-month moratorium on development. The pending ordinance doctrine stops the processing of site plan applications in unincorporated I-2 zoned areas, preventing the submission of a development application for properties zoned as I-2. County staff is to review and potentially recommend revisions to these regulations to modernize the zoning category and reflect the current state of local communities.

[Volusia.org](https://Volusia.org)

## Shop Local Spotlight in New Smyrna Beach CONVO

I have a deep connection with this community and enjoy walking NSB's quaint streets and sandy shores. This article serves as a journey through the heart of NSB, spotlighting some of my favorite small businesses.

### Red Dog Surf Shop\* - 801 A1A, NSB 32169

This beachside shop holds a rich history for many locals and is a treasure trove of surf culture, offering curated, top quality surf gear and stylish apparel. I personally love the Red Dog brand clothing, hats and accessories the most.\*Visit Red Dog's Holiday Market Event showcasing local artists and businesses on December 10.

### Kembali Teak Gallery and Board Shack - 3404 S Atlantic Avenue, NSB 32169

A sister company to Red Dog Surf Shop, offering unique selections of Indonesian furniture and gifts, including men and women's clothing, jewelry and homegoods. The shelves and displays immerse you in the rich Indonesian culture and it is truly an enchanting destination. Inside Kembali you will find the "Board Shack" featuring standup paddleboards, longboards and surfboards available to buy or rent.

### Island Roasters Coffee Company - 398 N. Causeway, NSB 32169

A haven for coffee enthusiasts. This local gem is proof that coffee is more than a morning ritual. My favorite coffee is the Colombian brew and I always pop in to get a fresh ground bag to take home. This coffee shop currently partners with over 20 businesses, making their signature flavor available at restaurants all over Volusia County. My mother-in-law, Susan McKee, creates NSB postcards by stitching fabric into beautiful artwork. She also sews delightful "coffee cozies" or cup sleeves. You can check out her items on a small shelf near the register. A bag of freshly ground coffee, a charming cozy and NSB keepsake postcard make the perfect gift!

### Boho Collective Co. - 382 1/2 Flagler Avenue, NSB 32169 - The Shops at the Colony

A bohemian/gypsy style boutique. Inside the shop embraces free-spirited and artistic aesthetics. Racks are filled with flowing dresses, loose-fitting tops and embroidered tunics. Pieces feature whimsical prints, intricate details and vintage design with modern elements. I bought a pair of jeans featuring a beautiful cut-out detail that is edgy and playful. It is the best piece to compliment my bohemian style look. Not only is clothing offered, the owner has curated the shop to include a "collective" of all things she loves. This shop is the perfect place to select a gift for someone who can appreciate individuality and creativity.

### The Galley - 417 Canal Street, NSB 32168

A gourmet pantry. Explore a curated selection of premium olive oils, balsamic vinegars, rare salts and artisanal seasonings. Find a perfect gift set for anyone who appreciates the finer tastes in life. My favorite oil is the Toasted Sesame Oil. I buy it on repeat and use it when I roast any vegetables. Let this gourmet shop be a source of inspiration to elevate the art of cooking and gift giving this year.

### Posh Pineapple - 330 Canal Street, NSB 32168

This unique and trendy gift shop is celebrating 10 years in business! Upon entering, shoppers are greeted by the resident birds, which provides the perfect entertainment for my kids while I shop. There are themed sections including home decor, kitchen decor and accessories, jewelry, fashion, beach accessories and a children's section.

### Amber Jade Jewelry - local markets and online JewelryByAmberJade.com @amberjadejewelry

A one-of-a-kind local custom jewelry maker. Sea shells, sea glass and shark's teeth are transformed into special pieces of jewelry. The owner, Amber, collaborates with her customers to infuse their vision into beach-inspired wearable artwork. Join her in celebrating the art of nature - where beach treasures become timeless gems. My family enjoys walking the shoreline in search of nature's hidden gems and I always think of Amber when we find something worth keeping!

### Clancy Crafts and Creations - \*local markets and online - Etsy shop: ClancyCreatedGoods Instagram: @clancycraftsandcreations

Explore a collection of hand-poured candles including a festive Christmas line and embrace sustainable fashion with the shop's upcycled festival clothing inspired by the owner's favorite music artists and venue locations. I recently bought a pack of stickers from her shop that was inspired by a concert at the St. Augustine Amphitheater. I mailed them to my concert crew who live in North Carolina and they loved the surprise gift, which was a perfect keepsake from our show together. \*Visit the shop in-person on December 10 at Red Dog's Holiday Market Event!

Shopping small for gifts is a thoughtful and impactful way to celebrate any occasion while actively supporting your local community. Beyond the act of gift-giving, shopping small is a meaningful way to invest in the well-being of the community.



**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



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## Oh, Christmas Tree

I have written a lot of Christmas stories over the years. Holiday memories are the best, but there is one topic I can't believe I never wrote about, and it's been staring me in the face for years.

I was raised on a beautiful Christmas tree farm in Ohio! How could I forget to mention that? My dad didn't purchase the farm to sell Christmas trees, he just thought the land was so beautiful that he had to have it.

I lived in a Swiss chalet-style home that my parents designed, along with a grand red barn that housed our seven American Saddlebred horses and miniature donkeys. The former owners of the property, who had graciously welcomed the local nursery to harvest pine trees for holiday sales, laid the foundation for our own traditions. Continuing this spirit of generosity, my dad extended a similar gesture to the nursery. Not only did he support their efforts, but he also ensured that the local orphanage, hospital, churches, and families facing financial troubles received the gift of a Christmas tree. I miss my dad.

Choosing your Christmas tree is a very important mission. I loved watching families as they visited our farm and all the wonderful family discussions and the ultimate tree choices made.

Which tree is best for Christmas? This depends on what you are looking for in a Christmas tree. If you want it to last, the Fraser Fir is known to be the longest lasting of all Christmas species. If fragrance is an important factor, Balsam Fir is most famous for its scent. If you want the beauty and the realism of a Christmas tree, but don't want to worry about watering it, dealing with sap, and cleaning up dried needles, investing in a high-quality artificial Christmas tree could be a good option for you.

Choosing a live Christmas tree? Did you know Christmas trees from the north are cut

from mid-November to mid-December? To ensure your live Christmas tree stays vibrant and fresh throughout the holiday season, consider trimming the trunk straight across. This simple step allows the sap to seal the base, keeping moisture in. Something else to take into consideration is a tree that touches the floor. They are beautiful, but when you start putting gifts under the tree... you can't. Your gifts end up in the middle of the living room or if you have a train, it needs to be huge.

The best live Christmas trees to check out this year are Fraser Fir, Noble Fir, Colorado Blue Spruce, Grand Fir and Balsam Fir.



My very favorite is the Colorado Blue Spruce. We grew them on our farm, and I could stare at them for hours.

This year, don't let a family go without the joy of a Christmas tree. Volunteer, or donate wherever you can.

Merry Christmas and happy holidays!



**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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# HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE 2023

The countdown to the holidays has begun! Celebrate the season with these great gift-giving ideas.



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GALLERY 237



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## Wild Oats & Billy Goats

## Little Theatre of New Smyrna Beach - Holiday Line up

**November 30 to December 10**, immerse yourself in the timeless tale of Ebenezer Scrooge in 'A Christmas Carol' – adults for \$21, children for \$11, and seniors for \$20.

**December 16** at 7:30PM, enjoy an evening of holiday music with 'The Sound,' a big band holiday concert where all seats are \$25.

**Box office hours:** Thurs & Fri 1-4PM  
720 East Third Ave | NSB 32169  
(386) 423-1246 | NSBPlayers.org



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## Daytona Electric Bikes

Give the gift of adventure with an eBike rental or go big by gifting an electric bike. Choose between the thrill of a bike ride on the beach or the lasting joy of ownership...or both! An electric bike is the perfect holiday present for those who love the open road and crave a dash of adventure.

Whether solo or with a group of family and friends, you'll have a blast as you adventure around town and enjoy your coastal scenic getaway. We provide locks with your eBike rental, so be sure to enjoy all the dining and shopping along the way. We're here to make it fun and easy to go farther and see the sights! Explore the World's Most Famous Beach. Enjoy your ride!

**Reserve Your Bike:** While we do accept walk-ins, making your reservation online or contacting us ahead of time is the best way to ensure that we have a bike ready for you in the correct size and style as soon as you arrive at our shop.

116 Dunlawton Ave. Suite 4 | Daytona Beach Shores 32118 | 386-214-2452 | [DaytonaElectricBikes.com](http://DaytonaElectricBikes.com)



## Boho Collective Co.

We have curated two boutiques that will immerse you in bold patterns, vibrant colors, chic clothing + everything in between, for an authentic bohemian lifestyle.

**M: 11-6 | T: My Zen | W-F: 11-6 | Sat-Sun: 10-6**

**DeLand | 200 N. Woodland Blvd | Historic Opera House NSB | 382 1/2 Flagler Avenue | The Shops at the Colony**



## Typsy Unicorn's Brewery

Edgewater's first brewpub is open and offering memberships!

Dynamic husband and wife team, J.R. and Mika Rivera, have successfully

brought craft beer, innovative cuisine, and an ambiance that truly reflects their distinctive personalities to an unlikely hidden gem located in Edgewater.

