



On Veteran's Day, **The Ocali Society, Children of the American Revolution in conjunction with the Ocala Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution** launched an activity book to engage young people from elementary through high school in learning our local contributions to the nation's war efforts. Samuel Coventry, President of the Ocali Society, N.S.C.A.R. was on hand with other members of the society and the Ocala Chapter Daughters to help assist young

people as they worked through the books. Upon successful completion of the activity books, the kids are awarded a dog tag featuring Ocala Victory life-preserver, declaring them DAR/CAR Junior War Historians. For more information about this new program, contact Bill Ehrhart with the Marion County Veterans Services at the Exhibit and Education Center by calling (352) 671-8433.

Photo by CKJ-13 Kay Johnson



JOSEPH WILSON HUTTO

Born: September 6, 1944 - Asheville, Alabama

Died: October 21, 2023 - Ocala, Florida

Surviving Spouse: Tamara Lynn Howard Hutto -married (37 years).

Daughter: Calley Hutto Copeland (Clay Copeland)(son) Josh Hutto (Lauren)

Grandchildren: Anja and Ian Hutto

Brother: Don Hutto (Vikki), Ocala, Florida

Sister: Barbara Christensen Lumberton, Texas

Education: Jacksonville State University- BS – Business, MonteVallo University – BBA – Marketing

University of Alabama – Graduate work and Military Service: Vietnam 1967 – 1968 101ST Airborne Division- Paratrooper, Promoted to rank of Sargent.

Bronze Star for Valor, Bronze Star for Meritorious Service, Combat Infantry Badge Army commendation: Vietnam Service & Campaign ribbons

Professional Work Experience: Vanity Fair and Watt Spoke companies – Lingerie – Worldwide Military Market (25+ years) (Retired 2005); Realtor- Coldwell Banker Camelot – Mt Dora, Florida (5+ years)

Hobbies: He loved Golf While living in Dallas, Texas he qualified for the Senior Amateur Tour. While in Dallas he often golfed with such notable people as singer



To the Publisher TomL

Thomas – I know God is not done with America yet. It's no secret that I am a steadfast Christian and man of God! Our nation began with the bold declaration that all men are created equal by God and that our rights derive from Him and not the government.

The founders insisted that faith must remain central to our national identity

because, as George Washington summarized, "religion and morality are indispensable supports" of our republic. Like so many American households through the generations, in our house, we instill faith in the hearts of our children, serve God, and serve people.

I know our country is in desperate need of prayer.

Charlie Pride.

A plaque that hangs in his office says "Life is a game – Golf is Serious" In retirement he loved taking ocean cruises.

My Christmas Story!

By TomL

This is a true story. When I was a little boy we were being raised by my Grand Mother while our parents worked out of town at the Boca Raton Hotel. One day just before Christmas my friend and I were playing near the Railroad tracks. We were bare footed. I jump off a little hill and landed on a broken beer bottle. It cut my heel pretty bad. I could see everything inside, my tendon was almost severed. The other boy piggy back me to the road and ran to the Fire Chiefs house. luckily to the Fire Chiefs home was close by. He

wrapped me up and picked me up, put me in his truck and took me to my house where my grand mother was. They could tell they could not fix the wound. So the fire Chief took me to a clinic in the next town Hollywood. If the tendon was almost severed back in them days if it was severed you were crippled. They managed to get clamps on my tendon and pull it back into place and staple it. My parents were called. They picked me up at the clinic and I was told I would not be able to start walking for at least two months.

Christmas school brake was a few days away. Christmas was a big thing to me. It was not because of the gifts but the fact that I would see Santa Claus. After all I only saw him once a year. Every year there was a Christmas parade. That night I was very sad because I could not go, I could not walk. Grandma told my sister she could take my brother and walk two block to where the parade would come down US 1. Grandma could not walk very far. I was sitting next the slide up window listening for the firetruck

Continued page 4

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Kevin Sheilley OCALA/MARION COUNTY CHAMBER & ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP



One of the long-time strengths of this community is its incredible entrepreneurial spirit and support. This is truly a place which supports and encourages entrepreneurship. It is very much part of

our DNA here. As much as the springs and horses define us, so does entrepreneurship. It was a part of the CEP even before the merger more than eleven years ago now and continues to be so today with Business Creation being one of our five pillars and the Power Plant Business Incubator serving as the heart of those efforts. Soon, our new Silver Springs Shores Impact Entrepreneurship Center will open to expand our support for small business growth and development to this area of our community. Our Impact Initiative presented by Ausley Construction exists because we believe entrepreneurship is the best way to overcome

inequality of opportunity. So, celebrating and supporting entrepreneurs is a natural part of what we do.

Inc 5000

The *Inc 5000* list is the gold standard of business growth. Every year since 1982, *Inc.* has recognized the fastest growing privately held companies in the US based on percentage of revenue growth over a three-year period. Companies first recognized by *Inc.* include Microsoft, Facebook, and UnderArmor.

Every year, a number of local companies earn this prestigious honor. For 2023, four companies in the Ocala Metro were listed:

- Next Dimension Construction & Roofing (#111)
- Zinnia Wealth Management (#3692)
- Certified Roofing (#3722)
- Signature Brands (#4984)

Other local companies who have previously made the list multiple times include Optimum RV and Raney's.

The CEP celebrates all of these incredible entrepreneurs and looks forward to celebrating even more companies next year.

GrowFL Companies to Watch

GrowFL is a statewide economic development organization and hosts the awards program in partnership with the Edward Lowe Foundation, a national, nonprofit organization that supports entrepreneurship through research, recognition, and educational programs. The foundation focuses on second-stage companies — those that have moved beyond the startup phase and seek significant, steady growth. GrowFL, in turn, helps second-stage companies in Florida overcome obstacles and leads them towards prosperity by providing strategies, resources and support designed to prepare them for next level success.

