

JANUARY 17 - 21, 2018 WED-SAT 9AM-6PM SUNDAY 9AM-5PM

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WELCOME TO THE 33rd ANNUAL FLORIDA RV SUPERSHOW!

I would like to thank you on behalf of the FRVTA Board of Directors and exhibitors for attending the 33rd Annual Florida RV SuperShow. This enormous show continues to grow and this year is no different. We've retuned the trams both in the parking lot and inside the show to make it easier for you to get around. We've also brought back the 2-Day ticket so you have plenty of time to roam and shop.

If you're a first timer or a seasoned RVer, you'll find everything you need to make your RV travels more comfortable. All your questions about RV ownership will be answered in our Seminar Area. From "Tips for Choosing the Right RV" to "Basic RV Maintenance" this is the place to get all your questions answered in a relaxed and unpressured environment. And new this year is the Live RV Demos on the North Midway where you can see first-hand many of the functions of your RV

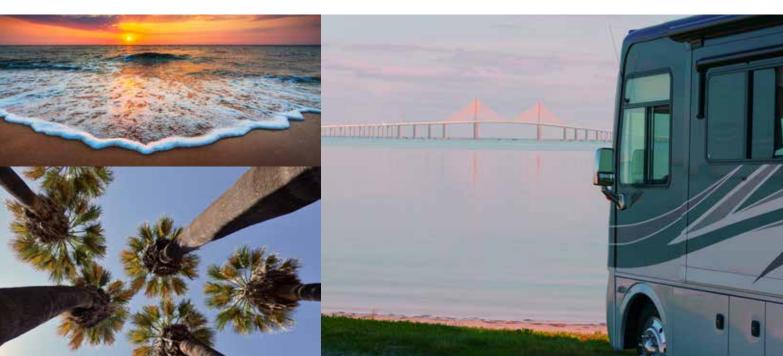
As you tour the SuperShow be on the look-out for our never ending roaming entertainers. From the Magical Poodles to Charlie Chaplin, from the Living Plant to the Living Statue, I'm sure you're going to see something today you've never seen before. And at 1pm, the St. Andrews Bagpipe Band will march through the show with authentic music and costumes. Be sure to bring the kids on the weekend as we open up our Kid's Zone complete with bounce houses, games, face painting and even a rock climbing wall all FREE courtesy of the SuperShow.

While you're here in our beautiful state, be sure to leave plenty of time to discover all we have to offer. This is a great time of year to visit one of our many beaches and send those warm "selfies" back home to your relatives. Golfing, fishing, boating, sightseeing, museums, theaters, theme parks and camping are only a few of the many activities that await you. Be sure to pick up a copy of the Official RVers Guide to Florida at the show entrance. This is a complete guide to the state as well as our membership directory so you can find that needed service or campground right at your fingertips.

Now get out there and enjoy the Florida RV SuperShow and our fantastic state. We appreciate your support of our shows and our members and look forward to seeing you down the road. Be sure to let us know how we can improve the show or make it more enjoyable. We value your input.

Safe Travels,

Nelda Iacono FRVTA President



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ABOUT FRVTA





THE FLORIDA RV TRADE ASSOCIATION IS THE SPONSOR OF THE ANNUAL FLORIDA RV SUPERSHOW.

The Florida RV Trade Association (FRVTA) was established in 1979 with one purpose in mind — to promote the general welfare of the recreation vehicle and camping industries throughout the State of Florida.

Since 1979, the FRVTA (www.frvta.org) has undergone many changes, and today it is one of the largest state RV associations in the country.

The FRVTA is a nonprofit organization made up of campgrounds and resorts, RV dealers, finance and insurance firms, RV manufacturers, and service and supplier companies representing thousands of employees. All of these companies work together to ensure that customers receive the finest RV products, supplies, services and accommodations available. All FRVTA activities are coordinated through the state office, which consists of an executive director, marketing director, show director and support staff.

The FRVTA has divided the state into seven regions, allowing members to participate in local legislative matters and RV shows. In addition, the association has another region for out-of-state members. It includes just about every RV manufacturer, the nation's largest campground chains, national camping clubs, and a host of service and supply firms, insurance and financial companies. The FRVTA communicates with each region to keep members up to date on industry

Keeping an eye on legislative matters at the state level, the FRVTA employs a full-time lobbyist in Tallahassee to be a watchdog over legislation that affects the RV industry. The association also supports candidates through the FRVTA Political Action Committee Fund.

The FRVTA sponsors a number of regional RV shows and the annual Florida RV SuperShow in Tampa. These shows not only allow the public to view a number of various RVs, they also are forums for educational seminars and camping clubs. These shows provide an introduction to the RV lifestyle. Through these shows and other activities, the FRVTA also works closely with state and local tourism officials to promote RVing and camping in Florida.

So, what does the FRVTA mean to you, the consumer? FRVTA dealers carry every major RV brand and manufacturer line. This means a greater selection and variety, whether you're looking for a travel trailer, fifth-wheel, park model or motorhome. Due to the large volume of new business, FRVTA dealers carry a huge inventory of quality used units, which means your trade-in will be worth more and your choice of used units will be endless. Don't forget to look for the FRVTA logo in

Whether you're shopping at a FRVTA dealership or RV show, or looking for the most modern and well-equipped campground or resort, look for the Florida RV Trade Association logo to be assured of the finest RV products, services and accommodations around.

For more information contact us at 813-741-0488 or visit www.frvta.org.



A publication of the: Florida RV Trade Association

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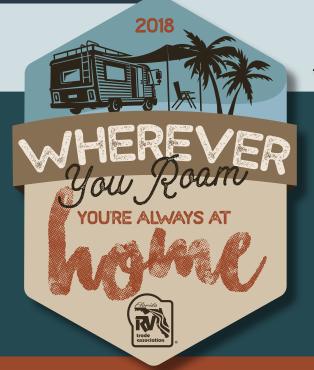
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CONTENTS





INSIDE SUPERSHOW

34-41 2018 Top RV Debuts

"If you build it, they will come." It's an adage that the RV industry has taken to heart.

Suppliers

See what's new and innovative for 2018.

Pullout Map in Center of Magazine

including Seminar Schedule & Entertainment



6 What's FRVTA All About?

The organization was established 38 years ago with one purpose in mind - to promote the recreational vehicle and camping industries in Florida. Since that time, the FRVTA has undergone many changes.

12 A Day in Downtown Tampa

The ever changing skyline of Tampa makes it a must see for visitors and locals alike.

14 You Gotta' Eat

The Reviews are in for Tampa Bay dining.

16 Meet Our Mascot Roadie

The official mascot of the FRVTA wants to introduce himself.

18 Certified RV Service Centers

While all of the FRVTA member dealers and service centers offer quality products and services, the ones displaying this logo have taken it a step further.

26 Family Fun at Disney's Ft. Wilderness

Rustic fun in the heart of the magic!

32 Latest Advancements in RV Technology

From awnings to jacks to slide-outs, it's all at your fingertips.

44 TECO Manatee Viewing Tower

One of the most exciting and yet peaceful hours you can spend in Florida is watching Florida manatees quietly play underwater.

50 Florida Craft Beer

The explosion of craft beer has taken the nation by storm and Florida is no exception.

58 What To Do in Tampa Bay

Look for the unusual to find an extra shot of excitement around greater Tampa Bay.

63 Songs for Sound Free Hearing Screening

While You're at The Supershow Take Advantage of Songs for Sound and Get Your Hearing Checked for Free.

70 All In The Family

What's your type? The term "RV" is a nickname for a whole family of camping vehicles.

105 Stay in Touch with FRVTA

Like never before, we are only a click away!

124 The Future Is Now with a Connected RV

What if your RV could tell you when something was wrong with it? It's not too far-fetched.

142 Index of Advertisers

SUPERSHOW LISTINGS Find list of the participants in the 2018 Florida RV SuperShow

Pages 22-30 Pages 48-78 Manufacturers

Pages 82-140

Manufacturer Brands Supplier Exhibitors



RV Sites • Vacation Rentals • Home & Cottage Sales

























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he best way to experience downtown Tampa is along the Tampa Riverwalk, a 2.5-mile long broad walkway along the Hillsborough River that has transformed Tampa's river front and connects the dots of downtown cultural sites, family parks and businesses.

There are numerous access points along the Riverwalk, but for an enjoyable day, we recommend you start with a visit to the Tampa Bay History Center, a great way to get to know the Tampa Bay story. You'll find parking in the nearby Amalie Arena Blue Lot (except for occasional blackout events), which is validated for free with regular price paid admission.

The Tampa Bay History Center

offers permanent exhibits, including documentation of the first native inhabitants, the Spanish Conquistadors, interactive stations, and a museum store with local specialties.

A popular temporary exhibit on view through January 28 titled "Gateways to the Caribbean: Mapping the Florida-Cuba Connection" charts five centuries of interaction between Florida and Cuba through rare and original maps, lithographs and other documents. Adults \$12.95, seniors over 65 \$10.95, children \$7.95. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily. 801 Old Water St. 813-228-0097.



After several hours in the museum, it's a simple trip for lunch to the first floor and the patio to experience the Columbia Cafe, the outpost that creates the charm and flavor of the original Columbia Restaurant in Ybor City. The Cafe offers a sampling of the Spanish- and Cuban-inspired dishes that made the 109-year-old restaurant famous. The Cafe is open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m. 813-229-5511.

Walk off your lunch right outside with a Riverwalk stroll, passing Cotanchobee Ft. Brooke Park on your right and the Garrison Channel on your left. You'll soon see The Sail, the popular pavilion at the



Downtown Tampa continued on page 23



recreational vehicles at their family-run factory in Venice, Fla.

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THE COUGOTTA' EAT! THE COUGOTTA' EAT! THE COUGOTTA' EAT!

n internet search for good places to eat in the Tampa Bay area will produce a variety of "Best" lists, several based on Trip Advisor and Yelp customer evaluations. Yet some ratings are built on a low number of reviews, many fewer than 100, leaving a question as to the true atmosphere and tastes offered. To give you a no-doubt sampling of the best of the best, we compiled lists of top restaurants in Tampa, Clearwater and St. Petersburg — those receiving at least 4 out of 5 stars — based on the volume of feedback, in most cases at least 1,000 reviews. Many are well-known establishments, so to keep it interesting we've added a few hidden gems.

TAMPA:

Topping the list for Tampa with more than 4,400 reviews is Columbia

Restaurant, Florida's oldest and largest
Spanish restaurant. Located in Ybor
City, the restaurant was founded in
1905 and is both a dining and cultural
experience. Delicious dishes, including
paella, red snapper "Alicante" or
Spanish bean soup, are accompanied by
Flamenco and Spanish classical dance
performances at certain times. 2117 E.
7th Ave., Tampa, 813-248-4961.

Bern's Steak House is next on this list with 3,500 complimentary reviews. Opened in 1956, Bern Laxer's belief in the customer experience has provided thousands with world-class dining, featuring dry-aged steaks and a huge wine list. The Harry Waugh Dessert Room offers nearly 50 dessert choices

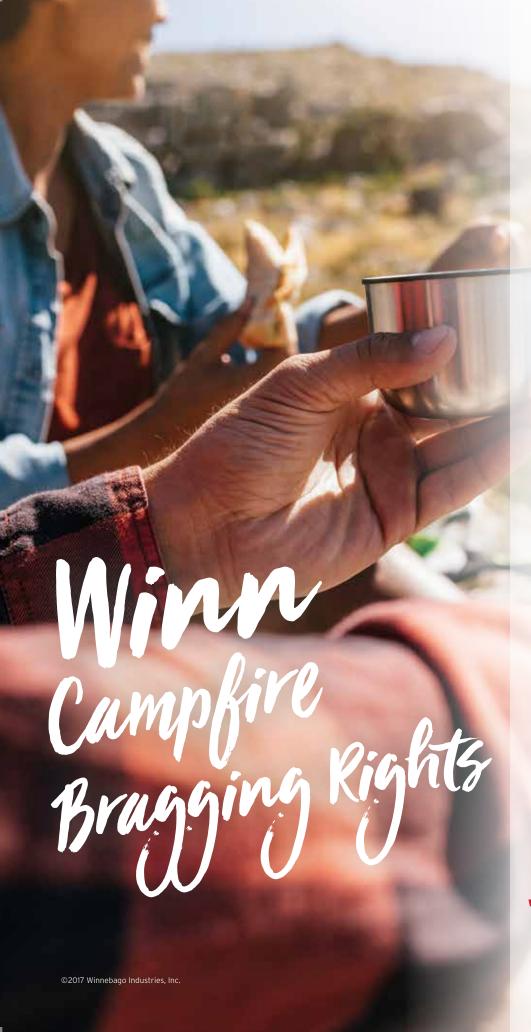
and more than 1,000 dessert wines and spirits, an experience all its own. Reservations required. 1208 S. Howard Ave., Tampa, 813-251-2421.

Jackson's Bistro Bar and Sushi with its waterfront spot has wowed nearly 1,400 reviewers with an eclectic menu, including sushi, plus nightlife, private rooms and a patio. 1601 S. Harbour Island Blvd., Tampa, 813-277-0112.

Charley's Steak House & Market Fresh Fish with 1,200 reviews and a 4.5-star rating is an upscale, long-standing restaurant known for delivering wood-fired, aged steaks and seafood classics. Located in Tampa's Westshore neighborhood, Charley's is famous for steaks flame-broiled at 1,100 degrees over oak and orange woods. 4444 W. Cypress St., Tampa, 813-353-9706.

Uleic with more than 1,100 reviews results in 4.5 stars for its native Floridian fair and spirits which pay tribute with dishes like jalapeno cheddar grit cake, deconstructed seafood pot pie, and alligator hush puppies. This two-level restaurant, rooftop bar and microbrewery on the Tampa Riverwalk draws a lot of excitement, thus usually a wait. The restaurant, a labor of love by the owner of the Columbia restaurant, was created in a 1903 pump house on the Hillsboro River and named after the young daughter of a local Tocobaga Chief. 1810 N. Highland Ave., Tampa, 813-999-4952





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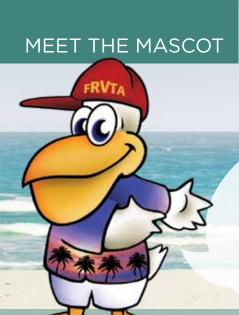
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MEET

Hi, I'm Roadie and I'm the mascot of the Florida RV Trade Association (FRVTA). I was selected to be the mascot because of my vast knowledge of the State of Florida and of RVing.

