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LOCAL SPOTLIGHT

Interview with local
author James E.
Gahan.

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REAL ESTATE UPDATE

Florida's housing
market enters 2026 with
renewed momentum.

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THU. 12 - 5 TIME SHAG
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SAT. 14 - CHEAP THRILLS
SUN. 16 - NUTHOUSE JAM
TUE. 17 - MARDI GRAS PARTY
THU. 19 - THE JOHNCATS
FRI. 20 - TOMMY MACK BAND
SAT. 21 - ELECTRIC XPERIENCE
SUN. 22 - NUTHOUSE JAM
26 - THU. - ESH & SCHIEF
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26 *Strawberry* Cheesecake Pancakes

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VOL.12 ISSUE 2

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Hands-on Experience

Animationland Explores Art, Science, and Storytelling

Transporting visitors of all ages to a fantastical land with a quirky cast of characters, Animationland is an exhibition where inspiration is everywhere. Developed by the Oregon Museum of Science and Industry, it's the newest special exhibition at the Orange County Regional History Center in downtown Orlando.

Visitors to the museum step into a colorful, whimsical environment where Tracey the pencil dog and friends lead them through activities in sketching, sound, storyboarding, and stop-motion filmmaking. The exhibition highlights the playful partnership of imagination, drawing, science and storytelling at the heart of animation.

In addition to nationally touring components of the exhibition, the History Center's exhibition staff have curated a special section celebrating a remarkable chapter in Central Florida's animation history. Titled "Drawing Magic: Walt Disney Feature Animation Florida," this portion of Animationland will explore how the Orlando-based studio contributed to iconic films such as *Beauty and the Beast*, *The Lion King*, *Mulan*, and *Lilo & Stitch*, and how its artists helped shape Disney's animation renaissance.

Through studio artifacts, photographs, and artwork, visitors will get to know this special creative community, which began with Disney in 1989 and continues to flourish today more than two decades after the studio's closing.

"So many of us grew up with animated films that shaped how we imagine, dream, and tell stories," said Katie Kelley, curator of exhibitions for the History Center. "Animationland gives visitors the chance to explore that creative spark for themselves — and also to discover how a part of that story was made right here in Central Florida. It's a wonderful reminder of how creativity connects us."

While the exhibition is on view through May 3, the History Center will offer related programming. On February 15, the museum's Sensory Sunday program will celebrate Black animators and storytellers. Sensory Sundays are scheduled quarterly and provide a welcoming experience for guests with autism spectrum disorder and sensory processing sensitivity.

Then on March 8, the History Center will present a panel of animators who worked at Walt Disney Feature Animation Florida, the groundbreaking studio that operated at Disney-MGM Studios from 1989 to 2004. Other events will be listed on the museum's website.

Admission to the Orange County Regional History Center is \$10 for adults and \$6 for children. On March 8, visitors can enjoy free admission to the museum on Free Access Day. For more information, visit TheHistoryCenter.org.



ORANGE COUNTY REGIONAL HISTORY CENTER
65 E Central Blvd, Orlando, FL 32801 | TheHistoryCenter.org
(407) 836-8500 | Open Mon - Sat: 10 AM - 5 PM; Sun: 12 - 5 PM





Editor's Letter

Still Dating After "I Do"

My husband and I have been together for six years now and are coming up on two years of marriage in April. One thing we've done from the beginning—and something we still prioritize—is dating each other. Not in a big, over-the-top way. Just intentionally.

Life is busy. Our schedules are almost opposite. I work weekdays, he works nights and weekends. So our dates are rarely on a Friday or Saturday night. Most of the time, they're breakfast dates, lunch dates or a random weeknight dinner when it fits.

With Valentine's Day around the corner and love in the air, I thought it would be fun to share some of our favorite date spots.

BREAKFAST DATES

My No. 1 breakfast spot is a very unpopular opinion, especially in Florida. I'm from Georgia, so Waffle House will always be number one for me. Scotty doesn't share my enthusiasm, but he loves me enough to go anyway. Last Valentine's Day, since we couldn't do dinner, he took me to the Waffle House in Port Orange. We dressed in pink, I ordered my usual and we took over the jukebox. It was perfect.

A newer favorite close to home is Hills Chicken and Waffles in Edgewater. Family-owned, soulful and welcoming, with food that's incredible every single time.

If you're looking for a laid-back beach vibe, Toni & Joe's Patio is hard to beat. Early mornings, mimosas, spiked coffee and sunrise views over the beach—it's a whole vibe. I like the blueberry pancakes and Scotty usually gets the avocado toast.

LUNCH DATES

Prima on Sams Avenue in New Smyrna Beach is our go-to lunch date. Garlic knots, a salad and maybe a slice of pie if we're feeling wild.

Breakers is another favorite—great burgers, but I always go for the loaded chili or the blackened mahi sandwich. And we're guaranteed to run into friends, which makes it even better.

My ideal day date is hitting the Goodwill in Port Orange and then heading across the street to Filo Greek. Falafel, pita on the side and all the toppings. I could eat there every day. It's fast food done healthy.

DINNER DATES

For dinner, The Spott on Canal Street is one of our favorites. We split a lot of our meals and love sharing the filet with potato pavé and spicy green beans. Pair that with the new Brussels Sprout Caesar and you have what dreams are made of. After dinner you can head upstairs to their speakeasy for a crème brûlée and espresso martini. You're welcome.

We also love The Grille at Riverview on Flagler Avenue. It's right on the river, and the views alone make it worth the visit. We almost always head straight for the outdoor patio, even on cooler nights. They keep the heaters going, so you still get that waterfront experience without freezing. One of the best-kept secrets is their sunset menu, offered Monday through Friday from 4 to 6 p.m. It's a great way to enjoy a laid-back, romantic meal on the river without breaking the bank.

At the end of the day, dating doesn't have to be fancy or complicated. It just has to fit your life. Make the time. Happy Valentine's Day!

XO,

Tiffany Sudakis | Editor in Chief



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Real Estate Update

A Look at the 2026 Housing Market in Volusia County

Nationally, housing economists are pointing to 2026 as a year of recovery. According to National Association of REALTORS (NAR) Chief Economist Lawrence Yun, easing mortgage rates, improving affordability, and growing inventory are expected to bring more buyers back into the market. Florida is already showing early signs of that shift, with buyer activity rebounding late in 2025 and seasonal patterns beginning to normalize. Locally in Volusia County, those broader trends are taking shape, creating a more balanced and predictable market as we head into the year ahead.

Florida Realtors' Chief Economist, Brad O'Connor, reports a late year rebound in buyer activity into early 2026. "Mortgage rates fell by more than half a percentage point in the waning months of the year, and as a result, sales really responded here in the Sunshine State." This has led to a multi-month streak of positive growth for closed sales of single family homes across the state.

Local market data from the New Smyrna Beach Board of REALTORS® shows that single-family home sales in Volusia County edged up at the end of 2025. Prices remain on the higher end, but are cooling from recent peaks reflecting a healthier, more balanced market rather than a downturn. Homes are taking longer to sell, giving buyers more time while still rewarding well-priced listings. For 2026 sellers, thoughtful pricing and preparation matter more than timing alone.

Tippi Schalkham, a local mortgage professional with The Mortgage Firm, notes that buyer behavior in the market has more intention. "The mindset is shifting from wait and see to plan and adapt. As we head into 2026, it's becoming clear that today's pricing environment isn't a short-term phase. Buyers

who succeed are those adjusting expectations and focusing on what a realistic monthly payment looks like for their budget."

"The best time to buy comes down to personal readiness and long-term affordability," stated Schalkham, "not from trying to predict where rates or the market will go next." While rates remain higher than historic lows, buyers are focusing on affordability tools such as rate buydowns, seller credits, and loan product options.

For sellers, the market is placing greater emphasis on pricing and flexibility. Buyers are paying closer attention to affordability, making seller concessions and realistic pricing more important than in recent years. Properties that align with current buyer expectations are moving, while others may require additional strategy to gain traction.

