

In & Around Bushnell

BIG PLANS IN BUSHNELL

Get ready to splash into Summer, Bushnell!

Splash Pad Grand Opening

The Splash Pad Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening
Saturday, May 2nd from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m.
at the Kenny Dixon Sports Complex

SPLASH!

Making a splash in Bushnell with the grand opening of the City of Bushnell Splash Pad. The fun is set from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, May 2 at the Kenny Dixon Sports Complex. It's designed to be a day packed with summer fun. A ribbon cutting ceremony will precede the opening. There'll be a live DJ offering summer vibes, water slides, food trucks, summer treats and ...the splash pad. Bring your swimsuits, towels and sun-screens and invite family and friends.

THE BUNNY BASH

SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH 12:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
MARGE A. THIES PLAZA PARK
117 E. JOE P. STRICKLAND, JR. AVENUE BUSHNELL, FL

PETTING ZOO

Come let the kid's enjoy the sweetest day at the petting zoo!

BUNNY BASH

Hippity-hop, the Bunny Bash is on its way. Set from noon to 3 p.m. at the Marge A. Thies Plaza Park on E. Joe P. Strickland, Jr. Ave., it's time for an Easter egg hunt, fun, face painting, a chance to visit with the Easter Bunny, sack races, Hula Hooping, egg rolls and more. New to the Bunny Bash this year will be a petting zoo. The kids will have a blast petting the bunnies, chickens, goats, sheep and pigs up close. It's the perfect hands-on experience for little animal lovers and a fun way to make some unforgettable memories. Don't miss out on all the cuddles and country charm! First Baptist will be handing out bubbles and there'll be food and boutique-style vendors. The petting zoo is being sponsored by Adams & Adams Law in Bushnell.

CELEBRATE AMERICA 250

Kick off your Fourth of July weekend with a celebration in Bushnell. The City will host America's 250th Birthday downtown, on Thursday, July 2. The fun will include live music from the River Junction Band, vendors and food trucks. The event will also include a fireworks show, sponsored by the T&D Family of Companies. Grab your lawn chairs, bring your friends and family to come out and celebrate 250 years of America downtown. The event will be held at the Marge A. Thies Plaza Park.

Public invited to Bushnell Wawa grand opening celebration

Wawa, Inc. will host the grand opening of their new Bushnell store on Thursday, March 12. The company is inviting the public out to join their celebration - the fun begins at 7:55 a.m. with Wawa General Manager Erin Dermott counting down to the moment when the doors open at 8:00 a.m. There'll be free "Wawa Grand Opening Tour in the USA" T-shirts for the first 100 customers, as supplies last, and free any size hot coffee through Sunday March 15. Immediately following at 8:30 a.m., customers are invited to participate in a ceremony to highlighting Wawa's 200-plus year history in American business. The celebration of the new store and team will include a chance to honor everyday heroes with a "Hoagies for Heroes" hoagie-building competition between first responders benefiting local charities. The store is located at 1998 W C 48, Bushnell and it's the eleventh of nearly 100 stores Wawa expects to open in fourteen states in 2026. They'll offer fresh food, beverages, convenience, fuel and more!

"As our nation celebrates its 250th birthday in 2026, we're proud to be a company with more than 200 years in American business, now across 13 states in the Mid-Atlantic, Southeast and Midwest markets," said Wawa president, Brian Schaller. "We are excited to celebrate by opening nearly one hundred stores this year as we spread our wings to reach even more new communities across the country. Our ongoing growth and expansion allow us to invest in more communities, create new jobs and opportunities for our associates to soar in their careers and provide meaningful support to more communities."

Dade Park Calendar

Dade Battlefield Historic State Park hosts a variety of events throughout the year. The park is located off Battlefield Drive in Bushnell. For more information, call 352-793-4781.

March 6, Friday, 6 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Campfire Music Jam

Bring your instrument or just your voice and join us for a music jam session. Program included with park admission fee of \$3/vehicle (or Florida State Parks Annual Pass).

