

DOH-Marion Offers Many Services

DOH-Marion offers many services in addition to COVID-19 testing

By Christy Jergens, Florida Department of Health in Marion County

While the Florida Department of Health in Marion County is heavily focused on responding to COVID-19 in the community currently, the department provides a wide array of programs and services to benefit residents. Read below for more information on what's offered outside of COVID-19 testing.

The Florida Department of Health in Marion County provides community, environmental and personal health services for Marion County residents. Community health work include epidemiology (contagious disease investigation, reporting and prevention), tuberculosis diagnosis and treatment, health education, and public health preparedness. Preparedness efforts include actions to protect the health of Florida's residents and visitors from the effects of man-made and natural disasters. As part of these preparedness efforts, the

department staffs and operates the county's special needs shelters in the event of a local state of emergency (such as a hurricane). Community health work also includes the registering and issuing of Florida birth and death certificates.

The personal health services that the county health department provides include family planning, WIC, Healthy Start program, immunizations, school health, dental, HIV/AIDS counseling/treatment and the Mobile Health Unit. WIC provides healthy food, nutrition education and counseling and breastfeeding support for women, infants and children under age 5. The Healthy Start program helps pregnant women, women who are between pregnancies and women with young children with education, resources and more. Family planning services include well-women exams, pregnancy and pap testing and the Florida Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection program. The department also provides screening,

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I call this picture Libby's Hawks. Libby's husband Dave sent us the picture. This is a photo of two Red Shoulder hawks that Libby Neuharth took. They show up every day and perch on the bird bath. I think they are really lucky to be that closed to nature within the City limits.



Last month I ran some pictures of flowers and ask that some of readers to share. Angelina Ahrem sharing a picture of her Flowers.



1,500-year-old Angel Oak tree in South Carolina.

Weird World

Kevin Sheilley
OCALA/MARION COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



The following is a review of just some of the ways the CEP is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic:

Get. Gather. Go.

The CEP ran a marketing campaign around the Paycheck Protection Program called Get. Gather. Go.

We were seeking to GET our businesses informed on the program; encouraging them to GATHER the needed documents; and to GO apply. And apply they did! After the first round of funding, we determined that 1 in 8 Marion County businesses received a PPP loan. That compares extremely favorably to the state (1 in 25) and national (1 in 19) rates.

All told, approximately 2800 businesses received nearly \$300 million in funding in the first round.

The second round of funding is still live but antidotally it appears that most eligible businesses are finding success. We have been in regular communication with our lenders who have done a phenomenal job literally working around the clock to meet the needs of the local business community. We anticipate that when this round is finished, something approaching 25% of all local businesses (not just eligible businesses but all businesses) will have received a PPP loan.

We are pivoting to focus on helping businesses plan now to ensure that as much of their PPP loan is forgiven as possible. We have already hosted an informative webinar

on maximizing loan forgiveness and will continue to push out the message.

Microenterprise Loan Fund

The CEP and Marion County are partnering on offering a new Microenterprise Loan Fund. We have long been fans of microenterprise lending at the CEP and are excited to partner with the County on this initiative. The County has received federal grant dollars to fund the loan pool and the CEP's Business Creation staff will be providing business counseling free to each applicant. Each successful loan applicant will receive at least 3 hours of pre-loan assistance and 7 hours of post-loan assistance. The loans are available to businesses with fewer than 5 employees and located outside of the Ocala city limits. For more information, check out Microenterprise Loan at MarionCountyMicro.com.

Now Hiring

While much of the news continues to be about business closings and layoffs, we

think it is important that the community know we have many businesses hiring today. We have a page at OcalaCEP.com with a listing from more than 40 businesses all of whom are currently hiring. Additionally, the new Dollar Tree Distribution Center continue to move forward and they will begin hiring their first 240 (of 700) employees this month.

Chamber of the Year

The CEP was very excited to learn recently that we have again been named a finalist for national Chamber of the Year by the American Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE), our national association. This represents the third time in four years the CEP has been a finalist for our industry's most prestigious recognition.

Victims of the Shutdown

Restaurants That Are Victims of the Shutdown

The Sweet Tomatoes restaurant is one of 97 have shut down! The Sweet Tomatoes had buffet style eatery and could not do the curbside service. The reason they gave was the COVID-19 shut down.

Another victim of the COVID-19 Virus is the legendary Katie Belle in the Villages. Management says it will not reopen.

Both were quality restaurants that will be missed.

Florida Health

Public Information Officer

OCALA, Fla.-If you have cancer, diabetes, heart disease, lung disease, or a chronic or underlying health condition, you are at a higher risk for more severe illness if you contract COVID-19. This means it's important to pay extra attention to your health needs right now.

Cancer

If you have cancer now or had cancer in the past, you may need to take special steps to protect your health. This is especially important for cancer patients who are treated with chemotherapy. They are more likely to get an infection because chemotherapy can weaken the immune system, and for the same reason, the infection may be more severe. To take care of your health:

- Before going into your appointments for cancer treatment, ask your doctor how you can help protect yourself from catching COVID-19.

- Check if any oral medications that you are taking can be sent directly to you so that you don't have to go to the pharmacy or clinic.

- Ask your doctor if there are other things that you can do to isolate yourself from others.

