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REPORTS**

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LOCAL

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THE SANDLOT MOVIE

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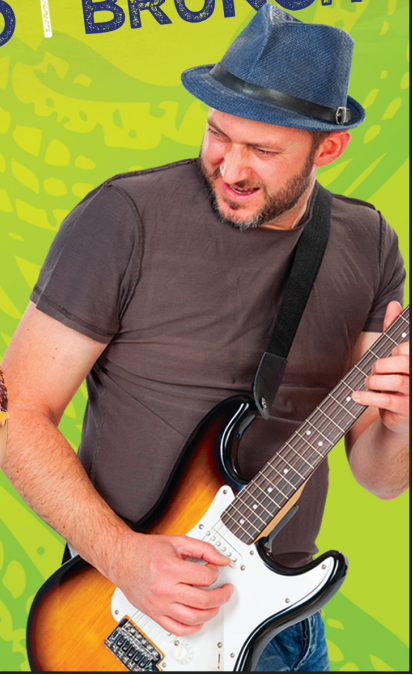
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HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE 2023

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



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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.

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Stop Renting: Benefits of Homeownership

Is buying a home better than renting? Real estate agents often hear renters say that homeownership is “too stressful.” Renters claim they would rather rent than buy because they don’t want the stress of costs and ongoing maintenance. There certainly can be more costs, responsibilities and upkeep as a homeowner.

Zillow recently published its annual Rental Consumer Housing Trends Report for 2022. The report states, “Rent as a percentage of income has risen steeply.” Which clearly we have all noticed. The typical market rate rent across the U.S. is nearly 60 percent of the annual median household income among renters! A landlord is clearly the only one benefiting from this scenario.

Of course, a Realtor promotes homeownership because they make more money when a customer purchases a house versus finding one to rent. However, that is not the underlying reason why they encourage people to buy a home. Below is a list of some of the many benefits:

- **Building Equity.** Essentially a form of forced savings that can grow over time.
- **Stability.** More control over where you live and for how long.
- **Appreciation.** Real estate has historically appreciated over time.
- **Tax Benefits.** Deductions for mortgage interest, property taxes and certain home related expenses.
- **Predictable housing costs.** Monthly housing costs remain stable over the long term, making it easier to budget.
- **It’s collateral.** Home equity can be used to secure loans or lines of credit, offering

financial flexibility when you need to borrow money for home improvements, college costs, etc.

- **Pride of Ownership.** Homeowners feel a sense of accomplishment and pride.
- **Inheritance.** Owning a home can be passed down to heirs, providing a legacy for your family.

There are many benefits to owning a home. According to the National Association of Realtors, America’s largest trade association, “Homeownership correlates to higher educational achievement, civic engagement, better health and happiness and lower crime.”

The thing to remember always is the value of appreciation over time, building equity and personal wealth, as well as the reality that rates can come down. If that happens, homeowners can refinance to lower their monthly payment. Rental rates rarely decline.

The decision to rent vs. buy isn’t just an economic one – there are a lot of factors including responsibility to maintain a property, cash to handle unexpected expenses and of course, flexibility. Despite the potential for added costs and responsibilities, there are compelling reasons to consider owning a home. Do your research and find a licensed local Realtor who can help guide you through this process.



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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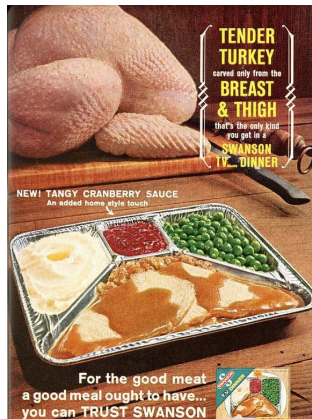
CONVO



Thanksgiving Tales: Turkey TV Dinners and Oyster Escapades

I have written so many stories over the years about Thanksgiving that I found myself struggling for a new idea. We all get the point of the holiday, and the general menu, but I think we need to take more time to pause and reflect.

I decided to Google "Thanksgiving 1960" (my birth year) and I was really surprised to see it was a historical year... with the creation of the turkey T.V. dinner, created by the Swanson brothers. Dinners had been in freezer departments for years prior, but the Swanson brothers claim to be the first company to create turkey with the holiday trimmings.



waited. People bought the concept and Swanson made a fortune.

This made me immediately think of my grandma. She thought T.V. dinners were the greatest invention ever created. In all honesty and love for my grandma, she was a horrible cook. If grandma had worked on her wardrobe a little, she would have looked exactly like the women in the commercials. Somehow she produced two daughters that were great cooks. During Thanksgiving, my mom always assigned grandma to dessert and she would always arrive with a half-thawed pumpkin pie. Bless her heart.

Sometimes my mom would research recipes for Thanksgiving and do a couple authentic dishes. According to History.com, "Lobster, bass, clams and oysters might also have been part of the feast" in 1621. My sister and I love raw oysters, but not cooked. We hated when our mom made oyster dressing. One year, we devised a plan to get rid of them as soon as they arrived. While mom had her back to us, we each scarfed down a pint of oysters. When she started looking for the oysters, she blamed my dad for forgetting to buy them. Back to the grocery store he went. As he walked out the door, he turned and looked at us and said, "I'm on to both of you."

Marketing was a big part of the success with commercials showing a woman, beautifully dressed, placing a frozen dinner in the oven while her husband eagerly

I know this year has some people in a panic about the price of groceries or eating out. My mom would have each family member tell her one dish that, if not on the table, Thanksgiving would be ruined. Then she wouldn't cook the dishes we didn't care for – like oyster dressing. Although it was still always on the table because that was always her choice.

The food can't hold a candle to the time spent with family and friends. I don't necessarily remember what I cooked or ate, but I remember the love and laughter I felt.

This year, as you gather around the Thanksgiving table, don't forget to pause and reflect on everything you are thankful for.



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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Florida State Parks Annual Pass: Your Ticket to Outdoor Adventures

If you love the outdoors and good deals, then you'll be excited to know that Florida State Parks annual passes are half-off now until January 13, 2024! The passes cover your daily admissions fees to parks all over Florida and start when you buy it, so no need to wait until the new year. My family bought one last year that we thoroughly enjoyed and will certainly be snagging up this deal!

There are several state parks here in Volusia County, but the one my family probably spends the most time at is Tomoka State Park in Ormond Beach (2099 N. Beach Street). We camped there one time and have been for day trips several times to go fishing, swimming and hiking. There is a rich history at this park that is perfect for November's Native American Heritage Month as the park's site is the former home of the Timucuan Native Americans in the village of Nocoroco, about 1,000 years ago. While their diet consisted largely of oysters and clams, modern day visitors and campers can enjoy the food and shopping at Tomoka Outpost, a family-run camp store within the park.

Blue Springs State Park in Orange City is another State Park in Volusia that we love to visit (2100 W. French Avenue). In the summer, visitors can swim near the springhead and tube, kayak and paddleboard in its flow. In the winter, observation decks overlook the hundreds of manatees that huddle together for warmth. There are often experts on site to tell you more about the manatees and, in my family's case, cheer your kids on while they take part in the litter cleaning station.

Outside of Volusia, a new favorite of ours is directly across the state at Weeki Wachee Springs State Park. This is one of the few parks that the annual pass only covers admissions fees for two



people, rather than a carload of eight. This is because the water park, river cruise, and world-famous mermaid shows are included in the admissions cost. When we went last summer, the mermaids put on a show similar to that of "The Little Mermaid" that my girls absolutely loved! The underwater theater is also a unique experience featuring a video of the history of the shows. You can also walk around the spring to see the "backstage" area where my girls were delighted to see the prince wave at them before he jumped into the water!

