



EAST COAST CURRENT
JUNE 2026

Local Spotlight

THE SAND WITCH TRUCK ADDS SECOND BEACH LOCATION

+ WICKED GOOD 'WICHES
AND THE BEST BREWS



SNAPPER STANDOFF

Florida's red snapper debate is back in the spotlight.

EVENT CALENDAR

What's going on throughout Volusia County this month.

TRAVEL FLOR BUST

Winter Park's train station leads straight into downtown charm.

THE BOAT COACH

Summer sandbar season is back, which one is right for you?

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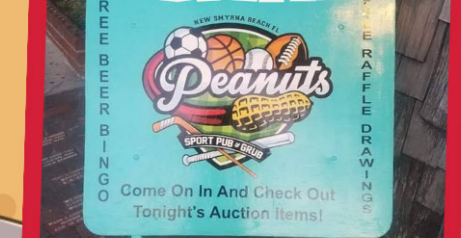
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- FRI. 05 - LOUNGE LYZARDS - 9PM**
- SAT. 06 - NSB UNDERCOVER - 9PM**
- SUN. 07 - NUTHOUSE JAM - 7PM**
- THU. 11 - SALTWATER GROOVE - 8PM**
- FRI. 12 - CHEAP THRILLS BAND - 9PM**
- SAT. 13 - CHEAP THRILLS BAND - 9PM**
- SUN. 14 - NUTHOUSE JAM - 7PM**
- THU. 18 - THE JOHNCATS - 8PM**
- FRI. 19 - SECOND SHIFT - 9PM**
- SAT. 20 - BIKE & BAR DJ AT 2PM**
- SAT. 20 - POP CULTURE POETS - 9PM**
- SUN. 21 - NUTHOUSE JAM - 7PM**
- THU. 25 - SOBER CAFE - 8PM**
- FRI. 26 - THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID - 9PM**
- SAT. 27 - INSOMNIA - 4PM**
- SUN. 31 - NUTHOUSE JAM - 7PM**

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THE SAND WITCH TRUCK



What's Inside

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Editor's Letter



Meet Ping: The Pup Who Completed Our Home

June has already brought some exciting changes to our house and honestly, I am so ready for this season of life. After months of renovations, projects, dust and living in what felt like a never ending construction zone, we are finally done. Hooray. Our home finally feels like home again and somehow right on cue, our family grew a little too.

Meet Ping. Ping is our almost 3-year-old Pomeranian pup who we adopted through Sophie's Circle, a local organization that started as a pet food pantry and has grown into something much bigger by rescuing and rehoming dogs. Ping was technically a rehome and her original name was Ping Pong which, while adorable, felt like a bit of a mouthful. So naturally, we shortened it to Ping and honestly, it fits her perfectly.

She is energetic, sweet, full of life and instantly became my little shadow.

When we decided we were finally ready to add another dog into our lives, we knew a few things right away. We wanted to adopt locally. We wanted a younger dog and we wanted something smaller that would fit well into our home and lifestyle. A smaller dog also makes traveling easier which definitely matters for our family.

There are a handful of local rescue organizations I constantly follow on social media and support because they do incredible work connecting animals with forever homes. I kept a close eye on (AKA, cyber stalked) Edgewater Animal Shelter, Florida Pointer Rescue, Sophie's Circle and Halifax Humane Society. These organizations are active in our community every single day and if you are looking to adopt, foster, volunteer or donate, they absolutely deserve your support.

Edgewater Animal Shelter is where we adopted our cats, Cheese and Chino, who are brother and sister from the same litter and complete royalty in our house. Truly celebrities.

Florida Pointer Rescue also hosts adoption events every Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Pet Supermarket on State Road 44 in the Publix shopping plaza which is such a great opportunity for families looking to meet adoptable dogs in person.

Late one night while scrolling in bed, I came across the cutest photos I had ever seen. A tiny white Pomeranian named Ping Pong had just been posted by Sophie's Circle. I immediately checked the comments and nobody had shown interest yet.

I already had adoption applications submitted at several organizations because Bailey and I had been looking for a while. We even met a few dogs but nothing felt quite right for our family.

The second I saw Ping, I knew. I commented immediately. Then sent a Facebook message. Then emailed. Then followed up again the next morning trying very hard not to text too early. Needless to say, I was first in line pending the application process.

The best part of this whole story is that Bailey has wanted a Pomeranian since second grade. Every birthday, every Christmas and every gift idea somehow involved a Pomeranian. She had the stuffed animals, the pajama pants and now finally, she has her very own fluffy little best friend.

And trust me, Ping was worth the wait.

XO,

Tiffany Sudakis | Editor in Chief



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East Coast Current, a Volusia County-based magazine, has spent the past decade highlighting the people, businesses, and events that make our community special. Trusted by readers for the latest in community events, valuable information, and resources, ECC is committed to sharing stories that inspire, connect, and uplift. The magazine has remained a steadfast source of positivity and connection, and is celebrating 11 years in business this year. The views and opinions expressed by contributors are their own and do not necessarily reflect those of the publication or its staff.

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Local News

Redevelopment Proposal Brings Opportunity and Concern to New Smyrna Beach

A long-vacant former railway maintenance yard in New Smyrna Beach, Florida could soon become a major retail corridor. At a public meeting held on May 12, 2026, city commissioners voted 4-to-1 to rezone one of the city's largest undeveloped commercial properties from Industrial to Planned Unit Development (PUD) for a proposed Sprouts Farmers Market and T.J. Maxx-anchored retail project. The property is located at the intersection of State Road 44 and South Myrtle Avenue, 3 miles from the beach.

Conceptual site plans submitted by GBT Realty show a proposed retail center featuring a 23,262-square-foot Sprouts Farmers Market, a 24,000-square-foot T.J. Maxx, smaller retail spaces, outparcels and more than 300 parking spaces along South Myrtle Avenue.

The former Florida East Coast Railway property is designated as a brownfield site. According to the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP), brownfields are properties where redevelopment may be complicated by actual or perceived environmental contamination, often tied to previous industrial or commercial use.

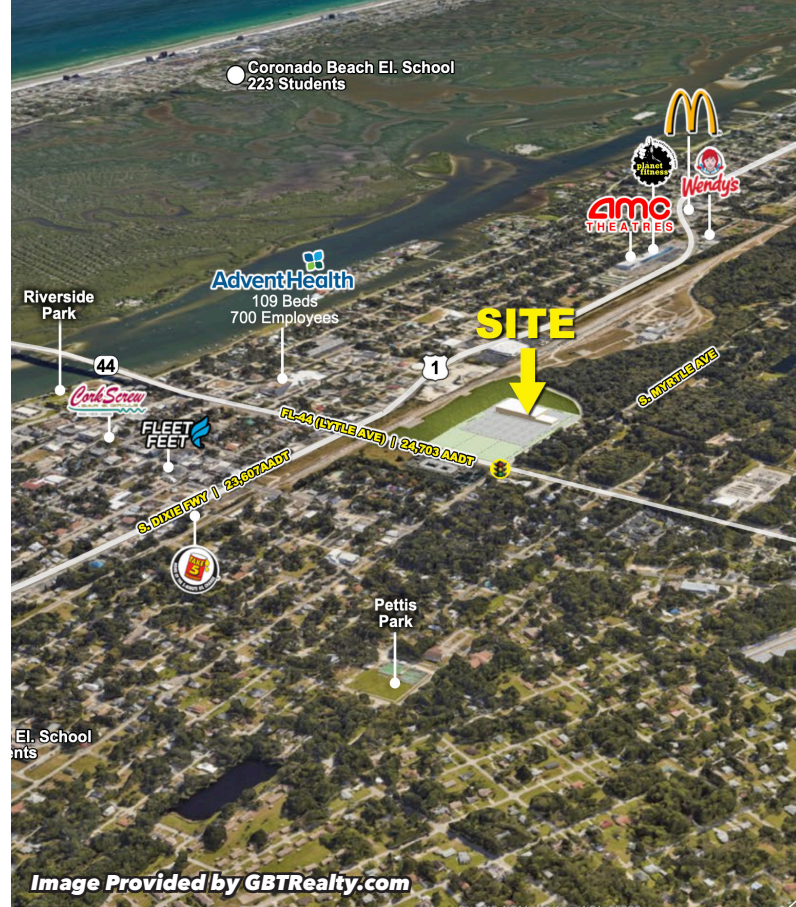
"The site has remained undeveloped for the past 50 plus years because of contamination," said Brad Gifford, New Smyrna Beach local and Commercial Associate with NAI Realvest/Charles Wayne Properties. Gifford has represented the site and current owner for over a decade. "We have had the site under contract a handful of times." He described environmental cleanup as both difficult and costly, noting that many contaminated properties often become financially stagnant because lenders are hesitant to finance them.

