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Kebab Spot is participating in this year's Sizzle Dining charity event. PROVIDED BY SIZZLE DINING

RESTAURANT NEWS

SUMMER DINING

Take advantage of these local spots before August ends

Kendall Little Naples Daily News | USA TODAY NETWORK - FLORIDA

Note: If you have restaurant news you'd like to share, please email me at Kendall.Little@NaplesNews.com.

We've officially entered NFL pre-season and the regular season kicks off on Sept. 4. This week in restaurant news, I've rounded up a few sports bars where you can watch your team play while enjoying great food — plus all the details on Hooters' fantasy football draft special.

If your ideal game-time meal involves less wings and more Crunchwrap Supremes, you might be interested to see what the most popular Taco Bell menu items are across the United States. Maybe you'll find a new meal to try!

Speaking of new meals to try, local charity event Sizzle Dining is back to raise money for a great community cause. Learn all the details on how to eat fantastic local meals for charity.

It's also your last chance to take advantage of certain summer dining deals, so act fast and make your reservations before it's too late. We have all the details in this week's restaurant news roundup. **See DINING, Page 2D**



Elvis Presley started school at Humes Junior High School in 1948 and graduated from Humes High School in 1953. BRAD VEST/THE COMMERCIAL APPEAL

Elvis sites in Memphis every fan should see

Jacob Wilt
Memphis Commercial Appeal
USA TODAY NETWORK - TENNESSEE

MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Elvis Week returned to Graceland in Memphis, providing a time for all the fans that can't help falling in love with the King of Rock 'n' Roll to celebrate his life and legacy.

Elvis Presley loved Memphis and lived in the city for the majority of his life. He left his mark on the institutions and the culture of Memphis, an influence that can still be felt to this day.

He studied in Memphis, found his home there, discovered his signature style, recorded, dined and performed all across the Bluff City. And naturally, his fans have flocked to the city to walk in his footsteps.

Here are some Memphis locations every fan should visit, from internationally known destinations to lesser-known gems.

Graceland: A visit to Graceland is about much more than just a tour of the mansion Elvis called home. The Elvis Presley's Memphis complex, which opened across the street in 2017, offers a variety of exhibits highlighting everything from his career as a singer and actor to his favorite cars, outfits and various memorabilia. And that's just the beginning.

Take plenty of time for the whole Graceland experience. The sprawling complex is filled to the brim with stories and memories of Elvis and his family's time there, and true fans won't want to miss any of it.

Sun Studio: Sun Studio is a must-visit for Elvis fans — and music fans in general. His 1954 rendition of "That's All Right" recorded at Sun launched him into national stardom and forever changed the music industry.

Sun Studio offers tours through the recording space. Stand and sing in the very spot where Elvis recorded, enjoy memorabilia from a bygone time and listen to old tracks and outtakes left in tact for nearly 75 years.

Memphis Rock 'N' Soul Museum: Elvis is, of course, featured in the Memphis Rock 'N' Soul Museum, given he's the King of Rock 'n' Roll and all that. It has also been named one of the top 10 music museums in the nation by USA TODAY.

The museum features displays, memorabilia and history galore. As far as Elvis material goes, the museum is home to multiple stage outfits, his Army uniform, the original lyrics of "Heartbreak Hotel" and, most treasured, his black 1958 Tsana guitar, which he played for his future wife, then-14-year-old Priscilla Beaulieu, while he was stationed in Germany.

The Peabody: The Peabody is a must-visit Memphis spot already, thanks to the long-running duck march tradition, but it's significant to Elvis, too.

Elvis both had his junior-senior prom there in 1953 and received a \$4,500 signing bonus for his first national RCA recording contract on Nov. 21, 1955, at The Peabody. The memorabilia room is home to multiple photos and historical displays, including that very contract.

Lansky Brothers, inside The Peabody: Ever sit back and think about how iconic Elvis' style was? Few artists have ever had a look so easily distinguishable. Thank the Lansky Brothers for that.

Founded by Guy and Bernard Lansky in 1946, after briefly selling Army surplus, the store aimed to serve the colorful characters of Beale Street such as B.B. King. Elvis first visited in 1952, and it's where he learned to tie a tie. Just a few years later he was perfecting his flashy stage style and more subdued everyday style.

The store, located on Beale Street in Elvis' day, is now inside The Peabody, so be sure to give it a visit after the ducks do their thing.

Boulevard Souvenirs: Looking for something

See ELVIS, Page 2D

Dining

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Fantasy football, wings, and the best cheerleaders

Hooters is running a special deal for patrons who host their fantasy football drafts at the restaurant. If you book your draft at select Hooters locations, you'll get 20 free wings for your group.

"For many of our customers holding their fantasy draft party at their local Hooters locations is an annual tradition. We have groups that book every year with their friends and coworkers. Our team at Hooters looks forward to being a part of their annual tradition," said Hooters of South Florida Director of Marketing Kristi Quarles.

