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COLD  
POINT NORTH

FRIDAY

**Slimpbikit**

FALLING  
IN REVERSE

In+THIS+MOMENT

STARSET  
NONPOINT  
FLAT BLACK  
POWERMAN 5000

SATURDAY

**FOO FIGHTERS**

GRETA  
VAN FLEET

PRIMUS

MAMMOTH WVH  
REIGNWOLF  
JEHNNY BETH  
NOVA TWINS

SUNDAY

**Slipknot**

breaking  
benjamin  
architects

WAGE WAR  
P.O.D.  
TAPROOT  
ADEMA

**DISTURBED**

MUDVAIN

SKILLET

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SALIVA  
ORGY

**Jelly Roll**

THE OFFSPRING

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LIVING COLOUR  
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SLEEP THEORY  
ALIEN ANT FARM

**QUEENS  
THE STONE AGE**

A DAY TO  
REMEMBER

Stone  
Temple Pilots

ROYAL BLOOD  
THE STRUTS  
TAIPEI HOUSTON  
DESTROY BOYS

**EVANESCENCE**

BAD OMIENS  
⊕ ⊗ ⊙

THEORY

SEBASTIAN BACH  
DROWNING POOL  
NITA STRAUSS  
TRUST COMPANY

**MACHINE  
HEAD**

OF MICE & MEN  
BIOHAZARD  
LACUNA COIL  
STABBING WESTWARD  
GIDEON  
THROWN  
FUMING MOUTH

**WUKE**

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NITZER EBB  
POLARIS  
KID KAPICHI  
CATCH YOUR BREATH  
LØ SPIRIT  
KILL THE ROBOT

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HELMET  
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HED PE  
CALVA LOUISE  
VUKOVI  
HOTBOX

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MILITARIE GUN  
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AUGUST BURNS RED  
ALL THAT REMAINS  
SOULFLY  
GATECREEPER  
SPITE  
BODYSNATCHER

**IN FLAMES**

SLAUGHTER TO PREVAIL  
KITTIE  
MUSHROOMHEAD  
NEW YEARS DAY  
I SEE STARS  
DYING WISH

**CLUTCH**

BARONESS  
ALL THEM WITCHES  
RED FANG  
AUSTIN MEADE  
CROBOT  
TIM MONTANA

**BLACKVEILBRIDS**

MOVEMENTS  
ENTER SHIKARI  
SIM  
DEAD POET SOCIETY  
PLUSH  
RETURN TO DUST

**INSANE CLOWN POSSE**

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MISS MAY I  
THE WORD ALIVE  
IMMINENCE  
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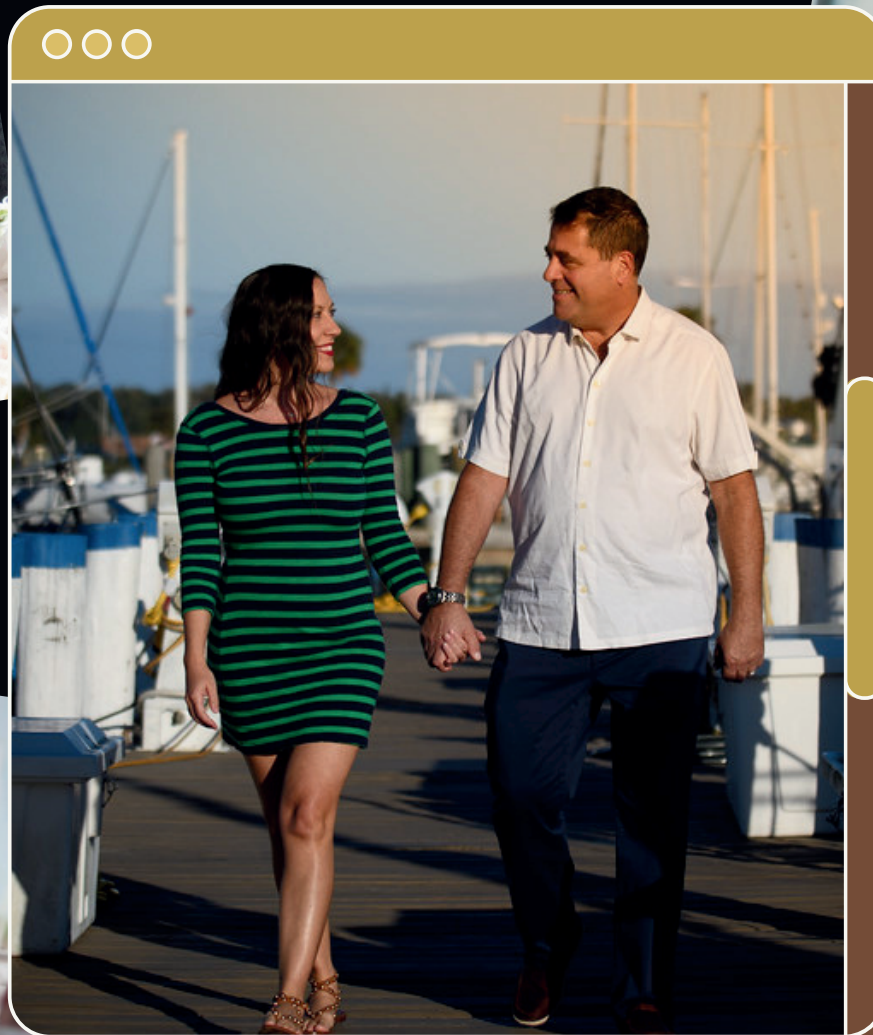
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# What's Inside

Vol. 10 Issue 1 | January 2024

## News

### 7 #ECCToldMe

Business and community announcements.

## Features

### 24 St. Johns Rivership Co.

In the heart of Historic Downtown Sanford, a unique dining experience awaits those seeking more than just a meal.

### 31 Tales of a Modern Pirate

An on-going tale of a latitude jumper.

### 34-35 Spotted Around Town

See what the locals are up to this month.

## Conversations

### 8 Home Sweet Goals

Economic experts agree that better days are ahead for the real estate market. Are you wondering if 2024 is the best time to buy a house or sell your own?

### 9 Things to Do in January to Keep Your Sanity

To get yourself out of that "January funk period," start planning something to do. Plan a vacation even if you just drive over the bridge.

### 12 New Year Reflections on New Friends

I ended up having two different pathways for meeting new friends this past year: the slow-game and the extrovert cannon ball!

### 18 Bobby G Takes on The Sandlot Reunion Weekend

The reunion weekend, organized by the Table 2 Committee, was more than an event; it was a celebration of community, sportsmanship, and the enduring magic of The Sandlot.

## Events

### 20-21 Current Events

Calendar of events in Volusia County.

## Fashion

### 16 Hats Off to 2024

This budget-friendly choice doesn't rely on designer logos or hefty price tags to steal the show, making it a versatile and accessible style upgrade.

## The Wave

### 32 Fishaholic: January Report

Captain Austin Campbell shares his fishing report for the month.

### 33 Tide Chart - Ponce Inlet

### 36 Backwater Report

Our backwater expert, Tupat, tells you everything you need to know before hitting the water.

## Taste

### 11 The Crumby Kitchen

- Curried Cauliflower Soup
- Garlic Naan Bread

## Travel

### 26 Exploring Anastasia State Park

We set out for an afternoon adventure and found a sprawling park boasting all the best Florida has to offer, with pristine white sand beaches, natural dunes as far as the eye can see, marshy riverside walkways and woodland areas ripe for exploring.

## Unwind

### 29 Crossword Puzzle

Do you consider yourself a cruciverbalist? Prove it by testing your skills with our monthly crossword.

## ECC TEAM

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## THE COVER

If your resolution includes exploring new horizons, we've got you covered. Jumpstart your travel goals with a curated list of day trips from Volusia County. Scan the QR code to discover more and embark on a journey filled with exciting possibilities. Whether it's historical landmarks, natural wonders, or hidden gems, these day trips offer a diverse range of experiences to fuel your wanderlust.



24



18



11



36



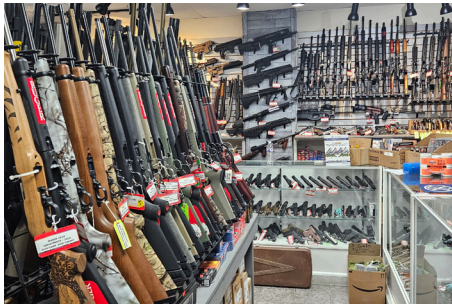
26

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### A-OK Guns Empowers Firearm Enthusiasts with Unmatched Selection and Expertise

A-OK Guns, located at 648 Dixie Freeway in New Smyrna Beach, is elevating the firearms shopping experience for both first-time shooters and seasoned collectors. Boasting an extensive inventory of over 600 new and used firearms, A-OK Guns combines personalized service, comprehensive knowledge, and abundant resources under one roof.

