



Photo by CKJ-13 Kay Johnson

Pictured are some of our local dignitaries attending the 50 year celebration of Senior Services! Looks like there was a great turn out. We thank you

Senior Services for all you do and the Services you provide. See pictures on page seven.



Horses 4 Warriors focus on equine therapy for veterans with PTSD in the Ocala area. Ocala, has the community spirit, all while making a meaningful difference in the lives of our beloved Veterans and Equine Residents in Central Florida. They are a non-profit group that's purpose is helping Veterans with PTSD and to raise awareness about mental



health. Singing the National Anthem was Judith Lerrencia and speaking at the event was founder Rick Stevens. See pictures on page six.

Photos by CKJ-13 Kay Johnson

Shop At Home

By TomL

Spend money with your home boys! We have a mini farm in Dunnellon Florida, thirty five years ago we had a local contractor build our house and at the time we said use local contractors later it paid off...I have been practicing "buying home town" for years. It pays off!

We had a electrical problem this month when a short in an out building caused my breaker box in the house to flip and could not be reset. In taking it out we found it fried, it was a one of a kind 150 amp Baker.

It was 35 years old and they don't make them any more. We looked every where and all the electrical suppliers said you have to have a new electrical panel installed. A local company that did the electric contracting was still in business in the area. We explained the problem to them, it seems one of the two original owners had some new parts in the back of his warehouse. He found the part and gave it to me free! It will keep me going until I can afford a new panel \$1500 estimated.

Shop at home!

Certified Chamber Executives

Ocala Metro Chamber and Economic Partnership, Kevin T. Sheilley and Tamara Fleischhaker Earn Elite Certification

Ocala, Florida (August 29, 2023) – Kevin T. Sheilley, Ocala Metro Chamber and Economic Partnership (CEP) President & CEO, and Tamara Fleischhaker, Chief Experience Officer, have been designated as a Certified Chamber Executives (CCE) by ACCE, the Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives.

ACCE is an association based in Alexandria, Va., that has over 1,600

chambers of commerce and related business and economic development organizations as members, representing more than 9,000 professionals in the industry. The CCE program assesses and tests the applicant's knowledge of core chamber management areas —management, planning and development, membership, communications and revenue and operations.

"These chamber leaders invested many hours over the past year to earn their CCE designation," said Megan A. Lucas, CCE, CEcD, IOM, CEO and chief economic development officer of the Lynchburg Regional Business Alliance and CCE Commission chair. "We commend their



Ferrentino & Sons presenting their Business at OBL Ocala Business Leaders Breakfast meeting. They are a local builder that has a very large following.

They support OBL and many other organizations. Congratulations Ferrentino and Sons!

pursuit of professional excellence and commitment to the chamber industry. Their achievement sets them apart as true industry leaders."

Sheilley and Fleischhaker are two of ten chamber professionals to earn the Certified Chamber Executive designation in 2023. These leaders represent chambers of commerce in seven states, including Connecticut, Florida, Iowa, Michigan, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas.

"The Board of Directors congratulates

Kevin and Tamara on this important designation" said Christopher Langley, CEP Chairman of the Board. "This certification represents the top professionals in the industry with fewer than 4% of all chamber professionals having earned their certification. The CEP is one of only a dozen chambers in the nation with two CCEs on staff and the only Florida chamber with this distinction."

Learn more about ACCE's CCE program by visiting www.ACCE.org/CCE.

Kevin Sheilley

OCALA/MARION COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



What does it mean to live in a great community? I think all of us could answer this question with some similarities but also with some differences. For many, access to good schools and institutions of higher learning would be paramount. For others, a broad and diverse economy that provides opportunities for job growth and competitive wages. No doubt for some recreational activities and entertainment would be the hallmark of a great community. Housing choices, restaurants, the arts, etc. would all be components of most lists of what makes a great community. One item that would surely make every list is innovative, comprehensive healthcare. While I would argue (who would be surprised) that Ocala meets the mark on all of these aforementioned items, it is perhaps on this last one on which it excels.

We have an incredible healthcare community in the Ocala Metro. The continual investment by HCA Florida and AdventHealth in their hospitals here is truly

amazing. HCA Florida has been investing something like \$200,000 a day, every day for more than six years in growing and expanding their facilities and services at HCA Ocala and HCA West Marion. That equates to approximately half a *billion dollars*! AdventHealth is aggressively investing in their facilities with the Belleview ER and the new Heath Brook Care Pavilion. Encompass Health has expanded their hospital several times since it opened 10 years ago and UF Health's new "neighborhood" hospital is under construction near I-75. Soon, Everest Rehab will break ground on their hospital on Hwy 200 and 27th Ave. We often joke at the CEP that every month we are doing either a ground-breaking or a ribbon cutting for one of our primary healthcare partners!

