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SPORTS, 1B

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2025

FLORIDATODAY.COM

# Hundreds line up for Trader Joe's opening



## Brevard welcomes store after years of waiting, hoping

### Inside

Bojangles is back in Brevard and opening soon. **3A**

**Michelle Spitzer**

Florida Today  
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

After years of emailing, pleading and begging for Trader Joe's to bring its Mandarin orange chicken, cookie butter and green goddess seasoning blend to the Space Coast, the county's first Trader Joe's opened in Viera on Wednesday morning, Dec. 3.

By 7 a.m. at least 100 people were camped outside the store eagerly awaiting the store's 9 a.m. opening.

Mykki Cornelius arrived at 4:25 a.m. and was surprised to see she was the first in line. The Viera resident got com-

fortable in her floral-print camping chair and passed the time chatting with friends who joined her and reading her Bible.

"I'm used to going to Trader Joe's in Orlando once a month and stocking up," Cornelius said. "Now I can get my Jasmine rice and sriracha sauce whenever I want it. I'm so excited Brevard finally has its own neighborhood Trader Joe's."

The store's staff was just as excited. "Happy opening day," employees kept saying as they did last minute preparations while the customer line grew outside.

**See TRADER JOE'S, Page 8A**

**ABOVE: Marjorie Gelman was one of the first to arrive on Dec. 3, having waited in line since 4:30 a.m. Opening day was held for Brevard County's first Trader Joe's, located at 2221 Town Center Ave. at the Avenue Viera.**

TIM SHORTT/  
FLORIDA TODAY



**At Port Canaveral, people on the beach watch a Carnival cruise ship pass by Blue Origin's New Glenn rocket, which was on the launch pad at Cape Canaveral Space Force Station, on Nov. 10. New Glenn launched three days later.**

PROVIDED BY GARRY JARED

## Canaveral milestone: Busiest port in the world

### Miami surpassed again in most recent count

**Tyler Vazquez**

Florida Today  
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Port Canaveral has passed the Port-Miami to become the busiest cruise port in the world, officials announced Dec. 2.

With 8,602,047 passengers for this past fiscal year, Port Canaveral surpassed Miami in total passengers for the second time. Miami announced this year it served over 8.5 million passengers.

Port Canaveral previously bested Miami after the end of the COVID-19 pandemic, when the Central Florida port was able to rebound more quickly.

**See CANAVERAL, Page 6A**

# Blue Origin wastewater permit plan faces scrutiny

**Rick Neale and Jim Waymer**

Florida Today  
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

The Brevard County Commission and backers of the Save Our Indian River Lagoon Program want a public hearing to occur before Blue Origin secures a state permit to operate an industrial wastewater treatment facility that discharges into the ecologically imperiled waterway.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection has prepared a draft permit authorizing Blue Origin to operate a 490,000-gallon-per-day industrial wastewater treatment facility at Rocket Park, its sprawling manufacturing complex just outside the gates of NASA's Kennedy Space Center.

Per the DEP draft permit, this facility would discharge about 15,000 daily gallons of "industrial wastewater" used in rocket testing, cleaning and cooling op-

### Inside

Group talks about Indian River Lagoon's health. **7A**

Indian River Lagoon Roundtable steering committee member and executive director of the environmental nonprofit Fight for Zero. During the county commission's regular meeting on Tuesday,

erations to an onsite stormwater pond that ultimately flows into the Indian River Lagoon.

Port St. John resident Stel Bailey is an Indian River Lagoon Roundtable steering committee member and executive director of the environmental nonprofit Fight for Zero. During the county commission's regular meeting on Tuesday,

Dec. 2, she called for the spaceport to move "out of the 1950s playbook and into the modern age of stormwater management."

"They could be building reservoirs. They could be filtering and reusing water. They have thousands of acres in the wildlife refuge to create regional retention systems. They are brilliant engineers," Bailey said.

**See BLUE ORIGIN, Page 6A**



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