EAST COAST

CURRENT

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FREE

NOVEMBER 2026
VOL. 12 ISSUE 11



+ BUILD THE BEST BRUNCH BOARD

HOSTESS WITH THE MOSTEST

+ A 2-HOUR SUNSET CHARCUTERIE CRUISE

+ STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE TO AN EPIC HOLIDAY CHEESE BOARD

+ HOLIDAY GIFT GUIDE TO SHOP LOCAL

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FRI. & SAT. 9PM | SUN. 7PM

THU. 05 - JOHNCATS
FRI. 06 - SECOND SHIFT
SAT. 07 - UNDERCOVER
SUN. 08 - THE NUTHOUSE JAM
THU. 12 - PARADOXXX
FRI. 13 - ROCK FRIENDLY
SAT. 14 - CHEAP THRILLS
SUN. 15 - THE NUTHOUSE JAM
THU. 19 - JOHN CATS
FRI. 20 - THAT'S WHAT SHE SAID
SAT. 21 - INSOMNIA
SUN. 22 - THE NUTHOUSE JAM
FRI. 27 - JEN-N-TONIX
SAT. 28 - POP CULTURE POETS

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Candice Brooks

Real Estate Advisor

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Hostess with the Mostest

Join us for a **SUNSET CHARCUTERIE CRUISE** on **Monday, Nov. 16, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**, aboard Toon Tiki Charters! Watch a 6-foot grazing table come together from start to finish, learn tips and tricks for holiday entertaining, then enjoy the finished spread while cruising the Intracoastal Waterway at sunset. Enjoy live acoustic music by Jeff White and two glasses of wine or sangria, included with your ticket. Special guests and sponsors Wildflour Market and Rise Yaupon will share their stories, offer tastings and demonstrate cocktails made with locally grown yaupon tea. A few lucky guests will also receive boarding prizes!

Tickets are $75 per person. Our first cruise sold out, and only 30 spots are available! Scan the QR code to reserve yours today!
Turn to page 5 for more info.

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Editor's *Letter*

Hostess with the Mostest: A Sunset Charcuterie Cruise with Live Music by Jeff White

November is here, and we've officially entered my favorite time of year! I love hosting, and now that my kitchen renovations are finished, family and friends are welcome back for the holidays.

There is something special about this time of year in our community, too. From the toy drives and charitable events to businesses celebrating their employees and friends gathering around the table, I love seeing everyone come together.

Speaking of coming together, I have to take a moment to thank everyone who attended our Authors on the River Literary Luncheon at The Grille at Riverview in October. What a wonderful afternoon! The event sold out, the authors were fantastic and the conversations were even better. We had such a great response that we've decided to continue the series in 2027. We're going to enjoy the holidays first, but stay tuned for our next date. And if you're an author interested in participating, please keep reaching out.

Now, let's talk about getting on a tiki boat!

I love to entertain, and one of my favorite ways to do that is with a big, beautiful grazing table. The real work is in the prep, but once that's done, all you have to do is put it together, make it look beautiful and actually enjoy your own party. Imagine that!

So, we're bringing back one of my favorite events, Hostess with the Mostest, and this time we're taking it up a notch and adding live music to the mix.

On **Monday, Nov. 16, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.**, we're teaming up with Toon Tiki Charters for a two-hour sunset cruise along the Intracoastal Waterway in New Smyrna Beach.

Picture this: The sun is setting, you're cruising along the water with a glass of sangria or wine in your hand, Jeff White is playing live acoustic music and I'm building a 6-foot grazing table right in front of you. I'll share tips and tricks for creating your own holiday spread, and once I'm finished, you get to dig in!

We've also invited two wonderful local businesses to join the fun. Jamie Ownby from Wildflour Market and Shelly Steele from Rise Yaupon are sponsoring the evening and sharing a little about what they do.

Yaupon comes from a native holly that grows right here in our area. You can brew it as a traditional hot tea, serve it chilled over ice or, as Shelly will show us, use it to create some pretty amazing cocktails. She'll be treating us to a tasting and cocktail demonstration, which is perfect timing with holiday entertaining just around the corner!

Tickets are $75 per person, including the 2-hour cruise, live entertainment, grazing table experience and two glasses of sangria or red or white wine. And we'll have a few fun surprises, including special boarding prizes for a couple of lucky guests!

Our first cruise sold out, and this time we're only offering 30 tickets! Scan the QR code to purchase yours through Toon Tiki Charters and complete your required waiver. We'll depart from New Smyrna Beach City Marina, and you'll receive parking information after booking.

Great food, live music, sunset views and absolutely no dishes to wash afterward. Now that's my kind of holiday party!

See you on the water!

XO,

Tiffany Sudakis | Editor in Chief

Scan the QR code to reserve your ticket!

EAST COAST CURRENT

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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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THU. 12 - ESH & SCHIEF
FRI. 13 - SONNY REECE
THU. 19 - EASY STREET DUO
FRI. 20 - STRANGE BREW
WED. 25 - TURKEY TOSS CORNHOLE TOURNAMENT
THU. 26 - CLOSED FOR THANKSGIVING
FRI. 27 - LARRY & ROXY
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WEEKLY SPECIALS
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Local Support

Volusia's Walk Toward Hope: The Fight Against Alzheimer's





Images provided by Central and North Floriaa Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

Alzheimer's changes more than memories. It changes routines, relationships and the lives of families navigating the disease together. I've witnessed firsthand how a diagnosis can reshape family dynamics, bringing new responsibilities, difficult decisions and an emotional weight others may not see. Like so many families, we're learning to navigate these challenges while supporting one another and holding on to the moments that matter most.

My family's experience inspired me to support the Alzheimer's Association and led to a conversation with Jessica Wells, Chapter Executive for its Central and North Florida Chapter. When I asked what she wished more people understood about Alzheimer's, her answer centered on hope.

Wells pointed to advances in early detection, including emerging blood tests, and FDA-approved treatments for certain people in the early stages of Alzheimer's. She also highlighted the bipartisan Alzheimer's Screening and Prevention (ASAP) Act, which seeks to expand Medicare access to qualifying blood-based screening tests. She described the potential shift as Alzheimer's "mammogram moment," comparing it to the impact of more accessible breast cancer screening.

These advances are not a cure, but earlier identification could help eligible patients explore treatment options sooner and give families more time to plan.

November is National Family Caregivers Month, making Wells' other message especially timely: Volusia County families are not alone. The Alzheimer's Association offers educational programs, support groups and guidance for people living with dementia and those caring for them. Its online Programs and Resources Guide can help families find support.

On November 14, families across Volusia County will gather in DeLand for the Walk to End Alzheimer's. Part of the world's largest fundraiser for Alzheimer's care, support and research, the event brings people together to honor loved ones, stand beside those living with the disease and recognize caregivers who give so much of themselves.

One of the walk's most meaningful traditions is the Promise Garden. Participants carry flowers that reflect their connection to Alzheimer's: blue for those living with dementia, yellow for caregivers, purple for loved ones lost and orange for supporters of the cause. A single white flower represents the first person to survive Alzheimer's. A future that has not yet arrived, but one that inspires the work ahead.

This year, I'll walk alongside my husband and our children. For us, it's a way to honor our family's experience and stand with community members facing similar challenges. We're also raising funds for the Alzheimer's Association, and I invite readers to walk, contribute or explore the resources available to their families.

For families living with Alzheimer's, hope doesn't erase today's challenges, but it gives us something to carry into tomorrow.

To support our family's Walk to End Alzheimer's fundraiser, please scan the QR code to make a donation.



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*

King Tides, Hurricanes & Flooding: Why Experience Matters More Than Ever



Hurricane season isn't over yet! Although we're approaching the end of the season, several weeks remain, and here along Florida's East Coast, we're facing another serious concern: KING TIDES!

King tides occur when exceptionally high tides cause coastal flooding, sometimes even without a storm. When these unusually high tides coincide with heavy rainfall, tropical storms, or hurricanes, the consequences can be devastating. Storm surge can push water farther inland, overwhelm drainage systems, and cause catastrophic flooding to homes, condominiums, and businesses.

We've experienced this dangerous combination firsthand.

When Hurricane Nicole struck our coastline in November 2022 during exceptionally high tides, the resulting flooding, storm surge, and coastal erosion devastated our communities. Trust Public Adjusting Group helped nearly 1,000 local property owners navigate their insurance claims following that disaster. We witnessed firsthand how destructive this combination can be.

What many property owners don't realize is that flood claims are entirely different from standard homeowners insurance claims.

Flood insurance operates under a different set of rules, regulations, deadlines, and documentation requirements. Because of these complexities, many public adjusters rarely handle flood claims, and some avoid them altogether.