But this incredible growth is not limited to the hospitals. Drive around our community and you will immediately begin to notice the investment being made by new and expanding physician groups with new offices and support facilities. The medical professionals in our community are not only neighbors, but they are world-class providers of care.

The College of Central Florida is breaking

ground this month on a new state-of-the-art Health Sciences Center. This facility will not only increase their capacity to train new nurses but to expand into other allied health occupations. Rasmussen University-Ocala has the largest nursing program in their system and Marion Technical College trains an array of future healthcare related professionals.

Most importantly, healthcare in our community has matured to the point that besides transplant services or experimental services, the care you need can be obtained here at advanced facilities providing leading-edge care. More personally, as a husband, father, and now grandfather, knowing that those I love can receive vital care without ever leaving our home is beyond important. To me, this fact is what truly makes our community great.

About CEP

The Ocala Metro Chamber and Economic Partnership

The Ocala Metro Chamber and Economic Partnership (CEP) was created to be a one-stop hub for the community's business

attraction, creation and retention efforts. The CEP's mission is to be THE catalyst for a prosperous community. The 2020 ACCE National Chamber of the Year, the CEP has directly impacted the announced creation of nearly 11,000 new jobs and more than \$1.6 billion in capital investment and is seeking an additional 5,000 jobs and \$1 billion in investment by 2027. For more information, visit: www.OcalaCEP.com.

About ACCE

The Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives

Association of Chamber of Commerce Executives (ACCE) is the professional society supporting the women and men who lead local, regional, statewide and international chambers of commerce and related business and economic development organizations. Our membership includes more than 1,600 business/civic organizations worldwide. We provide our members with information resources, thought leadership, education programs, original research, benchmarking, retirement security, and access to a network of peers.

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Ocala Business Leaders
352-502-3811

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Dog/puppy kennel cough/bordetella intranasal vaccine	\$22
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Florida State Senate

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



Dear Friends,
We sincerely hope that all of you made it safely through Hurricane Idalia. As we near the end of hurricane season, we have officially made it to the beginning of committee

meetings, which started on October 9th. As a reminder, The committees that I have been assigned to are Agriculture, Appropriations, Appropriations Committee on Criminal and Civil Justice, Appropriations Committee on Health and Human Services, Children, Families, and Elder Affairs, Community Affairs, Military and Veterans Affairs, Space, and Domestic Security, and Rules.

To better prepare for the upcoming legislative session, the Lake County Legislative Delegation held their annual legislative delegation meeting on August 22nd. This annual public meeting is an opportunity for citizens, elected officials, cities and local governments, and other civic organizations to address the delegation before the start of the next legislative session. This meeting was inspiring and fruitful. It is always encouraging to see the community come together to express their ideas and to take an active part in their government. Since Senate District 13 covers all of Lake County and West Orange

County, we will also be attending the Orange County Legislative Delegation meeting on November 29th for further insight into the concerns and needs of our constituents.

On another note, we have begun the implementation of one of the many important pieces of legislation that was passed during the 2023 Legislative Session – House Bill 1: Education. In a show of good faith, incorporating recommendations from the Florida Association of District School Superintendents, led by former Senator Bill Montford, this bill took the first step towards reducing onerous and excessive regulations on public schools with several immediate revisions to Florida's Education Code. For example, the bill reduces hurdles to a 5-year temporary teacher certificate for anyone with a bachelor's degree and for those with three years of effective or highly effective service. The bill repeals the requirement that a student take one online course in order to graduate from high school, which is not currently required in private schools. The bill also offers districts flexibility in facility costs for new construction, and offers student transportation flexibility to improve efficiency, while maintaining student safety. To reduce additional regulation on public schools, the next step in implementing HB 1 is for the State Board of Education to review the entirety of the Florida Early Learning-20 Education Code for potential repeals and revisions to be considered during the 2024 Legislative Session. HB 1 requires the

Board to consider input from teachers, superintendents, administrators, school boards, public and private postsecondary institutions, home educators, and other entities, and that process is ongoing.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. We hope that it will encourage you to

attend your local legislative delegation meeting as well as shed some light on an important legislative priority that the Florida Legislature will continue to focus on during the next session.

