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Pictured is Tom and Phyllis Loury holding up the last printed copies of the Ocala newspapers in print, now they are digital. Tom says: We are as close as your smart phone! Prices have been cut in half. Perfect for your summer budget!

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Right of School Choice

By TomL
Publisher

Dunnellon Florida: Saying a child has the right to school choice is BS. It seems Dunnellon Elementary has denied a kindergarten student from attending next year for being tardy four times. The child tested two grade levels above his current school level. Informing him he can't come back was the choice of the Elementary school principal. He can't go to Dunnellon Elementary next year, he must go to Romeo by choice of the school system. The school system has drawn an imaginary line and if you live on the other side of that line, you

come from another world. You have to go to the school THEY CHOOSE!! This student lives 80 acres over the line on a small farm that has been in the family 53 years. This is a form of traumatizing children. I tried many times to talk to someone and they keep closing me out, telling me it's up to the principal of the school, I thought it was up to the state / Governor / right of choice law.

I will tell the Governor to stop selling school choice for Floridians or maybe even defund them until they go by the law. The school system has a form of maze with no help. If you go to the school board they send you to the school board member that is in

Continued page 5



Photo by CKJ-13 Kay Johnson

The statue honoring Molly, of Molly's Law, was unveiled near the Ocala City Hall.

Sculpted by Nilda Comas, the statue memorializes Molly, who passed away earlier this year at the age of 15. Molly suffered severe abuse at the hands of a previous owner, and her experience was the inspiration behind the Animal Abuser Registry. The law passed in 2016 that identifies any offender convicted of an

animal abuse crime, allowing citizens, pet sellers, and rescues to verify abusers.

Since her rescue, Molly lived with Lilly Baron, president of SPCA of Ocala, who was on hand this morning to commemorate her friend. Several city, county and state officials were there to remember Molly and the impact she had on our community.

C Kay Johnson
352-299-3870



The CEP Ocala Chamber of Commerce has their Business after hours the third Thursday of every month. This month it

was hosted by the Paddock Mall.
Photo by CKJ-13 Kay Johnson



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Kevin Sheilley

OCALA/MARION COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



Making Wealth

Here at the CEP we are big believers in Manufacturing. We believe that we you make stuff, you make wealth.

Manufacturing is a key component to

our local economy. We have a strong, diverse manufacturing sector locally. Companies in the metro make everything from fire engines to missile control systems, cake sprinkles to hurricane impact windows and everything in between. With more than 12,000 employees, the Ocala Metro manufacturing sector is one of the largest in Florida.

AdvisorSmith, a business consultancy, ranked the Ocala Metro as a top mid-sized metro (250,000 to 750,000) for manufacturing. The area ranked in the Top 20 of ALL metros for manufacturing output growth and for manufacturing employment growth. Additionally, the Ocala Metro has consistently been ranked near the top in the growth of our manufacturing employment throughout the last few years.

The strength of our manufacturing sector was very much highlighted during the pandemic when our companies not only kept employment strong but grew it throughout that year and continues to

expand.

The diversity of our manufacturing is significant with companies as diverse as Lockheed Martin (our largest manufacturing employer), REV Fire: E-ONE (fire engines!), Custom Windows a Pella Corporation, Cardinal LG's two facilities and a R&D center, Signature Brands (sprinkles), and Artemis Plastics (medical devices).

We have shared broadly about the more than 13 million sq ft of industrial spec space currently being constructed in the Ocala Metro. Unique from many of our Florida competitors, we anticipate approximately 40% of this space being taken by manufacturing companies. We are close to finalizing at least a couple of manufacturing projects and hope to have them announced later this year.

Chief Growth Officer

One of the much-discussed aspects of the CEP's economic development approach is the equal focus on Business Attraction (recruiting new primary employers and healthcare-related companies), Business Retention (working with existing primary employers, identifying their barriers to growth, and working to remove those barriers), and Business Creation (assisting current and future entrepreneurs). Not only do we have teams specifically devoted to each of these areas, but we work

collaboratively across teams to work and support our business community. Leading the day to day of these activities is our Chief Growth Officer.