Some parks are much smaller, with less amenities, but with just as much history and natural beauty. For more information on any of the parks mentioned, a map of all parks, or to buy annual passes, you can visit [FloridaStateParks.org](https://www.floridastateparks.org). The ranger's office at many state parks also has an in-person option to buy your pass. Individual passes are now only \$30, and families passes are \$60. Enjoy your adventure!

If you're interested in more stories like this you can easily follow my journey on Instagram @cassgoarounddaytona | If you have an idea for my column, please don't hesitate to reach out.



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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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

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 will be a mandatory group leader/driver meeting on Thursday, November 30 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in Council Chambers. Among the items to be discussed include: 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.



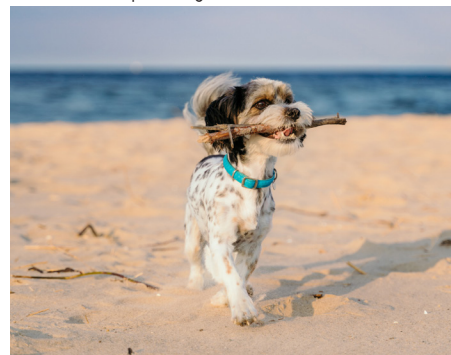
It is a great family event that all ages can enjoy. There will be local school bands, floats of all shapes and sizes, local dignitaries, walking groups, emergency vehicles and of course, Santa Claus on a stopover from the North Pole. This year's theme is "A Country Christmas Back Home."

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

Sun, Sand, and Paws: Volusia County Celebrates Opening of Canine Coastline

Volusia County is set to open its first dog-friendly beach in over three decades. The County Council approved an 18-month pilot program during their

July 11 meeting to allow dogs on the beach starting November 1. The pilot initiative permits dogs to enjoy the beach from Rockefeller Drive to Millsap Road in Ormond Beach from sunrise to sunset. Pet owners must ensure their dogs are leashed and adhere to the posted guidelines.



Volusia.org

NSB Adds to 170-acre Running Tally of Conservation Land Along Turnbull Creek

New Smyrna Beach city commissioners voted 5-0 to purchase 7.04 acres of undeveloped land along Turnbull Creek at their September regular meeting, bringing the city's grand total to 170 acres since conservation efforts began there in late 2018.

Despite two independent appraisals valuing the lots located north of Paige Avenue and east of Corbin Park at \$387,000 and \$362,300, property owners Freddie and Johanna Bowlin agreed to sell them to the city for \$300,000. When asked why he would sell the land at such a discounted rate, Mr. Bowlin replied, "I could probably get more if I sold it to a developer, but I want to keep my house here and I don't want anything around it, so I want to sell it you folks."

Approximately \$6,000,000 remains of the \$15,000,000 approved by 75 percent of voters in 2018 to help protect water quality, wildlife habitat and natural areas along Turnbull Creek by purchasing land zoned for development to instead set aside for conservation. Apart from a planned observation deck where the creek meets a multi-use trail near Holland Park, 357 Otter Blvd., the city has no plans to use any acquired properties for recreation, preferring to keep associated maintenance costs and environmental impact to a minimum.

If you own property within the Turnbull Creek study area depicted in red on the map online and are interested in selling your land as part of this conservation program, please contact Assistant City Manager Ronald Neibert at RNeibert@CityOfNSB.com or (386) 410-2612.

CityOfNSB.com

Daytona State Expands Vets Create Program to include more Art Programs and 10 New Scholarships

Daytona State College has expanded its scholarship-supported Vets Create program to include more classes. Veterans and their family members can sign up for ceramics, painting, drawing, design, photography, dance, theater and music courses during the upcoming Spring and Summer 2024 semesters.

"I have witnessed first-hand the therapeutic qualities of the arts, the camaraderie created in a communal studio and the physical and mental benefits of the ceramic medium," said Trent Berning, chair of the Mike Curb College of Music, Entertainment and Art, School of Humanities, and associate professor of ceramics. "I am excited to expand our offerings as part of the Vets Create programs to include all of our studio arts classes for our veterans and their families."

Berning, who also serves as project director for Vets Create, has more than 20 years of experience working with veterans. Daytona State's Painting and Design instructors have nearly 40 years of combined experience in their fields and 15 years of experience working with veterans.



Designated as a Military Friendly institution, Daytona State enrolls more than 1,100 veterans each year. Its Veterans Center is dedicated to providing resources, support, tutoring, and advocacy to ensure success by student veterans, which includes providing information on scholarship or grant opportunities. The Vets Create grant will enable the College to expand its current support and engage student veterans who may be suffering from anxiety, depression, or post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Veterans interested in being part of the Vets Create program are required to submit a paper detailing their interest to Trent.Berning@DaytonaState.edu and must qualify for in-state tuition. Space is limited so applicants are encouraged to act now. The deadline for submission is before spring semester 2024 classes begin on January 16, 2024. A deadline for the Summer 2024 semester will be announced later.

DaytonaState.edu

LOCAL EVENTS



THE SANDLOT CAST REUNITES IN VOLUSIA

DECEMBER 15-16 | 2 PRIVATE SCREENINGS
CELEBRITY SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT
MEET 5 CAST MEMBERS & WRITER/DIRECTOR

Celebrate the 30th anniversary of this epic film with a weekend of fun with the cast members and the writer/director. Scan the code for more info.



THANKSGIVING MEALS IN VOLUSIA COUNTY

CHECK OUT OUR HUGE LISTING OF THANKSGIVING MENUS, EVENTS AND SPECIALS

Looking for delicious food at a local establishment to celebrate the holidays? Don't want to cook this year?

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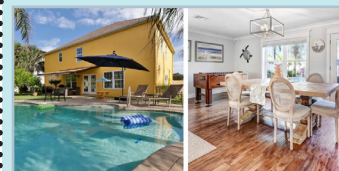
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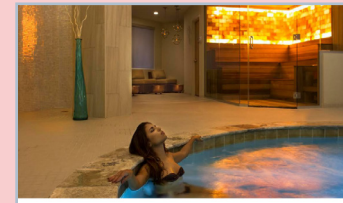
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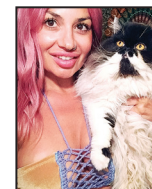
Obsession with Reflection

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

Prepare to be spellbound by the radiant world of metallics! This season, the fashion realm is ablaze with an electrifying obsession, and it's all about embracing the dazzle of metallics. From runway extravaganzas to red carpet galas and the trendiest sidewalks, metallics have set the style scene ablaze. What's more, this time around, it's not merely about silver but a whole spectrum of electrifying shades.

Our metallic obsession draws inspiration from the vibrant and fearless aesthetics of the 80s, reigniting the flashy and audacious vibes of that iconic era. It's like a glamorous time warp back to the grooviest decade in history. Think disco balls, neon lights, and dance floors pulsating with energy, all with a contemporary twist that's impossible to resist.

This trend isn't just a throwback; it's an embrace of the future. Metallic clothing, accessories and shoes are more than just eye-catching; they exude a futuristic vibe that's truly out of this world. It's like wearing a piece of tomorrow's fashion today.



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 Topsy Unicorn's Brewing

I recently had the pleasure of exploring a brewery nestled in my backyard. Well, not exactly in my backyard, but fairly proximate. Topsy Unicorn Brewing, with its dynamic husband and wife team, J.R. and Mika Rivera, has successfully brought craft beer, innovative cuisine, and an ambiance that truly reflects their distinctive personalities to an unlikely hidden gem located in Edgewater.

"What was the premise behind the name?" I asked J.R., who explained that they had tossed around ideas for a little while before making a decision. Mika used the term "unicorn" to describe them as a couple and trust me, once you meet them you will understand. They are kind and talented and it feels like you're close friends as soon as you meet them. They went on to say that, in J.R.'s continuous pursuit of brewing excellence, he found himself quite often tasting a lot of the brew while creating it, thus the name "topsy." And they spell it with a "Y" 'cause Y not?