Diabetes

When people with diabetes don't manage their blood sugar levels well, they can have more trouble fighting off illnesses like COVID-19. Because of this, people with poorly controlled diabetes are more likely to become very ill or die if they get COVID-19. If you have diabetes:

- Ask your doctor how often you should check your blood sugar and what your target blood sugar levels should be. Keep records of your results.

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Florida State Senate

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



Dear Friends,
We are finally beginning to see some light at the end of the tunnel. For the last three months, and three columns, COVID-19 issues have dominated our conversations. As this

is being written, however, the State of Florida has begun its re-open plan and we are seeing good signs that we will be fully back on track soon.

Three months ago, No one could have accurately predicted where we would be at today with this virus. Some said it would last three weeks and once warmer weather came, it would be gone. Others said it would be years before we could safely leave our homes as we wait for a vaccine. Neither has turned out to be true. Three months ago, predictions for Florida were dire. Hundreds of thousands of cases, tens of thousands of death, hospitals failing, this was what we were being told would happen in a best-case scenario. None of that looks to be true. Statewide, hospital capacity never went above fifty percent and thousands of ventilators remained unused.

Precautions, yes. Panic, no. This is has been my approach to this viral outbreak.

This has been Governor DeSantis's approach. I am very proud of the actions he took, with the little information that we had, that put Florida in a posture of being prepared for the worst. His phased re-opening plan is strong, fact and data based, and will help get us back on track quickly. It is my hope in the coming weeks that a "Phase 2" plan will include letting counties have some more decision making ability in assessing their specific situation and tailoring a plan that works quickly and safely. A plan for Hillsborough, Orange or Broward will simply not be the best plan for a county like Marion, Lake, or Sumter.

Finally, do not believe the rhetoric that we are hearing out of California, Michigan and New York that this the "new normal". There is nothing normal about Americans admitting defeat and resigning ourselves to a posture of fear and deprivation. We will complete this comeback and our best days are ahead of us. The trees are made stronger by bending in the wind. We have learned a lot through this adversity and we will be stronger because of it. I am confident in the American entrepreneurial spirit that says no matter the obstacles, we can create something with value and something lasting for future generations.

Onward and Upward,
Senator Dennis Baxley

Living Art Mural

Ernesto Maranje to Begin "Living Art Mural" on Brick City Center for the Arts

OCALA, Fla. (May 14, 2020) – The City of Ocala, through its Cultural Arts and Sciences Division, announces the installation of a "living art mural" in the downtown area. International, Miami-based artist, Ernesto Maranje, will begin painting the west-facing wall at the Brick City Center for the Arts, 23 SE Broadway Monday, May 18. The new project, commissioned by the Cultural Arts and Sciences Division through public-private funding, is a collaboration between Maranje, artist and fabricator Mike Zeak, and horticulturalist, Suzanne Shuffitt. Maranje's concept was approved by the Ocala Municipal Art Commission (OMAC).

The concept for the mural is a unique blend of street art, incorporating horticulture into the design. When completed, it will be one of only a few like it in the world, and the only one in Marion County. The design incorporates Florida flora and fauna into a cohesive concept. The focal point of the mural is a Florida black bear accompanied by two Roseate spoonbills. The background ties in native plants, blue sky and water. The mural makes use of attached, custom-fabricated plant trellises that will house carefully curated plants and plant material. The plantings will be incorporated into the design to create a semi-three-dimensional look.

Maranje's work is a purposeful reminder of the relationship all living creatures share with each other. Colorful, whimsical and hinting at many interpretations and possibilities, his art is one of a kind.

"This piece will add to our continually growing public art collection," said Laura Walker, Cultural Arts and Sciences Division Head for the City of Ocala, "adding another innovative, collaborative piece for our community to enjoy."

About the Artist

Ernesto Maranje is a Miami-based painter and muralist. He has painted murals at home and abroad, including Ukraine, Iraq, the Kingdom of Jordan, Lebanon, Greece and Spain.

Ernesto discovered his passion for art while in the Coast Guard. He uses his vivid imagination to portray the unity of animals and plants by pulling different segments from each and making it a cohesive whole. Not only is the result pleasing to the eye, it reminds the viewer of our connection with nature.

Ocala Cultural Arts

The City of Ocala offers many visual and performing art opportunities in city spaces. Public art is complimentary and is intended for everyone to enjoy. Detailed information about current programming and future projects can be found at www.ocalafl.org/culturalarts. Self-guided public art tours are available at Ocala.occell.com.

For more information, please contact the City of Ocala Cultural Arts Department at 352-629-8447 or artwalk@ocalafl.org; or visit www.ocalafl.org/artwalk.

Aquatic Fun Centers Re-Open

City of Ocala Aquatic Fun Centers To Re-open For the Summer

OCALA, Fla. (May 14, 2020) – The City of Ocala's Aquatic Fun Centers are scheduled to re-open to the public for the summer beginning Monday, June 8. The Jervey Gantt Aquatic Fun Center, 2390 SW 36th Ave., and the Hampton Aquatic Fun Center, 255 NW Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., will be open Mondays through Saturdays with two sessions, 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. and 2 to 4:30 p.m. Both facilities will be closed on Sundays to allow for weekly deep sanitizing.

Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, additional restrictions and guidelines will be in effect for operations at both facilities:

- Temperature and health screenings at entry
- Plexiglass shields installed at customer service counters, as well as six-foot separation markers for entry
- Reduced bathing loads to 50% normal capacity that will be monitored and adjusted to ensure proper social distancing
- No swim lessons
- Waterslides will be closed
- Facility or table rentals will not be permitted
- Groups, camps, or field trips will be prohibited
- Reduced number of chairs available with distancing guidelines in place. No family groups larger than 10 people.
- Concessions will be pre-packaged foods only
- Staff will be assigned to frequently sanitize with a daily deep sanitizing from 12:30 to 2 p.m.
- Staff will be trained on CDC recommended protocols for aquatics operations

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OCALA DOWNTOWN MARKET

Join us at the Ocala Downtown Market (ODM) to purchase a diverse array of products from farmers, artisans, craftspeople, food trucks! A true destination location, ODM is set just blocks off the Ocala Downtown square, in a beautiful open-air Market Pavilion. Besides permanent roof cover the facility it also has large overhead fans, restrooms, a nearby ATM, and water fountains. The Market Pavilion is also available for rental.

CEP

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Tom Loury Long time member of CEP/Ocala Chamber of Commerce, Past President of the Ocala Business Leaders, Co-Founder and President of Select Business Associates, Past President of the Lady Lake Chamber.

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



By TomL

They worry about China, Russia and other countries manipulating our elections! What about our food source, our water supply, our medical supplies, our power grid and manipulation of our oil

supply.

I am hearing we have a shortage of Beef product for Wendy's restaurant because at the slaughter house processing plants many employees tested positive to COVID-19 and there is a shortage of workers, so they closed the plants. The Smithfield meat processing plants supplies a large portion of USA meats. They are owned by a Chinese Holding Company.

Let me ask because no one else is. Why are so many employees sick and testing positive at the Smithfield meat processing facility? Is the meat OK? Why are we importing beef when we have plenty cattle

of in this country? To Nikki Fried (Democrat) the head of Agriculture, don't let any other country own our food sources or our processing source.

If the numbers are accurate 1/3 of our College students are Chinese. The number has tripled in the last 10 years. Why do you think so many Chinese are going to school here? I say if they go to school here they must swear allegiance to the United States and swear not to share information they learn here with any other country. We are losing technology at an alarming rate. How are we losing it? Of course the big colleges

Chinese would love to take over our country by peaceful means. Just quietly overwhelm and take over the things that we depend on daily.

If the numbers are right a third of our college students are from China. I ask "why are so many professors teaching and preaching Socialism?"

I Googled "How much of big Pharma is owned by China?"

Janet Woodcock, FDA's director of the Center for Drug Evaluation and Research, in congressional testimony in October said while it is clear drug production, particularly of APIs, has moved out of the U.S., the FDA doesn't know a lot more than that. FDA info show the number of Chinese facilities licensed to produce APIs for U.S. drugs is smaller than in the U.S., 13% versus 28%, but those statistics don't mean much.

"The FDA doesn't know whether Chinese facilities are actually producing APIs, how much they are producing, or where the APIs they are producing are being distributed worldwide, including in the United States," Woodcock reported. "... Similarly, we do not have information that would enable us to assess the resilience of the U.S. manufacturing base, should it be tested by China's withdrawal from supplying the U.S. market."

Last month a Lady in the Villages did not like my story about following the money, my examples were Trump, Clinton and Obama. Trump lost money since he has been in office, how did the rest do while in office? GOOGLE IT!

CORRECTION!

Last month's issue when I wrote the story about the Smithfield plants closing. I said "My family was disappointed when Hershey Chocolate and Smithfield was purchased by a Chinese holding company. That was not accurate, what I meant to say was "my family was disappointed when Hershey moved their factory out of the United States". Some people in New York were showing their displeasure over the error. We regret the error!

We have so much hate, turmoil, death, illnesses. People are getting stressed out. I would like to go to a lighter side of life. We are trying to do Restaurant reviews, have people send in pictures of their flowers at home, nature photographs, (we have an award winning photo in this paper). Pictured is a pair of Hawks sitting on a bird feeder at a Bellevue resident. We have some more flowers pictures to share and yes story's cover other issues.

Companies have been hurt because of increased tariffs on Chinese-made goods. That should encourage them to produce their product in the United States. They could even move to countries that have a better trade relationship with the US.

Rand Paul is disagreeing with Fauci ... Dr. Paul says it is ridiculous to cancel school in the Fall. Rand Paul is a Doctor which I just learned. He disagrees with some of Faucis' decisions.

Stories & Songs

(NAPSI)—Here's a thought that may make you feel like singing: In times like these, when so many people feel like little islands, connecting with other people to share stories and songs takes on a special

significance.

It's long been popular. For much of human history, the center of people's light and life was the humble campfire. It was a place to teach, share, connect, and give thanks. It was the hub of culture, where our ancestors gathered nightly to fight back the dark with their myths, stories, and the joy of their voices raised in song.

Stories and songs are basic units of shared culture that remain, even as the source of flickering light changed from fire to screens. These days, many social networks and streaming services are reporting global spikes in member activity.

For example, on the "stories" side, nearly 16 million new people joined Netflix during the first part of the year, which was twice as many as expected. Other streaming services have seen rises as well, including Disney+. And underscoring the many benefits of engaging in these libraries of "once upon a time," watching streaming video has quickly become the #1 leisure activity for people at home.