Condo and townhome inventory followed a different pattern in 2025, with a slower market through much of the year in Volusia County before showing signs of recovery toward year's end. Median sale prices dipped modestly year-over-year and inventory remains higher than single-family homes. Buyers are active and have



negotiating leverage but are more selective with increased association costs and financing requirements continuing to influence decisions.

"Condo and townhome buyers, in particular, need to know that early lender involvement is essential," comments Schalkham. "Financing these properties now requires additional review of association insurance, financials, and reserves. The process can be more complex and time-consuming than financing a single-family home."

For 2026, the real estate market is shaping up to be a year of more informed decision making. With conditions varying by property type, price point, and neighborhood, local insight matters more than ever. Buyers and sellers who take the time to understand their options and choose to work with experienced local real estate and lending professionals should be best positioned to navigate the market with clarity and confidence in the year ahead.



MIMI MCKEE | 386-576-7722 | @NSBMimi

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."

Any information provided for this news column is based on personal research and analysis and does not reflect the views or opinions of Ocean Properties & Management Inc.

Insurance Insights

Florida Freezes: Protecting Your Property from Burst Pipes This Winter

When temperatures unexpectedly dip in Florida, most property owners aren't thinking about frozen pipes. They're thinking, "It won't get that cold here." Unfortunately, it doesn't take long for freezing weather to cause serious water damage.

At Trust Public Adjusting Group, we see it every year. A brief overnight freeze can turn into a major insurance claim within hours.

HERE'S WHY

When water inside plumbing lines freezes, it expands. That expansion creates intense pressure inside the pipe. If the pressure becomes too great, the pipe cracks or bursts. The real damage often occurs when temperatures rise, the ice melts, and water begins flowing into walls, ceilings, cabinetry, and flooring. What started as a small freeze can quickly become extensive interior water damage — and even mold growth.

Some frozen pipe claims escalate into six-figure losses before the homeowner even realizes what happened.

HOW TO REDUCE THE RISK

When freezing temperatures are forecasted, take proactive steps:

- Allow faucets or a bathtub to drip during freezing conditions. Moving water relieves pressure and helps prevent freezing.
- Open cabinet doors under sinks to allow warmer indoor air to circulate around pipes.
- Insulate exposed exterior plumbing and hose bibs.
- Continue dripping faucets until temperatures are safely above freezing.

Many people assume frozen pipes are only a northern problem. They are not. Florida homes are often built without the same level of pipe insulation found in colder climates, which can make them even more vulnerable during sudden freezes.

DON'T WAIT IF YOU NOTICE DAMAGE

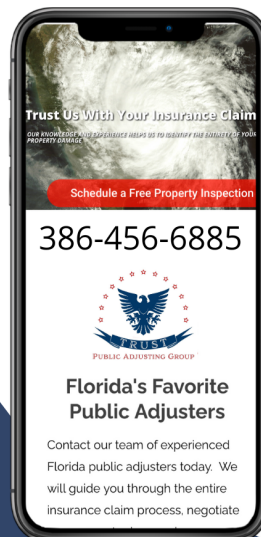
If you see water stains, bubbling paint, warped flooring, reduced water pressure, or active leaking, act immediately. Quick response is critical to limiting damage and protecting your insurance claim. Trust Public Adjusting Group represents property owners — not insurance companies. We provide free property inspections and policy reviews, even before a loss occurs. Many policies contain exclusions or limitations related to long-term leaks, maintenance,

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Bobby G Talks Love

Love, Laughter and the Little Things that Matter

Valentine's Day hits a little differently depending on who you're talking to, and after hearing from a few couples, one thing is clear: there's no rulebook. It's shaped by habits, humor, kids, timing, and sometimes just a simple gesture.

I went into Toni & Joe's Patio in NSB and realized pretty quickly it was a great opportunity to ask a simple question: What does Valentine's Day mean to you this year? What started as a casual moment turned into a real conversation, with everyone right there sharing their own take on the day.

Billy and Sarah were the first to weigh in. Friends I've known long enough to know they mean it when they say their days are always special. Valentine's Day doesn't change that—it just highlights it. Sarah made one thing clear: chocolate is part of the plan. Their way of celebrating stays true to who they are, usually with a staycation at a local Airbnb. Same town, different pace, and time carved out just for each other.

David McKenna chimed in next. With a laugh, he said jewelry is usually his move for Valentine's Day—mostly because, "Jules could always use one more piece." This year, Valentine's Day falls on a Saturday, which means he'll probably be making reservations, knowing he won't be the only one with that idea.

Standing at the bar grabbing drinks was Clayton, someone I know who works at Toni & Joe's as a server. When I asked him about Valentine's Day, he didn't overthink it. For him, it starts with asking his girlfriend to be his Valentine. It's a simple gesture, but one that matters, and something he makes sure to do each year.

Also right there was my friend Kris Gronert, who talked about how Valentine's Day has always included his kids. When they were younger, he made them virgin strawberry daiquiris, turning the day into something everyone in the family could enjoy together.



That part of the conversation made me think about my own house. My wife Tiffany makes strawberry shortcake with whipped cream for the kids, and it's become our way of celebrating Valentine's Day together as a family. As for my special lady, I always try to make her feel special. Although I usually work on Valentine's Day, I designate a day before to treat her like the queen she is.

What stood out most from my time at Toni & Joe's was how personal Valentine's Day really is. It depends on where you are in life and what the day means to you right now. Yes, it's clearly a holiday built around spending, but it's also nice to be thought of on purpose. Whether it's chocolate, jewelry, reservations, a question asked out loud, or dessert shared at home, Valentine's Day is special because people decide to make it so.

Bobby G, Hugs and Kisses



SCOTTY SUDAKIS | AKA BOBBY G

Freelance writer and frontman in 5 Time Shag. If you have something you would like to see Bobby G cover in a future article please email the editor directly at: Tiffany@ECCToldme.com



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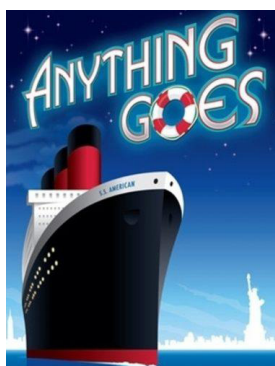
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Local Highlights



1 The Little Theatre of New Smyrna Beach Presents Two Show-Stopping Musical Events

The Little Theatre of New Smyrna Beach invites audiences to climb aboard for high seas hilarity with **Anything Goes**, the beloved, toe-tapping musical comedy bursting with romance, mistaken identities, and Cole Porter's unforgettable score. This classic crowd-pleaser delivers big laughs, dazzling dance numbers, and timeless tunes in a joyous theatrical escape.



PERFORMANCE DATES & TIMES:

Evenings at 7:30 PM – February 26 - 28;
March 5-7, 12-14
Matinees at 2 PM – March 1, 8 & 15

Tickets: Adults \$27; Students \$12;
Seniors \$26

Join this madcap musical set aboard the luxury liner S. S. American, where nightclub singer/evangelist Reno Sweeney is en route from New York to England. Her pal Billy Crocker has stowed away to be

near his love, Hope Harcourt. Hope is engaged to the wealthy Lord Evelyn Oakleigh. Joining this love triangle are Public Enemy #13, Moonface Martin and his sidekick-in-crime Erma. With the help of some elaborate disguises, tap-dancing sailors and good old-fashioned blackmail, Reno and Martin join forces to help Billy in his quest to win Hope's heart.

Keep the music going this March with **Broadway at the Beach – A Musical Revue!**



PERFORMANCE DATES & TIMES:

Evenings at 7:30 PM – March 19-21
Matinees at 2 PM – March 22

All seats are \$25

Join us as we bring you the best of Broadway right here in our beach town. Popular favorites from musicals both old and new. Our talented cast will entertain you with song and dance!

All tickets may be purchased online, by phone, or in person at the box office. For tickets, show details, and everything happening at The Little Theatre, simply scan the QR code.