While they seem like long-time pros at running an establishment, this is actually their first venture in the hospitality game, together as owners. In fact, they were both in different careers for a long time before its grand opening which was only last



month. So, how did a master mechanic and a trauma nurse transition into becoming the brewmaster and chef of a local brewery? Eight years ago, Mika gave J.R. a Mr. Beer home brewing kit as a gift. Despite finding some flaws in the home brew kit, J.R.'s home brews turned out rather impressive.

His talents were further validated when he entered a home brewing contest, earning three ribbons out of four beers he submitted. Subsequently, he was invited to join the brewing team at The Half Wall Beer House (where he is still making beers to this day). There, he swiftly took over the beer program, elevating the quality and flavor profile of their in-house brews. He quickly made a name for himself in the brewing world and enjoyed every minute of it.

Topsy Unicorn's Brewing isn't solely distinguished by its exceptional beer; it also boasts a culinary experience and ambiance that harmonizes seamlessly. Mika has curated an inviting environment featuring bars and tables constructed from tree stumps, Indiana Jones memorabilia adorning the walls, and TV screens playing old, soundless movies. It's the ideal setting for a romantic date night. Though modest, Mika's culinary prowess is undeniable. Initially downplaying her cooking abilities, J.R. quickly exclaimed, "She is lying! Her lasagna is incredible!"

Her culinary journey has even taken her to "Master Chef" in Atlanta, where she showcased her talents with dishes like roasted poblano pea soup, winning over even those who typically shun peas. Her sandwiches are unique, such as From Capri with Love, which is a panini with fresh mozzarella, heirloom cherry tomatoes, balsamic vinegar, basil leaves, extra virgin olive oil, maldon salt and cracked pepper, and the King Louie, which is a fusion of a French dip and cheesesteak. Then there's her homemade hummus with pine nuts, fresh vegetables and toasted pita points. I can personally vouch for this and it's a 10 out of

10! She even received a chef's "high five," which comes in the form of a middle finger! It's basically like saying, "break a leg" in the showbiz world, because it was so good!

Topsy Unicorn's Brewing offers a unique "Tub 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. We all know memberships have their privileges.

Inquiring about the origins of their beer names, J.R. shared that it's often a spontaneous process. For instance, the Pink Cashmere brew transformed



into the Time Warp, after the iconic song from The Rocky Horror Picture Show, unexpectedly played in the background.

When asked for advice for aspiring homebrewers, J.R. emphasized the importance of simply diving in and starting to brew. Mistakes are an inevitable part of the journey, so he advocates meticulously recording his experiences. The

focus should not be on achieving perfection from the outset, but rather on embracing experimentation and learning from the process.

My visit to Typsy Unicorn's Brewing not only left me intrigued by their beer and culinary offerings, but



also captivated by the epic story of the individuals who have transformed this locale into a delightful T.U.B. for socializing. The convergence of their dedication, the science that entails brewing, and the care they've invested in bringing something new and exciting to our community truly sets Typsy Unicorn's Brewing apart. Oh, and if you want to know the story about this killer hat, you'll have to go and find out for yourself!

Cheers! 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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SAT, DEC 2 @ 4:30 PM
 ROUTE: WATERFRONT LOOP FROM FLAGLER AVE. TO CANAL ST.

DeLand
SAT, DEC 2 @ 6 PM
 ROUTE: DELAND HIGH SCHOOL

Port Orange
SUN, DEC 3 @ 2 PM
 ROUTE: DUNLAWTON AVE. FROM JACKSON ST. TO SPRUCE CREEK RD.

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.

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

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

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

1-30 NOV 1 - 30

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16 THU NOV 16

6:30 PM
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18-19 NOV 18 - 19

SAT - SUN
 Rockefeller Gardens, Ormond

Riverfest Seafood Festival

Don't miss the return of the award-winning with all the fresh fish, family fun and fall festival delights that attendees have come to expect at this annual celebration of life along the water. Visit the park filled to the brim with food & merchandise vendors, live music, hours of free kid's activities, a draft beer garden, cars on exhibit, and so much more.

1 FRI DEC 1

6 - 8 PM
 Reed Canal Park, S. Daytona

North Pole Drive-Thru

Drive through the North Pole and see Santa as he comes to town! Treats will be given out along the way.

2-12 NOV 2 - 12

THU - SUN
 Volusia County Fairgrounds, DeLand

Volusia County Fair & Youth Show

The event of the season with carnival rides, food, live entertainment, livestock shows and more! The fair features midway rides, entertainment and great food and fun for the whole family.

16-18 NOV 16 - 18

THU - SAT
 Flagler Avenue, NSB

Rock & Roll Music Festival

The festival celebrates all aspects of Rock & Roll Music from multiple decades and several music cross-over entertainment options, including over 30 free shows over three days at various locations. Food and drink specials. Some locations are age 21 and up. All shows are free admission.

23-26 NOV 23 - 26

THU - SUN
 Daytona International Speedway

Turkey Run

The largest combined classic car show and swap meet in the US! Family-friendly w/ 5,000+ collector cars. TurkeyRun.com

1-2 FRI & SAT DEC 1 - 2

11 AM-5 PM / 9 AM-2 PM
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9-12 NOV 9 - 12

THU - SUN
 St Demetrios, 129 N. Halifax, Daytona

Greek Festival

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17-30 NOV 17 - DEC 31

THU - SUN
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Daily
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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.

11 SAT NOV 11

9:30 AM
 Woodland Blvd., DeLand

Volusia County Veterans Day Parade

Honor those who have served our nation at this heartwarming annual parade. It features veterans of all branches of service, as well as military vehicles, marching bands and patriotic floats on Woodland Blvd. This parade honors the sacrifices of all veterans and their families.

18 SAT NOV 18

10 AM - 5 PM
 Reed Canal Park, S. Daytona

BBQ and Bluegrass Festival

Teams compete for the best BBQ, plus vendors, beer garden and live performances by bluegrass bands.

BBQ & BLUEGRASS FESTIVAL

25 SAT NOV 25

8 AM - 5 PM
 Flagler Avenue, NSB

Flagler Ave Market Days

Flagler Avenue's Market Days is a retail experience like no other! Stroll the avenue where you can shop alongside living windows from selected retailers on the street, watch live Pop-Up Sidewalk Fashion Shows, see artisans in action in their studios, have great gift ideas from merchants and in-store specialists!

2 SAT DEC 2

6 - 8 PM
 Port Orange City Center

Christmas in the Park

Live Christmas concert, official lighting of City Center, Santa and free horse-drawn carriage and hayrides!

Christmas IN THE PARK

REMOVABLE CALENDAR

11 SAT NOV 11
10 AM - 9 PM
Menard May Park, Edgewater
Pirates on the Edge

A family event of pirate-themed community fun, business expo, live music, Pirate Thieves Market, Pirate Ball and more! Tix for Pirate Ball and vendor opportunities available now @ PiratesOnTheEdge.com.



11-12 NOV 11 - 12 (+)
SAT-SUN @ 9 AM-5 PM
Flagler Avenue, NSB
Flamingo Follies

Look no further for unique holiday gifts than Flagler Avenue, with merchants, artists, delicious food and more! Stroll the street to experience this outdoor event that will feature artists and crafters from all over Florida.

FINE ART - CRAFTS - FOOD - ENTERTAINMENT

THE FLAMINGO FOLLIES
HOLIDAY ART SHOW

SATURDAY NOV. 11th, 9am-5pm & SUNDAY NOV. 12th 9am-5pm.
FREE EVENT-FLAGLER AVENUE, NEW SMYRNA BEACH



16 THU NOV 16
5 - 8:30 PM
Canal Street, NSB
Canal Street Nights

Enjoy a fun evening with street vendors. Extended hours for shops and available dining. Bring the whole family for a lovely evening in Downtown New Smyrna!