Heather Shubirg recently celebrated her one-year anniversary with the CEP. Heather has served in executive leadership roles with Enterprise Florida (the state economic development organization), the Orlando Economic Partnership, and Team Volusia where she served as EVP. Heather brings broad knowledge and understanding of economic development in our state and is widely regarded as an industry leader. Heather has done a phenomenal job in her first year and our entire community benefits from her leadership

We are just beginning to see the fruit of years of hard but diligent work to grow and diversify this local economy. This community is certainly focused on maintaining our *Forward Momentum!*



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Florida State Senate

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



Dear friends,
This month we are continuing our report on the 2023 Legislative Session and all that we accomplished on behalf of Florida's citizens. Last month we reported to you on some of

of their education pathway. This legislation shifts focus from systems to students and families, supporting a customized educational pathway specific to each student's unique needs. HB 1 builds on the foundation established in prior legislative sessions and expands access to Family Empowerment Scholarships to provide all Florida students with the opportunity to attend the public, private, charter, or home school of their choice at no or minimal cost to the student and family.

the big budget items. Over the next few months, our column will focus on reporting on key pieces of legislation that was a priority of the leadership in the Florida Legislature.

SB 300 - Recent legal developments provided the legislature the opportunity to strengthen the protections for the innocent unborn children in our state. The United States Supreme Court stated, "The Constitution does not prohibit the citizens of each state from regulating or prohibiting abortion." With an unprecedented opportunity as lawmakers to protect innocent life, and to stand with the brave moms who choose life for their babies, this legislation provides for robust protections of innocent life by prohibiting abortions after six-weeks. SB 300 promotes healthy families and supports parents who chose life for their babies by providing additional counseling or mentoring services as well as providing nonmedical material assistance to families such as car seats, cribs, clothing, formula, and diapers. This legislation provides the moment of reflection for the humanity in all of us to protect and support pregnant mothers and their unborn child. We as a society have a responsibility and duty to protect the life of the unborn.

HB 837 - For decades, Florida has been plagued by excessive litigation and a legal system that benefitted the lawyers more than people who are injured. Florida families have shouldered the hidden cost of lawsuit abuse. Florida's litigation environment has cost the state jobs and driven up the cost of goods and services. According to the American Tort Reform Association's "Judicial Hellhole" Report, lawsuit abuse costs Florida households more than \$5000, and costs the state more than 173,000 jobs. HB 837 institutes the most comprehensive tort reform in decades to decrease frivolous lawsuits and prevent predatory practices of trial attorneys that prey on hardworking Floridians. The transformative reforms in this bill will strike the right balance between protecting the rights of Floridians who suffer a loss, while at the same time safeguarding everyone else against the hidden costs of prolonged litigation.

We hope this information will help you better understand your government and encourage your continued engagement in helping us preserve faith, family, freedom, opportunity and life. It is an honor to serve you in the Florida Senate.

HB 1 - Florida students should not have their educational opportunities limited due to arbitrary lines on a map or their family's income. Before HB 1, Florida's approach to education created a system that limits a student's choice to receive the full benefit

Onward & Upward,
Senator Dennis Baxley



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Tom Loury Tom Loury 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



They have gone to far!
Jackson Mississippi: The Whitehouse is displaying the LBGQT flag. The VA hospital has put up a L B G T Q + f l a g . Congressional delegation are demanding that the Veterans Administration

remove an LGBTQ pride flag from the Biloxi National Cemetery! They have gone to far! These Men and women died defending the American Flag, What are they thinking? If there is a curtain segment Of people who want to quietly do their thing so be it. LGBTQ should not be picked on unless they go to far. We can't be proud of this activity at our Veterans Hospital or our National Cemetery, **STOPIT!**

Washington: Nancy Pelosi during a ten year span made 100 Million dollars, 2008 to 2018, how is that possible??? It is believed "Secret Investments"! Unfortunately she is just one in a long line of many. The exclusive

club they belong to of the elites is for "Personal Financial Gain Except for Donald Trump!" There is no way she could earn that money on her salary. So where did it come from! "Private Investments." Remember she said Donald Trump will never be President "NO MATTER WHAT IT TAKES!"

Whistle Blowers? An unnamed FBI agent was charged and convicted for selling information to China and sent to federal prison a couple of years back. He was in the FBI during the time Bidon was Vice President, he was found dead in his cell days ago. FBI claiming recently they could not expose the whistle Blower because his life could be in danger???

QOUTES SOMEONE SAID!
One day they will restrict your freedoms, restrict your history and restrict your safety. This is done all in the name of professional Victims that don't understand the consequences of their ignorance."
Ronald Regan 1987.

Joe Biden says you don't need guns and ammo!

