

The deadline for submissions for Volusia County is 5 p.m. Thursday for the next week's issue, except for Rants & Raves, which is 5 p.m. Friday. Deadlines are adjusted for holidays. For more information, call (386) 322-5924.





APPROVED AUDITOR INFO OR PERIODICALS PERMIT  
(IF APPLICABLE) AS REQUIRED FOR PUBLIC NOTICES  
PER SECTION 50.011(1)(e), F.S.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP



CIRCULATION AUDIT BY



AUDITOR'S CERTIFICATION REPORT



CVC-CIRCULATION VERIFIED COUNCIL  
12166 OLD BIG BEND ROAD, SUITE 210  
KIRKWOOD, MO 63122  
314.966.7711  
<http://www.cvcaudit.com/>

# Hometown News

Published weekly by Hometown News, L.C.,  
5057 Turnpike Feeder Road, Ft. Pierce, FL 34951  
Copyright © 2026, Hometown News, L.C.

**Voted # 1 Community Newspaper in  
America in 2005, 2006, 2007.**

**One of the top 3 in America every year since 2003.**

**acp**  
Associated Community Publishers

**IFPA**

<p>William (Bill) R. Barker . . . . . Publisher</p> <p>Vernon D. Smith . . . . . Managing Partner</p> <p>Don Hornbeck . . . . . Regional Circulation Manager</p> <p>Mary Gaylord . . . . . Circulation Administrator</p> <p>Shawn Johnson . . . . . Circulation Manager</p> <p>Robin Bevilacqua . . . . . Human Resources</p> <p>Annita Ferrante . . . . . Account Receivable</p> <p>Amanda Wheaton . . . . . Credit &amp; Collections</p> <p>Lynn Tiffany . . . . . Executive Editor</p> <p>Halle Brown . . . . . Associate Editor</p> <p>Carrie Maday . . . . . Associate News Editor</p>	<p>Amanda Tucker . . . . . Major/Natl. Accounts Manager</p> <p>Sandy Davilla . . . . . Multi Media Specialist</p> <p>Dianne Cavarretta . . . . . Marketing Consultant</p> <p>Mercedes Paquette . . . . . Production Manager</p> <p>Karen Wood . . . . . Graphic Artist</p> <p>Heather Donaldson . . . . . Inside Sales Manager</p> <p>Angie Daniels . . . . . Inside Sales Assistant</p> <p>Jeretta Kimberlin . . . . . Inside Sales/Classified</p> <p>Melissa Russo . . . . . Director of Digital Marketing</p>
---	--

**Phone** (386) 322-5900

**Fax** (386) 322-5901


**Classified** (386) 322-5949

**Rants & Raves** (386) 322-5902

**Circulation Inquiries** 386-322-5941

[Volusiacirculation@hometownnewsmediagroup.com](mailto:Volusiacirculation@hometownnewsmediagroup.com)

CIRCULATION AUDIT BY



WEST VOLUSIA

For information, call 386-736-5953.

For information, visit [www.makersdaytonabeach.com](http://www.makersdaytonabeach.com).

7207, ext. 21026.

## School News

### Maker Daytona Beach launches 'Show N' Tell'

Maker Daytona Beach, an extension of Maker Faire Orlando, is launching a new Makers Show N' Tell Night series at 5:30 p.m., May 14, at Murph's Patio Bar & Grill, 1431 Orange Camp Road, Suite 107, DeLand in order to bring together students, educators, and local makers in an interactive, hands-on environment.

Additional dates are planned at community spaces across Volusia County.

The series will build toward a larger, hands-on exhibition event scheduled for late spring 2027.

Unlike traditional presentations, Makers Show N' Tell Night offers a simple format: participants bring projects they've built, ranging from robotics and engineering prototypes to creative and experimental work, and share them directly with the community. Attendees can interact with the projects and ask questions.

Makers Show N' Tell Night already has local support from DeLand High School Tri-Force Robotics, ATC Robotics, and Bethune-Cookman Computer Engineering team, as well as an award-winning Abrams book designer, independent makers, and even 8-year-olds showing off their LEGO builds.

Maker Daytona Beach has been actively building partnerships with organizations such as Volusia County Schools STEM and the Museum of Arts & Sciences/The Brown, Volusia Business Resources to strengthen a growing ecosystem focused

on hands-on, project-based learning.

Maker Daytona Beach is led by a core team of organizers and local entrepreneurs and is seeking to expand its business development efforts through strategic partnerships to support long-term growth and sustainability.

For information, event details, or to get involved, visit [www.makersdaytonabeach.com/](http://www.makersdaytonabeach.com/)

### Stetson University to honor more than 1,000 graduates over four Commencement ceremonies

In DeLand, Stetson will celebrate its 140th annual Commencement and award bachelor's and master's degrees to 784 students on Friday and Saturday, May 8-9.

This year's ceremonies will move back to the DeLand campus in the newly renovated Edmunds Center, Insight Credit Union Arena, 143 E. Pennsylvania Ave., DeLand.