This firearm haven distinguishes itself with a commitment to providing unparalleled expertise in firearms, ammunition and collectibles. A-OK Guns takes pride in its ability to cater to the diverse needs of customers, ensuring that each visit is met with informative guidance and top-notch service. Whether you are a novice looking to make your first purchase or a seasoned collector in search of a rare find, A-OK Guns has you covered.

What sets A-OK Guns apart is not only its vast selection but also its dedication to maintaining competitive pricing. The team at A-OK Guns understands the importance of affordability without compromising quality, ensuring that customers can find their ideal firearms without shooting a hole in their budget.

A-OK Guns actively contributes to building a robust firearms community by facilitating buying, selling and trading activities. The establishment encourages enthusiasts to visit their Dixie Freeway location for a hands-on experience and to explore their offerings online at AOkGuns.com or give them a call at (386) 410-6480. The shop is open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. and on Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Connect with the A-OK Guns community on Facebook for the latest updates and engaging discussions.

Discover the A-OK difference - where big things happen in small places. Visit A-OK Guns today and embrace a unique firearms shopping experience that combines selection, service and savings.

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# A-OK GUNS

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### NSB Mayor's Fitness Challenge Open Registration - Kicks off January 11!

The NSB Mayor's Fitness Challenge is an eight-week self-improvement competition to help improve your health and lose unwanted body fat. The individual male and female who improve the most will win a \$500 cash prize for 1st place, \$250 for 2nd, and \$100 for 3rd.

An entry fee of \$95 per adult or \$10 for youth ages 17 and under includes blood work; body scans; two 6 p.m. group classes at the New Smyrna Beach Sports Complex per week; limited memberships at New Smyrna Athletic Club, Orangetheory Fitness, and Edgewater YMCA; and entry in the Light the Night 5K run/walk race taking place on. It all kicks off with an event in the Brannon Center on Thursday, Jan. 11, at 6 p.m. If a child is signed up to participate, they must be accompanied by a parent.

Winners will be determined based on points from participation, completion of blood work, body scan and percentage of fat lost. Winners will be announced at the closing ceremony on Thursday, March 28, 2024 at 6 p.m. at the Brannon Center.

Would you like to know more? Visit online to register and call Leisure Services at (386) 410-2890 for details today!

**CityOfNSB.com**



### EDGEfest Annual Classic Car Show and Swap Meet

2024 is here and the City of Edgewater has big plans for the coming year's EDGEfest event series. A total of 16 EDGEfest events are planned for 2024. Each event will include a variety of activities designed to provide something for every member of the family.

The mission of Edgewater Special Events includes effective promotion for our business and community partners and family fun for citizens and visitors. EDGEfest sponsorship is a fun, economical opportunity to showcase your business to area residents and visitors. To learn more about how to become a 2024 sponsor, please call the Special Events team at (386) 424-2400 x7207 or email SpecialEvents@CityOfEdgewater.org.

The first EDGEfest event of the year is the Classic Car Show on Saturday, January 27, 2024 from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. at Hawks Park (1108 South Ridgewood Avenue). There will be something for



everyone including all the cool classics from the East Coast Cruisers Car Club.

There is plenty of room for car clubs, solo cars and vendors. For more information or to sign up, please call or email the Special Events team.

Save the date and join the fun at Hawks Park on Saturday, January 27, 2024!

**CityOfEdgewater.org**

### Volunteer and Learn with Environmental Management

Get back to nature with Green Volusia Volunteers and Be Floridian Now, which are planning two volunteer opportunities in January.

Tomoka Landfill tour and cleanup: 9 a.m. to noon Friday, Jan. 12.

Learn about the importance of proper trash disposal at Tomoka Landfill. See what happens



to trash after it's brought to the landfill and participate in the Adopt-a-Road program by doing a roadside cleanup.

Meet at Tomoka Landfill, 1990 Tomoka Farms Road, Port Orange, and park at the building on the right. This program is sponsored by Green Volusia Volunteers. Space is limited to 10 people.

Nature walk and cleanup: 10 a.m. to noon Tuesday, Jan. 16.

Learn about the shorebirds, mangroves and invasive species of Mosquito Lagoon, and be on the lookout for manatees and dolphins. Afterward, the group will clean up trash items along the shore and boat ramp area.

Meet at Riverbreeze Park, 250 H.H. Burch Road, Oak Hill. This program is sponsored by Green Volusia Volunteers and Be Floridian Now.

All ages are welcome. Reservations are required; contact Holly Giles at hgiles@Volusia.org or (386) 736-5927, ext. 12330, or search for Green Volusia activities on Eventbrite.com.

### Daytona Beach Hosts Inaugural Business Summit

Daytona Beach city leaders are committed to fueling the entrepreneurial spirit within our community. To give aspiring business owners the knowledge and tools to be successful, a comprehensive business summit is planned for Saturday, February 24 at the Yvonne Scarlett-Golden Cultural and Educational



Center, 1000 Vine Street. Mayor Henry and city commissioners encouraged such an event a few months ago. Attendees will gain unparalleled access to resources, networking opportunities and knowledge-sharing sessions designed to fuel business growth and development. There is no cost to attend.

An exciting feature of the summit will be a "Pitch Your Idea" competition. This initiative invites attendees to submit their business ideas for a future competition, where winners will receive prizes designed to help offset the costs of starting or growing their businesses.

For more information, please contact Redevelopment Project Manager Phebe Fuqua at (386) 671-8127.

**CODB.us**



## Home Sweet Goals: Setting Resolutions for 2024

In December 2023, the National Association of Realtors (NAR) held its virtual Real Estate Forecast Summit: The Year Ahead event, which provided a review of 2023 and a look forward to 2024. Economic experts agree that better days are ahead for the real estate market. Are you wondering if 2024 is the best time to buy a house or sell your own?

According to NAR's chief economist, Lawrence Yun, home sales will rise next year and mortgage rates will stabilize under seven percent. For 2024, listings will steadily show up, builders will create more housing inventory and interest rates will go down. Currently, home prices are high and will likely continue to rise or remain steady. A seller's market is predicted as a high demand from buyers remains and demand will increase when interest rates drop.

In real estate, the decisions we make today shape the homes we live in tomorrow. There is power in setting real estate resolutions for the upcoming year. The start of a new year is a good time to reflect on the past year and plan ahead. Resolutions can be tough to keep. The goal should be simple and clear.

Achieve your real estate goals by considering these common resolutions for buyers and sellers:

1. **Save for a Down Payment:** commit to saving a specific amount each month. A bigger down payment is a strong signal that your finances are in order.
2. **Home Maintenance Commitment:** pledge to stay proactive about home maintenance, which can extend the life of the property and protect its value.
3. **Define Property Needs and Wants:** clearly define needs versus wants for



**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

home features. This helps with staying focused on your search and decision-making.

4. **Secure Important Documents:** gather and organize important documents related to the property such as warranties, maintenance records and any relevant legal paperwork.
5. **Stay Flexible and Patient:** acknowledge the real estate process may have its ups and downs. Stay flexible, be patient and adapt!

The real estate market fluctuates as it's influenced by various economic factors, like supply and demand. It is a best practice to speak with an experienced, local Realtor. I have over a decade of experience in real estate. For my customers, life circumstances fuel the majority of the timing for when people are ready. These events often prompt people to reassess their housing needs, financial situations and/or lifestyle preferences.

To begin the new year, consider this final resolution: making a connection with your Realtor. A good Realtor has the knowledge and professional network to guide you through the real estate process. Ultimately, a healthy decision making framework will help you decide if 2024 is the year to sell your home or buy a new one. Creating and sticking to clear, simple resolutions will map out the best possible choice for making moves in the new year.

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## Things to Do in January to Keep Your Sanity

Well, it's over. Christmas is over. No more fancy decorations, beautiful Christmas tree lights, and ornaments. No more yummy cookies that don't have one calorie in them - not a one.

If you want to do the holidays right, watch kids. Kids start imaging well into the year what they may want. They believe in jolly old Saint Nick, and he is bringing just what their goal is set out to be for Christmas.

As teenagers, some of us may start to believe in other things. Santa is replaced with the image of the boy or girl down the street... teenage love. As adults, we rely on Santa less with the goal being a yes from the bank coming through for a new house or car.

Do things that make you happy. What makes me the happiest? My husband, David, my daughter, Tara, my son-in-law, Ryan, my son Ryan, my daughter-in-law, Jamie, and my four grandsons. It was a lonely Christmas this year as all my family made other plans. David gave me the best gift I could ask for. I get to keep my tree, and all my decorations up until February 1st! Now that's love!

Challenge yourself in the new year to use both sides of your brain. Concentrate on what you want instead of what you fear. Catch up with friends and family. Heaven knows after a big Christmas, there will be lots to laugh about. Or better yet - call them, FaceTime, or visit!