Donald Trump is a lot of things, he makes up names for people, he is American in a raw form. BuT more than any American in this country he love America. Trump is the razor wire between the swamp and the American people. We need Donald trump!

It is suspicious that testcame back positive to COVID when they were not positive. Even unused swabs? Someone made a lot of money on the pandemic and cost the our people many loved ones lives and record level taxes!. The worst thing is husbands and wives were not aloud in the hospital with their loved ones while they were dyeing.

Have you noticed the police leave you alone when your not doing something Illegal or stupid? If your going to be stupid you better be stuff.

Also you better be tuff if your getting old. It is supposed to be something you work for all your life is to be comfortable, today it is not easy to be comfortable. I said that!

Did you know that some of your contributions to Ron DeSantis election for Governor has been put into his election for President Campaign fund. Is that legal, is everyone just ignoring it?

The nicest words I have heard this month was Nick Nevetta saying what do you want me to do with the interest your CD's earned?

The best words my wife has heard this month is your health insurance pays for your operation NC from Christine Calvert.

Good news Fair Tax will be supplying information on Fair Tax every month. It would be nice to get rid of those armed IRS agents. What say you? Tloury@att.net

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for August

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

Noon, July 21st

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, June July 26th

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

P.O Box 1698, Dunnellon FL 34430

Publisher: Tom Loury
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School Choice

Continued from page 1

charge of that area, then that person sends you to the area supervisor, then they send you to several other supervisors and finally I was told that the Principal makes the decisions. They have the POWER not the tax payer! Where does a person go that has been paying school taxes for 53 years in Marion County? The school Board needs to solve these problems not send a person into a never ending maze. They need to talk to everyone, not three minutes to state your case at a school Board meeting! You need to recognized the state laws or stop feeding the public BS! We want school Choice! Let children get and education without harassment. I have sent an email to the Superintendent of Marion County Schools...NO RESPONSE...That does not surprise me. More on this next month if I get a response from the Governor!

What is your opinion?? If you respond I will print your response if you sign your name and email address. I will not print your name or your email address. tloury@att.net

Pieces of the Puzzle

By TomL

They have arrested Donald Trump...It is totally political, Biden and the FBI/DOJ are destroying our country. Biden issued a

statement that he did not know that the FBI was going to Indict Trump. He had to sign off on it! I think thats the plan. I am trying to piece this large puzzle together. I am not putting them into the correct time frame but here it is.

Obama had records at his home, when all

the trouble started he had his team call the White House library and tell them he had record that they should have. He said it would you money to transport them safely I will send you 4.5 million dollars for expenses. Wala they were moved with our incident!

Continued on page 8

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CEP Business After Hours

CEP Business after hours held every third Thursday of the month. This month it was held and hosted by the Paddock Mall. Jamie Zimbleman Paddock Mall Manager Jamie was on hand shaking hands and greeting business people, nice guy. Moving on Great Food, great music, great prizes and a great way to stay connected. I saw at least a 100 business people I

reconnected with and I met some new ones, talking to a restaurant owner Michael Lutz, they will be opening Hot dogs and barbecue called Crave in the plaza next to Best Buy in late July. I'll try them out.

The After hours was well organized ,and well attended, I'll go back!

Photos by CKJ-13 Kay Johnson



Molly's Law

The statue unveiled near Ocala City Hall was of a dog that a law was written about animal abuse!

Photos by CKJ-13 Kay Johnson



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FAIRTAX



The Chairman's Report June 16, 2023

by: Steve Hayes
06-16-2023 Source: FAIRtax

Supreme Court exposes more IRS abusive powers

diegograndi SUPREME COURT EXPOSES MORE IRS ABUSIVE POWERS

If you're going to have a federal income tax, there are three things that inevitably come along with it.

First, there are going to be people who try to cheat the system in order to pay less than they actually owe. Consequently, an income tax requires a large, powerful federal agency with broad investigative and enforcement powers in order to identify the cheaters and compel them to comply with the law.

Second, those powers must be precisely defined and delegated to the enforcement agency by Congress.

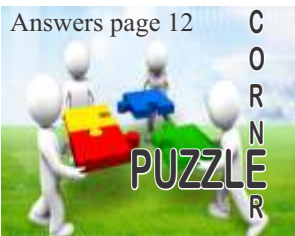
And third, there will inevitably be cases where the courts are going to have to decide if the agency is properly exercising those powers, or if certain enforcement practices are outside the law.