During the three ceremonies, graduates will be individually recognized for their achievements as they walk across the stage and their names are called. Master's degree candidates also are honored through the traditional hooding.

At the College of Law in Gulfport, 303 students will be awarded a Juris Doctor, Master of Laws or Master of Jurisprudence degree. The Commencement Ceremony will take place Saturday, May 16, at 5 p.m. in The BayCare Sound at Coachman Park, 255 Drew St., Clearwater.

The keynote speaker will be Stetson

Law alumnus Michael J. Loparco, a 1996 graduate who is cofounder and CEO of OrcaWorcs.ai. The AI-driven platform supports complex workflow and compliance needs across multiple industries.

The Stetson Law ceremony will be livestreamed, with a viewing link posted at the top of the College of Law website on the morning of May 16. For information, visit Stetson Law's Commencement website.

The ceremonies on the DeLand campus in the Edmunds Center are set for:

Friday, May 8, at 7 p.m. for graduates in the School of Business Administration who will earn a Bachelor of Business Administration, Master of Business Administration or Master of Accountancy.

Saturday, May 9, at 9 a.m. for graduates in the College of Arts and Sciences, and the School of Music who will receive a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Music, Bachelor of Music Education, Master of Education, Educational Specialist degree, or Master of Fine Arts.

Saturday, May 9, at 3 p.m. for graduates in the College of Arts and Sciences who will earn a Bachelor of Science or Master of Science.

Tickets are required for all guests, ages three and older (at no charge). Live streaming of the DeLand ceremonies will be available through Stetson Broadcast Productions.

For information, visit the 2026 Commencement at [www.stetson.edu/other/commencement/index.php](http://www.stetson.edu/other/commencement/index.php).



NEW ER NOW OPEN

HCA Florida West Volusia Emergency

HOMETOWN NEWS DELTONA ORANGE CITY DEBARY



Powered by readers and businesses who believe in community journalism. Join at htndigitalsolutions.com or call (386) 322-5900

@HometownNewsVolusia @Hometownnewsvolusia @HVolusi

Vol. 15, No. 6 Your Local News and Information Source • HometownNewsVolusia.com Friday, May 8, 2026

Community Notes

Orange City accepting vendors for festival

The City of Orange City is now accepting vendor applications for its America250 Freedom & Fireworks Festival, taking place from 5 to 9:30 p.m. Saturday, June 27, at Valentine Park, 1511 W. French Ave.

As one of the city's largest See NOTES, page A3

Volusia County Transit proposes route changes

For Hometown News newsdy@hometownnewsmediagroup.com

Volusia County's Transit Services Division is proposing changes to several VoTran routes and VoRide services for summer and fall 2026.

If approved by the Volusia County Council, the changes will take effect June 28 and again in October (exact date to be determined).

Transit Services Division staff will conduct outreach at select transit centers and on affected routes to inform riders of the changes.

The next meeting about the proposed changes will be from 7 to 10 a.m. Sunday, May 3, at the Transfer Plaza, 207 Dr. Mary McLeod Bethune Blvd., Daytona Beach.

See TRANSIT, page A2

NIKKI'S FURNITURE & DECOR MEMORIAL DAY SALES STARTING NOW! 386.626.4163 1150 N. Woodland Blvd. DeLand



Experts in Skin Technology for Results

Locations: Palm Coast, Ormond Beach, Daytona Beach, Port Orange, New Smyrna Beach

- MOHS Surgery & Superficial Radiation Therapy for Skin Cancer
Skin Exams & AI Mole Assessment with Dermasensor & Nevisense
Advanced Laser Treatments Co2 YAG 1064, 755nm Alexandrite, IPL, Fractional & Non-Fractional
Treating Rosacea, Brown Spots, Wrinkles, Leg Veins, Acne, Hair & Tattoo Removal, Precancers

386-256-1444

Schedule your Dermatology Appointment Today!



NEXT LAUNCH



Falcon 9 - CRS-34 Launch time: May 10, 7:16 p.m. EDT Launch site: SLC-40, Cape Canaveral Space Force Station A SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket will launch NASA's SpaceX CRS-34 mission.

Index

Table with 4 columns: Business Classified, Crossword, Horoscopes, Out & About, Police Report, Sports, Viewpoint

