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TASTE

Strawberry Cheesecake
PANCAKES

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At Oak Haven, you'll find sprawling fields of ripe, juicy strawberries that are practically glowing red and begging to be picked, plus wine tastings and delectable treats. Strawberry season is only until March, so it's time to get picking!



ECC TEAM

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THE COVER

Savoring the sweetness of Florida-grown produce at Oak Haven Farms, Kelsey Walters captures the vibrant beauty of freshly picked strawberries. Read about Oak Haven Farms on page 26 and explore more of Kelsey's travels at ecctoldme.com/travel.



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**EAST VOLUSIA
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featuring 18 Artists' Studios
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FOR DETAILS VISIT

www.ArtsTours.org

*Our website is your guide to 3 different tours on
2 different weekends featuring 70 professional artists*

**The Ever Popular Annual Artist
Studio Tours Return**

More than seventy artists in Central Florida will once again open their private working studios to visitors for the annual Off the Beaten Path Florida Arts Tour for two upcoming weekends in three different regions:

- Lake County - February 10-11, 2024
- East Volusia County - February 10-11, 2024
- West Volusia County - March 2-3, 2024

The Off the Beaten Path website allows studio visitors to browse a full list of all the participating artists or a list of the artists on each tour, featuring samples of each artist's work. Interactive maps are accessible on smart phones for traveling from tour stop to stop.

All studios on the tours will be open for all ages, free of charge, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on each day of the tour.

The Lake County tour includes studios in Eustis, Mount Dora, Leesburg, Tavares and Weirsdale. The East Volusia Tour includes studios in Ormond Beach, Port Orange, New Smyrna Beach and Edgewater, while the West Volusia tour features locations in DeLand, Lake Helen and Orange City.

Every year, art patrons, collectors, curators and decorators, as well as families and children, are welcomed into the studios to meet the artists in their work environments, watch demonstrations, enjoy light refreshments, and shop for unique original works of art. The varied types of offerings include paintings, sculptures, textiles, jewelry, ceramics, woodworks, photography, printmaking, and illustration.

John Wilton, a spokesman for the event says, "The tours have been growing rapidly in popularity every year. After a couple of 'quiet' years due to Covid restrictions, people are once again getting out, exploring, and discovering new ideas."

Visitors enjoy a self-guided tour with easy-to-follow interactive maps on the website, along with artist information. Printable maps and artist lists are also available in the "Media and Maps" section on the website.

Additional information is available online at the event website or on the Off the Beaten Path Florida Arts Tours Facebook page.

ArtsTours.org

Facebook.com/FloridaArtsTours

**Explore a World of Travel
Possibilities with Your Ultimate
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Cruise Planners, a US-based travel agency nestled in the heart of Volusia County, is excited to unveil its extensive range of travel services crafted to meet all your vacation needs at no additional cost or fees.



Embarking on a vacation planning journey can be time-consuming, averaging around 40 hours. Cruise Planners simplifies this process by offering a comprehensive solution for all your travel preferences, land or sea, budget or luxury, they've got you covered!

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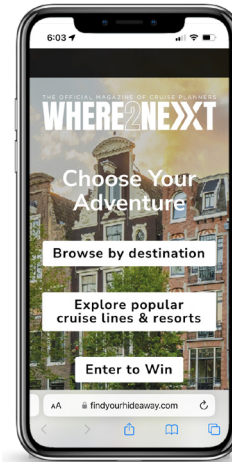
"At Cruise Planners, we eliminate the hassle of vacation planning, allowing you to set your sights on the boundless



possibilities the world has to offer," emphasizes Autumn Thurston, Individual Franchise Owner and Travel Specialist at Cruise Planners.

Specializing in group packages and corporate travel, Autumn has the expertise to cater to weddings, reunions, team building, incentivized and promotional trips, wellness retreats, and more.

Don't miss the opportunity to see Autumn's latest edition of 'Where2Nexxt' magazine where you'll be able to gain access to the hottest travel trends, exclusive discounts, and even a chance to win a cruise for two on the award-winning adults-only Virgin Voyages! Applying to win is simple; just fill out a quick survey. Take a tour around the world by accessing her magazine online at the QR code below.



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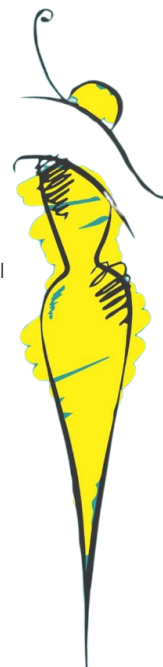
FindYourHideaway.com



**Pepper's Boutique Celebrates
One-Year Anniversary of Flagler
Avenue Location**

Pepper's Boutique, a longstanding fashion destination in the heart of New Smyrna Beach, is excited to announce the celebration of its one-year anniversary at its Flagler Avenue location. While the Flagler Avenue boutique is relatively new, Pepper's has been an integral part of the town's fashion scene for over six years.

To mark this special milestone, Pepper's Boutique is hosting an anniversary celebration on Friday, March 1st, from 10 am to 6 pm at their Flagler Avenue boutique (376 Flagler Avenue). The event promises a day filled with excitement, featuring giveaways and exclusive special offers. A highlight of the celebration is the unique balloon-popping experience, where every customer



checking out will have the chance to reveal a special prize or discount, such as a percentage off.



Guests can enjoy complimentary champagne and hors-d'oeuvres while exploring Pepper's extensive collection of unique clothing for both men and women, as well as shoes, jewelry and accessories. From casual and comfortable clothing to elegant evening attire, Pepper's Boutique offers something for everyone and every occasion.

In addition to the Flagler Avenue location, Pepper's Boutique has two other thriving establishments—one in Ormond Beach at the Trails Shopping Center (264 N Nova Rd, Ormond Beach, FL 32174) and another in Charlevoix, Michigan (227 Bridge St, Charlevoix, MI 49720).

Join Pepper's Boutique in celebrating a year of style, trends, and fashion-forward choices on Flagler Avenue!

PeppersBoutique.com



**Brad Pitt Spotted Filming New
Movie in Volusia Locations**

Local photographer, Patrick "Tupat" Eichstaedt captured Brad Pitt as he visited New Smyrna Beach to film scenes for an upcoming Formula 1 racing movie at various locations in Pappas Plaza from January 23 - 29.

Pitt was also spotted at the Rolex 24 for filming at Daytona International Speedway. Details on the film's title and premier are yet to be released.

ECCToldme.com



Opening Soon: Daytona Aquarium and Rainforest Adventure

Locals and visitors will soon be able to explore the wonders of the deep blue sea and the mysteries of lush rainforests at the Daytona Aquarium and Rainforest Adventure. The 70,000-square-foot experience will be located in Daytona Beach, at the shopping center on the northwest corner of International Speedway Boulevard and Nova Road. This is the first ever aquarium and rainforest experience to open in the area.

The grand opening for the first phase includes the aquarium, approximately 55,000 square feet, and is planned to open in early 2024. A hiring event took place on-site February 1, 2024 with the aquarium looking to fill top positions like Director of Operations, Guest Service Supervisor, Senior Aquarist and Reptile Keeper. Phase Two includes the Rainforest Adventure and plans for opening are within eight to twelve months after Phase One.

Plans for the aquarium take visitors on a breathtaking voyage under the sea through 40 separate tanks featuring a diverse array of marine life, featuring tropical fish, graceful sea turtles and mesmerizing jellyfish. The wow factor will be a 110,000-gallon tank where visitors can watch majestic sharks swim. The plans also include a 12,000-gallon touch pool where visitors can dip their hand into cool, shallow waters and be greeted by the velvety sensation of a gentle gliding stingray. Guests will also be able to tour habitats for frogs, alligators, crocodiles, lizards and other reptiles.

The indoor rainforest will immerse guests among tall trees, lush foliage and canopy overhead. Animal exhibits will showcase birds, sloths, tamarins, toucans and other exotic species. The site has the potential to also include otters, penguins and an outdoor waterfall

exhibit.

If that's not all, the experience will also have an educational lecture space, cafe, arcade and special event rooms for gatherings and birthdays. As the grand opening approaches, the anticipation for the extraordinary experience builds. This destination promises to be a haven for all nature enthusiasts and curious minds. The fusion of the ecosystems under one roof invites visitors to explore the magic of the oceans and the allure of the rainforest for an unforgettable exploration of the natural world.

According to the Daytona Aquarium & Rainforest Adventure's website, DaytonaAquariumAndRainforest.com, guests can buy a daily pass or an annual membership. Daily passes will cost \$28.95 for adults and \$24.95 for children ages 2-12. Annual memberships will cost \$100 for adults and \$80 for kids. In comparison, the Daytona Aquarium and Rainforest Adventure is more than twice the size of the Sea Life Orlando Aquarium - the Orlando venue is 25,000 square feet.