Trust Public Adjusting Group is one of the few seasoned public adjusting firms in Florida with extensive, hands-on experience regularly representing policyholders in flood claims. While many adjusters focus almost exclusively on wind and other property damage, we have spent years mastering the complexities of both flood and wind insurance claims.

This distinction is especially important when a hurricane causes multiple types of damage simultaneously. Determining what damage belongs under a flood policy versus a homeowners or commercial property policy requires experience, technical knowledge, and thorough documentation.

We represent policyholders, NOT insurance companies. Our independent, policy-driven estimates and extensive experience allow us to identify coverage issues, challenge improper denials or underpayments, and pursue every dollar our clients are rightfully entitled to receive.

Don't wait until after the storm to call us!

Trust Public Adjusting Group offers FREE pre-storm property inspections and insurance policy reviews. We document your property's existing condition, identify potential concerns, and help you understand your coverage BEFORE a loss occurs. This documentation can become invaluable when proving storm-related damage afterward.

And if another storm strikes, contact us immediately so we can properly document the damage and guide you through the insurance claims process.

Don't be afraid to file a legitimate insurance claim. You pay for insurance protection, and you deserve the coverage you're entitled to.

Hurricane season isn't over, King Tides are here, and preparation is everything. Contact Trust Public Adjusting Group today for your free property inspection and policy review!



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CHRISTMAS ON CANAL STREET

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

This event is presented by

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SPARK THE SPIRIT
Tree Lighting Ceremony 6:00 pm | Children's Christmas Activities provided by NSB Utilities, 3-5 pm, Live Music with Christie Beu, Cookies & Cocoa provided by Advent Health, & Santa's Grand Entrance at Christmas Park. Located at the corner of Canal & Live Oak Friday, November 27th, 3:00 pm – 7:30 pm

HOLIDAY DECORATING CONTEST
People's Choice Award... Vote for your favorite between November 27th thru December 2nd

COASTAL CHRISTMAS MARKET
Shop Local Artisans & Canal Street Merchants Saturday, November 28th | 9 am – 5 pm



GIRLS' NIGHT OUT
Shop, Stroll, & Dine along Canal St. Thursday, Dec. 3rd | 5 pm – 8:30 pm

CHRISTMAS PARADE
"The Traditions of Christmas" Land Parade ending on Canal Street Saturday, December 5th starting at 3:00 pm on Flagler ending on Canal

HOLIDAY BOAT PARADE
See Parade on the Intracoastal Waterway Saturday, December 12th | At Dusk

A VISIT WITH SANTA
Come and visit Santa at his Christmas House located at Canal and Live Oak
Sat. Nov. 28th | 1- 3 pm
Sat. Dec.12th | 3 – 5 pm
Sat. Dec. 19th | 1 – 3 pm



www.canalstreetnsb.com



FREE ADMISSION
Thursday, Dec. 3rd | 5:00 - 8:30pm

Stroll Canal Street and our merchants will welcome you into their shops and restaurants with special events | photo ops | a visit with Santa

Live Music
Rick Grano, guitar & vocals, east end of Canal
Jaime Hollis, saxophone, west end of Canal
Lucy Spotts, guitar and vocals, at Wirth Gallery
Tres Duo at Prima and Kountry Klutter

Gift Basket Raffle Drawing
8:00pm| Tickets can be purchased at Live Oak and Canal | Cash only | No need to be present to win

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Holiday Gift Guide

Make local businesses part of your holiday shopping.

Find thoughtful gifts, unique treasures and memorable experiences from businesses in our community.

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Whether you're shopping for the perfect gift or treating yourself to something fabulous, Pepper's Boutique has everything you need to celebrate the season in style! Discover beautiful fashions, statement jewelry, stylish shoes and accessories that make thoughtful gifts for everyone on your list. From festive holiday gatherings to glamorous nights out, find the perfect outfit for every occasion. With unique styles and personalized service, Pepper's Boutique makes holiday shopping and dressing up a little more special!



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#ECC *Told Me*

1

The Little Theatre of NSB Presents Big Band Jazz and Holiday Romance

The Little Theatre of New Smyrna Beach brings audiences two exciting entertainment experiences this season, beginning with the sensational sounds of the Daytona Jazz Orchestra, followed by the charming holiday romance "Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley."

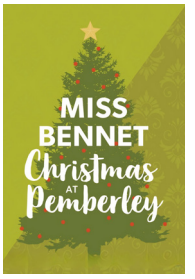
PERFORMANCE DATES & TIMES:
Daytona Jazz Orchestra
Evening at 7:30 PM - November 7
Matinee at 2 PM - November 8



The Big Band sound is back! Get ready for an unforgettable musical experience as the Daytona Jazz Orchestra takes the stage with 18 talented musicians and a featured vocalist. With rich harmonies, powerful brass, and irresistible rhythms, this dynamic ensemble brings the excitement of a full-size jazz orchestra to life.

Audiences will enjoy a musical journey through the Great American Songbook and beyond, featuring timeless swing favorites, Broadway showstoppers, popular hits, and patriotic classics. With more than 20 years of musical history, the Daytona Jazz Orchestra promises an entertaining celebration of music that will have audiences tapping their toes from beginning to end.

Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley
December 3 - 13, 2026



The holiday season brings a delightful return to the world of Jane Austen with "Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley," a witty and heartwarming sequel to "Pride and Prejudice."

Set two years after Austen's beloved classic, the story follows bookish middle sister Mary Bennet during a festive family gathering at Pemberley. When she meets Arthur de Bourgh, an equally awkward and intellectual newcomer, an unexpected romance begins to blossom.

Written by Lauren Gunderson, author of the audience favorite "Silent Sky," and Margot Melcon, this charming holiday production is filled with humor, romance, and Christmas cheer.

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



2

Yaupon Tea Gift Ideas for Everyone on Your List

Looking for a gift that stands out? Something made locally? Rise Yaupon teas should be on your list.

When you give someone Rise Yaupon tea, you're giving them more than a delicious cup of tea. You're also supporting a local women-owned purpose driven business, sustainable harvesting, and meaningful employment opportunities here in Volusia County.



The easy stocking stuffer: If you're shopping for someone who loves the magic of the holiday season, Rise Yaupon's Holly Jolly blend is a gift that brings a little extra meaning to every cup. It's festive, thoughtful, and a wonderful way to share the spirit of giving with someone you care about. The combo of Yaupon Holly, Peppermint, Cinnamon, Orange Peel and Vanilla is an easy way to get in the holiday spirit.

Another great gift idea is Rise's Signature Sampler Pack. With a variety of blends, it is one of the easiest gifts to get right.

This comes in a gift-wrapped box and includes five individually wrapped tea bags of their standard blends: America's Classic, Healthy Kick, Florida Earl Grey, Strawberry Zen, and Chocolate Mint-Up.

Explore more tea blends on their website: www.riseyaupon.com or plan a visit with friends and family at their Edgewater factory - 504 Pullman Road.

Rise Yaupon Tea
504 Pullman Road | Edgewater, FL 32132
Open Monday–Friday 8:30 a.m. – 2:30 p.m.
Facebook: @riseyaupon | Instagram: @riseyaupontea

Scan for more about our free factory tours!

3 Two Months of Markets, Shopping & Community Fun

Touch of Magic Events is passionate about creating opportunities for local vendors, shoppers, and our community to come together. Every event is a chance to discover something new, support small businesses, celebrate local talent, and make meaningful connections. All events are free to attend!

MONTHLY EVENTS AT RIVERSIDE PAVILION IN PORT ORANGE

Girls Night Out | Every 2nd Thursday | 6 PM-9 PM
Grab your girlfriends and enjoy an evening of shopping that includes free pampering, mocktails, adult crafts, fun games, and giveaways.

Night Market | Every 3rd Wednesday | 5 PM-8 PM
Browse unique finds, meet talented local makers, and grab dinner while supporting the small businesses that make our community thrive.

SPECIAL EVENTS YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS!



Volusia Senior Expo | Sunday, November 22 | 11 AM-3 PM
Join us at the Brannon Center in NSB for an event that connects seniors and caregivers with valuable resources, services, and activities to help them stay healthy, happy, and informed. Free admission, activities, and refreshments!

Daytona Holiday Market | Saturday, November 28 | 10 AM-3 PM
Whether you're searching for one-of-a-kind gifts or looking to enjoy a day of festive fun, Riverfront Esplanade is the place to be for this family-friendly market filled with vendors, fun activities, music, and performances!



Tanger Outlets Daytona Night Market
Wed., Dec 2 & Thurs., Dec 3 | 5 PM–9 PM each night
A fun 2-day nighttime market offering specialty foods, produce, handmade crafts, live music, and a rotating lineup of food vendors each night.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A VENDOR?

