



DAR (Daughters of American Revolution) County Honor Guard. Photo by C. Kay Johnson
Insignia Ceremony at Woodlawn Cemetery 02-12-23 with the Marion

Red Camera Lady



family and friend events that she attended. After retirement, she dabbled in taking wildlife and nature photos while traipsing through Florida rivers, lakes and forests. Her nature photographs appeared and were sold in a local diner. Kay often volunteers her photography time to the City of Ocala, Marion Senior Services, NSDAR Daughters of the American Revolution (Ocala Chapter), the Marion County Honor Guard, as well as other organizations. Kay is also a published author. She has published a short novel called Cami, Murder and Mystery in Okeechobee County. It's a fictional romance, mystery, with a lot of true Florida history included. Kay says that photography and writing keep her sane.

If you ever see her

with her little red Nikon camera, say hello and she'll give you her business card. The best place to see her photographs is at [facebook.com/ckjphotos13/](https://www.facebook.com/ckjphotos13/) or Google CKJphotos13 or email her at ckjphotos13@yahoo.com

Photo by C Kay Johnson

C. Kay Johnson is a fifth generation Floridian that enjoys being retired and keeping busy. She's a prolific wildlife, event, and portrait photographer. She does not photograph weddings. She has always loved photography and began as a volunteer photographer while working at the phone company. She would often take photos at

HOPE And PRIDE Is all they promised them

By TomL

I am going back many years where some people I knew help me understand the process of Immigration. The story starts where a family came to the Promise land, the United States of America!

You could get a job, work hard and live a life out of poverty. I won't put a name on them because some are still alive. An Immigrant got a job on the Rail Road and later married his sweetheart and had five children. The father died in a Rail Road Car accident, where he was knocked off the top of a rail road car, laid in bed over night and passed away.

One of the daughters told the story. She was the second oldest and was not yet a teen. The mother was working any job she could to make money. Taking in washing, altering clothes, ironing clothes, scrubbing floors to feed the children. The daughter telling the story said that "They were never were so poor as they were in America". On the way home from school the children would walk the railroad track to pickup up coal that fell off the Railroad cars. Some of the local people did not like that, why because they were immigrants and poor, so they stopped them every day until they stopped walking the tracks home.

The oldest girl became a teen quit school and went to work to help feed the family, family a better chance at a better life.

Then the second oldest became a teen and she quit school and went to work, So the pattern went on until a couple of the boys came of age and things were not perfect but they were doing better.

As time went on the girl telling the story met a young man and they were married. He was working for the Rail Road as a mechanic. The war broke out and by that time he had built a house for him and his bride. Not big, nothing special but perfect for a simple life. He went to war to fight the Germans he found out his wife was pregnant. He sent every cent home he made for them to live on. His wife banked money being very thrifty. He lived threw the war and came home to his wife and a child he had never seen. He got his job back on the Rail Road and they snuggled in as a family. They were not rich but comfortable. Rich in their lives as a family.

Nothing was given to these people but pride, hope and opportunity.

NOW fast forward to today! What do you think about today's immigrant system?

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PAGES 2 & 5

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OCALA/MARION COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



It is especially fitting that as I write this column on Valentine's Day that I am writing about my Valentine. My wife, Lisa, has absolutely been an integral part of my work life. In fact, I don't know how I could it without

especially if I can be in the middle. Everything I just wrote about me is the opposite for Lisa. She prefers, in fact, enjoys the background. If she is at a Business After Hours, I can almost guarantee you she is on the outer edge.

She will tell you that first and foremost she is a mom and gramma. Roles at which she excels. However, her mother role is not exclusive to our children. She cares immensely about CEP team members and is often the one to put the hammer down when someone needs to go to the doctor but has been delaying. She keeps up with their lives and knows far better than I do what is happening with each. For more than 20 years, we have annually hosted a Christmas breakfast for the team wherever we were working that has become more than a tradition. Each year at that time I begin getting messages from team members in different communities talking about this tradition and their memories of it some going back to the late 1990's.

Lastly, no one keeps me more focused on the priorities (and my ego contained) better than she. I know I can count her to honestly tell me when presentations have gone well and when they could use some polish. She provides another viewpoint, outside the business community, which is invaluable.

Every couple must balance work and life. Whether you work together or separately, I can only wish each a partner who is as supportive and engaged as mine.

her. That is not prose or sentimentality, it is truth.

Lisa and I will have been married for 28 years in March. I have worked in the Chamber/Economic Development industry for six months longer. This career has taken us to three states and five different communities. Throughout them all, she has become the biggest fan of our newest hometowns. You cannot do this work without loving where you are and she has become a fan of each though some more than others (ask her some time about the 20 months we lived in her "favorite").

Leading the organizations I have lead inevitably makes me a quasi-public figure. When your name and face shows up regularly in the news, social media, and you are frequently on stages (not to mention being 6'6"), people often recognize you when out in public. I love when people want to stop and chat when I am out and about. Being able to answer people's questions and hear their concerns is one of the parts of the job that I most enjoy. Crowds energize me

Fallen Short in Teaching Literacy



How We Have Fallen Short in Teaching Literacy -- And What To Do About It

This may be difficult to read, but did you know:

In the last 15 years, 15 million students graduated from

high schools testing below the basic reading level.

One in five college students enroll in remedial reading classes in their freshman year.

More than 42 million Americans are functionally illiterate; they can't follow the directions on a can of soup.

Now, a cognitive developmental psychologist with more than 30 years in the classroom has scoured the research, made her own professional observations and notes from personal experience, and put together a fascinating book that takes aim at what's wrong with the learning process – reading in particular – and has set out to offer solutions.

The book certainly has an appropriate title: *This May Be Difficult to Read*. Within it, the author, Dr. Claire Rubman, breaks down myths about reading, separates fact from fiction, and works to get parents and educators on the right course. Choosing the right strategy for children to read, Rubman believes, is "the most politicized topic in the field of education."

"I've watched my children succeed and fail with phonics, reading, reading comprehension, and learning," she says. "I've seen our collective children hurting, and I've also seen them succeed beyond their wildest dreams. I have such a passion for watching them develop a love for reading and learning that I wanted to share it with parents, educators and anyone else concerned with helping our children read."