Daytona Aquarium and Rainforest Adventure

1008 W International Speedway Blvd
Daytona Beach, FL 32114

DaytonaAquariumAndRainforest.com



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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Rethinking the Pursuit of Love

In a world obsessed with finding love, perhaps the key is to first discover the love within ourselves. Contrary to common belief, happiness and contentment aren't solely dependent on finding a partner; rather, they begin with self-fulfillment.

Our attractions are often drawn to those who share our interests. To cultivate love, cultivate hobbies. In my 35+ years at The Little Theatre of NSB, I've witnessed theater enthusiasts not only bonding over their love for the stage but also forming lasting romantic connections.

In a playful attempt at matchmaking, I invite you to the February show, '9 to 5: The Musical' (Feb 22 - Mar 10) at our beloved theatre. Consider gifting tickets to someone special, a friend seeking company, or gather a group for a shared experience. The choice is yours, and perhaps a special someone awaits in the audience.



Let me share a fascinating historical tidbit: the standing ovation's origin dates back to 1743 during Messiaen's London Stage. King George II's response to Handel's 'Hallelujah Chorus' set the precedent. A standing ovation today is a chance to reciprocate that historical appreciation with a gracious bow.

Surround yourself with inspiring individuals who encourage exploration. Whether it's a shared love for fishing, reading, painting, or any other inspiring pursuit, having a supportive partner enhances the journey. As my grandpa wisely said, you'll know when you're in love – it's a feeling that speaks for itself.



Reflecting on my own life, I find joy in my husband, who doubles as my favorite hobby. From horseback riding to roller-skating in our youth, to our shared love for acting and dancing, we've built a life of love and laughter, surrounded by our vibrant family.

Remember, lasting love begins with self-love. Embrace the journey of self-discovery, and watch as love naturally blooms within and spreads to those around you.



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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Edgewater's Princess Ball 2024: A Night of Enchantment to Support Local Education

In 2011 the Edgewater City Council created the Local School Scholarship Fund. The purpose of the School Scholarship Program is to promote additional education beyond high school graduation. The program is designated to create educational opportunities for students residing in the city of Edgewater to encourage them to pursue college, university or qualified Career Technical Training Programs after graduating from high school. Last year, six scholarships were given to Edgewater students.

That same year, the first annual "Princess Ball" was held. Each year, this is an exciting night for the children of our community to enjoy an evening of dancing, music, light refreshments and fun with their parents, relatives and friends. Several local businesses and volunteers help support the event and make it a memorable occasion. This event is the primary fundraiser for the Local School Scholarship Fund.

This year's Princess Ball will be held Saturday, March 2, 2024 from 6 to 9 p.m. at the Southeast Volusia YMCA (148 West Turgot Avenue). Tickets are \$10 per person and all attendees must have a ticket. Tickets are on sale at the City of Edgewater City Hall (104 North Riverside Drive) and the YMCA. Tickets will be on sale at the door while supplies last so families are encouraged to get their tickets in advance.

Local School Scholarship Annual Fundraiser

EDGEMATER

The Princess Ball

Parent & Child Dance

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Saturday • March 2, 2024 • 6:00-9:00 pm
Y.M.C.A. • 148 W. Turgot Ave. • Edgewater, FL

\$10 Per Person

An Adult Must Accompany Children at This Event
Tickets Available At The Southeast Volusia Y.M.C.A. City Hall
& At The Event - While Supplies Last
Light Refreshments Will Be Served

One or More Members of City Council or Other Advisory Boards May Be Present

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT SPECIALEVENTS@CITYOFEDGEWATER.ORG or (386) 424-2400 x7207

Sponsorship opportunities available. Call (386) 424-2400 x7207 or email SpecialEvents@CityOfEdgewater.org for more information about how to get involved.

CityOfEdgewater.org



Revolutionary Semaglutide Weight Loss Program

Angie's Serenity Day Spa, located at 101 S Ridgewood Ave, Edgewater 32132, is proud to announce the launch of its groundbreaking Semaglutide Weight Loss Program. This program offers a transformative journey to a healthier, more vibrant life.

The Semaglutide Weight Loss Program utilizes an FDA-approved medication for weight management. This injectable drug, mimicking the action of the hormone GLP-1, promotes feelings of fullness and reduces appetite. Participants can expect to lose 15-25% of their body weight in just 12 weeks, with the added benefits of improved overall health and lab exams included.

The program features personalized 1-1 consulting, with injectable medicine conveniently mailed to your home. As a special offer, participants will receive a FREE Body Sculpting Service (a \$600 value) along with valuable tips and tricks for maximizing your 12-week transformation. Angie's Serenity Day Spa has recently partnered with Hydriight Technologies, expanding its services to include IV therapy, mobile services, and NAD+.

They guarantee remarkable results, with potential weight loss of up to 40 pounds in 3 months and 60 pounds or more in 5 months. Participants can repeat the program as desired, without the need for special diets or strenuous workouts. The once-a-week injection can be self-administered in the comfort of your home.

FDA-approved in 2021 for chronic weight management in obese/overweight adults, the Semaglutide injection has been hailed as a "game changer."

For more information and to embark on your 12-week transformation, call or text Angie's Serenity Day Spa at 386-410-6131. Experience the revolution in weight loss and overall well-being today!

AngiesNSB.com | 386-410-6131



Spice Up Your Valentine's Day at A-OK Guns - Because Couples Who Shoot Together Have a Blast!

A-OK Guns, located at 648 Dixie Freeway in New Smyrna Beach, is turning the typical Valentine's Day gift into an explosive adventure for love-struck couples and seasoned firearm fanatics alike. With a whopping inventory of over 600 new and used firearms, A-OK Guns blends personalized service, impeccable knowledge, and an abundance of options, all under one roof.



This cupid-approved haven stands out with its commitment to providing unmatched expertise in firearms, ammo and collectibles. A-OK Guns is all about catering to the wild and diverse needs of couples, making sure each visit is filled with informative guidance and top-notch service. Whether you're a duo of newbies planning your first firearm fling or a seasoned pair in search of a rare find, A-OK Guns has your Valentine's Day celebration locked and loaded.

But wait, there's more! What sets A-OK Guns apart is not just its vast selection but also its dedication to maintaining competitive pricing. The A-OK Guns team gets that love shouldn't break the bank, ensuring you can find your dream firearms without shooting a hole in your Valentine's Day budget.

A-OK GUNS

A-OK Guns is all about building a robust, fun-loving firearms community. They're 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. Head on over today and dive into a unique firearms shopping experience that combines selection, service and savings.

AOkGuns.com | (386) 410-6480

648 Dixie Freeway, NSB 32168

Volusia County Beach Safety Named 2023 Beach Patrol of the Year



Volusia County Beach Safety has been named the 2023 Beach Patrol of the Year by the Florida Beach Patrol Chiefs Association. The prestigious recognition underscores the agency's exceptional efforts and dedication throughout the year.

In the 2023 season, Volusia County Beach Safety demonstrated unwavering commitment, performing 2,512 water rescues and 35,811 preventive actions, responding to 1,162 medical emergencies, and addressing 41,272 calls for service.

The association acknowledged the agency's remarkable achievements in competitions as well. Volusia County Beach Safety's competition team secured third place overall in the USLA Southeast Regional Lifeguard Competition in Delray Beach and eighth place overall in the USLA National Lifeguard Championships in Virginia Beach.

Volusia.org

City of Ormond Beach Proudly Presents Grammy-Nominated Victor Wainwright and The Train



The City of Ormond Beach is ecstatic to announce an exhilarating evening of music and entertainment at the newly remodeled Ormond Beach Performing Arts Center. Join us on Saturday, February 17th, 2023, at 7:30 PM for a concert featuring the Grammy-nominated blues sensation, Victor Wainwright and The Train, in our beautifully upgraded venue.

A 2019 Grammy Nominee and seven-time Blues Music Award Winner, Victor Wainwright is a beacon of blues and Americana music. His electrifying performances are known to mesmerize audiences with soulful melodies and high-energy delivery. His latest album, "Memphis Loud," is a vibrant celebration of music, making this event a must-attend for all music enthusiasts.

VIP reserved seating at \$75 and general reserved seating at \$50.

OrmondBeach.org



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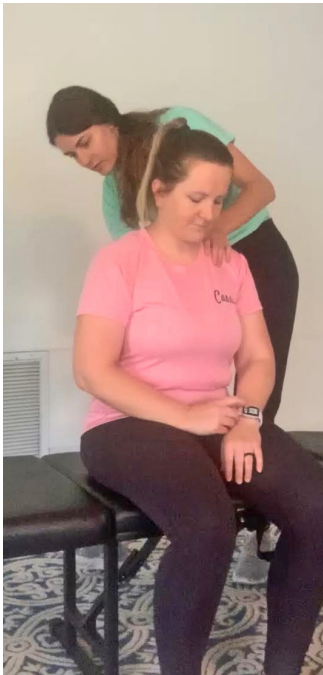


Self-Love During Valentine's Month!