The Supreme Court's unanimous decision in *Polselli v. Internal Revenue Service* confirmed that the IRS has a broad power to obtain information from third parties to aid in the collection of a tax debt without giving notice to the third parties even if there is no evidence that the third party accounts have any legal connection to the party who owes the IRS.

This article on the natlawreview.com site explains the effects of this ruling:

- The Court was tasked with determining whether the IRS, pursuant to powers granted in Internal Revenue Code (IRC) section 7609(c)(2)(D)(i), is entitled to issue third-party summonses, without notice, for bank records concerning accounts in which the taxpayer being investigated does not have a legal interest.
- In *Polselli*, the IRS entered an official assessment against Remo Polselli for more than \$2 million in unpaid taxes and penalties. The IRS then issued summonses on three banks, seeking the financial records of several third parties including Polselli's wife and two law firms that represented Polselli. These third parties were given notice by the banks who received the summonses, and one of the third parties moved to quash the summons. In the litigation that ensued, the third parties argued that the no-notice exception in section 7609(c)(2)(D)(i) applied only if the taxpayer being targeted had some legal interest in the accounts or the records sought by the summons.
- The Supreme Court's decision is based on its finding that section 7609(c)(2)(D)(i) sets forth only three specific conditions to exempt the IRS from providing notice. The Court found it notable that the statute does not mention a "legal interest" or require that a taxpayer maintain an interest in an account for the exception to apply.

Answers page 12



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Across

- Have dinner
- Specialized idiom
- Jacques' "after"
- Lakers' org.
- 1865 assassin
- Dancing Castle
- Club game for partners
- Baserunning strategy
- She gets what she wants
- Wine bottle stopper
- ___ Moines
- Hair on a horse's neck
- They come from a single ovum
- Yale student
- Apiece
- Vietnam's capital
- Castle protection
- Uncle Sam feature
- Highway access
- Dark
- Like a battery in need

of a boost

- ___ Vegas
- "Nothing new"
- Get the show on the road
- Building wing
- Music halls
- Paint layer
- Gung-ho
- Garb for 27-Across, maybe
- Quench
- Scout rank
- Minivan alternative, briefly
- ___-face: smooching
- Mild oaths
- Inside info
- Down
- Conclusions
- Touch on
- VCR insert
- City west of Dallas
- Mythical bird
- Gretzky score
- Filmdom's Preminger
- Louise's cohort
- What you breathe
- Cutthroat sales competition
- Decorate anew
- M.I.T. grad
- Go after
- Stow cargo

19. False god

- Wild guess
- Ultimate degree
- Actress Massey
- ___ for Murder"
- Skater's milieu
- "Hanging" problems in the 2000 election
- Counting everything
- Rover
- Drinks slowly
- Avian Australians
- Haberdashery pins
- Stephen of "Citizen X"
- Knight's lady
- Also
- Xes out
- One of LBJ's daughters
- Went on and on and on
- Norwegian king
- City in SW Russia
- Surrealist Salvador
- Letters after zetas
- Petri dish gelatin
- Forum garb
- Main point
- Fancy case
- "Let us know if you're coming" letters
- "You, there!" 66. Nth: Abbr.

Puzzle

Continued from page 5

Also while Biden was in the Senate he acquired Nation Security documents and stored them at several of his homes. During his Vice Presidency he acquired more Top secret Documents and also taking his son on trips abroad. I assume Obama's knew what was going on.

Along came Trump and turned everything upside down. Draining the swamp working 20 hours a day and not taking a pay check. Controlling the flow of illegals coming across the southern border.

Some where in there when Obama was in office, time frame a FBI agent was arrested and convicted and sent to a Federal Prison for selling secrets to other countries. Remember this guy he will show up again.

Hunter Biden in one of his drunken / drug related incidents left his Laptop in a repair shop. The whole thing starts to take shape. For years after the FBI authenticated it was Hunter Biden's laptop, they was told to slow walk it and wait till the election was over because it would not look good for the Biden's. They did and kept sending a message to the people of the World about Russia Collusion. Until Trump lost the election.

Today they are talking about Whistle Blower with a lot of Intregrity and a well known person has a document that proves that President Joe Biden took a bribe and the document has been shown to the Congress.

Remember the ex-FBI agent that went to prison??? He was found dead in his cell recently while all this whistle blower talk was going on. I wonder if he knew to much?

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OCALA DOWNTOWN MARKET

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



Interested in becoming a vendor?
Visit www.ManageMyMarket.com



CALLING ALL Volunteers!