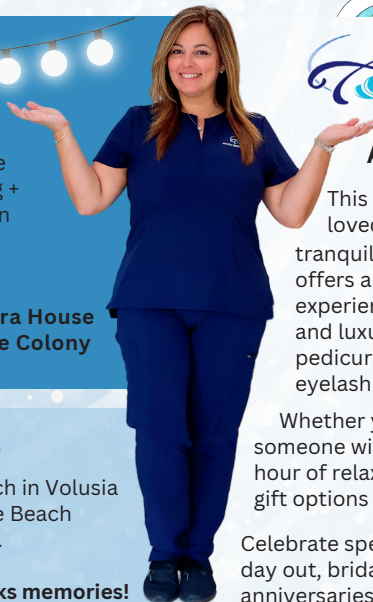
Typsy Unicorn's Brewing offers a unique "T.U.B. Club" membership program, featuring tiers such as Platinum, Gold, Silver and Bronze. Platinum and Gold members receive complimentary beer during their visits, while Silver and Bronze members enjoy 20 percent and 10 percent off discounts.

Members also get first access to exclusive events, such as the recent Beef Wellington Night, available by reservation only.

Get all the T.U.B. Club details on their website, or you can go check them out and sign up in person!

**2140 S Riverside Drive  
Edgewater 32141**

**(386) 444-3047 | [TypsyUnicornsBrewing.com](http://TypsyUnicornsBrewing.com)**



## Angie's Serenity Day Spa

This holiday season, treat your loved ones to the gift of tranquility and rejuvenation! Our spa offers a wide range of indulgent experiences, from soothing massages and luxurious spa manicures and pedicures to rejuvenating facials and eyelash extensions.

Whether you're looking to surprise someone with a day-long retreat or a quick hour of relaxation, our spa has the perfect gift options for you.

Celebrate special occasions like friend's day out, bridal showers, birthdays, or anniversaries in a setting designed to make every moment unforgettable.

### NSB Location has Merged with Edgewater

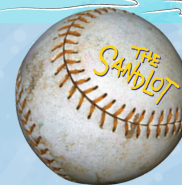
With the recent merger of our New Smyrna location into the Edgewater spa, we now offer everything under one roof.

Make your gift-giving stress-free by choosing our Gift Certificates, available for purchase both at the spa and online.

**101 S Ridgewood Ave. | Edgewater 32132  
(386) 410-6131 | [AngiesSerenityDaySpa.com](http://AngiesSerenityDaySpa.com)**



## Sandlot Reunion Weekend Tickets



**2 showings of The Sandlot movie & a celebrity softball game with members of the cast!**

Southeast Volusia is about to witness an extraordinary event that will transport fans of the iconic movie, The Sandlot, back to the beloved neighborhood baseball diamond.

This December 15th and 16th, 2023, mark your calendars for a remarkable reunion weekend as five cast members from the film make their way to New Smyrna Beach to celebrate the 30th anniversary of this cinematic treasure with David Evans, the writer, director and narrator who calls NSB home.

Tickets to all events are available online. [Table2Events.com/sandlot](http://Table2Events.com/sandlot)



## Beach Rentals and Refreshments of Volusia County

Are you or a loved one planning a beach trip in Volusia County?

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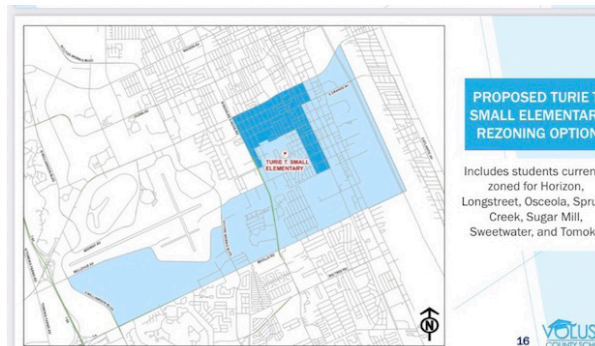
## Volusia County Schools Rezoning Rundown

My household has always felt a call to students: I teach high school science online, my husband and two housemates are on staff with a college campus ministry, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, and my kids attend local schools. When we decided to move here just over 5 years ago, we specifically felt called to the students (VPK - college) and the rich history of the Midtown neighborhood of Daytona Beach.

Before we even moved in to our home, we saw the zoning maps for Midtown, sending elementary students out to 12 different schools and middle school students to five schools around the area. We bought a house mere blocks from Bethune-Cookman University, and yet were zoned for Pine Trail Elementary in north Ormond Beach and then Silver Sands Middle down in Port Orange. We quickly learned that most of these zoning choices were made in the '60s as schools were being integrated. Students from the historically Black neighborhood were bused out to various schools in an attempt to make all things equal.

The Supreme Court case, *Brown vs. Board of Education*, deemed that "separate but equal" schools for children of different racial backgrounds are inherently not equal. Unfortunately, while bussing students to different schools may try to equalize student numbers, it does not give students an equitable learning experience. Some students must spend hours per week on a bus to attend a school that is too far for even their parents to be involved. And the students that get to stay at the last neighborhood school, Turie T. Small (after Bonner Elementary was closed) are left with a school building that has fallen into disrepair and a harder time recruiting high quality educators.

Knowing all of this, my family still made the decision to move into Midtown, send our children to Turie T. Small Elementary,



and get to work meeting with stakeholders within the district to change zoning. I remember meeting with then school board representative, Ida Wright, about looking into converting local schools to Magnet schools, as I had seen down in Brevard County, to increase funding and attract families to the neighborhood. I didn't even think of the idea of building a brand-new school and have been so delighted as those plans have moved forward and the new Turie T. Small Elementary is currently being built!

I am proud to have joined my voice with the many in the Midtown neighborhood asking for changes from the district over the years. Because of the community, just this year, a large number of students in the area were rezoned to stay closer to home at either Westside Elementary or Beachside Elementary. When the new Turie T. is completed next year, the rest of the 32114 students will come back "home" rather than continuing to be bused to schools in Port Orange. This has been one of the topics of the ongoing district sponsored rezoning meetings.

For middle schools rezoning, students in Midtown (like my girls) will now get to stay at Campbell Middle School instead of riding a bus right past it into Port Orange. While I have heard most residents excited for our new elementary school, there have been concerns that the middle school plan will cause overcrowding or re-segregate the school. I attended one of the rezoning meetings where the district discussed that the current demographics are 57 percent Black students and 24 percent White students. If every student that lives in the new zoning area for Campbell Middle actually went there, then the demographics would change to 58 percent Black and 23 percent White.

As for overcrowding, if every student moved (which some likely won't due to home school, virtual school or private school), then the school would be at 103 percent capacity. While that sounds high, the state does not consider a school to be overcrowded until they hit 115 percent capacity.

There has been a long history of zoning in the Midtown neighborhood of Daytona Beach harming rather than helping students. I have attended town halls where community leaders such as Daytona Beach Commissioner, Paula Reed, and Daytona Beach Leisure Services Director, Keith Willis, shared their experiences of being sent to integrate schools rather than attending the one in their neighborhood. I, and I hope others, are happy that positive changes are being made to both the zoning and the physical buildings within this historic 32114 area.



**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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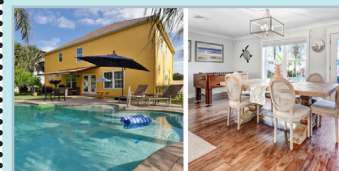
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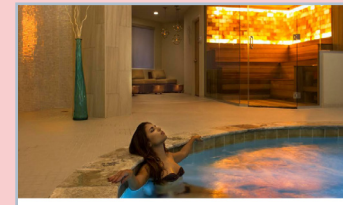
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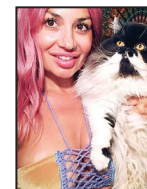


**Sock it to Me** Stylist • Blog: Danielle Napolitano IG: @daniellenapolitano

This unexpected combination of socks with heels has become a trend, and I'm here for it, especially in the chillier weather. It's a playful twist that adds a touch of warmth and a whole lot of style to your winter wardrobe.

As we gear up for the festive season, consider making socks with heels your go-to party statement. Elevate your holiday look by pairing your favorite party dress with glittery heels and subtly shimmering socks. This combo is a perfect way to showcase your individuality.

Or, for a more casual vibe, throw on your favorite skirt, a chic sweater, and finish the look with a low chunky heel, paired with patterned socks. Embrace the unexpected look, and just have fun with it.



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 Beach.





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## Bobby G Takes on Local Oyster Farming

December has arrived, signaling the conclusion of another year filled with countless adventures. This column has been my gateway to “taking on” diverse people and places, enriching my understanding in ways I might never have imagined. This month was certainly no exception, as I delved into the intricacies of the local oyster farming industry. The experience took me out to an oyster farm, immersing me in the waters with Sharkbite Oysters, and providing an opportunity to engage in conversation with the Indian River Oyster Company.

In 2017, marine biologist Dennis David, previously associated with the Florida Wildlife Commission, embarked on a pioneering venture with his family, establishing the Indian River Oyster Company (IROC). This initiative marked the first water column lease on the east coast of Florida, situated in the waters near Canaveral National Seashore.

Subject to approval from state and federal regulations, including the governor, the process of securing the lease took approximately 10 months. The chosen locations were specifically selected

to align with their farming method, utilizing the bag system. In this approach, steel racks are embedded in the sand, and plastic mesh bags are laid across the tops of these racks, surrounded by water when the tide comes in. The preference for shallow areas facilitates ease of farming, providing a more accessible environment, while also offering enhanced protection during significant storms and hurricanes.