Dr. Rubman hopes this book will serve as

a catalyst for change that will disrupt early childhood education so that children of all ages and backgrounds will fall in love with reading. This, in turn, will allow children to learn to use the printed word to think, grow, and challenge the status quo.

This book is designed to alleviate some of the frustration we often experience when trying to teach our children. The book looks at the learning process through a child's eyes to more fully appreciate how children think, learn, and process information within the context of learning to read and comprehend the written word.

To that end, Dr. Rubman offers solutions to combat reading comprehension failure, perhaps foremost the task of transforming one's home so that reading becomes as natural as speaking. Parents must create a "need to read" in their homes and make learning a byproduct of fun.

Dr. Rubman's writing style is both scholarly and relatable. She knows her stuff, is quite thorough, and supplements her learning points with personal examples of the how and why, often using her own family as her "characters." She takes a complex topic and makes it user-friendly and readable so that it can be processed by a larger audience than just literacy professionals and learned parents.

"I have watched some students struggle badly," says Dr. Rubman. "These are clearly highly verbal students, but their reading comprehension skills sell them short in the classroom."

"Will your child be one of the success stories or struggle with textbooks and comprehending the printed word? This book is about inspiring the greatest number of children to love reading and the comprehension process so that they can't wait to pick up a book."

Learn more at <https://difficulttoread.com>. (NewsUSA)



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Florida State Senate

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



Dear Friends,
The 2023 Legislative Session will officially kick off this month, and we are excited to continue our work on behalf of Florida's citizens. We say, "Continue,"

because we have already concluded seven weeks of committee meetings and most recently, a second special session, which will be the topic of our column this month.

Special Session B took place earlier in February and addressed a few areas that required immediate attention from the Florida Legislature. In summation, four bills were filed to address Immigration, Reedy Creek Improvement District (Disney), Hurricane Relief, Collegiate Athletics, and Election Integrity.

Senator Travis Hutson presented House Bill 9-B during Special Session 2023B to restructure and amend the charter of the Reedy Creek Improvement District, which will now be known as the Central Florida Tourism Oversight District. This bill removes the broad powers and authorities of the Reedy Creek district and brings them in

line with the laws of Florida. The Florida legislature found it important that this district serve a public interest and be accountable to the people of Florida, not members of a corporate board. No one gets a kingdom in Florida.

Senator Ingoglia filed legislation that replaces a previous program funded in 2022 and creates the Unauthorized Alien Transport Program within the Florida Division of Emergency Management. This legislation allocates funding to provide for the voluntary transport of illegal immigrants within the United States. This program will allow for the Division of Emergency Management to mitigate this crisis in a more proactive manner and help better manage the current situation at our border.

Senate Bill 4-B clarifies that the Office of Statewide Prosecution has the authority to investigate and prosecute election fraud in the State of Florida. This will allow for uniform protection of election integrity across Florida's 67 counties.

Since the establishment of NIL and the enactment of Florida's policies to govern the process, the NCAA has made significant alterations to their own policies regarding NIL. In order to adapt to the ever-changing nature of NIL in Collegiate Athletics, Senator Travis Hutson introduced Senate

Bill 8-B which removes burdensome regulations on student-athletes and universities that prohibit communication between the two parties regarding brand deals. Additionally, the Florida Senate found it important to ensure that Florida's postsecondary institutions are protected from liability due to routine decisions or actions that occur in intercollegiate athletics. This bill provides robust protections in these circumstances and ensures that schools are not punished when acting in good faith. This bill also requires

that institutions continue to offer financial literacy and life skills education to student-athletes and requires additional entrepreneurship training.

Our leadership team in the Florida Senate did an amazing job of ushering these bills through the process, and we look forward to seeing all of the positive impacts that they will have for Floridians in the years to come. It is an honor to be a part of this team and to serve you in Tallahassee.

Onward & Upward,
Senator Dennis Baxley

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

PUBLISHER'S NOTES



Hope and Pride for our Americans

By TomL

When I was a young lad of 14 years old I belonged to the Optimist Club of Dania Beach Florida. We had all kinds of activities going on my dad was a boxing coach, so you know what happened next. He had me in the ring but I did not like it. Time went on and the other boxing coaches son challenged me and I said I was not interested. That went on for a while when finally my dad said, are you afraid of him? I said no but I'm not interested in fighting him without cause. Well it seemed that was not good enough so we fought the next week. My dad said do exactly what I taught you and you will be alright. He had a few pounds on me but when the fight started he started fast a furious but when I landed a couple of good punches he went crazy which is what my dad said he would do. I covered up and got in

three more good punches in and they stopped the fight. That is what I have been doing all my life. Cover up and come back!

To get back to the Optimist Club. That same year we had an oratorical contest. I won a trip to the nationals, to Cuba to compete, Castro was fighting in the hills. The subject of my speech was FREEDOM OUR MOST PRECIOUS HERITAGE! My speech started out with Lincoln's Gettysburg Address begins with the words, "Four score and seven years ago our fathers brought forth, upon this continent, a new nation, conceived in liberty, and dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal. (It also means women) the speech went on mentioning Immigration, Ellis Island and I finished 4th in the competition. An eighteen year old from Tennessee won but the Grand finally was Batista the dictator was in attendance. We met, I shook his hand but they hurried me out because of my political thoughts. They are still doing that today.

I have wanted to give my thoughts on

HOPE & PRIDE. Listen to me please. Negative feed back will sour our lives. Hope is one of the most important things. I would say God / Family / Hope / Pride with everything you do. If you can't be proud of it don't do it!

Our leaders need to think more about pride and less about money and telling us what to do. First they create a crisis, then they allocated our tax dollars to fix it and then the money disappears. If you take a good look at our current government and it is riddled with criminal investigation. The news media reporting negative news and now a criminal has got an attorney to ask for a cease and Desist reporting. The Tax money going to

Parenthood kills 350,000 babies every year and receives \$500,000,000 in tax dollars

annually.

A man who left 300,000 guns for the Taliban is lecturing us the Americans on gun control.

