

**Our Values
are no longer
tethered
to our
principles.**

Freedom Our Most Precious Heritage

By TomL

I want to take you back to the 1955's. Our family lived in a small town in south Florida. People took a walk down town after church on Sunday. When first moving to Dania Florida which has been renamed Dania Beach Florida, it is one mile from the east coast.

My Father was a behind the scenes Democrat and explained to me at a very young age that Democrats represent the working people.

The town had a strong Masonic base of which my father belonged, I think he was 32nd degree? We as a family were also involved in the Optimist Club. They brought many activities for the youth as well as grown up activities.

I got involved at age twelve as a Junior Optimist, one of the activities was a Oratorical contest. A subject was picked and with assistance from directors the children would write a speech. It would hone the skills of the child in life and keep them off the streets. The activity grew to be very popular and the second year there were many entires from towns around. The second year at age 13 yrs old I won! I went to districts and came in second. As time progressed I practice

practice practiced.

Time came for the next Oratorical contest the subject was picked... "FREEDOM OUR MOST PRECIOUS HERITAGE!"

It was a time of immigrant's being shipped into the United States to Elise Island. My speech was about Freedom not "Feedom"! No one would even entertain the idea. I touch on one immigrant and a very short message about and immigrant that almost died on the way across the ocean, (Sea Sick I think). A man at the dock felt sorry for him and gave him a pack of Life Savers to help with his hunger and upset stomach. He came back later, found the man and thank him for saving his life. I WON THE CONTEST!

Well as luck would have it the districts were combined with the nationals and I spoke in Cuba! Bateista was still the dictator, there were sand bags piled up around the municipal building front doors and Castro was fighting in the hills. I competed at age 14, the youngest contestant out of 25 youths. I came in third...

That subject stuck with me all my life from the small town called Dania / Davie Florida to the Marion County today.

THE COWBOY WAY!



By Kevin Yeo

The smoke is a rising on the horizon and gun oil is in the air. The Cowboy Fast Draw Club, ".45 SideKicks" of the First Baptist Church of Lady Lake hosted a bunch of cowboys and cowgirls in January for a Snow Bird Shoot Out. This year's tournament marks not only the 3-year anniversary of the club's creation. But also highlights a unique way that the Church outreach program's shows the community that God's family does more than just get together on Sundays!!

Shooting started at 9 am, ended at roughly 1pm each day and the public is welcome. A spectator will see participants

dressed in cowboy and cowgirl garb from the 1880's era while they compete in head-to-head duels. Each gun fighter attempting to draw and fire their single action .45 caliber pistols faster than a real-life adversary. For more information about the sport which has clubs across the United States. Check out the Cowboy Fast Draw Association website at www.Cowboyfastdraw.com

For more information about the shoot out or to come to one of the .45 Sidekicks Tuesday night weekly practices and see how fast you really are. Call Kevin at 605-999-7687

COVID-19 Vaccination Operations

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH IN MARION COUNTY MOVES ITS COVID-19 VACCINATION OPERATIONS TO PADDOCK MALL

Media Availability on-site at Paddock Mall on Jan. 19, 2021 from Noon to 1 p.m.

OCALA, Fla.-The Department of Health in Marion County is moving its COVID-19 vaccination operations to the Paddock Mall

(3100 SW College Road, Ocala) beginning Tuesday, Jan. 19, 2021. The site, a joint venture with AdventHealth Ocala, Marion County Emergency Management, and Paddock Mall, will be available for vaccinations by appointment only.

Process for vaccine recipients
The Paddock Mall vaccination site will be a walk-up operation, rather than a drive-

through operation that other vaccination sites have used. People with vaccination appointments will park at the Paddock Mall entrance nearest the Belk department store entrance on Southwest College Road.

Residents with appointments will begin the vaccination process at the mall entrance appointment check-in table. They will then walk inside the mall to the registration area, where staff members will verify their information.

Once registration is complete, residents will walk to the vaccination area where medical personnel will provide information about the vaccine they are about to receive and administer the vaccine. After receiving their vaccination, residents will walk to a seated waiting area where medical personnel will monitor them for 15 to 30 minutes for possible adverse reactions. After

the monitoring window is complete, individuals will be permitted to depart the mall and return to their vehicles.

Vaccination site staff will have transportation available to help transport residents between their vehicles and the mall entrance. Residents who require wheelchairs, walkers, or other mobility devices are asked to bring their own devices, as they will need to be able to wait in line for their vaccination appointment.

The Paddock Mall vaccination site is currently scheduled to be open for appointments each Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. The site is projected to schedule several hundred vaccination appointments each day. The department will be unable to support walk-in requests for vaccinations.

Health department staff continuing to

Kevin Sheilley
OCALA/MARION COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



The purpose of the CEP is to be the One-Stop Shop and Voice of the Business Community. We are the designated economic development organization for all of the Ocala Metro. While many focus on our

Business Attraction successes (bringing in new major employers like Amazon, Dollar Tree, and FedEx) or our Business Services programs (such as Business After Hours, TuesdayTalks, and Leadership Ocala Marion), it is our Business Retention and Business Creation efforts that really have the ability to impact the business

community. This is especially true as we continue to go through a difficult crisis such as the current COVID-19 pandemic.

Our Business Retention efforts are focused on assisting existing businesses throughout the community with a particular focus on primary employers (manufacturing, distribution, and large office). We work with approximately 200 businesses every year REGARDLESS of their partnership with the CEP. In other words, a business does not have to be a CEP partner to receive assistance. Much of this work is focused on removing barriers to their growth. Sometimes this means connecting them existing resources on the local, state, and federal level. Other times it means we are connecting them with other

businesses to the benefit of both.

Business Creation coordinates all of the CEP's entrepreneurship efforts. Assisting would be entrepreneurs and small business owners is an important part of both the CEP's mission and the growth of our community. While these efforts are most often associated with the Power Plant Business Incubator, the Business Creation team works with more than 400 entrepreneurs a year the majority of which will never by incubator residents.