One of the tools they use to drive this effort is their annual Companies to Watch. Each year, 50 companies are highlighted. To qualify for the award, companies must be Florida-based, have between 6 and 150 employees, and have revenue between \$750,000 and \$100 million. A company can only make the list once and to date they have recognized 650 companies with this award.

This year Ocala's Nona Scientific Laboratory made the list. They join other local companies who have previously been honored including Packaging Alternatives, MzeroA, Marion Precision Tool, Winco Mfg, and Artemis Plastics as well Raney's

and Nona Scientific.

Congrats to all of our current and past winners!

First Friday Art Walk



The First Friday Art Walk takes place the first Friday of each month, September through May from 6 to 9 p.m. First Friday Art Walk is a free event located within Ocala's historic downtown. Event festivities include over 30 artist displays, monthly live entertainment, free family art activities provided by local arts organizations and extended shopping hours. The public is invited to enjoy an evening of art, live performances, and downtown shops and restaurants. Pick up your map on the square or [click here](#) to download a digital copy to take a self-guided tour of local artists displaying their works for sale in front of our downtown business. Stop to take in the performing artists stationed along the way. #OcalaArtWalk

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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



Our apologies
Our photographer was in the hospital Friday night during the Jenkins Veterans celebration. We tried to get pictures and failed to make the right connection. But friends around town sent us some personal picture so I thought we would share. So in our paper are some interesting photos. Our photographer is on the mend.

We need to get a grip on our school system / Colleges. Not so much here in Florida but look at the Fox News. There are a lot of people are available and will travel at the drop of a hat, that will protest just because they think its cool not knowing why their protesting. Palestine is a victim of Hamas. The are barbaric and kill for fun. There is room for them in our world.

On the internet, on Veterans day a triple amputee was searched extensively while

sitting in a wheelchair. He is a Triple Amputee Purple Heart Veteran! I think it was some airport.

Kamala Harris quote...

"I think that there can be no higher priority than what we have been clear is our highest priority."

SAY WHAT? MORE...

"When we talk about children of the community, they are a children of the community."

PLEASE no more Kamala quotes

Seen on T-shirts across the country.....

What other people was thinking it, I said it in print!

You are about to exceed the limits of my medication!

I have stopped listening so why are you still talking?

If you can't laugh at yourself let me do it for!
I am who I am...Your approval is not needed!

A problem at my bank. First I am a charter member of the bank 23 years, meaning I was a customer when they open 23 years ago. Went to the said bank to deposit checks into my account. I was told I could not deposit one of the check's because they had no record of my newspaper on that account. I reminded the manager that I have been depositing check from that customer for over 20 years. They did not care, they said there is so much fraud going on they had to be careful and refused to deposit the check. I think they were accusing me of fraud. I looking for a new bank and a good lawyer!

Christmas Story

Continued from page 1

that carried Santa Claus in the parade, finally I could hear the siren and the horn on the firetruck. I sat there in the window almost

crying because I would not see Santa.

The sound of the siren was getting louder as they down the Hwy. Then it was getting louder and then louder and it came down our residential street. They stopped at my house and Santa got off the truck and brought me a candy cane. He gave me a hug and said Ho Ho Ho Merry Christmas and walked out the door got on the Firetruck and proceeded back to the why where he detoured off the hwy. I was beside myself, Santa came to see me.

It's funny that Santa looked kind of similar to the Fire Chief. I wondered until a few years later.

Interesting fact was his son was drowning in whiskey creek and I jumped in and pull him out. He was knock out cold by a speed boat that came to close to where we were swimming.

Thats my TRUE Christmas story.

Newspaper Deadlines

Editorial & Ad Copy for January

Seniors Voice & Ocala DownTown

Noon, December 22nd

Lady Lake Magazine & Village Spectator

12am, December 27th

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

P.O Box 1698, Dunnellon FL 34430

Publisher: Tom Loury

Phone: 352-804-1223 | Fax: 352-489-7208

Email: tloury@att.net

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FAIRTax



I sometimes hear that the FAIRtax will result in a windfall for corporations since the FAIRtax eliminates corporate taxes. Let's make one thing perfectly clear - Corporations are legal fictions that have not, do not, and never will bear the burden of taxation. Only people pay taxes. Corporations pass on their tax burden in the form of higher prices to consumers, lower wages to workers, and/or lower returns to investors. The idea that taxing a corporation will reduce taxes on, say the working poor, is a cruel hoax. The corporate tax only makes what the consumer buys more expensive, costs employees jobs, lowers their lifestyle, or delays their retirement. Taxes are just

another line item on the corporation expense sheet and it's the consumer, employee and investor who pays for it. Under the FAIRtax plan, all the hidden cost created by the income tax disappears and money retained in the business and reinvested to create jobs, build factories, or develop new technologies, pay no tax. But, some believe that corporations will not do these things and will simply keep prices the same and cash in. Although some may try at first, they will soon see their market share drop. After all, if store A and store B are selling the same product but store B is selling it cheaper than store A, which store will you shop in? The FAIRtax is the most honest, fair, productive tax system possible and free market competition will do the rest. For more information please go to FAIRtax.org

Florida State Senate

DENNIS K. BAXLEY



Dear Friends,

As we near the start of a new year, we are also less than one month away from the start of the 2024 Legislative Session. Due to pressing matters, the Florida Legislature decided to start early, holding a special session during the second week of November. We passed four bills, as well as a Senate Resolution expressing our support for Israel and its right to defend itself.

The first bill that we passed during the 2023C Special Session is House Bill 1C: Disaster Relief, by Senator Cory Simon. As demonstrated after Hurricanes Ian and Nicole, the Florida Senate is committed to helping Floridians rebuild from devastating storms in every manner possible. In response to Hurricane Idalia, the Florida Senate passed HB 1C, providing necessary funding and tax relief to the communities who need it most. The Florida Senate is meeting the challenge to support our rural and agricultural communities that have been devastated by Hurricane Idalia. This bill provides critical support to communities impacted by Hurricane Idalia, directs an additional \$170 million to the My Safe Florida Home Program, and extends local government loan programs.