February is known for its season of giving candy, flowers and gifts of love to others in the name of St. Valentine. I fully support this, but also want to remind myself and encourage others to take time to love and care for ourselves! The word that I am trying to focus on this year is "delightful," so what are things that bring me delight and would be delightful to take part in?

I had never really thought about health care as "self-love" until after my third baby and my aching hips! I assumed it would be a pain to live with for the rest of my life until someone suggested visiting a chiropractor. Dr. Sarah Sullivan's mobile care at Intentional Chiropractic & Wellness (386-227-6151) will come to you and the place that you feel most comfortable!

Her first care session, which I took part in while in my living room, involves testing different pressure points and muscle groups to get a feel for how



our nervous and lymphatic systems contribute to our skeletal alignment. I only know that because she explained her process along the way and she gave me some stretches to do after our appointment.

Another delightful service that will travel to you are mobile facials with Rare Skin Haven. I have visited Dy'mond at their Holly Hill office (1615 Ridgewood Ave.) a few times. The space is relaxing, my skin looks healthy, and she sends you off with a gift bag to continue the self-care at home. You can also host your own facial party at a location of your choosing when she brings the table, hot towels, and products to pamper you and your friends. I definitely want to do this sometime this year, so let's come together, friends, for a party!

While on the topic of pampering, I can't forget about all the luxury services offered at The Studio at Elite Feet in Port Orange (4319 S. Ridgewood). Elite Feet is known for their advanced foot care services, and I can attest to the relaxing and high-quality pedicures offered! The first visit includes a consultation to educate and recommend ways to continue



caring for your feet. I have also had a manicure and hair cut in the studio. I would say that I've tried all their services, but they now offer scalp massages that I will need to go back for soon!

Most of these services are passive on our part as the customer to care for our physical body, so lastly I want to share about "Pilates and Spiritual Meditation." This monthly event is co-lead by pilates instructor, Kyra of Fluid Form Studio, to stretch and strengthen your body, and Pastor Amy Scroggin Armistead from The Gathering Place, to lead your spirit through a meditation and prayer. We often separate our physical health from our spiritual well-being, so I enjoyed the integration of the two. Fluid Form Studio has many classes at their spot in The Trails Shopping Plaza (268 N. Nova Rd., Ormond Beach) and The Gathering Place keeps their website updated with unique gatherings at TheGatheringPlaceUMC.org.

I'm a big fan of the synergy of these services: a delightful experience that has lasting health, beauty and well-being. Giving to others is important, but let's not forget to take care of our own wellness. And to bring it back to the beginning, if I am going the traditional route for Valentine's Day, then I can check out the vibes at The Flower Bar by SBY in Ormond Beach (600 S. Yonge St.) to "buy myself flowers," as Miley Cyrus would say!



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](https://www.instagram.com/CassGoAroundDaytona)

LOCAL EVENTS

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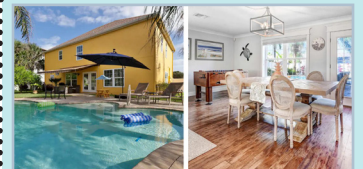
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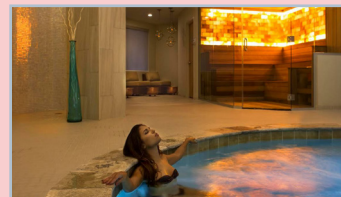
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SWIFTIE INSPO

SWIFTIE INSPO

Get ready to elevate your fashion game with inspiration straight from the music sensation herself – Taylor Swift! In a recent appearance at one of Travis Kelce’s football games, Swift stole the spotlight, showcasing a trend-setting ensemble that has sent fashion influencers worldwide into a creative frenzy.

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

What’s the standout element? An asymmetrical pleated plaid skirt flawlessly paired with an oversized sweatshirt, crafting a look that seamlessly blends chic and cuteness. Swift’s fashion finesse has ignited a global trend, prompting influencers everywhere to rush and recreate this iconic style.

Model & Makeup Influencer: Brianna Napolitano **TikTok:** @briannanapolitano

Why am I so onboard with this trend, you ask? Well, not only does it exude an air of casual elegance, but it’s also undeniably adorable. Get ready to turn heads and inject some Swiftie-inspired magic into your wardrobe.



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.

Free Movie Night

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FEB 23

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5:30 PM

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Photos by: Tiffany Evers

Bobby G Takes on Local Thrift Shops

It's been a while since I last indulged in the joy of thrift shopping, relishing the adventure of mapping out a route to explore budget-friendly finds in our local thrift stores. What a delightful way to spend the day - browsing through second-hand treasures such as vintage clothing, home decor, furniture, appliances, toys and jewelry. But what really puts a smile on my face are funny hats and wigs. That's right - I like to wig out, just ask my friends, they'll tell you!

T-dawg Jackson and Bobby G embarked on our mission to pop some tags with \$20 in our pockets - well, more like in our respective purses and wallets. It was going to be frickin' awesome!

Seems like everyone else had the same idea as us on Saturday - to snag some mind-blowing deals. The place was packed, so we grabbed a cart. However, with that many super-savers in the store, we quickly realized it was too cumbersome and promptly returned it before pressing onward.

I have always liked to wear old ties when I perform with my band 5 Time Shag and have acquired many while thrifting throughout the years. First item in hand was a pink tie with a royal blue print. Pink is one of my favorite colors and there is nothing like a good tie, especially when it's only \$2. We meandered our way



through the aisles picking up an electric wok and a microwave popcorn popper, which we needed anyway because I melted the last one thinking it was supposed to go on the stove top. It's plastic... yes, I did that.

My real last name, and soon to be Tiffany's this April 12th, begins with the letter "S," so when we found a wooden "S" we snagged it and planned to hang it somewhere in our house.

Part of the hilarity and excitement of thrift shopping is browsing through random things, even when you know you're not going to buy it. I found a hat that said, "Got Wood" with a tree on it and a giant fluffy stuffed animal head that I loved, but not enough to take home. I did buy an incredible, always apropos, Davy Crockett raccoon tail hat.

We set out to create a fun-filled day, laughing with one another and at ourselves, all without spending a ton of money, and it was definitely mission accomplished. Whether exploring the many local spots or venturing beyond the area, thrift shopping is always a blast. The diversity of stores and items adds to the excitement, and I find something interesting every time.

I scored big with an electric wok, a stylish pink tie, a popcorn popper, the letter "S," a Davy



Crockett raccoon tail hat, and some elegant cocktail glasses - all for a mere \$29. Sharing laughs and enjoying the day with my beautiful fiancée was priceless! Give thrifting a go, try on everything, unearth fantastic deals, and most importantly, have a blast. You can't go wrong.

Bobby G... out!



LOCAL THRIFT STORES

Edgewater:

- Big Sisters Thrift - 201 S Ridgewood Ave
- Frog Ministry - 1708 S Ridgewood Ave
- Ms Boutique - 2111 S Ridgewood Ave

NSB:

- Canal Street Thrift - 1310 Canal St
- Habitat for Humanity ReStore - 722 S Dixie Fwy
- Canal Street Chic - 431 Canal St
- Coronado Boutique - 101 S Peninsula Ave

Port Orange:

- Church Thrift Store - 651 Taylor Road
- Epiphany Thrift Store - 5120 S Ridgewood Ave
- Goodwill - 1752 Dunlawton Ave
- Re Runz Thrift Store - 4863 S Ridgewood Ave
- Save the Animals Store - 4032 S Ridgewood Ave
- The Fashion Safari - 4649 S Clyde Morris
- Habitat for Humanity ReStore - 3813 S Nova Rd

South Daytona:

- Our Lady of Hope - 1080 Reed Canal Rd
- Leap of Faith Thrift Store - 2250 S Nova Rd
- In His Name Thrift and Boutique - 2550 Nova Rd
- Holy Cross Thrift Shop - 2273 S Ridgewood Ave

Daytona Beach:

- Daytona Vintage - 114 N Beach St
- Bargain Furniture - 168 Madison Ave
- Riverfront Mall - 140 N Beach St
- City Thrift - 808 N Nova Rd

Ormond Beach:

- A Second Blessing - 785 S Nova Rd
- Flipping Treasures Resale - 600 S Yonge St
- Encore Consignment - 607 S Yonge St

DeLand / W. Volusia:

- Angels Thrift Shop - 642 New York Ave W
- Our Father's Closet - 1645 E New York Ave
- Goodwill - 1600 N Woodland Blvd
- Neighborhood Center - 550 Spg Gdn Ave S
- Pinkies Resale Shop - 720 S Woodland Blvd
- Ms Preppy Pants - 106 S Woodland Blvd



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: Tiffany@ECCtoldme.com

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1-29 FEB 1 - 29 

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8-13 FEB 8 - 13 

Schedule @ 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!