The holidays are a lot of work. Something very important you need to do after Christmas - be kind to yourself. It's too easy to get stressed out about little stuff like when grandpa set the turkey on fire. Chill out, we all survived, and it was a little turkey.



To get yourself out of that "January funk period," start planning something to do. Plan a vacation even if you just drive over the bridge. David and I are planning a vacation in August with another couple to Las Vegas to celebrate our wedding anniversaries.

There is a book you've been trying to read forever - so, read it! Spend time with friends, play tourist in your area. If it makes you happy and alleviates stress, well, then do it!

I wish you happiness and good health always.



**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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# Curried Cauliflower Soup

**Preparation:** Prep Time: 15 minutes • Cook Time: 35 minutes • Servings: 4-6

This Curried Cauliflower Soup is a delicious and warming dish, perfect for cold winter days. The combination of spices and coconut milk creates a rich and flavorful soup that will surely become a favorite.

## Ingredients:

- 1 large cauliflower, cut into florets
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 medium carrot, peeled & chopped
- 1 medium potato, peeled & diced
- 14 oz can coconut milk
- 4 cups vegetable broth
- 2 tablespoons curry powder
- 1 teaspoon ground cumin
- 1 teaspoon ground coriander
- 1/2 teaspoon turmeric
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- Fresh micro greens



## INSTRUCTIONS

In a large pot, heat the olive oil over medium heat. Add the chopped onion and garlic, sautéing until softened and fragrant. Add the curry powder, ground cumin, ground coriander, turmeric and cayenne pepper to the pot. Stir well to coat the onions and garlic in the spices, allowing them to toast for a minute or two.

Add the cauliflower florets, chopped carrot and diced potato to the pot. Stir the vegetables to combine with the spices. Pour in the coconut milk and vegetable broth, ensuring that the vegetables are fully immersed. Bring the mixture to a simmer and let it cook until the vegetables are tender, usually about 20-25 minutes.

Using an immersion blender, blend the soup until smooth and creamy. If you don't have an immersion blender, carefully transfer the soup in batches to a blender and blend until smooth. Remember to allow the soup to cool slightly before blending to avoid accidents.

Season the soup with salt and pepper to taste. Adjust the level of cayenne pepper if you prefer more or less heat. Ladle the hot soup into bowls. Garnish with fresh micro greens if desired. Serve the curried cauliflower soup hot, accompanied by crusty bread or naan for a complete and satisfying meal.

## Garlic Naan Bread

This Garlic Naan Bread recipe provides the ideal accompaniment to the Curried Cauliflower Soup, adding a deliciously aromatic and fluffy bread that's perfect for dipping into the flavorful soup. Enjoy the delightful combination of these two dishes for a satisfying and warming meal.

**Preparation:** Prep Time: 1 hour 15 minutes • Cook Time: 10 minutes • Servings: 8

## Ingredients:

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 3/4 cup plain yogurt
- 3 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 tablespoons melted butter (for brushing)
- Fresh cilantro, chopped (for garnish, optional)



## INSTRUCTIONS

In a large mixing bowl, combine the all-purpose flour, sugar, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Add the minced garlic to the dry ingredients. Make a well in the center of the dry ingredients and add the yogurt and olive oil. Mix the ingredients together until a soft dough forms.

Transfer the dough to a floured surface and knead for about 5 minutes until it becomes smooth and elastic. Place the dough in a lightly oiled bowl, cover it with a damp cloth, and let it rest for 1 hour to allow the yeast to work. After the dough has risen, divide it into small balls (about the size of a golf ball). On a floured surface, roll out each ball into a flat, oval shape.

Heat a skillet or griddle over medium-high heat. Place the rolled-out dough on the hot surface and cook for about 2 minutes on each side or until golden brown spots appear. While still hot, brush each naan with melted butter.

Sprinkle chopped cilantro on top for added flavor. Serve the garlic naan warm alongside the Curried Cauliflower Soup. The soft and aromatic naan will complement the flavors of the soup perfectly.



## New Year Reflections on New Friends

I am not usually one for New Year's resolutions, but I started last year by reading a book, "Posting Peace," by Douglas S. Bursch, about the ways that social media divides us and ideas for better ways to use it to actually build social networks.

My goal for 2023, therefore, was to use my Instagram account, @cassgoarounddaytona, for building relationships IRL (that's "in real life" for some less text-savvy folks!). As we begin 2024, I've been reflecting on how this goal went and my next steps for the new year.

I do want to clarify that my goal of building relationships has been about finding friends for myself and my family. This is not a dating advice column! With that said, I ended up having two different pathways for meeting new friends this past year: the slow-game and the extrovert cannon ball!

The slow strategy involved meeting business owners or shoppers at markets, having a lovely introductory conversation, and then following them later on Instagram. We would interact with each other on posts and then eventually have something in life that warranted invitations, like a kid's birthday party, and take the leap to hanging out outside of "work" and social media. This is how my friendships with Deborah of @Lil\_Mamas\_Kitchen\_ and Will & Kaila from @VapourBeverages started in the past several years and Kourtney from @SeasideSistaSoapCo this last year.

The "extrovert cannonball" is a much quicker dive into meeting in person. These are folks that we found each other on Instagram and right away knew where our areas of interest overlap, so an invite to that thing was an easy next step. For example, I connected with Jennifer from @SideHustle\_WithJenn for coffee after we shared online the experience of being social media managers for local businesses.



My daughters have been encouraging this journey, too, such as while we were listening to DJ Tremble & Alyssa on 103.3 WVYB's radio morning show this past fall. My girls would listen to the two hosts discuss Alyssa's recent move to Florida and exclaim, "Mom! You should hang out with her!" So, when Alyssa mentioned enjoying yoga on-air and I knew of a "Moves & Brews" event coming up, I tagged her and the radio station, @1033TheVibe, on Instagram to invite. While that time didn't work out, we did have lunch together soon afterwards and my daughters lost their minds thinking about me meeting with "Alyssa from the radio!"

Social media has boasted since the start about its ability to form networks of friends. I have certainly enjoyed it as a tool to start these relationships but found even more joy by moving these conversations into the real world.

I cannot forget to add that 2023 was the year that I met Kelsey and Tiffany from @ECCPrint at the 100 Issue Celebration and then later for coffee! It was a great year of new friendships and I'm looking forward to both fostering these relationships and starting even more new ones in 2024! Let's hang out F2F IRL!



**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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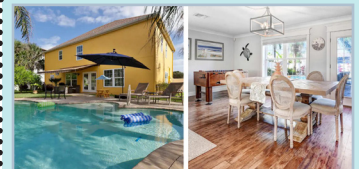
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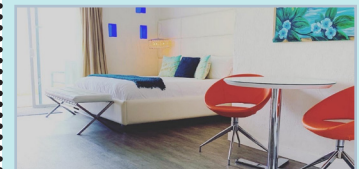
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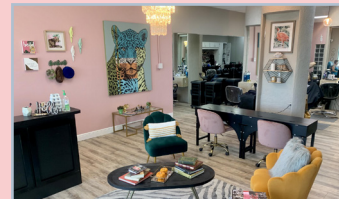


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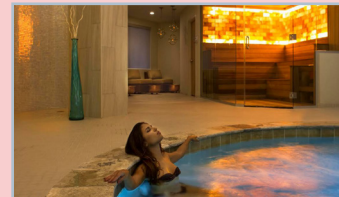
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In a fashion landscape where trends come and go, the classic appeal of a well-worn baseball cap remains timeless. Hats off to style in 2024!

**Blog:** Danielle Napolitano **IG:** @daniellenapolitano



**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 The Sandlot Reunion Weekend

The Sandlot, a timeless favorite of mine, came to life during a reunion weekend in Southeast Volusia from December 14-16, 2023. This extraordinary event was more than just a reunion; it was a celebration that brought together fans, cast members, and local sports enthusiasts for an unforgettable experience.

The weekend was packed with exciting activities, including meet-and-greets, two exclusive showings of the movie at NSB High School, and a thrilling softball game at the Edgewater YMCA. The writer, director and narrator, David Mickey Evans, along with Tom Guiry (Scotty Smalls), Shane Obedzinski (Tommy/Repeat), Victor DiMattia (Timmy), Grant Gelt (Bertram) and Marty York (Yeah-Yeah), took the field with players from the New Smyrna High School varsity girls' softball and boys' baseball teams. The cast played against community members who participated after donating to the Table 2 Committee's fundraising efforts for youth sports in Volusia County.

The homerun derby kicked off the festivities, with each team fielding six players to showcase their batting skills. I proudly participated and hit

three home runs. Now, I knew I was ready to take the field with my teammates in a game that I think none of us will forget.



The game itself was a spectacle, marked by a unique solo musical rendition of the national anthem by NSB's own Dennis "Jammer" Samolinski. If you missed that you have to check it out on the Table 2 website. The back-and-forth match unfolded with plays in the field and impressive home runs from both teams. The camaraderie and sportsmanship were palpable, transcending the boundaries between friends and strangers.