"The developer is willing to clean up the contamination on their own," added Gifford. According to the FDEP, petroleum contamination from former rail and industrial operations can require removal of contaminated soil, groundwater monitoring and other remediation measures before redevelopment can move forward.

Online discussion surrounding the proposed development reflected a broader divide within the community, as residents, former residents and visitors debated whether the project represents needed redevelopment or another step toward overdevelopment. While supporters described the proposal as an economic opportunity for a long-vacant property, critics raised concerns about traffic congestion, infrastructure, pedestrian safety and the future character of one of the city's primary gateway corridors.

Among those voicing concerns is Volusia County Council District 3 candidate and New Smyrna Beach native Bryon White, whose "Slow the Growth" campaign platform focuses on conservation, infrastructure and managing urban sprawl.

"From the preliminary renderings,



An aerial rendering shows the proposed retail development site at the intersection of State Road 44 and South Myrtle Avenue in New Smyrna Beach. The long-vacant former rail yard could soon become home to a Sprouts Farmers Market, T.J. Maxx and additional retail space.

the project looks like any other suburban strip mall in America," White said. "I think the developer can do better than that, and I think we deserve better." He also raised concerns about the flexibility allowed within the PUD zoning and whether future design changes could occur without additional public review.

Representatives for GBT Realty declined to comment on the project at this time, stating the company typically waits until the approval process is complete before discussing developments publicly.

"Discipline growth or growth will discipline you," White said.

He is encouraging residents to continue participating in the approval process as the project moves into future site plan review, where concerns involving traffic, pedestrian safety, landscaping and design standards may still be addressed.

Scan the QR code below to view conceptual renderings and project details for the proposed New Smyrna Beach retail development by GBT Realty.



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*

Waiting to File an Insurance Claim Could Cost You More Than You Think

One of the biggest mistakes property owners make after discovering damage is waiting too long to file an insurance claim. Many people hesitate because they are afraid their rates will go up or their insurance company will “drop” them. Unfortunately, that fear often causes homeowners to unknowingly hurt both their property and their ability to recover what they are owed.

The longer damage sits, the worse it can become. Small roof leaks can turn into major interior water damage, mold, flooring issues, and structural concerns. But just as important, waiting makes claims significantly harder to prove. Insurance companies often argue that delayed reporting prevented them from properly investigating the damage or that the condition worsened because repairs were not addressed sooner.

In simple terms: the longer you wait, the harder it can become to get properly paid.

At Trust Public Adjusting Group, we constantly meet homeowners who suspected storm damage months earlier but avoided filing because they were scared. The two fears we hear most are: “My premiums will go up,” or “My insurance company will drop me.” The reality is those fears are largely unfounded.

Insurance companies generally do not raise premiums because one homeowner files a legitimate storm-related claim. Most rate increases are tied to geographic risk and overall market conditions. Likewise, insurance companies cannot simply cancel a policy because you filed a valid claim for covered damage.

Ironically, many homeowners who receive roof non-renewal letters later discover the insurance company actually owes for a full roof replacement due to storm damage that should have been claimed.



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Big Witch Energy



The Sand Witch Truck Adds Second Beach Location in NSB

When I first met Tina, she had just started her first Ice Queen Truck. A couple of years later, the Queen of New Smyrna Beach has built an entire fleet rolling across the sand and streets of Volusia County. What started with ice cream has grown into something much bigger and much more delicious.

Today, Tina operates three Ice Queen Trucks and two Sand Witch Trucks, complete with one of the best logos around: a clever mermaid and witch combination that perfectly matches the brand's beachy personality.



Last year, we featured Tina as she launched her first Sand Witch Truck. This year, she's expanded again with another one now serving beachgoers from a stationary location on the sand. Depending on the tide and current beach conditions, visitors can find The Sand Witch Truck somewhere between Marianne Clancy Park and the Third Avenue beach ramp in New Smyrna Beach.

The best part? No more chasing the truck down the shoreline hoping to flag it down before it disappears in the distance, something I've personally done. Now, beachgoers can simply walk up when hunger hits and order everything from stacked deli sandwiches, bagels and wraps to cold brew coffee, dirty sodas, specialty lemonades and ice cream sundaes.

Tina teamed up with Rebecca, who brings previous food truck cooking and serving experience to the operation. Together, they've



The Sand Witch Truck is bringing fresh sandwiches, cold brews and sweet treats straight to the sand in NSB. With a new stationary beach location, beachgoers can now stop by for everything from Island Roasters coffee and dirty sodas to stacked deli sandwiches and ice cream sundaes. What started as one truck has grown into a fleet that continues serving the community both on and off the beach.



TIFFANY SUDAKIS
TIFFANY@ECCTOLDME.COM

Editor and co-owner of East Coast Current magazine. In 2014 she was recognized by Editor & Publisher Magazine as one of the "25 Under 35" innovators in the newspaper industry.

Photos by Kelsey Walters

fine tuned a menu built for beach days. The options are fresh, convenient and a welcome alternative to soggy cooler sandwiches or making an extra stop before heading onto the sand.

Make it your new morning stop. Weather permitting, beachgoers can head straight to the sand and grab their morning brew without ever leaving the beach. The Sand Witch Truck is currently the only beachside barista in the area, serving Island Roasters coffee along with cold brew creations perfect for warm summer mornings. Grab your favorite coffee concoction, listen to the sound of the waves and start the day beachside. Now, that's a summer tradition I can get behind.

The Sand Witch Truck offers a mix of indulgent treats and healthier beach friendly choices, including gluten free bread, all served with the fun energy Tina has become known for. Her newest slogan says it all: "We make wicked 'wiches and the best brews."



Tina Sabella | The Ice Queen
(386) 689-2887

The Sand Witch Truck
@thesandwitchtruck

The Ice Queen Truck
theicequeentruck.com



But Tina's business is about more than food. She continues finding ways to give back to the community by partnering with local nonprofits like the Marine Science Center and donating portions of sales to support local causes.

After our recent photo shoot, Tina, Rebecca, Kelsey and I sat down together for lunch and plenty of laughs. Beyond being a successful entrepreneur, she's someone I've always connected with personally, she is kind, smart, funny and endlessly creative. A combination I admire.

Beyond the beach, Tina and her fleet can be found just about everywhere in the community. From neighborhood events and local business pop ups to weddings, private parties and corporate gatherings. Her ability to create an experience instead of simply serving food is part of what keeps people booking her trucks again and again. One thing is certain: whether it's on the sand or at a special event, the queen is always finding new ways to grow her hive.



Visitors can find The Sand Witch Truck somewhere between Marianne Clancy Park and the Third Avenue beach ramp in New Smyrna Beach, depending on the tide and current beach conditions. If you are interested in working with The Ice Queen or The Sand Witch Truck contact Tina directly. She is looking forward to hearing from you.

#ECC Told Me

Local Highlights

1



The Little Theatre of NSB Presents Two Patriotic Events Celebrating America's 250th



The Little Theatre of New Smyrna Beach invites audiences to celebrate America's 250th birthday with two exciting special events filled with music, history, humor, and patriotic spirit, all for just \$10 each!

PERFORMANCE DATES & TIMES:

Ben Franklin: An Ingenious Life – July 3 at 7:30 PM; July 4 & 5 at 2 PM
4th of July Concert – July 4 at 6 PM

The celebration begins with **Ben Franklin: An Ingenious Life**, a theatrical gem not to be missed. Written and performed by Ray Flynt, this one-man play imagines Benjamin Franklin late in his remarkable life, welcoming visitors into his Philadelphia home. With warmth, wit, and insight, Franklin reflects on a life of invention, diplomacy, discovery, and revolution - the extraordinary journey of the man who "snatched lightning from the clouds and scepters from the hands of tyrants."



Running a little over an hour, this intimate performance offers audiences a chance to spend time with one of America's most fascinating founding figures in a way that is both entertaining and inspiring.

The festivities continue on July 4 with a lively **4th of July Concert** featuring **The Mood Swings Band** and singer performing favorite patriotic songs in front of dazzling video wall fireworks projections. Audiences are invited to sing along, celebrate together, and enjoy an uplifting musical tribute to America.