The Little Theatre of New Smyrna Beach
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(386) 423-1246 | NSBplayers.org



2 Seafood Fest Brings Flavor & Fun to Port Orange

Seafood lovers unite! Join Touch of Magic Events for the 4th Annual Seafood Fest hosted at the beautiful Riverwalk Park in Port Orange on March 14. Kicking off at 12 PM, join us for a fun-filled day of food, music, and fun.

- Enjoy a wide range of seafood options from lobster rolls, crab cakes, fried fish, and seafood boils to conch fritters, hibachi, and ceviche. Non-seafood options and delicious desserts are also available.
- Shop with artisans and crafters. Support local!
- Free kid zone with face painting, balloon animals, axe throwing and more.
- The deejay will be providing musical entertainment and playing fun games for prizes!
- Bring your lawn chairs & blankets and hang out for the day.
- As always with our events, admission is FREE!

The food vendor list and menus will be posted on the Facebook event page in March.

A special thank you to sponsors Florida Window & Door and Kitchen-Saver for their support! To sponsor this event or to become a vendor, please email info@TouchOfMagicEvents.com.

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TouchOfMagicEvents.com | [@TouchOfMagicEventsLLC](https://www.instagram.com/TouchOfMagicEventsLLC)



3

FREE ASSOCIATION BOARD MEMBER CERTIFICATION CLASSES via Zoom

Presented by Wright & Casey, P.A.

Wright & Casey, P.A., is hosting a free **CONDO Board Certification** course designed to address the most critical aspects of day-to-day condominium association operations and will cover fundamental concepts of Florida Statutes Chapter 718 on **Thursday, March 12, 2026, from 10 AM to 2:30 PM**. The FREE event will take place via Zoom Videoconferencing (link provided after registration).



A separate **HOA Board Certification** course covering the fundamental concepts of Florida Statutes Chapter 720 will take place on **Tuesday, March 24, 2026, from 10 AM to 2:30 PM**, via Zoom Videoconferencing (link forthcoming).

Please RSVP by calling (386) 428-3311 or emailing Administrator@SurfCoastLaw.com so that you can secure your spot.



These courses are open to any area CONDO or HOA Board Member who wishes to attend. Upon completion of the course, attendees will receive a certificate of completion which satisfies the Florida legal requirement that board members complete certification within 90 days of taking office.

Participants will be offered guidance in the areas of the rights, roles and responsibilities of their position, meeting and quorum requirements, financial reporting and obligations and how to take a practical approach in running an association. A review of governing documents will be highlighted, and the ins-and-outs of the elections process will be addressed.

CONDO Board Certification: Thu, March 12 | 10 AM - 2:30 PM
HOA Board Certification: Tue, March 24 | 10 AM - 2:30 PM



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Certification Classes online via Zoom



4

Thank You, 2025: A Letter from Dutch Oven Bread Co.

As 2025 comes to a close, I find myself reflecting on a year that was full of both visible milestones and quieter, deeply meaningful victories.

This was the year we renovated our bakery, opened the doors to our long-awaited retail space, grew our team, and refined our products into something we're truly proud of (while still learning every day).



It's been a few months of long lines, early mornings, constant decisions, and more problem-solving than I ever imagined. But it was also a year of unexpected moments that mattered just as much—like getting to spend a few Saturday mornings off with my kids, and speaking to my daughter's fifth grade class about entrepreneurship. What I've realized is that 2025 wasn't really about revenue or recognition. It was about progress.

I grew more confident, more patient, and more compassionate—toward myself and others. I learned that abundance isn't just financial; it's a way of living. Feeling safe and proud from the inside is true success. Doing the right thing when no one is watching is real wealth. Hard decisions are often the necessary ones. And not having all the answers is not failure, it's part of the process.

This bakery is proof that you don't need everything figured out to move forward. The hardest moments became the greatest lessons, and the setbacks became part of the story.

To our investors, contractors, landlords, employees, family, friends, teachers, and customers—thank you. None of this happened alone. We are so grateful to be here, and even more excited for what's next!

With Love,

~ Candice



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Local Spotlight

Galantine's Vibes Around Volusia

While most of us know Valentine's Day, I love the growing trend in the past 10-15 years of Galentine's Day! Leslie Knope from the show "Parks and Recreation" demonstrated the power of female support and sisterhood rather than romance by explaining, "Oh, it's only the best day of the year. Every February 13th, my lady friends and I leave our husbands and our boyfriends at home, and we just come and kick it, breakfast-style. Ladies celebrating ladies." With this quote in mind, I want to highlight some local businesses that are prime for this celebration at any time of the month or year.

For the "breakfast-style" that Leslie mentions, I recommend **Casualbird**, at the base of the Dunlawton Bridge in beachside Port Orange (109 Dunlawton Blvd.). I recently went for breakfast with my friend, Adri. She had a breakfast platter and iced coffee while I had an avocado toast and a lavender, vanilla matcha latte. The bright and cheery restaurant held many groups of friends, enjoying their time and meal together. Events for "The Casual Social" girlies are often held there to highlight pop-up vendors and there's a keychain that you can purchase for discounts on dozens of local partner businesses around Volusia.



If you're going out later in the day, then check out **Wine Not?** in Ormond Beach. I went with my gal pal, Kim, to the West location, in the plaza on the corner of Clyde Morris and Granada Blvd. (1108 W. Granada Blvd.). We took part in the wine tasting, which happens every Thursday night: five small glasses of wines ranging from sweet white, to dry red, to rich port, while learning about each from the knowledgeable sommelier. We had it paired with a charcuterie board, as well. Everything was delicious but I must rave about the location itself. It looks like you're stepping into a European wine cellar! The brick walls, archways, and hanging vines make for an elegant escape.

I know I'm just mentioning places to eat, so I'll make this last one an activity: creating a charcuterie board with **The Spread Events** (4606 S. Clyde Morris Blvd, 1L, Port Orange)! Ok, still food, but you get to learn how to put elements of the board together before eating. I attended a past year's Valentine's Day workshop with both Kim and Adri where we mastered a salami rose and a strawberry heart. This year, there are two more events coming up in February: "Board To Be



Mine" for adults and "Me + You = charCUTERie" for parents and kids to work together. These are fun, hands-on workshops that you snack your way through, then bring home your new creation and skills to enjoy!

Whatever the location, time, or activity, I hope every gal gets the chance to celebrate each other. For me, I'm dedicating this month's conversation to my pre-

viously mentioned friend, Adri, as we have had great fun, adventures, and food around Volusia for the past five years. I'm excited for her as she gets married and moves out of town this month. Adri, I'm so happy for you in this new season of life! And I can't wait to "kick it, breakfast-style" again with you soon!



CASSIE GONYER | CASSIE@ECCTOLDME.COM

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 at [@CassGoAroundDaytona](https://www.instagram.com/CassGoAroundDaytona) on Instagram.

Have a story idea for Cassie? Reach out to her directly at Cassie@ECCToldMe.com — she'd love to hear from you!