I played on the yellow team, affectionately known as the Mustards, facing off against the red team, we dubbed the Ketchups. The Mustards were coached by baseball legends John Castino (1979 AL Rookie of the Year with the Minnesota Twins), Jack Billingham (Won 2 World Series championships between 1972 and 1977 with the Cincinnati Reds), and Marty Bystrom (Pitcher who played for the Philadelphia Phillies and New York Yankees in Major League Baseball from 1980 to 1985), adding a professional touch to the friendly competition.

The game concluded with a grand home run by Jack Billingham's grandson, bringing the event to a triumphant close. Despite the final score of





18 to 16 (Ketchups), we were all winners, transported back to our childhood as we played alongside the stars of a beloved movie.

The laid-back atmosphere continued post-game, with the cast and director mingling with players and attendees. A surprise appearance by The Beast, a Hercules look-alike, added an extra layer of excitement, delighting fans and capturing memories in photos.

Local vendors, including Bagel Barn Cafe and Deli on Wheels, The Ice Queen Truck, Dog Side of the Moon and Pura Vida Kettle Corn, contributed to the occasion by serving up delicious food and drinks.

I want to extend a special thanks to the Sigler, Barringer, Clancy and Michelbrink families, as well as my fiancé, Tiffany, and the ECC team for bringing this event to life and raising funds for youth sports.

The Table 2 Committee, operating as a non-profit organization in honor of Ryan Michelbrink and Dave Fernandez, aims to spread joy and togetherness through annual family events. You can support their mission by donating online and staying informed about upcoming events that promise endless fun.

In the end, everyone involved worked so hard, creating a memorable day that allowed us to rediscover the joy of being a child and reliving cherished memories with friends. The reunion weekend, organized by the Table 2 Committee, was more than an event; it was a celebration of community, sportsmanship, and the enduring magic of The Sandlot.

If you would like to make a donation to The Table 2 Committee below is their Venmo. Also be sure to follow them on Facebook for any upcoming events in 2024.

**Bobby G... out!**



venmo



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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**Art Stroll/Gallery Walk**

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



**6 SAT JAN 6**

11 AM - 8 PM

**Dewey O. Boster Park, Deltona**

**Latin Festival / 3 Kings Day Festival**

Come celebrate Latin culture at this free, family-friendly event that everyone can enjoy! You'll be treated to loads of live music from talented artists, delicious Latin American food, traditional folkloric art, children's activities, and much more!



**6 SAT JAN 6 / FEB 3** 


1 - 6 PM

**Canal Street, NSB**

**Sip and Stroll**

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




**6 SAT JAN 6 / FEB 3** 

5 - 8 PM

**Granada Blvd, Ormond**

**Ormond Art Walk**

Celebrate culture with 6 gallery stops featuring over 100 artists. Most of the artwork is handcrafted by local fine artists.



**12-14 JAN 12 - 14** 

FRI-SUN @ 10 AM - 5 PM

**Daytona International Speedway**

**Daytona Boat Show**

Life is better with a boat - find your next adventure at the Daytona Boat Show! Admission: \$5 per carload. [DaytonaBoatShow.com](http://DaytonaBoatShow.com)



**13 SAT JAN 13**

1 - 5 PM

**Beach Street, Daytona Beach**

**International Wine and Food Walk**

Explore the charm of downtown with shops, galleries & restaurants offering a selection of wines from across the globe. Purchase food treats with an international flair. Enjoy live music and browse the arts and crafts vendors for unique gifts. \$27 tickets at [DowntownDaytonaBeachEvents.com](http://DowntownDaytonaBeachEvents.com).



**13 SAT JAN 13 / FEB 10** 


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.




**14, 24 JAN 14 & 24** 

Monthly Concerts

**Brannon Center, NSB**

**Brannon Center Concert Series**

January 14 @ 2 PM: DeLand Swing Band  
January 24 @ 7 PM: Toppermost Beatles Tribute \$15 per person + tax for General Admission. Doors open 30 minutes prior to show. Tickets @ [BrannonCenter.com/Tickets](http://BrannonCenter.com/Tickets).



**15 MON JAN 15**

9:45 AM - 1 PM

**Cypress Street Park, Daytona Beach**

**MLK March and Community Festival**

A community effort to encourage and facilitate an honorable celebration of the life and work of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. - to highlight our youth, to promote diversity, to honor our community with Dr. King's idea of "The Beloved Community" through social justice. Find details and full schedule of the week's events at [MLKDaytonaBeach.org](http://MLKDaytonaBeach.org).



**18 THU JAN 18**

6:30 PM


**Marine Discovery Center, NSB**

**Monthly Lecture Series: Right Whales**

Julie Albert, director of the Blue World Research Institute's Right Whale Sighting Network, will discuss the current status of the critically endangered species and typical sightings of these whales around coastal Central Florida. Visit [MarineDiscoveryCenter.org](http://MarineDiscoveryCenter.org) or call (386) 428-4828. Presented by AdventHealth.

SCAN here to Register!




**25-28 JAN 25 - 28** 

THU - SUN

**Daytona International Speedway**

**ROLEX 24 Weekend**

There's so much to explore at the Rolex 24. From sunrise to sunset and all through the night, witness North America's most prestigious sports car race in this twice-around-the-clock marathon that kicks off the IMSA WeatherTech SportsCar Championship season. Find tickets and schedule at [DaytonaInternationalSpeedway.com](http://DaytonaInternationalSpeedway.com).



**26 FRI JAN 26**

6:10 PM

**W. Pine Ave. (trail entrance), NSB**

**Light the Night 5K Run/Walk**

\$30 to register for the annual nighttime race. Visit [RaceSmith.com](http://RaceSmith.com) for details and registration.



**26 FRI JAN 26**

7 - 10 PM

**Museum of Arts & Sciences, Daytona**

**MOAS Night Sky Fest**

Peer through a wide variety of telescopes set up outside on the front entrance courtyard, plus live outdoor sky tours with green laser pointers, presenting astronomy programs in the Lohman Planetarium, and conducting hands-on activities around the museum. The outdoor portion of the event is free. Planetarium shows are free for members, \$5 for non-members and free for children 5 and under.



**26-28 JAN 26 - 28** 


FRI - SUN

**Riverside Drive & Canal Street, NSB**

**IMAGES: Festival of the Arts**

IMAGES is a free, public art festival that attracts 53,000+ art enthusiasts to Downtown New Smyrna Beach, offers \$30,000 in cash awards to artists and has one of the best Patron Programs in the Southeast. Visitors enjoy the work of over 225 artists, food trucks, live entertainment, complimentary photo booth and face painting. Creative Education activities for children, and much more.




**26-31 JAN 26 - FEB 11** 

Find showtimes online

**Athens Theatre, DeLand**

**Disney's Frozen Jr.**

Join Princess Anna as she teams up with her friends (the handsome iceman, Kristoff; his trusty, reindeer companion, Sven; and the adorable, fabulously funny snowman, Olaf) on a thrilling adventure to find her estranged sister Elsa whose icy powers have inadvertently trapped their kingdom in eternal winter! Tickets at [AthensDeLand.com](http://AthensDeLand.com).



**27-28 JAN 27 - 28** 


SAT-SUN @ 9 AM - 5 PM

**Valentine Park, Orange City**

**Blue Spring Manatee Festival**

Food, fun, art, and crafts - this festival has it all! There's something for everyone, with continuous entertainment for the whole family. You can browse over 100 booths at the arts and crafts show, enjoy music and dancing, and even see some manatees. Adults - \$10; Children Ages 4-10 - \$2; Children 3 And Under - FREE




**28 SAT JAN 28 / FEB 25** 

8 - 11 AM

**Riverfront Esplanade, Daytona**

**Riverfront Market**

Join us for the brand new Riverfront Market at the Riverfront Esplanade happening the last Sunday of each month! Sip, Shop & Stroll with local vendors, music, and FREE yoga with Renew Yoga at 8 AM!



**28 SUN JAN 28**

1 - 5 PM

**Flagler Ave, New Smyrna Beach**

**Chowder Challenge**

Passports are \$20 at [EventBrite.com](http://EventBrite.com), and participants will be able to stroll the street eating tasty samples of different types of chowders at host locations along Flagler Avenue. During the event, tasters can vote for their favorite Chowder creations and the winning creators will receive the "Best at the Beach" awards.



**3 SAT FEB 3**

10 AM - 4 PM

**New Britain Avenue, Ormond**

**Granada Grand Festival of the Arts**

A free festival of all things art, from visual artists and art demonstrations to musical performances and hands-on activities for the whole family.