Now you would think a pelican would spend his time on channel markers and sleeping on piers, but not in my case. My father would travel all over Florida in his RV and we always enjoyed all comforts of home. We would visit the sugar-white sandy beaches in the panhandle, the history of the St. Augustine area and enjoy sunsets on Florida's west coast. We are very lucky to have so many campgrounds to choose from here in Florida.

Today I travel all over the state to talk about the fun, freedom and flexibility of RV travel.

Be sure to say "Hi" when you see me, and if you need any advice on fishing, I'm your
man...er, bird! Enjoy your travels and I'll see you down the road.

RVing in Florida offers an array of activities for the entire family, including outdoor fun, some of the best amusement parks in the United States and a variety of museums. On the following pages, see what Florida RVing has in store for you.

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While all of the FRVTA member dealers and service centers offer quality products and services, the ones displaying this logo have taken it a step further.

Training new RV technicians and upgrading the skills of current techs has long been a goal and challenge of the RV industry. RV Consumers demand quality service and the industry knows how vital customer satisfaction is to sustaining industry quality and growth.

Recognizing that, the FRVTA launched the RV Distance Learning Network (DLN) in January 2000. Through high speed internet connections, the RV DLN broadcasts technician training programs from the University of South Florida in Tampa to dealerships throughout the state, country and even Canada.

Technicians can now stay at their dealerships and receive on-site, state-of-the-art training programs throughout the year. Manufacturers and suppliers deliver advanced clinics and workshops on a variety of topics. The on-demand Technician Certification Prep Course is delivered via the network to technicians planning to sit for their certification exam.

The RV Distance Learning Network, an idea taken to reality, serves the RV customer through a process of continued quality improvement.

RV service technicians at the dealership level know that life-long learning is a necessity and, thanks to the DLN, training has become an ongoing process.

Look for certified technicians as you visit dealerships and know they are receiving regular training to provide quality service to make your RV experience the best it can be.



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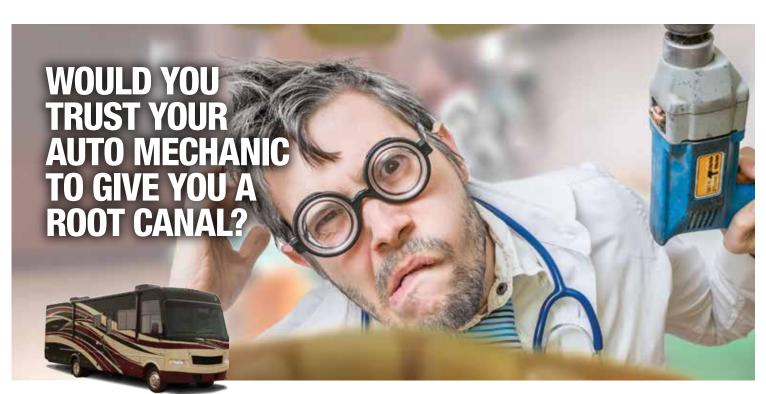
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Next on the list for a fun day in downtown Tampa is getting out on the water, easy to do right from the Riverwalk. At the nearby Tampa Convention Center Docks you'll find a couple of opportunities to take your visit out on the water. At eBoats Tampa you can hire a captain or captain your own boat, no license needed. After a brief orientation, you're free to set off and explore the beautiful waterways. Located at the Tampa Convention Center Docks. Call for a reservation 813-767-2245.

Tampa Bay Fun Boat is another opportunity to see the sights from the water. This 35-passenger, 36-ft. vessel offers one-hour trips out to Tampa Bay past beautiful homes and the University of Tampa and back in along the river. Trips depart from the Tampa Convention Center Docks at 333 S. Franklin St. beginning at noon every two hours. The last departure is 6 p.m. for a gorgeous Florida sunset. There is also a 7:30 p.m. trip to see Tampa at night. Reserve your spot online or call 727-204-9787.



If you still have the energy to explore more Riverwalk, round the corner and head alongside the main part of Hillsborough River on a straightaway and a bit of a walk to Curtis Hixon Waterfront Park. Clustered in this area are the Florida Museum of Photographic Arts, Glazer Children's Museum, Tampa Museum of Art, David A. Straz Jr. Center for the Performing Arts, and the Patel Conservatory.

If it's Sunday, check out Yoga in the Park held from 5-6 p.m., weather permitting. The class is open to all in Curtis Hixon Park, provided by Yoga Downtown Tampa at 206 E. Cass St.

Also nearby is the Tampa Bay Water Bike Company which allows you to cruise the Hillsborough River at 5 mph. and not get wet! The ultimate human powered watercraft is available to children as young as 6. Located on the river near the Curtis Hixon Park Playground, the watercraft can be rented for \$30/hour or two hours for \$50 before discounts.

Urban Kai is another way to enjoy the river. Standup paddle boarding works the core and hits every muscle through the arms, legs and back. Rentals and fitness classes are available. Located at 700 S. Florida Ave. on the Riverwalk.

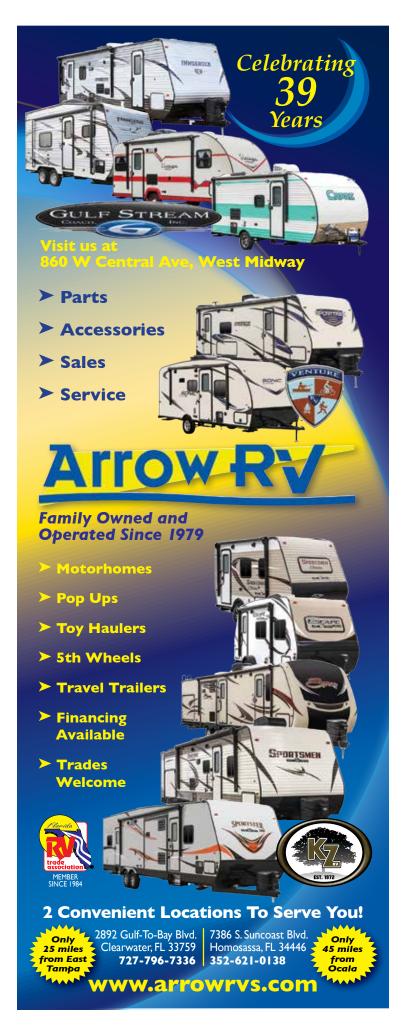
And you may run into some music at Curtis Hixon Park. Rock the Park is downtown Tampa's free monthly music concert series scheduled the first Thursday of every month.

At any time along your walk, you're likely to see bikes for quick use through Tampa's bike sharing, an ondemand system designed for short trips. Coast Bike Share Tampa keeps bikes available at 33 hubs located around the area. To see the map of locations and bike share plans offered, go to www.coastbikeshare.com.



Experiencing all that the Curtis Hixon Park area offers, not to mention the full length of the Riverwalk including what is above the Tampa Bay History Center - the Florida Aquarium, American Victory Ship and Channelside Bay Plaza - is too much for one day, for

So save those experiences for another time, and head back to The Sail to watch the sun set on a beautiful day in Downtown Tampa.



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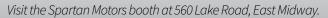
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isney's Fort Wilderness Resort and Campground is a vacation haven for Walt Disney World guests who crave natural, rustic charm amidst the most magical place on Earth. Since its opening in 1971, the 740-acre resort has earned recognition by guests and accolades throughout the camping industry for its accommodations, recreation and dining. Disney's Fort Wilderness Resort and Campground includes two unique accommodation options:

- ▶ 843 campsites for tents and recreational vehicles of all sizes featuring level, paved pads with a coquina rock bed, charcoal grill, picnic table and hook-ups for water, electric, sewer, cable and Internet. Secluded, private campsites are bordered by lush natural surroundings, and are only steps away from deluxe air-conditioned comfort stations with restrooms, private showers, laundry facilities, ice dispensers and pay telephones.
- ▶ The 365 Wilderness Cabins offer the perfect combination of home-style comforts and the beauty of nature. Each spacious cabin features more than 500 square feet of air-conditioned living space as well as a private patio deck with a charcoal grill and picnic table. The master bedroom sleeps four with a full-sized bed and set of bunk beds, while the separate living room sleeps two with a full-sized pull-down bed. All cabins also feature vaulted ceilings, comfortable furniture, complimentary Wi-Fi, color cable television, telephone and a spacious oval dining table. Daily housekeeping service is provided to all Wilderness Cabins.

Recreation at Disney's Fort Wilderness Resort is almost as endless as the great outdoors itself! Guests can choose from horseback riding, fishing excursions, nature trail exploration, boat rentals, volleyball, tennis, bike rentals and the Wilderness Back Trail Adventure, where guests can experience, first-hand, a Segway X2 Personal Transporter. The Archery Experience is an option for guests who are interested in learning target shooting from an Archery Guide. Those guests wanting to slow it down and relax can unwind on a white sand beach, play a leisurely game of shuffleboard, take the little ones on a pony ride or enjoy an evening horse-drawn wagon ride around the resort.

Other highlights include:

- ▶ Guests can roast marshmallows with Disney characters during Chip 'N Dale's Campfire Sing-A-Long, a nightly event that culminates with a classic Disney movie in a theater under the stars. This free event, which features a 30-minute fire lighting ceremony, rousing group renditions of favorite camp songs and appearances by Chip and Dale, is open to all Walt Disney World guests, not just those staying at Fort Wilderness.
- Dining options include Trail's End Restaurant, an all-you-care-to-eat buffet open for breakfast, brunch and dinner; and Crockett's Tavern, offering appetizers, pizza and a full service bar. Two trading posts offer groceries, Disney merchandise and camping supplies. Additional quick and casual options include P & J's Southern Takeout and The Chuck Wagon - an onsite Disney food truck offering sandwiches, burgers, and camp classics.

- ▶ Three times per night at "Hoop-Dee-Doo Musical Review," guests can experience a foot 'stompin,' hand 'clappin,' western vaudeville review-style dinner show featuring a zany bunch of singing and dancing road-show entertainers. The all-you-care-to-eat menu (served family style) includes smoked barbecue pork ribs, country fried chicken, tossed green salad, corn, baked beans, fresh baked bread and strawberry shortcake.
- "Mickey's Backyard BBQ," a character dining experience with live music and line dancing, is also offered seasonally.

Disney's Fort Wilderness Resort and Campground is located in the Magic Kingdom resort area on the banks of Bay Lake. Convenient boat transportation to Magic Kingdom and motorcoach transportation to all Walt Disney World destinations, including Epcot, Disney's Hollywood Studios, Disney's Animal Kingdom, Disney Springs and Disney's Water Parks is provided.

For more information and reservations, guests may contact 407-WDW-Disney or visit: **www.disneyworld.com** or contact your local travel agent.

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odays' RVs are packed with technology and innovation. These innovations can be exciting and scary all at the same time. If you're like us. it is exciting! But if you're baffled by the advancements or searching for the value of a "connected RV," stick with us and we'll quide you through. Let's first talk about the evolution of RV technology and then look upon the horizon at what's next. You just may find a need for that smart phone powered leveling system after all.

At the turn of the century, the RV industry was building product to cater to the baby boomers as they entered retirement in record breaking numbers. RV manufacturers focused on tangible improvements - lighter construction and innovative floor plans. The smaller RVs expanded as slide-outs were introduced into floorplans. Talk about technology that changes the footprint of RVs today! The combination of retirees and technology created soaring RV sales as more Americans enjoyed the freedom of the open road.

Today, the millennial generation has begun to power the next boom of campers, and RV manufacturers are keeping pace with their expectations of innovative floorplans and technologies. Now multiple slide outs are commonplace and wireless controls are the new "must have." This new technology allows the wired components and bag of remotes to essentially disappear as they migrate to wireless, Bluetooth, or voiceactivated controls within a single remote or tablet. New features and new customers are changing the face of camping.

Camping is generally associated with exploration and family time. Today's new technology enhancements are driven to maximize time spent enjoying the scenery or sharing campfire stories. In fact, surveys find that access to technology is fueling the mobile lifestyle and is extending vacations due to accessibility to work emails, social media and other remote services. According to the KOA North American Camping Report, millennials account for 38% of campers. Generation Xers account for 34% and both groups intend to camp more often in the future. These emerging generations expect information delivered with minimal effort from anywhere in the world and convenience is king.

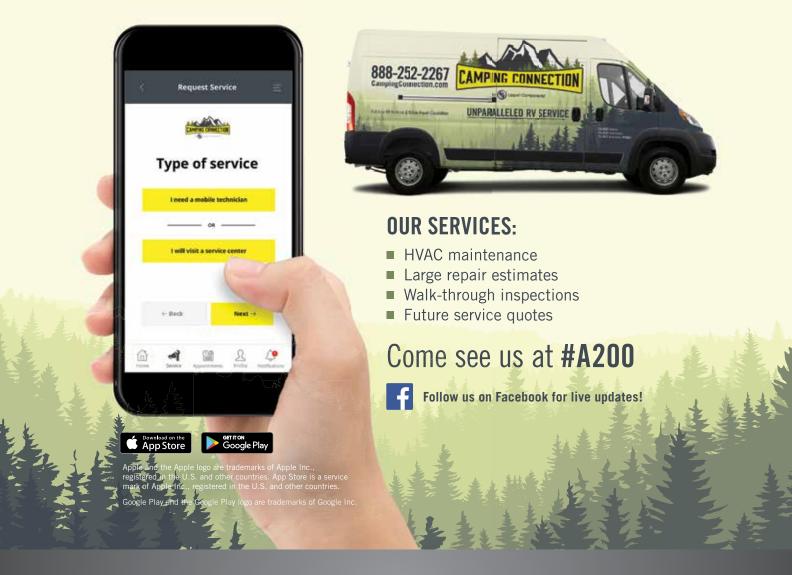
As you explore RV shows this season, convenience and comfort is represented in many of the enhancements and advancements of the latest RV models.

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2018 TOP DEBUTS

 but in a way that gives the appearance that the coach is even more expensive than it is," said Winnebago CEO Michael Happe. "And so it was this dream that emerged to create a 'million-dollar look' in something much more affordable."