Onward and Upward,

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

INVEST. ENGAGE. GROW.

BENEFITS OF PARTNERSHIP

- GAIN AN ADVOCATE**: The CEP is a single, strong, unified voice that advocates on behalf of your business. *Gain support!*
- EXPAND YOUR NETWORK**: Join the CEP & our hundreds of professionals & peer network. *Get involved!*
- ATTEND OUR EVENTS**: The CEP produces over 100 events per year, including networking, educational forums, and more. *Get engaged!*
- EARN CREDIBILITY**: Promote your business with listing in a classified and more economic development opportunities!
- IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS**: The CEP offers 3 monthly skill building opportunities and multiple workshops each year. *Gain knowledge!*
- INCREASE YOUR VISIBILITY**: Listings in our online & printed directory, mailing lists, and advertising support of the. *Be seen!*
- SAVE MONEY**: Get discounts on office supplies, shipping, and more. Plus, other benefits for business resources. *Save money!*
- MAKE MORE MONEY**: Build your brand. Expand your business. Retention & recommendations pay. *Grow your business!*
- GET BUSINESS SUPPORT**: The CEP is your business, one-to-one consulting, mentorship, and more. *Get it right!*
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Your partnership in the CEP is an investment in your business and your community. By taking advantage of the CEP's many programs, events, and services available exclusively to CEP partners, we are confident that you will find a substantial return on your CEP investment.

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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



Bidenomic's has put America in Decline. Biden is not in control he is being used and does not always follow directions. Some times he act's unaware and other times he seems sharp, Hypnosis? He has a story for everything and if

he does not, he will make one up. I believe Obama / Nancy Pelosi / Chuck Shumer and the Green squad are controlling him because they know what he has been doing and he is compromised. He has to go along or go to jail. He has made no effort to find out who or how the COVID started . But he can control the masses if they have to wear mask and work at home. He will say mask for the children at school's. Then the people will vote by mail in ballots and that is what they need to win the election. Just the same way they stoled the last election. Now we have prosecution or persecution? It is easy to see the political move on Trump is TRUMPED UP! At this point most Americans don't care

what they say about Trump, they want him to run the country and the Democrats who lost still have some power and would rather ruin the country than let him be president. HE IS CLEANING THE SWAMP! Do you think they would be investigating Hunter Biden if Trump has not used the words CLEAN THE SWAMP! We the American people need to help him do that. Coming soon there be an election, they will call it that but I think it is a movement. The Trump train is rolling and the Dem's can stand in the way if they want, it will not work for them. We the people have decided!

Hunter Biden has been indicted, do you think for a minute that he will see punishment (Jail time). If he does he will turn on Joe Biden and it will be all over. The level of corruption will be the biggest, worst, act's every seen. I hope Trump has a top notch security team!

We need him healthy, he is sharp as a tack and will dig us out of poverty the first year. Then we will be on track for recovery. That's

when I would like to see DeSantis run.

You hear people say the state or the county don't help. I found them very cooperative. Dunnellon Fl at the north end of the high school road, people have been driving across sr 40 and running into the embankment across SR 40. I called the State Road Authority's and they gave me the local contact person's phone number. I explained the problem. they pulled up the satellite image and saw that there use to be reflectors but they were gone. They came out the next day and put up new reflectors facing high school road because the road is heavily used when school opened. I also called the county road department and they went out and check the rumble strips and check for reflectors. They did some work out there right away. Each of the contacts got back to me and informed me on what they found and what they did. I found them very helpful!

My sons business "Loury Land Services" went to the aid of someone in Live Oak. They have all American made equipment John Deere excavator, Skid Steer, Dump Trailer, 4 wheel drive JohnDeere tractor with grapple on front, John Deere Bulldozer and all the attachments that go with the equipment. They went to the aid of someone, the National Guard would not let them in. They did finally get the resident out of his home who had been trap in for days. They are up there trying to help, I suggested talking go the local Sheriff. We'll see how this all works out, but they are and trying to help.

Great phone call yesterday, Nick Navetta of Edward Jones called and ask what do you want me to do with this interest check? The money we earn on our CD's continue to earn more than the bank's. Thank you Nick! Nick is a trusted friend call Nick, see the ad in this paper.