Our newest effort in this area is our IMPACT initiative sponsored by Ausley Construction. IMPACT focuses on expanding access to entrepreneurship in West Ocala, Silver Springs Shores, and Marion Oaks. We run multiple cohorts of the nationally recognized FastTrac program to provide 8-weeks of entrepreneurship training. Successfully completing these programs hosted with the City of Ocala qualifies a business as a Diverse Small Business Enterprise. Additionally, we

recently completed a Microenterprise Loan Program targeting businesses in these areas with the County and we are preparing to kick-off a similar program with the City this month.

We continue to be incredibly bullish on the economic outlook for our area. Despite all of the challenges, we continue to see new businesses locating here, existing businesses expanding, and entrepreneurs starting new businesses. Our population growth continues to expand and we were recently named again to UHaul's Top 25 Cities for Growth this time at #6 in the nation. By working together, we can ensure that we keep the Ocala Metro *Moving Forward!*

Uniformed Services Members



Uniformed Services Members: Help Protect Your Family With The Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program

(NAPSI)—The prospect of needing long term care may be far from your mind today, but circumstances can change. A long term care event can happen at any age, and the potential financial and emotional strain that comes with it can have an impact on you and your loved ones.

Did you know millions of Americans require long term care during their lifetime, which includes the need for either cognitive or physical assistance with simple tasks like bathing, eating, and dressing—trivial things most of us do every day without a second thought? Unfortunately, traditional health insurance plans—including TRICARE For Life—do not pay for the chronic, ongoing assistance with daily living that is most often associated with long term care.

In fact, the long term care benefits offered through the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) are tied to specific triggers, including service-connected disability, available funding, and even your ability to contribute to the cost of care.

Long term care can be expensive, and service members often rely on the VA to cover the associated costs. Depending on your eligibility status in the VA program, the level of coverage available to you may not be enough. For this reason, you may want to research standalone long term care insurance like a plan offered through the Federal Long Term Care Insurance Program (FLTCIP).

Since its launch in 2002, the FLTCIP has offered active and retired members of the uniformed services the opportunity to help take control of their future long term care needs. Designed to provide solutions for a range of financial situations, this employer-sponsored program offers comprehensive coverage for more than 270,000 enrollees.

Many members of the federal family are eligible to apply for coverage under the FLTCIP, including active and retired members of the uniformed services. Certain family members, or qualified relatives, are

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 To Add Your Picture Call Tom Loury 352-804-1223

Florida State Senate

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



Dear Friends,
Our first round of committee meetings in January are completed and we have begun our preparations for another three weeks in February. The 2021 Regular Session will convene on March 2nd, but much of the work happens in the weeks leading up to then. Per our state constitution, the Legislature's only duty is to pass a balanced budget and we will have that completed by April 30th, unless a special session is called by the Senate President and Speaker of the House. We are grateful that we live in fiscally responsible state that understands that we cannot spend beyond our means. This year, due to the impact of COVID-19, Florida will have to make cuts to our budget to fulfill that responsibility and tough decisions will be made. My colleagues in the Senate, both Republican and Democrat, are united in this effort and in the past few years, the final vote on our budgets has been largely unanimous (note: there have been years with a single member "nay" vote). In 2021, our leader on the budget will be Senator Kelli Stargel and we are very confident in her ability to lead us through the coming changes.

Last month, President Wilton Simpson appointed your Senator to The Florida Council on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys. This Council was created in 2006 by the Florida Legislature to study conditions that negatively affect black males in our state. The 19-member council

is housed in the Office of the Attorney General and has focused on researching strategies to reduce high school dropout rates, recidivism, and violent crime rates. The Council hopes to establish community partnerships and help local communities establish best practices to help make a positive impact and bring awareness to the socioeconomic conditions that black males face in Florida. This will not be my first time serving on this Council, but it is honor and privilege to be able to serve again in this capacity. In America, we all have an opportunity to serve each other, encourage each other, and succeed together.

Due to issues surrounding the pandemic, our Senate President has asked us to restrict in-person meetings at the Capitol and we will honor that request until such time that he feels it is safe proceed otherwise. We are, however, available by phone, e-mail or if you wish to make a virtual appointment then we are more than happy to accommodate. Please do not let that be a reason not to contact us and let us know your thoughts and suggestions. This process does not work without you and we need your involvement. Thank you for letting me sit in your seat in the Florida Senate and fight to protect faith, family, freedom, opportunity and life.

Onward & Upward,
Senator Dennis Baxley



Talk candidly with your family members and tell them about the FLTCIP. Starting the conversation prior to needing care can help you prepare for the unexpected.

Visit

LTCFEDS.com/militaryfamily to learn more about the benefits of applying for the FLTCIP. For personalized assistance, call 1-800-LTC-FEDS (1-800-582-3337) TTY 1-800-843-3557 to speak with a program consultant. They are available to answer any questions you may have and can walk you step-by-step through the plan design and application process.

Note: Certain medical conditions, or combinations of conditions, will prevent some people from being approved for coverage. You need to apply to find out if you qualify for coverage under the FLTCIP.

More about the FLTCIP

Established by an act of Congress in 2000 and overseen by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM), the FLTCIP is designed to meet the specific needs of the Federal family. The long term care insurance under the FLTCIP provides industry-leading benefits and offers flexible options that allow enrollees to tailor coverage to meet their needs.

The FLTCIP is sponsored by the U.S. Office of Personnel Management, insured by John Hancock Life & Health Insurance Company, and administered by Long Term Care Partners, LLC.

School Closure Crisis

A National Opportunity To Address The School Closure Crisis

(NAPSI)—The COVID-19 pandemic and resulting nationwide K-12 school closures have created a social and economic impact that has paralyzed many communities. The lack of a proven technological solutions to help counter the impact of COVID in schools has



compounded the crisis—but that can be fixed.

Recently, two important developments have created an opportunity for a new national strategy to address the economic and health challenges facing schools, while equipping every classroom with healthy air filtration technology.