"It breaks outside of the mold in that diesel pusher category," added Chad Reece, director of marketing for the Forest City, Iowa, manufacturer. "It's very sleek, contemporary — we think there's a big market out there for folks who want to take that step in diesel pushers, people who may not be into traditional oak cabinetry and that type of styling. This takes it to a new level, and the functionality that's designed into it also is a step forward. The layout is intuitive and the ability to use the vehicle has been stepped up as well."

Whether you call it "modern," "contemporary" or "Euro-inspired," the Horizon interior represents a dramatic change in Class A diesel living quarters — and earned the Horizon honors as the "2018 RV of the Year" from RVBusiness magazine, the nation's premier trade journal covering the RV industry.

A case could be made that Winnebago first brought "Euro" styling to the states when it introduced its Mercedes-Benz Sprinter-based View in 2005, but as Reece noted, there's more to the Horizon interior than just a sleek appearance.

"The styling in the Horizon has a modernistic feel, but it also has a functional purpose," he said. "We were able to create storage inside that makes maximum use of space because we're not limited to

straight lines and angles. When you can make curves in cabinetry, you open up options on how you can store things, how things fit together. It's a little more complicated process to design, perhaps, but in the end we think you get a better result."

Horizon interiors sport high-gloss laminates and radius doors as well as stainless-steel and backlit translucent panels that, said Ryan Roske, Winnebago's director of product management, project an ambiance not unlike that of a European yacht - an impression for which he partly credits European furniture supplier Tecnoform S.p.A.

"The company we work with is based out of Italy," said Roske. "Their lamination processes are all top-notch. Their tolerances are tight and that is a big plus working with them."

Other interior features include LED tube lighting, Villa furnishings, a spacious master bedroom with an available walkaround recline/incline king bed, full galley with residential-style French door refrigerator, cold water filtration system and Agua-Hot hydronic dual-zone heating system. It's initially available in two floorplans - the 43-foot, 3-inch 42Q, with three slideouts including a full-wall streetside extension, and the four-slideout 40A at 41 feet, 1 inch. Both are built on a hybrid Freightliner Maxum chassis.

Not in the market for a Class A diesel pusher? Your possibilities are virtually endless, from Entegra Coach's new Class A gas-powered Emblem and its new Class C lineups — new concepts from a manu-

facturer that previously only offered diesel motorhomes — to the new Little Guy Plus teardrop trailer from Liberty Outdoors. There's also the new V-nose GPS travel trailer from Starcraft RV that incorporates what the company calls its "Sport Locker" a walk-in lockable cargo room built over the trailer's A-frame that has a 750pound capacity. Better yet, several GPS models also offer a rear "porch" — a ramp door that, when lowered, is accessed through rear patio doors and offers outdoor enthusiasts a sizable patio with a power awning/screen room.

That's right — you can now have a rear patio without buying a toy hauler! But if you do want a fifth-wheel with a garage, choices include Keystone RV Co.'s new Fuzion 424, a two-patio, bath-and-a-half floorplan that incorporates what's called the "Omni-Chill" system. Developed in partnership with Dometic, it allows users to operate all three of the 424's air conditioners at the same time when plugged into 50-amp service. "People have been putting three ACs on a unit for a long time, but they've been on an energy-management system where one shuts down and turns the other one on," said Jeremiah Dumka, product manager overseeing Keystone's Fuzion and Impact lines. "With our system, you can actually dump 33% more cool air into the coach than what has ever been produced before."

You will find all these models and hundreds more here at the RV Super-Show — where it will become obvious that, in 2018, your choices for a new RV have never been better!



plans debuted last fall: the rear lounge 2513RLF and the 3013BHF double-over-double bunkhouse. The 2513 comes in at 30 feet long and 7,650 pounds unloaded, while the 35-foot, 6-inch 3013 has a dry weight of 8,700 pounds. "We're looking at a half-ton towable, lightweight but feature-rich product. When you really take a look at the product in this mid-profile segment, the goal quite frankly is some uniqueness in floorplans — but it's also driven by the high-end features at a very affordable price point," said Product Manager Andy Cunningham, singling out the Astoria's four-point leveling system, iN-Command electronic control system, 8-cubic-foot stainless-steel refrigerator, solid-surface countertops, modern glass fireplaces and 40-inch television among its many standard features.



high-end coach owners, however, who are looking for something significantly smaller and easier to drive and Newmar's New Aire is a luxury diesel pusher that, by virtue of the unit's customized Freightliner XCR chassis with a side-mounted radiator, stretches an inch less than 34 feet and owns the lowest silhouette of any Newmar motorhome. The look inside the New Aire, said Newmar Interior Designer Kim Moore, had to maintain a certain "Newmar DNA," yet push the design envelope further into contemporary than the manufacturer has ever gone. The New Aire is available in two multi-slide, rear bath floorplans featuring Newmar's proprietary STAR Foundation and Comfort Ride handling package. Interior amenities include a SilverLeaf electronic control system, solid-surface countertops, tile flooring, power shades on all windows, a cathedral ceiling in the bedroom, all-electric stainless-steel Whirlpool and Samsung appliances and a hydronic heating and water system.

2018 TOP DEBUTS

Starcraft GPS: When designers at Topeka, Ind.based Starcraft RV set about designing its GPS travel trailer, they kept three goals in mind: more storage, increased tank capacity and improved outdoor living - and a targeted dry weight of 6,000 pounds or less. The GPS was developed as a V-nose trailer, and Starcraft designers dedicated that front space to a "Sport Locker" — a walk-in cargo room with a 750-pound capacity. Developed in partnership with Lippert Components Inc., the lockable "Sport Locker" sits atop a specially engineered tongue and is accessed through a full-height door. But the real selling point of the GPS may be found in back, where several models of the travel trailer line incorporate a rear





"porch." The rear ramp door is accessed through patio doors in the rear wall of the GPS and boasts a power awning/screen room developed in partnership with Carefree of Colorado. The GPS ramp-door units, available in a 27-foot 230 MLD and even shorter 24-foot 210 RLD floorplans, also boast a 100-gallon fresh-water tank.



Grand Design Transcend: Grand Design Recreational Vehicle Co. launched the Transcend travel trailer line in late 2017. The Transcend eventually will have up to eight floorplans, vary in length from 25 feet to 36 feet and in dry weights from the high 5,000-pound to the mid-6,000-pound range. While many might classify the Transcend as "stick and tin," Grand Design officials shy away from the "entry level" association attached to that label. "We focused in on quality, dynamic floorplans, feature-filled, easy

for the customer to buy, easy for the salesman to process, and easy for the dealer," said Product Manager Peter Kinden. The first available floorplan is a 32-foot bunkhouse that sleeps 10 and weighs about 6,400 pounds dry. Features include a power tongue jack, power awning and aluminum entry steps. On the interior, the Transcend offers upgrades like leather sofas and cushions, seamless thermal-formed countertops and a deep-seated stainless steel kitchen sink along with an upgraded insulation package.

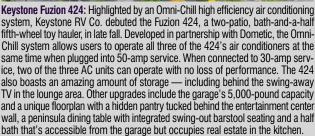






Hymer Aktiv 2.0 Loft Edition: Erwin Hymer Group North America (EHGNA) made waves last fall by debuting the Aktiv 2.0 Loft Edition which, said Mike Snell, vice president of sales and service, is basically a pop-top on an Aktiv that has a built-in bed. "A Class B has never been capable of comfortably sleeping four; now we have the capability of sleeping five, or even six in some cases," he added. "That opens up the market to families." Like the standard Aktiv 2.0, the Loft Edition is built on an extended 3500 RAM ProMaster chassis and is available with a power sofa option. The Aktiv 2.0 Loft Edition also retains some of the newer technology that EHGNA has adopted across its platforms. "We remain very excited about our Volt Start and lithium battery technology, which allow us to run our roof airs without a generator or being plugged in," said Snell.









Coachmen Pursuit Precision: Forest River Inc. subsidiary Coachmen RV introduced the Pursuit Precision in September — a new gas-powered Class A line that slots as a shorter, entry-level version of its five-model Pursuit. Built on the Ford chassis, the Pursuit Precision debuted with two models, the 27DS and 29SS, which come in at 27 and 29 feet. respectively. "The whole mindset behind these was to introduce two floorplans that were smaller and kind of hit that entry-level Class A segment a little stronger than what we have in the past,"

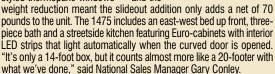
National Sales Manager Zack Eppers said, adding the 27DS features a dream dinette and king bed while the 29SS offers an outdoor kitchen, dream dinette, large sofa, and good counter space. "What's unique about the Precision is, there are really no options," he added. "The only options to choose from are some of the different exterior and interior decors."





Airstream Atlas: Airstream's first B-plus motorhome, the Atlas represents growth into a new segment for the RV manufacturer. "It's a very big step for us," said Tim Garner, general manager of Airstream's motorized division, adding that the company's research suggested customers simply wanted a bigger version of its Interstate — which, he pointed out, has been the nation's top-selling Sprinter-based Class B for the last six years. Built on the Mercedes-Benz 3500 cutaway chassis, the upscale Atlas includes a power slideout room with a Murphy bed suite (with a Froli ergonomic sleep system), rear bath suite with teak shower inlay, Ultraleather seating, high-gloss Airstream cabinetry and a 40-inch LED HDTV hidden on a power lift inside the credenza. The 24-foot, 9-inch long Atlas, said Garner, boasts 50 "best-in-class" features, including standard air-ride suspension and a 3.2kw Cummins-Önan quiet diesel generator.

Lance Model 1475: Lance Camper Manufacturing Corp. believes it has a winner with its 1475 model, a 19-foot, 8-inch travel trailer with a dry weight coming in at less than 2,600 pounds. For 2018, the builder added an optional 7-foot long by 12-inch deep curbside slideout to the unit. which contains either two swivel chairs or an optional sofa/recliner that converts to a bed; two swivel tables with a full range of motion provide ample dining or desk space. The 1475 also features Eurostyled thermopane windows — and the







Entegra Emblem: Entegra Coach, a division of Jayco Inc., introduced the all-new Emblem, a gasoline-powered Class A motorhome to grow the company's family of products beyond its diesel-pusher offerings. The 38-foot Emblem debuts with two bath-and-a-half floorplans built on the Ford F-53 chassis. Both models feature a rear bath and king bed slide as part of a large master suite and a curbside galley; the two-slide 35T features an L-shaped expandable sofa while the triple-slide 36T offers bunk beds and either a hide-a-bed sofa or optional theatre seats. The Emblem's interior luxuries include 84-inch

interior ceiling height with padded vinyl ceiling, high-intensity recessed LED ceiling lights, 21-cubic-foot residential refrigerator, convection microwave oven, gas cooktop and a water filtration system. Outside, the Emblem features one-piece fiberglass front and rear caps, a seamless crowned fiberglass roof and an entrance door with the industry's largest travel view window.

Jayco Talon: For 2018 Jayco Inc. is introducing the Talon line of fifth-wheel toy haulers. Brent Hamood, senior director of product development for toy haulers at Jayco, said the Talon replaces the Seismic Wave as the manufacturer's entry-level toy hauler. Each Talon features a 13-foot garage, a 21-foot power awning with LED lighting covering both entry doors, a fully-painted front cap with clear coat and heated and enclosed tanks. The Talon also comes complete with the Jayco exclusive, American-made Goodyear Beast tires featuring the highest load rating available in the





industry, as well as MORryde CRE3000 suspension. "What we tried to do was create floorplans that were smaller in length, so they're all 40 feet or under in pin-to-bumper measurements," Hamood said. "We also kept all of them on two axles, which we knew was important to get our weights way down. We have Talons as low as 11,000 pounds."





Thor Motor Coach Tuscany: Thor Motor Coach (TMC) revamped its Tuscany line of diesel pushers this year, which included the introduction of a new floorplan, the 40RT, a new single-rear-axle diesel pusher with triple slideouts, extensive kitchen workspace and two large screen TVs. "This is a brand new 40-footer for us," said Jon Krider, TMC's vice president of product development and marketing, noting that the lack of a tag-axle on this unit makes it attractive to a sizeable group of RVers. Mounted on a Freightliner XC-R raised rail chassis, the 40RT has a side radiator and 450-hp Cummins ISL 8.9 engine. Other highlights include theater seating, mid-coach half bath and large rear bath, drop-down bunk over the cockpit, and Tilt-A-View inclining king bed in the master suite.





Fleetwood Pulse: The Fleetwood RV Pulse and its sister coach, the Holiday Rambler Prodigy, are REV Recreation's Group's first Class C diesel RV products since 2009. "We felt like it was time to get back in this marketplace with a very competitive product," said Vice President of Sales and Marketing Lenny Razo. The Pulse debuts with the 24A and 24B models: The 24A has a dinette slide off the driver's side and a north-south queen bed slide in the rear, while the 24B has a full-wall slide on the driver's side that houses a dinette, wardrobe and east-west queen bed. Both have a small but functional three-piece bath and a well-appointed galley with high-gloss cabinetry. The exterior features a choice of partial paint or full-body paint, aluminum baggage doors and an optional mobile eye collision avoidance system. Another feature is the Truma water heater system.

Winnebago Revel: The Revel is an aggressively styled Class B 4-x-4 for outdoor enthusiasts. It offers a rear queen bed that raises to the ceiling to allow storage capacity beneath it for a single motorcycle or mountain bikes, plus a marine-style bathroom/shower with slide-in teakwood shelves that convert the entire bath into a large storage area when not in use. "Our new Revel Class B has more storage than many Class A's," said Sam Jefson, public relations specialist for Winnebago. Outside, a clamp-on style ladder that attaches to a roof rail around the entire coach facilitates tie-downs for kayaks or gear storage topside, which also features a 200-watt solar panel backed by inverter systems and batteries for extended dry camping. The Revel also has diesel-powered heat and water heater systems. "Probably the only time people will plug in (to an AC outlet) is when they are at home to keep the batteries topped off," said Jefson.



Heartland Gateway 3700RD: For 2018, the 41-foot, 5-inch, 15,500-pound GVWR Gateway 3700RD introduces what to AJ Jones, senior general manager of Heartland RV, believes is "the biggest kitchen that I know of that's been put into a fifth-wheel." What's particularly unique is the position and shape of the kitchen, which is amidships curbside, just inside and forward of the door. The U-shaped kitchen has ample counter space, with a raised bar facing the rear living area. A large refrigerator and sizable pantry sit across from the kitchen in a streetside slideout. The layout of the fifth-wheel puts the spacious den in the rear and features oppos-

ing slides with a loveseat, sofa sleeper and theater seating facing the rear wall entertainment center. The front master suite has a standard queen in a slideout and a large front wall closet. The exterior also has a sizable amount of front-end storage and a full outdoor kitchen under the awning.