10-11, 2-3 FEB 10-11/ MAR 2-3 

Find schedule online

Studios throughout East/West Volusia

Off the Beaten Path FL Arts Tours

72 artists in Central Florida will once again open their private working studios to visitors for the annual Off the Beaten Path Florida Arts Tour for two upcoming weekends in three different regions: Lake County - Feb. 10-11; E. Volusia - Feb. 10-11; W. Volusia - Mar. 2-3. Find full list of participating artists, schedule, samples of work and the interactive map at ArtsTours.org.




10 SAT FEB 10

8 AM - 3 PM

Woodland Blvd., Downtown DeLand

Mardi Gras Dog Parade/Party

Costumed canines and their two-legged companions will sashay along Woodland Boulevard, from Michigan Avenue to Howry Avenue. Parade starts at 11 AM. Anyone interested in participating can get additional information at DeLandDogParade.com.



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.



10 SAT FEB 10

1 - 5 PM

Flagler Ave., New Smyrna Beach

Gumbo Challenge

Taste multiple samples with savory flavors of classic New Orleans Gumbos at host locations on Flagler Avenue. \$20 sampling passports - don't forget to vote for your favorites at the end! Purchase at GumboChallenge2024.eventbrite.com.



15-18 FEB 15 - 18 

THU - SUN, times online

Hawks Park, Edgewater

Zerbini Family Circus

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15 THU FEB 15 

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



15 THU FEB 15


6:30 PM

Marine Discovery Center, NSB

Monthly Lecture Series: Astronomy

Derek Demeter, Director of the Emil Buehler Planetarium at Seminole State College will present. Please note, there may be adjustments to the time of this lecture due to requiring dark skies. Visit MarineDiscoveryCenter.org for updates or to register or call (386) 428-4828. Presented by AdventHealth.

SCAN here to Register!




17 SAT FEB 17

12 - 7 PM

Downtown DeLand

Thin Man Watts Jazz Festival

This multi-cultural festival will immerse you in cool jazz, soul, gospel and the blues across various city-wide venues. For a performance schedule, visit: WattsJazzFest.com. Presented by the African American Museum of Art and the MainStreet DeLand Association.




17 SAT FEB 17

2 - 7 PM

Artisan Alley, DeLand

Love is Love Pride Fest

Join DeLand Pride and celebrate the annual Love is Love Pride Festival featuring a Pride Marketplace, Live Entertainment, Youth Activities, and more. Followed by live music at Cafe DaVinci. All are welcome, no cover.



17 SAT FEB 17 / MAR 16 


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.



22-29, 1-10 FEB 22-29, MAR 1-10 


Find showtimes online

The Little Theatre, NSB

9 to 5, The Musical

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Feb 22 Mar 10



23-25 FEB 23 - 25

FRI - SUN @ 2 and 7 PM

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23 FRI FEB 23

10 AM - 1 PM

Dickerson Community Ctr, Daytona

FREE Movie Night

Enjoy an evening under the sea with the showing of 2023's "The Little Mermaid." Attendees can showcase their mermaid skills and participate in a mermaid pageant and photo-op with mermaids before the movie begins. Complimentary refreshments.

Free Movie Night



24-25 FEB 24 - 25 

SAT - SUN

Ocean Center, Daytona Beach

Daytona Beach Home Show

Browse a variety of exhibitors to help jump start your home improvement projects.



24 SAT FEB 24

10 AM - 1 PM

Whistle Stop Park, Edgewater

EDGEfest Pet-a-Palooza

Bring your furry friend, or meet adoptable animals! Enjoy food, music, vendors, pet contests, lure course and pup kissing booth. Accepting donations of food and supplies for the Edgewater Animals Shelter.

MEET & GREET ADOPTABLE ANIMALS



24 SAT FEB 24

3 to 8:30 PM

McElroy Park, Daytona Beach Shores

Battle of the Food Trucks

Indulge in a Battle of the Food Trucks with entertainment by DJ Dove and Joey Calderaio, The Future Buds. Come on by and join us for some tasty food and groove to the tunes! Food trucks will start serving food at 3:00 p.m. in McElroy Park and the band will start playing at 5:00 p.m. under the Shores Pavilion.



1-3 MAR 1 - 3 

FRI - SUN

Riverwalk Park, Port Orange

Spring Brew & Food Fest

A 3-day event of food trucks, vendors, live entertainment, beer and wine, all along the beautiful Halifax River. This event is free admission, with options to participate in Craft Beer Passes, Wine Sip & Stroll, VIP Tribute band seating and Mimosa Madness! Full schedule and passes at POCTrust.org.



1-10 MAR 1 - 10 


find events online

Throughout Volusia County

Bike Week

Join the city for a 10-day event filled with street festivals, concerts, motorcycle races, bike shows, rallies, manufacturer showcases and more! Join the city for a 10-day event filled with street festivals, concerts, motorcycle races, bike shows, rallies, manufacturer showcases and more!



1 FRI MAR 1 


1st FRIDAY @ 6:30 PM

Rockefeller Gardens, Ormond Beach

Movies on the Halifax

Bring a lawn chair or blanket and enjoy a FREE screening of popular movies. March movie - "Barbie" (PG-13)

Movies on the Halifax



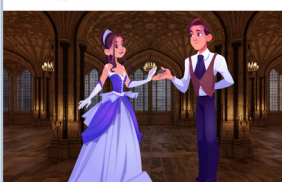
2 SAT MAR 2

6 - 9 PM

Southeast Volusia YMCA, Edgewater

The Princess Ball

A magical night for princesses (and princes) of all ages with their guardian/adult companion. \$10 per person. Tickets available, beginning in February, at the SEV Y.M.C.A. and City Hall, while supplies last.



3 SUN MAR 3

4 - 7 PM

Rockefeller Gardens, Ormond Beach

Taste of Ormond

Celebrate Ormond's bustling dining scene with small plates from more than two dozen local restaurants and food and drink purveyors. \$75 per person.

Taste of ORMOND

FOOD BEER & WINE MUSIC



SAVE THE DATE!
APRIL 19 - 21, 2024

Throughout Volusia County

A Family Songwriters Showcase

Southern Fellow is bringing some of America's best songwriters to Volusia County! They will be performing in Nashville-style writers rounds at some of the beach's most loved venues. This is a music event you do not want to miss! Visit SouthernFellow.com for schedule/lineup.



**10 SAT FEB 10 / MAR 9**

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.

**13 TUE FEB 13**

7 - 8 PM

Flagler Avenue, New Smyrna Beach

Fat Tuesday Mardi Gras Parade

Come watch all the Mardi Gras themed floats, decorated cars and community acts as they throw out Mardi Gras beads! Enjoy Mardi Gras-themed music and food specials from host locations along Flagler Avenue before and after the parade.

**14 WED FEB 14**

9 AM-12 PM/1-4 PM

The Brannon Center, NSB

HOA/Condo Board Member Certification Course

FREE courses providing board member certification required by Florida Statutes and valuable information presented by community association attorneys. The HOA Class is in the morning from 9AM - Noon and is immediately followed by the CONDO class in the afternoon from 1PM - 4PM. Presented by Wright & Casey P.A. MUST REGISTER IN ADVANCE by contacting (386) 428-3311 or administrator@surfcoastlaw.com.

**17 SAT FEB 17**

3:30 - 6:30 PM

Riverwalk Park, Port Orange

Coffee Date @ Riverwalk

Bring your Valentine or your Bestie for a date at Riverwalk Park! Grab a Coffee and chat, or play a board game with a beautiful view of the Halifax. Performance by Brian and Hannah Music Parent's Night Out happening simultaneously at The REC!

**18 SUN FEB 18**

Events schedule online

Daytona International Speedway

66th Annual DAYTONA 500

The most prestigious event on the NASCAR Cup Series schedule and known the world over as "The Great American Race." Don't miss out on nonstop action and excitement at the World Center of Racing. With high energy performances, spectacular finishes and amazing memories. Visit DaytonaInternationalSpeedway.com for more information.

**22-25 FEB 22 - 25**

THU - SUN

ONE DAYTONA

Daytona Jazz Weekend

The fourth annual Daytona Jazz Weekend at One Daytona, hosted by Mindi Abair, features your favorite stars in smooth jazz in the intimate setting of less than 300 guests! FloridaSmoothJazz.com for schedule and tickets.

**24 SAT FEB 24**

1 - 5 PM

Beach Street, Daytona Beach

Beer and Bacon Fest

Savor the flavors of 20 unique beer samples while treating yourself to delicious bacon delights (bacon items sold separately). Immerse yourself in the perfect pairing of craft beers and savory bacon treats, making this event a haven for beer and bacon enthusiasts alike.