We'd love to hear from you! For vendor opportunities or any questions, email info@touchofmagicevents.com.

Touch of Magic Events
touchofmagicevents.com
FB & Insta: @touchofmagiceventsllc



4 Holiday Hosting Made Easy With Philly Pizza Authority

The holiday season is right around the corner, and Philly Pizza Authority is ready to take the cooking off your plate. Whether you're planning an office Christmas party, a gathering with friends or a family celebration, this New Smyrna Beach favorite offers catering options for groups of any size.

Founded by Chef Ricardo "Rich", Philly Pizza Authority brings Philadelphia roots and more than 40 years of culinary experience to the table. While its pizzas have earned a loyal following, the kitchen offers much more than a great slice.

Through its catering operation, Velarium, guests can enjoy an extensive selection of appetizers, salads, pasta dishes and entrées. Favorites include chicken Parmesan, chicken Marsala, chicken Florentine, roasted pork, Greek leg of lamb and seafood specialties.

Homemade desserts, including tiramisu, limoncello and triple chocolate brownies, provide the perfect finishing touch.

For those looking for a place to celebrate, Philly Pizza Authority has partnered with neighboring Beachside Tavern to offer private event spaces complete with dedicated bars and fire pit tables. Staffed catering is available, allowing guests to relax and enjoy the occasion.



Prefer to host at home or the office? Catering orders can be scheduled for pickup or delivery throughout Volusia County.

And if there's something specific you're craving that isn't on the catering menu, just ask! Chef Rich welcomes the opportunity to discuss custom menus and special requests.

From intimate gatherings to large holiday celebrations, Philly Pizza Authority makes entertaining easier without sacrificing quality.

Philly Pizza Authority | Velarium Catering
634 E. Third Ave., New Smyrna Beach
386-402-8078 Website: NSB.Pizza

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Rum Ambitions

Copper Bottom Celebrates a Decade of Distilling With a Bold Vision for National Recognition



Copper Bottom Craft Distillery in Holly Hill (998 N Beach St.) just celebrated its 10th anniversary and now is on a mission to make owner and head distiller, Jeremy Craig, "America's Rum Distiller!"

Locals may remember Copper Bottom in the news during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 when they shifted their vodka distilling process into making hand sanitizer to fill the gaps of shortages. In just their first nine days of production, they distributed over 10,000 bottles of sanitizer to first responders, health care facilities, small businesses, and individuals! Taking care of the community is in the very DNA of this family-owned and run business.

And the nation may remember Jeremy as he was on Discovery Channel's seventh season of "Moonshiner's Master Distiller" competition in February 2025. He won and was declared the next "Master Distiller" on the show.

Now in their 10th year, owner and wife of the distiller, Jenni, is asking for the community's support to help them build their brand and recognition throughout the country. In a video posted to Instagram, Jenni shared that their family's goal is that "when you think of rum, you think of Copper Bottom."



As of this writing, Jenni is on day 16 of her campaign and has, to name a few things, already trademarked "America's Rum Distiller," revamped their website, received a proclamation from the Mayor of Holly Hill, and is in the works for a similar one on the county level. And now it's our turn as Volusia residents and visitors to help out!

You can tour the distillery Wednesdays through Saturdays or call for a private tour. I had the opportunity to experience this a while back and enjoyed learning the processes used in making vodkas and barrel-aged rums. There are samples of the spirits at the end of the tour and cocktails available for purchase. The shop often has food trucks and pop-up vendors in the evenings and recently hosted a parking lot party for Halloween fun for the whole family.

If you can't make it to Holly Hill, you can also purchase bottles online at CopperBottomSpirits.com. I even found them on the shelves at Sharps Discount Liquors in beachside Daytona Beach when I was shopping for a party and saw online that Total Wine in Daytona has their vodka and white rum right now. You can ask your local store to stock your favorites, as well.

Our local businesses deserve the support of residents and visitors in all cases, but when they specifically ask for it, let's make every effort to step up and answer the call. In this instance, let's join the Craig family in making Copper Bottom famous and making Jeremy in particular, "America's Rum Distiller!"



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 on Instagram.

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









Building the Best Brunch Board

Pile up an impressive display full of your favorite brunch items and wow your guests - all with very little work involved.

Here is what to include on a brunch board:

PROTEINS

When it comes to meats and proteins, I like to include at least 2-4, depending on the size of my guest list. Consider using: crispy bacon slices, prosciutto, speck, or another cured meat, sausage links, smoked salmon (bonus if there's cream cheese!) and soft-boiled or deviled eggs.

CHEESE

Cheese is required! Pick 2 - 3 of your favorites, or whip up a dip. Hard cheeses, like cheddar or Parmesan, complement anything on the board. Soft and semi-firm cheeses such as goat, brie, cream cheese, or Gouda are beautifully spreadable/stackable.

DIPS/FRUITS/VEGGIES

If you're feeling extra creative, a homemade dip is a great addition! Then the fun part is filling in all the extra space with fruits and/or veggies of all kinds! Grapes, mandarins, berries, sliced pears or apples. Seasonal or year-round, a little sweet is always a good balance. Choose a dried fruit and a fresh fruit.

NUTS

Decadent roasted nuts, like Blue Diamond Gourmet Almonds, add a ton of depth and flavor to the selections. Plus, they're an easy addition to fill in empty space and you can find them in a variety of diferent flavors, from spicy to sweet.

SWEET

Yogurt! It's something diferent, but is great for dipping fruit into. Chocolate is always a good choice as well and one bar can be easily broken up into plenty of pieces to share.

HERBS

You can't forget about the final touch of fresh herbs strategically placed around the board. Rosemary and thyme are fun to work with and don't cost much at all.

French Winter Cheese Board *with Maple Sriracha Candied Bacon*

Preparation: Prep Time: 20 minutes • Cook Time: 20 minutes

Ingredients:

CHEESE BOARD
- 1 wheel Brie cheese
- 1 wedge Blue cheese
- 1 wheel Triple Cream cheese
- 1 log Goat cheese
- Assorted crackers
- Toasted baguette slices
- Apple slices
- Fresh raspberries
- Fresh grapes
- Honey
- Pear Jam
- Onion jam
- Stone ground mustard
- Green olives
- Chocolate chunks
- Roasted almonds
- Pistachios
- Fresh Rosemary

CANDIED BACON
- 8 slices bacon
- 3 tablespoons maple syrup
- 2 teaspoons sriracha

INSTRUCTIONS

Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F. Line a baking sheet with aluminum foil. Set a cooling rack on the baking sheet, then lay the raw bacon slices on it, making sure they don't touch.

In a small bowl, whisk together maple syrup and sriracha. Using a pastry brush, coat each slice of bacon with the mixture.

Place the bacon in the oven and bake for 10 minutes. Remove from the oven and brush with remaining sauce mixture, then return to the oven and bake for 10 - 15 more minutes to your desired doneness.

Cheese Board: Arrange the cheeses on the board, then fill in the empty space with the jams, fruits, nuts and crackers.

NUTRITION

Calories: 571kcal | Carbohydrates: 18g | Protein: 20g Fat: 47g Saturated Fat: 23g | Cholesterol: 100mg Sodium: 875mg | Sugar: 15g

Recipe provided by The Crummy Kitchen. Scan the QR code for more of their delicious recipes!



Step-by-Step Guide to Building an Epic Holiday Cheese Board



Now I know when you first look at it, it's overwhelming. I'm sure the first thought that goes into your mind is: "I cannot do that!" But guess what, can I tell you a secret. It's literally so easy! Just follow my easy step-by-step tips and you'll be looking like the Cheese Board Master!

1



Pick Your Cheeses

Variety is key! Choose three to five cheeses with different flavors and textures. Include a soft cheese like Brie, a semi-firm cheese like Gouda, a hard cheese like aged cheddar and a bold cheese like blue cheese or Gorgonzola.

2



Add the Basics

Start by placing a few small bowls on the board for dips, spreads, nuts and olives. This helps create structure and gives you places to build around.

3



Build It Out

Add more cheese varieties, spacing them out around the board. Mix textures and flavors, such as soft, semi-hard and hard cheeses like cheddar, Parmesan, goat, brie, cream cheese or Gouda.

4



Add the Crunch

Fill in with assorted crackers, toasted baguette slices and other crunchy options. Use diferent shapes and textures to keep it interesting.

5



Layer in the Meats

Add your favorite cured meats, such as prosciutto, salami, speck or sausage links. Fold, roll or fan the slices for added texture and visual appeal.

6



Finish with the Extras

Fill in the remaining space with fresh and dried fruits, nuts, herbs and anything else you love. Items like grapes, berries, sliced pears or apples, almonds and pistachios add color, flavor and balance.

