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FLORIDA TODAY

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Charlie Woods to golf for Seminoles

SPORTS, 1B

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2026

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Halle York cleans Aurora Smith's teeth during the Give Kids a Smile event at Eastern Florida State College's dental clinic on the Cocoa campus. Children were offered exams, cleaning and sealants. PHOTOS BY MALCOLM DENEMARK/FLORIDA TODAY

FAA closes airspace over Texas briefly

Abrupt shuttering blamed on cartel drones

Cybele Mayes-Osterman and Jeff Abbott
USA TODAY

EL PASO, TX – The airspace over the international airport in El Paso, Texas, was briefly closed on Feb. 11 after the Pentagon disabled drones controlled by Mexican cartels that breached U.S. airspace, according to an administration official.

The military took action to disable the drones, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"The FAA and DOW acted swiftly to address a cartel drone incursion," Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy said on X, using the acronyms for the Federal Aviation Administration and for the Department of War, formally the Department of Defense.

"The threat has been neutralized, and there is no danger to commercial travel in the region. The restrictions have been lifted and normal flights are resuming."

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said on Feb. 11 there was no information about drones on the border – if the United States had information, it could ask the Mexican government, she told reporters.

"The Mexican airspace did not close ... We will learn what the reasons are for why the airspace closed," she said.

Rep. Veronica Escobar, D-Texas, who represents El Paso, said at a news conference that she learned of the closure not through the Trump administration but through a contact within the federal workforce. According to Escobar, the FAA did not notify local officials in advance and made the decision independently.

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MORE SHINY SMILES

Eastern Florida State plans to expand dental program, grow community impact

Finch Walker Florida Today | USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

With the help of dentists, hygienists and assistants from around Brevard, 75 kids are now flashing bright, shiny new smiles. ● On Feb. 7, volunteers from Brevard County Dental Society worked to provide children ages 3 to 14 with free dental exams, cleanings, sealants and instructions on practicing oral hygiene at Eastern Florida State College's Cocoa campus. The effort, which ran from 8 a.m. to 2 p.m., was part of the American Dental Association's annual national Give Kids a Smile event, where underserved children around the country are provided with free oral health-care by volunteer dental professionals.

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The Brevard County Dental Society recently participated in the American Dental Association's annual Give Kids a Smile event, teaming with Eastern Florida State College at the dental clinic on the Cocoa Campus.

Blue Angels to be highlight of Cocoa Beach air show in April

Rick Neale

Florida Today
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

The U.S. Navy Blue Angels will soar above Florida's Space Coast for the first time in five years on April 11-12 as headliners of the Air Dot Show Cocoa Beach.

Admission will be free along Cocoa Beach's shoreline. Lori Wilson Park on State Road A1A will serve as "show center," and air show performers will primarily zoom back and forth along a two-mile stretch between Westgate Cocoa Beach Pier and Minutemen Causeway.

Bryan Lilley, air show organizer, said

See BLUE ANGELS, Page 6A



The U.S. Navy Blue Angels will be featured in Cocoa Beach's air show for the first time, the show's organizer said. TIM SHORTT/FLORIDA TODAY

Brevard OKs final lagoon plan; sales tax renewal vote looms

Jim Waymer

Florida Today | USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Brevard County commissioners Tuesday, Feb. 10 approved the final yearly plan of the 10-year Save Our Indian River Lagoon program. Their vote comes as the county also considers a possible Nov. 3 voter referendum to renew the half-cent sales tax that funds the program.

The commission voted 4-1 to approve the plan, with Commissioner Katie Delaney the sole no vote.

The vote on whether to do another referendum will come later. Meanwhile, conservationists and resource managers hope a recent cold snap won't undo the past decade of progress restoring the estuary's seagrass and other marine life.

Decades of pollution set the stage, but it was extreme cold that created the tipping-point conditions that made the original lagoon recovery plan necessary.

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