Canal Street Nights
THIRD THURSDAY
OCTOBER, NOVEMBER
FEBRUARY AND MARCH



18 SAT NOV 18
1 - 5 PM
Flagler Avenue, NSB
Slider Challenge

This progressive food tasting experience features local restaurants in competition for the best slider along the street. Passports include a People's Choice Ballot for judging, don't forget to vote for your favorite! Passposts @ EventBrite.com.



18 SAT NOV 18
1 - 5 PM
ONE DAYTONA, Daytona Beach
Jeep Beach Shop with a Deputy

The 4th annual toy drive and fundraiser returns with live music, local vendors, Jeep Show & Shine, 50/50 and raffles! Bring a NEW unwrapped toy for FREE admission!

SHOP WITH A DEPUTY
toy drive & fundraiser
November 18, 2023
1pm - 5pm @ ONE DAYTONA



18-19 NOV 18 - 19 (+)
SAT-SUN @10 AM-5 PM
Downtown DeLand
Fall Festival of the Arts

Woodland Blvd. in DeLand will transform into an artist's garden of color. The event will feature works from 170 national artists, who will display and sell artwork in a wide variety of mediums including paintings, sculpture, glass, jewelry, leather, photography, printmaking, wood, ceramics and fiber.

DeLand Fall Festival of the Arts



25 SAT NOV 25/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



25-30 NOV 25 - 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.

December to Remember
NOV 25TH - JAN 1ST
PHOTOS WITH SANTA EVERY FRIDAY BEFORE CHRISTMAS
ENJOY RIVERFRONT VIEWS

DOWNTOWN DAYTONA BEACH
HOLIDAY LIGHTS ON DISPLAY NIGHTLY FROM 6-9PM



1 FRI DEC 1
5 - 8 PM
Flagler Avenue, NSB
Light Up Flagler

The merchants of Flagler Avenue invite you to kick-off the Holidays and celebrate the 36th Annual Light Up Flagler Holiday Merchant Open House with local shopping, NSB Cookie Challenge (passports for \$15) and family holiday photos.

Light up FLAGLER
NEW SMYRNA BEACH - FL



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 of The Sandlot
HOLIDAY WEEKEND | DEC 15-16, 2023



SAVE THE DATE!
APRIL 19 - 28, 2024
Throughout Volusia County
Jeep Beach 2024

Save the date and register NOW for the largest Jeep-only charity event featuring concerts, parties, fireworks and obstacle courses! Visit JeepBeach.com for details.

SAVE-the-DATE
JEOP BEACH 2024
APRIL 19th - 28th



SIGN UP NOW!
JUNE 29, 2024
Brannon Center, NSB
Ms. Senior Daytona/NSB Pageant

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A Tradition Open to All: The Daytona Christmas Boat Parade

In 1982, a group of visionary individuals from the Marina Point Yacht Club set in motion what would become a beloved Daytona tradition. This iconic event, the Daytona Christmas Boat Parade, has since blossomed into a community favorite, captivating the hearts of residents and visitors alike. Its legacy is a testament to the power of unity and festive spirit that has ignited the waters of Daytona for over four decades.



The inspiration for this nautical celebration struck the Marina Point Yacht Club members after they witnessed the beauty of the Fort Lauderdale Christmas Boat Parade. Enchanted by the idea, they embarked on a journey to bring this magical experience to the shores of Daytona Beach. Under the leadership of Commodore Jeff Schulz, their combined endeavors led to the birth of a cherished tradition, one that found a warm embrace from both the community and yacht club members.

As time passed, the sail loft where it all began started to deteriorate. The yacht club recognized the need for change to ensure its survival. They took a daring step by acquiring a houseboat, meticulously refurbishing it to embody the elegance of a yacht club's interior. This distinctive vessel found its home at City Marina, now known as the Halifax River Marina, and later, at

English Jim's Marina, today Caribbean Jack's.

The parade faced a brief hiatus in its journey, but in 1995 and 1996, the Halifax Harbor Marina, supported by the Power Squadron, stepped up to the plate, breathing new life into the event. Twenty-five boats adorned the waterways, each hoping to claim prizes generously provided by local vendors. However, it was still in search of a permanent home.

In the year 2000, the Halifax River Yacht Club recognized the enduring significance of the Christmas Boat Parade and embarked on a mission to ensure its continuity. A dedicated committee was formed to take on the responsibilities required to orchestrate this beloved event.

Today, the Daytona Christmas Boat Parade



stands as a highly anticipated community highlight during the holiday season. Captains of both sailboats and powerboats craft enchanting themes for their vessels, competing for prizes donated by generous local merchants. The competition has become fiercer each year, challenging



the judges to assess boats based on each captain's selected theme, originality, quality of execution, and overall visual impact. With each passing year, captains strive to surpass their previous entries, resulting in an ever-more spectacular spectacle.

Mark your calendars for an unforgettable evening on Saturday, December 16, starting at 6:30 p.m. The boats will set sail from the Seabreeze Bridge in Daytona, creating a dazzling nighttime display of lights as they cruise down the Halifax River.



The Halifax River Yacht Club's Christmas Boat Parade has seen remarkable growth over the years, with more participants and spectators lining the bridges and riverbanks to marvel at the creativity displayed on the decorated boats.

The parade route takes the boats from their assembly point north of the Seabreeze Bridge, guiding them southward towards the Halifax River Yacht Club before moving further south to the Halifax Harbor Marina, where judging takes place.

While the Halifax River Yacht Club is a private club with membership granted by the Board of Directors' approval, it's important to note that participating in the parade doesn't require membership. This inclusive approach allows all boat owners to partake in the festivities, a cherished aspect of this event.



For this year's parade, the Halifax River Yacht Club is actively seeking boat participants, sponsors, and contributions for swag bags for the participating captains. First-year captains who register their boats will enjoy the privilege of FREE entry. All the necessary information and registration details can be found on the Halifax River Yacht Club's website at HRYC.com. If you prefer to speak to someone, feel free to reach out to the club at (386) 585-2994 to sign up, sponsor, or contribute to the swag bags for the captains.

Join us in keeping this cherished tradition alive, and be a part of the enchantment that is the Daytona Christmas Boat Parade. Your boat, your sponsorship, and your support are all invaluable pieces of the puzzle that make this festive celebration a resounding success year after year.

Scan the QR code for more information on the Halifax River Yacht Club.



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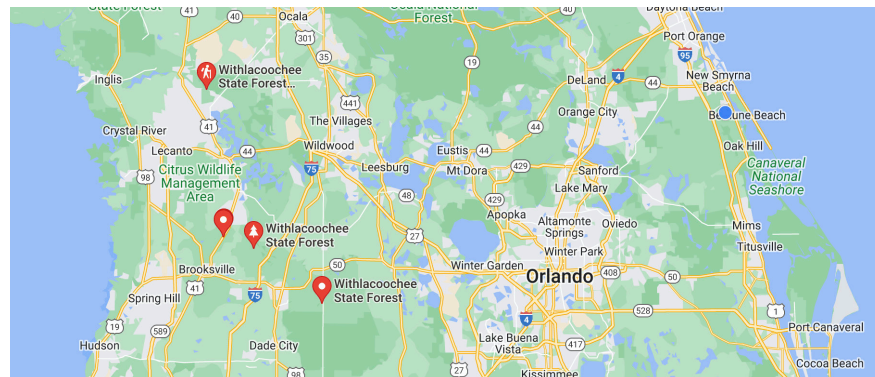


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Beneath the Sunshine State

Unearthing the Hidden Wonders of the Withlacoochee Cave System

Article & Photos by: Kelsey Walters



Deep within the heart of Florida's natural wonderland, a subterranean realm of breathtaking beauty and mystery lies concealed beneath the surface. The Withlacoochee State Forest, known for its pristine landscapes and diverse ecosystems, harbors a hidden gem that has captured the imaginations of adventurers and explorers for generations: the Withlacoochee State Forest cave system.

be lying right beneath their feet in the area just north of Tampa.