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TO VIEW OUR CURRENT
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FOR MORE INFO, VISIT OUR
WEBSITE AT HABITATOCALA.ORG



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.



Humane Society of Marion County
PO Box 1542 Ocala, FL 34478
Mail check or complete the credit/debit card payment form.



Name: _____ Phone: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____ Payment enclosed: \$ _____

Visa M/C Discover Card # _____ Exp date: _____ Code: _____

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.

FROM THE DESK OF
ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY



ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY'S STATEWIDE PROSECUTORS CHARGE HUMAN TRAFFICKER FOR COERCING WOMEN AND

several years. In the operation, Gutman used physical and sexual violence, threats and emotional and financial manipulation to coerce women to engage in commercial sex acts for Gutman's own profit. The investigation also uncovered that Gutman trafficked a 16-year-old girl, forcing the teen to engage in exotic dancing and commercial sex acts.

TEEN INTO SEX TRADE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody's Office of Statewide Prosecution is charging a human trafficker with multiple felonies for coercing women and a teenager into sex work for the trafficker's personal gain. The Boca Raton Police Department arrested Brandon Gutman on charges of human trafficking of a minor and human trafficking of an adult. According to the investigation, Gutman withheld all money and identification documents from the women, and knowingly trafficked a 16-year-old girl.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "This human trafficker kept women under his control with physical abuse and by withholding all their identification documents. He then forced them into sex work for his own financial profit, including knowingly trafficking a young 16-year-old girl. Thanks to the bravery of the survivors working with authorities and the investigative efforts of law enforcement, this predator will now face my Statewide Prosecutors."

According to a joint investigation by BRPD, the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office's Human Trafficking Task Force and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Gutman ran a trafficking operation for

Attorney General Moody's Statewide Prosecutors charged Gutman with one count of human trafficking of a minor for commercial sexual activity; a first-degree felony, two counts of human trafficking of an adult for commercial sexual activity; first-degree felonies, and several other related charges.

If convicted, Gutman faces a life sentence. Attorney General Moody's Assistant Statewide Prosecutor Joshua Dockus will prosecute the case.

If you have been victimized by Gutman please contact the Boca Raton Police Department at (561) 368-6201, or the Palm Beach County Human Trafficking Task Force at (561) 687-6833.

To report suspected trafficking to Florida law enforcement, call the statewide Human Trafficking Tip Line at 1(855) FLA-SAFE.

JURY DUTY SCAMS ON THE RISE

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody is issuing a Consumer Alert warning Floridians about an increase in jury duty scams. In these scams, an imposter will call a target about missing jury duty, then threaten the potential victim with jail time if a fine is not paid. A recent [news report](#) from Miami-Dade County states that authorities there are

seeing an alarming number of jury duty scams.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "This scam is so troubling because the scammer on the phone will threaten a victim with potential jail time if a fine is not paid. Floridians should know that failing to report for jury duty is not grounds for immediate arrest, and court officials will never demand payment over the phone. By being aware of how to avoid this increasingly common scam, we can build a Stronger, Safer Florida."

To avoid jury duty scams, Floridians should know that:

- A jury duty summons will never be delivered over the phone; it will always come via mail. Also, officials will not call regarding a summons if a person did not receive a summons in the mail;
- Court officials will not demand payment over the phone, nor ask that

payment be wired or made through a gift card. A tell-tale sign of a jury scam is a caller aggressively demanding payment;

• Personal or financial information should never be given to strangers, especially over the phone;

• Caller IDs may be spoofed to appear to be coming from a law enforcement agency or other government entity, so be cautious of caller ID—even if it looks like a real source; and

• If there is a valid jury duty issue, contact a local court clerk's office directly.

[The Florida Bar](#) reminds Floridians to be cautious over the phone and remember that an authentic jury summons will only ever come in the mail from the United States Postal Service.

Report suspected jury duty scams to law enforcement, as well as to the local county clerk's office using the [Florida Clerks website](#).