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UPCOMING EVENTS
GOOD FRIENDS ★ GREAT VIEWS ★ HOLIDAY VIBES

Wine on the Water
RIVERPARK TERRACE
SUNSET CRUISE
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 2026
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM EST
2-HOUR SUNSET CRUISE
$89.95 PER PERSON
Enjoy a curated wine selection, delicious appetizers and desserts from Riverpark Terrace, and a beautiful sunset cruise along our scenic waterways.

YAPPY HOUR
Sandbar Puppy Party
SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 1, 2026
9:00 AM – 11:00 AM EST
$49.95 PER HUMAN | $9.95 PER PUP
Bring your furry friends for a fun morning on the sandbar! A portion of proceeds supports the Edgewater Animal Shelter.

VETERANS DAY Cruise
WITH AMERICAN LEGION POST 285
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 12TH
11 AM – 2 PM
3-HOUR TIKI CRUISE
$32.07 PER PERSON
50% OFF REGULAR PRICE

Pilates & Prosecco in Paradise
A COASTAL FRIENDGIVING CELEBRATION
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21
9 AM – NOON
$59.95 PER PERSON
River Deck Marina, New Smyrna Beach
A little stretch, a little sparkle, and a lot to be thankful for!

let's MINGLE & JINGLE
UGLY SWEATER SUNSET CRUISE
THURSDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, 2026
5:30 PM – 7:30 PM EST
2-HOUR SUNSET CRUISE
$49.95 PER PERSON

COOKIE EXCHANGE
Bring 1–2 dozen homemade or store-bought cookies to swap with fellow cruisers and head home with delicious treats.

UGLY SWEATER CONTEST
Wear your most outrageous holiday sweater—you just might win bragging rights (and maybe a surprise prize)!

Holiday Parties Are Better On The Water!
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Events

Worth Knowing

How to Add a Bit of Holiday Magic on a Budget



Holiday magic doesn't have to come with a big price tag. Sometimes, it's a handwritten wish list, a trip to a special mailbox or the surprise of your child seeing their name on mail from Santa.

Around Volusia County, local programs help families create those little moments, while a national effort connects Christmas wishes with people eager to help. Whether you're stretching your budget or looking to share a little extra, a single letter can be the beginning of something wonderful this holiday season.



SPECIAL DELIVERY IN ORMOND BEACH

Santa has two special mailboxes in Ormond Beach, accepting letters November 25 through December 16, 2026. Drop yours at Nova Community Center, 440 N. Nova Rd., or The Casements, 25 Riverside Dr. Include your child's name, wish list and full mailing address so Santa can send a reply. Make the outing a tradition: decorate letters together, deliver them in person and watch the mailbox for a little North Pole magic.



SANTA MAIL FOR VOLUSIA KIDS

A little North Pole mail can make an ordinary afternoon feel magical. Volusia County's Parks, Recreation and Culture Division has offered free personalized Santa post-cards for local children ages 12 and younger. Parents may request greetings by emailing their child's full name and mailing address to Elves@Volusia.org. Check Volusia.org for the 2026 announcement and dead-line before signing up (typically around Dec. 12), then let little ones enjoy the anticipation of their own special delivery.



A REPLY FROM THE NORTH POLE

Give Santa's reply a North Pole postmark! Have your child write a letter, then (secretly) write Santa's response. Place both in a stamped envelope addressed to your child, with "Santa, North Pole" as the return address. Put it all inside a larger stamped envelope addressed to North Pole Postmark, Postmas-ter, 4141 Postmark Dr., Anchorage, AK 99530-9998. USPS recommends mailing November 23 through December 1. You supply the magic - USPS handles the postmark.

SEND YOUR WISHES THROUGH USPS

If gifts feel out of reach this year, USPS Operation Santa connects wish lists with potential gift givers. Mail letters to Santa Claus, 123 Elf Road, North Pole, 88888, postmarked by December 5, 2026. Include your child's full name and complete return address, including apartment number, on both letter and envelope. Add appropriate postage and specific, realistic wishes. Submission does not guarantee posting, adoption or a gift. Visit USPSOperationSanta.com for instructions and templates.



BE SOMEONE'S SANTA

Have room in your budget to brighten someone else's Christmas? Visit USPSOperationSanta.com to register and verify your identity starting November 2. Adopt letters November 16 through December 12, 2026. Shop through Santa's Gift Shoppe for direct shipping, or buy gifts yourself and ship through a participating Post Office. Budget for postage, too. Choose wishes you can fulfill by browsing submitted letters, and send gifts early to help holiday surprises arrive in time for Christmas.

Sports/Races/Activities

Arts/Performances

Music

Food & Drink

Community

RECURRING MONTHLY EVENTS

- **Downtown Nights** | *Beach St, Daytona* — Nov 6 / Dec 4
- **Art Walk** | *Beach St, Daytona* — Nov 6 / Dec 4
- **Art Walk** | *Granada, Ormond* — Nov 7 / Dec 5
- **Sip/Art and Stroll** | *Canal St, NSB* — Nov 7 / Dec 5
- **Night Market** | *Tanger Outlets* — Dec 2 (no Nov market)
- **Girls Night Out** | *Riverside Pavilion, PO* — Nov 12 / Dec 10
- **Cars on Canal** | *Canal St, NSB* — Nov 14 / Dec 12
- **DeLand Cruise-In** | *Indiana Ave.* — Nov 21 / Dec 19
- **Night Market** | *Riverside Pavilion, PO* — Nov 18 / Dec 16
- **Wine Walk** | *Flagler Ave, NSB* — Nov 28 / Dec 26

Veterans Day CEREMONIES

- **Davies Lighthouse Park** — Nov 11 @ 10 AM — 4931 S. Peninsula Dr., Ponce Inlet
- **Ormond Memorial Art Museum** — Nov 11 @ 11 AM — 78 East Granada Blvd., Ormond
- **Port Orange City Center** — Nov 11 @ 10 AM — 4655 City Center Circle, Port Orange
- **Deltona Veterans' Park** — Nov 11 @ 10 AM — 1921 Evard Ave., Deltona
- **NSB Ceremony** — Nov 11 @ 11 AM — Brannon Center, 129 S Riverside Dr

1-30 **NOV 1 - JAN 17**
Daily by reservation
Stetson Mansion, DeLand

Christmas Mansion Holiday Home Tour

All new elaborate, reverent designer decorations in 10 themed rooms that express the meaning of Christmas. 15th annual Guided or Self Guided Tours at Florida's most historic 1886 Gilded Age mansion. Cafe and Gift Shop. Named #1 by Tripadvisor and USA Today. Through Jan 17th. Reservations required at StetsonMansion.com.



5-15 **NOV 5 - 15**
Schedule online
Volusia County Fairgrounds, DeLand

Volusia County Fair & Youth Show

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



9 **MON NOV 9**
6:30 PM
1501 S Ridgewood Ave, Edgewater

Plant Bingo

Join Alberto's Pizzeria in Edgewater for a fun evening of Plant Bingo benefiting Wayne McCloskey! Enjoy 10 rounds of bingo, prize plants, raffles, and community fun while supporting a great cause. Tickets: $25 presale or $30 at the door.



12-15 **NOV 12 - 15**
THU - SUN
St Demetrios, 129 N. Halifax, Daytona

Greek Festival

Daytona Beach's Greek families invite everyone to be "Greek For The Weekend!" and join in the celebration by eating, dancing, drinking and singing like a Greek. Free admission, open to the public.



14 **SAT NOV 14**
9:30 AM
Woodland Blvd., DeLand

Volusia County Veterans Day Parade

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



14-15 **NOV 14 - 15**
SAT-SUN @ 9 AM-5 PM
Flagler Avenue, NSB

The Flamingo Follies

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



20-30 **NOV 20 - JAN 2**
Nightly from 6 - 10 PM
Daytona Int. Speedway

Magic of Lights

Enjoy an amazing holiday light display from the comfort of your own vehicle! One carload - one great price at MagicofLights.com!



21 **SAT NOV 21**
1 - 5 PM
Flagler Avenue, NSB

Slider Challenge

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



21-22 **NOV 21 - 22**
SAT-SUN @10 AM-5 PM
Downtown DeLand

Fall Festival of the Arts

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



21-22 **NOV 21 - 22**
SAT - SUN
Rockefeller Gardens, Ormond

Riverfest Seafood Festival

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



27 **FRI NOV 27**
5 - 7:30 PM
Canal Street, NSB

Spark the Spirit

Kick off the holiday season with a tree lighting ceremony, live entertainment, Winter Wonderland & Santa's Grand Entrance at Christmas Park, located at the corner of Live Oak & Canal Street in New Smyrna Beach.