Continued page 5

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for November

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown
Noon, October 20th

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator
12am, October 25th

FREE ESTIMATES 622-5748

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FAIRTax



I've often heard people say that the FAIRtax is unfair to the poor and the wealthy won't pay their fair share. That is NOT true. I've also heard that it is unfair that the wealthy get the same prebate as everyone else. Again, NOT true. Let's also remember that the "net" tax rate differs greatly from your "effective" tax rate (the rate you actually pay).

Let's look at a billionaire under the FAIRtax and assume he is married with no children. If he spends \$10,000,000 he is paying \$2,300,000 in taxes and gets a prebate of \$4,697 then his effective tax rate as a percentage of spending is 22.95 percent.

Now let's look at a middle-income married couple with no children under the FAIRtax. If they spend \$50,000 they pay \$6,803 net of their prebate for an effective rate of 13.6 percent. The effective rate increases as spending increases, but never exceeds 23 percent.

In contrast, if the same couple earns \$50,000 in wages today under the current

income tax system, they pay \$4,093 in income taxes and \$3,825 in payroll taxes for a total of \$7,918 or 15.8 percent. That's a tax burden 14.1 percent higher than under the FAIRtax. In addition, their employer pays another \$3,825 in payroll taxes. Most economists agree that the employer payroll tax is actually borne by the employees in the form of lower wages. Looking at it this way, this couple is paying \$11,743 (23.5 percent) in taxes today which does not include the hidden taxes they pay every time they purchase an item.

Finally, let's look at a low-income couple that spends at the poverty level under the FAIRtax. They pay no net FAIRtax at all as the prebate effectively eliminates their taxes on spending up to the poverty level. However, under today's income tax, this couple not only pays 15 percent in payroll taxes but also pays the hidden taxes arising from corporate taxes, private sector compliance costs and payroll taxes passed on to consumers and embedded in the price of everything they buy.

The FAIRtax is fair to all levels of income. To learn more go to FAIRtax.org.

Publisher's Notes

Continued from page 4

Good news again Christine Calvert has block out some half page ads for the next three months and maybe more. Christine is a trust friend and my Healthcare Insurance provider. Christine says there are some new things coming (Positive benefits) that she can't talk about until they are announced. If you need to ask for advise about healthcare check the Humana ad in this paper. Christine is an independent Healthcare broker.

FairTax continues with us in the newspaper. Elaine Maiellaro is my contact person. Thank you Elaine.

I say keep your friends close to you! THANK YOU FOR ALL YOU GUYS DO!

TomL

YOUR OPINION MATTERS!

Email tloury@att.net

Mission BBQ

Mission BBQ (stylized as MISSION BBQ) is an American barbecue restaurant chain based in Glen Burnie, Maryland. Bill Kraus and Steve Newton opened the first location on September 11, 2011, as a way to support the military, police, firefighters, and first responders.

I must have been a sleep at the wheel. I have never been to Mission BBQ. When I try to tell people about my new experience at Mission BBQ they they have already been there. I thought it was a best kept secret. It was not! I had the best brisket on a bun than I have had in years. You could get it wet or lean. The wet had some marbling and was very moist and tender, I will do that again. I will go online and see what else they have to offer but the people were friendly, the service was out of sight and the food was over the wall.

Light Up Ocala

Saturday, November 18, 2023

Downtown Ocala 4 - 9 PM

About Light Up Ocala

Light Up Ocala is a longstanding community tradition to kick off the holidays that attracts thousands to downtown Ocala. This year marks the 39th anniversary of the holiday merry making event!

Light Up Ocala will have over 100 vendors including crafts, art and plenty of food options to choose from! Live entertainment will fill the air with festive sounds and an interactive kids zone will keep the whole family entertained. You won't want to miss the Junior Sunshine holiday parade with a special appearance by Santa. All of which culminates in the most exciting part of the event: lighting up downtown Ocala!



Friday, Oct 6 - "Hotel Transylvania" starts at 7 PM at Citizens' Circle
Dracula, who operates a high-end resort away from the human world, goes into overprotective mode when a boy discovers the resort and falls for the count's teenage daughter. Runtime 91 mins
Rated PG

CKJ Photos 13

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Your cost (not including tax)	\$579.90	\$529.90	\$579.90	\$349.94

Horses 4 Warriors

Photos by CKJ-13 Kay Johnson

Horses 4 Warriors focus on equine therapy for veterans with PTSD in the Ocala area. Ocala, has the community spirit, all while making a meaningful difference in the lives of our beloved Veterans and Equine Residents in Central Florida. They are a non-profit group that's purpose is helping Veterans with PTSD and to raise awareness about mental health.