**8-13 FEB 8 - 13** 

Schedule @ [FlaglerAve.com](http://FlaglerAve.com)

**Flagler Ave, New Smyrna Beach**

**Voodoo Music Festival**

Mardi Gras starts a little early in New Smyrna Beach with the 8th Annual VooDoo Music Festival along Flagler Avenue. This countdown to Mardi Gras music festival includes over 40 free shows over five days at various locations in the district. Stroll the street listening to the locals!



**10 SAT FEB 10**

1 - 5 PM

**Beach Street, Daytona Beach**

**Wine and Chocolate Walk**

Raise a glass to the highlight of the year - our Wine & Chocolate Walk! Experience the pinnacle of indulgence with premium wines, heavenly chocolates, live music, art exhibits, and the enchanting ambiance of downtown businesses. Don't miss out on the magic! \$27 tickets at [DowntownDaytonaBeachEvents.com](http://DowntownDaytonaBeachEvents.com).



**10 SAT FEB 10**

6 - 9 PM

**Ocean Center, DAYTONA BEACH**

**Sweetheart Ball**

The premier father (or father-figure) and daughter dance! Attendees will dance the night away and enjoy various activities throughout the evening including a candy bar, mocktails, the famous Keys to the Castle activity, chance-to-win raffles, exciting photo opportunities and more! Tickets \$50+ at [DaytonaBeachJl.org](http://DaytonaBeachJl.org).





6

FRI JAN 6 / FEB 3

5 - 9 PM



Beach Street, Daytona Beach

Downtown Daytona Nights

Featuring the area's best food trucks, drinks, music & more along the river's historic district!



7

SUN JAN 7

10 AM - 4 PM

Volusia County Fairgrounds, DeLand

DeLand Comics &amp; Collectibles Show

Come to the DeLand Comics and Collectibles Show for an unforgettable experience! Meet iconic artists, creators, and celebrities, and shop for toys, collectibles, and comic vendors. Everyone will find something to love here! Don't forget to bring your comic collection with you to get it graded.



11-21

JAN 11 - 21



Find showtimes online

The Little Theatre, NSB

Leading Ladies

Jack and Leo find themselves down on their luck when they hear that an old lady is about to die and leave her fortune to her two long lost English nephews. They resolve to pass themselves off as her beloved relatives, only to find out that the relatives aren't nephews, but niece! Tickets: \$21 adults, \$20 seniors, \$11 children @ NSBPlayers.org.



19-21

JAN 19 - 21



FRI - SUN

Daytona International Speedway

Roar Before the Rolex 24

A three-day test session ahead of the prestigious Rolex 24. Fans can catch the very first glimpse of the drivers and their cutting-edge machines as they test their skills around the track and prepare for the race. Access to cars and drivers at this preseason extravaganza is an event trademark, as fans annually enjoy the public debut of several new sports cars. DaytonaInternationalSpeedway.com



20

SAT JAN 20

1 - 4 PM

West Indiana Ave, DeLand

Taste of DeLand

Brace your taste buds for an afternoon of food sampling from over 20 local restaurants & caterers in Downtown DeLand. Tickets are \$30 advance; \$35 day of; \$15 kids 5-12. 4 & Under are Free. Tickets include admission and tastings at each of the restaurant booths. Purchase at MainstreetDeLand.org.



20

SAT JAN 20 / FEB 17



3rd SAT @ 3 - 7 PM

E. Indiana Ave., DeLand

Cruise Downtown DeLand

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



27

SAT JAN 27

10 AM - 1 PM

Hawks Park, Edgewater

EDGEfest Car Show &amp; Swap Meet

There will be something for everyone including all the cool classics from the East Coast Cruisers Car Club.



27

SAT JAN 27

1 - 7 PM

Flagler Avenue, NSB

Wine Walk

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



27

SAT JAN 27

5 - 9 PM

The Port Orange REC Center

Kings and Queens Dance

Kings & Queens is going to be a magical evening of dancing, delights, and celebration designed for those with special needs, this extraordinary occasion promises an unforgettable experience. FREE event, must pre-register at Port-Orange.org - participants must be accompanied by a guardian.



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SAVE THE DATE!

APRIL 26, 2024

Daytona International Speedway

Lee Brice @ Jeep Beach '24

Save the date for a special appearance by Lee Brice at Jeep Beach 2024! Part of the Jeep Beach Radio Music Festival. Visit JeepBeach.com for event details.



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JUNE 29, 2024

Brannon Center, NSB

Ms. Senior Daytona/NSB Pageant

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**www.RivershipTix.com**

**info@stjohnsrivershipco.com**

**433 N. Palmetto Ave.**

**Sanford, FL 32771**



Photos by: Kelsey Walters and Reg Warner

## Inside Look: St. Johns Rivership Co.

### A Culinary Journey Aboard the Barbara-Lee

In the heart of Historic Downtown Sanford, a unique dining experience awaits those seeking more than just a meal—the St. Johns Rivership Co. Aboard the Barbara-Lee, a sternwheeler, the culinary journey goes beyond conventional dining, blending history, ambiance, and flavorful delights into a captivating experience that guarantees an unforgettable adventure.

#### CRAFTING CULINARY MASTERPIECES

The skilled chefs onboard take the time to prepare each meal from scratch, ensuring a remarkable level of freshness that truly sets their culinary offerings apart. Stepping away from the ordinary buffet setup, the dining affair is an artfully crafted sit-down experience designed to appeal to a diverse range of tastes, providing an enjoyable experience for everyone. And be sure not to overlook the renowned sticky rolls - they make for the perfect appetizer to kickstart your dining adventure!

Indulge in the delightful Prime Rib, a USDA choice cut, paired with homemade horseradish sauce, seasoned mashed potatoes, and vegetables. For those craving a taste of the tropics, savor the slow-roasted Tropical Chicken, topped with Parmesan cheese and a fresh mango-pineapple chutney. Explore other tempting options like the savory Chicken Marsala and the Chicken Parmesan - each dish guarantees a unique and satisfying



experience for your palate. Tasty vegan options are also available for those requiring meatless dishes.

#### BEYOND THE PLATE: EVENTS ABOARD THE BARBARA-LEE

The Barbara-Lee is not just a vessel for dining; it's a venue for creating lasting memories. With a capacity of up to 190 guests, the ship offers an array of decks, each with its own ambiance. The Grand Salon Deck, adorned with an elevated Main Stage and dance floor, sets the scene for sophisticated gatherings. The Mezzanine Deck, offering views of the paddle wheel and Main Stage, provides an intimate setting for smaller affairs. The Lookout Deck, with its private dance floor and "lookout" to the Main Stage, exudes exclusivity. And for those seeking an open-air experience, the Paddle Wheel Deck, covered and overlooking the wheels, allows guests to enjoy unobstructed views of the river and its wildlife. The Captain's Deck, the topmost open-air deck, featuring benches and the captain's steering cabin, provides a panoramic perspective of the surroundings.

#### A VISIONARY'S TOUCH

Behind this maritime revival is Michelle Wyatt, a visionary entrepreneur who saw the potential to bring the rivership into the 21st century and purchased the company in





September 2023. Her background in software for major corporate events and conferences allowed her to infuse modernity into this historical venture. From online ticketing to a revamped POS system, Michelle's updates breathe new life into the St. Johns Rivership Co., attracting a younger audience while preserving the historic charm that has defined this floating establishment since the early '80s.

#### LOCATION AND SCHEDULE

The St. Johns Rivership Co. is located in Historic Downtown Sanford. The city is situated on Lake Monroe and the Barbara-Lee is docked on Marina Island. The Barbara-Lee sets sail on a weekly schedule of two, three and four-hour sternwheeler cruises. Dining options include lunch and dinner, as well as special themed cruises like "Rockin' on the River" and new options in 2024 including Karaoke, Wine Wednesday, and Music Bingo.

#### CORPORATE EVENTS & TRAININGS

Elevate your corporate events and training to new heights by choosing the historic sternwheeler, the Barbara-Lee, as your unconventional venue. Step away from the mundane conference room setting and immerse your guests in an atmosphere that sparks creativity and engagement. The picturesque St. Johns River serves as a captivating backdrop, creating a unique ambiance that is bound to leave a lasting impression on your attendees. Whether you're planning a team-building session or a corporate training, the distinctive setting adds a touch of charm and inspiration to every business occasion.

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#### SAY "I DO" ON THE WATER

The Barbara-Lee offers a unique and enchanting venue for weddings and anniversaries, providing an unforgettable experience for you and your guests. Choose from various decks, each offering its own distinctive charm or charter the entire boat for a larger gathering.

#### ELEVATE YOUR FUNDRAISING EXPERIENCE

Delight your donors with a chef-prepared menu tailored to your preferences, creating a memorable experience that combines support for your cause with the charm of a river cruise. Their experienced team is dedicated to ensuring your event's success.

