

[Sightings of a humpback whale off Amelia Island](#) over the past week have excited residents.

LINK: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/725047348249838/user/839410453>

A [washed-up orca \(killer whale\) in Palm Coast](#) had never been documented in the state previously. Thankfully, the animal appears to have died from natural causes.

LINK: [https://www.tampabay.com/news/environment/2023/01/12/how-rare-was-orca-stranding-florida-beach-its-first-record/?utm\\_source=newsletter&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=newsletter\\_axioslocal\\_tampa&stream=top](https://www.tampabay.com/news/environment/2023/01/12/how-rare-was-orca-stranding-florida-beach-its-first-record/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_axioslocal_tampa&stream=top)

[Killer whale FAQs for Florida.](#)

LINK: <https://www.instagram.com/p/CnS2NeksetK/?igshid=ZDFmNTE4Nzc%3D>

A dead [sperm whale washed up in Miami](#). This spate of dead whales washing ashore along the coast has scientists worried.

LINK: <https://www.local10.com/news/local/2023/01/11/scientists-concerned-after-recent-strandings-of-whales-along-us-and-florida-coast/>

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DUVAL COUNTY COMMUNITY ACTION ALERT: Advocates for the 7 Creeks Recreation Area would like you to know a rezoning application for 6131 Cedar Point Road in the middle of 7 Creeks has been submitted. The applicant wants to rezone about 40 acres, almost half of which is wetlands, to develop a PUD for 95+- houses.

This property was the subject of an almost identical rezoning application back in 2020. It failed to be approved. Developers are back with a new agent/lobbyist for a different developer. The timing of processing this application through the city is purposeful: during the holidays.

The St. Johns Riverkeepers are supporting the 7 Creeks Recreation Area protectors as is the Duval County Soil and Water Conservation District board of supervisors.

Have your voice heard at:

Land Use and Zoning meeting Wednesday, January 18th, 5pm public hearing WITH vote.

City Council meeting Tuesday, January 24th, 5pm public hearing WITH vote. This will be the final say on the project.

Anyone interested in more information or supporting, please contact: Felicia Boyd, [fboyd@timucuanparks.org](mailto:fboyd@timucuanparks.org)

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Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission arrested eight people last week who were involved in [the illegal trafficking of snakes](#). The illegal wildlife trade is harmful to the environment in many ways - capturing healthy individuals out of their native habitat, spreading exotic species to places they don't belong where they can escape and impact that habitat, and the general cruelty of the industry inflicted upon the animals. There is no place in a humane society for an exotic animal trade.

LINK: <https://www.clickorlando.com/news/local/2023/01/13/operation-viper-8-people-arrested-in-illegal-florida-snake-trafficking-rings/>

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A report this week details how Exxon scientists predicted the current climate crisis with astonishing accuracy more than 30 years ago and how, [despite that information](#), Exxon continued purposefully misleading the public about the fossil fuel-climate connection through sophisticated marketing campaigns and support of pro-oil and gas politicians.

LINK: <https://www.science.org/doi/10.1126/science.abk0063>

With that in mind, should the worst of the worst climate offending companies – not just fossil fuel companies – [pay reparations for their abuse of the planet](#)?

LINK: <https://www.fastcompany.com/90833879/the-case-for-companies-to-pay-climate-reparations>