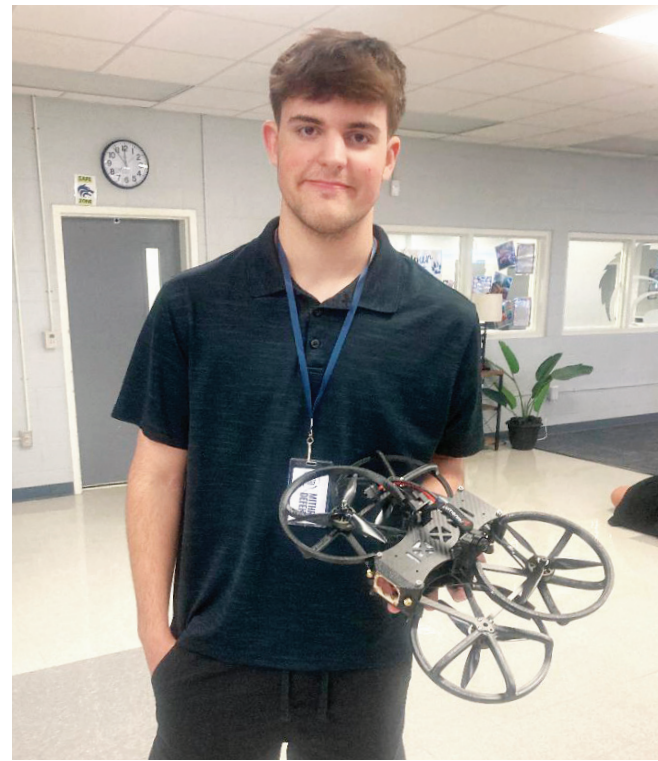


Photo by Stefany Strong

Colin Rountree, a remote drone pilot, displays one of the drone's that are used as a part of the Campus Guardian Angel Program.

School district launches drone-based safety system

By Stefany Strong HTN Correspondent

Volusia County Schools is the first school district in Central Florida - and the nation - to launch a drone safety protection against mass shootings. This initiative began with a live demonstration at Deltona High School on May 1.

With a country and a state that has been tragically impacted by school shootings, parents are left hoping and praying for solutions. The uncertainty of not knowing whether your child will return home from school or not stay with some parents. And it's devastating.

"Every student and staff member deserves to feel safe and secure while learning or working on campus," said Dr. Carmen Balgobin, VCS superintendent. "Each day we will strive to ensure everyone feels safe."

Students at Deltona High School now have an additional layer of protection against a mass shooter. Volusia County joins Broward and

Leon counties in launching the Campus Guardian Angel Program, a drone-based safety system developed by Mithril Defense.

The drones are intended to enhance real-time campus security response and help keep students and staff safe using advanced technology. Drones will be placed in pre-positioned, secure boxes throughout the campus.

"Quite frankly, this is the future of school safety," said Volusia County Sheriff Mike Chitwood. "Humans still need to do their jobs. Technology is nice, but it stinks if people don't do their jobs. I am really proud of the working relationships that got us to this point. We are moving in the right direction."

Florida Sen. Tom Wright began his comments by thanking Sheriff Chitwood for keeping the community safe. "We have to be proactive. Parents running to schools after the fact to see if their children are safe is not the way. Let's not wait for an incident to happen. We can

See DISTRICT, page A3

Deltona considers Walmart drone delivery hub

By Stefany Strong HTN Correspondent

How would you like to sit back and relax at home while your groceries or other items are delivered to your door - not by a person - but by a drone?

This business proposal, a request to construct and operate a drone delivery hub at Deltona's Walmart Supercenter, 101 Howland Blvd., was one of several pre-applications that the Deltona Development Review Committee considered during its April 23 meeting.

While drone delivery is becoming more common nationwide, it is not yet a mainstay. Walmart began using delivery drones in 2020, and plans to establish a network of over 270 drone delivery locations by 2027.

Not all items are eligible for drone delivery, as product weight, size limitations and other restrictions apply. However, a variety of everyday products can be delivered by drone, including fragile items like eggs, according to Walmart's website. Walmart



Hometown News Volusia staff photo

Deltona's Walmart Supercenter, 101 Howland Blvd., has proposed constructing a drone nest so that it may implement drone delivery operations.

states that drone deliveries are quieter than most delivery trucks.

This project includes improvements to support the implementation of drone delivery operations at the

Deltona Walmart Supercenter, and the scope of work consists of the installation of a drone nest designed to house and support drone activities. The drone nest will include a secure container unit for

drone storage during non-operational hours and will be equipped with a battery-powered generator to facilitate drone charging. The drone nest area will be fully enclosed with an 8-foot-tall security

fence to ensure safety and security, according to the proposal presented by CPH, LLC.

Additional proposed site improvements include the installation of project-specific signage and pavement striping to promote safe and efficient operational flow.

Deltona's Development Review Committee serves as a primary step in the city's development process. It reviews commercial site plans, subdivisions, and other development applications to ensure they comply with local zoning, environmental, and building codes before they are approved or forwarded to the City Commission.

Pre-applications were also presented for a 40,000 square foot fitness center at Deltona Village on North Normandy Boulevard, a 34-acre Deltona Industrial Park on Sylvester Road in Pine View Estates, and a 16,000 square foot national auto collision center on Wolf Pack Run.

At this point in the process, no decisions have been made on the pre-application proposals.

When you're experiencing signs of a stroke, Halifax Health is the safest place to be. Don't wait.

During a stroke, every second counts. Call 911



BALANCE Is there a sudden loss of balance or coordination?



EYES Are there sudden vision changes?



FACE Does one side of the face droop?



ARM Does one arm drift downward?



SPEECH Are the words slurred? Is speech confused?



TIME TO CALL 911



HALIFAX HEALTH