Tickets are just \$10 for each event. **Ben Franklin: An Ingenious Life** features reserved seating, while the **4th of July Concert** is general admission. Celebrate history, music, and America's 250th at The Little Theatre of New Smyrna Beach!



The Little Theatre of New Smyrna Beach
726 E 3rd Ave, New Smyrna Beach 32169
(386) 423-1246 | NSBplayers.org



2

Dutch Oven Bread Co. Keeps Rising

When we first started making sourdough at home in 2020, we honestly had no idea where it would lead. It was just the two of us, a couple of Dutch oven pots, a lot of trial and error, and many very early mornings and late nights trying to figure out fermentation, shaping, scoring, and timing.

That's the nature of sourdough... you can read about it all day long, but so much of it comes from doing it over and over again with your own hands.

Even now, every day is a little different. Weather changes things. Temperature changes things. Sometimes the bread behaves perfectly, and sometimes it humbles you real fast.

One of the coolest parts about growing the bakery has been getting to teach other people the process and then watching them make it their own. It's hard to explain sourdough unless you've worked with it. You start learning how the dough should feel and look at different stages, and when it's ready without needing a timer for every step.



There are mornings now where we can step back and watch our team shaping loaves, loading ovens, and baking bread beautifully and consistently. Honestly, it's a pretty surreal feeling! What started in our home kitchen has turned into something shared with a whole team of people who care to learn about the craft just as much as we do.

And for that, we are grateful!

- Candice



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3 Mark Your Calendars for Upcoming Touch of Magic Events

Touch of Magic Events is based in Daytona Beach and hosts free community events in Volusia County as well as in the Kissimmee, Lakeland, Melbourne, and Tampa areas. Our focus is to provide a fun-filled day for attendees while connecting them with important local programs, services, and resources in the community.

All events offer free admission and free activities so that everyone can enjoy what the events have to offer. Below is our event schedule in Volusia from August to January. We hope to see you at one of our events!

UPCOMING EVENTS

WOMEN'S DAY BRANNON CTR 11AM-4PM	AUG 23	TACO & EMPANADA FEST THE JACK 12PM-6PM	SEPT 19
HALLOWEEN BASH TRUNK-OR-TREAT THE JACK 11AM-3PM	OCT 17	SENIOR EXPO BRANNON CTR 11AM-3PM	NOV 22
HOLIDAY MARKET RIVERFRONT ESPL 10AM-3PM	NOV 28	BRIDAL EXPO BRANNON CTR 12PM-4PM	JAN 17

◆
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Touch of Magic Events

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4

A Sweet Tradition Continues in New Smyrna Beach

Serving up soft serve and smiles since 1953, Dairy Queen has remained a beloved landmark in New Smyrna Beach for generations of residents and visitors alike. Known for its classic treats and nostalgic charm, the local favorite became a gathering spot during the highway culture boom of the 1950s and 1960s and continues to welcome customers more than 70 years later.



Now in its third generation of family ownership, the Dairy Queen has preserved the traditions that made it a staple in the community while embracing thoughtful improvements over the years. In 2007, owner Jason McGuirk oversaw renovations designed to maintain the building's historic character while enhancing the customer experience. The project included expanded seating and a larger parking area, carefully planned around the property's mature trees to create a relaxing, park-like atmosphere.



The New Smyrna Beach Dairy Queen continues to attract locals, vacationers and families looking for a familiar stop filled with memories and "old fashioned goodness." Whether guests are stopping in for a signature Blizzard, a cone or a meal with friends, the restaurant remains dedicated to the welcoming service and timeless traditions that have defined it for decades.

Visitors are invited to stop by, enjoy a favorite treat and become part of a New Smyrna Beach tradition that continues to thrive. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

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Future Learning

Volusia Schools to add Magnet Schools and Cambridge Programs

As choices in how Floridians educate their children grow with recent legislation, public school districts are having to also increase their choices of programs, courses, and facilities. I have seen this first-hand in both my full-time job as a virtual school teacher for Brevard County and as my kids attend public schools here in Volusia.

Volusia County Schools (VCS) are looking both to national programs, such as from Cambridge University, and to unique local programs and partnerships to expand opportunities for learners. I was in a District Advisory Council meeting in April where we were able to learn more about the programs and courses coming to schools for the 2026-2027 school year.

For middle schools, VCS is looking to add a new course from the Cambridge program. If a rising sixth or seventh grade student scored a level 3, 4, or 5 on their end-of-year progress monitoring state tests in May, then they are invited to take a Cambridge Lower Secondary Global Perspectives course. There will be one course per grade level, which focuses on "research, collaboration, communication, problem-solving, and global awareness," according to the district's "From Our Halls" newsletter.

The schools were chosen based on creating a direct pathway to VCS's existing Cambridge Advanced International Certificate of Education (AICE) programs at various high schools and include

Galaxy (Deltona), Campbell (Daytona Beach), Creekside (Port Orange), River Springs (Orange City), and Ormond Beach Middle Schools plus Taylor Middle-High School in Pierson. These schools are listed as phase one, with the hopes that more schools and grade levels will be added in subsequent years.

At the elementary school level, this past school year already saw the success of Edith I. Starke's STEM + Art Magnet school in DeLand. Several schools also began Dual Language Programs in lower grade levels to teach students all core subjects in both English and a foreign language, such as Spanish or French. Currently, the schools are Spirit (Deltona) for VPK through third grade; Holly Hill for VPK through second grade; Discovery (Deltona) for VPK through first grade; Freedom (DeLand) for kindergarten through second grade; George W. Marks (DeLand) for K and first grade; and Pierson for VPK and K. There will not be an expansion of schools offering this program, but the grade levels will indeed grow to accommodate the ages of the learners in the program.



More elementary schools across the district will specialize in specific programs to give families more choices and, again, the goal is to feed into programs already established at the middle schools and high schools near these young scholars. In Ormond Beach, Tomoka will become a magnet for students designated as "gifted." VCS assured us at our meeting that they would not consolidate all district gifted resources to this one school, but that it would indeed become a model for other gifted programs. Volusia Pines in Lake Helen will become a Technology and Innovation Magnet School, and Edgewater Public, George W. Marks (DeLand), and Osteen will become Agriculture Magnets, which will include community gardens on campus.

Lastly, and near and dear to my family's hearts, Turie T. Small Elementary in Daytona Beach will become a Visual and Performing Arts Magnet School. There are

already amazing art and music teachers at my daughters' school plus an extracurricular flag core and dance team. The new school year will bring a musical theater teacher on staff with the hopes of putting on school-wide productions for the students to showcase their talents to the community. This will create a direct pathway to music and arts at Campbell Middle next door and Mainland High School nearby, which features a beautiful performing arts center on International Speedway Blvd. in Daytona.

As an advocate for public schools, I believe all students should have access to a free, high-quality education. Our students are our future doctors, lawyers, actors, computer programmers, mechanics, and so much more. I am excited to see how the additions and expansions of programs in VCS will open more opportunities for our students and our community as a whole!



CASSIE GONYER | CASSIE@ECCTOLDME.COM

Lives in Daytona Beach with her husband, three daughters, two housemates, and a "doug" (dachs-hund- 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 — shed love to hear from you!



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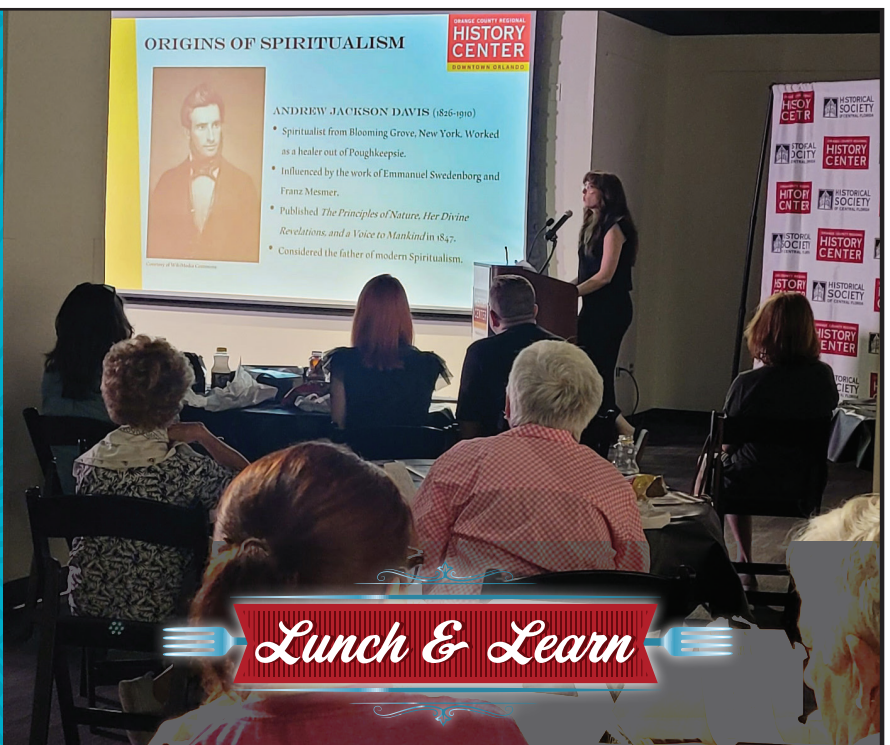
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ORIGINS OF SPIRITUALISM