The event started with the Color Guard and Judith Larrence singing the National Anthem. What a great voice singing a great song! Thank You Judith. The event was held at the Ocala Downtown Market. Rick Stevens started the nonprofit just a few months ago, to focus on equine therapy for veterans with PTSD. He said this was the organization's first major event in Ocala. Rick dedicated the event to Billy Rowe. Rick

said they may try to have the next event at Veteran park. Veteran form a bond with the horses and it's a traumatic experience. I would say in some cases life saving connection they may not have ever felt in their life,". Rick says the issue is close to his heart because he said he deals with it himself. Rick sats "I've got PTSD and had some stuff happen in my life and a horse saved my life," said Stevens. "I bonded with the horse, the horse bonded with me and he kept me alive."

were given a custom set of boards, hand-painted by artist.

One team drove from Dunnellon to help the cause. "I never put an amount on it, if we make a dollar I'm okay with that, it's about getting the awareness out and a lot of people have really stepped up," Stevens thank all that came and showed support. Watch for the next event in this newspaper.



Celebrating 50 Years Senior Services

Photos by CKJ-13 Kay Johnson

50 YEARS! Wow! Thank you to those who celebrated 50 years with us. The outpour of love and support that was in the room that night is such a testament to the community that we are so fortunate to be a part of. The work of our mission is only made possible by the generosity and compassion of those who support us, and for that, we cannot thank you enough!

these beautiful moments! Thank you Tom James, Commissioner Craig Curry, Dr. Hank Harrell, AARP Florida's Jeff Johnson, Florida Department of Elder Affairs Secretary Michelle Branham, United Way of Marion County's Bob Haight, our Staff, Volunteers, and everyone who made this night so incredibly special.

We look forward to the next 50 years!

Thank you CKJphotos13 for capturing



Help Kids SEE a Good Education



(NAPSI)—If any of the approximately 74 million schoolchildren in the U.S. is someone you care about, here's something you may

want to look into: According to the National Institutes of Health (NIH), visual health can have a great influence on students' academic performance. Visual disorders, the NIH says, are one of the best predictors of educational success.

A Look Into The Eye

The eye is literally an extension of the brain. It is estimated that more than 60% of the brain has some duties associated with vision input, the American Optometric Association points out. Because of this, any condition that hampers vision or the processing of vision may result in learning problems. When diagnosed and treated early, however, most individuals have a better chance of learning efficiently.

That's one reason the U.S. Preventative Services Task Force recommends children between the ages of 3 and 5 get vision screening to reveal problems that may lead to blindness without early treatment.

So, many students, teachers, and parents may be glad to learn about an improved way to test children's vision.

Seeing Vision Problems Clearly

A handheld, portable device called the Welch Allyn Spot Vision Screener by Baxter has been designed to help quickly and easily detect the risk factors of amblyopia and other vision issues in children as young as six months, all done from a non-invasive, three-foot distance. A bright touchscreen displays instant results, indicating whether measurements are in range or a complete eye

exam is recommended.

The machine objectively measures refractive errors and alignment between the eyes, which helps identify six risk factors of amblyopia. Select photo screening devices can examine both eyes at once and can take only a few seconds to perform the screening.

Results are easy to interpret and can be shared with family and other eye care specialists. It can easily be used in pediatric offices, schools and community vision screenings. The American Academy of Pediatrics and American Association for Pediatric Ophthalmology and Strabismus recommend the use of photo screening instruments in young children.

The Effectiveness of Photo Screening

A study performed by researchers at Virginia Commonwealth University found that photo screening correctly identified more students in need of a comprehensive eye exam than an ordinary screening could. The study also showed that instrument-based screening is time efficient and can be performed in a quarter of the time of visual acuity screening.

One Family's Story

The Malpass family, based in Washington State, includes two active boys, Miles, 12, and Parker, 8, who love to play all sorts of sports and are avid readers. When Miles complained that he could not see well out of his right eye, their parents had both boys looked at with a Spot Vision Screener. It was discovered that each boy's eyes were slightly different sizes, causing a refractive error in the bad eye. The brain prefers to use the dominant eye, which made the vision worse in the non-dominant eye. An ordinary eye chart test at school had failed to catch the problem. Fortunately, it was correctable and both boys now wear glasses and see well at school and on the playing fields and ski slopes.