28 **SAT NOV 28**
9 AM - 5 PM
Canal Street, NSB

Coastal Christmas Market

Get started on holiday shopping along Canal Street in an outdoor market filled with local artisans and Canal Street merchants!



28 **SAT NOV 28**
10 AM - 3 PM
Riverfront Esplanade, Daytona

Holiday Market

Whether you're searching for one-of-a-kind gifts or looking to enjoy a day of festive fun, the Holiday Market is the place to be. Shop with dozens of handmade crafters and vendors, enjoy free holiday-themed activities and performances, and play fun games for prizes. Shop local on Small Business Saturday!



28 **SAT NOV 28**
6 - 10 PM
Hawks Park, Edgewater

EDGEfest Light Up the Night

Kick off the holiday season at EdgeFest: Light Up the Night! Enjoy a family-friendly evening with festive lights, free train rides, hot cocoa and cookies, a visit from Santa, and even snow flurries at Hawks Park. The holiday light display continues nightly throughout December!



6-30 **NOV 6 - DEC 31**

Daily

DeLand Locations

CoolCraft Christmas Trail

Pick up a CoolCraft Christmas card at the Athens Theatre, one of the CoolCraft locations or at the West Volusia Visitor Center and bring the card to any of the participating CoolCrafters. Collect signatures when you purchase holiday drinks. Bring your card to the West Volusia Welcome Center or the Athens Theatre for a free Christmas ornament!



7-8 **SAT - SUN, NOV 7 - 8**

9 AM - 5 PM; 10AM-4PM

Beach Street, Downtown Daytona

Halifax Art Festival

From ceramics and basket weaving to watercolors and oil paintings, the Halifax Art Festival, held each fall in early November, celebrates seasoned as well as emerging artists and craftsmen. Featuring more than 150 juried artisans from all over the country, it is the second oldest continual art festival in the state of Florida. Fine art booths will line Beach Street and craft art booths will be on Magnolia Avenue and Bay Street.

64th Annual
HALIFAX ART FESTIVAL

15 **SUN NOV 15**

10:15 AM - 12:30 PM

RallyWell Pickleball & Wellness Club
1798 S. Woodland Blvd., DeLand

Pickle & Pilates: Move, Play & Connect!

Join Pilates by Design, DeLand Pilates and RallyWell for a fun morning combining Pilates, pickleball and socializing! Enjoy guided classes, time on the courts, light bites and refreshments while connecting with the local wellness community. All ages and experience levels are welcome! Visit RallyWellPickleball.com for info!



16 **MON NOV 16**

5:30 PM

300 Magnolia Street, NSB

Hostess with the Mostest

Learn how to build a 6-foot grazing table for the holidays on a budget while on a sunset charcuterie cruise! $75 tickets include: 2-hour sunset cruise, 2 glasses of wine, live music, cocktail demo - plus enjoy the grazing table! More info on pg. 5.



22 **SUN NOV 22**

11 AM - 3 PM

The Brannon Center, NSB

Volusia Senior Expo

Stop by the Brannon Center for a day filled with education and fun! This event is designed to connect seniors and caregivers with valuable resources, services, and activities to help them stay healthy, happy, and informed. Enjoy free admission, activities, and refreshments!



25-29 **NOV 25 - 29**

THU - SUN

Daytona International Speedway

Dayotona Turkey Run

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










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SATURDAY
NOV. 14TH @ 4PM
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11.04 - TBA
11.05 - BRETT STASKA
11.06 - GIVEN TO FLY WITH KOBALT27
11.07 - TRAE PIERCE AND THE T'STONES
11.09 - DAVID FAIR
11.10 - HEAVY POCKET
11.11 - TBA
11.12 - YACHT ROCK
11.13 - PARADOXXX
11.14 - MRS ROPER'S ROMP GOLF CART PUB CRAWL 4PM
11.14 - THE CLICK
11.17 - HEAVY POCKET
11.18 - TBA | 11.19 - TBA
11.20 - STEREO FM
11.21 - MEGAN GUNN AND THE PISTOLEROS
11.24 - HEAVY POCKET
11.25 - THANKSGIVING EVE WITH SWITCH
11.26 - THANKSGIVING - THE CLICK
11.27 - ARE FRIENDS ELECTRIC
11.28 - ARE FRIENDS ELECTRIC
ALL SHOWS
Music Starts at 8:30pm, NO COVER* | 21+
*Unless Otherwise Noted



Calling *For Duty*

Military-Inspired Jackets Are Back

I've been wanting to talk about this trend for a while now, and the timing couldn't be more perfect. I recently walked through Zara and Mango at Aventura Mall in Miami, and military jackets were everywhere! Funny, because back in the day, I could barely find one.

Now they're practically taking over the racks.

Luckily for me, I was ahead of the troops on this one. A few years ago, I stumbled upon a vintage turquoise leather military jacket at a Goodwill in Port Orange, Florida. The color, the gold detailing, the structure — I knew this was one piece I wasn't letting go of. And look who's back in style!

The best part about this trend? Military jackets come in all shapes, sizes, colors and textures. You can go bold or keep it simple. Take your basic tee and jeans, throw on a military jacket and BOOM! You've got yourself a statement outfit.

Or better yet, throw one over your sweatpants and sneakers. Congratulations, you just elevated your casual homeless look into something to talk about.

That's the beauty of a statement jacket. It does all the work for you. Well, I don't need to go on and on about this one. The jacket speaks for itself. And with that, I'm officially reporting for duty!

GET THE LOOK
Military Jacket: Goodwill | @goodwillcentralfl
White Tee: Amazon | @amazon
Denim Jeans: Zara | @zara

CREATIVE DIRECTION / PHOTOGRAPHY / MODEL
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

Bobby G Gets Reformed

Finding Your Balance at Pilates by Design: Discovering Strength, Flexibility and a Whole New Way to Move

I had never done Pilates, but I had already nailed the outfit. Headband? Check. Ric Flair shirt? Check. The kids keep confusing Ric Flair with Ryan Gosling, which raises serious questions about their education. Either way, I figured if I couldn't do Pilates properly, I could at least look properly dressed for whatever was about to happen.

Walking into Pilates by Design for the first time, I had absolutely no idea what to expect. The equipment looked like something you might use to rehabilitate a leg, launch a small aircraft, or negotiate a confession. I was intrigued. Slightly concerned, but intrigued.

Fortunately, I was in good hands with Alicia Bibeau, whose husband is a good friend of mine from high school. That connection immediately made me comfortable. Trying something completely unfamiliar is easier when the person explaining the mysterious equipment feels like someone you already know.

Alicia introduced me to the reformer, Cadillac, tower and Wunda Chair. Say "wonder" with a Boston accent and you've pretty much got "Wunda." I was still wondering what I'd gotten myself into, but apparently this chair wasn't meant for sitting around admiring my Ric Flair shirt.

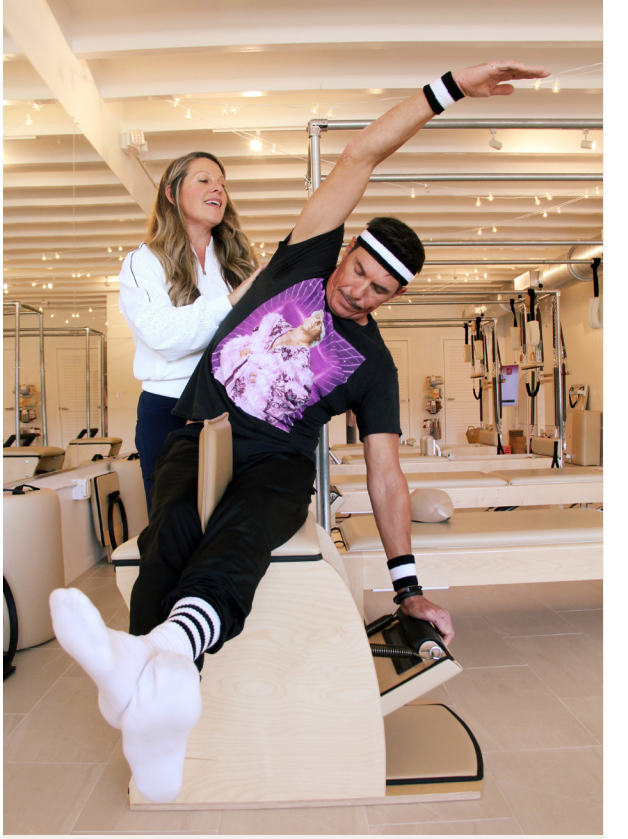
She also explained that Pilates is named for its creator, Joseph Pilates, who called his method Contrology. The original system connects mind and body through controlled, precise movements. He developed equipment to support and challenge those movements. Suddenly, all those springs, straps and bars seemed less random. There was a method here. My job was to listen long enough to actually follow it.