#### RESERVATIONS AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Ready to embark on this culinary journey? Booking your reservation is a breeze. Visit the official website [StJohnsRivershipCo.com](http://StJohnsRivershipCo.com) or contact the Cruise Specialists at (321) 441-3030. The St. Johns Rivership Co. representatives are more than happy to provide detailed presentations on all available cruises and services, ensuring your journey is tailored to your desires. Curious about the cruise experience? The Barbara-Lee is smoke-free in the main dining cabins, and yes, it's fully air-conditioned for year-round comfort. Live narration during tours, a stocked bar, and entertainment on every cruise ensure there's never a dull moment. Plus, if you're planning a group outing, group rates are available for parties of 20 or more.

At the St. Johns Rivership Co., it's not just about grabbing a bite; it's a laid-back culinary journey that mixes history, fresh flavors and spectacular views to create a truly unique dining experience. So, what are you waiting for? Start 2024 with a new adventure and book your reservation today. You're in for a treat!



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**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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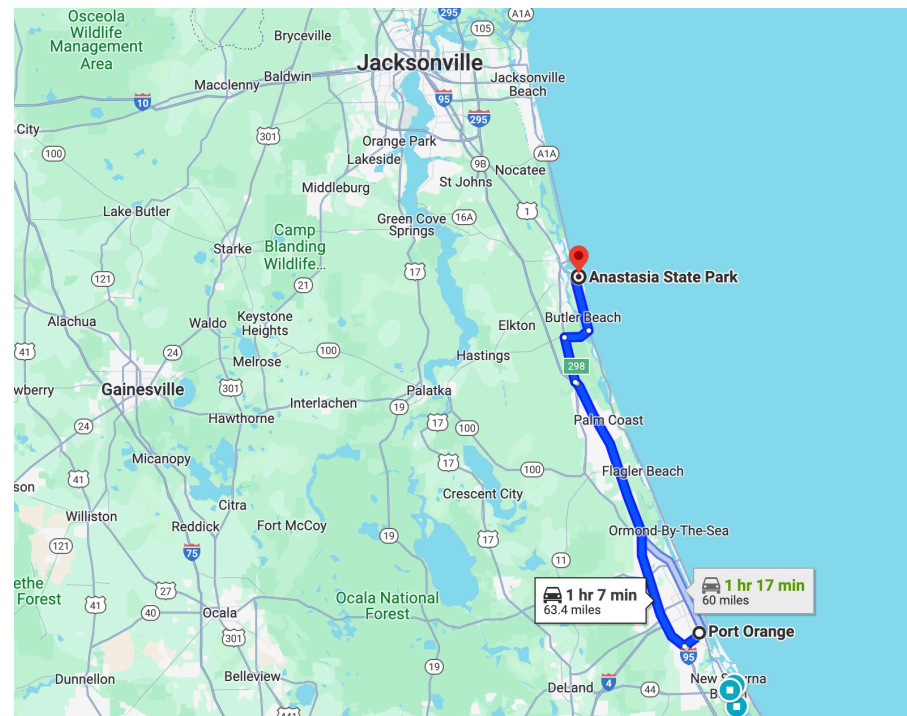
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## Beyond Resolutions

Exploring Florida's Wonders at Anastasia State Park

Article & Photos by: Kelsey Walters



Our family doesn't set traditional New Year resolutions, but we do make it a goal each year to get outside and explore as much as possible. With that in mind, we headed to a beautiful Florida destination for the first time that's been sitting practically right under our noses in nearby St. Augustine.

thousands of shells, and Avery's eyes lit up when she spotted them, sending her on a scavenger hunt of colors, shapes and sizes. Common shells found by beachcombers include clam, scallop, oyster and olive shells. There have also been plenty of reports of shark teeth, but be prepared to hunt as they can be tough to spot!



There are an abundance of wooden walkways stretching over the dunes that provide stunning overlooks of the sprawling landscape and the nearby St. Augustine Lighthouse. For those unable to traverse the beach, beach wheelchairs are available for free at the Island Beach Shop and Anastasia Water Sports with a Mobi-Mat over the soft sand that allows access to the firmer sand. Please note it is recommended to call ahead of time to ensure availability.

We set out for an afternoon adventure and found a sprawling park boasting all the best Florida has to offer, with pristine white sand beaches, natural dunes as far as the eye can see, marshy riverside walkways and woodland areas ripe for exploring.

The park is situated just outside of downtown St. Augustine, so a tasty lunch or dinner and shopping is never far away. You can even catch a concert right next door at the popular St. Augustine Amphitheatre, which is within walking distance and hosts a weekly farmers market.

We first trekked to the beach, where you'll find four miles of seemingly endless blue water, white sand and dunes to take in. This is a no-drive beach, but cycling is welcome and encouraged as the packed sand offers up the perfect ride. With no heavy traffic, the shore is absolutely littered with





Next, we headed along the river down the tidal marshes, where Avery hunted crabs and spotted countless birds. Given the variety of ecosystems within the park's borders, there is no lack of local wildlife to spot. In fact, the dunes are home to their own Anastasia Island beach mouse, an endangered species found only in this area. You can hike along the water's edge on The Marsh Trail, or paddle the river.

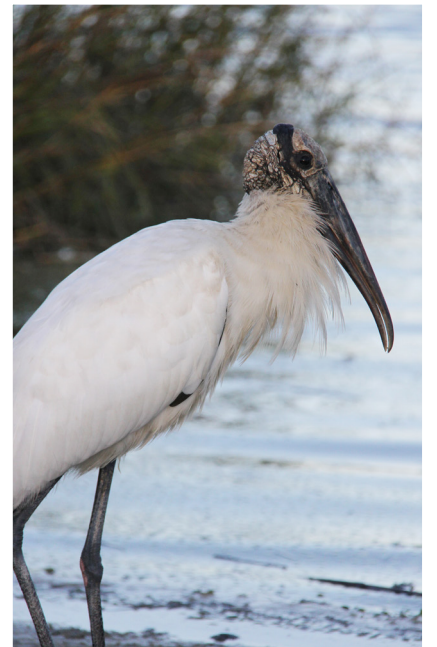
Kayaks, canoes, paddleboards, bicycles and even sailboats are available for rental on-site at Anastasia Watersports (seasonal hours). Like our own New Smyrna Beach, Anastasia is well known for its surf conditions as well.

**ANASTASIA STATE PARK**

300 Anastasia Park Road, St. Augustine 32080  
 (904) 461-2033  
 FloridaStateParks.org  
 Open 8 AM to sundown, 365 days a year (shop, snack counter and rental hours vary)  
 Admission: \$8 per vehicle (2 - 8 passengers)

We finished up our day with a hike along the Ancient Dunes Nature Trail, which loops through the shady maritime hammock and winds through the dunes. Avery spent her time hopping over tree roots and clambering up the ancient live oaks.

If you want to extend your visit (and trust me, you won't run out of nooks and crannies to explore!) there are 139 full hook-up campsites for campers, RVs and tents available, all of which are located within the maritime hammock, providing plenty of shade and a short walk to the beach and river. There's even a Bedtime Story Camper Lending Library on-site with age-appropriate children's books. With all this park has to offer, you may never want to leave!



