

HAPPENINGS

Weekly Edition
December 20, 2024



PORT ST. JOHN CHRISTMAS PARADE

Planning has begun for the 35th Annual Port St. John Christmas Parade. The parade will take place on December 21, 2024, 11 a.m. in Port St. John. The parade route will be east along Fay Blvd. from Waterloo Ave. to Carole Ave. We are planning for a larger parade, 70-80 entries this year.

After all the school groups were forced to cancel all outdoor events last year due to an oncoming thunderstorm, this year's parade theme - again - will be, "The Wonder of Christmas Morning." Floats and decorations should be planned toward the theme. All entries will be judged and plaques awarded. Categories include Theme, Christmas Spirit, Creativity, Marching Musical and Marching Non-Musical.

Port St. John Christmas Parade



The parade travels in the eastbound lane of Fay Blvd., so most of the floats are built to face the sidewalk on the south side of Fay. The county does not allow spectators to gather on the medians or in the cutouts in the center of Fay Blvd.

Please be respectful of the owner's property and do not leave candy wrappers or trash along the road. Bring a bag to collect your children's goodies.

Fay Blvd. will be closed from Waterloo Ave. to Carole Ave. from 11:00 a.m. until 12:30 when the parade ends.

For everyone's safety, candy may will not be thrown from the floats and vehicles.

Any questions, suggestions or needs should be directed to Randy Rodriguez, 321-863-7499 or happenings1@bellsouth.net, or Jeremy Higginbotham, 321-576-2818 or Jhigginbotham@orionconnectivity.com.

Get Involved with Your Community in Our Citizens Academy Class

Join us for Citizens Academy in 2025. Did you know that less than 40% of Americans feel confident in understanding how local government works? Civic engagement is the foundation of a democratic society, and at the heart of decision-making lies the delicate balance between two vital, yet sometimes competing, priorities: individual liberty and the public good. Balancing these often means finding solutions that respect personal freedoms while addressing collective needs like public safety, education and infrastructure. One impactful way for Brevard County residents to actively shape their community is by joining the Citizens' Academy—an extraordinary civics class designed to demystify local government. This program offers a behind-the-scenes look at how the county develops budgets, paves roads, trains employees and more. Past participants of Citizens' Academy have gone on to serve on local boards,

lead community initiatives and deepen their understanding of county processes.

This free course aims to give residents a better understanding of how the county develops its budget, paves roads, trains employees and so much more. It will also promote open communication lines between county departments and residents. Together, we can build stronger, more equitable, sustainable, and healthy communities.

Citizen's Academy occurs every Thursday for 7 weeks from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., starting Thursday, February 6 and ending Thursday, March 20, 2025. Lunch is not provided. The cost is Free.

Register on Eventbrite with this link: <https://loom.ly/16hmLuQ>.

If you have any questions, please call us at 321-633-1702 or email Brevard@IFAS.UFL.edu.

Parrish Healthcare Donates More than 600 Holiday Meals to Local Charities Addressing Holiday Hunger and Feeding People in Need



Members from North Brevard Charities and Parrish Healthcare's Senior Vice President of Communications, Community & Corporate Services, Natalie Sellers, load donated hams, turkeys and pies at Parrish Medical Center to give to families in need this holiday season.

Parrish Healthcare donated more than 600 holiday meals to local charities, food pantries and churches all dedicated to providing hunger relief and serving meals to people in need during the holidays. The 600 hams and turkeys donated are estimated to feed more than 1,200 people in need this holiday.

According to Feeding America, millions of people in the United States face food insecurity during the holidays.

“With nearly 26% of North Brevard’s populations at, or below, the national poverty level, we know the need is great within our community,” said Parrish Healthcare President/CEO George Mikitarian.

“Providing the means for charitable community organizations who help feed the hungry during the holidays has been a proud Parrish Healthcare tradition for many years,” said Mikitarian.

The donations are made possible through Parrish Healthcare’s annual holiday meal gift program. Each year, Parrish Healthcare gives the gift of a holiday meal to its Care Partners (employees, medical staff members and volunteers). The gift includes a choice of a honey baked ham or butterball turkey and an apple or pumpkin pie to take home to share with their family and friends. Care Partners may also choose to donate their gift to support one of Parrish Healthcare’s partner charities.

“The program started with supporting only North Brevard Charities Sharing Center, but has grown to also support First Baptist Church of Mims, LifePointe Ministries, Under the Bridge Ministries, among others,” said Natalie Sellers, Senior Vice President, Communication, Community & Corporate Services.

“Our holiday meal gift program serves as a small token of appreciation for our loyal Care Partners for their hard work and dedication, but it also serves to highlight the

generous spirit of our Parrish Healthcare family,” said Sellers.