Highland Ridge Open Range 3X384RLS: Highland Ridge RV, division of Jayco Inc., has introduced the 3X384RLS for 2018, a new floorplain in its Open Range 3X line of fifthwheels that features an innovative layout for its front master bedroom. Measuring 39 feet, 10 inches with a 16,450-pound GVWR, the 384RLS has a sofa tucked into the front wall flanked by end tables — with one containing a wine cooler. On the other side of the bed — itself built into a streetside slideout — is a 32-inch

flat-screen TV and fireplace. The spacious living area includes opposing 7-foot-tall, 42-inch deep slideouts, island kitchen, theater seating opposite the entertainment center and a sofa tucked into the rear wall, as well. "We've got a whole new bathroom and bedroom concept in this unit," said Senior Director of Product Development Randy Graber of the 384RLS. "It's very open concept is almost like it's another living area in the bedroom."





Forest River Berkshire XLT 45A: Forest River's Berkshire division has gone all-out for 2018, with a new bus-style look on the outside and an upgraded furniture redesign inside. With the company's flagship Berkshire XLT, there's also a new family floorplan. The 45A is a four-slideout, two-full bath, bunkhouse motorhome,



built on Freightliner's XCR 44,320-pound GVWR chassis with a 450-hp Cummins engine. The 44-foot, 7-inch coach is available in seven exterior full-paint options and plenty of room for personal touches. The galley slide includes a stainless-steel French door residential refrigerator, dishwasher, convection microwave, induction cooktop, solid-surface counter and more. A large LED TV sits above the fireplace and conceals a storage cabinet. The first full bath and the two bunks are built into the slide-out, while the master suite features a king bed, a dresser with a full wardrobe and a large rear bath with dual vanities and corner shower.



Cruiser RV Shadow Cruiser 277BHS: It's almost an understatement to say that bunkhouse floorplans have revolutionized how campers utilize RVs today. For 2018, however, Howe, Ind.based Cruiser RV has redesigned the typical double-over-double bunkhouse that, noted company General Manager Jay Mohamed, creates a much more livable space. In the 277BHS, the unit still includes a queen master bedroom

in the front — but instead of having the entertainment center crowding the end of the bed there's a wall with a sliding door that closes off the bedroom. An L-shaped galley sits just aft of the wall while theater seating and a dinette are housed in the streetside slideout across from the entertainment center. Meanwhile, the entry door has been moved back toward the rear, just in front of the rear double-over-double bunks. Other features include a 13,500-Btu air conditioner, 6-gallon DSI water heater, electric awning with LED lighting, two-tone painted front cap with LED lighting and a 6-foot, 9-inch-high vaulted ceiling.



KZ RV Durango Gold 385 FLF: The five-slide 385FLF stands at the top of the Durango Gold lineup, the premier brand for KZ RV. "The 385FLF is a front living room floorplan," said Product Manager Mike Mack. "Front living rooms are very popular today, as are bath-anda-half models — so we created the 385 FLF with a full bath for the master suite in the back of the coach and a half bath on the main level." The five slides in the coach include two in the front living room, each with a super sleeper sofa; another pair of opposing slides air out the

main-level galley, separated by an island. In the rear bedroom, there's also a streetside slide for the king bed. Luxury features of the Gold series include a coat closet, a full pantry, larger refrigerator and reclining theater seating in the living room. "To my knowledge, we are the only brand that is approved for full time living for a full two years," said Mack.





Gulf Stream Capri: Nappanee, Ind.-based Gulf Stream Coach Inc. tapped further into the retro market following the popularity of its Vintage Cruiser. For 2018, the OEM introduced two new models — the Capri and the Cabin Cruiser — with vintage flavor. "The big difference between Capri and Vintage Cruiser is, Capri is conventional construction, a stick-and-tin build," said Paul Campbell, director of marketing. "It allows for a little lower price point and takes it to a different buyer demographic." The well-equipped Capri is available in seven floorplans (one, the 19DS, with a slide). The larger Cabin Cruiser, meanwhile is available in three floorplans ranging from 24 feet, 8 inches to 31 feet, 2 inches, each with a single slideout. "It's just a bigger play on the nostalgia, with interior wood paneling that we get out of the Vintage Cruiser," said Campbell. "It's intended to elicit a 'yachting' feel inside."



CrossRoads Zinger ZR330BH: According to Daren Elswick, GM for CrossRoads RV's Zinger brand, the product lineup includes 14 new floorplans for 2018, and "many are pretty innovative in the conventionally built stick-and-tin segment. So when you walk into each of our living rooms," added Robert Fitzsimmons, Zinger product manager, "you'll see wood blinds instead of the mini blinds, an abundance of storage, 30-inch fireplaces, LED accent lights throughout, stainless-steel appliances, even tile backsplashes and an outside shower."Fitzsimmons said the 37foot ZR330BH is one of three new bath-and-a-half models. The coach has a kitchen island, a large curbside slideout with sleeper

dinette and sofa and the galley housed in an opposing slide. Up front is the master bedroom with a full bath, while the rear of the coach has a bunkroom and a half bath. "This is a big family coach," Fitzsimmons said.

Redwood 3881ES: Redwood RV, a luxury fifth-wheel division of CrossRoads RV, debuted a new floorplan featuring a separated den/office in a four-slide unit. The 3881ES is 41 feet, 8 inches long with a dry weight of 14,918 pounds which, given its 17,900-pound GVWR, offers a cargo carrying capacity just shy of 3,000 pounds. The 50-amp coach has four slideouts, including three on the streetside. One houses the king bed in the front bedroom, which has a wardrobe and optional washer/dryer combo tucked into the nose of the unit. In the main living/kitchen area, opposing slideouts create a spacious place for enjoying the



big screen TV or fireplace or to prepare a meal in the island kitchen. Tucked off the kitchen is an office/den, where the fourth slideout containing a chest of drawers and shelves is located opposite a corner desk.

Airstream Globetrotter 27FB: Airstream Inc. introduced the Globetrotter 27FB as the first model in a new line of travel travelers. It's a familiar name for Airstream and, according to Justin Humphreys, vice president of sales and marketing, resurrecting it made sense since the company turned to Astheimer, a British firm, to assist in the line's interior design. "Their whole design cue was for it to be very

flowing," Humphreys said. "So the furniture all wraps around each end, around the bed, around the dinettes. Even in the cabinetry you'll see a lot of flow to the design. It's very simple and very modern." Available in four different color schemes, the 27FB features either a queen bed or split twin beds up front, with a dinette in the rear. The streetside bench of the dinette continues along the wall for a 63-inch lounge/bed, with a well-appointed galley just off the entry door curbside.







Renegade RV Valencia: Renegade RV, a Bristol, Ind.-based subsidiary of the REV Group, offers several models — including a VRW (rear wardrobe) and a (VBB) bunk bed — of its new Valencia line, a Super C built on an all-new S2RV Freightliner chassis. "The difference (with the new chassis) is that they've custom-tuned the ride," said Kevin Erdman, Renegade's director of sales and marketing. "The suspension system is different than what we have on our Freightliner truck products. They've changed the transmission and are using an MH-3000 series transmission by Allison, which is a six-speed — same thing that they would be using in a Class A motorhome. We've gone to a more robust version of the ISB series Cummins motor that now produces 360 horsepower and 800 ft.-lb. of torque. It's got a lot more guts. It's got better pulling power."





Liberty Outdoors Serro Scotty Sportsman: Liberty Outdoors has introduced a prototype of the production model of its retro-inspired Serro Scotty Sportsman, a 14-foot, 1,700-pound (dry) travel trailer. "We're probably looking to go into full production in the next three to four months," said Dylan DeHoff, Liberty's chief operating officer. "We really wanted to get it here and get some feedback. I think that it's probably 80-90% ready to go from listening to what the dealers are saying." The focus on capturing the vintage appeal to the famous brand is by design, DeHoff mentioned. "We've tried to keep the outside as retro as possible," he said. "It's true to the old Sportsman—windows in the same exact spot, same metal. We even took measurements of how far up the metal went on the front and the back. So everything's the exact same, but we built it with modern construction."

SylvanSport Go: Brevard, N.C.-based SylvanSport debuted new additions to its GO line of pop-up tent products for 2018. According to founder and CEO Tom Dempsey, the product is selling well and offers a "versatile" option for those looking to carry other items, like kayaks, along with their tent. Fully set up, the pop-up tent features either a king bed and a half-bed inside or two twin beds, with a table and dinette in between. "It just



has tremendous versatility, all in an 840-pound package that virtually any vehicle can tow," said Dempsey. New additions zip directly onto the main tent and come with an awning that provides a covered walkway to the attached room. The awning can be attached on any side of the tent, providing a custom look for any shaped campsite.



RV Factory Luxe Gold: The RV Factory, an Elkhart, Ind.-based factory-direct manufacturer, introduced the Luxe Gold as an entry point to its Luxe line of high-end, full-time fifth-wheels. The Gold series debuts with four basic floorplans, ranging from 39 to 45 feet, although buyers can enjoy a certain degree of customization to suit their purposes. "The whole purpose behind the Luxe Gold line was to offer a lighter weight high-end fifth-wheel," noted Steve Zonker, a Luxe factory rep, adding that the Luxe Gold series will have dry weights starting at

about 16,000 pounds. Zonker said that the Luxe Gold features equalizer leveling, disc brakes, tons of storage, iNCommand control system, real wood cabinetry, hand-laid tiles and vacuum-bonded laminate exterior walls with an aluminum substructure and graphite-infused closed-cell foam insulation.





Heartland Road Warrior 426: One of two "luxury toy hauler" brands with Heartland RV's expansive towables lineup (Cyclone is the other) Elkhart, Ind.-based Heartland RV's Road Warrior series melds the kind of luxury features you'd expect to find in its higher-end fifth-wheels with a 13-foot garage. New for 2018, the Road Warrior 426 is a triple-axle, 20,000-pound GVWR unit filled with high-tech features including LED TVs, Furrion stereo with app control, USB receptacles everywhere — even in the theater seating — and some amazing LED lighting effects. Other features include a loft for the kids, solid-surface counters, a full bathtub and shower and the MORryde Step Above entry step. It's the garage, though, that stands out. "What's nice about the garage is it's unobstructed — it's a full 13-foot box," said Heartland's Andy Wesdorp. "And the half bath is built into the living quarters of the coach, so you do have a completely usable full 13-foot space."

TMC Vegas/Axis: For 2018, Thor Motor Coach (TMC) rolled out a new 27.7 floorplan for both the Vegas and Axis, the shorter gaspowered Class A lines that TMC describes as Recreation Utility Vehicles (RUV). At 28 feet, 6 inches, the 27.7 floorplan is the longest RUV to date, using the extra room for expanded living and storage spaces. "We've had people who really like the look and the feel of the RUV with the contemporary interior and the interesting design characteristics it has on the out-



side, but they wanted something a little bit larger," said TMC Vice President of Product Development Jon Krider. Both slides on the 27.7 are streetside, with the forward extension containing the Dream Dinette and 40-inch LED television next to the cooktop and microwave; the rear slide holds the flip-up queen bed. A closet in the bedroom and the kitchen sink and cabinet storage in the living area are in between the two slides.



Aliner Ascape: Last year Somerset, Pa.based Aliner introduced the Ascape and company executives noted that response was so good Aliner has developed an even lighter version called the Ascape MT. "The Ascape is basically an ultra-lightweight, super-small travel trailer, yet it's fully featured," said Chuck Phillips, Aliner's territory manager for the Midwest and Northeast. "It's at 13-foot overall length and about a 10-foot living space, but in that space, it's loaded: queen bed, air conditioning on top - not a window unit you usually see furnace, water heater, cassette toilet and a little solar panel on the front which will

keep your battery charged. The only thing it doesn't have is an inside shower — but it does have an outside shower." According to Phillips, Ascape represents Aliner's first foray with a conventional travel trailer, although the company also produces folding trailers and Somerset-branded popup campers. While the Ascape has a 1,500pound dry weight, the MT version comes in at 1,170 pounds.



Tiffin Zephyr 45PZ: Built on Tiffin Motorhome's proprietary PowerGlide chassis and featuring the optional Tru-Track passive steering tag axle, The new 2018 Zephyr 45PZ is, said Tiffin National Sales Manager Stan Posey, "a real head-turner. The Zephyr is our top-of-the-line product." The free-flowing interior features new-for-2018 upgrades like a tiled wall in the master bath, a layered backsplash with integrated LED lighting, attractive decorative florishes and JBL premium audio. "This also has our contemporary ceiling, which is



new to us. We put upgraded LED accent lighting in the soffit," he pointed out, adding the flooring is all tile, with a heated subfloor. Also new for 2018 is the use of a high-definition digital dash panel with larger monitors in the cockpit. The exterior of the 51,000-pound GVWR Zephyr features full-body, clear-coated paint, new front and rear caps and stainless-steel trim at the bottom of the cargo doors.

Livin' Lite Camplite 21BHS: As noted by Dave Boggs, general manager of Shipshewana, Ind.-based Livin' Lite RV, the company has stayed true to its all-aluminum roots while still managing to incorporate upgrades. "The big thing about the Livin' Lite CampLite products is that we still have an all-aluminum, all-composite construction, so this 21-footer weighs in at just 3,600 pounds — with tandem axles," said Midwest Regional Sales Manager Robbie McClure. "This includes aluminum construction all the way down to the cabinetry. There's no wood in the structure at all." The CampLite 21BHS bunkhouse, he added, sleeps six.

Livin' Lite also has introduced a "Platimum Package" for 2018 that's available across the division's CampLite lineup. "What we've done is 'soften up' the interior, giving it a warmer, more contemporary look," said Boggs. "And we've offered solid-surface countertops, new Euro dual-pane windows and an enclosed and heated underbelly, so it's a four-seasons coach. And it comes in six different exterior colors."







