



MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023

Fans get 8 seconds with DeSantis in book tour

SPACE COAST, 3A

FLORIDATODAY.COM

TUI starts 2nd year of UK flights, adds cruises



The fuselage of the first TUI Airways Boeing 787 Dreamliner at Melbourne Orlando International Airport, which landed in March 2022. TIM SHORTT/FLORIDA TODAY

Officials expecting an economic boost from tourism

Rick Neale and Dave Berman

Florida Today | USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Space Coast officials project TUI Airways' United Kingdom holiday travelers will help generate record-shattering passenger traffic this year at Melbourne Orlando International Airport, providing an economic boost during their typical two-week Florida vacations.

Plus, the international travel giant TUI Group is bringing Marella Discovery – an 11-deck cruise ship with seven restaurants and seven bars – to Port Canaveral to launch new weeklong sailings from May to November.

On Monday, the European vacation-package company's first 2023 flights from England to Melbourne are scheduled to land at 1:35 p.m. from Manchester and 3 p.m. from Birmingham.

TUI will operate flights from eight U.K. cities through mid-December, using the Melbourne airport's newly christened \$72 million terminal expansion as its Central Florida vacation-package hub.

"787 Dreamliners that hold about 350 passengers each. So when we've got three on the pad, you're talking about 1,000 passengers. We're not used to that," Jack Ryals, the airport's senior adviser for local and regional affairs, told a Space Coast Transportation Planning Organization committee on March 15.

"It's really something that we've had to prepare for," Ryals said.

The TUI Group operates 1,200 travel agencies and online portals, five airlines with about 130 aircraft,



The Marella Discovery will offer cruises out of Port Canaveral. PROVIDED BY MARELLA CRUISES

Inside

Here's why bookings are restricted on Port Canaveral's new ship. **3A**

more than 400 hotels and 16 cruise liners. Last year, TUI moved its Central Florida gateway operations from Orlando Sanford International Airport to Melbourne, per a seven-year contract. Passengers travel from Europe to Florida, not vice versa.

In 2022, the Melbourne airport logged 122,550 enplanements and 119,893 deplanements from TUI passengers, with July and August each accounting for

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Fla. House votes to drop 'permission slip' for guns

One Republican and 31 Democrats oppose the measure

James Call

Tallahassee Democrat | USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Gun rights advocates passed a major milestone Friday in their drive to get a permitless carry bill to Gov. Ron DeSantis for his signature.

The Florida House approved HB 543 on a mostly party line 76 –32 vote, with one Republican, Rep. Vicki Lopez of Miami voting with 31 Democrats in opposition.

The measure, and its Senate companion, SB 150, does away with background checks, training, and fees for a concealed-carry weapons license. The Department of Agriculture has issued more than 2.66 million CWLs.

"This bill simply allows Floridians to conceal carry without red tape and expense. Florida will not come between you and your freedom to protect yourself anymore," said Rep. Chuck Brannon, R-Macclenny, who has sponsored the measure the past two sessions.

Brannon and his allies criticized the licensing process as having to pay for a "government permission slip" to exercise a constitutional right to protect oneself and one's family.

"A constitutional God-given right endowed by our creator," explained Rep. Adam Botana, R-Naples, with a reference to the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

Democrats argued supporters twist the Second Amendment into a "dangerous concept."

Rep. Michelle K. Rayner-Goolsby, D-Tampa, added that whenever lawmakers discuss gun laws "everyone becomes a YouTube lawyer."

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Dozens gathered outside the Florida Capitol for the March for Our Lives Rally as the crowd demanded stricter gun control laws March 23.

ALICIA DEVINE/TALLAHASSEE DEMOCRAT

Family wants justice for 82-year-old abused at senior care facility

J.D. Gallop

Florida Today | USA TODAY NETWORK – FLORIDA

Daniel Dorsey is still looking for answers.

In December, the Cape Canaveral man stepped into a Brevard hospital to find his 82-year-old wife, Jeannie, already confused by dementia, lying in a bed, her face battered and bruised.

Rockledge Police detectives say the Air Force veteran and former Kennedy Space Center worker's injuries were the result of a Christmas Day beating by a caregiver in charge of watching her and 20 other patients at her assisted living facility.

More disturbing to Dorsey and other family members is the finding by detectives that the facility's executive director allegedly attempted to cover up the circumstances.

Kelly Shovlin, executive director of the Alura Senior Living in Rockledge, and caregiver Daniel Villarreal were arrested Jan. 23 after Rockledge detectives were called by the woman's daughter following a Christmas visit. Photos of the injured 82-year-old

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