The second bill we passed is House Bill 3C: Family Empowerment Scholarship Program, by Senator Jay Collins. Since HB 1 passed in the 2023 Regular Session, Florida has seen record numbers of families benefit from enhanced school choice opportunities now offered to every Floridian. HB 3C expands opportunities to Students with Unique Abilities, ensuring that all Florida students have access to a full array of school choice opportunities that meet their unique needs. This bill expands access to the Family Empowerment Scholarship for Students with Unique Abilities and enhances the number of students served by school choice opportunities provided in HB 1, passed last session.

The third bill we passed is House Bill 5C:

Scrutinized Companies, by Senator Bryan Avila. Iran is a state sponsor of terrorism and played a critical role in the horrific terror attacks on Israel by Hamas. This legislation takes a strong stance against the Iranian regime and makes it clear that Florida in no way will support corrupt, tyrannical, and terroristic countries who diametrically oppose American national security and seek to wage proxy war through radical terrorist groups. This bill adds certain companies in business with Iran to the list of scrutinized companies and requires Florida to cease investment with these companies.

The fourth bill we passed is House Bill 7C: Security Grants, by Senator Alexis Calatayud. Through this legislation, the Florida Senate makes it clear that anti-Semitic violence has no place in Florida and we are committed to protecting Jewish Floridians from threats of violence. As the threat of anti-Semitism grows following the horrors of Hamas' attack on Israel, the Florida Legislature is providing critical funding to keep our Jewish community safe. This bill enhances security at Jewish Day Schools and Houses of Worship and provides additional funding to hire security personnel and harden facilities.

We also passed Senate Resolution 8C: Support the State of Israel, by Senator Lori Berman. Florida stands firmly with the people of Israel and our own Jewish communities across the state. This resolution makes it unquestionably clear that Israel has every right to defend itself from the threats facing their people and country, and Florida will stand arm-in-arm with them as they seek victory and peace. This Senate Resolution condemns the unprovoked and barbaric terror attacks on Israel by Hamas and demands the immediate end to any financial support of Hamas or Iran.

These bills and senate resolution are just the beginning and we are looking forward to a promising and successful 2024 Legislative Session for the people of Florida. Thank you to the constituents of Senate District 13 for letting me serve you and work on these unique challenges with you.

Onward & Upward,
Senator Dennis Baxley



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**Ocala Business Leaders
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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
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Fecal analysis (intestinal parasite worms)	\$25

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Brick City Bluegrass Festival

Saturday, January 20 | 2 - 8 p.m.
Citizens' Circle | 151 SE Osceola Ave.

Join us for the inaugural Brick City Bluegrass Festival in beautiful downtown Ocala! This all-ages, outdoor music festival will feature both nationally known and local bluegrass bands, including headliner Joe Mullins & The Radio Ramblers. Named Entertainers of the Year by the International Bluegrass Music Association (IBMA) in 2019, Joe Mullins & The Radio Ramblers have consistently delivered chart-topping radio hits and energetic performances for nearly 15 years.

In addition to live music and entertainment, the event will feature a variety of food trucks. Beer and wine will also be available for purchase. Guests are encouraged to bring their own lawn chairs and blankets. Coolers will not be permitted inside the event area.

Tickets

\$15 Early Bird Pricing - On sale now until Nov. 26

\$20 Advanced Tickets - Price increases Nov. 27 to Jan. 19

\$25 Tickets at the Gate

Kids 8 and under and Veterans are free!

Ocala Outdoor Sculpture Competition

The Biennial Ocala Outdoor Sculpture competition, features artists from across North America. A selection jury, comprised of local community stake holders, art organization representatives, and artists, selected ten sculptures for a 22-month exhibit that spans across 45-acres of green

space in downtown Ocala.

Applications for the 7th Biennial Ocala Outdoor Sculpture Competition are closed for the 2024-2026 season.

Each selected artist will receive a \$2,000 honorarium. A professional in the arts field, will select Best in Show, Second Place, and Honorable Mention at the conclusion of the Tusawilla Sculpture Stroll on Saturday, February 24, 2024. Selection in these categories will include a cash prize.

Best in Show: \$2,000

2nd Place: \$1,000

Honorable Mention: \$500

People's Choice: \$500

The ten jury-selected sculptures will be installed between January 8 – 19, 2024 at Tusawilla Park and will be on display until January 2026. The Ocala Outdoor Sculpture Competition is accompanied by a scavenger hunt, catalogue and an online and mobile device tour as well as coverage in other media outlets. The public is invited to attend two events to welcome the sculptures to Ocala. [BOBA \(Beginning of Bolted Art\)](#), a paid brunch, and the [Tusawilla Park Sculpture Stroll](#), a free community event, on **Saturday, February 24, 2024**. We encourage the community to come and enjoy the tours, live entertainment, free art activities and vote for your favorite sculpture to win the People's Choice Award.

Art in City Spaces

The City of Ocala seeks unique, thought-provoking exhibits that are appropriate for a public City space, where work will be viewed by citizens and guests of all ages. Only complete applications will be reviewed. Viewer engagement, artist intent, originality of ideas, and use of media and technique are all considered when an

application is being reviewed for approval.

The City of Ocala recommends that artist(s) plan on delivering a minimum of 20 works to be exhibited. The gallery selection for displaying accepted works will be determined by the City based on the works submitted, space available, and needs of each gallery space. The City of Ocala will work with artists on the layout of the exhibit, however the City reserves the right to adjust the layout as appropriate for the space and based on past experience in the gallery space.

Exhibits rotate on a six month basis, depending on the gallery space. Spaces available for exhibits include:

City Hall (1st and 2nd Floor Lobbies), 110 SE Watula Ave., Ocala, FL 34471

Recreation and Parks Administration Building (Conference Room) and

Eighth Avenue Adult Activity Center, 828 NE Eighth Ave., Ocala, FL 34470

Mary Sue Rich Community Center at Reed Place, 1821 NW 21st Ave., Ocala, FL 34475

Ocala International Airport, 1770 SW 60th Ave., Suite 600, Ocala, FL 34474

Ocala City Clerk's Office, 110 SE Watula Ave., Ocala, FL 34471

Tidying Up at Holiday Time

Three No-Stress Tips for Tidying Up at Holiday Time

(NAPSI)—If the holidays are at your house this year, you may find they can be even more magical when you have a good plan for cleaning up before and after the company comes.