Connect with your community...



Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for April

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

Noon, March 17th

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, March 22nd

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

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Ocala Events

3rd Thursday Sip and Shop

Date: 03/16/2023 5:00 PM - 8:00 PM

Location: Downtown Square

1 SE Broadway St.

Ocala, Florida 34471

A shopping event to promote the downtown businesses. Participating select businesses are providing a 15% discount and allowing you to sip while you shop. For additional details, please contact Jessica Fieldhouse of Ocala Main Street at 352.454.8793.

Salsa Night

Date: 03/24/2023 6:00 PM - 9:30 PM

Location: Downtown Square

1 SE Broadway St.

Ocala, Florida 34471

Spreading the culture of dance to Ocala. For additional information, please contact Courtney Chambers at 352.871.7244.

Spring Fling OMCHC 2nd Annual Cornhole Fundraiser

Date: 03/25/2023 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM

Location: Tuscaawilla

800 NE Sanchez Ave.

Ocala, Florida 34470

Arts and Crafts Festival, Cornhole tournament, with alcohol, and entertainment. For details, please contact TJ Ready at 352.229.2711.

IRS Saver's Credit

(NAPSI)—The IRS offers an incentive to lower your tax bill when you save for retirement. Many taxpayers may be eligible to claim the Saver's Credit, but they may not

know that it exists. Also referred to as the Retirement Savings Contributions Credit, the Saver's Credit can reduce federal income taxes for eligible taxpayers who save for retirement through a qualified retirement plan, such as a 401(k) or an Individual Retirement Account (IRA).

The 23rd Annual Transamerica Retirement Survey finds that fewer than half (49 percent) of workers are aware of the Saver's Credit.

"People who are saving for retirement may be able to claim the Saver's Credit and reduce their federal taxes," says Catherine Collinson, CEO and president of nonprofit Transamerica Institute® and its Center for Retirement Studies. "Some people may be confusing the tax credit with the tax-advantaged treatment of retirement accounts. The idea of a double tax benefit may sound too good to be true, but both are available to eligible savers."

What Is the Saver's Credit?

The Retirement Savings Contributions Credit is a non-refundable tax credit for contributions an eligible taxpayer makes to a 401(k), 403(b) or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan, a traditional or Roth IRA, or an ABLÉ (Achieving a Better Life Experience) account. In this context, "non-refundable" means the credit cannot exceed a person's federal income tax for the year. The maximum credit is \$1,000 for single filers or individuals and \$2,000 for married couples filing jointly. According to TCRS' analysis of IRS data, the average amount of the Saver's Credit in 2020 was \$186.

Tips for claiming the Saver's Credit

1. Check Your Eligibility

To be eligible, the maximum Adjusted Gross Income (AGI) for single filers is \$34,000 in 2022 and \$36,500 in 2023. For the head of a household, the AGI maximum is \$51,000 in 2022 and \$54,750 in 2023. For those who are married filing jointly, the AGI maximum is \$68,000 in 2022 and \$73,000 in 2023.

You must be 18 years or older by January 1 and cannot be a full-time student or be claimed as a dependent on another person's tax return. Consider using the IRS' online tool to help determine if you are eligible for the Saver's Credit.

2. Save for Retirement

To claim the Saver's Credit on your 2022 tax return, you must have contributed to a

401(k), a 403(b), or similar employer-sponsored retirement plan, or an ABLÉ account during 2022. Contributions to traditional or Roth IRAs are also eligible, and you have until April 18, 2023 to make an IRA contribution for tax year 2022. Rollover

Continued page 7



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FROM THE DESK OF
CONGRESSWOMAN KAT CAMMACK

Kat Cammack



Congresswoman Kat Cammack, Senator Marsha Blackburn Introduce Bill To Stop Taxpayer Funding Of Human And Drug Traffickers Awaiting Prosecution & Conviction

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congresswoman Kat Cammack (R-FL-03) and U.S. Senator Marsha Blackburn (R-TN) introduced legislation to ensure human and drug traffickers cannot continue to defraud the American taxpayer while they await prosecution and conviction. The bill, "Stop Taxpayer Funding of Traffickers Act," comes after several visits to the border over the last two years by Congresswoman Cammack, Senator Blackburn, and their colleagues.

While Congresswoman Cammack led the House version of the bill, Senators Cindy Hyde-Smith (R-MS), and Katie Britt (R-AL) co-sponsored the Senate legislation.

"Over the last two years, we've seen the horrific consequences of the Biden Border Crisis, including the devastating toll on our communities nationwide from drug and human trafficking. In Marion County, Florida, our sheriff's department has recovered bricks of fentanyl with stamps from border cartels, alongside pill presses and sophisticated distribution plans. Our first responders gear up each day to save lives from fentanyl overdoses occurring almost daily, putting their own lives at risk," said Representative Cammack. "Those responsible for trafficking drugs and people into our country at our borders and in our waters should not receive federal assistance after violating our laws—not only is it wrong, but it rewards those who have perpetuated this deadly crisis. I'm pleased to join Senator Blackburn on this effort and look forward to growing this legislation's support with my colleagues."

"For two years, President Biden's open border policies have emboldened the cartels and caused human trafficking to grow to a \$13 billion industry, with criminal cartels earning up to \$14 million each day. Last year alone, law enforcement seized over 14,000 pounds of fentanyl at the border, enough to kill over 3.3 billion people. We cannot continue to incentivize this blatant criminal activity. This legislation ensures that hardworking American taxpayers – already crushed by inflation – are not forced to fund the lifestyles of offenders who are making our country more dangerous," said Senator Blackburn.

"As a border Sheriff, I have witnessed the senseless tragedies on our southern border at

the evil control of ruthless and violent criminal transnational organizations, i.e. cartels. These cartels exploit their criminal enterprise based on fear, violence and greed. I support and commend [the] efforts to pass legislation for those directly responsible in these types of criminal acts that violate Public Safety - National Security and Humanitarian offenses," said Sheriff Mark Dannels, Cochise County, Arizona and NSA Border Security Chair.