Currently, there are two zones covering 7.5 acres from the surface to the bottom on either side of the shipyard channel, located near Mary McLeod Park in Bethune Beach. These areas are diligently monitored for water quality, enabling us to enjoy oysters year-round in our region.

Collaborating with Ryan Norris, the primary force behind the farming efforts, they have established an opportunity for individuals to participate in educational sessions about the oyster farming process. This initiative not only promotes learning but also encourages support for other local oyster farmers in the area. When asked why would you train your competition he simply stated, “they are not competition, they

are a community of people creating a better environment for our estuaries.”



It was now my turn to explore the oyster farms firsthand, so I picked up the phone and called Sam Walsh, the owner and operator of Sharkbite Oysters. This family business, initiated last year, is a collaborative effort involving Sam, his mom Giselle, dad Jim, and his partner Hannah. The excitement began for me the moment I laid eyes on their Instagram account. The Wes Anderson-style skit featuring Sam on the boat, complete with a zinc oxide-coated nose, was both impressive and amusing. Then I headed over to the website which shares a compelling story of their beginnings and offered a preview of the delightful experience awaiting me.

We boarded the boat crafted by Sam himself, aptly named Booby - although not for the reason most minds might assume. I know, we entertained that thought too, but it's actually named after the blue-footed booby, a bird. Navigating through the sandbars, a task that certainly required a knowledgeable captain, we steadily approached the oyster farm. It was my first encounter with an oyster farm, and truthfully, it wasn't quite what I had envisioned. I suppose I had anticipated seeing oysters everywhere.

Sam quickly jumped out of the boat and began demonstrating the intricacies of the oyster farming process. Initially hesitant due to the chilly weather that day, I was quickly persuaded to jump in by Tiffany. Once in the water, Sam opened a bag secured with a bungee cord, revealing a collection of beautiful medium-sized deep-shelled oysters. He went on to elaborate that at Sharkbite Oysters, the objective is to ensure each oyster possesses an identical appearance, characterized by a briny yet sweet minerality and flavor influenced by the merroir - the minerals in the water, similar to terroir in wine, impacting its unique characteristics.

I actually hadn't tried any of his oysters before, so he shucked a few and handed me some to taste right there in the middle of the Intracoastal. The flavor was a wonderful mix of salty and sweet - it was my first time enjoying one fresh out of the water. There was no need for lemon or horseradish, it was perfectly balanced. We enjoyed a couple and got back to the questions.



Talking with Sam, his passion is as clear, as is his concern for the environment. His eyes lit up when he spoke about the benefits of oysters, emphasizing how they filter up to 50 gallons of water per adult oyster each day as well as create a habitat for sea life, provide estuary reefs, and offer the potential for more jobs in our water-centric area. "Oysters only provide, they take nothing from the environment." Sam explained.

Want to try them yourself? For both retail and commercial customers, they offer 50 count or 100 count bags. If the order is placed by Wednesday afternoon, the oysters can be ready for pickup or

delivery as soon as Thursday afternoon. If you're a local in New Smyrna Beach, they can arrange for convenient local delivery or pickup. For those a bit farther away, no worries! They offer overnight shipping within the U.S. Just drop them a message, specifying the quantity you need and the destination, and they'll get back to you ASAP!

But that's not all. They can cater your event! They offer catering services for local Volusia County events and are even willing to travel for an additional fee. They bring everything you'll need to enjoy their oysters without having to do any of the work. Drop them a line to reserve your day and get a quote!

Sam and his family offer unique jewelry handcrafted by his mom, Giselle, using oyster shells and he has his own custom-branded apparel line available on his website. Definitely keep this in mind if you need a unique gifts!

As we said goodbye to Sam and his Booby, I couldn't help but appreciate the incredible impact of individuals like him, his family, and the team at IROC. They haven't just forged a business opportunity; they've paved the way for the future, fostering an environment where nature can thrive and replenish itself without causing harm to our ecosystem. Thank you so much for the chance to explore an unknown subject and another amazing adventure.

Till next year... Bobby G out!



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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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## HOLIDAY PARADES

*Edgewater*  
SAT, DEC 9 @ 10 AM  
NEW ROUTE: 30TH ST. FROM HIBISCUS TO SILVER PALM

*Orange City*  
SAT, DEC 9 @ 5 PM  
ROUTE: VOLUSIA AVE FROM FRENCH TO OHIO

*Daytona*  
SAT, DEC 9 @ 6 PM  
ROUTE: BEACH ST. FROM BETHUNE PARK TO BAY ST.

*DeLand Beach*  
SAT, DEC 9 @ 3 PM  
ROUTE: WHITEHAIR BRIDGE SOUTH ON THE ST. JOHNS RIVER TO LAKE BERESFORD.

*Seaside*  
SAT, DEC 9 @ 6 PM  
ROUTE: INDIAN RIVER FROM MARKER 53 TO RIVERSIDE PARK

*Deltona*  
SAT, DEC 9 @ 6 PM  
ROUTE: DELTONA BLVD.

*Ormond Beach*  
SAT, DEC 9 @ 6:30 PM  
ROUTE: CITY HALL TO GRANADA BLVD.

*DeBary*  
SAT, DEC 10 @ 3 PM  
ROUTE: SPRING VISTA DR. ONTO N. U.S. HWY 17/92 AND WILL END AT POINSETTIA DR

*DB Boat*  
SAT, DEC 16 @ 6 PM  
ROUTE: ALONG HALIFAX RIVER, ENDING AT HALIFAX RIVER YACHT CLUB

**1-17 DEC 1 - 17** 

Daily  
DeLand Locations 

CoolCraft Christmas Trail

Pick up a CoolCraft Christmas card at the Athens Theatre, one of the CoolCraft locations or at the West Volusia Visitor Center and bring the card to any of the participating CoolCrafters. Collect signatures when you purchase holiday drinks. Once you get five or more signatures, bring your card to the West Volusia Welcome Center or the Athens Theatre for a free Christmas ornament!



**1-23 DEC 1 - 23** 

Weekends  
Flagler Avenue, NSB 

Merry Hits-mas Music Fest

The music festival celebrates all aspects of holiday music and classics and includes over 30 free shows at various locations along Flagler Avenue. Food and drink specials. Some locations are age 21 and up. All shows are free admission.



**1-24 DEC 1 - 24** 

SAT-SUN @ 6 - 9 PM  
321 Pleasant St., Lake Helen 

Butler Express Holiday Train

The Butler Express will take you on a tour of Lake Helen to view all of the Christmas lights as you sing along to Christmas music. Each train ride typically lasts 20-25 min. There are two trains running each night. Ages 4 & up: \$5/per ticket - cash only. Ticket booth opens at 5:30 PM.



**1-31 NOW OPEN!**

MON-FRI: 10 AM - 6 PM:  
SAT-SUN: 9 AM - 5 PM  
NEW SHOP: 308 N Causeway, NSB

After Body Meals NEW Location

Now open 7 days a week! New After Body Meals grab-and-go location at 308 N Causeway, NSB. Stop by for healthy grab-and-go meals, juices, and treats!



**1-31 DEC 1 - 31** 

Heated/Non-Heated Yoga  
Kula Yoga, 107 Magnolia St., NSB

\$8 Yoga at Kula Yoga

Several \$8 non-heated classes added to the schedule! Two locations available with over 50 different yoga classes each week. Visit MyKulaYoga.com for details and schedule. Bryan Keat coming 11/17 and look out for our annual HUGE Black FRIDAY SALE coming this month!



**1-31 DEC 1 - JAN 1** 

Daily from 6 - 9 PM  
Riverfront Esplanade 

A December to Remember

Start a new holiday tradition with the family this year with holiday lights display and community activities all month in the heart of downtown Daytona Beach. Photos with Santa every Friday before Christmas! Full schedule: @RiverfrontEsplanade.com.



**2-16 DEC 2 - 16** 

Every SAT @ 4 - 8 PM  
ONE DAYTONA 

Wonderland @ ONE DAYTONA

Weekly themed events include meet & greets with special characters, balloon artists, stiltwalkers, glitter tattoos, and holiday music!

DEC 2: TRIBUTE TO FROZEN  
DEC 9: LAND OF MISFIT TOYS  
DEC 16: TRIBUTE TO ELVES



**2-17 DEC 2 - 17** 

Daily from 6 - 10 PM  
throughout Port Orange 

Light Up Port Orange

Get ready to be dazzled! The official map for this spectacular holiday competition is now available, guiding you through the mesmerizing light displays that will illuminate the city with festive cheer. Plan your route and witness the magic of creatively decorated homes. Vote for your favorites by December 17!



**3-17 DEC 3 - 17** 

Daily @ 6 - 8 PM  
Gateway Park, DeBary 

Winter Walk of Lights

Grab the family and enjoy a night out walking through Gateway Park all decked out in Christmas Lights! Motion light displays, thousands of lights, holiday decorations and more! Free to enter, space is limited.



**8-9 DEC 8 - 9** 

FRI-SAT @ 6 & 7 PM  
DeBary Hall Historic Site 

Holiday Candlelight Tours

Explore DeBary Hall Historic Site during holiday evenings when candlelight will fill the 19th century mansion with a warm glow, accentuating its historic treasures and Christmas decorations. Refreshments will be served. Advance tickets must be purchased; admission is \$10. Tickets are non-refundable. Call 386-668-3840 or email lperez@volusia.org to reserve your tickets.