ANDREW JACKSON DAVIS (1826-1916)

- Spiritualist from Blooming Grove, New York. Worked as a healer out of Poughkeepsie.
- Influenced by the work of Emmanuel Swedenborg and Franz Mesmer.
- Published *The Principles of Nature, Her Divine Revelations, and a Voice to Mankind* in 1847.
- Considered the father of modern Spiritualism.

Lunch & Learn






Bobby G's *Local Review*

BelAroma: Where Simple Food Speaks for Itself

A few weeks ago, Tiffy and I stopped into BelAroma for a little date night action and had a really incredible meal. The food was fresh, the service was great, and there was something about the place that stuck with me after we left. So much so that I found myself thinking about it over the next few days and decided I needed to go back. For a restaurant that's only been open about four months, I was curious about what the new owners were building there, and I wanted to spend more time with the food, the atmosphere and the people behind it.

Walking back in, I immediately remembered what caught my attention the first time. Plants and greenery surround the room, microgreens are actually growing inside the restaurant, and everything feels clean, comfortable and eclectic without trying too hard. The open kitchen fills the room with incredible smells, and before long I found myself doing what I usually do when I see a menu full of things I want to try - completely abandoning any plan I had and ordering way too much food.

BelAroma, owned by Jo and Anca, serves Mediterranean cuisine and is open for lunch and dinner from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 5 to 9 p.m., Monday through Saturday. Soon there will be a patio expansion to add to the intimate space that currently seats around 32 guests.

One of the coolest details in the restaurant is the bar itself, crafted from wood harvested from a tree from President Calvin Coolidge's childhood home. It's one of those little touches that gives the place even more character.

Jo and Anca built BelAroma around a simple philosophy: Simple. Pure. Purposeful.

Jo talked about his belief that fresh, natural ingredients don't need to be overcomplicated. Pair quality ingredients together, prepare them correctly, and let the food do the talking. And let me tell you, the food had plenty to say.

On a previous visit, Tiff and I had the hummus, and the potato and kale soup with chorizo. Both were unbelievable. We also had the Chicken Piri Piri fold dough, which was loaded with



BelAroma is located inside Vision Park, a growing hub for local businesses that is also home to NSB Studios, a community-driven fitness collective offering yoga, TRX, group fitness, gentle fitness, mommy-and-me classes, tai chi, self-defense, Lyra, pole fitness, dance classes and more.

incredible flavor. Fresh ingredients, great seasoning and just really, really good. The thing was huge... so huge I had to take some home with me. There was no way I was letting something that good go to waste.

This visit started with the New Zealand green-lip mussels, and the marinara sauce immediately stood out. It had a subtle sweetness that wasn't too salty and wasn't overly acidic. Combined with the fresh flavor from the mussels, it created a perfect balance between that sweetness and the fresh flavor of the ocean.

And then there was the sourdough. Everything somehow kept leading back to the sourdough. Their slow-fermented organic sourdough starter is named Hope, after all it's a living bacteria. Crispy on the outside, soft in the middle and loaded with flavor. Every sauce immediately became something I wanted to dip bread into.

More dishes started coming out. The wild garlic shrimp was fresh and cooked perfectly. The octopus appetizer was incredibly tender and served with beautifully seasoned potatoes finished with olive oil. I also had the Mediterranean sandwich loaded with turmeric and cumin chicken, fresh tomatoes, lettuce and pickled red onions. Bright, clean flavors and definitely something I could see sharing.

They offer beer, wine, locally made probiotic drinks, sparkling waters and house-made desserts. I had

the tiramisu on my first visit and loved it, but I found myself staring at the crème brûlée this time around and already planning my next visit.

BelAroma's focus on ingredients and transparency really stands out. The restaurant is listed on the Seed Oil Scout (SOS) app, a resource used by people looking for restaurants focused on cleaner ingredients and cooking practices.

But what stayed with me the most wasn't just the food. It was Jo and Anca. Their friendliness and graciousness are hard to miss. They make you feel welcomed without making it feel forced, like they're genuinely happy you're there. You can feel the care they put into the restaurant, not just in the food but in the experience itself.

By the time I left, what stood out wasn't just the flavors or the atmosphere. It was the feeling. BelAroma feels like the kind of place where you come for dinner and leave already thinking about when you're coming back.

Head on over to 318 S. Ridgewood Ave. in NSB and don't forget to tell them who sent ya!

Bobby G, Out.



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

Photos by Kelsey Walters



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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Sports/Races/
Activities

Arts/
Performances

Music

Food & Drink

Community

RECURRING MONTHLY EVENTS

- **Art Walk** @ Granada, Ormond
June 6 / Aug 1
- **Sip and Stroll** @ Canal St, NSB
June 6 / Aug 1
- **Art Stroll** @ Canal St, NSB
June 6 / Aug 1
- **Downtown Nights** @ Beach St
June 5 / July 3
- **Art Walk** @ Beach St, Daytona
June 5 / July 3
- **Cars on Canal** @ Canal St, NSB
June 13 / July 11
- **DeLand Cruise-In** @ Indiana Ave.
June 20 / July 18
- **Wine Walk** @ Flagler Ave, NSB
June 27 / July 25

6-27 JUNE 6 - 27 

EVERY SAT @ 7:15 PM


Daytona Beach Bandshell

Star Spangled Summer

A weekly concert of the best tribute bands followed by a fireworks show over the water.

- June 6 - Stills & Nash/Creedance Clearwater tributes
- June 13 - Billy Joel tribute
- June 20 - Bon Jovi tribute
- June 27 - Beatles tribute
- July 4 - Eagles tribute



7-11 JUNE 7, 9 & 11 


7 - 10 PM

Drive In Church, Daytona Beach

Summer Drive In Movie Mania

Gates open at 7 PM for pre-movie fun, activities and concessions. FREE admission. Movie begins at dusk.

June 7: The Sandlot
June 9: Captain America: The First Avenger
June 11: Zootopia 2



7 SAT JUNE 7

8:30 - 10:45 AM

Sunplash Park, Daytona Beach

World Oceans Day Clean Up

Celebrate World Ocean Day by helping protect local shores at the Daytona Beach Cleanup. Join fellow volunteers in making a difference for beaches and marine life while supporting ocean conservation and community stewardship. Cleanup supplies and T-shirts provided while supplies last.



13,20 JUNE 13 & 20 

SAT and FRI

Pettis Park & Brannon Center, NSB

Celebrate Juneteenth in NSB

June 13 @ Brannon Center from 6 - 9 PM: Juneteenth Gala with live music, art exhibits, community awards. \$50 @ BrannonCenter.com or Babe James Center.

June 20 @ Pettis Park from 12 - 6 PM: Enjoy live entertainment, cultural exhibits, food trucks, kids' zone, waterslide and more fun!




13 SAT JUNE 13

10 AM - 3 PM

Sanborn Center, DeLand

Juneteenth Celebration

Join in on community togetherness with the Juneteenth Unity in the Community Celebration featuring food, vendors and live entertainment. Details at VisitWestVolusia.com



13 SAT JUNE 13

11 AM - 7 PM

Cypress Park, Daytona Beach

Juneteenth Festival

This free outdoor festival features live music, kids activities, parade and more. Full schedule of week's activities at JuneteenthDaytona.com.




14 SUN JUNE 14

8:30 - 10:45 AM

Daisy Stocking Park, Daytona Beach

Dad's Day @ Daisy Stocking Park

Midtown Sundayz brings the community together with music, food, and family-friendly fun. This special Father's Day celebration features a live DJ, a welcoming atmosphere, and complimentary meals for dads while supplies last.