Even after offenders are charged with federal drug and human trafficking offenses, many of them continue to live in government housing and receive other government benefits while they persist in exploiting and trafficking women and children or smuggling drugs across the border.

The Stop Taxpayer Funding of Traffickers Act:

- Prohibits anyone charged with drug or human trafficking at our international borders or in our territorial waters from receiving federal government benefits.

- Defines "drug trafficking offense" as any federal offense that includes as an element the distribution of a controlled substance.

- Defines "human trafficking offense" as a range of offenses, including smuggling, transporting, and harboring individuals.

- Defines "federal benefit" to include the issuance of any grant, contract, loan, professional license, or commercial license provided by an agency of the United States or by appropriated funds of the United States, as well as any retirement, welfare, Social Security, health, disability, veterans, or public housing benefit.

- If the charges are dismissed or the individual is acquitted, provides for back payment of benefits to any individual deprived of benefits under this section.

This evening, Congresswoman Cammack joins her colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee in McAllen, Texas for a joint field hearing titled "President Biden's Border Crisis is a Public Health Crisis" with the Health and Oversight & Investigations Subcommittees.

Rep. Cammack Announces Ocala's Assistance To Firefighters Grant (AFG) Award

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Today, Congresswoman Kat Cammack (FL-03) announced Ocala Fire Rescue's (OFR) 'Assistance To Firefighters' Grant (AFG) award from the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The

department will receive \$381,150 to improve its operations and safety, including using the grant for new protective equipment.

The Assistance to Firefighters Grant is one of three grant programs administered by DHS and FEMA to enhance the safety of the public and firefighters with respect to fire and related hazards.

"I'm so excited for our brave men and women in Ocala to have the equipment necessary to help them do their jobs more safely and effectively," said Congresswoman Cammack. "Our first responders are heroes and it's imperative that we ensure they stay safe while serving our communities."

"Ocala Fire Rescue will use the Assistance to Firefighters Grant to purchase portable Advanced Life Support (ALS) tools that monitor cardiac function, blood pressure, and oxygen levels, among others, and serve as external defibrillators—better known as Lifepak 15s," said OFR Fire Chief Clint Welborn.

"I couldn't be prouder of our firefighters in Ocala. As the wife of a firefighter and paramedic myself, I know how deserving our departments are of this grant and I know they'll continue to demonstrate the very best of our first responder community," said Cammack.

"As a department responding to roughly 25,000 calls for service annually, having the

most current life support tools is critical to providing care that leads patients toward successful recoveries," added Chief Welborn. "Thanks to this award, OFR can replace aging equipment, maintaining the exceptional service our community deserves and expects."

In FY 2020, the AFG program administered nearly \$320 million in competitive grants to eligible applicants whose awards will best address the priorities of the AFG program.

The Office of Congresswoman Kat Cammack offers information on federal grant programs available to communities in Florida's Third Congressional District. To learn more, visit cammack.house.gov or contact the Gainesville District Office at 352-505-0838.

Rep. Cammack Introduces CAUTION Act, Passes Bill Out Of House Energy & Commerce Subcommittee

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Today, Congresswoman Cammack's bill, H.R. 750—the "Chinese-owned Applications Using The Information of Our Nation Act of 2023" (CAUTION Act)—passed out of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce's Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce.

The bill requires any person that sells or distributes a mobile application that the

Continued page 7

Parade of Senior Cammack Services 2023

The 2023 Parade of Senior Services will be held **Friday, March 17, 2023**. As a for-profit, your agency can participate in the event by becoming a sponsor.

The 2023 Parade will be held at College of Central Florida, Ewers Century Center from 10am - 3pm. This event has been in existence for 40th years and continues to be a favorite among the senior citizens of our community. The Parade is a show of non-profit agencies that provide a variety of services from social, health, education, and more to the senior citizens of Ocala, Marion County and surrounding areas. Many attend this yearly show to obtain information on services they are seeking or may be in the future.

Many for-profit agencies have desired to be a part of the show because of its uniqueness. As a result, a sponsorship program was developed to allow for-profit organizations to participate through financial support. This financial support is used solely for expenditures of this event, such as advertising, printing, mailings, facility rental, etc. Since the Parade is for non-profit agencies who provide free or low-cost services to seniors, only twenty-five (25) for-profit agencies are given the opportunity to participate through a sponsorship.

The sponsorship is \$320.00 per agency and will entitle your agency to the benefits listed in the attached information. If you are interested in pursuing this marketing opportunity, please complete and return by mail or email, the attached registration form and signed invoice which will serve as a commitment by January 31, 2023. Payment in the form of a check is due February 28, 2023.

Again, thank you for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions concerning a sponsorship or the event, please call me at (352) 456-8679 or email at lartis@ocalafl.org

Continued from page 6

federal government has prohibited for use on government-owned devices must disclose the fact to any individual who downloads, updates, or otherwise uses such an application. "The CAUTION Act is a critical piece of legislation that warns against the dangers of applications with ties to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP). For years, we've known about TikTok and its parent company ByteDance's connections to the Chinese government and their intentional use of Americans' data. Applications that have been banned on U.S. government devices, including TikTok, represent real threats and it is only right that such disclaimers be required for users to know the risks involved," **said Congresswoman Cammack.**

"ByteDance-owned TikTok has knowingly allowed the ability for the Chinese Communist Party to access American user data. I applaud Mrs. Cammack for her work on the CAUTION Act, which requires a warning label for users before downloading the app to make clear to users that the Federal government has deemed the app not fit for government mobile devices. Americans deserve to know how TikTok's actions impact their privacy and data security, and this bill is an important first step towards ensuring that they do," **said Chair Cathy McMorris Rodgers.**

"I want to thank my colleagues from Florida, Reps. Cammack and Soto, for their bipartisan work on the CAUTION Act. This legislation provides additional transparency and advisory labels to ensure users know about the risks of downloading a government-banned mobile app," **said Subcommittee Chairman Gus Bilirakis.**

"It is a step in the right direction as we work to implement safeguards to inform users and protect Americans' privacy. I'm particularly proud that one of our newest Subcommittee members, my friend Kat, has shown

remarkable leadership to get this bill in the posture to become the first bill that advances from our Subcommittee today."