Keep Holiday Hosting A Delight, Not A Chore

As you prepare for the season—and all the celebrating it entails—keep these home cleaning tips in mind...and look forward to stressing less and spending more time with

your loved ones.

Treat stains right: Chocolate. Cranberry sauce. Wine. For every food option on the table, there are just as many stains that could arrive with that delicious meal. Using Ensueño Liquid Detergent, which has both stain-fighting power and color-fading protection, can mean a deep clean that ensures clothes and tablecloths come out bright and stain-free.

Keep cleanup simple: After everyone's gone home, there may still be some chores to be done. Make your life easier by wiping down surfaces with Pinalen Multipurpose Cleaner to quickly deodorize and deep clean the house from top to bottom.

Don't forget a scent: When your home smells great, people will know it's clean, so don't forget to tidy up with aromatic products such as Pinalen Original. Not only does it freshen, clean, and degrease, but the pine oil smells just like the holiday season.

Seafood for the Holidays?



This Seafood Item is Spurring Holiday Menu Magic

(NAPSI)—As we start planning holiday menus this season, many of us are looking for familiar favorites and comfort foods to serve to loved ones. The downside is that many of those foods are high in calories and don't provide much nutritional benefit. This

Continued page 7



GIVE

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MISSION: To be the catalyst for a prosperous community.

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BENEFITS OF PARTNERSHIP

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The CEP produces over 100 events per year, including networking, educational, forums, and more...
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Represent your business and taking it to a whole new level...
Boost your reputation!
- IMPROVE YOUR SKILLS**
The CEP offers 3 monthly skill building opportunities and multiple workshops each year...
Gain knowledge!
- INCREASE YOUR VISIBILITY**
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Be seen!
- SHOP CEP SAVE MONEY**
Get discounts on office supplies, shipping, and more... Plus, select partners for exclusive discounts...
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Expand your brand... Expand your business... Referrals & recommendations pay...
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- GET BUSINESS SUPPORT**
The CEP is your business's right hand...
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- GAIN AN ADVOCATE**
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Visit us online at www.OcalaCEP.com

Seafood

Continued from page 5

year, consider amping up the nutritional value of your spread. One quick and easy way to do so is by adding a versatile and healthy classic: [Latitude 45 Smoked Salmon](#). As the number one selling smoked salmon brand in the nation, Latitude 45 is not only a bona fide crowd-pleaser for holiday events, but it also offers your guests a generous helping of health benefits.

Rich in omega-3 fatty acids, vitamin B12 and other essential nutrients, salmon can help reduce inflammation and improve heart health. Plus, it's packed with protein and integrates perfectly with nearly anything you're serving at your next gathering.

Those preferring a milder fish will love that Latitude 45 salmon is very light on the palette, making it a good option for those who typically aren't seafood eaters. Quick to serve and ready to eat right out of the package, most smoked salmon recipes can be whipped up in under 10 minutes. This year, amp up menus by adding something new and exciting to your salmon repertoire with Latitude 45's new Smoked Salmon Candy Bites. This gastro gem is a fresh and tasty take on a classic!

Whether you're adding it to a quiche for brunch, a warm winter soup, your favorite pasta or your charcuterie board, there are many ways to enjoy Latitude 45. If you're looking for more epicurean inspiration, check out some unique recipes online at latitude45salmon.com/recipes.

Straight from Patagonia's glacial fed fjords, Latitude 45 is the only smoked salmon on the market that is fresh to smoked within 24 hours of leaving the water. Not only is it delicious but it's also Kosher certified, Best Aquaculture Practice 4-Star certified, and part of the Global Sustainable Seafood Initiative. So, you know this company's salmon is top-notch. Latitude 45 takes pride in their sustainable practices and

certifications, as evidenced by the Dow Jones Sustainability Index listing it among the top 25% of food companies worldwide. Given its high quality, it's no wonder why major retailers like , [Walmart](#), [BJs](#) and carry the line.

This holiday season, add some variety to your menu with flavorful smoked salmon dishes that you can feel good about eating.

Big Tips for Small Businesses



(NAPSI)—Small businesses are the backbone of our society and play a critical role in our economy. According to the U.S. Small Business Association, firms of 500 employees or fewer make up 99.9% of all U.S. businesses, equating to 61.7 million workers. Small business workers contribute 43.5% of the gross domestic product in the U.S. annually.

Small businesses also face unique challenges. Entrepreneurs, owners and their employees typically wear so many hats that it can be difficult to stay updated on business and consumer trends.

But help is available. Stakeholders can overcome obstacles by taking the following steps:

Network, Network, Network—Seek out like-minded individuals and companies within your industry or community to network, share ideas and look at challenges from a different perspective. This could also include joining a trade organization, subscribing to publications or attending events relevant to your industry.

Embrace Online Resources—Results-oriented online tools offer a broad range of helpful materials. At Synchrony.com, one can find advice on financing, sales, human resources, digital marketing, customer experience, data, legal and cybersecurity.

