



Pizzeria brings Jersey slices, Italian flair to Daytona Beach

LOCAL, 1B

THE DAYTONA BEACH

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“We want to be the place that locals want to come to have a great time, drink at the bar, see a concert and have a nice evening.”

Michael Bartsche
General manager of Hard Rock Hotel in Daytona Beach



Hard Rock Hotel names new GM

Bartscher has more than 25 years in hospitality

Jim Abbott Daytona Beach News-Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

For Michael Bartscher, the road to the general manager’s office at Daytona’s Hard Rock Hotel started in the kitchen of a locally owned pizza restaurant in South Daytona. • “I was a teenager when I started working at Xtra Pizza, a place that no longer exists,” said Bartscher, 45, who was born and raised in the Port Orange/South Daytona area. “As it is with most kids, I didn’t know what I wanted to do, but it sounded like fun.” • Now more than 25 years into a hospitality management career in Daytona Beach, Bartscher stepped into the general manager’s role in June at Daytona’s 200-room Hard Rock, one of the destination’s marquee hotel properties.

See HARD ROCK HOTEL, Page 9A

Michael Bartscher, the new general manager at Hard Rock Hotel in Daytona Beach, is seen July 10. He has been the hotel’s operations director for the past five years and has longtime experience in the destination’s hospitality industry.
NIGEL COOK/
NEWS-JOURNAL

ANALYSIS

Trump, Putin alliance sours

U.S. president appears to be shifting his thinking

Kim Hjelmgaard, Francesca Chambers and Cybele Mayes-Osterman
USA TODAY

President Donald Trump said he would end the war in Ukraine within his first 24 hours in office. But now, more than 4,000 hours in, Trump’s patience with Russian President Vladimir Putin, whom the U.S. president in June called “very kind,” appears to be wearing thin. Relations have hit a wall as Russia’s leader has pushed forward with intensifying drone and missile attacks on Ukrainian cities while appearing to repeatedly rebuff Trump’s attempts to broker a ceasefire. “We get a lot of (expletive) thrown at us by Putin, if you want to know the truth,” Trump told reporters July 9, summing up what Ukrainians and

See TRUMP-PUTIN, Page 7A

Conservative high court justices split on key cases

Maureen Groppe
USA TODAY

WASHINGTON —Though the Supreme Court’s conservative supermajority continues to push the law in a rightward direction, the six justices appointed by Republican presidents are not always rowing in sync. In the term that ended in June, the conservatives splintered in more than a dozen cases in which at least two joined with all three liberals to form a majority — including in cases important to the conservative legal movement. It happened when the court upheld the Biden administration’s regulation of untraceable “ghost guns” and turned aside conservative challenges to Obamacare and to an internet subsidy program in cases targeting the

See JUSTICES, Page 7A

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