**24 SAT FEB 24**

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**24 SAT FEB 24**

5 - 8 PM

The REC, Port Orange

Royal Ball Family Dance

If you are looking for a fun evening with your son or daughter, grandson or granddaughter look no further! The Royal Ball is going to be a magical night of dancing, photos, music, food and more. Don't forget to dress up (princess and prince costumes/outfits are encouraged!) \$10 per person, tickets at POPR.RecDesk.com.

**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!**
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.

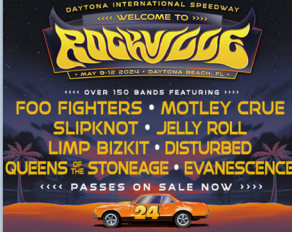
**9-12 MAY 9 - 12**

THU - SUN

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THURSDAY

MÖTLEY CRÜE

Judas Priest

ANTHRAX

DIRTY HONEY
AMIGO THE DEVIL
COLD
POINT NORTH

DISTURBED

Mudvayne

SKILLET

FLYLEAF w/ LACEY STURM
SALIVA
ORGY
IMPERIAL TIDE

MACHINE HEAD

SHADOWS FALL
BIOHAZARD
LACUNA COIL
STABBING WESTWARD
GIDEON
THROWN
FUMING MOUTH
UNTIL I WAKE

KERRY KING

AUGUST BURNS RED
ALL THAT REMAINS
SOULFLY
GATECREEPER
SPITE
BODYSNATCHER

Layne Stoney
POSSE

APOCALYPTICA
MISS MAY I
THE WORD ALIVE
FLESHWATER
MOON FEVER
TX2

FRIDAY

Slimp Bizkit

FALLING IN REVERSE

In+THIS+MOMENT

STARSET
NONPOINT
FLAT BLACK
POWERMAN 5000

Jelly Roll

THE OFFSPRING

Koe Wetzel

LIVING COLOUR
KIM DRACULA
SLEEP THEORY
ALIEN ANT FARM

BURGLAR

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

IN FLAMES

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

TECH N9NE

THE AMITY AFFLICTION
CURRENTS
KUBLAI KHAN TX
HARMS WAY
RAIN CITY DRIVE
CITIZEN SOLDIER

SATURDAY

FOO FIGHTERS

GRETA VAN FLEET

PRIMUS

MAMMOTH WVH
REIGNWOLF
JEHNNY BETH
NOVA TWINS

QUEENS OF THE STONE AGE

A DAY TO REMEMBER

Stone Temple Pilots

ROYAL BLOOD
THE STRUTS
TAIPEI HOUSTON
DESTROY BOYS

Cypress Hill

L7
HELMET
FRANK CARTER THE RATTLESNAKES
FIRE FROM THE GODS
HED PE
CALVA LOUISE
VUKOVI
HOTBOX

CLUTCH

BARONESS
ALL THEM WITCHES
RED FANG
AUSTIN MEADE
CROBOT
TIM MONTANA

CODE ORANGE

DRAIN
TERROR
STICK TO YOUR GUNS
SCOWL
THE CHISEL
BAD NERVES
AFTERLIFE

SUNDAY

Slipknot

breaking benjamin
architects

WAGE WAR
P.O.D.
TAPROOT
ADEMA

EVANESCENCE

BAD OMIENS

⊕ ⊗ ⊗

THEORY

SEBASTIAN BACH
DROWNING POOL
NITA STRAUSS
TRUST COMPANY

SUM 41

ATREYU
THE CHATS
MAGNOLIA PARK
BOB VYLAN
MILITARIE GUN
GEL
STRATEJACKET

BLACK VEIL BRIDES

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SIM
DEAD POET SOCIETY
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RETURN TO DUST

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OF MICE & MEN
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Photo Credit: Reg Garner

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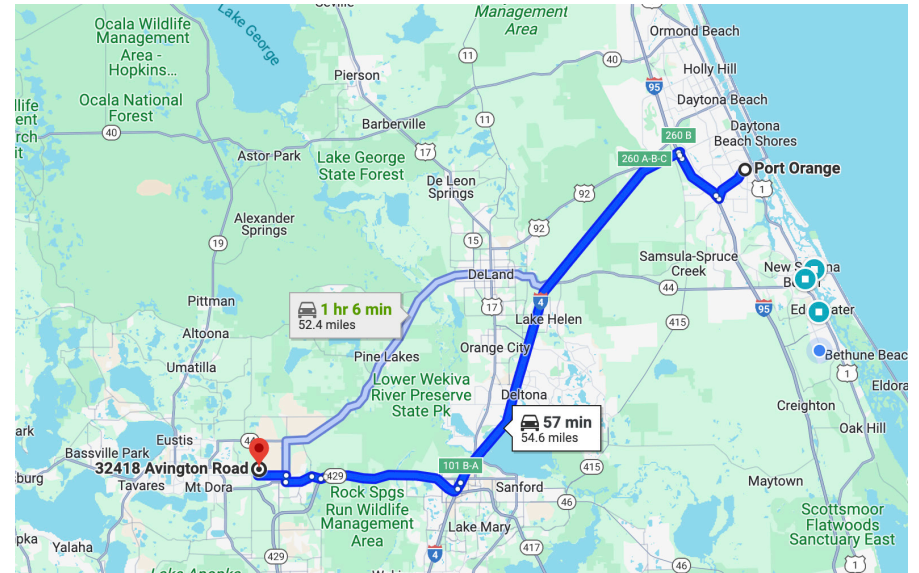
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Ripe for the Picking

Oak Haven Farms and Winery - Sorrento, FL

Article & Photos by: Kelsey Walters



While most of the country is thick in the doldrums of winter, Florida is in bloom and we are right in the midst of a very important time... strawberry season. Any parent will know the cost of berries a child consumes can break the bank. We go through multiple cartons a week of Avery's favorite fruit, so picking season is a big win for us!

biggest, most perfect berry. A full box will be about 10 pounds, a half will be about five.

Avery screamed triumphantly as she found bigger and bigger berries, many larger than her little hands. Over the years, we've made our own strawberry ice cream and desserts with our picks, and planned to make jam for the first time this season. Sadly, our berries didn't last long enough in our hungry household to make it to the jar, but they were delicious all the same.



If you want your berries to last a bit longer, wash them when you get home and soak them for 15 minutes in a mixture of 8 cups of water with 2 Tablespoons of apple cider vinegar. Rinse thoroughly and allow to dry before storing them in a glass container in the fridge. This will not only clean your fruit well, it will help it to last longer, too.

There are plenty of u-pick farms throughout Florida offering up a variety of in-season produce throughout the year, ranging from citrus to veggies, and our family's other top item, blueberries. Over the years we've accumulated our favorite spots and Oak Haven Farms and Winery is on that list.

At Oak Haven, you'll find sprawling fields of ripe, juicy strawberries that are practically glowing red and begging to be picked. Upon arrival, you'll get a large box for your haul and directions. Be sure to ask the attendant where the best berries are that day, as it will vary from week to week as areas get picked out and new spots ripen. Pick with caution, as your selection is priced by the pound and it is easy to get carried away when you're hunting for the

After you've picked as much as you can, there's still plenty to do on the farm to fill the afternoon. We arrived before lunch so by the time we weighed in, we were ready for a snack. The on-site café (open on weekends) offers a variety of good eats and treats, loaded with strawberries of course! We decided to try out the strawberry shortcake loaded with ice cream and strawberry cheesecake. You can



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even grab some hot dogs to roast yourself over the open fire out front beneath a massive shady oak.

In addition to the farm, Oak Haven also crafts their own wines from a variety of locally grown grapes, blueberries and, you guessed it, strawberries. You can sample five wines for just a dollar, and if you decide to



bring a bottle home, the dollar is discounted from your purchase. Avery partook in the "wine" tasting as well with her own sample glass of water so she could feel exceptionally fancy as well.

Everything at Oak Haven is family-operated and family-friendly! One of the co-owners, Harry, can often be spotted cruising around on his tractor to keep the farm running, while Karen can be found holding down the fort in the purchase stand and café. The adjacent fields hold grape vines for the wine, as well as a sunflower field where you can pick your own stems to take home with your berries. Alongside the fields are a few play areas for kids that Avery had a blast on, as well as ample picnic tables for your fruit feast, hot dog roast, or to grab a glass of wine and relax.

Be sure to plan ahead and check the farm's Facebook page for picking days before heading out. Busy weekends can result in no berries or a sudden cold front can prevent them from ripening in time for the next weekend, but the farm will announce if they

plan to be closed. Strawberry season is only until March, so it's time to get picking!