"I'm encouraged to see bipartisan support for this legislation on the Energy and Commerce Committee and look forward to its continued path through the House and eventually to the House Floor," **Cammack added.**

The federal government banned TikTok on owned devices at the end of the 117th Congress. Several U.S. states have also banned TikTok for use on state government-owned devices, and others are currently considering similar legislation.

The bill heads to a full Energy and Commerce Committee markup later this Congress.

IRS Credit

Continued from page 5

contributions are not eligible for the credit.

3. File Your Tax Return and Claim the Saver's Credit

Let the IRS help you file your federal taxes with its Free File program. The program's eight partners offer online tax preparation tools, free, to taxpayers with an AGI of \$73,000 or less. More at www.irs.gov/FreeFile.

When using an online tax preparation tool, be sure to answer questions about the Saver's Credit, also referred to by the IRS as the Retirement Savings Contributions Credit, and Credit for Qualified Retirement Savings Contributions.

If you prepare your tax return manually, complete Form 8880, Credit for Qualified Retirement Savings Contributions, to determine your exact credit rate and amount. Then transfer the amount to line 4 on Schedule 3, which is used with Forms 1040, 1040-SR, and 1040-NR.

If you use a professional tax preparer, be sure to ask about the Saver's Credit.

"Saving consistently over time is

fundamental to achieving a financially secure retirement," says Collinson. "Another way to help boost your savings is to directly deposit your tax refund into an IRA. Saving more now could help you reap more later."

Remember, this important tax credit may help reduce what you owe in federal taxes or increase your refund. Be sure to check your eligibility. Help spread the word about the Saver's Credit by telling family, friends, and colleagues.

For more details and resources on the Saver's Credit in English and Spanish, visit Transamerica Institute at www.transamericainstitute.org/SaversCredit or the IRS at www.irs.gov.

Transamerica Center for Retirement Studies® is an operating division of Transamerica Institute®, a nonprofit, private foundation.

Stay Safe as You Get Back Outside



(NAPSI)—Spring is coming, and as we get out our lawn mowers and other outdoor power equipment from storage to work in our yards, businesses and other green spaces, it's important to put safe practices in place.

"Think safety first," says Kris Kiser, President and CEO of the Outdoor Power Equipment Institute (OPEI), an international trade association representing outdoor power equipment, small engine, utility vehicle, golf car and personal transport vehicle manufacturers and suppliers. "We're all eager to get back outside in the spring weather but I can't stress enough to read your owner's manuals before starting up any equipment—especially your lawn mower."

OPEI offers these tips to get your outdoor power equipment ready, especially mowers:

Know not all lawn mowers are the same. Whether your mower is a garden tractor, zero-turn mower or other, it has a unique design, requirements, weight classification, and other differences that impact how to use it safely. The newest machines have the latest safety standards.


Know your specific machine. Many mowers may look similar but the technology is ever evolving, with evolving safety systems. They vary in design, power supply, performance, operating parameters, and more. Your manufacturer-supplied owner's manual will guide you in these differences. Read your owner's manual.

When using mowers on slopes follow the manufacturer's guidance to the letter.

Do not disable or alter manufacturer-installed safety equipment.

Walk your yard before mowing. Slopes, wet grass and weather may impact the equipment's performance, as well as safe handling procedures. Pick up sticks and limbs that may have fallen to the ground over the winter and any loose objects that

Continued page 8




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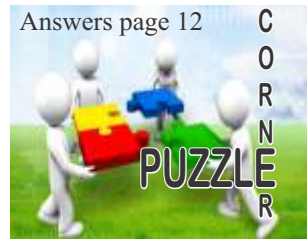
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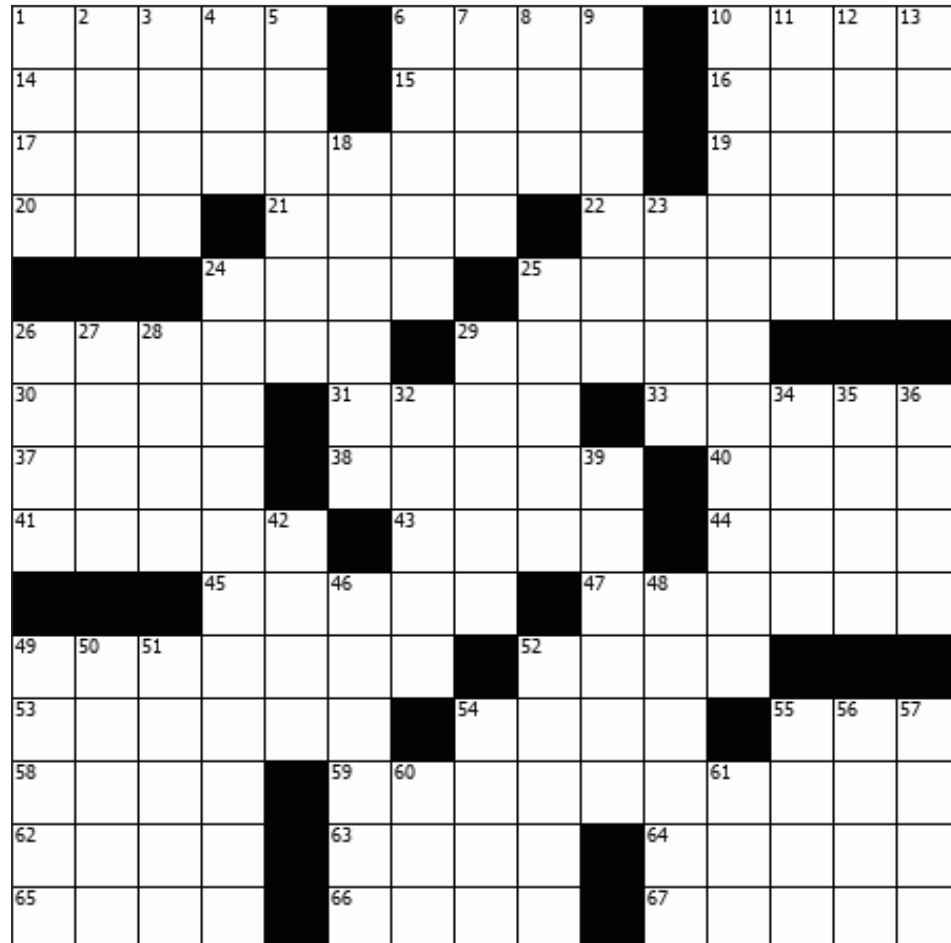
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- Answers page 12
- Across**
- J.K. Rowling's kid
 - Waikiki location
 - Dorothy or Lillian of film/om
 - Open-mouthed
 - Applaud
 - Part of SRO
 - Grades 7 thru 9, often
 - Faux pas
 - Word with set or stream
 - Marketplace
 - Wipe out
 - Runner's rhythm
 - Let it go
 - Royal perch
 - Apple drink
 - Word with forest or barrel
 - Utopia Plains setting
 - Crossed through
 - Treaty signer
 - Nice school
 - Popeye's prop
 - Served as gondolier
 - Places for tanks