Commit to Lifelong Learning—In an era of constant change, there are always new things to learn. To meet this need,

Synchrony just launched a digital learning platform: the "Small Business Learning Center," which is geared to help its business owner partners with credit, financing, enhanced customer experiences and compliance. In addition to the Learning Center, Synchrony helps enable nearly a million small business partners to manage, market and grow their businesses by offering:

Continued page 8

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Answers page 8



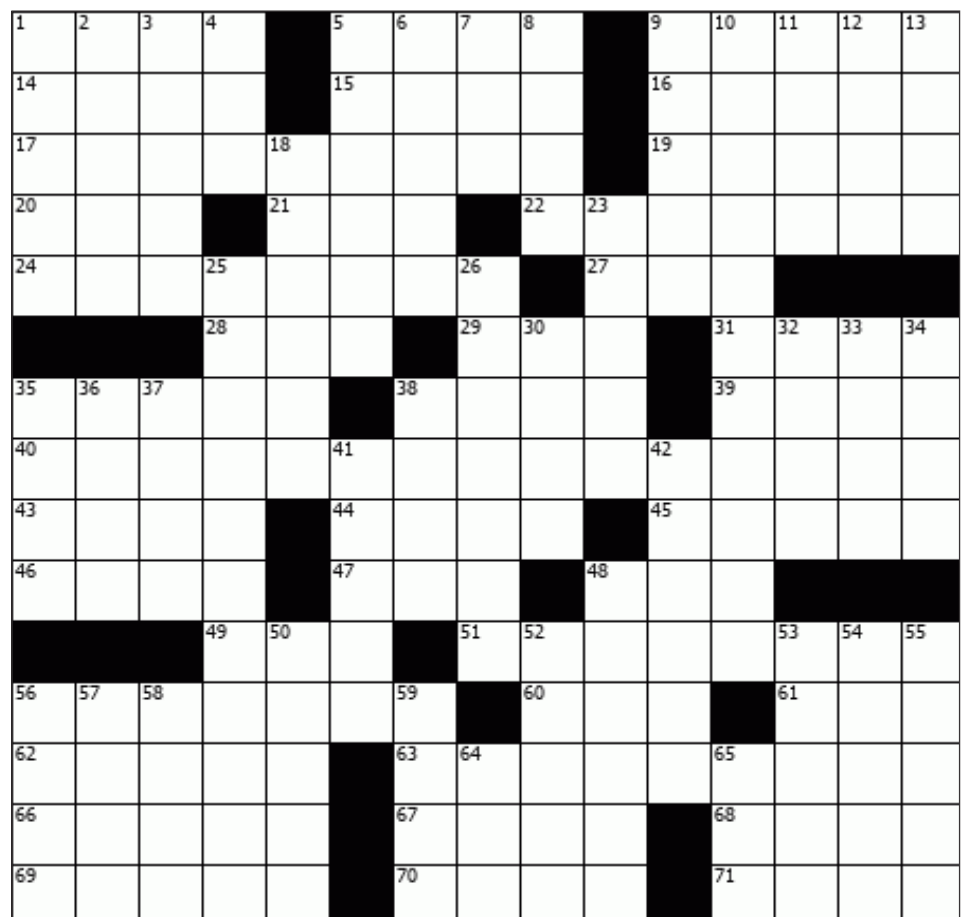
Across

1. What a hog wants
5. Dull-colored
9. In pursuit
14. Inspires reverence
15. 17th of 50
16. More than mislead
17. Some knee-slappers
19. Hardly hidden
20. Clerical abbreviation
21. Aquarium implement
22. Sneaky plots
24. Superhero's secret
27. Stumblebum
28. McShane or Holm
29. Authority on diamonds?
31. Holy image
35. Reeked
38. "Ah, me!"
39. Bookbinder's buy
40. Some executive purchases
43. Hairy humanoid of legend
44. Keep the engine

running

45. Get to the other side
 46. Some Marvel heroes
 47. Prefix meaning "recent"
 48. Before, before a word
 49. Bolt partner
 51. Ghastly
 56. Lunar phenomenon
 60. Poetic conjunction
 61. Confession starter
 62. Birds that sound batty
 63. Somewhere to sail?
 66. "Beetle Bailey" character
 67. Fishtail
 68. Leer lasciviously
 69. You do it if you breathe
 70. "Sorry about that!"
 71. Partner for means
- Down
1. Native New Zealander
 2. Had stuff
 3. "The Canterbury Tales" character
 4. Subj. for some immigrants
 5. Slain
 6. Clark's Butler
 7. It can be hot, thin or cold
 8. Give orders to
 9. "Welcome to the islands!"
 10. Contents of some salaries

11. Swarm
12. Raison d' _____
13. Putrefies
18. Type of valve
23. Thicket
25. Typical baseball game
26. Christmas tradition
30. Medieval club
32. Advertising award
33. Contract loopholes
34. Top Untouchable
35. Mythological river
36. Unnamed ones
37. Comic actor Johnson
38. Detail handler, maybe
41. Some ice cream units
42. Drive-in feature
48. Uses a blender, perhaps
50. Improbable victory
52. Accelerate sharply
53. Last of a series
54. _____-mouthed (insincere)
55. Relieves, as pain
56. Otherwise
57. Gently urge
58. Singer or Petty
59. Company that put a tiger in your tank
64. "Telephone Line" rock grp.
65. Porcine mama



Friends of the Ocala Library



Dear Friends of the Ocala Library,
We are having a book Sale in December!

The Sale is located in the Ocala Public

Library meeting rooms

Paperbacks 25 cents, Hardback 50 cents, Children 25 cents

Friday December 1

Book Sale Friends Members shop 1:30pm – 3:30pm

Saturday December 2

Book Sale Everyone shops 10:00am – 2:00pm

Please share this information with friends and family. All funds earned will be used for adult and children programs at the Ocala, Reddick and Fort McCoy libraries

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Big Tips

Continued from page 7

Financing programs with a straightforward application process, strong approval rates and loyalty programs.

Digital tools for retailers and health and wellness providers.

Grants to small businesses through its Synchrony Pillars program.

Webinars, podcasts, and one-on-one consulting opportunities; a closed-loop technology network so small businesses can offer private-label credit cards; advertising technology, among other things.

Take a break!—While small business owners and employees are by nature invested in the success of their business, research indicates that breaks go a long way for mental health. Breaks are important and help small business owners recharge and tackle the unique challenges in their path.

Your Bank, Your Way



Choosing the Right Bank for Your Needs

(NAPSI)—Even with so many banking options available today, finding the one that

fits your needs can be simple. The right bank should be more than a place where you keep your money; it should offer benefits and services that grow with you.