OAK HAVEN FARMS AND WINERY

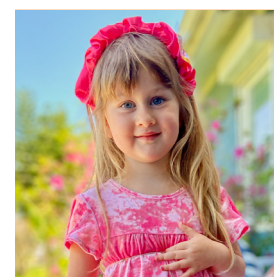
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Kelsey Walters is the CFO and one of the co-owners of East Coast Current. She is a professional photojournalist with a BS in Photography from the University of Central Florida. Her work focuses on travel and documentary photography.



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.

Strawberry Cheesecake Pancakes

Preparation: Prep Time: 20 minutes • Cook Time: 20 minutes • Servings: 15 pancakes

Why not have breakfast and dessert on one plate with a batch of these Strawberry Cheesecake Pancakes! Fluffy cream cheese-stuffed pancakes, whipped cream, and homemade strawberry sauce - they totally blow any restaurant version out of the water with their decadence!



INGREDIENTS

Strawberry Topping

- 2 cups fresh strawberries cut in half
- 1/4 cup sugar
- 2 tablespoons lemon juice

Cheesecake Pancakes

- 2 cups all-purpose flour sifted
- 2 teaspoons baking powder
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 6 ounces cream cheese softened, divided
- 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 2 large eggs room temperature
- 1 cup buttermilk room temperature
- 2 tablespoons butter melted and cooled
- 1 teaspoon lemon juice
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Whipped cream



INSTRUCTIONS

Strawberry Topping:

1. Place the strawberries, sugar, and lemon juice in a saucepan set over medium-low heat. Bring to a low boil and cook 12-15 minutes, or until strawberries cook down and thicken.
2. For a smoother sauce, mash the berries with the back of a spoon. Set aside and keep warm.

Cheesecake Pancakes:

1. In a large mixing bowl, whisk together the flour, baking powder, and salt.
2. In a separate bowl, use an electric mixer to beat 4 ounces of cream cheese and sugar together until smooth. Add the eggs one at a time until combined, then beat in the buttermilk, melted butter, lemon juice, and vanilla until smooth.
3. Gently fold the wet ingredients into the flour mixture until just combined. Add the remaining cubed cream cheese and fold in gently. Allow the batter to rest for 10 minutes.
4. Heat a pancake pan (or large frying pan or electric griddle) over medium heat. Lightly grease with oil or non-stick cooking spray.
5. Pour 1/4 cup of batter per pancake onto the griddle and cook for 2-3 minutes until tops are slightly dry looking, with small air bubbles beginning to form. Flip, and continue cooking on the other side, 1-2 minutes, until golden brown. Keep pancakes warm in a low temperature oven while you work through the batter.
6. Stack pancakes with layers of whipped cream & strawberry sauce and serve.

Nutrition:

Calories: 158kcal | Carbohydrates: 20g | Protein: 3g | Fat: 6g | Saturated Fat: 3g | Cholesterol: 40mg | Sodium: 114mg | Potassium: 146mg | Sugar: 7g | Vitamin A: 255IU | Vitamin C: 12.2mg | Calcium: 61mg | Iron: 1mg



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



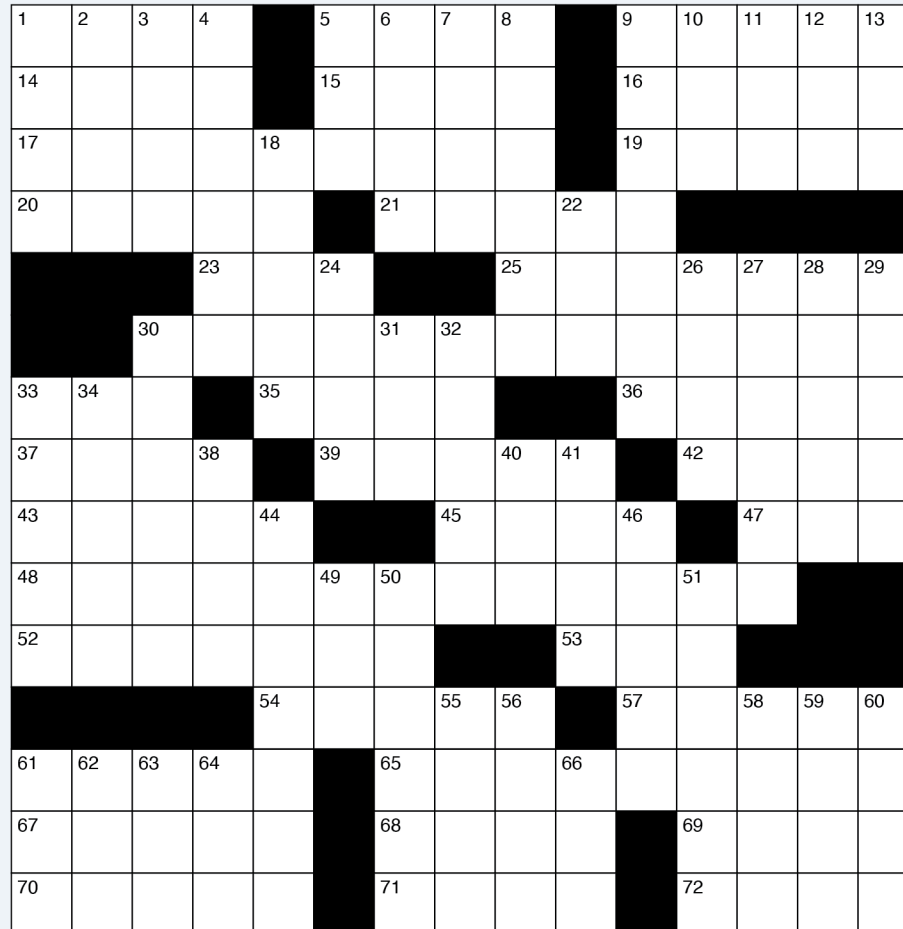
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Across

1. Draft status
5. Hebrew month
9. Comedienne Anne
14. Deform, as an LP
15. "If I ____ a Rich Man"
16. "I've got my ____ you!"
17. Soap opera plot twist, maybe
19. Upgrade, as machinery
20. Xerox rival
21. 2007 Alicia Keys album
23. CAT scan alternative
25. Shortest book in the Old Testament
30. 1982 #1 hit with the lyric "living in perfect harmony"
33. 250, to Ancient Romans
35. La Salle of "ER"
36. Eminem mentor
37. Tramp
39. Gobsnacked
42. Capital of Valais
43. "That's ____!": parental warning
45. "Coffee Cantata" composer
47. Eazy-E and Dr. Dre were in it
48. Clothing designer's necessity
52. Whodunit
53. Capt. Picard's series, to fans
54. "Get ____, you two!"
57. Leader
61. Hedgehog of game fame
65. Providers
67. Love, in French
68. Four on some clocks
69. "L'____ c'est moi"
70. "Center square" Paul of "Hollywood Squares"
71. Grp.
72. Treaty group



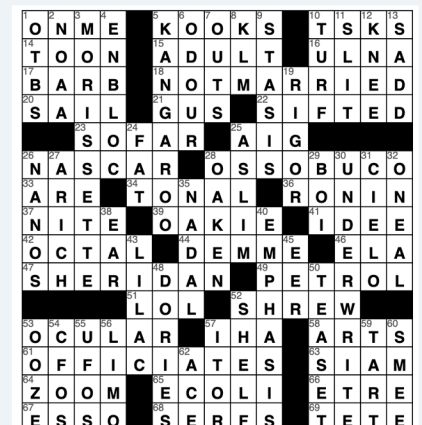
Down

32. Port city of Jordan
33. Deep gorge
34. ____ Island, NY
38. Step ____
40. WWII female
41. German "genuine"
44. Size of a football field, roughly
46. Door attachment
49. Boxer's warning
50. Narrow viewpoint, so to speak
51. Vietnam's equivalent of "Smith"
55. Parisian positives
56. Docs' tests
58. Infinitesimal amount
59. Darn kin
60. This, to Jorge
61. Erie Canal mule of song
62. "Hop-____-thumb" (French fairytale)
63. Partisan prefix
64. Birth control device
66. Car ID

Down

1. One in a hole
2. "Avatar" language
3. Rock's Clapton or Carmen
4. Grace under pressure
5. "Ick!"
6. Han Solo's love
7. Large vases
8. Sore spot
9. Ariel, for one
10. Word with bulls or birds
11. Gen. Pershing's command
12. King, in Cannes
13. Kitchen pest
18. Severe spasm
22. Abbr. in King Edward VIII's bio
24. Initials on a cross
26. Some cable boxes
27. First-aid supply
28. Robin Hood weapon
29. "Laughing" scavenger
30. Muscles (through), as a crowd
31. Passive principle