- Pierce portrayer
 - Copy cats?
 - Position locator, on a PC screen
 - Business office item
 - Hit on the head
 - Type of acid
 - Wine bottle stopper
 - "SNL" network
 - "Hurlyburly" playwright
 - Dojo student's pride
 - Historic times
 - Major musical work
 - Tile style
 - Word after the last word of 17-, 59-Across, and 10-, 24-Down
 - Shout at an open call
 - Fishing net
- Down**
- Muslim pilgrimage
 - Malaria symptom
 - Go on-and-on
 - School in Troy, N.Y.
 - Naval petty officer
 - Earthy pigment (Var.)
 - Got off one's high horse?
 - Hardly a beauty
 - Sustained
 - 2001 Robert Altman film
 - Acquired-by-marriage
- relative
 - Piece of cake
 - Promoted heavily
 - Flower cluster
 - Show some muscle
 - 19th-century mail delivery service
 - Seat separator
 - Sting
 - Seraphic headdress
 - Very small brook
 - ___ de Guerre (French military medal)
 - One placed in a cast
 - Maintains the machinery, in a way
 - High hairstyle
 - Dotted line directive
 - Do an usher's work
 - Sub manufacturer?
 - Think, Dogpatch-style
 - Like some promises
 - Wood connector, often
 - Royal headwear
 - Held off
 - Run without power
 - Critical point
 - St. Petersburg waterway
 - Squandered
 - Keyboard key letters
 - Zoo denizen
 - Shot spot



Stay Safe

Continued from page 7

could be hit by a mower. Inspect trees for damaged limbs that may get in your way when mowing.

Look over equipment before use. Check the air filter, oil level and gasoline tank. Watch for loose belts and missing or damaged parts. Replace any parts needed or take your equipment to a qualified service representative. Check to be sure that you have the appropriate, manufacturer-recommended batteries, if needed.

Protect your power. Use only E10 or less fuel in gasoline-powered outdoor power equipment if it is not designed for higher ethanol blends. Add a fuel stabilizer if you don't use up all the fuel in the tank right away. Burn off any fuel before storing the mower more than 30 days. Also, for battery-powered equipment, only use battery packs specified by the manufacturer. Follow all charging instructions as outlined in the owner's manual. Be sure to store fuel and batteries safely. Keep batteries away from other metal objects, store them in a climate-

controlled area, and never stack batteries.

Keep children and pets away from machines during operation.

Keep your mower clean. It will run more efficiently and last longer. Always remove dirt, oil or grass before using and storing, and store equipment in a dry place, avoiding damp or wet environments.

For information on safe fueling, go to www.LookBeforeYouPump.com.

For more safety information visit www.opei.org.

In accordance with current recommended health guidelines, If fully vaccinated and visitors can stay socially distanced, it is not required to wear a mask inside of the centers. However, masks are recommended.

For questions or concerns, please call (352) 368-5533.

About Fort King National Historic Landmark

Fort King was a typical U.S. Army frontier fort and a noteworthy symbol of the longest and costliest war America had with its native people – the Seminole War. Fort King is a narrative that speaks of a complicated history as relates to the occupation of the State of Florida and beyond. It is the story of a young country struggling to thrive and of native inhabitants trying to survive. At the Fort King Visitor Center and Archaeological Resource Center are open on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 AM to 5 PM.

Fort King National Historic Landmark

The Fort King Visitor Center and Archaeological Resource Center are open on Fridays and Saturdays from 10 AM to 5 PM.



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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 Xolaitzcuinli, 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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FROM THE DESK OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY



The Chinese Spy Balloon is Gone, Threats to Sensitive Information Continue and Parents Should Dig in on TikTok
TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Following the

days-long sojourn of a Chinese spy balloon floating across the United States, Attorney General Ashley Moody is cautioning parents about the threat of data collection by China-owned social media app TikTok. The Florida Attorney General's Office is actively and diligently investigating the company over its harmful effects on children, engagement techniques and data collection. Attorney General Moody encourages parents to safeguard their children's personal data. Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "The Chinese spy balloon that traveled U.S. airspace this week is a reminder of the importance of protecting personal information. As a mom, an American and Florida's Attorney General, I have major concerns about how TikTok may be influencing children and exploiting user data. As my attorneys—along with federal officials—continue to investigate TikTok, I recommend parents consider deleting the app from their children's devices to protect the security of their personal information."

Many [U.S. universities are banning the use of TikTok](#) on campus, and last month, [the University of Florida sent](#)

[a letter to its faculty, staff and students](#), recommending the deletion of TikTok from all mobile devices—stating that according to prominent experts, use of TikTok raises national security concerns due to the possibility of foreign governments using the app to collect and access U.S. user data.

In May 2020, [Attorney General Moody began seeking information](#) about how TikTok ensures the privacy and security of children who use the social media platform, noting concern regarding the circumvention of age verification tools and the exposure of children to inappropriate content on the platform.

Then, in March 2022, Attorney General Moody along with 42 other attorneys general, [sent a letter to TikTok and Snapchat](#) urging that parents be given the ability to monitor a child's social media usage to guard against online threats through parental controls.