On the "songs" side, social singing network [Smule](#) has also seen a significant rise in new users joining in from all over the world. Smule is a global online community of music lovers where millions of people from all over come together each day to sing along with millions of popular songs, often with other people—and sometimes with the stars who first sang the songs—plus make new friends, cheer each other on, and simply have fun. Your singing ability doesn't matter; the thing all the members have in common is a love for singing, and a love for connecting with other people through the shared experience of performing songs together.

It's somewhat like Snapchat and YouTube, mashed up with an automated sound and video recording and effects studio. You can sing or record songs on video with new friends, karaoke by yourself, or sing a cappella. Members include people from all walks of life, including real-life superstars, such as [Lewis Capaldi](#), who upload recorded versions of their top hits for other members to sing along with and repost to the network and other social media platforms. Fans can even sing along with Disney characters such as [Moana](#) to the hits from popular Disney films.

Thousands of independent singing communities and teams have sprung up around the world, using Smule as the platform to showcase their singalongs.

One such community, [Apex Team](#), is a group of 46 young, talented and dynamic voices from all parts of the world who came together as a virtual choir that inspires online audiences with their enjoyable musical performances. Apex produces more than a hundred group collaborations a year, including a phenomenal performance of "[Fight Song](#)," by Rachel Platten and Dave Bassett—edited into a "Thank You" to frontline professionals in the fight against COVID-19.

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for July

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

12am, June 17th

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, June 24th

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P.O. Box 1698, Dunnellon FL 34430

Publisher

Tom Loury
352-804-1223

Fax: 352-489-7208

tloury@att.net

General Manager

Wendy Netherclift

Ocala Office 352-895-4168

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God Bless our Troops Support Our Veterans We Endorse The Constitution

DOH *Continued from page 1*

counseling and treatment to people with STDs, while the Mobile Health Unit takes various department services on the road to sites across the county where it may be easier for some residents to access services.

The department's immunizations program provides vaccines at no cost for children and youth up to age 18 and offers some adult immunizations, too. School health staff work primarily in local public schools and provide direct student care in school clinics, health education in classrooms and student health screenings for vision, hearing and growth and development. The dental program provides diagnostic, restorative, preventive and educational services to children and adults. Dental services are provided at both the department's dental clinic at the College of Central Florida Hampton Center and in local schools.

Environmental Health work covers many areas. The department issues permits to build, repair or modify septic systems, provides well permits and responds to complaints of public water drinking systems, responds to sanitary nuisances, and monitors food preparation in schools, detention centers and assisted living facilities. Environmental Health also inspects and regulates biomedical waste, body piercing establishments, public pools, mobile home and RV parks and more. Staff also work with Marion County Animal Services to respond to animal bites and provides treatment to ensure someone does not become ill with rabies after being bitten or scratched by a rabid animal.

Shoppers Save Big

Shoppers Save Big On Groceries With Healthy Savings® Powered By AARP Foundation

(NAPSI)—Good nutrition is important at any age. But for older adults on a tight budget, regular access to nutritious foods can be limited—and expensive.

A new program aims to change that by making it easier to get healthy foods at the local grocery store for an affordable price. With Healthy Savings® powered by AARP Foundation, shoppers pay a small fee of \$4.99 per calendar year for a card that can save them up to \$200 a month on groceries.

The program is part of AARP Foundation's work to help people over 50 with limited income eat more nutritious foods, ultimately improving their well-

being. Research shows that more than 10 million older adults don't get enough nutritious food on a daily basis, most often because they can't afford it.

Eating healthy is about more than affordability, however. Not only does Healthy Savings reduce costs, it also identifies healthy options in the store. All products available through Healthy Savings are scored against the USDA's Healthy Eating Index to make sure they qualify as nutritious. The index makes it

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FROM THE DESK OF GOVERNOR DESANTIS



Limited Re-Opening of Recreational Trails and Beaches

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that, beginning May 4 2020 Florida State Parks will re-open access to trails, and some day use areas,

including some beach access with limited facilities. Visitors will be asked to practice proper social distancing and to limit group size to 10 or less and to stay six feet apart.

“I applaud the Re-Open Florida Task Force on their hard work to inform a safe, smart and step-by-step approach to re-opening Florida,” said Governor DeSantis. “Recreational activity provides important physical and mental health benefits, particularly during these uncertain times. This Phase One plan will allow for the thoughtful, measured re-opening of some of our state’s incredible natural resources for public recreation.”

“Florida State Parks and Resilience and Coastal Protection managed areas offer a wide variety of recreational opportunities,” said Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Noah Valenstein. “We are excited to be welcoming visitors back and appreciate the cooperation of the public as we implement measures that will allow access while protecting both our staff and the public we serve.”

The selected reopened state parks will have limited facilities. Reopened beach areas allow visitors access to active recreation only. This includes walking, jogging, swimming and fishing. No sunbathing, chairs, canopies or coolers are allowed in beach areas at this time.

Reopened parks will resume normal

operation hours of 8 a.m. to sunset, with the exception of beach areas. Access to beach areas will have reduced daily hours that may vary locally along with reductions in visitor capacity to ensure social distancing. Visitors should check the Department’s website at www.floridastateparks.org for the latest information.

Compliance with social distancing requirements and approved activities will be enforced and failure to comply with proper social distancing or approved activities may result in law enforcement action or park closure.

For a complete list of open parks and available amenities, please visit www.floridastateparks.org.