“Together, we take pride in creating a stronger, more connected community, one act of kindness at a time,” added Mikitarian.



Members from Parrish Healthcare and North Brevard Charities load items for delivery.

Cocoa High School Wins Third Straight Class 2A Football State Championship

For the third straight year, the Tigers of Cocoa High School won the Class 2A football state championship, defeating Gadsden County 38-27 last Thursday night. The Tigers opened the scoring with quarterback Brady Hart connecting with Jayvan Boggs, star wide receiver and recent Florida State Seminole.



Gadsden County dominated the run game with almost 160 total rushing yards. But a late rushing touchdown from Cocoa’s Latrison Lane sealed the title. He finished the night with two touchdowns. Hart threw for 259 passing yards and also had a rushing touchdown. Boggs finished his senior season with 21 touchdowns and over 2,000 receiving yards.

“Best senior class in Cocoa history,” Cocoa head coach Ryan Schneider said after the game. “We won three in a row, but we’ve been to four straight state championships. It’s a class of winners. I’m more proud of the type of people they are off the field.”

Congratulations to the Cocoa High Tigers!



Merry Mimosas!

...at the Downtown Art Gallery

Celebrate the season in style at the 6th Annual “Merry Mimosas” Saturday December 21, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Downtown Art Gallery, 400 Orange St. in Titusville

Discover Titusville’s premiere art gallery, filled with unique gifts and stunning artwork across six showrooms. Sip complimentary mimosas as you shop handcrafted creations from our talented artists, including exclusive holiday pieces perfect for gift-giving.

Bring your friends, enjoy the festive spirit, and find one-of-a-kind treasures for your loved ones (or yourself!).

We look forward to welcoming you!

Health Rocks 4-H Youth Program

Rocks is comprised of a series of fun and engaging activities geared to inspire youth to be substance-free for grades 6, 7, and 8. This free program will be once a week on Tuesdays from 12:30-2 p.m. beginning January 14, 2025, and will end on February 25, 2025, at the UF/IFAS Extension Office 3695 Lake Dr. in Cocoa.

Youth participants will gain the knowledge, skills and assets needed to make smart decisions about their own health, and the sense of empowerment needed to become advocates for others. This program's activities are aligned with National Health Education Standards. We are also accepting mentors from grades 9 to 12.

To register Visit <https://v2.4honline.com/> and select the Health Rocks! Club

If you have any questions, please call us at (321) 633-1702 or email Brevard@IFAS.UFL.edu.

Be a Part of Something Special.

Be a Parrish Care Partner!

Open interviews, every Tuesday, 9 a.m.-noon

Full Time, Per Diem or Part Time jobs available!

- Registered Nurses
- RN Clinical Coordinators
- RN Charge Nurses
- Certified Nursing Assistant
- Medical Assistant
- Emergency Medicine Technologist
- Respiratory Technologists
- CT Technologists
- EKG Technologists
- Quality Improvement
- MRI Technologists
- Radiology Technologist
- Phlebotomist
- Identity Access Management Analyst
- Paramedic
- Sterile Processing Technician
- Cardiovascular Invasive Specialist
- Athletic Trainer

Main Hospital: 951 N. Washington Avenue, Titusville

Career Site: www.Parrishhealthcare.com/careers

Roots to Work Program Empowers Young Adults With Special Needs Through Agricultural Training

We are excited to announce the launch of Roots to Work, a program designed for young adults (ages 18 and older) with special needs who are eager to develop workplace skills in horticulture.

This 6-week course begins the first week of February - (exact dates TBD) - and combines classroom learning, hands-on training and field trips to provide participants with essential skills for independence and success in the workforce.

Program Highlights:

- Interactive Training: Weekly classes with a mix of classroom and practical, hands-on activities.
- Field Trips: Explore horticulture in action and gain real-world insights.
- Apprenticeship Opportunity: Participants who complete the program may have the chance to apprentice at a local nursery.

To register and learn more, please visit: <https://loom.ly/-2MvuPI>. If you have any questions, please call us at 321-633-1702 or email Brevard@IFAS.UFL.edu.

NASA Delays Artemis 2 Moon Mission To 2026

Artemis 3 Astronaut Landing To Mid-2027

We'll have to wait a bit longer to see the first crewed moon mission since the Apollo era. NASA has announced that it's delaying the planned launch of Artemis 2, a flight that will send four people around the moon and back, to April 2026. Artemis 2 had been targeted for September, 2025. And Artemis 3, a crewed moon landing that had been targeted for late 2026, is now scheduled for mid-2027. The extra time is needed primarily to finish prepping the Orion capsule for its first-ever crewed flights, according to NASA officials.

