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Moon Smiles



The same night that an Atlas V launched from Cape Canaveral Air Force Base (Jan. 19), the Moon appears to put a slight smile in the sky over Levy County. On Jan. 31, if the sky is clear, people in the Tri-County Area of Levy, Dixie and Gilchrist counties can see a rare view of the moon. It will be a full moon that is a blue moon and a super moon. It is a blue moon because it is the second full moon in one month. It is a super moon, like the one visible on New Year's Day. A super moon is the term for when a full moon is closest to the Earth in its orbit, appearing bigger and brighter than normal. On Jan. 31, the moon will be full for the second time in a month, a rare occasion — it happens once every two and a half years — known as a blue moon. There is a lunar eclipse on Jan. 31, but not visible from the Tri-County Area. Unlike last year's solar eclipse, this sky-watching event isn't going to be visible in the continental United States. The best views of the middle-of-the-night eclipse will be in central and eastern Asia, Indonesia, New Zealand and Australia, according to Space.com, although Alaska and Hawaii will get a glimpse, too.

Photo by Jeff M. Hardison © Jan. 24, 2018 at 9:07 p.m.

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Osprey Flies Fish For Lunch



These four photos show an Osprey collecting a fish from the Gulf of Mexico just off the shore of Cedar Key, near the big cement fishing pier.



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Unique among North American raptors for its diet of live fish and the ability to dive into water to catch them, Ospreys are common sights soaring over shorelines, patrolling waterways and standing on their huge stick nests, white heads gleaming, as noted in the Cornell Ornithology Laboratory's website 'All About Birds.'

Photos by Jeff M. Hardison, all rights reserved, © Jan. 23, 2018 at 4:27 p.m.