



Miss America gets Daytona role during Speedweek

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THE DAYTONA BEACH

NEWS-JOURNAL

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026 | NEWS-JOURNALONLINE.COM

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Report: FL among top in U.S. in total food spending



State ranks No. 8 in the nation on dining out, No. 17 on groceries

Grocery shoppers shop at the Publix Super Market at 1930 State Road 44 in New Smyrna Beach on Jan. 29. CLAYTON PARK/USA TODAY NETWORK-FLORIDA

Clayton Park USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

When the global COVID-19 pandemic hit in early 2020, Frank and Carol Prevost stopped eating out, even after the temporary state-wide ban on on-site dining was lifted.

They are back to dining at restaurants as much as they did before the pandemic, if not more, the New Smyrna Beach couple admitted. "We eat out at least two to three times a week," Frank Prevost said as he and his wife ate dinner at the newly renovated and expanded Don Giovanni Contemporary Italian & Pizzeria restaurant in Port Orange on Saturday, Jan. 30.

They aren't the only ones. A new national report found Florida among the top states in the country for total food spending and money spent on eating out. It was also among the top 10 for increase in grocery spending from 2019 to 2024.

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Audit of Daytona Beach on horizon

State officials to meet with city management

Eileen Zaffiro-Kean
Daytona Beach News-Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

DAYTONA BEACH — As promised in December, state officials are about to launch a targeted operational audit of Daytona Beach's city government.

On Wednesday, Feb. 11, state auditing officials were slated to hold a meeting at 9 a.m. with city management to discuss the quickly approaching audit that will look at selected areas of operation within the city of Daytona Beach.

Florida Chief Financial Officer Blaise Ingoglia was also scheduled to be in Daytona Beach the morning of Feb. 11 for a public event with local law enforcement officials, including the sheriffs of Volusia and Flagler counties. It's not clear if Ingoglia also planned to make a stop at Daytona Beach City Hall to discuss the planned audit.

The audit is due to begin in about two weeks, and it could take several months to complete. Once the audit is complete, a report will be issued that will be available to the public.

The audit was sparked by the city's swelling accumulation of excess permits and licensing fees that ballooned to around \$12 million over the past few years. As that tally grew, state officials started monitoring the funds and urged city officials to spend it down to the legal limit of about \$4 million, but the city did not.

The city has also come under scrutiny since last fall for its handling of city-issued credit cards that some employees and city commissioners

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Man released in Guthrie disappearance probe

Kimi Robinson, Michael Loria and Taijuan Moorman
USA TODAY

More than a week after Savannah Guthrie's mother, Nancy Guthrie, went missing from her Arizona home in a possible kidnapping, law enforcement took a person in for questioning.

Pima County Sheriff's Department deputies "detained a subject during a

traffic stop south of Tucson" and questioned the person "in connection to the Nancy Guthrie investigation," according to a statement obtained by USA TODAY. Details about the person have not been made public.

A man who was detained in Rio Rico, Arizona, in connection with the abduction said he was released after questioning, according to the New York

Times and Fox News. Authorities said that they detained the person in connection with the Guthrie case during a traffic stop.

The sheriff's department did not share any information about what prompted officers to stop the person on the road.

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Investigators canvass the area in Tucson, Arizona, after Nancy Guthrie's disappearance. Footage from Guthrie's doorbell camera showed a suspicious person. REBECCA NOBLE/REUTERS

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Volume 103 | No. 36
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