In December 2022, Attorney General Moody and 14 additional attorneys general [demanded that both Apple and Google take immediate action](#) to correct the TikTok application store age ratings from 'T' for 'Teen' to 'M' for 'Mature' in the Google Play App Store and from '12+' to '17+' in the Apple App Store.

Attorney General Moody Recognizes Top Senior Sleuth Volunteers with 2021-2022 Senior Sleuth Awards
TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney

General Ashley Moody is recognizing the 2021-2022 top five Seniors vs. Crime volunteers and the Senior Sleuth Advocate of the Year for efforts in assisting older consumers in Florida. SvC volunteers, known as Senior Sleuths, work to help older Floridians resolve consumer issues. At a ceremony today in the Villages, Attorney General Moody honored the top five volunteers who earned the title Super Senior Sleuth. During the ceremony, Attorney General Moody also named the 2021-2022 Senior Sleuth Advocate of the Year.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Protecting Florida seniors is a mission close to my heart, and I am proud to recognize these five outstanding Floridians who help us fulfill this important undertaking. These Super Senior Sleuths volunteered thousands of hours advocating for older consumers. These Sleuths, and all those who volunteer with Seniors vs. Crime, are helping us build a Stronger, Safer Florida."

This year's Super Senior Sleuths are:

- Joanne Tramonte, SvC Region 1: Coral Springs office;
- Richard Fearnow, SvC Region 2: Lakeland office;
- Kathy Romanac, SvC Region 3: Flagler office;
- Sandy Belinsky, SvC Region 4: Ocala office; and
- Lori Holcomb, SvC Region 5: Tallahassee office.

The 2021-2022 Senior Sleuth Advocate of the Year is Richard Fearnow. Fearnow has served nearly 21 years in SvC, becoming the go-to person to contact in Polk County for senior-related disputes and complaints. In addition to working cases for older

Floridians in the area, Fearnow conducts trainings for new volunteers. Fearnow also leads the region's SvC office in providing multiple outreach presentations showcasing the resources available to consumers through the program. Through decades of public service, it is estimated that Fearnow has provided more than 13,000 hours of volunteer service to the community, working nearly 1,000 cases.

The most recent SvC annual report shows that volunteers directly assisted nearly 8,000 consumers, providing more than 25,000 hours of free services. Volunteers helped recover more than \$1.2 million for older Floridians in 2022

Attorney General Moody Demands President Biden Declare Mexican Drug Cartels Terrorist Organizations

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody today demanded President Joe Biden and U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken designate Mexican drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations under federal law. The president's unlawful immigration policies embolden the cartels who are bringing in vast amounts of deadly fentanyl, as well as violence, into the country—putting American lives at risk. Declaring the cartels FTOs gives state and federal agencies the authority to freeze assets, deny entry to cartel members and pursue stricter punishments.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "It's evident that the Mexican drug cartels are terrorist organizations—they are trafficking deadly fentanyl directly across the border, and it is killing tens of thousands of Americans every year. They are also

Continued page 12

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FROM THE DESK OF
GOVERNOR DESANTIS



Governor DeSantis Signs Bill to Empower Student Athletes and Support Professional Development

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Governor Ron DeSantis was

joined by student-athletes from Florida State University and the University of Florida to sign House Bill (HB) 7-B, revising Florida's laws relating to Name, Image and Likeness (NIL). HB 7-B removes barriers for NIL while expanding financial literacy, life skills and entrepreneurship workshop requirements for athletes, requiring agents representing student-athletes to protect them from unauthorized use and exploitation of their NIL and specifying that postsecondary educational institutions are not liable for damages as a result of routine actions taken in the course of intercollegiate athletics.

"In 2020, we took a commonsense approach to ensure that student-athletes could control their name, image and likeness and be paid fairly for it," said **Governor Ron DeSantis**. "Now that the NCAA has taken necessary steps to ensure fairness for student-athletes, we can focus on making sure that those athletes are supported and protected under the law."

This bill requires student-athletes to participate in two financial literacy, life skills and entrepreneurship workshops before graduation. These courses cannot be identical and the second workshop must include more rigorous instruction. These workshops are an important step to ensure that student-athletes are equipped with the

skills and knowledge necessary to handle the responsibilities that accompany NIL contracts and payments.

The bill also specifies that athlete agents who represent intercollegiate athletes for contracts related to the use of their NIL must protect the student from unauthorized or exploitative use of their NIL or their right to publicity.

Additionally, this legislation specifies that a postsecondary educational institution, including an athletic coach, is not liable for any damages to an intercollegiate athlete's ability to earn compensation for use of their NIL as a result of decisions that are routinely taken in the course of intercollegiate athletics.

The bill repeals provisions previously signed into law in 2020.

Governor Ron DeSantis Introduces Groundbreaking Legislation to Protect the Digital Rights and Privacy of All Floridians

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced his proposal to protect Floridians' digital rights and privacy from Big Tech companies by creating a Digital Bill of Rights that focuses on protecting Floridians' privacy, protecting minors from online harms, and eliminating unfair censorship. The proposal also bans the use of TikTok and other social media platforms with ties to China from all state government devices, and through internet services at colleges, universities, and public schools, and prohibits state and local government employees from coordinating with Big Tech companies to censor protected speech. This proposal is for the 2023 Florida Legislative Session that begins in March.

"Our Digital Bill of Rights will ensure Floridians are protected from the overreach and surveillance we have seen from Big Tech companies," said **Governor Ron DeSantis**. "Today's proposal builds on our efforts to stop Big Tech censorship and combat the malign influence of China through the removal of nefarious platforms like TikTok from any state supported activity."

"Big Tech has gone unchecked for too long and has been reckless with our data, causing major concerns about privacy and potentially jeopardizing sensitive state information," said **Attorney General Ashley Moody**. "I'm proud to stand with Governor DeSantis today to give Silicon Valley a reboot and announce an audacious plan to protect Floridians and keep our children safe online."

"The Governor's proposed Digital Bill of Rights is an important initiative that impacts so many citizens," said **Florida Department of Law Enforcement Commissioner Mark Glass**. "This tremendous tool will empower Floridians to fight back against fraud online, to ensure that the information they receive is really what it seems, and to protect their children from malicious actors."