When it comes to finding the right bank, here are common financial scenarios you might consider.

If you're a perk lover: The best checking accounts now offer great everyday benefits

such as no overdraft fees. Some banks, like Citi, take these benefits a step further. The bank's Relationship Tiers—Citi Priority, Citigold® and Citigold® Private Client—reward you based on the amount of funds you keep in your eligible deposit and investment accounts. Think of it as the airline loyalty program for banking: as your balance grows, so do your benefits,



Is Hosting:

ABC of Dementia

A **FREE** Alzheimer's awareness and care-giving workshop

Presented by: Debbie Selsavage, President, Coping with Dementia LLC



Headquarters-Ocala Public Library

2720 E. Silver Springs Blvd. Ocala, FL 34470

Thursday February 15, 2024

11:00 am – 1:00 pm

What is "Alzheimer's" and "dementia?"
What can you expect of this progressive disease?
How can you become a better care-partner.

How do you reduce your own stress?

What are some of the resources available to you?

Understanding will provide you with a better quality of life

Each participant will receive a handout packet.

R.S.V.P 352-422-3663 or deb@coping.today



Coping with Dementia LLC
www.coping.today

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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?
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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.

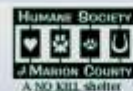


Fuchsia is a 15 week old paralyzed kitten full of love.



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.



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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 RECOGNIZES 2022 FLORIDA WOMEN'S HALL OF FAME INDUCTEES

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Attorney General Ashley Moody is recognizing the 2022 Florida Women's Hall of Fame inductees. The Florida Commission on the Status of Women added Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, Lilly Pulitzer and Audrey Schiebler to the Hall of Fame during a ceremony today for significant contributions to the citizens of Florida.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "I'm honored to induct three amazing women to the Florida Women's Hall of Fame. Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, Lilly Pulitzer and Audrey Schiebler each play an extraordinary role in our state's history and inspire many Floridians to this day. They have paved the way for the many women who will follow in their footsteps. Their impact on our state will continue to be felt for years to come."

Chief Financial Officer Jimmy Patronis said, "For more than 40 years, the Florida Women's Hall of Fame has honored women and the significant contributions they have made to our great state. The members of the Hall of Fame are exceptional leaders, visionaries, and barrier breakers who have helped improve the lives of countless Floridians. They have made a tremendous impact – from inspiring and educating others to being trailblazers in their fields and working to make Florida a stronger state. It was an honor today to

recognize our 2022 inductees, including Senate President Kathleen Passidomo, Audrey Schiebler and Lilly Pulitzer. Congratulations to you all; you are all truly deserving of this special honor."

At a ceremony held by FCSW at the Florida State Capitol, Attorney General Moody inducted Senate President Passidomo, Pulitzer and Schiebler into the Florida Women's Hall of Fame. To commemorate the ceremony, inductees, surviving relatives or an inductee's representative received replicas of the plaques to be placed on the Hall of Fame wall in the Florida Capitol Rotunda in the inductees' honor and an American flag that flew over the U.S. Capitol. The ceremony included celebratory videos and remarks about the legacy of accomplishments and the contributions each inductee has made to the lives of Floridians.

Since its inception in 1982, the Hall of Fame has recognized and honored Florida women that make significant contributions to the improvement of life for all Floridians. Additional inductees include former U.S. Attorney General Janet Reno, singer Gloria Estefan, internationally honored tennis athletes Chris Evert and Althea Gibson, pilot Betty Skelton Frankman, Bethune-Cookman College founder Mary McLeod Bethune, Congresswomen Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, Carrie Meek, Tillie Fowler and Ruth Bryan Owen; Florida Trend Publisher Lynda Keever and Everglades advocate and suffragist Marjory Stoneman Douglas.

This year's inductees join current members on the walls of the Florida Capitol and in state-of-the-art video kiosks. Visitors can view all the Hall of Fame members

immortalized in the Capitol Rotunda or on the Florida Women's Hall of Fame website by visiting FLWomensHallofFame.org.

ATTORNEY GENERAL MOODY RECOVERS NEARLY \$3.5 MILLION FOR MILITARY MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES

TALLAHASSEE, Fla.—Ahead of Veterans Day, Attorney General Ashley Moody is highlighting the millions of dollars in recoveries by the Military and Veterans Assistance Program. Since 2019, MVAP received and provided assistance with more than 2,300 complaints, recovering nearly \$3.5 million for Florida's military members, veterans and families. The program's dedicated attorneys, investigators and other team members help veterans, service members and their loved ones affected by scams and deceptive business practices.

Attorney General Ashley Moody said, "Florida takes pride in being a military-friendly state, and we must ensure our service members and their families do not fall prey to scams. Our Military and Veterans Assistance Program has recovered nearly \$3.5 million for affected military members and families. We will continue working hard to assist everyone who has sacrificed so much for our country from fraud and deceptive business practices."

Throughout the last five years, Attorney General Moody's MVAP team has worked daily to assist our service members and veterans, including:

- **Roofing Refund:** The MVAP team helped a Florida veteran, suffering from PTSD, obtain a refund after sustaining substantial damage to his home during Hurricane Ian. A roofing company took the veteran's money and never fixed the damage to the roof. Attorney General Moody's

MVAP team intervened, getting the victim released from the contract and recovering nearly \$19,000 in financial relief, along with a new roof for the veteran.

- **Harris Jewelry:** Harris Jewelry allegedly trained employees to incorrectly tell service members that buying on credit from the company improved credit scores—regardless of credit history or later payment record. The company also failed to comply with consumer financing laws and added unauthorized charges to the amount financed. As part of the settlement in this case, Attorney General Moody recovered and redirected \$50,000 toward educational materials for veterans regarding financial-related scams.