**9 SAT DEC 9**

1 - 5 PM  
Beach Street, Daytona Beach 

Holiday Cookie & Wine Walk

Get ready to indulge in a delightful stroll through Downtown Daytona Beach, visiting participating merchants and tasting a delectable assortment of holiday cookies perfectly paired with a selection of fine red and white wines. \$27 advance passports @ DowntownDaytonaBeachEvents.com.



**9 SAT DEC 9 / JAN 13** 

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.



**9 SAT DEC 9**

4 - 10 PM  
816 Main St Bridge, Daytona Beach 

Naughty Elf Bar Crawl

The Naughty Elf Pub Crawl kicks off at "Santa's Workshop." You and your fellow revelers will receive your event's collectible pin, a wristband or name badge, and Santa's latest Workshop Task List/Map, guiding you through the evening's festivities. Be prepared for exclusive drink specials and more surprises. Tickets @ AllEvents.in.



**9-10 DEC 9 - 10** 

SAT-SUN @ 10 AM-5 PM  
Sunrise Park, Holly Hill 

Holly Hill Holiday Arts Festival

This festival will be held at Sunrise Park with 90 juried fine artists and juried creative crafters with \$3,000 cash awards in Fine Arts.



**14-17 DEC 14 - 17** 

THU - SUN @ 6 - 8 PM  
Daytona Drive In Church 

Drive Through Bethlehem

Load up the car and come experience the sights and sounds of the village of Bethlehem in a unique way! Witness the nativity, see live animals and make sure you visit the baker in the marketplace for a sweet treat! This event is FREE.



**23 SAT DEC 23**

7 PM - 12 AM  
Hard Rock Hotel, Daytona 

Christmas Jingle Jam

Join us at the Hard Rock Hotel Daytona Beach for a Freestyle & Old School Christmas Jingle Jam! General admission: (NO SEATS) \$50; VIP tables for 2 - 6: \$120 - \$360. Tickets at AllEvents.in. Performers include Freedom Williams, 95 South, Soave, Mia DJ Smiley and DJ Blazer One.



**26-31 DEC 26 - 31** 

Daily - schedule online  
Flagler Avenue, NSB

Flagler Avenue Countdown Jam

Countdown to 2024 with FREE LIVE MUSIC on Flagler Avenue! Check out the schedule below and plan to watch great local musicians! Schedule of bands with times and locations will be posted December 20th @ FlaglerAve.com.



**27 WED DEC 27**

4 - 8 PM  
Flagler Avenue, NSB

Grilled Cheese Challenge

Participants will be able to eat tasty samples at host locations and vote for their favorite creations and the winning creators will receive the "Best at the Beach" awards. Passports cost \$20 @ EventBrite.com.




**31 SUN DEC 31**

6 PM - 2 AM  
Main Street, Daytona Beach

New Year's Eve on Main Street

There is no admission charge and the celebration will feature 6 stages of entertainment, street performers, drink specials and lots of tasty food choices. A spectacular live New Year's Eve Ball Drop Ceremony at midnight tops off the celebration.




**6 SAT JAN 6 / FEB 3** 

10 AM - 5 PM  
Canal Street, NSB

Art Stroll/Gallery Walk

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





**1-31 DEC 1 - 31** (+)

MON - SUN

**Daytona Int. Speedway**

**Magic of Lights**

Enjoy an amazing holiday light display from the comfort of your own vehicle! \$18/vehicle @ MagicOfLights.com



**MAGIC OF LIGHTS DAYTONA** NOV. 17 - DEC. 31  
DAYTONA INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY

**1-31 DEC 1 - 31** (+)

Daily

**Flagler Avenue, NSB**

**Holiday Cocktail Tour**

Purchase your full-sized cocktail during the tour dates, collect your stamps with each purchase, once all 10 stamps are collected from host locations, drop your Tour Map in the mailbox for your chance at big prizes! Find map at FlaglerAve.com or participating Avenue locations.



**1-31 DEC 1 - 31** (+)

Daily @ 5:30 - 8:30 PM

**Stetson Baptist Church, DeLand**

**DeLand Christmas Light Show**

With almost 10,000 LED lights and over 2,100 individual lighting channels, The DeLand Christmas Light Show is an event you won't want to miss! The show runs for approximately 30 minutes and repeats throughout the evening. This event is free. Watch from your car or bring a blanket and enjoy the show in a dedicated area up close.



**THE DELAND CHRISTMAS LIGHT SHOW**  
PRESENTED BY STETSON BAPTIST CHURCH

**8 FRI DEC 8**

5:30 PM

**Rockefeller Gardens, Ormond Beach**

**Movies on the Halifax**

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a FREE screening of popular movies. December movie - "Unaccompanied Minors," rated PG.



**Movies on The Halifax**

**8 FRI DEC 8**

6 - 9 PM

**Jackie Robinson Ballpark**

**Children's Christmas Party**

Kids ages 3 to 12 can enjoy a variety of activities including photos with Santa, face painting, running the bases, music, games and refreshments. Guests encouraged to bring nonperishable food items for a community collection.



**9 SAT DEC 9**

9 AM - 4 PM

**Barberville Pioneer Settlement**

**A FL Christmas Remembered**

Experience a festive day at the Barberville Pioneer Settlement with Santa, art vendors, Christmas crafts, and live music from folk artists, in A Florida Christmas Remembered. Adults: \$10; Seniors and Veterans: \$9; Children 12 and under FREE.



**15-16 DEC 15 - 16** (+)

FRI - SAT

**NSB Locations**

**The Sandlot: 30th Anniversary**

Don't miss this unique local event as the classic film, "The Sandlot," celebrates 30 years with screenings, meet and greets and a baseball game with the original cast! Tickets for the game: \$5; Movie Screening & Meet and Greet: \$20. Sponsorships available to coach and be part of the team! Visit TheEventNSB.com for tickets and details.



**30TH ANNIVERSARY** *THE SANDLOT*  
FRI/SAT WEEKEND | DEC 15-16, 2023

**21 THU DEC 21**

5:30 - 7 PM

**PO Lakeside Community Center**

**Cookies with Santa**

Join the Port Orange Parks and Recreation Department as we spend the evening decorating cookies, competing in a snow ball fight, and listening to stories by the one and only Santa Claus!



**23 SAT DEC 23**

1 - 7 PM

**Flagler Avenue, NSB**

**Wine Walk**

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



**WINE WALK**  
FLAGLER AVENUE - NEW SMYRNA BEACH - FL

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APRIL 19<sup>th</sup> - 28<sup>th</sup>

**SAVE THE DATE!**  
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Daytona International Speedway

**Lee Brice @ Jeep Beach '24**

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**LEE BRICE**  
AT  
**JEEP BEACH '24**  
**APRIL 26<sup>th</sup>**  
AT  
DAYTONA INTERNATIONAL SPEEDWAY  
**JEEP BEACH RADIO MUSIC FESTIVAL**

**SIGN UP NOW!**  
**JUNE 29, 2024**

Brannon Center, NSB

**Ms. Senior Daytona/NSB Pageant**

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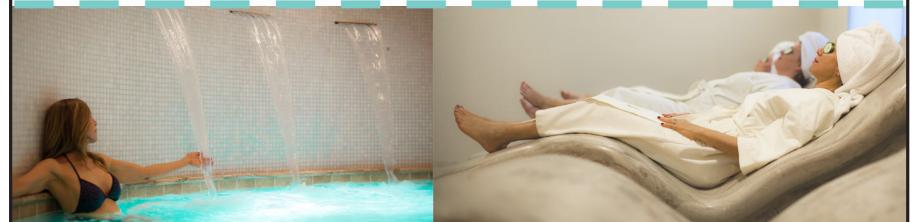


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Photos by: Kelsey Walters

## Inside Look: Boho Collective Company

### A Journey of Resilience and Expansion

Ladies and gentlemen, she has done it again! My favorite free spirit and vibrant soul, Randie Bloomhall, has expanded her boho world into the heart of DeLand! Located in the historic opera house at 200 N. Woodland Blvd, her new space is a testament to her unwavering determination and creative prowess.

My first interview with Randie was published in the March 2022 edition, when she opened her boutique in New Smyrna Beach. So much has happened since then, and the journey wasn't always an easy one. However, with grace, positivity, and an unyielding focus on her dreams, she conquered every challenge thrown at her.

In September 2022, Hurricane Ian wreaked havoc on her NSB boutique, located in the Colony Courtyard on Flagler Avenue. The devastation was immense, with the entire store flooded from the ceiling down. Computers, clothing, products, rugs – everything she had was destroyed. Yet, Randie, like the queen she is, didn't let it break her spirit. In two months of tireless effort, gallons of pink and purple paints, and a ton of glitter, she resurrected her dream, reopening the doors in December 2022.

"Hurricane Ian may have destroyed my shop, but not my soul. The next season of my life will require a new level of courage, confidence, and consistency. I will not let fear hold me back," Randie declared, embodying the spirit of resilience.







As fate would have it, a fantastic opportunity presented itself – a new location in DeLand. With more space, a prime spot on the corner of Woodland Avenue, and a warm welcome from the community, it was the perfect canvas for her second boutique. In just one month, Randie transformed the former hair salon into a bohemian haven, bursting with beautiful clothes, quirky gifts, intriguing books, fabulous accessories and exquisite jewelry. The grand opening took place on July 1, 2023.