Governor DeSantis has also directed the Department of Management Services (DMS) to issue a **formal recommendation** to state agencies to implement all necessary safeguards to block access to applications and software tied to China, including TikTok, WeChat, and QQ, from all state devices. DMS will also prevent network connections to servers associated with foreign countries of concern.

These executive actions and legislative proposals build upon **legislation signed by Governor DeSantis in 2021** that required social media companies to be transparent about their content moderation

practices, allowed the Attorney General of Florida to bring action against technology companies that violate the law under Florida's Unfair and Deceptive Trade Practices Act, and prohibited the de-platforming of Floridian political candidates. The Governor also **took action in September** to prohibit government entities from procuring technology products and services from companies owned by, controlled by, or domiciled in foreign countries of concern, including China.

Florida Breaks Record for Highest Visitation in State History

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that Florida had record visitation in 2022. VISIT FLORIDA estimates that Florida welcomed 137.6 million visitors in 2022, an increase of five percent over 2019 and 12.9 percent over 2021. Florida welcomed 33.2 million travelers between October and December 2022, marking a six percent increase from Q4 2021, and the sixth consecutive quarter of overall visitation surpassing pre-pandemic levels. According to VISIT FLORIDA, 30.1 million domestic visitors traveled to Florida in Q4 2022, representing 21 months of domestic visitation growth from 2019.

"People continue to make Florida their vacation destination because they know that in the Free State of Florida, they can enjoy all that we have to offer without mandates or restrictions," said **Governor Ron DeSantis**. "Despite the federal government's attempts to keep our economy stagnant, Florida's freedom first approach has created an environment that attracts new visitors, fosters new businesses and drives our economy forward."

"We could not be more excited with the incredibly impressive record-breaking visitation seen in 2022," said **Dana Young**,

Continued page 12



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Marion County's Internet Marketplace

Moody *Continued from page 10*

fueling extreme violence at the southwest border and beyond. Sadly, the Biden administration has only emboldened the cartels to commit even more crimes on both sides of the border—through his unlawful immigration policies. So, today, I am demanding that Biden better equip the federal government to fight back by declaring the drug cartels foreign terrorist organizations.” Cartel violence is escalating in both countries. The groups are assassinating rivals, killing Americans at the border and engaging in an armed insurgency against the Mexican government. Last month, [a cartel-style execution](#) occurred in California that reportedly involved a Mexican drug cartel.

In a letter sent today, Attorney General Moody and 20 other state attorneys general explain that the Mexican drug cartels are more than just a drug-trafficking operation.

The letter states: “The Mexican drug cartels threaten our national security beyond the sale of these deadly drugs. Over the past decade, Mexican drug cartels have developed well-organized armed forces to protect their reprehensible trade from rivals and from the Mexican government. The existence of such forces just across our southwestern land border, and the Mexican government's inability to control them, pose a threat to our national security far greater than a typical drug-trafficking enterprise. That threat is made greater still by the known links between the Mexican drug cartels and Foreign Terrorist Organizations (FTO) like Hezbollah who already intend to do us harm. Our national security requires the federal

government to disrupt this collaboration between cartels and terrorist groups.”

Cartels like the Sinaloa cartel and Cartel Jalisco New Generation import and use raw materials from China to produce deadly fentanyl at a low cost, and traffic the newly-created poison across the southwest border and into our communities. Since February 2021, more than [28,000 pounds of fentanyl](#) have been apprehended by U.S. Customs and Border Patrol. Some of Attorney General Moody's many actions to combat the Biden administration's unlawful public-safety immigration policies resulting in chaos along the border include:

- Urging President Biden to [classify fentanyl as a weapon of mass destruction](#), and later [leading a bipartisan group of attorneys general](#) in the effort;

- Taking the Biden administration to court to force the president to follow U.S. immigration law that includes a [deposition from U.S. Border Patrol Chief Raul Ortiz](#), who revealed Biden's policies are forcing USBP to release thousands of migrants—likely inadmissible—into the interior;

- Calling for the president to [appoint the Director for the Office of the National Drug Control Policy position to a Cabinet-level post](#);

- [Filing a brief in the Supreme Court of the United States](#)

- arguing that an executive-branch policy allowing foreign criminals to remain in the U.S. violates federal law; and

- Writing a [letter to Biden](#)

[ahead of a meeting with Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador](#) to bring up the seriousness of the fentanyl crisis and demand accountability from Mexico for the drug entering the United States.

DeSantis

Continued from page 11

VISIT FLORIDA President and CEO. “Quarter after quarter, Florida continues to dominate the travel market and our competition, which could not be achieved without the hard work of our local tourism partners. Florida is breaking records despite overseas visitation remaining 28 percent lower than 2019 due to heinous visa wait times and irrational mandates imposed by the federal government. At VISIT FLORIDA, we are committed to building on this growth to ensure Florida continues to be the No. 1 vacation destination in the world.”

Additional highlights from VISIT FLORIDA's latest visitation estimates include:

- Florida welcomed 2.0 million overseas travelers in Q4 2022, an increase of 35.5 percent from Q4 2021.
- Canadian visitation to Florida during Q4 2022 accounted for 1 million visitors, an increase of 278 percent from Q4 2021.
- Air travelers accounted for 38 percent of Florida visitors, compared to 41 percent in 2019.
- Hotel room nights sold at Florida hotels increased by

nearly 13 percent in 2022 compared to 2021. Occupancy rose by 9.4 percent to 70.5 percent, as demand growth significantly exceeded the expansion of supply. Florida welcomed a total of 7.0 million overseas travelers in 2022, an increase of 73 percent over 2021, but still lower than 2019 visitation levels. The lack of overseas travelers is directly correlated to the unscientific vaccine mandate still instituted by the Biden administration in addition to staggering visa wait times. The wait time to receive an interview for visa issuance across the world includes:

- Lima, Peru—831 days
- Rio De Janeiro, Brazil—435 days
- Tel Aviv, Israel—191 days
- Mexico City—633 days

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