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (CAA), recently signed into law, includes \$54.3 billion to help K-12 public schools address the COVID-19 impact, with the goal of improving health and safety measures within these schools. Stand-alone air purification units for every classroom are the most efficient, scalable and cost-effective solution to reopen K-12 public schools safely, would require less than five percent of this relief funding, and can be deployed rapidly.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recognizes that COVID-19 is transmitted via airborne particles, meaning filtration is critical. "Minimizing airborne viral load in the indoor school environment can help maintain and support the safe reopening of schools, benefiting not just the students and staff but, even more, their families and communities," said Paul Scialla, founder and CEO of Delos and founder of the International WELL Building Institute.

Continued page 4

Service Members

Continued from page 2

also eligible to apply even if you do not. Qualified relatives include your spouse, domestic partner, parents and parents-in-law, and adult children.

Coverage under the FLTCIP

The FLTCIP is designed to reimburse for qualified long term care services and can lessen or eliminate an individual's reliance on a loved one to provide hands-on care. As you assess the FLTCIP's value, consider these important benefits:

The FLTCIP offers coverage in a variety of settings—at home or in a facility, such as an assisted living facility, an adult daycare, or a nursing center—and your choice of

caregiver.

If home care is your preference, the stay-at-home benefit includes a range of services that support care in your home, helping you maintain your quality of life in familiar surroundings.

Informal care provided by friends and family members, as long as they do not live in your home at the time you become eligible for benefits. (Note: Benefits for care provided by family members is limited to 500 days.)

The program's care coordination services offer enrollees and their qualified relatives information about long term care resources, such as local care providers and relevant community programs, as well as valuable support to your family and friends.

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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

I came down with COVID-19 Then my wife came down with COVID-19. Not a fun thing!

We had a nice small family Christmas day afternoon Dinner. About one AM I got very sick like a stomach Flu with

plenty of pain. Terrible night. I thought it was something I ate did not agree with me. My energy level went to the bottom for days. Three days later my wife got sick, she slept about twenty hours. When she woke up the next day, we both went for the COVID-19 test. We tested positive! It was not a good experience but we took massive doses of vitamin CC, B-12, Iron, 500 mg Zinc, 500 mg D-3, ate soup when we could get something down and we got better. I ask if I was now amune and I think the answer is temporary the new strains can reinfect us so get your shot when you are able!

Who said Joe Biden was not religious, he raised thousands from the dead to vote for him...

I wondered how long some of our Political leaders have been in power / Office and what they have accomplished???

Joe Biden 48 years
Chuck Schumer 39 years
Nancy Pelosi 33 years
What has anyone of them accomplished?
IMPEACHMENT!

Our Values and Our Principles are no longer tethered together. They are separated by Hatred, Politics, Power and Greed! If you Build on Hatred it will not Last! In the end Justice Will Be Served!

Two years ago I predicted a Civil War. A Civil War could be verbal like what is going on right now, But let me make it clear there will be Outside Rioters Involved. Four Years ago I predicted that a third Party would come

to power. I thought it would be the tea Party. Now I think it will be the MAGA Party. 79,000,000 followers Armed and ready to defend the Constitution. There will be many Veterans young and elderly. Trump fixed a lot of problems with the VA so Veterans got better, faster care. Yes Justice is tipped in the wrong direction, but the American People has had enough and they have been waiting for a Leader, he has come!

The Caravan's really concern me. If the person truly wants to come for a job and live the American Dream, They should be given a work permit. There are a lot of people that can add something to our work force. BUT the ones that are criminals concern me. We have a lot of problems right now and don't need more added to it!

Another problem is adding to the Pandemic. There are also many deceases in these other country that they have not been inoculated for. We don't want our children to be exposed to extra deceases.

I also think that we are being contaminated from within. If you walk through the grocery store in produce and read where the products are coming from. How do you disinfect vegetables?

Keep the faith and help each other through this!



Thoroughbred farm in Wildwood Florida looking for Grooms and Riders.
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School Closer

Continued from page 3

Based on many years of research, including ultra-fine particle filtration of indoor air and collaborations with organizations such as the Mayo Clinic and Cleveland Clinic, Delos has become the world leader in healthy buildings. Delos (www.delos.com) has deployed over 100,000 air filtration units into some of the country's largest public school systems, including New York City, Chicago, Miami-Dade and Baltimore. As many schools' HVAC systems are not designed to filter air particles as small as SARS-CoV-2, these portable units provide a scalable and cost-effective solution to help create safer environments across the nations' six million K-12 public school classrooms—without requiring HVAC upgrades.

“When schools are closed, children lose access to critical support, food and safety, with the most vulnerable children paying the heaviest price. Committing to these upgrades for schools will cost a small fraction of what is allocated, and the positive impact will be transformational and permanent,” concluded Scialla. “We are here and ready to help school districts looking to make change in their communities with the funding they receive from CAA.”

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for March

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

Noon, February 12th

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, February 17th

Seniors Voice of Ocala/Ocala Downtown Products of TomL Publishing, LLC

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YOUR OPINION MATTERS!
Let your voice be heard!
Email tloury@att.net

Bringing our community together...
Ocala Downtown • Seniors Voice of Ocala
Locations to pick up papers

- Elks Club (OBL meeting)
- Library Silver Springs Blvd
- VA at the west end of the Cascades Plaza
- Senior Center 8th Ave
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- Tax Collectors building
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FROM THE DESK OF

GOVERNOR DESANTIS



Florida Leads the Nation in Vaccinating Seniors

On January 15, 2021, in News Releases, by Staff

Florida announces more than 500,000 seniors vaccinated to date

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today, Governor Ron DeSantis provided an update on Florida's COVID-19 vaccine distribution progress, highlighting steps the state is taking to increase vaccination sites and put Florida's Seniors First.

Among states that publicly report on vaccinations for seniors, Florida is the first state in the nation to vaccinate more than 500,000 individuals 65 years of age or older, accounting for nearly 60% of total vaccinations in the state. Due to reporting lags, this number serves as an estimate and clearly understates the total of seniors vaccinated.