With the absolutely glorious weather we've gotten a taste of, and are soon in store for, it's the perfect time of year for Floridians to get out and explore. What better way to try something new, and take on spelunking?

Spelunking is just a fancy term for cave exploration, and it doesn't hurt that it's fun to say, too! Our family has "spelunked" in the panhandle, Georgia, Tennessee and Texas, so when we heard about a system we weren't yet privy to, we piled in the car.

Withlacoochee State Forest is Florida's third largest state forest and covers areas of five surrounding counties with several distinct tracks of land offering endless areas to explore. It was named "One of the 10 Coolest Places You've Never Been in North America," by the World Wildlife Fund, so you know this little known attraction is definitely off the beaten path.

What sets the Withlacoochee caves apart is that spelunkers of all levels are free to explore on their own, with no guided tours required, or offered. That being said, you should never explore a cave alone and only proceed to the level of your comfort and ability. Check the week's weather before heading out, as the conditions will greatly depend on the climate. We visited after a good period of rain, which made for quite a bit of mud. Scott and Avery were slipping and sliding all over Dames Cave, the largest and most easily accessible entrance, and hilariously ended up with brown tushes after they fell flat attempting to enter further into the cave through a doghouse-sized crevice.



While the panhandle of Florida is known for its caverns, and the state is riddled with underwater cave systems throughout the springs, many (even including nearby residents) don't realize what could

Withlacoochee State Forest is a massive 157,479-acre state park with multiple entrances and a total of



37 caves (although not all are accessible), so it pays to plan ahead and know where you're going. Many are animal habitats, such as Bat Cave near the Tillis Hill Recreation Area, and are protected from visitors to prevent disturbance or vandalism. You can still view the entrance from the park however, with entrances to the Bat Cave blocked off by steel cages that allow the resident bats to traverse, while tourists may not. The grand exit in the evenings can be quite a sight as thousands take flight.

While the area is mostly shaded and the sun won't be too much of a concern, be sure to pack plenty of bug spray as this is natural Florida at its finest. Don't forget about plenty of water, and wear sturdy, non-slip comfortable shoes as the rocks you'll need to climb down and back up at the entrances will be slick.

For the best beginner spelunker experience and most access, visit the southwestern portion of the Citrus Cave Tract, just a short distance from Citrus County Highway 49. You'll find a parking area at the

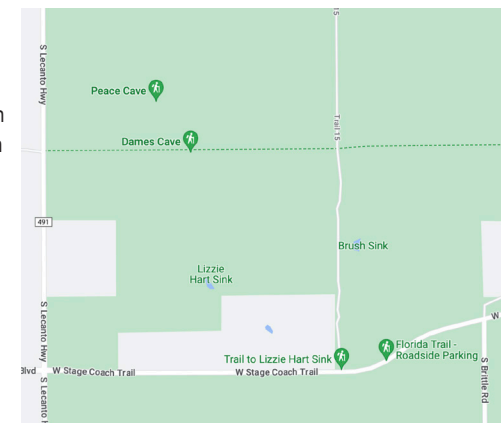


trailhead along highway 491 (it's essentially just a pull-off dirt lot, so keep your eyes peeled as it is easy to miss!). From here, you can take an easy half-mile hike along a sandy trail to the first cave, Dames Cave. Further down, you'll find Sick Bat Cave, Peace Cave and Danger Cave. As with Dames Cave, some of the main chamber ceilings have collapsed, so if you're an especially claustrophobic explorer, these are a good starting point for you. The caves can be taken at your own pace and skill level. Some, like Peace Cave, have much tighter entrances that should only be taken by more skilled explorers with proper equipment, such as lighting and helmets.

As with any outdoor activity, and especially one in unfamiliar territory, always proceed with caution and let someone outside the caves know that you are entering. Avery was thrilled to be able to climb, crawl and explore on her own, even if it resulted in a muddy behind. Our family loved exploring and had a great time checking another "spelunking destination" off our bucket list. Happy spelunking!

WITHLACOOCHEE STATE FOREST

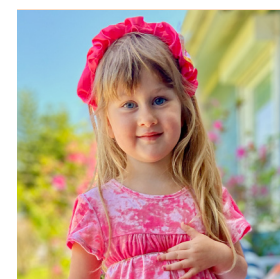
Citrus, Hernando, Lake, Pasco, Sumter counties
Florida Trail - roadside parking area: County Rd 480, Lecanto, FL 34461
Day use from sunrise to sunset
Fs.usda.gov



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.

Pumpkin Broccoli Cheddar Soup

Preparation: Prep Time: 15 minutes • Cook Time: 30 minutes • Servings: 8



Creamy, cheesy, and better than any restaurant, this Pumpkin Broccoli Cheddar Soup is hiding a fall veggie addition that you and your family are going to love! Made in one pot in less than an hour, you can be on your way to comfort food any night of the week.

Ingredients:

- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter divided
- 1 cup onion diced
- 1 stalk celery chopped
- 2 cloves garlic minced
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt plus more to taste
- 1/2 teaspoon nutmeg
- Pinch ground cloves
- Pinch cayenne pepper
- Ground black pepper to taste
- 1/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 2 cups heavy cream or half & half
- 15 ounces pumpkin puree fresh or canned
- 1 pound coarsely chopped broccoli florets 1 head
- 1 cup shredded carrots
- 8 ounces Cabot cheddar cheese hand-shredded
- 1/4 cup pepitas toasted



INSTRUCTIONS

Melt 2 tablespoons butter in a Dutch oven over medium heat. Saute onion and celery for about 5 minutes, until softened. Add garlic, salt, nutmeg, cloves, and peppers and stir, cooking an additional 1 minute. Add remaining butter and melt. Once melted, add flour and cook 2-3 minutes, whisking constantly, until thickened. Gradually stir in chicken broth, whisking constantly. Gradually whisk in cream and pumpkin puree, reduce heat to medium-low, and simmer for 5 minutes, stirring occasionally.

Add broccoli and carrots to pot and simmer until vegetables are crisp-tender, 15-20 minutes. Stir occasionally. Taste and season with salt and pepper, as desired. If you would like a smoother soup, you can choose to use an immersion blender at this point to break up some of the vegetables.

Remove soup from heat and stir in cheese until melted. Taste and season if needed. Ladle into bowls or bread bowls, sprinkle with pepitas and additional shredded cheese and serve.

NUTRITION

Calories: 479kcal | Carbohydrates: 17g | Protein: 12g | Fat: 42g | Saturated Fat: 25g | Cholesterol: 134mg | Sodium: 956mg | Potassium: 538mg | Fiber: 4g | Sugar: 5g | Vitamin A: 12253IU | Vitamin C: 64mg | Calcium: 304mg | Iron: 2mg

Spicy Pumpkin Sweet Potato Chili

Preparation: Prep Time: 20 minutes • Cook Time: 6 hours • Servings: 6

This is not your ordinary crock pot chili - it's packed with pumpkin, sweet potato, beef, pork, beans, and tons of fall flavor!