Now, Randie curates both boutiques with the same boho feel, however offering unique items in each space. Despite the miles between them, the vibes of NSB and DeLand align perfectly, creating a seamless boho experience. Men, don't be overwhelmed by all the pink and glitter! The DeLand store boasts a full men's line with unicorn button-ups, the softest graphic tees, and bucket hats you won't find in the NSB shop.

Let's not forget the treasure trove of jackets in each store! In Florida, where the weather surprises us, these stylish layers are a must. I have my eye on that green furry one. It has a whole Grinch vibe and I am so here for it. Don't be surprised to see me rocking it this holiday season.

If you want something, don't sleep on it. Once she is sold out of an item, she will rarely order the same thing again. After all, who wants to show up in the same outfit as everyone else?

But it's not just about clothing. Randie's boutique is a treasure trove of hilarious hats, tumblers, stickers, and bags – the perfect place for unique Christmas finds.



During our photoshoot, I even managed to snag a gift for my brother and, of course, a little something for myself.

This year, give the gift of fashion, and let Randie help guide you or your lucky recipient through the colorful wonderland that is Boho Collective Co. Whether it's clothing, accessories, or quirky gifts, her boutique is a festive haven waiting to be explored.

In the spirit of the boho lifestyle, immerse yourself in Randie's world of bold patterns, vibrant colors, and chic clothing – a journey of resilience, growth, and unapologetic authenticity.

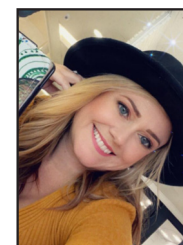


**BOHO COLLECTIVE COMPANY**

BohoCollectiveCo.com  
@bohocollectiveconsb

**DeLand | Historic Opera House**  
200 N. Woodland Blvd

**NSB | Shops at the Colony**  
382 1/2 Flagler Ave



**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.



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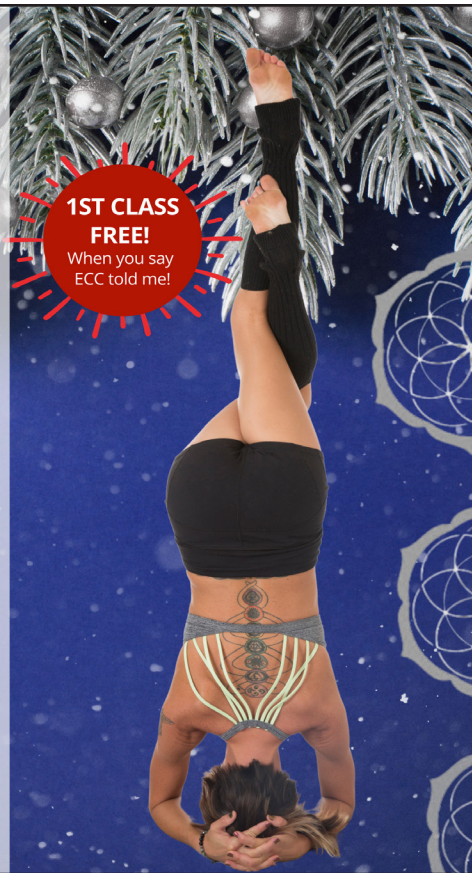
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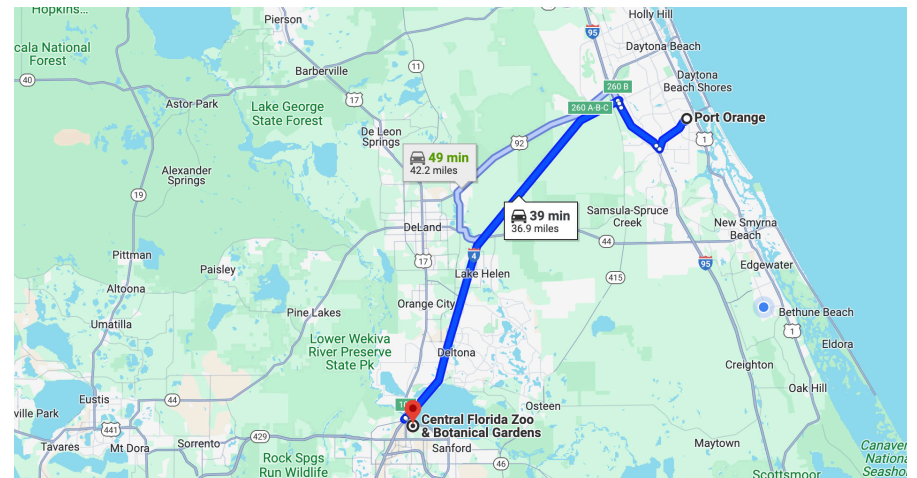


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## Glowing Wonders

Discover the Magic of the Asian Lantern Festival at Central Florida Zoo

Article & Photos by: Kelsey Walters



Nothing marks the holiday season quite like the sparkle of twinkling lights. The Central Florida Zoo in Sanford takes this to a whole new level with a dazzling immersive display that combines Asian culture with the shimmer of the season.

The Asian Lantern Festival: Into the Wild, now in its fifth year, transforms the night with thousands of lights and traditional Asian lanterns along a three-fourths mile walking path throughout the zoo.

can immerse themselves in the beauty of this cultural extravaganza while enjoying live performances and engaging activities for all ages.

While the event takes place after most of the zoo animals' bedtimes, you won't be missing out as many of the lanterns take shape as massive creatures, including fluttering butterflies, towering flamingos, and even a prehistoric land teeming with long-tost beasts. An enormous, 50-foot-long phoenix takes center stage as her tail ripples down the path. These aren't just light displays, they are dazzling works of art, handcrafted with colorful specialty fabric and intricate details. I was surprised to find that a great deal of the lanterns actually move, with birds craning their heads to peep at you or fairies dancing as they welcome you in.

Our family attended the festival for the first time, with our best friends, the Willis Family, who have been attending since its inception. The two 5-year-olds of the bunch, Avery and Camden (*pictured below*), had a blast together with the interactive exhibits, especially a dinosaur that mimics your movements as you dance in front of sensors, and a huge glowing piano that plays as you run along its keys. Tasty treats and snacks like warm soft pretzels, cocktails, hot chocolate and more are available at stops throughout the trail.



As visitors stroll through the enchanting pathways, they are treated to breathtaking scenes of illuminated wildlife, mythical creatures and botanical wonders. The festival not only captivates with its visual spectacle but also offers a unique opportunity to learn about Asian traditions, art and folklore. Against the backdrop of the popular Central Florida Zoo, visitors



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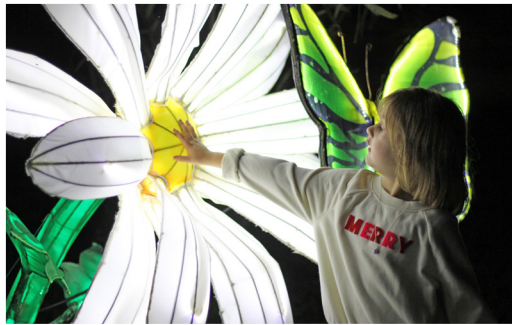
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We made our way through a series of beautiful birds and a towering wall of flowers that unfurled and closed their petals as insects flitted around them. Our next stop was through a prehistoric walk, full of dangerous creatures throughout the likes of the Cretaceous, Jurassic and Pleistocene eras. A T-rex rules this land, as he oversees from a rock formation, blowing hot smoke from his mouth as he roars. The kids giggled as they were "eaten" by a massive dino skull, left dangling in its teeth.

You can follow a path along the Chinese zodiac, and find your assigned animal based on the year you were born. Each animal shows the reputed attributes the person is "likely" to have. We all took turns reading each other's and mulling over the truths and... questionable personality traits. The most fitting being Scott is the year of the monkey – a fun personality that's clever and curious, but mostly mischievous.

If you've been to the festival in the past, don't write this off as a one-time experience. Each year, entirely



new lanterns and displays are created, so there is always something new and exciting to see. Best of all, this festival runs through January 14, so if you're too busy before Christmas you still have time.

We had a wonderful and relaxing evening strolling the bright and colorful pathways. While we each took away our favorite lantern or display from the evening, the best experience was being able to take time away from the hustle and bustle of the busiest season of the year, and share a new holiday tradition with friends who have become family. Whether this is your first or fifth year attending, this is a holiday tradition you'll want to keep year after year!

**ASIAN LANTERN FESTIVAL: INTO THE WILD**  
 Central Florida Zoo and Botanical Gardens  
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 CentralFloridaZoo.org  
 (407) 323-4450

Select Nights: Nov. 17, 2023 through Jan. 14, 2024 from 6 – 10 PM  
 \$22.99/person ages 3 and up; 2 and under free  
 4-pack family package available - \$71

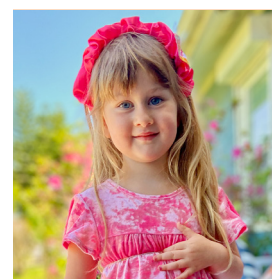
Santa Visits: December 16 and 20  
 Family-Friendly New Year's Eve Countdown:  
 December 31 at 7 PM and 8 PM



**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.

## Boneless Pork Chops with Caramelized Apples

**Preparation:** Prep Time: 10 minutes • Cook Time: 15 minutes • Rest Time: 10 minutes • Servings: 4

One pan, 30 minutes, and very little babysitting are all you need for these Boneless Pork Chops with Caramelized Apples! This comforting meal is very fall-forward, and you're going to love the flavors that come from the simple pantry ingredients that go into it!