25 JUNE 25 - AUG 13 

Every THU @ 6:30 PM

Riverside Park, NSB

NSB Summer Concert Series

FREE weekly concerts featuring local artists. Bring a chair or blanket.

June 25: Glencoe Ridge
July 2: Cuchetti Collective
July 9: Thompson-Browne
July 16: Fat City Band

All concerts outdoors from 6:30 - 7:45 PM.



27 SAT JUNE 27 

5 - 9:30 PM

Valentine Park, Orange City

America 250 Freedom & Fireworks

Celebrate this historic milestone as America recognizes its 250th anniversary of independence. Enjoy live music by Groove Slayers, food vendors, a watermelon-eating contest, bounce houses, children's games, a foam pit, and more! All leading up to a spectacular fireworks display to close out the night.



2-5 JULY 2 - 5 

THUR - SUN

Flagler Avenue, NSB

Independence Day Music Festival

Multiple Shows of FREE Live Music along Flagler Avenue! Come jam with your favorite local artists all weekend long. Follow The Party's on Flagler on Facebook for full lineup and schedule.



3 FRI JULY 3 

6 - 9 PM

Earl Brown Park, DeLand

Firecracker Festival

The festival will feature food trucks, a kids zone, live entertainment, and of course, fireworks at dusk! Make sure to bring lawn chairs and blankets for seating in front of the amphitheater.



4 SAT JULY 4 

4 - 9 PM

Brannon Center, NSB

NSB Fireworks

Festivities include gourmet food trucks, live music and fireworks on the river.



4 SAT JULY 4 

5:30 - 9 PM

Port Orange City Center

4th of July Spectacular

Celebrate the 4th of July with live music, food trucks, fun zone, classic car show and fireworks at 9 PM.



4 SAT JULY 4 

6 - 10:30 PM

Gemini Springs Park

4th of July Freedom Fest

Free family event featuring live entertainment on two stages, food trucks, family-friendly activities, a Kid Zone and a state-of-the-art fireworks and laser light show choreographed to music starting at 9:15 PM.



4 SAT JULY 4 


6 PM

Menard May Park, Edgewater


EDGEfest 4th Celebration

Featuring music, vendors and food with fireworks at dusk. There will also be a beer tent, obstacle course and face painting!



12-26 **FRI JUNE 12 - AUG 28** 
EVERY FRI @ 7:15 PM
Daytona Beach Bandshell
Sounds of Summer

A weekly concert of the best tribute bands singing your favorites. Free admission - bring your own chair, \$15 VIP includes seating.



18-21 **JUNE 18 - 21** 
THU - SUN
Flagler Avenue, NSB
Seaside Fiesta

This official kick off into summer offers arts and crafts vendors, food booths, entertainment, live music, and plenty of kids and family friendly activities. Enjoy live music all weekend, and art festival on June 18 from 5-9 PM.



4 **SAT JULY 4** 
10 AM
Main Street, Daytona Beach
Veterans Parade on Main

The parade will pay tribute to veterans and first responders and will begin on Main St. at A1A and travel west to the base of the bridge.



5 **SAT JULY 5**
1 - 5 PM
Flagler Avenue, NSB
BBQ Challenge

Guests will use their tasting passports to visit the host sites and taste sample-sized BBQ portions prepared in multiple different ways like chicken, beef, pork, seafood. \$20 tasting passports and maps picked up at the corner of S. Cooper St. and Flagler Ave. on the day of the event or on EventBrite.com beforehand.



12-13 **JUNE 12 - 13** 
FRI - SAT
Port Orange City Center
Summer Brew & Food Fest

This exciting annual event offers something for everyone, whether you're a craft beer enthusiast, a foodie, or just someone looking to enjoy a lively atmosphere. You'll find an incredible variety of local brews, delicious cuisine, and engaging entertainment. Visit POCTrust.org for full schedule including live music, craft beer tastings, and family fun.



20 **SAT JUNE 20**
5 - 8 PM
Whistle Stop Park, Edgewater
EDGEfest School's Out Petapalooza

A festive, family-friendly celebration of summer that invites both residents and their pets to enjoy outdoor games, vendor booths, food, and animal-centric contests!



4 **SAT JULY 4** 
10 AM - 10 PM
Blake Park, Lake Helen
4th of July Parade & Celebration

Join us for a festive celebration! The American Pride themed parade will start at 10 AM. After the parade, the excitement continues at Blake Park, where you can enjoy delicious food, live music, games, and explore craft vendors. Participate in various activities, including a watermelon-eating contest. As the day winds down, prepare to be amazed by a dazzling fireworks display beginning at 9 PM.



Independence Day Celebrations

- **Firecracker Festival**
July 4 @ 6-9 PM
Earl Brown Park, DeLand
- **Veterans Parade**
July 4 @ 10 AM
Main Street, Daytona Beach
- **NSB Fireworks & Festival**
July 4 @ 4-9 PM
Brannon Center, NSB
- **Port Orange Fireworks & Festival**
July 4 @ 5:30-9 PM
City Center, Port Orange
- **Edgewater Fireworks & Festival**
July 4 @ 6 PM
Menard May Park, Edgewater
- **Ormond Fireworks & Festival**
July 4 @ 8-9:30 PM
Rockefeller Gardens, Ormond Beach



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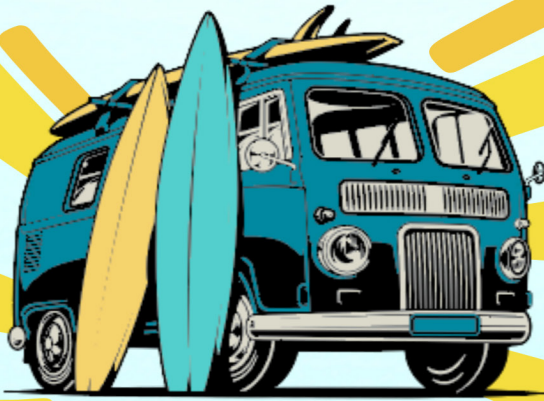
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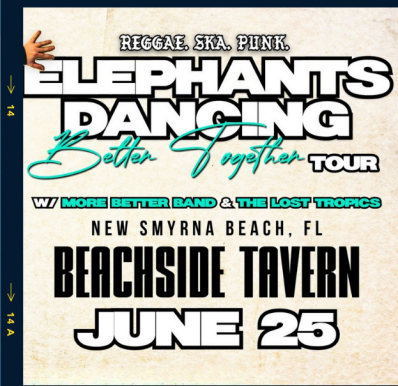
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06.13



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06.26 & 06.27



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 - 6/10 ESH & SCHIEF
 - 6/11 ZACK DENBY
 - 6/12 COSMIC JAM
 - 6/13 SUPERVILLAINS
 - 6/14 - 6/16 TBA
 - 6/17 YACHT ROCK
 - 6/18 ZACK DENBY
 - 6/19 CRASHROCKET
 - 6/20 BIKE AND BAR -
THE CLICK 1PM - 6PM
TRAE PIERCE - 9PM
 - 6/21 KEG COUNTRY
 - 6/22 - 6/23 TBA
 - 6/24 ESH & SCHIEF
 - 6/25 ELEPHANTS
DANCING
 - 6/26 ARE FRIENDS
ELECTRIC
 - 6/27 ARE FRIENDS
ELECTRIC
 - 6/28 SEAN HOLCOMB
 - 6/29 - 6/30 TBA
- ALL SHOWS**
Music Starts at 8:30pm,
NO COVER* | 21+
*Unless Otherwise Noted

Capri *Comeback*

Capri State of Mind: The Effortless Trend Taking Over Summer Style

Capri pants are officially having their comeback moment, and honestly, the fashion girls saw this coming first.

If you've been scrolling TikTok or Instagram lately, then you've definitely noticed capris everywhere again. They somehow make every outfit look effortless, whether you style them with flats, kitten heels, crop tops, bikinis or an oversized button-down.

They're polished without trying too hard, which is exactly why everyone is wearing them again.

And finding them in polka dots was basically a bonus because polka dots are also one of the biggest prints trending this season. But even a simple black capri gives the same cool-girl energy while being a little more versatile.

Capri summer is officially here.

Unfortunately, I'm talking about the pants, not Capri, Italy ... but mentally, I'm there.