Text from Governor DeSantis' video message as delivered is provided below:

Hi, this is Governor Ron DeSantis.

Florida is putting "Seniors First," and we are expanding Florida's vaccination site infrastructure at a rapid pace.

In fact, as a result of Florida's strategy, the CDC reversed course and is now following Florida's lead and recommending that states prioritize seniors 65 and up for vaccine administration.

Florida has now vaccinated more than 500,000 seniors – far outpacing other states

in the nation that are reporting updates on this critical effort.

This accounts for 60% of all Florida's total vaccinations, and that percent is increasing with each week.

Federal supply remains limited, but when additional vaccine comes, we are ready to deploy those doses quickly.

Florida is home to 4.5 million seniors, and I'm not going to rest until every senior that wants a shot, gets a shot.

I was pleased to announce multiple expansions of my office's partnership with Publix Super Markets.

Just this week, we announced over 50 new locations and we now have more than 100 Publix locations that are offering vaccines to seniors in their community, and there's more to come.

In addition to Publix, we have been working collaboratively at all levels to increase vaccine access statewide.

This includes utilizing places of worship, state-run vaccination sites, deploying strike teams in partnership with the Florida National Guard to supplement federal long-term care facility efforts, and partnerships with senior living communities.

Once we receive next week's distribution, we'll be allocating additional supply to our higher performing sites:

We have state-supported PODs, like drive thru sites at Miami's Hard Rock Stadium and the Villages retirement community, that are performing well and will continue to be supplied.

We are also going to expand our partnership with Publix Supermarkets. We want to bring the vaccine to even more

counties throughout the state of Florida at people's local supermarket.

We are also going to continue to send vaccine to places of worship and utilize our communities of faith throughout the state.

Now, when additional doses of vaccine arrive, we are prepared to distribute the vaccine to wider populations.

To our seniors – we will continue to put you first.

Thanks, and God Bless.

Governor Ron DeSantis Announces \$85.8 Million in CARES Act Funding to Address Housing Instability and Homelessness in Florida

On January 14, 2021, in News Releases, by Staff

Tallahassee, Fla. – Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that Florida received \$85.8 million in CARES Act funding to address housing instability and homelessness across the state. The funds, which are being released in two separate disbursements (\$20 million and \$65 million), will be used to provide rental assistance, support emergency shelters, and conduct street outreach programs to connect unsheltered individuals experiencing homelessness with local housing and other essential services.

"As Governor, I am committed to ensuring Floridians, no matter their circumstances, have the resources they need to succeed," said **Governor Ron DeSantis**. "This federal funding will ensure those experiencing homelessness have the necessary level of support and can access the wraparound services they need to get back on their feet and begin or continue on their

journey to economic stability and independence."

In March 2020, \$2.96 billion was allocated to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development through Emergency Solutions Grants to support individuals experiencing homelessness and those at risk of homelessness due to financial setbacks resulting from COVID-19. Florida's Emergency Solutions Grant, which totals \$85,896,094, will be administered by the Department of Children and Families (DCF), the single point of contact within state government for the 27 Continuums of Care (CoCs) and other agencies, organizations, and stakeholders serving the homeless population.

"I'm grateful for this federal funding and Governor DeSantis' support, which together, will allow the Continuums of Care to expand the important work they're doing in communities throughout Florida," said **DCF Secretary Chad Poppell**. "I look forward to seeing the impact their efforts will have on individuals and families who are working hard and taking next steps to achieve economic self-sufficiency."

For more information on DCF's Homelessness Program or a list of Continuum of Care Lead Agencies, please visit:

<https://www.myflfamilies.com/service-programs/homelessness/local-providers.shtml>

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WOCA

TUNE IN

ONE PERSON'S OPINION
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor

The Heart of a Lion, Trump, I am certain is aware of the chance of assignation, and yet he continues. For that trait alone he deserves respect. And support.

This a war between nationalism and globalism. There are several groups wanting control. I know there is a strong, widespread silent militia, waiting. I saw an article they have a store of 2 trillion pieces of ammunition. Maybe an exaggeration, but I know they have plenty. Suspect some of my Tea Party Buddies are in the militia, but they are vey closed mouthed.

Hate to contemplate that it will come to that, but comforting, there is some spark of hope, we will not go down without a struggle.

There will be resistance, and only pray God is on our side.

This is the worst case scenario I can foresee. But think it will be resolves before it happens. Trump is pretty savvy when it comes to big issues.

Biden President: if it weren't so pathetic, it would be funny. He will not be my President, he is too stupid, and too corrupt.

From a Proud Trump Supporter!!!

Dear Editor:

I have just finished reading a history of Philosophy: 1000 pages. The story begins in

400B.C.

On page one their concerns were: Knowledge, Conduct, and governance. At the 900 page mark their concerns were still: Knowledge, conduct, and governance. Humans never learn.

Over the course of those 2500 years, many other points of view have been discussed and advocated. One perspective has been advocated by many philosophers: Humans want to lead happy lives, but alas it has not yet arrived. WHY?

There is one word that has never appeared in the book: Ruthless. Ruthless people call themselves Smart, and feel entitled to rule everything, and everyone, while enjoying a happy lives for themselves.

Recently we read the ravings of a ruthless mind, Stalin. It has bothered me for decades why some people kill millions of people, and it passes virtually unnoticed. A person commits one murder, and it is a major event. In my mind people who kill millions have a genetic defect, or a mental illness.

At long last I have found it, someone named Richard Ebsstein has found it, but has yet to attribute it to this particular affliction. Sounds like perfect fit. There is a study that claims to have found a link to ruthlessness.

Researchers at Hebrew University In Jerusalem found a link between a gene called AVPR10 and ruthless behavior. They use a game called the "Dictator Game". Two hundred students were used, divided into

teams. One group is given money. No one is told they can share as much or as little as they please. The groups were called A and B.