### Ingredients:

- 4 boneless pork chops 1/2-inch thick
- 2 teaspoons fresh sage minced
- 1 teaspoon fresh rosemary minced
- 1 teaspoon Kosher salt plus more to taste
- 1 teaspoon Black pepper plus more to taste
- 1 tablespoon olive oil divided
- 1 medium red onion thinly sliced
- 2 red apples thinly sliced
- 1/3 cup red wine
- 2/3 cup beef or chicken broth
- 1 tablespoon maple syrup
- 1 teaspoon apple cider vinegar



### INSTRUCTIONS

Rub the minced herbs on both sides of the pork chops, then season with salt and pepper to taste. Heat a large cast-iron skillet over high heat, then add half of the olive oil. Sear the pork chops for 2 minutes on each side, until golden. Transfer to a plate.

Remove the skillet from the heat and carefully wipe it out with paper towels. Return the skillet to the stove, reduce heat to medium, then add the remaining olive oil. Add the onion and apples and cook for 5-6 minutes until lightly browned, stirring frequently. Season with salt and pepper, then stir in the wine, deglazing the pan with a wooden spoon to release the brown bits from the bottom. Allow to reduce for 1 minute, then stir in the broth and maple syrup.

Return the pork chops to the skillet, nestling them between the apples and onions. Cover and cook for 4-5 minutes, turning once, until just cooked through. Center pork temperature should be at least 145 degrees F when probed with a meat thermometer. Serve the pork chops, onion and apples over mashed potatoes or rice, drizzled with the pan juices.

### NUTRITION

Calories: 331kcal | Carbohydrates: 19g | Protein: 29g | Fat: 13g | Saturated Fat: 3g | Cholesterol: 89mg | Sodium: 797mg | Potassium: 695mg | Fiber: 2g | Sugar: 13g | Vitamin A: 50IU | Vitamin C: 6.2mg | Calcium: 27mg | Iron: 1mg

## Brown Butter Fig & Pear Baked Brie

**Preparation:** Prep Time: 10 minutes • Cook Time: 25 minutes • Servings: 4

This creamy Brown Butter Fig & Pear Baked Brie is both elegant and comforting, and is sure to be the hit of any holiday or cold weather party! Figs, pears, pecans and a little sweetness bring out the best in your favorite soft cheese.

### Ingredients:

- 1 wheel brie cheese
- ¼ cup unsalted butter
- 3 large fresh figs quartered
- 1 pear chopped
- ¼ cup brown sugar packed
- ½ teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ cup pecans
- Baguette slices and/or crackers for serving



### INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees F. Place unwrapped brie round in a 5-inch cast iron skillet or brie baker. Place on a baking sheet and set aside. Set a heavy-bottomed pan over medium-low heat. Add the butter and allow it to melt. Gently swirl the butter as it goes through two stages - popping & crackling as the water boils out, and the browning of the butter solids.

As the solids begin to brown, use a spoon to peek through the foam for the light brown flecks inside - it will start to smell nutty and delicious. The whole process from solid stick to brown butter will take about 10 minutes.

Quickly add figs, chopped pear and brown sugar. Stir until sugar is melted and well combined. Simmer for 2-3 minutes, then add vanilla and pecans. Stir until well coated, then remove from heat. Pour mixture over the brie. Bake for 10-15 minutes until the brie is warm and softened. Serve with baguette slices and/or crackers.

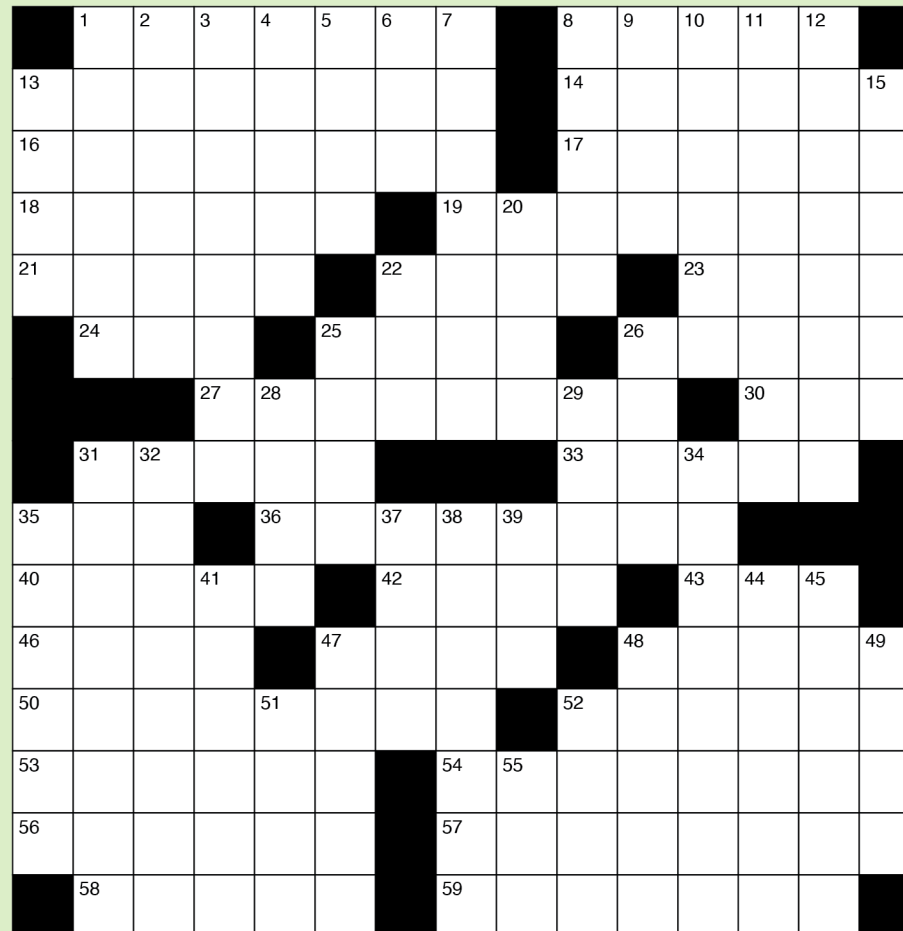
### NUTRITION

Calories: 482kcal | Carbohydrates: 29g | Protein: 13g | Fat: 36g | Saturated Fat: 17g | Cholesterol: 87mg | Sodium: 361mg | Potassium: 293mg | Fiber: 3g | Sugar: 24g | Vitamin A: 740IU | Vitamin C: 2.6mg | Calcium: 145mg | Iron: 0.9mg

**Erica Acevedo** is an NSB native and recipe developer, blogger and food photographer at [TheCrummyKitchen.com](http://TheCrummyKitchen.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](http://Fork & Lens Photography Studio). [TheCrummyKitchen.com](http://TheCrummyKitchen.com)

### Across

1. Vespa vehicle
8. Swimming (in)
13. Tall, skinny guy
14. Palestine, in the Bible
16. Least full
17. Move to \_\_\_\_ (sway)
18. Giants
19. River's origin
21. Boutique
22. Algonquian
23. Exxon in Canada
24. Unit of work
25. Ilsa \_\_\_\_ ("Casablanca" character)
26. Kind of cheese or chard
27. Section of Manhattan
30. \_\_\_\_ Plaines, Illinois
31. News flash
33. Plant \_\_\_\_ of suspicion
35. Part of Myanmar, or Tiananmen
36. Exploited
40. 18th President
42. P.I.'s
43. Old Eur. realm
46. Pinkish wine
47. Former catcher Carlton
48. Largest city in Africa
50. Classic Chevrolet coupe
52. Array
53. Floating on air
54. Conceptual thinker
56. Lower the grade of
57. Crisis center connections
58. Ford flub
59. Billionaire who bought the Greek island Skorpios



### Down

34. "Glengarry Glen Ross" actor
35. Concurred
37. "To put \_\_\_\_ a nutshell..."
38. Kingdom in South Africa
39. "That's awful!"
41. \_\_\_\_ a pin
44. Italian resort
45. Deletes
47. Cuban cohort of Che
48. Sits on the sill, maybe
49. Giant Mel and family
51. Dole out
52. Cheese in Greek salads
55. Luv

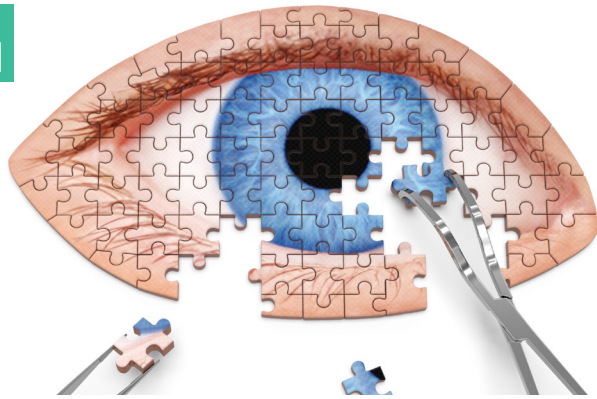
### Down

1. Mideast dweller
2. Hostage taker
3. Like a bull's-eye
4. Express a view
5. Parts of feet
6. Raised railroads
7. Post-Christmas chores, often
8. Make \_\_\_\_ for (argue in support of)
9. Crave
10. Composer Lloyd Webber
11. Cautious ones try to stay on it
12. Bedeviled
13. Takes a risk
15. What a rolling stone gathers
20. Treatment for toes
22. Edit out
25. Exam for attys.-to-be
26. Zaire's Mobutu \_\_\_\_ Seko
28. In \_\_\_\_ (bogged down)
29. Häagen-\_\_\_\_ ice cream
31. Joiner
32. December mailer, for short

### NOV 2023 ANSWERS



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



## Unlocking Clear Vision

### Exploring Natural Remedies and Surgical Solutions

In a world dominated by screens and ever-increasing visual demands, the quest for crystal-clear vision is a common pursuit. For those tired of the constant companionship of glasses or contacts, the journey to unaided sight unfolds through a twofold exploration. We can explore natural remedies, unveiling age-old secrets and dietary tweaks that aim to bolster eye health. However, as we navigate the landscape of ocular well-being, we inevitably confront a lingering question: Can one truly bid farewell to glasses permanently?