Answers page 11



Across

1. Monopolizes
5. Not appropriate
10. Hudson and Green
14. Sword, Juno, Gold, Omaha and _____
15. "When pigs fly!"
16. Medicinal succulent
17. Monster lizard
18. Silk with a wavy pattern
19. Eye infection
20. "He may try to cover up his ..."
23. Possessive pronoun
24. Emmy winner Ruby
25. Nickname of the 30th U.S. president
28. Hawaiian instrument (Var.)
32. _____ del Plata (Argentinean resort)
35. Snooty
37. Levesque of Quebec
38. Use hip boots, e.g.
39. "He may be hiding out at his ..."
42. _____ out (just made it)

43. Raw silk color
 44. Sea of the Solomon Islands
 45. Hanking
 46. Like some modeling substances
 48. Playable serves
 49. _____-Wan Kenobi
 50. Mosconi's pride
 52. "He will hide his identity with an ..."
 61. Cubby holes?
 62. Wee one in Glasgow
 63. Not the best place for a thorn
 64. Social starter?
 65. "The sky's the _____"
 66. L X W
 67. Sounds from a milk container?
 68. Mournful poem
 69. 2000, for one
- Down**
1. Good things to give your kids
 2. Ear-relevant
 3. Lavish celebration
 4. Lamb Chop's handler
 5. Reveal
 6. Gaudy night light
 7. Like fanatical sports fans
 8. Sassy
 9. Ran the old sewing machine
 10. Thanksgiving Day chore
 11. Range between

- soprano and tenor
12. Ma the musician
13. Gets an eyeful
21. Thanksgiving Day chore
22. Site of the first stroke?
25. Shrewd
26. How great minds think
27. Pontti's wife
29. Author Jong
30. Having that doubtful feeling
31. Listlessness
32. A language of New Zealand
33. Spot maker?
34. Lively dances
36. Like Methuselah
38. "_____ goes there?"
40. Trustworthy
41. Hebrew school (Var.)
46. TV network letters
47. Hardly plentiful
49. Desert watering hole
51. Test format, perhaps
52. Man with an apple named after him?
53. He's after the news
54. "Out of the frying pan, _____"
55. Tooth partner
56. Word with store or novel
57. Icebox, informally
58. The Emerald Isle
59. The embryo of an invention
60. Snookums1

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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



ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY CALLS ON CONGRESS TO INVESTIGATE AI AND CHILD EXPLOITATION

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody is calling on the U.S. Congress to study artificial intelligence and the technology's potential harmful effects on children.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "The rapid onset of artificial intelligence is raising concerns about how child predators may use the high-tech tool to prey on minors.

Attorney General Moody and the coalition are concerned with the dangers of AI as it relates to CSAM in three main categories: a real child's likeness who has not been physically abused being digitally altered in a depiction of abuse, a real child who has been physically abused being digitally recreated in other depictions of abuse, and a child who does not even exist being digitally created in a depiction of

abuse that feeds the market for CSAM.

In a letter to congressional leaders, the coalition states, "AI is also being used to generate child sexual abuse material (CSAM). For example, AI tools can rapidly and easily create 'deepfakes' by studying real photographs of abused children to generate new images showing those children in sexual positions.

Attorney General Moody and the coalition ask Congress to form a commission to study specifically how AI can be used to exploit children and to "act to deter and address child exploitation, such as by expanding existing restrictions on CSAM to explicitly cover AI-generated CSAM."

The letter continues, "We are engaged in a race against time to protect the children of our country from the dangers of AI. Indeed, the proverbial walls of the city have already been breached. Now is the time to act."

Attorney General Moody Encourages Floridians To Remain Vigilant During National Preparedness Month

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—This National Preparedness Month, Attorney General Ashley Moody is urging Floridians to remain vigilant. National Preparedness Month raises awareness about the importance of preparing for disasters and emergencies that could happen at any time.

September also marks the peak of hurricane season. Currently, there are multiple tropical systems in the Atlantic Ocean, including Hurricane Lee. Florida just endured the effects of Hurricane Idalia late last month and recovery efforts will be ongoing for the foreseeable future.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "In emergency situations, proper preparations can make all the difference. As we recognize National Preparedness Month, move through the peak of hurricane season, and see heavy storm activity in the Atlantic, I encourage all Floridians to take another look at our 2023 Hurricane Preparedness Guide to solidify storm preparations."

The Atlantic Hurricane season peaks between mid-August and mid-October. Hurricane Lee and Hurricane Margot are both strong storms currently moving through the Atlantic Ocean, and thankfully not forecasted to reach Florida.