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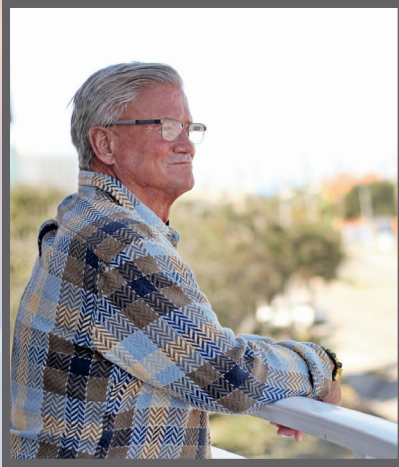
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JAMES E. GAHAN



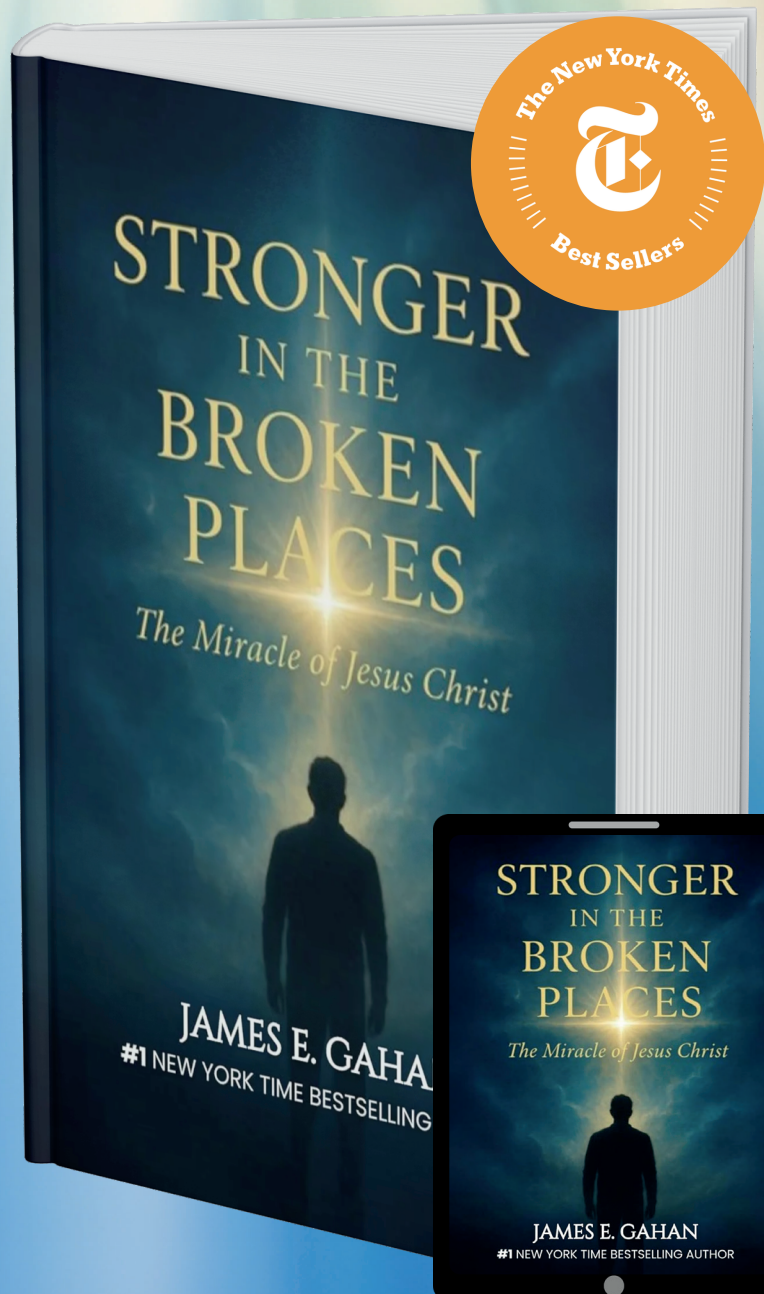
"Stronger in the Broken Places" written by New Smyrna Beach, FL resident, James E. Gahan is an awe-inspiring true story of turning tragedy into triumph—a testament to the reality of miracles, the resilience of unwavering faith, and how, in our darkest moments, God reveals the path to light.



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Local Spotlight

Stronger in the Broken Places: A Story of Survival by James E. Gahan

Sitting across from James Gahan, it's hard to reconcile the man in front of you with what he survived. There's nothing performative about him. No theatrics. Just a calm presence that feels earned. And when he starts talking, you realize pretty quickly this isn't a story you listen to casually.

James fell two stories from the walkway of an American Airlines airplane. A sudden, violent moment that changed everything. The injuries were severe enough to require numerous surgeries, and there were long stretches where he didn't know where he was or who he was. Hospitals hesitated. Some turned him away. His body was pushed to the edge again and again, and more than once he came dangerously close to not surviving an operating table.

What struck me most wasn't just the physical trauma—it was how much of himself he lost along the way. Identity, memory, certainty. All of it was stripped away while doctors worked to keep him alive. And yet, somehow, he's here. Talking. Reflecting. Moving forward.

During one of his surgeries, James described an experience that clearly stayed with him. He believes he left his body. He recalls seeing his father, who had passed, and what he understood to be God. Whether spiritual, psychological, or something shaped by trauma, it changed how he saw his life. He didn't present it as fact or proof—just as something deeply personal that brought peace at a time when everything else was chaos. That peace is what lingers when you talk to him.

His recovery wasn't clean or quick. It was uneven, painful, and uncertain. But somewhere in that process, James chose to keep going, with his devoted service dog, Jack, by his side—not just physically, but emotionally and spiritually. That choice eventually became "Stronger in the Broken Places," a book that reads less like a victory lap and more like an honest record of survival.

What's incredible isn't just that James lived through the fall, the surgeries, or the setbacks. It's that he found a way to move forward without bitterness. Without needing to convince anyone of anything. He shares his story simply because it exists—and because sometimes hearing that survival is possible is enough.



SCOTTY SUDAKIS | AKA BOBBY G

Freelance writer and frontman in 5 Time Shag. If you have something you would like to see Bobby G cover in a future article please email the editor directly at: Tiffany@ECctoldme.com



RECURRING MONTHLY EVENTS

- **Art Walk** @ Granada, Ormond
Feb 7 / Mar 7
- **Sip and Stroll** @ Canal St, NSB
Feb 7 / Mar 7
- **Art Stroll** @ Canal St, NSB
Feb 7 / Mar 7
- **Downtown Nights** @ Beach St
Feb 6 / Mar 6
- **Art Walk** @ Beach St, Daytona
Feb 6 / Mar 6
- **Cars on Canal** @ Canal St, NSB
Feb 14 / Mar 14
- **DeLand Cruise-In** @ Indiana Ave.
Feb 21 / Mar 21
- **Wine Walk** @ Flagler Ave, NSB
Feb 28 / Mar 28

REGISTER NOW!

APRIL 17 - 26, 2026

Throughout Volusia County

Jeep Beach 2026

Save the date for the largest Jeep-only charity event featuring parties, fireworks and obstacle courses - 2026 registration is open now! Visit JeepBeach.com for details.



7-8

FEB 7 - 8



SAT - SUN

Veterans Park, Daytona Beach Shores

Sun and Shores Arts Festival

Celebrate creativity by the sea at the Sun & Shores Arts Festival. This family-friendly outdoor weekend features 75 artists, live music, food trucks, and kids' activities, all in a relaxed coastal setting. It's a colorful new event bringing art, community, and seaside vibes together.



7

SAT FEB 7

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.



14

SAT FEB 14

11 AM - 3 PM

Woodland Blvd., Downtown DeLand

Mardi Gras Dog Parade & Festival

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



14

SAT FEB 14

1 - 5 PM

Flagler Ave., New Smyrna Beach

Gumbo Festival

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 FlaglerAve.com.



15

SUN FEB 15

Events schedule online

Daytona International Speedway

67th 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 about SpeedWeeks.



17

TUE FEB 17

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.



21

SAT FEB 21

9 AM - 3 PM

Lyonia Environmental Ctr, Deltona

Wildlife Festival

The festival will feature Florida wildlife presentations, environmental displays, kids' activities, and guided hikes and eco-buggy tours of Lyonia Preserve. An early-bird hike will kick off the day at 9 am. Admission is free, and food will be available for purchase.



21

SAT FEB 21

9 AM - 6 PM

Pettis Park, NSB

Black Heritage Festival

The 33rd Annual Black Heritage Festival celebrates African American culture, history, and art with live music, dance, art displays, food, and interactive activities. Featuring workshops and storytelling, the festival honors Black contributions while fostering community pride and cultural appreciation for all ages. BlackHeritage.org for details.



21

SAT FEB 21

12 - 6 PM

Riverwalk Park, Port Orange

BBQ & Bacon Fest

Join us for the Port Orange BBQ & Bacon Fest on Saturday, February 21st! Stop by Riverwalk Park from 12-6 PM to savor mouthwatering BBQ and bacon dishes. Shop with local artisans and crafters, and enjoy the free kid zone and live deejay. **Free admission!** To become a vendor, email info@touchofmagicevents.com.