And listening mattered. I could feel similarities to yoga, but this required a level of concentration I hadn't anticipated. Alicia would explain where my feet belonged, what my hips should do, and which muscles needed to join the conversation. Meanwhile, my brain was trying to get everybody on the same conference call.

It was harder than it looked. Small adjustments made a big difference, and getting several parts of my body working together took real effort. I couldn't just muscle through and hope for the best. I had to slow down, pay attention, and actually work the process. That's where Alicia's instruction really stood out. She explained things clearly, watched how I moved and challenged me without making me feel overwhelmed. With about five years of teaching experience and 15 years as a dental hygienist, her attention to the person in front of her was obvious.

My left knee can be a problem, especially when I'm kneeling or putting too much weight on it. I don't have a full range of motion, so certain positions usually come with complaints from management. Alicia made adjustments so I could move without aggravating my knee. I still got an amazing workout, and my knee wasn't required to file a grievance.

As we worked through the equipment, I could feel myself loosening up. Alicia guided me through stretches I didn't think I could manage, helping me find positions that worked for my body. I felt challenged, supported and increasingly aware of how little attention I'd been paying to the way my body moves.



Why Pilates Works

01 MOBILITY

Improve flexibility, range of motion and overall movement through controlled stretching and strengthening exercises. Whether you're playing golf, staying active or enjoying everyday activities, Pilates helps you move more comfortably, with exercises tailored to your individual abilities.

02 STRENGTH

Build strength without heavy weights or high-impact workouts. Pilates uses controlled movements, resistance and specialized equipment to strengthen your core, improve stability and challenge muscles throughout your entire body effectively.

03 BODY AWARENESS

Pilates connects mind and body through intentional movement. Focusing on posture, alignment and muscle engagement helps improve coordination, balance and awareness of how your body moves throughout everyday life.

04 ADAPTABILITY

Pilates welcomes all experience levels. At Pilates by Design, Alicia offers personalized assessments, small classes and modified exercises to accommodate individual needs while keeping workouts challenging, supportive and effective.

Pilates by Design is located on historic Canal Street in New Smyrna Beach.

That awareness extends beyond the studio. Alicia talked about carrying it into work, golf and everyday life, helping our bodies stay active as we get older. I appreciated that. I'd like to keep swinging a golf club for years to come, preferably without needing help bending over to pick up the ball.

Her approach begins with a free assessment, followed by recommendations for private sessions or a class that fits your experience level. Smaller classes allow Alicia to tailor movements to individual needs, challenging everyone while respecting their limitations. No one has to feel singled out or left behind.

Alicia is also building a sense of community beyond the studio through wellness events and even a retreat to Italy. One upcoming event, "Pickle & Pilates," takes place Sunday, Nov. 15, at RallyWell Pickleball and Wellness Club in DeLand, combining Pilates, pickleball and socializing for a fun morning. Back at the studio, sessions are available individually or in packages, offering flexibility for those who travel or live here only part of the year.

Afterward, I felt stretched out, looser and like I'd gotten a good workout, without being particularly sore. I suspect Alicia took it easy on me. When we discussed skill levels, I rated my performance a "level zero." Apparently, there's room for improvement.

Would I do it again? Absolutely. I arrived with an open mind and an excellent outfit. I left with a better understanding of my body and respect for the work.

Next time, I'll bring a little more experience and just as much emphasis on appearance. Alicia's in charge of the form. Bobby G's in charge of the flair.





Whether you're new to Pilates or have years of experience, the instructors at Pilates by Design provide personalized guidance and support to help you move safely, build confidence and get the most out of every session.





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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

Living History

Bringing History to Life: A DeLand Love Story at the Historical Society





History isn't just a collection of dates and artifacts locked away in quiet museums. It is the living narrative of the people who built our communities from the ground up. The West Volusia Historical Society is carrying that torch here, preserving the stories of those who left a mark on DeLand and West Volusia. At a recent Conversations at Conrad event, this sentiment was on full display with a captivating theatrical presentation of the lives of Harold and Rabel Parsons, two long-time residents who did not just survive their era. They defined it.

The Conrad Center, sitting next to the DeLand House Museum on West Michigan Avenue, just a couple of blocks from downtown, hosted a performance that brought a local love story back into the room. With Rabel warmly portrayed by Caryn Long and Harold by Stan O'Neal, attendees were transported back in time. The weight of the afternoon hit hardest for the actual Parsons family members in the audience. After the show, they noted how frighteningly well Stan and Caryn were able to embody Harold and Rabel. It was an intimate look at a romance that spanned more than half a century, playing out as if the genuine couple were simply sitting right across the table from them.

In many ways, the journey of Harold and Rabel reads like a roadmap through mid-century Central Florida. The couple first crossed paths during a 1942 choir rehearsal at the First Baptist Church while attending Stetson University. It is the defining story of their generation, a life upended by the reality of World War II. Before Harold shipped out for Navy flight training, the two became engaged. On the home front, Rabel stepped up to serve, proudly pounding the pavement as the first female letter carrier in DeLand to deliver the heavy news of the era.

When Harold finally returned, the two picked up right where they left off and got married. Harold spent 22 years working as an agent for the FBI, navigating the Florida justice system and the gritty realities of the era. As recounted by Stan, Harold once crawled through palmetto bushes to dismantle KKK cross-burnings and on a separate occasion personally disarmed railway explosives. Rabel, meanwhile, returned to Stetson to finish her degree, launching a rewarding career in music education. Through it all, their story was anchored by a profound mutual respect and a shared love for their family and the town they called home.

Stories like these are a highlight of the programming put on by the West Volusia Historical Society. The society regularly hosts engaging, community-focused events exactly like this one to ensure the region's vibrant past stays relevant. From their Conversations at Conrad series to their beloved Tour of Historic Homes returning this year, the society provides an invaluable window into local culture. They showcase exactly how this life was lived and how it is actively being preserved.

Ready to step back in time?
Learn more at DeLandHouse.com.

More information about West Volusia County is available at our Visitor Center, located at 116 W. New York Avenue in Downtown DeLand, FL, or online at VisitWestVolusia.com. For further details, please call (386) 734-0162.



DAVID SWANBERG | ARTICLE & PICTURES

David has called Central Florida home for nearly two decades and currently lives in DeLand. When he's not out exploring, you can probably find him playing online chess or walking around with a darn good cup of coffee.

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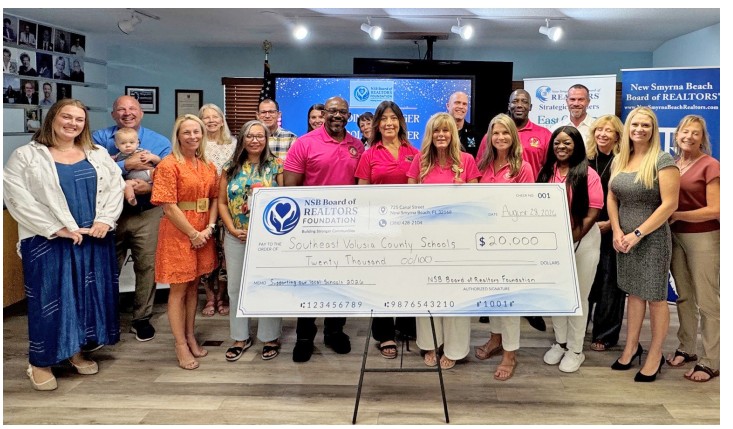

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The presentations recognize more than a financial contribution. They reflect the involvement of REALTORS®, Business Partners, volunteers, and supporters who contribute to the Foundation's charitable work. Their participation helps turn fundraising efforts into support that reaches the community.

Schools are an important part of the places we call home. They bring families together, connect neighborhoods, and help shape the future of our area. Supporting them is one way the real estate community can contribute beyond helping people buy and sell property.

For NSBBOR members, community involvement continues long after a transaction closes. The school check presentations highlight that commitment and provide an opportunity to recognize the educators and school representatives whose work benefits students every day.

The NSB Board of REALTORS® Foundation thanks the members, sponsors, volunteers, and community supporters who make this giving possible. Their generosity helps sustain the Foundation's charitable efforts and its connection with local schools.

Together, these efforts demonstrate how local partnerships can turn a shared commitment to community into meaningful support.