**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.

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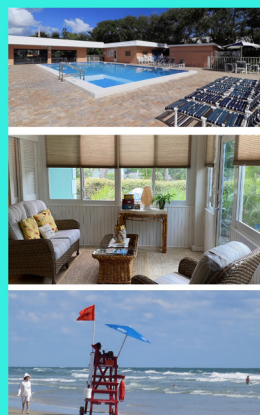
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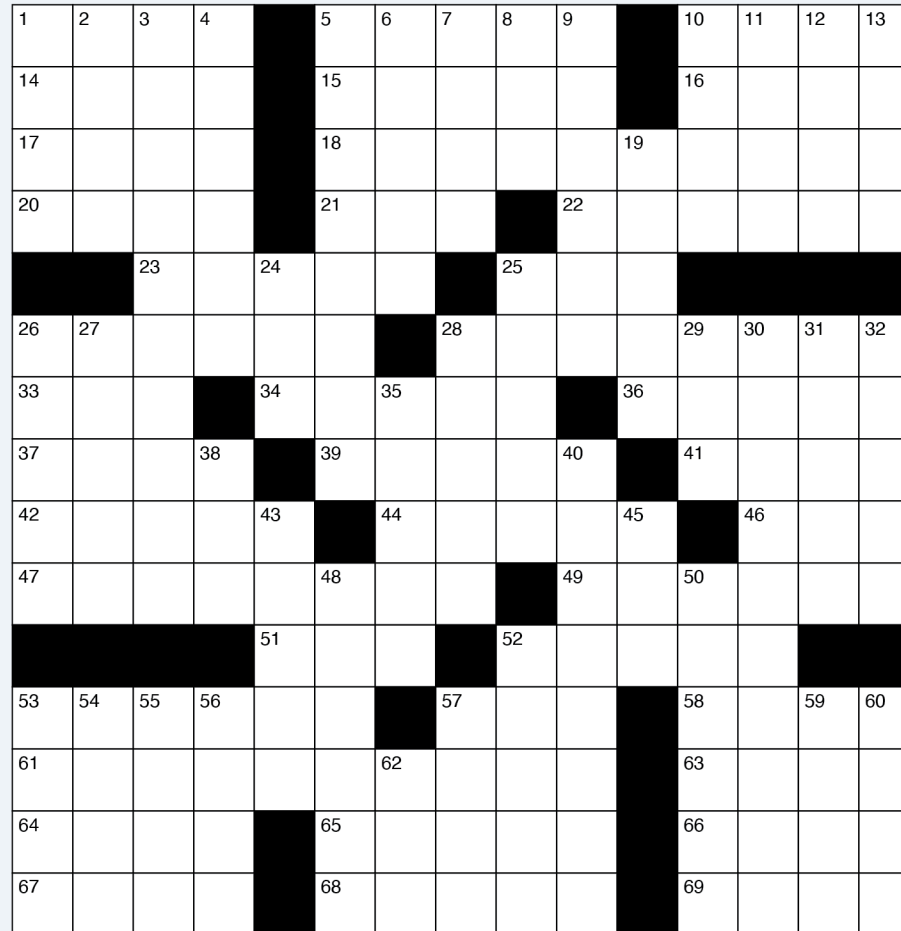
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5. Wacky ones
10. Disapproving sounds
14. Jessica Rabbit, e.g.
15. Fully grown
16. Forearm bone
17. Fishhook part
18. Single
20. Mast attachment
21. Gloomy fellow
22. Went (through)
23. Up to now
25. Bailed-out insurance co.
26. Winston Cup org.
28. Milanese veal dish
33. "You \_\_\_ here"
34. Melodious
36. 1998 De Niro thriller
37. Day's opposite, in commercials
39. Jack of "The Texas Rangers"
41. Tête thought
42. Number system in which 8 is 10
44. Film director Jonathan
46. She, in Lisbon
47. Actress Nicollette
49. Lorry liquid
51. IM chuckle
52. Mouselike insectivore
53. Eye-related
57. Former Smashing Pumpkin
58. Newspaper section
61. Acts as umpire
63. Where Anna met a king
64. Lens type
65. Meat problem
66. To be, in Toulon
67. Oil company of old
68. Vassals
69. Chapeau's perch



### Down

1. Gambling venues, briefly
2. U.S. weather grp.
3. Singer who once was on "You Can't Do That on Television"
4. As a whole, in French
5. The red one is the world's largest marsupial
6. Skunk's defence
7. Inning divisions
8. Carrier to Amsterdam
9. State of balance
10. Half of a seafood special
11. Eye opening for a squint
12. Patella site
13. After-school anti-drinking org.
19. Exactitude
24. \_\_\_ Tuesday
25. "Snap into \_\_\_ Jim!" ("Macho Man" ad line)
26. Shuffle alternatives
27. "If I Were \_\_\_ Man"
28. Like some furniture
29. Avril Lavigne's "Sk8ter \_\_\_"

### Down

30. Guarantee against failure
31. Spanish sky
32. "Shaq"
35. Rafael \_\_\_ (tennis pro)
38. Musical talent
40. Stress
43. Light purple
45. Always, in verse
48. Fishing vessels
50. Cups, saucers, etc.
52. Knickknack holder
53. Slowly flow
54. Corp. money minders
55. E.T. vehicles
56. Prom night transportation
57. Ripley's "Believe \_\_\_ Not!"
59. Tangy
60. Hook's first mate
62. \_\_\_ Ventura

### DEC 2023 ANSWERS



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

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## Adventures of a Modern Pirate

The drenching from the rooster-tail left behind by the large seaplane was nothing short of amazing for a young pirate like myself at the time. Coconuts could be heard falling to the ground due to the force the plane's wings left trailing behind. There were no complaints from us as we laughed and watched the giant seaplane make a wide turn and disappear inland over the green palm trees, only to reappear seconds later, headed back out toward open water. I noticed when the flaps were lowered into position, the engine idle was an audible change as it slowed and continued banking wide until it was headed back toward us, preparing for a water landing.

"Our water taxi has returned," my uncle said ironically.

I had no reply, as I wanted to remain in paradise. Nevertheless, we shook off the water and sand, only to make our way to the shore as the seaplane approached for landing. It was a beautiful sight: the flaps came down hard, the plane slowed, the engines decelerated and the V-shaped hull settled onto the sea, spending a few seconds hydroplaning across the surface before dropping down and smashing a mist of sea salt across the windshield and across the top of the wings. The floats under each end of the wings did their job, keeping the big bird from tipping. Finally, we could see the pilot through the water-covered cockpit window as the engines roared, propelling the seaplane forward toward the white sandy shore through the white-capped waves. The contrast between manmade seaplane and baby blue ocean water was romanticism at its finest.

When the V-shaped hull came onto the shore, it pushed sand outward until the plane came to a stop and settled down on the soft beach. Engines throttled down and then shut off, propellers spun a few times and came to a stop. Silence ensued around us, but the smell of burnt gas and oil remained, a reminder of the mighty metal bird.

The hatch atop the nose of the plane flew open, and our good friend Peter appeared with arms spread wide and a large toothy smile. It was good to see the huge man again.

"Hey, dudes!" he hollered. "You're still alive and kicking!"

"Of course," my uncle replied sarcastically.

Peter threw out a large leather satchel, jumped down, and graciously, we shook hands. From the satchel, he pulled out a bottle of rum and cigars.

"Priorities!"

Gotta get back to my coconut concoctions...

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



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

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WAVE



## Fishaholic: January Report

This month is usually our coldest of the year and the cold fronts start marching down our way consistently almost every week. Fishing can be challenging especially when air temps are in the 30s and the wind is howling. If you are adaptable, fishing opportunities are plentiful.

Black drum become more available to anglers this time of year and everyone can get in on the action including shore-bound anglers. Some of these fish are huge and can weigh over 30 pounds and can be a challenge to catch on light tackle. Smaller fish in the 5- to 10-pound range are encountered many times while fishing for sheepshead which are another fish that we target this time of the year. Sheepshead can be found anywhere there are underwater structures that have barnacles on it. In the creeks, sheepsheads are often found amongst the mangrove roots. Live shrimp are hard to beat as the bait of choice.

Snook and redfish are always around. Snook are cold sensitive and will become less active when the water temps drop below 60 degrees. Redfish are hardier and will be feeding when tides are pushing water in and out of the inlet and creeks. In the shallow waters like Mosquito Lagoon, anglers will find redfish on the flats adjacent to deeper water.

This time of the year, the water is clear and many times you can sight fish the redfish and sea trout. Both species can be caught using live bait or lures. The water conditions in Mosquito Lagoon have been fantastic with strong seagrass growth that hasn't been seen in years. 2023 will go down as the year we finally saw drastic improvements in water quality. Let's hope 2024 will continue the trend.

Hope you enjoyed the report and let us know if you'd like to have us take you out on the water. Call or text at (386) 689-9056. For more pictures check us out on Instagram – @CaptAustinCampbell.

Happy New Year from Captain Austin and family!



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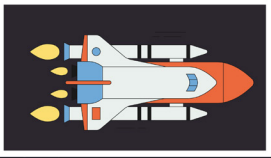




# ROCKET LAUNCHES

## 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.



**Monday, Jan. 08, 2024**

Vehicle: ULA's Vulcan Centaur rocket  
Mission: Vulcan Centaur rocket maiden flight/Peregrine Mission One  
Launch Site: Space Launch Complex 41 at Cape Canaveral  
Launch Window: 2:18 a.m. ET

**No earlier than Wednesday, Jan. 17, 2024**

Vehicle: SpaceX's Falcon 9  
Mission: Axiom Mission 3 (AX-3)  
Launch Site: Space Launch Complex 40 at the Cape Canaveral Space Force Station  
Launch Window: TBD