GET THE LOOK

Capri: Old Navy | @oldnavy

Top: Zara | @zara

Kitten Heel: Nordstrom Rack | @nordstromrack

Sunnies: Chanel | @chanelofficial

Deco Hat: The Beach Issue | @thebeachissue

STYLIST/BLOG:

Danielle Napolitano | @daniellenapolitano

MODEL

Devon Tindley | @devontindley



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*



Riding the Rails to Winter Park

For Mother’s Day this year, we skipped the usual brunch scramble and decided on something a little different: a family day trip to Winter Park by train. It also doubled as a birthday celebration for Scott. As our resident train nerd, he got the Amtrak ride. As the mom of honor, I got to do whatever my heart desired.

For those of us in Volusia County, the closest train depot is in DeLand, and it opens up a surprising number of possibilities for exploring Florida without spending the whole day behind the wheel. The station also services SunRail, a more frequent and lower-cost weekday commuter option with plenty of Central Florida destinations. Since we were traveling on a weekend, Amtrak was our choice, but it’s worth checking both options when planning your own trip. Depending on your schedule, budget, and destination, one may make more sense than the other.

We had plenty of places to choose from, but Winter Park quickly rose to the top of our list. With an 8-year-old along for the adventure, walkability mattered. We didn’t want to spend the day trudging across a city or wasting time waiting on rideshares. Winter Park made it easy: the train station sits right in the heart of town, beside the beautifully manicured Central Park and just steps from famed Park Avenue.

We arrived at prime brunch time on Mother’s Day, which meant the most obvious spots were already buzzing. Instead of battling the crowds, we wandered down a few side streets and stumbled across a lovely Tex-Mex restaurant for lunch. That’s one of the perks of Winter Park: there’s no shortage of options, from casual cafés and coffee shops to upscale dining in just about every cuisine.

After lunch, we grabbed coffee for the walk and set out to explore. Our family tends to be more adventure-driven than the window-shopping type, so I pulled up one of my favorite apps for discovering a new place: ExploreHere. The free version offers an interactive map showing historical and cultural sites nearby, including markers, hidden landmarks, and points of interest. The paid version can even play short stories and local lore as you pass by, and create curated tours from more than 240,000 historic landmarks across the U.S.



For those of us in Volusia County, hopping on the train in DeLand opens the door to easy Florida adventures without the long drive — and Winter Park might just be one of the best stops of all. With the station located right beside Central Park and just steps from Park Avenue, it’s the perfect place to get off, wander, eat, explore, and slow down for the day.

That little app helped us get just off the beaten path and find exactly what we love. On our way toward the Rollins Museum of Art, we uncovered a treasure trove of historic homes, landmarks, sculpture gardens, and museums. Winter Park's art and culture scene is well-known for good reason, with endless ways to spend the day, including The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art, the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens, Mead Botanical Garden, and more... many with free or low-cost admission.

The rest of the afternoon unfolded at an easy pace. We strolled through town, took in the architecture, admired the art, and made time for the important things, like decadent gelato and snacks along the way. Eventually, we grabbed a quick bite and headed back to Central Park to catch our train home.

Since Amtrak doesn't run as frequently as SunRail, we knew to be prepared for possible delays. What we didn't expect was that waiting at the depot

would become one of the sweetest parts of the day. We chatted with fellow passengers, watched Avery play disc golf in the park with a family visiting from South Carolina, checked out the Little Free Library, followed by all of our fellow passengers receiving a preview of Avery's upcoming hip-hop recital routine right there on the train platform.

With gas prices, busy schedules, and all the fun summer has in store, a quick train ride to a walkable destination might be exactly the kind of reset everyone needs. Winter Park gave us a day that felt easy, memorable, and just far enough from home to count as an adventure.

DeLand Train Station | (800) 872-7245
 2491 Old New York Ave, DeLand, FL 32720
 Amtrak.com | SunRail.com



The Walters Family

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 8-year-old daughter, Avery, enjoys joining their monthly adventures and playing with the family's dogs, Kodi, Bluey, and BamBam.

Photos by Kelsey Walters



Industry Leaders

New Smyrna Beach Welcomes Florida Realtors® District II Conference



New Smyrna Beach recently welcomed real estate professionals, association leaders, business partners, and industry representatives from across Volusia, Flagler, and Brevard counties for the annual Florida Realtors® District II Conference, hosted locally by the New Smyrna Beach Board of REALTORS®.

Led by Florida Realtors® District II Vice President Jennifer Snyder, the conference brought together five local REALTOR® associations: Daytona Beach Area Association of REALTORS®, Flagler County Association of REALTORS®, New Smyrna Beach Board of REALTORS®, Space Coast Association of REALTORS®, and West Volusia Association of REALTORS®.

The one-day conference focused on market insight, professional development, advocacy, leadership connection, and regional collaboration. The program featured an economic update from Dr. Brad O'Connor, Chief Economist for Florida Realtors®, and a keynote presentation from national speaker Maura Neill, whose session, "You, Improved," focused on building practical systems for sustainable business success.

Attendees also participated in leadership conversations, including a Florida Realtors® Candidate Forum led by District II Vice President Jennifer Snyder. Advocacy was highlighted by Scott Steger, NSBBOR President and Florida Realtors® RPAC Trustee, who spoke about REALTOR® involvement in protecting private property rights, homeownership, and the real estate profession.

The event included a trade show featuring local and regional business partners, whose services, tools, and expertise support REALTOR® education, member resources, and industry connection.

By bringing District II together in New Smyrna Beach, the conference strengthened regional relationships, supported local business connections, and reinforced the role REALTORS® play in serving communities across the region.



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Across

- 1. Arctic fish
- 5. Sounds of displeasure
- 9. Valentine's Day symbol
- 14. Chinese border river
- 15. Yucatan Indian
- 16. Dangerous, as a situation
- 17. Measures
- 19. Not napping
- 20. ___ sax
- 21. Joy on "The View"
- 23. Air traffic regulator (abbr.)
- 25. Neatened, in a way
- 30. Cops without uniforms
- 33. Like some dict.
- 35. Expression of disdain
- 36. Mexican shellfuls
- 37. Start of a "Star Wars" character
- 39. Frozen floaters
- 42. Remove, in editing
- 43. Leonard Cohen's "Bird on ___"
- 45. Is beholden
- 47. Half-dozen
- 48. Tough it out
- 52. Gentleman's agreement?
- 53. Part of FYI
- 54. Butler in the movies
- 57. Slugger Barry
- 61. Marielito, e.g.
- 65. College campus shop
- 67. Mount Carmel city
- 68. Calls a game
- 69. "It's my turn!"
- 70. Lagoon formation
- 71. Appear
- 72. Dot-___ (Web companies)

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13	
14					15					16					
17				18						19					
20						21			22						
			23		24		25				26	27	28	29	
			30				31	32							
33	34			35						36					
37			38		39			40	41		42				
43				44			45			46		47			
48					49	50					51				
52									53						
					54			55	56		57		58	59	60
61	62	63	64			65			66						
67						68					69				
70						71					72				

Down

- 1. Abnormal bodily sac
- 2. Enmity
- 3. Professor Snape portrayer Rickman
- 4. Leave in a hurry
- 5. Emma player in "The Avengers"
- 6. Threads
- 7. Stevenson villain
- 8. Move nonchalantly
- 9. Part of an ancient procession
- 10. Motor City labor gp.
- 11. Entertainer Zadora
- 12. Aggravate
- 13. Change colors
- 14. Preliminary sketch
- 15. The Matterhorn, for one
- 16. Rub followers
- 17. Thrilled
- 18. Most accommodating
- 19. Emasculate
- 20. Circles
- 21. Exploit
- 22. Pulsate
- 23. 1988 Kevin Bacon film "She's Having ___"
- 24. Alamo defender
- 25. Run ___ light (ignore the traffic signal)
- 26. D.C. home to the Colonials
- 27. Ego
- 28. Ceaseless
- 29. Disorderly ones
- 30. "Told you so!"
- 31. Hades entryway
- 32. Titillating
- 33. Weighty work
- 34. Have a few too many
- 35. Pitcher Hideo ___
- 36. Fife companion
- 37. They come after Augs.
- 38. "Don't ___" (Pussycat hit)
- 39. With "sq," a colloquialism for "nothing"
- 40. Life story, for short
- 41. ___-CIO
- 42. Captured Al-Qaida mastermind, initially

MAY 2026 ANSWERS

1	C	A	D	D	I	E	D	2	S	L	A	V	E	3	
4	H	A	C	I	E	N	D	A	15	T	O	D	A	T	E
9	A	R	T	E	R	I	E	S	17	A	R	E	N	A	S
14	N	A	N	T	E	S	18	H	A	R	D	S	H	I	P
17	S	T	O	R	K	20	B	I	D	E	21	T	A	L	I
19	S	W	I	23	W	A	K	E	24	M	E	L	E	E	
23	S	A	H	I	B	25	I	C	O	N	S				
25	H	O	S	26	S	E	V	E	N	T	H	S			
26	A	F	O	O	T	27	I	D	L	E	B	L	E		
27	T	T	F	N	28	E	D	I	E	D	O	L	M	A	
28	T	E	L	E	C	A	S	T	29	A	R	U	B	A	N
29	E	N	A	M	O	R	30	I	G	N	O	R	E	I	T
30	R	E	T	A	I	N	31	O	R	D	I	N	A	L	S
31	R	E	N	T	S	32	N	E	A	T	E	N	S		

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

Summertime in River Country: New Flavors & Fresh Views in West Volusia

As temperatures rise, the marinas, parks, and riverfront retreats along the St. Johns River in West Volusia County are gearing up for summer. From relaxing stays in Astor and Pierson to outdoor adventures and waterfront dining in DeLand and DeBary, the river region is refreshed and ready for the season ahead.