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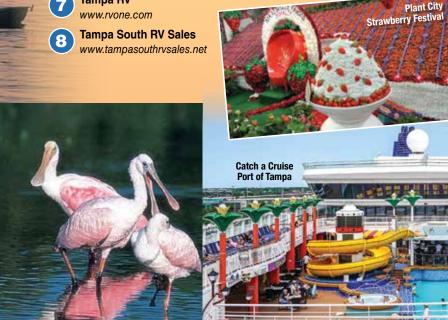
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ne of the most exciting and yet peaceful hours you can spend in Florida is watching Florida manatees quietly play underwater.

These massive gray animals weighing 1,500 to 1,800 pounds can be seen slowly gliding, doing gentle barrel rolls or munching on sea grass in the shallow rivers, bays, estuaries, canals and coastal waterways across the state. Luckily, it is especially easy to watch manatees in the cooler months of November to April when water temperatures drop below 68 degrees and these unique creatures gather for survival in the warmer water of natural springs and even the outflows of electric power plants.

In Tampa, one of the best viewing spots is the Tampa Electric Manatee Viewing Center in Apollo Beach, just a 26-mile drive south from the Florida State Fairgrounds. Saltwater taken from Tampa Bay to cool the TECO Big Bend Station later flows clean and warm back into the bay. Manatees found the warm water years ago as they began to lose other habitats to development, and today the discharge area is a state and federally designated manatee sanctuary.

A pier overlooks the manatees and an education viewing center is open from November 1 through mid-April providing enjoyment to tourists and residents alike. Admission is free, and visitors can also experience a hurricane simulator, learn about solar energy, see coastal plant life and walk through a butterfly garden.

A habitat loop trail on an oyster-shell pathway leads to a boardwalk and 50-foot high observation tower over the estuary. Underway is a new Florida Conservation and Technology Center, a project between Tampa Electric, the Florida Aquarium and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

The main attraction at the TECO viewing site, however, is the manatees, Florida's state marine mammal. A relative of the elephant, manatees have very small eyes and no visible ears, but hear and see very well. They are herbivores, which means they eat mostly sea grass and freshwater vegetation. They have thick, wrinkled skin and small flippers in the front for steering. Baby manatees are 3 feet to 4 feet long and weigh 60 to 70 pounds.

The population of Florida manatees is estimated at only about 5,000, and their existence is highly threatened. Hundreds are killed every year, mostly by cold weather and collisions with water craft. Wildlife officials keeping track of manatees to better understand their needs often recognize individual manatees by the scar patterns on their backs caused by boat propellers.

The loss of natural habitats affects the manatees' ability to find warm water when the temperatures drop. Florida's unique springs system provides a natural refuge, as underground water stays at around 70 degrees and provides a warm outflow when it reaches the surface at spring heads. Just as nice? The clean, warm water flowing from the TECO plant.



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Chariot Eagle Park Model

300 Park Model Area

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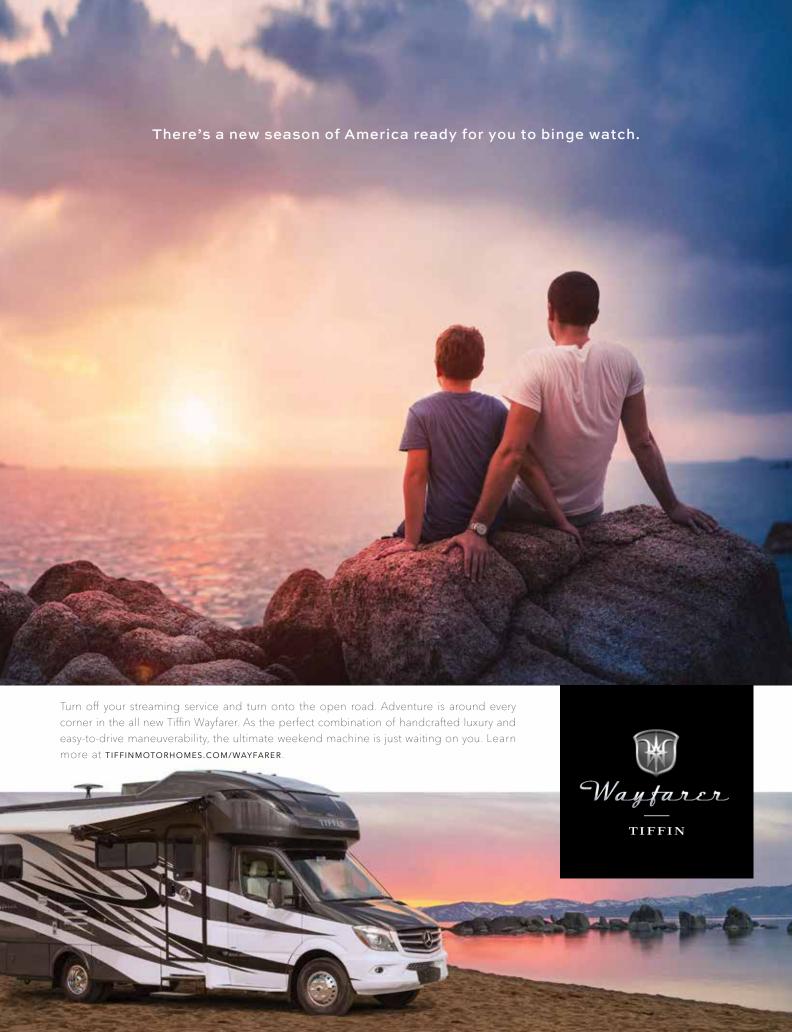


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FLORIDA ()

BEER

he explosion of craft brewing in Florida and nationwide has increased the demand for hops, the vining plant bud that provides beer its flavor and aroma, and Florida farmers are hoping hop crops can replace their citrus trees dying from greening disease. Different varieties of hops are being tested at several farms in central Florida by scientists and Florida agriculture officials, who hope hops will find success in Florida like blueberries did years ago.

The Caloosa Hop Company in

Lake Wales is one such operation, where veteran citrus growers have added several acres of hops and are connecting with local breweries interested in providing unique products. Locally grown hops save brewers the expense of shipping in hops from the Pacific Northwest, Michigan, Germany, or New Zealand, and infuse, literally, a local flavor of the smells and tastes unique to that region.

Once thought too hot and humid for hops, Florida may provide an advantage. So far, the essential oil content is double that of certain varieties grown in the Pacific Northwest, and the ability to harvest three times a year will provide an

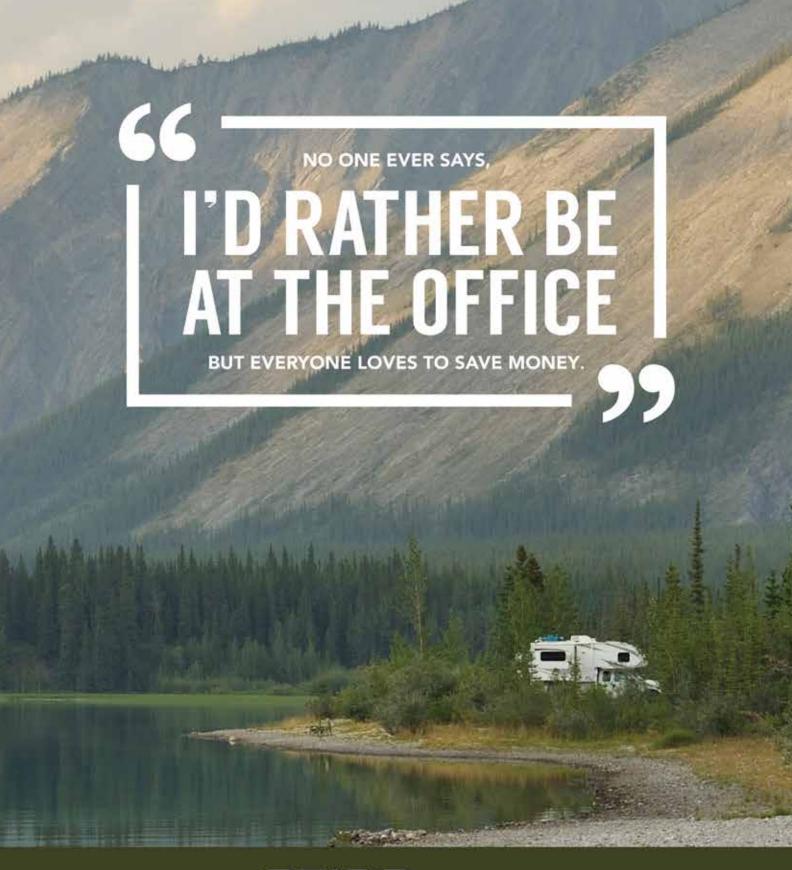
economic advantage. University of Florida horticulturist Brian Pearson says dozens of farmers are contacting him looking to grow the Florida varieties. Pearson is still collecting enough data to do a multi-year comparison to determine long-term potential of field grown hops. But he says the interest in Florida-grown hops continues to remain very strong.

"We were able to release a beer last vear with a specialized Fresh from Florida label that helped spread the word about our research program," he says. First Magnitude Brewing in Gainesville released in April 2017 Apopka Hop Pale Ale, the first made with only Florida-grown hops, raising the hopes of struggling greenhouse growers in the Apopka region. It was an instant success, with all 30 gallons gone in 20 minutes.

In just a year Grove Roots Brewing Company in Winter Haven has grown from nine to 14 the number of exclusive beers brewed on site, and the business has grown to be a favorite of families, kids and dogs. "It's absolutely been amazing. Better than we ever expected," says manager Morgan Wilson, part of the family business with cousin and brewer Joe Dunham.



Dunham's brews are served at the downtown tap room decorated with reclaimed crates, ladders and artwork that pay homage to the citrus industry so imbedded in the region's history. He also keeps a couple of "guest taps" to provide his customers some of the other tastes from the many breweries across the state.



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ATC Trailers Cargo Trailer 895 Main St,

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Heartland RV Fifth Wheel

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Cedar Creek Cottage

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Cedar Creek Hathaway

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835 South Blvd. **South Midway**

Cedar Creek Silverback

Forest River Fifth Wheel 835 South Blvd,

South Midway

Challenger

Thor Motor Coach Class A

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Chaparral

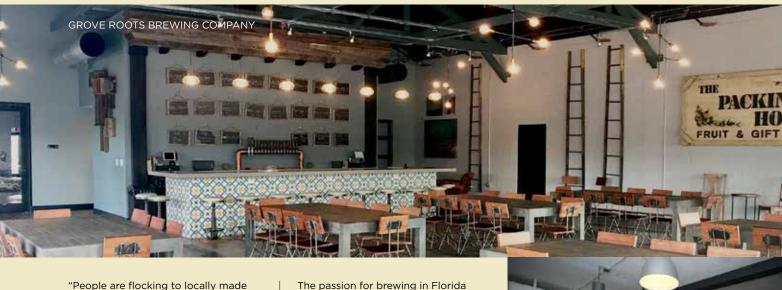
Forest River Fifth Wheel

875 W Central Ave, **West Midway**

Chateau

Thor Motor Coach Class C

220 Main St. Lakeside East



products and we are seeing that in the exponential growth of the craft beer industry," Dunham said. "It's not mass produced. Our customers like to see personality in the brews. It's fresh. local and fun."

The growth of the small brewery industry continues to proceed at a dizzying pace, according to Gerard Walen, a Florida craft beer aficionado. Walen listed 218 small, independent breweries at the mid-point of 2017 on his Florida Brewery Map, a labor of love he's maintained since 2012, with another 38 on their way to opening. In 2016 there were only 186. Walen says he would not be surprised to see the Sunshine State hit 300 in 2018.

Galighery Hist

The passion for brewing in Florida extends from a vast array of homebrewers doing battle in local competitions to the craft breweries and brewpubs spreading statewide. Many offer a family friendly environment, where kids play together on the grass while parents relax at outdoor tables sampling from a truly amazing selection of brews, with equally as impressive names.

Zach Scray, who with two partners owns The Gnarly Barley and GB Bottle Shop & Tasting Bar in Orlando, says it is harder and harder to find shelf space for new products at the Bottle Shop, where he stocks craft beers being sold around the state in bottles. cans and "growlers," jugs filled directly from the tap. "It's tough to choose sometimes because we get so many new ones," he says. "I'll cut a California or Nevada for a Florida for sure. We're moving a lot of liquid. The Red Cypress from Winter Springs, we can't keep on the shelf."

Expansion at his craft beer restaurant The Gnarly Barley is limited by zoning laws, so he is joining a new marketplace venture in the city of Orlando that will feature only Florida craft beers and sell sandwiches under the name of Gnarly Downtown. "Florida craft has taken off," he says.

Naming craft beers is not only an art but can become a legal fight. Brewers often want a taste of place reflected in their product names. Nationwide, a myriad of landscape features, concepts, weather patterns and images, not to mention beer ingredients, has been trademarked for the name of either a brewery or



CIGAR CITY BREWING

GNARLEY BARLEY

beer, leaving newcomers increasingly challenged to create something unique. Name overlaps may not matter as long as the beers are sold in different regions.

In Florida, "the names are kind of mind-blowing," Scray says. "Some are getting pretty tricky. They make you laugh. You can also get to know the style if you listen to the name as a guide. For example, Hotter Than Helles from Cigar City Brewing: Great name for Florida and great design with red and yellow flames plus clever because Helles lager is a classic style from Munich, Germany."

Florida Craft Beer continued on page 57

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Dream

Vohne Liche Travel Trailer

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Durango

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Dvnamax

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Eagle

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Elite Suites

DRV Suites Fifth Wheel

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Elkridae

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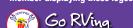
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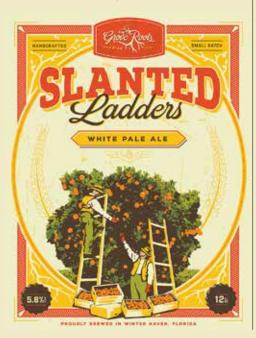
815 South Blvd, South Midway



Beer names are especially indicative of place at Grove Roots. Flagship beers "Slanted Ladders" and "6 a.m. Pickers" are a direct nod to the citrus industry that once thrived in Central Florida and the workers who climbed ladders leaning against orange trees to harvest in the early morning. Several new creations are named after Winter Haven, such as Sinker Cypress Porter, a local wood often found in the bottom of lakes, or Seven Saddles, reviving a story involving a mercantile owner and some stolen goods back in 1914 when the city was founded.

The Caloosa Hop Company provided its locally grown hops to the Swamp Head Brewery for the creation of a unique batch of Micanopy Moonbeam India Pale Ale, a doubly local favorite.