JAN 2024 ANSWERS



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

Local School Scholarship Annual Fundraiser



The Princess Ball

Parent & Child Dance



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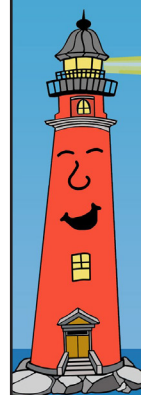


ECHO RANGER DAY at the PONCE INLET LIGHTHOUSE

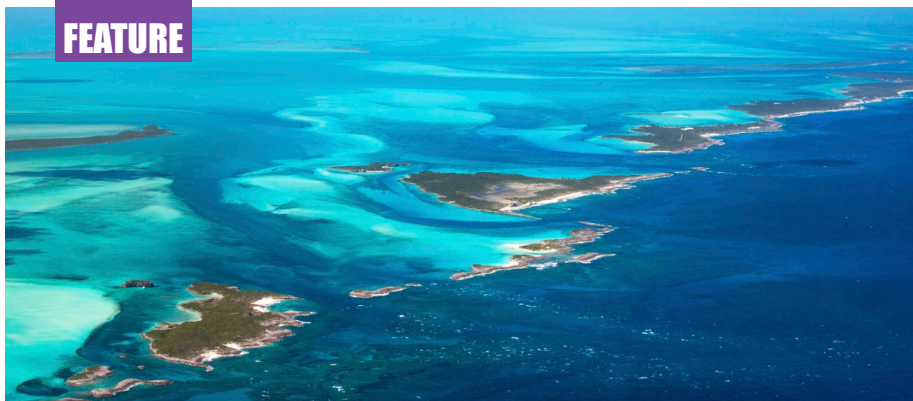
Saturday - March 9, 2024

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Enjoy a fun-filled day of family-oriented activities including educational workshops, kids-crafts, and guided tours of the lighthouse and museum. Advanced registration and enrollment in Volusia County's ECHO Ranger Program is required. Contact Programs Manager Zach Hopple via email at education@ponceinlet.org or by phone (386) 761-1821 ext. 18.



Learn more about the Volusia County ECHO RANGERS
Program online at WWW.VOLUSIACOUNTY.ORG.



Adventures of a Modern Pirate

The audible snap, crackle and pop sounds resonating from the hot exhaust manifolds cooling off against the sea breeze could be heard in the background. Burnt gas and oil lingered in the air, a fetid odor that I had learned to love. The prodigious seaplane lay on the white sandy beach, anchored to a palm tree a hundred feet away. Small lapping white-capped waves splashed against the floats and fuselage.

Visible through the double windshield, headsets hung from the instrument panels across the cockpit ceiling next to the throttle controls. As a young fan of Star Wars, I could not help but think of the Millennium Falcon and Peter was our own Han Solo. The only thing missing was the hairy Sasquatch. Different types of crafts, but both claiming adventure and independence. It was at that very moment when I realized how far we had come from wooden ships and cannons. Amazing!

"Let's celebrate!" Peter hollered graciously. "It's good to see you guys again."

"Likewise," my uncle replied, waving toward the fire pit and our basecamp nestled under a group of palm trees.

We settled down, started a fire and then, casually, as if it was the normal thing to do, cigars, lighter and rum were doled out. When the bottle reached me, I swallowed a hearty gulp, handing it back to the big guy, who showed a smart-ass wink and handed me a cigar. Ritualistically, I bit the end off, smelled it across the side and then lit the tip with the lighter he handed me. In seconds, puffs of smoke appeared, followed by the strong aroma of rich, aged tobacco that imbued the camp.

"I'm your ticket back to civilization," Peter said as if it were of prophetic significance.

"We know," my uncle replied sadly. "It's unavoidable."

"I hate it for you," Peter added. "I understand not wanting to return."

"Death and taxes," my uncle replied sarcastically.

"Death and taxes," Peter replied ominously. "Death and taxes."

Another round of rum was partaken and we pronounced it "veritas." We chuckled and segued into our summer shenanigans and tall tales. Peter sat, thrilled to hear an awesomesauce summer, and displayed two thumbs-up. Suddenly, he gave us a surprise.

"Well, guys. This will be my last time flying the Caribbean for the next two years."

"What?" my uncle and I said.

"I took a job flying seaplanes in Alaska. The money is good and I can't say no."

"Alaska!"

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 nine 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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Calling all food trucks! Beach Rentals and Refreshments of Volusia is looking for business owners who are ready to kick off the upcoming season on the beach! Do you have a business that you would like to operate directly on the shores of Volusia County beaches or in our beautiful beach upland parks? BR&R has locations available in Ormond Beach, Ponce Inlet & NSB for food truck operations in our upland parks. They also have mobile boutique locations available directly on the sand in Daytona Beach & NSB. If you would like to meet with the team to discuss operations, please visit BeachRentalsVC.com.



Local photographer, Patrick "Tupat" Eichstaedt captured Brad Pitt as he visited New Smyrna Beach to film scenes for an upcoming Formula 1 racing movie at various locations in Pappas Plaza from January 23 - 29.



In January, New Smyrna Beach Middle School 8th grade students took their annual trip to Washington DC. When they returned they were greeted by NSB Mayor Fred Cleveland. He welcomed them home and then told them that if they were interested in our local government to stop by and see him! He also led the group in the Pledge of Allegiance. Photo: Margy Roe

The EDGEfest Classic Car Show was a rip roaring good time on January 27 with nearly 200 cars on display thanks to East Coast Cruisers Car Club! Interested in becoming an EDGEfest sponsor for an upcoming event? Call (386) 424-2400 x7207 or email SpecialEvents@CityOfEdgewater.org.



Check Out What The Locals Are Up To



Seven students from R.J. Longstreet Elementary School were inducted into the Daytona Beach Mayor's Honor program on January 22. They were escorted by limousine to lunch at Crabby's Oceanside, where Mayor Derrick L. Henry and Zone 1 City Commissioner Monica Paris recognized them. Each student received a certificate and a goodie bag for their academic achievements. The Mayor's Honor Program celebrates the hard work of these students, contributing to the pride of Daytona Beach.



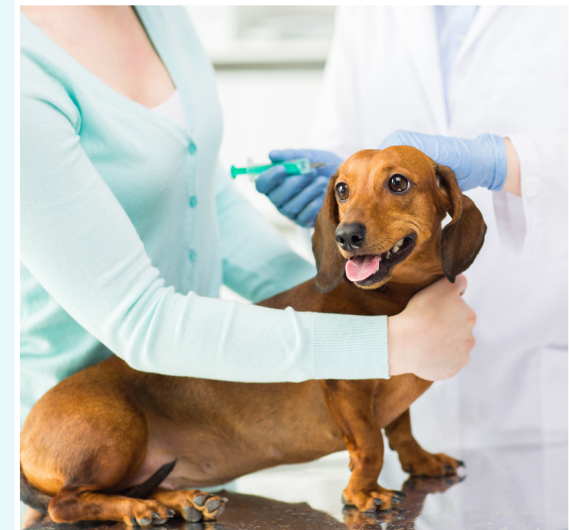
Edgewater Mayor Diezel Depew and members from the City of Edgewater Fire-Rescue Department read to the students at Chisholm Elementary this January. We aren't sure who had more fun - the students or the guest readers!



Local musicians, Lucy Spotts and Reed Foley each have new original music being released on the same day, Feb. 2, by coincidence! Reed is releasing a new single, and Lucy a new album. Lucy and Reed will both be featured in April's Family Songwriters Showcase, turn to pg. 21 for details.




Love is in the air this February - these feathered friends were spotted cozying up to each other by local wildlife photographer, Shelley Lynch. Find more of Shelley's impressive work at ShelleyLynchPhotos.com.



Join the Edgewater Animal Shelter, located at 305 Mango Tree Drive, for their Reduced Cost Shot Clinic every Thursday from 2-3:30 p.m. Ensure your furry friend's well-being with affordable vaccinations! To make an appointment, call (386) 402-7476.

Fishaholic: February Report WAVE

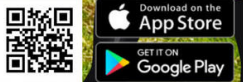


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should keep anglers busy into the spring. The black drum that are caught in our area are impressive in size with some fish over 30 pounds, so make sure you have the right tackle when targeting them. Sheepshead are great for kids as they put up a nice fight and don't require heavy tackle to catch.

Another wintertime resident, bluefish, are around in good numbers and can save the day when nothing else is biting. The bluefish we catch in Florida are usually not as big as the ones you find up north, but we occasionally catch fish over 10 pounds. Bluefish are not picky eaters and will devour everything in sight from dead bait to lures.

The snook and redfish fishing has been slow and probably won't get consistent until March, but you never know. Both species are always around but can be much less active this time of year, this is especially true for snook which are essentially a tropical species and thrive in warm water. If we get some warm weather days in the backwaters where the waters warm quickly, the snook and redfish bite can get good. In the creeks and backwaters including Mosquito Lagoon, sea trout and redfish will be available in good numbers.