Preparedness tips provided in the guide include:

- Know evacuation routes and shelter locations;
• Stock up on enough food, water and emergency supplies for the entire household for at least seven days or more;
• Check that storm-related products are hurricane-proof or impact-proof before purchasing;
• Research recovery charities before donating;

- Beware of unsolicited contractors and extremely low or high prices for quotes; and
• Report price gouging during a state of emergency, including online or on the free No Scam app.

Floridians can stay informed about serious storm events using the Florida Division of Emergency Management's website, FloridaDisaster.org.

In the event of an incoming tropical storm or hurricane, Floridians should look for further guidance from local officials and emergency managers.

To report potential price gouging during a declared state of emergency, use the No Scam app, call 1(866) 9NO-SCAM or file a complaint online at MyFloridaLegal.com.

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FROM THE DESK OF
GOVERNOR DESANTIS



"First Lady Casey DeSantis Highlights the Expansion of CarePortal to Support Floridas Vulnerable Adults

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — First Lady

Casey DeSantis highlighted the expansion of Florida's CarePortal platform to meet immediate needs of vulnerable adults including persons with disabilities, veterans, the elderly, and any other individual in Florida needing assistance. CarePortal was initially created to support children and their families in need and is a platform that connects individuals and families in need with faith institutions and local businesses willing to help. This expansion builds on the success of the portal to date, which has led to nearly 500 churches and over 5,000 community members helping nearly 13,400 children and their families since 2020.

"One of the best ways to uplift our community is to ensure that our vulnerable populations have access to the resources they need to live successful lives. Whether that is children, adults, or families, we must make sure that we have the correct tools in place to put our drive to serve into action," said **First Lady Casey DeSantis**. "We have worked alongside the CarePortal team to expand quickly in Florida and connect people with available resources beyond government available in their own communities. I am thankful to those who have answered our call to action and made

their services available on CarePortal so that together, we can build a stronger community."

"I want to thank First Lady DeSantis for taking bold action to make community-based care-sharing happen at scale," said **CEO of CarePortal Joe Knittig**. "And I want to honor the Care-Sharing Network — the social workers, Hope Navigators, organizations, churches, and businesses — who use CarePortal to sacrificially care for their neighbors in unity together. They are the real heroes."

"Since day one, First Lady DeSantis has been the fiercest advocate for vulnerable children and adults in our state," said **Department of Children and Families Secretary Shevaun Harris**. "Through the Hope Florida initiative, and our partnership with CarePortal, Florida has truly revolutionized the way our state responds to families in crisis and transformed the activation of community resources and services. At the heart of the program is communities helping communities, and with this expansion, we will be able to accelerate our efforts in connecting more vulnerable individuals in need with those who want to give back."

"We are so grateful for First Lady DeSantis' tremendous advocacy and partnership that allows us to serve even more families in Florida," said **Department of Elder Affairs Secretary Michelle Branham**. "CarePortal is a unique and innovative platform that offers Florida's faith-based organizations and community members the opportunity to support vulnerable seniors throughout our state, in conjunction with the resources and services that our aging network provides. We are

extremely excited and honored to be part of the First Lady's vision in transforming the way we serve and expanding how we reach those who need us. I truly look forward to witnessing the results of this innovative and collaborative expansion."

"Under the leadership of First Lady Casey DeSantis, the Hope Florida program has begun to bridge the gap between our communities' most vulnerable and the resources they need to succeed," said **Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) Secretary Eric Hall**. "Through Hope Florida's Pathway to Potential initiative at DJJ, we have already seen the profound impact Hope Navigators and the network of resources they employ can have on the lives of our youth and families. The latest expansion of the CarePortal platform will enable even more Floridians of all ages and backgrounds to connect with these life-changing services."

As more state agencies have joined the Hope Florida initiative, the needs identified throughout the state have increased exponentially. This first in the nation expansion of CarePortal will allow Hope Florida to positively impact the lives of more Floridians than ever before. Hope Navigators will now be able to use CarePortal's innovative platform to meet immediate needs of not only families with children, but also persons with disabilities, veterans, the elderly, and any other individual in Florida needing assistance.

If you are in need of services, you can connect with a Hope Navigator by calling 850-300-HOPE.

To learn more about

joining CarePortal's Care Network visit www.HopeFlorida.com and click "I Want to Help."