Extended Support to Floridians Participating in SNAP and TANF

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today, Governor Ron DeSantis and the Department of Children and Families (DCF) announced the extension of good cause for the month of May and the submission of a federal waiver, to assist Floridians participating in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) during the current public health emergency. Following initial approval from the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), SNAP recipients’ maximum monthly allotment (based on household size) will be increased for the month of May. Once approved, current SNAP recipients will receive this additional benefit amount automatically.

“With nearly three million Floridians participating in SNAP alone, I’m confident that these policy initiatives are in our state’s

best interest – they will help us safely and gradually re-establish normalcy and ultimately allow families to thrive post-COVID-19,” said Governor DeSantis. “These timely and proactive efforts taken by DCF helps ensure the good people of Florida have access to the support and resources they need.”

“It’s clear that the Governor is working tirelessly to help Floridians impacted by COVID-19, while also flattening the curve and planning a safe reopening of the state. But until that day comes – and it will – DCF is prepared to continue providing the financial support our family, friends, and neighbors needed to make it through this time of unprecedented stress and strain,” said DCF Secretary Chad Poppell. “We’re grateful of the support of USDA and we look forward to continued collaboration with our state and federal partners throughout the duration of the pandemic and beyond.”

At Governor DeSantis’ direction and DCF Secretary Chad Poppell’s leadership the Economic Self-Sufficiency (ESS) program made necessary adjustments to the workforce, including repurposing over 1,300 current employees to manage the increased call volume and process the surge of new applications. Since declaring a public health emergency, DCF has received nearly one million public assistance applications and peaked call volume more than doubled. To date, ESS has processed nearly 70 percent of those applications. To assist with increased call volume, UnitedHealthcare – as part of the company’s generous donation and display of corporate stewardship – deployed one hundred call center agents to assist the ESS Customer Call Center bringing the total number of available call agents to 1,000 by the end of April. As a direct result of these changes, ESS is responding to more customers quickly and payments are being received within an average of two weeks,

which is well below federal standards.

Additionally, under Governor DeSantis’ direction, DCF instituted a series of waivers and policy initiatives, to provide additional assistance to Florida families, including:

- Temporarily increased SNAP recipients’ benefit amount in March and April to the maximum monthly allotment based on household size. The Governor has directed DCF to request a waiver to extend this increase for May. Customers who are already receiving the maximum allotment will not receive an increase.
- Implementing a six-month recertification extension for clients scheduled to recertify for benefits in April and May.
- Expanded the capacity to allow Floridians to file for benefits telephonically with 800-1000 individuals taking advantage of this opportunity daily.
- Effectively partnered with the Department of Economic Opportunity to temporarily apply good cause statewide for TANF & SNAP recipients subject to participate in mandatory work requirements for March, April and now May as a condition to receive benefits.
- Participating in the USDA’s pilot program to allow SNAP recipients to purchase groceries online using their Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT) card.
- Developing a plan to implement Pandemic EBT – a supplemental benefit for households with children who receive free and reduced lunch – to serve more than three million children. The plan will be shared with the Florida Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services for joint submission to USDA for federal approval.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.myflfamilies.com/covid19/access.shtml>.

FROM THE DESK OF ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY



Attorney General Moody Calls for Changes to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act to Address Devastation Caused by COVID-19

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General

Ashley Moody is asking Congress to modify the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act as Florida and other states seek to hold China accountable for its role in the COVID-19 pandemic. Attorney General Moody today sent a letter to leaders in Congress requesting that the FSIA be amended to increase opportunities to seek damages from China, when appropriate, for public health and economic harm.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “China must be held accountable, but our current legal framework presents challenges. Modest changes to the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act would clarify and support actions against China, if necessary, to seek damages from the devastation from COVID-19.”

The letter Attorney General Moody sent to congressional leaders Thursday states, “Any proposed legislation should be measured to have a limited impact on our diplomatic relations around the world... Such limitations achieve an appropriate balance between the need to provide a forum to hold bad actors accountable and the

federal government’s interest in having a coherent foreign policy. I respectfully ask that you consider such legislation to address the grievous harm inflicted on our states.”

o read the letter in its entirety, go to MyFloridaLegal.com.

On Monday, Attorney General Moody called on Congress to investigate China’s role in the COVID-19 pandemic. In a letter to congressional leaders, Attorney General Moody and 17 other state attorneys general called on Congress to conduct a comprehensive investigation.

For more information on the letter to congressional leadership Monday, go to MyFloridaLegal.com.

On Wednesday, Attorney General Moody led a collation of 14 state attorneys general calling for a federal-state partnership to develop a comprehensive plan to hold China responsible for the COVID-19 pandemic.

For more on those efforts, go to MyFloridaLegal.com.

As Florida’s chief legal officer, Attorney General Moody plays a unique role in protecting Floridians. Since COVID-19 began to spread in Florida, Attorney General Moody has activated the Price Gouging Hotline, recovered hundreds of thousands of dollars for consumers and issued Consumer Alerts to warn Floridians about emerging scams attempting to exploit the crisis. For more on these ongoing efforts, go to MyFloridaLegal.com.

Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars in Refunds Secured and Outrageous Posts Removed

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—This week marks two months since Attorney General Ashley Moody activated Florida’s Price Gouging Hotline in response to the [COVID-19 emergency declaration](https://www.floridastateparks.org). During that time, Attorney General Moody’s Office has secured hundreds of thousands of dollars in refunds, worked with online platforms to deactivate nearly 200 posts offering items for outrageous prices and ensured information important to price gouging investigations is preserved.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, “My office is dedicated to protecting consumers and that is exactly what we are doing during this COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout this crisis, we have been working diligently to secure refunds, deactivate outrageous online posts and collect information crucial to our price gouging investigations.

“A key part of our success is the thousands of tips flooding into our Price Gouging Hotline from Florida and beyond. And as we slowly start to reopen, I want to remind Floridians to remain vigilant. Don’t let your guard down. We are more successful when we work together, so please keep sending us price gouging tips and we will continue to do our part to protect consumers.”

Since activating Florida’s Price Gouging Hotline, the Florida Attorney General’s Office has:

- Received approximately 4,400 consumer contacts about the price of essential

commodities;

- Made more than 6,300 referrals and contacts to merchants about allegations of price gouging, refunds and scams;
- Secured more than \$497,000 in refunds related to travel, leisure and product purchases;
- Issued 70 subpoenas to further price gouging investigations; and
- Worked with online platforms to deactivate 189 posts offering items for outrageous prices.

Violators of the price gouging statute are subject to civil penalties of \$1,000 per violation and up to a total of \$25,000 for multiple violations committed in a single 24-hour period.

For more information on price gouging, please go to MyFloridaLegal.com.

For a list of the commodities covered under the state’s price gouging laws during the COVID-19 state of emergency, go to MyFloridaLegal.com.

Price gouging can be reported by calling 1 (866) 9NO-SCAM, visiting MyFloridaLegal.com or downloading the NO SCAM smartphone app.

For tips on reporting price gouging, go to MyFloridaLegal.com Since the COVID-19 emergency declaration, Attorney General Moody has issued 11 Consumer Alerts with information about emerging scams and tips to avoid fraud. To view the latest alerts and to stay up-to-date on COVID-19 related scams, visit the Attorney General’s Consumer Alert webpage by going to MyFloridaLegal.com