Ingredients:

- 1 pound lean ground beef or ground chicken
- 1/4 pound pork loin cubed
- 1 can tomatoes & chilies Rotel
- 1 can fire roasted tomatoes
- 1 can tomato paste
- 12 ounces pumpkin beer or 1 1/2 cups beef broth
- 1 cup pumpkin puree
- 1 can kidney beans
- 1 can black beans
- 2 cloves garlic minced
- 1 green bell pepper chopped
- 1 medium yellow onion chopped
- 2 sweet potatoes cubed
- 3-4 Tablespoons chili powder divided
- 1-2 teaspoons red pepper flakes
- 1 teaspoon pumpkin pie spice
- 1 teaspoon cumin divided
- 1/4 teaspoon nutmeg divided
- 1 teaspoon sea salt divided
- 1 teaspoon black pepper
- Shredded cheddar cheese for garnish

INSTRUCTIONS

In a large skillet, brown ground beef, seasoning it with salt and chili powder. Drain fat and transfer to crock pot.

Season the pork cubes with 1/2 teaspoon cumin and a pinch nutmeg, then sear in the same skillet. Add to crock pot. Combine remaining ingredients to crock pot, stirring well.

Cook on high for 4 hours, or low for 6 hours, stirring occasionally if you are able.

Garnish with shredded cheddar if desired upon serving. Enjoy!

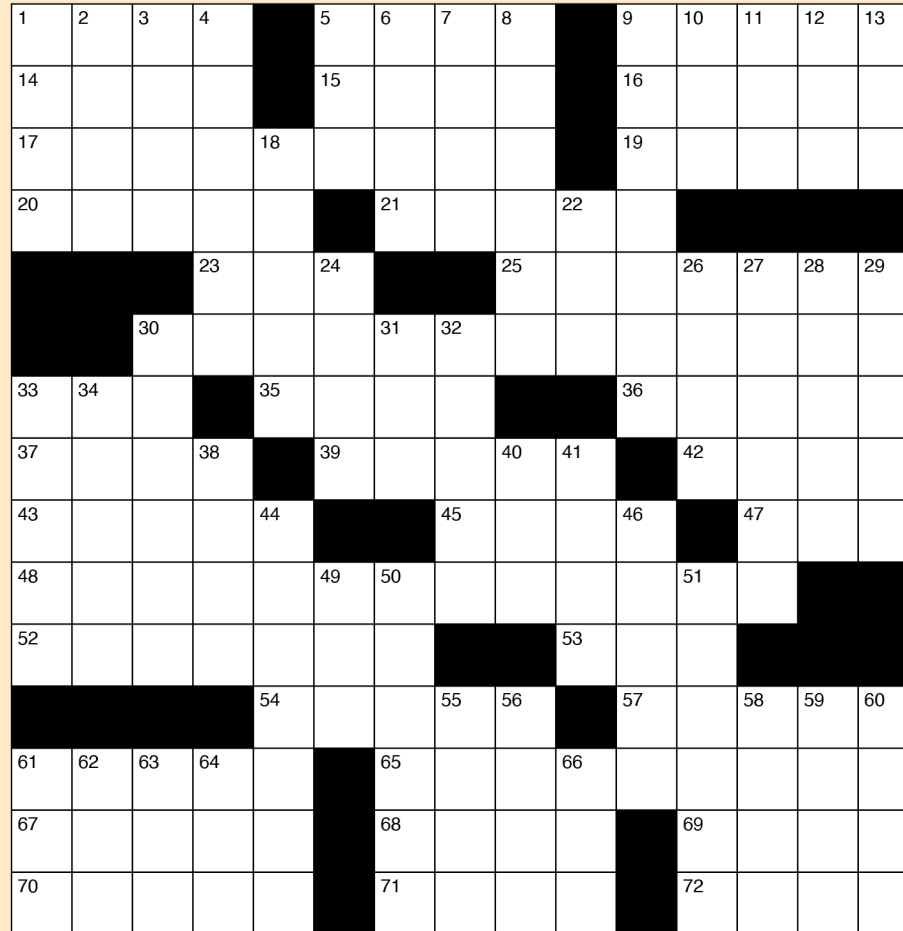
NUTRITION

Calories: 233kcal | Carbohydrates: 19g | Protein: 22g | Fat: 5g | Saturated Fat: 2g | Cholesterol: 58mg | Sodium: 551mg | Potassium: 729mg | Fiber: 4g | Sugar: 4g | Vitamin A: 13860IU | Vitamin C: 20.4mg | Calcium: 59mg | Iron: 3.9mg



Across

1. Kind of bomber
5. Panama hat part
9. Renowned painter of ballet scenes
14. Choice cut
15. U2 co-founder and Nobel Peace Prize nominee
16. Too soon
17. "Orpheus in the Underworld" composer
19. Come-ons
20. Baroque painter Reni
21. Abu ____, UAE
23. Pardoner of RMN
25. Auto executive Lee
30. Enrollments
33. ____ Ventura
35. Large-scale exhibition
36. "____ to You" (2009 Whitney Houston song)
37. Gasp for breath
39. German painter Max
42. Web page
43. Garden fertilizer brand
45. Panache
47. Character actor Beatty
48. Obscuring
52. Made smaller
53. ____ Friday's (restaurant)
54. Weather
57. Meat problem
61. Singer Iglesias
65. Colorful stinger
67. Small shrimplike crustaceans
68. Googly-eyed Muppet
69. Swedish soprano Jenny
70. Egypt neighbor
71. Stallone, et al.
72. Votes for



Down

32. Strengthened
33. "It's ____ sort of memory that only works backward": Carroll
34. Craft a totem pole, e.g.
38. Word on a road sign
40. Road alert
41. Tweety's thought
44. Noted Seminole chief
46. "America's Next Top Model" judge Barker
49. Part of H.M.S.
50. Clay building blocks
51. In a pleasing manner
55. Boring
56. Oscar relative
58. Tony's relative
59. Russian river
60. Roadside bombs (abbr.)
61. 5 letters on a phone
62. Sch. with a Providence campus
63. Freedom movement, for short
64. Adverbial ending
66. Derek and Jackson

Down

1. Internet journal
2. Vegetarian staple
3. Cybercafé feature
4. Impatient
5. Consumer protection org.
6. Avenue
7. Part of NIN
8. Angora yarn
9. Corpus ____ (criminal evidence)
10. ____ de parfum
11. Angry dog's sound
12. Stout relative
13. ____ admin
18. Norway, in Norway
22. Barnyard bleat
24. Prix ____
26. Some suntan products
27. Making baby noises
28. Large bill
29. The A of FAQ
30. Leased
31. Opp. of Aut.

OCT 2023 ANSWERS



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



Changes in Latitudes, Changes in Attitudes

Skin cancer is a pressing concern and an ever-present danger in today's world, despite the allure of sun-kissed days and the carefree embrace of a tropical lifestyle. The poignant story of musician Jimmy Buffett offers a stark reminder of the perils of skin cancer and the importance of sun safety practices.

Jimmy Buffett, the legendary singer known for his island-inspired tunes and laid-back persona, encountered a significant health scare when he was diagnosed with basal cell carcinoma, the most common form of skin cancer. Despite his synonymous association with paradise and the sun-soaked beach culture, Buffett's battle with skin cancer serves as a cautionary tale, shedding light on the hazards lurking beneath the sunshine.

Skin cancer is a silent predator, often triggered by prolonged exposure to the sun's harmful UV rays. The iconic figure's public acknowledgment of his diagnosis, subsequent treatments, and advocacy for sun safety resonated with many, emphasizing the need for increased awareness and preventive measures.

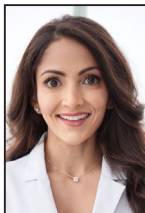
Skin cancer, including basal cell carcinoma, squamous cell carcinoma, and the more aggressive melanoma, can be life-threatening if not detected and treated early. Its prevalence is a sobering reminder that no one is immune to its risks.