21

SAT FEB 21

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.



28

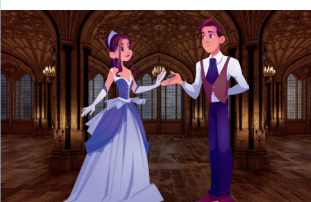
SAT FEB 28

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 February 2, at City Hall & The Southeast Volusia YMCA.



5

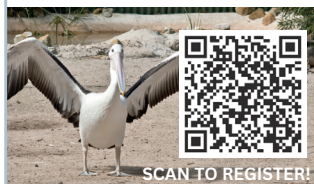
THU MAR 5

6 - 8 PM

Marine Discovery Center, NSB

Inside Look at Bird Rehabilitation

Join Katie Hellman of the Marine Science Center in Ponce Inlet, as she discusses the process of bird rehabilitation. Part of a FREE monthly lecture series, registration is required. Visit MarineDiscoveryCenter.org to register and see future lecture dates/topics.



12

THU MAR 12

10 AM - 2:30 PM



online via ZOOM

Condo Board Member Certification Online ZOOM Course

FREE course providing board member certification required by Florida Statutes and valuable information presented by community association attorneys. Presented by Wright & Casey P.A. **MUST register IN ADVANCE** by FEB 13 by contacting administrator@surfcoastlaw.com or (386) 428-3311. Zoom link provided upon registration. These courses are open to any area CONDO Board Member who wishes to attend.



14

SAT MAR 14

12 - 6 PM

Riverwalk Park, Port Orange

Seafood Fest

The Seafood Fest returns to Riverwalk Park on Saturday, March 14th kicking off at 12 PM! Join us for a fun-filled day of food, music, and fun. Enjoy a wide range of fresh seafood options, shop with local vendors, and have fun in the free kid zone. **Free admission!**



7 SAT FEB 7
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 ambience of downtown businesses. Don't miss out on the magic! \$27 tickets at DowntownDaytonaBeachEvents.com.



20 FRI FEB 20
5 - 9 PM

Orange County History Ctr., Orlando

History After Dark: Case Closed!

Step into Orange County's historic 1927 courthouse for an adult-focused night of dramatic court case reenactments, jury voting, and bizarre local legal history. Enjoy games, themed cocktails, and gallery activities between sessions. A truly unique night out! Tickets: Students \$10 • Members \$15 • General \$20 @ TheHistoryCenter.org.



27-8 FEB 27 - MAR 8 (+)
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! **OfficialBikeWeek.com**



24 TUE MAR 24 (+)
10 AM - 2:30 PM

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REGISTER NOW!



12-17 FEB 12 - 17 (+)
Schedule @ FlaglerAve.com

Flagler Ave, New Smyrna Beach

Voodoo Music Festival

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




21-22 SAT - SUN, FEB 21 - 22 (+)
10 AM - 4:30 PM

Riverside Drive, NSB

Art Fiesta

Enjoy two days full of live performances by talented musical acts and browse over 200 artists and crafters.




28 SAT FEB 28
9 AM - 4 PM

The Hub on Canal, NSB

Chalk it Up! Competition & Art Fair

Sidewalk chalk artists can register online NOW, for free, or sign up onsite the day of the event (as space allows). Chalk artists of all ages will transform sidewalks into vibrant masterpieces. Don't miss this exciting day of creativity, community, and colorful fun! Prizes awarded in various categories. HubSignatureEvents.com



11 SAT APR 11
12 - 9 PM

Tanger Outlets, Daytona Beach

Daytona Tacos & Treats Festival

Battle Bros Events presents the 2nd annual Daytona Tacos & Treats Festival on April 11th, 2026 from 12 - 9 pm at Tanger Outlets. For vendor info, visit: BattleBrosEvents.com/Vendors.



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MarineDiscoveryCenter.org/Forever-Explorers

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 02 - MIKE PERELLI
 03 - JON CABRERA
 04 - ESH & SCHIEF
 05 - 5 TIME SHAG
 06 - ARE FRIEND
 ELECTRIC
 07 - THE RANGERS
 08 - SUPER SUNDAY!
 09 - MIKE PERELLI
 10- DAVEY & FRIENDS
 11 - SAM B.
 12 - YACHT ROCK
 13 - G LOVE
 14 - SOBER CAFE
 15 - SWAMP PUPPY
 16 - MIKE PERELLI
 17 - JUNO SMILE
 18 - ESH & SCHIEF
 19 - JOINT OPERATION
 20 - JOINT
 OPERATION
 21 - PAPA WHEELIE
 22 - WAKE THE BABY
 23 - MIKE PERELLI
 24 - DAVEY &
 FRIENDS
 25 - SAM B.
 26 - 5 TIME SHAG
 27 - SOBER CAFE
 28 - THE CLICK
 Music Starts at 8:30pm



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Style Staples

Love at First Layer: 3 Wardrobe Staples Worth Holding Onto

This February, I'm spotlighting three wardrobe staples worth holding onto. And ladies and gents, I finally got my hands on the viral Zara jacket that has been everywhere on TikTok. Believe it or not, it was the last one, hidden deep in the racks like a fashion Easter egg.

As mentioned in past issues, the focus right now is on high collars and strong structural form. This jacket delivers both. With its sculpted silhouette and elevated leather texture, it instantly sharpens any look. It feels runway-inspired without being overdone, making it a true keeper.

Next up, wedge heels. Fashion blogs and street style alike are confirming their return, and this season's versions feel modern and intentional. Wedges offer height without the struggle and bring a subtle statement to everyday dressing. They are effortless, wearable and surprisingly chic.

Wedges pair perfectly with intention denim. These are not ripped, distressed or ultra-low-rise jeans. Instead, the emphasis is on clean lines, thoughtful construction and flattering structure. Straight-leg or softly structured silhouettes that sit comfortably at the waist are leading the way this season.

Together, a structured jacket, modern wedge heels and intention denim create a look that feels current without trying too hard. Polished, confident and versatile, it is the kind of style that carries you through Valentine's Day and far beyond.

GET THE LOOK

Jacket & Denim: ZARA | @zara

Wedge Heels: Steve Madden | @stevemadden

Stylist/Blog/Photo: Danielle Napolitano | @daniellenapolitano



DANIELLE NAPOLITANO | @daniellenapolitano

A Miami Beach-based hairstylist, fashion stylist, and product developer at ALFA MFG. Known for her creativity and trend expertise, she brings a unique blend of artistry and innovation to the fashion and beauty industry. Contact: Danielle@Alfamfg.com

Florida *or Bust*

Where History Meets the River: Exploring Suwannee County

There's something about North Florida that invites you to slow down—really slow down—and our family's recent trip to Live Oak and Suwannee County delivered exactly that kind of reset. ECC readers may remember Suwannee Music Park from past adventures; it's a place we return to year after year for winter festivals and holiday lights, and one of our favorite camping spots anywhere in the state. Tucked along the Suwannee River, sprawling across 800 wooded acres, it somehow manages to feel both secluded and convenient, with town just a short drive away.

In recent years, though, our visits have been plagued by what we jokingly call the "Curse of the Camper..." rain, rain, and more rain. Those soggy trips kept us close to camp and sent us indoors. This time? Clear blue skies and perfectly mild 70-degree days.

We brought along Avery's beloved sidekick, Bam-Bam—the youngest of our three dogs and a rescued terrier mix—while his older siblings enjoyed a spoiled staycation with the grandparents.

One afternoon was spent hiking Suwannee River State Park, where nature and history are deeply intertwined. Trails wind past remnants of 19th-century steamship travel, Civil War earthworks built to defend the railroad crossing at the former town of Columbus, and two ghost towns slowly reclaimed by sandhill wilderness. The most haunting discoveries were the small cemeteries tucked into the woods, with headstones dating back as early as 1862.

