



Margaritaville hotel project to move forward

SPACE COAST + FLORIDA, 3A

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MASKED MOON



The striking full moon nears total eclipse before disappearing into clouds shortly after 6 a.m. on March 3 on the Space Coast. This total lunar eclipse yielded 2026's only "blood moon," named so for its deep, rusty red color. March's full moons are also known as "worm moons." Right: The partial eclipse of the moon, with the top of Exploration Tower framing it in the foreground, is seen in the early morning hours.



PHOTOS BY MALCOLM DENEMARK/FLORIDA TODAY

Trump criticizes U.S. allies over war

President: Israel didn't force timing of attacks

Michael Loria, Zac Anderson, Jeanine Santucci, Francesca Chambers, Kim Hjelmgard, Michael Collins, Rebecca Morin and Medora Lee

USA TODAY

President Donald Trump slammed top U.S. allies, including the United Kingdom, as the war with Iran expands and warned Americans that they may have to deal with "a little high" oil prices as crude costs soared and the stock market tumbled.

"If we have a little high oil prices for a little while, but as soon as this ends those prices are gonna drop, I believe lower than even before," Trump said after taking questions from reporters in the Oval Office for the first time since the joint Israeli-U.S. strikes on Iran began.

U.S. and Israeli military forces attacked Iran on Feb. 28, killing Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei. Officials from the United States and Israel said they have launched more than 1,200 strikes aimed at destroying Iran's ballistic missile and nuclear development programs.

Iran's counterattacks thus far have killed at least six U.S. service members and have led to several U.S. embassies closing in the region, including in Saudi Arabia, Lebanon and Kuwait.

The State Department says that it helped more than 130 Americans leave Israel since the attacks began, and an additional 100 Americans were expected to leave on March 3.

The State Department says it is in contact with and aiding nearly 500 Americans in arranging their travel out

See IRAN, Page 7A

Inside

- Strike on Iranian school questioned as White House stays mum, **6A**
- Florida gas prices to rise because of Iran war, **7A**
- Oct. 7, 2023, attack led Israel to target Iran leader, **8A**

Smash students' vapes with hammers, Brevard school board members suggest

Finch Walker

Florida Today
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Blowing up and smashing vapes: Could this solve the nicotine-fueled problem in Brevard Public Schools?

This was among the questions raised at a Feb. 24 Brevard school board work

session, where, in a 30-minute, laughter-filled meeting, board members talked about ways to combat students vaping in campus bathrooms.

"Why not have a 'Smash the Vape' on TV program where every week, they get lined up and your principal takes a sledgehammer and smashes those vapes for the kids and makes them

aware, 'Hey, if you guys keep bringing them, guess what, we're going to smash them again and again and again every week,'" suggested Board Vice Chair Megan Wright, showing fellow board members an AI-generated flyer to go along with the idea.

See VAPES, Page 10A

Production speeds up on Melbourne-developed B-21 Raider

Rick Neale

Florida Today
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Northrop Grumman and the U.S. Air Force are speeding up production of the Melbourne-developed B-21 Raider, with the first stealth bomber expected to enter service next year at its first base: Ellsworth Air Force Base in South Dakota.

After a couple years of initial low-rate production, the first B-21 Raiders con-

tinue undergoing ground and flight tests at Edwards Air Force Base in California. The new production agreement will open \$4.5 billion in federal funding for Northrop Grumman, and Air Force officials have said they hope to eventually field a fleet of at least 100 bombers — which can carry conventional and nuclear and weapons.

Northrop Grumman and the Air Force jointly announced the stealth bomber agreement in a pair of Feb. 23 press releases. Five days later, the U.S. and Isra-

el launched a coordinated military operation targeting Iran, which remains ongoing.

"The B-21 is foundational to our long-range strike capability and to credible deterrence," Secretary of the Air Force Troy Meink said in the release.

"Accelerating production capacity now ensures we deliver operational capability to combatant commanders faster — strengthening our ability to

See B-21 RAIDER, Page 10A



The Melbourne-developed B-21 Raider was designed to replace America's legacy B-1B Lancers and B-2 Spirits.

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