Natural remedies help in addressing issues like short-sightedness, far-sightedness (or hyperopia), and presbyopia. However, they can only help in improving eye health; and not remove the dependence on glasses or contacts. Here are home remedies that can help in improving your eye health:

#### Consume almonds, fennel, and mishri

This is an age-old Ayurvedic remedy that is instrumental in improving eyesight. All you need is a mixture of seven almonds, 5-gram fennel seeds, and 5-gram mishri that are crushed into a powder. You should have one teaspoon of this powder every day with cold milk at night. Regular consumption of this powder helps in improving the eyesight, thereby reducing the power of your spectacles.

#### Add leafy greens to your diet

If you are feeling that your eye muscles are weakening, you should try out this home remedy. Make green leafy vegetables such as kale, spinach, etc., a part of your daily diet. These vegetables are rich in lutein and zeaxanthin - the healthy antioxidants that prevent the free radicals in the eyes.

#### How to get rid of glasses permanently

The tips and tricks mentioned above go a long way in improving your eye health, but they

cannot remove your eyeglasses or contacts permanently. So, the question still remains, how to get rid of glasses or contacts permanently?

Surgery is the only proven way to get rid of glasses permanently, and the encouraging part is there are several surgical options available. These surgeries are safe, painless, and aid in treating short-sightedness, hyperopia (far-sightedness), and presbyopia. The treatments are largely based on refractive errors, eye structure and overall visual requirements.

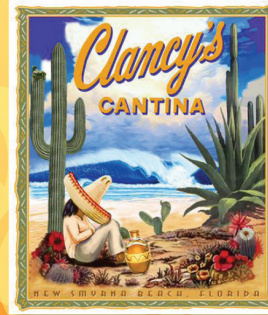
Eye surgery procedures have undergone significant technological advancements due to which an increasing number of people are now opting for (bladeless) eye surgeries.

- **PRK (Photorefractive Keratectomy)** – the first vision correction surgery where a laser was used to change the cornea's shape.
- **ICL (Implantable Contact Lens)** – lenses made of Collamer, a biocompatible material, are implanted in the eyes between iris and natural lens.
- **RLE (Refractive Lens Exchange)** – natural lens in the eye is first removed, and an artificial lens is implanted inside the eye.
- **LASIK (Laser-Assisted In Situ Keratomileusis)** – one of the widely preferred surgeries to remove refractive errors. This is a completely bladeless pain free.



**Orest M. Krajnyk, MD Board Certified Ophthalmologist and Refractive Surgeon**  
He received his Medical Degree from Rutgers University and completed his medical residency at Brown University. Dr. Krajnyk specializes in cataract surgery and vision correction surgery such as LASIK. He has three offices in Volusia County and he is accepting new patients.

BIENVENIDOS



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## Conserve Volusia's precious resources

### Know your watering days

Volusia County FLORIDA	Homes with odd-numbered or no addresses	Homes with even-numbered addresses	Businesses
Daylight saving time*	Wednesday and Saturday	Thursday and Sunday	Tuesday and Friday
Standard time	Saturday	Sunday	Tuesday

\*Daylight saving time begins the second Sunday in March and ends the first Sunday in November.

Watering is not allowed between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.



[Volusia.org/water](http://Volusia.org/water)



## Adventures of a Modern Pirate

Two tranquil days in tropical paradise felt like a week or longer of lassitude dwindling away at a snail's pace. It was lethargic bliss at its finest! Our sleeping bags were pitched under a canopy of palm trees providing an umbrella of cool shade from the scorching sun. Our fire-pit had become our knights of the round table meeting place where only the rum shots and beer did the talking. In the darkest of nights, the flames would tell the tall tales that we shared and embellished. Those were memorable memories.

It had been in our minds - the return back to civilization. So, when we heard the deep drone of twin Pratt & Whitney engines roaring in the distance, it came as no surprise. As if on cue, we turned to look into the distance, hoping to see the seaplane approaching. Nothing could be spotted across the Brobdingnagian sky. Through squinted eyes, we scanned for the seaplane we heard approaching.

"Look!" my uncle yelled as he pointed.

My eyes followed his pointed finger, and a small black dot became visible off in the distance, nestled between clouds and a thin blue line that denoted the horizon. And just like that, I was hooked! Our chariot, a seaplane, was headed our way. Feeling electrified, I started to wave my arms, indicating our location. My uncle ran and threw a few green palm fronds into the fire-pit, and white smoke started to rise skyward in an old-fashioned Indian smoke signal. The silhouette of the twin-engine fuselage became distinctive when it suddenly banked toward us

and made a direct approach toward our white sandy beach. The sound of the twin nine-cylinder, air-cooled radial engines mounted on the leading edges of the wings became louder as it approached.

"How cool is that?" my uncle said.

I agreed as we watched the seaplane touch down, skimming the sea for a water landing. The V-shaped hull split the sea like a knife and water splashed outward toward the two twin-mounted floats at each end of the wings. Just when we thought it would settle into the water, the engines roared and the plane lifted up, flew directly at our camp and then swooshed over us like a kamikaze politely leaving a large rooster tail that splashed on us and drenched our camp and belongings, squelching our fire-pit.

We two pirates stood drenched, guffawing at the fun.

"OMG!" I thought.

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.*

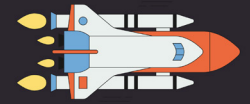


**Joshua MacLeod** is a NSB local and a Florida native. He is the author of *Savage Tango* and *Chasing Latitudes*. He lives with his dogs, Durango, Higgins and Oscar.

# 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.



### Sunday, Dec. 24, 2023

Vehicle: ULA's Vulcan Centaur rocket  
Mission: Vulcan Centaur rocket maiden flight  
Launch Site: Space Launch Complex 41 at the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station  
Launch Window: 12:30 a.m. ET

### Date: Early 2024 - TBA

Vehicle: SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket  
Mission: Polaris Dawn  
Launch Site: Launch Complex 39A, Kennedy Space Center  
Launch Window: TBA

*Family* **CHRISTMAS**  
*Movie Night*

Featuring **ELF**

Wednesday, December 20th 6:00 PM

Hosted by the Ponce Inlet Community Center  
Limited space so please RSVP to [picrentals@yahoo.com](mailto:picrentals@yahoo.com)

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WAVE



## Fishaholic: December Report

It's Captain Austin again, bringing you the fishing report for the New Smyrna Beach area. This year is extra special as my wife and I just recently welcomed a baby boy into the world! We are all very excited - especially big sister, Riley. This Christmas is going to be special.

It would be an understatement to say the fishing has been good lately as the snook fishing has been outstanding the last few weeks. It's a stark contrast to last year this time when we had record rain to deal with.

What many don't realize is that November and December can be the best time of the year to catch big snook. The key word is "can" as certain conditions have to be met for the fishing to be great. First, no tropical systems interfering. Second, bait like mullet, shrimp and croakers must be plentiful. Third, no major cold fronts where the air temperature dips below freezing for more than a day. If everything lines up, the snook fishing can be spectacular.

In the back waters, fishing will be completely dependent on the cold fronts that pass through our area. Prior to the fronts the fishing can be great for redfish, trout, flounder and snook. Once the front moves through, the fishing usually slows down until things warm up.

One notable exception are bluefish who are used to the cold as they come down all the way from places like New York and Massachusetts, just like the snowbirds

that visit our area every winter clogging up our roads -HA! (Just kidding, we love our wintertime residents!) Bluefish can be a "day saver" when nothing else is biting as they will eat just about anything. Found everywhere from the beach to the backwaters, bluefish are fun to catch, especially for kids.

Big redfish are still around and once you find them it's not very hard to get them to eat. We prefer live bait, but lures like jigs and paddle tails work just as well at times. Unlike snook, they are less susceptible to cold fronts and are much heartier. Our average-sized redfish is over 30 inches and many fish weigh 10 to 20 pounds, which is very big when compared to many places in Florida.

Hope to see you out on the water and as always, we'd love to take you fishing!