At **Tropical Resort & Marina**, weekends now come with a new flavor thanks to Chompers, a food truck serving Friday through Sunday from noon to 5 p.m. Menu highlights include gator bowls with collard greens and pineapple teriyaki chicken. Whether arriving by boat or staying the weekend, the resort offers an easygoing river escape with scenic views.

Nearby, **Holly Bluff Marina** has expanded its fleet with two new executive houseboats. This longtime family-owned marina sits near Hontoon Island and Blue Spring State Park, making it a convenient launch point for exploring Central Florida's waterways. Guests can also take advantage of discounts on pontoon rentals and houseboat stays with seasonal promo codes available through January 2027.

In Astor, **Parramore's Fish Camp & RV Resort** continues embracing classic Florida river life with extensive renovations throughout the property. Families gather around the pool, boat ramp, docks, and evening campfires, enjoying the laid-back atmosphere along the river.

For fishing enthusiasts, **Highland Park Fish Camp** remains one of the area's standout destinations. Operated by the Rawlins family for more than 60 years, the camp is nationally recognized for bass fishing charters and expert access to the St. Johns River's best fishing spots.

Further south in DeBary, **Highbanks Marina & Camp Resort** offers an Old Florida-style retreat complete with riverfront camping, a swimming pool, clubhouse, country store, and a new catch-and-release fishing pond. Guests can also enjoy waterfront dining at the popular Swamp House Grill overlooking the river.

Nature lovers can escape to **Hontoon Island State Park**, one of Florida's few state parks accessible only by boat. Primitive camping, rustic cabins, and kayak and bicycle rentals make it an ideal destination for unplugging and reconnecting with nature.

Directly across the water, **Hontoon Landing Resort & Marina** provides a more full-service stay with pontoon rentals, fishing gear, fuel services, and a swimming pool, making it a convenient home base for exploring the river. With summer around the corner, the St. Johns River is buzzing with opportunities for boating, camping, fishing, and waterfront relaxation. Whether planning a weekend getaway or a day on the water, West Volusia offers countless ways to experience Florida's natural side.

For more information, visit the West Volusia Visitor Center at 116 W. New York Avenue in DeLand. (386) 734-0162 | VisitWestVolusia.com



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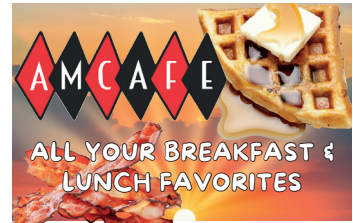


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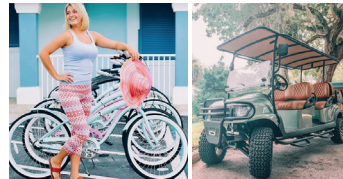
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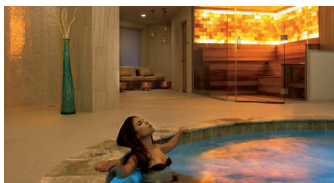
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The Boat Coach



A Guide to Local Sandbar Islands

Now that summer is upon us, sandbar islands are a thing again. Volusia County has one of the most famous sandbar islands, Disappearing Island on the east side of Ponce Inlet. It has been popular for generations, a gathering place for family and friends to enjoy the best of what boating can offer.

Named for the effect of tide on the size of the island, Disappearing Island shrinks as the tide comes up (high tide) and grows when the tide goes out (low tide). So, as the tide comes up, the island appears to be disappearing, thus Disappearing Island. Over time getting to the once popular south side of Disappearing Island has become a challenge with a sandbar forming at the east side of Rock House Creek; previously that was a prevalent way to get there. Boaters still approach it from the west side entrance to Rock House Creek, but it is not the same island.

Fortunately, a relatively new sandbar is growing both in size and in popularity. Sand Dollar Island is located just south of the Ponce Inlet Lighthouse directly across from Hidden Treasure Restaurant. Access is tight from the south, but doable. Follow someone who looks like they know what they are doing and if they run aground, go a different way. From the north the approach is marked by unofficial white posts. Come in along the east side close to the homes keeping the posts to the starboard. Once again, if you are unsure, follow someone.

Slightly north and west of Down the Hatch is Ta Ta Island. It is a sandbar that stretches east to west along a cut from the Halifax River, east, to the Intracoastal Waterway, west. Access is tight on both ends. Take care to avoid people in the water.

Heading south of Ponce Inlet is what I call Whaler Cove, tucked in on the back side of the southwest side of Rock Creek. From the intracoastal cut, head north along the west side of the Halifax River into the cove. I call it Whaler Cove because it has been a popular gathering place for Boston Whaler employees on weekends.

Squishy Island is just north of the North Causeway bridge (George E. Munson Memorial Bridge). It is becoming the new Disappearing Island both in popularity and at high tide it is barely there.



Volusia County's sandbar islands offer something for every boater - from the shifting shoreline of Disappearing Island to the calmer waters of Ski Beach and the local crowd at Three Sisters. Wherever you go, plan around the tides, approach with care and keep courtesy at the center of the day.

Further south in Edgewater is Dick's Cut, Ski Beach and the Three Sisters. All three popular places to hang out and enjoy all that having a boat provides.

Each of these sandbar islands have their own personality. On weekends, Disappearing Island is losing its popularity due to access but is renowned for rowdy crowds. Sand Dollar Island is more family-oriented. Ta Ta Island is boisterous and more rancorous with loud music from multiple sources. Whaler Cove is secluded and calmer. Squishy Island is more macho with large center consoles, loud music and dogs tend to run loose. Dick's Cut is generally rough sand and less crowded. Ski Beach has calmer waters. The Three Sisters is dominated by a local crowd that seems welcoming.



A few recommendations... When visiting a sandbar island, be courteous. Remember, everyone is there to have fun. Watch out for people in the water. Propellers and people don't work together. When in doubt, turn your motor off.

Pay attention to tides. On a rising tide your boat can float away. On a falling tide your boat can become stranded. Even a 22-foot pontoon boat can weigh over a ton, and another high tide can be 12 hours away. When passing a sandbar island, don't wake the boats on the sandbar. Remember, not everyone has the same taste when it comes to music, there is no need to play your music louder than reasonable. If you can, go out on a weekday and avoid the crowds.



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Snapper Standoff

Judge Halts Expanded Atlantic Red Snapper Season

Florida's proposed expansion of the Atlantic red snapper season was halted just hours before opening day after a federal judge issued an injunction blocking a controversial agreement between southeastern states and NOAA Fisheries.

The dispute centers on Florida's effort to manage recreational red snapper fishing in federal Atlantic waters through an Exempted Fishing Permit program approved earlier this month by NOAA. Gov. Ron DeSantis announced the expanded season would allow anglers 39 fishing days in 2026, including a May 22-June 20 season and additional weekends in October.

State officials argued red snapper populations off Florida's East Coast have rebounded significantly and said federal regulations are overly restrictive for recreational anglers. Florida leaders also pointed to the Gulf Coast model, where states have greater authority over red snapper management.

However, commercial fishing organizations and environmental groups filed suit in federal court, claiming the expanded season violated federal fisheries law and could threaten the long-term recovery of Atlantic red snapper stocks. A federal judge in Washington sided with the plaintiffs and temporarily suspended the permits for Florida, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina pending further litigation.