- **Healing Heroes Network:** The organization was accused of falsely promising to use donations to help wounded veterans of the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan receive medical treatments. An investigation found that very little of the charitable contributions actually went to further the charitable mission. Most of the money Healing Heroes Network raised allegedly went to professional fundraisers, advertising and salaries. Attorney General Moody, with 10 other state attorneys general, secured \$95,000 to go to a veterans' charity that provides services similar to those Healing Heroes Network represented it would provide. The defendants also agreed to a five-year ban from overseeing, managing or soliciting charitable contributions for any nonprofit organization.

- **American Veterans Foundation, Inc.:** This organization took in millions of dollars in donations by falsely promising that contributions would assist active military members and homeless veterans. Less than 3% of all gathered funds went to helping

Continued page 12

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FROM THE DESK OF GOVERNOR DESANTIS



First Lady Casey DeSantis and the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice Announce \$1 Million Investment to Expand Mentoring Services for Florida's Youth

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — First Lady

Casey DeSantis and the Florida Department of Juvenile Justice (DJJ) announced the investment of an additional \$1 million to enhance and expand mentoring services for Florida's youth. This investment further builds upon \$12.8 million in mentorship funding at the Department of Children and Families as well as the recent expansion of First Lady Casey DeSantis' Hope Florida initiative to the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office.

"Investing in mentorship is an investment in Florida's future and one that will empower and strengthen the next generation," said **First Lady Casey DeSantis**. "Mentoring isn't just about providing guidance to young people; it's about unlocking their unique potential and helping them build skills and resilience that will shape them as our emerging leaders in Florida and our country."

"I want to thank First Lady Casey DeSantis for her leadership and unwavering support of our work to expand mentorship opportunities for Florida's youth," said **Department of Juvenile Justice Secretary Eric Hall**. "As we embark on our mission to ensure a stronger, safer Florida, we recognize the transformative impact mentors have on young lives. Mentors help instill confidence and a sense of purpose in

youth, giving them hope and paving the way for a brighter, more promising tomorrow."

The *One Mentor, One Child* initiative was launched last year with the goal of building a statewide mentoring network to serve Florida's youth in their local communities. Since that time, the need for mentors has increased and this targeted investment will allow more youth to be matched with dedicated mentors who can serve as positive role models in their lives.

This additional funding will enhance and expand mentoring services among seven organizations that DJJ has partnered with through the *One Mentor, One Child* initiative. These organizations include Big Brothers Big Sisters Association of Florida, MaliVai Washington Youth Foundation in Duval County, Marion County Children's Alliance, Unity Family Community Center in Levy County, Girls of Transformation Mentoring Program in Miami-Dade County, Character GPS in Hillsborough County, and the Center 4 Change in St. Lucie County.

Governor Ron DeSantis Awards Over \$57 Million to Protect Florida's Springs

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Today, Governor Ron DeSantis announced the award of over \$57 million for 23 statewide springs restoration projects to protect Florida's iconic springs, as well as increase spring flow and improve water quality. Florida's springs attract visitors from across the world and the preservation of these springs play an important role in the economic resilience of the state.

The Florida Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) and four of Florida's water management districts have identified projects such as wastewater, stormwater, pollution control projects and

water-quality projects to protect and restore our springs. Additionally, these projects will help conserve and acquire land in spring recharge zones to prevent nutrients from entering the groundwater that feeds our springs.

"Florida is home to more than 1,000 springs, with more large springs than any other state in the nation, which attract visitors from across the world," said **Governor DeSantis**. "This \$57 million investment will continue to protect water quality and allow Florida's springs to continue to be a world class tourist destination for years to come."

"Thanks to Governor DeSantis for once again continuing to protect one of Florida's greatest assets — our invaluable springs," said **DEP Secretary Shawn Hamilton**. "In partnership with our water management districts, local governments and community leaders, implementation of these projects will help to continue the protection of this precious resource for generations to come."

"Florida is committed to its investment in projects focused on protecting and restoring the state's unique springs," said **Chief Science Officer Dr. Mark Rains**. "With this diverse suite of water quality improvement projects, and in tandem with the state's other ongoing initiatives, we will continue our efforts to reduce nutrients and improve water flow in our iconic springs."

The selected projects reflect a collaborative effort with DEP, water management districts, community leaders and local stakeholders. Combining efforts and leveraging resources from various agencies across Florida allows for a more efficient and comprehensive restoration effort.

Highlights from the 23 statewide springs projects include:

- Northwest Florida Water Management District:

\$1.75 million for the Southside Triangle

Sanitary Sewer Construction to benefit Wakulla Springs. This project is the first phase of a multi-phase effort for the construction of a sanitary sewer to ultimately connect homes from septic to sewer in the springshed and Priority Focus Area of Wakulla Springs.

- Southwest Florida Water Management District:

\$4.46 million for the Crystal River Wastewater Treatment Facility to benefit Crystal River and Kings Bay. This project will upgrade the city's wastewater treatment facility to achieve a higher nitrogen removal rate and meet advanced treatment quality.

- St. Johns River Water Management District:

\$3 million for the Marion Silver Springs Shores Septic-to-Sewer Phase I to benefit Silver Springs. This phase of the project includes decommissioning 212 septic tanks in the Silver Springs Shores community and installing sewer system expansion and transmission force main.

- Suwannee River Water Management District:

\$1.67 million for the Poe Springs Addition to benefit Poe Springs in Alachua County. This project is for the acquisition of 250 acres of slash pine plantation adjacent to Poe Springs that will be permanently placed into conservation.

Since 2019, Florida has made an unprecedented financial commitment to springs restoration, allocating \$325 million in state funding to assist local governments and other stakeholders to identify and construct projects that are imperative to achieving restoration goals. Through this investment, more than 130 projects have moved forward, resulting in Total Nitrogen (TN) reductions estimated at more than 666,024 pounds per year. This includes the projects announced today, which will provide an estimated TN reduction of 106,143 pounds per year.

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FROM THE DESK OF

CONGRESSWOMAN KAT CAMMACK



Rep. Cammack Joins Colleagues In Introducing Veterans Day Resolution
WASHINGTON, D.C. – Congresswoman Kat Cammack joined

Michael Guest (MS-03) and Henry Cuellar (TX-28) in introducing a resolution in the U.S. House of Representatives to honor the service and sacrifice of America's veterans on Veterans Day, 2023.

