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There is no print edition of the paper today, but you can find today’s puzzles, comics, national news and sports here in the eNewspaper.



Chuck Jeffrey, an American Space Museum board member, holds the collar of NASA legend Neil Armstrong's Apollo 11 flight jacket inside the Titusville museum. PHOTOS BY MALCOLM DENEMARK/FLORIDA TODAY

SPACE SOUVENIR

Neil Armstrong jacket may sell for over \$1M at Space Museum auction

Rick Neale
Florida Today | USA TODAY NETWORK

The custom-sewn white flight jacket with the NASA meatball logo used to fit over the shoulders of legendary astronaut Neil Armstrong while he trained to become the first man to walk on the moon.

Fifty-seven years after NASA's historic Apollo 11 lunar mission, Charles Jeffrey carefully slid the sleeves of Armstrong's coverall jacket over the arms of a mannequin inside the American Space Museum in Titusville. The exceptionally scarce garment is up for sale in the museum's Oct. 17 online charity auction — and Jeffrey estimated it could sell for \$800,000 to \$1.2 million.

"It's an extremely, unbelievably rare item. And you can see from the dirt, from the sweat stains: I mean, it was well-worn. It got a lot of use," Jeffrey said, gesturing toward the jacket.



The NASA meatball logo sewn on Neil Armstrong's training suit.

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How would it impact NASA, astronauts if SpaceX retires Falcon 9 and Dragon?

Brooke Edwards
Florida Today
USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

After years of Falcon 9 and Dragon reliably flying astronauts to orbit, SpaceX's all-in push for Starship is raising questions about the future of a low Earth orbit economy — especially for NASA's space station endeavors.

NASA last month awarded SpaceX a \$946 million contract extension to continue flying astronaut crews to the International Space Station through 2030. But SpaceX has said that it doesn't intend to fulfill that role forever. Starship, the world's most powerful rocket, is intended to carry massive payloads and, someday, crews to the moon and beyond.

"I do not think it's a secret that SpaceX intends to sunset older platforms like Falcon and Dragon as they concentrate on their next generation capability, Starship," NASA Administrator Jared Isaacman said during a Sept. 28 Boeing Starliner press conference.

That conference was held to pledge NASA's



SpaceX's Dragon spacecraft and Falcon 9 rocket stand on the pad Sept. 30, one day before NASA's Crew-13 scheduled liftoff. PROVIDED BY SPACEX

See **SPACEX**, Page 5A

Brightline 'operating as usual' after bankruptcy

Clayton Park
USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

What does Brightline's Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection filing mean for Floridians? Higher train fares? Reduced service?

Brightline Florida officials did not respond to USA TODAY Network-Florida's request for comment.

Here's what we know so far about the current status of the nation's largest private highspeed intercity passenger railroad, based on company filings and industry and news reports:

While 17 entities affiliated with Brightline Florida filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy protection on Sept. 24, Brightline Trains Florida LLC, the subsidiary that operates Brightline trains in Florida, and its real estate development arm in the Sunshine State, Brightline Florida Holdings LLC, did not. (Also excluded was Brightline West, the subsidiary currently building a high-speed rail line from Southern California to Las Vegas, Nevada.)

What that means, at least for now, is that "Brightline is operating as usual," as stated in one of the company's new ads.

Inside

Florida lands federal funds for rail safety and Cocoa station. **1C**

It goes on to state: "Trains are running as scheduled, reservations remain active, and guests can continue booking and traveling with confidence."

On Sept. 25, the company announced a new \$490 million financing deal that Brightline Florida CEO described in a news release as "a catalyst for further growth in ridership and revenue."

The new infusion of cash comes at a time when Brightline says it is seeing "real momentum." According to its release, "2026 year-to-date ridership and revenue, through the month of August, have grown 14% respectively versus 2025."

Brightline's August 2026 ridership and revenue report has not yet been made publicly available on its website.

In its report for July, Brightline said its trains carried 289,388 passengers, up 13% from the same month a year ago. Revenue also rose 13% to \$19.4 million.

Through the first seven months of 2026, Brightline has served nearly 2.08 million passengers, up 15% from the same period last year. Revenues are up 17%

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