Ocala Veterinary Wellness Services

Physical Exam <i>required</i>	\$25
Dog/cat one year rabies vaccination (over 3 months old)	\$14
Dog/puppy distemper/parvo 5 way vaccination combo	\$20
Dog/puppy kennel cough/bordetella intranasal vaccine	\$22
Cat/kitten distemper 3 way vaccination combo	\$20
Canine heartworm test	\$25
Fecal analysis (intestinal parasite worms)	\$25

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FROM THE DESK OF
GOVERNOR DESANTIS



"Governor Ron DeSantis Announces Florida's Unemployment Rate Remains Lowest Among 10 Largest States in the Nation for the Twelfth

Consecutive Month

On June 16, 2023, in [News Releases](#), by Staff

Florida's unemployment rate remains lower than the nation's for 31 consecutive months since November 2020

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced that Florida's unemployment rate remains the lowest among the 10 largest states in the nation for the twelfth consecutive month. In May 2023, Florida's unemployment rate remained at 2.6 percent for the fifth consecutive month. Florida's statewide unemployment rate of 2.6 percent was 1.1 percentage points below the national rate of 3.7 percent. In May 2023, Florida's private sector employment increased by 17,200 jobs from the previous month, and by 323,400 jobs (3.9 percent) over the year, faster than the nation's private sector job growth rate of 2.7 percent during the same time period.

"Florida's unemployment rate has remained the lowest of the 10 largest states for an entire year —further proof that our Freedom First policies have strengthened our economy," said **Governor Ron DeSantis**. "Florida will continue to protect taxpayers, foster new business formations,

and maintain a responsible budget."

"Under Governor DeSantis' leadership, Florida's economy continues to encourage both job seekers and job creators, with a private sector job growth rate exceeding the nation's for 26 consecutive months," said **J. Alex Kelly, Secretary of the Florida Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO)**. "Florida's economy continues to thrive under the leadership of Governor DeSantis, with unemployment at a consistently low rate of 2.6 percent and labor force growth at 2.3 percent."

In May 2023, Florida's labor force grew by 246,000 (+2.3 percent) over the year since May 2022, faster than the national labor force growth rate of 1.5 percent during the same time period. Over the month in May 2023, Florida's labor force grew by 38,000 jobs (+0.3 percent), which is triple the nation's labor force growth rate of 0.1 percent during the same time period. Florida's over-the-year private sector job growth rate has exceeded the nation's for 26 consecutive months. In May 2023, total private sector employment increased by 17,200 over the month, an increase of 0.2 percent from the previous month.

In May 2023, the education and health services sector gained the most jobs among all major industries, adding 8,800 jobs (+0.6 percent) from the previous month, followed by professional and business services with 6,200 jobs (+0.4 percent) and leisure and hospitality, adding 3,700 jobs (+0.3 percent).

Data from the month of May continues to indicate there are many job opportunities available for Floridians throughout the state, with more than 450,000 jobs posted online. Floridians in search of work and new job

opportunities are encouraged to turn to the [CareerSource Florida network](#) for help. Floridians can find guidance on how to register with [Employ Florida](#) and search listings of available local job openings. Career seekers also can improve their employability by perfecting resume writing and interviewing skills, establishing career goals, and pursuing customized career training. These services are provided at no cost to job seekers.

To view the May 2023 employment data, visit: www.floridajobs.org/labor-

[market-information/labor-market-information-press-releases/monthly-press-releases](#).

Visit [Florida Insight](#) for more information on labor market and economic data. Additionally, the Department has provided a [video](#) to assist users in explaining the data provided through [Florida Insight](#).

CEP Ocala / Marion County Chamber & Economic Partnership
MISSION: To be the catalyst for a prosperous community.

BENEFITS OF PARTNERSHIP

- GAIN AN ADVOCATE**: The CEP is a single, strong, unified voice that advocates politically for your business. *Get support!*
- EXPAND YOUR NETWORK**: Join the CEP & add hundreds of professionals to your network. *Get connected!*
- ATTEND OUR EVENTS**: The CEP provides over 100 events per year, including networking, educational, forums, and more. *Get engaged!*
- LEARN CREDIBILITY**: Research shows businesses who belong to a chamber are more successful. *Boost your reputation!*
- IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS**: The CEP offers 3 monthly skill building opportunities and multiple workshops each year. *Gain knowledge!*
- RECRUIT TOP TALENT**: Find your job openings with the CEP to reach your best talent faster. *Expand your team!*
- GET BUSINESS SUPPORT**: The CEP is your business, one-to-one—marketing, training, development, IT tips & health services. *Attend seminars!*
- INCREASE YOUR VISIBILITY**: Listings in our online & printed directory, mailing lists, and advertising opportunities. *Be seen!*
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- MAKE MORE MONEY**: Build your brand, expand your business, referrals & recommendations pay. *Grow your bottom line!*

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FROM THE DESK OF
CONGRESSWOMAN KAT CAMMACK



Congresswoman Kat Cammack announces Gainesville Fire Rescue As Recipient Of DHS, FEMA's 'Assistance To Firefighters' Grant

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Today,

Congresswoman Kat Cammack (FL-03) announced Gainesville Fire Rescue's (GFR) 'Assistance To Firefighters' Grant (AFG) award from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The department will receive \$47,122 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 Gainesville 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."