Answers page 11

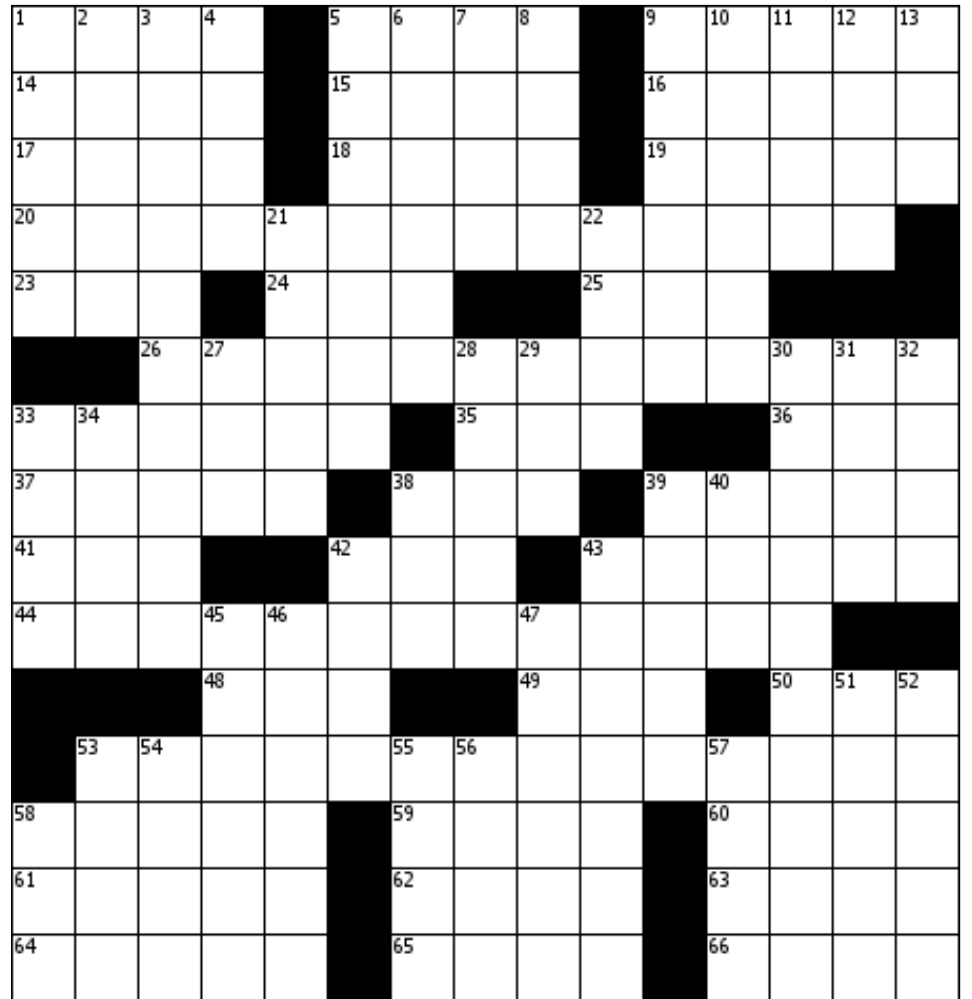


C
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44. Prepare for an abbreviated attack?
48. Clumsyclod
49. Chicago-D.C. dir.
50. Japanese computer giant
- 5 3 .
- Abbreviated John Denver hit
58. Word with code or colony
59. Five-time Wimbledon champ, 1976-80
60. Med or rad add-on
61. Pernod flavoring
62. Deity of Nefertiti
63. Carpenter's groove
64. Brief but meaningful
65. Lays down the lawn
66. Choice word
- Down**
1. Homeric epic
2. Diploma word, sometimes
3. Slovakia's capital
4. Following
5. Fragrant ointments
6. Southwestern gulch
7. Purloin
8. Sound unit
9. Go on a winning streak
10. Add to
11. Heaven on earth
12. Word with crab or cobra
13. Atl. crosser
21. First name in talk
22. Like Tim Cratchit
27. Trains over the st.
28. "Hey, long time ___"
29. Tic-tac-toe line
30. Universal
31. Marquand's Mr.
32. Sock parts
33. Serene
34. Border on
38. Seasonal aide
39. Sci-fi staple
40. Cleveland cager, for short
42. Up in the air
43. Gives out
45. What some drivers carry
46. "Annie Get Your Gun" heroine
47. Closed in on
51. "Holy smokes!"
52. Actress Sevigny
53. Italian painter Guido
54. "Put a lid ___!"
55. Many Wall St. types
56. Baum barker
57. Sweep under the rug
58. Mushy food

Across

1. Book ID
5. Grocers stock them
9. Sideshow attractions
14. Fishing device
15. Alice's guest, in song
16. "The ___ near"
17. Huge name in films
18. Writer Hubbard
19. Site of a 16th C. council
20. Shortly, become a success?
23. Bao ___ (former Viet emperor)
24. Strike sticking point
25. Summer Games org.
26. Short New Testament event?
33. Maria of the Met
35. Kind of moron?
36. Murmur romantically
37. Bring shame to
38. That, in Tijuana
39. Severe
41. Murray Schisgal play
42. St. Martin, e.g.
43. Research site, Los ___



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- VA at the west end of the Cascades Plaza
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- Barbra Washington Adult Activity Center
- Tax Collectors building
- Health Department
- Walt's Brake & More
- Yandle's Building Materials
- MOJO's next to Target

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**Email Tom:
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Florida Health

Continued from page 2

- Recognize the signs of high or low blood sugar and make sure you know what to do about it. Monitor your feet, skin and eyes to catch problems early.

- Take your medication on time as directed.

- Stress can make managing diabetes harder, including controlling your blood sugar levels and dealing with daily diabetes care. Regular activity, getting enough sleep, and relaxation exercises can help. Talk to your doctor about these and other ways you can manage stress.

Heart disease

COVID-19 can strain all of the systems in your body, and this puts additional stress on the heart. COVID-19 can also make it more likely that your heart won't be able to keep up with the needs of your body. If you have heart disease:

- Make sure your vaccinations, including your pneumonia and flu shot, are up to date.

- Take your medications on time and as directed, and maintain your treatment plan.

- Measure your blood pressure if you have hypertension.

Lung disease

People with chronic lung disease or moderate to severe asthma may be at risk for complications from COVID-19. COVID-19 can affect your respiratory tract (nose, throat, lungs), cause difficulty breathing, and possibly lead to pneumonia and acute respiratory disease. To take care of your health:

- If you have one, follow your Asthma

Action Plan. Learn more at www.CDC.gov/asthma/actionplan.html <<http://www.cdc.gov/asthma/actionplan.html>>.

- Take your medications on time and as directed, including any inhalers with corticosteroids.

- Don't stop taking any medications or change your treatment plan without talking to your health care provider. Discuss any concerns about your treatment with your health care provider.

- Talk to your health care provider about creating an emergency supply of prescription medications, like asthma inhalers. If you have asthma, make sure you know how to use your inhaler and avoid your asthma triggers.

Chronic and underlying health conditions

People with chronic and underlying health conditions are more likely to become very sick from COVID-19. In addition to the above health conditions, people with chronic kidney disease undergoing dialysis, liver disease, autoimmune disease, weakened immune system (such as from smoking, bone marrow or organ transplantation, poorly controlled HIV/AIDS, or prolonged use of corticosteroids) or people with severe obesity (BMI greater than 40) face greater risks from COVID-19. Speak with your health care provider about specific precautions you should take based on your condition.

Additional precautions

Whether you have cancer, diabetes, heart disease, lung disease or another chronic

condition, it's also important you:

- Stock up on 2-3 weeks of non-perishable food, prescriptions and medical and health care supplies.

- Create a contact list of family, friends, neighbors, healthcare providers, community assistance programs and drivers, and let them know you may need help if you become sick.

- Keep up healthy habits: healthy eating, exercise, getting enough sleep and managing stress.

- Stop smoking if you currently smoke. Smoking can make it more likely that you will have a heart attack or stroke. Visit TobaccoFreeFlorida.com for Quit Your Way services.

Practicing social distancing can also help further reduce your risk of exposure. This includes staying home as much as possible and staying away from people who are sick or have been sick in the past two weeks. Avoid crowds and gatherings of 10 or more and shop during off-hours when crowds are smaller. Further, keep at least 6 feet between you and other people, wear cloth face coverings when in public places, and avoid touching "high touch" public surfaces (for example, ATM screen, door handles, etc.)

Washing your hands often with soap and water (for at least 20 seconds) and avoiding touching your face with unwashed hands also helps protect you. Health officials also recommend cleaning objects or surfaces daily that people touch a lot, such as door knobs, kitchen counters and key pads.