Veterans Day was originally called Armistice Day to celebrate the end of the "war to end all wars." The war ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918. In 1947, after World War II came to an end, Raymond Weeks organized Veterans Day in Birmingham, Alabama, honoring all veterans; and the idea caught on prompting a bill to change Armistice Day to Veterans Day and to honor all our American veterans who have served our country throughout all time.

Over 16,200,000 veterans live in our great nation and have served our country since World War II. Since the founding of our nation in 1776, there have been over 41,000,000 men and women who have earned the title of veteran.

Veterans throughout our history have fought to preserve Americans' freedoms and protect our liberties. Serving around the world from the Arctic to Japan and from the United States to Iraq, veterans have played a key role in the history of our nation.

Rep. Cammack's Amendment To Rein In Bureaucratic State Passes In Energy & Water Appropriations Bill

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Congresswoman Kat Cammack's language to prohibit funds from being used to finalize any rule or regulation resulting in an annual effect on the economy of \$100 million or more passed in the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024.

The amendment would restrict funds at the Department of Energy and related agencies from being used to finalize any rules or regulations with a \$100M+ price tag.

"Under this administration, the regulatory environment has never been worse," said Rep. Kat Cammack. "For too long, the ever increasing regulatory costs have harmed consumers and businesses across the country. Since President Biden took office, the regulatory landscape has deteriorated by numerous new rules and regulations that impact all aspects of our economy. These are regulations that have added hundreds of billions of dollars more in regulatory costs that are ultimately passed down to consumers."

Rep. Cammack delivered [remarks on the House Floor](#) about the amendment. H.R. 4394 passed on Thursday, October 26 by a vote of 210-199.

Representatives Cammack, DeLauro, Courtney, Fitzpatrick Introduce

Bipartisan Resolution Honoring The Nation's First Responders Day

WASHINGTON, D.C. — U.S. Representatives Kat Cammack (R-FL-03), Rosa DeLauro (D-CT-03), Joe Courtney (D-CT-02), and Brian Fitzpatrick (R-PA-01) introduced a resolution celebrating October 28 as Honoring the Nation's First Responders Day.

"I'm honored to lead this resolution with my colleagues to honor our first responders. As the wife of a firefighter/paramedic and SWAT medic, this resolution is personal for me," said Rep. Kat Cammack. "The men and women of our first responder community across the nation work tirelessly to keep our communities safe. They run toward danger when the rest of us run away from it and we should be tremendously grateful for their service and sacrifices each day. Imagining a world without them isn't possible, and we thank you for all you do and will always stand with you."

"When Americans find themselves in an emergency and in need of assistance, it is our nation's first responders who stand on the front line ready to respond," said Rep. Rosa DeLauro. "Whether they be firefighters, emergency medical technician, paramedics, or our brave law enforcement officers, first responders hold communities together, protect neighborhoods, and save lives. I am glad to lead my colleagues on a bipartisan resolution celebrating Honoring the Nation's First Responders Day."

"First responders, whether providing support after a natural disaster or caring for communities after tragic events like we saw this week in Maine, are the first on the scene to assist their communities in times of duress," said Rep. Joe Courtney. "I continue to advocate for the necessary resources for our First Responders to carry out their mission and stay safe on the job. This Resolution is merely a display of gratitude and appreciation for our some of

our most critical community partners."

"As a formal federal law enforcement officer and former EMT, I know that our firefighters, law enforcement officers, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics are often the first to arrive and the last to leave the scene of any emergency," said Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, co-chair of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus. "Without question, the millions of heroic Americans that serve and risk their lives for our communities in this way each day deserve our appreciation. I am glad to join my colleagues in recognizing the contribution and public service of our first responders, and remain committed to continuing to secure more resources in support of their missions."

Moody

Continued from page 10

homeless veterans. Most money went toward fundraising, employee compensation and other overhead with very little money being spent on programs described to donors. Attorney General Moody, with the Federal Trade Commission, secured approximately \$119,000 in funds which were sent to a charitable organization that supports veterans. A portion of those funds were spent to build a specially adapted smart home in Jupiter for a veteran injured in the line of duty.

· **Caring Avenues, LLC and Five Dragon Princesses Holdings, LLC, d/b/a Right at Home:** As a result of these investigations and settlement agreements, all respondents are required to comply with Department of Veterans' Affairs requirements concerning the preparation of and compensation for services related to VA benefits applications. Additionally, \$5,000 was recovered for affected consumers and \$11,804.18 in consumer debts were forgiven.

· **Help the Vets, Inc.:** This organization solicited donations to fund grants, medical care and a suicide prevention program for

veterans, but instead used a large portion of donations collected to pay professional fundraisers and compensate the founding director. As a result of this action, approximately \$1.25 million in donations were recovered since January 2019 and redirected to charitable purposes that directly benefited veterans.

Scams or deceptive business practices targeting Florida service members or veterans can be reported at MyFloridaLegal.com, or by calling 1(866)9NO-SCAM.

Your Bank

Continued from page 8

including waived monthly service fees, access to financial planning guidance, and more.

If you're the entrepreneurial type: Plenty of banks waive monthly service fees with a direct deposit each month. At least one bank will waive these fees even without a traditional paycheck. Citi will waive the monthly service fee on your personal checking account when you receive \$250 or more in deposits made via Zelle and other peer-to-peer payments when made via ACH using providers such as Venmo or PayPal.

If you prefer in-person banking: Even in today's digital world, speaking with a real person can help change your money mindset for the better. If you prefer face-to-face advice for complex financial matters such as taking out a mortgage or funding a small business, a national bank with welcoming branch locations might be the better choice over a bank that offers online-only services.

No one has the exact financial needs as you. Be sure to choose a bank that meets you where you are today and has the flexibility to grow with you. Depository products provided by Citibank, N.A. Member FDIC.

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