-Captain Austin



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**Sunday 11 AM-5PM**

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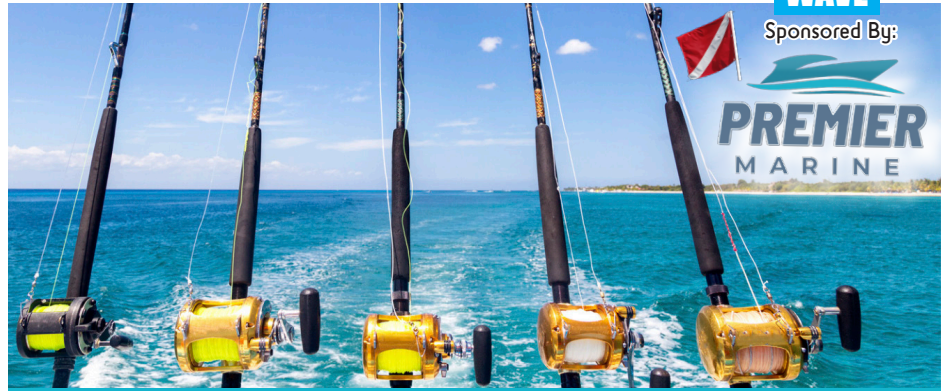



## Ponce Inlet DEC Tide Chart

WAVE

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Date	High Tide				Low Tide				Sun		Moon	
	AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft	Rise	Set		
1	Fri	10:54	3.6	11:15	2.8	4:10	0.5	5:23	0.8	6:58	5:26	
2	Sat	11:38	3.5			5:01	0.7	6:13	0.8	6:59	5:26	
3	Sun	12:03	2.7	12:23	3.3	5:56	0.8	7:00	0.8	7:00	5:26	
4	Mon	12:55	2.7	1:10	3.1	6:52	0.9	7:44	0.8	7:00	5:26	
5	Tue	1:52	2.7	2:01	3.0	7:47	0.9	8:27	0.7	7:01	5:26	
6	Wed	2:52	2.8	2:57	2.9	8:44	1.0	9:11	0.6	7:02	5:26	
7	Thu	3:49	3.0	3:52	2.8	9:43	0.9	9:55	0.5	7:03	5:27	
8	Fri	4:39	3.2	4:43	2.8	10:39	0.9	10:39	0.4	7:03	5:27	
9	Sat	5:25	3.4	5:30	2.8	11:33	0.7	11:22	0.3	7:04	5:27	
10	Sun	6:08	3.6	6:16	2.8			12:23	0.6	7:05	5:27	
11	Mon	6:53	3.7	7:03	2.8	12:06	0.2	1:11	0.5	7:05	5:27	
12	Tue	7:39	3.8	7:50	2.8	12:50	0.1	1:56	0.4	7:06	5:28	
13	Wed	8:25	3.9	8:37	2.8	1:35	0.0	2:41	0.3	7:07	5:28	
14	Thu	9:11	4.0	9:25	2.8	2:20	-0.1	3:27	0.3	7:07	5:28	
15	Fri	9:59	4.0	10:15	2.8	3:08	-0.1	4:16	0.3	7:08	5:29	
16	Sat	10:49	3.9	11:08	2.9	4:00	-0.1	5:11	0.3	7:09	5:29	
17	Sun	11:41	3.7			5:01	0.0	6:07	0.2	7:09	5:29	
18	Mon	12:07	2.9	12:36	3.5	6:07	0.1	7:01	0.1	7:10	5:30	
19	Tue	1:09	3.0	1:33	3.3	7:14	0.2	7:53	0.1	7:10	5:30	
20	Wed	2:15	3.1	2:35	3.1	8:20	0.3	8:45	0.0	7:11	5:31	
21	Thu	3:21	3.3	3:38	2.9	9:28	0.3	9:37	0.0	7:11	5:31	
22	Fri	4:22	3.5	4:37	2.8	10:34	0.3	10:30	-0.1	7:12	5:32	
23	Sat	5:16	3.6	5:31	2.7	11:35	0.3	11:21	-0.1	7:12	5:32	
24	Sun	6:07	3.7	6:21	2.7			12:31	0.2	7:13	5:33	
25	Mon	6:56	3.7	7:10	2.6	12:11	-0.1	1:21	0.2	7:13	5:33	
26	Tue	7:43	3.7	7:57	2.6	12:58	-0.1	2:06	0.2	7:14	5:34	
27	Wed	8:27	3.6	8:41	2.6	1:42	-0.1	2:46	0.2	7:14	5:34	
28	Thu	9:08	3.5	9:22	2.6	2:23	-0.1	3:25	0.3	7:14	5:35	
29	Fri	9:47	3.4	10:03	2.5	3:03	0.0	4:03	0.3	7:15	5:36	
30	Sat	10:24	3.2	10:44	2.5	3:43	0.1	4:44	0.3	7:15	5:36	
31	Sun	11:02	3.1	11:28	2.5	4:27	0.3	5:27	0.4	7:15	5:37	



**Visit Santa at Santa's House in Christmas Park-Nov. 24-Dec. 22**  
 Corner of Canal Street and Live Oak Street

**Friday, Nov. 24 6-8PM**  
 SPARK THE SPIRIT

**Saturday, Nov. 25 10AM-2PM**  
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**Tuesday, Dec. 19 5-7PM**  
**Thursday, Dec. 21 5-7PM**  
**Friday, Dec. 22 5-7PM**

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# SPOTTED AROUND TOWN - VOLUSIA COUNTY

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Congratulations to Daytona Beach Gymnastics for competing in their second AAU Qualifier this fall. Teams earned 20 9.0 scores or higher and five of the 15 athletes advanced to the next level. The final meet of the fall season is Dec. 16 and 17 in Tampa. Way to go Daytona Beach Gymnastics!

Southeast Volusia (SEV) Habitat for Humanity is proud to announce it is the recipient of a \$107,500 donation from McKenna's Place in New Smyrna Beach through Florida's Community Contribution Tax Credit Program (CCTCP). This program is key in providing financing for the construction of affordable homes in Florida. It has been successful in reducing poverty by providing economic opportunity and expands affordable home ownership for eligible families.

Did you know that many dogs at the Edgewater Animal Shelter are sponsored and have their adoption fees paid for, making it more affordable than ever to adopt a new friend! Four-year-old Charley is one of several sponsored dogs available and ready for a new home. Find his profile, and more like him, online at EdgewaterAnimalShelter.org.



Congratulations to all of the 2023 Slider Challenge winners, held on November 18 along Flagler Avenue. Pictured: People's Choice winner, Clancy's Cantina.

The local wildlife are jumping for joy and celebrating the holidays! This playful dolphin was spotted leaping in NSB by local wildlife and nature photographer, Shelley Lynch. Find more of Shelley's impressive work at ShelleyLynchPhotos.com.



This November was an action-packed one for four of Ormond Fire Department's bravest, who successfully completed Rope Technician training. This intense course has equipped them with the skills to perform highly technical rope rescue operations. Certification in Rope Tech isn't just about learning the ropes; it's about being prepared for the most challenging rescues.



# Check Out What The Locals Are Up To



Friends of Seminole State Forest, Inc. (FSSF) introduced an innovative tracked-chair program for mobility-impaired users in Seminole State Forest this March. Now two of West Volusia's state parks have plans to follow suit. Both Blue Spring State Park and DeLeon Springs State Park will now also offer tracked chair hikes along their trails. The program utilizes ADA-compliant, battery-powered EcoRover Chairs equipped with rubber tracks like tanks have instead of rubber tires, and are easily controlled with an armrest-mounted joystick. Photo: West Volusia Tourism



Amongst a vibrant collection of classic cars, food trucks, and American flags in the Kiwanis Field of Honor, the City of New Smyrna Beach and VFW Post 4250 hosted a Veterans Day Celebration on Riverside Park in honor of those who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Photos: 1. NSB Mayor Fred Cleveland and attendees salute as Christie Beu sings the National Anthem. Photos by Jim Payette



The EDGEfest Fall Festival was held on October 28 at Hawks Park in Edgewater and featured a costume contest, haunted forest and over 70 vendors. To get involved in the monthly EDGEfest events, email [SpecialEvents@CityOfEdgewater.org](mailto:SpecialEvents@CityOfEdgewater.org). Photo: Debbie Dolbow City Council, District 3 and Councilwoman Charlotte Gillis



Attention residents of Ormond Beach! Santa's merry mailboxes have popped up again at The Casements and Nova Community Center & Park, sprinkling the city with festive cheer! Drop your wish lists into these red mailboxes by Saturday, December 16th, don't forget to include your home address, and watch the magic unfold.



This November, Port Orange Police Dept. K9s, Buddy and Nico, attended the Space Coast Explosive and Drug Detection K9 Seminar. They each received their yearly certification from the National Narcotic Detector Dog Association. Out of 50 total drug detection teams, Officer McBride and K9 Buddy received First Place in the Top Dog category! Photo: Port Orange PD



# fishing Report

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

November brought heavy rainfall, resulting in elevated tides throughout the month. Surprisingly, the inclement weather did not stop the fish from displaying aggressive feeding behavior. Personally, I've been having great success with Henn lures in recent weeks, particularly the Lil' Shrimp in white. As the water begins to clear, the fish are becoming more visible, making sight casting an increasingly effective technique.

During a recent outing with my fishing buddy, Dave McKinnon, I experienced an exceptional day of sight casting, targeting multiple redfish using the Henn Lil' Shrimp paired with a 1/4-ounce jig head. The lifelike movement of this little shrimp in the water proved irresistibly enticing, leading to consistent bites.

I highly recommend these baits for anglers seeking reliable success. With the redfish forming schools, it seems we're in for an outstanding winter season. Keep an eye out for larger snook basking in the sun, but exercise utmost stealth as these species are easily spooked.

Heading into the colder months, the abundance of mullet will attract various schools of fish, offering ample opportunities for sight casting. Exercise patience and stay prepared, as these hungry fish are ready to strike.

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



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