COVID-19 symptoms and when to seek treatment

COVID-19 symptoms include cough,

shortness of breath, fever, chills, shaking, muscle pain, headaches, sore throat and a new loss of taste or smell. If you are experiencing symptoms, stay home and contact your health care provider; don't go to work or school. You will need to get rest and stay hydrated. If you live with others, stay in a separate room and avoid sharing personal items.

If you are not sick enough to need hospitalization, you can recover at home.

Continued page 10



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Marion County's Internet Marketplace

Florida Health Aquatic Fun

Continued from page 9

Monitor your symptoms, and if they get worse, call your health care provider immediately. Seek medical attention immediately if you develop any of the following:

- Trouble breathing
- Persistent pain or pressure in the chest
- New confusion or inability to arouse
- Bluish lips or face

For more guidance

For the most up-to-date information on COVID-19 in Florida, visit floridahealthcovid19.gov <<https://floridahealthcovid19.gov>>. For general questions about COVID-19, call the state hotline (866-779-6121), local hotline (352-644-2590), or email COVID-19@flhealth.gov <<mailto:COVID-19@flhealth.gov>>. Individuals can also follow the Department of Health in Marion County on Twitter at www.twitter.com/FLHealthMarion <<http://www.twitter.com/FLHealthMarion>> for the latest updates on COVID-19 in Marion.

About the Florida Department of Health

The department, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board <<http://www.pha.gov>>, works to protect, promote and improve the health of all people in Florida through integrated state, county and community efforts. Follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/FLDepartmentofHealth?utm_source=article>.

Instagram <<https://www.instagram.com/florida.health/>> and Twitter at @HealthyFla <https://twitter.com/HealthyFla?utm_source=article>. For more information about the Florida Department of Health please visit [www.floridahealth.gov](http://www.floridahealth.gov?utm_source=article) <http://www.floridahealth.gov?utm_source=article>.

Continued from page 3

Admission for each swim session is \$2 for ages 17 and under and \$3 for those ages 18 and up. Admission is free for ages one and under. Facility operations are subject to change and staff will continue to monitor conditions based on recommended guidelines. A detailed list of restrictions and guidelines for both aquatic centers may be found at www.ocalafl.org/recpark. Splash pads will remain closed until further notice.

For more information, please call the City of Ocala Recreation and Parks Department at 352-368-5517.

Save Big

Continued from page 6



convenient to choose the healthiest foods, which include lean meats, eggs, yogurt, whole grains, and a wide range of other options.

The typical over-50 diet scores low in key food groups like whole grains and dairy. By encouraging the purchase of more of these nutrients through coupon discounts, Healthy Savings can help older adults:

Lose weight or maintain a healthy weight.

Reduce the risk of developing chronic diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes and heart disease.

More easily manage a chronic disease. Increase or maintain energy levels.

Shoppers who sign up for Healthy



Testing Site for the Homeless

Ocala Organizations Partner to Create a Pop-Up Testing Site for the Homeless (OCALA, Fla.) May 14, 2020 – Ocala Fire Rescue (OFR) and Meadowbrook Church partnered with the City of Ocala's Social Services Coordinator, Dennis Yonce, to offer COVID-19 testing to the homeless. The collaboration resulted in a pop-up testing site at NW 1st Avenue and NW 3rd Street, on Wednesday, May 13.

"It was an honor that the community participated and made use of these beneficial services," said OFR Fire Chief

Shane Alexander. "Offering testing at an open setting allowed us to address this underserved population with dignity and kindness."

Besides COVID-19 testing, participants were able to obtain Hepatitis A inoculations and a meal, compliments of Meadowbrook Church. The testing site was open from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m.

A total of 52 individuals were tested for COVID-19. Furthermore, 18 participants opted to get vaccinated.

Savings receive a card in the mail and can download a mobile app, both of which can be used at 22,000 grocery stores across the U.S. for instant savings at checkout. The savings come on top of any from store loyalty cards and manufacturers' coupons (so long as coupons don't add up to more than the price of the item).

Each week, new coupons are automatically loaded onto the card and app—no coupon clipping required. Over the course of a year, Healthy Savings can save shoppers as much as \$2,400.

More information, including recipes and tips for shopping smart, is at aarpfoundation.org/save.



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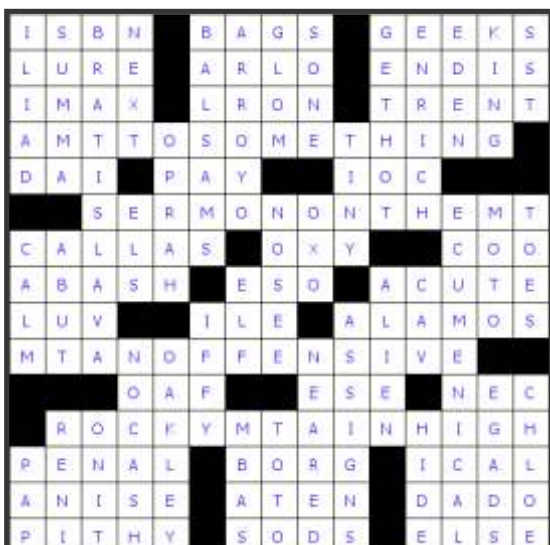
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