The AVPR10 was looked at closely, and the shorter it was the more selfish people were.

{During the 2500 years, Ruthlessness was Characterized as the smart people, people were uneducated, what did they know? }

The Headline on the article is: Ruthless Gene Discovered. At least we might be able to forestall the oncoming Holocaust. You do know there is one on the way. We will deal with that little problem next time.

Ruthlessness endures. This time we might be able to head it off before it begins. They are broadcasting it. Who will stand up to confront it?

If someone tells you there are 8 billion people on the planet, and the surplus must go. 90 million is all that the planet can sustain. Did you get a free pass?

D.I.L.

Social Engagement



(NAPSI)—Maintaining social connections and staying mentally and physically active is key to reducing social isolation and loneliness among older adults, particularly now during the COVID-19 national health crisis.

There are many opportunities for older adults and caregivers to remain engaged and connected to their family, friends and community with and without technology during the pandemic. Here are a few suggestions all of us might consider doing during this time:

Reach out. Try to call a family member or friend every day, write them a note or send a card.

Stay active, mentally and physically. Move more and sit less. Engage in physical activity such as a walk or online group exercise classes.

Flex your brain. Draw a sketch, write a poem or short story, or start journaling.


Create connections using technology. Use online tools to connect with friends and

Continued page 8

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Sweet Potato Minestrone Soup



Easy California Sweetpotato Minestrone fits the bill. A riff on the classic Italian soup, it takes a favorite that's already loaded with veggie- and legume-goodness and makes it even better by adding superfood sweetpotatoes. California Sweetpotatoes are a great source of vitamin A, plus they're full of heart-healthy potassium and fiber and antioxidants like vitamins C and E.

Serves 8

- 2 Tbsp olive oil
- 1 large onion, diced
- 1 lb orange- or yellow/white-fleshed sweetpotatoes, cut into 1/2-in dice (about 3 c)
- 2 stalks celery, diced
- 3 Tbsp tomato paste
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 1/2 tsp salt, or more to taste
- 1 1/2 tsp pepper, or more to taste
- 8 c chicken or vegetable broth
- One 28-oz can diced tomatoes
- One 15-oz can garbanzo beans, drained
- One 15-oz can kidney beans,

(NAPSI)—Everyone needs delicious recipes with heaping servings of veggies. Whether you're thinking about overall health or trying to lose a few pounds, maintaining a balanced diet throughout the year is key to success.

- drained
- 3/4 c uncooked elbow macaroni pasta
- 3/4 c fresh or frozen peas
- 2 Tbsp chopped fresh oregano
- 1/2 c grated, shredded, or shaved Parmesan cheese

In a large saucepan or small stockpot over medium-high heat, warm the oil. Add onion and cook, stirring occasionally, for 2 minutes. Add sweetpotatoes, celery, tomato paste, garlic, salt and pepper and cook, stirring occasionally, 3 to 4 minutes. Add broth, tomatoes and beans and bring to a boil. Add pasta and peas, reduce to a simmer, and cook until vegetables and pasta are

tender, about 10 minutes. Stir in oregano and more salt and pepper to taste. Serve sprinkled with cheese. For more recipes and information about California sweetpotatoes, visit www.casweetpotatoes.com.



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Love is just a leash away!!

The HSMC is here for you and the animals who depend on us. We wanted to share that we will continue to be here to help unwanted pets during this pandemic while following all Marion County and Florida state guidelines.

As this situation is constantly changing, we ask that you continue to visit our Shelter using the safety guidelines in place.

How can you help?

Pet Food Bank: Help stock our Pet Food Bank with pet food and supplies for people who cannot afford them due to job loss or other reasons. You can also bring donations to our Shelter daily from 10-6. Masks required please! If you need help keeping your pet with you during this time, our Happy Paws food program is here for you.

Volunteer: A small number of volunteers have returned to help in various departments. We are accepting volunteer applications but do not yet know when we will schedule orientations for new volunteers. Please contact us for more information about volunteering. We are currently working on a digital orientation.

Opt to adopt: According to the Centers for Disease Control and the World Health Organization, there is no evidence that companion animals such as cats and dogs can spread the virus that causes COVID-19.

Donate: We know there is a lot of uncertainty right now but homeless and unwanted animals still need us. Donate to help the Humane Society of Marion County so we continue our lifesaving work and make them feel safe and loved.



Bilbie

Bilbie is a 14 weeks old male brought to the HSMC with her brother Wombat! We believe they could be Xolnitzcuintli, or Xolo, which is Mexican hairless dog breed.



Fuchala is a 15 week old paralyzed kitten full of love.



Ninja is paralyzed in his hind legs but enjoys runs with his wheels.

Your donations make it possible to provide medical care, food and shelter to animals in need. On behalf of all the animals, thank you for caring.



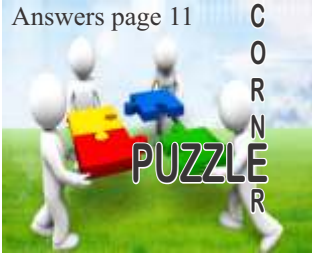
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Donations to the Humane Society are tax-deductible. Check with your accountant for more information. No goods or services have been provided to the donor as a result of this gift.