**Date: Early 2024**

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

# Ponce Inlet JAN Tide Chart

WAVE

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Date	High				Low				Sun		Moon	
	AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft	Rise	Set		
1	Mon	11:39	2.9			5:17	0.4	6:08	0.4	7:16	5:38	☾
2	Tue	12:14	2.5	12:18	2.7	6:12	0.5	6:50	0.3	7:16	5:38	☾
3	Wed	1:04	2.5	1:02	2.5	7:08	0.6	7:30	0.3	7:16	5:39	☾
4	Thu	1:58	2.6	1:52	2.4	8:04	0.7	8:13	0.2	7:16	5:40	☾
5	Fri	2:58	2.7	2:53	2.2	9:02	0.7	8:59	0.2	7:16	5:41	☾
6	Sat	3:56	2.8	3:57	2.2	10:03	0.6	9:50	0.1	7:16	5:41	☾
7	Sun	4:48	3.0	4:53	2.2	11:01	0.5	10:42	0.0	7:17	5:42	☾
8	Mon	5:38	3.2	5:44	2.3	11:55	0.3	11:34	-0.2	7:17	5:43	☾
9	Tue	6:27	3.4	6:35	2.4			12:46	0.2	7:17	5:44	☾
10	Wed	7:16	3.6	7:26	2.5	12:25	-0.4	1:34	0.0	7:17	5:44	☾
11	Thu	8:06	3.7	8:17	2.7	1:16	-0.5	2:20	-0.1	7:17	5:45	☾
12	Fri	8:54	3.8	9:07	2.8	2:06	-0.6	3:06	-0.2	7:17	5:46	☾
13	Sat	9:41	3.8	9:58	2.9	2:56	-0.7	3:52	-0.3	7:17	5:47	☾
14	Sun	10:29	3.6	10:51	3.0	3:50	-0.6	4:41	-0.3	7:17	5:48	☾
15	Mon	11:18	3.4	11:47	3.0	4:49	-0.4	5:33	-0.3	7:17	5:48	☾
16	Tue			12:10	3.1	5:53	-0.2	6:26	-0.3	7:16	5:49	☾
17	Wed	12:45	3.0	1:05	2.8	6:59	-0.1	7:18	-0.3	7:16	5:50	☾
18	Thu	1:48	3.1	2:05	2.5	8:05	0.1	8:11	-0.3	7:16	5:51	☾
19	Fri	2:54	3.1	3:11	2.3	9:12	0.2	9:06	-0.2	7:16	5:52	☾
20	Sat	3:59	3.1	4:15	2.2	10:19	0.2	10:04	-0.2	7:16	5:53	☾
21	Sun	4:57	3.2	5:12	2.2	11:21	0.2	11:00	-0.1	7:15	5:53	☾
22	Mon	5:50	3.2	6:03	2.3	12:16P	0.2	11:53	-0.2	7:15	5:54	☾
23	Tue	6:39	3.2	6:52	2.3			1:05	0.1	7:15	5:55	☾
24	Wed	7:25	3.2	7:37	2.4	12:42	-0.2	1:47	0.1	7:14	5:56	☾
25	Thu	8:07	3.2	8:20	2.4	1:26	-0.2	2:24	0.0	7:14	5:57	☾
26	Fri	8:45	3.1	9:00	2.4	2:06	-0.2	2:58	0.0	7:14	5:58	☾
27	Sat	9:21	3.1	9:38	2.5	2:44	-0.2	3:31	0.0	7:13	5:58	☾
28	Sun	9:55	2.9	10:16	2.5	3:22	-0.1	4:03	0.0	7:13	5:59	☾
29	Mon	10:28	2.8	10:54	2.5	4:01	0.0	4:37	0.1	7:12	6:00	☾
30	Tue	11:01	2.6	11:34	2.5	4:45	0.2	5:14	0.1	7:12	6:01	☾
31	Wed	11:36	2.5			5:35	0.3	5:53	0.1	7:11	6:02	☾

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Let's kick off the New Year with laughter and good friends! These "giggly" dolphins were captured by local wildlife photographer, Shelley Lynch. Find more of Shelley's impressive work at ShelleyLynchPhotos.com.

Celebrating a special holiday reunion in Bethune as our fishing report writer, Patrick Eichstaedt, welcomes his global surf legend brother, Shannon "Hopper" Eichstaedt and his kids, Frida and Aliaza, from Tecoman, Mexico. A heartwarming moment captured in front of the house where they both grew up, marking the first meeting of their next generation. Family, home, and a shared love for the sea—holiday joy at its finest! Pictured Left to Right: Patrick, Ethan, Aliaza, Hopper, Adelynn and Frida.



The New Smyrna Beach Police Department held their 4th annual Shop With a Cop program, which pairs kids and cops to build bonds and shop for the holidays, on December 19. The kids used gift cards generously donated by the community. Photo: NSB Police Dept.

The city of Edgewater held the annual Christmas Parade along its new route on December 9 with a "Country Christmas Back Home" theme. Salty Church was named the Grand Champion. Photo: Keys to Our City

In an unforgettable moment of holiday joy and warmth, the Technical Rescue Teams from Volusia County Fire Rescue and the Daytona Beach Fire Department brought light and laughter to the pediatric unit at Halifax Health. Dressed as Santa Claus, the Grinch, and other holiday characters, firefighters rappelled down the building and transformed walls into a canvas of wonder and delight for the patients and staff spending time at the hospital during the holidays. Photo: County of Volusia



# Check Out What The Locals Are Up To



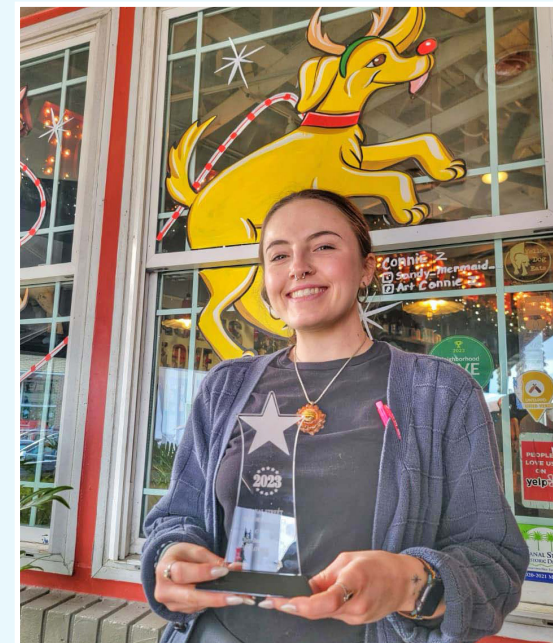
On December 15 & 16, 2023, five cast members (Scotty Smalls, Yeah-Yeah, Bertram, Timmy & Tommy) from The Sandlot movie reunited in NSB for a weekend of events including two private movie screenings at New Smyrna High School auditorium. They were joined by the writer/director/narrator, David Mickey Evans of the movie for a meet and greet and signing. The cast of The Sandlot took the field alongside baseball and softball players from NSB High School and played against a group of locals, most of whom have never met before! This event was put on by Table 2 Committee and all proceeds go towards local youth sports programs. **Find more events at [Table2Events.com](https://Table2Events.com)**



Captured Moments of Kindness: Volusia County school crossing guards, like Susannah Woide of Starke Elementary, William and Mary Whelan of Ormond Beach, Denise Dabson at Turie T. Small Elementary, Terri Clifton, Tina DiRienzo, and Bea Leatherman, spread holiday cheer with thoughtful gifts, warm gloves, and sweet treats for the students they safeguard. Their big hearts shine bright during this festive season!



The Edgewater Animal Shelter needs help finding a home for their longest resident, Lewis! Lewis has been at the shelter for 2 years and his adoption is already sponsored for the perfect family. Applications can be filled out online at [EdgewaterAnimalShelter.org](https://EdgewaterAnimalShelter.org) or in person or at the shelter when you meet Lewis at 605 Mango Tree.



Yellow Dog Eats Kitchen and Bar on Canal Street won first place in the Canal Street Historic District's Best Business Theme holiday contest for their holiday decor, and amazing window art from Constance Zemcik (@sandy\_mermaid\_).



To bring life to the exterior wall of the restroom facility, a bold mural was hand-painted at Joe Harris Park, 315 Pearl Street. The mural was the creation of artist Tiff Urquhart, who previously painted vibrant murals at the Dickerson Rec Complex and the Daytona Beach Pier. Photo: City of Daytona Beach



# fishing Report

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

Winter has officially settled in, bringing with it a season of relentless rain and high tides that have yet to clear the waters. Despite the challenging conditions, the fish remain remarkably active, delivering solid bites for anglers eager to brave the elements. A recent fishing expedition with my childhood best friend, Chris Peterson, proved to be a stellar day, with over 20 catches in a backwater hole - redfish and snook putting on a show in a mere 30 minutes.

Personally, I've been finding success with the trusty Henn Lil' Shrimp soft baits, especially during a memorable sight-casting encounter with a redfish tucked beneath a mangrove in a secluded cove. While the bait hasn't quite formed schools yet, the approaching colder weather promises the arrival of masses of mullet. Keep an eye out for that distinctive cold patch, as the subsequent warmer days are sure to create prime conditions for productive fishing.

Living by the river offers a front-row seat to numerous memorable moments. Bill Gallagher, a local surfer and painter, recently transformed one of my photos capturing the release of a redfish into a stunning painting. His remarkable talents shine through, and the resulting artwork beautifully encapsulates the essence of the experience.

This month, anticipate ongoing tight lines and diminishing tide heights. The bait will soon gather in schools, and improved water clarity will facilitate easier sight fishing. As an added bonus, the arrival of large gator trout is on the horizon. Wishing everyone a happy New Year filled with joyous moments and successful angling adventures!

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



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