The following day took us to nearby White Springs and a long-awaited stop on our family's Florida Bucket List at Big Shoals State Park, home to Florida's only Class III whitewater rapids. Hiking out to the overlook, we were nearly alone, accompanied only by the crunch of our footsteps, Avery's chatter, and the distant roar of rushing water. It felt like we'd stumbled into our own private corner of the state.

What we found on this trip wasn't a packed itinerary—it was an easy rhythm. Campfire meals, hammock reading, bark-and-leaf boats drifting downriver, and long stretches of doing absolutely nothing together. And honestly? That was the best part.

What's next for our Live Oak visits? Nearby Olustee Battlefield and checking a few more springs off that bucket list. Until then, you can find more ideas for exploring Suwannee County and North Florida at VisitSuwannee.com and VisitFlorida.com.

Spirit of the Suwannee Music Park | 3076 95th Dr, Live Oak 32060
Suwannee River State Park | 3631 201st Path, Live Oak 32060
Big Shoals State Park | 18738 SE 94 St, White Springs 32096



The Walters Family loves adventure and exploring Florida together. Kelsey Walters, CFO and co-owner of East Coast Current, is a professional photojournalist specializing in travel and documentary photography. Her husband, Scott, originally from Connecticut, has lived in Florida since age 11. Their 7-year-old daughter, Avery, enjoys joining their monthly adventures and playing with the family's dogs, Kodi, Bluey, and BamBam.

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Looking Ahead

NSBBOR® Reflects on 2025 Accomplishments and 2026 Goals



The New Smyrna Beach Board of Realtors® made meaningful progress in 2025 through a strong focus on member engagement, professional development, innovation, and community involvement. These accomplishments reflect the Association's commitment to delivering value while strengthening connections among members and within the community.

Throughout the year, NSBBOR® expanded leadership and communication efforts with initiatives such as Leadership Taster, the Ambassador Program, the Making a Splash podcast, and a new member drip campaign.

Professional development remained a priority with programs like the Lancaster Institute and Power Hour Series, while improved event scheduling helped increase accessibility and attendance. Innovation also played a key role, with the launch of new programs and products including Commercial Connections, Platinum Coast Society, Trusted Only, MyCondoPlans, CubiCasa, and expanded committee offerings.

Community involvement continued to be a cornerstone of the Association's mission. In 2025, members participated in monthly Habitat for Humanity builds, contributed over \$50,000 to community efforts, and volunteered more than 100 hours supporting local initiatives.

Looking ahead to 2026, NSBBOR® is focused on advancing its strategic priorities of Members First, Professional Advancement, Community, and Advocacy. Goals include strengthening organizational readiness, expanding regional collaboration, enhancing member communications, advancing market expertise, and growing the New Smyrna Beach Board of Realtors® Foundation to deepen community impact.



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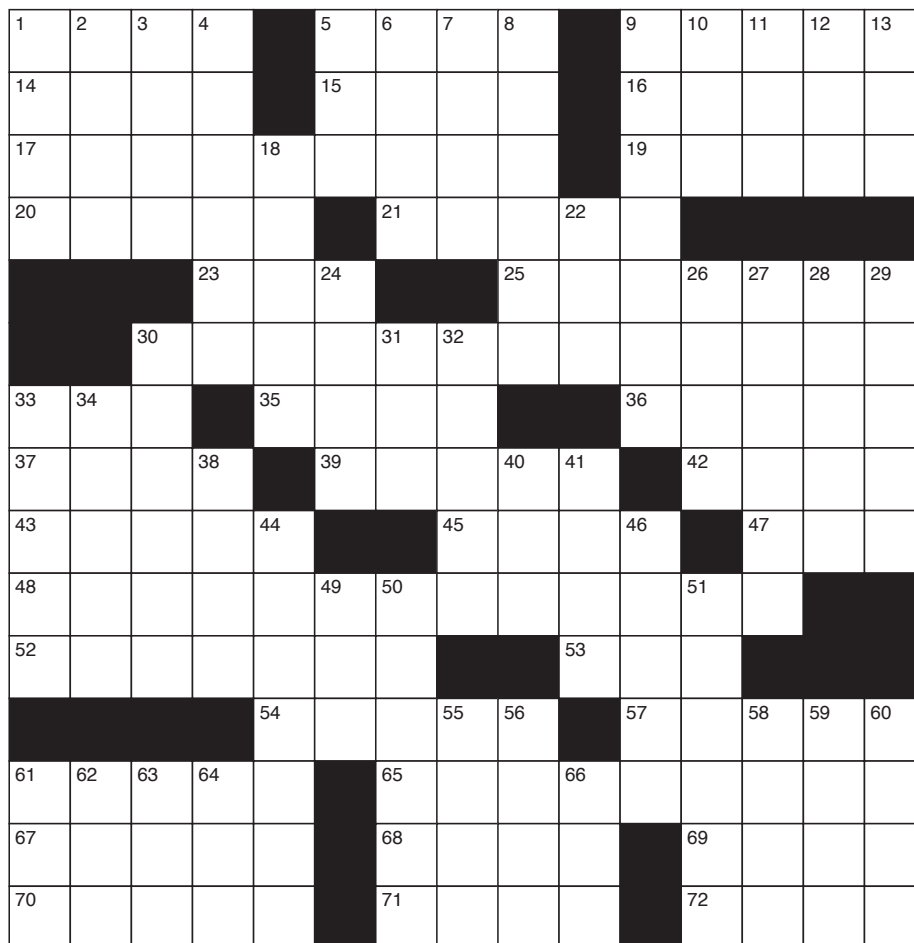
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Across

1. Nonfiction program, for short
5. ____ the Hoople
9. "____ you're happy!"
14. Aware of
15. "____ sight!"
16. Biblical prophet
17. Winter pileup
19. Hindu loincloth
20. Tint
21. Major mixup
23. Far out
25. Army of ordinary citizens
30. Reluctance
33. First three letters of a Beatles song
35. Volcano flow
36. Fitzgerald and Cinders
37. Early time of day
39. Impertinent
42. Pasta ____ carbonara
43. Nymph in a fountain
45. Big-screen beekeeper
47. Massachusetts' state tree
48. Stuff in a practical jokester's arsenal
52. Mortified
53. Escalade or Explorer
54. Scrimshaw source
57. Sorceress with a thing for Ulysses
61. Off-duty garb
65. Athlete's feat, maybe
67. Sports shoe attachment
68. Stuck-up sort
69. Too, too cute
70. Stares open-mouthed
71. Baseball Hall of Famer Cuyler
72. Crystal ball gazer



JANUARY 2026 ANSWERS



Down

1. Kind of jockey
2. Words before occasion or account
3. Refrigerate
4. Like clothing with tags still attached
5. N. African nation
6. Affirmatives in Arles
7. Tigger's initial goodbye?
8. Japanese straw mat
9. Have a decadent dessert, e.g.
10. Skeptical laugh
11. Palindromic exclamation
12. Propel, as a shot
13. RCA competitor
18. Sign of a Southerner, perhaps
22. Snorkeling accessory
24. Old phone part
26. "To Live and Die ____" (1985 film)
27. Penn pal
28. "Love ____ Around"
29. Tea-exporting Indian state
30. Lars of Metallica
31. XIV quadrupled
32. Drink eagerly
33. ____ vincit amor
34. Sailing vessels
38. Okinawa port
40. Mideast grp.
41. Landscaper's shrubs
44. Noodleheads
46. Bring out
49. Book of the Bible: Abbr.
50. Birthplace of Solidarity
51. Casts out, in a way
55. Controversial Riefenstal
56. Endor resident
58. "Jane Shore" dramatist
59. Manitoba tribe
60. Broadway's Linda
61. One millionth of a gram (abbr.)
62. With "h," a type of dance
63. Word in a Marines slogan
64. Northern Thailand province
66. Baseball stat.