These Southwest Florida Hooters locations are participating in the special deal:

- Cape Coral: 3120 Del Prado Blvd. (239-945-4700)
- Fort Myers: 4411 Cleveland Ave. (239-275-4666)
- Naples: 3625 Gateway Lane (239-513-9964)

Sizzle Dining charity event: 128 Southwest Florida restaurants to choose from

Local charity event Sizzle Dining is back this year to benefit Blessings in a Backpack, a community nonprofit that provides food to elementary students during the school year, so they have healthy meals and snacks to enjoy over the weekend.

Here's how it works: Browse menus and choose a restaurant by visiting SizzleDining.org. Then make a reservation and enjoy your meal. Every meal contributes \$1 toward Blessings in a Backpack.

Participating restaurants will offer special menus at fixed prices. Breakfast and lunch will either be \$19 or \$29. Dinner prices start at \$29, \$39, or \$49, and some restaurants have a \$59 option.

Last year, Sizzle Dining raised more than \$60,000 with help from 114 local restaurants.



Sofra is one of the Ritz-Carlton restaurants participating in Dining Passport this year.

PROVIDED BY RITZ-CARLTON RESORTS

This year's event starts Sept. 3 and runs until Sept. 30.

"Sizzle Dining celebrates our diverse culinary options while driving local and visitors to area restaurants at a time when they need a big boost to keep their doors open and families fed," said Guy Clarke, co-founder, Sizzle Dining. "And with the slower season upon us, September is the ideal time to check out new restaurants or visit your tried-and-true favorites again."

You can start making reservations Aug. 18 online at

SizzleDining.org.

Local summer specials and Flavors of 5th ending this month

There's only a few weeks left to enjoy certain local summer specials and the Flavors of 5th fundraising event.

Bha! Bha! (865 Fifth Ave. S.) is offering a three-course summer menu for \$55 per person, but it ends Aug. 31 so act fast.

The Ritz-Carlton Naples' summer Dining Passport special ends this month as well. Get three courses for \$39 at four different Ritz-Carlton restaurants until Aug. 31. It's a truly delicious deal and only comes around once a year.

Flavors of 5th also wraps up this month, so if you haven't had a chance to check out one of the 17 participating restaurants, now is the time. Restaurants along Fifth Avenue South are donating \$1 to local nonprofit Beverly's Angels for every prix fixe meal sold. The charity event ends Aug. 28, so browse restaurants and make your reservation soon by visiting fifthavenue-south.com/flavors-of-fifth/.

What's the most popular Taco Bell item?

A new study analyzing 12 months of search volume data determined which Taco Bell menu items are the most popular across the United States. Did your favorite make the list?

1. Crunchwrap Supreme
2. Chalupa Supreme
3. Cheesy Gordita Crunch
4. Beefy 5-Layer Burrito
5. Cinnamon Twists
6. Mountain Dew Baja Blast
7. Crunchy Taco
8. Mexican Pizza
9. Spicy Potato Soft Taco

In Florida, the Chalupa Supreme is the most-searched Taco Bell menu item. Have you tried it?

Elvis

Continued from Page 1D

to take home after a long week of celebrating the King? Boulevard Souvenirs is the spot to visit. Located next to Sun Studio, it has just about everything Elvis: Hoodies, T-shirts, magnets, pins, jewelry, mugs, the list goes on and on. As an independently owned shop separate from Sun, Graceland or any other major business, it's definitely worth a stop.

Humes Preparatory Academy Middle School: One of the earliest sites chronologically on this list, Elvis fans should consider visiting the school where a young Elvis received his education and earned a "C" grade for music class in eighth grade.

Then simply called Humes High School, the auditorium where Elvis performed in a talent show is still used for school performances.

Overton Park Shell: Everyone in Memphis knows the Overton Park Shell – maybe they've seen a show there before. It's also where Elvis performed as an opening act for country music singer Slim Whitman on July 30, 1954. The performance holds the honor of being Elvis' first public performance, and according to the Shell's website, is considered by some historians to be one of the first rock 'n' roll performances ever.

Elvis returned just one year later on Aug. 5, 1955, to an overflow crowd of 4,000 people in a performance that included country music singers Webb Pierce, Sonny James, Johnny Cash and Wanda Jackson.

American Studios Historical Marker: American Studios, unfortunately now torn down and replaced

with a Family Dollar, is still remembered via a historical marker on Thomas Street. Chips Moman's American Sound Studio is where in 1969 the King recorded some of the greatest tracks of his career, including "Suspicious Minds," "Kentucky Rain," "In the Ghetto" and many others, backed up by the studio's house band, the Memphis Boys.

Former family home: Owned by Elvis for just 13 months, the ranch home on Audubon Drive was purchased by the 21-year-old musician on March 12, 1956, for just \$29,500. There, Gladys, Vernon and Elvis lived and installed a pool, but they quickly left after they realized their privacy would be constantly violated by fans, thanks to Elvis' status as the world's most popular singer.

Elvis' next purchase was, of course, the world-famous Graceland.

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