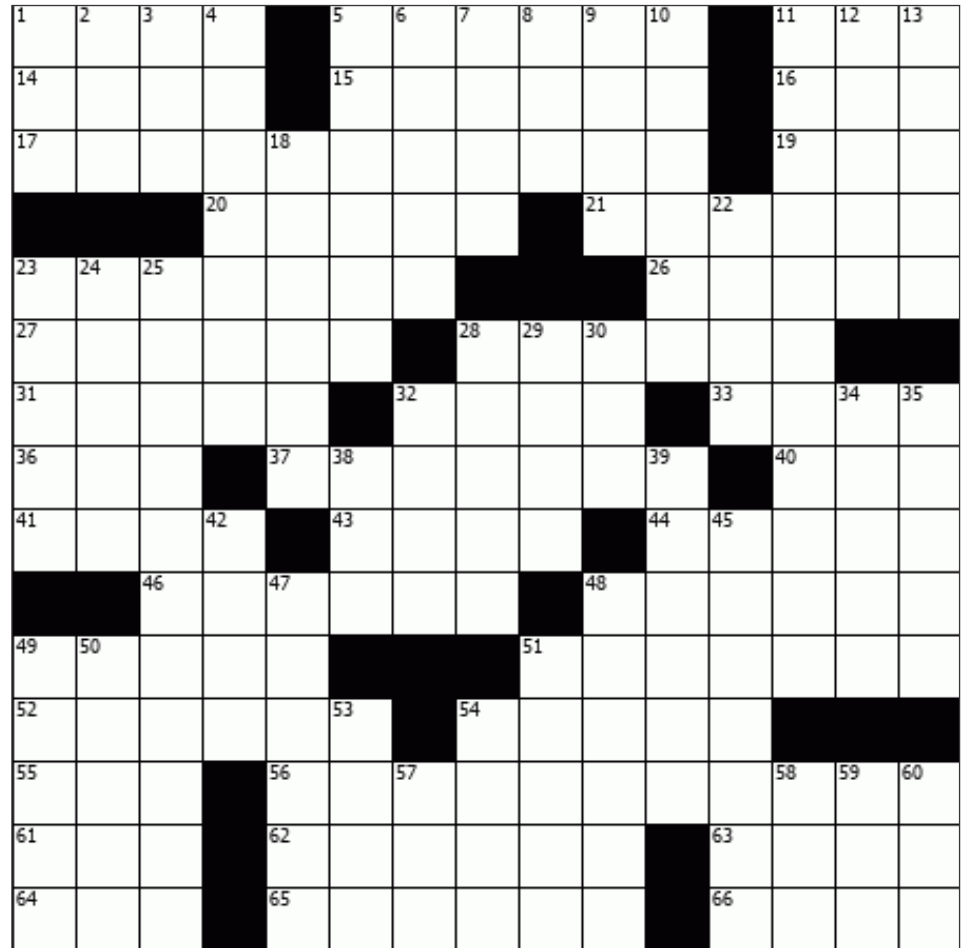
Across

- 1. Sharp taste
- 5. California volcanic peak
- 11. Kind of temper or treatment
- 14. Controversial apple spray
- 15. Dowager
- 16. Place for a pit stop in London?
- 17. Iterative
- 19. Fleur-de-_____
- 20. Choral work
- 21. Professor's protection
- 23. Bawled out
- 26. Light in a light show, perhaps
- 27. High-society hors d'oeuvre
- 28. Expeditious
- 31. "___ we all?"
- 32. Supplication
- 33. Times of note
- 36. Links standard
- 37. They probably think this song is about them
- 40. Tax-deferred nest egg

- 41. Abbr. at the end of a list, perhaps
- 43. Football strategy
- 44. Not easy to get close to
- 46. Official witness, of a kind
- 48. Sentence fragment
- 49. Guts
- 51. Water flowers
- 52. Comes to mind
- 54. Homo erectus, for one
- 55. Classic car
- 56. Hardworking
- 61. Subject of this puzzle's theme
- 62. Seattle landmark
- 63. He sang with Crosby
- 64. CIA forerunner
- 65. Physiological property
- 66. Type of matter

Down

- 1. Creosote source
- 2. Andy Capp beverage
- 3. Preschooler's dread, sometimes
- 4. Troublemaker of folklore
- 5. Hard hitter, biblically
- 6. Detested
- 7. "Look ___ this way ..."
- 8. Sign for a sellout
- 9. Racetrack tipster
- 10. Saint and a founder of scholasticism
- 11. Renowned
- 12. France's longest river
- 13. Short straw drawer, e.g.
- 18. So far
- 22. Scruff of the neck
- 23. Land's end?
- 24. Jeweler's 200 milligrams
- 25. Excessively distressed
- 28. Either of two noted Roman authors
- 29. Part of R&R
- 30. Nibble for a nag
- 32. Serve the tea
- 34. "___ by any other name ..."
- 35. Some are cracked
- 38. 3.50, e.g.
- 39. Cracker factory employee or winter road worker, perhaps
- 42. Hi's mate
- 45. Exalting
- 47. Preparing to kick or drive
- 48. Chopper
- 49. "Super" one of Nintendo games
- 50. Black and white cookies
- 51. Glove thread, perhaps
- 53. Olden dagger
- 54. Melville's Billy
- 57. Place for thieves?
- 58. Row with the flow
- 59. It's in the center of Jerusalem?
- 60. Skittish



Social

Continued from page 6

family. Attend virtual events and concerts or tour museums from home. Read a book online.

Volunteer and share your skills from home. Develop a virtual mentoring relationship with a student through a local college or connect with your local Area Agency on Aging to find opportunities to help others.

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www.eldercare.acl.gov, and national Call Center at 1-(800)-677-1116, the **Eldercare Locator** can inform and connect older adults and caregivers to local programs and services that provide a variety of ways to stay connected to others in their communities to reduce social isolation and loneliness.

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Restaurant Reviews

Brooklyn Back Yard Restaurant. Interesting lunch Ocala Florida Silver Springs Blvd. We had a business lunch in the middle of the month. My business guest order a Calzone, said it was delicious. I had create a burger, no bun. Lettuce, Tomato, onion, pickles with mixed veggies and some really hot coffee! Enjoyed it and will go back soon. The restaurant is located close to Staples.

Had lunch at the **Elks Club** with our lunch group. Had a new waitress, she did a good job. The cook did a good job. All is well that ends well.

COVID-19

Continued from page 1

schedule vaccination appointments

The department is continuing to schedule appointments for COVID-19 vaccinations for individuals who are age 65 and older. Demand for the vaccine has been high. DOH-Marion received more than 50,000 registrations in its week of signups.