"Space is demanding," NASA Administrator Bill Nelson said during a press conference last week. "And we, and our industry and international partners, need this time to make sure that the Orion capsule is ready to safely deliver our astronauts to deep space and back to Earth."

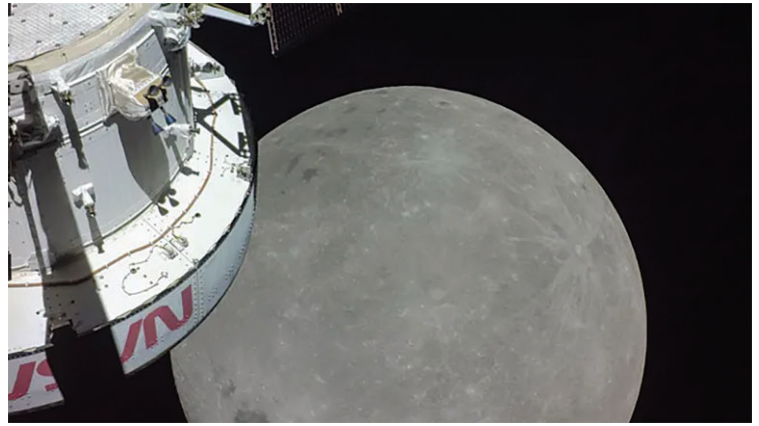
Orion has completed two flights to date — a short flight to Earth orbit in 2014 and the 25-day-long Artemis 1, an uncrewed test mission that sent the capsule to lunar orbit and back to Earth in late 2022.

Everything appeared to go well on Artemis 1. However, post-flight analyses revealed that Orion's heat shield wore away more unevenly during its reentry to Earth's atmosphere than engineers had predicted. Temperatures inside Orion remained near room temperature, meaning that astronauts would have remained safe during reentry, but engineers needed to figure out what happened.

NASA officials said that they've now come to some conclusions at the press conference. The uneven ablation was a consequence of Orion's "skip" reentry trajectory, in which the capsule bounced off the atmosphere and then came back in again. This strategy is required to dissipate the tremendous energy associated with high-speed returns from the moon, but it had an unexpected downside on Artemis 1. "While the capsule was dipping in and out of the atmosphere as part of that planned skip entry, heat accumulated inside the heat shield outer layer, leading to gases forming and becoming trapped inside the heat shield," NASA Deputy Administrator Pam Melroy said. "This caused internal pressure to build up and led to cracking and uneven shedding of that outer layer."

Ms. Melroy and others announced during the press conference that a new version doesn't need to be developed for the coming crewed mission, but planners will alter the reentry trajectory to minimize the issues experienced during Artemis 1.

"For Artemis 2, engineers will limit how long Orion spends in the temperature range in which the Artemis 1 heat shield phenomenon occurred by modifying how far Orion can fly between when it enters Earth atmosphere and lands," NASA officials wrote in an Artemis FAQ. That re-



A portion of the far side of the Moon looms large just beyond the Orion spacecraft in this image taken on the sixth day of the Artemis 1 mission by a camera on the tip of one of Orion's solar arrays in November 2022.

(Image credit: NASA)

vised trajectory will also bring the Artemis 2 Orion down in the Pacific Ocean closer to San Diego, meaning it will be easier to get help to the mission's four astronauts if anything goes wrong during reentry.

"The updated timeline for the Artemis 2 flight is informed by technical issues engineers are troubleshooting, including with an Orion battery issue and its environmental control system," NASA officials wrote in the same FAQ.

Artemis 3's timeline is likewise informed by numerous factors — perhaps even more of them, given the increased complexity of the mission. The current plan calls for the involvement of SpaceX's Starship megarocket, whose upper-stage spacecraft will serve as the Artemis 3 lunar lander. Starship is still in development, with just six test flights completed. The last few missions have gone very well.

Barnyard Challengers 4-H Youth with Disabilities Program

This program is open to youth ages 8 and up who have a disability and would like to participate in an animal project. Youth will be paired up with mentors to learn about poultry with the opportunity to participate in the Brevard County Fair. Youth don't need their own chicken to participate. The cost is \$25.00 per participant.

The program will take place on Mondays from 6-7 p.m. beginning January 27, 2025 and run through March 17, 2025, at the UF/IFAS Extension Office 3695 Lake Dr. in Cocoa.

For more information and to register please contact Vanessa Spero, Regional Specialized 4-H Agent at vspero@ufl.edu or call her at 321-615-7323.

Don't let anyone who hasn't been in your shoes tell you how to tie your laces.