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

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

West Volusia

Exploring D Ranch Preserve: West Volusia's Newest Nature Escape

Central Florida has welcomed a new haven for outdoor enthusiasts with the opening of D Ranch Preserve, a protected natural area tucked away in Osteen. Once a working cattle ranch, the preserve now spans more than 400 acres of permanently conserved land, offering visitors an authentic glimpse of Florida's native landscape. Free to visit and open daily from sunrise to sunset, D Ranch Preserve is an easy escape for anyone looking to step away from pavement and into nature.

At the heart of the preserve is a thoughtfully designed network of trails that wind through pine flatwoods, wetlands, oak hammocks, and open pasture. The trails are mostly flat, well marked, and ideal for casual exploration, making them accessible for walkers, birdwatchers, and families. Because the land serves as a protected wildlife corridor, encounters with native species are common. Gopher tortoises often appear along sandy trail edges, while sandhill cranes forage in the grasslands. Overhead, visitors may spot bald eagles, hawks, and scrub jays, and along the tree lines, white-tailed deer and wild turkeys are frequent sights. The wide-open landscape and low crowds give the preserve a calm, unhurried atmosphere.

Adding a creative touch to the experience is the preserve's newest Wings of the West mural, located about ten minutes along the red hiking trail. Created by artist Erica Group, the bat-inspired wings highlight one of the preserve's lesser-known residents and pair naturally with the bat boxes found farther down the trail. The mural offers a photo opportunity that feels like a hidden discovery rather than a distraction.

Community involvement is a key part of life at D Ranch Preserve. On the first Tuesday of each month, volunteers gather for the First Tuesday Trail Team to help maintain the trails, often ending the morning with a casual picnic. The preserve also hosts seasonal Star Parties for stargazing and guided Explore D Ranch nature walks led by knowledgeable staff and guest experts.

Looking ahead, plans are underway for a future \$2.5 million nature center, which will serve as an educational hub focused on local ecosystems and conservation. Once completed, it will further establish D Ranch Preserve as a cornerstone of environmental stewardship in West Volusia.

A visit pairs easily with nearby experiences, including a stop at the beloved Osteen Diner or a bike ride along regional routes connecting to Titusville and the Lake Monroe Loop. Whether visiting for a quiet walk or a community event, D Ranch Preserve offers a welcoming and grounded connection to the natural side of West Volusia.

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Crummy Kitchen

Strawberry Cheesecake 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!

Total Time: 40 Minutes | Servings: 15 pancakes

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.



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



ERICA & ABE ACEVEDO

Millennial foodies Erica and Abe are the creative duo behind The Crummy Kitchen. Known for their easy, unique, and delicious recipe ideas, they love sharing their culinary adventures with fellow food enthusiasts. Find more recipes and inspiration at thecrumbykitchen.com.

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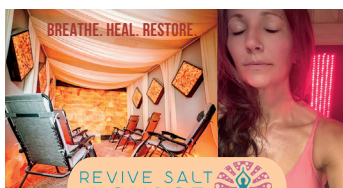
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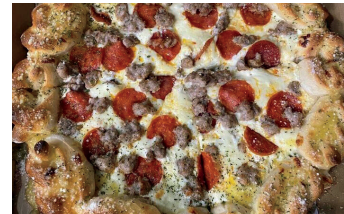
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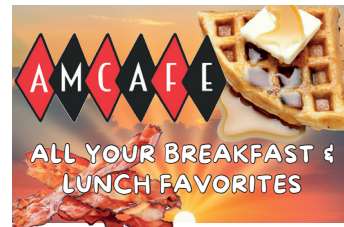


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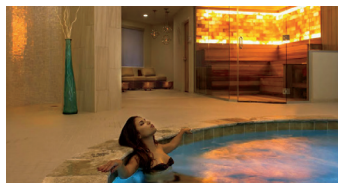
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The Boat Coach

Blow Boaters Vs Stinkpots |

Over the years there have been contentious exchanges between sailors and power boaters. Sailors often think they possess superior skills compared to those that operate power boats. Which is somewhat true, a sailor must know how to use the wind to get from point A to point B. Power boaters just point. However, all boating, whether power or sail, requires unique knowledge and skills to operate safely, considerably and competently.

Sailboats use wind as their primary form of propulsion, offering relatively quiet, long-range, fuel-free voyages. However, sailors rely on the weather and require more skill and knowledge, handling halyards, sheets and winches for trimming sails, tacking, jibing, etc. Since sailboats cannot sail into the wind, knowledge for navigating to points upwind is essential.


Powerboaters generally use internal combustion engines, mostly diesel or gas, for propulsion and expediency, offering direct routes while consuming fuel. Electric motors have recently gained a foothold on powering boats, however, have not gained popular appeal.

Owning both power and sailboats would be ideal. But the cost of owning, maintaining and storing two boats is impractical. In the end, the choice hinges on priorities: the journey (sail) versus the destination (power), balancing freedom from fuel with the reliability and amenities of engine power, with navigation rules giving sail a right-of-way advantage.

PROS AND CONS OF POWERBOATS

Pros: Speed-powerboats are most often much faster than sailboats. Direct routes, no tacking because of wind direction. Because powerboats often have a greater beam and cabin height, powerboats often offer more space and amenities. Sailboats have deep keels and rudders. Powerboats often have a shallower draft for shallow water/beaches and no mast height issues under bridges. Powerboats are also easier to maneuver in close quarters, like dockside restaurants and marinas.

Cons: High fuel costs (especially large yachts)-marine fuel can run much higher than on the street. Yachts can cost tens of thousands of dollars to fuel. Power boats may be noisy. Then there is engine(s) and equipment maintenance. Additionally, powerboats are limited in range by the capacity of the fuel tank(s).



Sailing and power boating offer very different on-the-water experiences, each with unique advantages and limitations. Sailboats depend on wind conditions and navigation skill, while powerboats provide speed, flexibility and direct travel routes at the cost of fuel consumption. Both demand proper training, situational awareness and adherence to navigation rules. Safe boating begins with understanding your vessel and its capabilities.

Best for: Day trips and accessing shallow areas on smaller open boats. Convenience, amenities and speed to destinations on larger powerboats and luxurious cruising and overnighting on cabin boats and yachts.



PROS AND CONS OF SAILBOATS

Pros: Lower fuel cost. Most larger sailboats have auxiliary engines for maneuvering in marinas and when the wind lets them down. With unlimited range with wind, many sailors have circumnavigated the globe. The experience of sailing is often peaceful, quiet, and eco-friendly. The initial cost and maintenance can be cheaper to operate long-term. Sailboats are great for offshore cruising.

Cons: Dependent on wind. Often much slower (avg. 6-7 knots), a trip to the Gulf Stream from Ponce Inlet can take as little as one-hour with a powerboat. It would take 4-5 hours for a typical sailboat. Sailboats have complex rigging/maintenance (sails, rigging). Most often sailboats offer less living space and deeper draft to operate in. Sailboats often don't respond to the helm quickly at reduced speeds making them harder to maneuver in close quarters. A major con is that a sailboat cannot outrun storms. A day's sail can turn into quite an adventure if the weather suddenly changes.

Best for: The experience and sensation of sailing. Economical long-distance cruising, environmental focus, adventure. Gaining knowledge of weather and environment.

If you are choosing between power and sail, consider your boating goals, budget and destinations. Try out any boats you are considering before you purchase by attending a demo-day at a manufacturer or dealership. Do a sea trial before closing.

We'll be seeing you on the water.



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Born with the water gene, Captain Mark found his passions early: swimming, surfing and sailing. A naval electronics engineer and U.S. Coast Guard Master Mariner, he's spent 30 years helping others improve their boating experiences in NSB.

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Backwater *Fishing* Report

Best Days to Fish:
February: 1-3, 7-8, 14-19, 23-25

Bringing in the new year has brought in a very hot bite — and the fish are definitely cooperating. Redfish, trout, and snook are stacked up in schools around large pods of mullet, finger mullet, and shrimp.