"We are continuing to schedule the first 10,000 who registered with us for vaccination appointments. Based on our registration data, this first registration group is almost all individuals who registered on Mon., Dec. 28," said DOH-Marion Administrator Mark Lander. "We are currently able to distribute about 3,000 vaccines each week in combination with our partners."

Meanwhile, opportunities for people who

are 65 and older to receive a COVID-19 vaccination continue to expand in Marion and surrounding counties. People who are interested in receiving a COVID-19 vaccination are encouraged to sign up for the shot with locations in the community as they become available.

"Ultimately, we want individuals to be able to get vaccinated as quickly as possible," Lander said. "Being signed up with the health department doesn't disqualify you from checking elsewhere for other available COVID-19 vaccination opportunities, and we encourage you to check all opportunities available to you."

More than 170 vaccination sites have been opened statewide in partnership with local communities and hospitals. To find a list of vaccine locations in Florida, please visit

<https://floridahealthcovid19.gov/vaccines/vaccine-locator/>

For more information on preventing the spread of COVID-19, please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/prevention.html>.

About the Florida Department of Health The department, nationally accredited by the Public Health Accreditation Board

Contact: Christy Jergens,
Public Information Officer

Christy.Jergens@FLHealth.gov

Online Learning

(NAPSI)—Lately, school districts engaged in "emergency teaching" to meet the challenge of continuing students' education during the COVID-19 pandemic. A large part of that effort was integrating digital resources into remote instruction.



Getting A Handle On Digital Resources

The use of digital resources for teaching and learning skyrocketed during the pandemic—around the world, UNICEF reports, nearly 90 percent of pupils have been learning remotely. That's about 1.2 billion children. Even after the return to "normal," schools will continue to use such resources to keep students connected to curiosity and to bring the outside world into teaching and learning.

An Answer

That's where a unique collection of digital resources can come in. Discovery Education's flexible K-12 platform connects educators to a vast array of compelling high-quality, standards-aligned content, ready-to-use digital lessons, and professional learning resources.

In fact, when COVID-19 struck, Discovery Education was one of the first edtech providers to respond. On March 5, it made its flagship service—Discovery Education Experience—available, at no cost, to any school system. Over 15,000 new schools nationwide actively used it as part of their instruction.

The company constantly adds, contextualizes, and organizes exciting new

content and timely resources to Discovery Education Experience each month in response to current events and the ever-evolving needs of educators. These resources, from trusted partners, are aligned to state and national standards and help educators bring the outside world into teaching and learning every day.

An Asset For The Teacher

What's more, Experience is designed to work within school systems' existing infrastructure and workflows. Through expanded partnerships with Microsoft Teams, Google Classroom, and others, integrating it into classroom instruction is easier than ever.

The system offers high-quality digital resources for all K-12 subjects and instructional supports for educators, including more than 150 online events designed to provide educators strategies they can use to continue student learning during the pandemic. These events reached over 20,000 educators in all 50 states and 17 countries, reports Scott Kinney, CEO of Discovery Education.

Learn More

For further facts about the future of education, visit

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FROM THE DESK OF

ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY



Attorney General Moody and FLHSMV Shift Anti-Human Trafficking Campaign into High Gear

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida's Highway Heroes

campaign is shifting into high gear ahead of Super Bowl LV to enlist more teammates in the fight to end human trafficking. Attorney General Ashley Moody and the Florida Department of Highway Safety and Motor Vehicles today launched phase two of the Highway Heroes campaign, created to enlist commercial truck drivers in the fight to end human trafficking. The joint effort between Attorney General Moody's Office and FLHSMV is funded through a U.S. Department of Transportation grant issued to FLHSMV to help train drivers and raise awareness about human trafficking on America's roadways.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "In preparation of next month's Super Bowl in Tampa, we are shifting our Highway Heroes campaign into high gear. Truck drivers play a vital role in the fight to end human trafficking. With more than 500,000 licensed commercial drivers in Florida, I am hopeful that this campaign will help us rescue victims and save lives. Thank you to all our Highway Heroes, who have been our eyes and ears on the road. With your support and participation in this lofty mission, we can end these heinous crimes and build a Stronger, Safer Florida."

FLHSMV Executive Director Terry L. Rhodes said, "Florida's truckers go above and beyond to serve our communities every day, and it is no surprise that so many drivers have eagerly stepped up to join in the fight to end human trafficking in our communities. Our goal is simple: to train as many Florida truckers as possible on spotting and reporting human trafficking — all to achieve our vision of a Safer Florida. We greatly appreciate the support of Attorney General Moody and each of our partners in this important and life-saving effort."

Phase two of the Highway Heroes campaign includes a strategic multimedia outreach effort targeting the half a million Commercial Driver's License holders in Florida, as well as additional outreach to drivers in the Tampa area during the week leading up to Super Bowl LV. Digital messages aimed at CDL holders through strategic ad placement encourages participation in training on learning how to spot, report and end this horrific crime. As part of the campaign, Attorney General Moody and FLHSMV will continue to push these messages through the end of National Human Trafficking Prevention Month, leading right up to Super Bowl LV, which will be played on Feb. 7 in Tampa.

Last October, Attorney General Moody and FLHSMV launched phase one of the

Highway Heroes campaign. The initial phase involved a social media campaign, outreach materials mailed to Florida's CDL holders and a new website with resources to educate drivers on how to identify victims and report suspected human trafficking. In less than three months, since the launch of phase one, the Attorney General's Office and FLHSMV's delivery of educational content and training has resulted in 3,323 Florida commercial truck drivers becoming Truckers Against Trafficking-certified—adding to the growing mobile army of more than 1 million transportation professionals nationwide that are able to assist law enforcement in the recognition and reporting of human trafficking. Highway Heroes is one of the many human trafficking prevention efforts Attorney General Moody has initiated as Chair of the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking. The council consists of 15 members from law enforcement, prosecutors, legislators and experts in the health, education and social services fields who work to build on existing state and local partnerships to combat human trafficking. For more information about the Statewide Council on Human Trafficking, go to MyFloridaLegal.com.