According to NOAA Fisheries, federal Atlantic waters remain closed to recreational red snapper harvest while the case proceeds. Limited fishing in Florida state waters is still allowed under existing regulations.

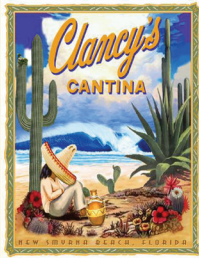
The issue has become a major flashpoint in the broader debate over state versus federal control of fisheries management and balancing conservation efforts with recreational fishing access.

Sources: Associated Press reporting, NOAA Fisheries, Office of Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis.

Photos by: **PATRICK "TUPAT" EICHSTAEDT** | @THEREALTUPAT



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Ponce Inlet June Tide Chart



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Date	High				Low				☀		☾
	AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft	Rise	Set	Moon
1 Mon	9:48	2.2	10:12	3.2	3:53	0.1	3:22	0.0	6:25	8:18	☉
2 Tue	10:28	2.2	10:50	3.1	4:30	0.2	3:59	0.1	6:24	8:18	☉
3 Wed	11:07	2.1	11:28	3.0	5:10	0.2	4:37	0.1	6:24	8:19	☉
4 Thu	11:48	2.1			5:52	0.3	5:21	0.2	6:24	8:19	☉
5 Fri	12:07	2.9	12:32	2.1	6:38	0.3	6:13	0.3	6:24	8:20	☉
6 Sat	12:46	2.8	1:19	2.2	7:22	0.2	7:11	0.4	6:24	8:20	☉
7 Sun	1:29	2.7	2:10	2.3	8:04	0.1	8:10	0.4	6:24	8:20	☉
8 Mon	2:15	2.6	3:06	2.5	8:45	0.0	9:09	0.3	6:24	8:21	☾
9 Tue	3:10	2.5	4:07	2.8	9:30	-0.1	10:12	0.3	6:24	8:21	☾
10 Wed	4:12	2.4	5:05	3.0	10:18	-0.3	11:15	0.1	6:24	8:22	☾
11 Thu	5:14	2.4	6:00	3.3	11:10	-0.4			6:24	8:22	☾
12 Fri	6:12	2.4	6:54	3.6	12:17	0.0	12:04	-0.5	6:24	8:23	☾
13 Sat	7:09	2.5	7:49	3.8	1:16	-0.2	12:59	-0.7	6:24	8:23	☾
14 Sun	8:07	2.5	8:45	3.9	2:13	-0.3	1:55	-0.8	6:24	8:23	☾
15 Mon	9:05	2.6	9:40	3.9	3:08	-0.4	2:51	-0.8	6:24	8:24	☾
16 Tue	10:01	2.6	10:33	3.8	4:00	-0.4	3:46	-0.8	6:24	8:24	☾
17 Wed	10:56	2.7	11:26	3.6	4:53	-0.4	4:42	-0.6	6:24	8:24	☾
18 Thu	11:53	2.7			5:48	-0.4	5:43	-0.4	6:24	8:24	☾
19 Fri	12:18	3.4	12:50	2.7	6:45	-0.3	6:49	-0.2	6:25	8:25	☾
20 Sat	1:10	3.1	1:48	2.8	7:38	-0.3	7:53	0.0	6:25	8:25	☾
21 Sun	2:02	2.8	2:46	2.8	8:26	-0.3	8:53	0.1	6:25	8:25	☾
22 Mon	2:55	2.6	3:45	2.8	9:12	-0.3	9:52	0.2	6:25	8:25	☾
23 Tue	3:51	2.3	4:41	2.9	9:57	-0.2	10:51	0.3	6:25	8:26	☾
24 Wed	4:46	2.2	5:32	3.0	10:42	-0.1	11:47	0.3	6:26	8:26	☾
25 Thu	5:37	2.1	6:18	3.0	11:27	-0.1			6:26	8:26	☾
26 Fri	6:25	2.1	7:01	3.1	12:39	0.3	12:12	-0.1	6:26	8:26	☉
27 Sat	7:10	2.1	7:45	3.1	1:27	0.2	12:56	-0.1	6:27	8:26	☉
28 Sun	7:56	2.1	8:29	3.1	2:12	0.2	1:40	-0.1	6:27	8:26	☉
29 Mon	8:41	2.1	9:11	3.1	2:53	0.1	2:21	-0.1	6:27	8:26	☉
30 Tue	9:25	2.1	9:51	3.1	3:31	0.1	3:01	-0.1	6:28	8:26	☉

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Summer Movie Schedules 2026

★ Family movie deals at Regal & AMC ★



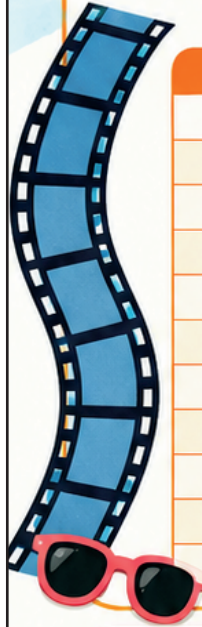
Regal Theatres

Summer Movie Express — \$1 family movies
Monday–Thursday at 11:00 AM

Get tickets at Regal Theatres

★ Check participating Regal locations.

Dates	Movies
June 1–4	Sing; Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles: Mutant Mayhem
June 8–11	David; Kung Fu Panda 4
June 15–18	KPop Demon Hunters (Sing-Along); The Wild Robot
June 22–25	The Bad Guys 2; The Garfield Movie
June 29–July 2	A Minecraft Movie; Sonic the Hedgehog 2
July 6–9	How to Train Your Dragon (2025); Sonic the Hedgehog 3
July 13–16	TBD; Scoob!
July 20–23	Animal Farm; The SpongeBob Movie: Search for SquarePants
July 27–30	Dog Man; Paddington in Peru
August 3–6	Charlie the Wonderdog; Despicable Me 4
August 10–13	Muppet Treasure Island; The Sandlot



AMC Theatres

Summer Movie Camp — \$3 family movies
Mondays & Wednesdays

Get tickets at AMC Theatres

★ Check participating AMC locations.

Dates	Movie
June 22 & 24	Paddington in Peru
June 29 & July 1	David
July 6 & 8	How to Train Your Dragon
July 13 & 15	The Lego Movie
July 20 & 22	Sonic the Hedgehog 3
July 27 & 29	The Bad Guys 2
August 3 & 5	The SpongeBob Movie: Search for SquarePants
August 10 & 12	Muppet Treasure Island



Listing courtesy of East Coast Current magazine
 Find more summer fun and events at SeeVolusia.com

2026

THE CITY OF DAYTONA BEACH PRESENTS

SOUNDS OF SUMMER

CONCERT SERIES

FREE GENERAL ADMISSION - \$15 VIP TICKETS

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| FRIDAY, JUNE 12 | THE MOTOWNERS: MOTOWN TRIBUTE |
| FRIDAY, JUNE 19 | HUMAN CLAY & JADED: CREED & AEROSMITH TRIBUTES |
| FRIDAY, JUNE 26 | ROSANNA & SMOKIN': TOTO & BOSTON TRIBUTES |
| FRIDAY, JULY 3 | U.S. BEE GEES: THE BEE GEES TRIBUTE |
| FRIDAY, JULY 10 | NUTHIN' FANCY: LYNYRD SKYNYRD TRIBUTE |
| NEW! FRIDAY, JULY 17 | SUPERNATURAL & CHINA GROVE: SANTANA & THE DOOBIE BROTHERS TRIBUTES |
| FRIDAY, JULY 31 | ULTIMATE GARTH BROOKS: GARTH BROOKS TRIBUTE |
| FRIDAY, AUGUST 7 | THE BRUCE TRIBUTE: BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN TRIBUTE |
| FRIDAY, AUGUST 14 | DANCING ON THE CEILING & HOTTER THAN JULY: LIONEL RICHIE AND STEVIE WONDER TRIBUTES |
| FRIDAY, AUGUST 21 | THE WILDFLOWERS: TOM PETTY & THE HEARTBREAKERS TRIBUTE |
| FRIDAY, AUGUST 28 | CARIBBEAN CHILLERS: JIMMY BUFFETT TRIBUTE |

FRIDAY NIGHTS AT 7:15 PM

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VIP TICKETS: DAYTONABANDSHELL.COM - AXS.COM - PEABODY AUDITORIUM BOX OFFICE



FOR A LIST OF SATURDAY NIGHT CONCERTS, VISIT DAYTONABANDSHELL.COM