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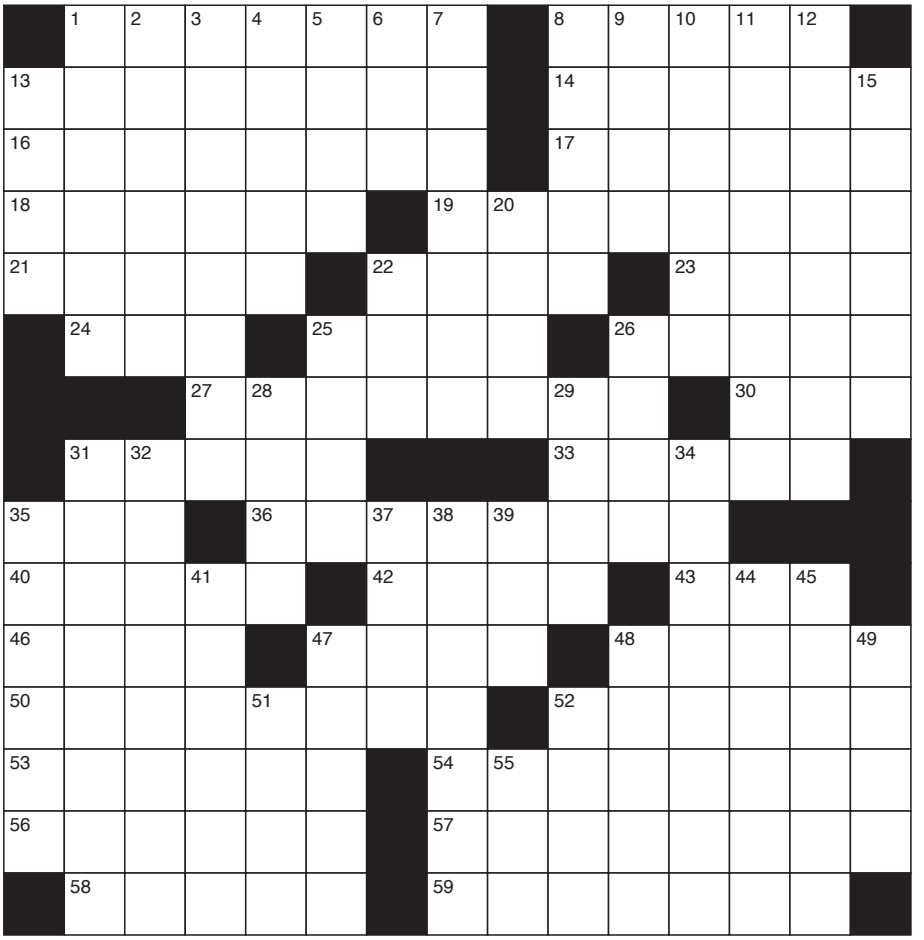
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Across

1. Lounging garments
8. Fortunes
13. Gravel-voiced actress
14. Every pre-1969 Vassar graduate
16. Foe
17. Conical homes on the plains
18. Ear inflammation
19. Knickknack holders
21. Elixir
22. Bottom-row PC key
23. Idle
24. Bro or sis
25. Decide, as a judge
26. Flat sign?
27. Missing companionship
30. German article
31. Comic actress Anne
33. As ___ resort (when all else fails)
35. Anaheim team, on scoreboards
36. Quarantines
40. Others (Sp.)
42. Keats, for one
43. Communist leader Mao ___-tung
46. Ship boss, familiarly
47. Japanese electronics brand
48. Village officer, in Canada
50. Supporter of a cause
52. Become rigid
53. Let out a bit
54. Caribbean islanders
56. Ron Paul's middle name
57. Any military recruit, these days
58. Divisions
59. English billiards game



Down

1. Kidnapper
2. Like Swiss peaks
3. Naval unit
4. Roman wear
5. Pub potables
6. A Bobbsey twin
7. Jewish towns
8. Deadly
9. "Get ____ Up" (John Mellencamp tune)
10. Honey variety
11. Rich greens
12. Take lightly
13. Beep the horn
15. Portfolio contents
20. Palm phone
22. Actor's prompt
25. Genetic strands
26. TV part
28. Swiss watch company
29. Actor Dillon
31. Arruza and Manolete
32. Headset part
34. Keypad symbol
35. Setting
37. Not buttoned
38. Detests
39. Old nuclear watchdog (abbr.)
41. "Be with you shortly"
44. Calm down
45. Less biased
47. Bivouac shelters
48. Five-to-one, e.g.
49. Start of Massachusetts' motto
51. Take it easy
52. Hawaiian city
55. Mrs. Mitt Romney

OCTOBER 2026 ANSWERS



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

The Christmas Mansion Opens Its Doors For the 2026 Holidays



The holiday season returns to one of West Volusia's most treasured landmarks as The Christmas Mansion, also known as Stetson Mansion, opens its doors November 1, 2026. Recognized by USA TODAY as Florida's #1 Christmas display and #2 in the nation, the historic DeLand estate welcomes visitors for another season of elaborate decorations, festive traditions, and Gilded Age grandeur.

This year, guests can explore 10 beautifully decorated rooms, each featuring a unique theme, including Christmas Takes Flight, Royal Nutcracker, Seaside Coastal Christmas, Winter's Grace, and Christmas by Candlelight. Both guided and self-guided tours are available, with three to seven daily tour times, including evenings, through January 17, 2027. New this season, bilingual Spanish tours will also be offered.

Known as the "House That Hats Built," the mansion was constructed in 1886 for famed hat maker and philanthropist John B. Stetson, Florida's first "snowbird." The estate was Florida's first luxury home and remains its only Gilded Age mansion. Ahead of its time, it featured Edison electricity, steam heat, indoor plumbing, and a call bell system. Today, the meticulously restored residence is listed on the National Register of Historic Places.

The mansion continues earning national recognition, including a spot in USA TODAY's 2023 10 Best Readers' Choice awards. It has also maintained TripAdvisor's #1 Landmark Tourist Attraction ranking since 2014.

Beyond the holiday displays, visitors can enjoy the new Stetson Hat Experience, where guests design, shape, and embellish their own Stetson hat with professional assistance. An expanded selection of Stetson apparel and accessories is also available.

The mansion additionally serves as a wedding and special event venue, featuring landscaped grounds and an outdoor ceremony garden. While October through December Murder Mystery dinners are sold out, tickets for January through March performances go on sale December 6.

Whether admiring the holiday displays, discovering the home's remarkable history, or creating a personalized Stetson hat, The Christmas Mansion offers a festive experience that celebrates both Christmas and West Volusia's heritage.

Ready to hit the trails? For more information, visit the West Volusia Visitor Center at 116 W. New York Avenue in DeLand.
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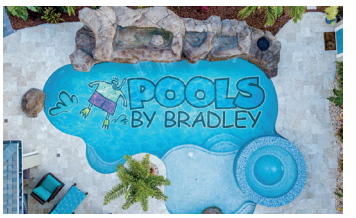
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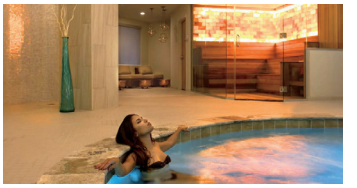


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The Boat Coach

Fall for Boating: Cooler Temperatures, Quieter Waterways and Holiday Traditions Await

Even though it is 85 degrees out as I write this, autumn is upon us and with dropping temperatures and fall weather we are entering one of my favorite seasons for boating in Volusia County. Average temperatures for November are 75 degrees for a high and 62 for a low. December averages are 72 as a high and 57 as the low.

Of course, there will be warmer and cooler days that form the averages. Those cooler temperatures keep many boaters at the end of their boating season. For me and a few others, the best of the boating year is about to commence.

The Football Factor: With the advent of the collegiate and professional football season, many boaters choose to abandon their boating for sports bars, home theaters and stadiums. This makes boating less congested. There is a noticeable drop in crowds at the popular sandbar and raft-up locations leaving plenty of space.

When preparing for your fall/winter outings, dressing appropriately is key. Layering is vital, as mornings can be chilly while afternoons may warm up. Remember to bring a warm hat and gloves for those cooler days on the water.

Before heading out, it's important to inspect your boat and safety equipment. Fall weather, while beautiful, can be unpredictable, so be prepared for sudden changes. As with every season, it is always important to prioritize safety. Before heading out, check the forecast and be prepared to run for safety. Don life jackets if the weather worsens.

The latest National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Winter Outlook and the National Weather Service indicate that this El Niño is strengthening to near-historic levels. This shifts the jet stream southward and eastward across the United States, creating an active storm track that shapes Florida's late fall and winter. So far, this strong El Niño has spared Central Florida from a major hurricane, but NOAA predicts the winter will be wetter and potentially stormier than normal, with temperatures expected to remain near normal. This makes paying attention to weather conditions even more important.

It's also fundamental to be mindful of colder temperatures. Cold water can lead to hypothermia, so pay attention to how long you're in the water. As shorter days approach, sunsets come early. Time your return to coincide with dusk while you still have light.