"I couldn't be prouder of our firefighters in Gainesville. 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," she said.

"Gainesville Fire Rescue is pleased to accept funding via the AFG that will go directly to equipment supporting frontline service providers," said Gainesville Fire Rescue Chief Joseph Dixon. "Representative Cammack's experience as a Homeland Security Committee Member coupled with her direct knowledge of the firefighting community make her a welcome and formidable advocate."

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 Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Today, Congresswoman Kat Cammack (R-FL-03), Congressman Barry Moore (R-AL-02), Congresswoman Elissa Slotkin (D-MI-07), and Congressman Jimmy Panetta (D-CA-19) introduced a bill to include phosphate and potash on the final list of critical minerals of the Department of the Interior.

"A nation that cannot feed itself is not secure. Without the necessary inputs to feed, clothe, and fuel our nation, we're leaving our

food and national security up to our adversaries," said Congresswoman Cammack. "Adding these vital re-sources to the Critical Minerals List will encourage increased domestic production and deliver much-needed relief to the Florida producers who rely on these inputs for their crops. We have the resources here at home—it's time we tap into them. I thank my colleagues for their support of this effort and look forward to their continued partnership."

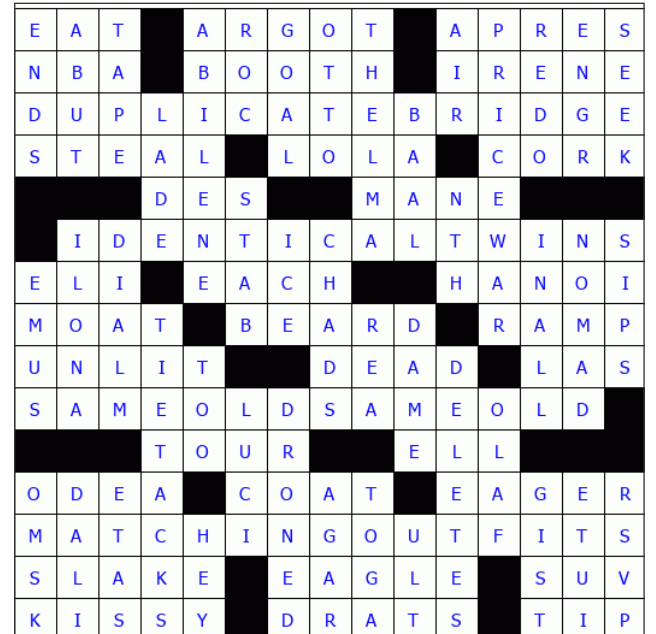
"America's producers are the only customers who buy their inputs at retail cost and sell their outputs at wholesale price. Farmers, ranchers, and foresters in Alabama have been dealing with profit margins too thin to take care of their families," said Congressman Barry Moore. "Designating phosphate and potash as critical minerals is the first step in tapping our capacity for domestic production of our producers' input costs, namely affordable fertilizer products."

"Our food security is our national security, so when we're dependent on Russian and Chinese minerals for the fertilizer that grows our crops, we are putting ourselves at risk," said Congresswoman Slotkin. "Adding potash and phosphate to the Department of Interior's Critical Minerals List will accurately reflect their strategic importance, encouraging increased domestic production, lowering fertilizer costs for our farmers, and keeping

our food supply secure. And as one of the only states to hold its own supply of potash, Michigan is well-equipped to fuel a resurgence in production."

"American producers are feeling the high prices for fertilizer due to the war in Ukraine and its disruption of the supply chains for needed minerals," said Congressman Panetta. "We want to help our farmers with this bipartisan legislation that would allow the federal government to readily tap into our domestic potash and phosphate resources. Despite the devastation and destruction in Ukraine, we are acting in Congress to protect American agriculture and preserve global food security."

Senator Thom Tillis (R-NC) is the lead sponsor of the legislation in the U.S. Senate.



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Serving Communities in Marion, Lake & Sumter County Florida



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