Brewing beer in Florida dates back to 1896 in Tampa when the Florida Brewing Company did a brisk business until 1961. Teddy Roosevelt and the



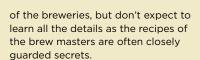
Rough Riders reportedly stopped by for a beer before departing for the Spanish American War. The huge building still dominates the skyline in the Ybor City Historic District, renovated and home today to commercial businesses.

Mega regional breweries in Florida dominated even through the microbrewery boom of the 1980s and '90s. It wasn't until a law change easing restrictions on non-standard containers in 2001 that the state saw substantial growth in brewpubs and craft breweries, emphasizing flavor and quality.

Walen's methodology for counting Florida craft breweries for inclusion on his map explains some of the complexities of quantifying the industry: The brewery or brewpub must produce beer on its premises. Size doesn't matter: Whether a brewery makes tens of thousands of barrels per year, or one a week, as long as it can sell and serve to customers, whether on premise or strictly through distribution, it counts, Cideries and meaderies are not included, though he might create a separate section for them in the future. By comparison, organizations like the Florida Brewers Guild list only its members.

"I am passionate about my home state and its craft beer community," he writes on his blog Beer in Florida. "Friends and fans of this site offer invaluable help in tracking down some of these, and I am extremely grateful. I feel it is the most accurate listing of its type out there, but it has become a lot of work because of the research involved."

The Tampa/St. Petersburg/Clearwater area has more than 40 breweries and brew pubs creating beer on the premises. Tours are available at many



CALOOSA HOP COMPANY

Many craft breweries today can their creations, as lined cans allow the beer to cool more quickly, protect the beer from light, are more portable, and provide a lot of surface area for artwork.

The craft beer craze has spawned beer groups on Facebook where members post pictures of the colorful, intricate labels of tasty finds from their craftbeer travels. Groups often arrange meetups where craft beer fans bring brews for sampling. Membership is free to the Beer Snob Society, for example, where one of the basic rules is to help fellow members "discover all the best places to get their hands on the best beer around."

All in all, business is good and a lot of fun for both the brewers and the customers. "It's not a fierce competition in the industry," Grove Roots' Durham said. "It's very friendly. We have a great community of brewers with the common goal of expanding the beer scene."

For a list of craft breweries in Florida by city, including addresses, phone numbers and websites, visit Walen's beerinflorida.com.

Florida Craft Beer continued on page 132



he Greater Tampa Bay area includes the cities of Tampa, St. Petersburg, Clearwater, plus several smaller communities, and is home to more than 3 million people. The region hosts three professional sports teams, three baseball spring training facilities, more than a dozen museums, three performing arts centers, three botanical gardens, four zoos and aquariums, not to mention numerous stunning beaches. All offer wonderful ways to spend your free time. Here are a few more fun opportunities for excitement that might be flying a bit under the radar.

"Adrenaline fixes" is how Visit Tampa Bay describes the experiences it recommends to "bring out your inner adventurer at attractions for the bold."

At the top of the list are the radical roller coasters at Busch Gardens Tampa Bay. The theme park is wellknown, yes, but some don't realize the extent to which this park has gone to thrill its visitors. SkeiKra is a floorless dive coaster that dangles you 200 feet over the ground before a 90-degree drop takes you for a loop, through an underwater tunnel, then through a surprising splash. Exhilaration is also promised by the park's other coasters,



including Montu, the first simultaneous loop and roll, Kumba, one of the world's largest vertical loops, Cheetah Hunt, the park's longest coaster, Falcon's Fury, which plunges riders 335 feet facedown at 60 mph, and Cobra's Curse with its random spinning and front and back movement. 10165 N. McKinley Dr., Tampa, www.buschgardens.com/tampa.

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Tampa Bay continued on page 66



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HL Enterprises **Destination Trailer**

347 Park **Model Area**

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Lance Campers Truck Camper

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The #HEARtheMUSIC Project is a year-long tour that travels the nation with a sponsor-branded mobile hearing health clinic - visiting air shows, music festivals, YMCAs, Boys & Girls Clubs, senior centers, veteran's organizations, schools and clinics, AND THE SUPERSHOW!!! - to help raise awareness, provide access to care, and encourage action around hearing loss.

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South Midway

Mesa Ridge

Highland Ridge Fifth Wheel Travel Trailer 755 South Blvd, **South Midway**

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Miramar

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Mobile Suites

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New Horizons RV

New Horizons RV Fifth Wheel 555 Lake Rd, **East Midway**

Newell Coach

Newell Coach Class A

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Javco Fifth Wheel 845 W Central Ave, **West Midway**

North Trail

Heartland RV Travel Trailer 815 South Blvd,

South Midway

Octane

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Open Range 3X

Highland Ridge Fifth Wheel

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Orion

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Outlaw

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Events Ctr

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Phoenix Cruiser

Phoenix USA Class C

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Pinnacle

Javco Fifth Wheel

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Pioneer

Heartland RV Fifth Wheel Travel Trailer 815 South Blvd, **South Midway**

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Pleasure Way Class B 140 Expo Hall

Plateau XL

Pleasure Way Class B

140 Expo Hall

Platinum

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Skydive without a parachute and feel the thrill of freefall at **iFly Tampa**. The swoosh of wind on a smooth cushion of air and a feeling of weightlessness is yours — no plane required. IFly's vertical wind tunnel at speeds of 105 to 160 mph allows you to simulate a spread-eagle fall with flight instructors guiding you every step of the way. Spins by request. Open to flyers as young as age 3. 10654 Palm River Rd., Tampa, 813-773-4359.

Test your skills and nerve on the five-zipline and aerial adventure course at **Empower Adventures**. Visitors climb a narrow spiral staircase to launch off a 65-foot high platform and zip along through the air around challenging aerial obstacles. The 400-650-foot long zipline rides feature miles of views of protected forest and wetlands, home to osprey nests, anhingas, and red-shouldered hawks. 423 Lafayette Blvd., Oldsmar, 813-448-5635.

AMPA THEATRE

Croc Encounters has figured out a way to provide an adrenaline rush: Let visitors help feed the crocodiles. The jaws of a crocodile slam shut at 3,700 pounds per square inch (psi), the greatest bite force ever directly measured for living animals, rivaling that of the mighty T. Rex! By comparison, a person might tear into a steak with 150 to 200 psi. Hyenas, lions, and tigers generate around 1,000 psi. Croc Encounters is a reptile rescue and sanctuary, and visitors will also see alligators and baby alligators. Florida is the only state home to both reptile species. 8703 Bowles Rd., Tampa, 813-217-4400.

Air ball is a fun combination of dodgeball and trampolines that can be found at **AirHeads Trampoline Arena** and **Sky Zone Trampoline Park**. Both feature continuous pick-up games, and you can reserve ahead for larger groups. Jumping for one hour can burn up to 500 calories! AirHeads is at 5072 W. Linebaugh Ave., Tampa, 813-395-0025 and Sky Zone is at 10137 E. Adamo Dr., Tampa, 813-833-1740.

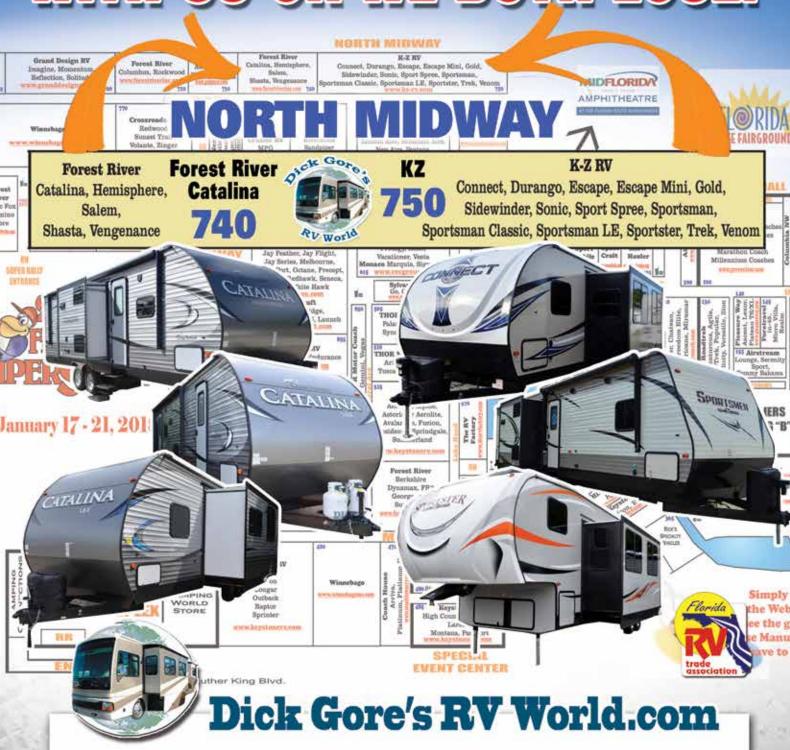
For a slightly lower dose of adrenaline, visit **Big Cat Rescue** in Tampa for up-close, educational looks at exotic felines during feeding tours, photo tours, and tours specifically for families with young children. Big Cat Rescue is the largest sanctuary in the world dedicated entirely to abandoned lions, tigers and exotic cats. Fourteen different species of big cats live or are being rehabilitated on 70 acres by this nonprofit located in the Citrus Park area north of Tampa. 12802 Easy St., Tampa, www.bigcatrescue.org.



When it comes to historic Tampa, many people are surprised to learn of a Tampa landmark described by Life magazine as one of America's 21 Wonders and Delta Sky magazine as on par with Radio City Music Hall and the Rome Coliseum. It's the Tampa Theatre, built in 1926 and sprinkled with beautiful statues, colorful tile, an ornate stage and twinkling stars across the ceiling. Spared the wrecking ball in the '70s thanks to enthusiasts, it is now listed on the National Register of Historic Places and its Wurlitzer organ played before every show is a rare find as well. Tampa Theatre hosts movies, stage shows and events nightly. 711 N. Franklin St., Tampa, 813-274-8981.

iTrekkers fishing charters is an easy way to take get out on the water for some serious fishing. The company offers expert guides that help you catch fish, along with vetted captains and convenient launch points throughout the area. They will be sure to find you the best day weather-wise

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Pulse

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Pursuit

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Quantum

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Quicksilver

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Qwest

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Radiance

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Redhawk

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Redwood

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Renegade Valencia

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665 Causeway Ln, **East Midway**

Renegade Verona

REV Group Class C

665 Causewav Ln. **East Midway**

Renegade Verona LE

REV Group Class C

665 Causeway Ln, **East Midway**

Renegade Vienna

REV Group Class B

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Renegade Villagio

REV Group Class B

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Renegade XL

REV Group Class C

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Kevstone RV Travel Trailer

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Retro

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Road Warrior

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he term "RV" is a nickname for a whole family of camping vehicles—from towable folding camping trailers to 45-foot-long motorhomes—that combine transportation and temporary living quarters for travel, recreation and camping.

Some RVs provide a simple place for sleeping and eating, while others are virtually luxury lodges on wheels—equipped with conveniences ranging from running water and complete bathroom facilities to air conditioning and digital satellite television and radio.

RVs fall into two general categories—motorized and towables. The following are descriptions of specific types of RVs and about what you can expect to pay for new units.

MOTORIZED RVs



TYPE "A" MOTORHOME

Size: 21 to 40 feet **Cost:** From \$60,000 to \$500,000+ new

The Type "A" motorhome, powered by a gasoline or diesel engine, is generally the roomiest of all RVs. It is entirely constructed on a bare, specially designed motor vehicle chassis. Properly loaded, it provides a very smooth and stable ride. Any experienced driver can take the wheel, and no special license is required for all but the very largest models, which may require a test to operate in some states.

Features: Sleeps up to six people (depending on model). Available with every conceivable luxury, including state-of-the-art appliances and entertainment systems and push-button slideout sections. Many also include basement storage, a satellite dish, a backup camera, hydraulic leveling and a security system.



TYPE "B" MOTORHOME

Size: 16 to 22 feet **Cost:** From \$60,000 to \$130,000 new

Also commonly referred to as the van camper, the Type "B" motorhome is a customized cargo van. It is highly economical, versatile and maneuverable. The Type "B" motorhome also makes a fine towing vehicle.

Features: Sleeps up to four people (depending on model). Provides sleeping, kitchen and bathroom facilities. Most have electric and water hook-ups, fresh water storage and a top extension for added head room. Doubles as a second family vehicle.



TYPE "C" MOTORHOME

Size: 21 to 35 feet **Cost:** From \$43,000 to \$200,000+ new

The Type "C" motorhome, also called the mini-motorhome, provides the conveniences of a Type "A" motorhome in a scaled-down version and at a lower price. The Type "C" is built on an automotive manufactured van frame with an attached cab-over section for added sleeping room which makes it especially popular with families.

Features: Sleeps up to eight people (depending on model). Equipped with full sleeping, dining, kitchen and bathroom facilities. Many have a slideout section. Many provide a sleeping bunk atop the cab in addition to a bedroom in the back. When not in use, this overhead compartment can be used as a storage area.

TOWABLE RVS



FOLDING CAMPING TRAILER

Size: 8 to 24 feet (when opened) 8 to 15 feet (when closed) **Cost:** From \$6,000 to \$22,000 new

This lightweight unit can be towed by many SUVs, and in some cases, by family cars. (For specific towing capacity, check with your auto dealer.) When unhitched, smaller units can be maneuvered by hand into tight spots. Its compact size and collapsible sides allow for quick setup at your destination and easy storage between uses. This inexpensive unit has proven to be the perfect RV for many first-timers.

Features: Sleeps up to eight people (depending on model). Combines the experience of open-air tent camping with the comforts, conveniences, and weather protection found in other RVs. Provides sleeping, dining, bathroom (toilet and shower), and kitchen (stove and refrigerator) facilities. Some include a slideout, which creates additional floor space in the center of the unit.



TRUCK CAMPER

Size: 8 to 20 feet **Cost:** From \$6,000 to \$55,000 new

You can load this economical unit onto the bed or chassis of many pickups, and you're ready to travel those backroads to remote camping areas. (Check your pickup's gross weight vehicle restraints before attaching a truck camper.) Once there, you can detach the camper and set it on its own jacks — and use the pickup separately. A truck camper provides the benefits of a self-contained motorhome and a towable trailer. It's a great way for many first-timers to begin RVing.