March 21, Saturday, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Wild Foods Foraging

Wild foods abound at Dade waiting for educated visitors to sample with expert park staff and volunteers as their guides. We will forage for wild foods on the park grounds, create some wild food dishes and sample! Cost is park entry fee of \$3/vehicle or Annual Florida State Parks Pass plus \$5/person, 12 and under free. Pre-registration required for class at DadePrograms@FloridaDEP.gov or 352-793-4781, include phone number.

March 7, Saturday, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Little House on the Florida Prairie

The Little House on the Prairie books come alive in this Florida take on Laura Ingalls Wilder's book series. Participants will experience what life was like on the prairie tailored to our own Florida frontier. The event will include narration from the books, hands-on demonstrations and participation with period demonstrators. Cost is \$5/vehicle.

March 16, Monday, 10 a.m. - Noon

Project WILD for Kids

Get WILD with your students at Dade Battlefield Historic State Park each month in an immersive educational experience utilizing both indoor and outdoor activities teaching nature's mysteries in a fun and engaging way! Each month we will use curricula from Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission's Project and Aquatic WILD. Cost is free for this educational event. Pre-registration is required - call 352-793-4781 or email DadePrograms@FloridaDEP.gov.

March 22, Sunday, 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Pine Needle Basket Class

Traditional pine needle basketry is taught by Dade's experienced volunteers. All materials are provided to make a long-leaf pine needle basket. Cost is park entry fee of \$3/vehicle or Florida State Parks Annual Pass plus \$10/person activity fee. Group size is limited to 12. Pre-registration is required - call 352-793-4781 or email DadePrograms@FloridaDEP.gov.

March 24, Tuesday, 10 a.m. - Noon

Cherokee Leaf Printing and Native Plant Dyeing

Join us as we learn how to imprint designs from plants onto white cotton fabric through Cherokee leaf printing. We will learn additionally how to use nature's materials to dye cloth naturally. Cost is park entry fee of \$3/vehicle or Florida State Parks Annual Pass plus \$10/person activity fee, 12 and under free. Pre-registration is required - call 352-793-4781 or email DadePrograms@FloridaDEP.gov.

Historical Fashion Show at Dade

The annual historical fashion show is just one of dozens of events the park and volunteer society host each year. The show took place last weekend.

Some of the models and participants are shown here, in their attire. For additional photos, see next week's edition of the Sumter Sun Times.



Ceidyann Bell

Jane Rabon, Sarah McCullough and Elizabeth Lankist took part in making the historical fashion show happen at Dade Battlefield Historic State Park, last weekend. For additional photos, see next week's edition of the Sumter Sun Times.

March 28, Saturday, 9 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Campfire Dutch Oven Cooking

Join us for a Dutch oven class where we will learn Dutch oven techniques, make several cast-iron dishes and then sample them. Cost is park entry of \$3/vehicle or Florida State Parks Annual Pass plus \$10/person activity fee. Pre-registration is required - call 352-793-4781 or email DadePrograms@FloridaDEP.gov.



April 20, Monday, 10 a.m. - Noon

Project Learning Tree for Kids

Get back to nature with your students at Dade Battlefield Historic State Park each month in an immersive educational experience utilizing both indoor and outdoor activities teaching nature's mysteries in a fun and engaging way! This month we will use curricula from Project Learning Tree curriculum created by the Sustainable Forestry Initiative. Cost is free for this educational event.

April 4, Saturday, 10 a.m. - Noon

Eggs in the Park

Free annual event for children ages 0-12 and their families. Egg hunt starts promptly at 10 a.m. for all ages followed by several games and relays.

Celebrate America 250!

BUSHNELL!

Freedom Fest

THURSDAY, JULY 2ND
7-10 P.M.
Live Music by RIVER JUNCTION BAND
Huge Fireworks Display

Sponsored by
T&D FAMILY OF COMPANIES
Vendors and Food Trucks

Rustic Ruby

Decor and More

Storefront & DIY Craft Studio

- One stop gift shop
- Custom home decor
- Personalized gifts for all occasions
- Wholesale options availability
- Multi-media craft studio
- Walk in ready projects
- Children birthday parties for all occasions
- Team building projects
- Special events
- Crafty Tales once a month

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