Governor DeSantis Hosts Discussion About COVID Boosters with State Surgeon General and Health Experts

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Governor Ron DeSantis held a discussion with State Surgeon General Dr. Joseph Ladapo and public health experts about the recently federally approved COVID-19 mRNA boosters. While there, the Surgeon General announced new COVID-19 booster guidance advising against the use of COVID boosters for individuals under the age of 65. READ MORE at

<https://www.flgov.com/2023/09/13/governor-desantis-hosts-discussion-about-covid-boosters-with-state-surgeon-general-and-health-experts/>

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FROM THE DESK OF
CONGRESSWOMAN KAT CAMMACK



Recovering From Hurricane Idalia

Dear Neighbor,
The last two weeks have been trying in North Central Florida—first with the expected hurricane and then

with the aftermath. After visiting all of our communities and hearing from emergency management officials, small business owners, residents, and leaders, one thing is clear: our district is strong and resilient.

In Cedar Key and Horseshoe Beach, homes and businesses were washed away in just a couple of hours. Further inland, extreme wind and water damage ripped buildings from their foundations and flooded homes. Our agricultural producers—some of the hardest-hit after Idalia—saw fields flooded, crops demolished, and equipment damaged. **Despite all of these challenges, we're so proud of how our neighbors worked to support each other. We have a long way to go, but we are stronger when we work together.**

On Thursday, our teams were in Cedar Key and Horseshoe Beach alongside teams from the Small Business Administration, FEMA, and the Florida SBDC to help residents file claims and get the necessary support to get back on their feet. **On Monday, we'll be in Yankeetown, with more mobile office hours throughout the coming weeks soon to be announced. We hope you'll join us in-person or reach out to our team in Gainesville at (352) 505-0838 or via email at kcammack.hurricane@mail.house.gov.**

Please read below to see more from these affected areas and to learn about resources available through the SBA, FEMA, and USDA to help folks recover. As always, our team is standing by to help.

The House returned from August recess this week.

On Tuesday, Speaker McCarthy announced an official impeachment inquiry into President Biden. After the Oversight & Investigations, Judiciary, and Ways & Means Committees' investigations revealed significant ties between the president and his son Hunter's shady business dealings, it is now the House of Representatives' responsibility to pursue the truth. Stay tuned for more information on this front in the coming weeks.

We also hosted our September telephone town hall and heard from constituents about hurricane recovery, the aforementioned impeachment inquiry, and government funding later this month. If you missed it, make sure to sign up for our next town hall by clicking the button below.

This week back at home, Team Kat was out across Florida's Third, hosting mobile office hours for Hurricane Idalia recovery in Levy, Lafayette, and Hamilton Counties. Constituents stopped by for assistance with filing disaster claims and for more information about resources available for storm cleanup and recovery. If you missed us, but need help, please reach out to our Gainesville District Office at

(352) 505-0838. We will announce more office hours soon.

To all of those celebrating Rosh Hashanah this weekend, we wish you a very happy new year. Shanah Tovah!

With all that's happening this Congress, it is my greatest honor to represent you and hear from you about the issues that matter most. You can read below about what we've been up to this week, and as always, you can stay up to date with us here, on [our website](#), and on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [YouTube](#).

Impeachment Inquiry Opened Into President Biden

I believe moving forward with an

impeachment inquiry into President Biden is the next logical and necessary step to restoring accountability in Washington. Since Republicans took back the People's House in January, we've been hard at work investigating the extent of the president's shady business dealings with his son and foreign entities. The American people deserve the truth and it is the role of the House of Representatives to pursue it.

Stay tuned for more news and information on this front soon.

www.cammack.house.gov

Rosh Hashanah

Wishing all who celebrate a very happy new year! Shanah Tovah!

National POW/MIA Recognition Day

On National POW/MIA Recognition Day, we honor and recognize our prisoners of war and all who are still missing in action. To our

servicemembers' families, we recognize you and are thinking of you today. We will never forget.

Rep. Cammack Joins Colleagues To Support Florida's Request For Federal Fishery Disaster Declaration

GAINESVILLE, FL — Hurricane Idalia severely impacted Florida's fisheries, a significant contributor to Florida's economy. These small businesses need assistance to recover from this Major Hurricane.

On September 5, 2023, the State of Florida requested the U.S. Department of Commerce to declare a federal fishery resource disaster to support fishery businesses affected by Hurricane Idalia.

Rep. Cammack joined U.S. Senator Marco Rubio (R-FL) and colleagues in sending a letter to U.S. Department of Commerce Secretary Gina Raimondo supporting the State of Florida's request.



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