Water clarity right now is outstanding, making for excellent sight fishing. My good friend Dave McKinnon and I have been on a tear lately, throwing one-eighth-ounce jig heads with white paddle tails and consistently catching trout, redfish, and snook.

As water temperatures continue to cool, the mullet pods are getting bigger and more concentrated. With late January bringing record-low cold snaps, fish schools should only become more abundant. Looking ahead to February, expect the bite to heat up even more, especially with the continued clear water helping sight fishermen.

If you're fishing live mullet, I recommend hooking a circle hook through the anal fin or using chunk mullet — both work well depending on your target. I prefer hooking through the anal fin for larger trout and snook, while big redfish tend to favor chunk mullet.

I also finally got to take Michael Mann, product manufacturer for Tupat's Authentic Sauces, out on the water. We enjoyed a great day and caught an abundance of fish.

Cast Em... Hook Em... And Catch Em!



PATRICK "TUPAT" EICHSTAEDT | @THEREALTUPAT

A seasoned fishing guide with an unparalleled knowledge of the area's backwaters. Beyond the boat, he's a talented photographer, capturing the natural beauty of Florida's coast. Patrick is also the creator of Tupat's Hawaiian Poke Sauce, a culinary favorite featured on menus throughout the United States.



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Ponce Inlet February Tide Chart



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Ponce De Leon Inlet South, FL - Feb 2026

Date		High				Low						Moon
		AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft			
1	Sun	7:47	3.5	8:02	2.8	1:06	-0.7	2:01	-0.4	7:12	6:02	
2	Mon	8:34	3.5	8:51	2.9	1:58	-0.7	2:44	-0.4	7:11	6:03	
3	Tue	9:17	3.3	9:37	2.9	2:46	-0.7	3:24	-0.4	7:10	6:04	
4	Wed	9:58	3.1	10:22	2.9	3:32	-0.5	4:04	-0.4	7:10	6:04	
5	Thu	10:38	2.9	11:06	2.9	4:20	-0.3	4:44	-0.3	7:09	6:05	
6	Fri	11:17	2.6	11:51	2.8	5:11	0.0	5:26	-0.2	7:08	6:06	
7	Sat	11:58	2.4			6:05	0.2	6:10	-0.1	7:08	6:07	
8	Sun	12:38	2.7	12:42	2.2	6:59	0.3	6:55	0.0	7:07	6:08	
9	Mon	1:29	2.6	1:34	2.0	7:53	0.4	7:43	0.1	7:06	6:08	
10	Tue	2:29	2.6	2:37	1.9	8:50	0.5	8:36	0.2	7:06	6:09	
11	Wed	3:34	2.6	3:45	1.9	9:50	0.5	9:33	0.1	7:05	6:10	
12	Thu	4:32	2.7	4:43	2.0	10:48	0.4	10:30	0.1	7:04	6:11	
13	Fri	5:23	2.8	5:33	2.1	11:41	0.3	11:23	0.0	7:03	6:11	
14	Sat	6:10	2.9	6:20	2.2			12:27	0.2	7:02	6:12	
15	Sun	6:54	3.0	7:05	2.4	12:11	-0.2	1:08	0.1	7:02	6:13	
16	Mon	7:35	3.1	7:49	2.5	12:56	-0.3	1:45	-0.1	7:01	6:14	
17	Tue	8:15	3.2	8:30	2.7	1:39	-0.3	2:19	-0.2	7:00	6:14	
18	Wed	8:52	3.1	9:10	2.8	2:20	-0.4	2:52	-0.3	6:59	6:15	
19	Thu	9:30	3.1	9:50	3.0	3:03	-0.4	3:27	-0.3	6:58	6:16	
20	Fri	10:09	2.9	10:33	3.1	3:48	-0.3	4:06	-0.3	6:57	6:17	
21	Sat	10:51	2.7	11:22	3.1	4:41	-0.2	4:50	-0.3	6:56	6:17	
22	Sun	11:39	2.5			5:41	0.0	5:42	-0.3	6:55	6:18	
23	Mon	12:16	3.1	12:33	2.4	6:45	0.1	6:41	-0.2	6:54	6:19	
24	Tue	1:19	3.1	1:38	2.2	7:50	0.2	7:42	-0.2	6:53	6:19	
25	Wed	2:33	3.1	2:54	2.2	8:58	0.2	8:48	-0.2	6:52	6:20	
26	Thu	3:47	3.1	4:07	2.3	10:06	0.2	9:57	-0.3	6:51	6:21	
27	Fri	4:51	3.2	5:09	2.5	11:09	0.1	11:02	-0.4	6:50	6:22	
28	Sat	5:47	3.3	6:04	2.7			12:04	0.0	6:49	6:22	

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SLIPKNOT

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DANCE GAVIN DANCE
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THE ATARIS

FIVE FINGER
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IN FLAMES
ALL THAT REMAINS

TURNSTILE

Parliament
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APPEARANCE

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SICK PUPPIES
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with LACEY STORM

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VELA WOLF
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A DAY TO REMEMBER

YELLOWCARD

SLEEPING W/ SIRENS

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FROM FIRST TO LAST
VOILA

ICE NINE KILLS
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THE READY SET
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CARCASS
DYING FETUS
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DEVILDRIVER
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NEKROGOLIKON
PSYCHOSTICK
GALACTIC EMPIRE

ARCHITECTS

POLARIS

THROWN
MAKE THEM SUFFER
THORNHILL
HOUSE OF PROTECTION
JILUKA
WOLVES AT THE GATE

MAYDAY PARADE
STORY OF THE YEAR

THE WONDER YEARS
STATE CHAMPS
WE THE KINGS
SENSES FAIL
AMBERLIN
FOUR YEAR STRONG
THE PARADOX

SEVENDUST

STATIEX

SALIVA
DROWNING POOL
DOPE
NONPOINT
EGYPT CENTRAL
SPINESHANK
PRIMER 55

BADFLOWER

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BIFFY CLYRD
10 YEARS
DEAD POET SOCIETY
THE HAUNT
COLORBLIND
IF NOT FOR ME

SEPULTURA

COAL chamber

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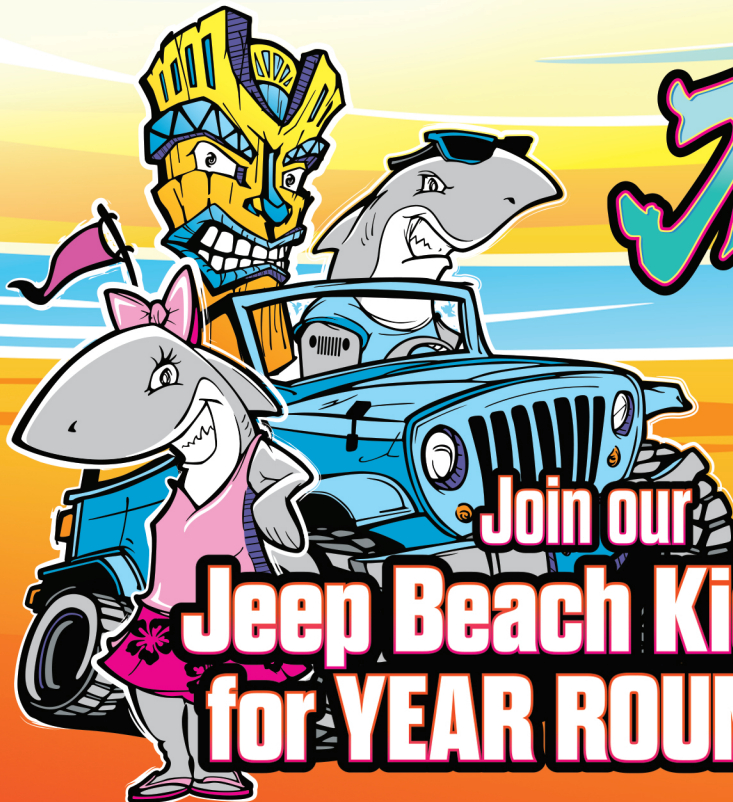
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