Commercial truck drivers are not the only Floridians who can gear up to combat human trafficking. Join the fight by learning how to spot and stop human trafficking at YouCanStopHT.com.

Anyone who suspects cases of human trafficking can contact local law enforcement and call the National Human Trafficking Hotline at 1(888) 373-7888.

BACK THE BLUE ALERT: Attorney General Moody Recognizes Three FHP Troopers for Saving Car Crash Victim from Fire

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody today presented Back the Blue Awards to Florida Highway Patrol Troopers Brian Clary, Chris Folsom and David Smith for their life-saving actions in rescuing a car crash victim from a burning vehicle.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "I am so proud of the quick thinking and life-saving work of Troopers Brian Clary, Chris Folsom and David Smith at the scene of a traffic crash along I-10 in North Florida. These heroes know firsthand the many inherent dangers of responding to a traffic crash and the subsequent dangers of secondary collisions as a result. They did not allow the added personal dangers for everyone in the immediate area to deter them from attending to victims in need.

"All three Troopers put their own lives at risk and subjected themselves to the raging flames inside of a vehicle in an attempt to save a motorist. Because of the immediate actions of these heroes, a life was saved.

Thank you, Troopers Clary, Folsom and Smith, for your bravery and for dedicating your careers to the protection of others. I am grateful for each of you. Florida is a safer and stronger state because of your service."

Director of the Florida Highway Patrol Colonel Gene Spaulding said, "I am honored to serve with dedicated and courageous troopers like Trooper David Smith, Trooper Brian Clary, and Trooper Chris Folsom, who selflessly put their lives on the line and rescued Mr. Dwayne Greenhill from great peril. The Florida Highway Patrol is grateful to Attorney General Moody for honoring and recognizing these heroic troopers."

On Oct. 29, 2020, Troopers Clary, Folsom and Smith responded to a traffic crash on I-10 when a second crash occurred at the scene. The second crash resulted in a vehicle being pushed off the roadway—pinning the car between a tractor trailer and a tree. The tractor trailer then caught fire and spread to the vehicle.

The vehicle's driver, Dwayne Greenhill, was trapped inside as the vehicle became engulfed in flames. Troopers Clary, Folsom and Smith immediately rushed to Greenhill's aid and began to extinguish the fire while attempting to rescue Greenhill from the burning vehicle. All three troopers continued to fight the fire until they were able to safely remove Greenhill from danger.

Once out of the vehicle, Troopers Clary, Folsom and Smith began to administer first aid to Greenhill until paramedics arrived on the scene and transported him to Tallahassee Memorial Hospital, sustaining incapacitating injuries. Because of the immediate and heroic actions of all three troopers, Greenhill made a full recovery and was able to attend today's Back the Blue Award news conference.

Attorney General Moody has made it a top priority to promote and highlight positive relationships between law enforcement officers and the communities they serve. Soon after taking office, Attorney General Moody launched a statewide Back the Blue campaign. The campaign highlights law enforcement officers, citizens and organizations taking extraordinary steps to forge positive relationships with law enforcement and local communities. Attorney General Moody has issued more than 30 Back the Blue Awards since taking office.

To nominate a law enforcement officer, citizen or organization for a Back the Blue Award, or for more information about Attorney General Moody's Back the Blue campaign, go to MyFloridaLegal.com.

Attorney General Moody Recovers Funds Following Multistate Investigation into Sham Veterans Charity

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody and 10 other state attorneys general are recovering funds from a sham veterans charity based in Palm Harbor. The recovery follows a multistate investigation into Healing Heroes Network, Inc. and its former directors Stacey Spiegel,

Allan Spiegel and Neal Spiegel, and a related entity, Hero Giveaways, LLC—a business formed by Stacey Spiegel and Neal Spiegel for their use of deceptive charitable solicitations, including misleading sweepstake mailers and a telemarketing campaign.

The multistate investigation revealed that the organizations falsely promised to use donations to help wounded veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan receive medical treatments. In 2016 and 2017, the charity also falsely claimed on social media that it dedicated 100% of its proceeds to wounded veterans. The investigation found that very little of the charitable contributions received by HHN were used to further this charitable mission. Instead, donations were used to pay professional fundraisers, online advertising fees, the salaries of Stacey Spiegel and son, Neal Spiegel, and to purchase t-shirts from a relative's apparel business.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "This is outrageous. The fact that anyone would exploit the service and sacrifice of our wounded military heroes to solicit money under false pretenses is deserving of the highest level of contempt. Fortunately, as a result of this joint action with my counterparts in other states, HHN will be banned from soliciting donations in Florida and we will claw back some of the unlawfully obtained donations."

The stipulated judgment approved by the Pinellas Circuit Court requires HHN and Hero Giveaways to permanently cease all charitable solicitations. Stacey Spiegel, Allan Spiegel and Neal Spiegel have also agreed to pay \$95,000, which will be distributed to a veterans' charity that provides services similar to those HHN had represented it would provide. The defendants are also subject to a five-year ban from overseeing, managing or soliciting charitable contributions for any nonprofit organization.

In addition to Florida, the action was joined by the states of California, Illinois, Maryland, Minnesota, Missouri, New Mexico, Ohio, Oregon, Virginia and Washington. Assistant Attorney General Ellen Annaliese Bullock and Chief Assistant Attorney General Donna Valin of the Consumer Protection Division handled this action for the Florida Attorney General's Office.

This action follows similar actions taken by the Florida Attorney General's Office and other states to stop fraudulent charities affecting veterans and servicemen and women, resulting in recovery of donations totaling \$2,340,572 that were redirected to charities that would apply the funds to assist veterans and the military. Three prior cases include a stipulated final judgment and permanent injunction against Help the Vets, Inc.; a settlement agreement with Vetmade Industries, Inc.; and a stipulated order for permanent injunction and monetary judgment against the American Veterans Foundation and Paul Monville.

Go to MyFloridaLegal.com under NEWS RELEASES for the rest of the story.

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