It's essential to adopt protective measures, such as using broad-spectrum sunscreen, wearing protective clothing, seeking shade,

and avoiding prolonged exposure during peak sun hours. Regular skin checks and consultations with dermatologists can aid in the early detection and treatment of any suspicious changes or growths on the skin.

Buffett's experience echoes a broader message: the necessity of prioritizing skin health and sun safety practices, especially in regions where the allure of sun and sea is a way of life. His public acknowledgment of the dangers of skin cancer has helped raise awareness, encouraging fans and the general public to take proactive steps to protect their skin.

The story of Jimmy Buffett's encounter with skin cancer serves as a reminder of the dangers associated with prolonged sun exposure. It calls for a shift in mindset - one that celebrates the beauty of sunlit days but also underscores the importance of responsible and protective behaviors to safeguard against the perils of skin cancer. Let Buffett's experience be a guiding light, inspiring us to bask in the sun's warmth responsibly and cherish our skin's health above all.



Dr. Nicole Nagrani, is a Board Certified Dermatologist who grew up in the area and trained at the University of South Florida Department of Dermatology & Cutaneous Surgery, Moffit Cancer Center and the James A. Haley VA Hospital in Tampa FL. Her office is located at 612 Palmetto St. in New Smyrna Beach and she is accepting new patients.

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FEATURE

Adventures of a Modern Pirate

Crabs darted around the shoreline going through their daily routines as if we didn't exist. We were aliens in their world! The sound of falling coconuts hitting the ground with stunted thuds had become music to our ears. The "whoosh" of the creeping surf nuzzling the snow-white beach was a constant and had become maternalistic. The dorsal fins of dolphins along the shore had become the icing on our rum cake.

Was I ready to leave paradise? Most certainly not! The thoughts of abandoning paradise were like a fusion of cobbled-up emotions swirling around in your mom's old KitchenAid cake mixer, going around and around until eventually something tasty would appear for you to savor with a quick lick of the tongue off the finger. With that first taste arrived a cemented perception that something delicious was forthcoming and that's how this young pirate felt as I glanced out at the spectacular sea before my eyes.

The sea was calm, the horizon was as blue as cobalt, and the sky became a smooth transition of baby blue dotted with white cotton candy-like clouds. A view that had become a constant day by day, however, never became dull or recapitulatory. For me, the mixture within the bowl of life had become a delicious rum cake with butter rum glaze. Sweet, moist and intoxicating.

After cleaning up our breakfast, we quickly adapted to fishing for our lunch and dinner, apprehensively awaiting our sea chariot to fetch us up and back to civilization. The butterflies in our stomachs were not of

anxiety, but rather that antsy truth of not really wanting to leave paradise. Who could blame us two pirates?

For reasons I didn't comprehend until much later, my uncle had taken me under his wing, nurturing me through the transition from youth over to manhood, and for that, I remain forever grateful, as last summer's escapades were a colossal learning experience that helped me evolve with clarity and machismo. Thus, this summer was lucidity as its finest, as I knew what to expect. The Caribbean lifestyle didn't take me by surprise anymore, and for that I was grateful. In other words, the machismo had evolved and these events dictated my unabashed existence as I recalled last summer shenanigans were a prodigious learning experience among other things.

Now, sitting under the cool shade of a palm tree overlooking the serene shore felt as ordinary as rum cake topped off with a healthy dose of rum.

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.



No earlier than Friday, Nov. 03, 2023

Vehicle: SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket
Mission: CRS-29
Launch Site: Launch Complex 39A at Kennedy Space Center
Launch Window: No earlier than 11:49 p.m. ET

Thursday, Nov. 16, 2023

Vehicle: SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket
Mission: Nova C (IM-1)
Launch Site: Launch Complex 39A at Kennedy Space Center
Launch Window: TBD

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

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Fishaholic: November Report

Captain Austin here, bringing you the fishing report for the New Smyrna Beach area. Last year this time, we were dealing with hurricanes, so this year it is a welcomed change to only concentrate on fishing. Only a couple more weeks until the end of hurricane season and let's hope it stays quiet. As we transition from the baitfish run to late fall and early winter, the types of fish we catch will start to change a bit.

My favorite target species, tarpon, are still around in good numbers, but will slowly move out of our area. Tarpon prefer water temperatures in the mid 70s so they will seek out warmer water. Our charters still get a couple of shots of them at times, and if you have never caught one, you need to give us a call.



Recently there have been huge schools of over 1,000 fish just cruising off the beach! The tarpon can be caught using different methods, but the best method by far is by utilizing live bait such as mullet, shrimp or croakers.

Our fall target species changes up a little. The big reds are a mainstay in our area, and they are always around to catch. This fall season, the redfish have been playing hard to catch and for some reason we haven't seen the numbers that we normally do this time of the year.

It doesn't help that when the redfish come into the inlet to spawn, they are bombarded by fisherman trying to catch them. This can't be good for the long-term fishery. Thankfully the snook have picked up the slack and we continue to catch some real good fish in the docks and at the inlet.

We will start to see other species being caught like sheepshead, weakfish and bluefish. As always, anglers should be mindful of changing weather conditions and tidal influences, adjusting their techniques accordingly. The unusually high "king tides" subside later in the season and the tidal flows are not as extreme.

Hope you enjoyed the report and as always, we'd love to take you fishing. With the holiday season coming soon we will start to get busy, so book now if you want to fish at the end of November and into December!

-Captain Austin



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Ponce Inlet NOV Tide Chart



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Date	High Tide				Low Tide				Sun		Moon
	AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft	Rise	Set	
1 Wed	11:39	4.2	11:58	3.2	4:54	0.6	6:05	1.0	7:35	6:39	☾
2 Thu			12:26	4.0	5:43	0.8	7:01	1.1	7:35	6:38	☾
3 Fri	12:48	3.1	1:16	3.8	6:39	1.0	7:54	1.2	7:36	6:37	☾
4 Sat	1:40	3.0	2:08	3.6	7:37	1.1	8:45	1.2	7:37	6:37	☾
5 Sun	1:36	3.0	2:03	3.5	7:33	1.2	8:33	1.2	6:38	5:36	☾
6 Mon	2:37	3.0	3:00	3.4	8:28	1.2	9:21	1.1	6:38	5:35	☾
7 Tue	3:37	3.1	3:53	3.4	9:25	1.2	10:06	1.0	6:39	5:35	☾
8 Wed	4:29	3.3	4:41	3.4	10:20	1.1	10:48	0.9	6:40	5:34	☾
9 Thu	5:16	3.5	5:25	3.4	11:13	1.1	11:28	0.8	6:41	5:33	☾
10 Fri	5:59	3.7	6:07	3.3			12:03	1.0	6:41	5:33	☾
11 Sat	6:41	3.8	6:50	3.3	12:06	0.7	12:49	0.9	6:42	5:32	☾
12 Sun	7:22	4.0	7:33	3.2	12:43	0.6	1:34	0.8	6:43	5:32	☾
13 Mon	8:03	4.0	8:15	3.2	1:20	0.6	2:16	0.8	6:44	5:31	☾
14 Tue	8:45	4.1	8:57	3.1	1:58	0.5	2:58	0.8	6:45	5:31	☾
15 Wed	9:27	4.1	9:40	3.1	2:37	0.5	3:43	0.8	6:45	5:30	☾
16 Thu	10:13	4.1	10:27	3.0	3:20	0.5	4:33	0.8	6:46	5:30	☾
17 Fri	11:03	4.1	11:19	3.0	4:10	0.5	5:31	0.9	6:47	5:29	☾
18 Sat	11:57	4.0			5:10	0.6	6:30	0.8	6:48	5:29	☾
19 Sun	12:18	3.0	12:55	3.9	6:17	0.6	7:26	0.8	6:49	5:29	☾
20 Mon	1:22	3.1	1:57	3.8	7:24	0.6	8:20	0.7	6:49	5:28	☾
21 Tue	2:32	3.2	3:01	3.7	8:30	0.6	9:13	0.5	6:50	5:28	☾
22 Wed	3:39	3.5	4:02	3.6	9:38	0.6	10:05	0.4	6:51	5:28	☾
23 Thu	4:38	3.8	4:57	3.5	10:43	0.5	10:56	0.3	6:52	5:27	☾
24 Fri	5:32	4.0	5:49	3.4	11:44	0.5	11:44	0.2	6:53	5:27	☾
25 Sat	6:22	4.2	6:39	3.3			12:41	0.4	6:53	5:27	☾
26 Sun	7:12	4.2	7:29	3.2	12:31	0.1	1:33	0.4	6:54	5:27	☾
27 Mon	8:00	4.2	8:17	3.1	1:17	0.1	2:21	0.4	6:55	5:27	☾
28 Tue	8:46	4.1	9:02	3.0	2:01	0.2	3:05	0.5	6:56	5:26	☾
29 Wed	9:29	4.0	9:46	3.0	2:43	0.3	3:49	0.6	6:57	5:26	☾
30 Thu	10:12	3.8	10:30	2.9	3:26	0.4	4:34	0.7	6:57	5:26	☾