Greetings from Captain Austin, bringing you the fishing report for the New Smyrna Beach area. What's going with this weather? It's been cold and rainy for what seems like the entire month of January. I can't remember a January that had so much rain and that's not normal. I can handle the cold, as some years it can be downright chilly, but all the rain has really made fishing a bit more challenging. The wintertime usually means clear skies and clear water but that's not been the case.

Hope you enjoyed the report and let us know if you'd like to get out on the water. We have some openings this month and would love to take you fishing.



OK, so enough complaining about the weather - there are still a plethora of opportunities to catch fish. Outside of the weather, anglers should always consider the tide, water temperature and wind direction. If you plan ahead, your chances for success increase greatly out on the water.

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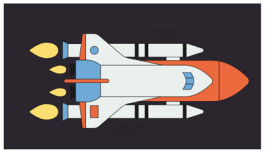
ChewsWiselyFishingCharters.com
@CaptAustinCampbell

Our winter residents - sheepshead and black drum - have been consistent and

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. Check SpaceCoastLaunches.com for updates.



Tuesday, February 06, 2024

Vehicle: SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket

Mission: NASA's PACE will observe global ocean color, biochemistry and ecology.

Launch Site: Launch Complex 40 at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station

Launch Window: 1:30 AM

Wednesday, February 14, 2024

Vehicle: SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket

Mission: Crew-8 - First lunar lander built and launched for NASA's CLPS program.

This will be the first commercial lunar landing if successful.

Launch Site: Launch Complex 39A, Kennedy Space Center

Launch Window: TBD

Sunday, February 18, 2024

Vehicle: SpaceX's Falcon 9 rocket

Mission: Crew-8

Launch Site: Launch Complex 39A, Kennedy Space Center

Launch Window: TBD

Ponce Inlet FEB Tide Chart

WAVE

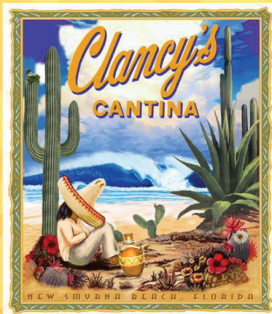


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Date	High				Low				☀️		🌙	
	AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft	Rise	Set	Moon	
1	Thu	12:16	2.5	12:15	2.3	6:29	0.4	6:35	0.1	7:11	6:03	☾
2	Fri	1:04	2.5	1:00	2.1	7:24	0.5	7:20	0.1	7:10	6:03	☾
3	Sat	2:00	2.6	1:57	2.0	8:21	0.5	8:11	0.1	7:10	6:04	☾
4	Sun	3:07	2.7	3:09	2.0	9:24	0.5	9:08	0.0	7:09	6:05	☾
5	Mon	4:12	2.8	4:19	2.0	10:27	0.4	10:09	-0.2	7:08	6:06	☾
6	Tue	5:09	3.1	5:17	2.2	11:25	0.2	11:09	-0.3	7:08	6:07	☾
7	Wed	6:02	3.3	6:11	2.4			12:19	0.0	7:07	6:08	☾
8	Thu	6:54	3.5	7:05	2.6	12:06	-0.6	1:09	-0.2	7:06	6:08	☾
9	Fri	7:44	3.6	7:58	2.8	1:01	-0.7	1:55	-0.4	7:06	6:09	☾
10	Sat	8:33	3.7	8:49	3.1	1:54	-0.9	2:40	-0.5	7:05	6:10	☾
11	Sun	9:20	3.6	9:40	3.2	2:46	-0.9	3:24	-0.6	7:04	6:11	☾
12	Mon	10:07	3.5	10:32	3.3	3:39	-0.8	4:11	-0.6	7:03	6:11	☾
13	Tue	10:56	3.2	11:25	3.3	4:36	-0.6	5:00	-0.5	7:02	6:12	☾
14	Wed	11:46	2.9			5:39	-0.3	5:53	-0.4	7:02	6:13	☾
15	Thu	12:21	3.2	12:41	2.6	6:44	-0.1	6:47	-0.3	7:01	6:14	☾
16	Fri	1:21	3.1	1:41	2.3	7:48	0.1	7:43	-0.2	7:00	6:15	☾
17	Sat	2:27	3.0	2:48	2.2	8:53	0.2	8:42	-0.1	6:59	6:15	☾
18	Sun	3:35	2.9	3:55	2.1	9:59	0.3	9:43	0.0	6:58	6:16	☾
19	Mon	4:37	2.9	4:54	2.2	11:00	0.3	10:43	0.0	6:57	6:17	☾
20	Tue	5:30	3.0	5:44	2.3	11:54	0.3	11:38	0.0	6:56	6:17	☾
21	Wed	6:18	3.0	6:31	2.4			12:41	0.2	6:55	6:18	☾
22	Thu	7:01	3.0	7:15	2.5	12:26	-0.1	1:21	0.1	6:54	6:19	☾
23	Fri	7:42	3.0	7:57	2.6	1:10	-0.1	1:55	0.1	6:53	6:20	☾
24	Sat	8:19	3.0	8:36	2.7	1:50	-0.1	2:26	0.0	6:52	6:20	☾
25	Sun	8:53	2.9	9:12	2.7	2:27	-0.1	2:55	0.0	6:51	6:21	☾
26	Mon	9:26	2.8	9:47	2.8	3:03	0.0	3:24	0.0	6:50	6:22	☾
27	Tue	9:58	2.7	10:22	2.8	3:40	0.1	3:53	0.0	6:49	6:22	☾
28	Wed	10:29	2.6	10:57	2.8	4:20	0.2	4:25	0.1	6:48	6:23	☾
29	Thu	11:03	2.4	11:36	2.8	5:05	0.3	5:02	0.1	6:47	6:24	☾

BIENVENIDOS

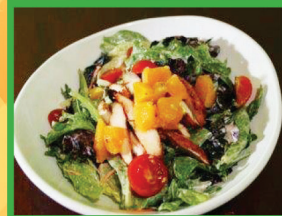


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fishing Report

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

January has passed, leaving behind memories of an exceptional month filled with tight lines and unforgettable fishing experiences. Finally, the arrival of some decently cold days allowed the fish to school up. While most were schools of redfish, we also encountered a variety of trout and smaller-sized snook. Florida's weather patterns can be quite unpredictable, making it challenging to secure consistent fishing conditions with more than just a day or two of cooler weather.

Our success mainly came from using Henn Lures, including the Lil' Shrimp, Croaker, Mud Guppy, and Shrinnow. These artificial baits proved highly effective in rapidly attracting fish. You can explore the range of baits and other accessories at HennLures.com. Additionally, live mullet yielded good results, especially when hooked just below the anal fin to keep the bait closer to the bottom where larger fish tend to reside.

In the past month, I've relaunched my YouTube channel, Tupat's Fishing Adventures. I invite you to subscribe and check out the new episodes, including "how to" videos and showcases of exciting products. You can find the channel at this direct link: [YouTube.com/@TupatsFishingAdventures6386/Videos](https://www.youtube.com/@TupatsFishingAdventures6386/Videos). The recent episodes feature my good buddies, Mike Duffy, Rusty Roberts and Dave McKinnon, all holding beautiful redfish successfully released back to Mother Nature.

Looking ahead, our focus for the upcoming month will be on targeting gator trout and larger snook. Stay tuned for more epic adventures and tight lines!

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



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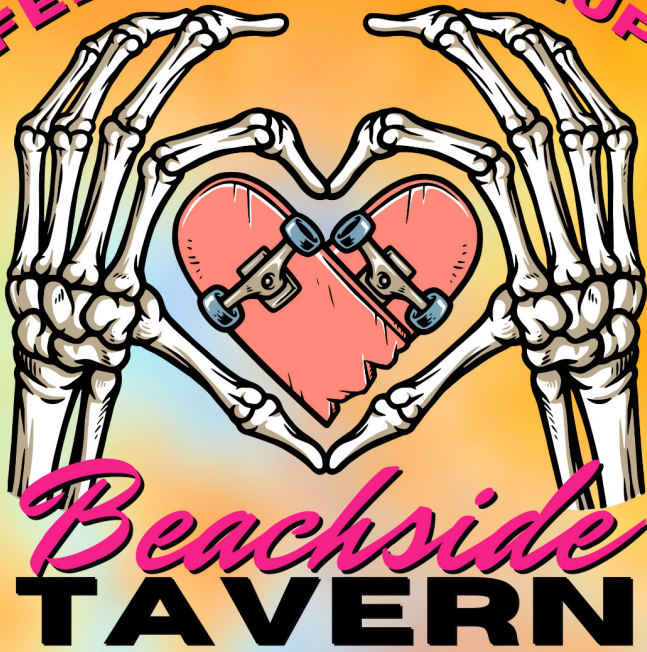


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