El Niño could bring a wetter and stormier winter to Central Florida, making it especially important for boaters to stay alert to changing weather conditions. Even on beautiful days, stronger winds, sudden rain and shifting conditions can create unexpected challenges on the water. Before heading out, check the forecast, prepare for changing conditions and always make safety your top priority.

Winter brings on some not-to-miss events. Starting in late November and lasting through mid-January, discover St. Augustine's Christmas Light Festival. The spectacle takes on a whole new dimension from on the water.

December brings holiday boat parades starting with Southeast Volusia Holiday Parade that starts at 6 p.m. on Dec. 12, 2026, beginning at the Edgewater boat ramp and winds around to Riverside Park in New Smyrna Beach. The DeLand Christmas Boat Parade traditionally happens in early December, kicking off near Ed Stone Park, heading toward Lake Beresford and ending near the Lake Beresford Yacht Club.



Dec. 19, 2026, launches the Daytona Beach Christmas Boat Parade on the Halifax River starting near the Seabreeze Bridge and heading south toward Halifax Harbor Marina. These are great events to view from shore and even more fun to participate in.

Fall and winter boating can be a delightful experience, offering a perfect blend of natural beauty, outdoor adventure, cooler weather and peaceful solitude. By taking the right precautions and planning your day trips thoughtfully, you can extend your boating season and enjoy the serene splendor of autumn on the water. So, prepare your gear, invite your family and friends, and get out on the water and discover the fabulous boating this fall.

See you on the water!



CAPTAIN MARK KELLUM
THE BOAT COACH
MARKTHEBOATCOACH@GMAIL.COM
MARKTHEBOATCOACH.COM

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.







Backwater *Fishing* Report

Best Days to Fish:
November 1, 6-12, 16-18, 23-26, 29-30





King tides have been running exceptionally high around New Smyrna Beach, flooding the backwaters of Bethune Beach and making conditions a bit more challenging than usual. But as every angler knows, fishing isn't always about how easy the bite is - it's about the experience, the people you share it with and the memories you make along the way!

I had the pleasure of spending a beautiful day on the water with friends from Barbados, Irie Wilson of Irie One, young professional skater Tarryn, my lovely lady Rachel Vause and my daughter Adelynn. Despite the elevated tides and stronger winds, it was a wonderful day to be out on the water together.

We stopped by 38 Bait on the North Causeway to pick up some live shrimp, and the fish were ready to cooperate! We caught plenty of speckled sea trout, redfish and mangrove snapper, giving everyone plenty of action and a day full of smiles. There's nothing better than enjoying the outdoors with good people, beautiful weather and a few fish tugging on the line!

As we move toward winter and water temperatures begin to cool, we're looking forward to seeing the tides settle and drop. Lower water levels should help concentrate fish in the backwater creeks and deeper channels, while the cooler temperatures bring seasonal changes to our local fishery.

We're hoping for more schooling fish, clearer water and plenty of bait moving through the area. As conditions improve, the bite should continue to build, creating exciting opportunities to target trout, redfish and other inshore favorites throughout the Mosquito Lagoon and surrounding backwaters.

A big thank-you to 38 Bait on the North Causeway for keeping us supplied with quality live shrimp. Here's to cooler weather, cleaner water, hungry fish and plenty more memorable days ahead!

Tight lines, everyone! Let's get ready for a fantastic fall and winter fishing season here in New Smyrna Beach and Bethune Beach!

Until Next Time... Cast Em... Hook Em... And Catch Em!



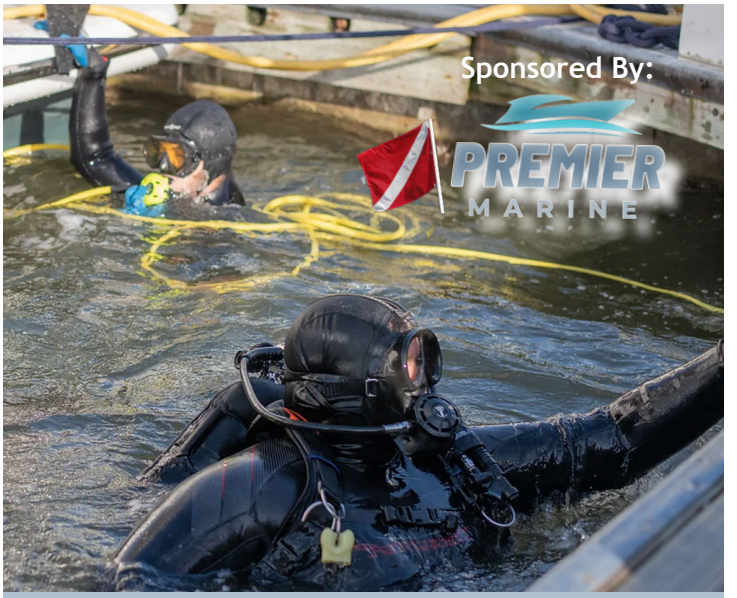
PATRICK "TUPAT" EICHSTAEDT | @ THEREALTUPAT

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 November Tide Chart



US HARBORS www.USHarbors.com

Ponce De Leon Inlet South, FL - Nov 2026

Date		High				Low						
		AM	ft	PM	ft	AM	ft	PM	ft	Rise	Set	Moon
1	Sun	1:50	3.3	1:28	4.0	6:51	0.6	7:57	0.8	6:36	5:38	
2	Mon	1:57	3.3	2:32	3.9	7:57	0.7	8:53	0.8	6:37	5:37	
3	Tue	3:06	3.5	3:34	3.8	9:02	0.7	9:46	0.7	6:37	5:36	
4	Wed	4:08	3.6	4:30	3.7	10:07	0.8	10:36	0.6	6:38	5:35	
5	Thu	5:02	3.8	5:19	3.6	11:07	0.8	11:21	0.6	6:39	5:35	
6	Fri	5:51	4.0	6:06	3.4			12:02	0.8	6:40	5:34	
7	Sat	6:37	4.1	6:50	3.3	12:04	0.6	12:53	0.7	6:40	5:33	
8	Sun	7:21	4.1	7:34	3.2	12:44	0.6	1:38	0.7	6:41	5:33	
9	Mon	8:03	4.1	8:16	3.1	1:22	0.6	2:20	0.8	6:42	5:32	
10	Tue	8:43	4.0	8:55	3.1	1:59	0.6	2:58	0.8	6:43	5:31	
11	Wed	9:22	3.9	9:34	3.0	2:35	0.7	3:37	0.9	6:44	5:31	
12	Thu	10:01	3.8	10:13	2.9	3:12	0.7	4:18	1.0	6:44	5:30	
13	Fri	10:41	3.7	10:55	2.9	3:51	0.8	5:05	1.1	6:45	5:30	
14	Sat	11:23	3.6	11:40	2.8	4:37	0.9	5:55	1.1	6:46	5:29	
15	Sun			12:08	3.5	5:30	1.0	6:44	1.1	6:47	5:29	
16	Mon	12:29	2.8	12:54	3.4	6:27	1.1	7:29	1.1	6:48	5:28	
17	Tue	1:24	2.8	1:44	3.3	7:23	1.1	8:13	1.0	6:48	5:28	
18	Wed	2:25	2.9	2:39	3.2	8:19	1.1	8:57	0.8	6:49	5:28	
19	Thu	3:25	3.1	3:36	3.2	9:18	1.0	9:42	0.7	6:50	5:27	
20	Fri	4:19	3.4	4:29	3.2	10:18	0.9	10:28	0.5	6:51	5:27	
21	Sat	5:08	3.7	5:19	3.2	11:15	0.8	11:15	0.3	6:52	5:27	
22	Sun	5:55	3.9	6:09	3.2			12:11	0.6	6:52	5:26	
23	Mon	6:45	4.2	7:01	3.2	12:02	0.2	1:04	0.4	6:53	5:26	
24	Tue	7:36	4.3	7:54	3.2	12:52	0.0	1:56	0.3	6:54	5:26	
25	Wed	8:29	4.4	8:47	3.2	1:42	-0.1	2:47	0.3	6:55	5:26	
26	Thu	9:21	4.4	9:40	3.2	2:33	-0.1	3:39	0.3	6:56	5:25	
27	Fri	10:15	4.3	10:36	3.2	3:26	-0.1	4:36	0.3	6:56	5:25	
28	Sat	11:10	4.2	11:34	3.2	4:25	0.0	5:36	0.4	6:57	5:25	
29	Sun			12:06	3.9	5:30	0.2	6:35	0.4	6:58	5:25	
30	Mon	12:35	3.2	1:03	3.7	6:38	0.3	7:30	0.4	6:59	5:25	


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