SPOTTED AROUND TOWN - VOLUSIA COUNTY

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Congratulations to all of the 2023 Chili Challenge winners, held on October 21 along Flagler Avenue. The winners included: Crabby's Bar and Grill (traditional People's Choice, pictured); Avanu (traditional Judges' Choice); Traders (non-traditional People's Choice); and Mermaid Cafe (non-traditional Judges' Choice).

The Daytona State College Foundation and Jeep Beach celebrated a new scholarship program on October 6 with the "Jeep Beach Scholarship Parade" as part of Daytona State's Homecoming festivities. Jeep Beach has contributed more than \$25,000 in direct and indirect support to students attending Daytona State College over the years. Students interested in applying for the Jeep Beach scholarships should visit DaytonaState.edu/Scholarships.

This November at the Edgewater Animal Shelter, all adult cats over the age of 4 have their adoption fees prepaid by the shelter's Silver Paws Program. Now is the time to adopt your new best friend! Visit EdgewaterAnimalShelter.org to apply, and meet the cats at 605 Mango Tree on Monday-Friday from 9 AM to 4 PM.



At the October Edgewater City Council meeting, the Volusia Young Marines accepted a proclamation in honor of Red Ribbon Week. The Young Marines is a national non-profit 501c (3) youth education and service program for boys and girls, aged eight through high school graduation. The Young Marines promote the mental, moral and physical development of its members.

Fall is delivering some great weather both for fishing and for viewing wildlife! This pelican fishing for its lunch was captured by local wildlife photographer, Shelley Lynch. Find more of Shelley's work at ShelleyLynchPhotos.com.

On October 14, local Girl Scout Troop 201 visited the Edgewater City Council to celebrate Government Day. Councilwoman Charlotte Gillis and City Manager Glenn Irby explained how our city and local governments work. The troop toured City Hall and drew symbols of what they love about our city. Their artwork will soon be framed and hung in the City Hall lobby!



Check Out What The Locals Are Up To



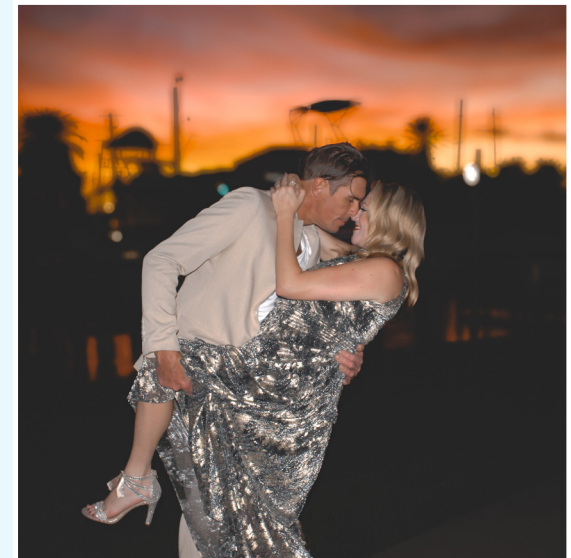
Volusia County Schools cut the ribbon on two brand new French Immersion programs at Citrus Grove Elementary in DeLand and Spruce Creek Elementary in Port Orange (pictured) in October, representing the first offerings of this kind within VCS. The more than 1,600 students who attend these schools, kindergarten through 5th grade, take French classes during their special area rotations. This program will support a continuum of language learning that feeds into the International Baccalaureate French programs offered at DeLand High School and Spruce Creek High School.



For Florida City Week, the DeLand Police Department, DeLand Fire Department, Public Works and Utilities visited Blue Lake Elementary for a mini touch-a-truck event where they got to show off all of their equipment to Pre-K, Kindergarten and 1st grade students.



The ArtHaus Foundation held their annual Sidewalk Chalk Art competition featuring local artists as part of Port Orange Family Days from October 12 through 15 at the Port Orange City Center. The winner of both Best in Show and Artists' Choice was Joe Van. Congrats, Joe!



Tiffany Evers, co-owner and editor of ECC, celebrated her engagement to fiancé Scotty Sudakis on Monday, October 23. Friends and family gathered at the Angler's Yacht Club in New Smyrna Beach for an evening filled with laughter, dancing and a spectacular sunset. Photo by: Ainsley Sigler



The Daytona Beach Children's Business Fair, highlighting young entrepreneurs, was held on October 21 at Riverfront Esplanade. Lucy Goyner, daughter of ECC writer Cassie Goyner, set up her business, Little Light Co., to read her poetry, sell her books and sign autographs.

fishing Report

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

This past month has brought some of the highest tides we've witnessed in years. The convergence of flood tides, a full moon and rainfall has played a significant role. While these conditions have made fishing more challenging, the determined angler can still find success, even as the fish seek refuge among the mangroves.

In a recent adventure, I had the privilege of guiding a young couple all the way from the North Pole to explore the pristine waters of Volusia County. Rylie Bruntz (@RylieBruntz) and Daniel Conley (@Slippy04) joined me for a backwater excursion, eager to experience the unique fishing opportunities our region has to offer.

We kick-started the day by procuring live shrimp from the reliable Chum's Bait Store in Bethune Beach. With our bait in tow, we ventured into the backwaters, greeted by a high tide transitioning to an outgoing one. Mother Nature blessed us with a beautiful day, complemented by gentle sea breeze winds - a perfect backdrop for a memorable fishing experience.

Throughout the day, we found ourselves hooking into a variety of species, making for an unforgettable outing. Our catch included trout, redfish, mangrove snapper, catfish, whiting and pinfish. It was a pleasure to witness the joy on Daniel's face as he exclaimed that it was the most fish he had ever caught in a single session. Rylie, too, showed her prowess, likely outdoing all of us in the catch count.

I must extend a heartfelt thank you to my significant other, Rachel, for her indispensable role in making this adventure come to life and bringing us all together.

As we wrap up this report, remember - until next time, keep those lines cast, hooks ready, and fish-catching spirits high. Tight lines and memorable catches await you in the bountiful waters of New Smyrna Beach!

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



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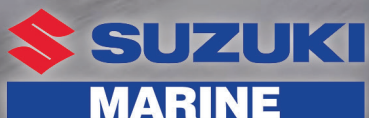
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Shop, Stroll, Dine, Enjoy

Thursday, November 30th | 5pm - 9pm

CHRISTMAS PARADE

Land Parade ending on Canal Street

Saturday, December 2nd | 4:30pm

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Saturday, December 9th | At Dusk

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