Features: Sleeps up to six people (depending on model). Provides a variety of floor plans and options, such as bathrooms, kitchens, air conditioners, extended cabovers and pop-up roofs.



Size: 12 to 35 feet **Cost:** From \$8,000 to \$95,000 new

Travel trailers can be towed by certain cars, SUVs, vans and pickups. (New lightweight travel trailers have recently been introduced that are light enough to be towed by six-cylinder vehicles.) Travel trailers attach to the towing vehicle with a bumper or frame hitch. They also can be detached for convenient local travel to and from the campsite.

Features: Sleeps up to 10 people (depending on model). Provides sleeping, dining, bathroom and kitchen facilities along with electric and water systems. Many include push-button slideout sections for greater living space.



TRAVEL TRAILER WITH EXPANDABLE ENDS

Size: 19 to 30 feet **Costs:** From \$10,000 to \$30,000 new

A cross between a hard-sided travel trailer and a folding camping trailer, the expandable ends pull out to offer more sleeping room. Expandable units are lighter than the conventional travel trailer and often more affordable.

Features: Sleeps up to 8 (depending on model). Lightweight versions have been designed specifically for towing behind many six-cylinder family vehicles. It is important to match the loaded weight of the RV to the towing capacity of the tow vehicle. Always check your vehicle's owner manual for towing weight restrictions and have your tow package professionally installed.



FIFTH-WHEEL TRAVEL TRAILER

Size: 21 to 40 feet **Cost:** From \$18,000 to \$160,000 new

Built to be towed by pickups with a special hitch, these bilevel units provide great living space. As with all towables, the fifth-wheel travel trailer can be detached at your destination.

Features: Sleeps up to six people (depending on model). Provides sleeping, dining, bathroom, and kitchen facilities, along with electric and water systems. Many include one or more pushbutton slideout sections. Offers a second-level living or sleeping area over the truck bed which allows for even greater space on the main floor. Many have large picture windows at the rear for panoramic views.



SPORT UTILITY RVs

Size: 19 to 39 feet Cost: From \$10,300 to \$170,000 new

Featuring a built-in garage used for hauling cycles, ATVs and other sports equipment, these units are equipped with a fold-down door for storing your towables into the RV. These are available as motorized and towable (as travel trailers or fifth-wheels). The towable versions can be detached at your destination, freeing up your vehicle for local travel.

Features: Sleeps up to eight people (depending on model). Provides sleeping, dining, bathroom and kitchen facilities along with electric and water systems.

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Shore Park

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Siesta

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Synergy

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Talon

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Telluride

Starcraft Fifth Wheel

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Terry

Heartland RV Travel Trailer **815 South Blvd,**

South Midway

Tommy Bahama

Airstream

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Torque

Heartland RV Toy Hauler

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Trend

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Tuscany

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Ultra Brougham

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Unity

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885 W Central Ave, Midway

Vacationer

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615 Causeway Ln, Midway

Vegas

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850 E Central Ave, Midway

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Venom

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Xalta

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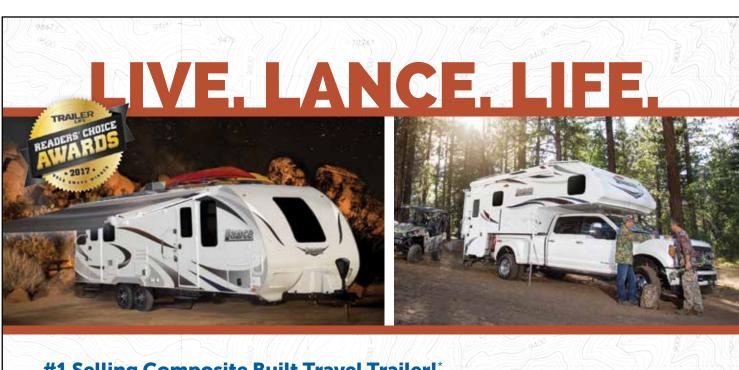
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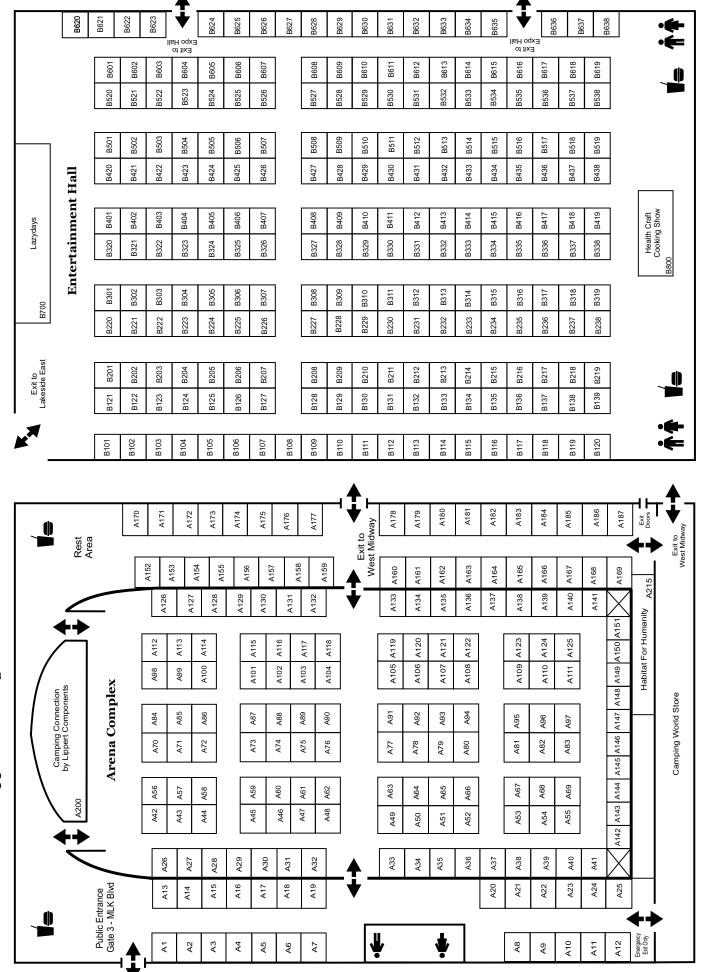
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For more of a low-key experience, join the craft beer craze in Florida by visiting some of the more than 40 onsite breweries that call the Tampa Bay region home. You will love your visit to one of Tampa's most famous local breweries, Cigar City Brewing on West Spruce St. The brewery offers a tasting room with an extensive selection plus a store from which you can take home your favorites. Local history abounds in the stories of these specialty creations, such as Florida Cracker and Tocobaga. Food trucks are parked on site. For a full-service establishment of Cigar City beers and food, you can visit Cigar City Brewpub on Dale Mabry Highway. 813-348-6363, www.cigarcitybrewing.com.

Florida is home to a number of wineries, too, including the Keel & Curley Winery in Plant City, a short drive from the Show and close to I-4. Blueberry farmer Joe Keel began production over a decade ago of his 100 percent blueberry wine and now produces more than 20,000 cases each year of sweet, semi-dry and dry.



The winery has even branched into craft beers. Enjoy a tasting room for either beer or wine with indoor and outdoor seating, live music and special events. 5210 Thonotosassa Rd., Plant City, 813-752-9100.

Another great experience unique to Florida is Tampa Electric's Manatee Viewing Center, a great place to see the peaceful floating "sea cows" staying warm in the winter thanks to the power station's discharge of clean water back into the bay. A pier overlooks the collection of manatees that come when the bay gets down to 68 degrees. An education viewing center is open from November 1 through mid-April, plus a stingray touch tank. 6990 Dickman Rd., Apollo Beach, 813-228-4289.

Head over to St. Petersburg on the Gandy Bridge or Howard Franklin Bridge for a beautiful change of pace.

St. Petersburg's Saturday Morning Market is known as the largest farmer's market in the Southeast. More than 170 vendors rotate through 135 spots, offering fresh fruit and vegetables, fresh-made crepes, homemade sauces, baked goods, artisan crafts, and more, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. The market is located from October through May in the parking lot of Al Lang Stadium, 101 1st. St. SE, St. Petersburg, 727-455-4921. During the summer, June to July, a smaller market shifts to Williams Park to take advantage of the shade.

As we mentioned, the region is home to numerous museums, and St. Petersburg wins the tally. Downtown St. Petersburg right on the water offers the Salvador Dali Museum, the Museum of Fine Arts, and the Chihuly



Collection at the Morean Arts Center.

Dale Chihuly's glass art pieces are something to behold if you have never seen them. Downtown St. Pete also offers a powerful Florida Holocaust Museum.

Perhaps one of the more unusual party experiences you will find is PedalPub St. Petersburg. Groups of 6 to 16 adults get some light exercise and fresh air while peddling through interesting parts of the city on a big Dutch-made bike. Billed as the "Original Party Bike™" and the "Bike with the Barrel!®," this traveling party is allowed to bring their own ice, beer and wine for two hours of singing, drinking and having a good time. A friendly pilot guides the tour through the city, making up to three stops at local breweries and bars along the way. 1975 3rd Ave. S, St. Petersburg, 727-581-3388.



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Whiskey Joes gets 4 out of 5 stars with this rustic hangout with a party vibe that serves casual American food and drinks right on the beach. Beautiful scenery but a Spring Break-type atmosphere so be prepared, 7720 W. Courtney Campbell Causeway, Tampa, 813-281-0770.

Tampa Bay Brewing Company averages 4.5 stars for its varied menu and wide selection of specialty beers which changes throughout the year. Add in great bar food and this is a place to visit in two locations, Ybor City and northwest Tampa. The Bomb is a favorite: a burger cooked in pizza dough! Spacious brick-walled brewpub includes outdoor seating, 1600 E. 9th Ave., Centro Ybor, and 13937 Monroes Business Park, Tampa, 813-247-1422.

Datz is described as hip, casual experience that have earned it 4.5 stars. Its unique menu offers spinoffs from classic deli sandwiches plus an impressive brew list. Its bi-level space MacDill Ave., Tampa, 813-831-7000.



La Terrazza Restaurant is an Italian favorite in historic Ybor City, the go-to place for a special dinner for families and couples from across the Tampa area. While it doesn't have 1,000 reviews hidden gem serving homestyle Northern Italian cuisine and wines in a warm-hued storefront space. 1729 E. 7th Ave., Tampa,

Miguel's Mexican Seafood and Grill is another hidden gem, featuring the rich, the Tampa area is known for. Miguel's serves prime meats and fresh seafood alongside homemade sauces prepared daily, earning it 4 stars. 3035 W. Kennedy Blvd., Tampa, 813-876-2587.

ST. PETERSBURG:

Topping the list in St. Petersburg is Mazzaro's Italian Market with 2,396 reviews and a 4.5-star rating. This Italian items, handmade pastas and pre-made dishes. Although it's a gourmet grocery, it is considered an upscale culinary destination for true foodies. 2909 22nd

For St. Petersburg restaurants, 400 stars from nearly 1,900 reviews takes the top spot. This roomy, lively restaurant with patio dining right in the heart of St. Petersburg offers a varied menu, including delightful seafood selections. Fun Sunday brunch. 400 Beach Dr. NE, St. Petersburg, 727-896-2400.

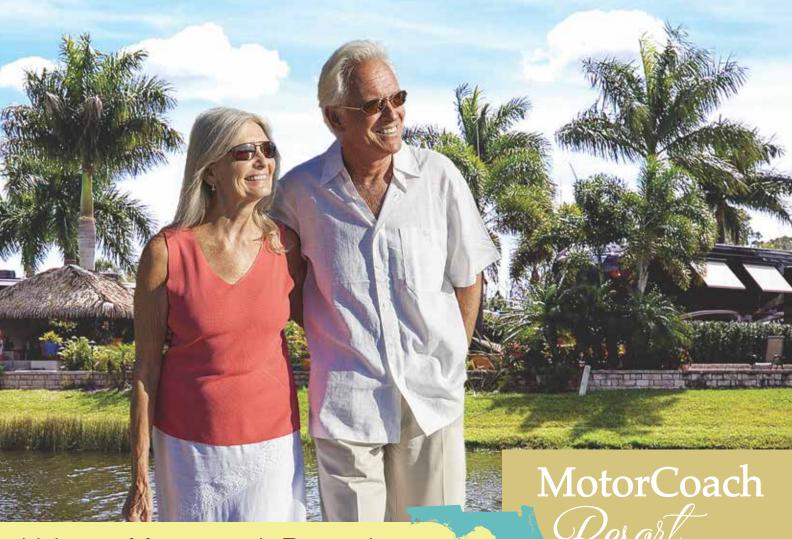
Nearby is **Moon Under Water**, another downtown restaurant offering outdoor dining near Straub Park. Over 1,300 reviewers give it 4 out of 5 stars. Owned by a Welsh couple, the menu is a worldly selection of dishes, including curry, beer selection. 332 Beach Dr. NE, St. Petersburg, 727-896-6160.



Parkshore Grill earns 4.5 stars from its more than 1,100 reviews. Another downtown restaurant, it is known for its refined space for steaks and seafood on a sprawling patio. 300 Beach Dr. NE, St. Petersburg, 727-896-9463.

BellaBrava is another winner of 4.5 stars on just over 1.100 reviews, able to hold its own against the fierce dining competition in downtown St. Pete. Traditional Italian dishes are mixed in with contemporary fare, and the place is known as vegetarian friendly. 204 Beach Dr. NE, St. Petersburg, 727-895-5515.

Red Mesa Cantina earns 4.5 stars with just under 1,000 reviews for its modernized Mexican eats and handcrafted cocktails served in a festive setting with outdoor patio. 128 3rd St. S, St. Petersburg, 727-896-8226.



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Clear Sky Café has more than 2,850 reviews giving it a 4.5-star rating. Located near the beach, this no-frills café offers a seafood-focused menu and live music. Well-known for its breakfasts and brunch. 490 Mandalay Ave., Clearwater Beach, 727-442-3684.

Crabby's Beachwalk Grill is a casual, beach-themed seafood, steak and sandwich spot with more than 2,170 reviews and a 4-star rating. Daily happy hour and monthly drink specials. 333 S Gulfview Blvd., Clearwater, 727-608-2065.

restaurant which dates back to 1905. Apparently this apple doesn't fall far from the tree, as nearly 2,000 reviewers give it a 4.5-star rating. Traditional Spanish restaurant. 1241 Gulf Blvd., Clearwater, 727-596-8400.





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Technology continued from page 32

Today's RVs have the ability to operate almost any component from your mobile device - awnings, door locks, slide-outs, leveling and more - all from the palm of your hand. Other features include ability to monitor your tank levels and turn on your lights within a single app. Advancements in the internet of things (IoT) will create connected components that monitor themselves for proper operation and maintenance intervals. Now DIYers and technicians alike are armed with quick and accurate diagnostic information as well as repair instructions. In the near future we could expect to receive a text notification warning of a potential system problem before it occurs. If we dare, maybe



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Alexa will put in the bedroom slide-out upon command or Siri will roll up the awning before a storm or command the RV "Drive to Yellowstone" while we play cards in the back with the family.



One thing is for sure, technology has found a home in today's RV and every new advancement in technology will be an advancement in the way we travel, camp, work and live in tomorrow's RV.

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About The Authors

Rob Cochran is a 30+ year veteran of the RV service business. He is a Master Certified Technician, founder of Camping Connection RV Service and current Regional Development Manager.

Nicole Sult is the Director of Customer Service at Lippert Components, an avid fan of technology and a 15 year veteran of the RV Industry.



Written by Rob Cochran with Camping Connection and Nicole Sult with Lippert Components.

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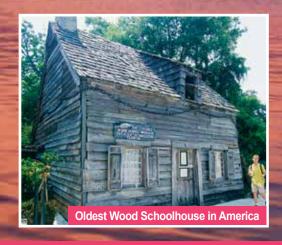
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t is easier than ever before to keep up with trends in the RV Industry, get travel tips, contact local RV businesses and get all the information you need about statewide RV shows and the largest RV show in the country, the *Florida RV SuperShow*. FRVTA now has a new and improved website, can be liked and followed on a number of Social Media sites and recently launched its new MOBILE APP!

FRVTA launched its new and improved website (**frvta.org**). The new site makes it easier for the general public to get information about upcoming Regional RV Shows, the *Florida RV SuperShow* and the *Super Rally*. More importantly, the new site will give visitors more information about FRVTA members and an exact location of each member on a map.

New to the FRVTA site is an ongoing blog section. "We are working with a number of bloggers so this section stays new, current and entertaining, said FRVTA Marketing Director Dave Kelly. "The new site will also allow us to make additions/corrections at a minutes notice so the information stays up-to-date".

The new site also features a search feature to make it easy to find campgrounds, RV dealers and service and supplies nearest to where you are. There is also a regional information page that has loads of information about the 7 FRVTA regions, things to do and see and much more

information. We want our site to be a complete guide to the State of Florida for not just RVers but anyone wanting more information about our state. Visit **frvta.org** today and get out there and enjoy Florida!

Following FRVTA on our Facebook and Twitter accounts is the quickest way to get travel tips, special discounts and stay in touch with the Florida RV Industry. These formats also allow the public to ask questions and interact with the FRVTA. We also encourage your input on places to see, your favorite restaurants and those little known spots you love to visit.

The newly launched mobile app is an RVers dream. Using your location, you will be able to find the closest service center, RV dealership, campground or hard to find parts and accessories. The app also helps you find road service, the closet gas or diesel station, restaurants, shopping, emergency clinics and even weather updates. The app is Apple and Google friendly and can downloaded from any of the App Stores.





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Don't miss Ft. De Soto Park if you want to experience the beach, fishing, picnicking, grills, camping, windsurfing and terrific birding. The largest park in the Pinellas County system, it is made up of five interconnected islands and is home to more than 328 species of birds. The location of Ft. De Soto is a perfect distance for several species of migrating birds that need to rest and refuel during long flights between north and south habitats. In addition, the beaches, dunes and lagoons serve as a nursery for numerous species that live there year-round or just over winter. Shore, wading and sea birds that can be seen at Ft. DeSoto include Roseate Spoonbills, Reddish Egrets, Tri-colored Herons, Laughing Gulls and White Pelicans, to name just a few. And you can even occasionally find Peregrine Falcons, Bald Eagles and Great-horned Owls. 3500 Pinellas Bayway S, Tierra Verde, 727-582-2267.

The Ft. DeSoto Bird Sanctuary Project, a small section of the 7-mile beach protected through a joint effort of Pinellas County and the Suncoast Shorebird Partnership, has helped provide a haven for several imperiled species and the park become a world-renowned birding oasis.

Clearwater is all about Clearwater Beach, the number one thing to do, according to Trip Advisor. The white sand and warm, clear waters are clearly a substantial draw. Many boat tours for dolphin encounters or rentals are available to get visitors out on the water. Just south of the beach is **Sand Key Park**, a family beach that is a little less busy.

Pier 60 at the entrance to the beach extends far into the water, and at night transforms into a marketplace for local artists to display their wares. A sunset celebration modeled after Key West's popular Mallory Square festival provides a family friendly atmosphere nightly. Craftsmen, artists and entertainers generally perform two hours before and after sunset.

At the Clearwater Marine Aquarium, a nonprofit with the mission to Rescue, Rehab and Release, vacationers can meet Winter and Hope, two rescued bottle-nosed dolphins. Visitors can also get a fish-eye view of mangroves and seagrass, critical nursery habitat for juvenile fish, and watch live web cams. Staff provides effective care to sick or injured animals with the goal of returning them to their homes. 249 Windward Passage, Clearwater, 727-441-1790.

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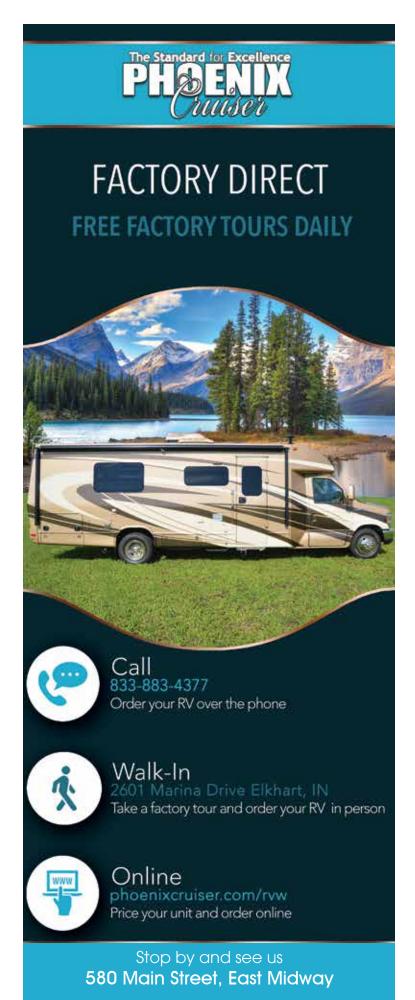












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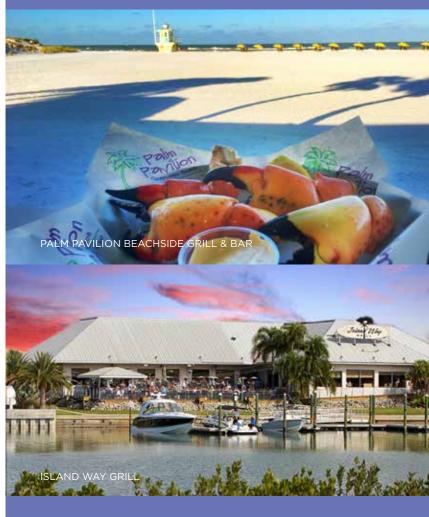
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Island Way Grill is a Clearwater favorite for its harbor view sunsets and menu of sushi, fresh seafood, hand-cut steaks and Asian twists on seafood classics. A favorite for Sunday brunch, according to many of its 1,450 reviews which result in a 4-star rating. 20 Island Way, Clearwater,

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At this year's Supershow, the public is welcome to see this in action at the LCI booth, A200. LCI team members on hand will show how OneControl isn't just a fancy way to remotely control and monitor your RV's components

and systems, but is actually laying the foundation for automated diagnostics and support, alleviating stressful situations that could otherwise ruin your well-deserved vacation and improving your RV experience. This technology didn't happen by accident. Through years of careful planning and execution, LCI has made this dream a reality, but how?

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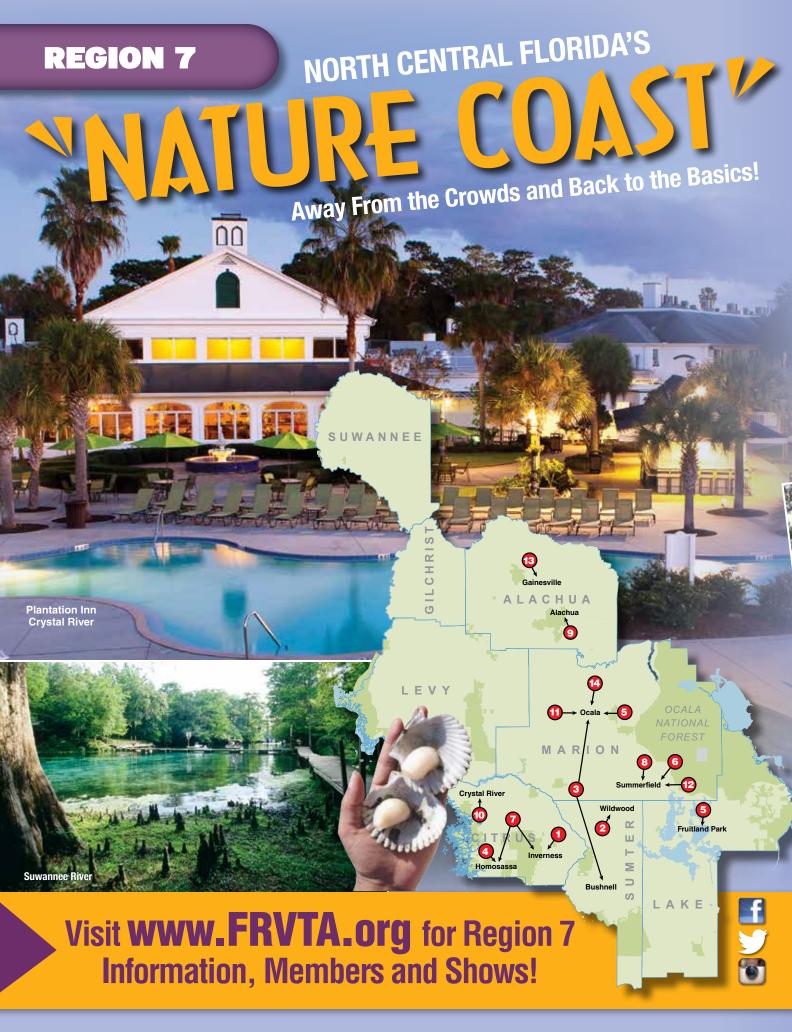
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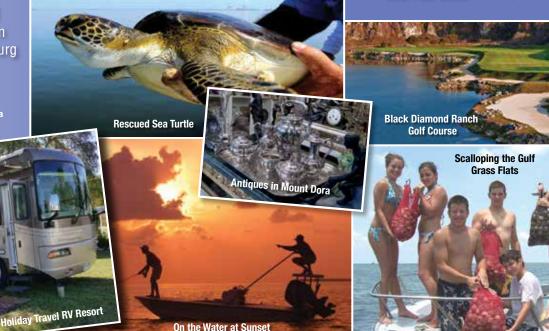
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- Northeast Veterans United Craft Brewery, Jacksonville: This veteran-owned brewery in Jacksonville started as a passion project for Ron Gamble, a former Naval Flight Officer. Now, Veterans United beers like Raging Blonde Ale and Hop Banshee IPA can be found throughout Northeast Florida. Open Wednesday and Thursday, 3 to 10 p.m.; Friday 3 to 11 p.m.; Saturday 1 to 11 p.m. 8999 Western Way #104, Jacksonville. www.vubrew.com
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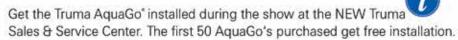
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Continued from page 119

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Connected RV continued from page 124

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INDEX OF ADVERTISERS

Arrow RV	
Beach RV	74
Bit-O-Heaven	107
Boogy Lights	29
Camp Gulf	142
Campers Inn of Florida	
Camping Connection	33
Camping World RV Sales	2
Carado	137
Carefree of Colorado	83
Classic Coach Works	
Clear2o	
Coach House, Inc	13
Coach-Net	87
Como RV	
Cutco Cutlery	95
Damp Rid	141
Destin West RV Resort	140
Dick Gore's RV World	
Disney's Ft Wilderness	
Dixie RV SuperStores	
Duncan Systems, Inc	
Eagle Extended Protection Service Corp	122
Encore/ELS Properties	69
Fantasy RV Tours	75
Flamingo Lake RV Resort	77
FRVTA, Region 1	31
FRVTA, Region 3	
FRVTA, Region 4	55
FRVTA, Region 6	102-103
FRVTA, Region 7	128-129
Geico RV	51
General RV Center	
Gerzeny's RV World	10-11
Glastop RV Furniture	79
Gold Heat by Aries Engineering	45
Gostik Products	106
Holiday RV Travel Resort	126
Hymer	
Independence RV	
Kangacruz	

_a Mesa RV	
_ake Osprey RV Resort	
_ance Campers	
_azydays	
_eisure Travel Vans	
_iberty Coach	
Minder Research	
Motorcoach Resort of St Lucie West	
Nature Coast RV	
Newmar Corporation	20-21
North Trail RV Center19 & Ma	p Panels 3,6,7,8
Ocean Grove RV Resort	65
Ocean Grove RV SuperCenter	
Ocean Lakes RV Resort	
Palm RV	
Park Model City	
Passport America	
Phoenix Cruiser	
Pleasure Way Industries, LTD	59
REV Group Map P	
RoadTrek	
RV Air	
RV One	
RV Roofing Solutions	
RV Swapshop	
RVRoof.com	
Skip Eppers RV	16
Southwest Florida RV Service	
Spartan Motors	
Sport Chassis	
Sun Camper Liquidators	
Sun RV Resorts	
Suncoast Designers	
Tiffin Motorhomes	
Fravel Camp	
Tri Am RV Center	
Truma	
Wilder Corp RV Resorts	
Wing House of Brandon	
Winnebago Industries	
Winter Haven RV	54







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